

WHOLESALE TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND WAREHOUSING

For 2017, the Township provided business licenses to a total of **449 businesses** related to local wholesale, transportation and warehousing operations.

Located in the Township's industrial areas in northwest Langley, Aldergrove, and Gloucester, businesses in the wholesale trade, transportation, and warehousing **sectors are service providers** to other sectors both within and outside the community.

Commonly **recognized brand names** in wholesale trade or warehousing sectors, with significant operations located in the Township, include amongst others:

- BC Fasteners & Tools
- Best Buy Canada
- Cap-It
- EV Logistics
- Gregg Distributors
- Overwaitea Food Group
- Pharmasave Drugs
- West Coast Beauty

The **employment concentration** for the wholesale trade sector in the Township is in fact around double the average BC concentration. Through the 2016 Statistics Canada, 3,320 residents self-identified their usual place of employment as wholesale trade (an increase of 7% over 2011), and a further 2,515 as employed in transportation/warehousing (an 18% increase over 2011).

Building on established sectors in the community which includes wholesale trade, transportation, and warehousing, the Township holds a **strong competitive position** in this regard. Through innovation, high-value services, and enhancing access to existing and potential customer bases, there is an advantage that could be achieved by focusing on these versus other less-established sectors. Like many sectors, warehousing and distribution are transforming through innovation. Online shopping and the growing demand for same-day delivery requires significant warehouse space in or near major urban centres, although the operation of the warehousing and distribution centres is

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Useful Links

BC Trucking Association
bctrucking.com

Transport Canada
tc.gc.ca

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increasingly automated. Including demand for goods storage associated with Metro Vancouver's role as a major international port, warehouse space in communities such as the Township are a major driver of industrial land demand although they are not always a major employer.

Companies like Overwaitea Food Group, located in northwest Langley, required additional space and elected to pursue **expanding their current location** in the Township as opposed to relocating. While expansion is not always an option, for a number of reasons, a permit application was received by the Township to expand 'up' versus 'out' – by constructing an additional floor to the existing 2-storey building.

According to Statistics Canada, the **truck transportation industry was a \$2.3 billion industry in BC** in 2016, and represented 1.05% of BC's GDP in 2015. Between 2007 and 2016, this industry grew by 30% in BC, at an average rate of about 3.0% per year which is recognized as being higher than the average growth rate for many other industries in BC.

The **Canada-USA trade by truck totaled over \$672 billion in 2016**, with exports to the US accounting for \$394 billion and imports from the US at \$278 billion. The trucking share of total Canada-USA trade was almost 60 percent.

In 2016, Canada's federal government **invested**

\$17.7 million in infrastructure improvements at the Aldergrove / Lynden border crossing including a larger traveler processing facility, the construction of a commercial examination warehouse, and adding supporting infrastructure for commercial vehicles - in recognition of the value of cross-border trade between Canada and the USA. Most of the goods moving back and forth across the BC-Washington State border travel through the Pacific Highway, Abbotsford-Huntingdon, and Aldergrove commercial land ports of entry – collectively known as the Cascade Gateway. Every day, over 3,000 trucks cross the Cascade Gateway, carrying almost \$44 million (USD) in daily trade. In 2015, there were over 40,000 south-bound truck movements through the Aldergrove/Lynden commercial border crossing.

Today, in the Township, commonly **recognized brand names** in the transport sector located here include amongst others:

- BC Trucking Association
- C&D Logistics
- Harbour International Trucks
- K-Line Trailers
- Trimac Transportation

Skilled workers in trades, such as transport and equipment operators, are also considered to be **amongst the top occupational specialties** in the Township, and this again is most likely due to a correlation with existing employment opportunities.