



WORK-WISE

Keeping you current on North Okanagan's employment scene

Local Leads for Job Seekers



BC's Essential Services are still up and running, so there is work out there. Below we've listed a few fields experiencing growth, plus examples of local companies currently hiring:

Delivery Drivers: Valley Direct Foods in Armstrong is looking for Van Delivery Drivers. Must have a Class 5 and a clean driver's abstract and be good with customers. Also hiring multiple Order Pickers and Farm Box Packers. All wages are \$17 and up. Email resumes to keith@vpplus.ca.



Security Guards: Don't have your Basic Security Training (BST)? Apply to Paladin Security anyway! They can pay for your BST and License if they think you're a fit, as long as you work six months FT or nine months PT with them after.

Healthcare Staff: Interior Health recruiter Cassandra Ritchie says being a Health Care Assistant is "a really high-demand profession, especially right now." Talk to your WorkBC Case Manager if you think this could be a good career path for you. Also in healthcare: at last glance Chartwell Retirement Residences were hiring six different positions for their Vernon locations and Vantage Living was hiring five.



Agriculture/Orchard Workers: The industry typically relies on workers coming from other locations, but COVID-19 has changed things. The General Manager for the BC Fruit Growers Association says: "Anyone from BC who applies to be a picker will likely be accepted because of the staff shortages..."



Construction: Major construction projects are still a go-ahead. The three-year Highway 1 expansion project East of Revelstoke is looking for Drivers, Operators, Driller Helpers, Labourers, Traffic Control Persons, and more. They prioritize hiring folks who are: local, Indigenous, women, people with disabilities, and other underrepresented groups. All jobs posted on www.BCIB.ca.



Retail: Building Material Stores like Home Depot are Essential Services. In Vernon, Home Depot is hiring multiple positions. You can currently skip the online application process and email your resume directly to Brandon, Assistant Store Manager, at brandon_m_molzahn@homedepot.com.

NEW WorkBC Tools

1) Every month, WorkBC Vernon hosts a Job Hub where employers and job seekers connect. They've now gone virtual! In April, 33 job seekers logged on to hear from and chat with recruiters from Interior Health and Rogers Communications. Call us to hear which employers are joining us in May. (If you're an employer, call to get on the roster!). Our staff are happy to talk you through the joys of setting up for a virtual meeting if tech is not your strong-suit.

2) WorkBC Vernon subscribes to Flexjobs.com, an online job board with work-from-home positions that are all screened by a team of 200 humans to highlight good opportunities and weed out scams. Ask your WorkBC Case Manager for leads!

WorkBC Partner Focus



Maytee Ferrigno has been working for the Vernon and District Immigration and Community Services Society for more than 12 years. Today, she works with them as a Case Manager for the WorkBC program, where she helps immigrants find jobs. "One of my dreams is to travel the world," she says. "But I don't have to leave my desk to travel the world."



I don't have to leave my desk to travel the world.

Maytee goes on to explain that she's worked with Clients from Ghana to Korea to Montenegro, from Germany to El Salvador to Hong Kong, and many more in between.

"If someone wants to work, even if their English skills are low, we have the resources to get an interpreter," she says. "We also offer English classes, and we can do one-to-one tutoring." Plus, she laughs, "Google translate is amazing."

Through the WorkBC program, Maytee has helped Clients get training to become Truck Drivers and Health Care Aides, to get their foot in the door with local employers, and to start their own businesses.

She's a familiar face in the community, having won the Multicultural Champion award in 2017, where meeting her was described as "being enveloped in a warm, cheerful bubble." Her Clients connect with her, particularly because she's lived the immigrant experience herself. Thirty-three years ago she moved to Canada from Guatemala, where she was an Electrical Engineer. After raising her family, and doing some additional training, she says her role with WorkBC is where she's meant to be. "All of the things I did prepared me for this job," she says.

"We're here to help," Maytee says to New Canadians. "Don't be shy. I will refer you to whatever support you need."

Employer Spotlight

Cassandra Ritchie and Sandra Hohmann, recruiters for Health Care Assistant roles at Interior Health, virtually popped in to WorkBC Vernon to talk about the increased demand in the healthcare industry during COVID-19. Here's a bit of what they shared:



- "It's a really high-demand profession, especially now."
- "Typical duties of a Health Care Assistant include: personal care, activities of daily living like bathing, personal grooming like brushing teeth, medication reminders, and assisting with mobility."
- Tips for joining their team: "Ask questions. And coming in with a smile is always helpful."
- "Becoming a volunteer is a really great first step to gain exposure to the healthcare industry and to explore career possibilities."
- "All of the long-term care sites also require many other staff members. The ones we get asked the most about are the support services positions. They do things like cleaning, helping prepare food, and serving food to our clients and patients. Those positions don't typically have specific educational requirements, so they are attractive as entry level positions into Interior Health. They still pay very well, around \$20 an hour, and those opportunities come up all the time."
- To learn more about joining Interior Health as a Health Care Assistant, check out: jobs.interiorhealth.ca/health-care-assistant
- For all open Interior Health positions, visit: jobs.interiorhealth.ca



Reach WorkBC Employment Services:



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