Today's News - Tuesday, November 14, 2017

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Ontario is moving forward with its plan to create fairness and opportunity for people across the province with the release of the *2017 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fis* Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance, delivered the 2017 Review today in the legislature, outlining new measures to grow the economy and help people thrive in an uncertain global environment. The government will balance the budget this year, as well as the next two years. A balanced budget means more funding for the programs and services people rely on most, such as health care and education. While Ontario's economy has grown faster than Canada's and those of all other G7 nations for the past three years, the government recognizes that the numbers do not tell the whole story. Many people are facing uncertainty and challenges. The measures in the 2017 Review respond to this uncertainty and will help create greater fairness and opportunity for all by:

- Launching the most significant expansion of medicare in a generation with OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare
- Proposing to raise the minimum wage to $14 on January 1, 2018 and to $15 an hour on January 1, 2019, and ensuring equal pay for part-time workers doing the same job as full-time workers.
- Boosting supports for seniors to ensure they are able to access the services they need at every stage of their lives with Aging with Confidence: Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors
- Investing in education, skills, and training through the new OSAP, where the province will implement net tuition billing to ensure that college and university students receive a reduced upfront bill with OSAP already factored in
- Investing in skills and training through programs like the Graduated Apprenticeship Grant for Employers to provide incentives to encourage apprentices to complete training and encouraging youth employment by providing hiring and retention incentives of $1,000 to small businesses that employ young workers.
- Building a dynamic business environment by providing more than $500 million over three years in new initiatives to lower costs for small businesses and promote growth. This includes the proposed 22 per cent cut to the Corporate Income Tax rate for small businesses

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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.