



Issue 20: June 2020

WORK-WISE

Keeping you current on North Okanagan's employment scene

Local Job Leads and Tips



As businesses across BC slowly start to re-open, here are a few leads and tips we've collected to help you find work.

Rogers Communications: Has started hiring 350 people for its new call centre in Kelowna. All positions will be work-from-home until the new centre in Kelowna can be safely opened, likely this fall. Even once it's opened, some staff may be able to continue working from home. New roles are posted at <https://jobs.rogers.com/go/Contact-Centre/2175600/>.

According to Luke Jamieson, Senior Corporate Recruiter for Rogers, call centre positions start at \$21, and employee discounts and group benefits are offered day one. Luke shares:

- "You definitely don't need experience from a call centre perspective."
- "You need a decent ability to navigate computer systems."
- "You need to have good communication skills and a strong desire to be coached and led."

To hear more from Luke directly, come to the WorkBC Vernon Virtual Job Fair on June 24. Bring a couple of great questions so you stand out and so Luke recognizes you when you apply! Call 250-545-2215 x 230 to register.

Caufields Engraving (Safeshields): Has done a fantastic "pivot" during Covid-19 and has started manufacturing face shields. Business is booming – went from a company of three people to basically 35 overnight. They are swamped with orders: at last chat they were good with assembly workers, but if you're interested, there's no harm dropping off a resume at Unit #26 Alpine Centre, 100 Kalamalka Lake Road, because we all know things change quickly and this is definitely a growing need.

NinjaNow: Just called (June 2) to say they are hiring two drivers in Vernon. Resume not required. Phone chat followed by interview. Next side gig? Call Roy at 250-307-4108. Delivery experience not required, but is an asset.

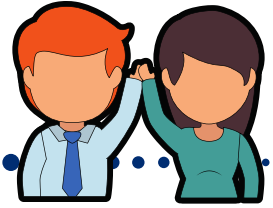
Minimum Wage: Is now up to \$14.60.

Agriculture Jobs: New online resource gives farmers and food processors a "one-stop shop to support their hiring and planning needs". "We are making it easier for employers and employees to connect...", said Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture. "Farmers in BC are in a tough spot because of Covid-19, and our need for labour is at the top of the list," said one farm owner. The job connector site lists current job vacancies in the agricultural field throughout the province: www.bcagjobs.gov.bc.ca.



WorkBC Service Spotlight: Wage Subsidies

Wage Subsidy: In Their Words



When I talk to Selena Stearns, it's usually in her office where she's surrounded by plants, plants, and more plants. During the pandemic, our chats are via Zoom, where her plants take backstage to her cat, Zoey, lounging on the arm of her chair. Whatever way we connect, Selena makes the environment comfortable, and is always quick to offer a listening ear, a ready laugh, and tons of support.

As the Wage Subsidy Advisor for WorkBC in the North Okanagan, all of these pieces make Selena great at her job. She meets with *eligible job seekers and employers, listens to what they're looking for and what they need, then works to introduce them to one another. For each match, the employer may be eligible to access financial support – up to 50% towards the new hire's pay for up to 24 weeks. This support helps job seekers get their foot in the door, and helps employers with financial support as they train their new staff.

It's very much about empowering the Client – giving them the extra support when they're in that tenuous time.

The program works; the proof is in the placements. "Selena, you gave me strength and re-affirmed my belief that I would find a position that I would love," shares one Wage Subsidy client who is now successfully working. "You went to bat for me with an employer I would have never applied to but you believed in me and that also rubbed off on the employer."

Sentiments like this are common, in large part because Selena loves what she does. Her favourite thing, she says, is matching the employer to the client. "It's one of those things where, once I match them together, I can see that the outcome is going to be tremendously successful. For me, there's nothing more satisfying than that."

*To be eligible, job seekers need to be on EI, or have been eligible for EI in the past five years, or be eligible through our Single Parent Employment Initiative. Call to see if you're a fit!

Whether you're an employer looking to hire, or a job seeker looking for work, contact WorkBC Vernon to find out if you're eligible for the Wage Subsidy service. Here's what past hires and employers are saying:

"The ability to access Wage Subsidy with the financial and HR support provided within it has allowed us to carefully grow our business and nurture and grow the skills of new employees. We are deeply appreciative of Selena's help and support as well as Community Futures and WorkBC and have asked if we can place a banner on the side of our building stating 'Proudly supported by Community Futures and WorkBC!' Seriously, can we?" - Local Business Owner

"Your support and encouragement has been my saving grace because I have felt so lost in looking for a job that would allow me to stay home and be a family man. You connected me with a terrific employer who is willing to give me a chance and to provide training and guidance because Wage Subsidy gives them the financial rationale to invest in me. Selena, you are a life saver and your belief in me and my skills and your ability to connect the dots that are generally scattered everywhere, has been awe inspiring." - Job Seeker

“Couldn't have found this job without your help and it has been so helpful to have your support and counsel all the way through.”



Reach WorkBC Employment Services:



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250-545-2215 x 230

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