

Ministry of Training, Colleges
and Universities

Employment and Training Division
Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1L2

Ministère de la Formation
et des Collèges et Universités

Division de l'emploi et de la formation
Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1L2



May 16, 2013

Dear Employment Ontario Partner:

By now I am sure you've seen the 2013 Ontario budget, which contains several items relevant to the Employment Ontario (EO) network. I would like to provide a brief update on the next steps for the Ministry.

The Budget announced a \$195 million investment over two years in a new Youth Employment Fund which will create employment opportunities for 25,000 youth across the province. This fund is the largest component of the Youth Jobs Strategy, and will be delivered by the EO network. At the moment no decisions have been made about the details of how service providers will deliver the program. The Ministry is currently holding a targeted consultation with youth organizations and stakeholders to finalize the program design for a launch in fall 2013.

The Budget also reaffirmed the government's plan to integrate employment and training services across the government with Employment Ontario. This is a reflection of the government's confidence in the solid foundation the EO network provides to further improve employment and training services and better meet the needs of individuals and employers. To support integration the government will consult and engage with a broad range of stakeholders. We will keep you informed regarding the timing and format of the engagement process over the next few months.

Ontario's budget follows on the heels of the recent federal budget, which included significant proposals related to labour market funding agreements. This included the renegotiation of the Labour Market Agreement to re-focus 60 percent of its funding towards the proposed Canada Job Grant and the renegotiation of the Labour Market Development Agreement. Ontario is committed to an agreement that provides the province with the flexibility to design and deliver programs that address the short and long-term needs of Ontario's labour market. I want to ensure we can continue to deliver employment and training services to all Ontarians, including non-EI eligible individuals with complex barriers to labour market attachment. I welcome your input on the potential impact of these announcements.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Ministry contact person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Fulford".

David Fulford
Assistant Deputy Minister
Employment and Training Division