



**Ontario's Prosperity,
Canada's Progress**

Ontario Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Federal Election Priorities



Pillar 1

A Competitive Business and Trade Environment

A strong national economy depends on policies that foster business competitiveness, investment, and trade. As Ontario navigates rising global protectionism, the federal government must take a leadership role in removing internal trade barriers, diversifying market access through expanded international trade agreements, and modernizing tax and regulatory frameworks. These efforts will ensure that Ontario businesses can grow, innovate, and compete on the global stage.

Key recommendations:

- Expedite the renegotiation of the Canada-US-Mexico Agreement to provide certainty to businesses.
- Work with provinces to introduce targeted programs that help businesses hit hardest by tariffs invest in capacity, innovate and adapt.
- Remove all federal exceptions under the Canada Free Trade Agreement to address barriers to interprovincial trade and mobility.
- Expand access to public sector procurement for small and diverse-owned businesses, with priority given to Canadian content.
- Modernize and streamline the federal tax framework to stimulate business investment and support growth, complemented by a government spending review to enhance economic efficiencies.

Pillar 2

Qualified People, Diverse Talent

People are the backbone of Canada's economy. To sustain Ontario's long-term economic growth, the federal government must work with provinces to align immigration, skills training, and post-secondary education with labour market needs. Strengthening workforce strategies will ensure businesses have access to the talent they need while fostering a more inclusive and adaptable labour force.

Key recommendations:

- Align federal programs—including the Immigration Levels Plan and the Temporary Foreign Worker Program—with regional labour market needs.
- Work with provinces and territories to invest in reskilling and upskilling workers in industries undergoing transitions, such as energy and emerging technologies.
- Initiate a comprehensive review of the Employment Insurance (EI) system to ensure governance, programs, and policies remain sustainable, relevant, and affordable for current and future generations.
- Significantly enhance federal tri-council funding for discovery-based research to make Canada a leading global destination for top global talent at a time of uncertainty in the U.S. and other markets.

Pillar 3 Healthy and Sustainable Communities

A competitive economy depends on thriving, healthy communities. Strengthening collaboration with provinces will improve health outcomes while fostering innovation in the life sciences sector, which will support prosperity across Canada.

Key recommendations:

- Accelerate approval processes for innovative medicines, medical devices and pharmaceuticals to ensure timely access to life-saving treatments. This includes engagement with provinces and territories to streamline Canada's Drug Agency and the Pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance.
- Prioritize investments across the life sciences ecosystem, such as through targeted tax credits for biomanufacturing, to promote innovation and better compete with international incentives.
- Expedite efforts to address immediate Health Human Resources workforce shortages by pursuing a national licensure strategy and expanding foreign credential recognition programs for internationally educated professionals.

Pillar 4 Growth-Enabling Infrastructure

Strategic investments in infrastructure are critical to supporting economic growth, energy security, and trade competitiveness. The federal government must prioritize national energy corridors, strengthen cross-border grid integration, and modernize transportation networks to enhance supply chain resilience and expand market access.

Key recommendations:

- Commit to working with provinces and territories on a national energy corridor to facilitate the movement of oil, natural gas, electricity, hydrogen and other resources across Canada, opening both internal and new export markets.
- Increase access to high-speed internet across the country to future-proof Canada's digital infrastructure. This includes considering broadband deployment alongside electricity and other infrastructure upgrades.
- Invest in trade-enabling infrastructure, such as transportation hubs, high-speed rail, and marine corridor expansion, to boost competitiveness, expand domestic manufacturing, and ensure Canadian businesses can reach global markets.
- Continue to incentivize businesses to reduce their carbon emissions and become more energy efficient, driving both climate action and sustainable growth. This includes incentivizing competitive investment in low-carbon energy and adaptation projects, streamlining approvals and using carbon contracts for difference to de-risk private sector involvement.

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