

On the Jobs

Slash your way to the top.

BY CRYSTAL LUXMORE

It pays to be flexible. Close to one-third of Canadians have unconventional work arrangements, such as job sharing, telecommuting and combining two or more jobs into one career. Cultivating a slash career is a way to diversify and protect yourself against possible layoffs. Three slashers share their stories...

The Flight Attendant/Comedian

When Melanie Hunter isn't indicating emergency exits aboard an Air Canada jet, she's making people laugh as part of the Toronto sketch comedy troupe Boiled Wieners. While making ends meet is notoriously tough for performers, her creative career set-up lets her focus on her craft: "I have enough income that I don't have to live with seven people and schlep my stuff to the laundromat," she says.

The Accountant/Children's Musician

Sam Newton cut his long hair to land his first chartered-accountant job. But the former rocker never shelved his love of music. When the father of two isn't balancing the books as a consultant for BDO Dunwoody or lecturing at the CA School of Business in Vancouver, he's playing rock at quality kids' music festivals as leader of Sam's Rot'n Pot'n Pan Band. "There's a connection between music and numbers," he says, adding, "Our band even does a singalong to a song called 'Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.'"

The Doctor/Novelist

A doctor at the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital and an assistant professor at McGill University, Liam Durcan admits, "It's sometimes hard to have dual citizenship with medicine because patients can feel when you're not giving them your full attention." But he's managed to pen a book of short stories and his 2007 novel, *Garcia's Heart*, by writing on his 45-minute daily commute and after tucking in his three children.

Slash like a Pro

- Watch industry trends and carve out or deepen slashes in high-demand areas.
- Manage clashing pursuits independently with separate business cards and websites.
- Cultivate the skills you need before you start slashing.
- Go after your passion while maintaining some financial security by slashing.

Career Planning

Doing what you love doesn't have to mean giving up the security of a pension or benefits plan. Your Investors Group Consultant can help you develop a customized plan to help protect your future financial security.

