

Resources for Businesses in the Prince George Area

The Business Industry—General Information

- ✦ **Business Development Bank of Canada**
Financial assistance for businesses, as well as venture capital and consulting services.
Telephone: 250-561-5323
Website: www.bdc.ca
- ✦ **Statistics Canada/Provinces**
Provides detailed statistics on social and economic trends and changes nationally, provincially, and locally.
Website: www.statscan.ca and www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca
- ✦ **Canada/BC Business Service Centre**
Provides information on all business-related topics pertinent to entrepreneurs, small businesses and start-up companies. An efficient way to access information about government programs, services and regulations for all levels of government.
Telephone: 1-800-667-2272
Website: www.sb.gov.bc.ca
- ✦ **Strategis—Industry Canada Online**
Canada's business information site. Access to business registration information, company directories, trade and investment, economic analysis and statistics, research, technology and innovation, licences, legislation and regulations, and consumer information.
Telephone: 1-800-326-6189
Website: www.strategis.ic.gc.ca
- ✦ **BC Employment Standards**
A guide that summarizes the main topics covered by the *Employment Standards Act* and its regulations.
Website: www.labour.gov.bc.ca
- ✦ **Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD)**
WD is committed to helping Western Canadian small and medium-sized businesses to grow and create jobs by offering a network of business professionals to help with business planning and development, accessing capital, export and trade development, selling to government markets, and providing information on government programs and services.
Telephone: 1-888-338-9378
Website: www.wd.gc.ca
- ✦ **Workers' Compensation Board**
Regulates, monitors workplaces, educates, and consults with employers on workplace health and safety issues for employees.
Telephone: 250-561-3715
Website: www.worksafefbc.com
- ✦ **Doing Business in Canada**
Doing Business In Canada (DBIC) is dedicated to ensuring that Canada's service companies are used effectively by foreign and domestic-based companies doing business in Canada. This website offers a number of services to aid in this goal.
www.canadainternational.gc.ca/dbc/DoingBusinessWithCanada-en.aspx
- ✦ **Industrial Adjustment Service**
IAS brings employers and employees together to deal with the changes impacting the structure of the workplace and the roles of the workforce.
Telephone: 250-565-4476
Website: www.sdes.gov.bc.ca
- ✦ **Microsoft bCentral**
This site offers software, tools, resources and information designed to make your business a success.
Website: www.bcentral.com
- ✦ **One Stop Business Registration**
OneStop allows you to register your business with the Canada customs and revenue agency, register a proprietorship or partnership name, register as a vendor for provincial sales tax, register as an employer with WCB, and apply for personal optional protection with WCB.
Telephone: 1-800-988-8299
Website: www.onestopbc.ca
- ✦ **Business Owner's Toolkit**
Access to thousands of web pages containing essential information on starting, running and growing small businesses.
Website: www.toolkit.cch.com
- ✦ **The National Business Incubation Association**
The world's leading organization advancing business incubation and entrepreneurship. It provides thousands of professionals with the information, education, advocacy and networking resources to bring excellence to the process of assisting early-stage companies.
Website: www.nbia.org
- ✦ **Canadian Federation of Independent Business**
The CFIB's mandate is to promote and protect Canada's free enterprise system. For business owners who want their businesses to prosper, the CFIB will give small businesses a big voice in the political arena.
Website: www.cfib.ca
- ✦ **Canada Customs and Revenue Agency**
Information on Canada's tax, trade, and border legislation and regulations.
Telephone: 1-800-959-5525
Website: www.ccr-aadrc.gc.ca
- ✦ **Prince George Chamber of Commerce**
The Prince George Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization comprised of businesses, professionals, residents and other community groups working together to ensure a healthy economic and socio-economic base to benefit the entire community. The Prince George Chamber of Commerce is the Voice of Business on municipal, provincial and federal issues affecting our city.
Telephone: 250-562-2454
Website: www.pgchamber.bc.ca

Financial Assistance for Businesses

- ✦ **Canadian Youth Business Foundation**
CYBF provides start-up mentoring, financing and education tools for Canadians 18 – 34 to start and grow businesses which contribute to sustainable economic development in communities across Canada.
Website: www.cybf.ca
- ✦ **Chartered Banks**
See Telus Directory Listings
- ✦ **Community Futures Development Corporation (Fraser-Fort George and Stuart Nechako)**
Loans
Financial assistance for small to medium-sized business ventures starting up, and for business expansion for up to \$125,000 per project. Also, business loans for forestry/value added initiatives, youth and persons with disabilities and initial business-consulting services.
Self-Employment Benefit
An initiative of Human Resources Development Canada, this program is for unemployed individuals (with an established EI claim) who want to start a business.
Telephone (Fraser-Fort George): 250-562-9622
Website: www.cfdc.bc.ca
Telephone (Stuart-Nechako): 1-800-266-0611
Website: <http://onramp.hwy16.com/~cfcdcsn/>
- ✦ **Business Development Bank of Canada**
The BDC has developed a range of financing alternatives to respond to the unique and financial needs of every type of business—from the smallest micro-business that is just starting out to medium-sized companies poised for rapid expansion. The BDC also offers a wide range of business counseling, management training, and mentoring services.
Telephone: 250-561-5323
Website: www.bdc.ca
- ✦ **Western Economic Diversification Canada**
WD has worked with financial institutions, co-operatives, and the Business Development Bank of Canada to facilitate funding for small business on commercial terms. Expertise and assistance for developing business plans, advice and analyses for Technology reviews and help with the preparation of documentation required by a lending institution.
Telephone: 1-888-338-9378
Website: www.wd.gc.ca
- ✦ **Women's Enterprise Society of BC**
Financial assistance to companies owned by women.
Telephone: 1-800-643-7014
Website: www.wes.bc.ca
- ✦ **Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP)**
Their mission is to stimulate innovation in Canadian small and medium sized enterprises by providing advisory services, as well as potential access to financial assistance.
Telephone: 250-960-5738
Website: www.nrc.ca/irap
- ✦ **Science Council of British Columbia**
They have administered and participated in a number of government-funded programs designed to promote applied research and development in British Columbia. They offer several support programs and scholarships for small companies involved in a variety of scientific research fields.
Telephone: 1-800-665-7222
Website: www.scbc.org
- ✦ **Export Development Corporation**
The EDC is devoted exclusively to providing trade finance services to support Canadian exporters. Nearly 90 per cent of their customers are smaller companies. They've developed a number of programs, many in partnership with other financial institutions, to service these particular needs.
Telephone: 604-638-6950
Website: www.edc-see.ca
- ✦ **Scientific Research and Experimental Development: Tax Credit Program**
Funded by Revenue Canada, this is Canada's largest incentive program for industrial research and development and it is available to large and small businesses. In general, the tax credit applies to the development of new or improved materials, devices, products and processes in science and technology.
Website: www.ccr-a-adrc.gc.ca/sred

Wage Assistance Programs

- ✦ **First Job in Science and Technology**
This Program can provide funding to hire recent science and technology graduates to help your company adopt new technologies and exploit the opportunities they provide.
Telephone: 1-888-338-9378
Website: www.wd.gc.ca
- ✦ **Business Works**
Business Works helps makes the link between job seekers receiving BC Benefits and small businesses that are looking for people to hire.
Telephone: 1-800-965-5627
Website: www.businessworks.bc.ca

- **Human Resource Development Canada (HRDC)**
HRDC administers programs supporting the income of Canadians and they provide programs linked to the requirements of the national economy and labour market.
Telephone: 250-561-5200
Website: www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca

NRC Science and Technology Internship Program
Provides financial assistance to small and medium sized enterprises for the hiring of recent science, engineering, technology, business and liberal arts graduates.
Telephone: 250-960-5923
Website: <http://bc.ctn.nrc.ca/irap/yprogram.html>

First Nations Business Development

- **Aboriginal Business Canada**
The program provides business services and support to Canadian status and non-status Indians, Inuit, and Metis individuals, associations, partnerships or other legal entities which are wholly or partly owned or controlled by Aboriginal people, on or off reserve.
Telephone: 1-800-328-6189
Website: www.abc.gc.ca

- **Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment and Training Association**
PGNAETA offers several resource programs for people of aboriginal ancestry, in order to offer opportunities to enhance the aboriginal labour force and to foster effective partnerships between aboriginal peoples and all sectors of the economy in the Prince George region. They also offer a wage support program contributing up to 50% of an employee's wage, with the employer contributing the other 50%.
Telephone: 250-561-1199
Website: www.pgnaeta.bc.ca

- **Aboriginal Development Centre**
The Aboriginal Business Development Centre is involved in the area of small business development. This includes assistance with market research, business plan development, financial forecasting, small business loan acquisition, community economic development, and economic development training and conference coordination.
Telephone: 250-562-6325

Youth Entrepreneur Programs and Resources

- **Youth Options BC**
The B.C. government has developed several successful programs designed to help young people secure jobs, and gain skills and work experience that can lead to future long-term careers.
Telephone: 1-877-229-6884
Website: www.youth.gov.bc.ca

This web site will help you find the information you need to reach your entrepreneurial aspirations. Whether you want to learn more about entrepreneurship, are in the start-up phase of your venture, or you're up and running, this group aims to provide you with some useful tools. The rationale for their existence is simple - more young people are turning to self-employment as a career option and they need support.

- **Young Entrepreneurs Organization**
As a global, non-profit educational organization for young entrepreneurs, the Young Entrepreneurs' Organization (YEO) strives to help its members build upon their successes through an array of educational and networking opportunities.
Website: www.yeo.org

- **Canadian Youth Business Foundation**
The Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF) is the only national organization in Canada that enables young entrepreneurs to pursue their aspirations of building successful enterprises by providing business assistance not otherwise accessible to them. CYBF also hosts Youth Business.Com, which offers many resources for young entrepreneurs
Telephone: 1-403-261-2923
Website: www.cybf.ca and www.youthbusiness.com

- **Aboriginal Youth Business Council**
AYBC is an attempt to meet the needs of Aboriginal youth in Canada. They are a group of young entrepreneurs who recognize that knowledge is power.
Website: www.aybc.org

Future Cents – Youth Around Prince (YAP)
Hires high risk youths and assists them in acquiring the Experience, skill and information needed for employment. Services are free and no referral is necessary. www.futurecents.ca

Employment and Training Resources for Local Businesses and Entrepreneurs

✦ **Job Wave**

JobWaveBC is the most successful employment and job placement program in British Columbia. This site is designed for those seeking either employment or employees.

Telephone: 1-888-JOB-WAVE

Website: www.jobwavebc.com

✦ **UNBC Co-op Program**

UNBC's Co-operative Education Program is a three-way partnership between an employer, a student and UNBC. It combines the student's academic studies with periods of related paid work experience. UNBC currently offers Co-operative Education in thirty programs from Bachelor of Arts, Commerce and Science majors.

Telephone: 250-960-6598

Website: www.unbc.ca/co-op

✦ **Macrolink Administration Ltd.**

Macrolink facilitates skills and knowledge transfer in the areas of professional development, entrepreneur and enterprise development, employability, and forestry. They also provide capacity-building, training and

✦ **Employers' Advisors – BC Ministry of Labour**

Providing employers with independent no charge WorkSafeBC advice, assistance, education and representation in claims, assessments and prevention issues.

Telephone: 250-565-4285, 1-888-608-8882

Website: www.labour.gov.bc.ca/eao

Local Economic Development

✦ **Community Futures Development Corporation of Fraser-Fort George**

Their vision is to improve our quality of life by enhancing business & entrepreneurial activity. Region served by this CFDC includes Prince George, McBride, Salmon Valley, Valemount, Robson Valley, Bear Lake, Mackenzie, and McLeod Lake.

Telephone: 250-562-9622

Website: www.cfdc.bc.ca

✦ **Initiatives Prince George**

Initiatives Prince George provides many economic development services such as marketing and promotion, government liaison, local statistics and information, assistance to local businesses and entrepreneurs, and major project and studies. Recently, the Initiatives PG has adopted the role of tourism promotion for Prince George.

Telephone: 250-564-0282

Website: www.initiativespg.com

project management services to First Nations communities.

Telephone: 250-614-4414

Website: www.macrolink.bc.ca

✦ **CNC (Business: The Next Generation)**

Through CNC's "Business: The Next Generation" program, young entrepreneurs will experience business development firsthand, including: the formation of a corporation, deciding on a company name and product, electing a board, conducting market research, developing a business plan, raising capital, as well as creating and selling a product. This is a four month (seventeen week) program.

Telephone: 250-562-2131

Website: www.cnc.bc.ca

✦ **M.Turner and Associates**

M.Turner and Associates have two kinds of programs: training programs to make job seekers better qualified and programs to help employers find the human resources they need through subsidy programs.

Telephone: 563-6181

Website: www.mturner.bc.ca

✦ **Innovation Resource Centre**

The IRC is a non-profit society working to enhance the application of science and technology for economic development in the northern interior of BC.

Telephone: 250-564-2755

Website: www.innovate.bc.ca

✦ **Community Futures Development Corporation of Stuart-Nechako**

Community Futures Development Corporation of Stuart Nechako is a regional organization that supports existing and future Community Economic Development initiatives by assisting ventures that address sustainable communities while considering the social, economic, ecological, and cultural concerns of the Vanderhoof area.

Telephone: 1-800-266-0611

Website: <http://onramp.hwy16.com/~cfcdcsn/>

Local Business and Development Associations and Organizations

- ✦ **Prince George Construction Association**
The Prince George Construction Association is dedicated to the promotion of construction investment, standard practices and high standards in the construction industry. The association speaks on behalf of members operating in the Industrial, Commercial, Institutional (ICI) sector of the industry on construction concerns with the government /tendering authorities and the public.
Telephone: 250-563-1744
Website: www.pgca.bc.ca
- ✦ **Prince George Home Builders Association**
A non profit volunteer association of developers, builders, contractors, trades people, subcontractors and suppliers with a common mission: a dedication to quality and value in the residential construction and renovation industry.
Telephone: 250-563-3306
Website: www.pghba.net
- ✦ **Downtown Prince George**
The Downtown Prince George was formed to improve the downtown area and enhance the business climate in downtown Prince George. Their main objectives are to organize and manage projects and activities such as streetscape improvements, coordinated marketing programs, planning and economic development initiatives, special events and lobbying.
Telephone: 250-614-1330
Website: www.downtownpg.com
- ✦ **BC Northern Real Estate Board**
Links to and lists of Real estate offices, MLS listings, and realtors in northern BC
Telephone: 250-563-1236
Website: www.bcrea.bc.ca
- ✦ **Central Interior Logging Association**
The Central Interior Logging Association represents almost 400 independent logging contractors in Northern British Columbia, Canada. The CILA works for the common good of the total membership and makes representation on the issues of forest and log-hauling legislation at federal, provincial and regional levels.
Telephone: 250-562-3368
Website: www.cila.bc.ca
- ✦ **Council of Forest Industries**
The Council of Forest Industries is the voice of the British Columbia interior forest industry. COFI companies operate about 100 production facilities in over 60 forest dependent communities in the interior of BC. COFI is involved in community and government relations, aboriginal affairs, lumber quality control, forest education, market access and trade and occupational health and safety.
Telephone: 250-564-5136
Website: www.cofi.org
- ✦ **Restaurant and Food Services Association**
An advocate for business members in Prince George and the Northern Interior with government issues and regulations.
Telephone: 250-964-2444
- ✦ **Prince George Chamber of Commerce**
The Prince George Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization advocating on behalf of our members. Membership is comprised of businesses, professionals, residents and other community groups who work together to benefit the entire community.
Telephone: 250-562-2454
Website: www.pgchamber.bc.ca
- ✦ **Yellowhead Highway Association**
The Trans-Canada Yellowhead Highway Association accompanied by its municipal, business, tourism and individual partners is dedicated to promoting economic development, tourism and highway safety along the scenic Trans-Canada Yellowhead Highway.
Telephone: 780-449-0444
Website: www.transcanadayellowhead.com
- ✦ **Vanderhoof and District Chamber of Commerce**
This Chamber of Commerce harnesses the tremendous potential of the private enterprise system and the community at large as a unified "Voice of Business", enabling its membership to accomplish collectively what no one person can do individually.
Telephone: 250-567-2124
Website: <http://onramp.hwy16.com/chamber/>
- ✦ **Gateway Business Improvement Association**
This BIA is striving to improve the business climate and streetscape design of Prince George's Gateway Area.
Telephone: 250-562-2471
- ✦ **Northern BC Tourism Association**
Their mandate is to generate increasing tourism revenues to Northern BC through the development and implementation of cost effective marketing initiatives. The Northern British Columbia Tourism Association is one of six regional destination-marketing organizations in British Columbia.
Telephone: 250-561-0432
Website: www.nbctourism.com
- ✦ **Northwest Development Corridor Corp.**
This is a self-sustaining organization developed to promote Canadian trade through this very capable route and from Asia Pacific markets. Their goals include express trade synergy and efficiencies of the northwest corridor, and provide a utilization strategy for the Corridors long-term future.
Telephone: 604-681-3758
Website: www.nwcorridor.com

Local, Provincial and Federal Government Contacts

- ✦ **City of Prince George**
Telephone: 250-561-7600
Website: www.city.pg.bc.ca
- ✦ **Regional District of Fraser-Fort George**
Telephone: 250-960-4400
Website: www.rdffg.bc.ca
- ✦ **Carrier Sekani Tribal Council**
Telephone: 250-562-6279
Website: <http://cstc.bc.ca>
- ✦ **Provincial Government—Province of British Columbia**
Telephone: 250-565-4488 or 1-800-663-7867
Website: www.gov.bc.ca
- ✦ **Federal Government—Government of Canada**
Telephone: 1-800-667-3355
Website: www.gc.ca