



YOU have the power to choose a bright future for yourself.

### Apprenticeships: Earn While You Learn

If you like to learn things by actually doing them, an apprenticeship is the way to go. On-the-job training counts for about 75% of apprenticeships. You get hands-on experience with real pros who know all about the business. The other 25% of the Power Systems Operator apprenticeship involves training courses, independent study and on-line instruction provided by your employer. This is where you connect your practical know-how with the theory behind it.

One big bonus of apprenticeships is that you get paid while you're learning. No need to rack up huge student debt in order to get a good job. Once you earn your certification you can write your own ticket...like working in different parts of Canada, being your own boss or teaching others to get where you are.

### A Unique Window of Opportunity

This is a fantastic time to get into the electricity sector. Over one third of the skilled tradespeople will be eligible to retire within the next decade. What does this mean to you? As a new employee you will have a chance to move up fast. Electricity is so important to our lives that the sector is doing everything possible to ensure customers continue to enjoy the high quality service we've all come to expect. This means that supervisors and managers are making a strong commitment to help new workers learn every facet of their job, with a strong emphasis on safety procedures. When the senior workers retire, you will be ready to advance!

Employees in the electricity sector make great wages and receive excellent benefits. Hard work and dedication is rewarded with opportunities for growth and fast advancement.

#### So all this sounds good...but what's the catch?

*Actually, there isn't one!*



*ENERGIZE YOUR FUTURE*

For more information about  
Bright Futures BC visit us  
on the Web at:

[www.brightfuturesBC.ca](http://www.brightfuturesBC.ca)



*ENERGIZE YOUR FUTURE*



**brightfuturesBC**



YOUR FUTURE AS A:

**Power Systems Operator**



Ministry of  
Energy, Mines and  
Petroleum Resources





## WHAT DOES A POWER SYSTEMS OPERATOR DO?

If you like being at the centre of the action, a career as a Power Systems Operator won't disappoint you. It's sort of like being an air traffic controller, but instead of airplanes you're controlling the transmission and distribution of electrical power. You are at the centre of communications with the various electrical workers in the field, and your 'mission control' is the hub of a highly computerized and complex network. Your focus is to ensure the smooth operation of distribution circuits, power generation stations and substations, so you are constantly monitoring the grid. This means you need to be an expert multitasker.

Power Systems Operators must also be comfortable making quick and calm expert decisions in a number of different circumstances, including the pressure of an emergency situation such as a power outage. Fortunately, power outages don't happen often...but BC can have extreme weather and terrain conditions

that could knock out equipment in several places at once. As the person responsible for a certain portion of the power system, you must dispatch crews to different sites and be ready to switch out equipment when repairs are being made. Communications skills are critical and your spoken English has to be excellent. You must give clear and concise directions to guarantee the safety of the people in the field who are working to restore electrical power. These skills are also put to good use in keeping customers and co-workers informed on the status of a situation.

Everyone depends so much on electricity that Power Systems Operators are needed 24hrs a day, 365 days a year to keep things running at optimum performance. It's a big responsibility that requires confidence, alertness and decisiveness...but it's always nice to know that you're indispensable.

### Safety is #1

Safety is always the FIRST priority and we make sure everyone sticks to the plan. Staying focused and aware is the key. Everyone is responsible for not only their own personal protection, but also for the safety of their co-workers and the public. And it feels good to know that you and your co-workers are always looking out for each other!

Your future as a:

## POWER SYSTEMS OPERATOR

### WHAT'S THE COMMITMENT?

The Power Systems Operator Apprenticeship program consists of a maximum of 24 months of classroom, on-the-job technical training and self-study. Public utilities such as BC Transmission Corp. are the main employers and provide all the training related to this apprenticeship.

### WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

- Apprentices must be eligible to work in Canada.
- A high school diploma or equivalent is required, including Gr 12 Math, English or Technical and Professional Communications, Gr 11 Physics.
- An ability to work your way up and gain knowledge of the industry.

### APPLICATIONS

- Resumes with a cover letter and a copy of your school transcripts can be sent directly to potential employers.
- For employer website links visit [www.brightfuturesbc.ca/jobs](http://www.brightfuturesbc.ca/jobs)



*ENERGIZE YOUR FUTURE*

**brightfuturesBC**