



Employment Programs

There are many different free employment programs for people with disabilities and/or chronic health conditions. Services offered can include career planning, skills training, job placement, or workplace accommodations. Listed below are some of the organizations that provide these services in BC. Check the websites for eligibility for each program.

<p>Work BC www.workbc.ca/Resources-for/People-with-Disabilities.aspx</p>	<p>Job options and services designed to support people with disabilities: post-secondary education, funding or assistive adaptations for your education, and gain work experience.</p>
<p>BC Centre for Ability 604-451-5511 www.bc-cfa.org</p>	<p>Provides a wide range of community-based services for people with disabilities and their families. Employment programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities: Assists people with disabilities to obtain employment or self-employment by contributing to training plans and funding. • Work BC Case Management Services: Offers support to job seekers with a disability or chronic health condition in Vancouver's northeast. Adult and youth job seekers receive vocational support from a Case Manager, within the full service WorkBC Employment Service Centre.
<p>Neil Squire Society 604-473-9363 www.neilsquire.ca</p>	<p>Provides services for individuals for whom a physical disability is the primary barrier to employment. Programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Together: an individualized program or group-based learning environment, career & personal development, job search support customized to meet your individual needs and ergonomic and/or assistive technology assessments and solutions. • Solutions to Employment: provides specialized case managed services for people with disabilities and injuries. The range of services support job seekers to find and maintain employment and improve employment readiness. • Job Focus: is an employment service for persons with disabilities and work workplace injuries, designed to help them reach their vocational goals. This service is offers one-to-one flexible services to help individuals work towards full or part-time employment, volunteer work, or self-employment. Clients are supported as they plan and/or search for employment.
<p>Community Living BC (CLBC) 604-664-0101/1-877-660-2522 www.communitylivingbc.ca</p>	<p>Offers supported employment and volunteer services for people with developmental disabilities, or who fall under CLBC eligibility requirements. Many of these are coordinated through local CLBC contractors.</p>



Jobs West 604-732-7776 www.jobswestdda.ca	The Developmental Disabilities Association (DDA) coordinates this program specifically for people with a developmental disability. It provides supported employment and volunteer opportunities along with on-the-job training assistance and follow-up support.
Open Door Group 1-866-377-3670 www.opendoorgroup.org	Offers programs across the province covering needs such as skills training, planning and placement services, as well as job maintenance strategies for people with barriers to employment.
NEADS Online Work System 1-877-670-1256 www.neads.ca	The National Educational Association of Disabilities Students (NEADS) has a job database for employers and job-seekers, as well as articles about employment-related issues.
Bowman Employment Services 1-877-866-3100 www.bowmanemployment.com	Offers a variety of employment assistance and training programs for people with and without disabilities. They have locations in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Kamloops, Kelowna, Maple Ridge, North Vancouver, Salmon Arm, Penticton and Vernon.
People in Motion 250-861-3302 http://pimbc.ca/?page_id=29	Coordinates the Employ-Ability Program designed for persons with a permanent disability. This program provides career counselling, a resource center, assistance with educational funding, work accommodations and wage subsidies. They provide services to the North and Central Okanagan.
Employment Action 250-564-8044 www.employment-action.bc.ca	Offers employment counselling and other services to people with disabilities, including connecting them with potential employers. They are located in Prince George.
Community Futures B.C. 604 289-4222 http://www.communityfutures.ca/	Offers programs designed to assist persons with a disability or living in a rural area to start or grow their own business. This includes Entrepreneurs with Disabilities, which offers business loans to individuals with disabilities as well as assistance with business consultation and development.

Some businesses are now taking a greater initiative to hire people with disabilities. Several companies and businesses that have been noted as recruiting and employing people with disabilities include, but are not limited to: McDonalds Restaurants, BMO, Canada Trust, CIBC, Royal Bank, HSBC, Safeway, PriceSmart Foods, London Drugs, Home Depot, and the Vancouver Airport Authority.

Many post-secondary institutions also offer specific job training programs for people with disabilities. These usually include on -the-job work experience. This can increase your chances of getting hired after your training program is complete. Institutions that provide employment training programs for people with disabilities in BC include: Douglas College, Vancouver Community College, University College of the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island University, Camosun College, Okanagan College, NorthWest Community College, Capilano University, Kwantlen University College, Selkirk, Thompson Rivers University, and more.

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You can join the BC Epilepsy Society as a member and receive all program and service benefits

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