

# Make the most of the Kings County Job and Career Fair

submitted by Shannon Keenan, Harmony Training Center

**What:** Third Annual 2009 Kings County Job and Career Fair

**Where:** Montague Curling Club

**When:** Thursday, April 16th from 10 am to 4:00 pm

The fair is being organized by **Sara Roach-Lewis** and **Shannon Keenan** of **Harmony Training Center in Souris**.

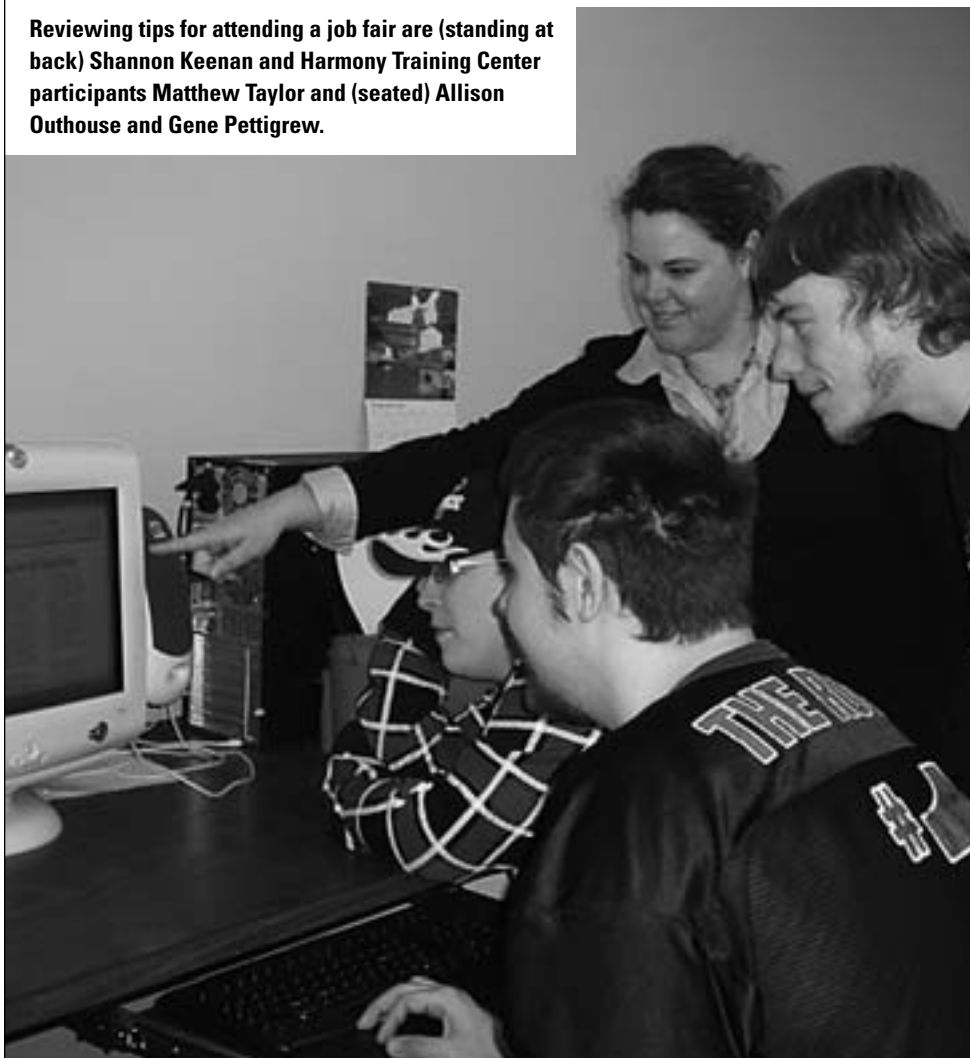
“Our Job and Career Fair last year was very successful,” says Sara. “We had 37 exhibitors and over 325 people came through the doors. We have some excellent plans for making this year’s event even better for both job seekers and recruiters.”

## How job seekers can benefit

“There is currently a labour shortage in several areas on PEI, including trades and technology. We will be offering job seekers an opportunity to meet with representatives from these and other industries where workers are in high demand.

“The main goal of the upcoming fair is to showcase career and job opportunities to youth who want to live and work in their home province,” says Sara. “There will be a wide range of employers and representatives from many sectors. It will give local employers an excellent opportunity to meet youth and talk to them about their particular employment sector. It will also assist youth to make informed choices about careers and post-secondary education.”

Reviewing tips for attending a job fair are (standing at back) **Shannon Keenan** and **Harmony Training Center** participants **Matthew Taylor** and (seated) **Allison Outhouse** and **Gene Pettigrew**.



## How employers can benefit

“Employers can reduce time, effort and recruitment costs by connecting with students, the unemployed, youth, and the general public all in one day and in one location,” says Sara. “Business attending the event will also be featured on the Kings County Job and Career Fair website and in a booklet which will be handed out to all who attend.

“The Kings County Job and Career Fair is free to all exhibitors,” says Sara. “We will help businesses prepare for the fair, especially those who haven’t set up an exhibit before.”

## The following tips can help you make the most of your Job Fair experience.

### Before the Job Fair:

- ✓ Bring a résumé. This will save you time and show employers you are serious about seeking employment. If you don’t have an up to date résumé, there will be a station at the Job Fair to help create one.
- ✓ Prepare some questions to ask the recruiters. You might ask how long he/she has been with the company or what they like about working there. It is also a good idea to prepare and practice responses to typical job questions. Some common questions are: What would you really like to do in life? What do you consider to be your strengths and weaknesses? What job experience to you have?

### During the Job Fair:

- ✓ Check the list of employers attending the Fair. Then visit the booths you are most interested in first.
- ✓ Make a good first impression: be courteous, positive and polite.
- ✓ Don’t leave the booth without getting contact information for follow-up.
- ✓ Take a few minutes after each meeting to make notes about your conversation.

### After the Job Fair:

- ✓ Organize all your contact information such as business cards, the notes you made and any literature you picked up from the booths.
- ✓ Decide on a follow-up plan.
- ✓ Write thank-you notes to recruiters who you plan to follow up with.

### Job Fair Do’s and Don’ts:

- ✓ **Do** keep an open mind about career opportunities with companies you may not have thought to speak to.
- ✓ **Don’t** be afraid to walk right up to a recruiter and introduce yourself. Smile and make eye contact.
- ✓ **Do** car-pool or attend the Job Fair with your friends, but once there, go it alone so that you can maximize your impact and implement your plan.
- ✓ **Don’t** say anything negative about yourself, your former employers, or your school.
- ✓ **Do** ask questions about the organizations but **DON’T** ask about salary or benefits.
- ✓ **Don’t** leave the Job Fair without a few job leads.

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For more information or to book a booth, call **Sara Roach-Lewis** or **Shannon Keenan** at **687-2458** or [sara@jobandcareerfair.com](mailto:sara@jobandcareerfair.com)

Check out details about the event at [www.jobandcareerfair.com](http://www.jobandcareerfair.com)