

Today's News - Friday, July 21, 2017

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2017 11:21:22 -0400

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Ontario is moving forward with a plan to create more opportunity and security for workers. This includes hiking the minimum wage, ensuring part-time workers are paid the same hourly wage as full-time workers, introducing paid sick days for every worker, enabling at least three weeks' vacation after five years with the same employer and stepping up enforcement of employment laws. Today the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs is completing its public hearings on the proposed Bill 148, also known as the [Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017](#). The committee travelled to 10 communities across the province over two weeks and heard approximately 190 presentations from members of the public, businesses, labour organizations and advocacy groups. The committee will review all feedback received and the province will continue to consult with workers and businesses throughout the fall, as the bill moves through the legislative process, to ensure proposed changes give people the opportunity to succeed and get ahead. Protecting workers and supporting business is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

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Also today:

- **Ontario is transforming how people get around the Greater Toronto Area with the completion of the Dufferin Street Bridge widening project, a milestone in the GO Regional Express Rail (RER) program. Passing over Queen Street West, the Dufferin Street Bridge has been widened to accommodate the additional track needed to increase service levels between Toronto and Barrie on the Barrie GO corridor. Ontario is also partnering with the City of Toronto to extend the West Toronto Railpath multi-use trail. The trail will run along the existing rail corridor, connecting cyclists and pedestrians from Dupont Street to just east of Dufferin Street. It will also connect to the future Pessoa Park at the corner of Dufferin and Peel Streets that the City of Toronto is building. Increasing transit options across Ontario is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.**

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- **Summer is here, and for some people in Ontario that means road trips and exploring the outdoors with family and friends – including furry companions. If your pet is travelling with you in your car, keep their needs in mind as you plan your trip. Do not leave pets unattended in your vehicle. The temperature inside your vehicle will quickly become much hotter than the temperature outside, and it can be fatal. It When traveling with your pet ensure that your pet is properly secured in your vehicle at all times, have fresh water available in the car for your pet, and take frequent breaks so both you and your pet have an opportunity to stretch your legs. If you come across an unattended vehicle with an animal inside that appears to be in distress, act quickly and [report it to the OSPCA](#) at 310-SPCA (7722). You can also contact your local police service, your local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, or your local Humane Society.**

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Our government's plan to build a stronger, healthier Ontario includes historic new investments in health care, including free medications for everyone 24 and under who has OHIP coverage through the OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare Program, providing free average tuition to over 210,000 students starting fall 2017 and on-the-job learning opportunities to help land a great job, helping 100,000 more kids aged 0–4 access quality, licensed child care, making everyday life more affordable by reducing electricity costs by 25 per cent on average through our Fair Hydro Plan, and taking action to make housing more affordable for homebuyers and renters through our Fair Housing Plan.