



# Comox Valley Area C Business Resources Directory



The Area C Business Directory is a centralized resource designed to support both new and established rural businesses in the Comox Valley. It brings together valuable links to government services, educational tools, and other key supports to help businesses start, grow, and succeed. The directory will be regularly updated to stay relevant and useful. If you have suggestions or resources to include, please share them at [ruralbusiness@comoxvalleychamber.com](mailto:ruralbusiness@comoxvalleychamber.com).

## COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

A free listing of businesses and organizations in the Black Creek area [Black Creek Community Centre](#)

## OUR AREA

- **What is Area C?** [Electoral Area C \(Puntledge Black Creek\)](#) | [Comox Valley Regional District](#)
- **Tourism information** (entertainment, recreation, places to stay) [Home](#) | [Experience Comox Valley](#)

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS INFORMATION

- **Comox Valley Regional District:** [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca)
  - **Building and Planning** (*Permits, bylaws*): [Planning & Development](#) | [Comox Valley Regional District](#)
  - More information on Bylaws [Bylaws & Bylaw Compliance](#) | [Comox Valley Regional District](#)
  - **Business in the CVRD** - (*Bid Opportunities, Vendor opportunities, For Sale and Economic Development*) [Business in the CVRD](#) | [Comox Valley Regional District](#)
  - **Mapping/ GIS** - (*Property lines, ALR, zoning etc*) [iMap](#) | [Comox Valley Regional District](#)

## The Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce

The Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce is a professional, membership-based, business organization. The Chamber collaborates with its' members to foster growth, community, and best business practices. The Chamber works on behalf of its' members to provide opportunity for Chamber members and employees.

**Educational and networking opportunities:**  
<https://comoxvalleychamber.com/events>

**Membership Information**  
<https://comoxvalleychamber.com/membership>

## PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS INFORMATION

- **MLA's office** <https://dir.gov.bc.ca/>
- **BC Registries and Online Services** (*OrgBook BC*): Use this to register a new business, name request, or check the status of existing corporations.) [BC Registries and Online Services](#)
- **Starting a Business Checklist:** (A comprehensive guide on structuring, registering, and taxing your business.) [Start your business](#)
- **Resources and Support for Businesses:** (A hub for guides, templates, and information on business programs.) [Small business support](#)
- **eTaxBC:** (For registering, filing, and paying Provincial Sales Tax (PST).) [etax online services](#)

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS INFORMATION

- **MP's office** <https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en>
- **BizPal** (*Streamlining your business permit and licensing experience*) [Bizpal](#)
- **Canada Business (Innovation, Science & Economic Development)** (*Central hub for starting, funding, and growing a business*) <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/canada-business/en>
- **Business Benefits Finder** (*Personalized tool to find grants, loans, and support programs*) <https://innovation.canada.ca/>
- **Canada.ca Business and Industry** (*Broad directory of federal programs, regulations, and supports*) <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/business.html>
- **Canada.ca Main federal listing of funding** (*programs across sectors*) <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/business/grants.html>
- **Farm Credit Canada (FCC)** (*Financing, tools, and advisory for agriculture businesses*) <https://www.fcc-fac.ca/>
- **Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)** (*Loans, advisory services, and growth tools for SMEs*) <https://www.bdc.ca/>
- **Export Development Canada (EDC)** (*Funding, insurance, and support for exporting businesses*) <https://www.edc.ca/>
- **Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)** (*Business Portal GST/HST, payroll, business taxes, and account management*) <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes/businesses.html>
- **CRA Payroll Deductions Online Calculator** (*Helps businesses calculate employee deductions*) <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/e-services/payroll-deductions-online-calculator.html>
- **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)** (*Programs, funding, and resources for farming and ag businesses*) <https://agriculture.canada.ca/>
- **Canadian Agricultural Partnership** (*Sustainable CAP Federal-provincial funding programs for agriculture*) <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs>
- **AgriInnovate Program** (*Funding for commercialization of ag innovation*) <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs/agriinnovate>



## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS INFORMATION

- **Job Bank (Employers)** (*Post jobs, find workers, access labour market info*)  
<https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/employers>
- **Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP)** (*Hiring international workers (important for agriculture)*)  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/foreign-workers.html>
- **Canada Summer Jobs** (*Wage subsidies for hiring youth*) <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html>
- **Trade Commissioner Service (TCS)** (*Export advice, market intelligence, and connections*)  
<https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/>
- **CanExport Programs** (*Funding to help businesses expand internationally*)  
<https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/funding-financement/canexport/index.aspx>
- **BizPaL** (*Find permits and licenses by location and business type*) <https://bizpal.ca/>
- **Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)** (*Food safety, labeling, and agricultural regulations*)  
<https://inspection.canada.ca/>
- **National Research Council – IRAP** (*Funding + advisory for innovation and tech adoption*)  
<https://nrc.canada.ca/en/support-technology-innovation>
- **Strategic Innovation Fund** (*Large-scale innovation funding (more advanced businesses)*) <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/strategic-innovation-fund/en>
- **Indigenous Services Canada – Economic Development** (*Programs and funding for Indigenous entrepreneurs*)  
<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/>
- **Rural Economic Development (Federal Initiatives)** (*Policies and programs supporting rural communities*)  
<https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/rural/en>

## ADVERTISING

- **Comox Valley Record** (*Comox Valley wide distributed newspaper, printed version each week*)  
[Welcome to the Comox Valley Record - Comox Valley Record](#)
- **CV Collective Magazine** (*the Comox Valley Collective is focused on the Comox Valley region (including Courtenay, Comox, Cumberland, Black Creek, Merville, Royston, Hornby and Denman Islands, and Union Bay). and is a quarterly publication that releases mid March, June, September, and December*) [Comox Valley Collective magazine](#)
- **Strathcona Collective Magazine** (*the Strathcona Collective focuses on the Strathcona region (including Campbell River, Quadra and Cortes Islands, Oyster River, Sayward, Gold River, Tahsis, and Nootka Sound) and is a biannual publication that releases mid March and September*). [Strathcona Collective magazine](#)
- **Compass Magazine** (*focuses on connecting the community through creativity—whether it's through the art of storytelling, showcasing local artisans, or offering handmade gifts that reflect the spirit of Vancouver Island artists and culture.*) [Compass Magazine](#)



## EDUCATION

- **North Island College** (*wide variety of post secondary education*) [Home](#) | [Welcome to NIC](#)
- **North Island College Continuing Education** [Continuing Education](#) | [CET at NIC](#)
- **Business Planning** (*Are you thinking of starting a business but not sure where to begin?*) - [Business Planning - Richmond Chamber of Commerce](#)
- **Are you an Entrepreneur?** [Entrepreneurship - Richmond Chamber of Commerce](#)
- **Excel Career College** (*Need-driven post-secondary programs that integrate future-focused technological, socio-cultural, and sustainability knowledge and skills*) [Excel Career College Programs](#)
- Other
  - **LUSH Valley Food Action Society** (*regularly hold classes on food preparation and processing, Food Safe*) [Events - LUSH](#)

## ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST (by sector)

- **AGRICULTURE**
  - **Comox Valley Farmers Institute** (*volunteer driven, non-profit organization incorporated under the Farmers & Women's Institutes Act with a long and rich history of proudly supporting agriculture in the Comox Valley since 1873. We are committed to agriculture, food, farming and farmers here in the Comox Valley.*) [The Comox Valley Farmers Institute](#)
- **FOOD PROCESSING/ SERVICES**
  - **LUSH Valley Food Action Society** (*connects local food networks, provides training, and programs that support sustainable agriculture, food security, and community economic development.*) [Home - LUSH](#)
  - **North Vancouver Island Culinary Association** (*Since its founding, the Federation has proudly represented professional chefs and cooks in Canada, fostering a deep and enduring tradition of excellence. Membership is open to anyone actively pursuing a career as a cook apprentice, journeyman cook, professional chef/cook, or other culinary and hospitality industry professional.*) [NVICA](#)
- **TOURISM / ACCOMODATION**
  - **Experience Comox Valley** (*a service of the Comox Valley Regional District and operated by 4EVER Strategies. It provides tourism information for the entire Comox Valley, and has directories of businesses and events.*) [Home](#) | [Experience Comox Valley](#)



- **CONSTRUCTION**

- **Vancouver Island Construction Association** (*The Vancouver Island Construction Association is proud to represent to industrial, commercial, institutional and multi-residential construction industry on Vancouver Island*) [Home - Vancouver Island Construction Association](#)
- **Canadian Home Builders' Association – Central Vancouver Island - Home**

- **FORESTRY & FOREST PRODUCTS**

- **Canadian Institute of Forestry** (*Founded in 1908, we serve as the voice of forest practitioners, representing foresters, forest technologists and technicians, ecologists, biologists, researchers, educators, students, Indigenous peoples, and many others interested in forests and forestry.*) [CIF-IFC](#)
- **Independent Wood Producers Association** (*The Independent Wood Processors Association represents British Columbia's higher value wood manufacturers that maximize the use of every stick of wood harvested. Our member companies are small and medium-sized companies, and many are family-owned, committed to the prosperity of their local communities and reinvesting in British Columbia.*) [Independent Wood Processors Association of BC](#)

- **FISHERIES**

- **Seafood Business Accelerator** (*The Seafood Business Accelerator (SBA) is a proven BC-based program to help local small-scale fishers, farmers, and processors develop more sustainable, profitable seafood businesses*) . [Program | Seafood Business Accelerator](#)
- **BC Salmon Farmers** (*The BC Salmon Farmers Association represents over 60 businesses and organizations throughout the value chain of finfish aquaculture in BC. We represent BC's vibrant salmon farming industry to the public, the government in BC and Ottawa, and industry stakeholders*) [BC Salmon Farmers Association British Columbia Salmon Farming | BC Salmon Farmers Association](#)



## GRANTS

### General Small Business Grants (Non-Government / Private / Blended)

- **RBC Foundation – Community Investment Fund** (Supports projects in youth, environment, and local economic development) <https://www.rbc.com/community-social-impact/apply-for-funding/index.html>
- **Awesome Foundation Grants** (\$1,000 micro-grants for community-based business ideas and projects) <https://www.awesomefoundation.org/en>
- **Startup Canada Awards & Ecosystem Fund** (Recognition and occasional funding for early-stage businesses) <https://www.startupcan.ca/>
- **Amber Grant (WomensNet)** (Monthly grants for women-owned businesses (includes Canadian applicants)) <https://ambergrantsforwomen.com/>
- **She's next Empowered by Visa** (She's Next represents Visa's efforts in women's advancement and taps the breadth of our global connections to be a force for good in women's advancement.) <https://www.visa.com/en-us/business/programs/shes-next>
- **Hello Alice Small Business Grants** (Ongoing private-funded grants for entrepreneurs (various partners)) <https://helloalice.com/grants/>
- **NACO (National Angel Capital Organization) Programs** (Occasionally offers funding competitions and investor connections) <https://nacocanada.com/>

### Agriculture & Rural-Focused Grants & Funding

- **Farm Credit Canada** (Supports rural community and agriculture-related capital projects) <https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/financing/agriculture>
- **Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF)** (blended delivery) (Delivers funding for ag innovation, infrastructure, and sustainability) <https://iafbc.ca/>
- **Organic BC / Small-Scale Producer Grants** (Varies annually, supports transition to organic and small-scale farm improvements) <https://organicbc.org/>
- **Young Agrarians Business Mentorship + Micro-Grants** (Supports new and small-scale farmers with funding + mentorship) <https://youngagrarians.org/>

