

Education

Ms. Peggy Sattler: Speaker, parents in London and across Ontario are very worried today because of this government's latest attack on our public education system with Bill 33. I want to thank the thousands of Londoners who have sent emails or made phone calls urging government MPPs to vote no to Bill 33 when it comes for the final vote.

Parents and the Thames Valley District School Board know that putting a school board under supervision does nothing to improve teaching and learning in our classrooms. What it does is hand over control of our schools to an unaccountable, unelected supervisor with no background in education or knowledge of the community. It shuts out families and students. It silences the voices of parents desperately seeking help for their children with special needs. It sidelines democratically elected local trustees, whose role is to advocate for parents and the community, and it replaces them with an additional layer of bureaucracy.

The reality is, Speaker, that Bill 33 will do nothing to support students or families. It will do nothing to reduce class sizes or put more EAs into schools. Instead of ramming through bad legislation—instead of shutting down debate, skipping committee and denying the public the voice to be heard—we should be listening to parents and communities and investing in our schools.

It's time to put an end to the political games. Vote no to Bill 33.

School facilities

Mr. Steve Pinsonneault: Madam Speaker, I rise today with tremendous pride to share long-awaited and very welcoming news for my riding of Lambton–Kent–Middlesex and, specifically, the families of Forest and the surrounding area.

For years, the proposal for a K-to-12 public school in Forest remained stalled for a variety of reasons. Despite strong community support, the project faced several complex factors that slowed its progress. From the moment I was elected, I made it my mission to see this project over the finish line.

Madam Speaker, I'm very pleased to share that Lambton Kent District School Board has now received approval to issue the tender for the brand new Blue Coast District School in the Forest area, a K-to-12 public school. This is a major milestone for our community. Supported by a \$74.1-million investment from our government, including \$34.3 million in new funding, the project will create 1,186 new student spaces and 49 licensed child care spaces. The new school will offer a modern, inclusive and inspiring learning environment that brings students of all grades under one roof. That means more capacity, more opportunity and more support for families across the region.

Projects of this scale do not happen overnight. I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone involved, from government partners to the Lambton Kent District School Board and all those who contributed their time, expertise—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the member for Mushkegowuk—James Bay.

Government accountability

Ms. Marit Stiles: Good morning, everybody, and good morning, Speaker. I want to say how moved I am to see so many people here in the gallery today defending democracy.

Yesterday, the minister changed his tune and started blaming civil servants for his own mess with the Skills Development Fund. Up until now, he has stood in this chamber and he has justified hand-picking low-scoring applicants to that fund because they met his government's so-called priorities.

Let me just say this: It was not civil servants that were sitting in rink-side seats at a Leafs game with executives or sipping champagne in Paris with lobbyists who cashed in or raking in hundreds of thousands of dollars in political donations. It was this Minister of Labour.

To the Premier: Why is this Minister of Labour blaming civil servants when he clearly made the decision to reward Keel Digital Solutions?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): The Minister of Labour.

Hon. David Piccini: Speaker, that's incorrect. Our ministry officials play a critical role in safeguarding the integrity of the Skills Development Fund. Together, we've built strong backstops. Being responsible for applicant approvals, which I am, is not in contradiction with having important stopgaps in place. It highlights the robust internal risk assessment processes we have for this program.

When that member talks about these projects, what she's saying is projects that are supporting our first responders with better training, better mental health support; projects supporting the Carpenters' Regional Council and the joint application they submitted for all of their locals across Ontario that are helping a next generation of skilled tradesmen and women.

It's not surprising they don't support them because they don't support building. They don't support building the critical infrastructure that we're building. Whether it's new nuclear, whether it's highways, roads and bridges, they vote against every measure.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Marit Stiles: Back to the Premier: This minister went on live radio and he bragged about hand-picking Keel Digital Solutions and their like. The Toronto Star, they got their hands on the government's scorecards, and they have confirmed it: Low-scoring applications like Keel received bigger payouts than the higher-scoring applications.

The Auditor General confirmed that civil servants were overruled routinely by this minister and his political staff. Is the minister blaming civil servants simply because the company is now under police investigation?

Hon. David Piccini: As I said, being responsible for applicant approvals, which I am, and having a stopgap procedure in place are not in contradiction to one another, but rather speaks to the important processes we have in place.

What that member is against is supporting first responders with better training through our Skills Development Fund. What she's against, and what she's highlighted, is the Carpenters' Regional Council. Or let's talk about the operating engineers, another project highlighted in that article. Operating engineers for the cranes in the skyline—we wouldn't have any cranes if it was up to

them. They don't want to build. They're against Highway 413 and they're against the Bradford Bypass.

Just this week, I was at Union Station, where we saw cranes in the air making improvements to our Metrolinx fleet. They're against those measures. They don't support our public transit expansion.

But they have an opportunity to support us with the fall economic statement, to invest in infrastructure and invest in better training. I hope they'll take that chance.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Final supplementary.

Ms. Marit Stiles: First he's hiding behind unions, dragging their names through the mud; now he's hiding behind workers in the civil service. The one thing this minister will not do is take responsibility for the mess that he has created. I have been asking these questions for five weeks now, and the Premier doesn't even do us one and get up and answer a question.

Speaker, bills are being rammed through this Legislature. It is the donors and the lobbyists that are connected to this government; it is the strip clubs and the numbered companies, it is the endless gift of an anti-democratic and, yes, corrupt government—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Order. Order.

I will ask the member to withdraw.

Ms. Marit Stiles: Speaker, I will not.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I am warning the member.

The member has been named. You will have to leave the chamber.

Ms. Stiles was escorted from the chamber.

Education

Ms. Chandra Pasma: Yesterday, student trustees elected by their peers to represent them were very clear: Students do not want Bill 33 to pass. They do not want to have their voices and perspectives shut out of decisions about their education. They do not want government appointees who ignore them. What they want is investments to support programs, provide mental health supports and ensure schools are safe.

Will the Premier listen to Ontario students and vote no on Bill 33?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Paul Calandra: When I speak to students, what they tell me is that they want the highest quality of education possible and they want the opportunity to succeed. What they don't want is a system that puts them at conflict with their teachers, that puts parents at conflict with their teachers. What they don't want is trustees who go out into the community and sow dissension in favour of their own pet projects.

Madam Speaker, I am hopeful and I am very confident that in a very short while, Bill 33 will pass this Legislature and we will have the opportunity to once again put the Ontario education system on the right path, building on the successes of previous ministers to ensure that not only are our students succeeding, but our teachers have the resources that they need to give our students the ultimate opportunity to succeed, not only for today, but for tomorrow.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for Ottawa West–Nepean.

Ms. Chandra Pasma: Well, if this government won't show students some respect, perhaps they'll respect parents, because they've also been very clear: In just 19 hours and despite this government's attempt to sneak Bill 33 into law without parents having any chance to say what they think about it, more than 55,000 people across the province sent government MPPs emails asking them not to support this bill. Parents don't want to lose their right to have a say. They don't want decisions to be made in the dark behind closed doors. They don't want hand-picked Conservative insiders who are paid \$350,000 a year to ignore them.

Will the Premier listen to parents and vote no on Bill 33?

Hon. Paul Calandra: Guilty, Madam Speaker: I sneakily introduced this seven months ago and put it on the order paper. I sneakily went across the entire province and met with hundreds of parents and hundreds of teachers. I sneakily went and met with school board chairs; I met with the police associations.

I'm telling you what we're going to do. What the NDP are doing and what the Liberals are doing is, they are supporting a system that was created in the one-room-schoolhouse era. You know what has to happen? We have to reinvigorate our school system, building on the successes of previous ministers to bring our curriculum back in order.

In a very short period of time, members will be able to get up in this House and vote in favour of Bill 33. What that will allow us to do is put school boards back on track when they go off the rails. What the NDP and the Liberals want me to do is allow a board to collapse before I step in, to the benefit of parents. I won't do that. I'm going to step in earlier. We'll put boards back on track and put students, parents and teachers first.

No matter how much they whine and complain, we'll get it done for the students—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for Ottawa West–Nepean.

Ms. Chandra Pasma: If this government isn't going to show students some respect, if they're not going to show parents some respect, perhaps they will show workers some respect, Speaker. Because yesterday, teachers and education workers were also here with a clear message for this government: Bill 33 is not the solution to the challenges teachers and education workers are facing; it's a distraction from the real issues. This government's \$6-billion funding cut to education means that workers are paying out of pocket for basic supplies in crowded classrooms in unsafe schools.

The minister's appointees have also made it very clear that they do not think collective bargaining agreements need to be respected, despite the fact that collective bargaining is a charter-protected right.

Will the Premier respect the people who work in our schools every single day and vote no on Bill 33?

Hon. Paul Calandra: Madam Speaker, listen, I am going to not only hope that all my colleagues vote in favour of Bill 33, I know full well that the parents, teachers and students across this province are excited by what Bill 33 allows us to do.

Not only does it allow us to bring our police back into the schools to ensure that our schools can be safer—let's talk about her own community. She talks about the supervised boards; we have a supervisor who's bringing the board back on track. She talks about trustees. What she doesn't talk about is the fact that trustees in Ottawa in the Ottawa-Carleton board—their budget is \$1.4 million. Their expenses alone were over \$440,000, and when they had an opportunity last May to do something about it, they hid the report from the people and said, "We don't want to talk about it, because if people find out how much we're spending, they will be angry with us. So let's continue to spend and let the chaos continue."

What we did is put them back on track, and we did that for parents, students and teachers—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Question?

University and college funding

Ms. Peggy Sattler: My question is to the Premier. Organizations that represent Ontario college and university students are united in their opposition to Bill 33. CFS Ontario, OUSA, CSA and OSV have all strongly urged this government to stop its attack on students and student services. They know that Bill 33 will mean the loss of vital student-run programs that students themselves have said are urgently needed, like campus food banks, mental health peer supports, accessibility services and more.

Will the Premier listen to post-secondary students and vote no to Bill 33?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): The Minister of Colleges and Universities.

Hon. Nolan Quinn: Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government has taken another step to promote fairness, transparency and integrity across the province's post-secondary sector.

That's why, if Bill 33 is passed, we're going to require colleges and universities to make fees transparent to students and their families, so they understand detailed breakdowns on how the tuition fees are being used. As well, we're going to make sure that merit-based admissions are clearly articulated to all students. On top of that, we want to make sure that research security plans are clear and secure moving forward.

But as we always have, we're going to consult with the sector once, and if, Bill 33 is passed to ensure that the regulations are implemented in a way that does not disrupt the delivery of Ontario's world-class education and supports that students rely upon.

Speaker, unlike the previous Liberal government, we will always stand up for the students and the hard-working families—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Member for London West.

Ms. Peggy Sattler: The minister should be aware that student fees are already transparent, and that students are already admitted on the basis of merit.

Meanwhile, our post-secondary sector is in crisis: Hundreds of programs have been cut, and entire campuses are closing. Almost 10,000 jobs have been lost at Ontario colleges. Services are being reduced in academic counselling, career services and work-integrated learning. Some 80,000 domestic students won't be able to get a seat at an Ontario university because the government isn't providing the funding. Meanwhile, youth unemployment is at record highs and post-secondary students are struggling to pay tuition, rent and groceries.

Why is this government pushing ahead with bad legislation that is only going to make it harder for young people to succeed in this province?

Hon. Nolan Quinn: Through you, Speaker, I'm not too sure why that member has an issue with transparency. I've heard from students; I've heard from families. They want transparency, and they really want to understand where their ancillary fees are going.

That member mentioned 80,000—let's mention the 100,000 new, funded seats that we brought online through budget 2025. That member voted against that budget.

Speaker, \$750 million went to 20,000 newly funded STEM seats, on top of \$75 million for construction-related seats; 7,800 new seats for construction and another 2,200 new seats for nursing—a \$56-million investment, on top of the 2,600 new seats that we have for teachers.

Speaker, we're going to continue being there for the sector, but we'll continue bringing new seats online, like the 100,000 newly funded seats we just brought through budget 2025.

I wish that member would support our budget, support our legislation, because we're going to, ultimately, continue to be there for the sector and understand where the fees are being used.

Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025

Deferred vote on the motion for third reading of the following bill:

Bill 33, An Act to amend various Acts in relation to child, youth and family services, education, and colleges and universities

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Call in the members. This is a five-minute bell.

The division bells rang from 1138 to 1143.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Members, please take your seats.

On November 18, 2025, Mr. Cho, Willowdale, moved third reading of Bill 33, An Act to amend various Acts in relation to child, youth and family services, education, and colleges and universities.

All those in favour of the motion, please rise one a time and be recognized by the Clerk.

Ayes

- Allsopp, Tyler
- Anand, Deepak
- Babikian, Aris
- Bailey, Robert

Hansard Wednesday, November 19, 2025
(Bill 33, School Facilities, Education, Government Accountability)

- Bethlenfalvy, Peter
- Bouma, Will
- Bresee, Ric
- Calandra, Paul
- Cho, Raymond Sung Joon
- Cho, Stan
- Ciriello, Monica
- Clark, Steve
- Coe, Lorne
- Cooper, Michelle
- Crawford, Stephen
- Cuzzetto, Rudy
- Darouze, George
- Denault, Billy
- Dixon, Jess
- Dowie, Andrew
- Downey, Doug
- Dunlop, Jill
- Firin, Mohamed
- Flack, Rob
- Ford, Doug
- Gallagher Murphy, Dawn
- Grewal, Hardeep Singh
- Gualtieri, Silvia
- Hamid, Zee
- Hardeman, Ernie
- Harris, Mike
- Holland, Kevin
- Jones, Sylvia
- Jones, Trevor

Hansard Wednesday, November 19, 2025
(Bill 33, School Facilities, Education, Government Accountability)

- Jordan, John
- Kanapathi, Logan
- Kerzner, Michael S.
- Khanjin, Andrea
- Kusendova-Bashta, Natalia
- Leardi, Anthony
- Lecce, Stephen
- Lumsden, Neil
- McCarthy, Todd J.
- McGregor, Graham
- Oosterhoff, Sam
- Pang, Billy
- Parsa, Michael
- Piccini, David
- Pierre, Natalie
- Pinsonneault, Steve
- Pirie, George
- Quinn, Nolan
- Racinsky, Joseph
- Rae, Matthew
- Riddell, Brian
- Rosenberg, Bill
- Sabawy, Sheref
- Sandhu, Amarjot
- Sarkaria, Prabmeet Singh
- Sarrazin, Stéphane
- Saunderson, Brian
- Scott, Laurie
- Smith, Dave
- Smith, David

- Smith, Graydon
- Smith, Laura
- Tangri, Nina
- Thanigasalam, Vijay
- Thompson, Lisa M.
- Tibollo, Michael A.
- Triantafilopoulos, Effie J.
- Vickers, Paul
- Wai, Daisy
- Williams, Charmaine A.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): All those opposed to the motion, please rise one at a time and be recognized by the Clerk.

Nays

- Armstrong, Teresa J.
- Begum, Doly
- Bell, Jessica
- Blais, Stephen
- Bourgouin, Guy
- Bowman, Stephanie
- Brady, Bobbi Ann
- Burch, Jeff
- Cerjanec, Rob
- Clancy, Aislinn
- Collard, Lucille
- Fairclough, Lee
- Fife, Catherine
- Fraser, John
- French, Jennifer K.
- Gates, Wayne
- Gélinas, France

- Gilmour, Alexa
- Glover, Chris
- Gretzky, Lisa
- Hazell, Andrea
- Hsu, Ted
- Kernaghan, Terence
- Mamakwa, Sol
- McCrimmon, Karen
- McKenney, Catherine
- McMahon, Mary-Margaret
- Pasma, Chandra
- Rakocovic, Tom
- Sattler, Peggy
- Schreiner, Mike
- Shamji, Adil
- Shaw, Sandy
- Smyth, Stephanie
- Stevens, Jennifer (Jennie)
- Tabuns, Peter
- Tsao, Jonathan
- Vanthof, John
- Vaugeois, Lise
- Watt, Tyler

The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr. Trevor Day): The ayes are 74; the nays are 40.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I declare the motion carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

Third reading agreed to.