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## **Message from the Mayor**

Ashcroft is the heart of "Gold Country", and is the gateway community to the Cariboo. Ashcroft's sunny and arid climate has a unique appeal for business investment. In Ashcroft rests one thousand acres of flat, easily serviceable land that has both rail lines traversing the same side of the river. This land will soon be available for manufacturing and business investment.

But there is more. Ashcroft's spectacular scenery is also increasingly popular with film, TV and commercial producers, especially when they are looking for an authentic western feel. Check us out. Our local airport will accommodate Lear or Citation jets and is well maintained.

But you certainly don't have to fly in to see us. We're just off the Trans Canada Highway in ginseng and haying country. We are also the gateway community to the Highland Valley and the Okanagan from the North as Highway 97C to Kelowna starts here. Ranchland surrounds us and the lifestyle here is safe, congestion free and affordable. We are known as the Arizona of the North but with affordable water. Springs start early and winter is usually late.

Do you have a virtual business? Need affordable access to the Internet? Cable, telephone line, or wireless, we want to work with you to make it happen here. We are connected to the University College of the Cariboo and School District #74 is headquartered here. Education is good business. Our youth are involved in beautification projects and have shown respect for the recreational infrastructure.

We are aggressively seeking new opportunities and additional investment. Tourism, hospitality, and industry are coming to Ashcroft. IKO Industry is the latest company to invest a 45 million dollar quarry and colourization plant here. We want to work with you in helping to maximize on the Ashcroft opportunity.

Join us in the development of our comprehensive marketing plant of the Gold Rush Trail. Visit the "Best Little Museum in the West". We are known as "Historical Ashcroft" and our Millennium Park will surprise you with its beauty and history.

Enough said. Pick up the phone and ask for the Mayor (250-453-9161). Or e-mail me at [helandy@goldtrail.com](mailto:helandy@goldtrail.com) or [rhood@goldtrail.com](mailto:rhood@goldtrail.com). We are open for business and look forward to the opportunity of working with you to make your investment come true.

Best regards,  
The Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft



Andy Kormendy  
Mayor

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# Community Overview

The Village of Ashcroft, “The Heart of Gold Country”, is in the South Central Interior of the province of British Columbia. Nestled in a valley beside the mighty Thompson River, Ashcroft is located 10 km from Cache Creek on Highway #97C. Ashcroft is a founding partner of “Gold Country”, an alliance with the communities of Cache Creek, Clinton, Lytton and Spences Bridge. These communities welcome you to experience the history of “The Gold Rush Trail”.

As the gateway to the Cariboo and the North, Ashcroft serves as a centre providing amenities to both its own residents and the traveling public. It is a thriving community with an economy based in mining, forestry, ranching, transportation services and tourism industries. Tourism is experiencing significant growth as both North American and international tourists are attracted to the area.

Ashcroft features fully service residential and commercial properties. More importantly, it is a community prepared to encourage new business enterprise while maintaining its attractive quality of life. For entrepreneurs interested in business, Ashcroft offers an ideal setting to operate a storefront or home based business.

Ashcroft’s mild climate, relaxing lifestyle and low cost of living is well suited for seniors and young working families. The community offers a safe and peaceful environment that includes all the amenities of a sustainable community including education, health care and recreational opportunities. A general hospital and medical centre provide healthcare. Emergency services include a fire department, R.C.M.P. detachment and ambulance service. Education is available from kindergarten through grade 12 with post-secondary opportunities also available. Recreational opportunities abound in the area with up to date facilities and a wilderness backcountry. Current infrastructure, which includes a modern sewage and water system, is capable of serving more than double the current population. Other services include financial, legal and realty offices, a mini mall, two grocery stores and over 140 other businesses.

## Geographic Location

Ashcroft lies on a flat bench next to the Thompson River in a unique desert setting. Rolling hills that rise steeply in the east and extend to the west to form the Highland Valley Plateaus surround the community that is centrally located in the South Central Interior.

The elevation of the community is 335.2 meters above sea level. Its latitude and longitude coordinates are: 50°5' north by 121°5' west.

City	KM	Miles	Travel Time
Calgary	637	425	7 ¾
Edmonton	838	559	8 ½
Kamloops	81	54	1
Kelowna	224	149	3
Prince George	394	262	4 ½
Vancouver	466	311	5 ½
Seattle	286	191	3 ¼

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## Climate

Ashcroft's climate can best be characterized as dry continental, dominated by Pacific air movements northward and eastward along the valleys. The summers can bring temperatures over 35 degrees Celsius and the winters are mild with an average daytime temperature of -5 degrees. Very little precipitation falls in the valley throughout the year.

Climate Statistics	
Annual Mean	8.7
July Mean	29.6
January Mean	-10.1
Rainfall (mm)	153.1
Snowfall (mm)	505.0

## Trading Area

Ashcroft has a trading area that encompasses the communities of Cache Creek, Clinton, Spences Bridge, Lytton and Walhachin. The estimated population of the trading area is 4,600.

### Cache Creek

Cache Creek is situated at the junction of Trans Canada Highway #1 and Highway #97, approximately 10 kilometers north of Ashcroft. Since the mid-1800's, Cache Creek has been an important stop for travelers. Today visitors come to enjoy the scenery and participate in outdoor activities. Cache Creek's economic base lies in tourism, forestry, and waste management. Cache Creek is a strong community with a positive attitude towards new industry and new residents. Strategically located at a major highway junction, combined with the readily available land, opportunities for investment are endless.

### Clinton

The Village of Clinton, "The Guest Ranch Capital of Canada", is located 50 kilometers north of Trans Canada Highway #1. As a midway point between Vancouver and Prince George, the community serves as a centre to both its residents and the traveling public. Clinton's economy is driven mainly by forestry, although ranching and tourism are significant contributors.

### Spences Bridge

Spences Bridge is located in the "Sunshine Bowl" at the junction of the South Cariboo sub region transportation route of the Trans Canada Highway and Highway #8, approximately 46 kilometers south of Ashcroft. The community relies on tourism as its primary industry and agriculture as its secondary industry. Outdoor enthusiasts are attracted by a number of activities including trail rides, river rafting, hiking and sightseeing. Agriculture in the area primarily consists of self-sufficient ranchers who grow corn and hay as well as some fruit farmers who sell their produce at roadside fruit stands.

### Lytton

Lytton is located at the north end of the famous Fraser Canyon and marks the point where the Fraser and Thompson Rivers flow together, approximately 86 kilometers south of Ashcroft. Recent boundary extensions have made Lytton the biggest Village in B.C. Recent re-zoning in the community has also created new investment and development opportunities in the area. Although the community relies on forestry, tourism and an international reputation for white water rafting has put Lytton on the map for adventure seekers.

## **Walhachin**

Walhachin lies 36 kilometers east of Ashcroft on the south side of the Thompson River. The community has an outstanding climate, low traffic flow, and a quiet, safe environment, all of which make the community attractive to residents, tourists and businesses. Agriculture and ranching are the main economic activities in the area, although a large number of residents commute to work in either Ashcroft or Cache Creek.

## **History**

The Thompson-Shuswap Natives first called the area “Tuk Tuk Chin”, but the Village name was eventually borrowed from Ashcroft Manor, first established as a stagecoach stop in 1862 and later became the best known ranch in the area. Two gold prospectors in 1860, John Christopher Barnes and William Brink, first settled the area. Together they ran a 300 acre homestead, irrigated the land and grew forage crops and potatoes. The ranch became the Village of Ashcroft and helped establish Ashcroft’s role as a gateway to the Cariboo and the North for more than forty years.

The Canadian Pacific Railway arrived in 1885 and Ashcroft quickly became a major supply centre for the North. Accommodations and services increased rapidly with the influx of people and by 1887, the BC Express Company, a famous stagecoach line in Yale, had relocated to Ashcroft where it stayed for 35 years.

During the period 1886-1920, the Village of Ashcroft flourished. By 1920, however, the Pacific Great Eastern Railway was built which accessed Prince George and the Northern Interior of British Columbia from Alberta. Ashcroft lost its strategic position as a supply centre for the North, spelling the end of a prosperous era.

During that same time, Chinese immigrants were doing experimental planting and reaping benefits from the sale of tomatoes and potatoes. The BC Express Company decided to convert their freight barn in Ashcroft into a tomato cannery and consequently put BC Express workers back to work. The cannery remained open until 1957.

It was also at that time that the predecessor to what is now known as the Highland Valley Copper Mine went into operation. Because of the mine, the community was able to survive while new industries developed and created the diverse economy seen in Ashcroft today.

# **Economic Base**

Mining, agriculture, forestry and tourism form a strong, diversified economic base for the area. Although mining is the dominant economic activity, tourism is the fastest growing sector. Agriculture and forestry rank third and fourth as economic sectors. The main activities for agriculture are cattle ranching and hay production. A wood treating operation is the primary forestry-related activity in Ashcroft.

The mining industry includes the Highland Valley Copper Mine and a new rock quarry. The quarry’s final product is used in the manufacture of shingles for houses.

Many residents of Ashcroft are employed at the Cache Creek Woodchip and Wastech (landfill) operation. This combined venture sees both operations working together for maximum efficiency. Municipal solid waste from the Greater Vancouver Regional District is hauled into the landfill and woodchips are hauled back to the lower mainland. The landfill has planned to expand its operations to another local site when the current location reaches capacity.

The film industry is a budding economic sector for Ashcroft and the entire region. Numerous movie and television productions have been shot in the region and the number will continue to grow as the TNRD's Film Commission continues to actively market the area as ideal for production.

## **Important Economic Activities**

### **Mining**

Ashcroft sits on the northern perimeter of the copper rich Highland Valley area. Highland Valley Copper is the area's major producing mine and the world's second largest open-pit mining operation. The mine was formed as a partnership between Lornex Mining, Cominco and Highmont Mining, and is located on Highway #97C, approximately 38 kilometers east of Ashcroft.

The company operates two open-pit mine sites, extracting 90 million tonnes of ore per year and shipping out 400,000 tonnes of clean, high-grade ore to smelters around the world. The tailing pond measures 13 kilometers in length and acts as a controlled catch basin for recycled, surface drainage and fresh well and river water. The largest sand dam in the world encloses the pond.

Currently, reclamation processes are being enacted to ensure the land is returned to its natural state. Some of the ultimate uses planned for the area include enhanced grazing land for both cattle and wildlife, irrigated flat areas for hay production and recreational areas for use by the public.

### **Tourism**

The greatest potential revenue generator for Ashcroft and the surrounding region is in tourism. Although a gateway to a pristine natural environment, the community is also a destination and starting point for heritage and history buffs following the Gold Rush Trail north to Barkerville.

Heritage buildings from the Gold Rush days of the 1860's invite you to browse the community's streets. The community's historic feel has attracted the movie industry numerous times in recent years. As Ashcroft continues to develop and restore the heritage and western themes in its downtown core, more movie productions are likely to consider the community as a set location.

The lakes and rivers of the area are teeming with fish and are considered to have some of the best fly fishing in the province. One of the main attractions is Loon Lake located 30 kilometers to the north. It boasts a rainbow trout hatchery as well as a provincial park. The Loon Creek Hatchery is one of five run by the province and Loon Lake itself is stocked with rainbow trout. Anglers of any skill will enjoy an unforgettable experience. Combined, the provincial hatcheries populate 1,200 lakes with 10-12 million fish each year.

Historic Hat Creek Ranch, approximately 20 kilometers to the north, is located on one of the few original sections of the Cariboo Wagon Road still accessible to the public. The ranch offers a rare opportunity to explore the original buildings of a key location in the transportation history of the Cariboo. A former Hudson's Bay Company man, Donald McLean began operating a roadhouse serving teams and passengers of the B.C. Express Stage line. Freight wagons pulled by as many as 16 horses rumbled through the ranch, carrying mining supplies and settlers' effects to Barkerville and beyond. Today, you can visit a landmark of British Columbia's history as it is being carefully restored.

The NI'Apaxm Eagle Motorplex is found 6 kilometers west of Ashcroft on Trans Canada Highway #1. The Motorplex is a NHRA (drag racing) sanctioned track with races held from spring until fall. Some of the cars that attend are capable of covering a quarter mile in 5.5 seconds from a standing start and reach speeds in excess of 250 mph.

The Semlin Valley Golf Course, situated in the gently rolling hills just north of Ashcroft, is a challenging, 2,950 yard nine hole public golf course that complements an array of sporting facilities that can be found in the area. Tennis and basketball courts, softball diamonds, soccer fields, rodeo grounds, a curling rink, an indoor ice rink and swimming pool all provide competitive sporting facilities. Outdoor enthusiasts can also enjoy hiking, mountain biking and horse back riding on their own, or participate in cattle ranching at one of the many guest ranches that are located throughout the region.

In the winter, visitors and residents can take advantage of some the best cross-country ski trails in the province just 55 kilometers southeast of Ashcroft. The Logan Lake ski trail system includes 36 kilometers of groomed trails with two kilometers lit for night skiing. Just east of Logan Lake are the Stake Lake Ski Trails and the Overlander Ski Club. They offer 45 kilometers of well-groomed classic and skating tracks to please skiers of all abilities. Cross-country skiing can also be found in Clinton, 52 kilometers to the north. The Clinton Snow Jockey Club maintains over 60 kilometers of marked ski trails that are groomed regularly and easily accessed 15 kilometers outside Clinton.

### **Forestry**

Forestry in the Ashcroft area continues to focus on the value added processing of wood. Cache Creek Woodchips Ltd., nine kilometers north, began operations in 1989. Logging trucks haul into Cache Creek at a steady rate from all over the Southern Interior to supply the operation that annually consumes 350,000 cubic meters of logs. Hemlock is the primary wood used at the chip plant due to its low grade and suitability to chip and pulp production.

Ashcroft Treating, the wood treating division of Timber West Forest Products Ltd., is another value added forestry based company. They supply ties and wood trestles to four major North American railways (CPR, CNR, BCR and SooLine). The facility is located just east of Ashcroft and is the largest creosote treatment plant in Canada.

### **Waste Management**

The Cache Creek Landfill (Wastech) receives municipal solid waste from the Greater Vancouver Regional District at an average rate of 25 trucks per day, excluding local refuse from Ashcroft and Cache Creek. Currently, the Cache Creek Landfill Site's disposal rate amounts to approximately 500,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste per year. Operated through the Village of Cache Creek, the landfill represents a large boost to the Village of Cache Creek's revenue that is put back into the community.

### **Agriculture**

Cattle ranching and hay production are the main agricultural activities in the region. Extensive rangeland available in the area makes conditions ideal for large cattle operations and the potential exists for large commercial hay and alfalfa production. The feasibility of a commercial feed pellet operation could also be explored.

The area is also well known for its vegetable and fruit production. Today, small quantities of fruit and vegetables are grown along the Bonaparte River and Thompson River Valleys and marketed primarily through roadside stands and local markets.

### **Film Production**

In 1988, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District established a Film Commission whose mandate was to promote the region as a location to the film and television industry. In 1998, a re-constituted Film Commission Board was established to better position itself and to take advantage of film industry opportunities.

Numerous feature films, movies of the week, television episodes and commercials have been filmed in the area. The feature film, "The Pledge", directed by Sean Penn and starring Jack Nicholson and Robyn White conducted principle photography in the year 2000.

**Other projects shot in this area include:**

- The Sweet Here After
- Christmas in Calico
- Hard Core Logo
- Cadence
- Jack Rabbit Patrol
- Flower and Garnet
- X-Files
- America's Most Wanted
- Eyes of a Cowboy
- 5th Estate - Cattle Drive
- Bird on a Wire
- An Unfinished Life

Also, numerous commercials have been shot for clients such as Toyota, Ford, Kodak, Miller Beer, Nescafe, Yamaha, Canadian Tire and Chivas Regal to name a few. These projects provide a boost to the local economy with large production crews taking advantage of the services offered in the community and local residents obtaining parts as extras during filming.

# Demographic Profile

*The following information is based on Statistics Canada's 2001 Census, unless otherwise stated.*

## Population Characteristics

According to Stats Canada Census 2001, the population of Ashcroft in 2001 was 1,790 a 3.8% decrease from 1996. The 45-64 age group represents the largest percentage of the population at 32.8%, compared to 25.1% provincially. As a percentage of total population, the 25-44 age group accounts for 19.6% compared to 30.1% provincially. The population of Ashcroft represents 1.5% of the regional population of 119,222.

Age Distribution				
Age Group	Male	Female	Total	BC
0-14	150	135	285	706,065
15-24	80	110	195	514,340
25-44	155	190	345	1,174,775
45-64	295	295	585	979,455
65+	180	205	380	533,085
All Ages	865	920	1,790	3,907,740

Source: Statistics Canada

Average Family Size			
Family Size	Approx. #	Community	BC
2-Person	275	53.9%	47%
3-Person	85	16.7%	21%
4-Person	60	11.8%	22%
5-Person	85	16.7%	11%

Source: Statistics Canada 1996

## Income Characteristics

The average annual income for males is 31.2% higher than the provincial average of \$31,544. Since 1996, the community has seen a 28.6% increase in male income and a 5.3% decrease in annual female income.

Average Annual Income				
Income	Male	Female	Community	BC
Average	\$41,377	\$17,166	\$29,402	\$31,544
Median	\$28,556	\$12,908	\$17,753	\$21,809

Source: Stats Canada

Annual Income Distribution			
Income	Males	Females	BC
\$0-\$15,000	230	440	1,009,590
\$15,000-\$25,000	120	130	480,770
\$25,000-\$35,000	110	70	382,480
\$35,000-\$50,000	120	80	399,080
\$50,000-\$100,000	210	30	378,320
\$100,000+	10	0	64,280

Source: Statistics Canada

Employment represents the largest source of income for Ashcroft's residents at 62.0%, compared to 65.9% provincially. Since the 1996 Census, Tax-Exempt has seen the greatest change increasing by 0.5%.

Income Source		
Source	Community	BC
Employment	62.0%	65.9%
Pension	18.0%	11.9%
Investment	8.0%	9.0%
Self-Employed	1.8%	5.2%
Tax-Exempt	3.5%	2.7%
Other	6.7%	5.2%

Source: Statistics Canada

## Employment Characteristics

Unemployment Rates				
Rates	Male	Female	Total	BC
Unemployment	7.1%	6.5%	6.7%	8.5%
Participation	59.9%	51.0%	55.6%	65.2%

Source: Statistics Canada

Currently the largest employing industry in Ashcroft is Health and education. It employs approximately 20.0% of the work force compared to 17.0% provincially.

Labour Force By Industry		
Industry	Community	BC
Total Experienced Labour Force	810	2,014,600
Agriculture and other resource-based industries	12%	5%
Manufacturing and construction industries	13%	16%
Wholesale and retail trade	14%	16%
Finance and real estate	3%	6%
Health and education	20%	17%
Business services	19%	20%
Other services	18%	21%

Source: Statistics Canada

1996 BC statistics show Ashcroft's self-employment rate at 12.9% of males and 11.1% of females. The 2001 BC Census shows a female increase of 0.5%. Provincially since 1996, self-employment dropped 8.3% for males and 0.3% for females.

Employment vs. Self-Employment		
Gender & Status	Community	BC
MALES		
Paid Employees	95.7%	90.2%
Self-Employed	4.3%	9.8%
FEMALES		
Paid Employees	88.4%	89.1%
Self-Employed	11.6%	10.9%

Source: Statistics Canada

## Construction & Housing Characteristics

The average cost of rent in Ashcroft is 35.4% less than the provincial average of \$751. The same can also be said for the average value of homes that are 50.9% less than the provincial average of \$230,645. As a percentage of total housing stock, single-detached homes represent the largest portion at 65.8% with apartment buildings second at 21.7%. Provincially, single detached homes represent 56% and apartment buildings 20%.

Dwelling Characteristics		
Characteristics	Community	BC
Dwellings Owned	565	1,017,490
Avg. Major Payment	\$524	\$904
Dwellings Rented	210	512,365
Avg. Rent	\$485	\$751
Avg. Value of Dwelling	\$113,241	\$230,645

Source: Statistics Canada

According to 2001 Census data, 72.9% of dwellings are owned and 27.1% are rented, compared to 66.5% owned and 33.5% rented provincially.

Dwellings By Structural Type			
Structural Type	# of Private Dwellings	Community	BC
Total # of Occupied Private Dwellings	760	100%	100%
Single-detached House	485	63.8%	56.0%
Semi-detached House	15	2.0%	3.0%
Row House	25	3.4%	6.0%
Apartment, Detached Duplex	-	0.0%	6.0%
Apartment Building	165	21.7%	20.0%
Other Single Attached House	10	1.3%	0.0%
Movable Dwelling	60	7.9%	3.0%

Source: Statistics Canada 1996



**Programs**

- employment insurance
- social insurance numbers
- wage subsidies
- training
- employment projects
- summer work for students

**Services available to employers:**

- access to available workers
- free vacancy advertising
- wage subsidy programs
- Revenue Canada TD1 forms
- labour market information

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ashcroft & District Employment Phone: (250) 453-9050 Fax: (250) 453-9834  
 E-mail: [eso@goldcountry.bc.ca](mailto:eso@goldcountry.bc.ca)

# The Business Community

There are in excess of 142 businesses currently operating in Ashcroft. Over the past ten years, the number has steadily increased partly fueled by the recent establishment of home-based businesses throughout the area. For more information contact the Ashcroft and District Chamber of Commerce.

Number of Businesses by Type			
Categories	#	Categories	#
Accounting/Bookkeeping	5	Hair Stylist/Barber	4
Apartments/Mobile/Trailer	5	Health Food	1
Automotive	3	Heating/Plumbing	3
Bank/Finance	1	Insurance Agent	1
Bed & Breakfast	3	Janitorial	5
Cable	1	Landscaping	2
Computer	2	Legal Services	4
Concrete	1	Motel/Hotel/Campsite	2
Confectionary/Bakery/Deli	1	News/Advertising	1
Consulting	2	Picture/Print	2
Contractor	7	Property Management	1
Craft/Sewing	1	Real Estate	2
Dentist	1	Retail	21
Dog Grooming	2	Service Stations	1
Drug Store	1	Taxi Services	1
Electrical	4	Welding	3
Excavating	2	Other	28
Funeral Burial	1	Grocery Stores	3

Source: Village of Ashcroft

# Community Infrastructure

## Transportation Infrastructure

The Village of Ashcroft is responsible for snow removal, general clean up and maintenance of roads within the community. A contractor for the provincial government provides general road maintenance, snow removal and paving for several provincial highways and side roads throughout the Ashcroft area.

### Major Highways

Historic Ashcroft is located 10 kilometers south of the junction between Trans Canada Highway #1 and Highway #97, on Highway #97C. Traveling the Trans Canada Highway #1, Ashcroft is located in the South Central Interior about 93 kilometers west of Kamloops and 338 kilometers northeast of Vancouver. Located ten kilometers north, Cache Creek is the nearest municipality at the junction of Highway #97 and the Trans Canada Highway. Highway #97C provides access to Logan Lake, 55 kilometers east, and Merritt, 97 kilometers to the southwest.

### Rail Services

The Canadian National Railway (C.N.R.), and the Canadian Pacific Railway (C.P.R) provide cargo service in Ashcroft.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

- |          |                       |   |
|----------|-----------------------|---|
| • C.N.R. | Phone: 1-888-888-5909 | Web: <a href="http://www.cn.ca">www.cn.ca</a>   |
| • C.P.R. | Phone: 1-800-704-4000 | Web: <a href="http://www.cpr.ca">www.cpr.ca</a> |

Passenger rail services are available through VIA Rail Canada.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

VIA Rail	Phone: 1-800-561-8630	Web: <a href="http://www.viarail.ca">www.viarail.ca</a>
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### Air Services

The Campbell Hill Airport is located seven kilometers north of Ashcroft and is shared with Cache Creek. The paved airstrip is 3,310 feet long and can accommodate modern commercial jets and turbo-prop aircraft. For more information contact the Village of Ashcroft.

The closest scheduled air service is provided at the Kamloops Airport.

The Kamloops Airport accommodates three scheduled airline companies that provide flights to Vancouver, Calgary and Prince George. There is an average of more than 75 scheduled flights in and out of the airport every week. The runway and the navigation system allow for the landing of modern commercial jets and turbo-prop aircraft.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kamloops Airport	Phone: (250) 376-3613
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### Bus Services

Bus services are available in Cache Creek.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Greyhound Bus Lines	Phone: (250) 457-6232	Web: <a href="http://www.greyhound.ca">www.greyhound.ca</a>
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### **Trucking Services**

Trucking Services are available in Ashcroft. For more information contact the Ashcroft & District Chamber of Commerce.

### **Taxi Services**

Taxi services are available in Ashcroft.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

B & B Taxi Phone: (250) 457-9191

## **Communications Infrastructure**

### **Newspaper**

- The Journal Phone: (250) 453-2261
- Kamloops Daily News Phone: (250) 372-2331 Fax: (250) 374-3884

### **Radio**

- J C-55 550 AM
- CIFM 95.3 FM
- CHNL 1340 AM
- CBC 860 AM
- CFMA 105.9 FM
- CKRV 102.1 (cable only)

### **Television**

Off-Air:

Community Broadcasting	Channel 8
CFJC (CBC affiliate)	Channel 10
BCTV	Channel 12
Knowledge Network	Channel 24

Cable:

40 channels are currently available in Ashcroft.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Copper Valley Cablevision Phone: (250) 453-2616 Fax: (250) 453-9960

### **Telephone Services**

TELUS provides telephone services to Ashcroft and area via one exchange: 453.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

TELUS Phone: (250) 372-4264 Web: [www.telus.com](http://www.telus.com)  
Toll Free: 1-888-811-2323

### **Internet Services**

Internet access is a reality. A partnership of several local organizations has resulted in the community having toll-free dial-up services to the World Wide Web. Goldtrail.com is a community-owned domain and the community also has its own server, goldcountry.bc.ca, where residents can get a free e-mail account and rent web space at a nominal rate.

Ashcroft residents have dial service with 56k access or cable access via Copper Valley Cable. Telus provides ISDN and ADSL service. For more information contact the Village of Ashcroft.

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## Political/Government Infrastructure

Ashcroft was incorporated on June 27, 1952, and is within Electoral Area 'I' of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD). A mayor and four councilors, each serving a three-year concurrent term, govern the Village of Ashcroft.

### The Village of Ashcroft is staffed by:

- village administrator
- deputy clerk treasurer
- public union staff
- public works foreman
- public work employees
- museum curator
- seasonal employees

### The Village of Ashcroft provides the following services:

- recreational facilities and community halls
- fire protection
- water distribution system
- cemetery
- public works
- sewage treatment plant
- airport

For more information contact the Village of Ashcroft. Ashcroft and surrounding areas are levied taxes for General Municipal Services provided by the TNRD and capital costs of hospital facilities provided by the Thompson-Nicola Regional Hospital District. The TNRD, covering an area of 45,279 square kilometers, was incorporated in 1967. It is managed by a Regional Board of Directors, consisting of ten elected rural and twelve appointed municipal council members. Electoral Area 'I' and Ashcroft each have a representative on the TNRD Board.

### As Regional Government, the TNRD provides the following functions and services:

- administration building and site
- regional parks
- regional & community planning/subdivision & zoning
- building inspection
- television re-broadcasting
- public library services
- film commission
- fire protection

For more information contact the TNRD.

### In addition, the Provincial Government maintains a number of offices in Ashcroft:

- |                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Government Agent Office             | Phone: (250) 453-2412 |
| • Liquor Distribution Office          | Phone: (250) 453-2542 |
| • Ministry of Social Services         | Phone: (250) 453-9188 |
| • Ministry of Transportation and Hwys | Phone: (250) 453-2456 |
| • Motor Vehicle Branch                | Phone: (250) 453-9133 |
| • Provincial Ambulance Service        | Phone: (250) 453-2533 |
| • South Central Health Unit           | Phone: (250) 453-1940 |

### The Federal Government operates:

- |               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| • Canada Post | Phone: (250) 453-2512 |
| • R.C.M.P.    | Phone: (250) 453-2216 |

**First Nations also have a presence in the community.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ashcroft First Nations

Phone: (250) 453-9154

Fax: (250) 453-9156

## **Utilities**

### **Natural Gas**

Natural Gas is available in Ashcroft.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Terasen

Phone: 1-888-224-2710

Web: [www.terasen.com](http://www.terasen.com)

### **Propane**

Propane can be purchased in bulk in Cache Creek from a number of suppliers. For more information contact the Cache Creek Chamber of Commerce.

### **Electricity**

The area is serviced by B.C. Hydro's provincial grid system.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

B.C. Hydro

Phone: 1-800-BCHYDRO (224-9376)

Web: [www.bchydro.bc.ca](http://www.bchydro.bc.ca)

For more information on the following utility infrastructure, contact the Village of Ashcroft.

### **Water System**

The Thompson River is the main source of drinking water for the Village of Ashcroft. The system can pump up to 15,770 cubic meters per day and the reservoirs have a storage capacity of 4,620 cubic meters. The system is treated by chlorination and filtration in order to ensure the water complies with Canadian Drinking Water Standards.

### **Sewage System**

Ashcroft uses secondary activated sludge treatment that involves using extended fine bubble aeration lagoons with a treatment plant capacity of more than 2,280 cubic meters per day. The system was built in 1977 and is designed to handle a population of up to 10,000 people.

### **Garbage Collection**

Garbage collection is provided weekly by the Village of Ashcroft.

## Taxation

Taxes are collected locally by the Village of Ashcroft. The following table shows tax rates over the past five years.

Tax Rates					
	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Residential	5.72	5.62	5.55	5.5	5.3
Utilities	25.67	26	24	24	24
Light Industry	19.92	19.23	17.9	17.9	17.5
Business/Other	18.89	17.88	17.9	17.9	17.5
Recreation/Non-Profit	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.24
Farm	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.4	7.24

Source: Village of Ashcroft

## Education

Ashcroft is located in School District #74, administered in Ashcroft.

### Primary:

- North Ashcroft Elementary Phone: (250) 453-9177

### Secondary:

- Ashcroft Secondary Phone: (250) 453-9144

For more information on either primary or secondary education within the area contact:

School District #74 Phone: (250) 453-9101

### Post-Secondary:

There are a number of post-secondary and continuing education opportunities available in Ashcroft and Kamloops, including:

- University College of the Cariboo Phone: (250) 828-5000  
Web: [www.cariboo.bc.ca](http://www.cariboo.bc.ca)
- U.C.C. Ashcroft Satellite Campus Phone: (250) 453-9243
- The Open Learning Institute Phone: 1-800-663-1663  
Web: [www.ola.bc.ca](http://www.ola.bc.ca)
- Community Futures Development Phone: (250) 453-9165  
Fax: (250) 453-9500
- Corporation of Sun Country Web: [www.cfdcsuncountry.bc.ca](http://www.cfdcsuncountry.bc.ca)
- Secwepemc Education Institute Phone: (250) 828-9779
- Nicola Valley Institute of Technology Phone: (250) 378-3300  
Fax: (250) 378-3332
- Ashcroft & District Regional Learning Centre Phone: (250) 453-9050  
Fax: (250) 453-2605

Ashcroft is also home to its own international college. The Ashcroft International College (A.I.C.) is a private postsecondary institution founded by Mr. Akio Kanamaru. The college targets Japanese students who have graduated from high school and wish to learn English. The idea for the college began when Ashcroft became a sister city with Bifuka, Hokkaido, Japan in 1994. The two towns arrange exchange programs for high school students.

At the present time, A.I.C. is situated in Ashcroft Secondary School while teaching basic English courses for Japanese students. Besides the in-class learning, the students have been integrated into the high school classes for direct experience with an English-speaking society. The students are billeted with families within the community to experience Canadian culture.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ashcroft International College

Phone: (250) 453-9229

Fax: (250) 453-2666

## **Community Services**

### **Financial**

Ashcroft has one financial service institution that services the community and outlying areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

• Interior Savings Credit Union

Phone: (250) 453-2219

Web: [www.tvcsu.com](http://www.tvcsu.com)

Ashcroft residents also have easy access to financial institutions situated in Cache Creek.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Royal Bank

Phone: (250) 457-6287

Fax: (250) 457-6620

Web: [www.royalbank.com](http://www.royalbank.com)

### **Health Care**

• Ashcroft & District General Hospital

Phone: (250) 453-2211

**Health care is also provided in Ashcroft through:**

• Ashcroft Medical Clinic

Phone: (250) 453-9191

• Health Unit (Public Health)

Phone: (250) 453-1940

• Mental Health

Phone: (250) 453-1950

• Youth Forensics

Phone: (250) 453-1932

• Alcohol & Drug

Phone: (250) 453-9188

• Community Home Nursing Care

Phone: (250) 453-1939

• Home Support

Phone: (250) 453-1931

The major referral hospital in the region is the Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Royal Inland Hospital

Phone: (250) 374-5111

## Emergency Services

- B.C. Ambulance Phone: (250) 453-2533
- Ashcroft Fire Department Phone: (250) 453-2233
- Provincial Emergency Program (P.E.P.) Phone: 1-800-663-3456

## Police Protection

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.) provide police protection from a local detachment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
R.C.M.P.

Phone: (250) 453-2216

## Legal Services

Legal services are available in Ashcroft.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

- Morelli Chertkow
- Fulton & Company
- Lawyer Referral Service
- Winsor & Company Law Offices

Phone: (250) 453-2320  
Phone: (250) 453-2628  
Phone: 1-800-663-1919  
Phone: (250) 452-2061

## Court Services

Provincial Circuit Court Services are available in Ashcroft.  
Supreme and Provincial Court Services are available in Kamloops.

### Supreme:

- Court of Appeals
- Adult Criminal
- Divorce
- Small Claims
- Adoptions
- Probate

### Provincial:

- Criminal Youth
- Traffic
- Small Claims
- Family Court

The courthouse also provides settlement conferences and masters chambers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kamloops Court House

Phone: (250) 828-4344

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# Community Lifestyle

## Clubs/Groups/Organizations

Ashcroft boasts an active citizenry. A myriad of clubs, organizations and associations are active in the community. For more information contact the Ashcroft and District Chamber of Commerce.

- Ashcroft & Area - Beavers/Cubs/Scouts
- Ashcroft & Area - Brownies/Guides
- Ashcroft & Area Community Resources Society
- Ashcroft & Area Pathfinders
- Ashcroft & District Home Support Society
- Ashcroft and District Lions Club
- Ashcroft Arts Club
- Ashcroft Hospital Auxiliary
- Ashcroft Hospital Social Committee
- Ashcroft War Veterans Allowance Association
- Ashcroft/Cache Creek Aero Club
- Ashcroft/Cache Creek Business Association
- Ashcroft/Cache Creek T.V. Society
- Ash-Creek Literacy Program
- B.C. Interior Recycling Advisory
- Downtown Revitalization Commission
- Kinsmen Club of South Cariboo
- Ministry of Social Services and Housing
- Rotary Club of Ashcroft/Cache Creek
- Royal Canadian Legion (Branch 113)
- South Cariboo Elizabeth Fry Society
- Toastmasters

## Sports/Recreation/Fitness Clubs

- Ashcroft & District Curling Club
- Ashcroft & District Rodeo Association
- Ashcroft Gun Club
- Ashcroft Minor Hockey League
- Ashcroft Minor Softball League
- Ashcroft Motorcycle Club
- Ashcroft Senior Double A Hockey
- B.C. Stock Dog Association
- Beer Belly Hockey
- Bonaparte Bruins Hockey
- Ashcroft Sea Cadets
- Bonaparte Men's Basketball
- Bonaparte Old Timers Hockey
- Ducks Unlimited
- Old Timers Hockey
- Sho Shoh Ryu Karate-Do
- Silver Blades Figure Skating
- Southern Interior Drag Racers Association
- Thompson/Cariboo Minor Hockey
- Village of Ashcroft Recreation Committee
- Ashcroft Navy League
- Ashcroft Soccer Club

## Churches

### Ashcroft

- Baha'i Faith
- Sage Hills Evangelical Free Church
- United Church of Canada

- St. Gerard Church (Catholic)
- St. Alban's Anglican Church
- Seventh Day Adventist Church

### Cache Creek

- Catholic Church
- Pentecostal Church

- Jehovah's Witness

## **Cultural Facilities**

### **Library**

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District Library System operates the Ashcroft Library.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ashcroft Library

Phone: (250) 453-9042

### **Museum**

The Ashcroft Museum and Archives offers a reflection of life as it was on this land in the Central Interior beside the Thompson River. The museum houses and has preserved numerous artifacts found in the region for all to enjoy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ashcroft Museum & Archives

Phone: (250) 453-9232

### **Heritage Sites**

Ashcroft is a town rich with original architectural details in the distinctive style of the late 19th and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Most of the decorative homes and buildings are contained in what is now Ashcroft's downtown area and all are within easy walking distance of each other.

- Ashcroft Cemetery
- Ashcroft Community Hall (1900)
- Ashcroft Journal (1895)
- Ashcroft Museum and Archives (1916)
- B.X. Building (1911)
- Bank of Montreal (1898)
- Harvey Bailey Store (1910)
- St. Alban's Anglican Church (1891)
- Town's First Fire Hall (1916)
- Zion United Church (1892)

## **Recreational Facilities**

- ball diamonds
- basketball courts
- curling rink
- golf course
- indoor ice rink
- rodeo grounds
- soccer fields
- swimming pool
- tennis courts

# Key Contacts

## **Ashcroft & District Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 183  
Ashcroft, B.C. V0K 1A0  
Tel: (250) 453-2642

## **Cache Creek Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 460  
Cache Creek, BC V0K 1H0  
Tel: (250) 457-9566 • Fax: (250) 457-9192

## **Community Futures Development Corporation of Sun Country**

310 Railway Ave.  
P.O. Box 1480  
Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0  
Tel: (250) 453-9165 • Toll Free: 1-800-567-9911 • Fax: (250) 453-9500  
Web: [www.cfcdsuncountry.bc.ca](http://www.cfcdsuncountry.bc.ca)  
E-mail: [vision@cfcdsuncountry.bc.ca](mailto:vision@cfcdsuncountry.bc.ca)

## **Gold Country Communities Society**

P.O. Box 1239  
Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0  
Tel: (250) 453-9467 • Fax: (250) 453-9883

## **Thompson-Nicola Regional District**

300-465 Victoria Street  
Kamloops, B.C. V2C 2A9  
Tel: (250) 377-8673 • Fax: (250) 372-5048  
Web: [www.tnrd.bc.ca](http://www.tnrd.bc.ca)

## **Venture Kamloops**

#2- 510 Lorne Street  
Kamloops, BC V2C 1W3  
Tel: (250) 828-6818 • Toll Free: 1-888-Kamloops (526-5667) • Fax: (250) 828-7184  
Web: [www.venturekamloops.com](http://www.venturekamloops.com)  
Email: [inquiry@venturekamloops.com](mailto:inquiry@venturekamloops.com)

## **Village of Ashcroft**

P.O. Box 129  
Ashcroft, B.C. V0K 1A0  
Tel: (250) 453-9161 • Fax: (250) 453-9664