

Graduation ceremonies

Ms. Stephanie Bowman: Each year since being elected, I've had the privilege of attending graduation ceremonies in my riding of Don Valley West. They are some of my favourite events. They're a chance to celebrate young members of our community, to hear about the highlights of their school year and to wish them the best as they embark on their next chapter. It's a chance to remind them that they have an entire community behind them and wishing them well.

Unfortunately, this year is different. As we know, the Toronto District School Board is now being run by a supervisor appointed by the Minister of Education. Here's an excerpt from a message from a TDSB principal: "We have received specific direction from our board to refrain from having political speakers address our students directly."

So here, today, from Queen's Park: Congratulations to the 2026 graduating classes of the high schools and middle schools in Don Valley West. This is such an exciting time for you. Enjoy celebrating your accomplishments and anticipating your next chapter. I look forward to seeing you soon, and I wish you a safe, happy, fun summer.

Women in politics

Mrs. Michelle Cooper: I rise today honoured to stand in this chamber alongside 46 female members of provincial Parliament. Since women first gained the right to vote in Ontario in 1917, and to run for office shortly after, more than 100 women have served in this Legislature. Each has helped shape a stronger more representative democracy for the people of Ontario.

This progress is meaningful but is not without the ongoing realities and challenges women continue to navigate. Women are leaders in this chamber, in their workplaces, in their communities, while also balancing the many roles they hold in their lives as wives, partners, mothers, daughters and granddaughters.

In recent months, I've had the privilege of visiting various all-girls schools in my riding of Eglinton–Lawrence, including Bais Yaakov, Eitz Chaim, Havergal College and Loretto Abbey to name a few, where I have met with bright and engaged young women who represent the future of our province.

What struck me most was their excitement seeing a woman serving as their local MPP. Their thoughtful questions about leadership and public service were a reminder that representation matters. When young women see women leading, they see new possibilities for themselves and gain the confidence to believe that their voices, ideas and ambitions belong wherever decisions are made.

Government accountability

Mr. John Fraser: My question is for the Premier. It looks like it's our last day, and I just can't give up that easily, because Ontarians need an answer. They need an answer to why the Premier's close friend and associate Carmine Nigro can sue the government for \$500 million and then get a secret payout that none of us are allowed to know about. My colleague from

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Orléans yesterday said, “It’s like the Premier saying to taxpayers, ‘Here’s the bill. Don’t ask any questions.’”

How can the Premier justify a secret payout to his close friend and associate Carmine Nigro that none of us are allowed to know about?

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

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria: We’ve answered that question many times. We don’t get involved in that process. Our Premier doesn’t get involved in that process, nor do I, Madam Speaker.

What we can talk about is, for 15 years, the Liberal government, when they were in power, built absolutely nothing in this province. We’ve talked about their legacy of upside-down bridges that they’ve built, transit that they didn’t invest in, but we were busy getting shovels in the ground. The Scarborough subway extension, a place that the previous Liberal government neglected, refused to put shovels in the ground to—we’re getting rapid transit to the people of Scarborough, Madam Speaker.

We’re delivering on One Fare. That’s putting \$1,600 back into the pockets of hard-working Ontarians, including those in Scarborough, who are using transit every single day.

Madam Speaker, we have been focused on building. Whether it’s Highway 413, the Bradford Bypass or getting our historic \$70 billion of investment into public transit, we’re going to continue to build.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I will ask for order.

Back to the leader of the third party.

Mr. John Fraser: These folks can’t deliver a transit project on time and on budget. But they can deliver a massive, multi-million dollar cheque to Carmine Nigro at lightning speed for literally nothing. People can’t get from A to B in Scarborough, but the Premier is busy shovelling money out the door with reckless abandon to his buddies.

So I’ll ask again: Speaker, can the Premier somehow justify this massive, multi-million dollar payout to his close friend and associate, Carmine Nigro?

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria: Madam Speaker, we face record gridlock in this province because, for 15 years, they built absolutely nothing—not a highway, no transit.

We’ve been busy delivering on those priorities. We’ve got the Finch West LRT open, the Eglinton Crosstown open. We’ve got shovels in the ground on the Bradford Bypass, a project that is going to support thousands of good-paying jobs.

Let’s take the Scarborough subway extension, a project that they have voted against almost every single time they’ve had an opportunity to support it in the House. That project supports 3,000 good-paying jobs. The Ontario Line supports 4,000 good-paying jobs. Every single one of

those projects supports thousands of good-paying jobs for Ontarians across this province. They vote against it every single time.

But that's what their record was: For 15 years, they neglected this province. They drove 300,000 manufacturing jobs out of this province, and they built no highways and no transit. We're changing that. We're getting shovels in the ground, and we're getting the job done.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): The leader of the third party.

Mr. John Fraser: I've asked this question two dozen times. Obviously, the Premier can't defend it, because he hasn't responded.

The question is: Where are they going to hide this settlement at Metrolinx? Are they going to bury it in the Eglinton Crosstown budget, or are they going to bury it in the expensive delays in the Scarborough subway? Or will they divide it up amongst 125 VPs at Metrolinx? Just where is the Premier going to hide this? What cupboard are we going to find it in?

I'll ask the Premier again. Maybe he can answer this question the 25th time. Let's try, Premier: How do you justify a multi-million dollar massive secret payout to your friend and associate Carmine Nigro while Ontario families are struggling?

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria: Madam Speaker, you can ask it another dozen times, the answer doesn't change—myself or the Premier do not get involved in that process.

But what we do do is we build transit, something they didn't do for 15 years. In 2018, in fact, the opposition called it "back of a napkin." Guess what? We've got shovels in the ground on the Scarborough subway extension, a project that the previous Liberal government not only abandoned but refused to invest in. The people of Scarborough are going to get rapid transit because this government believes in the people of Scarborough and wants to deliver transit to those hard-working people in that part of the city.

We're delivering the Ontario Line, the first time in over 60 years that there are tunnel-boring machines in the downtown core. Because of this Premier, our government has put forward a vision that transcends the next four to eight years. It looks at the next 50 to 100 years, because we believe in investing in Ontario and we believe in making ourselves more competitive and productive as a province.

Government accountability

Ms. Stephanie Bowman: Every year, Metrolinx receives a letter of direction from the Minister of Transportation. The 2024-25 letter tells Metrolinx to "keep the ministry informed on any issues and mitigations impacting schedule, budget delivery and progress on priority transit projects." So when Metrolinx is sued for half a billion dollars for air rights it needed for the GO expansion project, the agency was expected to inform the minister. When the settlement offer for \$78 million was rejected, Metrolinx must have informed the minister. When the final settlement was being negotiated, the minister must have known.

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Speaker, through you to the Minister of Transportation: Will he deny again having knowledge of this deal, or will you finally tell taxpayers how many millions of dollars your agency paid to a close friend of the Premier?

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria: The answer remains the same. We don't get involved in that process. I don't get involved in that process. The Premier doesn't get involved in the process.

But what we do is tell Metrolinx to build public transit because for 15 years, the previous Liberal government built absolutely nothing, especially in places like Scarborough, Madam Speaker. They promised, then cancelled projects in Scarborough.

Guess what? We delivered for the people of Scarborough. We're getting three stations, eight kilometres built in that city because the people of Scarborough deserve high-speed transit—100,000 people will ride that every single day—just as we have delivered the Crosstown and the Finch West LRT. Hundreds of thousands of people are riding those transit systems because we are focused on getting shovels in the ground.

We are focused on building public transit for this province. We're changing the way people travel across this province because we know it is about productivity and it's about getting people out of gridlock, something that 15 years of neglect has caused record—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for Don Valley West.

Ms. Stephanie Bowman: Speaker, there are only two possible reasons why the minister will not say how much taxpayer money his agency—his government—agreed to pay the Premier's close personal friend: Either he doesn't really know, so he is not doing his job, or he is hiding the number to protect the secretive Ford Conservative government.

The Metrolinx Act states it "is an agency of the crown." Metrolinx is accountable to this minister. The act says Metrolinx "shall conform with" government "objectives, plans, policies and strategies...."

It's laughable for this minister to say he has no knowledge of how much taxpayer money is being paid out to Carmine Nigro.

Through you, Speaker, to the minister: Will he take accountability for this air rights scandal, or will he keep blaming Metrolinx and fire the CEO and the board?

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria: Madam Speaker, for the hundredth time, we don't get involved in that process. I don't, nor does the Premier.

What's laughable is the record of the previous Liberal government on building transit projects. They can't speak to a single project that they completed because they neglected their duty to build in this province. Now, when they have the opportunity to support projects like the Ontario Line, the Scarborough subway extension, what will they do? They will vote against it.

Last year, we had a record year at Metrolinx. Over 76 million people, Madam Speaker, used the GO or UP Express network. That is because of the investments that we have been making. Whether it's the first weekend train—regular service—to Kitchener or whether it's making sure

on the Lakeshore East and Lakeshore West lines that we continue to increase service, we are delivering record amounts of investment into public transit, something they neglected for 15 years when they had the chance to build.

Culturally responsive mental health services

MPP Kristyn Wong-Tam: For 23 years, the Asian Initiative in Mental Health clinic, also known as AIM, operated at UHN Toronto Western Hospital. They provided culturally safe, in-language mental health care for Chinese and other Asian patients. Their 4,500 patients came from across the GTA and beyond, but the AIM clinic was closed last year without consultation or adequate notice. Patients, families and community organizations were suddenly left in the lurch.

The gallery today is filled with former patients, community advocates and health care leaders who are here for a simple answer to a simple question: Will the Minister of Health stand up for the Chinese and East Asian communities today and use her ministerial powers and have UHN restore AIM's life-saving mental health services?

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

Hon. Sylvia Jones: As we continue to expand our mental health and addiction access throughout the province of Ontario, it is unfortunate to see the NDP and the Liberals often voting against these investments.

Whether it is in our youth wellness hubs that we have now operationalized across Ontario, whether it is in our homelessness and addiction recovery treatment programs where we are seeing now 29 different programs across Ontario working together with community agencies, I look at the investments that we are making in our communities and the impact that they are having, and I continue to pause and wonder why when we, as a government, invest in—whether it's 500 new supportive mental health beds, why the member opposite continues to vote against these investments.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): The member for Hamilton Centre.

MPP Robin Lennox: Speaker, 40% of Ontarians report unmet mental health needs, and many more are paying out-of-pocket just to access care. Many communities, including the Chinese Canadians who attended AIM, cannot access culturally competent care in their primary language.

To the Premier: Given one third of Ontarians will experience a mental health concern in their lifetime, will you commit to delivering universal mental health care that guarantees culturally competent care for all Ontarians?

Hon. Sylvia Jones: I would respectfully ask the member opposite: When we invest and fund an additional 500 mental health beds across Ontario, will she support that investment by voting with a positive? When we invest in the first PTSI centre for first responders in North America, working directly with Runnymede Healthcare Centre, will she support that investment to make sure that our first responders—our firefighters, our police officers, our paramedics, our emergency room physicians and nurses—have the opportunity to get unique and tailored

treatments and services for their PTSD that they received while protecting the people of Ontario? Will the member opposite support it? We have made continuous and regular investments with mental health and additions.

I will say, I have to speak out and say to the federal government: We need you to be part of the solution. We had a partnership with the federal government that is literally—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the member for Etobicoke–Lakeshore.

Accessibility for persons with disabilities

Ms. Lee Fairclough: Speaker, I want you to imagine for a minute you are a person who regularly uses a wheelchair or a walker, or you're a family with a stroller, and you're on your way to visit family in Etobicoke–Lakeshore. You get off the train at Mimico GO station, you look around for the accessible exits, you look around for an elevator, and you can't find it. You can't get down from the platform. You know why, Speaker? Because it doesn't exist. The station is not accessible.

This week is AccessAbility Week in Ontario, a time to reflect whether public spaces are truly accessible to everyone, per the AODA laws. To the Premier: When will he ensure that people can get down from a train platform if they use a wheelchair or a walker at Mimico GO station?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the Minister of Transportation.

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria: Accessibility—and I had the opportunity to work with Minister Raymond Cho as well—is something that we take very seriously and something that we are implementing across all of our GO network, including Mimico GO, as we continue to revitalize that station. From elevators to ramps, this is something that is a foremost priority for us as we build new and as we continue to upgrade the stations that are currently in the system.

That said, we continue to invest in the largest expansion of public transit in the history of this province at over \$70 billion in the next 10 years. Part of that investment is ensuring that we are compliant and that we are ensuring that we have the accessibility ramps and other services available for people to use and utilize. That is a key commitment for Metrolinx and something that we will continue to deliver on.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for Etobicoke–Lakeshore.

Ms. Lee Fairclough: Speaker, through you, respectfully to the Minister of Transportation: It has been years since there have been conversations started about Mimico GO station and making it accessible. The community is still waiting for what the final plan will look like. It has been eight long years with this government.

The minister is all talk about the fancy transit project investments, including the Premier's tunnel under the 401—but we have this situation?

The deadline to be AODA-compliant has long passed. People arriving in wheelchairs or with a walker can't get down from the train platform. This government cares more about rewarding

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their friends with air rights above the transit stations than what they're doing for people using the transit.

Accessibility at the GO station matters to the people in my riding. So, through the Speaker, when will the Premier get back in touch with what matters to people and make Mimico GO accessible?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility.

Hon. Raymond Sung Joon Cho: Project by project, community by community, Ontario is becoming more accessible every day. Every dollar this government invests in infrastructure is a dollar invested in accessibility.

We are working with all levels of government to meet, achieve and exceed the goals of the AODA. All 444 municipalities have an accessibility plan that sets out how they will implement AODA standards. This is how we are driving accessibility. Project by project, community by community, we are getting it done.

Royal assent

Hon. Edith Dumont (Lieutenant Governor): Pray be seated.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly of the province has, at its present meetings thereof, passed certain bills to which, in the name of and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

The Deputy Clerk (Ms. Valerie Quioc Lim): The following are the titles of the bills to which Your Honour's assent is prayed:

An Act to amend the City of Toronto Act, 2006 and the Municipal Act, 2001 in relation to codes of conduct

An Act to enact the Constable Joe MacDonald Public Safety Officers' Survivors Scholarship Fund Act, 2026 and to amend various other Acts

An Act to enact the Fare Alignment and Seamless Transit Act, 2026 and to amend various Acts

An Act to enact the Building Billy Bishop Airport Act, 2026

Keeping Our Kids Safe Online Act, 2026

Ms. Clancy moved first reading of the following bill:

Bill 137, An Act to create a committee respecting the online safety of children

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ric Bresee): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?
Carried.

First reading agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ric Bresee): Does the member wish to briefly explain the bill?

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Ms. Aislinn Clancy: The harms of Internet use, cellphones and technology are well documented, and it's past due that this government creates protections and education to help protect our kids from online harms.

This bill proposes to put a committee together to plan for and create curriculum in the K-to-12 section for misinformation, disinformation, gambling, violent pornography dependence and mental health, to make sure our kids are prepared, to set limits on social media and AI chatbots in schools, and that we create accountability measures for the tech companies that cause harm to our kids.

Social Media Age Restriction Plan Act, 2026

MPP Lennox moved first reading of the following bill:

Bill 138, An Act to establish a plan to implement social media age restrictions

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ric Bresee): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?
Carried.

First reading agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ric Bresee): Does the member wish to briefly explain the bill?

MPP Robin Lennox: I'm very proud to co-sponsor this bill alongside my colleagues the MPPs for Nickel Belt, Waterloo, and Parkdale–High Park.

We know that social media use is a significant concern among our youth and that excessive screen time and social media are associated with a number of mental health concerns among young people.

This bill directs the Minister of Health to work with relevant stakeholders and the federal government to develop a strategy to ban social media use among children under the age of 16.

House and committee sittings

Hon. Steve Clark: I move that, notwithstanding standing order 7, when the House adjourns today, it shall stand adjourned until 10:15 a.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2026.