



**Ministry of Children,
Community and Social
Services**

Assistant Deputy Minister
Social Assistance Programs
Division

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**Ministère des Services à
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February 14, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Municipalities in the EST Prototype Communities

FROM: Susan Erwin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Social Assistance Programs Division

RE: **Employment Services Transformation: Transition
Planning for Prototype Regions**

As you are by now aware, the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development has concluded its competitive process to select service system managers (SSM) for three previously identified catchment areas, where the prototype for the new employment services model will begin.

While the SSM will plan and deliver services that meet the needs of local economies and will receive funding based on achieving results, your organization will continue to be a key partner in the delivery of Ontario Works. In addition, your organization will have the opportunity to negotiate with the SSM to deliver employment services within the catchment area, should you choose to do so.

We look forward to entering the next step of the transformation process with you, which will focus on detailed transition planning towards the implementation of the prototype on October 1, 2020. Lessons learned from the prototype period will help to inform an approach to continuing this transformation across the province gradually.

We can appreciate that you have many questions regarding implications for ongoing delivery and funding of the Ontario Works program in the context of the transformation. We would like to set up a call in the next few days to begin the transition planning process, starting with understanding your key concerns and priorities and identifying next steps together. Staff from the ministry will be in touch to arrange a time that is convenient for you.

The ministry recognizes that transition planning needs will vary by municipality and will be informed both by your current service delivery structures and decisions by the SSM. We will continue to engage with you throughout the winter, as implementation of the employment service prototypes proceeds, to identify the implications of transition. Municipalities will be expected to undertake all reasonable efforts to manage transition costs internally, however the ministry remains open to discussing potential solutions as needs are better understood.

We recognize the importance of collaboration with you as key partners in the success of the employment services transformation prototypes and we are committed to working closely with you to address your questions and concerns throughout the transition process.

Thank you for your continued work on behalf of social assistance clients. Ontario Works clients will continue to depend on your expertise to help them succeed as we transition into this new model.

Sincerely,

Susan Erwin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Social Assistance Programs Division
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

Cc: Jill Vienneau, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy Division, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

David Carter-Whitney, Assistant Deputy Minister Employment and Training Division, Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Erin McGinn Assistant Deputy Minister, Workforce Policy and Innovation Division, Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development