

Today's News - Monday, June 5, 2017

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Date: Mon, 05 Jun 2017 13:46:44 -0400

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Today, Premier Kathleen Wynne delivered a speech at the 10th Annual Southeastern United States – Canadian Provinces Alliance (SEUS-CP) Conference to discuss Ontario's work in enhancing trade partnerships, encouraging business alliances and staying at the forefront of technology and innovation. The conference is being hosted by Ontario between June 4 and 6. Please read the Premier's remarks [here](#).

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Also today:

- Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education, was at the Economic Club to talk about investments that Ontario is making in financial literacy and on-the-job learning. Starting in September, more than 50,000 students will be enrolled in almost 1,900 [Specialist High Skills Majors \(SHSM\)](#) programs that allow them to focus on a career path that matches their skills and interests, while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Students can choose from 19 different sectors, including environment, health and wellness, and transportation. Over the next three years Ontario will introduce 17,000 more Grade 11 and 12 students to career options through the expansion of the SHSM program. As part of the 2017 budget, Ontario will invest nearly \$190 million over three years to create 40,000 real world learning opportunities for students and recent graduates through the [Career Kick-Start Strategy](#). Opening doors to new careers is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

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- Ontario is taking action to break down employment barriers for people with disabilities by launching a new strategy to connect more people with disabilities to rewarding jobs and more employers to new talent. Tracy MacCharles, Minister Responsible for Accessibility, along with Deb Matthews, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, and Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services, were in Toronto to make the announcement. [Access Talent: Ontario's Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities](#) will:
 - Support the development of students and young people with the launch of a new pilot through the Ontario Disability Support Program to provide individualized and coordinated services and supports.
 - Engage employers as partners and champions through an online platform that will connect businesses, people with disabilities, and the public to share advice and lessons learned.
 - Streamline employment and training services to better meet the needs of job seekers and employers through the introduction of a new Supported Employment program at Employment Ontario.
 - Establish the government as an accessibility leader by raising awareness and changing

attitudes through public education.

Increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities and connecting businesses to new talent are part of our 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.