

**Ministry of Advanced Education
and Skills Development**

**Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur
et de la Formation professionnelle**



Employment and Training Division

Division de l'emploi et de la formation

3rd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Édifice Mowat, 3^e étage
900, rue Bay, Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1L2

December 6, 2017

Dear Employment Ontario partner,

As some of you may be aware, the government recently announced through the Fall Economic Statement, that over the next three years, it will invest more than \$500 million in new initiatives to promote economic growth and lower costs for small businesses.

As part of this work, the government is investing \$124M over three years in new incentives to help small businesses and employers hire and retain youth aged 15-29. This will help small businesses better compete, grow and invest, while helping our young people find meaningful employment and take their first steps towards building a career.

These incentives will be delivered through the existing Employment Ontario network, specifically, through the Employment Service and Youth Job Connection programs, starting on January 1, 2018.

Employers will receive a maximum of \$2,000 to hire and retain youth as follows:

- For Employment Service (ES) assisted service youth clients matched with a small business (less than 100 employees):
 - between January 1, 2018 and March 31, 2018, a \$1,000 retention payment at 3 months followed by a \$1,000 retention payment at 6 months
 - after April 1, 2018, \$1,000 upon hiring followed by an additional \$1,000 retention payment at 6 months in the job.

These payments would be for employers who are not benefiting from a current incentive through ES.

- For the Youth Job Connection (YJC) program a retention payment of \$1,000 would be payable after 3 months with a further \$1,000 payable after 6 months to incentivize small and large employers to retain multi-barriered (homelessness, lack of labour market experience, low levels of education etc.) youth for placements made after January 1, 2018.

This retention payment would be in addition to existing employer incentives eligible under YJC.

I encourage you to review the Qs and As regarding these incentives [posted on the EOPG](#). Additional Qs and As, guidelines and information on training will be posted at a later date.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to supporting employers and youth through our Employment Ontario network.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

David Carter-Whitney
Assistant Deputy Minister
Employment and Training Division