

MULTILINGUAL MEDIA

March 7, 2017

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CHINESE COMMUNITY MEDIA

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- **There have been 46 cases tossed out due to court delays in Ontario (A8)**
There have been 46 cases tossed out due to court delays in Ontario from July 9 to Dec. 31, 2016, according to statistics obtained through a freedom of information request. The data from the Ministry of the Attorney General covers cases that were stayed in the first five months, since a landmark Supreme Court of Canada decision known as the Jordan decision that set reasonable time limits for trials to be completed. Cases that exceed 18 months in provincial court — or 30 months in Superior Court — are "presumptively unreasonable," according to the ruling. The Ontario Crown Attorneys Association has estimated that last summer's ruling could eventually lead to about 6,000 criminal cases being stayed or withdrawn. In an attempt to save trials from falling through the cracks, Attorney General Yasir Naqvi announced more Crown attorneys and judges will be hired. "We are appointing 13 more judges to the Ontario Court of Justice, hiring 32 assistant Crown attorneys, providing funding to Legal Aid Ontario for 16 duty counsel, and hiring 26 new court staff."
- **The Confederation of Toronto Chinese Canadian Organizations is encouraging more people to sign a petition in support of Bill 79 (A13)**
The Confederation of Toronto Chinese Canadian Organizations held a press conference to encourage more people to sign a petition in support of Bill 79, which would designate December 13th as the Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day in Ontario. The confederation hopes to collect 100,000 signatures so that the bill can pass third reading. Bill 79; which passed second reading last December; was introduced by MPP Soo Wong.

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- **The Drive Clean fee will be waived starting next month (A1)**
The \$30 Drive Clean fee will be waived starting April 1, although motorists will still be required to bring their older vehicles in for testing and pay for any required repairs. The Ontario Auditor General had previously criticized the fee — likening it to a tax, saying it takes in more money than was needed to cover the cost of administering the program. Gary Wheeler, a spokesman for the Ontario's environment ministry, said the test fee was already dropped to \$30 from \$35 to address that complaint. "At the time, there was an accumulated surplus of \$23 million," Wheeler said. "That number has since been in steady decline. We expect the remaining surplus to be eliminated by June 1, 2017. Once the remaining surplus is drained, the government will reimburse Drive Clean Facilities for test fees, he said. In 2014 alone, the program prevented smog-causing pollutants from being released from 135,000 vehicles. The program has reduced emissions of smog-causing pollutants by approximately one-third each year.
- **Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown is asking the financial**

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accountability office to examine the Liberal government's hydro relief plan (A2)

Ontario's budget watchdog is planning a report examining the Liberal government's plan to lower hydro bills. Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown has written to the financial accountability office, asking them to investigate the plan with a full costing analysis. A spokeswoman for the office says they'll take Brown's letter under consideration, but they had already been planning to examine the hydro plan. PC Leader Patrick Brown said in the letter to the financial accountability officer that Ontarians may ultimately have to accept those added costs to get savings now "given the extent to which people are struggling," but the impact should at least be clear. Premier Kathleen Wynne has acknowledged it will cost ratepayers more in the long run, but she says savings are needed now because people are struggling. The 17-per-cent cut in bills means ratepayers will pay about \$2.5 billion less per year of the global adjustment charge for the next 10 years, the government has said.

■ **The Toronto Community & Culture Centre holds their 2017 Chinese New Year Gala (A3)**

Advertisement: On January 20th, the Toronto Community & Culture Centre held their 2017 New Year Gala. Almost 1,000 people attended the gala, including: Ontario Citizenship and Immigration Minister Laura Albanese, Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Minister Jeff Leal and MPP Han Dong.

■ **Ontario will soon call a meeting of mayors from communities across the province as it looks for ways to tackle a growing opioid crisis (A8)**

Ontario will soon call a meeting of mayors from communities across the province as it looks for ways to tackle a growing opioid crisis. Premier Kathleen Wynne made the announcement Monday after meeting with Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, adding that the province is prepared to fund that city's \$2.5-million opioid plan. "There have been tragedies in Ottawa and recently a very tragic death, so we are going to work with him to make sure he has those resources to put his plan in place," Premier Wynne said. Ontario Health Minister Eric Hoskins said the province has been discussing the issue with several municipalities recently, and setting up a meeting or an ongoing task force would be a "next step".

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■ **The Confederation of Toronto Chinese Canadian Organizations is encouraging more people to sign a petition in support of Bill 79 (10)**

The Confederation of Toronto Chinese Canadian Organizations held a press conference to encourage more people to sign a petition in support of Bill 79, which would designate December 13th as the Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day in Ontario. The confederation hopes to collect 100,000 signatures so that the bill can pass third reading. Bill 79; which passed second reading last December; was introduced by MPP Soo Wong.

■ **Premier Kathleen Wynne meets with Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson (11)**

Yesterday, Premier Kathleen Wynne met with Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson and discussed a number of topics including the "Fair Hydro Plan" and the "Confederation LRT". The two leaders also discussed Ottawa's plan to battle its opioid problem. Premier Wynne said she will soon call a meeting of mayors from across the province to look for ways to tackle

TODAYCOMMERICALNEWS.COM: MARCH 7, 2017

a growing opioid crisis.

OMNI NEWS (CANTONESE EDITION): MARCH 6, 2017

■ **No news broadcast.**

CHINESE COMMUNITY MEDIA

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SING TAO: MARCH 6, 2017

- **The Confederation of Toronto Chinese Canadian Organizations is encouraging more people to sign a petition in support of Bill 79 (A4)**
The Confederation of Toronto Chinese Canadian Organizations held a press conference to encourage more people to sign a petition in support of Bill 79, which would designate December 13th as the Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day in Ontario. Since last December, the confederation has collected over 40,000 signatures. The confederation hopes to collect over 100,000 signatures before the Ontario legislature prorogues in June, so that the bill can pass third reading. Bill 79, which has already passed second reading, was introduced by MPP Soo Wong.

MING PAO: MARCH 6, 2017

- **No relevant news.**

TODAYCOMMERICALNEWS.COM: MARCH 6, 2017

- **No publication.**

OMNI NEWS (CANTONESE EDITION): MARCH 5, 2017

- **No news broadcast.**

SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY MEDIA

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CANADIAN PUNJABI POST: MARCH 7, 2017

- **Minister Sousa meets Mayor Jaffrey for pre-budget consultations (4)**
Minister of Finance Charles Sousa has met with Brampton Mayor Linda Jaffrey to discuss priorities for Brampton residents. He was at Brampton City Hall for pre-budget consultations with the city leadership.
- **Paralegals be allowed to practice family law: Editorial (6)**
A former Ontario court judge has prepared a report for the province's Office of Attorney General. The report recommends paralegals be allowed to practice family law in specific areas without the supervision of lawyers. The editorial says it is obvious the lawyer community in Ontario will not like the report but the recommendations address a very serious and genuine problem. As per provincial statistics, 57 per cent of the people did not have a lawyer in family law cases between 2014 and 2015. People were unable to afford high lawyer fees. In certain types of family law cases, paralegals are qualified enough to provide the services, the editorial argues. It cites further support from a Loom Analytics report. It says allowing paralegals to practice family law in Ontario will be a welcome step.

PARVASI: MARCH 3, 2017

- **Ontario announces 25 per cent cut to hydro bills (GTA-1)**
Premier Kathleen Wynne has announced a 25 per cent cut in hydro bills across the province. The cut will come into effect this summer. The total 25 per cent reduction includes the government's earlier decision to waive the 8 per cent provincial portion of the HST.
- **Ontario helps parents in Brampton West to get involved in their children's education: Vic Dhillon (GTA-2)**
Vic Dhillon, MPP Brampton West, has said in a media release that Ontario is helping parents by supporting local initiatives that encourage learning and well-being. 40 such projects were funded in Brampton West last year. Applications are now open for 2017-18 grants.

PUNJAB STAR: MARCH 2 TO MARCH 8, 2017

- **Ontario to provide 25 per cent relief on hydro bills (1)**
Ontario has announced a 25 per cent relief to hydro customers across the province. The cut will come into effect in the summer.
- **Ontario helping parents in Brampton West to get involved in their children's education: Vic Dhillon (5)**

PUNJAB STAR: MARCH 2 TO MARCH 8, 2017

Vic Dhillon, MPP Brampton West, has announced that Ontario is helping parents by supporting local initiatives that encourage learning and well-being. 40 such projects were funded in Brampton West last year. Applications are now open for 2017-18 grants.

KHABARNAMA: MARCH 3, 2017

- **No relevant news**