



October 7, 2009

Dear College President,

I am writing to update you on the status of Second Career and other training programs.

I know you will not be surprised to hear that the popularity of the Second Career program is unprecedented, and as a result, we have applications in our offices and in assessment centres awaiting review. The large volume of applications processed over the last few months, in particular leading up to the September intake, cannot be continued over the long term. Second Career is an important program that must continue to be available to Ontarians in need. As such, we are taking steps to make sure Second Career is sustainable over the long term.

As you are aware, the Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, has said that we will be making some changes and setting some new rules for Second Career, as well as for some of the other training programs offered through Employment Ontario. We anticipate those modifications will be completed within the next few weeks, and training for staff and service providers will begin shortly afterwards. Program changes will be in place in time to assess applications for January start dates.

Ministry officials are working hard to develop options for potential changes to the program, and we are looking at approaches to deal with the applications currently in the system.

In the interim, we will process a limited number of applications for Second Career and Ontario Skills Development in our Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) offices using the existing guidelines. Those applications will be processed based on the date of first receipt in ministry offices – a first-come, first-served process. These efforts will not deal entirely with the volume of applications in the assessment centres; however, they will allow us to serve clients, while we bring in a sustainable modified program to help those who have been hurt by the global economic recession and who will benefit from job retraining.

Assessment centres should continue to receive applications and work with clients to determine if there are other interventions that may serve their need to find employment. Any new applications submitted to MTCU will be assessed using the new program rules currently under development. Potential students are not to begin training until they get final approvals in writing from MTCU.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by***

Laurie LeBlanc  
Assistant Deputy Minister