

**CONSTRUCTION LAW CHANGES IN ONTARIO**

As of February 24, 2019

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***The Legislature resumed sittings as of Tuesday Feb 19 2019***

**Provincial Government Bills  
1st Session, 42nd Parliament**

**Bill 2, Urgent Priorities Act, 2018**

**(Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines)**

This Bill is essentially three separate pieces of legislation in which the only subject matter in common is that each item is deemed by the current government to be priority legislation.

**SCHEDULE 1 - Hydro One Accountability Act, 2018**

**SCHEDULE 2 -White Pines Wind Project Termination Act, 2018**

**SCHEDULE 3 - Back to Class Act (York University), 2018**

- Royal Assent July 25, 2018

**Bill 4, Cap and Trade Cancellations Act, 2018**

**(Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks)**

This Bill repealed the Climate Change Mitigation and Low-carbon Economy Act, 2016 which established a carbon pricing and trade system for Ontario businesses to trade with each other but also with businesses in the Province of Quebec and the US State of California. The 2016 Ontario statute also provided financial rebates or grants for low carbon emission vehicles and for environmental improvements to homes, schools and businesses. Under the new statute, the Minister must prepare a climate change plan, including greenhouse gas emission targets, and related targets, however the abolition of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario's office (through Bill 57, which received Royal Assent on Dec 6 2018) removes independent assessment of whether the new targets are or will be met, and there is no specific deadline for the new climate change plan. The new Act also prohibits any civil damages claims for cancellation of the cap and trade system or any other consequence arising from the repeal of the 2016 statute.

- Royal Assent received on October 31, 2018

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### **Bill 5, Better Local Government Act, 2018**

#### **(Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)**

This Bill is the mechanism by which the controversial announcement by Premier Ford on Friday July 27, 2018 would alter the number of City of Toronto aldermen to be elected in the October 2018 election and implement certain other changes in other regions associated with the appointment/election of chair persons for specific Regional Municipal Governments. The Bill would amend the City of Toronto Act, 2006, the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 effective the day that this Bill receives Royal Assent.

- Royal Assent received August 14, 2018

### **Bill 31, Efficient Local Government Act, 2018**

#### **(Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)**

This Bill is essentially identical to Bill 5, the Better Local Government Act, 2018 with the additional clause to overcome the Superior Court of Justice Ruling on September 10, 2018 that the Act as it affects the City of Toronto violates the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and is therefore null and void.

- Second Reading debated September 17, 2018.

### **Bill 34, Green Energy Repeal Act, 2018**

#### **(Minister of the Energy, Northern Development and Mines)**

This Bill repeals the Green Energy Act, 2009 and transfers some of its provisions into the Electricity Act, 1998. The transferred provisions deal with the sale and approval of energy efficient home appliances. Climate Change Mitigation and Low-carbon Economy Act, 2016 which established a carbon pricing and trade system for Ontario businesses to trade with each other but also with businesses in the Province of Quebec and the US State of California. The 2016 Ontario statute also provided financial rebates or grants for low carbon emission vehicles and for environmental improvements to homes, schools and businesses. Under the new proposed statute, the Minister is required to prepare a climate change plan, including greenhouse gas emission targets, and to prepare progress reports for climate change plan targets. The statute does not include a deadline or target date climate change plan. The new Act also prohibits any civil damages claims for cancellation of the cap and trade system or any other consequence arising from the repeal of the 2016 statute.

- Royal Assent received December 6, 2018.

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### **Bill 47, Making Ontario Open for Business Act, 2018**

**(Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade)**

This Bill repeals the recent Bill 148 of the Liberal Government regarding the January 1, 2019 minimum wage and certain other worker protections, including equal pay and work scheduling rights for part time employees, minimum vacation pay entitlements, minimum unpaid sick leave.

- Royal Assent Received November 21, 2018

### **Bill 57, Restoring Trust, Transparency and Accountability Act, 2018**

**(Minister of Finance)**

This Bill impacts 45 separate statutes ranging from the Metrolinx Act, 2006 to the Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993. The primary changes include repeal a number of independent oversight offices such as the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario and transfer some of those functions to the Ministries some of which were the primary targets of independent reviews and assessments. Many other functions have been transferred to the Office of the Auditor General, but it is not possible to determine which powers and authorities have been given to the Auditor General until the regulations are published.

- Royal Assent Received December 6, 2018

### **Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018**

**(Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade)**

This Bill amends and repeals a number of statutes for the alleged purpose of restoring Ontario's competitiveness with other jurisdictions. Amended statutes include but are not limited to the Employment Standards Act, 2000, the Labour Relations Act, 1995, and the Planning Act. One of the more controversial changes is allowing some development in the Province's Greenbelt. Another controversial change is the relaxation of drinking water sources protection measures.

- First Reading carried December 6, 2018

- ***Second Reading debated February 19, 20 and 21, 2019***

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**Private Members' Bills  
1st Session, 42nd Parliament**

**Bill 33, Rea and Walter Act (Truss and Lightweight Construction Identification), 2018**

**(Pettapiece, Randy, PC, Perth -- Wellington)**

This Bill is identical to Bill 105 introduced on March 9, 2017 and progressed through to Second Reading and which was reintroduced on March 27, 2018. If passed, this Bill would amend the Building Code Act, 1992 regarding the identification of truss (wooden) and lightweight construction in specified buildings that are under construction or to be constructed. A new section 15.8.1 will require a truss identification emblem to be affixed to a building in prescribed size and location.

- First reading September 19, 2018
- Second Reading debated October 4, 2018
- Second Reading carried October 4, 2018 and referred to Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills

**Bill 62, Protecting Vulnerable Road Users Act, 2018**

**(Bell, Jessica, NDP, University -- Rosedale)**

This Bill would amend the Highway Traffic Act to stiffen the penalties of vehicle drivers who seriously injure or kill vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and construction workers.

- First reading November 21, 2018

***Bill 70, Registered Professional Planners Act, 2019***

***(Coe, Lorne, PC -- Whitby)***

***This Bill would impact Professional Planners by repealing the Ontario Professional Planners Institute Act, 1994, a private statute dating back to 1994, with a new public statute to regulate the planning profession. The new public statute would mandate a disciplinary investigation and sanction process for members, in a manner similar to the regulation of other professions such as architects.***

- ***First Reading carried February 19, 2019***

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### ***Bill 71, Paris Galt Moraine Conservation Planners Act, 2019***

***(Schreiner, Mike, Green Party -- Guelph)***

***This Bill would establish additional protection against any land development that might cause an adverse environmental impact within a defined region know as the Paris Galt Moraine. The legislation would also require official plan amendments for certain municipalities and municipal planning authorities.***

***- First Reading carried February 20, 2019***

### **Pending Proclamations of Bills**

#### **Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010**

Royal Assent October 25, 2010. As of **February 22, 2019** most of the Act has not yet been proclaimed in force.

### **Regulations**

(reflects contents of the Ontario Gazette through to **February 23, 2019**)

#### **Ontario Regulation 349/17**

##### **WORKPLACE SAFETY AND INSURANCE ACT, 1997**

This regulation was published in the September 16, 2017 edition of the Ontario Gazette. It amends O.Reg. 175/98 to postpone the revocation of certain existing non-construction industry exemptions of certain classes of workers by one year from January 1, 2019 to January 1, 2020.

#### **Ontario Regulation 117/18**

##### **FAIRNESS IN PROCUREMENT ACT, 2018**

This regulation was published in the April 14, 2018 edition of the Ontario Gazette. It designates suppliers of certain construction services and supplies from the state of New York as being subject to reciprocal restrictions to provide services to government agencies in the Province of Ontario, a response to restrictive legislation passed by the State of New York which prohibits certain construction services and materials originating outside of the US. The regulation will come into force upon the date that the Fairness in Procurement Act, 2018 is proclaimed into force.

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**Ontario Regulation 482/18**

**LABOUR RELATIONS ACT, 1995**

This regulation was published in the December 8, 2018 edition of the Ontario Gazette. It amends O. Reg 94/07 which dealt with the distribution of decisions in relation to arbitration awards for a trade union. This Regulation will come into effect on July 1, 2019.

**Ontario Regulation 3/19**

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT**

This regulation was published in the February 9, 2019 edition of the Ontario Gazette. It amends O. Reg 860 to require employers to update all labels of WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) materials. This Regulation came into effect on January 21, 2019.