



Monday, November 22, 2010

For Immediate Release

The Regional Municipality of York invites employers to attend workshops to address impending workforce labour shortages

100,000 to 150,000 in York Region to retire over next five to 10 years

NEWMARKET – The Regional Municipality of York is encouraging employers across the Region to attend free workshops to discuss how to address the challenges of impending workforce labour shortages.

York Region’s Economic Strategy Branch will host the first workshop this Thursday in the Town of Aurora.

In December, three similar workshops will be co-hosted by business advocacy groups in the City of Vaughan, the Town of Markham and the Town of Richmond Hill (see table below).

In addition, York Region will host a conference on the topic on February 8. (Location to be confirmed.)

| Date and Time | Co-host and Location |
|---|--|
| Thursday, November 25 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Economic Strategy Branch of The Regional Municipality of York York Catholic District School Board 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora |
| Wednesday, December 8 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Co-hosted by the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce Hilton Garden Vaughan 3201 Highway 7, Vaughan |
| Tuesday, December 14 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Co-hosted by the Town of Markham and the Markham Small Business Centre Markham Convergence Centre 7271 Warden Ave, Markham |
| Thursday, December 16 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Co-hosted by the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce Sheraton Parkway 600 Highway 7 East, Richmond Hill |
| Tuesday, February 8 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Economic Strategy Branch of The Regional Municipality of York Stakeholder Conference Keynote Speaker: Rick Miner, “People without Jobs, Jobs without People” Location to be determined. Visit www.investinyork.ca/events for details. |

Beyond the Boomers: A York Region Employer’s Guide to the Labour Force Shortage will be available at the workshops. The workshops will be facilitated by Sandra Weeks, author of *Best Practices: Organizational Development*.

To register online, please visit investinyork.ca/events or contact Michelle Dufrane at michelle.dufrane@york.ca or call 905 830-4444, Ext. 1596.

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Background

Over the next five to 10 years, an estimated 100,000 to 150,000 baby boomers in the workforce across The Regional Municipality of York will retire.

While medium to large York Region employers will be challenged to recruit and replace these people, the issue of workforce planning will be even more critical at small entrepreneurial firms that comprise more than 70 per cent of firms in the Region.

Younger workers may not be available in sufficient supply to meet the needs of York Region's growing economy.

To assist York Region employers as they develop workforce plans and strategies to maintain an adequate, skilled labour supply, York Region's Economic Strategy Branch has prepared case studies, best practices and information tools and resources as part of its Aging Workforce Study.

The Aging Workforce Study undertook three surveys:

- The boomer retirement survey to forecast retirement trends, including older workers who plan to pursue second careers after retiring
- The employer workforce survey to identify employers' future growth and workforce needs
- The youth career survey to estimate the supply of youth for York Region jobs that will assist employers in making plans to recruit and train youth

This study was undertaken with funding from Employment Ontario, an initiative of the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit www.york.ca

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