

**A Thriving Community**



CITY OF  
**Quesnel**

# **Small Business Resource Guide**

# Local Organizations



## CITY OF QUESNEL

410 Kinchant Ave. Quesnel B.C. V2J 7J5

T: (250) 992-2111 E: [cityhall@quesnel.ca](mailto:cityhall@quesnel.ca) W: [www.quesnel.ca](http://www.quesnel.ca)

### **BUSINESS SUPPORT HOTLINE**

The City of Quesnel partnered with Community Futures North Cariboo to continue business support via a business support hotline. In 2021, your business may receive a call from the Business Support Coordinator to help you navigate through the current supports available to you. If you require support, please email [clawrence@quesnel.ca](mailto:clawrence@quesnel.ca) for a prioritized call.

### **BUSINESS FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

This program provides grants to property and business owners to renovate, restore, or redesign retail and commercial building facades and storefronts in Quesnel.

The goal of the Quesnel Façade Improvement Program is to encourage owners or commercial tenants to invest in building façade upgrades that create a more interesting and appealing streetscape, attracting customers, clients, visitors and businesses to the commercial areas of town. The program promotes private sector investment, increases assessed property values, and stimulates the local economy. Façade improvements also help building owners attract and retain commercial tenants, and promote the marketability of retail and commercial businesses.

Eligible façade improvements may include: new lighting, exterior architectural features, new windows, façade painting, new siding, entrances and doorways, and awnings.

The City of Quesnel will provide a 50% reimbursement grant up to a maximum of \$5,000 per building/project to improve the facades of eligible commercial buildings. Minimum project value is \$2000. The application is easy, usually with a quick approval timeline.

Contact the City Planner, Lyndon Hunter at [lhunter@quesnel.ca](mailto:lhunter@quesnel.ca) or call 250-992-2111 to discuss your project before submitting an application.

### **LOVE QUESNEL PROGRAM**

Love Quesnel is an online marketing program promoting locally owned, independent businesses in Quesnel. This one-stop business website promotes a shop local ethic, while connecting users to information on local shops and services.

The program offers a customized webpage through [www.lovequesnel.com](http://www.lovequesnel.com). Each business webpage features first-rate photography and professional business writing. It's only \$100 to join (a one-time cost) and we'll help market your business through the Love Quesnel platform.

As part of a larger "Love Northern BC" movement, the program is designed to help communities throughout central and Northern BC strengthen their competitiveness, retain dollars in the local economy, and support locally owned, independent businesses.

# Local Organizations



## QUESNEL & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

335 E Vaughan St, Quesnel, BC, V2J 2T1

T: (250) 992-7262 E: [qchamber@quesnelbc.com](mailto:qchamber@quesnelbc.com) W: [www.quesnelchamber.com](http://www.quesnelchamber.com)

The Quesnel and District Chamber of Commerce has been the voice of business in Quesnel since 1910. Striving to be influencers creating the environment for business success and prosperity, it offers networking events, advertising and promotional opportunities, employer/employee benefits packages and professional development. Become a member and take advantage of these great opportunities!

### NEWSLETTERS

Include events in the weekly Visitor Centre newsletter and stay informed with the monthly Chamber newsletter.

### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

At no additional cost, be included in the Chamber listing section of the annual CJ Directory.

### VISITOR CENTRE BROCHURE RACKING

Free placement of business brochures in the Quesnel Visitor Centre.



## COMMUNITY FUTURES NORTH CARIBOO

335 A Vaughan St, Quesnel, BC, V2J 2T1

T: (250) 992-2322 E: [info@cfquesnel.com](mailto:info@cfquesnel.com) W: [www.cfquesnel.com](http://www.cfquesnel.com)

Whether you are considering entrepreneurship, buying a business or improving your existing operations, Community Futures is committed to helping your business succeed. Services available include:

### BUSINESS LOANS

Community Futures provides loans for business start-up, expansion and improvement.

### BUSINESS COUNSELLING

Community Futures assists business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs with business analysis and business planning. They also provide business information, guidance and referrals. Services are free and confidential.

### BUSINESS INFORMATION

Pamphlets, worksheets and links to business resources are available through the Community Futures office and on their website: [www.cfquesnel.com](http://www.cfquesnel.com).

### BUSINESS TRAINING

Community Futures offers regular workshops on a variety of topics aimed at helping you to succeed in business.



# Local Organizations

## **BUSINESS SUCCESSION**

Community Futures will help you to understand your exit options, get your business ready for sale, and ensure your business is exposed to the right target market, maximizing its value when you sell.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA SUPPORT**

Through one-on-one sessions, Community Futures can help you improve your Facebook and Twitter pages to improve marketing for your business.

Businesses supported by Community Futures grow faster and last longer – Statistics Canada Independent Review.



## **WEST QUESNEL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Box 4242, Quesnel BC, V2J 3J3

T: (250) 255-8225 E: [wqbainfo@gmail.com](mailto:wqbainfo@gmail.com) W: [www.quesnelwestvillage.com](http://www.quesnelwestvillage.com)

The West Quesnel Business Association is committed to making the West Village a great place to live, shop and play.



## **QUESNEL DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION**

101-246 St. Laurent Ave, Quesnel BC, V2J 2C9

T: (250) 991-0527 E: [qda@goldcity.net](mailto:qda@goldcity.net) W: [www.downtownquesnel.com](http://www.downtownquesnel.com)

The Quesnel Downtown Association focuses on the beautification and marketing of downtown to make it an excellent place in the community to visit, shop, and play.



## **SOUTH QUESNEL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

PO Box 4324, Quesnel BC, V2J 3J3

T: (250) 225-5865 E: [southquesnel@gmail.com](mailto:southquesnel@gmail.com) W: [www.southquesnel.wordpress.com](http://www.southquesnel.wordpress.com)

The South Quesnel Business Association supports the marketing and revitalization of South Quesnel.

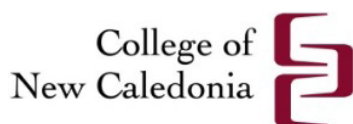


## **UNBC SOUTH-CENTRAL**

100 Campus Way, Quesnel, BC V2J 7K1

T: (800) 627-7528 E: [sc-info@unbc.ca](mailto:sc-info@unbc.ca) W: [www.unbc.ca/south-central](http://www.unbc.ca/south-central)

UNBC South-Central campus offers a number of undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as certificates and diplomas.



## **COLLEGE OF NEW CALEDONIA**

100 Campus Way, Quesnel, BC V2J 7K1

T: (250) 991-7500 E: [quesnel@cnc.bc.ca](mailto:quesnel@cnc.bc.ca) W: [www.cnc.bc.ca/quesnel-campus.html](http://www.cnc.bc.ca/quesnel-campus.html)

The Quesnel CNC campus offers training and education on a variety of subjects including first aid, accounting, QuickBooks, and various safety courses among others. They also offer many skilled trade programs.



# Local Organizations



## **WORK BC CENTRE - QUESNEL**

488 McLean St, Quesnel, BC V2J 2P2

T: (250) 992-7691 E: [info-quesnel@workbc.ca](mailto:info-quesnel@workbc.ca)

W: [www.workbc.ca/WorkBC-Centres/Cariboo/Quesnel.aspx](http://www.workbc.ca/WorkBC-Centres/Cariboo/Quesnel.aspx)

Work BC assists all persons to meet their employment-related goals and achieve increased independence and self-reliance. They offer a free service for job postings, which are emailed to a client list and posted on their job board and social media platforms.

Work BC offers a meeting room space for information sessions to attract new employees and to conduct interviews. They also accept resumes to support recruitment for businesses.

Each year, Work BC holds a Job Fair, where employers have the opportunity to collect resumes and meet potential employees as well as network with other businesses.

### **WAGE SUBSIDY PROGRAM**

This program provides temporary financial assistance to employers in the form of a wage subsidy, if they agree to hire a participant for at least 35 hours/week for 12 to 24 weeks. Up to 50% of the wage can be provided during that period.

### **UNPAID WORK PLACEMENTS**

Clients who meet certain qualifications are eligible for short-term placements with employers, giving employers an opportunity to evaluate potential employees and make sure an individual would be a good fit.

## **SPROUT KITCHEN REGIONAL FOOD HUB**

101 Marsh Dr, Quesnel, BC V2J 3K3

T: (250) 983-5675 E: [sproutkitchenhub@gmail.com](mailto:sproutkitchenhub@gmail.com)

W: [www.sproutkitchen.ca/](http://www.sproutkitchen.ca/)

Launching in February 2021, Sprout Kitchen will be a small-scale food processing and innovation hub that serves the North Cariboo Food Hub Region. A member of the BC Food Hub Network, Sprout Kitchen will provide space and support for emerging and existing food entrepreneurs to get their ideas off the ground or scale their business for new markets. Sprout Kitchen is an initiative of the City of Quesnel with generous supported from the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Northern Development Initiative Trust.

Serving the area from Vanderhoof to One Hundred Mile House, Sprout Kitchen will offer new and established food businesses and community groups access to shared processing infrastructure including processing and testing equipment, food business advisory services, product development services, analytic services, applied research opportunities, and education and training related to food processing and food safety.



# Regional Organizations



## NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TRUST

301 – 1268 Fifth Ave, Prince George, BC V2L 3L2

T: (250) 561-2525 E: [info@northerndevlopment.bc.ca](mailto:info@northerndevlopment.bc.ca)

W: [www.northerndevlopment.bc.ca/](http://www.northerndevlopment.bc.ca/)

Northern Development Initiative Trust is a regionally operated economic development funding corporation for central and northern British Columbia. Northern Development operates independently from government and provides the funding and ability to identify and pursue new opportunities for stimulating economic growth and job creation within the region. Northern Development offers a range of funding programs suited to a diverse set of economic development priorities in central and northern British Columbia.

### COMPETITIVENESS CONSULTING REBATE PROGRAM

This program provides a rebate to small and medium sized companies engaged in manufacturing, innovative technologies, resource processing, transportation, distribution and their first line suppliers for external consulting services. A rebate of up to 50% to a yearly maximum of \$30,000 can be recovered for the cost of external business consulting projects. Projects must focus on increased productivity, new or incremental revenues, profitability and/or job creation. Eligible companies must be privately owned, have fewer than 500 employees, revenues less than \$100 million, and be headquartered within the Northern Development Initiative Trust region.

### SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY CONSULTING REBATE (SBR)

In response to the impact the forestry sector downturn and COVID-19 pandemic are having on businesses in central and northern B.C., Northern Development is offering the (SBR) Consulting Rebate program. This program is designed to help businesses reduce the barrier to accessing professional expertise and recover the costs of third-party consulting projects. These types of projects must focus on ways to sustain businesses during the current economic downturn. The SBR Consulting Rebate will reimburse small and medium sized businesses (operators) for contracted consulting services. Eligible companies must be privately owned, have fewer than 500 employees, revenues less than \$100 million, and be headquartered within the Northern Development Initiative Trust region.

### NORTHERN INDUSTRIES INNOVATION FUND (NIIF)

The NIIF program provides funding for small and medium sized businesses in eligible industries for applied research and development, new or improved products, and services and testing of innovative equipment or technologies to support capital investment decisions. This program offers a rebate of up to 50% to a maximum of \$50,000 per project. Eligible companies must be privately owned, have fewer than 500 employees, revenues less than \$100 million, and be headquartered within the Northern Development Initiative Trust region.

# Provincial & National Organizations



## VENTURE CONNECT INC

T: (855) 421-0082 E: [info@ventureconnect.ca](mailto:info@ventureconnect.ca) W: <http://www.ventureconnect.ca/>

Venture Connect prepares businesses for a sale so they can be transferred to a new owner – keeping businesses in our communities. Whether you are looking to buy a business or sell one, Venture Connect can help.



## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK OF CANADA

Suite 150 -177 Victoria Street, Prince George, BC V2L 5R8

T: (888) 463-6232 W: [www.bdc.ca](http://www.bdc.ca)

The Business Development Bank of Canada is the only financial institution dedicated exclusively to entrepreneurs. Their mission is to help create and develop strong Canadian businesses through financing, consulting services and securitization, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises.

Through their subsidiary – BDC Capital, they offer a full spectrum of specialized financing, including venture capital, equity as well as growth and transition capital.



## WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE CENTRE

T: (800) 643-7014 E: [inquiry@womensenterprise.ca](mailto:inquiry@womensenterprise.ca) W: [www.womensenterprise.ca](http://www.womensenterprise.ca)

Women's Enterprise Centre is BC's leading resource for women entrepreneurs, offering skills development, business loans, free business guidance, business resources, mentoring, networking and events.



## FUTURPRENEUR

T: (800) 464-2923 W: <http://www.futurpreneur.ca/en/>

Futurpreneur offers start-up financial and mentorship services to grow the economy one young entrepreneur at a time. Find free tools to start and run your business and join their growing community of entrepreneurs and experts to share advice, business tips and lessons learned.



## BC HYDRO

T: (866) 552-4713 E: [incentives@bchydro.com](mailto:incentives@bchydro.com)

W: [www.bchydro.com/powersmart/business/programs.html](http://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/business/programs.html)

BC Hydro offers a variety of programs to help improve your business' efficiency, including incentives for making energy-efficient upgrades and opportunities to learn from experts. Visit their website to discover their programs and see what incentives your business is eligible for.



## SMALL BUSINESS BC

T: (800) 667-2272 E: [askus@smallbusinessbc.ca](mailto:askus@smallbusinessbc.ca) W: [www.smallbusinessbc.ca](http://www.smallbusinessbc.ca)

Small Business BC provides comprehensive business information and planning resources for starting and growing a business in British Columbia.

# Provincial & National Services



## ONESTOP BUSINESS REGISTRY

T: (877) 822-6727 E: [OneStop.Help@gov.bc.ca](mailto:OneStop.Help@gov.bc.ca) W: [www.bcbusinessregistry.ca](http://www.bcbusinessregistry.ca)

OneStop Business Registry provides online business registration and transactions.



## BC BID

T: (800) 663-7867 E: [bcbid@gov.bc.ca](mailto:bcbid@gov.bc.ca) W: [www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca)

BC Bid lets you access, create, browse and compete on public sector business opportunities.



## SERVICE BC & GOVERNMENT AGENTS

102 - 350 Barlow Ave, Quesnel BC, V2J 2C2

T: (250) 992-4313 W: [www.governmentagents.gov.bc.ca](http://www.governmentagents.gov.bc.ca)

Province-wide access to government services including key government transactions for business – in person, online or over the phone.



## FRONT COUNTER BC

T: (877) 855-3222 E: [FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca) W: [www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca)

Front Counter BC is a single window service for natural resource clients of provincial resource ministries and agencies to obtain all the information and authorizations they need to start or expand a business.



## BC VENTURE ACCELERATION PROGRAM

W: [www.bcic.ca/for-entrepreneurs/vap/](http://www.bcic.ca/for-entrepreneurs/vap/)

The BC Acceleration Program forms the largest technology acceleration program, and connects entrepreneurs with business experts and peers to help speed up the growth of their company. Eligible entrepreneurs are accepted for participation based on their product validity, drive and ambition, market opportunity and team talent.



## SUPPORT LOCAL BC

W: [www.supportlocalbc.com](http://www.supportlocalbc.com)

Support Local BC is an online gift certificate marketplace where 100 percent of the proceeds go directly to the business owners. Small, independently owned businesses that meet the criteria can be added to Quesnel's page on [www.supportlocalbc.com](http://www.supportlocalbc.com) to sell gift certificates online. It's free for eligible businesses to sign up.



# Provincial & National Services



## FORTISBC

T: (888) 224-2710

W: [www.fortisbc.com/rebates-and-energy-savings](http://www.fortisbc.com/rebates-and-energy-savings)

FortisBC offers a variety of supports, programs and rebates that can help businesses reduce costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

### WE'VE GOT EVEN BIGGER REBATES

Until December 31, 2021 (some exceptions), FortisBC is offering bigger rebates on select high-efficiency commercial equipment and products to help businesses lower operating costs and improve energy efficiency.

[www.fortisbc.com/evenbigger](http://www.fortisbc.com/evenbigger)

### GET FREE ENERGY-SAVING ADVICE FOR YOUR BUSINESS

FortisBC is partnering with GreenStep Solutions to help BC businesses save energy and operating costs, plus reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Via phone, or videoconference, your business can get information about FortisBC rebates on high-efficiency equipment, low-cost and no-cost tips and technical advice on topics such as turning down building systems.

[www.fortisbc.com/smallbusiness](http://www.fortisbc.com/smallbusiness)

### NEW HOME PROGRAM

Are you a builder? Until December 31, 2021, FortisBC has enhanced rebates to support builders and homeowners to build high-performance homes. For builders who are pursuing Step 3, 4, or 5 to offset the costs of engaging consultants that will help identify cost-effective opportunities and innovations to develop high-performance homes, builders can receive up to \$7,000. The incentive is available per detached home or unique unit in a multi-family complex (up to \$50,000 in multi-family projects).

[www.fortisbc.com/newhome](http://www.fortisbc.com/newhome)



# Additional Services

## Get Export Ready

W: <https://www.britishcolumbia.ca/export/get-started-exporting/>

Trade and Invest British Columbia offer services to help your business get export ready including:

- Determining export readiness
- Developing an export plan
- Financing export business
- Readying sales systems
- Getting products to market

## Apprentice Job Match

W: [www.workbc.ca/Training-Education/Trades-Training/Trade-Training-Programs-1.aspx](http://www.workbc.ca/Training-Education/Trades-Training/Trade-Training-Programs-1.aspx)

The Apprentice Job Match service is in partnership with the Industry Training Authority (ITA) to connect employers with apprentices. Employers can add apprentice training and experience information into their job posting to support them in finding qualified apprentices.

## Employee Share Ownership Program

W: [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/investment-capital/employee-share-ownership-program](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/investment-capital/employee-share-ownership-program)

B.C.'s Employee Share Ownership Program provides employees with a 20% tax credit for making investments in their employers' businesses. In most cases, investments can be made from or transferred to self-directed RRSPs, which can result in further tax benefits. The program also shares the costs of setting up a plan. The program is available to both privately held and publicly traded companies.

## Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit

W: [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/income-taxes/corporate/credits/venture-capital](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/income-taxes/corporate/credits/venture-capital)

The Small Business Capital Tax Credit is for corporations that invest in shares of a registered venture capital corporation or eligible business corporation. By making an equity capital investment in B.C. small businesses, investors will receive a 30% tax credit.

## Tax credits for hiring apprentices

W: [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/income-taxes/corporate/credits/training/employer#claiming-the-credit](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/income-taxes/corporate/credits/training/employer#claiming-the-credit)

The Provincial and Federal governments will provide income tax credits for employers of apprentices registered in Industry Training Authority apprenticeship programs. As an employer, you are eligible to claim the credit if you're subject to B.C. income tax for the taxation year that the credit is being claimed.

## B.C. Employer Training Grant

W: [www.workbc.ca/Employer-Resources/BC-Employer-Training-Grant.aspx](http://www.workbc.ca/Employer-Resources/BC-Employer-Training-Grant.aspx)

The B.C. Employer Training Grant program (ETG) supports skills training to address provincial labour market needs. The program is delivered by the Province of British Columbia and is funded by the Government of Canada through the Workforce Development Agreement (WDA). The goal of the ETG is to help British Columbians access the skills training needed to adapt to the changing requirements of jobs and the labour market while encouraging employer involvement in the training of their employees. Employers are eligible to receive up to \$300,000 per fiscal year (April 1 – March 31).

