

2017 Ontario Budget Update from MPPP Mitzie Hunter

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eNews for residents of Scarborough-Guildwood

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SPECIAL UPDATE

2017 Ontario Budget: A Stronger, Healthier Ontario

Friends,

I am thrilled to announce that the *2017 Ontario Budget: A Stronger, Healthier Ontario* delivers on Ontario's commitment to balancing the budget this year. The budget introduces free prescription drug coverage for everyone aged 24 and under, makes important investments to improve access to care, helps students and makes life more affordable for Scarborough-Guildwood families and families across Ontario.



As a leader in economic growth, the Province is set to balance the budget this year and maintain a balanced budget for the next two years. A balanced budget means more funding for the programs and services people rely on most. Below are highlights of the 2017 Ontario Budget!

Strengthening Ontario's Health Care



- The balanced 2017 Budget launches OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare, a new drug benefit program that fully covers the cost of prescription medications for everyone aged 24 and under, regardless of family income. This program -- the first of its kind in Canada -- will ensure that young adults have access to universal drug coverage and parents never have to choose between paying for their children's prescription drugs and providing other essentials.

- Ontario is increasing health care investments by \$11.5 billion over the next three years. The 2017 balanced Budget plan includes a new \$7-billion booster shot to health care, building on the commitment made in the 2016 Budget. This investment will improve access to care, expand mental health and addiction services, and enhance the experience and recovery of patients. It includes \$1.3 billion to further reduce wait times.

Supporting Students and Schools

- With an additional investment of \$6.4 billion over three years, the balanced 2017 Budget reflects the government's commitment to help learners reach their full potential by supporting them from full-day kindergarten to postsecondary education and beyond.

- The Province continues to construct new schools and renew existing ones to create nurturing environments where children can learn and grow. The Province is providing almost \$16 billion over 10 years to help build and improve schools.

- The government is rolling out the new Ontario Student Assistance Program, which means free tuition for more than 210,000 students in postsecondary education starting this fall.

Helping Ontario Families Access Affordable Child Care

- The Province is helping 100,000 more children get affordable, quality licensed child care. In 2017-18, Ontario will support child care for 24,000 more children up to four years old through new fee subsidy spaces and support for new licensed child care spaces in schools. The government will continue to work with schools and municipalities to fund the expansion of school-, community- and home-based licensed care that is convenient, flexible and in line with parents' needs.

Making Housing More Affordable

- Ontario is taking action to make housing more affordable for homebuyers and renters in Scarborough-Guildwood and across the province by introducing the Fair Housing Plan. This set of 16 comprehensive measures would help more people find an affordable place to call home, while bringing stability to the real estate market and protecting the investment of homeowners. These measures include expanding rent control to all private rental units, including those built after 1991, strengthening protections for tenants against sudden, dramatic rent increases.

Ensuring Greater Fairness with Reduced Electricity Bills

- If passed, Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan will reduce electricity bills by 25 per cent, on average, starting this summer for all residential customers as part of system restructuring that will ensure greater fairness. Many small businesses in Scarborough-Guildwood will also benefit from the initiative. People with low incomes will receive even greater reductions to their electricity bills. As part of this plan, rate increases over the next four years will be held to the rate of inflation for everyone.

The 2017 Ontario Budget is truly a great one and will ensure Scarborough-Guildwood is a strong vibrant community to live, work, raise a family, and grow old. For further information, please visit www.ontario.ca/Budget.

As always, my Community Office is open and ready to hear from you. Visit, call **416-281-2787** or send us an [email](#). Please also check out my [website](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to stay updated.

Sincerely,

Hon. Mitzie Hunter

MPP for Scarborough-Guildwood



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