

A large iceberg floats in a blue ocean under a cloudy sky. The iceberg is split horizontally, with a small portion above the water and a much larger, jagged portion submerged below. The text is overlaid on the submerged part of the iceberg.

Ontario

# EYES ON EVIDENCE III

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE  
TRANSPARENCY OF EVIDENCE  
USAGE ACROSS PROVINCIAL  
POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Evidence  
for  
Democracy

# Eyes On Evidence III

## An assessment of the transparency of evidence usage across provincial policy announcements

October 2022

By Farah Qaiser, Caitlin Fowler and Veronika Achor

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank all of the individuals who helped support our provincial transparency assessments and report preparation. In particular, we thank Evidence for Democracy's staff, Rachael Maxwell and Nada Salem, for their critical insights and support throughout this project. This work was made possible thanks to generous support from the Trottier Family Foundation.

**Evidence for Democracy** is the leading fact-driven, non-partisan, not-for-profit organization promoting the transparent use of evidence in government decision-making in Canada. Through research, education, and issue-based campaigns, we engage and empower the science community while cultivating public and political demand for evidence-based decision-making.



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# Executive Summary

**W**e all benefit when governments make policy decisions informed by the best available evidence. Data, facts, and science challenge what we consider as common sense, and help distinguish the boundaries between reality and political framing.

Transparency is a prerequisite to enabling evidence-informed decision-making. When the public can find the evidence underlying policy decisions, they have the opportunity to scrutinize the relationship between evidence and public policy. Without transparency, we run the risk of losing the ability for citizens to hold policy-makers accountable, further distancing the public from the policy decisions that impact their lives.

However, putting evidence at the heart of public policy is no easy feat.

Previously, in *Eyes on Evidence II*, we applied a transparency framework (adapted from the United Kingdom) to assess the transparency of evidence usage in a total of 100 policies from the Government of Canada. Our assessment found that policies scored low, meaning that it's very difficult for members of the public to find the evidence behind government policy.

Now, in this study, we applied our transparency framework to assess the transparency of evidence usage in provincial policies issued by the governments of Ontario, British Columbia and Saskatchewan, and compared transparency in policy-making across the Canadian federation.

## KEY FINDINGS

- » **We applied a transparency framework to assess the transparency of evidence usage in a total of 133 policies issued by the provincial governments of Ontario, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan.** Simply put, our framework asks: can the evidence behind policy decisions be found by the lay public? The framework consists of four categories:
  - **Diagnosis:** What do policy-makers know about the issue?
  - **Proposal:** What is the government's chosen intervention, and why was it chosen?
  - **Implementation:** How will the chosen intervention be rolled out, and why was this method chosen?
  - **Testing and evaluation:** How and when will we know if the policy has worked?
- » **Overall, our assessment found that provincial policies scored low on the transparency of evidence usage, meaning that it's very difficult for people living in Ontario, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan to find the evidence behind provincial policy.**
  - **There were shared shortcomings across provinces.** Too often, policies would either mention none of the underlying evidence behind the issue or proposed intervention at hand, or would fail to provide a reference or citation for any evidence mentioned. Policies rarely explored the merits of alternative policy options, or acknowledged any absent, weak or contradictory evidence. Lastly, across all provincial governments, an overwhelming majority of policies scored

poorly (i.e., received a 0) in the testing and evaluation section (i.e., to know how and when a policy has worked).

- **In particular, policies from the Government of Saskatchewan scored very poorly.** 15 of the 18 policies assessed in this province received a 0 across all four sections of the transparency framework.
- **The transparency of evidence usage fared slightly better in federal policies, though there were several similar trends in both federal and provincial assessments.** Relative to federal policies, policies from the governments of Ontario and British Columbia scored more poorly in every section, but scored slightly higher in the Testing and Evaluation section. A score of 3 was rare across all levels of government.

- » **We recognize that the transparency framework is not a perfect measure.** Throughout the Eyes on Evidence series, we spoke with public servants, political staffers, and elected representatives to explore what internal challenges or barriers exist when it comes to implementing transparency in policy-making. We look forward to sharing key insights from both our federal and provincial discussions soon, as well as a compilation of best practices for governments within the federation to improve transparency.
- » **Ultimately, our assessment demonstrates that policy-making across the Canadian federation fares poorly when it comes to the transparency of evidence usage.** We find that from the sidelines, it is difficult to discern whether government systems, structures, and resources are in fact delivering on their commitment to implement evidence-informed and transparent policy-making, to its full extent.





# Government of Ontario: Transparency Assessments

For the 12 Ontario ministries included in this study, there were a total of 762 policies announced between January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021. Upon vetting for eligible policies (see the full *Eyes On Evidence III* report), a total of 368 policies remained. Next, five policies were randomly selected from each ministry, leading to an assessment of the transparency of evidence usage in a total of 60 policies, across 12 ministries, from the Government of Ontario.

**Overall, our assessment found that policies scored low on the transparency of evidence usage, meaning that it's difficult for Ontarians to find the evidence behind provincial policy.**

Our findings indicate:

- » **Transparency scores varied across different ministries.** The ministries that received the highest scores were the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. The ministry which received the lowest scores was the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries.
- » **When we searched for the underlying evidence used to understand a policy issue, two-thirds of policies scored very poorly.** The diagnosis section asks: what do policymakers know about the issue? When we assessed what evidence had been used and the role it had played in this section, 67% (n=40) of policies received a 0, while 25% (n=15) received a 1. In other words, policies either failed to mention any underlying evidence (a 0), or mentioned evidence but with no citation to track down the source (a 1). Only four policies received a 2 in this section (i.e., the supporting evidence was linked, properly cited and able to be found). A single policy received a score of 3.
- » **When we searched for evidence about why an intervention was selected, a majority of policies scored very poorly.** The proposal section asks: what is the government's chosen intervention and why was it chosen? Upon assessing the transparency of evidence usage here, 82% (n=49) of policies received a 0, and 15% (n=9) of policies received a 1. Only two policies received a 2 in this section.
- » **When we searched for evidence about how (and why) the chosen intervention would be rolled out, a majority of policies scored very poorly.** The implementation section asks: how will the chosen intervention be rolled out, and why was this method chosen? Here, 87% (n=52) of policies received a 0. Six policies received a score of 1, and only two policies received a score of 2 (i.e., supporting evidence was able to be found).
- » **Across all ministries, about three-quarters of policies scored very poorly in the testing and evaluation section.** The testing and evaluation sections asks: how and when will we know if the policy has worked? 73% (n=44) of policies received a 0 in this section. The remaining 27% (n=16) received a score of 1.
- » **There was only one policy which scored at least a 1 at minimum in each section.** The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' *Expanding Access to Broadband in Middlesex County* scored at least a 1 across the diagnosis, proposal, implementation, and testing and evaluation sections.

- » **A total of 27 policies, across 10 ministries, scored poorly (i.e., received a 0 for every section of the transparency framework).**
- » **Policies rarely assessed their evidence base critically across the four sections (diagnosis, proposal, implementation, or testing and evaluation).** A 3 indicates that the criteria for a 1 and 2 were met (i.e., evidence is mentioned and properly cited, with an explanation of how it was used), and that

there was also consideration of alternate options, uncertainties, and contradictions within the policy. Across all assessments, there was only a single policy section which received a score of 3 – the diagnosis section of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks’ *Ontario Protecting the Health of the Muskoka River Watershed* policy.

### Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
Ontario Delivering Support to Agricultural and Horticultural Societies	1	0	0	0
Expanding Access to Broadband in Wellington County	2	1	0	1
Ontario Improves Commodity Loan Guarantee Program	0	0	1	0
Ontario Helps Farmers and Agri-food Operators Keep Workers Safe During COVID-19	0	1	0	0
Expanding Access to Broadband in Middlesex County	2	1	1	1

### Ministry of Colleges and Universities

Ontario Names Special Advisor to Support Laurentian University	0	0	0	0
Ontario Expands Financial Assistance to Include Micro-credentials	0	0	0	0
Ontario Invests in New and Expanded Rapid Training Program	1	0	0	1
Ontario Supports Innovation in Virtual Learning	0	0	0	0
Ontario Invests in Research and Innovation	0	0	1	0

<b>Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade</b>	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
Ontario Investing in Peterborough-Based Producer of Hand Sanitizer and Disinfectant Bottles	0	0	0	0
Ontario Supports the Development of the Next Generation of PPE	0	0	0	0
Ontario Supports Air Monitoring Technology to Better Protect People from COVID-19	0	0	0	1
Province Appoints Board of Directors of Invest Ontario	0	0	0	0
Ontario Supports Local Manufacturing of Disinfectant during COVID-19	1	1	0	1

### Ministry of Education

Ontario Provides Funding for Autism Training	1	1	0	1
Ontario Delays March Break in an Effort to Reduce Community Transmission of COVID-19	0	0	0	0
Ontario Takes Action to Support Working Families and Improve Child Care	1	2	2	0
Additional Protections for Schools to Keep Students and Staff Safe	0	1	0	0
Ontario Acting to Combat Anti-Asian Racism in Schools	1	0	0	0

### Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Ontario Enhancing Protection for Species at Risk	2	0	1	0
Ontario Expanding the Protection and Preservation of Green Spaces	0	0	0	0
Ontario Protecting the Health of the Muskoka River Watershed	3	2	2	0
Ontario Providing More Relief for Tourism Industry	0	0	0	0
Ontario Investing in Significant Wetland Restoration Projects	0	1	0	1

<b>Ministry of Health</b>	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
Ontario Deploys Rapid Tests to More Essential Workplaces and Settings	0	0	0	1
Ontario Supporting Children and Youth with Complex Mental Health and Addictions Needs	0	0	0	1
Ontario Expanding Access to Dental Care and Affordable Prescription Drugs for Vulnerable Seniors	0	0	1	1
Ontario Accelerates Second Doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine	0	1	0	0
Ontario Launching New \$30 Million Surgical Innovation Fund	1	0	0	0

### **Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries**

Province Supports Ontario Heritage Trust during COVID-19	0	0	0	0
Ontario Continues Investing in Innovative Festivals and Events	0	0	0	0
Ontario Provides Significant Financial Support to the Arts Sector During COVID-19	0	0	0	0
Ontario Supporting Tourism and Culture in the GTA	0	0	0	0
Ontario Supports Tourism, Culture, Sport and Recreation Organizations	0	0	0	0

### **Ministry of Infrastructure**

Canada and Ontario invest to improve recreation infrastructure in Brampton	2	0	0	0
Canada and Ontario invest in improved facilities for the Boys & Girls Club of Brantford	0	0	0	0
Canada and Ontario Invest in the Renovation and Expansion of the Kanata Recreation Centre in Ottawa	0	0	0	0
Canada and Ontario Invest in Improved Community, Culture and Recreational Infrastructure in Southwestern Ontario	0	0	0	0
Canada and Ontario invest \$15 million in Municipal Infrastructure to Respond to the Impacts of COVID-19 in Northern Ontario	0	0	0	0



	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
<b>Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development</b>				
Over 1,000 Stores Visited during Ontario's COVID-19 Inspection Blitz	1	0	1	0
Ontario Training Students for Medical Technology Careers	0	0	0	1
Ontario Makes it Easier to Start a Career in the Skilled Trades	0	0	0	0
Ontario Preparing Students for Skilled Trades and Technology Careers	1	0	0	1
Ontario Helping Immigrants Prepare for Good Jobs	0	0	0	0
<b>Ministry of Long-Term Care</b>				
Ontario Launches Pilot Program to Train Personal Support Workers	1	0	0	1
Ontario Supports Management Agreement Between The Ross Memorial Hospital and Caressant Care on McLaughlin Road	0	0	0	0
Ontario adding 2,000 nurses to the health care system	0	0	0	1
Ontario Opening Up Outdoor Visits for Long-Term Care	0	0	0	0
Ontario Keeping Seniors in Long-Term Care Homes Cool this Summer	1	0	0	1
<b>Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry</b>				
Ontario Supporting Forestry Jobs and Worker Safety	0	0	0	0
Ontario Supporting Resource-Based Tourism Jobs	0	0	0	0
Ontario Helps Build Winter Roads in the Far North	0	0	0	0
Ontario Takes Steps to Further Protect Nipissing Region Businesses from COVID-19	0	1	0	0
Ontario Releases Draft Forest Biomass Action Plan	1	0	0	1

<b>Ministry of Transportation</b>	<b>Diagnosis</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>Testing &amp; Evaluation</b>
Ontario Restarting Passenger Road Tests in Most DriveTest Centres Across the Province	0	0	0	0
Ontario Increases Support for Transit Across the Province	1	0	0	0
Ontario Awards Contract for Highway 17B Improvements	1	0	0	0
Ontario to Officially Open New Bloomington GO Station	0	0	0	0
Ontario Releases Discussion Paper to Improve Transportation Vision for Greater Golden Horseshoe	1	0	0	0

## Appendix: List of Policies Assessed

### Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

- 1 *Ontario Delivering Support to Agricultural and Horticultural Societies*. 26 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60107/ontario-delivering-support-to-agricultural-and-horticultural-societies>
- 2 *Expanding Access to Broadband in Wellington County*. 28 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60155/expanding-access-to-broadband-in-wellington-county>
- 3 *Ontario Improves Commodity Loan Guarantee Program*. 11 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60322/ontario-improves-commodity-loan-guarantee-program>
- 4 *Ontario Helps Farmers and Agri-food Operators Keep Workers Safe During COVID-19*. 8 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/61059/ontario-helps-farmers-and-agri-food-operators-keep-workers-safe-during-covid-19>
- 5 *Expanding Access to Broadband in Middlesex County*. 17 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000139/expanding-access-to-broadband-in-middlesex-county>

### Ministry of Colleges and Universities

- 1 *Ontario Names Special Advisor to Support Laurentian University*. 1 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/statement/60200/ontario-names-special-advisor-to-support-laurentian-university>
- 2 *Ontario Expands Financial Assistance to Include Micro-credentials*. 18 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60792/ontario-expands-financial-assistance-to-include-micro-credentials>
- 3 *Ontario Invests in New and Expanded Rapid Training Program*. 23 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/61236/ontario-invests-in-new-and-expanded-rapid-training-programs>
- 4 *Ontario Supports Innovation in Virtual Learning*. 17 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000144/ontario-supports-innovation-in-virtual-learning>
- 5 *Ontario Invests in Research and Innovation*. 29 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000443/ontario-invests-in-research-and-innovation>

### Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

- 1 *Ontario Investing in Peterborough-Based Producer of Hand Sanitizer and Disinfectant Bottles*. 18 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59986/ontario-investing-in-peterborough-based-producer-of-hand-sanitizer-and-disinfectant-bottles>
- 2 *Ontario Supports the Development of the Next Generation of PPE*. 26 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60103/ontario-supports-the-development-of-the-next-generation-of-ppe>

- 3 *Ontario Supports Air Monitoring Technology to Better Protect People from COVID-19*. 4 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60230/ontario-supports-air-monitoring-technology-to-better-protect-people-from-covid-19>
- 4 *Province Appoints Board of Directors of Invest Ontario*. 19 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60841/province-appoints-board-of-directors-of-invest-ontario>
- 5 *Ontario Supports Local Manufacturing of Disinfectant during COVID-19*. 7 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/61018/ontario-supports-local-manufacturing-of-disinfectant-during-covid-19>

## Ministry of Education

- 1 *Ontario Provides Funding for Autism Training*. 10 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59909/ontario-provides-funding-for-autism-training>
- 2 *Ontario Delays March Break in an Effort to Reduce Community Transmission of COVID-19*. 11 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/statement/60325/ontario-delays-march-break-in-an-effort-to-reduce-community-transmission-of-covid-19>
- 3 *Ontario Takes Action to Support Working Families and Improve Child Care*. 26 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60465/ontario-takes-action-to-support-working-families-and-improve-child-care>
- 4 *Additional Protections for Schools to Keep Students and Staff Safe*. 8 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/61052/additional-protections-for-schools-to-keep-students-and-staff-safe>
- 5 *Ontario Acting to Combat Anti-Asian Racism in Schools*. 12 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000111/ontario-acting-to-combat-anti-asian-racism-in-schools>

## Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

- 1 *Ontario Enhancing Protection for Species at Risk*. 5 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59869/ontario-enhancing-protection-for-species-at-risk>
- 2 *Ontario Expanding the Protection and Preservation of Green Spaces*. 15 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60714/ontario-expanding-the-protection-and-preservation-of-green-spaces>
- 3 *Ontario Protecting the Health of the Muskoka River Watershed*. 20 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/61220/ontario-protecting-the-health-of-the-muskoka-river-watershed>
- 4 *Ontario Providing More Relief for Tourism Industry*. 14 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000128/ontario-providing-more-relief-for-tourism-industry>
- 5 *Ontario Investing in Significant Wetland Restoration Projects*. 16 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000353/ontario-investing-in-significant-wetland-restoration-projects>

## Ministry of Health

- 1 *Ontario Deploys Rapid Tests to More Essential Workplaces and Settings*. 12 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60337/ontario-deploys-rapid-tests-to-more-essential-workplaces-and-settings>
- 2 *Ontario Supporting Children and Youth with Complex Mental Health and Addictions Needs*. 27 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60491/ontario-supporting-children-and-youth-with-complex-mental-health-and-addictions-needs>

- 3 *Ontario Expanding Access to Dental Care and Affordable Prescription Drugs for Vulnerable Seniors*. 11 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000095/ontario-expanding-access-to-dental-care-and-affordable-prescription-drugs-for-vulnerable-seniors>
- 4 *Ontario Accelerates Second Doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine*. 12 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000329/ontario-accelerates-second-doses-of-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine>
- 5 *Ontario Launching New \$30 Million Surgical Innovation Fund*. 23 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000392/ontario-launching-new-30-million-surgical-innovation-fund>

## Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

- 1 *Province Supports Ontario Heritage Trust during COVID-19*. 16 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60357/province-supports-ontario-heritage-trust-during-covid-19>
- 2 *Ontario Continues Investing in Innovative Festivals and Events*. 19 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60390/ontario-continues-investing-in-innovative-festivals-and-events>
- 3 *Ontario Provides Significant Financial Support to the Arts Sector During COVID-19*. 2 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60515/ontario-provides-significant-financial-support-to-the-arts-sector>
- 4 *Ontario Supporting Tourism and Culture in the GTA*. 3 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60526/ontario-supporting-tourism-and-culture-in-the-gta>
- 5 *Ontario Supports Tourism, Culture, Sport and Recreation Organizations*. 16 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60724/ontario-supports-tourism-culture-sport-and-recreation-organizations>

## Ministry of Infrastructure

- 1 *Canada and Ontario invest to improve recreation infrastructure in Brampton*. 9 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60270/canada-and-ontario-invest-to-improve-recreation-infrastructure-in-brampton>
- 2 *Canada and Ontario invest in improved facilities for the Boys & Girls Club of Brantford*. 18 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60373/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-improved-facilities-for-the-boys-girls-club-of-brantford>
- 3 *Canada and Ontario Invest in the Renovation and Expansion of the Kanata Recreation Centre in Ottawa*. 8 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/61064/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-the-renovation-and-expansion-of-the-kanata-recreation-centre-in-ottawa>
- 4 *Canada and Ontario Invest in Improved Community, Culture and Recreational Infrastructure in Southwestern Ontario*. 9 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/61072/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-improved-community-culture-and-recreational-infrastructure-in-southwestern-ontario>
- 5 *Canada and Ontario invest \$15 million in Municipal Infrastructure to Respond to the Impacts of COVID-19 in Northern Ontario*. 7 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000276/canada-and-ontario-invest-15-million-in-municipal-infrastructure-to-respond-to-the-impacts-of-covid-19-in-northern-ontario>

## Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

- 1 *Over 1,000 Stores Visited during Ontario's COVID-19 Inspection Blitz.* 29 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60163/over-1000-stores-visited-during-ontarios-covid-19-inspection-blitz>
- 2 *Ontario Training Students for Medical Technology Careers.* 1 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000241/ontario-training-students-for-medical-technology-careers>
- 3 *Ontario Makes it Easier to Start a Career in the Skilled Trades.* 2 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/statement/1000253/ontario-makes-it-easier-to-start-a-career-in-the-skilled-trades>
- 4 *Ontario Preparing Students for Skilled Trades and Technology Careers.* 3 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000257/ontario-preparing-students-for-skilled-trades-and-technology-careers>
- 5 *Ontario Helping Immigrants Prepare for Good Jobs.* 29 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000432/ontario-helping-immigrants-prepare-for-good-jobs>

## Ministry of Long-Term Care

- 1 *Ontario Launches Pilot Program to Train Personal Support Workers.* 21 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60060/ontario-launches-pilot-program-to-train-personal-support-workers>
- 2 *Ontario Supports Management Agreement Between The Ross Memorial Hospital and Caressant Care on McLaughlin Road.* 23 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60425/ontario-supports-management-agreement-between-the-ross-memorial-hospital-and-caressant-care-on-mclaughlin-road>

- 3 *Ontario adding 2,000 nurses to the health care system.* 14 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000132/ontario-adding-2000-nurses-to-the-health-care-system>
- 4 *Ontario Opening Up Outdoor Visits for Long-Term Care.* 21 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000182/ontario-opening-up-outdoor-visits-for-long-term-care>
- 5 *Ontario Keeping Seniors in Long-Term Care Homes Cool this Summer.* 27 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000204/ontario-keeping-seniors-in-long-term-care-homes-cool-this-summer>

## Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry

- 1 *Ontario Supporting Forestry Jobs and Worker Safety.* 6 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59878/ontario-supporting-forestry-jobs-and-worker-safety>
- 2 *Ontario Supporting Resource-Based Tourism Jobs.* 1 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60972/ontario-supporting-resource-based-tourism-jobs>
- 3 *Ontario Helps Build Winter Roads in the Far North.* 14 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59954/ontario-helps-build-winter-roads-in-the-far-north>
- 4 *Ontario Takes Steps to Further Protect Nipissing Region Businesses from COVID-19.* 12 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60670/ontario-takes-steps-to-further-protect-nipissing-region-businesses-from-covid-19>
- 5 *Ontario Releases Draft Forest Biomass Action Plan.* 6 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000077/ontario-releases-draft-forest-biomass-action-plan>



## Ministry of Transportation

- 1 *Ontario Restarting Passenger Road Tests in Most DriveTest Centres Across the Province.* 12 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60340/ontario-restarting-passenger-road-tests-in-most-drivetest-centres-across-the-province>
- 2 *Ontario Increases Support for Transit Across the Province.* 1 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60496/ontario-increases-support-for-transit-across-the-province>
- 3 *Ontario Awards Contract for Highway 17B Improvements.* 11 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000287/ontario-awards-contract-for-highway-17b-improvements>
- 4 *Ontario to Officially Open New Bloomington GO Station.* 16 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000355/ontario-to-officially-open-new-bloomington-go-station>
- 5 *Ontario Releases Discussion Paper to Improve Transportation Vision for Greater Golden Horseshoe.* 29 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000444/ontario-releases-discussion-paper-to-improve-transportation-vision-for-greater-golden-horseshoe>

