


# Fort McMurray is a fast-growing city



 Fort McMurray is in northeastern Alberta. It is 435 kilometres (270 miles) from Edmonton.

Fort McMurray is a fast-growing community.



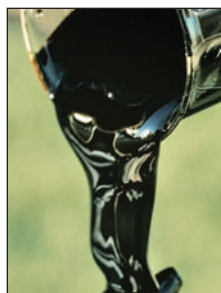
## Athabasca Oil Sands

Fort McMurray is in the middle of the Athabasca Oil Sands. These oil sands cover a huge area. They are a mixture of bitumen, sand, water and clay.

Companies mine the sand and take out the bitumen. Then the bitumen is made into many products. For example: jet fuel, gas for cars, plastics.



oil sands



Bitumen is a heavy oil. It is black and thick.

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## Things to see and do

### Plant tours

You can take a tour of an oil sands plant from May to October. Call Fort McMurray Tourism at 1-800-565-3947 (free call).



### Discovery Centre

Don't miss the Oil Sands Discovery Centre in Fort McMurray. It has many exhibits. It is open year-round.



### Parks

Fort McMurray has nice parks. You can walk, hike, bike or ski on the beautiful trails.



You can learn about the history of Fort McMurray at Heritage Park. It has old buildings, a museum and large artifacts. For example: railway cars, a drilling rig and a tugboat.



### Northern lights

In the winter, tourists travel to Fort McMurray to see the northern lights or aurora borealis.



### 2008 update

- ✓ Fort McMurray is still growing. The city's population is about 64,400.
- ✓ Fort McMurray is part of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. The population of the Regional Municipality is about 79,000.

Photos—oilsands/hand, bitumen: Syncrude Canada Ltd.; plant: Suncor Energy Inc.; Borealis Park: Fort McMurray Tourism; Heritage Park, northern lights: Travel Alberta • Art: Guy Parsons  
• Population source: Fort McMurray Tourism website

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