



The **Vancouver Economic Development Commission**, an agency of the City of Vancouver, works to strengthen the city's economic future by helping existing businesses, attracting investment, researching the business environment and making policy recommendations.

Media Fact Sheet

City of Vancouver – Workforce

Talent Attraction

- Vancouver is consistently ranked in the top tier of Canadian cities in terms of attractiveness to young knowledge workers and to migrants in general
- Vancouver's natural beauty and lifestyle amenities is said to offer a "second paycheck" for workers
- Firms establishing offices in Vancouver generally cite the availability of talent at reasonable wages as a prime reason for coming to Vancouver

Education

- In 2008 Vancouver was named one of the smartest cities in the world by the Intelligent Community Forum.
- Vancouver's 3 universities, and its numerous colleges and trade schools, make it a huge generator of world-class talent, as well as a magnet for it.
- According to the OECD, Canada has the highest proportion of people aged 25-64 with a college or university certificate among all OECD countries.
- More than a third of the region's population has undergraduate degrees, and nearly ten per cent have advanced degrees.
- Greater Vancouver's population is better educated than the Canadian average, with the City of Vancouver having the second-highest education level among Canadian municipalities:
 - The City of Vancouver is one of the best-educated municipalities in Canada, with 39 per cent of the working age population having a university diploma or above (Canadian average: 23 per cent)
 - 63 per cent of the city's working age population has a university or college education (Canadian average 48 per cent (*source: 2006 Census))

Growth and Diversity

- The regional population is growing by 1.3 per cent annually and is expected to reach three million by 2030. Businesses benefit from a diverse workforce that's growing fast—more than 40,000 people immigrate to British Columbia each year.
- More than two-thirds of recent immigrants came from Asia.
- Immigrants account for 40 per cent of the region's population, the second highest level among North American city-regions.

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- Canadian and B.C. government policies encourage immigration of people with business and employment-related skills:
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 - Half of those immigrating between 2001 and 2006 had a university degree or diploma
 - Among working age individuals, immigrants account for more than half of master's degrees and doctorate degrees.
- More than 40 per cent of the region's population regularly speaks a language other than English or French at home. Cantonese, Mandarin, other Chinese dialects and Punjabi are the most widely used non-English languages.

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