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MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT PROVIDING FAIRNESS AND CHOICE FOR EMPLOYEES 65 AND OVER

Seeking Input In Hamilton On Ending Mandatory Retirement

TORONTO – The McGuinty Government is seeking public input on ending mandatory retirement in Ontario at a forum in Hamilton on September 10.

“Ontarians are healthier and living longer and it is unfair to arbitrarily require them to stop working once they reach age 65,” said Kevin Flynn, who, as Parliamentary Assistant to Ontario Labour Minister Chris Bentley, will lead the discussions.

“Our discussion sessions will focus on ending mandatory retirement in Ontario so older workers can choose for themselves when to stop working,” said Flynn. “We will do so in a way that does not undermine existing retirement rights, benefits and entitlements, yet also takes into account the concerns of business, labour and other groups.”

At the session, which is open to all members of the public, participants will be asked to comment on the Ministry of Labour’s discussion document, *Providing Choice: A Consultation Paper On Ending Mandatory Retirement*, released August 18. Participants will also be asked to answer such questions as:

- Would ending mandatory retirement reduce skills shortages in areas like nursing, teaching or skilled trades?
- Would ending mandatory retirement affect pensions and other benefits?
- What impact would ending mandatory retirement have on recent entrants to the workforce or those who take time away from it?

The Hamilton session is part of a series of public discussions on ending mandatory retirement being held across Ontario this September.

When: September 10, 2004 at 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Where: Sheraton Hamilton Hotel
116 King St. W.**

Anyone interested in making a presentation at the session may contact 1-866-400-8355.

The paper is available on the Ministry of Labour website at www.gov.on.ca/lab/.

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