

Today's News - Friday, July 7, 2017

From: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
To: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
Date: Fri, 07 Jul 2017 11:04:50 -0400

Today's News Friday, July 7, 2017

The province is seeking a partner for Ontario Place's West Island as it moves ahead on transforming the site into a vibrant, year-round waterfront destination. The search is on for an anchor partner that will help realize the province's vision for the West Island of Ontario Place as a hub for culture, discovery and innovation. Any proposal must protect and enhance public access to the waterfront and visitors' ability to enjoy this unique public asset, including retaining the Cinesphere and pods. Residential or gaming uses will not be permitted. Finding a partner for the West Island is the next phase in transforming Ontario Place into a year-round waterfront destination. The first phase, the Trillium Park and William G. Davis Trail, was completed in June 2017 as part of Ontario's 150th anniversary celebrations. While this process is underway, Ontario is upgrading the Cinesphere to show IMAX movies, creating event spaces out of two existing pods and animating the West Island for various events. Transforming Ontario Place into an innovative and exciting public space is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

[Share on Facebook](#)

[Share on Twitter](#)

Also today:

- **With forest fire season well underway in Ontario, the province has increased the maximum fines for individuals and corporations for starting forest fires. If found responsible, individuals can now be fined up to \$25,000 for starting a forest fire, with fines for corporations that start a forest fire going up to \$500,000. These increased maximum fines will help deter human-started fires. Approximately half of all forest fires are started by people. Forest fires can cause considerable risk to public safety, can cause expensive property damage and have broader impacts on communities and regional industry. These fines only apply to forest fires inside the [Fire Region](#).**

[Share on Facebook](#)

[Share on Twitter](#)

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 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.