

Today's News - Monday, March 5, 2018

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To help fight climate change, Ontario is encouraging businesses, utilities, non-profit organizations, registered charities, conservation authorities and Indigenous organizations to develop new and innovative solutions for reducing greenhouse gas pollution. Chris Ballard, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, launched the [GreenON Challenge](#) today in Toronto. This program will support the exploration and development of new projects to reduce pollution, advance the province's low-carbon economy and meet Ontario's greenhouse gas reduction targets. Funded by proceeds from Ontario's carbon market, the Green Ontario Fund is making it easier for people and businesses to choose and adopt low-carbon technologies and processes that help reduce greenhouse gas pollution at home and work.

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Also Today:

- Ontario is making it easier for commuters to use public transit by making PRESTO fare cards available to buy and top-up at Shoppers Drug Mart locations in municipalities across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and Ottawa. Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Transportation, and Steven Del Duca, MPP for Vaughan, visited the Shoppers Drug Mart at Hillcrest Mall in Richmond Hill today to announce the expansion. This builds upon the successful rollout of PRESTO card services in Toronto last year. Once complete, there will be nearly 400 additional Shoppers Drug Mart locations across the GTHA where commuters can buy, load and set discounts on their PRESTO cards. Starting today, Metrolinx will bring PRESTO to five Shoppers Drug Mart locations in York Region, with an additional 24 locations in York Region added in March. Locations in Durham Region, Oakville and Ottawa will follow in April, Mississauga and Brampton in June, and Hamilton and Burlington in July, with more than half of the locations expected to be online by August. A second phase will bring services to all remaining locations across all participating municipalities.

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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.