

Naturopathic Physicians

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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1. Working as a Naturopathic Physician

[NOC 2021: 31209/ NOC 2016: 3125]

Job Description

Naturopathic medicine is a distinct primary health care system that blends modern scientific knowledge with traditional and natural forms of medicine. Naturopathic doctors (NDs) are licensed to provide primary health care that emphasizes disease prevention by providing an individualized, patient-centered focus on healthy living, natural health products and therapies, diet, and appropriate diagnostic testing.

Working as a naturopathic physician, your duties may include:

- taking new patient histories and diagnose patients' diseases and disorders
- use natural methods of healing such as acupuncture and acupressure, spinal manipulation, reflexology, hydrotherapy, herbal medicines, biochemical therapy, clinical nutrition, homeopathy and counselling in their treatment
- performing physical exams and laboratory tests
- encouraging patients to make lifestyle changes
- referring patients to medical doctors, if necessary

Sources:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Naturopaths**

<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx> [search Naturopaths]

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- **British Columbia Naturopathic Association**
<https://www.bcna.ca>
<https://www.bcnd.ca/questions-and-answers-naturopathic-medicine/>
- **Career Cruising** (Profile for "Naturopath")
Available from the VPL Digital Library
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising/>

Industry Overview

British Columbia is currently under-served by Naturopathic Physicians. There is a demand for doctors in many areas of the province. Additionally, the health care professions in general are in a growth period, and will continue to be so for at least the next 10-15 years.

The growing awareness of natural approaches to regaining and maintaining health have created a boom for anyone entering this, or a related profession.

Source: British Columbia Naturopathic Association <https://www.bcnd.ca/about-bcnd/becoming-naturopathic-doctor/>

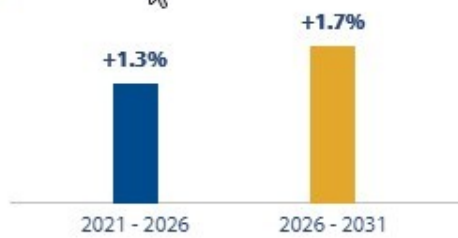
Job Outlook in BC (2021-2031)

Other Professional Occupations in Health Diagnosing & Treating [including Naturopathic Doctors]

B.C. Labour Market Outlook (2021-2031)

Provincial outlook

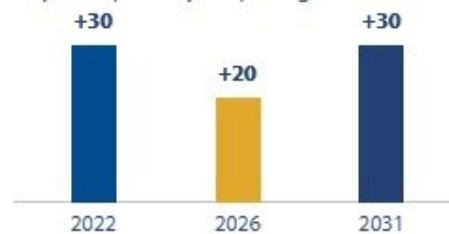
Forecasted average employment growth rate



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Job openings

10 year expected job openings: 260



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Composition of job openings

Replacement of retiring workers:
64.0%
160 openings



New jobs due to economic growth:
36.0%
90 openings

Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Chart from WorkBC

WorkBC provides job openings in BC regions from 2021-2031 for Other Professional Occupations in Health Diagnosing & Treating [including Naturopathic Doctors] :

Region	Employment in 2021	Average Annual Employment Growth 2021-2031	Expected Number of Job Openings 2021-2031
Vancouver Island	110	1.7%	60
Lower Mainland / Southwest	340	1.5%	160
Thompson-Okanagan	100	1.2%	40

You can learn more about working as a Naturopathic Physician in BC from:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Naturopaths**
<https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers> [search Naturopaths]
- British Columbia Naturopathic Association <https://www.bcna.ca>
- **Career Cruising [profile for Naturopath]**
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising/>
Available from the VPL Digital Library

Types of Employers

Most naturopathic physicians are self-employed. You may have your own practice or work in a team practice or clinic.

Salary

The median annual salary for “other professional occupations in health diagnosing and treating” [including naturopathic doctors] in BC is \$55,235.

Your earnings can vary based on a number of factors including: the style of medical practice you choose, whether you are a clinic owner or associate, your location and the number of patients you see. In Canada, yearly earnings for full-time naturopaths range from about \$40,000 to \$115,000.

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Community/Area	Salary (\$/year)		
	Low	Median	High
British Columbia	32,959	55,235	105,319

Chart: Job Bank Wage Report <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-wages>

Sources: WorkBC and Career Cruising and BC Naturopathic Association

Working Hours

Naturopathic physicians generally work about 8 hours a day and 40 hours a week although some may work up to 60 hours. You may set your own hours in private practice.

Evening and weekend work is common.

2. Skills, Education and Experience

Skills

- strong communication and interpersonal skills
- patient and compassionate
- enjoyment in helping people in a naturally therapeutic fashion
- strong clinical expertise in the basic sciences

Education and Experience

- A minimum of 7 years post-secondary education is required. Most Naturopathic Physicians first complete a four year Bachelor degree in the arts or sciences, and then the required four-years at an accredited naturopathic medical college.
- You must also pass comprehensive licensing exams in order to be registered to practice.

Naturopathic Physician is a regulated profession in British Columbia

You must be licensed with the **College of Naturopathic Physicians of British Columbia** (CNPBC) to practice naturopathic medicine in British Columbia and to use the title “naturopathic doctor,” “naturopathic physician,” or “naturopath.”

To register with the College, the following education, training and evaluation requirements must be met:

- Successful completion of at least 3 years liberal arts or sciences study in an accredited college or university recognized by the College
- Graduation from a naturopathic medical school accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME) and recognized by the College
- Successful completion of Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examinations administered by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners
- Successful completion of the College’s examinations: Jurisprudence and Oral & Practical
- Criminal records check

More information:

- **Requirements for Registration as a Naturopathic Doctor in BC**
<https://cnpbc.bc.ca/become-an-nd/requirements-procedures/>
- **Recognized Naturopathic Medical Schools**
<https://cnpbc.bc.ca/become-an-nd/naturopathic-medical-schools/>
- **North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners, NPLEX Examination**
<https://www.nabne.org/exam-overview/>

Internationally Educated and Trained Naturopathic Doctors

If you have graduated from a foreign naturopathic program and are interested in becoming licensed/registered to practice as a naturopathic physician/doctor in either the U.S. or Canada, you should contact one of the CNME-approved

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naturopathic medical education programs to explore the possibility of receiving advanced standing.

- **Graduates of Foreign Naturopathic Medical Schools**

<https://www.nabne.org/graduates-of-foreign-naturopathic-medical-schools/>

Internationally Educated and Trained Medical Graduates – Career as Naturopathic Doctors

The **Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine** (CCNM), Canada's only accredited naturopathic medical school, offers a 2-year bridge program developed specifically for international medical graduates. Graduates receive the Doctor of Naturopathy degree.

The International Bridge Delivery program acknowledges your previous medical experience and education and incorporates all of the competencies of the four-year naturopathic program into a 6-term (2 year) curriculum. The College is located in Toronto, Ontario.

You may apply as an International Medical Graduate (IMG) if you have graduated from a medical school outside of Canada and have one or more of the following: several years of medical practice experience in your home country; recently completed medical school; completed a residency training program; or, gone directly into practice with no requirement for a residency.

More information:

- **International Medical Graduates**

<https://ccnm.edu/future-students/international-medical-graduates>

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.

Online Job Postings

- **Career Opportunities, Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine**
<https://www.ccnm.edu/alumni/nd-career-opportunities>
- **Indeed.ca**
<https://www.indeed.ca/>

Industry Association Job Postings

- **Practice Opportunities, British Columbia Naturopathic Association**
<https://www.bcna.ca/classifieds/index.php?a=5&b=398>

Identifying the Right Position

When you browse job advertisements, you'll find different job titles that are relevant.

For naturopathic physicians, look for these related job titles:

- Naturopathic doctor (ND)
- Naturopath

Creating a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of employers who work in the healthcare sector in Vancouver or the Lower Mainland. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **Register, College of Naturopathic Physicians of British Columbia**
<https://cnpbc.ca.thentiacloud.net/webs/cnpbc/register/#>
Search by Practice or City to find registered practices and clinics
- **Find a Naturopathic Doctor, BC Association of Naturopathic Doctors**
<https://www.bcna.ca/>
Can search by city. Directory includes names of naturopathic clinics
- **Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors**
<https://www.cand.ca/>
- **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 "*naturopathic*" 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, <https://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 guides which are available in print at the Central Library or online.

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/writing-resumes-and-cover-letters>
- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/getting-canadian-work-experience>
- **Networking for Employment**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/networking-for-employment>
- **Learn More About Working in BC and Canada**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/learn-more-about-working-in-bc-and-canada>

5. Getting Help from Industry Sources

Industry Associations

Associations for Naturopathic Physicians in BC and Canada provide information and assistance. Registration and fees are usually required for membership.

- **College of Naturopathic Physicians of British Columbia**
<https://cnpbc.bc.ca/>
- **British Columbia Naturopathic Association**
<https://www.bcna.ca/>
- **Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors**
<https://www.cand.ca/>

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**Questions? Please ask the Information Staff in the Central Branch,
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 <https://www.vpl.ca/siic>.

