

RELOCATION GUIDE



YOUR MOVE TO THE SMOKY RIVER REGION

A guide to building a life in northwestern Alberta



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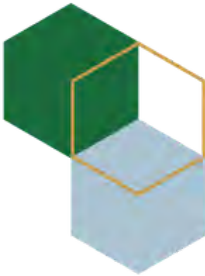


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1. WELCOME TO THE SMOKY RIVER REGION

Relocating to a new community is a significant decision. This guide is designed to help you understand what it is actually like to live, work, and settle in the Smoky River Region, so you can make an informed and confident choice.

Located in northwestern Alberta, the Smoky River Region includes the Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130, the Town of Falher, and the Villages of Donnelly and Girouxville. Together, these communities function as a connected region, where residents move between communities for work, services, education, and daily life.

This guide is intended for people who are seriously considering relocation, including:

- Families looking for a safe and supportive place to raise children
- Skilled workers and professionals seeking new opportunities
- Remote workers looking for a more affordable and manageable lifestyle
- Entrepreneurs interested in starting or growing a business
- Retirees seeking a quieter pace of life
- Newcomers to Canada looking for a welcoming community

Rather than serving as a general overview, this guide focuses on helping you understand how life works in the Smoky River Region and what to expect when making a move.

Why People Are Considering Communities Like Smoky River

Across Canada, rising housing costs, longer commutes, and the pressure of larger urban centres are leading more people to look at regions like Smoky River as practical alternatives.

For many, the decision comes down to a few key factors:

More attainable housing and lower cost of living

Homes in the Smoky River Region are often available in the range of approximately \$100,000 to \$400,000+, compared to an Alberta average that exceeds \$500,000.¹

Shorter and more manageable daily travel

While commute times in larger centres often exceed 30 minutes, many residents in the Smoky River Region can reach work, school, or services in approximately 5 to 20 minutes when living locally.

More space and less congestion

Population density in the Smoky River Region is significantly lower than nearby centres, resulting in less traffic, more space, and a quieter day-to-day environment.²

A greater sense of safety, stability, and connection

In the Smoky River Region, daily life is shaped by visibility and community involvement. Residents regularly connect through schools, recreation, and local events, creating an environment where people are familiar with one another and actively engaged in their community.

These factors reflect broader national trends, where affordability, commute times, and quality of life are key drivers of relocation decisions.³

Why Smoky River?

What sets the Smoky River Region apart is its ability to combine a rural lifestyle with practical access to services, employment, and regional amenities.

Residents benefit from a quieter and more affordable way of living while remaining connected to nearby centres. Peace River is approximately 45 to 50 minutes away, and Grande Prairie is approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes from the region, providing access to expanded healthcare, shopping, and employment opportunities when needed.

The region's economy is supported by agriculture and agri-business, along with employment in trades, healthcare, education, and public services. This creates both local employment opportunities and access to a broader regional job market.

For remote workers, the Smoky River Region offers a practical way to reduce cost of living while maintaining employment elsewhere. For entrepreneurs and small business owners, it provides lower operating costs and a community scale where relationships and local connections matter.

The region also has a strong Francophone presence, particularly in Falher and surrounding communities. This cultural identity is reflected in local events, community life, and a distinct sense of place.

Just as important is how the region functions. The four municipalities work together to support services, infrastructure, and economic development, creating a broader network of opportunities than any single community would offer on its own.

Did You Know?

Residents of the Smoky River Region have access to local healthcare, schools, and essential services within the region, including the hospital in McLennan. When additional services are needed, nearby centres like Peace River and Grande Prairie provide expanded options, creating a practical balance between local access and regional support.

A Practical Starting Point

Relocating to the Smoky River Region is not just about choosing a place to live. It involves understanding how daily life works, how services are accessed, and how the region operates as a whole.

The sections that follow are designed to walk you through those details step by step, helping you determine whether the Smoky River Region is the right fit for you.

1. Canadian Real Estate Association, "Alberta Housing Market Statistics," 2025.

2. Statistics Canada, Census Profile, 2021.

3. Statistics Canada and CMHC, Housing and Quality of Life Indicators, 2023–2024.



2.0 WHAT TO EXPECT: LIVING IN A RURAL REGION

Choosing to live in a rural region like Smoky River offers many benefits, but it also comes with differences that are important to understand. Being aware of these early will help you plan effectively and settle in more comfortably.

Life in the Smoky River Region is shaped by space, community, and a regional approach to services. While many day-to-day needs can be met locally, residents often travel to nearby centres for certain services, shopping, and specialized care.

Travel and Regional Access

Travel is a normal and expected part of living in the region. Rather than relying on a single centre, residents access a network of nearby communities depending on their needs.

The Smoky River Region is well positioned within northwestern Alberta, with access to several key centres:

Destination	Distance (Approx.)	Drive Time (Approx.)	Typical Reason for Travel
Peace River	67 km	45-50 minutes	Healthcare, shopping, government services
High Prairie	120 km	1 hr 20 minutes	Regional services, healthcare
Grande Prairie	166 km	1 hr 45 minutes	Major retail, specialized services, airport
Edmonton	430 km	4.5-5 hours	Major healthcare, travel, business

Access to Services

The Smoky River Region offers a strong foundation of essential services within the community, including schools, recreation, and healthcare.

Local healthcare is anchored by the hospital in McLennan, which provides residents with access to primary and emergency care within the region. This allows many day-to-day healthcare needs to be met locally.

In addition, residents benefit from access to expanded and specialized healthcare services in nearby centres such as Peace River and Grande Prairie.

This combination of local care and regional access is a key advantage of living in the Smoky River Region. It allows residents to maintain a rural lifestyle while still having access to a broader healthcare system when needed.



Sacred Heart Community Health Centre, McLennan, AB

Did You Know?



The Smoky River Region provides access to local healthcare, education, and essential services within the community, including a hospital in McLennan, while nearby centres like Peace River and Grande Prairie offer additional specialized services when needed.



Housing Availability

Housing in the Smoky River Region is generally more affordable than in larger centres, but availability can vary depending on timing and community.

Options may include:

- Rental properties
- Homes for purchase
- Vacant lots for building

Because inventory can be limited, it is important to begin your housing search early and consider multiple communities across the region.



Did You Know?



In the Smoky River Region, many buyers can purchase a home at a *significantly lower cost than the Alberta average*, often with more space or land included. Residential lots in several communities are also available at accessible price points, creating opportunities to build or invest that are not typically available in larger centres.

Lifestyle and Pace

Daily life in the Smoky River Region is often quieter and more manageable than in urban environments. Commutes are short, traffic is minimal, and many activities are community-based.

Residents tend to be more involved in local events, schools, and organizations. This creates opportunities to build connections quickly and become part of the community.

A Different Way of Living

Living in a rural region is not just about location. It is about adapting to a different rhythm and approach to daily life.

For many people, these differences become part of the appeal. With some planning and flexibility, most residents find that rural living offers a practical, sustainable, and rewarding alternative to larger centres.



3. THE REGION AT A GLANCE

The Smoky River Region is made up of four distinct communities that work together as a connected system. Residents often live in one community and access services, schools, recreation, and employment across the region.

Understanding how the region functions as a whole is key to understanding what it is like to live here.

A Connected Regional System

The region includes:

- Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130
- Town of Falher
- Village of Donnelly
- Village of Girouxville



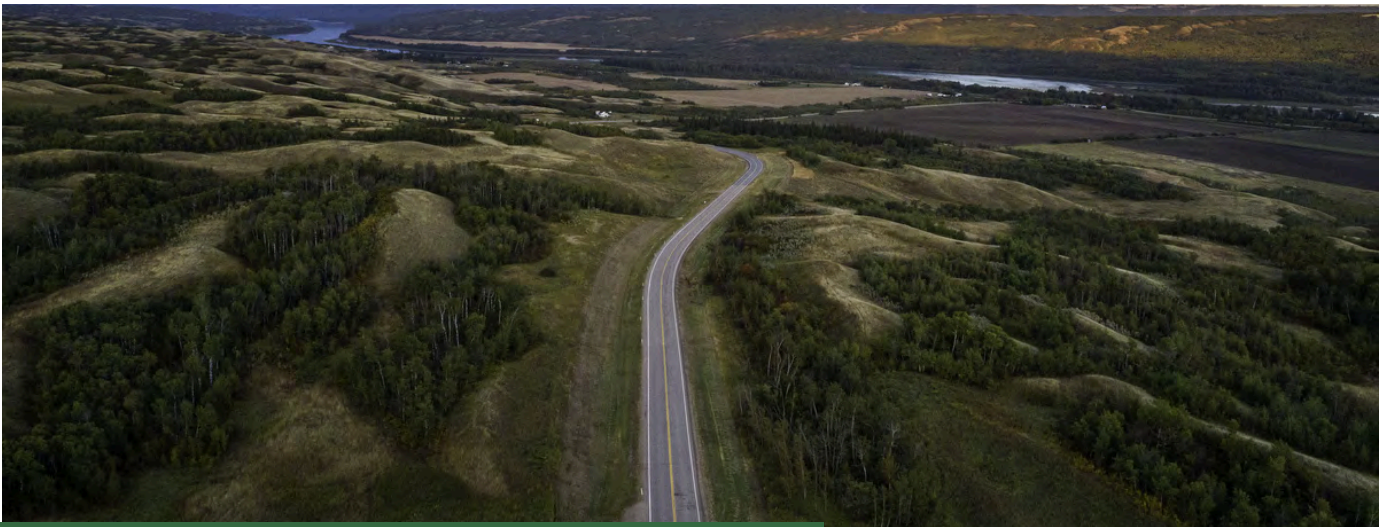
Each community offers something slightly different, but they are closely linked through shared services, infrastructure, and daily movement between communities.

Rather than operating independently, the region functions as a network. This allows residents to access a broader range of services and opportunities than any one community would provide on its own.



Residents of the Smoky River Region regularly move between communities for work, school, recreation, and services, allowing them to access a broader range of opportunities while choosing where they live based on lifestyle.





COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW



Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130

The Municipal District surrounds the urban communities and is home to farms, acreages, and rural properties. Agriculture is a key part of the local economy, and the MD provides the foundation for rural living and land-based opportunities in the region.



Town of Falher

Falher serves as the main service centre for the region. It is home to schools, healthcare services, recreation facilities, and local businesses. Falher also has a strong Francophone identity, which is reflected in local culture and community events.



Village of Donnelly

The Municipal District surrounds the urban communities and is home to farms, acreages, and rural properties. Agriculture is a key part of the local economy, and the MD provides the foundation for rural living and land-based opportunities in the region.



Village of Girouxville

Falher serves as the main service centre for the region. It is home to schools, healthcare services, recreation facilities, and local businesses. Falher also has a strong Francophone identity, which is reflected in local culture and community events.

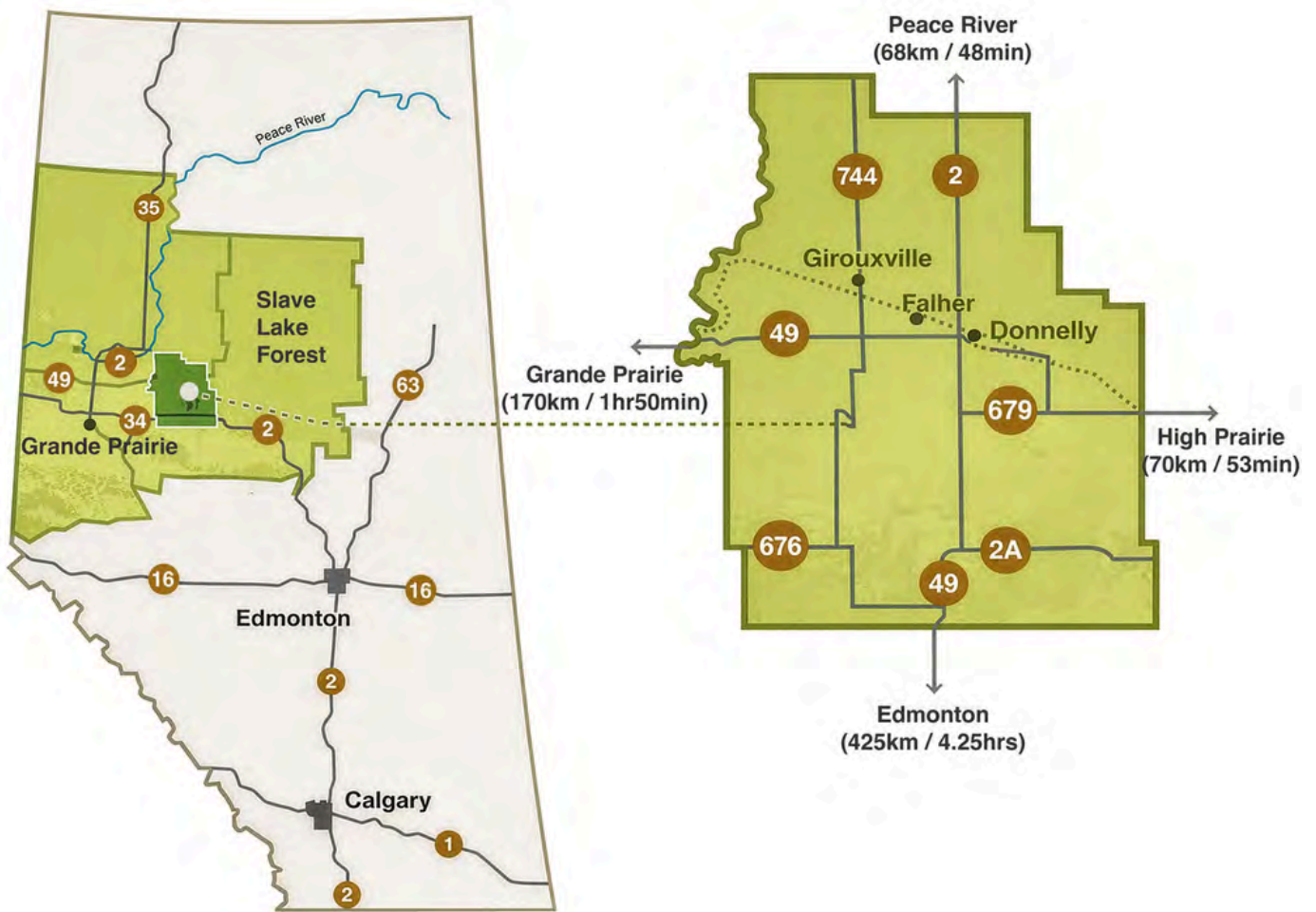
Location and Regional Positioning

The Smoky River Region is located in northwestern Alberta and is well positioned within a broader regional network of communities and services.

Residents benefit from being within reach of several key centres:

- Peace River to the north
- High Prairie to the south
- Grande Prairie to the southwest

This positioning allows residents to enjoy the benefits of rural living while maintaining access to regional services, employment, and amenities.



Quick Facts



- Four connected communities working as one region
- Located in northwestern Alberta
- Within driving distance of major regional service centres
- Strong agricultural foundation with access to regional employment

Living Within The Region

One of the defining characteristics of the Smoky River Region is how people move within it. Daily life is not confined to a single community.

Residents may:

- Live in one community
- Work in another
- Access schools, recreation, or services in a third

This flexibility allows people to choose where they live based on lifestyle and housing preferences, while still accessing the services they need across the region.

Understanding this regional approach will help you make more informed decisions as you explore housing, employment, and daily life in the Smoky River Region.



4. HOUSING AND GETTING SETTLED

Housing is one of the most important factors when considering a move. In the Smoky River Region, housing is generally more affordable than in larger centres, and many residents find they are able to access more space and property for their budget.

At the same time, availability can vary. Planning ahead and exploring multiple options across the region will help you find the right fit.

Housing Affordability and Value

Home prices in the region typically fall within a broad range depending on property type and location, with many listings in smaller communities and rural areas available at lower price points than nearby centres. In comparison, average home prices in Grande Prairie are generally in the \$320,000 to \$370,000 range, while the provincial average exceeds \$500,000.¹

This difference allows many buyers to access larger homes, more land, or lower overall housing costs compared to what would be possible in larger urban markets.

Rental housing is also generally more affordable than in major centres, with regional averages for a two-bedroom unit in northwestern Alberta around \$1,200 per month.² However, availability can be limited, particularly in smaller communities.



Many people relocating to the Smoky River Region find they are able to purchase larger homes or properties compared to what their budget would allow in major Alberta centres.

Average House Price in Major Alberta Centres

\$448,800

Average House Price in Smoky River Region

\$198,000

Source: Alberta benchmark home price, Statistics Canada & CREA (Dec 2025)



Housing Options by Community

Housing opportunities are available across the region. Each community offers slightly different options, and exploring multiple locations will increase your chances of finding the right fit.

Donnelly

- Rental Properties <https://donnelly.ca/rental-properties/>
- Residential Lots for Sale <https://donnelly.ca/lots-for-sale/>
- Living in Donnelly <https://donnelly.ca/living-in-donnelly/>
- Real Estate Listings <https://www.realtor.ca/ab/donnelly/real-estate>

Falher

- Residential Real Estate Listings <https://www.realtor.ca/ab/falher/real-estate>
- Residential Lots for Sale <https://falher.ca>
- Development and Building Information <https://falher.ca>

Girouxville

- Residential Real Estate Listings <https://www.realtor.ca/ab/girouxville/real-estate>
- Development Permit Information <https://girouxville.ca>

Municipal District of Smoky River

Rural and Acreage Listings
<https://www.realtor.ca/ab/smoky-river-no-130/real-estate>

Tips for Finding Housing

Finding housing in a rural region can take a different approach than in larger centres. The following tips can help:



1. Start your search early
2. Check listings regularly, as availability can change quickly
3. Consider multiple communities within the region
4. Reach out to municipal offices for additional leads
5. Be flexible with timing and housing type

Choosing the Right Community

Each community in the Smoky River Region offers a slightly different living experience.

- **Falher** offers access to services, schools, and amenities
- **Donnelly** and **Girouxville** offer quieter, close-knit environments
- **Rural areas within the Municipal District** provide space, acreage, and agricultural living

Many residents choose their location based on lifestyle preferences, while relying on the broader region for services and employment.



Getting Settled

Once housing is secured, the next step is getting established in the community.

This includes:

- Setting up utilities and services
- Connecting with local organizations and community groups
- Registering for schools or childcare if needed
- Exploring recreation and community activities

Taking time to get connected early can make the transition smoother and help you feel part of the community more quickly.

Housing is often the first step in making a move possible. With planning, flexibility, and the right information, most newcomers are able to find options that suit their needs and lifestyle within the Smoky River Region.

1. Canadian Real Estate Association, "Alberta Housing Market Statistics," 2025; City of Grande Prairie, Housing Market Trends, 2025.

2. Government of Alberta, "Average Residential Rent by Region," 2024; Statistics Canada, Table 34-10-0135-01.



5. UTILITIES AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Setting up utilities and essential services is one of the first steps after securing housing. In the Smoky River Region, these services are available and reliable, but the process can vary depending on whether you are living in a town or a rural area.

Understanding how services are delivered and who to contact will help make your transition smoother.

Electricity and Natural Gas

Electricity and natural gas services are available throughout the region, with a mix of regulated and local providers.

Electricity and Energy Providers

ATCO Energy

<https://www.atco.com/en-ca/for-home/energy/home-energy-plans.html>

Natural Gas Provider

East Peace Gas Co-op

<http://www.eastpeacegas.com/>

Water and Municipal Utilities

Water and wastewater services are managed at the local or regional level, depending on where you live.

Regional and Municipal Water Services

Smoky River Water Commission

<https://srwater.ca/>

Town of Falher Utilities Information

<https://falher.ca>

Village of Girouxville Utilities and Rates

<https://girouxville.ca/ratepayers/>

Internet and Connectivity

Reliable internet is available in most communities, including options suitable for remote work. Service levels may vary depending on your exact location, especially in rural areas.

Internet Providers

Northern Lights Fiber

<https://www.northernlightsfiber.ca/>

I Want Wireless

<https://iwantwireless.ca/>

Internet service is available throughout the Smoky River Region, though connection type and speed may vary by location. Confirming availability early is especially important for remote work.



Planning and Development

If you are building, renovating, or purchasing land, it is important to understand local planning and development requirements.

Development and Permit Information

Municipal District of Smoky River

<https://www.mdsmokyriver.com/planning-development-information/>

Essential Services

In addition to utilities, the region provides access to important everyday services, including healthcare, emergency services, and employment support.

Healthcare

Sacred Heart Community Health Centre (McLennan Hospital)

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/findhealth/facility.aspx?id=1000040>

Falher Medical Clinic

<https://www.falhermedicalclinic.com/>

Smoky River Dental

<https://share.google/cnEQBYyER9hYGXBBN>



Access to a local hospital in McLennan allows many healthcare needs to be met within the Smoky River Region, with additional services available in nearby centres when required.

Emergency Services

Smoky River Emergency Services

<https://www.mdsmokyriver.com/services/emergency-services/>

Employment and Community Support

Falher Career Resource Centre

<https://falher.ca/career-resource-centre/>

Getting Set Up

Once you have secured housing, setting up services typically involves:

- Selecting and contacting utility providers
- Arranging internet installation
- Registering for municipal services such as water and waste
- Confirming any permits or requirements for your property

Starting this process early will help ensure everything is in place when you move in.

Utilities and services in the Smoky River Region are reliable and well supported. With a clear understanding of providers and processes, most newcomers are able to get established quickly and comfortably.



6. LIVING HERE BY LIFE STAGE

People choose where to live based on their stage of life, priorities, and daily needs. The Smoky River Region offers different advantages depending on what matters most to you.

6A. Families

For families, the Smoky River Region offers a safe, supportive environment where children can grow, learn, and be part of a close-knit community.

Schools and Education

Families have access to both English and Francophone education within the region.

Schools

- [École Routhier School](#)
- [École Héritage \(Francophone\)](#)
- [Georges P. Vanier School](#)
- [Smoky River Playschool](#)



Schools in the Smoky River Region are typically smaller, allowing for more direct interaction between students, teachers, and families, along with greater participation in sports, activities, and community programs.

Childcare

Families have access to both English and Francophone education within the region.

- [Busy Bee Daycare](#)

Recreation and Activities for Kids

Children in the region have access to a wide range of activities, often with more opportunities to participate than in larger centres.

Sports and Clubs

[Smoky River Minor Hockey](#)

[Smoky River Soccer Club](#)

[Smoky River Gymnastics Club](#)

[Smoky River Dance Society](#)

[Smoky River Manatees Swim Club](#)

[Twilight Figure Skating Club](#)

Road Warriors Tae Kwon Do Club

Outdoor and Family Recreation

Falher Spray Park
<https://falher.ca>

Girouville Playground
<https://girouville.ca>

Jean Cote Outdoor Rink
<https://mightypeace.com>

Little Smoky Ski Area
<https://www.littlesmokyski.ca>

Family Life

Daily life is often more manageable than in larger centres. Families spend less time commuting and more time together, whether at home or participating in community activities.

6B. Single Adults and Professionals

For individuals and professionals, the Smoky River Region offers a practical and affordable place to live while maintaining access to work and lifestyle opportunities.

Work and Lifestyle

Residents may:

- Work locally in agriculture, trades, healthcare, or education
- Commute to nearby centres
- Work remotely while benefiting from lower living costs

Reliable internet access supports remote work, making the region a viable option for professionals who are not tied to a specific location.

Recreation and Social Opportunities

While smaller than urban centres, the region offers a range of recreational and social opportunities.

Activities and Clubs

[Smoky River Riders Motorcycle Club](#)

[Falher Fitness Centre](#)

[Falher Curling Club](#)

[5 Star Golf Club](#)

[Smoky Lanes Bowling Alley](#)

[Little Smoky Ski Area](#)



Many professionals in the Smoky River Region combine local living with regional employment or remote work, allowing them to reduce living costs while maintaining excellent incomes.

A Different Work-Life Balance

Living in the region often means shorter days, less time commuting, and more flexibility to participate in activities and community life.

6C. Retirees and Seniors

For retirees and seniors, the Smoky River Region offers a quieter pace of life, strong community connection, and access to essential services.

Housing and Living Options

Heart River Housing <https://www.heartriverhousing.ca>

Healthcare Access

Residents have access to local healthcare services, including:

- Sacred Heart Community Health Centre (McLennan Hospital)
- Falher Medical Clinic
-

Additional services are available in nearby regional centres when needed.

Community and Social Opportunities

Senior Groups and Activities

- Club Étoile (Girouxville)
- Club Alouette (Falher)
- Club des Pionniers (Donnelly)

Community Support Services

Smoky River FCSS <https://falher.ca/smoky-river-fcss/>

What to Expect

Primary healthcare services are available within the Smoky River Region, while some specialized care may require travel to nearby centres such as Peace River or Grande Prairie.

A Connected and Supportive Community

Many retirees value the strong sense of community in the Smoky River Region. Opportunities to stay active, volunteer, and participate in local groups help maintain a high quality of life.

Each stage of life brings different priorities. The Smoky River Region offers the flexibility and support to meet those needs, whether you are raising a family, building a career, or enjoying retirement.



7. WORKING IN THE REGION

Access to employment and economic opportunity is an important part of any relocation decision. The Smoky River Region offers a mix of local employment, regional job access, and opportunities for remote work.

For many residents, working in the region is not limited to a single community. Employment may be found locally, across the region, or in nearby centres such as Peace River and Grande Prairie.

Key Economic Sectors

The local economy is supported by several core industries that provide stable employment and business opportunities.

Agriculture and Agri-Business

Agriculture is a foundational industry in the Smoky River Region. Farming, agri-services, transportation, and equipment-related businesses play a major role in the local economy.

Trades and Skilled Labour

There is ongoing demand for skilled trades, including construction, maintenance, heavy equipment operation, and related services.

Healthcare and Social Services

Healthcare services within the region, including the hospital in McLennan and local clinics, provide employment opportunities across a range of roles.

Education and Public Sector

Schools, municipal governments, and regional service organizations contribute to stable public sector employment.

Regional Employment Access

One of the advantages of living in the Smoky River Region is access to a broader regional job market.

Residents may:

- Work locally within Smoky River communities
- Commute to nearby centres such as Peace River
- Access employment opportunities in Grande Prairie
- Combine local living with regional work

This flexibility allows individuals to choose where they live based on lifestyle, while still accessing a wider range of employment options.

Residents of the Smoky River Region often balance local employment with opportunities in nearby centres, creating flexible work options while maintaining a lower cost of living.

Remote Work Opportunities

Reliable internet service in the region supports remote work and home-based businesses.

For professionals who are not tied to a specific location, Smoky River offers the opportunity to:

- Reduce cost of living
- Increase living space and quality of life
- Maintain employment with organizations based elsewhere

This has become an increasingly common pathway for people reLoCating to rural communities.

Business and Entrepreneurship

The Smoky River Region provides opportunities for those interested in starting or growing a business. Lower operating costs, access to land, and strong community connections can support small business development across a range of sectors.

Local Business Directory

Smoky River Business Directory

<https://yolonomads.com/smoky-river-region>

This directory provides an overview of businesses operating in the region and can be a useful starting point for understanding the local economy.

Major Employers and Local Opportunities

Employment in the region is supported by a combination of:

- Agricultural operations and agri-service businesses
- Healthcare facilities and clinics
- School divisions and educational institutions
- Municipal governments and regional services
- Local businesses and service providers

Opportunities may vary over time, but the region continues to support a stable and diverse employment base.

A Practical Approach to Working in the Region

Relocating to the Smoky River Region does not require choosing between lifestyle and employment.

Many residents find a balance by:

- Working locally or regionally
- Exploring multiple employment pathways
- Taking advantage of remote work opportunities

With planning and flexibility, the region offers a practical and sustainable environment for both living and working.

8. COMMUNITY LIFE AND BELONGING

One of the most defining aspects of living in the Smoky River Region is the sense of community. Residents often describe it as a place where people know each other, support one another, and take part in local life.

For many newcomers, becoming part of the community happens quickly through schools, recreation, events, and local organizations.

Community Events and Activities

The Smoky River Region hosts a variety of events throughout the year that bring people together and reflect the region's identity and culture. Community events take place throughout the year in the Smoky River Region, often with strong local participation. For many newcomers, these events are one of the easiest ways to meet people, get involved, and feel part of the community soon after arriving.

Local Events and Activities

- [Falher Honey Festival](#)
- Smoky River Festival of Trees
- Wine and Food Pairing Events
- Demolition Derby (Donnelly)
- Peace River / Falher Dungeons & Dragons



Recreation and Outdoor Living

Recreation plays an important role in daily life, with opportunities available throughout the region for individuals and families.

Popular Recreation Options

Little Smoky Ski Area

<https://www.littlesmokyski.ca>

Winagami Lake Provincial Park

<https://www.albertaparks.ca/parks/north/winagami-lake-pp>

Blue Bridge Campground

<https://mightypeace.com/places/blue-bridge-campground/>

Smoky Lanes Bowling Alley

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/844740545594474/>

Falher Regional Pool

<https://falher.ca>

5 Star Golf Club

<https://www.5stargolf.ca>



Community Organizations and Services

Local organizations play a key role in supporting residents and creating opportunities to get involved.

Community Support and Services

- Smoky River FCSS (Family and Community Support Services)
<https://falher.ca/smoky-river-fcss/>
- Falher Career Resource Centre
<https://falher.ca/career-resource-centre/>
- Smoky River Adult Learning
- Falher Library <https://falher.ca>

These organizations provide programs, support services, and opportunities to connect with others in the community.

Culture and Faith

The Smoky River Region has a strong cultural identity, including a significant Francophone presence that is reflected in community life, language, and events.

Residents also have access to a range of places of worship and faith-based communities.

Churches and Faith Communities

- [St. Guy Catholic Church](#)
- [Paroisse Ste Anne \(Girouxville\)](#)
- [Sacred Heart Catholic Church \(Donnelly\)](#)
- [St. John the Baptist Cathedral \(McLennan\)](#)
- [Victory Life Church](#)



Getting Involved

Getting involved is one of the easiest ways to feel at home in the Smoky River Region.

Residents often connect through:

- Local events and festivals
- Sports teams and recreation programs
- Volunteer opportunities
- Community organizations and groups

Because the region is smaller, it is easier to meet people, build relationships, and become part of the community.

In Smoky River people are more involved in local life. Participation in events and organizations is a common way to build connections and feel part of the community.

A Strong Sense of Belonging

For many people, the sense of belonging is what makes the Smoky River Region stand out.

It's a place where:

- people look out for one another
- community involvement is part of daily life
- newcomers are welcomed and included

This sense of connection is often one of the most important factors in choosing to stay long-term.

Community life in the Smoky River Region is not just something you observe. It is something you become part of.

9. GETTING STARTED: YOUR RELOCATION PLAN

Relocating to a new community can feel complex, but breaking the process into clear steps can make it manageable. The following approach is designed to help you move from initial interest to a successful transition into the Smoky River Region.



Step 1: Explore Housing Options

Start by reviewing available housing across the region. Consider different communities, housing types, and timelines.

- Review listings online (Realtor.ca and municipal websites)
- Explore rental and ownership options
- Consider both urban and rural properties

Understanding your housing options early will help guide the rest of your planning.

Step 2: Connect with Local Contacts

Reaching out to local organizations can provide valuable insight and support.

- Municipal offices can provide information on housing, services, and development
- Community organizations can help you understand local programs and opportunities
- Economic development representatives can help guide your relocation process

Early conversations can help answer questions and identify opportunities you may not find online.

Step 3: Understand Services and Daily Life

Before relocating, take time to understand how services work in the region.

- Review utilities, internet, and service providers
- Understand healthcare access and local services
- Explore schools, childcare, and recreation options

This will help ensure you are prepared for day-to-day living.

Step 4: Plan a Visit

If possible, visiting the region can provide valuable perspective.

- Spend time in different communities
- Visit schools, amenities, and recreation facilities
- Talk to local residents and businesses

A visit can help you determine which community best fits your lifestyle and needs.

Many people who relocate to rural communities have visited the region and fall in love with its charm and quality of life.

Step 5: Secure Housing and Services

Once you have made your decision:

- Finalize housing arrangements
- Set up utilities and internet
- Register for local services such as schools or childcare

Starting this process early will help ensure a smooth transition.

Step 6: Get Connected

After arriving, take time to become part of the community.

- Attend local events and activities
- Join recreation programs or community groups
- Connect with neighbours and local organizations

Building connections early will help you feel more at home and supported.

A Clear Path Forward

Relocating to the Smoky River Region is a step-by-step process. With the right information and preparation, most people are able to make a smooth and successful transition.

This guide is designed to support you along the way, providing the information and connections needed to help you get started.

10. WHO TO CONTACT

Relocating to a new region often raises questions about housing, services, employment, and daily life. The Smoky River Region offers local contacts who can help guide you through the process and connect you with the information you need.

Starting with the right contact can make your relocation smoother and more efficient.

Primary Contact: Economic Development

Smoky River Regional Economic Development

This team can help you:

- Navigate housing options
- Connect with local services and providers
- Identify employment and business opportunities
- Understand how the region works as a whole

Contact: Diane Chiasson
Executive Director
Phone: 825-254-5177 | Mobile: 780- 837-6630
www.smokyriverregion.com



Municipal Contacts

Each community in the Smoky River Region can provide support related to housing, utilities, permits, and local services.

Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130
Phone: (780) 837-2221
Website: <https://www.mdsmokyriver.com>

Village of Donnelly
Phone: (780) 925-3835
Website: <https://donnelly.ca>

Town of Falher
Phone: (780) 837-2247
Website: <https://falher.ca>

Village of Girouxville
Phone: (780) 323-4270
Website: <https://girouxville.ca>

Key Community Services

The following organizations provide support services that may be helpful during your relocation and settlement:

Smoky River FCSS (Family and Community Support Services)
<https://falher.ca/smoky-river-fcss/>

Falher Career Resource Centre
<https://falher.ca/career-resource-centre/>

These organizations can assist with community programs, employment support, and local connections.

Healthcare Contacts

Sacred Heart Community Health Centre (McLennan Hospital)
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca>

Falher Medical Clinic
<https://www.falhermedicalclinic.com/>

A Local Approach

One of the advantages of relocating to the Smoky River Region is access to local support. Questions are often answered quickly, and residents are typically able to connect directly with people who can help.

Reaching out early can provide clarity, save time, and help you make informed decisions throughout your relocation process.

11. NEXT STEPS

Relocating is a significant decision, and finding the right community is about more than just location. It is about choosing a place that supports your lifestyle, your goals, and your day-to-day needs.

The Smoky River Region offers a practical and balanced option. It provides the opportunity to live in a safe, connected community while maintaining access to services, employment, and amenities across the broader region.

Considering a Move

If you are thinking about relocating, the next step is to explore your options in more detail.

- Review housing opportunities across the region
- Reach out to local contacts and organizations
- Learn more about services, schools, and employment
- Consider visiting the region to experience it firsthand

Taking these steps will help you determine whether the Smoky River Region is the right fit for you.

A Place to Build Your Future

For many residents, choosing Smoky River is about more than affordability or location. It is about finding a place where life feels more manageable, where community matters, and where there is space to grow.

Whether you are:

- Raising a family
- Building your career
- Starting a business
- Planning for retirement

The region offers the flexibility and support to help you move forward with confidence.

We're Here to Help

Relocation is easier when you have the right information and support. Local contacts, municipal offices, and community organizations are available to answer questions and help guide your transition.

Taking the first step can be as simple as reaching out, asking questions, and starting the conversation.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The Smoky River Region is not just a place to move. It is a place where you can build a life that is more manageable, more connected, and more aligned with what matters day to day.

With access to local healthcare, schools, and services, combined with the affordability and space that rural living provides, the region offers a practical alternative to the pressures of larger centres. At the same time, nearby communities ensure that employment, specialized services, and travel remain within reach.

For many, the decision to move here is about more than location. It is about choosing a way of living that is sustainable, connected, and grounded in community.

