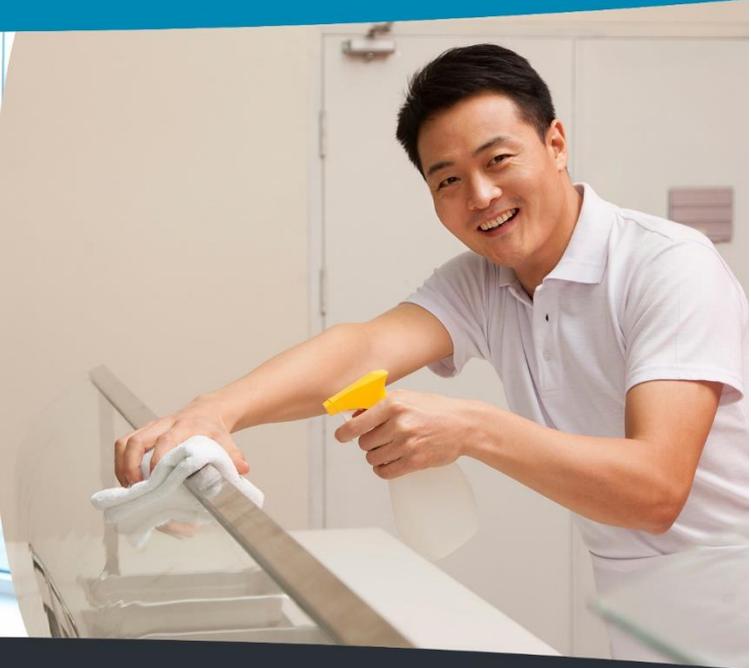


# PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS



## Essential Employability Skills

HEALTH SECTOR



# Jessica Baillie

Participant

Golden Years Estates

Moncton, N.B.



Before I found this program, I hadn't worked for four years. I'd moved and had a child. It was very hard to balance work and daycare. Eventually, I was able to work a full-time job and found the Essential Employability Skills for the Health Sector Program through a job search on Indeed.com. When I saw the post on Indeed.com, I saw it as a phenomenal opportunity and a "sign" to get back into the workforce. I loved the class. There was lots of diversity.

Through it, I was able to regain my confidence. Before, I felt expendable. Through the program, I began to feel valued again. People needed me! My job placement was at Golden Years Estates. I love it – and I love working with the residents.

Sometimes, it's difficult working with seniors because you know they won't be there forever and you really get to care about them, but my job is important, and I now feel like I'm making a positive difference. I'm even thinking of returning to school to be an LPN!

## Sara Trites

Program mentor

Activity Coordinator, Golden Years Estates

Moncton, N.B.



As a program mentor, I supervised one individual during their six-week program job placements here at Golden Years Estates. It's a really good program and I liked it because it would filter out individuals who didn't have any real knowledge of the job before coming here.

The participant we received was pre-screened to ensure that they were suitable to the environment. We met once per week to touch base and ensure that all expectations were being managed. It was a good introduction to all departments. Some people don't truly know what they're getting into before they are hands-on. This program was an excellent way of getting them prepared and to ensure that the career was a good fit for them.

I would definitely encourage other employers to take part in the program! The participants are eager to learn and are enthusiastic.

# Tanya Tulk

Participant

Mountain View Retirement Centre

Corner Brook, N.L.



I was a single mother who stayed at home to take care of my son. I'd always wanted to work in caring for seniors but wasn't sure how to go about it. I took care of my father every day for 14 months in a similar setting and discovered I had a knack for it.

The opportunity to be a personal care attendant just fell into my lap when someone at the local resource centre told me about the program and thought I'd be a good fit. I'm now working full time at Mountain View Retirement Centre which has 90 seniors in residence.

It's a very rewarding job. I love everything about it. I look forward to going in for every shift. Through this program, I was able to pursue my dream. I might even go back to school to become an LPN.

I highly recommend the program. It was the best way for me to move forward because of the classroom training, mentoring and job placement to ensure it was a good fit for that. After so many years of not working, I regained my confidence and have a new career that I love! Whenever I think about the program, I say to myself, "I needed this!"

# Haley Macintyre

Participant

The Mount Continuing Care Community  
Charlottetown, P.E.I.



I'd always wanted to work in the health-care field, but I got sick in high school and took time off. Recently, I saw an ad on Facebook about the Essential Skills for the Health Sector training program and thought it was an excellent opportunity as I was eager to get into the workforce.

I've really flourished from this. I truly appreciate the program – the training, the mentoring, the support. Everything the program included helped me be well prepared and know what to expect! I wouldn't be where I am today without it. This has been a very good learning experience. I had to work hard but loved every minute of it!

I love my job – and I love the residents. This has been so wonderful for me because I now see a bright future. I'm even thinking of going back for more training at Holland College to become an LPN. I have my confidence back!

# Matt Perry

Participant

Garden Home

Charlottetown, P.E.I.



I was unemployed after a career in the retail and construction industries and looking to get into health care, but I had no experience or education in the field. My plan was to go back to school to get a job in the sector, but then I saw a Facebook ad for the Essential Skills in the Health Sector Training Program and decided to apply.

The program's classroom work involved studying essential skills and getting training in areas specific to a job in the health-care sector, including training in CPR and dementia, among others. We also had guest speakers on subjects such as resume writing. It was all very interesting and useful for moving forward in my career.

My job placement was at the Garden Home in Charlottetown. I loved it and really enjoyed the work. Because of the program, I knew what to expect and progressed through the on-the-job training. I'm definitely going to make a career out of it, for sure! The program encouraged me and confirmed my decision to take the Resident Care Worker post-secondary program at Marguerite Connolly Training and Consulting (MCTC) so that I can progress in the industry. There are so many opportunities for me now! I feel prepared!

# Trish MacInnis

Employer

Training Coordinator, PEI Seniors Homes  
(Garden Home, Lady Slipper Villa, Whisperwood Villa)  
Charlottetown, P.E.I.



We had two participants from the Essential Skills for the Health Sector Training Program who completed the on-the-job placement portion of the program. As an employer, I found that they were well prepared for the realities of a career working with seniors in a residential care facility. They had the tools they needed as an entry point to a career in the sector.

We gave them the opportunity to further explore what it means to work in residential care for seniors. Through the placement, they grew to know what to expect and get familiar with the daily environment. I truly saw their confidence grow throughout this time so that they could stay with us afterwards. Hearing participants speak at the program's graduation ceremony filled me with so much pride and hope. Their attitudes even helped me! I was proud and humbled to have worked with them.

I would definitely take on more participants in the future. There is a tremendous staff shortage in healthcare, and I feel this program will provide a positive impact. I would recommend the program to other facilities without hesitation!