Ontario Reaches New Milestone on Northwest GTA Transmission Line

As part of its plan to protect Ontario and support the energy needs of growing communities, the government has reached a key milestone in the Northwest GTA Transmission Corridor Identification Study. The province is proposing to reduce the boundaries of the transmission corridor and release lands that are no longer required for protection, reducing the lands held for the transmission and highway corridors by approximately 40 per cent. The transmission corridor will host major infrastructure projects that will support Energy for Generations, the government's long-term plan to deliver reliable, affordable and secure energy to create good-paying jobs and power Ontario's future.

"As Ontario's population and economy continue to grow in the GTHA, we are planning ahead and building for future generations," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines. "This milestone reflects our government's commitment to deliver reliable, cost-effective energy infrastructure that meets growing energy demand, while keeping energy affordable for families."

Halton, Peel and York are among the fastest-growing regions in Ontario, with electricity demand far exceeding the provincial average. As communities expand further from existing transmission infrastructure, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has confirmed the need for new transmission capacity to bring electricity into and throughout Northwestern GTA.

"Our government is fighting gridlock and unlocking Ontario's full economic potential by building Highway 413, which will provide much-needed relief along one of the busiest highway corridors in North America as part of our $30-billion plan to expand transportation infrastructure across the province," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "Aligning the Northwest GTA Transmission Corridor with Highway 413 means we're keeping Ontarians moving while meeting electricity demand for generations to come."

The proposed corridor along Highway 413 is based on a study launched in 2019 to identify a viable route for future transmission infrastructure. The refined corridor reflects detailed technical analysis to identify the narrowest path capable of supporting both 230 kV and 500 kV transmission lines, while preserving flexibility for future transmission designs. The study prioritized co-location with Highway 413, minimizing impacts on natural areas, and avoiding built-up communities.

Throughout the process, municipalities, stakeholders and Indigenous communities have been engaged at key milestones to inform and shape the proposal. The proposal and updated maps are now available for public comment on the Environmental Registry of Ontario. The Ministry of Energy and Mines and the Ministry of Transportation are expected to announce their finalized land use plans and release surplus lands in December 2025.

"This milestone creates the conditions for more homes to be built by making it easier for communities to grow," said Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "Working across government, we are bringing the dream of homeownership within reach for more hard-working families in Halton, Peel, and York Region."

Backed by record investments in energy infrastructure, Ontario's integrated approach is giving Indigenous communities, municipalities, businesses and industry partners the confidence to invest, grow and build here in Ontario. With a clear path forward, the plan is not only meeting the demands of today, but it is also protecting jobs, supporting workers and powering economic growth for generations to come.

SEIU Local 2 Opposes OLG Decision at Kawartha Downs

The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation's (OLG) announcement last week not to renew its gaming contract with Shorelines Slots at Kawartha Downs and its parent corporation Great Canadian Entertainment (GCE) puts tariff-proof jobs at risk at the slots, the racetrack, and beyond. The current contact expires in April 2026.

SEIU Local 2, the largest Union in Ontario's horse racing industry, has reached out to Ontario Premier Doug Ford seeking a reversal of the decision.

There are more than 30,000 jobs created and supported by Ontario's horse racing industry. These are good paying, tariff-proof jobs, many of which are in smaller Ontario communities and rural settings.

The Kawartha Downs Racetrack cannot continue to operate without the slots on site. As the anchor tenant, Shorelines Slots provide necessary rent revenue for the track to continue operations. No fewer than one hundred and fifty jobs hang in the balance (both union and non-union workers). Employment attached to supplier businesses and contracted services, could also see job loses.

Both the Union and the racetrack ownership find the OLG decision particularly perplexing because the track has been vigorously pursuing ambitious plans to develop the property into a year-round destination location. The Slots operation is the anchor tenancy that serves as the cornerstone/springboard for this promising future expansion, creating additional good-paying, year-round jobs. Additionally, the Slots operation has proven to be profitable and generate valuable revenue for the province.

OFL: Workers pay the price as Ford's Conservatives slash employment law enforcement

While Doug Ford extends his summer with ice cream bar press conferences instead of sitting in the legislature, workers are paying the price with gutted court enforcement of their basic employment rights, according to data from the Ontario Court of Justice. Charges under the Employment Standards Act (ESA) have dropped by 90 per cent over the past ten years, as found by an analysis by the Ontario Federation of Labour and Data Shows.

Over 1,500 charges were laid under the ESA in 2015 – compared to only 150 from April 2024 to March 2025. And of those 150 charges laid last year, 25 per cent were withdrawn as courts crumple under backlogs and cases get tossed for time delays. Under the Supreme Court's Jordan limits, charges delayed within the Ontario Court of Justice for 18 months must be dropped.

"Doug Ford works hard at distraction, and we pay the price as working people. Ontario unions fought hard for workplace laws so that you get paid, you get vacation pay, and you get overtime," said OFL president Laura Walton.

"The Ford government is essentially ripping the floor from underneath workers' feet, by not enforcing basic employment standards in court. His government is on its seventh iteration of the Working for Workers Act, and yet he's failing to protect the most basic of employment standards laws. Doesn't he know the sequel is always worse than the original?"

The ESA sets out minimum wage rates and workplace rules such as vacation and holiday pay, overtime rules, a ban on employers stealing tips, and a prohibition on wage theft.

It applies to almost all workplaces, setting a floor under every individual or union employment contract. But they are not rules if they are not enforced.

"The Ford government is busy meddling with speed cameras. Meanwhile, he's taken his foot off the pedal when it comes to prosecuting employers for offences like not paying wages or stealing tips. It's clear where his priorities are, and it's not with workers – especially those working precarious jobs where wage theft is rampant."