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Jobs crisis may be looming by 2025: report

The non-profit BC Human Resources Management Association says certain economic scenarios must be avoided

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VANCOUVER (NEWS1130) - A jobs crisis could be a Canadian reality by 2025 if some 21st century policies aren't applied soon and the BC Human Resources Management Association is worried about the direction our economy might be heading.

One scenario in a report by Deloitte shows high unemployment and a lot of job vacancies thanks to a dependence on raw exports.

Ian Cook is Director of Research with the BC HRMA.

"Nobody can tell what the future will be," says Cook. "But there's a real important need for employers, government, education, and even those looking for employment to really think strategically about how we build economic success through the right people and the right jobs and the changes that are required to make that happen."

"A lot more practice focus, a lot more focus on job ready," Cook adds, noting 2025 is not too far away. "We see universities moving in that direction. I think it is a new idea but we definitely see the need for some more pace."

He says your future lifestyle and prosperity depend on that increased pace as some negative population effects are already being seen. Canada has an aging and shrinking population, which Cook believes will lead to less tax revenue for more expensive health care and education services.

As for people looking to get into the workforce or into post-secondary education, he says a clear picture of how a desired profession will fit into a future economy is crucial, adding it's best to get as much hands-on experience as possible.

Cook says employers are now looking for people with a good grasp of the job at hand, not just those with a good brain and a degree in hand.

Two other economic scenarios are outlined in the Deloitte report. The second outlines an oil dependence, relying an eventual rebound of the U.S. economy.

The third is what Cook feels we should strive for - a robust, diverse, and green economy that ties into emerging Asian markets and new technology.