

PEIs construction sector recruitment campaign

With growth and retirements 1,200 workers are needed over the next four years

by Gloria Welton

The construction sector on PEI offers many career options that provide year-round well-paying jobs. That was the message delivered at a recent announcement mapping out a plan to continually get the word out about jobs that are available now and in the future on PEI.

The **Construction Association of PEI (CAPEI)** has been given more funding to continue to work on addressing the need to fill jobs over the next few years. They laid out some of those plans at their annual AGM and tradeshow.

“In the face of record levels of activity, recruitment and retention of skilled workers remains our top priority,” says **Terry Jeffery**, incoming President of CAPEI. “In partnership with the federal and provincial governments, our **Island Builder** worker recruitment campaign has filled record numbers of new jobs, and we are excited about the next phase of activities and for the future of the sector.”

Riley Aiello, HR Manager for CAPEI, regularly meets with members and will post open positions on **WorkPEI.ca** and **IslandBuilder.ca**. “I work with the companies to see what their needs are and what positions are hardest to fill.”

Phase two of the Island Builder campaign will consist of promotional videos, a continued radio campaign, a promotion targeting high school students, and a wage and salary survey to highlight the earning opportunities in the sector.

Workforce and Advanced Learning Minister **Sonny Gallant** praised the industry for taking a strategic approach to addressing labour market needs. “Our government is committed to working with the industry to provide innovative ways to attract and retain workers.”

“The industry employs 5,500 workers on PEI,” says **Sam Sanderson**, Manager of CAPEI. “It is expected there will be a demand for an additional 600 employees over the next four years. In addition, retirements will see a further 600 vacancies over that same time period.”



From left, Sam Sanderson, CAPEI, Minister Sonny Gallant, Workforce and Advanced Learning and Terry Jeffery, incoming President of CAPEI.

Submitted photo

For more information about the **Construction Association of PEI**, call 902-368-3303. Visit www.capei.ca

The Island Builder Campaign is supported in whole or in part by the PEI-Canada labour market agreements.

Employer highlighted at the tradeshow

ADI, incorporated in 2017, offers commercial and residential garage door sales, installation and service across PEI and in other provinces.

The company is owned by **Mark Linzel** and **Bernie Dykerman**, who have more than 20 years' experience working on PEI. The third owner is **Ayham Daas**, who has more than 20 years' experience managing and operating a garage door, access control, and CCTV business in Dubai.

The company is affiliated with BernMar Group of Companies, which includes BernMar Construction, Island ICF, and ADI. At present, ADI uses the services of three door installers employed by BernMar.

“We are growing, and we are now searching for installers to work with us full-time year-round,” says **Ayham Daas**. “We offer a great team work atmosphere and we are willing to help new staff become qualified residential door installers or commercial door installers.”

“In the US and Quebec, garage door installers must be Red Seal certified. That certification is not offered on PEI. If someone is willing to stay with us long-term, we are willing to train and help them become certified.”

“People with previous experience in garage door installation are not easy to find on PEI. We are looking for people who have mechanical skills, an aptitude for learning, and a high level of safety awareness.”



“We are looking to hire and train more door installers,” says Ayham Daas, Co-owner, Atlantic Door Installation Inc. (ADI) Charlottetown.

For more information, call toll free 1-833-234-3667. To apply, send a resumé to info@atlanticdoors.ca Visit www.atlanticdoors.ca
For more about the Canadian Door Institute of Dealers, Manufacturers and Distributors, visit www.cdi-door.com



Couple combine their skills and start their own company

by Stella Shepard

Charlene Hayter has 20 years' experience working as a flagger for construction companies. Her life partner, **James Gregory**, worked as a labourer with construction companies for 17 years.

In 2015, Charlene and James combined their years of work experience, knowledge, and skills and started **Go with the Flow Traffic Control Inc.** The company provides year-round traffic control for various companies Island-wide.

“We wanted more than working seasonally for construction companies, so we thought about what it would be like to own a business and work for ourselves,” says Charlene. “We purchased a traffic control company, changed the name, and grew the business to what it is today.”

The Montague-based couple recently celebrated three years of success in business. Their company started with six employees and grew to 60 to 70 staff during the winter and 80 to 100 during the rest of the year.

Business advice and success

“Do your research to make sure the business will be viable,” says James. “Writing the business plan was time consuming, but it was one of the most important steps in the success of the business.”

During their first year, Charlene and James secured a contract with Maritime Electric, and the business flourished, with continuing hiring needs, year-round.

Job titles

- Traffic Control Persons • Traffic Control Managers
- Traffic Control Supervisors

“Training is available in the Charlottetown area,” says Charlene. “The training tickets are valid for employment with traffic control companies for five years.”

Hiring needs

The couple says the most difficult jobs to fill are the Traffic Control Persons and the Traffic Control Managers. “During the interview, we ask if the person has a Flagger ticket, a driver's license, and is willing to travel. A driver's license is not a requirement but it is an asset.”

“This is stable employment,” says James. “We have staff of all ages, from 16-year-old students to 70 and 74-year-old employees who are great workers.”

“New hires start at minimum wage, and we do a performance review at three months,” says Charlene.



Charlene Hayter and James Gregory of Montague.

For more information about **Go with the Flow Traffic Control Inc.**, contact **Charlene Hayter** and **James Gregory** at 902-326-1271 or email gwtfinc@gmail.com



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