

Message

From: Navigator Limited [info=navltd.com@mail176.suw18.rsgsv.net]
on behalf of Navigator Limited [info@navltd.com]
Sent: 2017-04-27 5:15:02 PM
To: Terry Young [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=872fa3f6e61a48709b11458c0c3b6ca6-Terry Young]
Subject: Ontario's Budget 2017-18

[View this email in your browser](#)

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Budget Overview

Fiscal Outlook

Today, Minister of Finance **Charles Sousa** tabled Ontario's 2017 budget, the government's first balanced budget since the global economic downturn of 2008-2009.

The government projects a balanced budget for 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. The 2016-2017 fiscal year is projected to end with a \$1.5 billion deficit, which is less than the \$2.8 billion originally forecast in the 2016 budget.

The government credits the balanced budget to Ontario's competitive tax position, growth through infrastructure spending, fighting the underground economy and a responsible plan to balance the budget.

Families

With a balanced budget, the government announced new measures specific to every day family concerns and provided clarity on previously announced items. Some of these measures include:

- 100,000 more affordable and quality licensed child care spaces;
- 25 per cent hydro rate reduction and caps on hydro rate increases to inflation for the next four years through the Fair Hydro Plan;
- Expanded rent control and a new 15 per cent tax on Non-Resident Speculators in the Greater Golden Horseshoe through the Fair Housing Plan.

Health Care

The budget invests in health care and hospitals, particularly for youth. Some measures highlighted includes:

- Starting January 2018, universal prescription drug coverage for children and youth (ages 24 and under through OHIP: Children and Youth Pharmacare);
- \$7 billion over the next three years to allow patients to receive care closer to home, see specialists faster, and have access to expanded mental health and addiction services;
 - \$1.3 billion to reduce wait times across the province;
 - \$518 million for the next fiscal year for hospital operations;

- \$9 billion over 10 years in new capital grants to support major hospital construction projects;
- Funding to incentivize the accelerated rollout of 30,000 more long-term care beds;
- Funding to increase access to specialized health care;
- Establishment of a special committee of cabinet on mental health and addiction. The budget also reiterated the Government's commitment of an additional investment of \$140 million over three years to advance the expansion of mental health and addiction initiatives.

Ontario Communities

The budget outlines measures to help communities thrive, with a specific focus on support for business, transportation and infrastructure projects.

- The recommitted to its 2014-2015 plan to invest \$190 billion in public infrastructure over 13 years.
- Investing \$84 billion over 20 years in the transportation sector, including \$56 billion in public transit and \$26 billion for highways.

Consumer protection

The government is looking to help protect consumers in a variety of ways

- Continue consulting with stakeholders on the implementation of the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario (FSRA). Legislation on FSRA will be introduced by the end of 2017. In the meantime, legislative amendments will be introduced to allow the Financial Services Tribunal to manage its caseload more efficiently.
- Transferring the regulatory oversight of syndicated mortgage investments from FSCO to the securities regulator.
- Strengthening protections for investors in syndicated mortgages with new regulations around investment limits and requiring mortgage brokerages to document their assessments of the suitability of such products for their clients.
- Working with regulatory partners to close the gap that currently allows financial planners to perform work without regulatory oversight or specified proficiency requirements.
- Restricting the use of titles related to financial planning.

Education

The budget commits to additional funding to Ontario's education system:

- An additional \$6.4 billion over three years, including \$5.5 billion into education for the first year;
 - Creating 40,000 new work-integrated learning opportunities with employees for students and recent graduates;
 - Modernizing facilities to increase access to post-secondary education.
-

Opinion Highlights

- Glory, hallelujah: Ontario has a balanced budget again. (Brian Platt, *Ottawa Citizen*)
 - Ten questions for Charles Sousa. (Steve Paikin, *TVO*)
-

Question Period Highlights (April 27)

Ontario budget

- PC Deputy Leader **Steve Clark** said that Ontarians will continue to pay for the gas plants scandal precipitated by the government's desire to save two seats. Clark posited that the government would spend more in the budget to win the election.
- Premier **Kathleen Wynne** noted that the budget is "very important" and will continue to make investments in the lives of people in the province. The Premier also noted that the point of a balanced budget will allow government to meet the needs of people in the province.
- **Clark** said the government's budget has already forced Ontarians to pay \$9.2 billion in cancelled contract that will not go to health care or schools.

- The Premier said that investments in education and health care are not just goodies, but are important measures. The Premier also noted that Ontario leads the country in economic growth.
- Clark predicted that the budget will be the "same old budget" that will still include a plan to partially sell Hydro One. **Clark** said that the government should stop helping their friends on Bay Street and help ordinary Ontarians.
- The Premier noted that the government is undertaking the largest infrastructure investment in Ontario's history, which has led Ontario's economy to outpace Canada and all other G-7 countries in growth. The Premier also noted that the Province's net debt to GDP amounts have gone down, Moody's has upgraded Ontario's debt and Ontario's exports are rising.
- **Clark** quoted former Premier Dalton McGuinty who said it was never too late to do the right thing. Clark then implored the government to restore the Auditor General's powers over government advertising.
- The Premier agreed with **Clark's** sentiment. The Premier said that it was never too late for the official opposition to engage in a real discussion and a plan to help Ontarians.

Universal prescription drug coverage

- NDP Deputy Leader **Jagmeet Singh** asked the government if the prescription drug coverage afforded to Ontarians was sufficient.
- Health Minister **Eric Hoskins** welcomed the NDP to the party and noted that the government continues to advocate for a national pharmacare program.
- **Singh** said that the government had 14 years to provide universal prescription drug coverage to Ontarians, but did not.
- **Hoskins** said that the NDP had 14 years to ask about universal pharmacare and accused the NDP of only asking about it "since Monday".

Today in the Legislature

**Government
Business**

That this House approves
in general the Budgetary
Policy of the Government.

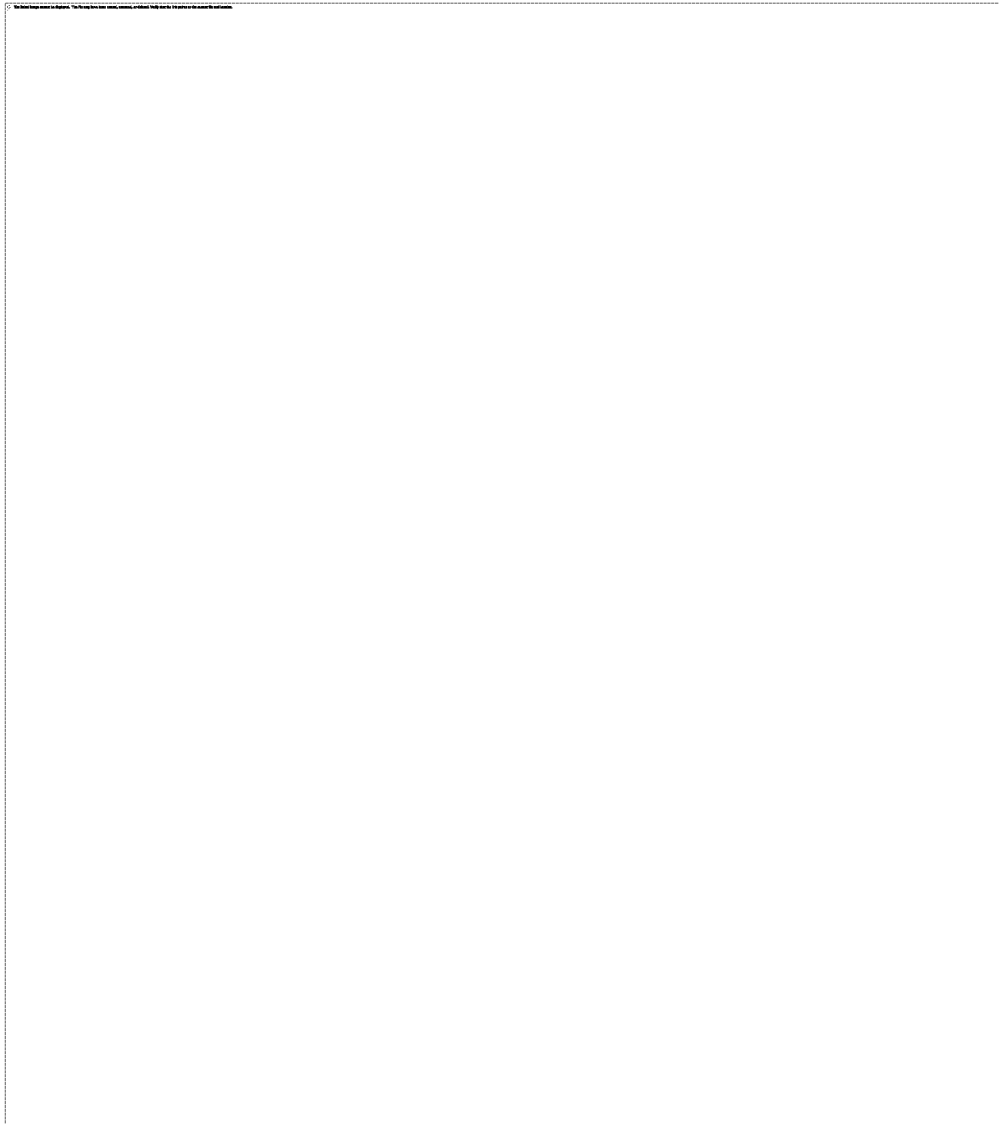
**Private Members'
Business**

**No Private Members'
Business**

**Committee
Meetings**

9:00 a.m. - **Standing
Committee on Justice
Policy** will meet for clause-
by-clause consideration of
Bill 89, An Act to enact the
Child, Youth and Family
Services Act, 2016, to
amend and repeal the Child
and Family Services Act
and to make related
amendments to other Acts

Social Media Snapshot



[Click here to see more top posts](#)

Events at a Glance

Monday, May 8, 2017

Education Minister Mitzie Hunter will discuss the government's Highly Skilled Workforce Strategy

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Location: Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 100 Front Street West, Toronto

RSVP: <https://www.canadianclub.org/Events/EventDetails.aspx?id=3383>

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Queen's Park Press Gallery Spring Fling

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Hart House, University of Toronto

Monday, May 29, 2017

Health Minister Eric Hoskins will outline the government's vision for transforming health care.

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Canadian Room, Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 100 Front Street West, Toronto

RSVP: <https://www.empireclub.org/events/honourable-eric-hoskins/>

Copyright © 2017 Navigator Ltd. All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you signed up for an email marketing product from Navigator Ltd. This could include our Queen's Park Update, Brexit Update Series, Political Traction podcast, or another email product. You may also be receiving this email because you are an existing personal contact of a member of our Navigator team. You may unsubscribe from these emails at any time using the "unsubscribe" link in the footer of each email. If you have any questions or concerns please send an email to info@navitd.com.

Our mailing address is:

Navigator Ltd.
121 King Street West, Suite 1810
Box 100
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3T9
Canada

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)