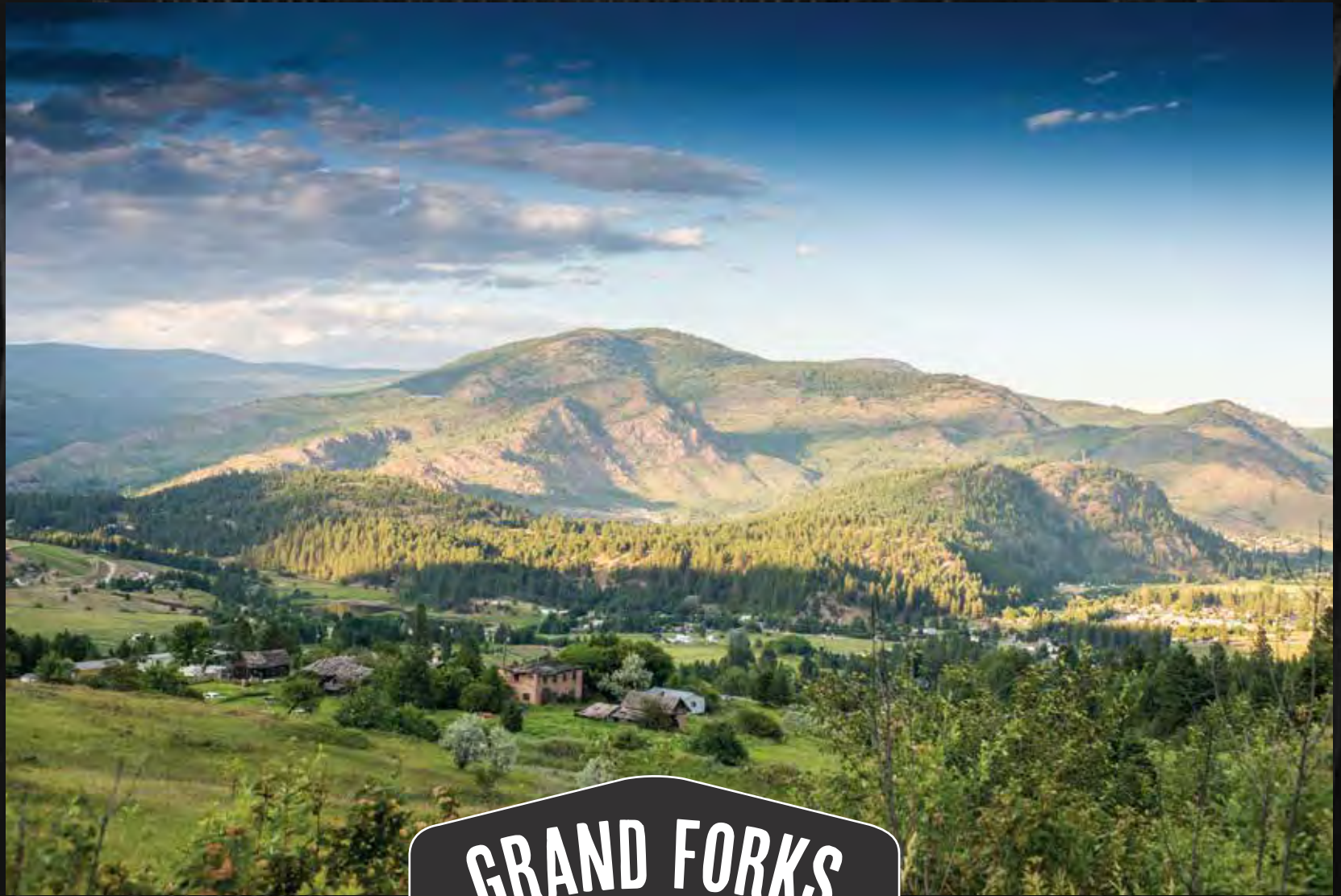


**OUR HILLS HERE ARE GOLDEN**  
**- JUST LIKE YOUR OPPORTUNITY -**



**COMMUNITY ECONOMIC PROFILE**  
**2016-2017**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Grand Forks combines a laid back attitude with a spirit for the original. Local history shows that our valley rewards innovation and risk with its abundant resources and location. The resource industry has a long track record that ranges from forestry to mineral processing and manufacturing. We're on the edge of Washington State, the Okanagan, and the Kootenays – something not lost on savvy export businesses.

Families love the accommodating community and fresh thinking. The affordability of the housing market lets you focus on living instead of paying down a mortgage. Experience peaceful living in a safe, stable environment.

Like our varied geography, the seasons differentiate themselves providing a full four season climate. Plenty of outdoor recreation enhances business life with a deep connection to the natural world. Wild turkey and mountain sheep pepper the rolling hills through grasslands and mixed forests. The Kettle River runs through the broad valley – broad enough to gather over 2000 hours of sunshine per year.

Taste the valley through our food with a certified organic dairy and an abattoir showcasing the agricultural potential. The richness of the valley allows local entrepreneurs to act out their visions – usually firmly rooted in the past with a hit of unconventional creativity. The small airport hosts a training program for UAV pilots in a Transport Canada approved flight training facility.

Act on your vision, increase your sense of belonging, and connect with the natural world. Welcome to Grand Forks – Settle Down.



Sincerely,  
**Frank Konrad**  
Mayor of Grand Forks

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## INTERESTED IN GRAND FORKS? CONTACT US!

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Chief Administrative Officer  
250-442-8266  
dallin@grandforks.ca

**Sarah Winton**  
Economic Development  
250-442-8266  
swinton@grandforks.ca

**Dolores Sheets**  
Engineering & Development  
250-442-8266  
dsheets@grandforks.ca

PO Box 220, Grand Forks, BC V0H 1H0

Phone: (250) 442-8266 • Fax: (250) 442-8000 • Email: [info@grandforks.ca](mailto:info@grandforks.ca)



# OUR COMMUNITY

## - OUR PLAYGROUND IS YOUR PLAYGROUND -

Grand Forks is a vibrant, beautiful and active city with a strong sense of community spirit that takes pride in its reputation as an ideal place to raise a family. It is an exceptional place to live: affordable housing, a regional hospital, excellent school system, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, parks and green spaces, golfing, skiing and more. Come and find out why Grand Forks is the place where people want to live, work and play!

### JUST THE FACTS:

Population: ..... 3,985\*  
Regional Population: ..... 15,000  
Land Area: ..... 10.43 sq.km.\*\*  
Median Household Income .... \$42,380  
Average Home Cost ..... \$257,506  
Average Rental  
*3 bedroom home* ..... \$800-950/mo

\*Source : Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural  
Development 2013.

\*\*Source: Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute.

### LET'S TALK ABOUT WEATHER:

Average Annual Rainfall. .... 391 mm  
Average Annual Snowfall ..... 119 cm  
Average Precipitation January ... 48 mm  
Average Precipitation July ..... 41 mm  
Weather Station Elevation ..... 532 m  
Weather Station Name. .... Grand Forks  
Average Temperature January .... - 5°C  
Average Temperature July ..... 20°C

Source: Environment Canada  
(Normals or Averages 1971-2000) 2013

### LOCAL AMENITIES:

- Library
- Art Gallery & Visitor Centre
- Boundary Museum
- Airport

- Grand Forks Aquatic Centre
- Grand Forks Arena
- Grand Forks City Campground
- Dick Bartlett Park
- James Donaldson Park
- Angus MacDonald Park
- Trans Canada Trail
- Phoenix Ski Hill
- Christina Lake Golf Course
- Sunshine Lanes Bowling
- Kettle & Granby Rivers
- River Walk
- Grand Forks Skateboard Park
- Grand Forks Public Tennis Court
- Grand Forks Secondary Tennis Courts
- Curling Rink
- BMX Track





## FESTIVALS AND EVENTS:

- Kettle River Festival of the Arts
- Grand Forks International Baseball Tournament
- Gallery 2 Wine Tasting
- Garden Tour
- Music in the Park
- Canada Day Celebrations
- Grand Forks Fly In
- Cannafest Classic Rock Festival
- Grand Forks Fall Fair
- Park in the Park Car Show
- Family Day
- Christmas Parade and Light-up
- Theatre in the Park
- Boundary Dog Sled Classic

## SUMMERTIME FUN:

- Swimming
- Tubing
- Kayaking
- Canoeing
- Paddle Boarding
- Fishing
- Golfing
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking

## WINTER FUN:

- Downhill Skiing
- Hockey
- Skating
- Snowmobiling
- Ice Fishing
- Snowshoeing
- Curling
- Cross Country Skiing

## EDUCATION:

Grand Forks has the highest high school completion rate for the region at 93.7% compared to the BC average of 81.8%

### J.A. Hutton Elementary School

2575 – 75th Avenue 250-442-8215

### Dr. D.A. Perley Elementary School

1200 Central Avenue 250-442-2135

### Walker Development Centre

525 Central Avenue 250-442-5313

### Grand Forks Secondary School

1331 Central Avenue 250-442-8285

### Selkirk College Grand Forks Learning Centre

486 – 72nd Avenue 250-442-2704

## HEALTH CARE:

### Boundary Hospital

7649-22nd Street 250-443-2100

### Boundary Medical Clinic

7486-2nd Street 250-442-8233

## EMERGENCY SERVICES:

### RCMP

(Non-emergency) 250-442-8288

### Fire Department

(Non-emergency) 250-442-3612  
911 Service 911

## BANKING:

### Grand Forks & District Savings Credit Union

447 Market Avenue 250-442-5511

### CIBC

7310-2nd Street 250-442-2181

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

### Community Futures

Wendy McCulloch,  
Economic Development Officer  
250-442-2722 Ext# 223

### Boundary Country Regional Chamber of Commerce

Kathy Wright, Executive Director  
250-442-2263







**TREE-LINED STREETS, TIMELESS STOREFRONTS  
AND BOUNTIFUL CROPS. WELCOME HOME.**



**FIND OUT IF YOUR FRESH THINKING  
JAMS WITH OUR FRUIT.**



# THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Original Peaceful Living. Grand Forks joins two valley systems each rich in natural resources and agriculture. Originally established as a hub and regional centre, businesses continue to cross the resource sector with a spirit of innovation and a multitude of recreation opportunities. Although the mines stopped producing long ago, local business processes the remaining slag into commercial products that are boldly different in converting the unconventional into profit. A proximity to the edge – that is the US border – opens manufacturers to the North American export market. Investments in local infrastructure mean a fibre to the premise communications network and a municipal airport that has hosted a drone training facility. Bring your fresh thinking to create a collective sustainability balanced on the four pillars – spiritual, environmental, social, and financial. As the “sunshine valley”, the area attracts niche agricultural opportunities including production nurseries and a craft brewery. Spanning forestry, agriculture, and manufacturing, local industry benefits from the local climate and connection to market.

## Major Employers

School District #51	225
Roxul	211
Interior Health	175
Interfor Corporation	135
Bron & Sons Nursery	120
Silver Kettle Retirement Living	80
Municipality of Grand Forks	47
Grand Forks Credit Union	44
Unifab Industries	40
Advance Orchard Co. Inc.	30
Province of BC	23

The City aims to grow and strengthen the business community in Grand Forks through business retention, expansion and attraction.

Whether your industry is tourism, retail, agriculture, arts, recreation, forestry or manufacturing, Grand Forks offers a wealth of opportunities. The City is competitive in its cost of doing business and offers tax incentives for business in the community.

Grand Forks has taken steps to ensure businesses are facilitated in areas such as:

- Locating and relocating
- The planning and development permitting process
- Assisting investors to identify business opportunities
- Providing community statistics and demographics

## #Employed

## Building Permit Statistics

2014	\$Value	#Permits	#Units
Single Family	1,809,000	8	8
Add/Alter	673,800	29	0
Institutional	1,213,816	1	0
2015			
Single Family	702,000	2	2
Add/Alter	655,638	35	0
Institutional	400,000	1	0

## 2014 Municipal Tax Rates

Residential	4.8074
Utility	40.000
Major Industry	43.3948
Light Industry	14.0857
Business/Other	11.4897
Rec/Non-Profit	3.8459
Farm	5.1920

## Building Inspection

Since July 2, 2013 the City of Grand Forks has offered Building Inspection services within the new Land and Development Department.

Building Inspection & Bylaw Services form downloads are available on our website at [www.grandforks.ca](http://www.grandforks.ca)

Manager of Building Inspection & Bylaw Services: Wayne Kopan at 250-442-8266

## Development Cost Charges

(Water and Sewer)

### Subdivision

- Single Family  
\$4,812 / lot
- Two Family/Semi-detached  
\$7,699 / lot

### Building

- Multiple Family  
\$3,850 / unit
- Mobile Home Park  
\$3,850 / pad
- Commercial Building  
\$9.04 / sq. m.
- Industrial Building  
\$6.73 / sq. m.
- Institutional Building  
\$8.96 / sq. m.

## Inventory

Vacant Commercial Land  
(71 parcels) 146 acres/59 ha

Vacant Industrial Land  
(25 parcels) 63.25 acres/25.6 ha

Office/Retail Lease \$6.50-\$8.00/sf



# HOW DO WE GET THERE?

## HIGHWAYS AND VISTAS [BY CAR]

We are centrally located within a two hour drive of two major centres; Kelowna, BC and Spokane, WA, each home to an international airport. The closest regional airport is in Castlegar, a scenic one hour drive.

### Calgary, Alberta

728 Km (452 Miles) 7 hrs, 38 min

### Edmonton, Alberta

1056 Km (656 Miles) 11 hrs

### Kamloops, BC

368 Km (229 Miles) 4 hrs, 21 min

### Kelowna, BC

204 Km (127 Miles) 2 hrs, 23 min

### Seattle, Washington

542 Km (337 Miles) 5 hrs, 57 min

### Spokane, Washington

205 Km (127 Miles) 2 hrs, 40 min

### Vancouver, BC

523 Km (325 Miles) 5 hrs, 48 min

### Victoria, BC

600 Km (373 Miles) 8 hrs, 21 min

**From the East:** Whether you're coming from Calgary, Cranbrook, or Nelson, make sure you're on historic BC Crowsnest Highway 3 as it passes through Castlegar. Venture over the Paulson Summit and descend into Christina Lake which is 15 minutes from Grand Forks.

**From the West:** If you're coming from Victoria, Vancouver or Osoyoos, follow historic Crowsnest Highway 3. It takes about 6.5 hours from Vancouver.

**From the North:** Follow Highway 97 south to Osoyoos and turn east onto Crowsnest Highway 3 to Rock Creek. Alternatively, leave Highway 97 at Kelowna and hop onto Highway 33 and follow the beautiful Kettle River to the town of Rock Creek. Grand Forks is a scenic 45 minute drive east of Rock Creek.

**From the South through the Okanagan:** Cross the border at Oroville, WA directly into Osoyoos, BC. Turn east onto Crowsnest Highway 3.

**From the South through Danville, WA:** Cross the border straight into Grand Forks!

**From the South through Laurier, WA:** Take Highway 395, cross the border into Cascade, BC and emerge just south of Christina Lake, and turn west on Highway 3. Grand Forks is just 10 minutes away.

## AS THE CROWFLIES [BY AIR]

### Kelowna International Airport (YLW)

Flights from Vancouver, Calgary, Seattle, Prince George and Edmonton on a daily basis. Car rental available, then 2.5 hour drive to Grand Forks.

### Spokane International Airport (GEG)

Daily flights from the Western United States, Minnesota and Illinois. Car rental available, then 2 hours to Grand Forks.

### West Kootenay Regional Airport

#### Castlegar (YCG)

Fly into Castlegar at the confluence of two rivers, the Kootenay and the Columbia. Car rental is available and a 1 hours drive over the Paulson Summit to reach Grand Forks.

### Grand Forks Municipal Airport

For small plane access into Grand Forks.

### Trail Regional Airport (YZZ)

Twice daily service from Vancouver via Pacific Coastal. This airport also accommodates air charters, business and personal aircraft. Rental cars are available. Located 1.5 hours from Grand Forks.





