



WORK-WISE

Keeping you current on North Okanagan's employment scene

Local Leads for Job Seekers



KF Aerospace is growing. "The expansion will bring permanent, full-time jobs," said VP of Corporate Services, Grant Stevens. The company aims to fill more than 100 new positions over

the next year. "For our entry level roles we provide on-the-job training that allows you to work towards a certification," said Human Resources Manager, Susan van Unen. Positions range from Aircraft Services Trainee to Hangar Support to Warehouse Support and more. Not sure this is the industry for you, but want to dig a little deeper? Register for one of their guided tours to find out more. "We take you behind the scenes of the diverse career paths and trades that make up our craft at KF," shares their website. Next tours run October 17 and November 21 at 2pm.

Job Hub is a newer WorkBC Vernon offering, and it's been generating quite the buzz. Anyone looking for work is welcome to come in once a month to hear from and meet local recruiters (Kal Tire, Interior Health, Kingfisher, and more). September featured SilverStar (hiring more than 100 positions for the winter season) and BC Hydro (hiring for its local contact centre, where positions start at \$17-\$19 an hour). Since June, Job Hub has hosted seven employers, brought in 64 job seekers, generated 17 interviews, and seen seven people hired. Join us October 23 at 9am for a presentation by Paladin Security.



 Happy NDEAM! WorkBC Vernon is proud to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and especially to cheer on the many job seekers with disabilities who are hard at work supporting our fabulous local employers.

 Want to work in the Cannabis retail scene? Here's the scoop: you'll need your "Worker Security Verification". It costs \$100, and you can apply online. Visit justice.gov.bc.ca/cannabislicensing/policy-document/worker-qualification-home to get rolling.

On September 19 we launched our brand new Youth Resource Centre (YRC), and about 150 people came to check it out. Help us keep momentum: are you under 30 and looking for work? Know someone who is? Visit the YRC at the WorkBC Centre in Vernon...we update our job boards daily and we can't wait to help you spruce up an old resume or create your very first one!



WORKBC SUCCESS STORY

If you have any questions, ask Jeffrey



Jeffrey Heinrich checks the supply of fresh fish by the lobster tanks at the Vernon Real Canadian Superstore. Carrying a small LCD writing tablet with him, called a Boogie Board, he then sets off to complete the rest of his daily tasks.

He stocks shelves with fresh and frozen seafood, occasionally stopping to communicate with a customer or co-worker, using his tablet.

"I want people to know that being deaf doesn't mean that I can't communicate with people," says Heinrich through an interpreter. "I think it takes a little understanding when people are not sure about how to communicate with a deaf person. All they need to do is ask."

Originally living in Armstrong, Heinrich moved to the Lower Mainland where he attended a school for the Deaf. Proficient in ASL (American Sign Language), Heinrich did well in school, particularly in math and English, and has a special knack with statistics. He gained work experience cleaning buses, but after school, he struggled to find a job.

In 2018 he moved back to the North Okanagan, where he continued looking for work. "I was familiar with the supports for people who are deaf and have other diverse abilities in my area," explains Heinrich, so he reached out for that support.

Heinrich approached the WorkBC Centre in Vernon through its partnership with the Kindale Developmental Association. There he met Case Manager Celena Sandaker and Employment Advisor Jerry Ward.

"We assessed his needs, what his strong points and interests were, then we got started on job preparation," says Sandaker.

Ward, in turn, worked with possible employers to find the best fit for Heinrich and his unique skills, as well as for any accommodations related to being Deaf and on the Autism Spectrum.

"We thought that Superstore would be a good option. They are open as employers for people with diverse abilities and are always looking for ways to make it work," says Sandaker.

They were right. Heinrich applied online, and was called in for an interview.

An interpreter was hired to be present during Heinrich's training period, and Superstore provided the Boogie Board to assist Heinrich in communicating with coworkers and customers.

"The Boogie Board is a good thing for me to be able to communicate back and forth with people, and it erases with the touch of a button. My nametag on my lanyard also shows customers that I am Deaf," says Heinrich.

Heinrich's managers and coworkers have been accommodating in welcoming him to the organization. They were quick to set up a special paging code if he needs help on the floor, helping him feel fully supported in the role. The team was also happy to hang a whiteboard featuring his daily tasks, which Heinrich knows will help with his success.

"Jeffrey did amazing from the start and has a great drive to be independent," says Ward. "He is a champion for the deaf community. He wants to be an example and is awesome at showing people what can be done." Adds Heinrich: "I want others to know, if I am doing it, you can too. I have a good job here and am very happy."



Reach WorkBC Employment Services:



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