



Ontario Auto Insurance Reform

Frequently Asked Questions



What is changing on July 1, 2026?

You will have more choice in your auto insurance coverage.

- Certain coverages will remain mandatory (medical, rehabilitation, and attendant care benefits).
- Several other coverages will become optional (e.g., income replacement, funeral benefits, etc.).

→ **In short: You will be able to tailor your coverage to your personal needs.**

Will I still be covered after an accident?

Yes—essential coverage will still apply.

- Standard medical, rehabilitation, and attendant care benefits will remain included for everyone.
- Other coverages will depend on the optional benefits you choose.

Why are some coverages becoming optional?

To avoid paying for coverages you may already have elsewhere.

Examples:

- Workplace benefits plans
- Private health insurance
- Life and health insurance coverage

→ **You can choose the coverage you actually need.**

Will this reduce my premium?

Possibly.

- Less coverage = potentially lower premium.
- More coverage = broader protection, but slightly higher premium.

Which coverages are becoming optional?

For example:

- Income replacement
- Non-earner benefits (students/unemployed persons)
- Caregiver benefits
- Housekeeping and home maintenance
- Funeral benefits
- Death benefits

Who is covered under these optional benefits?

Starting July 1, 2026, only:

- The named insured
- The spouse of the named insured
- Dependants of the named insured and of the named insured's spouse
- Persons specified in the policy as drivers of the automobile

→ **Important: Passengers are not automatically covered for optional benefits.**

Will my current policy automatically change?

No, but...

- Your policy will renew with the same coverage and limits.
- You may modify your coverage at renewal or at any time afterward.

→ **Tip: Before removing coverage, verify whether you already have similar protection through your workplace or private benefit plan.**

Can I change my coverage later?

Yes.

- If your situation changes (new job, children, caregiving responsibilities, etc.).
- However, only the coverage in place at the time of the accident will apply to a claim.

How can I make the right choice?

- Review your current auto insurance policy.
- Review your workplace or private benefit plans.
- Think about your personal situation and needs.
- Review the **New Optional Accident Benefits: How to Choose?** guide.
- Speak with your broker, agent, or insurer.

If I already have an ongoing claim, will I be affected?

No.

- The coverage that was in place at the time of the accident will continue to apply.

Who pays first if I am injured in an accident?

Starting in 2026:

- Your auto insurer will pay first for medical or rehabilitation benefits (except medication costs).

What if I rent a vehicle?

You may still be covered, but:

- Always review both your auto insurance policy and the rental agreement.

What if I am a passenger, pedestrian, or cyclist?

Good news:

- Standard accident benefits will still apply.
- However, optional benefits may not apply unless you are included in one of the covered groups under the policy.

I do not live in Ontario, but I have an Ontario auto insurance policy. Does this affect me?

Yes.

- Your Ontario auto policy follows Ontario rules.
- Therefore, these changes still apply to you.
- This applies regardless of where you live.

→ **Important:**

- **Your protection will depend on the optional benefits selected under your Ontario policy.**
- **It is even more important to carefully review your coverage if you live outside Ontario.**

Do these changes apply to commercial automobile policies?

Yes.

The reforms apply to **all Ontario automobile policies**, including:

- Personal automobile policies
- Commercial automobile policies
- Motorcycle policies
- Snowmobile policies
- ATV policies

I regularly drive a company vehicle (e.g., as part of a commercial fleet). Should I purchase optional accident benefits?

Possibly.

If you regularly drive a company vehicle:

- Your employer is **not required** to purchase optional accident benefits under a commercial automobile policy.
- You may wish to consider purchasing optional accident benefits under your own personal automobile policy for additional protection.

As an employer, I have a commercial auto policy. If I choose not to purchase optional accident benefits, should I notify my employees?

Yes, it is recommended.

If your employees regularly drive company vehicles:

- You are **not required** to purchase optional accident benefits under your commercial automobile policy.
- However, employees may assume these benefits are included when they are not.

→ **Tip: If you decide not to purchase optional accident benefits, consider informing employees who regularly drive company vehicles. This will allow them to discuss with their broker whether they should purchase optional accident benefits under their own personal automobile policy to obtain additional protection.**

Key Takeaway: You Are Now in Control of Your Coverage

- ✓ More flexibility
- ✓ More responsibility
- ✓ More important than ever to make informed choices

Need Help?

Speak with your broker—we are here to help you make the right choice.

Disclaimer

The descriptions of the statutory accident benefits in this document are only a summary of the statutory accident benefits set out in *Ontario Regulation 34/10: Statutory Accident Benefits Schedule* (the SABS). Do not rely solely on this summary. For full details, please refer to the SABS or speak with your Broker and/or Advisor.