

# Backgrounder Document d'information



Ministry of Community Safety  
and Correctional Services

Ministère de la Sécurité communautaire  
et des Services correctionnels

## PRIVATE SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES ACT, 2005

### Licensing

The new Private Security and Investigative Services Act, 2005, was proclaimed on August 23, 2007, and is now law. The purpose of this new act is to strengthen the professional requirements for security guards and private investigators and to enhance public safety. The new act significantly changes the way the private security industry operates in Ontario.

Individual licensing is one area that has been changed under the new act. Licensing for all individual security guards and private investigators is now mandatory. Previous exemptions for in-house security personnel have been removed. Individuals are also now responsible for obtaining their own licences as well as renewing them on an annual basis. This means that security guards and private investigators can now change employers and/or obtain additional employment in this field without having to be re-licensed. **All individual and business licences issued prior to August 23, 2007, remain valid until expiry.**

**To ensure licences are issued on time, in-house security personnel are requested to apply before August 23, 2008.**

To be eligible to apply for a licence, a person must meet these mandatory minimum requirements:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be eligible to work in Canada
- Have no convictions of a prescribed offence for which a pardon has not been granted as defined by the regulation

In the future, applicants will also need to successfully complete all prescribed training and testing. The prescribed training and testing requirements are currently under development by the ministry.

For more information or to obtain a licence application, contact:

The Private Security and Investigative Services Branch  
777 Bay Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Toronto Ontario  
M5G 2C8

telephone (Toronto area): 416-212-1650  
toll free: 1-866-767-7454  
fax: 416-326-0034

[www.ontario.ca/private-security](http://www.ontario.ca/private-security)

To view the act and/or its regulations in their entirety, visit:

[www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca).