

Two facts clearly illustrate why education is important:

- the more education you have, the better your chance of finding a job
- the more education you have, the higher your earning power.

There are even more benefits to improving your level of education.

There are 800 students enrolled in Adult Education programs across PEI. These students are upgrading their academics after being out of school for a period of time. "After taking the chance on further education they certainly can tell you about the many rewards," says **Natalie Worthen**, Program Manager of Holland College **Adult Education**.

"We've added extra classrooms across the Island because enrollment has greatly increased," says Natalie. "Many students are telling us that their job or the jobs they apply for require at least a high school education or GED certificate."

"We have specific examples of students who say their employers are telling them they need a high school diploma. And students are also telling us that jobs they are applying for require a high school or a GED."

"We are a knowledge-based and skill-based society, which has resulted in a greater demand for education. This shift is driving the need for students to enroll in Adult Education programs."

The Employment Journey asked learners at Adult Education Centres across PEI why they believe that education is important.

## Montague Centre

**Arnold Moore** of Cardigan has been a fisherman for 20 years. He plans to write the GED test this spring. "You need an education, at least grade 12, for any job. I am not sure how much longer I will be fishing so I am preparing for future employment elsewhere. Having my grade 12 will open doors to better employment opportunities."



## Morell Centre

**Adrienne Power** of Peakes earned her GED certificate in 2009. She is currently upgrading high school credits to meet the entrance requirements for the **Primary Care Paramedic** college program.



"Education is very important to me. Having my GED certificate is personally satisfying and empowering. I worked seasonally for years before enrolling in the ACE program. I hope to start the college program this fall."

## Souris Centre

**Garth Carter** of Souris returned to PEI after living for 20 years in Alberta. Last year when he returned home, he found employment in a fish processing plant. "I have previous work experience in the automotive industry but I need the training and certification to have better employment options."



"The first step to a good paying, year-round job is to get an education. I plan to write the GED tests this year. I have already applied to the **Automotive Technician** program."

Garth recently received the \$500 PEI Literacy Alliance bursary, which he will use to further his education.

## Charlottetown Centre

**Rosa Fara**, formerly of Toronto, is now living in Charlottetown. Rosa was employed for eight years in a restaurant and was eventually promoted to kitchen manager.



"Without an education, I can't have the career that I want. It's been my dream for years to become a pastry chef. Having a work history and life experience is not enough. I also need education and training to accomplish my career goal. After I earn my GED, I plan to enroll in a **Pastry Chef Culinary** program. My dream job is to open my own bakery shop specializing in wedding cakes."

## Summerside Centre

**Tina Wilson** of Summerside is in search of meaningful employment. "The satisfaction of completing an interrupted education and securing full-time employment that offers a good living wage is very important to me."



"I have just received my GED certificate and combined with my life and work experience, I know my job options will improve. I certainly want to thank Holland College Adult Education as well as instructors Marilyn and Lois. I could not have done it without them!"

## Westisle Centre

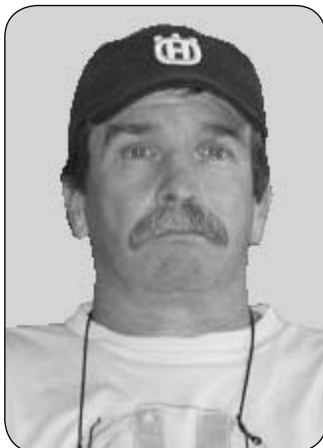
**April Butler** of Alberton plans to enroll in a **Resident Care Worker (RCW)** program after she earns a GED certificate. "It's time for a career and not a job. I am a single mother of two earning slightly more than minimum wage. An education will provide better paying job opportunities. As well, I want to set a good example for my son to stay in school."



## Tignish Centre

**Barry Doucette** of Tignish left school early in life. "I dropped out of school because it was the thing to do back in the 70s. I've always regretted not finishing school. My job options are very limited without an education."

"I thought about enrolling in a GED program for a couple of years. Finally, I mustered the courage to do it. It was pretty scary at first. I am studying subjects for the first time which is challenging but rewarding. Now I'm encouraging friends to enroll. The first step to post-secondary education is to get my GED certificate and then I will decide on a career."



For more information about **Adult Education**, contact the central office at 566-9628 or call toll free at 1-800-446-5265 (press 3)

