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MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT TEAMS UP WITH COLLEGES TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES

Specialists Lead Employment Standards Seminars

TORONTO – The McGuinty government is working with community colleges to help small businesses understand Ontario’s Employment Standards Act, Labour Minister Steve Peters announced today.

“Our government is on the side of small businesses and all employers working to build a stronger Ontario,” Peters said. “Fair treatment of employees results in greater productivity, benefiting both businesses and the people of Ontario.”

The *Complying with the Employment Standards Act* seminars will be presented by specialists from the Employment Practices Branch of the Ministry of Labour this fall and winter at Humber, Centennial and Durham Colleges. These half-day seminars are aimed at employers, human resource personnel, office managers, small business owners and other business professionals. The colleges are charging a basic fee for the seminars to offset administration and accommodation costs. The pilot project is part of the Ministry of Labour’s outreach program for employment standards.

By the end of the seminar, participants will have practical knowledge of Ontario employment standards and be able to:

- Identify the various employment standards that apply to their workplace
- Understand how the Employment Standards Act is enforced and recognize the penalties that flow from violations of the Employment Standards Act
- Know where to go for additional employment standards information.

The schedule for the seminars is as follows:

- Humber College on November 22, 2006 or February 8, 2007 (irene.vanvliet@humber.ca, tel. 416-675-6622 ext. 4691)
- Centennial College on January 31, 2007 or March 28, 2007 (samin@centennialcollege.ca, tel. 416-289-5000 ext. 2557)
- Durham College on February 28, 2007 or April 14, 2007 (www.durhamcollege.ca/coned, tel. 905-721-3000 or 1-800-461-3260).

“We have teamed up with three community colleges to help small businesses meet the employment standards requirements of Ontario,” said Peters. “This is one of the ways the government is helping employers maintain fair, productive workplaces.”

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