

New rural women's business centre opens

by Ruby Arsenault

The **Rural Women's Business Centre** is a place for women to find the support and inspiration they need to succeed in their business endeavours. Located in Central Bedeque, the Centre predominantly serves women in the central Queens to West Prince regions.

Shelley Jessop, Manager, says the centre was established to make it easier to help women who don't have the time to drive to Charlottetown. It has an advisory group of women from central Queens to West Prince to guide its development.

"The new business centre provides a meeting place and offers support and inspiration, and is here to meet the needs of business women with training, information sessions, workshops, networking and mentoring," says Shelley. "Our co-working space offers high-speed Internet access.

"The centre aims to provide women entrepreneurs with the training and resources needed to overcome obstacles on the road to building a business, and to provide working women with the skills to support their success in the workplace."

Shelley recently visited the Tignish Employment Resource centre to speak with women from the community about the new centre and its services.

"Coming to Tignish was an excellent way to meet and network with business women from this area," says Shelley. "It was amazing to hear stories of how they have grown from employee to management roles."

At the meeting, **Paulette Arsenault** from Tignish Co-op Member Relations says her job requires a lot of speaking at public events. "I think confidence building is necessary for success. I struggled with this, and many others do too. It is one thing to have a great product but to be able to stand in front of crowds and speak is another."

Paulette says attending the speech craft program held last winter at the Tignish Employment Resource Centre was a great help. "It was the best thing I could have done for myself. I would take it again."

Partners work together to offer support

The Rural Women's Business Centre, Tignish Employment Resource Centre, and Tignish Co-op Member Relations are very much looking forward to continuing their partnership. They encourage women in business to stay tuned to their social media posts for upcoming events.

"We also encourage anyone to contact us to share their ideas and their business needs," says Shelley.



From left, Shelley Jessop, Rural Women's Business Centre, Sharon Horne, Rural Community Learning, Ruby Arsenault, Tignish Employment Resource Centre, Paulette Arsenault, Tignish Co-op, and Elizabeth Noonan, Rural Women's Business Centre.

For more information about the **Rural Women's Business Centre**, contact **Shelley Jessop** at **902-887-3171** or email shelley@peibwa.org



Visit www.peibwa.org/rural-womens-business-centre
Sign up for workshops and events at www.peibwa.org

For more information about the services and events at the **Tignish Employment Resource Centre**, contact **Ruby Arsenault** at **902-882-2498** or email rubyarsenault@rcli.ca
Visit www.facebook.com/tignish.employmentcentre



For more information about **Tignish Co-op Member Relations**, contact **Paulette Arsenault** at **902-882-2020** or email tignishmemberrelations@hotmail.com



Visit www.facebook.com/tignish.coop

New business offering Occupational Health & Safety Training

by Ruby Arsenault

After 10 years of working in the field of Occupational Health & Safety Training, **Alvin Smith** from West Point PEI decided it was time for a change, and started his own business called **ASTA Safety**.

His office and training room is located at Future Tech West in O'Leary. He offers a variety of courses and training at that location, and he also travels to deliver training to a variety of businesses, groups, and individuals.

Many of the training courses offered are required by various college programs and work sites. "Standard First Aid/CPR is a requirement for Holland College's LPN and RCW programs," says Alvin. "I offer a First Aid course each month in my training room and at other locations such as the Alberton Employment Resource Centre, for clients applying to college programs."

Alberta safety tickets such as H2S Alive™ are a must for individuals who work on oil rigs or in the oil patch. "Some courses expire within three years, so they must be re-taken. I am required to travel to Alberta periodically to update my certification as a trainer."

Alvin says he was recently asked to create and provide an Air Brakes Endorsement course to 10 participants at the Tignish Employment Resource Centre.

"The demands on Truck Drivers are huge. I spent an eight-hour day with these individuals, taking them through the training manual, and then we were provided a truck to go over trip inspections.

"At the end of the day, they took a pre-test and were ready to book and write the actual test with PEI Transportation/Access PEI. From there, they can challenge the driving test or enroll with JVI to earn their class 1 or 3 license."

Alvin says many of these individuals expressed interest in operating potato trucks, snow plows, or other equipment that requires an A on their driver's license.

"Another component of my business is consulting. This service helps businesses create a safety and training plan for their employees."

He recently was a consultant for the Agriculture Sector Council's Train the Trainer program.

Future plans

In the very near future he may hire a second staff member to assist with training, and/or a part-time administrator.

Courses offered

- Emergency/Standard First Aid
- Fall Protection
- Forklift
- Elevated Work Platform
- WHMIS
- TDG-Transportation of Dangerous Goods
- Confined Space
- Boom Truck
- H2S Alive
- Common Safety Orientation (coming soon)
- Air Brakes Endorsement



Alvin Smith from West Point PEI decided it was time for a change, and started his own business called ASTA Safety.

For more information about **ASTA Safety**, contact **Alvin Smith**, at **902-206-0122**, alvin@astasafety.com



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