

Wednesday, May 24 News

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Premier

Province-Wide

HEALTH – Minister Hoskins – Opioid Tracker – The following statement was issued today by Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Provincial Overdose Coordinator, and Dr. Dirk Huyer, Chief Coroner for Ontario: "The opioid crisis in Ontario is a growing and evolving problem, and one we are continuing to work diligently to combat. Gathering accurate data on the impact of opioids is a key part of our Strategy to Prevent Opioid Addiction and Overdose. As part of our commitment to openness and transparency, Ontario is now launching the Interactive Opioid Tracker, which is a web-based tool that makes available a wide range of data on opioid-related morbidity and mortality. As the data shows, the opioid problem is affecting people of all ages, right across the province. The data shows that 412 people died as a result of opioid overdose in the first six months of 2016, compared with 293 during the same time period in 2015. These statistics are deeply troubling and further exemplify why taking action on this issue is crucially important. The information in the Interactive Opioid Tracker provides over 10 years (2003-2016) of the highest-quality verified information on opioid-related emergency department visits, hospitalizations and deaths in Ontario. It will help health care workers and policy makers across the province better understand the scope and scale of the opioid problem and support the development of targeted policies and interventions that will strengthen our response on a provincial and local level. Ontario's opioid strategy is the most comprehensive in the country. We are already providing life-saving Naloxone free of charge in over 200 towns and cities; de-listing high-strength, long-acting opioids; providing support for substance use disorder treatment and supervised injection services; increasing investment in mental health supports; providing funding for 18 pain management clinics across Ontario; and supporting the development of new quality standards for appropriate prescribing. We have been clear about the urgent need to address the opioid problem. The Interactive Opioid Tracker will help us to better understand how opioid overdose and death is affecting people in Ontario and will strengthen our strategy as we work to combat this crisis in a targeted and informed way." – **Toronto – 12:30 PM**

Local

ENERGY – Minister Thibeault – EcoSchools Event – Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy and MPP for Sudbury, visited MacLeod Public School today to highlight actions taken by students to conserve energy, raise awareness about the importance of conservation and reduce their school's

environmental footprint. MacLeod Public School joined [Ontario EcoSchools](#) last fall, an education and certification program that helps schools develop ecological literacy and practices to become environmentally responsible citizens. The school's **EcoTeam** includes 15 students from grades four to six. Together, they have encouraged energy conservation and participated in numerous environmental initiatives including Lights Out Canada, an annual event during which schools turn off their lights and encourage the community to do the same at home. The team has also taken part in Turn Down the Heat/ Turn Up the Fun, an event aimed at raising awareness about renewable energy and energy consumption in schools. Conservation is the cleanest and least costly energy resource, and offers consumers a means to reduce their electricity bills. Putting conservation first is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy, and help people in their everyday lives. – **Sudbury – 10:00 AM**

AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS – Minister McMahon, MPP Nadoo-Harris – Earth Fresh Farms GF2 Echo – The provincial and federal governments are supporting Burlington's food and beverage processing sector by helping local businesses expand production, meet consumer demand and create good jobs. Eleanor McMahon, MPP for Burlington and Pam Damoff, MP for Oakville North - Burlington, made the announcement today at EarthFresh Farms Inc., in Burlington. This support has allowed the vegetable processor to establish a dedicated organic onion packing line that will help EarthFresh introduce new products in Canada and other markets, helping grow its business and the local economy. EarthFresh Farms Inc. is one of 223 Growing Forward 2 food and beverage sector funding recipients from across Ontario. The program helps to achieve the federal government's goal to create good jobs and grow the middle class, by supporting food makers to develop products that reflect changing market tastes and new opportunities. Supporting jobs and growing local businesses in Ontario's food and beverage industry is part of the provincial government's plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives. – **Burlington – Time TBC**

TRANSPORTATION – RER Cooksville Station project RFP Close – Ontario is making it easier for commuters and families in Peel Region with upgrades and improvements to Cooksville GO Station, including a new station building and parking structure. The province has reached the next milestone in the project with the closing of the request for proposals to design, build, and finance the station upgrades. The planned improvements to Cooksville GO Station include:

- A new station building
- A new six-story parking structure and redevelopment of parking areas
- Upgrades to the platform and access tunnels
- A bus loop with a minimum of eight bus bays for GO and MiWay bus service

Improvements to the Cooksville GO Station are part of Ontario's plan to deliver GO Regional Express Rail (RER), which will provide faster and more frequent service with electrification on core segments, increasing weekly trips across the entire GO rail network from 1,500 to 6,000 over 10 years, and is the largest commuter rail project in Canada. Ontario is making the largest infrastructure investment in hospitals, schools, public transit, roads and bridges in the province's history. To learn more about what's happening in your community, go to [Ontario.ca/BuildON](#). Improving public transit for commuters and families is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives. – **Paper Only – Time TBC**

FYI

FAO Releases Report On Fair Hydro Plan – Media Studio – 10:00 AM

Bank Of Canada Interest Rate Announcement

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