

ONTARIO

AN EQUAL VOICE PROVINCE SNAPSHOT, 2026

Ontario (Ont.) has had one woman serve as premier, and its legislature has not yet achieved gender parity by having women make up at least half of its MPPs. The Legislative Assembly of Ontario seats 123* members, of which 45 are women and gender diverse people (36.3%). Ont.'s last election took place in February 2025.

*one additional seat is vacant



Population
16,136,480



Female to Male
50.7% : 49.3%



GDP
\$900.8+ billion

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Ont. has a unicameral legislature, with one chamber: the **Legislative Assembly of Ontario**. As a parliamentary democracy, Ont. has 124 constituencies which are each represented by an elected **Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP)**.

The political party with the most elected MPPs forms government, and their leader becomes the head of government, called the **Premier**. The Premier selects MPPs to serve as Cabinet Ministers.

The **Lieutenant Governor of Ontario** is appointed by the Governor General of Canada and represents the King, Canada's Head of State.



CURRENT EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION

(as of Mar 2025)

Premier: Doug Ford (M)
Assumed office: 29 Jun. 2018
Party: Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

37 Cabinet Members
9 women (24.3%) : 28 men (75.7%)

Notable portfolios currently held by women:

- Deputy Premier
- Health
- Infrastructure
- Rural Affairs
- Long-Term Care
- Francophone Affairs
- Women's Social & Economic Opportunity

PAST PREMIERS

(as of Mar 2025)

26 Premiers since 1867
1 women : 25 men

Kathleen Wynne: Feb. 2013 - 29 Jun. 2018

CURRENT LEGISLATURE

(as of Feb 2026)

123 MPPs total*

43 women (35%) : 78 men (63.4%) :
2 gender diverse people (1.6%)

MPPs PER PARTY

Progressive Conservative Party of Ont.: 79 MPPs
20 women (25.3%) : 59 men (74.7%)

Ont. New Democratic Party: 26 MPPs
13 women (50%) : 11 men (42.3%) :
2 gender diverse people (7.7%)

Ont. Liberal Party: 14 MPPs
7 women (50%) : 7 men (50%)

Green Party of Ont.: 2 MPPs
1 woman (50%) : 1 man (50%)

Independent MPPs: 1 woman : 1 man

*one additional seat is vacant, pending a by-election



LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

(as of Mar 2025)

30 Lieutenant Governors since 1867
4 women : 26 men

Current Lieutenant Governor:
Anita R. Neville (W)

MILESTONES

1902

Margaret Haile was the first woman to run in an Ont. provincial election. She did so despite women not yet being allowed to vote or sit in the Legislature at the time.

1943

Agnes Macphail and Rae Luckock were the first women MPPs elected in Ont.

1972

Margaret Birch was the first woman named to Cabinet in Ont

1974

Pauline McGibbon was the first woman to be appointed Lieutenant Governor of Ont. McGibbon was also the first woman to hold a viceregal position anywhere in Canada and the Commonwealth.

1990

Zanana Akande was the first woman of colour MPP elected in Ont.

1992

Lyn McLeod was the first woman to lead an Ont. political party.

2013

Kathleen Wynne was the first woman premier of Ont. She was also the first openly gay premier in Canada.

2018

Ont.'s 2018 election saw a record number of women win seats in the province's legislature, with 49 women MPPs out of 124 (39.5%). This is the highest proportion of women MPPs in Ont.'s history.

2025

Donna Skelly was the first woman Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ont.