

Today's News - Thursday, February 22, 2018

From: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
To: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
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Today, Premier Kathleen Wynne gave a speech at the Toronto Region Board of Trade highlighting Ontario's plan to support Ontario workers and businesses, promote the benefits of free trade and enhance economic competitiveness in a period of economic uncertainty. Premier Wynne discussed the province's active and ongoing engagement with U.S. leaders on NAFTA and her efforts to explore new opportunities with individual U.S. states to create growth and improve innovation. The Premier delivered her speech before heading to Washington, D.C., to participate in the National Governors Association Winter Meeting, where she will connect with key partners to continue building relationships and underscoring the value of Ontario-U.S. trade and partnership to our shared prosperity and regional competitiveness. In her speech, the Premier also addressed concerns from Ontario's automotive and agricultural sectors over the current state of NAFTA renegotiations as well as the federal government's decision to sign the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CP-TPP), noting both the opportunities and challenges these trade developments pose for key Ontario industries. The Premier reiterated her support for new opportunities for free trade, but made clear that the benefits of enhanced trade should not come at the expense of Ontario's auto workers, farmers and food producers. Premier Wynne called on the federal government to fulfill their commitment to provide transitional assistance to help Ontario's automotive and agri-food sectors adjust to the new realities created by the CP-TPP before ratifying the deal. The province is requesting at least \$1.26 billion over 10 years in assistance for the auto sector and at least \$1.4 billion over 10 years for the agri-food sector in Ontario.

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Also Today:

- Ontario is asking for public input on how to make the payments health care professionals and organizations get from drug and medical device companies more transparent. New legislation passed by the province requires the medical industry and other payors to report all transfers of value, including payments, benefits, and gifts, that are at or above a minimum amount and are provided to certain health care professionals or organizations. The information will be provided to the province and will be posted publicly online. Requiring payors to disclose this information will help patients make informed decisions about their health care. The regulations would include:
 - o Recipients whose transfers of value must be reported.
 - o A minimum dollar amount (e.g. \$10) above which a payor must report a transfer of value.
 - o The manner and frequency of reporting.Feedback will inform the regulation-making process and help government increase transparency and accountability within Ontario's health care system. Regulatory proposals will be posted to [Ontario's Regulatory Registry](#) for comment until April 5th.

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- Ontario introduced legislation today that would, if passed, give consumers easier access to credit information and improve access to elevators. The new law would make Ontario the first jurisdiction in the world to establish standards for elevator repair times and would give

Ontario consumers the strongest rights in Canada over information held by consumer reporting agencies. The proposed changes under the Access to Consumer Credit Reports and Elevator Availability Act would require certain credit reporting agencies to:

- o Give consumers online access to their current consumer score at least two times per year, free of charge
- o Include in a consumer report information about any consumer scores given to third parties in the past 12 months
- o Implement a credit freeze, at the request of a consumer to help reduce identity theft

The province is also proposing changes to help reduce elevator outages and improve access to elevators through enhanced enforcement of maintenance requirements, publishing information about elevator performance to help consumers make better decisions before they rent or buy and creating new standards for new high-rises to ensure they have enough elevators to adequately serve residents. If the bill is passed, Ontario would consult with the public and businesses in the development of these standards.

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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.