



The Employment Journey

News You Can Use

On Prince Edward Island

Pathway to a career in Early Childhood Education on PEI

by Stacy Dunn



On January 1, 2024, the Canada-Prince Edward Island Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement brought fees for regulated child care to \$10 a day per child in designated Early Years Centres.

Jennifer Nangreaves, Executive Director of the **Early Childhood Development Association of PEI (ECDA)**, says this announcement will enhance their mandate to help recruit Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and provide professional development and resources.

“As the federal and provincial governments work together to expand and meet the needs of Island families, we see there is a need for more spaces, and these spaces will need more qualified Early Childhood Educators. The ECDA is being strategic to plan for the need for qualified staff to fill these spaces.”

One program that has led to successful recruitment is **Steps to Success**. Launched in 2020, this training program initially helped build up the ECE sector’s substitute list. When Holland College and Collège de l’Île developed specialized learning opportunities for Island ECEs to upskill their education, the ECDA recognized a need and evolved the Steps to Success program to provide staffing support for Island centres whose current educators were applying to return to school.

“We saw this as an opportunity to evolve Steps to Success into a program to support licensed PEI centres staff,” says **Megan Drummond**, Coordinator of Special Projects for ECDA. “We recruit individuals who are interested in early childhood education, place them in job opportunities at early years centres, and then we register them in the introductory post-secondary courses.

“Participants take the three introductory courses to earn the first level of certification. They are eligible to take the Accelerated ECE programs at Holland College or Collège de l’Île after receiving their Early Childhood Intern certificate.”

Steps to Success participants get training in the Early Learning and Child Care Act and Regulations and the PEI Early Learning Framework, plus the learning through play philosophy that says play is the basis for learning in all children. Participants also receive a stipend while in this program.

“Some participants have told us this program was their second chance at a career,” Megan says. “It is a great pathway for someone who wants to change careers and has always been interested in working with children. We help them find job experiences right away, and we help them register for their college courses. Those things can be a little daunting when you first enter the field.”

In the first cohort of Steps to Success, 92 percent of participants were hired after completing the program. In the second cohort, there was an 88 percent employment success rate.

“There is a long waiting list for the accelerated programs,” Jennifer says. “They gain work experience while they wait to be accepted into these programs.

“We want to make the pathway to become an ECE as easy as possible to enter, whether it’s from high school or later in life.”

Substitute list

ECDA offers a ‘one-stop shop’ substitute list which the centres can access. “Retired people or people who have a flexible shedule would be good candidates for this list,” Megan says.

“We have heard from Bachelor of Education students who are interested in substituting but had a challenge finding First Aid training. We are looking into providing that training to substitutes because First Aid is a major requirement at early years centres.”

Megan and Jennifer encourage people interested in volunteering at a centre to call ECDA to find out what centres are accepting volunteers and the steps they must follow to volunteer.

The wage grid

In the past two years, the Department of Education and Early Years increased ECEs’ wages by 54 percent. “We talk to the career development classes at high schools and the students want to know how much money they are going to make,” Jennifer says. “The wage grid has been an effective recruitment tool that we are proud to show people.”

“We commend the dedication of the provincial government to recognize how essential early childhood education is, and they worked hard to make sure ECEs receive a livable wage,” Megan says.

“It also shows they value education for children by diploma-qualified staff,” Jennifer adds.



From left, Megan Drummond and Jennifer Nangreaves, Early Childhood Development Association of PEI. ECDA offers 80 to 100 hours of professional development a year.

For more information about this profession, contact **Jennifer Nangreaves** at **902-368-0070** or email jennifer.nangreaves@ecdaofpei.ca

Check out career opportunities at www.ecdaofpei.ca/educators/careers/openings.php

Check out the substitute list at www.ecdaofpei.ca/educators/careers/substitute.php

To view the wage grid of those working in this field, visit www.employmentjourney.com/early-childhood-education/

Steps to Success is funded by the Department of Workforce, Advanced Learning, and Population.



The positive effect of mentorship

by Gloria Welton

MentorAbility is now available on the Island. This national program is coordinated by the Canadian Association of Supported Employment, which has locations in each province through a partner hub.

The partner hub for PEI is ResourceAbilities. **Mark Cameron** manages this two-year pilot program.

The program focuses on short mentorships, from an hour to a day in length, to help people experiencing barriers explore their career interests. It is a chance to learn more about what is involved in a job you may like to do and get more information and answers to your questions. You can also have more than one mentorship experience.

Amy Doyle is the MentorAbility Coordinator for Prince County and Queens County. She is excited to be part of the program, which helps people experiencing a disability to overcome barriers to employment and see the possibilities that are out there in a career they are passionate about.

"A career is not just about the job you have, but it is the way you live your best life and connect with your community. I want all Islanders to have equitable access to career opportunities that inspire them. I invite you to contact me as a job seeker or an employer interested in becoming a Mentee/Mentor."

To connect with Amy, email **MentorWest@ResourceAbilities.ca**
Her office is located at 201 Wyatt Crescent, Summerside.

Ellie Beck is the MentorAbility Coordinator for Kings and Queens County. "I have previous experience serving the public as a Resident Care Worker at Gillis Lodge, Riverview Manor, and Inclusions East.

"Kindness and teamwork are at the heart of what I do, and I am passionate about helping others. I invite you to contact me as a job seeker or an employer interested in becoming a Mentee/Mentor."

Ellie can be reached at **902-838-4743** or **MentorEast@ResourceAbilities.ca**
Her office is located at 25 Queens Road, Montague.

About the MentorAbility program

The program is based on the belief that everyone deserves a chance to thrive in the workforce, regardless of any barriers they may face.

Potential mentees could be experiencing barriers such as limited work experience, addiction, mental health issues, injury, narrow view of options, and other difficulties holding them back from full participation in society, including employment.

Mentees are referred to MentorAbility through partner agencies such as ResourceAbilities, Career Development Services, Tremploy, and others. A person can also contact Amy or Ellie directly to start the process.



Amy Doyle is the Coordinator for Prince County and Queens County.
Submitted photo.



Ellie Beck, MentorAbility Coordinator for Kings and Queens County.
Submitted photo.

"Mentors could be employers in the community who want to provide a quality short-term mentorship opportunity," says Amy. "Mentorships can be in-person or virtual, and employers are not required to offer employment, but just to answer questions about the nature of their work."

"Employers benefit from the program because they may gain access to a pool of potential candidates," says Ellie. "In other provinces, people have been hired after meeting a mentor."

For more about the national **MentorAbility** program, visit **www.supportedemployment.ca/initiatives/mentorability/**

For more about the MentorAbility-PEI program, visit **www.facebook.com/mentorabilitypei**

For the complete article, visit **www.employmentjourney.com** and search the article title.



New location for Career Development Services in West Prince

by Ruby Arsenault, Employment Coach/Facilitator with Tignish Employment Resources (ER) Centre

Career Development Services (CDS) in West Prince has moved to a more central location to better serve clients. The new office is directly off the main highway in recently constructed office space close to Mill River Resort.

"The improved visibility and accessibility have made it easy for people to find us, and that shows in the increase in our resource centre numbers and our overall visits," says **Dean Getson**, Program Coordinator, CDS PEI.

Dean has been Program Coordinator for about a year and supports CDS staff in all five offices across the Island. In order to do that, it is important for him to keep up to date on training opportunities, wage subsidies, group-based training initiatives, and more.

He no longer meets with clients one-on-one and admits that has been a big change after almost 20 years, but says "having an opportunity to assist our exceptional staff on a daily basis is very rewarding."

Staff at CDS in West Prince

Jackie Stewart – Site Manager/Career Development Practitioner
Katie Wedge – Career Development Practitioner
Michelle Arsenault – Career Development Practitioner/Career Counsellor in Training
Nicole Deagle – Administrative Assistant
Dean Getson – Program Coordinator

About CDS

Career Development Services (CDS) is a confidential and welcoming place where you can:

- Search for a new job and prepare for job interviews
- Get help with your resumé and cover letter
- Learn about different careers and the local labour market
- Explore training and funding opportunities
- Discover your skills and abilities

For more information, visit the new CDS West Prince location at 52 MacKenzie Crescent, Woodstock, PEI.
Email: **westprince@cdspei.ca** Call: **902-859-2776** Website: **www.cdspei.ca**
For the complete article, visit **www.employmentjourney.com** and search the article title.



CDS West Prince staff, from left (standing) Katie Wedge, Jackie Stewart, Nicole Deagle, and Dean Getson (seated).



Michelle Arsenault is the newest staff member.

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Civilian employment opportunities with the RCMP

by Heidi Riley

“The RCMP has more than 29,000 employees across the country, including police officers and civilians who support operations,” says **Corporal Ellen Peters**, the Pro-active Recruiter for RCMP on PEI.

“RCMP Civilian Members, Public Service Employees, and RCMP Police Officers work closely together in most offices/detachments across the country.”

Some civilian career opportunities as a Public Service Employee with the RCMP:

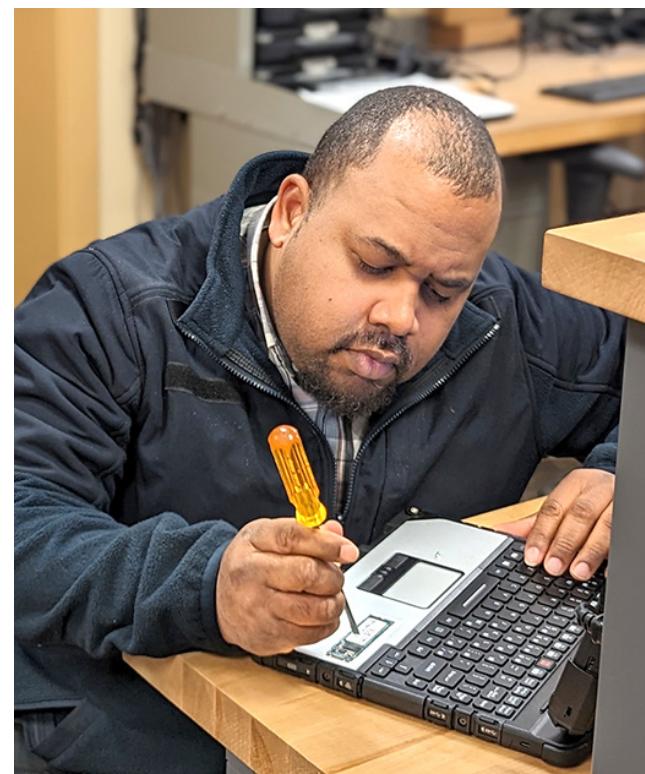
- 911 Telecoms Operator/Dispatcher
- IT roles
- Major Crime Unit Administrative Assistant
- Administrative Support
- Information management
- Strategic Planner
- Court Liaison/Assistant/Detachment Services Assistant
- Remote work opportunities

Mike Gallant, Digital Informatics Officer, talked about digital-based jobs at PEI's RCMP "L" Division IMIT unit.

- There are approximately 15 staff in various units covering IT operations and radio support for officers.
- Staff have a wide variety of backgrounds and education, from community college to master's degrees.
- Information management looks after electronic administrative and operational records.
- There will be future opportunities in data analytics and statistical-based reporting.
- “In the coming year, Officers will be using body cameras, and our unit will be supporting the security and storage of that data.”
- Momentum is gaining on the move to cloud-based offerings and desktop virtualization.
- National IMIT opportunities include Computer Support Managers, Team Leads, Digital Evidence Specialists who gather evidence from computers and cell phones, Project Managers, Software Developers, and more.

Requirements for civilian employment with the RCMP differ, depending upon the security clearance needed for a particular job. Some jobs require permanent residency status for security reasons. “When you apply, we can work with you, and if it is deemed you can move forward, you will,” says Cpl. Peters.

“If there is a learning disability or a language barrier, I am here to support people with their applications.” She emphasizes she is able to support applicants throughout the process.



Leroy Curry, Technologist in Infrastructure Operations and Electronics. Submitted photo.

To apply for RCMP police officer or civilian jobs, start by visiting www.jobs.gc.ca

To find out more about a career with the RCMP, email **Corporal Ellen Peters** at ldiv_recruiting@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or call or text her at **782-377-7146**.

Visit www.rcmp-grc.ca/en/careers

For the complete article, visit www.employmentjourney.com and search the article title.



Employment opportunities with the Canadian Coast Guard

by Heidi Riley

The **Canadian Coast Guard (CCG)** owns and operates the federal government's civilian fleet and provides key maritime services to Canadians. It is responsible for services and programs that contribute to the safety, security, and accessibility of Canada's waterways.

CCG has 114 vessels, 23 helicopters, 17,000 fixed floating aids for navigation, and 183 marine communication towers. Across the country, 4,500 members work around the clock to protect Canada's coastline.

They monitor 1,233 vessel movements each day across the country, thanks to highly skilled Marine Communications and Traffic Services Officers and Integrated Technical Services personnel. They also prevent threats to Canada's marine environment and lead the response to pollution events from coast to coast to coast.

CCG offers many seagoing and shore-based careers that can lead to postings across the country, even in the Arctic. Many seagoing positions can provide the necessary education, training and experience that can lead to shore-based positions.

Career titles include, but are not limited to, Engineers, Welders, Machinists, Technicians, Carpenters, and Electricians, who maintain and repair equipment systems on shore.

CCG operates in four regions in Canada: Atlantic, Central, Arctic, and Western. CCG Atlantic Region has 183 shore-based positions and 1,300 sea-going personnel. Some of the work is outside, and some require travel.

Some of the varied positions are outside and/or on the water, such as Environmental Response, Search and Rescue, and Marine Communications & Traffic Services Icebreaking. Some examples of on-shore positions are in Marine Engineering and Electronics & Informatics.

The Canadian Coast Guard College in Cape Breton trains officers for CCG vessels. The four-year Officer Training Program produces Marine Engineering Officers and Marine Navigation Officers. Study includes classroom learning, simulation, practical training, and time at sea. Students receive paid education and a monthly allowance.

Programs to help students find job opportunities with the Canadian Coast Guard:

- **Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP)** Explore hundreds of career paths and thousands of jobs that the Government has to offer across the country.
- **Post-Secondary Co-op/Internship Program** offers hands-on experience, a diverse and inclusive workplace, and a way to kick-start a meaningful career.
- **Inshore Rescue Boat (IRB) Student Program** crew members work on the water during the summer. They help mariners in distress or in need of assistance via a Joint Rescue Coordination Centre or a Maritime Rescue Sub-Centre. Operations can occur at any time of the day or night during all types of weather and sea conditions.



“Currently, CCG is running a national recruitment campaign. It is looking to fill priority positions such as Cooks, Engine Room staff, MCTS officers, Stewards, and Storekeepers.”

For a list of job opportunities, visit www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/careers-carrieres/index-eng.html

For the complete article, visit www.employmentjourney.com and search the article title.



Fresh Media: Celebrating 21 years of helping businesses succeed

by Heidi Riley

Fresh Media is a marketing agency in Charlottetown focused on branding, digital marketing, and campaigns.

Melody Dover launched Fresh Media in 2003. "When I started, my goal was to use my creative skills to help other small businesses," says Melody. "We are in the business of helping other businesses."

Melody grew up in the world of entrepreneurship. Her father had a construction company, and her mom was a schoolteacher turned entrepreneur. They also owned several tourism businesses. That business background rubbed off on Melody.

"From the time I was seven, I was cleaning hotel rooms, and I picked raspberries and made jam to sell to tourists when I was about 10."

She planned to become a professional illustrator, and took the Visual Communications program at Holland College, graduating in 1995. She lived in Yellowknife for three years and learned how to do editorial layout.

Back on PEI, she continued freelancing, illustrating children's books and working at The Eastern Graphic. Then she went on to take the Interactive Multimedia program at Holland College.

"In 2003, there were a handful of agencies on the Island, and none of them were hiring. I had the choice of leaving the Island or creating the place I wanted to work at every day." Two weeks after she graduated, she registered her new company, Fresh Media. She already had three clients.

She hired her first three employees in 2006, and her husband Rob, also a Graphic Designer, came on board as well. The business continued to grow, and by 2010, there were 11 staff members.

"Running a business is all about learning, resilience, and adapting to change. Over the years, we have extended our services with more video and other types of production, audio, and social media. We have evolved, because it is our job to understand new aspects of marketing and how it can benefit our clients."

The company has branched into doing more consulting to help audit and streamline clients' social media, digital profile or brand positioning, give direction, and develop programs for a new service or product launch.

Another reason for the business focus shift has come about because Melody has been living with chronic pain as a result of two car accidents. She has had to change her work life, and has scaled down the business to four team members.

In addition to Melody and Rob, there is also a Programmer and a Digital Account Manager. A few people are hired on contract when required.

In 2011, the company launched PEI Burger Love, a very successful annual campaign promoting Island beef and Island restaurants.

Since 2019, the campaign's Give Back Burger fundraising component has been a benefit for Anderson House, a local family violence prevention service. This year, Anderson House took the lead on the campaign and changed the model to a full fundraising event.



Melody Dover, President and Creative Director, Fresh Media. "Clients may come to us when they are at a crossroads and need guidance for their marketing," says Melody. "We believe in the power of 'what if?' We see opportunities, not challenges. We want to help them take the next step towards the success of their business."

"We hope that later in 2024 there will be the potential to hire someone," says Melody. "It depends on business volume. There is an ebb and flow with every business. Ups and downs are part of the journey."

For more information, contact **Melody Dover** at **902-367-3233** or **melody@freshmedia.ca**

Visit **www.freshmedia.ca**

For the complete article, visit **www.employmentjourney.com** and search the article title.



Next Level Group: staffing solutions

by Stacy Dunn

Next Level Group Staffing & Consulting Agency (NLG) supports employers across Canada and the US in connecting with permanent or temporary staffing solutions. They also welcome job candidates who want to grow their careers or move to new positions.

Andrew Lavoie, President of NLG, says his company, which has been in business for 12 years, helps employers find people with the following skills: Office and Business Administration, Accounting, and Finance.

"Our focus has been on director-level, managerial and supervisor-level jobs in the professional services sector within the Maritimes," he says. "We also help employers with recruiting in the manufacturing sector, automation, warehousing, logistics, and the skilled trades."

NLG also offers a payroll service for employers in Eastern Canada. "This service provides a valuable option for employers, enabling them to place individuals on a 12-month contract.

"Subsequently, if there is an immediate opportunity for the individual to extend their contract or to be hired permanently by the employer, the process is seamlessly facilitated."

The recruitment firm has recently welcomed two new internal staff members and is actively engaged in the interview process with another potential employee.

Concurrently, two individuals from NLG transitioned to roles in Human Resources within large corporations. "It's beneficial for them to seize such opportunities and advance along their desired career path," Andrew says.

"People working with recruitment firms enjoy long-term employment or consider the position a steppingstone to Human Resources."

According to Andrew, a career in recruiting is fulfilling, requiring a blend of skills resembling an Olympic athlete, a psychologist, and a sales professional.

"Success in this field hinges on qualities such as compassion, persistence, and the ability to navigate challenges without succumbing to negativity.

"You are helping employers become more proactive rather than reactive in the job market. It's rewarding to see them reach their end goal."

Andrew says his company is always hiring Recruiters. "I like to hire Recruiters who pay attention to detail and are strong communicators and even better listeners. They need to be curious and continually learning, and not scared of having phone conversations."

Job seekers and employers looking for staff may contact **Andrew Lavoie, Next Level Group**, at **1-888-404-9990 ext. 501** or **902-940-2220**.

Email **AndrewL@nlgrp.com** Visit **www.nlgrp.com**

For the complete article, visit **www.employmentjourney.com** and search the article title.



Andrew Lavoie, President of Next Level Group. Submitted photo.



Physiotherapist talks about her journey to her dream career

by Gloria Welton

Jenny Campbell, from Charlottetown, wanted to be a Physiotherapist from a young age. She now works in the profession full-time at **Charlottetown Physiotherapy**, the clinic where she got her first real exposure to the career six years ago.

“It is tough for youth to make career decisions,” says Jenny. “By the time you hit high school, you need to know what direction you want to take. When I was in high school, I thought about what courses can open or close doors for me going on to post-secondary learning.”

Jenny’s career direction came from her childhood experiences in gymnastics. She was always interested in learning more about how our bodies move and adapt to the demands of sports and challenging everyday tasks.

“As a kid, I was always helping my parents with household chores, raking the neighbours’ lawns, and shovelling snow. Helping others was always a part of who I am and gave me happiness in the process.

“I wanted to combine my interest in human movement, my desire to help others, and my pursuit of an active lifestyle, into one career. That led me to thinking about physiotherapy.

“At Queen Charlotte Intermediate School, one class that stood out to me centered around career exploration. We filled out a survey that provided a few career suggestions suiting our interests, and physiotherapy came up for me.

“Before graduating from high school, I applied to the UPEI Kinesiology Program. My first exposure to physio came when my boyfriend needed physiotherapy. He encouraged me to come with him to physio because he knew I was interested in the occupation.

“At Charlottetown Physiotherapy, we met with **Kent Crosby**, co-owner and Physiotherapist. I asked questions, mentioned I was interested in working in this field, and asked if they offered volunteer opportunities. The clinic was not taking volunteers at the time, but he offered me the opportunity to talk with the staff and job shadow.

“That way, I could have my questions answered and observe the day-to-day routine of this occupation. I jumped at that opportunity and came in every week to shadow each Physiotherapist. The unique thing about this clinic is that each Physiotherapist has their own specialty, so I was exposed to a diverse range of injuries and conditions.

“That experience led me to working with them part-time during the school year, and full-time in the summers. I was there from 3:30 in the afternoons until about 6:30, two or three times a week throughout my four-year undergraduate degree.

“From my time at Charlottetown Physiotherapy, I earned over 40 volunteer hours that were required for entry into my master’s program. During the summers, I got even more experience and learned all the aspects of being a Physiotherapy Assistant.”

At the same time, Jenny also coached gymnastics three times a week. “It was a busy time, but I wouldn’t trade it for the world, because it landed me where I am now at Charlottetown Physiotherapy.”

In 2020, she graduated from UPEI and was accepted to three physiotherapy schools: Dalhousie University, University of Toronto, and Western University.

“Even at a young age when I was so interested in this field, Dalhousie was always in the forefront of my research because of its great reputation for their physiotherapy program.”

During the two-year master’s program, one of her clinical placements was with Charlottetown Physiotherapy. During her placement, she worked with **Randy Goodman**, who is one of only five Physiotherapists in Canada to receive the distinction of ‘Clinical Specialist in Sports Physiotherapy’ by the Canadian Physiotherapy Association.

Jenny also worked with **Tom Crowell**, co-owner, and founder of the clinic. He specializes in orthopedic and sports medicine rehabilitation, with a primary interest in acute and chronic orthopedic conditions.



Jenny Campbell, BScKin, MScPT, works at Charlottetown Physiotherapy. She earned a Bachelor of Science with a major in Kinesiology at UPEI and went on to graduate from Dalhousie’s School of MSc Physiotherapy program. *Submitted photo*

When she graduated, she was offered a job at Charlottetown Physiotherapy. “Collectively, our staff provides vestibular, pelvic floor, custom orthotic/bracing, neurological, pediatric, aquatic therapy, general orthopedic, concussion, sport rehab, and acupuncture/dry needling services.

“When a client comes to me, I can go to each physiotherapist to ask questions and gain from their expertise and clinical experience. For instance, if I have a client experiencing dizziness, we have a physio, **Shelley Mokler-Clark**, who specializes in balance, vestibular, and neurological rehabilitation. It is very impressive to see clients going from the worst of the worst, to overcoming their symptoms and returning to their day-to-day lifestyle.”

Now, Jenny is deciding which specialty of physiotherapy to focus on. “I am interested in achieving my sports certification. There are various levels in the certification process, each of which can allow you to work with athletes provincially, nationally, and internationally. I enjoy working with athletes and getting them back to optimal performance.

“I also have a strong interest in working in rehabilitation with those living with cancer. Not a lot of cancer-specific physiotherapy rehabilitation is offered on PEI. I would like to get specialized training in this area with an end goal of starting a cancer rehab program through this clinic.”

Advice for those interested in this field

“I would advise people to put themselves out there, ask questions, and seek out job shadowing experiences in areas you are passionate about. My initial questions opened doors for me. It is important to see all aspects of the work to get the full picture, which will help you with your career decisions. Don’t limit yourself by not exploring all the available options.

“Looking back, I would have also liked to experience a hospital setting during my volunteering. Reaching out to see if you can do some job shadowing with a physiotherapist at a hospital will help to understand the broad scope of this career.”

Jenny says she and her boyfriend back then are still together. “He jokes that he is the one who got me this job and to a certain degree that is true. I am so happy with the way it all worked out. I’m grateful to have come back to the clinic I was first exposed to, and to work in a profession that I am so passionate about and that has a very bright future.”

For a list of all the **Physiotherapists** on PEI, visit www.peicpt.com/cpt-members

For the complete article, visit www.employmentjourney.com and search the article title.



Baker's business success with family recipes is on the rise

by Stacy Dunn

The cinnamon buns are a hit at **Willow Bakery & Cafe** in Kensington, and Owner/Baker **Jocelyn Thorwaldson** has her grandmother to thank for this success.

"That's her recipe, and most of the bakery's goods are made from family recipes," she says.

Success has brought with it more staff, especially in the summer months, as well as a kiosk at Prince County Hospital.

The business opened in March 2020, just as COVID-19 pandemic restrictions were put in place. "It made the first few months interesting because a lot of businesses were shutting down due to the pandemic.

"We stayed open because we had put so much money into the business," Jocelyn says. "The community really supported us well."

Staff numbers have grown from two in March 2020 to 12 year-round at present. In the busy summer months, the staff increases to 19. Staff titles include Early Morning Bakers, Middy Bakers, Baristas, Lunch Cooks, and a Manager.

When hiring, she looks for people who show a keen interest in the bakery business.

Jocelyn hired her manager once she displayed a passion for and a good knowledge of how a bakery operates.

When opening her business, Jocelyn received support from **CBDC Central PEI** and **Futurpreneur**, a funding support program for entrepreneurs aged 18 to 39.

"Not only did they help me seek funding for our business, but they were good at giving us information as well," she says.

Jocelyn says being an entrepreneur is a challenge. "There is a new problem to solve almost every day. The pandemic especially taught me how to be adaptable. Everything that could have gone wrong in 2020 did go wrong. It helped me grow my business."

For more information about **Willow Bakery & Cafe**, visit them on Facebook. Call **902-303-5127**.

CBDC PEI locations include **CBDC Central PEI** in Summerside, **CBDC PEI East** in Montague, and **CBDC West Prince Ventures Ltd.** in Alberton. Visit www.cbdc.ca

Futurpreneur Canada provides pre-launch coaching, start-up financing, mentorship, and resources for entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 and 39.

Visit www.futurpreneur.ca

For the complete article, visit www.employmentjourney.com and search the article title.



Jocelyn Thorwaldson, Owner/Baker of Willow Bakery & Cafe in Kensington.

Volunteer opportunities with Junior Achievement PEI

by Heidi Riley

Junior Achievement (JA) works with teachers and students of different grade levels to provide experiences in entrepreneurship, financial health, and/or work readiness.

Elementary students learn the basics about money. High school students explore the process of creating a business, from the initial creative idea, start-up, running the business, to the final liquidation.

"We are always looking for volunteers to help out with our programs," says **Virginia Johnson**, Senior Manager, Programs and Community Engagement with JAPEI.

Most volunteer opportunities are in-school during school hours. Opportunities are available in classrooms from grade 3 to high school levels across PEI.

The most important experience and skills needed include strong written and oral communication, comfort speaking to and interacting with large groups of students, and a passion for working with youth and facilitating presentations.

Volunteer opportunities are available throughout the school year. A typical delivery is three, one-hour visits. A one-time half-day delivery is also an option. There are also mentorship or guest speaker opportunities.



"All delivery materials are prepared for you. There is a script to follow, and all resources and materials are given to you, but of course you can also talk about your own business experience."

For more information, contact **Virginia Johnson** at **902-892-6066** or email vjohnson@japei.org

Visit www.jacanada.org/pei

For the complete article, visit www.employmentjourney.com and search the article title.

Opportunities for youth to build employability skills or volunteer

by Heidi Riley

Katimavik, is a Canadian youth development charitable organization. More than 37,000 young adults have participated in their programs.

Katimavik has two programs for youth: National Experience builds life skills, and FuturePerfect builds employability skills. Both programs are for Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or landed refugees:

The National Experience Program is an opportunity for diverse young adults ages 17 to 25 to discover two Canadian communities. During this 5.5-month program, they do volunteer work, engage in Truth learning and active Reconciliation, and develop competencies related to civic engagement, employability, and self-determination.

There is no cost to participate. Included in the program is accommodation, transportation, meals, and group activities and excursions, along with a \$25 weekly allowance.

"The **FuturePerfect Program** helps participants 19 to 30 years old develop employability skills," says **Marissa Ireland**, Participant Recruitment Officer. "It is a great option for recent graduates to add to their resumé and make some extra money."

The three-month program places participants in a host community. Participants live in a Katimavik household with other participants from across Canada.

Participants are paid at least minimum wage plus \$2 per hour. Accommodation and travel expenses to and from the host community are covered. Food, personal expenses, and cellphone costs are not covered.

For more information, call **Katimavik's** participant recruitment team at **514-868-0898** or email recruitment@katimavik.org

Visit www.katimavik.org

For the complete article, visit www.employmentjourney.com and search the article title.



Submitted photo.

Skills Canada PEI Competitions help youth make career connections

by Ethan Paquet

Skills Canada PEI is the provincial branch of Skills Canada, a non-profit organization that works with government, industry, and educational institutions to encourage youth to consider careers in technology and the skilled trades.

Each year, their provincial skills competitions allow talented Island high school and post-secondary students and apprentices to demonstrate their skills in front of companies, industry leaders, and other professionals.

"These competitions help students discover career paths they may never have otherwise considered, and students also make valuable connections with employers and industry leaders in that field," says **Tawna MacLeod**, Executive Director.

In 2024, Skills Canada PEI will hold 32 competitions in 25 categories, including:

- Carpentry
- Welding
- Automotive Technology
- Workplace Safety
- Refrigeration
- Electrical Wiring
- Architectural Technology
- Industrial Control
- CNC Machining
- Precision Machining
- Mechatronics
- Robotics
- Electronics
- Outdoor Power Equipment
- Cooking
- Job Search
- Job Skill Demonstration
- Prepared Speech
- Hairstyling
- Aesthetics
- Graphics Design
- 2D Animation
- 3D Game Art
- Video Production
- Photography

Competitors are judged by a panel of industry representatives related to each category. The gold medal winners earn a spot on Team PEI, which represents the province at the national competitions in Quebec in June.



Skills Canada competitions. Submitted photo.

In preparation, they are paired with a mentor who helps them develop their skills for the next round of competitions.

"Our events draw in many employers, and we often hear that teachers get calls from employers who ask about the students who competed," says Tawna.

For more information about **Skills Canada PEI** and the provincial competitions, visit www.skillscanada.pe.ca

Teachers and youth organizations wanting to schedule a presentation about careers in technology and the skilled trades can contact **Tawna MacLeod**, Executive Director at **902-626-9307** or tmacleod@hollandcollege.com.

For the complete article, visit www.employmentjourney.com and search the article title.



New Holland College wellness centre will support students and staff

by Ethan Paquet

In September 2024, **Holland College** will open a centre that will offer students and staff timely access to health and wellness support and services.

The **Centre for Student Success and Wellness** will be a centralized location for a range of services, including mental health supports, a health clinic, academic support services, and career and academic counselling. There will also be a focus on healthy living, emphasizing the importance of sleep, diet, exercise, and social interaction.

"We want to provide an integrated, supportive environment so our students can grow in our community and lead healthy, empowered, and productive lives," says **Dr. Alexander (Sandy) MacDonald**, Holland College President. "We also want to ensure that our staff and their families have access to the appropriate health and wellness supports they require."

"If you come to work or learn at our college, we will have a unique approach to supporting your health needs, both physical and mental. We will also help our students achieve their academic needs. We want to ensure that our students develop the resilience that will help them thrive on entering the labour market."

"We have seen the need for our support services grow significantly over the past several years. As a first step towards meeting this escalating demand, in 2021, we hired a Nurse Practitioner. This past year we also hired a Registered Nurse as well as a Career Counsellor to help students make a successful transition to the labour market."

The new centre will be housed in Charlottetown on the Prince of Wales Campus. The Holland College President says students and staff at campuses across the Island will be able to access the centre's services.

"We will be using the latest e-health technology to reach those in need at our campuses in Georgetown, Alberton and Summerside. As well, staff will travel to each location to help enhance the services they have now."

For college staff, the centre will offer immediate support in areas such as physical health and mental health including stress, anxiety, burnout and more.

The expansion is expected to cost \$5.9 million. The provincial government has committed \$2.4 million toward the capital cost of the project. The Holland College Foundation through the Thrive Campaign has a goal of raising \$2.5 million. The money raised will also help supplement bursaries and awards for students living with learning disabilities or mental health issues.



(L-R) Kent Scales, Chair, Holland College Foundation; Dr. Alexander (Sandy) MacDonald, President, Holland College; Hon. Jenn Redmond, Minister of Workforce, Advanced Learning and Population; and Chrystil Baytos, Holland College Student Union Board of Directors. Submitted photo

"By establishing this centre and these services, we are confident our graduates will develop the resilience they need to thrive post-graduation, and our staff will find the support they need to create a healthy, innovative learning environment."

For more information about the **Centre for Student Success and Wellness**, visit www.hollandcollege.com/foundation/centre-for-student-success-and-wellness.html

For the complete article, visit www.employmentjourney.com and search the article title.



Job Fair season is here

by Gloria Welton

This time of the year is when job fairs are being planned.

The best approach to make sure you know when and where job fairs are happening and how to prepare for them is to connect with a Career Development Professional (CDP).

They can help you research the companies attending the job fairs so you will know which ones you want to speak with.

Also, you can get help to make sure your resumé is up to date and ready to pass on to a potential employer.

CDPs work in many settings across the Island, such as in post-secondary institutions and in employment assistance agencies.

The best starting place is Career Development Services, which has employment services offices across the Island.

Call or drop in at a location close to you:

Charlottetown: 160 Belvedere Avenue
902-626-2014 - chtown@cdspei.ca

Summerside: 674 Water St. E.
902-436-0706 - sside@cdspei.ca

West Prince: 52 MacKenzie Crescent, Woodstock
902-859-2776 - westprince@cdspei.ca

Montague: 500 Main Street (Down East Mall)
902-838-5453 - montague@cdspei.ca

Souris: 75 Main Street (Souris Mall, upstairs)
902-687-1526 - souris@cdspei.ca

Visit the CDS website: www.cdspei.ca



Jobs Fairs scheduled to date

2024 Charlottetown Tourism Job Fair -
March 16, 2024, 11 am – 3 pm at Delta Prince Edward by Marriott.
Visit www.tiapei.pe.ca/job-fair/

Jobs Canada Fair Career Fair and Training Expo -
March 21, 1 pm to 4 pm at Eastlink Centre.
Visit www.jobscanadafair.com/princewardislandjobfair/

2024 UPEI Summer Job & Career Fair -
March 13, 2024, 10:00 am at W.A. Murphy Student Centre.

Keep an eye out for **2024 SkillsPEI Job Fairs** to be announced,
Visit www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/skillspei

Tourism hiring is ramping up for the busy summer season

by Heidi Riley

Delta Hotels by Marriott Prince Edward on the waterfront in Charlottetown has 211 guest rooms and includes amenities such as two restaurants, a fitness centre, wellness spa, indoor pool, meeting and event spaces, dry cleaning service, laundry, room service, daily housekeeping, and more.



Summer work opportunities include Front Desk Agents, Bell Persons, Restaurant Servers, Bartenders, Banquet Servers or Supervisors, Cooks, and Stewards (Dishwashers).

"Summer positions begin to be advertised in February and March," says **Morgane Merrien**, HR Generalist. "Start dates could be at the beginning of March or later, and ramp up until the busiest time in summer. The bulk of the hiring is in mid-March."

Applications must be made online.

Visit <https://jobs.marriott.com>

The QR code is a direct link to the careers page:



For the full article, visit

www.employmentjourney.com
and search the article title.



Some programs offered through SkillsPEI

The following information is employment supports for students, employers, organizations, and those wanting to start self-employment.

Self Employ PEI is an employment program developed to help job seekers who want to launch their own business. This program provides financial support and business counselling to new entrepreneurs during their first year of operation. SkillsPEI offers Self Employ PEI information sessions for interested job seekers to find out more about the program.

Applicants must not have started the operation of the proposed business prior to submitting an application for the program.

For more information, call:

Charlottetown: 902-368-6290

Summerside: 902-438-4151

Montague: 902-838-0674

West Prince: 902-859-8898



Graduate Mentorship Program - for Employers is a program developed to help employers create full-time employment opportunities for unemployed recent post-secondary graduates in their field of study. Employers who would like to hire a recent post-secondary graduate who lacks the work experience necessary for the position can receive a subsidy up to 50 percent of the wages for 52 weeks. At the end of the wage subsidy, the employee should be fully productive and contributing to the success of the business.

For more information, call **SkillsPEI** at **1-877-491-4766**.

Employ PEI is a program to help job seekers develop new skills and gain work experience through on-the-job training. By providing a temporary wage subsidy to an employer, it helps create long term employment opportunities and assists the employer with the cost of hiring and training a new employee.

Job seekers must apply directly to the employer. The employer will interview and select a candidate for the position. If selected, the employer will submit an application to SkillsPEI requesting a temporary wage subsidy to hire you.

SkillsPEI will contact the job seeker to discuss the next steps, which will include meeting with a case manager to complete a needs assessment and develop a Return-To-Work Action Plan.

To find out more about the program as you look for work, contact **SkillsPEI** at **1-877-491-4766**.



PEI employers who hire students during summer may qualify for the employee wage subsidy offered through two separate student employment programs:

- **Jobs for Youth Program**, administered through the Employment Development Agency (EDA), supports students aged 15 to 29 working 8 to 12 weeks during the summer. Students must be returning to school in the fall.
- **Post-Secondary Student Program**, administered through SkillsPEI, supports full-time post-secondary students working a minimum of 12 to a maximum of 18 weeks during the summer. Students must be entering or returning to full-time post-secondary studies in the fall.

Applications for both programs will open in **February 2024**.

For more information about the **Post-Secondary Program**, contact **SkillsPEI** at **1-877-491-4766**.

For more information about the **Jobs for Youth Program**, contact:

Summerside, Elliot Deighan,
eldeighan@gov.pe.ca, 902-888-8032

Charlottetown, Rachel Birt,
rbirt@gov.pe.ca, 902-620-3676

Montague, Daryl Macdonald,
dgmacdonald@gov.pe.ca, 902-838-0652

