

2026 Auto Insurance Reform: What Ontario Drivers Need to Know

Starting July 1, 2026, [Ontario is making changes to auto insurance](#) with the goal of making it more flexible. Some accident benefits that were previously included in every auto insurance policy will become optional, giving you more choice to select coverage that fits your needs.

What's staying the same?

Standard medical, rehabilitation and attendant care benefits will continue to be included in all auto insurance policies. These benefits help cover essential recovery support after an accident.

You still have the option to purchase additional or increased benefits and coverages, such as supplementary medical, rehabilitation and attendant care, dependent care and indexation benefits.

What are statutory accident benefits?

Statutory accident benefits (SABs) can provide financial support if you are injured in a car accident. These benefits can be available regardless of who caused the accident and can cover things like medical treatment, rehabilitation and income if you can't work because of your injuries.

Prior to July 1, standard accident benefits included coverage for caregiver, housekeeping and home maintenance for catastrophic injuries only. There was also the option to extend these coverages to non-catastrophic injuries for an additional charge.

As of July 1, the standard accident benefits coverage changes from catastrophic only to 'an impairment' which includes both catastrophic and non-catastrophic impairment. If you wish to change your current coverage choices upon renewal, please reach out to us.

Who is covered under statutory accident benefits?

Starting July 1, 2026, the newly optional benefits under your auto policy will only apply to:

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

The descriptions of the statutory accident benefits in this document is a summary of the statutory accident benefits in Ontario Regulation 34/10 (the "SABS"). Do not rely on this summary alone. For full details, refer to the SABS or speak with your insurer, agent, or broker.

This means that some people, such as pedestrians, cyclists and certain passengers who may have been covered in the past may no longer be eligible for accident benefits.

Optional Benefits You Can Choose to Add

The following auto insurance accident benefits will become optional. You can choose to remove or add these to your policy, for yourself or other covered persons, depending on your needs.

Optional benefit	What it covers
Income replacement	Helps replace income you or another covered person may lose because of an auto accident.
Non-earner	If you or another covered person is a student or unemployed and an auto accident keeps you from leading a normal life, this benefit can provide financial support while you recover.
Caregiver benefits	Helps cover caregiving expenses if you or another covered person is injured in an auto accident and can no longer provide care for a household member – such as a child or aging parent – who needs it.
Lost educational expenses	If an auto accident keeps you or another covered person from attending school or an education program, this benefit can help cover the costs you have lost.
Expenses of visitors	Helps cover reasonable and necessary expenses of visitors, such as a sibling or parents, if you or another covered person is injured in an auto accident.
Housekeeping and home maintenance	Helps cover costs if you or another covered person is unable to perform the housekeeping and home maintenance tasks normally done before an auto accident.
Damage to personal items	Helps cover the cost to repair or replace personal items (e.g., clothing, prescription eyewear, hearing aids, etc.) damaged in an auto accident.
Death benefits	Compensates some family members if you or another covered person dies due to an auto accident.
Funeral benefits	Helps cover some funeral costs if you or another covered person die due to an auto accident.

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Supplementary medical, rehabilitation and attendant care benefits	Helps cover expenses for medical benefits beyond the standard limits.
Dependant care benefits	Helps cover reasonable and necessary additional expenses associated with caring for dependants such as a child, spouse or aging parent.
Indexation benefits	Helps to ensure certain weekly benefit payments and monetary limits are adjusted annually to reflect changes in the cost of living.

What steps should I take?

1. Review your current coverage. Know what benefits you already have today through your auto insurance policy.
2. Review your workplace or private benefits plan. You may already have some coverage through your workplace, private benefits plan or life and health insurance providers.
3. Think about your needs. Consider which coverage is right for you.
4. Speak to your insurer or broker. They can help explain your options.

Make informed decisions and choose the benefits that best fit your needs and budget.

Need help?

Speak to one of our specialists by calling NFP at 1.844.811.1118.