



Damien A. Côté  
CHIEF COMMISSIONER | COMMISSAIRE EN CHEF

**BY EMAIL**

April 30, 2026

To: All Rate-Regulated Gas Distributors  
All Licensed Electricity Distributors  
All Licensed Transmitters  
All Licensed Gas Marketers  
All Licensed Electricity Retailers  
All Licensed Unit Sub-Meter Providers  
Independent Electricity System Operator  
Ontario Power Generation  
All Other Interested Parties

**Re: Chief Commissioner Year-End Update, Fiscal 2025/2026**

Following the conclusion of our fiscal year and the issuance of our twice-yearly Adjudicative Dashboard, I am pleased to share this update with our stakeholder community. This letter complements the recent communication from Carolyn Calwell, Chief Executive Officer of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), and provides updates on significant adjudication activities.

---

### ***Adjudicative Dashboard & Analysis***

The OEB issued its fiscal 2025/2026 year-end [Adjudicative Reporting Dashboard](#) on April 16, 2026. The Dashboard provides the metrics and targets we set to measure the efficiency of adjudication.



2300 Yonge Street, 27<sup>th</sup> floor, P.O. Box 2319, Toronto, ON, M4P 1E4  
2300, rue Yonge, 27<sup>e</sup> étage, C.P. 2319, Toronto (Ontario) M4P 1E4

T 416-481-1967 1-888-632-6273  
F 416-440-7656 **OEB.ca**

## Summary of Total Cycle Time and Decision Writing Time Metrics

Metric	Target	FY2025/26 Year-End Actual	FY2024/25 Year-End Actual
<b>No. of Decisions Issued</b>	--	272	299
By panels of Commissioners	--	67	73
By Delegated Authority	--	205	226
<b>% Decisions issued within Total Cycle Time</b>	<b>90%</b>	95%	98%
By panels of Commissioners	85%	85%	90%
By Delegated Authority	95%	98%	100%
<b>% Decisions issued within Decision Writing Time</b>	--	--	--
By panels of Commissioners	--	88%	95%
By Delegated Authority	--	94%	N/A

Over the course of the year, the OEB issued 272 decisions. Consistent with historical trends, 75 per cent of all decisions were issued more than 14 days in advance of target metric dates. The most common case where metrics were not met related to natural gas Municipal Franchise Agreement renewal applications. On March 26, 2026, the OEB initiated a Generic Review of the Model Franchise Agreement for Natural Gas.

### **Adjudicative Guidance**

In my [fall 2025 letter](#), I observed that dependable adjudication is more readily achieved when a regulated sector understands clearly what is expected of it. I noted my intention to refine and improve the OEB's adjudicative guidance to help maximize clarity and efficiency, and minimize redundancy.

Over the past six months, we advanced the OEB's Regulatory Guidance Project, building on previous OEB policy and adjudicative reviews. A consolidated inventory of all existing guidance has been compiled, and the work continues to streamline guidance, reduce unnecessary duplication, improve accessibility and establish transparent review cycles. This work will also allow us to demonstrate progress in respect of the Minister's December 2025 Letter of Direction regarding red tape reduction.

In December 2025, Bill 40, *Protect Ontario by Securing Affordable Energy for Generations Act, 2025*, was enacted. Among other things, this new legislation requires the OEB to regulate the electricity sector in a manner that supports economic growth.



The OEB now considers economic growth within the context of adjudication alongside the other objectives in the *Ontario Energy Board Act* related to the electricity sector. Namely, those include the protection of consumers, promotion of economic efficiency and cost effectiveness in the electricity system, as well as conservation and facilitation of innovation. I am confident that this balance across all objectives of the *Ontario Energy Board Act* is one that our Commissioners and staff with delegated authority can responsibly achieve, as they diligently serve the people of Ontario.

### ***Adjudication: Transparency & Efficiency***

Moving forward from my mid-year update, we continued to advance the 10-Point Action Plan as described in our [September 2024 Report back to the Minister on Intervenors and Regulatory Efficiency](#), which emphasizes regulatory efficiency to enable growth as a priority for the OEB. All deliverables in the Plan are due to be completed by the end of this calendar year with the aim of enhancing efficiency and clarity within the OEB's adjudicative processes.

In December, the OEB began posting its [Forecast of Major Applications](#) to the case schedule section of its website. This document shows certain major applications expected to be decided by Commissioners on a rolling 12-month basis, updated quarterly. While we have maintained a forecast internally for several years, it is now available for stakeholders and the public, with the goal of advancing transparency, certainty and, ultimately, trust in the sector.

### ***Transitions***

In recent months, the terms for some Commissioners have come to an end. I would like to thank the following: Commissioners Pankaj Sardana and Anthony Zlahtic, who were both appointed in 2020, and Commissioner Fred Cass, who was appointed in 2023. Collectively, these three individuals brought decades worth of experience and deep sector knowledge to their positions. I am grateful to each for their collegiality and service to Ontarians over many years. James Sidlofsky, who has 25 years of legal experience in Ontario's energy sector, including nine at the OEB, was appointed to the role of full-time Commissioner in March. I welcome James' arrival on our team and look forward to announcing a renewed slate of Commissioners in the coming months.

In January, the OEB announced expanded membership for the third term of the Adjudicative Modernization Committee. This announcement followed the conclusion of the second term at the end of 2025. With a wider cross-section of stakeholders than in previous terms, this expansion reflects the OEB's emphasis on diverse perspectives,



particularly as adjudicative processes intersect with energy system transformations, the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples, and affordability considerations.

---

Looking back on my first full year as Chief Commissioner at the OEB, I would like to thank my colleagues – Commissioners and staff – for their support, expertise and service to Ontarians. Collectively, they are instrumental in the continued efficiency, timeliness and dependability of the hearing and determination of matters at the OEB.

I am also appreciative of our stakeholder community, with whom we work to support our shared objectives of delivering affordable, reliable, secure and clean energy that enables economic growth throughout Ontario. Feedback from the sector, including proposals for how to further improve our adjudicative processes, is always welcome. Please feel free to contact me through the Registrar's Office at any time.

Sincerely,

Damien A. Côté  
Chief Commissioner, Ontario Energy Board

