

Practitioners of Natural Healing: Acupuncturists, Traditional Chinese Medicine Doctors, Herbalists, Homeopaths and other occupations

An employment guide for newcomers to British Columbia



Vancouver Public Library

Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

Contents

1. What Would I Do?	2
2. Am I Suited For This Job?.....	3
3. What Are The Wages And Benefits?	4
4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?	5
5. How do I become a Practitioner of Natural Healing?.....	6
6. How Do I Find A Job?.....	8
7. Applying for a Job	12
8. Where Can This Job Lead?.....	12
9. Where Can I Find More Information?	12

Practitioners of Natural Healing (NOC 3232)

Practitioners of Natural Healing may also be called:

- *acupuncturist / doctor of acupuncture*
- *aromatherapist*
- *auriculotherapist*
- *CMD (Chinese medicine doctor)*
- *herbalist, chartered / herb practitioner*
- *holistic practitioner*
- *homeopath / homeopathic practitioner*
- *hypnotherapist, clinical*
- *iridologist, certified*
- *practitioner, ayurvedic*
- *practitioner, medical Qi gong*
- *practitioner, osteopathic manual*
- *reflexologist, certified*
- *rolfer, certified*
- *traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) doctor*

1. What Would I Do?

Practitioners of Natural Healing provide alternative forms of health care to promote, maintain and restore the holistic health of patients. They may use traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) techniques and other forms of treatment including acupuncture, herbology or reflexology. Practitioners' may perform the following duties:

Acupuncturists:

- diagnose symptoms, diseases, physiological disorders and injuries
- treat patients with acupuncture needles or through the use of heat, acupressure, moxibustion, cupping or electric current or rays of light

Traditional Chinese medical practitioners:

- diagnose diseases, physiological disorders and injuries
- treat patients using raw herbs and other medicines, dietary supplements or acupuncture

Herbalists:

- assess patients and guide them in the use of herbs for the treatment of conditions such as arthritis, rheumatism, asthma, skin disorders and stomach ailments
- may cultivate and sell herbal compounds

Homeopaths:

- diagnose illnesses and treat them by giving, in a chemical or herbal form, a small dose of the illness itself or by suggesting lifestyle changes

Reflexologists:

- apply gentle finger pressure to specific spots on clients' hands or feet to bring about relaxation and better health and well-being

More information:

- *WorkBC Career Profile for practitioners of natural healing*
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/3232>

2. Am I Suited For This Job?

Practitioners of Natural Healing should be:

- *caring and compassionate*
- *patient*
- *empathetic*

Practitioners should have:

- *listening skills*
- *communication skills*

Work may involve exposure to bacteria or viruses that could pose a health risk, although safety precautions are taken. Practitioners are on their feet much of the time and often work on evenings and weekends.

Sources:

- *WorkBC Career Profile for Practitioners of Natural Healing:*
<http://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/3232>
- *Career Cruising* database (Profile for 'Acupuncturist')
Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page:
<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

3. What Are The Wages And Benefits?

In British Columbia, the average annual **median salary** for **practitioners of natural healing** is \$18,890. JobBank Canada provides the following hourly wage across Canada for **Practitioners of Natural Healing** (including Chinese medical practitioner, acupuncturist, herbalist, homeopath, reflexologist):

**Practitioners of Natural Healing, NOC 3232
Hourly Wages across Canada**

including Acupuncturist, Chinese medical practitioner, herbalist, homeopath, reflexologist

Location	Wage (\$/hr)		
	Low	Median	High
Canada	13.00	27.14	45.00

Table from Job Bank Wage Report <http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/home-eng.do?lang=eng> Note: JobBank only provides hourly wages for Canada; figures for provinces & regions are not available

Self-employed practitioners of natural healing are responsible for covering their own overhead expenses, such as rent and liability insurance.

Sources:

- *WorkBC Career Profile for Practitioners of Natural Healing:*
<http://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/33232>
- *Career Cruising* database (Profile for 'Acupuncturist').
Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page:
<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?

JobBank Canada reports that for the 2015-2017 projection period, employment opportunities will be good for Practitioners of Natural Healing (NOC 3232) in British Columbia.

Employment growth is expected to be strong and a large number of people are expected to retire.

Employment Outlook for Practitioners of Natural Healing including acupuncturist, Chinese Medical Practitioner, herbalist, homeopath, reflexologist

2.1% Expected annual demand growth rate (2015-2025) **910** Job openings (2015-2025)

N/A - Data not available or not provided due to data quality issues

Occupation Outlook for B.C.:

% of job openings from replacement	57%
% of job openings from expansion	43%

Growth will be greatest in these regions:

- Lower Mainland & Southwest (2.2% annual employment growth and total 620 job openings from 2015-2025)
- Vancouver Island Coast (2.2% annual employment growth and total of 180 job openings from 2015-2025)
- Thompson-Okanagan (1.6% annual employment growth and total 80 job openings from 2015-2025)

Sources:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Practitioners of Natural Healing**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/3232>
- Job Bank Canada: http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/job_search.do

5. How do I become a Practitioner of Natural Healing?

Acupuncturists:

In BC, you usually need to complete a three-year diploma program in acupuncture from a private institute (e.g. <http://www.tcmcollege.com/>) or complete some university undergraduate studies in science and training in a related health-care discipline or gain work experience under the supervision of a registered acupuncturist.

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practitioners:

In BC, you usually need to complete a three- to four-year diploma program in traditional Chinese medicine from a private institute (e.g. <http://www.tcmcollege.com/>) or completion of a program in traditional Chinese medicine from recognized medical schools abroad.

Licensing & Certification for Acupuncturists & Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioners and TCM Herbalists:

In BC, you must be registered with the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of British Columbia (CTMA) (<http://www.ctcma.bc.ca/>) in order to practice traditional Chinese medicine and use any of these designations:

- **Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Dr.TCM):** a registrant authorized to practice acupuncture, and prescribe, compound or dispense Chinese herbal medicine. This registrant has met training/examination requirements at a higher level than registrants with the other titles.
- **Registered Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner (R.TCM.P.)** a registrant authorized to practice acupuncture, and prescribe, compound or dispense Chinese herbal medicine.
- **Registered Acupuncturist (R.Ac.)** a registrant authorized to practice acupuncture.

- **Registered Traditional Chinese Medicine Herbalist (R.TCM.H.)** a registrant authorized to prescribe, compound or dispense Chinese herbal medicine
Information on how *internationally trained practitioners* can register with the College is available at: <http://www.ctcma.bc.ca/registration/internationally-trained-practitioners/> Requirements include approved education, examinations (<http://www.ctcma.bc.ca/examinations/>), and criminal record review.

Other Practitioners of Natural Healing:

Reflexologist, Homeopath, Rolfer, Osteopathic Manual Practitioner, Herbal Therapist (western herbalism), Aromatherapists and other occupations:

Other occupations in this group usually require completion of training programs specific to their type of practice and some supervised practical training. Some occupations have professional associations that certify their members *but **licensing by a regulatory body is not required.*** For information on these occupations, see:

- **Reflexologist:** Reflexology Association of BC, <http://www.reflexologyofbc.com/>
- **Rolfer:** Canadian Roling Association, http://www.rolfingcanada.org/en/become_a_rolfer.html
- **Homeopath:** BC Society of Homeopaths <https://bcsh.ca/>
- **Osteopathic Manual Practitioner:** Osteopathy BC, (Society for the Promotion of Manual Practice Osteopathy) <http://www.osteopathybc.ca/>
- **Herbal Therapist:** certification as 'Professional Registered Herbal Therapist' (RHT) through Canadian Herbalist's Association of BC, CHA of BC <http://www.chaofbc.ca/>
- **Aromatherapist:** BC Association of Practicing Aromatherapists BCAPA <http://www.bcapa.org/> and the BC Alliance of Aromatherapy, BCAOA <http://www.bcaoa.org/>

6. How Do I Find A Job?

Where would I work?

Practitioners of Natural Healing may:

- *be employed by clinics, health clubs and spas*
- *work in chiropractic or other health care offices*
- *work independently in their own office/clinic*

Finding Advertised Jobs

Jobs are advertised in a variety of sources including newspapers, magazines and online job sites.

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.

Online Job Postings

- **Chinese Medicine & Acupuncture Association of Canada CMAAC**
http://www.cmaac.ca/classifieds/employment_opportunities
- **Indeed.ca**
<http://ca.indeed.com/Acupuncture-jobs-in-Vancouver,-BC>
<http://ca.indeed.com/Chinese-Medicine-Traditional-jobs>
<http://ca.indeed.com/Reflexology-jobs-in-British-Columbia>
<http://ca.indeed.com/Osteopath-jobs>
<http://ca.indeed.com/Herbal-jobs>
- **Neuvoo**
<http://neuvoo.ca/en>
- **WorkBC Job Postings**
<http://www.workbc.ca/JobSeekers/SearchResults.aspx>
- **Job Bank**

http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/job_search.do

Finding “Hidden Jobs”

Many job vacancies are not advertised. The resources below will help you *with finding jobs in this “hidden” job market.*

Using Directories to Create a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of employers who are in the natural healing / health care sector. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of British Columbia, Practitioner Directory**

<https://portal.ctcma.bc.ca/public>

- **AIMS (Alternative and integrative medical society) Wellness Directory**
<http://www.aims.ubc.ca/directory-online-edition/> [select a relevant therapy to see listings]

- **Reflexology Association of BC (RABC) Practitioners**

<http://www.reflexologyofbc.com/find.htm> [listed by community]

- **BC Society of Homeopaths (BCSH)**

https://bcsh.ca/find_homeopath/ [listed by community]

- **Canadian Herbalist’s Association of BC – Business Directory**

<http://www.chaofbc.ca/business-directory/>

- **BC Association of Practising Aromatherapists**

<http://www.bcapa.org/home/find-an-aromatherapist/> [search by city and select ‘professional’ listing]

- **Reference Canada**

<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada>

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 “Alternative Medicine” OR your specific occupation (e.g. “herbalist”, “acupuncture”, “reflexologists”) and click SEARCH. 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.

Networking, Volunteering and Temporary Agencies

Many positions are filled by people who have been recommended by someone they know. Networking, working as a volunteer or registering with a temporary employment agency are good ways of helping you find jobs and meet people in your industry.

Networking and the Hidden Job Market:

When looking for work, be sure to talk to friends, relatives and neighbours. They may know someone who is hiring! Working as a volunteer, attending events, and joining clubs and associations are good ways to gain "Canadian experience." They are also good ways to meet people to learn about the local job market.

Volunteer opportunities

- **Volunteer BC**
<http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/>
- **GoVolunteer.ca**
<http://govolunteer.ca/>
- **Charity Village**
<https://charityvillage.com/jobs/find-jobs.aspx?type=adv> [in 'Position Type' box, select 'unpaid volunteer position' and then select a relevant 'Job Category' e.g. 'Healthcare']
- **Volunteer Connections.net**
<http://www.volunteerconnections.net/> [volunteer opportunities in Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, New Westminster, Anmore, Belcarra]
- **BC Cancer Agency**
<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/careers/volunteer-with-us>

- **Chrysalis Society**
<http://www.chrysalissociety.com/WomenLeadingWomen/Volunteers.aspx> [holistic service volunteers for women dealing with addiction recovery in a residential environment]
- **Herbalists without Borders – Vancouver Lower Mainland**
<https://www.facebook.com/HWBVancouver/> [provides care to communities and countries impacted by natural disasters, violent conflicts, poverty, trauma and other access barriers to health and wellness]
- **Tzu Chi International Medical Association of Canada**
<http://www.tzuchi.ca/index.php/en/missions/mission-of-medicine> [volunteer opportunity for Traditional Chinese Medicine TCM doctors]
- **Vancouver Friends for Life**
<http://www.friendsforlife.ca/volunteer> [supports individuals living with very serious illnesses by providing complementary and alternative health services]

Volunteering in Health Care Facilities

The following organizations accept volunteers in hospitals, residential care facilities, adult day centres, and other community settings.

- **Vancouver Coastal Health**
<http://www.vch.ca/get-involved/volunteer/>
- **Fraser Health Authority**
<http://www.fraserhealth.ca/about-us/volunteer/>
- **Providence Health Care**
<http://www.providencehealthcare.org/volunteers>

For additional tips see:

- **Networking for Employment**
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>
[Search Networking for Employment]
- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>
[Search Getting Canadian Work Experience]

7. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume and a cover letter that identifies the position you are applying for and summarizes your experience. Use the library catalogue, <http://vpl.bibliocommons.com/> to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

For more information see:

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**

Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>

[Search Writing Resumes and Cover Letters]

8. Where Can This Job Lead?

Chinese traditional medical practitioners may practise as acupuncturists. With many years of experience and additional training in business and management, acupuncturists and practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine may operate their own clinics.

Sources:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Practitioners of Natural Healing**

<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/3232>

- **Career Cruising database** (Profile for 'Acupuncturist')

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

9. Where Can I Find More Information?

- **AIMS Alternative and Integrative Medical Society (B.C.)**

<http://www.aims.ubc.ca/>

- **BC Alliance of Aromatherapy**

<http://www.bcaoa.org/>

- **BC Association of Practicing Aromatherapists**

<http://www.bcapa.org/>

- **BC Society of Homeopaths**
<https://bcsh.ca/>
- **Canadian Herbalist's Association of BC**
<http://www.chaofbc.ca/>
- **College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of British Columbia (CTMA)**
<http://www.ctcma.bc.ca/>
- **International College of Traditional Chinese Medicine of Vancouver**
<http://www.tcmcollege.com/>
- **Osteopathy BC: Society for the Promotion of Manual Practice Osteopathy**
<http://www.osteopathybc.ca/>
- **Reflexology Association of BC**
<http://www.reflexologyofbc.com/index.htm>

Questions? Please ask the Information Staff at the Central 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/>.