



# COMPASS ~ *Setting Career Direction*

MCC EMPLOYMENT CENTRE

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March 14, 2008

## Labour Market Information

### Tourism

Cruise ship spending in B.C. up 21% in four years: Vancouver handled about half of all passengers in Canada.



The cruise ship industry generated \$765 million in direct spending in B.C. last year -- a 21-per-cent increase over 2003 spending, the North West Cruiseship Association (NWCA) reported Wednesday.

BC [has] the lion's share of all Canadian cruise spending, which reached \$1.1 billion last year, up 16 per cent from 2003.

B.C. ports handled 73% of the two million cruise passengers that called on Canadian ports in 2007, according to an economic impact report prepared by Business Research & Economic Advisors.

Vancouver handled nearly half the Canadian total (960,500 passengers), while other B.C. cruise ports included Victoria (324,000), Prince Rupert (98,300), Nanaimo (30,400) and Campbell River (2,300). March 13, 2008 Vancouver Sun.

### Immigration

Immigration Canada set to accept fewer immigration applications [due to processing backlog]. The federal government is set to reduce the number of new immigration applications it accepts in a dramatic change of policy aimed at cutting the backlog of nearly 900,000 people who have already applied to enter

Canada. Sources say Immigration Minister Diane Finley will table an amendment to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

Canada accepts about 250,000 immigrants a year...The backlog of applications grew from 50,000...in 1993 to around 500,000 in 2000. In the past two years that number has

grown to around 875,000.

In this year's budget, the government allocated \$22-million to modernizing the immigration system to improve speed of processing and reduce the time immigrants have to wait before being admitted. Source: March 13, 2008 National Post

### Special points of interest:

- TOURISM—CRUISESHIPS
- IMMIGRATION—\$22M
- HOMELESSNESS
- **COMPASS** CAREER DECISION MAKING PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO ANYONE UNEMPLOYED AND LEGALLY ENTITLED TO WORK IN CANADA — AT NO COST — CALL 604-859-4500

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## Health Care—Support Workers



Canadian [long term] care workers face more violence. Support workers in Canadian long-term-care facilities are seven times more likely to experience daily violence than their counterparts in Nordic countries, according to a study led by researchers at Toronto's

York University. ...The study reiterates previous research findings on the correlation between poor working conditions and levels of workplace violence. Forty-three per cent of personal support workers surveyed reported physical violence was a daily oc-

currence while 25 per cent said it happened weekly. The vast majority of these workers - 95.1 per cent - are women, and many are immigrants, the report adds. March 11, 2008 Globe and Mail

**BIGGEST RECRUITMENT DRIVE IN 30 YEARS**

## Coast Guard

The coast guard is looking across Canada for recruits in the biggest recruitment drive in 30 years.

About half of BC's 1,200 coast guard employees work at sea on a one-month-on, one-month-off basis, doing search and rescue, science, fisheries management and ice breaking. Other tasks include shore jobs for welders, carpenters, painters and others in the trades. There is

also a large electronics department for radar, radio and autopilot.

10% of Canada's seagoing workers are female, a percentage that's going up as more women opt for careers with the coast guard.

Entry level wages are about \$40,000 a year, with paid leave and benefits, and that can rise to \$90,000 a year depending on position and certification.

Besides new recruits, the coast guard often seeks out employees, like fishermen, who have spent years at sea and have special skills. Training is available through the Canadian Coast Guard College in Sydney, N.S. or at the B.C. Institute of Technology's Marine Campus.

Source: Vancouver Sun.



## Economic & Industry News

Bank of Canada wants other provinces to sign on to the free-trade agreement between British Columbia and Alberta.

Free trade among provinces has barely progressed over the past couple of decades, said senior deputy

governor Paul Jenkins, but now more than ever, Canada needs the flexibility that free movement of labour, services and goods can bring.

Source: March 13, 2008 Globe and Mail

**B.C. growth** expected to be strong at 3.1%: Conference Board says U. S. downturn will have little effect in West.

Source: March 12, 2008 Vancouver Sun.

## Education



Province gives \$1.4 M for new three-year accelerated nursing program aimed at addressing the critical shortage of nurses.

### BCIT

The first nurses will start training at BCIT in August 2008. The accelerated nursing degree

program at BCIT is the first one to be established in the province and other post-secondary institutions may follow suit. Source: Vancouver Sun.

### School Closures:

Three Mission elementary schools to close: Stave Falls (built just 14 years ago) will close in June, along with Ferndale and Fraserview. Source: March 12, 2008 – Vancouver Province.

**Chilliwack** School District expanding. The community expects more than 9,500 new development units over the next decade. These will mean the addition of almost 2,400 new school-age children to the community. – Chilliwack Times.

### French immersion

still growing: As enrolment generally declines in B.C. schools, French immersion numbers are rising across the province. Burnaby News.



## Forestry

Aid for idled forest workers: B.C. gets \$129m federal cheque for retraining.

The money will be used over the next three years to train forest workers for new careers, give them

one-year's tuition assistance and help older workers make the transition to retirement.

More than \$600 million is also heading to communities in the B.C. Interior hit by the mountain pine bee-

tle, and the province is trying to establish a bio-energy industry here.

March 12, 2008 Vancouver Province

BC GETS \$129M  
FOR RETRAINING  
OUR IDLED  
FOREST  
WORKERS

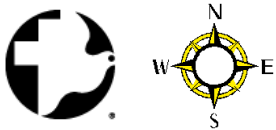
## Information & Culture

B.C. sees 26% drop in film, TV production spending, largely due to the writer's strike and higher dollar. The Lower Mainland remains North America's third largest film and TV production centre, trailing only Los Angeles and New York City. March 12, 2008 Vancouver Sun.




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*You'll see a number of items on homelessness because of the Metro Vancouver 'census'. (Results will be released on April 8th). Information suggests that more of the homeless are low-wage workers, not just the jobless. This could have implications for Service Canada programming, from services to training decisions. (Housing affordability is an increasing concern for low-income residents in neighbourhoods across the Lower Mainland.) For information about **Homelessness in the Upper Fraser Valley**, go to our site: <http://mcccd.bc.ca/homeless/index.htm>*



Our career decision making program **details and dates** are on the web:  
<http://mcccd.bc.ca/compass>

The Government of Canada has contributed funding to this initiative. 

## Aboriginal Mining Relations



Aboriginal relations a 'key business driver'.

Pierre Gratton, vice-president for sustainable development and public affairs with the Mining Association of Canada made reference to a comment last fall by Kelly Lindsay, president of the Aboriginal Human Resource Development

Council. "He stated that the mining industry is a trailblazer in its work with aboriginal peoples, that we are implementing some of the most far-reaching, innovative practices in this country,"

Gratton said during a Globe session on advancing good practice in aboriginal

mining relations.

"That was very nice to hear, but it's also true that our industry can get some of the worst headlines highlighting clashes with aboriginal groups, with some examples here in British Columbia." March 13, 2008 Vancouver Sun.

## Help Wanted



## Labour shortage troubles deepen for SMEs in 2007

For more information: <http://www.cfib.ca/en/media/releases08/>