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May 8, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO: Regional Directors
Municipal Services Managers
Municipal Program Supervisors

Ontario Works Administrators
- Municipalities and DSSABs

FROM: Jeff Butler
A/Director, Ontario Works

RE: **Exploring Opportunities for Integration of Employment Services**

Further to my memo of March 27, 2012, the province will be exploring opportunities to integrate Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) employment services with the broader Employment Ontario network. As a result, the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) is working with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) and our Ontario Works delivery partners with a view to better integrating these services to improve employment outcomes for social assistance clients and persons with disabilities while making the best use of resources.

Decisions have not been made yet about how Ontario Works employment assistance services could be integrated. MCSS will be relying on the knowledge and expertise of our delivery partners as work progresses.

Exploring options for integration will require input from a wide range of stakeholders to capture the diversity of perspectives on the ground and to consider which approaches are best suited to the needs of Ontario Works clients and persons with disabilities, and which approaches are the most effective in delivering services.

Options for integration will also be informed by the analysis and advice of the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario.

Currently, MCSS and MTCU are in the process of compiling comparable data on our respective programs. In order to provide all the information required in this initiative, MCSS will be distributing a survey for Ontario Works Administrators to complete

regarding the use of third party providers in the delivery of Ontario Works employment assistance.

We recognize the importance and value of maintaining strong linkages with our Ontario Works delivery partners and will continue to engage with you as we move forward with this work.

Original Signed By

Jeff Butler

- c. Maxine Daley, Director, Social Assistance and Municipal Operations
Elizabeth Roy, Manager, Ontario Works
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Kira Heineck, OMSSA