



Local MPPs highlight budget

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“We hope to see a similar \$400 (million) each year,”

Essex MPP Bruce Crozier, left, stands with Windsor MPPs Dwight Duncan and Sandra Pupatello during an announcement of the 2007 provincial budget Friday. The budget has earmarked \$2.5 million for the Essex arena project.

Santos said. “We’re not saying any increase, but at least a level that we can extract from and try to balance our budgets around.”

Santos did praise the provincial budget for committing to reach its 50/50 funding agreement with municipalities for costs related to land ambulance services by 2008.

The county is currently operating with 45 per cent funding from the province.

“We’re glad to see it and we’re certainly looking forward to having other opportunities because of that,” Santos said, adding that the increase will take a burden off the property tax base and may expand the level of land ambulance services throughout the region.

Energy and the Environment

Much of the provincial

budget focused on protecting the environment and supporting cleaner energy sources.

Immediate funding initiatives include supporting the Trees Ontario Foundation and an energy audit rebate for homeowners.

The province is also planning to announce a clean air plan over the next few months.

Help for low-income families

Support for low-income families also received attention. The newly proposed Ontario Child Benefit would deliver \$2 million over a five-year period to more than one million children of low-income families.

Additionally, the budget proposes to increase minimum wage over three years to \$10 up from the current \$8.

Has Adoption Touched Your Life?

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If you were involved in an adoption that is registered in Ontario, you should know that access to identifying information for adopted adults and birth parents is changing. Changes to adoption information laws in Ontario will allow most adopted adults and birth parents to receive identifying information from original birth registrations and adoption orders.

Changes also include the ability to register a no-contact notice and apply for an order prohibiting the disclosure of identifying information in order to prevent harm.

In the past, non-identifying information may have been disclosed to adopted people or birth relatives.

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2007 Ontario Budget

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