



Province Helping Job Seekers and Employers Make Ontario Open for Business

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Ontario's Government is working for the people to help job seekers find and keep good jobs and help employers recruit the skilled workers they need.

Ontario's employment and training programs are critical to building the skilled workforce that keeps Ontario open for business. However, the current system is fractured, unnecessarily complex, and not sufficiently focused on getting the results job seekers, employers and Ontario's economy need to grow and succeed.

In 2016, [the Auditor General reported](#) that Ontario's employment and training programs were not effectively helping people find and keep full-time jobs, and that the government lacked labour market information that would help meet the current and future labour needs of Ontario. A [2018 update](#) showed that limited progress had been made on the Auditor General's recommendations to improve programs.

"Part of making Ontario open for business means making sure job seekers can connect with opportunities to find and keep good jobs, and that employers can hire the skilled workers they need to thrive," said Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities. "By providing job seekers and businesses with the best possible employment services, we can support a strong workforce and restore Ontario to its rightful place as the economic engine of Canada."

Ontario's plan for transforming employment services includes:

- Launching a refreshed [labour market information website](#) featuring 500 job profiles to help learners and job seekers explore their first or next career, and identify opportunities for relevant education, training and re-skilling. The website will include improved navigation to the [Job Bank](#) so job seekers can find employment opportunities, and businesses can find the right workers with the right skills.
- Creating a new service delivery model that will integrate social assistance employment services into Employment Ontario to help the province's most vulnerable, including people with disabilities, to break free from the poverty cycle.
- Introducing a new model to manage the employment service system more effectively to meet the needs of job seekers, businesses and communities. The selection of service system managers will be determined through a new, competitive process and open to

any public, not-for-profit and private sector organization, as well as consolidated municipal service managers and district social services board service managers.

- Ensuring employment services are working more effectively with other government services, including social assistance, so when people find themselves facing barriers to employment, or in a precarious employment situation, they can get the help they need.
- Implementing changes to Ontario's employment services gradually, starting with three prototypes in fall 2019.

"We will be engaging our key stakeholders to help inform the next steps of this modernization. Our government wants to find the best solutions to meet our goal of providing access to high-quality employment supports," said Fullerton. "We need to fix our employment system for job seekers and employers by delivering services that are cost-efficient, results-driven, and work for Ontarians no matter where they live."

QUICK FACTS

- Employment Ontario is the province's network of employment and training programs which supports job seekers and employers. About one million people are served by Employment Ontario annually.
- On November 22, 2018, the government announced its plan to [transform Ontario's social assistance system](#). Part of the plan is to improve employment services for all job seekers, including people with disabilities, and those in precarious employment situations.
- A [2018 Auditor General's report](#) found that oversight of the Ontario Works program is ineffective and the service managers that deliver the program are not adequately held accountable for helping recipients find employment to become self-reliant.
- Job seekers can visit ontario.ca/openforbusiness to get training, build their skills and access career information.

LEARN MORE

- [Employment Ontario](#)

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