

# Understanding and Accessing Business Support Programs

British Columbia Economic Development Association  
Webinar

November 27, 2025



# Small Business and Economic Development Division Introduction

# Small Business Branch



## Resource and services

- Start-up, grow, thrive, exit
- Tools, guides, services



## Relationship

- Clients
- Partners
- Interested parties
- Cross-government
- Other government levels



## Strategic initiatives

- Emerging needs
- Policy and legislation

# Regional Economic Operations

## Economic Development Capacity

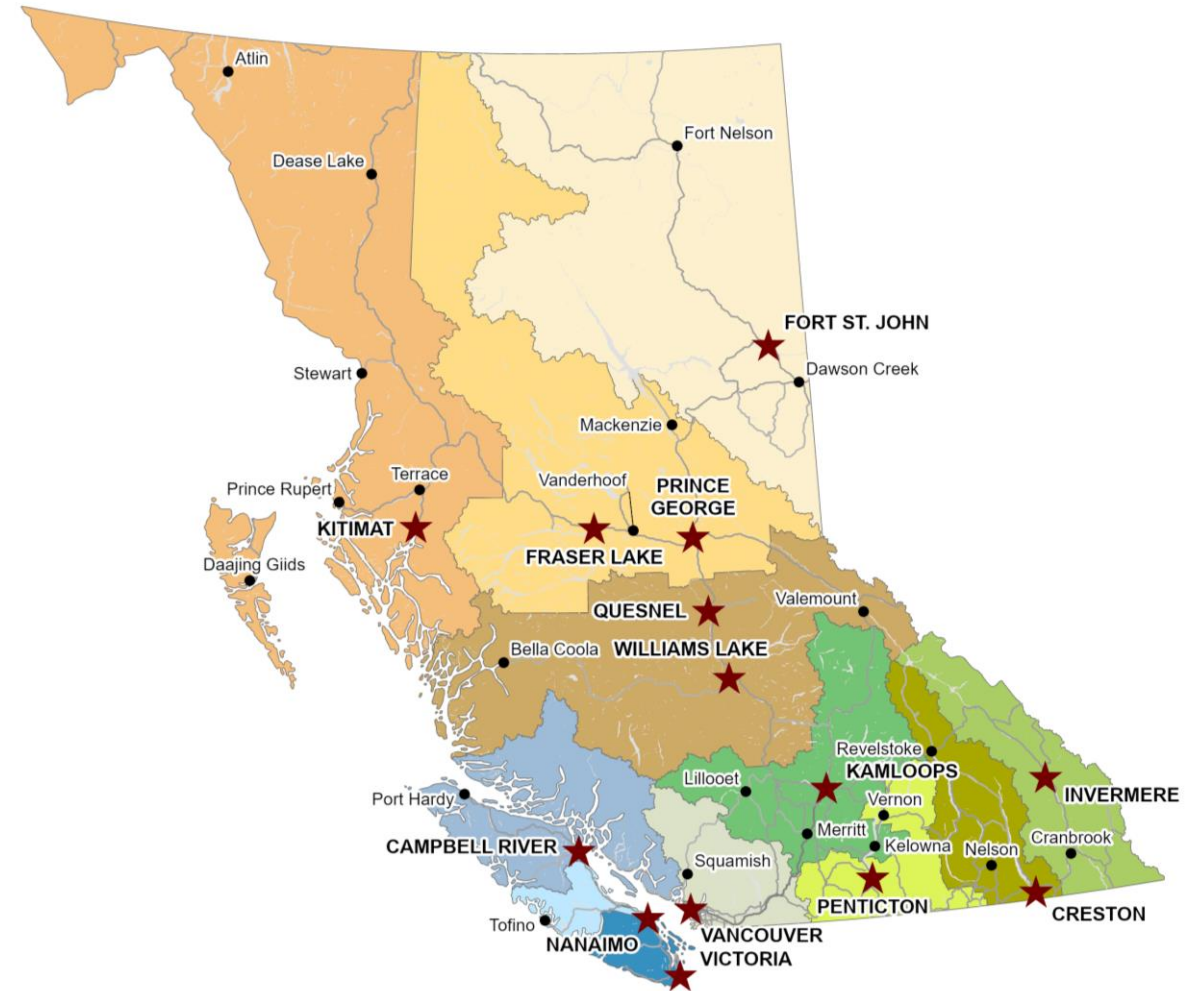
- Engage communities, Indigenous governments, and regional partners to advance community-led economic development priorities
- Raise awareness of available resources and support communities in accessing programs

## Business and Sector Development

- Deliver support to communities and businesses for investment readiness and business expansion

## Community Transition

- Provide on-the-ground rapid response to communities experiencing an economic shock such as mill closures, wildfire or flood impacts



# Government business support resources

# Resources for Businesses: Publications

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To support businesses, we have developed various publications:

- **Starting a Small Business Guide**

  - [gov.bc.ca/startingasmallbusinessguide](https://www.gov.bc.ca/startingasmallbusinessguide)

  - Starting a restaurant in B.C. - [www.gov.bc.ca/startingarestaurant](https://www.gov.bc.ca/startingarestaurant)
  - Starting a franchise - [www.gov.bc.ca/startingafranchise](https://www.gov.bc.ca/startingafranchise)
  - [Starting a new farm](#)

- **Small Business Resource Handout**

  - [gov.bc.ca/smallbusinessresources](https://www.gov.bc.ca/smallbusinessresources)

- **Indigenous Small Business Resource Handout**

  - [gov.bc.ca/indigenoussmallbusinessresources](https://www.gov.bc.ca/indigenoussmallbusinessresources)

- **Preparing for and Recovering from Economic Impacts of Disasters**

  - [gov.bc.ca/economicrecovery](https://www.gov.bc.ca/economicrecovery)

- **BC's Small Business Profile Dashboard**

  - [gov.bc.ca/SBDashboard](https://www.gov.bc.ca/SBDashboard)

- **[BC's Economic Development Directory of Organizations and Groups](#)**



# Resources for Businesses: Publications (NEW)

New resources to support starting a business (published in 2025):

- **Evaluate your business idea**

[gov.bc.ca/evaluatebusinessidea](https://gov.bc.ca/evaluatebusinessidea)

- **Conduct market research**

[gov.bc.ca/marketresearch](https://gov.bc.ca/marketresearch)

- **Resources for market research**

[gov.bc.ca/marketresearchresources](https://gov.bc.ca/marketresearchresources)

- **Create a marketing and sales plan**

[gov.bc.ca/marketingplan](https://gov.bc.ca/marketingplan)

- **Write a business plan**

[gov.bc.ca/businessplan](https://gov.bc.ca/businessplan)

- Templates: Business Plan, Cash Flow Forecast, Sales Forecast

- **Import goods into Canada**

[gov.bc.ca/businessimporting](https://gov.bc.ca/businessimporting)

- **Export goods from Canada**

[gov.bc.ca/businessexporting](https://gov.bc.ca/businessexporting)



# Resources for Businesses: Tools, Programs and Services

There are many tools, services and programs available to support starting, managing, or growing a business



## Tools

- **BizPaL** – Tool to help find the permits and licences you need to start your business  
[BizPaL.ca](http://BizPaL.ca)
- **Business Structures Wizard** – Compares different types of business structures available  
[entity-selection-prod.apps.silver.devops.gov.bc.ca](http://entity-selection-prod.apps.silver.devops.gov.bc.ca)
- **BC Business Registry** – Select your business name and register your business entity  
[BCReg.ca](http://BCReg.ca)
- **Canada Business Benefits Finder** – A customizable search tool for information on grants, funding, programs and services  
[innovation.ised-isde.canada.ca](http://innovation.ised-isde.canada.ca)

## Programs and Services

- **Mobile Business Licence Program** – Allows certain types of businesses to operate across multiple local governments  
[gov.bc.ca/mobilebusinesslicence](http://gov.bc.ca/mobilebusinesslicence)
- **Export Navigator Program** – Helps B.C. businesses diversify and grow by guiding businesses through the export process  
[exportnavigator.ca](http://exportnavigator.ca)
- **Business Advisory Services** – Free one-on-one consultation for pathfinding support  
[gov.bc.ca/businessadvisors](http://gov.bc.ca/businessadvisors)

# Walkthrough of BizPaL BETA ([beta.bizpal-perle.ca](https://beta.bizpal-perle.ca))

Thank you for trying the new BizPaL

Find rules and requirements from across Canada that you may need to start or grow your business

**\*NEW**

### Permits and Licences

Find the permits you may need for your business

Where is your business located? Ex: Ottawa

What type of business is it? Ex: restaurant business

What type of permits and licences are you looking for? Ex: zoning and plu... 0/200

**Find Permits and Licences**

OR

### Legislation and Laws

Find laws (acts, statutes, legislation, and regulations) quickly and easily

Jurisdiction search selection. Please choose at least one jurisdiction.

Keyword search input. Ex: selling body wash with microplastics 0/200

**Find Legislation and Laws**

BizPaL uses artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance your search and summarize information in clear, easy-to-understand language. [Link to our full AI disclaimers](#)

BizPaL is a service provided by federal, provincial/territorial, municipal governments and First Nations.

Information is available in the official language(s) of the province or territory in question.



# Walkthrough of the Business Structures Wizard

## Business Structures Wizard

QUESTION 1 of 10

Where will your business operate?

Across Canada and/or internationally

Primarily British Columbia, but we may expand nationally or internationally

British Columbia only

**!** If you intend to operate outside British Columbia it may make sense to incorporate federally.

[Restart](#) [Back](#) [Next](#) [See All Structures](#)

### Suggested Business Structure

- Sole Proprietorship
- General Partnership
- Limited Partnership
- Limited Liability Partnership
- BC Corporation
- Federal Corporation
- Benefit Company

[Disclaimer](#) | [Support](#) | Powered by BizPaL

# Walkthrough of the Canada Business Benefits Finder

## Business Benefits Finder

Get a tailored list of programs and services from across Canada – all in one place.

Sign in

Take a tour | View as a list | Share

Sign in

Whether you're an entrepreneur, a business, or a not-for-profit organization. Tell us your story.

1

I'm looking for grants and funding for my business, more specifically up to \$50,000. My main goal is to start or buy a business.

2

Got it.

Now, tell us about your company or organization...

We're in British Columbia and in the business of information technolo..., more specifically software and video g....

3

We have  employees and our annual revenue is in the range of . We are  and , and we're looking for programs that support businesses owned by .

4

Finally, show me .

See your 5 results

Based on your filters, 5 programs and services have been matched to your business needs.

Edit your story filters

Search within results

### Grants and funding (5 Results)

#### Need support?

Let's talk money.

Tips to ace your applications

Tell me more →

TACC New Relationship Trust (NRT) Community Equity Match Grant  
> Grants for First Nations Communities with TACC business loans

TACC Business Equity Program  
> Funding for Indigenous entrepreneurs in Coast Salish

New Ventures BC Competition  
> Compete for start-up cash and prizes in British Columbia

more

Looks like you might also qualify for...

> Loans and capital investments (23 Results)

# Resources for Businesses: Business Advisory

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## Free pathfinding support

- **One-on-one consultations** with our advisors
- **Access to resources** designed to help businesses start, grow and thrive
- **Guidance on navigating government programs** and funding opportunities

## About our advisors

- Decades of combined experience in client services support

## Contact our advisors

- 🌐 [gov.bc.ca/businessadvisors](https://gov.bc.ca/businessadvisors)
- ☎ Toll free **1-855-698-2157**
- ✉ [Business.Advisors@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Business.Advisors@gov.bc.ca)





# BC initiatives and programs

# BC Initiatives and Programs

Initiatives

- **Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)** – identify and remove barriers for businesses. You can share your challenges, ideas, and solutions through the online portal. This is an opportunity to provide feedback on issues like permitting and regulations.
- **Agritech Concierge** – provides government wayfinding support for agritech businesses to grow, diversify, access new markets and attract investment opportunities. The service is available to farmers, food entrepreneurs, or agritech businesses.
- **Buy BC Program** – free Buy BC logo for packaging and marketing materials. Available to producers, processors, retailers, farmers' markets, and industry associations.
- **BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)** – an economic immigration program that offers a pathway to permanent residency for workers, recent graduates, entrepreneurs and businesses that meet B.C.'s labour market and economic development needs.

Grants

Loans

# BC Initiatives and Programs

Initiatives

Grants

Loans

- **Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP)** issues annual grant which supports rural economic development projects.
  - Four unique funding categories: Capacity (up to \$50K-\$100K), **Development** (up to \$100K), Implementation (\$400K-\$1M) and Transition (contact program).
  - Funding decision for 2025-26 intake will be announced in Spring 2026.

## Eligibility

- All Indigenous governments are eligible for all funding streams
- Municipal government, Regional Districts and not-for-profit organizations are eligible based on their census subdivision

## Steps

- Review the program and guide to confirm eligibility
- Select funding category
- Review project idea with program staff
- Create a Business BCeID
- Prepare application
- Submit application with supporting documentation

## Considerations

- Eligible applications go through evaluation and ranked against program priorities
- Funding is not guaranteed
- Funds will be transferred once terms and conditions are agreed upon

# BC Initiatives and Programs

Initiatives

- **B.C. Employer Training Grant (ETG)** provides funding to small, medium and large enterprises to support skills training for their workforces, including prospective new hires and business owners.
  - Employers may apply as often as they need and may receive 80% of the cost of training up to \$10,000 per employee, with a maximum annual amount per employer of \$300,000.

Grants

## Eligibility

- Employers and self-employed individuals operating in BC
- Fully operational at least 1 year at time of application
- Participants must be at least 16 years old and a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or protected person under Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- EI or Income Assistance recipients must receive approval from SDPR before training begins
- Training is relevant to specific job-related skills training

## Steps

- Create BCeID account
- Identify training needs
- Submit application
- Receive decision
- Begin training
- Submit claim for reimbursement

## Considerations

- Training may begin before decision; employer is responsible for cost if application is denied
- Must result in a better job for current employee or a job for an unemployed person
- Training cannot be longer than 52 weeks
- Cannot fund diploma or degree programs

Loans

# BC Initiatives and Programs

Initiatives

Grants

Loans

- **Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA)** – is a program intended to help businesses recover from uninsurable losses caused by a disaster or emergency event, such as flood, that has resulted in extensive or widespread damage.
  - There are five category of application: homeowners, residential tenants, charitable/non-profit organizations, landlords or small business owners, and farm owners.

## Eligibility

- Be managed by owner on day-to-day basis
- Gross revenue between \$10K-\$2M
- Employ fewer than 50 employees
- Demonstrate financial jeopardy exceeding 10% of net income

## Steps

- Check if event meets DFA 'authorized event'
- Check ineligible damage
- Check insurance coverage
- Report damages to local government
- Review eligibility criteria and expenses
- Submit application
- Receive decision
- Appeal if applicable

## Considerations

- Insurable damages are not eligible
- Eligible expense does not include loss of wages or income
- DFA does not replace the need for insurance

# BC Initiatives and Programs

Initiatives

Grants

Loans

- **Innovate BC** is a BC Crown Corporation with a goal of helping companies start and scale, training talent that meets labour market needs, and encouraging technology development, commercialization, and adoption.

# innovate BC



OPEN

### Road to Web Summit Vancouver

The Road to Web Summit Vancouver (R2WSV) initiative offers B.C. innovators and start-ups specialized programming and events aimed at leveraging Web Summit Vancouver as a platform to attract investors, acquire customers, and drive their growth.



OPEN

### Integrated Marketplace

The Integrated Marketplace (IM) initiative works to accelerate and de-risk the adoption of domestic innovations and assist key areas of the provincial economy to decarbonize, increase competitiveness and strengthen health and safety.



OPEN

### Integrated Marketplace: COAST Innovation Challenge

The Innovation Challenge supports B.C. innovators to demonstrate technologies that can support the Canadian Coast Guard's objective of transitioning remote, land-based operational sites along the coast of British Columbia.



# BC Initiatives and Programs

Initiatives



Providing local capital to grow and anchor B.C. businesses



Investing at the stage when companies are ready to scale



Seeking economic, social and environmental impacts alongside profit



Considering all industries while prioritizing key growth sectors



Working with other investors to drive more investment to B.C.



Engaging across communities and economic regions

Grants

Loans

- **InBC** is a BC Crown Corporation with a \$500 million fund that invests in growing companies and venture funds with a positive impact. This is for BC companies that is generating revenue and in the growth stage.
- **First Nations Equity Financing Program (FNEFP) \*Underway\*** will provide loan guarantees for First Nation projects. This program will be eligible to Indigenous businesses.



# Federal initiatives and funding programs

# Federal Initiatives and Programs

Initiatives

- **Pacific Economic Development Canada (PacifiCan)** focuses on helping grow BC businesses to compete in both domestic and global markets.
- **Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program (EDP)** provides business information, training and development, mentoring and one-on-one counseling information. This program is offered through Community Futures.
- **The Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)** is a federal crown corporation that provides numerous free resources covering a wide range of topics for entrepreneurs, including templates and checklists, guides, online courses, interactive tools and assessments, as well as fee-based consulting services (including e-commerce consulting and digital technology consulting) and venture capital.

Grants

Loans



# Federal Initiatives and Programs

- **Regional Tariff Response Initiative (RTRI)** is a strategy to invest in businesses, either directly or through the organizations that support them, so they can seize new opportunities, adapt to global trade disruptions and boost domestic trade.

## Eligibility

- Incorporated SME and NPO
- Staffed in BC
- Employ 10-499 full time employees
- 3 years operations
- 2 complete years of externally reviewed financial statements

## Steps

- Check all eligibility and prioritization criteria
- Currently no closing date
- Ensure activities meet objective and criteria
- Create user profile through PacifiCan online portal
- Submit application

## Considerations

- Funding decision in approx. 90 business days
- Funds between \$200K to \$10 million per project
- Project must be funded at least 10% from non-government sources
- Eligible costs are submitted for reimbursement

# Federal Initiatives and Programs

Initiatives

Grants

Loans

- **PacifiCan** has funding programs available that support creating quality jobs and supporting an inclusive economy.
- **Canada Small Business Financing Program** makes it easier for small businesses to get loans from financial institutions by sharing risk with lenders. Provides loans up to \$1.15 million, of which \$500k can be used for leasehold improvements and equipment purchases, and \$150k can be used for working capital and intangible assets.
- **Black Entrepreneurship Program (BEP)** help Black Canadian business owners and entrepreneurs grow their businesses with loans up to \$250,000, administered by the Federation of African Canadian Economics (FACE).
- **BDC** offers financing options to businesses that have been in operation for at least 12 months.
  - Also offer Indigenous Entrepreneur Loan with financing of up to \$350,000 to start, grow or scale your business.



# Indigenous business support

# Indigenous Business Support

## Resources

- **Business advisory services** are available through the Small Business Branch to help entrepreneurs and business owners start, manage and grow. These services are offered at no cost. You can schedule a one-on-one consultation with an advisor by calling toll free at 1-855-698-2157 or emailing [Business.Advisors@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Business.Advisors@gov.bc.ca).
- The **Indigenous Business Resources Handout** provides additional information for businesses services tailored to Indigenous entrepreneurs and owner needs.
- Government of Canada's **Indigenous business and economic development resources** provides information on federal programs, funding opportunities and partnerships to support Indigenous entrepreneurs and communities.
- The **Canadian Council for Indigenous Business** delivers programs in partnership with other organizations, providing tools, financing, training, network opportunities, major awards and national events.
- **BC Indigenous Pathfinder Service** is a single source for support and referral to help navigate the relevant information, tools and funding available. Focuses on Indigenous businesses in the food and agricultural industry.

## Funding

## IFI

# Indigenous Business Support

Resources

- There are 4 **Indigenous Community Futures** that provides loans and business supports in rural and remote BC communities.
  - **Haida Gwaii Community Futures**: Located in Masset.
  - **Community Futures Central Interior First Nations (CFDC or CIFN)**: Based in Kamloops.
  - **Stó:lō Community Futures Corporation (SCF)**: Located in Chilliwack.
  - **Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC)**: Based in Port Alberni and is associated with the Tseshaht First Nation.

Funding

- **Tale'awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation (TACC) Business Equity Program (BEP)** provides a grant to qualifying projects up to a maximum of \$99,999 for individuals and incorporated businesses, and up to \$250,000 for community owned businesses, based on a viable business plan and subject to other financing being in place.
- **Northern Industries Innovation Fund** supports innovation projects that enhance competitiveness in traditional industries through applied R&D, product development, and technology testing. Available to SME located in the Northern Development Initiative Trust's service region.

IFI

# Indigenous Business Support

Resources

- **[Futurpreneur](#)** offers entrepreneurs aged 18-39 with low-interest loans of up to \$75,000, and mentorship services, business planning resources and networking opportunities. They also run the [Indigenous Entrepreneur Startup Program \(IESP\)](#), which provides start-up loan financing and up to two years of mentorship, supported by an Indigenous team.
- The **[Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program \(AEP\)](#)** provides access to capital and business opportunities to Indigenous entrepreneurs and business owners in Canada.
- The **[National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association \(NACCA\)](#)** supports Indigenous entrepreneurs through a network of Indigenous financial institutions across Canada. These organizations provide loans, grants, and business advisory services. You can search the [NACCA directory](#) to find an Indigenous Financial Institution near you.
- The **[Métis Financial Corporation of BC \(MFBC\)](#)** provides loans, business advisory services and support programs for Métis entrepreneurs in British Columbia.
- The **[First Citizens Fund](#)** program provides business loans to Indigenous entrepreneurs in British Columbia. Delivered by [All Nations Trust Company \(ANTCO\)](#) in partnership with four Aboriginal Capital Corporations, it supports the creation and expansion of Indigenous-owned businesses.
- **[Tale'awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation \(TACC\)](#)** also delivers financing and funding programs to Aboriginal entrepreneurs in the Coast Salish territory.
- **[Tribal Resources Investment Corporation \(TRICORP\)](#)** TRICORP's provides financing for business activities which increase the number of permanent jobs, reduces unemployment and facilitates business ownership among First Nations people.

Funding

IFI

## List of Indigenous financial institutions in addition to ANTCO, CFIN, Haida Gwaii Community Futures, NEDC, SCF, TACC and TRIPCORP:

- **Burns Lake Native Development Corporation (BLNDC)** offers a comprehensive range of services, including training and employment support, grant and loan assistance, business development, and community economic planning.
- **Native Fishing Association (NFA)**, West Vancouver) promotes and supports Indigenous commercial fishers in BC by providing loans and grants, shared licenses and quotas, and variety of support services to help grow or start a fishing business.

**Rules and regulations:** business registration, applying for permits and licenses, and franchising information

# Business Registration

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There are some steps involved before a business can register, which is also detailed in a [guide for registering your business](#):

1. **Evaluate your business idea** - [gov.bc.ca/evaluatebusinessidea](http://gov.bc.ca/evaluatebusinessidea)
2. **Review existing trademarks and intellectual property records**
3. **Choose a business type** - The Business Structures Wizard can help a business decide the best structure for their business  
[entity-selection-prod.apps.silver.devops.gov.bc.ca](http://entity-selection-prod.apps.silver.devops.gov.bc.ca)
4. **Apply for a business name**  
[www.names.bcregistry.gov.bc.ca](http://www.names.bcregistry.gov.bc.ca)
5. **Create an account with BC Registries and Online Services**  
[www.bcregistry.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcregistry.gov.bc.ca)

## BC Registries and Online Services

☎ Toll-Free 1-877-370-1033

✉ [BCRegistries@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCRegistries@gov.bc.ca)

# Applying for Business Permits and Licenses

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There may be permits and license requirements at all levels of government:

- **Municipal:**

- The [Community Charter](#) and [Local Government Act](#) allows municipalities to issue permits and license at their own discretion.
- Most municipalities **require a business license** to operate within their boundaries to ensure compliance with zoning and other local regulations.
- Businesses must check with their municipality for **specific rules** and **application processes**.
- **Additional permits** will be required depending on your business type and activities.

- **Provincial:** B.C. requires specific permit/licenses for certain businesses, especially those involving regulated activities or professions.

- **Federal:** Some federal permit/licenses are required particularly for businesses involving broadcasting, telecommunications, or food handling.

## Useful Information

**CivicInfoBC** lists contact information for local governments  
[civicinfo.bc.ca/municipalities](http://civicinfo.bc.ca/municipalities)

Use **BizPaL** to search for permits and licences by location and industry  
[BizPaL.ca](http://BizPaL.ca)

# Applying for Business Permits and Licenses: MBL

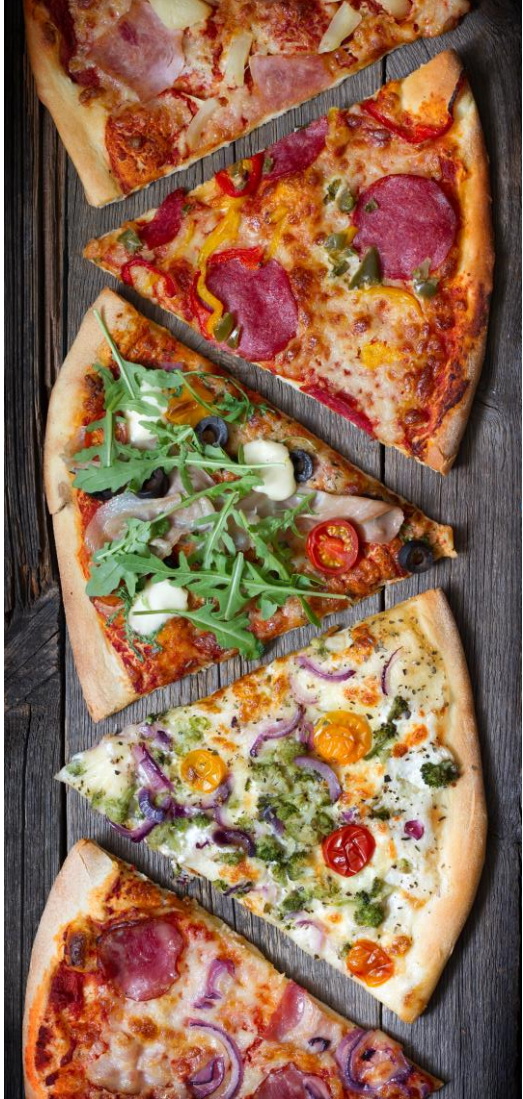


The **Mobile Business Program (MBL)** also called Inter-Community (ICBL), or Inter-Municipal (IMBL) Business Licenses allows eligible business to operate across participating jurisdictional boundaries with one licence.

- Section 14 of the [Community Charter](#) allows municipalities and regional districts to establish an intermunicipal scheme for which they have authority under the [Local Government Act](#).
- There are **17 partnerships** covering **104 communities** in B.C.
  - Each partnership has its own rules - eligibility and costs can vary
  - A province-wide licence is not available
  - Licences are issued by participating municipalities
- For details and participating communities, visit [gov.bc.ca/mobilebusinesslicence](http://gov.bc.ca/mobilebusinesslicence)

# Franchising Information

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The province has published a guide to support entrepreneurs in starting a franchise - [gov.bc.ca/startingafranchise](http://gov.bc.ca/startingafranchise)

## Rules and Regulations:

- **Franchises Act:** governs franchised businesses and provides important legal protections for B.C.-based franchisees that they did not previously have.

[Bill 38 – 2015: Franchises Act](#)

[Franchises Act - Questions and Answers pdf](#)

- **Franchises Regulation:** provides list of requirements for franchisors.

[bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/238\\_2016](http://bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/238_2016)

## Non-government resource:

- **Franchise Canada Online** - The Canadian Franchise Association (CFA) provides a variety of tools and resources to help start or buy a franchise.

[cfa.ca/franchisecanada](http://cfa.ca/franchisecanada)

# Other resources

# External Resources for Businesses: Professional Experts



Free, low-cost, or directory of non-government options for professional services:

- **Lawyer Referral Service | Access Pro Bono** – Allows businesses to find a suitable legal professional.  
[accessprobono.ca/our-programs/lawyer-referral-service](https://accessprobono.ca/our-programs/lawyer-referral-service)
- **Societies of Notaries Public of BC** – Provides a directory of notaries that can deliver a broad range of legal services for businesses.  
[snpsc.ca/for-the-public/services-notaries-provide](https://snpsc.ca/for-the-public/services-notaries-provide)
- **Accounting Firm Directory | CPABC Directory** – Provides a directory of chartered professional accountants in your area.  
[services.bccpa.ca/Directory](https://services.bccpa.ca/Directory)
- **InfoAction** – fee-based expert research services offered through the Vancouver Public Library.  
[vpl.ca/infoaction](https://vpl.ca/infoaction)
- **WeBC (Women Entrepreneurs in BC)** – Offers a free Strategic Marketing online course designed to help businesses grow their brand, universally accessible by anyone interested .  
[webc.thinkific.com/courses/marketing](https://webc.thinkific.com/courses/marketing)

# Other Non-Government Resources

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- **Community Futures** provides loans and business supports in rural and remote BC communities. Connect with the [Community Futures office in your region](#) for more information.
- **WeBC** offers women and non-binary entrepreneurs business loans, free business guidance, business resources, mentoring, networking, and events.
- **Futurpreneur Canada**, in partnership with the Business Development Bank of Canada, provides loans and support to Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada, between the ages of 18-39.
- **Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSofBC)** provides the expert guidance needed to overcome the obstacles of starting a business in a new country.
- **BC Chamber of Commerce** represents many local Chambers of Commerce or Boards of Trade, advocating for business-friendly public policy on behalf of businesses across the province.



# Starting a Business in B.C. as a Foreigner, Non-Resident, Newcomer, or Immigrant

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B.C. does not have residency requirements for starting a business in B.C. but require a B.C. address and valid work permit to register a business.

## Provincial resource and program:

- **Trade and Invest BC: Doing Business in BC guide** - [britishcolumbia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023-Doing-Business-in-BC-Guide.pdf](https://www.britishcolumbia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023-Doing-Business-in-BC-Guide.pdf)
- **B.C. Provincial Nominee Program** - [welcomebc.ca/immigrate-to-b-c/about-the-bc-provincial-nominee-program](https://welcomebc.ca/immigrate-to-b-c/about-the-bc-provincial-nominee-program)

## Federal organization:

- **Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)** - provides tips and resources for newcomers to Canada looking to start a business  
[bdc.ca/en/articles-tools/start-buy-business/start-business/3-tips-for-starting-business-immigrant-canada](https://www.bdc.ca/en/articles-tools/start-buy-business/start-business/3-tips-for-starting-business-immigrant-canada)

## Other non-government resources:

- **YMCA BC: Self-Employment for Newcomers** - [gv.ymca.ca/self-employment-newcomers](https://gv.ymca.ca/self-employment-newcomers)
- **DiverseCity: Diverse Entrepreneurs Business Incubator** - [dcrs.ca/our-services/employment-programs/diverse-entrepreneurs](https://dcrs.ca/our-services/employment-programs/diverse-entrepreneurs)

# Frequently Asked Questions

# Resources to grow into new markets

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**Export  
Navigator**

- BC's [International trade and investment](#) guide.
- BC's [Exporting Goods from Canada](#) guide.
- BC's [Trade Diversification Strategy](#) is creating trade and investment opportunities in new markets, expanding existing ones and increasing the number and diversity of exporters in B.C.
- Our [Trade Accelerator Program](#) (TAP) assists small- and medium-sized enterprises for free in developing a market entry plan for a new market.
- The [Export Navigator Program](#) expanded as of February to help businesses how to become export ready for free, diversify their markets and find new customers outside of B.C.

# Procurement **BC Bid** ([bcbid.gov.bc.ca](http://bcbid.gov.bc.ca))

## BC Bid Help Desk

🌐 [BCBid.gov.bc.ca](http://BCBid.gov.bc.ca)

☎ 250-387-7301

✉ [bcbid@gov.bc.ca](mailto:bcbid@gov.bc.ca)

- The **BC Bid application** is a modern online marketplace where buyers can post solicitation opportunities and suppliers can bid on those opportunities.
- For guidance on how to get started, refer to **Get Started with BC Bid** and **BC Bid user guides**.



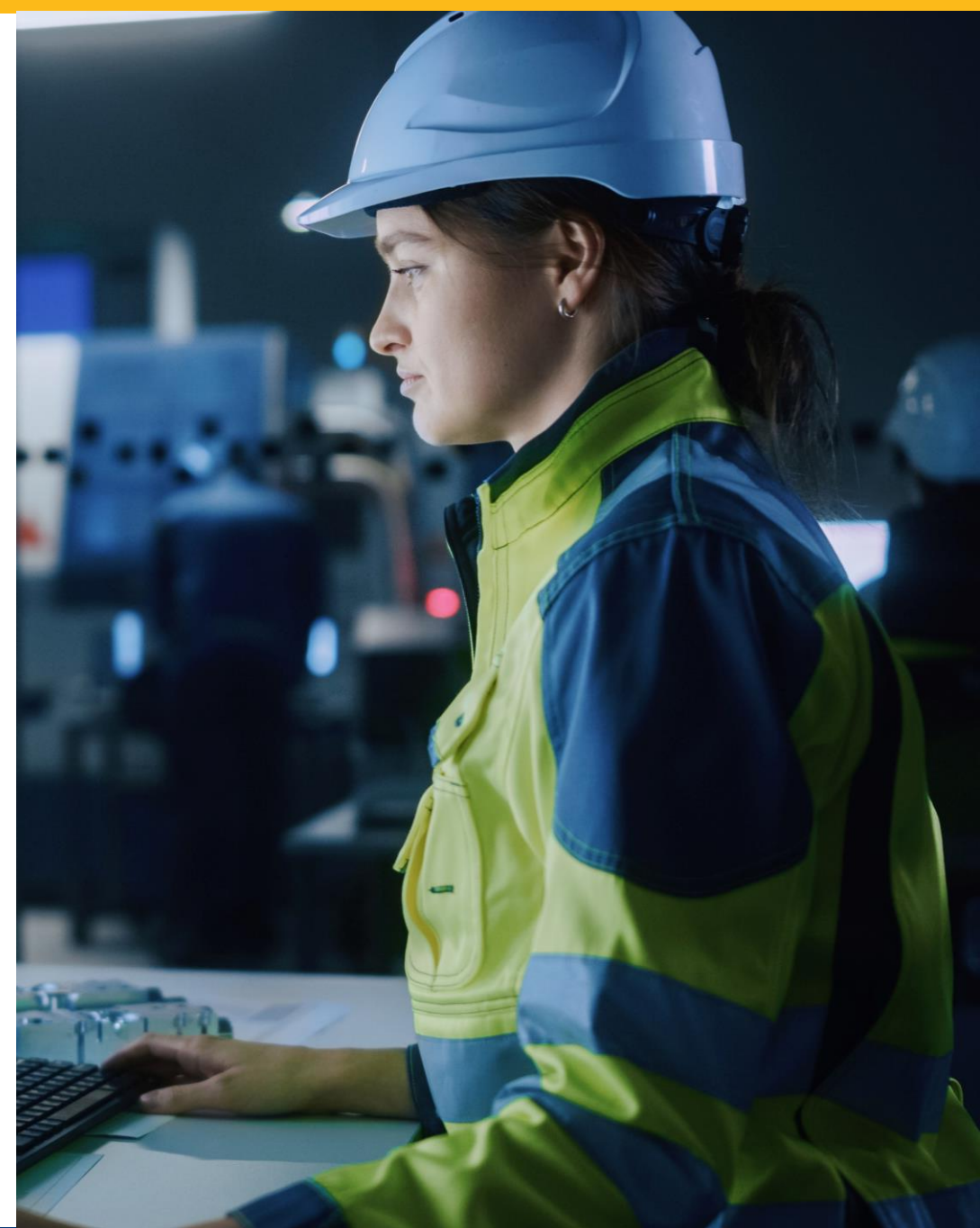
## **Indigenous Procurement Initiative (IPI)**

- Result of a province-wide engagement to identify ways to increase Indigenous participation in BC government procurement.
- Established an External Advisory Committee to co-develop a plan to address gaps, barriers, and inequities that Indigenous vendors face.
- Self-identification in proposals that call for Indigenous representation may weigh more.

# Access to skilled labour

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- **WorkBC** is BC's primary access point for employment services where employer can connect with job seekers, and post job opportunities.
- **BC Employer Training Grant (ETG)** helps fund skills training for new and existing employees.
- **BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP)** provides a pathway for permanent residency for skilled foreign workers with job offers from eligible BC employers.
- **SkilledTradesBC** – a BC Crown Corporation that leads and coordinates BC's skilled trades system by working with employers, employees, industry, labour, training providers and government to issue credentials, manage apprenticeships, set program standards and increase opportunities in the trades.
- **Specialized non-profit organizations** can connect businesses with job-ready local and internationally trained workers.



# Business taxation in B.C.

# Provincial Sales Tax and Goods and Services Tax

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There are two taxes applicable for businesses operating in B.C.:



**Provincial Sales Tax  
(PST)**

[gov.bc.ca/PST](http://gov.bc.ca/PST)

**Canada**

**Goods and Services  
Tax (GST)**

[canada.ca/gst-hst](http://canada.ca/gst-hst)

# Provincial Sales Tax (gov.bc.ca/PST)

## MORE TOPICS

### Sales taxes

#### Provincial sales tax

Exemptions

Register to collect

Charge and collect

Report and pay

Refunds

Audits

Appeals

Rebate on select machinery and equipment

Frequently asked questions

Forms

Publications

Webinars and seminars

## B.C. provincial sales tax (PST)

✦ Last updated on May 21, 2025

⚠ During a postal disruption, you must still file your returns, claim grants, apply for programs or refunds, and make payments on time. [Find out more.](#)

Find essential information for businesses, real property contractors and purchasers about the B.C. PST, including registration, payments, refunds, audits and appeals.

Search information about the B.C. PST



Search

### Stay informed

Find out about [updates to PST](#) and how to [subscribe for PST and other tax updates](#) when information changes on our website.

### How PST works

The **B.C. PST** is a retail sales tax that applies when taxable goods, software or services are acquired in B.C. or brought into B.C. for use in B.C., unless a specific exemption applies.

[Find out if your business is required to register to collect PST.](#)

If your business is required to register, you must:

1. [Charge and collect PST](#) on your sales, unless a specific [exemption](#)

# Contact Us



## Small Business Branch

- [gov.bc.ca/smallbusiness](http://gov.bc.ca/smallbusiness)
- 250-387-4699
- [SmallBusinessBranch@gov.bc.ca](mailto:SmallBusinessBranch@gov.bc.ca)

## Business Advisory Services

- [gov.bc.ca/businessadvisors](http://gov.bc.ca/businessadvisors)
- Toll free 1-855-698-2157
- [Business.Advisors@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Business.Advisors@gov.bc.ca)

## Ease of Doing Business

- [gov.bc.ca/easeofdoingbusiness](http://gov.bc.ca/easeofdoingbusiness)
- BC Gov News
- [EaseofDoingBusiness@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EaseofDoingBusiness@gov.bc.ca)

### Ministry of Finance with PST questions

- [gov.bc.ca/PST](http://gov.bc.ca/PST)
- Toll free 1-877-388-4440
- [CTBTaxQuestions@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CTBTaxQuestions@gov.bc.ca)

### BC Registries and Online Services

- [bcregistry.gov.bc.ca](http://bcregistry.gov.bc.ca)
- Toll free 1-877-370-1033
- [BCRegistries@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCRegistries@gov.bc.ca)

Questions?