Today's News - Friday, September 16, 2016

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Ontario introduced new legislation yesterday that would, if passed, reduce electricity costs for about five million residential consumers, small businesses and farms. The province is also pursuing amendments to provide additional savings opportunities to more than 1,000 large energy consumers across the province. Premier Kathleen Wynne was in Ottawa today to highlight savings for families and businesses in the Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016. The Premier was joined by Ministers Bob Chiarelli, Yasir Naqvi and Marie-France Lalonde and local MPP John Fraser. The proposed bill would save families, farmers and small businesses eight per cent directly on their electricity bills by providing a permanent on-bill rebate equal to the provincial portion of the HST. Rural consumers would receive an additional benefit from decreased rural delivery charges for eligible customers. Combined with the eight per cent rebate, this would mean average savings of $540 a year or $45 each month for eligible rural customers. Building on existing programs , including the Ontario Electricity Support Program, Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit and the Ontario Sales Tax Credit, these measures would deliver the electricity cost relief Ontarians need, while the government continues to make the critical investments necessary to maintain a modern, clean and reliable energy system. The government is also proposing amendments to expand the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI), empowering more than 1,000 more businesses to shift their consumption away from peak periods. The expanded ICI would include all sectors and have a lower threshold for participation, delivering savings directly to the consumer and the system as a whole .Various MPPs across the province spoke about the new energy legislation in their local communities including in Barrie, Mississauga, Milton, London, Hamilton and Thunder Bay. Helping Ontarians with the cost of living is part of the government's economic plan to build Ontario up and deliver on its number-one priority to grow the economy and create jobs.

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Also today:

- **Ontario will mark next year's 150th anniversary of Confederation with Ontario150, a year-long celebration that will honour the past and help chart a course for the future. The Premier made the announcement today in Ottawa alongside Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Ontario will support hundreds of community-based projects that will leave lasting social and cultural legacies across the province and contribute to economic growth. Funding will include $25 million to renovate, repair and retrofit existing community and cultural infrastructure; $7 million to help communities celebrate this historic year; and $5 million for partnership programs to help foster the next generation of Ontario leaders. Investing in programs and infrastructure for Ontario's 150th anniversary is part of the government's economic plan to build Ontario up and deliver on its number-one priority to grow the economy and create jobs.**

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- **This afternoon in St. Catharines, local MPP Jim Bradley will be at the ground breaking of a major renovation and expansion project at Brock University's Goodman School of Business**

Our government's four-part economic plan to build Ontario up invests in people's talents and skills, including helping people get and create the jobs of the future by expanding access to high-quality college and university education. It includes making the largest infrastructure investment in Ontario's history —$160 billion over 12 years — part of which is our Moving Ontario Forward plan to build roads, transit and infrastructure. Our plan includes fostering a dynamic, supportive environment for business to thrive, including investing in a low-carbon economy driven by innovative, high-growth, export-oriented businesses. And it includes creating a secure retirement pension plan for workers to have the retirement they deserve.