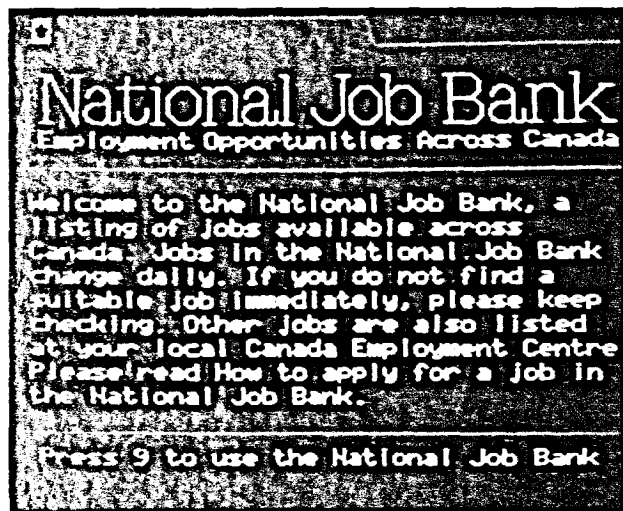




NATIONAL JOB FINDER COMES TO THE RESCUE IN NORTHERN MINE TOWN

Up in Northern Saskatchewan, Canada, there's a one-industry mining town, called appropriately enough, Uranium City.

When Eldorado Nuclear announced it was closing down its mine, the news sent shock waves through the close-knit community.

Between 1,200 and 1,300 people were affected by the mine closure, including 830 miners. It was the middle of the recession. Unemployment rates were already reaching record highs.

Where would the miners find work? What would happen to the others, who provided services to the mine and the community?

The National Job Bank, a videotex-based service provided by Employment and Immigration Canada, a federal agency, came to the aid.

National Job Bank

Job title: TRUCK MECHANIC

Education: C Job Code: 8581110
Experience: 4
Location: ST. THOMAS, ONT.
Salary: 10.00/H
Description: LICENSED TRUCK MECHANIC, FULLY EXPERIENCED IN HEAVY DUTY TRACTOR TRAILER REPAIR AND TRAILER REPAIR MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE NOT SUFFICIENT 2 ROTATING SHIFTS COMPANY BENEFIT PACKAGE.

If interested in this Job, write down
Order Identifier Number 0064020

Press 7 For more jobs of this code
8 How to apply
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The National Job Bank is a nation-wide telephone/computer hook-up for the rapid matching of workers and jobs. It stores data on jobs that cannot be filled locally. Through it, qualified workers who are willing to relocate can be put in touch with employers who list such jobs with a Canada Employment Centre.

The Canada Employment and Immigration Commission set up NAPLPS videotex terminals in the isolated, one-company town of Uranium City and sent in extra staff as well.

Through the Job Bank, a worker who found an interesting prospect in Prince Albert, B.C., for example, could also take a look at the population of the town, its industries, what type of housing was available, and which churches, schools, hospitals and shopping facilities were provided.

"To say that it was a success in Uranium City," says David Neuman, Director, Employment Service Project Team, Canada Employment System, "is an understatement.

"It certainly showed the people there what Employment and Immigration can do. Normally, in situations like that, Employment and Immigration is deluged with applications for unemployment insurance and the relationship between the Commission and the client tends to be negative.

"In this particular case, we sent in teams of staff to process all of these applications quickly and the workers were very pleased with the service we gave them."

Near the end of the program, questionnaires were distributed to all the Commission staff and to job hunters asking for their comments.

"Without fail, people were glowing in their assessment of Telidon," Mr. Neuman says. "There's no question that as a tool in our business it can be tremendously powerful.

"It has very real potential."

What happened in Uranium City was an emergency. Closure of the mine marked one of the largest industrial lay-offs in the province's history.

But it was an ideal situation to test videotex technology and provide a much needed service to the public at the same time.

Today, the National Job Bank continues as part of the Government of Canada's CANTEL information system, linking employers and people with hard-to-find skills on a nation-wide basis.