

**Ministry of Advanced Education
and Skills Development**

Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et
de la Formation professionnelle

Employment and Training Division

Division de l'emploi et de la formation

3rd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street, Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

3e étage, édifice Mowat
900, rue Bay, Queen's Park
Toronto (ON) M7A 1L2



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Dear Employment Ontario partners:

I'm writing to tell you about an initiative which expands on the existing Literacy and Basic Skills Program. The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS) have partnered to launch the Corrections Literacy Initiative.

The Corrections Literacy Initiative is a pilot that will deliver the Literacy and Basic Skills program to 11 correctional facilities across the province this fiscal year, with an aim of supporting 500 learners.

This initiative will support Ontario's commitment to the new Lifelong Learning and Skills Plan, which will expand opportunities to help adult learners develop critical literacy, numeracy, digital, and communication skills, as well as support MCSCS' transformation of Ontario's corrections system, based on a progressive and collaborative approach to individual rehabilitation and reintegration.

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 Corrections Literacy Initiative is a vehicle that will provide an opportunity for inmates to learn skills on which to build further learning, enhance training opportunities, and may help with future employment.

The Corrections Literacy Initiative is currently being piloted through a small number of service providers. At the end of the pilot, the effectiveness of this initiative will be measured to inform next steps for the delivery of Literacy and Basic Skills in correctional facilities.

I would like to once again thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to modernize our employment and training programs and services. For more information on the Corrections

Literary Initiative, please review the [Questions and Answers](#) posted on the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your local ministry office.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Shelley Unterlander
Assistant Deputy Minister (A)
Employment and Training Division