

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

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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Practitioners of Natural Healing [NOC 2021: 32209/ NOC 2016: 3232] & Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists [NOC 2021: 32200/ NOC 2016: 3232]

***Practitioners of Natural Healing may also
be called:***

- *acupuncturist / doctor of acupuncture*
- *aromatherapist*
- *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. You may use traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) techniques and other forms of treatment

including acupuncture, herbology or reflexology.

You 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/plan-career/explore-careers>

- **Career Cruising database** (Profile for 'Acupuncturist')
Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page:
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

2. Am I Suited For This Job?

Practitioners of Natural Healing should be:

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

You 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. You are on their feet much of the time and often work on evenings and weekends.

Sources: WorkBC Career Profile & Career Cruising

3. What Are The Wages And Benefits?

In British Columbia, the annual **median salary** for **practitioners of natural healing** is \$61,170.

Across Canada, hourly wages range from:

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	17.45	30.00	53.00

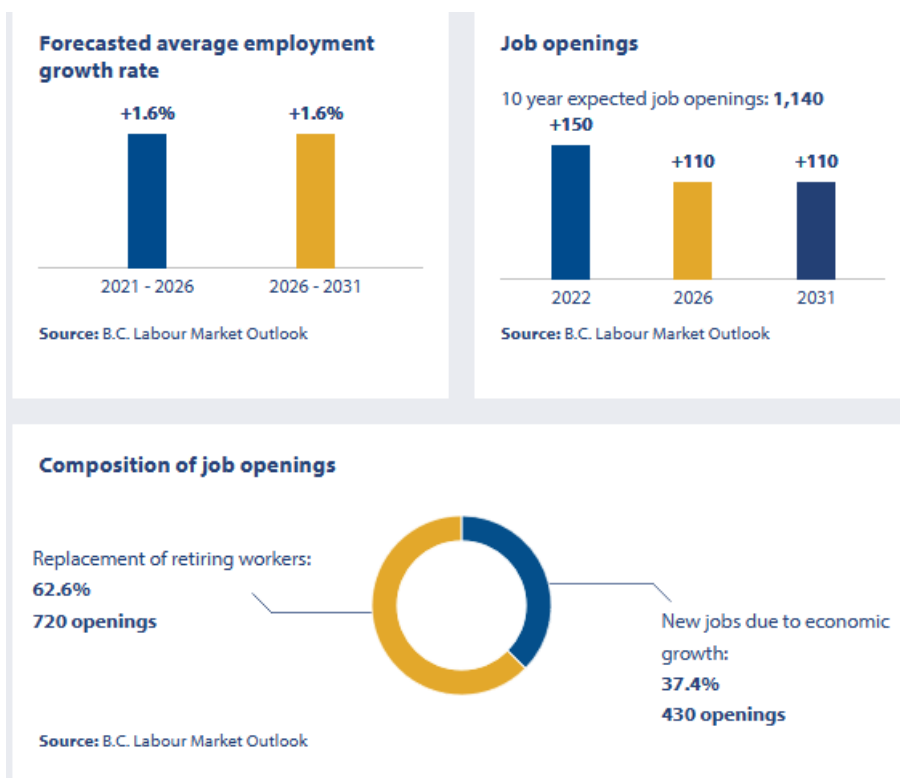
Source: Job Bank website <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-wages>

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

Sources: *WorkBC & Career Cruising*

4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?

JobBank Canada reports that for the 2021-2023 projection period, employment opportunities will be good for Practitioners of Natural Healing in British Columbia. Employment growth is expected to be strong and a large number of people are expected to retire.



Growth will be greatest in these regions:

- Lower Mainland & Southwest (1.7% annual employment growth and total 760 job openings from 2021-2031)

- Vancouver Island Coast (1.6% annual employment growth and total of 200 job openings from 2021-2031)
- Thompson-Okanagan (1.3% annual employment growth and total 110 job openings from 2021-2031)

Sources: *WorkBC & Job Bank Canada*: <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-job-outlooks>

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

Acupuncturists:

In BC, you need to complete a three-year diploma program in acupuncture recognized by the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of BC (CTCMA) or a program in traditional Chinese medicine from recognized medical schools abroad and at least 2 years of Liberal Arts or Sciences study from an accredited college or university. You must also successfully pass a series of examinations, a criminal record check and prove evidence of good character.

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practitioners:

In BC, you need to complete a three- to five-year diploma program in traditional Chinese medicine recognized by the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of BC (CTCMA) or a program in traditional Chinese medicine from recognized medical schools abroad, and at least 2 years of Liberal Arts or Sciences study from an accredited college or university. You must also successfully pass a series of examinations, a criminal record check and prove evidence of good character.

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)*** 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

More information:

- ***College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of British Columbia (CTMA)***
<https://www.ctcma.bc.ca/registration/>
- **Internationally Trained Practitioners**
<https://www.ctcma.bc.ca/registration/internationally-trained-practitioners/>

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, <https://www.reflexologyofbc.com/>
- **Rolfer:** Canadian Roling Association, <https://rolfingcanada.org/become-a-rolfer/>
- **Homeopath:** BC Association of Homeopaths, <https://bchomeopathy.ca/>
- **Osteopathic Manual Practitioner:** Osteopathy BC, (Society for the Promotion of Manual Practice Osteopathy) <https://www.osteopathybc.ca/>
- **Herbal Therapist:** certification as 'Professional Registered Herbal Therapist' (RHT) through the BC Herbalists Association, <https://www.bcherbalists.ca/>
- **Aromatherapist:** Canadian Alliance of Aromatherapy, <https://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

- **Pacific Rim College Employment Opportunities**
<https://www.pacificrimcollege.com/about/employment-opportunities/>
Employment opportunities in natural health across BC
- **Tzu Chi International College of Traditional Chinese Medicine – Local**

Career Opportunities

https://www.tcmcollege.com/?page_id=538

- **Indeed.ca**

<https://ca.indeed.com/Acupuncture-jobs-in-Vancouver,-BC>

<https://ca.indeed.com/Chinese-Medicine-Traditional-jobs>

<https://ca.indeed.com/Reflexology-jobs-in-British-Columbia>

<https://ca.indeed.com/Herbal-jobs>

- **Talent.com**

<https://ca.talent.com/>

- **WorkBC Job Postings**

<https://www.workbc.ca/search-and-prepare-job/find-jobs#/job-search>

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 and 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> - search by City to find a list of all registered practitioners (and names of Clinics or Practice where they work) in that region

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

<https://www.reflexologyofbc.com/> [under “approved practitioners” tab]

- **BC Association of Homeopaths**

https://bchomeopathy.ca/find_homeopath/

- **BC Herbalist’s Association – Directory**

<https://www.bcherbalists.ca/Find-a-Herbalist-directory>

- **Canadian Alliance of Aromatherapy**

<https://bcaoa.org/about/find-an-aromatherapist/>

- **Reference Canada**

<https://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**

<https://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/>

- **GoVolunteer.ca**

<https://govolunteer.ca/>

- **Charity Village**

<https://charityvillage.com/volunteer-job-search/> [Filter search in left sidebar for "unpaid volunteer position"]

- **BC Cancer Agency**
<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/careers/volunteer-with-us>
- **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**
<https://tzuchi.ca/index.php/2018/12/13/mission-of-medicine/> [volunteer opportunity for Traditional Chinese Medicine TCM doctors]
- **Vancouver Friends for Life Society**
<https://www.vancouverfriendsforlife.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**
<https://www.vch.ca/en/about-us/get-involved/volunteer>
- **Fraser Health Authority**
<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/about-us/volunteer/>
- **Providence Health Care**
<https://www.providencehealthcare.org/volunteers>

For additional tips see:

- **Networking for Employment**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/networking-for-employment>
- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/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, <https://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**

<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/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 Cruising*

9. Where Can I Find More Information?

- **Canadian Alliance of Aromatherapy**

<https://bcaoa.org/>

- **College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of British Columbia (CTCMA)**

<https://www.ctcma.bc.ca>

- **BC Association of Homeopaths**

<https://bchomeopathy.ca/>

- **BC Herbalists Association**
<https://www.bcherbalists.ca/>
- **Osteopathy BC: Society for the Promotion of Manual Practice**
Osteopathy
<https://www.osteopathybc.ca/>
- **Chinese Medicine & Acupuncture Association of Canada (CMAAC)**
<https://cmaac.ca>
- **Reflexology Association of BC**
<https://www.reflexologyofbc.com>
- **Acupuncture Canada**
<https://www.acupuncturecanada.org/>

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 <https://www.vpl.ca/siic>.