

Ontario Adopting Process to Better Connect Job Seekers in Hamilton-Niagara With Good Jobs

Improved Employment Services to Put Stronger Focus on the Needs of Local Jobseekers, Workers and Employers

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HAMILTON — The Ontario government is adopting a new locally-focused model that will better connect people with jobs and reward high-performance organizations in the Hamilton-Niagara Region, Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development, announced today.

As part of this work, the government is making changes to shape a more seamless and effective employment service system that achieves better results for jobseekers, social assistance clients and employers. Prototype projects in Peel, Hamilton-Niagara and Muskoka-Kawartha will bring together employment services which were previously delivered separately through Ontario Works, the Ontario Disability Support Program and Employment Ontario Employment Service.

In the three regions, new service system managers have been selected to lead the implementation of local service improvements, and will be paid based on their results. Hamilton-Niagara is one of the regions in the province where a new service system manager will begin operating this year. After an open, competitive process that was overseen by Supply Chain Ontario, Ontario selected a consortium led by Fedcap as the new service system manager for Hamilton-Niagara.

"This change to the process will go largely unnoticed by job seekers and employers," said Minister McNaughton. "At the ground level, things will work better, move faster. But from a system perspective, the shift is a big one. Government is getting out of the way, and allowing local communities to tailor the program to their specific needs."

"We are working to develop smarter ways our government can assist people, including those on social assistance and people with disabilities who are looking for employment opportunities," said Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. "These changes will help connect more people to meaningful, lasting employment and ensure that job seekers have the support and training they need to contribute to our province's growing labour market."

"In our rapidly-changing economy, our competitiveness depends on connecting people and businesses and maximizing economic opportunity for all Ontarians," said Jan De Silva, President and CEO of the Toronto Board of Trade.

Beginning April 1, 2020, the consortium led by Fedcap will establish a presence in the Hamilton-Niagara region. The government will provide regular, timely communications to help people understand and prepare for any changes which would begin in October 2020.

QUICK FACTS

- The competitive process to select the new service system managers was open to all public, not-for-profit and private sector organizations. Supply Chain Ontario supported and facilitated the process to ensure confidentiality, consistency and fairness. Successful proponents were chosen because they were best positioned to deliver results.
- On February 12, 2019, the government announced its [plan to modernize Ontario's employment services](#).

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