

BUDGET IN BRIEF

# A Balanced Budget for a Stronger, Healthier Ontario



# A Balanced Budget for a Stronger, Healthier Ontario

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# Making life more affordable

Learn more about the services and programs in the balanced 2017 Budget — like housing affordability, electricity relief and child care — that will make life easier and more affordable for you and your family.

## Overview

The balanced 2017 Ontario Budget will help make everyday life easier and more affordable for people across the province.

By investing in what matters most to the people of Ontario, we're continuing to build a better province for everyone.

## OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare

We will provide free prescription medications to all children and youth aged 24 and under, regardless of family income.

Starting in January 2018, the new program will completely cover the cost of all medicines funded through the Ontario Drug Benefit program — with no deductible or co-payment. This will include medications to treat:

- most acute conditions
- common chronic conditions
- childhood cancers and other diseases

OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare is the first program of its kind in Canada.

## Child care

Ontario is helping 100,000 more children aged 4 and under access affordable, quality licensed child care.

## Electricity relief

Starting this summer, household electricity bills would be reduced by 25% on average through the proposed [Fair Hydro Plan](#). Approximately 500,000 small businesses and farms across Ontario would also benefit. In addition, bills would not increase beyond the rate of inflation for the next 4 years.

## Housing affordability

Our [Fair Housing Plan](#) is designed to:

- make housing more affordable for homebuyers and renters
- bring stability to the real estate market to protect the investment of homeowners

We're proposing a [new 15% tax](#) on the price of homes in the Greater Golden Horseshoe bought by people who aren't citizens or permanent residents of Canada or by non-Canadian corporations. This would help to address speculation, particularly in large urban centres like Toronto and Hamilton.

## The Fair Housing Plan — helping more homebuyers and renters find an affordable place to call home.

We're also proposing to [expand rent control](#) to all private rental units, including those built after 1991. This would strengthen protection for tenants against sudden, dramatic rent increases and help make sure everyone has a safe and affordable place to call home.

## Affordable public transit for seniors

We're helping seniors cover the cost of public transit with the proposed Ontario Seniors' Public Transit Tax Credit. The refundable credit would provide a benefit of 15% to seniors on eligible public transit costs starting July 1, 2017.

## The proposed Ontario Seniors' Public Transit Tax Credit to help seniors with the cost of public transit.



## Support for caregivers

As part of Ontario's commitment to home and community care, we're continuing to provide improved services for caregivers. People caring for loved ones will be better supported through access to respite care, education, training and a proposed new Ontario Caregiver Tax Credit.

# Strengthening health care

Learn more about the services and programs being funded in the balanced 2017 Budget — like children and youth pharmacare — that will help improve Ontario's health care system.

## Overview

You deserve high-quality, publicly funded health care. The balanced 2017 Budget continues to transform health care, so you and your family get the right care when and where you need it.

## Additional funding

We are increasing health investments by \$11.5 billion over the next 3 years to increase access to care, reduce wait times and enhance patient experience. It includes a new \$7-billion booster shot for health care, building on the commitment made in the 2016 Budget.



## OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare

We will provide free prescription medications to all children and youth aged 24 and under, regardless of family income. This is to make sure no parent has to worry about being able to afford the medications their kids need.

Starting in January 2018, the new program will completely cover the cost of all medicines funded through the Ontario Drug Benefit program — with no deductible or co-payment. This will include medications to treat:

- most acute conditions
- common chronic conditions
- childhood cancers and other diseases

OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare is the first program of its kind in Canada.

# New hospital projects




We are supporting the construction of major new hospital projects across the province to support the delivery of services and give people faster access to care.

Ontario is supporting the expansion and modernization of hospitals across the province




## North

-  Built  
Sault Area Hospital  
Redevelopment
-  Constructing  
Atikokan General Hospital  
Phase 1
-  Procurement / Planning  
Health Sciences North  
Northern Ontario School  
of Medicine in Sudbury

## Eastern

-  Built  
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario  
Phase 3
-  Constructing  
University of Ottawa Heart Institute  
Redevelopment
-  Procurement / Planning  
Brockville General Hospital  
Mental Health / CCC / Rehab






## Southwest

-  Built  
St. Joseph's Health Care  
Parkwood / St. Thomas Mental Health
-  Constructing  
St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital  
Emergency, Ambulatory and Mental Health
-  Procurement / Planning  
Groves Memorial Community Hospital  
in Fergus

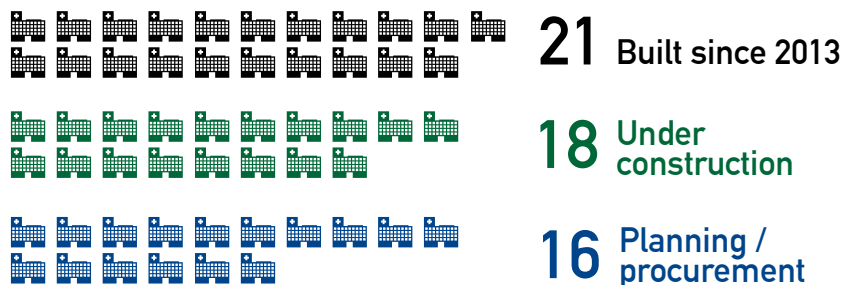
## Central

-  Built  
Markham Stouffville Hospital  
Redevelopment
-  Constructing  
Mackenzie Health  
New Vaughan Hospital
-  Procurement / Planning  
Michael Garron Hospital  
new patient care tower  
in Toronto

## 5 new hospital projects

-  Niagara Health System -  
New South Niagara Hospital  
Capital Project
-  Trillium Health Partners in Mississauga -  
Broader Redevelopment Project
-  Windsor Regional Health  
Centre - New Greenfield  
Hospital Project
-  Weeneebayko Area Health Authority -  
Replacement Hospital Project
-  Hamilton Health Sciences -  
Hamilton Redevelopment Project

## Hospital Projects



## **Shorter wait times**

As communities across Ontario grow, hospitals must continue meeting increasing demands. With more support for hospitals, we're improving access to timely care. This will support shorter wait times and greater access to services for patients and their families.

## **\$1.3 billion to increase access to more specialized care and reduce wait times.**

### **Interprofessional care**

Many of us rely on health care teams for timely treatment. We're enhancing primary care to make it easier to get services offered by physicians, nurses, social workers and other health care professionals.

### **Indigenous health care**

Investing in the health and wellness of Indigenous communities is a top priority. We will be expanding programs such as midwifery services, mental health and addiction initiatives — and continuing to support long-term care homes for Indigenous health care.

### **Home and community care**

Home and community health care means patients can stay closer to where they live and maintain their independence and lifestyle. To make this happen, we're increasing funding for home nursing, personal support and caregiving — and increasing access to physiotherapy and respite care services.

### **Specialized care**

For some of us, getting care from a specialist quickly is vital to our health. We're continuing to expand specialized programs like hip or knee replacements, MRIs and optometrist services, so patients have faster access to the right specialist.

### **Mental health services**

For those living with mental illness or addiction, early and ongoing treatment can make a big difference. We're expanding mental health and addiction initiatives such as structured psychotherapy, youth services and supportive housing.

### **Long-term care**

Seniors are a growing part of our population and we're committed to meeting their complex health needs. We're increasing long-term care funding by \$58 million for improving residential care. We're also increasing the food allowance for long-term care homes by \$15 million to help provide healthier, more nutritious meals.

## **Dementia Strategy**

Ontario is working with our partners to develop a Dementia Strategy for seniors and their caregivers, including more than \$100 million over three years. The strategy will help people access better coordinated care and enhanced services once a diagnosis is made.

**\$100 million over 3 years for services to help people living with dementia and their caregivers.**

## **Maternal and child health care**

Supporting health care for mothers, babies and children provides a strong foundation for the next generation. Midwifery, prenatal screening and a new infant hearing screening are just some of the programs we're expanding to continue providing care at some of the most critical stages of life.

## **Health innovation**

We know the valuable role that innovation and technology play in our health care system. To address this changing environment, we've announced the upcoming action plan for Digital Health in Ontario.



## **Budget Talks: Accessing Digitized Health Data**

This pilot was one of the top three ideas selected by the public for funding through the Budget Talks platform.

Through this initiative, we will develop a proof-of-concept digital registration and public authentication service that will allow parents and/or guardians to securely and easily access their child's "Yellow Card" immunization records electronically, using their banking credentials. This digital process may be expanded to test a Patient's First Access Channel where patients can find their health data (e.g., lab records, current medications, hospital visits) regardless of where the digital record actually resides.

The idea will receive a one-time investment of \$1 million in 2017-18. This idea received 2,127 votes.

[Learn more about Budget Talks.](#)



# Improving education

Learn more about how the balanced 2017 Budget is building Ontario's education system through an additional \$6.4 billion over 3 years.

## Overview

Ontario's highly educated workforce is one of our greatest strengths. The 2017 balanced Budget plan continues to build a strong education system that sets up students for success, with a new \$5.5-billion investment that builds on the commitment made in the 2016 Budget.

More Ontario students than ever before, 85.5%, are graduating from high school. In 2016, 68% of adults in Ontario had a postsecondary credential, up from 56% in 2002 — higher than rates for any country in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

### Support from Early Years to Adulthood

#### Under Age 6

- Renewed framework for early years and child care
- Creation of Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres
- Helping 100,000 more children access affordable, quality licensed child care
- Continued implementation of full-day kindergarten (FDK)
- Class size caps of 30 students for FDK in 2017–18 and 29 students in 2018–19



#### Age 6 to 13

##### Elementary Education

- Expanded before- and after-school programs for 6- to 12-year-olds
- Moving to class size averages of fewer than 25 students in Grades 4 to 8 for all school boards
- Development of a shared vision for a Well-Being Strategy for Education
- 60 minutes per day focusing on effective instruction in math
- Built or renovated 35 elementary schools since 2013



#### Age 13 to 18

##### Secondary Education

- Improving math skills development and financial literacy
- Focused learning on a specific economic sector with the Specialist High Skills Major program
- Transition supports to postsecondary education with dual credit programs
- Built or renovated 275 high schools since 2013



#### Age 15 to 29

- Ontario's Career Kick-Start Strategy
- Employment Ontario Services
- Apprenticeship supports



#### Above Age 18

- New OSAP, including free tuition for more than 210,000 students
- eCampusOntario for online learning
- New Career Kick-Start Strategy that will expand career readiness opportunities to provide hands-on training
- Second Career provides laid-off workers with training to help them find new jobs
- Introducing the Ontario Lifelong Learning and Skills Plan, including enhancements to the adult education and essential skills system
- Invested more than \$1 billion in capital grants to enhance postsecondary education learning



## **Class sizes and full-day kindergarten**

We are introducing class size caps of 30 students for full-day kindergarten and ensuring all school boards move to an average class size of fewer than 25 students from Grades 4 to 8. Since its launch, full-day kindergarten has prepared more than 1 million children to be more successful in school — improving overall Grade 1 reading, writing and math scores.

## **Equity and inclusion**

We are continuing to enhance autism supports in schools to help children transition to, and continue in, full-time school. We're also keeping all provincial and demonstration schools open to support students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, blind or have low vision, deaf-blind or have severe learning disabilities.

**Ensuring recent grads are on a firmer financial footing before beginning to pay off the provincial portion of their OSAP loans.**



## **OSAP support**

Postsecondary education should be within everyone's reach and based on the desire to learn — not the ability to pay. Beginning this fall, the new Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) will make tuition free for more than 210,000 Ontario students and reduce the cost for many more. We're also increasing the minimum salary that people need to earn — to \$35,000 from \$25,000 — so they can be on a stronger financial footing before they start repaying the provincial portion of their OSAP loans.

If you're thinking about postsecondary education, you can use our OSAP calculator to see how much aid you could qualify for.

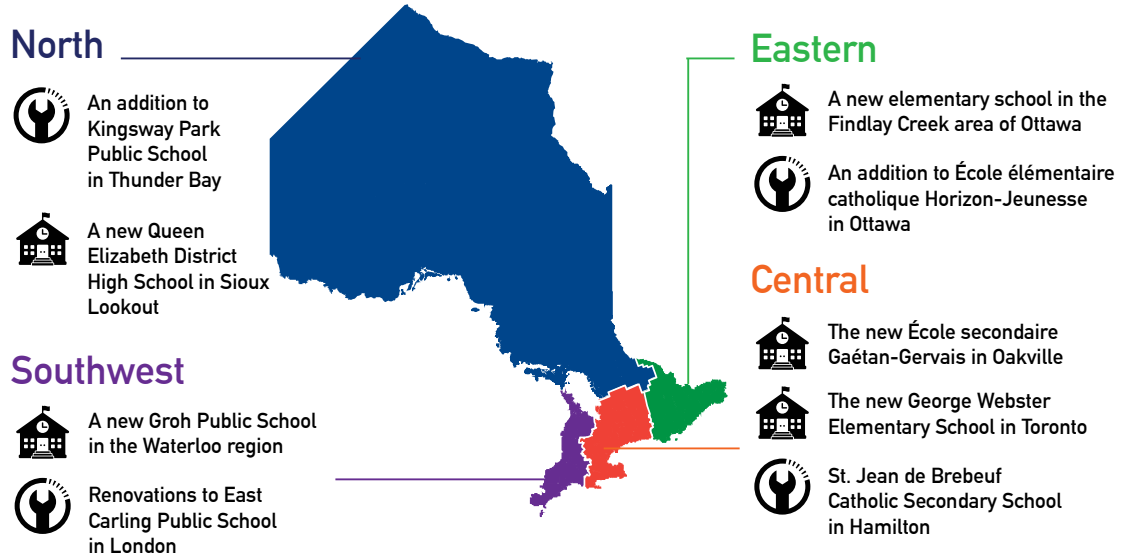
## **Student well-being**

We are investing in programs and services to improve students' cognitive, emotional, social and physical development. We're also helping school boards build capacity to better support student mental health and well-being.



## Education infrastructure

Over the next 10 years, we'll be building and renovating schools to help deliver high-quality programs that increase students' achievement and well-being.

### Examples of Schools to be Opened or Under Construction



### School Projects

 /  = 10 schools



## Indigenous students

We will support school boards across the province in hiring a dedicated Indigenous Education Lead to collaborate with First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities, organizations, students and families. We're also expanding Indigenous peoples' access to postsecondary education and training by increasing supports, including enhancing the capacity and sustainability of the 9 Indigenous-owned and -operated Aboriginal Institutes in the province.



### **Career readiness**

To help open doors to meaningful, practical work experience, the new Career Kick-Start Strategy will create work-related opportunities for 40,000 students and recent graduates to gain hands-on learning and develop on-the-job skills.

**40,000 work-related learning opportunities for students and recent grads.**



### **Budget Talks: Improving Digital Services for Libraries**

This pilot was one of the top three ideas selected by the public for funding through the Budget Talks platform. We will improve digital services in 45 provincially funded First Nation public libraries as well as 165 rural and 82 remote public libraries to better connect people to web-based information and opportunities.

Depending on local needs, investments could provide Wi-Fi hotspot lending programs, hardware and software resources and technology-focused training opportunities.

The idea will receive a one-time investment of \$1 million in 2017–18. This idea received 2,764 votes.

[Learn more about Budget Talks.](#)

# Creating opportunity and security

Learn more about the initiatives and programs in the balanced 2017 Budget that create opportunities for people and businesses, such as retirement security, social housing and cutting red tape.

## Overview

We are increasing opportunities for everyone to get the skills they need to find a good job. We are boosting competitiveness for Ontario businesses by supporting new technologies and areas of growth, while helping small businesses scale up into medium-sized and large enterprises.

We are continuing to help communities thrive by investing in infrastructure, including public transit, and programs to support people and businesses — and transforming the justice system.



## Opportunity for People

### Developing talent and skills

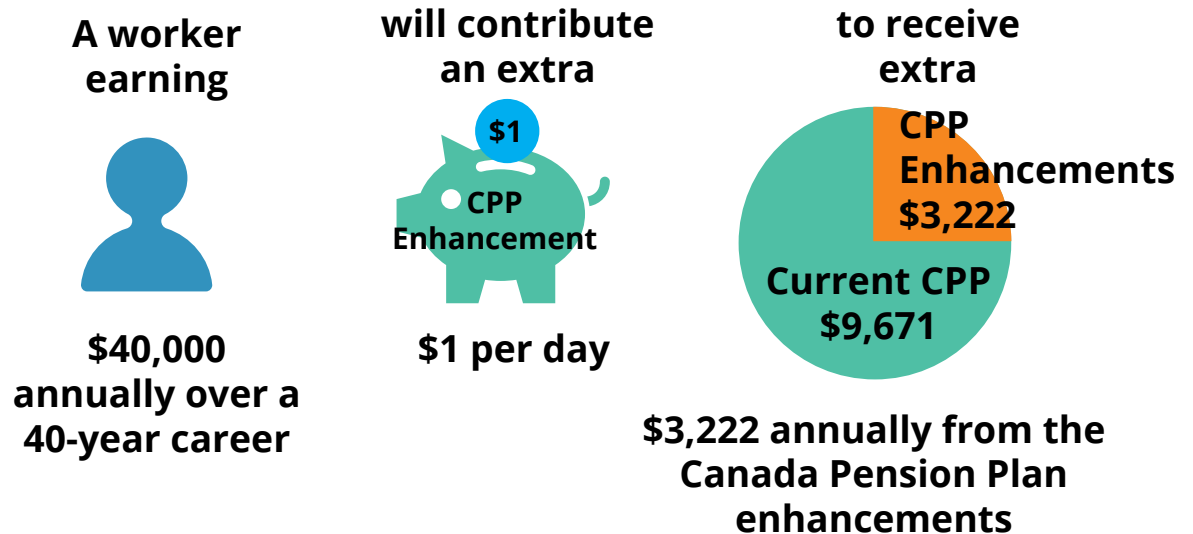
Globalization and new technologies are changing the way we work. Ontario's new Highly Skilled Workforce Strategy will give people of all abilities and backgrounds the chance to develop their talents and learn new skills through education and training. The strategy will provide opportunities for everyone, from those in elementary school to those in apprenticeships or postsecondary education.

### Helping newcomers

Our province remains a highly desirable destination for newcomers, many of whom are highly educated and are looking to be part of Ontario's workforce. We'll continue to support settlement and integration programs like the Ontario Bridge Training programs, which help newcomers seeking licensing or certification. Each year, more than 6,000 highly skilled immigrants access these programs for a variety of job sectors, including pharmacy, nursing, engineering and skilled trades.

## Retirement security

About 24% of Canadian families don't have enough retirement savings. We led the charge on the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) enhancement — and we're modernizing workplace pension plans and strengthening retirement security for today's workers and generations to come.



## Ontario Basic Income Pilot

We are moving forward with a basic income pilot to test whether a basic income could be a simpler and better way to provide security and opportunity in a changing labour market, support people living on low incomes and reduce poverty. This pilot will start in late spring in Hamilton, including Brantford and Brant County, and in Thunder Bay and the surrounding area. The third pilot will start by this fall in Lindsay.

The Ontario Basic Income Pilot — to see if a basic income improves health, employment and housing outcomes.

## Helping vulnerable people

We are transforming our services to better meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities. This includes providing additional housing support, expanding services for those with complex special needs and improving access to local community services.

## Opportunity for Businesses

### Business Growth Initiative

Ontario is continuing to support the transition to the new technology-driven and knowledge-based economy by expanding the Business Growth Initiative to more than \$650 million over 5 years.

## Jobs and Prosperity Fund

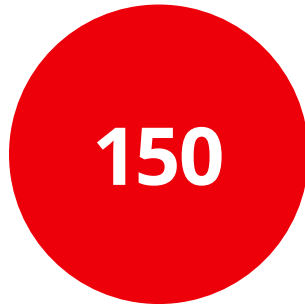
We're creating and retaining more than 37,000 jobs across the province through the 10-year, \$2.7-billion Jobs and Prosperity Fund, which helps the government partner with businesses to enhance productivity, innovation and exports.

## Cutting red tape

We are continuing to improve regulations and cut red tape to better support businesses of all sizes. Cutting red tape saves businesses time and money, making it easier for businesses to grow, invest, innovate and create jobs.

## Helping small businesses scale up and reducing red tape through the Business Growth Initiative.

**The Burden  
Reduction Act,  
2017 makes**



**changes to  
statutes**

**to save  
businesses**



**and avoid  
costs up to**



## 5G technologies

5G networks (fifth-generation wireless technologies) are the backbone of future technologies, like autonomous vehicles. We're investing \$130 million over 5 years on 2 projects by industry-led groups, [ENCQOR](#) and [CENGN](#). The projects will advance the development and availability of next-generation networks and [help Ontario businesses](#) stay at the cutting edge of technology.

## Advanced computing

To be at the cutting edge of data-intensive research, Ontario's researchers and businesses need access to state-of-the-art computers and data processing capabilities. We're supporting operating costs for advanced computing across the province and making new hardware investments at the Universities of Toronto and Waterloo.

### **Artificial intelligence**

We are working with partners to establish the Vector Institute (<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2017/3/ontario-opens-world-leading-artificial-intelligence-institute.html>) for artificial intelligence, which will produce, retain and attract top talent in the field, and encourage further investment from companies.

### **Quantum technology**

Quantum science helps us improve the efficiency of computers, including communications and sensor technologies. Ontario is a world-renowned quantum technologies hub. To help maintain this status, we're partnering with Waterloo's Quantum Valley to create the Quantum Valley Ideas Lab, which will:

- develop cutting-edge research
- train highly qualified personnel
- support academics in the field of quantum science

### **Autonomous vehicles**

We're investing \$80 million over 5 years to create the Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Innovation Network, in partnership with the Ontario Centres of Excellence. AVs are capable of sensing and communicating with their environment without human input. The network will help Ontario's transportation systems and infrastructure adapt to AV technology — supporting industry projects and attracting talent in the sector.

### **Cybersecurity**

Maintaining strong cybersecurity in our province's private financial institutions is important to keep consumer and business information safe. We're launching a pilot project to help reduce cybersecurity risks. Financial institutions will be linked with Ontario's small and medium-sized enterprises to develop and support technological solutions. This project will help create high-tech jobs.

## **Opportunity for Communities**



### **GO service**

We will provide faster and more frequent service across the entire GO rail network — the number of scheduled trips is expected to grow to nearly 6,000



from approximately 1,500 per week once the GO Regional Express Rail is delivered by 2024–25.

## Increasing the frequency of GO Transit services to help improve access to employment, education and other community activities.

### Highway infrastructure

We are continuing to invest in highway infrastructure through expansion and renewal projects that will move people and goods faster. [Learn more about these projects.](#)

### Expanding natural gas

We are expanding access to natural gas to areas that don't have service, including rural, northern and Indigenous communities. Natural gas is consistently less expensive than many other sources of energy.

### Social housing

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve living conditions for low-income and vulnerable tenants — including those in small, rural, northern and Indigenous communities — we are supporting modifications to social housing apartment buildings across the province to boost energy efficiency.

### Safer communities

We are creating safer communities by modernizing police training, enhancing civilian governance and improving interactions between law enforcement and vulnerable populations.

### Social enterprises

We launched [Ontario's Social Enterprise Strategy](#) 2016–21 in summer 2016 to help accelerate the growth of our social enterprises sector — organizations that use business strategies to achieve a social or environmental impact. They contribute to job creation and positive social outcomes, such as removing barriers and helping people access employment opportunities.



### **Budget Talks: Reducing and Preventing Food Waste**

This pilot was one of the top three ideas selected by the public for funding through the Budget Talks platform.

To help keep edible food from ending up in the green bin or garbage can, we will introduce a Supermarket Recovery Program to redistribute food to people in need.

The pilot program will make grants available to food banks and food rescue organizations to expand their capacity to transport and store surplus perishable and prepared foods.

The idea will receive a one-time investment of \$600,000 in 2017–18.

This idea received 3,269 votes.

[Learn more about Budget Talks.](#)

# Path to a balanced budget

Learn more about Ontario's balanced 2017 Budget, how it builds our economy and where we go from here.

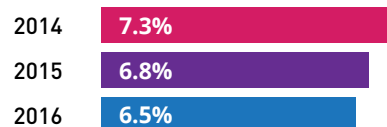
## Overview

Ontario is balancing the budget for the first time since the 2008–09 global recession — while strengthening vital programs and services. Balancing the budget allows us to invest more in health care, education and other priorities. A balanced budget adds stability to our finances and positions us to better respond to demographic challenges and unexpected global economic change.

We continue to plan for long-term economic growth. To ensure everyone shares in this prosperity, we will continue to work with partners across regions and sectors to create jobs and strengthen communities. By investing in priorities like health care and education, we're helping to make sure people can get ahead which helps our economy stay ahead, too.

We are projecting balanced budgets in 2018–19 and 2019–20. Maintaining balance means more world-class public services and programs — like free prescription drug coverage for everyone aged 24 and under. We're continuing to review our programs and services to make sure we deliver the best results at the lowest cost, benefiting more people across the province.

Ontario's Unemployment Rate 2014-2016



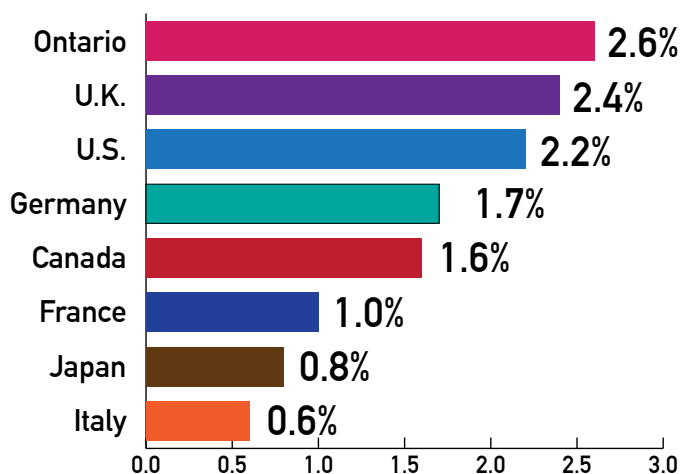
**6.5%**

More people are working -  
Our unemployment rate is the  
lowest it's been since 2007

## Economic performance

Ontario's economy continues to grow. Our province's growth has not only outpaced Canada's, but also that of all G7 countries over the last 3 years. Since the recession, nearly 700,000 jobs have been created, with real GDP growth of more than 19%. Our 2016 unemployment rate was the lowest since 2007 and trade has become more diversified.

Real GDP growth Ontario vs. G7 countries 2014-2016 - Average Annual Percent



**2.6%** Ontario's growth has outpaced all G7 countries over the last 3 years

## Debt management

Debt is incurred primarily for two reasons: to finance deficits and invest in building capital assets. A balanced budget means the government no longer needs to borrow to pay for its operating costs and can focus its borrowing for capital investments — which spur economic growth and improve quality of life for people today and future generations.

## Net debt-to-GDP

The balanced budget and the government's continued focus on capital investment will add to economic growth, helping to lower the net debt-to-GDP ratio to the government's pre-recession level of 27%. In the balanced 2017 Budget, the government is setting an interim target to reduce the net debt-to-GDP ratio to 35% by 2023–24.

## Interest on debt

With a balanced budget, more revenue can be spent on priorities like health care and education, and less on interest. The 2010 Budget forecast that, by 2017–18, the Province would need to spend 11.3 cents of every revenue dollar received on interest. The current forecast is 3.1 cents lower, at 8.2 cents of interest costs for every dollar of revenue.

[Learn more in the 2017 Ontario Budget.](#)

# Empowering women and girls

Learn more about the initiatives and programs that help empower women and girls.

## Overview

Women's issues are everyone's issues — that's why we are playing a leadership role in empowering women and girls and striving to ensure equal opportunity. Whether as entrepreneurs, small-business owners or corporate leaders, women are key contributors to our economic prosperity.

We are working to provide women with the skills and training needed for professions that drive the economy. We're increasing support for families — such as more affordable, quality child care — which will help women who wish to enter and remain in the workforce. To push this progress further, we're developing and implementing strategies to build an Ontario where every woman and girl is empowered to succeed with equal access to economic and social opportunities.

## Championing Women's Empowerment

### First-ever stand-alone ministry

In January 2017, we announced Ontario's first stand-alone [Ministry of the Status of Women](#), dedicated to the security, equality and empowerment of women in the province.

### Gender Wage Gap Strategy

We are working on a plan to close the gender wage gap, create equal opportunities and eliminate barriers that prevent women's full participation in the workforce. Our [Gender Wage Gap Strategy](#) will build on progress we're already making to support broader gender equality in the province, including increasing wages in female-dominated professions in the broader public sector.

**Encouraging Ontario businesses to set a target of appointing 30% women to their boards and achieve it within 3 to 5 years.**

### Women in corporate leadership

We will help ensure that more women have the opportunity to reach [top leadership positions](#) at provincial agencies and other government organizations. We've set a target for women to make up at least 40% of all appointments to every provincial board and agency by 2019.

We're also encouraging businesses to set a target, by the end of 2017, of appointing 30% women to their boards of directors and achieve it within 3 to 5 years. Working with our [steering committee](#), we're developing a plan to accelerate greater representation of women on boards.

### **Women's economic empowerment**

We understand the value of women in the workforce. These initiatives will be part of a new women's economic empowerment strategy — a roadmap designed to help women reach their full potential in today's technology-driven and knowledge-based economy. We will engage key stakeholder groups to help shape the plan.

### **Ensuring security for women**

#### **Addressing human trafficking**

Everyone should be able to live without fear of exploitation and violence. Vastly underreported, human trafficking is a largely hidden problem that results in severe long-term trauma for survivors and their families. Our [anti-human trafficking strategy](#) improves access to services for survivors, increases awareness and supports Indigenous-led initiatives.

We are also looking for ways to partner with governments across the country on a national hotline to support survivors of human trafficking. We are providing funding to 47 community-based service partners delivering programs to provide better supports for survivors.

### **Funding 47 community partners that deliver programs for survivors of human trafficking.**

#### **Ending violence against Indigenous women**

We remain committed to ending the cycle of violence against Indigenous girls and women. Working with Indigenous partners, we released [Walking Together: Ontario's Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women](#), which focuses on:

raising awareness and preventing violence against Indigenous women

- providing more effective community services
- improving socioeconomic conditions that support healing and keeping communities safe

#### **Stopping sexual violence and harassment**

Building a province where everyone is free from the threat of sexual violence and harassment is our priority. In [March 2016](#), we passed the Sexual Violence and Harassment Action Plan Act, part of [It's Never Okay: An Action Plan to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment](#), to make workplaces, campuses and communities safer and more responsive to the needs of survivors.

We are also [piloting a program](#) that provides free independent legal advice to survivors of sexual assault.

## Making it easier for up to 3,000 survivors of domestic violence to access affordable housing.

### Supporting domestic violence survivors

We are increasing access to affordable housing for up to 3,000 survivors of domestic violence across the province through the [Survivors of Domestic Violence Portable Housing Benefit Pilot](#). The pilot will provide survivors with the flexibility to choose where they want to live.