



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Niagara College urges unemployed workers to consider "Second Career" retraining

The provincial government's announcement of its Second Career Strategy is one that will positively impact thousands of Ontarians in need of viable employment. The new Second Career strategy will help workers who have lost their jobs or haven't been employed within the last year find new careers.

"We applaud the government for recognizing the importance of retraining unemployed workers in ways that go far beyond the short term solution of finding 'a job', but go on to address the long term futures of the individuals and the important needs of our economy," said Dan Patterson, Niagara College President. "Moreover, Second Career recognizes the crucial role colleges play in creating a skilled workforce and fueling a competitive Ontario economy."

Beginning immediately, the Employment Ontario program will make funds available to help get laid off and unemployed workers employed in viable careers and address the needs of the province's changing job market and industries.

"Niagara College delivers high-quality, credentialed programs that prepare people for lifelong employment in meaningful careers," said Patterson, "We encourage individuals considering re-training for a new career to take a serious look at the many programs and opportunities available at Niagara College and Ontario's other public colleges."

It is particularly important for laid-off workers to consider these quality programs now, as many applicants to Ontario's public colleges will be eligible for funding that can help with costs of tuition, books, living expenses and other costs under the province's new Second Career strategy.

To help laid-off workers in Niagara and surrounding areas find the re-training programs that suit them best, Niagara College has prepared a list of programs eligible for Second Career funding. Full information on Niagara College programs and eligibility requirements can be found at www.niagaracollege.ca, or by calling the college's dedicated Second Career hotline at 905 735-2211 ext. 7370. For more information on how to apply to Second Career visit an Employment Ontario assessment centre, or call 1-800-387-5656 or visit the website: www.ontario.ca/secondcareer.

Ontario's public colleges currently educate and train more than 200,000 full-time students and more than 250,000 part-time students. More than 90 per cent of college graduates find employment within six months, and more than 93 per cent of employers report being satisfied with the quality of the graduates hired. All of Ontario's 24 public colleges deliver quality programs that are subject to strict and consistent quality assurance and reporting requirements.

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