

# 2018 ECONOMIC PROFILE





Prepared by the City of Grande Prairie, this profile provides relevant information for business and industries interested in investing in Grande Prairie. In our efforts to direct and assist in the overall economic growth in the region, the City of Grande Prairie would be pleased to provide you with guidance and information tailored to meet your needs. Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you require further information.



### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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*a growing, hardworking city*

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# THE HIGHLIGHTS

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## DEMOGRAPHICS

Grande Prairie is the youngest city in Canada with a median age of 31.9 and one of the fastest growing communities in North America. The 2016 federal census recorded 63,166 residents up 13.5% from 2011.

## BUSINESS ADVANTAGES

- No sales taxes
- A total trading area population of over 281,000 people
- Most businesses are exempt from business licenses
- One of the most entrepreneurial cities in Canada

## LABOUR FORCE

A young and educated population offers a valuable and highly skilled workforce to the region's major economic sectors.

## MAJOR INDUSTRY

The region boasts extraordinary crop quality with 13.6% (or 3.3 million hectares) of Alberta's cropland, making agriculture an important component of the region's diverse economy.

Forestry contributes significantly to the region's economy as northwestern Alberta produces a substantial amount of the province's pulp, oriented strand board and dimensional lumber.

Oil and gas provides tremendous opportunities for companies involved in the extraction and processing of energy resources as well as for supporting companies in transportation, business management, engineering, consulting, information technology, communications, and manufacturing.





As a strategic regional hub for retail and industrial trade and commerce, Grande Prairie is a lucrative market for local and multi-national retailers. Retail spending in the city represents \$1.25 billion, spread over a retail inventory of 4.06 million square feet. A recent Retail Market Analysis shows the market has a residual demand for 958,000 square feet of new stores.

A growing sport tourism industry is developing Grande Prairie into a community of choice for high calibre sport, recreation and cultural events. Recent events include the 2015 Alberta Special Olympics and the 2016 Scotties Tournament of Hearts. Coming up, Grande Prairie will also host the 2018 Alberta Summer Games.

## INVESTMENT & AMENITIES

Significant recent investments in infrastructure, arts and culture, sport and recreation, and health care facilities include:

- \$730 million regional hospital and cancer centre opening in 2019
- \$109 million world-class aquatics and wellness facility
- \$39 million Downtown Streetscape Enhancement and Rehabilitation Project

## COMPLEMENTARY PUBLICATIONS

### GRANDE PRAIRIE GUIDE

A great resource for newcomers to Grande Prairie or those who are considering making the move. This annual publication is produced for businesses, families and individuals to learn more about why Grande Prairie is an excellent place to live, work, and play. Available in English and French.

### HOTEL & EVENT FACILITIES GUIDE

You'll want to refer to this publication when you are planning your next event, meeting or conference. Find room dimensions, photos, facility amenities, and accommodation information for every space in Grande Prairie.

### SPORTS FACILITIES GUIDE

When you're planning to host a sporting event, competition or tournament, this is your guide for information on all Grande Prairie and surrounding area sport facilities, their amenities, map locations, and photos.

Request a print copy: [ecdevinfo@cityofgp.com](mailto:ecdevinfo@cityofgp.com)

View online: [cityofgp.com/livehere](http://cityofgp.com/livehere)





*distance to markets*

# LOCATION & DISTANCE

The City of Grande Prairie is 456 kilometres northwest of Edmonton and is the largest city between Edmonton and Anchorage, Alaska. As the largest city in northwestern Alberta, Grande Prairie is well positioned to access markets across Canada and beyond. Highways 40 and 43 and CN rail connect Grande Prairie to major markets and ports across North America. The Grande Prairie Airport offers daily service to both Calgary and Edmonton.

While the city itself boasts a population of 63,166, the area immediately surrounding the city brings the primary trading area to over 167,000 people. However, the City services a larger trading area of over 281,000 people spanning northwestern Alberta, northeastern British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. As a strategic regional hub for trade and commerce, Grande Prairie proves to be a lucrative market for

both local and multi-national retailers with names like Costco, Bed Bath & Beyond and Marshall's.

## DISTANCE TO GRANDE PRAIRIE

Edmonton, AB	456 km	284 miles
Calgary, AB	750 km	466 miles
Fort McMurray, AB	756 km	470 miles
Red Deer, AB	608 km	378 miles
Dawson Creek, BC	131 km	81 miles
Vancouver, BC	1,192 km	741 miles
Prince Rupert, BC	1,251 km	777 miles
Seattle, WA	1,304 km	810 miles
Portland, OR	1,583 km	983 miles
Toronto, ON	3,830 km	2,380 miles

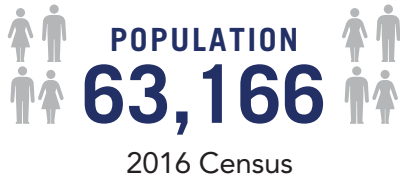






*young, fast growing population*

# DEMOGRAPHICS



POPULATION INCREASE  
2001 —————> 2016

**70.8%↑**

POPULATION GROWTH RATE  
2001 —————> 2016

**3.63%↑**

Several smaller communities bring the total trading area population to over 281,000 people.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
2017 Average

**6.50%**



Continuing trend of young families and increasing births

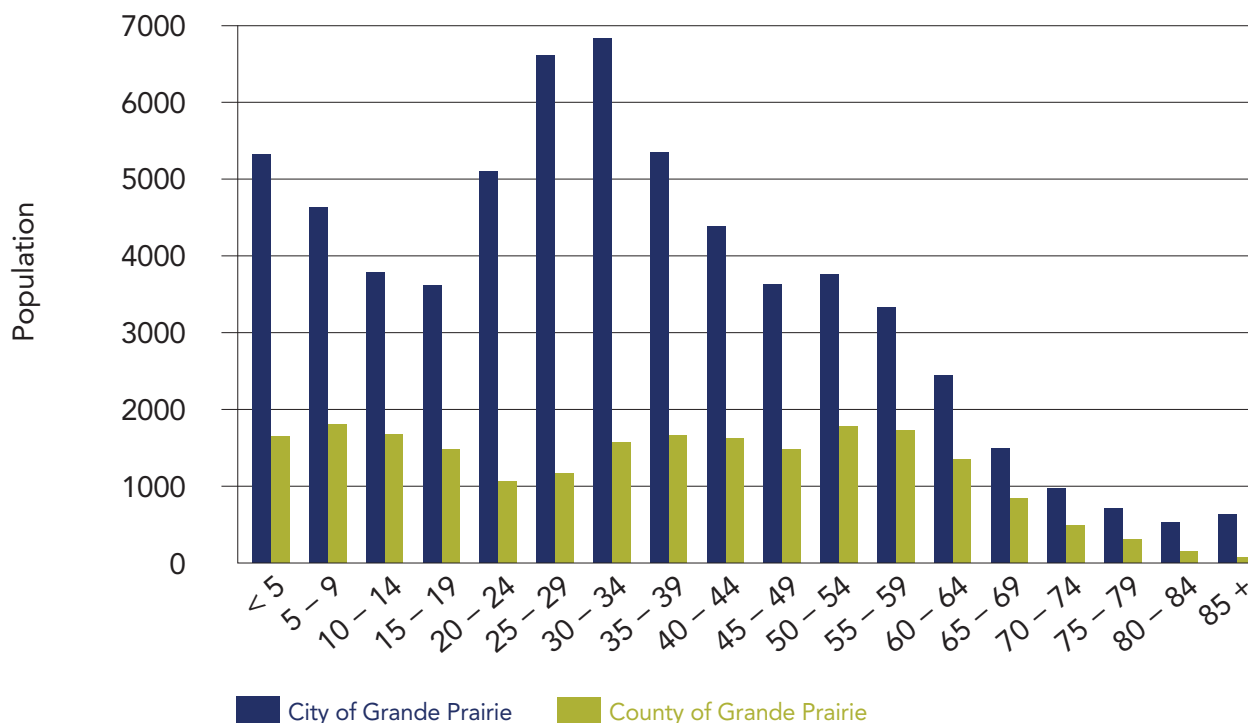


The median age of the community is a youthful 31.9



The city has more residents under the age of 5 than over 65

## POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY AGE





Grande Prairie is one of the youngest cities in Canada and one of the fastest growing cities in North America.

The city has nearly doubled to 63,166 (2016 Federal Census) in the last 20 years and has sustained a steady growth rate over the last decade. While most municipalities in Canada are contending with issues associated with an aging population, Grande Prairie continues to see a trend of incoming young

families and increasing births. The median age of the community is a youthful 31.9, making it one of the youngest cities in Canada. The City has more residents under the age of 5 than over the age of 65.



## *an educated labour force*

# WORKFORCE

Grande Prairie's young, educated population, offers a valuable and highly skilled workforce to the major economic sectors in the region, which include agriculture, forestry, oil and gas, retail services and tourism.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	POPULATION
High School certificate or equivalent	31.1%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	12.7%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	22.9%
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	2.6%
University certificate, diploma or degree	16.7%

Federal Census, 2016

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	POPULATION
Education	1,855
Arts & Communications	525
Humanities	555
Social Sciences & law	1,650
Business	4,460
Math & Computer Science	535
Engineering & Related	6,865
Agriculture & Resources	710
Health & Related	3,585
Transportation	1,655

Federal Census, 2016

2017 AVERAGE	DIVISION 19*	ALBERTA
Labour Force (000s)	195.4	2,481.1
Employed (000s)	182.7	2,283.0
Unemployed (000s)	12.7	198.2
Unemployment Rate	6.5%	8.0%
Participation Rate	70.9%	72.4%

\* Division 19 includes Banff, Jasper, Rocky Mountain House, Athabasca, Grande Prairie and Peace River.

2017 AVERAGE	GRANDE PRAIRIE
Median Family Income	\$118,026
Per Capita	\$48,048

Federal Census, 2016

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WAGE (AB)
Agriculture	\$23.38/hr
Forestry	\$28.72/hr
Oil & Gas	\$44.19/hr
Utilities	\$40.17/hr
Construction	\$31.83/hr
Manufacturing	\$33.15/hr
Wholesale Trade	\$30.52/hr
Retail Trade	\$18.36/hr
Transportation & Warehousing	\$31.52/hr
Information, Culture & Recreation	\$19.55/hr
Financial & Real Estate Services	\$27.48/hr
Professional & Scientific Services	\$29.26/hr
Business Support Services	\$23.88/hr
Educational Services	\$39.17/hr
Health Care	\$29.74/hr
Accommodation & Food	\$14.33/hr
Other Services	\$28.49/hr
Public Administration	\$32.97/hr

2015 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey Annual Alberta Regional Labour Market Review. Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education



*grande prairie regional college (gprc)*

# EDUCATION

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE | ANGIE PATTERSON

Educational, athletic and cultural opportunities are all part of the contribution GPRC makes to Grande Prairie and the Peace River region.

In response to regional, community and industry demand, GPRC provides a range of customized non-credit pre-employment programming, skills development, safety training and community interest courses.

GPRC offers Red Seal trade programs through its campuses for Electricians, Millwrights, Automotive Service Technicians, Carpenters, Heavy Equipment Technicians, Instrument Technicians, Motorcycle Equipment Technicians, Sheet Metal Workers, Steamfitter/Pipefitters and Welders.

Workforce Development provides hundreds of non-credit career training or personal interest courses annually, as well as several certificate programs to enhance the skills of working

professionals. These courses are constantly evolving in response to the needs of the community and the job market. In 2018 GPRC was awarded degree granting status as the institution's first step towards becoming a university.

## Programs

- Diploma and certificate programs for full or part-time study
- University transfer, diploma and certificate programs
- Apprenticeship and pre-employment trades training
- Adult high school equivalency completion
- Undergraduate degrees and master degrees in collaboration with partner universities
- Credit programs in the areas of Liberal Arts, Science, Education, Physical Education, Nursing, Human Services, Fine Arts, Business, Technology, Academic Upgrading, Trades and Technical training, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

[gprc.ab.ca](http://gprc.ab.ca) | 1-888-539-4772

*innovation and opportunity*

# INNOVATION

GRANDE PRAIRIE | WILLIAM VAVREK

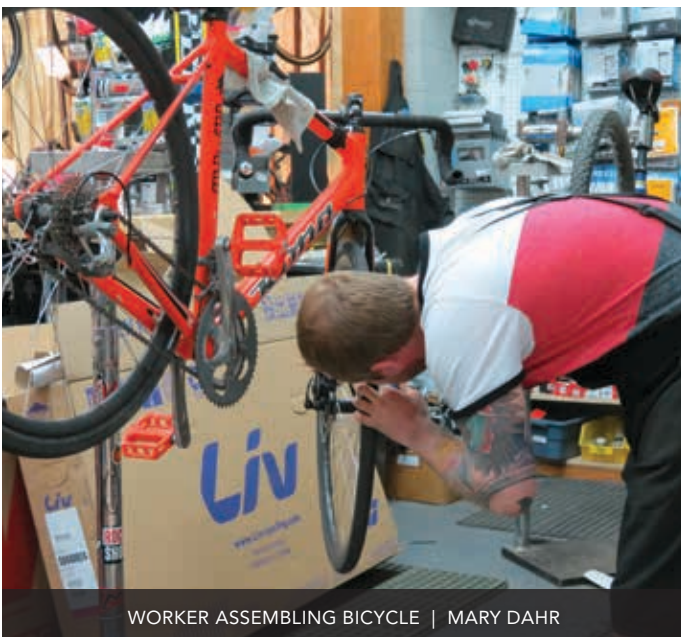
Grande Prairie is a community that recognizes innovation as an important driver of economic development. Opportunity is a word readily used to describe the city, powered by innovative individuals and businesses who contribute to the region's growth and prosperity.

## GPRC RESEARCH & INNOVATION

GPRC Research & Innovation (GPRC R&I) leads the development of applied research and innovation for the College and northwest Alberta. For research and innovation activities ranging from large Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) funded initiatives to local student-led community participatory projects, GPRC R&I provides project management, grants facilitation, secretariat, and other support services to the College, industrial and community partners across the region.

Closely collaborating with Alberta Innovates and the Grande Prairie Regional Innovation Network (GPRIN), GPRC R&I supports innovators, entrepreneurs, and students as they develop ideas into new marketable products and services. GPRC R&I is able to connect industry and community initiatives with the diverse experience, skills, and multi-disciplinary knowledge of the College's faculty and students, a powerful regionally-based resource for anyone seeking research and development assistance and advice, venture assessment, technical valuation, financial viability and project valuation.

[gprc.ab.ca/research](http://gprc.ab.ca/research)



WORKER ASSEMBLING BICYCLE | MARY DAHR





### GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL INNOVATION NETWORK

The Grande Prairie Regional Innovation Network offers regional innovation services. GPRIN is a formal community partnership, which leads the development and delivery of innovation and technical problem solving services for innovators and entrepreneurs in the region and surrounds.

#### Services include:

- Technical Problem Solving
- Steps to Commercialization
- Learning Events
- Access to Funds and Programs
- Idea Assessment
- Intellectual Property
- White Boarding

GPRIN is a collective partnership between the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie, MD of Greenvew, Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce, Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) and Community Futures Grande Prairie and the sponsoring agency Alberta Innovates.

For more information:

780-897-0680 | [gprin.ca](http://gprin.ca)

### SPARK! BUSINESS INCUBATOR

A partnership between Community Futures Grande Prairie & Region and the City of Grande Prairie, Spark! Business Incubator opened its doors in February 2017. As a physical business incubator, Spark! provides month-to-month, weekly, and hourly office rentals to new and transitioning businesses looking for operational space, meeting space, training space and the like.

The incubator offers administration, internet, printing and photocopying services, business counselling, coaching, training and consulting services along with access to several other professional services such as accounting & legal advice, engineering services, business advisory boards and masterminds and all other areas of the business development spectrum.

An onsite concierge works with all prospective incubator clients to assess their needs and goals and create a tailored business development plan. At full capacity, the incubator will house Community Futures and 7 additional incubating businesses with the opportunity for future expansion.

For more information:

780-814-5340 | [gpsparkincubator.ca](http://gpsparkincubator.ca)

*a city of entrepreneurs*

# BUSINESS ADVANTAGE

Grande Prairie remains one of the top places to build a business, find employment and integrate into a growing community. Diverse economic drivers and an entrepreneurial business culture continue to offer opportunities in a variety of industries.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business has consistently recognized Grande Prairie as one of the most entrepreneurial cities in Canada. Boasting the most small businesses per capita in Canada, Grande Prairie's entrepreneurs are a vital component to maintaining the strong, vibrant business environment that has a proven ability to withstand even the toughest economic climates.

The city's strategic location in the heart of the prolific Montney formation provides a logistical advantage over northern rural industrial parks with reduced cycle times of more than 30 minutes, resulting in reduced equipment costs and variable operating expenditures. The city's industrial areas are conveniently located along arterial roads with fully signalized intersections. Properly zoned and developed industrial parks avoid conflicts and reduce negative interactions with the public, normally associated with industrial uses adjacent to residential and agricultural developments. Close proximity to amenities such as restaurants, shopping, medical clinics and professional services result in higher employee job satisfaction and less time away from work for appointments.

The optimized industrial locations allow your employees to maintain a high quality of life with commutes of less than 15 minutes to anywhere within the city, offering employees more time at home with family and less time spent on the highway. Similarly, nearby hotels, conference facilities and airport ensure that travelling consultants and executives are able to maximize their time with your business.



214 PLACE DOWNTOWN | JKP IMAGES





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*grow your business*

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# BUSINESS RESOURCES

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Residents of Grande Prairie have long proven themselves as resourceful and entrepreneurial. The innovative nature of the community has helped to develop a network of resources to support the entrepreneurial pursuits, business development that is common in the city.

## **ABORIGINAL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

ABED is a program of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada which provides services and support for the growth of the Aboriginal business sector. It helps First Nations business start-ups with the development of business plans, accessing lenders and financing.

[aadnc-aandc.gc.ca](http://aadnc-aandc.gc.ca) | 780-495-2954

## **COMMUNITY FUTURES GRANDE PRAIRIE & REGION**

The Community Futures Grande Prairie & Region office is a community driven, non-profit organization that provides a wide range of small business services and business management tools for people looking to start, expand, franchise or sell a business.

[grandeprairie.albertacf.com](http://grandeprairie.albertacf.com) | 780-814-5340

## **GRANDE PRAIRIE & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The Chamber of Commerce connects business by creating opportunities for networking, business promotion, advocacy, and policy development. The Chamber makes services accessible to businesses of all sizes, types and industries. The Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce is the third largest in Alberta with over 1,300 businesses representing more than 20,000 employees.

[grandeprairiechamber.com](http://grandeprairiechamber.com) | 780-532-5340

*employee compensation*

# BUSINESS COSTS

## EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

### MINIMUM WAGE

In Alberta, the minimum wage for general employees is \$13.60.

[work.alberta.ca](http://work.alberta.ca)

### OVERTIME

Employees are paid 1.5 times their regular wage after eight hours a day or 44 hours per week.

[work.alberta.ca](http://work.alberta.ca)

## MANDATORY FRINGE BENEFITS

### CANADA PENSION PLAN (CPP)

Employers contribute 4.95% of employee wage to a maximum annual contribution of \$2,593.80.10 (2018).

[cra-arc.gc.ca](http://cra-arc.gc.ca)

### EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (EI)

Employers deduct EI premiums from insurable earnings paid to employees. Employers pay 1.4 times the amount of the employee's premiums and stop deducting premiums when the employee's maximum insurable earnings (\$51,700 for 2018) or the maximum employee premium for the year (\$858.22 for 2018) is reached.

[cra-arc.gc.ca](http://cra-arc.gc.ca)

### WORKPLACE COMPENSATION

WCB-Alberta collects premiums from businesses to cover the costs of work-related injuries. Employers pay premiums on the insurable earnings of all workers based on a maximum annual amount per worker plus any personal coverage purchased.

Premiums are not paid on earnings exceeding the Maximum Insurable Earnings amount per worker (\$98,700 for 2018). The average industry rate for 2018 is \$1.02.

[wcb.ab.ca](http://wcb.ab.ca)

### VACATION PAY

After one year of employment, employees are entitled to two weeks of vacation pay, or 4% of employee's wages. After five years, employees are entitled to three weeks of vacation with pay, or 6% of the employee's wages for the year.

### General Paid Holidays (9 days)

- New Year's Day
- Good Friday
- Canada Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day
- Alberta Family Day
- Victoria Day
- Labour Day
- Remembrance Day

### Additional optional benefits paid by employers include

#### Group Insurance:

- Life
- Sickness
- Vision
- Health
- Dental
- Physical/Mental Fitness

[work.alberta.ca](http://work.alberta.ca)



STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS | SEAN TROSTEM



*low tax, high benefits*

# TAXATION

Grande Prairie is an attractive place to build and expand your business. Alberta has a distinct advantage over other provinces in Canada with the absence of a provincial sales tax and low cost tax regime.

For tax information regarding properties in the rural service area please contact the City of Grande Prairie Tax & Assessment at **780-538-0315**.

CITY PROPERTY MILL RATES	2017 TAX RATE	TAX + EDUCATION & SPIRIT FOUNDATION TAX
Residential	9.955	12.703
Industrial/Commercial	15.485	19.2393
Farm	9.955	12.7033

ALBERTA CORPORATE TAX RATE	2017 TAX RATE
General	12%
Manufacturing & Processing	12%
Small Business	2%

TAX RATE	2017 TAX RATE
General Sales Tax (GST)	5%
Provincial Sales Tax (PST)	0%

City of Grande Prairie, Property Tax Bylaw

*a growing city*

# DEVELOPMENT



GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL HOSPITAL | WILLIAM VAVREK

Grande Prairie's vibrant economy has developed with years of steady growth.

The City is in an enviable economic position with several large projects in the works, including a new hospital and multiple new schools. New developments and construction totals nearly **\$2.4 billion**. A number of projects are under development, including:



CKC SPORTS FIELDS | SOUTHWEST DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION LTD

Grande Prairie Regional Hospital	\$730,000,000	Raw Water Storage Expansion and New Water Intake	\$19,400,000
Keyera Natural Gas Complex	\$470,000,000	Community Knowledge Campus Sports Fields	\$17,000,000
SemCAMS Gas Plant	\$300,000,000	Clairmont Regional Lift Station	\$13,500,000
Pembina Gas Processing Facility & Infrastructure Expansion	\$290,000,000	The Leisure Centre Renovations	\$11,000,000
Tidewater Gas Plant	\$210,000,000	Horse Lake Water Treatment Plant	\$10,000,000
Dimsdale Gas Project	\$200,000,000	York Hotel & Germaine Park Development	\$10,000,000
Grande Prairie Composite High School Replacement	\$60,000,000	La Glace Arena	\$6,600,000
Grande Prairie Hwy 43 Bypass	\$39,000,000	Waterline from Clairmont to Hawker Business Park	\$5,500,000
Grande Prairie Downtown Enhancements	\$38,200,000		
			<b>\$2,430,200,000</b>



## *municipal incentives*

# INCENTIVES

## MUNICIPAL INCENTIVES

### DOWNTOWN INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The City of Grande Prairie is dedicated to the revitalization of the downtown core and its vision for a vibrant city center where people live, work, and play. The Downtown Incentives Program is designed to contribute to this vision by encouraging building improvements and residential development in the City's core.

The program has four components: The Urban Residential Development Grant is designed to encourage property owners within the program boundary to invest in new development and/or redevelopment of their properties for mixed-use or multi-unit residential use. The Façade Improvement Grant rewards downtown building owners and tenants for making improvements to the fronts of their buildings that enhance aesthetic appeal, pedestrian access and public safety, while the Patio Grant provides a financial incentive for business owners to develop an outdoor patio space and encourage an increased public presence on the streets of downtown. Finally, the Demolition Grant rewards property owners for removing underutilized buildings within the downtown core.

Launched in 2016, the program has awarded over \$2 million to 26 downtown businesses. Every dollar awarded in grant funding was matched by over \$6 in additional investment in Grande Prairie's downtown core. The incentives stimulated over \$14 million in economic impact in the downtown to date. Another \$500,000 has been approved for the program in 2018.

[cityofgp.com/downtownincentives](http://cityofgp.com/downtownincentives)



### DOWNTOWN STREETScape ENHANCEMENT & REHABILITATION PROJECT

The City has recently completed Phases 1 & 2 of the Downtown Streetscape Enhancement & Rehabilitation Project on 101 Street and 101 Avenue. The \$20 million project increased the capacity of underground infrastructure such as sanitary, storm and water facilities. A complete streetscape revamp for these phases included new surfacing, trees, benches, lighting and other features to enhance the city's core. \$19 million has been budgeted for the completion of Phase 3 along 100 Avenue from 102 street to 100 street.

### INDUSTRIAL ATTRACTION STRATEGY

The City of Grande Prairie is committed to working with its partners to offer a competitive advantage with respect to infrastructure, service levels and costs to commercial and industrial development.

Grande Prairie's Industrial Attraction Strategy is in place to ensure adequate water, sanitary and transportation capacity in priority expansion areas and the availability of commercial and industrial lands for development.

#### Key priorities include:

- Infrastructure and development, to mitigate barriers to development
- Enhancing policy and procedures to ensure competitive standards and costs

### HUGHES LAKE AREA STRUCTURE PLAN

The City is currently developing an Area Structure Plan (ASP) for a portion of the new annexation area adjacent to the south and east boundaries of the newly constructed Highway 43 bypass. The ASP will guide growth and provide direction for future land uses and infrastructure within the plan area. Once approved, the ASP will offer landowners and developers guidance on development opportunities on their lands.

[cityofgp.com/hugheslakeasp](http://cityofgp.com/hugheslakeasp)

*the bustling core of grande prairie*

# DOWNTOWN

## CITY CENTRE

As the geographic centre of the city, downtown is a busy and attractive place to do business. Unique shops, businesses and the city's largest office buildings attract a diverse group of patrons. Banks, furniture stores, clothing and jewellery boutiques, as well as a great selection of local products at the year-round farmers market make for a vibrant downtown.

The downtown has witnessed a substantial amount of private investment in recent years. Assessed values have increased from \$308.7 million in 2010, to over \$454.9 million in 2017.

Downtown retail vacancy is 3.72% and the office vacancy rate is 9.63%.

## REVOLUTION PLACE

At the heart of downtown is Revolution Place, comprised of the Bowes Family Gardens and Revolution Arena.

### The facility features:

- 18,000 square feet of flexible banquet and meeting space, an ideal venue to host major fundraisers, gala events, banquets and balls.
- The Revolution Arena, a 3,228 seat multi-purpose arena, home to the Grande Prairie Storm and concert venue attracting performances such as Keith Urban, Rihanna, Backstreet Boys, Elton John and more.

[cityofgp.com/revolutionplace](http://cityofgp.com/revolutionplace)







REVOLUTION PLACE | CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE

### MONTROSE CULTURAL CENTRE

The Montrose Cultural Centre is home to the Grande Prairie Public Library, the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie, Esquires Coffee House and the Teresa Sargent Hall. It is a place for the community to gather in support of the arts and literacy in Grande Prairie. [cityofgp.com/mcc](http://cityofgp.com/mcc)



MONTROSE CULTURAL CENTRE | BEAUCHAMP PHOTOGRAPHY

### THE DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to unifying, marketing, promoting, lobbying and liaising on behalf of its members, the Grande Prairie Downtown Association is a volunteer leadership group that operates as a Business Revitalization Zone and is governed by a board of directors.

[gpdowntown.com](http://gpdowntown.com)



STREET PERFORMER FESTIVAL | RON POTTS



DOWNTOWN GRANDE PRAIRIE | BEAUCHAMP PHOTOGRAPHY

# HOUSING

GRANDE PRAIRIE NEIGHBOURHOOD | WILLIAM VAVREK

Grande Prairie's local real estate market remains affordable. Home prices remain low relative to the average household income.

Overall, the cost of living remains relatively low in comparison to both similar sized cities as well as major urban centres.

## 2017 HOUSING STATISTICS

Total Dollar Volume of Sales	\$655,769,827
Average Residential Home Price <sup>1</sup>	\$293,935
Average Rent 2 Bedroom Suite <sup>2</sup>	\$1,012
Apartment Vacancy Rate	4.9%

<sup>1</sup> Canadian Real Estate Association Statistics

<sup>2</sup> CMHC Rental Market Statistics, October 2017

TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Value of residential permits	\$136,292,548	\$118,074,643	\$178,957,563	\$84,551,456	\$51,289,918	\$65,766,488
Value of commercial permits	\$49,042,817	\$51,904,711	\$77,427,281	\$83,936,994	\$43,688,322	\$76,632,352
Value of industrial permits	\$8,612,535	\$8,538,763	\$6,524,311	\$14,971,568	\$4,051,017	\$2,242,576
Value of gov't & institutional permits	\$61,956,945	\$102,225,902	\$10,109,361	\$67,375,308	\$209,875,646	\$2,774,615
Total permit value <sup>3</sup>	\$255,904,845	\$280,830,018	\$273,048,516	\$247,780,329	\$309,905,905	\$147,416,031
Number of single family detached starts <sup>4</sup>	491	393	396	107	108	146
Number of multi-family starts	120	203	336	250	126	48

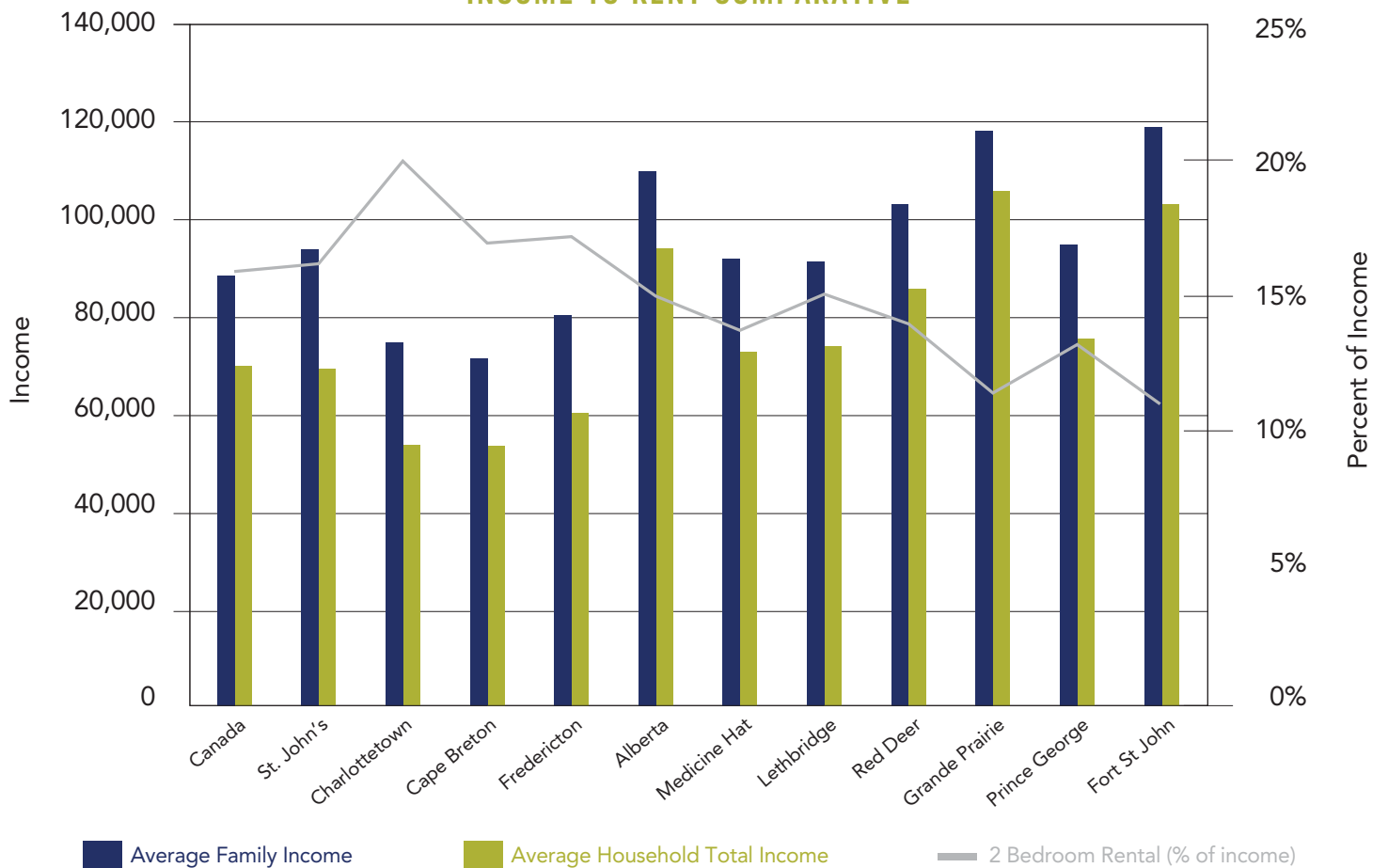
<sup>3</sup> City of Grande Prairie Inspection Services – Monthly Statistics and New Construction

<sup>4</sup> Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Information Portal





### INCOME TO RENT COMPARATIVE



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*a growing city*

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# UTILITIES

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## **ELECTRICITY & NATURAL GAS**

Alberta's electricity and natural gas systems are owned and operated by a mix of investor and municipally owned companies. The price paid by consumers is determined by supply and demand with prices fluctuating on a monthly basis. Consumers have the option to enter into contracts to ensure price certainty.

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Grande Prairie is served by numerous wireless and wire line providers. Most service providers include high-speed digital network internet speeds of up to 1GBps along with competitive local telephone services to ensure businesses have access to the communication services they need.



## WATER & SANITARY SERVICES

Aquatera is the regional provider of water and wastewater treatment, garbage collection and recycling services. Grande Prairie's landfill site is also owned and operated by Aquatera, who manages the garbage collection process, recycling and the Eco Centre. Aquatera's solid waste services are some of the most comprehensive in Alberta. At the curb you can recycle blue bag materials, yard waste, pumpkins and Christmas trees in addition to garbage cart service.<sup>5</sup>

ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
Aquatera	Local provider of water, wastewater, solid waste and recycling services	780-538-0348 aquatera.ca
ATCO Electric	Provides electricity to northern and east-central Alberta	General enquiries: 1-800-668-2248 24 hr. emergency: 1-800-688-5506
ATCO Gas	Provides natural gas to northern and east-central Alberta	General enquiries: 1-800-310-5678 24 hr. emergency: 1-800-511-3447 Line alter & install: 780-539-2400

### WATER RATES, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018<sup>5</sup>

Non-Residential Water Consumption Based Charge \$1.691/cubic metre*				Wastewater Usage Based Charge \$2.126/cubic metre	
Meter Size	Flow Rate	Rate	Charge/Month	Rate	Charge/Month
5/8" meter =	1 x	\$12.46	\$12.46/month	\$8.90	\$8.90/month
¾" meter =	1.5 x	\$12.46	\$18.69/month	\$8.90	\$13.35/month
1" meter =	2.5 x	\$12.46	\$31.15/month	\$8.90	\$22.25/month
1 ½" meter =	5 x	\$12.46	\$62.30/month	\$8.90	\$44.50/month
2" meter =	8 x	\$12.46	\$99.68/month	\$8.90	\$71.20/month
3" meter =	17.5 x	\$12.46	\$218.05/month	\$8.90	\$155.75/month
4" meter =	31.5 x	\$12.46	\$392.49/month	\$8.90	\$280.35/month
6" meter =	70 x	\$12.46	\$872.20/month	\$8.90	\$623.00/month
8" meter =	140 x	\$12.46	\$1,744.40/month	\$8.90	\$1,246.00/month
10" meter =	220 x	\$12.46	\$2679.60/month	\$8.90	\$1,958.00/month

### SOLID WASTE SERVICES RATE SCHEDULE (CHARGES FOR ONE MONTH PERIOD)

Single Family Dwelling Residential Garbage Collection	\$19.48 flat rate monthly
Residential Solid Waste Franchise Recovery Fee	\$2.00 flat rate monthly
Recycling Program - Multi/Single Family Residential	\$10.18 flat rate monthly
Recycling Program - Non-Residential	\$14.69 flat rate monthly
Cardboard Recycling Program - Non-Residential	\$15.33 flat rate monthly

<sup>5</sup> aquatera.ca/my-account/rates

\* Meter readings are in cubic metres. There are 220 gallons in one cubic metre.

\*\*Water franchise fee = 10% of Total Water Consumption Based charges and Water Fixed Charge

*getting around*

# TRANSPORTATION

## HIGHWAYS

Three major highways link the City of Grande Prairie to the rest of Alberta, Canada and the world. This highway infrastructure makes Grande Prairie the service, retail and business hub of northwestern Alberta and northeastern British Columbia; linking the city to Edmonton and British Columbia via Highway 43, the Northwest Territories via Highway 2 and the Rocky Mountains via Highway 40.

The city is located on the CANAMEX trade route, linking Canada with the United States and Mexico. In 2014, the Alberta portion of the trade route was completely twinned from Grande Prairie to the border crossing at Coutts, Alberta, allowing for the use of Turnpike Doubles that will reduce shipping costs to and from the region.

The Province has begun the construction of a \$54 million bypass around the city that will reduce urban traffic congestion while also providing new industrial development opportunities in the city's northwest.

The city's main commercial and industrial areas are all situated along the region's major highways, allowing trucks to be at highway speeds within minutes.

## GRANDE PRAIRIE AIRPORT

Grande Prairie Airport connects the region to the Calgary and Edmonton international airports with direct daily flights, service provided by Air Canada and WestJet.

The airport continues to be a major transportation hub for the region, with 406,065 passengers passing through in 2017, a 4.3% increase over 2016.

[grandeprairieairport.com](http://grandeprairieairport.com)

## RAIL

The Grande Prairie region is served by Canadian National Railway. Tracks connect Grande Prairie with the CN main line at Hinton, linking us to the ports of Vancouver, Prince Rupert, and the rest of North America.

This vital transportation system is the most cost effective way of shipping bulk goods out of the region and onto export markets. Commodities such as grain, coal, oil and wood products are commonly shipped by rail from the area.

Strengthening the regional import and export capacity, a new 107 acre Multi-Modal Logistics Park provides rail-to-truck and truck-to-rail services. This new development has increased options for shippers, reduced costs and improved market access for regional producers.

## TRANSIT

The City of Grande Prairie provides scheduled transit service using a fleet of modern buses. The implementation of Automatic Vehicle Locator technology assists in improving the overall efficiency of transit operations by allowing passengers to find routing information, time of last stop, and length of wait for the next bus.

[cityofgp.com/transit](http://cityofgp.com/transit)



GRANDE PRAIRIE AIRPORT | CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE



*farmland & growth*

# ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

MUSKOSSEPI PARK | BEAUCHAMP PHOTOGRAPHY

A number of annual initiatives take place to keep Grande Prairie clean and green.

- **City Scrub:** Every year schools, businesses, residents and community groups volunteer 20 minutes of their time to pick up garbage in and around the city. City Scrub occurs in the spring and has more than 7,000 participants helping to make our City a cleaner place.
- **Community Enhancement Grants:** Each year the City supports a number of community environmental and beautification initiatives through the community enhancement grants. Visit [cityofgfp.com/environment](http://cityofgfp.com/environment) to find out if your community project is eligible!
- **Edible Planting:** The City has an edible planting policy that increases the number of planted fruit trees and shrubs throughout the community. Edible trees and shrubs are planted in parks throughout the city and residents are encouraged to enjoy the harvest.
- **Partners for Climate Protection Program:** The City of Grande Prairie is one of over 240 municipalities who have joined PCP, making a public commitment to reduce emissions. These members cover all provinces and territories, and account for more than 80% of the Canadian population.
- **Vermicomposting:** The City offers sessions several times a year to community groups and schools on composting organic waste in order to decrease waste being sent to the landfill.

[cityofgfp.com/environment](http://cityofgfp.com/environment)



CURBSIDE RECYCLING | AQUATERA



*activities for the entire family*

# PARKS & RECREATION

MUSKOSEEPI PARK | BEAUCHAMP PHOTOGRAPHY

Whether it's surfing at the state-of-the-art Eastlink Centre, walking the trails of Muskoseepi Park, or planning a camping trip into the great outdoors, Grande Prairie is abundant in recreational opportunities. The city boasts a number of accessible parks, golf courses and spectacular green spaces, while the foothills south of Grande Prairie provide year-round entertainment for hikers, bikers, campers, snowmobilers, skiers, and outdoor recreationalists.

## EASTLINK CENTRE

Since opening its doors in 2011, the Eastlink Centre has become Northern Alberta's destination for aquatics and recreation.

The centre offers over 280,000 square feet of fitness and fun with two field houses, indoor surfing, a 50 metre Olympic-sized pool, 25 metre program pool, indoor splash park and indoor running track. The fitness area boasts 16,000 square feet of elite training machines and free weights.

To top off a great day of activities you can go for a ride in the lazy river, or enjoy hot tubs, steam and sauna rooms. The facility features a long list of amenities including food and beverage options and health and wellness services. With over 6,400 members, the facility hosts an average of 2,000 visitors each day.

Eastlink Centre is a hub for local, regional, provincial and even national sporting events. Recent events include the 2015 Special Olympic Alberta Winter Games and the 2015 Tour of Alberta. This summer Eastlink Centre is excited to be a host facility for the 2018 Alberta Summer Games.

[eastlinkcentre.ca](http://eastlinkcentre.ca)



EASTLINK CENTRE | CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE





### MUSKOSEEPI PARK

Following along the Bear Creek corridor, Muskoseepi Park is Grande Prairie’s central green space. Running through the heart of the city, the park features over 1,100 acres of parkland with 20 kilometres of paved trails, an additional 6 kilometres of natural surface trails and six distinct areas each offering their own special opportunities.

The park includes a 10,000 sq. ft. Pavilion, the Grande Prairie Museum, tennis courts, playground, water park, lawn bowling, fishing pond, skating in the winter, mini golf and an amphitheatre.

[cityofgp.com/muskoseepi](http://cityofgp.com/muskoseepi)

### SKI AND BIKE

Both Nitehawk Recreation Area and Wapiti Nordic Ski Club are open year-round. Nitehawk Recreation Area offers downhill skiing on nine runs and two terrain parks, fully lit for night skiing while the Wapiti Nordic Ski Club features over 35 km of trails for cross-country and skate skiing including the 4.5 km night skiing trail. Both parks are open for mountain biking, hiking and running through the summer months.

[gonitehawk.com](http://gonitehawk.com) | [wapitinordic.com](http://wapitinordic.com)

RECREATION STATISTICS	
40 km	Recreation Trails
1,600 acres	Parkland
4	Golf Courses
5	Public Tennis Courts
28	Baseball Diamonds
1	Track
2	Ski Facilities: Cross Country and Downhill
26	Gymnasiums
33	Sports Fields
2	Aquatics & Recreation Facility
1	Sports & Entertainment Facility
1	Community Garden
1	Curling Club
4	Ice Pads
5	Outdoor Hockey Rinks
2	Rugby Fields
1	Cricket Pitch



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*experience the rich history*

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# ARTS & CULTURE

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## THEATRE

### GRANDE PRAIRIE LIVE THEATRE

The 167-seat Grande Prairie Live Theatre is one of Canada's largest non-profit community theatres. The theatre offers an exciting entertainment venue for date night, family outings, and cultural enrichment. Most uniquely, it offers the rare opportunity to experience the talent of both local and visiting artists as well as award-winning Canadian and foreign films.

[gplt.ab.ca](http://gplt.ab.ca)

### REEL SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL

Each year, the theatre hosts the Reel Shorts Film Festival, celebrating short films and the Canadian, international and local filmmakers who create these brilliant screen stories.

[reelshorts.ca](http://reelshorts.ca)

### DOUGLAS J. CARDINAL PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Grande Prairie Regional College's 508 seat Douglas J. Cardinal Performing Arts Centre hosts a wide variety of local community groups, keynote speakers, musical performances, theatrical performances and recitals.

[gprc.ab.ca/theatre](http://gprc.ab.ca/theatre)



GRANDE PRAIRIE LIVE THEATRE | WILLIAM VAVREK





## ART

### THE ART GALLERY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE GALLERY

The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie Gallery maintains the largest public art collection in the region. It is a gathering place for arts and culture, and where new and unique experiences are found in every direction. As a Category 'A' institution, the gallery is permitted to receive donations of works of art of outstanding significance and national importance. It currently houses a permanent collection of over 600 pieces, almost exclusively created in Alberta in the mid to late 20th Century.

[aggp.ca](http://aggp.ca)

### THE CENTRE FOR CREATIVE ARTS

The Centre has two galleries and provides a variety of art programming for the community where residents and visitors can gather to experience, create and celebrate art and culture.

[creativecentre.ca](http://creativecentre.ca)



ART CLASS | THE CENTRE FOR CREATIVE ARTS

## HISTORY

### GRANDE PRAIRIE MUSEUM

Situated in Muskoseepi Park, the Grande Prairie Museum develops and hosts educational programs, tours, interactive displays and temporary exhibits to tell the story of the region's heritage.

The Heritage Village features historical buildings from the area, providing visitors with a glimpse of the past. Buildings include the McQueen Presbyterian Church, Grande Prairie Fire Hall, Pipestone Creek Store, a blacksmith shop, Hudson Bay Outpost and a display of agricultural and industrial equipment.

The Heritage Discovery Centre provides the history of the region, from the ice age to the present day, with an array of interactive displays and information.

[cityofgp.com/gpmuseum](http://cityofgp.com/gpmuseum)



GRANDE PRAIRIE MUSEUM AND HERITAGE VILLAGE | LIZA CURTISS



*an educated labour force*

# HEALTH CARE

## HOSPITALS

A new regional hospital and cancer centre will open its doors in Grande Prairie in 2019, helping northern patients receive specialized and complex care closer to home and with shorter wait times. The \$730 million regional hospital will function as a regional referral centre, providing health services to the region.

### FEATURES

- **200 single inpatient rooms:** including medical, surgical and rehabilitation, intensive care, cardiac care, obstetrics, neonatal intensive care, pediatric and mental health beds
- **An emergency department:** Designed as the primary emergency facility for the Grande Prairie region, supplemented by the urgent care services that will be provided at the existing Queen Elizabeth II Hospital
- **A state-of-the-art cancer centre:** bringing radiation therapy services to the community
- **Obstetrics:** space for an anticipated 2,150 annual births in the region by 2025
- Approximately 4,000 square metres for the nursing and medical careers program from the Grande Prairie Regional College

The existing Queen Elizabeth II Hospital will continue as a health care facility providing ambulatory primary care, outpatient mental health and community health services. The redevelopment provides an opportunity to support integrated, accessible and family-centred care.

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Alberta Health Services provides Emergency Medical Services (EMS) through a combination of AHS staff, contracts with municipalities and contracts with private providers. In addition, a comprehensive and responsive emergency medical system made up of flight crews, air medical crews, and communications specialists work to ensure patients across Alberta receive the best care available in the shortest period possible. STARS is a charitable non-profit organization that provides 24 hour a day, seven days a week emergency medical service from bases in Calgary, Edmonton and Grande Prairie.  
[albertahealthservices.ca](http://albertahealthservices.ca) | [stars.ca](http://stars.ca)

### HOSPITALS AND FACILITIES

Hospitals	1
Medical Clinics	21

QUEEN ELIZABETH II HOSPITAL | WILLIAM VAVREK



*farmland & growth*

# AGRICULTURE

WHEAT FIELD | LLOYD DYKSTRA

Grande Prairie was built on a foundation of fertile farmland and 100 years later, agriculture remains an important component of the region's diverse economy. Despite our northern location, the region boasts extraordinary crop quality.

The Peace Country region is Alberta's number two crop producing region. The cropland acreage totals 3.9 million acres, representing 16% of Alberta's cropland. Agriculture is predominantly concentrated in canola, wheat, barley, and alfalfa.<sup>6</sup>

AGRICULTURE <sup>7</sup>	2016	SHARE OF ALBERTA
Total Cropland (acres)	3,934,383	16%
Canola	1,293,166	21%
Wheat	948,882	14%
Alfalfa	459,467	15%
Dry Field Peas	432,825	23%
Barley	263,288	8%
Oats	192,481	23%
Cattle (number)	285,771	5%
Pigs (number)	111,846	8%
Poultry (number)	368,599	2%

<sup>6,7</sup> 2016 Census of Agriculture



CANOLA FIELD | LLOYD DYKSTRA

*economic engine*

# FORESTRY

Grande Prairie's forestry industry is one of the most important economic engines in the region, with four large operators, Weyerhaeuser, International Paper, Canfor and Norbord. While it is unusual to see such a concentration of major operators in a city of Grande Prairie's size, these operations are among the most competitive in Canada and the region's top industrial employers, employing over 1,100 people. Northwestern Alberta produces 40% of Alberta's pulp, 64% of its panel board and 50% of its timber.<sup>8</sup> Aspen, Tamarack, Lodgepole Pine and Black Spruce make up the boreal forest to the south and west of Grande Prairie, serving as a vast reservoir for the local pulp and paper industry.

**Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd.** continues to operate a lumber mill and timberlands in Grande Prairie. Over 300 employees contribute to the production of 340 million board metres of dimensional softwood lumber, and manage 1.1 million hectares of timberland.<sup>9</sup>

**International Paper** began operations in Grande Prairie in 2016 with the purchase of the Weyerhaeuser pulp mill. The mill continues to produce northern bleached softwood kraft (NBSK), the raw material used in absorbent paper products such as paper towel, toilet paper, and tissues.

**Norbord Inc.** operates an Oriented Strand Board (OSB) plant, producing a variety of panel dimensions and grades to suit North American and Asian markets. Production capacity is 730,000 msf-3/8" basis per year.

**Canadian Forest Products Ltd. (Canfor)** operates the Grande Prairie Sawmill and Canfor Green Energy in the city. The Grande Prairie sawmill is Canfor's only operation in Alberta and produced 305.3 MMfbm of SPF Dimension lumber in 2016. Additionally, the Canfor Green Energy biomass cogeneration facility in Grande Prairie provides renewable heat and electricity for the sawmill and sells renewable electricity to the Alberta grid.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>8</sup> [albertacanada.com/business/statistics/peace-country-forestry.aspx](http://albertacanada.com/business/statistics/peace-country-forestry.aspx)

<sup>9</sup> Weyerhaeuser –Grande Prairie 2009 Sustainable Forest Management Plan

<sup>10</sup> Canfor Corporation, Annual Information Form



LOGGING SITE



*energy province*

# OIL & GAS

Grande Prairie continues to profit from the wealth of oil and gas resources in the area.

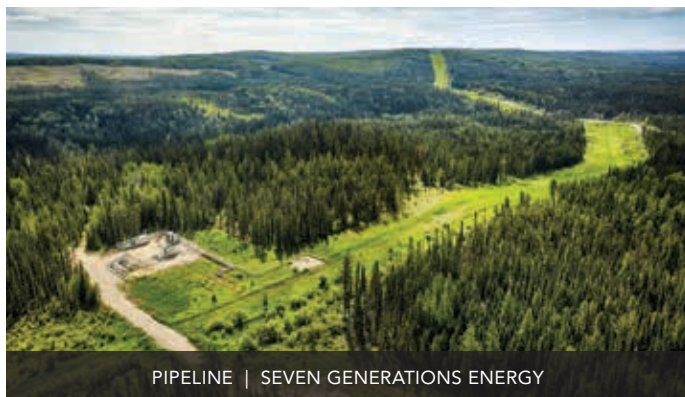
Grande Prairie is well positioned as the major oil field service centre supporting both the Montney and the Duvernay, two of the largest plays in North America. Output from the Montney has doubled since 2012 and now comprises a third of Western Canada's natural gas production. It is projected to make up more than half of the country's production by 2040.

As a regional service hub, Grande Prairie is home to many major oil and gas regional headquarters and oilfield service companies. Companies such as Seven Generations Energy, Canadian Natural Resources, Halliburton, Schlumberger and Trican, as well as many local entrepreneurs, operate out of the region, servicing oil and natural gas activities in northwestern Alberta, northeastern British Columbia and into the Northwest Territories. This large market aids in economic stability, keeping companies and employees working during periods of world economic uncertainty.

2017 was a strong year for the energy industry in Grande Prairie and saw a major uptick in activity with a 34% increase in well licenses and a 48% increase in well completions over 2016.



DRILLING RIGS | SEVEN GENERATIONS ENERGY



PIPELINE | SEVEN GENERATIONS ENERGY

*shopping in the city*

# RETAIL

SHOPPING DOWNTOWN | BEAUCHAMP PHOTOGRAPHY

As a strategic regional hub for retail and industrial trade and commerce, Grande Prairie has established itself as a lucrative market for local and multi-national retailers. The city is located at the centre of an affluent region with a total trading area of 281,000 people, forecasted to grow by 12,000 over the next decade.

Retail spending in the total trading area represents \$3.65 billion, of which an impressive \$2.26 billion comes from the primary trading area alone.

The highest spending is in Comparison Merchandise at 38%, followed closely by Groceries and Convenience at 32%. A further 18% is spent on Automotive/RV and Motorsport Parts and Sales and the final 12% on Restaurants and Entertainment. High spending on clothing, home furnishing and specialty retail signifies a strong disposable income.

As one of the fastest growing cities in Canada, Grande Prairie has seen an annual average growth rate of 3.63% since 2001. As the population continues to grow, retail spending and

demand for new stores will continue to be supported by the young, fast growing city.

The City has a current retail inventory of 4.06 million square feet, including convenience retail, department stores, entertainment and automotive sales and parts. Total demand for retail is estimated to be 5.02 million square feet, leaving a residual demand for new stores at 958,000 square feet.

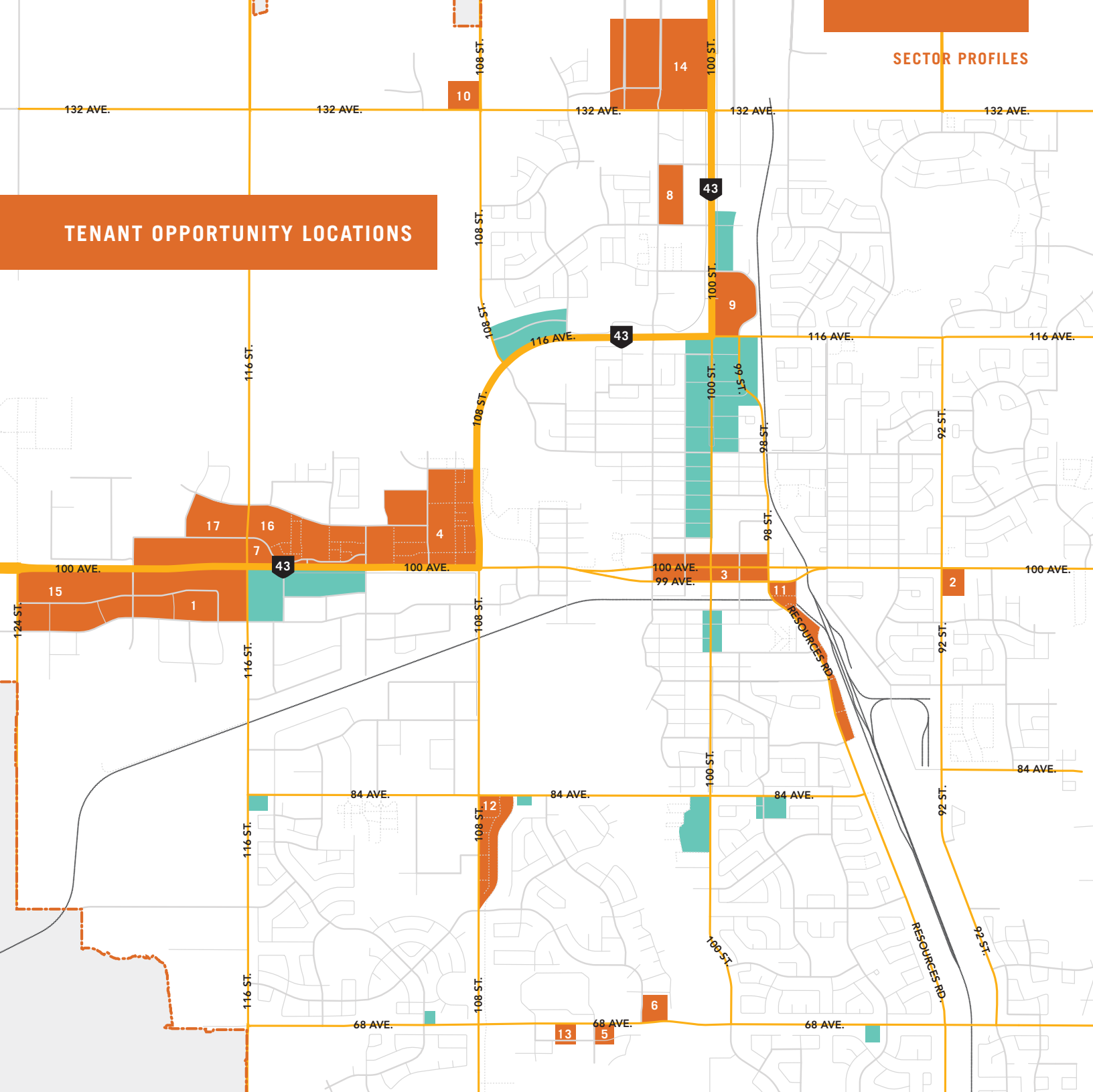
Grande Prairie is home to many large retailers not often seen in similar sized municipalities.

## The City attracts national retailers such as:

- Bed Bath & Beyond
- Costco
- Home Depot
- Marshall's
- PetSmart
- Wal-Mart
- Best Buy
- Gap
- HomeSense
- Old Navy
- Pier 1 Imports
- Winners



## TENANT OPPORTUNITY LOCATIONS



## LOCATION

## VENUE

## LOCATION

## VENUE

## LOCATION

## VENUE

1

Centre West Business Park

7

Monaco Square

13

Stone Ridge

2

Cobblestone Lane

8

Northridge Commercial Centre

14

Trader Ridge

3

Downtown Grande Prairie

9

Prairie Mall

15

Vision West Business Park

4

Gateway

10

Prudential Lands

16

Westgate Centre East

5

Grande Banks

11

Railtown and Junction Point

17

Westgate Centre West

6

Mission Estates

12

South 40

Other Retail Areas

## SECTOR PROFILES

### RETAIL MARKET ANALYSIS

Residents polled in the 2016 Retail Market Analysis indicated a desire for more Clothing & Footwear, Full Service Restaurants, Sporting Goods and Toys and Entertainment. Both spending patterns and importance ratings of the respondents validated these sentiments from Grande Prairie residents. Businesses in major retail nodes benefit from traffic counts ranging from 20,000 to 50,000 vehicles, allowing for high visibility and accessibility.

#### TOP RESPONSES FOR FULL-SERVICE RESTAURANTS:

- Cactus Club
- Olive Garden
- Montana's
- Old Spagetti Factory
- Outback
- Red Lobster

#### TOP RESPONSES FOR LIMITED-SERVICE RESTAURANTS:

- Ethnic
- Cafes (Tim Horton's, Starbucks, Second Cup)
- Taco Bell

#### TOP RESPONSES FOR COMPARISON RETAILERS:

- American Eagle
- IKEA
- Chapters
- Sport Chek

POPULATION	CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE	PRIMARY TRADING AREA*	TOTAL TRADING AREA
2016 Census	63,166	167,461	281,425
2019 Projected	66,443	170,886	284,685
2021 Projected	68,721	173,121	286,814
2026 Projected	74,764	179,768	293,483

INCOME TRENDS	CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE	PRIMARY TRADING AREA*	TOTAL TRADING AREA
2016 Estimated	\$121,450	\$121,450	\$112,105
2019 Projected	\$128,932	\$128,932	\$118,916
2023 Projected	\$150,149	\$150,149	\$137,703

\* Includes City of Grande Prairie



*a growing industry*

# TOURISM

PHILIP J. CURRIE DINOSAUR MUSEUM | WILLIAM VAVREK

Tourism is both an important and growing industry in Alberta. As one of the provinces largest sectors, the industry employs 111,000 people and attracts millions of visitors each year. Thanks to Grande Prairie's position on the route to the Alaska Highway as well as the many shopping and recreational opportunities that the city has to offer, Grande Prairie has become a hub for shoppers and tourists alike.

With a growing sports tourism industry, Grande Prairie has become well known for hosting major regional, national or even international sporting events. With world-class facilities, major airline service, over 3,000 hotel rooms, dining and shopping, Grande Prairie is a premier destination for any event. Past successes include the 2010 Arctic Winter Games, the 2015 Alberta Special Olympics, the 2015 Tour of Alberta, the 2015 Canada Cup of Curling and the 2016 Scotties Tournament of Hearts. Sports tourism is expected to continue to be a major driver for the tourism industry in the city, with the Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association and the Grande Prairie Sport Council working to continue to attract these major events. The new synthetic turf grandstand at the Community Knowledge Campus, scheduled to open in 2018 for the Alberta Summer Games will allow the city to host

higher level tournaments at the provincial and national levels.

New recreational facilities continue to add to the already robust regional tourism industry. The state of the art Eastlink Centre, one of the largest adventure and fitness aquatic venues in Canada, offers the opportunity to try surfing, running, swimming, squash and much more. The Montrose Cultural Centre is home to the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie, one of the largest public art galleries in Alberta which houses an impressive collection of work from local, national and international artists. West of the city, the recently opened Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum is an extraordinary educational tourism attraction. This world-class facility uses animation, CTI scans, 3D printers and other technologies to give visitors a unique interactive dinosaur experience.

Grande Prairie's position on the route to the Alaska Highway and close proximity to the Rockies continues to be a major driver for the local tourism industry. As the Canadian dollar remains low, the region is experiencing increased tourism from the US as well as more Canadians looking to travel closer to home. The tourism industry in Grande Prairie continue to thrive with ongoing investment, including the construction of four new hotels and expansions to local campgrounds and RV parks.

