

Work in Canada

There have been some inquiries into the possibility of working in Canada in the tar sands and other locations. Below are questions and answers concerning work opportunities in Canada as requested by an IBEW member for your information and review.

What would disqualify an American IBEW member to work in Canada?

Could be criminal record, DUI's etc.

What are the working shifts?

Depends on project.

What are straight time hours in Canada?

4 nine hour days

What are time and one half hours in Canada?

Varies by Local Union contract

What are double time hours in Canada?

Varies by Local Union contract

How does electrical licensing work in Canada?

Six month grace period, then must take exam.

Do we have to test?

Yes, Local Unions will tutor applicants to help pass the exam.

Do benefits total package go to home local?

Pension benefits are not reciprocal between countries; they are trying to change agreements to call pension contributions general benefits which could be reciprocated. Because of Canadian national healthcare plan, health plans are not reciprocal however they do have about \$2.00/hr contribution which covers things like dental, eye care, etc. which would be reciprocal.

Will I be granted a work visa?

Visa's will be requested and paid for by the employers. This will help expedite employment otherwise it takes up to a month to get a work visa.

How does the National Health Insurance plan work?

Health insurance is provided by the government at no cost. Americans would not qualify for the plan. Some locals have additional negotiated benefits such as eye care, dental, etc. The money contributed for these benefits could be reciprocated (about \$2.00/hr).

What if I get hurt on the job?

They have a workers compensation plan similar to the U.S.

What if I get sick or ill on the job?

You would probably seek medical attention that would not be covered by their National Health plan. They said there is probably what is referred to as "Out of Country Coverage" available through insurance companies in the U.S.

What if I get killed on the job?

Again, they have a similar worker compensation plan as the U.S.

How does unemployment work?

Unemployment benefits would be payable to U.S. workers when they work enough to qualify (about 12 weeks). Unemployment benefits are not reciprocal with the U.S.

How much are living expenses?

There is going to be enough of a demand for workers that in some areas the contractors will pay for living expenses to get the workers. The tar sands project in Alberta will be a barracks job with living quarters and food provided.

Are there phones and internet available?

Canada has all the services provided within the U.S.

NOTE: There are 3 primary locals who are going to be looking for help, Locals 424, 804 and 1687. Local 1687 (Sault Ste. Marie) has a lot of work available now and could use help. The tar sands project (Local 424 Alberta) does not need help at this time but will sometime this year.

Canada does not utilize a referral book system as we do in the U.S. All jobs will be assigned through BM to BM contact. A U.S. local union BM will make contact with the local in Canada where you are seeking work. When job calls come in, the Canadian local will contact the U.S. local to send manpower and jobs will be held for them when they arrive. You do not need nor can you sign an out of work lists.