



A PLAN TO RE-STREAM DISRUPTED STUDENTS NOW



Career
Colleges
Ontario

Presented to:

Ministry of Labour, Training and
Skills Development

Prepared by:

Career Colleges Ontario

Date:

April 25, 2020

E: info@careercollegesontario.ca
P: (519) 752-2124

155 Lynden Road, Unit 2
Brantford, ON
N3R 8A7

SAVING OUR STUDENTS

Help Us Prevent Another Everest

In the not-so-distant past, *minimizing the traumatic effects on displaced students was topmost and quickly achieved*. Students affected by closure were promptly placed in the closest career college with an equivalent program at little or no cost to the government. This process was driven by the colleges, themselves, and quickly approved by the ministry with minimal bureaucratic red tape. This is no longer the case.

Rather than being student-centric, the ministry's current approach lacks an appropriate sense of urgency and excludes career colleges from participating in the student placement process. Alarming, the ministry failed students at a critical time in their training following the ministry's decision to revoke Everest's license to operate.

This is how students were negatively impacted:

- Education was disrupted and, in many cases, abandoned out of frustration.
- It took up to four months before students were placed.
- Student calls to ministry helplines went unanswered.
- Colleges were ordered not to speak with disenfranchised students.
- The unilateral process imposed to protect the students instead caused them significant stress.
- Cost to the taxpayer: millions upon millions of dollars.

Today, we face a crisis that has the potential to dwarf the one caused by revoking Everest's license to operate.

Many Students Are At-Risk Today

Career college students have the most at stake during this crisis. Many of the 43,000 students at the province's career colleges are afraid. Business closures are prominent in every community across Ontario and students are worried about their ability to quickly complete their training. According to the CFIB, only half of Canada's small businesses are confident they will survive until the end of May. The scale of their challenge ahead is unprecedented.

A new train-out approach is needed that is informed by the unique demographic of our students. Just over 40 per cent of career college students are parents, and half are first-generation immigrants. They are primarily women, visible minorities, in their mid-30s and face socio-economic challenges that are demographically different from their public college counterparts. Our students' needs are distinct from your average public college student fresh out of high school, and their choice in a career college reflects that.

Saving Our Students

Career Colleges Ontario is the only organization positioned to support the students its members have been serving since 1866. We are deeply focused in meeting the needs of our students in a timely manner, as evidenced by our demographic's choice in a career college over publicly funded institutions.

Here is how we will support students impacted by a college closure:

- Establish a group of academic consultants that quickly and efficiently conduct prior learning assessments.
- Identify career colleges with common programs such as PSW, coordinate train outs and have students back to the classes promptly.
- Allow CCO-nominated third-party senior managers with career college experience to make appropriate and urgent train-out decisions in conjunction with those affected and thereby empower students.
- Properly inform students through open communication with those affected.
- Implement a continuous improvement process to ensure stakeholder satisfaction.

An extraordinary crisis requires immediate action. Career colleges have collectively contributed \$14-million to ensure students receive the training they signed up for. The sector is uniquely qualified to manage this resource.

The Ministry of Colleges and Universities is obligated to do everything in its power to ensure the educational outcomes of career college students. **The only appropriate course of action for the MCU is to abdicate control of sector funds and give CCO the legal authority to manage train outs as outlined above using the sector's self-funded Training Completion Assurance Fund (TCAF).** In doing this, the Ministry will ensure no student abandons their education due to undue hardship; graduation dates are not unnecessarily extended; students retain access

to open lines of communication; processes are set-up to get work-ready graduates into their chosen fields of study; and, the taxpayers of Ontario are protected from another wasteful bureaucratic failure reminiscent of its handling of Everest College.

“Give CCO the legal authority to manage train-outs as outlined above using the sector’s Training Completion Assurance Fund (TCAF) fund to the benefit of our students.”

About Career Colleges Ontario

Career Colleges Ontario (CCO) is a not-for-profit association established in 1973 to advocate on behalf of the province’s career colleges and their students. Collectively, the association represents 240 member colleges and roughly 80 per cent of Ontario’s 43,000 career college students. CCO members contribute to Ontario’s economy by providing more than 30,000 highly qualified graduates each year in hundreds of essential, skilled fields such as Applied Arts, Business, Healthcare, Human Services, Information Technology, Services and Trades.



The association is committed to help governments, key decision makers and the public understand the critical role its members and their students play in supporting Ontario’s post-secondary education system and improving the province’s economic well-being.