

Today's News - Monday, July 17, 2017

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Premier Kathleen Wynne is in Edmonton to attend the Council of the Federation (COF) along with other provincial and territorial leaders. Meetings begin today with National Indigenous Organizations (NIO) leaders and continue through July 19th. Retweet the Premier [here](#).
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Also today:

- Ontario is providing Bluewater Health with a grant to plan for a new facility that would provide faster and closer access to mental health and addictions services for people in Sarnia-Lambton and the surrounding area. The province's investment will support Bluewater Health in finalizing plans to build a new facility for its Integrated Withdrawal Management program, which would provide:
 - An accessible community addictions hub for clients and families seeking information, assessments, withdrawal management services and treatments
 - A 24-bed residential withdrawal management services program with three levels of care — observation, treatment and stabilization
 - An Addictions Therapist for therapeutic interventions
 - Dedicated space for community partners to offer additional services to clients.Ontario is increasing access to care, reducing wait times, and improving the patient experience through its [Patients First Action Plan for Health Care](#) and [OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare](#) – protecting health care today and into the future.

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- School may be out, but summer is still a great time for learning and boosting your brain fitness. Building brain health is important for people of all ages. According to the [Alzheimer Society of Ontario](#), keeping an active mind can help reduce the risk of dementia. Here are ideas to help people of all ages keep their brains engaged this summer:
 - Get creative — Whether it's painting, pottery or carpentry, making something helps to build cognitive and motor skills by interpreting instructions, making decisions and mastering tools
 - Hold a music night — Learning to play a musical instrument helps people of all ages build memory and spatial awareness
 - Include theatre, museums and galleries in your [summer plans](#)
 - Relax with puzzles, brain-teasers, chess, card games or a good bookGet [outside and play](#) — Physical activity is important at every age, but for older adults in particular, it can reduce risks associated with dementia. Plus, exercise will help you sleep well, which also contributes to brain health.

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- Ontario is investing in a new stormwater project in Sault Ste. Marie to safeguard

the health and well-being of residents, protect waterways and preserve local ecosystems. Ontario is providing up to 25 per cent of funding for this project—over \$1 million. The federal government is providing up to 50 per cent of funding—over \$2.1 million, and the City of Sault Ste. Marie will provide the balance of funding. This investment will improve **stormwater** management which will reduce the risk of flooding and better protect the property of local residents. This investment is part of [an agreement between Canada and Ontario](#) for the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund.

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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.