

Today's News - Monday, December 4, 2017

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Ontario is making it safer and more convenient for people to get around by bike, by more than doubling its investment in local cycling to build bike lanes and other cycling infrastructure in towns and cities across the province. This investment is part of Ontario's [Climate Change Action Plan](#) and is funded by proceeds from the province's cap on pollution and carbon market. Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation, and Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, were in Toronto today where they were joined by Ana Bailão, Deputy Mayor for Toronto and East York to announce the recipients of the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program—and an increase in the program's funding. The City of Toronto will use this funding to help deliver their Ten Year Cycle Network Plan and to expand the Bike Share Toronto system with up to 300 new Bike Share locations, 3,000 bikes, and 6,000 docks. More cycling infrastructure and expansion of the bike share program will encourage people to cycle more often, improve safety and provide more travel options. Active transportation is a critical part of the transportation system, and across Ontario, 120 municipalities from Essex County to Thunder Bay will receive funding from the province to build more bike lanes and other cycling infrastructure, or enhance existing infrastructure.

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Also Today:

- Ontario is increasing access to high-quality care for patients and families by expanding space for surgeries and post-operative care offered at University Health Network's Toronto Western Hospital site. Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, was at the hospital today to announce the redevelopment project. The expansion will address the growing demand for care by increasing operating room capacity and redeveloping the space for both pre-operative services and post-operative care. As the hospital uses state-of-the-art technology to conduct research and offer pioneering treatments, the project will also modernize existing infrastructure to be able to adapt to changing technology. Toronto Western Hospital offers a wide range of surgeries, including transplant, cancer, eye, spine, head and neck, musculoskeletal, general and plastic. The hospital also houses Ontario's largest neurosurgical program providing care for patients with highly complex conditions. The surgeons at Toronto Western Hospital are well known for their advanced training in their specialties and perform some of the most technically difficult procedures in the world.

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- Ontario is opening 50 new long-term care beds in London that will help seniors access the care they need, part of a commitment to create 5,000 long-term

care beds over the next four years and more than 30,000 across the province over the next decade. John Fraser, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, was at Elmwood Place in London today to make the announcement, which will bring the home's total number of beds to 128. This investment is part of Aging with Confidence: Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors, which will help ensure seniors can access the supports they need at every stage of their lives. The plan includes initiatives such as 15 million more hours of nursing, personal support and therapeutic care for long-term care home residents, a new annual high-dose influenza vaccine, targeted to protect seniors, which will be available free of charge starting in the 2018-19 flu season, and a new one-stop website where seniors can find information about tax credits, drug coverage, powers of attorney, recreation programs and more.

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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.