

Today's News - Monday, October 2, 2017

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Marking the beginning of Mental Illness Awareness Week, Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, was at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto today, where the province is celebrating the start of construction on the redevelopment of CAMH's Queen West site. The CAMH redevelopment involves the construction of 655,000 square feet of new space, which will include 235 inpatient beds, an emergency room open 24/7, research and education facilities, as well as parks and retail space within the surrounding neighbourhood. As part of Ontario's commitment to develop a provincewide, publicly funded psychotherapy program, the government is also investing in the following proven programs, which will help more than 100,000 people treat mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression:

- In-person individual and group psychotherapy counselling programs coordinated through Ontario's four speciality mental health hospitals — CAMH, Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, Royal Ottawa Health Care Group and Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care — in partnership with community-based providers. These programs will be provided through local primary care providers and community mental health agencies, and will also be available remotely through the Ontario Telemedicine Network.
- Bounce Back, a coaching program managed by Canadian Mental Health Association Ontario, which includes telephone support and instructional workbooks that help people learn skills to address problems related to moderate depression and anxiety.
- Online mental health self-management tools coordinated by the Ontario Telemedicine Network.

These programs will roll out across the province over the next three years. People can access these programs and other mental health supports by speaking to their primary care provider, visiting their local community mental health and addictions centre, or by contacting ConnexOntario. Ontario is increasing access to care, reducing wait times and improving the patient experience through its [Patients First Action Plan for Health Care](#) and [OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare](#) – protecting health care today and into the future.

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Also Today:

- Ontario is celebrating the outstanding performance of Team Canada competitors at the 2017 Invictus Games in Toronto, and the lasting legacy that the games will leave for people across the province. Some 75,000 people attended events during the eight days of competition and the Games were covered worldwide. Many sport events were sold out including wheelchair rugby, wheelchair basketball and swimming – demonstrating how spectators rallied to cheer on the competitors. Team Canada competed in all 12 sports across the Greater Toronto Area with strong performances by its competitors. Building on the success of the Games, Ontario is making a legacy investment in parasport in Ontario. This funding will encourage long-term athlete development, enhance coaches' training and provide better opportunities to those living with disabilities to participate in sport. The sport equipment used during the Games will also be distributed to Indigenous Communities, ParaSport Ontario and other sport organizations. The surplus medical supplies and equipment will be donated to Sunnybrook Veterans' Hospital, veterans' community housing, and the Canadian Armed Forces.

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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 proposed Fair Hydro Plan, and taking action to make housing more affordable for homebuyers and renters through our Fair Housing Plan.