



News Release

For Immediate Release

March 24, 2021

The County of Brant Welcomes Temporary Foreign Workers

County of Brant, ON – The County of Brant welcomes Temporary Foreign Workers back to the community.

“We are pleased to welcome Temporary Foreign Workers back to the County of Brant. Many workers return to the County year after year, supporting our local food supply,” said Mayor David Bailey. “We are thankful they offer their specialized farming skills and we certainly value their contribution to our community.”

The County of Brant welcomes over 800 workers in a typical year. The Brant County Health Unit (BCHU) has taken a proactive approach and has issued a number of requirements to ensure the safety of workers and the community. Included in the list of requirements is a mandatory quarantine period of 14 days, an isolation accommodation and transportation plan and notification to BCHU if a worker becomes sick with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 at any point during their stay in Canada. Workers are permitted to complete their quarantine period on-farm.

“Temporary Foreign Workers are integral to local farming operations and the food supply chain,” said Dr. Elizabeth Urbantke, Acting Medical Officer of Health. “As our community continues to operate within the lens of COVID-19, both farm operators and workers play an important role in preventing the spread of this illness.”

The County of Brant Economic Development team has been working hand-in-hand with the agricultural community and all pertinent levels of government from the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the agricultural sector within Brant is supported.

The County, in collaboration with Conestoga College, is also working to address local agricultural labour challenges by supporting the creation of an Agricultural Equipment Operator pilot program, with the first cohort set to graduate in April 2021. The second intake for the pilot program will start in the near future. For more information about the program, visit www.conestogac.on.ca/fulltime/agricultural-equipment-operator.

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