

# Quebec Summer Student Exchange Program Rewarding for All

## An innovative summer student program could work for you!



Lighten your workload and add a little savoir-faire to your office by welcoming a Quebec university student for a 13-week summer work exchange.

All Government of Alberta ministries and departments are eligible to participate in the Quebec/Alberta Student Employment Exchange program funded by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry (AEII).

"We have participated for the past 10 years because we always get good quality staff," said Olga Fowler, facility supervisor at Rutherford House. "The students are enthusiastic, well-educated, intelligent and often well-traveled," added Olga.

Every summer, 21 students from Quebec head west while 21 Alberta students head east. The French-speaking students come here with three goals in mind: to work in their field of study, improve their English, and explore our province.

Last summer, exchange students worked in a variety of roles. Positions included

a heritage interpreter, family court counselor, marketing assistant, caucus assistant, and correctional services officer.

Université de Laval graduate student Marilayne Froment worked as an Intergovernmental Officer for International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations between May and August last summer. "I had the opportunity to work mostly in research and in drafting reports," said Marilayne, "I learned a lot more about government and the policies in Alberta."

"Working in another province allowed me to enjoy my work placement so much more than if I would have been in my hometown," said Marilayne. "On weekends, friends and I would leave the city to explore the mountains, go wine-tasting, wakeboarding, and discover the rest of the country."

Louise McKay, lead interpreter of Rutherford House, suggests that supervisors should provide comprehensive initial training to the student including a package of local amenities. The department will also be asked to assist the student in securing accommodations for the duration of the exchange.

AEII covers the cost of the student's salary, their return flight to Quebec, and helps cover the cost of a four-day excursion to Banff for the group of 21 students.

The program coordinator maintains regular contact with the supervisor and

the student to ensure that both parties are benefiting from the exchange. "The students are new and excited, and this excitement is instilled in others," says Olga. "This summer, Alexandra's background in customer service gave us that something extra that we didn't have."

"It's nice to have someone who knows how to speak French. Since she was new to Alberta, she could point out things that only a visitor would notice," added Olga.

The Quebec government provides reciprocal administrative and funding arrangements to Alberta students working in Quebec.

### How to Apply

Download an application form at: [www.employment.gov.ab.ca/step-qa](http://www.employment.gov.ab.ca/step-qa). The entry deadline for submissions is February 8, 2008.

### For More Information

For more information on the Quebec/Alberta Student Employment Exchange program, visit [www.employment.gov.ab.ca/step-qa](http://www.employment.gov.ab.ca/step-qa) or call the program coordinator at: (780) 422-5082.