

Draft 03  
Throne Speech  
News Release  
September 12, 2016  
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French: Yes

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## **Throne Speech Announces Electricity Rate Relief, New Child Care Spaces** *Balanced Plan Will Build Ontario Up and Help People in Their Everyday Lives*

September 12, 2016

### **NEWS**

As part of its balanced plan to build Ontario up and help people in their everyday lives, the Ontario government will introduce legislation that, if passed, would eliminate the provincial portion of HST on electricity bills as of January 1, 2017. Rural and remote electricity ratepayers will receive additional rebates and commercial and industrial ratepayers will also benefit from lower electricity costs.

The government also announced that it will create an additional 100,000 licensed infant and toddler child care spaces within the next five years.

The government's plan was outlined in the Speech from the Throne delivered today by the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Ontario's Lieutenant Governor. The speech opened the second session of the province's 41<sup>st</sup> parliament.

The plan will continue to deliver on the government's number-one priority — creating economic growth and good jobs. The government will also balance the budget next year, in 2017-18, and Ontario's debt-to-GDP ratio will decline — a sign of economic strength and fiscal responsibility.

The government's plan will help people in their everyday lives by:

- Delivering electricity rate relief through legislation to eliminate the provincial portion of the HST on electricity bills — a saving of at least \$130 annually for the typical Ontario urban ratepayer; eligible rural and remote ratepayers would receive additional rebates, resulting in average annual savings of \$670. Businesses will also benefit from these changes
- Creating an additional 100,000 licensed child care spaces for 0-4 years olds within the next five years, bringing the number of spaces created since 2013 to 156,000
- Putting a new emphasis on math skills, expanding experiential learning, implementing free tuition for low- and middle-income students and encouraging more young people to turn their good ideas into start-up companies
- Investing in skills training that aligns with the job market of today and tomorrow
- Adding 80,000 hours of nursing care to enhance home care, reducing ER wait times and wait times for specialists, and connecting a family doctor or nurse practitioner to every Ontarian who wants one
- Continuing to make historic infrastructure investments in schools, hospitals, roads, bridges and transit

- Building a competitive business environment driven by innovative, low-carbon industries, including attracting international investment, continuing to cut red tape and implementing a cap and trade program to help people and businesses fight climate change
- Continuing to work with its federal and provincial partners to enhance the Canada Pension Plan (CPP)

The Throne Speech outlines the next steps in the government's economic plan to build Ontario up and deliver on its number-one priority to grow the economy and create jobs. The four-part plan includes helping more people get and create the jobs of the future by making a high-quality college and university education more affordable. The plan is making the largest infrastructure investment in hospitals, schools, roads, bridges and transit in Ontario's history and is building a low-carbon economy driven by innovative, high-growth, export-oriented businesses. The plan is also helping working Ontarians achieve a more secure retirement.

## QUOTES

“Ontario’s economy is still in transition, but our recovery is firmly on track. While many are benefiting from the growth we’ve achieved, others have yet to share in Ontario’s resurgence. Our government understands the challenges people face and shares their concerns. With our balanced and proven plan to build Ontario up, we begin this new legislative session focused on economic growth that creates good jobs and committed to delivering real benefits that will help more people in their everyday lives.”

— Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario

## QUICK FACTS

- Over the last three years, Ontario’s economy has grown by nearly seven per cent
- In the first quarter of this year, Ontario’s growth was higher than that of the United States and G7
- Ontario unemployment is at a seven-year low
- The majority of net new jobs created in Ontario are full-time positions

## LEARN MORE

- [Read/watch](#) the Speech from the Throne
- [Links to backgrounders](#)