



PROFESSIONAL DRIVING INDUSTRY



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- **Career Planning Information**
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A compilation organized
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Kamloops Work Search Centres
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Introduction to Professional Driving

Professional drivers operate commercial vehicles as an occupation. In other words, they are getting paid to drive! Some people think of professional drivers as only truck drivers transporting goods back and forth, but professional drivers do not just carry freight, they carry people, too!

Professional drivers include Truck Drivers, Transit and Bus Drivers, Couriers, and Taxi and Limousine Drivers. They also include Heavy Equipment Operators, but for the purposes of this binder, we will focus on commercial vehicles. Please refer to the Heavy Equipment Operators binder for specific information on this industry.

Did you know?

In 2006, there were 59,160 people in these occupations in BC¹. The position breakdown is as follows:

- 34,080 worked as Truck Drivers
- 12,000 worked as Delivery Drivers
- 7,655 worked as Bus Drivers
- 5,425 worked as Taxi and Limousine Drivers

The projected new jobs (due to retirement and industry growth) from 2010 to 2015 are:

- Truck Drivers: 11,360
- Delivery Drivers: 2,890
- Bus Drivers: 2,290
- Taxi and Limousine Drivers: 1,140

In the trucking industry alone, 39.2 percent of fleets are delaying expansion plans and 41.5 percent of fleets are idling trucks because of driver shortage.² The current perception of the Professional Driving Industry, especially with Truck Drivers, is one that includes future growth and expansion with the recovery of the economy after the downfall of 2008.



<http://media.artdiamondblog.com/images2/TrafficCongestionNewYorkCity.jpg>

¹ Statistics Source: BC Work Futures; www.workfutures.bc.ca/ (Accessed September 2010).

² Statistics Source: CTHRC website www.cthrc.com/site/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=19&Itemid=110 (Accessed September 2010)

Career Planning Information

Job Outlook

This is a very large occupational group, made up of approximately 59,160 workers in BC in 2006. BC Work Futures predicts that occupations within this industry will grow at an average rate. According to this projection, 17,680 positions will become available between 2010 and 2015.



Working Conditions

- Workers in this occupational group spend most of their working day in their vehicles, which can mean long hours sitting down.
- Professional drivers work in all weather conditions.
- Public Transit, Tour Bus and Limousine Drivers usually wear uniforms, as do some Delivery Drivers. Truck and Transit Drivers may belong to a union. However, union membership is quite rare for Taxi and Delivery Drivers.
- Hours of work can vary, though a 40-hour week is common. Many drivers will work evenings and weekends and some, such as long-haul drivers, work through the night.
- Some trucks are equipped with "sleepers," and drivers may work in pairs so they can drive 24 hours a day. Some drivers may routinely stay overnight in accommodation along the way.
- Split shifts are particularly common for transit drivers, especially when they are new workers first earning seniority.
- Long, irregular hours are the biggest disadvantage in this industry.



Types of Careers³

Truck Drivers

Truck Drivers make up the largest number of professional drivers. Titles include, but are not limited to:

- Dump Truck Driver
- Flatbed Truck Driver
- Logging Truck Driver
- Long Haul Truck Driver
- Moving Van Driver
- Tow Truck Driver
- Truck Driver, Tractor-trailer



They are drivers who primarily transport large quantities of goods (*long-haul* and *local truck drivers*), must oversee the loading and unloading of their cargo and make sure it is safe and secure. Long Haul Drivers must report to weigh scales. If they are moving between provinces or into the United States, they must make sure that they have all the necessary documentation and permits. Some drivers, such as those working for wholesalers, will have regular routes within a relatively small area, or they may have regular runs between cities.

Delivery / Courier Drivers



- Delivery Driver
- Driver Salesperson
- Food Delivery Driver
- Vending Machine Driver-supplier

Courier and *Delivery Drivers* work for retail or service employers. They spend more time in direct contact with customers and tend to drive smaller vehicles than long-haul truckers. They usually work in a small geographic area or part of a city, dropping off items, taking payment from customers and sometimes travelling a specific route to sell products.

³ www.workfutures.bc.ca/profiles/profile.cfm?noc=741&lang=en&site=graphic (Accessed September 2010)
S:\KWSC 2007\Client Resources\Industry Binders\Professional Driving\Professional Driving Industry (October 2010).doc

Bus / Transit Drivers

- Bus Driver
- Ground Transportation Driver
- Public Transit Driver
- Sightseeing Tour Driver
- School Bus Driver



Transit and Bus Drivers work extensively with the public. They operate full-size buses and special smaller buses equipped to carry the physically challenged. *School and Public Transit Bus Drivers* drive an established route, stopping regularly to take on and let off passengers. *Transit Drivers* also collect fares, provide transfers and answer questions from the public. Some *Bus Drivers* work for commercial tour companies and may also provide information and commentary as they travel. These drivers and inter-city bus drivers also routinely assist with luggage. *School Bus Drivers* are particularly responsible for the safety of their passengers and must be very watchful when picking-up or dropping-

off children.

Taxi and Limousine Drivers



- Airport Limousine Driver
- Chauffeur
- Limousine Driver
- Taxi Driver

Taxi and Limousine Drivers also transport people, focusing on individual destinations rather than routes. They generally need to be very knowledgeable about the area in which they drive and must have a courteous and helpful manner when dealing with the public. They assist passengers with luggage and when boarding vehicles, and they collect flat-rate fees or meter fares. *Limousine Drivers* who work for corporate or private employers may have additional duties, such as running errands (e.g., delivering and picking up mail or business documents).

Wages



Earnings vary greatly depending on the driving position. For example, a Truck Driver will make more than a Taxi Driver, but even among Truck Drivers, wages vary. A Truck Driver up north may make more than a Truck Driver in the city. Some professional drivers are owner/operators which may increase their pay; however they are responsible for all operating expenses incurred including maintenance, repairs, insurances, etc. Researching average salaries for professional

drivers is a very important part of career planning, especially when there is a need to invest money in training and special licences. Below is a list of average wages based on position.

- Truck Drivers (excluding light Truck Delivery Drivers) make on average of \$43,986 for full-time, full-year work, an increase of approximately \$3,386 from 2001. In many cases, Truck Drivers are paid by the mile or on a percentage basis rather than by the hour.
- The average annual salary for Bus Drivers in 2006 was \$45,528 for full time, year round workers.
- Delivery Drivers might have lower earnings with better terms available for owner-operators. Their annual earnings for full-time year round work in 2006 averaged to \$31,005.
- The average salary for Taxi Drivers was \$20,731 for year round, full-time work in 2006.

Education and Training

The first step for any driving position is to obtain the proper licence.

Types of Licences⁴

A Class 1, 2, 3, or 4 commercial driver's licence enables you to drive commercial vehicles — for example, taxis, ambulances, school buses and vehicles with more than two axles such as dump trucks and large commercial transport trucks.

You must have an air brake endorsement if you want to drive vehicles equipped with air brakes. Vehicles with air brakes include dump trucks, large transport trucks (the cabs and/or trailers), and many types of buses.

⁴ www.icbc.com/licensing/lic_getlic_types.asp (Accessed September 2010)

There are two types of air brake endorsements:

- *On-highway*, if you want to drive air brake equipped vehicles on a highway, and *Off-highway* (industrial), if you want to operate air brake equipped vehicles on industrial roads such as those used for transporting natural resources (e.g., resource transport vehicles at a mine).

See Additional Resources at the end of this binder to view an ICBC chart that explains the different classes of licences.

Getting a Commercial Licence

Commercial Licence Prerequisites

Before you start the commercial licence application process, you must first:

- Hold a full-privilege BC driver's licence (Class 5 or 6) or an out-of-province Equivalent;
- Be at least 19 years old;
- Not owe any fines or debts to ICBC or the province of BC;
- Meet the required medical standards;
- Present acceptable identification, and
- Have an acceptable driving record that shows less than four penalty point incidents in the past two years, and no motor vehicle-related criminal conviction in the previous three years.

The Process

- **Study** 'Driving Commercial Vehicles' and 'Road Sense for Drivers'.
**See copies under Additional Resources section at the end of this binder.*
- **Apply** for a learner's licence at any driver's licencing office. You will be asked which class of licence you are applying for. During the application process, you must pass a knowledge and a road sign test and disclose any existing medical conditions.
- **Obtain** your air brakes endorsement.
- **Receive** your learner's licence, provided you do not have a medical condition that requires pre-approval. The learner's licence will indicate which class of motor vehicle you can drive.
- **Practice** with a licenced driver and/or attend driver training school. The licenced driver must have the same licence class or better.
- **When you are ready**, apply for your full-privilege licence. During the application process, you must pass a road test, which includes a pre-trip inspection test. If you pass the tests, you will be given a medical form for your doctor to complete.
- **You will receive** your photo licence in the mail once it is confirmed that you meet the required medical standards.

Licensed BC Driver Training Schools⁵

The following reference list includes commercial driving training only (Class 1, 2, 3, and 4) in the Kamloops area:

Columbia Transport Training Ltd.*

(*also see TRU Continuing Studies)

198 Robson Drive

Kamloops, BC V2E 1W1

Phone: 250-374-9104

Type of Training: 1, 2, 3, 4, AIRBRAKE



Done Right Driving School

Head Office - Clearwater, BC V0E 1N0

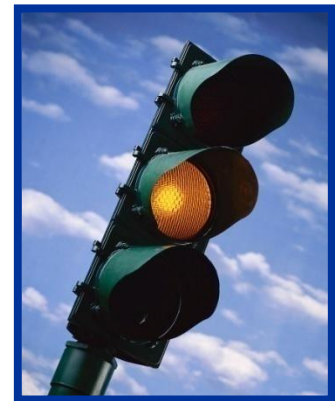
Training Location - Kamloops, BC

Phone: 250-674-2755

Toll-free: 1-800/877-571-6586

Website: www.donerightdrivingschool.com

Type of Training: 1, 3, 5, AIRBRAKE



E.T. Euro-Tek Driving School

25 - 180 Hugh Allan Drive

Kamloops, BC V1S 1R4

Phone: 250-851-1615

Type of Training: 4, 5, 7

Kamloops Class One Driver Training

3770 Shuswap Road

Kamloops, BC V2H 1S6

Phone: 250-573-3905

Type of Training: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, AIRBRAKE



Thompson Rivers University

Continuing Studies - Contract Training

900 McGill Road

P.O. Box 3010

Kamloops, BC V2C 5N3

Phone: 250-371-5658

Website: www.tru.ca/contstudies.html

Type of Training: AIRBRAKE

⁵ www.dtcbc.com/resource/all_sch.htm (Accessed December 2008)

Work Search Tips

Prepare to Get Hired

Basic Requirements for all Professional Drivers

All Professional Driver's positions will require a **Drivers Abstract**. How to obtain one is detailed on the following page.

Other requirements requested by the employer may include:

- Criminal record check
- Medical exam including drug and alcohol testing
- First Aid / CPR training, WHMIS
- Grade 12
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods Certificate

Resume Tips

Your resume is the employer's first look at who you are and what you have to offer. Writing the best resume to suit your needs is vital to your career success. With this in mind, Work Search Centre Staff have developed a handout on resume development. Check the resource library for various handouts on resume writing.

Interview Skills

Before attending an interview, we suggest going online to "Google" the company you are interviewing with. Find out everything you can about them. Get an understanding or "feel" for what the company is about. Learn more about the industry. This is simply one of the many things that your competitors are doing to do as well to prepare for the interview.

If you require assistance with the computer, let one of our staff know. If you want some example interview questions to help you prepare, check out our resource library.

The most valuable research will come from directly contacting individual companies, as each one varies slightly in hiring practices and qualification requirements.



Obtaining a Driver's Abstract

In British Columbia

Visit a Service BC/Government Agents Office in person to obtain your Free BC driver's abstract. Ensure that you are receiving the proper abstract (e.g., Class 1 and not simply the Class 5).

Address: 250-455 Columbia Street, Kamloops, BC
Hours: 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday to Friday
Phone: 250-828-4540

Or

To have your driver's abstract faxed to you or to one of the Work Search Centres call:

ICBC: 1-800-663-3051

Our Fax numbers are:

South: (250) 372-3929
North: (250) 376-3123

Or

E-mail: They will also send your abstract to your e-mail address

***You will need your driver's licence number available or 2 pieces of primary identification to obtain your abstract!**

In Alberta

Visit a Service Alberta Registry Agent in person to obtain your Alberta driver's abstract. **The cost is \$11 plus the agent's fee.**

Phone: 780-427-7013 (Edmonton)

In the province of Alberta if you are unable to attend an office in person you will have to complete a **Driver's Abstract Consent Form**. This form will have to be presented by the person you have designated to apply on your behalf with appropriate ID. They will also have to complete the **Driver's Abstract Statement of Intent Form**.

These forms can be downloaded off the following website:

<http://servicealberta.gov.ab.ca>

Internet Resources

BC Taxi Association	www.bctaxiassociation.com
BC Bus Transportation	www.bcadventure.com/adventure/planner/bustrans.htm
BC Ministry of Transportation	www.th.gov.bc.ca
BC Trucking Association (BCTA)	www.bctrucking.com
BC Work Futures	www.workfutures.bc.ca
Industry Canada Trucking Services	www.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/ts-sdc.nsf/en/home
Canadian Automotive Repair & Service	www.cars-council.ca/home.aspx
Canadian Courier and Logistics Association (CCLA)	www.canadiancourier.org
Canadian Taxicab Association	www.cantaxi.ca
Canadian Truckers	www.canadiantruckers.com/bctruckers.html
Canadian Trucking Human Resources Council (CTHRC)	www.cthrc.com
Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC)	www.icbc.com
Licensed BC Driver Training Schools	www.dtcbc.com/resource/all_sch.htm
Motor Carrier Passenger Council of Canada	www.buscouncil.ca
Natural Resources Canada (Fleetsmart)	www.fleetsmart.nrcan.gc.ca
Passenger Transportation Board	www.ptboard.bc.ca
Taxi Driver	www.taxidriver.ca
Today's Trucking	www.todaystrucking.com
Transport Canada - Transport, Infrastructure and Communities Portfolio	www.tc.gc.ca/en/menu.htm
Trucking Careers	www.truckingcareers.ca

BC Employer Contacts

Bus Drivers

BC Transit - Farwest Coach Inc.

Farwest Coach Inc.
1550 Ord Road
Kamloops, BC V2B 7V4
Busline: 250-376-1216
handyDART: 250-376-7525
Main Office: 250-376-6373
Fax: 250-376-7398
E-mail: ralph.vanderheide@firstgroup.com
Website: www.transitbc.com

Canada West Coachlines Ltd.

101 - 929 Laval Crescent
Kamloops, BC V2C 5P4
Tel: 250-374-7032
Fax: 250-374-5938
Website: www.canadawestcoach.com/index.html

Greyhound Canada

Apply online at:
www.greyhound.ca/secure/driverjob/en/applicationFormPage1.asp

Thompson Valley Charters Ltd.

1113 Chief Louis Way
Kamloops BC V2H 1J8
Tel: 250-377-7523
Fax: 250-377-7524

Taxi and Limousine Drivers

Kami Cabs Ltd.

1140 Halston Avenue
Kamloops, BC V2B 7L3
Tel: 250-554-1377
Fax: 250-554-2576

Yellow Cabs

1100 Ord Road
Kamloops BC V2B 7V4
Tel: 250-374-3333
Fax: 250-554-7791

First Class Limousine Service

Kamloops, BC
Tel: 250-314-7733
Email: james@kamloopslimousine.com
Website: www.firstclasslimoservice.ca

Upscale Limos

Kamloops, BC
Tel: 250-572-6006
Fax : 250-461-6831
E-Mail: upscalelimos@shaw.ca
Website: www.upscalelimos.ca/index.htm

Courier Companies

A C E Courier System Ltd

775 Laval Crescent
Kamloops, BC V2C 5P2
Tel: 250-828-1311
Fax: 250-372-1791
Website: www.acecourier.bc.ca

BDC - Bankers Dispatch Co

5 – 1103 12th Street
Kamloops, BC V2B 8A6
Tel: 250-554-9971
Fax: 250-554-9981
Website: www.shipbdc.com

Best Express

1021 McGill Road
Kamloops, BC V2C 6H4
Tel: 250-372-7651
Fax: 250-372-5814

Bizzy Bee Delivery

Kamloops, BC
Phone: 250-554-9200

Brinks Canada Ltd.

Attn: Human Resources Dept.
One Robert Speck Parkway
Suite #1000
Mississauga, Ontario L4Z 3M3
Toll-free: 1-877-2WRK4US (297-5487)
Fax: 905-306-0849
E-mail: hr.canada@brinksinc.com
Website: www.brinks.ca/careers/Jobopp.aspx

Canpar Transport

Phone: 1-800-387-9335
Website: www.canpar.com or www.transforce.ca

DHL Express (Canada) Ltd.

1180 McGill Road
Kamloops, BC V2C 6N6
Toll-free: 1-800-225-5345
For employment opportunities go to company website
Website: www.dhl.ca



Courier Companies Continued

Diamond Delivery and Courier Service

Unit C 641 Athabasca St.
Kamloops, BC V2H 1C5
Tel: 250-314-1855
Toll-free: 1-877-614-1855
Fax: 250-372-1503
Website: www.rdiamondgroup.com

Fedex Express and Fedex Ground

Kamloops, BC
Toll-free: 1-800-463-3339
For employment opportunities go to company website
Website: www.fedex.ca

Fern's Airfreight (1986) Ltd.

825 Laval Crescent
Kamloops, BC V2C 5P2
Tel: 250-377-0176

Prestige Parcel Pick-up Ltd. - Greyhound Courier Express

725 Notre Dame Drive
Kamloops, BC V2C 5N8
Tel: 250-372-2414
Fax: 250-374-7440
Website: www.prestigeparcels.com/index.html

Priority Courier - Canada Post

For employment opportunities go to company website
Website: www.canadapost.ca/AboutUs/Careers/CareerInterested.aspx

Purolator

800 Laval Crescent
Kamloops, BC V2C 5P3
Tel: 250-374-2666
Toll-free: 1-888-744-7123
Website: www.purolator.com/careers

UPS Store

230 - 1210 Summit Drive
Kamloops, BC V2C 6M1
Tel: 250-372-5665
For employment opportunities go to company website
Website: <https://ups.managehr.com/international/ca/en/index.html>

Trucking Companies

Arrow Transportation Systems Inc.

710 Laval Crescent
Kamloops, BC V2C 5P3
Tel: 250-374-3831
Fax: 250-374-0250
Online applications at: www.arrow.ca

Canadian Freightways Ltd.

1120 McGill Road
Kamloops, BC V2C 6N6
Tel: 250-374-5544
Fax: 250-374-4900
Website: <http://cf.cfmcmnt.com>

Clark Freightways

940 Camosun Crescent
Kamloops, BC V2C 6G2
Tel: 250-372-7919
Fax: 250-372-3301
Email: kamloops@clarkfreightways.com
Website: www.clarkfreightways.com

MG Lund Trucking Inc.

462 Dene Drive
Kamloops, BC V2H 1P4
Tel: 250-828-6890
Fax: 250-372-1100

Munden Ventures Ltd.

725 Carrier Street
Kamloops, BC V2H 1G1
Tel: 250-828-2821
Fax: 250-828-2839

Pe Ben Bulk Transport Ltd.

670 W Athabasca Street
Kamloops, BC V2H 1C4
Tel: 250-372-0628

PVC Transportation Systems Inc.

202 – 929 Laval Crescent
Kamloops, BC V2C 5P4
Tel: 250-374-9499
Fax: 250-374-9489

Robo Transport BC Ltd.

760 Carrier Street
Kamloops, BC V2H 1G2
Tel: 250-374-0084
Toll Free: 1-800-667-0162
Fax: 250-374-6322
Email: robotransport@shawbiz.ca
Website: www.robotransport.com

TC Trucking

1811 E Shuswap Road
Kamloops, BC V2H 1S9
Tel: 250-573-2719
Fax: 250-573-2781

Trimac Transportation Services Inc.

1813 Versatile Drive
Kamloops, BC V1S 1C5
Tel: 250-374-6232
Fax: 250-374-1495
Email: canrecruiting@trimac.com
Website: www.trimac.com

Valley Roadways Ltd.

1115 Chief Louis Way
Kamloops, BC V2H 1J8
Tel: 250-374-3467
Fax: 250-374-3487
Website: www.valleyroadways.com

Trucking Companies Continued

Van-Kam Freightways Ltd.

682 W Sarcee Street
Kamloops, BC V2B 2Z6
Tel: 250-372-8282
Toll-free: 1-877-372-8281
Fax: 250-828-8757
Email: kamloops@vancam.com
Website: www.vancam.com

VIP Transport Ltd.

239 Andover Crescent
Kamloops, BC V2C 6X2
Tel: 250-573-4510
Fax: 250-573-4551

West Arm Truck Lines Ltd.

641 West Athabasca Street
Kamloops, BC V2H 1C5
Tel: 250-828-0660
Toll-free: 1-800-587-2333
Fax: 250-828-6793
Email: humanresources@westarm.com
Website: www.westarm.com

Westcan Bulk Transport Ltd.

965 McMaster Way
Kamloops, BC V2C 6K2
Tel: 250-374-7747
Fax: 250-374-7107
Human Resources Head Office :
Tel : 780-472-6479
Fax : 780-472-6909
Email: careers@westcanabulk.ca
Website: www.westcanbulktransport.com



Additional Resources

The following resources are for research purposes only. If you would like copies, please see the front desk.

ICBC Types of Licences Chart

ICBC Driving Commercial Vehicles Guide

ICBC Road Sense for Drivers

Driver Training School Brochures