

Top 10 Reasons to Choose a Career in Health Care

1. Health Care needs you!

Canada is getting older, and as people age they will need more health care services. This is happening at a time when a large portion of the current healthcare workforce is preparing to retire. Every day, there are between 300-400 job openings on the Island Health website (www.viha.ca/careers) for a variety of jobs across Vancouver Island.

In the coming years, Island Health will need to fill hundreds of new health care worker's positions such as Nurses, Sonographers, Food Service Workers, Housekeepers, Doctors, Nuclear Medicine Technologists, Health Info Managers, Child and Youth Workers, and Physiotherapists. Right now is a great time to start preparing for a future career in health care!

2. Excellent pay and benefits

Health care workers in BC (and Canada) are very well paid, and have the added benefits of medical, dental and extended health care benefits as well as a great pension plan.

3. There's job security

The big need for health care workers translates into a high level of job security for virtually all health employers. Once you've achieved the required training and secured a job, it generally can be yours for about as long as you want it! Many positions allow for advancement into areas like education, research and administration and it is usually easy to move from one job to another.

4. We have 1 word for you: Variety!

Just within Island Health, there are approximately 150 different sites including hospitals, clinics, health care centers, health care units, and residential facilities. But health care professionals also work in drug stores, schools, private businesses, group homes, and even cruise ships!

5. Okay, make it 2 words: Flexibility!

Do you like to sleep in every morning? Or need to work in time for sports or music or other personal commitments? Many of health careers have shift work with schedules that can accommodate most people's needs. How else would all the doctors get such great golf skills?

6. You can help people in their time of need

Do you want to save the world, one person at a time? Do you want to be there for someone who needs you when he or she is the most vulnerable? Are you passionate, empathetic, and like to care for others? Do you want to make a difference? Then a career in health care could be just right for you!

Excellent health and care for everyone, everywhere, every time

IMAGINE YOUR LIFE'S WORK IN OUR PIECE OF PARADISE

Vancouver Island, BC

7. Not a people person? You can still help!

There are many professions within health care that don't have direct contact with the patient or the public, but rather focus on equipment, technology and diagnostic testing instead. How about becoming a Biomedical Engineer, Medical Laboratory Technologist, Health Information Management Specialist, Polysomnographic Technician, or Central Processing Supply Attendant?

8. Yuck, I hate blood!

You can work in health care and never come near the nasty stuff. Occupational Therapist, Social Worker, Speech Language Pathologist, Ultrasonographer, and Rehabilitation Assistant are just few of the many professions that can truly make a difference - in a non-yucky way.

9. You like to travel?

Canadian health care workers are among the best trained in the world and as such can generally work anywhere in North America and most countries in the world. Canadian health care workers often travel to disaster zones or communities overseas where help is needed. Like flying? Nurses and medics can work in medical air transport of patients. If you're more down to earth, consider becoming an Ambulance Attendant and Emergency Nurse, as every day holds something new.

10. Make a positive difference every day!

Gaining an education is the first step to attaining a health career. The skills and training you receive in health care are transferable skills which can take you in so many directions in health or other professions. Knowing you have skills to assist people is exceptionally rewarding for most people.

Want to learn more? Visit our Exploring Healthcare Careers webpage.

[Exploring Healthcare Careers \(www.viha.ca/careers/exploring\)](http://www.viha.ca/careers/exploring)

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