

Ladysmith

LIVE SMALL. THINK BIG.

Business Opportunities in the Professional Services Sector

Ladysmith Economic Development Commission





The business of balance.

There is so much more to life than just work. It is a rare thing to find a business community that balances passion and play. Until you find yourself in Ladysmith. This is where spirited, innovative and creative entrepreneurial minds grow roots and sprout wings. Which makes our job a whole lot easier. We are the Ladysmith Economic Development Commission, and we are in charge of creating the best environment for businesses of all kinds. We do things like support businesses to expand, leverage community assets to attract business investments and encourage sectors like the professional services industry to flourish.

Ladysmith: Live small. Think big.

Be where you want to be

“By locating my business in Ladysmith I get to be on vacation every day...and never have it end.”

– Ladysmith knowledge-based entrepreneur

In the Internet age many businesses can be operated out of almost any location, and more and more entrepreneurs are choosing quality of life over big city living. Our small-town atmosphere, coupled with incredible recreational opportunities and excellent amenities, makes Ladysmith an ideal location for professionals wanting to live a relaxed West Coast lifestyle.

Ladysmith at a glance

Ladysmith is located right on the 49th parallel, on the east coast of beautiful Vancouver Island. The town is built next to the ocean, just off tranquil Stuart Channel. It boasts a 5-mile natural harbour, and provides excellent boating access to the beautiful Gulf Islands. The mountains which surround it not only offer spectacular views, but also protect it from much of the rain that the rest of Vancouver Island experiences.

A place to grow

Ladysmith has experienced steady population growth since 2000, increasing by 7% over the last five years. The population has now reached 8,100. Most of this growth is due to relocation – that is, people choosing to move here.

The perfect lifestyle choice

Ladysmith was named “one of the 10 prettiest towns in Canada” by Harrowsmith Country Life Magazine. They describe Ladysmith as “remote enough to feel free of urban nuisances, urban enough not to feel remote.” This perfectly expresses the balance our town achieves between city convenience and country charm.

Here you’ll find all the technological tools you need to do business: high-speed Internet connections, dependable cell phone service and IT support. You’ll also find some features you might not expect in a small town, like alternative medical therapists, a vibrant arts community, and an established network of entrepreneurs with business links all over the world.



The professional services address of the future

More for your money

Affordability is a key factor for small businesses. Ladysmith offers a variety of real estate at a lower cost than in larger centres. Retail spaces, offices and industrial workshops are all available within city limits. And if you work from home, you'll be able to afford a larger "office" than you would in BC's bigger cities! Plus, current development plans include a waterfront work/live complex that would be perfect for many small businesses.

Staying connected

"My clients happily travel to Ladysmith to see me. It's so beautiful here. They come from Campbell River, Victoria, Vancouver and other communities." – Ladysmith knowledge-based entrepreneur.

Ladysmith is just far enough off the beaten track to be appealing – but still close enough to major transportation routes that it's easy to maintain regular, in-person contact with clients and colleagues.

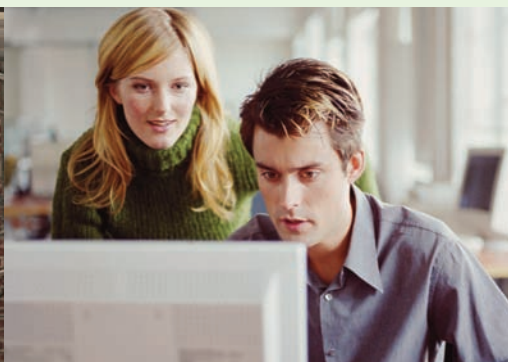
We are located right on the main population corridor of south-eastern Vancouver Island, on the main route between Nanaimo (26 km to the north) and Victoria (85 km to the south). And we have easy access to Nanaimo's two BC Ferry locations, which provide regular service to the mainland. Nanaimo airport, only ten minutes away, offers regularly scheduled flights to Vancouver and the Lower Mainland, and float planes fly directly to downtown Vancouver.

A great place for families

For many, the decision to gain control over their work hours and stress levels stems from a desire to spend more time with family. And Ladysmith is a great place to raise a family! We have excellent schools, great recreational amenities and an almost endless supply of family-friendly events and activities. Shopping, music, theatre and art facilities are all close by. Kayaking, sailing, bird watching, hiking and much more are available right on your doorstep. And because you won't be sitting in traffic jams, you'll have a whole bunch of extra time to do the things you love.

Environmental commitment

The town of Ladysmith is committed to doing its part for the environment. In 2006 it became one of the first municipalities in BC to start up a curb-side organic waste collection program, and organics now constitute 28% of the town's waste collection. This initiative has been recognized through a number of community and sustainability awards.





A climate for living + A beautiful natural setting + An active and engaged community
Family-friendly amenities and activities + Great schools and recreational facilities
An affordable cost of living + Real estate that holds its value + Charming small-town
ambience + Vibrant arts and cultural scene + Year-round events and festivities
A gateway to outdoor adventure + Committed to environmental stewardship + A strong
vision for a sustainable future + Convenient mid-Island location, right on the 49th parallel

Support for your business

As a small-business owner in Ladysmith, you won't be alone. We are already home to a number of successful entrepreneurs who have chosen to live and do business in our small but vibrant community. That means that you'll have a circle of peers to connect with.

Ladysmith's vision for a prosperous and sustainable future is supported by the Ladysmith Economic Development Commission (EDC) and its many pro-business initiatives. We are strongly committed to providing the support you need to be successful here – so you can be a part of our economic growth.



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