

Keeping an eye on Queen's Park: OntarioMonitor.ca makes monitoring Ontario Legislature easy and affordable

Media Release

(February 14, 2012 – Toronto, ON) Today was the official launch of OntarioMonitor.ca, an online service that makes the Ontario Legislature more transparent and accessible.

OntarioMonitor.ca allows users to easily monitor material from Question Period based on keywords that they select. Relevant material from the day's Question Period is distributed to users the moment Hansard is published online.

The functionality and price of OntarioMonitor.ca means that companies, NGOs, trade associations, agencies and commissions of any size can monitor issues at the Ontario Legislature on a daily basis at a fraction of the cost and effort of the old style of access.

The service is useful not only for Question Period, but throughout the legislative calendar. It monitors committee hearings and provides automated updates on changes to Bills.

The screenshot shows the OntarioMonitor.ca website. At the top, it says "OntarioMonitor.ca" with a "Like" button. Below that is a blue banner that reads "Follow the Ontario Legislature. Closely." The main content area is split into two columns. The left column features a "What Is This?" section with a video player and text explaining the service. The right column has two sections for setting alerts: "New Bill Alerts" and "Bill Status Change Alerts".

What Is This?
The Ontario Legislature is very active – keeping up-to-date can be a full-time job. We help in two ways:
1. Email alerts whenever your keywords appear in new legislation or during House business (e.g. Question Period).
2. Online tools that answer the question: "Which MPP is most interested in issue X?".
To purchase a subscription, or if you have any questions, please call 416-972-7401 or email sales@ontariomonitor.ca.

New Bill Alerts
Receive alerts when a new bill is introduced in the Legislature?
Yes No Save

Bill Status Change Alerts
Receive alerts when there is a change in status (e.g. "Passed Second Reading") to the following bills:
 Bill 1, An Act to perpetuate an ancient parliamentary right
 Bill 2, Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit Act, 2011
 Bill 3, York Region Transit Labour Disputes Resolution Act, 2011
 Bill 4, Retail Sales Tax Amendment Act (HST Rebate for Home Heating), 2011
 Bill 5, Wireless Phone, Smart Phone and Data Service Transparency Act, 2011
 Bill 6, Imitation Firearms Regulation Amendment Act, 2011
 Bill 7, York Region Transit Labour Disputes Resolution Act, 2011
 Bill 8, Ontario One Call Act, 2011
 Bill 9, Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Amendment Act, 2011
 Bill 10, Local Municipality Democracy Act, 2011
 Bill 11, Attracting Investment and Creating Jobs Act, 2011
 Bill 12, Helping Volunteers Give Back Act, 2011
 Bill 13, Accepting Schools Act, 2011
 Bill 14, Anti-Bullying Act, 2011

Why use OntarioMonitor.ca?

- **Hansard instant notification** – alerts are sent when your chosen phrases are mentioned in the Legislature/Question Period (e.g. "climate change"): who said it, when, the full context and more.
- **Bill Changes** – Instant notifications of changes to bills that you care about (e.g. "Bill 6 passed second reading").
- **New Bills** – Instant notification when new bills are introduced, bill details and more.
- **Monitor issues** – Identify which issues MPPs care about.
- **Speed** – Notifications are sent within minutes of becoming official and available.
- **BlackBerry** – Notifications are sent to you in a format that's easy to read on your phone.

The software developer behind OntarioMonitor.ca, Addy Cameron-Huff, is an award winning programmer, having won competitions in Canada and the United States (run by Yahoo!, TechCrunch and PayPal). While at the University of Waterloo, he developed political organizing software for a US presidential candidate. He is currently finishing his law degree at Queen's University.

You can explore the full functionality of OntarioMonitor.ca at the website and a trial version is available for your consideration.

For more information on how to use OntarioMonitor.ca, please see:
http://www.ontariomonitor.ca/overview_brochure.pdf

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