

Today's News - Thursday, February 1, 2018

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Premier Kathleen Wynne released a statement following a roundtable with leaders from Ontario's automotive sector today:

"Ontario's auto sector is essential to our economy and to people's lives. It drives innovation and supports hundreds of thousands of families across the province. Today, Minister Chan, Minister Del Duca and I met with key industry leaders to talk about the future of our auto sector and the steps our government is taking to support Ontario's automotive businesses in this changing economy. Canada's decision to sign the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CP-TPP) will bring new opportunities for trade, investment and job creation in Ontario. But while more free trade with more global partners is a welcome development, we should not allow these new opportunities to be created at the expense of Ontario's auto sector. That would not be fair to the hard-working men and women who rely on these jobs, and it would undermine Canada's economic competitiveness in the years ahead. Last October, I sat down with key leaders in Ontario's automotive industry to discuss the ongoing pressures from the U.S. that could impact our auto sector's success, namely concerns over NAFTA renegotiations. I made a promise to keep doing everything I can to support the businesses and people in our auto industry, which is exactly what I am doing. In the days following Canada's decision to sign the CP-TPP, I have spoken with key stakeholders and leaders in Ontario's auto industry. I have listened to their views as to the challenges and opportunities the CP-TPP creates for Ontario, and reassured them that I will continue to advocate for and support this important sector. We are working closely with our federal partners to understand the potential impacts of the CP-TPP, and continue to tirelessly promote Ontario's interests at the NAFTA negotiating tables. Today, I heard from many in our auto industry about the impact of the new CP-TPP, ongoing NAFTA negotiations and the implications of U.S. tax reforms. I deeply value the honest, expert advice and perspective they offer. I share their concerns. And I know we will find a way forward. I leave today's roundtable more committed than ever to standing up for the people and businesses that depend on the province's auto sector. Our work together will achieve the best possible deal for Ontario, and a competitive auto sector for the decades ahead."

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Premier Kathleen Wynne today announced the appointment of three new Parliamentary Assistants, Liz Sandals, Deb Matthews and Brad Duguid. Their experience and insight will be focused on priority areas as the government works to create more fairness and opportunity in a rapidly changing economy. Liz Sandals becomes the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure, helping to strengthen our communities and economy as Ontario continues to make the largest infrastructure investment in the province's history. Deb Matthews becomes Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier, helping to continue implementing the government's plan to make sure everyone in Ontario has the opportunity to get ahead in a changing economy. As Ontario continues to build and strengthen economic and cultural ties with U.S. states, Brad Duguid becomes Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (U.S. State Engagement). Additional changes include:

- Amrit Mangat becomes Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, helping to attract more visitors to our province and encourage increased participation and engagement with the arts and sport in Ontario. This is in addition to her role as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister Responsible for Accessibility
- Han Dong becomes Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy, helping to promote a

safe, secure, reliable and environmentally sustainable energy supply for people across the province. This will be in addition to his role as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development.

These updates build on changes to Cabinet announced on January 17, which saw eight women promoted to key roles across government.

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Also Today:

- Starting today, all abortion clinics in Ontario will have safe access zones of 50 metres to protect the safety, security, health and privacy of women and health care providers. These changes are the result of legislation passed in 2017 to ensure women across the province can access abortion services without fear of intimidation, harassment or interference. Prohibited activities within safe access zones around clinics, facilities and offices include:
 - o Advising a person to refrain from accessing abortion services
 - o Abortion-related protests
 - o Physically interfering with or intimidating people accessing or providing abortion services
 - o Recording patients or providers (e.g. taking photos or video)

Other facilities that offer abortion services, such as hospitals, health centres, or pharmacies, as well as the offices of regulated health professionals who provide abortion services can now [request safe access zones](#) of up to 150 metres. In addition, abortion service providers now have automatic safe access zones of up to 150 metres around their homes. This includes a general anti-harassment provision that protects clinic staff and abortion providers anywhere in Ontario.

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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.