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## Demand for health care professionals

Going by the numbers, the future of health care jobs looks pretty good.

In a review of the 2016 labour market, Statistics Canada found the largest growth across the country was in health care and social assistance. This is an industry where employment has trended up over the past decade.

Alberta, which saw big employment declines last year, experienced increases in the health care sector. Demand for health care professionals is only expected to increase as baby boomers enter retirement. The Canadian Nurses Association has predicted a nursing shortage could reach 60,000 nurses by 2020.

Avra Davidoff, registered psychologist with Canada Career Counseling in Calgary, said the local health-related job market is still moderately strong.

"However there are a lot of people in the market, there certainly is competition," she said, adding it's one of the top sectors of employment in the city.

"The more in-demand jobs would be nursing, and a lot of positions related to seniors care and support. And there are positions for physio and occupational therapy."

There are also many technol-

ogy-based positions, she said, like ultrasound and nuclear medicine.

Davidoff said she's seen a trend lately: nurses leaving their jobs to do something else.

"We do see a lot of nurses in career transition and one of the most coveted positions would be in research and community education in nursing. Those are certainly difficult positions to attain."

But many nurses are having trouble leaving their jobs because it is a high-demand career and well paid.

"And there's judgment from others: why would you leave? It's a good job," Davidoff said. "It's the societal pressure that it's a successful career so why would you want to change." **JEN TAPLIN**



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