

Today's News - Wednesday, July 5, 2017

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Ontario is providing direct financial assistance and elite competition opportunities to 1,255 high performance amateur athletes this year to help them reach the podium and compete at the highest international levels. John Fraser, MPP for Ottawa South, was at the 2017 Canadian Track and Field Championships in Ottawa today to make the announcement on behalf of Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. This year, Ontario is supporting high performance amateur athletes by:

- Providing critical financial assistance to 1,255 athletes through the Quest for Gold Program
- Funding sporting events that offer the elite competition experience that athletes need to compete at the international level, such as the 2017 Canadian Track and Field Championships. This competition gives Ontario athletes the opportunity to compete for a spot at the 2017 International Athletics Association Federation (IAAF) World Championships.

Investing in amateur athletes and elite sporting events 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 providing young entrepreneurs across the province with the opportunity to start a business, gain valuable career skills and support Ontario's growing economy with the fourth annual Summer Company-Staples Youth Entrepreneurship Day. This unique event gives students the opportunity to showcase their summer businesses at 32 Staples locations across the province. It helps young entrepreneurs gain valuable business experience and real-time feedback by allowing them to promote their products and services to customers. [Summer Company](#) is Ontario's flagship entrepreneurial program for students ages 15-29. The program gives students grants of up to \$3,000 to turn their ideas into a business. It also offers them hands-on training and practical advice and mentorship from local business leaders. Supporting the next generation of job creators is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.**

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 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.