

Ministry of  
Transportation

Office of the Minister

Ferguson Block, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
77 Wellesley St. West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1Z8  
416-327-9200  
[www.ontario.ca/transportation](http://www.ontario.ca/transportation)

Ministère des  
Transports

Bureau du ministre

Édifice Ferguson, 3<sup>e</sup> étage  
77, rue Wellesley ouest  
Toronto (Ontario)  
M7A 1Z8  
416-327-9200  
[www.ontario.ca/transports](http://www.ontario.ca/transports)



JAN 27 2017

M2016-5786

Mr. Michael Shvartsburd  
[greatcanada@bellnet.ca](mailto:greatcanada@bellnet.ca)

Dear Mr. Shvartsburd:

Thank you for your email regarding mandatory entry-level training for commercial Class A truck drivers. I welcome the opportunity to respond.

The safety of all users of Ontario's roads and highways is our top priority. We are committed to making sure trucking industry standards are high to keep Ontario amongst the safest places to drive in North America.

The implementation of mandatory entry-level training for new commercial Class A truck drivers will aim to ensure truck drivers are properly trained before they are tested and licensed. As of July 1, 2017, all new drivers attempting the Class A road test will be required to successfully complete the mandatory entry-level training course through an approved training provider. The ministry has developed a consistent provincial training standard and updated the knowledge and road tests to identify the entry-level skills and competencies required to operate a Class A motor vehicle safely.

The current voluntary Tractor-Trailer Commercial Driver apprenticeship program consists of 2,000 hours of on-the-job training and includes practical on-the-job training provided by a skilled worker or trainer. The apprenticeship program helps to ensure new tractor-trailer drivers have the full set of vocational skills, beyond that of entry-level skills to safely operate their vehicle.

The addition of mandatory entry-level training to the existing voluntary apprenticeship program will further support the trucking industry's commitment to training and growth and provide skilled drivers for employers.

Thank you for your suggestion of implementing mandatory professional level training. The ministry is always interested in hearing from the public with regards to any program improvements. As you are aware, the ministry is moving forward with introducing entry-level training. However, at this time, there are no plans to introduce professional level training, but the ministry will keep it for future consideration.

Regarding your concerns about the cost of the training course, please note, current financial assistance programs for education and training purposes fall under the authority of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD). Please contact MAESD for information regarding financial assistance programs for the mandatory entry-level training course. The ministry's website address is [www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-advanced-education-and-skills-development](http://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-advanced-education-and-skills-development).

We know that our trucks are safe and are working. Over the last 10 years, the number of