

**Ministry of Training,  
Colleges and Universities**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de la Formation  
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25 North Rivermede Road, Unit 13  
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June 12, 2019

Dear Mr. Pariser,

Our government recently celebrated our one-year anniversary since taking office. We were elected to be a government that works for the people, putting their interests first in everything we do.

Premier Ford and our entire team made five core commitments to the people of Ontario: restoring trust, accountability, and transparency; putting more money in people's pockets; cleaning up the hydro mess; ending hallway healthcare; and making Ontario open for business and open for jobs.

Today, we can proudly say: "Promises made, promises kept." We have charted a reasonable and responsible path to a balanced budget in five years, invested in core public services like healthcare and education, and protected frontline workers.

I am incredibly proud of the work that our Ministry has accomplished over the past year, working alongside terrific partners like the Residential Construction Council of Ontario.

Last November, as part of the *Making Ontario Open for Business Act, 2018* our government set journeyman-to-apprentice ratios at 1 to 1 for all trades where ratios apply. This change is already helping to modernize Ontario's apprenticeship system and reduce regulatory burden for employers and apprentices, bringing Ontario more in line with other provinces and territories across Canada. The Act also established a moratorium on trades reclassification and initiated the wind-down of the Ontario College of Trades, a source of unnecessary and burdensome complexity for skilled trades employment in the province.

In our 2019 Budget, we announced several reforms to build on our efforts to transform and modernize the apprenticeship and skilled trades system across Ontario. The

*Modernizing the Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Act 2019* establishes a new streamlined Ministry-led delivery model to replace the Ontario College of Trades. The new framework allows for faster, competency-based training for apprentices and cross-skilling through the trades and will be based on portable skill sets. Under the new portable skill set model, apprentices will be able to be trained and certified in separate core skills and be able to work immediately – with the option of completing or adding further training later, without eliminating whole trades. The updated portable skill set model will help employers – especially small and medium sized businesses more readily take on apprentices.

As another step in the transition and wind-down of the Ontario College of Trades, we worked with the College to eliminate membership fees for apprentices and reduce the annual membership fees for journeypersons by 50 percent. This change to member fees supports our government's objective of reducing red tape so that people can access good paying jobs that the economy needs now.

Most importantly, we are working to promote awareness and showcase the vibrant opportunities of the skilled trades by promoting them as a first-choice career path for young people. A marketing campaign targeting students and groups typically under-represented in apprenticeship training is planned for Fall 2019, promoting the trades to a variety of audiences, including elementary and high school students, their parents, and educators. The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities will be working closely with the Ministry of Education to support the Education that Works for You vision to increase student and parent exposure to the skilled trades, and increase awareness and access to the apprenticeship system.

As our track record shows, we have accomplished a great deal, but our work is far from over. Looking ahead, our government will continue turning this province around and building for the future.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to build an Ontario where everyone shares in greater opportunity and prosperity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Fullerton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, MPP  
Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities