

Local program on jobs launched

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The program provides opportunities for unemployed workers to receive training for new careers with the development commission and the city's social support services department acting as liaison with area industries as well as helping with placements.

"The program opens the door to additional employment opportunities for both employers and workers," said Teresa Piruzza, executive director of social support services for the city.

"We receive funding from the province which is designed to help workers reintegrate into the workforce and we provide employers with some of that funding for training assistance," said Piruzza. "The workers, when hired, are then paid directly by the individual companies."

A number of area companies have indicated an interest in becoming part of the program, including Bonduelle Canada Inc., a Tecumseh-based food processor which hires roughly 800 seasonal workers during peak periods.

"We've been working hard for increased support," said Art Williams, human resources manager for Bonduelle. "We're pleased with the efforts of the commission because they played an essential role in orchestrating the partnership and making the program possible for us."

Remo Mancini, board chairman and acting CEO of the development commission, called it a "win-win partnership. It enhances training and employment opportunities and it helps area companies hire and train workers more competitively," said Mancini.

Piruzza said the positions available include openings for skilled workers and managers in addition to general labourers.

"They are certainly not all entry-level positions," said Piruzza. "And what makes this work, in addition to the funding, are the contacts which the development commission has with prospective employers and the co-operation we're getting from those employers."