

FW: Today's News - Monday, July 31, 2017

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From: Todays News (OPO)
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To: Todays News (OPO)
Subject: Today's News - Monday, July 31, 2017

Today's News **Monday, July 31, 2017**

Premier Kathleen Wynne announced changes today to her cabinet, following the resignation of Glen Murray as Minister of the Environment and Climate Change. Chris Ballard moves from Minister of Housing and Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy to become the new Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, leading Ontario's fight against climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and overseeing the province's transition to a low-carbon economy. Peter Milczyn, MPP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, is promoted to cabinet, appointed as the new Minister of Housing. He will also take over as Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy. In these roles, Milczyn will oversee and build on Ontario's Fair Housing Plan, making sure that people across Ontario are able to find a safe, affordable home. He will also work alongside Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services, on implementing Ontario's Basic Income Pilot and supporting people in Ontario to get ahead, find income security and break the cycle of poverty, particularly for children and youth. In addition, the Office of Francophone Affairs for Ontario will become a standalone ministry, reflecting the importance of Ontario's Francophone population to the province's economic prosperity and its diverse, vibrant cultural fabric. Marie-France Lalonde will continue in her role as Minister of Francophone Affairs and Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services. Glen Murray will remain as MPP for Toronto Centre. The changes announced today maintain the size of Ontario's cabinet at 29 ministers. A swearing-in ceremony was held at Queen's Park this morning.

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Also today:

- To celebrate Ontario and Canada's 150th anniversary, 15,000 eastern white pine seed pods will be distributed at events and schools across the province. Minister of Northern Development and Mines Michael Gravelle launched the initiative today in Thunder Bay. The eastern white pine is Ontario's official tree and these seed pods will serve as a memorable and environmentally beneficial way to give back to the people and communities across the province and commemorate Ontario150. Each year, the province plants 3 million trees and this year Ontario is challenging the public to match its target as part of the [Green Leaf Challenge](#). Participants can register trees they plant, including these eastern white pine seed pods, on an interactive map at [GreenLeafChallenge.ca](#). Celebrating Ontario's 150th anniversary is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

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- Ontario and Michigan are completing North America's first national, cross-border automated vehicle test drive through Southern Ontario and Michigan. Minister of Transportation Steven Del Duca and federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, Navdeep Bains, were in Windsor this morning to mark the milestone. The test drive began in Detroit and will continue from Windsor to Sarnia before crossing back over the border. The drive will conclude in Traverse City, with the signing of a new agreement between Ontario and Michigan to continue collaboration in testing, developing and marketing automated and connected vehicle technology. Ontario's Magna International and Michigan's Continental Automotive North America provided vehicles for the demonstration with features like traffic jam assist and technology that measures driver fatigue. Supporting connected and automated vehicle development is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

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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** 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 aged 0–4 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.