

Today's News - Thursday, November 2, 2017

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Date: Thu, 02 Nov 2017 13:22:22 -0400

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Today Premier Kathleen Wynne met with nearly 70 businesses and academic leaders from across the province who will join her third [business mission](#) to China and the first-ever Ontario Premier-led mission to Vietnam later this month. The Ontario delegation will accompany the Premier in Nanjing, Shenzhen and Chongqing in China, as well as Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi in Vietnam. This year's delegates represent a wide range of sectors, including medical technologies, science and technology, and agri-food. They will meet with Chinese and Vietnamese businesses to forge partnerships and sign agreements that will expand their businesses, drive innovation, and create jobs and economic growth in Ontario. As part of Ontario's strategy to grow and diversify international trade, this mission will open doors for Ontario businesses looking to expand internationally, equipping them with the tools they need to thrive in the global economy, deepen their trade relationships and continue to contribute to our province's culture of innovation.

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Also Today:

- Marie-France Lalonde, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, and Attorney General Yasir Naqvi announced that the government will introduce the Safer Ontario Act, 2017. The bill is a comprehensive community safety legislative package that, if passed, would represent the largest policing and public safety transformation in a generation. The proposed measures would modernize our approach to community safety, and improve police oversight and accountability. They respond to the needs and realities of Ontario's diverse communities and would mandate local community safety and well-being planning. The goal is to build a province where all residents feel protected and safe in their homes and communities.

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- **Ontario has passed legislation to make it easier for businesses to grow and create more jobs. The Cutting Unnecessary Red Tape Act, 2017 will reduce regulatory burdens and practices that cost businesses time and money, while protecting environmental and health standards and ensuring worker safety. The changes to cut red tape and help small businesses grow include:**
 - o **Reducing regulatory costs:** Requiring all ministries to offset every dollar of new administrative costs to business by removing \$1.25 of old and unnecessary costs, while protecting environmental, health and worker safety standards.
 - o **Streamlining compliance for small business:** Ensuring that undue burdens aren't placed on small businesses when new or amended regulations are introduced, while maintaining robust environmental, health and safety requirements and other public interest protections.
 - o **International or national standards alignment:** Increasing harmonization with other jurisdictions and adopting international or national standards, where appropriate, when developing or reviewing regulations.
 - o **Rewarding good actors:** Recognizing businesses with good compliance records and

lowering their costs by reducing requirements, without compromising the environment health and safety, and other protections.

- o **Electronic transmission guarantee:** Providing businesses the option to electronically submit any required documentation to the Government of Ontario instead of more costly paper submissions.
- o **Reducing fees and other costs:** Reviewing licence and registration fees paid with a goal of providing relief to small- and medium-sized businesses.

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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.