

JOB PERK: CALGARY'S CORPORATE CONCIERGE

By **Tannis Baradziej**

Concierge services are no longer a luxury to be enjoyed exclusively by hotel guests in Calgary.

With her new business, Time is Money, Cynthia Pickering is bringing her brand of concierge services to Calgary's corporate crowd.

"I did research and found that, on average, people spend three to four hours per week at work doing personal tasks," Pickering says, adding that the company, which opened last May, specializes in helping people who find it hard to juggle everything from their personal to professional lives.

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— *Cynthia Pickering, owner, Time is Money*

Pickering says that the concept of concierge service is also beneficial to employers, as it ultimately saves them money in terms of productivity — and in Calgary's hot job market, offering such a job perk certainly can't hurt.

It's a world away from Pickering's previous career as a senior analyst with a degree in finance, but she couldn't be happier.

"If money was all that mattered I'd still be making six figures in oil and gas," Pickering says. "Instead I haven't had a paycheque in six months, but it doesn't matter because I'm happy and I love what I do."

And it keeps her busy. Her BlackBerry buzzing away at her side is a good indication that there is always someone who needs her help. Whether it's a task as simple as picking up groceries for a client, or something seemingly impossible, Pickering seems to find a way to deliver.

"Once, somebody asked me if I knew how to have a helicopter pick them up," she said, and adds with a laugh, "I did, because an associate of mine is actually a helicopter pilot."

Concierge rates start at \$65 per hour. For more information, visit www.timeismoney.ca, or call 612-2993.



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