

# 5 Things Friday



What your government did for you this week.

## **2018 First Quarter Finances**

This week the Ontario government released the 2017-19 First Quarter Finances, which confirm Ontario is on track to balance the budget this year while making investments in the programs and services people and families rely on most. Key projections from the report include:

- Total revenue of \$141.8 billion, up to \$145 million from the 2017 Budget
- Provincial program expense of \$129.6 billion, up \$145 million from the 2017 budget
- Interest on debt expense of \$11.6 billion, unchanged from the 2017 Budget forecast

A balanced budget means better health care, including new hospitals and free prescription medications for everyone under 25 through OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare. It means 100,000 more kids will have access to high quality, licensed child care. And it means seniors will benefit from new and improved facilities to stay active and engaged in their communities.



## **Enhancing the Patient Experience**

Ontario has launched a new online tool to help people find wait times information for surgeries and procedures at hospitals across the province, and is providing more digital tools to help improve the patient experience including:

- Enhanced wait times information: developed in collaboration with Health Quality Ontario (HQP), the new, easy-to-use wait times tool now includes the length of time between a referral received from a family physician or nurse practitioner and the patient's first appointment with a specialist or surgeon

- Ontario.ca/health: a user focused, mobile friendly and trusted source for information about a variety of health services in Ontario, including how to renew health cards, find health services in your community and get dental care for children.
- Expansion of the online eReferral system to seven more LHINs. eReferral helps reduce wait times by connecting patients and primary care providers to specialists and other health care services in their community faster.

## **Developing Green Building Skills**

Ontario is helping workers thrive in the low-carbon economy with new support for building sector professionals to develop green building skills. This initiative is part of Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan and is funded by proceeds from the province's carbon market. Ontario is helping unions, colleges and universities acquire new equipment and increase their capacity to train current and future workers in low carbon building skills.

## **Revitalization of Massey Hall**

Ontario is investing in the revitalization of Massey Hall to ensure it continues to engage and entertain people for years to come. Ontario is supporting the restoration of the interior and exterior of the historic venue and planning for a future tower connected to the south of the building. The province previously provided support for Massey Hall renovations including the construction of a foundation for the new south tower.

## **Cyclone Manufacturing**

Ontario is partnering with Cyclone Manufacturing to invest in new technology and expand its Mississauga facilities, creating 132 new jobs and retaining 554 positions. Cyclone Manufacturing makes precision components for the aerospace industry, with services including machining, sheet metal fabrication, tube bending, welding, assembly and final processing and finishing.