

October 19, 2026.

The Honourable Nolan Quinn
Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security
Government of Ontario
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1N3

Re: Support for Career Colleges and Students — Request to Restore OSAP for Students
Enrolled Before August 1, 2026.

Dear Minister Quinn,

I am writing on behalf of the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade, representing the voice of business in the Town of Ajax and the City of Pickering, in support of fairness for Career Colleges, students, and employees. I am also writing in support of local employers and residents counting on the services of graduating students ---particularly Personal Support Workers (PSWs).

The current pause on OSAP payments to career colleges is concerning for our community. Students who confidently enrolled in programs with assuredness of the necessary funding, now face the possibility of being forced to leave their programs with their promising futures in doubt. And employees are facing the possibility of losing their jobs. These are real people. These are real families. These are real lives in limbo.

It's also impacting employers in our community. For example, through its government-funded accelerated Compassion Tech Personal Support Worker program, Computek College (delivered in partnership with the Town of Ajax and backed by Ontario's Skills Development Fund), has trained more than 500 PSWs. This specific cohort of graduates was trained to directly address the healthcare and caregiving staffing shortages across the Ajax, Pickering, and Durham Region healthcare networks. The demand for PSWs in our communities continues to outstrip PSWs available to provide required care. Computek College was set to graduate another 100 PSWs reliant on OSAP or personal loans this year. It's gravely concerning that those additional graduate PSWs may not be available.

Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade supports the government's efforts to investigate potential OSAP improprieties and holding institutions that have broken rules to account. However, a pause applied to every career college harms students and communities served by colleges who have done nothing wrong.

We respectfully ask the government to:

1. Restore OSAP payments for students, at institutions with no identified compliance concerns, who applied and received confirmation of support prior to the October decision to pause payments;
2. Establish an expedited review so compliant colleges can quickly demonstrate that they meet the Ministry's new eligibility criteria for OSAP;



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3. Publish clear timelines and eligibility criteria so students, colleges, and communities can plan; and

4. Consider the impact on local communities, economies, and employers as decisions on career college funding are made.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mil Patel".

Mil Patel
President
Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade
president@apboardoftrade.com
905-999-3768

cc:

- Peter Bethlenvalvy, MPP
- Rob Cerjanec, MPP,
- John Henry, Chair of Durham Region
- Kevin Ashe, Mayor of Pickering
- Shaun Collier, Mayor of Ajax
- Daniel Tisch, President & CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce
- Sadiya Qureshi, Executive Director, Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade
- Joan Wideman, Chair of Government Relations Committee, Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade