

Today's News - Wednesday, February 14, 2018

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People in Scarborough will soon have faster access to emergency care with shorter wait times thanks to the redevelopment and expansion of the emergency department at the Scarborough and Rouge Hospital's Centenary site. Premier Wynne was at the hospital today to announce that the much-needed redevelopment project is moving forward. The project will replace aging infrastructure at the Scarborough and Rouge Hospital's Centenary site with the latest in emergency medicine design and technology, and address overcrowding in the emergency department by expanding the hospital's capacity to treat more patients. The redevelopment is part of the ongoing integration of the Scarborough Hospital, Rouge Valley Health System and Lakeridge Health. Last year, Ontario committed \$5 million toward the planning of future construction projects at Scarborough and Rouge Hospital and Lakeridge Health. This planning funding led to today's announcement that the project to expand the emergency department at the Centenary site is going ahead. This expansion is part of the province's plan to strengthen Ontario's health care system and ensure that health services meet people's needs as communities change. The plan includes an additional \$9 billion commitment to support health care construction projects across the province, bringing the investment in hospital infrastructure to more than \$20 billion over the next 10 years.

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Also Today:

- Ontario is connecting over 250,000 students at approximately 850 schools with high-speed internet, as part of a commitment to improve internet access at all publicly funded schools across the province. Indira Naidoo-Harris, Minister of Education, was joined by Liz Sandals, MPP for Guelph, at Bishop Macdonell Catholic High School in Guelph this morning to announce the next wave of schools in Ontario's broadband modernization program. Improving access to high-speed internet will enable more students and educators to access high-quality online courses and resources regardless of where they attend school, helping students to learn the transferable skills that they need in a globally connected and technology-engaged world. Students can participate in interactive lessons on topics such as coding or math through online learning platforms like [Homework Help](#) and [mPower](#). Educators can also communicate with parents about their child's learning and progress.

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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.