A Promised Plan B

As Industries Evolve, So Should Your Plans, Preparation, and Pursuit. BY ALLYSON REAVES

Whether you want to work as a history teacher or a sports statistician, every industry is evolving, and if you don't keep up, you might get left behind. Every field is thinking creatively about how to produce faster, reduce operational costs, compete better, and leave a greener, smaller carbon footprint while doing it.

Having a Plan B is not industry specific and only requires a resourceful thinking cap. Take a look at this short list of industries, and experiment with interchanging the solutions:

DID YOU KNOW?

Employment fell steeply during the downturn for youths 15 to 24 and men aged 25 to 54. In October 2010, employment among youths remained 7.8% below its October 2008 level, while the number of workers aged 25 to 54 was just below its pre-recession level.

Source: statcan.gc.ca

No matter which industry you are aiming for, having a backup plan is definitely an A-type personality move to make, and one that you'll be very grateful for should the opportunity arise to exercise it.

INDUSTRY	INTERCHANGEABLE IDEA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY After you've retired from creating new technology, you could think about advertising, licensing and selling it. The mandates around these positions change – so should your skill set too. IT sales specialist Vinny Katwaroo offers this advice: "In prepping for a future here, you could get a subscription to a fun and current magazine like Wired. This could help you to stay on top of coming trends."	Get your hands on as much reading material as you can about your field, and learn about how all the positions come together to support it.
EDUCATION Requirements for teachers shift each year, and maintaining accreditation is a major part of staying at the head of the class. Teachers frequently attend workshops and enrichment programs to up their game.	Find conferences and meetings to stay in the loop. Lists of conferences in Canada can be easy to find, and a site like **conferencealerts.com** could be helpful in learning which groups will be coming to your city.
BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS As corporations downsize, your transferable skills could first get you a job, and then keep you on board in another area if your first job becomes defunct.	When applying for a position, think of how your natural skills (athletic abilities, love of animals, passion for learning new software programs and courage to speak in front of crowds) could present you as a potential employee for one of several positions at a company.
HEALTH AND MEDICINE New medical equipment can't function without people who know how to use it. This unique knowledge, coupled with how to make patients comfortable while using it, could ensure your spot on the payroll.	Being able to teach someone else how to do, use or think about something is a part of any successful career – we call it consultancy. Elevating familiarity with your trade, industry and practice could bump you from entry level to six figures.
ARTS AND HUMANITIES An art lover who can't budget is of no use to a museum. As NGO funding becomes less abundant, knowing how to efficiently run the nation's art museums, theatres and music halls is in demand.	Once you've mastered your job, learn how the other systems of the company operate. Today's intern ticket-taker could be tomorrow's executive director.

Post-secondary Not in Your Game Plan?

Live the best life after June: Scheduling your 2–6 year future sans university. BY ALLYSON REAVES

If you're unsure about spending the next four years, thousands of dollars, and precious brain cells on the traditional academic track, there are a few options worth your time to think about. What do all the aspiring DJs, chefs, media artists, criminal justice authorities and 3D animators do when universities don't offer the hands-on training, preparation and accreditation for these exciting lines of work? If you are the inventive, artistic, resourceful and imaginative type who works well with your hands, likes to see your work applied in real life, and wanted to get started yesterday on your career and livelihood, there is a *Jeopardy!* category of options for you.

Jobs in fields like plumbing technology are expected to grow by 11% by the year 2016.
GuildtoCareerEducation.com

VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS
guidetocareereducation.com/career-programs

- Animal Training
- Autobody & Collision Repair
- Automotive Technology
- Aviation Technology
- Building Maintenance/Tech
- Bridal Consulting
- Call Centre Management
- Carpentry Science
- Child Daycare Management
- Construction Management
- Cosmetology/Esthetician
- Diesel Mechanics
- Electrician
- Electronics
- Fire Science
- Floral Design
- Gunsmithing
- HVAC
- Home Inspection
- Jewelry Design & Repair
- Landscape Design
- Locksmithing
- Marine Mechanics
- Motorcycle Mechanic
- Nail Technician/Manicurist
- Pilot Training
- Plumbing Technology
- Spa & Resort Therapy
- Telecommunications Technician
- Tourism & Travel
- Tractor Trailer/CDL
- Truck Driving/CDL
- Welding

DID YOU KNOW?

According to Simply Hired Canada, the average salary for trade school jobs is $42K. You can easily bump this up depending on your company, location, industry and experience.

APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships have been around since the Middle Ages, and they're as useful now as they were back then. An apprenticeship means working directly with an expert who can teach you very practical skills. Nowadays, you can find apprenticeships in transportation, motive power, and manufacturing. Apprenticeships are also well-paid gigs, and you get paid more as your skills improve. Bonus, you can enter into an apprenticeship right after high school.

ACTION ITEMS:

Identify 2–3 areas of work you're interested in. Call a few companies that provide services in those areas and inquire about job-shadowing opportunities. One day could give you a realistic idea about what that kind of work entails. Don't be shy – ask the good questions!

If there is a trade (like plumbing, technology or marine mechanics), human service (like emergency response or cardiology technologist), or creative discipline (like graphic design or sound production) that appeals to you, visit a campus in your hometown that offers training in that area, and maybe you can sit in on a class, tech lab, photography studio or engineering sound booth!

TRADE SCHOOLS

A trade (or vocational) school can give you real-life skills and training in areas like automotive repair, welding and machining, construction and plumbing, among many other industries. These are the jobs that rarely, if ever, suffer from layoffs or corporate cutbacks. These trades are needed in every part of Canada, all year long. Grads, once hired, get paid big bucks. Example: my roommate and I forked out $300 to a plumber, and it only took him 25 minutes to unclog our drain. The other upside about trade schools is that you can enter at any age.

FELLOWSHIPS

Don't be fooled by the plethora of fellowship options. Yes, it relates to convening around religious beliefs, medical training, and/or postdoctoral work. For those who are lucky enough to land them, fellowships are research-based opportunities that are often very well funded. Sometimes there might be some university affiliation (I was a university sophomore when I scored a fellowship to research HIV in Uganda). With enough research, you might find a fellowship that's suitable for you. Organizations like CDS International (cdsintl.org) are great places to start.

4 years = $58,000
vs.
10 months x $2,000 = more money for that car you've been eyeing

DID YOU KNOW?

The average cost of a four-year university degree in Canada is **$58,000**. The total cost of the in-class instruction portion of an apprenticeship (which would be about 10 months) costs about **$2,000**. You do the math.