

**Ministry of Training,
Colleges and Universities**

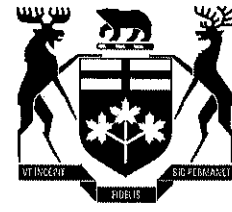
Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de la Formation
et des Collèges et Universités**

Ministre

Édfice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



Ontario

December 16, 2013

Mr. Gary Scripnick
President
Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association
500 Algonquin Boulevard East
Timmins ON P4N 1B7

Dear Mr. Scripnick,

Thank you for your letter following up on our August meeting, and for forwarding me the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association's position paper on Service System Management and Employment Assistance. I appreciate your Association sharing this information with my ministry.

Our government is continuing to make progress on its plan to integrate employment and training services across ministries with Employment Ontario. Integration will give individuals and employers easier and better access to services that meet their needs, whether it is training to improve skills, opportunities to gain work experience, or strategies and tools to recruit local talent. This will ultimately contribute to producing the best outcomes for job seekers and employers alike.

Our progress to date on integration has focused on what provincial programs could be included in an integrated system, and how programs could potentially be redesigned to meet the needs of a wider range of clients. The question of how programs and services would be delivered, and by whom, has not yet been considered.

My ministry recognizes that Ontario's municipal service system managers play a critical role in the delivery, planning and management of Ontario Works Employment Assistance, as well as other important human resource services. Any service delivery and planning approaches will be based on consultation with our municipal partners.

As part of our consultation plan, my ministry has begun to formally engage municipalities through the Association of Municipalities Ontario Memorandum of Understanding and the Toronto-Ontario Consultation and Cooperation Agreement. As you know, I provided an update on the ministry's progress on integration to the Association of Municipalities Ontario Memorandum of Understanding table in May 2013. In October 2013, I returned to that table to re-affirm my ministry's commitment to consult with municipalities and to provide a further update on integration progress.

.../2

My ministry and the Ministry of Community and Social Services have also been working closely together to ensure that integration options align with the government's commitment to improve access to employment and training services for social assistance recipients. As part of this work, my ministry has also been consulting with senior municipal officials through the Ministry of Community and Social Services' Provincial-Municipal Social Assistance Employment Committee.

This winter, my ministry will engage a broad range of stakeholders on integration options, including municipalities, First Nations and Aboriginal partners, service providers, and groups representing specialized populations, such as social assistance recipients and persons with disabilities. Consultations will also engage stakeholders in rural and northern Ontario.

I look forward to continued provincial-municipal collaboration as we move ahead with options for employment and training services integration. Our co-operation will result in better services for job seekers and employers, and improved employment outcomes.

Thank you again for sharing the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association's thoughts on this important issue. I have copied my colleagues Ted McMeekin, Minister of Community and Social Services, and Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, for their reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Duguid', written in a cursive style.

Brad Duguid
Minister

c. The Honourable Ted McMeekin
Minister of Community and Social Services

The Honourable Linda Jeffrey
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing