

Thursday, October 26 News

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Premier

Roundtable/Avail: NAFTA – Toronto – 1:00 PM

Province-Wide

ENERGY – Minister Thibeault – LTEP – Today, Ontario released the 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP) that focuses on energy affordability, innovation and customer choice. As of July 1, 2017, Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan reduced electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for residential consumers and as many as half a million small businesses and farms across the province. As part of the plan, any increases to bills will be held to the rate of inflation for four years. Following this, the 2017 LTEP confirms that electricity prices are forecast to remain below the level projected in the 2013 LTEP. For example, the 2013 LTEP forecast that typical residential monthly electricity bills would be \$170 in 2017 and \$200 in 2027. The 2017 LTEP forecasts bills prices to be \$127 and \$181 respectively, including the change in average consumption from 800 to 750 kilowatt hours per month. The outlook for electricity prices for large consumers will be, on average, in-line with inflation over the forecast period. While rates will rise gradually over time, the government remains committed to avoiding sharp increases through initiatives outlined in the plan. Initiatives in the 2017 LTEP include:

- Maximizing the use of Ontario's existing energy assets, only securing new power when it is needed.
- Transforming Ontario's wholesale electricity markets through market renewal. Market renewal is intended to more flexibly and efficiently meet system needs and government policy goals. Market renewal will be aligned with the objectives of Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan and will be designed to reduce ratepayer costs and GHG emissions.
- Enhancing consumer protection by giving the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) increased regulatory authority over the 326,000 individually-metered condo and apartment units in the province.
- Working with the OEB to provide people with greater choice in their electricity price plans, by piloting alternatives to the current approach to time-of-use (TOU) pricing in select communities across the province.
- Enhancing net metering, allowing more people the opportunity to produce clean energy and use it to power their homes and lower their electricity bills.
- Allowing utilities to intelligently and cost-effectively integrate electric vehicles into their grids, including smart charging in homes.
- Working with the OEB and local distribution companies (LDCs) to redesign electricity bills,

- making them more useful for consumers in understanding and managing their energy costs.
- Expanding the Green Button initiative to provide consumers with the ability to access their energy data and securely share it with apps of their choice to help them manage and conserve energy.

A strong long-term energy plan is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives. – **Toronto – 9:30 AM**

Local

HEALTH – PA Fraser – Short-term Transitional Care Roadshow – Ontario is improving access to mental health care for people transitioning out of hospital with new supportive beds in London – part of over 2,000 additional beds and spaces being made available across the province this year. John Fraser, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, was at Victoria Hospital in London today to announce support for a new mental health transitional care project. This project will create five new beds in the community to help about 100 people who need additional short-term, mental health and addictions support and housing transition from hospital to home. Patients who benefit from this project will receive care from a team that includes a nurse coordinator, social worker and recreational therapist. On Monday, Ontario [announced funding](#) for over 2,000 additional beds and spaces across the province. This investment includes 48 additional beds and spaces at London Health Sciences Centre to provide access to care and reduce wait times, whether in hospital, at home or in the community. 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. – **London – 11:30 AM**

TRANSPORTATION – Cycling in Township of South Stormont – Ontario is making it easier for families to get around the Township of South Stormont by upgrading a section of the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail, making cycling safer and more convenient. A 3.9 kilometre section of the Waterfront Trail will be paved between Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary and Upper Canada Village. The Great Lakes Waterfront Trail stretches from Sarnia to the Quebec Border and connects 114 communities, hundreds of parks, natural areas, forests and beaches. Ontario is helping municipalities across the province build new or improve existing cycling infrastructure, including on-road cycling lanes, off-road cycling and walking paths, cycling-specific traffic signals and signs, active transportation bridges and bike racks. Building more cycling infrastructure increases safety for cyclists and makes cycling more comfortable and appealing for daily commutes and other frequent trips. Investing in cycling infrastructure also helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions across Ontario. Making it safer and easier to cycle in Ontario is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives. – **Paper Only – Time TBC**

FYI

Ontario Autism Coalition At Queen's Park – **Media Studio – 9:30 AM**