

Legislative  
Assembly  
of Ontario



Assemblée  
législative  
de l'Ontario

# NEW ADVANCED HANSARD SEARCH ON THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO'S WEBSITE

ADVANCED HANSARD SEARCH  
MODERNIZATION PROJECT

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

December 12, 2023, Government Information Day(s) 2023

# HOUSE HANSARD (DEBATES)

## DEFINITION

- "The Hansard transcript is the official record of House debates. A typical Hansard issue includes a table of contents, a transcript of what is said, divisions (votes), and a list of members and their ridings." ([The Assembly website](#))
- A historically significant role in informing the public the daily proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.
- House Hansard transcripts are digitally available from the 29<sup>th</sup> parliament, 4<sup>th</sup> session to present on the Assembly website in PDF and/or html formats.

# THE CURRENT SEARCH

- Available through the Assembly website (<http://hansardindex.ontla.on.ca/>)
- Full text search database on Ontario House Hansard from March 11, 1975, to present.
- Released in 1999.

## House Hansard Search

Fill in one or more of the boxes below to search House Hansard from March 11, 1975 to now.

Note: Type of Business search is not available prior to Session 30:4, April 18, 1977.

KEYWORD:   
[Keyword Example](#)

SESSION:

TYPE OF BUSINESS:   
[Type of Business Example](#)

TOPIC:   
[Topic Example](#)

SPEAKER:   
[Speaker Example](#)

DATE RANGE:

DATE FROM/ON: DAY:  MONTH:  YEAR:   
[Date Example](#)

DATE TO: DAY:  MONTH:  YEAR:   
[Date Example](#)

[New Search](#) [Help](#)

The electronic version of Hansard is provided for information purposes only. The printed version is the official report of debates and proceedings in the Ontario Legislative Assembly and its committees.



# ADVANCED HANSARD SEARCH MODERNIZATION PROJECT

WHY? BECAUSE... IT'S TIME FOR MODERNIZE!

- Identified that some functions did not work (e.g. NEAR) and there were errors and missing data (e.g. no proper heading).
- The current search is more than 20 years old:
  - Old technology
  - Old-fashioned design
  - Lack of accessibility
- Well-used search tool (over 242,000 searches, approx. 5,800 users from January 1 to December 4, 2023).
- Valuable for MPPs, internal staff and the public.



# ADVANCED HANSARD SEARCH MODERNIZATION PROJECT

## OVERVIEW

- A "lift and drop" project to replace the current search tool
- Started in summer 2023 by the Information Services Branch
- Consulted with the Legislative Library



# ADVANCED HANSARD SEARCH MODERNIZATION PROJECT


## GOALS

- New advanced search tool for this unique data built on current, stable technology.
- A secure infrastructure that adheres to our design and accessibility goals.
- Improves search capability, created clean machine-readable datasets with proper heading.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 
- New search tool built using Drupal and Solr used for the Assembly website.
    - ✓ Modern design
    - ✓ Bilingual interface
    - ✓ AODA compliant
  - Uses React, the framework the websites like Facebook, Instagram, and Uber are built with.
  - Staff have corrected and structured Hansard transcripts to make machine-readable House Hansard data.
    - Scraped and structured the content using tools such as ParseHub, Excel and OpenRefine.

# NEW!

## MODERN DESIGN

- Following the "pattern library" developed for the Assembly website
- Plain language
- Intuitive
- Accessible (colour contrast, readability)

**House Hansard - Search Results**

Search Results 1 to 10 of 5391 matching the query: "(contents educat\*)"

View full text for:

1. [Session: 43:1 Date: Wednesday, December 06, 2023](#)
2. [Session: 43:1 Date: Wednesday, December 06, 2023](#)
3. [Session: 43:1 Date: Tuesday, December 05, 2023](#)
4. [Session: 43:1 Date: Tuesday, December 05, 2023](#)
5. [Session: 43:1 Date: Monday, December 04, 2023](#)
6. [Session: 43:1 Date: Thursday, November 30, 2023](#)
7. [Session: 43:1 Date: Thursday, November 30, 2023](#)
8. [Session: 43:1 Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2023](#)
9. [Session: 43:1 Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2023](#)
10. [Session: 43:1 Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2023](#)

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### Advanced Hansard Search

Complete one or more of the fields below to search transcripts of House meetings from March 11, 1975, to now.

Note: Transcripts from before April 18, 1977 (in the 30th Parliament, 4th Session) cannot be searched with the "Type of business" field.

Keyword   
Example: education, "early voting results"

Type of business   
Example: oral questions, petitions

Session

Speaker   
Example: Ford, Stille

Topic   
Example: "education reform," environment

From

To

#### Search results

Search terms: educatio\*

Results: 229 (Page 1 of 12) Order by:

Filter by:

Speaker

Topic

Type of business

Session

Show:

< Previous 1 2 3 4 5 Next >

**INTRODUCTION OF MEMBER FOR DUFFERIN-PEEL-WELLINGTON-GREY**

Session: 37-3  
Date: 2002-05-13  
Speaker: Hon Elizabeth Witmer (Deputy Premier, Minister of Education)

Transcript:  
Mr Speaker, I have the honour to present to you and the House Ernie Eves, member-elect for the electoral district of Dufferin-Peel-Wellington-Grey, who has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims the right to take his seat.

[Read more in Hansard >](#)



# NEW!

## SORT OPTION

Date

Speaker

- Date: the most current by default
- Also sortable by Speaker or Topic

Session: 37-3  
Date: 2002-05-09  
Speaker: Hon James K. Bartleman (Lieutenant Governor)  
Transcript:  
Your government recognizes the private sector's contribution in system -- as donors and supporters of our hospitals and research delivery of many services. Your government is committed to find foster innovation, based on partnerships with the private sector, our universally accessible health care.

Read more

#### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE / DISCOURS DU TRÔNE

Session: 37-3  
Date: 2002-05-09  
Speaker: Hon James K. Bartleman (Lieutenant Governor)  
Transcript:

Ontario is eager to move toward multi-year base funding for our funding model allows hospitals to better plan around the needs communities and those who need care. As it moves toward its g base funding, Ontario needs the federal government's partnerst

Read more

#### HEALTH CARE FUNDING

Session: 36-3  
Date: 1999-04-26  
Speaker: Mr Michael Gravelle (Port Arthur)  
Transcript:

If ever there was proof needed that Mike Harris's drastic cuts to have had a devastating impact on patient care in Ontario, the sit to disclose to the House will absolutely confirm that horrible rea

Read more

#### HEALTH CARE FUNDING

Session: 36-3  
Date: 1999-04-26  
Speaker: Mr Michael Gravelle (Port Arthur)  
Transcript:

A constituent of mine was diagnosed with breast cancer in mid-J A decision was quickly made that a bilateral - double - mastector Naturally, my constituent was quite terrified and anxious to have done as quickly as possible. The problem was that because of cu

Order by:  Date  Speaker  Topic

Show: 20

< Previous: 1 Next >

#### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE / DISCOURS DU TRÔNE

Session: 37-3  
Date: 2002-05-09  
Speaker: Hon James K. Bartleman (Lieutenant Governor)  
Transcript:

Investing in an efficient, modern public transit system is another part of the plan. Your government's \$9-billion transit plan will help ensure that Ontario has a transit system that keeps people moving and protects the environment. Your government is confident that it can work with its federal and municipal partners to support Ontario's transit renewal program.

Read more in Hansard >

#### TRANSIT SERVICES

Session: 36-3  
Date: 1999-04-27  
Speaker: Hon Tony Clement (Minister of Transportation)  
Transcript:

His riding is safe from a Spadina Road. But I can also tell the honourable member that I am a full supporter of public transit, as is my government. I think if the honourable member will check the record, what I was trying to convey perhaps -

Read more in Hansard >

#### TRANSIT SERVICES

Session: 36-3  
Date: 1999-04-27  
Speaker: Hon Mr Clement  
Transcript:

What I'd like to repeat, as part of the interview, to this House is that I said simply that all great urban municipalities have a mix of transportation nodes or modes. It includes public transit. It includes regional transit. It includes the automobile as well as other forms of transportation. That is the test of a great city, that it has a mix of public transit or private transit available to the individuals in that city.

Read more in Hansard >

#### TRANSIT SERVICES

Session: 36-3  
Date: 1999-04-27  
Speaker: Hon Mr Clement  
Transcript:

# NEW!

## FILTERS BY FACETS

- Ability to filter search results by Speaker, Topic, Type of Business or Session

The screenshot displays a search interface with the following components:

- Keyword:** A text input field containing "educatio\*", with an example: "education, 'early voting results'".
- Type of business:** A dropdown menu with "Select an item of business" and an example: "oral questions, petitions".
- Session:** A dropdown menu with "Select a session".
- Speaker:** A text input field with an example: "Ford, Stiles".
- Topic:** A text input field with an example: "education reform, environment".
- From:** A date input field with the format "YYYY-MM-DD".
- To:** A date input field with the format "YYYY-MM-DD".
- Buttons:** A green "Search" button and a "Clear all" button.
- Search results:** A section titled "Search results" with "Search terms: educatio\*" and "Results: 229 (Page 1 of 12)".
- Order by:** A dropdown menu with options "Date", "Speaker" (selected), and "Topic".
- Filter by:** A dropdown menu with "Speaker" selected.
- Show:** A dropdown menu set to "20".
- Navigation:** "Previous" and "Next" buttons with page numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
- Results:** Three search result cards, each with a title, session, date, speaker, and transcript information, and a "Read more in Hansard" link.

The "Filter by" dropdown menu is highlighted with a red box, and the "Topic" filter options are listed below:

- AN ACT TO PERPETUATE AN ANCIENT PARLIAMENTARY RIGHT / LOI VISANT À PERPÉTUER UN ANCIEN DROIT PARLEMENTAIRE
- CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
- CHILDREN'S TREATMENT CENTRES
- EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT (MOULD CONTAMINATION IN PORTABLE CLASSROOMS), 1999 / LOI DE 1999 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR L'ÉDUCATION (CONTAMINATION PAR LA MOISSURE DANS LES CLASSES MOBILES)
- EDUCATION FUNDING
- GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

# NEW!

## NUMBER OF RESULTS PER PAGE OPTION

- 20 results per page (default)
- 50, 100 per page options

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View full text for:

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9. [Session: 43:1 Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2023](#)
10. [Session: 43:1 Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2023](#)

Results - page 1 of 540

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**Keyword**   
Example: education, "early voting results"

**Type of Business**   
Example: oral questions, petitions

**Session**

**Speaker**   
Example: Ford, Stiles

**Topic**   
Example: "education reform," environment

**From**

**To**

#### Search results

Search terms: educat\*

Results: 238 (Page 1 of 12)

Order by:

Filter by:

**Speaker**

**Topic**

**Type of Business**

**Session**

Show:

< Previous **1** 2 3 4 5 Next >

**INTRODUCTION OF MEMBER FOR DUFFERIN-PEEL-WELLINGTON-GREY**

Session: 37-3  
Date: 2002-05-13  
Speaker: Hon Elizabeth Witmer (Deputy Premier, Minister of Education)  
Transcript:  
Mr Speaker, I have the honour to present to you and the House Ernie Eves, member-elect for the electoral district of Dufferin-Peel-Wellington-Grey, who has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims the right to take his seat.

# NEW!

## BRIEF SEARCH RESULTS WITH MORE CONTEXT

- Brief search results with searched paragraph
- “Read more in Hansard” takes to the section in the Hansard transcript on ola.org

### House Hansard - Search Results

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View full text for:

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2. [Session: 43:1](#) [Date: Wednesday, December 06, 2023](#)

**Search results**  
Search terms: **educatio\***  
Results: 229 (Page 1 of 12)

Filter by:

Speaker

Topic

Type of business

Session

Show: 20

**EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT (MOULD CONTAMINATION IN PORTABLE CLASSROOMS), 1999 / LOI DE 1999 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR L'ÉDUCATION (CONTAMINATION PAR LA MOISSURE DANS LES CLASSES MOBILES)**  
Session: 36-3  
Date: 1999-04-26  
Speaker: The Speaker  
Transcript: Minister.

Mr Wildman moved first reading of the following bill:  
Bill 4, An Act to protect the health of pupils and teachers against the effects of *Stachybotrys atra* mould in portable classrooms by making amendments to the Education Act / Projet de loi 4, Loi visant à protéger la santé des élèves et des enseignants contre les effets de la moisissure *Stachybotrys atra* dans les classes mobiles en apportant des modifications à la Loi sur l'éducation.

The Speaker (Hon Chris Stockwell): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Mr Bud Wildman (Algoma): The bill requires school boards and operators of private schools to conduct regular testing and inspections for stachybotrys atra mould contamination in portable classrooms. If mould contamination is found, it must be cleaned up or the pupils must be moved to another classroom.

[Read more in Hansard >](#)

**EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT (MOULD CONTAMINATION IN PORTABLE CLASSROOMS), 1999 / LOI DE 1999 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR L'ÉDUCATION (CONTAMINATION PAR LA MOISSURE DANS LES CLASSES MOBILES)**  
Session: 36-3  
Date: 1999-04-26  
Speaker: Procedure  
Transcript: Minister.

Mr Wildman moved first reading of the following bill: Bill 4, An Act to protect the health of pupils and teachers against the effects of *Stachybotrys atra* mould in portable classrooms by making amendments to the Education Act / Projet de loi 4, Loi visant à protéger la santé des élèves et des enseignants contre les effets de la moisissure *Stachybotrys atra* dans les classes mobiles en apportant des modifications à la Loi sur l'éducation.

[Read more in Hansard >](#)



# NEW HOUSE HANSARD SEARCH

## TIMELINE

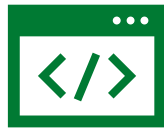
- Launch on the Assembly website ([ola.org](http://ola.org)) at the end of January 2024

# NEW HOUSE HANSARD SEARCH



Clean  
dataset

+



New  
technology

+



Collaboration

=



A more  
powerful tool

==

# QUESTIONS?



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