



Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce

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Hello & Welcome to the Heart of BC!

As President of the Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to take advantage of some of the benefits our community has to offer.

Rest assured that our residents are eager to welcome you with the 'northern' hospitality for which we are known. There are many service groups in Vanderhoof ready to assist you or welcome you as a member.

Located at the geographical centre of British Columbia, Vanderhoof is surrounded by spectacular country offering fabulous outdoor experiences including camping, fishing, hiking, canoeing, cross-country skiing and much more.

Vanderhoof is an ideal place for children because of the numerous schools and clubs such as 4-H, Boy Scouts, Cadets, Girl Guides. The many sports activities include baseball, hockey, football, soccer, figure skating, speed skating, curling, cross-country skiing, gymnastics, yoga, and more.

Other resources available in Vanderhoof include the Community Resource Guide, Community Recreation Leisure Guide, local maps, tourist information, to name a few. Please contact our office if you would like further information about the community or our organization.

We are confident that you will find a lot to like about Vanderhoof and we are happy to welcome you to our town!

Yours Sincerely,

Kevin Moutray, President



WELCOME TO VANDERHOOF

Vanderhoof is located at the Geographical Centre of British Columbia™. Approximately a one hour drive (97 km) to the east is the city of Prince George, which is in turn located 883 km north of Vancouver, a one hour flight by commercial airline from the Prince George Airport. You can live in the rural setting of Vanderhoof and be only two hours from the largest city in the province. Edmonton, the capital of Alberta, is located 812 km east of Vanderhoof.

Nestled in the fertile Nechako Valley, the town is the central service area for a population of approximately 30,000. The two main industries are Forestry and Agriculture, but there is also considerable employment provided through Government offices. The Nechako Valley is the second largest forage producing region in the province.

POPULATION:

4,064 (2006 census)

POPULATION BY AGE:

Age range	Pop.	Percent
0 – 14	985	24.26%
15 – 24	510	12.56%
25 – 44	1125	27.71%
45 – 64	980	24.14%
65 +	460	11.33%

TRANSPORTATION

Highways: Vanderhoof is the geographical centre of the province. We are located on Highway 16, at the intersection of Highway 27 which leads to Fort St James and points north. Logging roads, as well as an industrial road leading south, traverse the area.

Bus: Passenger and freight services by Greyhound Canada; with routes east and west, as well as north to Fort St. James.

Train: The area is served by VIA rail, with reservations needed for passenger travel.

Taxi service: Riverside Taxi

Air: Our municipally operated airport has a paved surface of 1,529 m with three runways capable of handling a wide range of planes.

The Prince George Airport is located just 104 km east of Vanderhoof. It is served by: Air Canada Jazz, West Jet, and Central Mountain Air.

INDUSTRY

Forestry is the number one industry in Vanderhoof. There are several mills operating in the area: Canfor Plateau, L & M Lumber, Canfor Isle-Pierre, Vanderhoof Specialty Wood Products and a couple of small mills. Vanderhoof also has a wood pellet mill, Premium Pellet. Loggers, truckers, and the service industries needed to maintain these facilities also gain employment through the forest industry.

Agriculture is the second largest industry in the region. The Nechako Valley is the second largest forage producing industry in British Columbia. Beef and dairy cattle also provide some profit for the region.

HISTORY

The Carrier Indians pioneered the land in this area long before the first white man arrived in the area now known as Vanderhoof. An ancient Indian village known as Chinlac was located just a few miles east of Vanderhoof on the junction of the Nechako and Stuart Rivers. Simon Fraser's diary relates that he was the first white man to trade with the people of Chinlac.

After the fur traders came the packers, miners, telegraph operators, surveyors and finally, settlers looking for the free land of the frontier.

In 1906 there was only a survey line in the wilderness to mark the future route of the railway through the valley. When the last spike was driven on April 7, 1914, it started a race for the land. The Grand Trunk Pacific Development Company offered cheap land and asked one of its employees, Mr. Herbert Vanderhoof, to lay out the town site. *Van der hoof* is Dutch for "of the farm" which is very appropriate, since this was the first agricultural settlement in the province. The town grew, and in 1926, the Village of Vanderhoof was born.

With the arrival of World War II many young men left, and Vanderhoof came to a standstill. But with the rise in lumber prices and the arrival of new people in the late 1940's, it started to grow again.

The next boost to the population and the economy came in the early 1950's, with the construction of Kenney Dam on the Nechako River, south of Vanderhoof. At the peak of its construction 1,500 men were employed; after the dam was complete, many of them stayed in the area.

The next expansion period came with a large influx of American immigrants in the 1960's—since that time Vanderhoof has enjoyed steady growth.

RECREATION

There are numerous lakes and rivers in the area for fishing, canoeing, boating, and water skiing. In the forested region surrounding our community there is an abundance of forestry campsites, and opportunities for hunting.

Two Slow Pitch Ball Tournaments are held each year, attracting at least forty visiting teams. Hockey, curling, and figure skating competitions and tournaments are held all winter. Community badminton, volleyball, basketball and indoor soccer take place throughout the winter season. Classes are also offered by private instructors in step-aerobics, Pilates, yoga and a variety of dance styles.

The Nechako Valley Exhibition is held in August. This Fall Fair includes a major Rodeo and Horse Show. There is an annual Recreation and Leisure Fair held in September, where a variety of leisure groups in the Vanderhoof area gather together to promote their clubs and organizations.

Murray Ridge Ski Hill is located 60km north of Vanderhoof where residents can enjoy downhill skiing and snowboarding throughout the winter.

RECREATION FACILITIES:

- Bike Park
- Bowling Alley
- Cross Country Ski Trails
- Curling Rink
- Exhibition Grounds
- Fitness Centres (2)
- Golf & Country Club (18 hole)
- Hiking and Walking Trails
- Hockey and Skating Arena
- Movie Theatre
- Parks with Playgrounds (2)
- Riding Arena (indoor)
- Rugby, Soccer and Track area
- Shooting Range
- Skateboarding/ BMX Park
- Softball Diamonds (8)
- Tennis Courts (4)

LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Vanderhoof is a family oriented town, with many recreational and cultural opportunities. There are numerous apartment complexes, with single detached houses making up approximately 71% of our housing units (single detached houses 1,550). The average costs are as follows:

- o Three-bedroom home on a municipal lot varies from \$170,000 to \$230,000.
- o Municipal lot depending on location varies from \$25,000 to \$35,000.
- o Five-acre parcel of land depending on location is approximately \$40,000.

EDUCATION:

7 Public Schools, E-Bus Academy, 4 Private Schools, College of New Caledonia.

SERVICE CLUBS:

There are numerous service organizations in Vanderhoof, which meet the needs of every interest group from the Kinsmen to Women's Institute. There are also Community Associations in the outlying farming areas.

CHURCHES:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Northside Mennonite Church
Church of God in Christ, Mennonite	Old Apostolic Lutheran Church
First Memorial United Church	Seventh Day Adventist Church
Glad Tidings Tabernacle Church	Sommerfeld Mennonite Church
Gospel Chapel	St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Holy Trinity Anglican Church	Vanderhoof Christian Fellowship
Jehovah's Witness	Vanderhoof Lutheran Church
Mapes Baptist Church	Vanderhoof Mennonite Church
Nechako Christian Fellowship	Vanderhoof Pentecostal Church
Nechako Community Church	Children's Camps & Christian Schools

TOURISM

Vanderhoof is located at the Geographical Centre of British Columbia™, at the junction of Highways 16 and 27. Travellers going west to Port Edward and Prince Rupert, or to Stewart-Cassiar link to the Yukon all pass through Vanderhoof, as do people travelling Highway 27 to Fort St James.

There are seven hotels and motels in Vanderhoof, as well as one bed and breakfast and three seasonal campgrounds/RV parks. For an enjoyable time in the outdoors, there are numerous resorts in the area, many offering water-front cabins. There are a number of camping and RV sites in the surrounding area.

Vanderhoof has 18 restaurants with varied menus, in or close to the downtown core. There is one seasonal restaurant, and 3 catering services. Three local pubs also serve food to patrons.

There are 44 Forestry campsites in the Vanderhoof Forest District. While they do not offer sophisticated amenities, they do include basic sanitary facilities like fire rings, picnic tables and where appropriate, boat launch ramps.

Popular attractions include the Vanderhoof Heritage Museum and the Bird Sanctuary at Riverside Park. There are also numerous other tourist attractions the local Visitor Info-centre can suggest.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

GOVERNMENT:

Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce
Municipal District of Vanderhoof
MP and MLA offices
RCMP Detachment (13 members)
School District No. 91
Service BC (Government Agent)
Service Canada

Provincial Ministry of:

- Forests and Range
- Environment – Conservation Officer
- Children and Family Development
- Employment and Income Assistance
- Transportation

FINANCIAL:

Integris Credit Union
CIBC

Royal Bank of Canada
Cash Now Plus

HEALTH & WELFARE:

Alcoholics Anonymous
Chiropractor
Dental Clinics (3)
Fitness Centres
Hospice Society
Hospital: modern 33 bed facility
Medical Clinic (12+ doctors)
Northern Interior Health Unit

Omineca Safe Home
Physiotherapy, massage therapists
Provincial Ambulance Service
Search and Rescue
Seniors residences
Vanderhoof Alcohol & Drug Services
Veterinary Clinics (2)
Victims/Witness Assistance

MEDIA:

Daily/ weekly Newsletters
Movie Theatre
Newspapers (3)

Local Radio Station
TV – Cablevision and Satellite
Wireless internet

SERVICES:

Bottle Depot
Citizens on Patrol
Community Garden
Day Care Facilities
Funeral Home
Lawyers (3)
Meals On Wheels

Public Internet Access & Wi-Fi
Neighbourlink (Food Bank, Thrift Store, Community Kitchen)
Public Library
Volunteer Fire Department
Waste Transfer Station
Youth Groups
Numerous cultural and recreational clubs and services