

# FORT ST. JOHN, B.C. UP CLOSE – THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY



Source: Picture BC

*Along with job opportunities, it is a quaint little city with a bit of everything. There is a growing Filipino community here. It has allowed me to feel like I'm in a home away from home in a community that has allowed me to develop relationships with Filipinos and other immigrants. Even though it is small, it is a diverse community, and I haven't felt any sense of discrimination.*

*Ovvian H., originally from the Philippines*



## THE COMMUNITY IN FORT ST. JOHN

More and more Filipinos are deciding to make the “Energetic City” their new home. In Canada’s 2011 Census, 150 residents of Fort St. John listed Tagalog as their first language. If you’re from the Philippines, you’ll find this profile provides information of particular interest to Pinoy. For further details on all aspects of the City, see the Fort St. John community profile.

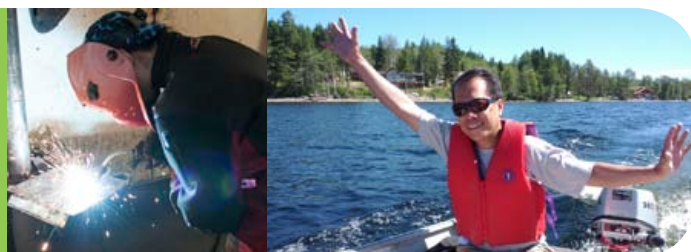
### IMMIGRANT RELATED SERVICES

Fort St. John has award winning organizations to help you and your family settle into the town. They include.

- Fort St. John Literacy Society
- S.U.C.C.E.S.S – Fort St. John Office
- School District 60 (Peace River North)
- Skills Connect for Immigrants Program
- STEP for Immigrants Program

### HEALTH CARE

The City serves as a health care hub for the region, anchored by the Fort St. John hospital, opened in June 2012. Other health care providers including family doctors, walk-in clinics, dentists, orthodontists, optometrists are available.



### HOUSING

Fort St. John’s affordable housing means you can have your dream home without missing out on life’s little extras. In 2012, the average cost of a house was \$326,000; compare that to Vancouver’s \$1 million. Not ready to buy? Renting a three-bedroom apartment is about \$1200 per month.

Use the BC Government’s [Cost of Living Calculator](#) to find out more about costs in Fort St. John.

### FAITH AND WORSHIP

Fort St. John hosts a variety of Christian churches. The Church of the Resurrection is the City’s Catholic Church and offers Saturday and Sunday masses. The second Sunday of the month is a “Welcoming Sunday,” where the Parish greets and provides information to new members. Filipinos are active in the church and represent about one-third of its congregation; it is a great way to meet people and keep in touch.

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Source: BC Stats

## CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION

**StrongStart Centres** offer free, drop-in early learning programs for children 0-5 and their parents.

For older children, the Peace River North, **Settlement Workers in Schools Program (SWIS)** helps new students and their families become part of the school and the community.

The **Fort St. John public library** has free Internet access and other educational resources. These include some Filipino books, ESL assistance resources and an adult reading and writing section. The library can request books free of charge from other libraries too if you're looking for a Filipino book.

## HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

You'll have many opportunities for fun in Fort St. John. Filipinos gather every year to celebrate Philippine Independence Day with a potluck in a local park. If you miss that you can always get together with everyone on July 1 for Canada Day. Community members also organize an event to celebrate Christmas in a Filipino way. Fundraising activities go on throughout the year.

## LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Fort St. John has many recreational and cultural facilities. They include a museum, pool, gym, area and an outdoor water park. The City hosts two martial arts schools, a co-ed competitive badminton team, a men's drop-in basketball league and the men's Wheatbelt Baseball league in the summer. A local store, Arctic Spa Fort St. John sells billiard tables and accessories.

## MONEY TRANSFER

Fort St. John is home to five major Canadian banks and the Northern Peace Savings Credit Union. All of them offer wire transfers through Western Union to the Philippines, as can local cheque cashing outlets and Safeway, a grocery store.

## MEDIA

You can keep up on happenings of your fellow Pinoy in BC, Canada and back home through two online newspapers:

- [The Filipino Post](#)
- [The Philippine Asian News](#)

## GROCERY

Got a craving for some sauteed shrimp paste or Magic Melt cookies? If you need some dry goods from the Philippines, North Asian Food can help you out. They can also order in goods from Vancouver if they're not on hand. Sending a balikbayan box home? The store organizes a shipment of boxes once a month.

## RESTAURANTS

As Fort St. John grows, so too does the restaurant scene. If you're looking for a taste of Asia, some options include:

- Asian/Vietnamese – Saigon Noodles
- Korean – Sung's Family Restaurant