

Moving Forward With Health Care Transformation

Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care Delivering Better Care and Value

NEWS

January 27, 2014

Two years after the launch of [Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care](#), the province continues to transform health care to provide better patient care and better value for health dollars.

Ontario is building on the Action Plan with a commitment to provide better support for Personal Support Workers to strengthen their recruitment and retention in the home care sector.

The government will also embed meaningful patient engagement in the health care system through enhancements to the *Excellent Care for All Act*, and will measure progress when it comes to patient relations by hearing and responding to patient complaints in a clear, structured and consistent way across the healthcare system.

Ontario has made significant progress on all of the initiatives set out in the Action Plan, including:

- Expanding access to home care for 76,000 more seniors in the past two years.
- [Introducing new legislation and regulations](#) that would, if passed, increase penalties for selling cigarettes to kids, ban the sale of flavoured tobacco and broaden restrictions on smoking in public areas.
- [Launching the Healthy Kids Community Challenge](#) to offer funding, training, advice and other resources to communities over four years to help them implement activities that promote lifelong healthy habits.
- Delivering 715,000 flu shots this flu season through trained pharmacists as of mid-January 2014.
- [Expanding eligibility for free dental](#) care for 70,000 more kids and committing to integrate Ontario's low-income dental programs.
- [Consulting with industry and the health sector on potential new legislation](#) that will, if passed, require large chain restaurants to post calories and potentially other nutritional information on menus.
- [Passing the Skin Cancer Prevention Act](#), which restricts the use of tanning beds to youth under 18 years old in Ontario and bans marketing tanning services to youth, to protect them against skin cancer.
- Increasing the number of [community Health Links](#) to 47 in just over one year, helping improve and better co-ordinate care for patients with complex needs by bringing together health care providers in a community.
- [Enhancing access to publicly funded physiotherapy, exercise and fall prevention services](#) for more than 200,000 additional seniors and eligible patients.

Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care is part of the government's economic plan to invest in people, build modern infrastructure and support a dynamic and innovative business climate.

QUOTES

“We’ve made fundamental changes to how we deliver health care, especially for our growing population of seniors, so that more of them can receive care at home instead of in the hospital or long-term care homes. There is more work to be done, but we will continue to make the tough decisions that result in better care for patients and better value for our precious health care dollars.”
– Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

QUICK FACTS

- The federal government has cut Ontario’s transfer payments by \$640 million. Ontario is also getting \$300 million less than it would have if health care transfers to Ontario had grown by six per cent as they did on average for the rest of the country.
- 47 community Health Links serve half of Ontario.
- Thirty communities will be selected to participate in the [Healthy Kids Community Challenge](#). The deadline for applications is March 14, 2014.

LEARN MORE

- Ontario’s Action Plan for Health Care [Year Two Progress Report](#)
- [Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care](#)
- Health Links [video](#)

For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOLine at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only)

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