



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Success Story

Picture taken from the islandside nature trail.

Summer work helps Leading Tickles youth build job skills

LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF LEADING
Tickles, Ocean View Park is truly a
Newfoundland landmark.

It boasts breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean.
It features walking trails where visitors can immerse
themselves in nature, and it includes amenities for picnics as
well as a playground for families to enjoy.



TOWN OF LEADING TICKLES,
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Canada

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Looking out over Oceanview Park from the bear cove head trail.



Steps that lead up to bear cove head nature trail.

When visitors arrived at the park in search of outdoor adventures during the summer of 2023, Jayden Chippett was there to greet them as a Park Attendant. The high school student was able to find this employment opportunity in his small hometown, thanks to funding from the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association's Youth Employment Experience (YEE) program. This program, funded by the Government of Canada, is designed to build skills and remove barriers to employment for youth. The program further builds capacity in the parks and recreation sector by providing mentorship support to each youth throughout their work experience.

"We are a small community, and the town wouldn't be able to offer these types of jobs without this support," says Dianese Cook, Town Clerk/Manager for the Town of Leading Ticks. "It was great to be able to give a local youth an opportunity to work in the summer months, make some money, and support our community."

In his role as a Park Attendant, Chippett worked in the ticket booth and welcomed visitors to the park, collected their entrance fees, and gave them their entrance passes. He also helped book campsites and played a major role in maintaining the park – including picking up litter, cleaning the park's facilities, and cutting grass – keeping it a neat and tidy outdoor space for people to enjoy.

Cook says that the job taught Chippett many important skills, such as communication and how to handle money responsibly.

"He communicated with tourists, and this gave him the opportunity to interact with people he didn't know which helped boost his confidence," she says. "He also was responsible for keeping track of the money until the end of the day, when he would hand it off to me."

Cook adds that Chippett was able to work with a mentor who is a full-time Park Attendant, and also the manager at Ocean View Park.

"Our Park Manager, Christina Rowsell, has a lot of knowledge about the recreation sector, and has been doing this job for many years," Cook says. "She loves teaching our youth the skills and knowledge she has obtained while working in the park."

Cook says that the funding support meant a local teen like Chippett didn't have to travel far to gain work experience. The closest town for work opportunities, Port Leamington, is about a 25-minute drive away. Much of the employment opportunities offered there are factory work.

Cook says she was happy to offer a local youth a job in parks and recreation – where he could get outside during the summer, talk to people from all over the world and learn new skills.

"It's good for our local youth to get out into the world, so they're not sitting at home expecting mom and dad to take care of them," Cook says. "Jobs like these help youth build important skills that they can use in their personal and professional lives. These jobs give youth confidence and social skills, and help them come out of their shell." 🍁