

**Excerpt from an interview conducted and published by Canadian Transportation & Logistics – Norm Sterling, Transportation Minister, Ontario.**

**Sterling:** The issue I have heard about the most is the employment situation for firms trying to hire skilled professional drivers.

**CT&L:** What can your government do to help improve the situation?

**Sterling:** We are looking at things. I sit on the education committee and have raised the issue when we were talking about apprenticeships. Also with licensing we are going to create several different kinds of licensing that hopefully will bring forward a high degree of professionalism to truck drivers so that qualifications will be varied and there will be some truck drivers who will aspire to a different level. By offering that differentiation, you also allow some of the profession to reach higher and that in the end will prove good to the industry. I would like to encourage the industry to have an apprenticeship program. In speaking with trucking companies, I believe that one of the reasons they like to hire people from, for example, Britain, is that there is a level of professionalism that hasn't been achieved in our province and I don't see why we shouldn't be able to do it.