

Resources for self employed artists and cultural workers

by Stella Shepard

The Art of Managing Your Career is a resource guide for self employed artists and cultural workers to help manage their career or business. This material was developed by experienced cultural workers and artists.



Don LeClair

Don LeClair is the Executive Director of the **PEI Cultural Human Resources Sector Council (PEI CHRSC)**.

He presented the guide to about 15 artists and cultural workers recently at the **Arts Guild** in Charlottetown.

“The focus of the material is to help strike that balance between maintaining your creativity and running a business successfully,” says Don.

“The guide is primarily aimed at emerging artists and cultural workers across Canada but it does have a provincial focus, due to the number of self employed cultural workers on PEI,” says Don. “It was specifically designed for self employed workers to help with the challenges of having a more business-like approach to their work.”

Many cultural workers are self employed

There are approximately 2,000 artists and cultural workers on PEI. About 70 percent are self employed. “Many people in this field feel they are working somewhat in isolation,” says Don. “This is a resource to help keep them on top of the latest developments in managing a business while keeping their creative talents fresh.”

Cultural workers fall under the following categories:

- live performing arts
- writing and publishing
- visual arts and craft
- film, television and broadcasting
- digital media
- music and sound recording
- museums, archives, libraries, and heritage.

Important aspects of a career in the arts

The Art of Managing Your Career identifies eight essential areas to master in order to effectively manage your career. They are:

- ✓ Envision and develop a career strategy
- ✓ Create a business plan and market your art
- ✓ Manage a project
- ✓ Manage financial affairs
- ✓ Manage legal matters
- ✓ Communicate effectively
- ✓ Demonstrate personal competencies

The resource guide was updated in 2009 to include fresh and original best practices, links to useful websites, and up-to-date information on finance and technology.

For more information about **PEI CHRSC**, contact **Don LeClair** at 367-4460.



The **Art of Managing Your Career** can be found at www.culturalhrc.ca/amyc

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Award presented to student who returned to PEI to work

by Patricia Roy

Working on PEI

Gabriel Arsenaault, a native of Wellington currently living in Charlottetown, received the first **PERCÉ** award, presented at the **2010 Acadian Entrepreneurs' Banquet** held in Summerside in March.

The award was presented to demonstrate that the program has been successful in its efforts to encourage students to return to PEI to find work following their post-secondary studies.



Career direction was determined after summer placement

Gabriel received his degree in Kinesiology from the Université de Moncton in 2005. His original plan after earning his degree was to go into sports medicine.

His summer work placement as part of the **PERCÉ** program was in the prosthetics and orthotics department at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Charlottetown.

“The experience of working at the QEH inspired me to specialize in the fabrication of artificial limbs, which involved two years of study at George Brown College in Toronto,” says Gabriel.

Full-time employment on PEI

After completing his studies two years ago, Gabriel has come full circle. He now has a temporary full-time position at the prosthetics and orthotics department at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. He will be writing his certification exam this May, and then be in a permanent position.

Life experiences helps relate to chosen profession

Gabriel knows from personal experience about the impact of the services he provides. His own father lost his leg in an industrial accident the year before Gabriel graduated from high school. During his work placement at the hospital, Gabriel was able to help in the construction of an artificial limb for his father.

“I have constructed several artificial legs for him since then, including one he uses every day and one for activities he enjoys, such as skating, golf, and hockey,” says Gabriel.

He often uses his father as an example to help establish a relationship of trust with his clients. “It is a good feeling to see that my work helps people return to as normal a life as possible.”

Grateful for the PERCÉ program

In his acceptance speech Gabriel thanked **La Société de développement de la Baie acadienne (SDBA)**, which sponsored the award. He also thanked **RDÉE PEI** for creating the **PERCÉ** program in 2004. “Being in the program makes it easier to get your career off the ground,” he says.

About PERCÉ

“From a total of 82 applications to the **PERCÉ** program this year, 28 students were accepted,” says **Raymond Arsenaault**, Communications and Liason Officer for **RDÉE PEI** and Master of Ceremonies at the event.

“Of those 28 students, who are mostly in their last or second last year of studies, 14 are Francophones and 14 are Anglophones,” he says.

“A study of participants from the first five years of the program shows that 62 percent had already returned to PEI or were planning to settle on the Island soon,” says Raymond.

To learn more about **PERCÉ**, call **854-3439** or visit the bilingual website at www.percepe.ca

