

Land Survey Technologists & Technicians

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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Land Survey Technologists & Technicians [NOC 2021: 22213/ NOC 2016: 2254]

May also be called:

- *engineering survey technologist/technician*
- *geodetic survey technologist*
- *geomatics technologist – surveying*
- *survey assistant*
- *topographic survey technician*

1. What Would I Do?

Land Surveying Technologists & Technicians operate survey equipment to determine the exact locations and relative positions of natural features, elevations and contours on the earth’s surface, underground and underwater. You use this information to establish geographical locations and boundaries.

Land survey technologists and technicians may specialize in one of the following types of surveys: geodetic survey, topographic survey, legal (cadastral) survey or engineering survey.

As a **land survey technologist**, your duties include:

- help survey engineers or professional surveyors to develop methods and procedures for carrying out field surveys
- carry out field surveys and operate survey instruments and computer equipment to measure distance, angles, elevations and contours
- determine exact geographic locations using global positioning systems (GPS) equipment
- analyze latitude, longitude and angles, and use trigonometric and other calculations to plot features, contours and areas to a specific scale
- prepare detailed drawings, charts, plans, survey notes and survey reports

As a **land survey technician**, your duties include:

- participate in field surveys and operate survey equipment
- keep records, measurements and other survey information in an organized manner
- help in the calculation, analysis and computation of measurements obtained during field surveys
- help in the preparation of detailed drawings, charts and plans

More information:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Land Surveying Technologists & Technicians**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>

2. Am I Suited For This Job?

You should be:

- *detail-oriented*
- *able to judge object shape, size, and distance*
- *able to visualize abstract forms*
- *physically fit*

and should have:

- *good mathematic skills*
- *good hearing & vision*

You may work indoors in an office setting or conduct fieldwork outdoors at a job site.

Sources:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Land Surveying Technologists & Technicians**

<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>

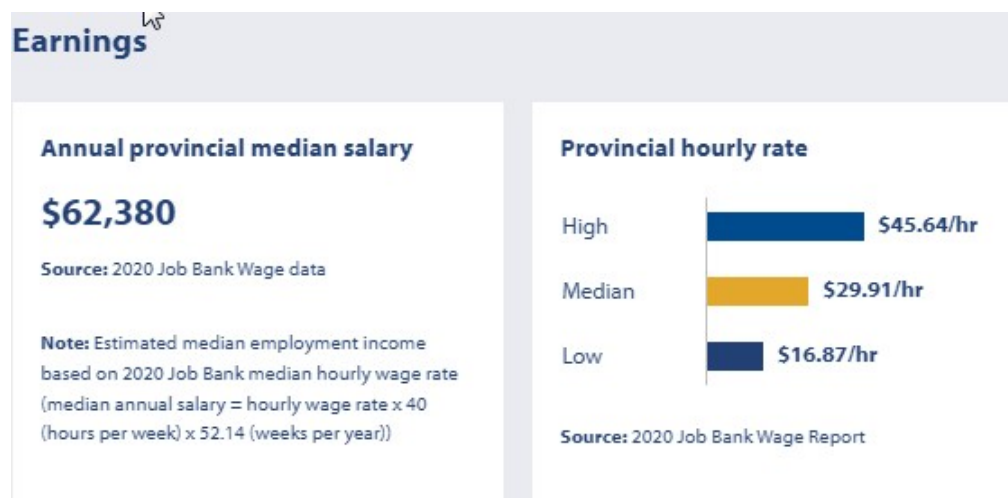
- **Career Cruising** [profile for Survey Tech]

<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library

3. What Are The Wages And Benefits?

The median annual salary for land survey technologists and technicians working full-time in BC is \$62,380.



Job Bank Canada provides hourly wages in BC:

Community/Area	Wages (\$/hour)		
	Low	Median	High
British Columbia	20.00	28.00	67.69

Source: <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/marketreport/wages-occupation/18091/BC>

Survey techs who work full time usually receive benefits as well as a salary. These can include health and dental coverage, paid vacation, and paid sick days. They may also get help with a retirement plan.

Sources:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Land Surveying Technologists &**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>
- **Career Cruising** [profile for Survey Tech]
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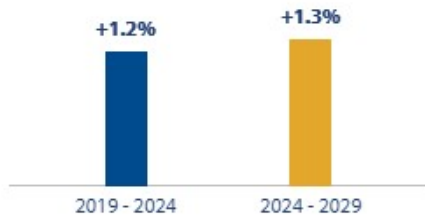
4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?

Employment Outlook for Land Survey Technologists and Technicians

B.C. Labour Market Outlook (2019-2029)

Provincial outlook

Forecasted average employment growth rate



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Job openings

10 year expected job openings: 200



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Composition of job openings

Replacement of retiring workers:
58.8%
100 openings



New jobs due to economic growth:
41.2%
70 openings

Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

JobBank Canada reports that the employment outlook will be fair for Land survey technologists and technicians in British Columbia for the 2021-2023 period.

Sources:

WorkBC Career Profile for Land Surveying Technologists & Technicians

<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>

Job Bank Canada: <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/marketreport/outlook-occupation/18091/BC>

5. How do I become a Land Survey Technologist or Technician?

Certification is not required to work as a land survey technologist or technician in BC, but it can provide better employment opportunities.

Certification as an Applied Science Technologist (AScT) or Certified Technician (CTech) in Land Surveying Technology is obtained through the **Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC)**
<http://www.asttbc.org/>.

Minimum requirements include:

- AScT: Diploma of Technology (2 or 3 years) from a nationally accredited program or equivalent in geomatics or land survey technology
- CTech: Certificate (1 or 2 years) from a nationally accredited program or equivalent in land surveying technology

AND

- completion of 24 months (3,600 hours) progressive, relevant work experience of which a minimum of 12 months (1,800 hours) must be at the technologist/technician profile of practice or higher and in a Canadian work environment

Internationally trained technologists and technicians:

Internationally trained professionals that have equivalent education and work experience in other countries may be granted Trainee registration if they have not achieved required work experience in Canada. Trainees are registrants who have completed the academic requirements for registration in their chosen field, but are in the process of gaining the requisite experience before they may register as practicing technologists, technicians, or technical specialists.

A trainee registrant may only engage in applied science and engineering technology

practice while under supervision.

<https://asttbc.org/registrants/trainee/>

See also Option B, Graduates of other Technology Programs

<https://www.asttbcapply.ca/>

For further information, see:

- **Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC)** <http://www.asttbc.org/>
 - Basic requirements for certification:
<https://asttbc.org/applicants/application-process/>

6. How Do I Find A Job?

Where would I work?

Land Survey Technologists & Technicians work for:

- *all levels of government*
- *architectural and engineering firms*
- *private sector surveying establishments*

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

- **BC Association of Land Surveyors Employment Opportunities**
<https://abcls.ca/page/careers>
- **Indeed.ca**
<http://ca.indeed.com/Land-Survey-Technologist-jobs-in-british-columbia>
<http://ca.indeed.com/Land-Survey-Technician-jobs-in-British-Columbia>
- **Neuvoo.ca**
<http://neuvoo.ca>
- **WorkBC Job Postings**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Find-Jobs/Jobs.aspx#/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 construction and land survey. Contact them directly to find out if they’re hiring.

- **BC Construction Association**
<https://www.bccassn.com/about-us/regional-associations/>
Search the members’ directories for: Vancouver, Vancouver Island, Southern Interior, and Northern Regional
- **Business In Vancouver Book of Lists Biggest Construction Companies in BC**
Available at the Central Library, 338.9711 B97B and top 5 companies listed online at
<https://www.biv.com/datatables/> and <https://biv.com/datatables/biggest-construction-companies-bc-2021>
- **Association of Consulting Engineering Companies Member Directory**
https://www.acec.ca/business_search.html
(select ‘province’ as ‘British Columbia’; select ‘Industry Sectors’ as ‘Surveying and Mapping’)

- **Reference Canada**

<http://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 "Land surveying" OR "Surveyors" 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).*

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**

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

- **GoVolunteer.ca**
<http://govolunteer.ca/>
- **Habitat for Humanity**
<https://www.habitatgv.ca/> - can volunteer at construction sites or at ReStores
<https://www.habitatgv.ca/applytovolunteer>

For additional tips see:

- **Networking for Employment**
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>
[Search Networking for Employment]
- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>
[Search 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, <http://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**
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>
[Search Writing Resumes and Cover Letters]

8. Where Can This Job Lead?

Land surveying technologists/technicians may start as an Assistant/ Instrument Person, then progress to Survey Tech. Promotion to supervisory positions is

possible with experience.

You can also move into Land Surveyor positions if you complete professional surveyor examinations and certification.

Source:

WorkBC Career Profile for Land Surveying Technologists & Technicians

<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>

9. Where Can I Find More Information?

- **Set your boundaries.ca,**
<http://www.setyourboundaries.ca/>
- **Skilled Trades Employment Program (STEP)**
<http://www.stepbc.ca/>
- **Fastest Growing Industries: Construction**
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>
[Search `Construction`]
- **Learn More About Working in BC and Canada**
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>
[Search `Learn More About Working in BC and Canada`]

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 <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/>.

