



Photo Credits: Larry Doell



OUR ECONOMIC DRIVERS

Manufacturing

The region is a hotbed of metallurgical activity including: production of zinc, lead, gold, silver and a vast array of other metal and chemical products; recycling cathode ray tube glass from consumer goods such as computers and older televisions; recycling the zinc, lead and lithium found in dead batteries, manufacturing germanium-based optical lens; and, growing high-quality indium antimonide-based crystals.

Healthcare

The Lower Columbia is home to the Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital (KBRH) that serves over 80,000 people. In addition to over 1000 medical professionals and support staff it directly employs, the spin-offs include all the construction work required for upgrades. Canada's ageing population ensures the regions accessible health care will be an economic driver for years to come. KBRH is a recognized medical teaching centre with a well-established Clinical Clerkship Program as well as the newest site for UBC's Rural Residency Program.

Tourism

Includes world class hiking, mountain biking, golfing, fishing, and skiing. RED Mountain Ski Resort has invested \$54M in the past 10 years to develop a globally competitive, full amenity resort. RED is the ultimate ski destination on BC's famous Powder Highway. In 2013, New York Times rated RED #8 Best Place in the World to Visit; in 2012, Power Magazine rated RED #4 in Top 32 Places to Ski, saying you should move here!



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INVESTING IN THE LOWER COLUMBIA

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A VIBRANT, DIVERSE, AND GROWING ECONOMY

The Lower Columbia region continues to increase its capacity for new businesses and industries, while fostering strong customer relationships to position our region for long-term economic stability. With an abundant outdoor lifestyle, quality health care, a robust metallurgical industry, and a resilient economy built upon a hard-working and diverse workforce, our communities are well suited for economic development.



BUSINESS IMMIGRATION RESOURCES

▲ The Provincial Nominee Program accelerates the permanent residence application process for those who can establish themselves and develop a business that provides economic benefits to the province, visit www.WelcomeBC.ca/PNP.

▲ Welcomemap.ca is a vital resource for newcomers. Find the information you and your family need to settle in, including details about local health care, family services, recreational activities and professional development.



BC's Lower Columbia, where metals, recycling, technology, tourism and lifestyle meet.

Just north of the Canadian border, you can choose to live in a historic resort town, a city that is just the right size, or an idyllic rural setting. Our friendly communities include Trail, Rossland, Fruitvale, Montrose, Warfield and the surrounding electoral areas. With multiple competitive advantages and an abundance of opportunities, you'll find excellent business prospects in a number of sectors in the region. Our active, affordable, safe, and volunteer-oriented communities boast four season recreation and wilderness opportunities that support an enviable quality of life, making it an ideal place to call home. Throughout the year, temperature and weather conditions are pleasant with an average temperature in winter of -10°C (14°F), and summer temperatures in July and August can climb up to 35°C (95°F).

MARKETS WITHIN A DAY'S DRIVE

Banff, AB	507 km
Calgary, AB	616 km
Vancouver, BC	627 km
Seattle, WA	651 km
Spokane, WA	203 km

Thinking of starting, relocation or expanding a business in BC's Lower Columbia?

The Lower Columbia Initiatives Corporation (LCIC) facilitates economic development and can help you make informed decisions about the following services:

- Site visitation and selection
- Referral assistance
- Business climate statistics and analysis
- Workforce development programs
- Export development
- Business Planning and Start up guidance
- Business Sector and Educational Workshops

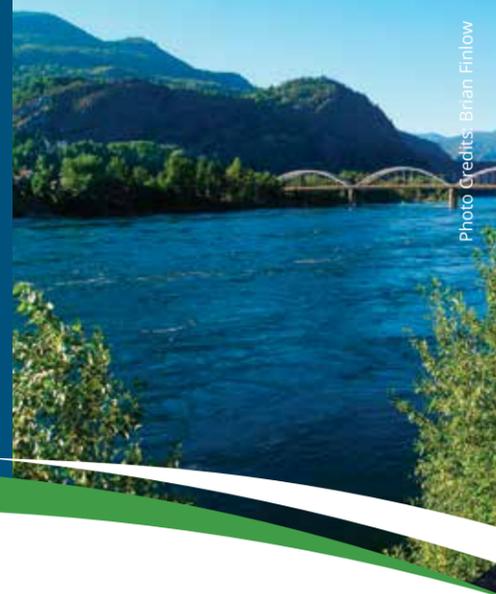


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KEY FACTS

POPULATION	Since 2009 the population in the Lower Columbia Region has increased by 3.3% and in 2011 had a total of 19,223 residents.
INCOME	The average household income in the Lower Columbia Region in 2010 was \$78,583.
LABOUR FORCE BY INDUSTRY	The most common occupations are Transportation/Equipment/Trades, Sales and Service, Business Admin, Manufacturing, Retail Trade, Health Care and Mining.
EDUCATION	85% of the Lower Columbia Region population have a high school or better education.
UTILITIES	With the mighty Columbia River passing through the heart of the LCR, electricity, gas and water are abundant and available at a very reasonable cost. FortisBC provides natural gas and electricity to businesses in BC's Lower Columbia.

BENEFITS OF DOING BUSINESS IN OUR REGION

- Low municipal tax rates, downtown development tax exemption bylaw and land tax incentives.
- Commercial and residential real estate prices significantly below BC average.
- Close proximity to trading areas and US border, robust transportation infrastructure including access to highways, rail and airports.
- High performing public, independent and post secondary institutions.
- Secure employment and tourism sectors.
- Diverse and highly skilled workforce.
- Strong entrepreneurial culture and support services for all business stages.



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Business Licences

The Lower Columbia Region currently has 983 active business licences.

Building Permits

At the end of 2014, the Lower Columbia Region had approved 306 building permits with a value of over \$20M.

Transportation

BC's Lower Columbia has a healthy transportation infrastructure.

- Three rail trans-load facilities and various trucking companies service the area, allowing for smooth and cost-effective shipping across North America; CP Rail Freight Service runs to Calgary and Vancouver, and Burlington Northern runs to all US destinations.
- There are three international and two regional airports within driving distance with multiple daily flights between larger urban centres like Vancouver and Calgary.
- Highways 3, 3B, 6, 22 and 22A run through BC's Lower Columbia.

Education

With 6 public schools, 2 private schools, and a newly renovated high school, education is a priority in our region. We also pride ourselves on having excellent post secondary education. Selkirk College serves 11,000 students in 5 campuses and 3 learning centres with 60+ programs including resources for foreign visitors:

- 6 month Workforce Development Program, bridging foreign professionals and Canadian work standards.
- English as 2nd language.
- International Program with over 150 students from all over the world; India, China, Japan and Korea.

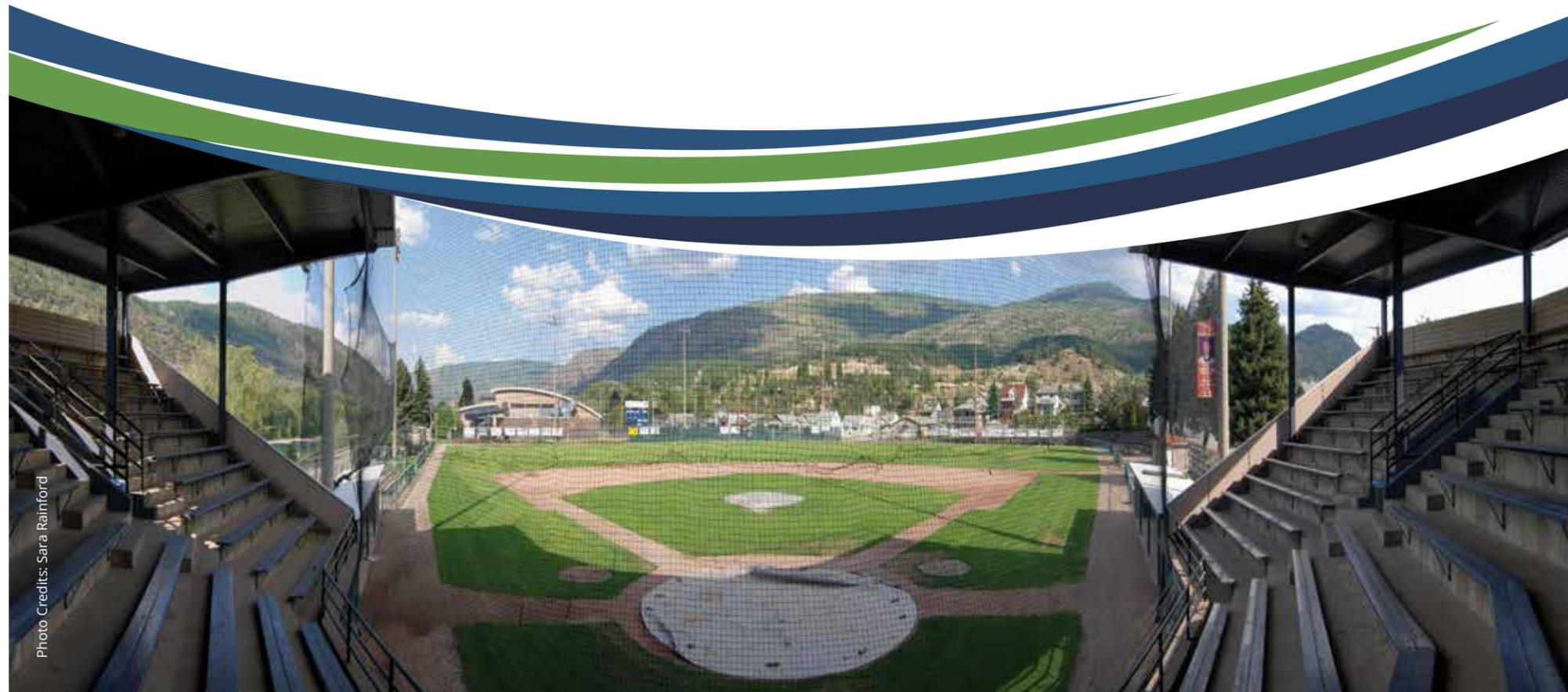


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ENTREPRENEURIAL CULTURE

KAST.com

Entrepreneurship is thriving in the West Kootenay, and whatever your business dream, KAST is here to help. KAST is a non-profit organization dedicated to growing science, technology and innovation entrepreneurship in the region. Work with a free coach, meet expert mentors, search for resources and let them help guide your business to the summit of success. www.kast.com



InvestKootenay.com

Invest Kootenay showcases the business and development opportunities that exist in our growing and vibrant region, aiming to attract and retain investment by posting all opportunities at www.investkootenay.com. Come and discover the advantages of doing business in the Kootenay Region, where opportunity meets lifestyle.



WorkWestKootenay.ca

WorkWestKootenay will help you discover employment prospects and learn about the incredible opportunities the Lower Columbia region has to offer for building a life you and your family will love. Work hard, live easy, and find your balance at www.workwestkootenay.ca.

