



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

### WORKFORCE WINDSORESSEX HIGHLIGHTS IN-DEMAND AGRICULTURE JOBS

*Students and jobseekers tour local agriculture and agri-food companies on Agri-Day Tour*

**Windsor, ON** – Workforce WindsorEssex, the region’s Local Employment Planning Council (LEPC), held Agri-Day on Tuesday, September 24, to highlight local in-demand jobs in the agriculture sector. Agri-Day allows local students and jobseekers, 350 this year, the opportunity to tour different agriculture and agri-food companies throughout Windsor-Essex, including traditional farms, greenhouse supply, and food manufacturing facilities.

Tours took place at Mucci Farms, Plant Products Inc., Inner Seasonings International Inc., and Highline Mushrooms.

Agri-Day is part of Workforce WindsorEssex’s initiative to encourage agriculture careers in the region, as Windsor-Essex needs more skilled workers in the agriculture and agri-food sector to help local companies grow and compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Earlier this year, Workforce WindsorEssex launched *A Career Guide for the Agriculture & Agri-Food Sector in Windsor-Essex*, exploring the top 52 in-demand agriculture and agri-food occupations in the region. It also highlights the skills and experience that those in vulnerable manufacturing occupations can transfer to the agriculture sector.

For more information on Agri-Day and on agriculture careers in Windsor-Essex, visit:

<https://www.workforcewindsorsex.com/agriculture/>.

### QUOTES:

*“Workforce WindsorEssex set out to not only display traditional careers in the agriculture and agri-food sector, but to showcase careers many may not have considered to be available in the sector. For example, our Agriculture Workforce Profiles highlights occupations such as IT Project Coordinator, Welder, and Social Media Marketing, among others. Demonstrating the variety of options to students and jobseekers is imperative to help build this expanding sector locally and to assist in connecting those looking for jobs with an assortment of options.”*

*- Michelle Suchiu, Executive Director, Workforce WindsorEssex*

*“The Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers are pleased to partner with Workforce WindsorEssex to support Agri-Day. Fostering the workforce of tomorrow is a key priority for our farmers and ensuring future employees have the skills they need to support innovation in the greenhouse is critical. Events like this help to raise awareness of the career opportunities in the growing agri-food sector and to ensure our farmers can continue to produce fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables for years to come.”*

*- Dr. Justine Taylor, Science & Government Relations Manager, Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers*

*“Agri-Day is an outstanding initiative and an opportunity for our Region’s employers in the agri sector to connect and demonstrate directly with the students and jobseekers that careers in agriculture and the agri-food sectors are full of innovative and technological opportunities. Agri-Day also serves to re-enforce the message about the importance of this sector to our local economy. We are pleased to work with our partners to offer the WEExplore Agriculture Project opportunity.”*

*- Stephen MacKenzie, President and CEO, WindsorEssex Economic Development*

#### **QUICK FACTS:**

- As of 2018, there were 6,938 individuals employed in the agriculture and agri-food sector in Windsor-Essex (Pg. 8, [A Career Guide for the Agriculture & Agri-Food Sector in Windsor-Essex](#)).
- The Leamington CA area (Leamington and Kingsville) is widely known for its large concentration of greenhouse operations. The area has been rapidly growing in recent years and contains over 60% of Ontario’s greenhouses, the largest concentration of greenhouses in both Canada and the U.S. (Pg. 10, [A Career Guide for the Agriculture & Agri-Food Sector in Windsor-Essex](#)).
- The rapid growth of this area means that new greenhouses will have to be constructed, or existing greenhouses may have to be retro-fitted to support a new type of crop production, such as cannabis. This new demand for construction will likely raise the demand for jobs like carpenters, concrete finishers, and welders (Pg. 10, [A Career Guide for the Agriculture & Agri-Food Sector in Windsor-Essex](#)).

#### **QUICK LINKS:**

- Workforce WindsorEssex launched the Agriculture and Agri-Food Career Guide in July 2019. View the guide online: [A Career Guide for the Agriculture & Agri-Food Sector in Windsor-Essex](#).

- Workforce WindsorEssex released a series of five videos featuring local agriculture companies and employees who work in the sector, including Mucci Farms, Cooper's Hawk Winery, Highline Mushroom, Presteve Foods, and Inner Seasonings International Inc.: [Spotlight on Agriculture Videos](#).
- Workforce WindsorEssex also released a series of 11 blog posts highlighting individuals who work in the region's top in-demand agriculture jobs: [Agriculture Workforce Profiles](#).
- To learn more about the Local Employment Planning Council and view our current and past projects visit [www.workforcewindsor.essex.com/lepc](http://www.workforcewindsor.essex.com/lepc).

- XXX -

#### **Media Contact:**

Corey Shenken  
Project Coordinator & Researcher  
Workforce WindsorEssex  
(416) 560-7077  
[cshenken@workforcewindsor.essex.com](mailto:cshenken@workforcewindsor.essex.com)

#### ***About Workforce WindsorEssex***

Workforce WindsorEssex is a workforce and community development board that creates labour market tools, research, guides, and events that benefit jobseekers, employers, students, educators, and the community. Founded 10 years ago by the City of Windsor, County of Essex, WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation, and the Province of Ontario, our mandate is to plan, facilitate, and advocate for regional workforce development, defined as the development, retention, and recruitment of a wide range of skilled workers to meet the current and future economic and social development needs of Windsor-Essex.

Workforce WindsorEssex currently receives funding under four projects: Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership, Local Employment Planning Council, WEskills, and WE Value. Learn more at [www.workforcewindsor.essex.com](http://www.workforcewindsor.essex.com).

#### ***About the Local Employment Planning Council project***

The Local Employment Planning Council (LEPC) is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario. The LEPC pilot aims to increase the access to accurate, up to date, local labour market information and help pioneer new and innovative approaches to local employment planning.