Drafting Technologists & Technicians

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia
1. Working as a Drafting Technologist / Technician

Job Description

Working as a Drafting technologist you will perform some or all of the following duties:

- Develop and prepare engineering designs and drawings
- Operate computer-assisted design (CAD) and drafting workstations
- Complete documentation packages and produce drawing sets
- Check and verify design drawings to conform to specifications and design data
- Write technical reports
- Prepare contracts and tender documents
- Prepare construction specifications, costs, and material estimates
- Supervise and train other technologists, technicians, and drafters.

Working as a Drafting technician you will perform some or all of the following duties:

- Develop and prepare engineering drawings, plans, diagrams, or layouts
- Operate computer-assisted drafting (CAD) or a conventional drafting station

Industry Overview

In British Columbia, opportunities for drafting technologists and technicians will continue to increase through 2022.

In BC, the majority (70%) of drafting technologists and technicians work in the Lower Mainland.


Job Outlook in BC

Drafting Technologists & Technicians, NOC 2253

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Job Openings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cumulative number of new jobs (2012 - 2022): 3,300

% job openings from replacement: 66%

% job openings from expansion: 34%

The BC Regional Employment Projections, 2010-2015, provides job openings projections for drafting technologists and technicians (NOC 2253) within BC regions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2010 Estimated Employment</th>
<th>2015 Estimated Employment</th>
<th>Avg Annual % Change, 5 years, 2010 to 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver Island</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Mainland /Southwest</td>
<td>3,190</td>
<td>3,640</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson-Okanagan</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kootenay</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cariboo</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Coast &amp; Nechako</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>-1.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


You can learn more about drafting technologists/technicians in BC from

- **WorkBC** website http://www.workbc.ca/Careers/
  [search 2253 for drafting and 2255 for mapping]
Types of Employers

Drafting technologists and technicians are employed by architect firms, engineer firms, consulting and construction, utility, resource, and manufacturing companies, all levels of government, and by a wide range of other establishments.

Salary

In BC, the average annual salary for drafting technologists and technicians is between $44,000 and $53,000. Drafters in senior and management positions can earn over $75,000 a year.

In addition to a salary, drafters employed on a full-time usually receive benefits such as health and dental coverage, paid vacations, and paid sick days. Some may also receive contributions to retirement income plans.

From Career Cruising database (Profile for Drafter). Available from the VPL Online Articles, Encyclopedias & More page: http://www.vpl.ca/electronic_databases/alpha/c

Across BC, drafting technologists and technicians can expect to make:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Wage ($/hr)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Mainland - Southwest Region</td>
<td>16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson--Okanagan Region</td>
<td>16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver Island and Coast Region</td>
<td>16.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Working Hours

Drafting technologists and technicians typically work regular hours, 7 or 8 hours a day, five days a week. However, they may work longer hours to meet project deadlines.
2. Skills, Education and Experience

Skills

- Mechanically inclined
- Able to visualize three-dimensional objects
- Artistic, Creative
- Knowledge of manufacturing or construction
- Works well in a team environment
- Oral communication and written skills

Source: Career Cruising database (Profile for Drafter)

Education and Experience

Drafting technologists

- Completion of a 1 to 2 year college program in drafting

OR

- Completion of a 2 to 3 year college program in engineering design and drafting technology or in a related field is usually required for drafting and design technologists

OR

- Completion of a 3 to 4 year apprenticeship program

Drafting technicians

- Completion of a 1 to 2 year college program in drafting

OR

- Completion of a 3 to 4 year apprenticeship program in drafting. Apprenticeships combine paid on-the-job training and experience with in-class instruction

OR

- Completion of 4 to 5 years of related experience plus completion of college or industry courses in drafting are usually required for drafting technicians.

Source: Career Cruising database (Profile for Drafter)
Qualifications

The profession is not regulated in British Columbia.

Certification with the provincial technology association is voluntary and not mandatory in order to gain employment. However, it is illegal to use specific professional designations without being certified. In British Columbia certification is carried out by the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC) in accordance with national standards set by the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists (CCTT). Professional designations granted under the ASTT Act include Applied Science Technologist (AScT) and Certified Technician (CTech).

AScT and CTech certification requirements include academic qualifications either as a technologist (diploma) or a technician (certificate) from a recognized The applicant also requires a minimum of 2 years of related work experience, with at least 1 year at the level of certification. In addition, one year of the work experience must be in Canada.

- For more information see ASTTBC http://www.asttbc.org/index.php
Internationally Trained Drafting Technologists and Technicians

Internationally trained professionals may qualify for provisional membership through Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC), provided that the foreign academics and experience are acceptable.


For information on the certification process for internationally trained technologists and technicians:

- Internationally Trained Technology Professionals (ITTP) [http://www.ittpbc.com/](http://www.ittpbc.com/)

- Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists (CCTT) [http://www.cctt.ca/](http://www.cctt.ca/)

3. Finding Jobs

You’ll find job advertisements in local newspapers, trade journals, and electronic sources, as well as through professional associations’ publications.

Local Newspapers

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun & The Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily, the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays and in *The Province* on Sundays.

Job White Pages

- Available in print at the Central Library or online at [http://jobfreeway.com/memberdocs/vpl-home.htm](http://jobfreeway.com/memberdocs/vpl-home.htm)

**NOTE:** You can only access this database from the Central Library or VPL branch libraries. Access is NOT available from home or outside the Library.

Online Job Postings

- **BC Construction Job Store**

- **Canadian Homebuilders’ Association**

- **Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association, careers**

- **Indeed**
  [http://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search](http://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search)
  Find jobs posted on a multitude of company career sites and job boards

- **Skilled Workers.com**

- **TechJobs.ca**
**Professional Associations’ Career Resources**

- **Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association**, Careers  
  [http://www.gvhba.org/careers](http://www.gvhba.org/careers)

- **CTEN - Canadian Technical Employment Network**  
  Online job posting and applicant screening service that brings together skilled technicians and technologists and prospective employers.  
  **Registration is required to access this site.** Registration is free to members of the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia or other provincial technology associations.

**Identifying the Right Position**

When you browse job advertisements, you’ll find a range of different job titles that are relevant.

**For drafting technologists/technicians, look for these related job titles (from NOC code 2253):**

- architectural draftsperson
- computer-assisted drafting (CAD) technician / technologists
- design and drafting technologist
- draftsperson
- electrical / electronic draftsperson
- engineering design and drafting technologist
- supervisor, drafting office

Source: NOC
Creating a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of employers in Vancouver or the Lower Mainland. Contact them directly to find out if they’re hiring. You can photocopy from the print directories at Central Library, or use the online directories from a computer connected to the Internet.

- **Business in Vancouver Book of Lists. “Biggest Construction Companies”.**
  Available at the Central Library. 338.9711 B97b or online at:

- **Canadian Construction Association Membership Directory**
  See “Corporate Member Firms”
  Available at the Central Library, 380 Bu9Cc, or online at:

- **Contact, Greater Vancouver Home Builders’ Association Membership Directory**
  Available at the Central Library, 380 Bu9CBg, or online at:
  [http://www gvhba.org/](http://www gvhba.org/)

- **Reference Canada**
  [https://www.vpl.ca/electronic_databases/alpha/r](https://www.vpl.ca/electronic_databases/alpha/r)
  Go to the "Reference Canada" database, choose the "Custom Search" button, and select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "drafting services" and click LOOKUP. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button.
  Available from the VPL Online Articles, Encyclopedias & More page

**NOTE:** You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database. After clicking on the database name, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN (usually last four digits of your telephone number).
4. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume or curriculum vitae and a cover letter that identifies the position you are applying for and summarizes your relevant experience.

Use the library catalogue, http://vpl.bibliocommons.com/ to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

To learn about applying for jobs in Canada, use the following pathfinders which are available in print at the Central Library or online at http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/.

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**
  Go to http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca
  [Search Writing Resumes and Cover Letters]

- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**
  Go to http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca
  [Search Getting Canadian Work Experience]

- **Networking for Employment**
  Go to http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca
  [Search Networking for Employment]

- **Learn More About Working in BC and Canada**
  Go to http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca
  [Search Learn More About Working in BC and Canada]
5. Getting Help from Industry Sources

**Industry Associations**
Associations for drafting technologists and technicians in BC and Canada provide assistance to individuals. Registration and fees are required for membership.

- **Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia**
  The association for technology professionals in British Columbia.

- **Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists**
  [http://www.cctt.ca/](http://www.cctt.ca/)
  The national organization that represents provincial associations who grant and maintain the certification of individual technicians and technologists.

**Industry Journals**
Search the Vancouver Public Library catalogue for journals related to your profession. Examples at the Central Library:

- **Construction Canada**
  Available online at: [http://www.constructioncanada.net/](http://www.constructioncanada.net/)

- **Contact**
  Available at the Central Library, 380 Bu9cBg

- **Journal of Commerce** (Western Canada’s construction newspaper)
  Available at Central Library, 338.47 J86Bu and online at:
  [http://www.journalofcommerce.com](http://www.journalofcommerce.com)

Questions? Please ask the Information Staff in the Central Library, Vancouver Public Library or telephone 604-331-3603.

*Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at [http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/](http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/).*