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# Government targets red tape as regulatory review gets underway

*Edmonton*... A comprehensive regulatory review to identify and remove unneeded provincial regulations has begun, as outlined in this week's Speech from the Throne.

"We want to promote a streamlined regulatory environment to enhance business competition and to ensure regulations are not a burden on people doing business or living in Alberta," says Luke Ouellette, Minister of Restructuring and Government Efficiency. "We're evaluating how we can make rules work better for Albertans."

Earlier this month, for example, government revised regulations that will see health inspectors ease up on food preparation requirements for community organization functions.

"There is a place for rules, but this is exactly the type of burden we hope to address," says Ouellette. "Meanwhile, government will continue to ensure that personal safety, public health and our environment remain protected."

Chairing the MLA steering committee for regulatory reform is Ted Morton, MLA for Foothills-Rocky View, who also serves on the secretariat responsible for reviewing new regulations. Lloyd Snelgrove, MLA for Vermilion-Lloydminster, and Ron Liepert, MLA for Calgary-West are the other two members of the MLA steering committee. Over the coming months, the committee will determine specific sectors or industries that should take priority for regulation review and report their findings to Ouellette.

"It's important we go through this process in an orderly fashion and deal with realistic time frames," says Morton. "This government definitely has the drive to make it happen, and Premier Klein is an avid supporter – so we're certainly off to a great start. I expect to see solid gains by this time next year."

Opportunities for stakeholder and public input will also be made available.

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*Stupid Rules.* Restructuring minister **Luke Ouellette** is moving to reform the province's regulatory structure. He appointed Conservative MLA **Ted Morton** to head a committee, that includes colleagues **Ron Liepert** and **Lloyd Snelgrove,** to scale back provincial regulation.

"We are trying to improve the province's record of getting rid of unnecessary regulations," **Morton** said in an interview. "In my opinion the process is inadequate and we are trying to upgrade it. We are going to put in place new targets, limits on regulations and new procedures that would allow unhappy citizens—citizens who are unhappy with so-called "stupid rules"—a process by which to bring those to our attention."