

Today's News - Monday, September 25, 2017

From: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
To: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
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Ontario is making it easier for people to ride their bikes to their favourite local tourism and cultural attractions with new funding for bike parking and storage. 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. Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport Eleanor McMahon was at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto today to launch the new program, which will help people stay active, choose clean transportation and discover Ontario's tourism and cultural attractions. The funding will support bike parking options like rings and racks, as well as indoor lockers and bike storage rooms. It also supports the goals of [Tour by Bike](#), the province's first cycling tourism plan.

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Also Today:

- Dipika Damerla, Minister of Seniors Affairs, was at Habitat for Humanity's build site on Pinery Trail in Scarborough to announce that the province is once again accepting applications for innovative projects that help seniors live active and healthy lives through the Community Grant Program. Habitat for Humanity received a Seniors Community Grant of \$8,000 earlier this year to help expand its volunteer program and get 50 seniors in the Kingston region involved in helping to build affordable housing in the community. Now in its fifth year, the program has supported more than 1,300 local projects, helping approximately 435,000 seniors across the province. This year, organizations can apply for up to \$100,000 for projects that are larger in scope, leverage partnerships and have the potential to benefit more seniors over time.

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- Marie-France Lalonde, Minister of Francophone Affairs, released the following statement today: "As a Franco-Ontarian and, for the first time, as Minister of Francophone Affairs, I am especially pleased and proud to celebrate the eighth annual Franco-Ontarian Day. Francophones are an integral part of our province's history and they epitomize the richness and vitality of our society. As we commemorate the 150th anniversary of Ontario and Canada, this year's Franco-Ontarian Day has taken on a special significance for all francophones across the province. Our government continues to reinforce its commitment to the preservation and advancement of the francophone community in Ontario."

This has been demonstrated through the province's membership in the International Organisation of la Francophonie, the creation of Ontario's first Ministry of Francophone Affairs and the province's proposal to establish a French-language university governed by, and for, francophones. Ontario is vibrant, diverse and open to the world, thanks in no small part to its francophone community and I invite people across the province to take this day to celebrate our francophone culture and heritage."

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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 proposed Fair Hydro Plan, and taking action to make housing more affordable for homebuyers and renters through our Fair Housing Plan.