

**Ministry of Training,
Colleges and Universities**

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

**Ministère de la Formation
et des Collèges et Universités**

Division de l'emploi et de la formation
3^e étage, édifice Mowat
900, rue Bay, Queen's Park
Toronto (ON) M7A 1L2



November 3, 2015

Dear Employment Ontario Service Providers,

I am pleased to share the results of our recent Call for Proposals for the Local Employment Planning Council (LEPC) pilots.

Ontario's continued economic prosperity depends on a highly skilled workforce that is diverse, adaptable and innovative, and we are undertaking a number of major initiatives to help meet this challenge. Firstly, we are moving forward with Employment and Training Services Integration (ETSI) to modernize our employment and training programs to make them better coordinated, more targeted and more effective for people across the province. Based on best practices identified through ETSI, we have made a major re-investment in our Youth Jobs Strategy to support a comprehensive suite of new youth employment programs that will more effectively serve young people across a broader spectrum of needs at more locations. We are also making progress on our strategy to promote access to credible, high quality labour market information to help Ontarians make informed decisions about their education, training and careers.

LEPCs are an important step forward in promoting place-based approaches to supporting workforce development. Expanding the activities of existing Local Boards, the LEPC pilots will improve our knowledge of trends in local labour markets and help us better target our resources to meet Ontarians' needs.

The new LEPC pilots will have greater capacity to provide funding for community-based projects to support the local workforce, improve coordinated planning of employment and training services, and help employers, workers and people looking for work make informed choices about training and careers. LEPCs will also improve local labour market information to assist communities to better anticipate local labour gaps, and current and future employment opportunities. Accurate and up-to-date labour market information is crucial to ensure businesses, government, colleges and universities, labour, front-line training organizations and job-seekers can make better, more evidence-based decisions.

Eight communities have been identified for pilot sites including Durham, Peel-Halton, Windsor, London-Middlesex-Oxford, Ottawa, Peterborough, Timmins and Thunder Bay. To launch the initiative on June 22, 2015, the ministry released a Call for Proposals (CFP) to identify third-party service providers that could pilot the LEPC model in these communities. The evaluation process is now complete, and I am happy to inform you that the following organizations have been selected as the successful LEPC pilots:

- Durham Region Local Training Board operating as Durham Workforce Authority
- Peel Halton Workforce Development Group
- Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland, Haliburton Training Board operating as Workforce Development Board
- Algonquin College
- Far Northeast Training Board
- Northern Superior Workforce Planning Board
- Elgin Middlesex Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board
- Workforce Development Board Windsor Essex

The eight communities selected for LEPC pilots offer a representative sample of unique labour market conditions across Ontario, including:

- Community size and geography
- Areas with Aboriginal and Francophone communities
- Areas with a diverse local economy, such as areas with high unemployment, economies undergoing substantial structural transition or growth, or single and multiple dominant sectors

The LEPC pilots will involve a four-month start-up period and operate for a total of 18 months beginning on December 1, 2015 and ending May 31, 2017. The pilots' success in meeting their intended goals will be measured through an evaluation led by the Ministry and conducted by a third-party consultant. When the pilots have concluded, their success will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the model and inform further program design.

There is no change to other employment and training services at this time as a result of the pilots. If you have any questions, please contact your local TCU office or LEPC@ontario.ca.

I will share as much information as possible with you on these and other important initiatives in the weeks ahead. Thank you again for your ongoing commitment to deliver high-quality employment and training services to Ontarians.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

David Fulford
Assistant Deputy Minister
Employment and Training Division
Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

CC: Paddy Buckley, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Programs Division