

Labour market expo 1998

BY LUKE LEUNES

Most UPEI students will finish this term and immediately will begin the job hunt. The hard part here is finding employment. Traditionally, methods of seeking jobs have included looking in the newspaper, going to Human Resources or relying on word of mouth, but finding the job is still a challenge.

Last Wednesday, March 11, the Prince Edward Hotel Ballroom in the CP Hotel hosted Labour Market Expo 98, aimed at helping students and youth make contact with employers and to get career information. The expo also operated as a networking opportunity, allowing students to talk to local, national and even international employers.

The intent was a good one, but some felt that the jobs represented a narrow field. For example, several banks were present at the exhibition, and several of the careers were mainly managerial positions requiring at least a degree.

Enterprise Rent-a-Car was on hand, looking for individuals that had any type of degree to fill the starting position as a manager at any one of their locations. Enterprises's Stephanie Dziubek said that this is part of the business ladder.

"The goal for new employees is to become a branch manager," she said.

Many of the people staffing the various booths mentioned that if individuals had any type of degree, they could get a job with that employer. This excluded a high number of students who will only be looking for summer employment.

The Tourism Information Association of PEI (TIAPEI) and Youth Employment Strategy do offer options for students trying to make some money for next year's tuition. They deal mostly with seasonal employment.

Youth Employment Strategy is another organization that has been around for some years now. It opens around April at the Ellis Brothers' Mall in the Human Resource Center, and can feature anything from dishwasher to management positions.

"The student labour market is very strong locally and is well suited for students to al-

low them to further a career in the field they choose," Katherine Gallant, a student at UPEI working with HRDC.

The provincial government is also a good employer, giving work to 240 students a year. They recruit at universities and colleges, and have positions open for the whole year. At UPEI they have two recruiting periods, the first in

fall and the second in mid spring.

Some graduating CompuCollege students were among those in attendance at the Expo.

Mary Chesson commented, "it was worth it.... It had enough information for job hunting."

Jeff Gallant felt the experience was perhaps less

adequate, as it featured "mostly government programs"

Tommy McDonald said that the expo featured "not a lot of ITI business...It was helpful for information on ITI."

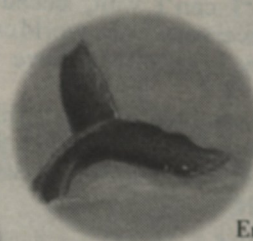
With an increase of 20 percent in employment and many opportunities to help with job hunting, odds are good for students seeking employment this summer.

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