

Profile: Richard Harker

Hometown:

Wellington, New Zealand

Program:

Work Canada Job Fair

Tell us about where you lived and what you got up to in Canada?

I lived in Vancouver and worked at Grouse Mountain. Firstly as a rentals technician during the winter and then as a tour guide for Grouse's Eye of the Wind attraction during the summer months.

Type of job?

For the rentals technician role it involved setting up skis and snowboards for guests. The tour guide role involved taking tours of up to 20 people to the Eye of the Wind – a unique wind turbine equipped with an observation platform located 1273m above sea level – and being an advocate for wind energy and Grouse Mountain.

What are some of the experiences that you had which made an impact on you?

I loved interacting with guests from all over the world. Grouse Mountain is one of Vancouver's biggest tourist attractions, so there were always people from South America, Asia, Europe and of course Australia and New Zealand around! Learning to ski was also amazing, with the free lift passes available, and also the trips to Whistler and Las Vegas were legendary!

What is something unexpected/different/strange about Canada compared with other places you have lived?

A proper, well functioning and useful public transit system!

What other places did you travel too?

Whistler, Las Vegas, Seattle, Los Angeles, Kansas City, Hawaii, San Francisco, the Canadian Rockies, Toronto, Montreal, and New York.

Do you have any advice for someone who wants a Canadian adventure?

Be prepared to go outside your comfort zone – do things you wouldn't ordinarily do, and get a job before you leave through the job fair programme – removes a lot of stress!



Your Top 3 memories?

- 1) Skiing in Whistler
- 2) Joining a local singing group and going to Las Vegas for a competition!
- 3) All the amazing nights out and about in Vancouver with the mountain adventures crew

Did you have a good experience going on Work Canada Job Fair with IEP and did you feel supported by them?

The Job Fair is invaluable – sure, it costs extra money, but you save that by not having to look for a job when you get here – it's only a couple of weeks wages!

What did you find valuable in going to Canada on an IEP program?

I found the whole experience valuable – it gave me the chance to experience a new country and find heaps of new friends.

What next or where to next for you?

Travelling around North America for about six weeks, then heading home to save up for the next adventure!

