

Today's News - Thursday, September 12, 2017

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Today's News Thursday, September 21, 2017

Indira Naidoo-Harris, Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care, was at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School today to announce that more than 80 per cent of schools across Ontario are now offering before- and after-school programs for 4-12 year olds. As of September 1, 2017, Ontario now requires school boards to provide before- and after-school programs for children up to age 12, in all publicly funded elementary schools serving students up to Grade 6, where there is sufficient demand. These programs provide additional opportunities for play-based programming, and are a critical support for parents who rely on before- and after-school care to accommodate their work schedules.

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Also Today:

- Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, was at Union Station today to meet and greet Team Canada as they arrived for the third and largest Invictus Games to date. The province is set to host more than 550 competitors from 17 countries, with events taking place from September 23 to September 30. Competitors will participate in 12 different sports across Toronto at some of the state-of-the-art venues built for the 2015 Toronto Pan American/Parapan American Games. Admission to the following competitions is free:
 - o Jaguar Land Rover Driving Challenge on September 23 at the Distillery District
 - o Wheelchair Tennis from September 23 to 25 at Nathan Phillips Square
 - o Golf on September 26 at St. George's Golf and Country Club
 - o Cycling on September 26 and 27 at High Park
 - o Archery from September 27 to 29 at Fort York National Historic Site.

A full competition schedule is available at InvictusGames2017.com.

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- Ontario has selected Ms. Julie Drury as chair of the new Minister's Patient and Family Advisory Council. The council will provide feedback and insights directly to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to help the health care system become more responsive, transparent and accountable to patients, families and caregivers. Collaborating with multiple hospitals and community care organizations has provided Ms. Drury with the insight and expertise to provide advice on matters involving hospitals, home care, schooling, health support services, patient safety and complex

care. Ontario is increasing access to care, reducing wait times and improving the patient experience through its [Patients First Action Plan for Health Care](#) and [OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare](#) - protecting health care today and into the future.

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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.