

Ministry of Training,
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Ministère de la Formation
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May 4, 2015

Dear Employment Ontario Service Providers,

Following government commitments to move forward with employment and training services integration (ETSI) in Budgets 2012 through 2014, I am writing to update you with exciting news on two new initiatives.

As you may have seen, the 2014 Fall Economic Statement highlighted the government's intention to establish a new **Ontario Centre for Workforce Innovation** (Centre) that would drive innovation and evidence-based service delivery across the province, as well as put in place an employment-focused **common assessment framework** to make sure individuals in search of training or employment get the supports they need to access the right services.

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities is committed to delivering on these initiatives. A Call for Proposals (CFP) has been released to identify an organization, or partnership of organizations, to set up and manage the Centre by fall 2015.

The Centre will be a leading-edge centre of research excellence that will support the employment and training services sector and help build a skilled, resilient and productive Ontario workforce. The Centre will engage with the employment and training community to identify and prioritize research and capacity-building needs from the sector's perspective, test innovative approaches in service delivery, and set up a community of practice to share evidence-based best practices. You can find more information on the Centre, as well as the [link](#) for the CFP. I hope you will review and share this information widely within your networks to ensure broad distribution to potential applicants.

Additionally, the ministry has initiated a competitive process through the Ontario Tenders Portal, BravoSolutions, to seek the technical and statistical expertise to support the design of a common client assessment tool. The development of such a tool is consistent with recommendations from the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance and the government's Poverty Reduction Strategy, and will help improve employment service decisions, support individuals facing serious barriers to employment, and achieve greater value for money.

I remain committed to sharing with you as much information as possible on these and other important initiatives. Thank you again for your ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality employment and training services to Ontarians.

If you have any questions, please contact your local TCU office.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

David Fulford
Assistant Deputy Minister
Employment and Training Division
Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

CC: Paddy Buckley, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Programs Division