

# \$7 Million to Boost Tourism and Climate Readiness

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$7 million in the Evergreen Brick Works Recovery and Climate Resilience project to protect one of Canada's first large-scale community environmental hubs and top destination for residents and tourists in the heart of Toronto. The project showcases how climate-resilient infrastructure can help protect communities and keep residents safe from floods and other weather events.

"Evergreen Brick Works is a shining example of how we can protect Ontario's natural spaces, infrastructure and economic opportunities, all in one place," said Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "Not only will this investment preserve this beautiful space for future generations, it will also serve as a model for truly sustainable urban design – supporting the development of stronger, more resilient infrastructure to protect our

communities for years to come."

The funds are being used to upgrade the Children's Garden—an outdoor learning space that hosts more than 10,000 youth annually—along with three restored heritage buildings offering welcome space, Indigenous and ravine programming space, plus improved outdoor commons for safety and public use.

Improvements to these spaces include:

- Innovative stormwater systems including rain gardens and permeable pavement to safely redirect water during heavy rainfall
- Elevated electrical and data infrastructure to prevent flood damages
- Installing solar panels to generate power on-site for community events and reduce pollution
- Accessible seating, new lighting and improved safety features for the garden and amphitheatre

Leveraging its national and provincial networks of innovators, Evergreen will provide best practices and practical lessons to municipalities, city planners, property managers and similar not-for-profit organizations, helping advance innovative, climate-resilient solutions across Ontario.

This project supports the government's plan to protect Ontario by working with municipal and other partners to build resilient, sustainable housing and infrastructure while strengthening local economies through homegrown tourism.

For nearly a century, the Don Valley Brick Works was one of Canada's leading brickyards, producing over 43 million bricks every year. In 2010, Evergreen, in partnership with the City of Toronto and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, transformed the abandoned site into an environmental education centre

focused on nature, culture and community.

Evergreen Brick Works is a model for sustainable design and green practices—featuring rain gardens, permeable pavements, rainwater harvesting systems and energy-efficient buildings. It supports over 100 small businesses and farmers, hosts major community events, and attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

In summer 2024, Toronto experienced a record-breaking storm that dropped 100 millimetres of rain in just two hours, flooding the Brick Works under five feet of water, and causing extensive damage to both the facility and surrounding parkland.

"From supplying the bricks that built Queen's Park to becoming one of Canada's leading urban-environmental hubs, the Brick Works have reflected Ontario's needs across generations. Our investment in the Evergreen Brick Works pro-

jects an important site in Ontario's history while securing its future as a place where community, culture and sustainability intersect as a space where new generations of families can enjoy."

- Stan Cho  
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming

"Evergreen Brick Works shows us what's possible when we invest in public spaces, places where people can gather, connect, and belong. I applaud the Ontario government for this important investment to repair flood damage, strengthen climate resilience, and protect a space where families, artists, small businesses, and neighbours come together year-round. Together, we are building a more affordable, caring, and safer city for Torontonians."

- Olivia Chow  
Mayor of Toronto

"This investment will help

ensure Evergreen Brick Works remains a resilient, welcoming place where communities can gather, explore, learn, and celebrate—no matter what climate challenges lie ahead. We will strengthen critical infrastructure, enhancing nature-based solutions alongside climate technology for cooling, biodiversity, stormwater management and net-zero operations. By doing so, we're not only safeguarding vital community programming for hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, but we're also supporting hundreds of Ontario small businesses, artists, and community organizations. We're grateful for the Province of Ontario's partnership in making Evergreen Brick Works a living blueprint for sustainable, climate-ready infrastructure for resilient communities."

- Jen Angel  
Chief Executive Officer, Evergreen

## Building and Expanding 16 Teaching Clinics to Connect 300,000 More People to Primary Care

The Ontario government is investing up to \$8 million to support planning for 16 new and expanded primary care teaching clinics across the province to connect 300,000 more people to primary care. This investment is part of the government's \$2.1 billion Primary Care Action Plan to connect everyone in Ontario to primary care by 2029.

"These new primary care teaching clinics will further protect our health-care system by training the next generation of primary care clinicians, right here in Ontario," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "This builds on our government's unprecedented investments in primary care that will ensure anyone who wants to connect to a primary care clinician can have reliable access to primary care, no matter where they live."

Each teaching clinic will receive up to \$500,000 to support planning work. In partnership with Ontario's medical schools, these clinics will train family medicine residents in a team-based model alongside other health-care professionals, such as nurse practitioners, physician assistants and registered nurses. These clinics will offer training that combines direct patient care with hands-on learning in team-based environments, all while providing primary care for an additional 300,000 people. Initial teaching clinics are targeted to open in 2027-28, with further expansion to follow. "Hands-on learning is critical to ensuring our health care students can hit the ground running and provide exceptional care upon graduation," said Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security. "The new and expanded primary care clinics will not only equip our future doctors and nurses with the skills they need to thrive, but also connect more people in Ontario to compassionate health care, close to home."

This funding is part of the government's broader investment of up to \$300 million – part of the \$2.1 billion Primary Care Action Plan – to build new and expanded community-based primary care teaching clinics in areas with high rates of unattachment. In addition to funding planning grants for 16 new and expanded teaching clinics, two new primary care teaching clinics at Toronto Metropolitan University will bring the total to 18 clinics. Together with other historic investments in new medical school seats, creating over 130 new and expanded primary care teams and adding nearly 20,000 new physicians to the health-care system, these initiatives are helping to connect Ontario families to primary care, beginning with clearing the Health Care Connect waitlist as of January 1, 2025. As of this week, that waitlist has been reduced by more than 75 per cent.

"This investment in critical infrastructure will strengthen team-based primary care in Ontario," said Dr. Jane Philpott, Chair of Ontario's Primary Care Action Team. "These new teaching clinics will train the next generation of family physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and other health professionals to work in teams while delivering vital care to patients who currently lack access."

Medical school including Queens University, Oshawa.

"As an academic hospital, Women's College Hospital is deeply committed to advancing primary care education and training the clinicians of the future. Strengthening team-based, hands-on learning environments is essential to preparing family physicians and other clinicians to deliver exceptional, connected care from day one. This work is foundational to building a strong and sustainable health system, and we are proud to play a leading role in shaping its future."


- Heather McPherson  
President & CEO, Women's College Hospital

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