

RECORD OF DECISIONS

1. Opening Remarks

- As this was David-Carter Whitney’s first meeting as co-chair, the meeting started with a roundtable introduction.
- David Carter-Whitney spoke about his experience in public service, including his recent role as the assistant deputy minister of the Postsecondary Education Division and his role in leading the implementation of the Canada-Ontario Labour Market Development Agreement—and the creation of Employment Ontario.
- He also expressed his enthusiasm for his new role as the assistant deputy minister of Employment and Training Division, noting that he was looking forward to working with SDAG members.
- Daniel Giroux, SDAG co-chair, welcomed David Carter-Whitney to the committee.
- Referring to the Business Planning process, Daniel Giroux commented on the administrative burden that service providers faced with reporting back to the ministry.
- In response, David Carter-Whitney provided an update on the business planning process and identified ways the ways in which the ministry has been working with service providers to address some of the concerns cited by Daniel Giroux. He also noted that these concerns will be addressed directly later in the day (during item #6 “Business Planning Changes”).

ACTION ITEM: n/a

2. Ontario Centre for Workforce Innovation (OCWI) Update

- Trina Foster, OCWI’s Executive Director, gave an overview of the centre’s current projects. She noted that feedback from the network was welcome on an ongoing basis. She encouraged SDAG members and service providers to contact her directly or to get in touch through OCWI regional coordinators. She also noted that the [OCWI website](#) was being refreshed and would be a priority over the next few weeks.

ACTION ITEM: The ministry will seek opportunities to include contact information for OCWI’s regional coordinators on the Employment Ontario Partners’ Gateway. The ministry will also inform the network once OCWI’s website has been refreshed.

3. Greetings from Deputy Minister Greg Orencsak

- This was Deputy Minister Greg Orencsak’s first SDAG meeting. He shared his initial observations about the Employment Ontario network and highlighted the importance of being responsive to changes and clients’ needs.

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ACTION ITEM: n/a

4. Highly Skilled Workforce Update – Erin McGinn, MAESD

Erin provided highlights of the Highly Skilled Workforce Strategy and spoke about the importance of having relevant labour market information. She also gave an overview of the Literacy and Basic Skills Symposium and described how the ministry is working with partners to advance Adult Education.

ACTION ITEM: n/a

5. Program Updates

- Youth Job Connection:
 - The ministry gave an overview of proposed program changes. These were informed by some of the recommendations provided by SDAG at an earlier meeting.
 - Over the last few months, the ministry consulted key stakeholders, including SDAG and service providers through a number of focus groups, interviews, and meetings.
 - The proposed changes give service providers greater flexibility to deliver services such as intense counselling, mentoring, and job coaching. They also provide the ministry with richer data from which we can better understand the clients we serve.
 - The proposed changes were well received by SDAG members.
 - At the end of the presentation, the ministry was asked about the employment outcomes of clients who do not complete mandatory program components and the documentation required for job shadowing.
- Supported Employment
 - The ministry noted that a number of programs and employment supports are being integrated across a few ministries, including the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, the Ministry of Health and Longterm Care and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The ministry outlined its plans for a phased approach to implementing supports by gradually integrating existing employment services for people with disabilities.
 - In addition, the ministry is working on a plan for a related strategy to serve those who have a disability but only need a light touch service.
 - Members suggested the ministries should establish clear roles and responsibilities.
- Business Planning Changes
 - The ministry provided an update on the business planning process and gave a timeline for when templates would be ready (i.e., mid-November). The ministry highlighted results of the business planning survey and in-person

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- consultations, noting that insights are being incorporated into the upcoming process.
- The ministry stated there is still room for improvement in the current process and will seek these opportunities throughout the next business planning cycle (i.e., 2018-19).

ACTION ITEM: The ministry to provide information on the outcomes of clients who do not complete all mandatory components of the YJC program, specifically job placements

ACTION ITEM: The ministry will look into the possibility of including job shadow contracts/documentation in the Youth Job Connection program.

6. Other Business

- David Carter-Whitney asked SDAG members how the committee was operating.
- Members expressed an interest in reviewing the SDAG Terms of Reference and seeing the results of a recent survey that were asked to complete about SDAG.
- The next meeting was scheduled for January, 2018 (but has since been rescheduled for February, 2018)

ACTION ITEM: The ministry to provide an overview of the SDAG members' survey results from the spring at next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Opportunities to communicate to the Employment Ontario network via SDAG will be discussed further at next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS LIST

1. The ministry will seek opportunities to include contact information for OCWI's regional coordinators on the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway. The ministry will also inform the network once OCWI's website has been refreshed.
2. The ministry to provide information on the outcomes of clients who do not complete all mandatory components of the YJC program, specifically job placements.
3. The ministry will look into the possibility of including job shadow contracts/documentation in the Youth Job Connection program.
4. The ministry to provide an overview of the SDAG members' survey results from the spring at next meeting.
5. Opportunities to communicate via SDAG to the Employment Ontario network to be discussed further at next meeting.

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List of Attendees

External Stakeholder Attendees

Daniel Giroux, President, Collège Boréal

Wendy Woods-Fontaine, Executive Director, Job Zone d'emploi

Matthew Shulman, Executive Director, Peel-Halton-Dufferin Adult Learning Network (PHDALN)

Jeanette Campbell for Joe Dale, Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN)

June Muir, CEO, Unemployed Help Centre of Windsor Inc.

Nella Iasci, Executive Director, Job Skills

Raluca Lazar, Ontario Association of Adult and Continuing Education School Board (CESBA)

Jeff Surridge, CEO, Community Employment Services

Jonathan Baum, Executive Director, Sioux Hudson Literacy Council

Robin Hicks, Dean, Faculty of Applied Science, St. Lawrence College (teleconference)

Denise Davad, Employment Manager, Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training (teleconference)

Other:

Trina Foster, Executive Director, Ontario Centre for Workforce Innovation

Regrets:

Joe Dale, Executive Director, ODEN

Ministry Attendees

David Carter-Whitney, ADM, Employment and Training Division (ETD)

Greg Orencsak, DM, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development

Erin McGinn, ADM, Workforce Policy and Innovation Division

Sandra DiProspero, Director, Organizational and Business Excellence Branch, ETD

Jacque Cureton, Director, Program Delivery and Support Branch, ETD

Kirsten Cutler, Director, Finance, Analysis and Systems Support Branch, ETD

Shelley Unterlander, Director, Central Region, ETD

Andrew Irvine, Director, Northern Region, ETD

Mary Joe Freire, Director, Western Region, ETD

Jennifer Barton, Director, Eastern Region, ETD

Poppy Sanders, Employment Training Consultant, Assistant Deputy Minister's Office, ETD

Santina Macri, Manager, Program Delivery and Support Branch, ETD

Tok Olaleye, Sr. Policy Advisor, OBEB,

Julia Hennessey, Sr. Policy Advisor, OBEB (Recorder)