

# Today's News - Friday, June 16, 2017

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## Today's News Friday, June 16, 2017

Ontario is taking action to improve working conditions and job security for people in Hamilton with a plan for Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs. Premier Kathleen Wynne was at The Mustard Seed in Hamilton today to talk about how the proposed Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act would increase fairness and help workers and families across Ontario share in the province's economic growth. The plan includes raising the minimum wage to \$14 per hour on January 1, 2018, and \$15 per hour on January 1, 2019, followed by annual increases at the rate of inflation. It would also ensure that part-time workers are paid the same hourly wage as full-time workers for doing the same job, make employee scheduling fairer and expand personal emergency leave so all employees receive at least 10 days per year, including two days of paid leave. Over the past three years, Ontario's economy has outperformed all G7 countries in real GDP growth, and employment is up by 86,000 net new jobs over the past 12 months. Still, many workers are struggling to support their families on part-time, contract or minimum-wage work. To protect workers and ensure they are treated fairly, the government is updating labour and employment laws to address the changing nature of work. Creating fair workplaces and better jobs across Ontario is part of our plan to grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

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### Also today:

- Ontario is providing more free skills training for adults to help equip people with essential literacy, math, and digital skills and prepare them for the changing economy. Deb Matthews, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, was at the Laubach Literacy Ontario and Ontario Native Literacy Coalition conference in London to announce this historic new investment. Ontario is providing free reading, writing, math and digital skills training to an additional 80,000 adult learners across Ontario over four years. This new investment will help more people get the training and skills they need to pursue employment and educational goals in a changing economy. Ensuring adult learners have the skills to succeed is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

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- Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs Marie-France Lalonde and Attorney General Yasir Naqvi were in Ottawa today to announce that Ontario is partnering with the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law to improve access to justice in French by establishing the province's first continuing professional development centre for francophone legal professionals. The praticuO pilot project will help francophone and Francophile justice professionals in Ontario meet the Law Society of Upper Canada requirement to complete 12 hours of professional development every year, and help non-jurists upgrade their legal skills in French. The pilot will run from June 2017 to August 2018. Improving access to justice for francophones and supporting professional development for francophone legal professionals is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

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- The governments of Canada and Ontario are making significant investments in early learning and child care systems so that each and every child has the opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential. Today, Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and Indira Naidoo-Harris, Minister of the Status of Women and Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care reached a bilateral agreement that reaffirms their commitment to children's development and future well-being, and supports the unique early learning and child care needs of Ontario. The three-year bilateral agreement will allocate \$435 million for Ontario investments towards increasing access and affordability to high-quality licensed child care and early learning opportunities. The agreement will also build on Ontario's commitment to help 100,000 more children, aged 0-4, access quality licensed child care over the next five years, and other work to support affordability for families through increased subsidies and community-based funding. Annual public reporting will allow Canadians to track progress. The bilateral agreement will help ensure that Ontario's children get the best start in life and is supported by long-term Government of Canada investments announced in Budgets 2016 and 2017 totalling \$7.5 billion over 11 years.

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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.**