



Freelance Bookkeeping – It's not just about the bookkeeping

Bookkeeping is in itself a very noble and rewarding career choice. Whether you choose to be an employee, part-time contractor or to manage your own freelance bookkeeping firm, you will find that bookkeeping is a key piece of the puzzle for all businesses. Every business needs a bookkeeper and that fact alone makes a good bookkeeper quite valuable, especially if you are a freelancer (contractor) who comes to the table with multiple bookkeeping or business specialties.

Only experience and a history of solid hands-on training can make you a truly valuable commodity in this field. Community colleges and online certification programs are great to get you started, but they only supply you with the fundamentals of bookkeeping. Of course, taking additional courses to strengthen your knowledge and skill level is an advantage and most certainly recommended, but there is nothing that catapults you to super star status than hands-on experience.

It is most unfortunate that we see bookkeepers offering their services with next to no training or freelance experience. One of the biggest problems that we see in Canada right now is bookkeepers who have been an employee with a single company for 10 or more years and then think that would make them good freelance bookkeepers. It most certainly does not!

In the freelance world, you are not an employee. You are a business person and owner in your own right, working as a professional who is hired on as an expert offering solutions that will benefit your client and the professionals they work with. You are the key player that many others depend on.

Because of this, your liability and skill set differs from an employee. Your expertise in bookkeeping, your procedures and business structure will change almost every time you meet a new and potential client. Every client is different and you must conform to their needs, not them to yours.

As a freelance bookkeeper your career is ever changing. It can be fun, challenging, exciting and at the same time frustrating and hard work. Regardless, there is nothing more rewarding than starting with a huge mess and ending up with a beautiful piece of work.

Over the years we have been asked to clean up multi-year messes, audit company bookkeepers, design bookkeeping systems from scratch, customize accounting programs, prepare payroll in multiple countries, teach and consult either hands-on or via remote access. We have been asked to manage government audits, implement product controls systems, help with the sale of businesses or bankruptcies, and the list goes on and on. We are required to know multiple programs, international regulations, multiple currency exchange, and Government trust account requirements.

As you can see, freelancing is more than just the posting of data and reconciling of bank statements. If you think what we have presented is exciting as well as challenging, and you think you have what it takes to learn and grow with us, we most certainly want to hear from you!