

Today's News - Thursday, April 19, 2018

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Premier Kathleen Wynne was at Kensington Gardens in Toronto today to announce that Ontario has allocated 5,000 new long-term care (LTC) beds in communities across the province. This is part of the province's commitment to build 5,000 new beds by 2022 and more than 30,000 new beds over the next decade. These 5,000 new beds will include nearly 500 new beds for Indigenous communities and over 1,500 new beds for specific cultures, including Francophone communities. The new beds are in addition to the 30,000 existing beds that are being redeveloped. Premier Wynne spoke about how these investments will give seniors better access to high-quality, culturally appropriate professional care and help them continue to live happy and healthy lives. Ontario is also investing more than \$300 million over the next three years to hire an additional registered nurse at every LTC home, and to increase the provincial average to four hours of daily care per resident by 2022. This will ensure that every home will have staff with specialized training in behavioural supports, and in palliative and end-of-life care. These investments, as well as a substantial 4.6 per cent increase in funding for the hospital sector and more support for home care, will improve access to care and reduce wait times in the health system to better meet the needs of a growing and aging population. The government is also improving life for more seniors by:

- Expanding OHIP+ in 2019 to make prescription drugs free for everyone 65 and over
- Investing \$650 million in new funding over three years to improve home and community care services
- Creating the Seniors' Healthy Home Program to help those over 75 offset the costs of living independently with a \$750 annual credit.

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Also Today:

- Ontario will provide students with greater access to high-quality postsecondary education with a new postsecondary site in the growing Region of Peel. Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, and Harinder Malhi, Minister of the Status of Women, announced today a new postsecondary site in Brampton to improve access to postsecondary education in one of the fastest growing communities in Canada. Focusing on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM), programming will be delivered in partnership by Ryerson University and Sheridan College of Applied Arts and Technology. The new site will provide up to 2,000 new undergraduate spaces within five to 10 years. Students enrolled at the new site will also have access to experiential learning opportunities — such as co-operative education, internship programs and case studies — to help them develop the skills they need to find and keep good jobs in the province's changing economy.

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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 under 25 and over 65 through OHIP+**, 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 Fair Hydro Plan, and taking action to **make housing more affordable** for homebuyers and renters through our Fair Housing Plan.