



# DOWNEY DIGEST

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## **A NOTE FROM DOUG**

The long weekend is now behind us, and our community turns it's attention to the end of the school year, and the beginning of summer. As I travel across our riding, I'm often struck by the early signs of summer; of kids playing baseball in the yard after school, families out on bike rides or enjoying a stroll along the boardwalk downtown, or even the bravest few attempting a cold dip in a lake or a pool while we wait for the heat of summer to arrive.

As we wind down the school year, so does this sitting of the Legislative Assembly. I am eager to return to our great area and spend the summer months meeting so many of you at different events and gatherings within the community. As always, if you need anything, please contact my office.

## ONTARIO REMOVING UNFAIR WORK BARRIERS FOR SKILLED NEWCOMERS

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The Ontario government is leading the country with changes to help internationally-trained immigrants work in the fields they've studied in. Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) are the first association to remove the requirement for Canadian work experience from their application criteria. This has the potential to help thousands of otherwise-qualified professionals pursue their dreams over the coming years, all while maintaining Ontario's world-class licensing and exam requirements.



## CANADA AND ONTARIO BUILD OVER 260 HOUSING UNITS ACROSS ONTARIO

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The Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario recently announced an investment of over **\$46 million** to support the construction of 267 new affordable housing units across Ontario. Over \$30 million is from the Government of Ontario and over \$15 million is from the Province of Ontario.

This important funding is being provided through the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) - an initiative of the Canada-Ontario Bilateral Agreement under the National Housing Strategy (NHS).

The Canada-Ontario Housing Initiative (COCHI) provides funding to repair, regenerate and expand community housing so tenants can live in a home that is affordable. It can also be used to support community housing providers whose original program arrangements are expiring and help them be more sustainable.



## ONTARIO CONNECTING LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS TO MORE NUTRITIONAL FOOD CHOICES

The Ontario government is investing an additional **\$32 million** this year to expand healthy menu options for long-term care residents, including a broader range of culturally inspired meals. This investment builds on the 15 per cent - or over **\$40 million** - increase to nutritional support funding for long-term care homes last year.

The government's new regulations under the Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021, that came into effect on July 11, 2022, ensure residents are provided with more individualized food choices, more fresh produce and local foods in season and additional menu flexibility.



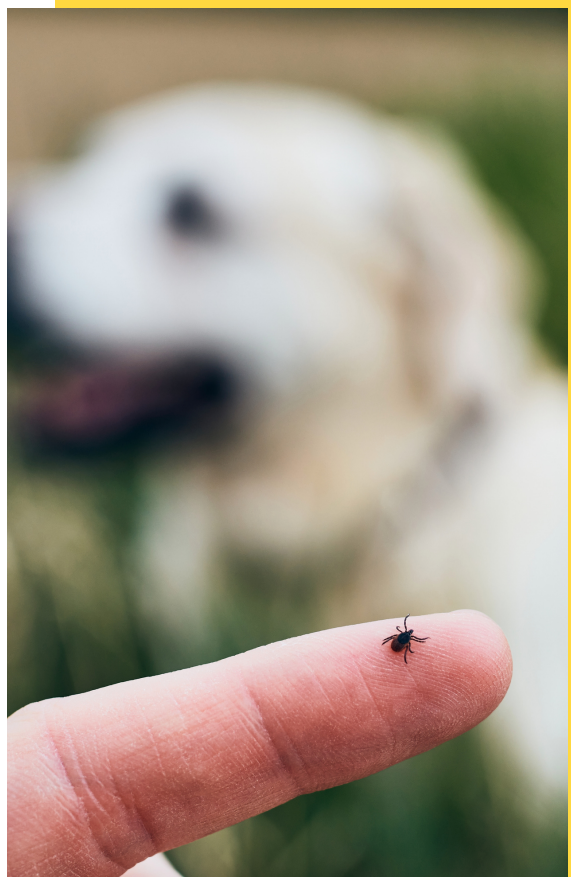
Roughly 300,000 jobs continue to go unfilled across the province every day, including thousands in engineering, costing billions in lost productivity. At the same time, studies have shown only a quarter of internationally trained immigrants in Ontario work in the regulated professions they trained for. Currently, even if a newcomer has the skills and technical ability to pass their profession's licensing exams, they may still be barred from registering their profession without Canadian work experience - even if that work occurs in an unrelated sector, such as retail.

Ontario is the first province in Canada to ban unfair or discriminatory Canadian work experience requirements to help newcomers work in the professions they trained for. In December 2023, all unfair requirements of Canadian experience will be automatically voided unless an exemption is granted by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development for public health and safety.

# PROTECT YOURSELF FROM TICK BITES THIS SUMMER

Stay safe from tick bites and reduce the risk of Lyme disease this summer by following these guidelines:

- Wear light-coloured clothing, making ticks easier to spot
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants tucked into socks, and closed-toed shoes
- Use an insect repellent with DEET or icaridin
- Check yourself, your children and your pets for ticks after being outdoors. Any ticks found should be promptly removed.
- Put clothes on high heat in a dryer for at least 10 minutes before washing after spending time outside.



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:



**1035**

email contacts



**105**

phone calls



**43**

walk-in visits



**6**

new cases

You can always contact us at [Doug.Downey@pc.ola.org](mailto:Doug.Downey@pc.ola.org) or 705-726-5538.