



DOWNEY DIGEST

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A NOTE FROM DOUG

The heat of the summer months continues to bring great events and opportunities to connect to our community. It was a pleasure to see so many of you at various community gatherings, barbecues, and celebrations during July, and I look forward to spending more time connecting with you in August.

As we move towards the end of summer, our government continues to listen to and address the concerns of all Ontarians. Your emails and calls to my office are a vital way to share what matters most to you and help influence the decisions being made in Queen's Park. My staff is always available to listen and help in any way they can.

ONTARIO REDUCING WAIT TIMES IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

The Ontario government is investing an additional \$44 million this year in 165 high volume and smaller emergency departments to reduce wait times and provide people with faster and easier access to timely care close to home.

The funding is in addition to the \$90 million Ontario invests each year to reward emergency departments that put in place innovative solutions to reduce ED wait times including hiring additional health care staff, accessing more transportation to help transfer medically stable patients out of emergency departments, and creating new beds.



Hospitals have the flexibility to decide how to spend this funding on local solutions that will help people receive care faster and reduce their length of stay in an emergency department. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, this annual funding helped emergency departments connect people to care sooner by decreasing the average time spent in emergency departments by 12.2 per cent.

To continue building on this success, Ontario is investing an additional \$29 million this year to 75 high volume emergency departments across the province to help increase their capacity to help more patients and reduce wait times to access care.

An additional \$15 million will also expand the number of smaller hospitals now eligible to receive this funding. This will help support up to 90 hospitals across the province that provide emergency care to fewer than 30,000 patients a year, so they can hire and retain staff they need to keep their emergency departments open.

GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND ONTARIO INVEST \$54 MILLION TO BRING HIGH-SPEED INTERNET TO MORE THAN 20,000 HOMES

All Canadians need reliable high-speed internet, no matter where they live. That is why the governments of Canada and Ontario are taking action to bring high-speed internet access to underserved communities across Ontario.

This project is part of the existing Canada-Ontario broadband partnership to support large-scale, fibre-based projects that will provide high-speed internet access to more than 280,000 homes across the province. This historic agreement was made possible by a joint federal-provincial investment totalling more than \$1.2 billion.



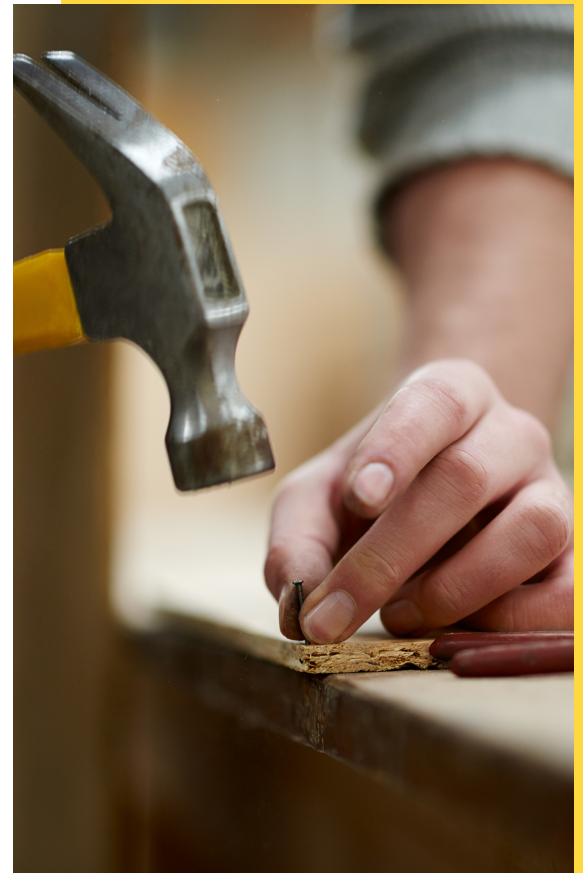
This funding builds on the Government of Canada's progress towards ensuring that 98 per cent of Canadians have access to high-speed internet by 2026, and 100 per cent by 2030. It also brings the Government of Ontario closer to achieving its goal of bringing reliable high-speed internet access to every community by the end of 2025.

Quick Facts:

- Today, 93.5 per cent of Canadian households have access to high-speed internet, compared to just 79 per cent in 2014.
- The Ontario government is investing nearly \$4 billion to bring access to reliable high-speed internet to every community across the province by the end of 2025. This is the largest single investment in high-speed internet by any province, by any government in Canadian history.
- As of July 2023, Ontario has finalized agreements totalling more than \$2.3 billion for nearly 200 high-speed internet and cellular projects across the province.

ONTARIO LAUNCHING MOBILE SKILLED TRADES CLASSROOMS

The Ontario government is investing \$5.4 million to design and build three mobile tech classrooms that will travel across the province and teach students and young people about the skilled trades. The classrooms, built and operated by Skills Ontario, will feature hands-on learning stations and simulators for electrical systems, welding, crane operation, auto-painting, tire and brake work, heavy machinery and more. Over three years, they will let nearly half a million people explore the skilled trades and help tackle the labour shortage the province faces in a critical industry.



My office is always here to help with any provincial matters and concerns. While we endeavour to respond to every matter in a timely manner, our team is often busy helping constituents. Take a look at the month so far:



1521

email contacts



95

phone calls



29

walk-in visits



8

new cases

You can always contact us at Doug.Downey@pc.ola.org or 705-726-5538.