

The 2026 Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review, again entitled “A Plan to Protect Ontario”, was released on October 29, 2026. This announcement, often referred to as the fall economic statement (FES), is akin to a mid-term report between provincial budgets and includes updates on Ontario's debt, the cost of various government programs and details of the economic outlook. It often includes more formal announcements of new budget priorities, which are likely to be hinted at in the preceding days in media.

Predicated on assumptions that economic growth will be slower than previously projected due to the current economic landscape, the forecast for a balanced budget is now delayed to the 2029-30 fiscal year. What follows is a series of action items that “furthers the government’s plan to protect Ontario workers, businesses and communities while building the most competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy in the G7”. These include strategic supports for tariff-impacted industries as well as sectors including advanced manufacturing, critical minerals mining and refining, artificial intelligence, and defence; and a few tax relief measures that are designed to assist households.

There is only one specific reference to public health in the document, namely the harms caused by illegal cannabis stores in context of plans to strengthen enforcement (p. 113), but an update on the implementation of the HART Hubs across the province will also be of interest to our members (p. 114).

The general focus on health now emphasizes connecting people with primary care (p. 117), reiterating strategies to train and retain health care workers (p. 120), reducing ER wait times through the activities of the Emergency Department Action Team (EDAT) (p. 125), and a handful of infrastructure projects.

The government will launch consultations this November to help inform the 2027 Budget and alPHa will, as always, be fully participating, making our usual submissions and notifying members of the opportunity to provide their own input.

Links to the 2026 FES documents:

- The landing page for the 2026 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review is [here](#).
- The full statement can be read online and downloaded [here](#).
- The highlights of the Report are provided [here](#).
- The News Release is [here](#).

We hope you find this information useful.