

ANNOUNCEMENT COVER SHEET

EQUAL PAY ECHO — INNOVATIVE AUTOMATION

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017 — BARRIE

Premier —

On Friday, you will visit Innovative Automation to echo Tuesday's announcement of our Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Plan. After speaking with Steve Sutton, a new employee, you will deliver a few minutes of informal remarks without notes or a podium and answer media questions. Again, we want you to draw on your interactions with the worker at the event to animate your remarks, and are providing these cover note BPs with key messages for your review prior to speaking.

- Thank you, Ann, for that introduction [MPP Ann Hoggarth]
- And my thanks to Innovative Automation for having us today
- I've just had the chance to talk to Steve
- Steve is new to Innovative Automation, so he knows what it's like to work at businesses that don't treat him fairly or pay a living wage, and he knows what it's like to work somewhere that does believe in fairness at work
- We're here today because not everyone in Ontario is getting that opportunity to be treated fairly and protected at work, and we're taking action
- So I want to thank Innovative Automation for treating its 100 employees decently — for seeing the value in fair workplaces and strong communities — and being leaders when it comes to our plan to create fairness like this at every workplace in Ontario

Like Innovative Automation, most businesses in Ontario do treat their workers with decency and fairness. But some businesses are using part-time, contract and temp workers to duck their obligations to treat workers decently and fairly

- Part-time work is on the rise — now representing 20 per cent of all employment in Ontario
- That, in itself, is not a bad thing
- But when companies hire part-time workers just so they can pay them less than full-time workers...

- Or when a company calls an employee a contractor just so they can be off the hook on providing the necessary benefits and protections...
- Then we have a problem
- And we know that problem is upon us: in 2016, part-time workers made an average of \$13 an hour while full-time workers earned nearly \$25
- In fact, nearly 30 per cent of today's workers are earning less than \$15 an hour
- That's just not good enough — especially when our economy is growing and corporate profits are skyrocketing
- Prosperity will never be built on the backs of cheap labour

In this time of dramatic economic change, the workplace is changing too — and government has to step up and lead — we have to work harder than ever to build and preserve our fair society

- Equal pay for equal work is the very essence of fairness
- It's why, after two years of consultation and study, we are moving ahead with a plan for Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs
- We introduced the legislation yesterday
- It includes new rules to make it illegal for an employer to pay a part-time, temp or seasonal worker less than a full-time worker
- It extends vacation and emergency leave benefits to more workers
- And it raises the minimum wage to \$15 an hour over the next 18 months

There have been some questions this week about whether a higher minimum wage will lead to layoffs or an increase in the cost of goods and services

- I'm here to tell you those fears are baseless
- Since the Conservatives froze the minimum wage at \$6.85 an hour, Liberals have increased it ten times
- Today, it is 70 per cent higher than it was when we took office and guess what? The economy continues to grow, unemployment is at a 16-year low and inflation is normal

Ontario's economy is back on track

- We're growing faster than Canada's economy, faster than the U.S. — new wealth is being created

- But that means nothing if workers aren't being treated fairly and aren't able to get ahead
- Everyone deserves a fair share of the growth that they are helping to create
- And I know that government can be a force for good here — it's why I am in politics
- And it's why you're seeing this thread of fairness and security running through everything we're doing as a government — free tuition, OHIP+ so families can fill their kids' prescriptions for free, our fair hydro plan and the steps we're taking to make buying or renting a home more affordable
- We have Canada's strongest economy and a balanced Budget — it's an opportunity to put fairness at the heart of everything we do in Ontario and we aren't going to miss it
- I am now happy to take your questions

Please let us know if you have any questions,

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