

## **Memorandum**

**To:** Employment Ontario Partners

**From:** David Cronin  
Director, Program Delivery Support Branch, Employment and  
Training Division  
Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

**Date:** February 16, 2021

**Subject:** Open Request for Applications for the Ontario Bridge Training  
Program

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**Dear Employment Ontario partners,**

The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD or “the ministry”) is pleased to announce the launch of the 2021 Ontario Bridge Training Program (OBTP) Request for Applications (RFA). Starting today, interested parties can find information about the RFA on the [Employment Ontario Partners’ Gateway](#) (EOPG), and apply through [Transfer Payment Ontario \(TPON\)](#).

### **About the Ontario Bridge Training Program**

The Ontario government is working with professional regulatory bodies, employer associations, community organizations, publicly funded colleges, universities, other levels of government and other stakeholders to help highly skilled internationally trained immigrants (ITIs) join the workforce quickly in jobs that match their skills, education and experience.

In many cases, ITIs need specific targeted supports and services to meet the requirements for licensure/registration or certification in Ontario’s regulated and high-skilled non-regulated occupations or professions. They also require support to find commensurate or related employment quickly in their fields, whether regulated or non-regulated.

The OBTP helps highly skilled ITIs obtain certification/registration and find jobs in their field or

related field without having to duplicate their previous education and training. Since 2003, Ontario has funded over 350 projects serving over 70,000 internationally trained professionals in over 100 professions to help them integrate quickly into the Ontario economy at a level commensurate with their skills, education and experience. Bridge training projects have assisted internationally trained nurses, pharmacists, teachers, and laboratory technicians, among others, to continue their careers successfully in Ontario.

## **Request for Applications**

The ministry is interested in applications that fall under any of the two project categories:

- Category A: Service Delivery Project
- Category B: Changing the System Projects

Applications serving all sectors with a proven labour market need will be reviewed and evaluated. However, given that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented Ontario's labour market with specific challenges in both the healthcare and essential services sectors, in the selection process the ministry will give priority to applications intended to serve occupations having a direct contribution toward addressing the pandemic, e.g., healthcare occupations (NOC 3), cyber-security occupations (NOC 217 and 228). For more information on the definition and applications of the National Occupational Code (NOC), please visit the [Government of Canada's website](#).

The Ministry is also interested in receiving applications under the following areas of focus:

- Projects that prepare eligible, highly skilled ITIs qualified in occupations with low demand labour market opportunities to transfer their skills and experience into commensurate employment in alternative careers.
- Projects that investigate and establish opportunities to engage employers in smaller, rural and remote communities to promote the workforce integration of ITIs.
- Projects that prepare highly skilled Francophone ITIs for employment in bilingual (English and French) positions in Ontario.

More details on the project categories and focus areas are provided in the OBTP RFA application materials on the [EOPG](#) and the [TPON](#) platform.

## **How to apply and get more information**

Applicants are invited to apply through TPON, where you will find information about eligibility and the process for submitting an application.

The deadline for submitting an application is 5:00 p.m. on April 30, 2021. Late applications will not be considered.

Successful projects will be announced in September 2021.

If you have further questions after reviewing the program materials online, please contact [bridgetraining@ontario.ca](mailto:bridgetraining@ontario.ca).

Questions are to be submitted no later than March 5, 2021. The ministry will post a Questions and Answers document on the EOPG on March 19, 2021.

Sincerely,

David Cronin

Director

Program Delivery Support Branch