

**GOVERNMENT-TO-BUSINESS SERVICES**

Businesses in Ontario now have easier access to the programs and services they need to gain a competitive edge.

On October 30, 2009, Ontario launched its newly enhanced **Ontario Business Program Guide**. The one-window-access online tool has been fully updated and made easier to navigate. The online guide lists and provides links to the 55 programs and services available to businesses in Ontario to help them leverage funds and expertise, and better manage their operations.

As of November 1, 2009, all ministries must post to the **Regulatory Registry** all proposed regulations that may impact on businesses. The Registry is a one-stop website that makes it easy for businesses to find out about Ontario's regulatory proposals and allows owners and operators to provide meaningful input to help shape those regulations.

Starting January 2010, Ontario is also implementing Twice Annual Effective Dates – this means regulations affecting business will only come into effect twice a year on January 1st and July 1st starting in 2010. Introducing regulations on only two days per year will help business plan ahead and encourage greater compliance through increased awareness of regulatory requirements.

These measures, a direct response to business requests for greater transparency and certainty, are part of Ontario's **Open for Business** initiative which aims to create faster and smarter government-to-business services and regulations that make Ontario more attractive to business development, while protecting the public interest.