

Today's News - Wednesday, February 21, 2018

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Following productive meetings in the U.S. earlier this month, Premier Kathleen Wynne will return to Washington, D.C., tomorrow to continue forging connections with U.S. partners and advocating for Ontario workers and businesses at the National Governors Association (NGA) Winter Meeting. The NGA Winter Meeting brings government leaders together to discuss some of the most pressing issues affecting North America, including trade, international partnership, innovation and workforce development, agriculture and the opioid crisis. While in Washington, Premier Wynne will continue to highlight the value of Ontario-U.S. partnerships and explore potential new cooperation agreements during planned meetings with key governors, including Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin and Michigan Governor Rick Snyder. Premier Philippe Couillard of Québec will also attend the NGA, where he and Premier Wynne will continue to work in concert to promote the value of free trade and open procurement that creates good jobs for workers in both Canada and the U.S. As part of that work, Premiers Wynne and Couillard will hold planned joint meetings with Oregon Governor Kate Brown, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam and Maryland Governor Larry Hogan. While at the NGA, Premier Wynne will participate in a panel hosted by the Washington International Trade Association that will focus on NAFTA's impact in states and provinces, as well as an NGA panel with governors and other international representatives, which will emphasize the importance of international partnerships in a time of global uncertainty. The Premier will also sit down with Steve Clemons, Washington Editor-at-Large of The Atlantic, to discuss the importance of bilateral trade to the Ontario economy, the role of a modernized NAFTA, progressive policy and the state of leadership today.

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Also Today:

Ontario is introducing Wi-Fi on GO trains and buses, and launching an improved GO Transit website and trip planner, making it easier and more convenient for commuters and families to use GO Transit. As a first step towards introducing Wi-Fi service on all GO Transit vehicles, Metrolinx will test the service on two GO trains and four GO buses to examine service quality and collect feedback from transit users. Free Wi-Fi is already available at the majority of GO stations and bus terminals across the system. This March, Metrolinx will also launch a new, easy-to-use GO Transit website. The website will provide a better customer experience through new features including an improved trip planner, updated fare calculator, and enhanced service and station information to help people plan their trips. These improvements will make using public transit easier and more convenient for commuters and families. Increasing public transit ridership also plays an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and managing congestion on Ontario roads.

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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.