



**LISTEN
TO YOUR
NEWS**



Daily Commercial News

by ConstructConnect®

MARCH 27, 2023

www.dailycommercialnews.com

VOL. 96 NO. 59 \$5.23 plus HST

Highways, critical minerals, skills training main highlights of Ontario Budget 2023

DON WALL
STAFF WRITER

Ontario Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy has tabled a budget that reinforces pledges to build major transit and highway projects, supports the province's critical minerals strategy and boosts capacity for the skilled trades.

Among notable capital spending pledges, the government's plan to spend \$27.9 billion on highway expansion and rehabilitation over the next decade represents an increase of \$2.8 billion over the \$25.1-billion spend contained in the fall economic outlook.

The finance minister released Budget 2023, billed as Building a Strong Ontario, in the legislature March 23.

"It is a plan for a strong economy now and for the future," said Bethlenfalvy. "It's a plan to build more roads, more highways, more transit and more broadband. It's a plan to build new long-term-care homes, more hospitals, schools and child care spaces. It's a plan to build the critical minerals sector in Ontario's north and at the same time invest in clean

green steel in Hamilton and Sault Ste. Marie."

The minister highlighted two new programs announced earlier as part of its industrial growth strategy, the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit and a new Skills Development Fund (SDF) capital stream.

The former sees the creation of a new 10-per-cent refundable corporate income tax credit of up to \$2 million a year for Canadian-controlled private corporations on qualifying investments in buildings, machinery and equipment for use in manufacturing or processing in the province.

The \$224-million skills development capital plan will enable training providers such as labour groups, indigenous centres, business and industry organizations to build new training facilities and modernize existing centres.

Ontario's 2022-23 deficit is projected to be \$2.2 billion, \$4.4 billion lower than the outlook published in the 2022-23 Third Quarter Finances forecast.

See SERIOUS, Pg. 3



Ontario Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy delivered Budget 2023 in the Ontario Legislature March 23.

In Brief

New members chosen for housing supply team

TORONTO

The new members of the Housing Supply Action Plan Implementation Team have been selected to evaluate progress and provide advice on tackling Ontario's housing supply crisis.

The new members will join Drew Dilkens, the mayor of Windsor, and vice-chair Cheryl Fort, the mayor of Horne-payne.

They include Marlene Coffey, CEO of the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association; Simone Swail, senior manager, government relations with the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada; Adam Brown, founding partner of Sherman Brown; Jim Harnum, founder of Municipal VU Consulting Inc.; Tony Irwin, president and CEO of the Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario; Richard Lyall, president of the Residential Construction Council of Ontario; and Paula Tenuta, senior vice-president, policy and advocacy with the Building Industry and Land Development Association.

The team will have its first meeting in the coming weeks.

"Ontario's housing crisis has been years in the making and will require bold ideas and vision," said Dilkens in a statement.

"Legislation enacted by the government challenges stakeholders and municipalities to think outside the box to reduce costs that are ultimately passed on to homebuyers. The implementation team will continue this approach by embracing change and questioning the status quo. Ontario should be a place where everyone that aspires to homeownership is able to obtain it. As chair, I look forward to working with the experts and industry leaders appointed to complete the implementation team's mandate."

DCN-JOC NEWS SERVICES

GoFundMe page set up for millwright apprentice who died at St Marys Cement

BOWMANVILLE, ONT.

A [GoFundMe page](#) has been set up for millwright apprentice Mitch Watson who died March 21 in an incident at St Marys Cement in Bowmanville, Ont.

According to the description on the page, "Mitch was the light in so many lives. He will be missed beyond words."

He was a son, brother and "friend to many," it reads.

Media reports from that day state a worker was found trapped under a large metal object just before 8:30 a.m. on March 21 and removed with "vital signs absent."

EMS attended the site, located at 400 Bowmanville Ave., and pulled the worker out.



GOFUNDME

A GoFundMe page has been set up for Mitch Watson who died in an incident at St Marys Cement in Bowmanville, Ont. on March 21.

"We can confirm that on the morning of Tuesday, March 21, a third-party contractor was involved in an accident and succumbed to fatal injuries while working at the site," said a spokes-

person from St Marys Cement in an email to the Daily Commercial News on the day of the incident.

"First and foremost, our deepest sympathies go out to the family, friends and co-workers of the individual. We are working with Ministry of Labour inspectors as an investigation into the incident is underway. Out of respect for the worker, their family and their employer, the company is not disclosing any additional details at this time."

Millwright Local 2309 also commented on the incident, notifying its members in a Facebook post.

"It saddens us to inform you that one of our Local 2309 Brothers had suffered fatal injuries

in Bowmanville early yesterday. There is full investigation ongoing, we will provide more details when available. Our hearts go out to the family, friends, and co-workers."

According to the GoFundMe page, Watson's memory will be "carried on by his father Mike, his mother Deanna, his sister Brooke, his loving girlfriend Lauren, his extended family, his work colleagues, and so many of us who were lucky enough to call him a friend."

As of March 24, \$49,120 had been raised.

Two ministry inspectors were assigned and the investigation is ongoing.

DCN-JOC NEWS SERVICES

BUILDING REPORTS • CENTRAL 4-12 • EASTERN 12-17 • WESTERN 18-25 • NORTHERN 25-26
POST-BID REPORTS 27-30 • CERTIFICATES AND NOTICES 31-34

Daily Commercial News
by ConstructConnect™

➔ www.dailycommercialnews.com

For all the news on the construction industry...

Turn to
Daily Commercial News

