

Q&A Column
Author: Mark Swartz

Email Subject Line: Finding a Job You Can Do From Home

[workopolis.com EN home page](#)

Headline: Searching for Jobs That Let You Work From Home

Summary:

Question: I have been taking some time off to try to heal a bad back. I've been trying to find companies that will hire people to work from home, doing such things as data entry, call-centre duties, etc. But I don't know where to start and I want to avoid all those "get rich quick" schemes. Can you help?

Thanks,
Charlotte C., Toronto, Ontario

J. B., Toronto, Ontario

[Landing Page copy](#)

Headline: Searching for Jobs That Let You Work From Home

Dear Mark,

I was recently let go from my full time job. I have been taking some time off to try to heal a bad back. It still needs more time but I should get back to work. I've been trying to find companies that will hire people to work from home, doing such things as data entry, call-centre type things, etc. but don't know where to start. Anything I look for on the internet is a "get rich quick scheme" it seems. Any suggestions as to where to start, and how to search for this on workopolis.ca for instance?

Thanks,
Charlotte C., Toronto, Ontario

Dear Charlotte,

First of all, sorry to hear about your back. You're smart to be looking for work that will not be physically demanding. The thing is I think you may be confusing work you can do from home as an employee (known as telecommuting) with starting a business from your home. I'll explain.

The "get rich quick schemes" you refer to above are almost always based on you running some sort of business from your home. They invariably claim that anyone - no matter what their background, education or work history might be – can become wealthy by offering some sort of product or service *without having to put much effort in*. Most involve multi-level marketing, mail-order schemes, envelope stuffing scams, completing surveys all day, etc. You generally pay some money up front for instructions and/or samples of what you'll be selling. Then the money truly does roll in: not for you though, but to the folks you've shelled out your precious dollars to hoping to defy the laws of commerce.

I think instead what you're looking for is a legitimate job where the employer sets you up to be home-based. I have a colleague, for instance, who works out of her house providing customer service by phone for a large telecommunications firm. The customers have no idea that they're actually calling someone's house. And my colleague gets to avoid the hassles of commuting. Sweet deal all around as she gets full benefits, use of a sophisticated computer and high speed

internet paid for by the company, and is considered just as much a part of the team as the employees that put in face time at the office.

How do you go about finding this type of position? Here's one way to start. On the left-hand side of the Workopolis homepage you can find a green button that says "Find A Job." Just underneath it is the link for "Keyword Search." Click it and on the page that shows up you can type in the following terms just as they appear below where it says "Enter Keywords."

telecommute Or telecommuting Or "home based" or "home office

Then in the row beneath it click on the little box just to the left of where it says "Use Extended Search." Now press the "Search" button and more than 260 jobs appear. Use the SmartSearch feature just above the job listings to narrow down the results according to where you live or by type of industry.

Beyond online job banks, you can visit sites that focus on telecommuting. Check out an [excellent article on finding telework jobs](#) from InnoVisions Canada, specialists in the field of working from home.

<note to editor: please use following url. <http://www.ivc.ca/jobs/findingemployment.html>>

Since a growing number of companies offer home offices as a way of attracting employees who might otherwise not be interested because of commuting, your odds of finding something suitable are increasing. Best of luck in your search!



Mark Swartz, MBA, M.Ed., is a [speaker](#), [career coach](#) and [author](#). He can be reached via his website, www.careeractivist.com. The above article may contain material not included in the edited version.

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