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ITAC Industry Insider Newsletter

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New Ontario Cabinet Ministers announced

Ontario Premier Doug Ford and his newly appointed Progressive Conservative (PC) Cabinet Ministers were sworn-in this morning at Queen's Park. His is a trimmed-down Cabinet, including 21 ministers, down from 29, under former Premier Kathleen Wynne. This has been accomplished, in part, by combining ministries such as Seniors and Accessibility; Energy, Northern Development and Mines; Children, Community and Social Services; and Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

Most of today's announcements are not surprising, with important ministries going to individuals with extensive experience. For example, Christine Elliott, Premier Ford's primary competitor for PC lead, and a former MPP and Ontario's patient ombudsman, has been appointed as Health Minister, the largest ministry, with a budget of \$54-billion. Elliott is also named as Deputy Premier. Vic Fedeli, who served as Interim Leader when Patrick Brown stepped down, will continue on the finance file, shifting from Opposition Critic to Minister of Finance, as well as Cabinet Chair. Other key appointments were given to Steve Clark, Jim Wilson, Jeff Yurek and John Yakabuski.

Three newly elected MPPs were given prominent roles: Caroline Mulroney was named Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs; Rod Phillips, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; and Peter Bethlenfalvy, was appointed President of the Treasury Board.

Other key areas to note:

- There is no mention of the innovation file in the Cabinet list. We suspect this will be covered by a number of ministries such as Economic Development; Training, Colleges and Universities. ITAC will continue to follow this closely.
- Both women's issues and Francophone affairs have been reduced to non-portfolio responsibilities.
- There are 12 incumbent MPPs in cabinet.
- Premier Ford will also serve as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs.
- The gender balance is currently 2-1 male with one minister who's a visible minority: long-time Ford ally Raymond Cho, the Minister of Seniors' Affairs and Accessibility.
- The environment ministry has dropped the words "climate change" from its title.

The full list of Ontario Premier Doug Ford's newly appointed Cabinet Ministers is below:

- Peter Bethlenfalvy - President of the Treasury Board
- Raymond Cho - Minister for Seniors and Accessibility
- Steve Clark - Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- Christine Elliott - Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and Deputy Premier
- Victor Fedeli - Minister of Finance and Chair of Cabinet
- Doug Ford - Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
- Merrilee Fullerton - Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities
- Ernie Hardeman - Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Sylvia Jones - Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
- Lisa MacLeod - Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues
- Monte McNaughton - Minister of Infrastructure
- Caroline Mulroney - Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs
- Rod Phillips - Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Greg Rickford - Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, and Minister of Indigenous Affairs
- Laurie Scott - Minister of Labour
- Todd Smith - Minister of Government and Consumer Services, and Government House Leader
- Lisa Thompson - Minister of Education
- Michael Tibollo - Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
- Jim Wilson - Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- John Yakabuski - Minister of Transportation
- Jeff Yurek - Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.

ITAC President and CEO, Robert Watson, has already sent a request to meet Premier Ford. We will continue to keep you apprised of any meetings and now that the Ministers have been named, we have begun our engagement with those individuals and their offices as well.