

**Ministry of Labour, Training  
and Skills Development**

Office of the Assistant Deputy  
Minister

Employment and Training Division

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**Ministère du Travail, de la  
Formation et du Développement  
des compétences**

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**Memorandum**

**To:** Employment Ontario Network  
**From:** David Carter-Whitney  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Employment and Training Division  
**Date:** **March 24, 2020**  
**Subject:** **Literacy and Basic Skills Corrections Literacy Initiative  
Expansion**

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As you may remember, in fall 2017, the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (the ministry) launched the Literacy and Basic Skills Corrections Literacy Initiative in partnership with the Ministry of the Solicitor General. The initiative is currently delivered in 11 correctional facilities across the province to approximately 500 learners annually.

In late 2018, the ministry undertook an evaluation of the initiative. The results of the evaluation and feedback from service providers and participants supported not only maintaining the initiative but expanding it as well.

I am pleased to announce that the ministry will be expanding the pilot to include five additional correctional facilities, selected in collaboration with the Ministry of the Solicitor General (raising the total number to 16 correctional facilities), and increase the annual learner target to approximately 1,200 (allocated among current and new service providers).

In addition, the ministries are working together to improve client data sharing and enhancing performance measures with the purpose of developing a more robust evaluation framework, grounded in outcomes-based data and focused on the effective and efficient use of public resources.

Adults in custody face significant barriers to education, training, employment and social inclusion. Approximately 75 per cent of the correctional population has not completed Grade 12, and 20 per cent has less than a Grade 9 education. The expansion of this initiative will provide even more inmates with the opportunity to learn skills on which to build further learning, enhance training opportunities, and potentially help with future employment.

If you have any questions about the initiative, please do not hesitate to contact your local ministry office.

Thank you for your continued support of and commitment to the Literacy and Basic Skills program.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

David Carter-Whitney

Assistant Deputy Minister

Employment and Training Division