

FY2027 Proposed Annual Business Plan

Addendum

On June 26, 2026, Ontario Racing delivered to OLG the revised FY2027 Proposed Annual Business Plan for review and approval. OLG formally approved the ABP on July 2, 2026. At the time of approval, certain components of the Annual Business Plan required under Schedule 5.1(a) of the LTFA, including the Operational Objectives/Goals, remained outstanding pending the implementation of the Fifth Amendment to the LTFA.

Pursuant to Section 5.3(a) of the LTFA, Ontario Racing may submit revisions to an approved ABP. Following the execution of the Fifth Amendment, updates to the FY2027 ABP were required to reflect the new funding.

This addendum includes the updated version of the Operational Objectives/Goals and should be read together with the approved FY2027 Business Plan.

1. Amendments to page 10 – Section 3. Racetrack Specific Goals and Objectives

Section 3. Racetrack Specific Goals and Objectives in the FY2027 Annual Business Plan is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the text below.

3. Racetrack Specific Goals and Objectives

Racetracks provided FY2026 inputs such as highlights and carryover (where applicable), before projecting FY2027 assumptions, objectives, and goals, along with operational challenges and risks.

The information supplied will aid Ontario Racing in aligning projects, initiatives, and industry support.



Labour: Having the necessary staff to execute desired programs in addition to the turnover of key personnel and the need to get more young people involved in the industry. Staffing is a particular problem for tracks that only operate one or two days a week. Additionally, racetracks are having trouble finding official veterinarians essential to conducting live racing.



Horse Supply: The North America-wide issue of horse supply prevents Ontario racetracks from maximizing wagering due to smaller-than-optimal fields. Though, horse supply has improved, slightly, for Ontario tracks due to the consolidation caused by Hard Rock's decision to cease live racing at

Rideau Carleton Raceway



Aging Demographic of Guests: Race fans who have supported the industry for years are getting older and may be resistant to technological change. Additionally, racetracks collectively desire to attract a younger demographic to their respective facilities.



Inflation: The costs of acquiring goods and services continue to escalate, negatively impacting the industry at every level. Inflation also impacts the wage potential employees seek, further compounding the labour issue. The good news is that additional funding of \$35 million annually will help mitigate some of the inflationary pressures.



Online Gaming: The advent of regulated online casinos and sports wagering in Ontario has had a direct negative impact on the overall handle of racetracks across the province.

The business plan initiatives of the racetracks for the 2026 racing season are noted in detail in Appendix G. These initiatives are specific to each racetrack and the operations of their specific facilities. Ontario Racing has reviewed these goals and objectives and will work with the racetracks to support them.

A summary of the racetrack goals and objectives can be found below.

3.1 Standardbred Racetracks

Ontario is home to 11 Standardbred tracks, subdivided into three different categories: Grassroots, Signature and Premier.

While all Standardbred racetracks face similar problems, such as issues with horse supply, common issues were identified within the Grassroots and Signature tiers of racing.

3.1.1 Grassroots Racetracks

There are six Grassroots racetracks in Ontario: Clinton Raceway, Dresden Raceway, Hanover Raceway, Hiawatha Horse Park, Kawartha Downs and Leamington Raceway.

Special event days and races are among the most successful strategies to bring in crowds and drive wagering at Grassroots racetracks. Events such as Wiener Dog race days and charity events attracted the largest crowds.

All six Grassroots racetracks expressed issues relating to labour heading into FY2027, with many citing the fact that they operate a limited number of days on weekends in the summer as a contributing factor to the difficulty they face attracting workers. Grassroots tracks also said it is a challenge to attract and retain an official veterinarian.

3.1.2 Signature Racetracks

Ontario has four Signature Standardbred racetracks: Flamboro Downs, Georgian Downs, Grand River Raceway, and The Raceway at Western Fair District.

On April 2, 2026, Hard Rock Ottawa announced it will no longer host live horse racing at Rideau Carleton Raceway. Early indications are that many Ottawa-area horses have relocated to other tracks in Ontario, helping field size at those tracks. However, the long-term impacts of the end of racing at Rideau Carleton are yet to be known. It was the province's eastern-most track and Ottawa is an important wagering hub. Another unknown is whether there will be continued racing activity from participants based outside of Ontario who competed at the Ottawa site.

To assist horsepeople affected by this closure, a Relocation Support Program has been established to provide financial assistance to horsepeople who continue to remain active and racing at any of Ontario's 11 Standardbred racetracks. Program details and financial support package, both approved by OLG on May 9, 2026, are available on the [Ontario Racing website](#).

Signature tracks play host to major race days and drive higher handle than their Grassroots counterparts, with many Signature tracks producing large-scale industry and community events. However, they still face many of the same systemic issues impacting the sport, such as a shrinking horse supply, a smaller and aging customer base, and less overall handle as a result.

3.1.3 Premier Racetracks

Woodbine Mohawk Park, operated by WEG, is Ontario's only Premier Standardbred racetrack. It has the largest number of races and drives the most wagering.

While some challenges are unique, Woodbine Mohawk Park also shares key issues with Signature and Grassroots racetracks, including labour, horse supply, inflation and the Canadian dollar.

As the leading horse racing operator in the country, WEG has stated objectives and goals to try to develop wagering products and technologies that help bolster the overall health of the industry, aiding all tracks in the province.

3.2 Thoroughbred Racetracks

There are two Thoroughbred racetracks in Ontario, one Signature track (Fort Erie Race Track) and one Premier track (Woodbine Racetrack).

Fort Erie Race Track has an optimistic outlook on where they are heading into FY2027, bolstered by a relatively strong showing during FY2026. They plan on increasing attendance and maximizing wagering by staging as many special events as possible and looking to add

at least two weekends and a holiday Monday race date to accomplish this goal. A 15% purse increase that came from the additional \$35 million in funding has been positively received.

Woodbine Racetrack is the most recognizable racetrack in Canada, and the wagering product generates most of the handle generated from Ontario live racing. Woodbine continually invests in its racetrack infrastructure and in FY2027 it will finalize a revitalization of the EP Taylor turf track that began in FY2026.

As the leading horse racing industry player in both the province and the country, WEG has stated objectives and goals to try to develop wagering products and technologies that help bolster the overall health of the industry, aiding all tracks in the province.

3.3 Quarter Horse Racetracks

Ajax Downs is the only dedicated racetrack for Quarter Horse racing in Ontario.

While wagering and horse supply numbers were down compared to previous years, Ajax Downs continues to successfully expand its offerings and engage the community. Its simulcast lounge is particularly successful.

The track does an excellent job working with the horse person's association to maximize opportunities for participation and continues to evaluate all aspects of the race day experience, including VIP bookings and limited Sunday racing.