

Today's News - Thursday, June 15, 2017

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Premier Kathleen Wynne will attend the 4th Annual Canada 2020 Conference. The Premier will participate in a fireside chat with Don Newman to discuss the provinces' plan to build a fair and innovative economy.

Also today:

- Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca visited the GO Transit Willowbrook Facility to provide an update on Ontario's work to implement GO Regional Express Rail (RER) and announce that the province has commenced the GO Rail Network Electrification Transit Project Assessment Process. The process builds on public consultations held last year and will assess the environmental impacts of converting core segments of the GO rail network, including the UP Express, from diesel to electric. In tandem with the assessment process, Ontario is also undertaking a feasibility study on the use of hydrogen fuel cells as an alternative technology for electrifying GO rail service and the UP Express. As part of the study, this fall the province will bring together industry leaders in fuel cell technology for a symposium to explore the potential application of hydrogen fuel cell technology to electrify the GO rail network. Ontario is undertaking a \$21.3 billion transformation of the GO network. The investment will deliver faster and more frequent service, create thousands of jobs and improve people's quality of life. Ontario is on track to electrify and expand the rail network, and bring more two-way, all-day service to commuters and families by 2025. Making transit faster, more convenient, and more sustainable is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

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- Premier Kathleen Wynne visited the Art-Is-In Bakery in Ottawa to highlight how Ontario's plan for Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs will improve the lives of workers and families across the province. Ontario is taking historic action to create more opportunity and security for workers through the proposed Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act. This includes raising the minimum wage to \$14 per hour on January 1, 2018, and \$15 per hour on January 1, 2019, followed by annual increases at the rate of inflation. The government's proposals would also ensure that part-time workers are paid the same hourly wage as full-time workers for doing the same job, make employee scheduling fairer and expand personal emergency leave so all employees receive at least 10 days per year, including two days of paid leave. Over the past three years, Ontario's economy has outperformed all G7 countries in real GDP growth, and employment is up by 86,000 net new jobs over the past 12 months. Still, many workers are struggling to support their families on part-time, contract or minimum-wage work. To protect workers and ensure they are treated fairly, the government is updating labour and employment laws to address the changing nature of work. Ontario will continue to work closely with businesses as these changes come into effect, so they can continue to succeed and keep the economy strong. The proposed changes will help businesses drive up productivity and retain talent, and will boost the economy by increasing workers' purchasing**

power. Creating fair workplaces and better jobs across Ontario is part of our plan to grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

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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 who has OHIP coverage through the OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare Program, providing free average tuition to over 210,000 students starting fall 2017 and on-the-job learning opportunities to help land a great job, helping 100,000 more kids aged 0–4 access quality, licensed child care, 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.