

# Life/Work Road Is Not Always a Straight Line

**O**ur lives don't happen exactly the way we plan them, but the good news is that our skills travel with us. If we were to chart a road map of our career journey, we would not always find the pathway to be a straight line between the starting point and the end career goal. We learn as we go, sometimes through formal school or training, and sometimes on our own by reading books and manuals, by talking to others, or just by doing. This is an example of one young person's career journey in progress.

## High Five Plus One:

- Change Is Constant
- Learning Is Ongoing
- Focus on the Journey
- Follow Your Heart
- Access Your Allies
- Know Yourself

1. Started school in 1980. Liked to draw and play sports.
2. During the Early Years and Middle Years played soccer, hockey, and baseball, and continued to draw in my free time.
3. In high school enjoyed hockey, biking, skiing, and drawing in my spare time. Favourite courses in high school were biology, art, and physical education. Favourite chore at home was cooking dinner.
4. Graduated from high school and completed an art diploma at a local college.
5. Found a part-time position in the publishing industry involving some art work. Found another part-time position as a cashier. **(Access Your Allies)** Enjoyed biking, skiing, drawing, and cooking as hobbies.
6. Decided neither position was what I wanted to do. **(Know Yourself)**
7. Watched newspaper articles for opportunities to move to the mountains.
8. Applied for and accepted a position as a cook's helper at a ski resort. Moved to a resort ski town to ski and mountain bike.

9. Learned a lot about cooking from the chef. **(Learning Is Ongoing)**
10. Left resort position because cook and other co-workers moved away. Moved back to city and found a position as a cook's helper in a fast food restaurant.
11. After one year was laid off. Restaurant closed. **(Change Is Constant)**
12. Applied for and was accepted into a two-year college program in commercial foods. **(Follow Your Heart)**
13. Graduated from program and accepted a position in the kitchen of a large hotel. **(Focus on the Journey)**
14. After five years working at the hotel, paid off my student loan.
15. Have met many other people in the food industry, and with their help plan to open my own restaurant in the near future. **(Access Your Allies)**

It is quite possible for people to travel very different routes but end up at the same destination.

