

Social Services Solutions Modernization Project  
Children, Youth and Social Services I & IT Cluster  
Ministry of Community and Social Services  
5700 Yonge St, 8th Floor  
North York, ON, M2M 4K2

**DATE:** June 3, 2013

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Ontario Works Administrators  
- Municipalities and DSSABs

Regional Directors

First Nations Implementing SAMS

**FROM:** Martin Thumm  
Executive Lead  
Social Services Solutions Modernization Project

**RE:** **2013 Ontario Budget: SSSMP Impacts**

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As you are aware, the government's 2013 Budget committed to transforming social assistance programs so they work better for the people who need them. The Budget announced a package of initial reforms that set the foundation for longer-term transformation.

Social Assistance Management System (SAMS) will provide us with a platform to support this transformation agenda, improve the administration of social assistance, and modernize the delivery of human services in the future. However, our capacity to absorb change at this advanced stage of the project life cycle is limited.

As a result, we are no longer targeting fall 2013 to implement SAMS.

The Project is now undertaking a comprehensive re-planning exercise to establish a revised project schedule. This will accommodate the social assistance changes announced in the Budget and also give us the opportunity to reconsider the timeframes required to support the successful implementation of SAMS.

We will work closely with you and share information on the revised implementation schedule in a fulsome and timely manner. At this time we do know that end-user training, which was to have started in mid-August, will not start any sooner than November 2013. More detailed information on the revised end-user training schedule will be shared when it is available.

Aside from end-user training, a key priority for our re-planning is to keep other local planning and preparation activities on the current track but with more time for completion. In this regard:

- The Project continues to target previously communicated timelines for train-the-trainer B (June 3-28) and pilot participants (July 2-15).
- There is no change to the start date of manager/SME training but we are taking the opportunity to extend manager/SME training into the fall.
- We are still targeting late July for the pilot field test and will be providing pilot sites with more details regarding plans, scope and roles and responsibilities in the near future.
- All materials and support for Organizational Impact Assessments and data extracts will remain on the current timelines.

Please note that this information can be shared with staff.

Thank you for your patience during this time and for your continued commitment to our Project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your RCL/LCIC.

*original signed by*

Martin Thumm

- c. SSSMP Steering Committee  
Social Services Commissioners  
Regional Program Managers  
Municipal and First Nations Service Managers  
Kira Heineck, Executive Director, OMSSA  
Guy Dumas, Executive Director, ONWAA