



## Newfoundland Student and Graduate Profile

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**- Roderick Campbell, Manager**



Born and raised just minutes from St. John's in Topsail, Newfoundland, **Robert Burt** has always been interested in computers. He had played with them as a youngster and his love of them eventually overrode everything else, including thoughts of law school. After completing his BA at **Memorial University** in 2002, he was attracted to IT when he saw the University's Information and Communication Technology program.

Noting that the Cisco Networking Academy Program is Memorial University's biggest draw for all IT students, including many already working in the industry, instructor Robert Ryan says, "Robert was a smart young fellow, pretty organized and he worked well in groups and individually. He was also top of the class... which got him on the development team for the University's switch to VoIP, and he was certainly at the top of his game for that." After his Networking Academy courses, Robert took various courses, including Cisco IP Telephony versions 1 and 2, Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL), IT and Sun Microsystems courses. He has not yet done his CCNA. "I got hired so fast, I went straight to the job, but I will be writing it very soon," he says.

Robert graduated in 2005 with a DICT (Diploma in Information and Communications Technology) and started work immediately at Memorial University on the data side in network switching. "The Networking Academy program was invaluable for me in jumping into this field as a young person," recalls Robert. It gave me the basics so that I could perform well at my interviews and get the job." Robert still uses that knowledge today. Working as network administrator with the VoIP tech division in the communications group at Memorial, it allows him to deal not only with voice staff, but many other areas of the IT environment. In short, he speaks the same language. At 27 years of age, Robert Burt's current goal is to further his education with the Cisco Unity® certification within the next six months, while completing a campus deployment of close to 3000 phones.

Roderick Campbell, manager of the communications group at Memorial U, says: "Robert Burt started here as a recent graduate. He was hired and injected straight into the early stages of a very ambitious program, deploying thousands of phones to a fairly complex environment and with some very tight time lines. We were going from the outsourced Centrex system of the phone company and we had no prior experience here with VoIP technology, so we were not exactly voice experts. Robert brought us that expertise right away. He became our instant expert.”