

QUESNEL, BRITISH COLUMBIA



Source: Picture BC

Location: Central B.C. along Highway 97
Key industries: Forestry, mining, agriculture
High demand occupations: Health care, truck drivers, retail
Education: Pre-school through to post-secondary
Population: 10,007 (2011 Census)

Quesnel has everything necessary to attract me. It can develop my spirituality, intellect and social life. I can maintain my healthy body. Quesnel has a lot of big economic resources too, including mining, forestry, agriculture and more. Many industries are doing a lot of work, there is room to develop and they need to attract more workers. Also, the price of the land is very cheap!

Martin R., originally from Madagascar



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Quesnel is the business capital of the northern Cariboo region of B.C. It has a strong wood products manufacturing sector, mining is growing and so is the community. The town is full of friendly people with a welcoming attitude and community services that rival those of the larger cities in the province. Come and build a great future!

DOING BUSINESS IN QUESNEL

Quesnel supports business and investment projects. Small business loans, counselling, training and much more are readily available to help you set up your business and get started on the right track.

- Invest in Cariboo-Chilcotin Coast
- Quesnel and District Chamber of Commerce
- Community Futures North Cariboo
- Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation



HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

As Quesnel grows, workers are needed in nearly every industry. Occupations in high demand in the Cariboo region to 2020 and beyond include:

- **Trades and 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.



MAJOR REGIONAL EMPLOYERS

Many different employers in Quesnel are searching for workers. Opportunities are available in forestry and retail in particular. In 2011, the full-time, average weekly wage rate was \$1,015.18. Some of the biggest employers are listed below.

Forest sector

- West Fraser
- Canadian Forest Products
- Tolko Industries
- Cariboo Pulp & Paper

Education

- School District No. 28

Health

- Northern Health

Retail

- Walmart
- Extra Foods
- Save-On-Foods
- Safeway

JOB SEARCH

You can quickly and easily find a job in Quesnel that is right for you. Use resources online or in-person to locate a job or career you are interested in.

- [Quesnel Employment Services](#)
- [Service Canada](#)
- [Job Bank](#)

Over 10 per cent of the population of Quesnel has a first language other than English.

JOB RELATED TRAINING

In Quesnel you'll have ready access to training that can help you prepare for the career you want. Contact one of the organizations below to get started.

- [University of Northern British Columbia](#)
- [College of New Caledonia](#)
- [School District 28 Continuing and Adult Education](#)

Many employers also offer on-the-job training.

English as a Second Language

[New Focus Society](#) has ESL resources and a friendly staff to provide you with tutoring and English education at various levels.





Source: Picture BC

LIVING IN QUESNEL

Located in a peaceful valley in central B.C., Quesnel is surrounded by rugged mountains and beautiful forests. The community has top-notch services, including health care, education and childcare. A showcase of community pride and civic spirit, Quesnel is rated as one of the most affordable communities in B.C. You and your family should feel welcome here.

IMMIGRANT RELATED SERVICES

Upon arrival in Quesnel, you can contact these organizations to help you settle, find a job and become part of the community.

- [New Focus Society](#)
- [Quesnel Employment Services](#)

Quesnel has pleasantly mild summers and moderately cold winters.

HOUSING

Living in Quesnel means you can have your dream home for an affordable price. In 2013, the average listed price of a three bedroom house was \$222,700. In Vancouver, the same house would be listed at over \$1 million. If you aren't ready to purchase, an average three-bedroom rental was \$765 per month in 2013; about one-third the cost of Vancouver.

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

CHILDCARE AND EDUCATION

Quesnel has available a variety of childcare options. 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.

Public education is excellent in British Columbia, and Quesnel is no exception. [Quesnel School District](#) has 13 elementary schools, one junior high school and one high school. There is also an alternative school.

The [Cariboo Regional District Library](#) serves Quesnel, with free high-speed internet, word-processing software and many learning resources available.

TRANSPORTATION

Quesnel's [public transit](#) is available to help you get around town. The [Quesnel Airport](#) and passenger train service have daily connections to and from Vancouver and the surrounding cities. The City is also accessible by road via Highway 97.

HEALTH CARE

Quesnel residents have access to high-quality health care and services. The GR Baker Memorial Hospital is the primary provider in the community. Other health services include dentists, a walk-in clinic, family doctors, optometrists and chiropractors.



FAITH AND WORSHIP

Quesnel welcomes and encourages diversity. It is home to 10 different Christian churches, including Catholic, Baptist and Pentecostal, and also hosts a Sikh Temple.

MEDIA

Get timely updates on local current events with the community newspaper, the [Quesnel Observer](#).



ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS

Quesnel's real gem is its outdoors. Summer activities include golfing, river rafting, biking, world class fly-fishing and canoeing. You and your family can also enjoy the outstanding trail system, with more than 10 kilometres of paved walking and cycling trails. Many of them pass alongside rivers, creeks and beautiful gardens.

In the winter, the majestic mountains provide a unique setting for skiing, snowshoeing, skating and other outdoor sports.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Keeping fit and active is easy in Quesnel. The [Arts and Recreation Center](#) has a gym and pool, as well as fitness and art classes. Nearby, there is a curling club and indoor sports centre and outside you will find baseball diamonds and soccer fields.

If you appreciate the arts, check out the art gallery, pottery studio, movie theatre or visit [Quesnel Live Arts](#) to learn about live shows coming to the town. Enjoy community service? Get involved in one of the many community organizations such as the Rotary or Elks Club.

Quesnel hosts numerous festivals including the Gold Pan City Car Show and Shine, Billy Barker Days, Skyfest and Canada Day. In winter, cheer on the teams in the annual Gold Rush Trail Dog Sled Mail Run.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Move to Quesnel for an opportunity at a better life. You will find yourself surrounded by great people in a beautiful and growing community.

- [Quesnel Website](#)
- [LoonLounge: Canada's Immigration and Settlement online community](#)
- [Quesnel and District Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Tourism Quesnel](#)
- [Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation](#)