

Job Search Advice from a Career Counsellor

Wouldn't it be nice to have a partner walk with you through the job search process? It would be helpful to have a person in your corner that would support you, be your champion, be encouraging, give good advice and help to get your butt moving right into your ideal job. By working with a career counsellor, you not only have someone to practice with and bounce things off, but also someone to guide and coach you through the entire journey.

A counselor will review your career path and provide suggestions that will get you pointed in the right direction and/or help you build a career action plan that works. Before you know it, with the help of such a person, you will be on your way to career success.

According to the Career Specialists at Don Mills Employment Services, there are many things you can do that will help you reach your job search goal faster and easier. They provide great advice. Do things you love, stay active and keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities. Talk to everyone you meet – especially others in your field who have similar experiences and other people who can share their thoughts and encourage you. Volunteer and make sure that your skills are at peak competitive form. Good computer skills are always in high demand. Use your unemployment time for self improvement. It will pay off. Do your research to understand employer expectations and what you can offer. Market and package yourself well so employers will see your value. Stay positive and keep applying for jobs. The right one will eventually come your way.

Most importantly, seek out a Career Specialist with whom you can work. Why do it alone? A Career Specialist understands the needs of job seekers and the expectations of the employers. They also have access to specialized programs and incentives you might be eligible for such as Job Matching Placement and Incentives, Youth, Apprenticeship and other training programs and can make referrals on your behalf.

Job searching can be a lonely activity and may certainly deplete your confidence, so take advantage of the ongoing coaching and support which will, in the long run, help to build your self-esteem.

It used to be easy and quick to find employment when you needed it but in the last 10 years, there have been big changes in how people look for work.

Common practices today for seeking employment include using a cell phone to apply through mobile applications, and utilizing social media such as LinkedIn to build an online profile as part of your self-marketing and branding. However, a huge increase in online networking, applications, and research to find the hidden jobs has been developed. So, with this new thing called social media, we have become more isolated and insular in our job searching techniques. So get out of the house, go to the library, employment centre and networking events. Keep up your social contacts and interests and hobbies.

Another change is the lack of dependence on paper, newspapers, and traditional ways of job hunting. You definitely need a computer and technical skills to do a thorough and complete job search today.

The only thing that hasn't changed is networking. Making those people connections is crucial. It's hard work, but to stay motivated. Our Career Specialists will tell you networking, volunteering and relationship building is the key to the hidden job market. You still need a good resume and excellent interview skills, but it will always come down to "who you know", not what you know, so use the networking advantage.

In the end, meeting with a counselor will not directly get you a job, but it will increase your opportunities, give you new perspective, and broaden your horizons. Not only will you gain support and receive guidance, you will learn how to organize and polish your resume, answer interview questions, obtain additional job search resources, participate in career exploration sessions, and gather an emotional supporter, confidante, coach and cheerleader. Find one at any of the Employment Ontario funded Employment Services sites.