

April 9, 2018

Dear Employment Ontario Partners,

I am writing to notify you that the [2018 Ontario Budget](#), "*A Plan for Care and Opportunity*" was released on March 28, 2018. While the budget still has to be passed, it contains a few items relevant to our work. This includes investments to support a modernized, robust apprenticeship system, and a flexible employment and training system.

I want to briefly tell you about these initiatives.

Apprenticeship Investments

Building on consultations with training partners across the province, the government will invest \$170 million over three years to support the new [Ontario Apprenticeship Strategy](#), which was introduced in February 2018.

This investment will include:

- Expanding the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), providing more high school students with trades-related hands-on learning opportunities
- Improved guidance counselling resources and local labour market information for students, parents and educators
- A new grant to promote pooled group sponsorship models for apprentices
- A Local Apprenticeship Innovation Fund to increase opportunities for apprentices and encourage engagement within the apprenticeship system across Ontario, as well as support regional, local or sector-specific pilots where there is demonstrated market need; and
- Continuing education opportunities for trade professionals.

Ontario Training Bank

Budget 2018 announced the **Ontario Training Bank** with an additional investment of \$63 million over three years. The Ontario Training Bank will serve as a one-stop shop for employers, job seekers and workers to access the skills training that meets their needs.

It will provide employers, sector organizations and jobseekers with access to information on flexible training and workforce development options. As a core component of Employment Ontario, the Ontario Training Bank will increase awareness and improve the delivery of workforce development programs and services.

The Ontario Training Bank will offer a refreshed set of services and programs, including: Second Career, SkillsAdvance Ontario, Sector Partnership Planning Grant, and the Canada-Ontario Job Grant (COJG). As you know, the Budget has announced that COJG will be renamed to Employer Partnership Training Fund. Details regarding this name change will be shared in the future.

As a core component of EO, the Ontario Training Bank will increase awareness and improve the delivery of workforce development programs and services and will offer a refreshed set of services and programs, including: Second Career, SkillsAdvance Ontario, Sector Planning Partnership Grant, and Canada-Ontario Job Grant.

At this time, employers and jobseekers can continue to access Employment Ontario programs and services through the usual processes at service delivery sites across the province.

If you have any further questions, please contact your local ministry office. I remain committed to sharing information on these and other important initiatives in the coming days.

Thank you,

Original signed by

David Carter-Whitney
Assistant Deputy Minister
Employment and Training Division

Copy to: Erin McGinn, Assistant Deputy Minister. Workforce Policy and Innovation
Division, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development