

Today's News - Tuesday, August 22, 2017

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Date: Tue, 22 Aug 2017 14:34:09 -0400

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Ontario is investing in programs to improve ecosystem health in communities across the province. These programs are part of Ontario's [Climate Change Action Plan](#) and are funded by proceeds from the province's carbon market. Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, was in Guelph today to announce support for two programs that aim to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. They include:

- Targeted support to reduce the costs of tree planting for urban landowners, as part of the province's initiative to plant [50 million trees by 2025](#).
- The development of a Land Use Carbon Inventory which will allow Ontario to assess the potential of agriculture, forestry and other land uses, such as wetlands and grasslands, to emit, remove and store carbon.

Fighting climate change while protecting the environment is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

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Also today:

- Ontario is creating a new Human Trafficking Lived Experience Roundtable that will bolster the province's efforts to end human trafficking through direct engagement with, and input from, survivors of trafficking. The roundtable will be the first of its kind in Canada. It will be led by Jennifer Richardson, director of the provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office, who has lived experience as a survivor of human trafficking. This roundtable builds on the strong action the government has already taken through [Ontario's Strategy to End Human Trafficking](#).

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- Ontario and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) are pleased to announce that collaborative work has resulted in the identification of historic Métis communities located throughout Ontario. Six new historic Métis communities have been identified, each with its own customs, practices, and traditions. While identification of these historic Métis communities is a significant milestone, this alone does not determine who in Ontario is Métis or who holds Métis rights, nor define Métis harvesting areas or territories. Working in partnership with the MNO to identify historic Métis communities is one of many steps on Ontario's journey of healing and reconciliation.

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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.