

Job Posting: Avalanche Canada, Revelstoke, BC

Job Title: Public Avalanche Forecaster
Location: Revelstoke, BC, Canada
Employment type: Full-time seasonal
Part-time seasonal
Application deadline: First round deadline August 15, 2016. Competition open until vacancies filled.
Job Start Date: November, 2016

Job Summary

Avalanche Canada has avalanche forecaster positions available for the winter season 2016-17. We are adding enthusiastic, highly engaged persons to our existing diverse and dedicated team of avalanche forecasters.

Full-time and part-time positions are available. Full-time roles offer approximately 120 days of winter work and consist of a mix of Revelstoke office-based forecasting (approximately 70%), as well as outreach, project work and fieldwork (approximately 30%). Field work may take place in remote locations away from Revelstoke. Part-time roles are primarily Revelstoke-based forecasting, but opportunities for outreach, project work, and fieldwork may be available from time to time. Working on some weekends and holidays is required.

Permanent seasonal positions (e.g. annual re-hire) are available.

Avalanche Canada is a world-leader in public avalanche safety. Our warning service team delivers high quality public avalanche information and is involved with development, testing, and implementation of innovative new products and services. This is a great opportunity to become part of a progressive and influential group who are passionate about avalanche safety and mountain culture in general.

You can learn more about Avalanche Canada at: <http://www.avalanche.ca/about#vision>

Job Description

Job Title: Avalanche Forecaster
Unit Name: Public Avalanche Warning Service
Reports To: Forecasting Program Supervisor

Position Overview:

Forecasters deliver daily avalanche forecasts and other information as required for several diverse and often large regions. These products provide a diverse user group of backcountry recreationists with the information they need to identify avalanche hazards and make informed decisions about managing avalanche risk. Forecasters play an important role in raising public avalanche awareness and promoting recreational avalanche education. Public outreach in person, by social media, and through other means is also part of the job. AvCan forecasters may be required to carry out duties in the field, which might include travel and activities in avalanche terrain. Forecasters stay abreast of new developments and research and, on behalf of Avalanche Canada, may carry out research and/or development projects pertaining to topics relevant to Avalanche Canada's vision, mission, and mandate.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:*Avalanche Forecasting:*

- Obtain and analyze weather, snowpack, and avalanche activity data and evidence.
- Obtain and analyze weather forecast information.
- Assess and forecast avalanche hazard and risk.
- Produce products and provide services that inform and advise the public about avalanche hazard and avalanche risk including:
 - Public avalanche forecasts.
 - Avalanche conditions reports, summaries, and outlooks.
 - Avalanche accident and incident reports and analyses.
 - Special Public Avalanche Warnings.
- Deliver avalanche information to the public by various means including:
 - Software, web and mobile applications.
 - Written papers.
 - Public presentations.
 - Social media.
 - Broadcast media.

Raising Public Awareness and Promoting Recreational Avalanche Education:

- Public outreach by various means including:
 - Software, web, and mobile applications.
 - Written papers.
 - Public presentations.
 - Social media.
 - Broadcast media.
 - Outreach events.
 - Avalanche workshops.
- Recreational avalanche courses. Interact with backcountry recreationists in the office and in the field.

Field Work:

- Mountain travel, including in avalanche terrain, using vehicles, snowmobiles, skis, and/or other means.
- Make observations and record data pertinent to the formation and release of avalanches.
- Interact with Avalanche Canada field technicians and the public.
- Report to other users and share information from the field using professional data exchange systems (e.g. InfoEx™) and the Avalanche Canada Mountain Information Network.
- Carry out other field tasks as required to support existing and to develop new products and services.

New Developments and Research:

- Attend conferences and workshops for Continuing Professional Development purposes.
- Participate in annual training provided by Avalanche Canada.
- Undertake research and development projects.
- Publish and/or present research and development results.

Other Tasks:

Carry out other tasks assigned by the Forecasting Program Supervisor that fulfil the vision, mission, and mandate of the Public Avalanche Warning Service and/or Avalanche Canada.

Essential qualifications:

- Canadian Avalanche Association (CAA) ITP Level 2 or equivalent.
- Has or qualifies for CAA professional membership.
- Experience in avalanche forecasting.
- High-level written and verbal communication skills.
- Familiarity with using computer hardware, software, and online applications in technical contexts.
- Able to communicate avalanche hazard and risk clearly and effectively in English, both in public and professional contexts.
- **For full time positions** with field work component:
 - Advanced (80 hour) wilderness first aid course (or equivalent). Contact us for more information.
 - Valid drivers license.

Desirable qualifications

- Experience in public avalanche forecasting.
- University degree in a technical subject.
- Advanced training in snow science and/or meteorology.
- Teaching and public speaking experience.
- Experience delivering outreach presentations.
- Training and experience in technical writing.
- Media experience (radio, TV, print, social media).
- Experience in numerous snow climates.
- Ski guiding certification.
- Mountain snowmobiling experience.
- French language skills.

Terms of Employment*Location:*

- This position is based in Revelstoke British Columbia, a dynamic, active community that is:
 - Endowed with numerous recreational opportunities including two national parks, several provincial parks and recreation areas, a world-class ski resort, backcountry powder skiing, mountaineering, rock climbing, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, and more.
 - Well suited for families looking for good schools, support systems, and a variety of sports programs for children and youth.
 - A national hub for mountain professionals including guides and avalanche workers.
- International travel and travel to other parts of Canada may be required.

Duration and Schedule:

This is a seasonal position starting on or about November 15, 2016 and ending on or about May 15, 2017. Actual days and hours of work will be determined based on the needs of the forecast team as well as the candidate's availability. Working on some weekends and some holidays is required. Qualified candidates may qualify for permanent positions eligible for annual re-hire.

Compensation:

- Wage: Commensurate with experience.
- A benefits plan is available, including medical/dental and a registered retirement savings plan program.
- Continuing Professional Education and CAA professional membership dues support available.
- For more information: contact the Warning Service Manager: Karl Klassen, kklassen@avalanche.ca.

Other:

- Prior to hiring, successful candidates will be required to provide a:
 - Criminal record check.
 - Driving abstract

Overview of Avalanche Canada Operations

Avalanche Canada (AvCan) is a non-government, not-for-profit organization dedicated to public avalanche safety. We issue daily avalanche forecasts throughout the winter for many of the mountainous regions of western Canada, providing this free information via our website and our app, Avalanche Canada Mobile. We also coordinate and deliver avalanche awareness and education programs, provide curriculum and support to instructors of Avalanche Canada training programs, act as a central point-of-contact for avalanche information, and work closely with avalanche research projects, both at home and abroad.

Avalanche Canada is staffed with highly skilled and dedicated employees who achieve individual success and contribute to the success of Avalanche Canada by working as a powerful team to deliver programs and services for the public and AvCan members; collaborate with a variety of private, public and non-government organizations; and interact with peers in public avalanche safety operations throughout Canada and around the world.

Applications and Selection Process

Avalanche Canada is committed to employment equality. All applicants are encouraged, but preference will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents living in Canada.

All applicants will receive a confirmation by email acknowledging receipt of the application. An initial round of applicant screening will be conducted immediately after the initial deadline of August 15, 2016. Only applicants selected for interviews will be contacted after the initial confirmation.

This opportunity will remain open until filled, so applicants are encouraged to apply even if the initial deadline has passed.

To Apply

To apply, please send an up-to-date résumé and a cover letter by email to:

- Karl Klassen, Avalanche Canada Warning Service Manager: kklassen@avalanche.ca

Application Format:

Format your application as follows:

- A cover letter of no more than one page with ALL of the following:
 - Full name, address, phone number(s), and email address.
 - A statement describing why you want to work for Avalanche Canada and why you feel you are the right person for this position.
- A C.V. or résumé that lists the following pertinent information:
 - Relevant post-secondary and technical training, education, and certification. Include copies of diplomas, certificates, etc.
 - Proof of current membership in relevant professional bodies (e.g. Canadian Avalanche Association, Association of Canadian Mountain Guides, etc.).
 - A history of professional experience.
 - A list of employers with an emphasis on avalanche industry employers. Please include names and contact information for supervisors.
 - A minimum of two references, at least one of which is an avalanche professional.
- PLEASE NOTE: Avalanche Canada will contact prior employers and references.
- PLEASE NOTE: Your C.V. or résumé should focus on qualifications and experience pertinent to professional avalanche work.