



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEDIA RELEASE
**CITY OF STRATFORD SUPPORTING
LOCAL EMPLOYEES AS SEARS CANADA
PLANS TO CLOSE STORES**

Stratford's Available Employment Opportunity Options for Sears Canada Employees

Stratford, ON – October 12, 2017... Today the **City of Stratford** offered encouragement and options for Stratford's **Sears Canada** employees seeking new employment after the National retailer announced it was closing all its remaining stores. In a press release issued by Sears Canada on Tuesday, Oct. 10, the department store announced that it plans to liquidate all its remaining goods and assets, pending court approval and both the Municipality and its Economic Development team are reminding Sears Canada employees of available area employment service options.

investStratford CEO Joani Gerber stated *"We are disappointed that Sears Canada, a long-time employer, plans to close. Supporting employees and the retail ecosystem in Stratford will be a priority in the weeks and months to come."* In addition to having multiple employment opportunities, Stratford offers a range of employment assistance services for residents.

Stratford Mayor Dan Mathieson said *"In 1953, Sears Canada opened its first Canadian Bricks and Mortar location right here in Stratford. It has since played an important role in our community and employed many over its 65-year history. The news of the closing is deeply disappointing and I sympathize greatly for the many employees facing the challenge of finding new employment. The loss of this retailer is significant but I'm hopeful that Stratford's wide range of employment support services will help them transition into new and rewarding jobs."*

Employment Services available in Stratford, Ontario:

In addition to several locally based, independent employment agencies, interested individuals can contact federally and provincially funded Employment Resource Services such as **Partners in Employment, The Conestoga Career Centre** and **The Centre for Employment and Learning**. Details below.

Conestoga Career Centre* www.conestogac.on.ca/caa/careercentre/

519-885-0300 ext. 5226 or 519-748-3535 or 1-877-748-3535 130 Young St, Stratford, ON
waterloocareercentre@conestogac.on.ca

The Conestoga Career Centre is a one stop for career direction, individual employment supports and self-employment. Conestoga Career Centre staff and resources are available at no cost to the public.

Partners in Employment* www.partnersinemployment.on.ca

519.272.1946 75 Waterloo Street Suite 201, Stratford, ON, N5A 7B2
pie@partnersinemployment.on.ca

Partners in Employment is a not-for-profit organization that assists people in Huron and Perth Counties to find and keep employment.

The Centre for Employment and Learning* www.thecentreforemploymentandlearning.ca

519.271.4896 220 Oakdale Avenue, Stratford, Ontario N5A 7W2

The Centres for Employment & Learning provide learning opportunities with a focus on employment.

**Employment Ontario programs funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.*

Service Canada Centre www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/html

1 800-622-6232 61 Lorne Avenue #2, Stratford, ON N5A 6S4

Service Canada is a federal institution that is part of Employment and Social Development Canada. Service Canada provides Canadians with a single point of access to a wide range of government services and benefits. We are committed to improving services for Canadians by working with partners to provide access to the full range of government services and benefits that Canadians want and need through the Internet, by telephone, in person or by mail.

Employment assistance websites are offered by:

Employment Ontario www.ontario.ca/page/employment-ontario

Ontario Works www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/programs/social/ow/

Opportunity Lives Here: www.opportunityliveshere.ca

About investStratford

investStratford is the brand of the City of Stratford's Economic Development Corporation. We are committed to advancing the economic future of Stratford, Ontario, Canada through investment in arts, education and industry. Globally Connected | Community Driven

For further information contact:

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