

Invest Innovate Grow



Professional Services



Coquitlam was one of seven communities from across BC honoured with the BC Small Business Roundtable's "2013 Open for Business Award," which recognizes local policies, projects and programs that support small business.

Factors such as the City of Coquitlam's growing population, location in the geographic centre of the lower mainland and a highly educated labour force, are driving the need and growth of the professional services sector.

British Columbia

BC's professional services sector consists of the Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing (FIRE) sector, legal, accounting services, healthcare, education, public administration, information technology, etc. When grouped together, professional services is the largest employment generator in BC accounting for 888,600 jobs. The majority of employment in the professional services sector occurs in the Lower Mainland/Southwest region of BC. The professional services sector is predicted to continue to grow through 2022, with the number of jobs in the sector increasing by 14.3% or 127,100 positions.

Coquitlam

Coquitlam is home to several businesses in the professional services sector. A significant portion of our labour force is employed in professional service firms that are engaged in a variety of industries: finance, real estate, education, legal, accounting, engineering, healthcare, etc. The majority of Coquitlam's professional services jobs are located in City Centre, Austin Heights, Maillardville, Burquitlam and the Southwest Coquitlam area.

Major Employers

Company	Number of Employees *
Douglas College	450
Dufferin Care Centre	130
TD Canada Trust	120
Royal LePage West Real Estate Services	110
Trans-Canada Flow Tolling Inc.	110
Park Georgia Realty Ltd.	110
(* estimated numbers)	

"Our presence in Coquitlam has played a role in our growth and success since we opened the David Lam Campus in 1996. Centrally located in Metro Vancouver with good road and transit links, our Coquitlam campus is a short walk to amenities and the beautiful Town Centre Park, and close to the homes of many of our students and staff."

*Hazel Postma,
Associate Vice President
External Relations,
Douglas College*



“Coquitlam is a great place to live and work. Ideally situated, close to Vancouver city life as well as the serenity of rivers and parks, I enjoy the best of both worlds by operating a business in Coquitlam. Being one of the fastest growing areas in Metro Vancouver, Coquitlam offers many opportunities for growing a business. There is ongoing residential growth, and a great business and investment arena that will provide any new or existing company a variety of fabulous clientele.”

Sharon Perry, Chartered Accountant

Developing the Professional Services Sector

The City of Coquitlam is committed to creating a business environment that supports the growth and prosperity of our professional services sector as these jobs provide a source of well-paying employment opportunities for local residents. With the \$1.4B Evergreen Line (SkyTrain), which is slated to open in the Fall of 2016, the professional services sector is set to continue to expand. The investment and development occurring along the transit line, particularly around SkyTrain stations, is increasing the amount of office space available. The emergence of office space inventory along the Evergreen Line will benefit Coquitlam’s residents and business community by allowing them to connect quickly with communities across Metro Vancouver.

Coquitlam offers a variety of competitive advantages for the professional services sector:

Transit-Oriented Development Strategy (TDS)

- ❖ Guides development to maximize office and retail opportunities along the Evergreen Line.

Coquitlam Optical Network (QNet)

- ❖ A 60 km fibre optic network that provides businesses with low cost, high-speed broadband services.

Business Licence Bylaw Update

- ❖ In 2014, the City of Coquitlam updated its Business Licence Bylaw to become more user friendly for businesses by reducing the number of business licence categories, establishing more equitable fees based on the size of a business, applying consistent fees to similar businesses and improving the application process.

Efforts to make municipal fees/taxes more competitive

- ❖ In order to address an inequity in tax distribution between residential and business classes, Coquitlam Council implemented a tax shift policy to create a better balance between the two classes.
- ❖ In the 20 years this policy has been in place, a cumulative impact of a 19% shift in tax burden from business properties to residential properties has occurred. The current tax shift is 1% each year.

A highly skilled and educated workforce

Open, accessible, progressive municipal government



In December 2014, Coquitlam was ranked third out of 36 cities in BC Business’ inaugural list of the “Best Cities for Work in BC”, a study derived from economic indicators reflecting the quality of a city’s job market.

“Our Coquitlam location provides us with a major competitive advantage over other sites because our staff can afford to live close to where they work. This allows us to attract and retain the best people in the industry.”

*Randy Webster,
Chief Operating Officer,
MedRay Imaging*

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