

Dear Adult Education partners,

As part of the government's mandate to strengthen adult education, the Province is exploring ways to encourage collaboration that supports learner-centred program and service delivery.

In a consultation paper, [\*Strengthening Ontario's Adult Education System\*](#), posted December 1, 2017, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD), in partnership with the Ministries of Education (EDU) and Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) communicated the Province's efforts to build on the strengths of the current system to ensure that the learner is at the centre. We speak about the opportunity to encourage greater collaboration and coordination across sectors to help streamline referral processes, facilitate mobility, and ease transitions for learners. We also note that at the secondary level, Ontario school boards have established regional partnerships to support planning among school board providers.

Over the past 18 months, as part of the Adult Education Strategy launched by EDU in 2015, adult education partners at school boards have worked to establish seven Regional Partnerships for Adult Education (RPAEs). Each partnership has undertaken a regional environmental scan and crafted a regional strategic plan that outlines project opportunities for collaboration and innovation to improve outcomes for adult learners.

Given the multi-ministry mandate and government's vision of a seamless, learner-centred adult education system, we believe that there is an opportunity to encourage greater collaboration across programs and among other education and training providers and support services.

To support this goal, enhancement funding is being made available to the EDU RPAEs to be used for projects that build on the RPAEs existing strategic plans to improve collaboration with other program providers in the adult education system and foster more seamless and learner-centred program and service delivery for adults. The foundation of research and strategic planning that has already been undertaken by the RPAEs uniquely positions willing partnerships to broaden their work in order to foster additional partnerships and develop enhancements that will be locally appropriate and tailored to the needs of adult learners in their communities.

The ministries have allocated 2017-2018 funding of up to \$100,000 to supplement planned and/or support new projects initiated by the RPAEs. The RPAEs are invited to submit project proposals for enhancement funding to EDU by February 8, 2018. Please see the attached

memo that was released to the RPAEs announcing the enhancement funding and Appendix A which details the project criteria and funding parameters.

I am writing to notify you of the funding and that RPAEs may reach out to you about this exciting opportunity to collaborate. In addition, you may also reach out to the following contacts if you would like to discuss further and/or would like to be put in contact with the EDU RPAE coordinator nearest to you.

- Lisa Bifano at [Lisa.Bifano@ontario.ca](mailto:Lisa.Bifano@ontario.ca)
- Pauline McNaughton at [Pauline.McNaughton@ontario.ca](mailto:Pauline.McNaughton@ontario.ca)
- For French language inquiries, please contact Geneviève Brouyaux at [Genevieve.Brouyaux@ontario.ca](mailto:Genevieve.Brouyaux@ontario.ca).

We have heard consistently that communication and collaboration among adult education stakeholders, including regional partners, is important for both supporting efficient and high-quality pathways for learners and ensuring the availability of programming that meets learners' needs. We are excited about this opportunity to further strengthen regional collaboration. Thank you in advance for your continued engagement and support as we work together to serve adult learners in more seamless and learner-centred ways. .

Sincerely,

Monica Neitzert,  
Director, Adult Education – Lifelong Learning and Essential Skills Branch  
Workforce Policy and Innovation Division  
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development