

Ontario and Canada Sign Historic Cooperation Agreement to Eliminate Federal Duplication and Unlock the Ring of Fire

TORONTO — Ontario and Canada have signed a historic cooperation agreement that will significantly streamline environmental approvals for major infrastructure and resource projects through a new ‘one project, one process, one decision’ model that is now in effect. The agreement will remove duplicative and overlapping federal impact assessments from Ontario’s world-leading environmental assessment process to build infrastructure faster and unlock resource development across the province, helping to build a more competitive, resilient and self-reliant Canadian economy.

“With this historic agreement, our two governments are working together to protect Ontario and Canada by removing the unnecessary red tape and regulatory duplication that has stood in the way of nation-building projects for too long,” said Premier Doug Ford. “I want to thank Prime Minister Carney for his leadership in speeding up major projects that will create good-paying jobs, build a more competitive and self-reliant economy and help us unlock the enormous economic opportunity of the Ring of Fire.”

Under the ‘one project, one process, one decision’ model, a project that would have previously been subject to both a federal impact assessment and a provincial environmental assessment will now only be subject to Ontario’s environmental assessment process. Doing so will streamline regulatory processes, shorten review timelines, bring certainty to project proponents and help to attract more investment into Ontario’s economy. Today’s agreement also includes a side letter between both levels of government where the Impact Assessment Agency of

Canada commits to completing its review of the assessment of the roads to the Ring of Fire no later than June 2026.

“Canada’s new government is focused on what we can control — building a stronger, more sustainable, more independent Canadian economy,” said Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada. “Our agreement with Ontario will build major projects faster, helping to diversify our trade partners, strengthen our industries and empower more Canadians with high-paying careers. We are building Canada Strong, and we’re building bigger and faster together.”

Unlocking Ontario’s vast critical mineral resources is an important part of the government’s plan to protect Ontario and build a more competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy. As the global demand for critical minerals needed to manufacture electric vehicles, batteries, modern defence technologies and advanced manufacturing continues to grow, Ontario has the deposits, skilled workforce, expertise and business-friendly investment climate to secure the province’s place as the most competitive jurisdiction in the G7 to invest, create jobs and do business.

“Now more than ever, we need to speed up project timelines and provide greater certainty to businesses and communities looking to build and invest,” said Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. “Together with the federal government, we’re taking decisive steps to build a stronger, more competitive and prosperous economy that creates jobs and prosperity for the people of Ontario, while maintaining environmental protections.”

Ontario’s ‘One Project, One

Process’ framework to reviewing and approving mining applications is cutting review timelines in half.

Canada and Ontario have an existing Cooperation Agreement from 2004 that outlines how the two jurisdictions coordinate the federal impact assessment and provincial environmental assessment processes when a proposed project is subject to both provincial and federal requirements.

Ontario and Canada will meet annually to review the agreement’s implementation, ensuring accountability and continuous improvement toward the ‘one project, one process, one decision’ goal.

The province recently announced historic agreements with Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation, providing up to \$39.5 million to each First Nation for community infrastructure and to advance the Marten Falls Community Access Road and the Webequie Supply Road. Ontario has also confirmed support for the Northern Road Link to the Ring of Fire with Marten Falls First Nation.

“We are working in lockstep with First Nations as they lead assessments on legacy infrastructure projects. The elimination of duplicative regulatory processes ensures that First Nations, government and industry can build consensus around major projects aligned with community priorities.”

- Greg Rickford
Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation and Minister Responsible for Ring of Fire Economic and Community Partnerships

“One project. One process. One stronger Canadian economy. We are moving with speed and fighting back against President Trump, because the status quo of duplication and delay is inde-

fensible. Now more than ever, we are working together to accelerate responsible resource development, create good-paying jobs and stand up for the most ethical resource on Earth.”

- Stephen Lecce
Minister of Energy and Mines

“The alignment of provincial and federal approvals is great news for Northern Ontario. In parallel with the recently implemented ‘One Project, One Process’ framework we are further creating the certainty needed to attract investment for major projects. This streamlined approach will expedite the creation of good-paying jobs, strengthen partnerships with First Nations and advance the full economic potential of the North.”

- George Pirie
Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth

“I am confident this agreement will ensure that environmental protection and Indigenous rights continue to be upheld, while reducing duplication during the assessment of major projects in Ontario.”

- Julie Dabrusin
Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature

“By adopting a ‘one project, one review’ approach in Ontario, we are simplifying major project assessments, catalyzing new investment, development and good-paying careers. Together, we are building not just a stronger Ontario, but a stronger, more resilient Canada.”

- Dominic LeBlanc
President of the King’s Privy Council for Canada and Minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs, Internal Trade and One Canadian Economy

Ontario Government Supporting Innovative Programs and Services in Oshawa

OSHAWA — The Ontario government is providing four non-profit organizations in Oshawa, with \$336,300 in funding this year through the Ontario Trillium Foundation’s (OTF) Seed grant stream. The funding will help provide local residents with better access to the critical programs, services, activities and spaces that make Oshawa a great place to live, work and play.

“Our government believes local non-profit organizations enrich the lives of people in Oshawa and play an important role in building a strong and supportive community and prosperous economy. That is why our government is proud to support these program and service providers through OTF’s Seed grants,” said Lorne Coe, MPP for Whitby and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, and Children, Community and Social Services. “Organizations such as Canadian Automotive Museum, Community Living Oshawa/Clarington, Durham Community Health Centre and The Denise House are pillars of our community. This support will enable them to

deliver essential programming and better serve the people of Oshawa, making a positive difference for years to come.”

In Oshawa, organizations receiving funding include:

- Canadian Automotive Museum - \$88,700
- Community Living Oshawa/Clarington - \$65,200
- Durham Community Health Centre - \$82,500
- The Denise House - \$99,900

OTF’s Seed grants help organizations build resilience and enhance their ability to deliver programs and services that directly benefit community members. Grantees can use their funding to support organizational planning, pilot a new program and/or build their organizational capacity to plan for future programs and services for the people of Oshawa.

“In Oshawa and all across Ontario, non-profit organizations are delivering critical programs that empowers people to learn new skills, pursue rewarding careers and build meaningful connections with their community,” said Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. “With this funding, Ontario is protecting and supporting communities, while helping to ensure these non-profits can

strengthen their foundations and prepare for the future, so they can continue meeting the evolving needs of Ontarians now and for years to come.”

The Ontario government has invested more than \$792 million in over 7,300 projects since 2018. These investments have created more than 9,490 full time jobs and generated over \$1.1 billion in economic benefits for communities across the province.

“We are grateful for the Ontario Trillium Foundation’s support. This Seed grant will allow us to develop engaging, curriculum-linked programs that connect students not only to local history and culture, but also to the innovation and impact of Canada’s auto industry. By improving access for teachers and building resources that reflect real-classroom needs, we will be able to welcome more young people into the museum and strengthen our capacity to serve families for years to come. We’re excited for the longterm impact this will have in our community as we grow our role as a learning hub for automotive history and innovation.”


- Alex Miller-Gerrard,
Executive Director, Canadian Automotive Museum

“This Ontario Trillium Foundation Seed grant will allow Community Living Oshawa/Clarington to strengthen our capacity and explore innovative ways to support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. With this funding, we can expand programs that foster inclusion, independence, and community engagement— ensuring that people have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive. We are grateful for this investment in building a more inclusive Oshawa and Clarington.”

- Terri Gray, Executive Director, Community Living Oshawa/Clarington

“We are deeply grateful to the Ontario Government for providing us with this funding from the OTF Seed grant stream. For charitable health care organizations like ours, this kind of additional funding goes a very long way in helping us provide the kind of wraparound care and services that are at the heart of community health.”


- Francis Garwe, Chief Executive Officer, Durham Community Health Centre



A Weekly Column by Dean Hickey

THE FINAL TAKE

AN UNVARNISHED LOOK AT THE MANY
SOCIAL & POLITICAL ISSUES OF OUR TIME...



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COUNCILLOR JOHN GRAY

*Mr. Mayor I rise on personal privilege
As I have always tried to encourage
Co-operation and some mutual respect
Which as Mayor I came to reflect
As I rebuilt this city from the ground up,
Without the help from laws that usurp
The rights of every councillor here
From due process year after year.
Did I miss the memo Mr. Mayor?
The rules are now totally in your favour?*

COUNCILLOR BRADLEY MARKS

*Mr. Speaker I rise in this House as one
Who knows how legal issues are done.
As I listen to my learned friends
And their confusion that knows no ends.
I am reminded of the fact things change.
The Mayor's request is not at all strange
Given the fact that the Province has done
What they see as good for everyone.
So with those exhaustive remarks,
I remain yours in service, Bradley Marks.*

COUNCILLOR TITO-DANTE MARIMPIETRI

*Mr. Mayor I see our friend from Ward 3
Thinks he is well above you and me,
As he seems to think he's in Parliament
With all the status it may represent.
But I must remind him if I may
That he's still on Council as of today,
And our city is worth fighting for!
As a councillor, I seek nothing more.
I find the debates we are now into
Will only hinder all that we must do
To keep our city ahead of the game!
My best currency still is my name,
And I wish the question could be called
On the phantom motion that has stalled,
As this seems to me a total waste of time
And why am I still talking in rhyme?*

MAYOR DAN CARTER

*Members of council let's move on,
But wait, I believe we have a delegation;
A certain Mr. Lee would like to speak
to us.
So before anyone else makes a fuss
I invite Mr. Lee to come forward now.
He has ten minutes to show us how
What he wants to say will help us traverse
The issue into which we are immersed.*

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