



 **MIDDLE OF
*everywhere****

Agriculture Sector Overview

Welcome to the County of Grande Prairie

Life is Good in the Middle

The County of Grande Prairie is strategically located in Alberta's vibrant Peace Region, and serves the industrial, commercial and residential needs of Northwestern Alberta. The region's strong economic generators contribute significantly to Alberta's vibrant 'open-for-business' economy and success in the global marketplace.

As part of a larger Grande Prairie region, the County benefits from regional strengths and policies such as no provincial sales tax and low municipal tax, while maintaining a high level of service. When combined with world class infrastructure, good work force availability, and opportunities for continued growth, the County of Grande Prairie provides the ideal setting for continued agricultural development.

Room to Grow

The County of Grande Prairie is located in a resource-rich part of Alberta and Canada and serves four key sectors: Agriculture, Energy, Forestry, and Commerce.

A large selection of industrial/business parks, as well as large sites for heavy industrial areas, are available in various sizes and levels of service, from completely serviced to non serviced, and can include rail and major highway access.

We thank you for the interest you have shown in the County of Grande Prairie and we would be pleased to provide you with any further information you may require regarding business development opportunities in one of the fastest growing regions in Canada.



260,000
Estimated total population
within 200 km (124 mi)



The two major FMAs within the Peace Region cover over 1.3 million hectares of harvesting land.

Agriculture

Rich Soil and Long Summer Days

The Peace Region is home to the northernmost agricultural industry in the world, and boasts a unique combination of northern climate, fertile soil, and a watershed fed by glacial runoff. While it makes up a relatively small percentage of Canada's total agricultural land (5%), the Peace Region has a reputation for high-quality agricultural products.

Access to World Markets

Canada, on average, exports about 50% of all the principle grains it produces, while the Peace Region exports closer to 66%. Because the region is so export dependent, our excellent road and rail networks are a major benefit for agricultural producers in the region.

The Peace Region exported all of its canola in 2006, and 97% was shipped through the Port Metro Vancouver. Over 70% of wheat from the region was shipped through the Port of Prince Rupert, under direction from the Canadian Wheat Board. The Peace Region's food grains tend to be pooled with products from the rest of Canada, and are branded as "Canadian" grain. This practice has been important in securing key trade agreements with importers who require large, predictable supply.¹

Increased Yields

From 2006 to 2011, total farm receipts rose 28.1%, significantly higher than Alberta's increase of 15.6%. The Peace Region's canola acreage jumped 23.5% between 2006 and 2011, making it the number one crop in the region on an acreage basis. Wheat acreage also rose 33.1% and field pea acreage 88.8%.¹

Innovation: The County Biobed

The County of Grande Prairie's Agriculture Department has been working on a project that explores a new method for herbicide disposal from their weed control program. The project involves construction of Alberta's first biobed, set to begin use this summer.²

1.3 million
Hectares of agricultural
land

66%
of Peace Country
agricultural products
are exported

5%
of Canada's agricultural
land is in the Peace
Region

13.5%
County of Grande Prairie
Population Growth Over
Five Years

5.9%
National Average

1 "Peace Country: Agriculture", www.albertacanada.com, October 26, 2012. Retrieved Aug. 4, 2014.
<http://www.albertacanada.com/business/statistics/peace-country-agriculture.aspx>.

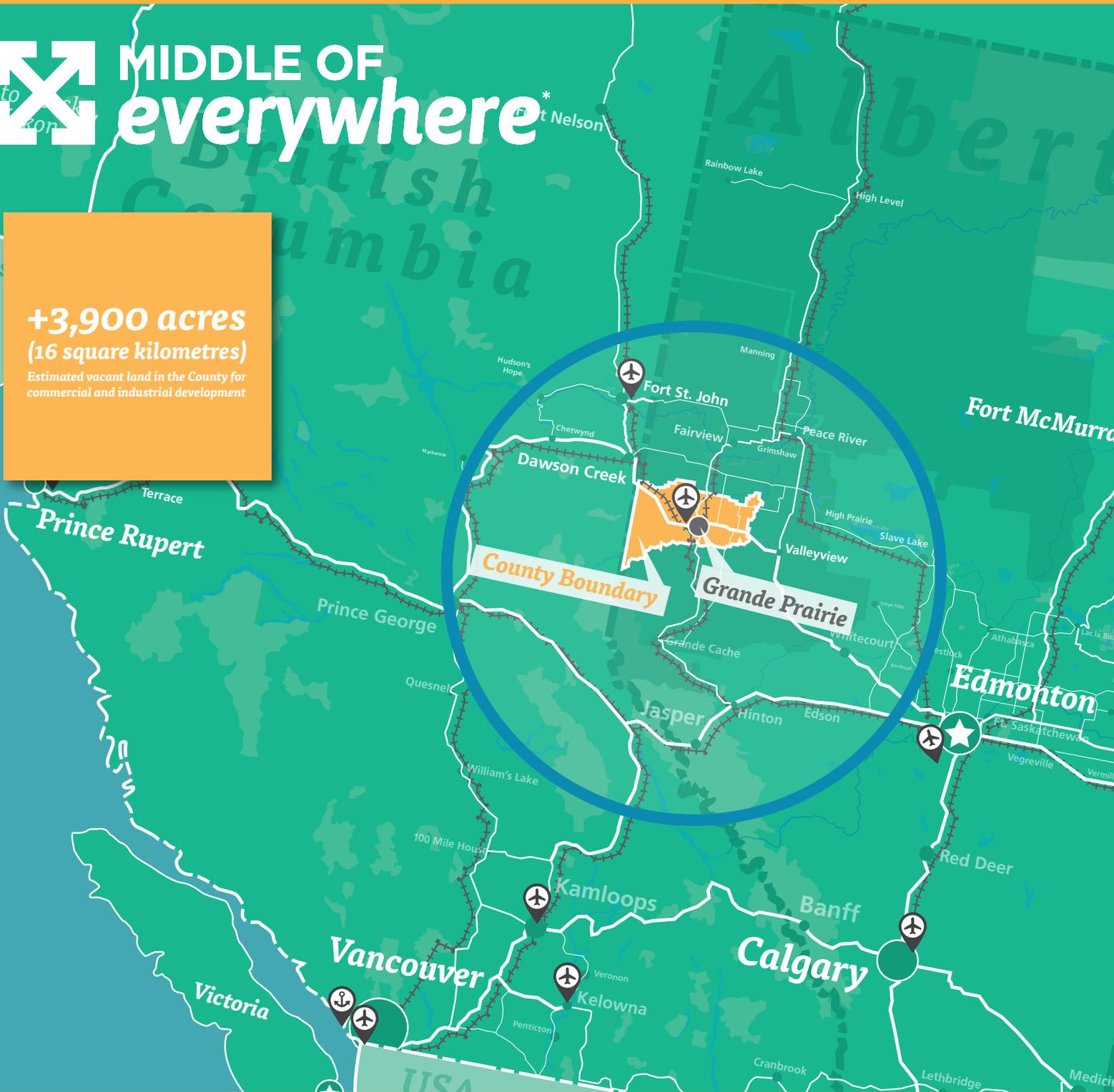
2 "New County Biobed", www.countygp.ab.ca. Retrieved Aug. 4, 2014.
<http://www.countygp.ab.ca/EN/main/government/county-projects/new-county-biobed.html>



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+3,900 acres
(16 square kilometres)

Estimated vacant land in the County for commercial and industrial development



County of
Grande Prairie No. 1
Alberta, Canada

Interested in knowing more?

Contact the County of Grande Prairie Economic Development Office.

Chris King

Economic Development Manager

Phone: 780-513-3956

Email: cking@countypg.ab.ca

www.middleofeverywhere.ca

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