

The News You Can Use Employment Journey On Prince Edward Island

Top tips to successfully plan a career path and search for work on PEI

by Gloria Welton

Career planning has many aspects, and one part of the process is the job search.

Below are some tips to manage your career and your job search and information about how to connect with professionals in the community who can help.

Consider your talents, interests, values, education, training, and what work (paid or volunteer) you have done in the past.

Whether you are in high school, post-secondary, looking for a career change, returning to the workforce or looking for work in your chosen field, it is important to spend time developing a profile of who you are and what you have done. This will give you a better idea of what interests you and what steps to take next in managing your career path.

Meet with a Career Development Professional who can talk with you about your interests, help you sort through some of your ideas, and give you more options to consider. They can also help you with every career step along the way.

To connect with a Career Development Professional, drop in or contact agencies such as **Career Development Services**:

- Montague 902-838-5453
- Souris 902-687-1526
- Charlottetown 902-626-2014
- West Prince 902-859-2776
- Summerside 902-436-0706

Visit www.cdspei.ca

An effective resumé will help you take a look at what you have done and can guide you towards many aspects of career planning.

Preparing a resumé tells you a lot about who you are, what you have done, and what other interests you might have.

Putting it all on paper profiles your education, work (volunteered or paid), interests and abilities, awards, your contacts in the community, and more.

Whether you are looking for work, going back to school, applying for scholarships, doing volunteer or co-op work, an effective resumé is necessary.

It should clearly show how your education, abilities, and experience fit with what you are applying for.

When meeting with a Career Development Professional, take your resumé with you so they can give you more suggestions or ask them to help you develop a resumé.



It is important to be aware of employers you are interested in working for either now or in the future or industries you are interested in exploring.

To further narrow down some areas of interest, there are a few approaches to take.

Full-time, part-time, or seasonal work can provide an income while building your skills and giving you alternatives for the future. The Employment Journey website has a page that lists all the websites that list jobs available on PEI. Check out all the PEI Job Opportunities that are advertised.

It is important to be aware of all your options. Our website has information on close to 40 industries on PEI. Take a look and see if anything jumps out at you.

Job shadowing, short-term training, co-ops, or internships with an employer can give you food for thought for your future. Connect with **SkillsPEI** to explore what options are available to help you connect with employers and industries. They can also explain your financial options for continuing your education.

To connect with **SkillsPEI**, call 1-877- 491- 4766. Visit www.skillspei.com

WorkPEI is a one-stop website that lists jobs available on PEI. You can upload your resumé for employers to view. And there is a monthly **Job Listings Report** page which gives you an overview of the types of employment that are advertised on their website and what occupations are in high demand. Visit www.workpei.ca

Volunteering is a great way to build your resumé, explore career choices, and even find work. Check out the volunteer options on our website.

Talking with people you know who work in areas that interest you and getting information about their employer is a great way to explore your options.

Build on your knowledge of employers in your community by checking out Chambers of Commerce across the Island. You can do some research on their members, look for networking opportunities, and discover services available to help with the job search and to research a business startup.

Connect with employers or industry leaders to request a meeting.

Calling or emailing employers and/or industry leaders to ask to meet with them is a great way to get your questions answered. This is called an Informational Interview and this method works.

It is a chance to find out more about the company or industry and the pathways employees took. It is also an opportunity to give the interviewer your resumé in person, and to find out when they tend to hire and the qualifications they look for.

Often, people get hired on the spot because they connect at the right time. It is also very effective in determining your next step and building your network of people who can help. For more information on informational interviews, visit www.employmentjourney.com

Career planning is a life-long journey

No matter what stage you are at in your career path there is always another step. It can get frustrating, confusing, or discouraging, but rest assured there are professionals in your community who are there to help, such as a Career Development Professional.

Looking for work can be a very challenging and stressful experience. Look for people who will encourage you and be sure to encourage others along the way who may be looking for work.

If there are other obstacles in the way and you don't know who can help, the 211 system can give you the guidance you need. 211 PEI is a navigation service that quickly connects Islanders to critical human, social, community, and government services across PEI. Call 211, visit www.pe.211.ca, text 211 or email help@pe.211.ca 

For upcoming events such as **Job Fairs** and **Top tips to successfully plan a career path and search for work on PEI**, visit www.employmentjourney.com

Becoming part of the “Parkie” family

submitted by Nancy Clement, Partnering, Engagement and Communications Officer, PEI Field Unit, Parks Canada.

This is the third in a series of interviews with “Parkies” (Parks Canada employees) working on PEI.

Meet Mike Ford, Visitor Facilities Team Leader, Parks Canada

What led you to apply for a position at Parks Canada?

For years I had worked in an outside environment, but for the 10 years since then I was working inside. I enjoy the outdoors, so I thought, why not? I applied for a position, and as luck would have it, COVID-19 forced me to take a layoff from my job at the time. Shortly thereafter I was offered a position with Parks Canada.

How was your experience with Parks Canada during your first year?

When I started with Parks, I had a lot of questions and had to make a lot of calls to one of the senior employees. Not once did he ever make me feel inferior and always helped me with whatever I needed.

How did your experience complement or support your studies or your career path?

I had never considered working with Parks as a career, but wow has my mind changed. Since I started with Parks two years ago, I have met some great people who have been so supportive and encouraging. Supervisors have encouraged me to apply for positions when they become available and offer me the opportunity to temporarily fill positions to gain experience.

What positions have you worked in so far?

I've worked as a Visitor Facilities Attendant and Visitor Facilities Team Leader.

How is your experience different now that you have been with Parks Canada for a couple of years?

My days vary greatly, from time at my desk doing office work to running to pick up supplies. I could be cleaning bathrooms, collecting garbage, or packing wood. I do anything that needs to get done. I always say I would never ask any of the team to do anything I wouldn't, so I just jump in and try to lend a hand whenever it is needed.

The Visitor Facilities Team Leader position was something very new to me, doing office work instead of just being out in the field. I had various supervisors throughout the summer, and each one supported me and gave me their time when I needed it. My supervisors are great!

Are there any challenges? And how have you overcome them?

Right now, my challenge is office work. Specifically, computer work! I am an old school, fill out a paper kind of guy, and now technology has taken over and I've had to learn to use computers. So it has been a learning process, but I am getting better.

Out in the field, the challenge is that I cannot please every visitor or accommodate every student as much as I want to and as much as I try. But I do the best I can, so at the end of the day, I'm OK with that.

What is the best thing about working for Parks Canada?

The people!! Being a “Parkie” was something I never heard of, but I'm quite proud of it now. People just help!

Tell me about your most memorable day!

Likely the day I said yes to a permanent year-round position with Parks. To be honest, I love getting up each day and heading to work.



Mike Ford, Visitor Facilities Team Leader, Parks Canada.
Submitted photo.

Would you encourage a friend to apply at Parks Canada, and if so, why?

Yes! Working here is like finding an extended family you didn't know you had! I now know why they say “find a job you love and you'll never have to work a day in your life.” I only wish I would have found Parks Canada sooner!

For a list of open positions, keep your eye on parks.canada.ca/pei-jobs, check out **GC Jobs**, or follow the official Facebook sites for **PEI National Park** or **Green Gables Heritage Place**.

For more information, email rhipe-peih@pc.gc.ca



Student internships at a renewable energy organization can lead to long-term employment

by Ethan Paquet

Wind Energy Institute of Canada
Institut de l'énergie éolienne du Canada



The **Wind Energy Institute of Canada (WEICAN)** is a non-profit organization dedicated to testing, innovating, and advancing wind energy across Canada. Their research facility in North Cape PEI has five wind turbines, a solar array, and a battery energy storage system.

“North Cape is extremely windy, and we have ocean exposure, hot summers, cold winters, and ice,” says **Marianne Rodgers**, Scientific Director. “This diversity allows us to be a leader of research in Canada.”

WEICAN currently employs 12 full-time staff and four interns. The internships allow them to support the future talent of the industry by providing hands-on experience, Marianne says.

“Students and interns working with us gain a wide range of experience that will help them to launch their careers in the renewable energy industry.”

“For example, one student from Saint Mary's University in Halifax worked a summer placement with us while completing her Bachelor of Science degree, and she published two research papers during her time with us.”

“Another student who took Electrical Engineering at the University of Regina worked with us for one year, and immediately got a job after graduating.”

For more information about the **Wind Energy Institute of Canada (WEICAN)**, visit www.weican.ca/home



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

Find a long-lasting career in tourism and hospitality

by Ethan Paquet

Marriott International is one of the world's largest hotel chains. Their **Delta Hotels Prince Edward** on the waterfront in Charlottetown has over 200 guest rooms and includes amenities such as a fitness centre, spa, indoor pool, meeting spaces, dry cleaning service, laundry, room service, daily housekeeping, and more.

“Right now we are looking to staff up for the summer,” says **Bethany Kauzlarick**, Director of Human Resources.

“Some key positions we are hiring for include Guest Service Agents, Room Attendants, Cooks, Stewards, Banquet and Restaurant Service Workers, and Bell Persons.”

Employees have access to a daily staff meal, dry cleaning for work uniforms at no cost, and discounted underground parking. “We also offer employee assistance programs for our part-time and full-time staff, and health benefits and pension for our full-time staff.”

As part of Marriott International, employees have access to free, accessible online training courses and a rewards program to recognize long-term employees.

The Hotel Internship Program provides 10-week paid internships to students.

The 12-month Voyage Leadership Program includes collaboration, learning business skills, on-the-job training, and management experience.

“If you are looking for an internship, or if you find something else you may be interested in, apply right away, and check regularly for new opportunities.”

For more information, visit <https://jobs.marriott.com>

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



Bethany Kauzlarick, Director of Human Resources, Delta Hotels Prince Edward.
Submitted photo.

Red Seal Plumber starts his own business in rural PEI

by Stella Shepard

Daniel Grant of Valleyfield grew up in rural PEI with a strong desire to work and live in his community.

Daniel graduated from the plumbing program at the Holland College Georgetown Centre in 2017 and earned a Red Seal certificate in 2020.

After five years of working in the trade, he recently launched a business called **Clearwater Plumbing**, which offers residential plumbing services and renovations. At some point, he plans to expand to plumbing new homes and specializing in water pumps, filtration, and treatment.

"When I started in the trade as an apprentice, everything I learned was second hand from trade mentors," says Daniel. "I noticed a transition, where I was learning less from other people's experience and more from my own firsthand experience."

"Rather than asking for help or advice, I found myself trying to figure things out for myself. I realized if I wanted to continue growing as a tradesman, I would have to start my own business."

Self-employment allows Daniel to work in rural PEI where he lives with his wife and their two young children. "My dad was a millwright and travelled extensively throughout North America with his job," says Daniel. "It inspired me to work in the trades and to work independently."

"I didn't like the travelling aspect of employment, and I chose plumbing as a way to earn a comfortable wage while staying in my rural community. I wanted a career in the trades without having to work off-Island."

Hiring needs

"I will hire as my business grows," says Daniel. "I plan to hire an apprentice to assist me once I'm not so busy with starting the business. I feel I can accomplish more with an extra set of hands."

"In the future, I would like to employ another journeyman plumber because I can't be in two places at once and it's difficult to balance scheduled work with emergency work."

"Plumbers have a hard time keeping up with the workload, customers have a hard time getting a plumber, and we are always going to need plumbers. Plumbing offers a wide range of career opportunities and employment is high for graduates of the Holland College Georgetown Centre plumbing program."

Pathway to self-employment

"As I became confident in my plumbing skills and knowledge, I decided it was time to become self-employed," says Daniel. "I have the adaptability to overcome obstacles and I am confident in my ability to manage jobs, people, inventory, and time."

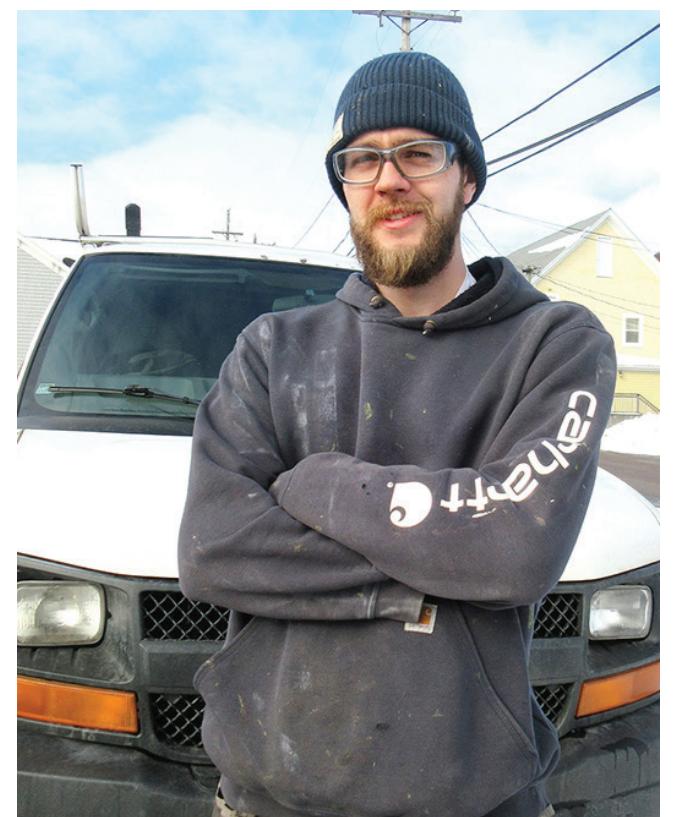
"I believed I could provide more value to myself, family, and customers if I were a plumbing business owner. I knew very little about business so I set out to learn. The Atlantic Trades Business Seal program taught me the skills I needed to start and operate a trades business."

Community Business Development Corporation East (CBDC), located at the **Rural Action Centre** on Main Street in Montague, assists in creating small businesses and in expanding and modernizing existing business.

CBDC East is staffed by **Martina MacDonald**, Director, **Helen Antle**, CBDC Officer, and **Terri Taylor**, Accounts Officer.

CBDC East provides financial and technical services to entrepreneurs. Services target entrepreneurs who require customized financing not ordinarily available from traditional sources.

"CBDC East provided a start-up loan that allowed me to purchase tools, a van, and inventory," says Daniel. "The Successful Business Basics course offered through CBDC East helped with finishing my business plan."



Daniel Grant, age 24, recently launched a business called Clearwater Plumbing. He is busy growing the business and recruiting new customers.

"CBDC East helps with networking and connecting with people and helped make it possible to start my own business. If I need to, I can contact the staff and ask questions."

"I would recommend the services provided by CBDC East because they are much more willing to help and they want to see people in the community succeed."

For more about **CBDC East**, visit www.cbdc.ca

For more information about **Clearwater Plumbing** contact **Daniel Grant** at 902-969-7245 or email info@clearwaterplumbingpei.com

Visit www.facebook.com/clearwaterplumbingpei/



Many paid and volunteer opportunities with the UPEI Student Union

by Stella Shepard and Heidi Riley

The UPEI Student Union is a not-for-profit organization that represents full-time students at UPEI.

"Our main roles are advocacy, providing services to students including a health and dental insurance plan, clubs and societies, student funding, campus patrol and safe drive program, student handbooks, events and campaigns, Fox & Crow restaurant, and wet/dry dances," says **Melissa Morrow**, General Manager, UPEI Student Union' who is one of the five paid full-time staff.

"All full-time students are eligible to run for a position," says **Anthonia Bebiem**, VP Student Life. Paid positions include President of the Student Union, VP Academic and External, VP Student Life, and VP of Finance & Administration.

There are also paid roles for students available in Academic, Policy & Research, Events & Campaigns, Services, and Marketing.



Paid positions as Servers, Bartenders, and Security are also available at Fox & Crow, the restaurant/pub on campus.

Other paid positions are available at The Cadre student newspaper, the yearbook, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the council, and more.

Paid student jobs are posted at www.upeisu.ca/jobs

The UPEISU hosts a variety of different events, campaigns, and workshops which are only possible to carry out effectively with the help of volunteers.

For more information about volunteering with the **UPEI Student Union**, visit www.upeisu.ca/volunteer

For the full article, visit www.employmentjourney.com and search the article name.



Melissa Morrow, General Manager, UPEI Student Union. Submitted photo.

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A unique program offers support to gain marketable and transferrable skills

by Gloria Welton

Tremploy is now in the second cohort of an internationally recognized work skills development program called **Project SEARCH**. This project is taking place at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The program assists youth with intellectual disabilities aged 18 to 25 to gain meaningful work skills and hands-on experience as they transition from high school to the labour force.

The program is offered at no cost to eligible applicants, with funding support from SkillsPEI.

"We approached Dr. Michael Gardam, Chief Executive Officer at Health PEI, and Terry Campbell, Administrator for QEH, to explore their interest in a partnership. It took some time to work out the details, and SkillsPEI immediately recognized the opportunity and came through with the funding, allowing us to start the first cohort in early 2022," says **Joel Dennis**, Tremploy's Executive Director.

"The leadership and staff at QEH have been incredibly welcoming and supportive of the program."

"The nine-month program places students in a sector or a site where they could explore a number of internships to make sure the area they choose is a good fit for their skills, interests, abilities, preference, physical abilities, and so on," says **Bruce Cluney**, Tremploy's Business Development Officer.

From the initial pilot of six interns, three have secured employment. One individual is currently working at a senior's residence in nutrition services. A second individual is on the casual list for Environmental Services within several locations throughout Health PEI. And the third person is working customer service at a local retail location.

Meet the Project SEARCH team at QEH

The seven participants from across the Island in the present cohort of the program started in October 2022.

"It is amazing to see each person grow from the start of the program to where they are now," says **Helen Frizzell**, Instructor. "Many people struggle with deciding on a career, especially when they are young. It takes trying different areas out, learning what works better, and having support all along the way."

"I was hired as a Job Skills Coach to assist interns within their departments, provide support in the classroom, and network with the department heads to develop new internships throughout the hospital," says **Chloe Trevors**. "We are getting great response and support from the staff of Health PEI."



Colin from Charlottetown is interning in dialysis and pharmacy. "I love doing the computer work and stacking supplies on the shelves properly and in order. In the pharmacy, I am responsible for separating the long strips of medications that are returned to the pharmacy when the patient is discharged."

"Colin is a very organized person, so this area of work really fits his skills and interests," says Chloe. "He is reliable and focused, and if you leave him with a task, it will be done to perfection. Also, he follows the workplace rules well."



Seabille is from Summerside. Her internships are in ambulatory and respiratory care. She takes the bus from Summerside to get to the QEH. "Part of Seabille's role in ambulatory care is to be at a nursing station and be responsible for some clerical paperwork," says Chloe. "She makes sure the pantry in the area is stocked up. She also sanitizes and cleans the waiting areas. In the afternoon when patients

come into the respiratory area, she directs them to the waiting room they are to go to. She loves the social part of her work and keeping things organized."

Samuel from York Point has a placement at the Cancer Treatment Centre. Chloe says he has greatly improved his social skills with his coworkers and demonstrates an excellent work ethic. "The Cancer Treatment Manager has acknowledged his work by creating a new work list for him to help him stay busy during his daily work routine."

There will be an Open House for Project SEARCH on April 13 at the West Royalty Community Centre from 7 pm to 8 pm. All are welcome to attend.



Thomas from Charlottetown loves his placement in materials management. Part of his job is to prepare for inventory taking. Thomas really enjoys working in this department as he gets to use the pallet jacks and help unload orders from the trucks.

Logan from Morell is enjoying his internship in nutrition services. He sometimes takes the bus to get to the QEH. "He learned to take the bus independently since starting the program," says Helen. "I do whatever they need me to get done," says Logan.

Jacob from Charlottetown is based in Environmental Services. "My job is to clean around the hospital in areas such as the sanitation centres, the ATM, and the chairs and tables at various entry points to the hospital. I love being here because I care about people."

Beonka lives in Stratford and her current internship is in the emergency room. "I heard about this program through my teachers and my mom." The program has helped Beonka mature. "She has even begun to set goals for her own growth and her confidence has grown immensely," says Chloe.

There are still openings for the next **Project SEARCH** cohort scheduled to start in September 2023. For more information, contact **Helen Frizzell** at **902-626-8353** or **learn@projectsearchpei.com**

For more about **Tremploy** and their services, call **902-892-5338** or visit **www.tremploy.com**



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

Career Bridges recognizes Ukrainian participants' successes

by Stacy Dunn

For the first time in **Career Bridges'** 45-plus-year history, the career planning service integrated Canadian citizens, temporary work permit holders, and permanent residents into one cohort. Most participants were from Ukraine, which has been devastated by war since February 2022.

Career Bridges and **Immigrant and Refugee Services Association PEI (IRSA PEI)** partnered on this idea, and SkillsPEI agreed to support this cohort. The 12-week program is designed to help those looking to re-enter the workforce, make a career change, or just find a helping hand.

During the recent closing ceremony of this Career Bridges cohort, Program Coordinator **Bruce Cluney** marvelled at the participants' stories.

"I am privileged and blessed to have been with the participants in the program as they go on their journey," says Bruce. "It's not lost on me the challenges you have experienced, from learning a new language, navigating a new city, and taking this program while being distracted by the news from home."

"Employers at your job placements had great things to say about you. I congratulate those who found jobs right away and I am encouraged that those who are still looking for work will find something soon."

Bruce thanked SkillsPEI, IRSA PEI, and Career Development Services (CDS) for making this integrated group possible.

"This partnership is so important," he says. "You are with Career Bridges for 12 weeks, and when you finish here, your relationship with SkillsPEI, IRSA, and CDS continues on."

For more information, contact a **Career Bridges** office:

Charlottetown **902-566-2811**
Summerside **902-436-5739**
O'Leary **902-726-3016**
Montague **902-566-2811**



From left, Elina Lialiuk, Kate Kaidanova, and Andrii (Andrew) Zaichuk are Ukrainians who recently participated in Career Bridges in Charlottetown.

Visit **www.careerbridges.pe.ca**

For details about the participants' stories, visit **www.employmentjourney.com** and search the article title.



Residential construction update 2023

by Stacy Dunn

The **Canadian Home Builders Association-PEI**, is hoping that offering more training programs and using other ways to attract new entrants to construction will improve the shortage of workers in that industry.

"We have a strong focus on training in energy efficient builds," says **Alicia Packwood**, Executive Officer. "We offered training last year in partnership with efficiencyPEI, and over 50 builders and students from trades programs participated."

CHBA-PEI is working to certify residential construction workers so that more Net Zero homes can be built. It is helping in the long certification process by offering step-by-step resources and removing barriers to the cost of training.

Atlantic Canada recorded a steady increase in housing starts in 2022. In 2022, the construction industry on PEI had a total of 6,383 workers. Of those on the residential side, 2,033 workers were building new houses, 620 were renovating homes, while 349 did maintenance.

However, the labour shortage in residential construction remains a challenge across PEI. An estimated 940 workers, or 14 percent of the current labour force, are expected to retire in the next few years.

"The industry cannot afford to lose these workers," Alicia says. "We are working on how we can replace all these people."

She says many low or no cost training programs and on-the-job training opportunities are available, but there are not enough people to fill the gaps.

A BuildForce report says in the next five years, employers will be competing even more to hire Construction Managers, Carpenters, Electricians, Plumbers, Drywallers, Painters and General Labourers. For example, BuildForce estimates that 189 certified Carpenters and 531 new entrants into carpentry will be needed.

The industry is looking at new ways to attract workers. Some CHBA-PEI members are working with immigration services to bring people to the province, and other members are using word-of-mouth, asking workers, friends, or family members if they know of someone.

"The industry is seeing more people taking on construction as a second career," she says. "Employers are becoming more open to training on the job and may take on someone who hasn't developed a specific skill set but is willing to learn."

The association has a job board on its website to help members list their employment opportunities.



For more information about a career in residential construction or to connect with a CHBA-PEI member, contact **Alicia Packwood** at **902-393-2093**.

Email alicia@chba-pei.ca

Visit www.chba-pei.ca and www.chba.ca

For more about Buildforce Canada, visit www.buildforce.ca/en

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



Entrepreneur tells his story of starting a business to solve a problem

Submitted by Ceejay Amadi, Owner of Wheelie Bin Doctors

I have a story that I believe will resonate with your readers - it's the tale of how I, a young entrepreneur, started a bin cleaning business five years ago on PEI called **Wheelie Bin Doctors Inc.** Yes, you heard that right - I clean bins for a living, and I couldn't be happier about it!

Now, I know what you're thinking - "bin cleaning? How exciting can that be?" But hear me out. Starting this business has been a wild ride full of unexpected challenges and rewarding moments that have made me feel like I'm on top of the world.

I first got the idea for the business when talking to my friend, who is also an entrepreneur. We discussed how dirty and smelly the bins in my neighbourhood had become. It was a real eyesore, and I knew there had to be a demand for a service that could clean and deodorize bins. So, I did my research, bought some equipment, and launched my own bin cleaning business.

I mainly work with customers in Charlottetown, Cornwall, and Stratford. When there are enough customers, I also make trips to Summerside, Montague, Kensington, and New Glasgow. My plan is to eventually expand across the Island and have more fleets, more trucks, more trailers, and a team of staff. I also want to offer a service of education about the environment.

I won't lie, it hasn't been easy. Starting a business from scratch takes guts, determination, and a whole lot of hard work. But every time I finish a job and see the look of satisfaction on my customer's face, I know that it's all worth it.

Not only has starting the business taught me valuable lessons about entrepreneurship, but it has also given me the opportunity to connect with people in my community. I have met so many wonderful people who are passionate about keeping our environment clean and healthy. It is incredibly satisfying to know that I am doing my part to help make our community a better place to live.

If you're thinking about starting your own business, let me tell you, it's not for the faint of heart. But if you have the drive and the passion, the rewards can be endless. And who knows, you might just end up starting a business that is as fun and rewarding as Wheelie Bin Doctors.

So, if you see me driving around in my Wheelie Bin Doctors truck, don't be shy - give me a wave and say hello. You never know, I might just be the bin cleaning hero you've been looking for!

For more information, call **902-314-7747**.

Email info@wheeliebindoctors.com

Visit www.wheeliebindoctors.com/



Ceejay Amadi, Owner of Wheelie Bin Doctors Inc., is originally from Nigeria and came to PEI in 2007. He is a graduate of UPEI with a diploma in Engineering. Submitted Photos.



Finding joy in entrepreneurship

by Heidi Riley

Caley Aylward loves being a business owner. **Home by Caley Joy**, located on Water Street in Summerside, is only one of the successful business ventures she is nurturing.

Recently, the **Greater Summerside Chamber of Commerce** gave Home by Caley Joy the New Business of the Year Award. "I do this because I love it, and the only reason I am here is because of the clientele and supporters," says Caley.

Seven years ago, Caley started a photography business, focusing on capturing personal moments for couples in love, including weddings, engagements, and milestones. She also creates and captures experiential images for PEI Tourism organizations and small and large businesses to tell unique and inspiring stories.

"In 2020, most weddings were cancelled, and my tourism photography work was put on hold. I always wanted to have a little store, and I had time to build a business plan. Home by Caley Joy opened in November 2020, and since then we have doubled our inventory."

The space where the store is now is the original site of husband Sean's business, **The Humble Barber**. The barber shop, which moved to a larger spot, has since expanded to a second location in Charlottetown. In 2022, the couple also opened a seasonal waterfront beach bar called **The Knot**, which offers drinks and rents bicycles, kayaks, and paddleboards.

Caley applied and was approved for the **Self Employ PEI** program with SkillsPEI. Self Employ PEI is an employment benefit program developed to help unemployed Islanders who want to launch their own businesses. The program provides financial support and business counselling to new entrepreneurs during their first year of operation.

She was also approved for **Employ PEI**, an employment program designed to help new and existing employers with long-term employment opportunities for job seekers. An employer receives a temporary wage subsidy to provide on-the-job training for a new full-time employee.

She was also approved for **Web Presence Assistance** from Innovation PEI, which provides a non-repayable contribution to PEI businesses and local not-for-profits to assist with the creation of an online presence or to upgrade an existing website to include e-commerce.

Hiring Practices

The store has two staff members. "The people I hire need to bring something creative to the team. Because the business is small, we all need to do multiple jobs. I want you to come to me with an idea, identify something that needs to be done, and be willing to do it."

"I like when someone reaches out in person. An electronic resumé leaves me wondering who the person is. The cover letter is also important. It explains who you are, why you want to work here, why you like what I'm doing, and why you want to be part of it."

"If you are considering entrepreneurship, start small. You really have to love what you are doing, because it will take up so much of your time."



Caley Aylward, owner of Home by Caley Joy in Summerside, with her own line of candles and diffusers that she makes herself. "We are a one-stop shop for home décor, kitchen, bath & body, baby & toddler, women's apparel, photography, hand-made cards, and more," says Caley.

"If you have joy in your work, profits will follow. The Island really comes out to support their own. I can't imagine a more supportive community."

For more information about **Home by Caley Joy**, visit www.caleyjoy.shop

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



Startup Zone: helping entrepreneurs start and grow on PEI

by Heidi Riley

The **Startup Zone** accelerates new startups or existing businesses by connecting them with the space, resources and supports they need to grow.

Nooshin Abedi is the Administrative and Community Coordinator and Business Developer for the Startup Zone. She graduated from UPEI, where she studied Psychology and Business Administration.

"If you have an entrepreneur mindset and an innovative idea and don't know how to get started, I invite you to drop by the Startup Zone for a chat," says Nooshin. "We understand business problems and challenges and we can find resources that will help."

Hiring needs

The team at Startup Zone includes a CEO, an Entrepreneur in Residence, and Nooshin's role. "There will soon be a Marketing/Operations position and an Administrative Assistant position opening up for the summer to work with the Young Millionaires Program."

"We also invite entrepreneurs with a business background to visit the Startup Zone and share their experience as mentors for others."

The Startup Zone offers free workshops open to the general public to help business owners.

Currently, Startup Zone accepts applications on an on-going basis for their **Start** and **Grow** Residency programs. Both programs are non-sector specific and accept companies with innovative business ideas and high growth potential.

For more information, email nooshin@startupzone.ca

Visit www.startupzone.ca

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



BluWave-ai uses Artificial Intelligence to produce clean energy and hiring continues

by Heidi Riley

BluWave-ai was awarded a contract to advance the City of Summerside's system utility manager software to integrate a new 26-megawatt solar and battery project in 2021.



The company's focus is on green technology such as renewable energy and electric transportation.

Their solutions apply artificial intelligence (AI) cloud software to optimize the cost, carbon footprint and reliability of renewable and non-renewable energy sources.

They work with customers such as utilities, fleet operators and electricity system operators to improve their energy-related decision making to decrease costs and their carbon footprint.

The **Canadian Smart Grid AI Center of Excellence** at the City of Summerside works with Summerside's wind farm, solar array, battery storage, grid connection, and smart metering assets.

BluWave-ai is currently looking to hire Software Developers, Machine Learning Developers, Technical Sales, and Quality Assurance Testers in its Summerside office. Graduate and internship opportunities are also available.

For a list of open positions, visit www.bluwave-ai.com/careers

For the full article, visit www.employmentjourney.com and search the article name



Volunteers help make wishes come true for children who are critically ill

by Stella Shepard

Make-A-Wish Canada foundation creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. Research shows children who have wishes granted can build the physical and emotional strength they need to fight a critical illness.

"We could not grant wishes to critically ill kids if we did not have the volunteers," says **Alyssa Melnyk**, Volunteer Coordinator, Atlantic Region.

"We are committed to engaging volunteers in a meaningful way to support our mission," says Alyssa. "We equip them with the proper training so they can effectively contribute to our mission."

"Volunteering allows you to meet new people and build connections," says Alyssa. "It allows you to improve upon existing skills or develop new ones. You also get a chance to build your resumé while gaining experience."

"It is a chance to engage with your community by making a difference in a child's life while having fun."

"Volunteers help raise money through volunteering at special events and serving on fundraising committees working on granting more wishes."

"Volunteers are critical to our mission. Their time and unique talents are an essential part of bringing strength and hope to kids when they need it most."

For more information about **Make-A-Wish Canada**, visit www.makeawish.ca

Contact **Alyssa Melnyk**, at alyssa.melnyk@makeawish.ca

For the full article, visit www.employmentjourney.com and search the article name.



Alyssa Melnyk, Volunteer Engagement Coordinator Atlantic Region with Make-A-Wish Canada. Submitted photo.

Volunteer opportunities support amateur theatre on PEI

by Stella Shepard

ACT PEI is a community-based, not-for-profit association which fosters and encourages amateur theatre on PEI.

"We use our resources and connections to support individuals or groups in the performing arts on PEI," says **Umara Muhammad**, UPEI representative for ACT PEI. "If you want to get into the theatre space or have an interest in putting on your own show but are not sure how to go about it, contact us and we will do our best to help you."

"We are seeking volunteer actors, stage managers, directors, producers, set construction workers, and other traditional roles."

"Even if you don't have any experience, we would love to see more people in these roles on PEI."

"In May of 2023, we are putting on a show called **Noises Off**. We will need extra hands to help with backstage and stage activities."

In particular, ACT PEI is looking for a UPEI student representative for 2023-2024. "Even if you are not a theatre person, it's a great opportunity to see how a not-for-profit operates and how board meetings work."

"You will learn about finance management, communication, and promotion, and see how decisions are made. It looks good on your resumé to say you were a board member."

For more information about **ACT PEI**, email actproductionspei@gmail.com or visit www.actpei.com

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



Umara Muhammad, UPEI representative for ACT PEI. Submitted photo.

Community Sector Network of PEI: a strong voice for local non-profit organizations

by Stacy Dunn

The Island's non-profit sector, also known as the community sector, employs 3,350 people and had a direct economic impact of \$136 million in 2019, according to a report by the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (APEC).

About 1,700 non-profit organizations in the province provide access to critical services and programs in areas such as social services, environment, health, education, employment, arts & culture, sport & recreation, and more.

About 70 percent of people who work in this sector are women, and 65 percent of non-profit organizations on PEI are led by women.

The **Community Sector Network of PEI (CSNPEI)** has 28 members. "They represent a diverse range of interests, and we are looking for more organizations to join us in achieving our vision of a sustainable and valued community sector on PEI," says Executive Director **Alexia Riche**.

She says that joining CSNPEI provides several benefits for organizations. "Members can advocate for what matters to them and share their priorities and concerns to inform sector priorities moving forward."

"Another benefit of joining CSNPEI is the ability to post jobs, events, and volunteer opportunities on the website we are currently developing. At present, there is a lack of a centralized place where people can read about opportunities in the community sector."

"Our new website will profile the work the sector is doing and provide a wealth of governance resources, including sample policies and more."

The APEC report says there are about 53,000 volunteers on PEI. "They may volunteer for a one-time event or for longer commitments, such as sitting on boards," she says. "However, the number of volunteers has gone down significantly since COVID-19 began."

Alexia says many of those involved in the sector are planning to retire in the near future, and their organizations may not have a succession plan. "That is a gap CSNPEI has identified that needs to be worked on."

For more information on the **Community Sector Network of PEI**, visit Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn.

Contact **Alexia Riche** at Alexia@csnpei.com

For more about the **Atlantic Provinces Economic Council**, visit www.apec-econ.ca

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



Alexia Riche, Executive Director. Submitted photo.

How to follow up after a job fair

by Heidi Riley

Springtime is when job fairs tend to take place across the Island to help employers hire staff for the summer season and also for year-round work.

Some in-person job fairs have already taken place, such as the **UPEI Summer Job and Career Fair 2023** and **Tourism Job Fair Charlottetown**.

If you missed the job fair, the event host's website often includes a list of the employers who attended. Take a look at the list, do your research, and apply to those who you are interested in, because it is safe to assume they still have positions to fill.

If you attended a job fair recently and made a good impression in person by having a friendly chat, leaving your resumé and taking the recruiter's business card, what is the next step?

How can you stand out and show the employer you are still interested in working for them?

Sending a thoughtful thank-you note by email or through LinkedIn highlights your interest in the company and ensures you stick in the recruiter's mind.

What do you say to make yourself memorable?

- Keep the tone professional – refer to the recruiter by Mr. or Ms (last name)
- Keep the message simple – list the event and the date of the job fair and the jobs they were looking to fill that interest you
- Refer to something you discussed during your in-person chat
- Ask if they have filled the position(s) they were hiring for
- Say you are looking forward to hearing more about the next steps of the hiring process
- Ask if you can connect in the near future.
- Thank the recruiter for their time
- Attach your resumé

More upcoming job fairs

April 22, 1 - 3 pm – **Police and Public Service Career Fair**, Stratford Town Hall. Visit www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/even/en/e/8293

To keep an eye on employment-related events taking place across the Island, visit www.employmentjourney.com/calendar/



JOB FAIRS 2023

CHARLOTTETOWN
Tuesday, April 18th
Delta Hotels Prince Edward
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

SUMMERSIDE
Tuesday, April 25th
Credit Union Place
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Employment outlook for PEI remains strong from tip to tip

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

As an Employment Coach/Facilitator for the past 20 years, I have seen many different employment trends. Due to today's labour market trends and the end of pandemic restrictions, things are beginning to boom again and the demand for staff is very high in many if not most sectors.

Food and Beverage opportunities

With most restaurants and takeouts opened to full capacity, we see more demand for Cooks, Line Cooks, and Wait staff. Students definitely are welcomed during summer break, and employers are looking to hire skilled Kitchen Staff all year round.

Training available:

- Food Safety • Responsible Beverage Server
- Entry Level Cook

Senior care opportunities and training

Our community senior home facilities struggle to find Caregivers as well as Kitchen Staff.

FREE Care Providers training is available through Rural Community Learning Inc. Contact **Sharon Horne** at **902-853-3715**.

FREE Supportive Care Assistant training is offered by Holland College. It is a six weeks online training followed by a seven-week paid on-the-job training placement.

Early Childhood Educators in demand

With childcare becoming more affordable due to government subsidies, local learning centres struggle to fill openings for Early Childhood Educators.

For more information on becoming an Early Childhood Educator, visit

www.employmentjourney.com/more-childcare-workers-needed-as-demand-rises/

Short-term work options

Many employers are thinking outside of the box by offering jobs that may attract semi-retired or retired people to work shorter work weeks or share full-time positions.

Retail work

Retail jobs are always in demand, and many valuable skills are learned by working in this industry that can be transferred to other positions.

Grocery stores and retail businesses seek Cashiers and Sales personnel. Many local businesses advertise on their own Facebook pages, as well as on the following websites:

- www.workpei.ca
- www.cdspei.ca/jobboard/
- **Tignish ER Centre | Facebook**
- **Alberton ER Centre | Facebook**

Construction work options are plentiful

Construction is booming across the province with a huge need for Carpenters, Carpenter's Helpers, and Labourers.

Many companies offer hands-on training and competitive wages. There are also training options for youth and newcomers through the Construction Association of PEI (CAPEI).

For more information about CAPEI, visit www.capei.ca

To check many more PEI industry demands for hiring, visit www.employmentjourney.com/industries/

For more job search information:

Ruby Arsenault
Tignish ER Centre
211 Phillip Street, Tignish, PE
902-882-2498
rbyarsenault@rccli.ca



Welcome Wednesdays!

Join us to enjoy some coffee and muffins and learn more about CDS and our services!



Every Wednesday,
starting April 5 until
April 26, 2023
10:00 – 11:30am

Location:
Career Development Services,
160 Belvedere, Charlottetown

No registration
required.

We look forward
to seeing you!



During your visit, you can:

- Ask how we can assist with your employment goals
- Discover more about your skills and interests
- Learn how to stand out in the job market
- Find out where the jobs are
- Check out the job search events in our community

Muffins generously donated by:



Funded by the Department of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture through the Canada-PEI Labour Market Agreements.



WORKPLACE SKILLS SESSIONS
Free

COULD YOU BENEFIT FROM BETTER EMPLOYEE RETENTION OR BECOMING A STRONGER EMPLOYEE?

Thursday April 6
Improving Time Management
Thursday April 20
Communication in the Workplace
Thursday May 4
Learning to be Adaptable

TIME 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
PLACE CBDC Boardroom, Montague

PRESENTED BY AND IN COOPERATION WITH: TO REGISTER, CONTACT **Jacob Robar** jhrobar@gov.pe.ca 902 670 8622

Eastern PEI Chamber of Commerce Together We Grow
INSTANT IMPRINTS Charlottetown
Workplace Learning PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND