

ACTIVE RETIREES:

At the Start of the Rainbow!

Mount Robson is located entirely within Mount Robson Provincial Park of British Columbia & is part of the Rainbow Range of Mountains.

**FOR VALEMOUNT, MCBRIDE, ROBSON
AND CANOE VALLEYS, BRITISH COLUMBIA**



British Columbia's Robson and Canoe Valleys are the perfect place for today's active retirees. The clean, fresh mountain air, and the clear-flowing rivers and streams offer a unique and peaceful way of living.

A place that lets you be independent and free from the rush of the city, but retain the amenities that you need and want. Become part of the local pride and realize the quality of life that a small community like this can offer you.

The area is known for:

- World-class backcountry snowmobiling, skiing and white water rafting
- Majestic ancient forests
- Wildlife viewing opportunities
- Close proximity to the Federal and Provincial Rocky Mountain Park system
- Its location on the well-maintained Trans-Canada Highway and VIA Rail corridors

Each distinct season will keep you active and in touch with the land of unsurpassed natural beauty.

Spring brings wildflowers, newborn wildlife and agriculture crop planting.

Summer offers ample opportunity to hike and explore the back country, the Park system and the majestic ancient forest. From easily accessible walks and day hikes to overnight backpacking trips in remote wilderness areas, these trails offer great variety in natural scenery and ecology.

Excellent wildlife viewing opportunities exist throughout the area - Mule and Whitetail Deer, Moose, Elk and Black Bear call the lower elevation home, while Grizzly Bear, Caribou, Mountain Goat and Mountain Sheep inhabit the higher elevations.

If excitement is what you are looking for, a whitewater or gentle rafting trip down a wild & scenic river may be just what you crave! An experience you will never forget!

There are also excellent opportunities to watch the salmon run as they finalize their voyage up the Fraser River from the Pacific Ocean.

Fall is harvest season for the farmers, giving you the opportunity to delight in fresh local produce. The area boasts some of the most outstanding fall colour scenery in Canada. A variety of events take place including fall fairs, colour festivals and more.

Winter in Robson-Canoe Valleys is invigorating, fun and full of adventure. Get the adrenaline flowing and explore the high alpine country with a world-class trip on a snowmobile! The area offers excellent sledding and heli-skiing conditions with varied terrain—not to mention world's best powder snow.

The area has the qualities you are looking for:

- Reasonable, affordable housing
- Medical services and amenities
- Safe community and quiet spaces to enjoy nature
- Friendly – sense of community
- Healthy environment – clean air and water
- Scenic areas
- Recreation galore!
- Organized social events
- Opportunities to volunteer and get involved in the community

Robson-Canoe Valleys is a place that welcomes newcomers and makes every effort to involve them in the community life. Combine this with services, superior scenery and recreational choices and you have a quality of life that makes an attractive option for the active retiree.

Health Care Facilities

Valemount has a health centre and McBride has a hospital offering full patient care.

Emergency Services

Local fire and emergency services, with region-wide enhanced 911.

Recreation and Cultural Facilities

For communities of this size, the region has a tremendous recreational and cultural offering. This is especially the case when it comes to outdoor recreation, and ready access to facilities.

Housing Availability and Cost

The average housing cost in Robson-Canoe Valleys is lower than that of the province, as well as neighbouring areas. Seniors' housing is also available.

More than just a pretty place, it's a way of living - and that is precisely why Active Retirees love living here!

Contact Information:

Village of McBride

Margaret Graine
Economic Development Officer
edo@mcbride.ca
tel: (877) 569-7556
www.mcbride.ca

Village of Valemount

Silvo Gislimberti
Economic Development Officer
edo@valemount.ca
tel: (250) 566-4435
www.valemount.ca



TOURISM:

“Beauty & Grandeur Transcending any other Peaks of the Rockies”

Words of Frank Smythe, an English mountaineer, who wrote about the mountains of the world.

**FOR VALEMOUNT, MCBRIDE, ROBSON
AND CANOE VALLEYS, BRITISH COLUMBIA**



The clean, fresh mountain air, ancient forest, clear-flowing rivers of British Columbia's Robson and Canoe Valleys and the recreational opportunities offer a unique and adventure rich place for visitors.

The awe inspiring diversity of landscapes will hold a special place in your heart. The Robson and Canoe Valleys' friendly communities are eager to greet you and share this wonderful destination.

Top 5 Reasons To Invest in the Tourism Industry in Robson-Canoe Valleys

- Visitors – High traffic throughout the year – both summer AND winter
- Exhilaration – Home to world-class snowmobiling and heli-skiing industries and iconic Mount Robson
- Location – Bordering Jasper National Park and Mt. Robson Provincial Park, halfway between Edmonton and Vancouver or Prince George
- Available highly-skilled people – Home to College of New Caledonia's Northern Outdoor Recreation and Ecotourism program
- Access and Exposure – Located on the Yellowhead Trans-Canada Highways No. 16 and 5.

If you are looking to invest in an existing tourism based business or start a new one, the Robson and Canoe Valleys have a lot to offer. Local governments understand tourism—and its value for local economies. The area offers a wide array of natural assets and attractions where visitors

enjoy impressive scenery and a range of outdoor activities such as hiking and snowmobiling on trails or open back country, heli-skiing, camping, river rafting, fishing and much more.

Distinct seasons bring visitors to this land of unsurpassed natural beauty.

Summer offers ample opportunity to hike and explore the majestic ancient forest. From easily accessible walks and day hikes to overnight backpacking trips in remote wilderness areas, these trails offer great variety in natural scenery and ecology.

Excellent wildlife viewing opportunities exist throughout the area – Mule and Whitetail Deer, Moose, Elk and Black Bear call the lower elevation home while Grizzly Bear, Caribou, Mountain Goat and Mountain Sheep inhabit the higher elevations.

If excitement is what you are looking for, a whitewater rafting trip down a wild & scenic river may be just what you crave! An experience you will never forget!

There are also excellent opportunities to watch salmon spawning as they conclude their annual voyage up the Fraser River from the Pacific Ocean.

Fall is harvest season for the farmers, giving you the opportunity to delight in fresh local produce.

The area boasts some of the most outstanding fall colour scenery in Canada. A variety of events take place includ-

ing fall fairs, colour festivals and more. All opportunities to enhance the experiences you will offer to customers.

Winter in Robson and Canoe Valleys is invigorating, fun and full of adventure. Get the adrenaline flowing and explore the high alpine country with a world-class trip on a snowmobile! The area offers excellent sledding conditions with varied terrain, from gentle slopes to switchbacks – not to mention the world's best powder snow.

If quiet is what you prefer then the groomed cross-country skiing trails on Bell Mountain or breaking your own ski or snowshoeing tracks on the vast expanses of wilderness are what you will find here – all opportunities to enhance the tourism experience you want to provide.

New and exciting opportunities abound for Tourism Based Businesses who specialize in the following areas:

- Accommodations
- Agri-tourism
- Bus Tour activities
- Eco-tourism
- Summer activities: ATVing, rafting, hiking, etc.
- Snowmobile support and family based activities

All areas of the Valley recognize and support the value of tourism as an economic generator to the area and are very aware of their very special product and appeal to non-residents.

Skilled and Experienced Workforce

The Robson and Canoe Valleys can meet wide-ranging needs for staff through qualified local residents, that hold relevant post secondary training for tourism-related business.

Valemount is home to the NORE (Northern Outdoor Recreation and Ecotourism) program giving it even more prominence as a centre of tourism and turning out students that are trained in guiding, interpretation and recreation instruction.

Markets

There are huge markets. Canada's highest per capita incomes are found in neighbouring Alberta. Edmonton, Calgary, Kelowna and Vancouver are easy day trips away on the well-maintained Trans-Canada Highway.

The Robson and Canoe Valleys are on the way from Jasper National Park and Mt. Robson Provincial Park, and have the nearest accommodations outside of these world famous destinations.

Local airports give even easier access to charters and those with their own air transportation with an international airport at Prince George, just 2-3 hours away.

Commercial Building/Land Availability

Several existing sites are available in the downtown areas for commercial development. There are one or two larger areas in both major centres for larger development, and the ability to accommodate site specific proposals throughout the area including those on the vast tracts of Crown Land.

Emergency Services

Local fire and emergency services, with region-wide enhanced 911. The Region has low crime rates and has Police Detachments in McBride and Valemount, with a Crimestoppers and assault hotline.

Recreation and Cultural Facilities

Canoe Valley Recreation Centre and the Robson Valley Recreation Centre are hubs of activity featuring ice arenas, curling rink, fitness centers and indoor racket sports. The new Robson Valley Community Centre is ready to host a variety of conferences and events.

Visitor Marketing Initiatives

Both McBride and Valemount have created interesting and attractive entrances to their communities with impressive tourism information centres.

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FORESTRY WOOD PRODUCTS: A Giant Among Giants

Mount Robson is not only the highest mountain in the Canadian Rocky Mountains, but one of the great mountains of the world.

**FOR VALEMOUNT, MCBRIDE, ROBSON
AND CANOE VALLEYS, BRITISH COLUMBIA**



Traditionally forestry has been the economic mainstay of the area.

It is up to us to be good stewards of the land. We work together to have clean air, clean water, abundant wildlife and ample recreation opportunities. We collaborate with nature on managing our forests as well as restoring capabilities lost over the years.

Community Forests have been developed as a strategy to benefit the entire community. This will create long-term community economic development and increased self-reliance for rural communities. Community Forests are different from other tenures because they are managed by the community, for the benefit of the community. Accountability levels are higher because they are responsible to friends, neighbours, family and children.

The land is the “heartbeat” of the Robson and Canoe Valleys. Live and work where you can reap the benefits of rural life with endless opportunities to contribute and be a vital part of the community. A work-life balance can truly be achieved with a greater quality of life.

Top 5 reasons to invest in the Forestry & Wood Product Industry in Robson-Canoe Valleys

- Locally controlled supply of wood fibre combined with traditional tenures
- Sustainable supply of wood fibre

- Good shipping network for finished, container ready products
- Proximity to Asian and Albertan markets
- Labour force highly skilled in forestry practice

New and exciting opportunities abound for Forestry & Wood Product related businesses that specialize in the following areas:

- Pellet manufacturing
- Bio-carbon manufacturing
- Bio-energy electricity generation
- Value-added-wood product manufacturing
- Post and beam and log home building
- Modular home manufacturing
- Integrated bio-mass production
- Firewood export
- Veneer manufacturing & exporting
- Cogeneration
- Combined Heat & Power (CHP)
- Specialty milling

Industries that will also benefit as supplier links to the Forestry & Wood Product Industry include:

- Forest nurseries
- Sawmills and wood preservation
- Commercial/industrial machinery and equipment repair, maintenance, rental and leasing (excluding automotive and electronic)
- Truck transportation
- Silviculture

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Business & Professional Opportunities

Reaching For the Stars to a Majestic Glacier!

The north face of Mount Robson is heavily glaciated, and 800 m /2,600 ft of ice plunge from the summit to Berg Glacier.

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Find a place to live that lets you be independent and free from the rush and congestion of the city, but retain the amenities that you need and want. Become part of the local pride and realize the quality of life that a small community like this can offer you.

This is a place where citizens value and support locally-owned businesses. Independent entrepreneurial people live here and reap the benefits of rural life and a strong community. A work-life balance can truly be achieved with a greater quality of life.

While not home to any big-box names, the opportunity to establish working relationships with real people is the very hallmark of small town living.

Consider relocating or expanding to the Robson and Canoe Valleys in beautiful British Columbia. If you are a professional with highly transportable skills, exciting opportunities abound in these sectors:

- Freelance professionals - writers, analysts, accountants, trades people, consultants, sales professionals and other advisors
- Business/management consulting
- Alternative health and wellness
- Farmers
- Tourism and recreational services

- Small artisan businesses
- Telecommuters

The Robson and Canoe Valleys can provide many of the essential requirements that business professionals require:

- A better quality of life
- Services and amenities to achieve work/life relationships
- High quality telecommunications services
- Healthy environment - clean air and water
- Quiet spaces to enjoy nature
- Outdoor recreational activities
- A safer place to live

The area has many of the amenities that independent business people are looking for:

- Reasonable, affordable housing
- Access to transportation – road and air

- Suitable medical services
- Friendly and safe community
- Clean environment
- Scenic area
- Recreational opportunities
- Volunteer opportunities
- Excellent local services

Valemount and McBride in the Robson and Canoe Valleys welcome new comers. Combine this with services, superior scenery and recreational choices and you have a quality of life that makes an attractive option for the independent business person.

Telecommunications

The area has broadband and cellular telephone service in McBride and Valemount. It covers a wide area using different wireless frequencies to cover line-of-sight, satellite and hard wired transmissions, therefore most areas are accessible, including ADSL.

Commercial Buildings and Land

Office/commercial space is available in either McBride or Valemount and home offices are permitted.

Elementary and Secondary Schools

Both Valemount and McBride have good services.

Community Colleges and Universities

The College of New Caledonia is in Valemount, with limited programming. The closest post-secondary institution(s) are located in Prince George.

Local Employment/Training Services

The local Community Futures Development Corporation offers excellent counseling services and the municipalities have expanded the training that is available.

Health Care Facilities

Valemount has a health centre and McBride has a hospital offering full patient care, with the exception of some specialty services.

Seniors housing and services are available in both communities.

Emergency Services

Local fire and emergency services, with region-wide enhanced 911.

Recreation and Cultural Facilities

For communities of this size, the region has a tremendous recreational and cultural offerings. This is especially the case when it comes to outdoor recreation, and ready access to facilities.

Housing Availability and Cost

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AGRI-FOOD

Golden Fields Against a Sky of Perfect Blue

Mount Robson is the highest peak in the majestic Rocky Mountains at 4,663 m/15,299 ft from base to peak.

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The land is the “heartbeat” of the Robson and Canoe Valleys. Live and work where you can reap the benefits of rural life with endless opportunities to contribute and be a vital part of the community. When there is a need, no one is a stranger, your neighbours are always there to offer a helping hand. It’s a way of living.

Why Invest in the Agri-Food Industry in Robson-Canoe Valleys?

- Reliable access to safe and high-quality raw materials
- Affordable quality farmland
- Reasonable access to markets
- Knowledgeable employment base
- Strong local farming network
- Low operating and business costs
- Established and growing organic base

People in the area have a strong knowledge of agriculture and appreciate being able to make a living ‘off the land’. Moderating temperatures give optimism to a wider range of potential agricultural products.

Opportunities abound in these sectors:

- Commercial bio-energy based greenhouse operations

- Poultry production
- Pork production for the Asian market
- Meat processing
- Specialty fruit production and processing

Non-Traditional

In British Columbia, the **Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP)** sector is growing rapidly. In 1997 it contributed \$600M to the economic diversification of the province with over 30,000 British Columbians earning all or part of their living from the sector. NWFP may be gathered from the wild, or produced in forest plantations, agroforestry schemes and from trees outside forests.

These include:

- Medicinal herbs
- Fungi
- Edible fruits and nuts
- Other natural products

Researchers, conservation and development organizations and, more recently, governments, recognize the importance of the NWFP as a way to achieve rural livelihood improvement in an environmentally sound way.

The “Buy BC Wild” directory was developed in 2007/08 and exists as a resource that lists hundreds of businesses and wild products from the province such as wild foods, native plants and natural health care products.

New assistance is now available under the Growing Forward Agreement of the Ministry of Agriculture which has made \$553 million available to the province’s agricultural sector. Included in this program are the Environmental Farm Planning program and the Beneficial Management Practices program in addition to the Farm Business Advisory Services program.



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Ministry of Agriculture

Honourable Steve Thomson
PO Box 9043 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
Tel: (250) 387-1023
www.gov.bc.ca/al



OPPORTUNITIES
ARE PLENTIFUL