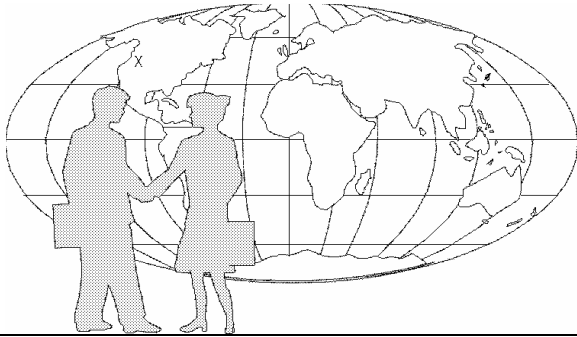


# *Building Your Future in British Columbia, Canada*



**Government of British Columbia  
Business Immigration Office**  
Suite 730 - World Trade Centre  
999 Canada Place  
Vancouver, British Columbia - Canada V6C 3E1  
Tel: 604 775-2227 Fax: 604 660-4092  
Website: [www.businessimmigration.gov.bc.ca](http://www.businessimmigration.gov.bc.ca)

## Useful Internet Resources

### Moving into BC / Immigration

- \*Citizenship and Immigration Canada (Canadian Government) [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)  
Click on English → Immigrants → Immigrating to Canada → Business Class. The immigration application kit is downloadable.
- \*Business Immigration Office (BC Government) [www.businessimmigration.gov.bc.ca](http://www.businessimmigration.gov.bc.ca)  
Guideline information for those who are interested in settling in BC as business immigrants or investors. Individual counselling service in different languages available.
- British Columbia Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services (BC Government) [www.gov.bc.ca/caws](http://www.gov.bc.ca/caws)  
Useful information on settlement for those who are moving to BC soon
- British Columbia.com - General information on British Columbia [www.britishcolumbia.com](http://www.britishcolumbia.com)
- British Columbia Shopping Guide - General information on BC [www.britishcolumbia.com/shopping](http://www.britishcolumbia.com/shopping)

### Canada

- All about Canada [www.canada.gc.ca](http://www.canada.gc.ca)  
Canadian government's official site. Information and service gateway for Canadians, non-Canadians and business community.
- All about Canada for non-Canadians [canadainternational.gc.ca](http://canadainternational.gc.ca)  
Canadian government's site. Entry point for non-Canadians with all kinds of information about Canada.
- Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs & International Trade [www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca)
- Industry Canada (Canadian Department of Industry) - Commerce & Exports [www.ic.gc.ca](http://www.ic.gc.ca)
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) - national federal police [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca)

### Doing Business in BC

#### ➤ Starting Up a Business

- \*Canada/BC Business Service Centre [smallbusinessbc.ca](http://smallbusinessbc.ca)  
On-line Small Business workshop, various on-line government publications and the Interactive Business Planner.
- Canada Business Service Centre [www.cbosc.org](http://www.cbosc.org)  
Connected to the national network, which has one location in each province and territory.
- \*Government of Canada - Business Gateway [businessgateway.ca](http://businessgateway.ca)  
Excellent website from Industry Canada. Intended as a first portal (entry point) for people seeking to establish a business.

●Business Start-up Assistance [www.bsa.cbsc.org](http://www.bsa.cbsc.org)  
Gateway to government information for businesses. Information available by region or by business topic.

●Business Plans [www.bplans.com](http://www.bplans.com)  
Various samples for many different types of businesses.

### ➤ Registering a Business

\*BC Corporate Registry [www.fin.gov.bc.ca/registries/corppg](http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/registries/corppg)  
Legal framework and documents for the incorporation, registration, maintenance and dissolution of companies, societies and cooperatives in BC.

●Federal Incorporation [strategis.gc.ca](http://strategis.gc.ca)  
For stronger business name protection. Electronic filing available.

●One-Stop Business Registration (OSBR) [www.bcbusinessregistry.ca](http://www.bcbusinessregistry.ca)  
Introductory information regarding an easy-to-use registration system with one visit to a single location near you.

●Business License [vancouver.ca/commsvcs/licandinsp/licences/business/index.htm](http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/licandinsp/licences/business/index.htm)  
If your business is located in a municipality, check with municipal authorities to ensure conformity with zoning and building regulations. If your business is located in an unincorporated area, check with the Regional District. (The above site provides business licensing information for the City of Vancouver (Municipality of Vancouver))

●Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) [www.worksafebc.com](http://www.worksafebc.com)  
Most business operations in BC are required to have accident compensation coverage. Phone inquiries at: 1-800-621-7233.

●Trademarks: Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) [cipo.gc.ca](http://cipo.gc.ca)  
Detailed information, database and application form available not only for trademark but also for patent, copyright, industrial design and integrated circuit topographies.

### ➤ Taxation

●Canada Customs & Revenue Agency (Federal Taxes) [www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca)  
Useful taxation information for business sector. Phone inquiries to the Business Window at 1-800-959-5525 in Canada.

●Consumer Taxation Branch (Provincial Sales Tax) [www.rev.gov.bc.ca/ctb](http://www.rev.gov.bc.ca/ctb)  
Applicable to most of the retail, wholesale and some service sectors. Phone inquiries at (604) 660-4524 (in Greater Vancouver)

### ➤ Becoming an Employer

\*Employers Online [hrmanagement.gc.ca](http://hrmanagement.gc.ca)  
All the necessary information you would need as an employer.

●Employment Standards in BC [www.labour.gov.bc.ca/esb](http://www.labour.gov.bc.ca/esb)

### ➤ Market Data

●BC Stats [www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca)  
Useful statistics, particularly about the province of BC, including population, economy, labour and market reports.

●Statistics Canada [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)  
"Canadian Statistics" & "Community Profile" regarding population, education, health, culture, economy and main industries.

\*BC Community Profiles [www.invest-bc.com](http://www.invest-bc.com)  
Comprehensive information by regions to assist potential investors in BC.

\*Business Information by Sector (Strategis) [strategis.gc.ca/bis](http://strategis.gc.ca/bis)  
Industry Canada's nationwide business information by sector.

\*Trade Data Online (Strategis) [strategis.gc.ca/tdo](http://strategis.gc.ca/tdo)  
Latest trade data available for particular products between Canada or a province and a particular country or a trading zone (i.e. Asia-Pacific Rim, EU etc.) as well as the listings of top 25 Canadian products that have been traded with a particular location.

## ➤ Financing

- Source of Financing (Strategis) [strategis.gc.ca/sources](http://strategis.gc.ca/sources)  
Traditional or alternative sources of financing for your small business.
- Financial Institutions Commission [www.fic.gov.bc.ca](http://www.fic.gov.bc.ca)  
Regulations for credit unions, trust companies and insurance companies to protect the public.
- BC Securities Commission [www.bcsc.bc.ca](http://www.bcsc.bc.ca)  
Regulations for trading in securities and exchange contracts in BC.
- Also, private banks' websites are generally good sources of business financing information: *Royal Bank, Bank of Montreal, ScotiaBank, TD-Canada Trust, HSBC, VanCity, etc.*

## ➤ Checking Creditability

- Credit Report [www.equifax.ca](http://www.equifax.ca) or [www.dnb.ca](http://www.dnb.ca)  
Some companies (i.e. 'Equifax' or 'Dun and Bradstreet') provide credit reports for businesses/individuals on a service fee basis.
- Better Business Bureau [www.bbmbc.com](http://www.bbmbc.com)  
On-line company reports available. Phone inquiries at 604-682-2711 in Greater Vancouver area.

## ➤ Exporting/Importing

- \* How-to-Export Guide [exportsource.ca](http://exportsource.ca)  
A single access point to all trade-related government departments and agencies on subjects including: preparing to export, researching, marketing, entering the market, etc.
- Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) - Customs [www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-e.html](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-e.html)  
For duties, select: General Information & Services→Technical Publications→Customs Tariff→Most Recent Customs Tariff
- \* Export and Import Control Bureau [www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/eicb](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/eicb)  
Federal government permit or quota system that you may need to obtain for importing and exporting businesses.
- Export Sourcing Guide [smallbusinessbc.ca/pdf/export.pdf](http://smallbusinessbc.ca/pdf/export.pdf)  
Downloadable publication for exporters-to-be; information including regulatory, useful publications, statistics, financing and association contacts.
- Foreign Market Reports [www.infoexport.gc.ca](http://www.infoexport.gc.ca)  
Canadian Trade Commissioners' site providing sector-specific market reports as well as business climate information by country.
- World Information Network (WIN) [www.wininfo.com](http://www.wininfo.com)  
A commercially confidential database of Canadian exporters and their capabilities operated by Department Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Check out the benefits when you become a member; registration available on-line.
- Canadian Exporters (Canadian Company Capabilities)  
Please see the "Company Directories" section below.
- Trade Policies and Free Trade Agreements [www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/trade/menu-en.asp](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/trade/menu-en.asp)  
Canada's trading policies and free trade agreements including NAFTA.
- Insurance Programs for Exporters (Export Development Corporation) [www.edc.ca](http://www.edc.ca)  
Various insurance programs for exporters to minimize possible risk.
- Importing Sourcing Guide [www.smallbusinessbc.ca/pdf/importexportGuide2004.pdf](http://www.smallbusinessbc.ca/pdf/importexportGuide2004.pdf)  
Downloadable publication for an importing business.
- Importing a Motor Vehicle [www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/E/pub/cp/rc4140/rc4140-e.html](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/E/pub/cp/rc4140/rc4140-e.html)  
Detailed information how to import a motor vehicle into Canada. For other customs inquiries, phone Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) at 1-800-461-9999 in Canada.

## ➤ Industrial Standards

- Standard Council of Canada [www.scc.ca](http://www.scc.ca)  
Latest information on standards and technical regulations used in Canada and around the world. On-line request is available.
- Packing and Labelling (Competition Bureau) [cb-bc.gc.ca](http://cb-bc.gc.ca)  
User-friendly checklists on Canadian labelling requirements for various consumer products.
- Provincial Safety Regulations (Safety Engineering Services Division) [www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/ses](http://www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/ses)  
Safety regulations for boiler, electrical devices, gas equipment, etc., which you might need for your business.
- Bar Code (Electronic Commerce Council of Canada) [www.eccc.org](http://www.eccc.org)
- Canadian Standards International (CSI) [www.csa.ca](http://www.csa.ca)  
Sets and maintains standards, provides testing services in over 100 different areas and issues internationally-recognized product certification.

## ➤ Directories

- \* BC Manufacturers Directory [www.made-in-bc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.made-in-bc.gov.bc.ca)  
Lists manufacturers in BC, featuring over 3,000 types of products. Developed by BC Stats.
- \* Canadian Company Capabilities [strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc\\_coinf/ccc/engdoc/homepage.html](http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_coinf/ccc/engdoc/homepage.html)  
List of over 40,000 Canadian enterprises with detailed information. A particularly good source to find out Canadian exporters aiming for specific countries.
- \* Business Associations in BC [www.smallbusinessbc.ca/pdf/associations.pdf](http://www.smallbusinessbc.ca/pdf/associations.pdf)
- BC Yellow Pages [www.bcyellowpages.com](http://www.bcyellowpages.com)  
On-line directory for companies in BC. Searchable by key words, categories, or regions, providing phone numbers and maps.
- Canada Yellow Pages [www.yellowpages.ca](http://www.yellowpages.ca)  
Nationwide search engine for business contacts in other provinces.

## ➤ Trade Shows

- BC Trade Shows [www.smallbusinessbc.ca/pdf/tradeshowsDirectory2005.pdf](http://www.smallbusinessbc.ca/pdf/tradeshowsDirectory2005.pdf)  
Downloadable listing of trade shows happening in BC during the period of 2001-2002.
- Trade Shows in the World [www.tscentral.com](http://www.tscentral.com)  
A private website with information for upcoming trade shows all over the world.

## ➤ Businesses and Investment Opportunities

- BC Shopping Guide - businesses throughout BC [www.bcshoppingguide.com/opportunities.asp](http://www.bcshoppingguide.com/opportunities.asp)
- Other private sources [www.business-trader.com](http://www.business-trader.com)  
[www.islandnet.com/ads](http://www.islandnet.com/ads)  
[www.westerninvestor.com](http://www.westerninvestor.com)

## **Living in BC**

### ➤ General information for recently landed immigrants

- Soft Landings - Assistance for Newcomers [www.softlandings.com/canada](http://www.softlandings.com/canada)
- Canada en Español - Information in Spanish for Newcomers [www.canadaenespanol.com](http://www.canadaenespanol.com)
- Quick Facts About British Columbia [www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bcfacts.htm](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bcfacts.htm)

### ➤ Buying a House - Information of buying/selling homes or commercial properties

- Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver [www.realtylink.org](http://www.realtylink.org)
- Other private sources [www.realestatetours.com](http://www.realestatetours.com)  
[www.easysellbyowner.com](http://www.easysellbyowner.com)

➤ Renting a House - House Rental Information

- My Rentals

[www.iMyRentals.com](http://www.iMyRentals.com)

➤ Education

- Vancouver School Board

[www.vsb.bc.ca/schools.htm](http://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools.htm)

- Ministry of Education

[www.gov.bc.ca/bced](http://www.gov.bc.ca/bced)

- Universities

-University of British Columbia (UBC)

[www.ubc.ca](http://www.ubc.ca)

-University of Simon Fraser (SFU)

[www.sfu.ca](http://www.sfu.ca)

-University of Victoria (Uvic)

[www.uvic.ca](http://www.uvic.ca)

-University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)

[www.unbc.ca](http://www.unbc.ca)

-British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT)

[www.bcit.ca](http://www.bcit.ca)

-Royal Roads University (RRU)

[www.royalroads.ca](http://www.royalroads.ca)

➤ Health/Medical System

- Government Health Services

[www.gov.bc.ca/healthservices](http://www.gov.bc.ca/healthservices)

- BC Health Guide

[www.bchealthguide.org](http://www.bchealthguide.org)

- Hospitals

[www.medi-fax.com/hospitals](http://www.medi-fax.com/hospitals)

➤ Newspapers

- The Vancouver Sun

[www.vancouver.sun.com](http://www.vancouver.sun.com)

- The Globe & Mail

[www.globeandmail.com](http://www.globeandmail.com)

(\*) important websites

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