

3.

Making a choice

Many things to consider

As you get closer to making your career choice, there are many things to consider. Each person's life is different, and so each career choice is very personal. Here are some things to consider about the careers that interest you:

- Education and training requirements;
- Rate of pay;
- The benefits such as vacation, health benefits, and pension;
- Typical hours of work;
- Physical requirements;
- Travel required;
- Flexibility for family requirements;
- Promotion and growth opportunities.

If there are a number of different jobs and careers that interest you, take the time to write down the positive and negative aspects of each one to help you as you make your decision.



To continue a previous career or start over?

It is important to know that the Canadian job market is probably very different from the job market in the country where you came from. For newcomers, finding a job can be very difficult. It will require research, planning and many applications and calls.

One of the first decisions could be whether to continue in your previous occupation or begin a new one. This is an important decision and will depend on the job market for the career you have chosen. You will need to do some research to find out whether there are jobs available and what kind of upgrading or certification you will need to continue working in your occupation in the London region.

Some newcomers have found that it can be easier to begin a new career, rather than take the time to gain Canadian certification in a previous occupation.

Changing careers can be a positive and exciting experience. Many Canadians choose to change their careers a number of times in their life.

The choice is yours.

*Lingling Qiu,
a Quality Assurance
Tester at EK3*

3. Making a choice

What about those who just want to get a job now?

It is understandable that many newcomers are in a hurry to gain employment. You will find however, that you will have greater success if you take some steps to plan and prepare. Employment counselling and employment preparation workshops are designed to help with many of the questions you will have about the local job market, salaries and credential evaluation.

You will find a list of agencies on page 46. Many services are offered at no cost.

Take Some Time

Think of employment counselling as an investment in your future. Take some time to:

- Take a workshop to learn about job searching in Ontario;
- Get advice from an employment counselor;
- Identify your skills;
- Do some research;
- Develop a plan.

This business-like approach will save you from wasting valuable time.

Making a Plan Saves Time

Employment counsellors can also help you set realistic goals in choosing the type of job you want. They will show you how to set small goals that will take you, step-by-step closer to getting the job you want. Here are some questions to consider:

1. What work would I like to be doing in one year? What will it take to achieve that goal?
2. What work would I like to be doing in five years? What will it take to achieve that goal?
3. Do I know what kind of company I want to work for?
4. What pay level do I feel I can achieve?
5. Do I want to work with others, or alone?
6. What are the steps I can take to achieve my goals:
 - a. In the next two weeks
 - b. In the next two months
 - c. In the next two years

Create a list of your goals and tasks. Put each task on a calendar showing when you hope to have it completed. Try to accomplish small steps each day or week, so you know you are making progress.



Overcoming Fear

- ✓ Take some time to identify the things that you fear. Is it rejection by an employer? Is it failure in your job?
- ✓ What will happen if your fears come true? Will you be able to continue on with your plans and your life?
- ✓ Try to understand that worrying seldom helps. Instead of worrying, gather information about the thing you fear and ask others to help you to try to meet the challenge.
- ✓ Speak with your employment counsellor about your fears. She/he can help you address and overcome these fears with specific strategies.
- ✓ Read books about job searching and learn how many of the experiences and feelings that you have are common among people who are job seeking.
- ✓ Believe in yourself and know that you can succeed!

Name:

Anil Arora

Country of Origin:

India

Past Employment:

Manager in Information Technology

London Region Employer and Position:

**TD Canada Trust – Sales Specialist –
2006 Annual Top Performer**

Anil Arora and his family came to Canada in November 2004 from India. Anil knew that he would face challenges in adjusting to the Canadian work culture, so says he came mentally prepared to do what it would take to be successful. His goal – to work in a bank or insurance company.

Formerly a manager in information technology, Anil had also managed two gas stations in India. He used that experience to obtain a part-time position at a full-serve London gas bar. His customer skills soon won him a full-time job and the shift of choice. He enjoyed talking to his customers and soon adapted to the Canadian culture. Anil got his first opportunity in a technical support call centre serving U.S. customers and was recognized for his contributions. He was soon offered a position at TD Canada Trust, where he is now a respected employee. In early 2007, Anil was recognized nationally with a Vision in Action Award, as one of two top performers in the e.Bank division of TD Canada Trust!

“I believe that every job is honourable and it is up to you to exhibit your will and skill to get noticed. I used every opportunity to show employers my dedication to work while also learning the Canadian culture and moving closer to my goal. Newcomers must mentally prepare themselves to accept work that allows them to gain Canadian experience, while showing employers their skills. This is a sure-shot recipe for success.”