

Today's News - Friday, June 30, 2017

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Starting July 1, legislation and regulation changes come into effect that will make life more convenient and affordable for people in Ontario, strengthen democratic institutions, and help build a fairer, more inclusive province. These include:

- Helping seniors participate in community life by providing a [refundable tax credit for 15 per cent of the eligible public transit costs of Ontario residents 65 or older](#)
- [Reducing electricity bills by 25 per cent on average](#) for all residential consumers and as many as half a million small businesses and farms
- Providing even [greater electricity rate relief](#) for lower-income Ontarians and those living in eligible rural and northern communities by reducing their electricity bills by as much as 40 to 50 per cent
- [Recognizing the legal status of all parents](#) by amending regulations to include gender neutral terminology wherever possible on 11 family law forms
- Creating a new streamlined nomination, registration and endorsement process for candidates in provincial elections
- Helping voters get to the polls by standardizing advance voting hours across all locations
- [Putting spending limits on nomination contestants](#) as well as a limit on contributions by individuals to those contestants.

In addition to these changes, the government has reduced business costs by [\\$152 million since 2011](#) through a series of measures to eliminate red tape. The government is continuing to reduce red tape by modernizing regulations, inviting businesses to submit ideas to eliminate costly or burdensome regulations through the Red Tape Challenge, and proposing to offset every \$1 of new administrative costs to business by removing \$1.25 of old and unnecessary costs. **Modernizing laws and regulations to better serve Ontarians is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.**

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Also today:

- Premier Kathleen Wynne welcomed Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall to the [Wellington Farmers' Market](#) today, as part of their Canadian tour commemorating the 150th anniversary of Confederation. Premier Wynne joined Their Royal Highnesses at a special Ontario150 opening of the market to meet local growers and producers and discuss the role of Ontario's farmers and markets in our history and our future. The Wellington Farmers' Market has created good jobs for young people in the community, provided an interactive venue for local producers and vendors to showcase and sell their products, and revitalized Wellington Main Street while protecting heritage buildings. While in Ontario, Their Royal Highnesses will also visit Canadian Forces Base Trenton to meet with military personnel and their families, and will take part in Canada Day celebrations in Ottawa. In honour of Their Royal Highnesses' visit, Ontario is making a \$5,000 donation to the StoreHouse Food Bank of Wellington and District. The vendors of Wellington Farmers' Market will also be donating proceeds to the food bank.

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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 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.