

Amazon picks Caledon for new fulfillment centre?

Written By **SCOTT TAYLOR**

Amazon.com is coming to Caledon.

Amazon announced Wednesday plans for a new fulfillment centre in the Town of Caledon. The 1-million square-foot facility will create more than 800 full-time jobs with comprehensive benefits and join Amazon's network of existing Ontario sites in Brampton, Mississauga, Milton and a recently announced facility in Ottawa. This will be Amazon's sixth fulfillment centre in Ontario, where it currently employs more than 2,000 full-time associates, and the ninth facility in Canada.

"We continue to be excited about our growth in Ontario and the opportunity to better serve our customers in the region," said Glenn Sommerville, Director of Amazon Operations in Canada in a release. "We're seeing an incredible workforce and community support in Greater Toronto. It makes us proud to add a new fulfillment centre to better meet customer demand while creating more than 800 full-time jobs with great pay and benefits to support the local economy."

Associates at this facility will pick, pack, and ship small items to customers such as books, electronics and toys. The Caledon fulfillment centre together with the new facility in Ottawa will bring more than 1,400 new jobs to Ontario by the end of 2019.

"Caledon is the ideal home for Amazon's latest Canadian expansion. I'm so pleased to welcome this world-class, leading edge and customer focused organization to our community," said Caledon Mayor Allan Thompson. "The creation of good paying, stable, long term jobs will bolster our local economy and positively impact Caledon's future sustainability."

Full-time employees at Amazon receive competitive hourly wages, medical, vision and dental coverage, a group RRSP plan, stock awards, and performance-based bonuses starting on day one. Amazon also offers employees access to innovative programs like Career Choice, where it will pre-pay up to 95 per cent of tuition for courses related to in-demand fields, regardless of whether the skills are relevant to a career at Amazon. Since the program's launch, more than 16,000 employees across the globe have pursued degrees in game design and visual communications, nursing, IT programming and radiology, to name a few.

"It was great news to hear that Amazon is opening another fulfillment centre in Ontario. This is a wonderful opportunity for Bolton and Ontario," said Jim Wilson, Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "The centre will create 800 full-time jobs for the community and grow our economy. Ontario is open for business, and the PC Government is committed to creating good jobs for Ontario families. I look forward to working with Amazon in the future."

Local MP David Tilson said the arrival of the Amazon fulfillment centre is "terrific news for Caledon. As the Member of Parliament for Dufferin-Caledon, I support Amazon's expansion into Caledon which will not only create jobs for the construction of the facility, but will create 800 new full-time jobs for Caledon and economic benefits for the community at large."

In total, Amazon employs more than 6,000 people working at fulfillment centres, corporate offices, development centres, and other facilities throughout Canada in Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, and Quebec.