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The Employment Journey

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Staff and volunteers needed for 2009 Canada Summer Games

by Heidi Riley

Organizers have been working for the past three years to get ready for the **2009 Canada Summer Games**, to be held on PEI from August 15 to 29.

"We have gradually hired staff since we began organizing the games in 2006, and at this point 43 people have been hired," says **Joseph Spriet**, Games President.

Employment will peak during the two weeks of the games and then will gradually decrease. A few people will still be working by this time next year, doing audits and putting the finishing touches on the books.

Jobs still to be hired

"We will soon be hiring eight more core staff," says **Edna Flood**, Chief Administrative Officer for the Games. "These jobs will run until about the end of September. After the games, there will be much wrap-up work to do, such as making final reports and recommendations for best practices to be given to the next hosts of the Canada Games."

Assistant coordinators will be hired in the following divisions:

- Athlete's Village - based in Slemmon Park
- Athlete's Village - based at UPEI
- Spectator Services
- Miscellaneous and Turnaround

"These games are unique because events and venues are spread across the whole province," says Edna. "Usually, venues are shared in one community or municipality and are closer together. But these games need extra help to move athletes to venues all across the province. We also need to move from the Athlete's village in Slemmon Park for the first week, to the Athlete's village at UPEI for the second week."

Other positions:

- Bilingual Media Relations Officer
- Accounting Technicians
- Administrative staff

Student job opportunities

There will also be opportunities for summer students to work for a 12-week term starting in May or June. "We plan to hire 10 to 20 students who have different areas of expertise," says Edna. "Divisions may need expertise in such areas as **IT, media communications, protocol and hospitality**. It will be a great opportunity for students to get this work experience."

Short-term work is an attractive option

"It's not a challenge to find people for the short-term opportunities we are offering," says Edna. "This could be a sign of the difficult economy. Even though many have felt the pull to move out west for work, we have been lucky to find people with skills and experience. As well, some people are coming out of retirement to work for the Games."

Many volunteers needed

The Games will need the help of 6,000 volunteers. "This is the largest event ever held on PEI, and it needs the largest number of volunteers," says **Myrtle Jenkins Smith**, VP Volunteer Division. "Volunteers are vital to the success of the Games."

About 30 types of volunteer jobs are available, including:

- drivers
- security
- VIP hospitality
- merchandising and sales
- medical personnel
- set up and tear down of Athlete's villages and venues
- help at sports venues and opening and closing ceremonies
- 600 bilingual volunteers are needed.



Photo courtesy of 2009 Canada Summer Games

About 4,000 athletes will compete in 18 different sports over two weeks this August.

"Every volunteer will get a uniform and an orientation," says Myrtle. "No special skills are needed, and anyone over 14 may apply. Everyone will be trained to do their job, and we will find something for all who want to participate. This is a chance to get up close and personal with 4,000 of Canada's top athletes. It's a great experience to add to your résumé."

Close to 2,000 volunteers have signed up so far. "We ask that people try to sign up early to get their choice of venues and

locations in their area of interest," says Myrtle. "Also, it takes time to do the criminal record check needed for each volunteer accepted. To get the process started, print off the screening form on the Games website or pick up a form at any RCMP or local police station."

Jobs and volunteer opportunities will be advertised in the newspaper, on the Job Bank, and on the 2009 Canada Games website.

For more information, visit www.2009canadagames.ca

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