City of Surrey

Investment Opportunities

SURREY | BRITISH COLUMBIA | CANADA
MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As one of Canada’s fastest growing cities, Surrey is an economic generator for the region and a place where businesses can achieve tremendous success on a global level.

As we build British Columbia’s next great metropolitan centre, the City is developing new and innovative initiatives to stimulate economic growth, create jobs, streamline approvals and build healthier, sustainable communities.

On behalf of City Council, I encourage you to invest in Surrey and become part of one of the most diverse and dynamic economies in Canada.

Sincerely,

Dianne L. Watts, Mayor

INVEST HERE

Surrey’s fast-growing and culturally diverse population, combined with an enviable Pacific Rim location for international trade to Asia and the United States offers substantial business opportunities. For the third year in a row, the Real Estate Investment Network named Surrey the best place in British Columbia to invest. Surrey was also recognized by the Clean Energy Association of BC as “Community of the Year” in 2011 for its integrated approach to sustainability and energy conservation.

Canada and the province of British Columbia have become highly competitive through a series of corporate tax reductions and creation of unique tax incentives for foreign companies engaged in international business. Starting in 2012 Canada will have the lowest corporate tax rate of any G7 country.

TABLE OF CONTENTS
OVERVIEW

With the shortest transportation routes from Asia to North America, British Columbia (BC) has an up to 58 hour shipping transport lead over other West Coast ports. British Columbia also offers duty-free access to the United States for products and services included in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Other key Surrey advantages include:

- A gateway location to regional, national and international markets.
- Access to transportation networks that include close proximity to 2 international airports, major highways, rail access, 2 ports and 2 border crossings.
- Largest supply of available industrial land in the region.

Surrey’s location on the west coast of North America makes it possible to do business with Asia, Europe and North America in the same business day.
A six year capital works program will invest $2 billion in community amenities including recreation centres, hospitals, schools, libraries and parks. The City has also received substantial infrastructure investment from other levels of government as part of Canada’s Pacific Rim trade strategy. Investments include:

- $3.5 billion for a new bridge and truck route to improve movement of goods and people.
- $22 million in rail infrastructure to increase goods movement.
- The South Fraser Perimeter Road which will reduce east-west travel times and connect Surrey’s port to a major truck route.

For info on the City’s infrastructure investment visit: www.surrey.ca and search Build Surrey Program.
New Downtown Core

City Centre is the location of Surrey’s new downtown core and the Province’s next metropolitan centre. Located on skytrain rapid transit, City Centre exemplifies the transformation occurring in the City and will be the commercial, cultural and social hub of the city. Significant public sector investment has catalyzed private sector development. Major public investment includes:

- New Central Library.
- New City Hall.
- New Regional Police Headquarters.
- Major hospital expansion and new outpatient facility.
- Expansion of Simon Fraser University.
- New Community Plaza.
- New Performing Arts Centre.
Surrey has nearly half of the region’s available industrial land. The City offers both fully-serviced industrial and business park land, and opportunities for new development. Surrey’s industrially designated lands are well-connected to major east – west and north – south highways.

- Campbell Heights is a 1,900 acres business park located within a 15 minute drive from 2 border crossings with the US, including the second busiest commercial crossing in Canada.
- Campbell Heights lands are pre-serviced to expedite development.
- New construction within the Bridgeview/South Westminster Economic Investment Zones is eligible for financial incentives.
Surrey’s economy is powered by a range of growing industries:

**Clean Energy**
British Columbia is known internationally for being on the forefront of clean energy. As one of the leading cities in the province, the City of Surrey formed a unique clean energy partnership with Simon Fraser University (SFU), Powertech Labs and BC Hydro to advance sustainability and increase economic development.

**High Technology**
SFU is developing an Energy Systems Engineering program that will be the first of its kind in North America. Surrey is home to a growing number of high tech companies such as Endurance Wind Power, FiNcad and Safe Software.
DIVERSE ECONOMY

SECTORS

Advanced Manufacturing
Surrey’s highly diversified manufacturing sector delivers products for traditional and emerging industries, from custom cutting lumber for forestry companies to designing wind turbines for the clean energy sector.

Health
Surrey is home to the regional health authority, a teaching hospital and two universities that conduct health research and programs focused on front-line health care delivery. By 2014, the provincial government will have invested nearly $800 million for a major expansion to the hospital, new critical care facility, and outpatient and surgery centre.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE GROWING SECTORS, VIEW THE SECTOR PROFILES AT WWW.SURREY.CA AND SEARCH SECTOR PROFILES.
Surrey is the only city in British Columbia to offer financial incentives for companies choosing to invest in designated geographic areas, with additional benefits to clean energy companies.

**Economic Investment Zones**
- No property taxes for 3 years.
- Development Cost Charges reduced by 30%.
- Building permit fees reduced by 50%.

**Clean Energy Incentives**
- No property tax for 3 years.
- Building permit fees reduced by 50%.
- $1 business license fee for 3 years.

For more information on financial incentives offered by the City of Surrey visit: www.surrey.ca and search Surrey Business Advantages.
LOW TAXES

Surrey has the lowest business tax rate in Metro Vancouver.

*Per $1,000 assessed value
Surrey is one of the fastest growing cities in Canada – over 10,000 people move to the city each year. It is the second largest city in British Columbia with a population of almost a half-million people.

- Surrey accounts for nearly 20% of the region’s population.
- 43% of residents have a first language other than English.
- Surrey’s labour force is young. 17% of the region’s 20-24 year-olds live in the City.
- Surrey has a labour force of 230,000.

More demographic information can be found at: www.surrey.ca and search demographic profiles.
Surrey is home to 2 universities. Simon Fraser University (SFU) has been ranked Canada’s top comprehensive university by McLean’s magazine for three years in a row. Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) offers a variety of programs, including world-class trades training.

- SFU’s Mechatronics program is 1 of 2 in North America. This program combines mechanical, electronic, software and computer engineering, with applications in the clean energy, advanced manufacturing and ICT sectors.
- KPU has the 2nd largest business school in western Canada and provides training programs for the manufacturing, construction and health sectors.
Surrey’s 6 vibrant town centres and culturally diverse population, provide an enviable place to live. The City stages a number of free cultural events throughout the year, including the largest Canada Day celebration in western Canada. Surrey was also designated a cultural capital of Canada in 2008.

- Affordable housing – the average price for a detached home in Surrey is up to 33% less than the regional average.
- 6,425 acres of parks and protected open spaces.
- Public Art program with over 50 works located throughout the City.
- Surrey is home to many young families and has the largest school district in British Columbia.
- Recently created over 70km of greenways and 200km of bike lanes.
Companies in British Columbia benefit from low taxes, competitive operating costs, stable labour conditions and an exceptional multicultural work force that is well educated, highly skilled and productive.

- Over the past decade British Columbia has reduced its corporate taxes to 10%.
- British Columbia’s capital tax on financial institutions was eliminated April 1, 2010.
- British Columbia is a low-tax zone for international business. Businesses can receive up to a full refund of provincial tax on income earned on qualifying activities, including:
  - Clean technology
  - Digital media distribution
  - Film distribution
  - Financial activities
  - Financial management and Investment-patents: life science, green power, fuel cell and wastewater treatment
Low taxes

Corporate Income Tax Rate

Low taxes

Personal Income Tax Rate

Includes Non-Manufacturing | January 1, 2010

Top Marginal Rates | December 31, 2009
BUSINESS INCENTIVES

British Columbia provides provincial tax credits, exemptions and deductions to encourage business investment and innovation. British Columbia’s tax incentives do not have to be negotiated, and are available equally to all eligible businesses for qualifying activities. Tax incentive programs include:

International Business Activity Tax Refund Program:
• Refund of corporate tax paid by registered companies on income earned from qualifying international business.

Venture Capital Tax Credit:
• Thirty per cent refundable tax-credit for individuals and a non-refundable credit to venture capital corporations investing in clean tech, community ventures or new media businesses.

For detailed information on British Columbia’s competitive tax climate visit: www.britishcolumbia.ca and search business incentives.
REDUCED BUSINESS OPERATING COSTS

British Columbia offers tax breaks that lower the cost of investing and operations, including:

- No general corporation capital tax.
- No employer payroll taxes.
- No franchise tax.
- No machinery sales tax.
- Hydrogen used in fuel cell vehicles is exempt from fuel tax.

MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO SAVE ON OPERATING COSTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA VISIT: WWW.BRITISHCOLUMBIA.CA UNDER BUSINESS COST
Canada offers a business-friendly, cost competitive environment with opportunities for growth. Canada has the fastest economic growth in the G7 according to the International Monetary Fund.

- Canada has the soundest banking system in the world according to the World Economic Forum.
- Between 2010 and 2012 Canada reduced corporate income tax by 17%.
- Canada’s 2012 corporate income tax of 15% is the lowest of the G7 nations.
- Other measures undertaken by Canada to improve the business environment:
  - The corporate surtax was eliminated for all corporations January 1, 2008.
  - Eligible arm’s length interest payments are not subject to domestic withholding tax as of January 1, 2008.
  - Companies can report their income for Canadian tax purposes in a functional currency other than the Canadian dollar.

For detailed information on additional measures undertaken by Canada to improve the business environment visit: www.investincanada.gc.ca
TAX INCENTIVES

Canada continuously ranks as one of the most cost-effective global investment destinations. Incentive programs include:

- **Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) Tax Incentive Program:**
  - This program provides support in the form of tax credits and/or refunds, to corporations, partnerships or individuals who conduct scientific research or experimental development in Canada.

- **The Duty Deferral Program (DDP):**
  - Through this program duties and taxes on imports can be postponed or refunded.

- **The Export Distribution Centre Program (EDCP):**
  - A program intended to benefit businesses that import/acquire goods to add limited value and then export.

- **The Exporters of Processing Services (EOPS) Program**
  - This program relieves the obligation to pay GST/HST on imports belonging to non-residents, provided that the goods are exported after processing, distribution or storage.

Detailed information on these export programs can be found at: [www.canadasgateways.gc.ca](http://www.canadasgateways.gc.ca) and search **TAX ADVANTAGES** and [www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca).
Canada’s workforce has the skills and motivation needed to achieve excellence.

Post-secondary education produces top-quality workers with half of working-age Canadians attaining post-secondary education, the second highest level among OECD countries.

% age of Individuals 25–64 Years of Age Attaining Post-Secondary Education in OECD Countries

Source: OECD, Education at a Glance 2010, p. 36.
A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

Canada is one of the best countries in the world to live, learn and work. From wide-open spaces to the most cosmopolitan places, Canada offers beauty, variety and an enviable quality of life.

- Canada leads the G7 in terms of the safest place to live and conduct business.
- Canada’s public health system provides a safety net for families and reduces costs for business.
- Canada ranks first among G7 countries in providing equal opportunities to individuals, whether born in Canada or newly immigrated.
- Canada has one of the most fairly administered judicial systems in the world.
- Canada’s diverse population creates a vibrant cultural experience in arts, music and entertainment.

FOR INFORMATION ON OTHER LIFESTYLE ADVANTAGES OFFERED IN CANADA VISIT: WWW.INVESTINCANADA.GC.CA AND SEARCH LIFESTYLE ADVANTAGE
CITY OF SURREY
www.surrey.ca
www.surrey.ca/investment

Business
POWERTECH LABS
www.powertechlabs.com

ENDURANCE WIND POWER
www.endurancewindpower.com

PwC
www.pwc.com

FINCAD
www.fincad.com

SAFE SOFTWARE
www.safe.com

Universities
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
www.surrey.sfu.ca

KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY
www.kwantlen.ca

BRITISH COLUMBIA
www.investbc.com
www.ifbc.com
www.britishcolumbia.ca

CANADA
www.investincanada.gc.ca
www.canadasgateways.gc.ca
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