

Today's News - Tuesday, April 10, 2018

From: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
To: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
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Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne marked Equal Pay Day today by highlighting the government's plan to create free preschool child care as part of a strategy to promote women's economic empowerment and close the gender wage gap. Premier Wynne was joined by Harinder Malhi, Minister of the Status of Women, and Cristina Martins, MPP for Davenport, at St. Helen Catholic School today to discuss how Ontario's transformative plan for free preschool child care will help eliminate the pay gap between men and women. Equal Pay Day this year is on April 10. With women earning about 30 per cent less than men, the date of Equal Pay Day is set to show how far into 2018 women must work just to earn the same amount that men earned in 2017. Ontario's plan will provide free licensed preschool child care for children between the ages of two-and-a-half until they are eligible to start kindergarten. This will give mothers more options when it comes to returning to the workforce and advancing their careers. It will also relieve financial pressures on families with young children and give more kids the best possible start in their education. Premier Wynne also spoke on Equal Pay Day about Ontario's efforts to increase pay transparency. The proposed Pay Transparency Act will, if passed, help ensure women and other disadvantaged groups have the equal opportunity to negotiate fair wages and have equal opportunities to advance in their careers. It will also require employers to record and report on pay gaps based on gender and other diversity characteristics. The act will also prohibit employers from asking applicants about their prior salary, require employers to indicate a pay rate for all publicly advertised vacancies, and ensure that employees are protected from reprisal if they want to discuss their pay with coworkers or their employer. That same bill would also establish Equal Pay Day as an official day of recognition in Ontario, to stand as a clear reminder that gender inequality continues to be a reality in the province that must be addressed by government and all sectors of the economy.

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Also Today:

- Starting today, 87 more grocery stores across Ontario can sell beer and cider, increasing convenience and choice for consumers. Across the province, there are now over [350 grocery stores](#) authorized to sell beer and cider, of which up to 70 can also sell wine. Every additional location for sales creates new opportunities for small beer and cider producers, whose products must represent at least 20 per cent of the beer and 20 per cent of the cider on display in grocery stores. Ontario maintains a strong commitment to social responsibility. By law, grocers selling beer, cider or wine must have designated sales areas and operate within standard hours of sale, abide by limitations on package size and alcohol content, and meet staffing and social responsibility training requirements.

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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.