

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

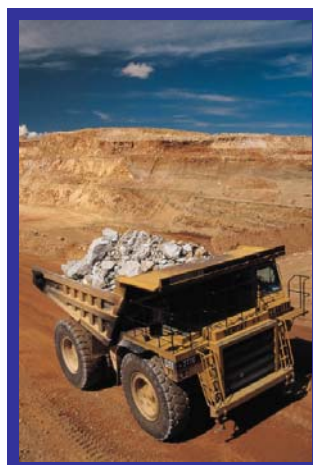
- Introduction
- Career Planning
 - Job Outlook
 - Working Conditions
 - Types of Careers/Titles
 - Wages
 - Education/Training
- Internet Resources
- Work Search Tips
 - Where are the jobs advertised?
 - Peak Hiring Periods
 - How to Break into the Industry?
- Employer Directory



A compilation organized
By TQM Consulting in association with
the Kamloops Work Search Centres
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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Career Planning Information	3
Job Outlook	3
Working Conditions	3
Types of Careers/Titles	4
Wages	4
Education/Training	5
Internet Resources	7
Work Search Tips	7
Where are the jobs advertised?	7
Peak Hiring Periods	8
How to Break into the Industry	8
Employer Directory	9



Introduction

Heavy Equipment Operators run different types of heavy equipment, such as graders, backhoes, bulldozers, and excavators. Employers include but are not limited to construction companies, contractors, public works departments and logging companies.

As with many other trades, British Columbia is experiencing a shortage of experienced Equipment Operators. With the introduction of major infrastructure projects and predicted retirement, the demand is expected to become even greater over the next several years.



Job Outlook

Over the next 10 years, BC will experience a shortage of 5,340 Heavy Equipment Operators¹. Two thirds of this growth will be due to early retirement and the remainder will result from growth in the number of new positions. Opportunities in Heavy Equipment Operation exist in a variety of industries including mining, road construction, oil and gas and other industrial operations.

Due to an increase in transportation projects throughout the province, the government has invested \$2.4 billion in the next three years to upgrade highways and transportation links.²

Working Conditions³

- Hours of work vary but considerable overtime and weekend work should be expected
- Depending on the company, some travel and out of town work could be expected
- Must be prepared for periodic layoffs – some work is seasonal
- Operators that are experienced with a variety of equipment can often be employed year round
- Be prepared to work in noisy, dusty, dirty environments and in all weather conditions

¹ Source: www.bcroadbuilders.bc.ca

² Source: BC Labour Market Report, June 2007

³ Source: www.workfutures.bc.ca

- Some operators may work in air conditioned and dust controlled cabs while others sit for long periods of time on vibrating or bouncing machinery
- Labour intensive work
- Additional safety equipment required: safety glasses, coveralls, safety vest, leather gloves, hard hat, steel toed boots, hearing protection
- Good hand/eye and hand/foot coordination, fast reflexes, good vision and depth perception
- Careful and safety conscious

Types of Careers/Titles

- Types of Heavy Equipment include:
 - Excavators
 - Loaders/Backhoe
 - Graders
 - Paver Operators
 - Bulldozer
 - Front End Loader
 - Gravel Dump Truck
 - Snow Removal Equipment
 - Sanitation Trucks
 - Side Boom
- All positions involve operation of equipment, routine maintenance, and ability to repair minor mechanical problems.
- Other specific skills that may be required, depending in the Industry, include: ⁴
 - Operating computer controlled equipment
 - Operating two way radios and other communication equipment
 - Reading and interpreting blueprints, maps, drawings and specifications
 - Able to read grade sticks
 - Calculating weight, distance, volume and length measurements
 - Completing logs and other required paperwork
 - Securing special attachments to equipment

Wages

A Heavy Equipment Operator can make anywhere from \$18 - \$35 per hour. ⁵

⁴ Taken from Service Canada Job Bank (Qualifications from actual Heavy Equipment Operator Postings) www.jobbank.gc.ca

⁵ Source: www.jobfutures.ca, www.workfutures.bc.ca, and specific Job Bank Postings

Education/Training

- Most training schools will accept students who have had little Heavy Equipment Operating experience, but prefer students to have some exposure to the construction industry (labourer experience is common).
- When deciding on a school, consider the amount of time on the equipment, the amount of in-classroom hours and post-training job placements. (After completing training, companies may place students with employers who support the student in obtaining their apprenticeship.)
- Apprenticeship information is available in the “Construction Trades Industry” Binder in the resource library or contact the Industry Training Authority (phone: 1-866-660-6011) or website (www.itabc.ca) for more information.

Lower Mainland

Malaspina University College (Nanaimo)

Heavy Equipment Operator Program

Website: www.mala.ca/calendar/TradesAppliedTech/heavyequipment.asp

Training in this program can be customized to meet individual needs.

- 30 hours per week of instruction
- Cost: \$1500 per week
- Additional Costs: \$150 for safety equipment



International Union of Operating Engineers (Maple Ridge)

The Operating Engineers (Local 115) Joint Apprenticeship and Training Plan

This program was established over 40 years ago to provide training and skills upgrading to its members. Over time it has grown to offer training to union members and to the general public.



Information sessions take place regularly in the Lower Mainland, call (604) 299-7764

Operators Training School (Langley)

Operators Training School Program

Website: <http://operatorstraining.com/>

8 week beginners course



Interior

Fox Consulting Service (Merritt)

Heavy Equipment Operator Professional Driver Training Courses

Website: www.foxheavyequipmentoperator.com

This program teaches the skills necessary to operate construction equipment safely. They take a “hands-on” approach to equipment operator training by having each student use the machines every day. There are 1 to 12 week courses available starting with basic operations moving to advanced training as the student gains more experience.



Interior Heavy Equipment Operators School

Website: www.iheschool.com

Offers training for excavation/construction equipment operators and people wishing to start a career in the industry. The programs are primarily hands-on with experience in a variety of soil, slope, terrain and actual worksite conditions. Programs include Excavator Course, Full Equipment Course and Professional Earth Movers Course and are 5 to 12 weeks in length. In addition, individual equipment courses are available as well as safety ticket training.

Interior Heavy Equipment School Ltd.
Fully Integrated Training

Taylor Professional Training Services (Kelowna)

Heavy Equipment Training Programs

Website: www.taylorprotraining.com

Offers a number of Heavy Equipment training programs which use equipment equivalent to those in the Industry. Programs are 5 to 12 weeks in length.



"Building Confidence in Drivers"

Northern BC

College of New Caledonia (Quesnel)

Heavy Equipment Operator Training Program

Website: www.cnc.bc.ca

This program is designed to introduce the skills necessary to be a competent entry-level equipment operator.

- 5 week program
- Approximate tuition: \$8000

College of New Caledonia
BRITISH COLUMBIA • CANADA



Northern Lights College (Fort St. John)

Heavy Equipment Operator Program

Website: www.nlc.bc.ca

Offered at a number of Northern BC campus locations. Provides students with operation theory, safety tickets and hands –on experience operating loaders, graders, excavators, bulldozers and other related equipment. Program length is 12 weeks.



Internet Resources

Also refer to the Mining, Oil and Gas and Construction Industry binders for listings of website/internet resources.

Job Postings

Manpower – Alberta	www.manpowerab.com
Job Bank	www.jobbank.gc.ca
BC Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association	www.roadbuilders.bc.ca
International Union of Operating Engineers #115	www.iuoe.org

Educational/Training Institutions

Malaspina University College	www.mala.ca
Operators Training School	www.operatorstraining.com
Fox Consulting Services	www.foxheavyequipmentoperator.com
Interior Heavy Equipment Operator School	www.iheschool.com
Taylor Professional Training Services	www.taylorprotraining.com
College of New Caledonia	www.cnc.bc.ca
Northern Lights College	www.nlc.bc.ca

Work Search Tips

Where are the Heavy Equipment Operator jobs advertised?

Many of the available positions can be found through networking and word of mouth job searching efforts. Refer to specific Employer Listings in the Construction, Mining, Oil & Gas and Forestry Binders which can be found in the Work Search Centres' Resource Library.

Advertised positions can be found in a variety of locations including:

- Service Canada online Job Bank (www.jobbank.gc.ca)
- Oil and Gas or Mining Industry positions can be found on various websites (see Oil and Gas Industry Binder and Mining Industry Binder found in the Work Search Centre Resource Library)

Peak Hiring Periods

Hiring periods vary. Local positions with landscaping, construction, and roadbuilding companies would have work available through the Spring, Summer and Fall months. However, Heavy Equipment Operators can be working year round if they are able to operate a variety of different types of equipment and are willing to travel for work. In Diamond Mining and Oil and Gas Industries, peak periods can be during the Fall and Winter months.

How to Break into the Industry

Some employers recommend starting at entry level positions to gain some experience, for example in the Paving Industry or Landscaping. This also gives you a chance to get a feel for the Industry and see if you are interested in pursuing further training.⁶

Entry level positions may also require that you have a union membership. To join a union, you will be required to have a demonstrated level of experience and there will be union membership fees required.

- Many Heavy Equipment Operators in BC belong to the *International Union of Operating Engineers #115* (www.iuoe.org)
- Steelworkers Union also hires Heavy Equipment Operators (www.steelworkers1-417.ca)

Employers may look for the following additional training:⁷

- H2S Alive
- Petroleum Safety Training
- WHMIS
- Class 1 or Class 3
- Valid Driver's Licence and own transportation
- Driver's Abstract
- First Aid Training
- H2S Certificate

Most importantly, take some time to research companies and unions that hire Heavy Equipment Operators. Find out what experience they require and what training institutions they recommend.

⁶ Information obtained through phone interview with International Union of Operating Engineers #115

⁷ Source: Job Bank Heavy Equipment Operator Job Postings and telephone interviews with local employers

Employer Directory

NOTE: This employer listing is created based on information gathered from the Yellow Pages and should only be considered as a starting point for your work search. Some of the information may have changed or be outdated.

Residential/Commercial Construction

See Construction Industry Binder in Resource Library

Road Construction

See Construction Industry Binder in Resource Library

Oil and Gas

See Oil and Gas Industry Binder in Resource Library

Mining

See Mining Industry Binder in Resource Library

Forestry

See Forestry Industry Binder in Resource Library

Landscaping

See Spring/Summer Seasonal Employment Binder in Resource Library

Excavation Contractors – Kamloops and Area

Abacus Mining & Exploration

2100 Lac Le Jeune Road

Kamloops, BC V1S 1Z2

Phone: (250) 314-4896

Website: www.acemining.com

Acres Enterprises Ltd.

971 Camosun Crescent

Kamloops, BC V2C 6G1

Phone: (250) 372-7456

Fax: (250) 372-7300

AIM Bobcat Services

835 Regent Crescent

Kamloops, BC V1S 1X1

Phone: (250) 573-1752

Barriere Backhoe Service

Peterson – Betts Road

Kamloops, BC V0E 1E0

Phone: (250) 672-9451

Big Stone Inc

J-954 Laval Crescent
Kamloops, BC V2C 5P5
Phone: (250) 372-9967

Big Valley Trucking Ltd.

Glenacre Road
Kamloops / Barriere, BC V0E 1E0
Phone: (250) 374-8253
Phone: (250) 672-9242

Blackburn Trucking & Excavating

4965 Mason Place
Kamloops, BC V2H 1M1
Phone: (250) 578-8789

Both Lanes Trucking & Excavating Ltd.

571 Durango Drive
Kamloops, BC
V2C 6Y5
Phone: (250) 319-3230
Website: www.bothlanes.com

Brentwood Enterprises Ltd.

2025 Falcon Lane
Kamloops, BC V2C 4J2
Phone: (250) 372-1191
Fax: (250) 372-2976

Buholzer Construction Ltd.

2220 Ponderosa Ave
Kamloops, BC V2B 4V1
Phone: (250) 376-7567

Cobra Contracting Ltd.

Kamloops, BC
Phone: (250) 377-4013

Cougar Rock Contracting

61 Durango Road
Kamloops, BC V2C 5K2
Phone: (250) 573-2317

D. Dillman Enterprises Ltd.

1109 Chief Louis Way
Kamloops, BC V2H 1J8
Phone: (250) 374-3478
Fax: (250) 374-3770

Dawson Construction

1212 McGill Road
Kamloops, BC V2C 6N6
Phone: (250) 374-3657
Fax: (250) 374-4114

DDC Construction Service Inc.

709 Tagish
Kamloops, BC V2H 1B6
Phone: (250) 851-8862
Fax: (250) 851-8839

Diamond Lil's Trucking Ltd.

Kamloops, BC VoE 1N0
Phone: (250) 374-1549
Fax: (250) 371-1000
Email: dltltd@telus.net

Dig It Services

Kamloops, BC
Phone: (250) 320-3478

Erlandson Backhoe & Excavating

Kamloops, BC
Phone: (250) 319-5175

Extreme Excavating Ltd.

9795 Wittner Road
Kamloops, BC V2C 6Y7
Phone: (250) 573-5413
Fax: (250) 573-5428
Email: extremeexcltd@telus.net

Falcann Bobcat Service

Box 173
Kamloops, BC V2C 5K6
Phone: (250) 376-1629

Frolek Fencing and Contracting

1068 Qualicum Place
Kamloops, BC V2B 2T3
Phone: (250) 554-8035

G B Excavating

2545 Sandalwood Drive
Kamloops, BC V2B 6V3
Phone: (250) 579-8958

G&L Frank Equipment Ltd

PO Box 2
Monte Creek, BC VOE 2M0
Phone: (250) 318-6070

Generation Excavation

Kamloops, BC
Phone: (250) 372-1905

Glen Labby Contracting Ltd

782C Tagish
Kamloops, BC V2H 1B7
Phone: (250) 372-3000

Hall Excavating

Kamloops, BC V0E 1N0
Phone: (250) 573-2782

Harrison Industrial Contracting

766 Carrier
Kamloops, BC V2H 2G1
Phone: (250) 828-1996

High Impact Contracting

238 Waddington Ave
Kamloops, BC V2E 1M4
Phone: (250) 318-0914
Fax: (250) 372-1228
Email: highimpact@telus.net

KRM Contracting

429 Mt. Paul Way
Kamloops, BC V2H 1A7
Phone: (250) 374-4437
Website: www.krm.ca

Kamloops Jet Vac

Kamloops, BC V2C 6T4
Phone: (250) 573-7825

Loric Construction Ltd

PO Box 886
Kamloops, BC V2C 5M8
Phone: (250) 828-6785

Lyons Garden Centre & Landscaping

1271B Salish
Kamloops, BC V2H 1P6
Phone: (250) 374-6942

Marpaul Construction

#302 A 153 Seymour Street
Kamloops, BC V2C 2C7
Phone: (250) 372-1057
Fax: (604) 852-6942
Website:
www.marpaulconstruction.com

MacDonald Gerry Backhoe Service

870 Serle Rd
Kamloops, BC V2B 6L9
Phone: (250) 579-8870

McLean Rock Products

7080 Blackwell Rd
Kamloops, BC V2C 6V8
Phone: (250) 573-5656

Mire Contracting Ltd

Kamloops, BC V2B 8N6
Phone: (250) 579-5520

Moffett John Excavating

3345 Bank Rd
Kamloops, BC V2B 7V9
Phone: (250) 579-9729

Pav's Contracting

1324 Copperhead Dr
Kamloops, BC V2E 2T4
Phone: (250) 372-1999
Email: pavscontracting@shaw.ca

Plateau Construction Ltd

475 Wittner Rd
Kamloops, BC V2C 6Y7
Phone: (250) 573-3224

Rivermist Holding Ltd

960 Holt Street
Kamloops, BC V2B 5G9
Phone: (250) 319-0891

Rocket Rick's Services

1128 Bentley Place
Kamloops, BC V2B 5M5
Phone: (250) 371-7677

Roto Rooter Plumbers

#102 – 1139 12th Street
Kamloops, BC V2B 7Z2
Phone: (250) 372-2750
Fax: (250) 554-6800

South Gate Development Corp

Kamloops, BC V2B 2A6
Phone: (250) 554-1620

Stobbe Excavating

Kamloops, BC
Phone: (250) 682-1537

Ted Taylor & Sons Ltd

Box 3099 – 1145 Guerin
Kamloops, BC V2C 6B7
Phone: (250) 828-0045
Fax: (250) 828-0743

Tercon Construction & Mining

2079 Falcon Rd
Kamloops, BC V2C 4J2
Phone: (250) 372-0922

Westsyde Road Materials

PO Box 3216
Kamloops, BC V2C 6B8
Phone: (250) 372-0505

Ziebart Excavating Ltd

536 Trillium Dr
Kamloops, BC V1H 1R8
Phone: (250) 314-0055