Alberta is home to the prairies, Rocky Mountains, four glorious seasons and people with an entrepreneurial spirit. As our population grows, so does our need for skilled professionals in our rural and urban communities. You can expect a fulfilling career with time to truly enjoy life. Our overall cost of living including housing, entertainment and taxes is one of the lowest in Canada, giving you more disposable income to enjoy.
Working in Health

Alberta Health Services (AHS), a province-wide hospital/primary care trust, coordinates the delivery of health services and supports. With over 400 facilities, more than 8,000 practicing physicians and 91,500 dedicated staff, it is the largest health system in Canada and serves 3.8 million residents.

Recognized as one of the best health care systems in the world, AHS offers competitive job opportunities and innovative approaches to delivering health care services. State-of-the-art facilities, leading-edge research, competitive compensation and attractive incentive packages make Alberta an employer of choice. Alberta welcomes internationally qualified health care professionals and their contributions to continue to build an outstanding health care system.

Physician Income

**Doctors – Average Payments (examples):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Average Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Practice/Family Medicine</td>
<td>$269,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Medicine</td>
<td>$331,938</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Average annual fee-for-service (April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011). Does not include payments from various physician benefit programs, e.g. on-call, and other forms of physician compensation and incentive schemes.

Doctors are paid on a fee-for-service basis. Annual income will vary depending on factors such as style of practice, location and number of patients treated.

Doctors also have access to a physician retention program. The program offers a yearly lump sum payment for every year of practice in Alberta as well as a clinical stabilization fund which provides increased remuneration and incentives should a doctor establish practice in an underserviced area of the province.

Source: 2010/2011 Alberta Health and Wellness AHCIP Statistical Supplement
**Cost of Living**

Living in Alberta is affordable. In an international study ranking the most expensive cities around the world, New York City ranked #33, London ranked #25 and Sydney ranked #11. In comparison, Calgary, Alberta ranked very affordable at #92.

*Source: Mercer Human Resource Consulting Worldwide Cost of Living Survey for 2011*

**Utilities**

The utilities industry in Alberta includes: electric power generation, transmission and distribution; natural gas distribution; and water, sewer and irrigation systems. Whether you rent or own, you will likely be responsible for paying for your utilities. The average Alberta yearly expenditure per household for water, fuel and electricity is $2,893.

**Other monthly household costs may include**

- Basic Digital Cable TV $26
- Basic Phone $30
- Basic High Speed Internet $42

*Source: Survey of Household Spending 2010, Statistics Canada*

**Housing**

Average rent per month for a two-bedroom apartment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Rent (per month)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>$1,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>$1,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grande Prairie</td>
<td>$966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lethbridge</td>
<td>$862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine Hat</td>
<td>$694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Deer</td>
<td>$843</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average price of a newly constructed single-detached or semi-detached house

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Price (2012)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>$568,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>$467,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grande Prairie</td>
<td>$322,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lethbridge</td>
<td>$338,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine Hat</td>
<td>$377,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Deer</td>
<td>$450,021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation 2012, Rental Markets Report, Housing Information Monthly.*

**Health Care**

Most people living and working in Alberta get universal access to hospital and medical services under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP). AHCIP is free and is covered by the Government of Alberta. Most temporary foreign workers and their families are also eligible.

Patients are responsible for the cost of prescription medication; however, most people have benefit plans which cover these costs in addition to physiotherapy, chiropractic care and massage therapy.

**Food**

Albertans spend an average of $8,427/year on groceries and restaurants.

*Source: Survey of Household Spending 2010, Statistics Canada*
Transportation

Alberta’s road systems are extensive. To operate a car, truck or van you need a driver’s licence, plus insurance and registration on your vehicle. Canada uses the metric system to represent speed limits (kilometers versus miles). In major cities buses and light rail transit run frequently. A monthly pass for unlimited access to the public transportation system in a larger city will cost approximately $90, and $50–$75 for a smaller city.

Both Edmonton and Calgary international airports offer direct non-stop flights to many international destinations.

Gasoline

Alberta has the lowest gasoline tax in Canada which leads to lower prices at the pump: $1.18 CAD per litre for unleaded gasoline.

Information correct as of October 2012
**Taxes**
Alberta has a personal tax advantage due to a low single-rate tax system. This includes the highest basic and spousal exemptions in the country, no provincial sales tax, the lowest gasoline tax rate and low property taxes.

Two income family of four earning $75,000 CAD
Alberta provincial and federal taxes $12,398 CAD
Ontario provincial and federal taxes $14,439 CAD

Two income family of four earning $125,000 CAD
Alberta provincial and federal taxes $28,394 CAD
Ontario provincial and federal taxes $31,480 CAD

Albertans also have access to the Canada Child Tax Benefit to help offset the expense of raising children aged 18 and under. This tax benefit is determined based on family income and residency requirements.

**Quality of Life**
Calgary, Alberta ranked 33rd out of the top 50 cities worldwide with the highest quality of life, and ranked first out of eco-cities. New York City ranked #47, London ranked #38, and Sydney ranked #11.

Source: Mercer Human Resource Consulting Worldwide Quality of Living Survey for 2011

**Weather**
Alberta is Canada’s sunniest province with more than 2,000 hours of sunshine each year and four distinct seasons.

Despite the cold, the winter sun is often shining, and days are spectacularly bright. You can go skiing and skating with the family or stay indoors and spend the day shopping. Main roads and highways are cleared of snow to ensure that travel in the communities and to the main centres is safe and easily accessible. Houses and office buildings are well insulated and have excellent heating systems. Even when it is cold outside, we stay warm inside.

Average summer temperature range (June to August)
15°C to 23°C (60°F to 73°F)

Average winter temperature range (November to February)
-8°C to -25°C (18°F to -13°F)

Source: Travel Alberta

**Entertainment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bottle of wine</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling</td>
<td>$6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie admission</td>
<td>$12.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum entrance</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pint of beer</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre ticket</td>
<td>$40.00 and up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey ticket (NHL)</td>
<td>$60.00 and up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>$38.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ski lift ticket</td>
<td>$79.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Average prices, October 2012*

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Source of basic information: Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Highlights of the Alberta Economy 2012
Wages

Nursing
Salaries for nurses vary depending on the employer, nurse’s hours, educational qualifications, experience and responsibilities. All nursing wages are hourly except where indicated. Wages and salaries do not include overtime hours, benefits, profit shares, bonuses and other forms of compensation.

Registered Nurse $32.99 – $43.30
Registered Psychiatric Nurse $32.99 – $43.30
Certified Graduate Nurse $30.18 – $36.87
Graduate Psychiatric Nurse $30.18 – $36.87
Assistant Head Nurse $34.10 – $45.36
Shift premium $2.75 – $5.00
Weekend premium $3.25
Overtime two times base hourly salary

Source: United Nurses of Alberta Collective Agreement 2010-2013

Other Health Care Positions
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technologist $32.59 – $41.90
Paramedic $29.82 – $39.26
Pharmacist $39.85 – $52.90
Physical Therapist $32.73 – $43.55
Diagnostic Sonographer $34.46 – $44.44
Laboratory Technologist $29.82 – $39.26
Occupational Therapist $32.73 – $43.55

Source: Health Services Association of Alberta Collective Agreement 2008 - 2011

Please note: All currency is in Canadian Dollars. Currency converter available at: www.bankofcanada.com