

LE BULLETIN



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One year later!

In January 2013, Accès•emploi moved to La Cité francophone after having served its clients on Whyte Avenue and 91st Street since 2002. After a year of operating at La Cité, situated at #202, 8627 Marie Anne Gaboury Street, what are the results and what are people saying?

Comments received from clients have been positive since the first day of opening at the new address. They appreciate the modern, professional and well-appointed premises, especially the more efficient use of space. Whereas previously the office was divided into two separate buildings, all of Accès•emploi's services are now offered under one roof. The clients appreciate that they can attend the job search and English conversation seminars at the same place in addition to having access to numerous other important services in French, such as the Centre d'accueil et d'établissement, CANAVUA (Canadian Volunteers United in Action Society), health services and other community services offered in French which are also situated in the same building.

As for La Cité, its Executive Director Daniel Cournoyer emphasizes that Accès•emploi's arrival has greatly contributed to the vitality and the vibrancy of the space. He notes that having an employment centre within La Cité ensures it is the gathering place of newcomers to Edmonton and contributes to their knowledge of other services offered here in French. Cournoyer also confirms that the number of visitors and the frequency of use of the services at La Cité have risen dramatically.

Accès•emploi's Executive Director, Suzanne Corneau, confirms that the employment service provider has served an increasing number of clients since the move. She also observes that her staff is happy with the new space and glad of being housed under the same roof, which permits a better exchange of ideas between all members of the staff. Corneau also underlines the fact that, due to the availability of La Cité's multipurpose rooms, two employment forums were held, in May and November 2013. Accès•emploi's clients were thus able to meet over 50 potential employers, all gathered in one place.

From all points of view, the move to La Cité in January 2013 has been quite positive. Be it the clients, Accès•emploi's management or La Cité and its various tenants, all agree that having Edmonton's only French employment centre in the heart of Edmonton's French community has great advantages.



A Dynamic and Profitable Job Market

Winter brings us our share of snow, but it also brings exponential growth to Alberta's labour market.

In fact, the need for qualified labour in certain industries is steadily increasing. The oil and gas industry for one, the driving force of Alberta's economy, has many job possibilities, especially in the area of work camps. Another sector where a range of job opportunities exists is road maintenance, particularly in the snow removal field.

What are the jobs most in demand and available to newcomers during this season?

Alberta's employment market in the fall and winter seasons is known to be dynamic and profitable. However, for the purposes of this article, we will focus on a few jobs, selected because they constitute an important part of the job market offer and are accessible.

The summary below lists four of the available jobs and gives key information that we hope will be useful for job seekers.

Assistant Cook (Work Camps)

Job Description

- Maintain cleanliness of the kitchen (sweep, clean, wash, etc.), store foodstuffs, aid in the preparation of basic foods

Training (*Minimum requirement*)

- Food Safety
- Food Protection

Specific Skills and Conditions

- Good health
- Awareness of the standards of hygiene
- Neat, well-groomed appearance
- Ability to follow oral and written instructions
- Ability to work as part of a team

Salary Range

\$10.06 à \$13.41 (Average/hr)

Job Info

- Assistant cooks work in restaurants, fast-food establishments, work camps and in public areas such as hospitals and nursing homes
- Part-time work is common
- Possibility of becoming assistants to the head cook or head cook; they may also achieve supervisory positions. However, supervisory positions require a high school diploma and a readiness to train

Housekeeper/Maintenance worker (Work Camps)

Job Description

- Clean and tidy (sweep, wash floors, clean toilets, dust, empty garbage bins, make beds)

Training (*Minimum requirement*)

In general, all necessary training is done on-the-job. Some employers might require:

- First Aid
- WHMIS (Work Place Hazardous Materials Information System)
- CSTS (Construction Safety Training System)
- OSSA (Oil Sands Safety Association)

Specific Skills and Conditions

- Physical stamina
- Neat and clean clothing
- Good communication skills
- Ability to work as part of a team

Salary Range

\$12.96 to \$16.32 (Average/hr)

Job Info

- Housekeepers/maintenance workers are employed by hotels, motels, clubs, dormitories and work camps
- Jobs can be seasonal
- Possibility of advancement in careers with the tourism industry

Labourer on the drilling platform

Job Description

- General duties on drilling platforms: cleaning, loading and unloading, etc.

Training (*Minimum requirement*)

- High school diploma
- First Aid
- H2S Alive certificates

Specific Skills and Conditions

- Physical and mental stamina
- Interest in working outside and in remote areas
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Good attitude with regard to safety

Salary Range

\$21.51 to \$25.51 (Average/hr)

Job Info

- Increase of job opportunities during winter. Fall and start of winter are the best times for inexperienced candidates to inquire about job openings
- A considerable increase of opportunities is expected in this area in the next few years due to the retirement of the baby-boomers

Heavy Equipment Operator - snow removal

Job Description

- Operators of heavy-duty equipment in the fields of construction, maintenance of roads and snow removal, materials handling

Training (*Minimum requirement*)

Operators are usually trained on-the-job

Skills required:

- Secure and safe use of machines
- Performance of preventive maintenance
- Diagnosing mechanical problems
- Ability to read and follow directions and plans

Specific Skills and Conditions

- -Excellent physical condition
- -Good vision
- -Quick reflexes
- -Ability to work alone or as part of a team
- -Good communication skills in English

Salary Range

\$23.29 to \$32.50 (Average/hr)

Job Info

- Experienced operators are eligible for positions such as safety officer or trainer or jobs of a supervisory nature
- About 204 new jobs will be created yearly, in addition to the positions available due to job turnover



What becomes of seasonal workers?

Two important factors that affect Alberta's employment market are the seasons and the nature of the jobs. Some jobs are specific to weather fluctuations while others are simply seasonal. Seasonal jobs are usually found in the following industries: fishery, agriculture, construction, forestry and tourism. Some of these industries, especially agriculture, employ foreign seasonal workers in addition to Canadian workers. The foreign workers must return to their country of origin on completion of their contracts. But, what becomes of the Canadians and Permanent residents who work in these sectors?

There are two possible scenarios for the employees of seasonal industries. A few years ago, a good number of seasonal workers had the choice of either looking for work in another field or applying for employment insurance benefits. Today, according to Service Canada, recent changes implemented to reduce the number of beneficiaries by matching them to available jobs force seasonal workers to continually seek the same jobs as workers in other fields that are not seasonal.

Job seekers need to know which jobs are available in every season and also during the holidays (Christmas, New Year). In summer, many more jobs are available in construction, forestry, agriculture (harvest time) and landscaping. In winter, the opportunities are in the oil and gas industry, oil drilling, work camps and snow removal. During the holiday season, jobs are available in sales, megastores, warehouses and in the restaurant and food industry.

The reality is that seasonal unemployment is part of Alberta's job market. It can be disconcerting for some workers, but it is something they must adapt to and live with. Often, people who work in seasonal fields love the chance to move from one job to another according to the seasons. Seasonal workers should seek the help of employment professionals who understand the concept of seasonal work and can quickly direct them to available jobs.

References :

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/fra/sc/ae/jced/saisonnier.shtml>

The 'Dos and Don'ts' of the Job Interview

Many of us are highly fearful of the job interview. Nevertheless, it is an essential part of obtaining employment. The following are a few tips to help you prepare for your interviews.

DO :

- Be prepared: know where to go, familiarize yourself with the company, identify the duties of the job
- Arrive 10 minutes before the interview
- Take care of your appearance
- Listen and be genuine
- Turn off your cellphone

DON'TS :

- Arrive late
- Be overly talkative, or engage in political or religious debates
- Answer in French to a question posed in English
- Ask about coffee breaks, vacation or employee benefits
- Criticize your previous employer or company

The provinces in numbers!

The most recent data from Statistics Canada, published in Working in Canada (http://www.workingincanada.gc.ca/LMI_bulletin.do), indicate that the rate of unemployment in Canada, in September 2013, was 6.9%. The highest unemployment rate is in Prince Edward Island, whereas Alberta and Saskatchewan enjoy the lowest rates.

In the table below, the provinces are compared in numbers by the rate of unemployment, the number of persons employed and the average weekly salary. They are categorized according to the average weekly salary, starting with the highest. No data is available for the Northwest Territories, Nunavut or the Yukon.

Province	Unemployment Rate	Number of persons employed	Average weekly salary
Alberta	4.3%	2,236,400	\$ 1,117.58
Saskatchewan	4.3%	555,500	\$ 954.70
Newfoundland and Labrador	10.4%	230,700	\$ 943.65
Ontario	7.3%	6,918,400	\$ 931.04
British Columbia	6.7%	2,309,800	\$ 877.29
Quebec	7.6%	4,013,800	\$ 840.43
Manitoba	5.5%	634,000	\$ 836.82
New Brunswick	10.7%	352,600	\$ 813.82
Nova Scotia	8.6%	456,100	\$ 809.31
Prince Edward Island	11%	73,400	\$ 761.29

Edmonton:

202-8627 91e rue
Edmonton AB T6C 3N1

Tel.: 780-490-6975

1-888-490-6999

Fax.: 780-490-6905

ae@accesemploi.net

www.accesemploi.net

Nord-Est de l'Alberta:

4904B, 50 Street
CP 7729
Bonnyville AB T9N 2J1

Tel.: 780-826-9003

1-877-826-9004

Fax.: 780-826-9004

ae-ne@accesemploi.net

www.accesemploi.net

Pour nous
joindre
Contact us

 Alberta Human Services

 Canada