

Fort Langley Evangelical Free Church in its strategic geographical setting

Fort Langley Evangelical Free Church is located on the main street in the village of Fort Langley, which is located 50 kms east of the picturesque and bustling metropolis of Vancouver and just off of the Trans-Canada Highway. The village has approximately 2,900 residents and is known as the birthplace of British Columbia as it was the location of the first capital of the province (1858) in the original Hudson's Bay Company Fort located on the banks of the Fraser River. Today it is best known as a weekend tourist destination with its many specialty shops, fine restaurants, antique shops, hiking trails, the National Historic Site for the reconstructed fort, and seasonal festivals such as the annual Douglas Days celebration and parade and the Cranberry Festival. This quaint village, however, has undergone a dramatic changeover in the last 10 years with the addition of a large housing development known as Bedford Landing. The project doubled the population of Fort Langley thereby making it a more vibrant, growing community with many new families. This gives the church a huge mission field right on its doorstep and one that it has already been reaching out to.

Fort Langley is located within the township of Langley and 10kms from the city of Langley (population 26,000). Langley is sometimes dubbed the "horse capital of Canada" as there used to be more horses per capita than in any other area of Canada. This really speaks to its rural area made up of farms, forests, parks, and multiple golf courses. In recent years, however, Langley has become a regional distribution and shopping centre complete with all of the name brand big box stores and shopping malls. As part of the wider Langley community, our church is centered near the Canadian headquarters of leading evangelical organizations, such as Focus on the Family, Wellspring, and Power to Change (Campus Crusade for Christ).

Langley also has new state of the art athletic and recreation facilities located in the Langley Events Centre (LEC) with a seating capacity of 5,200 in its arena. The LEC is home to the Vancouver Giants of the Western Hockey League and Trinity Western University Spartans volleyball, basketball and hockey teams that bring the best of Canadian university teams to compete in our arena. The church has a good working relationship with the Township and has received grants for some of its community impact activities. You can best appreciate Langley's unique culture by visiting www.city.langley.bc.ca and watching the short videos on this site.

In between Fort Langley and Langley city and on the main road joining the two is located Trinity Western University (TWU). Fort Langley Evangelical Free Church is the church closest to Trinity Western University, Canada's premier Christian liberal arts university, and to ACTS Seminaries, a unique consortium of evangelical seminaries. As such, our church can draw from some of North America's leading educators who promote church life and a Christian world view. Since neither the university nor the seminaries offer Sunday services, Fort Langley Evangelical Free Church can offer a much-needed spiritual home for students away from home. With these connections our church has the potential to be an outreach to our local

neighborhood and to share a significant influence in the wider North American Christian community.

The church is very proud of its connections to TWU so let's look at a few notable things about the university. TWU is the only Canadian university to be given an A+ for its overall quality of education seven years running in the annual Globe and Mail survey of Canadian universities. In addition to its academic accolades, its choir regularly performs with professional musicians from the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Its four premier varsity sports (men's and women's volleyball and soccer teams) have won more national championships than any other university in Canada. TWU also operates the Laurentian Leadership Centre in the nation's capital, Ottawa, where it sends 15-23 students each semester to study Canadian politics from a Christian perspective and to do internships with members of parliament. The first graduates emerged from this program in 2004 and there are now 45 of the LLC grads working full time on Parliament Hill, far more than from any other Canadian university. TWU is also committed to mission outreach and annually sends over 200 of its students on mission trips around the world as well as weekly ministering to people on the deprived east side of Vancouver. The university is owned by the Evangelical Free Church of Canada and a dozen of its staff and faculty attend and are involved in the leadership of Fort Langley Evangelical Free Church. The church makes an annual contribution to the university and frequently hosts speakers from the university. For more on TWU and ACTS visit www.twu.ca