

June 15, 2026

Hon. Nolan Quinn
Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security
438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Re: Modernizing Ontario's Co-operative Education Tax Credit (CETC)

Dear Minister Quinn,

On behalf of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and our Workforce Development Policy Council, I am pleased to support Experiential & Work-Integrated Learning Ontario's (EWO) recommendation that the Government of Ontario undertake a comprehensive review and enhancement of the Co-operative Education Tax Credit (CETC).

Work-integrated learning (WIL) is one of the most effective tools to give Ontario's young talent essential workplace skills while supporting businesses facing labour and skills shortages. As Ontario employers face mounting workforce pressures and rising costs, co-operative education and other forms of WIL are critical to connecting them with students from our universities, colleges and Indigenous Institutes.¹ However, the CETC has not kept pace with the changing economic landscape. Since its last adjustment, employers have faced higher wages, increased operating costs, and ongoing inflationary pressures, while the value of the credit has stagnated.

To ensure the CETC remains responsive to Ontario's labour market needs, the OCC recommends that the Government of Ontario:

1. **Increase the value of the CETC:** Raise the current maximum credit and expand the eligible cost share range to help keep up with wage inflation and the rising cost of doing business.
2. **Introduce enhanced SME supports:** Implement a tiered credit structure or targeted top-up to reduce financial barriers for small and medium-sized enterprises and preserve incentives for businesses to scale.
3. **Modernize eligibility and program design:** Update the criteria to reflect evolving work-integrated learning models, including remote, hybrid, and project-based placements.

¹ <https://cewilcanada.ca/CEWIL/CEWIL/Resources/Employer-Community-Partners/Employer-Benefits.aspx>

4. Promote awareness and uptake of the CETC: Strengthen targeted employer outreach, simplify program guidance, and streamline application and claims processes.

At a time of high youth unemployment and ongoing skills shortages, strengthening and modernizing the CETC represents a practical, targeted way to support both students and businesses.

The OCC would welcome the opportunity to support further consultation and discussion on how to update this important incentive to better serve Ontario's students, employers, and economy.

Sincerely,



Daniel Tisch
President & CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce

CC:

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance