

CFIB's 2025 Top 10 Ontario Policy Priorities

Here's how our key small business policy priorities align with the re-elected Ontario government's campaign commitments:

Policy Area	CFIB Ask	Government Promise
Small Business Tax Rate (SBTR) and threshold	Lower the SBTR from 3.2-2% with a plan to bring it down to 0%, increase its threshold to at least \$700,000, and index the threshold to inflation annually	No promise
Interprovincial trade barriers	Mutually recognize provincial regulatory standards and apply "As of Right" health care professionals' regulatory principles to other sectors to improve labour mobility	Remove all remaining party-specific exemptions under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, mutually recognize other provinces' regulatory standards and certifications, and allow direct-to-consumer alcohol shipment from other provinces
Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption threshold	Increase the EHT exemption threshold to \$2.25M and index it to inflation annually (instead of every five years)	\$3B in EHT relief and more Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) surplus funds returned to eligible businesses as a tariff relief measure
WSIB surplus funds and premium rates	Continue returning WSIB surplus funds to eligible Ontario businesses and keep premiums as low as possible	\$3B in EHT relief and more WSIB surplus funds returned to eligible businesses as a tariff relief measure
Provincial gasoline and fuel taxes	Make the provincial 5.7-cent and 5.3-cent per litre gasoline and fuel tax cuts permanent	Permanently cut the gas tax
Business Education Tax (BET) rates	Lower Ontario's BET rates	No promise
Red tape	Continue to reduce, measure, and publicly report on business regulatory burdens	While not directly addressed in their platform, we're

	across all government ministries	confident that the re-elected government will follow this recommendation since they started the process during their first mandate
Construction mitigation	Set up an Ontario construction mitigation fund to compensate businesses for lost revenue due to lengthy, disruptive provincial projects and clear the legislative roadblock preventing municipalities from providing direct financial support or property tax breaks to businesses for local projects	No promise
Energy costs	Increase the small business tiered pricing threshold from 750-3,000 kWh/month	No promise
No mandatory employer-paid sick days or portable benefits	Do <i>not</i> introduce a mandatory employer-paid sick days program or a mandatory employer-paid portable benefits program	During the campaign, the re-elected Ontario government did not mention employer-paid sick days or portable benefits