



2.3 View of Vancouver City.

city provides numerous case studies for the redevelopment of former industrial space along the waterfront.

Vancouver sits on the southwest coast of British Columbia, surrounded by mountains and water. It lies at the mouth of the Fraser River Valley, bordered by the Coastal Mountains to the north and the Strait of Georgia to the west. The population of Vancouver is approaching two million people, which makes it the third largest city in Canada. The inner city and Stanley Park lie on a peninsula jutting into the strait, with the Burrard Inlet to the north and False Creek to the south. With a history of British colonial rule and Pacific Rim influences, Vancouver has become one of the major urban centers on the west coast of North America.

The city has always had a strong relationship with its harbor. It was chartered and explored by Europeans with the arrival of José Manuel Navarez in 1791 and Captain George Vancouver in 1792. Colonization was initially slow, based primarily on the terminus of continental trade and exploration routes, resource extraction and the advantages offered by its natural harbors. With the entrance of British Columbia into the Canadian Confederation in 1871, and the subsequent completion of the transcontinental railway in 1879, a period of major immigration and development began. Incorporated in 1886, the City of Vancouver suffered a terrible fire and was completely destroyed that same year. In its centennial year, Vancouver made its entrance onto the global stage by hosting the World's Fair, Expo'86. Since then, Vancouver has enjoyed continued growth spurred in large part to trans-Pacific migration and business connections.

Vancouver's dominant industry remains the production and distribution of raw materials – lumber, mining, fishing and shipping. Because of this, the city is one of the chief ports on the North American west coast, acting as the terminus for a number of major transcontinental rail lines. The city is a distribution point for products moving between North America and various ports in Asia. Vancouver's economy is expanding, with the growth of eco-tourism, the rise of communications, electronics, biotechnology and