

A new way to connect job seekers with employers

by Heidi Riley

IT Jobs

As any job seeker or employer can tell you, finding the right match can be time consuming and intimidating.

IT Employment Speed Networking offered IT students a new way to talk to IT employers looking for summer workers and permanent staff. About 25 job seekers turned out on a snowy December day in Charlottetown to meet with seven PEI employers. Job seekers had five minutes to speak with each employer in the cosy informal setting of a local pub.

The **Innovation and Technology Sector Council (ITSC)** and the Innovation and Technology Association of PEI (ITAP) organized the event, which was sponsored by **Skills PEI**.

“We used speed networking as a pre-screening tool to make that first connection between a job seeker and an employer,” says **Mike Gillis**, Executive Director of ITSC. “It was not a job interview, it was an introduction.”

“IT Employers are looking to recruit all age groups, from young people right out of school to those heading into their second or third career,” says Mike. “They also want to attract more women to IT.”

One position that is in great demand is **Business Analyst**. This job requires a combination of business knowledge and technical skills.”

Employers' human resource needs



In October 2008, **Mike and Julie Taylor** moved from Alberta to PEI. They have set up a company called **Geosurf Inc.** at the KenNet Centre in Kensington. “I’m originally from New Brunswick, and I like the pace of life and the people on PEI,” says Mike. “We didn’t want to live in a big city any more.”

The company creates software for GIS interactive web mapping applications. Their customers are in the oil and gas industry in Alberta.

They currently employ a **Programmer Analyst** who is a Holland College student in his second year of the IT program. “The student we hired is very adaptable and willing to learn,” says Julie.

“It is very hard to find someone with GIS (Geographic Information Systems) training and experience,” says Mike. “We are looking for a candidate with knowledge of Adobe Flex, Java, ASP.NET, and VB who is willing to learn the specifics of what we do. We have found that experience is not as important as personality and the ability to get along with the team.”

For more information, visit www.geosurfinc.com

For more information about GIS training, visit www.cogs.ns.ca/Programs/Geomatics/GIS.asp



The **Justice Knowledge Network** provides e-learning products for police and law-enforcement agencies. This company is based at the Atlantic Technology Centre and is affiliated with Holland College. They have **14** employees. “It is always challenging to find people with experience in this field,” says **Bill Gibson**, Manager, Strategic Initiatives.

They are looking for a Junior Developer with skill sets in multimedia applications and graphic design. The successful candidate will be proficient in Adobe Flash (ActionScript 2+), Adobe Photoshop and HTML/CSS/Javascript.

For more information, visit www.justiceknowledge.com



Customer 1 develops web-based computer support and helpdesk software for the call centre industry.

The company has **10** employees and are looking to hire two or three junior and senior Developer/Programmers and more support staff in the next year.

“This event is a great way to see what talent is out there and what they are looking for,” says **Daniel Lazaratos**, Vice President of Operations. “It allows us to tailor our positions to meet their needs.”

For more information, visit www.customer1.com

