**Options in the Labour Market**

**The way we work has changed! Here are some of the work options available today.**

**Non-traditional Work Alternatives:**

Temporary or Contract work: i.e. temporary agencies

Advantages:

* It is a way to earn money.
* Helps to meet potential employers.
* Allows you to gather information on the local labour market.
* Builds confidence, keeps skills current.
* If employers are impressed, this may result in a work reference and it may provide opportunities for future openings.

Casual On-Call Work:

* Applying to employers to offer casual on call, short term relief. You may be able to specify the days and hours you are available to work.
* Some employers hire permanent employees by selecting good workers from among their casual workers. In some companies, the only way to get a full-time job, is to work on a casual basis first.

Telecommuting:

* Telecommuters work for one or more employers from home and keep in touch with staff and customers primarily via technology (phone, email, fax) i.e. people employed in insurance industry and call centre settings.

Multi-tracking:

* Multi-trackers have one or more jobs at the same time.
* You could have two or three part-time jobs and operate a home-based business as well.
* You could work full-time for one employer on weekdays and occasionally work a few hours for another employer.

**Part-time Work:**

* If full time income is not a requirement [or is not possible due to other commitments such as child care], then pursue part-time work in an area you enjoy.
* If you enjoy golfing, maybe getting a part time seasonal job at the golf course. Pay may not be what you want, but you may get discounts on golf priviledges.
* If you enjoy driving, consider driving a school bus, city bus or van for individuals with disabilities. Or look for work with a limousine service or car dealership that needs drivers to transport vehicles from one location to another.
* Enjoy history and meeting people, local tourism or historical sites may be hiring tour guides or guides for special events.
* If you are creative, is there a business where you buy your supplies that could use part time employees?

**Self-Employment:**

* Self-employed people may operate home-based businesses or businesses that employ others. Income will depend entirely on how well self-employed people delevop, market and deliver services or products. There are no guarantees with self-employment and it is not for everyone. For more information contact the Business Enterprise Centre in Owen Sound.

**Volunteering:**

* Volunteering is a rewarding way to keep active and healthy. Volunteers devote their time to a worthy cause. As well as the difference you can make in the lives of others, volunteering can help you;
* Get more work experience on your resume
* Learn new skills
* Meet people and make connections (networking) that may help you find work
* Try out career ideas by working in the fields that interest you

Source: Gov’t of Alberta, Human Services; A Guide for Midlife Career Moves

Note: These materials have been developed and adapted from a range of sources for the purpose of the Bruce County Job Search Club.