



# NORTH COWICHAN British Columbia

Community Profile





## NORTH COWICHAN, BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Location:** Southern Vancouver Island, British Columbia

**Population:** 29,676 (Statistics Canada 2016)

**Key Economic Sectors:** Forestry and wood products, agriculture, tourism, education, service industry



*North Cowichan's economic foundation is diverse. Situated as an international vacation destination, it's home to major industry, farming, high-tech and home-based businesses.*

### WE HAVE WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

In the heart of the Cowichan Valley's "warm lands," where urban and rural meet, North Cowichan's stunning landscapes and fertile farmland are framed by ocean, rivers and mountains. Our Municipality spans 194 square kilometres.

With more than 29,000 people, North Cowichan is built on the fishing, mining and logging industries. Today, the work continues with traditional and new industry taking advantage of all the area has to offer.

*"As my business grew, I wanted to expand in my home community of North Cowichan. The Municipality understood the needs of my business and made accommodations to support us. North Cowichan simply provided the best choice for business growth."*

*Alana Elliott, Founder and President, Libre Naturals Inc.*



### A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITIES

Whether you are expanding your business or starting a new one, consider North Cowichan. We have productive agricultural land, solid infrastructure and large, established mills that can support manufacturing spin-offs. The region is also a great fit for professionals or entrepreneurs with small or home-based businesses. Whatever the size of your firm, you'll appreciate living in friendly communities that have all the services needed for business success.

#### **OUR RESIDENTS OWN A FOREST**

A rare and valued asset, North Cowichan's 5,000 hectare Municipal Forest is a sustainable resource. It provides revenue for the Municipality and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

#### **AGRICULTURE: MILD CLIMATE, FERTILE VALLEY**

Twenty-five percent of North Cowichan land is agricultural. It produces a diversity of products, provides local food security and encourages job creation and innovation.

#### **ON THE WATER: ECOTOURISM AND INDUSTRY**

Forty kilometres of coastline served by several marinas and three deep sea ports serve as a foundation for ecotourism and industry.

#### **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PARKS: CENTRALIZING INDUSTRY**

Four business and industrial parks in the Chemainus, Crofton, Bings Creek and Tansor areas cater to a wide range of light and business-related industry, as well as heavy industrial uses. Business activities range from kayak building and food, beverage and pharmaceuticals production to value-added wood products manufacturing, major sawmills and a pulp and paper mill.



### INVESTOR BENEFITS – FIVE AND TEN YEAR TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM

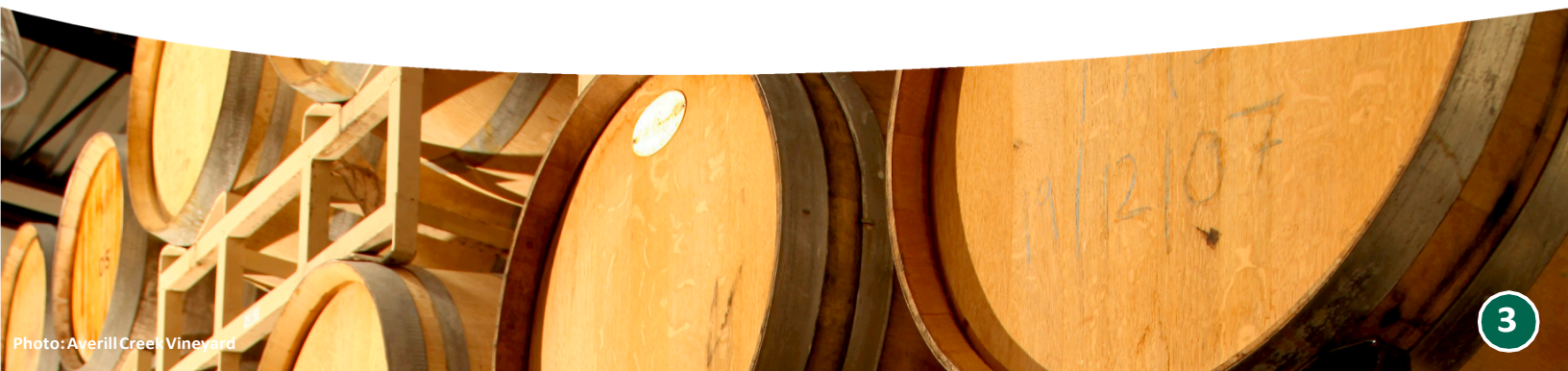
North Cowichan has a ten-year General Municipal Tax Exemption Program. When you locate a new, qualified business development on industrial property, the Program can help your business gain a significant return on investment.

We also have a five-year General Municipal Tax Exemption Program and Development Cost Charge waivers available for residential, mixed-use and commercial developments in our three urban centres: University Village/South End, Chemainus and Crofton. Learn more about the **Tax Exemption Program**.

### LET US HELP YOU LOCATE HERE

Explore North Cowichan's potential and discover resources that will help you make the move. Contact our Mayor and local business support organizations.

- **Municipality of North Cowichan**
- **Chambers of Commerce**
  - Chemainus and District Chamber
  - Duncan-Cowichan Chamber
- **Community Futures - Cowichan Region**  
Fosters entrepreneurship and economic development.
- **Economic Development Cowichan**  
Provides economic development, tourism marketing and film attraction services to the Cowichan region.
- **Vancouver Island Economic Alliance**  
Spearheads regional economic development for the Vancouver Island region.
- **Visitor Centres**
  - Cowichan Regional Visitor Centre
  - Chemainus Visitor Centre
- **BC Forest Discovery Centre**  
A forestry museum and education centre focused on the life, work and environment in forest communities of coastal British Columbia.





### LIVING IN NORTH COWICHAN: DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

North Cowichan residents value our rural environment and mix of scenic mountains, forests, farms, rivers, lakes and oceanfront. This relaxed lifestyle is supported by strong urban centres in University Village/South End, Chemainus and Crofton.

#### UNIVERSITY VILLAGE AND SOUTH END

Flanked by the City of Duncan, University Village is one of North Cowichan's urban centres. It is the location for excellent shopping and restaurants. The Village is also the home of Vancouver Island University Campus, Cowichan High School and a branch of the Vancouver Island Regional Library.

At the regional Cowichan Performing Arts Centre, residents enjoy a wide variety of theatre and musical experiences. The nearby Cowichan Tribes' Quw'utsun' Cultural and Conference Centre offers visitors meaningful insights into First Nations culture.

Island Savings Centre is home to the Cowichan Valley Capitals Hockey Team and a popular recreation spot for young and old. The neighbouring Cowichan Aquatic Centre has swimming and other water activities, as well as dry-land health and fitness programs.

#### CHEMAINUS

The bustling seaside town of Chemainus is a popular tourist destination, a community-minded town and the site of diverse industry. Western Forest Products sawmill is the largest employer in Chemainus.

Visitors come to view the Chemainus open-air art gallery, which tells the history of the area's First Nations and the mining, forestry and fishing industries. On almost every downtown street, murals and sculptures honour the past.

Chemainus is filled with eclectic shops, galleries and culinary adventures. Perfect days may include a ferry ride to Thetis and Penelakut Islands, a walk on a community trail or a performance at the majestic Chemainus Theatre Festival.

Chemainus continually evolves. Waterwheel Square, the downtown meeting place, has undergone extensive improvements. A new library is planned, and a new skate park for skateboard, scooter and bike enthusiasts offers recreational opportunities for users of all ability levels.



## COWICHAN REGION - NORTH COWICHAN

### CROFTON

Framed by hills and mountains, Crofton nestles into a picturesque landscape along Osborne Bay. The town is home to Catalyst Paper Corporation, a major regional employer. Crofton offers an enviable lifestyle for mill workers and others who come for the beauty, recreation and housing variety. Almost every home has a stunning view of mountains, islands and the active ocean waterway.

Recreational opportunities abound. Kayakers can explore the stunning coast and mountain bikers can ride the impressive 14 km Maple Syrup Trail. A lovely oceanside sea walk connects with nature trails leading across Maple Mountain to neighbouring Maple Bay.

### MAPLE BAY AND GENOA BAY

The idyllic oceanfront communities of Maple Bay and Genoa Bay are situated in protected inlets, reputed to be the best natural harbours on Vancouver Island. A popular spot for yachts, boaters, and kayakers, this area is a year-round starting point for ocean adventure, touring, fishing and scuba diving.

Residents and visitors can access a full range of marine support services at private and public marinas. A daily floatplane service to Vancouver is available from Maple Bay.

**North Cowichan has one of the warmest climates in Canada.**





### HELPING YOU SETTLE IN NORTH COWICHAN

There are many reasons to settle in North Cowichan. Housing is affordable and many homes overlook spectacular ocean and mountain vistas. We have excellent schools and recreation and healthcare facilities, and major regional hospitals offering advanced and specialized care are only a short distance away.

#### HEALTHCARE

**Island Health** delivers a range of healthcare services including home care and mental health. Cowichan District Hospital is conveniently located in North Cowichan, just outside the City of Duncan.

In Chemainus, the Health Care Centre provides laboratory services, medical imaging, radiology, physiotherapy, an adult day program and residential care.

There are also several physicians, dentists and practitioners of traditional and alternative medicine with offices in North Cowichan.

#### EDUCATION

North Cowichan is well positioned to support the education and training needs of students and business. Vancouver Island University and Cowichan Trades Centre are located in the region. Parents can select from public, private and independent schools with classes from kindergarten to high school. North Cowichan is a popular destination for foreign students wanting to further their education and improve their English.

Explore the area's education options.

- **Vancouver Island University**
- **Cowichan Public Elementary Schools**
- **Cowichan Public High Schools**
- **Queen Margaret's School**
- **Sunrise Waldorf School**
- **Island Oak High School**
- Boarding options nearby
  - Brentwood College School** (grades 9 to 12)
  - Shawnigan Lake School** (8 to 12)
  - Dwight School Canada** (6 to 12)
- **Queen of Angels Elementary and Middle School**
- **Duncan Christian School**



### RECREATION ACTIVITIES

North Cowichan's Municipal Forest, over 50 parks and 40 kilometres of shoreline provide residents with unprecedented access to the ocean and nature. The region is an active-living paradise set amongst incredible, natural beauty. It has an extensive trail network, two ice arenas and two pools.

Mount Prevost, Mount Richards, Mount Tzouhalem, Maple Mountain and Stoney Hill feature hiking and mountain bike trail networks. The BC Marine Coast Trail, Trans-Canada Trail, and Vancouver Island Spine Trail all cross the Municipality.

Kayakers and boaters can launch at several spots along the coast. Birdwatchers can gather at the Somenos Marsh and dogs can run free at off-leash parks. The region's superb playing fields and arenas host many sporting tournaments, including the upcoming BC Summer Games in 2018.

### TRANSPORTATION LINKS

Cowichan is well served by the Trans-Canada Highway, marinas, ferry terminals and airports in nearby Victoria and Nanaimo. Pedestrian walkways and bike routes are continually expanding.

Key transportation facilities:

- **BC Ferries - Nanaimo (Duke Point)**
- **BC Ferries - Nanaimo (Departure Bay)**
- **Nanaimo Airport**
- **Harbour Air Seaplanes**
- **Saltspring Air**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

When you take a job or start a business in North Cowichan, you are choosing a prosperous and welcoming community for your whole family.

**Municipality of North Cowichan**

[www.northcowichan.ca](http://www.northcowichan.ca)

+1 250-746-3100

**Economic Development Cowichan**

[www.ecdevcowichan.com](http://www.ecdevcowichan.com)

+1 250-746-7880

**Duncan Cowichan Chamber of Commerce**

[www.duncancc.bc.ca](http://www.duncancc.bc.ca)

+1 250-748-1111

