



Thunder Bay

As the geographical centre of North America and the largest metropolitan centre in Northwestern Ontario, Thunder Bay has a population of over 109,000 residents. Historically, the city's location as a gateway to vast tracks of wilderness made it a strong participant in resource industries. Today, Thunder Bay and Northern Ontario are demonstrating the capacity to build and sustain a knowledge-based economy that provides a diversity of good jobs and academic opportunities for our citizens.



Infrastructure

Situated near the Trans-Canada Highway, the Ontario/Minnesota border crossing is less than one hour south of Thunder Bay. The city has ready access to Canadian National Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway rail lines. Thunder Bay is a one or two-hour flight from major centres in Canada and the United States.

The Port of Thunder Bay on Lake Superior is at the head of an important transportation link through the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway to destinations within Canada, the United States and internationally. Approximately 450 ships visit the port every year.

Education

Thunder Bay has excellent primary and secondary educational opportunities with over 60 schools that include French immersion programs, comprehensive special education services, an International Baccalaureate Programme and an Outdoor Education Centre. Lakehead University is one of Canada's comprehensive universities with enrolments of just under 10,000. The Faculty of Graduate Studies oversees 28 Masters programs as well as Doctoral programs in Educational Studies, Clinical Psychology, Forest Sciences, Biotechnology and Sociology. Confederation College provides over 70 programs at its main campus in Thunder Bay and in six regional campuses in Northwestern Ontario.

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) is joint initiative between Laurentian University (Sudbury) and Lakehead University (Thunder Bay).





Advanced Manufacturing

Advanced Manufacturing is evolving and using more environmental and social approaches, and deals with local communities, and others as legitimate stakeholders in resource development. Bombardier Transportation manufactures transportation equipment for transit systems such as the Toronto Transit Commission and GO Transit. As well, the city has a skilled fabrication labour pool that is diversifying operations to accommodate increased economic activity in Western Canada.

Information Communications Technology

TBayTel is Canada's largest independently municipally owned telecommunications company, TBayTel is a full service telecommunications carrier operating a digitally switched fibre optic based network throughout the City of Thunder Bay and 21 surrounding townships. In addition to its local presence, TBayTel currently provides Internet and advanced broadband data services to several communities located throughout Northwestern Ontario. TBayTel brings over 100 years of proven performance in the delivery of quality, reliable and affordable communications solutions to customers.

Aerospace and Aviation

The Thunder Bay International Airport is the third busiest in Ontario, servicing over half a million passengers annually – nationally and internationally. Thunder Bay's high eastbound volumes coupled with its discount carrier air schedule provide the best route network of any Canadian city under a population of one million.

The Thunder Bay Aviation Centre of Excellence (ACE) is a world-class facility that meets the growing demand for qualified aviation professionals needed globally.



Health Sciences

With innovative technology, clinical successes, strategic partnerships, and scientific and research breakthroughs, the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is a world-class healthcare, training and academic facility. The Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre along with the integrated cancer program, Regional Cancer Care, has implemented leading-edge technology to provide the highest standards of patient care.



The Northern Ontario School of Medicine at Lakehead University will pave the way for future research and development (R&D) activities in Thunder Bay.

Thunder Bay provides a strategic advantage for companies interested in locating in an emerging biomedical, DNA and forensic science nucleus. With many world class experts in the field, work in the areas of mitochondrial DNA, genetic DNA analysis, and cancer research and development is propelling forward in Thunder Bay.



Alternative Energy and Environmental Technologies

Opportunities for using energy and conservation as economic development tools are robust. With our proximity to Lake Superior, Thunder Bay enjoys very dynamic high winter wind speeds coupled with cold dense air, which combines to deliver a significant energy yield. The development of clean, green energy from renewable sources such as wind, solar, water and biomass offer potential employment and the attraction of industry and high technology companies.

Quality of Life

A distinctly multi-cultural community, Thunder Bay features a rich ethnic mosaic with strong roots in Europe. As a major regional centre, Thunder Bay offers a unique and rewarding lifestyle for both the resident and visitor. The City features better-than-average sports and recreational facilities and one of the continent's finest aquatic sports facilities.

With its long history of affordable and high-quality housing, Thunder Bay consistently ranks among the Canadian cities with the highest percentage of single-detached home ownership in Canada. Also, housing prices in the City have consistently grown at below the national average.