



556 Christina Street N.
Sarnia, ON N7T 5W6
Tel (519) 336-2400
Fax (519) 336-2085
info@sarnialambtonchamber.com
www.sarnialambtonchamber.com



April 4, 2017

The Hon. Mitzie Hunter
Minister of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Hunter,

The long term competitiveness and productivity of the Ontario economy will largely depend on the ability of Ontario residents to adapt to changing labour needs, take up non-traditional trades and manage household debt.

The Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce welcomes the recent news of the new pilot projects that will help prepare students for the future economy by revising the mandatory Grade 10 career studies course to include financial literacy, entrepreneurship skills, digital literacy, and career/life planning.

For years the Chamber has advocated for the creation of a mandatory Grade 11 Introduction to Business and Commerce course that would include a focus on financial literacy. Our policy position was adopted by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce in 2013 and again in 2016. It has been recommended to the Government of Ontario in subsequent reports and advocacy letters by the Ontario Chamber.

Although our members support teaching financial literacy skills over a number of grades, the new "learning module" will ensure that a much needed focus is given to this important subject, which is not guaranteed when a subject is embedded throughout the curriculum. In conversations with one of our local school boards, the Chamber was informed that the current method of embedding financial literacy relies on individual teachers taking an interest in the subject and having the right tools to teach it. The Chamber is confident that, if the pilot project becomes permanent, teachers will have the necessary tools and Ontario youth will be better prepared for the future.

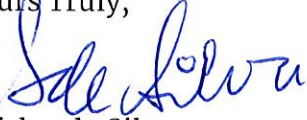
The Chamber represents over 700 businesses which employ approximately 17,000 people in a broad base of economic sectors across Sarnia-Lambton. We believe in a non-partisan

The Business Voice of Choice

approach to advocating for solutions that will help our members succeed, drive our local economy, create jobs and improve our quality of life.

On behalf of the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce, thank you for your attention on and commitment to this important matter.

Yours Truly,



Shirley de Silva,
President and CEO