



Job Situation

Planning office. Desk, computer, phone, and fax. Drafting tables and chart tables. Teamwork. Reporting to Head Planner. Regular hours.

Weekly Hours of Work

40

Overtime

Monthly Salary

\$3,800

Student Loan – Owing

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$290

Duties

Research. build database. Collate and interpret demographic survey data. Write reports and briefs. Help draft plans for future development.

Prospects

Senior planner. Consultant.

Job Title

Town Planner

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

2153

Job Description

Space is the planner's problem—everyone wants it, needs it, but as populations expand there is less to go around. Your challenge is to keep a myriad of details in mind while working on a very big picture. Right now, for example, you are researching the possible options for a whole city block that became available when an apartment complex was demolished last year. The apartment buildings were a planning initiative that didn't just fail, but backfired.

They were built on city-owned property to replace old broken down housing. The high-rise buildings were marvels of cost-efficiency but something was wrong—the people were unhappy. They had no sense of ownership or community. Ten years after the high-rises went up, instead of being models of future living, they had started to fall apart, and had to be condemned.

You want to see something built on this site that will serve the community well. You don't get the final say, but your recommendations will have some influence on the eventual decisions. The neighbourhood around the empty block has been somewhat undervalued for years because of the run-down apartment blocks. People have not perceived it as a desirable area, but many low income young families have made their homes there. You review the demographic statistics for more clues about who they are.

Your eye stops short when you see the number of young women and very small children. These people are going to need an elementary school soon. The nearest one is much too far for small children whose parents who don't own cars. You have to look at other factors, because you are not just planning for today but for the future, too. You can use your computer to project the population growth into the future. It's only a model, but it's helpful, and you will include it in your brief. Somehow though, every time you look at the big map, you can see swings.