BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA

WORKFORCE

Tap into a dynamic and diverse labour market

British Columbia's growing labour pool includes over 2.3 million highly educated, multilingual and motivated workers. With our cosmopolitan cities, temperate climate and clean environment, it is also easy to recruit from abroad and retain top performers.

GROW YOUR BUSINESS WITH SMART, TECH-SAVVY WORKERS

Our labour force is young, energetic and highly skilled. Three out of five B.C. workers are younger than 44, and our excellent post-secondary institutions ensure a steady stream of new graduates and innovation.

Our universities receive high marks in global rankings, with the University of British Columbia consistently ranking in the top 40 global universities and within the top 20 of the world's public universities. Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria take top positions in Canada in the Times Higher Education world rankings of 100 universities under 50 years old.

» Well over one-quarter of our workforce has a university degree and 71 per cent have a post-secondary education.

» British Columbia's 25 publicly funded post-secondary institutions (11 universities, 11 colleges, and three institutes) offer more than 1,900 programs and produce a wealth of skill and talent.

» Our universities award more than 25,000 degrees annually, with more than one-quarter of these in the fields of science and engineering.

» There are 36,000 apprentices in our trades training system.

» More than 6,400 technology and technical credentials were awarded by the British Columbia Institute of Technology in 2012-2013, and over 53,000 post-secondary credentials were granted by other institutions.

» More than $2.4 billion has been invested in capital and infrastructure projects at B.C.’s public post-secondary institutions since 2001

British Columbia's workforce is flexible and continually adapting to meet the needs of high-growth sectors. More than 80 per cent of the workforce is employed in service industries, including a quarter in professional, educational, and business support services.

Source: Labour Force Survey, September 2011
BENEFIT FROM AN EXCELLENT PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM

British Columbia’s international respected public education system extends from kindergarten to grade 12. Our students receive a first-rate education that prepares them for jobs and advanced training. Our high school completion rate is 84 per cent, and our youth achieve top scores in international assessments of core skills.

» Results from the 2012 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) showed that British Columbia was the highest-performing English-speaking jurisdiction in the world, the highest-performing Canadian province in science and reading, and the second-highest Canadian province in math.

RECRUIT AND RETAIN SKILLED WORKERS

British Columbia welcomes immigrants and values the new skills, networks, and diversity they bring to our province. In 2012, more than 35,000 immigrants settled in British Columbia, attracted by our spectacular natural beauty, vibrant culture and expanding economy.

British Columbia’s reputation as one of the most desirable places to live makes us a global magnet for talent.

» Vancouver is consistently ranked one of the most liveable cities in the world by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), an affiliate of the U.K.-based Economist magazine. The EIU ranks 140 cities on stability, health care, culture, environment, education, and infrastructure.

» Vancouver was also ranked top city in North America and fifth in the world in Mercer’s annual Quality of Living Survey, which measures living conditions in terms of political, social and economic environment, schools and education, housing, and the natural environment.

» Companies based in British Columbia that want to access international expertise face minimal restrictions on hiring and relocating the people they need.

» The British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program is a fast-track economic immigration program that helps employers attract and retain qualified international workers.

» The Skills Connect for Immigrants Program accelerates the entry of skilled immigrants into their fields of expertise.

EXPERIENCE A SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT

British Columbia’s employment standards legislation sets minimum requirements for conditions of employment such as hours of work, wages, overtime pay, minimum wages and termination.

» Standard hours of work are eight hours per day and 40 hours per week.

» Overtime pay is one-and-a-half times regular pay, applicable after the standard 40 weekly hours.

» There are nine statutory holidays each year.

» High-tech companies in British Columbia operate under labour rules that allow them to offer the most flexible work environment. Recognizing that high-tech employers have unique requirements, British Columbia has created a labour framework that enables these companies to thrive.

IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, ATTRACT AND RETAIN THE HIGHLY-SKILLED, DIVERSE AND MOTIVATED WORKFORCE YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR PROJECTS A GLOBAL SUCCESS.