



BGS COMPASS

"Providing Direction for your Journey"

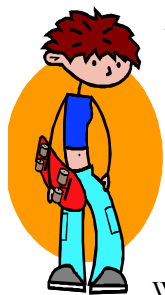
Official BGS Career & Corporate Development News

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BGS is proud to announce that Youth Ventures is expanding to Calgary! Youth Ventures will be strategically located on the main floor of the

Northland Building, in the west end of Calgary's downtown core; it is in the heart of restaurants, retail, and provides easy access from major thoroughfares, an abundance of parking and immediate access to the 7th Avenue LRT.



Youth Ventures provides assessment and case management for Skills Link programs. This project assists youth 15-30 years of age facing barriers to employment and/or education by helping them develop a broad range of skills, knowledge and work experience needed to successfully participate in the job market.

Whether in Edmonton or Calgary, youth will fully benefit from this 'one-stop-shop' for information and referrals regarding resources, employment and education needs.

For further information, refer to our website or contact **Youth Ventures Edmonton (780) 409-8625** or **Youth Ventures Calgary (403) 234-9119**.



Erin, Youth Venture's Outreach Worker has been hitting the streets to connect with youth in need of our services. You can find her at emergency shelters, health clinics, community organizations and youth facilities getting the inside scoop of what's going on with Edmonton's youth. The word on the street is...

- The number of homeless youth in Edmonton has been significantly underestimated
- Connecting with youth in their local area increases the chance that they will access the information about resources and programs available to them.
- As a result of Alberta's booming economy youth are really struggling to secure permanent housing.
- 1 of every 4 high school students do not complete their high school education due to many factors, including bullying, abuse at home and lack of one-on-one attention from teachers.
- Canadian teenagers smoke more than 1.6 billion cigarettes each year -- resulting in retail sales worth more than \$330 million.



How Work Search Savvy are You?

(See answers on Page 2)

1. What percentage of available positions are advertised?
? 50% ? 35% ? 20%
2. What percentage of unsolicited resumes result in an interview?
? 10% ? 2% ? 30%
3. How long does it take employers to screen a resume?
? 10-20 seconds ? 1 minute ? 5 minutes
4. The most successful work search strategy is:
? Responding to ads
? Mailing resumes
? Networking
5. When asked, what percentage of employers agree to talk to job seekers about their work?
? 63% ? 41% ? 13%

Career Tip – In spite of the many opportunities provided by the boom, planning for the long-term future is essential for work satisfaction and success. Also, not all industries are experiencing the boom the same way, leaving some feeling like prospects aren't as rosy as the news would have us believe. Find work that is satisfying and plan for the future – take a **Career Planning or Work Search workshop!** Visit www.bgsenterprises.com or call 425-6655 for more information.

Success in Retirement: A Different Approach

How do you picture your retirement? Is it a life of eating bonbons and sipping margaritas on a beach?

Many retirees experience a honeymoon stage when they first retire; pull out their golf clubs, arrange for travel to exotic destinations, or prepare to move to their dream destination. Often the bloom wears off as they settle into retirement life. Time flies without much meaning or satisfaction associated with their activities. Many people over 55 plan on working during their retirement years. The reasons?

- Fulfillment- continuing to use their abilities
- Balance- between too much & not enough time and money
- Personal satisfaction- having something to apply effort to
- Interaction with others
- Pursuing goals that are significant to them

Preparing for retirement is not just about money. It involves making some clear decisions about what is important to you; success in retirement comes from the satisfaction of reaching your goals and continually making new ones. If you make your future bigger than your past, you will continue to thrive. Retirement is a new beginning, not the end!

BGS offers the "Timeless Traveller" Pre/Retirement Series helping you create the life you would like in retirement. Retirement coaches are also available.

Call (780) 425-6655 or go to www.bgsenterprises.com to find out more.

How Work Search Savvy Are You? (Answers to quiz on front page)

1. **20%.** 80% of available positions go unadvertised. Learn how to access the hidden job market in our **Work Search** workshop
2. **2%.** Mailing or emailing an unsolicited resume is not an effective way to find jobs in the hidden job market. Find out how to contact employers directly to get interviews!
3. **10-20 seconds.** That's right! You only have 20 seconds maximum to get your resume into the read pile. Find out how to create a **High Impact Resume** in our Resume & Cover Letter Writing workshop!
4. **Networking.** Ever hear the phrase, it's not what you know; it's who you know. Find out how to use and expand your network in our Work Search workshop.
5. **63%.** The more your talk to employers about their work, the more informed and confident you will feel during the work search process. Many employers want to hire individuals who take the time to research their career options.

Visit <http://www.bgsenterprises.com/Workshops.htm> or call

425-6655 to learn more about our FREE WORKSHOPS!

Before you Quit...

A booming economy in Alberta and wage increases in the oil patch is driving up salary increases. However, many Albertans are still living paycheck-to-paycheque or not able to make ends meet.

You may need to be trained or re-trained to obtain positions to gain an increase in salary and/or earn sustainable employment. Alberta Human Resources and Employment (AHR&E) provides delivery services that can support Albertans who are presently *employed*.



When it is identified that you need training to obtain sustainable employment, **permission** to leave your present job is required. This is to protect your Employment Insurance (EI) hours and is the procedure for *employed* Albertans to establish their EI benefits. Please do not **quit your job!** This permission can only come in the form of a letter called *Counsel to Leave Employment* and is obtained **exclusively** from a Career Employment Counselor (CEC) at AHR&E.

Before meeting with a CEC counselor at any of the Canada/Alberta Service Centres, you will require an assessment regarding your request for training. Once an appointment is made with a Case Manager at BGS, you will obtain clear information and begin the process.