



IMPORTANT CHANGES COMING TO ONTARIO AUTO INSURANCE BENEFITS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
FOR JULY 1, 2026

We want to ensure you understand the significant changes to Ontario's auto insurance system that may affect your access to crucial benefits after a car accident.

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WHAT IS HAPPENING?

On July 1, 2026, Ontario is making major changes to the Statutory Accident Benefits Schedule (SABS) – the no-fault benefits you receive through your auto insurance after a car accident.

Many benefits that are currently included automatically in every policy will become optional. This means you will need to actively choose and pay for these protections, or you may not have them when you need them most.

This will not affect any benefits being received as a result of an accident that happened before July 1, 2026.

WHAT BENEFITS WILL REMAIN AUTOMATIC?

Only three types of benefits will remain mandatory in auto policies purchased after July 1, 2026:

- Medical benefits;
- Rehabilitation benefits; and,
- Attendant care benefits.

These will continue to be included in every Ontario auto insurance policy without any action required from you.

WHAT BENEFITS ARE BECOMING OPTIONAL?

The following benefits will no longer be automatically included in a new policy unless you specifically purchase them:

- **Income Replacement Benefits**
 - Up to \$1000 per week if you cannot work
- **Non-Earner Benefits**
 - \$185 per week for those without employment income
- **Caregiver Benefits**
 - Up to \$250 per week if you can no longer care for your dependants
- **Housekeeping and Home Maintenance**
 - Up to \$100 per week for household help
- **Death and Funeral Benefits**
 - Ranging from \$6,000 to \$25,000
- **Lost Educational Expenses**
 - Up to \$15,000 for tuition, books, room and board, etc.
- **Visitor Expenses and Damaged Personal Items**

WHY DOES THIS MATTER TO YOU?

If you are injured in a motor vehicle accident and your policy does not include these optional benefits, you will have no automatic right to income support, caregiver assistance, or housekeeping help while you recover. While these reforms may slightly reduce insurance premiums, they also increase the risk of being underinsured after a serious accident.

WHO IS MOST AFFECTED?

These changes are particularly important for:

- Anyone who relies on their income to support themselves or their family;
- Self-employed individuals without workplace disability coverage;
- Adult children or family members who are not listed drivers on a policy;
- Pedestrians and cyclists, who may have limited access to benefits under the new rules; and,
- Passengers who do not have their own auto insurance policy.

Under the new rules, optional benefits will only be available to the named insured on the policy, their spouse and dependants, and drivers listed on the policy.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

Before your next policy renewal, we strongly encourage you to:

1. Review your auto insurance carefully to understand which benefits you have and which you do not – consider contacting your insurance broker to review your coverage with you
2. Consider purchasing optional coverage — the cost is often modest compared to the protection it provides
3. Do not opt out of benefits simply to save money on premiums without fully understanding the risks – always ask questions before removing or declining benefits

YOUR CURRENT CLAIM WILL NOT BE AFFECTED

Open accident benefit claims from an accident that occurred before July 1, 2026, will not be affected. The new rules do not take away benefits you have already qualified and paid for.

The key date is when your policy is issued or renewed:

- If your current policy renews after July 1, 2026, your current benefits will continue automatically unless you provide written instructions to remove them, though you may see your premium adjusted for those benefits now considered “optional.” You will not lose coverage simply because the law has changed;
- If you purchase a new policy after July 1, 2026, only the mandatory minimum benefits will be included by default. You must select and purchase any optional benefits you want.

ONE POSITIVE CHANGE

Auto insurers will become the “first payer” for medical, rehabilitation, and attendant care benefits. This means you will no longer need to exhaust your workplace or private health benefits first.



QUESTIONS? WE CAN HELP

If you have any questions about how these changes may affect your current claim or your future protection, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Our firm continues to monitor these changes closely and is available to help you understand your rights and options.



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