Home to the strongest job market in the country, ‘BC’s Top Employers’ for 2019 are announced

VANCOUVER, February 21, 2019 – British Columbia residents are long accustomed to rankings that rate the province’s quality-of-life and scenery as among the best in the world. These days, however, there’s another accolade that’s putting a spring into the step of residents: at just 4.4%, B.C. is home to the lowest unemployment rate in Canada – and employers are going out of their way to attract and retain employees. That’s the message from this year’s BC’s Top Employers, announced this morning by the editors of the Canada’s Top 100 Employers project at Mediacorp Canada Inc.

“Many of the nation’s best employers are found in British Columbia,” says Richard Yerema, Managing Editor of the Canada’s Top 100 Employers project. “This year’s list of winners reflects the province’s highly diversified economy and is the product of decades of public investment in education and creating highly livable and desirable urban centres. Employers in British Columbia are competing on an international stage for the best and brightest talent from around the world.”

“We are also seeing an increased focus by the best employers on employee wellness, paying attention to their ‘whole self’, adds Kristina Leung, Senior Editor at the Canada’s Top 100 Employers project. “The concept of sustainability is well-established in B.C. when it comes to the environment and the economy – the best employers are now extending this concept into the workplace, focusing on their employees’ needs beyond the workplace.

Some notable initiatives the editors highlighted this year:

- Vancouver-based HSBC Bank Canada provides employees with a flexible health benefits plan that includes a $500 annual wellness credit, which can be used to achieve health goals, such as health-related technology (iPads, tablets), gym membership or nutrition counselling.

- Vancouver-based engineering firm Knight Piésold provides employees with tuition subsidies for job-related courses (to $1,500 annually) and offers specialized in-house training courses, including a special program that lets employees gain work experience at offices around the world.

- Absolute Software in Vancouver rewards outstanding employee performance with paid days off – and a special four-day travel reward that includes airfare, accommodations and a $500 spending allowance.
• Following the federal government’s expanded EI maternity and parental leave, Vancouver-based *Vancity* has boosted its own maternity and parental leave top-up (to 85% of salary for 78 weeks) and has increased parental leave for new dads and adoptive parents (to 85% of salary for 61 weeks).

• **ToursByLocals** of Vancouver cultivates an ownership culture through a share purchase plan that’s available to all employees – and lets all staff share in the company’s success with a company-wide profit-sharing program.

• **UBC** promotes employee-led activities that encourage workplace well-being through a unique program that provides start-up funds and support for grassroots health-related and sustainable initiatives, from yoga classes to bike-share programs and community gardens.

• Along with helping employees save for the future, **WorkSafeBC** provides retirement planning assistance and health benefits that extend to retirees (with no age limit and fully paid premiums).

Now in its 14th year, *BC’s Top Employers* is a special designation that recognizes the British Columbia employers that lead their industries in offering exceptional places to work. Employers throughout British Columbia were evaluated by the editors at *Canada’s Top 100 Employers* using the same criteria as the national competition: (1) Physical Workplace; (2) Work Atmosphere & Social; (3) Health, Financial & Family Benefits; (4) Vacation & Time Off; (5) Employee Communications; (6) Performance Management; (7) Training & Skills Development; and (8) Community Involvement. Employers are compared to other organizations in their field to determine which offer the most progressive and forward-thinking programs. The annual competition is open to any employer with its head office in British Columbia; employers of any size may apply, whether private or public sector.

Founded in 1992, Mediacorp Canada Inc. is the nation’s largest publisher of employment periodicals. Since 1999, the Toronto-based publisher has managed the Canada’s Top 100 Employers project, which includes 18 regional and special-interest editorial competitions that reach over 15 million Canadians annually through a variety of magazine and newspaper partners. Mediacorp also operates Eluta.ca, a large job search engine that includes editorial reviews from the Canada’s Top 100 Employers project and is used by almost 8 million users in Canada each year. Mediacorp also hosts the Top Employer Summit, Canada’s largest conference for senior-level HR professionals.

The full list of *BC’s Top Employers* for 2019 is attached. The winners were announced in a special magazine published in The Vancouver Sun this morning. Detailed reasons for selection with hundreds of additional stories and photos were also released this morning and are accessible via the competition homepage.

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BC’s Top Employers
2019 Winners

AbeBooks Inc., Victoria
Absolute Software Corporation, Vancouver
ACL Services Ltd., Vancouver
Arrow Transportation Systems Inc., Vancouver
BA Blacktop Ltd., North Vancouver
BC Assessment, Victoria
BC Children’s Hospital Foundation, Vancouver
BC Housing Management Commission, Burnaby
BC Hydro, Vancouver
BC Public Service, Victoria
Best Buy Canada Ltd., Burnaby
British Columbia Automobile Association / BCAA, Burnaby
British Columbia Ferry Services Inc. / BC Ferries, Victoria
British Columbia Institute of Technology / BCIT, Burnaby
British Columbia Liquor Distribution Branch, Vancouver
British Columbia Lottery Corporation, Kamloops
Cactus Restaurants Ltd., Vancouver
Canfor Corporation, Vancouver
Canucks Sports & Entertainment, Vancouver
Capilano University, North Vancouver
Capital Regional District, Victoria
Clearly, Vancouver
Clio, Burnaby
Cloverdale Paint Inc., Surrey
Coast Capital Savings Credit Union, Surrey
College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia, The, Vancouver
Coquitlam, City of
Delta Police Department
Dentons Canada LLP, Vancouver
DLA Piper (Canada) LLP, Vancouver
Doctors of BC, Vancouver
Douglas College, New Westminster
DP World (Canada) Inc., Vancouver
Family Insurance Solutions Inc., Vancouver
Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP, Vancouver
FinancialCAD Corporation / FINCAD, Surrey
Fortinet Technologies (Canada) ULC, Burnaby
Fraser Health Authority, Surrey
Great Little Box Company, The, Richmond
Hemmera, an Ausenco Company, Burnaby
HSBC Bank Canada, Vancouver
Industry Training Authority, Richmond
Insurance Corporation of British Columbia / ICBC, North Vancouver
Interfor Corporation, Burnaby
iQmetrix, Vancouver
JOEY Restaurant Group, Vancouver
Knight Piésold Ltd., Vancouver
Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia, The, Victoria
Left, Maple Ridge
Mitacs, Vancouver
Mott MacDonald, Vancouver
Mountain Equipment Co-op, Vancouver
MTU Maintenance Canada Ltd., Richmond
Nature’s Path Foods, Inc., Richmond
Nicola Wealth Management Ltd., Vancouver
Nintendo of Canada Ltd., Vancouver
North Vancouver, Corporation of the District of
Northern Health, Prince George
Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP, Vancouver
Oppenheimer Group, Coquitlam
Peterson, Vancouver
PNI Digital Media Inc., Vancouver
QHR Technologies Inc., Kelowna
R.F. Binnie & Associates Ltd., Burnaby
Raymond James Ltd., Vancouver
Rocky Mountaineer, Vancouver
SAP Canada Inc., Vancouver
Simon Fraser University, Burnaby
Sophos Inc., Vancouver
SRK Consulting (Canada) Inc., Vancouver
St. George’s School, Vancouver
Surrey School District No. 36, Surrey
Teck Resources Limited, Vancouver
ToursByLocals, Vancouver
TransLink (South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority), New Westminster
Tybo Contracting Ltd., Langley
University of British Columbia / UBC, Vancouver
University of the Fraser Valley / UFV, Abbotsford
Vancouver Airport Authority, Richmond
Vancouver City Savings Credit Union, Vancouver
Vancouver, City of
Wesgroup Equipment LP, Surrey
West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd., Vancouver
Whistler Blackcomb, Whistler
WorkSafeBC, Richmond