

Today's News - Wednesday, September 20, 2017

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Minister of Transportation Steven Del Duca and Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport Eleanor McMahon, were in Toronto today to introduce new legislation this fall that, if passed, would help protect pedestrians and cyclists and reduce the number of people killed or injured by impaired, distracted and dangerous drivers. The proposed measures include:

- A new offence for careless driving causing death or bodily harm with penalties that include fines, licence suspension and imprisonment
- Tougher penalties for distracted driving, such as using a cellphone while operating a vehicle, including higher fines, more demerit points, and license suspensions
- Increased penalties for drivers who fail to yield for pedestrians and escalating fines for drivers who are convicted of multiple pedestrian-related offences within a five-year window
- Expanding the use of rear flashing blue lights for enforcement and emergency vehicles.

In addition, the province is consulting on the use of cameras on school buses that capture the offence of illegally passing a school bus, so that this evidence can be admitted into court without a witness. These strong measures add to [recently-announced tough new penalties](#) for those who drive under the influence of drugs, including cannabis.

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Also Today:

- Today, the province and Ontario's correctional services staff marked the sixth annual Ceremony of Remembrance honouring those who have fallen in the line of duty while serving in Ontario's correctional services. The ceremony was held on the future site of a Correctional Worker's Monument, near the Queen's Park Legislative Precinct Grounds. The sculpture, entitled *Hours of the Day* signifies the passage of time, capturing the hours that correctional services staff work in the service of others, inside our institutions and within the community, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition, 33 correctional workers were honoured at the 2017 Corrections Awards Ceremony earlier today. The ceremony included a presentation of the first annual Correctional Services Premier's Award, along with Minister's Awards for Bravery, Humanitarian Service and Volunteer Service, the Viola Desmond Deputy Minister's Award for Inclusion, as well as awards for special achievement.

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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 proposed Fair Hydro Plan, and taking action to **make housing more affordable** for homebuyers and renters through our Fair Housing Plan.