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### 300,000 CHILDREN WITH HEALTHIER TEETH THANKS TO THE CANADA DENTAL BENEFIT

Every Canadian deserves good oral health care, yet one-third of Canadians are unable to visit an oral health professional because they do not have dental insurance. Last December, as the first step to help improve access to dental care, the Government of Canada launched the Canada Dental Benefit that allows eligible families to receive the financial support they need to help cover dental care expenses for children under 12 years of age.

Today, we crossed a major milestone. As of now, the Canada Dental Benefit has helped more than 300,000 children get brighter smiles and healthier teeth. Dental care for those who need it most is now accessible for a whole generation of children in Canada who will enjoy the health benefits for many years to come.

The first benefit period will be ending on June 30, 2023. Children must have received dental care between October 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, so book an appointment now to ensure you are eligible for the first benefit period.

Beginning July 1, 2023, families can apply for the second benefit period. Families who meet the eligibility criteria can once again receive up to \$650, depending on their income, for each eligible child under 12 for dental care services received between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024.

The Benefit is a key part of the Government of Canada's work to improve access to dental care for Canadians. However, we know that children are not the only ones who deserve access to affordable dental care. This is why Budget 2023 announced an investment of \$13 billion over five years, starting in 2023-24, and \$4.4 billion ongoing to implement the new Canadian Dental Care Plan. Once implemented, it will support up to nine million uninsured Canadians who have an annual family income of less than \$90,000, with no co-pays for those with family incomes under \$70,000, with the oral health care they need. The plan is expected to begin rolling out by the end of 2023 with an aim of full implementation by the end of 2025.

No one should have to choose between taking care of their teeth and paying their bills at the end of the month. Canadians deserve access to quality dental care, which we know is important not only for oral health, but for overall health.

## WHY YOU CAN'T BET ON HORSE RACING SPORTSBOOKS IN ONTARIO

Users can still bet on horse racing, but not only in newly licensed sportsbooks in Ontario.

Ontario's new gambling market has welcomed some of the biggest sportsbooks in the world, but their platforms appear to have one glaring omission that many sports betting fans can't quite get over. Across all the commercial sportsbooks (like Bet365 and Fanduel) that are now operational in Ontario, none are able to offer bets for horse racing. Why is horse racing the only sport that has been omitted? While sports betting, along with betting on horses is legal, horse racing betting in Canada is regulated at the federal level, and not at the provincial level. What this means is that while provincial governments have the power to regulate

gambling on sports, gambling on horse racing remains out of their direct jurisdiction, as a different entity controls it.

In Ontario, the iGaming industry (sports betting and online casino) is regulated by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, while horse racing bets still fall under the purview of the Canadian Pari-mutuel Agency (CPMA). So essentially, any entity that offers horse racing betting needs to offer pari-mutuel betting, which involves players betting against each others, with their stakes going into pools. This form of betting is regulated by a different body (at the federal level) than the one that regulates online sportsbooks in Ontario, and that is why users cannot access horse racing bets on them.

Find horse racing odds in Ontario

While bettors can access a wide range of horse racing betting sites in Canada's other provinces and territories, in Ontario, users are limited to two horse racing-only betting apps. Dark Horse Bets, and HPI Bet are the two apps that users can bet on horse races with, and each offer unique horse racing betting features that make up for the lacking horse racing odds on commercial sportsbooks throughout the province.

Both platforms are owned and operated by the Woodbine Entertainment Group, and each offer something for different kinds of horse racing bettors. Bettors that are newer to horse racing will best be served by Dark Horse Bets, while bettors that are a little

more experienced would be best suited to using HPI Bet. Will we see a change in legislation?

The key caveat that may be the change regarding sportsbooks offering horse racing betting lies in the power of the Woodbine Group, which pos-

sesses a federal pari-mutuel betting license in Ontario, and has shown interest in working with commercial sportsbooks to be the provider of legal horse racing odds for these commercial platforms. Currently, users in Ontario with an interest in betting on sports

and on horses are required to use different platforms to do so. However the partnership between the Woodbine Group and commercial sportsbooks could see a new era of convenience for sports bettors who want to bet on horse racing in the province.

## CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY PRAISES WORLD PRECEDENT SETTING REQUIREMENT FOR HEALTH WARNINGS DIRECTLY ON EVERY CIGARETTE

The Canadian Cancer Society today commended new national tobacco regulations to require a health warning directly on every cigarette sold in Canada, a world first. The regulations will also enhance the health messages required on the outside and inside of packages. Together, this will result in Canada having the best overall tobacco health warning system in the world.

"A health warning on every individual cigarette is innovative and unprecedented," says Rob Cunningham, Senior Policy Analyst, Canadian Cancer Society. "The measure means that health messaging will be conveyed with every cigarette and every puff, will be there during every smoke break, and will reach youth who experiment by borrowing cigarettes from a friend. This measure will reduce smoking and the appeal of cigarettes, thus preventing cancer and other diseases."

It is expected that many countries will follow Canada's

example and also adopt this measure, just as there are now more than 130 countries/territories that have required picture warnings, following the Canadian precedent implemented in 2001.

For the warnings directly on cigarettes, there will be 2 sets of 6 warnings, with sets changed in rotation. The implementation date at retail for the first set will be July 31, 2024, for "King Size" cigarettes (83-85 mm in length) and April 30, 2025, for "regular size" cigarettes (70-73 mm) in length. A new round of 14 picture warnings will be required to appear on the outside of cigarette packages by April 30, 2024, with a second new set of 14 picture warnings to appear 24 months later. Enhanced messages on the package inside will also be required at retail by April 30, 2024. The new, final regulations announced today were previously proposed in June 2022 as a draft for consultation.

"On the occasion of World No Tobacco Day, there is an

opportunity to emphasize that far more must be done to reduce tobacco use and youth vaping in Canada," adds Cunningham. "As part of a comprehensive tobacco control strategy, we urge the federal government to adopt a series of additional measures, including requiring the tobacco industry to pay for the full cost of the government's strategy, increasing tobacco taxes and banning flavours in e-cigarettes."

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of disease and death in Canada, killing 46,000 Canadians each year, including about 30% of all cancer deaths. Based on 2021 data, there are still 3.8 million Canadians who smoke, representing 12% of the population aged 12+. An enormous amount of work needs to be done to achieve the objective of under 5% of Canadians using tobacco by 2035.



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