

KITIMAT, BRITISH COLUMBIA



Source: Picture BC

Location: Northwest B.C., on the coast of the Pacific Ocean

Key industries: Manufacturing, retail, health care, education

High demand occupations: Construction-related, trades, truck drivers

Education: Pre-school through to college

Population: 8,335 (2011 Census)



Kitimat is heaven. Everything is so close and there is no long commute to work. I can afford a house and have money left over and it's a good place to raise our children. At work there are people from all over the world and I feel respected and valued. Kitimat is a multicultural community; we like it and we are comfortable here.

Edwin E., originally from the Philippines.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Kitimat is booming. In the coming decade, companies from around the world are planning investment in liquefied natural gas, shipping and transportation industries. The town is developing and the economy is growing. Business opportunities and good, well-paying jobs will provide a great future for newcomers to the community.

DOING BUSINESS IN KITIMAT

Kitimat has a thriving business community. Capital funds and resources are available for entrepreneurial development in Kitimat and the surrounding area to help you establish a successful business.

- Invest in Northwest B.C.
- Kitimat Terrace Industrial Development Society
- Kitimat Economic Development Association
- Trade and Invest B.C.

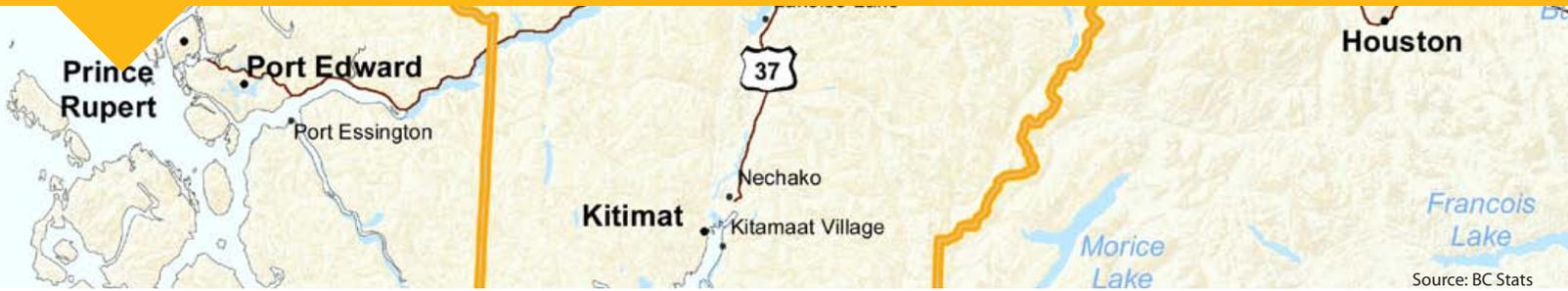
HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

Benefit from the growing demand across all industries and professions for employees. With an average weekly wage of \$976.79 in 2011, you will earn a good living in Kitimat.

- **Construction** - Heavy duty equipment operators, heavy duty mechanics, labourers, iron workers, welders, steamfitters and pipefitters, electricians, crane operators, drillers and blasters, cooks, truck drivers
- **Wood sector** - Machine operators, labourers, sawfilers
- **Professions** - Biologists, mineral technologists and technicians, land survey technicians and technologists

The [Occupational Guides for Immigrants to B.C.](#) provide information on these occupations.





MAJOR REGIONAL EMPLOYERS

Most of Kitimat's jobs are in the manufacturing industry. The public sector and other support industries are growing quickly, too. Here are some of the region's largest employers:

Manufacturing

- Rio Tinto Alcan
- Zanron Fabrication
- Kitimat Iron & Metal Works
- Lapointe Engineering

Public Sector

- School District #82
- Northern Health
- District of Kitimat

Retail trade

- Overwaitea Foods
- Tim Hortons

JOB SEARCH

Want to get ahead? Kitimat has local job agencies and online resources to help you find a career in your chosen field.

- Kitimat Community Services Society
- Kitimat Valley Institute

JOB RELATED TRAINING

Need training to pursue the career of your choice? In Kitimat, numerous options are available to get the certificates and qualifications needed for jobs in the region.

- Northwest Community College
- Kitimat Valley Institute
- Kitimat Community Services Society
- UA Piping Industry College of B.C.

Many employers also provide on-the-job training.

One in five residents of Kitimat has a first language other than English.

English as a Second Language Services

- The Kitimat Community Services Society provides free English language development courses.
- Northwest Community College offers English courses of varying levels.





LIVING IN KITIMAT

Rest assured that you will have an easy time adjusting to the Kitimat way of life. The people of the West Coast have a reputation across Canada as easygoing and friendly. You and your family will soon feel right at home in this multicultural and welcoming community.

IMMIGRANT RELATED SERVICES

The [Kitimat Community Services Society](#) and Kitimat Resource Centre are some of the organizations who will help you settle in upon arrival. They will work with you to get documents filed, introduce you to business, job and training opportunities, and assist you and your family in getting comfortable in your new home.



HOUSING

A low cost of living and above average wages create huge value in housing in Kitimat. In 2013 the average home was assessed at \$192,417, about 80 per cent less than in Vancouver. If you prefer to rent, you could find a three-bedroom townhouse starting at \$950 per month in 2013, about 50 per cent less than in Greater Vancouver.

Use the B.C. Government's [Cost of Living Calculator](#) to find out more about costs in Kitimat.



CHILDCARE AND EDUCATION

Various options for childcare are available in Kitimat. You can conveniently search for childcare providers online through the B.C. government [Child Care information](#) site.

For older children, the public school system in British Columbia is among the best in the world. Kitimat has three elementary schools, a middle school and a high school, as well as a Catholic and alternative school.

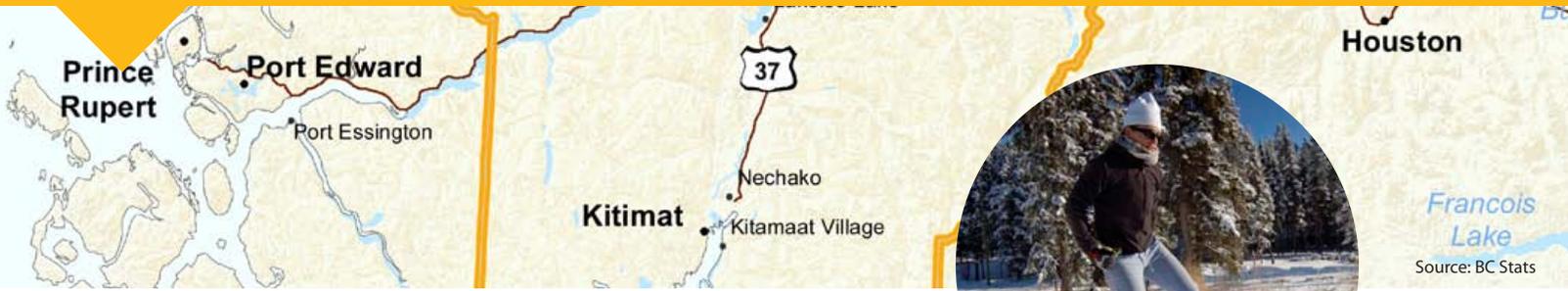
The [Kitimat Public Library](#) promotes education and literacy for adults and children. It provides educational resources like free Internet access to help in learning.

TRANSPORTATION

Kitimat's port serves as an important hub for the region's industries. The [Kitimat-Terrace Regional Airport](#) has daily flights to Vancouver and other communities. Kitimat is connected to the Yellowhead 16 Highway by Highway 37 and is easily accessible by vehicle. Within the city you can take advantage of public buses.

HEALTH CARE

The General Hospital provides many medical services. There are also dentists, optometrists, chiropractors, and other trained medical professionals practicing in Kitimat.



FAITH AND WORSHIP/CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

The diverse community of Kitimat has a broad spectrum of cultural and religious organizations.

Spiritually, Kitimat includes several Christian denominated churches as well as a Sikh temple.

In 2013, some of the organized cultural associations in Kitimat included:

- Kitimat Multicultural Society
- Fil-Can Association (Filipino)
- Finnish Canadian Club
- Greek Orthodox Community
- Italian Canadian Club
- Kitimat Sikh Society
- Luso Canadian Club

Kitimat has warm, pleasant summers and snowy winters.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

You and your family will have many leisure options in Kitimat. Facilities include a recreation centre, arena, ice rink and aquatic centre. You can join volunteer organizations working to create a stronger community such as the Rotary Club, Kitimat Youth Centre and the Kiwanis Club.

Kitimat hosts festivals year-round, which gather and build the community. Some of these celebrations include fishing contests, a dragon boat regatta, the annual basketball tournament and the Whale Jam.

ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS

Although Kitimat is wonderful, its true beauty and soul is found in the outdoors. From the moment you see the beautiful, rugged coast you will love it. In summer you can hike, bike, fish, hunt, camp, or just explore the countryside. There are also tennis courts, sports fields, and a skateboard park.

When the snow falls, you can join family and friends to snowshoe, sled, snowmobile or cross-country ski or try out skiing or snowboarding at the popular Shames Mountain ski hill.

MEDIA

Kitimat has two local papers to keep you informed on regional news and events.

- [Northern Sentinel](#)
- [Kitimat Daily](#)
- [Northern Connector](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

A marvel of nature and industry, Kitimat is a great place to raise a family. Making the move to this B.C. boom town is easier than you think. Explore the sites below and build a bright future for your career and family.

- [Kitimat Website](#)
- [Tourism Kitimat](#)
- [LoonLounge](#): Canada's immigration and settlement online community
- [Kitimat Chamber of Commerce](#)