

# A snapshot of jobs in construction

by Heidi Riley

**O**n PEI, more than 1,000 construction workers will be needed to replace those retiring between 2009 and 2017, according to the **Construction Sector Council of Canada**.

The construction industry employs about 5,600 people on the Island, according to the **September 2009 Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey**.

This sector includes the construction of:

- Residential
- Industrial and heavy construction projects
- Renewable (wind) and non-renewable (oil/gas) energy projects
- Commercial
- Roads and bridges

A huge range of jobs are available in this industry, requiring skills in the trades, engineering, and management. Many of these positions are full time, year-round. Many are self employed and work as sub-contractors.

## Industrial, commercial and institutional construction

**T**he **Construction Association of PEI (CAPEI)** says there are about 500 construction companies on PEI.

“The Provincial Government is continuing with its stimulus Capital Budget into 2010 allowing for the replacement of aging infrastructure, including buildings,” says **Ross Barnes**, Executive Director of the **Construction Association of PEI**. “Along with private investment, the 2010 construction forecast will be as busy as 2009 with all trades in demand.”



CAPEI has **162** members, including:

- Fitzgerald & Snow Ltd.
- Southern Kings Construction Ltd.
- Mr. Plumber-Blair LaPierre Inc.
- Precision Mechanical Inc.
- Hansen Electric Ltd.

### A sample of jobs and wage rates

The following 2009 hourly wage information is taken from [www.labourmarketinformation.ca](http://www.labourmarketinformation.ca)

The low range is considered to be someone starting out in the field with limited experience and the high is at the journeyman level.

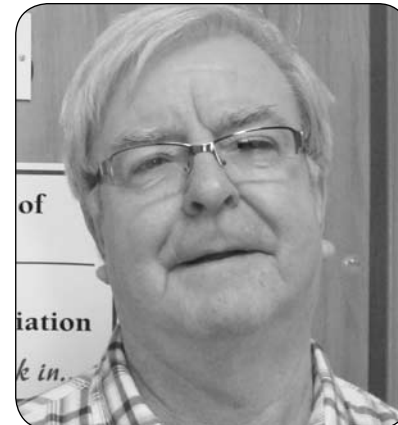
<b>Carpenters</b> .....	\$11.95 to \$30.80
<b>Plumbers</b> .....	\$12.05 to \$27.70
<b>Electricians</b> .....	\$11.40 to \$34.70
<b>Construction Managers</b> .....	\$14.50 to \$25.15
<b>Construction Helpers and Labourers</b> .....	\$10.00 to \$19.85
<b>Landscaping &amp; Grounds Maintenance Labourers</b> .....	\$9.00 to \$15.25

**Bricklayers:** A beginner Apprentice makes 60 percent of a journeyman’s pay rate, which is \$27.31 per hour. The wage goes up to 65 percent after six months, 70 percent after one year and increases by 5 percent every four months after that.

**Welders:** A beginner Apprentice makes 60 percent of a journeyman’s pay rate, which is between \$18.00 and \$21.00 per hour.

## Road and bridge building

**R**oad builders and heavy construction companies on PEI are responsible for road and bridge building, paving, heavy construction, water line, sanitary and storm sewer construction, demolition, and snow plowing. Also included are companies which supply goods and services, such as makers of culverts, equipment sales and service, concrete delivery, and engineering companies.



“This is the second good year for government capital budgets for road and bridge work,” says **Joe Murphy**, Executive Director of the **PEI Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association**. “It is providing a great deal of employment, especially when demand for jobs in Alberta is down because of the economy. Many people returning from Alberta have been successful in finding work locally. Qualified **Heavy Equipment Operators** are one of the more difficult positions to recruit for.”

**Steve Campbell** is the President of the PEI Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association. He says that the \$56 million 2010 Capital Budget has the largest highway capital budget in history. Funding is in place for many infrastructure projects. All of this activity points to a bright future and a steady demand for employees in this field.

About **99** companies are part of the Association, including:

- Birt & MacKay Construction
- Curran & Briggs Limited
- Island Coastal Services Ltd.
- Island Excavators (1985) Ltd.

These companies employ both year-round and seasonal workers.

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<b>Civil Engineer</b> .....	\$23.90 to \$39.00
<b>Heavy Equipment Operator</b> .....	\$12.70 to \$29.10
<b>Truck Driver</b> .....	\$10.55 to \$23.60
<b>General Labourer</b> .....	\$10.00 to \$19.85
<b>Heavy-Duty Equipment Mechanic</b> .....	\$14.45 to \$22.50
<b>Crew Supervisor</b> .....	\$15.00 to \$20.00
<b>Surveyor</b> .....	\$15.00 to \$20.00
<b>Flagger</b> .....	\$10.00 to \$15.00

## Education/training available on PEI

**Holland College** offers a variety of trades programs.

The **Apprenticeship Training Branch** of the **PEI Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning** sponsors training in more than 50 construction trades. Approximately 80 percent of the training is on the job and 20 percent is in school, which leads to certification under the National Red Seal Program.

**Trade HERizons** is a program that supports women interested in exploring careers in trades and technology. For more information, call **368-5040** or e-mail [sara@wnpei.org](mailto:sara@wnpei.org). Visit [www.wnpei.org](http://www.wnpei.org)



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For more information, check these websites:

Construction Association of PEI at [www.capei.ca](http://www.capei.ca)

PEI Residential Construction Sector Council has posted a Fair Wage Guide at [www.peircsc.ca](http://www.peircsc.ca)

PEI Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association at <http://www3.pei.sympatico.ca/pei.roadbuilders>

Apprenticeship Branch of the Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning: call **368-4460** or visit [www.apprenticeship.pe.ca](http://www.apprenticeship.pe.ca)

Masonry PEI - Clarence Gallant **566-3436** (registered bricklayer)

Masonry Industry Association of Atlantic Canada Inc. at [www.miaac.ca](http://www.miaac.ca)

