

Today's News - Thursday, November 9, 2017

From: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
To: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
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Premier Kathleen Wynne was at Henry of Pelham Family Estate Winery today in Pelham in Niagara Region, as Bell announced a new partnership with Ontario-based BeWhere, an Internet of Things (IoT) solutions company, and China-based tech company Huawei, the world's largest telecommunications equipment maker. Together, the companies have developed an environmental monitoring solution to help improve the health and quality of plants at the vineyard. The product will use sensors connected to Bell's LTE-M wireless network to remotely monitor temperature and water levels, automatically adjusting as weather conditions change. The innovative IoT solution will help lower costs, keep more vines alive longer and promote greater sustainability. The collaboration builds on Ontario's reputation for diverse, global business partnerships that fuel growth and innovation and create opportunity here at home. International business missions are a major driver for economic and research partnerships. Premier Wynne met with Huawei representatives during her business missions to China in 2014 and 2015. As a [result of these meetings](#), Huawei committed up to \$303 million for research initiatives in Ontario over five years, creating hundreds of R&D jobs for Ontario's highly skilled workers. Premier Wynne will continue strengthening ties with international partners on her [upcoming business mission](#) to China and Vietnam. The mission will connect more than 100 Ontario companies and institutions with global partners, opening doors to expand their businesses, develop world-leading technology and create good jobs for people in Ontario.

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Also Today:

- Ontario is partnering with small businesses to develop innovative technologies that will help government deliver better services and programs across the province. Through the Small Business Innovation Challenge, companies will be responsible for developing technologies in two areas:
 - o Digital Identity: businesses will develop, test and demonstrate technologies that will allow people to prove their identity when they interact with government services, such as when applying for social assistance or OSAP via a common, secure and user-friendly method.
 - o Vehicle Occupancy Detection: businesses will develop, test and demonstrate technologies that will detect how many people are in vehicles using high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes to ensure that vehicles with more than one occupant are not inadvertently billed or fined.

Experience gained through real-world testing will help these companies be better positioned to market their innovations globally and continue to grow their businesses in the province.

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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.