

Grande Prairie No. 1, County of

www.countygp.ab.ca

Welcome



The County of Grande Prairie No. 1 and its surrounding region offers unprecedented economic growth, business opportunity and quality of life. The influx of large and small business entrepreneurs has set the stage for enormous economic potential in the industrial, manufacturing, service and retail business industries.

We recognize the importance of good investment decisions being made on the basis of sound information. With that in mind, this profile has been designed to provide you with an introduction and a better understanding of the County of Grande Prairie and surrounding region.

Thank you for your interest in our region. We want you to make the right investment choice and therefore have designed this profile to assist you when considering the benefits of locating your business in the County of Grande Prairie.

If you require any additional information regarding development opportunities in our exciting region please contact Walter Paszkowski, Economic Development Officer at (780) 532-9722.



Area Overview

The County of Grande Prairie and surrounding area is one of the fastest growing regions in Canada. The area was deemed as one of Alberta's small business hotbeds offering excellent opportunity for continued growth in new business in upcoming years (Bank of Montreal, 2003).

Some of the reasons why people enjoy living and doing business here include:

- A strong economy supported by a thriving oil and gas industry fuelled by an abundance of energy reserves.
- An abundance of forest reserves to responsibly meet the needs of a sustainable forest products industry.
- World-class agriculture production supported by exceptional farm land.
- An abundance of land suitable for both industrial and residential development.



- Unmatched scenery and culturally diverse communities with limitless opportunities for leisure and recreation.
- An abundance of clean air and water.
- Regional strength created from policies such as no provincial sales tax and low municipal tax.
- An exceptional quality of life with access to the best amenities, health services and community programs making the Grande Prairie Region an ideal place to raise a family.



The County of Grande Prairie is committed to providing its residents with top quality services, a clean safe and friendly environment as well as to remain globally competitive with the many products which we produce.

County Council works hard to ensure that the County of Grande Prairie remains a dynamic leader in Alberta and Canada. We hope that you will make the Grande Prairie Region home for your business and family!



Climate

Weather Statistics

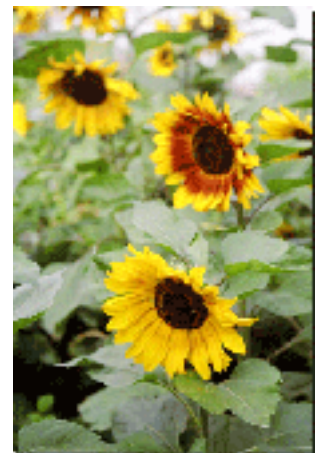
Current weather information for the County of Grande Prairie No.1 and surrounding area can be found at [Environment Canada](#) or at the [Weather Network](#).

Average Temperatures for the Month of January

- Maximum temperature: -9.5°C or +14.9°F
- Minimum temperature: -20.5°C or -4.9°F
- Daily Average Temperature: -15°C or +5.0°F

Average Temperatures for the Month of July

- Maximum temperature: +22.1°C or +71.8°F
- Minimum temperature: +9.6°C or +49.3°F
- Daily Average Temperature: +15.9°C or +60.6°F
- Number of Days Per Year Above 15°C: 124
- Total precipitation per year: 446.6 mm or 17.6 inches
- Measurable bright sunshine: 313.9 days per year
- Total hours of bright sunshine: 2,203.1 hours per year



- Average wind speed: 12.1 kilometers per hour, from the Southwest
- Total snowfall per year: 158.6 cm or 62.4 in (Snowfall accounts for 36% of the annual precipitation).
- Days with measurable snowfall: 57.3 days



Community Services

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES - FCSS

The County of Grande Prairie believes that its most valuable resource is its people.

Through a partnership with the Province of Alberta the County of Grande Prairie is pleased to offer programs and services that allow its residents to develop their potential and contribute to the well being of their families and communities. The County offers three unique programs to assure its residents enjoy the best in life and reach their full potential.

Home Support Program - Caring, responsible persons providing in-home care to families and individuals experiencing disruptions of normal family routine.

Community School Liaison Program - Providing information and support to families and students who are experiencing difficulties at home or at school.

Playschool Program - Providing a safe and nurturing learning environment to four year olds throughout the County. The County's FCSS program also provides funding to Community Groups such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Grande Prairie and Area Council on Aging – Seniors Outreach
- Odyssey House Project Awareness
- PACE – Public Education Program
- RCMP Victims Assistance Programs
- Suicide Prevention Resource Network
- Seniors Outreach in Beaverlodge, LaGlace and Valhalla Centre



For more information about these programs please contact the Director of Family, Community and Social Services at 532-9722 or via email at fcss@countygpr.ab.ca.

Community Lifestyle

It doesn't take long to realize that the explorers and early settlers to the County of Grande Prairie Region had discovered something very special. From breathtaking scenery and varied landscapes to pristine lakes and exceedingly rich soils and agricultural lands, the Grande Prairie Region offers an enticing place to live, visit and do business. Residents appreciate the benefits of a quiet rural lifestyle and small town living with convenient access to big city amenities. Community spirit and connectedness contribute to a

welcoming and nurturing community lifestyle. Come and visit and see what we mean.

Leisure and Recreation

Leisure and recreation opportunities abound for the entire family in the County of Grande Prairie. Whether you are looking to spend some memorable time camping, fishing, golfing, sightseeing, taking in a cultural or sporting event or just relaxing, the County of Grande Prairie guarantees that it has something you will enjoy! You have access to:

- 14 exciting golf courses to challenge you.
- Nine scenic County parks for personal or family adventure including both day and overnight camping, and educational and recreational activities.
- Close to 30 municipal (County managed), provincial and independent campgrounds offering unserviced to fully serviced facilities to meet your special needs.
- Diverse opportunities for fishing and hunting with family and friends.
- Archeological and historic museums, art galleries, tropical greenhouses, tea houses, restaurants and gift shops to satisfy your mind, spirit and appetite.
- Year-round cultural and community events including the Telus Country Fever Festival, Swan Festival, Rio Grande Rodeo, Teepee Creek Stampede, Kleskun Hill Days, Grande Prairie Stompede, Country Gospel Jamboree, Grande Prairie River Rats River Boat Race, Farmer's Market Harvest Fest, Terry Fox Run and Horse Racing, just to name a few!

For more information on leisure and recreation opportunities and to obtain copies of regional parks brochures and visitor guides visit the County website at www.countygp.ab.ca or the Grande Prairie Regional Tourism website at www.northernvisitor.com.

Landscape Diversity and Wildlife

The County features broad, gently rolling plains, deeply incised, steep sided river valleys, native grasslands and mixedwood boreal forests. Located approximately 160 km east of the Rocky Mountains, County residents can enjoy the scenic view of the mountains from almost all parts of the County. The Grande Prairie Region is identified by a number of unique features and important wildlife habitats that are well worth visiting including:

- Saskatoon Mountain, located west of Grande Prairie, rises to 945 metres or 3,100 feet offering a spectacular view of the County.
- The lakes of the Grande Prairie Region are part of a globally significant Important Bird Area because they support significant numbers of breeding and staging Trumpeter Swans as well as very large numbers of staging ducks and geese.
- Over one percent of the estimated global population of Trumpeter Swans and approximately 10 percent of the Rocky Mountain population nest and stage in the Grande Prairie area. Several lakes have also recorded over 20,000 staging ducks during fall migration.
- An annual Swan Festival is held at Saskatoon Island Provincial Park where over 500 nature, wildlife enthusiasts and community members gather to celebrate and appreciate these beautiful birds. We encourage you to take part in the festivities!
- Kleskun Hill Park offers visitors a unique opportunity to view the most northerly deposit of badland topography in Alberta. It protects some of the last remaining grasslands and over 160 species of flowering plants, including cactus. The park offers many opportunities to learn about fossilized marine life, unique vegetation and the area's settlement history through a native burial ground and museum.
- The County offers some of the finest bird and wildlife viewing opportunities in the province. Opportunities abound to see everything from Bald and Golden Eagles, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, swans and other waterfowl species to Moose, Deer, Elk, Coyote, Wolf and more. Clearly the opportunities for outdoor exploration, peace, tranquility and quality of life are abundant in the region.



County Parks

The County of Grande Prairie owns and operates 9 parks and campground facilities within its boundaries, eight of which offer overnight camping, while one offers day use facilities only. The campgrounds offering overnight camping include Pipestone Creek, Hommy, Kleskun, Demmit, Clairmont, Bear Lake, Redwillow Park and Valhalla. Saskatoon Mountain Park is open for day use activities only.

To find more information on the County's parks and view maps of the County Parks and Golf Courses visit www.countygp.ab.ca/parks/info.

Golf Courses

There are 8 challenging golf courses located within the County of Grande Prairie:

- Bear Creek Golf Club - 538-3393
- Dunes Golf & Winter Club - 538-4333
- Grande Prairie Golf & Country Club - 532-0340
- Morningview Golf & Country Club - 568-4357
- Pipestone Putter's Golf Club - 766-2720
- Riverbend Golf & Country Club - 354-2538
- Spruce Meadows Golf & Country Club - 568-4653
- Wildrose Golf Club - 814-6919



To view a map showing the locations of these courses click here www.countygp.ab.ca/admin/golfcourses.

Cultural and Recreational Facilities

The County and surrounding region has an abundance of facilities, programs and services to meet the recreational, spiritual, cultural and artistic needs of our communities. These include numerous arenas, baseball diamonds, ski hills/trails, farmer's markets, churches, parks and campgrounds, rodeo grounds, curling rinks, historical sites, lakes and rivers, community halls and gymnasiums. The strength of our communities is reflected in the numerous art societies, dance clubs, service organizations, community associations, culture clubs, agriculture societies and hospital auxiliaries that are active in the County.



Kleskun Hill Park Museum

Featured Sites

Evergreen Park - Grande Prairie Regional Agricultural and Exhibition Society, hosts major regional trade-shows and events serving northern Alberta and B.C.

Nitehawk Ski Area - Regional year round facility offering downhill skiing and snowboarding, including a triple chair lift and platter lift, year round facility rental and new Swan City Rotary Wilderness RV Park.

South Peace Centennial Museum - located near Beaverlodge, is one of the greatest displays of how life used to be, where actual working machinery, equipment and tools are on display. The popular Pioneer Days attracts thousands annually.

Wapiti Nordic Ski Centre - constructed for the 1995 Canada Winter Games. This is a world-class facility offering over 35 kms of classic and skate skiing trails. This facility offers opportunities for a variety of recreational outings during the off season along its multi-use trails including walking, hiking, mountain biking and nature viewing.

Economic Base

Although well known for its productive agricultural areas and agri-food products and services, our region is making waves with its thriving oil and gas, forestry, manufacturing, construction and tourism industries.

Our booming oil and gas economy and growth in related industries is the main reason why the Grande Prairie Region has become one of the fastest growing markets in Canada. Opportunities abound and the influx of people to the region is evidence of this.



Area Population Continues to Grow

The Region's population grew 16.75% between 1996 and 2001, compared to Canada's national average of 4%. The County of Grande Prairie grew 15.5%, while the City of Grande Prairie grew 18% (Statistics Canada 2001 Community Profile).

Growth trends are expected to continue at this phenomenal rate with the County population expected to be 19,963 and the City of Grande Prairie at 50,626 by the year 2010. (Population forecasts project an average County population growth of 2.75% for the next 20 years. Forecasts for the City of Grande Prairie are for 4.17% growth for the next 2 years, 3.35% for the following 3 years and then 2.5% thereafter.)

- County of Grande Prairie Population – 17,989 (March 2006 Municipal Census)
- City of Grande Prairie Population – 44,631 (April 2005 Municipal Census)
- Market Area Population – 250,000 within a 200 km radius (about a 2 hour drive)

Economic Facts

Major Regional Employers

Peace Country Health (www.pchr.ca) is the region's largest public sector employer. It employs 3,400 people who provide health services to a population of 130,000, making it not only the largest employer in the Peace Region but also the largest employer north of Edmonton.

Major Public Sector Regional Employers include:

- City of Grande Prairie - (www.cityofgp.com)
- Grande Prairie Public School Division - (www.gppsd.ab.ca)
- Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools - (www.gpcsd.ca)
- Peace Wapiti School Division - (www.pwsb33.ab.ca)
- Grande Prairie Regional College - (www.gprc.ab.ca)

Several Provincial Government offices are located with the region -
(www.gov.ab.ca/home/index.cfm)



Four Major Forestry Companies are located within the region including:

- Weyerhaeuser Co. Ltd. - (www.weyerhaeuser.com)
- Canadian Forest Products Ltd. - (www.canfor.com)
- Ainsworth Lumber Co. Ltd. - (www.ainsworth.ca)
- Risley Manufacturing - (www.risleyequipment.com)

Other major employers in the oil and gas, hospitality and research and development disciplines include:

- Precision Drilling (Oil and Gas Services) - (www.precisiondrilling.com)
- Schlumberger (Oilfield Services) - (www.slb.com)
- Tri-Can (Oil and Gas Services) - (www.trican.ca)
- Pomeroy Enterprises (Hospitality) - (www.pomeroygroup.ca)
- Finning Cat (Equipment Rentals) - (www.finning.ca)



Agricultural Production The County has extensive areas of highly productive agricultural land. Products include wheat, barley, canola, rye, flax, oats, peas, alfalfa, timothy, fescue, clover, saskatoons, peat moss, red meat, poultry, swine, eggs, dairy, table produce and honey. There are approximately 500 cattle producers, 5 dairy producers, 100 swine producers, 45 sheep producers, and 10 commercial poultry producers within the County of Grande Prairie.

Forestry Production Canfor has been a part of industry in Grande Prairie and area for decades, manufacturing a high quality lumber used throughout North America. Procter and Gamble Cellulose opened the doors of its Kraft pulp mill and saw mill in 1973, which was purchased in 1992 by Weyerhaeuser Canada. Today they generate over 50 percent of Alberta's annual pulp production. Adjacent to the Weyerhaeuser plant is Sterling Chemical's plant which produces sodium chlorate, a substitute for chlorine in the kraft pulp mill bleaching process. Risley Equipment Ltd., which is based out of Grande Prairie, plays a major role in the development and manufacturing of innovative products and technology serving the forestry industry.



Financial Institutions

All the major financial institutions have offices conveniently located within the City of Grande Prairie. These include:

- [ATB Financial](#)
- [Bank of Montreal](#)
- [CIBC](#)
- [Commonwealth Credit Union](#)
- [Scotiabank](#)
- [RBC Financial Group](#)

Information Resources

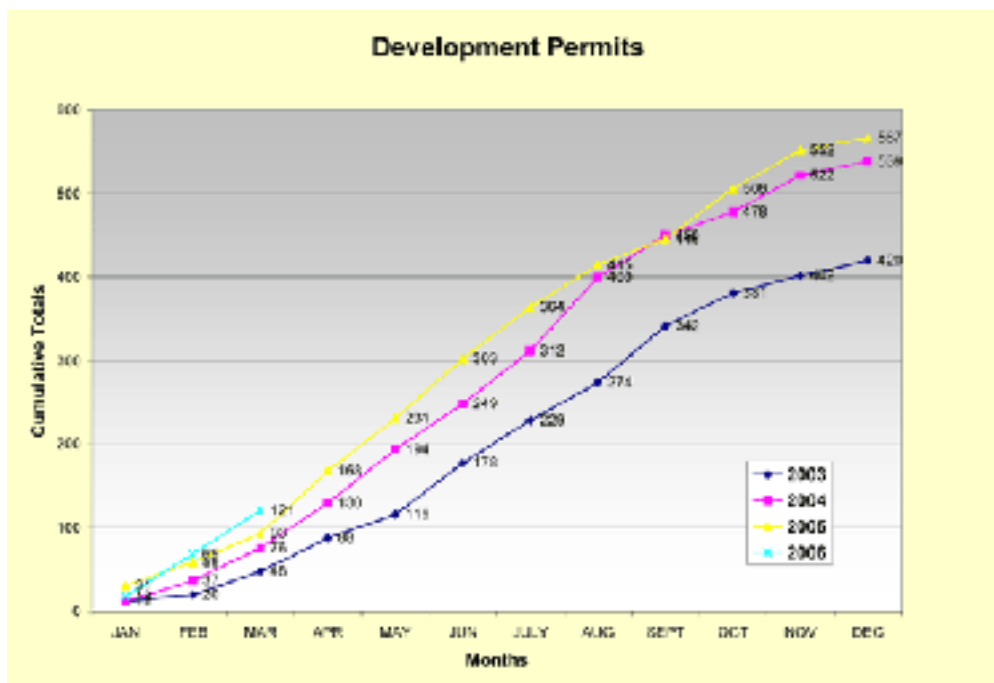
The following websites are useful resources for Economic Development related information that pertains to the Greater Grande Prairie Region and the whole of Alberta.

- Alberta Economic Development - <http://www.alberta-canada.com>
- Grande Prairie and District Chamber of Commerce - (<http://www.gpchamber.com>)

QUICK FACTS: About the County of Grande Prairie No.1

- **Latitude:** 55° 10' N Longitude: 118° 53' W
- **Elevation:** 669.00 m
- **Time Zone:** MST
- **Total Area:** 5,570 km² or 1,376,377.08 acres
- **Population density per km²:** 3.2 people per km²
- **Current population:** 17,989 population (based on 2006 census).
- **Population change from 2001 to 2006:** 17.4%
- **Total Dwellings:** 6,611 dwellings (2006 Census)

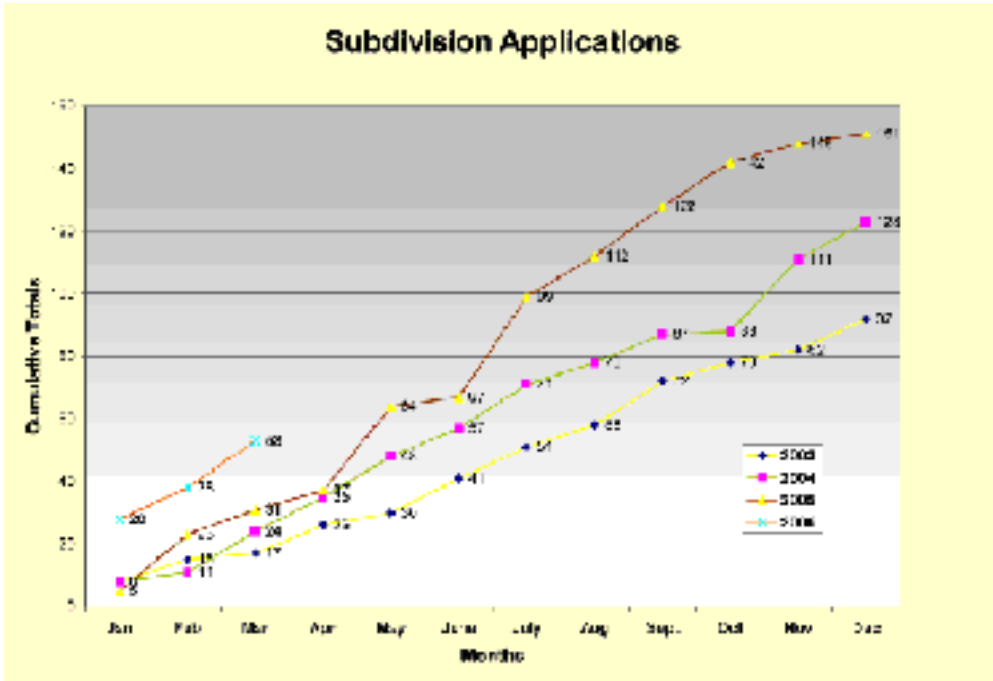
Planning and Development Statistics



A strong regional economy continues to benefit the County of Grande Prairie as demonstrated by another record year of growth and

development. The number of development permits issued in 2005 was at an all time high at 567 permits. The number of permits increased 5.1% over 2004 levels and 35% over 2003 numbers. To date this year, January through March end has seen a 14% increase in the number of development permits issued over the same period in 2005.

The number of single family residential permits issued in 2005 was 293. In the past 4 years, over 1,100 single family dwellings have been built in the County. The number of industrial permits increased by 47% over 2004.



The number of subdivision applications received by the County also reached a record in 2005. In total, 151 applications were received, reflecting a 22.8% increase over 2004 levels. Subdivision application activity is also up considerably over the same period last year. The County has already received 119 subdivision applications for the period from January 1st through March 31st, 2006 - this marks a 37% increase in the number of subdivision applications received during the same three month period in 2005.

Building permit values within the region also reached an all time high in 2005.

- Commercial building permit values rose to \$20,051,600 in 2005 - an increase of 119% over the 2004 numbers.
- Residential building permit values increased to \$47,994,221 in 2005 - an increase of 58.3% over the 2004 permit values.
- Industrial building permit values were at a record all time high of \$314,228,986 in 2005. This represents an increase of 2959% over the 2004 totals!

Overall the County is pleased to be able to accommodate the level of growth that is being experienced in the region and will continue to take a leadership role in planning and facilitating economic and community development opportunities for the Greater Grande Prairie area.

Regional Cooperation and Long Term Strategic Planning

The County of Grande Prairie is committed to regional cooperation and meeting the long term needs of the entire region. The County is proud to have developed the region’s first long term growth management strategy and is committed to meeting the long term economic needs of the region both in terms of land use and infrastructure requirements.



This commitment includes ensuring that all future development planning promotes business viability while maintaining quality of life and a sustainable environment. This commitment and vision for the management of industrial and residential growth is clearly reflected in our Long Term Growth Management Plan. The plan identifies the commercial development zones and available locations for light to heavy industrial business. The plan currently identifies 3,950 acres (16 square kilometers) of vacant land (both serviced and unserved) available both north and west of the City boundaries.

Copies of the Long Term Growth Strategy PowerPoint Presentation are available by contacting the County's Planning Department at (780) 513-3950.

Education

Primary and Secondary Education

The Peace Wapiti School Board, Grande Prairie and District Catholic School Board, Grande Prairie Public School District and Northwest Francophone Education Region No.1 serve to provide an educational environment for the Grande Prairie Region that enables all students to achieve their potential to become productive members of a changing society.

Families relocating to the Grande Prairie Region have many exceptional options to choose from when selecting an elementary, junior high or high school for their children.

The following is a brief list of the schools located within the County of Grande Prairie:

Beaverlodge

Beaverlodge Elementary School, Grades K-6, 324 students, Phone: (780) 354-2446
Beaverlodge Regional High School, Grades 10-12, 441 students, Phone: (780) 354-2189
St. Mary's Catholic School, Grades K-9, 102 students, Phone: (780) 354-2944

Bezanson

Bezanson School, Grades K-9, 106 students, Phone: (780) 532-6490

Elmworth

Elmworth School, Grades K-9, 74 students, Phone: (780) 354-8375

Hythe

Hythe Elementary, Grades K-6, 229 students, Phone: (780) 356-3934
Hythe Regional Junior High School, Grades 7-9, 295 students, Phone: (780) 356-3935

LaGlace

LaGlace School, Grades K-9, 123 students, Phone: (780) 568-2430

Sexsmith

Sexsmith Elementary School, Grades K-6, 391 students, Phone: (780) 568-3823



Sexsmith Secondary School, Grades 7-12, 589 students, Phone: (780) 568-3642
St. Mary's Catholic School, Grades K-8, 132 students, Phone: (780) 568-3631

Teepee Creek

Teepee Creek School, Grades K-8, 79 students, Phone: (780) 568-2265

Valhalla Centre

Valhalla School, Grades K-6, 38 students, Phone: (780) 356-2370

Wembley

Helen E. Taylor School, Grades K-4 and 5-9, total 428 students, Phone: (780) 766-2294

In addition to the schools mentioned, two Peace Wapiti Schools (Harry Balfour, grades K-8 and Peace Wapiti Academy, grades 9-12) and 11 Public and seven Catholic schools are available within the City of Grande Prairie with a variety of programs including French Emersion, Enrichment and Special Needs. École St. Gerard is a Catholic school which offers the only single track French emersion program for kindergarten to grade 9 in Grande Prairie.

École Nouvelle Frontiere is the only Francophone school located within the Grande Prairie region. It is administered by the Northwest Francophone Education Region No.1 (Conseil Scolaire Du Nord-Quest No.1) and offers francophone classes for children in kindergarten through grade eight and currently has 78 students enrolled; Phone: (780) 814-7945

Contact information for all four school boards is available below:

Peace Wapiti School Division - www.pwsb33.ab.ca

Phone: (780) 532-8133

Grande Prairie Public School Division - www.gppsd.ab.ca

Phone: (780) 532-4491

Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools - www.gpcsd.ca

Phone: (780) 532-3013

Northwest Francophone Education Region No.1 (Conseil Scolaire Du Nord-Quest No.1) - www.csno.ab.ca

Phone: (780) 624-8855



Emergency Services

Policing

Policing in the County of Grande Prairie is the responsibility of the **Royal Canadian Mounted Police** who are the provincial police service for the Province of Alberta. There are two RCMP detachments in the County located in Beaverlodge and Grande Prairie. Each detachment works closely with volunteers to offer residents a number of community based programs including Auxiliary Constables, Block Parents, Citizens on Patrol, Rural Crime Watch, Crime Stoppers, DARE, PARTY, and School Liaison Programs.

Beaverlodge RCMP Detachment – 354-2485

Grande Prairie RCMP Detachment – 538-5701

Click on this link to be directed to the [RCMP Detachment Directory](#).

County Protective Services

The County of Grande Prairie is proud to have one of the most comprehensive Protective Services Departments in the Province. The County has proven itself to be a leader in the delivery of policing programs, fire protection and disaster services, and is proud to provide a safe and secure environment for residents and businesses. The County's Protective Services Department, under the direction of the Director of Protective Services, consists of the following: **Enforcement**



Enforcement Services

This program offers supplemental Enforcement Services to the RCMP in the form of Special Constable policing. County Special Constables enforce provincial statutes related to traffic and safety and are tied to the commitment and values of the Traffic Safety Vision Plan 2010 Program, which has the objective of reducing the number of deaths and injuries on Alberta's highways. County Special Constables are responsible for road protection through commercial vehicle weight enforcement and are appointed to enforce select municipal bylaws.

The County of Grande Prairie is also contracted to supply Special Constable Services to the surrounding communities of Sexsmith, Beaverlodge, Wembley, and the MD of Greenview. Special Constables work closely with the RCMP, Fire Protection, and other community groups to delivery safety and education.

Fire Protection

Eight fire departments are located throughout the County – three belong to the County and five are located within other municipalities. County departments include LaGlace, Teepee Creek, and Bezanson. Municipal Departments are located in Beaverlodge, Hythe, Sexsmith, Wembley and Grande Prairie. The County has ongoing Mutual Aid agreements with both internal and external fire departments, such as the MD of Greenview and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, for fire suppression, equipment and resources. The County of Grande Prairie is accredited with the Alberta Safety Codes Council for all fire investigation and inspection standards.



Disaster Services

Disaster Services works closely with the Petroleum Industry, Emergency Management Alberta, EMS, Fire, Family and Community Services, Industry, Enforcement and Police to deliver up to date, quality services and training. An Emergency Operation Center with state of the art communications equipment capable of handling both wide-scale or local state of emergency disasters is located in the County of Grande Prairie Administration Complex.

RCMP Enhanced Policing

The County employs two full-time RCMP officers pursuant to a contract with the Alberta Solicitor General's Department, to supplement and enhance provincial policing resources within the County. Currently one member is stationed in the Beaverlodge detachment and the other in the Grande Prairie rural detachment. RCMP enhanced policing works closely with the County Enforcement Services Department to ensure the delivery of traffic safety programs.



SPCA

The SPCA is under contract to patrol and respond to complaints of both animal control and protection in nature. The program includes the provision of shelter services for the County and surrounding communities as per the contract provisions.

Health Care

Health and Emergency Response Services in the Grande Prairie Region are of high quality. Peace Country Health administers health services to a population of 130,000 people in 16 communities, covering an area of over 150,000 square kilometres. County residents are served by two hospitals: the *Queen Elizabeth II Hospital* located within the City of Grande Prairie and the *Beaverlodge Municipal Hospital* located within the Town of Beaverlodge. Doctors are also based in the communities of Hythe, Beaverlodge and Sexsmith.

Queen Elizabeth II Hospital

The Queen Elizabeth II Hospital is a fully accredited modern-day hospital committed to providing exceptional patient care.

- Provides 160 acute care beds with 23 specialist physicians on staff.
- Offers a wide range of services from specialized surgery to coronary care, respiratory therapy,



pediatric care, obstetrics, and rehabilitations.

- Service is supplemented by visiting consultants from Edmonton who provide out-patient services in specialty areas such as ENT, dermatology, rheumatology, pediatric cardiology, endocrinology, and gerontology.
- Employs over 1,000 people who, collectively, care for more than 10,000 inpatients and more than 100,000 outpatients annually.

Grande Prairie Community Cancer Centre

Operating in partnership with the Alberta Cancer Board, the Grande Prairie Community Cancer Clinic is staffed by specially trained registered nurses and local physicians. The program allows patients from Peace Country Health to access the cancer treatment they need close to home.

Beaverlodge Municipal Hospital

The Beaverlodge Municipal Hospital offers the best in health service with 24 hour emergency care and 18 acute care beds. The hospital offers a wide range of services including medical laboratory, obstetrics, outpatients, pediatrics, palliative care, physiotherapy, and radiology.

Grande Prairie Regional EMS (GPREMS)

GPREMS provides a high standard of advanced life support ground and air ambulance service for the Grande Prairie Region. They are committed to saving lives and reducing life-long impairment due to injury and illness through timely, professional and compassionate Emergency Medical Response in partnership with protective health and community services throughout the region and beyond. They offer a variety of services to both residents and businesses including industrial ambulance and pre-hospital education programs.

Western Air Rescue

Western Air Rescue provides the residents of the Grande Prairie Region with rapid air evacuation of patients in need of specialized care. Rescue helicopters can be dispatched to sites like motor vehicle collisions, oil rig site incidents, or backcountry rescues. The attendants are highly qualified flight paramedics trained at levels which equal organizations such as STARS Air Ambulance.

STARS Coming to Grande Prairie!

Alberta Shock Trauma Rescue Society announced April 13, 2006 it plans to establish its third regional service base in Grande Prairie. STARS currently operates two bases – one in Calgary and one in Edmonton – and a fleet of five helicopters. The organization's mission service area covers about 90% of Alberta's population as well as several communities in southeastern British Columbia. The new Grande Prairie base will allow STARS to enhance its current coverage area to serve a greater number of individuals in need of specialized care and rapid transport.

Key Contacts for Business Development

Need More Information?

If you require any additional information regarding development opportunities in our exciting region or have questions about the information presented here please contact:

Municipal Contacts

County of Grande Prairie office at:

10001 - 84 Avenue Clairmont, AB T0H 0W0

Tel: 780-532-9722

Fax: 780-539-9880

E-mail: countygp@countygp.ab.ca

Everett McDonald, Reeve

RR#1, Site 4, Box 5

Grande Prairie, AB T8V 2Z8



Hm: 532-0976

Cell: 831-8590

E-mail: ermcdon@telusplanet.net

W.A. (Bill) Rogan, *County Administrator*

Tel: 780-532-9722

Fax: 780-539-9880

E-mail: brogan1@countygp.ab.ca

Walter Paszkowski, *Economic Development Officer*

Tel: 780-532-9722

Fax: 780-539-9880

E-mail: edo@countygp.ab.ca

Provincial Contacts

Alberta Economic Development:

Main reception: 780-538-5230 3501

Provincial Building

10320 - 99 Street

Grande Prairie, AB, Canada T8V 6J4

Website: www.alberta-canada.com/aed/index.cfm

Bob Hall, *Director, Regional Economic Development*

Tel: 780-538-5230

Fax: 780- 538-5332

E-mail: bob.hall@gov.ab.ca

Nicole McMullan, *Regional Development Project Officer*

E-mail: nicole.mcmullan@gov.ab.ca [Back to Table of Contents](#)

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Mel Knight, *Member of Legislative Assembly [MLA]*

Grande Prairie Smoky Constituency

#132, 10800 - 97 Ave.

Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Tel: 780-427-1879

Fax: 780-415-0968

Gordon Graydon, *Member of the Legislative Assembly [MLA]*

Grande Prairie - Wapiti Constituency

#104, 10800 - 97 Avenue

Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Tel: 780-415-4894

Fax: 780-415-4857

Federal Contacts

Chris Warkentin, *Member of Parliament [MP]* (Elected Jan. 23, 2006)

Peace River Constituency

Parliamentary Address:

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 0A6

Constituency Office:

#207, 10605 West Side Drive

Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V 8E6

E-mail: warkentin.c@parl.gc.ca

Website: www.chriswarkentin.ca

Toll Free: 1-800-667-0456

(780) 538-1677

fax (780) 538-9257

Local Chambers and Business Associations

Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce

CEO

217-11330-106 Street

Grande Prairie Alberta

Canada T8V 7X9

Phone: 780-532-5340

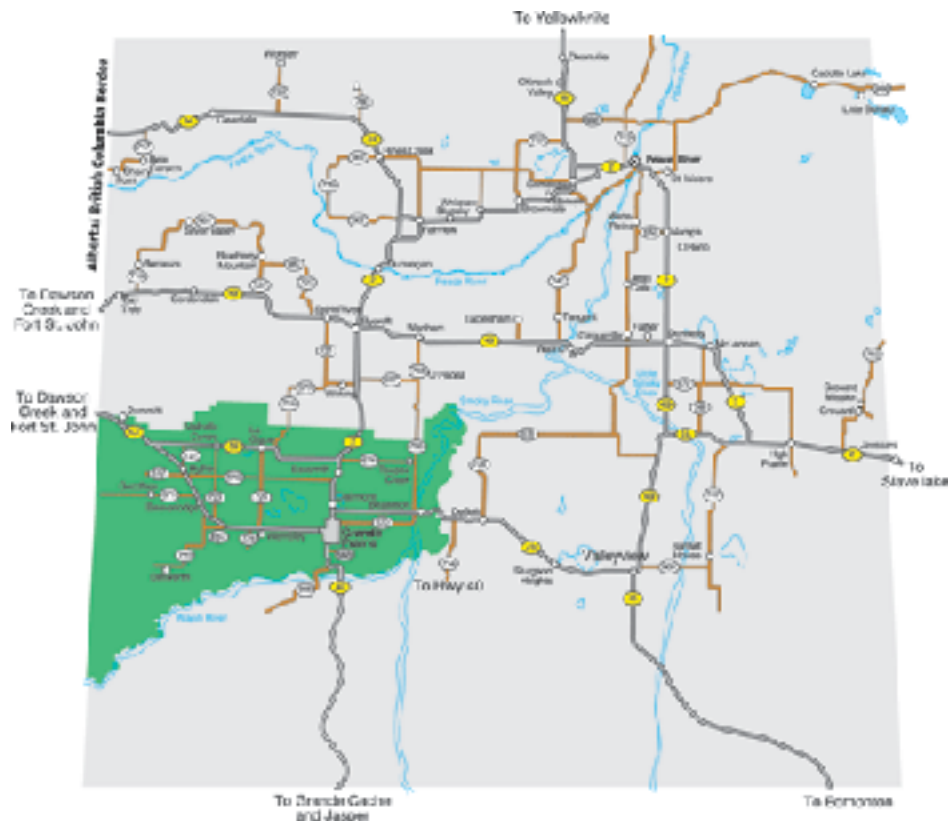
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Location

The County of Grande Prairie covers an area of 5,570 square kilometres and is located 460 kilometres (268 miles) northwest of Edmonton.

Located within the County is the City of Grande Prairie, the Towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith and Wembley, the Village of Hythe, the Hamlets of LaGlance, Bezanson, Clairmont and Valhalla Centre, numerous small country points, and a small federal Indian Reserve. The County is bordered by the Municipal Districts of Greenview, Clear Hills, Saddle Hills and by the Province of British Columbia.

The County of Grande Prairie and surrounding region provides a diverse trading market serving over 250,000 people within a 200 km radius. With approximately 2.8 people per square kilometer it offers uncrowded, unspoiled scenery, and unlimited potential for industrial, commercial and residential development.



Post Secondary Education

Grande Prairie Regional College

The Grande Prairie Region is fortunate to have access to high-quality career programs and instruction through the Grande Prairie Regional College. The college, which serves more than 10,000 students annually, is located in the City of Grande Prairie.

- Offers a wide variety of programs including university studies, options for degree completion, an applied degree in Natural Resource Management and academic upgrading, as a program or as part of a blended program.
- Instruction is based in the main campus in the City of Grande Prairie and through off-campus facilities in Grande Cache, Hinton, Slave Lake and several Peace Region communities.
- Campus attracts students from a wide geographic area due to its low tuition, small classes, personal contact and extensive awards program.



NAIT Fairview Campus

NAIT offers a wide selection of pre-employment and technical program options at their beautiful Fairview Campus. Some of the more recognized programs include Turfgrass Management Technology, the Harley Davidson Technician Program and pre-employment carpenter, millwright and welder. The campus includes a state-of-the-art fitness facility, indoor aquatics centre, theatre, 3-hole golf course and pond stocked with trout. It is a must see in the summer months and offers regional residents another quality option for post-secondary education.

Industry Specific Training Coming to the Grande Prairie Region

NEW NAIT Campus Coming in 2008!

The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, otherwise referred to as NAIT, based out of Edmonton, made a commitment in late November of 2004 to take a leadership role in expanding and delivering trades and apprenticeship training to the Grande Prairie Region. NAIT recognizes that with Grande Prairie's booming economy comes the need for all kinds of skills; everything from carpentry and instrumentation to welding.

NAIT has already chosen a site on the southwest side of Grande Prairie and is now making plans for its new campus to open in the fall of 2008. Nait is working closely with regional employers to determine the labour force needs and will be using that information to develop its new programs and customized training for businesses and organizations in the region. This commitment from NAIT will mean a continuously replenished and skilled workforce.



Taxation

Municipal Tax Structure

Municipal tax rates in the Grande Prairie Region are highly competitive with other regions of Alberta and the U.S. making the area a desirable place for young families and commercial businesses to relocate.

2006 Municipal Taxation Rates Source: County of Grande Prairie No.1

| 2006 Mill Rates - County of Grande Prairie No.1 | | | | | |
|---|---------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 2006 Farmland | Residential | Non-Residential | M & E (Non-Residential) | Linear (Non-Residential) |
| Municipal | 8 1555 | 4 1674 | 10 5494 | 10 5494 | 10 5494 |
| ASF (Alberta School Foundation - Public) | | | | | 4 5952 |
| RCSSD (Roman Catholic Separate School District) | | | | | |

Provincial - Corporate and Personal Taxes

Alberta ranks very low in Corporate Income Tax rates against other provinces in Canada and the United States. Alberta's provincial personal tax rates are among the lowest in Canada. A two income family of four, earning \$60,000 (Cdn\$) per year, pays approximately \$600 less in total provincial taxes (including health care premiums, salary taxes and other excise taxes) in Alberta than in Ontario and about \$2,300 less than in Quebec.

Income

The average household income in the County of Grande Prairie is \$71,406 (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census). The household income national average for the past four years has been \$54,000. Clearly the average County of Grande Prairie household income is substantially higher than the national average making the region attractive to families looking to relocate.

Transportation

The Grande Prairie Region is well connected to the rest of Alberta, Canada and the U.S. by road, air, rail and cable. It has been distinguished as the service centre for the north because it provides economical services, communication and transportation to over 250,000 people within a 200 km radius.

The County of Grande Prairie is part of the North-South Trade Corridor (NSTC), a 1,175 kilometre network of multi-lane highways providing fast, safe and efficient transportation of goods from the British Columbia border near Grande Prairie, through Edmonton and Calgary to the CANAMEX Trade Corridor at Coutts on the Montana border. The CANAMEX Corridor connects local businesses to suppliers and markets in the U.S. and Mexico.

North-South and CANAMEX Trade Corridor Map



Regional Highway System

There is a strategic network of both primary and secondary highways within the County of Grande Prairie, including approximately 3,300 miles of well maintained service roads connecting to the major paved arteries.

The County of Grande Prairie is easily accessible to and from the North Peace Region, Northern B.C. and Edmonton.

Highway #43 connects Grande Prairie via Valleyview from Edmonton. It connects Grande Prairie to Dawson Creek, B.C. and the Alaska Highway; to the John Hart Highway 93 going south to Prince George, and to the ports of Prince Rupert and Vancouver.

Highway #40 connects Grande Prairie with Grande Cache, Hinton and the Yellowhead Highway leading to Jasper to the west.

Highway #2 connects the City of Grande Prairie with points north such as Clairmont, Fairview, Grimshaw and Mile 0 of the Mackenzie Highway #35.

Highway #59 connects Highway #43 northwest of Hythe to Highway #2 north of Sexsmith. Secondary highways within the County of Grande Prairie include #667, #668, #670, #671, #672, #674, #720, #721, #722, #723, #724 and #733. The major bus line which provides regular scheduled service to and from Grande Prairie is Greyhound Canada. The region is well serviced by a number of major trucking and courier companies.

To view a pdf version of the [County Map Click Here](#)



Connecting by Air

The **Grande Prairie Regional Airport**, located 6.5 kilometres west of the city centre, provides scheduled passenger service, cargo and charter flights throughout western Canada. Just a 50 minute flight to the Edmonton International or Municipal Airports, or a 90 minute flight to the Calgary International Airport, the region is well connected to areas beyond our doorstep. The major airlines servicing the Grande Prairie Regional Airport include **Air Canada**, **West Jet** and **Hawk Air** direct to Vancouver; **Peace Air**, **Swanberg Air** and **Northwestern Air** to Yellowknife.

Connecting by Rail

The railway links Grande Prairie to the ports of Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Churchill, Thunder Bay, and Hay River in the Northwest Territories. Shortline rail operations are provided by Savage CANAC Corporation. The rail network connects with the CN line at Swan Landing (near Hinton, Alberta) in the south, and stretches to Hythe, Alberta in the northwest branch (near Dawson Creek, British Columbia) and Wanham, Alberta in the northeast branch.

Railway links from Grande Prairie





High Speed Internet and Network Communications

Grande Prairie area residents and businesses have access to state of the art telecommunications technologies through Telus and Persona which offer high speed internet and cellular phone access, and cable internet, respectively. There are also a number of other companies that offer high speed internet and network services.

Regional Internet Service Providers

To access the most complete and up to date listing visit Canadian Internet Service Providers website at (www.canadianisp.com)

The [Alberta SuperNet](#) now connects over 402 smaller rural communities and all libraries, schools, hospitals and provincial government offices across the province with affordable, high-speed broadband connectivity. Approximately 4,200 facilities in 429 communities are linked through the SuperNet.



Utilities

Aquatera is a regional utility corporation formed by the County of Grande Prairie, City of Grande Prairie, and Town of Sexsmith. Aquatera owns and operates the wastewater treatment system, water distribution, water collection mains and structures, and sanitary sewer services for the City of Grande Prairie, Town of Sexsmith and a portion of the County. Aquatera also provides landfill service to the City of Grande Prairie and recycling programs through their Eco Centre including educational programs and information on recycling and composting, school tours and classroom visits.



Regional Water Line The County of Grande Prairie has entered into partnership with the City of Grande Prairie and the Town of Sexsmith to build a Regional Water Line which will carry treated water to residents in the County. The source of the water is the Wapiti River. The Regional Water Line, which is expected to be fully operational in 2006, will carry treated water from the Aquatera Water Treatment Facility and distribute it to the Hamlet of Clairmont, Town of Sexsmith and service development adjacent to the highway right-of-way. The water line will provide a safe, secure water source for the growing needs of residential and industrial areas of the County.

The County of Grande Prairie provides high quality utility services to the following communities:

- Water and sewer service to the Hamlets of Bezanson, Teepee Creek and LaGlace.
- Sewer service to the Hamlet of Valhalla.
- Westlake Village, Carriage Lane and Wedgewood subdivisions, the Hamlet of Clairmont and the industrial development north of the City of Grande Prairie are provided with water and sewer service from Aquatera.

Regional Landfills and Recycling

The County of Grande Prairie No.1 prides itself as a “green” County and encourages everyone to be respectful of our environment and mindful of our management of waste and consumer products.

The West Grande Prairie County Regional Landfill was created by the Regional Landfill Authority through an original partnership between the County of Grande Prairie and the Towns of Beaverlodge and Wembley. In 2005, the partnership expanded to include the Town of Sexsmith and Village of Hythe. The Regional Landfill, which is located nine miles north and three miles east of Beaverlodge, serves the partnering municipalities.



The County operates three landfill sites and offers six recycling depots across the County. The recycling depots accept everything from paper and plastic to metals, appliances, tires, electronics and more. For more information on this program and what is accepted at each location visit the County website at www.countygp.ab.ca.

Natural Gas and Electricity

ATCO Gas distributes natural gas while **ATCO Electric** distributes electricity for the County of Grande Prairie. This means that they are responsible for distributing connecting and maintaining gas and electrical lines, respectively, for businesses and residences. Once a service is established, residents and businesses must choose between a number of gas and electricity providers, either regulated or competitive, who are responsible for billing and account management.

Direct Energy is the regulated natural gas and electricity provider in the Grande Prairie area. The competitive retailers for natural gas are **Alberta Energy Savings L.P.**, **Direct Energy Essential Services** and **ENMAX**. The competitive retailers for electricity are Direct Energy Essential Services and ENMAX.

To find out more valuable information about regulated and competitive energy provider options within the Grande Prairie Region visit www.customerchoice.gov.ab.ca.

Contact Info

Electrical Power

ATCO Electric
9717 - 97 Avenue
Grande Prairie, Alberta
Tel: 780-538-7000
Tel: 1-800-668-2248

Natural Gas

ATCO Gas
8801 - 112 Street
Grande Prairie, Alberta
T8V 6A4

Gas Customer Assistance Centre
Tel: 310-5678 (toll free) or
1-888-511-7550
48 hours notice is required for service

Telephone

TELUS
Grande Prairie, Alberta
Tel: 780-532-9115
General Customer Service Tel: 1-888-811-2323
Business Customers Tel: 1-888-811-2828

Internet Services

The number of companies providing high speed internet service is constantly growing. To view a complete list of service providers in our region and across the province visit www.canadianisp.com.

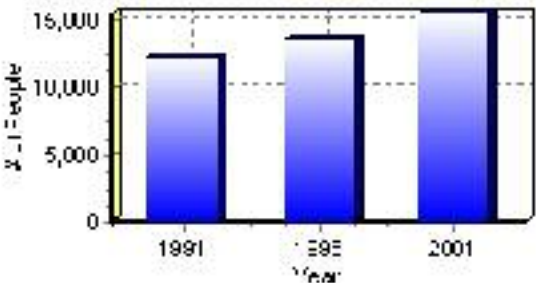
Population

Total Population

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Population 2004* | 15,638 |
| Population 2003* | 15,638 |
| Population 2002* | 15,638 |
| Population 2001** | 15,640 |
| Population 2000* | 15,320 |
| Population 1996** | 13,750 |
| Population 1991** | 12,314 |
| Population % change 1991-1996 | 10.44% |
| Population % change 1996-2001 | 12.07% |

* Source: Official Population List, Alberta Municipal Affairs
** Source: Statistics Canada 1991, 1996, & 2001 Census

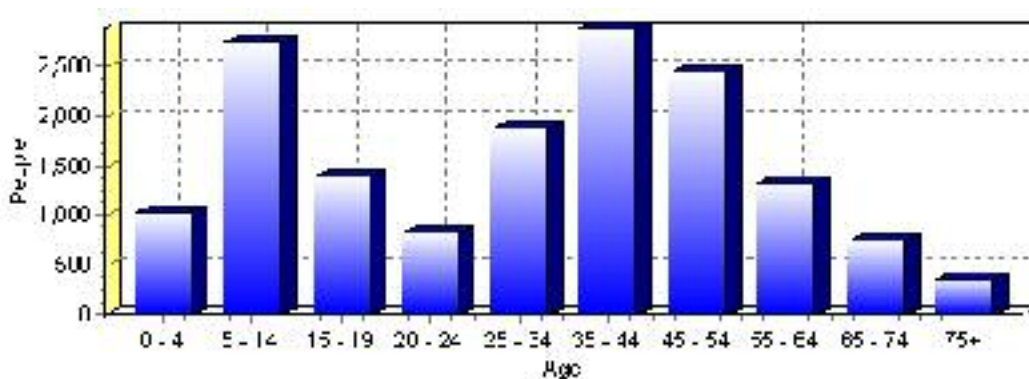
Total Population 1991-2001



| Population by Age and Gender | 1996 Male | 1996 Female | 1996 Total | 2001 Male | 2001 Female | 2001 Total |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Age 0 - 4 | 485 | 470 | 955 | 565 | 465 | 1,030 |
| Age 5 - 14 | 1,355 | 1,295 | 2,650 | 1,375 | 1,360 | 2,735 |
| Age 15 - 19 | 655 | 565 | 1,220 | 735 | 660 | 1,395 |
| Age 20 - 24 | 435 | 320 | 755 | 425 | 405 | 830 |
| Age 25 - 34 | 930 | 945 | 1,875 | 955 | 915 | 1,870 |
| Age 35 - 44 | 1,275 | 1,270 | 2,545 | 1,445 | 1,440 | 2,885 |
| Age 45 - 54 | 920 | 805 | 1,725 | 1,315 | 1,120 | 2,435 |
| Age 55 - 64 | 595 | 490 | 1,085 | 715 | 625 | 1,340 |
| Age 65 - 74 | 365 | 295 | 660 | 415 | 330 | 745 |
| Age 75 and older | 140 | 125 | 265 | 195 | 160 | 355 |
| Total All Persons | 7,170 | 6,580 | 13,750 | 8,150 | 7,490 | 15,640 |

Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Grande Prairie No. 1, County of Population by Age Group (2001)

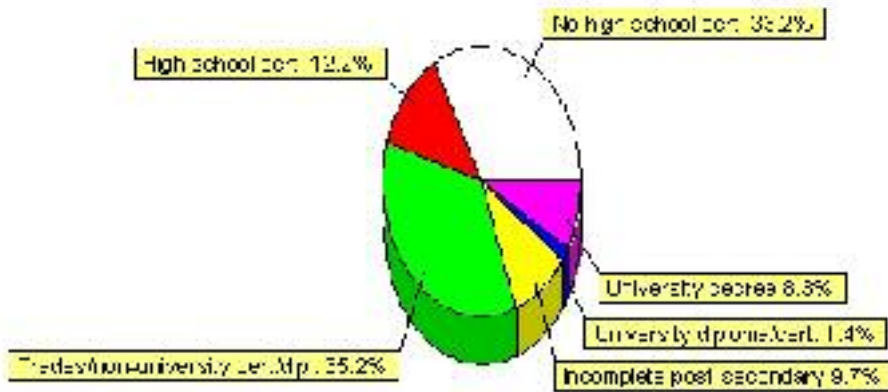


Education Statistics

| Highest level of schooling for Population 20yrs and older | 2001 | % |
|---|--------|---------|
| People without high school certificates | 3,485 | 33.16% |
| People with high school certificates | 1,280 | 12.18% |
| People with trades or non-university certificate or diploma | 3,700 | 35.20% |
| People with post-secondary education (not completed) | 1,020 | 9.71% |
| People with university diploma/certificate | 150 | 1.43% |
| People with university degree | 875 | 8.33% |
| Total Population 20 years and older | 10,510 | 100.00% |

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Grande Prairie No. 1, County of Highest Level of Schooling 2001



| Population with Post Secondary Qualifications | 1996 | % | 2001 | % |
|---|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| Agriculture and biological sciences | 275 | 7.42% | 280 | 5.89% |
| Commerce, management and business administration | 570 | 15.38% | 830 | 17.46% |
| Educational, recreational and counseling services | 430 | 11.61% | 500 | 10.52% |
| Engineering and applied science tech. and trades | 1,535 | 41.43% | 1,885 | 39.64% |
| Engineering and applied sciences | 65 | 1.75% | 135 | 2.84% |
| Fine and applied arts | 205 | 5.53% | 210 | 4.42% |
| Health professionals, science and technologies | 355 | 9.58% | 575 | 12.09% |
| Humanities and related fields | 110 | 2.97% | 90 | 1.89% |
| Mathematics and physical sciences | 10 | 0.27% | 45 | 0.95% |
| Social sciences and related fields | 135 | 3.64% | 195 | 4.10% |
| Other and/or no specialization | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Total people with post secondary qualifications | 3,705 | 100.00% | 4,755 | 100.00% |
| Females with post-secondary qualifications | 1,665 | 44.94% | 2,290 | 48.16% |
| Males with post-secondary qualifications | 2,040 | 55.06% | 2,465 | 51.84% |

Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Labour Force

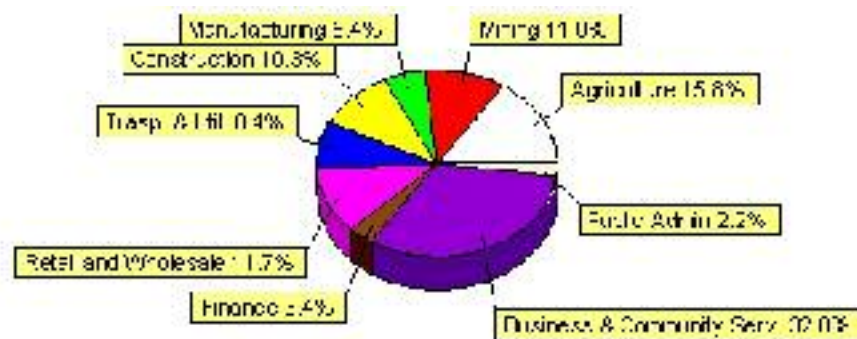
| Labour force by activity | 1996 | 2001 |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| In the labour force, both sexes | 7,995 | 9,160 |
| Not in the labour force, both sexes | 2,095 | 2,665 |
| Total population 15 and over | 10,090 | 11,830 |
| Employed, both sexes | 7,555 | 8,675 |
| Unemployed, both sexes | 440 | 490 |
| Participation rate, both sexes | 79.00% | 77.00% |
| Unemployment rate, both sexes | 5.00% | 5.00% |

Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

| Labour Force by Industry Division | 1996 | % of total | 2001 | % of total |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|
| Agriculture | 1,565 | 19.70% | 1,445 | 15.79% |
| Mining | 670 | 8.43% | 1,010 | 11.04% |
| Manufacturing | 480 | 6.04% | 490 | 5.36% |
| Construction | 795 | 10.01% | 940 | 10.27% |
| Transportation. & Utilities | 630 | 7.93% | 765 | 8.36% |
| Retail and Wholesale | 1,170 | 14.73% | 1,070 | 11.69% |
| Finance | 160 | 2.01% | 310 | 3.39% |
| Business & Community Services | 1,820 | 22.91% | 2,925 | 31.97% |
| Public Administration | 210 | 2.64% | 205 | 2.24% |
| Total All Industries | 7,945 | 100.00% | 9,150 | 100.00% |

Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Grande Prairie No. 1, County of Labour Force By Industry - 2001



| Labour Force by Major Occupational Groups | 1996 | % | 2001 | % |
|---|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| Management occupations | 475 | 5.98% | 785 | 8.58% |
| Business, Finances and administrative occupations | 1,305 | 16.44% | 1,310 | 14.32% |
| Natural and applied sciences and related occupations | 235 | 2.96% | 465 | 5.08% |
| Health occupations | 160 | 2.02% | 320 | 3.50% |
| Occupations in social science; education; government and religion | 345 | 4.35% | 430 | 4.70% |
| Occupations in art; culture; recreation and sport | 90 | 1.13% | 75 | 0.82% |

| | | | | |
|--|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| Sales and service occupations | 1,435 | 18.07% | 1,570 | 17.16% |
| Trades; transport; equipment operators and related occupations | 1,675 | 21.10% | 2,140 | 23.39% |
| Occupations unique to primary industry | 1,760 | 22.17% | 1,735 | 18.96% |
| Occupations unique to processing; manufacturing and utilities | 470 | 5.92% | 330 | 3.61% |
| Occupations not elsewhere classified | 50 | 0.63% | 15 | 0.16% |
| Total - All Occupations (major groups) | 7,940 | 100.00% | 9,150 | 100.00% |
| Females - All Occupations | 3,410 | 42.95% | 3,880 | 42.40% |
| Males - All Occupations | 4,530 | 57.05% | 5,270 | 57.60% |

Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Income

| Family Income (Number of Families) | 1996 | % | 2001 | % |
|---|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| less than \$19,999 | 340 | 9.54% | 280 | 7.25% |
| \$20,000 - \$39,999 | 870 | 24.40% | 685 | 17.75% |
| \$40,000 - \$59,999 | 955 | 26.79% | 1,035 | 26.81% |
| \$60,000 and over | 1,400 | 39.27% | 1,840 | 47.67% |
| Total number of families | 3,565 | 100.00% | 3,840 | 99.48% |
| Average family income | \$59,753 | | \$75,472 | |
| Median family income | \$52,199 | | \$65,003 | |

Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

| Household Income (Number of Households) | 1996 | % | 2001 | % |
|--|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| less than \$19,999 | 635 | 14.35% | 480 | 9.13% |
| \$20,000 - \$39,999 | 1,160 | 26.21% | 905 | 17.22% |
| \$40,000 - \$59,999 | 1,060 | 23.95% | 1,155 | 21.98% |
| \$60,000 and over | 420 | 9.49% | 2,720 | 51.76% |
| Total number of households | 4,425 | 100.00% | 5,255 | 100.00% |
| Average household income | \$55,518 | | \$71,406 | |
| Median household income | \$47,582 | | \$60,899 | |

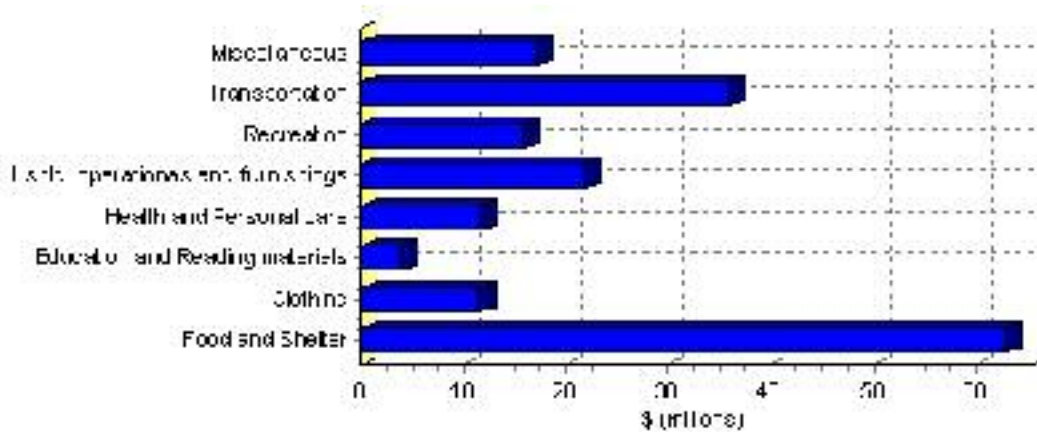
Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Family Expenditure

| Expenditure Category | 1992 | % of total | 1996 | % of total |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Food and Shelter | \$45,379,135 | 36.80% | \$63,001,320 | 34.75% |
| Clothing | \$8,604,065 | 6.98% | \$11,608,379 | 6.40% |
| Education and Reading materials | \$2,738,590 | 2.22% | \$3,951,091 | 2.18% |
| Health and Personal care | \$7,613,700 | 6.17% | \$11,803,658 | 6.51% |
| Hshld. operations and furnishings | \$13,615,410 | 11.04% | \$21,915,864 | 12.09% |
| Recreation | \$10,444,815 | 8.47% | \$15,805,560 | 8.72% |
| Transportation | \$25,197,780 | 20.43% | \$35,980,571 | 19.84% |
| Miscellaneous | \$9,694,780 | 7.86% | \$17,242,013 | 9.51% |
| Total Current Consumption | \$123,320,115 | 100.00% | \$181,308,456 | 100.00% |
| Total # of Households | 3,920 | | 4,425 | |
| Average Consumption per Household | \$31,459 | | \$40,974 | |

Source: Statistics Canada Family Expenditure Survey 1992 & 1996 (numbers may not add up due to rounding).

Grande Prairie No. 1, County of Family Expenditures (1996)

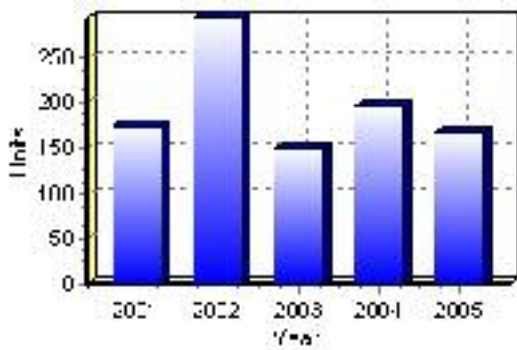


Building Permits

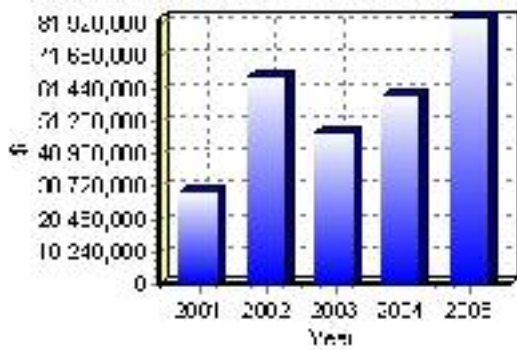
| Total Building Permit Values | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Building Permits Value, Commercial | \$4,072,000 | \$6,900,000 | \$10,331,000 | \$19,388,000 | \$40,514,000 |
| Building Permits Value, Industrial | \$2,787,000 | \$27,047,000 | \$10,953,000 | \$4,209,000 | \$6,043,000 |
| Building Permits Value, Institutional | \$100,000 | \$571,000 | \$538,000 | \$750,000 | \$20,000 |
| Building Permits Value, Residential | \$22,221,000 | \$31,072,000 | \$25,950,000 | \$35,227,000 | \$37,310,000 |
| Building Permits Value, Total | \$29,180,000 | \$65,590,000 | \$47,772,000 | \$59,574,000 | \$83,887,000 |
| Total Housing Starts | 173 | 293 | 150 | 197 | 167 |

Source: Statistics Canada 2000-2004 Building Permits (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Total Housing Starts



Value of Building Permits



Dwellings

| Occupied Private Dwellings by Type | 1996 | % of total | 2001 | % of total |
|--|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Apartments | 0 | 0.00% | 20 | 0.38% |
| Detached Duplexes | 10 | 0.23% | 10 | 0.19% |
| Movable Dwellings | 1,045 | 23.62% | 445 | 8.46% |
| Other single attached house | 10 | 0.23% | 40 | 0.76% |
| Row and semi-detached house | 25 | 0.56% | 55 | 1.05% |
| Single-detached house | 3,340 | 75.48% | 4,695 | 89.26% |
| Total number of occupied private dwellings | 4,425 | 100.00% | 5,260 | 100.00% |
| Private dwellings, owned | 4,005 | 90.51% | 4,860 | 92.40% |
| Private Dwellings, rented | 415 | 9.38% | 390 | 7.41% |

Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

| Private Dwellings by Period of Construction | # of Dwellings | % of total |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Period of construction, before 1946 | 415 | 7.89% |
| Period of construction, 1946 - 1960 | 415 | 7.89% |
| Period of construction, 1961 - 1970 | 535 | 10.17% |
| Period of construction, 1971 - 1980 | 1,265 | 24.05% |
| Period of construction, 1981 - 1990 | 920 | 17.49% |
| Period of construction, 1991 - 2001 | 1,710 | 32.51% |
| Total number of private dwellings constructed | 5,260 | 100.00% |

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

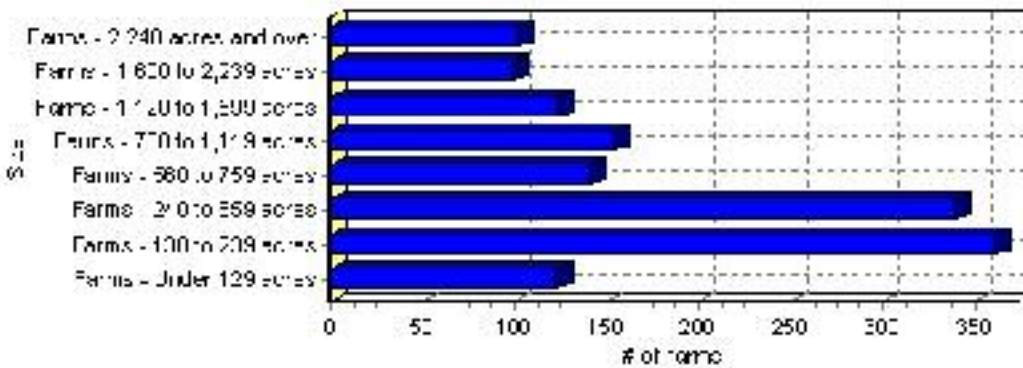
Farming

Grande Prairie No. 1, County of Total Farm Area : 1,440 acres

| Farms by Total Farm Area (2001) | # of Farms | % of total |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Farms - Under 129 acres | 123 | 8.52% |
| Farms - 130 to 239 acres | 361 | 25.02% |
| Farms - 240 to 559 acres | 339 | 23.49% |
| Farms - 560 to 759 acres | 141 | 9.77% |
| Farms - 760 to 1,119 acres | 154 | 10.67% |
| Farms - 1,120 to 1,599 acres | 124 | 8.59% |
| Farms - 1,600 to 2,239 acres | 99 | 6.86% |
| Farms - 2,240 acres and over | 102 | 7.07% |
| Total number of farms reporting | 1,443 | 100.00% |

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census of Agriculture(numbers may not add up due to rounding)

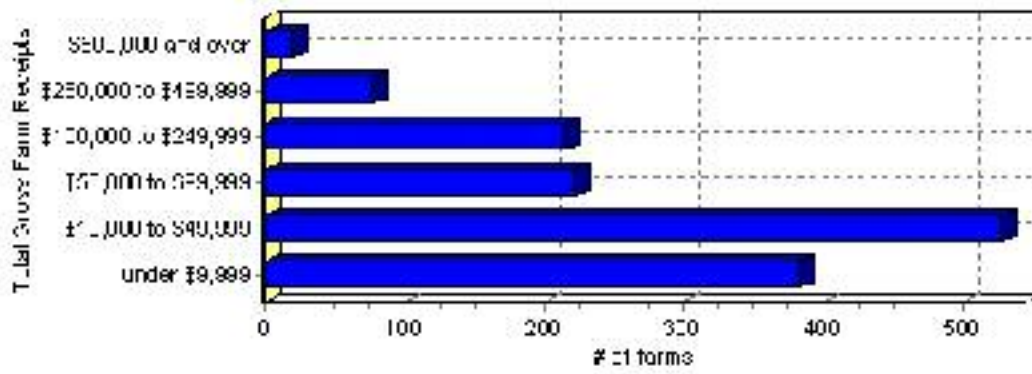
of Farms by Total Farm Area



| Farms by Total Gross Farm Receipts - 2001 | # of Farms | % of total |
|--|------------|------------|
| Farms gross farm receipts - under \$9,999 | 382 | 26.47% |
| Farms gross farm receipts - \$10,000 to \$49,999 | 527 | 36.52% |
| Farms gross farm receipts - \$50,000 to \$99,999 | 222 | 15.38% |
| Farms gross farm receipts - \$100,000 to \$249,999 | 215 | 14.90% |
| Farms gross farm receipts - \$250,000 to \$499,999 | 77 | 5.34% |
| Farms gross farm receipts - \$500,000 and over | 20 | 1.39% |
| Total number of farms reporting | 1,443 | 100.00% |

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census of Agriculture(numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Total Gross Farm Receipts

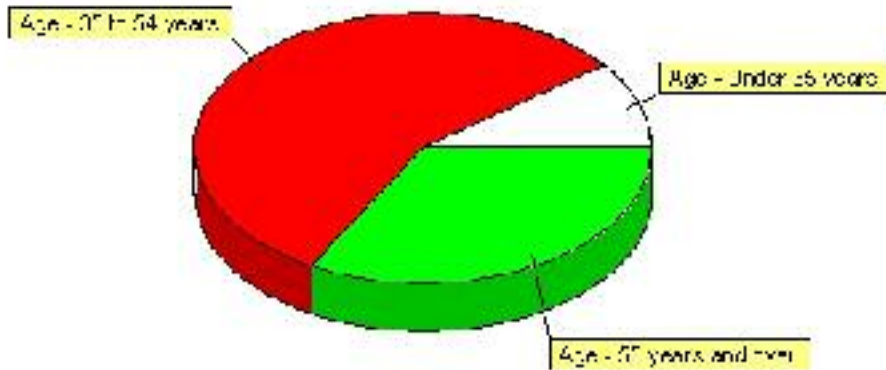


Farming, Continued

| Characteristics of Farm Operators | # | % |
|-------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Age - Under 35 years | 215 | 10.57% |
| Age - 35 to 54 years | 1,140 | 56.02% |
| Age - 55 years and over | 675 | 33.17% |
| Average age of operators | 49 | |
| Number of operators - Female | 590 | 28.99% |
| Number of operators - Male | 1,440 | 70.76% |
| Total number of operators reporting | 2,035 | 100.00% |

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census of Agriculture(numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Age of Farm Operators



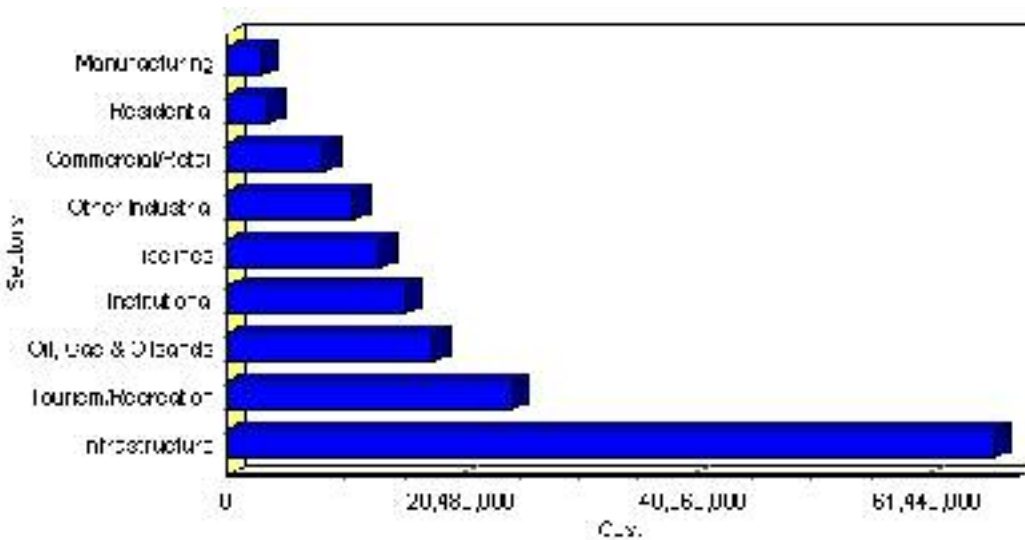
Projects

Summary of Projects in Grande Prairie No. 1, County of as of September 2006

| Project Sector | Number of Projects | Project Cost |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Infrastructure | 11 | \$67,243,250 |
| Tourism/Recreation | 1 | \$25,000,000 |
| Oil, Gas & Oilsands | 1 | \$18,000,000 |
| Institutional | 2 | \$15,700,000 |
| Pipelines | 2 | \$13,300,000 |
| Other Industrial | 2 | \$11,000,000 |
| Commercial/Retail | 1 | \$8,500,000 |
| Residential | 1 | \$3,500,000 |
| Manufacturing | 1 | \$3,000,000 |
| Total | 22 | \$165,243,250 |

This inventory lists projects in Alberta that have recently been completed, are under construction, or are proposed to start construction. Not all projects are listed due to reasons of confidentiality and/or due to information not being available at the time of printing. Project data is obtained from public information sources, where possible, this data has been verified with the project proponent/developer, users of the Inventory may wish to confirm project data with the proponent/developer. The inventory does not breakdown project expenditures by any given year. The cost of a project is the value of expenditures expected over all phases of project construction, which may span over two or more years. Cost of projects listed in the Inventory are estimated values only. Source: Alberta Economic Development, 2004.

Value of Projects by Sector (as of September 2006)



| Project Status | Number of Projects | Project Cost |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Announced | 4 | \$10,800,000 |
| Completed | 4 | \$35,100,000 |
| Nearing Completion | 1 | \$4,000,000 |
| Proposed | 6 | \$77,800,000 |
| Under Construction | 7 | \$37,543,250 |
| Total | 22 | \$165,243,250 |

This inventory lists projects in Alberta that have recently been completed, are under construction, or are proposed to start construction. Not all projects are listed due to reasons of confidentiality and/or due to information not being available at the time of printing. Project data is obtained from public information sources, where possible, this data has been verified with the project proponent/developer, users of the Inventory may wish to confirm project data with the proponent/developer. The inventory does not breakdown project expenditures by any given year. The cost of a project is the value of expenditures expected over all phases of project construction, which may span over two or more years. Cost of projects listed in the Inventory are estimated values only. Source: Alberta Economic Development, 2004.

Largest Projects in Grande Prairie No. 1, County of as of September 2006

| Company Name | Project Description | Project Location | Project Cost | Construction Schedule | Status |
|---|---|--|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| City of Grande Prairie / County of Grande Prairie / Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation | Highway 43A Bypass around Grande Prairie | Cty of Grande Prairie | \$28,000,000 | - | Proposed |
| Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Bed Project Committee | Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Interpretive Centre (previously describes as Dinosaur M) | Cty of Grande Prairie | \$25,000,000 | - | Proposed |
| County of Grande Prairie | 2006 Road Construction and Upgrade Projects | Cty of Grande Prairie | \$18,600,000 | 2006-2006 | Completed |
| BJ Services | NEW FACILITY | Cty of Grande Prairie (Clairmont) | \$18,000,000 | 2006-2007 | Under Construction |
| Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation | SH 671 (Goodfare Rd) Base Pave | Cty of Grande Prairie (E of BC to W of Goodfare) | \$11,200,000 | 2006-2007 | Under Construction |
| Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation* | New School (K to Gr 8) | Cty of Grande Prairie (Clairmont) | \$8,500,000 | - | Proposed |
| Nabors Industries Ltd. | Office Building, Warehouse and Shop | Cty of Grande Prairie | \$8,500,000 | 2005-2006 | Completed |
| Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation* | Elementary School Modernization / Expansion to (K to Grade 9) | Cty of Grande Prairie | \$7,200,000 | 2006-2007 | Announced |
| County of Grande Prairie | Rail Container Depot | Cty of Grande Prairie | \$7,000,000 | - | Proposed |
| County of Grande Prairie | Water Pipeline | Cty of Grande Prairie | \$7,000,000 | 2005-2006 | Completed |

Disclaimer: Information in this profile has been provided from a variety of external sources. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy, currency and reliability of the content and data, AlbertaFirst.com Ltd. accepts no responsibility in this regard.

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