

Today's News - Thursday, October 26, 2017

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Premier Kathleen Wynne met with leaders from Ontario's auto sector this afternoon to discuss the ongoing NAFTA negotiations and emphasize her support for the province's auto industry. The Premier and industry leaders discussed concerns about the latest NAFTA developments, talked about how Ontario can step up its efforts to ensure the auto sector continues to create good jobs for people in the province and discussed the future competitiveness of the industry across North America. Premier Wynne will continue to work with the auto industry in Ontario to make it even more integrated across borders and more cost-competitive.

Also Today:

Minister of Energy Glenn Thibeault released the 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP) that focuses on energy affordability, innovation and customer choice. As of July 1, 2017, Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan reduced electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for residential consumers and as many as half a million small businesses and farms across the province. As part of the plan, any increases to bills will be held to the rate of inflation for four years. Following this, the 2017 LTEP confirms that electricity prices are forecast to remain below the level projected in the 2013 LTEP. For example, the 2013 LTEP forecast that typical residential monthly electricity bills would be \$170 in 2017 and \$200 in 2027. The 2017 LTEP forecasts bills prices to be \$127 and \$181 respectively, including the change in average consumption from 800 to 750 kilowatt hours per month. The outlook for electricity prices for large consumers will be, on average, in-line with inflation over the forecast period. While rates will rise gradually over time, the government remains committed to avoiding sharp increases through initiatives outlined in the plan.

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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.