



Wainwright Alberta Service Centre
Suite 19, Provincial Building, 810 – 14 Avenue, Phone: 780 842 7500
Fax: 780 842 7533 Hours: Weekdays, 8:15 a.m. to 12 Noon, 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Wainwright Labour Shortages

A Labour Market Survey for Wainwright and area has begun. Businesses in the Food Services, Retail and Accommodations industries have had the opportunity to share their labour issues with staff from Alberta Employment, Immigration & Industry.

Alberta is in the midst of the strongest period of economic growth ever recorded by any province in Canada’s history. The demand for workers is expected to grow to 400,000 by 2016, creating an expected shortfall of about 100,000 people.

Wainwright is experiencing shortages in a significant way. According to Statistics Canada, the November 2006 unemployment rate for Alberta was 3.1 percent, but the rate for the Camrose-Drumheller area was 2.8 percent. Ongoing research is revealing that local businesses are feeling the pinch when it comes to finding enough people to do the job.

One large retail employer stated, “It’s not a crisis now but it will be in the next several months as new, large retailers open.” Those retailers surveyed identified staffing as one of the greatest challenges facing them today. One employer planning to build a new facility in the near future said, “My greatest fear is that we will build the new facility and I will not be able to staff it.”

Wages in Alberta are climbing at more than seven percent a year, double the national rate.

Local businesses have expressed concern about the possibility of competing for entry level employees with new retailers. Starting wages for relatively unskilled workers may shoot upwards as new stores open. Wages are already higher in some sectors such as oil and gas and the public service. This competition and the overall labour shortage has meant a loss of workers in the local retail, food and accommodation industries. Businesses are concerned that the local labour pool is too small to meet demand and see a need to attract new workers to the Wainwright area.

However, dismaying as this sounds, many business owners are remaining optimistic by looking forward to increased economic activity drawing new consumers to the Wainwright area.

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Locally Developed Strategy to Address Wainwright Labour Market Shortages

A new website has been launched to help increase Wainwright's labour pool and attract new workers to the region. The website came about through a partnership between Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry and the Wainwright Chamber of Commerce with support from the Wainwright Economic Development Board, and the MD and Town of Wainwright.



The *job fair website* www.wantjobgotjob.com helps local employers to contact and interact with

employment seekers from inside and outside the eastern Alberta region. Employers from the Wainwright, Chauvin, Edgerton, Irma, Hardisty, Hughenden, Killam, Provost, Sedgewick and Viking areas are able to post their job openings and search a database of resumes for suitable candidates.

Job seekers are invited to add their resumes or post their information directly into the website's database for free. Searching the data base for job openings by category, location and by other criteria is also free.

As an added feature, the web site provides information on relocating to the region, industry data and helpful tips for employers, job seekers and their families.

Housing Shortages in Wainwright

The local economy is booming and there are no signs of it slowing down anytime soon. The home construction industry is feeling some pressure to provide workers a place to live. However, it is difficult for the industry to keep up. A major shortage of skilled labour tops the list of contributing reasons and, according to the Canadian Home Builders' Association of Alberta, 52 percent of the new-home construction workforce is expected to retire in the next few years.

Employers surveyed in Wainwright have described housing as inadequate and may be a contributing factor in some of the difficulties attracting new

workers. Housing Starts to date are the highest since 1995 and expected to be similar for the next year. There is the possibility of a new 40-unit apartment being built in 2007. In addition to this development, a new subdivision of 70 lots will be developed next year. A developer is also showing interest in building a second apartment complex. Although, the additional rental accommodations will address some of the need, the question remains concerning affordable housing for lower income families. For specific facts and figures, current to October 31, 2006, see www.town.wainwright.ab.ca under community profile.

Youth Connections Wainwright Offers Free Career Development Services

youth connections
find yourself in a job.

Tucked in a side office just off downtown Wainwright Main Street and 6th Avenue you will find Youth Connections. Located at 930-6 Ave. and operating since 2000, Youth Connections is a contract service provided by Alberta Employment, Immigration & Industry and operated by the Boys & Girls Club of Wainwright & District 2004.

Youth Connections prepares young people for learning and work by providing them with career and employment assistance. All services are free. Youth between the ages of 16 to 24, who may be in school, or out of school, employed or unemployed, are invited to use the career services. While youth's needs vary, all stand to benefit from the labour market information and career and education information and resources Youth Connections Wainwright can provide.

"We assist clients in career path planning," said program coordinator, Rosemary Ash. "We assist with resume writing, job search technique, job shadowing, jobs available, internet research, fax and phones, labour market information, post-secondary information and other training options. We have the

resources a youth needs to explore and achieve career path planning success."

Hours of operation are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday. However, Ms Ash points out that the hours are flexible.

"A youth desk worker is the initial point of contact for potential clients. Needs are determined then the client is referred to the appropriate level of services either internal or external."

Youth Connections also provides exposure course training for their clients who have had difficulty obtaining work because they need more job specific training. Exposure courses may include WHMIS, First Aid, CPR, H2S Alive, Confined Space Entry, Transportation of Dangerous Goods, or computer courses that augment basic skills and are required for a specific job. These courses are provided to clients who have a strong likelihood of employment within one month of completion.

Find yourself a career or help others to do so by calling Youth Connections at (780) 842-5563. Make an appointment or drop in to 930-6 Ave and talk to Rosemary today.

Local Training Centres

[3-A Academy & Consulting Ltd](#)
1135-14 St, Wainwright, Alberta
780-842-3512 Fax: 780-842-3514
stephen@3academy.com

[Portage College](#)
912-3rd Avenue, Wainwright, 780-842-7633
info@portagecollege.ca

[JAWS Safety Services](#)
3-1005 3 Avenue, Wainwright, 780-842-6733
Fax : 780-842-6735 www.jawssafety.com

[Council of Adult Lifelong Learning](#)
780-842-3455 Fax : 780-842-3475
info@callw.org



Tips for Job Seekers

What skills do you need to enter the work force in the food services, retail and accommodation industries in Wainwright? Employers are looking for skills like:

- customer service and communication skills
- someone with a friendly, outgoing personality who is willing to meet customers' needs
- sales, retail training or product knowledge
- computer and math skills

If you are interested in a career in the food services, retail or accommodation industries in Wainwright, what must you consider? A good fit between your needs, interests and value will result in a more

satisfying work experience, whatever the job. To decide what a good fit might look like, think of those activities you've enjoyed in the past. Ask yourself:

- Do I have the skills employers are looking for or am I interested in developing them?
- Do I enjoy working with people?
- Do I gain satisfaction from helping them?

Remember, if you lack some of the skills and knowledge required, but show willingness, an employer may help you to learn them on the job. You can find more career information at www.alis.gov.ab.ca.

Do You Need a Job? Training? Are You an Employer Looking for Workers?

ALBERTA EMPLOYMENT, IMMIGRATION & INDUSTRY HELPS PEOPLE FIND JOBS?

Staff are available to assist with career development and can help people build their employment skills. Services such as career counselling, skills development programs and referrals for job placement and self-employment are available. We also provide applications for scholarships, grants and bursaries. Resources are available free to those in search of employment, and include workshops, tips on resume writing, and photocopy, fax and Internet services. (Participation in certain programs may be contingent on meeting eligibility criteria.) Employers can post their vacancies on a job board free of charge.

WHERE CAN YOU GO TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CAREER & EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN WAINWRIGHT?

*Suite 19 Provincial Building
810 - 14 Avenue
Wainwright AB T9W 1R2*

*Phone: 780 842 7500
Fax: 780 842 7533*

Hours of Operation: 8:15 a.m. - Noon, 1 - 4:30 p.m., weekdays
This office also provides advice on career, employment and training services for adults.

Useful Web Sites

Alberta Employment, Immigration & Industry: www.employment.gov.ab.ca

Alberta Learning Information System: www.alis.gov.ab.ca

Youth Connections: www.employment.gov.ab.ca/youthconnections

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