

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – BC SANS

Where can I download the font?

You can download the web fonts from the [BC Digital Design System](#) and the print fonts from the [BC Visual Identity Program](#) website.

I want to use the font on my computer, which file should I use?

To use the font on your computer you can install the .ttf or .otf file

Do I need to do anything if my content lives on gov.bc.ca

No, content on gov.bc.ca will automatically be updated with the font. However, heading sizes have also changed to support the new font size. Please check your content to make sure it looks okay.

Do crown corporations and other public bodies need to use BC Sans?

No, crown corporations and public bodies are not required to use BC Sans, but they are free to use the font if they would like to.

Can the public use the font?

Yes, the font is free for anyone to download and distribute as long as they follow the Open Font License conditions. It cannot be sold.

Should I use BC Sans for print material?

BC Sans can be used for extended web content such as a PDF, or other material which is mainly consumed on-screen. The standard fonts for print materials are still Myriad Pro and Garamond Pro.

Are there reasons to use the font outside of a website?

If you are developing digital content and assets that live on the screen and aren't specifically intended for print, you should begin using BC Sans.

Do I need to update the font I use for my stand alone site – Wordpress, COTS etc?

Yes, BC Sans must be used for all digital services and stand alone sites that are outside of the CMS Lite platform.

How soon do I need to update the font?

Updating your font should be done at a time when you are doing maintenance or updating the application or currently developing the service. Transitioning to this font will be a phased approach.

Our service is old and will be transformed in the next year or two, do we need to update our font?

No, if you have a legacy application you do not need to change the font until you upgrade to a new application.

I want to use characters from an Indigenous language, how can I access these?

Characters used in Indigenous languages are accessed differently based on the computer program you are using. They can usually be found in a glyph or character palette. For typing in these languages you must install a keyboard specific to the language. We are working with FirstVoices to provide these resources and will have an update soon.

How does BC Sans and Indigenous languages work with screen readers?

Screen readers are based on the language specified for the web page and aren't dependent on the font that is used. Current support for screen readers with Indigenous languages is limited.

BC Sans is *open source*. What does this mean?

The authors of open source software allow use without charge, and permit the software to be freely distributed and modified under a free license. It cannot be sold. BC Sans fonts are made available under an Open Font License, free to use so long as it remains under the Open Font License and its terms, and there is no charge for its use. The name, BC Sans, and the modified font files are copyright of the Province of B.C.

Why was BC Sans introduced?

It was developed to create an Open Source set of fonts for improved readability for digital services, also to contain support for multiple languages including Indigenous languages in B.C., and which can be distributed freely.

How was BC Sans developed?

BC Sans is a modified version of Noto Sans, an open source font developed by Google. An Indigenous linguist and font designer provided expertise in analysis and additional development for the inclusion of Indigenous languages spoken in British Columbia.

What are the benefits of using BC Sans?

BC Sans is easy to read, with a tall x-height and generous space within and between the letter-forms. Characters for over 800 languages are included with correct accents and special characters. There is no license to pay for and the font files and they can be shared or redistributed. Improving the accessibility and inclusiveness of government communications is a benefit for government and the public. On gov.bc.ca, the use of BC Sans allows the font files to be served domestically, with the rest of the website files. BC Sans is compatible with Windows and Mac operating systems and is also encoded in the Unicode standard.

How will BC Sans be rolled out?

The introduction of BC Sans will be a phased approach. Adobe Myriad Pro and Garamond Pro will continue to be the province's core visual identity, or brand, typefaces for use on branded materials. The design of BC Sans is compatible with our identity typefaces and will be phased into our visual identity guidelines and standards.

Can Noto Sans be used instead of BC Sans?

The Google Font API **must not** be used for Noto Sans in government digital properties.