

Office of the Assistant Deputy Minister

Cabinet du sous-ministre adjoint

Employment and Training Division

Division de l'emploi et de la formation

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Memorandum

To: Employment Ontario Delivery Partners

From: Ken Nakahara, Assistant Deputy Minister

Date: November 27, 2023

Subject: Support for Asylum Seekers

Dear Employment Ontario delivery partners,

I am pleased to be writing today as my first official communication with the network about the importance of supporting asylum seekers arriving in our province.

As you know, the Ontario government is committed to supporting and settling asylum seekers, both those who have recently arrived and those who will be arriving in the months ahead.

Ontarians are historically known to come together to find innovative and collaborative ways to help those in need. I know we can count on your organization to mobilize your resources and forge new connections to support these clients.

We understand that upon their arrival, asylum seekers' top priority will be meeting basic needs such as housing and health care. However, in the coming weeks and months, we expect that many will be contacting your organization for assistance in finding employment and accessing training.

It is crucial that we all play a part in ensuring that these individuals are welcomed, provided with the necessary resources, and given an opportunity to rebuild their lives in our province. Therefore, your continued efforts in helping them to acquire new skills, validate their existing qualifications and get connected with employers is invaluable.

By working together and embracing the values of inclusivity and compassion, we can make a positive impact on the lives of those seeking refuge in Ontario. Thank you for your support and commitment in helping them resettle and integrate into their new communities.

To assist you in better serving these clients, the ministry may reach out to organizations to discuss opportunities for supporting them. This is a complex issue within many communities, and we value your frontline experience, input and expertise. If you would like to proactively share feedback regarding your efforts with asylum seekers and new Ontarians, please reach out to your local ministry office.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Ken Nakahara

Assistant Deputy Minister

Employment and Training Division Division