

Today's News - Monday, February 12, 2018

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Premier Kathleen Wynne was at Laurentian University in Sudbury today to kick off a four-day tour of Ontario postsecondary institutions. Students will have the chance to engage with the Premier and share their ideas about how we can create a fairer, better and greener province with more opportunity for everyone. The Premier will highlight Ontario's commitment to ensure that students can go on to postsecondary education based on their ability to learn, not their ability to pay. The province is acting now to make life more affordable for students by:

- [Providing free tuition](#) to over 225,000 students this year and making it easier to apply to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)
- [Raising the minimum wage](#) to \$15 so working students can better afford the costs of going to school
- [Providing free prescription medications](#) through OHIP+ for everyone under the age of 25
- [Protecting student renters](#) against unfair rent increases and evictions through the Fair Housing Plan
- [Providing free and low-cost online textbooks](#).

The Premier will also talk with students, faculty and staff about a range of issues at postsecondary campuses in Sudbury, Kingston, Cambridge, Windsor and throughout Toronto and the surrounding area. This will include engaging with students on how Ontario can lead the way in the fight against climate change and highlighting the province's actions — such as helping campuses retrofit their facilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the Greenhouse Gas Campus Retrofit Program. Ontario's colleges and universities play a crucial role in ensuring the province's greatest competitive advantage — its people — continue to be among the most highly educated anywhere in the world.

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Also Today:

- Ontario is reducing greenhouse gas pollution and supporting student achievement by investing in energy improvements at college and university campuses across the province. This investment is part of Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan and is funded by proceeds from the province's cap on pollution and carbon market. Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, was joined by Chris Ballard, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, at the University of Guelph-Humber in Toronto today to announce funding for publicly-assisted colleges and universities to improve the energy efficiency of their campuses, including funding for:
 - o Installing energy-efficient windows and high-efficiency boiler replacements
 - o Larger retrofits, upgrades and new construction for projects that achieve significant emissions reductions and/or demonstrate innovative approaches to increase campus sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas pollution
 - o Projects that reduce energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and operating costs through interest-free loans

Ontario's carbon market proceeds are required by law to be invested in programs that help households, businesses and public institutions reduce greenhouse gas pollution.

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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 and making it more affordable for families, 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.