

# Land Surveyors

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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## Land Surveyors [NOC 2021: 21203/ NOC 2016: 2154]

**May also be called:**

- *legal surveyor*
- *professional land surveyor*
- *property surveyor*

### 1. What Would I Do?

**Land surveyors** plan, direct and carry out legal surveys to establish the location of real property boundaries, contours and other natural or human-made features. You also prepare and maintain cross-sectional drawings, official plans, records and documents pertaining to legal surveys.

*Your duties include:*

- develop survey plans, methods and procedures for conducting legal surveys
- plan, direct and oversee surveys to establish and mark legal boundaries of properties, parcels of lands, provincial and Canada lands, aboriginal land claims, well-sites, mining claims, utility rights-of-way, roadways and highways

- survey and lay out subdivisions for rural and urban development
- determine exact locations using electronic distance measuring equipment and global positioning systems (GPS)
- analyze, manage and display data using geographic information systems (GIS) and computer-aided design and drafting (CAD)
- record all measurements and other information obtained during survey activities
- prepare or oversee the preparation and compilation of all data, plans, charts, and documents related to surveys of real property boundaries

More information:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Land Surveyors**  
<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:***

- *math skills*
- *communication skills*

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

Sources:

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

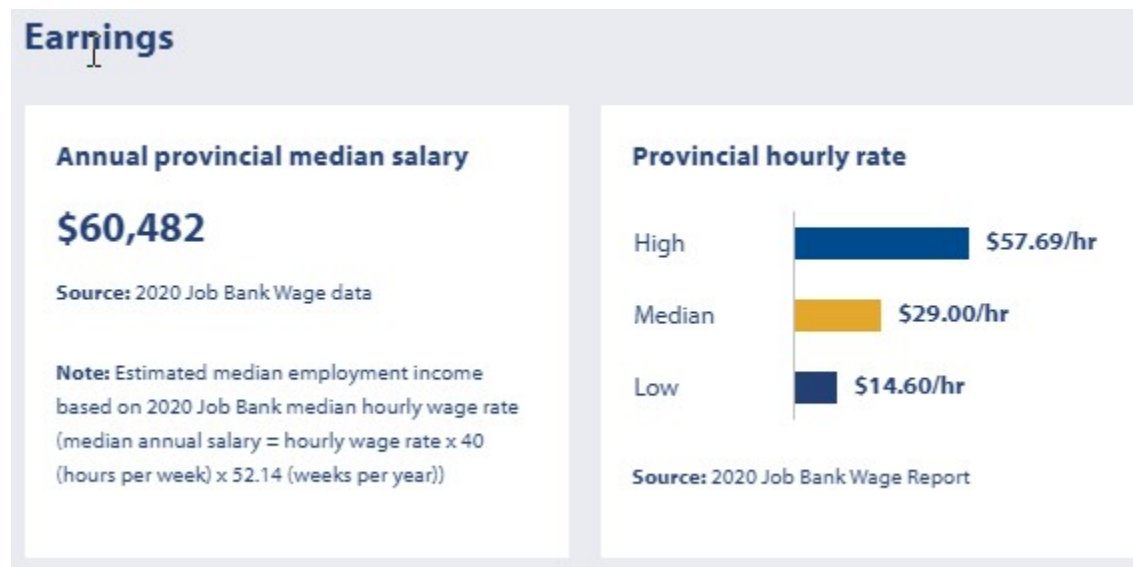
- **Career Cruising** [profile for Land Surveyor]

<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 surveyors working full-time in BC is \$60,482.



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

Job Bank Canada provides hourly wages in BC:

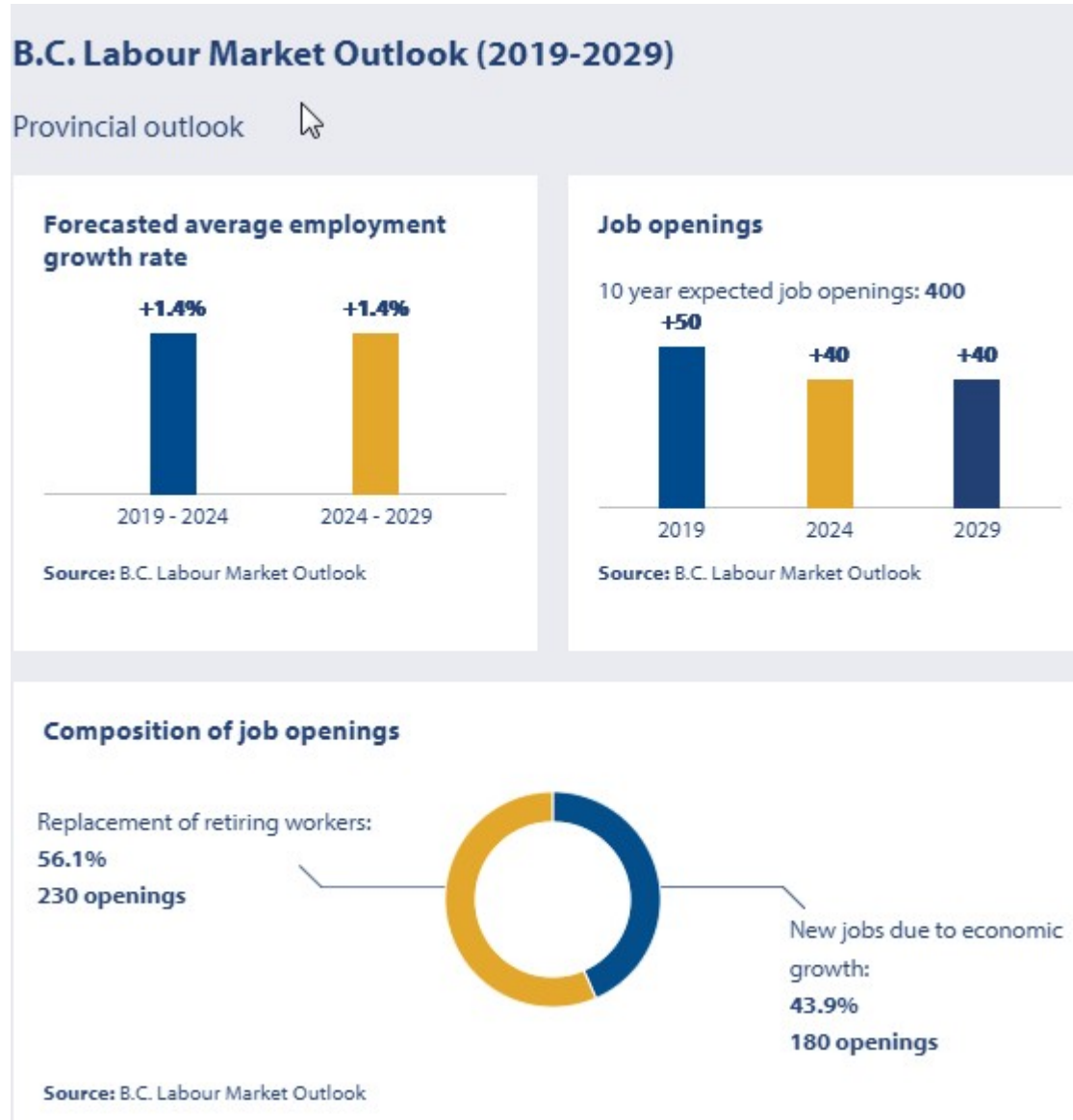
Community/Area	Wages (\$/hour)		
	Low	Median	High
<a href="#">British Columbia</a>	28.00	31.25	64.10

Source: <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/marketreport/wages-occupation/24416/BC>

In regions with harsh winters, surveying is a seasonal business; work may only be done 8 or 9 months of the year.

## 4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?

### Land Surveyors



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

Jobbank Canada reports that the employment outlook will be good for Land surveyors in British Columbia for the 2021-2023 period.

## 5. How do I become a Land Surveyor?

You require certification through the **Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors** <https://abcls.ca/> to work as a Land Surveyor in BC. To apply for registration as a land surveyor, you must first complete the **land surveyor in training** program.

### **Land surveyor in training program:**

To apply for registration in the **land surveyor in training** program, you must provide:

- a *Certificate of Completion* (CofC) from the Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors – CBEPS\*\*

### **Or**

- a British Columbia Institute of Technology Bachelor Degree in Geomatics

### **And**

an Articling Agreement with a practising land surveyor.

\*\*The Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS) establishes, assesses and certifies the academic qualifications of individuals who apply to become land surveyors and/or geomatics professionals in Canada.

After registering in the **land surveyor in training** program, you must successfully complete the following in order to be registered as a Land Surveyor:

- a term of articles – in order to develop key land surveying competencies, you must complete 24 months with a practising land surveyor who has been practising for a minimum 3 years.
- two field project reports
- the professional examination
- the professional assessment interview
- take an oath or affirmation before a member of the Board.

### ***Land surveyor associate program***

For people already registered as practising land surveyors in a Canadian jurisdiction other than British Columbia -- a ***land surveyor associate*** must successfully complete the jurisdictional examination only.

For more information:

#### **Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors - ABCLS**

<https://www.abcls.ca/page/land-surveyor-in-training>

<https://www.abcls.ca/page/exam-information>

<https://www.abcls.ca/page/articling-information>

<https://abcls.ca/page/land-surveyor-associate>

### ***Qualified Land Surveyor from Jurisdictions Outside of Canada***

The Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS) manages the process for Foreign Trained Land Surveyors (FTLS) to apply for registration in Canada. In order to become eligible, a candidate must have a Certificate of Completion (CofC), issued by the CBEPS. A certificate of completion of academic requirements for professional surveyors will be issued upon:

- proof of sufficient academic qualifications (minimum entrance requirement to become a CBEPS candidate as 'Foreign Trained' is graduation from a two-year geomatics or surveying program at a technical institute or from a degree program at a university)

Followed by:

- by successful completion of examinations set by the CBEPS,  
OR
- or by a combination of academic qualifications and completion examinations.

Foreign-trained land surveyors who have had their academic qualifications certified by the Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors and received a Certificate of Completion may be recognized as a 'Land Surveyor in Training'. Foreign Trained Land Surveyors (FTLS) Land Surveyors in Training must then

complete a term of articles under a practising land surveyor, complete field project reports, and may then become eligible to sit the professional examination and professional assessment interview

For further information:

- **Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors CBEPS – Foreign Trained Land Surveyors**  
<https://ftls.cbeps-cceaq.ca/>  
<https://ftls.cbeps-cceaq.ca/how-to-apply/requirements/>
- **Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors**  
<http://www.abcls.ca/>

## 6. How Do I Find A Job?

### ***Where would I work?***

#### ***Land Surveyors work for:***

- *federal, provincial and municipal governments*
- *land surveying companies*
- *real estate development*
- *natural resource, engineering and construction firms*
- *may be self-employed*

### **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 - Careers**  
<https://abcls.ca/page/careers>
- **Indeed.ca**  
<http://ca.indeed.com/land-surveyor-jobs-in-British-Columbia>
- **Neuvoo.ca**  
<http://neuvoo.ca>
- **WorkBC Job Postings**  
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Find-Jobs/Jobs.aspx>

### **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://bccassn.com/about-bcca/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/> <https://www.biv.com/datatables/biggest-construction-companies-bc-2021>
- **Association of Consulting Engineering Companies Member Directory**  
[https://www.acec.ca/business\\_search.html](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 surveyors may progress to supervisory positions, overseeing technical surveys and field crews. With many years of experience, you can become the manager or owner of a surveying business.

Source:

**Career Cruising** [profile for Land Surveyor]

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

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

## 9. Where Can I Find More Information?

- **Careers in Construction: Land Surveyors**  
<https://www.careersinconstruction.ca/en/career/surveyor>
- **Set your boundaries.ca**, (Professional Surveyors Canada)  
<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/>.*



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