

Today's News - Monday, September 18

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Premier Kathleen Wynne and Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation, were in Toronto today to announce that Ontario plans to introduce legislation this fall that would increase the consequences and costs for those who drive under the influence of drugs, including cannabis. The measures add to [Ontario's comprehensive cannabis plan](#), introduced in advance of the federal government's plans to legalize recreational cannabis by July 2018. The province has been working closely with public health and safety experts, police, and federal and municipal governments to develop the proposed measures, which build on [Ontario's recent action to align penalties for drug-impaired driving](#) with those already in place for drunk drivers and will have zero tolerance for:

- Young drivers aged 21 and under
- Novice drivers — G1, G2, M1 and M2 licence holders
- All commercial drivers.

For cannabis, the federal government will be approving a screening device and setting the thresholds for detectable presence in the coming months. Ontario's legislation would also increase monetary penalties for all drivers who fail, or refuse to perform, a sobriety test. As the federal legalization of cannabis approaches, Ontario plans to convene a summit in the fall of 2017 with policing partners, public health and other stakeholders to address illegal activity and ensure community safety.

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Also Today:

- Ontario is supporting employers to help raise awareness of worker rights and responsibilities through the new Employment Standards Training and Education Program. The program, a response to recommendations of the final report of Changing Workplaces Review, will provide grants to non-profit organizations that will help develop projects that educate vulnerable workers or small- and mid-sized businesses on their rights and duties under the Employment Standards Act. Eligible non-profit organizations can apply for the grant online. The application deadline is 4 p.m. on October 16, 2017, and successful applicants will be announced in 2018. Ontario is also making changes to create more opportunity and security for workers through its plan for Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs. Proposed legislative measures includes increasing 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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- As the new school year begins, Ontario is reminding parents to make an optometry appointment for their children. The Ontario Association of Optometrists recommends that every child have their first eye exam at 6 months of age to ensure proper vision development, again at 2 to 3, and subsequently every year thereafter.

Contact your optometrist if you have concerns about your child's vision or notice any of the following behaviour:

- o Does not make eye contact
- o Closes or covers one eye
- o Squints or frowns when looking far or near
- o Rubs or touches their eye(s) a lot
- o Blinks more than usual
- o Reacts strongly to light
- o Turns or tilts head when viewing objects
- o Trips, falls or bumps into things often.

To ensure your child gets the best start to learning, Ontario is encouraging parents to schedule their child's annual eye exam at the beginning of each school year.

OHIP covers annual eye exams by an optometrist or physician for anyone under the age of 20.

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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.