



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

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April 20, 2017

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chairpersons and Directors of Education  
- All Catholic District School Boards

**FROM:** Stephen Andrews, Director of Legislative and Political Affairs

**SUBJECT:** **Ontario Government Announces Kick-Start Strategy**

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On Wednesday April 19, 2017 the Ontario government announced a new program called “Kick-Start Strategy” that will assist in preparing students for careers by creating 40,000 new work-related learning opportunities over three years for K-12 and postsecondary students as well as recent graduates. The program investment is roughly \$190 million over three years.

The Kick-Start Strategy includes:

- Expanding the successful Specialist High Skills Major Program over the next three years to introduce 17,000 more Grade 11 and 12 students to career options while obtaining their high school diploma.
- A new Career Ready Fund to help universities, colleges and employers create career-oriented learning experiences and related supports for students and recent graduates.
- Supporting more than 3,000 high-impact, industry-led research internships through the Mitacs Accelerate program and 140 additional internships and fellowships per year in the TalentEdge program.
- Giving all college and university students free access to high-quality, skills-focused online learning through [Lynda.com](http://Lynda.com).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [sandrews@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:sandrews@ocsta.on.ca).

*Attachment*