

AGRI-FOOD

Golden Fields Against a Sky of Perfect Blue

Mount Robson is the highest peak in the majestic Rocky Mountains at 4,663 m/15,299 ft from base to peak.

FOR VALEMOUNT, MCBRIDE, ROBSON AND CANOE VALLEYS, BRITISH COLUMBIA



The land is the “heartbeat” of the Robson and Canoe Valleys. Live and work where you can reap the benefits of rural life with endless opportunities to contribute and be a vital part of the community. When there is a need, no one is a stranger, your neighbours are always there to offer a helping hand. It’s a way of living.

Why Invest in the Agri-Food Industry in Robson-Canoe Valleys?

- Reliable access to safe and high-quality raw materials
- Affordable quality farmland
- Reasonable access to markets
- Knowledgeable employment base
- Strong local farming network
- Low operating and business costs
- Established and growing organic base

People in the area have a strong knowledge of agriculture and appreciate being able to make a living ‘off the land’. Moderating temperatures give optimism to a wider range of potential agricultural products.

Opportunities abound in these sectors:

- Commercial bio-energy based greenhouse operations

- Poultry production
- Pork production for the Asian market
- Meat processing
- Specialty fruit production and processing

Non-Traditional

In British Columbia, the **Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP)** sector is growing rapidly. In 1997 it contributed \$600M to the economic diversification of the province with over 30,000 British Columbians earning all or part of their living from the sector. NWFP may be gathered from the wild, or produced in forest plantations, agroforestry schemes and from trees outside forests.

These include:

- Medicinal herbs
- Fungi
- Edible fruits and nuts
- Other natural products

Researchers, conservation and development organizations and, more recently, governments, recognize the importance of the NWFP as a way to achieve rural livelihood improvement in an environmentally sound way.

The “Buy BC Wild” directory was developed in 2007/08 and exists as a resource that lists hundreds of businesses and wild products from the province such as wild foods, native plants and natural health care products.

New assistance is now available under the Growing Forward Agreement of the Ministry of Agriculture which has made \$553 million available to the province’s agricultural sector. Included in this program are the Environmental Farm Planning program and the Beneficial Management Practices program in addition to the Farm Business Advisory Services program.



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