

# FRASER LAKE AND SURROUNDING AREA PROFILE



SMITHERS | TELKWA | HOUSTON | GRANISLE | BURNS LAKE  
FRASER LAKE | FORT ST. JAMES | VANDERHOOF



# CONTENTS

## 1. COMMUNITY PROFILE

### DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth  
Age Structure  
Household Income

### WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment  
Education  
Labour Force by Industry  
Local Post-Secondary Education Facilities and  
Employment Service Providers

### TRANSPORTATION

### COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS

### WATER AND WASTE

Water  
Solid Waste Disposal Services

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Taxes  
Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents  
Incentive Programs  
Local Economic Development Services  
Mayor Contact

### QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

Housing  
Accommodations  
Restaurants  
Other Facilities with Capacity for Hosting Events  
Shopping  
Banks  
Media  
Local Community Organizations  
Local Community Assets  
Schools  
Health Services

## 2. ELECTORAL AREA D

### DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth  
Age Structure  
Household Income

### WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment  
Education  
Labour Force by Industry

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents  
Local Economic Development Services  
Electoral Area Director Contact

### WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE

### QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

Local Community Organizations  
Schools

### FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY

Stellat'en First Nation  
Nadleh Whut'en First Nation

## 3. REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO PROFILE

### DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth  
Age Structure  
Ethnic Diversity  
Household Income

### WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment  
Education  
Labour Force by Industry  
Post-Secondary Education Facilities

### CLIMATE

Monthly Temperature  
Wind Speed  
Precipitation

### TRANSPORTATION

Road  
Rail  
Airport

### ENERGY AND UTILITIES

Electricity and Gas Service Providers  
Commercial and Residential Rates for  
Electricity and Gas

### BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE SUPPORT SERVICES AND FUNDING PROGRAMS

Business Support Services  
Business Funding and Tax Credit Programs  
Regional Employment Service Providers

### LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



## Fraser Lake and Surrounding Area

Fraser Lake and surrounding area is located in the heart of some of British Columbia's most beautiful scenery. There are 170 lakes within a 50 mile radius of the village, which are the temporary home of more than 1,000 trumpeter swans, making Fraser Lake the Swan Capital of the World. An abundance of big game, migratory birds and world class fly-fishing, spin casting, and canoeing make Fraser Lake and surrounding area a community with great outdoor recreational opportunities.

From its humble beginnings in the early 1900's, the Fraser Lake Sawmill (owned and operated by West Fraser Timber Company Ltd.) has evolved into one of the world's most modern sawmills. Another strong contributor to the local economy, Endako Molybdenum Mines was at one time the second largest Molybdenum Mine in the world. Endako Mine and Fraser Lake Sawmill employ the majority of Fraser Lake and surrounding area residents.

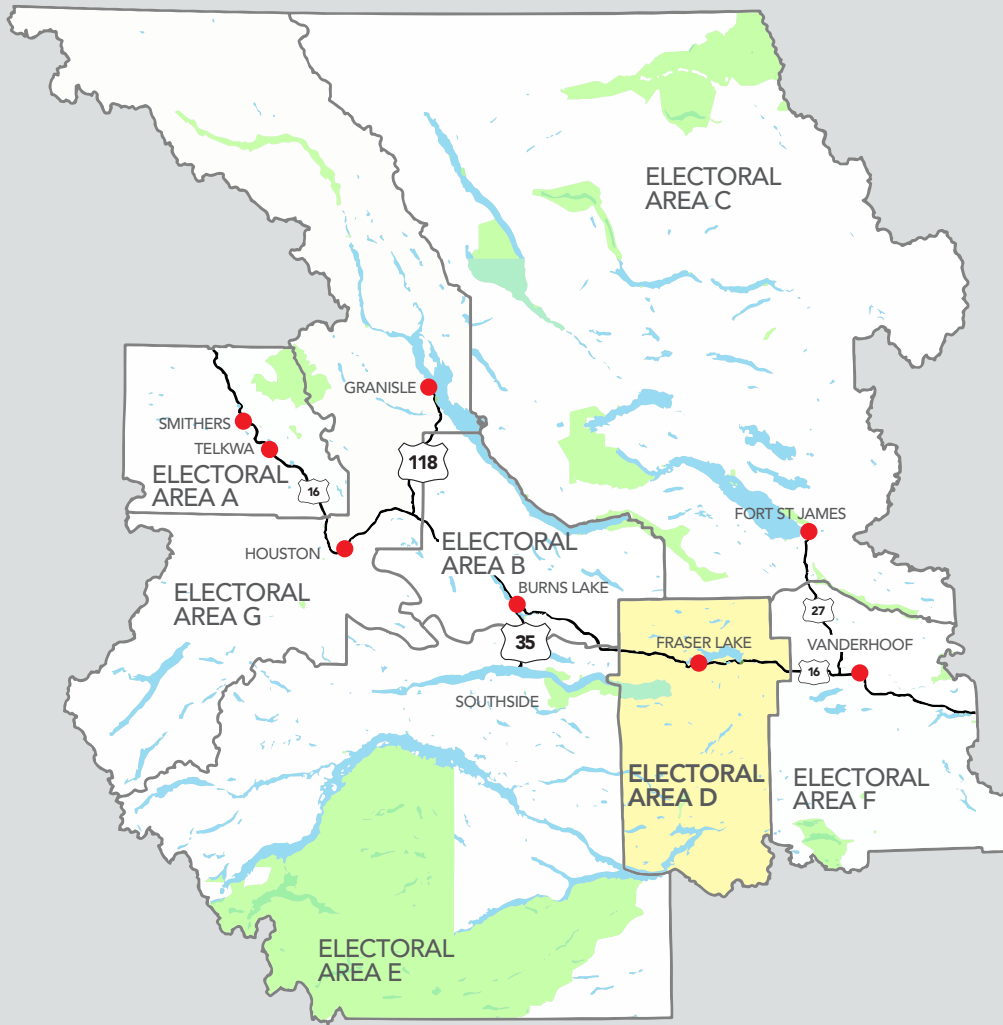
## The Regional Profile

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) Regional and Community Profiles bring together current and detailed demographic data as well as information about workforce, transportation, energy, utilities, local government and quality of life. The information about the region is intended to inform potential investors, support decisions to establish or expand a business and provide opportunities to future residents. The Community and Surrounding Rural Area profiles provide the complete picture of each Electoral Area, as well as insight into why residents love to work, live and play in the RDBN.

Northern BC is used as a comparative area in many of the profile graphs. In this case, the area of Northern BC is defined as the three northern [federal electoral areas](#) in the province, including Skeena-Bulkley Valley, Cariboo-Prince George, and Prince George-Peace River.

More information about the businesses and organizations listed in this document is available on the RDBN website under *Bulkley-Nechako Directory*. Please use the Bulkley-Nechako Directory by inserting the following website in your browser: [directory.rdbn.bc.ca](http://directory.rdbn.bc.ca).

# Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Map



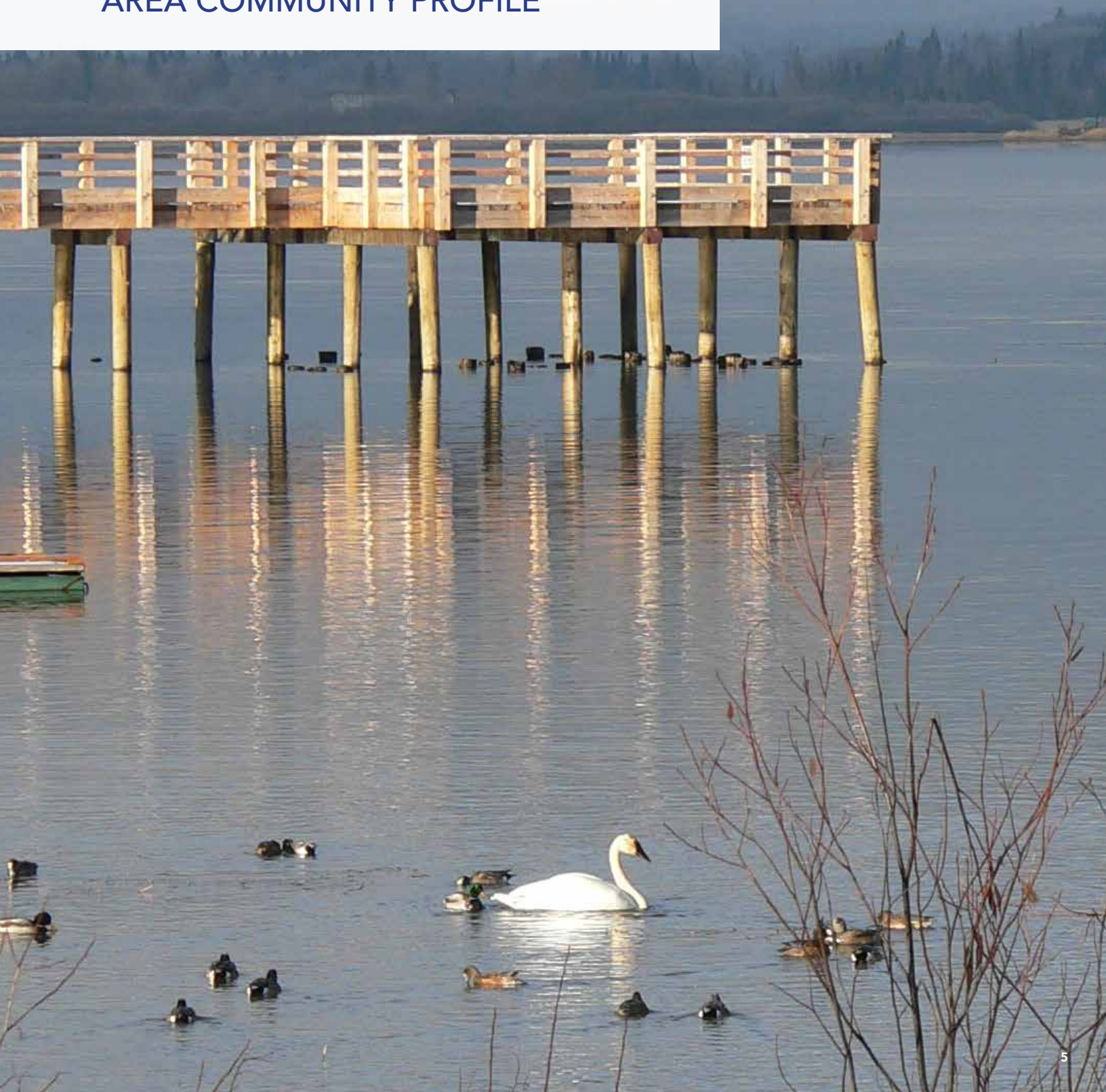
## Distance from Fraser Lake to:

PLACE	DISTANCE (KM)	DRIVING TIME (HR)
Prince George, BC	153	1 hr 38 min
Kitimat, BC	472	5 hr 37 min
Prince Rupert, BC	561	6 hr 44 min
Edmonton, AB	896	10 hr 6 min
Vancouver, BC	938	10 hr 22 min
Calgary, AB	942	11 hr 20 min
Seattle, WA	1,052	11 hr 38 min
Portland, OR	1,332	14 hr 21 min
Whitehorse, YT	1,462	19 hr 2 min
Yellowknife, NT	1,762	21 hr 7 min
Anchorage, AK	2,593	33 hr

## Legend

- Municipalities
  - Parks
  - Lakes
  - Electoral Area Boundary
  - Regional District Boundaries
  - Highway
- N

# 1: FRASER LAKE AND SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY PROFILE



# DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

## Population Growth

Population growth in Fraser Lake, 2001-2011

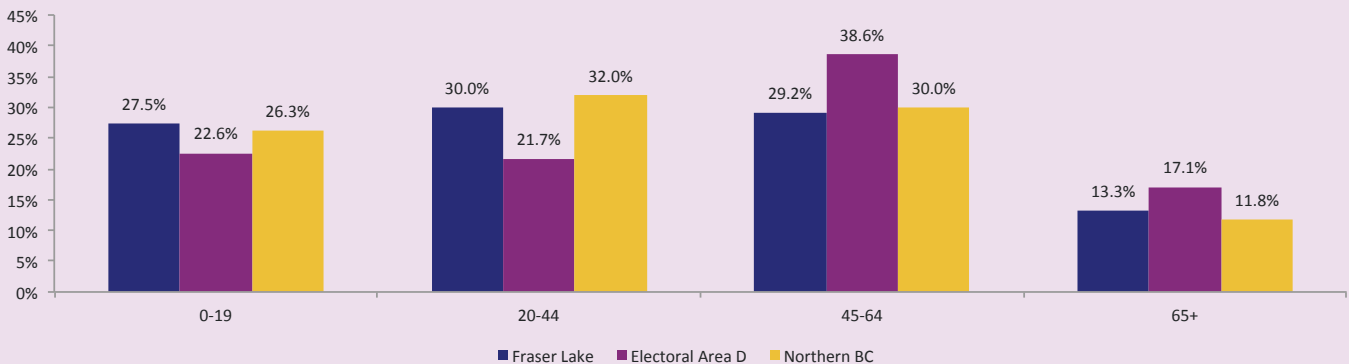
POPULATION GROWTH	2001	2006	2011
Fraser Lake	1,268	1,113	1,167
Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)	1,715	1,682	1,734
Northern BC	315,217	304,173	304,620

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2001-2011

The Village of Fraser Lake had a population of 1,167 in 2011, which increased by 4.9% from 2006 and is generally stable. The population increase from 2006 to 2011 outpaced the rate of population growth in the RDBN and Northern BC which was 2.5% and 0.1% respectively.

## Age Structure

Age structure in Fraser Lake and Electoral Area D, 2011

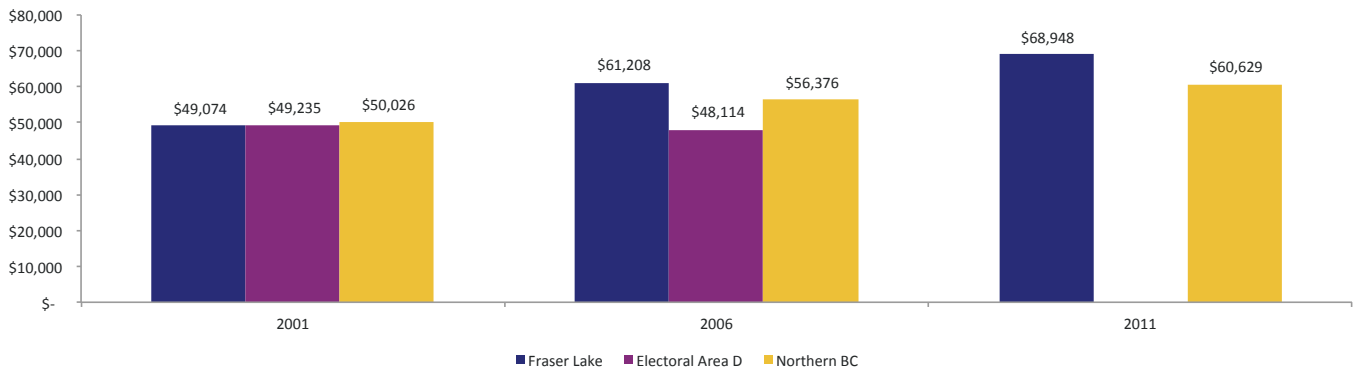


Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011

The median age of the population of Fraser Lake was close to the same as Northern B.C and younger than the surrounding Electoral Area D in 2011. The median age in Fraser Lake was 38 while in the Electoral Area and Northern BC the median age was 49 and 39 respectively. Its age structure reveals that Fraser Lake had a higher youth population (ages 0-19) and lower proportion of residents between the ages of 45-64, compared to the Electoral Area. When compared to Northern BC, Fraser Lake had an equivalent portion of youth and people between the ages of 45-64.

# Household Income

## Median household income in Fraser Lake and Electoral Area D, 2001-2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2001-2006

In 2011 Fraser Lake had the second highest median household income among the municipalities in the RDBN, of \$68,948. The household income in Fraser Lake has generally been higher than the Electoral Area and Northern BC. Fraser Lake experienced a 25% increase in household income from 2001 to 2006 while from 2006 to 2011 there was a further 13% increase. The growth rate in household income in Fraser Lake has outpaced the growth in the Electoral Area and Northern BC.

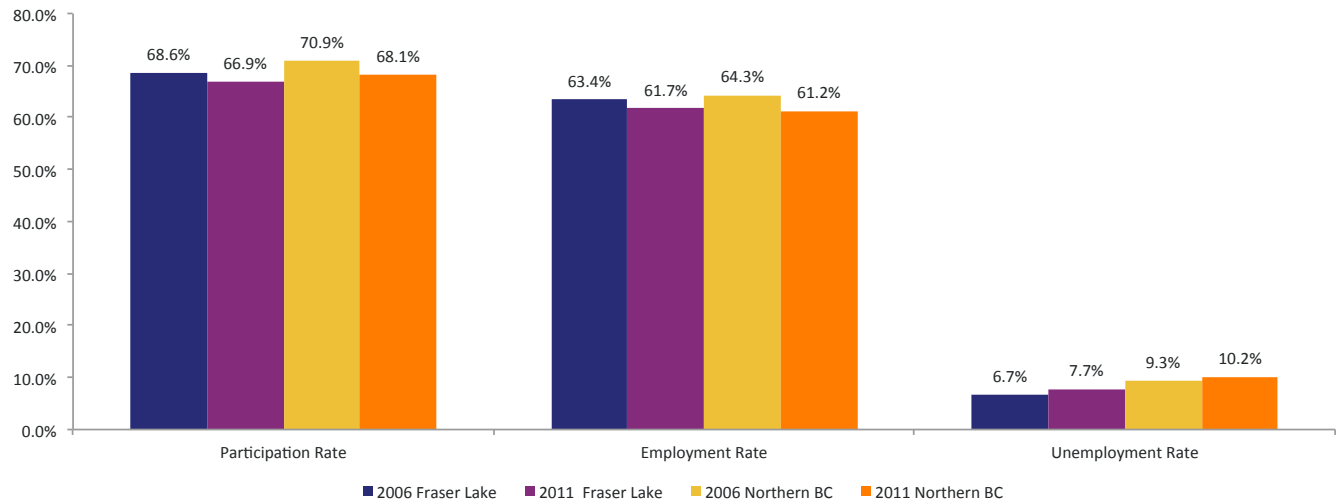
Please note that income data for Electoral Area D in 2011 was unavailable as it was suppressed for data quality or confidentiality reasons by Statistics Canada.



# WORKFORCE PROFILE

## Employment

Employment data in Fraser Lake and Northern BC, 2006-2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006

Fraser Lake had a lower unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2006 and 2011. The unemployment rate increased by one percent from 2006 to 2011. This rate of increase was similar to Northern BC.

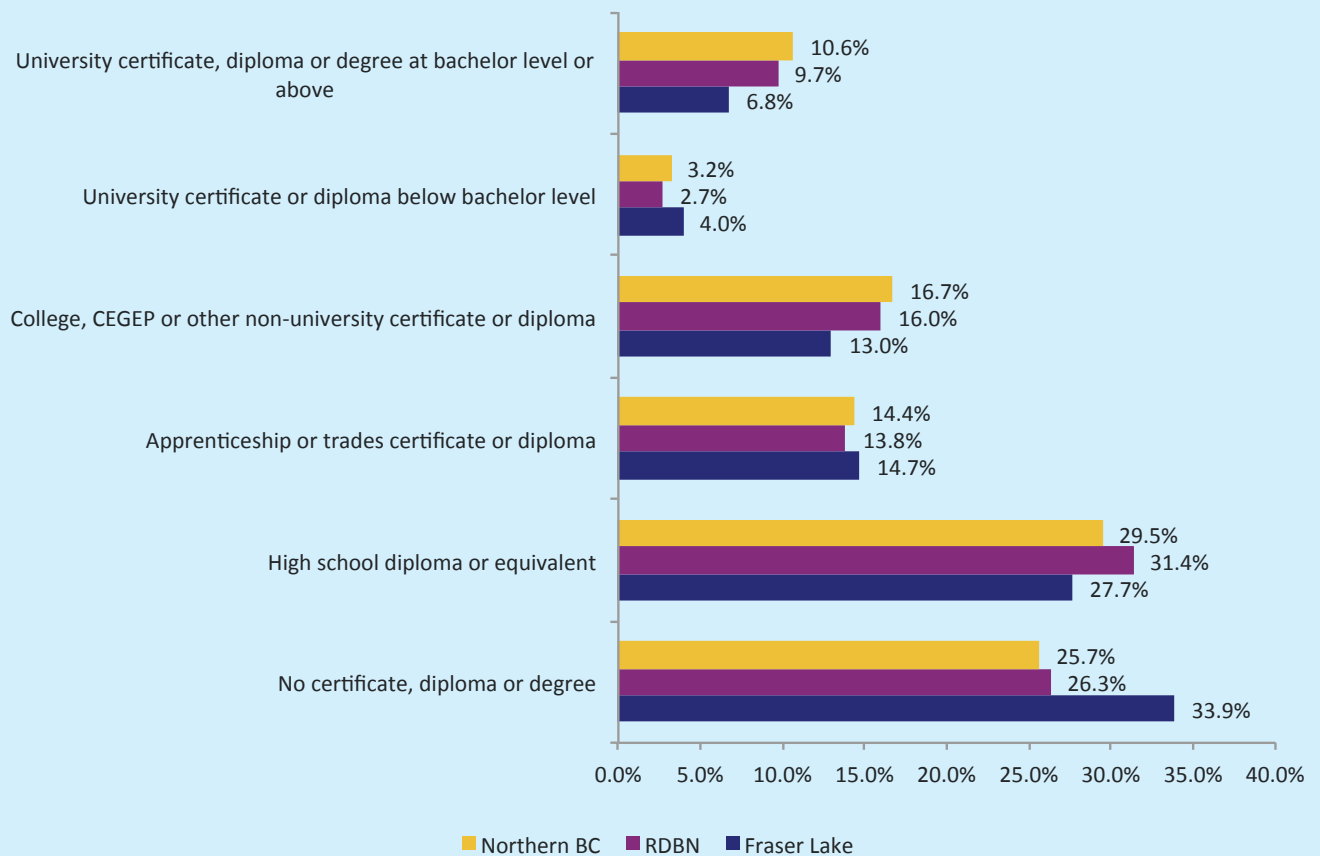






# Education

## Education in Fraser Lake and Bulkley-Nechako, 2011



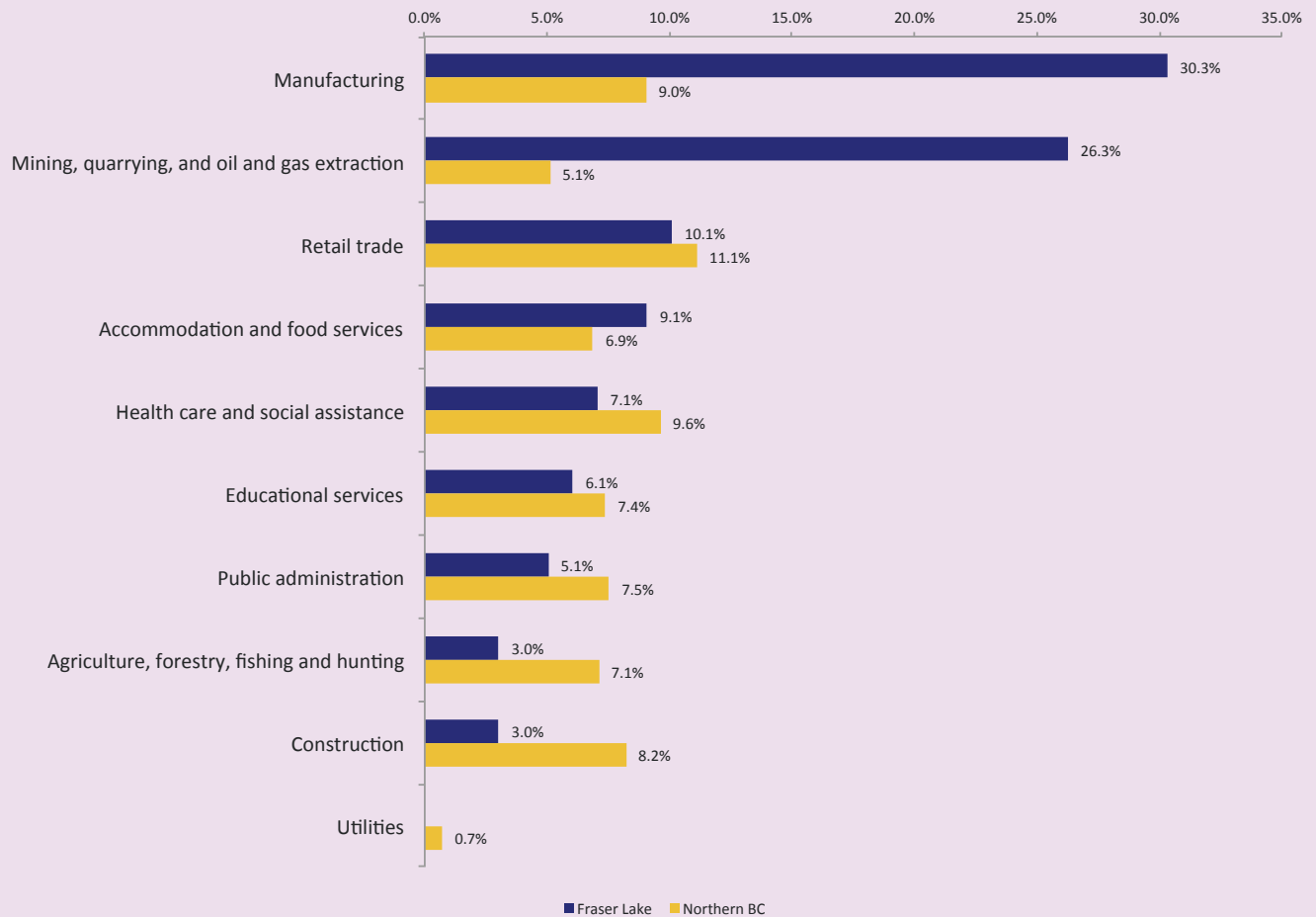
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey

Fraser Lake had a higher portion of residents with an apprenticeship or trades certificates or diploma compared to the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011.

Please note that education data for Electoral Area D in 2011 was unavailable as it was suppressed for data quality or confidentiality reasons by Statistics Canada.

# Labour Force by Industry

## Labour force by industry in Fraser Lake and Northern BC, 2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey

In 2011 Fraser Lake had a total labour force of 495 people. Over a quarter of the local labour force works in the mining and oil and gas sector, while in Northern BC this sector only accounts for 5% of the workforce. Manufacturing is another significant source of employment. Manufacturing accounts for 30% of the labour force in Fraser Lake and only 9% in the RDBN. The portion of the labour force that works in manufacturing in Fraser Lake is the highest among the municipalities in the RDBN while the concentration of employment in mining and oil and gas is the second highest.

Some major employers in Fraser Lake include the following:

NAME	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
Thompson Creek Mining – Endako Mines	359
West Fraser – Fraser Lake Sawmills	300
School District No.91	69
Northern Health Authority – Fraser Lake Medical Clinic	26
Village of Fraser Lake	24
SuperValu	18

# Local Post-Secondary Education Facilities and Employment Service Providers

NAME	FACILITY OR SERVICE
College of New Caledonia	Post-Secondary

## TRANSPORTATION

NAME	CATEGORY
Fraser Lake Airport	Airport
Greyhound Canada	Bus Service

### Fraser Lake Airport

The Fraser Lake airport is located 7km southeast of the Village of Fraser Lake. The Fraser Lake Airport currently does not offer scheduled flights. Use of the paved runway is available during the snow-free months. An airport upgrade project funded by Northern Development Initiative Trust is in the early stages of development.

# COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Telus
- Shaw Communications Inc
- Bell
- ABC Communications



# WATER AND WASTE

## Water

### Source of Water Supply and Means of Access

Name of Provider-Village of Fraser Lake

The Fraser Lake Water Treatment Plant was built in 2009 and commissioned for use in the spring of 2010. The water plant treats surface water drawn from nearby Fraser Lake. An 8 metre deep 250mmx140m line gravity feeds water from the lake into a wet well at the fresh water pumping station. There are two 1500 litre/min vertical turbine pumps powered by 50hp electric motors that pump water from the wet well to the Water Treatment Plant and subsequently to the distribution system in town and to the Water Reservoir. The Reservoir holds 1.89 million litres of water. The Water Treatment Plant's flow capacity is 30L/s. The plant typically operates around 12L/s for approximately 8-10 hours with daily production at 350,000-400,000 litres during the winter months. During the summer months the supply is approximately 16L/s for approximately 10-12 hours daily, with production at 600,000-700,000 litres. Water is pumped into the distribution system and feeds the demand in town and overflows into the water reservoir.

### Water Supply vs. Projected Demand

Rated Capacity	199,576m <sup>3</sup>
Average Daily Demand	750m <sup>3</sup>
Peak Demand	1,222.587m <sup>3</sup>

### Residential, Commercial and Industrial Water Rates

Residential	\$35.00/month
Commercial	\$35.00/month/1,000 gallons

## Solid Waste Disposal Services

Commercial and residential garbage is picked up once a week.

### Capacity of Waste Disposal Site vs. Projected Demand

Landfill Name	Clearview Landfill
Location	22 km North of the junction of Highway 16 and 27
Capacity	Left at Current Site 90%/95 years
Plans for New Capacity	None
Transfer Station	3366 Fraser Lake Airport Road

## Recycling

Recycling can be dropped off at the Fraser Lake Bottle Depot. The facility accepts bottles, cans, cardboard, paper, batteries, electronics & small appliances.

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## Taxes

The following chart summarizes 2013 tax rates in Fraser Lake. For up to date information contact the municipality. Tax rates are calculated in dollars of tax per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value.

PURPOSE OF TAX RATE	RESIDENTIAL	UTILITIES	MAJOR INDUSTRY	LIGHT INDUSTRY	BUSINESS / OTHER	MANAGED FOREST LAND	RECREATION / NON-PROFIT	FARM
Regional District	0.8402	2.9406	2.8565	0.0000	2.0584	0.0000	0.8402	0.0000
Hospital District	0.5575	1.9514	1.8956	0.0000	1.3660	0.0000	0.5575	0.0000
School	3.9281	14.0000	6.2000	10.8000	6.2000	2.3000	3.4000	6.9000
Other	0.3799	1.6374	1.6056	1.2654	0.9624	1.2917	0.3799	0.3799
Total	11.0186	61.0606	43.0890	12.0654	32.8107	3.5917	13.4724	7.2799

The following connection charges apply within the community of Fraser Lake:

SEWER CONNECTION AND RENTAL CHARGES	RATE PER MONTH
Single Family Residence	\$17.77
Business and Commercial Establishment	\$17.77
Sewer Connection and Rental Charges	Cost
Single Family Residence	\$33.33
Business and Commercial Establishment	\$33.33

## Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Fraser Lake's official community plan and zoning bylaw are available at [www.fraserlake.ca](http://www.fraserlake.ca)

- [Official Community Plan](#)
- [Zoning Bylaw and map](#)

# Incentive Programs

## Business Support Services

- [Community Futures Stuart-Nechako](#)
- [Fraser Lake Chamber of Commerce](#)

## Business Funding Services

- [Community Futures Stuart-Nechako](#)

# Local Economic Development Services

For any further assistance with local economic development services please contact the Economic Development Officer and Chamber of Commerce:

Director of Business & Economic Development  
Village of Fraser Lake  
Email: [vfledo@fraserlake.ca](mailto:vfledo@fraserlake.ca)  
Phone: 250-699-1655

Chamber Manager  
Fraser Lake Chamber of Commerce  
Email: [vfledo@fraserlake.ca](mailto:vfledo@fraserlake.ca)  
Phone: 250-699-8844

# Mayor Contact

Mayor Dwayne Lindstrom  
210 Carrier Crescent, PO Box 430  
Fraser Lake, BC V0J 1S0  
Email: [dwaynelindstrom@fraserlake.ca](mailto:dwaynelindstrom@fraserlake.ca)

# QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

## Housing

The housing stock in the municipality consists of the following:

DESCRIPTION OF TYPICAL HOUSING STOCK	# OF UNITS
Total Private Dwellings (2011 census)	543
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents (2011 census)	482
Single detached houses (2006 census)	660
# of owned dwellings (BC Stats – Community Facts)	310
# of rented dwellings (BC Stats – Community Facts)	165

The typical cost for a single family home is as follows:

TYPE OF HOUSING	COST
Single Family Homes (2006 census)	\$104,288







## Accommodations

- [Cataline Motor Inn](#)
- [Fraser Lake Inn](#)

## Restaurants

- [The Bucket Bistro](#)
- [Ganna's Growlies](#)
- [New Fraser Lake Restaurant](#)
- [Panagopoulos Place](#)
- [Subway](#)
- [Tony's Restaurant](#)

## Other Facilities with Capacity for Hosting Events

- [The Fraser Lake C.H. Foote Memorial Arena](#)
  - Arena – hard surface in off season – capacity 1000
  - Arena Complex – capacity 250
  - Conference Room – capacity 75
- [Autumn Services](#) – capacity 80

## Shopping

Shopping Mall: [Fraser Lake Shopping Center](#)

# Banks

CIBC

# Media

Phraser Connector

# Local Community Organizations

- Fraser Lake Chamber of Commerce
- BC Bluegrass Association
- The Fraser Lake Quilters Guild
- Fraser Lake & District Historical Society
- Autumn Services
- Fraser Lake Crisis Centre
- Fraser Lake Saddle Club
- Fraser Lake Shotokan Karate Club
- Fraser Lake Skating Club
- Fraser Lake Slow Pitch
- Fraser Lake Youth Soccer

# Local Community Assets

- Fraser Lake Curling
- Adult Learning Center
- Royal Canadian Legion #274

# Schools

- Fraser Lake Elementary Secondary School (4-12)
- Mouse Mountain Elementary (K-3)

# Health Services

- Fraser Lake Community Health Centre

## Fraser Lake Community Health Centre

The Community Health Centre is operated by the Northern Health Authority.

This newly completed facility offers four doctor's offices, X-ray facilities, Laboratory, Public Health Nurse's office, and Northern Health Connections bus services.

*"I bought a business in Fraser Lake because I believed the community had a lot of potential. In the three years I have been here it has exceed all of my expectations, as well as being a friendly town with a business friendly village council and of course being in the center of some of the most beautiful country around with limitless recreational opportunities."* **Rob King**, Fraser Lake Supplies Ltd.

[www.fraserlake.ca](http://www.fraserlake.ca)



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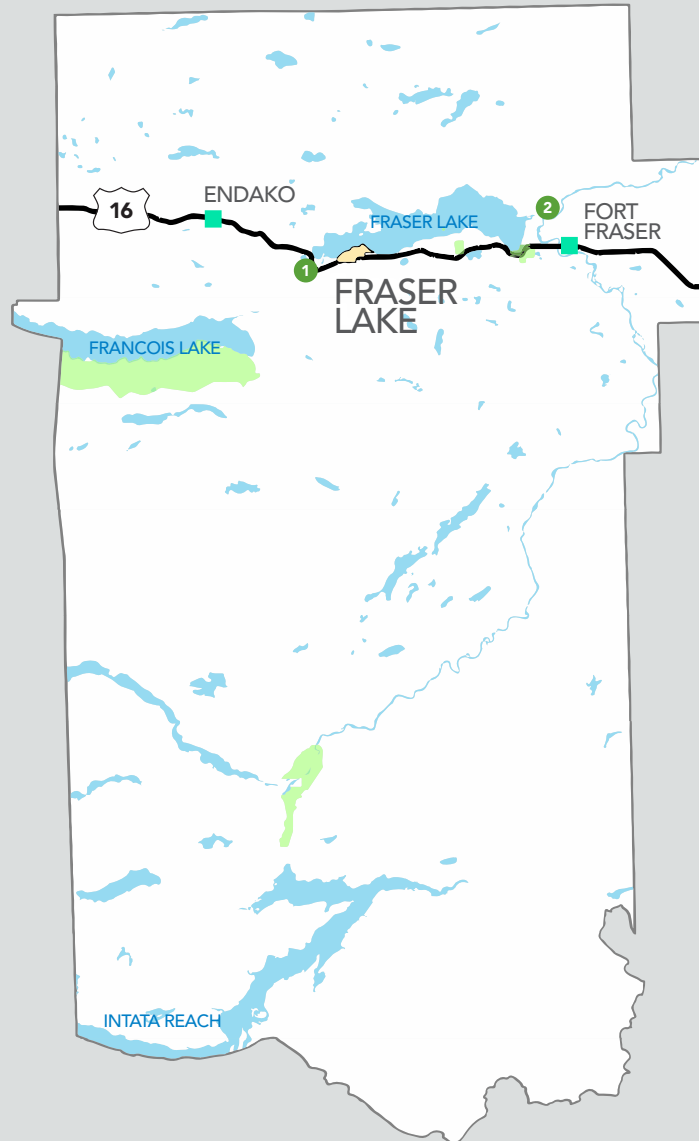




## 2: ELECTORAL AREA D (FRASER LAKE RURAL)

# ELECTORAL AREA 'D'

(Fraser Lake Rural)



## Legend

-  Municipal Boundary
  -  Unincorporated Communities
  -  Lakes
  -  First Nation Population Centers
  -  Electoral Area Boundary
  -  Parks
  -  Highway
1. Stellat'en First Nation (Stellaquo Indian Reserve No. 1)  
2. Nadleh Whut'en First Nation (Nautley Indian Reserve No. 1)



# Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)

Anglers, bird watchers, boaters and hikers will enjoy the abundance of lakes and rivers that Fraser Lake Rural or Electoral Area D has to offer. Fraser Lake Rural has a stable population of just over 1,700 people and includes the unincorporated communities of Endako and Fort Fraser.

Due to data suppression by Statistics Canada, many other statistics about the area are unavailable.

The Stellat'en First Nation and Nadleh Whut'en First Nation are located in Electoral Area D.



# DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

## Population Growth

Population growth in Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) 2001-2011

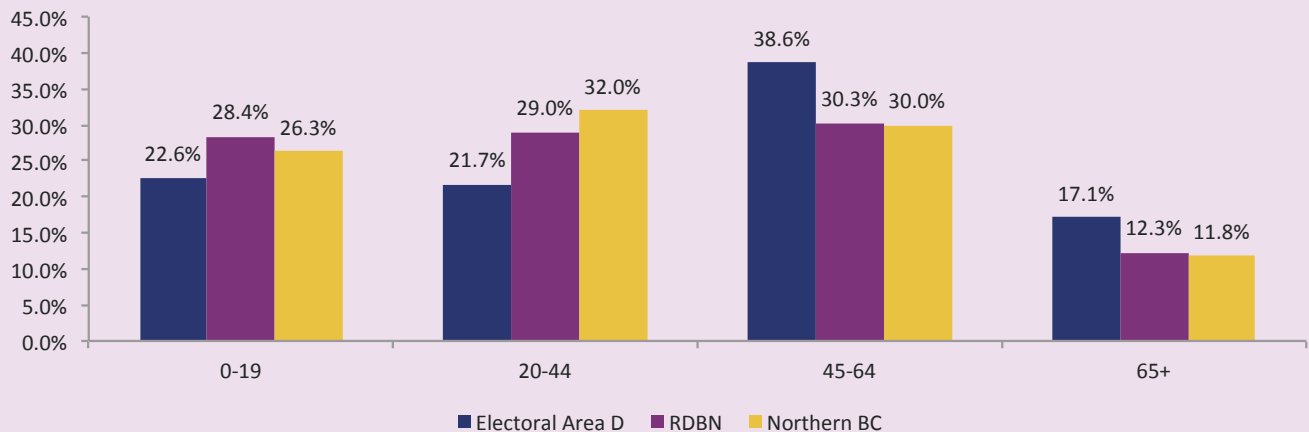
POPULATION GROWTH	2001	2006	2011
Electoral Area D	1,715	1,682	1,734
Regional District Bulkley-Nechako	40,856	38,243	39,208
Northern BC	315,217	304,173	304,620

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile 2001-2011.

Electoral Area D, or Fraser Lake Rural, had a population of 1,734 in 2011 which is an increase of 3.1% from 2006. This growth countered the trend from 2001 to 2006 when there was a 1.9% decrease in population. The population increase from 2006-to 2011 outpaced the growth in the RDBN and Northern BC which was 2.5% and 0.1% respectively.

## Age Structure

Age structure in Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) and the RDBN, 2011



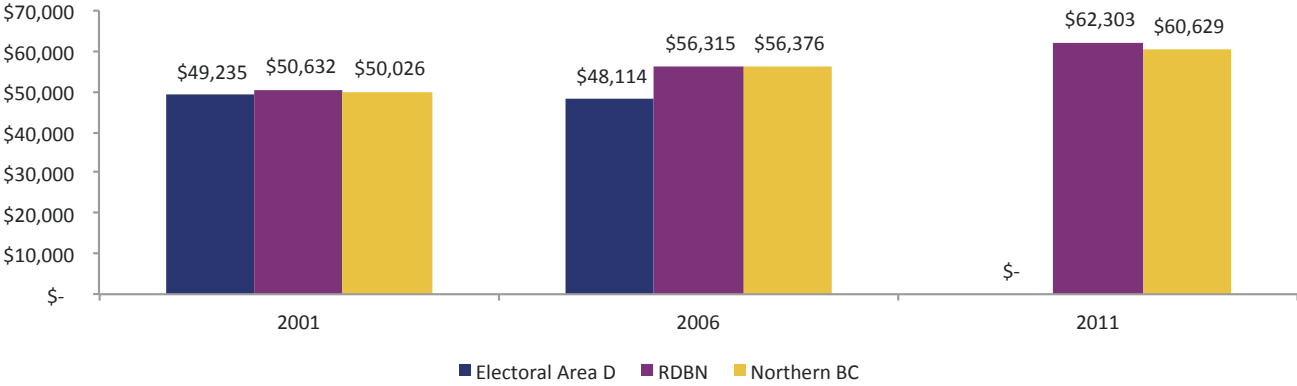
Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011.

The population of Electoral Area D tended to be older than the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011. The median age in the rural area is 49 while in the RDBN and Northern BC the median age is 39. The age structure reveals a lower youth population (ages 0-19) and people between the ages of 25-44, as compared to the RDBN and Northern BC.



# Household Income

Median household income in Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) and the RDBN, 2001-2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2001-2006.

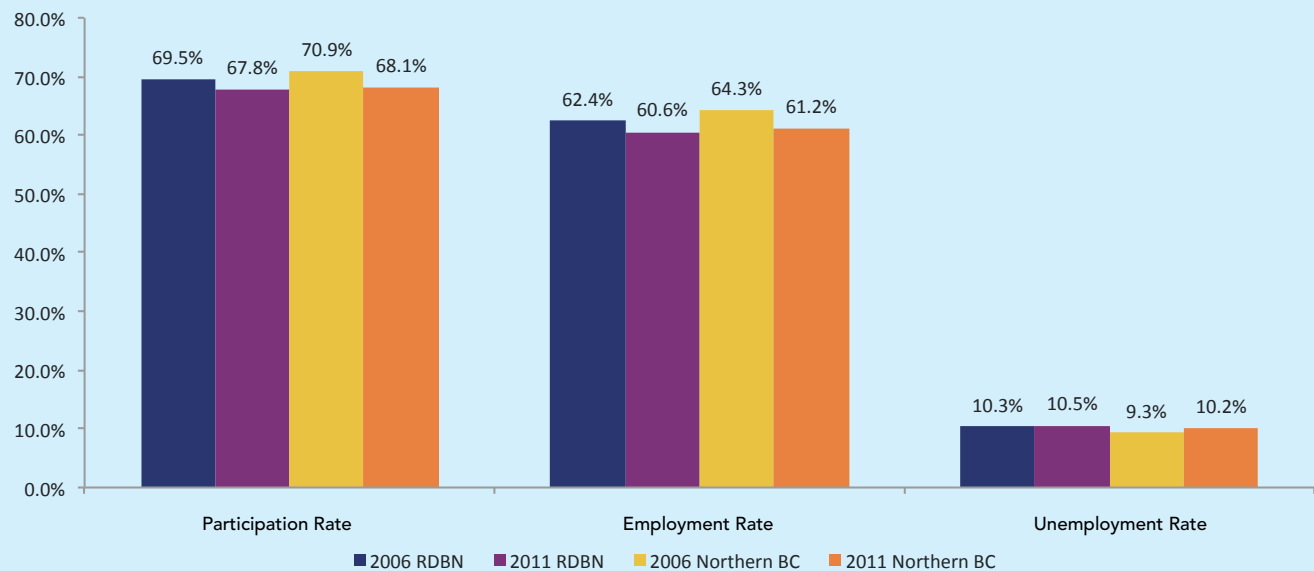
The median household income in Electoral Area D was higher than the RDBN from 2001 to 2006. The rural area experienced a slight 2% decrease in median household income from 2001-2006. Please note that income data for 2011 was unavailable as it was suppressed for data quality or confidentiality reasons by Statistics Canada.



# WORKFORCE PROFILE

## Employment

Employment data in Northern BC and the RDBN, 2006-2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006.

The RDBN had a higher unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2006 and 2011. The unemployment rate in the RDBN remained relatively stable from 2006 to 2011 while in Northern BC the rate increased by 1%.

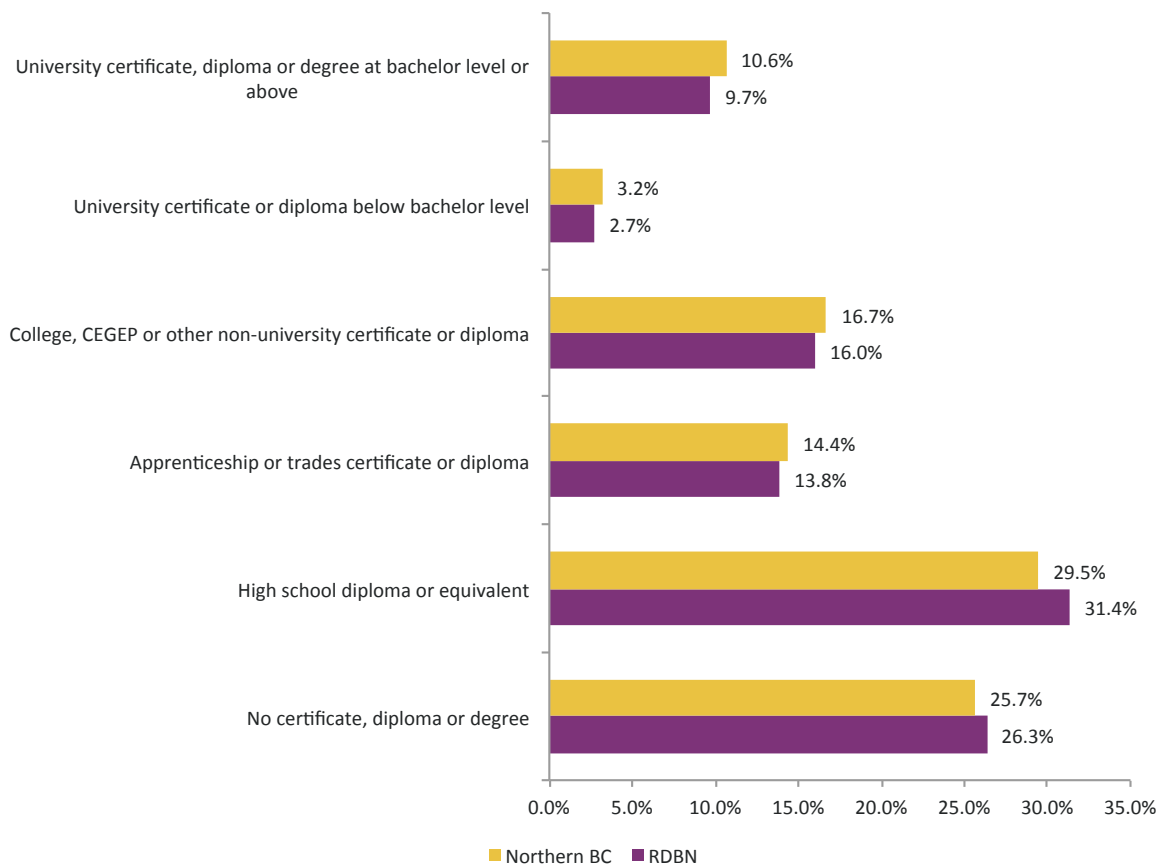
Please note that data specific to Electoral Area D has been suppressed for data quality or confidentiality reasons by Statistics Canada.





# Education

## Education in Northern BC and the RDBN, 2011



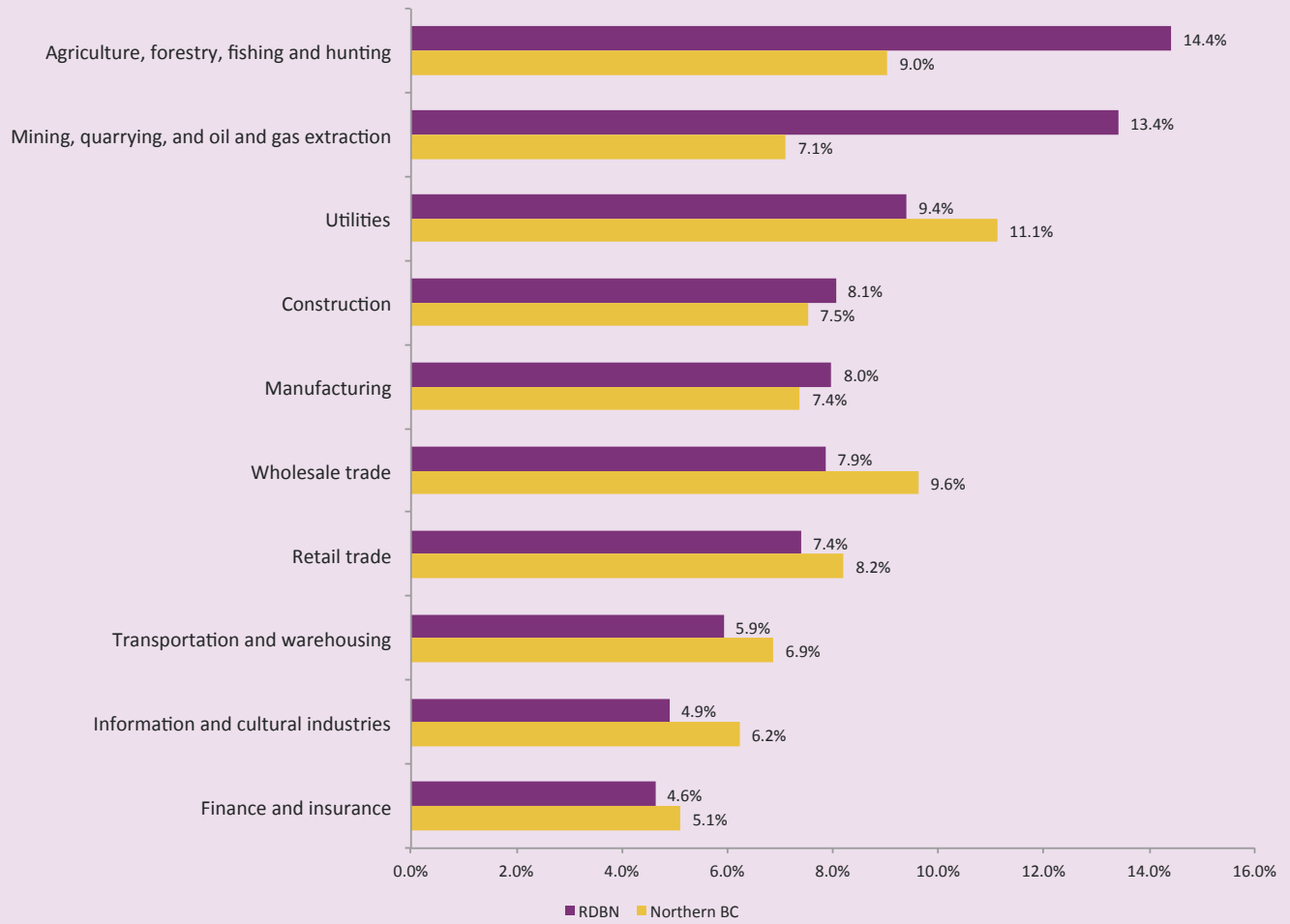
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey.

Education levels in the RDBN are comparable to Northern BC as a whole. Although Northern BC had a slightly higher portion of residents with a college and university education and apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma holders compared to Buckley-Nechako, the differences are not substantial.

Please note that data specific to Electoral Area D has been suppressed for data quality or confidentiality reasons by Statistics Canada.

# Labour Force by Industry

## Labour force by industry in Northern BC and the RDBN, 2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey.

In 2011 the RDBN had a total labour force of 20,430 people. The agriculture and manufacturing sectors were major sources of employment for the RDBN. Among these major employers, both sectors employed a greater portion of the labour force compared to Northern BC.

Please note that data specific to Electoral Area D has been suppressed for data quality or confidentiality reasons by Statistics Canada in 2011.



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Electoral Area D, or Fraser Lake Rural, official community plan is available at [www.rdbn.bc.ca/planning-department](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/planning-department).  
[Fraser Lake Rural Official Community Plan](#)

## Local Economic Development Services

For any further assistance with local economic development services please contact the regional economic development department:

Corrine Swenson  
Manager of Regional Economic Development  
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako  
Email: [corrine.swenson@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:corrine.swenson@rdbn.bc.ca)  
Phone: 250-692-3195 / 1-800-320-3339

## Electoral Area Director Contact

Director Mark Parker  
Box 159  
Fraser Lake, BC V0J 1S0  
Email: [dwfarm@bcgroup.net](mailto:dwfarm@bcgroup.net)

# WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE

## Water and Wastewater Service

The RDBN Environmental Services Department works in conjunction with the Fort Fraser Local Commission, Northern Health, and the Ministry of Environment to manage and operate the drinking water and wastewater (sewage) services for the community of Fort Fraser. The water system includes two ground water wells, pump station, reservoir and distribution network while the sewage treatment system includes a series of three lagoons which act to filter, treat and polish the effluent prior to discharge to the Nechako River.

# QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

## Local Community Organizations

- [Fort Fraser Local Commission](#)
- [Fort Fraser Recreation Society](#)

## Local Community Assets

- [Endako Community Hall](#)
- [Fort Fraser Community Hall](#)

## Schools

- [Fort Fraser Elementary \(K-7\)](#)



# FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY

## Stellat'en First Nation

The main office of Stellat'en First Nation is located on the Stellaquo Reserve on the banks of the Nadleh Bun (Fraser Lake) near Fort Fraser.

The community of Stellaquo has a registered population of 520, as of February 2014, living on and off reserve and is located 2 km west of Fraser Lake. Stellat'en (people of Stella) have existed since time immemorial. The fertile land between Fraser Lake and Vanderhoof is the basin of a glacial lake. Stellaquo is located at the confluence between two rivers: the Stellaquo and Endako. The Stellaquo River is a world renowned trout fishing location.

### Stellat'en First Nation Business

- Slenya Esso

#### Band Office

P.O. Box 760  
Fraser Lake, BC V0J 1S0  
Phone: 250-699-8747  
Fax: 250-699-6430  
Website: [www.stellaten.ca](http://www.stellaten.ca)



# Nadleh Whut'en First Nation

The people of Nadleh Whut'en First Nation are Dakelh people, whose territory is located in the Central Interior of British Columbia around the east end of Fraser Lake. Until 1990, it was referred to as the Fraser Lake Indian Band.

Nadleh Whut'en has a registered population of 531 as of February 2014 living on and off reserve. Most of the nation's members reside in Nadleh, the main community, while others (approximately 20) live in Lejac. Nadleh is located along the banks of the Nautley (Nadleh) river, between Fraser Lake and the Nechako River. Lejac is located on the south side of Fraser Lake.

The Nadleh Whut'en speak a dialect of the Carrier language which is part of the Athapaskan language family. Carrier people refer to themselves as Dakelh, which means "people who travel by water."

## Band Office

P.O. Box 36

Fort Fraser, BC V0J 1N0

Phone: 250.690.7211

Fax: 250.690.7316

Website: [www.nadleh.ca](http://www.nadleh.ca)





[www.rdbn.bc.ca](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca)



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### 3: REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO PROFILE

# Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Profile

Located in the heart of British Columbia and home to 8 unique municipalities, 7 electoral areas, and 13 First Nations, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) boasts extraordinary natural beauty, vibrant small town culture and exciting business opportunities.

Residents of RDBN enjoy the natural splendor of snow-capped mountains in winter, refreshing lakes and rivers in the summer, abundant and diverse wildlife, a wealth of community events, and all-season recreation create an abundance of activities for the outdoor enthusiast. Quality of life is highly valued; the natural amenities of the region and family values are an integral part of life in the RDBN.

Culture and history are an important part of life in the RDBN, where a strong agricultural heritage and natural resource economy are the foundations of its welcoming, family friendly communities. Cultural experiences enjoyed by residents include charming local museums, inspiring First Nations events and artwork, historic sites, galleries, theatres, and unique small businesses.

## The Regional Profile

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) Regional and Community Profiles bring together current and detailed demographic data as well as information about workforce, transportation, energy, utilities, local government and quality of life. The information about the region is intended to inform potential investors, support decisions to establish or expand a business and provide opportunities to future residents. The Community and Surrounding Rural Area profiles provide the complete picture of each Electoral Area, as well as insight into why residents love to work, live and play in the RDBN.

Northern BC is used as a comparative area in many of the profile graphs. In this case, the area of Northern BC is defined as the three northern [federal electoral areas](#) in the province, including Skeena-Bulkley Valley, Cariboo- Prince George, and Prince George-Peace River.

More information about the businesses and organizations listed in this document is available on the RDBN website under *Bulkley-Nechako Directory*. Please use the Bulkley-Nechako Directory by inserting the following website in your browser: [directory.rdbn.bc.ca](http://directory.rdbn.bc.ca).

# DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

## Population Growth

Population growth in the RDBN and Northern BC, 2001-2011

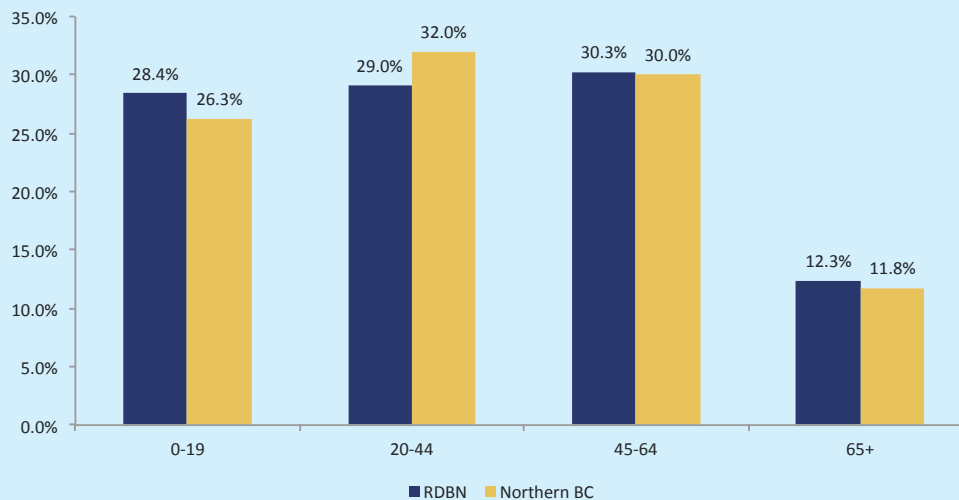
POPULATION GROWTH	2001	2006	2011
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako	40,856	38,243	39,208
Northern BC	315,217	304,173	304,620

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2001-2011

The population of the RDBN was 39,208 in 2011. From 2001 to 2006 the population of Northern BC decreased by 3.5%, while the RDBN's population decreased by 6.4%. However, the RDBN's population increased by 2.5% from 2006 to 2011, which outpaced the growth rate of 0.1% in Northern BC.

## Age Structure

Age structure in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011

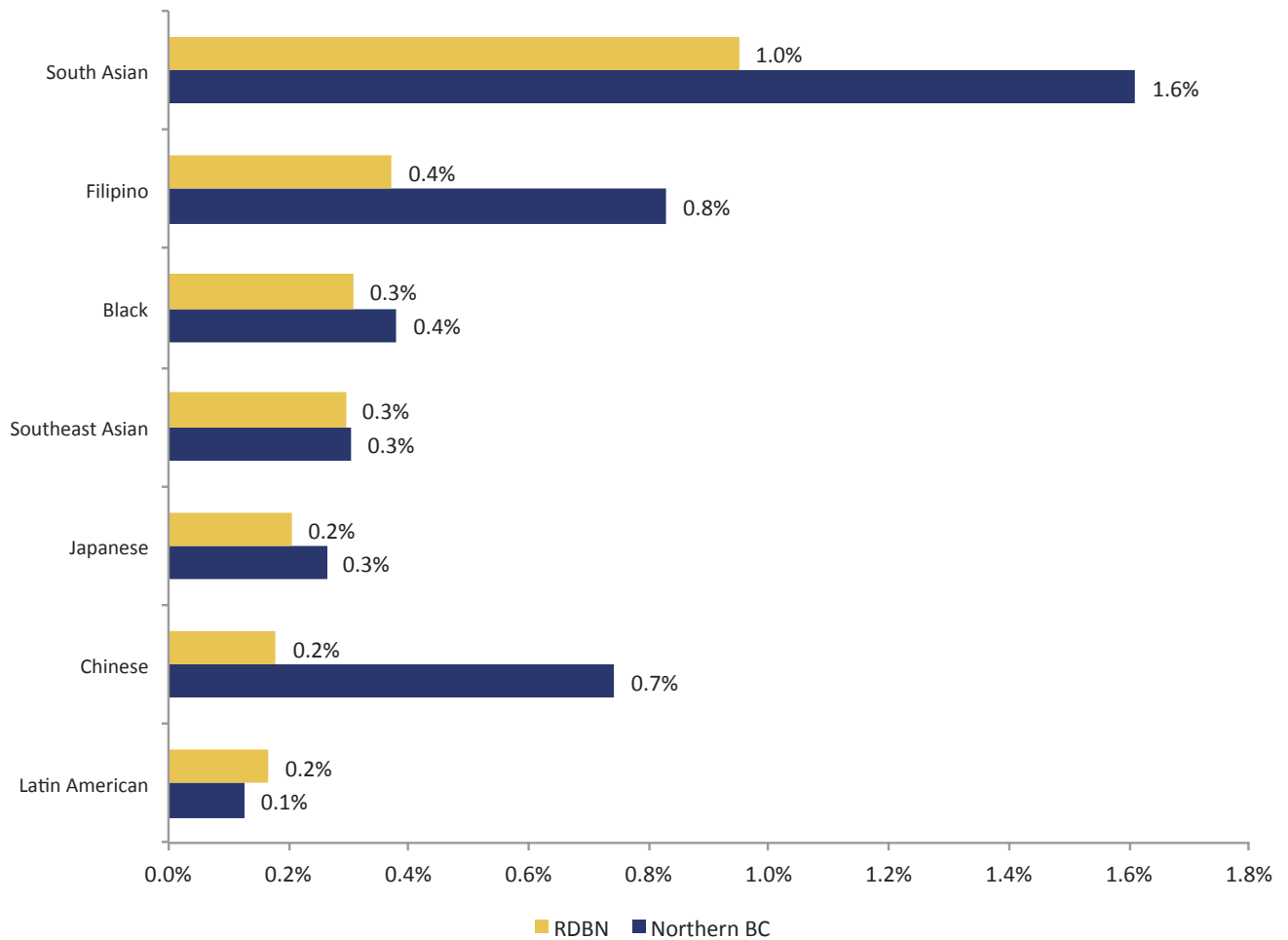


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011

Residents of the RDBN and Northern BC had a median age of 39 in 2011. The age structure of the region reveals that the RDBN had a higher youth population (ages 0-19) when compared to Northern BC. A lower portion of the RDBN's population was between the ages of 20-44 as compared to Northern BC.

# Ethnic diversity

## Visible minority population in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011

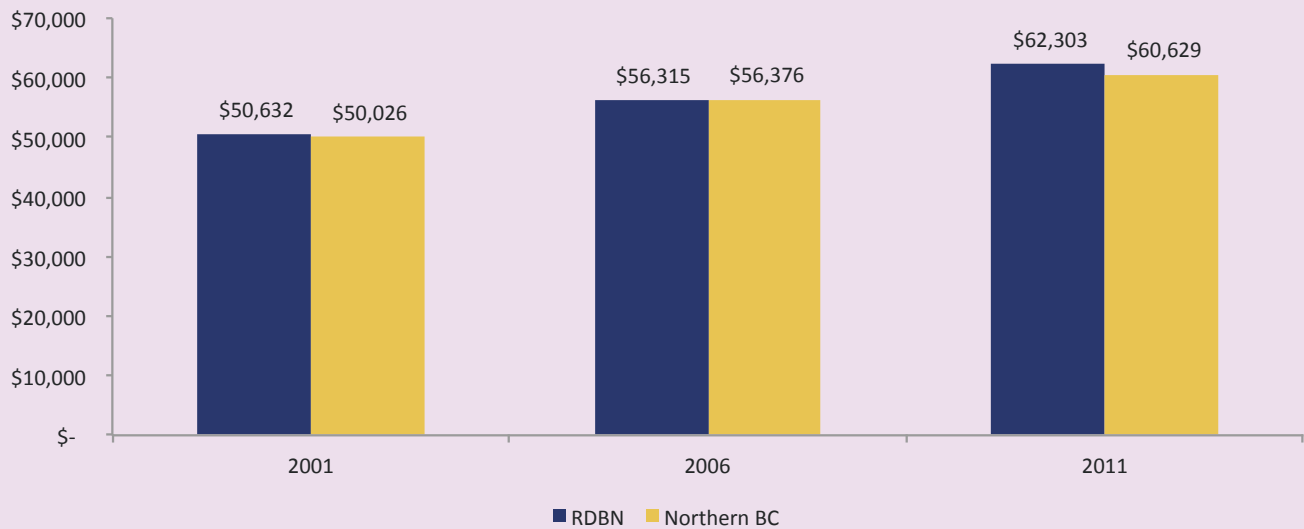
The total visible minority population of the RDBN was 2.5% of its total population, while Northern BC's proportion of visible minorities was higher, at 4.5%. The RDBN and Northern BC had a similar distribution of population amongst visible minority groups in 2011.





# Household Income

Median household income in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2001-2011



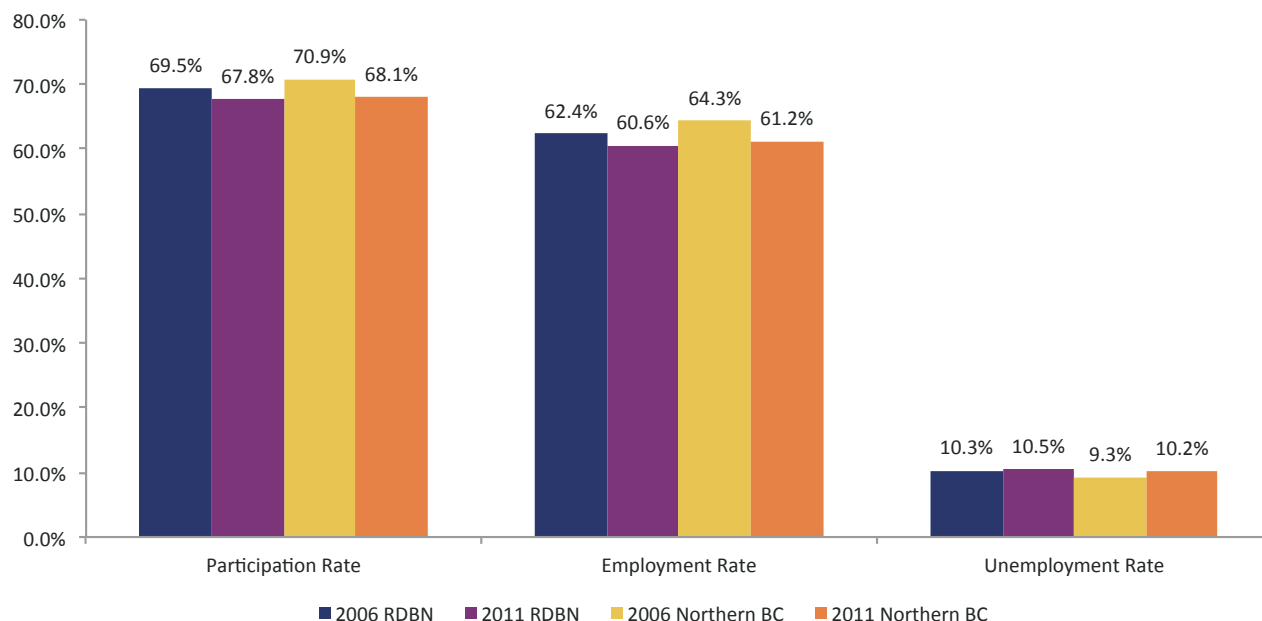
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2001-2006

The median household income in the RDBN has generally been similar to Northern BC with the exception of 2011 where it was slightly higher. The RDBN experienced an 11% increase in household income from 2001-2006, while in Northern BC incomes grew by 13%. From 2006 to 2011, the median household income in the RDBN grew by 11% while in Northern BC it grew by 8%.

# WORKFORCE PROFILE

## Employment

Employment data in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2006-2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006

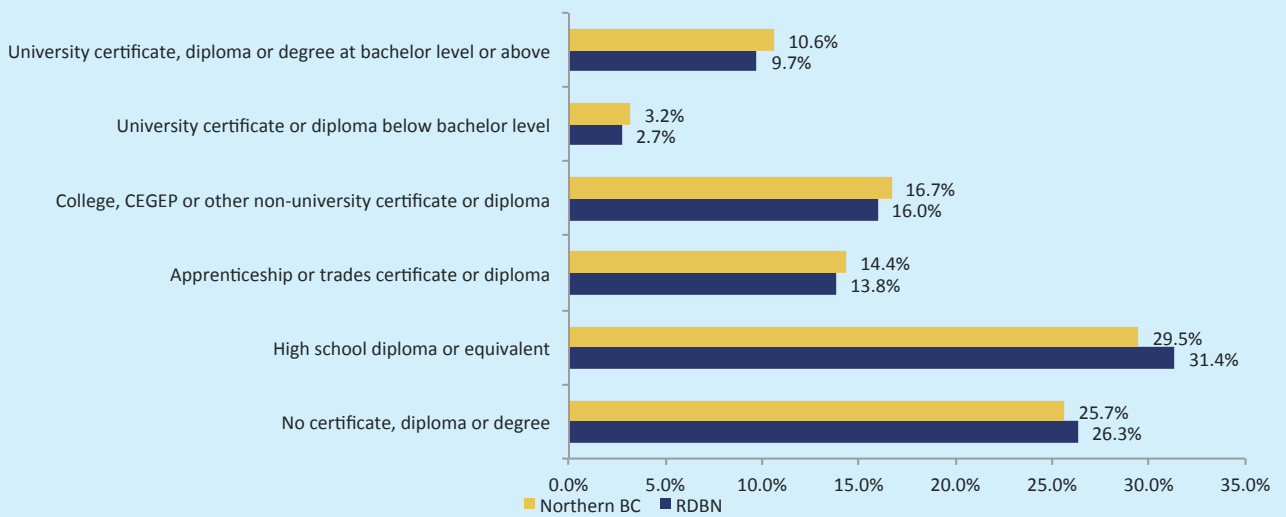
The RDBN had a higher unemployment rate than Northern BC from 2006 to 2011. The unemployment rate in the RDBN remained relatively stable from 2006 to 2011 while in Northern BC the rate increased by 1%.





# Education

## Educational attainment in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011



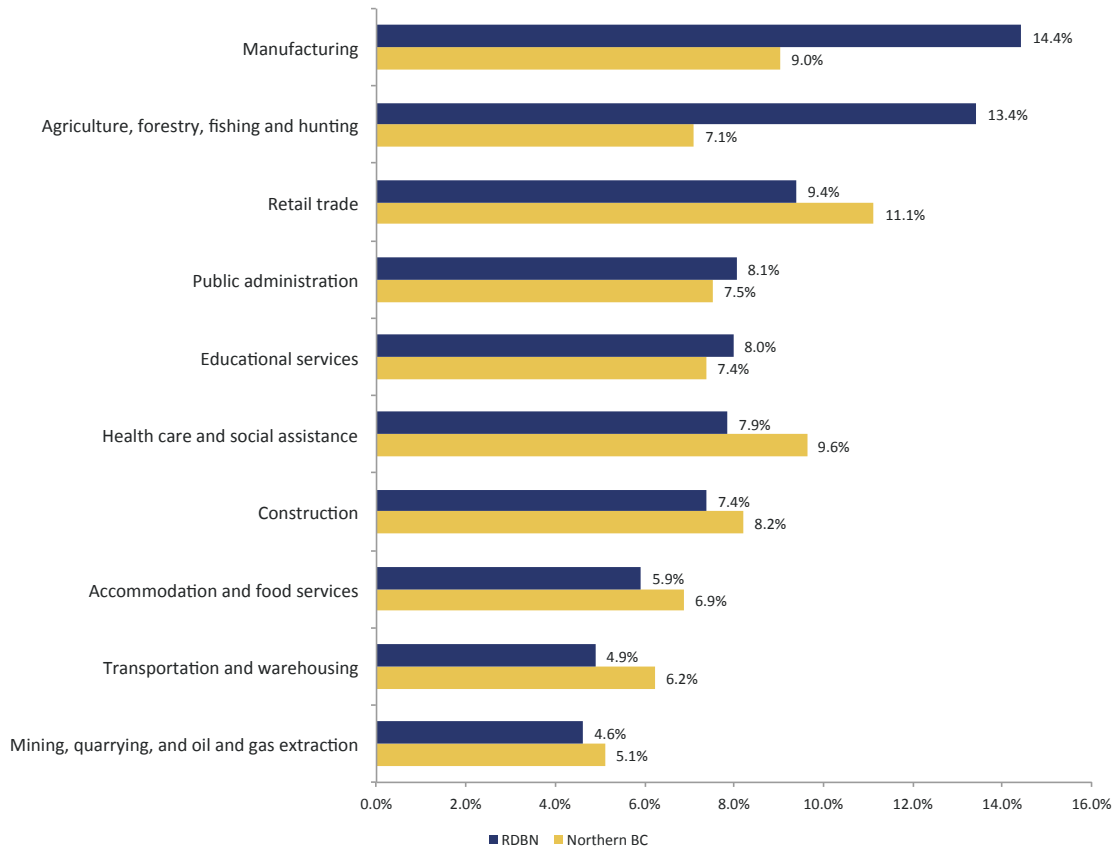
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey.

The population of Northern BC had a similar level of education as the RDBN in 2011. Although a higher proportion of Northern BC's population held a college or university diploma or degree, or an apprenticeship or trades certification compared to the RDBN, the differences are not substantial.



# Labour Force By Industry

Labour force by industry in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey.

In 2011, the RDBN labour force numbered 20,430 people and the agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and manufacturing sectors were the leading sources of employment. These two major sectors both employed a greater portion of the labour force than is the case across Northern BC.

Some of the major employers in the RDBN include the following:

NAME	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	LOCATION
School District No. 91	725	Regional
Thompson Creek Mining – Endako Mines	379	Fraser Lake
Canadian Forest Products - Houston Sawmill	343	Houston
Canadian Forest Products – Plateau Mills	317	Vanderhoof
West Fraser – Fraser Lake Sawmills	300	Fraser Lake
Huckleberry Mine	280	Houston
School District No. 54	270	Smithers
Pacific Inland Resources	240	Regional
Sinclar Group Forest Products	200	Vanderhoof
St John Hospital	200	Vanderhoof
Hampton Affiliates Babine Forest Products	200	Burns Lake
Hy-Tech Diamond Drilling	171	Smithers
Apollo Forest Products	156	Fort St. James
Northern Health	150	Regional
Bulkley Valley Credit Union	100	Regional
College of New Caledonia	100	Burns Lake
DH Manufacturing	100	Houston
Conifex	91	Fort St. James

## Post-Secondary Education Facilities

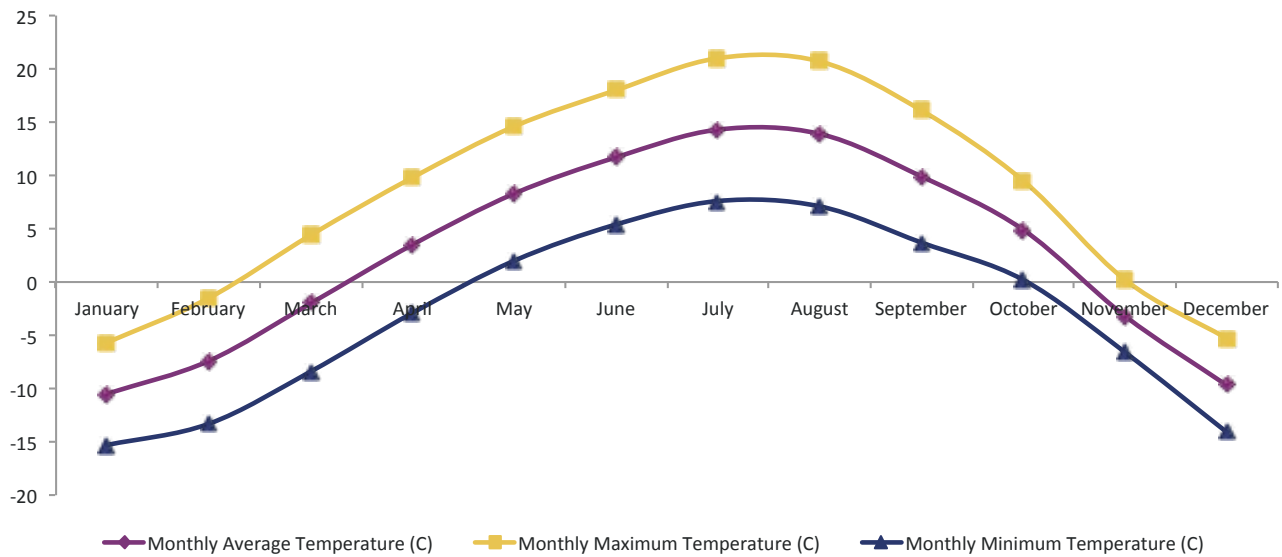
In the RDBN, post-secondary educational facilities are conveniently available in many communities.

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION	CAMPUS
Northwest Community College	Smithers, Houston
College of New Caledonia	Fort St. James, Vanderhoof, Burns Lake, Fraser Lake

# CLIMATE

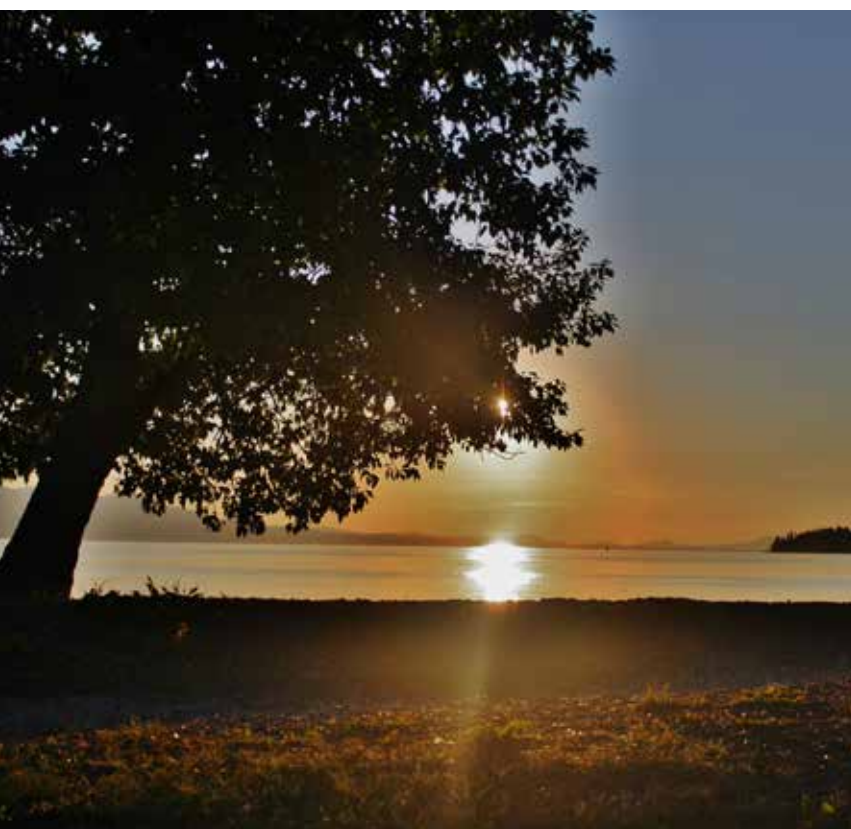
## Monthly Temperature

Monthly temperature in the RDBN in 2010



Environment Canada: 1981 to 2010 Canadian Climate Normals

The warmest months of the year in the RDBN are between June and August, when temperatures reach above 20°C. The coldest months of the year occur between December and January, when temperatures drop below -15°C.



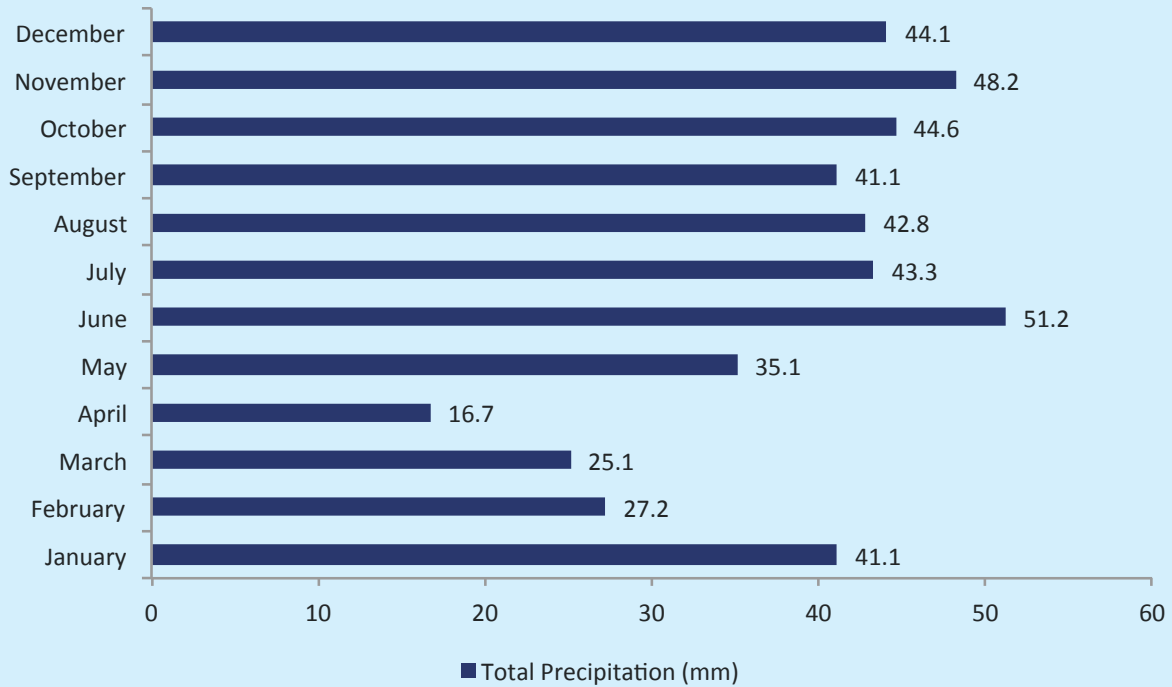
# Wind Speed

LOCATION	PERIOD	MEAN WIND SPEED	MEAN WIND ENERGY	WEIBULL SHAPE PARAMETER (K)	WEIBULL SCALE PARAMETER (A)
Burns Lake Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.216, longitude = -125.751	Annual	2.54 m/s	20.50 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.59	2.83 m/s
Houston Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.395, longitude = -126.653	Annual	1.71 m/s	8.75 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.29	1.85 m/s
Smithers Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.785, longitude = -127.163	Annual	2.20 m/s	12.88 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.64	2.46 m/s
Telkwa Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.668, longitude = -127.060	Annual	2.66 m/s	22.13 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.67	2.98 m/s
Fraser lake Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.062, longitude = -124.558	Annual	2.60 m/s	23.38 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.53	2.89 m/s
Vanderhoof Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 53.727, longitude = -123.656	Annual	3.09 m/s	26.75 W/m <sup>2</sup>	2.12	3.49 m/s
Fort St James Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.467, longitude = -124.298	Annual	3.37 m/s	42.50 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.74	3.78 m/s
Granisle Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.903, longitude = -126.245	Annual	2.67 m/s	24.25 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.57	2.97 m/s
Electoral Area E Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 53.939, longitude = -125.361	Annual	4.47 m/s	99.63 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.74	5.02 m/s

Data Source: <http://www.windatlas.ca/en/nav.php?no=52&field=EU&height=30&season=ANU>

# Precipitation

## Precipitation in the RDBN in 2010



Source: Environment Canada, 1981 to 2010 Canadian Climate Normals

The RDBN experienced the lowest amount of precipitation during the months of February to April in 2010, as little as 17mm per month. In contrast, the most precipitation fell during June and November, surpassing 50mm per month.



# TRANSPORTATION

## Road

Highway 16 is the main paved transportation route running east to west through the RDBN. Highway 16 is the transportation route for goods being shipped in and out of the region.

The following provincial highways connect communities to the Highway 16 corridor:

- Highway 27 to Fort St. James from Highway 16 (Vanderhoof)
- Highway 35 to Francois Lake/Southbank from Highway 16 (Burns Lake)
- Highway 118 to Granisle from Highway 16 (Topley)

## Rail

The Canadian National Railway follows the Highway 16 corridor from Prince George to Prince Rupert, with service through the RDBN. Currently, CN Rail is upgrading the rail line to accommodate an increase in traffic due to goods being shipped to Asia. Prince George, to the east of the RDBN, is the regional trading centre for Northern BC, where CN Rails Intermodal Terminal is located. The Intermodal terminal is designed to support customers shipping to and from Asia through the Port of Prince Rupert.

VIA Rail operates ‘The Skeena’ passenger train, running from Jasper to Prince Rupert and back again, with stops in many of the communities within the RDBN. Passengers are able to disembark and take in the splendor of the communities on route. The journey passes through some of Canada’s most scenic areas.

## Airport

Airports are an integral part of the RDBN economy. Air services support the region’s economic drivers of forestry, mining, tourism, and agriculture. Charter, passenger, and cargo services are available. The following airports operate within the region:

NAME	LOCATION	OPERATOR
<a href="#">Smithers Regional Airport</a>	Smithers	Town of Smithers
<a href="#">Vanderhoof Airport</a>	Vanderhoof	District of Vanderhoof
<a href="#">Baker Airport</a>	Burns Lake	Lakes District Airport Society
<a href="#">Fort St James Perison Airport</a>	Fort St. James	District of Fort St. James
<a href="#">Fraser Lake Airport</a>	Fraser Lake	Village of Fraser Lake
<a href="#">Houston Airport</a>	Houston	District of Houston

The Smithers Regional airport is located 5 kms north of the Town of Smithers. This airport is the only airport in the region with scheduled passenger flights. Three commercial passenger airlines operate at the Smithers Airport:

- Air Canada—Daily service to Vancouver.
- Central Mountain Air—Service to and from Terrace, Prince George, Kamloops, and Kelowna.
- Hawkair—Service to and from Terrace and Vancouver.

# ENERGY AND UTILITIES

## Electricity and Gas Service Providers

The following businesses provide electricity and gas services:

- [BC Hydro](#)
- [Pacific Northern Gas](#)

## Commercial and Residential Rates for Electricity and Gas

### BC Hydro electricity rates:

(The electricity and gas providers are the same throughout the RDBN)

BC Hydro residential rates are listed as follows:

- 6.90 cents per kWh for the first 1,350 kWh
- 10.34 cents per kWh after first 1,350 kWh

BC Hydro commercial rates are listed as follows:

SERVICE RATE	BASIC CHARGE	ENERGY CHARGE	MINIMUM CHARGE
Small General Service Rate	\$0.1953 per day	\$0.0928 per kWh	\$0.1953 per day (equal to the Basic Charge)
Medium General Service Rate	\$0.1953 per day	\$0.00 per kW for first 35 kW \$4.76 per kW for next 115 kW \$9.13 per kW for remaining kW	Part 1 \$0.0885 per kWh for last 14,800 kWh \$0.0549 per kWh for remaining kWh up to baseline  Part 2 \$0.0956 per kWh for usage up to 20% above baseline \$0.0956 per kWh for savings down to 20% below baseline (credit) Usage or savings beyond 20% of baseline are based on Part 1 prices
Large General Service Rate	\$0.1953 per day	\$0.00 per kW for first 35 kW \$4.76 per kW for next 115 kW \$9.13 per kW for remaining kW	Part 1 \$0.0961 per kWh for last 14,800 kWh \$0.0462 per kWh for remaining kWh up to baseline  Part 2 \$0.0956 per kWh for usage up to 20% above baseline \$0.0956 per kWh for savings down to 20% below baseline (credit) Usage or savings beyond 20% of baseline are based on Part 1 prices



Small General Service (SGS) accounts have an annual peak demand less than 35 kW.

Medium General Service (MGS) accounts have an annual peak demand between 35 kW and 150 kW and use less than 550,000 kWh of electricity per year.

Large General Service (LGS) accounts have an annual peak demand equal or greater than 150 kW or total annual energy usage of at least 550,000 kWh.

## BC Northern Gas: Residential and Commercial Gas Rates

	BASIC MONTHLY CHARGE	DELIVERY CHARGE	COMPANY USE RIDER	RSAM RIDER	INTERIM RATE ADJUSTMENT RIDER	TOTAL DELIVERY CHARGE	COMMODITY CHARGE	GCVA RIDER	TOTAL COMMODITY CHARGE	DELIVERY + COMMODITY CHARGE
Rate Class	\$/Month	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ
Residential	10.75	11.732	-0.017	-0.633	-0.188	10.894	3.5	0.07	3.57	14.464
Small Commercial	25	9.925	-0.017	-0.633	-0.132	9.143	3.481	0.07	3.551	12.694
Large Commercial	150	8.001	-0.017	N/A	-0.139	7.845	3.481	0.07	3.551	11.396



# Business and Workforce Support Services and Funding Programs

## Business Support Services

The following business support services are available for businesses and residents located within the RDBN:

ORGANIZATION	DETAILS
Community Futures Nadina	Assistance with Building a Business Plan, Startup steps, or planning for existing businesses
Community Futures Stuart Nechako	Business Start-up Assistance
Burns Lake Native Development Corporation	Technical Services Including Business Plan Assistance, Training and Project Development Assistance
Small Business BC	Business Start-Up / Growth Assistance
Doing Business in BC	BC One-Stop -Business Start-Up and Registration Site.
Business & Investing Services	Resource for Business Owners

## Business Funding and Tax Credit Programs

ORGANIZATION	DETAILS
Community Futures Nadina	Small Business Loans
Community Futures Stuart Nechako	Business Loans Program
Burns Lake Native Development Corporation	Small Business Loans Program
Northern Development Initiative Trust	Capital Investment and Training Rebate Program
Northern Development Initiative Trust	Competitiveness Consulting Rebate
BC Hydro	PowerSmart Programs for Business
Investment Agriculture Foundation	Funding to support innovative projects that support the Agri-food industry in British Columbia.

# Regional Employment Service Providers

The following employment service providers are available within the RDBN.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES	MUNICIPALITY
<a href="#">Community Living BC</a>	Smithers
<a href="#">Smithers Community Services Association</a>	Smithers
<a href="#">Fort Outreach Employment Services</a>	Fort St. James
<a href="#">Progressive Employment Services Ltd</a>	Vanderhoof
<a href="#">Targeted Skills Shortage Program</a>	Vanderhoof
<a href="#">Northern Skills Training</a>	Vanderhoof
<a href="#">Transitions Career Consultants</a>	Vanderhoof
<a href="#">Community Futures Nadina</a>	Smithers, Burns Lake, Telkwa, Granisle, Houston
<a href="#">WorkBC Employment Services Centre</a>	Smithers, Burns Lake, Houston

## Local Economic Development Services

The RDBN is engaged in the following economic development projects:

- [Mining in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako](#)
- [Bulkley-Nechako Directory](#)
- [Visit Bulkley-Nechako - Tourism Site](#)
- Regional Skills Gap Analysis
- Annual RDBN Business Forum
- Annual RDBN Start-up Business Contest
- Industrial Land Inventory Reports
- Grant writing services for nonprofit organizations

RDBN supports the following initiatives:

- [Beyond the Market](#)
- [Invest Northwest](#) and [Invest North Central](#) Web Portals
- [Geoscience BC's Quest-West projects](#)

For any further assistance with local economic development services please contact the Regional Economic Development Department:

Corrine Swenson  
Manager of Regional Economic Development  
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako  
Email: [corrine.swenson@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:corrine.swenson@rdbn.bc.ca)  
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