



# Taking Action! A College Network Development Project

Bulletin #1 May 2009

## Project Overview

Our work together to improve student and client outcomes in Employment Ontario programs at Ontario's colleges continues! The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) has approved the **Taking Action!** project, a follow up to the excellent results from our first project - Engaging the Frontline.

**Taking Action!** seeks to continue and to expand the internal partnerships among staff working in Employment Ontario sponsored programs and service areas. With the advent of the Second Career Strategy, a renewed emphasis on Literacy and Basic Skills, continued growth in apprenticeship activities and more unemployed Ontarians seeking support from Job Connect and employment assistance service providers, the necessity to integrate and collaborate has never been more urgent.

**Taking Action!** will provide opportunities to learn more about your own college's Employment Ontario (EO) programs and services, as well as those of other colleges. Events will be held at each college over the next year in addition to four regional events to be scheduled for the Fall. A number of tools and resources will be developed which should support local college efforts.

**Taking Action!** began in April 2009 and will conclude by March 2010.

## This project is made possible through the support and efforts of:

- Lynne Wallace, Executive Director, College Sector Committee (CSC)
- Dan Goldring, Executive Director, College Sector Employment Services (CSES)
- John Sillberg, Chair, Heads of Apprenticeship (HAT)
- The 24 College Leads (see their names in column on the right)
- Colleges Ontario
- The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

## Your College Leads

The work of the College Leads is critical to the successful integration and collaboration at each college. They prepare and host the college events and provide staff with each edition of the Taking Action! bulletin. See the table below for the name of your College Lead.

<b>Algonquin</b>	Joe Ranieri
<b>Boreal</b>	France Belanger-Houle
<b>Cambrian</b>	Sue Ferguson
<b>Canadore</b>	Barb Glass
<b>Centennial</b>	Biljana Bruce
<b>Conestoga</b>	Andrea Leis
<b>Confederation</b>	Jason Ozbolt
<b>Durham</b>	Jeanette Barrett
<b>Fanshawe</b>	Doug Millar
<b>Fleming</b>	Terry Blair
<b>George Brown</b>	Rolf Priesnitz
<b>Georgian</b>	Dave Forbes
<b>Humber</b>	Elana Lewis
<b>La Cite</b>	Nicole Dupuis
<b>Lambton</b>	Anne Marie Cosford
<b>Loyalist</b>	Warren Gee
<b>Mohawk</b>	Jim Vanderveken
<b>Niagara</b>	Sue Reinhart
<b>Northern</b>	Johanne Recoskie
<b>Sault</b>	Penny Perrier
<b>Seneca</b>	Amy Koning
<b>Sheridan</b>	Susan Carpenter
<b>St. Clair</b>	Joann Green
<b>St. Lawrence</b>	Janet Ashford

## Project Deliverables

### Website Audit **What Do You Want to Know About your Website?**

A lot of interest has been expressed in the website audit. Essentially, we want to know how easy it is for a prospective Employment Ontario student or client to find the information they are looking for on your college's website. Is the terminology and language clear? Is the information available? Is it easy for the lay person to find? Perhaps there are other questions you would like answered. If so, send your questions or ideas to: [TakingAction@cogeco.ca](mailto:TakingAction@cogeco.ca).

Results of the website audits will be provided confidentially to each college lead. A summary of the results will be included in Bulletin #3, which will be published in the winter.

### Client Referral Process

Almost every college identified the need for a documented client referral process as a top action item this year. To assist colleges with the development of their own client referral process, a framework will be provided for college use and adaptation. This framework will be developed in conjunction with two pilot colleges.

The internal referral process has been variously described as a pathway, road map, flowchart or internal process intended to inform both deliverers and clients. It will identify when referrals and interventions should take place, how to get started, guidelines for interaction and how to track results.

### College Events

Each college lead is being asked to host a ½ day college event for frontline staff. The focus this year will be on the following:

- Assessing and reporting progress on College Action Items developed in the previous year
- Continuing to expand internal partnerships and college knowledge
- Reviewing Second Career Strategy - integration and collaboration

Watch for details about your college event or check with your College Lead for more information.

### Regional Events

Four regional events will be held this Fall for frontline staff. The regional events will enable staff to identify strategies and best practices that have applicability and transferability throughout the colleges in the region. Results and strategies identified at all four regional events will be published in the Taking Action! bulletin later this year.

### Project Bulletins

Three bulletins, in French and English, will be published and distributed to all college frontline staff working in Employment Ontario programs and services. Each bulletin will contain general updates as well as specific project information. *Bulletin #1* (this bulletin) highlights the project deliverables. *Bulletin #2* will highlight the results of the college and regional events held during May through November. *Bulletin #3* will serve as a final report and will focus on the project results and completion of all deliverables. If you have any ideas, suggestions or feedback regarding the bulletins, please do not hesitate to contact the project consultant, Bea Clark at [TakingAction@cogeco.ca](mailto:TakingAction@cogeco.ca).

### College Self Assessment Tool

This tool, in the form of a checklist, will help colleges determine where they are now in terms of internal connections to support Employment Ontario (EO) clients. This checklist will provide the basis to identify next steps and long term objectives for continued integration and collaboration.

## Check Out These Websites for Updates and Information

<b>Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities</b>	<a href="http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng">www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng</a>	Proposed College of Trades is outlined.
<b>Employment Ontario</b>	<a href="http://www.eopg.ca/eng">www.eopg.ca/eng</a>	Second Career and Apprenticeship updates.
<b>Colleges Ontario</b>	<a href="http://www.collegesontario.org">www.collegesontario.org</a>	See the recommendation to double apprenticeship rates.
<b>College Sector Committee (CSC)</b>	<a href="http://www.collegeupgradingon.ca">www.collegeupgradingon.ca</a>	Survey results of ACE Students with Employment Goals
<b>College Sector Employment Services (CSES)</b>	<a href="http://www.algonquincollege.com/jccs">www.algonquincollege.com/jccs</a>	Review Job Connect Services descriptions

## Advisory Committee Members

The **Taking Action!** project is guided by an advisory group. Representatives from each program/ service area provide valuable insights and perspective throughout the project. The Advisory Committee members include:

### College Sector Committee (CSC)

- Lynne Wallace, Executive Director
- Andrea Leis, Conestoga College
- Barbara Glass, Canadore College
- Sue Follinsbee, Project Consultant  
- Integration project

### Heads of Apprenticeship (HAT)

- John Sillberg, Chair
- Tina DiSimone, Seneca College

### College Sector Employment Services (CSES)

- Dan Goldring, Executive Director
- Mike Bauer, Niagara College
- Beth Pirouet, St. Clair College

Feel free to share your ideas and thoughts regarding the project with any of these advisory committee members, at anytime.

## Project Consultant

The project consultant is Bea Clark, who also completed the *Engaging the Frontline* project. Since her retirement as Niagara College's Director of Workforce and Business Development, Bea has remained active in planning and labour market development activities. She currently chairs an adjustment advisory committee and has facilitated planning sessions for numerous organizations.

Please send questions, feedback or comments about the project to Bea at: [TakingAction@cogeco.ca](mailto:TakingAction@cogeco.ca)