

Dear ITE colleague,

Are you looking for work in your field?

There are many opportunities in BC for you, if you are willing to broaden your job search beyond sitting in front of a computer and sending dozens of resumes and cover letters in response to Internet postings.

Finding a suitable job may take more time than you first anticipated, but you can do it.

Here some tips, the same tips you've probably heard already, however if you haven't taken them to heart yet, I'd strongly recommend that you do so:

First of all, know yourself in depth. Be prepared to tell the story behind each line on your resume, in less than one minute. Know how to present your skills and strengths through relevant examples. The same applies to your weaknesses, be able to tell what you did/are doing to overcome them.

Especially be able to explain what makes you stand out from the crowd and what you can do to help that specific company.

Go for the hidden market, not for the tip of the iceberg.

There are lots of companies, that only post job openings on their websites, or do not advertise at all, because advertising outside is very expensive. And yes, some companies will create a position to accommodate you, if they really like you.

Yeah, right, but how do I get my feet into their door?

It is not easy, but it is not rocket science either.

On the APEGBC website you can search by a company's name and get the names of engineers working there. Then, get the company's general phone number and contact them. Most companies have an easy-to-use audio menu to guide you through their directory to finding the extension number you want. (Gentle reminder: before you call, you should have researched that company thoroughly, right?).

What? Do you hate making cold calls? Welcome to the club...

As an alternative, arrange to meet other people in your industry. Learn from their experience. Ask them for leads – contacts from the industry, not from HR, preferable.

Find network events where people with similar background meet regularly (e.g. professional associations), and build your own network. A great thing about networks – it may be hard to start one, but if one takes it seriously, the network can grow really fast.

Go to career fairs, trade shows. Talk to people. Listen too. Be interested, not interesting.

Check which non-profit organizations are sponsored by your favourite potential employers, and then connect with these organizations as a volunteer or attending events they promote.

Where to find all these organizations? Thanks goodness for Google!

You are your marketing master – brand yourself, to your best.

Ah, and take all external help that you can get.

There are several non-profit / government funded programs that are meant to help you enter the workforce in the engineering industry in BC. To find out more, go to the Daweg website, and check the section ***“Resources for internationally trained engineers (ITE) in BC”***.

If you have checked the resources but still have questions, email us at Daweg.ite@gmail.com.

Wishing your search reaches a happy end soon!

Luzia Pires

ITE liaison – Daweg board 2007/2008