



September 24, 2015

Honourable Kathleen Wynne  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Suite 281  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON  
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

**RE: Youth Job Connection Program**

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board received a letter on August 14, 2015 confirming the funding allocation and site targets for the Youth Job Connection (YJC) Program.

In this same letter, our organization is asked to accept the funding to deliver both components of the program - Youth Job Connection from October 2015 to March 2017, and Youth Job Connection Summer from April 2016 to March 2017.

Shortly thereafter, the DSB asked for the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities rationale to determine funding allocations and targets. Ministry staff responded by indicating the Ministry used the following data sources to determine YJC funding allocations at the Consolidated Municipal Services Manager (CMSM)/ District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) level:

- Administrative data from the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) on the number of youth who have applied for social assistance;
- Employment Service program data on youth clients (e.g. percent of youth served and employed outcomes for youth);
- Census data on youth unemployment by region;
- Statistics Canada's 2011 National Household Survey data on youth unemployment by CMSM/ DSSAB.

Ministry staff also advised that to determine YJC funding allocations at the site level, the Ministry used data on each site's youth service capacity (e.g. number of Employment Services youth served, number of Youth Employment Fund placements).

In 2013, the Ontario government announced the two-year Youth Jobs Strategy. The Youth Employment Fund (YEF) is a key part of the strategy that has created employment opportunities for over 25,000 youth. The YEF created employment opportunities for populations with high youth unemployment, by providing financial support for training and employer incentives for job placements.

For those 2 years, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB was the delivery agent for the Youth Employment Fund. In 2013-2014, we provided supports to 7 youth between the ages of 15 and 29 years old with an allocation of \$37,226. In 2014-2015, we provided supports to 15 youth with a fiscal allocation of \$78,000.

We are currently in the process of collecting the Youth Employment Fund (YEF) funding levels from Collège Boréal and Cambrian College. We are aware that under the new Youth Job Connect program Cambrian College's target for October 2015 to March 2016 is 15 placements and 21 placements for the fiscal year 2016-17. In addition Collège Boréal's target for October 2015 to March 2016 is 14 placements and 27 placements for the fiscal year 2016-17.

Unfortunately the YEF program ended on March 31, 2015 and it seems to have been replaced with the Youth Job Connection program which will begin on October 1, 2015. The client target for 2015-16 is 6 (\$39,600) and for 2016-17 it is 9 (\$59,400). The new target numbers and fiscal allocations are lower than the numbers of the two previous years and represents a reduction of 40% or 9 Youth and a 24% reduction in funding over 2014-15. But based on the reduction of 40% in the DSB run program, we suspect similar reductions with Collège Boréal and Cambrian College.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB has been overseeing the Jobs for Youth Program, formerly known as the Summer Jobs for Youth, since 2008 funded by the Ministry of Child and Youth Services. This program allocated the funding for Jobs for Youth since its inception to the DSB for Manitoulin Island only. Since the inception of this program, the DSB continued to lobby to the Ministry for the allocation for the remainder of the district.

In 2013-2014, the DSB staff worked with the YMCA of Sudbury who was the delivery agent for the Sudbury North, Sudbury East and LaCloche areas to transition the program to the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB.

The service delivery history of the Jobs for Youth program for the Sudbury North area is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Youth placed</b>
<b>2011-2012</b>	12
<b>2012-2013</b>	13
<b>2013-2014</b>	21
<b>2014-2015</b>	23
<b>2015-2016</b>	24

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB has the resources available to ensure that the Jobs for Youth program is well delivered in each part of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board jurisdiction. As a matter of fact the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB has always reinvested any central administration dollars back into the program to ensure as many at risk youth as possible have the opportunity for a summer job.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB's Youth Job Connection Summer program allocation for 2016-17 is 3 for the Sudbury North Region which is significantly less than past years. The reduction from 24 placements in 2015 to 3 placements in 2016 represents an 87% reduction in high risk Youth Placements.

The service delivery history of the Jobs for Youth program for the remaining Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB's district is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Manitoulin / LaCloche</b>	<b>Sudbury East</b>
<b>2011-2012</b>	82	1
<b>2012-2013</b>	87	1
<b>2013-2014</b>	71	15
<b>2014-2015</b>	46	29
<b>2015-2016</b>	58	29

Cambrian College will be the delivery agent for the Youth Job Connection and their allocation is 7 for the Manitoulin and LaCloche areas which is significantly lower than previous years. The reduction from 58 placements in 2015 to 7 placements in 2016 represents an 88% reduction in high risk Youth Placements.

Collège Boréal will be the delivery agent for the Youth Job Connection and their allocation is 9 for the Sudbury East area which is significantly lower than previous years. The reduction from 29 placements in 2015 to 9 placements in 2016 represents a 69% reduction in high risk Youth Placements.

The Jobs for Youth Program is an initiative of the Youth Opportunities Strategy, which was established to address factors that place youth at increased risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour and/or violence. The 8-week program is intended to give disadvantaged youth and youth who reside in identified at-risk communities an opportunity to develop employment skills and obtain safe and positive employment experiences through paid summer employment and, thereby, participate in/contribute to the betterment of their families and community.

The Ministry analyzed geography, labour market information and demographic characteristics, such as youth unemployment rates, to determine community needs. This, in turn, informed the provincial budget for the program, as well as client targets for each region and service delivery site to address needs at the regional and community level.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board and its 18 member municipalities need to understand how the Ministry can reduce the number of youth placements from 111 in the summer placement component to 19 summer placements under the new Youth Job Connection. This represents an 83% reduction in the number of high risk youth obtaining summer jobs.

That means there will be 92 high risk youth who will not get an opportunity for a summer job in 2016 because of the change in provinces programing for high risk Youth.

Premier we had requested a delegation at AMO to discuss this issue with Minister Moridi but did not receive any response to our request. We are now asking for a meeting with you to discuss this drastic reduction in services in an area that was identified by the province as high risk. We will make ourselves available to meet at your convenience.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Les Gamble".

Les Gamble  
Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Chair

c.c. Honourable Reza Moridi, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities  
Honourable Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services  
Association of Municipalities (AMO)  
Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA)  
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA)  
DSB Member Municipalities