
NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 26th, 2018

**Renfrew County Want You:
Seeking Employees from Ottawa-Gatineau and Beyond**

Pembroke: The County of Renfrew, in partnership with the Town of Arnprior, is hosting a Career Fair and Employment Opportunity Showcase on Thursday, November 29th. Taking place at the Nick Smith Centre in Arnprior from 1:30 pm – 8:00 pm, employers from across Renfrew County will be set up to display their career opportunities in the hopes of finding just the right candidate.

Unique to Renfrew County are radically different employers and careers. We've got nuclear physics, engineering and science, advanced materials, designing and fabricating bomb disposal suits and body armour, aerospace manufacturing, metal casting and machining, pharmaceuticals, bio oil, nuclear and explosives detection equipment and nylon to name a few. The historic founding industries for Renfrew County - agriculture, agri-business, forestry and value-added wood processing and sawmilling - are large and sustainable natural resources sectors also actively seeking to growing labour force.

Not unique to Renfrew County is the demand for skilled labour and trades people. **"Our employers and county economic development staff have increased recruiting efforts nationally and globally. For example, county representatives recently attended a graduating student recruiting fair in Toronto at Centennial College"**, explains Alastair Baird, Manager of Economic Development. He goes on to report that for the second year in a row, the county represented seventeen Renfrew County employers at the Rural Ontario Career Fair. Hosted in Mississauga by the Newcomer Centre of Peel, this particular event had the goal of helping new Canadians learn of the many employment opportunities in the rural communities beyond the GTA.

Renfrew County is well poised to take the lead in the race for recruitment. Renfrew County offers a very special alternative lifestyle to metropolitan regions like Ottawa-Gatineau and the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Many Renfrew County employers are located within reasonable commuting distance of downtown and west-end Ottawa, opposite to much of the typical commuter flow. The average driving time from Arnprior to the west end of the City just 25 minutes. Housing and living costs are substantially lower in the county than those of large urban areas. (\$299,000 for a detached, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom executive home with large deck, salt water pool, garage and partially finished full basement just minutes from highway 417). People at all stages of life are finding exciting and rewarding careers in the county allowing them to achieve that elusive family life/work balance.

Despite the opportunities, employee recruitment and employee retention remains a challenge. Dr. Kathy McCarthy, Vice-President of Research and Development with Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, Inc. (CNL), one of the largest employers in the county with a local workforce of 2,900 people and growing, explains that **"as CNL enters this period of**

organizational growth, our biggest challenge will be to augment our high-calibre research and development team, build strength in new capability areas, and effectively replace those who are planning to retire.”

It is in response to these human resources challenges that Renfrew County is hosting their second Career Fair of 2018. Similar to the highly successful Petawawa and Pembroke Area Career Fair held earlier this year, employers from across Renfrew County, and nearby Ottawa and Lanark County, will be exhibiting and presenting information about their company and the featured career opportunities in a tradeshow format. Job seekers will be free to circulate and discuss opportunities with all the employer representatives. They are also encouraged to bring copies of their resume to provide to employers if requested. Free, one-on-one resume coaching will be available as well.

For more information, visit www.investrenfrewcounty.com or call 613.735.0091.

For more information and for Employer Registration contact:

Alastair Baird	Manager of Economic Development, County of Renfrew	613-735-0091 ext 466 1-800-273-0183
Michael Barber	Media Relations/Grants Coordinator, County of Renfrew	613-735-7288 ext 490