

Rural Employment Initiative

Norfolk County Bus Tour

Tuesday, June 11, 2019



In collaboration with Norfolk County Economic Development, the Rural Employment Initiative team organized an employment-focused bus tour to Norfolk County. This was the 6th bus tour organized by REI.

Norfolk County is located in South Western Ontario, 137 km from Mississauga.

The tour team included 45 clients and 4 NCP staff. Two clients were late and missed the bus.

During the tour, clients explored the region and met local partners and employers, including Unilever Ice Cream and Burning Kiln Winery. Partners learnt about our clients' employment-related needs and their passion to relocate to smaller communities.

The agenda for the day was as follows:

- i. **Welcome Session**
 - Mayor's Welcome
 - Labour Market Overview - Chris Garwood, Economic Development Supervisor
 - Settlement Services – Mike Simpson, YMCA
 - Real Estate Services – Gail Bouw
- ii. **Lunch** – Callahan's Beach House - Port Dover
- iii. **Employer Visit:** Burning Kiln Winery and Long Point Eco Adventures
- iv. **Employer Visit:** Unilever - www.unilever.ca

Job search can be a very long and energy-draining process and we are very thankful to our partners in Norfolk County who made this day a total success.

Below is a note received from clients:

In summary, it was an awesome trip - exposure to the business opportunities mostly in agricultural sector of the economy, a visit to a winery and visit to Unilever - ice cream making factory. The trip was also an excellent opportunity to increase network connections with the region and with other newcomers.

The trip was perfectly organized, you and other contacts amazingly helpful and coordination was excellent including the driver.

Another participant said,

Thank you for taking the time and sharing your expertise, kindness, and knowledge and for caring about your community. Thank you for showing us what a beautiful place Norfolk County is. It would take someone with a pioneer spirit, courage, and strength to make a move into unknown territory. However, after experiencing your welcome, I can't imagine why anyone would not jump on the Norfolk County bandwagon.