

THE WEEKLY VOICE

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'Reviews Of Laws To Ensure People's Interests'

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Ontario have studied the impacts of vaping and agreed with the restrictions the previous government's laws placed on the product, he said.

Mihevc said he believes that once the government digs in and does its own research it's likely to find claims that vaping is an effective tool to help smoking cessation aren't true.

"We considered it a closed action" once the bill was passed by the Liberals, he said. "I also wonder what public health evidence, not lobbyist energy, is being used to resurrect this as a live issue?"

The government also confirmed Wednesday it has delayed a law which would have capped sports and concert ticket resale prices at 50 per cent above original face value will not immediately move ahead.

"The previous government attempted to institute a cap on ticket resales with no way to enforce that cap, resulting in less consumer protection," Jefferies said. "We have paused the implementation of this section until we can review this provision in full to make sure it is in the best interest of Ontarians."

The legislation would have also banned so-called "scalper



Premier Doug Ford announcing that his government will officially begin winding down all green programs funded through the province's cap-and-trade system. -THE CANADIAN PRESS/Mark Blinch

bots" that buy a large number of tickets online for an event and then resell them at a large profit.

The provisions in the new Ticket Sales Act are contained in omnibus consumer protection legislation that also includes strengthening rules around home warranties, real estate practices and travel services in Ontario.

The Liberal government passed the bill back in December 2017 and it was set to come into effect on July 1.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath slammed Ford for putting the

brakes on the consumer protections. The indefinite delay will mean ticket resellers can continue to "scoop up swaths of tickets and gouge families on their resale", she said.

"Doug Ford has taken the side of scalper-bots, helping them to rip off and gouge Ontario families without an end in sight," Horwath said.

The Tory government has also halted changes to legislation that strengthen oversight of law enforcement and redefine police officers' duties. The government

will now further consult with stakeholders, including police associations who felt the law was rushed.

Bill 175, dubbed the Safer Ontario Act, passed in the legislature in March and offers the first updates to the Police Services Act in more than 25 years.

One of the most significant changes involves expanding the mandates of the province's three police oversight agencies, increasing the scope of what they can investigate and adding extra accountability measures.

The Tory government will also delay changes to immunization reporting rules which Ontario's doctors had argued would burden them with excessive paperwork.

The legislature is expected to be recalled for a summer session next week, and Ford is expected to give a throne speech laying out his government's priorities.

Randy Hillier, a longtime Tory legislator, said Wednesday he will run to be Speaker of the House because he wants to elevate the level debate in the legislature.

The speaker acts an impartial arbiter over debate and is selected at the start of every new term by a secret ballot of legislators.

So far, Hillier is the only declared candidate for the job.

Visa Centres Are Private, Third-Party Service Providers

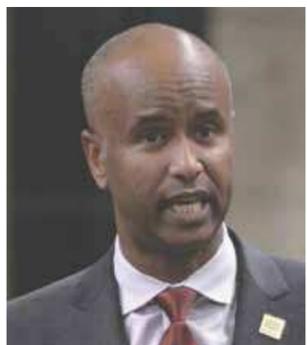
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Applicants can also provide their biometrics at any nearby VAC:

- From July 31 to mid-September 2018: In Stockholm, at the Embassy of Canada to Sweden, for applicants from Sweden and neighbouring countries.

- From July 31 to early November 2018: Canadian embassies in Athens, Greece; Berlin, Germany; and Vienna, Austria for applicants from Greece, Germany, Austria and neighbouring countries.

- From July 31 to early No-



November 2018: In a leased commercial space in Lyon, France for applicants from France and neighbouring countries.

All of the above temporary service points will only collect biometrics. Applications will not be accepted at these locations.

Applicants must first apply on Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada's website or by mail, and must have received a Biometrics Instruction Letter, before providing their biometrics in support of an application.

Ahmed Hussien, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, said: "Each year, Canada welcomes millions of visitors and accepts hundreds of thousands of students, workers and

permanent residents. Visitors applying abroad use Canada's Visa Application Centres to provide their biometrics and submit their applications. To facilitate the increased demand for biometrics, Canada is increasing its Visa Application Centre presence in the next 2 years. By November 2019, there will be at least 157 Centres in 105 countries".

- VACs are privately owned, third-party service providers located around the world that are authorized to provide Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) visa applicants with specific administrative support.

- VACs offer support to applicants before, during and after their temporary resident application is assessed by an IRCC officer. VAC service agents can be reached by phone and email, or in person, to answer questions in local languages. VACs are also authorized to collect biometrics from applicants.

- With extended hours of operation and more points of service, VACs make the process of applying for a visa or permit to enter Canada, including collecting biometrics, easier and convenient.

- VACs are the most cost-effective and sustainable way for the Government of Canada to provide services to applicants around the world.

- Biometrics:
 - are the measurement of unique physical characteristics
 - for Canadian immigration programs, biometrics include fingerprints and a photograph of the face

- Exemptions to biometrics expansion include:
 - Canadian citizens, citizenship applicants (including passport applicants), or existing permanent residents
 - children under the age of 14
 - applicants over the age of 79 (there is no upper age exemption for asylum claimants)
 - visa-exempt nationals coming to Canada as tourists who hold a valid electronic travel authorization;
 - heads of state and heads of government
 - cabinet ministers and accredited diplomats of other countries and the United Nations, coming to Canada on official business
 - U.S. visa holders transiting through Canada
 - refugee claimants or protected persons who have already provided biometrics and are applying for a study or work permit
 - temporary resident applicants who have already provided biometrics in support of a permanent resident application that is still in progress.

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