

For Immediate Release
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ERNIE EVES GOVERNMENT RELEASES FINAL REPORT ON SECURITIES LAW REVIEW

TORONTO – The Ernie Eves government today announced the release of the *Five Year Review Committee Final Report – Reviewing the Securities Act (Ontario)*. The committee which examined securities legislation in Ontario and the Ontario Securities Commission (“OSC”) was chaired by Mr. Purdy Crawford, Q.C..

“I am very pleased with the committee’s work,” said Ontario Finance Minister Janet Ecker. “Up-to-date securities laws play a critical role in making sure we have fair and efficient capital markets. Our government is committed to maintaining timely and effective securities laws in order to protect investors and create further growth and new jobs. The committee also advocates moving toward national securities regulation, a position that the government of Ontario strongly supports.”

The Eves government has already acted to improve securities legislation in the province based on recommendations contained in the committee’s interim report. The final report supports each of the steps that have been taken:

- Increased court fines and prison terms for general offences, new powers for the OSC to impose fines for securities violations and to order offenders to disgorge their ill-gotten gains, and, new rule making powers for the OSC to make corporate executives accountable for the financial statements and internal controls of their companies and to ensure that audit committees of public companies play appropriate role in ensuring the integrity of those financial statements;
- Proposals in this spring’s Budget legislation, *The Right Choices Act* which would allow broader rights for secondary market investors to sue companies that make misleading or untrue statements or fail to give full and timely information; and
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the OSC and the Ministry of Finance has been executed as suggested in the committee’s final report.

The report will be tabled in the Legislature as required by the *Securities Act*. Given the importance of protecting investors and maintaining efficient markets, the government will strike a select committee of the Legislative Assembly to review the report, consult with the public and the financial community, and report back to the government this fall. Based on the feedback the government is prepared to introduce further legislation by the end of the year.

“I want to thank the committee for its hard work in reviewing Ontario’s securities legislation,” said Ecker. “Their recommendations will help us move forward in our continuing efforts to protect Ontario investors and protect the integrity of our markets. Feedback on the final report will be important in terms of developing draft legislation for further consultation.”

Ontario's *Securities Act*, as amended in 1994 and effective in 1995, requires that an advisory committee be appointed to review Ontario's securities laws every five years. This is the first five-year review.

Electronic copies of the Five Year Review Committee Final Report are available on the Ministry of Finance Web site at <http://www.gov.on.ca/FIN/english/enghome.htm> or on the Ontario Securities Commission Web site at <http://www.osc.gov.on.ca/en/regulation.html>. Printed copies are available from Publications Ontario.

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