

# Find a job in tourism

by Heidi Riley

At the ninth annual **Tourism Job Fair**, held recently in Charlottetown, 25 employers welcomed job seekers to talk about employment opportunities.

About 15,000 people work in tourism on PEI, according to the **Tourism Human Resource Sector Council**. That number is expected to rise in the next few years.

“Chefs and housekeepers are the two positions most in demand,” says **Thom MacMillan**, President of the **Tourism Industry Association of PEI (TIAPEI)**. “The pool of young people we used to depend on to work in tourism is getting smaller. Tourism operators are now reaching out to attract mature workers and newcomers as well.”

## Tourism jobs can be found in

- accommodations
- food and beverage
- recreation and entertainment
- transportation
- travel services

## What does it take to work in tourism?

Tourism employers listed some of the attributes they are looking for in their employees:

- hard working, willingness to learn, positive attitude
- attention to detail, pride in work
- ability to direct tourists to locations across the Island
- prior experience is not always necessary - many employers are willing to train new staff
- an outgoing personality and willingness to work with the public

## Best ways to apply

Employers with seasonal businesses usually prefer to receive resumés and cover letters by e-mail. Many also appreciate a personal visit or call, which shows the applicant’s interest and enthusiasm. Before visiting or e-mailing, find out more about the company and be prepared to talk about why you want to work for them.

## Careers in tourism on PEI

**Laura Grinton** is the pro shop manager/golf professional at **Green Gables Golf Club** and **Andersons Creek Golf Club**. Laura is from Nova Scotia and is a graduate of the Holland College Golf Management program.

She has worked at golf courses in Nova Scotia, Victoria BC, PEI, and in Florida during the winter. In her role as a golf pro, Laura enjoys teaching children as well as adults.

“I have been a golfer since I was a kid, and I always knew I wanted to work in golf. I love this job because the people are great, and the industry is always changing.”

**Hoi Kei Kelly Fung** is in her second year of a **Holland College Event Management** diploma program. “I have a passion for travel. It’s so much fun. I love planning, organizing, and creating an event. I can’t wait to start working in this career.

“Event planners need to be outgoing, not afraid to take risks, able to take on a challenge, be well-organized, and good at time management.

“I plan to go on to school in Australia to finish my degree, and eventually I would like to be an event planner at home in Hong Kong.

“I know I made the right choice by going to school here on the east coast of Canada. I have learned a lot.”

**Roxanne Carmody** is the Executive Director of **Quality Tourism Services (QTS)**. The non-profit company has four year-round and four to five seasonal workers. Roxanne and her staff inspect and rate all accommodations and campgrounds on PEI.

Roxanne started working at her family’s tourism business in Cavendish, and then studied tourism at Sir Sanford Fleming College in Peterborough Ontario. She has worked in hotels and tourism associations, doing marketing, training, and coordinating festivals and events. She has also worked for TIAPEI, in HR, training, and organizing short courses.

“I have been fortunate to have worked full-time, year round in tourism since 1987,” says Roxanne.

For more information, visit [www.qts.pe.ca](http://www.qts.pe.ca)



