

Three-year plan to help youth enter the construction field on PEI

by Heidi Riley

“The construction industry on PEI has seen very significant growth, which is forecast to continue over the next few years,” says **Sam Sanderson**, General Manager, **Construction Association of PEI (CAPEI)**.

“With our aging workforce, skilled tradespeople are in great demand and will be for years to come. As the need increases, we must encourage more women, youth, Indigenous peoples, and newcomers to enter this industry.”

Over the next three years, CAPEI is receiving funding from the Government of Canada through the Skills Link program called Youth in Trades to support 60 youth.

Through a Government of Prince Edward Island program called Team Construction, SkillsPEI supported 20 youth.

“On PEI, there has been an increase in the number of home, commercial, heavy construction, landscaping, renovations, and big civil projects,” says Premier **Wade MacLauchlan**.

“At least 3,700 people are directly employed in construction on PEI. The sector expanded by 9.2 percent in 2016, and that growth continues in 2017.”

Program details

Participants must be between 16 and 30, out of school, unemployed, and have barriers to employment such as non-completion of high school, identifying as a minority, housing issues, addictions, mental health struggles, or a disability.

The program, which is held in Charlottetown and Summerside, includes eight weeks of employability skills and safety training in the classroom. Participants tour Holland College training sites and construction businesses. They also receive a 14-week paid work placement in the construction industry. They are paid minimum wage for the classroom portion of the program.

One participant's story

Scott Murray was one of the participants in the Team Construction program held this summer. “I had an interest in carpentry, but it was hard to get my foot in the door,” says Scott.

“This program gave me a lot of hope. If I would not have had the opportunity to be part of this program, a lot of things would still be out of focus for me.

“I learned so many important life lessons in the program. The topics we discussed ranged from self esteem to résumé building. It was very therapeutic as well. There was a lot of healing. I'm so happy there is more funding available for this program to continue.



Scott Murray is one of the participants of the Team Construction program held in June.

“Many people I know are going to the mainland or out west for job opportunities. But I would rather not have to leave PEI. This is a great opportunity, and I really appreciate it.”

For more information about the next intake of the **Youth in Trades** program, call the **Construction Association of PEI** at **902-368-3303** to find out about upcoming information sessions.

For the full interview, visit **www.employmentjourney.com** and search **Team Construction**.



The Skills Link Youth in Trades program is a part of the Government of Canada Youth Employment Strategy and is funded by Service Canada.

The Team Construction Youth program is funded in whole or in part through the Canada/PEI Labour Market Development Agreement.

Lawyer shares his story at youth law and justice camp

by Stacy Dunn

Brandon Forbes of Campbell Lea law firm in Charlottetown spoke at a three-day Community Youth Justice Camp in August for youth ages 12 to 15.

Community Legal Information Association of PEI (CLIA) hosted the event, where 20 campers gathered in Charlottetown to play games, go on tours, and hear presentations from lawyers, the MCPEI Indigenous Justice Program, and the PEI Human Rights Commission.

Brandon has been a lawyer for 10 years. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from UPEI. Then he made a career decision. “My roommate was studying for the LSAT (the standard law school entrance exam) and I was inspired by him to consider law as a career,” he says. “Also, several people who I looked up to told me I should go to law school.”

He earned his law degree at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. Brandon's specialties are civil litigation, criminal law, and property law.

Choosing a career in law

“This camp was an excellent opportunity for youth to learn about the law profession,” says Brandon. “Anyone interested in a career in law should go to court and sit in the public gallery. By watching a trial in progress, you'll see if law is a good fit for you.”



Brandon Forbes

Hands-on experience

The camp included participation in a mock Indigenous sentencing circle and tours of the police station and the courthouse in Charlottetown. The youth even held a mock trial at the courthouse.

“The mock trial went really well. The participants prepared for it throughout the camp,” says **Eliza MacLauchlan** of CLIA. “Everyone took on a role in the court as the Crown and defence lawyers, witnesses, court services officer, member of the press or the court clerk.”

The law profession on PEI

The **Law Society of PEI's** statistics from 2015 on the law profession on PEI:

- Number of practicing lawyers: 236
- Total number of lawyers: 324 (includes non-practicing or retired)
- Number of male: 180
- Number of female: 144
- Law firms: 40 (21 percent of lawyers work in small firms having 1 to 4 lawyers and 55 percent work in larger firms)

Lawyers begin by earning an undergraduate university degree, followed by attendance at a school of law to earn a law degree.



Nick Peardon, left, summer student with the Human Rights Commission, meets with several campers from Community Youth Justice Camp, put on by Community Legal Information Association of PEI (CLIA).

This is followed by 12 months as an Articled Clerk for an established lawyer (much like an apprenticeship).

After the student has passed the Bar Admissions examination, they are admitted to the Bar as a Practicing Member of the Law Society and can work as a lawyer in the province.

For more information about **The Law Society of PEI**, visit **www.lawsocietypei.ca**

For more information about **Community Legal Information Association of PEI (CLIA)**, visit **www.cliapei.ca**



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