

Todays News - Thursday, September 14, 2017

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Today's News Thursday, September 14, 2017

Premier Kathleen Wynne released the following statement after her meeting with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross in Washington, D.C. this morning: "It has never been more important for Ontario to engage in productive dialogue with our neighbours in the U.S. As we approach the third round of NAFTA negotiations, I am pleased to be back in Washington, D.C. This morning, I had a productive meeting with Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. Our conversation focused on the importance of cross-border trade in creating jobs and delivering benefits for workers, businesses and consumers. We spoke about Ontario's forestry and paper sectors and the families in more than 260 communities across our province who depend on it. Secretary Ross and I also discussed the opportunities presented by a renewed NAFTA — one that reflects our fast-paced, innovation-driven global business climate. I also expressed Ontario's confidence in the three countries' ability to reach a deal that will benefit people and businesses across North America. While in Washington, I am also honoured to deliver the 2017–2018 Thomas O. Enders Memorial Lecture at Johns Hopkins University. Over the past few months, I have shared a clear message with our U.S. partners — Ontario and the U.S. have many common goals, and free trade and open borders help us achieve them. I have met or spoken with dozens of governors, senators, members of Congress and members of state assemblies over the past eight months. Every one of them has agreed that North America works best when we work together. Our federal governments are working productively at the negotiating table, but as provinces and states we too have a voice and a key advocacy role to play. I am looking forward to furthering these discussions with more partners in Washington today. As Canada works with the U.S. and Mexico to renegotiate NAFTA, Ontario will continue to engage with partners across North America to advocate for free trade and cross-border partnership. We remain confident that a renewed NAFTA will continue to support good jobs and economic growth here in Ontario and we remain committed to making sure that people and businesses across the province have every possible opportunity to get ahead."

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Also Today:

- **Ontario's non-resident speculation tax (NRST) is helping to address unsustainable demand in the Greater Golden Horseshoe while ensuring Ontario continues to be a place that welcomes all new residents, as new data shows that home purchases by buyers who are not citizens or permanent residents of Canada have decreased. Newly released data from provincially collected tax information shows that individuals who are not citizens or permanent residents of Canada, or foreign corporations, accounted for 3.2 per cent of home purchases across the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region, down from 4.7 per cent since the launch of Ontario's Fair Housing Plan this spring. In Toronto, 5.6 per cent of transactions were made by foreign buyers, down from 7.2 per cent. Individuals who are not citizens or permanent residents of Canada, or foreign corporations, may be subject to the NRST. [Ontario's Fair Housing Plan](#) introduced 16 comprehensive measures to make housing more affordable for homebuyers and renters, while bringing stability to the real estate market and protecting the investment of homeowners.**

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- Following a year of thorough consultation, discussion and collaboration, the [Rowan's Law Advisory Committee](#) report for the prevention and management of concussions in amateur sport was tabled in the Legislature. The report, which will inform Ontario's next steps for concussion safety, focuses on safe participation in sport through surveillance, prevention, detection, management and awareness. Working with sport leaders across Ontario, the province will review and build on the report's recommendations to make our sport system safer for everyone. The province also intends to introduce legislation that, if passed, could govern amateur sport throughout the province, including in schools, communities and recreation areas. Chaired by Dr. Dan Cass, the Rowan's Law Advisory Committee was established to review the jury recommendations made as a result of the coroner's inquest into the tragic death of 17-year-old varsity rugby player Rowan Stringer. The review, which also included a broader study of the concussion landscape, provided advice to the government on how to implement jury recommendations and improve head safety across Ontario's sport system.

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- Ontario introduced legislation today, The Cutting Unnecessary Red Tape Act, 2017, that if passed would have proposed measures to help small businesses grow and cut red tape that include:
 - o Reducing regulatory costs: Requiring all ministries to offset every dollar of new administrative costs to business by removing \$1.25 of old and unnecessary costs.
 - o Streamlining compliance for small business: Ensuring that undue burdens aren't placed on small businesses when new or amended regulations are introduced, while maintaining robust environmental, health and safety requirements and other public interest protections.
 - o International or national standards alignment: Increasing harmonization with other jurisdictions and adopting international or national standards, where appropriate, when developing or reviewing regulations.
 - o Rewarding good actors: Recognizing businesses that have a good compliance record and lowering their costs by reducing requirements, such as the number of inspections, without compromising the environment health and safety, and other protections.
 - o Electronic transmission guarantee: Providing businesses the option to electronically submit any required documentation to the Government of Ontario instead of more costly paper submissions.

Other highlights of the Cutting Unnecessary Red Tape Act, 2017 include providing a faster, more efficient way to get a pesticide licence by moving from a paper-based application to online, implementing a number of recommendations from the Business Law Advisory Council to update and reform Ontario's corporate and commercial law statutes and ensuring businesses have access to the information they need through an online modern business registration system.

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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.

