



# Building Together:

The Netherlands and the  
Metro Vancouver Region

Through economic cooperation and the promotion of bilateral interests that build on shared connections, the Netherlands and the Metro Vancouver region are positioning themselves for shared success in a rapidly evolving global economy.

Prepared by Invest Vancouver  
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# Key Statistics

Stat	Netherlands	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver
Area (km2)	41,543	944,735	2,883
Population (2020, millions)	17.28	5.15	2.74
Population Density (Inhabitants per km2)	505.9	5.0	949.6
GDP (2020, current US\$, billions)	\$912	\$215	\$120
GDP per capita (2020, current US\$)	\$52,000	\$42,000	\$44,000

## World Class Trade Infrastructure

BC is home to Canada's largest port, the Port of Vancouver and the closest major North American port to Asia, the Port of Prince Rupert. The Port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands is the largest port in Europe and the Port of Amsterdam is the world's largest port for chemicals goods. Vancouver's YVR airport is Canada's gateway to Asia. Amsterdam's Schiphol is one of the world's busiest airports, ranking 3rd in Europe and 12th globally by number of pre-pandemic annual passengers. KLM, Air Canada and other airlines offer daily direct flights from YVR to Schiphol. The Amsterdam Internet Exchange, one of the largest global hubs for internet traffic, is a draw for tech and enterprise firms.

## Trade Connections

BC accounts for 10 percent of Dutch imports to Canada by value, and the Netherlands ranks 7th as a destination for BC-origin exports by value.

BC's domestic high technology exports to the Netherlands have increased from \$15.6 million in 2010 to an average of \$34 million per year for the five years ending in 2019 (the most recent available). During the same five-year period, high technology imports from the Netherlands averaged \$21.6 million.

## Top 5 Exports (2020)

Dutch Exports to Canada	BC Exports to the Netherlands
Petroleum oils	Aluminum
Beer	Coal
Food & drink prep machinery	Wood pellets
Agricultural machinery	Transmission equipment
Fertilizers	Lumber

## Personal Connections

1,100,000

Canadians are of Dutch descent, including 1 in 20 British Columbia residents

10,000

Passport renewals handled by the Dutch consulate in the Vancouver region

5,000

Canadians live in the Netherlands, according to the Canadian Embassy

43,000

Visitors from the Netherlands enter Canada through B.C. each year

275,000

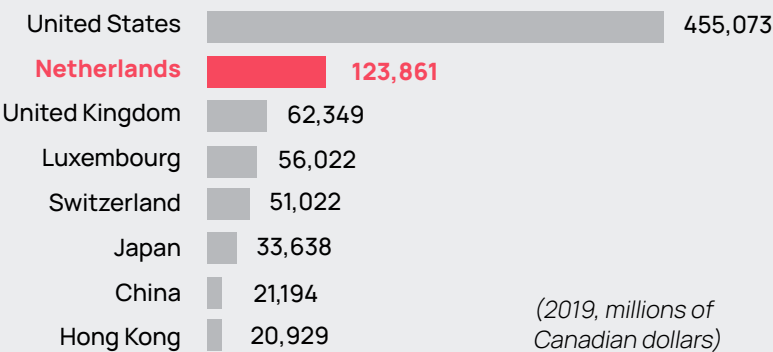
Visits per year by Canadian tourists to the Netherlands, making it the 11th most popular country for Canadian tourists



# Foreign Direct Investment Connections

The Netherlands is a top-10 investor in Canada, ranking 7th among major holders of existing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) stock in Canada with a three percent share, behind the United States (49.9%), UK (6.1%), Japan (4.6%), Germany (3.3%), Switzerland (3.2%), and China (3.1%). Looking at current investment inflows, the Dutch rank even higher. Depending on how FDI is measured, the Netherlands ranked 2nd as a source of FDI in 2020, based on immediate investing country, and 6th based on ultimate investing country.

## Foreign Direct Investment in Canada by Country



## Business Connections

### Select Dutch firms in Metro Vancouver include:

- Shell – LNG Canada (energy)
- Jaga Convektco (energy)
- VanderLande (airport transportation systems)
- Signify (lighting innovation)
- IntervISTAS (airport consultancy)
- WTT-Convertus Group (organic waste management)
- NNZ Packaging (agricultural processing)
- Visser NA (agritech)
- Priva (agritech)

### Select BC firms active in the Netherlands include:

- Corvus Energy (clean transportation)
- Ostara Nutrient Recovery (wastewater treatment)
- Fluevog (designer shoes)
- Chrysalix (venture capital)
- Ritchie Bros (auctioneers)
- Blast Radius (web development)
- Priva (agritech)



## Surrey Biofuel Facility:

### An Example of Dutch Technology Advancing the Circular Economy in the Metro Vancouver region

Surrey Biofuel Facility is North America's first integrated closed-loop organic waste management system. The fully-enclosed, state-of-the-art facility uses technology from the Dutch firm Waste Treatment Technologies (WTT) to convert organic waste into renewable natural gas (RNG) while minimizing odour impact. The RNG will fuel the trucks that collect the waste, other City of Surrey vehicles, as well as a new energy district, reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by about 49,000 tonnes annually.

# Looking to the Future: Growing Connections

The Canada-European Union (EU) Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement represents a new chapter of Canada-EU relations. Positive impacts of this progressive agreement are already being realized, leading to a new and enhanced Dutch-Canadian trade relationship that will continue to buttress and grow the existing and future bilateral investment opportunities and industrial connections between the Netherlands and BC.

Recognizing the strong pre-existing personal, trade and FDI connections, the world-renowned conveyances for global trade facilitation, and the shared, deeply rooted values related to climate resilience, there are numerous trade, FDI, and business opportunities related the circular economy and infrastructure sustainability; new clean transportation and maritime mobility; and “green” port technology. In particular, the shared interest in Agritech, port-related technologies and green building innovation suggest multiple industrial competencies that are ripe for more strategic bilateral cooperation and firm-to-firm business development.

## To discuss these and other opportunities, contact us:

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## About Invest Vancouver

Invest Vancouver is the region's economic development leadership service with the mission to position the region for success in a rapidly evolving global economy.

**Collaborating with a cross-section of regional leaders from industry, First Nations, labour, government, non-profit organizations, and education, Invest Vancouver:**

- works directly with global investors to facilitate business investment and expansion into our region
- informs economic development decision-making with cutting-edge data analytics and comprehensive market intelligence
- promotes and showcases the industry advantages and opportunities our region has to offer to the world
- advises leaders on sound economic development strategy and policy to enhance our region's global competitiveness
- fosters regional economic development collaboration to position our communities and people to prosper amidst our changing economy

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