

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION DAY:

Enhancing access to parliamentary information in Ontario

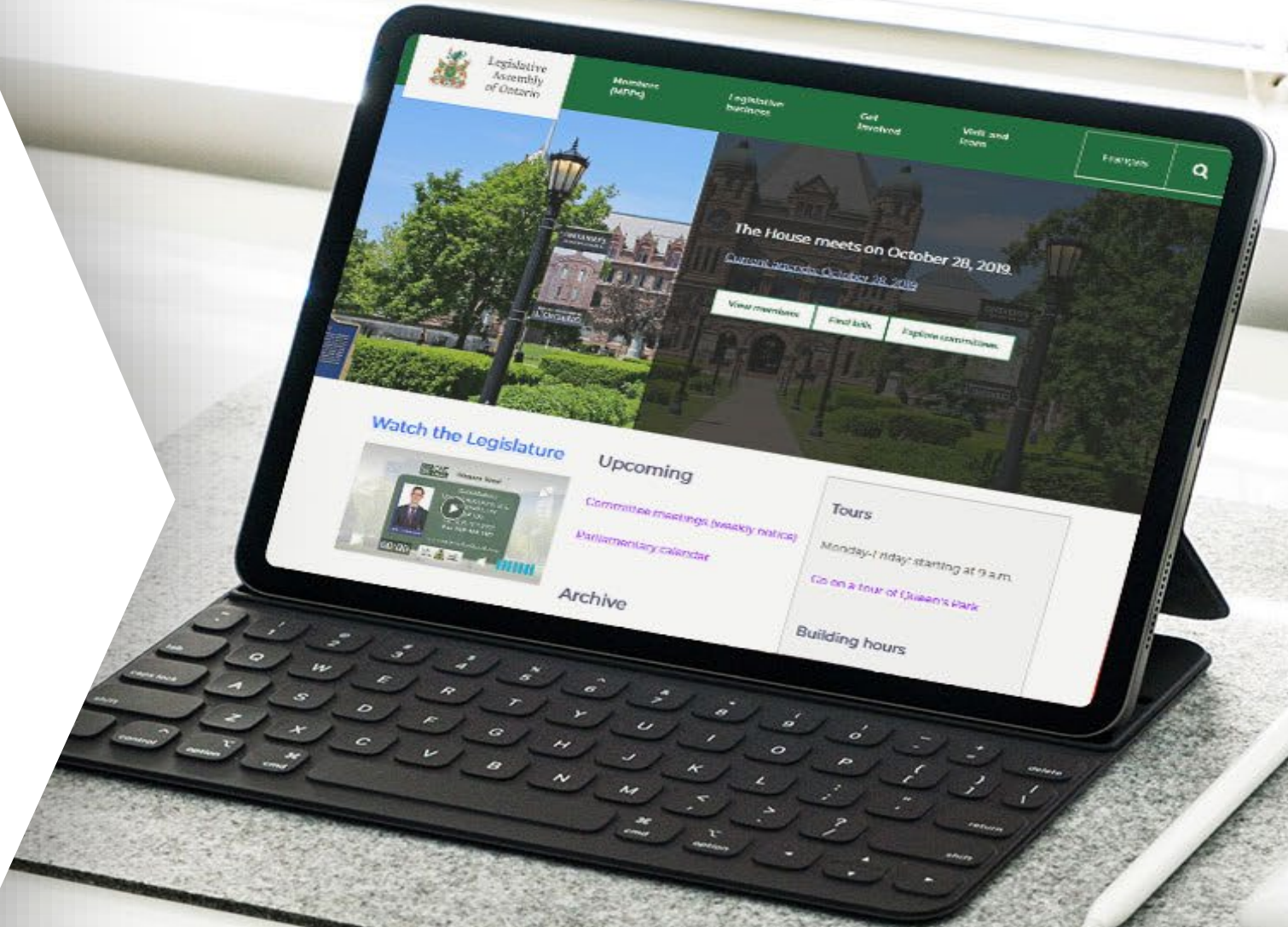
Erica Anderson
Legislative Assembly of Ontario
December 12, 2023



Today

Learn about recent enhancements to parliamentary information on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario's (LAO) website including:

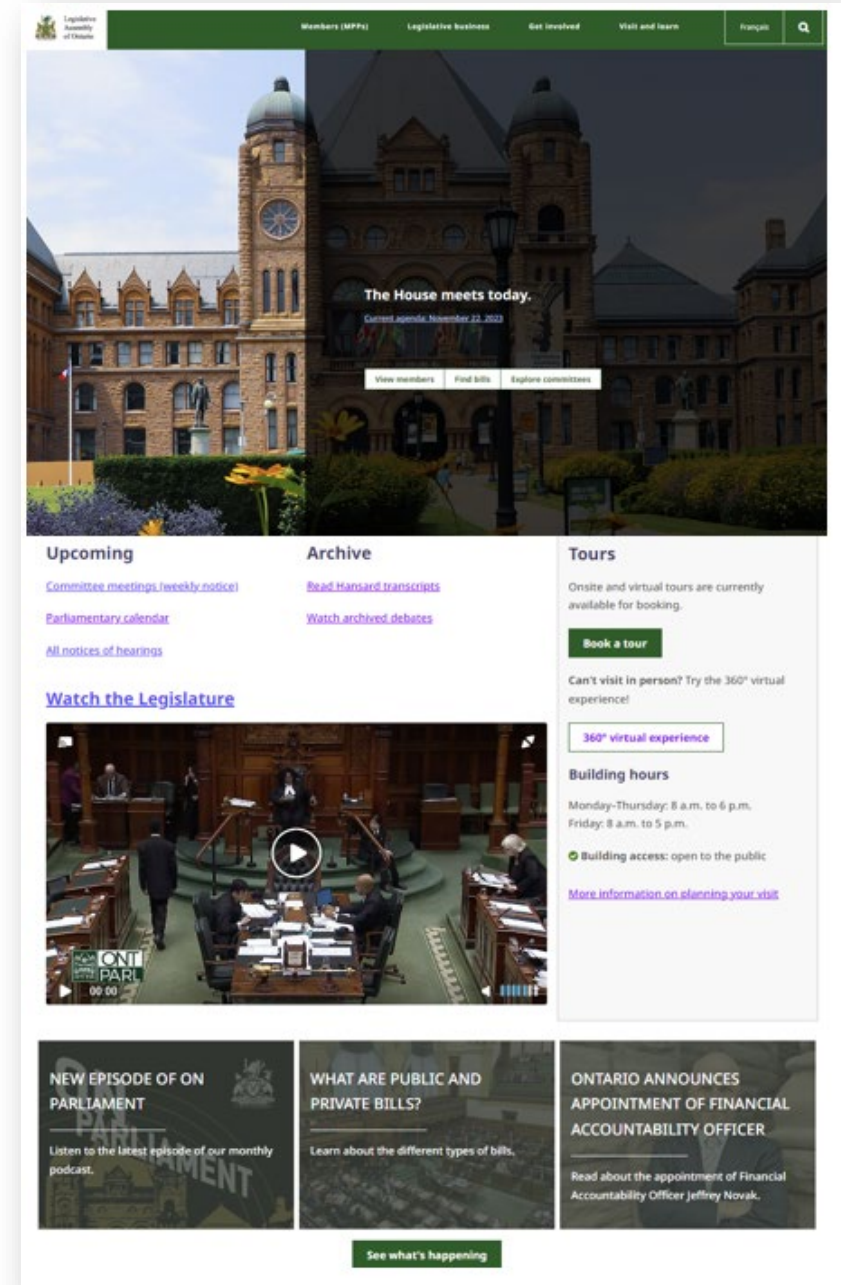
- User experience design and accessibility testing
- New content
- Data resources



Legislative Assembly of Ontario website

The Legislative Assembly of Ontario (www.ola.org) website includes information on:

- Members of provincial Parliament (MPPs)
- Legislative proceedings like the Hansard debates and committee meeting transcripts
- Bills, legislative documents, video
- Tours, galleries, programs, and exhibits
- How the public can get involved, contact their MPP, watch proceedings, learn about demonstrations, and attend committee meetings



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario website. The header includes navigation links for 'Members (MPPs)', 'Legislative business', 'Get involved', and 'Visit and learn', along with a search icon and the word 'Français'. The main banner features a large image of the Parliament Building with the text 'The House meets today.' and 'Current agenda, November 23, 2023'. Below the banner are three buttons: 'View members', 'Find bills', and 'Explore committees'. The page is divided into several sections: 'Upcoming' with links for 'Committee meetings (weekly notice)', 'Parliamentary calendar', and 'All notices of hearings'; 'Archive' with links for 'Read Hansard transcripts' and 'Watch archived debates'; 'Watch the Legislature' with a video player showing a session; 'Tours' with a 'Book a tour' button and information about onsite and virtual tours; 'Building hours' for Monday-Thursday (8 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Friday (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.); and 'Building access: open to the public' with a link for 'More information on planning your visit'. At the bottom, there are three promotional cards: 'NEW EPISODE OF ON PARLIAMENT' with a 'Listen to the latest episode of our monthly podcast.' link; 'WHAT ARE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BILLS?' with a 'Learn about the different types of bills.' link; and 'ONTARIO ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER' with a 'Read about the appointment of Financial Accountability Officer Jeffrey Novak.' link. A 'See what's happening' button is located at the bottom center.

UX design & accessibility testing

Helping people find and use information on the LAO public website

Website enhancements are based on user research

- Started enhancements with MPP pages because:
 - Research shows people want information about their MPPs
 - There is interest in the work that MPP's do at the LAO and MPP pages are often entry point to the website content
 - Analytics demonstrate that people use the MPP pages the most
 - Survey results indicate people are looking for their MPP, and information about their MPP
- User experience goal: Help people find an MPP, contact an MPP, and learn about the MPP's work



Web activity report
Survey: July – November 2023

MPP pages before enhancements

The screenshot shows a profile page for Jill Andrew, MPP for Toronto—St. Paul's. The page is organized into several sections: a header with navigation links, a profile section with a photo and name, a 'Current parliamentary roles' section listing her as Critic for Women's Social and Economic Opportunity and Member of the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy, a 'Current party' section identifying her as a member of the New Democratic Party of Ontario, a 'Contact information' section with an email address, a 'Legislative office' section with address and phone numbers, a 'Constituency office' section with address and phone numbers, a 'Dates of service' section for the 43rd Parliament, and a 'Career details' section listing her various roles and dates from 2022 to 2023. A 'Current riding' section on the right includes a map of the riding.

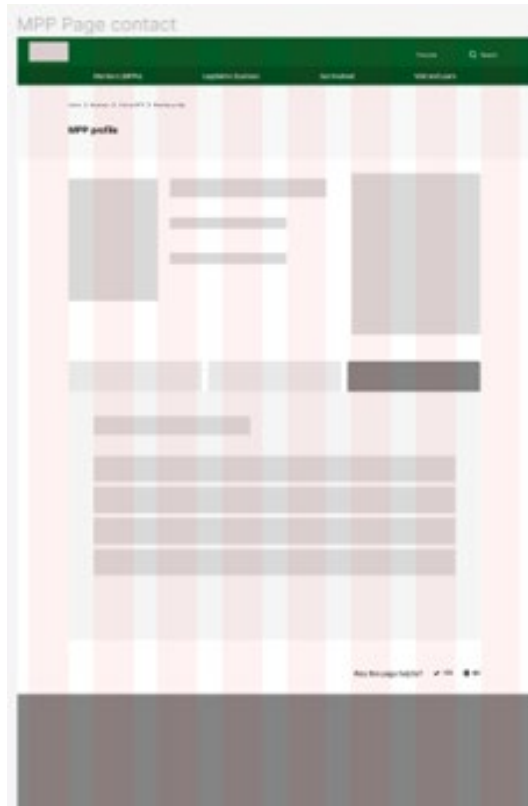
An MPP profile page before the redesign

The screenshot shows the 'Current MPPs' page, which features a table listing all current members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The table has three columns: MPP, Riding, and Party. To the right of the table is a sidebar with navigation links and a 'Current party standings' section. The table lists 29 MPPs from various parties, including the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, the New Democratic Party of Ontario, the Ontario Liberal Party, and the Green Party of Ontario. The 'Current party standings' section shows the total seats for each party: Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario (81), New Democratic Party of Ontario (29), Ontario Liberal Party (7), Green Party of Ontario (1), Independent (3), and Vacant seat(s) (3).

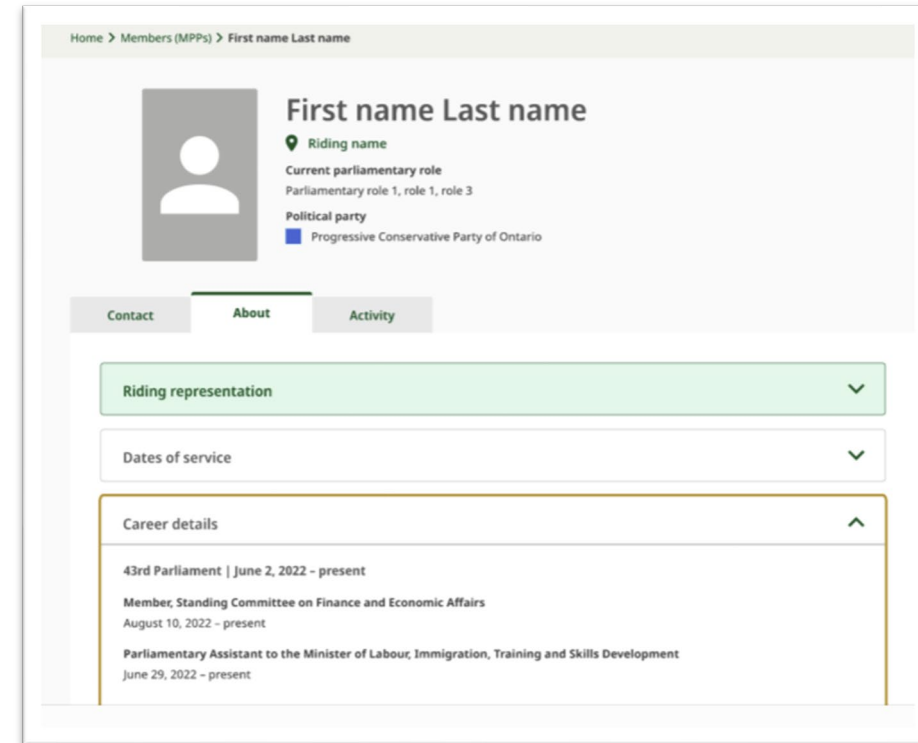
MPP	Riding	Party
Anand, Deepak	Mississauga—Malton	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario
Andrew, Jill	Toronto—St. Paul's	New Democratic Party of Ontario
Armstrong, Teresa J.	London—Fanshawe	New Democratic Party of Ontario
Arnott, Hon. Ted	Wellington—Halton Hills	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario
Babikian, Aislin	Scarborough—Agincourt	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario
Bailey, Robert	Samia—Lambton	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario
Barnes, Patrice	Ajax	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario
Beaumont, Doly	Scarborough Southwest	New Democratic Party of Ontario
Bell, Jessica	University—Rosedale	New Democratic Party of Ontario
Bethlenfalvy, Hon. Peter	Pickering—Uxbridge	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario
Blais, Stephen	Orléans	Ontario Liberal Party
Bourque, Will	Brantford—Brant	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario
Bourquain, Guy	Mushkegowuk—James Bay	New Democratic Party of Ontario
Bowman, Stephanie	Don Valley West	Ontario Liberal Party
Bray, Bobbi Ann	Haldimand—Norfolk	Independent
Brenne, Ric	Hastings—Lennox and Addington	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario
Burch, Jeff	Niagara Centre	New Democratic Party of Ontario
Byers, Rick	Bruce—Grey—Owen Sound	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario
Calandra, Hon. Paul	Markham—Stouffville	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario
Cho, Hon. Raymond-Suzie	Scarborough North	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

The Current MPPs page before the redesign

Design and test for usability and accessibility



Wireframes focus on showcasing MPP name and contact information first, then progressively revealing deeper content



Mock-ups add design and colour based on LAO visual identity

Design and test for usability and accessibility

- Accessibility

- [WCAG 2.0 standards](#)
- [Web AIM WAVE tool](#)
- Test with NVDA screen reader
- Test with people with disabilities using [Fable](#)

- Design

- UX design based on research and best practices
- User interface design based on LAO website pattern library
- Web content editorial standards
- Share for feedback internally



MPP pages after enhancements

The screenshot shows a profile page for Hon. Ted Arnott. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with links for 'Members (MPPs)', 'Legislative business', 'Get involved', and 'Visit and learn'. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Members > All > Current > Hon. Ted Arnott'. The main content area features a profile picture of Ted Arnott, his name 'Hon. Ted Arnott', and his constituency 'Wellington—Halton Hills'. Underneath, it lists his 'Current roles' as 'Chair of the Board of Internal Economy | Speaker' and his 'Party' as 'Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario'. At the bottom, there are three tabs: 'Contact', 'About', and 'Activity'. The 'Contact' tab is active, showing three columns of contact information: 'General email address' (ted.arnott@pc.ola.org), 'Constituency office' (2nd Floor, 181 St. Andrew St. E, Fergus, ON N1M 1P9, ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org, Tel.: 519-787-5247, Fax: 519-787-5249, Toll free: 1-800-265-2366), and 'Legislative office' (Room 180, Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A2, Tel.: 416-325-3880, Fax: 416-325-6649).

New MPP profile page on ola.org

The screenshot shows a 'Current MPPs' page. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with links for 'Members (MPPs)', 'Legislative business', 'Get involved', and 'Visit and learn'. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Members > Current'. The main content area features a section titled 'Current MPPs' with a sub-section 'Current party standings' showing 'Total seats: 124'. This is followed by a 'Find an MPP' section with a search form that includes fields for 'MPP name', 'Address and postal code', and a 'Filter by party' dropdown menu. Below the search form, there is a 'Search' button and a 'Clear all' link. A link for 'Looking for a past MPP? See All MPPs >' is also present. The main content area displays a grid of 12 MPP tiles, each featuring a profile picture, name, party affiliation, and constituency. The tiles are arranged in two columns and six rows. The first tile is for Deepak Anand (Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, Mississauga—Malton). The second tile is for Jill Andrew (New Democratic Party of Ontario, Toronto—St. Paul's). The third tile is for Teresa J. Armstrong (New Democratic Party of Ontario, London—Fanshawe). The fourth tile is for Hon. Ted Arnott (Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, Wellington—Halton Hills). The fifth tile is for Aris Babikian (Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, Scarborough—Agnincourt). The sixth tile is for Robert Bailey (Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, Simcoe—Lambton). The seventh tile is for Patrice Barnes (Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, Ajax). The eighth tile is for Doly Begum (New Democratic Party of Ontario, Scarborough Southwest). The ninth tile is for Jessica Bell (New Democratic Party of Ontario, University—Rosedale). The tenth tile is for Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy (Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, Pickering—Uxbridge). The eleventh tile is for Stephen Blais (Ontario Liberal Party, Ottawa). The twelfth tile is for Will Bouma (Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, Brantford—Dundas). The final tile is for Guy Bourgouin (New Democratic Party of Ontario, Mississauga—James Bay). The last tile is for Stephanie Bowman (Ontario Liberal Party, Don Valley West).

New [Current MPP page](#) with a finding tool at the top and MPPs in tiles, or a list, to search or scan

New content

Enhancing the website by adding new information and resources to help people learn more about the LAO

Find a current MPP tool

- Enhancements focused on helping people find their MPP
 - Current MPP page changed so people can locate MPP by MPP name, their home address, or political party

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Members (MPPs) | Legislative business | Get involved | Visit and learn | Français

Home > Members > Current

Current MPPs

Current party standings

Total seats: 124

79	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario	28	New Democratic Party of Ontario	9	Ontario Liberal Party
1	Green Party of Ontario	5	Independent	2	Vacant seat(s)

Find an MPP

Search for an MPP by name or by street address and postal code. You can also filter the results to view MPPs by party.

MPP name	Address and postal code	Filter by party
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="- Any -"/>
<small>Enter the MPP's first and/or last name</small>	<small>111 Wellesley St. W, M7A 1A2</small>	
<input type="button" value="Clear all"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>	

Looking for a past MPP? [See All MPPs >](#)



Results: 124







[Current MPP page](#) with finding tool

Find a current MPP tool

Looking for a past MPP? [See All MPPs >](#)

Results: 124



 

 <p>Deepak Anand Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario Mississauga—Malton</p>	 <p>Jill Andrew New Democratic Party of Ontario Toronto—St. Paul's</p>
 <p>Teresa J. Armstrong New Democratic Party of Ontario London—Fanshawe</p>	 <p>Hon. Ted Arnott Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario Wellington—Halton Hills</p>
 <p>Aris Babikian Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario Scarborough—Agincourt</p>	 <p>Robert Bailey Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario Sarnia—Lambton</p>

[Current MPP page](#) card view with photos and party colours

Looking for a past MPP? [See All MPPs >](#)

Results: 124

Name ▾	Party ▾	Riding ▾
Deepak Anand	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario	Mississauga—Malton
Jill Andrew	New Democratic Party of Ontario	Toronto—St. Paul's
Teresa J. Armstrong	New Democratic Party of Ontario	London—Fanshawe
Hon. Ted Arnott	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario	Wellington—Halton Hills
Aris Babikian	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario	Scarborough—Agincourt

[Current MPP page](#) list view for text scanning and sorting

MPP profile page new content includes bills and motions introduced

MPP profile pages now include:

- **Contact:** name, riding, current role, and contact information
- **About:** career details, dates of service, riding representation, party affiliation, member's expenses
- **Activity:** bills introduced, motions introduced

The screenshot displays an MPP profile page with three tabs: Contact, About, and Activity. The Activity tab is selected, showing a list of bills and motions introduced by the member. The bills listed include:

- Bill 147, Protecting our Crowns (Training Requirements with respect to Black, Indigenous, Racialized, Natural and Textured Hair Types) Act, 2023
- Bill 129, Rare Disease Strategy Act, 2023
- Bill 94, Keeping 2SLGBTQI+ Communities Safe Act, 2023
- Bill 86, Advisory Committee to Protect Ontario's People and Economy from Airborne Pandemics Act, 2023
- Bill 64, Chosen Family Day Act, 2023
- Bill 61, Making Psychotherapy Services Tax-Free Act, 2023
- Bill 48, Rent Control for All Tenants Act, 2022
- Bill 42, Gender Affirming Health Care Advisory Committee Act, 2022
- Bill 32, Black Mental Health Day Act, 2022
- Bill 18, Consent Awareness Week Act, 2022
- Bill 16, Racial Equity in the Education System Act, 2022
- Bill 11, Speaking Out About, and Reporting On, Workplace Violence and Harassment Act, 2022

A link at the bottom of the bills list reads: "See all bills from the current Parliament and session >". Below the bills list is a section for "Motions" with the following list:

- Motion 53 May 9, 2023
- Motion 12 September 1, 2022
- Motion 10 September 1, 2022
- Motion 11 September 1, 2022
- Motion 13 September 1, 2022
- Motion 9 September 1, 2022

A link at the bottom of the motions list reads: "See expenses for this member >".

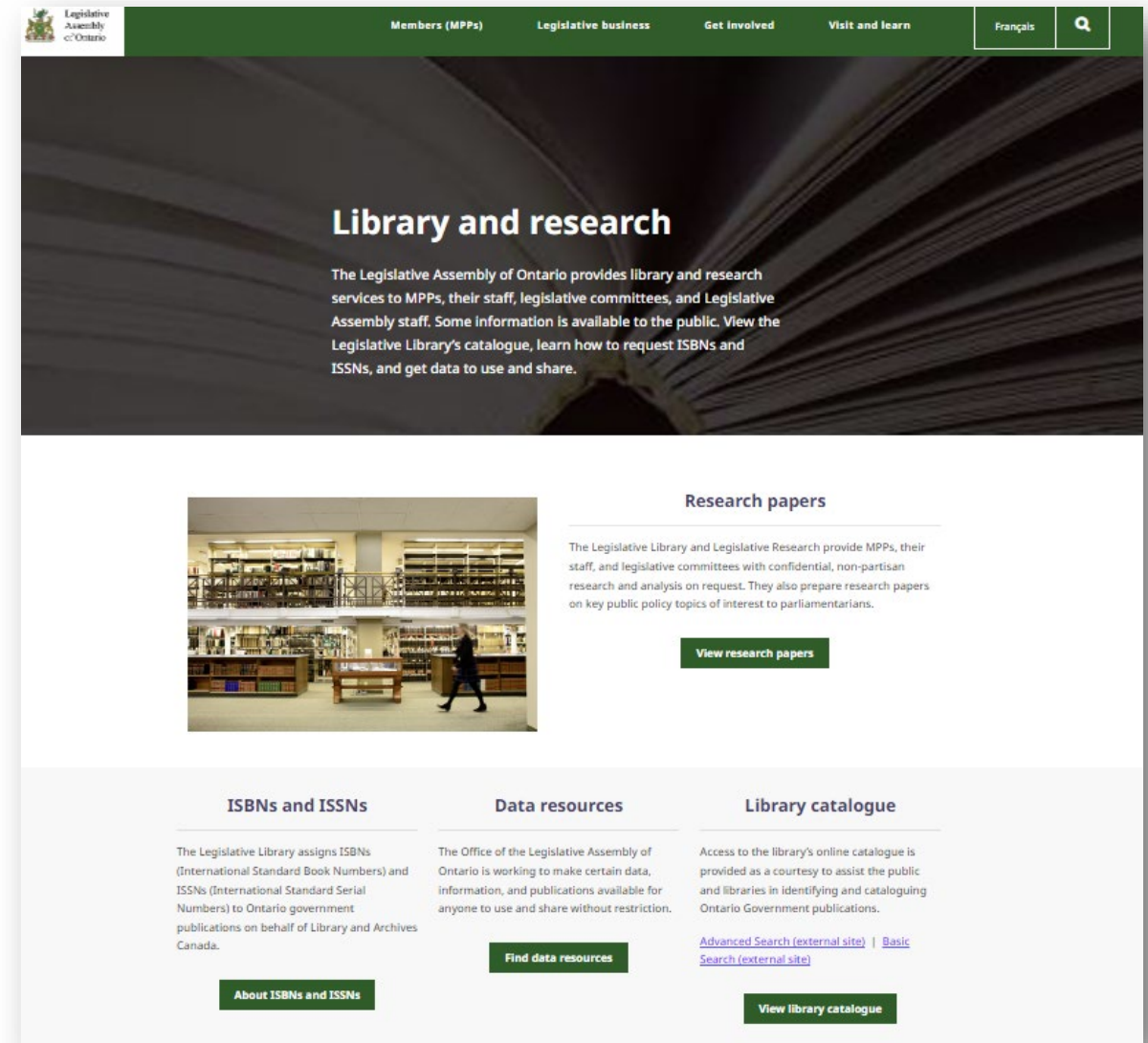
New content on an MPP profile page

Data resources

Library, research, and data resources pages on ola.org

Library and research

- Resources growing in library and research area of the website
- Sections include:
 - Library catalogue
 - ISBN and ISSN request
 - Research papers
 - Data resources



The screenshot shows the 'Library and research' section of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario website. The page features a dark green header with navigation links: 'Members (MPPs)', 'Legislative business', 'Get involved', 'Visit and learn', 'Français', and a search icon. The main content area has a dark background with the title 'Library and research' and a brief description: 'The Legislative Assembly of Ontario provides library and research services to MPPs, their staff, legislative committees, and Legislative Assembly staff. Some information is available to the public. View the Legislative Library's catalogue, learn how to request ISBNs and ISSNs, and get data to use and share.' Below this is a section for 'Research papers' with a photo of a library and a 'View research papers' button. At the bottom, there are three columns: 'ISBNs and ISSNs' with an 'About ISBNs and ISSNs' button, 'Data resources' with a 'Find data resources' button, and 'Library catalogue' with a 'View library catalogue' button. The 'Library catalogue' section also includes links for 'Advanced Search (external site)' and 'Basic Search (external site)'.

[Library and research](#) section of the LAO public website:

Research papers

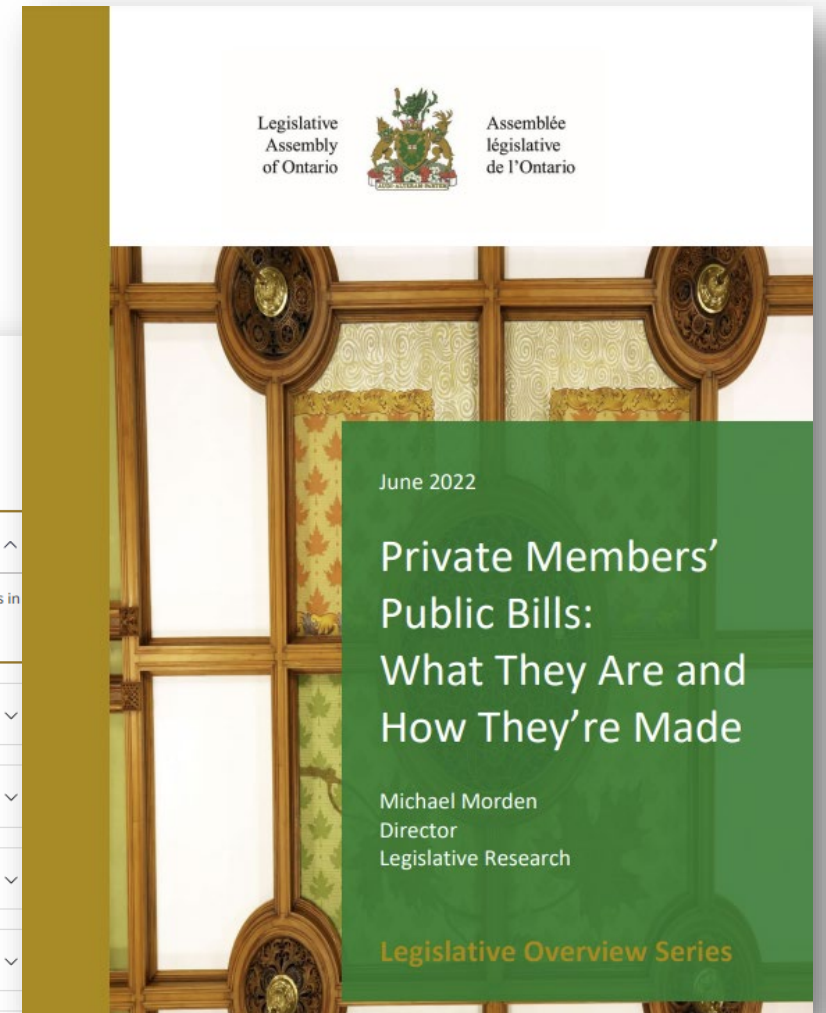
- Papers on legislative and current public policy topics in Ontario
- Written by LAO Research Officers
- HTML and PDF
- English and French

Private Members' Public Bills: What They Are and How They're Made

Michael Morden | Director
Legislative Research

Summary	^
This research paper discusses the purpose and practice of Private Members' Public Bills in Ontario, with special attention to the process that leads from ideas to law.	
Introduction	v
The Re-Emergence of PMBs in Ontario	v
Beginning the Process	v
Finding a cause	v
Parliamentary Procedure	v
What are PMBs For?	v
Conclusion	v

Example of HTML research paper



Example of PDF research paper

Data resources

- Data resources includes:
 - MPP contact information CSV
 - Ontario government publications monthly checklist in CSV and JSON 2020- current
 - Structured Hansard for the 42nd and 43rd Parliaments
 - Structured committee transcripts for the 42nd and 43rd Parliaments

Data resources

The Office of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario provides select data in download formats including CSV, JSON, and APIs.

MPP information

Download [MPP contact information](#) through CSV files.

Find [members' expenses data](#).

Ontario government publications monthly checklist

The monthly checklist includes publications collected by the Legislative Assembly Library from the Legislative Assembly itself, such as committee reports. The Library does not distribute these publications.

2023
January 2023: CSV JSON
February 2023: CSV JSON
March 2023: CSV JSON
April 2023: CSV JSON
May 2023: CSV JSON
June 2023: CSV JSON
July 2023: CSV JSON
August 2023: CSV JSON
September 2023: CSV JSON
October 2023: CSV JSON
November 2023: CSV JSON

Structured Hansard

These CSV files contain information about Hansard transcripts. New files are added when available.

Parliament 43 | August 8, 2022 – present

Parliament 42 | July 11, 2018 – May 3, 2022

Committee transcripts

These CSV files contain information about committee transcripts. New files are added when available.

Parliament 43 | August 8, 2022 – present

Parliament 42 | July 11, 2018 – May 3, 2022

Glossary

Read this glossary to understand the terms used in our CSV files.

Structured Hansard

Structured committee transcripts

Library and research [data resources](#) page

Next steps

- Continue design and content enhancements on the public website
 - See Yasuko Enosawa's presentation on the upcoming Advanced Hansard Search!
- Feedback on the LAO website can be sent to web@ola.org
- Survey about the LAO website can be filled out on any page on www.ola.org

Thank-you!