

Extending Ontario Employment Benefit and Support Measure (OEBSM) Agreements

If there are no performance issues and the service need continues, Ontario infrastructure agreements including Employment Assistance Services (OEAS), Self Employment Benefits (OSEB) and Targeted Wage Subsidy-Community Coordinator (OTWS-CC) with **end dates** on or after December 1, 2007 can be extended through an agreement amendment for up to 18 months as the transformation of Employment Ontario progresses. This includes agreements that had end date extensions earlier in the calendar year.

No new OEAS, OSEB, or OTWS-CC infrastructure agreements should be negotiated.

New Ontario project based agreements including Job Creation Partnership (OJCP) and Labour Market Partnership (OLMP) and client based agreements including Skills Development (OSEB), Targeted Wage Subsidy (OTWS) and Self Employment Benefit (OSEB) can proceed within regional priorities.

In setting priorities regional management will consider local needs, budget realities and the Ministry's obligation to ensure that a full range of employment services continue to be available to Ontarians.

In negotiating agreement amendments, staff will continue to assess requests with community need and sound financial management in mind. End date extensions will be reviewed using the following principles:

- ✓ Surplus funds in the current agreement will be reviewed before the extended budget is calculated,
- ✓ extended budgets will use actual expenditures in forecasting what might be needed in future,
- ✓ requests for discretionary spending will be considered rarely and must be clearly linked to enhanced service performance and outcomes
- ✓ maintenance of the current service delivery structure will be the primary object in end date extensions

Extended OEBSM infrastructure agreements after December 1, 2007 will contain the following:

- ✓ The most recent version of the Schedule D clauses to ensure access to increased budget flexibility.
- ✓ Standardized early termination duration of 6 months (180 days) for all infrastructure agreements as per sections 3.3 and 13.1 of the Articles of Agreement.
- ✓ Appropriate provisions for general liability insurance (GLI). As outlined in 14.6 of the new Articles of Agreement (ONT 5154), OEBSM agreement holders must provide a certificate as proof of insurance to the Ministry.

The Ministry has taken steps to introduce administrative streamlining measures that are expected to simplify the extension process and reduce administrative burden. These contract administration changes are to be applied to the extension of OEBSM infrastructure agreements after December 1, 2007.

For assistance, OEBSM agreement holders would contact their respective Employment and Training Consultant.