

Today's News - Monday, January 15, 2018

From: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
To: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
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Ontario is supporting families in communities across the province, with new schools, additions and renovations that will create better, modern learning environments and more licensed child care spaces. Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education, and Indira Naidoo-Harris, Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care, were joined by Laura Albanese, MPP for York South-Weston, at Dennis Avenue Community School in Toronto today to announce funding for 39 brand new schools and 40 major renovations and additions in communities across Ontario. These projects will also include a total of 157 new child care rooms with more than 2,700 licensed child care spaces for children aged 0-4, helping more families access safe and affordable child care closer to home.

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Also Today:

- Ontario is enhancing workplace enforcement, penalties and education to ensure all new worker rights under its plan for Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs are followed. This plan includes raising the minimum wage, ensuring part-time workers are paid the same hourly wage as full-time workers, introducing paid sick days for every worker, and providing at least three weeks' vacation after five years with the same employer. To ensure enforcement of enhanced worker rights, Ontario is:
 - o Hiring up to 175 additional employment standards officers to enforce employment standards
 - o Launching a program to educate both businesses and employees about their rights and obligations under Ontario's employment standards laws
 - o Increasing penalties issued by employment standards officers to non-compliant employers: \$350 (previously \$250), \$700 (previously \$500) and \$1,500 (previously \$1,000)
 - o Introducing new ways to ensure enforcement of penalties against employers who refuse to pay employees, including the ability to issue warrants and register liens on personal property
 - o Publishing names of employers that don't meet employment standards, including a date and description of the contravention and the penalty

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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.