

GED graduate on a post-secondary journey to become a Correctional Officer

by Stella Shepard

Wilfred Augustine of Scotchfort graduated from the **Abegweit First Nation Adult Education** program in 2015. He earned a GED certificate, received a PEI Literacy Alliance Bursary, and was named Adult Learner of the year.

His post-secondary journey started when he enrolled in the Holland College Correctional Officer program in fall 2015. It was another outstanding achievement when he graduated in 2016.

“My wife, Sherry, along with our children and my extended family from Elsipogtog First Nation in New Brunswick were at the graduation,” says Wilfred. “Along with my friends back home on Elsipogtog, they were all very proud. It was an unforgettable graduation night, shared with the people I love.”

“I could not have done the GED program or the Correctional Officer program without the support and encouragement of Sherry. I want to be able to provide a good living for my family. They are my motivation to do well and to be successful in my chosen career.”

Wilfred Augustine, right, recently graduated from the Holland College Correctional Officer program. His cousin, Randy Milliea of Elsipogtog First Nation, is a correctional officer at a federal prison. He inspired and encouraged Wilfred to train for a rewarding career as a Correctional Officer.

The Holland College Correctional Officer program has opened the door to employment opportunities in the federal and provincial correctional facilities.

“While in the GED program, my target was a career in the law enforcement field,” says Wilfred. “Completing my GEDs was a stepping stone to a new challenge and new goals in my life.”

Wilfred completed an on-the-job-training (OJT) placement at the provincial courthouse, which generated a strong interest to work with offenders and inmates as a Sheriff.

As well, being Mi’kmaq played an important role for Wilfred during an OJT placement.

“During my OJT, there were Aboriginal offenders who I could put at ease by talking with them in what can be a stressful situation,” says Wilfred. “As well, I could speak Mi’kmaq with them if they preferred.”

“It makes a huge difference to have an Aboriginal person deal with an Aboriginal offender. It can improve the relationship between the justice system and the offenders and inmates.”

“The feedback from the OJT experience confirmed my belief that being an Aboriginal person decreased tension and made for better cooperation with Aboriginal offenders.”



“Aboriginal law enforcement workers are a source of pride within their communities, and are positive role models for young people. They can also influence the youth in their communities who are dealing with negative issues to travel down a more positive pathway in life.”

“I also want to encourage youth and adults everywhere to pursue their goals. Push through obstacles. It’s never too late. In order to succeed, you must first fail. Never give up!”

For more about the **Holland College Correctional Officer** program, visit www.hollandcollege.com/programs/correctional-officer

For more about the **Abegweit First Nation Adult Education** program, contact **Faye MacLean** of the **Mi’kmaq Confederacy** at 902-676-2353 ext. 102.

RCMP: a career in policing

Jobs: The RCMP is hiring over 3,500 new recruits over the next two years across Canada.

There are over 150 different types of jobs within the RCMP, such as forensics, dog handling, musical ride, drug investigation, and school resources. New officers hired as Constables earn \$50,674. After 36 months, the salary rises to \$82,108.

“I have been with the RCMP for 16 years and have worked all across Canada, which I see as a positive,” says **Constable Snow**. “My Dad was a Mountie as well, and I grew up living between Charlottetown and Ottawa.”

“This journey has been spiritually rewarding. I met my wife in one location I was stationed, and she has been able to be a stay-at-home mom for our two children as a result of my earnings.”

“I have had amazing training over the years, and I have been able to work in a variety of challenging jobs.”

“This is a public service job, so it is important to already be involved in your community before applying. The first step to explore this career is to attend an information session.”

For a list of scheduled information sessions, email chris.snow@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

For more information, call 902-566-8234.

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



Constable Chris P. Snow, Pro-Active Recruiting Coordinator for RCMP on PEI.



Helping to promote the hiring needs of new Chinese businesses

My name is **Jing Zhao**. Currently, I volunteer for The Employment Journey on PEI. This newspaper provides job information across PEI, and I have heard about it from many friends. I have wished to be a member of this newspaper team since then.

Now, as a volunteer, I will interview new PEI businesses owned and operated by newcomers from China, and report their job opportunities to benefit local job seekers. My goal is to build the personal inter-relationship between Chinese businesses and the local workforce.

I am an international student from China, and my major is English. I took my first two years of study at Southwest Jiaotong University in China, and then transferred to the University of Prince Edward Island in 2014.

During my two years of study, I have enjoyed my academic experience at UPEI. I have gained many valuable skills, such as time-management, critical thinking, professional writing, and public speaking. I worked hard, and all my professors at UPEI are so great, and they have given me a lot of help. I was on the Dean’s honour list and won The MacLauchlan Prize for Effective Writing in 2015.

Apart from academic study, I have worked some part-time jobs. I work as an on-campus editor in The Cadre, the UPEI student newspaper. I aim to spread Chinese culture and report news to other students. I am also an editor for the Canada & China International Business Newspaper. I translate between Chinese and English to allow Chinese immigrants to more easily understand the information.



Jing Zhao

As for volunteer experience, I am a member of Chinese Knot, the UPEI Chinese Association, and I volunteer at PEI Chinese School, teaching children Mandarin, and conveying Chinese culture. Also, I am an English as a Second Language tutor for the PEI Newcomers Association. I help other newcomers improve their English and get involved in their new country.

To check out the companies Jing interviewed, visit www.employmentjourney.com/jobs-on-pei-future-openings/

