



July 26, 2018

Honourable Merrilee Fullerton  
Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development  
900 Bay St. Mowat Block 3rd Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Fullerton:

### **Service System Management**

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board, also known as a District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) is responsible for the delivery of Employment and Income Supports to the residents of the 18 Municipalities and Territories without Municipal Organization (TWOMO) with the Districts of Manitoulin and Sudbury (excluding the City of Greater Sudbury).

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board is also one of the more than 400 Employment Ontario delivery agents that deliver the full suite of Employment Ontario services in the Sudbury North part of our region since 2013.

We have met and/or exceeded all Employment Ontario targets that made common sense for our communities. Unfortunately the cookie cutter approach to establishing and setting targets in the rural, remote and Northern communities does not bode well.

We have delivered and managed the full suite of Employment Ontario services in partnership with our existing community resources without creating duplication. This cannot be said in the other 3 regions of our geography.

Through careful analysis and review of the existing employment service delivery, it appears that there are considerable gaps, disconnects and duplications within the employment services network. The existing system is fragmented, and not fiscally efficient. Other barriers, such as access to transportation, only serve to exacerbate these challenges within the existing Employment Ontario strategy.

While your Ministry has tried to deal with these issues by reducing the number of delivery agencies from over 700 to just over 400, there is still a long way to go. We believe the 47 Consolidated Municipal Services Managers (CMSM) and District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSAB) are in the best position to take responsibility for the Service System Management of Employment programs. Service System Management

would bring all Employment Services under one umbrella resulting in less duplication and improved coordination through the alignment and augmentation of resources.

Minister, we understand our community's needs, when we make decisions at a board level, all 14 duly elected board members ensure we put the people who live in our communities first.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board is requesting Service System Management for all Employment Services within the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board jurisdiction. This was supported unanimously by a proxy of NOSDA municipal mayors and councillors, representing the 144 Northern Ontario municipalities. This request would better align municipalities in Northern Ontario with the local market needs and could also provide significant opportunity for Provincial savings.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB looks forward to working with you and your staff to develop a transition plan for the Service System Management of Employment programs that will reduce duplication, eliminate gaps in services and result in municipal and provincial savings.

We would be pleased to meet at a time that is convenient for you. To coordinate a meeting, please contact Fern Dominelli, CAO at 705-222-7777 or by email at [fern.dominelli@msdsb.net](mailto:fern.dominelli@msdsb.net).

Sincerely,



Les Gamble, Chair

cc. Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services  
George Zegarac, Deputy Minister MTCU([george.zegarac@ontario.ca](mailto:george.zegarac@ontario.ca))  
Janet Menard, Deputy Minister MCCSS ([Janet.Menard@ontario.ca](mailto:Janet.Menard@ontario.ca))