



# WORK-WISE

*Keeping you current on North Okanagan's employment scene*

## Local Tips for Job Seekers

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As of June 1, minimum wage is up to \$13.85.  
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Need help using the computer for job search? Call the Vernon WorkBC Centre at 250-545-2215 x 230 to sign up for a free workshop or four. Here's the June lineup (plus they run monthly, so if June isn't your thing, maybe July will be):



- Computer Basics, 9-12, Thursday June 13 and 27
- MS Word, 2-4:30, Thursday June 13 and 27
- Build Your Resume, 9-12, Friday June 14 and 28
- Internet & Email, 2-4:30, Friday June 14 and 28

Luc Bergeron facilitates the workshops, and always aims to make them fun. From games like "mousercise" (graduate with a certificate in "mousing"!)" to the occasional joke, he knows a fun learning environment is key.

"I think the method of presenting information is important," Luc explains. "To make it a non-intimidating, fun-learning kind of environment – I think the Clients like that." Then he leans over and yells into my recorder: "I have fun! I like to have fun!" It's a perfect example of the humour Luc brings to his workshops, alongside the vast experience and insight.

"The premise of the [MS Word] workshop is that by the end Clients have an idea of how to do a little bit of formatting to create their own one-page resume," he explains about one of the four workshops. You'll learn much more, so register anytime – the workshops repeat monthly.

June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. Here are a few resources for our Indigenous job seekers:

- WorkBC produces "BC's Career Guide for Indigenous People". Find it at the Vernon WorkBC Centre or check it out online at [workbc.ca/Indigenous](http://workbc.ca/Indigenous).
- On May 23, federal Tourism Minister Mélanie Joly was in Armstrong. She announced, among other things, that the government has allocated \$2.5 million to the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada to help Indigenous people develop products and experiences to help with tourism. "We know there's fantastic growth in Indigenous tourism," she said. Is now the time to start your entrepreneurial journey?
- See pages 2 and 3 for more Indigenous career insights and resources.



Staples is having a hiring fair June 1 from 10am-4pm. Hiring manager Gary Ouellette says they will be doing on-site interviews. Show up with a resume and do your research first, he says. Plus know the department you want to work in, because he says they'll ask!



Sometimes local employers reach out to tell us they are desperately seeking staff. Here are a few that have reached out lately: Bamboo Beach Fusion Grille is looking for a dishwasher as well as a cook. Apply in person after 2:30pm and ask for Yuki. Under 30 and want to be a Beekeeper's Helper in Armstrong? Email [hello@wildantho.com](mailto:hello@wildantho.com) to apply.



## NORTH OKANAGAN EMPLOYMENT EVENT:

### Give Them Wings

Kaylee Willier is an Indigenous pilot, and she knows first-hand that the industry is in crisis. "There's such a giant pilot shortage," she tells me, "that once you get out of school you're guaranteed a job and you'll work up in seniority really quickly."

In addition to the shortage, Kaylee says she has also seen that a lot of Indigenous youth don't feel they can be pilots. This misconception is why she jumped at the opportunity to be Program Coordinator for a new initiative called Give Them Wings, which aims to get Indigenous youth excited about aviation and looking at it as a career path.



“Once you get out of school, you're guaranteed a job.”

Created by Indigenous pilot Teara Fraser (who founded Iskwew Air in 2017), Give Them Wings held an event at the Kelowna Airport on May 12 this year. Indigenous youth aged 15-29 showed up to explore the hangar, tour the tower, sit at the controls of a gutted Swoop plane, talk to pilots, and go on flights in a helicopter and a fixed-wing plane. The excitement was palpable; many left with sights set on careers as pilots. Kaylee is convinced it's a good move: "If you have anyone interested in a career as a pilot," she says, "definitely convince them to do it!"

Okanagan College in Kelowna offers a Diploma in Commercial Aviation, so I connected with Jewell Gillies, Aboriginal Transition Program Advisor. She explained that, like all post-secondary education, if you're Status or have Métis Citizenship, you can apply to your Band or to Métis Nation BC to see if they can fund your education – either part of it or potentially all of it. Sara-Jane Schofield, also with Okanagan College in Kelowna, confirmed a few unique partnerships that the Diploma offers graduating students:

- if you graduate as a top student in your class, you could receive the Jazz Aviation Pathways Program award, which consists of an interview and possible direct-entry employment with Jazz
- top students are also considered for future employment at reduced entry requirements at Porter Airlines and WestJet Encore

I ask Kaylee from Give Them Wings what she thinks about the salary expectations. She says the first year the pay is low (\$30-\$40,000), but says you can work your way up really quickly. On a happy path where everything works as expected, she says you could be making \$75-\$90,000 in two years. "Right now the pilot shortage is so ridiculous," Kaylee says, "that if you start school in the fall, then in 10 years you'd be laughing."

In Vernon, for example, Aurora Helicopters Ltd says they are always on the lookout for pilots and offer a salary of \$60-\$125,000.

For more information visit [givethemwings.ca](http://givethemwings.ca), check out the Okanagan College Commercial Aviation Diploma, visit a WorkBC Centre, or explore more job market information for pilots at [workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers/Browse-Career-Profile/2271](http://workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers/Browse-Career-Profile/2271).



## TIDBITS

## Bits and bites for local folks looking for work



### WORKING TOGETHER

At WorkBC, we love a good collaboration, and the "Working Together" program is one of our go-to's. If you have a disability (it doesn't have to be diagnosed, just self-reported), and you aren't eligible for Employment Insurance (EI), then the program can pay a portion of your wages once you line up a job. Knowing this gives you an edge when you're out there applying – and sweetens the deal for employers to choose you.

We chatted with program coordinator Mindy Rollins, who was quick to share many successes. A Bakery Assistant at Vernon's Gumtree Catering, for example, came on board through the Working Together program more than four years ago, and she's still there today, with her same big grin and solid work ethic and shiny catch phrase: "It's so exciting!"

If you think Working Together might be the edge you need in your job hunt, you can contact Mindy directly – or if you start working with a case manager at WorkBC first, then we can provide additional support along the way, especially with keeping the job.

P.S. If you're a student looking for a summer gig in between schooling, Working Together is promoting its wage subsidy for summer students. "It's an excellent opportunity," says Mindy. "Act on it fast because summer's approaching!" Employers or job seekers can call Mindy directly at 250-492-5289.



*Have a fresh tip about work, employment, or business in the North Okanagan? Want a job fair or a hiring push featured? Email [centre-vernon@workbc.ca](mailto:centre-vernon@workbc.ca) to get your news in Work-Wise.*



### BC EMPLOYER TRAINING GRANT

On June 3 at 9am, the BC Employer Training Grant opens to accept applications for its second round of funding. If you're looking for work, or if you're an employer looking to upskill your workforce, then this grant is for you. It comes in three flavours:

- **Foundational:** to support unemployed, underemployed, and low-skilled British Columbians to obtain essential, transferable and certified skills to increase their job security and obtain good-paying jobs
- **Technical:** to help employers train current or new employees in technical skills in response to automation and technological advancements
- **Workforce:** to help employers upgrade their employees' skills and develop their workforce.

The last round reached its target number of applications in just four hours, and promptly closed the window for applying. That means: get your application together now, and submit it at 9am on June 3rd!

For more information, check out <https://www.workbc.ca/Employer-Resources/BC-Employer-Training-Grant.aspx>.



Reach WorkBC Employment Services:



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250-545-2215 x 230



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