

B.C. offers opportunity

British Columbia's vibrant economy offers business people and investors outstanding opportunities through high productivity levels, modern infrastructure, a competitive tax environment, superb amenities and an unsurpassed lifestyle.

Businesses located in British Columbia also benefit from access to a well-educated and diversified workforce.

Between 1987 and 1992, British Columbia achieved the best performance of the four largest provincial economies. The province pulled out of recession before the rest of Canada, recording relatively strong growth in real output and employment during 1992, and did so with no acceleration in wage and price inflation.

Although British Columbia has the lowest debt burden in Canada and enjoys a healthy international credit rating, the provincial government is committed to deficit reduction and prudent fiscal management to foster sustained economic development.

The Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture offers services and programs aimed at promoting the growth of small business. Below are some brief descriptions.

Business Information Sessions

In cooperation with local Chambers of Commerce, the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture operates 85 Business Information Centres (BICs) throughout

the province. BICs can provide general business information and government publications, as well as information on starting a business and related government programs.

Because they are run by the local Chamber of Commerce, many BICs also have local business information. BICs are often the first stop for people seeking information on business opportunities.

For the Business Information Centre nearest you, please call your local Chamber of Commerce or the Victoria Business Information Centre at 356-5777 or 1-800-661-2891.

Canada-B.C. Business Service Centre

The Vancouver Business Service Centre (BSC) is a federal-provincial initiative aimed at improving access to government information for business. The BSC has a variety of facilities for use by the public, including: Small Business Reference Library with business magazines, hundreds of "how to" publications, videos and reference materials.

The library also has an interactive business disc to help plan the first year of a business; Confidential Business Adviser to help business people develop their plans for startup, expansion, financial strategies and general business plans; Faxback Service which allows you to receive information on programs and regulations via your fax machine; tax and statistics specialists.

For further information on these and other services, please contact the Vancouver Business Service Centre at 775-5515 or 1-800-667-2272.

Government agents
Government agents (GAs)

are located throughout the province and serve communities which do not have access to a full range of government offices. GAs can access information on business name registration, business incorporation, government publications and programs related to business, hunting and fishing licences, etc.

Consult the Blue Pages in your telephone directory (under Province of British Columbia) for the Government Agent nearest you, or contact Enquiry B.C. at 387-6121 (Victoria), 660-2421 (Vancouver) or 1-800-663-7867 (rest of British Columbia).

Publications

The Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture produces a number of publications for use by existing or prospective business operators. They include:

Starting a B.C. Business: Your Resource Guide and Checklist.

Home-Based Business Manual.

Licensing and Regulations for B.C. Business.

Women in Business: Start-up Kit.

Preparing a Business Plan.

Eureka: An Innovative Guide for B.C. Entrepreneurs.

Strategies for Success.

B.C.'s Business and Professional Women's Organizations.

Training

Recent consultations with businesses across British Columbia identified training as a major concern of small business. The Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture offers training through a number of programs and is working to close the training gaps faced by small business owners. The Ministry will work with

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NOT TO KNOW ABOUT US IS ONE THING. NOT TO BENEFIT FROM OUR SERVICES IS SOMETHING ELSE.



The Prince George Region Development Corporation has all the resources to help you with your business. We're your information centre with a business resource library containing books, files, and videos on business related subjects.

We're your business assistance with demographics, data, and statistics on the region; with information on business opportunities and potential

developments; information on export markets. We're your government liaison with policy, legislation and projects that improve the economy of the region.

So, now that you know, call our office let us fill you in on the details:

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