



February 22, 2016

Dear Employment Ontario Service Providers,

I am writing to follow up on my May 4, 2015 memo regarding the Call for Proposal (CFP) for the Ontario Centre for Workforce Innovation (OCWI), an important modernization and transformation initiative. As you may recall the government committed to establishing the **Ontario Centre for Workforce Innovation** (the Centre) in successive budgets and in the 2014 Fall Economic Statement.

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (Ministry) has now completed the competitive CFP process through the Ontario Tenders Portal and has selected Ryerson University, leading a consortium of twelve partner organizations, as the successful proponent to run the Centre. The consortium will deliver a leading-edge centre of research excellence that will support the employment and training services sector and help build a skilled, resilient and productive Ontario workforce.

The Ministry has also negotiated a transfer payment agreement with the proponent that details the operational requirements, including funding, deliverables, timelines and reporting. The Centre is now in its start-up phase.

At present, Ontario does not have a single-window organization with a mandate to support effective and centralized research, innovation and capacity-building in the system. The Centre is intended to fill this gap and will be a leading edge key organization that drives innovative approaches in service delivery across the province, based on solid evidence.

The Centre supports the vision of the Ministry for Ontario to have the most educated people and highly skilled workforce in the world to build the province's competitive advantage and quality of life. Specifically, the Centre will:

- Research, pilot and evaluate projects that address Ontario's most pressing labour market and workforce development opportunities and challenges;
- Engage extensively with key stakeholders to set strategic priorities;
- Build capacity and support an employment and training community of practice; and
- Launch an accessible, bilingual website where it will highlight its resources and promising practices.

The Centre's work is not intended to replace what exists in the marketplace. Instead, it is meant to complement other means of research, innovation, professional development and support.

I remain committed to sharing with you as much information as possible on these and other important initiatives. Thank you again for your ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality employment and training services to Ontarians.

If you have any questions, please contact your local TCU office.

Sincerely,

**Original signed by**

David Fulford  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Employment and Training Division  
Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

CC: Paddy Buckley, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Programs Division