

# Adult Educators

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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## 1. Working as an Adult Educator [NOC 2021: 41210 / NOC 2016: 4021]

### *Job Description*

Adult education teachers teach reading, writing, English language skills, basic academic subjects, and job skills to adults. Working as an adult educator, you:

- Usually specialize in a specific field or profession
- Develop curricula and prepare teaching materials
- Teach lessons on English language skills, math, science, or other academic subjects
- May teach technical skills or a trade, such as carpentry
- May prepare students for GED tests (high school equivalency test)
- May conduct workplace training
- Prepare and mark tests and assignments, and keep records of students' progress
- May serve on committees to discuss budgets and course and diploma requirements

More information:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Adult Educator**  
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>
- **Career Cruising database (Profile for Adult Education Teacher)**  
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

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

## ***Industry Overview***

Adult educators are in demand in all regions of the province. However, you may find more employment opportunities if you are willing to work in northern and rural regions, especially in speciality areas such as health programs and trades training.

Demand also varies based on your area of specialization. In some fields, such as English, there are a sufficient number of new graduates. There is also increasing demand by businesses for skills-upgrading. This is increasing demand for instructors, particularly in some technical and applied technology fields.

There is a growing trend towards part-time employment and you may not find full-time employment immediately.

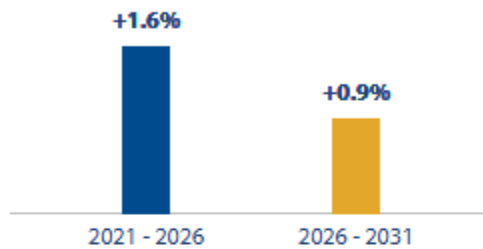
In recent years there has been a significant growth in the number of private post-secondary training institutions that provide technical, vocational, and language training. These institutions often offer part-time work and contract positions. Typically, these positions pay less than equivalent positions in the government funded institutions.

Both public and private colleges are increasing online learning options for students. You will be expected to learn the technology associated with this form of instruction.

Source: WorkBC Career Profile for Adult Educator

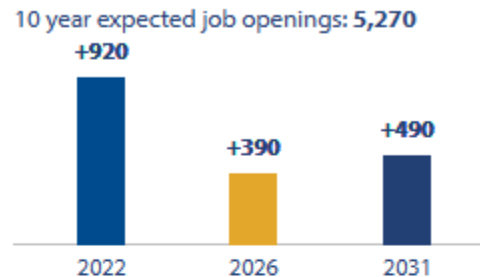
### Job Outlook in BC, 2021-2031

#### Forecasted average employment growth rate



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

#### Job openings



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

#### Composition of job openings



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

WorkBC provides job openings in BC's regions from 2021-2031:

Region	Employment in 2021	Estimated Annual Employment Growth 2021-2031	Estimated # of Job Openings 2021-2031
Vancouver Island / Coast	1,810	1.8%	860
Lower Mainland / Southwest	9,290	0.9%	3,200
Thompson-Okanagan	730	2.5%	460
Kootenay	550	2.9%	380
Cariboo	300	1.3%	130
North Coast & Nechako	220	1.8%	110
Northeast	200	2.5%	120

## Types of Employers

Adult educators are employed by:

- government-funded colleges and institutes
- private career training schools
- companies
- community and government agencies

## Salary

In British Columbia, the **median** annual salary is \$88,202. Your wages are affected by your experience, area of expertise, and place of employment. Unionized instructors at a college usually make more than teachers at private career training schools.

In BC's regions, **Adult Educators** can expect to make:

Community/Area	Wages (\$/hour)		
	Low	Median	High
<a href="#">British Columbia</a>	21.98	42.31	69.71
<a href="#">Cariboo Region</a>	21.98	42.31	69.71
<a href="#">Kootenay Region</a>	21.98	42.31	69.71
<a href="#">Lower Mainland–Southwest Region</a>	20.00	41.21	71.47
<a href="#">North Coast Region</a>	21.98	42.31	69.71
<a href="#">Thompson–Okanagan Region</a>	21.98	42.31	69.71
<a href="#">Vancouver Island and Coast Region</a>	26.37	42.08	57.69

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

## **Working Hours**

You work a variety of hours depending on your work place. Some adult education instructors teach during evenings or weekends. If you work as a corporate trainer, you must accommodate the schedules of the workplace. As well, you must be prepared to travel.

Part-time or part-year employment, including session and contract work, is becoming more common.

This occupation offers flexibility in scheduling time for teaching, course preparation, and grading papers and exams. Increased offerings of online courses may also allow you greater scheduling flexibility.

## **2. Skills, Education and Experience**

### ***Skills***

- Excellent written and oral communication
- Critical thinking
- Teaching/training/facilitation
- Leadership skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Background in the subject area being taught

### ***Education and Experience***

- Bachelor's degree, a college diploma, or demonstrated expertise in the field of instruction is required.
- Master's degree in the field of instruction may be required.
- Certificate, diploma, or degree in adult education may be required.
- For instructors of trades, completion of apprenticeship training and industry or trade certification are required. Additional courses in teaching or a provincial teaching certificate may be required.

## **Qualifications**

***This occupation is not regulated in British Columbia.***

Most recent entrants have an undergraduate university degree and many have a graduate degree. A certificate from the Provincial Instructor Diploma Program or degree in adult education may be required. The Provincial Instructor Diploma Program is taught through Vancouver Community College.

You can learn more about this program and other adult education certificates at:

- **Vancouver Community College – Instructor Training**  
<https://www.vcc.ca/programs/courses/instructor-training/instructor-training/>

## **3. Finding Jobs**

You'll find job advertisements in local newspapers, trade journals, and electronic sources, as well as through professional associations' publications.

Often jobs teaching in professional college programs will not be posted but are only known through "word of mouth". If you have a background in a specific profession, look to see which universities or colleges teach that program and contact the department head directly about possible teaching opportunities.

### ***Local Newspapers***

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun* and *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***

- **EducationCanada.com**  
<https://educationcanada.com/search.html>
- **HighEd jobs**  
<https://www.higheredjobs.com/search/>
- **Indeed.com**  
[https://ca.indeed.com/advanced\\_search](https://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search)
- **Talent.com**  
<https://ca.talent.com/>
- **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***

- **AcademicWork.ca - Canadian Association of University Teachers CAUT**  
<https://www.academicwork.ca/>
- **Post Secondary Employers' Association (PSEA)**  
<https://psea.bc.ca/members/employment-opportunities>
- **Colleges & Institutes Canada**  
<https://jobs.collegesinstitutes.ca/>

### ***Identifying the Right Position***

When you browse job advertisements, you'll find a wide range of different job titles that are relevant.

Look for these and other related job titles:

- college teacher, (academic, technology, or vocational)
- college instructor
- community college teacher
- company trainer



- training officer
- language school instructor
- trainer, (vocational, computer, etc)

### **Creating a List of Potential Employers**

You can use directories to produce lists of colleges and career training institutes in the Lower Mainland or BC. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **Colleges and Institutes Canada**  
Listing of colleges & institutes across Canada; can search by province  
<https://www.collegesinstitutes.ca/our-members/member-directory/>
- **BC Ministry of Advanced Education**  
Listing of all post-secondary universities, colleges, and institutes in BC.  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/post-secondary-education/find-a-program-or-institution/find-an-institution>
- **Private Training Institutions Branch (PTIB)**  
<https://www.privatetraininginstitutions.gov.bc.ca/students/pti-directory>  
A directory of registered and accredited private career schools in BC.
- **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 "[colleges]" (OR "community colleges" OR "institutes") and click LOOKUP. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button. You can  
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 (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 at <https://www.vpl.ca/siic/>.

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**  
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/writing-resumes-and-cover-letters>
- **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>
- **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 adult education in BC and Canada can provide information and assistance. Registration and fees are usually required for membership.

- **Colleges and Institutes Canada**  
<https://www.collegesinstitutes.ca/>

- **Private Training Institutions Branch (PCTIB)**  
<https://www.privatetraininginstitutions.gov.bc.ca/>
- **Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC (FPSE)**  
<https://fpse.ca/>
- **Post-Secondary Employers' Association (PSEA)**  
<https://psea.bc.ca/>
- **Private Training Institutions Branch (PCTIB)**  
<https://www.privatetraininginstitutions.gov.bc.ca/>

### ***Industry Journals***

Search the Vancouver Public Library catalogue for journals related to your profession. Examples at the Central Library:

- **CAUT Bulletin** / Canadian Association of University Teachers  
Available in Print at VPL 378.1205 C212c and online at  
<https://www.caut.ca/bulletin>
- **Education Canada**  
Available in print at VPL 370.971 E242e and online at  
<https://www.edcan.ca/magazine/>

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

