





COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	May 12, 2025
SUBJECT:	Bill 5 – <i>Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act</i> and Bill 6 – <i>The Safer Municipalities Act</i>
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Anita Fabac Acting Director, Planning and Chief Planner Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	
SUBMITTED BY:	Dan Smith Acting Director, Licensing and By-law Services Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

Bill 5 – *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act*

On April 17, 2025, the province introduced an omnibus bill, Bill 5 – *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act*, which proposes changes including:

- Allowing the province to designate “special economic zones” including geographic areas, “trusted proponents” or projects that would be exempt from provincial legislation and regulations, and from municipal by-laws;
- Replace species-at-risk permitting requirements with a registration-first approach that would allow work to begin immediately upon registration;
- Streamline the archaeological assessment and artifact protection process for developments where archaeological sites are present; and,
- Streamline the province’s mine permitting process.

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

The proposed Bill 5 has been released on the Environmental Registry of Ontario Website as four separate postings:

[ERO# 025-0418](#) – Proposed Amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act*

[ERO# 025-0380](#) – Proposed Interim Changes to the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* and a proposal for the *Species Conservation Act, 2025*

[ERO # 025-0409](#) – Proposed Amendments to the *Mining Act, 1990*, *Electricity Act, 1998*, and *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, to Protect Ontario's Economy and Build a More Prosperous Ontario

[ERO# 025-0391](#) – *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025*

The comment period on the above ERO postings will be open for 30 days until May 17, 2025. Staff are reviewing the proposed Bill 5 and will submit comments to the province in advance of the deadline. A report to Planning Committee is anticipated to follow in July 2025.

Bill 6 – *The Safer Municipalities Act*

On April 30, 2025, the province reintroduced Bill 6 – *The Safer Municipalities Act, 2025*, which proposes the following changes including:

- Amendments to Section 2 of the *Trespass to Property Act* that are intended to help clear encampments in parks through enhancement of penalties. Section 2 establishes a trespass offence and the maximum fine that may be imposed upon conviction of an offence (not more than \$10,000). The bill introduces two new aggravating factors that are required to be considered by a court when deciding a penalty; 1) that notice to leave a premises was provided to a defendant and that the defendant continued to be on that premises and 2) that the court determines that a defendant is likely to trespass in the future.
- Amendments to the *Trespass to Property Act* to incorporate minor updates and corrections to the French version of the Act.
- Introduces the *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act, 2025* intended to stop the consumption of illegal substances in public spaces (including encampments located on City property). Where an officer has reasonable grounds to believe a person is consuming illegal substances in a public space, the legislation will allow police and/or other provincial offences officers to direct individuals to; 1) stop using illegal substances, and/or 2) to leave the public space and/or 3) provide their full name, date of birth and address. Officers will also have the authority to seize, remove or destroy substances they reasonably believe are illegal. Individuals that do not comply with the legislation may be issued a ticket up to \$10,000 or arrested and face up to six months in prison.

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On April 30, 2025, the Bill was Ordered for Second Reading and debated on May 6 and 7, 2025. Staff will continue to monitor the progression and status of the Bill and provide Council with updates.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A