



OACC Voice

of Private Career Colleges

October 2009

Letter from the Executive Director

News from the OACC

The OACC Executive Committee attended a political reception in Toronto on Sept. 29 and had the opportunity to speak with the Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities and the Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance.

In his prepared remarks, Minister Milloy spoke about the important role private career colleges are playing in the re-training of unemployed Ontarians under both the Second Career and Skills Development programs, as well as the role that postsecondary programs can play in the revitalization of the economy. The executive spoke with Minister Milloy and several of his senior staff about Second Career's recent backlog and the resulting delays for potential students. OACC has learned there will be changes to Second Career due to the fact that in the first 16 months the program has already served more than the three-year target of 20,000 clients. OACC has now written to Assistant Deputy Minister Laurie LeBlanc asking to be included in the consultations on any changes being contemplated.

The executive then spoke with Minister Duncan about the implementation of HST (Harmonized Sales Tax) in July of 2010 and the impact it will have on career college students. OACC will continue to seek a change in HST regulations that would see educational services become 0 rated, or allow private career colleges to claim a partial input tax credit rebate of the HST paid on goods and services.

On September 30, the OACC Executive met with senior officials in Minister Milloy's office to address the issue of unregistered training organizations that should be registered in order to be compliant with the Private Career Colleges Act, 2005, and to discuss how MTCU and OACC can work together on a communications campaign to ensure that the public understands the difference between a private career college

and an unregistered trainer. OACC has been advised by the Ministry that they will soon have the ability to levy administrative monetary penalties on organizations that are operating outside of the legislation.

OACC's apprenticeship committee made a submission to the Standing Committee on Justice on Sept. 24 with respect to Bill 183, an Act to Revise and Modernize the Law Related to Apprenticeship Training and Trades Qualifications and to establish the Ontario College of Trades.

See OACC's response in the article on page two.

On September 22, OACC's TCAF committee members met with members of the TCAF advisory board to promote the concept of using a roster of PCC sector representatives to work with career colleges prior to a closure and prior to TCAF being involved in order to work out a solution that will ensure that students are able to complete their training. The ultimate goal of such an intervention would be to lessen the disruption for students and minimize the incidence of draws against the TCAF fund. A formal proposal by OACC on how the use of such a roster would work will be made to the Ministry in the coming weeks.

Looking Ahead

OACC is hosting an education session on Oct. 15 for the PCCs offering paralegal programs, the Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC) and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU). This session will provide an opportunity for LSUC and MTCU to make presentations on the current state of paralegal program registration and accreditation, and give career colleges a chance to ask questions of clarification with respect to the process of having their programs accredited by LSUC.

OACC's program standards/program assessment committee has requested a meeting with MTCU in order to get clarification on the Ontario Qualifications

Framework with respect to PCC programs of study. We anticipate that such a meeting will occur during the month of October.

OACC's QCC (Quality Career College) committee has recently revised the Quality Initiative Framework that was approved by OACC members at the 2009 Annual General Meeting in Niagara Falls, and has now issued a Request for Proposals to software development firms to create a web based application that will support the three phases of the quality framework. The application will include self evaluation reviews, student surveys, staff surveys, standardized entrance testing and standard modules. The targeted launch for this initiative is early in 2010.

Other committees will be working on marketing and public relations activities in conjunction with our newly appointed media communications coordinator Krista Seggewiss, reviewing current and prospective new services for members, addressing the issue of financial aid for online programs at career colleges and organizing the 2010 OACC conference being held in Collingwood from April 21 to 23.

-Paul Kitchin

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Providing input to Ontario's College of Trades

When it comes to regulating the trades, educators should have a say.

The Ontario Association of Career Colleges said just that in a report to the Standing Committee on Justice at the end of September. The submission outlined six recommendations to Bill 183. The proposed act will modernize the law related to apprenticeship training and qualifications and establish the Ontario College of Trades.

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voice is represented at the table,” said OACC executive director Paul Kitchin. Career colleges play an important role in educating tradespersons. There are about 175 career colleges located in more than 50 small and large communities across Ontario offering more than 550 trades programs of study. The major problem with Bill 183 was it left out the education and training community. OACC’s prime position is that a successful trades and apprenticeship regulatory system should be built on a trilateral partnership be-

tween tradespersons, employers and the education and training community. The report’s six recommendations to Bill 183 included:

1. Section 13 should be changed to ensure the edu-

cation/training community is represented on the Ontario College of Trades’ Board of Governors by giving

two seats to the Ontario Association of Career Colleges and Colleges Ontario.

2. Section 19 should be altered to give OACC and Colleges Ontario representation at the divisional board level

3. Section 20 should be amended to give OACC and Colleges Ontario representation at the trade board level

4. Section 21 should be amended to include OACC and Colleges Ontario representatives on the review panels and roster of adjudicators to properly represent a diverse training community

5. Section 64 should be amended to require the Minister to create a criteria and process for determining the appropriateness of a training program to be approved as an apprenticeship program.

The criteria must be fair, equitable and open to all institutions regulated under provincial legislation, including career colleges, community colleges and other organizations.

6. Section 64 should be amended to re-



Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

quire the Minister to have a fair, open and equitable process for assessing any approved pre-apprenticeship program against an apprenticeship program. This will ensure a candidate is recognized and awarded credits toward their apprenticeship program of choice.

A strong connection with educators would help the College of Trades to better address skilled labour challenges.

*By the numbers
175 career colleges
in 50 Ontario
communities offer
more than
550 trades
programs*

Career College Trades Programs: tractor trailer driver, automotive service and repair, construction and heavy equipment operator, hairstyling, welding, locksmithing, computer technology, culinary arts, pre-apprenticeship, gas fitter and home inspection

CompuCampus expands to the Forest City

CompuCampus has a new location in London.

The 427 Exeter Road campus currently offers five programs: office administration, manufacturing engineering design, computer networking and security, personal support worker and physical therapist assistant. CompuCampus has an established school in Windsor that dates back to 2001. The school branched into the London market about two months ago.

“We have small class sizes and a lot of one on one

attention,” said student advisor Jane Klemencic of CompuCampus London.

“We’re very flexible with scheduling and we offer start dates every Monday.”

Every course offered at the college is interactive and hands-on, while covering all of the background knowledge necessary for students to succeed. CompuCampus supports students every

step of the way and offers job search assistance at the end of each program.

CompuCampus is very proud of their graduate employment rate, noted Klemencic.



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

New Skills College of Health, Business and Technology

The New Skills College of Health, Business and Technology is a new member under a new name. The Scarborough-based college began delivering a health care aide program in 1981. Currently, New Skills College offers three registered programs – medical office assistant, personal support worker and personal attendant certificate. The college

also offers a bridging program and food handler certification training. New Skills College graduates about 200 students per year.

“We’re really student-focused with small class sizes,” said program manager Paul Preikschas.

New Skills College offers instruction in a school-based set-

ting since they lease space from the Toronto District School Board. Instructors have a lot of practical experience in their fields, said Preikschas.

“Our goal is to find employment for students at the end – our staff works with students from the onset to find them placements,” said Preikschas.

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Montessori Teachers College

Founded in 2005, Montessori Teachers College is managed by a strong Board of Directors. Florene Shuber is a former lawyer and was head of a large Montessori school and teacher education centre in Toronto for nine years. Paula Glasgow, Dean, has been involved in the Montessori education field internationally for 38 years and was Dean at a large Montessori education

centre in Toronto for five years. Shela Minhas is Montessori trained and is the owner and manager of three Montessori schools in the Greater Toronto area.

Montessori Teachers College takes pride in quality training and instruction. The college offers a variety of programs, including the Montessori Infant Toddler Diploma Course, Montessori

Early Childhood Diploma Course, Montessori Elementary Diploma Course and a **Montessori Classroom Assistants’** Course. The school also offers professional development in the form of workshops. The North York-based school has graduated over 125 students since its inception.

Montessori Teachers College attracts students from all over

the region; Huntsville, St. Catharines, Peterborough as well as the GTA.

There are about three other Montessori training centers in the Toronto area and a handful across the province.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED:

Medix School

GRADUATE SUCCESS STORY

Turning over a new leaf

For many years, Lisa Jardine worked in contract positions. They were not stable, interesting, or fulfilling. When her last contract was terminated in January 2008, Jardine knew it was time to try something new.

“Going to school was a big step for me,” she said. “It had been years since I had set foot in a classroom.”

A newspaper advertisement for **Medix** caught Jardine’s eye. She decided to go back to school and enroll in the Social Service Worker program.

Jardine excelled in the program. She connected with her teachers and classmates.

“The Social Service Worker program taught me not only about the fundamentals of working with people but I was able to apply so much of what I learned to my everyday life,” said Jardine.

Jardine completed her placement at Touchstone Youth Centre in Toronto. At first, she

felt a little out of her element but quickly built a rapport with the homeless and at-

risk youth.

“My experience at Touchstone has been amazing,” said Jardine.

“I was able to create a writing program which allowed the youth to express themselves in a positive manner and gave me the chance to overcome my fear of public speaking.”

Jardine has also helped with



Touchstone’s T-shirt Gallery where they screened, printed and auctioned off shirts designed by the centre’s youth to help raise funds and encourage the possibility of entrepreneurship.

Jardine’s hard work did not go unnoticed. At the end of June, she became an employment worker at Touchstone Youth Centre.

“I am happy to be a part of a team that genuinely cares about what they do and are creating positive and exciting changes in the community,” said Jardine. “With the support and foundation that I have received from Touchstone, Medix School and the people I have surrounding me, I know I will be able to fulfill my goals and finally shine.”

“With the support and foundation that I have received (...) I know I will be able to fulfill my goals and finally shine.”

“Coming to a private college made sense to me. I felt it would be a better fit compared to a community college because of where I was in my life,” said Jardine. **“Being a mother of two, the schedule fit my needs. To be perfectly honest, I didn’t want to be in school and broke for more than a year.”**

Government to revamp Second Career

Career colleges noticed a hiccup in the Second Career program this fall after it buckled under the weight of its own success. The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities helped an unprecedented 10,000 people get into a college program in September – either at a private career college or within the public college system. That’s up about 800 per cent from the 1,200 Second Career applications the Ministry processes in an average month. The demand for retraining through Ontario Skills Development was 175 per cent higher than it was last year.

The result was a backlog of applications in the Employment Ontario system – played out in career colleges across the province with students facing delayed school starts. In an Oct. 1 letter to the sector, Assistant Deputy Minister Laurie LeBlanc said Second Career was not on hold or cancelled but instead being reviewed.

“There will be some changes in the coming weeks and there will be new rules for the program,” wrote LeBlanc.

LeBlanc wrote a second letter addressed to private career colleges on Oct. 7, noting the recent volume of applications cannot be sustained

over the long term. The changes to Second Career and other programs offered through Employment Ontario should be **“completed within the next few weeks,”** noted LeBlanc in the letter. In the meantime, the Ministry will process a limited number of applications for Second Career and Ontario Skills Development in their offices using the existing guidelines. The applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis though the Ministry acknowledges they will not deal entirely with the volume of applications in assessment centres, noted LeBlanc.

“These efforts will allow us to serve clients while we bring in a sustainable, modified program,” she wrote. “Potential students are not to begin training until they get final approvals in writing from MTCU.”

The Ministry announced it would provide a \$78 million boost to the Second Career program on Oct. 13 to keep up with demand.

The Ontario Association of Career Colleges responded by sending a letter to LeBlanc

urging the Ministry to reach out to the sector.

“OACC wants and needs to be involved in recommending approaches to assist those people already in the system,” said Executive Director Paul Kitchin.

“We can also provide input on changes that will benefit those coming into the system and into the communications plan for disseminating information on Second Career accurately.”

Involving all stakeholders playing a role in a program’s success is vital. Kitchin pointed out successful changes to the Second Career program that were made last November after Minister John Milloy consulted with OACC.

“As part of this policy development process, we strongly urge you to consult with OACC and the career college sector,” said Kitchin. **“We have years of experience on the front lines - providing the training to properly equip unemployed men and women with the skills they need to return to the labour force.”**

Second Career Basics

- The three-year program was launched in June 2008 with a commitment to help 20,000 Ontarians retrain for a new career
- Fifteen months into the program, the government has funded 21,000 claims
- The average person who uses Second Career is 40, and one in four are from the manufacturing sector
- The average contract is about \$22,000 when living expenses are included

Source: Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universi-





*Strong Support
Strong Voice
Student Success*

Comments, story ideas or suggestions?

Contact OACC media communications coordinator Krista Seggewiss

at kristas@oacc.on.ca or

519-752-2124 ext. 115

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Published by the Ontario Association of Career Colleges

155 Lynden Rd. Unit 2
P.O. Box 340
Brantford, ON
N3T 5N3
Phone: 519-752-2124
Fax: 519-752-3649

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