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**April 6, 2021**

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**From:** Nina Tangri MPP <[NOREPLY@ninatangri.ca](mailto:NOREPLY@ninatangri.ca)>  
**Sent:** March 24, 2021 8:30 PM  
**To:** Iannicca, Nando <[nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca](mailto:nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca)>  
**Subject:** Ontario Budget 2021

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Dear Nando--

Today, Minister Bethlenfalvy announced the 2021 Ontario Budget. This Budget, *Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy*, will bring an investment of \$51 billion to protect and support Ontario's economy. The 2021 Budget will provide \$51 billion in total supports over 4 years and will support workers and families, support jobs, and support communities. More importantly, it will make available every necessary resource to continue to protect people's health going forward, and it will expand the support our government has provided to those still facing financial hardship due to the pandemic, including families, workers, vulnerable people, seniors, and employers.

[Read the 2021 Budget \(PDF\)](#)

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# Ontario's Action Plan

## Protecting People's Health and Our Economy

#2021OntarioBudget



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### **INVESTING IN HEALTHCARE**

- Providing \$69.8 billion base funding in the year 2021-2022 and an additional \$5.1 billion in dedicated COVID-19 health response funding.
- We will continue to put patients first with a capital plan investment of \$30.2 billion over 10 years to build and renew hospital infrastructure including an additional \$3 billion since the 2020 Budget. This includes new hospital and other expansion projects in the Region of Peel and surrounding areas in collaboration with Trillium Health Partners and William Osler Hospital.
- We will build on the October 2020 allocation of \$19.25 million to support post-secondary students with on-campus and virtual Mental Health & Addictions services by investing a further \$7 million.
- To help the thousands of people struggling with Mental Health & Addictions Issues, Ontario is providing additional funding of \$175

million in 2021-22 as part of the historic funding of \$3.8 billion over 10 years to provide more and better care.

- To address surgical backlogs, the Ontario Government will be investing over \$610 million and an additional \$300 million to address the surgical backlogs from delayed or cancelled surgeries and procedures due to the pandemic. Funding will keep Operating Rooms open late in the evening to complete up to approximately 52,000 surgical hours of elective surgeries and address the MRI/CT backlog. This investment will also create a provincial surgical wait-list program to reduce delays in scheduling and help match patients to surgeons with shorter wait times.
- We will be expanding and renewing hospital infrastructure in central Ontario including Trillium Health Partners–Broader Redevelopment, which is expected to start construction in 2021-22 and will create an inpatient care tower at the Queensway site in Etobicoke, and completely rebuild the Mississauga hospital to increase capacity and address growth needs.

## **COVID-19**

- Ontario is leading the country in the number of rapid tests deployed, with over 3.1 million rapid tests deployed to high priority settings as of late Feb 2021.
- Ontario is building on its testing strategy by investing \$2.3 billion in 2021-22 and expanding the use of rapid testing in high-priority areas such as schools, congregate settings, workplaces and high-priority communities.
- Beginning in 2021-22, Ontario is investing more than \$1 billion to support Ontario's Vaccination Plan, including \$50 million to support vaccination in First Nations and urban Indigenous communities.
- Throughout the Pandemic, Ontario has made available more than \$1.4 billion for PPE, including more than 315 million masks and 1.2 million gloves.
- To ensure capacity, the Government is investing additional \$5.1 billion in hospitals to create more than 3,100 additional beds. This includes

- \$1.8 billion in 2021-22 to continue providing care for COVID-19 patients, address surgical backlogs and to keep pace with patient needs.**
- **Since the beginning of the pandemic, Ontario invested over \$100 million in dedicated IPAC funding including significant increases in capacity and measures for both prevention and response. Ontario is investing additional \$50 million in 2021-22 to build on this response and ensure resources and expertise are available across the entire Health Care system, including hospitals, PHUs and congregate settings.**
  - **To support faith-based and cultural organizations that are struggling due to the additional costs caused by COVID-19, Ontario will be making up to \$50 million available for grants to eligible organizations.**

## **ONTARIO'S VACCINATION PLAN**

- **The Ontario Government is investing \$3.7 million in 2021-22 to help remove barriers and provide safe and accessible transportation for people with disabilities and older adults with limited mobility to travel to their vaccine appointments.**
- **The government is investing \$3.7 billion over two years, including \$2.3 billion in 2021-22 in a comprehensive testing strategy to ensure timely access and access to vulnerable communities.**

[Learn more about Ontario's Vaccine Plan](#)

## **IMPROVING LONG-TERM CARE**

- **Ontario is investing an additional \$650 million in LTC in 2021-22 to continue to protect Ontario's Long-Term Care residents, bringing the total resources invested since the beginning of pandemic to over \$2 billion**
- **Investing an additional \$933 million over four years, for a total of \$2.6 billion, to support building 30,000 new LTC beds.**
- **New beds include 420 new and 220 upgraded LTC beds at Trillium**

**Health Partners' Speakman Site Project through the Accelerated Build Pilot Program.**

- **We will invest \$246 million over the next four years to improve the living conditions in existing LTCs including air conditioning.**
- **Ontario will provide the best Long-term care in Canada by investing \$4.9 billion over four years to increase the average direct daily care for LTC residents from 2.75 hours to 4 hours.**



## **INVESTING IN PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKERS (PSWs)**

- **Starting in 2021-22, Ontario is investing \$2 million over 2 years to attract new PSWs and nurses to work in retirement homes.**
- **PSWs will receive financial a grant of \$5,000 for a six-month commitment to work in a Retirement Home. Nurses will receive \$10,000 for a one year commitment.**
- **Ontario is investing \$160 million over 3 years to support Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care program in 33 communities, including Peel. This program will allow seniors to live**

longer in the comfort of their own homes, receiving the quality care and services they need.

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## **2021 Ontario Budget Protecting People's Health and Our Economy**

### **Support - For Families**

- **A new round of direct payments to families through the Ontario COVID-19 Child Benefit. The province is now providing a third round of payments to parents who received Supports for Learners payments, which are now being doubled.**
  - **Eligible parents will receive \$400 for each child aged 0 to Grade 12, and \$500 for youth up to 21 years of age with special needs.**
  - **This \$980 million of relief will build on the \$868 million of already provided.**
- **The province is investing \$8.4 million over 3 years in a crisis call diversion program within the OPP. This program will embed mental health workers in the OPP Communication Centre to provide immediate**

support to individuals facing a mental health crisis, to offer referrals and to help people find and access existing services.

- **Proposal for a temporary, 20 per cent top-up to the 2021 entitlement of the CARE tax credit for all recipients**
  - The top-up would increase support by \$75 million or from about \$1,250 to about \$1,500 per family, on average, to help more than 300,000 families who are eligible for the credit with their 2021 childcare expenses
  - The government has committed to creating up to 30,000 new childcare spaces, including up to 10,000 spaces in new schools

## **Support - For Seniors**

- In the 2020 Ontario Budget, Ontario announced the Senior's Home Safety Tax Credit for the 2021 Tax year to provide support to seniors for improvements that make their homes safer and more accessible.
- The Senior's Home Safety Tax Credit is worth 25% of up to \$10,000 in eligible expenses for a senior's principal residence in Ontario. The Tax Credit will provide approximately \$30 million in support and will benefit 27,000 seniors, including people who with senior relatives.

## **Support - For Students**

- Ontario led the nation in investments to safely re-open schools by making an historic investment of \$1.3 billion to make resources available to boards. The Ontario government will be providing an additional \$381 million through the Federal Safe Return to Class Fund, including investments of \$50 million for HEPA filters and other immediate measures to optimize air quality and ventilation. This investment builds on the \$50 million that was previously announced in August 2020, as well as investments in HVAC and system improvements that will be supported by up to \$700 million through the COVID-19 Resilience stream as part of federal–provincial Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding.
- Ontario is investing \$40 million in new funding over 2 years to improve

remote learning technology. This investment will help improve connectivity within school buildings and provide innovative tools and resources to help ensure that students and teachers can seamlessly participate in remote learning due to COVID-19 and beyond.

- Ontario is investing approximately \$14 billion in capital grants over 10 years to build more schools, upgrade existing facilities, and support education-related projects. This includes \$1.4 billion in school renewal for 2021-22 School Year.
- To help address the financial challenges related to COVID-19 and to support Ontario students the government is providing an additional \$106.4 million in 2021-22 to post-secondary institutions this funding will support post secondary institutions with the greatest financial need and could be used in key areas experiencing pressures related to COVID-19 including program delivery and student financial aid

## **Support - For Businesses**

- An additional round of support through the Ontario Small Business Support Grant will be provided
  - Small businesses who have been determined as eligible recipients of the Grant will automatically be entitled to a second payment in an amount equal to the first payment that they received
  - Through the two rounds of support (first one launched in January 2021), it is projected that the Ontario Small Business Support Grant will deliver an estimated \$3.4 billion to approximately 120,000 small businesses in Ontario
- Investing an additional \$10 million in the Digital Main Street Program in 2021-22 to help more small businesses achieve a digital transformation and serve customers online
- The new Ontario Tourism and Hospitality Small Business Support Grant, which will provide an estimated \$100 million in one-time payments of \$10,000 to \$20,000 to eligible small businesses including



hotels, motels, travel agencies, and recreational and vacation camps. *Any small business that received the Ontario Small Business Support Grant will not be eligible for this new grant.*

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As always, my staff and I are here to assist and help you with any of your concerns or questions. Please feel free to contact my office at 905-569-1643 or email me at [nina.tangrico@pc.ola.org](mailto:nina.tangrico@pc.ola.org) for any inquiries.

For updates on COVID-19 in Ontario, please [click here](#). Moreover, please feel free to reach my office for congratulatory certificates, anniversary scrolls, or birthday scrolls.

In the meantime, please stay safe.

Sincerely,

Nina Tangri

Member of Provincial Parliament

Mississauga-Streetsville

Nina Tangri MPP

<http://www.ninatangri.ca/>

[Read the 2021 Budget \(PDF\)](#)

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This email was sent to [nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca](mailto:nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#). You can also keep up with Nina Tangri MPP on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

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