COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

About IRPbc’s rural communities

HAZELTON

- Area catchment of over 7,000, two thirds Aboriginal, including Gitxsan and Wet’suwet’en.
- Upper Skeena River, majestic mountains and natural beauty. Renowned for ancient culture and traditions, totems and famous ‘Ksan Indian Cultural Centre.
- Northern Health Authority. A 30-bed hospital with outpatient family practice and dental clinics is operated by United Church Health Services.
- Outdoor activities: fishing, hiking alpine meadows and glaciers, white water rafting, canoeing, and golfing.

BELLA COOLA

- Valley population: 2,500, half of whom are Aboriginal of the Nuxalk Nation.
- Situated in a mountain valley at the end of a magnificent long fjord. Strong Norwegian heritage from settlement in the 1890’s, and traditional home of the Nuxalk Nation.
- Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. Hospital operated by United Church Health Services, 15 beds, emergency, medical clinic, physiotherapy and mental health services. Range of community services and federal health services for the Nuxalk Nation.
- Outdoor activities: boating, kayaking, sailing, hiking, fishing, mountain and rock climbing.

PORT MCNEILL

- Population: 3,000.
- Mount Waddington District, on northeast coast of Vancouver Island.
- Coastal setting and abundant rainforest with many species of fish and wildlife. Across the bay is First Nations community Alert Bay, strong in the Kwakuitl culture and the oldest BC community.
- Vancouver Island Health Authority. An 11-bed hospital with emergency, physiotherapy and a new psychiatric observation unit.
- Mild climate allows for year-round outdoor activities: fishing, hiking, sailing, windsurfing, caving, diving, canoeing, and kayaking.

FORT ST. JOHN

- Population: 16,000.
- Northeast corner of BC, on the Alaska Highway.
- Wide skies, northern lights, impressive plateaus and a panoramic view of striking rivers, valleys, fertile fields, and stately forests.
- Northern Health Authority. Full-service hospital with 44 acute care beds, serving a catchment of 53,000.
- Outdoor activities: golfing, fishing, boating, swimming, horseback riding, hiking, and camping. Winter activities include curling, hockey and snowmobiling, along with cross country skiing.

TRAIL

- Population: 21,000.
- In the Kootenays, a mountainous region in the interior of BC.
- Interior Health Authority. Regional referral hospital with 75 acute and 50 extended care beds serves a catchment of 83,000.
- Activities: downhill and cross-country skiing, golfing, fishing, water sports, curling, hockey, and a new aquatic centre.

www.bcahc.ca/irpbc