



Minister

Ministre

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Telephone (416) 326-1600
Facsimile (416) 326-1656

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Téléphone (416) 326-1600
Télécopieur (416) 326-1656

August 30, 2006

Dear private career colleges,

I am pleased to announce that the *Private Career Colleges Act, 2005* (PCCA) will be proclaimed on September 18th, 2006. The Act and its accompanying regulations represent my commitment to protecting students, improving quality and strengthening accountability in the private career college sector.

Student protection will be improved most significantly by the establishment of the Training Completion Assurance Fund (TCAF) and the TCAF Advisory Board. These will more effectively ensure training completions and refunds for students if a private career college (PCC) closes suddenly. TCAF will be sector-funded and government-administered, and the TCAF Advisory Board will have representation from the PCC sector.

There will also be better protection for international students who pay for programs before they arrive in Ontario. PCCs will be limited to collecting no more than 25% of the cost of a program in advance. Some high risk PCCs will also be required to hold fees paid by international students in a trust account until the students begin their programs.

The quality of PCC education and training will be enhanced with the establishment of a credentials framework and program standards. The credentials framework will improve consistency in the sector and provide a better understanding of the value of PCC programs to students and employers. Program standards established in cooperation with PCCs and employers will ensure that PCC students get the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the work force.

A number of measures will be introduced to improve accountability and transparency in the PCC-student relationship. Requirements for student contracts are clearly outlined, the refund policy has been simplified and is more in line with public institutions, students are guaranteed access to their transcripts for 25 years and a new Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities will clearly outline the requirements of the Act in a user-friendly fashion.

Proclamation of the PCCA represents a significant milestone for both the government and PCCs. PCCs play an important role in Ontario's postsecondary education system. In the past two years, PCCs have clearly demonstrated that they want to work with our government on issues affecting both PCCs and students. You have recognized that we all have a stake in ensuring that the sector is seen as a credible, quality option for students. Further details about the requirements of the new Act and the timing of implementation will be provided to you by the Superintendent of Private Career Colleges in the coming days.

I would like to thank you for your substantial and constructive participation in the development of the Act and regulations, and welcome your continued involvement as we move forward with implementation. Proclamation of the new Act will provide a number of opportunities for PCCs to take a leadership role in strengthening the sector. I look forward to continuing to work with you as we move forward with implementation of the new Act.

Sincerely,

Signed Copy on File

Christopher Bentley
Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities