

**Ministry of Training,
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Ministre

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September 14, 2009

Mr. Gary R. Champagne
Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board
210 Mead Boulevard
Espanola ON P5E 1R9

Dear Mr. Champagne,

Thank you for your letter about the implementation of Employment Ontario employment services.

Following the transfer of federal employment programs to the province in January 2007, my ministry has been realigning employment services. To ensure that Employment Ontario is better equipped to meet the employment and training needs of its customers we are planning to integrate services for delivery – so that no matter which service door you walk through, you know you can get the help you need to find the job you are looking for.

As you are aware, the province, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the City of Toronto agreed to establish the Human Services Implementation Steering Committee to provide leadership and strategic oversight to implement the human services outcomes set out in the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review report. This move reflects the principle of partnership we demonstrated during the review.

My ministry looks forward to participating in the steering committee and in the related working group to examine ways to best integrate employment services and supports, and help individuals in each community strengthen their attachment to the workforce. This will include working with representatives from the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, as well as municipal service managers.

In the coming weeks and months, we will provide the AMO with updates on our plan to integrate and enhance employment services. We will work with all levels of government to ensure that employment services are flexible and customer-centric, and reflect the unique qualities of communities.

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Thank you again for writing. I look forward to working with municipalities and all Employment Ontario partners and stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Milloy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Milloy
Minister