

Today's News - Wednesday, September 13, 2017

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Ontario announced the results of the province's third auction of greenhouse gas emission allowances, held Sept. 6, 2017. A total of 25,296,367 current (2017) allowances were sold at a settlement price of \$18.56 CAD and a total of 3,116,700 future (2020) greenhouse gas emission allowances were sold at a settlement price of \$18.03 CAD. The auction generated an estimated \$525,694,672 in proceeds, which by law will be invested in programs that will reduce greenhouse gas pollution and help families and businesses reduce their own emissions through the [Climate Change Action Plan](#). Proceeds from the province's carbon market auctions are funding programs in 2017-18 that help people and businesses across Ontario reduce pollution, including:

- Up to \$377 million to establish the Green Ontario Fund to [help homeowners and businesses save money and fight climate change](#) through programs and rebates
- Up to \$657 million for repairs and [improvements to social housing](#) apartment buildings over five years, contingent on carbon market proceeds
- Up to \$100 million to [support municipalities in fighting climate change](#) through projects such as renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements
- \$25 million to establish the Low Carbon Innovation Fund to help [create and commercialize new low-carbon technologies](#)
- \$8 million to launch a new pilot program to help [fund the purchase of electric school buses](#) designed to reduce greenhouse gas pollution while giving students a safe, clean transit option to and from school
- Over \$1 million to [improve ecosystem health in urban and rural communities](#) across the province.

These recent investments build upon \$50 million for [cycling upgrades](#), \$200 million for [public school energy improvements](#), \$100 million to [help homeowners make home energy upgrades](#), \$20 million to [install a network of fast-charging electric vehicle stations](#), \$92 million for [social housing upgrades](#), nearly \$100 million to [help businesses adopt low-carbon technology](#), and \$13 million to [support clean economic growth in First Nations communities](#). The auction was administered using services contracted by the [Western Climate Initiative \(WCI\) Inc.](#), with oversight from an independent market monitor to ensure market integrity.

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Also Today

- Ontario is unlocking surplus provincial land to create more than 2,000 new rental housing units in Toronto—part of the Fair Housing Plan that is providing more people with a safe and affordable place to call home. Peter Milczyn, Minister of Housing, was joined by Mayor John Tory in Toronto's West Don Lands today to announce that Ontario is launching the process to secure a developer that will turn several sites into new mixed-income housing. These sites, which are currently owned by the province, are:
 - o A lot in the West Don Lands, south of Front Street, between Trinity and Cherry Streets
 - o A lot in the West Don Lands, east of Cherry Street and north of the rail line
 - o 27 Grosvenor Street and 26 Grenville Street, which is currently a multi-level parking structure and the two-story former Provincial Coroner's Office.The province is leveraging the value of this land to develop new rental and affordable housing units for individuals and families in Toronto as one of 16 comprehensive measures

under the province's new pilot program, [Ontario's Fair Housing Plan](#). This will pave the way for strong neighbourhoods that will feature both market and affordable rental housing, including much-needed family-sized units, with up to 30 per cent of the units earmarked for affordable housing.

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- Premier Kathleen Wynne has announced the province's support through relief efforts for people affected by Hurricane Irma. The impacts of the hurricane are complex and devastating, and as the province recognizes how vital delivering aid is to those affected by natural disasters, the Ontario government is contributing \$150,000 to the Canadian Red Cross to assist people in the Caribbean. Premier Wynne has sent a letter to Florida Governor Rick Scott offering her sympathies and support. The Premier has also informed the Canadian government that the province is ready to assist in a federal response to the disaster. There are many stories that ignite hope in the spirit of millions who are devastated by this storm. We are proud of the employees at Hydro One who are using their skills and equipment to help the millions of Floridians left without power. Ontario is moved to hear of the EMS workers from Niagara who are travelling to St. Martin in order to provide essential medical services. The province is thankful to all Ontarians who have dedicated their assistance during this time of need, and are encourage everyone to make a personal donation the [Canadian Red Cross](#).

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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.