

# MEINETNEWS

The right plan for a better Ontario

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## New Power Plant for Southwestern GTA



Work is underway to ensure the thriving southwestern GTA region has an electricity supply it can rely on today and into the future. Ontario's system planners have identified the need for approximately 850 megawatts of additional generation in the southwestern GTA.

[\[Read the full story.\]](#)

## North Responds Positively to Plan



After releasing a discussion paper in the spring, the ministries of Northern Development and Mines and Energy and Infrastructure continued work over the summer toward a Growth Plan for Northern Ontario. The growth plan—the second to be developed under the Places to Grow Act, 2005—will help direct provincial policies and investments in the North

over the next 25 to 30 years to support sustainable economic and population growth throughout the region.

[\[Read the full story.\]](#)

## Ontario Wins Award

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Ontario's commitment to energy conservation has received top marks and a special award from a national non-profit group that promotes energy efficiency.

The Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance (CEEAA) gave Ontario an "A" on its latest report card, which grades provinces and the federal government on energy conservation action. The A grade is just the latest in a string of improved scores for Ontario, up

from a C-minus just four years ago.

[\[Read the full story.\]](#)

## Expanded Access to OSIFA Loans



On June 23, Infrastructure Ontario began accepting loan applications from Local Services Boards (LSBs) and non-profit professional arts training institutions in the latest expansion to the OSIFA loan program. The next program expansion which would open the program to providers of social and affordable housing is expected to be launched later this year.

[\[Read the full story.\]](#)

## IO Projects Update



The folks at Infrastructure Ontario (IO) had a busy summer, with a large number of major construction projects under way and Requests for Proposals being released for more projects over the next several years. Highlights on the progress made over the past few months are provided below.

[\[Read the full story.\]](#)



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## Competitive bids sought for new power plant to serve southwestern Greater Toronto Area (GTA)



Work is underway to ensure the thriving southwestern GTA region has an electricity supply it can rely on today and into the future.

Ontario's system planners have identified the need for approximately 850 megawatts of additional generation in the southwestern GTA.

In August, [Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, George Smitherman](#), directed the province's energy planner, the [Ontario Power Authority](#), to seek competitive bids for a contract to build about 850

megawatts of combined-cycle natural gas-fired electricity to serve the southwestern GTA.

"The twin pillars of our government's energy plan are increasing energy conservation and adding new supplies of cleaner, greener sources of energy, such as wind, solar and biomass," Smitherman said.

"At the same time, we are also investing in carefully considered, clean natural gas plants, which provide power where it is needed and make Ontario's grid more efficient and reliable."

[Mississauga](#) is one of Canada's fastest growing urban centres, and home to more than 18,000 businesses, including 50 of Canada's Fortune 500 offices. Nearby, in [Oakville](#), there are more than 260 corporate headquarters, ranging from technology to tourism.

Because of this area's rapid growth, the province has made some of its largest public infrastructure investments in the southwestern part of the GTA, such as the Trillium hospital sites in Etobicoke and Mississauga, and the expansion of the Credit Valley Hospital, all currently under construction.

Rapid growth in the southwestern GTA is also driving up the demand for electricity at more than twice the average rate for Ontario. And power generation in the GTA has declined, due to the shutdown of

the Lakeview Generating Station in 2005 as part of the Ontario government's commitment to eliminate dirty coal-fired electricity generation.

Today, key local transformers are operating at close to their capacity in the southwestern GTA and the ability of the existing infrastructure to service this area is expected to fall short by 2015, or sooner.

Steps are being taken to ensure the region will have a reliable supply to meet its needs – steps that support Ontario's overall energy goals, including moving to a cleaner, greener electricity system to fight climate change.

The first step is energy conservation – the cornerstone of Ontario's long-term energy plan. As part of a broader 1,100-megawatt GTA-wide initiative, energy planners are working to find 500 megawatts of conservation in the southwestern GTA by 2014.

The second step is replacing coal-fired generation with cleaner sources of electricity, like natural gas. Natural gas plants reduce Ontario's carbon footprint by producing less than half the greenhouse gases, less than one-third of the nitrogen oxides and about one per cent of the sulphur dioxide of an average coal-fired plant. Gas-fired generation also supports Ontario's commitment to incorporate more renewable energy into the province's supply mix because of its ability to respond quickly when more variable sources like wind power aren't available.

Local gas-fired power plants are being built across the GTA, including in Toronto, Mississauga, Halton Hills, Brampton and Northern York Region.

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## Northern residents respond positively to growth plan development



After releasing a discussion paper in the spring, the ministries of Northern Development and Mines and Energy and Infrastructure continued work over the summer toward a [Growth Plan for Northern Ontario](#). The growth plan—the second to be developed under the [Places to Grow Act, 2005](#)—will help direct provincial policies and investments in the North over the next 25 to 30 years to support sustainable economic and population growth throughout the region.

The paper, [Towards a Growth Plan for Northern Ontario](#), builds on a number of past consultations, reports and studies done by northern municipal, business and industry groups, provides a profile of the Northern Ontario economy and puts together key recommendations made by a broad range of northern stakeholders. These recommendations are summarized under seven key themes—such as growing the North's existing and emerging economic sectors, fostering research, innovation and commercialization, education and training, retaining and attracting people and jobs, supporting business development and investing in entrepreneurship and infrastructure.

These themes were discussed in greater detail at thirteen sessions across the north and with three more sessions left to be completed.

The discussion sessions were held in several urban centres, including Thunder Bay, North Bay, Timmins, Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie, and in several smaller communities, including Kapuskasing, Wawa, Fort Frances, Dryden, Marathon and Temiskaming Shores. Over 400 people participated in the discussion sessions or provided their comments online.

The sessions' participants felt the G-North—a special committee of Cabinet ministers created to get the entire government involved in the northern growth plan's development—and the legislative backing behind the development of the growth plan were key elements to the plan's success.

Strong support was also voiced for the overall approach to developing the Plan and there was broad agreement on the need for: an overall vision for Northern Ontario, the involvement of Aboriginal peoples in the planning process, and for a long-term, strategic plan that has clear benchmarks for measuring and tracking progress.

Another key area of agreement was the North's tremendous diversity. Session participants pointed out that Northern Ontario is a large and highly complex region, with important geographic, cultural and economic differences from community to community.

Feedback on what key priorities should be when developing the growth plan include: building an educated, skilled workforce in the North, focussing policies and actions to Northern Ontario's true competitive edge, creating connectivity and access to attract businesses and people, developing short-, medium- and long-term action, engaging and building partnerships with Aboriginal peoples, establishing reliable, affordable energy as a base for economic growth, and preparing the region's investment to ensure that local communities remain sustainable.

For more information on the development of a growth plan for Northern Ontario, visit [www.placestogrow.ca](http://www.placestogrow.ca).

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## Ontario wins energy conservation award



Ontario's commitment to energy conservation has received top marks and a special award from a national non-profit group that promotes energy efficiency.

The [Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance](#) (CEEA) gave Ontario an "A" on its latest report card, which grades provinces and the federal government on energy conservation action. The A grade is just the latest in a string of improved scores for Ontario, up from a C-minus just four years ago.

The CEEA noted that from all the provinces, Ontario had made the greatest improvement in conservation over the

past four years. The group recognized those efforts with a special award on August 12, accepted by Tony Rockingham and Jordan Penic on behalf of Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure George Smitherman.

Every two years, the CEEA completes a National Energy Efficiency Report Card that rates 14 Canadian jurisdictions on a total of nine parameters — including how each jurisdiction supports activities such as energy efficiency and public outreach, the existence of public/private partnerships to support energy efficiency and how each jurisdiction is responding to energy efficiency issues in key legislation and regulations, such as building codes and energy efficiency statutes. The CEEA also looks at the extent to which each government leads by example, and how they regulate the energy market.

Through initiatives of the Ontario Power Authority, local utilities, and government programs, Ontario is planning investments of more than \$1 billion over the next three years to promote greater energy efficiency. At the same time, the province is modifying codes and standards to improve the energy efficiency of new buildings and new consumer products such as furnaces, air conditioners, refrigerators and light bulbs.

The policies and programs that merited the CEEA award are being delivered by a number of Ontario

ministries, including Energy and Infrastructure, Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Transportation.

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## LSBs and Arts Training Institutions get access to OSIFA financing



On June 23, [Infrastructure Ontario](#) began accepting loan applications from Local Services Boards (LSBs) and non-profit professional arts training institutions in the latest expansion to the OSIFA loan program.

The next program expansion which would open the program to providers of social and affordable housing is expected to be launched later this year. Consultations are currently under way with the housing sector to determine how the OSIFA Loan Program can best address their needs and objectives.

“This latest expansion supports a number of our government’s priorities, including building healthy and vibrant communities and ensuring every Ontarian has the opportunity to succeed,” said George Smitherman, Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure. “It provides an affordable financial option to diverse groups such as those involved

in dance, music, media and film as well as organizations providing municipal-level services such as water, street lighting and library services.”

Infrastructure Ontario’s OSIFA Loan Program is an alternative financing initiative that aims to help public sector clients renew infrastructure and deliver value to their customers and residents. With more than 170 public sector clients, IO has approved over \$2-billion in loans, of which more than \$1.7-billion in funds has been advanced.

Infrastructure Ontario’s mandate is to renew infrastructure and to increase the quality of life for people throughout Ontario, and the government recognizes that housing providers, Local Services Boards and arts training institutes can face financial obstacles. Providing them with access to the OSIFA Loan Program helps mitigate these funding challenges by offering these stakeholders affordable, long-term financing solutions.

For more information about the OSIFA Loan Program and its affordable loan rates, terms and options,

please visit the Infrastructure Ontario Web site under Loans and Services, or call Infrastructure Ontario's Information Hotline toll-free at 1-800-230-0937.

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## Infrastructure Ontario Projects Progressing Well



The folks at Infrastructure Ontario (IO) had a busy summer, with a large number of major construction projects under way and Requests for Proposals being released for more projects over the next several years. Highlights on the progress made over the past few months are provided below. Please visit the [IO website](#) for more details on any of these projects.

### **London Health Sciences Centre/St. Joseph's Health Care, London (Phase 2)**

In June, Infrastructure Ontario, London Health Sciences Centre and St. Joseph's Health Care, London, along with EllisDon Corporation, announced the financial close for the two redevelopment projects. Completing all contractual steps is a green light for construction to begin.

### **Bridgepoint Health**

Plans to build a new Toronto hospital for people living with complex chronic disease and disability took another step forward in July, when Bridgepoint Health and Infrastructure Ontario released a request for proposals (RFP) to design, build, finance and maintain the new Bridgepoint Hospital, which will replace the existing facility.

Three teams have been short-listed to bid for the design, construction, financing and long-term maintenance of the new Bridgepoint Hospital: **Access Bridgepoint Health, Carillion Canada Inc.** and **Plenary Group (Canada) Ltd.**

### **Niagara Health System**

In August, The Niagara Health System (NHS) and Infrastructure Ontario began negotiations with Plenary Health, the team selected as the preferred proponent to design, build, finance and maintain a new health care complex in St. Catharines. The 375-bed acute care community hospital will be located at First Street and Fourth Avenue in the western part of St. Catharines. Plenary Health is a consortium of companies that include Plenary Group, PCL Constructors, Bregman + Hamann Architects, Silver Thomas International Architects, Johnson Controls and Deutsche Bank.

## **Quinte Health Care Belleville General**

On June 6, hospital officials, construction workers and community leaders gathered to celebrate the completion of the steel structure and tour the construction site at Quinte Health Care Belleville General's new Sills Wing.

## **Waterloo Region Consolidated Courthouse**

Plans to build the new Waterloo Region Consolidated Courthouse reached a significant milestone in June with the release of a request for qualifications (RFQ) to design, build, finance and maintain the facility. The RFQ is the first step in the process to select a consortium to design, build, finance and maintain the new courthouse.

## **Royal Victoria Hospital**

In June, the redevelopment of the Barrie-based Royal Victoria Hospital reached another key milestone with the release of a request for proposals (RFP) to build and finance the hospital's Phase I Expansion project, which involves the addition of the Simcoe-Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre. The release of the RFP is one of the last stages in the procurement process, bringing the start of the hospital's expansion a significant step closer.

## **The Credit Valley Hospital**

In June, Harinder Takhar, Minister of Small Business and Consumer Services and MPP for Mississauga-Erindale, joined hospital officials, staff, community members and health care partners to celebrate the official start of construction on The Credit Valley Hospital's expansion and redevelopment project.

Mississauga-Streetsville MPP Bob Delaney, Mississauga South MPP Charles Sousa, Mississauga East-Cooksville MPP Peter Fonseca, and Mississauga-Brampton South MPP Amrit Mangat also took part in the event.

## **Kingston General Hospital**

In July, PCL Constructors Canada Inc. was selected to build and finance Kingston General Hospital's redevelopment project. The work includes 170,000 square feet of new construction and renovations to the existing 143,000-square-foot facility. The project will enable the hospital to provide new beds for in-patient mental health, in-patient pediatrics and medical surgical beds, more intensive care facilities, an expanded cancer centre and a new 40-station kidney dialysis unit.

## **Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)**

In late June, a request for qualifications (RFQ) was released for the design, construction, financing and long-term maintenance of the new Phase 1B facility at CAMH. CAMH's Phase 1B project includes more than 440,000 square feet of construction at its 27-acre site on Queen Street West in Toronto.

The existing administrative building will be demolished to make way for three new buildings that will help to fully integrate CAMH's addiction program and increase staff collaboration. The project will continue the transformation of 1001 Queen Street West from an institutional campus to a community setting for client care.

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