



**OFIFC**

Ontario Federation of  
Indigenous Friendship Centres

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**COPY**

May 28, 2015

Atikokan Native Friendship Centre  
Barrie Native Friendship Centre  
CanAm Indian Friendship  
Centre of Windsor  
Council Fire Native Cultural Centre  
Toronto  
Dryden Native Friendship Centre  
Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre  
Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre  
Midland  
Hamilton Regional Indian Centre  
Indian Friendship Centre  
Sault Ste. Marie  
Ininew Friendship Centre  
Cochrane  
Kapuskasung Friendship Centre  
M'Wkwedong Native Cultural  
Resource Centre  
Owen Sound  
N'Amerind Friendship Centre  
London  
N'Swakamok Friendship Centre  
Sudbury  
Ne'Chee Friendship Centre  
Kenora  
Niagara Regional Native Centre  
Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre  
Sioux Lookout  
Nogojwanong Friendship Centre  
Peterborough  
North Bay Indian Friendship Centre  
Odawa Native Friendship Centre  
Ottawa  
Parry Sound Friendship Centre  
Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre  
Sarnia-Lambton Native  
Friendship Centre  
Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre  
Thunderbird Friendship Centre  
Geraldton  
Timmins Native Friendship Centre  
United Native Friendship Centre  
Fort Frances

Iain Angus  
Chair, Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association  
231 May Street South  
Thunder Bay ON P7E 1B5

Dear Mr. Angus,

As a strategic partner, the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) is seeking input from the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) on the impending impacts of the Canada-Ontario Job Grant (COJG).

The OFIFC is concerned that the design and implementation of the COJG will negatively impact multi-barriered individuals including urban Aboriginal people. As an employer-driven program, the COJG will benefit job-ready individuals, rather than the individuals who are in need of the most support to join the labour market. We also anticipate that the impacts of the COJG on the full suite of provincial employment and training programs will be severe, and that social assistance employment supports will be increasingly relied on to support a large proportion of unemployed Ontarians.

The OFIFC understands that there will be a provincial review of the COJG after its second year (2015/2016). We are concerned that after two years the full impacts of the COJG will not be evident as the funding requirements will grow exponentially on an annual basis until 2017/2018. In hopes of influencing this review, the OFIFC is working diligently to understand the scope of potential impacts.

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Iain Angus  
Chair  
Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association

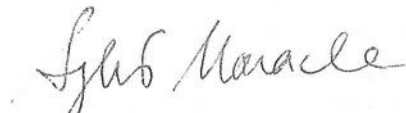
We are hoping that NOSDA can support OFIFC in its advocacy efforts on the COJG. As a first step, the OFIFC is hopeful that NOSDA will be able to provide input into the following questions to inform our understanding of the technical realities of a fully implemented COJG.

1. What is the role of DSSABs in the administration of the COJG? What is the level of interest from employers to engage in the COJG?
2. Is there a way to track the level of employer engagement with the COJG that supports the hiring of multi-barriered individuals?
3. What are the perceived impacts as a result of the COJG implementation on Ontario Work's employment supports?
4. What supports are needed in order for DSSABs to meet the employment needs of multi-barriered individuals, specifically urban Aboriginal people?

Thank you in advance for informing our advocacy on the COJG. Any assistance you could provide in this regard would be greatly appreciated. The OFIFC values our partnership with NOSDA and we look forward to continuing our work together.

Comments or questions can be directed to Rebecca Carman, Labour Force Policy Analyst by email at [rcarman@ofifc.org](mailto:rcarman@ofifc.org) or by phone at 1-800-772-9291.

Sincerely,



Sylvia Maracle  
Executive Director

cc: Fern Dominelli, Chair, Chief Administrative Officer Group, Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association  
Chris Stewart, Executive Coordinator, Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association  
Juliette Nicolet, Policy Director  
Rebecca Carman, Labour Force Policy Analyst