

## NEWSFLASH!!!

### Letters sent to Apprentices about the Apprenticeship Scholarship and Employer Signing Bonus initiative

In the May 18, 2004 provincial budget, the government announced an Apprenticeship Scholarship and Employer Signing Bonus initiative, which supports its commitment of prosperity for people of Ontario. This initiative, which is administered by the network of third party delivery agencies delivering the Ministry's Job Connect and Summer Jobs Service Programs to youth, is intended to support apprenticeship training and employment for youth (24 years of age or less) who have left school early and require academic upgrading to meet the minimum academic entry requirements to register as apprentices in an apprenticeship program.

**An apprentice may be entitled to the \$1,000 Apprenticeship Scholarship. Their employer may also be eligible for a \$2,000 employer-signing bonus.** In order to better determine eligibility, they must meet the following criteria:

- Be twenty-four years old or younger.
- Be registered as an apprentice after May 18, 2004.
- Have left school before returning to obtain the academic upgrading necessary to meet the minimum academic entry requirement for your apprenticeship after April 1, 2004 and before having been registered as an apprentice.

Letters have been sent out to new apprentices that meet the age criteria informing them that they may be eligible.

If you are talking to an apprentice about the scholarship program, explain the eligibility criteria. If they are eligible, have them contact their local JOB CONNECT office to apply for this scholarship.

Additional JOB CONNECT information:

- Call the toll-free JobGrow Hotline, at 1-888-562-4769
- Read [About Job Connect](#)

Visit the [Youth Opportunities Ontario](#) website