

Today's News - Friday, November 3, 2017

From: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
To: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
Date: Fri, 03 Nov 2017 14:48:02 -0400

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Ontario is enhancing the grade 10 career studies course, bringing in mandatory learning on financial and digital literacy, as well as expanding hands-on learning opportunities that will better prepare students to succeed in a rapidly changing economy. Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education, was at Parkdale Collegiate Institute in Toronto today to announce that starting September 2018, Grade 10 students will be required to complete a revamped course to provide them with the knowledge and tools employers are looking for. The new course will include mandatory learning on financial literacy, such as budgeting and financial management. Students taking the career studies course will also explore:

- Career pathway planning
- Innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship
- Digital literacy

Ontario is also making new investments in hands-on learning. Every school board across the province will hire a new and dedicated coordinator, whose key role will be to expand learning opportunities with community partners, for all grades, courses and programs – from kindergarten to adult learners.

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Also Today:

- **Employment in Ontario increased by 5,200 jobs in October, the fourth straight month of job gains. Ontario employment is up by 149,200 jobs, year over year. The province's unemployment rate has been below the national average for 31 consecutive months. According to the 2017-18 First Quarter Finances, Ontario is on track to balance the budget this year while making investments in the programs and services people and their families rely on most. Building on this strong economic performance, Ontario is taking historic action to create more opportunity and security for workers with a plan for Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs. This includes raising the minimum wage, ensuring part-time workers are paid the same hourly wage as full-time workers, introducing paid sick days for every worker and stepping up enforcement of employment laws.**

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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.