



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Introducing Legislation to Strengthen Local Governance

New measures would establish a standardized municipal code of conduct and advance Peel Region transition

December 12, 2024

[Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government [introduced legislation](#) that would, if passed, strengthen municipal governance and accountability as well as give Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon the tools they need to provide high-quality services to local taxpayers as these municipalities continue to grow.

Ontario is proposing changes through the *Municipal Accountability Act, 2024* that, if passed, would enable the creation of a new, standardized municipal code of conduct, an integrity commissioner inquiry process that would be consistent throughout the province, and mandatory code of conduct training for members of council and certain local boards.

“We had to make sure we got this right, which is why we worked with Ontario’s Integrity Commissioner to find the best path forward to create a standardized code of conduct process across the province,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “This process will support consistent accountability across our municipalities.”

If passed, the changes would include a penalty of removing and disqualifying a member from office if they are in serious violation of the proposed code. Removal and disqualification could only occur upon the recommendation of the municipal integrity commissioner, a concurring report from the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario and a unanimous vote of council, with the exception of the member who is the subject of the report, members whose absence is approved by council or members who have a financial conflict of interest under the [Municipal Conflict of Interest Act](#).

The government also introduced the *Peel Transition Implementation Act, 2024* which would, if passed, transfer the delivery of key public works services from the Region of Peel to Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon. The proposed changes, which would provide these municipalities with greater independence to meet the needs of their growing communities, include transferring jurisdiction and responsibility for the following services, effective July 1, 2026:

- Regional roads and associated stormwater infrastructure, including ownership and maintenance responsibilities, from the Region of Peel to Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon.

- Waste collection services and two community recycling centres located in Mississauga from the Region of Peel to the City of Mississauga.

These changes would build on the previously enacted transfer of land-use planning responsibilities to Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon on July 1, 2024.

To support the Region of Peel and the municipalities through this important transition, Ontario's Provincial Land and Development Facilitator (PLDF) advisory agency will work with the municipalities to facilitate the process for service transfers. The costs of the PLDF's services will be covered by the province.

The proposed changes in the *Peel Transition Implementation Act, 2024* came through engagement with a wide range of stakeholders beginning in summer 2023, including the affected municipalities, provincial ministries, industry groups, community agencies and subject matter experts, led by the Peel Region Transition Board.

Quick Facts

- Transfer of waste collection services to Brampton and Caledon remains open for future consideration.
- The government is continuing to explore potential options for the transfer of water/wastewater services from Peel Region with any future outcome maintaining public ownership.
- The Peel Region Transition Board, which was appointed to make recommendations to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on the transfer of key public works services from the Region of Peel to Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon, will be dissolved effective December 31, 2024.
- Ontario is also supporting local planning priorities by transferring land-use planning responsibilities from Durham and Waterloo regions and giving primary responsibility to the local municipalities within these regions, effective January 1, 2025. Niagara Region would have these responsibilities transferred as of March 31, 2025.

Quotes

"Municipal councils in Ontario have asked for legislation that holds elected officials to a higher standard of accountability. If passed, this bill would deliver on ensuring that as members of council, we are living up to the trust that residents put in us. We commend Minister Calandra for getting to this point."

- Robin Jones
AMO President and Mayor of Westport

Additional Resources

[Ontario Supporting Stronger Local Governance](#)

[Municipal Accountability Act, 2024 consultation on the Regulatory Registry](#)

[Peel Transition Implementation Act, 2024 consultation on the Environmental Registry of Ontario](#)

Media Contacts

Emma Testani
Minister's Office
Emma.Testani@ontario.ca

Communications Branch
Mma.media@ontario.ca

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