

**Ministry of Advanced
Education and Skills
Development**

Office of the Minister

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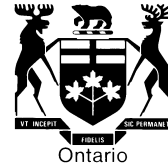
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**Ministère de l'Enseignement
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March 29, 2018

Dear partners,

Yesterday the Ontario government tabled its 2018-2019 budget.

The budget makes big investments in Ontario's strongest asset — its people. It recognizes that to succeed in the workforce, people need to know that their loved ones are being cared for. That's why this budget puts more funding into health care, pharmacare, mental health and child care. When people can care for themselves and their family, they're better able to focus on seizing opportunities in Ontario's growing economy.

That opportunity piece is where you come in. People can't find the stable, well-paying jobs they want if they don't have the skills needed to succeed in those roles. It's why we transformed student financial aid, making college and university tuition free for hundreds of thousands of students. As part of the budget, we're reducing the amount families are expected to pay for education, meaning more students from middle-income families can attend Ontario's world-class colleges and universities with their tuition partly or fully covered.

When they do make it to campus, we want them learning in modern, updated facilities. We will invest more than \$3 billion in capital grants to postsecondary institutions over the next 10 years. This includes a new investment of over \$500 million starting in 2020 to help renew campuses. And over the next three years, we'll provide \$42 million to support new experiential learning opportunities to help students get the skills employers need.

That hands-on training is becoming more and more crucial to career success. That's why we're also introducing Ontario's first Training Bank — a suite of programs that will help workers and job seekers upgrade their skills, and connect employers with that talent. Through an additional investment of \$63 million over three years, the Ontario Training Bank will offer a refreshed set of services and programs, including Second Career, SkillsAdvance and the Employer Partnership Training Fund (formerly known as the Canada-Ontario Job Grant).

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In line with that focus on skills training, we're also supporting Ontario's apprenticeship system by investing an additional \$50 million in the first year, and \$60 million more in each of the next two, to train apprentices and bring more people into the skilled trades. That's a 40 per cent increase in government support for the sector, meaning we understand how valuable apprenticeships can be for linking people with in-demand, well-paying jobs.

If you want to learn more about the budget priorities for 2018-19, I encourage you to take a look at the [Ontario Budget 2018](#), or read the [budget speech](#).

Our economy may be changing, but our focus remains on people. This budget is grounded in care and opportunity for families, but we can't do this work alone. Thank you for continuing to be partners. You're helping give more people in Ontario the skills and experiences they need to build a better future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH' with a stylized flourish.

Mitzie Hunter, MBA
Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development