

# Invest Innovate Grow



## Home-based Business Sector



*Coquitlam was one of seven communities from across BC honoured with the BC Small Business Roundtable's "2013 Open for Business Award," which recognizes local policies, projects and programs that support small business.*

*"For us, Coquitlam combined affordability with a very good quality of life. Coquitlam has the right environment to raise a family with great schools and amenities, an abundance of parks, as well as a very rich and diverse offering of arts and culture services."*

*Stanley Paulus, Owner, Stanley Paulus Architect Inc.*

### British Columbia

The home-based business sector is one of British Columbia's fastest growing forms of entrepreneurship and business opportunities. The sector includes a wide range of employment opportunities in a variety of areas such as professional services, retail, construction and trade, arts-related businesses and technology.

Over the past 10 years, BC has experienced unprecedented growth in the home-based business sector, which now accounts for approximately 9% of the BC workforce. In BC, 21% of professional and technology companies, 20% of construction businesses and 18% of finance, insurance, real estate and business support services firms are home-based businesses.

### Coquitlam

Small business is an essential component of Coquitlam's economy, reflecting a similar composition as the Province of British Columbia's statistics of 98% of our business base being in the small business category. As such, the home-based business segment is an integral part of Coquitlam's local economy and a significant portion of our employment base.

The concentrations of home-based businesses in Coquitlam are highest in Southwest Coquitlam, with the City Centre, Northwest and Northeast areas possessing the second, third and fourth highest levels.



*"As a management consultant with a home based office I can work from anywhere, but Coquitlam makes sense for a number of reasons. It's centrally located so I can easily get to my clients' businesses anywhere in the Greater Vancouver area, and there are two international airports within a reasonable drive. Just as important as being easy to do business from, is its livability. Coquitlam has everything you'd want in a major city, but with a deep sense of community."*

*Mark Fitzsimmons,  
President, 360 Degrees Consulting*

*"In our global live-to-work obsessed world, Coquitlam is that refreshing oasis of live-and-work culture. Running a home-based business in Coquitlam is proof how work, family and personal life topped with the amazing natural features of this region are able to coexist in the most wonderful and unexpected way. A role model for the new business culture. I enjoy every moment of it!"*

*Emil Zimmermann,  
BlissfulDot Technology Inc.*

Several factors are increasing the popularity of home-based businesses:

- ❖ **Lifestyle Choices:** Operating a home-based business is ideal for creating a balance between work, life and family. Benefits include flexible work schedules, reduced commute times and more family time.
- ❖ **The Economy:** The changing global economy has created an increase in entrepreneurial behaviour.
- ❖ **Cost Savings:** A home-based business can take advantage of lower start-up and operating costs. There are also rental cost savings as well as tax deductions for a portion of expenses like property taxes, utilities, repairs and maintenance, home insurance and mortgage interest or rent.
- ❖ **Technology:** Developments in technology and e-commerce have made it easier for people to operate businesses out of their homes.
- ❖ **Changing Demographics:** Early retirement, when combined with a population that is living longer, has led to an increase in home-based business activities.

### Support for Home-based Business

The City of Coquitlam recognizes that home-based businesses have the potential to grow from small to large businesses, thereby creating jobs and investment. These businesses also provide the City of Coquitlam with environmental and social benefits such as reducing commuter traffic and increasing daytime neighbourhood activity. To support home-based business the City of Coquitlam has developed zoning policy and strategies in areas to accommodate live-work units for home-based business via employment living units and lane homes. This provides more flexible types of home employment opportunities suited to the urban context of some of the city's neighbourhoods. The City's Zoning Bylaw also permits an Accessory Home Occupation Use in Carriage Houses or Garden Cottages.

### Home-based Business Resource Websites

**OneStop Business Registry**  
[bcbusinessregistry.ca](http://bcbusinessregistry.ca)

**BizPal**  
[bizpal.ca](http://bizpal.ca)

**Small business BC**  
[smallbusinessbc.ca](http://smallbusinessbc.ca)

**Canada Business Network**  
[canadabusiness.ca](http://canadabusiness.ca)

**Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce**  
[tricitychamber.com](http://tricitychamber.com)



*In December 2014, Coquitlam was ranked third out of 36 cities in BC Business' inaugural list of the "Best Cities for Work in BC", a study derived from economic indicators reflecting the quality of a city's job market.*

### Economic Development Office

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JULY 2015