



News Release

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BRANTFORD JOBLESS RATE REMAINS STABLE

BRANTFORD (Nov. 7, 2014) – Brantford’s unemployment rate was unchanged in October, while Canada’s jobless rate dropped to the lowest level in six years.

October’s local seasonally adjusted jobless rate was 6.7%, according to Statistics Canada figures released Friday.

Canada’s unemployment rate fell to 6.5%, as 43,000 jobs were created across the country. Ontario’s rate was also 6.5%, as it led the country with 37,000 new jobs.

“We’ve seen several months where the unemployment rate in Brantford has been at or near 6.7%, showing a fairly stable job market, which is a good thing” said Jill Halyk, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie. “We’ve also heard from employers that they are looking to hire, and confidence among businesses appears to be increasing.”

Halyk said the new Canada-Ontario Job Grant, which helps employers upgrade the skills of employees by providing dollars for training, may help boost business confidence further. Companies who commit to hire and train new employees are also eligible for the grant. Online applications are now being accepted for the Canada-Ontario Job Grant, which locally is administered by Employment Ontario service agencies.

While Brantford’s jobless rate remained unchanged in October, the number of people employed and active in the labour force grew slightly, putting a stop to a downward trend.

BrantJobs posted 438 jobs in October, up 10% from the same month in 2013. More than half the jobs posted by BrantJobs in the last year were full-time positions.

The Workforce Planning Board has just released its 2014 Local Labour Market Plan, called [Forging Skills for Today and Tomorrow](#). The plan outlines a series of community actions to help jobseekers prepare for the job market and help employers source the employees they need. Copies of *Forging Skills* can be found on the organization’s website.

[BrantJobs](#) is a service of the City of Brantford and County of Brant, providing a broad range of employment solutions to local employers and job seekers. The [Workforce Planning Board](#) is one of 25 non-profit organizations in Ontario that play a leadership role in labour force planning.