



Highway 16 from Prince Rupert to Prince George stretches nearly 800 kilometres in BC’s northern region. Where transportation options are available, residents need to find that information quickly and easily.

This document includes information on transit, medical transportation, inter-city bus, rail, and community-based services. It provides a single source of information on these and other related services, such as driver training programs and business licensing information for starting up a new service.



TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Transit

- The BC Transit website provides everything you need to know about using public transit services in Smithers. Visit www.bctransit.com/smithers/home or call **250-847-4993**. Connections to Telkwa and Moricetown are available.
- Refer to the “BE SAFE” guide (www2.qa.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/crime-prevention/community-crime-prevention/publications/safe-community-be-safe-guide.pdf) for personal safety tips for when you are walking or using public transportation.

Medical Transportation

- In the event of an emergency, dial **9-1-1** if you require an ambulance to transport you to a hospital.
- Northern Health Connections is a travel service program for patients needing to travel for out-of-town medical appointments in Northern BC. Call **1-888-647-4997** or visit <https://nhconnections.ca/>.
- The First Nations Health Authority Health Benefits Program helps provide coverage for health services to support BC First Nations, including access to medical transportation benefits through their home community’s health service office. For more information, call **1-800-317-7878** or visit www.fnha.ca/benefits/medical-transportation.

Inter-City Bus

- BC Bus North – to make reservations or for more information please visit www.bcbus.ca or call toll free **1-844-564-7494**.

Rail

- VIA Rail Canada operates a regional service between Jasper, AB and Prince Rupert, BC. Visit www.viarail.ca or call **1-888-VIA-Rail (842-7245)**.

Community-Based Services

- The Smithers and Area Community Directory contains helpful information on local transportation services (www.smitherscommunitydirectory.com/directory/category/transportation).
- Dze L K’ant Friendship Centre (www.dzelkant.com) provides connections to Telkwa, Smithers and Houston (**250-847-5211**).

LICENSING SERVICES

Driver Licensing

- Information is available on all driver training school locations licensed or registered by ICBC. See the Driver Training Industry of British Columbia website (www.dtcbc.com/resources/ds-locations/all-schools.asp) or call **1-866-339-0363**.

- If you are unsure of the type of driver’s licence you need to operate a specific type of vehicle or passenger service, ICBC has information on Driver’s Licence Classes and Types. Contact ICBC to determine qualifications to operate shuttle services (**1-800-950-1498**). A commercial driver’s licence requires a safe driving record.
- Should you wish to apply for a licence to start up your own driver training school, or to teach a driver training course, see the Driver Training Industry of BC website (www.dtcbc.com) or call **1-866-339-0363**.

Business Licensing

- To operate a business in Smithers, you need a business licence issued by the Town of Smithers. See Smithers Business Licensing (www.smithers.ca/businesses/licenses-permits-signage/business-licensing) or call **250-847-1600**.
- Visit the Passenger Transportation Branch website (www.th.gov.bc.ca/rpt/licence_new.htm) or call **1-800-663-7867** to see if a Passenger Transportation Licence is needed.
- Speak to an Autoplan Broker about vehicle and liability insurance needed to operate a passenger transportation service. For the location nearest you, see the ICBC website (www.icbc.com/locators/Pages/default.aspx) or call **1-800-663-3051**.