



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.

BC Centre for Ability 604-451-5511 www.centreforability.bc.ca
Provides a wide range of community-based services for people with disabilities and their families. Employment programs include:

- *SEGWAYE*: For young adults (18-25) who are affected by neurological conditions. Services include assessment, group planning, and job mentorship. 604-630-3034 or 604-630-3013
- *Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities*: Assists people with disabilities to obtain employment or self-employment by contributing to training plans and funding. 604-451-5511
- *Greater Vancouver Business Leadership Network*: Offers services to link people with disabilities to potential employers, including a job database. 604-630-3031
- *Employment Centre for Persons with Disabilities*: Provides employment services to people with disabilities and chronic health conditions. Office is located in Surrey. 604-580-6962

Triumph Vocational Services 1-866-689-7150 www.triumphvocational.com
Provides employment supports for people with disabilities throughout BC whether they are currently employed or receiving income assistance. This includes career exploration and employment planning, assessments, training, job placement, self-employment services, and ongoing supports.

MindWorksBC 604-233-2215 www.backinmotion.com/mindworks_bc.html
Delivers a pre-employment service delivered by Back in Motion Rehab designed specifically for persons with neurological disabilities. The purpose is to assist individuals to better manage their disability in order to prepare them for participation in community employment services.

Open Door Group 604-734-0777 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.

Neil Squire Society 604-473-9363 www.neilsquire.ca
Provides services for individuals for whom a physical disability is the primary barrier to employment. Programs include *Employ-Ability*, which is a 12 week self-paced program addressing personal wellness, career options, and job search skills, as well as *Job Focus*, which offers one-to-one counselling and job placement support. This organization also produces and provides assistive technology devices.

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.www.cf-edp.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.

Link Up Employment Services for Persons with Disabilities 604-602-1505 www.linkup.ca

Helps individuals with disabilities by marketing job seekers to employers, providing workplace accommodations, and organizing work placements.

IAM Cares Society

604-436-2921

www.iamcares.ca

Offer employment assistance and support services to people with all types of disabilities and/or chronic conditions who live in the Lower Mainland and Greater Vancouver regions. They help people prepare for and find suitable employment that fits with your interests, abilities, and background.

People in Motion

250-861-3302

www.pimbc.ca

Coordinates the *Access to Employment Program* designed for persons with a permanent disability. This program provides career counselling, a resource centre, assistance with educational funding, work accommodations and wage subsidies. They provide services to the North and Central Okanagan.

Bowman Employment Services Inc.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.

Jobs West

604-732-7776

www.jobswestdda.ca

The Developmental Disabilities Association 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.

Community Living BC (CLBC)

604-664-0101/1-877-660-2522

www.communitylivingbc.ca

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.

Ability Edge

1-888-507-EDGE (3343)

www.abilityedge.ca

A national internship program for university or college graduates with self-declared disabilities. The internships are paid positions that last for 6, 9 or 12 months.

NEADS Online Work Systemwww.nows.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.

WorkAble Solutionswww.workablesolutionsbc.ca

An initiative through the BC government to connect job seekers with disabilities to employers. Employers can post jobs online, which can then be accessed by job seekers.

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: 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 U, 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 the program and service benefits.

#2500-900 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Z 1E5

Phone: (604) 875-6704 Fax: (604) 875-0617 Email: info@bcepilepsy.com Website: www.bcepilepsy.com