

# Drafting Technologists & Technicians

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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## 1. Working as a Drafting Technologist / Technician [NOC 2253]

### *Job Description*

Drafting technologists and technicians prepare engineering designs, drawings and related technical information.

Working as a **Drafting technologist** your duties may include:

- 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

Working as a **Drafting technician** your duties may include:

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

Source: **WorkBC Career Profile for Drafting Technologist / Technician**

<https://www.workbc.ca/careers/2253>

### *Industry Overview*

Drafting technologists and technicians mainly work in the following sectors:

- Architectural, engineering and design services (NAICS 5413): 53%
- Construction (NAICS 23): 12%

**Job Outlook in BC**

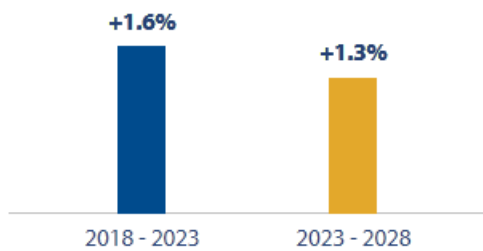
In British Columbia, JobBank Canada reports that the employment outlook will be fair for Drafting technologists and technicians (NOC 2253) in British Columbia for the 2018-2020 period

**Drafting Technologists / Technicians NOC 2253  
 Employment Outlook**

**B.C. Labour Market Outlook (2018-2028)**

Provincial outlook

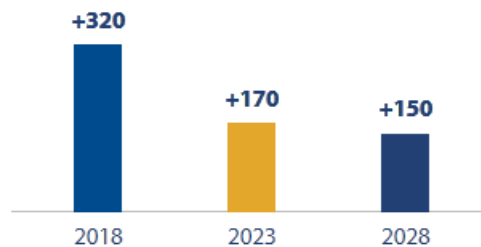
**Forecasted average employment growth rate**



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

**Job openings**

10 year expected job openings: **1,580**



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

**Composition of job openings**

Replacement of retiring workers:  
**61.6%**  
**980 openings**



New jobs due to economic growth:  
**38.4%**  
**610 openings**

Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

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

**WorkBC Career Profile for Drafting Technologist / Technician**

<https://www.workbc.ca/careers/2253>

**Career Cruising** – profile for 'Drafter'

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

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

### ***Types of Employers***

Drafting technologists and technicians are employed by architect firms, engineering 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 median salary for drafting technologists and technicians is \$56,160 or \$28.85/per hour. Drafters in senior and management positions can earn as much as \$100,000 a year in some Canadian locations.

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.

Sources: **WorkBC Career Profile for Drafting Technologist / Technician**

<https://www.workbc.ca/careers/2253>

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

**Drafting Technologists / Technicians NOC 2253**  
**Hourly Wages**

Community/Area	Wages (\$/hour)		
	Low	Median	High
<a href="#">Cariboo Region</a>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">Kootenay Region</a>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">Lower Mainland–Southwest Region</a>	16.00	26.92	35.00
<a href="#">Nechako Region</a>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">North Coast Region</a>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">Northeast Region</a>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">Thompson–Okanagan Region</a>	18.71	28.85	35.00
<a href="#">Vancouver Island and Coast Region</a>	19.00	28.00	34.62
<b><a href="#">British Columbia</a></b>	18.71	28.85	35.00

Source: Job Bank Canada, <http://www.jobbank.gc.ca>

## **Working Hours**

Drafting technologists and technicians typically work regular hours, 7 or 8 hours a day, five days a week. However, you may be required to 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** – profile for 'Drafter'

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

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

## ***Education and Experience***

### ***Drafting technologists***

- 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

### ***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.

## ***Qualifications***

### ***The profession is not regulated in British Columbia.***

Certification with the provincial technology association is voluntary. Although certification is not mandatory it is often requested by employers. In British Columbia certification is carried out by the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC) (<https://asttbc.org/>) 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). In BC, it is illegal to use these professional designations without being certified

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

- For more information see ASTTBC  
[https://asttbc.org/how\\_to\\_apply/](https://asttbc.org/how_to_apply/)

### ***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.

- ASTTBC,  
<http://www.asttbc.org/registration/itp/aboutitp.php>  
<https://asttbc.org/registration/itp/certification/>

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

- Internationally Trained Technology Professionals (ITTP)  
<http://www.ittpbc.com/>
- Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists (CCTT)  
<http://www.cctt.ca/immigrants>
- Canadian Technology Immigration Network CTIN  
<https://www.ctin.ca/en/immigrant-services>
- Canadian Information Center for International Credentials (CICIC)  
Drafting, <http://www.cicic.ca/921/find-an-occupational-profile.canada?search=2253>

## **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

#### **JOB Freeway.com**

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

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

**NOTE:** Access at VPL locations only

### **Online Job Postings**

- **Construction Job Centre**

<https://www.constructionjobcentre.ca/>

- **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

- **TechJobs.ca**

<http://www.technicaljobs.ca/en>

- **Neuvoo.ca**

<http://neuvoo.ca>

- **BC JobConnect**

<https://www.bcjobconnect.ca> \*\*must have permanent resident number\*\*

newcomers can post their skills, education and work experience to BC employers looking for workers

### **Professional Associations' Career Resources**

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

<https://gvhba.org/careers-in-construction/>

- **BC Construction Association**



<https://www.bccassn.com/jobs-&-careers/default>

- **Vancouver Regional Construction Association VRCA – Jobs & Careers**

<https://www.vrca.ca/jobs-careers/>

- **Independent Contractors & Businesses Association ICBA**

<https://icba.ca/jobs/>

- **CTEN - Canadian Technical Employment Network**

<https://www.cten.ca/en/login.asp>

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 draftsman
- computer-assisted drafting (CAD) technician / technologists
- design and drafting technologist
- draftsman
- electrical / electronic draftsman
- engineering design and drafting technologist

### ***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.

- **Business in Vancouver Book of Lists. "Biggest Construction Companies".**

Available at the Central Library. 338.9711 B97b or online at:

<http://www.biv.com/lists>

- **Canadian Construction Association Membership Directory**

See "Corporate Member Firms"

<https://www.cca-acc.com/membership/search-corporate-members/>

- **Contact, Home Builders' Association Vancouver Membership Directory**

Available at the Central Library, 380 Bu9CBg, or online at: <https://gvhba.org/find-a-professional/> or <https://havan.ca/find-a-professional/>

- **Canadian Home Builders Association, British Columbia**

<https://chbabc.org/find-a-member/>

- **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 "drafting services" 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. 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**  
<http://www.asttbc.org/>  
The association for technology professionals in British Columbia.
- **Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists**  
<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/>

- **Contact**

Available at the Central Library, 380 Bu9cBg

- **Journal of Commerce** by ConstructConnect (Western Canada's construction newspaper)

Available at Central Library, 338.47 J86Bu and online at:

<https://canada.constructconnect.com/joc>

**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/>.*

