

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, Mediagroup 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. Mediagroup 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. Mediagroup 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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Further information: Anthony Meehan, Publisher, at 416-964-6069 x9179.

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*