

Continues from pg. 2 -

The Ontario government launched a framework for its Data Centre Playbook, which will help the province attract the best data centre investments that drive economic growth, ensure Canadians' data remains in Canada and deliver significant and meaningful benefits to local communities. This framework will also ensure data centres pay the full cost of electricity, with the government only offering non-financial support to attract investments. As part of the government's plan to protect Ontario and build the most competitive economy in the G7, this Playbook is an early initiative and key enabler of the province's forthcoming artificial intelligence (AI) strategy to leverage the economic opportunities AI adoption will bring, including generating \$122 billion in economic growth by 2035 and creating more than 17,000 new jobs every year. "Ontario has a choice: we can build the economy of the future and ensure Canadians' data remains in Canada, or we can get left behind and risk Canadians' data being sent to the U.S. and elsewhere," said Premier Doug Ford. "Through our new Data Centre Playbook, our government is choosing to build the economy of the future to generate billions in economic growth and create thousands of new jobs, while ensuring new data centres play by the right rules and pay the full cost of electricity. Any data centre investment will need to invest significantly in local communities and pay more for electricity so no energy costs are passed on to hardworking families."

As part of the Protect Ontario by Securing Affordable Energy for Generations Act, the Ontario government enacted new authorities that will give the Minister of Energy and Mines the final decision on which large-load facilities are permitted to connect to the province's electricity grid, including data centres. With these enhanced authorities in place, Ontario's Data Centre Playbook will only consider projects that accelerate economic growth with significant community investments, on terms that prioritize Ontario's interests. The Playbook is anchored in three pillars to guide approvals for new data centres:

Advance economic development: projects that bring in significant investment, job creation and new tax revenue for the province and municipalities, support Ontario and Canada's domestic supply chains and help businesses be more productive.

Protect data security and digital sovereignty: projects that can advance Ontario and Canada's digital sovereignty to protect critical data and safeguard people's information. Canadians' data will stay in Canada.

Invest in communities and earn public confidence: projects that bring real benefits to local communities, significantly investing both financially and non-financially in host communities to drive local infrastructure developments, job creation and training, and future economic growth.

The province will only offer non-financial support to

attract data centre investments, leveraging Ontario's existing strategic advantages such as a clean and reliable electricity system, ample land space, cool climate and skilled workforce. Data centres will also pay for the cost of their impact on the electricity system, ensuring people's electricity bills are not increased. This will include proposed measures to address data centres' impact on the electricity system by encouraging projects to build their own power generation and by establishing a separate rate class for large new data centres. Under this proposal, new data centres above 1 megawatt (MW) in size would pay a higher rate than the industrial rate program for large electricity users. With more modern data centre technology available today than there was decades ago, Ontario will only advance data centre projects that meet Ontario's strict environmental standards around water consumption and noise, prioritizing projects with closed-loop systems that use virtually no water during operation.

"As demand for digital infrastructure continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, our government is taking bold action to ensure Ontario's interests remain protected and prioritized," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "The Data Centre Playbook will serve as a strategic assessment tool, ensuring that projects looking to break ground in Ontario offer significant economic, security and community benefits."

The government is seeking public input through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) and the Ontario Regulatory Registry (ORR) for a 30-day public comment period beginning August 13, 2026. Input received through the consultation will help refine the proposed draft framework before the Ontario government releases the final Data Centre Playbook to support the broader upcoming AI Industrial Strategy that will lay a foundation to attract investment, support workers, protect intellectual property



EST. 1986



40th ANNIVERSARY



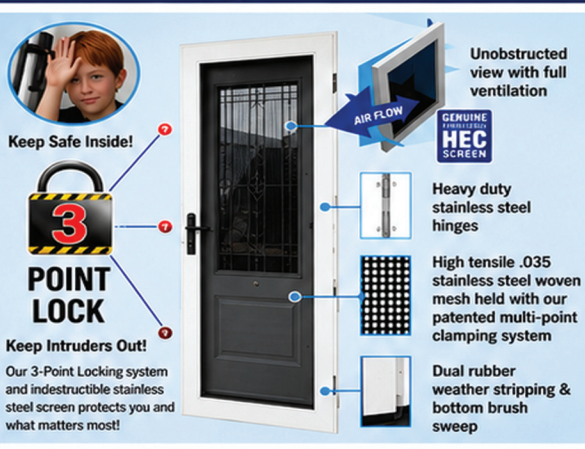
HomeStars



BILD MEMBER

96% APPROVAL RATING

THE ULTIMATE IN SECURITY and Elegance



Keep Safe Inside!

3 POINT LOCK

Keep Intruders Out!

Our 3-Point Locking system and indestructible stainless steel screen protects you and what matters most!

Unobstructed view with full ventilation

AIR FLOW

GENUINE HEC SCREEN

Heavy duty stainless steel hinges

High tensile .035 stainless steel woven mesh held with our patented multi-point clamping system

Dual rubber weather stripping & bottom brush sweep



3 POINT LOCK

Protect Your Home & Family

- SAFE-T-SCREEN DOORS & WINDOWS
- WINDOW GUARDS
- RETRACTABLE SCREENS
- SECURITY GATES & ACCESSORIES
- PEACE OF MIND



GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT

2000 BASH TEST SUCCESS

Every year we set up a **SAFE-T-SCREEN BASH PANEL** and give visitors an opportunity to "BASH IN" our screen

THE SCREEN ALWAYS WINS!

Watch the video: www.metalexdoors.com

416.638.2539

SHOWROOM: 9 Bertrand Ave., Scarborough, ON

metalexdoors.com
info@metalexsecurity.com

ROCKGLASS™

Proudly providing security in the GTA since 1986

and build critical infrastructure. Digital infrastructure projects can generate substantial community benefits including new infrastructure builds and upgrades to the electricity grid, roads, water and wastewater treatment. Ontario is home to one of the most concentrated tech clusters in North America, with nearly 450,000 tech workers

at 26,000 businesses, including more than 1,600 AI-related companies. Since 2018, the province has secured tens of billions of dollars in technology investment in sectors such as AI, fintech, cybersecurity and quantum technologies. Ontario has taken steps to ensure data centre growth does not come at the expense of ratepayers. The

Protect Ontario by Securing Affordable Energy for Generations Act establishes regulatory authority to require specified large-load facilities, including large data centres, to receive government approval to connect to the grid. "We have designed a system that protects families and ensures data centres pay for complete cost of power —

every single cent. To make this point, Ontario will be introducing a new higher electricity rate for data centres, in addition to prioritization for projects that generate their own power. While we work to attract investment and store Canadian data on Canadian soil, we have strong guidelines that safeguard families every step of the way."

- Stephen Lecce
Minister of Energy and Mines

"The Data Centre Playbook is another important step in strengthening Ontario's position as a global technology leader. It builds on our work to strengthen digital trust and protect data security, while attracting the investments that will help drive Ontario's future growth."

- Stephen Crawford
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement

"As part of our generational buildout of Ontario's energy system, we're attracting the best talent in the world to support digital infrastructure growth across the province. Combined with our integrated energy plan, the Data Centre Playbook will ensure that we are powering the energy needs of value-adding data centres that directly support our communities, economy and job creation while protecting ratepayers and the people of Ontario."

- Sam Oosterhoff
Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive Industries



THE MELOCHE FAMILY



John Meloche

FOR WARD 2 PICKERING

A city our kids can come home to

Practical leadership. Real opportunity.

John Meloche — a neighbour at the council table.

♦ john@Meloche4Pickering.ca ♦ 416-477-2658

ON OCT 26  MELOCHE

See my platform → Meloche4Pickering.ca