

Thursday, May 11 News

From: "Bossin, Bryan (OPO)" <bryan.bossin@ontario.ca>
To: "MacKenzie, Rebecca (OPO)" <rebecca.mackenzie@ontario.ca>, "McEachern, Gillian (OPO)" <gillian.mceachern@ontario.ca>, "Rowe, Mary (OPO)" <mary.rowe@ontario.ca>, "Killorn, Bill (OPO)" <bill.killorn@ontario.ca>, "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.forgione@ontario.ca>, "Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO)" <jennifer.beaudry2@ontario.ca>, "Singh, Gurvinder (OPO)" <gurvinder.singh2@ontario.ca>, "Moseley-Williams, Kate (OPO)" <kate.moseley-williams2@ontario.ca>, "Pattillo, Ian (OPO)" <ian.pattillo@ontario.ca>, "Saad, Dani (OPO)" <dani.saad@ontario.ca>, "Foerster, Carly (OPO)" <carly.foerster@ontario.ca>, "Tomney, Genevieve (OPO)" <genevieve.tomney@ontario.ca>, "Church Carson, Eileen (OPO)" <eileen.churchcarson@ontario.ca>
Cc: "Zeifman, Clancy (OPO)" <clancy.zeifman@ontario.ca>, "Reid, Kelty (OPO)" <kelty.reid@ontario.ca>, "McMackin, Olivia (OPO)" <olivia.mcmackin@ontario.ca>, cbanas@liberal.ola.org, ckim@liberal.ola.org
Date: Wed, 10 May 2017 23:11:05 -0400

Premier

Announcement and Avail: OHIP+ echo – Premier Kathleen Wynne was at One Kids Place in North Bay today to discuss how Ontario's new OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare Program will help children and their families. As part of the 2017 Budget, Ontario announced that it is moving to make prescription medications free for everyone 24 years of age and younger, regardless of family income. Beginning January 1, 2018, the proposed program will provide free prescription medications for more than four million children and young people, helping families who may not have access to comprehensive drug benefit plans. Coverage will be automatic, with no upfront costs. Beyond the most common prescriptions, OHIP+ will give children and young people access to more than 4,400 drugs reimbursed under the [Ontario Drug Benefit Program](#), including medications funded through the Exceptional Access Program, at no cost. Medications that will be covered include asthma inhalers, antibiotics, drugs to treat depression, anxiety and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and oral contraceptives. Ontario's drug funding program is already one of the country's most generous, helping to pay for prescription medications for seniors, people with high drug costs and other vulnerable populations. Ontario is investing \$465 million to expand coverage through OHIP+. Making prescription medications more affordable for young people and families is part of Ontario's plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives. – **North Bay – 11:15 AM**

Fireside Chat: FONOM – **North Bay – 1:15 PM**

Province-Wide

LABOUR – Minister Flynn, PA Colle – Construction Health and Safety Action Plan – Construction Health and Safety Action Plan – Ontario is helping to prevent workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities for workers on construction sites across the province through the implementation of its Construction Health and Safety Action Plan. Minister of Labour Kevin Flynn announced the plan today at the construction site for the new courthouse in Toronto. Created with input from construction employers, workers and other industry stakeholders, Ontario's plan contains 16 recommendations to strengthen the prevention of work-related injury and illness for construction workers on sites of all sizes across the province. Ontario has already made progress on a number of initiatives in the Construction Health and Safety Action Plan, including:

- Developing a web tool and mobile app to help employers and workers understand their health and safety obligations and rights for specific construction projects

- Building an online portal that allows building inspectors to report unsafe work practices to the government
- Increasing awareness about working-at-heights training requirements.

Improving health and safety in the construction sector is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives. – **Toronto – 9:00 AM**

ENERGY – Minister Thibeault – Fair Hydro Plan Legislation – (DRAFT) Ontario has introduced legislation that would, if passed, lower electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for all residential customers to provide significant rate relief and ensure greater fairness. The Fair Hydro Act, 2017, would result in lower electricity bills for all residential consumers and as many as half a million small businesses and farms, starting this summer. Lower-income Ontarians and those living in eligible rural communities would receive even greater reductions, as much as a 40 to 50 per cent. As part of this plan, rate increases over four years would be held to the rate of inflation. These measures include the eight per cent rebate introduced in January and build on previously announced initiatives to deliver broad-based rate relief on all electricity bills. Taken together, these changes would deliver the single-largest reduction to electricity rates in the province's history. If passed, the legislation would:

- Enable the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to work together to spread out the costs of Ontario's clean energy investments over a longer period of time, ensuring fairness for current and future ratepayers. This would be accomplished through refinancing a portion of the Global Adjustment (GA), resulting in significant and immediate rate reductions.
- Modify the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) to ensure it is funded by government instead of ratepayers, reducing bills for all.
- Enhance the Rural or Remote Rate Protection (RRRP) program to provide delivery charge relief to about 800,000 customers, including those served by local distribution companies (LDCs) with the highest rates.
- Provide on-reserve First Nations households with a 100 per cent credit of the delivery line on their monthly electricity bills.

Reducing electricity costs is part of Ontario's plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives. – **Media Studio – 2:00 PM**

TOURISM, CULTURE AND SPORT – Minister McMahon – Youth Cultural Camps – Ontario is supporting the next generation of Indigenous leaders with new sport and recreation opportunities for Indigenous youth across the province. Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport Eleanor McMahon was at the 2017 National Aboriginal Physical Activity and Wellness Conference in Guelph today to announce the province's support for a number of programs to enhance Indigenous youth's physical, emotional and spiritual well-being, including:

- New funding for 12 leadership-in-training camps and more than 40 community camps, to prepare indigenous youth across Ontario to be leaders in their communities by developing traditional knowledge, improving language skills and fostering leadership skills.
- New support to help urban, rural and remote Indigenous youth get involved in competitive sports, through the Sport Pathway for Ontario Native Wellness program. This funding is expected to help a number of youth participate in the 2017 North American Indigenous Games.
- Continued support for a dedicated "activator" in 27 First Nations communities, through the Community Aboriginal Recreation Activator program. This person will create a recreation plan for their local community to deliver physical activity programming.

By working with Indigenous communities and organizations to provide culturally appropriate experiences to revitalize cultural knowledge, Indigenous youth will build a stronger sense of self, acquire skills to set them up for success and be able to move forward on a path towards healing and reconciliation. Supporting Indigenous youth is one of the many steps on Ontario's journey of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. As part of The Journey Together: Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, this initiative reflects the government's commitment to work with Indigenous partners, creating a better future for everyone in the province. – **Guelph – 3:45 PM**

Local

No announcements planned

FYI

Statistics Canada to Release New Housing Price Index for March 2017

MPP Milczyn discusses PMB - Bill 122: Registered Professional Planners Act – **Media Studio – 9:30 AM**

Bryan Bossin

Director, Communications Planning

Office of the Honourable Kathleen Wynne | Premier of Ontario

Office: 416-325-7952 | Mobile: 647-338-3561