

April 13, 2017

Memorandum to: Employment Ontario Network

From: Sheldon Levy
Deputy Minister,

Ministry of Advanced Education & Skills Development

Subject: Release of 2016 Second Career Program Evaluation

I am pleased to share the report of the evaluation of the Second Career (SC) program with the Employment Ontario community.

The Second Career program was introduced in 2008, as a response to an unprecedented number of lay-offs. Since then, Ontario's economy has shown significant improvements, and the Ministry is committed to ensuring that SC continues to respond to the new and changing labour market needs of both jobseekers and employers.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank service providers, program participants, and other stakeholders, who generously gave their time to provide the rich, detailed data that makes this report so useful.

The Ontario government believes that no one should be left behind. We are committed to helping everyone develop the skills necessary to succeed in an increasingly highly-competitive knowledge and technology-driven economy.

In June 2016, the government received the Premier's Highly Skilled Workforce (HSW) Expert Panel's report *Building the Workforce of Tomorrow: A Shared Responsibility*, and accepted all of the Panel's recommendations. The Highly Skilled Workforce strategy will guide us to put talent and skills at the very heart of Ontario's economic plan.

The ministry plans to undertake stakeholder consultations to discuss skills training. Consultations will consider findings from the evaluation, the recent recommendations of the Ontario Auditor General, and the ministry's mandate to build a highly skilled workforce, among other factors. The scope and timing of consultations will be communicated to the network in the coming weeks. We look forward to working with our key partners to modernize Second Career – one of our flagship skills training programs in Ontario.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by)

Sheldon Levy
Deputy Minister