

FORT ST. JOHN

(MOVE UP! YOU'LL LOVE LIVING HERE)



FORT ST. JOHN
The Energetic City

moveuphere.ca

Welcome to Fort St. John — The Energetic City



If you are considering a move up to Fort St. John, let me simply say that you will not regret it. We are the Energetic City for so many reasons. We are young, with an average age of 30, we work hard and we definitely like to enjoy life. The possibilities for fun, recreation and opportunities are endless!

This guide is meant to convince you, my future neighbour, that the move you are considering is brilliant. Many of my neighbours moved here on a short term plan to boost their careers and pay off some debt – 10 or 20 years ago! Envision yourself living here – really living here.

Thumb through these pages and you will find life up here is exciting, fulfilling, robust and inexpensive, with all the amenities you'd find in a larger city.



Lori Ackerman, Mayor

If you still aren't convinced life in the Peace River area is awesome then consider these facts:

- The stories you hear about our winters aren't all true. It's cold and snowy and way more fun than you can imagine.
- Your future neighbours are among the highest income earners in the country, and THE highest in B.C.
- You will need to buy sunglasses because we get a lot of sunshine.
- We have a robust local arts community, and the talent found in and around Fort St. John is astounding.
- If you like to play outdoors there is so much to do – and plenty of time to do it because we are never stuck in traffic.

Life up here is good, and it gets better all the time.

Move up to Fort St. John. You'll love living here.

*Lori Ackerman
Mayor, City of Fort St. John*



The hub of the Peace River Region

FORT ST. JOHN | 56.2524° N, 120.8464° W | ELEVATION 695 metres/2,275 feet above sea level

Fort St. John only seems far away; it's actually quite close to major cities in Alberta and B.C. and connected by major highways and regular airline service.

The North Peace Regional Airport (YXJ) offers daily flights to Vancouver (YVR), Prince George (YXS), and Calgary (YYC) with West Jet Encore, Air Canada Jazz and Central Mountain Air.

With only one stop, you can fly from Fort St. John to more than 96 international destinations.



TRAVELLING TO	DISTANCE	DRIVE TIME	FLIGHT TIME
Dawson Creek, BC	75 km south	50 minutes	
Grande Prairie, AB	215 km east	2.5 hours	
Prince George, BC	475 km southwest	5 hours	50 minutes
Edmonton, AB	660 km southeast	7 hours	
Calgary, AB	930 km southeast	10 hours	1:30 hour
Vancouver, BC	1,240 km southwest	14 hours	1:45 hour



[REALLY] Living here

If you're reading this, you are probably living somewhere else and considering a move to Fort St. John. Perhaps you've been offered a job and are wondering if you should accept, or maybe you will be looking for work once you get here.

Fort St. John is British Columbia's best kept secret. We think we have the best of everything – recreation at our doorstep, affordable living, and big city amenities, all in a small, friendly town.

Here, you can spend less time commuting and less money on housing, and more time on recreation and really living it up. As the hub of the Peace River Region, Fort St. John is easy to get to by road or jet. The North Peace Regional Airport (YXJ) boasts numerous daily flights to Vancouver or Calgary, meaning getaways to big cities both near and far are easy.

[TOP] 100 Street is Fort St. John's main drag

[BOTTOM] The annual High on Ice Festival celebrates winter in the North

4

Number of distinct seasons we get each year

0

Times stuck in traffic

22°C

Average high temperature, July

-11°C

Average high temperature, January

330mm

Average annual rainfall (that's only 13 inches)

304

Sunny days per year (2095 hours)



Aurora borealis

Lifestyle

In Fort St. John it’s all about playtime. Where the city ends at our boundaries, the wilderness begins. Drive in any direction and you’ll find endless opportunities for outdoor pursuits.

And because we have four distinct seasons, you can enjoy a wide variety of activities from camping and lakeside fun in the summer, to sledding, ice fishing and cross-country skiing in the winter.

If the great outdoors isn’t your thing, there is plenty to do indoors. Fort St. John is a hive of creative energy with a vibrant arts and culture scene. The North Peace Cultural Centre is home to a 413-seat theatre, an art gallery, and numerous local dance, music, and performance groups. There are many indoor recreational options, too, such as an indoor speed skating track, running track and three hockey rinks. And of course an indoor pool, curling rink and an indoor field house.



[TOP] Getting out on the water is a favourite weekend activity, and there is no shortage of lakes to explore [BOTTOM] The local arts community is thriving

27

Music, dance, visual art and cultural groups

20+ km

Total walking and hiking trails located within City limits

1 of 4

Indoor Olympic-sized (400 metre) Speed Skating ovals in North America

21

Nearby fishing lakes and rivers

5

Big screen movie cinemas



Oil & gas is a significant economic driver



Employment

Fort St. John is a resource town. Oil & gas, forestry, agriculture and mining operations and support rule our local economy. Major employers include Shell Canada, PETRONAS Canada, Canfor, Peace Valley OSB and NorthRiver Midstream.

Our standard of living is among the best in Canada: We have the highest average household income in B.C., and fifth highest across Canada (2016 Canada census).

Services outside the resource industry account for much of the balance of employment in Fort St. John, including jobs in government, health and education.

Growing service and retail businesses are on the lookout for people with a variety of trade and customer service skills.

[TOP] *Skilled labour fuels our resource-based economy*
[BOTTOM] *The Fort St. John Farmers Market is an opportunity for local food producers and artisans to sell their goods*

37.5%

Local workforce employed in service & retail industries

55%

Fort St. John residents with post-secondary education or training

4.3%

Northeast BC Unemployment rate December 2020
(source: BC Stats)

1

Highest household income in BC, and fifth in Canada
(source: Stats Canada)



Opportunities

The North Peace area produces 90 per cent of B.C.'s grain, 38 per cent of its hydroelectric power, employs nearly 2,500 forestry workers and plays host to over 300,000 tourists each year. And the region has some of the largest gas fields in North America with over 20,000 wells drilled.

With that sort of economic activity, Fort St. John, the economic hub of the region, is rich with employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Low tax rates for business and attractive economic incentives for development help make Fort St. John 'Open for Business.'

'LOVE FORT ST. JOHN' supports small, local business. Whole Wheat & Honey Cafe [TOP] and Peace River Boat and Auto Repair [BOTTOM] are just two of over 70 unique home-grown businesses participating in the Northern Development Initiative Trust program that promotes and supports local businesses and services. → lovefortstjohn.com



8.8%

Area contribution to BC's exports (from 1.5% of the population) in 2019

\$8.9 billion

Value of Energy exports, such as oil and gas, electricity generation and mining from the Northeast in 2019.

74

Unique local shops and services participating in Love Fort St. John [lovefortstjohn.com]

75,000

Local trading area population



Family amenities

The public school system includes eight modern elementary schools (with two opening since 2018), two middle schools, and one large senior secondary school within the City of Fort St. John. Additional schools are located in the surrounding rural area.

Post-secondary opportunities are available at University of Northern BC's (UNBC) Peace River-Liard Campus which offers programs in business, education, nursing and social work, and Northern Lights College which offers certificate, diploma and associate degree programs in a wide variety of fields and trades.

Once the afternoon bell rings, there is plenty going on to keep kids active and busy. Fort St. John has recreational and competitive sports leagues, dance, and art programs. Of course there is hockey, soccer, lacrosse, and little league, but also speed skating!

[TOP] The Fort St. John Elks Speed Skating Club has been producing champion skaters since 1964 [BOTTOM] Northern Lights College offers post-secondary programs in aerospace, clean energy and oil & gas

11

Public schools:
8 elementary (K-5)
2 middle (6-8)
1 secondary (9-12)

2,000+

Volunteers that
assisted with the
Fort St. John 2020
BC Winter Games

16

Family Physicians
practicing in
Fort St. John*

55

Number of beds
at Fort St. John
Hospital

30

Professional
firefighters on duty
24 hours a day,
seven days a week



Crystal Cup Pond Hockey Challenge

Housing

Whether you want a simple house and yard, a modern apartment, or dream of a country acreage, Fort St. John has housing to match your needs and bank account.

Compared to larger cities, housing in Fort St. John is affordable. An average single family home can be yours for under \$400,000, and it won't include an epic commute.

With the money you save on housing and the time you save commuting, you will have plenty of both left over to enjoy your time off.



[TOP] Houses vary from tidy bungalows on suburban lots to large country estates

[BOTTOM] There are many rental housing options, including new apartments

\$373,000

Median price of a single-family house in Fort St. John*

7,935

Number of residential units (2016 census)

\$1,116

Average monthly rent, two-bedroom apartment**

2.5

Average family size

20,155

Population (2016 census)

31.4

Median age (BC median age is 43.0)



Move up here checklist

FINDING A HOME

You will need a place to hang your hat when you get here. Often people settle into temporary accommodation before finding something more permanent.

Search online classifieds for temporary and long-term rental accommodations:

- kijiji.ca/h-fort-st-john/1700303
- peace.craigslist.ca
- fsjnow.com/classifieds/
- various facebook groups

Ready to buy property? View current listings at realtor.ca or contact a local real estate office:

- Re/max Action Realty: 250-785-5520
actionrealty.britishcolumbia.remax.ca
- Century 21 Energy Realty: 250-787-2100
century21.ca/energyrealty
- 2 Percent Realty Excellence: 250-793-2229
2percentrealtyfsj.ca
- Northeast BC Realty: 250-785-4115
nebcrealty.com
- Gary Reeder Realty: 250-262-0182
garyreeder.ca

UTILITIES AND SERVICES

Pacific Northern Gas: 1-800-663-1173 | png.ca

BC Hydro: 1-800-224-9376 | bchydro.com

TELUS: 250-310-2255 | telus.com (*phone, TV, internet, cell*)

Shaw: 250-310-7429 | shaw.ca (*TV, internet, landline*)

Bell TV Satellite: 1-888-759-3474 | bell.ca

Shaw Direct Satellite: 1-866-782-7932 | shawdirect.ca

Peace Region Internet Society: 250-785-8877 | pris.ca

The Internet Guys: 250-785-1941 | internetguys.ca

Check out the Tap, Know and Go website at tourismfortstjohn.ca for information on hotels, restaurants, shopping, and more.





Charlie Lake

HEALTH CARE

If you have arrived from outside B.C., you will need to apply for provincial health care coverage. Medical Services Plan (MSP) is available for eligible BC residents. Apply online or visit Service BC for details and forms.

- Service BC: 10600 100 Street, Fort St. John, 250-787-3350 | gov.bc.ca
- Find a doctor: cpsbc.ca
- Fort St. John Hospital: 250-262-5200 northernhealth.ca

VEHICLE INSURANCE AND DRIVERS LICENCES

If you are arriving from outside BC, the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC.ca) is the only place to purchase basic auto (liability) insurance. ICBC, through Autoplan insurance agencies, also issues vehicle licence plates.

- Visit any Autoplan Agency to get new auto insurance, or to update existing insurance.
- Drivers Licences: Service BC: 10600 100 Street, Fort St. John, 250-787-3350

SCHOOLING

Register for school (K-12): Peace River North School District (No. 60), 250-262-6000 | prn.bc.ca

Northern Lights College: 1-866-463-6652 | nlc.bc.ca

LOOKING FOR WORK

WorkBC Centre - NorthEast
101 - 9907 99 Ave, Fort St. John, 250-787-0024
employmentconnections.bc.ca

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This list is meant to serve as a starting point for new residents who have just arrived or are planning to move to Fort St. John. There are numerous other services available to help make Fort St. John your home including specialized health care needs, social and recreation groups, clubs and programs, arts and culture opportunities, service organizations, religious and faith-based groups, Indigenous programs, work placement agencies, and training opportunities.

- Visit fortstjohn.ca for additional information and links to resources
- Pick up a Community Guide at the Fort St. John Chamber of Commerce or visit fsjchamber.com

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 [/FSJCity](https://www.instagram.com/FSJCity)

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