



Perth County  
Cultivating Opportunity

# EMPLOYER EDUCATOR ROUNDTABLE

West Perth Municipal Office  
160 Wellington St. Mitchell  
June 7th, 2024  
12:00-3:00pm

For inquiries about this event, please email us at  
[ecdevtourism@perthcounty.ca](mailto:ecdevtourism@perthcounty.ca)

Register Now!



<https://employer-educator-roundtable.eventbrite.ca>

The **West Perth Economic Development Advisory Committee** is hosting a roundtable session with local employers and educators from Perth County to discuss employment needs and fostering future cooperation with our local educators and business community.

This gathering offers a unique opportunity for stakeholders to engage, exchange ideas, share insights and perspectives on the current state of the job market and the skills required by employers. By facilitating this dialogue, this event aims to bridge the gap between education and industry, ensuring that educational programs align with the evolving needs of the workforce. Through discussions and networking, participants will not only identify areas for collaboration but also lay the groundwork for future partnerships that can benefit both employers and educators, ultimately contributing to the growth and vitality of the local economy.

This discussion will provide a platform for employers to articulate their specific workforce needs and challenges. Employers will have the opportunity to express which skills and qualifications they find most valuable in potential candidates, as well as any gaps they perceive in the current talent pool. Educators will also be asked to share insights into current and potential future educational programs and initiatives to prepare students for the workforce.

[Register for the Roundtable](#)

## Perth County Businesses Shine at the Stratford and District Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards

Three Perth County businesses took home a total of four awards at the

Stratford and District Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards on May 2, 2024. Congratulations to Lynn River Farm, Chok Fine Chocolates and D& S Downham Equipment on their awards!

Other Perth County businesses nominated for their achievements included Berger Plumbing, SBS Metals, Stratford Home Furniture, B&C Custome Landscapes and Unleashed on 42.

For the full list of award winners and nominees, [click here](#).



**Congrats**

Lynn River Farm  
Trailblazing Award

Chok Fine Chocolates  
Emerging Business Award

D&S Downham Equipment  
Skilled Trades Award & Business  
of the Year

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## Business Networking in June

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**BUSINESS**  
*after* **FIVE**

ZEHR INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.

June 19th, 2024

4:30 - 7:00 PM

Zehr Insurance,  
1 Main St. Milverton

RSVP AT:  
<https://PerthCountyBA5Zehrs.eventbrite.ca>

QUESTIONS?  
ecdevtourism@perthcounty.ca

Join us for a unique opportunity to network with colleagues and members of the business community from across Perth County! Connect with elected officials, municipal staff and other organizations that support to businesses in accessing international & newcomer talent, hiring students, applying for grants & funding programs and more!

This FREE drop-in event for Perth County businesses and partner organizations runs from 4:30-7:00pm. RSVP through **Eventbrite** is greatly appreciated. For questions or if you encounter any issues with your RSVP, please email [ecdev@perthcounty.ca](mailto:ecdev@perthcounty.ca).

## Deadline Approaching for Summer Company Plus Program

The deadline to apply for the Summer Company Program is almost here! Apply before **May 17, 2024** to be considered for the program. Learning how to run your own student business is one of the best summer jobs you can have. You get to be your own boss while learning what it takes to manage a business. Sales, marketing, bookkeeping, customer relationship management and networking are just a few of the highly useful skills you'll develop. Students between the ages of 15-29 who are

returning to school in the fall can apply today!  
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/start-summer-company-students>

For more information about the program, please contact the Stratford Perth Centre For Business at [info@stratfordperthbusiness.ca](mailto:info@stratfordperthbusiness.ca)



**SUMMER COMPANY PLUS PROGRAM**

GET IN TOUCH

[info@stratfordperthbusiness.ca](mailto:info@stratfordperthbusiness.ca)

Supported by the Province of Ontario, this program provides students with business training, mentorship and funding of up to \$3K to kick-start their summer business.

## Foodpreneur Advantage Program Now Available in Perth County

The Foodpreneur Advantage is designed specifically for early-growth food and beverage manufacturing ventures that produce consumer packaged goods and provides ten weeks of FREE training, mentoring, and coaching.

The program features online workshops led by the Foodpreneur Advantage team in London for any food-related business and comprehensive programs for scalable food and beverage manufacturing ventures that produce consumer packaged goods (CPG).

Examples of the seminars available include:

- Starting a Food Business & Regulatory Compliance
- How to Sell your Food Product
- Costing & Pricing to Make Profits



The Stratford Perth Centre for Business and Perth County have teamed up to ensure this program is available to local entrepreneurs. Register at <https://foodpreneuradvantage.ca/> or for more information about this and other small business support programs visit <https://www.stratfordperthbusiness.ca>

## PC Connect Employer Toolkits are still Available!

To showcase the advantages of PC Connect, we're thrilled to introduce our exclusive PC Connect Employer Toolkit, tailor-made for your employee breakrooms. This toolkit aims to raise awareness about the benefits of public transportation and equip your employees with valuable resources for their daily commutes.

What's Inside the Toolkit?

- Informative Brochures: Insights into PC Connect routes, schedules, and key features;
- Eye-Catching Posters: Showcase the environmental and cost-saving perks of public transportation;



- Local Branded Products: Keep PC Connect top of mind with unique, locally inspired items

By making these resources readily available in your breakrooms, your employees will have easy access to information that can significantly enhance their daily commutes. PC Connect is dedicated to providing a reliable and sustainable transportation option for the community, and we see collaborations like these as a collective effort toward creating a more connected & commuter-friendly community.

If you're interested in receiving a PC Connect Employer Toolkit, please email [mkerr@perthcounty.ca](mailto:mkerr@perthcounty.ca) with your preferred delivery date and time. We're more than happy to arrange a convenient drop-off.

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## Join our Discover More Flavour Farm Gate Map Program



Spring will be here before we know it! Register your farm or local food business with Perth County's **Farm Gate Map** program!

### What are the benefits of participating?

- Receive a signage and flag kit to help raise awareness and presence at the road-side
- Be featured on our digital Farm Gate Map at [perthcounty.ca/farmgate](http://perthcounty.ca/farmgate)
- Receive marketing and promotion throughout the year on the Perth County Tourism website and social media platforms

### What is the cost?

Participation in this program is completely FREE.

### How do I participate?

Visit [perthcounty.ca/farmgate](http://perthcounty.ca/farmgate) and click 'Join The Program' to complete the simple registration form. Once we receive your form, a member of our team will reach out to you to confirm the information provided and to coordinate delivery of your signage items.

### Additional questions?

Clara Leney

[cleney@perthcounty.ca](mailto:cleney@perthcounty.ca)

519-301-5611

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Canada 

**FedDev's Ontario's Southwestern  
Ontario Development Fund (SWODF)  
Now Accepting Applications**

The **Southwestern Ontario Development Fund (SWODF)** program provides interest-free, repayable contributions from \$125,000 to \$10 million to businesses and not-for-profits that:

- develop, commercialize or produce innovative products, processes and services

- improve productivity, capacity and competitiveness
- scale-up and expand to develop new business opportunities, enter new markets, or reach new customer

The current intake periods is open until June 24, 2024. To support businesses assess eligibility and the application process, a number of information sessions have been scheduled starting on May 14. Businesses and not-for-profits can find [information session registration options here](#).

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## Get Social with Perth County Tourism



Follow our socials to stay in the loop on Perth County events, destination recommendations, local experiences, business updates, and more!

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If you require an alternate format of this eNewsletter, please contact [accessibility@perthcounty.ca](mailto:accessibility@perthcounty.ca)