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a Quality Assurance
Manager at EK3*

2.

Doing your homework

What kind of research is a help to job seekers?

You will need to learn about the jobs that are available in the London region. This is called labour market information. Labour market information will tell you what jobs are in demand today and what jobs are expected to be important in the future. It will also tell you the skills training required for those jobs.

Labour market information is available in many places:

- The **Service Canada** (a Canadian government department) website at www.servicecanada.gc.ca allows you to search any Canadian labour market to find information on jobs, wages, training and more. On the English home page of the website, look for the words, "Find a Service Canada Centre near you" and enter your postal code. You can also visit the London Service Canada office at 457 Richmond St., London.
- **Employment Ontario**, part of the Ontario government's Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities - www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/tcu/etlanding.html - offers information on employment and training services offered in the London region and across Ontario.
- www.links2work.on.ca is a London region website that has links to labour market information and other job search tools.
- You will also find job search links at the Welcome London website at www.welcome.london.ca. This has many links to services, programs and resources for newcomers.

Get as much information as you can about the jobs you wish to pursue. Make a list of questions and search until you get your answers.

2. Doing your homework

Where do people go to find out about jobs?

There are many places to go to learn about job vacancies including:

- Newspaper classified advertisements;
- Online job postings such as Monster.ca, Workopolis.com and Knighthunter.com (a job board specifically for the London region);
- Recruitment organizations – ensure you choose one with a good reputation, this can be a good way to gain access to a company and show your skills;
- Specific company or organization websites, especially those in the field in which you wish to work. Look for a link called “careers” or “employment”.

Tip: Don't forget about smaller, outlying communities when looking for employment. While smaller communities might present transportation challenges for some, they are a great place to raise families and often offer good employment opportunities.

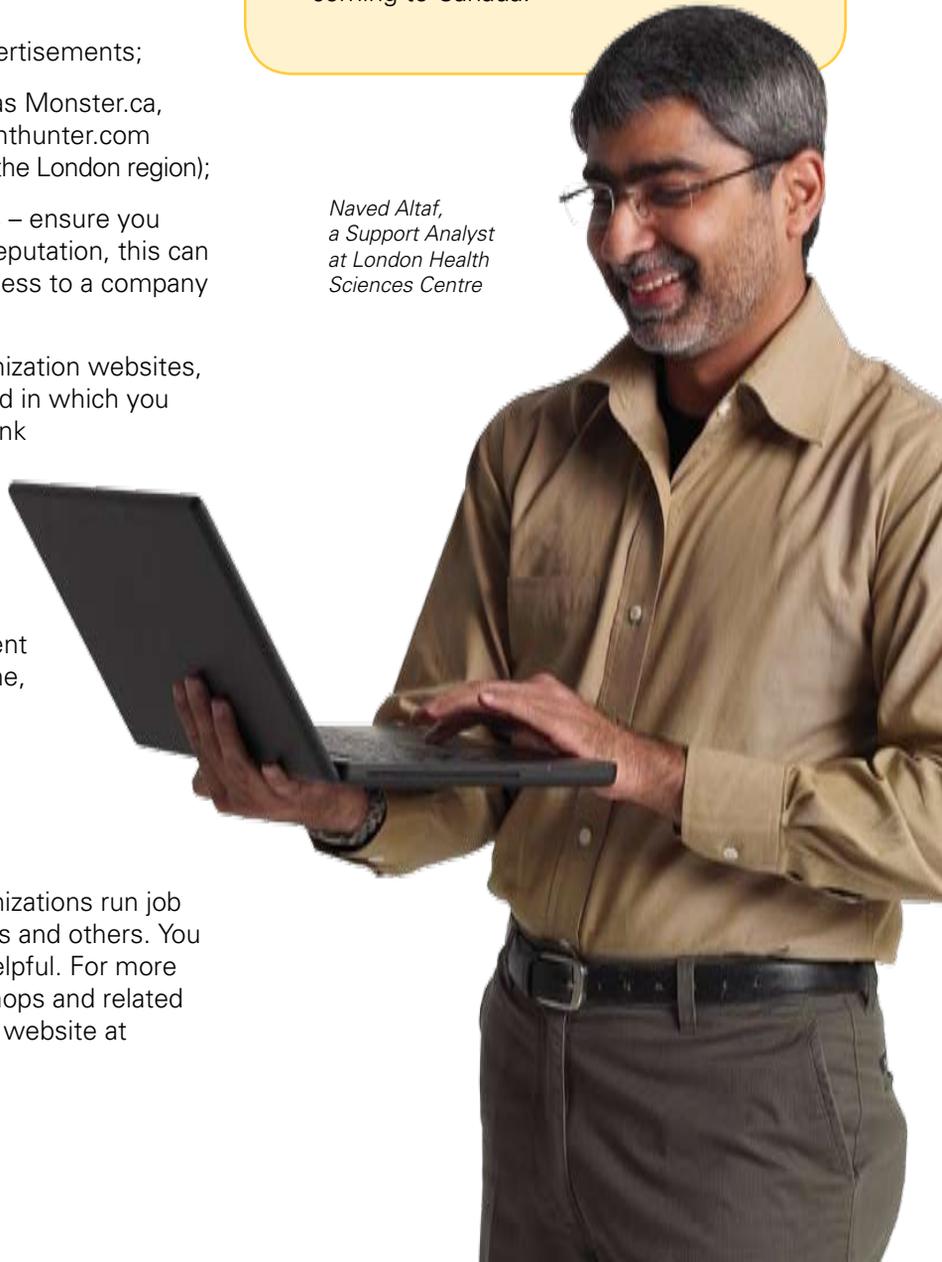
Job Search Workshops

A number of London region organizations run job search workshops for newcomers and others. You will find these workshops very helpful. For more information on job search workshops and related topics visit the Welcome London website at www.welcome.london.ca.

Changing Careers

In 2001 Statistics Canada surveyed newcomers who had been in Canada six months and had found employment. Only four out of ten were working in the same occupational field as they did before coming to Canada.

*Naved Altaf,
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Learning about the careers available

If you are considering a few different careers or jobs, take the time to learn more about each. Try to arrange to meet and interview people who are now in those careers. Your employment counsellor can help you to arrange for an information interview. Before your meetings, make a clear list of your questions and use the time wisely.

If you will be required to go to college, university or a training program, meet with a representative of that school or program to learn about the expectations and requirements. These steps will help you determine if this educational program and career are for you.

Job Shadowing

Job shadowing means spending some time (a few days or maybe weeks) working beside someone who is doing a job you think you would like to do. You are there as a volunteer, and to learn. It is a great way to do research about the job, to learn about the workplace culture and the technical requirements and to get answers to your questions. Employers who may be interested in hiring you may also allow you to job shadow so that you can demonstrate your skills. Be sure that, as much as possible you are helping the person you are job shadowing, rather than preventing them from doing their work.

Name:
Henry Francis Cooper

Country of Origin:
Liberia/West Africa

Past Employment/Education:
Auto Mechanic

London Region Employer and Position:
**A national truck leasing company,
as a truck mechanic apprentice**

After many years in a refugee camp in Ghana, Henry brought his family to Canada in the fall of 2005. He was disappointed by a few early jobs he was given by an employment agency, but Henry persisted.

Henry's employment counsellor helped him enroll in an Ontario government sponsored pre-apprenticeship training program. Henry is now an apprentice at a national truck leasing company, preparing to continue as a mechanic – the same occupation he had in Liberia.

Henry's wife Alice was a nurse in Liberia. While she is now working as a personal support worker, she hopes to someday return to nursing.

"I tell newcomers to consider yourself a new-born baby. It's time to start life again and it will be good! Canadian standards are very high, so you must work hard to meet those standards. Search out opportunities to prove yourself! Be patient and tolerant of new views. London is a wonderful place. Even today, I feel like I am home. There are good people here."

