

INVESTING IN THE LOWER COLUMBIA

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Lower Columbia
Initiatives
Economic
Development

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 individuals who can establish themselves and develop a business that will provide economic benefits to the province, visit www.WelcomeBC.ca/PNP.
- ▲ A variety of Business Immigration Programs for both self employment and start-up visas can be found on the Government of Canada website at www.cic.gc.ca.



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BC's Lower Columbia, where metals, recycling, technology, health 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

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 is a site for UBC's Rural Residency Program.

Tourism

Includes world class hiking, mountain biking, golfing, fishing, and skiing. Rossland was voted #1 Ski Town in North America (2012) and is home to RED Mountain Ski Resort, foot-for-vertical-foot one of the best powder experiences you can get and voted top 20 of all North American resorts in terms of terrain scale. The Get Lost Adventure Centre will help you find your way to our finest recreational opportunities! (redresort.com/getlost)

KEY FACTS

POPULATION

According to the 2016 census, the Lower Columbia Region hosts a population of 19,367 residents.

INCOME

The average household income in the Lower Columbia Region in 2015 was \$77,590.

LABOUR FORCE BY INDUSTRY

The most common occupations are Transportation/Equipment/Trades Op, Sales & Service and Business Admin, Manufacturing, Retail Trade, and Health Care & Mining.

RESIDENTIAL AFFORDABILITY

The average assessed home value is lower than the provincial average, attracting first time home buyers and urban retirees to our affordable region. The average cost of a home in the Lower Columbia Region is \$229,140.

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 & 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.



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ENTREPRENEURIAL CULTURE

metaltechalley.com

Metal Tech Alley is a cluster of industry and technology companies that are forging a global pathway through the Fourth Industrial Revolution, supporting commercialization of innovations resulting in the region's ability to compete in new and innovative markets.

We are global experts in:

- Metallurgical Sciences and Advanced Digital Fabrication
- Industrial Recycling, Batteries and E-waste
- BIG Data and Industrial Internet of Things (IoT)

The combination of phenomenal mountain lifestyle, location, access to markets, and affordability have created the perfect storm of opportunity for a clustering of innovators, disruptors and adventure-seeking entrepreneurs who understand how to conduct big business from anywhere in the world. We are leveraging brain power, as well as nature's power, to change the world from HERE - from THIS place, at this moment in time where technology has become the great equalizer, so that thought leaders can innovate and disrupt from anywhere. We're doing it HERE, in Metal Tech Alley.

Visit www.metaltechalley.com for more information.



ADRIAN WAGNER STUDIO

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 Economic analysis
- Workforce development programs
- Export development
- Business Planning and Start up guidance
- Business Sector and Educational Workshops

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Business Licenses

The Lower Columbia Region currently has 993 active business licenses.

Building Permits

At the end of 2017, the Lower Columbia Region had approved 450 building permits with a value of \$35.6M.

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 on Canadian work standards.
- ▲ English as 2nd language.
- ▲ International Program with over 150 students from all over the world; India, China, Japan and Korea.