

Today's News - Tuesday, August 8, 2017

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Ontario is investing in the revitalization of Massey Hall to ensure it continues to engage and entertain people for years to come. Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport and Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance, were joined by JUNO award-winning band July Talk at Massey Hall this morning to make the announcement. Ontario is supporting the restoration the interior and exterior of the historic venue and planning for a future tower connected to the south of the building. The province previously provided support for Massey Hall renovations including the construction of a foundation for the new south tower. Maintaining and restoring historic cultural attractions 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 released the following statement in response to the final report of the Far North Electoral Boundaries Commission:

“I would like to thank the Far North Electoral Boundaries Commission for its work to ensure the voices of people living in Ontario’s north continue to be heard in the provincial legislature. Our government tasked the commissioners with looking at how representation could be improved in our province’s two largest and northernmost ridings: Kenora—Rainy River and Timmins—James Bay. Throughout the spring the commission met with communities across Northern Ontario, including representatives from Indigenous and Francophone communities, in order to gain the local perspectives of people living in the far north. Our government plans to introduce legislation this fall to implement the commission’s recommendation to create two new ridings, called Kiiwetinong and Mushkegowuk. If passed, these reforms would result in a total of four ridings in the area:

- o Kenora—Rainy River, including Dryden, Fort Frances, Kenora and Rainy River
- o Kiiwetinong, including the northern portion of the former riding of Kenora—Rainy River
- o Mushkegowuk, including Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation
- o Timmins, including the City of Timmins.

The commission highlights that Kiiwetinong would be a majority Indigenous riding and that Mushkegowuk would be a majority Francophone riding. Adding two additional ridings in the north will complement changes made in 2015 to increase the number of ridings in heavily populated areas in southern Ontario.”

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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** who has OHIP coverage through the OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare Program, **providing free average tuition** to over 210,000 students starting fall 2017 and on-the-job learning opportunities to help land a great job, helping 100,000 more kids aged 0–4 access quality, licensed child care, **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.