

Building a Fairer and Better Future for People Across Ontario

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News Release

Building a Fairer and Better Future for People Across Ontario

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Government Makes Significant Progress in Spring Sitting of the Legislature

Ontario is creating opportunity and security for the people of the province through a series of comprehensive measures introduced during the spring legislative sitting. These measures support good jobs, fair workplaces and better wages, prepare our workforce for the new innovation economy and make life more affordable for workers, students, seniors and families.

Ontario's economy is in a relatively strong position. However, many people in the province are not feeling that growth in their everyday lives. To help more people get ahead and stay ahead in a changing economy, the government has announced actions that will make a positive difference in people's lives. These are possible because Ontario has balanced the budget. These actions include:

- **Raising the minimum wage** and creating more security for employees through landmark changes to employment and labour laws
- **Making prescription medications free** for everyone 24 years of age and younger through OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare -- the biggest expansion of universal Medicare in Ontario in a generation
- Launching a pilot project to assess whether a **basic income** can better support workers and improve health and education outcomes for people on low incomes
- Making it more affordable to buy or rent a home, expanding rent control and bringing stability to the real estate market through **Ontario's Fair Housing Plan**
- **Lowering electricity bills by 25 per cent**, on average, for all residential customers and as many as half a million small businesses and farms
- Providing **access to affordable, quality licensed child care** for 100,000 more children, including 24,000 in 2017-18
- Making it easier for Ontario businesses to grow and create more jobs by **cutting red tape and reducing regulatory burdens**

- Creating tomorrow's jobs today, and attracting talent and investment by **funding transformative technologies** such as artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles and 5G (fifth-generation) wireless networks
- **Continuing to stand up for Ontario workers and businesses** by actively defending the province's trade and investment interests with U.S. legislators and businesses.

Actions introduced this legislative sitting are part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

QUICK FACTS

- Over the past three years, Ontario's real GDP growth has outpaced that of all G7 countries, supported by the government's strategic investments. Exports and business investments are increasing, and the unemployment rate continues to decline.
- As part of the 2017 Budget, Ontario plans to provide \$9 billion in capital grants to support the construction of new hospital projects across the province.
- Through the new OSAP, Ontario is also making college and university tuition free for hundreds of thousands of students, and providing more generous grants for most students.
- Ontario's record infrastructure investment of more than \$190 billion over 13 years, beginning in 2014-15, is supporting an average of 125,000 jobs each year.
- The government passed 17 bills and introduced three more in the spring sitting of the 41st Parliament of Ontario.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- [17 Bills Passed and 3 Others Introduced During 2017 Spring Sitting of the Legislature](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [2017 Ontario Budget](#)



QUOTES

"Ontario's economy is strong — and it is growing. Yet many people feel uncertain about their futures in a changing world. As a government, we can and must be a force for good. That is why we are taking bold action so that everyone can feel more secure and confident about the future. We are making life more affordable and fair, and investing in the people, communities and businesses that make our province great. We are building a better life and a better future for everyone."

— *Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario*

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