

Construction Managers

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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1. Working as a Construction Manager [NOC 0711]

Job Description

As a Construction Manager, your duties may include:

- Plan, organize, control and evaluate construction projects from start to finish
- Create a budget and then track spending
- Plan and prepare construction schedules
- Develop quality control programs
- Prepare progress reports
- Buy construction materials, arrange equipment, and hire trades people
- Supervise the jobsite to ensure work is being done right and on schedule

Source: NOC <http://noc.esdc.gc.ca/English/noc/QuickSearch.aspx?ver=16&val65=0711>

Industry Overview

The demand for workers in B.C.'s construction industry remains high.

It is anticipated that there will be 6,920 job openings for construction managers in B.C. between 2015 and 2025.

Job Outlook in BC

Construction Managers



Chart from WorkBC

WorkBC provides job openings in BC regions from 2015-2025:

Region	Expected # of Job Openings	Average Annual Employment Growth	Expected Increase in Employment
Vancouver Island	1,120	1.1%	250
Lower Mainland / Southwest	4,200	0.5%	505
Thompson-Okanagan	960	2.2%	340
Kootenay	160	0.3%	15
Cariboo	170	1.0%	35
North Coast & Nechako	100	-0.1%	0
Northeast	210	1.9%	65

You can learn more about working as a construction manager in BC from:

- **WorkBC Career Profiles** <http://workbc.ca/Careers> [search NOC 0711]
- **Careers in Construction**
<http://www.careersinconstruction.ca/en/career/construction-manager>

Types of Employers

Construction managers work for many types of employers including:

- new home building and residential renovation companies
- commercial and industrial construction companies
- institutional and commercial construction
- civil engineering
- construction departments of companies outside the construction industry

Salary

In BC, the median annual salary for full-time construction managers is \$83,424. Your hourly wage varies depending on the contract, the company, and current economic conditions.

Construction work can involve overtime, so your total annual salary may vary depending on the number of overtime hours you work. In addition to your wage, you may also receive benefits such as vacation pay, dental and medical benefits, and retirement packages.

Sources: WorkBC and CareersinConstruction.ca

Construction Managers and Supervisors

Job Bank Canada provides hourly wages for **Construction Managers** in BC Regions:

Location	Wage (\$/hr)		
	Low	Median	High
British Columbia	22.00	40.00	58.00
Lower Mainland - Southwest Region	25.00	42.31	57.69
Northeast Region	12.16	39.71	76.69
Thompson--Okanagan Region	22.00	40.00	58.00
Vancouver Island and Coast Region	22.00	40.00	58.00

Source: Job Bank, Wage Report http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/wage-outlook_search-eng.do?reportOption=wage

Working Hours

Construction managers generally work more than a standard 40-hour workweek. Your hours depend on the job schedule and any delays that may arise. You are often on call 24/7 to deal with problems and emergencies.

Source: CareersinConstruction.ca

2. Skills, Education and Experience

Skills

- problem-solving
- detail-oriented
- excellent job task planning and organization skills
- work well as part of a team
- strong oral and written communication skills
- good business management skills

Source: *Career Cruising* database - Profile for Construction Manager
Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page
<http://www.vpl.ca/extDB/login.remoteDB?CareerCruising>

Education and Experience

- A university degree in civil engineering or a college diploma in construction technology is usually required
- A master's degree in project management may be required
- Several years of experience in the construction industry, including experience as a construction supervisor or field superintendent, are usually required
- Extensive experience in the construction industry may substitute for post-secondary education requirements
- Professional engineering status or construction trade certification may be required by some employers

Source: WorkBC Career Profile

Qualifications

This occupation is not regulated in British Columbia.

In British Columbia, a Bachelor degree program in construction management is available through the *British Columbia Institute of Technology*.

For more information see:

- **British Columbia Institute of Technology**
<http://www.bcit.ca/study/programs/8800btech>

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://www.vpl.ca/extDB/login.remoteDB?JOBFreeway>

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

- **Daily Commercial News & Construction Record Careers**
<http://dcnonl.com/careers>
- **Greater Vancouver Homebuilders Association**
<http://www.gvhba.org/careers>
- **Indeed.com**
http://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search

Find jobs posted on a multitude of company career sites and job boards.

Professional Associations' Career Resources

- **Foreign Skilled Workers in BC**
<http://www.fswbc.com/>
- **STEP Skilled Trade Employment Program**
<http://www.stepbc.ca/>
- **Vancouver Regional Construction Association: Construction Job Centre**
<http://www.constructionjobcentre.ca/>

Identifying the Right Position

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

For **Construction Managers**, look for these related job titles:

- Commercial Construction Manager
- Construction Superintendent
- General Contractor
- Housing Construction Manager
- Project Manager, Construction

For **construction supervisors**, look for these related job titles:

- Construction Foreman/Forewoman
- Contractor

Creating a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of companies in the Lower Mainland or BC. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **Vancouver Regional Construction Association Member Directory**

<http://www.vrca.bc.ca/page/member%20directory.aspx>

- **Vancouver Island Construction Association Member Directory**

<https://www.vicabc.ca/membership/member-directory/>

- **Southern Interior Construction Association Member Directory**

<https://www.sicabc.ca/membership/member-directory/>

- **Northern Regional Construction Association Directory**

<https://www.nrca.ca/membership/member-directory/>

- **Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association Directory**

<http://www.gvhba.org/membership/>

- **Reference Canada**

<http://www.vpl.ca/extDB/login.remoteDB?ReferenceCanada>

Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "construction" 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 Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library 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 construction managers in BC and Canada provide information & assistance. Some require paying a fee for membership.

- **British Columbia and Yukon Territory Building and Construction Trade Council**
<http://www.bcbuildingtrades.org/>
- **British Columbia Construction Association**
<http://www.bccassn.com>
- **Canadian Homebuilders Association**
<http://www.chba.ca/>
- **Construction Labour Relations Association of BC**
<http://www.clra-bc.com/>
- **BuildForce Canada**
<http://www.buildforce.ca/en>
- **Vancouver Regional Construction Association**
<http://www.vrca.bc.ca/>

Industry Journals

Search the Vancouver Public Library catalogue for journals related to your profession. Examples include:

- **Construction Canada**

Available online at: <http://www.constructioncanada.net/>

- **Contact**

Available at the Central Library, 380 Bu9cBg

- **Daily Commercial News & Construction Record**

Available at the Central Library, 338.47 D13 BU and online at:
<http://www.dcnonl.com/>

- **Journal of Commerce**

Available at the Central Library, 338.47 J86 BU and online at:
<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/>.*