

Today's News - Tuesday, July 11, 2017

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Ontario is continuing to strengthen and support hospitals across the province with repairs and upgrades to 131 hospitals this year. Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, was joined by Ann Hoggarth, MPP for Barrie, today at Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, which will receive over \$2.3 million this year to renew its facilities. Funding from the province allows hospitals to make critical improvements to their facilities, including upgrades or replacements to roofs, windows, heating and air conditioning systems, fire alarms and back-up generators. The 2017 balanced Budget includes a new \$7-billion booster shot to health care, building on the commitment made in the 2016 Budget. Ontario is increasing access to care, reducing wait times and improving the patient experience through its Patients First Action Plan for Health Care and OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare – protecting health care today and into the future.

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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.