

# FORT NELSON, BRITISH COLUMBIA



Source: Picture BC



**Location:** Northeast B.C., near the border with Alberta

**Key industries:** Natural gas, tourism, agriculture, forestry

**Education:** Pre-school through to college

**High demand occupations:** Trades, registered nurses, natural gas occupations

**Population:** 3,902 (2011 Census)



*I came here without a job, but then I visited a lot of places and found one. The people at the literacy centre helped me a lot. I have a nice boss, kind co-workers and friends from different countries. Fort Nelson is a good city with clean air. You can enjoy life and nature – the summers are wonderful and in the winter it's cold, but you can see the Northern Lights.*

*Ingon L., originally from South Korea*

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Combining high wages (in 2011, the full-time, average weekly wage rate was \$1,090.61), low cost of living and a growing economy in need of workers, Fort Nelson is a great place to get ahead. The Northern Rockies Regional Municipality is the shale gas capital of Canada. Many major projects are forecast in natural gas and construction. Fort Nelson offers you good business and employment opportunities for many years to come.

### DOING BUSINESS IN FORT NELSON

Welcoming investment and new business from around the world, Fort Nelson is an up-and-coming community. Check out these organizations for information on services and financial assistance available.

- [Invest in Northeast B.C.](#)
- [Trade and Invest British Columbia](#)
- [Fort Nelson Chamber of Commerce](#)

### HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

With many major projects planned for Northeast B.C., jobs will be available to 2020 and beyond. Occupations in demand include:

- **Construction** – Heavy duty equipment operators and mechanics, carpenters, electricians, millwrights
- **Oil and gas** – Drilling and servicing labourers, petroleum gas and chemical process operators
- **Mining** – Mineral and metal process control operators
- **Health** – Registered nurses
- **Administration** – Finance and insurance administrators, clerical

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





Source: BC Stats

## MAJOR REGIONAL EMPLOYERS

Businesses in Northeastern B.C. are expanding and looking forward to sustained growth. Major employers include:

### Retail trade

- IGA
- Overwaitea

### Construction

- JNS Contracting
- Northern Woodworker
- Ben Wall Contracting
- Eh-Cho Dene Enterprises
- Kledo Construction

### Health care

- Northern Health

### Educational services

- Northern Lights College
- School District #81

### Oil and gas

- Spectra Energy
- EnCana
- Apache
- Nexen
- Quicksilver
- Chevron

## JOB SEARCH

Fort Nelson has jobs available in many sectors. These employment resources can help you and your family members grow with this market and take advantage of the opportunities.

- Fort Nelson Employment Services Inc.
- Fort Neslon Stuff (local job board)
- Job Search Online
- BC Jobs

**Close to 10 per cent of residents of Fort Nelson have a first language other than English.**

## JOB RELATED TRAINING

You can develop the skills you need for the career you want, through high-quality work force training. The Fort Nelson campus of the Northern Lights College provides a wide assortment of training for careers. Many employers provide on-the-job training.

### English as a Second Language Services

At the Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society you can attend courses, meet people, and learn English for free. Northern Lights College also offers ESL courses at a variety of levels.





## LIVING IN FORT NELSON

Through work, training programs and participation in recreational activities, you will quickly feel at home in Fort Nelson. People are friendly and welcoming and you'll soon make friends and be part of the community.

### ■ IMMIGRANT RELATED SERVICES

The [Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society](#) offers language training and settlement assistance and the opportunity to create connections with other immigrants. They offer free ESL classes as well as one-to-one tutoring to help you integrate into the community.

### ■ CHILDCARE AND EDUCATION

You have several options available for caring for your children. Information about childcare providers is available online through the B.C. Government's [Childcare Information](#) website.

Fort Nelson has StrongStart Centres which offer free drop-in programs for children and their parents.

The public schools across British Columbia are excellent no matter where you live. Fort Nelson has three primary schools, two elementary schools and two high schools. The [school district](#) also encourages international education and exchange students.

The [Fort Nelson Public Library](#) has Internet access and encourages children and adults to read, learn, and grow.

### ■ TRANSPORTATION

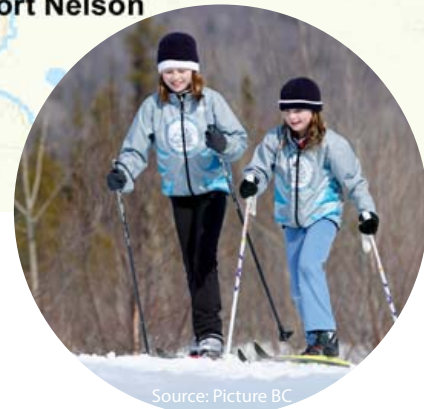
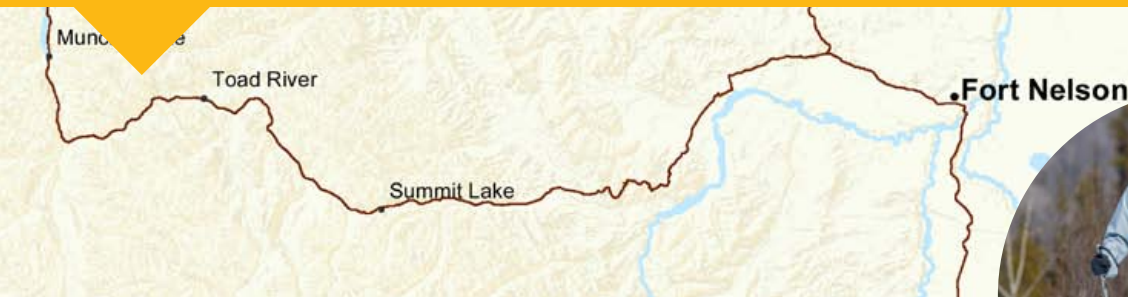
The [Northern Rockies Regional Airport](#) in Fort Nelson has daily flights to Edmonton and Vancouver, as well as neighbouring communities. Bus service between towns is also available. Fort Nelson is located on the Alaska Highway and is easily accessible by car.

**Fort Nelson has warm summers with long days and cold, snowy winters.**

### ■ HOUSING

A house is a big investment. In Fort Nelson your money goes a lot further than in a big city. In 2012, the average cost of a house was \$287,000, compared to Vancouver's \$1 million. Not ready for that investment? Starting at \$817 per month, renting a three-bedroom unit will cost you about half of what it would in Greater Vancouver.

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



Source: BC Stats

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## HEALTH CARE

Good medical care is available at the Fort Nelson General Hospital, which serves the community and region. Health services such as dentists, optometrists, chiropractors and massage therapists practice in the town.

## FAITH AND WORSHIP/CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

Fort Nelson provides services to make everyone feel welcome. It is home to a wide variety of faiths, including Christian churches of various denominations and a Sikh temple. The town also has a cultural association and an organized Filipino community.



## LEISURE ACTIVITIES

In Fort Nelson you can keep fit and have inexpensive family fun. The town has wonderful recreational facilities including an aquatic centre, two ice arenas, a curling rink, a spray park, parks and much green space. Meet the community in clubs and on the golf course or join a sports league to satisfy your competitive spirit.

Want to make new friends and help out? Community organizations and service clubs are always looking for more volunteers. Join them to help improve Fort Nelson and the surrounding region.

## ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS

If you like the outdoors, you'll love Fort Nelson. In the spring and summer the countryside is gorgeous. You can experience it first-hand while fishing, biking, hiking, riding the trails on an ATV, camping or just exploring with family and friends.

In the winter, you can enjoy snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling through breathtaking landscapes. At night, watch the beauty of the northern lights as they light up the sky.

## MEDIA

Local newspapers provide relevant news and details about community and regional events.

- [Fort Nelson News](#)
- [Fort Nelson Stuff](#)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Fort Nelson is a great place to start your new life in Canada. Explore these sites to learn more.

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