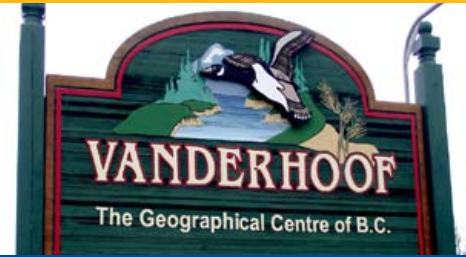


VANDERHOOF, BRITISH COLUMBIA



Source: Picture BC



Location: Central B.C., on the Yellowhead Highway west of Prince George

Key industries: Education, forestry, retail, agriculture, logging, mining

High demand occupations: Trades, construction related, mining technicians

Education: Elementary school through to community college

Population: 4,480 (2011 Census)



I first immigrated to Vancouver, but I spent two years looking and couldn't find a job in my field. So I applied for a position up here and got it. There are many incoming companies and a lot of jobs. The crime rate in Vanderhoof is low and the people are nice. There are quite a few Filipinos, too. I'm happy here.

Kismenio S., originally from the Philippines

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Vanderhoof is a small community with huge potential. The town will benefit from billions of dollars in mining and utility projects investments in Northwest B.C. over the next decade. Since it provides services to nearby rural communities, Vanderhoof supports nearly 10,000 people.

DOING BUSINESS IN VANDERHOOF

Vanderhoof provides opportunities to grow your business with favourable tax rates and growth incentives. You can also apply for and use funds set up for business development and innovation.

- Invest in North Central B.C.
- Community Futures
- Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce
- Trade and Invest B.C.

HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

As Northwest B.C. grows, so will the need for workers. Occupations in demand will include:

- **Construction** – Heavy duty equipment operators, heavy duty mechanics, labourers, iron workers, welders, steamfitters and pipefitters, electricians, crane operators, drillers and blasters, cooks, truck drivers
- **Wood sector** – Machine operators, labourers, sawfilers
- **Professions** – Biologists, mineral technologists and technicians, land survey technicians and technologists

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





Source: BC Stats

MAJOR REGIONAL EMPLOYERS

Large resource companies and the public sector make up the biggest employers in Vanderhoof. In 2011, full-time average weekly wages were \$976.79. Some examples of employers include:

Forestry

- Canfor-Plateau Mills Division
- L & M Lumber, Nechako Lumber, Premium Pellet
- Vanderhoof Specialty Wood Products
- Gulbranson Logging

Public Sector

- School District #91
- St John Hospital
- Ministry of Forests
- Nechako Valley Community Services Society, Riverside Place

Construction

- BID Construction

Retail

- Vanderhoof Co-op

JOB RELATED TRAINING

In Vanderhoof you can get the training you need for many different careers.

At the [College of New Caledonia](#), a wide selection of academic, trades, and workforce training options are available. You can even train to be a commercial pilot!

Many employers provide on-the-job training.

One in eight people in Vanderhoof have a first language other than English.

JOB SEARCH

In Vanderhoof, you'll be able to get ahead in your career. If you need help finding a job you can try online, or get help locally.

- [Progressive Employment Agencies](#)
- [Vanderhoof Omineca Express](#)
- [BC Jobs](#)





Source: Picture BC

LIVING IN VANDERHOOF

B.C.'s first agricultural settlement, Vanderhoof's family-oriented community has a proud history. People are friendly and welcoming and you'll soon find yourself feeling at home. Vanderhoof is a great place to find a relaxed balance between work and family life.

IMMIGRANT RELATED SERVICES

The [College of New Caledonia](#) facilitates the Welcoming Communities Program in Vanderhoof. This program helps build communities that meet the needs of immigrants and their families. It sponsors panel discussions, multicultural events, meetings and workshops to encourage diversity and understanding between cultures.

HOUSING

Vanderhoof offers great value for money in housing. You and your family will have more to spend on life. In 2013 the average home was assessed at \$199,965, about 20 per cent of the cost for a house in Vancouver. Prefer to rent? A three bedroom house started at \$800 per month.

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

**Vanderhoof has warm summers
and cold snowy winters.**

CHILDCARE AND EDUCATION

Rest assured that quality child care is available in Vanderhoof. You can search for providers through the B.C. Government's [Childcare information](#) site to find the right fit for your family.

Schools in Vanderhoof are part of the excellent B.C. public education system. With five elementary schools, one high school, and a college campus in the community, your children will benefit from first rate teaching and educational resources.

The [Vanderhoof Public Library](#) provides a community for academic and creative enrichment for children and adults. It offers free Internet access.

TRANSPORTATION

Vanderhoof offers a school bus service to get your children to and from school safely. It also has an airport offering chartered flights and the Prince George airport is just over an hour away. Vanderhoof has good vehicle access through Highway 16 and is also served by passenger train.

HEALTH CARE

Getting proper health care is an important part of settling in British Columbia. The focus of Vanderhoof's medical facilities is the local St John Hospital. There are additional medical services available including a walk-in clinic, dentists and chiropractors.



FAITH AND WORSHIP

In Canada you are free to practice your faith. The Vanderhoof community includes Christian churches of several denominations.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

There's more to life than work, and Vanderhoof offers many ways to enjoy your time with family and friends. With facilities such as a library, museum, movie theatre, ice arena and community centre, you can stay busy indoors year round. Want to support the community and meet new people? Local organizations like [Volunteer Vanderhoof](#) will welcome your participation.



Vanderhoof is home to entertainment in all seasons. From film festivals to goose chases, these festivals are for culture and art as well as fun with family and friends. Summer events like the Stoney Creek Elders Fishing Derby are great fun, while winter activities like the Great Pumpkin Walk encourage spirit. In spring and summer, enjoy fresh produce and conversation with your fellow immigrants at the local Farmer's Market.

ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS

Vanderhoof's amenities include sports fields, exhibitions grounds, a golf course, and a bike park. Neighbouring lakes and streams and the surrounding wilderness provide wonderful opportunities for outdoor recreation. You and your family and friends can hike, camp, hunt, boat or just take a walk to admire the scenery.

When the snow flies, this same beautiful landscape is transformed into a winter wonderland with world-class cross country skiing, biathlon and other sports.

MEDIA

Newspapers are a great way to learn about your new community. Local news and events are available online and in print so you will always be informed of the latest.

- [Vanderhoof Omineca Express](#)
- [Vanderhoof Omineca Online](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Making the move to Vanderhoof is easier than you think. Before you know it you and your family can be enjoying all the benefits this growing and friendly town can offer.

- [Vanderhoof website](#)
- [Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Diversity/Welcoming Blog](#)