

**Ministry of Labour, Training
and Skills Development**

Office of the Assistant Deputy
Minister

Employment and Training Division

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**Ministère du Travail, de la
Formation et du Développement
des compétences**

Bureau du sous-ministre adjoint

Division de l'emploi et de la formation

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Toronto ON M5G 2E5



March 10, 2020

Dear Employment Ontario delivery partner,

I am writing to inform you of an initiative to support workers who have been impacted by layoffs within the manufacturing sector.

As you may be aware, the manufacturing sector continues to experience significant worker displacement. While the Ministry of Labour, Training, and Skills Development is currently looking at opportunities to redesign programs such as Second Career to better support the current realities of the labour market, we understand that workers within the manufacturing sector need additional support now.

As an interim measure, the ministry has decided to make some targeted changes to the Second Career program for workers who have been impacted by downsizing within the manufacturing sector - making it easier for them to access training.

Specifically, the ministry will be making the following changes to provide enhanced access to the program:

- **Targeting manufacturing sector workers** - eligibility will be limited to individuals laid off from a job in the manufacturing sector on or after January 1, 2019.
- **Enabling access to training sooner** – individual suitability will be assessed based on educational attainment, labour market prospects, type of training and occupational skills experience. The individual's duration of unemployment, active job search and work history will no longer be considered.
- **Broadening access** – individuals who have completed other training within the past two years will now be considered eligible.

- **Targeting individuals who have been permanently laid off** – those who have received a “recall-to-work” from a former employer or who are seasonally employed will not be eligible under the new criteria.

Laid-off manufacturing sector workers will be able to start applying to Second Career under the new criteria beginning on April 1, 2020.

The ministry is committed to making sure that job seekers get the skills they need to connect with opportunities to find and keep good jobs. The Second Career Manufacturing Sector Initiative will better assist displaced manufacturing workers by improving their access to training and increase their competitiveness for re-entry into the labour market.

Over the coming weeks, the ministry will be providing additional information about the operationalization of these changes to service providers.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your local ministry office.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

David Carter-Whitney

Assistant Deputy Minister

Employment and Training Division

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