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Canada's Broken Budget and the Union Army

By Dale Jodoin Journalist and Columnist

The Liberal government's latest budget shows how desperate Canada has become. The plan to fill the military with federal union workers is not innovation. I panic.

A military must defend the nation anywhere, anytime, without hesi-

tation. Soldiers answer to the country, not a bargaining committee. Mixing unions with the armed forces is a recipe for collapse. What happens when troops can strike? When deployment becomes a labour dispute? When defending Canada depends on negotiations? That is not readiness. That is surrender.

The truth is, the military can no longer convince enough civilians to join. Recruitment has plummeted. The government, under pressure to meet NATO expectations, is trying to fill empty ranks by any means. This is not strategy; it is damage control. The appearance of strength has replaced the reality of it.

Unions exist to protect workers, not fight wars. A unionized military would be paralyzed by red tape and political squabbles. Canadians could find themselves defenseless while government employees debate overtime.

This is how free nations crumble. Power shifts from citizens to politically protected unions. Every strike becomes leverage. Every contract dispute becomes a threat to national security. What the Liberals call modernization is nothing more than creating a fragile system that could collapse under pressure.

We have already seen the warning signs. Postal workers strike. Bureaucrats walk off. Services freeze. Now imagine that attitude in uniform. A military strike during a national crisis would leave Canada vulnerable and humiliated.

The government has forgotten that service means sacrifice. It means discipline and loyalty, not entitlement. The armed forces must be built on strength, not paperwork.

Canada needs a general election. The people, not unions or party insiders, must decide how this country defends itself. Defence is not a political show. It is survival.

If the military becomes just another branch of the civil service, Canada will lose more than its readiness. It will lose its independence.

This is only one scenario, one many Canadians have likely imagined. But if we ignore it, we may one day find that the warning came too late.



Pickering teen celebrates 50 years of The War Amps CHAMP Program

 Zoe Gottwald (right),19, of Pickering embodies The War Amps philosophy of "amputees helping amputees." She recently attended the Child Amputee (CHAMP) Seminar in London, Ontario, where she was a mentor to younger amputees from surrounding regions and reconnected with CHAMP

friends, like Nala Beans (left). Zoe and Nala have grown up in CHAMP, which provides financial assistance for artificial limbs and specialized devices, as well as peer support. CHAMP was established in 1975 by the war amputee veterans who founded The War Amps and continues today thanks to donations from the public.



Job Seekers: Self-Proclaimed Career Coaches Are Not Among the People You

By Nick Kossovan

Regular readers of The Art of Finding Work are familiar with my stance that self-proclaimed career coaches and resume writers, especially those claiming they can bypass an employer's ATS, are nothing more than hustlers selling recycled common-sense job search advice to desperate job seekers.

My critical perspective on the career coaching industry arises from the following:

- Lack of Regulation: The career coaching industry is almost entirely unregulated; therefore, anyone can call themselves a "career coach" without requiring certification, licensing, or providing a guarantee.
- · Absence of Corporate Experience: When I examine the background of a self-proclaimed career coach, I often notice a lack of significant corporate experience; most career coaches have never worked in the corporate trenches or advanced up the corporate ladder for a substantial period. (If they haven't done it, then what makes them think they're in a position to offer advice on how to do it?) Additionally, I've yet to meet a career coach with unique insights into the job market.
- \cdot Marketing Focus: Career coaches who've been around for several years have mainly survived by excelling at marketing themselves with buzzwords, promoting the simplicity of their job-search strategies and portraying the ATS as the enemy they claim they can circumvent; they sell "the dream," not reality.
- · Common Sense Advice: Career coaches and resume writers only provide common-sense advice that job seekers likely already know, can easily find for free, or access without cost, such as through government agencies or the YMCA.

To state the obvious, career coaches are in business to make money. Their 'I want to help job seekers' is a distant, if not entirely absent, motivator. Spend some time on LinkedIn and you'll quickly see that the ultimate goal of self-proclaimed career coaches and resume writers is to profit from job seekers who are frustrated and desperate in a tough job market.

Job seekers, eager to speed up their job search, seek magic-bullet advice they believe will help them land their dream job. Because job seekers, especially at the beginning of their job search, tend to be optimistic, many get lured into paying career coaches and resume writers who can talk the talk, despite having never actually walked the walk. The belief that there are shortcuts to finding a job is what fuels the multi-billion-dollar career coaching industry today.

So, if not self-proclaimed career coaches and resume writers, who should you turn to for job search advice? Based on my own experiences, I've found that there are four types of people you should seek advice from, whether it's about your job search or any other aspect of your life.

1. The Example, someone who's currently where you want to eventually be. Those who have

- 1. The Example, someone who's currently where you want to eventually be. Those who have lived through it are the ones to take advice from, not those who merely hold opinions.
- 2. The Public Failure. Someone who's failed publicly but persevered. Often, success hides in the lessons; thereby, failure frequently teaches valuable lessons. Listen to people who've been punched in the face by life and still got back up. Such a person actually wants to win. In addition to motivating and inspiring you, their story reinforces that failure is rarely permanent.
- 3. The Truthteller. Someone who makes you uncomfortable because they tell you the truth, not what you want to hear. Growth doesn't come from being coddled. If someone challenges you, pushes you, or calls you out, keep them close; that's friendship and love in disguise.
- 4. The Unbiased. Someone who doesn't benefit from your success. When you win, it doesn't matter to them. When you lose, it doesn't matter to them. They point out your bald spots when nobody else does. Whether you like them or not, listen to what they say.

As for everyone else, smile, nod, be polite, and move on. Whose advice you follow is a choice, and like all choices, it comes with consequences, in the case of self-proclaimed career coaches and resume writers, at a significant cost.

People tend to believe that luck is random; you either have it or you don't. Much of what is called "luck" is actually the result of taking the right actions. Therefore, the question becomes: What are the right actions you need to take to achieve your job search goal(s)?

Taking advice from people who are already where you want to be, who have no financial stake in your success, and who want to pay it forward is the best life and job search hack I know. Like anything in life, success depends on taking the right actions. The most effective way to identify which actions you should take to reach your job search goals is to listen to the right people, which doesn't include those who make a living selling their unguaranteed service(s) to job seek-

Speaking from experience, advice and guidance from the right people (read: being selective) is invaluable. Investing time in the right people is far more beneficial and less expensive than spending money on someone who hasn't been there or done that.

