

October 20-26, 2026

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Ontario Protecting Workers by Raising Minimum Wage

TORONTO — As of today, Ontario is increasing its minimum wage from \$17.60 to \$17.95 an hour, benefiting more than 700,000 workers across the province. This annual increase is tied to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 1.9 per cent and marks the second-highest rate among provinces. A worker earning the general minimum wage and working 40 hours per week will see an annual pay increase of approximately \$728. This balanced approach puts more money into workers' pockets

while helping businesses plan for the future, delivering on the government's plan to protect Ontario and build a stronger, more competitive economy that can withstand global economic uncertainty.

"Ontario's workforce is our greatest advantage, and their hard work, skill and dedication keep our province moving forward every day," said Trevor Jones, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. "As families and workers face higher costs and businesses navi-

gate changing trade environments, today's minimum wage increase will help workers keep pace with global economic uncertainty while maintaining a predictable approach that businesses can plan for."

Under the Employment Standards Act, 2000 (ESA), Ontario's minimum wage is adjusted each year on October 1 based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), ensuring that wages keep pace with inflation and employers have a measured,

predictable framework to plan for annual increases.

Today's announcement marks one more way the government is supporting workers while continuing to invest in skills training and employment supports that prepare people for in-demand jobs, connect businesses with the talent they need, and help workers and employers adapt to a changing economy. Through Skills Advance Ontario, the federal and provincial governments are supporting industry-led partnerships that help

jobseekers and workers gain in-demand skills while helping employers address workforce and skills needs in key sectors of the economy. The province has also expanded POWER Centres and Better Jobs Ontario to provide improved retraining and employment assistance for people seeking a rewarding, in-demand job.

Together, these measures are strengthening Ontario's domestic workforce and building an economy that can withstand future challenges,

remain competitive and create lasting opportunities across the province.

The specialized minimum wages for students, home-workers and hunting and fishing guides are also increasing.

About 35 per cent of minimum-wage workers are employed in retail trade and 24 per cent in accommodation and food services.

Over the past eight years, Ontario's minimum wage has increased from \$14 per hour in 2018 to \$17.95 as of today.

First in Durham Region: New Technology Advances Life-Saving Stroke Care

DURHAM REGION, September 28, 2026 – When someone is having a stroke, every second matters. A blood clot can block blood and oxygen from reaching the brain, quickly causing damage. For the first time in Durham Region, Lakeridge Health stroke teams have access to advanced brain imaging that can help better understand what is happening and determine the right treatment. Called CT Perfusion with RapidAI, the technology is now available at Ajax Pickering and Oshawa Hospitals. "CT Perfusion" is a specialized CT scan that shows how blood is flowing through the brain. "RapidAI" uses artificial intelligence (AI) to quickly analyze images. This helps doctors see which areas of the brain may be damaged and which may still be saved with treatment. Lakeridge Health already administers clot-busting medication for acute stroke in appropriate cases, and this new imaging technology will help guide this therapy. For some patients, treatment may involve physically removing the clot using specialized procedures to restore blood flow to the brain. With this new imaging technology available locally, we can more quickly identify the right patients that may benefit from transfer to a specialized stroke centre in Toronto.

"We're proud to offer this enhanced brain scan which strengthens stroke care for people across Durham Region," said Dr. Randy Wax, Chief of Staff, Lakeridge Health. "Having this technology here means more care can begin closer to home, while keeping patients connected to specialized stroke centres when they need them. We are also another step closer to developing our own comprehensive stroke centre here in Durham Region."

For some patients, treatment may involve removing the clot to restore blood flow to the brain. If specialized treatment is needed, Lakeridge Health can use the information from the scan to help coordinate a transfer to a regional stroke centre in Toronto.

"This technology gives our physicians and clinical teams more detailed information to support safe, informed treatment decisions," said Lorel Morrison, Program Director, Diagnostic Imaging and Lab, Lakeridge Health. "Combined with their clinical expertise, it helps them better understand what each patient needs and determine the right care."

The arrival of CT perfusion with RapidAI expands how Lakeridge Health uses innovative technology to support patient care. It follows July's launch of the Stryker 4.0 Orthopedic Robotics Platform at Ajax Pickering Hospital, which allows surgical teams to plan and perform joint replacement procedures with an even greater level of precision. From planned surgery to urgent stroke assessment, these investments put Lakeridge Health's 2026–2031 Strategic Plan priority of Innovation and Technology for Better Care into practice, making a meaningful difference for patients and families.

COMMITMENT 01 OF 15

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