

Cascadia Metals Brandon

Your Full Steel Service Centre

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Quick Facts

Tucked away along a gravel road in the southeast corner of Brandon's Industrial Park is Cascadia Metals, a Brandon business which started nearly 20 years ago in the basement of a home and today, boasts a full service steel centre shipping to more than 500 clients annually across Canada's agriculture, manufacturing, construction and retail industries.

Cascadia's origins are on Canada's West Coast where the business opened in 1983 under the original name, NAPSteel. The company's first Brandon location opened under the name Steel Plus in 1998. Established in the basement of Phil's Brandon home, the company moved into its first modest office space in Brandon's Industrial Park later that fall. Quickly realizing the potential that a piece of land he owned with an abandoned rail spur on it held, Phil moved the business to its present location along 33rd Street East in 2000. Expansions to that site were undertaken in 2002, 2006 and 2013, and have brought the location's space offering up to its current 86,000 square feet across several buildings. In 2012, the company took on the parent company's name, Cascadia Metals, which was already shared by the business's other locations in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia.

The Brandon facility is the company's only full steel service centre location, purchasing a wide range of raw steel from across Canada, the United States, and Asia, which is then shipped in by rail directly to its facility. The steel comes into the facility in formidable sized coils, some weighing in at upwards of 50,000 pounds. Owning its own rail track and switch has proven very helpful to Cascadia's success in Brandon, as it allows the company to work with Canadian National Railway and bring rail cars onto its property and right into its building. In fact, four full rail cars can fit into the company's warehouse for direct unloading via crane.

- Cascadia Metals was founded in Delta, B.C. in 1983 and later expanded into Brandon by current General Manager, Phil Ritchie, in 1998
- Cascadia Metals remains family-run, with additional locations in Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary, and Langley, B.C.
- Brandon facility boasts 86,000 square feet of space and is the company's only full service steel centre location
- Specializes in "cut-to-length" and "slitting" processes for steel product sold to clients in the manufacturing, agricultural, commercial construction, and retail markets
- An average of 6,000 tonnes per month of steel product is shipped out of the Brandon location
- Employee base of approximately 35 skilled labourers, including Class 1 drivers, mechanical engineers and operators, and heavy duty mechanics

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The facility's two "cut-to-length" lines can then flatten the steel and cut to any custom length, while Cascadia's custom steel slitting line (the only such service available between Winnipeg and Calgary) can cut large coils of steel into long strips. After processing, the steel is delivered via company semi-trucks to clients in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and even into parts of British Columbia to assist with product demand at the company's Langley and Delta locations. Cascadia's Brandon facility ships an average of 6,000 tonnes of steel every month. With a facility expansion in Ontario on the horizon in 2017, Cascadia's goal is to be shipping steel product coast-to-coast in the near future. While the vast majority of their product is shipped to clients outside of the Brandon region, steel processed at Cascadia's facility has been used by many Brandon steel fabrication companies, in the region's agricultural manufacturing plants, in the local commercial construction industry, and even in the ongoing reconstruction of Brandon's First Street Bridge. Regionally, Cascadia has many clients in Manitoba's heating and ventilation construction sector, and also sells quite a bit of product to Manitoba-based Hutterite communities for use in their own manufacturing operations.

Cascadia Metals' belief that no client is the same is certainly reflected in the vast array of products it provides. From steel beams and pipe to structural steel tubing to pre-painted roofing steel, Cascadia works directly with a client to determine need and can normally offer special orders with as little as 5 days turn-around.

This diversification has been key to Cascadia's ability to weather the ever-changing commodity price of steel and any slowdowns in the various markets it serves. For example, expanding its product line to offer pre-painted steel in a variety of colours and designs has proved very popular in the local commercial and residential construction market. Cascadia has also expanded its services it provides within its own company and has become a processor/supplier/distribution centre for its parent company's locations in Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Calgary, and Edmonton.

With an employee base of approximately 50 skilled labourers, Cascadia employs Class 1 drivers, mechanical engineers and operators, heavy duty mechanics, and a number of sales, management and administrative staff. The company looks for workers with a high mechanical aptitude, who are then trained on-site and go on to enjoy a challenging career with competitive wages. One of the company's recent expansions included the establishment of a steel processing line which creates steel pipe for use in the chain link fence industry. The company brought in a skilled professional from England specifically to start up this sister company, and Cascadia has also become the employer of choice for several Canadian newcomers originally recruited to Brandon for work at Maple Leaf Foods.

With nearly 20 years of loyal employees and loyal customers on its side, Cascadia Metals is a full steel service centre like no other!

