

**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

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Dear Employment Ontario Service Provider,

On behalf of myself and Erin McGinn, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Workforce Policy and Innovation Division, I am writing to announce a series of enhancements to the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP). These enhancements, a result of collaboration between the Ministries of Education and Advanced Education and Skills Development, will enable school boards to better serve students and make the OYAP program more effective.

The government is demonstrating its commitment to apprenticeship by allocating \$11.9 million in 2018-19 District School Board (DSB) funding to support these enhancements. These enhancements will build on the strengths of our apprenticeship training system and support the demand for more pathways into skilled trades. The enhancements have the following key design features:

- **More funding for school boards** that is reflective of the work school boards undertake, as well as the number of student participants and past successes.
- **New Special Project funding to support Indigenous students' access to apprenticeship**, to improve the participation of traditionally underrepresented groups and empower Indigenous students to pursue a career in the trades.
- Continued Special Project funding to **encourage more girls to pursue a career in the trades**.
- **Access to additional transportation funding** to support DSBs with challenges in assisting OYAP participants to travel to cooperative education placements.
- Clarifying the role of the **OYAP Advisory Committees** so that school boards can work more effectively with community partners to develop and improve the program.
- **A new certificate or letter of recognition** for participating students that will support their transition from secondary school to further training or employment.

- **A new Graduates Speakers' Bureau** so that former program participants can attend various events and forums to serve as ambassadors of the program and mentors for current participants.
- **New Employment Ontario (EO) information sessions** for graduating participants to connect them with community organizations and provide supports to those continuing their apprenticeship training.
- Revised **performance measurements** to better reflect participants' apprenticeship training pathway.
- **New performance targets** for school boards to improve effectiveness and accountability.

Through the implementation of Ontario's Apprenticeship Strategy, more opportunities for apprentices and employers to succeed will be created while growing Ontario's economy.

If you have any further questions, please refer to the questions and answers document on the enhancements or contact your local MAESD office. I remain committed to sharing information on these and other important initiatives.

Thank you,

Original signed  
David Carter-Whitney  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Employment and Training Division

c: Erin McGinn, Assistant Deputy Minister, Workforce Policy and Innovation Division,  
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development

c: Martyn Beckett, Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Achievement Division, Ministry of  
Education