

Employment and Training Division    Division de l'emploi et de la formation

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May 30, 2019

Dear Employment Ontario Service Provider,

As you know the ministry is currently working to transform employment services. While this work is taking place, the ministry has decided to extend the agreements with Local Employment Planning Councils to allow them to continue their work in the community, maintaining enhanced local workforce planning and labour market information capacity in the pilot communities, some of which are currently experiencing economic challenges. Agreements under this extension will go to March 31, 2020.

In the meantime, and as part of the transformation of Ontario's employment services, the ministry will consider how best to support local workforce planning in Ontario's communities in alignment with a transformed employment services system.

The government has identified that modernizing the apprenticeship and skilled trades system is a key component to support a strong future economy. Building off insights and knowledge of local labour markets gained through previous activities, including information gathered through surveys and focus groups with local employers on occupational and sector needs, Local Employment Planning Councils and Local Boards are being asked to undertake a project in 2019-20 in relation to the skilled trades to support local workforce planning in Ontario.

Through engagement with local employers, Local Employment Planning Councils and Local Boards will complete an analysis of in-demand skilled trades and shortages in their local communities in Ontario.

The objective of this project is to identify the skilled trades that are in demand, and recruitment challenges and practices of local employers for the skilled trades in areas served by the local networks. This work will not only support local workforce planning but also complement the Province's apprenticeship modernization efforts by providing timely, community-focused perspectives on labour market conditions for the skilled trades.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment to helping Ontarians improve their skills, find work and succeed in their path to rewarding employment, and for your role in supporting local workforce planning in Ontario's communities.

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

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

David Carter-Whitney  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Employment and Training Division

cc: Erin McGinn, Assistant Deputy Minister,  
Workforce Policy and Innovation Division