

Today's News - Tuesday, March 6, 2018

From: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
To: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
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Ontario today becomes the first province to tackle pay transparency as part of a broad new strategy to advance women's economic empowerment and build fairer, better workplaces. Premier Kathleen Wynne unveiled Then Now Next: Ontario's Strategy for Women's Economic Empowerment, which includes the introduction of legislation to increase pay transparency by requiring certain employers to track and publish information about compensation in their organizations. The multifaceted strategy will help remove long-standing barriers that have kept women from benefiting equally in Ontario's rapidly changing economy. The strategy includes the introduction of standalone legislation to increase transparency in hiring processes and give women more information when negotiating fairer compensation that is equal to their male peers — making Ontario the first province in Canada to do so. If passed, the legislation introduced today would help ensure compensation is based on a job's requirements and the candidate's qualifications.

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Premier Kathleen Wynne is inviting people from across Ancaster, Hamilton and Brant County to a town hall meeting to share their thoughts about Ontario's plan to create more fairness and opportunity for everyone. The Premier's sixth Town Hall will take place today, March 6, at the [Ancaster Fairgrounds](#) at 630 Trinity Road South in Jerseyville. It will be moderated by Howard Elliott, Managing Editor of the Hamilton Spectator. Admission to the event is free and open to anyone who wishes to share their thoughts on the issues that matter most to them. All questions are welcome. Since the first town hall last November, the Premier has hosted more than 1,400 people across Ontario, hearing their stories and discussing a wide variety of issues, including education, health care, legalized cannabis and the rising minimum wage. General admission seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Ancaster Fairgrounds. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., and the Premier's Town Hall will start at 7:00 p.m.

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Also Today:

- Ontario passed ground-breaking concussion safety legislation today to protect amateur athletes and make sport safer on the field and at school. Rowan's Law (Concussion Safety), 2017 makes Ontario a national leader in concussion management and prevention by establishing mandatory requirements that call for:
 - o Annual review of concussion awareness resources that prevents, identifies and manages concussions that coaches and educators would be required to review before registering in a sport
 - o Removal-from-sport and return-to-sport protocols, to ensure that an athlete is immediately removed from sport if they are suspected of having sustained a concussion, giving them the time needed to heal properly
 - o A concussion code of conduct that would set out rules of behaviour to minimize concussions while playing sport.
- In honour of Rowan Stringer, the 17-year-old rugby player whose death resulted from

sustaining multiple concussions, the proposed legislation also establishes the last Wednesday in September as “Rowan’s Law Day”.

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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.