GOVERNMENT INFORMATION DAY:

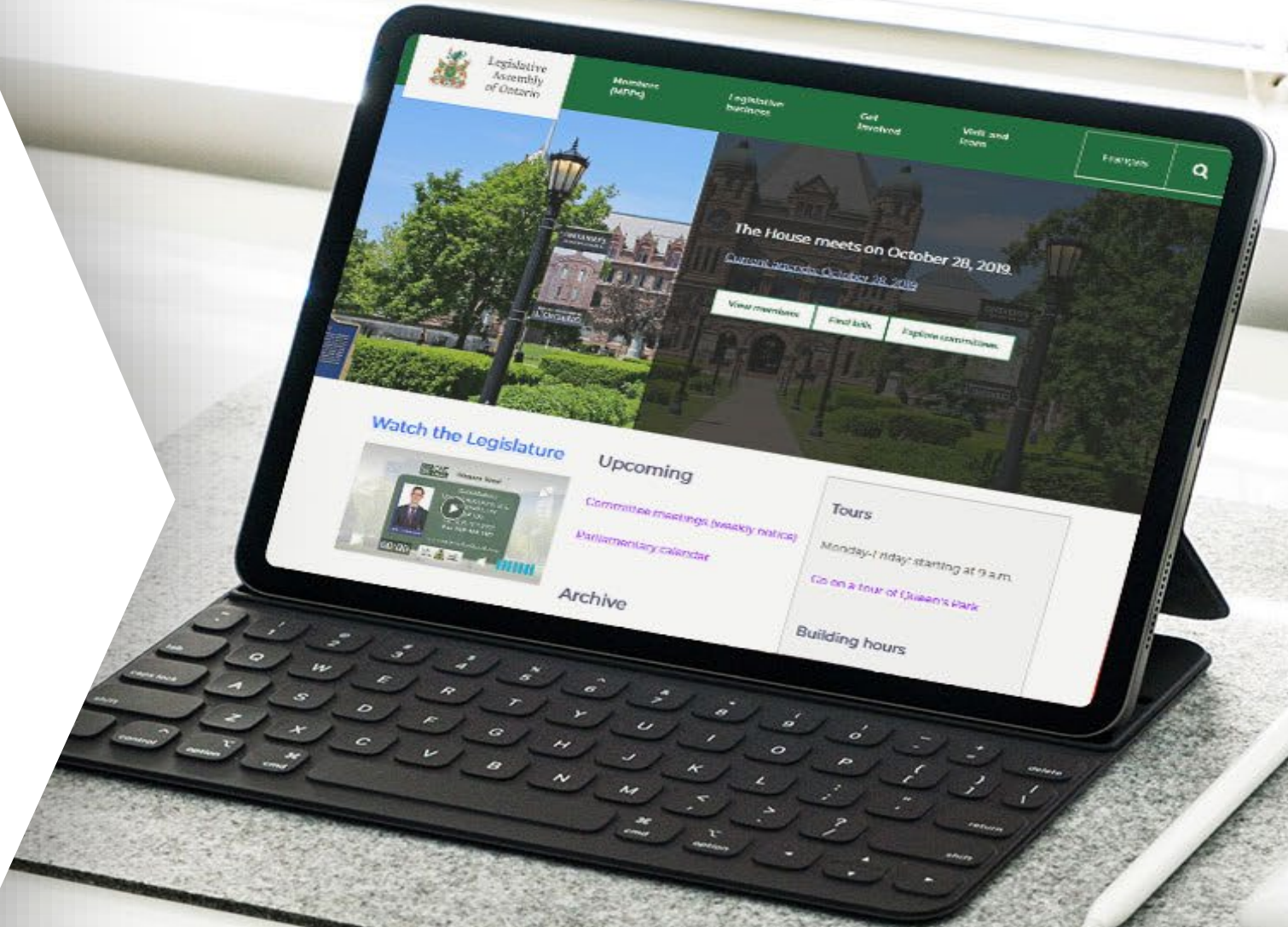# Enhancing access to parliamentary information in Ontario

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Today

Learn about recent enhancements to parliamentary information on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario's (LAO) website including:
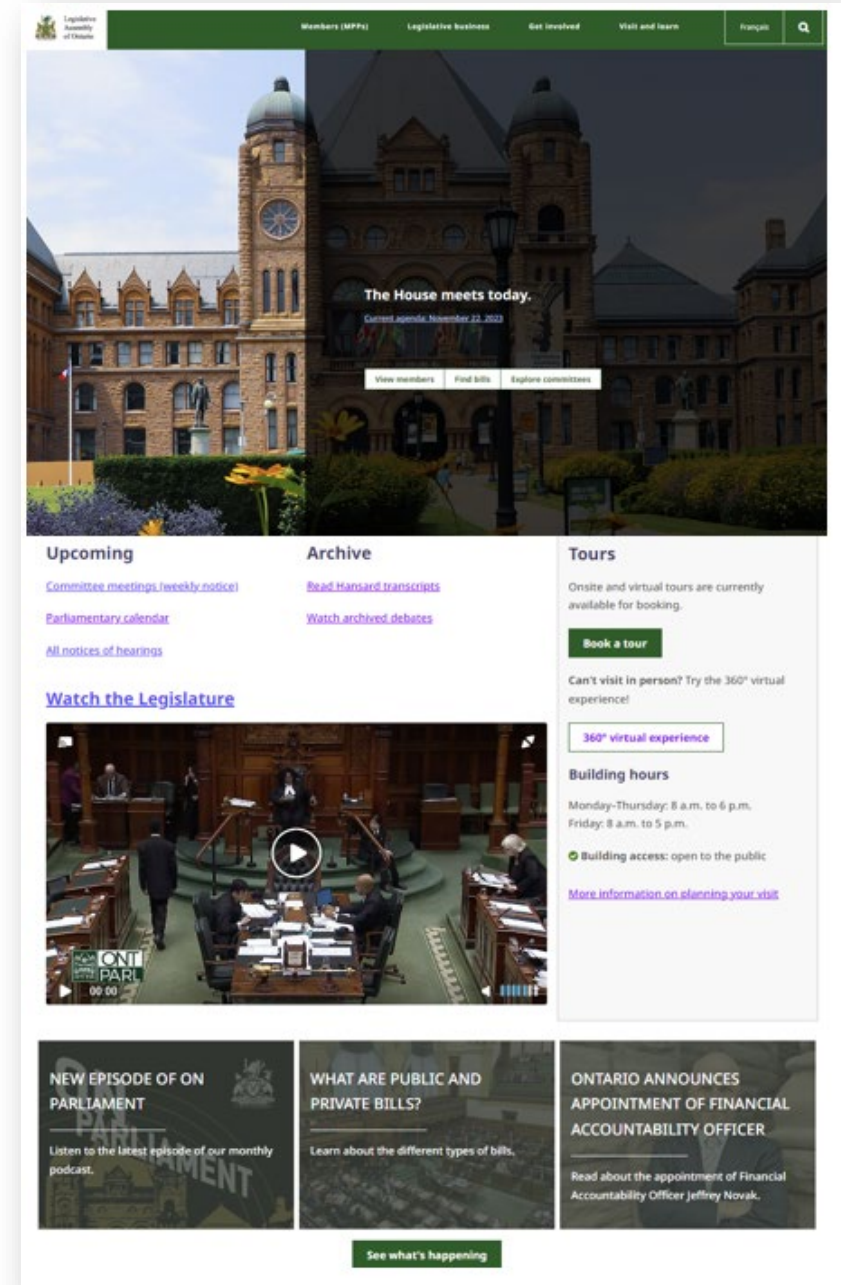
- User experience design and accessibility testing
- New content
- Data resources

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

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

An MPP profile page before the redesign

The Current MPPs page before the redesign

Design and test for usability and accessibility
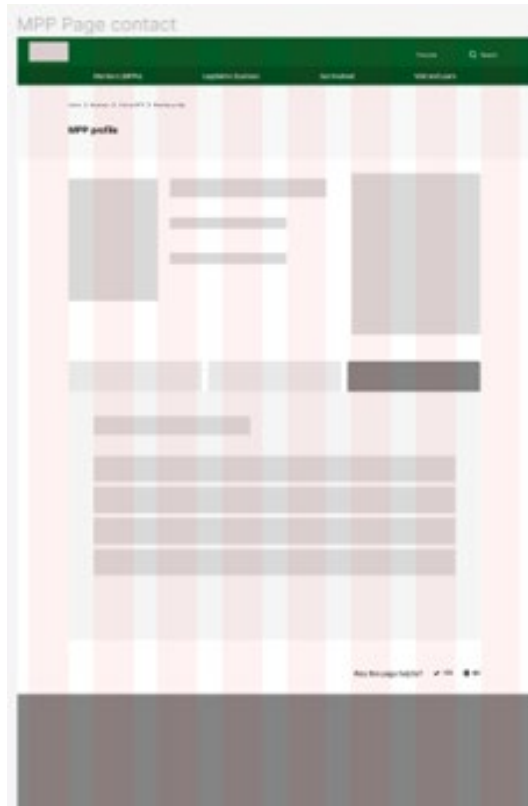
Wireframes focus on showcasing MPP name and contact information first, then progressively revealing deeper content
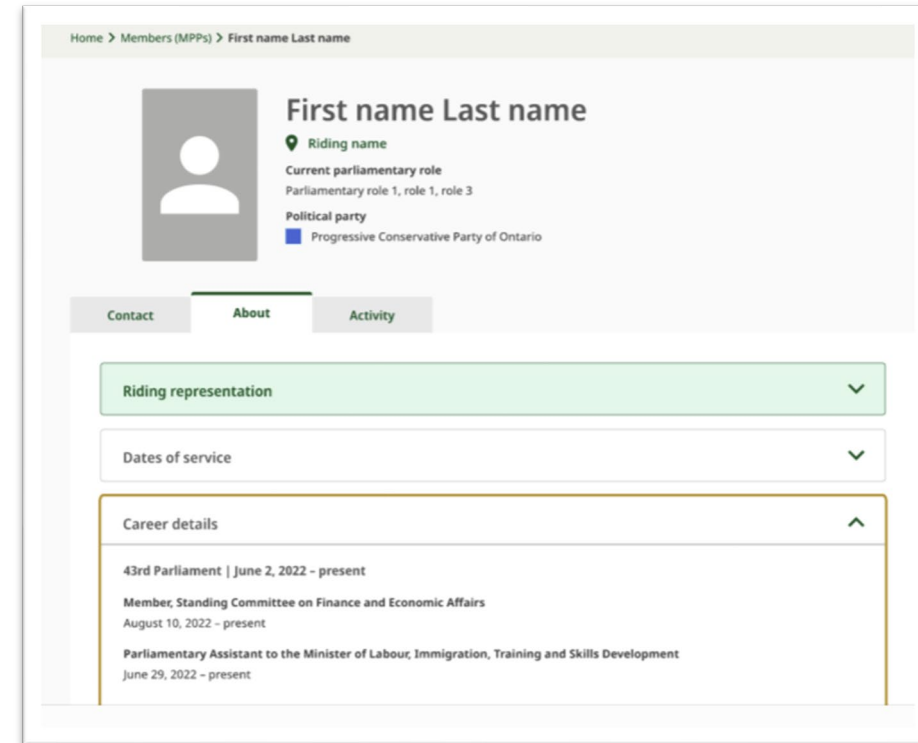
Mock-ups add design and colour based on LAO visual identity

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

New MPP profile page on ola.org

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

Current MPP page with finding tool

Find a current MPP tool

Current MPP page card view with photos and party colours

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

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

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	⌄

The Re-Emergence of PMBs in Ontario	⌄

Beginning the Process	⌄

Finding a cause	⌄

Parliamentary Procedure	⌄

What are PMBs For?	⌄

Conclusion	⌄

Example of HTML research paper

Legislative Assembly of Ontario · Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

June 2022

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

Michael Morden
Director
Legislative Research

Legislative Overview Series
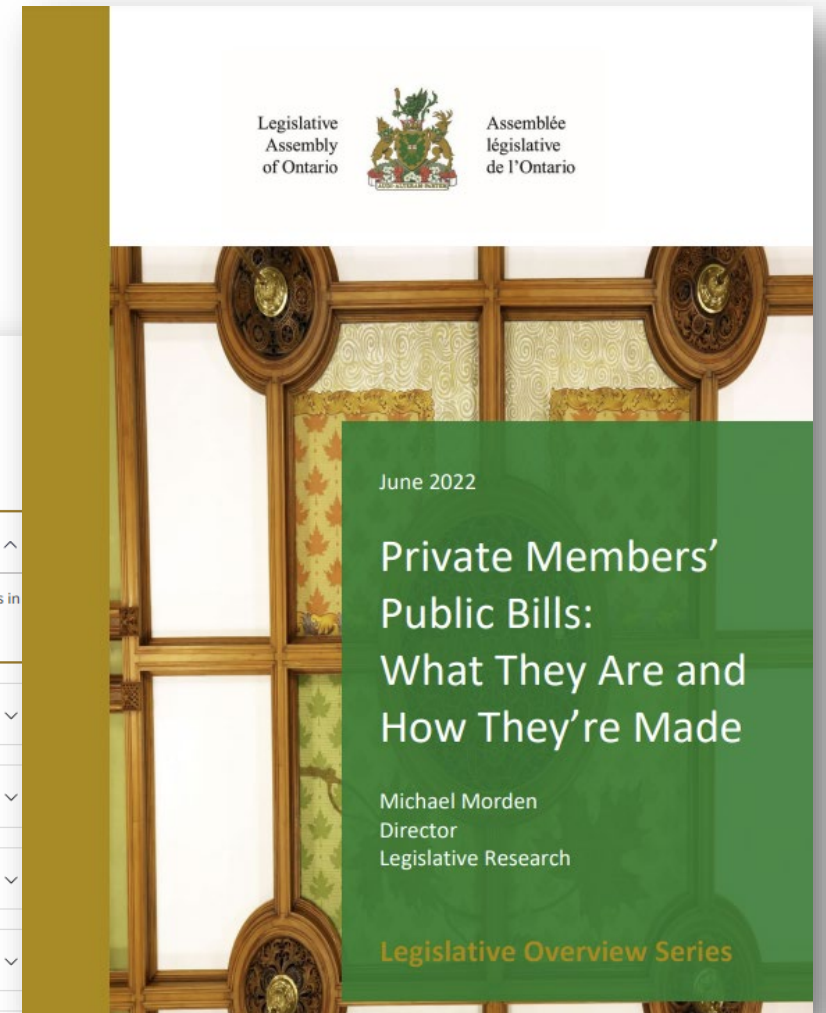
Example of PDF research paper

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 dow... JSON, and APIs.

MPP information

Download MPP contact information through CSV files.

Find members' expenses data.

Ontario government publications monthly c...

The monthly checklist includes publications collected by the Legislat... publications from the Legislative Assembly itself, such as committee... 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!