



News Release

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Western recruiter finds high-skill employees at Toronto job fair

Prairie-based recruitment outsourcing specialist SmartHire met with more than a thousand job seekers at the National Job Fair in Toronto last week, and after on-site interviews is now bringing the names of nearly 300 pre-selected candidates to the firm's western Canadian clients.

And following the fair, more resumes, applications and expressions of interest continue to arrive at SmartHire's website and email. Of this number, 18 have already been shortlisted and are considering relocation.

SmartHire General Manager Blair Clark says that even more impressive than the quantity of applicants is the quality.

"Of the applicants we're following, 30 per cent have a masters degree, 45 per cent have a bachelors, and the remaining 25 per cent have some type of professional, post-secondary or skilled trades certification or designation," says Clark.

"The same is true for experience: 92 per cent have more than two years work experience and a remarkable 50 per cent have more than 10 years experience."

Clark also pointed to the main sectors of experience, with 30 per cent of applicants in the engineering/manufacturing category, 25 per cent in service/retail, and 18 per cent in information technology.

"It's also interesting that only six per cent are former westerners who plan to return home," says Clark. "A total of 94 per cent are considering a first-time relocation to the West."

"We have the jobs in the West, but the key to finding good applicants is figuring out how to reach them, and then being able to do early, on-site, effective screening. With the right process and web technology, western employers can find the people they need from anywhere in the country."

The National Job Fair was held September 30 and October 1.

SmartHire, a division of Grasslands Group of Companies, is based in Swift Current, with representatives in other Western Canadian cities. The company focuses on attracting employees to Western Canada, and has been serving that market for more than 15 years.

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