

Career Day showcases more than 90 careers to high school students

by Stella Shepard

Charlottetown Rural High School hosted Career Day in November. About 91 presenters talked to grade 12 students about their professions. They provided information on educational requirements, duties on the job, wages and salaries, why they chose their job, and how to get more information to explore the occupation further. *The Employment Journey* sat in on four sessions to find out what is involved in achieving some of the careers that are in demand on PEI. See the information below and on page 7.

A specialized career in police services

Shane Carr has been a police officer for 27 years and 19 of those years have been in forensics.

Duties

“On the job, I search for physical evidence, take photographs, and collect evidence. I am the go-between for our police members in dealing with forensic labs. My hours of work are 8 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday. I am the only staff member with this speciality, and I am on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”



Constable Shane Carr, Forensics Identification Officer, Charlottetown Police Services

“I am not generally a first responder. I am called to crime scenes to assist in investigations by the Criminal Intelligence Section.”

How do you get into forensics?

“To get into forensics, you have to spend a number of years as a police officer and be chosen for this specialty by the police department. Some of the larger police forces in Canada hire civilian members who assist in forensics labs but do not attend crime scenes.”



Training

Shane enrolled in the **Atlantic Police Academy** right after high school. He was hired as a police officer with **Charlottetown Police Services** after completing 10 weeks of on-the-job-training.

“It is difficult to get a seat in the Forensic Identification training course in Ottawa. It takes time. The average age of members of police forces across Canada is getting higher, and it’s tough to put enough officers through this course to replace those who are retiring.”

Salary

“My rank is Police Constable. The base salary is \$63,000. Overtime can be substantial, which pushes income higher.”

  For more information about **Police Science (Cadet) training**, visit www.hollandc.pe.ca and click **Atlantic Police Academy**.

For more information about **PEI’s police services**, visit www.city.charlottetown.pe.ca and search police.

Or visit www.city.summerside.pe.ca/police

Demand for female correctional officers

Gordon Collicutt is a supervisor at the Provincial Correctional Centre. He’s been working in this field for 26 years. In addition to Correctional Officer Training course, he has a degree in Psychology.

Gary Trainor has worked in Probation Services and with youth custody for a total of 23 years. He is a Casework Supervisor at the Provincial Correctional Centre, where he’s been employed for 12 years. Gary has a **Bachelor of Arts** and **Bachelor of Education**. He also had a wide variety of in-service training over the past 23 years.



From left: Gordon Collicutt and Gary Trainor, Correctional Officers

Where do they work?

Correctional officers work at PEI’s two correctional facilities: the Provincial Correctional Centre in Charlottetown and the Prince Correctional Centre in Summerside.

“There is a real need for more female correctional officers,” says Gary. “Male correctional officers work only with males. Female correctional officers work with both males and females. There has been a demand for more female staff because of the increase in the number of female inmates.”

Duties

Correctional officers assist offenders in rehabilitation and maintain safety and security. They also provide programs and casework services for offenders. “Staff must also be aware of available resources so they can refer offenders to appropriate community programs,” says Gordon.

“You never work alone. The physical size of a correctional officer is not as important as the skills he or she brings to the job. Correctional officers should have strong interpersonal skills, exercise good judgement, be a team player, a good listener, and a problem solver.”

Educational requirements

One of the following qualifications will meet the educational requirements of the job:

- A university degree in Social Sciences, ie: Sociology, Psychology or Criminology.
- Completion of a recognized Policing/Corrections course. A one-year program is offered by the **Atlantic Police Academy** in Summerside.
- A relevant community college diploma from a **Child and Youth Care Worker** course.

Employment Requirements

- Experience in supervising clients or working in a custody setting.
- Criminal records check.
- Class 4 driver’s license.
- Current First Aid/CPR certificate.

Wages

“It’s an exciting, challenging and rewarding career with promotional opportunities and competitive wages and salary,” says Gordon. “Part-time correctional officers start at **\$20** an hour. Full-time start out at **\$22** an hour. Supervisors earn **\$28** an hour.” “Some staff will be retiring in the near future,” says Gordon. “Also, some have left their positions to move west. This has created more job opportunities.”

  For more information, visit www.gov.pe.ca/oag and click on **Community and Correctional Services**.

For more information about job opportunities, contact the **PEI Public Service Commission** at 368-4080 or visit www.gov.pe.ca/jobs

Career Day continued...

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LOOKING AT YOUR OPTIONS...

Shortage of teachers for children with hearing impairments



Dinah Arviko, MEd, H.E.A.R. (Hearing Education Auditory Resources) Student Services with the PEI Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

“There is a shortage of teachers for children with a hearing impairment in the Maritime Region. In Halifax, they had to hire a teacher from England because of a shortage of teachers. Presently, there are four full-time teachers on PEI. Teachers with this speciality are in demand throughout North America.

“I have been working in this field for about eight years, and in my present role since September.

Duties

“In my job, I travel to a variety of PEI schools to work with students of all ages. Be prepared to travel. Some Island teachers have to drive a long distance to visit schools.

“A teacher has to know how to set up and troubleshoot equipment, which can be very costly to replace. Every year there is a new and better hearing aid available. Teachers have to be technology experts.

“This job requires you to be more than a teacher. You also deal with students’ personal issues. You must keep good written notes so that you can discuss students’ progress with their parents.

“Other duties include providing instruction and materials to students based on assessed needs in speech language, social skills, and curriculum. A teacher also needs to collaborate with parents, early childhood educators, teachers, and administration to regularly assess students.”

Educational requirements

An **MEd** in the education of students who are blind or visually impaired or hearing impaired is offered at **Mount Saint Vincent University** in Halifax.

Salary

“Teachers can earn \$50,000 a year or more depending on where you live,” says Dinah. “Teachers on PEI follow the PEI Teachers’ Federation salary scale.”

For more information on this career, visit the website of the **Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority** at www.apsea.ca

A demand for more Physiotherapists



Shelley Clark, Physiotherapist

“I was born and raised on PEI. I earned a Bachelor of Science at UPEI, and then I enrolled in the physiotherapy program at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario.

“In 1995, my husband and I moved back to the Island with our four children. I applied for employment at clinics and hospitals. Within two weeks, I had five job offers. I am now employed with the **Charlottetown Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Center.**”

“I’ve been in this field for 12 years and I love my job. It’s a very rewarding career. I work with people of all ages who have disabilities and injuries.”

Duties

Physiotherapists help people regain and maintain their physical mobility so they can move freely and complete daily tasks without restrictions or limitations.

“We assess patients for various types of illness and provide treatment and rehabilitation programs. We deliver educational and physical fitness programs to meet the needs of individuals.”

Educational requirements

“Dalhousie is the only university in the Maritimes that offers the **Masters Physiotherapy** program. It’s a very intense, practical and clinical two-year program that requires a lot of studying. To meet the entry requirements, you need a four-year Bachelors Degree. Bioscience, psychology, and human movement science are some favourable backgrounds.”

How can you get started?

“If interested in exploring a career in physiotherapy, I would suggest volunteering or job shadowing with a senior physiotherapist in a clinic or hospital. This would give a good understanding of the career. It would also look good on your application to the program and later on your résumé.”

Employment opportunities

“There is a need for more physiotherapists to work with Island sports teams and in clinics and hospitals. There is also a global demand for this career. Physiotherapists can travel and work anywhere.”

Need for service has increased

“There is an increased need for physiotherapy services because of the demands in the healthcare system. Physiotherapists assist in managing pain of patients waiting for hospital services or after surgery. There will always be a need and a demand for physiotherapy.”

Salary

Salaries start at about \$30,000 a year and can range up to \$60,000 depending on where you work.

For more information on this career, visit www.physiotherapy.ca or www.physiotherapy.dal.ca