



## Job Description – Avalanche Forecaster

### Positions Available:

Avalanche Forecaster (2)

Avalanche forecasters typically work about 110 days between Mid-November to early May, which is a full-time seasonal workload. We may consider part-time appointments for well-qualified applicants.

**Location:**

Revelstoke.

**Position Overview/Summary:**

Forecasters deliver daily avalanche forecasts and other information as required for several diverse and often large regions. These products provide 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. They 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:
  - o Public avalanche forecasts
  - o Avalanche conditions reports, summaries, and outlooks
  - o Avalanche accident and incident reports and analyses
  - o Special Public Avalanche Warnings
- Deliver avalanche information to the public by various means including:
  - o Software, web and mobile applications
  - o Written papers
  - o Public presentations
  - o Social media
  - o Broadcast media

*Raising Public Awareness and Promoting Recreational Avalanche Education:*

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

### *Field Work:*

Field work is typically available only to full-time forecasters and makes up between a quarter and a third of the role.

- 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 (e.g. InfoEx™) and non-professional (e.g. Mountain Information Network, social media, etc.) means
- Carry out other field tasks as required to support existing and to develop new PAWS products and services

### *New Developments and Research:*

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

### *Other Tasks:*

Carry out other tasks assigned that fulfil the vision, mission and mandate of Avalanche Canada.

## **Qualifications**

### **Essential qualifications:**

- Canadian Avalanche Association (CAA) ITP Level 2 or equivalent
- CAA professional member or equivalent qualifications
- Experience in a range of different snow climates
- High-level written and verbal communication skills
- Familiarity with using computer hardware, software, and online applications in technical contexts
- Able to clearly and effectively communicate avalanche hazard and risk in English, in public and professional contexts
- For positions with field work component:
  - o Advanced (80 hour) wilderness first aid course (or equivalent)
  - o Valid driver's 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 presentations in professional and public contexts
- Training and experience in technical writing
- Media experience (radio, TV, print, social media)
- Ski guiding certification
- Mountain snowmobiling experience
- French language skills
- Technical coding skills