

FRASER LAKE AND SURROUNDING AREA PROFILE



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

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Fraser Lake and Surrounding Area

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

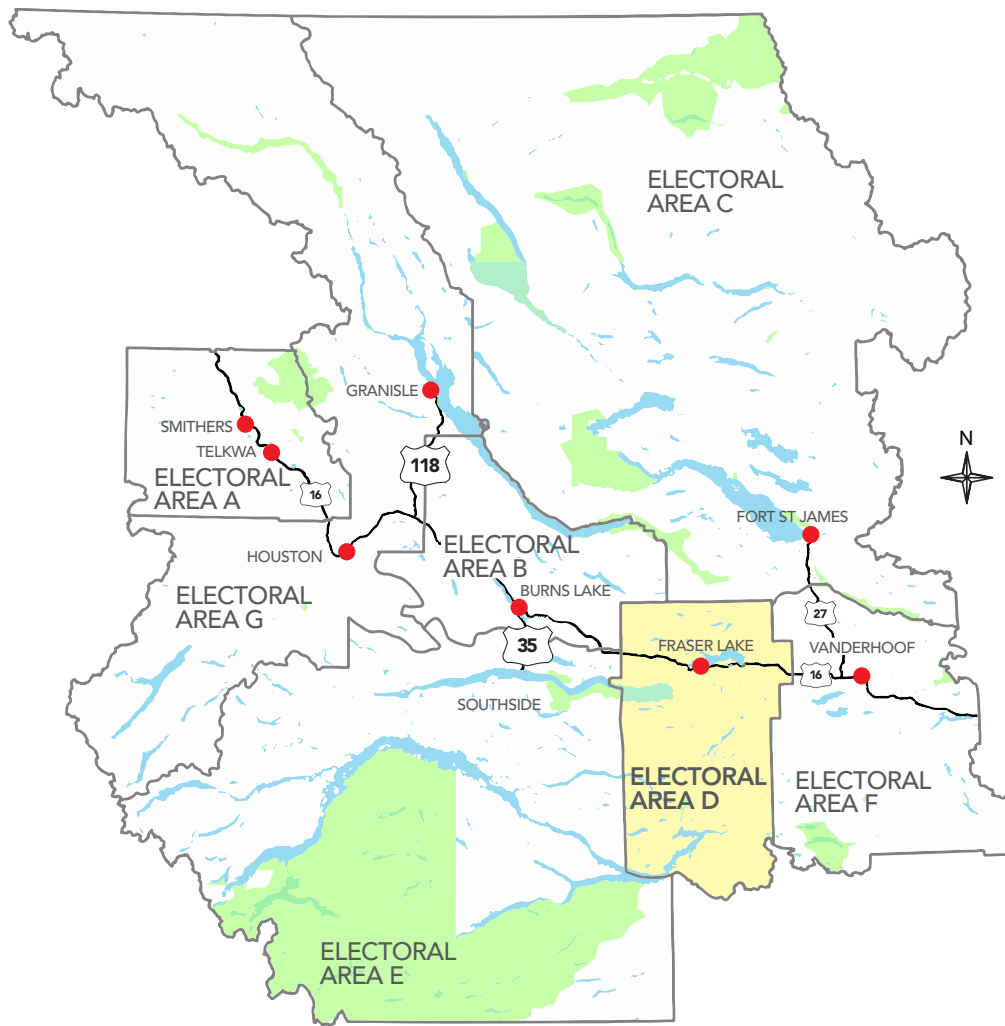
From its humble beginnings in the early 1900's, the Fraser Lake Sawmill (owned and operated by West Fraser Timber Company Ltd.) has evolved into one of the world's most modern sawmills. Another strong contributor to the local economy, Endako Mines, was at one time the second largest Mine in the world. Endako Mines went into care and maintenance in 2015 and remains this way.

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 Fraser Lake to:

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

Legend

- Municipalities
- Parks
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1: FRASER LAKE AND SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY PROFILE



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth

Population growth in Fraser Lake, 2006-2016

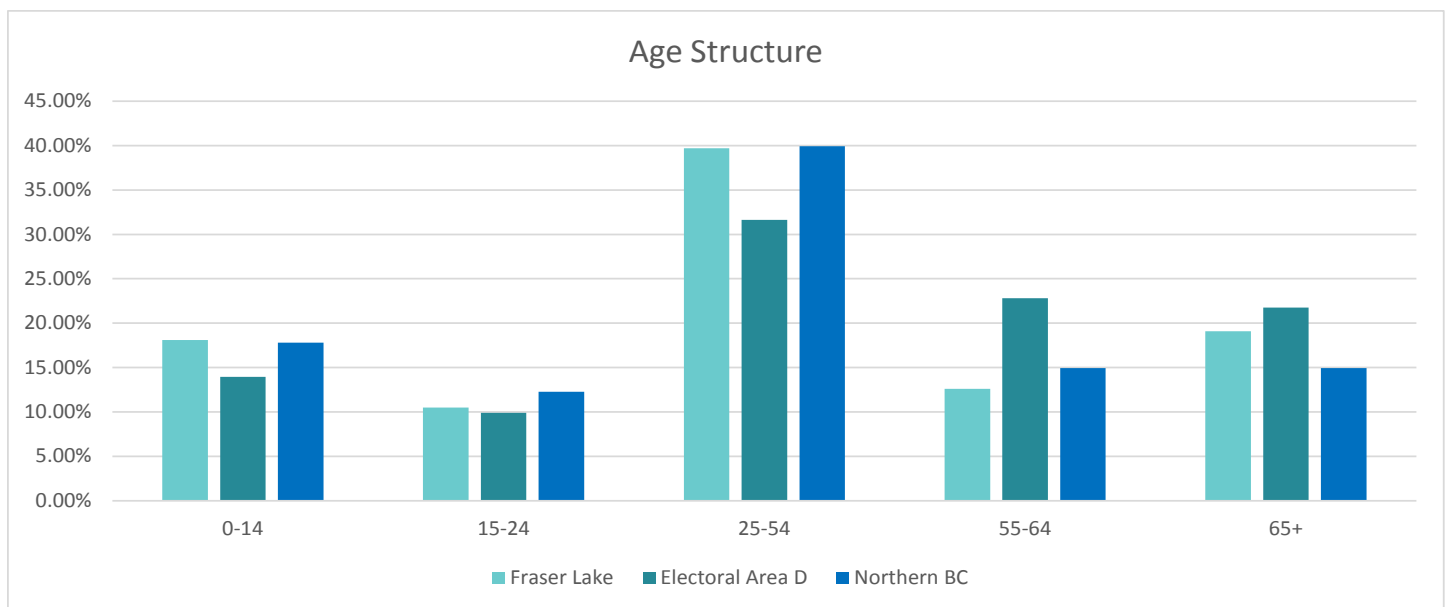
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Fraser Lake	1,113	1,167	988
Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)	1,665	1,734	1,472
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2016

The Village of Fraser Lake had a population of 988 in 2016. The population increase from 2006 to 2011 outpaced the rate of population growth in the RDBN and Northern BC which was 2.5% and 0.1% respectively.

Age Structure

Age structure in Fraser Lake and Electoral Area D, 2016

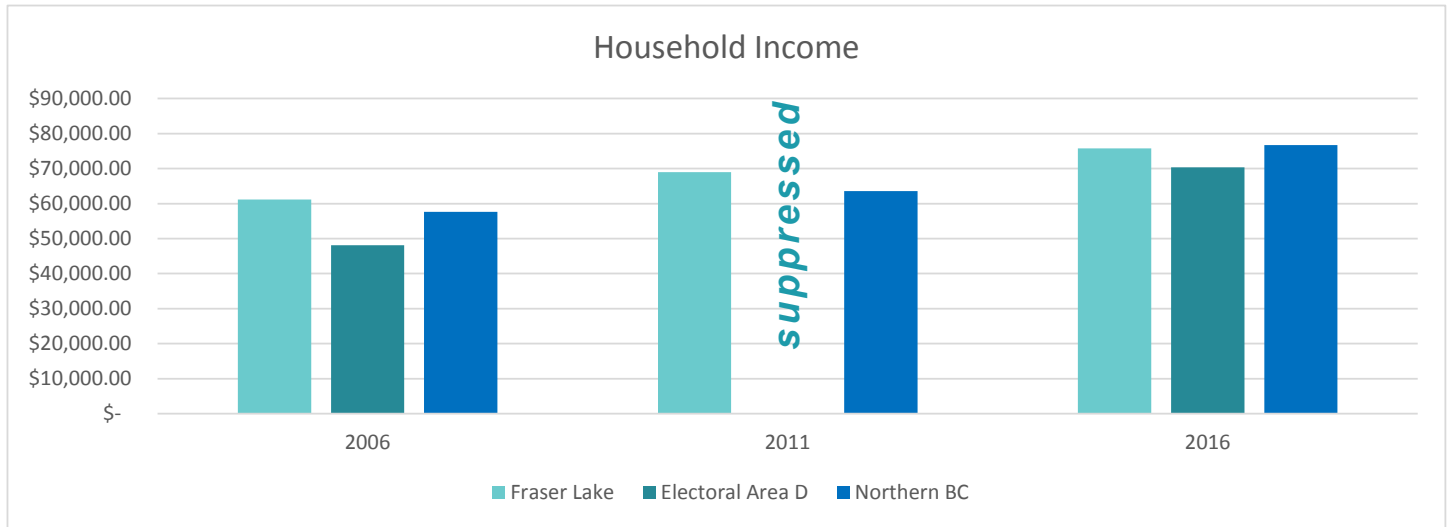


Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

The median age of the population of Fraser Lake was close to the same as Northern B.C.

Household Income

Median household income in Fraser Lake and Electoral Area D, 2006-2016



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

In 2016 Fraser Lake had the second highest median household income among the municipalities in the RDBN, of \$75,776. The household income in Fraser Lake has generally been higher than the Electoral Area and Northern BC.

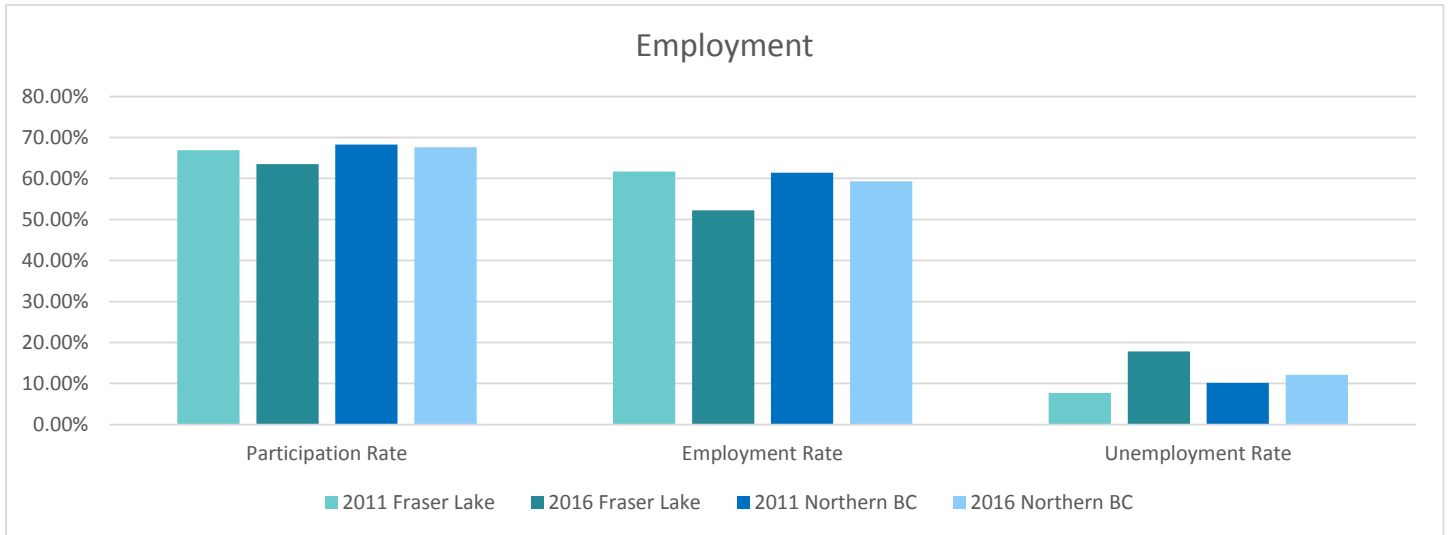
Please note that income data for Electoral Area D in 2011 was unavailable as it was suppressed for data quality or confidentiality reasons by Statistics Canada.



WORKFORCE PROFILE

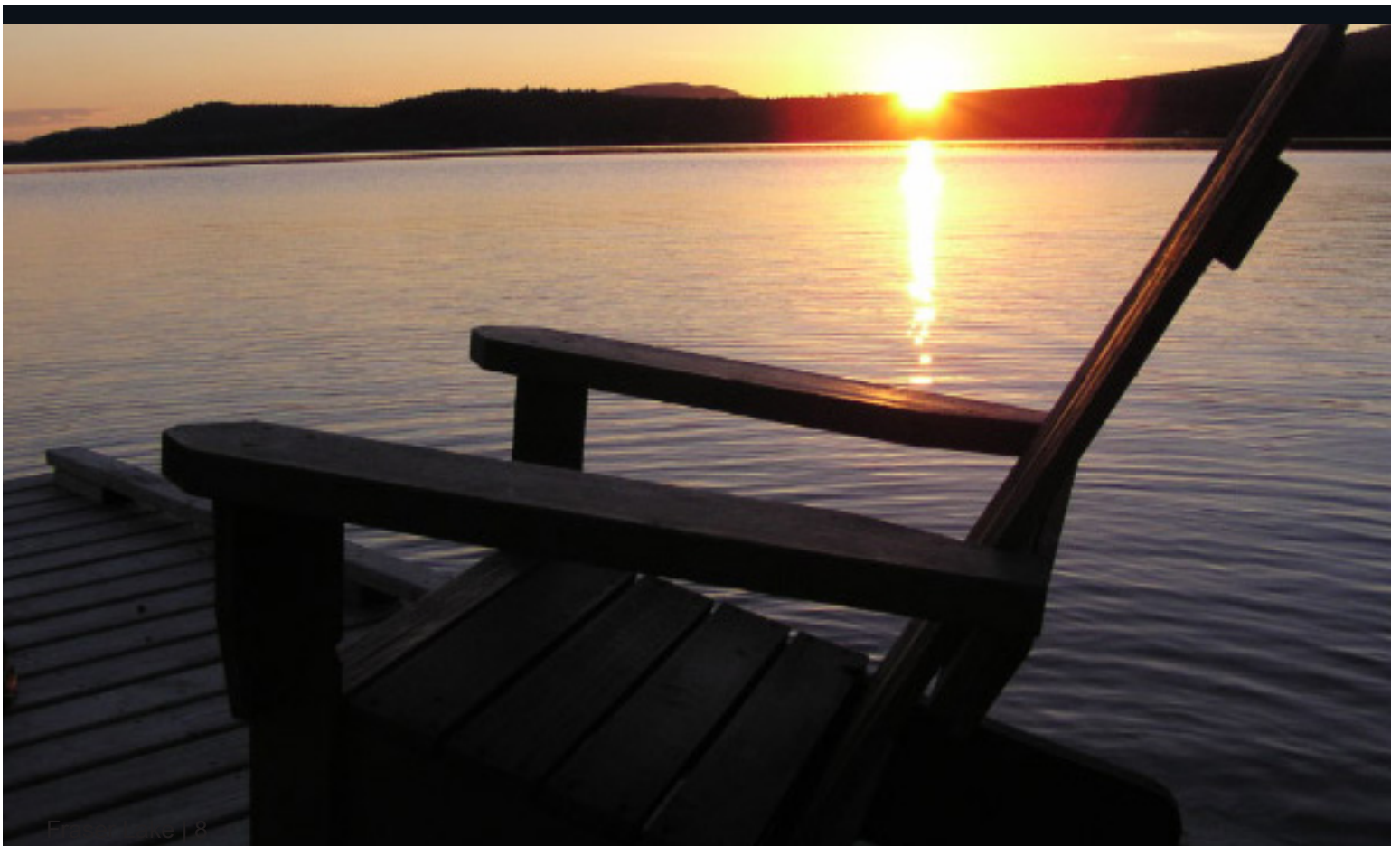
Employment

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



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

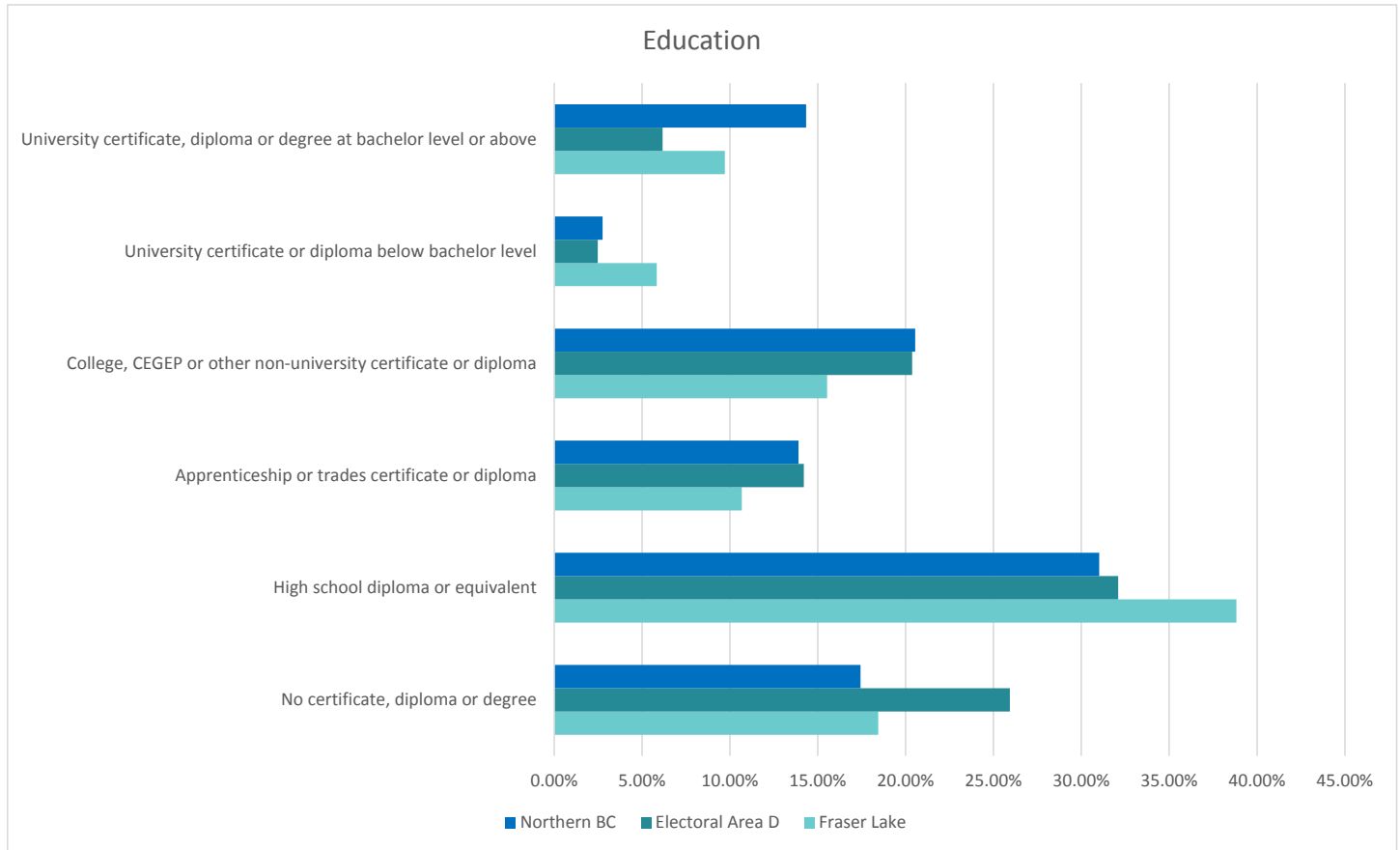
Fraser Lake had a lower unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2011. The unemployment rate for Fraser lake went higher than Northern BC in 2016.



Education

Education in Fraser Lake and Bulkley-Nechako, 2016

Fraser Lake had a higher portion of residents with a high school diploma or equivalent compared to Northern BC and Electoral Area D in 2016.



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey

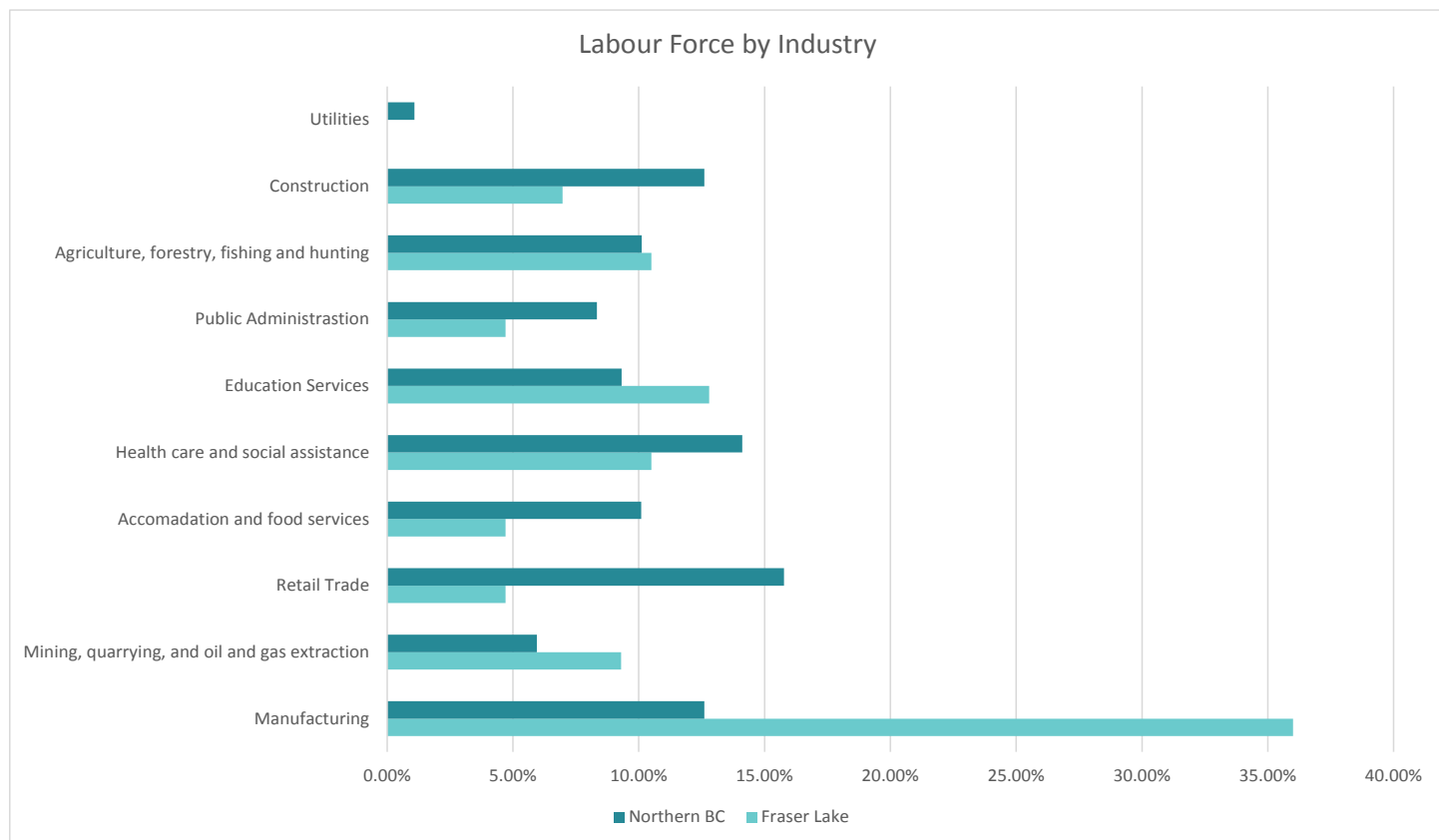
Local Employment Service Providers

NAME	FACILITY OR SERVICE
Progressive Employment - WorkBC	Employment Service Provider



Labour Force by Industry

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



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey

In 2016 Fraser Lake had a total labour force of 430 people. Manufacturing is a significant source of employment. Manufacturing accounts for 30% of the labour force in Fraser Lake and only 9% in the RDBN. The portion of the labour force that works in manufacturing in Fraser Lake is the highest among the municipalities in the RDBN while the concentration of employment in mining and oil and gas is the second highest.

Some major employers in Fraser Lake include the following:

NAME	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
West Fraser – Fraser Lake Sawmills	275
School District No.91	78
Northern Health Authority – Fraser Lake Medical Clinic	26
Village of Fraser Lake	17
Canada’s Grocery Store & More / Hurry Help Enterprises Ltd.	20

TRANSPORTATION

NAME	CATEGORY
Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit System	Bus
BC Bus	Bus
VIA Rail Canada Inc.	Rail
Fraser Lake Airport	Airport
Fraser Lake Community Transport Service	Bus

Fraser Lake Airport

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

Airport Information

- Hours of operation, sunrise to sunset
- Fully fenced and secured airport
- 4000 ft long asphalt runway
- Elevation – 2690'
- Runway Headings, 08 - 26
- Large general aviation parking apron
- Washroom and pilot shed
- All flights must be recorded in the pilots shed log book
- Uncontrolled – ATF 122.80, Emergency – 121.50
- No landing fee or parking fees
- Aircraft tie down available
- Limited winter maintenance
- No power, fuel or lubricants available

Types of Aircraft that use the Airport

- Air Force Buffalo - Equivalent to a Dash 8
- Bombardier Learjet
- Cessna Citation Jet
- Pilatus PC-12
- Beechcraft King Air
- Wildfire Waterbombers
- Various Helicopters
- Various single engine private aircraft

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Telus
- Shaw Communications Inc
- Bell
- Rogers



WATER AND WASTE

Water

Source of Water Supply and Means of Access

Name of Provider-Village of Fraser Lake

The Fraser Lake Water Treatment Plant was built in 2009 and commissioned for use in the spring of 2010. The water plant treats lake water drawn from nearby Fraser Lake. An 8 metre deep 250mmx140m line gravity feeds water from the lake into a wet well at the fresh water pumping station. There are two 1500 litre/min vertical turbine pumps powered by 50hp electric motors that pump water from the wet well to the Water Treatment Plant and subsequently to the distribution system in town and to the Water Reservoir. The Reservoir holds 1 million litres of water. The Water Treatment Plant's flow capacity is 22L/s.

Water Supply vs. Projected Demand

Rated Capacity	199,576 m ³
Average Daily Demand	750 m ³
Peak Demand	1,222.587 m ³

Residential, Commercial and Industrial Water Rates

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

Solid Waste Disposal Services

Commercial and residential garbage is picked up once a week.

Capacity of Waste Disposal Site vs. Projected Demand

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

Recycling

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Taxes

The following chart summarizes 2019 tax rates in Fraser Lake. For up to date information contact the municipality. Tax rates are calculated in dollars of tax per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value.

PURPOSE OF TAX RATE	RESIDENTIAL	UTILITIES	MAJOR INDUSTRY	LIGHT INDUSTRY	BUSINESS / OTHER	MANAGED FOREST LAND	RECREATION / NON-PROFIT	FARM
Municipal	7.0019	47.0000	38.2903	38.2903	22.5825	0.0000	8.5305	0.0000
Regional District	1.0595	3.7081	3.6021	3.6021	2.5956	0.0000	1.0595	0.0000
Hospital District	1.3740	4.8090	4.6716	4.6716	3.3663	0.0000	1.3740	0.0000
School	3.4000	13.2000	3.7000	3.7000	3.7000	1.9000	2.3000	7.1000
Other	0.3853	1.6955	1.6609	1.2861	0.9570	1.2655	0.3853	0.3853
Total	13.2206	70.4125	51.9249	51.5501	33.2014	3.1655	13.6492	7.4853

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

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

Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Fraser Lake's official community plan and zoning bylaw are available at www.fraserlake.ca

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

Incentive Programs

Business Support Services

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

Business Funding Services

- [Community Futures Stuart-Nechako](#)
- [Fraser Lake Business Facade Program](#)
- [Fraser Lake Community Endowment Society](#)

Local Economic Development Services

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

Dave Christie

Economic Development Officer

Village of Fraser Lake

Email: dchristie@fraserlake.ca

Phone: 250-699-6257

Fraser Lake & District Chamber of Commerce

Email: dchristie@fraserlake.ca

Phone: 250-699-6257

Mayor Contact

Mayor Sarrah Storey

210 Carrier Crescent, PO Box 430

Fraser Lake, BC V0J 1S0

Email: sstorey@fraserlake.ca

Phone: 250-699-1681

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)	551
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents (2016 census)	448
Single detached houses (2016 census)	315
Other attached dwelling (2016 census)	105
# of owned dwellings (2016 census)	325
# of rented dwellings (2016 census)	125

HOUSING	COST
Average value of dwelling (2016 census)	\$192,593.00



Accommodations

- Cataline Motor Inn
- Fraser Lake Inn

Restaurants

- New Fraser Lake Restaurant
- Subway
- Tony's Restaurant
- Senior Duggies
- Fraser Lake Legion

Other Facilities with Capacity for Hosting Events

- The Fraser Lake C.H. Foote Memorial Arena
 - Arena – hard surface in off season – capacity 1000
 - Arena Complex – capacity 250
- Fraser Lake Legion - 180
- Fraser Lake Elementary Secondary School
 - Gym - capacity 460
- Mouse Mountain Elementary School
 - Gym - capacity 260
- Fraser Lake Public Library Meeting Room - capacity 25
- Fraser Lake Professional Building - capacity 100
- Autumn Services – capacity 80
- Fraser Lake Small Event Centre – capacity 90

Shopping

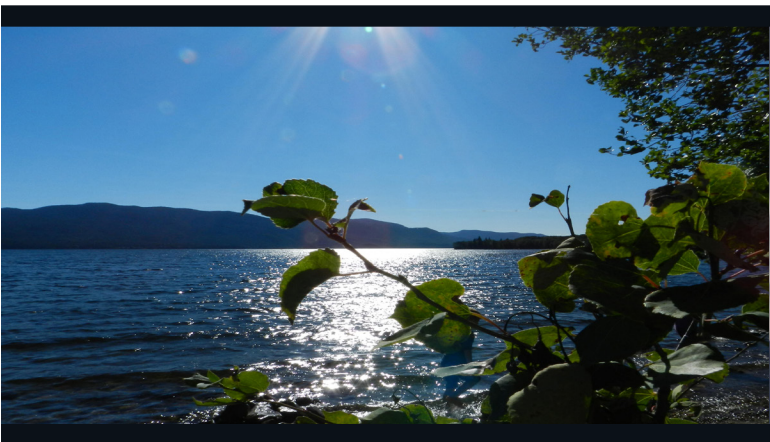
- Fraser Lake Shopping Center
- Fraser Lake Supermarket
- Canada's Grocery Store and More
- Signature Creations
- Rusty Pitchfork
- LePoidevin's Greenhouse
- Fields
- Auto Sense
- Ace Hardware
- Fraser Lake Men's Shed
- Fraser Lake Community Market (Seasonal)

Financial Services

- Integris

Media

- Phraser Connector



Local Community Organizations

- Fraser Lake & District Chamber of Commerce
- The Fraser Lake Quilters Guild
- Fraser Lake & District Historical Society
- Autumn Services
- Fraser Lake Crisis Centre
- Fraser Lake Saddle Club
- Fraser Lake Shotokan Karate Club
- Fraser Lake Minor Hockey
- Fraser Lake Slow Pitch
- Fraser Lake Youth Soccer
- Fraser Lake Fire Rescue Training Society
- Fraser Lake Community Market
- Fraser Lake & Area Men's Shed
- Mom's & Tot's indoor playground
- Mouse Mountain School PAC
- Fraser Lake Elementary Secondary School PAC
- Fraser Lake Early Childhood Development
- Fraser Lake Curling Club
- Fraser Lake Crisis Center
- Silver Birch Society

Local Community Assets

- Fraser Lake Curling Rink
- Fraser Lake Arena
- Fraser Lake Complex
- Fraser Lake Public Library
- Fraser Lake Fire Rescue Hall
- Fraser lake Museum & Visitor Information Center
- Fraser Lake Professional Building
- Fraser Lake Small Events Centre
- Royal Canadian Legion #274
- Village of Fraser Lake Municipal Office

Schools

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

Health Services

- **Fraser Lake Community Health Centre**

The Community Health Centre is operated by the Northern Health Authority. This facility offers four doctor's offices, X-ray facilities, Laboratory, Emergency Department, Public Health and Northern Health Connections bus services.

“Fraser Lake offers year round outdoor recreation activities that are second to none. With the Village’s focus on beatification projects and attracting new businesses and services, the community has seen positive growth in the past several years. Situated on highway 16 we are 1.5 hours to Prince George and just over 2 hours to Smithers, making our community a great spot to call home. Living in several smaller communities across Canada, Fraser Lake is the friendliest and most beautiful community I have lived in.”

Dave Christie, Village of Fraser Lake

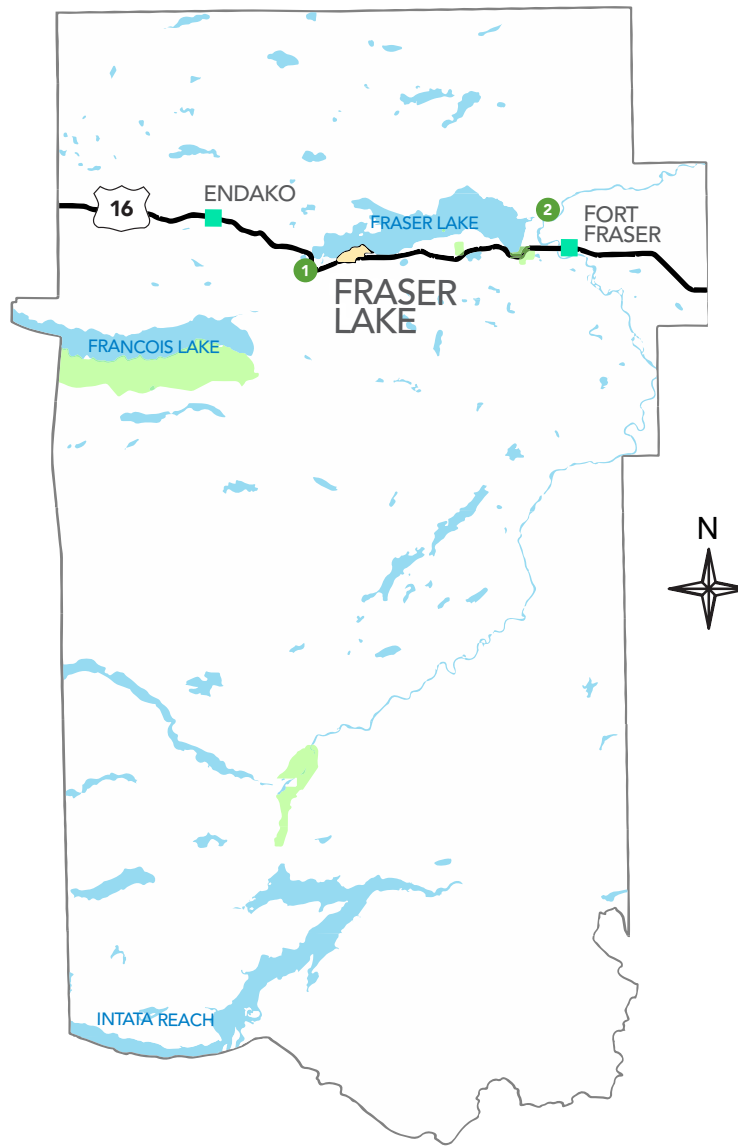
www.fraserlake.ca

2: ELECTORAL AREA D (FRASER LAKE RURAL)










ELECTORAL AREA 'D'

(Fraser Lake Rural)



Legend

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

Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)

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

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

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



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth

Population growth in Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) 2006-2016

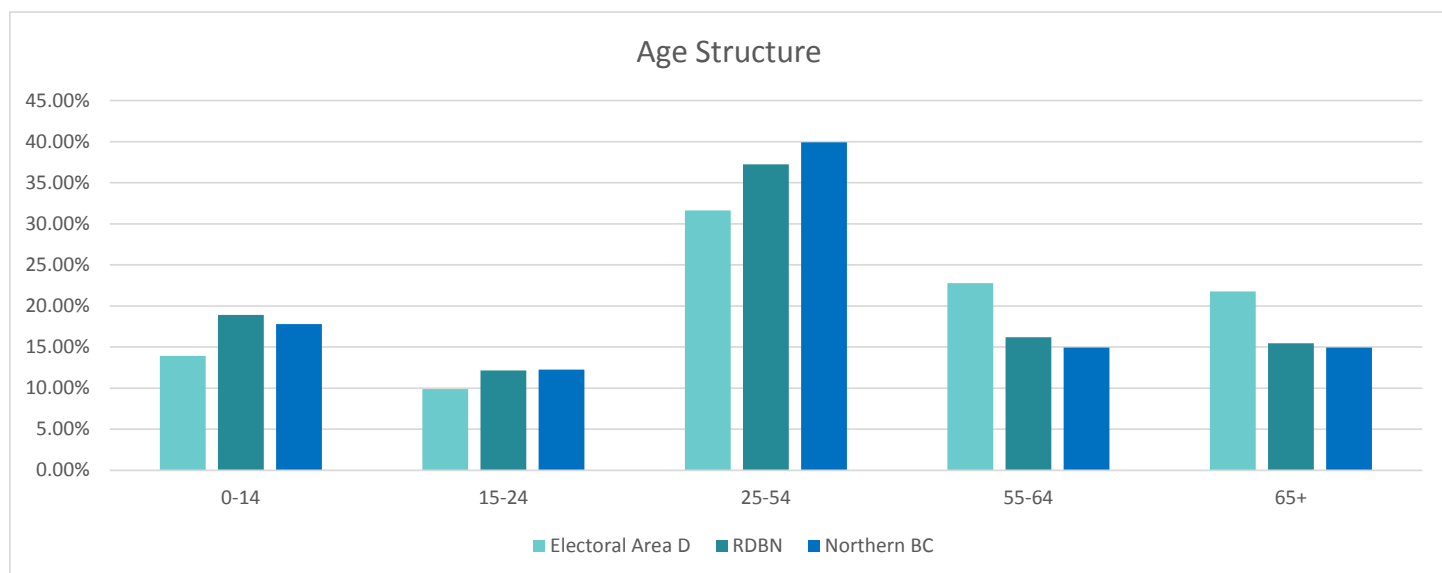
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Electoral Area D	1,665	1,734	1,472
Regional District Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,896
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile 2006-2016.

Electoral Area D, or Fraser Lake Rural, had a population of 1,472 in 2016. The population increase from 2006-to 2011 outpaced the growth in the RDBN and Northern BC which was 2.5% and 0.1% respectively.

Age Structure

Age structure in Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) and the RDBN, 2016

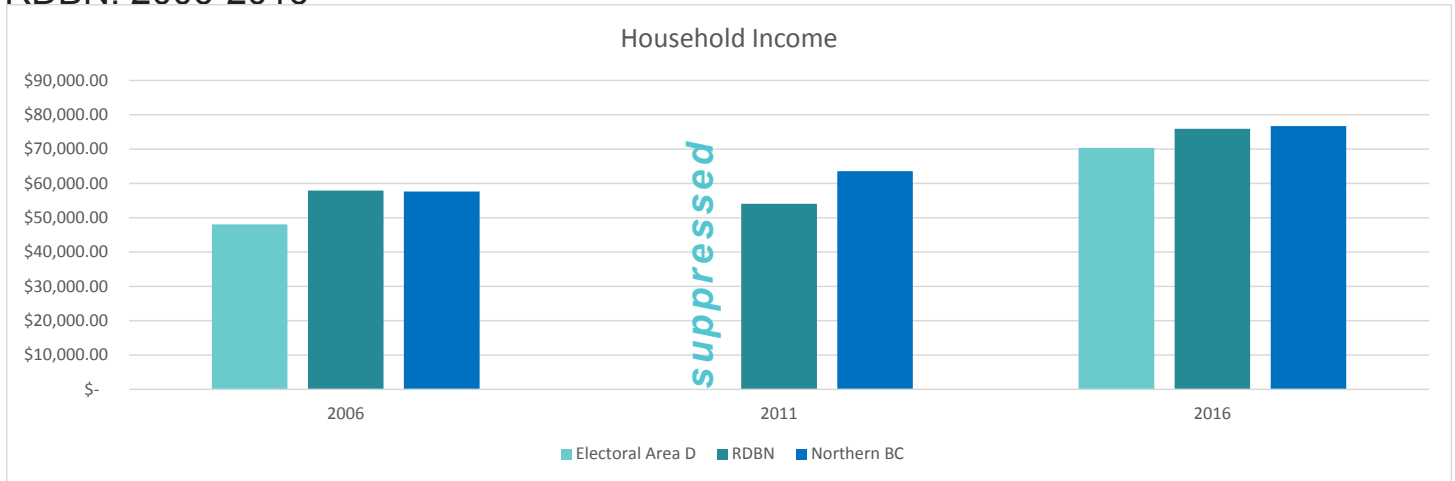


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016.

The population of Electoral Area D tended to be older than the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016. The age structure reveals a lower youth population (ages 0-14) and people between the ages of 25-54, as compared to the RDBN and Northern BC.

Household Income

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



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

The median household income in Electoral Area D was generally lower than the RDBN and Northern BC in 2006, but then had an increase in 2016. The RDBN and Northern BC stayed relatively equal to each other throughout 2016.

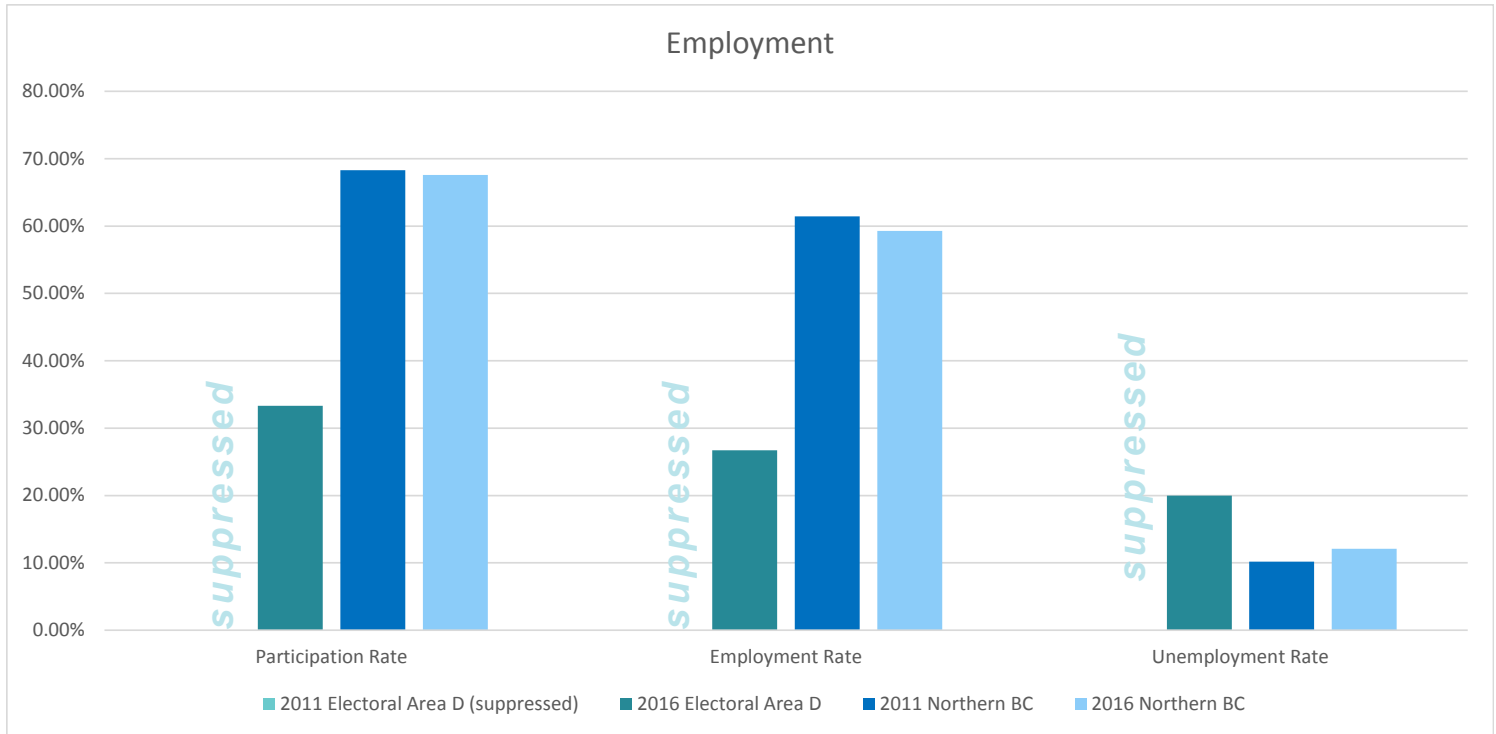
Please note that income data for Electoral Area D in 2011 was unavailable as it was suppressed for data quality or confidentiality reasons by Statistics Canada.



WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment

Employment data in the Electoral Area D (Freaser Lake Rural) and Northern BC, 2011-2016



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

Northern BC had a lower unemployment in 2016 than Electoral Area D. Northern BC employment rate had a slight decrease from 2011 to 2016.

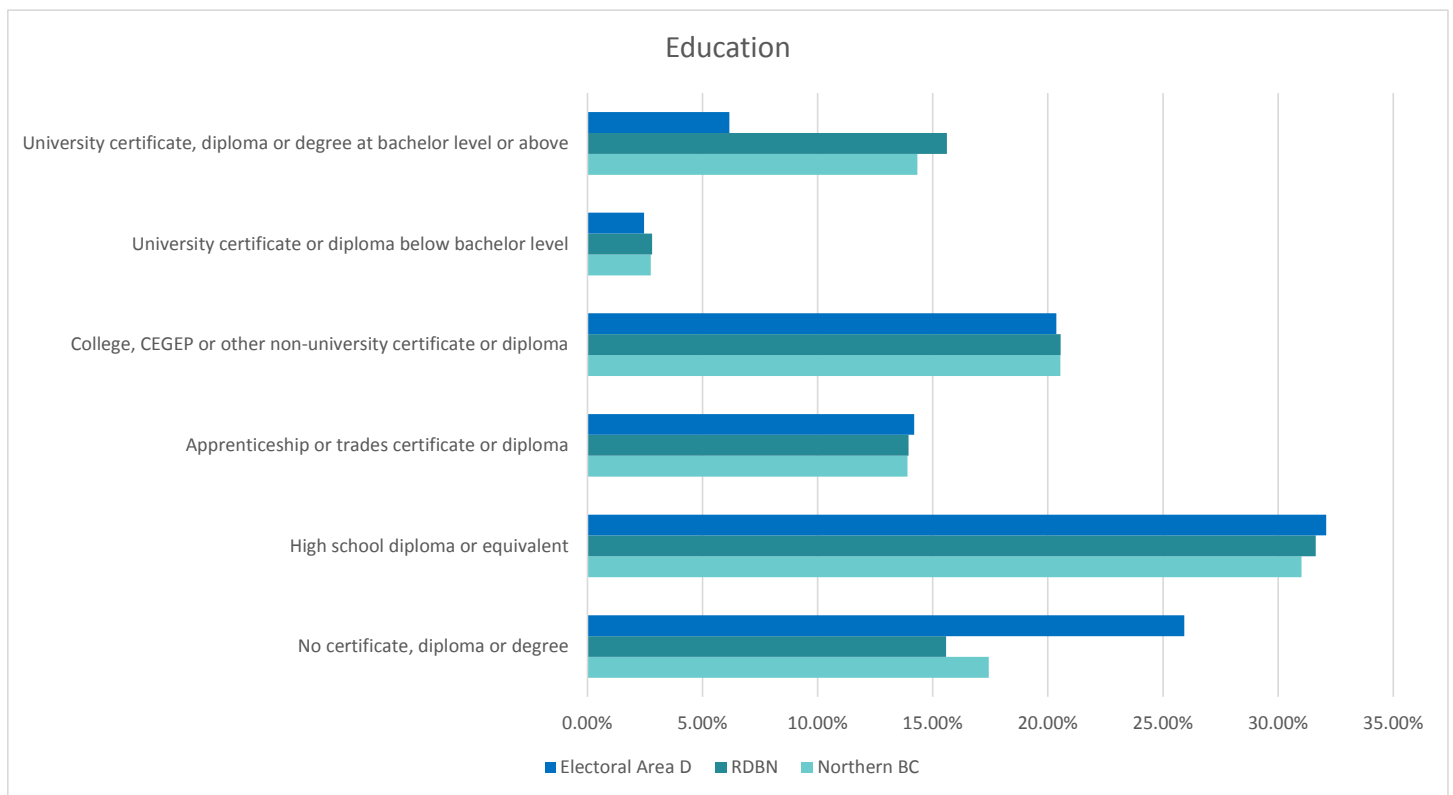
Please note that data specific to Electoral Area D has been suppressed for data quality or confidentiality reasons by Statistics Canada.





Education

Education in Electoral Area D and the RDBN, 2016

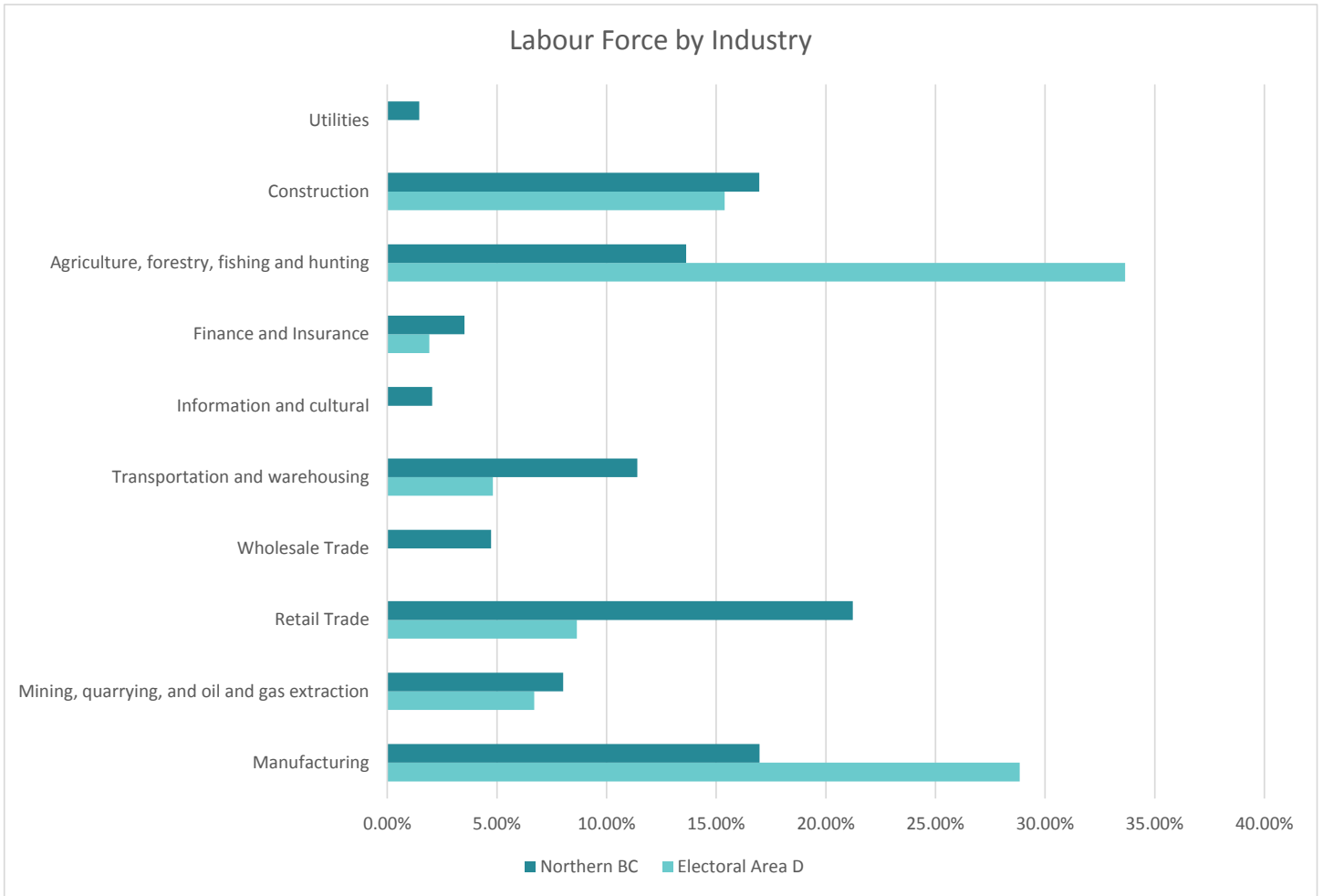


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

Electoral Area D had a slightly higher percentage of residents with a high school diploma or equivalent in 2016 than the RDBN and Northern BC.

Labour Force by Industry

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



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

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



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Electoral Area D, or Fraser Lake Rural, official community plan is available at www.rdbn.bc.ca/department/planning.

- [Fraser Lake Rural Official Community Plan](#)

Local Economic Development Services

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

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 Mark Parker

PO Box 159

Fraser Lake, BC V0J 1S0

Email: mark.parker@rdbn.bc.ca

WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE

Water and Wastewater Service

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

QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

Local Community Organizations

- Fort Fraser Local Commission
- Fort Fraser Recreation Society

Local Community Assets

- Endako Community Hall
- Fort Fraser Community Hall

Schools

- **Fort Fraser Elementary** (K-7)



FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES

Stellat'en First Nation

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

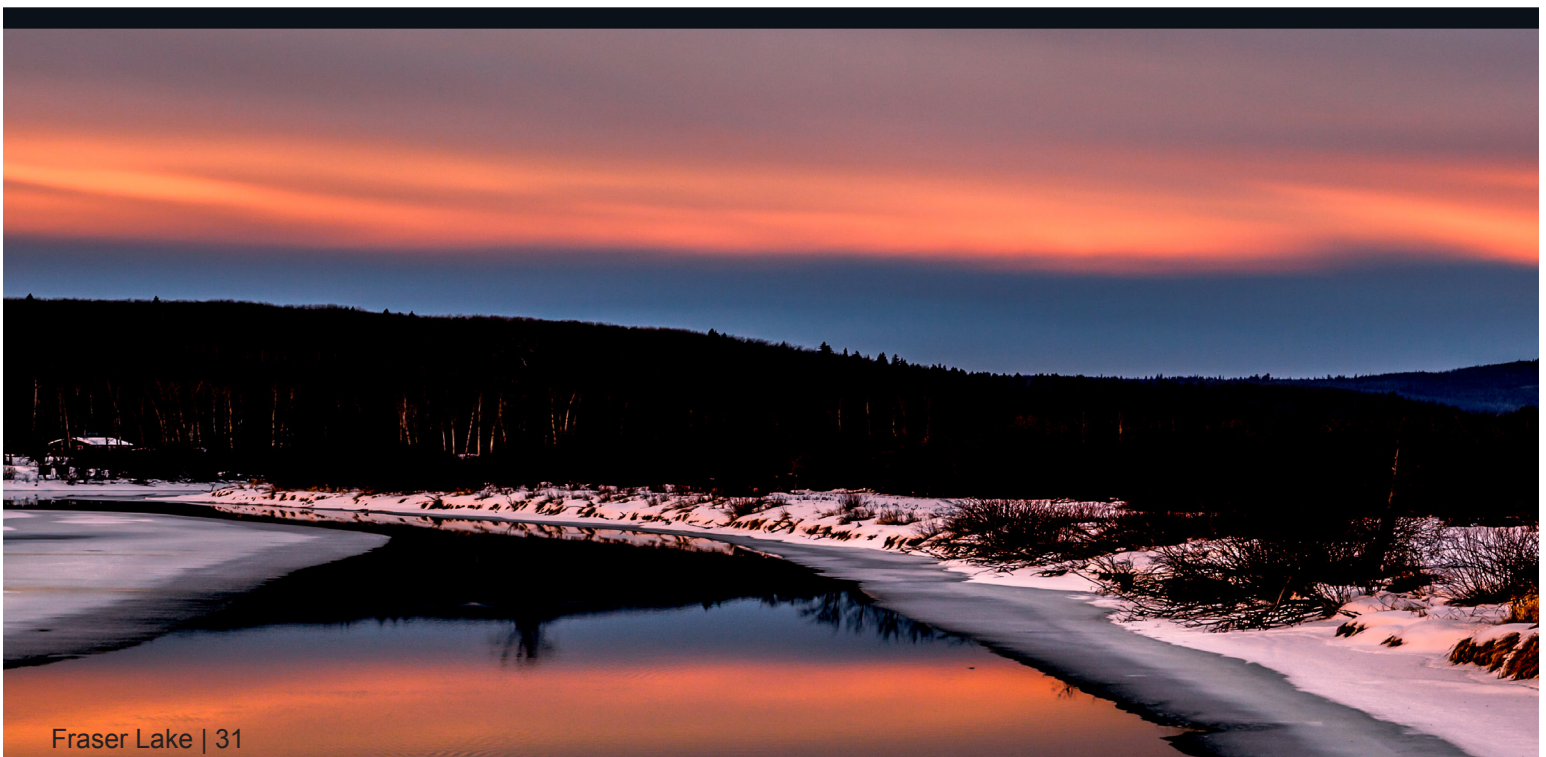
The community of Stellaquo has a registered population of 520, as of February 2014, living on and off reserve and is located 2 km west of Fraser Lake. Stellat'en (people of Stella) have existed since time immemorial. The fertile land between Fraser Lake and Vanderhoof is the basin of a glacial lake.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

Stellat'en First Nation Business

- Slenya Esso

Band Office

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



Nadleh Whut'en First Nation

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

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

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

Band Office

P.O. Box 36
Fort Fraser, BC V0J 1N0
Phone: 250.690.7211
Fax: 250.690.7316
Website: www.nadleh.ca



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

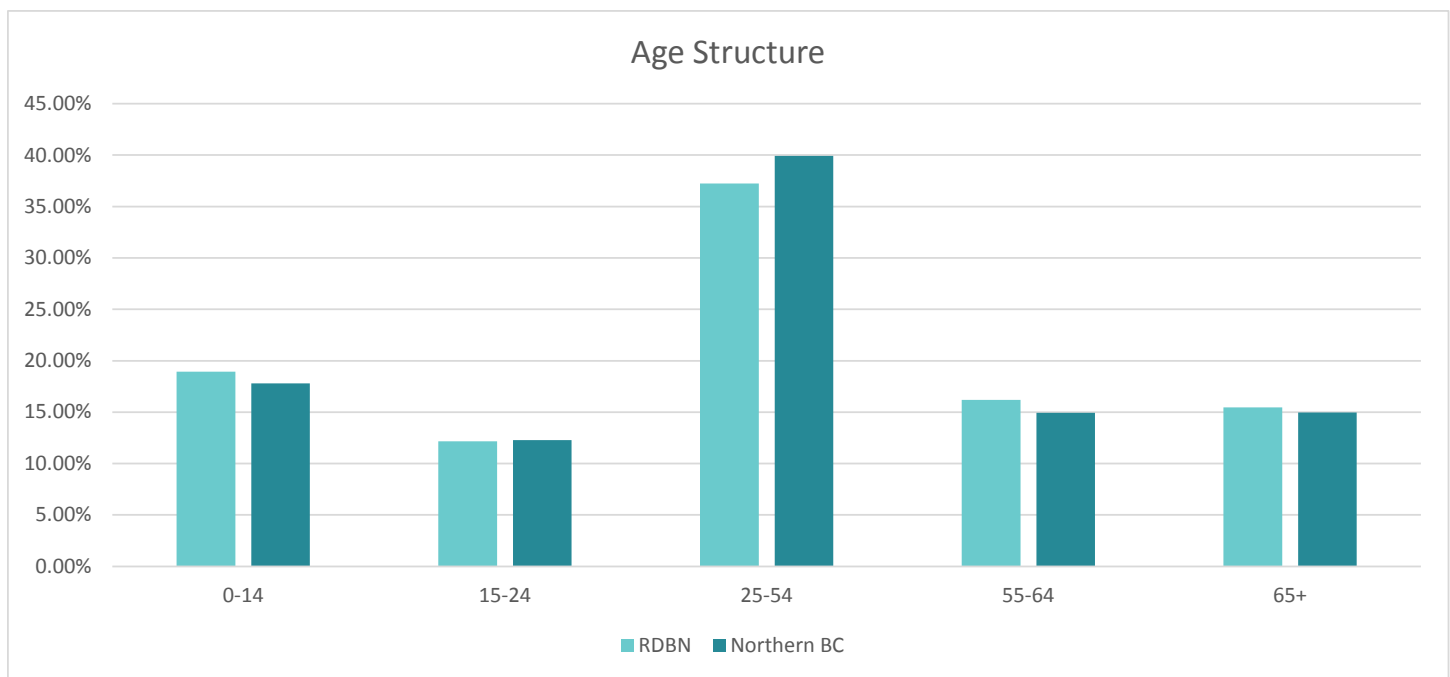
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Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,896
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

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

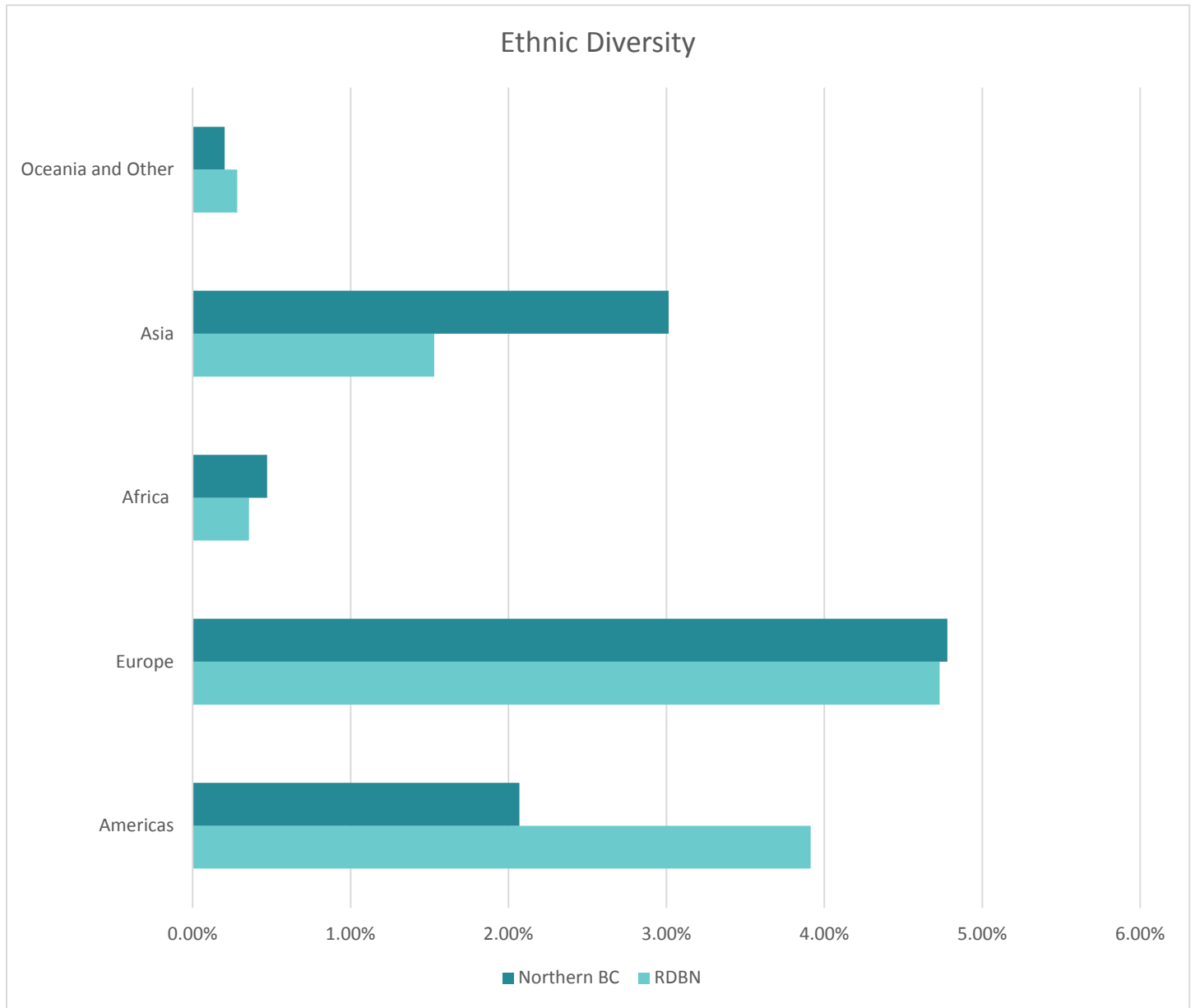


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

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



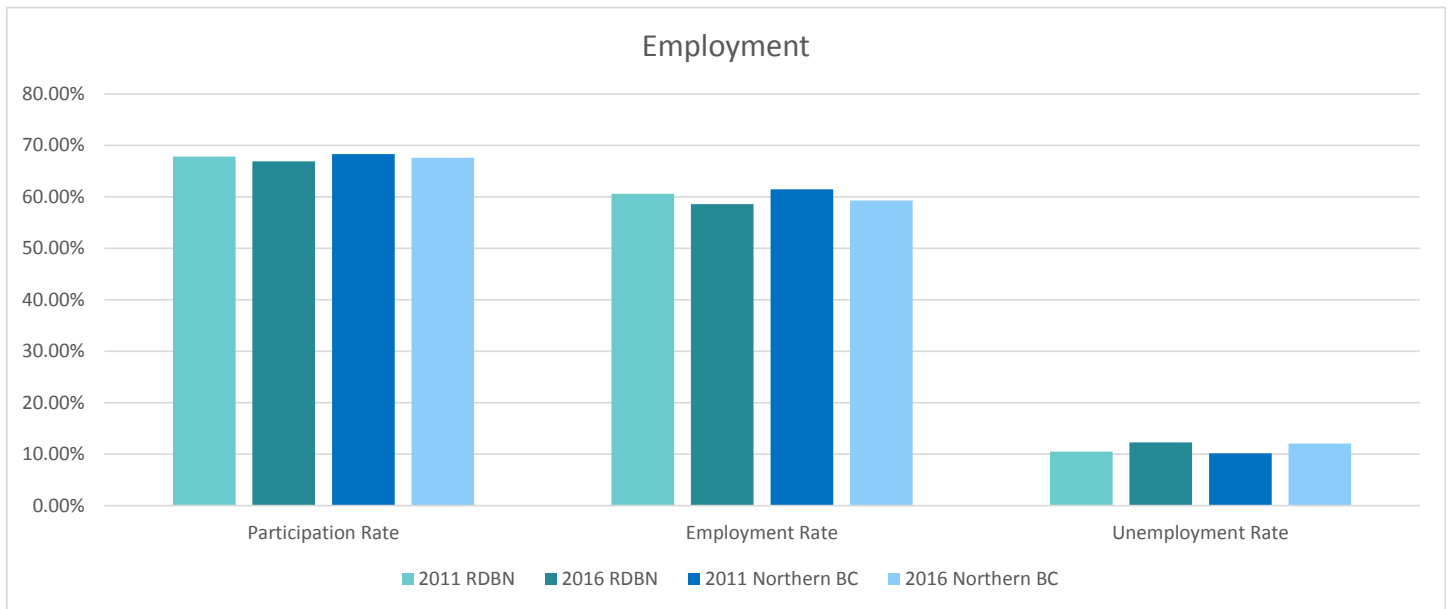
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2016

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



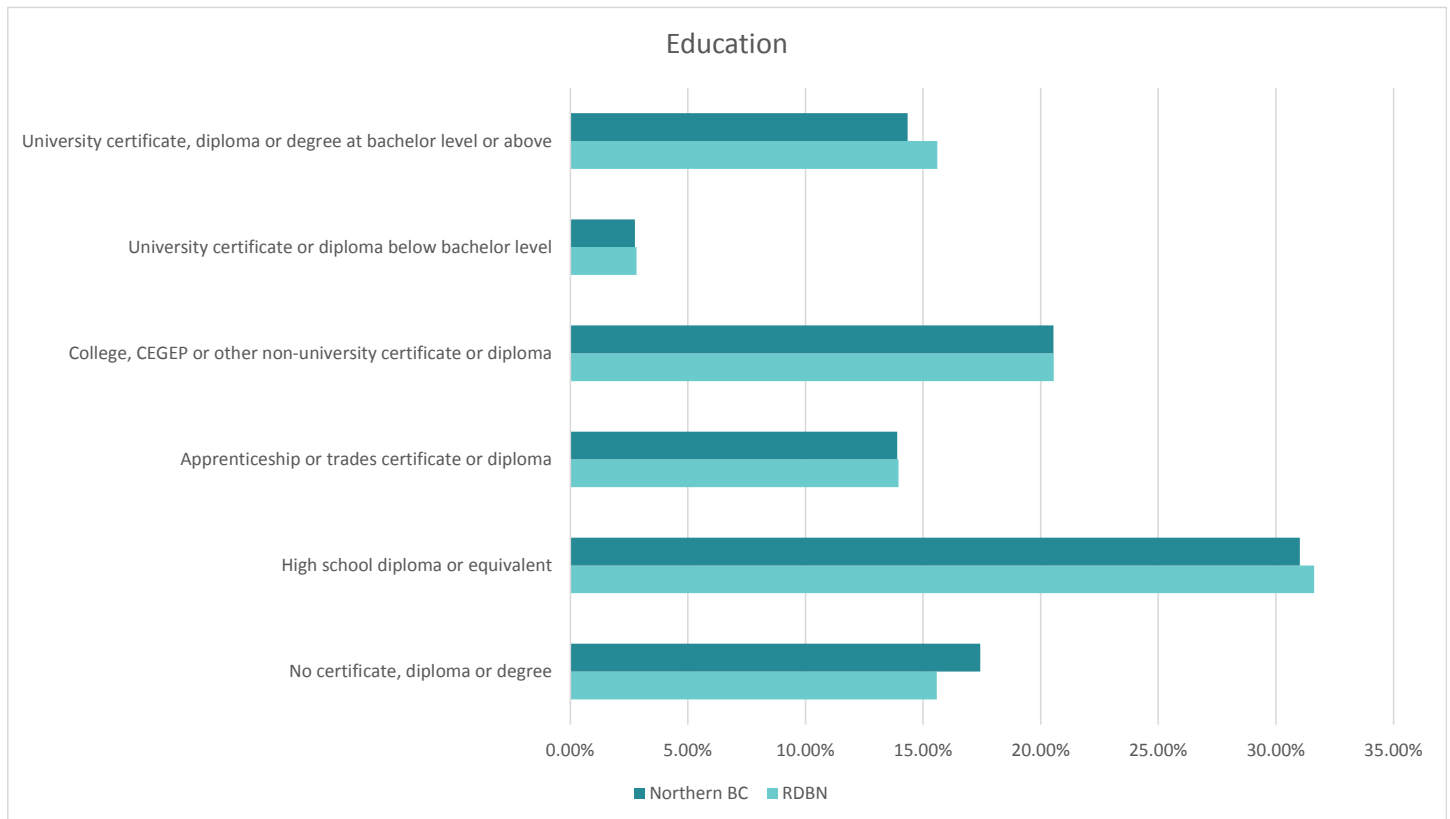
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2016

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.



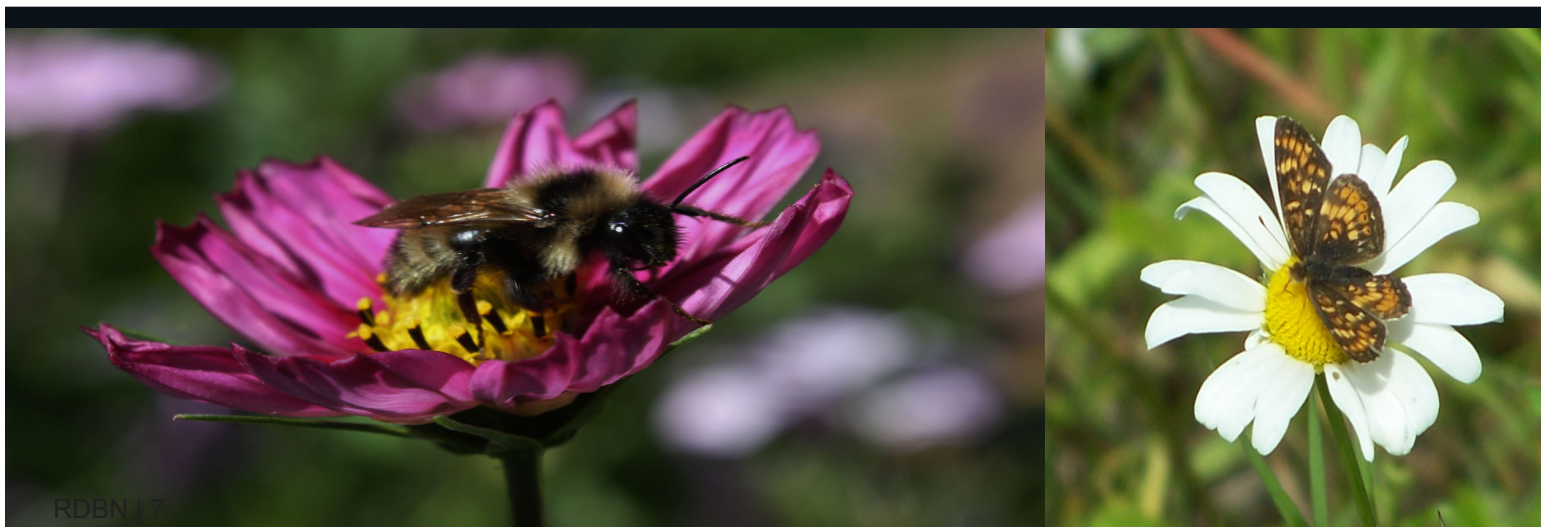
Education

Educational attainment in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016



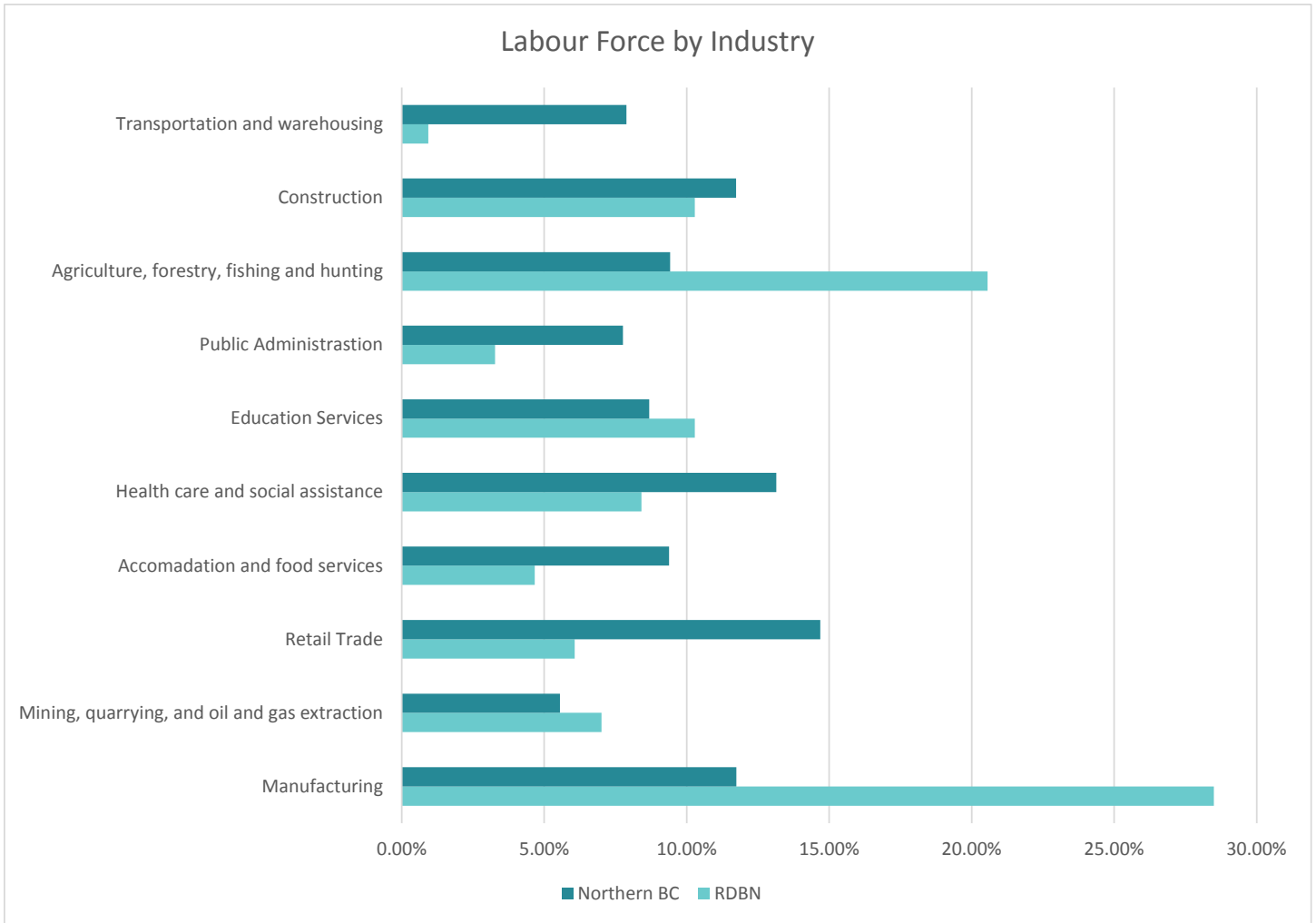
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

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

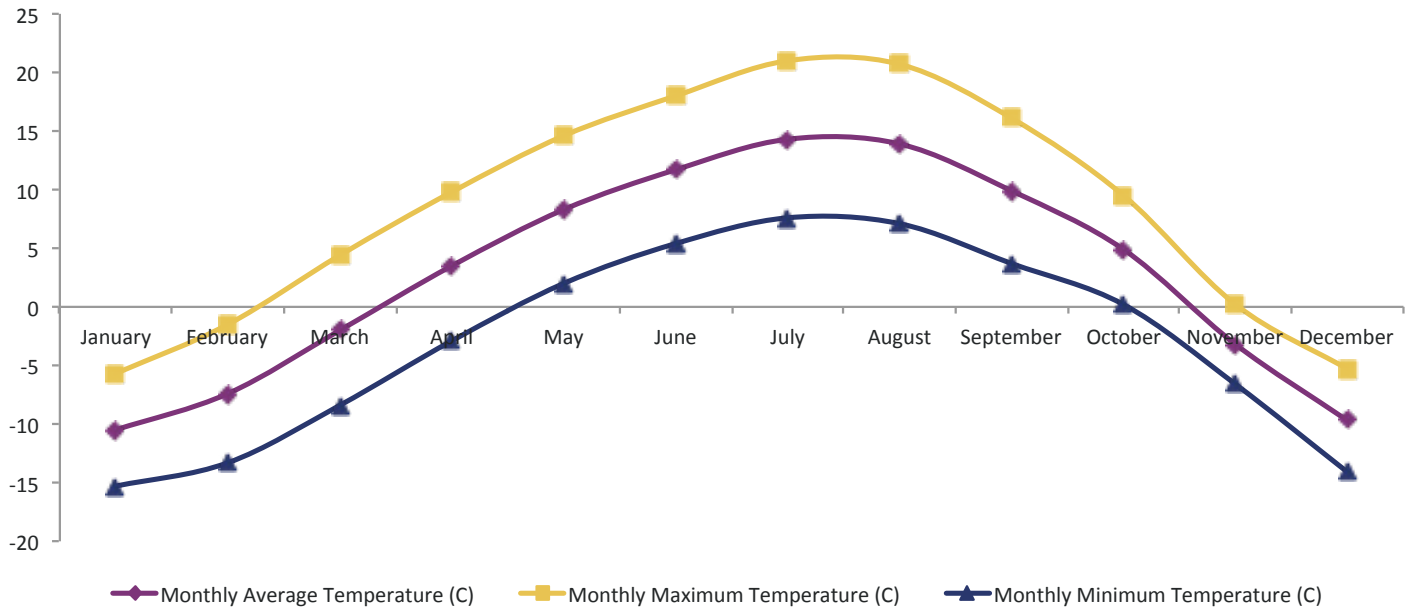
In the RDBN, post-secondary educational facilities are conveniently available in many communities.

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

CLIMATE

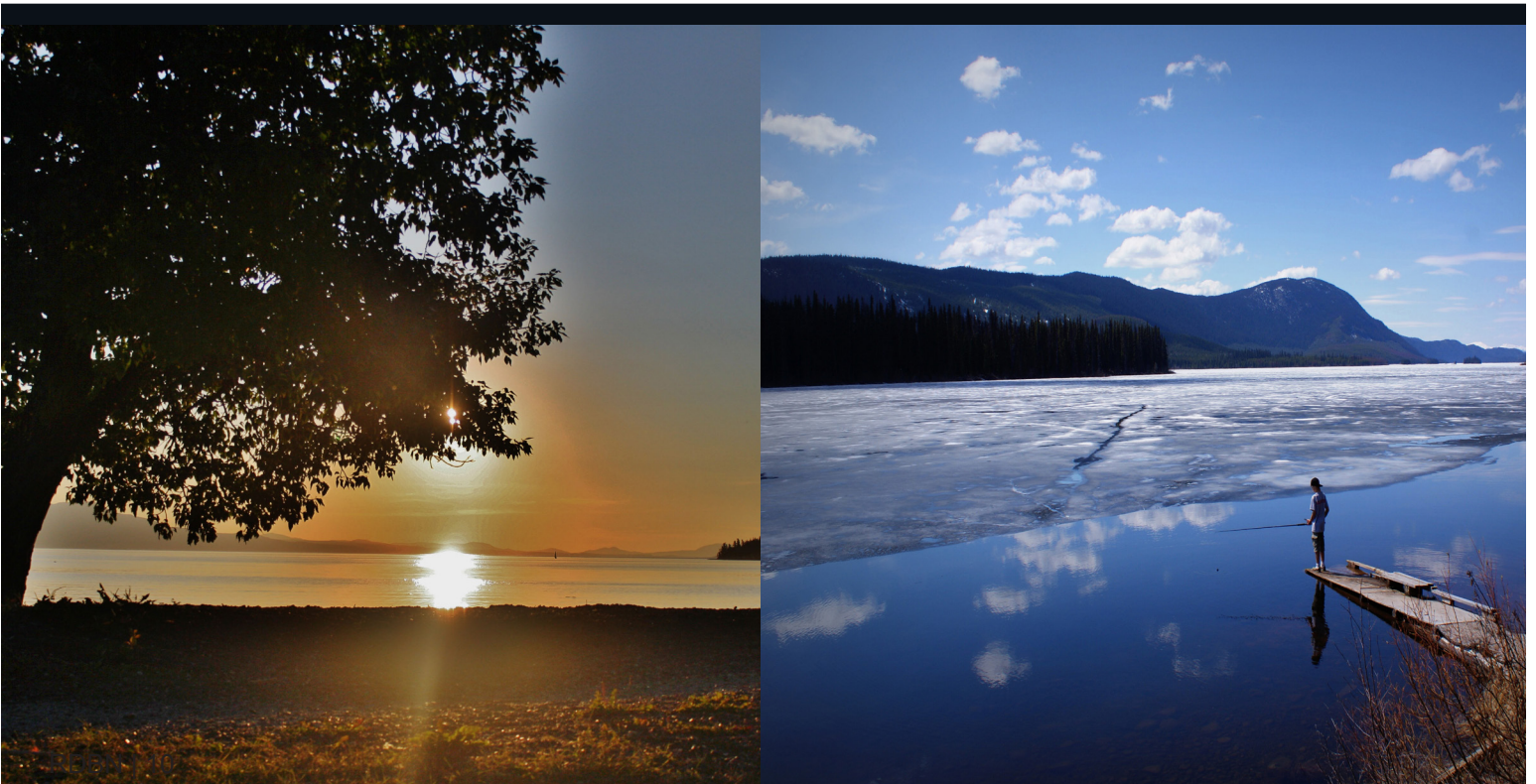
Monthly Temperature

Monthly temperature in the RDBN in 2010



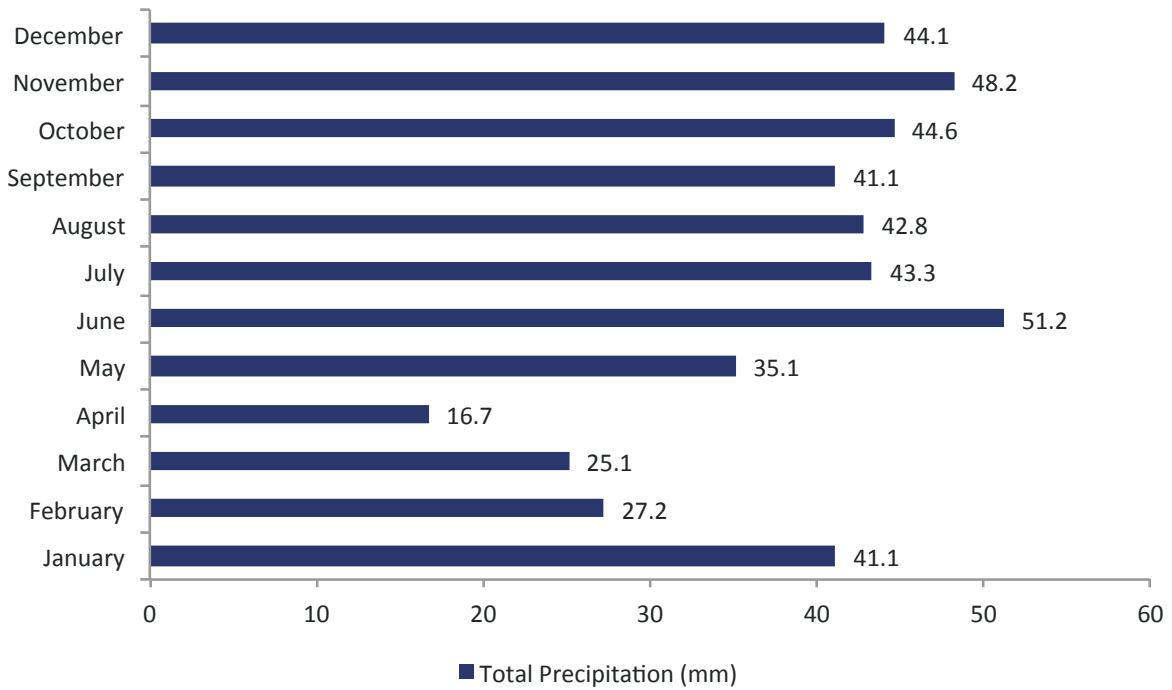
Environment Canada: 1981 to 2010 Canadian Climate Normals

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.



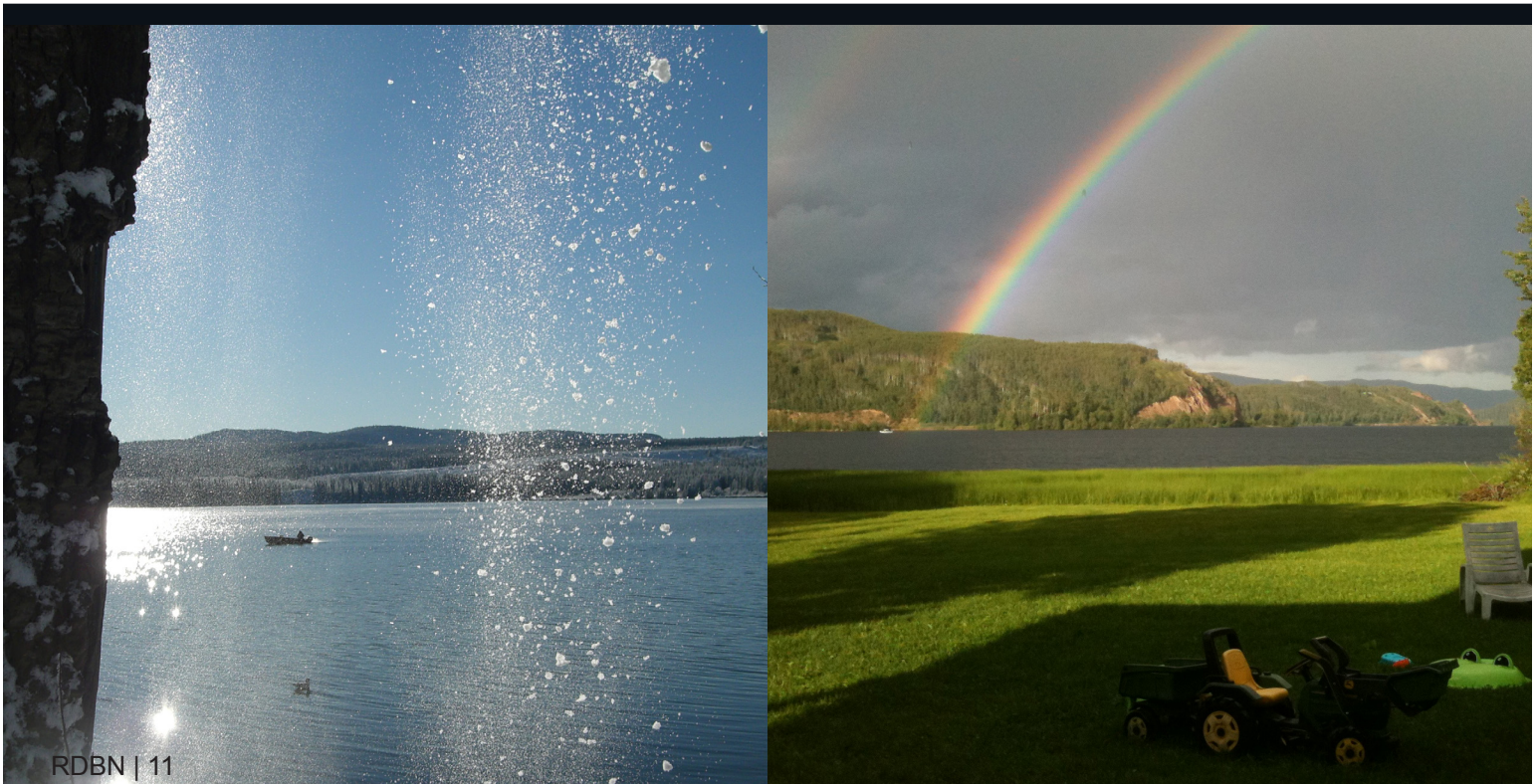
Precipitation

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

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Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
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