



# Careers in Pipeline Construction

## Looking for Some Good People

The Canadian pipeline industry is looking for some good people who are attracted to the flexibility and focused work that a pipelining lifestyle demands.

- Do you like teamwork and a challenging work environment?
- Do you like working in a variety of locations?
- Do you like being well-rewarded for a job well done?
- Do you have skills that are transferable across different sectors?

## Would you make a good pipeliner?

You might make a good pipeliner if you:

- Enjoy working in groups to get things done.
- Enjoy working outdoors doing applied work in different seasons.
- Enjoy seeing different parts of the country.
- Enjoy working with technology.
- Enjoy tangible, practical tasks.
- Are conscientious about risk and the well-being of others on the job-site.
- Are an applied learner committed to updating your knowledge and skills as new work processes, safety practices, and technologies come on-stream.
- Are prepared to be flexible and develop skills, contacts, and work in a few different sectors of construction or industry.
- Can balance focused periods of work and family commitments.
- Find satisfaction at the end of the day in seeing what you have helped to create.

If most of these statements apply then a pipelining lifestyle may be for you!



## Unique Rewards!

Pipeline construction is an exciting, on-the-leading edge of technology business. It offers rewarding opportunities, accompanied by choice and flexibility. Pipeliners:

- enjoy being their best with teams who share in the pride of a job well done
- enjoy highly-competitive wages and benefits for focused periods of work
- enjoy a unique lifestyle of camaraderie, with many having enduring working friendships with other pipeliners who reside throughout Canada
- have demonstrated they have 'the right stuff,' including transferable skill-sets demanded by employers of project-based organizations in other sectors
- have scheduling flexibility outside of pipeline construction seasons to pursue travel, family or other interests
- have flexibility with inter-provincial mobility and opportunities to work abroad.



## Want more information?

Come see what pipelining is all about! Check out the Careers section at [www.pipeline.ca](http://www.pipeline.ca) for short videos featuring pipeline construction occupations.

Or, for more information please contact

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## Industry Overview

Demand for a secure energy supply means Canada is a critical global energy source. Getting Canadian energy to markets requires great innovation, ingenuity and teamwork.

A critical link in this process is large-diameter pipelines, also known as mainline pipelines. These mainline pipelines as well as smaller distribution system pipelines are the two major areas of pipeline construction, operations and maintenance in Canada.

Building and maintaining all pipelines requires specialized construction processes. People who do this work call themselves *Pipeliners*. They come from many skilled occupations and trades. Pipeliners work in transportation, logistics, equipment operating, welding, pipelaying and a range of construction craft labour occupations.

## Focus on Mainline Pipelines

Expansive geography and diverse seasonal weather conditions has driven Canadians to be world leaders in designing, constructing and maintaining pipelines. Mainline pipelines range from 24 to 48 inches in diameter and span hundreds or thousands of kilometres.

Building a mainline pipeline is broken down into smaller projects called *pipeline spreads*. Pipeline spreads are designed, engineered, prepared and financed by large pipeline transportation companies. They are built by project-based contractor firms usually in two focused seasons of work, each spanning from many weeks to several months.

Mainline pipeline construction work varies based on the economy, energy sector development, regulatory approvals and anticipated demand for getting energy resources to markets.

## Emerging Opportunities

Each year many pipeliners approach retirement. Employers along with industry and labour leaders are committed to renewing this critical Canadian workforce.

Opportunities are emerging for construction professionals from other sectors who seek new challenges and for those who have not traditionally worked in pipeline construction.

# Variety • Challenge • Team • Satisfaction • Rewards

## Words that characterize a pipelining lifestyle

### Transporting and Logistics

Trucking and logistics personnel provide essential transportation and logistical services and are the life blood of pipeline construction projects.

Transportation and warehousing crews:

- move, unload and later reload and remove heavy equipment,
- move vast amounts of pipe to the pipeline construction area,
- safely transport and support hundreds of crew members daily,
- maintain inventory control and ship supplies from portable warehouses, and
- operate specialized trucks that are used to position wooden skids, to position large mobile sandblasters, and that are used to re-fuel and maintain equipment.

### Operating Equipment

Heavy equipment is the backbone of a pipeline construction project. Many heavy equipment operators are required for *excavators*, *graders*, *bulldozers* and dozer-like pipelayer machines called *side booms* as well as a range of other specialized equipment.

Equipment operators:

- prepare access roads,
- set aside top-soil at right-of-way areas,
- unload sections of large pipe from trailers,
- dig precise trenches where the finished pipeline will rest,
- continuously move specialized equipment and pipe into place, and
- backfill completed pipeline trenches and help in reclaiming the land to its natural state.

### Welding and Pipelaying

Welding and pipelaying sets the pace for the entire pipeline construction process. Many welders and journeyman pipelayers are used in a highly-coordinated, focused assembly line process.

Welders and journeyman pipelayers and their helpers:

- collaborate with labourers in bending pipes to align with the contour of the land,
- pre-heat pipe to specified temperatures to prepare pipe sections for welding,
- coordinate the final set-up and clamping of pipe sections prior to welding,
- complete several weld passes using either traditional hand arc or automatic welding, and
- complete *tie ins* used to connect finished sections of pipe with other pipelines.

### Construction Craft Labour

Construction craft labour is the glue that binds different pipeline construction processes together through an extensive deployment of general and skilled labour. Labourers:

- clear the narrow tracts of land in forested areas where pipelines are built,
- construct fences to protect and separate land owners and live stock from construction crews as well as snow build-up,
- assist equipment operators and truckers in stockpiling and staging pipe sections,
- precisely place pipe sections according to engineering/survey information,
- operate special cold bending machines used to shape pipe sections,
- continuously organize wooden timbers called skids into various structures on which pipe sections rest,
- operate specialized quality control/inspection technologies,
- operate sand blasting equipment,
- operate induction coil tools and pipe coating application equipment, and
- various other duties as defined by the specific pipeline construction job.

