

# The Standard

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POSTMEDIA

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## Migrant workers clinic needs doctors

GRANT LAFLECHE  
STANDARD STAFF

In a small room in the basement of a Beamsville church, the lives of hundreds of seasonal workers from Niagara's agriculture sector are being changed one Sunday at a time.

For the past three weeks, Spanish-speaking workers from Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala have been able to visit the newly established triage clinic at St. Alban's Anglican Church to speak to a doctor in their own language.

If they need further medical help, or need to fill a prescription, a translator is on hand to help them.

"As far as I know, this is a first for Ontario," said Michael Hahn, who is organizing the clinic at the church.

Hahn said getting medical sup-

port for Niagara's seasonal workers has always been tricky. Aside from a language barrier, workers are often reluctant to seek medical help out of fear of losing wages or not being rehired in the following season.

"It really depends on their particular employer," Hahn said. "Some are really good. Others are not. And when someone who gets sick doesn't come back the next season, that sends a message."

"These men and women are making around \$11 an hour, which is much more than they can make back home. They depend on these jobs."

The clinic at St. Alban's, which runs every Sunday, is designed to give the workers access to a doctor and nurse for basic medical care when they aren't working.

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GRANT LAFLECHE/STANDARD STAFF

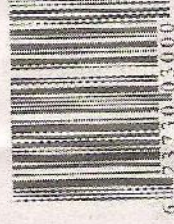
Dr. Jennifer Conners and RPN Manuel Flores at the new triage clinic at St. Alban's Anglican Church in Beamsville.

infilling meeting held at the same time Thursday at the library.

"The infilling meeting was a public meeting of city council, where as the parking one was put on by the downtown association," said Sendzik who attended the meeting at the library with five other councillors. "The infilling issue is something council is dealing with right now. On the parking issue, the final report isn't coming before council until March or April, so there is a longer horizon for it."

Polocro said she was unable to reschedule the meeting at Market Square but had hoped a few councillors would have taken the time to join the meeting.

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