

Time allocation

Resuming the debate adjourned on November 5, 2025, on the amendment to the motion for time allocation of the following bills:

Bill 60, An Act to amend various Acts and to enact the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025

Bill 33, An Act to amend various Acts in relation to child, youth and family services, education, and colleges and universities

Bill 40, An Act to amend various statutes with respect to energy, the electrical sector and public utilities

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Further debate?

Mr. John Fraser: I'd just like to begin by saying, if that was an automated speed enforcement camera, these guys would be charged with stunt driving—100%. The other piece is—and I hope the Clerks are listening—I think we need to consider adding in time allocation as a regular occurrence in the standing orders, because, hey, it's happening. Let's just do it. Let's just be open about it.

People talk about respect for Parliament and how important that is, and our democratic institutions, but you actually have to do the democracy to have respect. You have to listen to people. You have to take the time to get it right.

Bill 33 is an important bill. It affects one of the most important things that happens for families in this province—education; we've all benefited from it. It's not even going to committee. That message is, "Talk to the hand. I don't need to hear from you. I know what's right." That's what the government is saying. "I know what's best." For 200 years, schools have belonged to the families and the communities they serve, and it has been that way for 200 years because it works—because schools in Timiskaming are different than schools in downtown Toronto, which are different than schools in Sudbury and the northwest and eastern Ontario. Communities are different.

What this government wants to do is, they want to run it all from Queen's Park, because on that side of the House they think their job is to represent Queen's Park in their ridings, not their ridings in Queen's Park—because if they were, they wouldn't be doing Bill 33. They wouldn't be trying to centralize everything into downtown Toronto.

The minister has spent a lot of time pointing the finger at trustees, and some of them needed some finger pointing. He has tried to make this about governance. If the minister wants to crack some eggs and make an omelette, have at her. Here are the ingredients: local, democratic, transparent, and effective. Make whatever omelette you want. I don't care if you have three trustees, or four, or 10, or 50, because the problem in our schools right now is not governance—because this place already does 80%. Trustees, right now, have this much decision-making power. We're making most of the decisions here, and the decisions that are being made here are adversely affecting our students and families.

The real problem right now is, our schools aren't safe places to work or to learn, and that's for three reasons. Class sizes: They've grown; they're too big. Special education: Kids aren't getting the help they need because the government is giving boards about \$850 million less

than they need, so they have to go and get it somewhere else. The third thing is mental health. We hear a lot of talk about what we're doing for mental health, how we're supporting kids, how we're going to make—we've got a really big problem, and it's only reflective of what's going on right now in our broader society.

I can't remember, growing up, seeing a sign in the bank that says, "If you harass or use foul language, we won't take that." Phoning my insurance company, I get a message that says, "You've got to be nice."

We've got a broader problem, and we have a cohort of kids who have come through a pandemic.

I've been to half a dozen cities here in Ontario, talking to families and to teachers and to students about their schools, and these are some of the stories that I heard. I talked to a principal who actually lives around the corner from me. He has an elementary school of about 700 kids, K to 8. I was talking to him about safe schools. He said, "I had a chair thrown at me by a 12-year-old the other day." He's a great principal, a stand-up guy; not a complainer. He looked at me and he said, "It's just another day."

Every day in schools across Ontario, kids are being taken out of a classroom. Principals are being called. Sometimes you get a lockdown. It's just like the government is whistling in the graveyard. They're not noticing what's going on there. It's a really serious problem.

Those are the problems that we should be addressing—not trying to centralize everything into downtown Toronto, not being the representative of Queen's Park in your community, but representing your community in Queen's Park. That's what we need to do here. That's our job.

Just to go back: To respect the institution, you use the rules, to get democracy. That means maybe sometimes you have to listen to people you don't want to listen to, like some people are probably doing right now. That's the way it works, man. We've got to respect it. And if we don't respect it, it will be gone one day.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Further debate?

MPP Catherine McKenney: This government is once again waging a coordinated attack on the people who actually make Ontario work, and they're doing it in the shadows, ramming through legislation without consultation, without debate, without giving Ontarians a voice.

Let me be clear about what we're witnessing here: The Premier is simultaneously attacking renters, pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders—four groups, one common thread. These are the people this Premier and this government have decided just don't matter.

On housing, Bill 60 guts tenant protections that have existed for over 50 years. The Premier wants to eliminate month-to-month leases, cut notice periods in half at the LTB, and make it easier than ever to evict individuals and families into homelessness. And he's doing this while over 80,000 Ontarians are already without housing; while no minimum wage earner in this province can afford a one-bedroom apartment in any city; while young people are giving up hope of ever having a stable place to call home.

On our streets, this government is eliminating bike lanes that actually save lives, lanes that reduce congestion, lanes that give people affordable transportation options. The Premier claims

this is about gridlock, but the data says otherwise. Bike lanes move more people in less space. They make our cities more livable. They give families and people real choices.

And on transit, we see a government here that would rather build fantasy tunnels than invest in and encourage rapid transit that cities desperately need. Transit riders—workers, students, seniors—are being abandoned again by this government.

And for pedestrians? Vision Zero sadly has become a cruel joke as pedestrian deaths climb year after year. While this government talks about cutting red tape, they continue to rip out the basic infrastructure that keeps people safe when they walk to school, when they walk to work, when they walk to their local grocery store.

Speaker, here is what ties all of this together: This Premier is attacking anyone who doesn't fit his vision of Ontario. His Ontario is one where you must be a wealthy friend to participate in society; where you must be a rich corporate friend to feel secure; where if you can't afford to purchase favours, you simply don't count. But that's not the Ontario we want to live in.

Over a third of Ontarians are renters. Millions rely on transit every single day. Many, many choose to cycle to work, school, their grocery store. These aren't marginal groups. These are our neighbours. They are our family members, our friends. These are nurses, teachers, restaurant workers, and students. These are the people who make our communities function. And this government won't even consult them—no committee hearings; no listening to municipalities that will bear the costs of these decisions; no hearing from tenants who will lose their homes; no input from cyclists who will lose safe routes; no consultation with transit agencies struggling to meet demand. "Just ram it through; pass it fast, before people realize what is happening, before communities can organize, and before the facts can get in the way."

This is not how democracy works. This is not how good policy gets made. This is arrogance. This is ideology over evidence. This is a government that has stopped listening, because it never really cared about what people had to say in the first place.

The Landlord and Tenant Board is broken. This government broke it. Their solution: Punish tenants.

Traffic is bad. Keeping pedestrians and cyclists safe with better infrastructure would help, and making transit move faster would help. Their solution: Rip out bike lanes, remove speed cameras, and strangle transit.

Do you see the pattern, Speaker? Every problem that this government has created they solve by punishing the people who are already struggling.

We know what Ontario needs. We need 300,000 units of deeply affordable housing. We need rent control that actually controls rents. We need protected bike lanes to keep people moving. We need frequent, reliable, affordable public transit. We need Vision Zero infrastructure that actually prevents deaths. We need a government that listens before it legislates.

Instead, we get Bill 60 and its companion attacks on sustainable transportation—legislation written in back rooms, passed without debate, imposed without consultation, all to serve an agenda that makes life harder for millions of Ontarians.

Premier Ford promised in 2018 that he wouldn't take away rent control. "Period," he said. But that wasn't the case. He promised to listen to people. That wasn't the case. He promised to make life more affordable. Instead, he's making it impossible for millions of Ontarians.

So here is my message to the government: Stop. Listen. Consult. Give Ontarians a voice before you take away their rights. I urge this government to withdraw this motion, to hold real consultations, to listen to the people who will be affected, to build an Ontario that works for everyone, not just those at the top.

The Acting Speaker (Ms. Jennifer K. French): Further debate?

Ms. Sandy Shaw: I rise today, yet again, to speak against this government's use of a time allocation motion—and for those of you who are tuning in and aren't exactly clear what this is, a time allocation motion is the government using their majority power to rush legislation through this House, limiting our ability to debate, limiting our ability to ask questions of the ministers who are proposing this important legislation, and bypassing committee, which limits your ability as citizens of Ontario to bring your concerns and questions and suggestions to improve legislation to this House.

Make no mistake: Time allocation motions are the government's heavy hand squashing any democratic use of this place and squashing every individual resident of the province of Ontario—your ability to have your voice heard in this place. We have seen it many times before from this government and, unfortunately, I'm imagining we're going to see it many times going forward.

While people are in our communities struggling, doing the best that they can to support their communities in difficult times, this government is ramming through legislation on important issues that affect your everyday life.

Your children's education: This government is giving unprecedented power to a minister to make changes to the education system. I know that your children are going to school in crowded classrooms, where teachers are facing all kinds of incidents of violence, underfunding, understaffing. We have lead in the water in our schools all across the province. Our schools are surpassing lead limits all across the province. That's not a priority. Giving the minister power in education is a priority.

And housing: The current housing crisis cannot be overstated. Rather than taking the time for this government to hear the struggles that you are having at finding adequate, affordable housing—whether you are overpaying rent; whether you're being evicted; whether you are trying, as a young person, to have the dream of home ownership; or whether you are living rough on the street, without housing—this government doesn't want to hear from you.

I do have to say, I'm incredibly proud of what my community, Hamilton, is doing to support one another. This weekend, I had the opportunity to attend the Ancaster Lions craft sale. It's the 25th anniversary of this craft sale. The Lions Club in Ancaster has been around since 1945—80 years of working to support the community. That should be celebrated. And while these folks are busy making sure that all the proceeds from this incredible craft sale go to organizations supporting members in our community, we have a government that is not listening to the concerns of people and doesn't want to open the doors to this place for people to come and express how they are feeling.

Again, I want to congratulate the Ancaster Lions for their craft sale, and I want to commend them for the spirit of love and community and mutual support that they brought to that event. It was a phenomenal event. I know that they have been there for 80 years, and here is to 80 more years of them supporting our community, in the way that we all should be for our communities.

We have been talking about housing since this government took office almost eight years ago. One and a half million homes are needed to be built in this province. Our housing starts are lower than they've been since the 1950s.

This is a government that, instead of focusing on getting back to building affordable housing, homes where people can afford to live, where they want to live, or focusing on protecting renters who already have housing—instead of doing that, this government brings forward Bill 60, which will only exacerbate the housing insecurity of people all across this province.

In Hamilton, city data shows that there has been a 25% increase in people experiencing homelessness. Tenant advocates condemn this bill as a housing horror show. I have to say, it is devastating to watch my community, my municipality, struggling to help people in housing need, when instead this government is focused on blaming the shortage on tenants, making it easier for tenants to be evicted, and not fixing the land tribunal mess that is their making.

I stand here, in this House, urging the government to withdraw this bill and take the time, as you should, to listen to the people—

The Acting Speaker (Ms. Jennifer K. French): Thank you. Further debate? Further debate?

Mr. Hsu has moved an amendment to government notice of motion number 9, relating to allocation of time on the following bills: Bill 60, An Act to amend various Acts and to enact the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025; Bill 33, An Act to amend various Acts in relation to child, youth and family services, education, and colleges and universities; and Bill 40, An Act to amend various statutes with respect to energy, the electrical sector and public utilities.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? I heard a no.

All those in favour of the motion will please say “aye.”

All those opposed to the motion will please say “nay.”

In my opinion, the nays have it. I declare the motion lost.

Further debate on the main motion? Further debate? Seeing none, pursuant to standing order 50(b), I am now required to put the question.

Mr. Clark has moved government notice of motion number 9, relating to allocation of time on the following bills: Bill 60, An Act to amend various Acts and to enact the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025; Bill 33, An Act to amend various Acts in relation to child, youth and family services, education, and colleges and universities; and Bill 40, An Act to amend various statutes with respect to energy, the electrical sector and public utilities.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? I heard a no.

All those in favour of the motion will please say “aye.”

All those opposed to the motion will please say “nay.”

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

A recorded vote being required, it will be deferred until the next instance of deferred votes.

Vote deferred.

Government accountability

Ms. Chandra Pasma: My question is to the Premier. This week, we learned that it's not just the Skills Development Fund that's handing out lucrative deals to Conservative donors and friends. The Minister of Education is giving his hand-picked, unqualified supervisors, all of whom have a close connection to the Conservatives, \$350,000 a year—\$350,000 to ignore phone calls from parents, skip meetings and hide from the public. That's quite the family-and-friends deal.

Is the Premier okay with his Minister of Education taking money out of classrooms to give sweet contracts to Conservative insiders?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Minister of Education.

Hon. Paul Calandra: I've been feeling like the Maytag Man. It's maybe my second question on education since we got back, which leads me to believe that the NDP are actually in favour of the things that I'm doing, Madam Speaker.

But it's actually funny to get a question on accountability from that member because that member, as you will know, and the entire opposition—the Liberals and NDP together—when they had an opportunity to fire a school trustee who went on an all-expenses-paid trip to Michelin restaurants in Italy, that member chose, along with the rest of that caucus, to sit on their hands and to do everything they possibly could to protect that trustee.

Now, that was an over \$200,000 bill to the taxpayer, money out of the classroom, but the NDP and the Liberals support that type of behaviour. I don't support that behaviour. That's why I was going to fire that trustee, and all of these caucus members here supported me in that decision—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for Ottawa West—Nepean.

Ms. Chandra Pasma: I understand why the minister would rather talk about literally anything else; I wouldn't want to defend these contracts either.

Speaker, let's review the record of these Conservative donors, candidates, staffers and MPPs who have replaced our democratically elected trustees: They won't answer questions from parents. They've tried to hide their contact information. They refuse to attend committee meetings. They tell the media that they don't have to speak to them. No one knows what they are doing.

Is the Premier on board with the Minister of Education's project here to pay his friends \$350,000 a year to shut parents out of decisions affecting our kids?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): The Minister of Education.

Hon. Paul Calandra: Do you know who knows what they're doing? The parents, teachers and the students, in particular in her riding. The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board—I've referred to it as an absolute hot mess. You could not keep trustees in office for more than five minutes because—you know what? They were retiring, resigning; they were fighting with each other.

Now, they weren't just taking money out of the classroom at that board; they were spending millions of dollars fighting each other—fighting each other. And do you know what the parents have told us in Ottawa? "Thank God you put a supervisor in place to bring the board back on track."

I will say this, Madam Speaker: It's not just about restoring balance to the place. It's about restoring hope and opportunity, opportunity that comes when teachers have the resources that they need to allow our students to succeed and the peace that comes from parents who know that a board is focused on their kids' success and not on failed NDP fighting at the school board level. We'll take it over and we'll do the right thing by parents—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): The member for Don Valley North.

Deferred Votes

Time allocation

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Members, we have a deferred vote on government order number 7 relating to allocation of time on the following bills: Bill 60, An Act to amend various Acts and to enact the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025; Bill 33, An Act to amend various Acts in relation to child, youth and family services, education, and colleges and universities; and Bill 40, An Act to amend various statutes with respect to energy, the electrical sector and public utilities.

Call in the members. This is a five-minute bell.

The division bells rang from 1202 to 1207.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Members, please take your seats.

On November 5, 2025, Mr. Clark moved government notice of motion number 9, relating to allocation of time on Bills 60, 33 and 40.

All those in favour of Mr. Clark's motion will please rise one at a time and be recognized by the Clerk.

Ayes

- Allsopp, Tyler
- Anand, Deepak
- Babikian, Aris
- Bailey, Robert
- Bouma, Will
- Bresee, Ric
- Calandra, Paul
- Cho, Raymond Sung Joon
- Cho, Stan

Hansard Thursday, November 6, 2025
(Bill 33 Time Allocation Motion, Fall Economic Statement)

- Ciriello, Monica
- Clark, Steve
- Coe, Lorne
- Cooper, Michelle
- Crawford, Stephen
- Cuzzetto, Rudy
- Denault, Billy
- Dixon, Jess
- Dowie, Andrew
- Dunlop, Jill
- Firin, Mohamed
- Flack, Rob
- Ford, Doug
- Grewal, Hardeep Singh
- Gualtieri, Silvia
- Hamid, Zee
- Hardeman, Ernie
- Harris, Mike
- Holland, Kevin
- Jones, Sylvia
- Jones, Trevor
- Jordan, John
- Kanapathi, Logan
- Kerzner, Michael S.
- Khanjin, Andrea
- Leardi, Anthony
- Lecce, Stephen
- McCarthy, Todd J.
- Mulroney, Caroline
- Oosterhoff, Sam

Hansard Thursday, November 6, 2025
(Bill 33 Time Allocation Motion, Fall Economic Statement)

- Pang, Billy
- Parsa, Michael
- Piccini, David
- Pierre, Natalie
- Pinsonneault, Steve
- Pirie, George
- Quinn, Nolan
- Racinsky, Joseph
- Riddell, Brian
- Rosenberg, Bill
- Sabawy, Sheref
- Sandhu, Amarjot
- Sarkaria, Prabmeet Singh
- Sarrazin, Stéphane
- Saunderson, Brian
- Scott, Laurie
- Smith, Dave
- Smith, David
- Smith, Graydon
- Smith, Laura
- Thanigasalam, Vijay
- Thompson, Lisa M.
- Triantafilopoulos, Effie J.
- Vickers, Paul
- Wai, Daisy
- Williams, Charmaine A.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): All those opposed to Mr. Clark's motion will please rise one at a time and be recognized by the Clerk.

Nays

- Armstrong, Teresa J.

Hansard Thursday, November 6, 2025
(Bill 33 Time Allocation Motion, Fall Economic Statement)

- Bourgouin, Guy
- Brady, Bobbi Ann
- Cerjanec, Rob
- Clancy, Aislinn
- Collard, Lucille
- Fairclough, Lee
- Fife, Catherine
- Fraser, John
- French, Jennifer K.
- Gates, Wayne
- Gélinas, France
- Gilmour, Alexa
- Glover, Chris
- Hazell, Andrea
- Hsu, Ted
- Kernaghan, Terence
- Mamakwa, Sol
- McCrimmon, Karen
- McKenney, Catherine
- McMahon, Mary-Margaret
- Pasma, Chandra
- Rakocovic, Tom
- Sattler, Peggy
- Schreiner, Mike
- Shaw, Sandy
- Smyth, Stephanie
- Stevens, Jennifer (Jennie)
- Tabuns, Peter
- Tsao, Jonathan
- Vanthof, John

- Vaugeois, Lise
- Watt, Tyler
- West, Jamie
- Wong-Tam, Kristyn

The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr. Trevor Day): The ayes are 65; the nays are 35.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I declare the motion carried.

Motion agreed to.

Economic outlook and fiscal review / Perspectives économiques et revue financière

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy: Thank you to everyone at Queen's Park here. It's an honour to stand before you for my 10th time to deliver a fall economic statement or a budget.

Over the years, I've had the honour to introduce a number of budgets and fall economic statements, and as I am sure you have noticed over the years, I dedicate my speech to a loved one. I have often dedicated my speeches to my father or my mother. Sadly, my father passed away this past summer. His love of country, his role model as a father and his guidance will continue to shape who I am.

Applause.

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy: Thank you.

May the work that all of us do in this Legislative Assembly help leave this world in a better place than we found it, and may future generations learn the lessons from those who came before.

With that, Madam Speaker, au nom du premier ministre, Doug Ford, et de tout notre gouvernement de l'Ontario, j'ai l'honneur aujourd'hui de vous présenter l'exposé économique de l'automne de l'Ontario de 2025 : Un plan pour protéger l'Ontario. On behalf of Premier Doug Ford and our entire government of Ontario, it is my honour today to present to you the 2025 Ontario fall economic statement: A Plan to Protect Ontario.

Today, Ontario finds itself in a very different place than we did seven years ago. In many ways, things are much better. Since we were first elected in 2018, this government and this Premier have turned our province's course towards one of success, one of growth and one of prosperity. In fact, we've seen our economy climb to new heights with a GDP of \$1.2 trillion, over \$350 billion higher than it was in 2018.

We have provided confidence and certainty to markets, investors and job creators at untold speed, adding close to one million more jobs in Ontario and mobilizing the greatest workforce that Canada has to offer. So it's with sincere thanks that I say thank you, Premier, for your leadership.

Madam Speaker, you show me a map of Ontario, and I will show you a place where the future is already taking place. This growth came not just from success alone, but from prudent investments—and I say "prudent" because our government has worked hard to lay a strong fiscal foundation. In fact, Ontario closed the fiscal year with a deficit of \$1.1 billion and a debt-to-GDP ratio of 36.2%, the lowest in over a decade. As importantly, we've also seen the cost of

servicing Ontario's debt come down \$1.3 billion dollars lower than expected, and the cost of servicing that debt hit a 40-year low of 5.5%, freeing up room to reinvest in the priorities that drive long-term prosperity, like infrastructure, like tax relief and our world-class skilled workforce.

And for the first time in nearly two decades, Ontario received two credit rating upgrades: one from S&P and one from Morningstar DBRS. All four major rating agencies now affirm Ontario's strong AA rating, a clear signal that investors and markets have confidence in this province's fiscal and economic direction.

Now, with our finances in the best shape they've been in over a decade, we are in a strong position to act for Ontario, but we know the road ahead is not without challenges. As a province and as a country, we find ourselves in the midst of trade uncertainty that we did not ask to be part of, causing anxiety for workers and businesses alike.

Mais, madame la Présidente, ce qui nous distingue des autres nations aux prises avec ce défi, c'est que nous sommes Canadiens. Je n'ai jamais vu une Canadienne ou un Canadien qui n'était pas prêt à se battre pour se défendre.

But what sets us apart from other nations facing this challenge is that we are Canadian. And I've never met a Canadian that wasn't ready to put up a fight to defend themselves, like this Premier.

It was with that spirit that our government decided to act, and act quickly, to protect our businesses, to protect our workers and families, to protect our economy and to protect our way of life. Thanks to the prudent fiscal management we've maintained over the years, we are in a strong position to act for Ontario.

We have already announced nearly \$30 billion in relief and supports for tariff-impacted businesses and workers to unleash our economy. That money is flowing right now to keep our economic engine going—flowing, for example, through our Ontario Together Trade Fund, which is currently leveraging \$50 million in support for small and medium-sized businesses by enabling them to pivot production, build new sales relationships and expand through greater interprovincial trade.

Today, I am proud to share that, to continue helping them diversify into new markets and boost their trade resiliency, our government is investing an additional \$100 million into the fund, for a grand total of \$150 million.

Madam Speaker, as we work together to build stronger communities, we must also work to build up the vital industries that sustain them. Our \$5-billion Protecting Ontario Account, which is providing up to \$1 billion in liquidity to tariff-affected sectors like steel, aluminum, copper and auto manufacturing, is helping them meet large operational challenges like payroll, lease and utility payments.

As a matter of fact, just a few weeks ago, the federal government joined us in announcing an historic \$500-million loan to support Algoma Steel and their workers. This will help Algoma maintain operations, reduce reliance on the US and support economic growth in northern Ontario.

We did so not only because we need to support northern Ontario, but we need to ask ourselves: Do we want to have a steel industry in this country? A manufacturing base and industry

including the north? An infrastructure industry that uses Ontario-produced steel? Madam Speaker, I boldly submit that the answer to those questions is an emphatic yes.

As the leading economic engine of our great nation, Ontario must continue to stand out amongst the provinces and territories and lead by example. We have accomplished already much to free up trade within Canada, becoming the first province to lift all barriers under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, empowering Ontario businesses impacted by tariffs to find new markets and find new supply chains within Canada.

We're doing this and more because it is the sensible thing to do for our future—a future where Canada's number one trading partner is Canada; a future where the single greatest place to invest, grow and succeed in the entire G7 is right here in Ontario, supporting all of Canada.

Our future is bright indeed, Madam Speaker. We must seize these changing times in order to deliver the projects that will reshape our standing in the global economy, not just for today but for generations to come. By working together, being bold and having a vision, we can get on with building a nation.

We've done it before. When former Premier John Robarts had a vision to build Canada's first nuclear plants right here in Ontario during the 1960s, almost 60 years ago, he forever changed our nation's energy landscape and our economic future. Now Premier Ford has the vision for the next 60 years, the vision for generations to come. We will do it again. Because, Madam Speaker, Ontario has a proud legacy of operating the safest and most reliable nuclear facilities in the world.

But with energy demands set to rise so significantly over the next 25 years, now is the time to leverage Ontario's proven nuclear advantage so that we can create more good-paying jobs, grow our economy and power our future.

Recently, I was fortunate to join Premier Ford and Prime Minister Carney to announce a historic joint investment with the federal government of \$3 billion to build the first small modular reactors anywhere in the G7 right here in Ontario, right in Darlington. That project alone will create 18,000 construction jobs and another 3,700 jobs to operate and generate enough energy to power the equivalent of 1.2 million homes. We're doing it all here in Ontario.

We're moving full steam ahead with refurbishment of Ontario's existing fleet of nuclear generating stations. And we're expanding new opportunities for large-scale nuclear energy at the Bruce nuclear plant, as well as the Ontario Power Generation's Wesleyville site in Port Hope, and that will power almost 16 million homes.

But we need the federal government to come to the table in support of large-scale nuclear in Ontario. I know Premier Ford has spoken to Prime Minister Carney about that, because that's what visionary leaders do. I spoke this morning and met with François-Philippe Champagne, who tabled his budget on Tuesday, to share that vision and get support because the day will come that, working together, we will continue to be a global energy superpower.

And we're not stopping there. Last week, Premier Ford and Minister Rickford signed a historic agreement with Webequie First Nation that could see shovels in the ground on the road to the Ring of Fire by next June. This road will transform Indigenous and northern communities, support economic reconciliation and unlock critical minerals that could generate \$22 billion to grow Ontario's economy and protect every worker in every part of the province.

We're also speeding up the construction of projects that give us a critical advantage through a "one project, one process" system to streamline approvals and environmental assessments.

Just last week, Minister Lecce announced that Frontier Lithium's world-class PAK Lithium Project north of Red Lake will be the first to move forward under this framework, bringing us one step closer to unlocking the full potential of our metals and mining sector.

What's more, our \$500-million Critical Minerals Processing Fund will help us unleash Ontario's vast mineral reserves onto international markets with Ontario minerals, right here, mined in Ontario, refined in Ontario by Ontario workers. Madam Speaker, this is what being a critical minerals powerhouse looks like.

Madam Speaker, the future is at our doorstep, and when the future calls, Ontario answers that call. High-growth industries of tomorrow—like artificial intelligence, defence, and advanced manufacturing—are all part of Ontario's future. All we need to do, is reach for them.

And through the remaining streams of our \$4-billion Protecting Ontario Account, we will leverage the private capital necessary to fortify our economy, drive innovation and attract the best talent. Madam Speaker, this is what being a global AI and technology powerhouse looks like.

We are standing on the shoulders of those who built this nation before us, and history remembers those accomplishments. When history remembers the work that we've done here today together, future generations will look back and they will say, "This is what nation-building looks like," because nation-building is at the heart of Ontario's economic success, and protecting Ontario is at the heart of this government's plan.

But at that heart of Ontario itself lie our communities, our families, our workers, our businesses, our students, our seniors and everyone who calls this beautiful province home. We work for them, Madam Speaker.

With tariffs making an already-uncertain world even more challenging and unpredictable, our government set out to keep costs down and put more money back in Ontario's pockets. Not only have we never raised a tax on the people and businesses of Ontario, but we've in fact cut taxes and we've cut fees. That's why I'm pleased to share that in this year alone, our government is enabling \$11.5 billion in financial relief for people and families and \$11.7 billion in cost savings for businesses, including \$5.6 billion of which that would go directly to helping small businesses. And we're going to keep going, keep finding more ways to lower taxes and fees and drive our economy.

Just last week, I was with Minister Flack to announce an additional measure: that Ontario is removing the full 8% provincial portion of the HST for first-time home buyers, to keep the dream of home ownership alive for countless young families across the province. That's putting more money back into the pockets of Ontarians. It's just one part of our plan to build stronger communities.

Our plan tackles the health and well-being of people and families. People deserve the right care in the right place, and sometimes the right place is at home. Who doesn't want to age at home, comfortably and close to their family and loved ones? That's why I'm proud to say that our government, along with Minister Jones, is investing an additional \$1.1 billion over the next three years into home care, which will increase consistency in hours of care and reduce wait-lists. Thank you, Minister Jones.

In conclusion, I would like to leave you with a message that I feel resonates strongly in our nation now, one which I hope serves as a reminder to all members of this Legislature: that no matter the cost, no matter the difficulty, no matter our differences, there's nothing worth fighting for more than our shared home, our shared way of life and our shared communities.

In fact, it was Prime Minister Brian Mulroney who once said, "Leaders must have vision and they must find the courage to fight for the policies that will give that vision life. Leaders must govern not for easy headlines in 10 days but for a better Canada in 10 years." Thank you, Prime Minister Mulroney; thank you, Minister Mulroney.

Let us place trust in one another to build a better Canada, not just for 10 years, but for generations to come. Let us never be kept from doing what it takes to do our job: protecting the more than 16 million people who call Ontario home. Let us keep working together.

And in that spirit, I once again wish to renew the call I made to our colleagues from the NDP, the Liberals, the Greens and the independent members earlier this year, when I introduced our historic 2025 budget: to set aside our differences and join us in support of this bill, regardless of political parties and stripes, doing what is necessary to protect the workers, the families, the businesses, the communities and economy of Ontario. Let's work together and build out our vision for a strong, reliant and growing Canada, not just for the next 10 years but for the next 100 years. Come and join us.

This fall economic statement is more than an update on our government's plan; it's a reminder that in the face of enormous challenges, our nation must stay the course. These trying times demand we maintain a steady fiscal hand and work to restore balance.

They demand that we protect our workers, businesses and national industries from uncertainty. They demand we build projects worthy of a nation whose economic strength is matched only by the strength of their people. They demand we welcome the world with open arms and say, "Come do business with us all." Most importantly, Madam Speaker, they demand we protect Ontario.

Now more than ever, we need to unleash our economy and make Ontario the most competitive place in the G7 to invest, create jobs and do business.

Thank you, and God bless the people of Ontario.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Response?

Ms. Jessica Bell: Today we are debating the fall economic statement. We have just listened to the Conservatives present a very rose-tinted-glasses view of the government and their economy.

It is jarring to hear the Minister of Finance talk about prudent fiscal management when this government is on track to be half a trillion dollars in debt in the next few years. It says it in the same economic statement.

Over 700,000 people woke up today without a job: workers at Stellantis, Honda, in Espanola and Terrace Bay; the 10,000 workers at colleges and universities who have lost their job because of declining international enrolment and this government's cuts; the one in four young people who woke up today without a job.

This morning, 1.7 million Ontarians who rent are going to wonder, between now and the end of the month when their rent is due—they're going to look at their bank statement and they're going to wonder how they are going to make ends meet.

I think about the many Ontarians I talk to when I go to the supermarket who are shocked at the price of everything. This morning, I was at the Fort York Food Bank with my leader and the member for Spadina–Fort York. It's one of the busiest food banks in the country. When you go, the line tracks down the street, well before it's open. There are over a million visits to food banks in Ontario every single year, and when we asked the executive director of the food bank who it is that's now going to these food banks, her response is that it's people aged 18 to 49 who are workers, who are standing in the cold for hours to get basic staples like milk, eggs, produce, meat and cereal.

That is the truth about this economy today in Ontario. We have an affordability crisis. Our province is hemorrhaging jobs and the services that we rely upon—public transit, health care, education, our court system, the Landlord and Tenant Board—are all buckling under the strain of delivering good services when their funding is being cut year in and year out since 2018. That's the truth of it.

Now we have this fall economic statement that is being presented here today. Just to put this in context, we've been back in the Legislature for, how long, eight days? After a nice 137-day break, working hard. And we have got the Premier doing his usual blustering schtick of playing the blame game, where Ontario's troubles are everyone else's troubles. It's everyone else's fault. It's young people: They don't look hard enough for a job. It's the federal government. It's Trump. Real leaders stand up and develop plans to care for Ontario and invest in Ontario. They don't blame.

All this week, this government has been sitting in the stink of the Skills Development Fund scandal, wrestling with the uncomfortable truth that they have handed out millions to adult entertainment nightclubs and companies who have made big donations to their party, when that money should be going to workers to help them retrain for jobs. It should be going to public colleges and universities to help young people get an education. That's where it should be going, and it's not.

When we look at the details of this fall economic statement, what we see is we see cuts. When you factor in population growth and need and inflation, we see cuts.

We see cuts to education. If parents thought that their kids' school is going to be improved as a result of what we see in the fall economic statement, then they're going to be very disappointed. What this fall economic statement shows us is that we are on track for larger class sizes, more violence in schools and lower education outcomes. That's what we see.

If we're talking about health care, if you're a patient or if you're a loved one caring for a patient, you would hope that this government would invest more in health care, so you can get timely access to surgery, so you can see a family doctor. Well, what you're going to see with this fall economic statement and what the plan is is you're going to see cuts, emergency room closures, long wait times for surgeries, and burnt-out staff and declining health care quality. That is what this fall economic statement is telling us is in store for Ontarians this year and next year. That's what it shows.

I think this government could do a whole lot better, and on this side of the House, we are going to be pushing for real investment in the services that we care about, real investment in the sectors that matter, and a plan to create and keep jobs in this province.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Response?

Ms. Stephanie Bowman: It's an honour to rise today to respond to the fall economic statement. Like with the spring budget, we have the finance minister and government ads telling us that everything is rosy, when in fact even their own numbers tell a very different story.

Earlier this week, a transformational federal budget was delivered. Yet how did the Ontario finance minister describe it? He called it "tinkering." Well, Speaker, if that's tinkering, then we can only describe the Ontario fall economic statement one way: teeny, tiny tinkering.

So back to what really matters in a budget and a fall economic statement: It's the numbers and the numbers are very telling. They tell us that everything economic, everything to do with jobs and how this government spends taxpayer money, is getting worse. Unemployment, already at a 13-year high, is going to get worse. Housing starts, already one of the worst in the country, are going to get worse. What we need is more housing to make it more affordable for families, for people trying to buy their first homes and yet, housing starts are going down. That's not the solution we wanted.

With all of this in mind, and with the bluster that the government side comes to this House with each and every day, blaming US tariffs for all the woes in Ontario, when in fact, unemployment has been rising for nine quarters under this government—that's about seven quarters before US tariffs. You would think that that kind of government, which campaigned in an early, unnecessary, expensive election to protect Ontario, would have made some changes in this document to meet the moment.

But what new spending do we see in the fall economic statement, Speaker? Look at page 152; it's right there. Contingency fund aside, there is a mere \$608 million in new spending. In a 200-page document about the state of our economy, about the challenges that we face, full of economic indicators that show a deteriorating job situation for the people of Ontario, which we read about every day; with unemployment among youth at 17.8%, the worst in the country; during a time of great economic uncertainty for auto workers, for manufacturing workers, for education workers and for hospital workers who are toiling under the poor policy decisions of this government; we see no new money for those programs. In fact, we see about as much as they spent on the scandalous Skills Development Fund.

To the minister I say: You can't have it both ways. If, as you say, we're doing so well, why is GDP growth slowing? If we're doing so well, why will more people be out of work? Why will we be building fewer homes? Why will we hit half a trillion dollars in debt when you campaigned on a fiscal and moral imperative to reduce it?

Speaker, we are actually poorer than we think. When I got to Queen's Park this morning to prepare and read the fall economic statement, I wanted to be surprised. I wanted to see tax relief measures for middle-income earners; they promised it in 2018. I wanted to see tax cuts for small businesses and funding for colleges and universities. I wanted to see a program that would train those youth so they can get jobs, that would help small businesses and Ontario businesses who are suffering under tariffs, and put those people, those young people, to work in

those companies. That's what I wanted to see, Speaker. I wanted to see money for hospitals who are facing a billion-dollar deficit. And what did we see to address those issues, Speaker? Nothing.

Why? It's either because they don't want to, or they can't. So why don't they want to do this? Why don't they want to fix all these issues? It's because they would rather dole out money to their insider friends through the Skills Development Fund. They'd rather spend hundreds of millions of dollars on moving the Ontario Science Centre to Ontario Place and building a parking lot. They'd rather bury our money in an underground tunnel under the 401 than fix the programs that make Ontario great.

So let's come back to the numbers. Of the \$2-billion increase in programs, \$1.5 billion is for contingency; only \$600 million is for programs. None of that to education, colleges, universities or hospitals. Why, Speaker? Because it is not their priority. It's their priority to help their friends and get our money tied up in programs and projects that help their insider friends get rich off taxpayers.

Speaker, this is a fall economic statement that could have met the moment. I'm sorry to say it did not, and it's a sad day for the people of Ontario.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the member for Guelph.

Mr. Mike Schreiner: The fall economic statement fails to protect everyday Ontarians. People are losing their jobs. The cost of living is skyrocketing. Housing costs are still sky-high, and the Premier is talking about a ridiculous tunnel that will be a costly nightmare and will do nothing to fix gridlock.

There is no plan for families lining up at food banks because rents are sky high, no plan for 80,000 people experiencing homelessness because there is no affordable housing, no plan for young people who can't get ahead in the face of high unemployment and skyrocketing housing costs.

Housing starts are down this year after last year's historic lows. And the Premier continues to say no to legalizing mid-rises and multiplexes, no to protecting renters, no to building deeply affordable homes.

Speaker, people can't afford to live in Ontario. The feds will make it worse, and our kids will ask this government why they're cancelling the obligation to have a climate plan for future generations.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): The member for Haldimand–Norfolk.

Ms. Bobbi Ann Brady: A plan to protect Ontario: a concept I can support, but we all know a law can look good on paper, but the devil is always in the details.

From the macro of the province to, shall I say, the micro of our ridings, I hope this plan protects all steelworkers in this province, including those at the Nanticoke industrial park, who feel betrayed by this government.

Some \$400 million through the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund—good news, but I see it includes bridges. We all know I've asked here, until I'm blue in the face, when Caledonia will see the replacement of the Argyle Street bridge, at risk of becoming a national headline.

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(Bill 33 Time Allocation Motion, Fall Economic Statement)

And I'm curious to see how the \$1.1 billion is spent in home care.

Sadly, there's no mention of fighting the illegal tobacco ruining our small towns—perhaps in the budget.

Sadly, there's no mention of agriculture this afternoon. I maintain the best way to tariff-proof Ontario is to increase processing capacity for our ag sector. Keeping processing local for, say, beef and pork reduces immediate tariff exposure and gives Ontario more bargaining room and domestic market resilience. Again, Speaker, it's hopefully in the budget.

I look forward to getting into the details of this bill.