

NEWS

Many Search for Jobs A Westward Migration

Marcel Pellerin
Reporter

It seems now everyday some of us are taking the plunge and travelling west for work. Our industries here shake their heads, but are unwilling to pay the enticing wages Alberta has been using to lure us.

Oil has been one of the motivating factors behind the booming economy of Alberta and a lot of locals have found themselves out there working in this field.

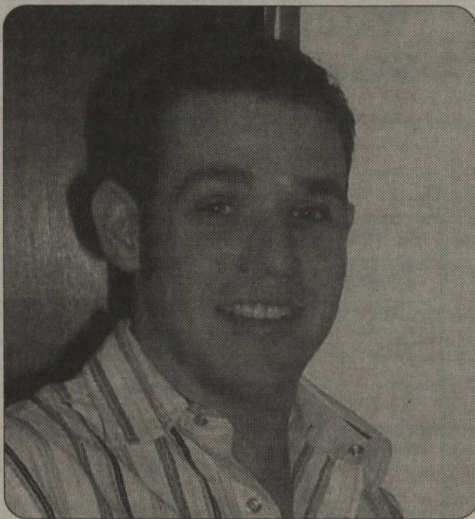
Adam Arsenault lived on P.E.I. his whole life, until he decided to move to Brooks, A.B. to work as a production tester with a company that tests the production of gas wells. He was trained as a chef here at the Culinary Institute, but the money just isn't here.

"Who wants to work for \$10 an hour when they can make \$20-\$30 and get twice the hours," Arsenault said. There are a lot of good things about working the west, but there is also a downside to making big money.

"I am gone 15 hours a day, seven days a week. You can't have a life, no time off. So basically you got to ask yourself where to draw the line between money and a social life." The money was the sole factor in Arsenault's decision to move. "I am now making five times the money I was making back home. The money out here is sick and everyone is rich."

A lot of people are worried about going west because of the cost of living. But Arsenault said he doesn't face that where he lives as much as in other places in the west.

"The cost of living here is not that much different. In southern Alberta a two-bedroom apartment runs about \$750-\$800. It's the stories you hear about Grande Prairie that everyone pays about \$2,000 a month, but the stories of it being so expensive literally is just from up there. Southern Alberta, Calgary, Medicine Hat and Brooks are not that expensive of places to live."



Adam Arsenault

There are also a few other added advantages that Arsenault likes.

"Gas here is cheaper than back home. Also, I pay less insurance for my new truck with full coverage then I did for my shitty car back home."

Justin MacPherson is another Islander who is living out west. He now works with the Canadian Armed Forces in Edmonton, A.B.

"Something else to think about is the rigs. People always dream of going out west to make the big bucks," he said. "I did it myself. It was a great experience but for the seven months I worked the rigs, I got maybe 20 days off."

MacPherson said it was a job for fast money, not a career.

"It's a quick dollar to pay off the mortgage or whatever, unless you like working a dangerous job every day."

Living out west seems great, but people have to take into consideration a few things. Many of the jobs available, aside from working with the oil companies, are from restaurants and stores and many of them go belly up.

The cost of living is outrageous in northern Alberta compared to the southern regions, but gas is cheaper along with insurance. If someone is willing to work hard and make some sacrifices in the social department, it's the way to go to make good money.

Make Poverty History

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On Sunday, Oct. 15 about 140 people, sporting something white, came down to the birthplace of the Confederation and stood for one minute in support of making poverty history.

Florence Larkin, a coordinator, said there are a few things to be kept in mind while standing for that moment, dressed in white.

"Four things: More and better aid overseas, elimination of debt, fair trade and to end poverty" Larkin said, explaining a little bit about the expansive goals in mind when it comes to making poverty history.

Many people who live in Atlantic Canada live at or below the poverty level. Children go to school with holes in their shoes, shoes handed down more than twice.

In a country like our own, we should not be having issues like poverty. Even fellow students who try and get an education find themselves hungry. Larkin had time enough to share a few words about the event.

"Poverty is all around us, and there's no need for it. It's a human need problem that must be solved. We just want people to be aware of poverty and that is in P.E.I., it is in Canada, it's global"

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Advisory Regarding Norwalk Virus Precautions

The UPEI administration sent out an email on Saturday to all students. The Norwalk-like virus going around at Mount Allison University and St. Francis Xavier has not yet come to our campus.

The University is taking special precautions to avoid an outbreak here. There is an awareness campaign in the student residences, extra cleaning in key areas of the campus and there are new hand sanitizing stations at the Wanda Wyatt Dining Hall.

Students are advised the virus is highly contagious and symptoms appear a few days after being infected. The symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cramping, chills and fever. Frequent hand washing is recommended.

Students, staff, or faculty who wish to report symptoms may contact the Campus Health Centre at 566-0616 or Security at 566-0384 (evenings & weekends). This will assist staff in dealing with any potential outbreak of the virus at the University.

Updates will be posted on the UPEI website if there are any major changes.