

Ministry of Training,
Colleges and Universities

Ministère de la Formation
et des Collèges et Universités

Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre

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MEMORANDUM TO: Linda Franklin
President and CEO, Colleges Ontario

David Lindsay
President and CEO, Council of Ontario Universities

FROM: George Zegarac
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

DATE: JUN 06 2019

SUBJECT: Review of Digital Learning Programs in Ontario

As you may know, the government is undertaking a line by line review of its finances. As a result, existing programs and funding commitments are being reviewed to ensure value for money. One area of particular interest for the government is ensuring Ontario has a robust digital learning ecosystem that makes postsecondary education accessible to Ontarians in every corner of the province and at every stage of their lives.

We are facing demographic shifts, with an increase in mature and non-traditional learners requiring us to re-evaluate who, why and how we teach. This shift necessitates us examining the expectation that educational experiences be available without geographic boundaries and the demands for up-skilling or mid-career retraining. Technology has made this more possible than ever before.

The ministry has asked the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) to conduct a review of the digital learning space in Ontario to help inform future policy direction. HEQCO will explore key themes related to the relevance, delivery, reach, and effectiveness of existing digital learning programs, including any insights on how the existing ministry-funded programs carry out their mandate and meet their objectives. The review will be conducted over a period of five months, from June – October 2019.

We ask that you share this information with your members and that postsecondary institutions collaborate with HEQCO as it conducts this review.

Sincerely,



George Zegarac, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

c: Dr. Harvey Weingarten, President and CEO
Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario

Kelly Burke, Assistant Deputy Minister
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