RESKILLING

BRITISH COLUMBIANS FOR

TECH CAREERS

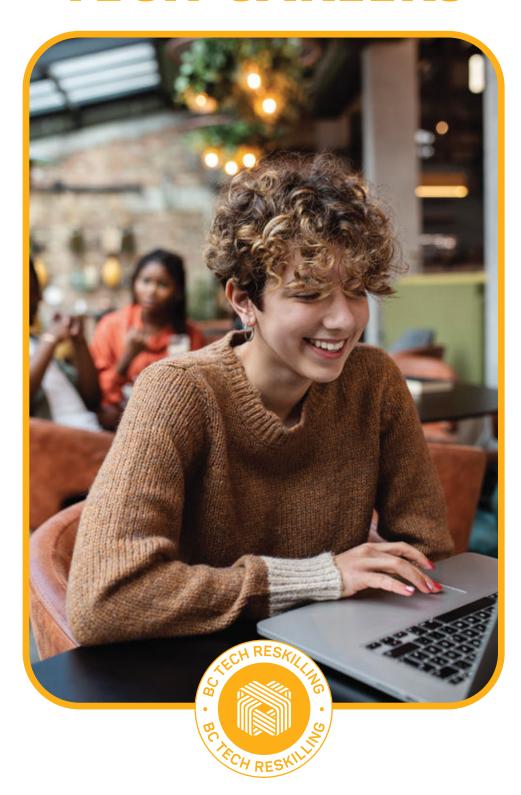BC TECH RESKILLING • BC TECH RESKILLING

A CAREER IN TECH

The tech sector looks for creative problem solvers that work well in teams. There are a variety of careers available, from coding and engineering to new product development, marketing and sales as well as finance, HR, legal and management. To succeed in BC's tech sector you need to be:

■ CURIOUS

INTERESTED IN EXPLORING NEW IDEAS, FINDING NEW SOLUTIONS & PATHWAYS, AND UNSATISFIED WITH THE STATUS QUO

■ CREATIVE

ENJOY GENERATING IDEAS AND DEPLOYING EXPERIMENTS TO FIND OUT WHAT WORKS AND WHAT DOESN'T WITHOUT HESITATING THROUGH FEAR OF FAILURE

■ PRACTICAL

FOCUSED ON PROBLEMS THAT MATTER, CONCRETE DEFINED IMPROVEMENTS THAT BUILD OVER TIME AND IMPACT PEOPLE POSITIVELY

■ INCLUSIVE

INTERESTED IN NEW PERSPECTIVES, DIFFERENT IDEAS, QUIETER VOICES AND NOVEL FRAMEWORKS

■ IMPATIENT

QUICK TO ACTION, WITH A SENSE OF URGENCY, EXCITEMENT AND INTEREST IN BEING FIRST AND FASTEST

■ ENTREPRENEURIAL

MORE INTERESTED IN THE PATH NOT TAKEN THAN THE WELL ESTABLISHED HIGHWAY

■ DETERMINED

PUT IN THE HARD WORK AND HOURS NEEDED WITH A WHATEVER IT TAKES ATTITUDE AND A BELIEF THAT IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, TRY, TRY AGAIN

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New Careers & New Possibilities

With BC Tech's Reskilling Program

Talent supply in B.C. is a huge challenge. There just aren't anywhere near enough university graduates or qualified candidates moving here from the rest of Canada or abroad to meet the demand.

The good news is not every career in the field requires a four-year computer science degree, and a tremendous opportunity exists for individuals to retrain with a short course credential.

220,000 people are employed in BC's tech companies with a further 100,000 in tech positions in non-tech companies, and both numbers are expected to double over the next decade.

It is a 'seller's market' for talent in B.C. and we see the impact of this in rising salaries and generous benefits. BC Tech's focus is on the supply side, ensuring investments in education and training keep pace with the demand in order to grow local talent.

Enter the BC Tech Reskilling program, which is designed to help unemployed, underemployed and transitioning residents 18 years and older by providing rapid entry level knowledge necessary for high demand roles in the technology industry. Previous experience or schooling is not a prerequisite.

The program has a 90 per cent employment rate within six months and both employees and employers express high degrees of satisfaction with the program.

LIAM JENSEN

is a former carpenter and tree planter who was seeking a less manually laborious career that also had the potential of remote work, allowing him to stay in his hometown of Nelson. The 23-year-old heard about reskilling from a friend who had participated and decided to apply, though he initially had some reservations about eligibility, never having completed any post-secondary studies.

"Leading up I had a lot of questions for them like, 'is it actually going to be feasible for me to get a job with no background in a related field or a degree?' But they reassured me saying it's totally possible," said Jensen, citing an interest in art and aptitude for creativity as other reasons for making the leap to user design.

Enrolling this past January, he said though the students in his diverse class came from a variety of academic and employment backgrounds all ended up on the same page quickly.

CHRISTIANNA BACHMAN

was working as a housekeeper before finding herself unemployed due to the pandemic and wondering what to do next.

"What sounded attractive about reskilling is that a person who has no experience at all in this field, like me, could still be a part of it. The options of multiple time-frames and streams, such as user design and web design for example, provided a lot of reassurance to me," said Bachman, 21.

"And the fact I could receive a grant and be supported the entire way, have learning advisors to lean on, people to talk to on the phone, teachers and courses helping move me forward in the world and build skills, portfolios, etc., and opportunities to present in front of hiring partners and companies.

LAURIE VILLETON

who previously worked in the tourism industry had been laid-off. After graduating from the Web Development bootcamp, she has found her career in tech."I'm currently a junior web developer for a company in Kamloops that works in the healthcare industry. We are a full women dev team — which is really cool!"

TYLER KENNINGTON

found the program equally challenging and rewarding. Previously a chef on Vancouver Island, prior sport-related injuries meant standing on his feet for most of the day was no longer sustainable.

"I will admit it was one of the more stressful experiences of my life, as I was really embracing the ambiguity of not knowing what the future held for myself. The bootcamp was incredibly intensive as they were squeezing as much information and learning into the 12 weeks as possible.

The pace was fast and at times it was difficult keeping up, however those of us that really gave it the maximum effort became quite close as we all supported each other, and continue to do so now that the course has finished."

This is a life-changing experience for me. I enjoyed this program so much that I would recommend it to everyone who wants some official training to break into tech.

KE (RACHAEL) LIAO
Former Certificate Coordinator

Considering that before this bootcamp I had no experience with wireframing, prototyping and many of the other design skills we were taught, I'm really proud to have learned and became a lot more comfortable with Figma and InVision.

KATIE SONG
Former Sales Clerk

BC TECH