

**APPLICATIONS  
OPENING SOON  
FOR ONTARIO'S  
ANTI-HATE  
SECURITY  
PREVENTION  
GRANT PROGRAM**

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$12.75 million this year to help address the rise of hate incidents and keep communities safe across the province. This is part of the government's \$25.5 million investment over two years in the new Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant to help faith-based and cultural organizations implement measures to ensure their community spaces remain safe and secure.

"Everyone in Ontario should be able to practice their faith and express their beliefs, without the fear of experiencing acts of hate, intimidation or violence," said Graham McGregor, acting Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. "We continue to invest in the Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant program to support communities in establishing safe and inclusive environments for all Ontarians, regardless of their background, religion or culture."

The grant provides up to \$10,000 to eligible community organizations to help them protect their spaces from hate-motivated incidents, graffiti, vandalism or other damage. Grant funding can be used for measures such as hiring security staff, surveillance cameras, security assessments, cybersecurity and building repairs. The Anti-Hate Security Prevention Grant application portal opens on October 31, 2024, and closes on December 2, 2024. Previous grant recipients are encouraged to apply again for 2024-25. Organizations can review eligibility and learn more at Ontario.ca/AHSP.

Eligible organizations include: Religious and spiritual communities (e.g., mosques, synagogues, temples, churches, etc.)

First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and Indigenous organizations  
Cultural groups (e.g., 2SLGBTQIA+ groups, Black, Asian and other diverse organizations offering programs, workshops and ceremonies that promote their communities' cultures)

A complete list can be found at Ontario.ca/AHSP  
Since 2021, the government has invested a total of \$86 million to support over 2,000 faith-based and cultural communities.

"The Beth Radom Congregation is very appreciative of the funds from the Ontario government to enhance security for our building. We were able to install security cameras and update our alarm system, which has proven valuable during this recent rise in antisemitism in Toronto."

- Mark Vernon  
President, Beth Radom Congregation

"Places of worship are powerful symbols and when they are subject to acts of hate, all of society is diminished. Through the Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant, the Toronto and Region Islamic Congregation (TARIC) recognizes the importance of this essential support in making enhancements to further protect our congregants, visitors, and property."

- Shaykh Imran Ally  
Resident Imam of the TARIC Islamic Centre

**Ontario Cracking Down on Auto Theft and Careless Driving**

Province introducing penalties of up to \$100,000 and imprisonment for fraudulent vehicle registrations

TORONTO — The Ontario government is cracking down on auto theft by introducing legislation that, if passed, would create a new provincial offence for fraudulent vehicle registrations. This is one of a series of measures being taken by the provincial government to fight auto theft, including providing additional funding and equipment to police services to tackle auto theft and introducing legislation that would suspend the driver's licences of those who are convicted of motor vehicle theft, including lifetime bans for repeat offenders.

"VIN fraud and careless driving are on the rise in Ontario," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "That's why our government is taking steps to protect unsuspecting buyers and giving police the powers they need to keep our roads and communities safe. Our tough new legislation will target car thieves and other reckless behaviour, particularly in instances causing bodily harm or death."

The proposed legislation would create a new provincial offence under the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) for knowingly providing a false vehicle identification number (VIN) when applying for a vehicle permit. Penalties would be up to \$100,000 for convictions, the possibility of up to six months in jail and up to one-year driver's licence or vehicle permit suspension.

"The federal government has created the conditions that have put our province and our people at risk," said Graham McGregor, Associate Minister of Auto Theft and Bail Reform. "Under the leadership of Premier Ford, we are doing everything in our power to protect the people of this province from auto theft and criminals, including creating new offences through this legislation."

The proposed legislation will also make streets safer by expanding careless driving laws to parking lots, such as malls, and extending the time that charges can be laid from six months to two years. These changes will help local police respond to and prevent unsanctioned events such as car rallies and street racing while allowing more time to investigate, collect evidence and hold drivers accountable.

In May 2024, Ontario introduced the Safer Roads and Communities Act, 2024, which would, if passed, improve community safety and protect people and families from road users who engage in dangerous and illegal activities such as impaired driving, stunt driving and auto theft.

VIN fraud often involves a person stealing a VIN from a legitimate car and using it to register a stolen one.

In response to a significant increase in commercial vehicle traffic, Ontario is also making highways safer by increasing oversight of the trucking industry. These changes will allow MTO to intervene earlier with additional compliance tools and approaches for commercial operators who engage in risky behaviour while driving.

As part of the Safer Roads and Communities Act, 2024, thieves convicted of motor vehicle theft under the Criminal Code would face a 10-year licence suspension for a first offence, a 15-year licence suspension for a second offence and a lifetime licence suspension for a third offence.

With combined efforts from government action and law enforcement, vehicle theft has decreased in Ontario by 16 per cent so far this year.

"Stealing legitimate vehicle identification numbers (VINs) to register stolen vehicles is a growing criminal activity that threatens Ontario's vehicle owners and auto retailers. Ontario is meeting the moment by creating a new and specific provincial offence to target VIN thieves with hefty fines and jail time. This decisive action adds another new and important tool in a long list of measures the government has implemented to keep up the fight against auto theft."

- Frank Notte  
Director of Government Relations, Motor Vehicle Retailers of Ontario.

**Oshawa Power and Lakefront Utilities announce partnership**

Oshawa Power and Lakefront Utilities have announced a new partnership, with Oshawa Power providing electric distribution operational leadership assistance and support to Lakefront Utilities in Cobourg and the Village of Colborne.

This collaboration aims to enhance efficiency, service reliability, and overall utility management for customers in both regions, said a statement.

It said the agreement includes various services, such as capital construction oversight, operations and maintenance oversight, coordination of field staff and subcontractors, and health and safety. The partnership is expected to benefit ratepayers by improving services at a cost-effective rate, while positioning Oshawa Power and Lakefront Utilities as leading energy partners.