

**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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December 8, 2016

Dear Employment Ontario Service Provider,

I am writing to update you on an important transformation initiative that I shared with you in the spring: the SkillsAdvance Ontario (SAO) pilot.

As mentioned in my last transformation update, SAO is a new sector-focused workforce development pilot. It will support partnerships that bring together sector-based employers, and employment and training providers, to develop a pool of job-ready, skilled workers that meet employers' workforce development needs.

The pilot will help jobseekers build the soft skills and the sector-specific hard skills they need to succeed and advance in entry-level jobs in participating sectors. It will also support jobseekers who are further from the labour market to obtain and subsequently advance in employment. At the same time, it will help employers fill vacancies to meet workforce needs by providing sector-focused employment services, including job matching and placement.

With its strong focus on training and advancement, SAO will help develop Ontario's highly skilled workforce and support the province's highest priority – growing the economy and creating jobs. The recent [2016 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Building Ontario Up for Everyone](#) reaffirmed the government's commitment to helping everyone develop the skills necessary to succeed in the knowledge-based economy.

Beginning this fall, the ministry is supporting sector-focussed projects in the hospitality, construction and general industrial manufacturing sectors.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we continue to modernize and transform our employment and training programs and services, and fulfill our mandate to help Ontarians improve their skills and find work.

For more information on SAO, please review the [Questions and Answers](#) posted on the EOPG. Please visit EOPG for future updates and do not hesitate to contact your local ministry office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by***

David Fulford  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Employment and Training Division