



DOWNEY DIGEST

ISSUE 8 • MAY 2021



A NOTE FROM DOUG

Summer is around the corner, and this Legislative session is about to come to a close. It continues to be my honour to serve this riding and the incredibly resilient, caring and dedicated people who call it home. I am looking forward to spending another summer here in the riding, listening and working on your behalf.

Over 50% of adult Ontarians have received one dose of a COVID vaccine, and with a stable supply, that number is increasing rapidly. Things are looking brighter, and the road to recovery continues. You'll see some of the supports our government is offering to families, seniors, and businesses outlined below. Follow me on social media, or reach out to my office to stay up to date or 14.5with any questions. My staff remains ready to assist with your provincial inquiries, issues, or concerns.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Earlier this month, the government of Ontario announced new support for local students through increased education funding and targeted COVID relief funding. Our local schools received:

SCDSB

- **\$12m** increase to GSN Funding
- Up to **\$24.2m** in COVID Relief Funding

SMCDSB

- **\$5.5m** increase to GSN Funding
- Up to **\$10.9m** in COVID Relief Funding



EXPANDING SENIORS DENTAL CARE ELIGIBILITY

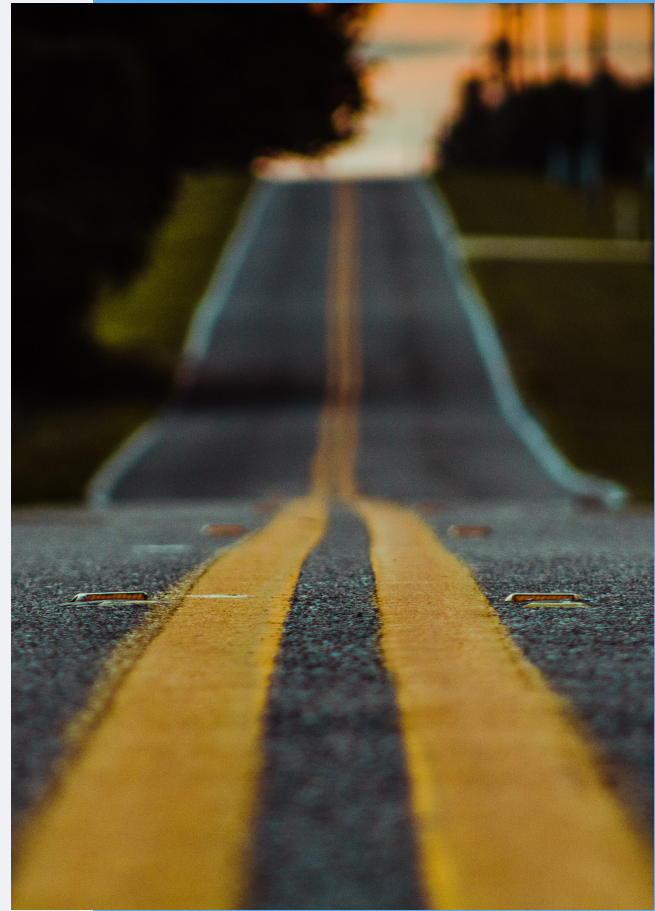
Our government is increasing the income threshold for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Plan and the Seniors Co-payment Program. This means more low-income seniors can access free, routine dental care, and allows more low-income seniors to access affordable prescription medications.

Threshold Increase: Single Ontarians aged 65 and over, from \$19,300 to \$22,200. Couples with a combined annual income, from \$32,300 to \$37,100.



MIDHURST

The Ministry of Transportation will be constructing a continuous centre left-turn lane from Carson Rd. to Spence Ave. on Highway 26 in an upcoming highway improvement project. MTO is proposing to amend Ontario Regulation 619 – Speed Limits, on Highway 26 in the Community of Midhurst, Township of Springwater. The proposed amendment is to reduce the speed limit from 80 km/h to 70 km/h from 995 metres south of Carson Road, northerly to the intersection of Hwy 26 with Spence Avenue/Simcoe County Road 27.



TOURISM & HOSPITALITY SUPPORT GRANT

Ontario has announced a new Tourism and Hospitality Support Grant, to help small businesses of 99 and fewer employees recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

Businesses can apply for a grant of \$10,000 and \$20,000.

Applications are open until June 25, 2021, and you can apply online at <https://www.app.grants.gov.on.ca/otsb/#/>

Should you encounter any problems or have any questions, please reach out to the grant program area at: **TourismSmallBusinessGrant@ontario.ca** or **416-325-6691**.

How do I get my vaccine?

What Vaccine can I get?

- Pfizer-BioNTech
- Moderna
- AstraZeneca
- Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)



How Do I Make an Appointment?

Visit www.Ontario.ca/BookVaccine to check your eligibility or contact 1-833-943-3900

Can I get a ride to my Appointment?

Contact the Canadian Red Cross - Simcoe Muskoka Branch at 705-721-3313 ext. 5206, or book online at ctlink.ca.

Need Assistance?

CONTACT MY OFFICE

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