

PRINCE GEORGE, BRITISH COLUMBIA



Source: Picture BC



Location: Central B.C., Cariboo region

Key industries: Wholesale/retail, health care, manufacturing, construction

High demand occupations: Skilled trades, drivers, health care, teachers

Education: Pre-school through to college and university

Population: 71,974 (2011 Census)



We love Prince George and the opportunity we have here. For a newcomer it is the place you want to be an immigrant. It helps you to integrate yourself in Canada. If you are going to the big city, what is your contribution? Here you can live and build your family and enhance the community. No lines, no traffic jams. It is a great city.

Sorin P., originally from Romania

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Prince George is a city where people “get ahead.” It serves as the supply and service hub for industry activities across the North, creating opportunities for local businesses and jobs in many service sectors.

DOING BUSINESS IN PRINCE GEORGE

Prince George companies will provide support for the billions of dollars worth of major projects underway in Northern B.C. over the years ahead. Businesses in all sectors are looking for skilled employees and there are also numerous opportunities for entrepreneurs to take over from retiring owners. To learn more, check out these organizations.

- [Initiatives Prince George](#)
- [Prince George Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Invest in North Central B.C.](#)
- [Trade and Invest B.C.](#)

HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

Much of the job growth in the Cariboo region is expected to come from the service sector. Occupations with the highest number of expected job openings include:

- **Transportation** - motor vehicle and transit drivers, machinery and transportation equipment mechanics
- **Administrative** - paralegals, clerical workers, cleaners
- **Health** - physicians, nurses, dentists
- **Public sector** - teachers, social workers, childcare and home-support workers
- **Food and beverage** - kitchen helpers, food counter attendants

The [Occupational Guides for Immigrants to B.C.](#) provide information on these occupations.





Source: BC Stats

MAJOR REGIONAL EMPLOYERS

There are jobs available in many sectors in Prince George. Your entire family can have a career here. Some of the largest employers include:

Health and social services

- Northern Health Authority

Education

- School District #57
- University of Northern B.C.
- College of New Caledonia

Retail

- Save-On-Foods
- Wal-Mart

Manufacturing

- Canfor Wood Products
- Dunkley Lumber

Transportation

- CN Rail
- Lomak Bulk Carriers

JOB SEARCH

Looking for work? In 2011, the full-time, average weekly wage rate in Prince George was \$1,015.18. These organizations can help connect you with opportunities.

- Prince George Live-Work-Play portal
- Prince George Employment Services
- Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society of Prince George
- WorkBC

JOB RELATED TRAINING

In Prince George, you'll find good work-related training available.

- The College of New Caledonia offers trades training and other related courses. Private trainers like Sprott Shaw Community College can also assist you.
- The University of Northern British Columbia has many employment-related and career degrees and courses.
- Many employers provide on-the-job training.

English as a Second Language

The College of New Caledonia, School District #57 and the University of Northern British Columbia offer ESL courses in a range of levels.

In 2011, more than 10 per cent of the population of Prince George had a first language other than English.





LIVING IN PRINCE GEORGE

Opportunity and affordability allow you to make your dreams come true in Prince George. This is a city where newcomers plan to stay two years and end up staying 20. Why? It's simple... the incredible quality of life!

IMMIGRANT RELATED SERVICES

Prince George is a welcoming and inclusive community. The agencies below can help you as you start your new life in the city.

- [Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society of Prince George](#)
- [Skills Connect for Immigrants Program](#)
- [College of New Caledonia](#)
- [Multicultural Heritage Society of Prince George](#) has links to cultural associations for people from many countries.

Many people in Prince George have come from somewhere else, so everybody has a great understanding of each other.

Terry M., originally from Ireland

HOUSING

Prince George offers a high standard of living for you and your family. The cost of owning a home is less than a third of the price in Vancouver. In 2012, the average home cost was \$240,424. Prefer to rent? A three bedroom rental was available for \$900 per month in 2012.

Use the B.C. Government's [Cost of Living Calculator](#) to find out more about costs in Prince George.

CHILDCARE AND EDUCATION

Prince George has many options for early childhood care including child care centers and home providers. You can search for providers through the B.C. Government's [Childcare Information](#) site. [StrongStart Centres](#) offer free, drop-in early learning programs for young children and their parents.

Prince George has excellent [schools](#). They include 40 elementary and eight secondary schools, as well as eight private schools. The [Settlement Workers in Schools \(SWIS\)](#) is a free program to assist the children of newcomers in the public school system. SWIS provides services in Chinese, English, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu.

The [Prince George Public Library](#) has two locations, with free Internet access and other educational resources.

HEALTH CARE

Prince George is a leader in northern and rural health care excellence. You will have access to high quality medical care at the University Hospital of Northern B.C. The city's healthcare services include the B.C. Cancer Agency Centre for the North, family doctors, dentists, walk-in clinics and the full range of health care professionals. A [guide to multicultural health services](#) for residents of Prince George is available.



FAITH AND WORSHIP/CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

Canada is committed to freedom of religion or faith. Prince George includes Catholic and Protestant churches, Sikh Temples and an Islamic Center. The city is home to numerous cultural associations for immigrants from around the world.

MEDIA

Local newspapers can help you get the news, share opinions and keep you informed.

- [Prince George Citizen](#)
- [Prince George Free Press](#)



LEISURE ACTIVITIES

You can't buy time, but in Prince George you'll have more of it. Enjoy the city's many community centres and sports complexes and fields. Play soccer, baseball or just have fun with the kids.

The community boasts a professional symphony and theatre. Prince George also has many festivals celebrating music, dance and the changing of the seasons.

ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS

Prince George is a hub of recreation and wilderness adventure. You can enjoy year-round outdoor activities and still be minutes to first-rate city amenities. In summer, activities include golfing, hiking, swimming, fishing and mountain biking. In winter, try out skiing, hockey, ice skating, sledding and other sports.

TRANSPORTATION

Prince George has good air, bus and passenger rail connections. Vancouver is an hour away by air, with daily flights available. The city is served by a public transit system.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

When you take a job or start a business in Prince George you are choosing a bright future for your whole family. Learn more about the opportunities available.

- [Prince George website](#)
- [LoonLounge](#): Canada's immigration and settlement online community
- [Tourism Prince George](#)