

Ministry of Education  
Student Success/Learning to 18  
Strategic Policy Branch

Ministère de l'Éducation  
Direction des politiques stratégiques  
en matière de réussite des élèves  
et d'apprentissage jusqu'à l'âge de 18 ans



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**MEMORANDUM TO:** School Board Directors

**FROM:** Sandra Bickford  
Director,  
Student Success/Learning to 18 Strategic Policy Branch,  
Ministry of Education

Denys Giguère  
Director,  
French-Language Education Policy and Programs Branch  
Ministry of Education

**DATE:** April 5, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Development of a common educational standard for personal support worker (PSW) programs in Ontario

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As you may be aware, some school boards offer PSW training, either through their Adult and Continuing Education or Specialist High Skills Major programs.

We are writing to inform you that the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has partnered with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) to develop a common educational standard for PSW programs.

In the spring of 2012, the Health System Labour Relations and Regulatory Policy Branch undertook a series of consultation sessions with various stakeholders on personal support worker (PSW) educational standards. According to many of the stakeholders consulted, a common educational standard would assist in the assurance of consistent quality care for Ontarians.

The Program Standards and Evaluation Unit (PSEU) of TCU intends to consult with PSW stakeholders to develop a common standard for programs delivered by colleges of applied arts and technology, private career colleges and school boards. This process calls for a technical working group (TWG) to provide assistance to a PSEU project officer in the development of the standard and consultations with stakeholders (e.g. employers, faculty, graduates and their associations).

Your school board will be invited to participate in the development of the common educational standard through a focus group meeting and electronic broad based consultations on the drafts of the educational standard in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Ministry project lead:

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I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance in the upcoming consultation process.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by***

Sandra Bickford  
Director

***Original signed by***

Denys Giguere  
Director

c.

Virginia Hatchette, Director, Programs Branch, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

John Amodeo, Director, Health Systems Labour Relations and Regulatory Policy Branch, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care

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