

September 2023

What's Inside

Our New Labour Minister – David Piccini

Tribute to Monte McNaughton

Resignations Cause Cabinet Shuffle

WSIB To Make Adjustments For Incorrect
Calculations

Pollara Survey Finds Ontarians Growing

Angrier Over Ford's Greenbelt Actions

CMHC's Revises Ontario's 2030 Housing
Estimates Downward

OUR NEW LABOUR MINISTER – DAVID PICCINI

The new Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development is David Piccini (pictured here with COCA president Ian Cunningham).



Here's what we know:

- He is the grandson of Italian immigrants to Canada
- He was born in Toronto September 29, 1988 (age 34)
- His family has lived in Port Hope since 1999
- His father is an architect based in Port Hope and his mother a retired educator who worked at Trinity College School in Port Hope
- He attended Trinity College School then graduated from the University of Ottawa in 2011
- After graduation, he joined the political staff of then federal minister of international trade, Ed Fast
- In 2015 he joined the staff of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons
- In the 2015 federal election he was the Conservative Party of Canada's candidate in Ottawa-Vanier, a long-time Liberal stronghold, placing third
- In 2018 he helped found the Canadian International Health Education Association
- First elected to the Ontario legislature as the MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South in 2018 and served in the province's 42nd parliament as parliamentary assistant to the minister of training, colleges and universities (June 26, 2018 – October 31, 2019), as a member of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs (June 26, 2018 – October 20, 2021), then as parliamentary assistant to the minister of environment, conservation and parks (June 18, 2021 – June 24, 2022)
- While PA to the minister of training, colleges and universities he was responsible for engaging with stakeholders on the reform of the skilled trades and apprenticeship file and met with representative of COCA on several occasions including participating in a "fireside chat" with the membership at our awards event in Niagara Falls in June, 2019
- He was re-elected in June 2022 and continued in the role as minister of environment, conservation and parks until his appointment as minister of labour, immigration training and skills development on September 22, 2023

TRIBUTE TO MONTE MCNAUGHTON



The resignation of Monte McNaughton as the minister of labour, immigration, training and skills development, announced to the public on the morning of Friday, September 23rd caught almost everyone by surprise. It was a shock to think that someone who was so totally immersed in the work, with demonstrated exceptional competence, a legacy of significant achievements and such a bright future ahead was leaving elected politics. McNaughton was so highly regarded that many were left wondering “what will we ever do without Monte?”. Clearly there has never been a minister of labour quite like him, he was a one-of-a-kind.

Through self-sacrifice, hard work, skill and commitment to the cause, Monte McNaughton became the Ford government’s most popular and high profile cabinet minister and an irreplaceable asset. He built up the former Ministry of Labour, considered a starter position for aspiring politicians, first adding training and skills development, then immigration, into a powerhouse. He can look back proudly on his time leading the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. Among his many accomplishments, making workplaces safer, beginning the work to modernize the province’s apprenticeship system, removing the stigma from skilled trades careers and for expanding the immigrant nominee program. In addition, he brought a number of unlikely conservatives into the Tory tent to help win back-to-back majority governments.

Everyone at COCA thanks Monte for his service to Ontarians, wishes him much success in his new role and wishes the McNaughton family, Monte, Kate and Annie, much happiness in the future.

RESIGNATIONS CAUSE CABINET SHUFFLE

The resignations of Monte McNaughton who is taking a position in the private sector and Kaleed Rasheed who gave misinformation to the Integrity Commissioner forced Premier Ford to make further changes to his cabinet. Here’s how the dominos fell:

- Succeeding Monte McNaughton as Minister of Labour, Immigration Training and Skills Development is the former Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South, David Piccini.
- Succeeding Piccini as Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks is Andrea Khanjin, the MPP for Barrie-Innisfill and newcomer to cabinet. Khanjin will continue in the role as Deputy House Leader.
- Replacing Rasheed as Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery is the former and only recently appointed Associate Minister of Transportation, Todd McCarthy. McCarthy is the MPP for Durham.
- And replacing McCarthy as Associate Minister of Transportation is the MPP for Scarborough-Rouge Park, Vijay Thanigasalem

WSIB TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS FOR INCORRECT CALCULATIONS

From a notice posted to the WSIB's website <https://www.wsib.ca/en/aboutrecalculation>

it appears that some loss of earnings payments were incorrectly calculated between 1998-2017. This error apparently impacts about 2 percent of claims. Impacted workers and employers will receive letters from the WSIB.

Workers who were underpaid as a result will be paid what they are owed. Workers who were overpaid will not be asked to repay the amounts.

For employers, the Board is saying that:

- Schedule 1 employers who overpaid as a result will receive money back as a credit to their account (employers in good standing can request a cheque if they wish); there may also be an adjustment to their 2020-2023 premium rates.
- Schedule 1 employers who underpaid as a result will not be individually charged for these past underpayments; however, future claim costs that fall within the rate setting window will be applied when setting premiums.

The notice on the WSIB's website does not currently elaborate on how this will be handled for Schedule 2 employers.

This issue was also reported in the Toronto Star: [A \\$42M oops: WSIB pays out after error shortchanged workers \(thestar.com\)](#) According to the article, this error was caught due to a 2019 decision of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal. The article also says that the Board has estimated the total back payments which will be sent out are approximately \$42 million and the overpayments that the WSIB has decided not to claw back are worth approximately \$26 million.

POLLARA SURVEY FINDS ONTARIANS GROWING ANGRIER OVER FORD'S GREENBELT ACTIONS

Between August 23rd and September 5th, Pollara Strategic Insights surveyed 1,519 Canadians aged 18 or older on a variety of national and provincial issues.

When asked about Ontario Premier Doug Ford's Greenbelt plans, 45% of Ontario respondents said that they are very angry, 25% said they were annoyed or moderately angry, 25% said neutral or no emotion, 5% said they were pleased or moderately happy and 1% said they were happy.

This compares with Pollara's December 2022 survey when 61% of Ontario respondents said they were angry or annoyed and 8% were pleased or happy. Among Ontario PC voters, Pollara found that 37% are angry or annoyed while 17% are pleased or happy.

Complete results can be found by clicking on the following link: [SMU \(pollara.com\)](#)

CMHC'S REVISES ONTARIO'S 2030 HOUSING ESTIMATES DOWNWARD

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's latest report "Canada's Housing Supply Shortages" published on September 13, 2023 updates its "Supply Gaps Estimates" report published in June 2022.

Here are some highlights copied from the latest report:

- We maintain our 2022 projection that Canada needs about 3.5 million additional housing units by 2030 to restore affordability.
- We expect housing demand to vary across the country due to evolving economic and demographic conditions.
- Most of Canada's housing supply gaps are in Ontario and British Columbia. Quebec and Alberta are also projected to need more supply because of economic growth.
- A smaller overall housing stock in 2030 is projected from what we reported last year. The main reason for this decline is the current shortfall in housing construction.

The report goes on to state:

"Ontario and British Columbia continue to have the largest portion of the 3.5 million housing supply gap — around 60% in our latest projection. These provinces have the least affordable housing markets because housing supply hasn't kept up with demand over the past 20 years in some of the major urban centres."

The 2022 report estimates that Ontario's housing stock in 2022 was 6.02 million units and projected 6.71 million by 2030. However the recently published report updates the 2030 projection downward to 6.61 million units.

You can access the full report at the following link:

[Estimating how much housing we'll need by 2030 | CMHC \(cmhc-schl.gc.ca\)](https://cmhc-schl.gc.ca/Estimating-how-much-housing-we'll-need-by-2030)



RESOLVE DISPUTES FASTER!

Payment delays and disputes can cost your business a LOT of time and money.
Ontario has added Prompt payment and Adjudication to the Construction Act.

Visit: getpaidontime.ca