

5 Things Friday



What your government did for you this week.

Child Care in Ontario

Ontario has appointed Dr. Gordon Cleveland to lead a new study with the goal of building a child care system that makes child care universally accessible and affordable to all Ontario families. Quality child care is essential for families. Parents want peace of mind to know they will have access to affordable child care in a location that is convenient. Yet for too many, child care is unavailable, unaffordable, or has a significant wait time. Dr. Cleveland will provide policy recommendations, including ways to improve access to child care subsidies. The study is expected to be complete by the end of February 2018.



Senior Active Living Centres



Ontario is creating more spaces and programs to help seniors stay health and active by supporting 40 new seniors' centres across the province. The 40 new centres will help the province better meet the needs of our growing seniors' population. A call for proposals will be issued in early Fall 2017 to move forward with the new centres. These new centres will add to the network of 263 Elderly Persons Centres across Ontario. Ontario recently passed legislation that, once proclaimed, will rename these centres as Senior Active Living Centres to better reflect the vibrant, diverse and active seniors across the province. This legislation will also help the centres better respond to community needs, build strong partnerships, strengthen their services and act as community hubs.

Ontario's First Chief Scientist

The province is searching for its first Chief Scientist to advance science and evidence-based decision making in Ontario. The Chief Scientist will advise on the long term vision and strategic research agenda for Ontario and provide scientific expertise on a range of provincewide issues. They will also work to ensure the province remains a top destination for global research talent and help advance Ontario's reputation as a jurisdiction that believes investing in knowledge and science is the key to success and economic prosperity. In March 2017, Ontario held public consultations to help determine the skills and experience the Chief Scientist should possess. The province's first Chief Scientist will be announced this fall.



Canadian Books in Ontario Schools Fund



Ontario is bringing more Canadian literature into schools across Ontario, to enrich the learning experience of students in the classroom. The Canadian Books in Ontario Schools Fund is a three-year pilot project that will support publishers to create supplementary resources, including curriculum-linked lesson plans, activities and discussion guides, to complement acclaimed works of Canadian literature. The fund was developed through consultations with education professionals, teachers and Ontario-based publishers and will be administered by the Ontario Media Development Corporation.

Ontario Trillium Foundation's Seed Investment Stream

Ontario is supporting 204 new and innovative projects that will respond to local needs and help build healthy and vibrant communities across the province. The Ontario Trillium Foundation's Seed Investment Stream helps communities meet local needs through new ideas and projects, such as helping people find work, helping newcomers settle in a community or helping volunteer organizations boost their membership. An additional 11 projects are being awarded Collective Impact Grants, which help organizations work together to address complex social issues in communities.