



October 1, 2015

Dear Employment Ontario Service Provider,

I am pleased to announce that today marks the official launch of Employment Ontario's (EO) new Youth Job Connection (YJC) program, which will provide more than \$160 million over two years to help young people who face barriers to employment build better futures.

The year-round component of YJC, launching today, will provide paid pre-employment training, job opportunities and mentorship to youth aged 15 to 29 who are not working, in school, or enrolled in a training program.

The YJC: Summer component, launching in spring 2016, will provide summer, part-time and after-school job opportunities to high school students aged 15 to 18 who are facing challenging life circumstances and may need support transitioning between school and work.

For the first six months of program delivery, the YJC year-round component will be open to barriered high school students seeking part-time employment, who will later be served by YJC: Summer when it launches next spring.

As you may know, YJC will be delivered through a targeted group of EO service providers. However, all EO service providers must be prepared to identify potential YJC participants, provide accurate and current information to clients, and make referrals to service providers that will best meet clients' needs.

Program administration forms, as well as a list of service providers delivering YJC, are now available on the [Youth Job Connection page](#) on the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway. The service provider list is also available publicly at findhelp.ca.

Additional resources, including a YJC Overview video, a YJC In-Depth Guidelines eLearning tool, as well as program guidelines and Qs and As are also available on the [Youth Job Connection page](#) to help service providers become familiar with the program, including client eligibility and suitability requirements.

The ministry is also preparing to launch Youth Job Link, which will be aimed at students and youth who do not face significant barriers to employment. Services will include access to job search resources and information to help them transition to the labour market, including summer employment. All Employment Service providers will be

offered the opportunity to deliver Youth Job Link. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

As mentioned in my earlier memo on June 29, 2015, Youth Job Connection and Youth Job Link were designed as part of the government's initiative to modernize and transform employment programs in Ontario, also known as Employment and Training Services Integration (ETSI).

These two new programs are also part of the renewed Ontario Youth Jobs Strategy and build on the best practices of the Youth Employment Fund, Jobs for Youth and other employment programs for young people.

Together, Youth Job Connection, Youth Job Link and the existing Employment Service – which already helps 70,000 youth per year – will provide a comprehensive suite of high quality, targeted services that will help youth with a broad spectrum of needs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring Ontario's youth have access to the high quality employment services and skills training they need to succeed in the labour market.

Please do not hesitate to contact your local ministry office if you have any questions or concerns.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the success of these important new employment and training programs for youth.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

David Fulford
Assistant Deputy Minister
Employment and Training Division