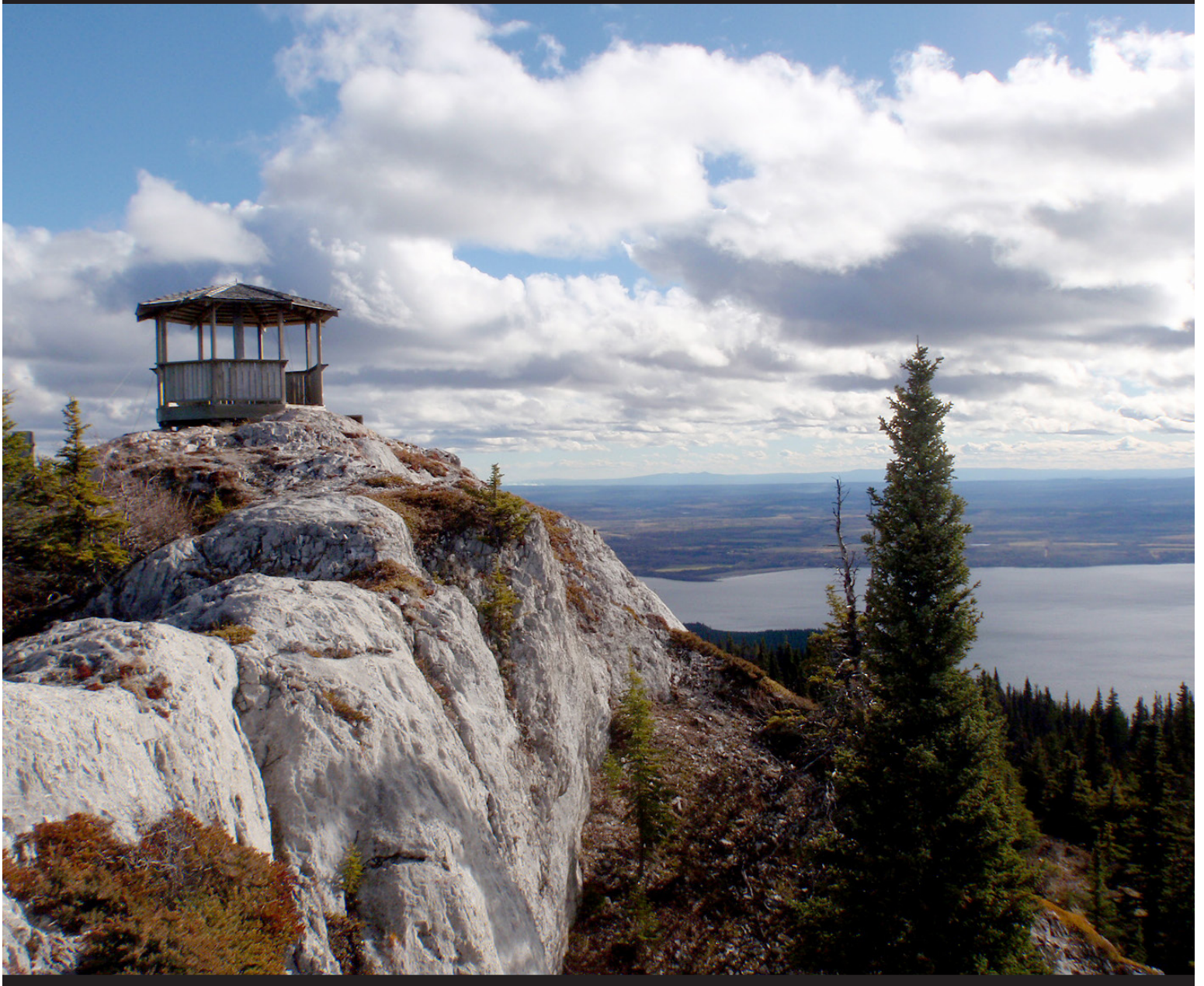


FORT ST. JAMES AND SURROUNDING AREA PROFILE



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
- Development Processes and Fees
- 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
- Financial Services
- Legal Services
- Media
- Local Community Organizations
- Local Community Assets
- Schools
- Health Services

2. ELECTORAL AREA C

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

QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

- Local Community Organizations

FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY

- Nak'azdli Band
- Takla Lake First Nation
- Tl'azt'en Nation
- Yekooche 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

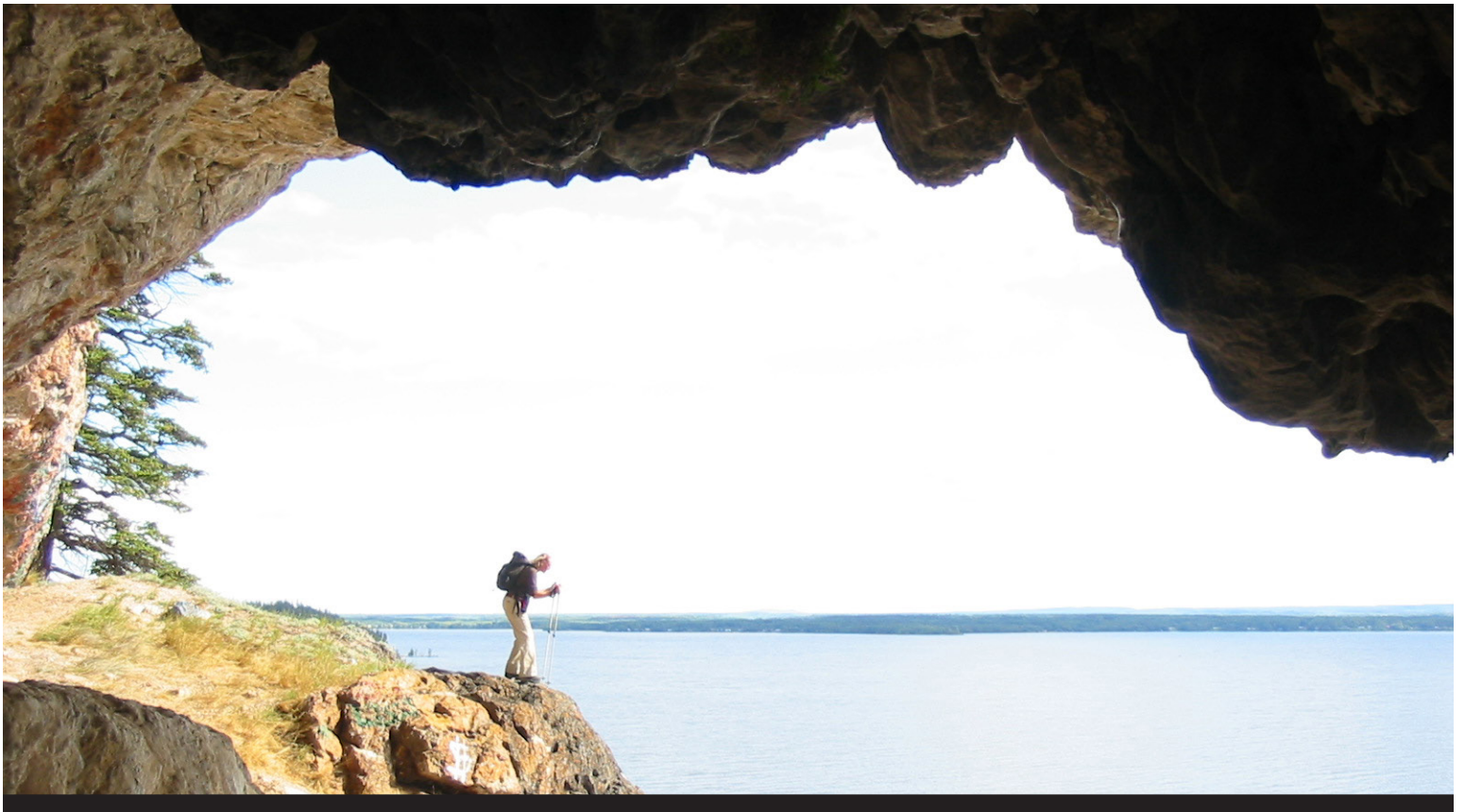
ENERGY AND UTILITIES

- 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



Fort St. James and Surrounding Area

Founded by Simon Fraser in 1806 on the shores of beautiful Stuart Lake, Fort St. James is the gateway to a chain of rivers and lakes that traverse 400 kilometres of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. This picturesque town of 1,500, and 4,500 surrounding population has an established forest industry, a growing mining sector and a growing tourism industry.

A natural playground, Fort St. James and surrounding rural area offers year round outdoor and indoor recreational opportunities including alpine and Nordic skiing, parks, golf, fishing, hunting, water-skiing, canoeing, swimming, hiking and biking trails, sailing and boating, skating, hockey, curling, snowmobiling, dog sledding and camping. Cultural opportunities include a public library, community arts council, an amateur theatre company, and a movie theatre.

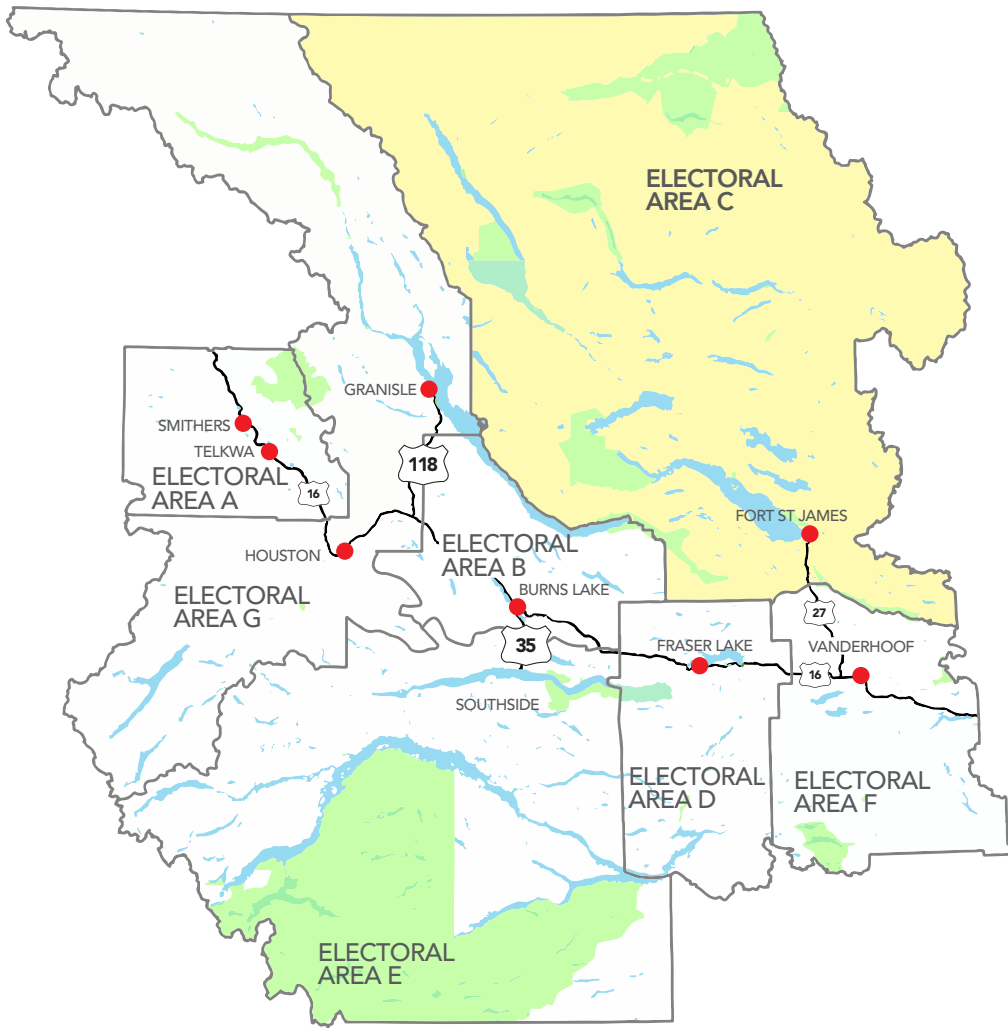
The Fort St. James National Historic Site, the ancient burial site of Carrier Chief Kwah, Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church, and a monument to legendary bush pilot Russ Baker provide opportunities to experience the cultural heritage of Fort St. James firsthand, for residents and visitors alike.

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.


Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Map



Distance from Fort St. James to:

| PLACE | DISTANCE (KM) | DRIVING TIME (HR) |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Prince George, BC | 160 | 2 hr |
| Kitimat, BC | 577 | 6 hr 49 min |
| Prince Rupert, BC | 665 | 7 hr 56 min |
| Edmonton, AB | 898 | 10 hr 10 min |
| Vancouver, BC | 940 | 10 hr 26 min |
| Calgary, AB | 945 | 11 hr 24 min |
| Seattle, WA | 1,054 | 11 hr 42 min |
| Portland, OR | 1,335 | 14 hr 25 min |
| Whitehorse, YT | 1,567 | 20 hr 14 min |
| Yellowknife, NT | 1,616 | 20 hr 33 min |
| Anchorage, AK | 2,698 | 35 hr |

Legend

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

1: FORT ST. JAMES AND SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY PROFILE



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth

Population growth in Fort St. James, 2006-2016

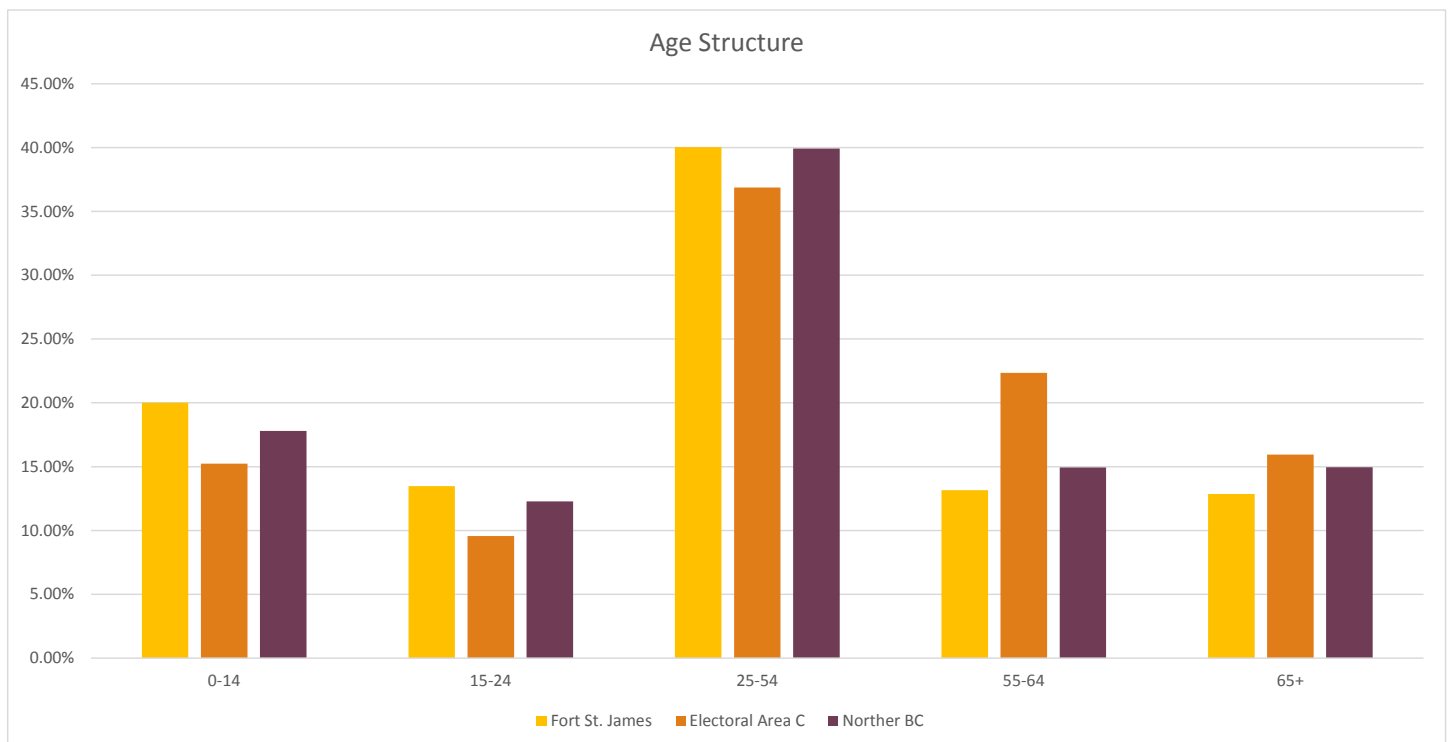
| POPULATION GROWTH | 2006 | 2011 | 2016 |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Fort St. James | 1,355 | 1,691 | 1,598 |
| Electoral Area C (James Rural) | 1,355 | 1,429 | 1,415 |
| Northern BC | 314,771 | 315,284 | 318,225 |

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2016

In 2016 Fort St. James had a population of 1,598. The population increase from 2006-2011 in Fort St. James outpaced the growth in the Electoral Area and Northern BC which was 2.5% and 5.5% respectively.

Age Structure

Age structure in Fort St. James and Electoral Area C, 2016

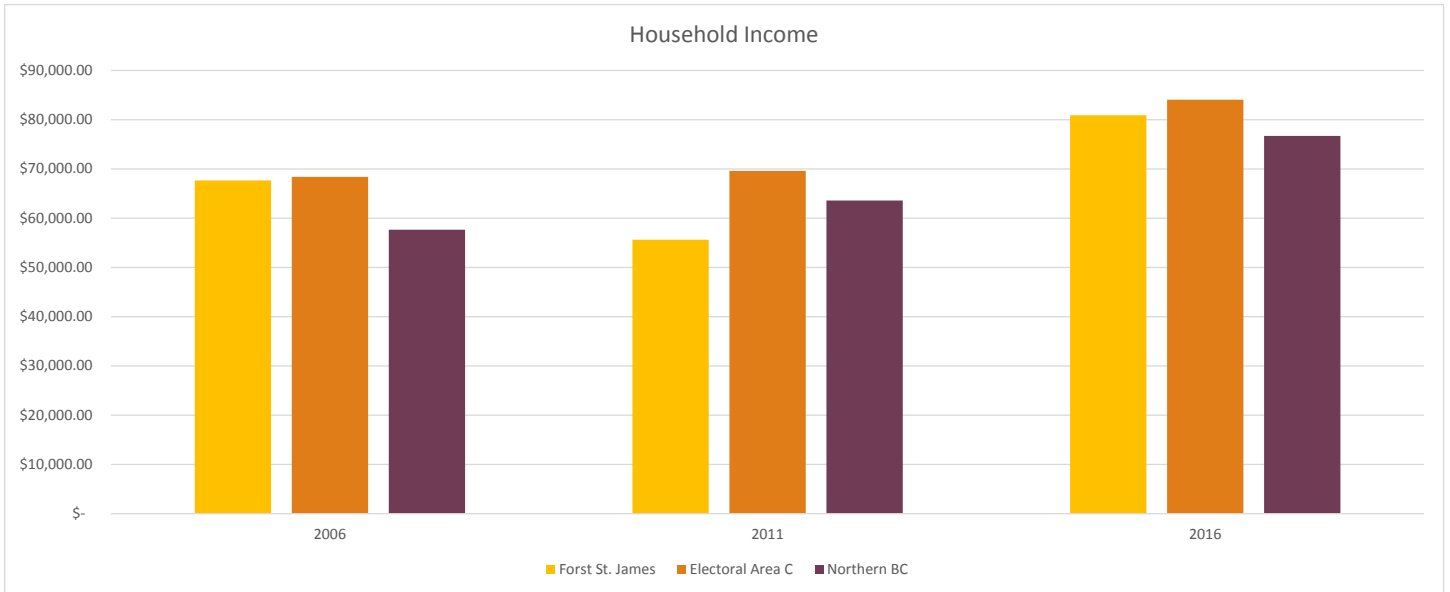


Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

The population of Fort St. James was younger than the rest of the Electoral Area and Northern BC in 2016. The median age in Fort St. James was 37, while in the Electoral Area and Northern BC the median age was 47 and 39 respectively. The age structure reveals that Fort St. James had a higher youth population (ages 0-14).

Household Income

Median household income in Fort St. James and Electoral Area C, 2006-2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2016

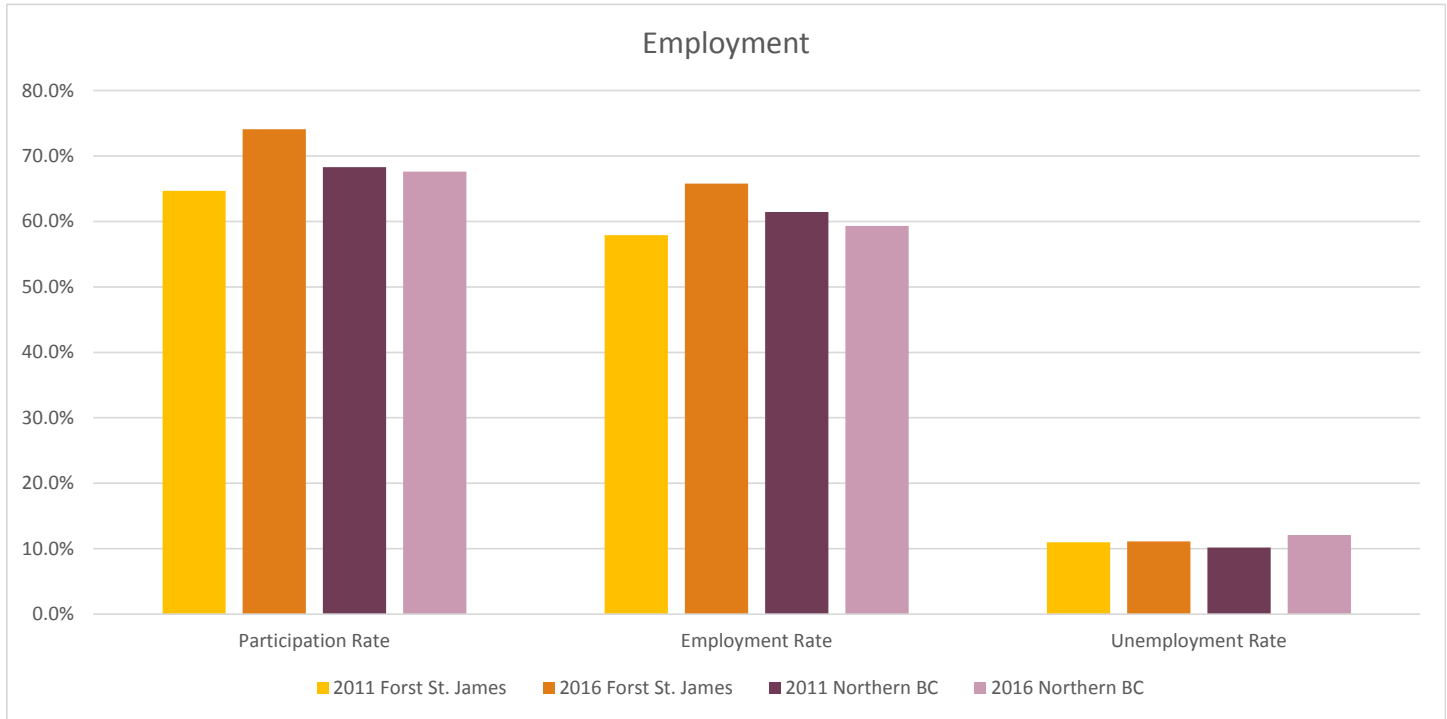
The median household income in Fort St. James has generally been comparable or higher than the Electoral Area and Northern BC over the past ten years; however, in 2011 the median income was lower than both comparative areas.



WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment

Employment data in Fort St. James and Northern BC, 2011-2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2016

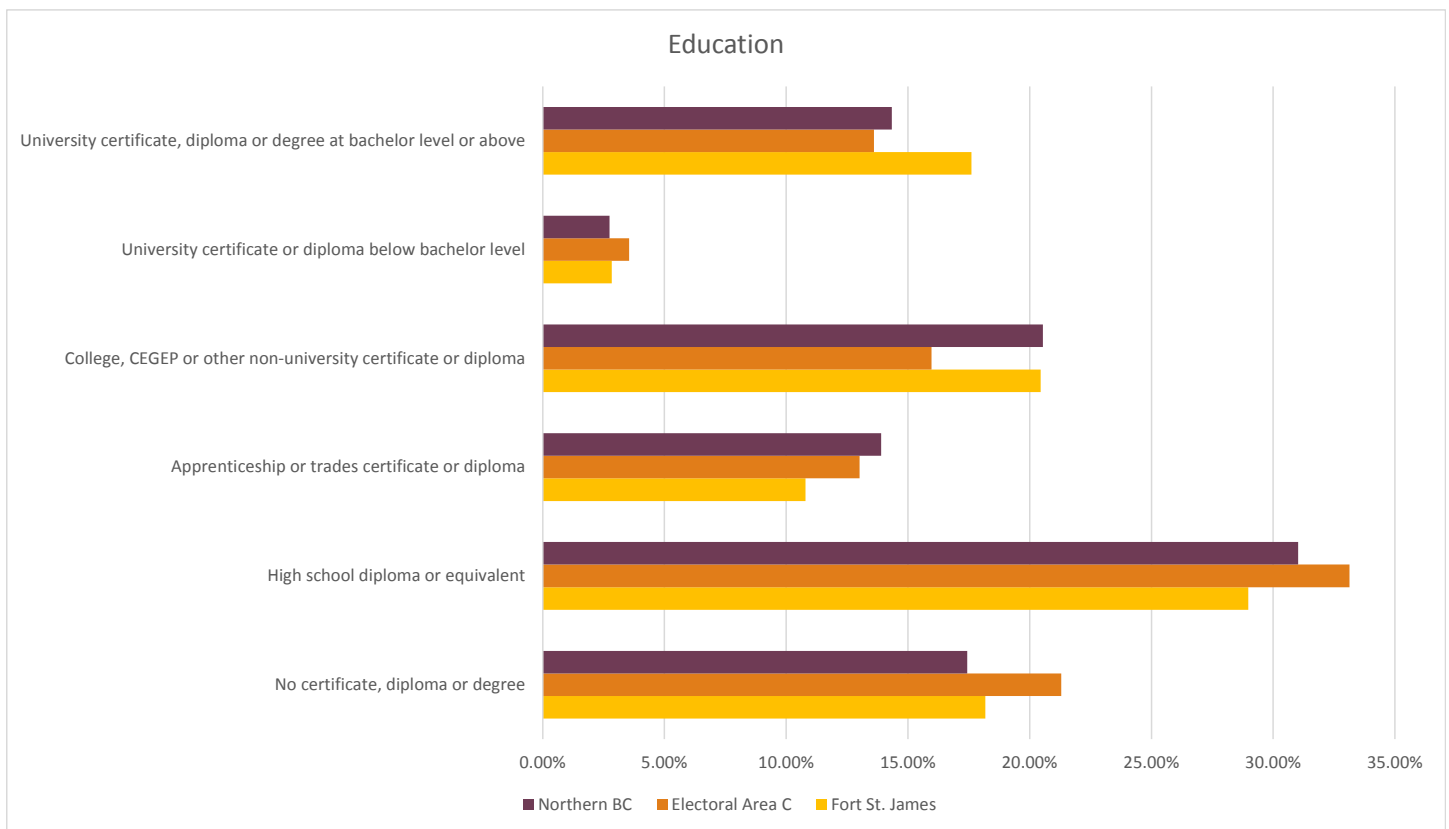
Fort St. James had a higher unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2011, but also had a lower unemployment rate in 2016 compared to Northern BC.





Education

Educational attainment in Fort St. James and Electoral Area C, 2016

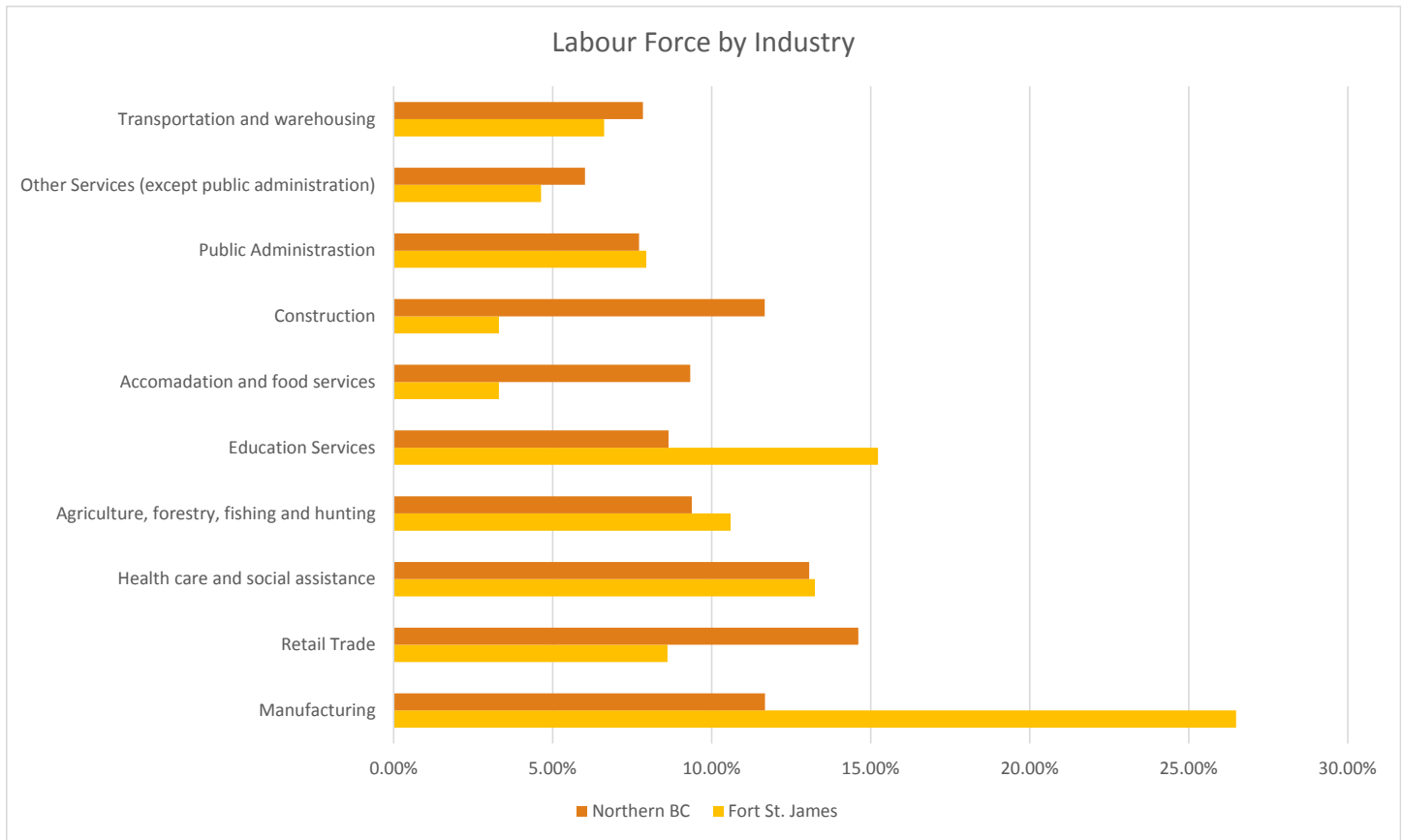


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey

In 2016, Fort St. James had a higher portion of the population with a university education and people with a college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma as compared to Northern BC. However, when compared to the Electoral Area, the town had a lower portion of people with post-secondary education.

Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in Fort St. James and Northern BC, 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey

In 2016, Fort St. James had over a quarter working in the manufacturing sector, while in Northern BC this sector only accounted for 11% of the work force.

Some of the major employers in Fort St. James included the following:

| NAME | NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Mount Milligan Mine | 485 |
| Apollo Forest Products | 156 |
| School District #91 | 91 |

Local Post-Secondary Education Facilities and Employment Service Providers

| NAME | FACILITY OR SERVICE |
|--|----------------------------|
| College of New Caledonia | Post-Secondary Institution |
| Fort Outreach Employment Services | Employment Services |
| Nak'azdli Employment & Training Services | Employment Services |

TRANSPORTATION

| NAME | CATEGORY |
|--|--------------------|
| Fort St. James Perison Airport | Airport |
| Interior Helicopters | Helicopter Service |
| Yellowhead Helicopter | Helicopter Service |
| Tsayta Aviation Ltd. | Airplane Service |
| Seniors Helping Seniors Transportation | Driving Service |

Fort St. James Airport

The Fort St. James airport is located 4 km south of Fort St. James. There is no scheduled service to or from the Fort St. James airport. Yellowhead Helicopters Inc. operates from the airport and offering services to mining and forest industry clients.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Telus
- Fort St James TV Society



WATER AND WASTE

Water

Source of Water Supply and Means of Access

The District of Fort St. James' water is supplied from an artesian well (aquifer), assisted by a well pump, and provides water to both Fort St. James and neighbouring Nak'azdli Reserve. The water distribution consists of 16.7km of water mains fed from a 500,000 imperial gallon reinforced concrete reservoir. The reservoir provides sufficient storage for fire protection and peak use periods. The water system also includes a small booster station with a fire pump to service the Pineridge Way area and pressure reducing stations that service Ash Street residents.

Water Supply vs. Projected Demand

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Rated Capacity | 968 gallon/minute |
| Average Daily Demand | 1,000 gallons |
| Peak Demand | 1,200 gallons |

Residential, Commercial and Industrial Water Rates

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Residential Cost | \$282.74/year |
| Commercial Cost | \$341.66/year |

Solid Waste Disposal Services

Capacity of Waste Disposal Site vs. Projected Demand

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Landfill Name | Clearview Landfill |
| Location | 22 km South of Fort St. James |
| Capacity Left at Current Site | 90%/95 years |
| Plans for New Capacity | None |
| Transfer Station | Necoslie Road, Fort St. James |

Recycling

Although no curb side recycling is available at this time several recycling options are available to residents of Fort St. James. For more information go to www.rdbn.bc.bc/environmentalservices/recycling

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Taxes

The following chart summarizes 2019 tax rates in Fort St. James. 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 |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Municipal | 4.4627 | 45.2707 | 71.4266 | 8.1637 | 14.7961 | 0.0000 | 3.5393 | 0.0000 |
| Regional District | 2.6266 | 4.7118 | 4.5771 | 4.5771 | 3.2983 | 0.0000 | 1.3462 | 0.0000 |
| Hospital District | 1.3736 | 4.8076 | 4.6702 | 4.6702 | 3.3653 | 0.0000 | 1.3736 | 0.0000 |
| School | 3.4000 | 13.2000 | 3.7000 | 3.7000 | 3.7000 | 1.9000 | 2.3000 | 7.1000 |
| Other | 0.3611 | 1.6106 | 1.5784 | 1.2036 | 0.8975 | 1.1927 | 0.3611 | 0.3611 |
| Total | 12.2240 | 69.6007 | 85.9523 | 22.3146 | 26.0572 | 3.0927 | 8.9202 | 7.4611 |

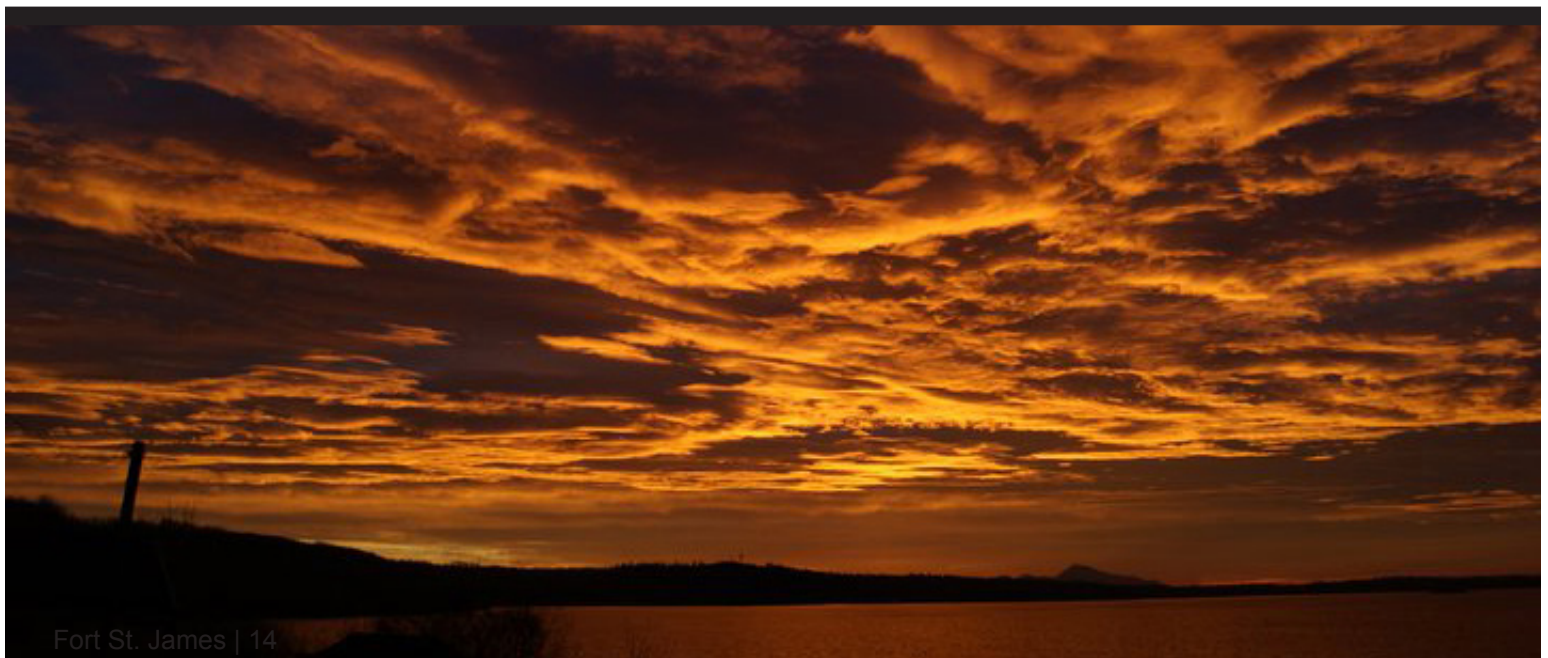
Development Processes and Fees

Fort St. James has instituted a streamlined application process, which allows a quick and easy process time. The community also has an inexpensive business licensing program with fees starting at \$50.00.

Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Fort St. James' official community plan and zoning bylaw are available at www.fortstjames.ca

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



Incentive Programs

The community of Fort St. James has adopted many initiatives to support the competitiveness of local business. These initiatives include the following:

- Two business façade improvement programs in a 3-year period; the 2013 program matched 50% of improvement costs
- Revitalization Tax Exemption Program for commercial core, highway commercial, as well as heavy, light and intermediate industrial zoned lands
- Economic development programs and services, including the following activities:
 - Online directory of local businesses that allows external organizations to contact Fort St. James businesses more easily
 - Lunchtime workshop series for business owners on tourism, merchandising and customer service
 - Conduit for regional, provincial and federal government information, directing local businesses to resources such as grants and contests
 - Downtown Marketing and Activities Coordinator to assist local businesses with branding, and a buy local campaign
 - Grant writing service for non-profit organizations

Business Support Services

- [Community Futures Stuart-Nechako](#)
- [Fort St. James Chamber of Commerce](#)

Business Funding Programs

- [Community Futures Stuart-Nechako](#)
- District of Fort St. James: Revitalization Tax Exemption

Local Economic Development Services

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

Brooke Eschuk

Economic Development Officer
District of Fort St. James
Box 640, 477 Stuart Dr. W
Fort St. James, BC V0J 1P0
Email: edo@fortstjames.ca
Phone: 250-996-7023

Rosa Anne Howell

Chamber Manager
Fort St. James & District Chamber of Commerce
Email: fsjchamb@fsjames.com
Phone: 250-996-7023

Mayor Contact

Mayor Bev Playfair

477 Stuart Drive West, PO Box 640
Fort St. James, BC V0J 1P0
Email: mayor@fortstjames.ca

QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

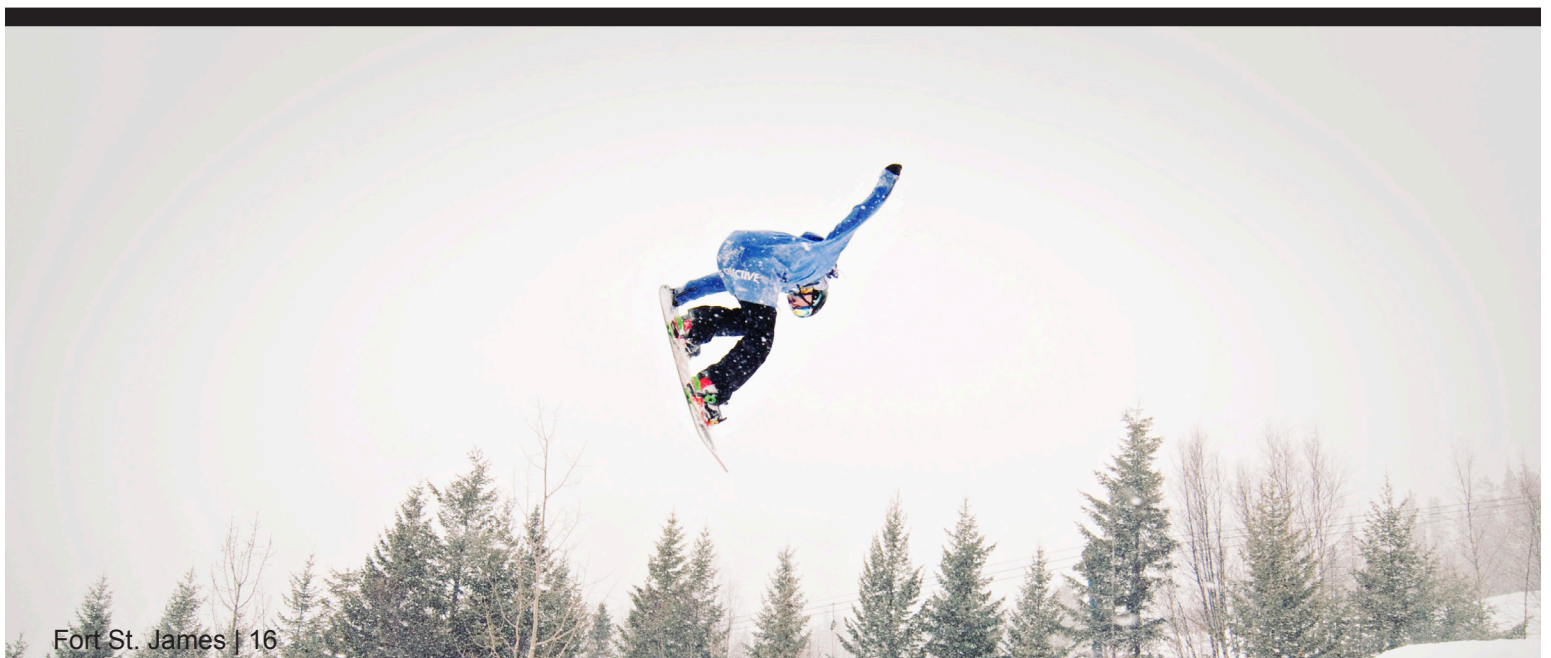
Housing

The housing stock in the municipality consists of the following:

| DESCRIPTION OF TYPICAL HOUSING STOCK | # OF UNITS |
|---|------------|
| Total Private Dwellings (2016 census) | 761 |
| Private dwellings occupied by usual residents (2016 census) | 644 |
| Single detached houses (2016 census) | 450 |
| Other attached dwellings (2016 census) | 120 |
| # of owned dwellings (2016 census) | 465 |
| # of rented dwellings (2016 census) | 180 |

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

| TYPE OF HOUSING | COST |
|---|--------------|
| Average value of dwelling (2016 census) | \$201,256.00 |



Accommodations

- The View Hotel
- New Caledonia Motel

Restaurants

- Classic Restaurant
- King's Restaurant
- Little Jimmy Fry's
- Miguel's Pizza
- Sam Witch's (Nak'azdil) Concession
- St. James Restaurant
- North Arm Pub & Grill
- Stuart Lake Golf Club Restaurant
- Subway
- National Historic Site Cafe
- Mariano's Pizza
- Murray Rider Ski Hill Cafeteria and Lounge

Other Facilities with Capacity for Hosting Events

- Kwah Hall – Nak'azdli Indian Band
- Music Makers Hall
- Fort Forum Arena
- Fort St. James Legion
- Fort St. James Community Centre
- Stuart Lake Seniors Association
- Pope Mountain Arts

Shopping

Shopping District: Downtown Fort St. James

Shopping Mall: Fort St. James Shopping Centre (Ydenberg Properties Ltd.)

Financial Services

- Integris Credit Union Fort St. James
- Royal Bank of Canada

Legal Services

- Daniel Lyons Law Corp.

Media

- Caledonia Courier
- Fort St. James TV and Radio Society

Local Community Organizations

- Fort St. James Chamber of Commerce
- Stuart Lake Hospital Auxiliary
- Stuart Lake Sailing Club
- Stuart Lake Nordic Club
- Stuart Lake Skating Club
- Green Up Fort Society
- Community Arts Council of Fort St. James
- Fireweed Collective Society & Safe Haven
- Friends of the Fort St. James National Historic Site
- Fort St. James Ball Association
- Fort St. James Sled Dog Association
- Fort Trap and Hand Gun Club
- Fort St. James ATV and Summer Club
- Fort St. James Community Foundation
- Fort St. James Curling Club
- Fort St. James Farmers Market
- Fort St. James Girl Guides
- Fort St. James Ladies Hockey
- Fort St. James Minor Hockey
- Fort St. James Falcon Speed Skating Club
- Fort St. James Family Tae Kwon Do
- Fort St. James Youth Soccer
- Fort St. James Soccer Association
- Nak'azdli Elders Society
- Recreation Hockey
- Stuart Lake Seniors Association
- Stuart Lake Co-op
- Connexus
- 4-H Club

Local Community Assets

- Fort St. James Visitor Information Centre
- Murray Ridge Nordic Ski Club
- Murray Ridge Ski Area Association
- Stuart Lake Golf Club
- Barry Salt Memorial Tennis Courts
- Fort Forum Ice Arena
- Fort St. James Curling Rink
- Fort St. James Curling Club
- Sunny Hamper Ball Diamonds
- Cottonwood Park Volleyball Court
- Fort St. James Library
- Music Makers Hall
- Fort St. James Firehall
- KEY (Knowledge Empowers You) Centre
- Fireweed Safe Haven Women's Shelter
- Fort St. James National Historic Site
- Cottonwood Marina
- 4-H

Schools

- David Hoy Elementary (K-7)
- Fort St. James Secondary (8-12)
- Nak'albun Elementary (K-7)

Health Services

- **Fort St. James Medical Clinic**
- **Stuart Lake Hospital**
- **Stuart Lake Dental**
- **Nak'azdli Health Clinic Services**

Stuart Lake Hospital

Stuart Lake Hospital is a 12-bed hospital that includes acute, maternity, medicine and emergency services. The Stuart Lake Hospital supports the area of Stuart Lake and Fort St. James. Many services are shared with and referred to the larger hospital in Vanderhoof. There is an on-site laboratory and pharmacy that delivers some services while others are met by Vanderhoof or the University Hospital of Northern BC in Prince George.

“Fort St. James is the ideal community for doing business; there is great support from community members and collaboration between the district and business community. Fort St. James has an ideal setting with the mountains, lake and ski hill and combined with the great people of Fort St. James; a wonderful location for starting a business.”

Bonnie Cameron, The View Hotel

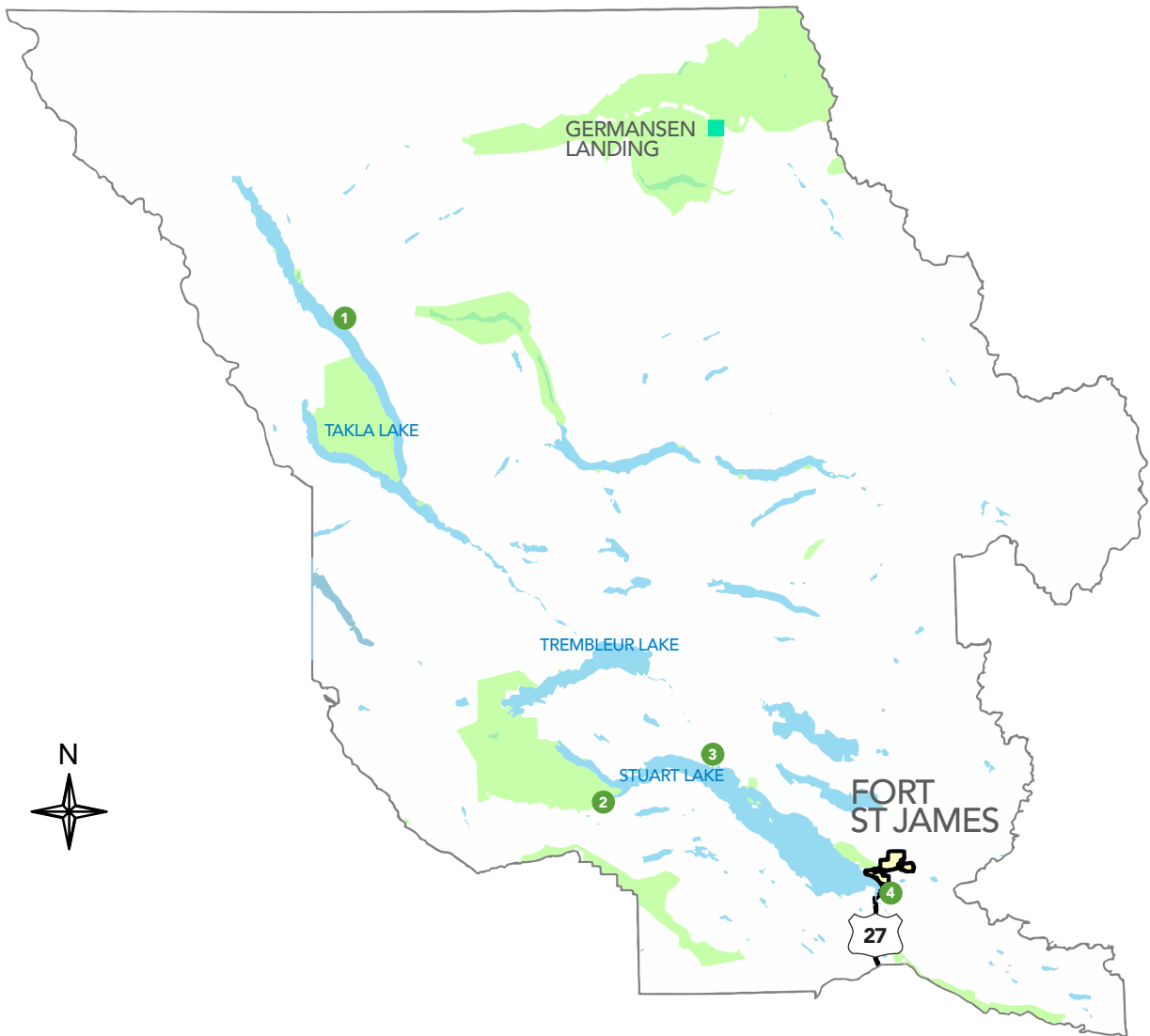
www.fortstjames.ca

2: ELECTORAL AREA C (FORT ST. JAMES RURAL)



ELECTORAL AREA 'C'

(Fort St. James Rural)



Legend

-  Municipal Boundary
-  Unincorporated Communities
-  Lakes
-  First Nation Population Centers
-  Electoral Area Boundary
-  Parks
-  Highway

1. Takla Lake First Nation (North Takla Lake Reserve No. 7/7A)
2. Yekooche First Nation (Yekooche Reserve No. 3)
3. Tl'azt'en First Nation (Tache Reserve)
4. Nak'azdli First Nation (Necoslie Reserve No. 1)

Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

Fort St. James Rural, or Electoral Area C, has a growing economy and a stable population of just over 1,400 people. The rural area is known for its excellent fishing and the annual \$10,000 Stuart Lake fishing derby. The unincorporated community of Germansen Landing and the municipality of Fort St. James are located within the boundaries of Electoral Area C.

The residents of the rural area are employed in a number of sectors, although there is a concentration in agriculture and manufacturing as compared to the rest of the RDBN.

The Nak'azdli Band, Takla Lake First Nation, Tl'azt'en Nation, and Yekooche First Nation are located in Electoral Area C.



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth

Population growth in Electoral Area C (Fort St. James rural) and the RDBN, 2006-2016

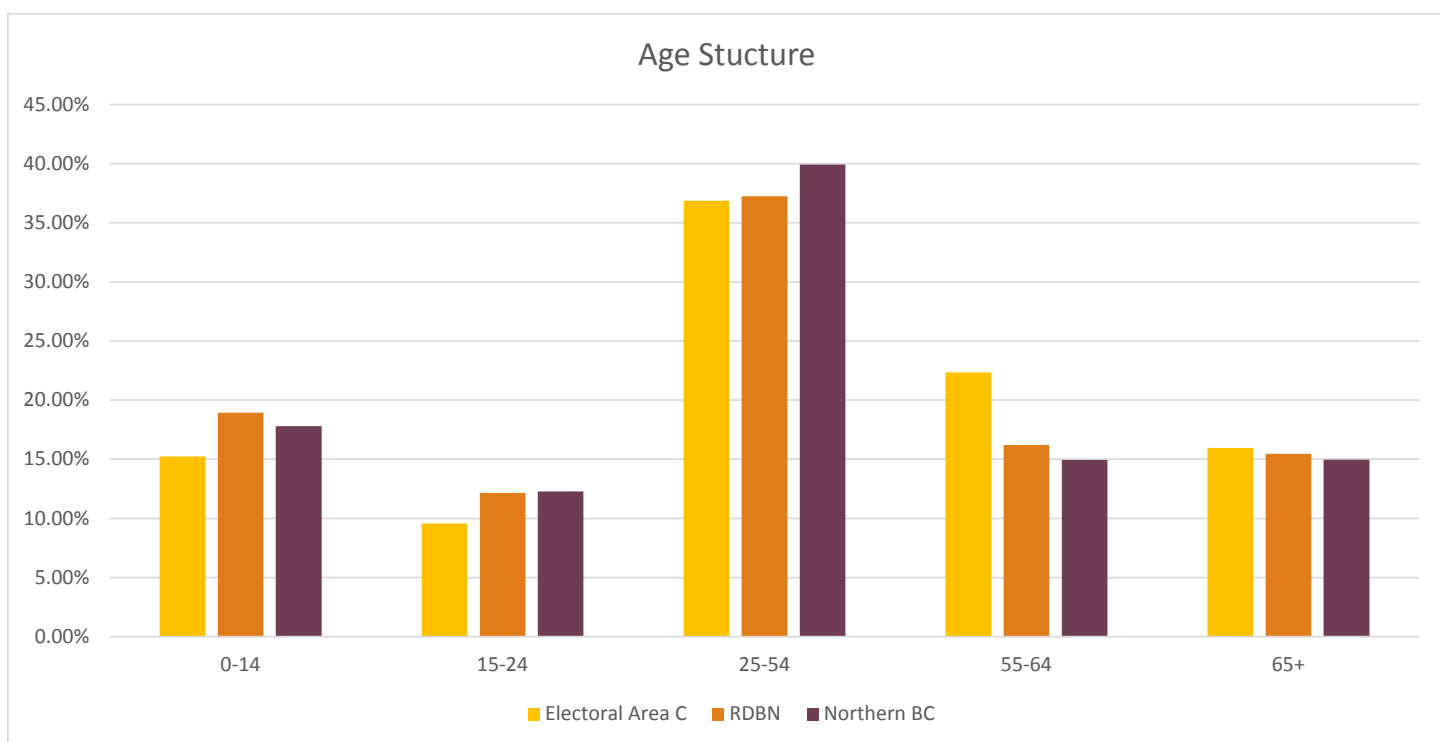
| POPULATION GROWTH | 2006 | 2011 | 2016 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Electoral Area C | 1,355 | 1,429 | 1,415 |
| Regional District Bulkley-Nechako | 38,243 | 39,208 | 37,896 |
| Northern BC | 314,771 | 315,284 | 318,225 |

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile 2006-2016.

The population in Electoral Area C, or Fort St. James Rural, had a population of 1,429, which was higher than both 2006 and 2016.

Age Structure

Age structure in Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) and the RDBN, 2016

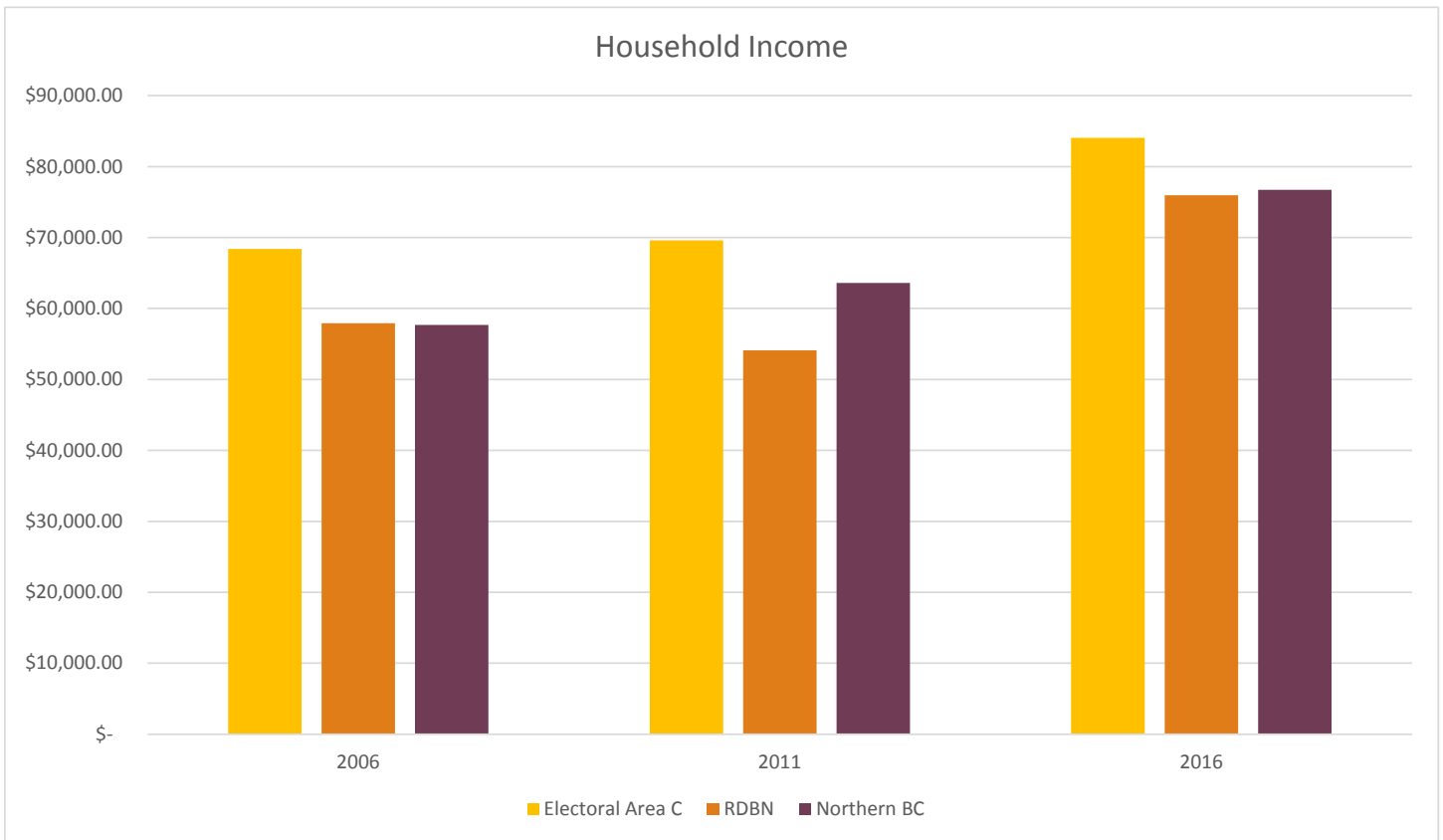


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016.

The population of Electoral Area C tended to be older than the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016. The median age in the rural area is 47 while in the RDBN and Northern BC the median age is 39. Its age structure reveals that Electoral Area C had a lower youth population (ages 0-14) and lower population between the ages of 25-54 compared to the RDBN and Northern BC.

Household Income

Median household income in Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) and the RDBN, 2006-2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2016.

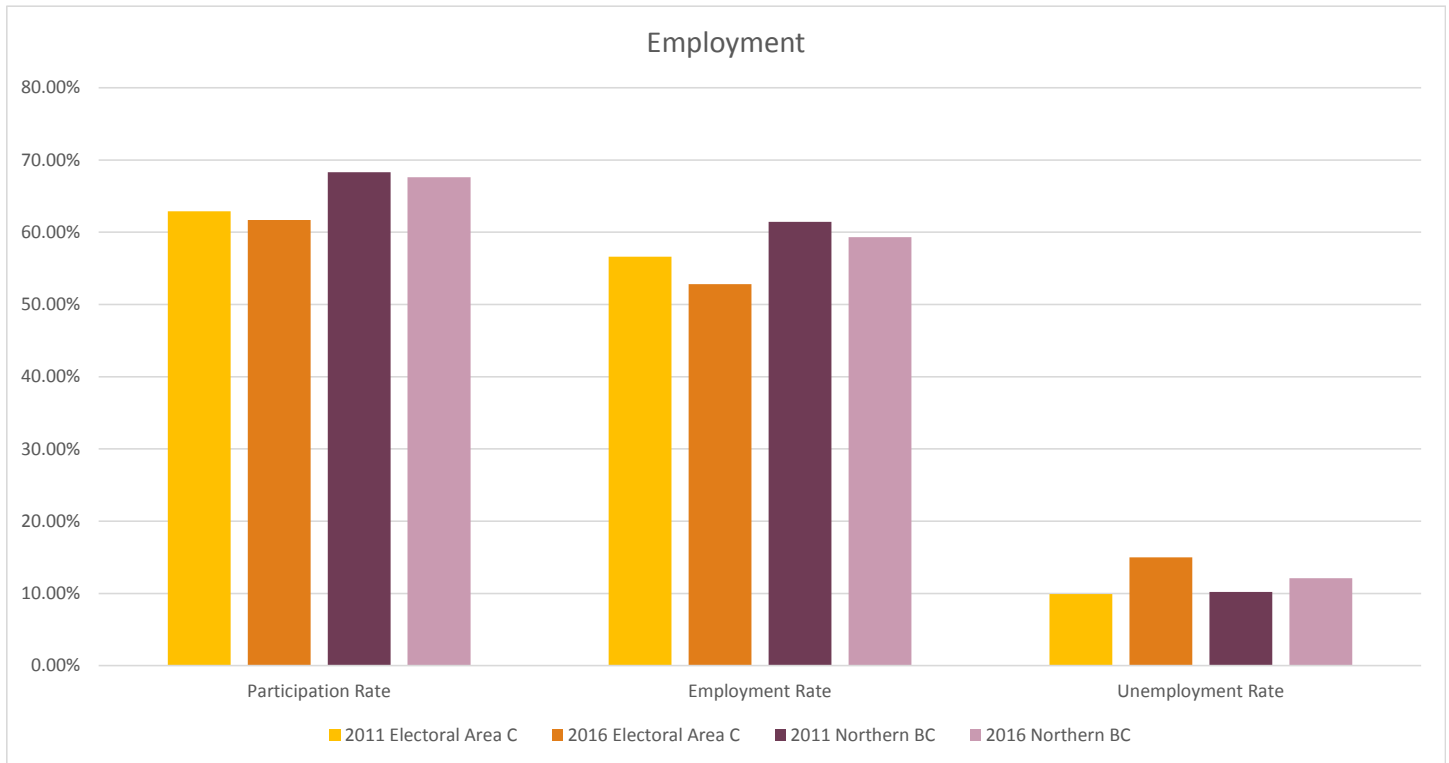
In 2016 Electoral Area C had highest household income compared to the RDBN and Northern BC. The household income in the rural area was higher than the RDBN and Northern BC from 2006 to 2016.



WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment

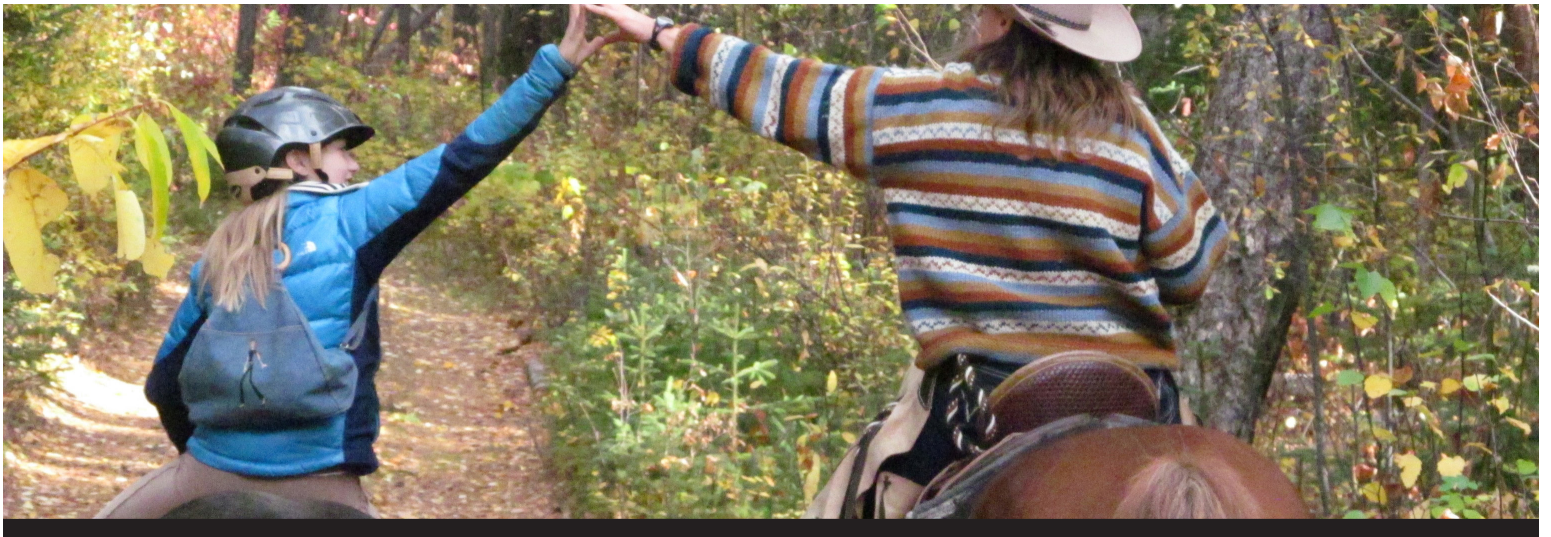
Employment data in Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) and the RDBN, 2011-2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2016.

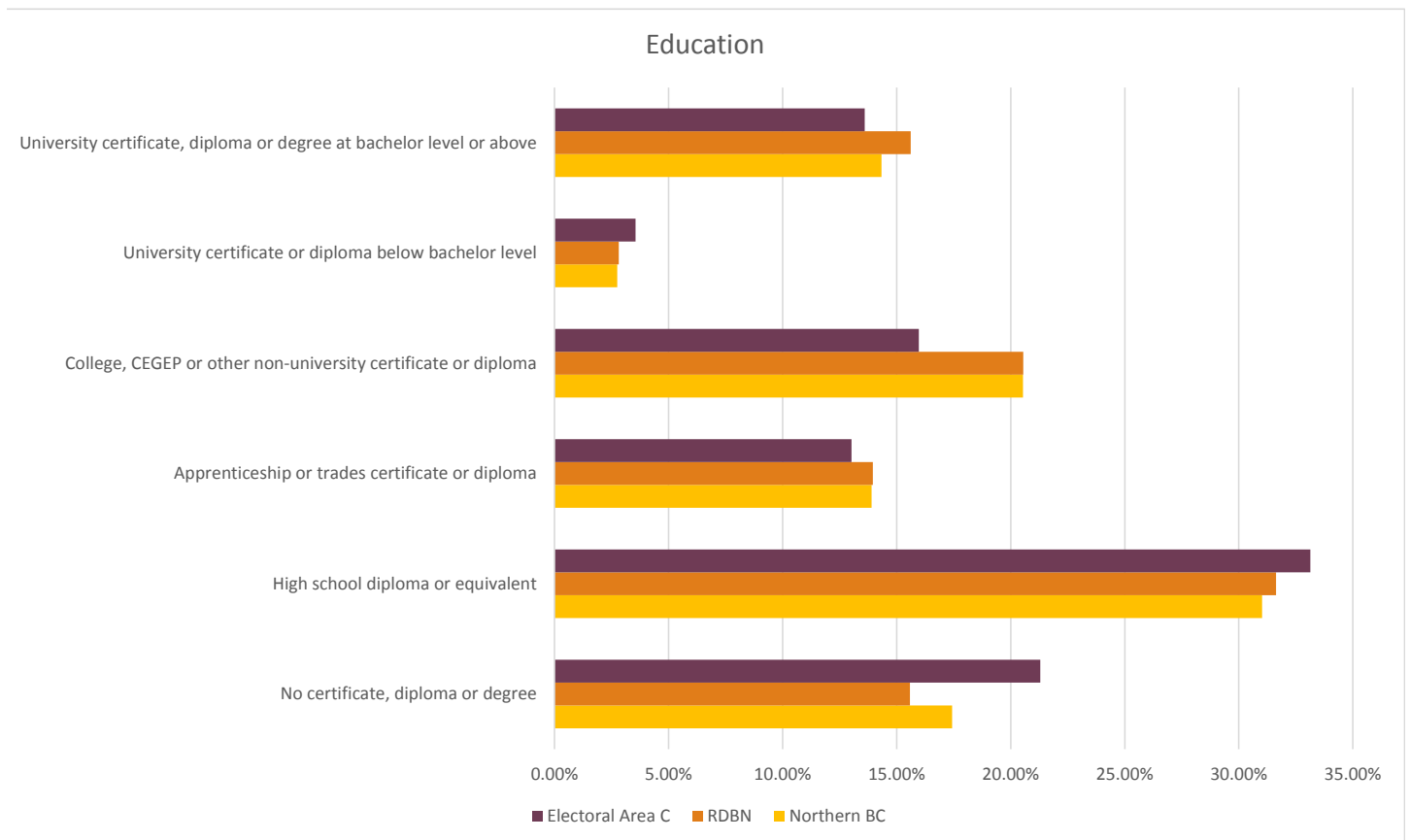
Electoral Area C had a lower unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2011, but then later increased in 2016.





Education

Education in Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) and the RDBN, 2016

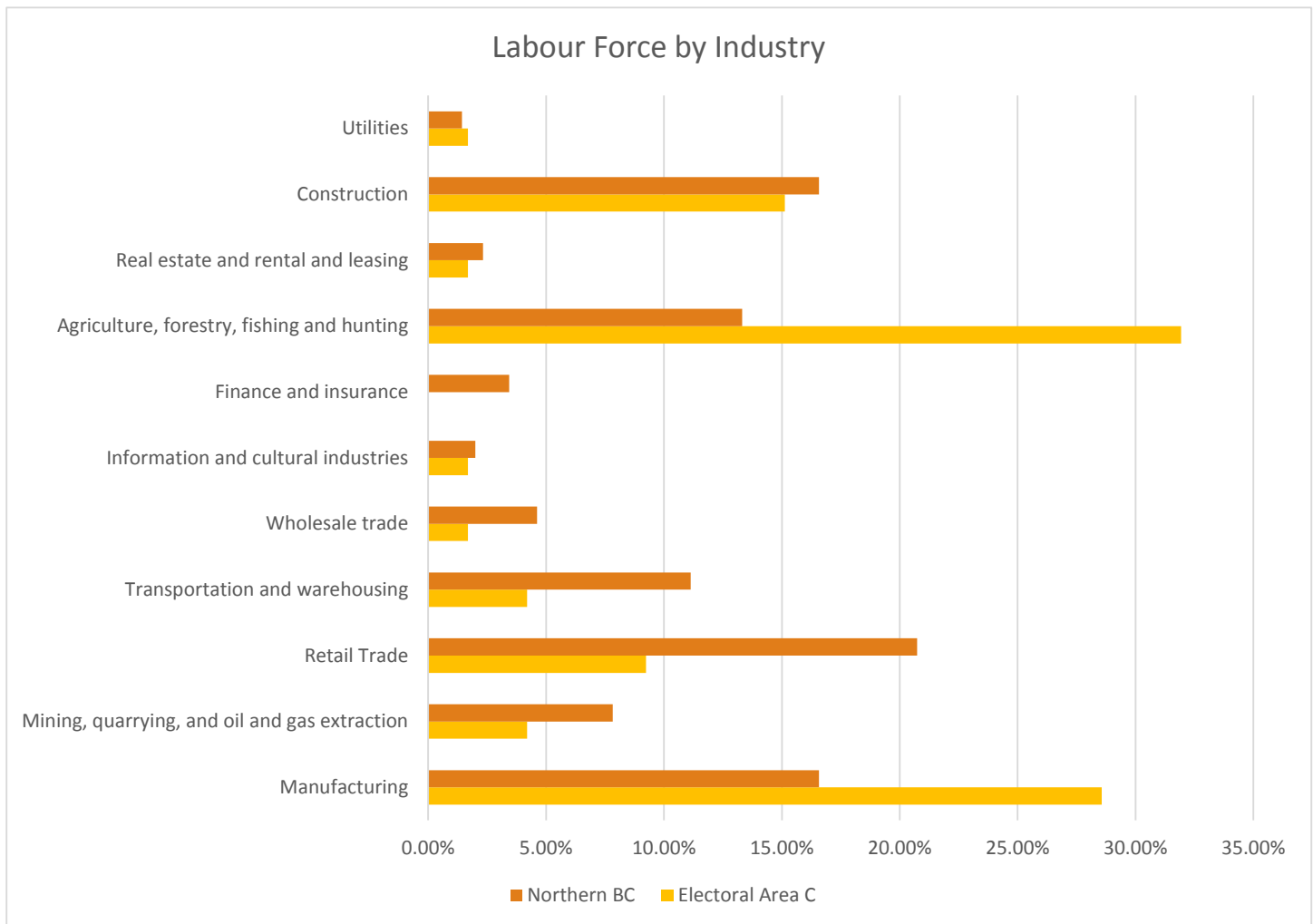


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

The percentage of Electoral Area C residents with a high school diploma or equivalent was higher than the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016.

Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) and the RDBN, 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

In 2011 Electoral Area C, the agriculture and manufacturing were major sources of employment in 2016. Among these major employers, the two sectors employed a greater portion of the labour force as compared to Northern BC.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Electoral Area C, Fort St. James Rural, official community plan is available at www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/planning.

- [Omineca Official Community Plan](#)
- [Fort St. James Official Rural Community Plan](#)

Local Economic Development Services

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

Nellie Davis

Manager Regional Economic Development
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Email: nellie.davis@rdbn.bc.ca
Phone: 250-692-3195 / 1-800-320-3339

Electoral Area Director Contact

Director Tom Greenaway

PO Box 1296
Fort St. James, BC V0J 1P0
Email: greenawayfarms@gmail.com

QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

Local Community Organizations

- Stuart Lake Seniors
- Far Fetched Archery
- Fort St. James 4H
- Fort St. James Ball Club
- Fort St. James Nordic Ski Club
- Fort St. James Ski Club/Murray Ridge
- Fort St. James Snowmobile Club
- Stuart Lake Golf Club
- Stuart Lake Sailing Club
- Fort Trap & Handgun Club
- Fort St. James TV Society
- Fort St. James Search and Rescue
- Music on the Mountain Society



FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY

Nak'azdli Band

Prior to 1806, Nak'azdli First Nation had a village on the north east shore of Stuart Lake, now called Mission Lands. The Village includes a historical church built by nak'azdli people, still standing today. Today the Village, designated as reserve land is the location of a new modern elementary school controlled and operated by the band. Nak'azdli band has 1400 hectares of reserve land situated in several locations within their traditional territory.

The main reserve IR no.1 is adjacent to the municipality of Fort St James. They are a thriving First Nation community with 230 residences, several businesses including a gas bar, modern grocery store, and value added mill. The Nak'azdli Band has 1,850 members with 950 residing on the reserve. The Nak'azdli First Nation depends on the natural resource economy and employs many people in the region. Nak'azdli ,are a Dene people who speak the Dakalh language.

Traditional trapping, hunting, fishing,arts and crafts are still practiced today. Nak'azdli uses the traditions of the potlatch governance system to conduct internal business. Moving forward the Nak'azdli continue to embrace improving relations with the municipality of Fort St. James and its residents.

Band Office

P.O. Box 1329
Fort St. James, BC V0J 1P0
Phone: 250.996.7171
Fax: 250.996.8010
Website: www.nakazdli.ca

Nak'azdli Businesses

- Sana-Aih Market
- Carrier Food and Fuel



Takla Lake First Nation

Takla Lake Nation is based around Takla Lake which is 60km north of Fort St. James. The main community is located at Takla Landing, at the north end of Takla Lake, but the band services 17 reserves totaling 809 hectares. Takla Lake First Nation has a registered population of 742 as of February 2014 living on and off reserve. It was created by the amalgamation of the Takla Lake and Fort Connelly bands in 1959. The Takla Lake people currently speak predominantly English and the Babine dialect of Babine-Wet'suwet'en, locally referred to as "Carrier". Until recently, many people also spoke Sekani, and some Gitksan. Some members also speak the Stuart Lake dialect of Carrier. The overall identification of the community is Carrier.

Band Office

Takla Landing, BC VOJ 2T0
Tel: 250-996-7877
Fax: 250-996-7874
Toll Free: 1-877-794-7877

Prince George Office
1839 1st Ave., Units 11 & 13
Prince George, BC V2L 3B9
Tel: 250.564.9321
Fax: 250.564.9521
Website: www.taklafn.ca



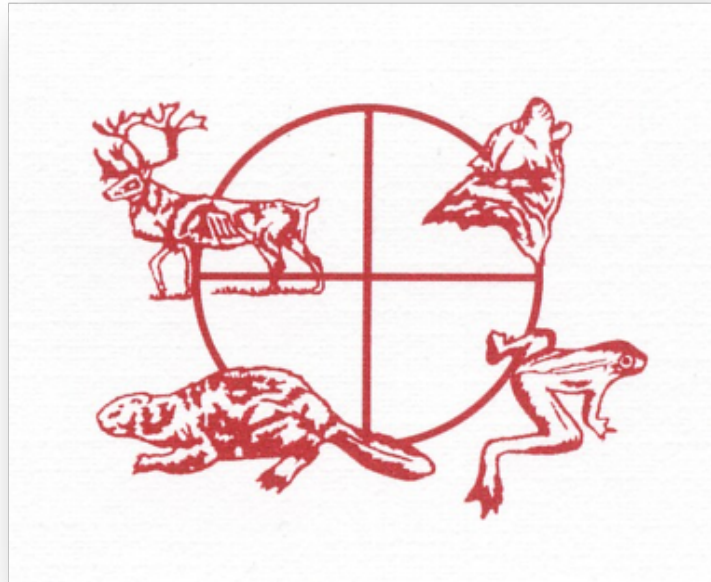
Tl'azt'en Nation

Tl'azt'en Nation is located along the north shore of Stuart Lake in the northern interior of British Columbia. The two main villages belonging to Tl'azt'en Nation are Tache, 60 km northwest of Fort St. James and Binche, 40 km northwest of Fort St. James. The small settlements of Middle River on Trembleur Lake and Grand Rapids, along the Tache River between Stuart Lake and Trembleur Lake also belong to Tl'azt'en Nation.

The registered population of Tl'azt'en Nation is 1,724 members as of February 2014. Of these, approximately 800 live in one of the main communities of Tache, Binche and Dzitl'ainli, and K'uzche.

Band Office

PO Box 670
Fort St. James, BC
V0J 1P0
Phone: 250-648-3212
Fax: 250-648-3250
Website: tlaztennation.ca



Yekooche First Nation

Yekooche First Nation is based 75 kilometers northwest of Fort St. James at the north end of Stuart Lake on Yekooche reserves (about 380 hectares in size). It is known in English as Portage due to its location along the portage route between Babine Lake and Stuart Lake.

Yekooche is a small community reserve. The registered population of the Yekooche is 224 members as of February 2014, of which 130 live on the Yekooche reserve. Near to Yekooche are Babine, Cunningham and Whitefish Lakes, which are used to collect winter food for families.

The people of Yekooche are Dakelh and speak the Stuart Lake dialect of the Carrier language. Due to their proximity to Lake Babine territory, they have traditionally been bilingual in Babine-Wet'suwet'en.

Band Office

1890 3rd Ave
Prince George, BC V2M 1G4
Phone: (250) 562-0592
Website: www.yekooche.com



www.rdbn.bc.ca



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 14 First Nations, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) boasts extraordinary natural beauty, vibrant small town culture and exciting business opportunities.

Residents of the RDBN enjoy the natural splendor of snow-capped mountains in winter, refreshing lakes and rivers in the summer, and 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 vibrant First Nations and a strong agricultural heritage and natural resource economy are the foundations of our welcoming, family friendly communities. Cultural experiences enjoyed by residents include charming local museums, and historic sites, inspiring First Nations events and artwork, galleries, theatres, a thriving music culture, and unique small businesses.

The Regional Profile

The 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. This 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 seven northern regional district electoral areas in the province, including Bulkley-Nechako, Skeena-Queen Charlott, Fraser-Fort George, Peace River, Kitimat-Stikine, Cariboo and Northern Rockies.

More information about the businesses and organizations listed in this document is available on the Bulkley-Nechako Directory.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth

Population growth in the RDBN and Northern BC, 2006-2016

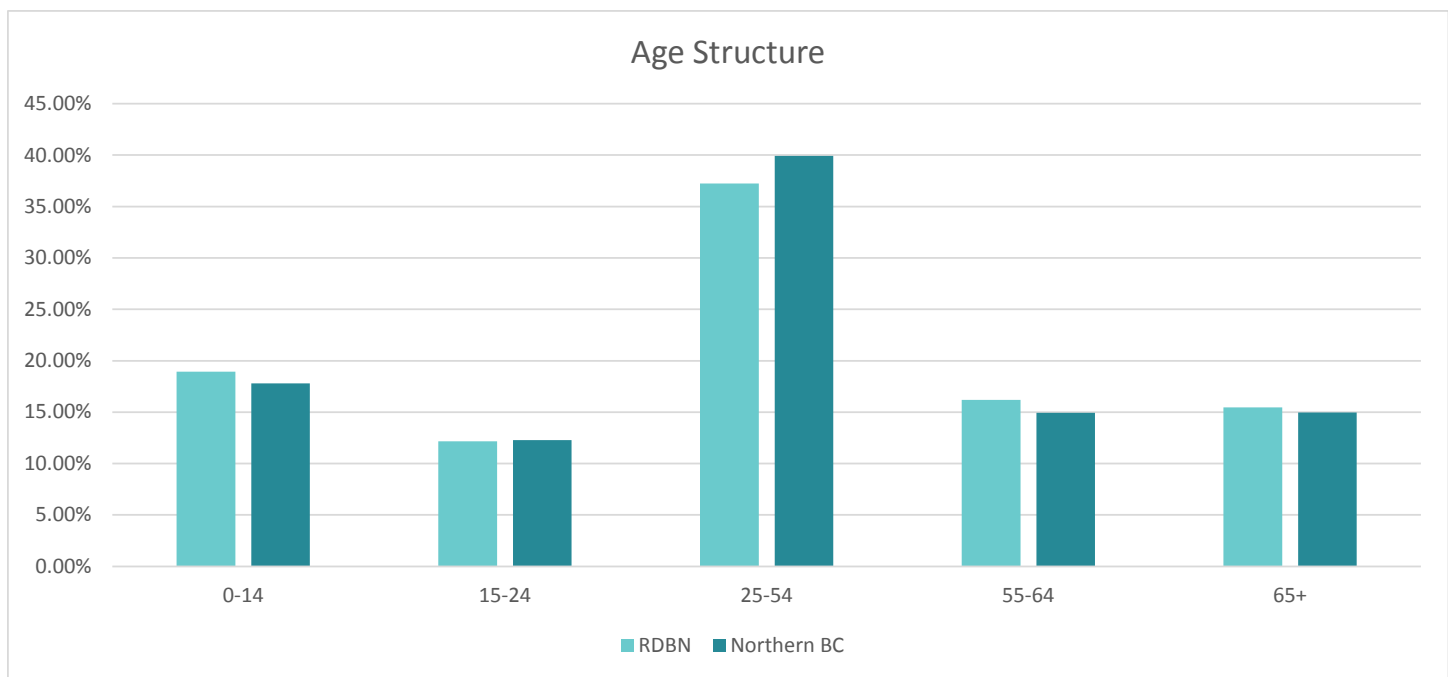
| POPULATION GROWTH | 2006 | 2011 | 2016 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako | 38,243 | 39,208 | 37,896 |
| Northern BC | 314,771 | 315,284 | 318,225 |

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2016

The population of the RDBN was 37,896 in 2016, a decrease of 3.35%.

Age Structure

Age structure in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016

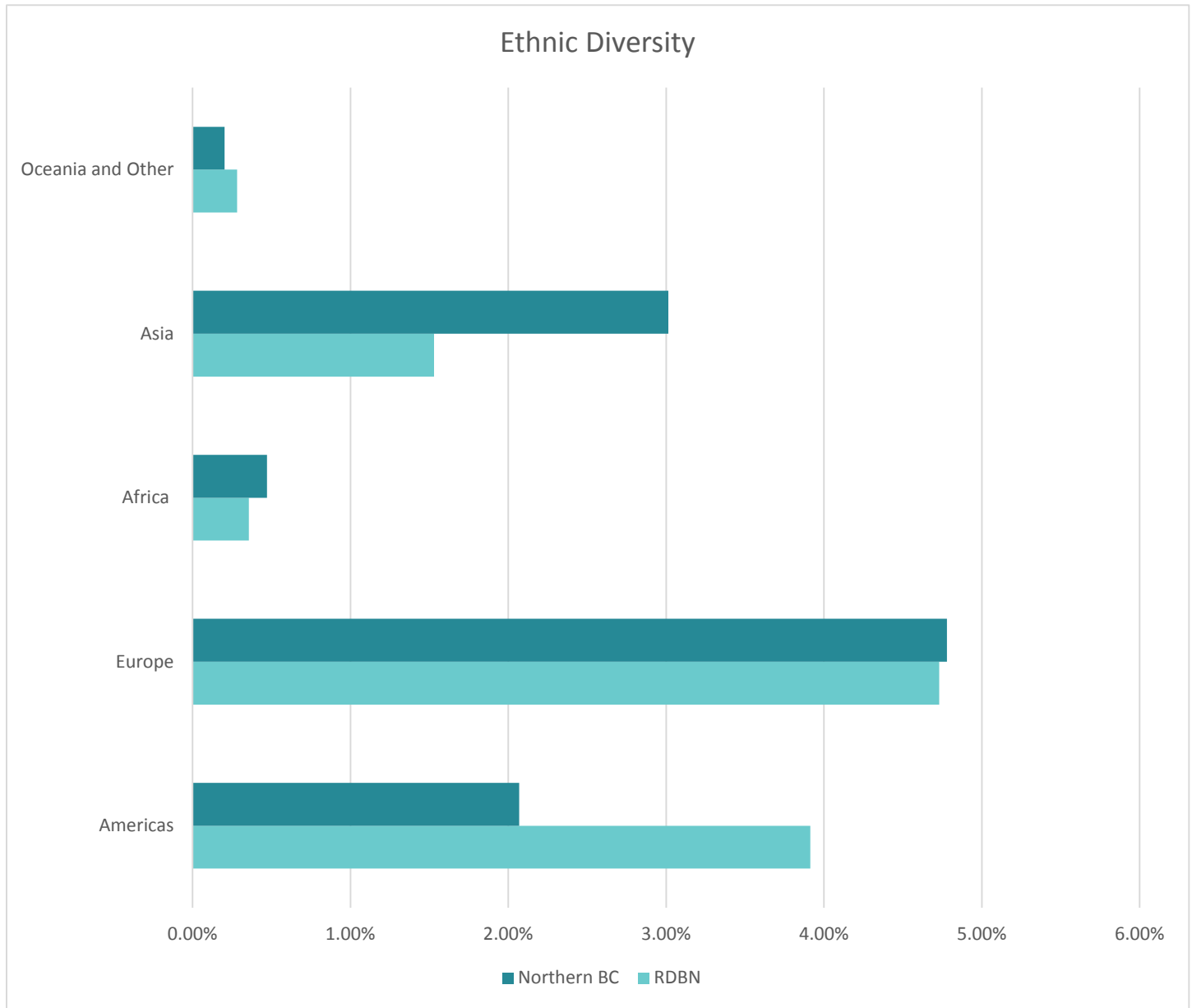


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

Residents of the RDBN had a median age of 41 in 2016, while Northern BC had a median age of 40 for the same period. The age structure of the region reveals that the RDBN had a higher youth population (ages 0-14) when compared to Northern BC. A lower portion of the RDBN's population was between the ages of 25-54 as compared to Northern BC.

Ethnic Diversity

Place of birth summary in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

In 2016 Northern BC and the RDBN had roughly the same percentage of residents of European ethnicity. The RDBN had a higher percentage of residents from Asia or the Americas.



Household Income

Median household income in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2006-2016



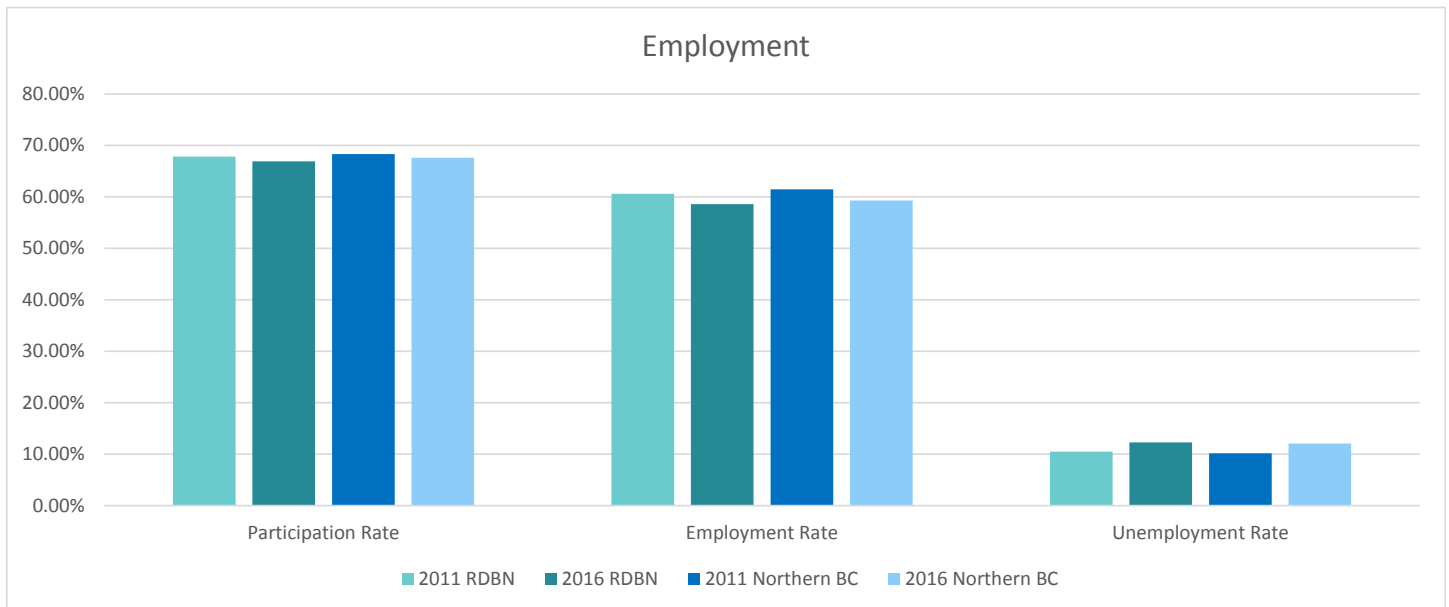
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2016

The median household income in the RDBN has generally been similar to Northern BC with the exception of 2011 where it was slightly higher.

WORKFORCE PROFILE

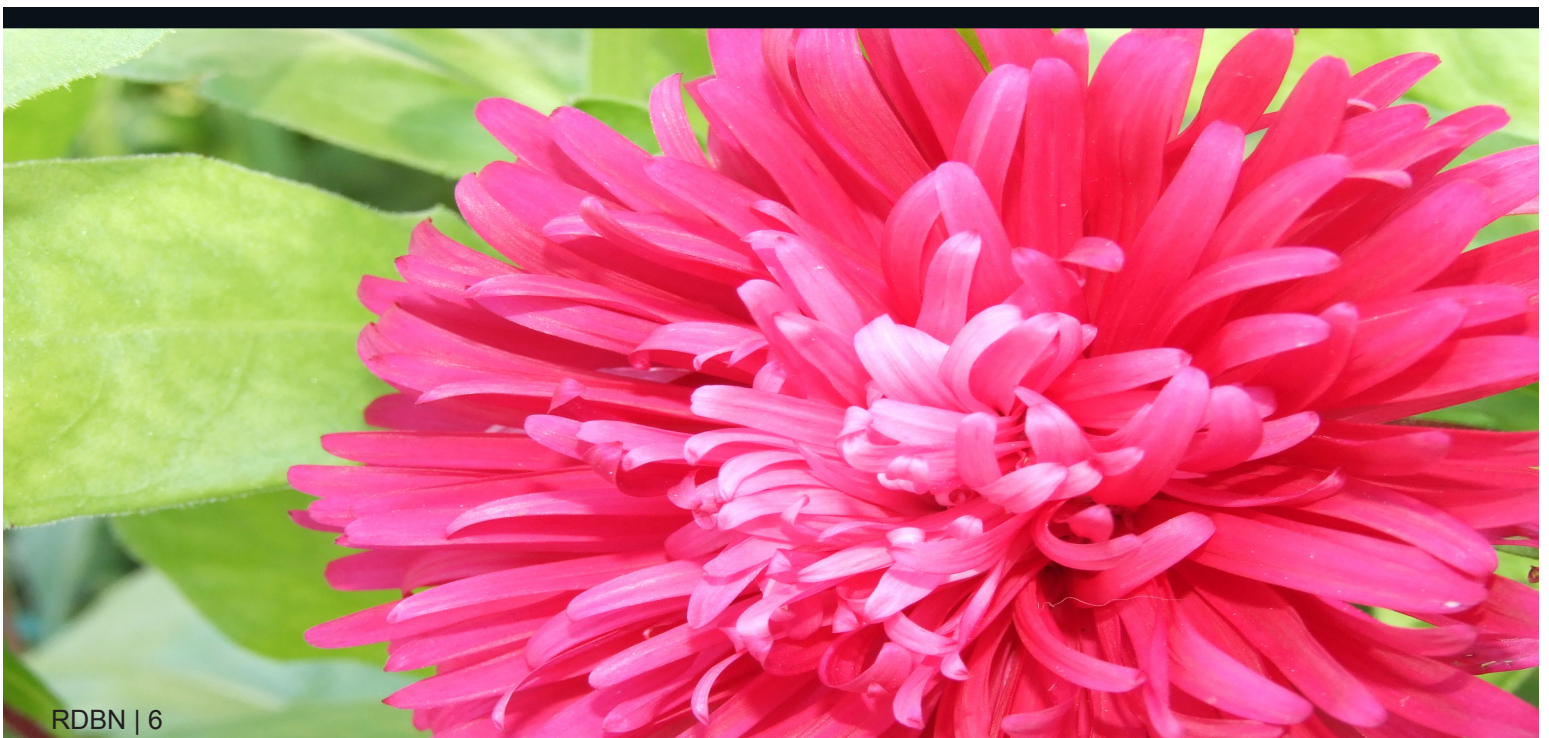
Employment

Employment data in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2011-2016



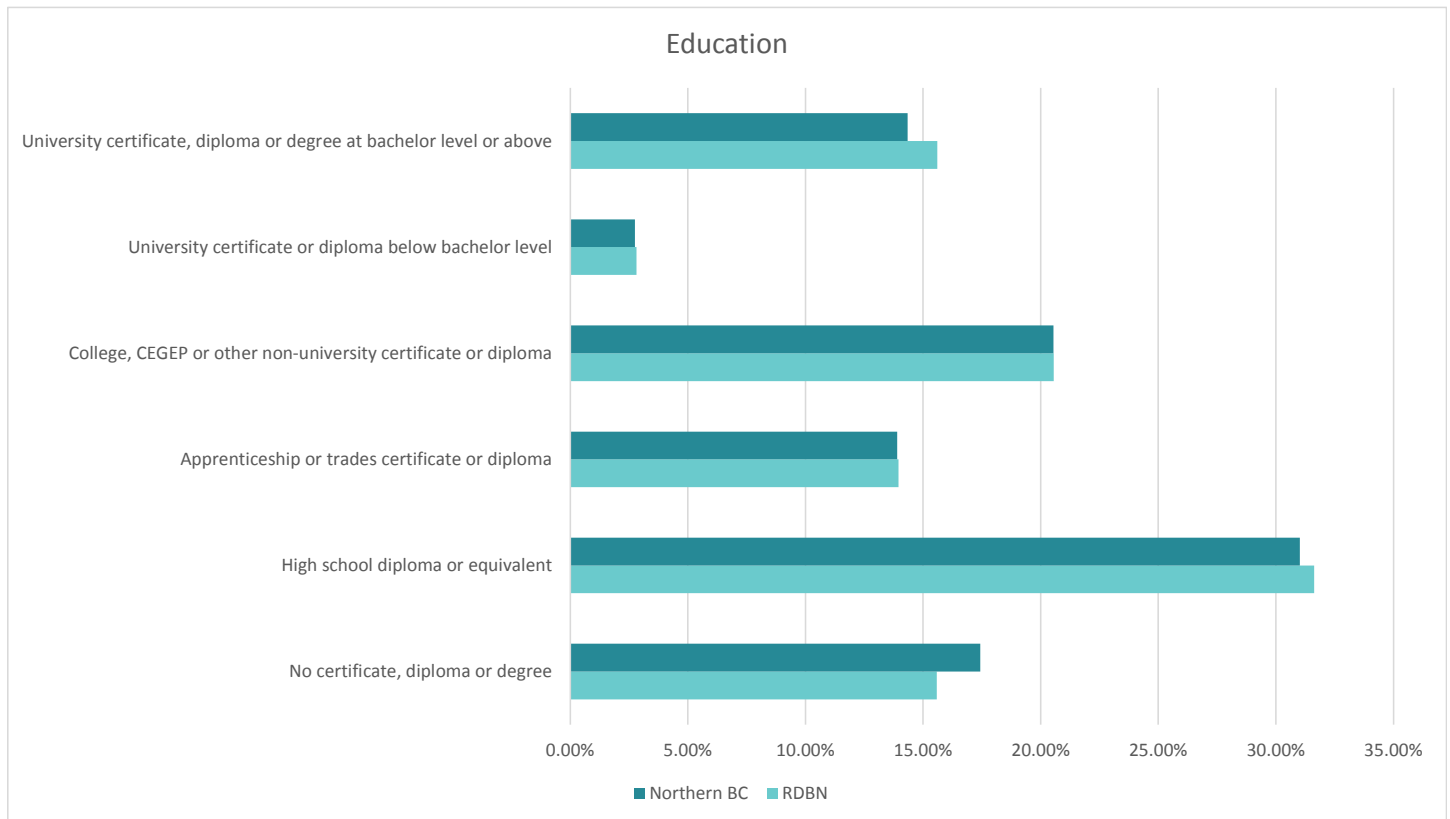
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2016

The RDBN employment rates were similar to the Northern BC Benchmark group for 2011 and 2016. The unemployment rate was 0.2% higher than the Northern BC rate.



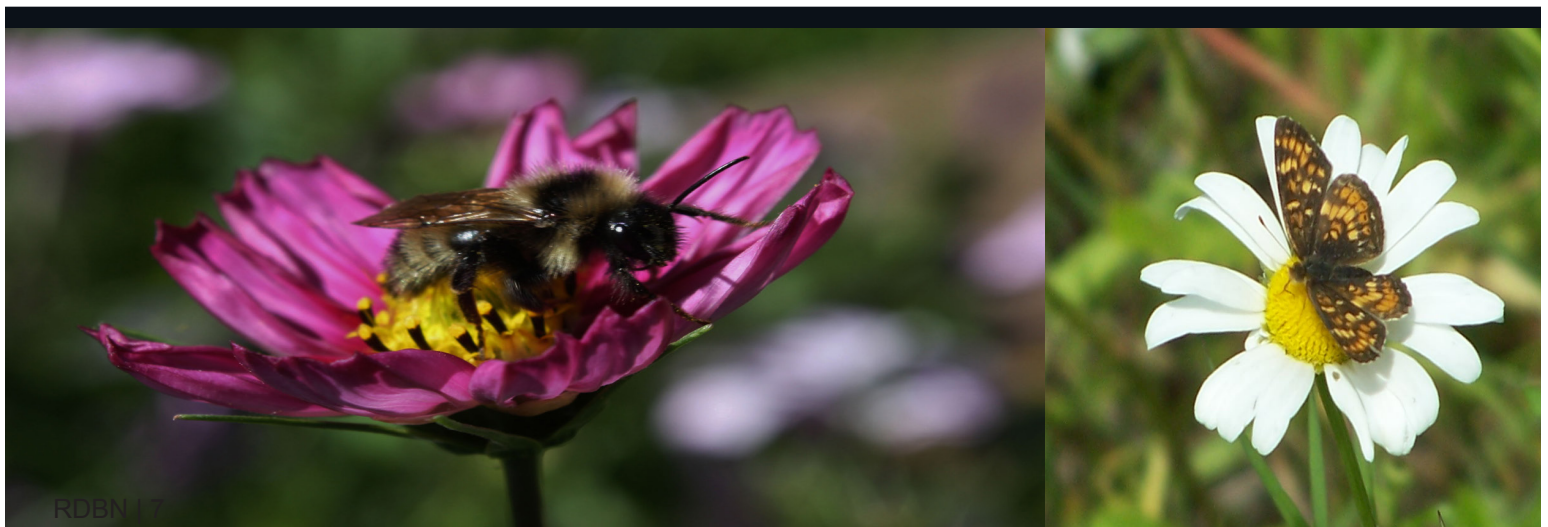
Education

Educational attainment in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016



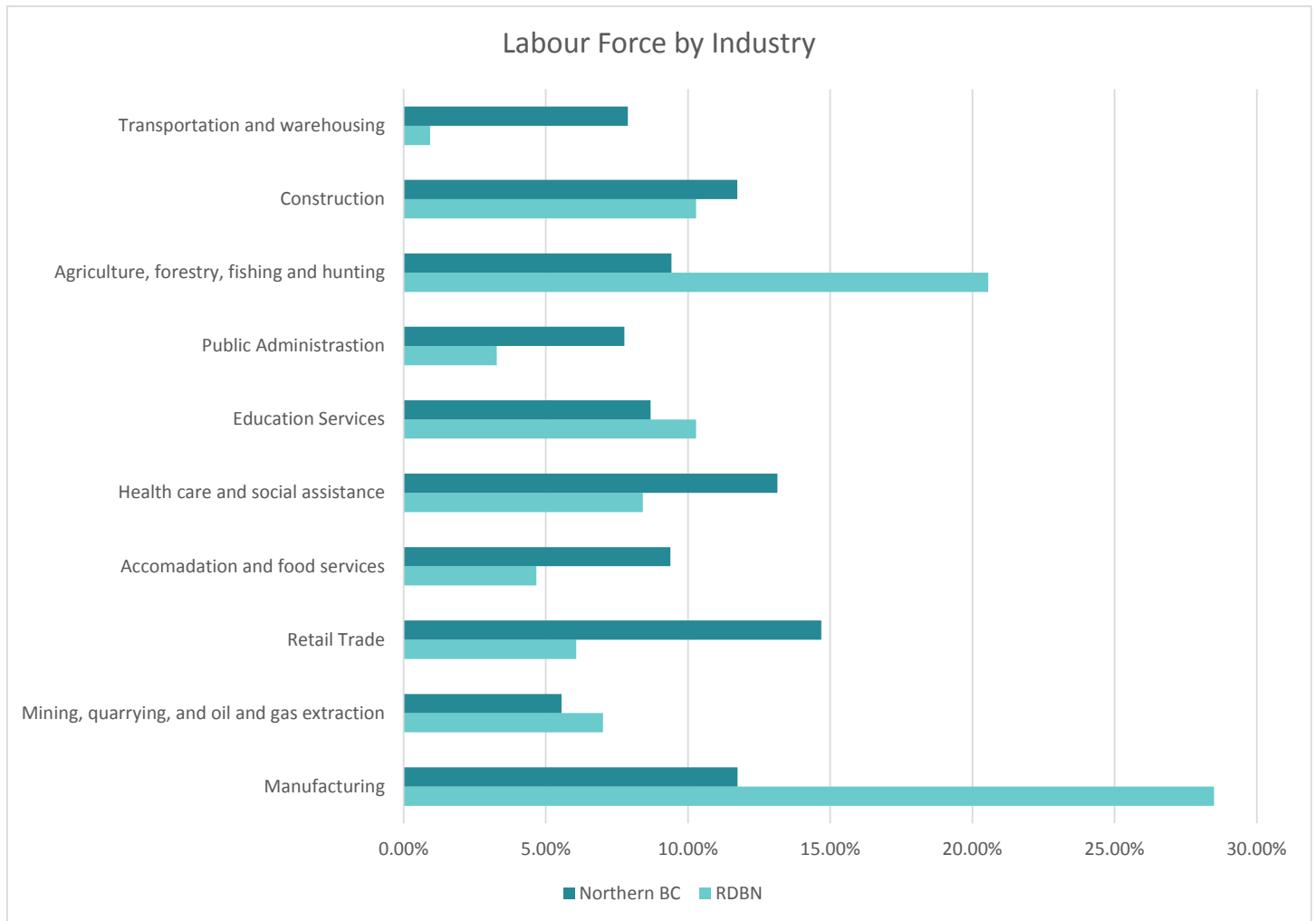
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

The population of Northern BC had a similar level of education to the RDBN in 2016. Although a higher proportion of the RDBN population held a college or university diploma or degree, or an apprenticeship or trades certification compared to Northern BC, the differences are not substantial.



Labour Force By Industry

Labour force by industry in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

In 2016, the RDBN manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting sectors were the leading sources of employment. These two major sectors both employed at least double the portion of the labour force compared with Northern BC.

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

| NAME | NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES | LOCATION |
|--|---------------------|----------------|
| School District No. 91 | 725 | Regional |
| Canadian Forest Products - Houston Sawmill | 343 | Houston |
| Canadian Forest Products – Plateau Mills | 317 | Vanderhoof |
| West Fraser – Fraser Lake Sawmills | 300 | Fraser Lake |
| 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 | 60 | Houston |

Post-Secondary Education Facilities

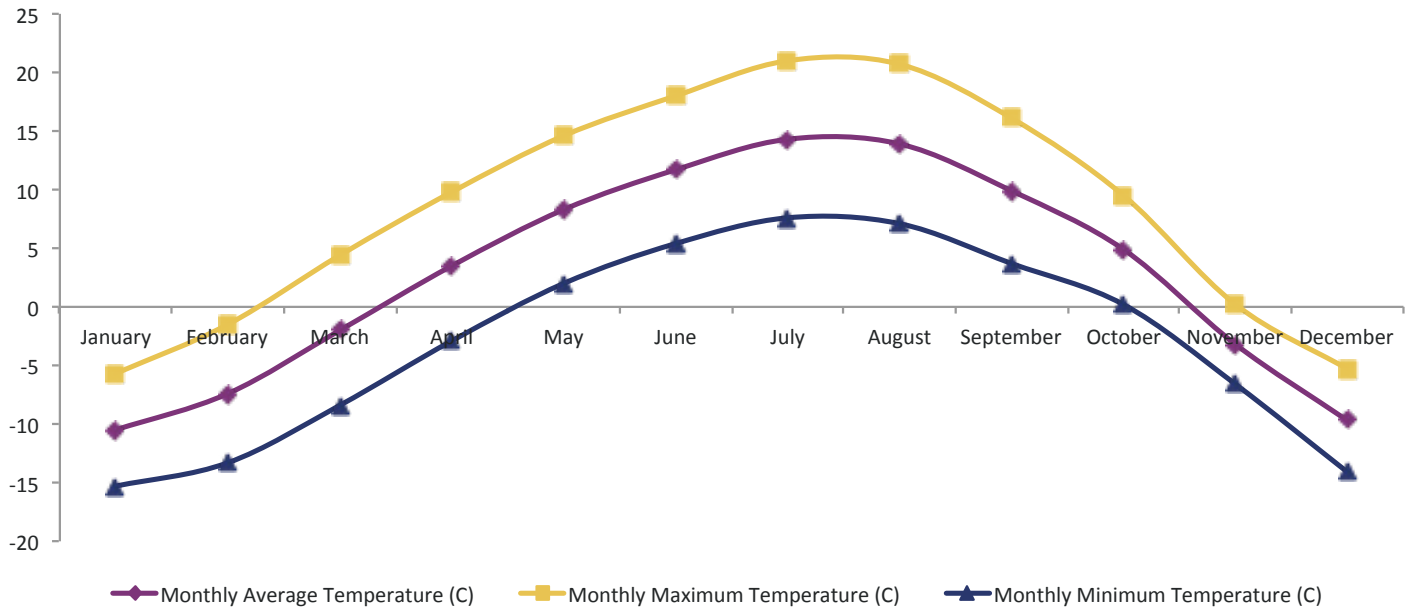
In the RDBN, post-secondary educational facilities are conveniently available in many communities.

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

CLIMATE

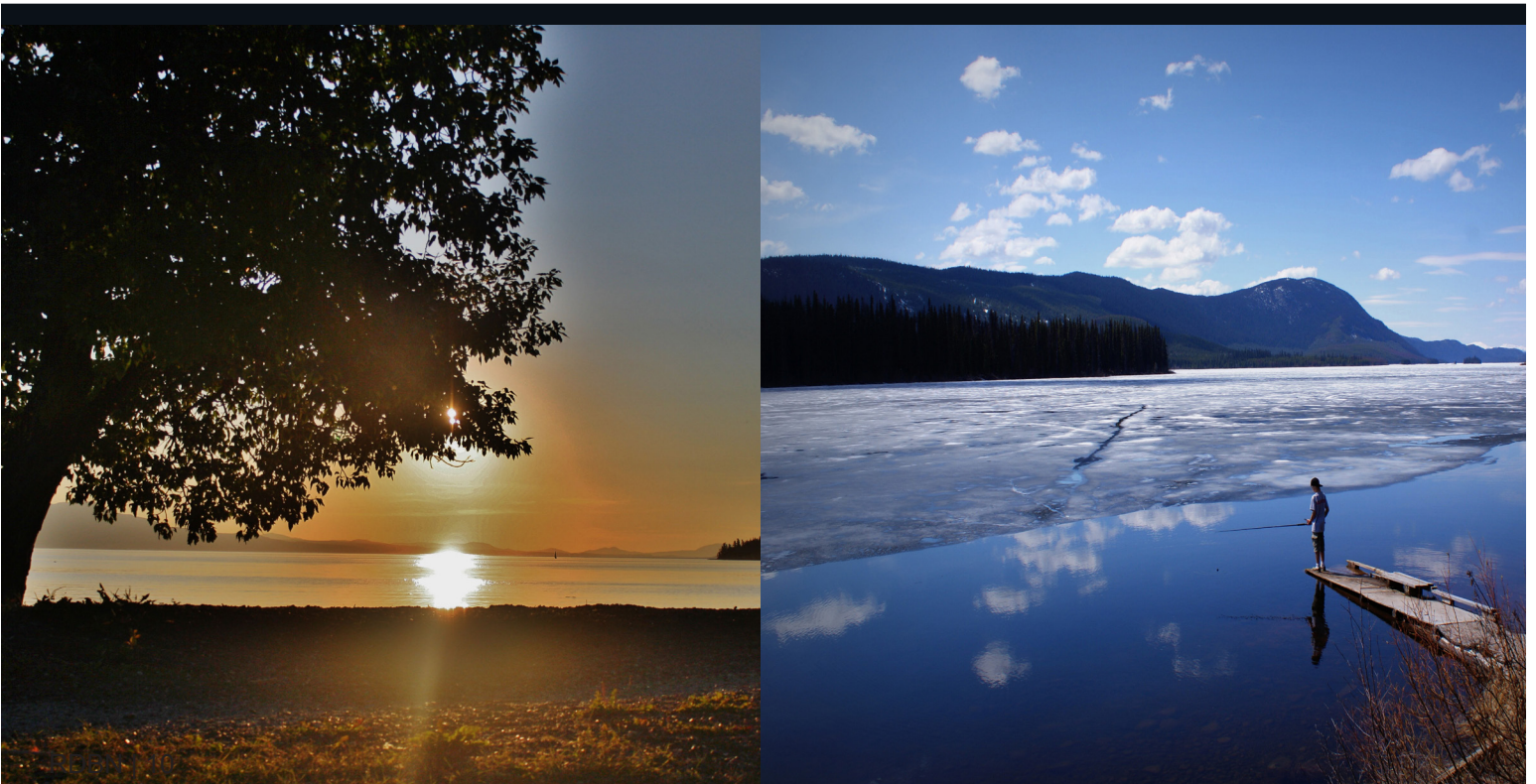
Monthly Temperature

Monthly temperature in the RDBN in 2010



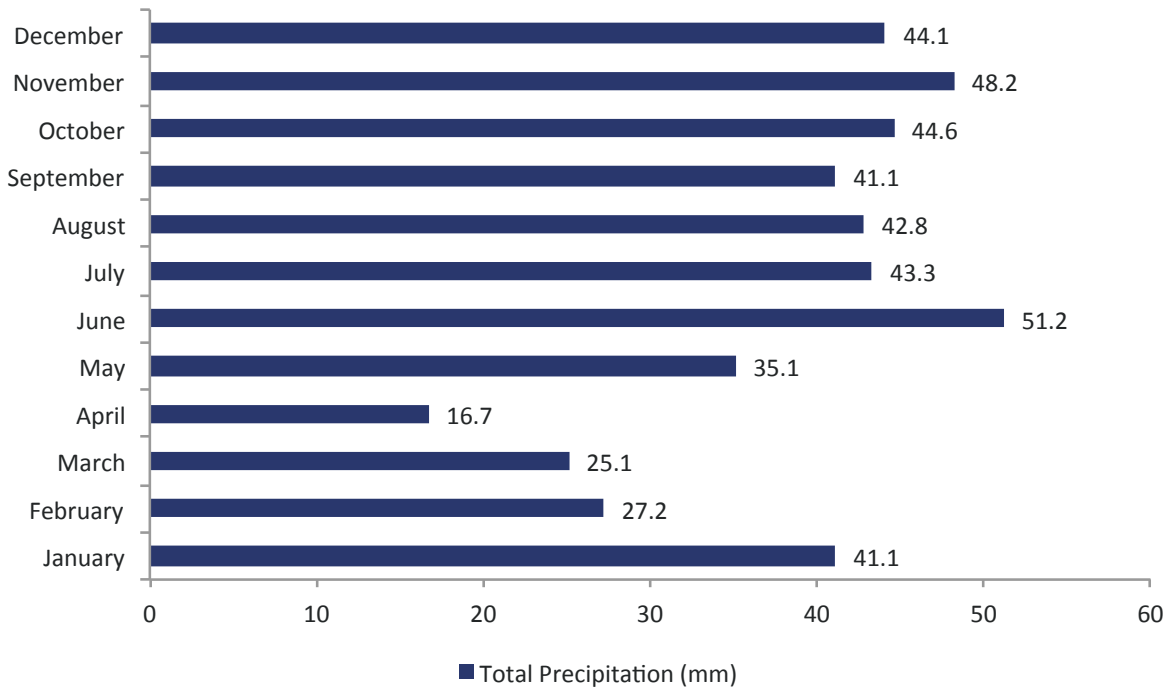
Environment Canada: 1981 to 2010 Canadian Climate Normals

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.



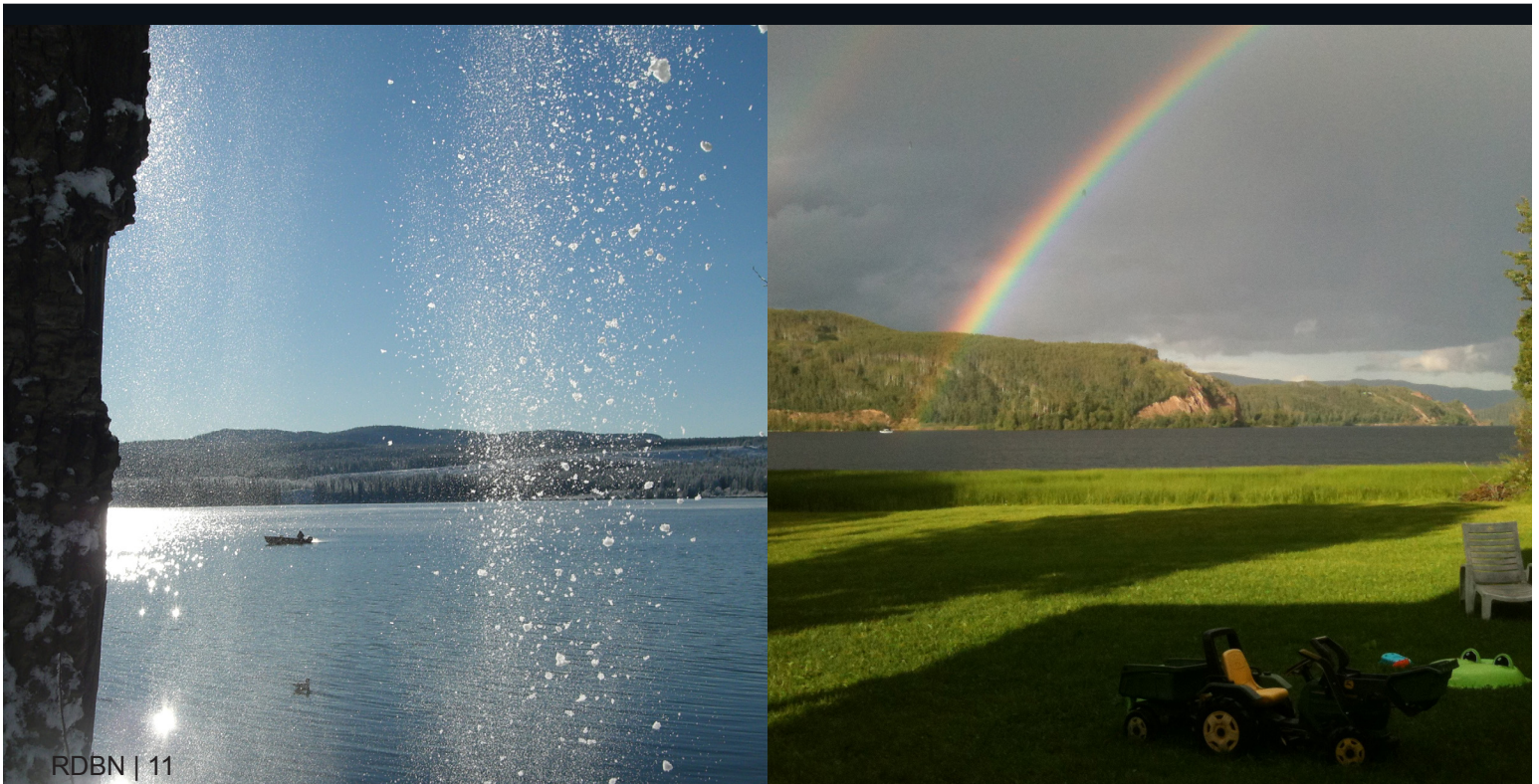
Precipitation

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. 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 |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Smithers Regional Airport | Smithers | Town of Smithers |
| Vanderhoof Airport | Vanderhoof | District of Vanderhoof |
| Baker Airport | Burns Lake | Lakes District Airport Society |
| Fort St James Perison Airport | Fort St. James | District of Fort St. James |
| Fraser Lake Airport | Fraser Lake | Village of Fraser Lake |
| Houston Airport | 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.
- Northern Thunderbird Air

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 | \$0.3645 per day | \$0.1253 per kWh | \$0.3645 per day (equal to the Basic Charge) |
| Medium General Service Rate | \$0.2673 per day | \$0.0968 per kWh | Equal to 50% of the highest Demand Charge during the previous November 1 to March 31 period. The basic Charge, Energy Charge, and Demand Charge are replaced by the minimum Charge if their sum is less than this amount. |
| Large General Service Rate | \$0.2673 per day | \$0.0606 per kWh | Equal to 50% of the highest Demand Charge during the previous November 1 to March 31 period. The basic Charge, Energy Charge, and Demand Charge are replaced by the minimum Charge if their sum is less than this amount. |

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.

Pacific 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 | 12.159 | 0.098 | 0.327 | 0.000 | 11.930 | 2.274 | 0.013 | 2.261 | 14.191 |
| Small Commercial | 25.00 | 10.259 | 0.098 | 1.327 | 0.000 | 10.030 | 2.260 | 0.013 | 2.247 | 12.277 |
| Large Commercial | 150.00 | 8.247 | 0.098 | N/A | 0.000 | 8.345 | 2.260 | 0.013 | 2.247 | 10.592 |
| Small Industrial | 410.00 | 3.699 | 0.098 | N/A | 0.000 | 3.797 | 1.740 | 0.013 | 1.727 | 5.524 |



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 |
| ThriveNorth | Support for Young, Emerging 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 |
|---|----------------|
| Community Living BC | Smithers |
| Smithers Community Services Association | Smithers |
| WorkBC Fort St. James (PESL*) | Fort St. James |
| WorkBC Vanderhoof (PESL*) | Vanderhoof |
| WorkBC Burns Lake (PESL*) | Burns Lake |
| WorkBC Fraser Lake (Outreach**) | Fraser Lake |
| WorkBC | Smithers |
| Skilled Trades Employment Program (BCCA) | Region Wide |

* Progressive Employment Services

** Contact WorkBC Vanderhoof office

Local Economic Development Services

Visit [Local Economic Development Services website](#) for information on:

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

Visit [opportunities.bc.ca](#) for information on:

- [Regional Skills Gap Analysis](#)
- [Industrial Land Use Inventory Reports](#)

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

Nellie Davis

Manager Regional Economic Development
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Email: nellie.davis@rdbn.bc.ca
Phone: 250-692-3195 / 1-800-320-3339

Chair Gerry Thiessen

PO Box 820
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
Email: gerry.thiessen@rdbn.bc.ca
Phone: 250-567-4711

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Opportunities
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