



YOUR MPP IS WORKING FOR YOU!

May is a very busy and culturally diverse month, dedicated to the heritage of the following communities: Jewish, South Asian, Armenian, Mexican, Polish and Dutch. As your MPP, I encourage you to learn more about other cultures in our incredibly diverse region and province. Seeing a multitude of culturally diverse local businesses blossom in Barrie and Innisfil fills my heart with pride and joy. Whether you're living, working, raising a family or retiring in Barrie-Innisfil, the Ontario government and I are working for you to make your daily life better and more enjoyable.

As a busy mom of a young child, I'd like to wish a Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers and female role models out there. Thank you for making the world a better place one day at a time - you are our influencers, our motivators, our inspiration; your work lasts generations and impacts every part of the society.



**Province providing \$545K for
Cookstown road rehabilitation!**

I am thrilled to announce that our government is pitching in \$545,770 for road rehabilitation in Cookstown.

The money will help the Town of Innisfil conduct work on Queen and Church streets. The funding will come from the province's Connecting Links program, which provides up to 90% of eligible project costs, including a maximum of \$3 million for road projects and \$5 million for bridge projects.

Roads and bridges are vital links that connect people to jobs, housing and make it easier for people to get where they need to go. Our government is providing the funding municipalities need to ensure their transportation infrastructure is safe and reliable for generations to come.



Happy Mother's Day!

This Mother's Day, I'd like to honour all mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, aunts, sisters, cousins, and other mother figures in appreciation of love for your children, dedication to the community, and commitment to making the world a better place.

As a working mom, I understand it takes a village to raise a child. That is why I work hard to ensure our community is well-equipped to empower the future generations.

Ontario Launches New Ultra-Low Overnight Electricity Price Plan



Ultra-Low Overnight Electricity Price Plan

Helping my constituents with electricity rates is a priority. Our government launched a new electricity price plan: the Ultra-Low Electricity Price Plan. Through this voluntary rate, people who consume more electricity at night like shift workers and EV drivers can save money.

Click on the link below for more information.

[Learn More](#)



Ontario Launches Plan to Boost Math, Writing and Reading Skills

As a parent, I consider education to be one of top priorities in a child's life. That is why Ontario government is investing more than \$180 million in targeted supports in the classroom and at home to help students build the math and reading skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the workforce. This investment will support nearly 1000 more educators to help students develop these important skills.

To help more young students build stronger reading skills, the province is investing \$109 million in 2023-24 to boost literacy rates, which will:

- Introduce new, Canada-leading, early reading screening requirements for all students in Year 2 of Kindergarten to Grade 2, along with a standardized and fully funded screening tool and training for educators, to ensure students receive the necessary foundational skills and early interventions in reading that are critical to future success
- Fund additional specialist teachers who can work one-on-one or in small groups to help students who need additional support in reading
- Invest in almost 700 educators to support development and excellence in literacy for Ontario students

[Read More](#)



Much-Needed Investment to Combat Homelessness in Simcoe County

Our government is working diligently to resolve the homelessness challenge, and I am doing everything possible to assist my constituents.

I am happy to report that the County of Simcoe is expecting to see an 86 per cent increase in funding from the province to help combat homelessness in the region!

That equals an increase of more than \$21 million from what the county was allocated in 2022-23 as part of a \$200-million-plus annual investment by the province in its Homelessness Prevention Program and Indigenous Supporting Housing Program. That increase brings Ontario's total yearly investment in these programs to close to \$700 million.

The additional funding is meant to help people who are homeless or at risk of being

homelessness, as well as support community organizations which are delivering supportive housing.



South Simcoe Police Service Recognition Awards

South Simcoe Police 2022 Service Recognition Awards Ceremony was filled with incredible and unforgettable moments, and I was happy to join Innisfil **Mayor Lynn Dollin** and Bradford Mayor **James Leduc** to honour the nominees and Award recipients.

It filled my heart with joy to witness so many selfless acts of bravery and service by our local police force. Thank you for taking great care of our communities and for your service above all!

A Home For Performing Arts In Barrie



Reach and Attraction

The Cultural Hub will be an attractor. Like a tree, the main performance space will form the centre of the site and the various program elements reach out towards downtown, towards the waterfront and towards communities to the south, inviting artists, residents and visitors to see and engage the program. The recital hall is visible from Dunlop, acting as a beacon and demonstration of the arts within.



Theatre in a Garden

Taking cues from the Kibby Creek revitalization, the centre reaches south and east, integrating theatre programs with views and access to a four-acre garden. A bridge connects the centre of the site to the waterfront, creating a link between the centre and the waterfront. The garden is a key feature of the Cultural Hub.



A Vision of Barrie's New Performing Arts Centre

It was wonderful to attend the Vision Open House for Barrie's future Performing Arts Centre and learn about the exciting creative plans!
The Centre would make a much-needed addition to Barrie's cultural & music scene, and serve Barrie's residents and artistic groups.
Thank you to **The City of Barrie** and **Hariri Pontarini Architects** for arranging the 2 evening consultations on April 19-20. It was very interesting to discover about what it would take to infuse **Barrie, Ontario** with more arts, music, theatre, film and other artistic expressions.



Largest EV battery investment in Ontario's history

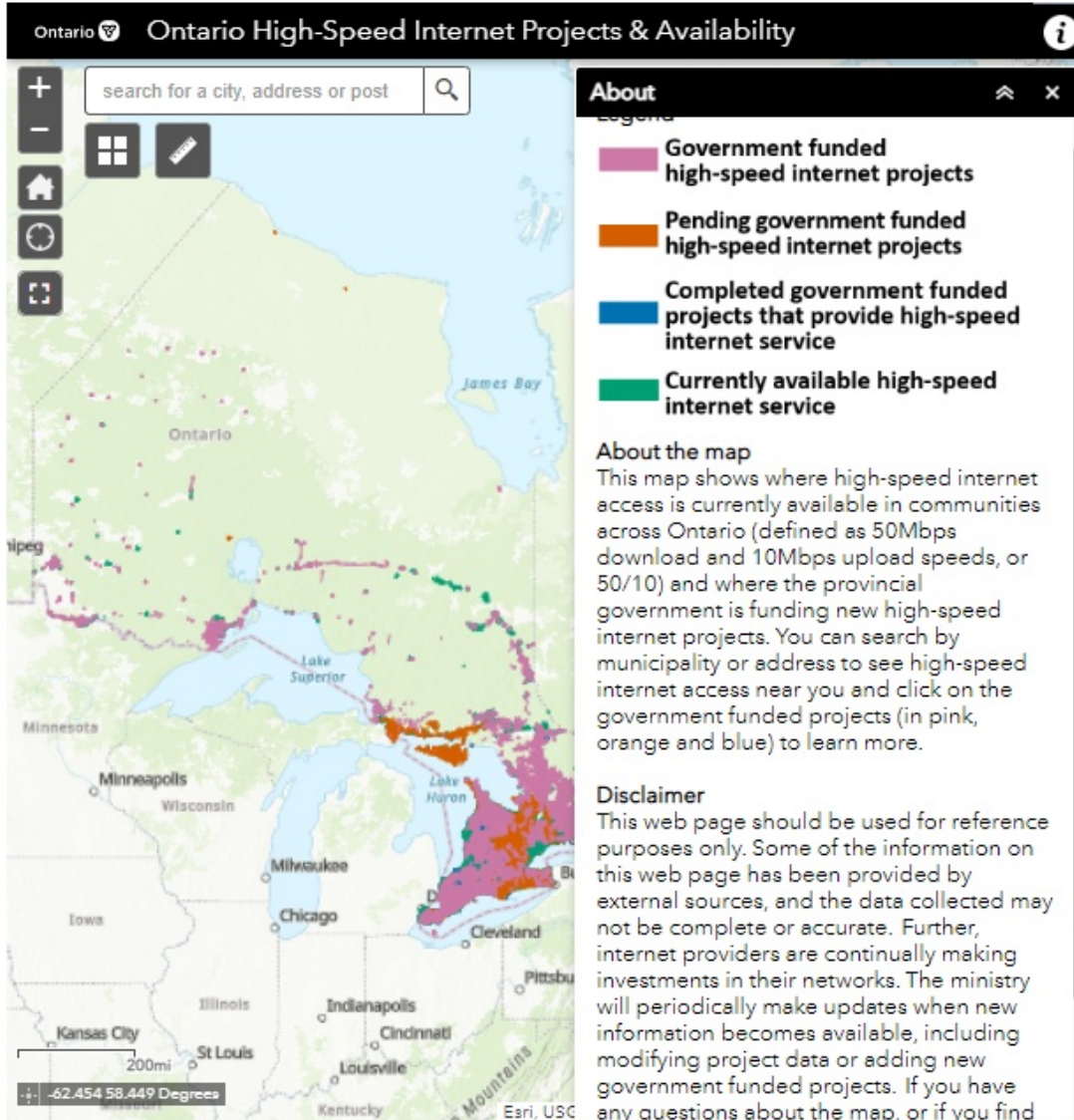


Volkswagen's New Electric Vehicle Battery Plant Will Create Thousands of New Jobs

Ontario government is bringing new ventures and jobs to our province with a generational deal for St. Thomas, Ontario, and Canada's entire electric vehicle supply chain! Volkswagen is investing \$7 billion to establish its first overseas electric vehicle battery manufacturing plant in St. Thomas, Ontario. This is the largest electric vehicle-related investment in Canadian history, signaling a strong vote of confidence in Ontario and Canada's highly-skilled workers, strong economies, and competitive business environments.

The plant, Volkswagen's largest to date, will create up to 3,000 direct jobs and up to 30,000 indirect jobs. Once complete in 2027, the plant will produce batteries for up to one million electric vehicles per year, generating about \$200 billion in value as the largest manufacturing plant in Canada. Construction is expected to begin next year.

[Learn More](#)



Bringing High-Speed Internet to Every Community

Our government is thrilled to announce an investment of nearly \$4 billion to help bring high-speed internet access to every community, including Barrie and Innisfil, by the end of 2025. This is the single largest investment in high-speed internet, in any province, by any government in Canadian history. This is definitely wonderful news for our constituents, and I am happy to bring you the good news.

We're bringing access to high-speed internet to up to 266,000 unserved and underserved homes and businesses across the province!

This new, innovative and transparent competitive process, launched in 2021 by Infrastructure Ontario, gave telecommunications and internet service providers the opportunity to bid for provincial funding. We have now signed contracts with 8 internet service providers to bring better access to homes and businesses in as many as 339 municipalities across Ontario.

Does my community have high speed internet?

Check out the Ontario new interactive map: Ontario.ca/highspeedinternet



Happy Victoria Day, everyone!

Victoria Day Long Weekend is soon upon us, and I invite you to enjoy Ontario's beautiful parks, the great outdoors and the multitude of attractions our province has to offer. It is important to celebrate Canadian history and our cultural heritage on this day, while enjoying the spring weather and the sunshine.

Our government always has water safety in mind, and I was happy to support #Joshua's Law: Life Jackets For Life in legislature, making life jackets mandatory for children under 12 years old while on a recreational watercraft.

The poster features a green background with a white box containing the program's logo. The logo consists of the word "PAGE" in large, colorful letters (red, green, purple, yellow) with "ONTARIO'S LEGISLATIVE" above and "PROGRAM" below. To the right, a black banner contains application dates and website information. Below the logo, a paragraph describes the program as a unique experience for young students. At the bottom, a row of stylized figures in suits holds hands, and a footer provides social media handles and the website.

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Page applications are accepted online twice yearly:
April 15 to June 15
and
September 15 to November 15
Check out our website at www.ola.org

ONTARIO'S LEGISLATIVE
PAGE
PROGRAM

A Unique Experience

Each year approximately 150 young students from across Ontario are selected to participate in Ontario's Legislative Page Program. The program is designed for outgoing, high-achieving, community-involved students who have demonstrated responsibility and leadership. Legislative Pages support the functions of the House, meet key parliamentary figures, and learn first-hand about Ontario's Parliament and the legislative process.

Be a part of Ontario's Parliament during your Grade 7 or 8 school year!

Explore and apply at:
@ONPARLEDUCATION | @LEGISLATIVEASSEMBLYOFONTARIO | @ONPARLEDUCATION
WWW.OLA.ORG

Attention Grade 7 & 8 students!

Are you interested in Politics and want to see the Ontario Parliament in action? Check out the Legislative Page Program! Applications are accepted April 15-June 15 and September 15-November 15.

Make sure to apply and have a great time learning about our parliament's daily work, while meeting the politicians and being involved in the legislative process.



A Safe Ontario is a #StrongOntario.

Our government is expanding the number of police recruits that can be trained each year, and we're going to cover 100% of the cost of tuition.

[Learn More](#)



In Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care, Ontario Government announced an investment of \$30 million to create up to 18 new teams to help bridge the gap in accessing interprofessional primary care for vulnerable, marginalized and unattached patients to ensure they are able to connect to care where and when they need it.

The expression of interest for groups to submit proposals is now open to local community members for submitting an application.

[APPLY
HERE](#)

[Subscribe](#)

Now!

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