



2026 British Columbia Labour Market Conference Agenda



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ONLINE CONFERENCE

Thursday June 4, 2026

8:30am—4:00pm

- **Introduction:** Welcome to BC's changing labour market
- **Insights:** Jock Finlayson, Chief Economist, Independent Business and Contractors Association
- **BC Government Changes:** Province Doubles Down on the Look West Strategy
- Labour Market Amazing Race Challenge #1
- **Overview:** Youth in British Columbia Experience Historic Challenges in Securing Employment

Morning Break

- **Sector Analysis:** Construction in BC
- **Panel Discussion:** Impact of Economic Change on British Columbia's Post-Secondary Education System
- **Federal Gov. Response:** Breaking down the steps the federal government is taking to support the labour market
- **National Defence:** Supports and Investment in the Canadian Forces
- Labour Market Amazing Race Challenge #2

Lunch Break

- **Insights:** Tina Strehlke, CEO, Minerva Supports Women in the Labour Market
- **Labour Market Analysis:** Canadian Chambers of Commerce Quarterly Outlook
- **Sector Analysis:** Tourism in British Columbia
- Labour Market Amazing Race Challenge #3

Afternoon Break

- Labour Market Amazing Race Challenge #4
- **Overview:** Supporting Indigenous Canadians in our Labour Market
- **Insights:** Mahtab Laghaei, Policy Analyst, the dais, Toronto Metropolitan University, discusses the 'Art of AI' Job Creation in the World of A.I.
- **Insights:** Janet Morris Reade, CEO, ASPECT BC, discusses the 2026 ASPECT Conference
- Day 1 Wrap Up

Friday June 5, 2026

8:30am—12:00pm

- **Day 2 Keynote Address:** Navigating BC's Labour Market During a Perpetual Skills Shortage
- **Insights:** Brendon Bernard, Economist, Indeed Hiring Lab
- **Sector Analysis:** Manufacturing in BC
- **Panel Discussion:** BC Job Development
- **Overview:** Supporting Those with Disabilities in our Labour Market
- Labour Market Amazing Race Challenge #5

Morning Break

- Labour Market Amazing Race Challenge #6
- **Insights:** Corinne Pohlmann, Executive Vice-President, Advocacy for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business
- **Overview:** Supporting Immigrants in our Labour Market
- **Sector Analysis:** Transportation in BC
- Labour Market Amazing Race Results / Winners
- **Closing Address:** Utilizing Labour Market Information During Times of Transition
- Final Thoughts / Next Steps
- Day 2 Wrap-Up