

Today's News - Tuesday, June 27, 2017

From: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
To: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
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Premier Kathleen Wynne and Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Kathryn McGarry issued the following statement responding to the announcement of new duties on Canadian softwood lumber exports to the U.S.:

“The Ontario government will continue to stand alongside forestry workers and businesses — and the communities across the province that depend on it. We are frustrated that the U.S. Department of Commerce has decided to impose additional unjustified duties on Ontario’s softwood lumber producers. Ontario and Canadian softwood companies export their products at fair market prices, and these “anti-dumping” duties are protectionism — plain and simple. We know that fair and open trade is the best outcome for people and businesses on both sides of the border. We will continue to fight against this “Buy American” mentality that is driving up the price of lumber across the border and continually pricing middle-class Americans out of home ownership. We are standing with our forestry sector — and the families that depend on it. Working through our Chief Negotiator, Jim Peterson, we will continue to advocate for free and open trade for Ontario's softwood industry. And we will support Ontario forestry businesses by responding to their concerns and vigorously representing their interests in Ottawa and Washington.”

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Also today:

- Ontario is providing more opportunities for newcomers and multicultural communities to succeed, with a new grant program focused on promoting diversity and reducing barriers to inclusion. Laura Albanese, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, was at Frontlines Toronto today to announce that the province is now accepting applications for the new Multicultural Community Capacity Grant Program. The program will support community projects that advance diversity and reduce barriers to inclusion, while providing opportunities for newcomers and ethno-cultural communities to participate fully in the civic, cultural, social and economic life of Ontario. Projects will be selected for their ability to:
 - o Increase intercultural awareness and understanding
 - o Enhance civic engagement and social connections
 - o Improve social and economic integration of newcomers and vulnerable groups such as refugees and newcomer women and youth
 - o Empower women, for example by providing opportunities for leadership roles
 - o Improve access to services for newcomers and diverse communities

Supporting diverse and inclusive communities is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

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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.