

Jobs Careers Information

NORTHEASTERN REVIEW

2011

MAY



Trading Up: From Apprenticeship
to Employment

Page 7

*ABOUT
NORTHEASTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA*

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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								

In April 2011 the unemployment rate in BC is 8.4% and 5.9% in Alberta. In April 2010 the unemployment rate in BC was 7.8% and 7.4 in Alberta.

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

LABOUR FORCE

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate inched down 0.2 percentage points to 7.9% (seasonally adjusted) in April.** The improvement in the jobless rate was largely due to employment gains, as the number of British Columbians with jobs increased (+0.4%) for a third straight month. The labour force, which includes those who are either working or actively looking for work, expanded a marginal 0.1%.

BC's unemployment rate remained above the national average (7.6%), but was similar to that in Ontario (7.9%) and Quebec (7.8%). The Prairies, especially Saskatchewan (5.0%) and Manitoba (5.2%), had the lowest unemployment rates in the country. Alberta's jobless rate (5.9%) was somewhat higher. Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Full-time employment was unchanged in April but the number of part-time workers jumped 1.8% (seasonally adjusted).** Young workers (aged 15-24) saw a modest improvement in labour market conditions, as the youth unemployment rate dropped to 14.6%. However, this was still more than double the 6.7% jobless rate for workers aged 25 and over. Data Source: Statistics Canada
- **Among the regions, unemployment rates (3-month moving average, unadjusted) ranged from 5.4% in Northeast to 10.1% in Kootenay.** Mainland/Southwest (8.4%) and Vancouver Island/Coast (8.5%) have seen jobless rates climb in recent months. Data Source: Statistics Canada

BC Stats Infoline Issue 11-18 May 6, 2011

AVERAGE EARNINGS

Workers in British Columbia earned an average \$841 (seasonally adjusted, current dollars) per week in February. The national average was \$875, with workers in Prince Edward Island having the lowest average earnings (\$718) and those in Alberta boasting the highest (\$1,038).

The average earnings of workers in BC were 0.5% higher in February than in the previous month. Nationally, average weekly earnings were up 0.2%. Average weekly earnings are affected by rates of pay as well as the number of hours worked each week. Data Source: Statistics Canada (SEPH)

BC Stats Infoline, May 2, 2011, Issue 11-17x

EI RECIPIENTS

The number of British Columbians receiving regular employment insurance (EI) benefits was 69,920 in March, notably lower (4.6%, seasonally adjusted) than the previous month. All provinces recorded a decline in recipients, such that the number of beneficiaries nationwide dropped by 3.0% (to 606,240). The most substantial changes were seen in Alberta (-6.7% from February) and Manitoba (-5.2%). Data Source: Statistics Canada

BC Stats Infoline, May 20, 2011, Issue 11-20

INTRODUCTION

LABOUR FORCE INFORMATION

April 2011

Following two months of little change, employment rose by 58,000 in April, mainly in part time. The unemployment rate edged down 0.1 percentage points to 7.6%. Compared with April 2010, employment has grown by 283,000 (+1.7%).

There were gains in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing as well as in business, building and other support services in April. Employment was essentially unchanged in the other industries.

In April, Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador were the only provinces with notable employment gains. At the same time, employment declined in Nova Scotia and Manitoba while there was little change in the remaining provinces.

The number of employees rose in both the private and public sectors in April. Over the past 12 months, employment in the public sector has grown by 2.8% compared with 1.6% in the private sector, while self-employment was little changed.

Employment in part time increased by 41,000 in April, and it edged up in full time. Over the past 12 months, full-time employment grew by 1.9% compared with 0.8% in part time.

With April's slight gain, full-time employment has returned to the level of October 2008 for the first time. The total number of hours worked, however, remained 0.6% below its October 2008 level.

Employment was up among women aged 55 and over in April, while it changed little for the other demographic groups.

Service sector leads employment gains

The largest employment gains in April were in the service sector, led by finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+19,000) and business, building and other support services (+17,000).

In the goods sector, employment in natural resources (+6,600) edged up in April.

Employment in both manufacturing and construction was little changed in April. Over the past 12 months, however, these industries had employment gains of 3.3% and 2.7% respectively.

Despite little change over the last few months, the fastest employment growth since April 2010 was in transportation and warehousing (+7.7%). The second fastest year-over-year growth was in health care and social assistance (+3.6%), continuing its long-term upward trend.

Employment in Ontario continues upward trend

Employment in Ontario rose by 55,000 in April, driven by gains in part time (+46,000). As a result, the unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage points to 7.9%, its lowest level since December 2008. Despite April's part-time gain, Ontario's employment growth of 157,000 (+2.4%) over the past 12 months was all in full time.

Newfoundland and Labrador was the only other province with a notable employment gain in April, up 3,100. Over the past 12 months, the number of workers rose by 15,000 or 6.9%, the fastest rate of growth of all provinces. In April, the unemployment rate fell by 1.3 percentage points to 11.1%, its lowest rate since 1976, when comparable data became available.

In April, employment fell by 5,500 in Nova Scotia and by 3,300 in Manitoba.

In Quebec, employment was unchanged in April, and the unemployment rate was 7.8%. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in the province was up 1.2% (+46,000).

Fastest employment growth among women 55 and over

Employment rose among women 55 and over, up 29,000 in April. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment among these women increased by 102,000 or 7.9%, the fastest rate of growth of all demographic groups.

Among youths aged 15 to 24 and core-aged workers (25 to 54), employment held steady in April. Over the past 12 months, employment among youths and core-aged women was little changed, while it was up 105,000 (+1.7%) among core-aged men.

INTRODUCTION

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS & HOURS

March 2011 (preliminary)

From February to March 2011, average weekly earnings of non-farm payroll employees increased 0.5% to \$876.53. On a year-over-year basis, average weekly earnings were 4.1% higher compared with March 2010.

Some of the 4.1% growth in weekly earnings was attributable to a 0.3% increase in the average number of hours worked per week to 33.0 hours. The remainder reflects other factors, such as wage growth and changes in the composition of employment by industry, by occupation and by level of job experience.

Average weekly earnings increased in every province in the 12 months to March. Growth was above the national average in Newfoundland and Labrador, Alberta and Quebec. Nova Scotia had the slowest growth at 2.1%.

Growth in average weekly earnings was above the national average of 4.1% in 5 of the 10 largest industrial sectors, led by wholesale trade and manufacturing. The slowest growth in earnings occurred in educational services.

Average weekly earnings in wholesale trade increased 6.3% in the 12 months to March, to \$1,082.34. Growth in this sector was most notable in industries such as petroleum product wholesaling; wholesale electronic markets, agents and brokers; and building material and supplies.

With the second-fastest year-over-year growth in average weekly earnings, the gains in manufacturing are part of a long-term upward trend — see 'Sector profile' section.

Year-over-year growth in average weekly earnings was also above the national average in some smaller industries such as finance and insurance (+7.6% to \$1,107.52) and transportation and warehousing (+7.5% to \$926.88). Weekly earnings in finance and insurance have been rising since June 2010, particularly among insurance carriers and credit intermediation (such as banks and sales financing). In transportation and warehousing, earnings have been increasing since January 2010, mainly in postal, courier and messenger services, rail transportation as well as transit and ground passenger transportation.

Average weekly hours worked

Average weekly hours worked amounted to 33.0 hours in March, unchanged over the past nine months. Compared with March 2010, the average workweek was up 0.3%.

By sector, forestry, logging and support had the fastest year-over-year growth (+4.4%) to 38.1 hours. Other notable year-over-year increases in average weekly hours were in health care and social assistance (+2.7%); finance and insurance (+1.8%) and manufacturing (+1.3%). At the same time, there were declines in mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction (-3.4%) and educational services (-3.1%).

Non-farm payroll employment by sector

In March, non-farm payroll employment increased by 21,400 compared with the month before. On a year-over-year basis, the number of non-farm employees increased by 241,000 (+1.6%).

In March, payroll employment increased in a number of sectors, with the largest gains in manufacturing and public administration. At the same time, there were declines in a few sectors, with the largest in information and culture.

The fastest year-over-year payroll employment growth of all sectors was in mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction (+15.2% or 27,400). This growth was driven by support activities for mining and oil and gas extraction in Alberta.

Construction had the second-highest year-over-year growth in payroll employment (+3.3% or 26,800). The growth was spread across most provinces and mainly among specialty trade contractors.

Sector profile: Manufacturing

From time to time, this release will profile an industrial sector with a notable trend in earnings, hours or employment. This month, the manufacturing sector is profiled because of its solid growth in earnings, hours and employment in recent months.

Manufacturing has nearly 1.5 million payroll employees, the third largest of all sectors behind retail trade and health care and social assistance. The largest shares of manufacturing employees are in food manufacturing (15%), transportation equipment (11%), fabricated metal products (10%) and machinery (9%).

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INTRODUCTION

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS & HOURS

(Continued from page 5)

Payroll employment in manufacturing declined steadily from 2003 until August 2008, and then dropped sharply until December 2009 in conjunction with the global economic downturn. The average monthly job losses in manufacturing from August 2008 to December 2009 were 14,500.

However, since December 2009, manufacturing payroll employment has been increasing slightly, with average monthly gains of 2,400.

From December 2009 to March 2011, the number of employees in most manufacturing industries was largely unchanged. Some industries in the sector have shown notable job gains, including machinery; fabricated metal products; primary metals; plastic and rubber products; and petroleum and coal product manufacturing.

A few manufacturing industries continued their long-term job declines over this period, with notable losses in printing and related support activities; furniture and related products; and clothing, leather and allied product manufacturing.

Average weekly earnings in manufacturing have been on an upward trend since October 2009. In the 12 months to March, earnings in this sector rose 5.8%, faster than the national average of 4.1%.

The sector's average weekly earnings, at \$1,005.68, are above the all-sector average of \$876.53. There is wide variation in earnings across manufacturing industry groups, ranging from an average of \$540 per week for the 27,000 employees working in clothing, leather and allied product manufacturing to \$2,255 a week for the 19,000 employees in petroleum and coal product manufacturing.

In the 12 months to March, growth in earnings has been above the manufacturing sector average growth in electrical equipment, appliance and components; printing and related activities; paper; machinery; furniture; chemical; fabricated metal products; and non-metallic mineral manufacturing.

In recent months, some of the growth in weekly earnings in manufacturing has come from an increase in average weekly hours. For example, in the 12 months to March, average weekly hours in this sector increased 1.3% to 38.1 hours. During the recent economic downturn, average weekly hours fell to a low of 36.9 hours in April 2009.

Statistics Canada <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/110526/dq110526a-eng.htm>

CAREERS & JOB SKILLS

GEN Y MORE TRADITIONAL THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT

Postmedia News

For all the talk and stereotypes depicting today's Generation Y as entitled, fast-tracking careerists, a new survey shows this group may have more similarities than differences when compared to previous generations.

From work environment, to pay, to dressing for success and beyond, Gen Y are surprisingly traditional in their views and perhaps not quite as different as one may think, according to a new survey conducted by Career Edge Organization.

On the subject of "preferred workplace layout," for example, the leading choice at 34 per cent was a "formal office structure with cubicles for entry level employees." Open concept offices were the choice of 25 per cent, while only nine per cent preferred an unstructured workplace with no assigned workstations. Perhaps surprisingly, about one third (32.7 per cent) said none of the above work environments were important to them.

The survey also revealed traditional preferences among Gen Y on compensation. About 36 per cent said they prefer to work under a "standardized salary" system based on regular industry surveys and pay scales, while 34 per cent preferred "merit-based pay" based on performance.

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CAREERS & JOB SKILLS

GEN Y MORE TRADITIONAL THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT

(Continued from page 6)

On the job-hunting trail, it appears that the time-tested ways may still be the best sources for Gen Y job seekers. Asked how they are forming their opinions of employers today, 80 per cent said they are most likely to base their views on information gathered from job postings, as well as corporate websites.

"This means the tried-and-true job posting may be the perfect place for employers to convey key information about company culture, career path opportunities and more to attract desirable Gen Y candidates," said Anne Lamont of Career Edge. "Employers need to do everything they can today to develop authentic, informative postings that powerfully portray them as a preferred employer. In times like these -- with talent shortages already affecting many industries and employers competing for talent -- the right job posting can help in attracting the best candidates."

Beyond job postings and corporate websites as leading sources of information on employers and career opportunities, family and friends were sources of information for 62 per cent of respondents.

Among respondents, about half were in the 22-25 age group, with the rest 26 to 29 years old. The respondent group was 61 per cent female, and 63 per cent of respondents held at least an undergraduate university degree. Fewer than half of respondents (46.5 per cent) said they were currently employed.

Gen Y also take a traditional view on how to "dress for success", the survey shows. On the question of preferred office attire, when given the option 56 per cent chose "business casual -- no jeans," compared to about 13 per cent who preferred "casual" attire that includes jeans, and nine per cent who chose the "formal" office look of suit and tie.

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TRADING UP: FROM APPRENTICESHIP TO EMPLOYMENT

The BC Apprenticeship Student Outcomes (APPSCO) Survey is an annual province-wide survey of former apprenticeship students who completed the final year of their apprenticeship training in a B.C. post-secondary institution.

This article is based on findings from the 2010 APPSCO Summary Report. The full report is available online at <http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/APPSCO/APPSCOPublications.aspx>

The Conference Board of Canada projects there will be a skilled labour shortage in British Columbia of approximately 160,000 positions in five years. An aging population, a rapidly growing knowledge economy, and increased global connections will place pressure on B.C.'s ability to get workers with the right skills, in the right place, at the right time.

Who were former apprenticeship students?

The typical former apprenticeship student surveyed in 2010 was male, about 28 years old and had trained in one of the construction trades. The percentage of female respondents in 2010 was 5 percent. Consistent with previous years, the program area with the highest rate of female participation (45 percent) was Culinary Arts.

At the time of the survey, the median age of respondents was 28. The age of respondents ranged from 18 to 61, although very few were over 50 and only 15 percent were 40 or older.

Most respondents were born in Canada, and of the 10 percent whose country of origin was not Canada, 75 percent were citizens and 24 percent were landed immigrants.



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CAREERS & JOB SKILLS

TRADING UP: FROM APPRENTICESHIP TO EMPLOYMENT

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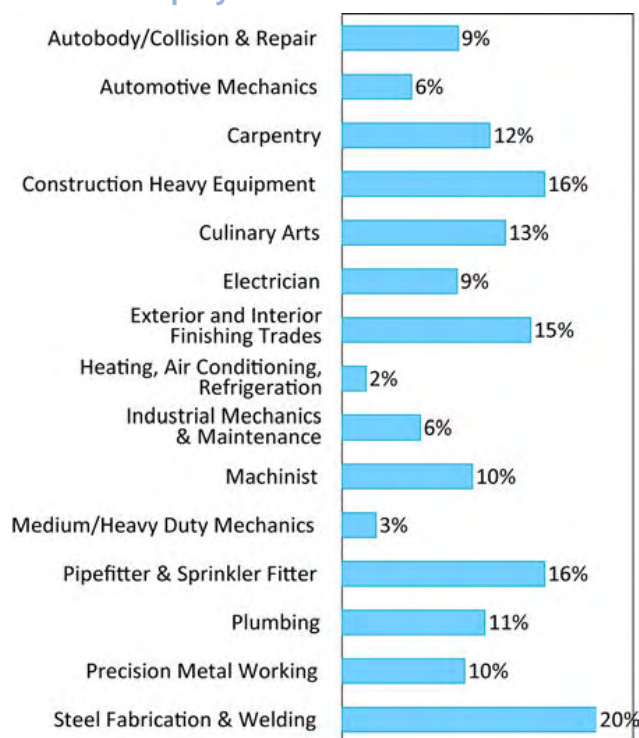
What apprenticeship programs did survey respondents take?

The former students had apprenticed in a variety of trades. The programs with the largest number of respondents were Electrician and Carpentry; nearly one third of respondents were in one of these two program areas. Steel Fabrication & Welding and Plumbing were not far behind, followed by Automotive Mechanics.

How many received qualification or certification?

A large majority (83 percent) of the former apprentices surveyed said they received their Trades Qualification (TQ)—also called British Columbia Certificate of Qualification (C of Q)—many with Inter-provincial (IP) or Red Seal endorsement. To receive certification, apprentices must successfully complete a number of work-based training hours, complete or successfully challenge all required levels of technical training, and pass examinations.

Some program areas had much lower unemployment rates than others



Note: The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percentage of the labour force.

Apprenticeship program areas

Apprenticeship Program Area	% of Total Respondents
Electrician	16%
Carpentry	15%
Steel Fabrication & Welding	12%
Plumbing	12%
Automotive Mechanics	7%
Medium/Heavy Duty Mechanics	7%
Exterior and Interior Finishing Trades	4%
Industrial Mechanics & Maintenance	4%
Pipefitter & Sprinkler Fitter	4%
Culinary Arts	4%
Autobody/Collision & Repair	2%
Machinist	2%
Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration	2%
Construction Heavy Equipment	2%
Precision Metal Working	1%
Other	4%
Total	100%

What was the labour force participation of former students?

Labour force participation—those employed or looking for work—of former apprentice-ship students has remained consistently high: 97 to 99 percent over the past five years. In 2010, almost all (97 percent) of the former students surveyed were in the labour force. In comparison, the labour force participation rate (unadjusted) for the B.C. population aged 20 to 54 was 83 percent in March of 2010, according to the Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

While respondents to the annual surveys have had very high rates of labour force participation, employment has been on the downswing for the last two years. For several years, respondents had unemployment rates under 3 percent, so a jump to 8 percent in 2009 and a further increase to 11 percent in 2010 was startling. Those recent rates were a reflection of the declining employment in apprenticeable occupations that occurred across Canada, and that was particularly pronounced in B.C. Some occupations were harder hit than others, and as a result, the unemployment rates for the apprenticeship program areas varied considerably.

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CAREERS & JOB SKILLS

TRADING UP: FROM APPRENTICESHIP TO EMPLOYMENT

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What were former students' employment outcomes?

At the time of the survey, 86 percent of survey respondents were employed at a job or business. In approximately the same time period, March 2010, the employment rate (unadjusted) for the B.C. population aged 20 to 54 was 76 percent, according to the Statistic Canada Labour Force Survey.

Most employed respondents had only one job and it was most likely a permanent, full-time position rather than a part-time or temporary one. Likewise, most respondents were employed by someone else rather than being self-employed (8 percent were self-employed).

The respondents who had employment found it relatively quickly—the majority were employed in less than one month. Almost all working respondents had jobs related to their training. Most said the knowledge and skills they gained in their training were useful to them in the performance of their jobs.

In spite of their higher than usual unemployment rate, the former apprentices surveyed in 2010 were very positive about their apprenticeship experiences. The findings of the APPSO survey confirm that B.C. apprenticeship training is appropriate, well-received, and meeting the goal of preparing a skilled workforce for the future.



What occupations did former apprenticeship students have?

There is a very good correlation between former students' apprenticeship programs and their subsequent occupations. For example, 96 percent of the respondents who apprenticed in the program area of Automotive Mechanics were employed as motor vehicle mechanics or supervisors, 96 percent of those in the program area of Plumbing were employed as plumbers, pipefitters, and gas fitters or supervisors, and 95 percent of those who apprenticed as an electrician were employed in electrical trades or as supervisors.

What was the wage of respondents employed at the time of the survey?

At the time of the survey, the median hourly wage of employed respondents was \$29—the same as it was for 2009 survey respondents. Until 2010, the median hourly wage among former apprenticeship students had been in-creasing steadily since the 2005 survey—wage figures in previous years were: \$24 (2005), \$25 (2006), \$27 (2007), \$28 (2008), and \$29 (2009).

The hourly wage varies quite a bit across occupations. Among the 10 most common occupations for 2010 respondents, the median hourly wage ranges from a low of \$15 (Chefs & Cooks, Butchers & Bakers), to a high of \$33 (Machinery & Transportation Equipment Mechanics).

Hourly wage varies significantly by occupation

Occupation	Hourly Wage
Machinery & Transportation Equipment Mechanics	\$33
Printing Press Operators, Commercial Divers, & NEC	\$32
Electrical Trades & Telecommunication Occupations	\$31
Contractors & Supervisors, Trades & Related	\$30
Metal Forming, Shaping & Erecting Occupations	\$30
Plumbers, Pipefitters & Gas Fitters	\$29
Machinists and Related Occupations	\$26
Carpenters & Cabinetmakers	\$26
Motor Vehicle Mechanics	\$25
Chefs & Cooks	\$15

For more information visit the BC Student Outcomes website <http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/default/Home.aspx>.

CAREERS & JOB SKILLS

FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT FOR THOSE SEEKING GREEN CAREERS

Fast-growing sector expects rise in demand for environmental professionals

By Jacqueline Louie, Vancouver Sun Postmedia News; With Files From Scott Simpson

It's getting easier to be green -- at least when it comes to a career.

In terms of job outlook, the environment is very strong, says Michael Kerford, vice-president of ECO Canada, a Calgary-based human resources organization focused on supporting Canada's environmental industry.

"Recruitment is a significant issue. All indications are that this upswing in recruitment is expected to continue," says Kerford, who expects that within five years the environment sector will experience a significant supply deficit of workers.

To address this need, ECO Canada is working with postsecondary educational institutions and industry to encourage more Canadians to consider careers in the environmental field.

For young people who are interested in finding a match between their interests and the working world, ECO Canada's website (www.eco.ca) offers a mapping tool designed to help understand the types of careers that are out there, and how they could link up with an individual's skills, interests and passions.

Users can do a full skills and interest inventory of 150 occupational profiles, which could help in making a more informed decision when considering post-secondary education options and career planning.

"Take the time while you are in high school to research and understand what is behind some of these careers," Kerford suggests.

Traditionally, environmental work has been related to the protection of land, air and water. People who work in this field include university graduates -usually engineers and applied scientists -and college graduates, who typically work as technician technologists.

More recently, there has been a shift to include human-focused environmental work.

Emerging environmental markets include carbon and climate-change mitigation, and energy efficiency and renewable-energy generation, says ECO Canada.

The environment is a sector that has been experiencing significant growth in the past 10 to 15 years.

About 318,000 employers in Canada (17 per cent) have at least one environmental professional on staff, which in total amounts to 682,000 environmental professionals throughout the country.

Top occupational areas for environmental professionals include environmental health and safety, waste management, site assessment and reclamation, and communications and public awareness.

There has always been a real diversity within the environmental sector, which Kerford describes as cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary. Environmental employment opportunities exist in every sector of the Canadian economy, including non-traditional sectors such as construction and manufacturing, he adds.

In British Columbia, the green economy is booming and has the potential to become a \$27-billion-per-year giant by 2020, according to a study published last year by the Vancouver-based Globe Foundation.

B.C.'s green-sector economy in 2010 encompassed 28 sectors and sub-sectors, including renewable energy, forestry, transit and telecommunications.

It accounted for 166,000 direct and indirect full-time equivalent jobs, 7.2 per cent of total provincial employment.

"The green economy is a fast-growing economic development model that focuses on the creation of green jobs, the promotion of real, sustainable economic growth, and the prevention of environmental pollution, global warming, resource depletion and ecological degradation," the report stated.

Worldwide, the green sector in 2010 had a market value estimated at \$5.2 trillion US.



Photo by Glenn Wagner

CAREERS & JOB SKILLS

AGE CAN BE JOB SEARCH BOON

By Dave MacFadden, Postmedia News

In a workforce that brims with both challenges and opportunities, I wanted to turn the spotlight on an age group which faces more than its fair share of both.

I'm referring to older, "mature," workers, broadly defined as workers over the age of 45 (a group which, frighteningly enough, will soon include yours truly).

In our current job market, this age bracket encompasses the Baby Boom generation, born between 1946 and 1965. Boomers have a number of advantages over their peers in previous generations, including a longer life expectancy and healthier lives in general. Boomers also make up a strong voice in society, a force largely responsible for the civil rights movement, as well as child care, flexible hours and other supports much-valued by modern workers.

Another advantage that Boomers have over other age groups is their sheer numbers. One out of every three Canadians is included in this generation, which means that the mass retirement of Boomers, a phenomenon that is gaining steam even as we speak, will lead to work shortages in virtually all industries. Employers all across Canada will have little choice but to recognize the importance of older workers in keeping the economy "humming." (Indeed, individual provincial governments have already acknowledged this in part by abolishing the mandatory retirement age.)

In short, even setting aside the huge value of Boomers' collective experience and wisdom, there are simply too many of them to be replaced by the younger generations bringing up the rear. Employers who discriminate against older workers, therefore, are essentially cutting their own throats in terms of their company's long-term viability.

All of this leads to the question of what techniques mature workers can use to capitalize on their strengths, while at the same time sidestepping possible workplace discrimination based on their age. There are so many ideas here that I will need to spread them over a couple of columns, but I wanted to start us off today with a few general tips for mature workers who have been "let go" from their last position.

- **Don't immediately attribute a layoff to your age or employer bias.** These may indeed be factors, but getting trapped in victimhood or giving in to panic will drain away the positive energy you need for fuel as you look for a new job.
- **Start job-searching as soon as possible after you are laid off.** That way, you will be able to maintain momentum and keep yourself motivated. For support, seek out the positive company of friends, family, co-workers, professionals or any other folks who provide you with inspiration.
- **Stay healthy and fit.** This will keep your energy level and spirits high as you ply the waters for a new job.
- **Look for programs which cater to older workers** by providing job training and employment skills.
- **Prepare for the possibility of being asked age-related questions which are inappropriate or even illegal.** These can be blatant, like "How old are you?" or more subtle, like "When did you graduate from high school?" As with other untoward questions, you can put the onus back on the interviewer by asking "How is that relevant to the position?" Or you can emphasize that you are fully capable of doing the work to their high standards of performance.
- **Seek out employers who are likely to hire you instead of ones who may have an issue with your age.** Home Depot is an example of a company which actively seeks to recruit older employees, in recognition of the responsibility, maturity and experience they have to offer.
- **Pursue networking opportunities.** This is especially important for older workers since senior positions, in general, are less frequently advertised than entry-level ones. Involve yourself with professional associations in your career field, or more broadly-based service organizations like Lions, Kiwanis or Rotary. If you have more spare time, why not devote some of it to volunteering or doing consulting work on the side? Any one of these ventures can help bolster your job prospects.

David MacFadden works at the local Alberni Valley Employment Centre.
Alberni Valley Times

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CAREERS & JOB SKILLS

ADDRESS RESUME GAPS QUICKLY AND CONCISELY

Hiring managers more apt to pick people with a job

By Derek Sankey, Calgary Herald

For months now, unemployed Canadians have been finding out the hard way that having gaps in your resume -- from being laid off during the recession, after coming back from a leave of absence, a change of career or just having no luck finding work -- is creating a new kind of "employment discrimination," according to Calgary recruiter and employment coach Corey Harlock.

"Companies are only hiring people that have a job," he says. "Everyone knows where the holes are in the resume."

With a larger selection pool following the rise in unemployment in 2008-09, hiring managers have become pickier. Gaps in employment only stick out, says Harlock, if job candidates don't address them adequately.

"If you give a vague answer, a hiring manager is going to start to dig," says Harlock. Whether you were fired, laid off or couldn't find work despite the effort, he advises applicants to be up front about it during an interview.

Address it directly in a concise way that has a beginning, middle and a resolution.

Explain briefly the reason that led to the gap in employment, how you addressed it and what you learned from the experience.

Interviews and resumes continue to be the top two areas where job hunters make mistakes, according to a survey of chief financial officers by Accountemps. Thirty-two per cent identified interviews and another 32 per cent answered resumes. Cover letters, screening calls and interview followup comprised the remainder.

Harlock, who founded Calgarybased Skills to Achieve, says there are three most important parts to any job interview: "The reality is (hiring managers) want someone who's passionate, who's focused and who is concise in what they're doing."

Demonstrating your knowledge of the role and expertise specific to that role should be top of mind during your meeting with a recruiter.

Job candidates have skills; employers need those skills. If you approach it professionally and express your passion for the role and the company, remain focused and concise, you're more likely to get the job.

Age discrimination can also be a major barrier, so if the job hunter is also an out-of-work applicant, there are already two hurdles to overcome, he says. Focusing on how you present your information to the headhunters can greatly impact your chances for success.

Since resume mistakes were identified as a key reason for not being hired, Harlock says you have to assess the position carefully. If it has an educational requirement, lead with your education and follow it with "relevant experience" tied directly to the open position. Follow that chronologically with "additional experience."

At first glance, hiring managers aren't going to focus on volunteer experience, awards and interests.

Anticipate the difficult questions and address them succinctly and directly. Waffling answers made up on the fly are easily spotted. Keep focused and reassess your approach, he says.

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CONSTRUCTION

Construction Permits for Dawson Creek

	April
Permits issued 2011	17
Single Family Dwelling	7
Mobile Home	
Duplex	3
Multi-Family	
Garage/Renovation	1
Commercial	3
Institutional	3
Industrial	
Monthly Permits	\$5,980,051
2011 Permits	\$9,484,785
2010 Permits	\$15,217,874
City of Dawson Creek	

Construction Permits for Fort St John

	April
Permits issued 2011	15
Single Family Dwelling	5
Mobile Home	3
Duplex	
Multi-Family	
Garage/Renovation	3
Commercial	3
Institutional	1
Industrial	
Monthly Permits	\$5,934,000
2011 Permits	\$281,298,000
2010 Permits	\$14,080,000
City of Fort St John	

UNBC CAMPUS

Fort St John, BC

Proposed Fort St. John campus for the University of Northern British Columbia
\$6,000,000 estimated construction cost.

CONTEMPLATED

Journal of Commerce

WATER FACILITY CONTRACT #1

Dawson Creek, BC

The City of Dawson Creek has partnered with Shell Canada to construct a reclaimed water treatment works at the existing Sewage Treatment Plant in Dawson Creek, BC. The Reclaimed Water Project is designed to upgrade the existing Sewage Treatment Plant effluent to a water quality of Unrestricted Public Access as defined by the Municipal Sewage Regulation. The treatment works are designed to produce 4,000 cubic meters per day of reclaimed water. Contract 1 of the Reclaimed Water Facility project involves site preparation, berm construction, and the construction of three (3) Submerged Attached Growth Reactors (SAGRTM) cells. The scope includes associated pumping stations, effluent splitting structures, site piping, electrical, and final site grading.

AWARD

Tritech Group Ltd
5413 271 St
Langley BC V4W 3Y7
Phone: 604-607-8878
Fax: 604-607-8872
\$7,314,300

Journal of Commerce

WATER FACILITY CONTRACT #2

Dawson Creek, BC

The City of Dawson Creek has partnered with Shell Canada to construct a reclaimed water treatment works at the existing Sewage Treatment Plant in Dawson Creek, BC. The Reclaimed Water Project is designed to upgrade the existing Sewage Treatment Plant effluent to a water quality of Unrestricted Public Access as defined by the Municipal Sewage Regulation. The treatment works are designed to produce 4,000 cubic meters per day of reclaimed water. Contract 2 of the Reclaimed Water Facility project involves retrofitting of the existing blower building and installation of three new blowers.

AWARD

Hegge Construction Ltd
620 114 Ave, PO Box 126
Dawson Creek BC V1G 4G3
Phone: 250-782-1282
Fax: 250-782-3183
\$879,700

Journal of Commerce

CONSTRUCTION

ROADWORK #1

Taylor, BC

The work consists of: base gravel preparation and paving newly constructed roads as per design cross-section.

AWARD

Interoute Construction Ltd
9503 79th Ave
Fort St John BC V1J 4J3
Phone: 250-787-7283
Fax: 250-787-7281
\$107,072

Journal of Commerce

ROADWORK #2

Taylor BC

The work consists of: preliminary survey pickup, road design complete with design drawings, total reconstruction of all roads as per design cross-section including ditching, culverts and street lighting duct but excludes asphalt surface.

AWARD

D. Loewen Enterprises Ltd
PO BOX 136
Rose Prairie BC V0C 2H0
Phone: 250-827-3873
Fax: 250-827-3853
\$223,921

Journal of Commerce

ROADWORK #3

Taylor, BC

The work consists of: confirmation of preliminary survey pickup and road design complete with design drawing for the reconstruction of the intersection of 100 A Street and Pine Avenue East to a curb gutter sidewalk standard with asphalt surfacing.

AWARD

Interoute Construction Ltd
9503 79th Ave
Fort St John BC V1J 4J3
Phone: 250-787-7283
Fax: 250-787-7281
\$142,651

Journal of Commerce

GRAVEL CRUSHING, HAULING & STOCKPILING

Alaska Hwy - Km 206 to Km 968, Various Locations

Work under this contract consists of, but is not limited to: Pulverizing Bituminous Surface Treatment and Base Course material, blending, shaping and compacting pulverized material, applying a single Bituminous Surface Treatment, crushing, hauling and stockpiling 20.0mm Bituminous Surface, and treatment Aggregate (B.S.T.A) in pit at km 637.3 & 678.6 on the Alaska Highway, BC.

AWARD

White Bear Industries
3998 Desjardins St, PO Box 669
Terrace BC V8G 5K1
Phone: 250-635-3169
Fax: 250-635-0987
\$4,086,756

Journal of Commerce

WEST PINE OVERHEAD

Hwy 97, Chetwynd, BC

Improve the overhead clearance for Highway 97 under the CNR West Pine Overhead. Construction of a retaining wall to contain the CNR embankment. Re-construction of approximately 380 meters of Highway 97.

AWARD

Cariboo Construction Ltd
2148 Steel Road
Prince George BC V2K 5B6
Phone: 250-962-0505
Fax: 250-962-8361
\$1,690,365

Journal of Commerce

CONSTRUCTION

NORTH PEACE PAVING

Asphalt Surfacing 2011/12, North Peace Paving, Hwy 97N near Taylor and Fort St John area side roads

The project includes repaving portions of Hwy 97N in the Taylor area specifically the truck lane on the North Taylor Hill and the North Taylor bridge approach in addition to repaving Airport Road and paving 248W Road, and 277 Road near Fort St. John. Also included in this project is the level course asphalt overlay of approximately 11 kms on Cecil Lake Road (103) from the intersection of Rose Prairie Road (101) to the Old Beatton River Crossing.

LOW BID

Peter's Bros Construction Ltd
716 Okanagan Ave E
Penticton BC V2A 3K6
Phone: 250-492-2626
Fax 250-493-4464
\$7,541,060

Journal of Commerce

CELL BLOCK RETROFIT

Dawson Creek RCMP Detachment

Scope of work includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the demolition and removal of certain existing elements as well as a cell block retrofit - RCMP Detachment Dawson Creek.

OUT TO TENDER

Journal of Commerce

NATURAL GAS PIPELINE

Younger Extraction Facility, Taylor BC

Proposed construction of a 25 Km 16-inch diameter natural gas pipeline which will connect up to 250 million cubic feet per day (Mmcf/d) of additional supply to the AltaGas operated Younger Extraction Facility (750 Mmcf/d capacity) at Taylor, British Columbia.

\$30,000,000 estimated construction cost.

NEGOTIATED/WORKING DRAWINGS

Journal of Commerce

COLUMBARIUM

Dawson Creek City Cemetery

Project consists of providing all equipment and labour necessary for the production, delivery and installation of a 48 niche columbarium to the Dawson Creek City Cemetery.

OUT TO TENDER

Journal of Commerce

REGIONAL DISTRICT BUILDING MECHANICAL SYSTEM

Dawson Creek, BC

Project consists of design and install a replacement heating and cooling mechanical system in the Dawson Creek Regional District main office.

OUT TO TENDER

Journal of Commerce

BARBER CRESCENT EXTENSION AND MISC WORKS

Fort Nelson, BC

Project consists of extension of Barber Crescent in the Town of Fort Nelson. This development includes both underground and surface works, as well as shallow utility conduit and street lighting installation. Underground works includes installation of sanitary, storm, and water mains and services. Surface works include sub grade preparation and installation of road complete with curb, gutter and sidewalks. Also provided in this tender is the removal of a wooden box culvert and installation of 2-900mm dia culverts adjacent to the intersection of Airport Drive and 43rd Street.

OUT TO TENDER

Journal of Commerce

CONSTRUCTION

WATER TREATMENT PLANT & RELATED SERVICES

Hudson's Hope, BC

Proposed development of a new water treatment plant with a capacity of One million litres per day; use of the following treatment options: UF membrane filtration, slow sand filtration & pressure sand filtration; construction of a new intake system, supply pumps & a new transmission main.

\$3,000,000 estimated construction cost.

WORKING DRAWINGS

Journal of Commerce

SITE C HYDROELECTRIC DAM PROJECT

Below existing Peace Canyon Dam, near Fort St John

Proposed new hydroelectric dam to create 900 MW of power & would involve a water reservoir that spans 94 square Km, flooding private & Crown land in the Peace River area. The site is below the existing Peace Canyon Dam, near Fort St John. Site C will generate 30 per cent of the electricity produced at the W.A.C. Bennett Dam with only five per cent of the reservoir area.

\$6,600,000,000 estimated construction cost.

CONTEMPLATED

Journal of Commerce

ENERGY & MINES

OIL & GAS SALES

The British Columbia land sale in **May 2011** collected \$16.3 million in bonus bids at its May land sale, the highest at a single auction so far this year, but revenue continues trailing last year's pace by a large margin.

A total of 13,132 hectares exchanged hands at an average price of \$1,237 per hectare. The May 2010 sale produced \$76.6 million in bonus bids for 45,671 hectares at an average price of \$1,677.

Year-to-date, \$44.6 million has rolled into government coffers on 58,917 hectares at an average of \$756.99. To the same point last year, the province had taken in \$204.9 million in bonus bids on 111,201 hectares at an average of \$1,842.

Key parcels in this month's sale included four leases located in the Blair Creek region, about 110 kilometres northwest of Fort St. John. In total, these leases earned approximately \$11 million in bonus bids

May 2010 \$76.6 million
 May 2009 \$10.22 million
 May 2008 \$441.44 million
 May 2007 \$4.52 million
 May 2006 \$103.04 million
 May 2005 \$38.07 million
 May 2004 \$26.7 million
 May 2003 \$30.08 million
 May 2002 \$17 million
 May 2001 \$32.27 million
 May 2000 \$10.85 million
 May 1999 \$11.5 million
 May 1998 \$7.4 million
 May 1997 \$26.7 million

ENERGY & MINES

TOURMALINE OIL

Tourmaline Oil Corp. is planning to operate eight drilling rigs after spring break-up and the rigs are expected to drill approximately 55 wells through the balance of the year.

These rigs will continue operating through the winter and to spring break-up 2012.

Major second half 2011 drilling programs include Dawson-Sunrise, British Columbia (approximately 16 horizontal wells), Musreau-Kakwa, Alberta (six wells), Spirit River, Alberta (five horizontal wells) and Ansel-Minehead, Alberta (10 wells, including six horizontals).

A major facility expansion at Dawson-Sunrise and a new gas plant at Musreau are the main second half infrastructure projects.

Tourmaline's 2011 capital budget has been increased to \$450 million (\$470 million assuming closing of the **Cinch Energy Corp.** acquisition).

Year-over-year production growth for 2011 is now expected to exceed 55 per cent.

Tourmaline said it expects to tie-in approximately 45 new wells throughout its property portfolio by year-end 2011.

The company said it had a very successful first quarter 2011 drilling program which included 20 gas wells, two oil wells, three successful recompletions and no dry holes.

JuneWarren-Nickle's Energy Group

CLEAN HARBOURS ACQUIRES PEAK ENERGY

Peak Energy Services Ltd. has signed a definitive acquisition agreement with **Clean Harbors, Inc.**, pursuant to which Clean Harbors has agreed to acquire all of the issued and outstanding common shares of Peak, excluding Peak shares already held by Clean Harbors, for cash consideration of 95 cents per share.

Clean Harbors will no doubt create opportunities for Peak to significantly expand its businesses through the combination of its broad geographic network, extensive customer base and access to growth capital. The cultures of Clean Harbors and Peak also appear to be very much aligned with a "safety first" attitude and a focus on best practices being at the forefront of the day-to-day operations for both organizations.

Peak offers a diverse range of energy services involving equipment, ranging from centrifuges complete with related solids control tankage, well-site accommodations, wastewater treatment systems, 400 bbl upright tanks, blow-back tanks, dorm/drill camp and catering and fluids hauling tankers.

Clean Harbors is provider of environmental, energy and industrial services throughout North America. It serves over 50,000 customers, including a majority of the Fortune 500 companies, thousands of smaller private entities and numerous federal, state, provincial and local governmental agencies.

Headquartered in Norwell, Massachusetts, Clean Harbors has more than 175 locations, including over 50 waste management facilities, throughout North America in 36 U.S. states, seven Canadian provinces, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

Clean Harbors also operates international locations in Bulgaria, China, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

The company acquired **Eveready Inc.** in 2009.

JuneWarren-Nickle's Energy Group

DENALI PIPELINE PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

Denali - The Alaska Gas Pipeline, sponsored by **BP** and **Conoco-Phillips**, said it will withdraw its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission pre-file application and, over the next few months, close out its operations.

TransCanada Corporation's proposed Alaska gas project with partner **ExxonMobil Corporation** is now the only project on the table.

JuneWarren-Nickle's Energy Group

ENERGY & MINES

PROGRESS ENERGY PARTNERS WITH PETRONAS

Malaysia's state-owned **Petronas** has agreed to pay \$1.07-billion to partner with **Progress Energy Resources Corp.** on a trio of promising gas fields in the Northeastern corner of the BC. Though the Montney play in those fields has been drilled only five times, it's estimated to contain some 15 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, enough to feed Canada's entire demand for more than four years.

But it's likely much of that gas won't end up in Canadian homes at all. Instead, the two companies are pledging to study the potential for building a natural gas export terminal on BC's West Coast. That fact underlines the rationale for the Petronas interest: Canadian gas is increasingly coveted as a fuel for Asian energy needs.

Though the deal marks Petronas' first investment in Canada, it comes amid a wave of overseas interest in securing access to BC's natural gas. Petronas now joins **PetroChina, Korea Gas Corp., Mitsubishi Corp. and Sasol Ltd.** in making a series of Canadian natural gas acquisitions in the past year that are together worth nearly \$9-billion.

Its LNG ambitions also fit into a broad industry move to set in place the multibillion-dollar facilities that will allow it to load liquefied natural gas into tankers and export it to consumers in China, South Korea, Japan and elsewhere. In fact, Petronas, which would own 80 per cent of such a facility and Progress the remainder, is pursuing the fourth potential LNG export terminal on the coast, with plans to begin a feasibility study in early fall.

Petronas is already the world's second-largest LNG exporter, with major stakes in several Australian export terminals. Its interest in Canada marks a shift in how global energy powers are assessing supply and demand needs, said Progress chairman Dave Johnson.

JuneWarren-Nickle's Energy Group

Progress chief executive officer Michael Culbert said the intent is to move forward quickly, especially given the competitive landscape that is developing for natural gas exports.

For Progress, the deal is a validation of years of effort. Formed in 2001, the company grew through a series of mergers and acquisitions that included picking up land from industry giants like **BG Group PLC** and **Suncor Energy Inc.**

The company's founders, who have decades of experience in BC were attracted to a province that, a decade ago, was considered less friendly to oil and gas development. They consolidated land in an area that has produced some 500 billion cubic feet of gas in the past 50 years – but which had not garnered major interest until recently. It was only four years ago that Progress realized parts of its land include gas from the Montney play, which has become one of the most lucrative of the new "shale gas" plays in North America.

The company's own growth shows the prolific nature of the Montney gas resources. Last year, Progress produced 10 million cubic feet a day from the Montney. Today, it is 75 million a day, a quarter of the company's output.

The Petronas deal will see Progress receive \$267.5-million up-front, with the remainder coming over the next five years to pay for exploration and drilling. Analysts said the purchase price is in line with other such deals. Progress said it does not yet know whether it will need Investment Canada approval for the deal.

Progress Energy Resources

BLACK DIAMOND CYGNUS PARTNERSHIP

Black Diamond Group Limited, through its participation in the **Black Diamond Cygnus Partnership**, has secured a paid-monthly, guaranteed, multi-year rental contract to supply and maintain surface rental equipment for **Talisman Energy Inc.'s** operations in the Altares/Farrell Creek shale gas areas of northern British Columbia.

The 24-month agreement, effective April 1, 2011, will supply packaged invert tank farms and the surface rental equipment associated to operate the systems, plus installation and maintenance of the equipment for the duration of the contract. Based on anticipated levels activity the rental contract is valued at approximately \$6 million.

The Black Diamond Cygnus Partnership is an exclusive, equity-based agreement between Black Diamond Group Limited and the West Moberly First Nations, located southwest of Fort St. John, BC

JuneWarren-Nickle's Energy Group

ENERGY & MINES

ARC RESOURCES

Even at natural gas prices that have hamstrung many gas plays, **ARC Resources Ltd.'s** Dawson Montney play in northeast British Columbia remains a moneymaker as well as the company's growth engine.

Analysts rank the economics of the liquids-rich gas play in the Montney formation of northeast BC. as among the best in North America. ARC boasts that it unlocked the play, drilling the first horizontal well into the tight formation at Dawson in 2005.

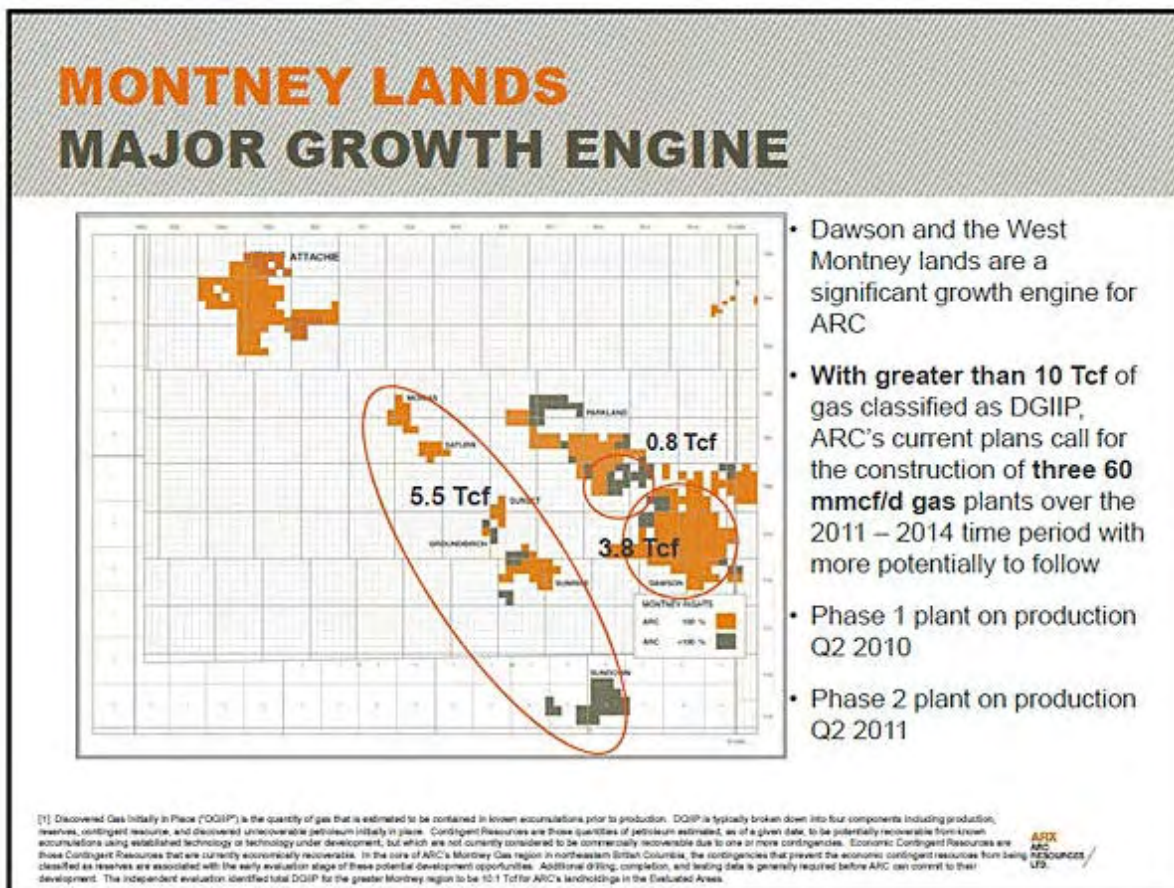
John Dielwart, ARC's chief executive officer described the Dawson field as "the best of the best," the company's "meat and potatoes" and the company's growth engine.

Dawson has an estimated 3.8 tcf of discovered gas initially in place and is currently producing about 150-160 mmcf a day, up from only about 20 mmcf a day a few years ago.

In all, ARC has an estimated 10.1 tcf of discovered gas initially in place on its northeast BC. Montney lands -- excluding its Attachie and Tower properties where the resource potential hasn't been assessed. Only 1.38 tcf has been booked as proved plus probable reserves.

Not surprisingly, the area is getting the biggest chunk of the company's capital budget. Out of a total 2011 program of \$625 million, ARC plans to spend \$228 million in northeast B.C. this year.

The second-biggest allocation -- \$123 million -- is going to northern Alberta with just over \$100 million of that amount earmarked for Ante Creek. The third-largest chunk of ARC's 2011 capital budget is the \$90 million allocation for the Pembina Cardium play in Alberta.



ENERGY & MINES

HORN RIVER BASIN

New research indicates that the unconventional natural-gas reserves in British Columbia's Horn River basin more than doubles the province's potential for natural gas production, if conditions allow it to be extracted.

The joint report by the National Energy Board and B.C. Ministry of Energy and Mines is the first probability-based assessment of a Canadian shale-gas basin, which indicates the Horn River basin could hold up to 78 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, enough in one source alone to fuel Canada's gas needs for 26 years.

According to the report, the Horn River's reserves in B.C.'s remote northeast contain three-trillion cubic feet of "discovered reserves," which have been delineated by the drilling activity of companies in the region, and estimates of 78-trillion cubic feet of "undiscovered reserves" based on the extent of known geologic formations.

The National Energy Board estimates that there are 197 trillion cubic feet of conventional and unconventional natural gas remaining in the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin, which stretches across the prairies and into northeast B.C.

However, the amount does not take into account the unassessed unconventional gas resources, including B.C.'s Montney basin in the region around Dawson Creek.

The report notes that with the new report, the NEB estimates B.C.'s marketable reserves at 109 trillion cubic feet, including the Horn River's 78 trillion cubic feet and an estimated 31 trillion cubic feet of remaining conventional natural gas reserves.

Vancouver Sun

PEACE RIVER COAL

Four years of plant upgrades and a recent surge in coal prices are adding up to increased production at **Peace River Coal (PRC)**.

With four years and \$25 million worth of processing plant upgrades completed last month, PRC's Trend mine is set to reach 1.1 million tonnes of metallurgical coal produced this year. That will be a notable increase over 2010 production of 0.87 million tonnes. All of that is valuable hard coking coal, as Trend produces no pulverized coal injection (PCI) coal.

That increase will be in part due to the plant's new throughput capacity of 280 tonnes per hour, up from 220 tonnes per hour.

High coal prices are also allowing for a "push back" in the mine's phase 1 and 2 areas. That means an excavation of waste rock surrounding vertically-oriented coal seams, and will allow those areas to produce about 2 million more tonnes of coal, to be mined until about 2015, explained Trend mine general manager Steve Amor.

The mine currently has 340 employees, with 22 per cent of the workforce being women and 6.3 per cent being First Nations employees. There are currently 30 vacancies at the mine, with more than 80 new positions being created in the second half of this year.

As production moves to new areas of the Trend mine, PRC is now purchasing a new fleet of excavators and haul trucks. Contractors remain on site to integrate the new equipment into production. Meanwhile, the sale's process being led by the mine's majority owner, Anglo American, is continuing.

With the Roman Mountain expansion having entered into the 180-day application phase of its environmental assessment late last year. Once that pit is running, Peace River Coal expects to produce up to 3 million tonnes per year.

In the long term, PRC has the Horizon and Belcourt-Saxon properties in the project pipeline. Belcourt-Saxon in particular is "a key part of our growth strategy," said Amor. The project, a 50-50 joint venture with Walter Energy, will require it's own plant infrastructure, as it's located significantly south of the Trend mine.

Tumbler Ridge News

ENERGY & MINES

GEOSCIENCE DATA

With a \$12-million investment from the Province, **Geoscience BC** can continue to provide new data to help companies and prospectors explore the exciting potential to find mineral and oil and gas resources, leading to jobs and economic diversification.

One new major metal mine in B.C. could create a \$20-million to \$50-million payroll and contribute \$15 million to \$30 million annually in mineral tax revenues. The development of just one new major metal mine could create 300 to 600 high-paying jobs and lead to the creation of an additional 250 to 500 spinoff jobs.

Considerable success has already resulted from Geoscience BC delivering the regional QUEST, QUEST-West, and QUEST-South projects. This series of projects has significantly increased exploration activity in the mountain pine beetle-affected areas of B.C.'s interior, and contributed to the discovery of new resources at the Huckleberry Mine. Geoscience BC projects have also focused on the compilation and assessment of water resources and other geoscience information in support of shale gas and other energy development in northeast BC.

Why It Matters:

In general, every dollar invested by government in new mining-related geoscience data attracts \$5.00 in exploration investment and substantially more with new discoveries.

The geoscience information acts as knowledge infrastructure to reduce the risk to the companies and influences them to choose British Columbia over other jurisdictions as a destination for their investment.

Quick Facts:

Geoscience BC is an industry-led, not-for-profit, applied geoscience organization. It works in partnership with industry, academia, government, First Nations and communities to fund applied geoscience projects with the objective to attract mineral and oil and gas exploration to British Columbia.

Mineral exploration spending rose to more than \$322 million in 2010, more than doubling the 2009 figure of \$154 million.

In 2010, 380 exploration projects were active in the province.

The British Columbia Geological Survey and Geoscience BC employ world-class geologists, whose invaluable and painstaking work is available for free to global clients and investors through www.MapPlace.ca and the mining ministry's website.

Government of BC

WALTER ENERGY

After a big merger completed April, **Walter Energy** - formerly **Western Coal** - is now the biggest open pit coal miner in the Peace Region.

Across its three northeast BC mines, Walter Energy's production target for fiscal 2011 is 4.2 million tonnes of metallurgical coal, double the 2.1 million tonnes achieved last year. That production target is slightly above what **Teck** hopes to pull out of Quintette each year, and well above Peace River Coal's production target.

The growth plan doesn't stop there - by 2013, Walter hopes to produce 5.7 million tonnes.

Coal produced from the company's northeast BC mines - Wolverine, Brule, and Willow Creek - has been established as a key blend in five of the world's ten largest steel mills. While hard coking coal has the highest value, Walter's ultra-low volatile pulverized injection coal (PCI) has been recognized as a key ingredient making up nearly 30 per cent of the coke feed in some new steel making blast furnaces.

The Wolverine mine, built in 2005, is the nearest of the three to Tumbler Ridge. It produces coking coal, while Brule produces mainly PCI coal. Willow Creek produces both types of coal.

Tumbler Ridge News

ENERGY & MINES

CANADIAN DEHUA INTERNATIONAL MINES

Canadian Dehua International Mines Group (CDIMG) has a plan to start a large-scale underground mine south of Tumbler Ridge – one that's slated to produce 5.5 million tonnes of metallurgical coal per year.

The Murray River Coal Project, located in the Mast Creek area 12.5 kilometres southwest of town, would be a room-and-pillar underground operation with a mine life of 50 years. Both the fact that it's underground mining and the long time scale for continuous production would make this a unique project in the Tumbler Ridge area. It would produce purely hard coking coal.

Canadian Dehua International Mines Group is a Canadian company with backing from Chinese steel producers, and is based out of Vancouver. In addition to the Murray River project, it's also pursuing the Bullmoose coal project northwest of Tumbler Ridge.

The underground mine is being planned by Calgary-based **Norwest Corporation**. The mine plan would include two declines plus a vent shaft ventilation system, continuous miner machinery, and a conveyor belt to move coal. Personnel and equipment would be moved with rubber tire vehicles.

Upon completion of a two-year drill this program this spring, Dehua plans to extract a 90,700 tonne bulk sample in July. Exploration drilling in the 800 metre to 1,200 metre depth range last year was followed by infill drilling that started this winter and is still continuing.

The sample will be obtained by mining out two declines - the same two declines that would form part of the mine if approved. The sample would then be transferred from the surface facility to an as-yet undetermined load-out facility, then to China for testing.

Detailed full mine feasibility study and design will be complete by August, with an environmental baseline study to be complete by March 2012. If all signs are good, full mine production could begin in 2013.

Dehua says the mine would provide 400 direct jobs, and aims to provide opportunities for education, training, employment and contractor work, while backing community events and projects. The final reclamation plan is to leave the underground mine intact for training, education and tourism.

Tumbler Ridge News



ENERGY & MINES

ACTIVE OIL RIGS — PEACE LIARD

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

May 31, 2011

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

There are 29 rigs drilling.

There are 11 rigs released.

Prep to spud 6 rigs.

Prepare to resume 1 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 8A8	780-955-2188	780-955-2381	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 May 2010, there were 35 rigs drilling, 12 rigs released and 05 rigs prepped to spud.

In May 2009, there were 23 rigs drilling, 05 rigs released and 01 rigs prepped to spud.

In May 2008, there were 25 rigs drilling, 09 rigs released and 02 rigs prepped to spud.

In May 2007, there were 15 rigs drilling, 03 rigs released and 07 rigs prepped to spud.

In May 2006, there were 33 rigs drilling, 38 rigs released and 01 rigs prepped to spud.

In May 2005, there were 25 rigs drilling, 09 rigs released and 09 rigs prepped to spud.

In May 2004, there were 08 rigs drilling, 02 rigs released and 00 rigs prepped to spud.

In May 2003, there were 07 rigs drilling, 02 rigs released and 01 rigs prepped to spud.

FORESTRY

LUMBER PRODUCTION

Sawmills and planing mills in BC produced more lumber this February (+3.9%) than in the same month last year. Production at Interior mills was up slightly (+1.4%), while those on the Coast (+28.1%) ramped up their output substantially. Canadian lumber production climbed 5.1%, largely due to upturns in BC, Alberta (+16.2%) and Ontario (+21.5%). Year-to-date, BC sawmills continued to account for over half (54%) of the nation's lumber production.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

BC Stats Infoline, May 2, 2011, Issue 11-17x

WOOD PELLET INDUSTRY

Wood pellets made from waste are generating power, warming homes overseas

By Gordon Hamilton

When Regina and Peter Pretterhofer built their new home in the city of Graz, Austria, they decided to give up fossil fuels and adopt a nationwide trend toward alternative energy to keep them warm during the snowy Austrian winters.

Instead of a gas furnace, their home has a three-metre-by-three metre room in the cellar that is filled to the top with four to six tonnes of wood pellets every two years, which are automatically fed into an Austrian-designed pellet-burning furnace in the next room. It heats their water and warms their 2,300-square-foot home. The pellet furnace is augmented by solar panels on days when the sun shines, and is made efficient by triple-glazed windows and insulation derived from local wood byproducts.

The home-building revolution in Austria is part of Europe's broader commitment to reduce greenhouse gases 20 per cent by 2020 and rely on renewable energy for 20 per cent of its needs. It's a Kyoto commitment that has turned Europe into a global leader in alternative energy technologies and, in the process, has created a new bioenergy industry in British Columbia: Wood pellets made from sawmill waste.

B.C.'s pellet industry has grown in the last decade from mom-and-pop businesses making pellets sold by the bagful to wood stove owners, to the point where 11 plants operated by seven companies produced 1.2 million tonnes of wood pellets in 2010, contributing \$185 million to the provincial economy, according to the B.C. ministry of forests, lands and natural resources. This year, with higher operating rates and new capacity coming onstream, the industry expects to produce two million tonnes.

Europe's energy policies created the market but B.C.'s huge volume of biowaste, especially after the mountain pine beetle epidemic, made it economical for pellets from the B.C. Interior to be trucked to either Prince Rupert or Vancouver, loaded aboard a ship and delivered 16,000 kilometres away to Amsterdam. The cost, and the greenhouse gas footprint, is equivalent to pellets produced in Europe.

Pinnacle Renewable Energy Group has six pellet plants in the B.C. Interior — five of them owned outright and one that is a joint venture with forest giant Canfor — accounting for most of the province's pellet shipments to Europe, where they are used almost exclusively as a substitute for coal in generating power. The pellets are mixed with coal, usually at a 50/50 ratio, and used to power the boilers that create steam to drive the generators.

And pellet-makers in B.C. believe their success in Europe is just the beginning. Asia, specifically Japan and Korea, are eyeing wood pellets as a replacement for not only coal but for nuclear energy.

Wood pellets are manufactured from sawmill waste or from debris left after logging. The amount of forest waste has been growing in regions where pine forests have been killed by the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

To prevent beetle-killed wood from decaying and releasing its carbon back into the atmosphere, pellet companies pay salvage rates to access it after logging companies leave it in roadside piles.

Once at the plant, the wood is dried and pulverized, then compressed into a dense cylinder 6 mm in diameter and 20 mm long. One tonne of wood waste can be condensed into half a tonne of pellets after drying. The pellets are pulverized again before being injected into furnaces where they burn with the intensity of a dust explosion.

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FORESTRY

BC FORESTERS JOIN FORCES
TO SKIRT PORT BACKLOG

By David Ebner

The Cielo di San Francisco, a newly built cargo ship, is sailing across the Pacific Ocean, destination Vancouver, and set to arrive in late May with one purpose: bring British Columbia lumber to China.

Booming sales of B.C. wood to China – March sales tripled from a year ago – have injected the long-suffering forestry industry with some much-needed optimism and a sense that better days could be lasting.

But the surge has created its own problems.

For decades, most of B.C.'s wood went south to the United States, by rail or truck, with a smaller portion exported by sea. Today, however, the U.S. market remains extremely weak in the wake of the housing bust, while lumber is lined up at jammed ports in Vancouver and Prince Rupert ready to set sail for China.

Faced with a transportation bottleneck that will only worsen as demand in China soars, the forestry industry has come together in a deal to secure vital shipping capacity.

This spring, four leading forestry companies – **West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd., Canfor Corp., Tolko Industries Ltd. and Western Forest Products Inc.** – partnered to charter the Cielo di San Francisco for the next year, an experiment to give the firms more control over the movement of their products.

The chartered cargo ship is the latest solution for an industry enjoying and grappling with an export renaissance.

Lumber and pulp now fill about half of all containers exported from Vancouver. That has helped strain the availability of containers at the busy port.

Years ago, industry powers such as **MacMillan Bloedel** actually owned their own fleets of ships. This strategy was largely abandoned in the 1990s when containers – a cheaper way to move wood – became widely available and deals to move product were made with shipping companies.

But as available containers become more scarce, forestry companies are turning more to cargo ships. Vancouver-based **International Forest Products Ltd.** in January bought full control of **Seaboard Shipping Co.**, which owns two cargo ships and has contracts for others. The firm was created in 1936 to export B.C. wood.

For West Fraser and its partners, the Cielo di San Francisco offered a perfect chance to ensure access to the lucrative Chinese market.

The ship was built in a Korean shipyard, set sail for Vancouver on May 9, and is expected to arrive around May 24.

The first official fully loaded sailing for the ship, owned by **d'Amico** of Italy, is slated for the end of May from Vancouver.

Seven round-trips are planned for the next year, which would bring a total of 175 million board feet of lumber to China – about 3 per cent of the wood B.C. will send to China in 2011. To put the export growth in perspective, the 175 million board feet is more than the amount of wood B.C. exported to China in all of 2005.

Companies that are normally rivals have learned to co-operate as they have cracked China. Under the leadership of Pat Bell, B.C.'s Minister of Jobs, who is widely credited by industry executives for leading the charge, companies present a united front in China rather than individually competing for business.

The strategy has produced spectacular results. Last year, B.C. sales to mainland China jumped 112 per cent to \$668-million, exceeding Japan for the first time to make China the No 2 destination for Canadian wood.

This year, the pace of growth has picked up significantly. March was the second-biggest month ever for exports to mainland China and sales are up 158 per cent to \$240-million in the first three months of the year. It is surprising because even as B.C. ships more wood, the percentage growth increases – gains in 2009 and 2010 were roughly 115 per cent.

The strong start to the year is somewhat unusual. Demand in China for B.C. wood is generally strongest in the last four months of a calendar year and if the current pace of growth holds up, B.C. exports to China would reach \$1.7-billion in 2011.

FORESTRY

BC'S FOREST SECTOR

Full recovery dependent on U.S. housing industry, Vancouver conference told

By Gordon Hamilton

Despite China's increasing appetite for Canadian forest products, there will be no solid recovery for Canadian sawmillers until Americans start building more houses, leading industry experts told a Vancouver forestry conference Wednesday.

Forest companies worldwide have pulled out of the recession and are now profitable, but the recovery is fragile and they are still not earning enough money to attract new capital, said Fred Bouchard, a partner in consulting firm **PwC's** forest paper and packaging practice.

Canadian producers still face a stagnant U.S. economy, a high Canadian dollar and challenges from digital media, he said.

The prospect of a weak U.S. market for Canadian lumber is expected to bring a change in direction in the forest sector toward more higher-valued products, stimulating mergers within the industry and cross-industry partnerships to develop new products.

New alliances with other industries and mergers should result in better access to capital to expand the number of products derived from wood.

In the meantime, the Canadian industry faces at least two more years of depressed demand in the U.S.

Forest companies have climbed out of the deep hole they were in during 2009, when Canada's forest companies were the world's worst performers for return on capital employed (ROCE). It was negative three per cent, Bruce McIntyre, Canadian leader of PwC's forest and paper practice, said in an interview.

In 2010, it had ROCE of 3.8 per cent. B.C. outperformed Canada in 2010, going from negative 1.7 per cent in 2009 to 4.6 per cent.

B.C. companies are making money, he said, but it's largely driven by Asian demand and it's not enough to meet the cost of borrowing, essential if the industry is to grow.

Lynn Michaelis, senior economist with the research firm **RISI**, put some numbers on the depth of the U.S. housing crisis, telling the conference that U.S. families have suffered a "massive" \$7-trillion loss as a result of the collapse of housing prices.

Further, Americans are moving away from home ownership to renting. A key statistic indicating a turnaround, he said, is new household formations and in the U.S. they have fallen from 1.1 million a year six years ago to 350,000 a year in 2010.

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FORESTRY

LOOKING BEYOND LUMBER TO
OTHER PRODUCTS FROM TREES

By Derrick Penner

A new research report predicts a future for the forest industry that extends beyond sawing lumber and making paper from trees.

The report, by **PricewaterhouseCoopers**, instead sees a future where trees are used as feedstock for the creation of biofuels and biodegradable plastics, which bodes well for British Columbia.

"B.C. is seen as a very strong source of fibre," said Bruce McIntyre, a consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). "What [that] means is we're well equipped, from a resource point of view, to meet these new demands with our fibre, and the price of our fibre will increase over time."

However, that could take a long time, McIntyre warned, because some of B.C. and Canada's traditional sectors, such as lumber and paper production, are still recovering from the recession.

He added the sawmill sector in particular needs activity to pick up in the struggling U.S. housing market before it can fully revitalize despite developing new markets in China and Asia.

And compared with Europe, B.C. and Canada are only in the infancy of developing new and innovative products, such as wood-cellulose based ethanol or bioplastics.

However, McIntyre said the trends are clear and PwC has set them out in its new report, Growing the Future.

The report tracks rising demand for traditional products such as lumber and paper in Asia while North American demand for lumber remains sluggish, and the demand for paper remains in a long-term decline.

In Europe though, McIntyre said the increasing use of wood as biofuel will require 340 million to 420 million cubic metres worth of wood biomass by 2020 for energy alone.

Developing such markets in North America, however, will require a convergence of developments, including the political will that helps push markets towards using fibre for energy and alternative uses, and the building of relationships between forest managers and the alternate users.

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