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GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN WORKER TRAINING

The provincial government recently announced investments through the Skills Development Fund's Training and Capital Streams to train workers in Windsor and Ottawa:

In Windsor:

IBEW Local 773 will receive \$4,748,066 to build a new training facility and \$763,410 to train new electrical workers.

The Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network will receive \$3 million to train workers for the auto sector.

The International Association of Bridge and Ironworkers Local 700 will receive \$512,836 to train iron workers and apprentices.

In Ottawa:

SMART Local will receive \$4,001,416 from the Capital Stream to expand their training centre and \$54,000 from the Training Stream implement French language training.

In Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge:

We previously reported that COCA member, the Grand Valley Construction Association received \$1,086,058 from the Training Stream to deliver free job-ready training for careers in construction

The application period for the \$260 million fifth round of Skills Development Fund Training Stream is still open.

Quick Facts

People interested in participating in the programs announced today should contact the lead organizations of the projects directly.

SDF comprises two streams: the Training Stream supports hiring, training and upskilling programs for jobseekers, apprentices and workers; and the Capital Stream supports upgrades or construction of training centres for the skilled trades.

So far, the Skills Development Fund Training Stream has supported projects to help almost 600,000 people train for in-demand jobs, including:

- Over 92,000 manufacturing workers
- Over 60,000 construction workers

- Over 36,000 PSWs and healthcare workers

SDF Training Stream Round 5 opened on July 29, 2024, and applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until October 4, 2024. Interested organizations can apply through Transfer Payment Ontario and send inquiries to skillsdevelopmentfund@ontario.ca.

OVIN is an Ontario government initiative to accelerate the development, testing, commercialization and deployment of the next generation of electric, connected and autonomous vehicle and mobility technologies. The initiative is led by the Ontario Centre of Innovation with support from the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, the Ministry of Transportation, and the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.

The Capital Stream of the Skills Development Fund is exclusively funded by the Government of Ontario.

The Training Stream of the Skills Development Fund is supported through labour market transfer agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario. As the Government of Canada has unilaterally cut over \$230 million annually from Ontario's Labour Market Transfer Agreements, which support employment and settlement service programs, Ontario continues to call for the federal government to reinstate this critical funding for Ontario workers and jobseekers.

SHORT CONSULTATION ON EMPLOYER JOB POSTINGS

Pursuant to the Working for Workers Act Four 2004 and the Working for Workers Act Five 2024, a consultation paper was posted on the Regulatory Registry for a 30-day window that ended on September 20th seeking feedback on proposals to make the hiring process more transparent in employers publicly advertised job postings.

The consultation paper asks such questions as:

- Should employers be exempt from the requirement to provide compensation information in their publicly advertised job postings for positions with compensation of \$200,000 or more?
- Should there be exceptions to the prohibition for employers to include any Canadian experience requirement in their publicly advertised job postings?
- Should there be exceptions to the requirement for employers to disclose in their publicly advertised job postings that they are using AI to screen, assess or select applicants for the position?
- Should employers be required to disclose in their publicly advertised job postings the approximate timeframe of when a vacancy is expected?
- Is 30 calendar days a reasonable amount of time for an employer to be required to follow up with an interviewee?

To access the consultation paper click on the following link:

[Consultation on Job Postings Rules in the Employment Standards Act, 2000 \(ontariocanada.com\)](https://www.ontariocanada.com)

INFLATION IN AUGUST 2024 LOWEST IN 3 1/2 YEARS

According to Statistics Canada, the inflation rate in the country declined to 2% in August. This is the lowest monthly inflation rate since February 2021. It was down 0.2% from the previous month. The inflation rate in Ontario was down 0.4% from July, landing at 2.1%

With inflation declining and unemployment increasing, will the Bank of Canada lower its policy rate to energize the economy.

For the full story click on the following link

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/240917/dq240917a-eng.htm>

FAO TO CONDUCT AUDIT OF GOVERNMENT'S ALCOHOL EXPANSION

At the request of Liberal MPP Stephanie Bowman, the Financial Accountability Office (FAO) will conduct a value for money audit to determine the full cost of the government's move to allow beer, cider, wine and ready-to-consume beverages to be sold in big box grocery and convenience stores one year before the framework agreement with The Beer Store would have expired.

In accordance with the terms of the agreement, the government was obliged to pay The Beer Store \$225 million for the early exit. The FAO will likely determine that there were additional net costs to the government from ripping up the deal one year early and not waiting for it to expire naturally. The Liberals claim those costs will total \$1 billion. The FAO will complete this work in the spring of 2025.

ONTARIO 2023-24 FINANCIAL RESULTS RELEASED

The Ontario government released the audited results for 2023-24 on September 19, 2024 and here are the highlights:

- The deficit for the year was \$600 million, down from the estimate in the budget of \$1.3 billion, largely due to revenues that came in above budget by \$13 billion
- Program spending was \$195.2 billion, an increase from the previous year of \$8.8 billion due in part to the payback of the Bill 124 costs of \$6.7 billion over two years
- The province's total accumulated debt at year end was \$437 billion, up \$15.8 billion from the previous year
- The government's net debt to GDP ratio was 37.3% down 0.8 percentage points from the 2022-23 year end because net debt increased at a slower rate than GDP

For the full story, [click here](#).

MAINSTREET POLL HAS TORIES WELL AHEAD

A recent survey of 746 adults who live in Ontario conducted by Mainstreet Research between September 16 and September 17 using automated telephone interviews revealed the following:

- If an election was held at the time the survey was taken, among all voters 35% would vote PC, 26% would vote Liberal, 16% would vote NDP, 15% are undecided, 4% would vote Green and 5% would vote for another party
- If an election was held at the time the survey was taken, among decided and leaning voters, 41% would vote PC, 30% would vote Liberal, 18% would vote NDP, 9% are undecided, 5% would vote Green and 6% would vote for another party
- The PC leader Doug Ford's net favourable rating was minus 9, the Liberal leader Crombie's is minus 10 and NDP leader Stiles' is minus 9
- 26% said cost of living is the most important issue, 28% said healthcare and 12% said housing

For the full breakdown of the numbers, click on

[66edde5261dd8dcdd4587e78_Mainstreet_Ontario_Sept_2024.pdf \(website-files.com\)](#)

LONGTIME PC MPP WILL NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION

Lisa MacLeod, the PC MPP for the riding of Nepean, recently announced that she will not be seeking re-election in the next Ontario general election.

- First elected in a byelection in 2006 that was caused by the resignation of PC MPP John Baird. She was re-elected in 2007, 2011, 2014, 2018 and 2022
 - Following the election of the Ford government in 2018, she was appointed Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, then a year later transferred to Minister Responsible for Women's Issues and a year after that shuffled to Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
 - Other than the newly elected MPP for Bay of Quinte, she is the only member of the PC caucus who is not currently a Minister, Parliamentary Assistants or Committee Chair (positions that come with additional compensation)
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MICHAEL FORD TAKES LEAVE FROM CABINET

On September 20th Premier Ford's nephew, the 30-year-old MPP for York South-Weston, Michael Ford, announced that he was taking a leave of absence from his position as Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism to attend to personal health issues. His statement indicated that the leave would be for about two months.

Ford was first elected to the Ontario legislature in the general election on June 2, 2022 and was appointed Minister of Citizenship on June 24, 2022. Prior to his election as an MPP, he was a member of the Toronto City Council.

TORIES HOLD BAY OF QUINTE IN BYELECTION

The polls had it neck-and-neck but in the end PC standard bearer Tyler Allsopp prevailed, winning more than 38% of the popular vote in the byelection held in the electoral district of Bay of Quinte on September 19th. This was not the more than 48% that the former MPP, the popular Todd Smith, earned in the last two general elections but it was enough for the Tories to hold claim to the riding.

The second-place vote getter was Liberal candidate Sean Kelly with a little more than 33% of the votes cast. It was a moral victory for the Grits as they jumped into the runner-up spot from their third place showing previously.

The NDP, who placed second in the last two general elections were kicked back to third with about 23% of the vote. However, they too claimed moral victory with an improved vote share from their showing in the 2022 province-wide contest when they got just under 21%.



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