



MEMBER UPDATE

June 5, 2025

Red Tape Reduction Measures Target Archaeology Rules to Support Faster Housing Delivery

Today, the Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Red Tape Reduction, introduced Bill 46, the *Protect Ontario by Cutting Red Tape Act, 2025*—a new legislative package designed to reduce regulatory barriers and help make Ontario the most competitive jurisdiction in the G7 for investment, job creation, and economic growth.

This bill continues the Ford Government's commitment to reduce the regulatory burden in Ontario through the introduction of regular red-tape reduction legislation.

Particularly, the Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) is pleased to see that the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism recognizes, and is acting to mitigate, some of the significant barriers our members face when it comes to archeological assessments. The proposed changes are a strong step toward reducing unnecessary costs and delays for builders while preserving and protecting Ontario's valuable cultural heritage.

Please see below for proposed measures found in the *Protect Ontario by Cutting Red Tape Act, 2025*, relevant to the industry.

Key Highlights for OHBA Members

Modernize archaeology standards and timelines (MCM):

The government is proposing a phased update to the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* to streamline assessment reporting requirements and reduce review timelines. These changes aim to improve efficiency and predictability for builders, with consultations planned to involve Indigenous partners and stakeholders, as part of the broader Heritage Framework Transformation (HFT) initiative, modernizing Ontario's heritage conservation framework.

Changes include:

- Communicating two-month (40-business days) standard and exploring reducing it to 1.5 months (30-business days) for review of priority (expedited reports).
- Formalizing standards for partial (limited assessments), reducing the scope/size of assessments to focus only on the areas of the property that will be directly impacted by development. If you are not disturbing the land, you will not be required to assess it.
- Formalizing standards for partial clearances, allowing work to proceed in areas that have been cleared of archaeological potential.

- Implementing digital first Licensed Consultant Archaeologist (LCA) reporting that would enable all LCA reporting through an online licensing portal.
- Exploring internally introducing a 1.5-month (30-business day) standard for re-review of priority (expedited) revised reports where previously no service standard commitment made.
- Exploring changes to risk-based review process for stage 1 and 2 reports.
- Exploring requirements for LCAs to notify the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism and proponents following fieldwork completion.

The intent is that archaeological reviews would cover only development-affected areas and move to streamline reporting requirements through digital-first processes, cutting time and costs while still protecting Ontario's heritage.

Streamline licensing for consultant archaeologists (MCM):

Ontario is considering eliminating licence term limits for consultant archaeologists. Removing the renewal requirement will prevent delays, reduce administrative burden, expand the pool of qualified professionals, and allow archaeological work to proceed quickly—keeping construction schedules on track and reducing project uncertainty.

Landlord and Tenant Board reform (MAG/MMAH):

The Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) will consider amendments to the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2006* aimed at reducing delays and backlogs at the Board, streamlining proceedings, and maintaining fair access to justice for all parties.

Compliance Policy Modernization (MECP)

Ontario is streamlining its compliance framework so the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks can concentrate on high-risk incidents—such as spills that threaten human health—while routing low-risk matters like construction noise to the appropriate authorities. The overhaul clarifies jurisdictional roles, eases red tape for businesses by simplifying oversight of minor activities, and equips provincial officers with clearer guidance on enforcement tools.

Strengthening the Strong Mayor Framework (MMAH):

Ontario is considering changes to strengthen its recently expanded strong-mayor model—with 170 additional municipalities as of May 1, 2025—to refine authorities and ensure consistent, effective use of the new powers.

Supporting Municipal Financial Accountability and Transparency (MMAH):

Ontario plans to amend the Municipal Act, 2001 and the City of Toronto Act, 2006 so municipalities can publish their annual municipal audited financial statements and related annual reports directly on their websites. This provides for better access for the public to crucial financial data—making it easier to track spending, compare municipalities, and hold local governments accountable.

What's Next?

The *Protect Ontario by Cutting Red Tape Act, 2025* is expected to be debated in the fall legislative session, beginning in September. OHBA will remain actively engaged in the process to ensure the implementation of these measures reflects the needs of Ontario's home building and land development sectors.

The news release can be found [here](#).

The backgrounder can be found [here](#).

The bill can be found [here](#).

For more information, or to share feedback, contact OHBA's Policy & Advocacy team at advocacy@ohba.ca.