The Ontario Government has committed to addressing the contraband problem in the province, most recently in their Fall Economic Statement. The upcoming 2019 budget promises to provide significantly more detail to that effect.

The National Coalition Against Contraband Tobacco presents their checklist for future legislation. Checking all these boxes will ensure that Ontario is best prepared to curb the presence of the black market; protecting our communities and saving the province money in the process.

7-Step Legislative Checklist to Effectively Combat Contraband Tobacco in Ontario

☐ 1. Make use of our Police Services
   Allow all Ontario police services to conduct full contraband tobacco investigations rather than limiting that capability to Ministry of Finance officials and the RCMP

☐ 2. Replenish the Provincial Coffers
   The harder we make it for the black market to operate, the more money that will come back into the province through legal taxation.

☐ 3. Provide Enough Resources
   Ensure the Contraband Tobacco Enforcement team is adequately staffed for the issue at hand. Compared to the efforts of other provinces, Ontario would require a team of at least 60 officials.

☐ 4. Protect our Communities
   Black markets fuel the gangs that put our communities in danger. We need to protect our families.

☐ 5. Incentivize Local Police
   Fund ongoing contraband tobacco investigations by local and regional police services, allocating the necessary resources to crack down on contraband.

☐ 6. Stop the Problem from Spreading
   Ontario is the hotbed for contraband tobacco across Canada. It’s important to stop it at the source.

☐ 7. Halt the Market Sway to the Black Market
   Demand shifts to the black market when the price of legal tobacco goes up; halt further tax increases until the problem is under control.

www.stopcontrabandtobacco.ca