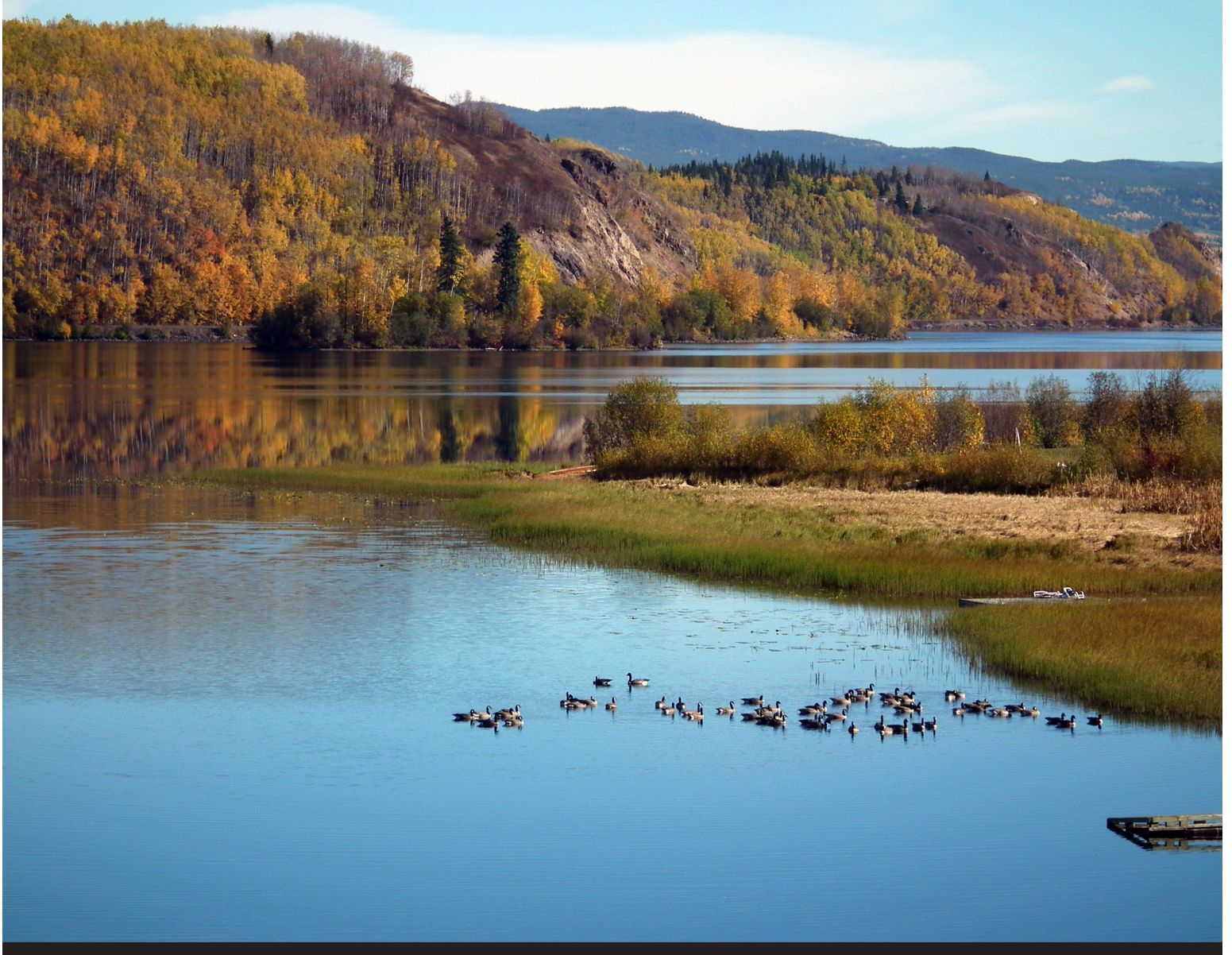


BURNS LAKE AND SURROUNDING AREA PROFILE



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

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- Cheslatta Carrier Nation
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Burns Lake and Surrounding Area

Burns Lake is a regional centre within the RDBN, surrounded by nature and endless options for recreational enthusiasts. Radley Beach and Spirit Square, located within the municipality on the shores of Burns Lake, boasts free camping, outdoor fitness stations, playground, public docks, boat launch, kayak/canoe rentals, and an outdoor stage.

Community members enjoy easy access to the natural surroundings of Burns Lake, a key contributor to their quality of life. A wide variety of hiking trails, canoeing and kayaking areas, as well as an abundance of lakes are found in Burns Lake and surrounding area. There are also world class mountain bike and cross country ski trails just five minutes from the village centre.

Forestry is the primary industrial driver with pellet plants and lumber mills as the main employers in the area. Agriculture, tourism, and mining (emerging) also provide employment for residents.

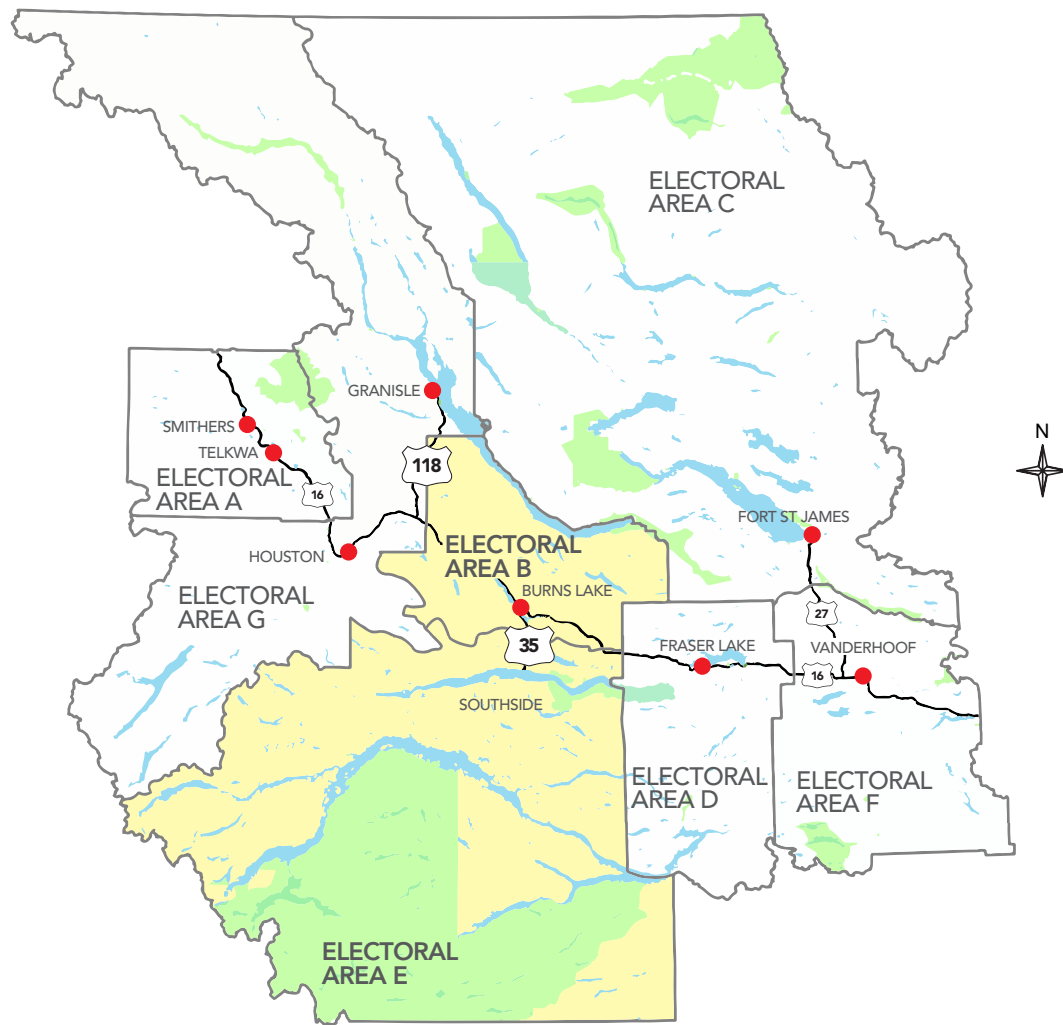
Burns Lake and surrounding area residents have full access to many health care services including a new Lakes District Hospital and Health Centre scheduled to open in 2015. The local airport, with a 5000 foot runway offers charter flights, overnight accommodation and service for industry.

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 Burns Lake to:

PLACE	DISTANCE (KM)	DRIVING TIME (HR)
Prince George, BC	227	2 hr 40 min
Kitimat, BC	402	4 hr 52 min
Prince Rupert, BC	490	5 hr 58 min
Edmonton, AB	966	10 hr 50 min
Vancouver, BC	1,008	11 hr 6 min
Calgary, AB	1,012	12 hr 4 min
Seattle, WA	1,122	12 hr 22 min
Whitehorse, YT	1,392	18 hr 17 min
Portland, OR	1,402	15 hr 6 min
Yellowknife, NT	1,832	21 hr 52 min
Anchorage, AK	2,523	33 hr

Legend

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

1: BURNS LAKE AND SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY PROFILE



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth

Population Growth in Burns Lake, 2006-2016

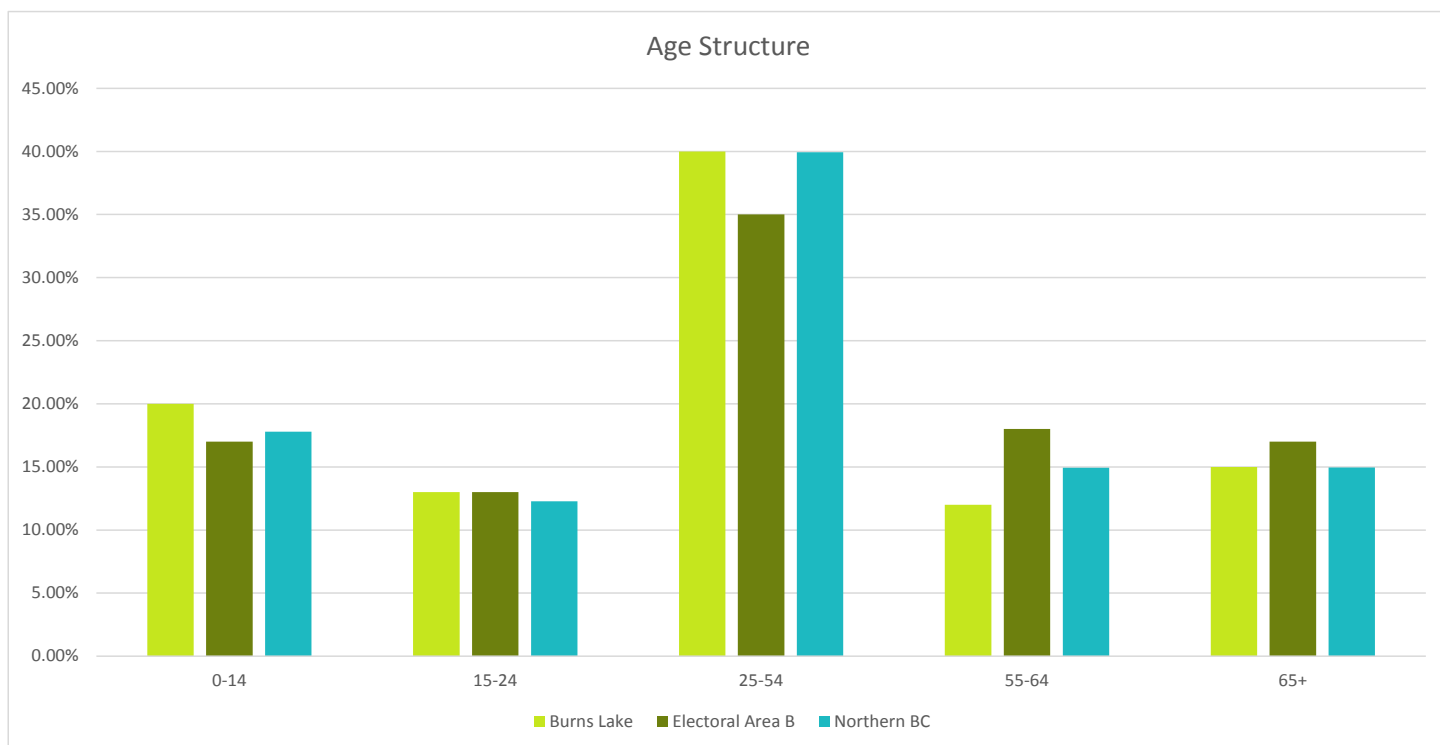
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Burns Lake	2,107	2,029	1,779
Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)	2,154	2,102	1,938
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2016

The Village of Burns Lake had a population of 1,779 in 2016. In Electoral Area B, the surrounding rural area, the population has been slowly decreasing over the same time period.

Age Structure

Age structure in Burns Lake and Electoral Area B, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

The residents of Burns Lake are younger than Electoral Area B, on average, as well as Northern BC. The median age in Burns Lake is 34 while in the Electoral Area and Northern BC the median is 41 and 39 respectively. The age structure reveals that Burns Lake has a higher youth population (ages 0-14) and significantly lower proportion of people between the ages of 55-64 as compared to the Electoral Area B and Northern BC.

Household Income

Median household income in Burns Lake and Electoral Area B, 2006-2016



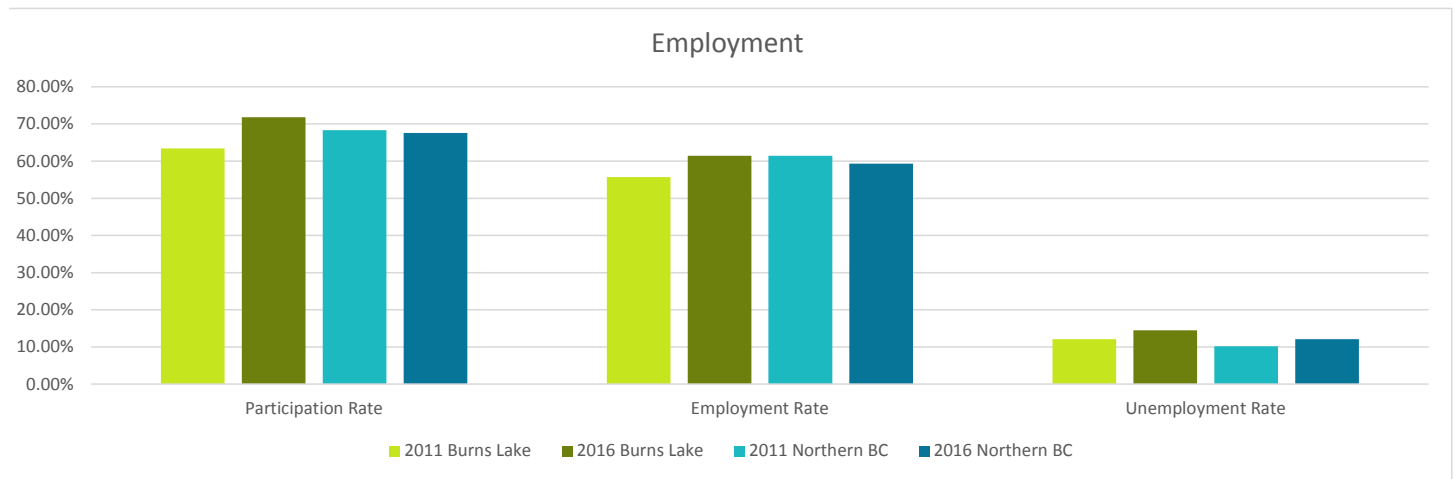
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2016

The median household income in Burns Lake has generally been lower than the Electoral Area and Northern BC; however, it is increasing throughout the years of 2006-2016.



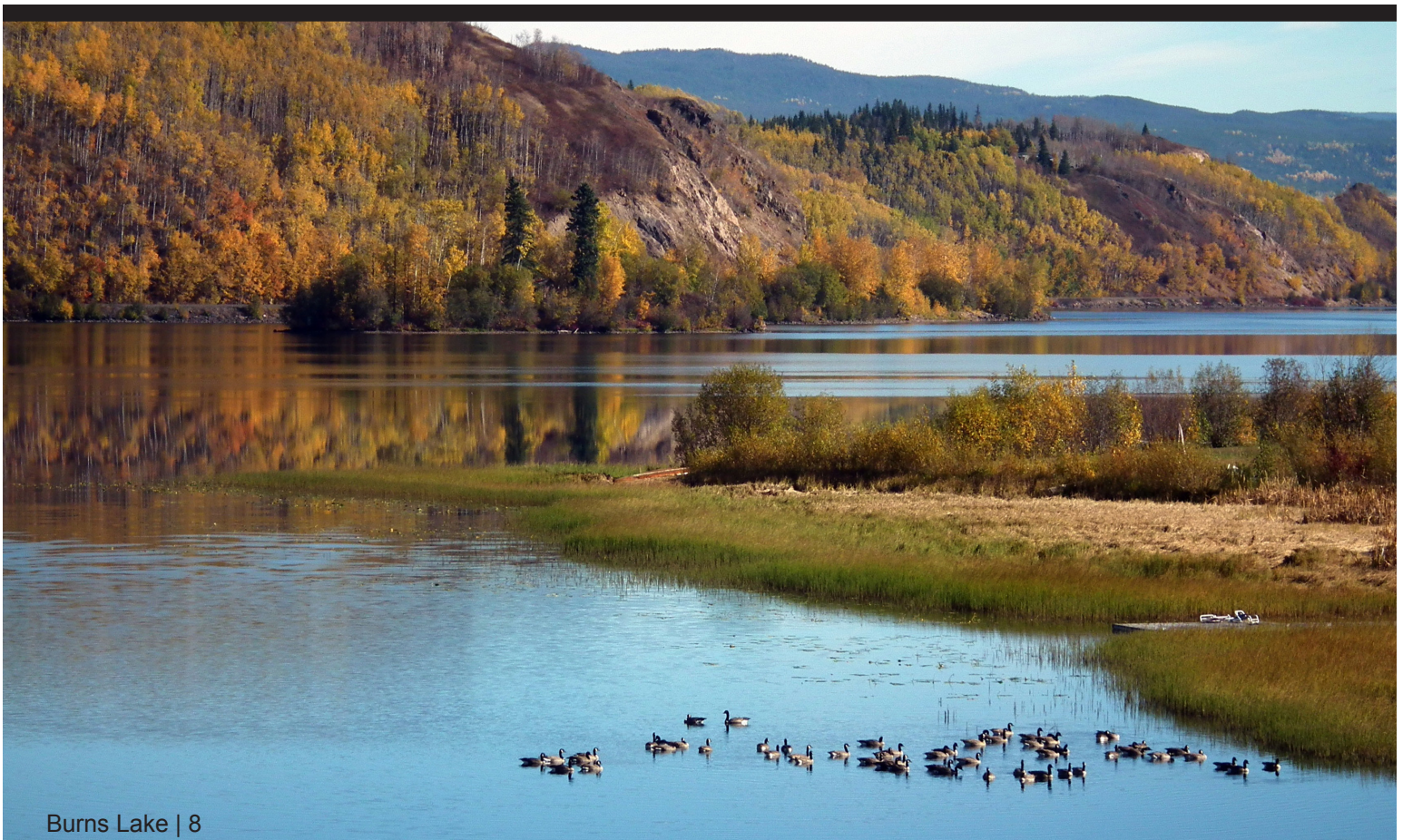
WORKFORCE PROFILE EMPLOYMENT

Employment data in Burns Lake and Northern BC, 2011-2016



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

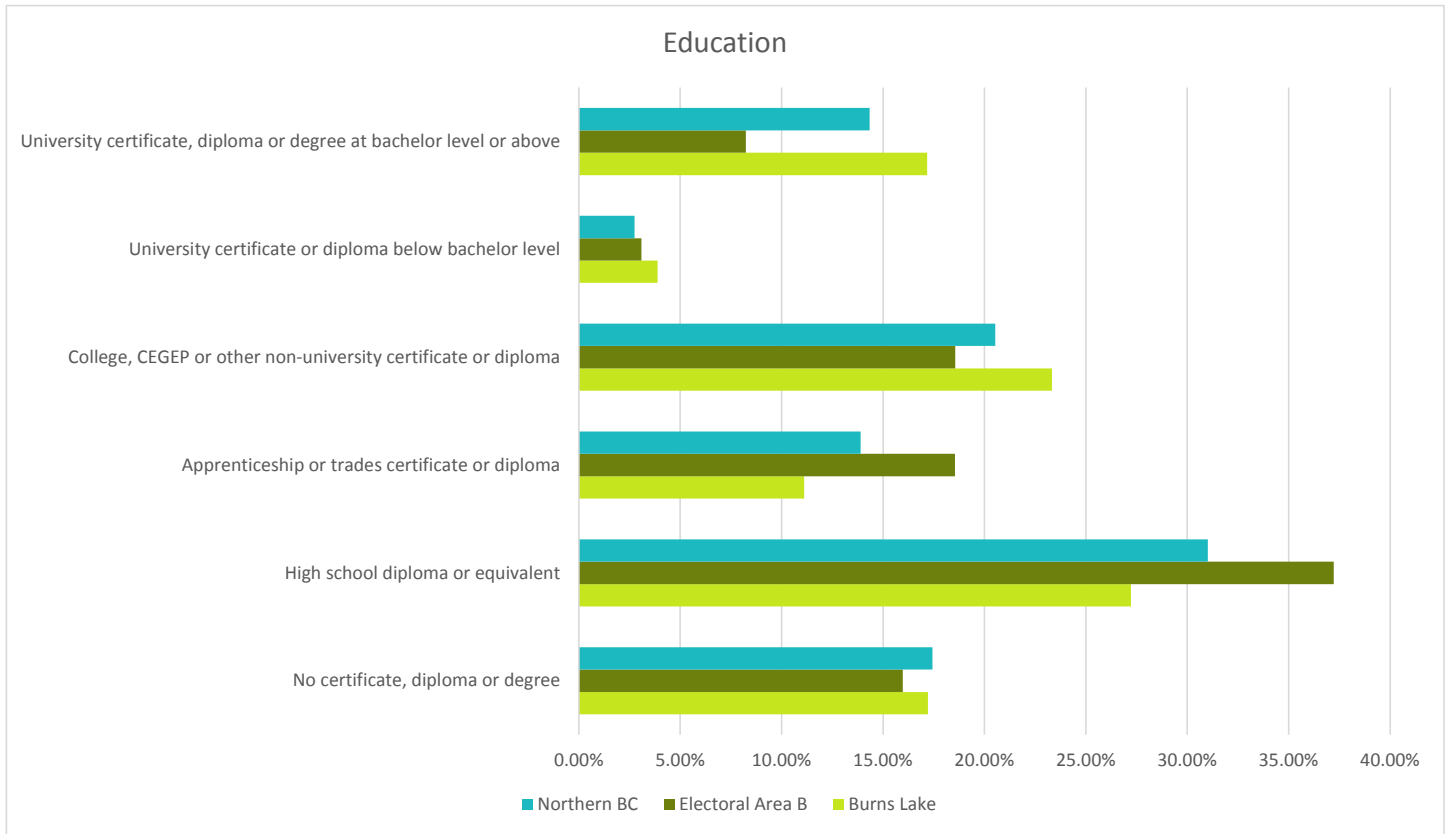
Burns Lake had a higher unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2011 and 2016. The employment rate in 2016 for Burns Lake was higher than Northern BC.





Education

Education in Burns Lake and Electoral Area B, 2016

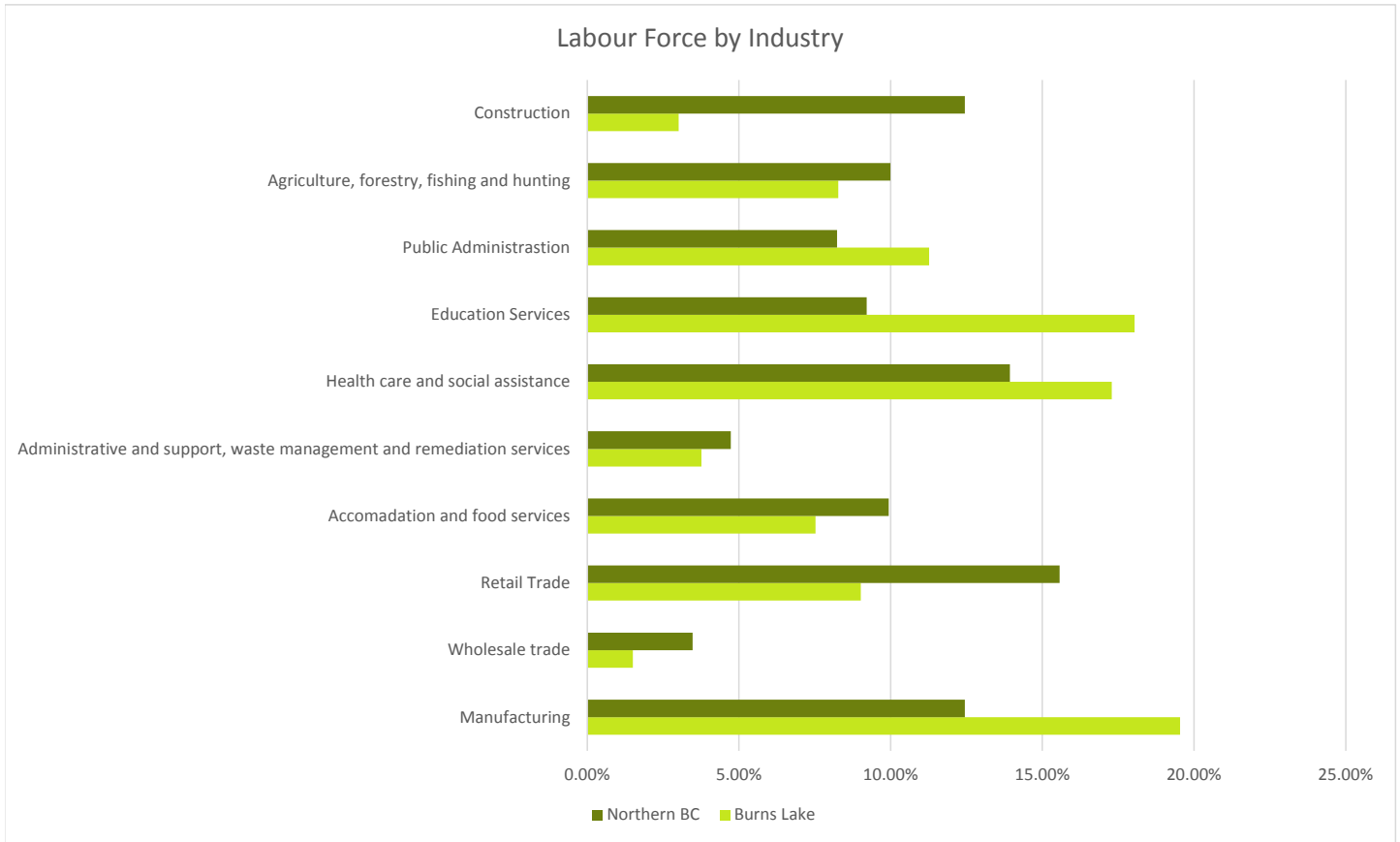


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey

Burns Lake had a lower portion of residents with a high school diploma or equivalent than Northern BC and Electoral Area B. Whereas Electoral Area B had the highest portion of residents with a high school diploma or equivalent in 2016.

Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in Burns Lake and Northern BC, 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey

In 2016 Burns Lake had a total labour force of 660 people. Around a quarter of the local labour force works in the manufacturing sector while in the Northern BC this sector only accounts for 9% of the workforce. Retail trade and public administration are other major employment sectors as they employ around 11% and 10% of the local labour force respectively.

Some of the major employers in Burns Lake include the following:

NAME	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
Hampton Affiliates - Babine Forest Products & Decker Lake Forest Products	265
Lake Babine Nation	140
Tahtsa Timber	109
Pinnacle Burns Lake	54
Lakes District Maintenance	50
College of New Caledonia	35

Local Post-Secondary Education Facilities and Employment Service Providers

In Burns Lake the following local post-secondary education facilities and employment service providers are available:

NAME	FACILITY OR SERVICE
College of New Caledonia	Post-Secondary Institution
WorkBC Employment Services Centre	Employment Services
Community Futures Nadina	Employment Services

TRANSPORTATION

The following transportation businesses and facilities exist within the community:

NAME	CATEGORY
Baker Airport	Airport
BC Transit - Bulkley Nechako Regional Transit System	Bus
BC Bus	Bus
Lakes District Air Services Ltd.	Charter Planes
Ootsa Air Ltd.	Charter Planes
VIA Rail Canada Inc.	Rail
Westland Helicopters Inc.	Helicopters

The Baker Airport is located 20km northwest of the Village of Burns Lake. There are no scheduled services to or from the Burns Lake airport but charter flights are available. Baker airport is a year-round facility, with a lit runway. Overnight accommodations and a van are available on-site.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Telus
- Shaw Communications Inc.
- Bell Mobility
- ABC Communications



WATER AND WASTE

Water

Source of Water Supply and Means of Access

Name of Provider - Village of Burns Lake

Means of Access - The Village of Burns Lake water system is comprised of 3 supply wells located on Gerow Island, and is piped from there underwater, to the high lift station at the Public Works Yard. Currently there is a portable backup generator that could be used in the event of a sustained power loss. The high lift station will be replaced with a new water treatment plant by 2021. The Village has a total storage capacity of 3,833 m³.

Water Supply vs. Projected Demand

Rated Capacity	126 m ³ /hour
Average Daily Demand	1,070 m ³
Peak Demand	2,333 m ³

Residential, Commercial and Industrial Water Rates

Residential Cost	\$296.72/year
Industrial Cost	\$2.66/1,000 gallons for first 30,000 gallons
Commercial Non-Metered cost	\$836.07/year
Bulk Water User Charge	\$8.00/1,000 gallons

Solid Waste Disposal Services

Residential curbside pickup is conducted every Wednesday and commercial curbside pickup is done every Tuesday and Friday.

Capacity of Waste Disposal Site vs. Projected Demand

Landfill Name	Knockholt Landfill
Location	80 km northwest of Burns Lake
Capacity Left at Current Site	64 years
Plans for New Capacity	Current plans will add an additional 3-5 years
Transfer Station	4410 Babine Lake Road

Recycling

Although no curb side recycling is available at this time several recycling options are available to residents of Burns Lake. For more information go to www.rdbn.bc.ca/environmental-services/recycling.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Taxes

The following chart summarizes 2019 tax rates in Burns 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
Municipal	7.0276	34.9273	44.1335	44.1335	14.8463	0.0000	7.0276	0.0000
Regional District	2.6558	9.2955	9.0299	9.0299	6.5068	0.0000	2.6558	0.0000
Hospital District	1.3789	4.8262	4.6883	4.6883	3.3784	0.0000	1.3789	0.0000
School	3.4000	13.0000	3.7000	3.7000	3.7000	1.9000	2.3000	7.1000
Other	0.4762	2.0135	1.9698	1.5950	1.1795	1.5380	0.4762	0.4762
Total	14.9386	64.2625	63.5215	63.1467	29.6110	3.4380	13.8386	7.5762

Development Processes and Fees

Frequently requested development and business fees in Burns Lake are as follows

TYPE OF FEE	COST
OCP Amendment	\$750
Zoning Bylaw Amendment	\$750
Development Permit	\$750
Board of Variance Application	\$300
Building Permit(Commercial)	\$6/\$1000 construction value
Building Permit (Residential)	\$6/\$1000 construction value
Business License for period of January 1 - December 31	\$100
Business License for period of July 1 - December 31st	\$50

Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Burns Lake's official community plan and zoning bylaw are available at www.burnslake.ca

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

Incentive Programs

The community of Burns Lake has adopted several initiatives to improve competitiveness for small business. These initiatives include the following:

- Façade Improvement program providing up to \$5,000 in matching funds for façade improvement in downtown Burns Lake
- Tax Revitalization Bylaw offers a business which invests at least \$50,000 in new construction or improvement on an industrial property no property tax on the improvement in the first year after construction, as long as the investment creates at least two new full-time jobs. An eligible business will also enjoy generous tax breaks in the following four years, with the tax exemption declining 20% per year.

Local Economic Development Services

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

Lorie Watson

Economic Development Officer

Village of Burns Lake

Email: edo@burnslake.ca

Phone: 250-692-7587 x225

Randi Amendt

Chamber Manager

Burns Lake and District Chamber of Commerce

Email: info@burnslakechamber.com

Phone: 250-692-3773

Mayor Contact

Mayor Dolores Funk

#15 3rd Ave, PO Box 570

Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0

Email: mayor@burnslake.ca

QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

Housing

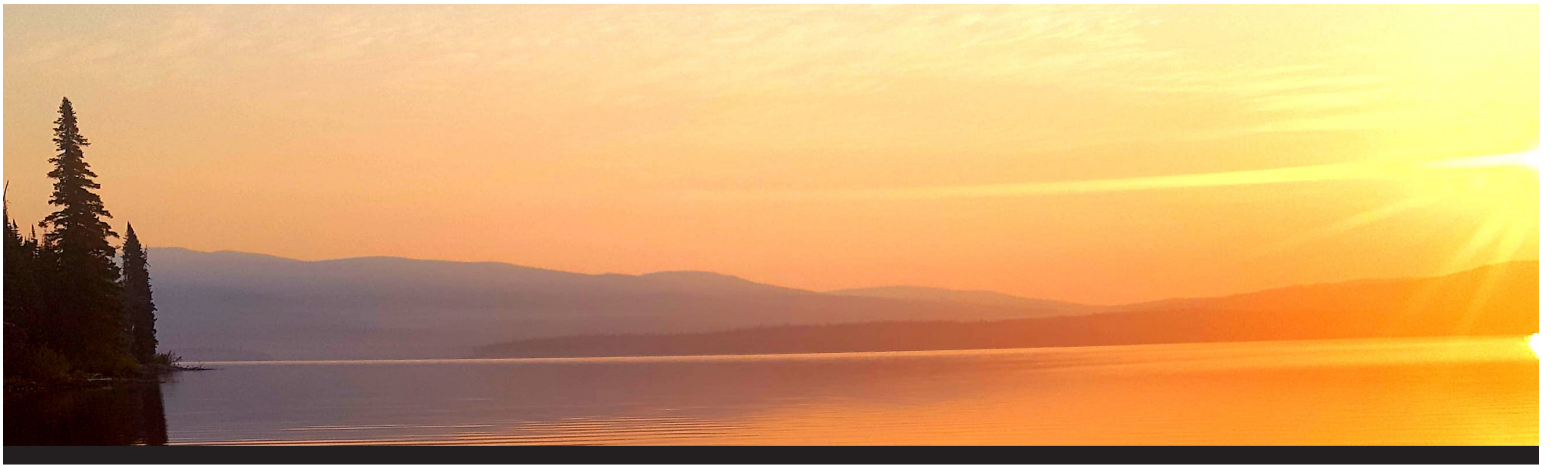
The housing stock in the municipality consists of the following:

DESCRIPTION OF TYPICAL HOUSING STOCK	# OF UNITS
Total Private Dwellings (2016 census)	748
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents (2016 census)	684
Single detached houses (2016 census)	515
Other attached dwellings (2016 census)	170
# of owned dwellings (2016 census)	420
# of rented dwellings (2016 census)	270

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

HOUSING	COST
Average value of Dwellings	\$165,120.00





Accommodations

- Sunshine Inn
- Key-ho Lodge
- Travelers Motel
- Burns Lake Motor Inn
- Wanakena Motel
- Tweedsmuir Hotel

Shopping

Shopping District: Downtown Burns Lake

Shopping Malls:

- Evergreen Mall Ltd.
- Lake View Mall

Financial Services

- Bulkley Valley Credit Union - Lakes District
- CIBC
- Royal Bank of Canada

Legal Services

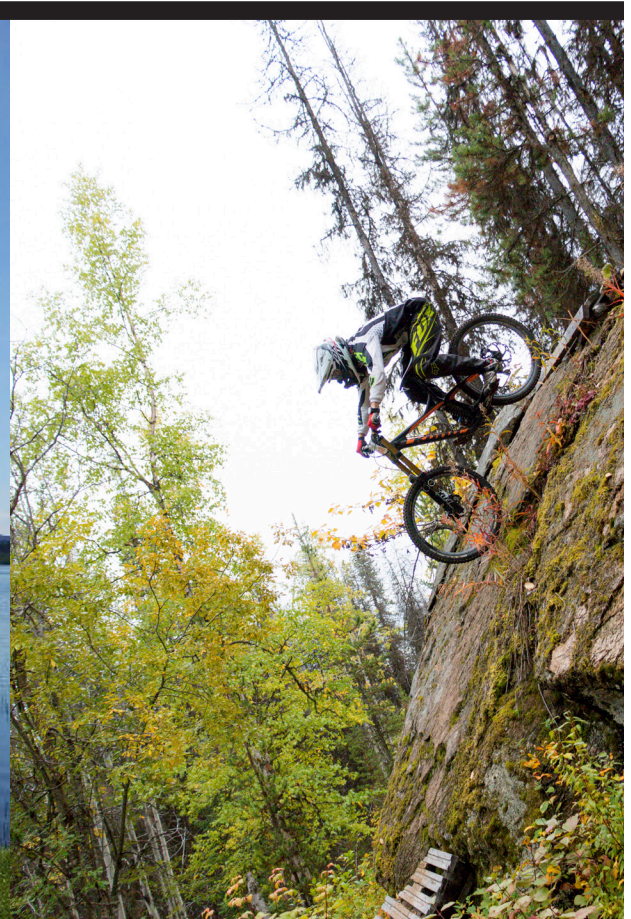
- Strimbold Law Office

Media

- CBC Radio
- CJFW Radio (Astral Media)
- Lakes District News
- LD Express
- The PEAK - CFBV Radio
- CFNR

Local Community Organizations

- Burns Lake & District Chamber of Commerce
- Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd.
- Burns Lake Community Garden
- Burns Lake Heritage Commission
- Burns Lake Ladies Auxiliary
- Burns Lake Rotary Club
- Burns Lake Army Cadets
- Burns Lake Community Choir
- Burns Lake Minor Hockey Association
- Burns Lake Mountain Biking Association
- Burns Lake Native Development Corporation
- Burns Lake Community Foundation
- Burns Lake Public Library
- Burns Lake Snowmobile Club
- Burns Lake Youth Soccer
- Omineca Cross Country Ski Club
- Lakes District Film Appreciation Society
- Lakes District Festival Association
- 4-H Club
- Palling Recreation Commission
- Rose Lake Community Club
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 50
- Chinook Community Forest
- Lakes Outdoor Recreation Society
- Decker Lake Recreation Commission
- Eagle Creek Recreation Commission
- Lakes District Airport Society
- Lakes District Amateur Radio Club
- Lakes District Arts Council
- Lakes District Merchants Committee
- Lakes District Museum Society
- Lakes District Rock & Gem Club
- Lakes District Cattle Sorting and Team Penning Association
- Tweedsmuir Park Rod & Gun Club
- Burns Lake Tennis Club
- Lakes District Museum Society
- Lakes District Community Services Society
- Sunrise Senior Society



Local Community Assets

- Carnoustie Golf and Country Club
- Lakes District Fitness
- Radley Beach & Playground
- Dick Schritt Ice Rink
- Tom Forsyth Memorial Arena
- Eagle Creek Fair Grounds
- Burns Lake Snowmobile Motocross Track
- Boer Mountain Bike Trails
- Omineca Ski Club
- Burns Lake Curling Rink
- Dick Norris Tennis Courts
- Y2K Skate Park
- Burns Lake Recreation Complex
- Burns Lake Spirit Square
- MacEwan Dog Park
- Lakeside Multiplex

Schools

- Lakes District Secondary School (8-12)
- William Konkin Elementary School (K-7)

Health Services

- **Lakes District Hospital & Health Centre**
- Burns Lake Medical Clinic
- **The Pines Care Home**
- Burns Lake Dental Clinic
- **Lakeview Dental Centre**

Lakes District Hospital & Health Centre

The Lakes District Hospital was upgraded in 2015. The facility offers 16 beds, emergency services, diagnostic imaging, a laboratory, pharmacy rehabilitation services, administrative offices, food services, and logistical services. Provisions will be made for public health, mental health and addictions, and home and community care services, as well as local physician and emergency services.

Burns Lake Medical Clinic

The clinic provides family doctor services.

The Pines Care Home

The Pines care home is a full care home for the elderly.

"Lakes District News has been doing business in Burns Lake for close to 100 years, which is a huge milestone in itself. Being apart fo the Burns Lake and area business community provides an opportunity for any business, not just us. We work together, we support each other and most fo all we are a community that cares. What does success mean to Lakes District News?...being in business for another 100 years"

Laura Blackwell, Lakes District News

"I opened my quilting/knitting shop in Burns Lake June 2 2013. In the last 6 years I have met wonderful people from all over the world, some have been attracted to my quilting store, but some have also wanted to come visit to explore the many outdoor adventures that Burns Lake has to offer. The experience and stories that have been passed on to me is a life long memory of what a great small community I live in, that really has so much more to offer. I was also really privilaged and proud to be the recipient of the 2015 Outstanding Customer Service Award from the Burns Lake and District Chamber of Commerce. I can truly say that I have fulfilled the business owner of my life dreams, and couldn't have done it without the amazing people of this community"

Linda Uchacz

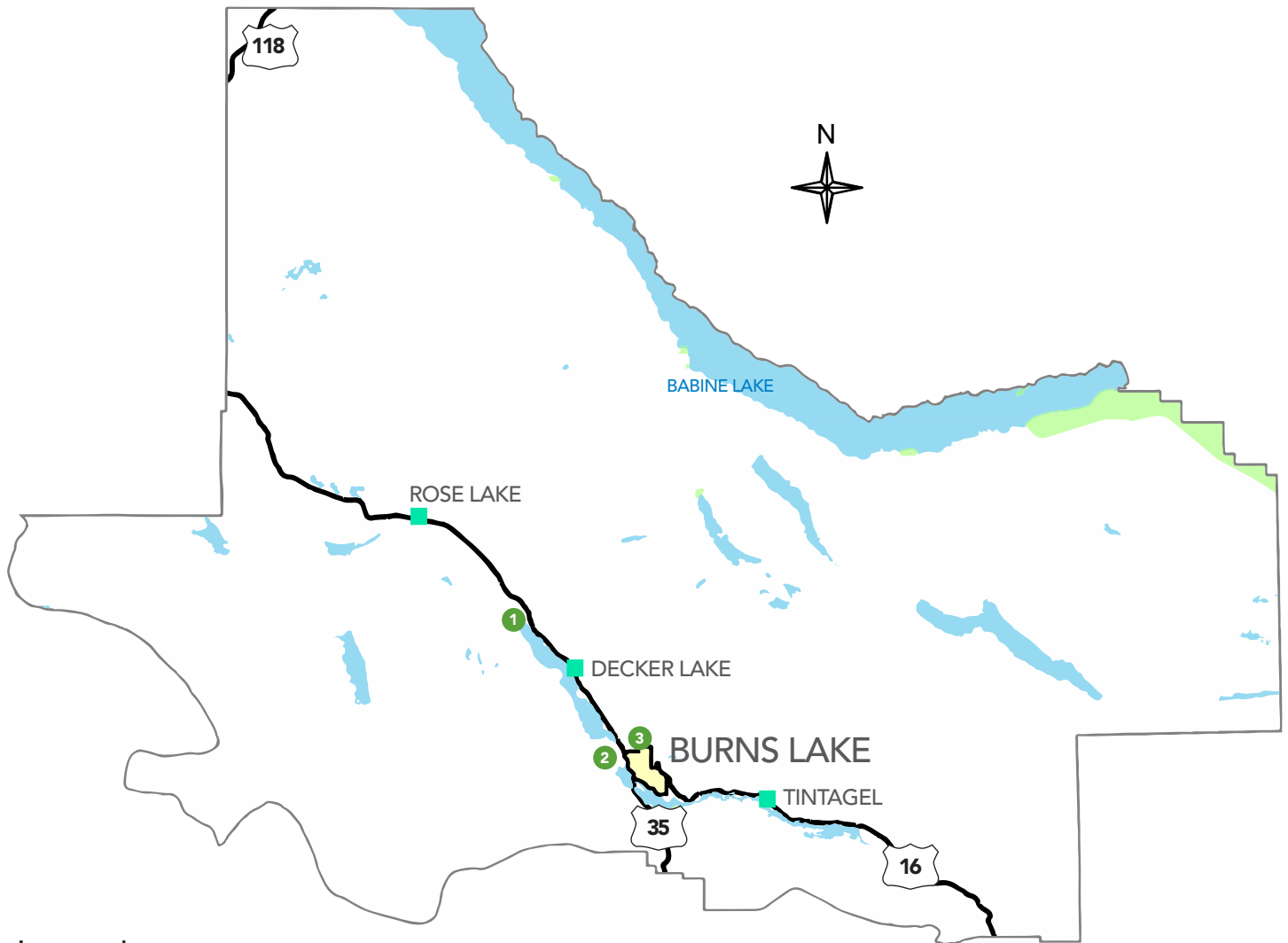
www.burnslake.ca

2: ELECTORAL AREA B (BURNS LAKE RURAL)



ELECTORAL AREA 'B'

(Burns Lake Rural)



Legend

- Municipal Boundary
- Unincorporated Communities
- Lakes
- First Nation Population Centers
 1. Wet'suwet'en First Nation (Palling Indian Reserve No. 1)
 2. Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation (Burns Lake Band Reserve)
 3. Lake Babine Nation (Woyenne Reserve)
- Electoral Area Boundary
- Parks
- Highway

Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

Burns Lake Rural, or Electoral Area B, has a small but stable population of just over 2,000 people. The rural area is known for its rolling hills, and beautiful lakes and rivers. The unincorporated communities of Rose Lake, Decker Lake and Tintagel as well as the Village of Burns Lake are located within its boundaries.

The residents of the rural area have strong participation rates in the local economy, and a relatively high percentage hold college and/or apprenticeship certifications. Residents tend to be employed in agriculture, manufacturing and public administration.

The Burns Lake Band, Lake Babine Nation and Wet'suwet'en First Nations are located in Electoral Area B.



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth

Population Growth in Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural), 2006-2016

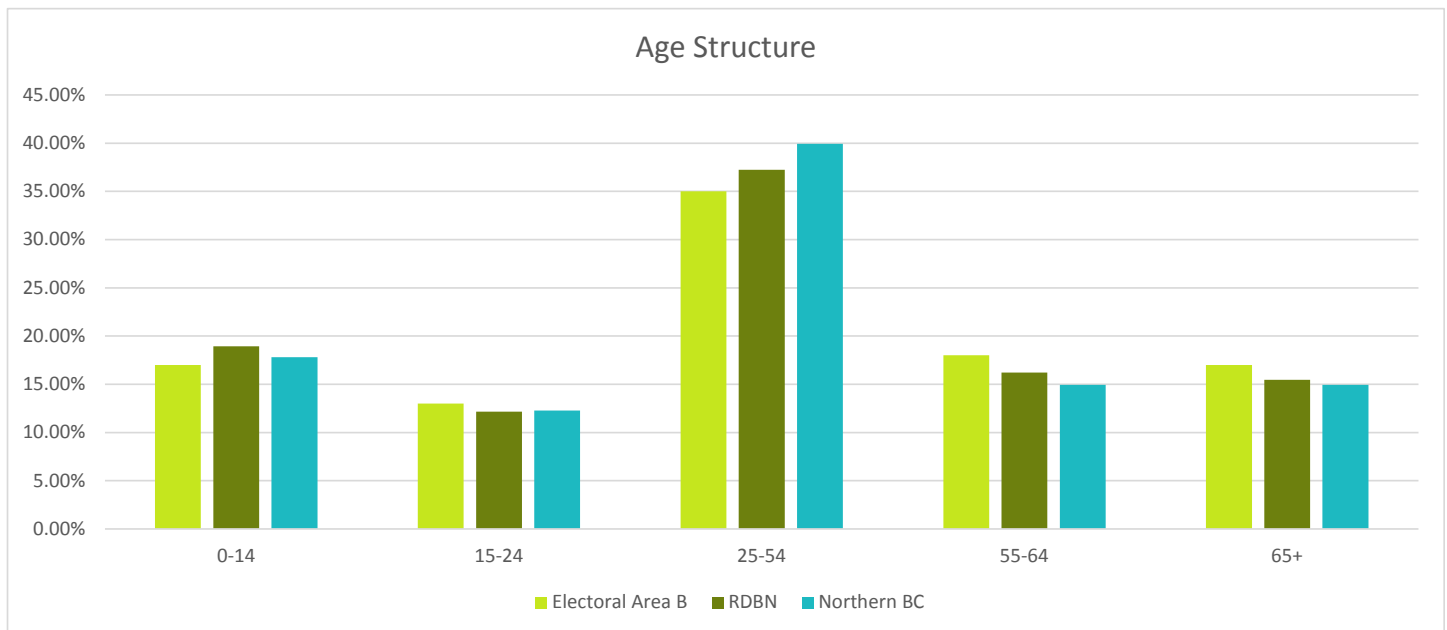
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Electoral Area B	2,154	2,102	1,938
Regional District Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,896
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2016

The population of Electoral Area B has remained relatively stable over the past 5 years at just over 2,000 people. However the population in Electoral Area B went down to 1,938 in 2016.

Age Structure

Age structure in Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) and the RDBN, 2016

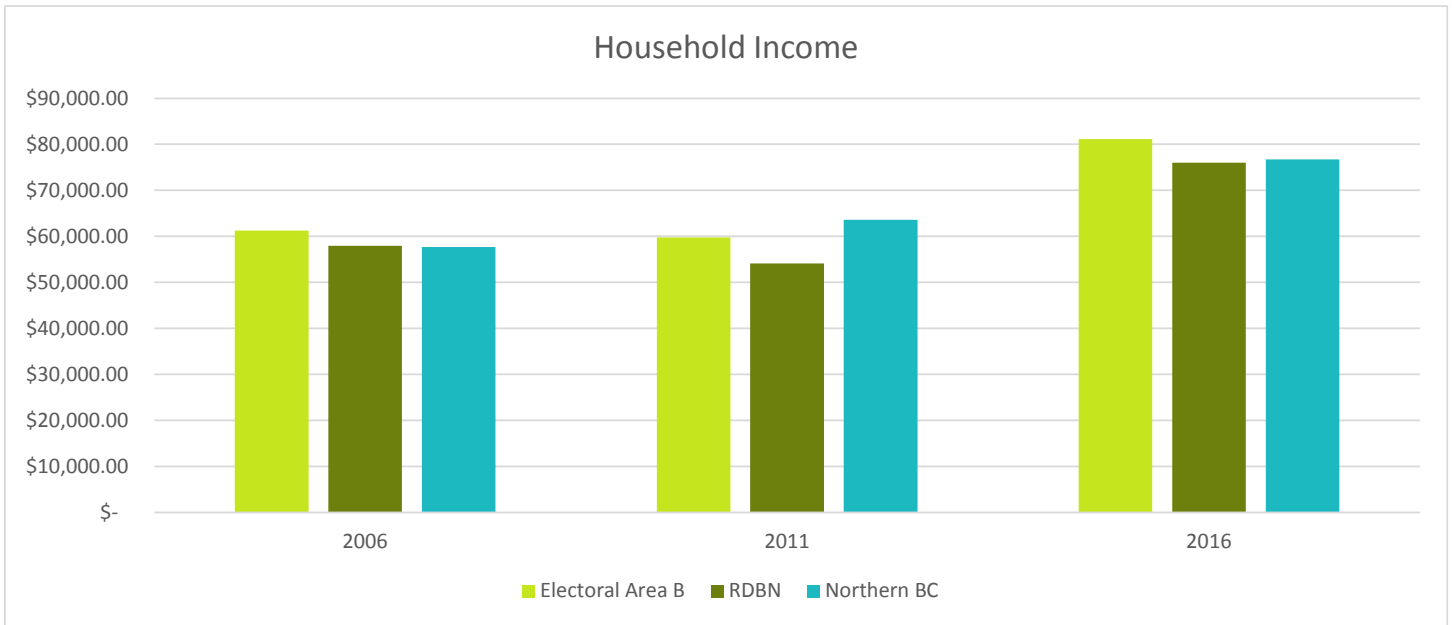


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016.

The Burns Lake Rural population is slightly older than the RDBN and Northern BC as a whole.

Household Income

Median household income in Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) and the RDBN, 2006-2016



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

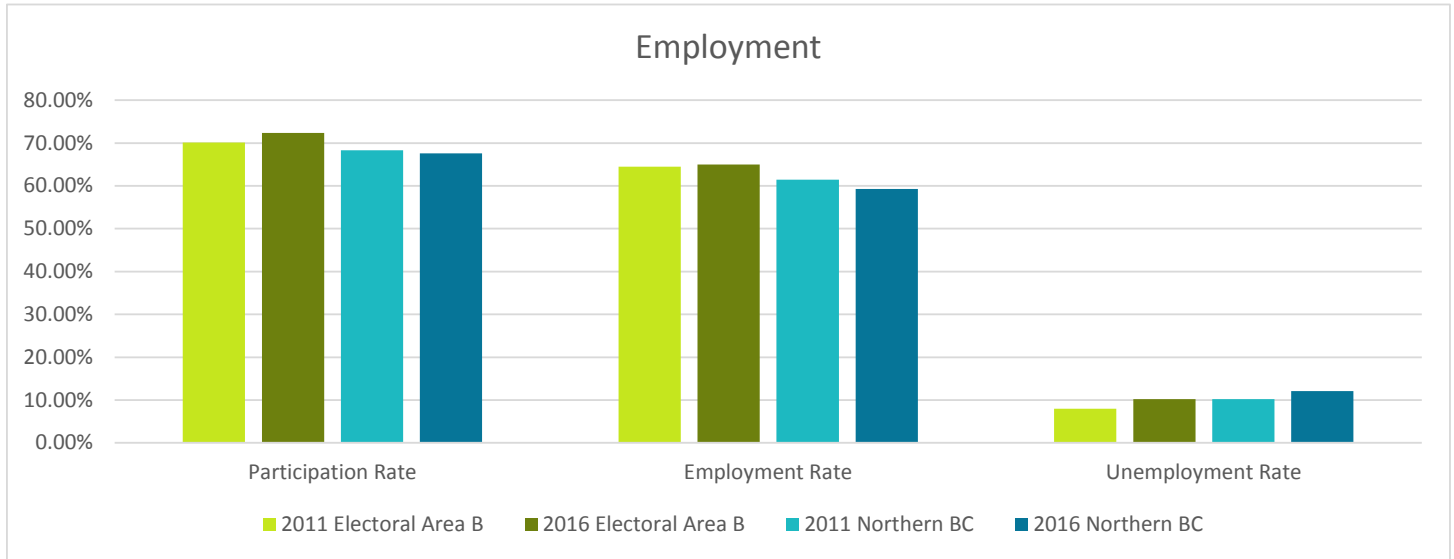
The median household income in Burns Lake Rural, or Electoral Area B, has been higher than in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2006 to 2016.



WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment

Employment data in Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) and the RDBN, 2011-2016



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

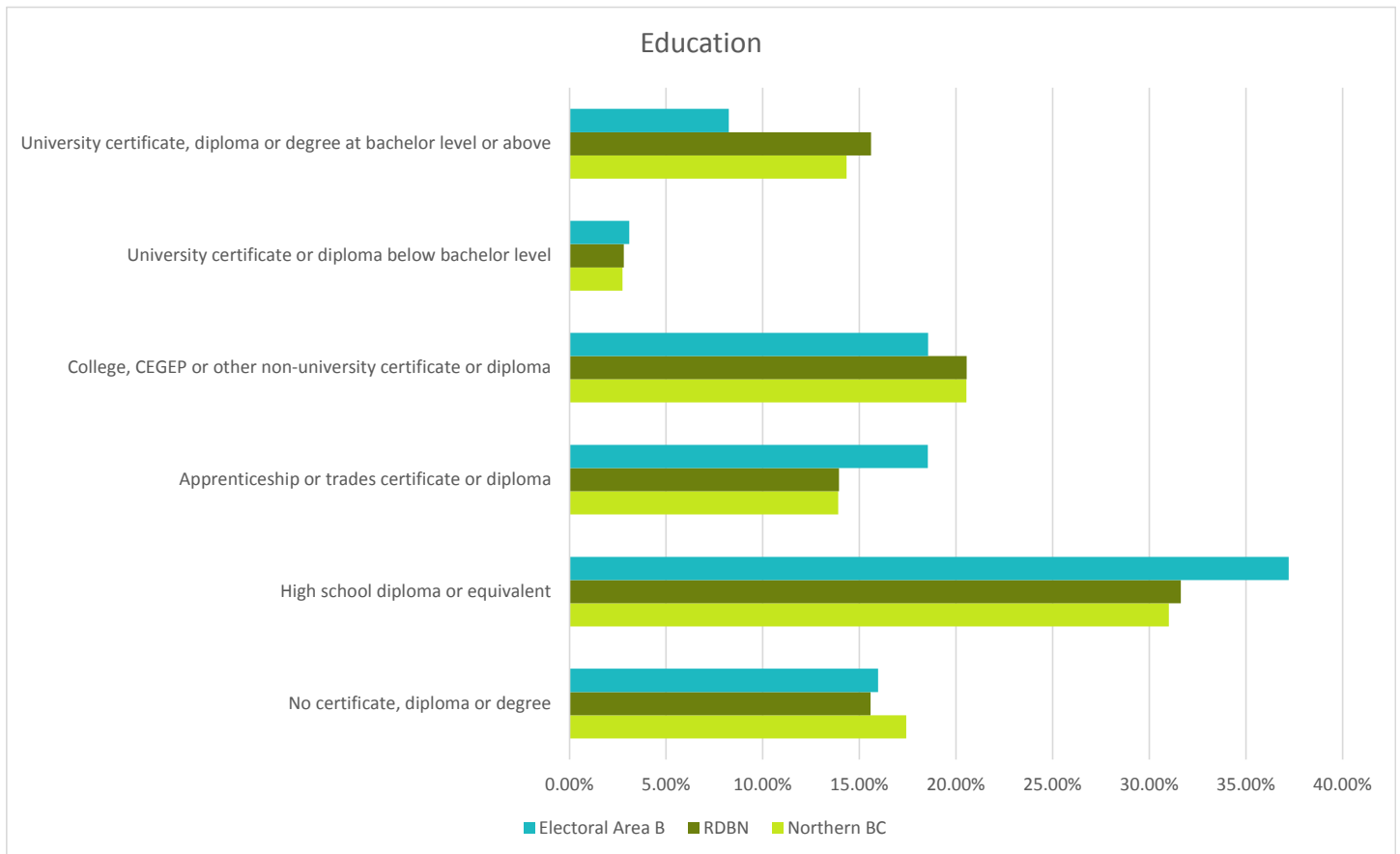
In 2016 Electoral Area B had the second lowest unemployment rate among the RDBN's electoral areas. Electoral Area B also had a lower unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2011 and 2016. The unemployment rate decreased by 1% from 2011 to 2016 while in Northern BC the rate increased by 1%.





Education

Education in Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) and the RDBN, 2016

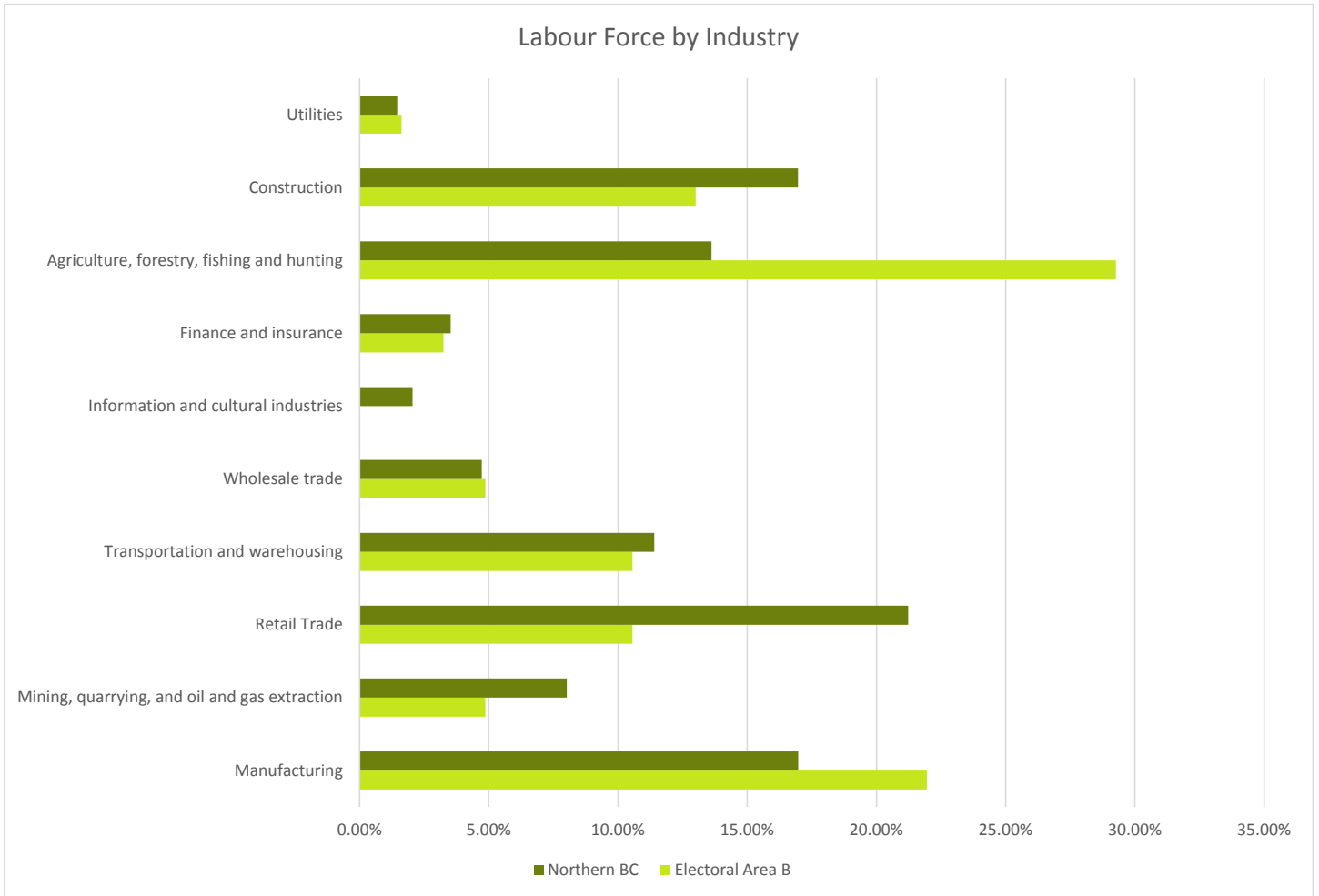


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

Electoral Area B had a higher portion of residents with a college education and an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma compared to the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016.

Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) and the RDBN, 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

In 2016 Electoral Area B, the agriculture and manufacturing sectors were major sources of employment. Among these major employers, agriculture and manufacturing employ a greater portion of the labour force in Burns Lake Rural than in Northern BC.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Electoral Area B, or Burns Lake Rural, official community plan is available at www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/planning

- [Burns Lake Rural Official Community Plan.](#)

Local Economic Development Services

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

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

Lorie Watson

Economic Development Officer
Village of Burns Lake, RDBN Electoral Area B
Email: edo@burnslake.ca
Phone: 250-692-7587 x225

Electoral Area Director Contact

Director Michael Riis-Christianson

PO Box 563
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
Email: michael.riischristianson@rdbn.bc.ca

QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

Local Community Organizations

The following is a list of civic and social organizations in the area:

- Decker Lake Recreation Commission
- Rose Lake Community Club
- Burns Lake and District Seniors
- Lakes District Airport Society
- Burns Lake Youth Soccer Association
- Burns Lake Curling Club
- Burns Lake Figure Skating Club
- Burns Lake Mountain Biking Association
- Burns Lake Paint Ball Association
- Burns Lake Rodeo Association
- Burns Lake Snowmobile Club
- Eagle Creek Recreation Commission
- Tweedsmuir Cavaliers
- Tweedsmuir Park Rod and Gun Club

Local Community Assets

- Decker Lake Hall
- Rose Lake Hall
- Omineca Ski Trails
- Burns Lake Bike Park
- Eagle Creek Fair Grounds
- Baker Airport

Schools

- Decker Lake Elementary (K-7)
- Lakes District Secondary School (8-12)



FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY

Burns Lake Band

Burns Lake Band is a Dakelh Nation whose main community is located on Burns Lake.

The Burns Lake Band have four reserves, which total approximately 184.6 hectares. The Burns Lake Band are a member of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and have a registered population as of February 2014 of 129 members living on and off reserve.

Ts'il Kaz Koh Business

- Rainbow Gas Bar
- Little Angels Daycare
- Key-oh Lodge

Band Office

653 Highway 16 West
Bag 9000
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
Phone: 250-692-7717
Fax: 250-692-4214
Toll Free: 1-888-692-7717



Lake Babine Nation

Lake Babine Nation is the third largest Aboriginal Band in British Columbia. Lake Babine Administration Office is located on the Woyenne Reserve in Burns Lake, with a total registered population of 2419 as of February 2014 living on and off reserves. The Nation has 27 reserve lands and three (3) communities, which are inhabited year round. Prior to 1957, Lake Babine was two separate Bands, the Old Fort Band and the Fort Babine Band, both situated on Babine Lake. At the time, approximately 12 communities were inhabited year round.

On June 12, 1957, Department of Indian Affairs amalgamated the two Bands to form what is now known as the Lake Babine Nation.

Lake Babine Nation Business

- Sne C'al Yeagh Gas Bar

"Burns Lake has always been known to keep the small business thriving. STAY HOME AND SHOP we have competitive prices! Burns Lake has over 1000 lakes to fish, swimming, boating, snowmobiling and lots more. Burns Lake has friendly helpful people who always invite you to comeback or stay."

Cherill Greening, Sne C'al Yeagh Gas Bar, Lake Babine Nation

Band Office

225 Sus Ave
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
Phone: 250-692-4700
Toll Free: 1-888-692-3214
Fax: 250-692-7618
Website: www.lakebabine.com



Wet'suwet'en First Nation

Wet'suwet'en are a First Nations people who live on the Bulkley River, as well as around Broman and Francois Lakes in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. The name they call themselves, Wet'suwet'en, means "People of the Wa Dzun Kwuh River".

The Wet'suwet'en are a branch of the Dakelh or Carrier people, and in combination with the Babine people have been referred to as the Western Carrier. They speak Witsuwit'en, a dialect of the Babine-Witsuwit'en language which, like its sister language Carrier, is a member of the Athabaskan family.

There are approximately 150 members living on or off reserve lands.

Band Office

#8 Defoe Road

PO Box 760

Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0

Phone: 250.698.7307

Fax: 250.698.7480

Website: www.wetsuweten.com



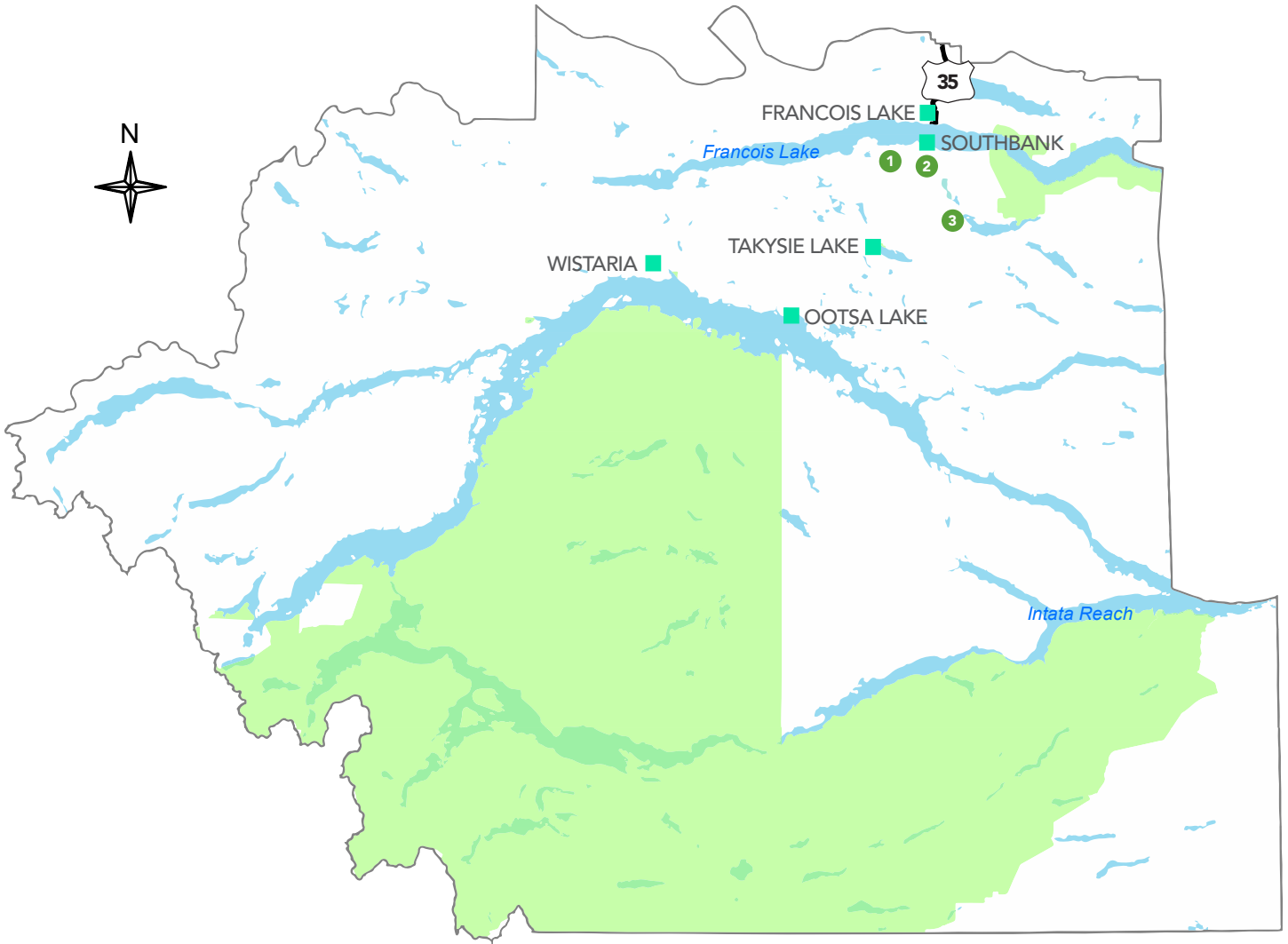
www.rdbn.bc.ca

3: ELECTORAL AREA E (FRANCOIS/OOTSA LAKE RURAL)



ELECTORAL AREA 'E'

(FRANCOIS/OOTSA LAKE RURAL)



 Municipal Boundary

 Unincorporated Communities

 Lakes

 First Nation Population Centers

1. Nee Tahi Buhn Band (Band Office)

2. Cheslatta Carrier Nation (Band Office)

3. Skin Tye Nation (Band Office)

 Electoral Area Boundary

 Parks

 Highway

Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) is the rural area south of the Village of Burns Lake.

The unincorporated communities within the area are Francois Lake, Noralee, Grassy Plains, Ootsa Lake, Southbank, Danskin, Wisteria, and Takysie Lake.

Electoral Area E is unique in that there is no municipality within its borders. The forestry, agriculture and tourism sectors are the major industries in the area. The Francois Lake Forester, owned and operated by Waterbridge Equipment Ltd., is a free ferry that is the connector for the southside of Francois Lake. Capable of transporting up to eight loaded logging trucks, the Forester is a key infrastructure component in Electoral Area E. The north shore community of Francois Lake is an agricultural community with acres of hay land and several cattle ranches.

The Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Nee Tahí Buhn Band and Skin Tyee First Nation are located in Electoral Area E.



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth

Population growth in Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Rural) 2006-2016

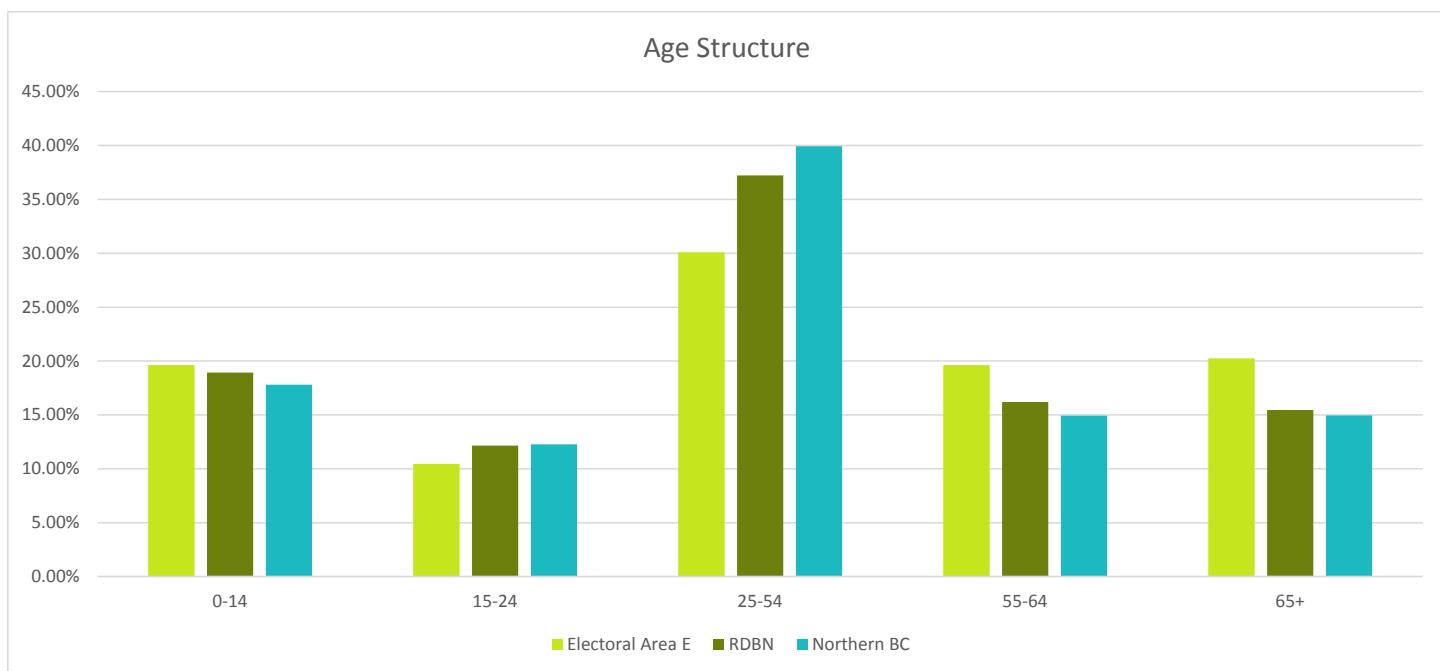
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Electoral Area E	1,788	1,507	1,593
Regional District Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,896
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2016

From 2011-2016 the Electoral Area E population went up by 86 people. From 2006 to 2011 the rural area experienced a 14.9% decrease in population, while the population of Northern BC increased by 0.1%.

Age Structure

Age structure in Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Rural) and RDBN, 2016

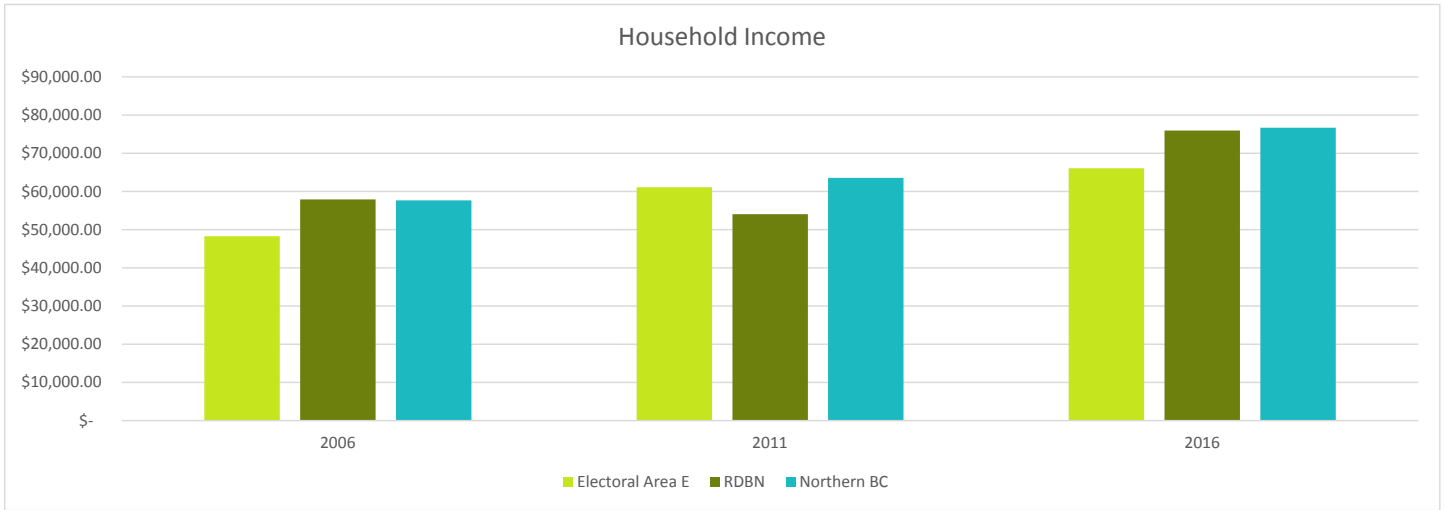


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016.

The population of Electoral Area E tended to be older than RDBN and Northern BC in 2016. The age structure reveals that Electoral Area E has a lower percentage of its population between the ages of 25-54, and a significantly larger portion between the ages of 65+, compared to RDBN and Northern BC.

Household Income

Median household income in Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Rural) and RDBN, 2006-2016



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

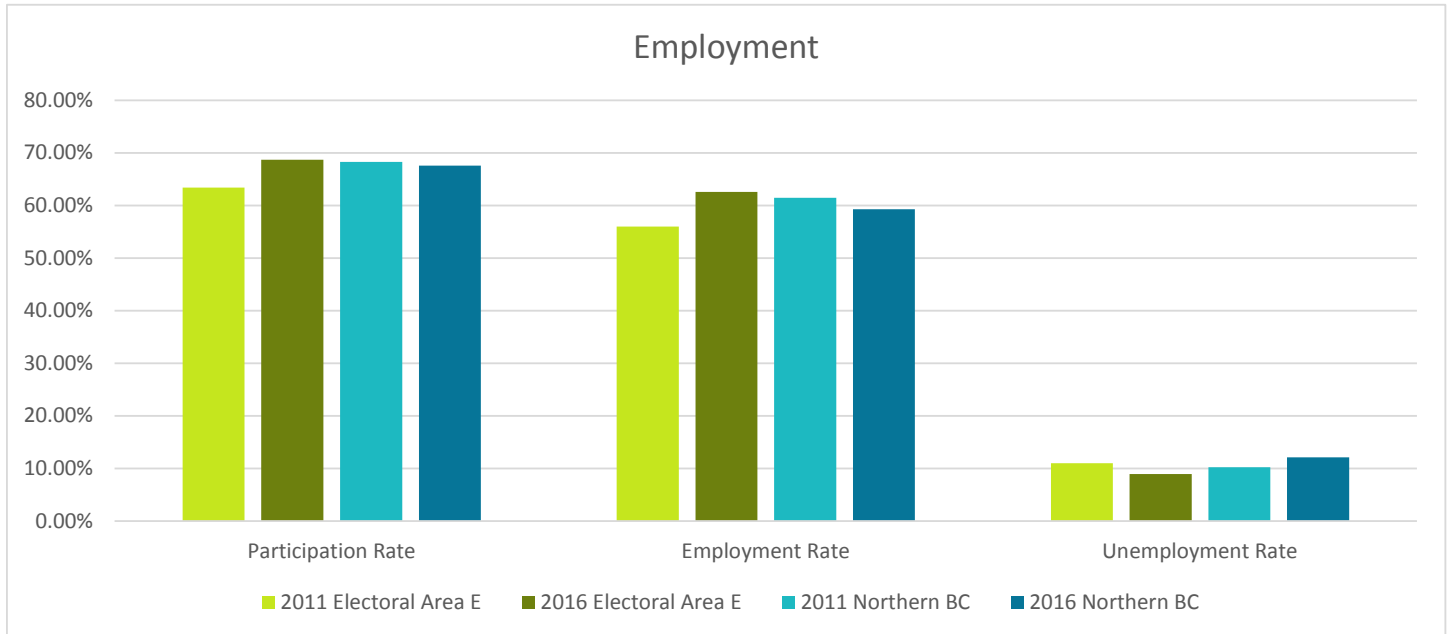
The median household income growth rate in Electoral Area E was lower than RDBN and Northern BC from 2011 to 2016. From 2006 to 2011, there was a 27% increase in median household income while in RDBN and Northern BC the increase was 11% and 8%, respectively.



WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment

Employment data in Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Rural) and RDBN, 2011-2016

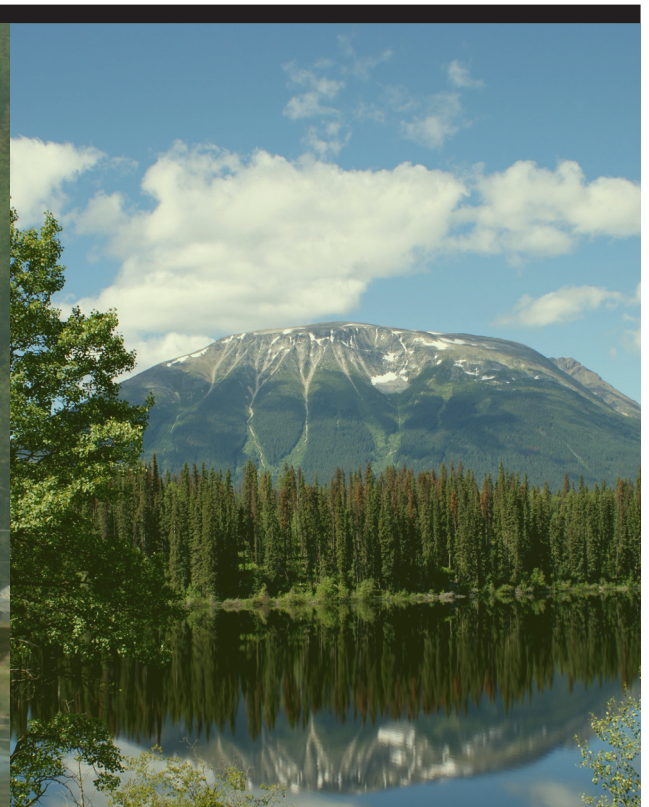


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2016.

The unemployment rate in the rural area decreased from 2011-2016, whereas the unemployment rate increased for Northern BC from 2011-2016.

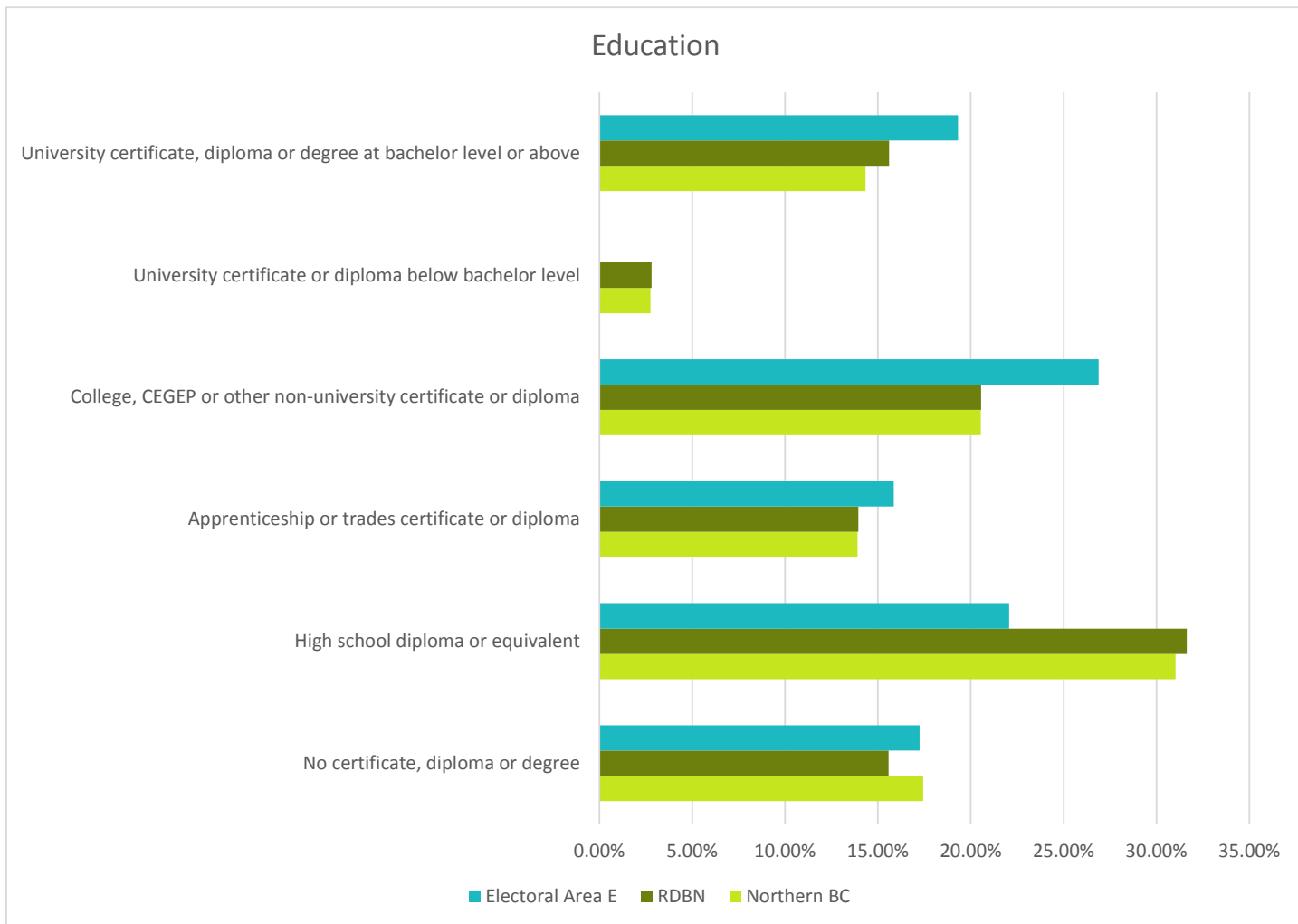


Burns Lake | 40



Education

Education in Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Rural) and RDBN, 2016



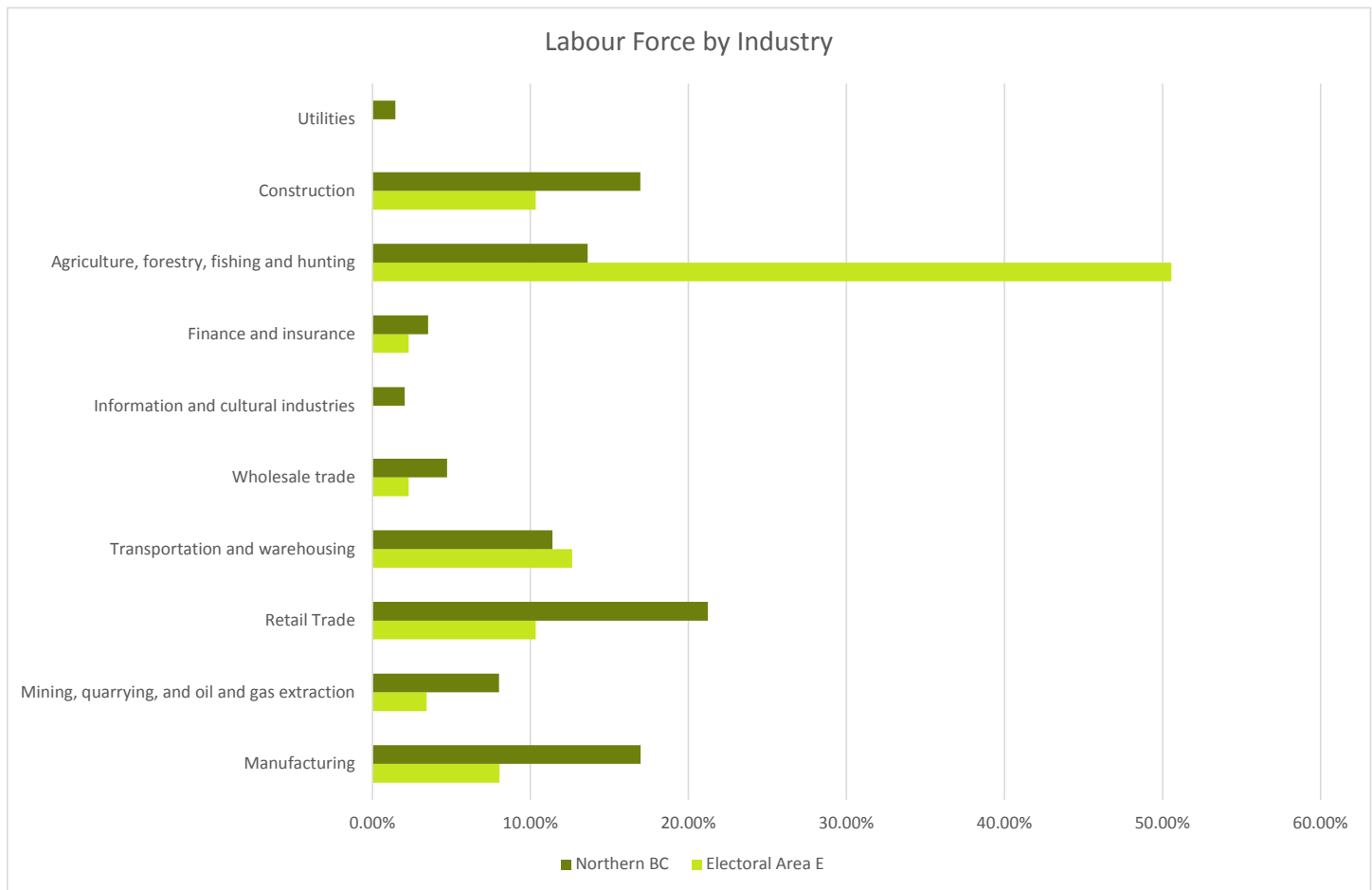
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

A higher percentage of Electoral Area E's population had a university education, apprenticeship, trades certificate, or diploma in comparison with the RDBN average in 2016. The RDBN had a lower portion of the population with no certificate, diploma or degree.



Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Rural) and RDBN, 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sectors were major sources of employment and employed a greater portion of the labour force than in Northern BC. The primary industries employed around 25% of the labour force while in Northern BC this sector accounts for only 7% of employment. The portion of the labour force that works in agriculture in the Francois/Ootsa Rural Area is the highest of the electoral areas in the RDBN.

TRANSPORTATION

Inland Ferry operated by Waterbridge Equipment Inc. runs from 5:30 am – 11:00 pm with service generally on the half hour.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Electoral Area E, Francois/Ootsa Rural's official community plan is available at www.rdbn.bc.ca/department/planning.

- [Burns Lake Rural Official Community Plan](#)
- [Southside Official Community Plan \(unadopted\)](#)

Local Economic Development Services

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

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

Lori Petkau

Chair

Southside Economic Development Association

Electoral Area Director Contact

Director Clint Lambert

23001 Tatalrose Road

Burns Lake, BC V0J 3A0

Email: clint.lambert@rdbn.bc.ca



QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

Local Community Assets and Organizations

- Trout Lake Hall - Colleymount Recreation Commission
- Francois Lake Hall - Francois Tchesinkut Recreation Commission
- Grassy Plains Community Hall Grassy Plains Community Hall Association
- Wisteria Hall - Tweedsmuir Recreation Commission

Schools

- Francois Lake Elementary (K-7)
- Grassy Plains School (K-12)

Health Services

- [Southside Health and Wellness Centre](#)

FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY

Cheslatta Carrier Nation

The Cheslatta Carrier Nation (CCN) is located in the Interior of British Columbia. The traditional territory of the community is centered on Cheslatta Lake. However, much of their territory, including several Cheslatta Villages, was flooded due to the construction of the Kenney Dam in 1952. Most members now live on a dozen small scattered reserves just south of Francois Lake. The band office and other community buildings are located on a reserve about 1km south of the Southbank ferry landing.

The Cheslatta Carrier Nation has a registered population of 344 residents living on and off reserve. The CCN is actively engaged in a number of substantial businesses and partnerships including mining, forestry, marine services and community infrastructure, and, they hold the long-term Cheslatta Community Forest License.

CCN also owns and operates the Chief Louie Paddle Company, which produces hand crafted canoe paddles and a large variety of wood products. Currently, the Cheslatta Nation is proposing to build and operate the Kenney Dam Release Facility that would include hydro-electric generating facilities. Cheslatta's private land holdings include over 12,000 acres of fee-simple, waterfront property.

Cheslatta Carrier Nation Businesses

- Chief Louis Paddle Company
- Nootsenay Enterprises
- Cheslatta Community Forest
- Tsacho Enterprises, Cheslatta Forest Products Ltd
- Bad Boys Contracting
- Cheslatta Archives
- Cheslatta Carrier Nation Contracting



Band Office

1215 Keefe's Landing Road / Box 909
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
Phone: 250-694-3334
Fax: 250-694-3632
Website: www.cheslatta.com

"The Cheslatta Carrier Nation welcomes visitors to our land and community. We invite people to stay, explore and enjoy the spectacular natural beauty that the area has to offer. We have a rich and fascinating history to share!"

Chief Richard Peters, Cheslatta Carrier Nation

Nee Tahí Buhn Band

Nee-Tahi-Buhn is the name for Francois Lake, and means, “it fills at one end and empties at the other.”

The Nee Tahí Buhn Band is part of the Athapaskan language family. The people speak the Wet’suwet’en dialect of the Bulkley Valley/Lakes District language.

The Nee Tahí Buhn Band is located on the Southside of Francois Lake. The registered population is 143 people as of February 2014 living on and off reserve.

Band Office

47805 Olsen Road
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
Phone: 250-694-3494
Fax: 250-694-3492



Skin Tye Nation

The Skin Tye First Nation is located in Omineca Country to the west of the City of Prince George and near Francois Lake, the second longest natural lake in BC

In 1960 the Decker Lake, Francois Lake, Maxim Lake and Skin Tye Bands merged to form the Omineca Band. In 1984 the Omineca Band divided into the Nee-Tahi-Buhn and Broman Lake Bands. In 2000 the Skin Tye Band separated from the Nee Tahi Buhn Band.

The Skin Tye Nation speaks the Wet'suwet'en language, and is a community of 175 registered residents as of February 2014 living both on and off the reserve.

Band Office

6914 Campbell Road
PO Box 131
Southbank, BC V0J 2P0
Phone: 250-694-3517
Fax: 250-694-3517



“I moved to the Southside because the area is so beautiful and the residents are so nice and welcoming. There is great opportunity for business development and growth here, and the community is very supportive!”

Lana Hunter, Chief Louie, Paddle Company,
Cheslatta Carrier Nation

www.rdbn.bc.ca

4: 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

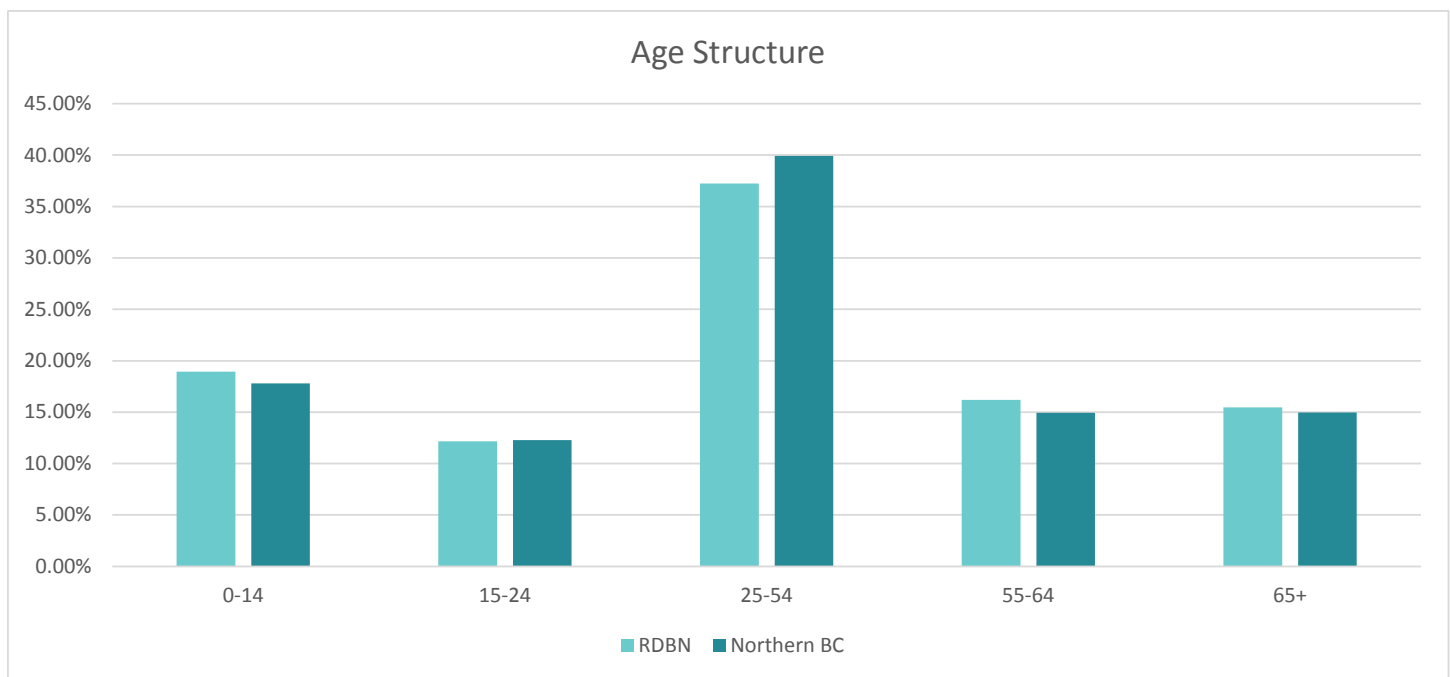
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,896
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

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

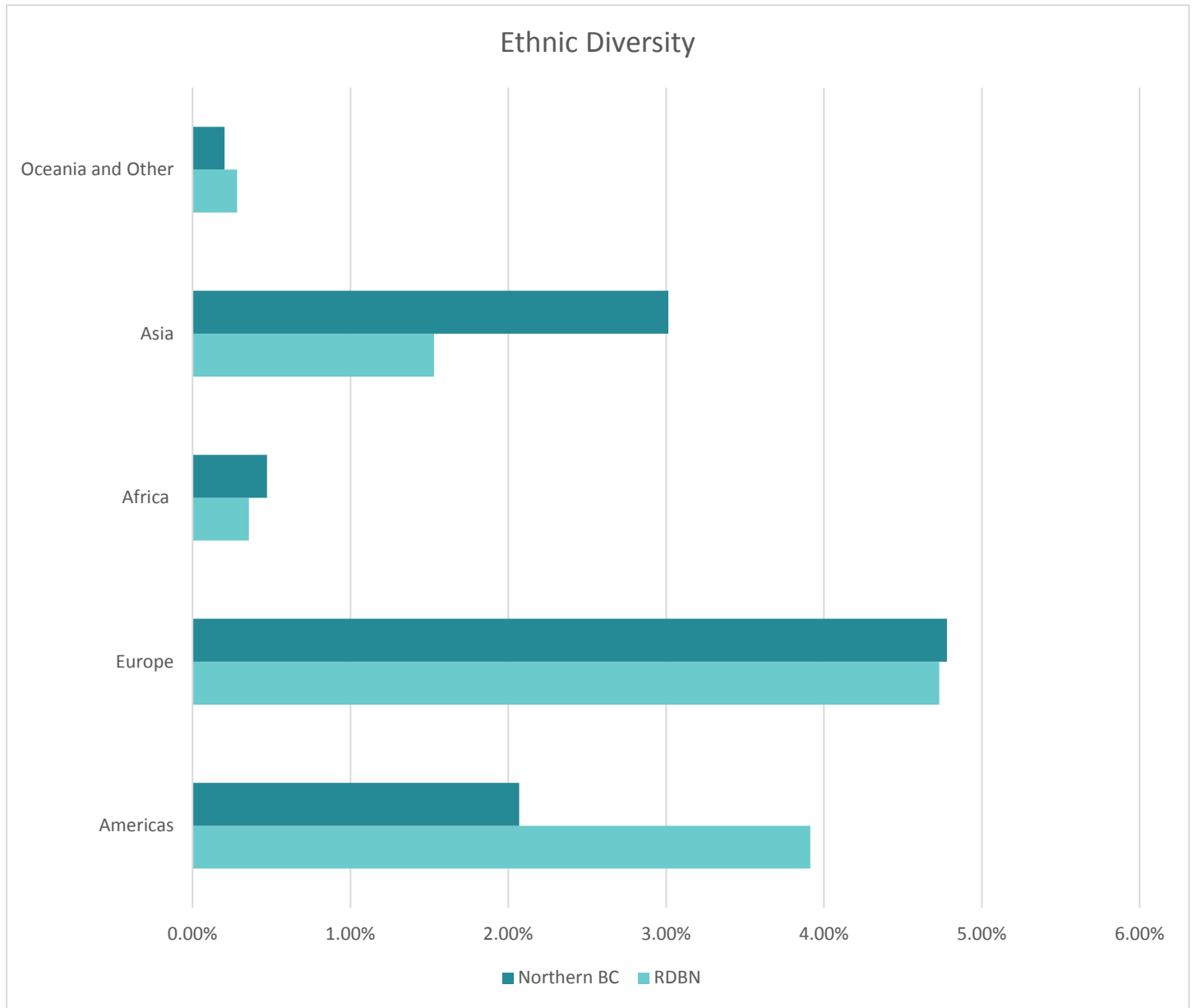


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

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



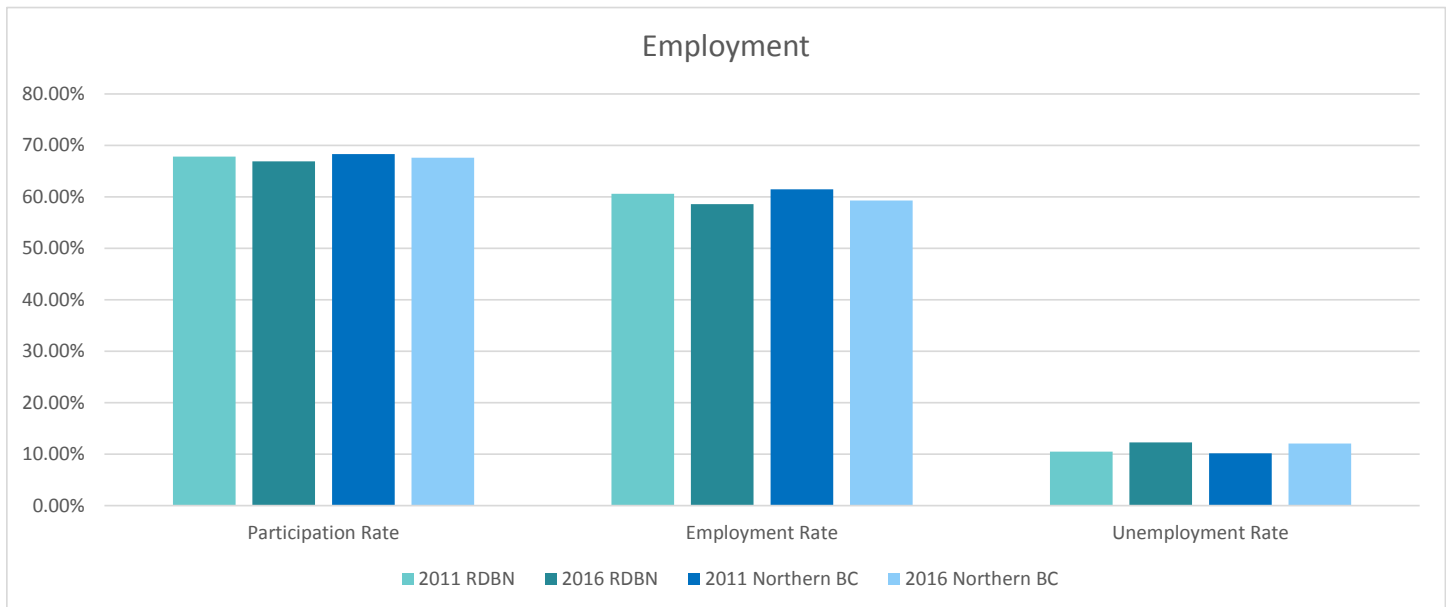
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2016

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

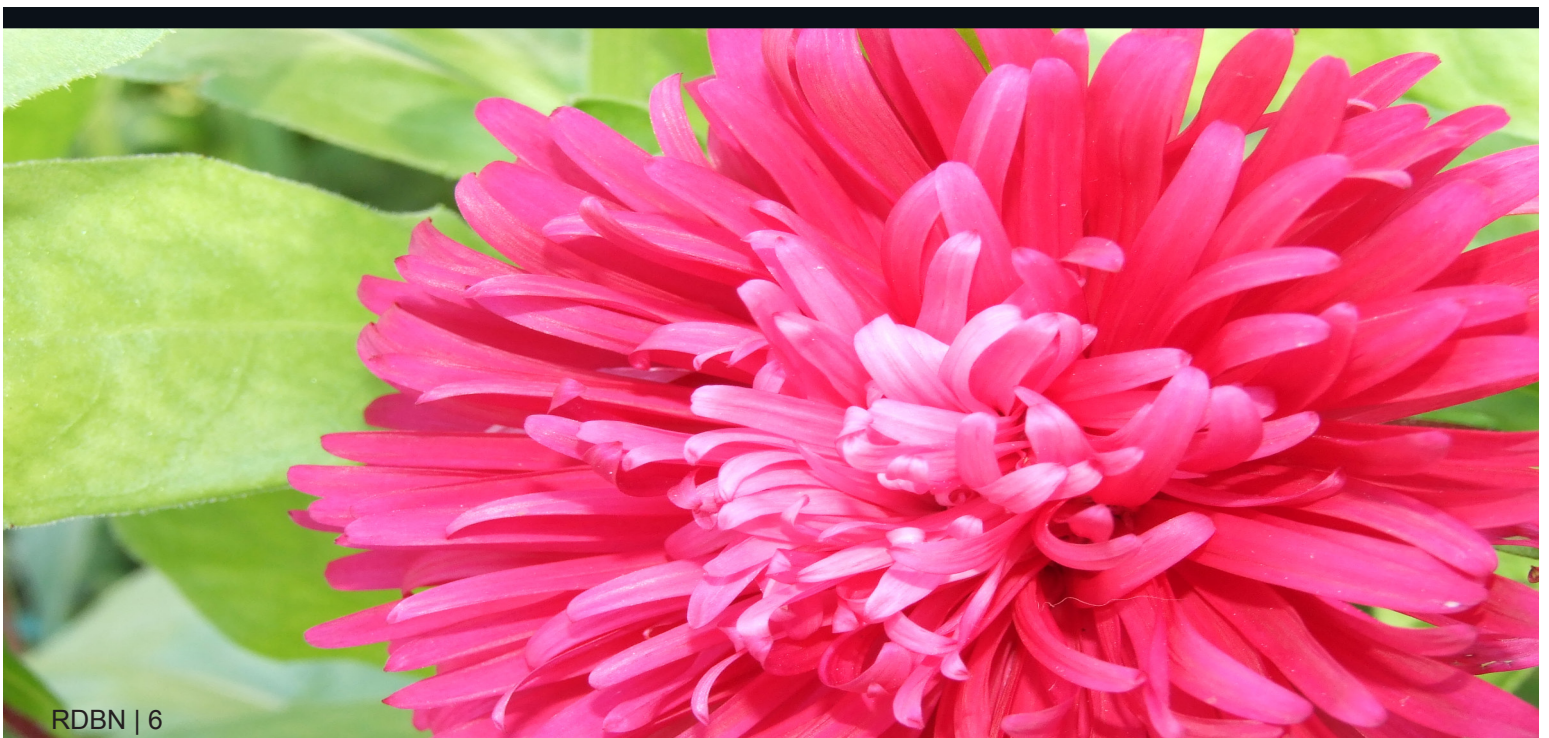
Employment

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



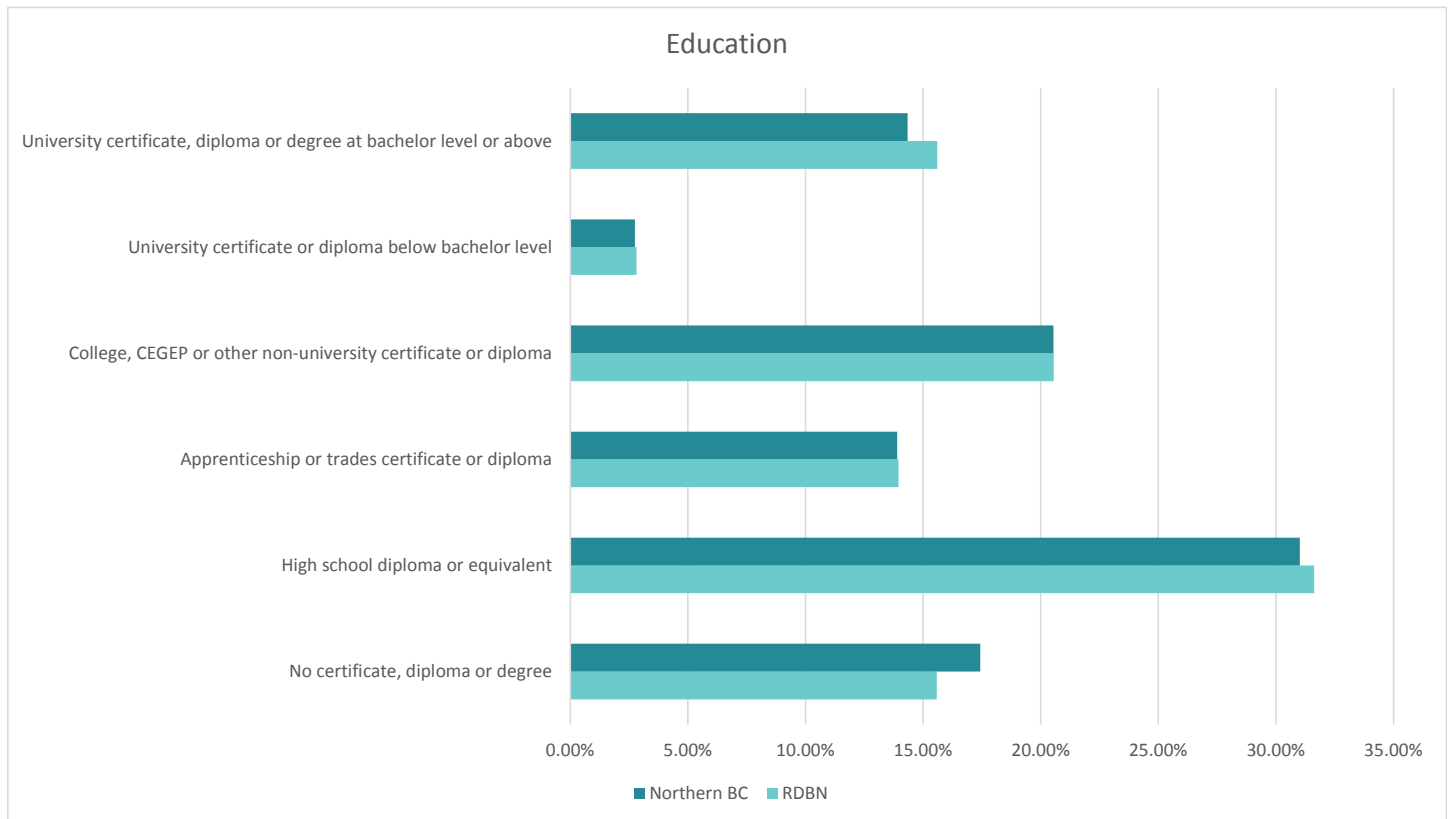
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2016

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.



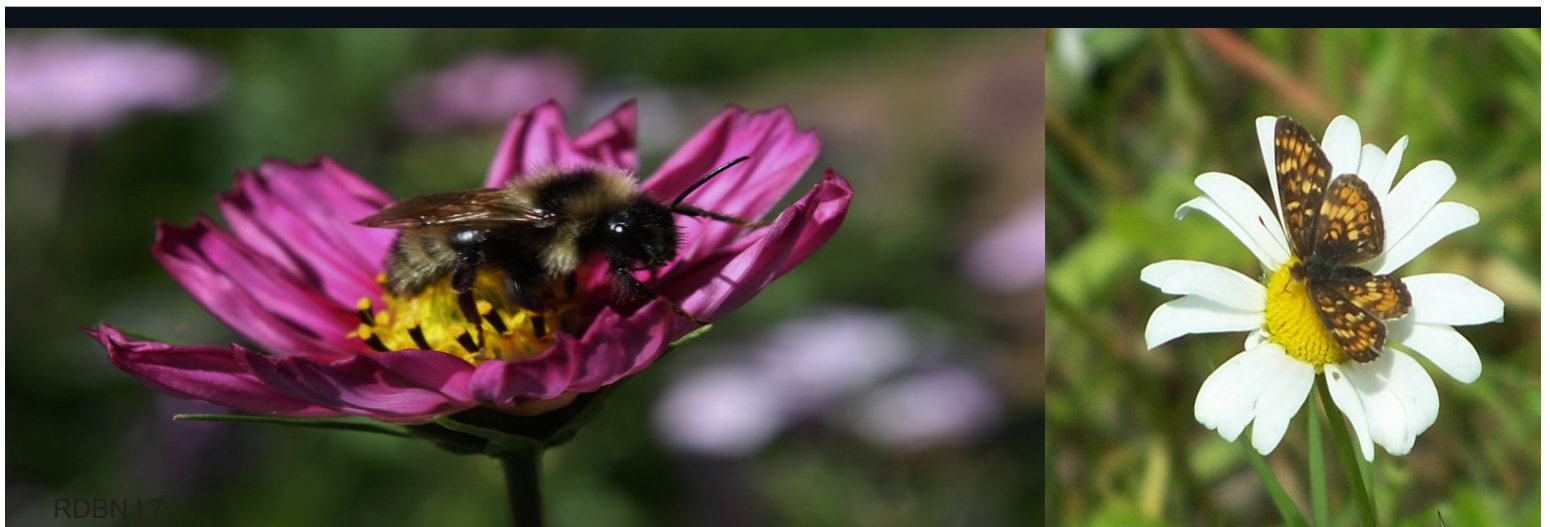
Education

Educational attainment in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016



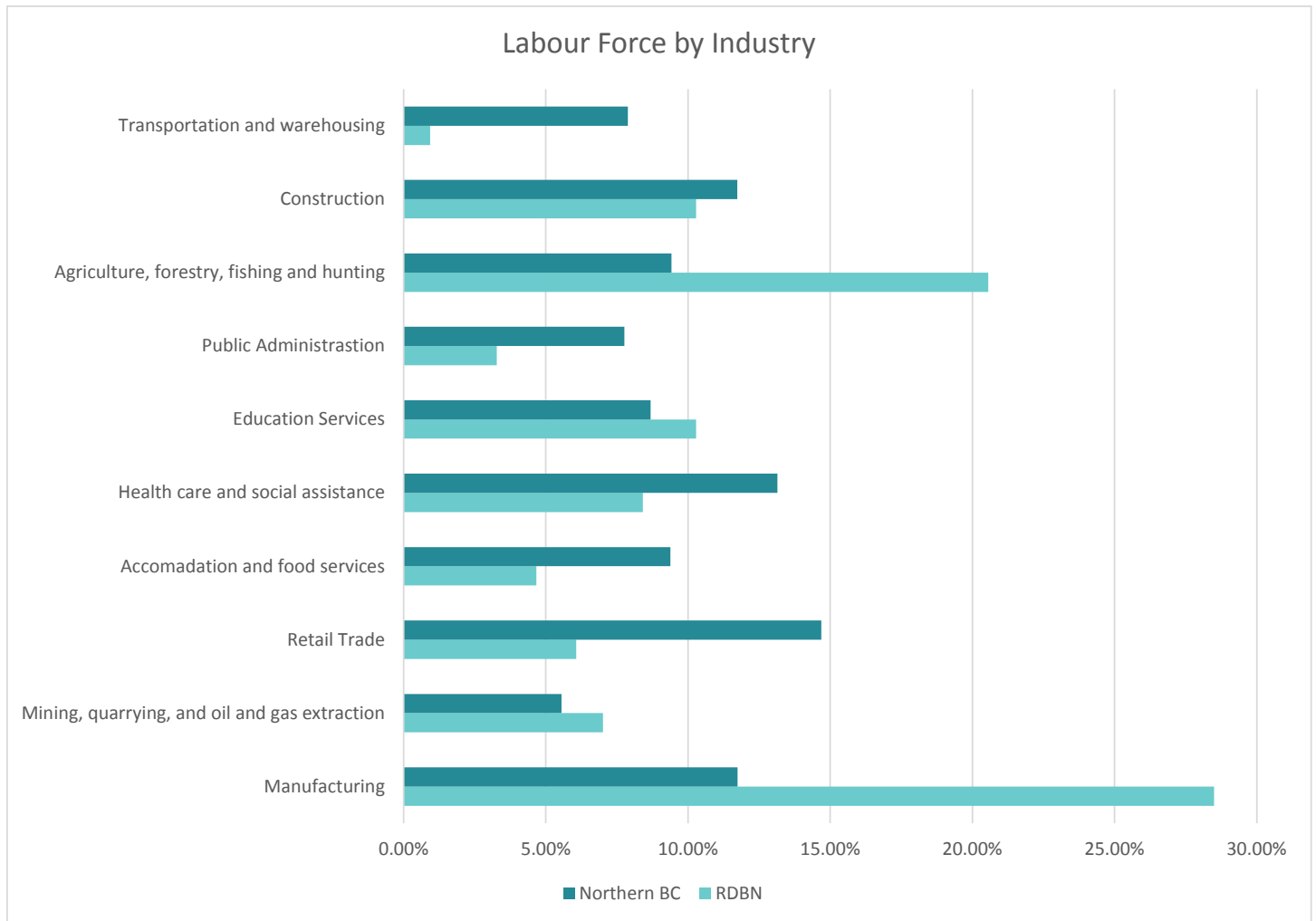
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

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

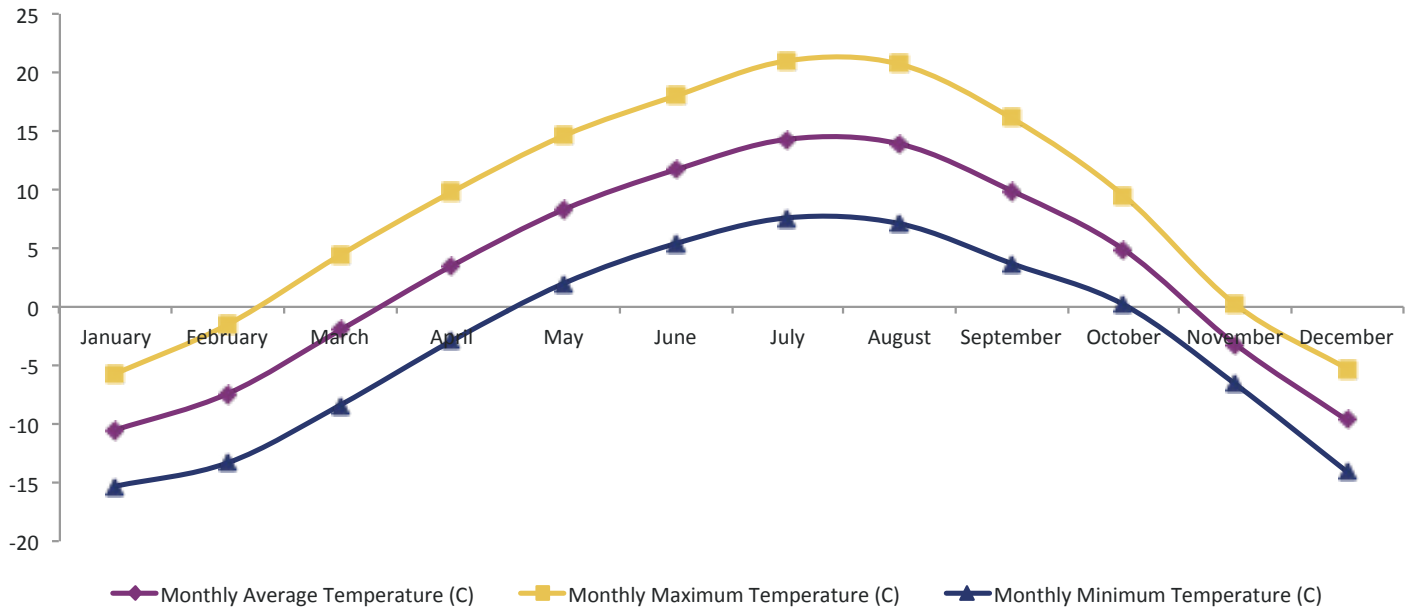
In the RDBN, post-secondary educational facilities are conveniently available in many communities.

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

CLIMATE

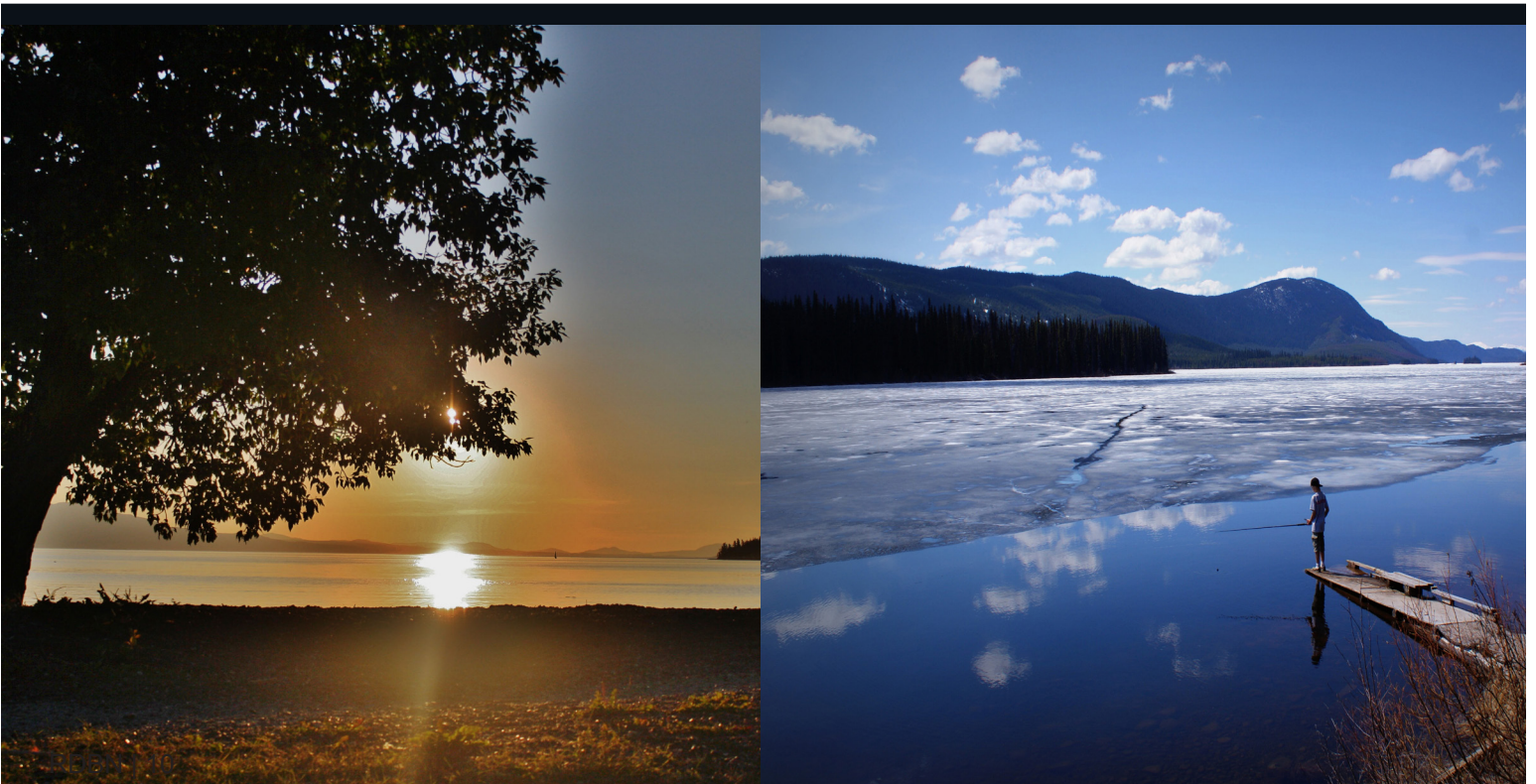
Monthly Temperature

Monthly temperature in the RDBN in 2010



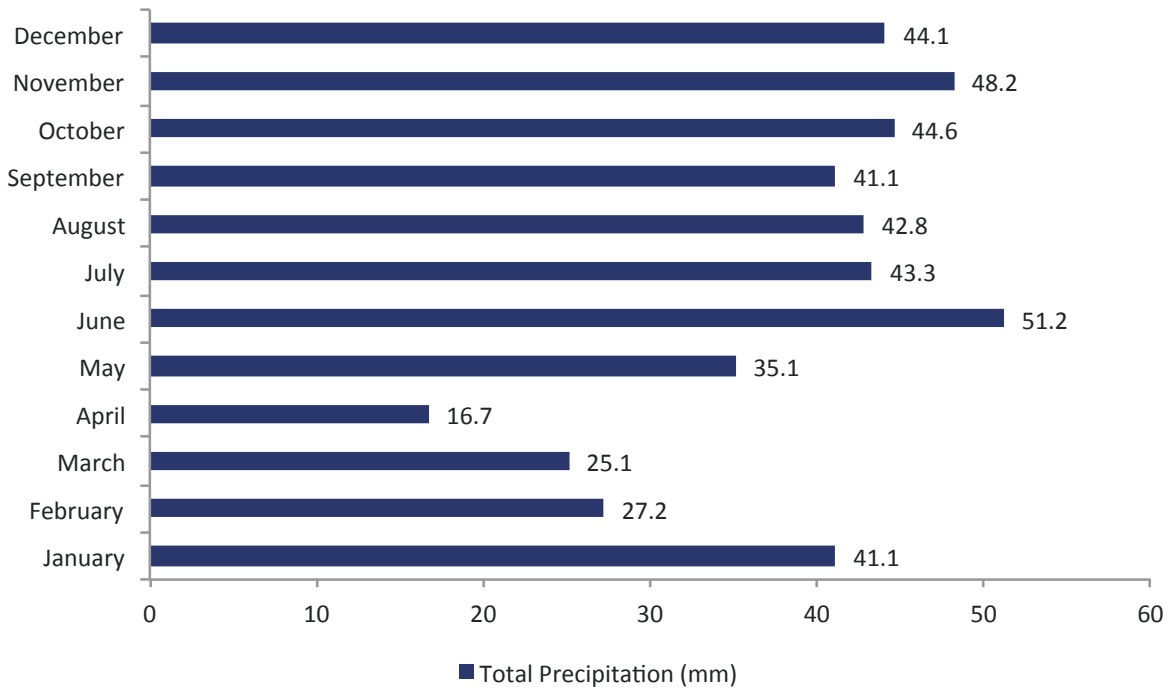
Environment Canada: 1981 to 2010 Canadian Climate Normals

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.



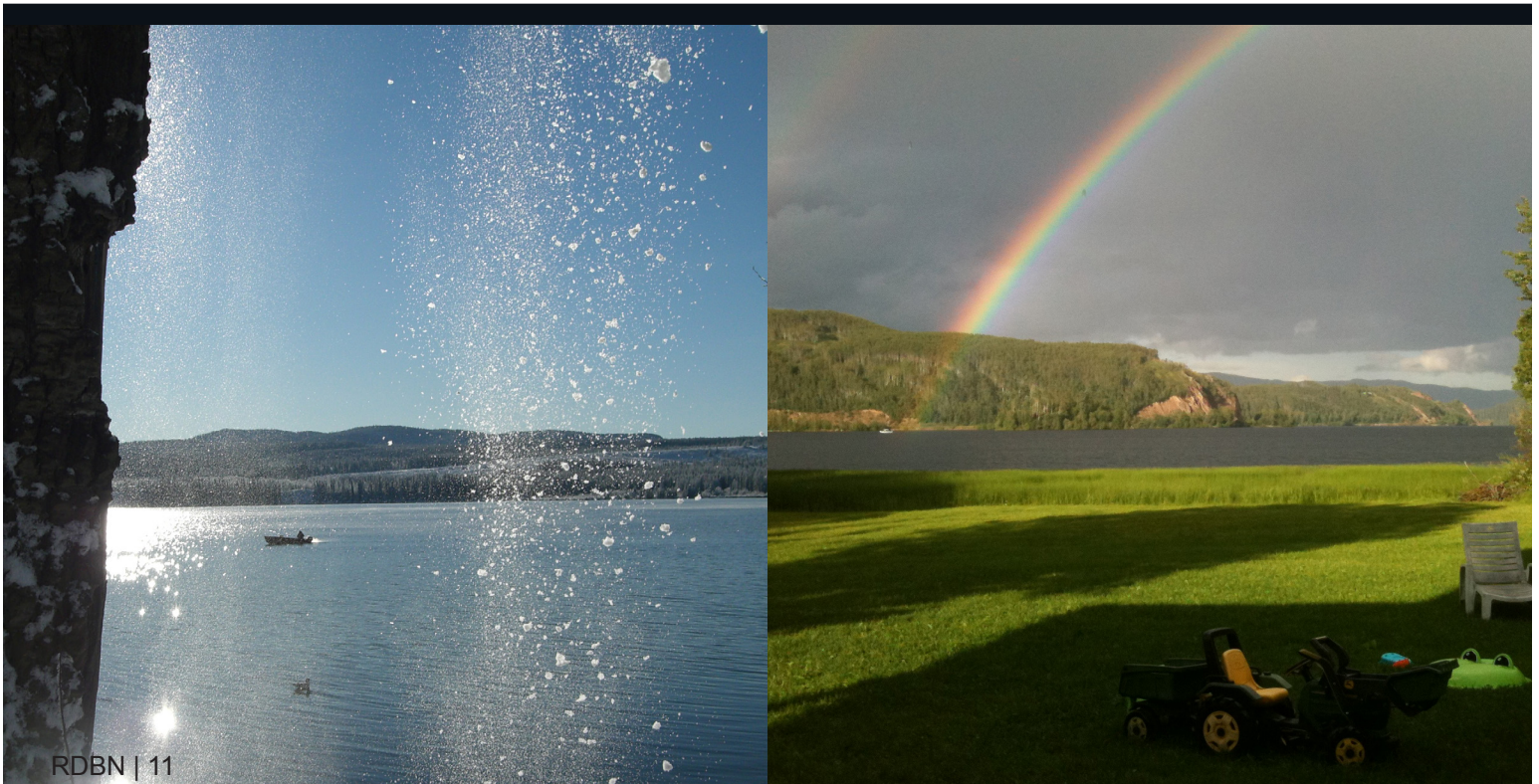
Precipitation

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

A World of
Opportunities
Within Our Region

www.rdbn.bc.ca

