

Summerside Sunbank will generate about 200 construction jobs

by Heidi Riley

Funding has been announced to build a new 21-megawatt solar energy farm and storage facility in Summerside.

"This project will create over 200 full-time jobs in Summerside during the 18 to 24 months of construction," says Summerside Mayor **Basil Stewart**.

The **Summerside Sunbank** project is the result of collaboration between the City of Summerside, Samsung Renewable Energy Inc., and the provincial and federal governments.

Phase 1 of the energy project installed 1,548 solar panels and a battery at Credit Union Place in 2017. Soon, Phase II will be rolled out on about 80 acres near Linkletter.

More than 65,000 solar panels and about seven tractor-trailer sized batteries will be installed. The batteries will store enough energy to power at least 1,000 homes.

"There will be three to six months of preplanning, environmental assessments, public consultation, and construction approvals," says **Michael Thususka**, Director of Economic Development for the City of Summerside.

"Although the City of Summerside will be hiring some senior level staff, they will not be directly involved in hiring construction staff."

Businesses wanting to participate in this project will submit bids for the work. The winning contractors will then begin to gear up their employment numbers.

"With a large project like this, there is the potential for Islanders living away to come back to work on it. It will be an opportunity for local businesses to attract and grow their staff."

Project timeline

By late summer 2020, they hope to start construction of the access roads, installation of fencing, and site preparation.

"It will take a while to procure some of the equipment," says **Greg Gaudet**, Director of Municipal Services in Summerside, and an Electrical Engineer.

"Utility transformers can take a year to be constructed and delivered." The Sunbank is projected to be online by May 2022.

Hiring needs

"The project will require professional Engineers, Legal, Archeological and Environmental specialists, and Project Managers, who will be selected and hired by the City of Summerside," says Greg.

"The city will also engage an engineering firm to design the project, and will then put it out to tender."

"Contractors chosen during the tendering process will hire the construction staff they need, such as Road Builders, Foundation Builders, Heavy Duty Machinery Operators, Engineers, Electricians, Labourers, and Manufacturers and Installers for the racks holding the solar panels."

"The system will also require commissioning and testing by specialists. There will also be electrical utility work to connect power lines to the new system."

"Employers will bring in some construction specialists, but the construction of foundations and other work will be sourced locally," says Michael.

"This project will help local businesses grow their knowledge and put it to use. In the future I can see the construction of many more renewable energy projects here on PEI."



Greg Gaudet, Director of Municipal Services and Michael Thususka, Director of Economic Development for the City of Summerside discuss the Summerside Sunbank project.

Permanent positions

The City of Summerside will hire three to five people to operate and maintain the utility after it is constructed.

Potentially, there would be a Plant Manager and a few people to do general upkeep, routine facility maintenance, and control. Larger-scale batch testing, maintenance, and landscaping will be contracted out to local firms.

For more about the City of Summerside, visit www.summerside.ca

For a list of job opportunities in Summerside, visit www.bigpossibilities.ca/news-newsletters/look-whos-hiring-in-summerside

For the full interview, visit www.employmentjourney.com and search **Summerside Sunbank**.

New Holland College system makes it easier to apply for scholarships and awards

by Stacy Dunn

Students at Holland College now have an easier way to apply for scholarships, bursaries and other awards. The Student Services & Support department at the college recently set up new online software which will save time, effort, and money in the application process.

"In the past, students had to sift through a list of 250 awards on our website and seek out which ones they were eligible for," says **Melissa Josey**, Student Services Advisor – Outreach and Awards.

"Each student could be eligible for up to 10 awards. Formerly, they had to submit paper copies of their high school transcript, resumé, and biography for each award they applied for," she says.

"Now, students are automatically connected with awards they are eligible for, and can upload their transcript, resumé, and biography once and apply for multiple awards."

After the applications are received, they are reviewed by a selection committee of about 20 college staff in Admissions, Student Services, International Student Office, and Financial Accounts.

"We get many thank you notes from students, and the college is so appreciative of donors who support students, because the money changes a student's life."

"Through the generosity of donors, hundreds of students benefit annually from award money exceeding a total of \$500,000."

Application deadline

The application deadline for entrance scholarships, bursaries and awards is March 31, 2020. Prospective students must have an active Holland College application to apply for a student award.

For more information on scholarships, bursaries, and awards, call **Holland College's Student Services & Support** department at **902-566-9374** or email awards@hollandcollege.com Visit www.hollandcollege.com/admissions/money-matters/studentawards.php

Application process

Melissa says the application process can take just 20 minutes to complete. "Last year, students testing the new software gave it rave reviews."

"The intensive part of the application is the financial information. It asks for a budget outlining what you have and what you need. Another intensive part is the biography, which is a new component. It's the best way to get a picture of the students' academics, financial situation, athletics or volunteering, and their future goals. Most students have a great story to tell."



Melissa Josey, Student Services Advisor – Outreach and Awards.

The Employment Journey Inc. is a monthly publication available to residents and businesses of PEI. The publication is produced by Gloria Welton. Funding for The Employment Journey is provided by the Canada/Prince Edward Island labour market agreements.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of Canada, the Government of Prince Edward Island or the Publication Manager.

Publication Manager/Owner: Gloria Welton
Queens County Reporter/Copy Editor: Heidi Riley
Kings County Reporter: Stella Shepard
Reporter/Public Relations: Stacy Dunn
EJ Promoter/Presenter: Ethan Paquet
West Prince Reporter: Ruby Arsenault
Design/Pre-press: TechnoMedia Inc.
Webmaster: TechnoMedia Inc.

The Employment Journey Inc.
129 Harrod's Lane, Fairview, PE C0A 1H2
Telephone: **Charlottetown 902-894-4100**
Montague 902-838-4030 ext. 237
E-mail: employ@employmentjourney.com
Employment Journey © 1998