
NEWS RELEASE

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WORKBC GUIDE HELPS PARENTS, TEENS PLAN FOR FUTURE

VICTORIA – Parents across British Columbia have a new resource to help them support their teens in making decisions about future education and career plans, announced Moira Stilwell, Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development and Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education.

The WorkBC Parents’ Guide is a tool that walks parents through the steps necessary to support their teenage children in choosing a career path.

“The range of choices young adults in British Columbia have today is unprecedented and that can make decision-making both exciting and overwhelming,” said Stilwell. “We encourage parents to use this guide as a tool in helping their children make good decisions that will contribute to their personal and economic success and the future prosperity of our province.”

The guide provides information to parents on how they can effectively coach their teens in identifying their interests, researching their career options, developing a career plan and creating a career portfolio. It also provides information specific to British Columbia’s economy and labour market, along with helpful resources and links. British Columbia continues to face a growing demand for workers – it’s estimated there will be over 870,000 job openings in B.C. between 2007 and 2017.

“Choosing a career path to follow after high school can be a very challenging decision for students,” said MacDiarmid. “We know that over half of B.C.’s secondary school graduates make the transition into post-secondary education immediately after high school. The WorkBC Parents’ Guide will empower parents and students and give them the knowledge needed to help make confident career choices.”

The guide contains some of the latest information about career planning, what skills are essential to be successful in the labour market of the future, and a sample of what employers are saying they are looking for in employees. It also has a list of resources that provide the latest information on labour market trends, post-secondary education options, careers, job search sites and volunteer opportunities.

WorkBC is the Province's labour market action plan to address skills shortages. It addresses five strategic areas: keeping the workforce we have; developing the skills of the existing workforce; increasing Aboriginal participation and labour market success; finding and attracting more workers to B.C. and addressing regional skills shortages.

The WorkBC Parents' Guide has been distributed to public secondary schools across B.C. and is available on the WorkBC website at http://www.workbc.ca/career_planning_in_bc/index.htm.

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