

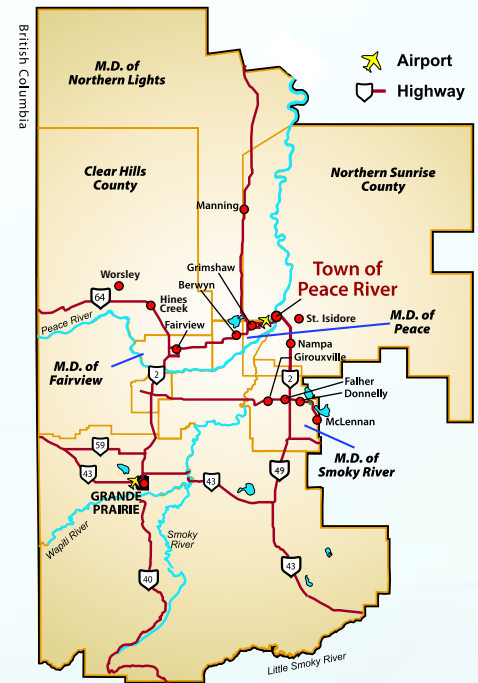
The Peace River Region



Population:

The Town of Peace River is the second largest centre in northwestern Alberta. It provides a wide range of business, professional and health services to local residents and communities north and west of Peace River. Peace River is the primary service centre to a population of nearly 20,000.

Demographics			
Municipality	2001	2007	% Change
Peace River	6,240	6,315	1.2%
MD Northern Lights No. 22	4,217	3,556	-15.7%
Fairview	3,150	3,297	4.7%
Clear Hills County	2,772	2,714	-2.1%
Grimshaw	2,435	2,537	4.2%
Smoky River No. 130	2,379	2,442	2.6%
Northern Sunrise County	2,123	2,547	20.0%
MD Fairview No. 136	1,806	1,432	-20.7%
MD Peace No. 135	1,496	1,487	-0.6%
Manning	1,293	1,493	15.5%
Falher	1,109	941	-15.1%
McLennan	804	824	2.5%
Berwyn	546	561	2.7%
Hines Creek	437	430	-1.6%
Donnelly	377	293	-22.3%
Nampa	372	373	0.3%
Girouxville	306	282	-7.8%



Economic Base:

The Peace River region is rich in natural resources such as: conventional oil, oil sands and natural gas, aspen, spruce and pine forest, land suitable for agriculture, ample fresh water, and aggregates including silica sand, sand and gravel. Hydropower generation on the Peace River and the potential for nuclear energy generation are emerging economic drivers in the region.

Oil & Gas: The Peace River oil sands hold an estimated volume of 1.6 trillion barrels of crude bitumen of which 18.6 billion barrels are recoverable using present technology. The Peace region is one of three key areas in Alberta containing substantial reserves of crude bitumen. Advances in heavy oil technology may allow up to 5% of the recoverable oil to be removed using conventional oil extraction methods.

Shell Canada's Peace River Complex (www.shell.ca) uses enhanced oil recovery

techniques involving steam-generated heat and pressure to warm the bitumen to allow it to be pumped to the surface. Shell is seeking approvals for an expansion of their production up to 100,000 barrels of bitumen a day with the Carmon Creek Project. Shell's production of conventional oil at their Seal Lake project, currently around 15,000 barrels per day, continues to increase using oil extraction technology developed by BlackRock.

The Peace River oil sands have attracted oil companies such as Penn West, Baytex, Murphy, Canadian Natural Resources Limited, Talisman and North Peace Energy. The expansion of conventional oil using new heavy oil recovery technology has created an opportunity for oil field servicing companies to establish a base of operations in and around the Town of Peace River.

Forestry: Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd.'s Peace River Pulp Division

(www.dmi.ca) is located near Peace River. The mill produces 480,000 air-dried metric tonnes (ADMT) of kraft pulp and was the first of Alberta's new generation of pulp mills. It pioneered the production of hardwood pulp in northwestern Alberta. Hardwood species (aspen and balsam poplar) from the surrounding area provide sufficient volumes to sustain the mill on a long-term basis. The mill employs about 350 people and another 600 seasonal contractors.

Other forestry related employers include:

- Manning Diversified Forest Products Ltd. (MDFP Ltd.) in Manning
- Boucher Bros Lumber Ltd. in Nampa
- Zavisha Sawmills at Hines Creek

Agriculture: The Peace Country is the most northern agriculture region in North America. Its geography provides some unique growing conditions such as more sunlight in summer growing periods along with arable soil.

- The Peace Country is the world's second largest turf and forage seed production region after Oregon, US.
- In addition to wheat, barley, and other specialty crops, the Peace Country produces 20% of Alberta's canola.
- The Peace Country produces oats with yields normally 16.5% higher than other areas of the province.
- The Peace Country produces some of the best quality honey in the world and is renowned for its clover based honeys. Up to three times more honey per hive is produced in the Peace Country compared to elsewhere in the province due to the longer summer days for bees to work.
- The Peace Country is home to some of the largest bison herds in Alberta and British Columbia.

Value of Building Permits for the Town of Peace River						
	2008 <i>(as of June 30)</i>	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Residential	\$6,202,250	\$12,136,500	\$11,186,470	\$8,452,236	\$4,384,500	\$1,475,100
Commercial	\$1,169,000	\$5,255,684	\$10,793,543	\$3,922,000	\$2,738,000	\$5,425,657
Industrial	\$2,130,000	\$1,187,565	\$1,379,500	\$870,000	\$93,000	\$353,200
Government & Institutional	\$74,000	\$2,100,000	\$18,000	\$11,080,793	\$1,133,500	\$1,740,299
Total	\$9,565,250	\$20,679,749	\$23,377,513	\$24,325,029	\$8,349,000	\$8,994,256

Education:

K-12 Education:

- Peace River School Division No. 10 (<http://www.prsd.ab.ca/>)
- Holy Family Catholic Regional Division No.37 (<http://www.hfcrd.ab.ca/>)
- Northland School Division No. 61 (<http://www.northland61.ab.ca/>)
- Conseil scolaire du Nord-Ouest No. 1 (<http://www.csno.ab.ca/>)

Post Secondary Education:

- NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology) (<http://www.nait.ca>)
- Northern Lakes College (<http://www.northernlakescollege.ca>)

Childcare:

- Peace River Child Care Association: 780.624.3520
- Peace River Family Day Homes: 780.624.1479

Taxes:

Taxpayers in the Peace River region are eligible to receive the Northern Residents Deduction tax refund under Zone B. See the Canada Revenue Agency website: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca>.

Quality of Life:

Peace River is served by the Peace Country Health Region (www.pchr.ca). The Peace River Community Health Care Centre includes 30 acute care beds, 24-emergency care, an intensive care unit, and numerous other services. Adjoining the Health Centre is the 40 bed Sutherland Place Continuing Care Centre.

The Peace River Fire Department maintains a full-time Director of Protective Services/Fire Chief/Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Deputy Chief of Operations, two EMT-Paramedics, two EMT/National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001's and over twenty paid on-call members. The department provides response in Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Materials, High Angle Rescue, Basic and Advanced Life Support Ambulance, and Motor Vehicle Accident Extrication.

The Town of Peace River operates a public transit system.

The Town of Peace River also enjoys the following facilities:

- Peace Regional Pool
- Peace River Public Library
- Peace River Museum, Archives, and Mackenzie Centre
- Water Play Park.

