

Employment options kits available

by Heather MacAdam

Anyone looking at upgrading their education and entering into a new career may want to pick up an employment options kit from the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre.

The new kits compare the cost of attaining credentials for 39 different occupations, and the benefits received once in the positions.

Katherine Reed, co-ordinator Face to Face project, which is sponsored by the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, said these kits are one element of the Face to Face project.

"The project is all about maximizing or optimizing the career choices of single moms on social assistance. But this kit is perfectly useful for just about anybody who's doing career planning."

The kit provides a brochure about what constitutes good career planning.

"It makes a very good point that good career planning is not done in isolation - that the person should see a career counsellor."

Information is also included about how to get in touch with a career counsellor, she said.

There are also answers to frequently asked questions about planning to go to school.

"There are also four pages of tables, and the tables lay out the investments required to earn the credentials that the job asks for and the payoff once you're in that job - what are the working conditions and pay?"

The tables give the person the ability to compare their return on investment - how much it will cost them to acquire the required education, and how much they will be making once in the job.

"(The kits) allow for comparison. That's the key element - all the career web sites and most of the materials that you look at when you're doing career exploration don't allow for comparison like that. That's what's unique about this."

Reed said she hopes with this resource women will compare a broader range of occupations and make better-informed decisions.

Kits are available at the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, Reed said, and anyone interested is welcome to come pick one up.

The Face to Face project is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. It focuses on single mothers on social assistance and the programs they turn to for support as they upgrade their education in an effort to find work and move off the social assistance system.

Jim Laskel
April 11/07