



Merritt & District  
Chamber of Commerce



# ACCESS STUDENT TALENT

Together, we will work to develop a strong and more sustainable local economy by connecting businesses in Merritt and the Nicola Valley with a ready supply of student talent from our educational partner, NVIT, and academic institutions across the province.



The recruitment and retention of skilled talent in Merritt and the Nicola Valley has been a persistent challenge for businesses in the region. The COVID-19 pandemic is now causing further shifts in the business landscape. As a result, small and medium sized businesses are facing challenges to adapt, all while continuing to hire and train new talent and grow their operations.

We believe that there is an opportunity to address these challenges via WIL — a model of learning that bridges the classroom and the workplace, allowing students to put their skills and education to practical use for your organization!

Help shape the region's incoming workforce by participating in our WIL initiative today!

Students are available to support you with:

- **Business**  
record management, office administration, technology adoption etc.
- **Tourism, Arts and Culture**  
Event planning, cultural programming etc.
- **Culinary arts**  
cooking, food preparation etc.
- **Trades**  
construction, plumbing, electrician, heavy equipment operation etc.
- **Environmental Assessment**  
Designing and carrying out environmental field studies, environmental monitoring etc.
- **And more!**



**LeSandra**  
NVIT CO-OP STUDENT

# BENEFITS TO YOUR ORGANIZATION

## GET WORK DONE

Do you have work that needs to get done but don't have the staff to do it? Whether you're looking to lighten the workload of current staff or add additional human resources to a high priority project – WIL students can provide your business with short-term, cost-effective support that addresses your business needs.

## REDUCE YOUR RECRUITMENT AND HIRING COSTS

Employers can enjoy access to a year-round supply of highly motivated and capable students. Students are available from anywhere between 2-4 weeks, or 4-12 months! This makes WIL students particularly good options for employers looking to fill short term staffing needs due to vacation schedules, transfers, promotions, training commitments, peak workloads etc.

There are also several types of provincial and federal funding available for your business to help you offset the cost of hiring a student, including wage subsidies of up to \$7000!

## FEED YOUR TALENT PIPELINE & INVEST IN COMMUNITY GROWTH

Working with co-op students on a short-term basis is a low-risk and cost-effective way to find star employees to hire after graduation. You can assess students' skill sets and test for cultural fit throughout a work placement.

WIL also provides the opportunity for employers to directly influence the educational process. For example, at NVIT, suggestions on how to make curriculum more relevant are encouraged. Employers are considered co-educators as they provide learning opportunities beyond the bounds of the classroom. Employers share in the training and development of students to help them become productive members of society and potential leaders.

## Book a FREE Advising Appointment!

We understand that the recruitment and onboarding process can be a challenge. The Chamber is here to act as your one-on-one recruitment support service. Through our new business advising services, the Chamber is happy to provide you support with crafting your job posting, posting your opportunity, and walking you through the funding application process.

Contact us at [info@merrittchamber.com](mailto:info@merrittchamber.com) to book an appointment.



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