

Premier Wynne Announces a Small-Scale Cabinet Shuffle, Promoting Two Ministers to Key Portfolios

With no new faces at the table, roster is reduced to 29 ministers

January 12, 2017

This morning, Premier Kathleen Wynne made a number of changes to her cabinet team, with two notable promotions – **Marie-France Lalonde** as Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services and **Tracy MacCharles** as Minister of Government and Consumer Services. Today's shuffle comes seven months after Wynne's significant shuffle last summer, bringing in many new faces to the cabinet table.

Lalonde, formerly Minister of Government and Consumer Services, replaces Labour Minister **Kevin Flynn**, who had served as Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services on an interim basis until today's shuffle. Lalonde moves into a challenging portfolio that will test the new minister. She will be responsible for leading correctional system transformation, modernizing police services, and managing hot-button issues like police record checks and controversies related to the use of solitary confinement in correctional facilities.

MacCharles takes on the Government and Consumer Services portfolio, leaving the Women's Issues portfolio she took on during last June's cabinet shuffle, while retaining the Accessibility portfolio. She will be responsible for implementing consumer protection initiatives including the *Protecting Condominium Owners Act*, increasing protection for indebted consumers such as payday loan borrowers, and introducing legislation on Home Inspector Qualifications.

Other changes include **Dipika Damerla** as Minister of the new stand-alone Ministry of Seniors Affairs, **Indira Naidoo-Harris** as Minister of Women's Issues and Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care, and **Jeff Leal** taking on a new role as Minister Responsible for Small Business in addition to retaining his role as Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Today's cabinet shuffle was triggered by **David Orazietti**'s resignation as Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services and MPP for Sault Ste. Marie in December, citing a desire to spend more time with this family. Earlier this week, Sault College announced that Orazietti will join the college as Dean of Aviation, Trades and Technology, Natural Environment and Business.

A by-election in Sault Ste. Marie must be called within six months of December 31st, 2016, Orazietti's last day as MPP. A date has not yet been set. The Tories are currently the only major party with a candidate; Sault Ste. Marie Councillor Ross Romano was nominated in November 2016 as the PC standard-bearer.

The Ontario Government's cabinet shuffle new release can be found here:

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2017/01/marie-france-lalonde-ontarios-new-minister-of-community-safety-and-correctional-services.html>

Cabinet Shuffle At-A-Glance

| Minister | Post-Shuffle Portfolios | Pre-Shuffle Portfolios |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Dipika Damerla | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Seniors Affairs <i>(new, stand-alone ministry)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister Responsible for Seniors Affairs |
| Indira Naidoo-Harris | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Women's Issues Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Minister of Education (Early Years and Child Care) |
| Marie-France Lalonde | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Government and Consumer Services Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs |
| Jeff Leal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Minister Responsible for Small Business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs |
| Tracy MacCharles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Government and Consumer Services Minister Responsible for Accessibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister Responsible for Women's Issues Minister Responsible for Accessibility |