



## TTSAO Gives Thumbs Up to MELT

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 - Hamilton, ON** – The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) was quick to react to the Truck Training Schools Association of Ontario (TTSAO) for not endorsing the draft standards of Mandatory Entry Level Driver Training (MELT) in Ontario. After numerous meetings, since the TTSAO's response to the MTO and the transportation community, the association has agreed to endorse the current draft standard. Senior representatives from MTO has made the commitment to ensure all concerns raised by TTSAO will be addressed prior to the full implementation of MELT in 2017.

"Our executive team and board of directors along with the TTSAO Carrier Group were all very pleased with the end result of the recent conversations and commitment of the MTO. They have agreed to a timeline to ensure the concerns raised by our members will be dealt with" said Kim Richardson, Chairman of the Board for The TTSAO.

In a recent press release TTSAO could not endorse the draft standard because of key issues still being left unclear to the association and its membership. These concerns included:

- Instructor qualification criteria
- Minimum requirements for training on standard transmission
- A clearer definition of on-line training
- Road test booking procedures and vehicle configuration for testing
- Night time training
- Maximum training hours per day
- Clearer definition of hour breakdown of in yard training
- Verification of training hours

Mike Millian President of the Private Motor Truck Council (PMTTC) and board of director of the TTSAO commented, "The MTO has been great to work with through this entire process. Their engagement with all stakeholders has been appreciated, and necessary, to ensure this standard was a close to perfect as possible. Their recent response to the TTSAO's concerns was appreciated, and showed their commitment to ongoing engagement with all stakeholders. We look forward to continuing to work with the MTO on MELT going forward".

Some of TTSAO's issues fall under the Private Career College's and the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities. The TTSAO and MTO have agreed to work together along with the TTSAO Carrier Group, membered insurance companies of TTSAO and other industry stakeholders to ensure all areas are addressed.

Geoff Topping Chairman of the TTSAO Carrier Group and Senior Director of HR at Challenger Motor Freight commented "Great progress has been made in this process to insure the MELT Standards meet the needs of all Stakeholders and most importantly help the province of Ontario to be leaders in Transportation Safety. Various groups and associations have all worked together with the MTO to insure that this standard will produce high quality drivers".

The TTSAO, along with their industry partners believe that keeping on track with the timeline set by the Minister of transportation is important for all involved and the new standard for entry level commercial driver is critical to eliminating the licensing mills and ensuring entry level commercial drivers are properly educated.

For more information about this Press Release:

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