

# Hire a Worker program helps drive small businesses forward



In 2011, **Dan Bilbija** founded Gold Star Professional Driving School to share his knowledge and experience as a long-haul truck driver with others. He was passionate about putting drivers on the road who were both competent and safe. As his business grew, so did his team of instructors.

But over time, competition in the driving school industry meant good instructors were harder to come by — especially ones that met the high-quality standard Dan wanted his company to represent. Finding experienced people motivated to work seemed like a daunting task. That's when a friend who worked at WorkSafeBC pointed Dan in the direction of the Hire a Worker program.

WorkSafeBC's Hire a Worker program is a free service designed to support B.C. employers in hiring the right workers for their business. Our Vocational Rehabilitation Services team works with employers to understand their unique recruitment needs and match them with skilled workers who are ready to return to work after an injury.

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**Dan Bilbija**  
Owner, Gold Star Professional  
Driving School

## Motivated workers with the right skills

Dan has hired three instructors through the program and is in the process of hiring a fourth. Each experience so far has been great, he says.

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Not every worker has equal experience with long-haul driving in urban settings, but Dan can train workers on these technical skills. What he can't train, though, is reliability, good work ethic, and having a great attitude — traits that all the workers he's hired through WorkSafeBC have come with. Plus, they all understand the importance of safety, a value that is core to Dan's business.

## Responsive program support

Another aspect of the Hire a Worker program Dan appreciates is the WorkSafeBC job developers he works with. Along with access to skilled workers, the job developers' responsiveness and support are some of the biggest reasons he thinks so highly of the program.

“I value responsiveness. If I send Nick a text or email, Nick always answers within 15 minutes or by the end of the day. That's very important to me,” says Dan of job developer and employment specialist **Nick Mills**. “If you see the communication between Nick and I, you'll see how good our relationship is.”

The job developers are also there every step of the way throughout the hiring and training process. Nick spoke often with Dan to make sure he understood what specific needs his company had. He made it a point to meet prospective workers in person with Dan so the three of them could establish a relationship, discuss any potential limitations, and come up with solutions together.

“Dan is a treat to work with. He's very passionate about what he does and that's why he's a great employer,” says Nick.

“I want to make his experience with our organization as positive as possible,” says Nick. “We've built a great relationship and he knows he's got someone here for support and to walk him through the process, which means a lot to Dan.”

For more information about WorkSafeBC's Hire a Worker program, visit [worksafebc.com/hireaworker](https://worksafebc.com/hireaworker).



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**Nick Mills**  
Job developer and employment  
specialist at WorkSafeBC