

Farm to Fork job fair series designed to spur life-long careers in Ontario's Agri-food supply chain

Agri-food career fair connecting jobseekers to Ontario's food supply chain, with opportunities from farm to fork.

25 May 2023

WINDSOR – Opportunities abound as employers, community partners and young jobseekers come together for a career fair focused on the Agri-food sector.

The Agri-food supply chain is a critical aspect of Ontario's ability to compete in the global economy. Accounting for 1 in 9 jobs in Canada, the Agri-food industry is slated to have over 123,000 job vacancies by 2029.

Careers along the Agri-food supply chain may seem illusive, particularly with the misconception that work in this industry is limited to the outdoors with no growth opportunity. The Farm to Fork series offers career exploration in Agri-food's various subsectors – including horticulture, sales and services, food processing and manufacturing, and more – and job pathways – including retail services, marketing, technology, etc. – to expand the horizons of opportunity for young jobseekers.

"The beauty of this industry is that it offers the value-alignment the young workforce is looking for," says First Work Executive Director Akosua Alagaratnam. "It's our job to spread awareness and break the myths that prevent folks from exploring these life-long careers."

Jobseekers are attending the first stop in this career fair series in Windsor. With community partners – including [Collège Boréal](#), [South Essex Community Council](#), [Windsor Women Working with Immigrant Women](#), [University of Guelph Ridgeway](#) and [Conseil scolaire catholique Providence](#) – over 300 young people are anticipated to attend.

Windsor-Essex
June 1, 2023 | 9AM-2PM
WFCU Centre, 8787 McHugh Street
Windsor, ON, N8S 0A1

Local employers – including [Mastronardi Produce](#), Mucci Farms, [Highline Mushrooms](#), [Cangro Agrifoods](#) and more – will be on site to showcase the various job pathways available in the industry.

"There's a really unique opportunity for Ontario's young jobseekers – an ability to enter into a sector that is poised to dominate workforce development trends over the foreseeable future," says Alagaratnam.

Employers interested in participating can register as an exhibitor [here](#).

All jobseekers under age 30 are invited to attend. Pre-registration can be completed [here](#).

The [Farm to Fork career fair series](#) is a component of First Work's *Expanding Job Pathways in Agri-food* project, made possible thanks to funding from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Ontario employers interested in securing talent and building up the labour pipelines for this sector are invited to learn more at FirstWork.Org/Agri-Food-Pathways.

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About First Work:

First Work is a leading membership organization bringing together providers of youth programming and employment services, business leadership, academia, and government to develop and advance solutions for youth employment. <https://firstwork.org>

About Aspire:

Aspire is First Work's career exploration initiative developed by youth, for youth. Aspire is a career exploration initiative connecting young people facing barriers to employment with careers and industries they would otherwise never experience. In doing so, youth broaden their career aspirations by learning about the range of industry specific career opportunities available. <https://youthaspire.org>

For media and other inquires:

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