

Today's News - Friday, June 2, 2017

From: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
To: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
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Ontario has introduced legislation that will require employers to pay the same wage to part-time employees who do the same job as full-time employees, as part of the government's plan for Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs across the province. Premier Kathleen Wynne was at Innovative Automation in Barrie today to talk about the [Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act](#), introduced yesterday. Under the Act, casual, part-time, temporary and seasonal employees would be entitled to be paid the same rate as full-time permanent employees when doing the same job. The proposed measures would also require equal pay for temporary help agency employees doing the same job as permanent employees at the company they are assigned to. Unemployment is at a 16-year low in Ontario, and the province's economy has outperformed all G7 countries in real GDP growth over the past three years. Yet the changing nature of work means jobs are less secure, benefits are not the same as they used to be and many employees are struggling to support their families and get ahead. About two-thirds of part-time employees in Ontario are women, so the legislation's equal pay for equal work provisions also support [the government's efforts to close the gender wage gap](#). Ontario is committed to moving forward in a balanced way. Government will work closely with businesses as these changes come into effect, so they can continue to succeed and keep the economy strong. Providing wage parity will help businesses drive up productivity and retain talent, and will boost the economy by increasing workers' purchasing power. **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:

- Steven Del Duca, Ontario Minister of Transportation was joined by Ahmed Hussen, Canadian Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship and Toronto mayor John Tory to reaffirm the commitment the governments of Ontario and Canada have made to address overcrowding and congestion in Toronto's public transit system. Ontario is providing over \$150 million to advance planning and design work for the relief line as part of the Moving Ontario Forward plan. Through the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund, the Government of Canada will be providing more than \$27 million to support the planning and preliminary design of a relief line, while the City of Toronto has spent \$4 million to date on the relief line planning work, and will also be contributing more than \$27 million to the next phase of planning and design work for this important project. This project will advance the planning and design of the Toronto City Council-approved alignment for the relief line from Pape Avenue and Danforth Avenue to Downtown via Queen Street East. This line will improve travel through Toronto, getting people where they need to go quickly and on time. **Improving public transit for commuters and families is part of Ontario's plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.**

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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 through OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare, providing free tuition to over 210,000 students and on-the-job learning opportunities to help land a great job, helping 100,000 kids access quality, licensed child care, making everyday life more affordable by reducing electricity costs by 25 per cent on average through our proposed Fair Hydro Plan, and taking action to make housing more affordable for homebuyers and renters through our Fair Housing Plan.