



## Comox Military Family Resource Centre

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### JOB FAIR VS. CAREER FAIR: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

By Tammy Hood, Comox MFRC

Before considering the difference between one event and the other, consider first the difference between a job and a career. The term "job" often refers to a set of tasks or an amount of work which a person may be hired to do. Having several different jobs in succession which are unrelated is common and differs from a career. A "career" will often take a person through a series of jobs which are related to each other, often accompanied by increasing levels of responsibility and compensation. Though slightly different, both paths are valuable and rewarding and can lead to greater opportunities over time. But is there also a difference between a job and career fair? We think there is!

While *Job Fairs* are sometimes called *Career Fairs* or *Education and Career Fairs*, there is a subtle difference. Both refer to events that bring prospective employers and the public together, creating opportunities for potential workers and potential employers to interact with the maximum number of candidates under one roof. Both invite representatives from diverse businesses and industries to host information booths and afford employers who may be hiring with a means to screen hundreds of possible candidates in a short period of time, distribute applications and information about their business or industry, and receive résumés from prepared applicants. On the other hand, employment seekers are provided with multiple opportunities for on-the-spot interviews and to network with potential employers - some may even be hired that day.

But a Career Fair also places significant emphasis on education and training or following a stream of opportunity that leads to ongoing service in a particular field or for a particular organization. Recruiters from colleges, universities and technical and vocational institutions as well as representatives from the military and public service sectors are also invited to attend. They bring informative and engaging displays which encourage attendees to consider the opportunities available through continued education or specific information regarding how to enter or proceed in a chosen field. This is the kind of fair that the Comox Military Family Resource Centre is hosting for the Comox Valley on Friday May 7.

It is important to note that both job and career fairs are not necessarily *hiring fairs*. *Hiring fairs* are often held by individual agencies or companies specifically designed to reach the highest number of applicants in the shortest period of time to fill a number of employment spots that are vacant. Hiring fairs are a common practice for service-based or seasonal industries in looking to fill term or contract-specific positions.

So whether you are looking for a job or career, come to the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Comox Valley Education and Career Fair on Friday, May 7, 2010. It runs from 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at the 19 Wing Fitness and Community Centre, 1575 Military Row, Lazo BC, You can access the Career Fair website at [www.getagoodjob.ca](http://www.getagoodjob.ca).

There will be over 55 exhibitors. Businesses and representatives from a variety of colleges, universities, and technical and vocational schools will be here. This is an excellent opportunity for community members to explore career options and educational pathways, as well as to network with representatives from local businesses and industry and meet potential employers face to face.

This event is supported by 19 Wing Comox. Sponsors include Mazda, WorkSafeBC, Pacific Coastal Airlines, Campbell River Whale Watching & Adventure Tours, Home Depot, Subway, Cable Cove Inn Ashram & Dining, Two Eagles Lodge, Canadian Tire, Courtenay Flight Centre, Royston Roasting Company, Fluid Bar & Grill, Pharmasave, Rialto Movie Theatre, and 97.3 The Eagle.

For more information about the Comox Valley Education and Career Fair please contact Debi Genereux at 339-8211, Local 7004. The Government of Canada has contributed funding to this initiative.

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