



The Launchpad:

Living in Golden, BC

Photo: Dave Best

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Photo: Jeff Bartlett

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Want to get to know Golden beyond the basics?

The **Golden Guide** is a free, self-directed program for residents to learn more about local history, Indigenous cultures, recreation, and how to be a responsible part of this place we call home.

Welcome to **Golden**

Welcome to Golden, a place where life moves with the rhythm of rivers and the rise and fall of mountain sunrises and sunsets. That geography matters. It shapes everything from how we commute to how we connect. Life in Golden blends outdoor adventure with small-town connection.



Photo: Dave Best

Whether you're here for a fresh start, a slower pace, or a new adventure, you've landed somewhere special. Golden is a launchpad, a place to lift off into the next chapter of your life.

Our roots run deep, shaped by early Sikh and Swiss settlers, as well as the town's role as a hub for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Today, that legacy of connection endures through a balanced economy that encompasses tourism, forestry, transportation, healthcare, education, and small businesses.



Photo: Abby Cooper



This is Ktunaxa and Secwépemc Traditional Territory

Golden is situated on the traditional, unceded territory of the **Ktunaxa Nation** and the **Shuswap Band of the Secwépemc Peoples**, and is the chosen home of the **Columbia River Métis Society**. These Nations have cared for this land for generations and sustained deep cultural relationships to the landscape. As you settle in, we invite you to explore these enduring connections and reflect on the privilege of calling this place home.

Finding Home: Places to Live in Golden



Land Here. Live Here.

In Golden, home isn't just where you sleep, it's how you root yourself in the rhythm of the town.

Whether you settle in the heart of downtown or out where the stars shine brightest, your surroundings will become part of your story.

Where to Look:

[Golden Housing Resource Guide](#)

[Realtor.ca](#)

[Local Facebook Groups](#)

(e.g., ISO Rentals in Golden, BC)



Photo: Dave Best

Golden is supported by two local governments working together to serve our community. The Town of Golden oversees the main urban area, while the surrounding neighbourhoods are part of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) Area A. Each plays an important role in shaping how our community grows and thrives.

To find out more about their services, areas, and how things work, visit:

[Town of Golden](#)

[CSRD – Area A](#)



Photo: Maur Mere Media

Staying Safe: Emergency Services & Preparedness

Golden's stunning setting comes with some natural realities. Snowy winters, spring runoff, hot summers, and the presence of local wildlife all contribute to the fact that seasonal awareness is an integral part of everyday life. The community takes safety seriously, with services in place to help residents be prepared.

The Town of Golden and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District provide emergency preparedness information, including evacuation alerts, wildfire readiness tips, and guidance on severe weather.



Photo: Dave Best

In an emergency,
call 911.

Golden is well-served by a network of emergency responders, including the **Golden Fire Department, RCMP, BC Ambulance, and Golden & District Search and Rescue.**

Golden & Area Emergency Program – Coordinates response for both the town and the surrounding CSRD Area A. All residents are encouraged to sign up for the **Alertable app** to stay informed during emergency situations.

BC Wildfire – Maps, fire and smoke statuses.

Know Before You Go – Helpful links and resources.

Raising Kids in the Outdoors: Education & Childcare

In Golden, kids grow up with mountain views outside the classroom window and often, lessons that extend beyond it. Walking to school, playing in forests, and attending nature-based programs all help children in Golden develop a strong sense of place and connection to the outdoors. Families can choose from a variety of school and childcare options that support both academic and active, outdoor learning.

Golden Community Resources Society – Child care, licensed daycares, home-based daycares, and other programs.

School District 6 (Rocky Mountain) – K-12, Alternative high school, English and French Immersion programming.

École Le Confluence – Francophone school for eligible students.

Home Schooling – There are a growing number of families engaged in home learning or blended programs such as the **Heartwood Learning Community**.

After-School & Outdoor Programs – Program availability changes seasonally. Visit the **Find It In Golden** directory or ask in local community Facebook groups for more information.



“Families can choose from a variety of school and childcare options that support both academics and active, outdoor learning.”



Photo: Andrew Chad

Starting Strong: Accessing Local Services



Start Here.

If you're new to town and unsure where to start, the **Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy** (CBAL) is a great first step. They offer:

- Help with forms and official paperwork.
- English classes and conversation groups.
- Welcoming events and newcomer support.

CBAL is a friendly, local resource to help newcomers settle in Canada.

In Golden, you'll find both official services and neighbourly help to navigate documents and support systems.

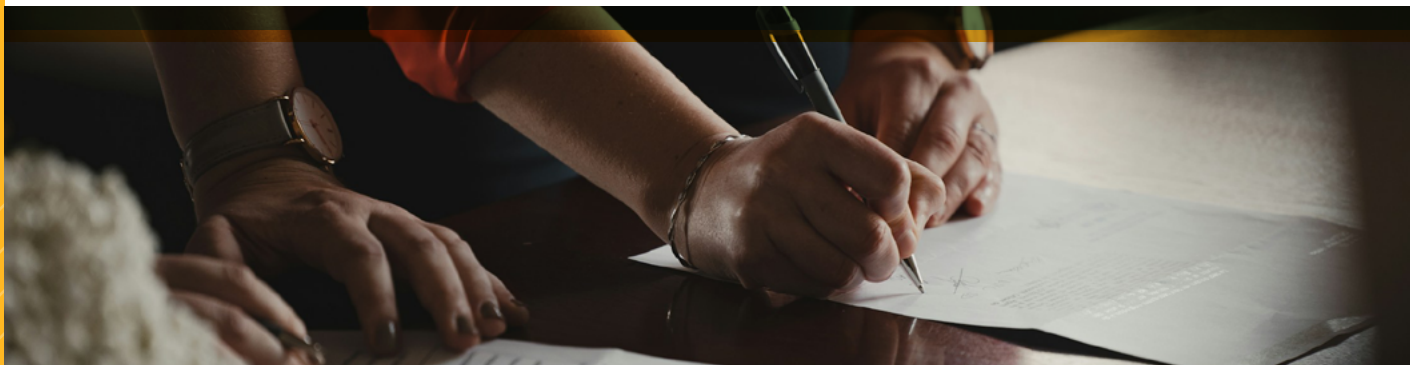
If you're new to BC, getting a few basic services in place can help you feel grounded:

BC Services Card & Driver's License – You'll need a BC Services Card, which combines your health card with a government-issued photo ID. You can do this in person at the local ICBC office **Western Financial Group**.

Social Insurance Number (SIN) – You'll need to **apply for a SIN** to work in Canada or access government benefits. You can apply online or in person at Service BC located at **1104 9 St. S, Golden**, provided you have a valid ID. There's no fee.

Banking in Golden - To receive your pay or benefits, you'll need a Canadian bank account. Bring your ID and proof of address to open an account. Both of Golden's local banks, **CIBC** and **Columbia Valley Credit Union**, offer online and in-person banking.

WelcomeBC - Provides online tools and information for immigrants, including guides on healthcare, employment, and legal rights.



Your Health: Medical & Mental Wellness

Golden may be small, but it's equipped to support your health at every stage of life. From everyday care to emergency response, core medical and mental health services are available right here in the community.

HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Golden is part of British Columbia's publicly funded healthcare system. To access most services, make sure you're registered with the **Medical Services Plan** (MSP).

Key local options include:

Golden Medical Clinic – Family doctors and general care | 250-344-2211

Golden & District Hospital – Emergency care, inpatient beds, lab work, and obstetrics | 250-344-5271

HealthLink BC – Dial 811 for non-emergency medical advice

Specialist referrals are usually directed to **East Kootenay Regional Hospital** in Cranbrook. For appointments there, the **Health Connector Bus** can assist with travel.

Options for Sexual Health Clinic



Mental Health & Crisis Support

Confidential help is available through:

Golden Family Center

250-344-2000

Golden Women's Resource Centre

250-344-2101 (Crisis Line)

Golden Mental Health Services

250-344-3015

Canadian Mental Health

Association – East Kootenays

1-888-353-2273

Suicide Crisis Helpline

Call or text 988



Everyday Wellness: Dental, Fitness & Supportive Services



Taking care of your well-being extends beyond doctor visits. Golden is home to a range of personal wellness, fitness, and support options.

DENTAL, OPTICAL & PHYSICAL WELLNESS

Local dental offices, optometry clinics, audiologists, and physiotherapists serve the community.

Most providers can be found via [Find It in Golden – Health Services](#).

HOLISTIC HEALTH & FITNESS

Golden offers a range of services, classes, and treatments designed for beginners, athletes, and those recovering from injury.

[Dental, optical, audiology and physiotherapy services](#)

[Registered massage therapy, acupuncture, and naturopathic care](#)

[Fitness studios and wellness practitioners](#)

SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

Golden Community Services for Seniors offers outreach, transportation, and friendly visits. For more programs and local contacts, explore:

[Seniors Services](#)

[Golden Seniors Guide](#)

[Find It in Golden – Social Services](#)

[Golden and Region Seniors Society](#)

GOLDEN PRIDE SOCIETY

[The Golden Pride Society](#) creates space for 2SLGBTQIA+ residents and allies through community events, peer support, and local initiatives.

SPIRITUAL LIFE & PLACES OF WORSHIP

Golden is home to a variety of religious and spiritual communities. Many newcomers find connection, comfort, or volunteer opportunities through local places of worship.

[Explore faith-based groups in Golden](#)

The Facebook group [Golden Community](#) can be a great resource for finding recreational sport and fitness activities and groups.

Exploring Golden: Getting Around Golden & Beyond

WALK & BIKE LOCAL

Golden is a walkable and bike-friendly community. The **Rotary Trails** link neighbourhoods, schools, and downtown, making active travel easy for people of all ages.

DRIVING IN & OUT

Golden is located on the Trans-Canada Highway:

East: Field, Lake Louise, Banff, Calgary.

West: Revelstoke, The Okanagan, Vancouver.

South (On Hwy 95): Radium, Invermere, Cranbrook and the U.S. border.

AIRPORT ACCESS

Calgary International Airport (YYC) – ~3 hours

Cranbrook Airport (YXC) – ~3 hours

OTHER TRAVEL OPTIONS

Winter Shuttle Services (www.goldenshuttle.ca) – Shuttle transportation between Calgary International Airport and Golden, as well as local service between Golden and Kicking Horse Mountain Resort.

Rider Express Bus Service

Ebus Service

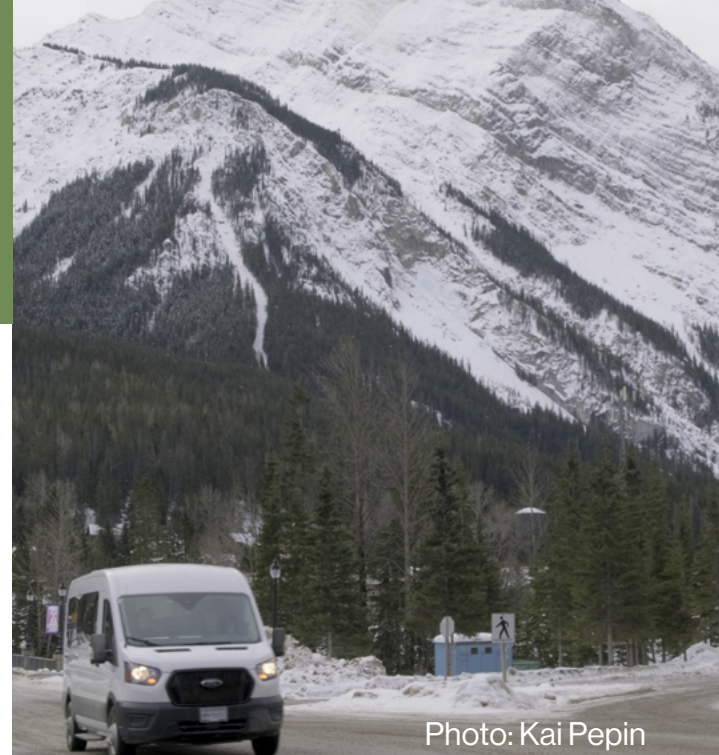


Photo: Kai Pepin



Winter Travel Safety

Golden's mountain environment means beautiful winters and changing road conditions. If you're travelling in winter, snow tires are required and extra caution is essential. Before heading out, check current conditions at **DriveBC** to ensure safe and informed travel.

Eat & Enjoy: Food, Markets, & Local Flavours

Golden offers a surprisingly diverse food scene for a community of its size, with options to suit every taste, lifestyle, and budget.

GROCERY SHOPPING & ESSENTIALS

Stock your kitchen with goods from a variety of local and chain grocery stores, specialty markets, and convenience shops. For those in need of support, the [Golden Food Bank](#) offers food services to individuals and families.

[The Golden Farmers' Market](#) – A local favourite, featuring fresh produce, baked goods, and handmade products. It runs weekly in the summer and monthly during the winter.

DINING OUT

Golden is home to a wide selection of restaurants, cafés, pubs, and takeout spots. From locally-roasted coffee to hearty meals and global cuisine, there's plenty to explore.

Explore more: [Find It in Golden – Eat & Drink](#).



Evening Plans?

From pub jams to summer concerts, Golden's live music scene is buzzing. Follow venues like [The Rockwater](#), [The Wolf's Den](#), and [Whitetooth Brewing](#) on social media to see what's playing next. Don't miss [The Bar](#) and the summer concert series at [Golden Skybridge](#).



Photo: Mitch Winton

Life in Golden: All Kinds of Active

In Golden, recreation is an integral part of daily life. Whether you're on a trail, a mountain, or hanging out at indoor spaces, there's something for every age, ability, and season.

PARKS & TRAILS CLOSE TO HOME

Find local parks, picnic areas, sports fields, and more:

Town of Golden Parks, Playgrounds, Sports and Recreation Facilities Map

CSRD Parks & Recreation

EXPLORE MORE OUTDOORS

Kicking Horse Mountain Resort (KHMR) –
Downhill skiing & snowboarding

Dawn Mountain Nordic Centre –
Cross-country skiing & snowshoeing

Sled Golden – Local snowmobile trails are maintained and managed by the Golden Snowmobile Club.

Golden Hikes – Trail information, maps & directions for hikes in and around Golden.

The **Golden Cycling Club** maintains over 100 km trail networks for all levels of riders: flowy cross-country, technical descents, and family-friendly loops.

EXPLORE MORE INDOORS

The Town of Golden offers recreation programs, including a **Pool**, **Arena** and the **Mount 7 Rec Plex**.

Visit the **Town of Golden Recreation Programs** to learn more.

FOR YEAR-ROUND ACTIVITIES, EXPLORE:

Tourism Golden

Find It in Golden – Summer

Find It in Golden – Winter



Photo: Dave Best



A Culture of Volunteerism

Golden has a long history of volunteer-driven initiatives that have helped shape many of the amenities enjoyed by both residents and visitors. From the pedestrian bridge built by volunteers to the extensive trail networks, many non-profit organizations, especially those supporting outdoor recreation such as hiking, Nordic skiing, and snowmobiling, continue to rely on committed volunteers to manage trails and deliver essential services.

The Backcountry: Beauty, Risk, & Respect



Photo: Dave Best



A Legacy of Guiding

The guiding tradition in Golden began with the arrival of the Swiss guides and continues to shape the community today. Golden is the birthplace of heli-skiing, founded by some of those original guides, and remains home to a strong and diverse guiding community. Today, Golden is supported by professional guides in heli- and cat-skiing, backcountry skiing, mountaineering, climbing, rafting, and biking. Guiding is still a core part of Golden's identity and economy.

Golden is a gateway to the vast, rugged backcountry. Popular backcountry activities include skiing, hiking, snowmobiling, hunting, climbing, fishing, paddling and camping. In the backcountry, safety is part of the adventure.

Resources for before you head out:

- Be a [responsible traveller](#)
- Stay [safe in the Backcountry](#)
- [Take an accredited safety course](#)
- [Travel with an experienced team](#)
- [Hire a certified guide if you're new to the backcountry](#)
- [Winter Permit System for ski touring in Rogers Pass](#)
- In the winter, check the current conditions at [Avalanche Canada](#)
- Enroll in [AdventureSmart](#) training



Literally and spiritually shaped by water and mountains, Golden is situated at the confluence of the Columbia and Kicking Horse Rivers, is grounded at the headwaters of the Columbia Wetlands (one of North America's longest intact wetlands), and is surrounded by the Rocky, Purcell, and Selkirk mountain ranges.

Arts, Culture, Creativity & Community Spirit

Golden is known for its mountains, but it's the creative energy of its people that gives the town its spark. Music, art, storytelling, and festivals are all part of daily life, and they're powered by community participation.

ART, MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

Golden's cultural scene is grassroots and welcoming. From movies, to live music to visual arts, you'll find many ways to connect:

Kicking Horse Culture brings year-round music, performances, arts education, and celebration to Golden. From ballet and theatre to comedy and live music, world-class acts add richness to local life.

The Art Gallery of Golden (AGOG) hosts exhibitions by regional artists and showcases local artisan work.

The Golden Okanagan Regional Library is a welcoming and convenient hub for the entire community, offering a range of free services, activities, and resources.



Stay Informed

The Golden Community on social media

The Golden Star Community Calendar

Tourism Golden's Events Calendar



Pets Welcome: Living with Animals in a Natural Setting

Golden is a pet-friendly community where you'll often see dogs on trails, patios, and at community events. Living close to nature means sharing the outdoors, so responsible pet ownership helps keep both animals and wildlife safe.

Bear Smart information

LICENSING & LOCAL RULES

Learn more about pet licensing and off-leash areas at the **Town of Golden website**.

VETERINARY & EMERGENCY CARE

Golden Veterinary Services provides preventive care for small animals.

For after-hours emergencies, call Invermere Veterinary Hospital at (250) 342-7007 or Canmore Veterinary Hospital at (403) 678-4425 for support and clinic instructions. Services are limited after hours, so it's wise to have a pet care plan in place.

COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR LOST & FERAL ANIMALS

Little Mittens Animal Rescue Association helps protect lost, feral, and abandoned animals in Golden and the surrounding areas. Their work includes rescue, fostering, adoption, and Trap-Neuter-Return programs.

If you've found a stray or want to help, they're a trusted local resource. Learn more or get involved at **littlemittens.org**.



Photo: Mitch Winton



Staying Grounded Together

In Golden, pets are part of everyday life outdoors. A few simple habits, such as leash use, cleanup, and staying alert to seasonal wildlife, help everyone enjoy the trails.

Working in Golden: Jobs, Adult Education, Business & Entrepreneur Life

Golden is a community built by people who show up, dig in, and get things done. If you're looking to work, learn new skills, or run your own business, here's where to start:

FINDING EMPLOYMENT

Work BC is your go-to resource for job listings, career advice, resume help, and employment services. They also assist with training and support programs.

Work in Golden is a local job listings site.

TRAINING & ADULT EDUCATION

The College of the Rockies – Golden Campus offers a range of programs, including in-person and online courses in trades, healthcare, business, and continuing education, among others. **WorkBC** can also help you explore training options and gain new skills for employment.

KICKING HORSE COUNTRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Kicking Horse Country Chamber of Commerce is a membership-driven organization that works to support, grow and promote the business community of Golden, BC. Take advantage of their excellent networking and events.



Photo: Dave Best



Running a Business in Golden

Golden is a welcoming, entrepreneurial community where business owners build meaningful ventures while enjoying a mountain-town lifestyle. From home-based businesses to local storefronts, there's room to grow, supported by a strong community and the spirit of adventure that comes with living here. Find helpful resources at goldenced.ca.

Local Essentials & Sustainability

Golden residents take pride in reducing waste, sharing resources, and supporting community-minded living. Here are a few ways to plug into local systems that make sustainable living easier.

REFUSE & RECYCLING

Curbside Collection – Town of Golden residents receive regular garbage and recycling pick-up. [View collection details and schedules.](#)

Landfills & Transfer Stations – The [CSRD](#) operates waste facilities for rural areas and items not collected curbside.

Golden Bottle Depot – Accepts refundable containers, electronics, and other recyclables not suitable for blue bins. [Learn more.](#)

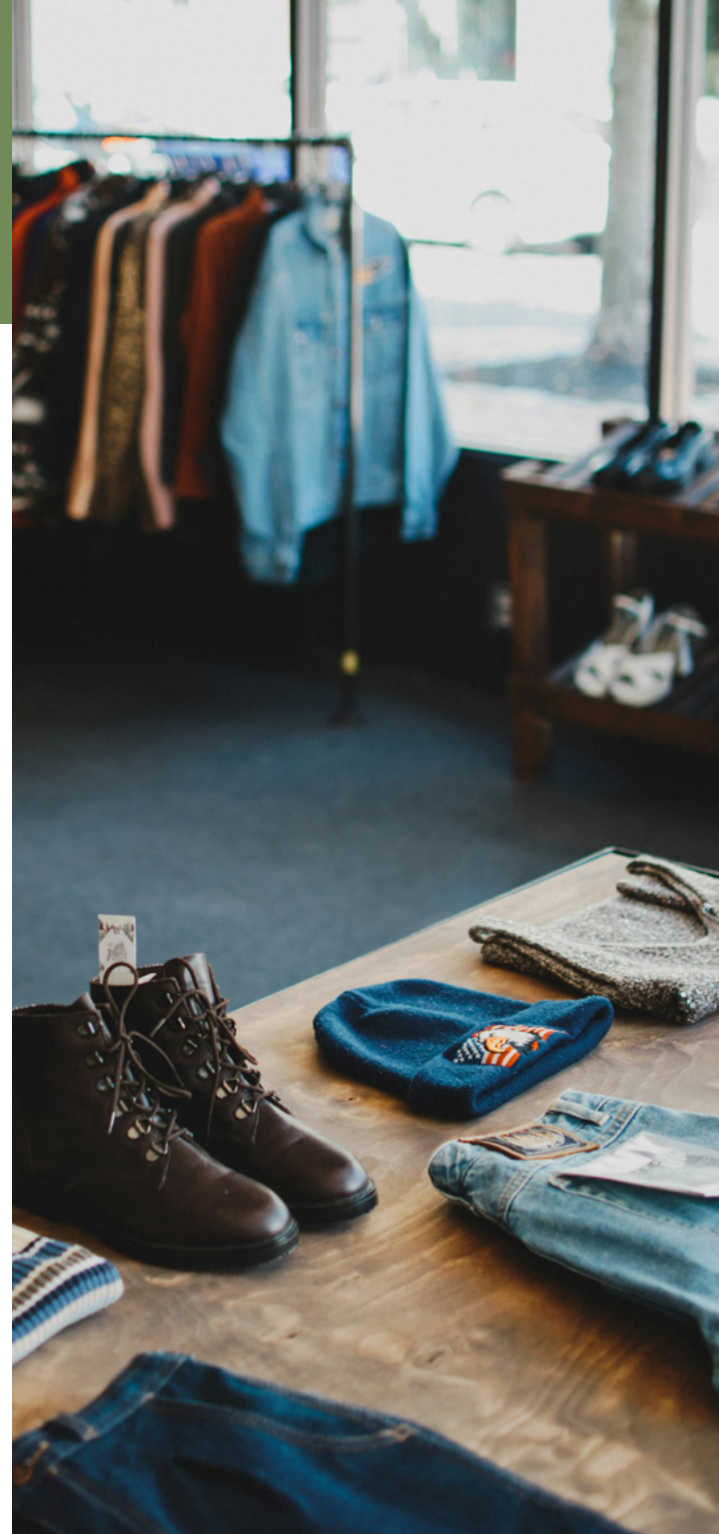
THRIFTING & SECONDHAND FINDS

Finding household items or clothing on a budget is easy in Golden:

[St. Andrew's Bargain Basement Thrift Store](#) – A popular local spot for clothing, kitchenware, and more.

Facebook Marketplace and local buy-sell groups are actively used by the community.

Reusing, repurposing, and sharing are integral to how Golden stays grounded and helps newcomers settle in without having to start from scratch.



Local Government & Getting Involved



From Stewardship to Civic Life

Civic engagement here is rooted in a long history of stewardship, from Indigenous Nations to early settlers to today's residents. Whether you're attending a town hall meeting, volunteering at a public event, or casting a vote, Golden is a place where your voice matters. Here are a few ways you can help shape the community:

- Attend **Town Council** or **CSRD meetings**
- Join a board, committee or task force
- Volunteer with a community organization
- Participate in public open houses, budget sessions, or planning consultations
- Vote in **local elections** (once eligible)

Golden is supported by two local governments working together to serve our community. Each plays a role in shaping the region's growth, providing services, and supporting its residents. The Town of Golden manages the urban area, while the surrounding rural neighbourhoods fall under Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) Area A.

TOWN OF GOLDEN

If you live within town boundaries, the Town of Golden provides services like water, sewer, waste collection, road maintenance, fire protection, parks, recreation, planning, and bylaw enforcement. Public meetings are open to all and held regularly. Visit the **Town of Golden** – Local Government to learn more about services, boundaries, and responsibilities.



CSRD AREA A

If you live outside town limits, you're likely part of CSRD Area A. The CSRD delivers emergency planning, waste management, limited rural fire protection (e.g., Nicholson), and parks. Visit CSRD – Area A for more information.





Photo: Dave Best



This guide was developed by Golden Community Economic Development
with funding provided by Tourism Golden

