

Today's News - Monday, May 29, 2017

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Date: Mon, 29 May 2017 11:10:03 -0400

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Jeff Leal, Minister Responsible for Small Business and Brad Duguid, Minister of Economic Development and Growth were at Galleria Supermarket in Toronto today to announce that the province is reducing the regulatory fee required to sell beer, cider and wine by \$2,000 per year. This is a first step in Ontario's plan to reduce fees and other costs for small- and medium-sized businesses. To help small businesses grow and to cut red tape, Ontario will be proposing new legislation this fall. These proposed changes would support Ontario's five-year, \$650-million Business Growth Initiative.

Ontario is also helping grow small business in the province by launching a program that offers training, mentoring and grant opportunities for entrepreneurs to start, expand or buy a small business. Starter Company Plus provides Ontario's entrepreneurs aged 18 and older with comprehensive and targeted services including:

- One-on-one guidance from a Small Business Enterprise Centre advisor
- Access to business workshops and networking events on topics from creating a business plan and budgeting to executing a marketing campaign
- Training and business skills development
- A grant up to \$5,000 to kick off a new business or expand an existing business

Helping new businesses succeed is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

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Also today:

- Attorney General, Yasir Naqvi was in Ottawa this morning to announce that Ontario is taking steps to help protect women who are seeking reproductive health care. In fall 2017, the province plans to introduce a bill that would, if passed, create "safe access zones" at specified health care facilities that offer women's reproductive services. The zones would help ensure the safety and privacy of women, visitors and health care workers travelling to and from these facilities. Over the coming months, Ontario will consult with health care, legal and advocacy groups to develop details of the new law.

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- Minister of Transportation Steven Del Duca and Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport Eleanor McMahon were in Toronto today, Bike to Work Day, to launch the new Ontario Municipal

Commuter Cycling Program (OMCC). The province is investing \$50 million dollars this year from its carbon market to fund initiatives that support commuter cycling across the province. It will provide eligible municipalities with funding to build more bike lanes and other cycling infrastructure, or enhance existing infrastructure. This investment will help promote safety for cyclists and make cycling more comfortable and appealing for daily commutes and other frequent trips. The province has also created a cycling web-hub that will help people in Ontario find cycling information quickly and conveniently through a single portal. Making it safer and easier to cycle in Ontario is 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.