Statement of Environmental Values

# Ministry of Infrastructure

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Ontario *Environmental Bill of Rights* (*EBR)* was proclaimed in February 1994. The founding principles of the *EBR* are stated in its Preamble:

* The people of Ontario recognize the inherent value of the natural environment.
* The people of Ontario have a right to a healthful environment.
* The people of Ontario have as a common goal the protection, conservation and restoration of the natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

While the government has the primary responsibility for achieving this goal, Ontarians should have the means to ensure that it is achieved in an effective, timely, open and fair manner.

The purposes of the EBR are:

* To protect, conserve and where reasonable, restore the integrity of the environment by the means provided in the EBR;
* To provide sustainability of the environment by the means provided in the EBR; and
* To protect the right to a healthful environment by the means provided in the EBR.

These purposes include the following:

* The prevention, reduction and elimination of the use, generation and release of pollutants that are an unreasonable threat to the integrity of the environment.
* The protection and conservation of biological, ecological and genetic diversity.
* The protection and conservation of natural resources, including plant life, animal life and ecological systems.
* The encouragement of the wise management of our natural resources, including plant life, animal life and ecological systems.
* The identification, protection and conservation of ecologically sensitive areas or processes.

To assist in fulfilling these purposes, the EBR provides:

* The means by which Ontarians may participate in the making of environmentally significant decisions by the Government of Ontario;
* Increased accountability of the Government of Ontario for its environmental decision-making;
* Increased access to the courts by residents of Ontario for the protection of the environment; and
* Enhanced protection for employees who take action in respect of environmental harm.

The EBR requires a Statement of Environmental Values (SEV) from all prescribed ministries. The prescribed ministries are listed at:

<http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/content/index2.jsp?f0=aboutTheRegistry.statement&f1=aboutTheRegistry.statement.value&menuIndex=0_3&language=en>

The SEV is a means for designated government ministries to record their commitment to the environment and be accountable for ensuring consideration of the environment in their decisions. A SEV explains:

* How the purposes of the EBR are to be applied when decisions that might significantly affect the environment are made in the ministry; and
1. How consideration of the purposes of the EBR should be integrated with other considerations, including social, economic and scientific considerations that are part of decision-making in the ministry.

It is each Minister's responsibility to take every reasonable step to ensure that the SEV is considered whenever decisions that might significantly affect the environment are made in the Ministry.

Every five years the Minister will review the SEV and make any necessary amendments.

**2. MINISTRY VISION, MANDATE AND BUSINESS**

The role of the Ministry of Infrastructure is to lead the development and management of infrastructure in Ontario including community hubs and manage the government’s realty program. Modernizing public infrastructure is the key to strengthening our economy and ensuring that every region across the province can grow and prosper.

Our priorities are:

* Guiding the Province’s historic 14-year, $230-billion infrastructure plan.
* Implementing the 2018 10-year Federal-Provincial infrastructure agreement.
	+ Implementing the *Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act, 2015* and the Province’s 2017 Long-Term Infrastructure Plan, including: integrating the Province’s commitments in the Climate Change Action Plan across the Province’s Infrastructure Plan.
	+ Working with the Ministry of Economic Development and Growth to expand broadband infrastructure and improving connectivity in communities across the province.
	+ Ensuring that infrastructure priorities for the province align with provincial priorities relating to growth planning and community benefits.
* Managing the Government of Ontario’s Realty Program in a manner that focuses on program needs and considers the market value of provincially owned properties.
* Working with the Special Advisor to the Premier, lead the Government-wide implementation of the Community Hubs Strategic Framework and Action Plan.

Specific details on the Ministry of Infrastructure’s activities and goals can be found on the Ministry website:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-infrastructure>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/september-2016-mandate-letter-infrastructure>

**3. APPLICATION OF THE SEV**

The Ministry of Infrastructure is committed to applying the purposes of the EBRwhen decisions that might significantly affect the environment are being made within the Ministry, and as it develops acts and policies.

**4. INTEGRATION WITH OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The Ministry of Infrastructure will promote an innovative, competitive economy supported by modern infrastructure as well as manage the Province’s realty portfolio and maintain oversight of Infrastructure Ontario, in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and supports the Province’s commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

One way that this was demonstrated was through the implementation of Phase One of the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. As a result of close collaboration with the federal government and municipalities, over 2,000 projects were approved under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund (CWWF) and Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF).

The Ministry will take into account social, economic and other considerations and integrate these with the purposes of the EBR when making decisions that might significantly affect the environment. To assist the government in considering the environmental impact of infrastructure decisions, the Ministry plans to roll-out lifecycle assessment (LCA) as a tool to identify the total greenhouse warming potential of possible options to decisions.

**5. MONITORING USE OF THE SEV**

The Ministry of Infrastructure will document how the SEV was considered each time a decision related to an act or policy is posted on the Environmental Registry. The Ministry will ensure that staff involved in decisions that might significantly affect the environment is aware of the Ministry’s Environmental Bill of Rights obligations.

**6. CONSULTATION**

The Ministry of Infrastructure believes that public consultation is vital to sound environmental decision-making. The Ministry will endeavour to provide opportunities for appropriate consultations, including with affected industries, and technical and environmental experts, when making decisions that might significantly affect the environment.

**7. CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Ministry of Infrastructure believes that the public interest requires a broad effort to reduce greenhouse gases and to build a cleaner and more resilient province. The Ministry will continue to involve and engage individuals, businesses, communities, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and Indigenous communities in the ultimate goal of fostering a high-productivity, resilient, low-carbon economy and society in Ontario.

As highlighted in Ontario’s Five Year Climate Change Action Plan, good community planning can substantially reduce greenhouse gas pollution from transportation, buildings, business and industry ― and help deliver a cleaner, healthier environment for residents.

The Ministry of Infrastructure released *Building Better Lives: Ontario’s Long-Term Infrastructure Plan 2017* in November 2017. As part of the Government of Ontario’s coordinated planning approach, this plan aligns with other government initiatives that demonstrate the Province’s strong commitment to invest in public infrastructure such as the Climate Change Action Plan and the provincial land use planning framework.

The Ministry’s decisions on infrastructure investments have been consistent with the climate change management objectives of the province. This was specifically demonstrated with the signing of Ontario’s Integrated Bilateral Agreement with the federal government for $11.8 billion in funding for public transit, green infrastructure, infrastructure in rural and northern communities and infrastructure for community, culture, and recreation.

Additionally, proactive asset management integrates climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations to build resilience and ensure continuity and quality of service levels for communities in Ontario.

The Ministry also commits to using disruptive technologies to decrease greenhouse gases. An example of this is the Electrical Charging Infrastructure stations. The installation of EV Charging infrastructure at MOI owned realty locations will be compliant with Minute 12 of the Climate Change Action Plan requiring the development of a plan for the installation of publicly available EV charging infrastructure at government properties.

Additionally, the Ministry of Infrastructure shows its commitment to reducing greenhouse gasses through procurement. Through the RFP for the Queen’s Park Reconstruction Project the newly reconstructed complex will meet current building, health, safety and accessibility standards, facilitate a higher, more efficient use of space and help the province meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets. MOI will reduce the GHG emissions of the Macdonald Complex’s five buildings by 80% upon its reconstruction in 2024. In addition, the Queen’s Park Reconstruction Project will increase the density within the OPS’s office environment, making more effective and efficient use of each floor plate and reducing the average work space from over 230 sq ft/person to less than 180 sq ft./person.

**8. CONSIDERATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

The Ministry of Infrastructure recognizes the value that Indigenous people place on the environment. When making decisions that might significantly affect the environment, the Ministry will provide opportunities for involvement of Indigenous people whose interests may be affected by such decisions so that Indigenous interests can be appropriately considered. This commitment is not intended to alter or detract from any constitutional obligation the province may have to consult with Indigenous communities.

**9. GREENING OF INTERNAL OPERATIONS AND ENERGY CONSERVATION**

The Ministry of Infrastructure believes in the wise use and conservation of natural resources. The Ministry will cooperate and share knowledge with other ministries in support of Government of Ontario initiatives to conserve energy and water, and to wisely use our air and land resources in order to generate environmental, health and economic benefits for present and future generations.

The Ministry of Infrastructure is committed to reducing its environmental footprint, by greening its internal operations. The Ministry will support environmentally sustainable practices among its partners, stakeholder and suppliers as well as government-wide greening and sustainability initiatives.

MOI is committed to helping reduce waste going to landfills. MOI follows Government regulations in this regard:

* The Ontario 3Rs Regulations (101/94, 102/94, and 103/94) require that industrial, commercial, and institutional (IC&I) facilities and complexes with a total floor area greater than 10,000 m2 conduct waste audits annually, develop waste reduction work plans, and implement recycling programs for a specified list of materials;
* The management of non-hazardous waste is regulated by Ontario’s Environmental Protection Act (EPA), under the Waste Management Regulation O.Reg. 347/90 (as amended); and
* Municipal By-Laws control landfill and recycling programs, which limit the types of recyclable materials that are accepted

MOI ensures regulatory compliance through Infrastructure Ontario and its service providers as well as contracted waste and recycling vendors to ensure the best systems and programs are in place to increase our waste diversion across the province. Further, waste audits are conducted annually in accordance with Ontario Regulation 103/94 in all buildings greater than 10,000m2.

Future dedicated waste program funding can ensure MOI goes beyond regulatory compliance and tenant engagement practices to further improve waste management services in MOI-owned facilities.