



August 28, 2014

Dear Employment Ontario provider:

I am pleased to inform you that the ministry will be launching the Canada-Ontario Job Grant (COJG) program this September.

As you may know, on March 28, 2014, Ontario signed the Canada-Ontario Job Fund Agreement with the federal government, which will provide Ontario with \$192 million per year for the next six years.

The agreement is a key source of funding for new employer-driven training initiatives, and represents a key opportunity for the province to help Ontarians obtain the skills required to fill jobs and succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.

The COJG program will provide direct financial support to individual employers who wish to purchase training for their employees. The COJG will be available to small, medium and large businesses with a plan to deliver short-term training to existing or new employees, and will:

- provide up to \$10,000 in government support per person for training costs.
- require employers to contribute one-third of the total costs. There will be additional flexibility for small businesses to provide an in-kind contribution towards their share of the costs.
- require training to be delivered by an eligible, third-party trainer.

The existing network of **Employment Service providers will be asked to administer this new grant with employers seeking funding support for training involving 25 or fewer trainees.** The ministry will be responsible for processing applications from employers seeking funding support for training involving more than 25 trainees. The ministry is also introducing a website targeted to employers, where the COJG application form will be posted. I will provide you with a link soon.

In addition to the COJG program, the ministry is introducing two, new, employer-driven, skills training pilots—COJG: Customized Training and COJG: UpSkill—through an Expression of Interest (EOI) process.

These COJG-funded skills training pilots will test different ways of working with employers to provide short-term, flexible training targeted at workplace needs:

- The COJG: Customized Training pilot will assist in the development and delivery of firm-specific training solutions that meet employers' workforce development needs.
- The COJG: UpSkill pilot will support essential and technical skills training tailored to specific sectors for potentially vulnerable workers in low and medium-skilled occupations.

In the ministry EOI process, interested parties will be able to find out more information and provide important feedback through two, separate email accounts: [customizedeoi@ontario.ca](mailto:customizedeoi@ontario.ca) and [upskilleoi@ontario.ca](mailto:upskilleoi@ontario.ca). The ministry will review this feedback and use it to finalize the pilot approach.

These initiatives represent a new approach to skills training in Ontario—one that involves employers more directly and increases their investments in the skills training system. They also present new opportunities for our ministry and service providers to work more closely with employers, and to better understand hiring, training and workforce needs.

The ministry will be reaching out to you in the coming weeks to schedule training in order to successfully implement the COJG program and skills training pilots.

I remain committed to sharing as much information as possible on these important initiatives as it becomes available. Please stay tuned for more information about the launch date.

Thank you for all your efforts in supporting Ontarians to get the skills and training they need to succeed.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by***

David Fulford  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Employment and Training Division