

BILL 23 - SCHEDULE 6
ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT

The Schedule amends the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Here are some highlights.

1. Section 25.2 of the Act currently permits the Minister to prepare heritage standards and guidelines for the identification, protection, maintenance, use and disposal of property that is owned by the Crown or occupied by a ministry or prescribed public body and that has cultural heritage value or interest. New subsection 25.2 (3.1) provides that the process for identifying such properties, as set out in the heritage standards and guidelines, may permit the Minister to review determinations made by a ministry or prescribed public body.

New subsection 25.2 (7) authorizes the Lieutenant Governor in Council to, by order, exempt the Crown, a ministry or a prescribed public body from having to comply with the heritage standards and guidelines in respect of a particular property, if the Lieutenant Governor in Council is of the opinion that such exemption could potentially advance one or more provincial priorities, as specified.

2. Section 27 of the Act currently requires the clerk of each municipality to keep a register that lists all property designated under Part IV of the Act and also all property that has not been designated, but that the municipal council believes to be of cultural heritage value or interest.

New subsection 27 (1.1) requires the clerk of the municipality to ensure that the information included in the register is accessible to the public on the municipality's website. Subsection 27 (3) is re-enacted to require that non-designated property must meet the criteria for determining whether property is of cultural heritage value or interest, if such criteria are prescribed. Current subsection 27 (13) is re-enacted to provide that, in addition to applying to properties included in the register on and after July 1, 2021, the objection process set out in subsections 27 (7) and (8) apply to non-designated properties that were included in the register as of June 30, 2021. New subsections 27 (14), (15) and (16) specify circumstances that require the removal of non-designated property from the register. New subsection 27 (18) prevents a council from including such non-designated property in the register again for five years.

3. Currently, subsection 29 (1.2) of the Act provides that, if a prescribed event occurs, a notice of intention to designate a property under that section may not be given after 90 days have elapsed from the prescribed event, subject to such exceptions as may be prescribed.

The subsection is re-enacted to also provide that the municipality may give a notice of intention to designate the property only if the property was included in the register under subsection 27 (3) as of the date of the prescribed event.

4. Subsection 41 (1) of the Act currently permits a council of a municipality to designate, by by-law, the municipality or any defined area of it as a heritage conservation district, if there is in effect in the municipality an official plan that contains provisions relating to the establishment of a heritage conservation district.

The subsection is re-enacted to also require the municipality or defined area or areas to meet criteria for determining whether they are of cultural heritage value or interest, if such criteria are prescribed. New subsections 41 (10.2) and (10.3) require a council of a municipality wishing to amend or repeal a by-law made under the section to do so in accordance with such process as may be prescribed; similar rules are added to section 41.1.

5. Section 71 of the Act authorizes the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations governing transitional matters to facilitate the implementation of the amendments made in the Schedule.

Other housekeeping amendments were made to the Act.