

ECONOMIC SECTOR PROFILE: EDUCATION

CHILLIWACK, BRITISH COLUMBIA



...developing local talent.

"Chilliwack School district is in the business of student achievement. Preparing students for post-secondary studies as well as recognizing and appreciating the opportunities available in all sectors of our community is the primary goal of the district."

Doug McKay, School District #33, Chair, Board of Education

"In the Chilliwack School District our learning community envisions that: "Each student will be a successful graduate with opportunities beyond graduation" To achieve student success we promote learning that meets the needs of each student, support professional growth for all staff, and provide a safe and caring learning environment for both students and staff. We believe that a strong partnership with parents and with our community is important to student success. Situated in the traditional territory of the Stó:ló people we acknowledge and honour that Aboriginal students have a right to education, which respects and promotes Stó:ló and other Aboriginal languages, culture and tradition."

Michael Audet, School District #33, Superintendent

CHILLIWACK SCHOOL DISTRICT #33

There are more than 14,000 school-age children attending public school in the City of Chilliwack (2008), served by approximately 1,800 staff.

The District has 20 public elementary schools (K-6), five middle schools (7-9), one middle/secondary school (7-12), and two secondary schools (10-12). In addition there are three alternate schools and a distance learning school.

Each student has access to full educational facilities with a standard liberal education, such as reading, writing, mathematics, social studies, science, literature, language, art and physical education. In addition to basic curriculum and the specialty programs listed above, school curriculums at the secondary level also include technology (Java Programming; Microsoft Engineering; Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer; Cisco; Computer Animation; CAD; 3-D Animation; Graphic Arts); Office Management; Robotics, Drama, Music, Industrial Arts, Home Economics, an Apprenticeship Program, and Career Preparation.

A late French Immersion Program which begins in grade 6 is offered at two elementary schools (Sardis Elementary and Strathcona Elementary). French Immersion continues in grades 7-9 at Chilliwack and Vedder Middle Schools, and for grades 10-12 at Sardis Secondary.

SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

Bus service is provided for elementary students who live at least 4 kilometers from school and for middle and senior secondary students who live at least 4.8 kilometers from school (\$200 per student per school year).

GROWTH

With Chilliwack's growing population, the need

for more classroom space increases annually, with an average growth rate between 3 percent and 4 percent over the past 10 years.

In the last several years, some of our most recent additions or improvements include: G.W. Graham Secondary School (new), Sardis Secondary School (rebuild), Chilliwack Middle School (renovation), Vedder Middle School (renovation), and Vedder Elementary School.

CAREER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP (SSA) PROGRAM

SSA provides students with an easier transition from school to the trades and encourages more students to consider the trades as a viable career path. Students enrolled in SSA complete 480 hours of paid, workplace-based training with approved employers.

ACCELERATED CREDIT ENROLMENT IN INDUSTRY TRAINING (ACE IT)

The ACE IT program allows students to earn credit towards graduation, as well as credit for level one of the technical training (in-class) component of an industry training program.

Currently, both Chilliwack secondary and Sardis Secondary offer ACE IT programs in Welding.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Work experience is a fundamental piece of a student's secondary school curriculum and is a component of the new Graduation Transitions Program. All students are now required to complete a minimum of 30 hours of work experience and/or community service in order to satisfy the "Community Connections" component of Grad Transitions.

Through the program, students are placed in many different types of work experience jobs including business/professional, health and wellness, trades and technology, applied science, recreation, tourism/hospitality, foods

and human services. The Work Experience Department facilitates over 1,100 placements each year.

CAREER PREPARATION

Career Prep courses are extensions of existing high school courses. As a part of an elective Career Prep Work Experience program, students must complete 90 hours of Work Experience, in conjunction with a group of requisite courses, usually in one particular focus area. Students will receive 4 credits toward graduation upon completion.

For more information on Work Experience programs, please contact (604) 792-8549.

POST SECONDARY

The University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) is a fully accredited, public post secondary institution that enrolls over 15,500 students per year. UFV offers 15 bachelor's degrees, one applied master's degree, and more than 80 certificate and diploma programs in applied and academic areas, including Trades.

There are also two private colleges in the community. These institutions provide technical and trade training including Business, Healthcare, Hospitality, and Computers.

For further information on Education in Chilliwack contact the Chilliwack School District at 604-792-1321 or visit www.sd33.bc.ca.



CHILLIWACK, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Population Est. 92,308

...everything a business needs to succeed!

EFFICIENT GLOBAL ACCESS AND A WORLD CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE

Chilliwack, British Columbia maintains well-established economic, cultural, communications and transportation ties with Asian, American and European markets. Located on the Trans Canada Highway, the city is only 20 minutes away from a USA border crossing and Abbotsford's International Airport, 90 minutes from Vancouver's International Airport and one hour from the nearest shipping sea port.



DYNAMIC AND DIVERSE ECONOMY

Chilliwack's economic strength is based on the success of established resource sectors such as agriculture, food processing and forestry. However, recent dramatic growth in technology and knowledge-based industries is bringing new diversity and energy to the community, creating numerous investment and business opportunities.

UNBEATABLE QUALITY OF LIFE

Chilliwack is one of the world's most desirable places to live and work... with the country life and proximity to major urban centers, a mild climate, gorgeous scenery and a low cost of living.

QUALIFIED WORKFORCE

Chilliwack's first rate education system, supported by the University of the Fraser Valley and other advanced education opportunities, provide a wealth of qualified local talent. In fact 66 percent of British Columbia's employees have post secondary education with 21 percent holding a university degree.

BUSINESS - FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT

Chilliwack holds a reputation for being the most business-friendly community in the province. Our Municipal Government believes that the strength of our local economy is a direct result of assistance to business. They have a commitment to satisfy the needs of business, to reduce tax costs and go the extra mile to ensure quick approvals.

COMPETITIVE BUSINESS COSTS AND INCENTIVES

Chilliwack is one of the most cost-competitive locations for business. Municipal taxation and provincial tax cuts are reducing business costs and increasing Chilliwack's competitiveness. Since 2001, the provincial government has introduced dramatic changes designed to strengthen the economy and make British Columbia the best place to invest in North America.

REDUCING TAXES TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT AND TALENT

- **Thirty-one provincial tax relief measures** including a 30 percent cut in the corporate income tax rate, elimination of the general capital tax and a 25 percent cut in personal income tax rates.
- **New or enhanced tax credits** and exemptions for software development, manufacturing, mining, oil and gas, film and TV production, new media and international financing activities.
- **Employer-paid payroll taxes** average about 50 percent lower than in the US.
- **No property taxes on machinery, equipment** and other non-real estate assets, unlike most US jurisdictions.
- **Federal and provincial research and development tax credit programs.**

Federal	BC	WA	OR	CA
Corporate Tax				
\$50,000 - \$75,000	11%	25%	25%	25%
\$75,000 - \$100,000	11%	34%	34%	34%
\$100,000 - \$335,000	11%	39%	39%	39%
\$335,000 - \$500,000	11%	34%	34%	34%
\$500,000 - \$10M	15%	34%	34%	34%
Provincial / State Corporate Tax				
\$0 - \$250,000	2.5%	N/A	6.6%	8.84%
\$250,000 - \$500,000	2.5%	N/A	7.6%	8.84%
\$500,000 and over	10%	N/A	7.6%	8.84%

Source: Province of BC, 2012 / WA, OR, and CA States, 2012

Provincial Corporate Tax	BC	AB	ON
Income			
General	10%	10%	11.5%
Mfg. & Processing	10%	10%	11%
Small Business	2.5%	3%	4.5%

Source: Province of BC, AB and ON, 2012

UTILITIES

In British Columbia, hydroelectric power is our most reliable (99.923%) and biggest source of energy. BC Hydro (a Provincial Crown Corporation) serves 94% of all of British Columbia's residents including Chilliwack. Gas distribution throughout British Columbia is provided by Fortis BC. Natural gas from the Peace River region is transmitted by pipeline to Chilliwack through to Vancouver.

ELECTRICITY AND GAS RATES

HYDRO RATES	Business (under 35kWh for 2 mo.)
Basic/Minimum Charge:	18.53 cents per day
	All kWh: \$0.0881 kWh
Rate Rider:	2.5% applied to all charges before taxes and levies

*different rates available for different consumption uses.

Source: BC Hydro, 2012

GAS RATES

Small Commercial Rate 2 (less than 2,000 GJ annually)	
Basic Charge per day	\$0.8161
Delivery Charge per GJ	\$2.896
Midstream Charge per GJ	\$1.352
Cost of Gas per GJ	\$4.005

*different rates available for different consumption uses.

Source: Fortis BC, 2012



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