

Today's News - Wednesday, October 11, 2017

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Mars Canada, one of the world's leading food manufacturers, has chosen Ontario for a significant new step in the company's growth. Today in Bolton, Premier Kathleen Wynne joined Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Mars Canada leaders to open the Mars Food expanded plant. The 55,000-square-foot facility will increase Mars Food's capacity to produce ready-to-heat Uncle Ben's and Seeds of Change rice and grain products, and has created 37 new high-skilled, well-paying full-time jobs — in addition to the jobs created during construction. Ontario's highly skilled workforce, culture of innovation and competitive tax climate make it an ideal place for investments like Mars' expansion. Already home to one of North America's largest and most significant food and beverage processing sectors, Ontario is helping manufacturers compete globally by introducing legislation to streamline regulations, while preparing people across the province for the jobs of tomorrow.

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Also Today:

- Ontario is helping people in York Region get the health care they need faster and closer to home with a new facility in Georgina led by nurse practitioners. Premier Kathleen Wynne was at the Georgina Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic (GNPLC) today to announce funding for the project. Once completed, a permanent clinic will replace the existing building with a brand-new facility. GNPLC's new clinic will continue to serve more than 3,000 patients. The new facility will improve the overall experience for patients, provide space to offer confidential programs and services, and provide services to people who currently do not have a primary health care provider. In addition to primary health care, the GNPLC will offer services and programs including:
 - o Mental health care
 - o Service coordination and referral to community health care providers and agencies
 - o Chronic disease management programs
 - o Patient education, health promotion and disease prevention programs
 - o Palliative care.

Nurse practitioner-led clinics provide ongoing health care, education and illness prevention across Ontario, often serving communities with limited access to primary health care providers. Patients can receive diagnosis and treatment for common injuries and illnesses, including prescriptions and blood and diagnostic tests. 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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- Ontario is helping retirement homes with the cost of installing automatic sprinkler systems, to enhance seniors' safety and ensure that new Ontario Fire Code requirements are met. Dipika Damerla, Minister of Seniors Affairs, was at a fire station in downtown Toronto today

to mark Fire Prevention Week and to announce the new support. The province is now accepting applications for the new cost-sharing program, which will help small and rural retirement homes retrofit more than 6,000 suites across Ontario. Automatic sprinklers are vital to the safety and security of all retirement home residents, staff and first responders.

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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.