

**Ministry of Colleges and Universities**

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**Ministère des Collèges et Universités**

Sous-ministre  
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**MEMORANDUM TO:** Presidents, Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology  
Linda Franklin, President and CEO, Colleges Ontario

Executive Heads, Publicly Assisted Universities

Université de Hearst

Northern Ontario School of Medicine

Steve Orsini, President and CEO, Council of Ontario

Universities

Executive Heads, Indigenous Institutes

Laurie Robinson, Executive Director and Chair, Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council

Wendy Johnson, Executive Director, Indigenous Institutes Consortium

**FROM:**

Shelley Tapp

Deputy Minister of Colleges and Universities

**DATE:** October 1, 2020

**SUBJECT:** **Postsecondary Student Placements in Long-Term Care Homes During COVID-19**

The Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) recognizes there have been many challenges for both postsecondary institutions and health care providers (employers) regarding their ability to provide students in healthcare-related fields with access to the clinical placements that are an integral part of their programs as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Clinical placements are essential for students to experience front-line care delivery to support the development of their clinical knowledge, skills, and judgement as well as to build their confidence and competence to practice. We recognize that many students in health care programs are also employees and as such, we appreciate that your institutions have been working tirelessly to accommodate your students during this unprecedented time. The government wants to support all health care sectors in ensuring students have the opportunity for placements.

In the early days of the pandemic, the issue regarding limitations around providing students with clinical placements emerged alongside issues regarding an increased demand for frontline healthcare workers to provide additional support as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. As a result, many of your students were mobilized to the frontline

to provide the health care system with much needed support, especially as personal support workers (PSWs) in Long-Term Care Homes (LTCHs).

It has come to the ministry's attention that some students, particularly students enrolled in nursing and personal support worker programs, may have been asked to leave their current part-time job in a LTCH in order to complete their clinical placement at another health service provider (employer).

As the Fall term gets underway, and students resume their studies and placements, we would like to take this opportunity to clarify the government's direction related to employees of LTCHs.

MCU has confirmed with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Long-Term Care that the rules set out in [Ontario Regulation 146/20: Limiting Work to a Single Long-Term Care Home](#) under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020* are not intended to capture students in placements. We ask that you continue to support LTCHs as an acceptable placement location. Please ensure this is reflected as soon as possible.

The government fully expects that postsecondary institutions and their students continue to be mindful of any risks and take all appropriate health and safety precautions to ensure their safety as well as any clients of LTCHs.

Should you have any questions about the content of this memo, please contact the following:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• Publicly-assisted colleges and universities: Ivonne Mellozzi, Director, Postsecondary Accountability Branch at [Ivonne.Mellozzi@ontario.ca](mailto:Ivonne.Mellozzi@ontario.ca)

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• Private institutions: Travis Coulter, Director of the Private Career Colleges Branch and Superintendent of Private Career Colleges at [pcc@ontario.ca](mailto:pcc@ontario.ca)

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• Indigenous Institutes: Barry McCartan, (A) Director of the Indigenous Education Branch at [Barry.McCartan@ontario.ca](mailto:Barry.McCartan@ontario.ca)

Once again, thank you for all the support you have provided to your students and graduates in healthcare related programs throughout the COVID-19 outbreak.

*[Original signed by]*

Shelley Tapp

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Colleges and Universities

cc: Doug Brewer, Chief of Staff

Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health

Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care

Kelly Shields, Assistant Deputy Minister, Postsecondary Education Division

Tamara Gilbert, Assistant Deputy Minister, Advanced Education and Learner Supports Division

Michael Hillmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Capacity Planning and Analytics Division, Ministry of Health

Sean Court, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Transformation Division, Ministry of Health

Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Policy, Ministry of Long-Term Care

David Lamb, Director, Capacity and Health Workforce Planning Branch, Ministry of Health

Allison Henry, Director, Health Workforce Regulatory Oversight Branch, Ministry of Health

Adriana Ibarguchi, Director, Strategic Initiatives Branch, Ministry of Long-Term Care, Ministry of Long-Term Care