

— COME JOIN US —

GRAND FORKS IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF
GRAND FORKS, BC, CANADA

ECONOMIC PROFILE



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Incorporated in 1897, Grand Forks is the "hub" of the Boundary Region. Located between the Okanagan Valley and the Kootenays, the boundary region includes the communities of Big White, Beaverdell, Westbridge, Rock Creek, Midway, Greenwood, Grand Forks and Christina Lake. This vibrant and active City is home to world class businesses, a thriving agricultural industry, a state-of-the-art retirement village, and numerous smaller companies.

The delightful community of Grand Forks, BC is home to beautiful tree lined streets and heritage homes. Its bustling city centre, located on Market Street, offers quaint cafes, galleries and the historic City Hall building. Grand Forks boasts 2000 hours of sunshine a year and four season living with recreational activities to match. This small community has been home to a large Doukhobor population since the early 1900's and continues to celebrate and embrace their rich culture.

Grand Forks is strategically located on the Canada/US border, 522 km/324 miles east of Vancouver and 726 km/451 miles west of Calgary, Alberta. Access is via the Crowsnest Highway #3, Grand Forks Airport and two border crossings, one located approximately 20 km/12.4 miles east and one approximately 8 km/5 miles west of Grand Forks. We are located in close proximity to the Okanagan Valley with the City of Kelowna 2¼ hours to the west, and Spokane, WA 2½ hours to the south.



This beautiful region is the perfect backdrop for families and retirees alike, with a strong commitment to healthy living, affordability and great quality of life. Come and see why people want to live, work and play here!

On behalf of City Council, the business community and our citizens, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Grand Forks!

Brian Taylor
Mayor of Grand Forks



COMMUNITY PROFILE

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!

The Facts:

Population: 3,985 *
Drawing Area Population: 15,000
Land Area: 10.43 sq.km. **
Median Household Income
2011 census \$42,380
Average Home Cost
2011 census \$257,506
Average Rental
3 bedroom home \$800-950/mo

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

**Source: Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute.

Climate:

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

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
- 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

Summer Activities:

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

Winter Activities:

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



COMMUNITY SERVICES

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



Picture BC photo

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

James Wilson
Executive Director
250-442-2722 Ext# 227

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



ACCESSIBILITY

Highways:

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. You'll 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 6½ 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, turn west on Highway 3 and Grand Forks is just 10 minutes away.

By Air:

Kelowna International Airport (YLW): Flights from Vancouver, Calgary, Seattle, Prince George and Edmonton on a daily basis. Car rental available, then a 2½ 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 hour drive over the Paulson Summit to get to Grand Forks.

Grand Forks Municipal Airport: For small plane access into Grand Forks.

Trail Regional Airport (YZZ): Twice daily service service from Vancouver via Pacific Coastal. This airport also accommodates air charters, business and personal aircraft. Rental cars are available. Located 1¼ hours from Grand Forks.



Picture BC photo

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

The City of Grand Forks is home to two major world-class industrial operations as well as numerous nurseries and smaller industrial companies. Roxul Inc., part of ROCKWOOL International Denmark, is the world's leading producer of stone wool insulation made from natural stone and recycled slag. They employ over 10,400 people in world-wide operations, and over 200 in Grand Forks. Interfor Corporation has operations across North America and customers around the globe and, with an annual capacity of 2.6 billion board feet from world-class facilities, is one of the world's largest lumber suppliers. Since 2002, Interfor has invested nearly one billion dollars in total to grow their company and upgrade facilities while offering the broadest range of products of any of the major lumber companies. These two companies combined with a thriving agricultural industry and numerous smaller employers provide the strength and support for continued strategic growth in the City of Grand Forks.

Major Employers

	# Employed
School District #51	225
Roxul	203
Interior Health	175
Interfor Corporation	130
Bron & Sons Nursery	120
Silver Kettle Retirement Living	75
Municipality of Grand Forks	50
Grand Forks Credit Union	46
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 for your business. The City is competitive in its cost of doing business and offers tax incentives for business in the community.

Grand Forks has taken every step 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

Building Permit Statistics:

	2012	\$ Value	#Permits	#Units
Single Family		579,000	1	1
Multi-Family		5,300,000	1	48
Add/Alter		499,000	31	0
Institutional		4,500,000	1	42
	2013			
Single Family		521,000	2	2
Multi-Family		275,000	1	1
Add/Alter		151,800	17	0
Institutional		0	0	0

2013 Municipal Tax Rates:

Residential	3.8105
Utility	37.8060
Major Industry	42.4043
Light Industry	11.1465
Business/Other	9.1127
Rec/Non-Profit	3.0297
Farm	4.0988

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. Click on City Hall, Departments & Committees, Building Inspection Department.

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 (39 parcels)	139 acres/56 ha
Vacant Industrial Land (27 parcels)	147 acres/60 ha
Office/Retail Lease	\$6.50-\$8.00/sf

For Further Assistance Contact:

Brian Taylor
Mayor
250.443-4177
btaylor@grandforks.ca

or

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



Settle down.

PO Box 220, Grand Forks, BC V0H 1H0

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