

Ontario Creating New Community Hub in Stratford

Province Expanding Affordable Housing, Child Care and Seniors' Facilities

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Ontario is enhancing services and programs offered in Stratford, with a new community hub to support the local community.

Through the 2018 Budget, the province is supporting the creation of a new community hub in Stratford's Cooper Block site. Planned renovations and enhancements to the Stratford Grand Trunk hub include:

- An enhanced YMCA facility
- A new student centre
- More affordable housing and liveable mixed-use space for University of Waterloo students and their families
- Expanded child care facilities
- A new active seniors' facility
- All around improved infrastructure for pedestrian and cycling routes, parking and public space.

By bringing together community services and health care providers under one roof, the new hub will help foster a healthy community where people can work, learn and play.

Building inclusive communities and creating community hubs is part of the government's plan to support care, create opportunity and make life more affordable during this period of rapid economic change. The plan includes free prescription drugs for everyone under 25, and 65 or over, through the biggest expansion of medicare in a generation, free tuition for hundreds of

thousands of students, a higher minimum wage and better working conditions, and free preschool child care from 2 ½ to kindergarten.

Quick Facts

- Ontario plans to invest approximately \$10 million toward the total Stratford Grand Trunk Community Hub project cost of \$30 million.
- Community hubs provide the public with one central point of access for a range of services, such as health, social or education, along with cultural and recreational spaces to nourish community life. Each community hub is as unique as the community it serves.
- While community hubs are locally-driven, the province's role is to make it easier for community partners to offer services that are integrated and coordinated, strengthening community partnerships and making the best use of public space.
- The province recently signed a bilateral agreement with the federal government for \$11.8 billion in federal infrastructure funding over the next 10 years, including \$407 million for community, culture and recreation infrastructure. Under this agreement, the province will work with municipalities and other partners to assess projects for nomination and approval by the federal government.

Additional Resources

- [Community hubs in Ontario](#)
- [Community hubs and the 2018 Ontario Budget](#)
- [Building Better Lives: Ontario's Long-Term Infrastructure Plan 2017](#)
- [Learn more about infrastructure projects happening in your community](#)

Quotes

“Community hubs like the Stratford Grand Trunk Community Hub provide important local services and benefits. This community hub will bring jobs, and economic and social opportunities to the area, while enriching the lives

of its residents. We should all be excited by the power of community hubs to strengthen and help build Ontario up."

Bob Chiarelli

Minister of Infrastructure