

October 23, 2026

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

RE: OSAP funding for students at private postsecondary institutions

Dear Minister Quinn,

On behalf of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC), I am writing regarding the extended pause on Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) disbursements for students attending private postsecondary institutions.

The OCC supports efforts to strengthen OSAP's integrity and ensure public funding supports quality education and positive student outcomes. We recognize the seriousness of the concerns identified and the importance of the independent audit process.

Through consultations with our members, we have heard concerns that OSAP payments have been paused at institutions with no identified compliance concerns, which applied and received confirmation of support prior to the October decision to pause payments. An extended pause risks disrupting students' education and training pathways into occupations facing persistent shortages.

Private career colleges are part of Ontario's workforce development ecosystem, providing career-focused training for people entering or retraining for the workforce. In early learning and child care, they provide an important pathway into the profession, particularly for adult learners balancing work, family, and education. Ontario's Auditor General has identified the need for up to [10,000](#) additional Registered Early Childhood Educators to meet child-care expansion targets by 2026.

One institution focused on training early childcare assistants and personal support workers reports that the pause threatens students' ability to complete their programs and cover essential living expenses. Interruptions to training could further compound staffing pressures in care settings. In child care, those pressures also constrain service capacity and parents' ability to participate in the workforce.



The Indispensable Partner of Business | occ.ca

As the government completes its audit and develops a new validation process, the OCC recommends that it:

- **Establish interim support arrangements** for previously approved students, subject to safeguards developed in consultation with the sector – including strengthened identity checks, verified enrolment and active participation, and ongoing confirmation of attendance or academic progress – to protect public funds while allowing eligible students to continue their studies. The government should also provide an update on the availability and terms of the third-party student loans under development.
- **Publish clear eligibility criteria, implementation timelines, and transition arrangements** for the new validation process, including how proposed caps on OSAP-funded enrolment and the exclusion of predominantly online-only programs would apply to current students.
- **Establish an expedited review process that prioritizes:**
 - a. **Compliant colleges** so that they can quickly demonstrate that they meet the Ministry's new eligibility criteria for OSAP.
 - b. **Institutions delivering regulator-recognized programs in shortage occupations** with reinstatement subject to demonstrated compliance and the new validation requirements.

A targeted approach can uphold the integrity of OSAP and protect public funds without unnecessarily disrupting students or legitimate training pathways that Ontario employers and communities rely on.

Thank you for your consideration. We welcome the opportunity to continue the discussion as the audit and validation work proceed.

Sincerely,



Daniel Tisch, APR, FCPRS, ICD.D
President and CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce



The Indispensable Partner of Business | occ.ca