

5 Things Friday



What your government did for you this week.

Budget Talks

Ontario launched budget Talks, an online consultation that allows the public to help shape policies and programs that will be part of Ontario's future. The government will provide up to \$5 million to fund up to five proposals identified and voted on by the public as part of the 2018 Budget. This is the fourth year in a row the government has engaged the public in the development of the Ontario budget through budget Talks, and the second year that funding will be allocated directly to citizen-led proposals. Through Ontario.ca/budgettalks, people are invited to share ideas on five focus areas, including child care, seniors, small business, students and health living. All proposals must be submitted online by midnight on November 3, 2017.



Public Library Week



Ontario is kicking off Public Library Week with improvements to digital services at 307 libraries and library organizations across the province. Ontario is increasing access to technology, digital services and training opportunities at public libraries in towns, cities and Indigenous communities across the province. Funding is helping libraries offer more technology in their communities, such as wireless internet connections, new computers, and e-books, as well as classes on topics like social media and computer literacy.

Historic Investments to Strengthen On-Reserve Water

The Government of Ontario, in partnership with the federal government and First Nations across the province, is making historic investments to strengthen on-reserve water and wastewater. These investments safeguard the health and well-being of residents, protect waterways and preserve local ecosystems. It was announced this week that 235 projects in First Nations across Ontario will receive funding under the Government of Canada's Clean water and Wastewater Fund. Thanks to this \$8.8 million investment, First Nations across Ontario will benefit from improved water, wastewater and storm water management. Water and wastewater control system upgrades in Nipissing First Nation will improve response times during water and wastewater emergencies. A new generator for the water treatment plant in the Brunswick House First Nation and storm water system improvements in Fort William First Nation will improve these communities' storm water management system, as well as improve water quality in the surrounding environments.



Fire Prevention Week



Ontario is helping retirement homes with the cost of installing automatic sprinkler systems, to enhance seniors' safety and ensure that new Ontario Fire Code requirements are met. The province is now accepting applications for the new cost-sharing program, which will help small and rural retirement homes retrofit more than 6,000 suites across Ontario. Automatic sprinklers are vital to the safety and security of all retirement home residents, staff and first responders.

Industry-Led Career Initiative

Ontario is helping Black youth with post-secondary education prepare for their careers through a new program that will increase their representation in sectors such as engineering, insurance and finance. The Industry-Led Career Initiative is part of the Ontario Black Youth Action Plan, and aims to reduce employment and income disparities among young professionals. Ontario is encouraging organizations to apply now to receive funding to develop industry-specific training and job placement programs. Successful organizations will receive up to \$375,000 per year to create programs in the GTHA, Ottawa and Windsor. The Ontario Black Youth Action Plan is a four-year, \$47 million commitment to help reduce disparities for more than 10,000 Black children, youth and families in communities across the province.