



# Things to consider **BEFORE TRAINING** as a truck driver

**B**efore you sign on the dotted line and start training, we hope that you will consider some factors that can determine the success or failure of your career as a truck driver. If you are facing potential employment barriers, we encourage you to slow down, research and take training only when these barriers are removed.

## **CAN I COMMIT?** WORK LIFE BALANCE

Becoming a truck driver is not a typical 9-5 job, it's a lifestyle! Whether you drive locally, or long-haul, you can expect to be away from home; this may be thousands of miles away or minutes down the road. Your home time can be unpredictable and non-standard. As a result, choosing to become a truck driver is something that you need to discuss with others in your life, because it will have an impact on them as well. If you have young children or other responsibilities in your life that require you to be home regularly, starting a career as a truck driver can be difficult. This is especially true for the first year or two as you gain your initial experience. Being able to commit to your new career during this time is important as once you have experience, you can then find employment opportunities that may be better suited to your own life and provide more flexibility/consistency.

## **DO I QUALIFY?** DRIVING RECORD | DRIVER MEDICAL | CRIMINAL CHECKS | ESSENTIAL SKILLS

The easiest way to determine if you should become a truck driver is to check and see if you meet industry's basic requirements. Do you have multiple driving infractions or accidents? Do you have any major health issues or conditions? Do you have a criminal record? Do you struggle with basic Essential Skills (reading, document use, numeracy)? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, it's best to speak with PEITSC staff before proceeding with training. You may encounter employment barriers that would prevent you from finding work.

## **FINDING WORK AS A NEW DRIVER** NOT ALL COMPANIES HIRE NEW DRIVERS & NOT ALL TRAINING IS EQUAL

Unfortunately, most drivers that enter into training believe that finding a job in the PEI trucking industry will be easy with a license in their pocket. After all, there is a large driver shortage, right? Though there is a large need for drivers, our carriers are not hiring just anyone. As mentioned above, you first need to qualify for the role. If you can satisfy that requirement then we move on to other key areas. Your training program, your timing and your level of planning will all play a key role in getting you behind the wheel.

When it comes to training, there is really only one option, a 12 week driver training program. The key to it is that it comes with a built in internship. This is what will allow you to get your foot in the door. This program will also satisfy most insurers to get you over the dreaded "we can't hire new drivers because of insurance" dilemma. Which brings us to perhaps the most important note when it comes to getting hired; meet with employers before you start training!

Speak with employers that you would like to work with; ones that have the type of work you are looking for. Then, inquire about doing your internship with them. Once you find a company to intern with, begin your training at a time that works with them and their coaches. After all, good timing is everything!