

Ontario Supporting Worker Mobility Across Canada

TORONTO — As part of the government's plan to protect Ontario by building a more competitive and resilient economy, Ontario will soon introduce legislation to support greater worker mobility across Canada. The proposed legislation, which will be introduced next week, will advance the government's ongoing work to build a more united and resilient Canadian economy by expanding "as of right" provisions for Canadian workers licensed and credentialed in other provinces and territories, particularly health-care workers, and move forward with automatic recognition of credentials for doctors and nurses from the rest of Canada.

"Our government is continuing to break down barriers and remove red tape so that physicians, nurses and other regulated health professionals from other provinces can begin practicing in Ontario and caring for patients sooner," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "By taking a first-in-Canada approach to streamline the labour mobility process, we are making it faster and easier for both our health system partners and clinicians to provide the world-class care Ontarians need, when and where they need it."

Currently, "as of right" rules allow nurses, physicians, respiratory therapists and medical laboratory technologists from other provinces and territories to work in Ontario for up to six months while they seek registration with their profession's Ontario regulator. The government's proposed changes would expand that list to 16 additional professions, improving access to care for Ontario patients and meeting urgent labour market demands across the province. "By making it easier for workers from the rest of the country to get on the job faster, our government is driving economic growth and protecting our workers and communities," said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. "We're breaking down barriers to build a more resilient, unified Canada that can deliver the nation-building projects we need to stand up against global economic uncertainty."

The government is also taking the next step toward automatic recognition of physicians and nurses who are registered and in good standing in other provinces and territories, making it faster and easier for them to continue their practice in Ontario. The province would do so by working with the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and the College of Nurses of Ontario to reduce application fees and documentation requirements, and to issue certificates within two business days, allowing eligible health-care workers to practice immediately. Ontario continues to work with these regulators to cut unnecessary red tape and fees for professionals already licensed elsewhere in Canada.

"The status-quo isn't working. That's why, under the leadership of Premier Ford, we are protecting Ontario by cutting red tape to make it faster and easier for skilled workers to join our economy," said Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Red Tape Reduction. "This bold, first-in-Canada approach will reduce bureaucracy and strengthen our workforce."

The 16 additional health professions proposed for inclusion under the "as of right" rules are:

- Audiologists/Speech-Language Pathologists
- Chiropodists
- Dental Hygienists
- Dental Technologists
- Dentists
- Denturists
- Dietitians
- Medical Radiation and Imaging Technologists
- Midwives
- Occupational Therapists
- Opticians
- Optometrists
- Pharmacists/Pharmacy Technicians
- Physician Assistants
- Physiotherapists
- Psychologists

As part of its plan to protect Ontario and strengthen the province's economy, the government passed the Protect Ontario through Free Trade within Canada Act.

The Protect Ontario through Free Trade within Canada Act, 2025 includes the "as of right" provisions, designed to enhance labour mobility and strengthen Ontario's workforce.

Since 2018, Ontario has supported a record-breaking number of new health-care professionals, including adding over 100,000 new nurses and nearly 20,000 additional physicians to its health-care workforce, including an over 14 per cent increase in family doctors.

Ontario is taking significant steps to strengthen its health-care workforce by making it easier for U.S.-licensed nurses and board-certified physicians to move to and practise in Ontario. So far this year, nearly 1,400 nurses and more than 260 doctors have already chosen Ontario.

CREA Updates Resale Housing Market Forecasts for 2025 and 2026

The Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) has updated its 2025 and 2026 forecasts for home sales activity and average home prices via the Multiple Listing Service® (MLS®) Systems of Canadian real estate boards and associations.

In 2024, CREA forecast a recovery year in Canada's resale housing markets, fueled by pent-up demand and lower interest rates. By mid-fall 2024 the rebound appeared to be underway. That forecast would have seen national home sales once again top the 500,000 mark in 2025, and the average price of those sales return to the \$700,000 range.

In early 2025, tariff chaos and economic uncertainty returned many home buyers back to the sidelines, taking particularly large bites out of activity in British Columbia and Ontario, while putting additional downward pressure on prices.

That said, since March 2025, home sales activity has been on a steady upward climb, suggesting the long-anticipated return of buyers into the market was likely only delayed and dampened, but not derailed.

The result is a somewhat lower forecast for 2025 than was expected a year ago, but with solid upward momentum heading into 2026, such that the 2025 forecast from one year ago is now what's expected for 2026.

Some 473,093 residential properties are forecast to trade hands via Canadian MLS® Systems in 2025, representing a 1.1% decline from 2024. The national dip is the result of forecast declines in British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario slightly offsetting gains elsewhere.

The national average home price is forecast to decline by 1.4% on an annual basis to \$676,705 in 2025. That said, only British Columbia and Ontario are forecast to see declines in average home prices this year, but the combination of those declines, along with fewer sales in those expensive provinces was enough to offset price gains in the range of 4% to 8% in most other provinces in 2025.

In 2026, national home sales are forecast to rebound by 7.7% to 509,479—the highest level for activity since 2021, though still well below that peak and slightly under the 10-year average. Historically, national home sales have only ever cracked the half million mark seven times, with the first instance back in 2007.

The national average home price is forecast to increase by 3.2% from 2025 to \$698,622 in 2026. This would mark the sixth straight year where the national average home price has hovered around the \$700,000 range.

That said, it's important to reiterate that all forecasts are still subject to higher than normal levels of uncertainty, though maybe less now than in the first half of 2025.

Each quarter, CREA updates its forecast for home sales activity and average home prices via Multiple Listing Service® (MLS®) Systems of Canadian real estate boards and associations. CREA's next forecast will be published on Thursday, January 15, 2026



QMR

Quality Masonry Restoration

Specializing in high quality masonry.

Fully insured, free estimates.

- 12+ years experience. -
- Brick and Blockwork
- Stonework - Window Sill Replacement
- Parging, Concrete Repairs -
- Chimney, Repointing and more...

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

905-251-2233

Email: qmrmasnry@gmail.com



The Oshawa Durham Central Awarded Best Business In Canada 2023 AND 2024

BEST BUSINESSES

IN CANADA

2024



BEST BUSINESSES

IN CANADA

2024