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February 7, 2018

Dear Employment Ontario Service Provider,

We are writing to let you know that the Honourable Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, has announced [Ontario's Apprenticeship Strategy](#).

The strategy commits to short- and long-term measures to increase the participation of young people and underrepresented groups in the skilled trades, increase the retention and completion rates of apprentices, and improve how employers and apprentices work together to pursue their goals.

This multi-year strategy will build on the strengths of our apprenticeship system with a series of initiatives under five main areas, or pillars:

- **Promote apprenticeship** as a respected postsecondary pathway, and provide prospective apprentices with the information and resources needed to pursue it.
- **Support and retain apprentices** to support more apprentices to complete their apprenticeships and obtain certification.
- **Engage and support employers and sponsors** so that employers in the skilled trades see apprenticeship as the desired training pathway for developing the talent they need.
- **Increase participation of underrepresented groups** to make Ontario's apprenticeship system more reflective of the diversity of our province.
- **Update the apprenticeship system through digital enhancement** by using digital technology to provide client-centred, flexible, and seamless service to apprentices and employers.

Through the implementation of Ontario's Apprenticeship Strategy, we will create more opportunities for apprentices and employers to succeed while growing our economy to the benefit of all people of Ontario.

If you have any further questions, please contact your local MAESD office. We remain committed to continue sharing information on these and other important initiatives.

Thank you,

Original signed by
David Carter-Whitney
Assistant Deputy Minister
Employment and Training Division

Original signed by
Erin McGinn
Assistant Deputy Minister
Workforce Policy and Innovation Division