

2018 Babies At Brampton, Etobicoke Hospitals

BRAMPTON: Brampton Civic Hospital welcomed its first baby of 2018 on January 1 at 2:27 a.m. Astha Patel of Brampton delivered a baby girl weighing in at 5 pounds and 14 ounces.

This is the first child for Astha and her husband Gaurang Jiyani. (See picture alongside.)

With the best wishes of Osler, the family received warm congratulations and a large gift basket of baby items that were generously donated by Shoppers Drug Mart, Store 834, Mountain-ash Road, Brampton.

ETOBICOKE: Etobicoke General Hospital was pleased to welcome its first baby of 2018 early this morning. At 3:13 a.m. Ramndip Pandher of Brampton delivered a baby boy, weighing in at 6 pounds and 10 ounces.

This is the first child for Ramndip and her husband Amritpal Boparai.



With the best wishes of Osler, the family received warm congratulations and a large gift basket of baby items that were generously donated by Shoppers Drug Mart, Store 1376, Westwood Mall, Mississauga. Osler is comprised of Brampton Civic Hospital, Etobicoke General Hospital and the new Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness. Os-

ler's labour and delivery program is one of the largest in Ontario. Each year, Osler delivers over 7,500 babies.

ABOUT WILLIAM OSLER HEALTH SYSTEM: William Osler Health System is a hospital system that serves 1.3 million residents of Brampton, Etobicoke, and surrounding communities within the Central West Local Health Integration Network. Osler's emergency departments are among the busiest in Canada and its labour and delivery program is one of the largest in the province. William Osler Health System Foundation builds and fosters relationships in order to raise funds to support William Osler Health System's capital, education and research priorities at Brampton Civic Hospital, Etobicoke General Hospital and the new Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health & Wellness.

Five Things To Watch For In Business World



TORONTO _ Five things to watch for in the Canadian business world in the coming week:

NO MORTGAGE FOR YOU

As of Jan. 1, shopping for a mortgage will become more difficult thanks to new rules from Canada's federal financial regulator. Put in place to help cool real estate markets in Vancouver and Toronto, potential borrowers will have to undergo a "stress test" to prove that they can withstand interest rates substantially higher than their contract rate. A Bank of Canada analysis suggests roughly 10 per cent of Canadians who secured an uninsured mortgage between mid-2016 and



mid-2017 would not have qualified under the new standards.

SMALL BUSINESS TAX CHANGES

The policy proposal that has likely caused Finance Minister Bill Morneau to question his entry into politics is about to go into effect. Effective Jan. 1, the 10.5 per cent federal small business tax rate will be reduced to 10 per cent.

More controversially, Morneau is also moving forward on restricting "income sprinkling" by private corporations, a proposal that raised the ire of small business owners, doctors, lawyers and farmers _ ultimately prompting Morneau to



amend the proposal.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR BITCOIN?

Speculation on the world's most popular cryptocurrency took a volatile turn recently when regulators in South Korea announced more measures to curb bitcoin trading, including a potential shutdown of exchanges. South Korea has become the third-largest market for Bitcoin and other digital currencies, prompting the government to warn that it "can't leave the abnormal situation of speculation any longer."

WHEN BAY ST. GOES TO POT

Canada's nascent cannabis industry experienced a volatile 2017, but the trend shifted decidedly upward for most pot stocks as the



year came to a close. With names such as Canopy Growth Corp. and Aurora Cannabis Inc. establishing themselves as billion-dollar "unicorns" without the help of institutional investors, it can't be long before Bay Street decides to get in on the action and push valuations even higher.

RECORD YEAR FOR AUTO SALES?

We'll find out next week whether or not 2017 was a record year for Canadian auto sales. As of Dec. 1, light vehicle sales for the year-to-date totalled 1.91 million in November compared with 1.82 million in the first 11 months of 2016. DesRosiers Automotive Consultants believes Canada is on track to top two million vehicles sold for the full year for the first time.

Ontario Becomes First Province to Cover Medications for Under 25

Prescription medications are now free for everyone under the age of 25 in Ontario. As of January 1, the province has made the biggest expansion to medicare in Ontario in a generation, providing drug coverage to over four million children and youth across the province. The launch of OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare is a national milestone as Ontario becomes the first province to provide prescription drug coverage to children and youth.

Premier Kathleen Wynne was in downtown Toronto to celebrate this national milestone with some of the young people and parents who now have access to over 4,400 medicines, completely free of charge. Some of the now publicly funded prescriptions include depression and anxiety medications, insulin and diabetic test strips, antibiotics, asthma inhalers and birth control pills.

This expansion of medicare marks a turning point for Ontario families, who now have access to life-saving drugs without having to worry about affordability. Coverage will be automatic for children and youth with an OHIP card and a valid prescription. There will be no upfront costs, no co-pays and no strings attached.

The launch of OHIP+ is just one of the historic ways Ontario has changed with the new year. The government's plan to build a fairer, better province also includes a raise to the minimum wage to \$14 an hour, effective January 1. The minimum wage will further increase to \$15 per hour as of January 1, 2019.

Ontario's plan is creating fairness and opportunity during this period of rapid economic change. The plan includes a higher minimum wage and better working conditions, free tuition for hundreds of thousands of students, easier access to affordable child care, and free prescrip-

tion drugs for everyone under 25 through the biggest expansion of medicare in a generation.

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is the first province to provide prescription medication coverage at no cost for all children and youth under 25 who are OHIP-insured.

- An estimated 1.2 million people in Ontario without drug coverage will benefit from OHIP+. This is according to a recent report by the Conference Board of Canada that estimates a drop from 13.2 per cent to four per cent in the number of people not currently eligible for drug coverage under a public or private insurance plan in Ontario.

- OHIP+ covers prescription medications listed on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary and additional medications eligible for funding through the Exceptional Access Program and prescribed by a doctor or nurse practitioner.

- Ontario's public drug programs already help to pay for needed prescription medications for seniors, people with high drug costs and other vulnerable populations. It marks one of the many ways the Ontario government is leading a national discussion on the future shape of pharmaceutical in Canada.

- Increasing the minimum wage is part of the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017, which responds to the final report of the Changing Workplaces Review. The report estimated that more than 30 per cent of Ontario workers were in precarious work in 2014. Today part-time work represents nearly 20 per cent of total employment.

- Since the global recession, more than 800,000 net new jobs have been created in Ontario. By 2020, Ontario is expected to create over 200,000 more net new jobs. The unemployment rate in Ontario is currently at a 17-year low.

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