

*Jobs Careers Information*

# NORTHEASTERN REVIEW

2011

DECEMBER



Top 10 Jobs for 21st Century  
Page 8

*ABOUT  
NORTHEASTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION \_\_\_\_\_ 3-6

Northeastern BC Unemployment Rates  
Labour Force  
Weekly Wages  
Employment Insurance  
Paid & Unpaid Work Over Three Generations  
Labour Force Information  
Payroll Employment, Earnings & Hours

## AGRICULTURE \_\_\_\_\_ 7

Earnings

## CAREERS & JOB SKILLS \_\_\_\_\_ 7-10

Job Leads  
Top 10 Jobs for 21st Century  
Job Hunting  
Jargon Will Not Attract Hirer`s Notice  
Old-Fashioned Resume Still Best

## CONSTRUCTION \_\_\_\_\_ 11-15

Construction Permits for Dawson Creek  
Construction Permits for Fort St John  
BC Building Permits  
Wood Creek Quarry  
Overhead Doors & Operators  
CACE Montney Observation Well Drilling  
Electrical Work  
Compact Fill  
Airport Alterations  
Bank Protection  
Spillway Chute Upgrades  
Spillway Chute Hydro Demolition  
Replacement Bridge  
Waste Transfer Station Upgrades  
Stripping, Loading, Hauling & Stockpiling  
Generator Upgrade  
Rock Slope Stabilization  
Site C Clean Energy Project  
Biomass Fired Electricity Generating Station  
Bonanza Ledge Gold Mine

## EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_ 15

Post-Secondary Education

## ENERGY & MINES \_\_\_\_\_ 16-18

Oil & Gas Sales  
Quicksilver Resources  
Active Oil Rigs — Peace Liard

## FORESTRY \_\_\_\_\_ 19-20

Lumber Production  
Lumber Sales, Prices Rise  
Export Diversity to Double Profits



# INTRODUCTION

## NORTHEASTERN BC UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2004	4.4	4.2	4.6	5.0	6.3	8.3	9.0	8.0	6.3	4.7	*—	*—
2005	4.9	4.5	5.0	4.1	5.4	5.2	4.9	4.2	4.4	4.4	*—	*—
2006	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	4.4	*—	*—	4.2	5.2	4.9	*—
2007	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—
2008	*—	*—	*—	4.3	5.0	5.9	6.2	6.3	5.8	5.0	4.5	3.6
2009	4.6	4.6	6.5	6.5	8.4	7.7	7.9	8.3	7.9	7.2	5.5	5.4
2010	4.9	4.4	4.4	5.3	6.9	7.5	7.3	6.8	7.6	7.6	6.4	7.1
2011	9.0	9.1	8.1	5.4	5.1	4.0	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.3	*—	

In November 2011 the unemployment rate in BC is 6.3% and 4.9% in Alberta. In November 2010 the unemployment rate in BC was 7.0% and 5.7% in Alberta.

\*— The unemployment rate for Northeastern BC has been suppressed due to high sample variance.

## LABOUR FORCE

- **British Columbia's jobless rate climbed 0.4 percentage points (seasonally adjusted) to 7.0% in November.** The increase in the jobless rate resulted from persons entering the labour market (+4,400, or +0.2%), mostly older workers (aged 55 and up), in tandem with an overall employment loss (-6,600, or -0.3%). Job losses were concentrated in part-time employment (-1.5%), as full-time employment was up slightly (+0.1%) over October. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*
- **Among BC's regions, Northeast (3.4%, 3-month moving average, unadjusted) continued to have the lowest unemployment rate in the province, while the jobless rate was highest in North Coast & Nechako (7.7%).** Kootenay made noteworthy gains in November as its unemployment rate dropped from 7.2% to 6.4%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

BC Stats Infoline Issue 11-48 December 2, 2011

## WEEKLY WAGES

**The average weekly wage in British Columbia was \$847.57 in November, comparable to the national average of \$851.35.** BC's average weekly wage rate was the fifth highest in Canada, after Alberta (\$991.79), Ontario (\$871.98), Saskatchewan (\$879.50) and Newfoundland & Labrador (\$868.33). The average hourly wage in the province was \$23.43 in November. Hourly wages in the province remain slightly ahead of the national level (\$23.38), but marginally lower than Alberta (\$26.16), Ontario (\$23.93) and Saskatchewan (\$23.47). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

BC Stats Infoline Issue 11-48 December 2, 2011

## EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

**The number of British Columbians receiving regular employment insurance (EI) benefits dropped (-1.3%, seasonally adjusted) to 58,490 in October.** All but one province saw a decline in EI beneficiaries, resulting in a 1.0% decrease at the national level. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

BC Stats Infoline Issue 11-50 December 16, 2011

# INTRODUCTION

## PAID AND UNPAID WORK OVER THREE GENERATIONS

By Katherine Marshall

The study examines the profile and the time spent on paid and unpaid work for young adults from three generations—late baby boomers (born from 1957 to 1966) when they were age 20 to 29 in 1986, Generation X (1969 to 1978) which was in that age group in 1998, and Generation Y (1981 to 1990) which reached it in 2010.

Young adults from Generation Y were more likely to be single (67%), living at home (51%), and going to school (19%) compared with their counterparts in the two previous generations.

Time spent on employment and housework was also most alike for young men and women of Generation Y. At ages 20 to 29, late baby boom men did, on average, 1.4 hours more paid work per day than women. In Generation Y, this difference had narrowed to 1.1 hours.

When late baby boomer women were age 20 to 29, they did 1.2 hours more housework per day than men. By the time Generation Y was the same age, the difference had narrowed to 0.4 hours.

Average daily time spent on paid work and housework by men and women in young dual-earner couples is more alike for those without children and particularly so for Generation Y.

Statistics Canada, Perspectives on Labour and Income, <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-001-x/2012001/article/11612/11612hl-fs-eng.htm>

### NEAT THINGS ABOUT SNOW

1. **The pukak.** Under the winter's collection of fallen snow, there is a secret world where small animals and insects spend the long, cold months dozing and foraging for food. This is the pukak layer, where it is always around zero degrees. Here, the heat of the earth has risen to the surface to melt and crystallize the snow, leaving gaps behind that can be turned into underground highways for the denizens of the pukak. Voles and mice and beetles use this highway, building air vents every so often to allow carbon dioxide to escape. Sadly, this also signals their presence to predators that lurk near the vents waiting for dinner.
2. **The silence of a winter's eve.** Poets often refer to the silence surrounding snow including Robert Frost in his poem, *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*:  
*The only other sound's the sweep  
 Of easy wind and downy flake.*  
 Fact is, though, snow especially freshly fallen snow, has the power to absorb sound. The trapped air between the snowflakes reduces vibration, which arrests the sound waves.
3. **Squeak, squawk, creak.** If the temperature of snow is warmer than  $-10$  degrees C, it will not squeak when you walk on it. This is because the pressure of your footstep partially melts the snow under it, allowing water to flow under your footfall. When the snow is colder than  $-10$ C, the pressure from your weight crushes the ice crystals beneath your boot making that squeaking, or creaking, sound.
4. **When snow falls as a ball.** This is known as a graupel or a snow grain or, most commonly, as sleet. Rime ice, that white stuff that coats tree limbs, is balls of white ice that form when fog droplets freeze at  $-2$  to  $-8$  degrees C. Rime ice, similar to hoar frost, builds up on tree branches and aircraft surfaces. Hard rime is hard to shake off surfaces. Soft rime is feathery or spiky.
5. **Snowflakes.** Snowflakes are really condensed water vapour which freezes directly into ice crystals. The simplest snowflake is a hexagonal prism, with a top and bottom (basal facets) and six sides (prism facets). Snowflakes also form as hexagonal lattice crystals. As the snow crystal moves through the air, it tends to collide with objects, which causes a bump to form, usually at the corners first. These bumps then pick up new water molecules causing the bump to "grow" into branches. The branches pick up bumps and grow into side branches and so on. The final shape and how the branches form depends on temperature and humidity.



Alberta Gardener

# INTRODUCTION

## LABOUR FORCE INFORMATION

### November 2011

Following a notable decrease the previous month, employment edged down 19,000 in November, and the unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage points to 7.4%. Despite the recent declines, employment was up 1.2% (+212,000) from 12 months earlier.

A decline of 53,000 in part-time work was partially offset by an increase of 35,000 in full-time. Compared with a year earlier, the number of part-time workers was down 1.9% (-62,000), while full-time employment grew by 2.0% (+274,000). Over the same period, the total number of hours worked increased at the same rate as total employment (+1.2%).

Employment declined in Quebec and Saskatchewan in November, while it increased in Nova Scotia. There was little change in the other provinces.

In November, there were employment losses in retail and wholesale trade, as well as business, building and other support services. These losses were partially offset by increases in "other services" (such as personal services and repair and maintenance), as well as in construction; natural resources; and utilities.

There were fewer self-employed workers in November (-28,000). Compared with a year earlier, most of the employment growth was among private sector employees (+1.9%), as employment was little changed among public sector employees (+0.4%) and the self-employed (-0.3%).

Employment declined among core-aged men and youths, while there were gains among women aged 55 and over.

### Losses in services partly offset by increases in goods sector

Employment in the service sector declined in November, with decreases in retail and wholesale trade (-34,000) as well as in business, building and other support services (-29,000). At the same time, there were employment gains of 36,000 in "other services" such as personal services and repair and maintenance.

Despite the decline in November, employment in the service sector rose by 1.3% over the past 12 months, with steady increases in accommodation and food services (+6.5%) as well as professional, scientific and technical services (+5.1%).

In November, there were more workers in the goods sector, with gains in construction (+20,000); natural resources (+10,000); and utilities (+8,000).

In the 12 months to November, employment in the goods sector increased 0.8%. Over the period, there was notable growth in natural resources (+8.3%) and construction (+2.2%). In manufacturing, employment was slightly below its level of 12 months earlier (-0.8%).

### Employment declines in Quebec and Saskatchewan

Employment in Quebec fell by 31,000 in November, pushing the unemployment rate up 0.3 percentage points to 8.0%. The bulk of the decline was in wholesale and retail trade. This month's decrease leaves employment in the province at about the same level as November 2010.

The only other province with a notable employment decrease in November was Saskatchewan (-4,200). This pushed the unemployment rate in the province up by a full percentage point to 5.1%. With this month's decline, employment in Saskatchewan was similar to its level one year earlier.

In November, employment increased by 4,400 in Nova Scotia. Despite this increase, the unemployment rate in the province was unchanged at 8.6%, as more people were participating in the labour market.

Following a large decline in October, employment in Ontario edged up by 17,000 in November. At the same time, the unemployment rate declined 0.2 percentage points to 7.9%. Over the past 12 months, employment in the province has grown by 1.5% (+97,000), slightly higher than the national average of 1.2%.

Employment in Alberta edged up in November, and the unemployment rate was 5.0%. Compared with November 2010, employment grew faster in Alberta than in any other province, at 4.8%.

Employment declines among core-aged men and youths

In November, employment declined by 20,000 among core-aged men (25 to 54), leaving employment for this group slightly above its level of 12 months earlier (+0.5%). Among core-aged women, while little changed in November, employment grew 1.3% over the past 12 months.

Employment also fell in November among youths aged 15 to 24 (-18,000). Compared with one year earlier, however, youth employment was up 1.3%.

There were more women aged 55 and over working in November (+20,000), bringing total growth for this group to 2.1% over the past 12 months. For men in the same age group, despite little change in November, employment increased by 2.9% over the past 12 months.

# INTRODUCTION

## PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS & HOURS

### October 2011

In October, average weekly earnings of non-farm payroll employees increased 1.4% to \$885.36 from the previous month. On a year-over-year basis, average weekly earnings rose 2.7%.

Increases in average weekly earnings reflect a number of factors, such as wage growth and changes in the composition of employment by industry, by occupation and by level of job experience.

Average hours worked per week can also influence growth in year-over-year earnings. However, the average work week was unchanged from October 2010 at 33.0 hours.

### Average weekly earnings by sector

The monthly increase in average weekly earnings was highest in finance and insurance; education; real estate and rental leasing; utilities; mining, quarrying, oil and gas extraction; and manufacturing.

Year-over-year growth in average weekly earnings exceeded the national average of 2.7% in four of Canada's largest industrial sectors: administrative and support services; professional, scientific and technical services; health care and social assistance; and education.

In administration and support services, average weekly earnings rose 6.8% to \$747.82. Year-over-year growth was widespread across the industries in this sector.

In the 12 months to October, average weekly earnings in professional, scientific and technical services were up 3.6% to \$1,236.53. Increases were particularly pronounced in management, scientific and technical consulting, and in architectural, engineering and related services.

Average weekly earnings in health care and social assistance increased 3.4% to \$819.15. Growth in this sector was most notable in hospitals.

Growth in earnings also surpassed the national average in some smaller sectors. From October 2010 to October 2011, earnings increased in the two highest paying industries. In utilities, earnings increased 9.3% to \$1,691.32, while earnings for employees in mining, quarrying, oil and gas extraction rose 4.7% to \$1,800.70.

Average weekly earnings up in every province

Average weekly earnings rose in every province in the 12 months to October, led by growth in Newfoundland and Labrador and Alberta. The lowest rate of growth was in Nova Scotia.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, average weekly earnings were \$901.83 in October, up 7.7% from the same month a year earlier. Earnings in this province have grown at a higher rate than the national average since December 2010.

In Alberta, average weekly earnings increased 4.5% over the 12 months to \$1,049.31 in October, and remained the highest level of earnings among the provinces.

The lowest year-over-year growth occurred in Nova Scotia (+0.4%), where the average weekly earnings were \$770.25 in October.

### Non-farm payroll employment by sector

From September to October, non-farm payroll employment declined by 24,500. On a year-over-year basis, the number of employees rose 228,900 (+1.5%).

The monthly decrease in payroll employment in October occurred in both goods and services, with the largest declines in public administration, manufacturing, and retail trade.

Declines within both public administration and manufacturing were widespread. In retail trade, most of the monthly job losses were in building material and garden equipment stores, gasoline stations and clothing stores.

Payroll employment in mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction was little changed in October. However, the sector posted the fastest year-over-year growth in payroll employment (+8.7% or +16,700) of all sectors. Growth in this sector was driven by gains in support activities for mining and oil and gas extraction, as well as metal ore mining.

The utilities sector also showed strong year-over-year job growth (+5.9% or +6,900). Most of the increase came from electric power generation, transmission and distribution.

# AGRICULTURE

## EARNINGS

**Last year, BC farmers earned an average of 11 cents for every dollar's worth of sales.** Average operating revenues per farm (for farms with at least \$10,000 in revenues) were \$362,101 in 2010, of which \$321,503 went to cover operating expenses. This means that a typical BC farm had net earnings of \$40,598.

Nationally, the average farm netted \$51,117 in operating income. Although Canadian potato farming generated the highest net income (\$209,222), other types of farms showed a bigger margin-to-sales ratio. Operating margins for dairy farming were the highest, at 25 cents for every dollar of revenue, and oilseed and grain farmers had the second highest margin rate (24). Operating margins were lowest for hog (7) and cattle farmers (5). BC was home to five percent (8,850 farms) of the nation's farms in 2010. Source: Statistics Canada

BC Stats Infoline Issue: 11-48 December 2, 2011

# CAREERS & JOB SKILLS

## JOB LEADS

Since word of mouth and a shared contact person are far and away the most successful inroads to a new job, the wise applicant will talk to anyone and everyone they know to suss out leads.

Diligent job seekers will also call on employers they are especially interested in working for (whether or not there is a common connection), approaching them professionally and reinforcing their enthusiasm for working for that particular organization.

While you can't afford to overlook the power of networking in your job search, it's a good idea to expand your prospects even further with some additional sources of job leads.

These include:

- The help wanted section of your newspaper. This is the traditional, tried-and-true medium for posting jobs, and a number of employers still do advertise their openings in this manner.
- The Yellow Pages, or equivalent online directories such as [SuperPages.ca](http://SuperPages.ca) or [Canada411](http://Canada411). Use this as a research tool to find the names of local employers, and plan to pay a "cold call" on those who may be hiring.
- The Internet. Look for postings from your local job centre, through a search on [www.jobbank.gc.ca](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca) (click on English, then on Student/Youth Job Search).
- Bulletin boards at schools and other community outlets which may feature postings.

### What else do you need to know about job-searching?

Remember that employers looking to hire will be targeting an ideal combination of skills, relevant experience, and personal traits such as a winning attitude.

Since a common weak point for many students is their relative lack of work experience, applicants may need to focus more on school achievements, as well as volunteer experience.

David MacFadden works at the Alberni Valley Employment Centre.  
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## NEAT THINGS ABOUT SNOW

6. **Are snowflakes all unique?** That may very well be true for larger, more complex snowflakes, but is doubtful when it comes to the microscopic simple crystals which form in the coldest weather. If you'd like to prove this, you could go to Antarctica with your microscope and look at hexagonal prisms.

Alberta Gardener

# CAREERS & JOB SKILLS

## TOP 10 JOBS FOR 21ST CENTURY

Here are the top ten jobs for the 21st Century as listed by author Laurence Shatkin in his Best Jobs Overall (figures in U.S. dollars):

**1. Software developers, applications**

Annual earnings: \$87,790  
Per cent growth: 34  
Annual openings: 21,840

**2. Physicians and surgeons**

Annual earnings: \$165,279  
Per cent growth: 21.8  
Annual openings: 26,050

**3. Software developers, systems software**

Annual earnings: \$94,180  
Per cent growth: 30.4  
Annual openings: 15,340

**4. Management analysts**

Annual earnings: \$78,160  
Per cent growth: 23.9  
Annual openings: 30,650

**5. Computer systems analysts**

Annual earnings: \$77,740  
Per cent growth: 20.3  
Annual openings: 22,280

**6. Registered nurses**

Annual earnings: \$64,690  
Per cent growth: 22.2  
Annual openings: 103,900

**7. Civil engineers**

Annual earnings: \$77,560  
Per cent growth: 24.3  
Annual openings: 11,460

**8. Medical scientists (except epidemiologists)**

Annual earnings: \$76,700  
Per cent growth: 40.4  
Annual openings: 6,620

**9. Physical therapists**

Annual earnings: \$76,310  
Per cent growth: 30.3  
Annual openings: 7,860

**10. Dental Hygienists**

Annual earnings: \$68,250  
Per cent growth: 36.1  
Annual openings: 9,840



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## JOB HUNTING

### Job hunting in this economy is hard enough without hurting yourself from the get-go.

I got an email recently from someone who was having trouble landing a job for several reasons. But the likelihood of an employer paying attention to him as an applicant probably stopped with his email address.

It contained the word 'insanity.'

C'mon, folks. Consider the signals you're sending in a digital world. A [CareerBuilder](#) report recently listed some other major applicant gaffes reported by hirers. Needless to say, the candidate whose email address included "lovesbeer" wasn't pursued.

This may be the ABCs of job hunting, but it obviously bears repeating: Job hunters must appear as professional, as serious and as responsible as possible.

That CareerBuilder account of mistakes included some doozies, such as the applicant who put a picture of a cat at the top of her resume.

You want to stand out from the crowd, yes. But you don't want to stand out for the wrong reasons.

(Continued on page 9)

## CAREERS & JOB SKILLS

### JARGON WILL NOT ATTRACT HIRER'S NOTICE

**When everyone is "creative," how will it make a difference to employers to say that you're "creative," too?**

"Creative" is the most-used word on LinkedIn profiles, according to a review of millions of user pages on the professional networking site.

Nicole Williams, connection director for LinkedIn, says you can't stand out from the pack when millions describe themselves with the same words.

This year's other top buzzwords were "organizational," "effective," "extensive experience," "track record," "motivated," "innovative," "problem-solving," "communication skills" and "dynamic."

"It's OK to use some common language," Williams said in a telephone interview from New York.

"But if everyone is 'creative,' the word becomes null and void. Instead of telling someone you're creative, you need to show them."

That can be hard to do in a space-challenged resume. It can be a bit easier if you create a PDF with a hyperlink to your LinkedIn profile. But the goal, however you manage it, is to describe a specific accomplishment that illustrates how you exercised creativity.

If you can't share an example that produced financial benefits for your employer or led to personal recognition, then you should rethink how you describe yourself.

Also, Williams said, don't waste space on "motivated."

"No one will say they're unmotivated," she said. "If you really want to claim 'motivated' as an asset, give a specific example."

Williams also warned that "synergy" and "team player" pop up a lot. Neither of those are specific, and people have different ideas of what they mean. Avoid them, she advised.

Admittedly, it's hard to follow advice to ban buzzwords if you're trying to match your credentials to requirements listed on job postings.

If a posting asks for "motivated" applicants, include the word so your resume gets plucked by screeners looking for the required keywords.

Then stand out by giving a specific example of your motivation in action.

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## JOB HUNTING

*(Continued from page 8)*

One job candidate called himself 'the LeBron James of table games.' Another asked if he would be allowed to bring his pet monkey to work.

Most job hunters should aim to present a one-page resume that is easy to read. Don't mess with fancy type, emoticons or illustrations.

Use bullet points or boldface highlighting to focus on your accomplishments and experience that are relevant to business.

Your resume can include volunteer work or professional association memberships, but it shouldn't include your hobbies, your family information or anything too personal.

About half of more than 2,500 hiring managers surveyed by CareerBuilder said they give a serious look at 25 or fewer resumes per job opening.

About two in five of them said they spend less than a minute reviewing each resume, and about one in five spends less than 30 seconds.

Is there any doubt that your email address and basic resume appearance count?

And, of course, you have to look like a good fit for the job.

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## CAREERS & JOB SKILLS

### OLD-FASHIONED RESUME STILL BEST

You might have a social network more sinuous than a spider's web and an online presence that would impress Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg.

But when it comes to landing a job, the old-fashioned resume still trumps all.

That's the opinion of three experts in the recruitment and job-seeking field nationwide. "Until we come up with a way where we can send a hologram of a person," says Amos Tayts, a Toronto-based former recruiter with offices across Canada and the U.S. helping people looking for work, "the resume is the only way that people will know who you are, and what you bring to the table."

Although there is industry talk of a 'resume 2.0' comprising video profiles in which candidates speak about their impact on increasing sales at a company or reducing costs, for instance, the familiar resume is still expected by anyone hiring or recruiters.

"It's the standby — like the old pair of jeans that people are comfortable with," says Jeff Aplin, who recruits out of Calgary. He says the importance of a resume cannot be overstated. "It means everything to get to the next step, such as the phone or face-to-face interview."

Vancouver-based executive search consultant Shaun Carpenter brands a resume the "quintessential jumping-off point." He says there was speculation it might become redundant with the rise of online sites such as LinkedIn, which lists your career and recommendations among numerous features. "But I don't believe it will," adds the associate partner at Pinton Forrest & Madden. "There's a holistic approach to getting a job. In terms of social media and resumes, one goes with another. The network helps to get your resume seen by the right people, but a resume is still the key starting point."

Carpenter says most employers want to see no more than two pages, and all want to see them tailored to their corporation and culture. He advises thinking in terms of a full day's worth of research: Look at everything online on the potential employer and download its financial reports and any news stories about the company.

Those hiring want to see that candidates recognize what the organization is currently going through and the significance of its business. "The resume needs to really prove that you understand what you are looking at and be speaking to the cogent points that are identified in an advertisement," says Carpenter. "Pull out points and address issues. It really has to be customized — use your knowledge, intuition and research ability — and avoid using formulaic vocabulary, such as 'team player' or 'highly motivated.' These will not cut it."

When describing the assets you bring to a job, make sure it is backed up by your working life. "You want to highlight different dimensions of your experience to be congruent with that organization and that specific job," says Aplin, the COO at David Aplin Recruiting. "Ensure there are no empty words."

A resume can be a way to show your personality, he suggests. Include a few aspects that are unique to you such as a health or community initiative with which you were involved, for example, if appropriate to the job. "If a typical HR person is filtering through a high volume of resumes, you might be able to add colour or zing to your resume to make it more interesting to read," he says.

In explaining your career, adds Carpenter, never put the onus on the reader to do further research. "I can't stand when I get a resume and they have the company name but nothing about size, scope, nature of business, reporting structure, revenue," he says. "You should be able to look at the resume and get all the information you need to make a decision."

Employers find it hard to resist "compelling" resumes, according to Tayts. "In order to stand out and get to the top 10 per cent of the talent pool, you need to have a resume that is able to articulate value very quickly," says the founder of ResumeTarget Inc. He estimates it takes around nine seconds for a hiring manager to propel the applicant to the next stage.

Enlisting professional advice in writing your resume is often the best approach, according to Aplin. "It's a good thing to polish or make the writing more attractive or engaging," he says. Carpenter, however, stresses the need for resumes to remain personal to the applicant. "I don't want resumes to look like they have all been written the same way," he says, adding: "If you believe this is your dream job, you should be putting in a lot of effort."

# CONSTRUCTION

## Construction Permits for Dawson Creek

	November
<b>Permits issued 2011</b>	<b>9</b>
Single Family Dwelling	3
Mobile Home	
Duplex	2
Multi-Family	
Garage/Renovation	
Commercial	3
Institutional	1
Industrial	
Monthly Permits	\$4,788,306
2011 Permits	\$49,120,791
2010 Permits	\$58,294,582

City of Dawson Creek

## Construction Permits for Fort St John

	November
<b>Permits issued 2011</b>	<b>11</b>
Single Family Dwelling	3
Mobile Home	
Duplex	2
Multi-Family	
Garage/Renovation	4
Commercial	2
Institutional	
Industrial	
Monthly Permits	\$3,301,000
2011 Permits	\$333,479,000
2010 Permits	\$43,896,000

City of Fort St John

## BC BUILDING PERMITS

Through the first ten months of 2011, the value of building permits issued in British Columbia was down 10.3% compared to the same period last year. While municipalities in North Coast (+139.3%) and Northeast (+11.0%) development regions reported higher values, the rest of the province has posted slowdowns. Nechako (-34.9%), Thompson/Okanagan (-26.7%), Kootenay (-25.4%) and Cariboo (-23.5%) registered the deepest decline year-to-date, while building permit values have slipped moderately in Mainland/Southwest (-7.9%) and Vancouver Island/Coast (-6.7%). Data Source: Statistics Canada

BC Stats Infoline Issue 11-49 December 9, 2011

## WOOD CREEK QUARRY

### Phase 1 Development, Alaska Hwy - KM 651

Work under this Contract covers site preparation, excavation including that of topsoil, overburden and rock; drainage, blasting, rip-rap production, and other work for the development of the Wood Creek West quarry site. The work will be carried out at approximately Kilometre (km) 651 of the Alaska Highway, near Toad River, British Columbia.

750,000 estimated construction cost.

### AWARD

Belvedere Place Development  
2322 Dominion Rd  
Kelowna BC V1Z 2W8  
Phone: 250-769-3811  
Fax: 250-769-5477  
\$872,076

Journal of Commerce

## OVERHEAD DOORS AND OPERATORS

### Fire Hall, Dawson Creek

Project consists of the supply and installation of new overhead doors and operators in the Dawson Creek Fire Hall.

### AWARD

Dice Petroleum Maintenance Ltd  
623 114 Ave  
Dawson Creek BC V1G 3A1  
Phone: 250-782-6577  
Fax: 250-782-6688  
\$22,993

Journal of Commerce

# CONSTRUCTION

## CACE MONTNEY OBSERVATION WELL DRILLING

### 50 Km W of Dawson Creek near Hwy 97

Project consists of seeking a proponent to drill, construct and develop up to seven groundwater observation wells at seven locations west of Dawson Creek. The observation wells will be completed using a variety of methods including the installation of 2" nested PVC wells inside a 6" steel casing, completion of un-nested wells using 6" steel casing and completion of a well up to 100 meters deep completed with 5" PVC casing. Well liners may or may not be used depending on conditions encountered in the field.

\$500,000 estimated construction cost

#### AWARD

Cariboo Water Wells Ltd  
PO Box 2265  
Prince George BC V2N 2J8  
Phone: 250-564-2525

Journal of Commerce

## AIRPORT ALTERATIONS

### Dawson Creek

Project consists of the supply and installation of four new "Tormax" electric sliding double doors in the Dawson Creek Airport located at 80 Vic Turner Road.

#### AWARD

All-West Glass  
1425 Alaska Ave  
Dawson Creek BC V1G 1Z6  
Phone: 250-782-8666  
Fax: 250-782-8555  
\$42,282

Journal of Commerce

## NEAT THINGS ABOUT SNOW

7. **How heavy is snow?** The light fluffy stuff weighs in about five to seven pounds per cubic foot. A cubic foot of snow contains about 2.83 litres of water or five-eighths to three-quarters of a gallon. The ratio of snow to water is about 12 to one.

Alberta Gardener

## ELECTRICAL WORK

### Cameron Office / Shop Complex, Fort Nelson

Project consists of electrical trade package upgrade. \$500,000 estimated construction cost.

#### SUBCONTRACTOR AWARDS

Journal of Commerce

## COMPACT FILL

### Dawson Creek

Project consist of the supply, installation and compaction of approximately 3200 cubic meters of clean, medium plastic fill material at 10225 - 10th Street, Dawson Creek, BC (formerly Wildcat Video). The proponent shall be responsible to compact the fill to 95% Standard Proctor Density and return the site to a level condition, free of any obstructions or hazards. The proponent shall also ensure that drainage from the site is not directed toward neighboring structures.

#### AWARD

T Hartnell Enterprise Ltd  
PO BOX 1048  
Dawson Creek BC  
Phone: 250-759-4531  
Fax: 250-759-4538  
\$54,400

Journal of Commerce

## BANK PROTECTION

### Tumbler Ridge

Project consists of supply and installation of riprap bank protection complete with pit-run gravels and non-woven geotextile for a reach of Flatbed Creek located adjacent to the District of Tumbler Ridge water supply well PW7. This contract also involves Optional Work to develop a swim area just upstream of the Flatbed Creek Bridge.

\$1,000,000 estimated construction cost.

#### AWARD

Golder Associates Ltd  
100-388 1 Ave  
Kamloops BC V2C 6W3  
Phone: 250-828-6116  
Fax: 250-828-1215

Journal of Commerce

# CONSTRUCTION

## SPILLWAY CHUTE UPGRADES

### WAC Bennett Dam, 21.5 Km W of Hudson's Hope

Project consists of General Construction services at WAC Bennett Dam that include support for hydro demolition, performing mechanical demolition of reinforced concrete. Supplying heated enclosures, hoarding as required, forming, supply and placing of reinforced concrete in cold weather conditions.

#### LOW BID

Jim Dent Construction  
62575 Airport Rd  
Hope BC V0X 1L2  
Phone: 604-869-5582  
Fax 604-869-2839  
\$4,240,705

Journal of Commerce

## SPILLWAY CHUTE HYDRO DEMOLITION

### WAC Bennett Dam, 21.5 Km W of Hudson's Hope

Project consists of providing Hydro Demolition work in the WAC Bennett Dam with the removal of approximately 230 CU yards of Reinforced Concrete. This is stage one of a multiyear project to upgrade the Spillway chute.

#### LOW BID

Mac & Mac Hydro Demo Services  
18101 94 Ave  
Surrey BC V4N 4A3  
Phone: 604-882-1566  
\$1,772,500

Journal of Commerce

## REPLACEMENT BRIDGE

### Dangerous Goods Route 94 Structure 8633 - Replacement Bridge, Hwy 97 to Hwy 2 Dawson Creek, BC

Design for new paved highway roadway and bridge and all associate structures, road furniture and landscaping. Dismantling and transport of the temporary bridges; Re-surfacing of the Highway from 208th Road to 250 metre south of the south approaches.

#### LOW BID

Ruskin Construction Ltd  
2011 PG Pulp Mill Rd, PO Box 1050  
Prince George BC V2L 4V2  
Phone: 250-563-2800  
Fax 250-563-6788  
\$3,347,000

Journal of Commerce

## WASTE TRANSFER STATION UPGRADES

### 6 Locations, Peace River RD

Project consists of a Removal of existing vegetation & grubbing to facilitate new construction; Installation of new access/egress barrier; Installation of new fencing and access/egress gate; Installation of new attendants shack; Installation of new attendants shack; Construction of new drainage works; and Installation of Lock Block retaining walls. Waste Transfer Station located at Pink Mountain, Tomslake, Kelly Lake, Prespatou, and Rose Prairie.

#### TENDERS DUE

Journal of Commerce

## STRIPPING, LOADING, HAULING & STOCKPILING

### Alaska Hwy - Km 258.1 to Km 254

Work to be done under this Contract consists of stripping, loading and hauling Pit Run & Aggregate from Km 258.1 Man & Beast Pit to Km 254 Sikanni Maintenance Yard 3rd level on the Alaska Highway.

\$700,000 estimated construction cost.

#### TENDERS DUE

Journal of Commerce

# CONSTRUCTION

## GENERATOR UPGRADE

### District of Tumbler Ridge Recreation Centre

Project consists of removal of existing 75KVA generator, 100A transfer switch, emergency splitter, day tank and all fuel piping from room B28; The supply and installation of a new generator pad and 750KW bi-fuel. Generator, new 200A emergency and 1200A standby automatic transfer switches and new generator annunciator panel; Removal of existing louvers and grates in room B28; Removal of existing 20KVAR Capacitors and installation of new 100KVAR Autovar Capacitors; Supply and installation of new distribution panels PDC-E1 and PDC-E2; Installation of new junction box on unit substation and all wiring for new equipment including interface with fire alarm control panel ; and Natural Gas connection to new generator.

#### TENDERS DUE

Journal of Commerce

## SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

### Below existing Peace Canyon Dam, 7 Km SW of Fort St John

Proposed new 1,100 MW hydroelectric generating station; related infrastructure will include: intake structures, penstocks & spillways; earthfill dam approx 1,050 m long & 60 m high, a buttress of compacted concrete to form south abutment; an 83 Km long reservoir; realignment of four sections of Hwy 29 over approx 25 Km & erosion protection spots; two 77 Km transmission lines between the new generating station & the existing Peace Canyon switchyard. Temporary facilities are including/not limited to: offices & staging areas; workshops, labs & testing facilities; concrete batch plants; sites for relocation of surplus excavated materials; explosive storage; fuel storage & refuelling; electrical substations & utilities; safety, first aid & security; access roads & parking areas; storage facilities; aggregate & filter processing plants; fabrication shops; fully serviced worker housing; truck washing (including concrete trucks); vehicle maintenance; power generators; fire protection; & waste treatment & management.

7,900,000,000 estimated construction cost.

#### PREPARING PLANS

Journal of Commerce

## ROCK SLOPE STABILIZATION

### Alaska Hwy Km 255.1

Work to be done under this contract consists of: Installing slope mesh on rock cuts, and rock disposal from adjacent rock slopes and ditches to eliminate hazard of sudden rock falls onto the Alaska Highway; and Rock slope scaling and trimming, and tree shrubs removal performed in conjunction with trimming and slope mesh installation, shall be considered incidental to this work.

\$850,000 estimated construction cost.

#### TENDERS DUE

Journal of Commerce

## BIOMASS FIRED ELECTRICITY GENERATING STATION

### Chetwynd Forest Industries Biomass, Chetwynd

Proposed construction of a 12 MW biomass fired electricity generating station which will use sawmill and manufacturing debris, roadside debris, logging slash, sort yard debris and biomass derived from standing timber.

\$30,000,000 estimated construction cost.

#### PREPARING PLANS

Journal of Commerce

## NEAT THINGS ABOUT SNOW

8. **Snow falling on wings.** Ice on aircraft wings is dangerous because it disrupts air flow, decreasing lift and increasing drag. But aircraft can actually trigger snow, according to Science magazine. "When aircraft punch holes in low clouds, they are triggering extra snowfall," an article claims. Propellers cool air up to 30 degrees which can cause ice crystals to form. Wings on high speed jets can cool the air above the wings by 20 degrees, producing a stream of ice crystals behind the wings.

Alberta Gardener

## CONSTRUCTION

### BONANZA LEDGE GOLD MINE

The Bonanza Ledge Gold Mine outside of Wells, British Columbia has received the green light from the provincial government to begin construction in 2012.

The mine site is on the southwest face of Barkerville Mountain at an elevation of about 1,480 metres (4,850 feet) above sea level and is about two kilometres from Highway 26.

The open pit mine received its Mines Act Permit from the province on Dec. 5.

The mining, trucking and milling of ore at the nearby QR Mine could potentially begin within a month following the start of construction at Bonanza Ledge.

Construction of a four-kilometre haul road, from the proposed Bonanza Ledge pit to Highway 26, was completed this summer.

The company and its engineering contractors have completed work to ready the QR Mill facility to accept Bonanza Ledge ore.

It will be upgraded to a 2,000-tonne/day facility subject to government approvals. The mine design is the culmination of geological exploration, engineering and environmental studies undertaken by the company in the Barkerville camp since the Bonanza Ledge deposit was discovered in 2000.

This work included the extraction of a 10,000 tonne underground bulk sample at Bonanza Ledge in 2004 containing about 7,000 ounces of gold.

About 73,000 tonnes of ore per year will be produced at the Bonanza Ledge Mine, which has current mine life of four years.

The mine, set to begin construction as early as next year, will provide 30 direct jobs at Bonanza Ledge and a further 40 jobs at the QR Mine once it becomes fully operational.

Reed Construction Data

## EDUCATION

### POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

**In 2009, 28% of Canadian women aged 25 to 54 had a bachelor or postgraduate university degree, double the proportion two decades prior (14% in 1990).** This increase surpassed that for men over the same period (up from 17% to 25% between 1990 and 2006), such that a smaller proportion of men than women had a university degree in 2009. Among the provinces, women in BC and Ontario were the most likely to have a university degree, while those in Newfoundland and New Brunswick were the least. There are numerous factors that explain the disparity between education levels among men and women in the provinces, including the fact that some regions of the country attract university graduates born elsewhere.

**In the 2008 school year, 62% of Canadian university undergraduates were women and the proportion of female Master's graduates reached 54%.** At the PhD level, female students remain in the minority (44% in 2008), though the share has been climbing significantly over the past decade. Women and men tend to choose different fields of study. In 2008, women accounted for over three quarters of the graduates in education and health sciences programs and two thirds of graduates in humanities, visual & performing arts, communications technologies, social sciences, behavioural sciences and law. Conversely, women remain far less likely to enrol in architecture, engineering, mathematics, computer and information sciences programs.

**In 2005, women aged 35 to 39 with a Masters or doctorate degree working full-year, full-time, earned an average of \$60,342 per year, whereas their male counterparts earned substantially more (\$72,201), a ratio of approximately 84 cents on the dollar.** However, the gap is not nearly as wide among younger workers (aged 25 to 29), where women with a doctorate or Masters degree earned 96 cents for each dollar earned by their male counterparts. Data Source: SC Cat. #89-503-XIE

# ENERGY & MINES

## OIL & GAS SALES

The **December 2011** sale of oil and gas rights resulted in \$60.17 million. A total of 42,347 hectares were sold at an average price of \$1,420.82.

For the year, the province collected \$222.68 million in bonus bids on 191,529 hectares at an average of \$1,162.66. This was the lowest bonus total since 1999 when \$176.17 million rolled into provincial coffers.

In 2010, the natural gas-prone province collected \$844.41 million in bonus bids on 381,132 hectares at an average price of \$2,215.54.

Key parcels in the December sale included a group of four drilling licenses covering 21,884 hectares located in the Red Creek North-Inga area, about 32 kilometres northwest of Fort St. John. Collectively, these licenses earned \$44.4 million in bids at an average of \$2,029.

A 3,380-hectare drilling license in the Aitken Creek North area, about 110 kilometres northwest of Fort St. John, attracted a bonus of \$6.3 million at an average price of \$1,862 per hectare.

The OGC released the province's hydrocarbon and byproduct reserves, which showed an increase in British Columbia's established remaining reserves of raw natural gas for the 10th straight year.

The report, which for the first time breaks down conventional and unconventional gas reserves separately, shows that B.C. as of Dec. 31, 2010, had 932 billion cubic metres (33.1 tcf) of remaining raw gas reserves.

"This is the highest level in the province's history, representing a 42 per cent increase over 2009 year-end raw gas reserves. The increase is largely the result of exploration in the Horn River Basin, leading to the discovery of more reserves," said Paul Jeakins, the OGC's commissioner.

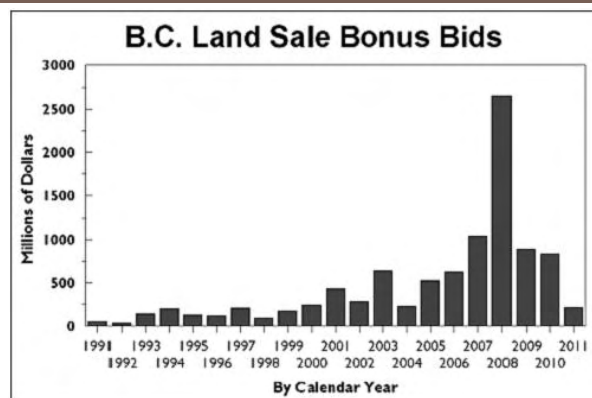
As of December 2010, there were a total of 98 producing shale gas wells in the Horn River Basin, many still held confidential under terms of experimental scheme approvals, the OGC reported. Production from the Horn River group of formations accounted for 10 per cent of total production in the province.

The Montney tight gas trend continued to be the most active natural gas play in the province. A total of 383 wells targeted the Montney formation, accounting for 57 per cent of all wells drilled in 2010 and extending the play to the northwest into the fields of Altares and Town.

Montney production accounted for 26 per cent of the total production within the province. Reserve values have remained unchanged for 2010, however an evaluation of overall reserves will be conducted for the 2011 report with a significant upward revision expected.

One of the first unconventional resource plays in B.C. was the Jean Marie formation. This formation has been on continuous production since the early 1980s and output peaked from 2004 to 2006. With a 30-year history, this play is now at a mature development stage, but a large expanse of undrilled acreage remains to be explored. The Jean Marie formation had 95 new wells drilled in 2010 and accounted for just over 10 per cent of annual production.

- Total 2010: \$844.4 million for 381,132 hectares at an average price of 2,215 per hectare.
- Total 2009: \$892.9 million for 389,644 hectares at an average price of \$2,291 per hectare.
- Total 2008: \$2.66 billion for 756,752 hectares at an average price of \$3,518 per hectare
- Total 2007: \$401.00 million for 137,579 hectares at an average price of \$2,915 per hectare
- Total 2006: \$629.85 million for 690,875 hectares at an average price of \$912 per hectare
- Total 2005: \$533.99 million for 579,402 hectares at an average price of \$961.62 per hectare
- Total 2004: \$232.38 million for 540,427 hectares at an average price of \$429.99 per hectare
- Total 2003: \$646.68 million for 733,487 hectares at an average price of \$881.65 per hectare
- Total 2002: \$288.54 million
- Total 2001: \$439.47 million
- Total 2000: \$248.24 million
- Total 1999: \$176.17 million
- Total 1998: \$94.34 million
- Total 1997: \$211.70 million



# ENERGY & MINES

## QUICKSILVER RESOURCES

The pace of development of vast shale gas reserves in northeastern British Columbia accelerated after Quicksilver Resources closed a \$125-million US deal with Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. to build up infrastructure in the Horn River basin.

The new midstream partnership joins several deals announced for the region during the past quarter, reflecting heightened investor interest in gathering and processing the prolific resource despite poor natural gas prices.

The 50/50 partnership will see private equity firm KKR help fund a \$130 million to \$140 million US natural gas processing plant to be linked into TransCanada Corp.'s main line system by mid-2014.

Quicksilver added its existing pipeline and compression stations, as well as 10 year contracts for gas delivery in the region, to the mix for the partnership, originally announced in November.

The new midstream entity will enable the Fort Worth, Texas-based oil and gas producer to cut processing and shipping costs to southern markets, providing economic development of its 10 trillion cubic feet of recoverable re-sources from the remote area.

Quicksilver is producing 13-15 mmcf per day, but expects to add significant volumes in 2012 with production from an eight-well pad.

The Horn River play could rival its southern peers, holding an estimated 75 trillion cubic feet of reserves, according to the National Energy Board.

The new Quicksilver-operated midstream operation covers approximately 30 million potential acres in the Horn River, Liard and Cordova basins (N.W.T.), which would include third-party transportation and processing infrastructure and agreements. Darden said the gas plant would process 160 million cubic feet per day, and be increased in similar increments as required.

The Calgary Herald

### NEAT THINGS ABOUT SNOW

9. **Canada's biggest snow dump.** Mount Fidelity on the west side of Glacier National Park receives the most snow in Canada. It snows about 144 out of 365 days every year, depositing 1,271 cm or 48 feet of snow. Seven of the 10 snowiest places in Canada are in British Columbia, the other three are: #7 Nain, Newfoundland & Labrador; #9 Cap Seize, Quebec; and #10 Churchill Falls, Newfoundland & Labrador.
10. **Snow blindness and wounded trees.** Snow is a wonderful partner for the sun when it comes to reflecting heat and ultraviolet rays. Snow can throw back more than 90 percent of the radiation and deflect it to your eye where it can cause photokeratitis, a painful condition that results in inflammation of the cornea. Fortunately, healing is rapid — 24 to 72 hours in a darkened room. Sun reflected on snow can scald the bark of thin barked and young trees, by heating and reactivating tree cells which then refreeze when the sun is done, causing the bark to split.



Alberta Gardener

## ENERGY &amp; MINES

## ACTIVE OIL RIGS — PEACE LIARD

<http://www.bcogc.ca/>

December 13, 2011

The following are the names, addresses and numbers of rigs active in Northeastern BC.

There are 44 rigs drilling.

There are 15 rigs released.

Prep to spud 7 rigs.

Prepare to resume 2 rigs.

Company	Address	Fax #	Phone #	# of Rigs
Akita Drilling	2302-8th Street, Nisku AB T9E 7Z2	780-955-6726	780-955-6700	4
Beaver Drilling	2003 76th Avenue, Edmonton AB T6P 1P6	780-436-3630	780-436-6950	
Chinook Drilling	2550 300-5th Avenue SW, Calgary AB T2P 3C4	403-263-4015	403-269-2612	1
Ensign Drilling	2000-5th Street, Nisku AB T9E 7X3	780-955-7208	780-955-8808	6
Horizon Drilling	7803-39th Street, Leduc AB T9E 3B0	780-955-5056	780-986-7450	
Jomax Drilling	9411 37th Avenue, Edmonton AB T6E 5N4	780-462-4742	780-462-4740	3
Nabors Drilling	Box 1006, 902 20th Avenue, Nisku AB T9E 7Z6	780-955-5277		8
Pantera Drilling	1103-7th Street, Nisku AB T9E 1R1	780-979-0237	780-979-0232	
Patterson-UTI Drilling Co Canada	1306 8th Street, Nisku AB T9E 7M1	780-955-7773	780-955-7777	3
Precision Drilling	1513-8th Street, Nisku AB T9E 7M1	780-955-7067	780-955-7922	7
Stoneham Drilling	7509 42 Street, Leduc AB T9O 0L2	780-986-2017	780-986-9789	3
Savanna Energy Services Corp	1800 311 6 Avenue Calgary AB T2P 3H2	403-503-0654	403-503-9990	
Trinidad Drilling	3059 - 4th Street, Nisku AB T9E 8L1	780-955-7527	780-955-2340	6

In December 2010, there were 48 rigs drilling, 10 rigs released and 08 rigs prepped to spud.  
 In December 2009, there were 44 rigs drilling, 11 rigs released and 21 rigs prepped to spud.  
 In December 2008, there were 59 rigs drilling, 21 rigs released and 27 rigs prepped to spud.  
 In December 2007, there were 62 rigs drilling, 16 rigs released and 17 rigs prepped to spud.  
 In December 2006, there were 61 rigs drilling, 15 rigs released and 28 rigs prepped to spud.  
 In December 2005, there were 70 rigs drilling, 24 rigs released and 15 rigs prepped to spud.  
 In December 2004, there were 74 rigs drilling, 26 rigs released and 29 rigs prepped to spud.  
 In December 2003, there were 90 rigs drilling, 24 rigs released and 32 rigs prepped to spud.  
 In December 2002, there were 52 rigs drilling, 18 rigs released and 37 rigs prepped to spud.  
 In December 2001, there were 47 rigs drilling, 09 rigs released and 40 rigs prepped to spud.

# FORESTRY

## LUMBER PRODUCTION

- **Compared to the same month last year, British Columbia's total lumber production jumped 9.1% in September.** While output at Interior mills ramped up a hefty 7.4%, the production boost at Coastal mills was even more substantial (+23.1%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*
- **BC softwood lumber prices were 1.5% below 2010 levels.** Both Coastal (-2.4%) and Interior (-1.2%) producers received less for their product than they had a year earlier. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

BC Stats Infoline Issue 11-48 December 2, 2011

## LUMBER SALES, PRICES RISE

By Gordon Hamilton

After a brief lull this fall, China is back buying B.C. lumber, pushing up prices for construction lumber North America-wide.

"They are definitely back," Chris McIver, West Fraser Timber vice-president of lumber sales said in an interview. "They needed to correct their inventory and I think that took less time than most of us expected."

After breaking records, earlier in the year, lumber sales to China dropped in July when Chinese buyers cut back on purchases. Tighter monetary policy in China — aimed at taking some of the pressure off China's housing bubble — made it more difficult for lumber importers to obtain letters of credit during the third and fourth quarters. Also a surplus of new homes created some pricing uncertainty. As a result, log and lumber inventories began building on the docks of Chinese ports.

However, with the Lunar New Year approaching, importers have begun rebuilding their by-now depleted inventories to be ready once the holiday is over, said McIver.

He also said the value of sales is climbing as Chinese remanufacturers have discovered they can get more value themselves out of higher grades of B.C. lumber. Construction-grade lumber that used to go to the United States is now going to China where it is cut into one-inch strips and attached to the walls of concrete apartments. Drywall is then attached to the wooden strips.

With China committed to building 36 million housing units over the next five years, supplying the wood for attaching drywall becomes a huge market of its own, McIver said.

B.C. is on track to sell a record 4.7 billion board feet of lumber to China this year, Jobs, Tourism and Innovation Minister Pat Bell said. To the end of October, the latest period for which statistics are available, exports totalled 3.7 billion board feet.

"China now represents 32 to 33 per cent of our total lumber production. By comparison, the U.S. is 48 per cent," he said.

McIver said Chinese buyers never left the lumber market but they did slow down their buying. Data from the B.C. ministry of forests show both value and volume of sales dropping in July after hitting an all-time record in June. However, sales for the month of October alone, when China was reportedly out of the market, totalled more than \$90 million.

The return of China in strength has not only stabilized prices but led to an up-tick, said Keta Kosman, publisher of Madison's Lumber Reporter.

The price of construction lumber climbed from \$238 US a thousand board feet last week to \$243 US this week, she said in an interview.

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## FORESTRY

## EXPORT DIVERSITY TO DOUBLE PROFITS

By Darah Hansen

British Columbia stands to be a big winner next year as Canada succeeds in diversifying its export markets for its wood products, according to the Conference Board of Canada.

B.C. wood has gained a significant share of China's wood imports over the past five years, increasing from less than one per cent in 2006 to 14 per cent in the first nine months of 2011, the board said in its report on the wood products industry.

At nearly \$1 billion so far this year, the value of wood exports to China was more than twice last year's level for the same period, and are expected to continue to increase over the next five years, although at a slower pace.

"The China story is definitely a huge deal for B.C. wood producers," said Graham Sheppard, an industry analyst with ERA Forest Products Research.

Approximately 30 per cent of B.C. softwood lumber exports have gone to China in 2011, accounting for more than 95 per cent of Canada's total exports to the country.

Diversification into China, and, to a lesser degree, Japan, comes as Canada seeks to reduce its dependence on its next-door neighbour.

In 2006, 86 per cent of Canadian wood exports were sent to the United States, with B.C. wood accounting for about half the total. So far this year, the national share was down to 63 per cent.

Michael Burt, director, Industrial Economic Trends, cited the fragility of the U.S. economy in recent years and endless rounds of litigation over softwood lumber as key reasons for the diversification push, saying "ongoing demand in China — and Japan's need for wood to rebuild following the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami — will support growth in Canadian wood exports to these Asian countries."

As a result, profits before taxes will rise to \$565 million in 2012 from \$283 million in 2011, according to the board report.

The board's longer-term forecast paints an even rosier picture of steadily rising revenues, employment and profit for the sector, which has struggled through years of losses in the face of excess capacity and necessary plant modernizations.

Extending the forecast out to 2016, profits should almost double again from 2012 forecast levels to \$1.04 billion. Revenues are expected to climb to \$24.9 billion from \$18.5 billion, while employment is forecast to climb to 143,000 from 112,300.

Lumber companies' profits	
Year	Pre-tax profit (loss), millions
2008	(\$837)
2009	(\$887)
2010	\$464
2011	\$283
2012	\$565
2013	\$720

Source: Conference Board