

SMITHERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA



Source: Picture BC

Location: Northwest B.C. along Highway 16

High demand occupations: Trades, construction and mining related

Key industries: Forestry, construction, tourism, agriculture

Education: Pre-school through to post-secondary

Population: 5,404 (2011 Census)

People are friendly here, respecting each other; for me it is a very simple life since I came from the big city. Smithers is a good place for the family. We are communicating with people almost every day and they are nice and inviting us to go here and there. We feel like they have been very welcoming to us since we came here.

Ramy S., originally from the Philippines



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Located in the resource-rich Bulkley Valley, Smithers' strong forestry, agriculture and tourism industries are the base of its economic prosperity. As a regional centre, the town offers many services and organizations normally found in larger cities. In Smithers, people come for the economic opportunities, stay for the serene beauty and settle here for the community and its people.

DOING BUSINESS IN SMITHERS

Smithers is an important commercial centre in Northwest British Columbia. Financial incentives are available to assist businesses, along with several organizations that will help you establish and grow your firm.

- [Smithers Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Invest in Northwest B.C.](#)
- [Bulkley Valley Economic Development Association](#)
- [Trade and Invest B.C.](#)
- [Community Futures Nadina](#)



HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

As Smithers grows, demand for workers and business will continue to increase as well. Occupations in demand in the region to 2020 and beyond 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.



MAJOR REGIONAL EMPLOYERS

Many industries in Smithers need workers, especially forestry, construction and mining. In 2011, average weekly wage rates were \$976.79. Some of the region's biggest employers are listed below.

Construction

- All West Glass
- LB Paving

Wood sector

- West Fraster Sawmill
- Northern Engineered Wood Products (NEWPRO)
- Smithers Lumber
- Tricon Truss and Millwork

Tourism

- Hudson Bay Mountain Adventures
- Hudson Bay Lodge

Mining

- Imperial Metals
- Hy-Tech Drilling
- UTM Exploration Services

JOB SEARCH

Looking for a career in Smithers? Resources are available online and offline to help you find work. Explore them to land the opportunity you are looking for.

- [WorkBC](#)
- [Job Bank](#)
- [B.C. North local classified ads](#)

Almost 10 per cent of the population of Smithers has a first language other than English.

JOB RELATED TRAINING

Set your sights on the work you deserve without any of the hassle that comes with life in the city. Regional education with [Northwest Community College](#) in Smithers offers all sorts of opportunities to grow your career. The College has a School of Exploration and Mining, and provides courses in health care, computers, business technology and university transfer programs, among others.

Many employers also offer on-the-job training.

English as a Second Language

The [Smithers Community Services Association](#) offers ESL courses at various levels.





LIVING IN SMITHERS

Nicknamed “Little Switzerland,” Smithers is surrounded by soaring mountain ranges and beautiful forests. With a good healthcare system, top-grade schools, a diverse community and nearly endless choices for leisure, Smithers and its friendly people will make you feel at home quickly.

IMMIGRANT RELATED SERVICES

The [Smithers Community Services Association](#) helps newcomers and new immigrants settle in the community. The Association will work with you and your family to find the services you need.

**Smithers has four distinct seasons:
warm summers, cool falls, snowy
winters and rainy springs.**

HOUSING

If you want to own a house, consider Smithers. With an average value of \$257,613 in 2013, a family home in Smithers will be about a quarter of the cost of the same house in Vancouver. Not ready to buy? Three-bedroom houses rented for \$1,500 per month in 2013, compared to over \$2,000 in Vancouver.

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

CHILDCARE AND EDUCATION

Smithers offers a range of childcare options including child care centres as well as home providers. Find what you need through the B.C. Government’s [Childcare Information](#) site. [StrongStart Centres](#) offer free, drop-in early learning programs for children up to five years old and their parents.

British Columbia has excellent public schools and Smithers is no exception. The town has three elementary schools, one high school, and a learning centre for academic assistance, which is connected to Northwest Community College.

The town has a [public library](#) with free high-speed Internet access and other educational resources. The friendly staff can also order in books from other libraries across the province.

TRANSPORTATION

Smithers has a [public transit system](#) that offers in-town service. The [regional airport](#) and [passenger rail](#) network provide good connections to the rest of B.C., with daily trips to Vancouver and other communities.

HEALTH CARE

Getting proper health care is an important part of settling in British Columbia. In Smithers, the Bulkley Valley Regional Hospital fills this role as the major medical centre in the region. Other health care available locally includes family doctors, optometrists, dentists, chiropractors and naturopaths.



FAITH AND WORSHIP

People in Smithers come from many different cultures and follow many different paths. As a home to over 15 Christian churches and a Sikh temple, diversity is encouraged and accepted.

MEDIA

Local newspapers are a way to get news, share opinions and discover what the town and region have to offer.

- Interior-News
- Smithers Daily
- Smithers/Telkwa On-line
- Topix (Smithers)
- HQ Bulkley Valley



ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS

Northwest B.C. is filled with natural beauty. In summer you can revel in the solitude of a rocky peak, experience the thrill of viewing black bears by the roadside and camp under starry skies. Experience the wilderness from horseback, by foot or in a canoe. Organized activities include hunting, fishing and golf.

When the snow falls, the ruggedly beautiful mountains that surround Smithers provide opportunities for skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and much more. Winter in Smithers can be cold, but it is always beautiful and fun.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

It's easy to keep active and fit in Smithers! The town has recreational and competitive sports leagues and programs, a bowling alley, art gallery and museum. Recreational clubs are popular, too, so pick your hobby and join a club to meet people with similar interests. You can help improve the community by joining a service club such as the Lions or Rotary Club or volunteering through [Volunteer Smithers](#).

Smithers hosts annual festivals and events that the entire family can enjoy. These include the Midsummer Music Festival, Bulkley Valley Exhibition, Spirit of the Mountains Winter Festival, Feast of Nations and many more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Make the move to Smithers to experience friendliness, beauty and a bright future awaiting in Northwest B.C. It's easier than you think.

- [Smithers Website](#)
- [LoonLounge: Canada's Immigration and Settlement online community](#)
- [Tourism Smithers](#)
- [Smithers Chamber of Commerce](#)