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CONSTRUCTION SPENDING IN HEALTH AND SAFETY PAYS OFF - IWH STUDY

A recently released study conducted by Dr. Cameron Mustard, Dr. Emile Tompa and Dr. Basak Yanar from the Institute for Work and Health made the following conclusions regarding the return on investment from spending on health and safety in the construction industry,

“The average expenditure per employee per year on OHS investments in the construction sector was \$3,625. The estimated average financial benefit to employers was \$4,851, yielding a benefit/cost ratio of 1.34 or an estimated return of 34 per cent. Sixteen employers (18 per cent of the sample) had an estimated benefit/cost ratio less than 1.0; for 72 employers (82 per cent), it was greater than 1.0.”

The study also examined the manufacturing and transportation sectors.

For the full report, click on the following link:

<https://www.iwh.on.ca/summaries/issue-briefing/estimating-financial-return-on-employers-investments-in-prevention-of-work-injuries-in-ontario>

ONT. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHED MINISTRY PLANS FOR 2022-23

The Ontario Government recently published 2022-23 plans for 25 Ministries plus the Cabinet Office and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. The plans are very high level and don't provide the kind of more granular level details that mandate letters published by previous governments provided. That said, they form an excellent primer on Ministries' responsibilities. The full list of plans can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/published-plans-and-annual-reports-2022-2023>

DATE OF ONTARIO BUDGET ANNOUNCED

Mark your calendars. On February 23rd, Ontario's Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy, announced that he will present the government's 2023 budget on Thursday, March 23rd. The budget speech is normally delivered in legislative chamber at 4:00 pm.

FINANCE MINISTRY RELEASES Q3 2022-23 FINANCES

Here's what the government told us:

- real gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have increased by 3.7 per cent in calendar year 2022.
- the government is projecting a deficit of \$6.5 billion in 2022-23, an improvement of \$6.4 billion compared to the Province's last published fiscal update.
- Revenues in 2022-23 are projected to be \$9.6 billion higher than forecast, mainly reflecting stronger than expected taxation revenues as a result of higher net tax assessments for 2021 and prior years,
- Overall program expense in 2022-23 is projected to be \$188.6 billion, \$3.4 billion higher than forecast in both the 2022 Budget and the 2022 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review. Increases in program expense are primarily due to significant one-time costs associated with ongoing land and land-related claims with Indigenous communities where Ontario is in active negotiations, claims are accepted for negotiation or are under review. This additional spending has been partially offset by existing contingences within the fiscal plan, and savings.

DATE FOR HAMILTON CENTRE BYELECTION ANNOUNCED

The byelection in the riding of Hamilton Centre will be held on March 16, 2023.

The by election was caused by the resignation of former NDP leader, Leader of the Official Opposition and MPP from the Hamilton area since 2004, Andrea Horwath

Candidates in the byelection are disability activist Sara Jama for the NDP, police officer Peter Wiesner for the PCs, LGBTQ activist Deidre Pike for the Liberals and Lucia Iannantuono for the Greens

We are predicting an NDP hold.

GREEN PARTY LEADER DECLINES LIBERAL COURTING

After being courted to run for the leadership of the Ontario Liberal Party in an open letter endorsed by a long list of active Grits and then playing it for all the attention it was worth, Ontario Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner declined the invitation. The policy divide between the Liberals and the Greens is just too wide.