

Hello, Quesnel

Welcoming
Community comes first.

Adventuring
Lakes to parks to mountains –
we have it all!

Living
Big city amenities, small town feel.

Thriving
Growing opportunities.





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Say Hello to Quesnel.

Located in the central interior of British Columbia, Quesnel is a vibrant community providing an affordable place to live, an opportune place to run a business and a welcoming community to be a part of.

The City of Quesnel is located on the traditional territory of the Lhtako Dene Nation (part of the Southern Carrier Nation). Those who first inhabited the region lived and thrived through a partnership with nature, an ideal our city continues to strive to do today.

We're a city where 'community' comes first, and nature lends itself to both industry and recreation. Our lower cost of living enables you to find and maintain a higher standard of living and do a little more with the money you make. From home to work. Work to nature. We don't spend our weeknights in a commute, we spend them on the lake or watching live performance arts.

With warm, dry summers, cool, bright winters and minimal rainfall throughout the year, we embrace our four distinct seasons and use them to our advantage. Our central location provides easy access to major city centres, routes and expansive wilderness to play within just steps from our city centre.

In Quesnel, we believe in living life to the fullest and it's easy to do with our accessible amenities and services. From local shops, boutiques and a thriving farmers' market, to retail chains, walking trails and playgrounds, to a post-secondary education campus and quality healthcare practitioners – you'll discover a place that makes it a little easier to find that perfect life balance.

We invite you to our community, to enjoy it as much as we do and to make it your own.

LOOKING BACK

Our Indigenous heritage, the Gold Rush that shaped our region, our dynamic economy – we are trailblazers by nature and this attitude carries through to today.

Some of the pivotal moments in history, like Alexander Mackenzie's encounter with the Lhtako Dene in 1793, followed by Simon Fraser's 1808 expedition, down what is now called the Fraser River, began to shape the land and the people. Fraser was searching for a navigable route to the Pacific Ocean on behalf of the North West Company. His travels resulted in fur trade relationships with the Indigenous people, and a system of fur trade posts west of the Rockies.

Intrigued by the natural landscape, Fraser named the first major tributary he discovered along the river for Jules Maurice Quesnel, his clerk. The bustling 1800's settlement that grew from the site came to be called Quesnel.

The rivers began to share their secrets, and in the spring of 1857, gold was discovered in the Fraser. The community of Quesnel continued to grow and as the flow of gold diminished, the residents looked to their natural surroundings. Quesnel soon became a leader in the forestry industry. This legacy is shaping our future as we work to develop sustainable forestry practices and innovative ways to use the limited fibre supply. We are proud of our rich and diverse history and continue to grow and evolve within our natural landscape.

Learn more about our history –
www.quesnelmuseum.ca





FACTS & STATS

Quesnel is located in British Columbia's central interior along Highway 97 (the north-south corridor for the province of BC) and only 120 km away from Highway 16 (the major east-west corridor from central BC to Alberta). The city is accessible by vehicle, air and rail.



Regional airport

The Quesnel Airport provides free public parking and is home to Central Mountain Air – providing daily flights to Vancouver.



Driving distances from Quesnel

- To Prince George: 121 km (1 hr 25 min)
- To Williams Lake: 118 km (1 hr 21 min)
- To Kamloops: 400 km (4 hrs 29 min)
- To Vancouver: 661 km (7 hrs 26 min)
- To Edmonton: 850 km (9 hrs 11 min)



Population

- People in city limits: 10,000
- People in the surrounding area: 13,000



Climate

Known as one of BC's sunniest cities, receiving over 2000 hours of sunshine per year.

- Winter: -2.5 °C (high), -11.5 °C (low)
- Spring: 12.5 °C (high), -1.1 °C (low)
- Summer: 23 °C (high), 8.2 °C (low)
- Fall: 10.4 °C (high), -0.3 °C (low)



Commute

- Average commute time is 8 minutes.



Affordable living

- Median household income: \$65,280 (Statistics Canada, 2016)
- Average value for single family home: \$202,325



Adventure in our backyard

It's not just the natural world, but the sheer accessibility of it all. Whether you're enjoying our world-class whitewater rafting, fishing at the lake, or a day at the waterpark, you're a quick drive, or walk, to your destination. Imagine setting out on the water and soaking up the sun just ten minutes after your work day ends. With warm summers, cool winters and over 2,000 hours of sunshine annually, we take full advantage of our four distinct seasons. **This is life in Quesnel.**

LAKES, RIVERS AND CREEKS

We're literally surrounded by rivers, and our area lakes are plentiful for exploring by boat, canoe, kayak, or paddleboard. When we say we have world class fishing in our backyard, we mean it. No matter the season, Quesnel is an angler's paradise. Access Dragon Lake within city limits or Ten Mile Lake for a day at the beach. Explore the banks of the Fraser and Quesnel rivers, where miners and pioneers travelled in pursuit of a rich lifestyle that is still within your grasp. On a hot summer day, take a dip in our cool, lazy Cottonwood River, which has many access points and swimming holes along the way.

An hour's drive east of Quesnel you'll find Bowron Lake Provincial Park. This world-renowned canoe and kayak destination has a naturally-occurring nearly perfect rectangle circuit for adventure seekers to explore and conquer over a multi-day excursion.



PARKS OUR KIDS LOVE

We have plenty of parks too. Natural and accessible playgrounds for the kids, grassy areas for yoga, and shady trees for your family picnic. You'll have plenty of safe opportunities to view wildlife, such as rabbits, deer, and fox, who also enjoy our parks.



TRAILS FOR DAYS

Unplug and recharge. When you live in a community that was built on a connection to the land, you instinctively connect with it too.

Surround yourself by nature and history on our Riverfront Trail; start at one of several points throughout the city and enjoy over 9 km of paved trail along the banks of the Quesnel and Fraser rivers. You'll encounter many friendly faces along the way. Yes, we still make eye contact and wish each other a good day here.

We have an ever-expanding trail network connecting our neighbourhoods to endless wilderness trails built for exploring on a mountain bike, quad, skis, or your own two feet. These trails stretch from the city centre to outlying areas.

When snow blankets our town, it's time to bundle up and head outdoors. Troll Mountain is only forty-five minutes from the city and offers fantastic downhill skiing and snowboarding, while fifteen minutes south of the city the Hallis Lake Trail Network provides scenic cross-country skiing and snowshoeing opportunities. Ask the Cariboo Ski Touring Club about the hidden backcountry cabins accessible by ski or snowshoe.

Snowmobiling is another popular sport in the mountains surrounding Quesnel. You can experience the thrill of snowmobile mountain climbing, or maybe take it easy on the throttle and just cruise the trails maintained by the Wells Snowmobile Club.

And here's the best part: it's all so close that you don't have to wait until the weekend to get out there and enjoy it. With no rush hour or long commute, you'll have time after work, or even on your lunch break.



ESCAPE THE ELEMENTS

Apart from our natural outdoor playground, Quesnel has a number of indoor recreational facilities to explore and activities and sports teams to join. From soccer, lacrosse or aquatics, to figure skating, hockey, curling or bowling, you can keep yourself well entertained escaping the warm sunshine in the summer or coming in out of the elements during our winter season. Our Sports Centre is the largest free-span turf building in the province and our West Fraser

Centre features an NHL-sized ice surface, 1300 spectator seats, multi-purpose rooms and much more. The Quesnel Arts & Recreation Centre provides amenities for all ages and skill levels, including a fitness centre, fitness programs, two swimming pools, saunas, art programs, art studio and art gallery.

In the city

 <p>18 parks & playgrounds</p>	 <p>9.5 km paved trail</p>	 <p>Curling club</p>	
	 <p>2 arenas</p>	 <p>Arts & Rec Centre</p>	 <p>Indoor Sports Centre</p>

Nearby

 <p>5 provincial parks</p>		 <p>8 regional parks</p>	 <p>4 lakes within 20 km</p>
 <p>Ski hill</p>	 <p>Endless trails</p>	 <p>3 golf courses</p>	 <p>Shooting range</p>





Living

Take the natural surroundings of Quesnel and all that they offer and add in our affordable land and housing prices. It's easy to see why people take advantage of the opportunities in living here.

The average price of a family home in Quesnel is still under \$250,000 making our city a wise choice to put down some roots or allow your nest egg to stretch comfortably into your retirement years. From established neighbourhoods to rural-style living, our housing options vary to include anything from urban townhomes or lake front detached dwellings to rolling farmland.

OPPORTUNITY

We're thriving with opportunity. If you think of Quesnel as a forestry town, you're not wrong. The forest sector is a major employer, but education, healthcare, agriculture, mining and tourism also play important roles in diversifying our local economy.

From the natural to the industrial - here in Quesnel we do what we love, and love what we do. With major manufacturers, entrepreneurs, and skilled professionals choosing Quesnel as their home base, a broad range of jobs and services are available in our community. Quesnel is proud of its skilled and versatile workforce. With wages that are higher than the national average, residents have the means to enjoy all this area has to offer.

Quesnel is a place where your business can prosper. Along with being located along major trade routes, we have a high-speed telecommunications infrastructure and exceptional business resources who can help you in relocating your business and assist in determining your competitive advantage to ultimately connect you to your customers.



Goodbye long commute.
Hello nature.





Education

When it comes to learning, environment is everything. Education is a core value that we invest in. We focus on attracting administrators and educators who are passionate about teaching and utilizing effective instruction methods that will enrich students to reach their full potential. Our community is committed to providing safe, motivating and engaging environments for our students to grow and learn within.

- 12 Elementary Schools
- 1 Secondary School
- 1 Junior School
- 2 Private Schools
- 4 Strong Start locations
- 1 Distributed Learning location
- Multiple daycare, preschool and homeschool options

STUDY AND SOAR

Quesnel is home to two post-secondary institutions that share a communal campus – the University of Northern British Columbia – South Central and the College of New Caledonia. Here, aspiring learners will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to excel within today's ever-changing workplace. Adult education, with a focus on skill development, is also available through School District 28 or Community Futures North Cariboo.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA (UNBC)

UNBC has been continually ranked among the top 3 Canadian small universities by Maclean's magazine for over a decade. Here, students have the opportunity to take courses face-to-face, utilizing audio-conferencing or web-based portal access. Programs and courses offered include Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Education, along with First Nations certificates and diplomas.

COLLEGE OF NEW CALEDONIA – QUESNEL

Known for their small class sizes and supportive faculty, the College of New Caledonia Quesnel is home to the award-winning West Fraser Technical Centre, where students can complete trades programs and be ready for the workforce. Among many other diverse program offerings, the Quesnel campus provides students with the opportunity to start the process on their university transfer Arts, Science, Social Work or Nursing degrees.





Healthcare

With a strong passion for the outdoors and active health, the city relies on a dynamic support network to deliver quality services and care. We have a fully equipped hospital with acute care beds, maternity care, lab and medical imaging services and our award-winning healthcare recruitment program ensures that you and your family will be able to find a family doctor.

Quesnel is home to a comprehensive team of practicing physicians and dentists, along with a number of physiotherapists, chiropractors, massage therapists, personal trainers, fitness studios, administrative and support staff to meet the community's comprehensive health needs.

RETAIL SERVICES

Quesnel has an active and vibrant business community that is home to a number of retail, service and food and beverage businesses. Residents enjoy a level of ease in acquiring everyday necessities from local boutiques to big box stores without the need for a carefully-planned itinerary or ongoing hassle of finding a nearby parking space.

LOVE QUESNEL

Love Quesnel is part of a large shop local movement called Love Northern BC. Our unique, independently owned businesses have character, personality and soul. You can view over 90 business profiles and learn more about their stories and services conveniently in one place.

Visit www.lovequesnel.com



DINING

On-the-go, cozy cafes, social houses and casually plated dining – we have it all. Morning, noon or night, there are taste-bud pleasing establishments all over town – each with their own unique local to international flavours...and atmospheres.

ARTS, CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

We are home to a progressive arts scene where artists, musicians and performers have the opportunity to practice, perform and showcase their talents year-round. We have galleries, indoor and outdoor performance facilities and a passionate group of volunteers who make up Quesnel Live Arts – a dedicated group who organize and provide performance opportunities to anyone from the up and coming artist to the established performer from across the country.



Festivals & events

Step back in time, kick up your boots, look to the skies and take in some culture. We may be a relaxed and hard-working community, but we know how to turn things up a notch and gather together in celebration.

Gold Rush Trail Sled Dog Mail Run (January)

A historic event where dog teams and mushers from near and far take part in a 4-day mail run over the Gold Rush Trail to Barkerville.

Boots and Toques Festival (February)

This festival embraces our winter season and combines fun-filled outdoor activities such as a Sno-Ball Tournament, ice skating and sledding with bon fires, hot chocolate and music.

Festival of the Performing Arts (February - April)

Enjoy meticulously practiced vocal, choral, piano, dance, speech and dramatic arts performers as they showcase their talents before a skilled and experienced adjudicator.

Farmers' Market (May to October)

The Farmers' Market is the place to go on Saturday mornings. Meet local growers, fill your baskets with fresh, locally grown produce, artisan crafts, desserts and more.

Canada Day Celebrations (July)

This family-friendly event includes festive activities, entertainment for all ages along with children's art and game stations.

Billy Barker Days (July)

This family festival celebrates our gold rush heritage and features period décor and costumes, entertainers, a parade, rodeo and other activities sponsored by community organizations.

SkyFest (August long weekend – every two years 2019, 2021, etc.)

This three-day airshow showcases top international aerobatic performers and the opportunity to view differing types of aircraft and vintage cars.

Prospectors Car Club Show and Shine (August)

This annual Show and Shine brings together classic, vintage and muscle car lovers alike to admire carefully restored, uniquely modified and tenderly cared-for vehicles.

Quesnel Fall Exhibition & Fair (August)

This local fair includes a showcase of the area's produce, horticulture, visual arts and crafts, livestock, fowl, horses and more.

Annual Tillicum Society Memorial Pow Wow (October)

A Pow Wow is a social gathering held by First Nations communities. This modern Pow Wow is a gathering open to all community members to meet, dance, sing, socialize and honour Indigenous culture.

Santa Extravaganza (November)

This family-friendly event includes a variety of festive activities, seasonal delights and even appearances from Santa and Mrs. Claus themselves.

View full event calendar
www.tourismquesnel.com/events



Relocate

CREATE YOUR OWN STORY

Quesnel is a vibrant place where you have the opportunity to come and prosper. Expansive, natural and wild, while business-minded, humble and with our eyes on the horizon - this is a place where you can create your own story. A place where world class recreation blends with a vibrant sense of community. Throw in affordable housing and a natural landscape; this might be just what you're looking for.

We invite you to say hello to Quesnel and to join our well-connected, accessible and welcoming community.

Meet us

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Quesnel, BC V2J 7J5

250-992-2111
cityhall@quesnel.ca
www.quesnel.ca

Visit us

www.tourismquesnel.com

Quesnel Visitor Centre
1-800-992-4922

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