

# SMITHERS AND SURROUNDING AREA PROFILE



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



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### Smithers and Surrounding Area

Tucked between the stunning Hudson Bay Mountain to the west and the Babine Mountain range to the east, the Town of Smithers offers business owners, tourists and residents a mountain town experience far more than you would expect from a town of 5,400.

From fishing and hunting, to downhill and cross-country skiing, to golfing, snowmobiling, canoeing and kayaking, the list of activities that residents enjoy is extensive. Add in a range of urban features such as a downtown bursting with independent shops, cultural pursuits and indoor recreation opportunities, and it's clear Smithers and surrounding rural area is an attractive place to live and work.

Located directly on the Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway (Route 16), approximately half way between the cities of Prince Rupert and Prince George, Smithers is a regional service center for the larger Bulkley Valley.

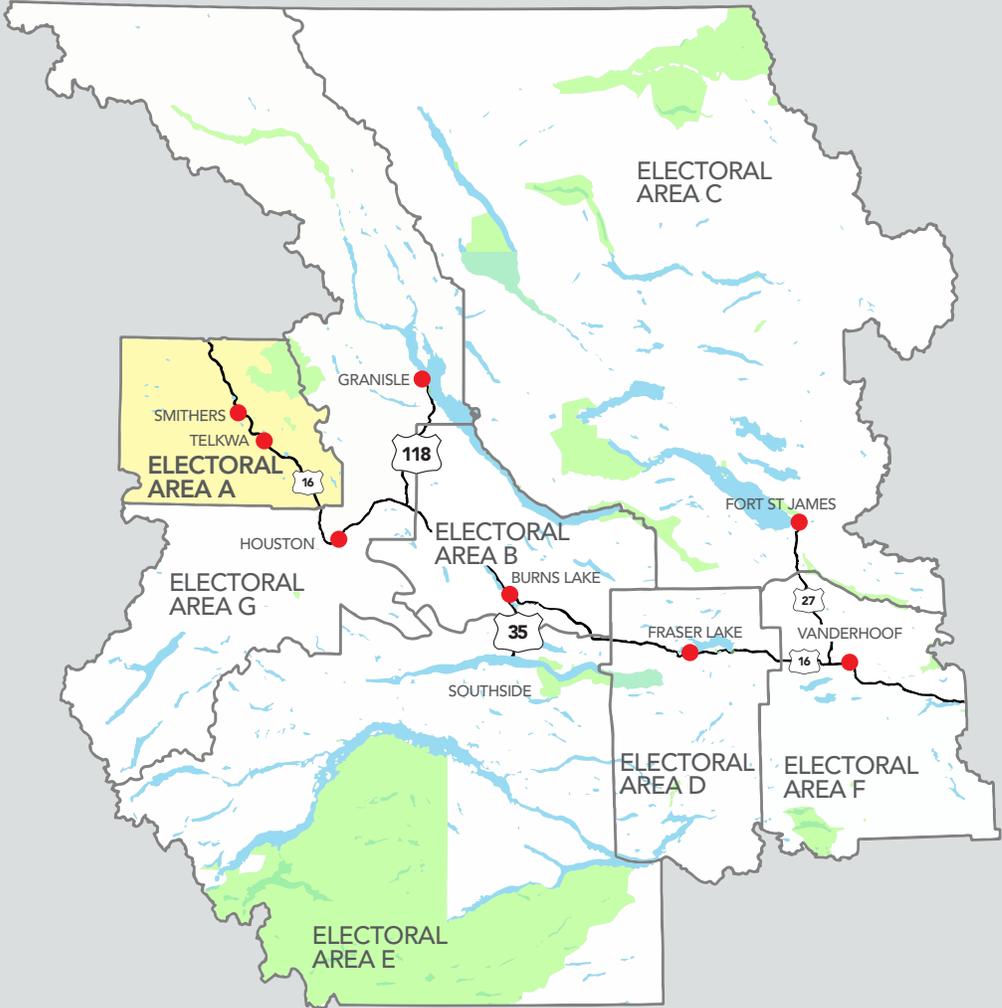
### The Regional Profile

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

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

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

# Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Map



Distance from SMITHERS to:

PLACE	DISTANCE (KM)	DRIVING TIME (HR)
Prince George, BC	371	4 hr
Kitimat, BC	259	2 hr 45 min
Prince Rupert, BC	348	4 hr 21 min
Edmonton, AB	1,109	12 hr 30 min
Vancouver, BC	1,151	12 hr 46 min
Calgary, AB	1,155	13 hr 44 min
Whitehorse, YT	1,249	16 hr 39 min
Seattle, WA	1,265	14 hr 2 min
Portland, OR	1,545	16 hr 45 min
Yellowknife, NT	1,975	23 hr 31 mins
Anchorage, AK	2,380	31 hr

Legend

- Municipalities
  - Parks
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  - Regional District Boundaries
  - Highway
- N

1: SMITHERS AND SURROUNDING  
AREA COMMUNITY PROFILE



**SMITHERS**

# DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

## Population Growth

Population growth in Smithers and Electoral Area A, 2001-2011

POPULATION GROWTH	2001	2006	2011
Smithers	5,414	5,217	5,404
Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural)	5,696	5,290	5,391
Northern BC	315,217	304,173	304,620

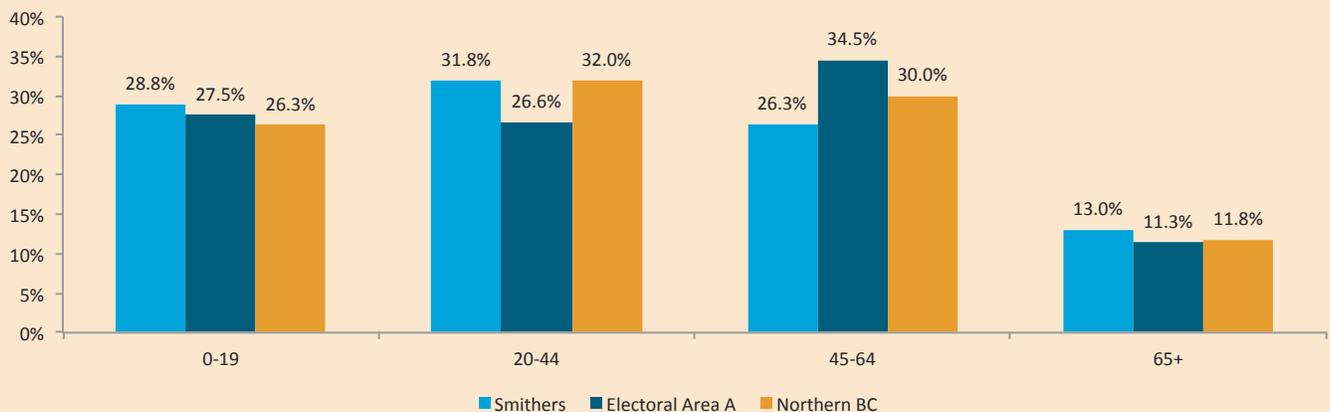
Source: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2001-2011

In 2011, the Town of Smithers had the largest population among the municipalities in the RDBN with a population of 5,404. In addition, Smithers has had a relatively stable population over the past 10 years.

From 2001-2006 the population of Northern BC decreased by 3.5%, similar to the decrease of 3.6% in Smithers. However, Smithers experienced a 3.6% increase in population from 2006-2011, which outpaced the growth in the Northern BC and Electoral Area A, where the growth rates were 0.1% and 1.9% respectively.

## Age Structure

Age structure in Smithers and Electoral Area A in 2011

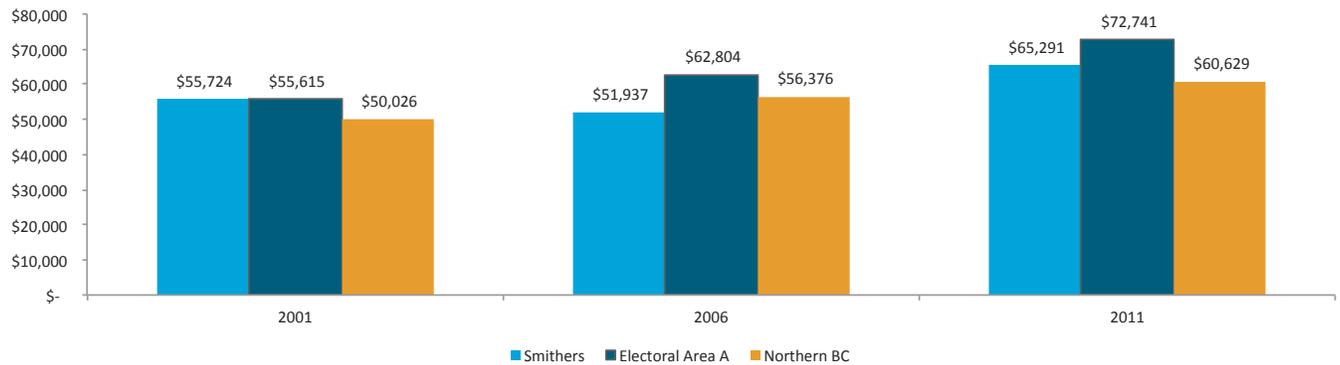


Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011

In 2011, residents of Smithers were younger than the population of Northern BC on average. The median age in the Town was 37, while the median age in Electoral Area A and Northern BC was 42 and 39 respectively. The age structure of the region shows that Smithers had a larger youth population (ages 0-19) compared to the surrounding rural area and Northern BC. Smithers also had a relatively low portion of the population between the ages of 45-64.

# Household Income

## Median household income in Smithers and Electoral Area A in 2001-2011



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

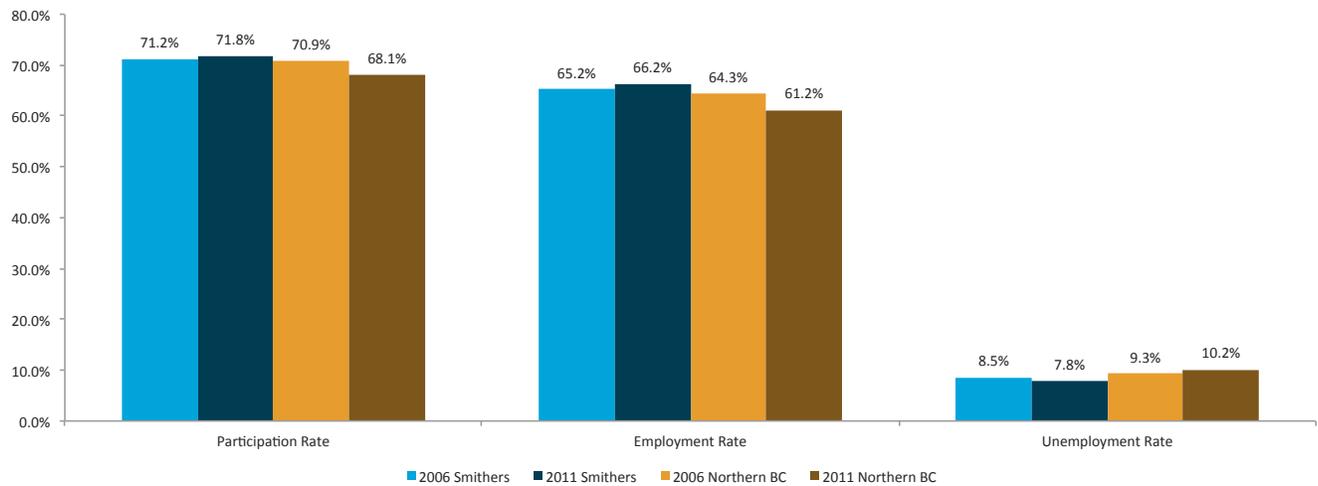
Median household income in the Town of Smithers has generally been higher than in Northern BC from 2011 to 2001, with the exception of 2006. Residents of Electoral Area A had a higher median income than the Town throughout the 10 year period. Smithers experienced a 6.8% decline in median household income from 2001-2006, but recovered from 2006-2011. During that time, Smithers experienced an increase of 25.7%, which was greater than the rates of increase of 10.6% and 7.5% in The RDBN and in Northern B.C respectively.



# WORKFORCE PROFILE

## Employment

Employment data in Smithers and Northern BC from 2006-2011



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

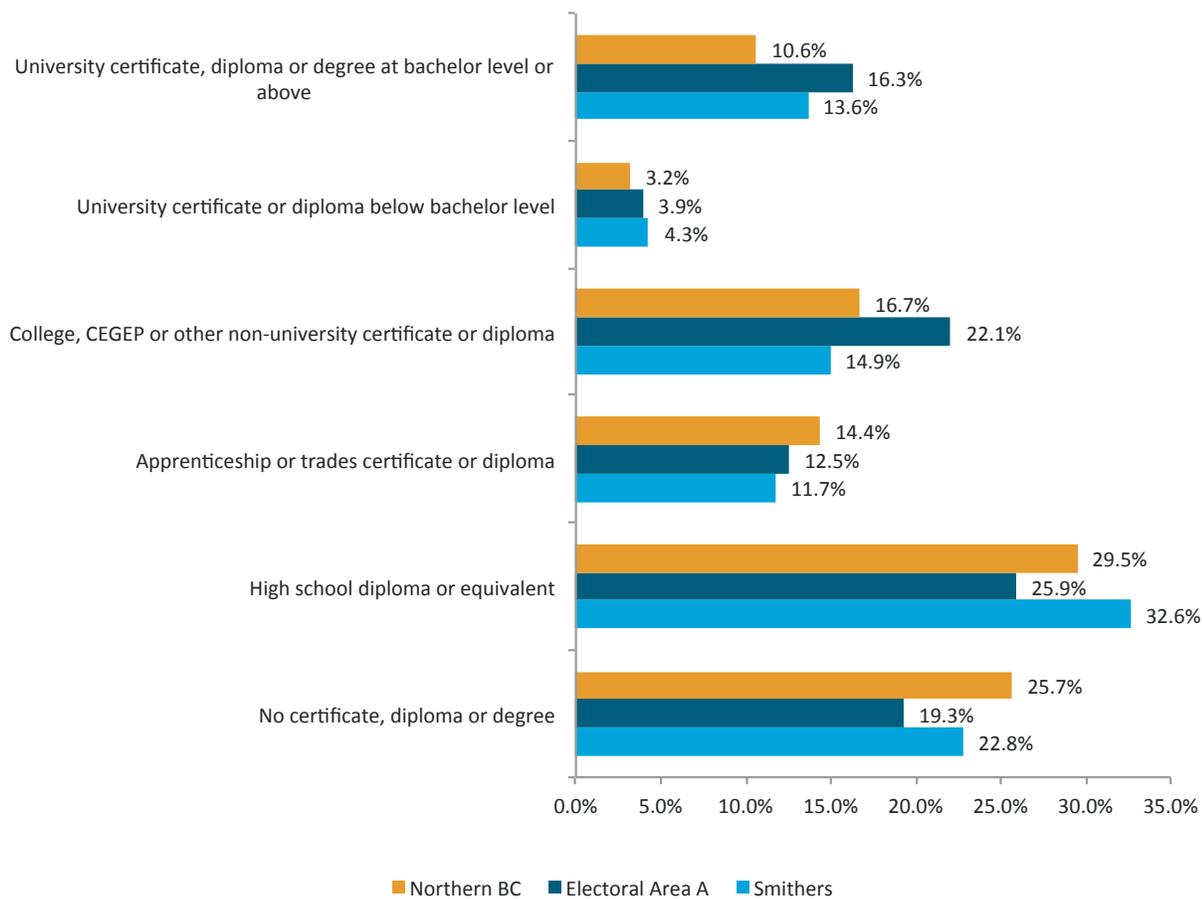
Smithers had a lower unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2006 and 2011. The unemployment rate decreased from 2006-2011, while in Northern BC the rate increased. In 2011, Smithers had the second highest level of participation in the labour force in the RDBN, at 72%. A high participation rate suggests that residents tend to be active in the labour force.





# Education

## Educational attainment in Smithers and Electoral Area A in 2011

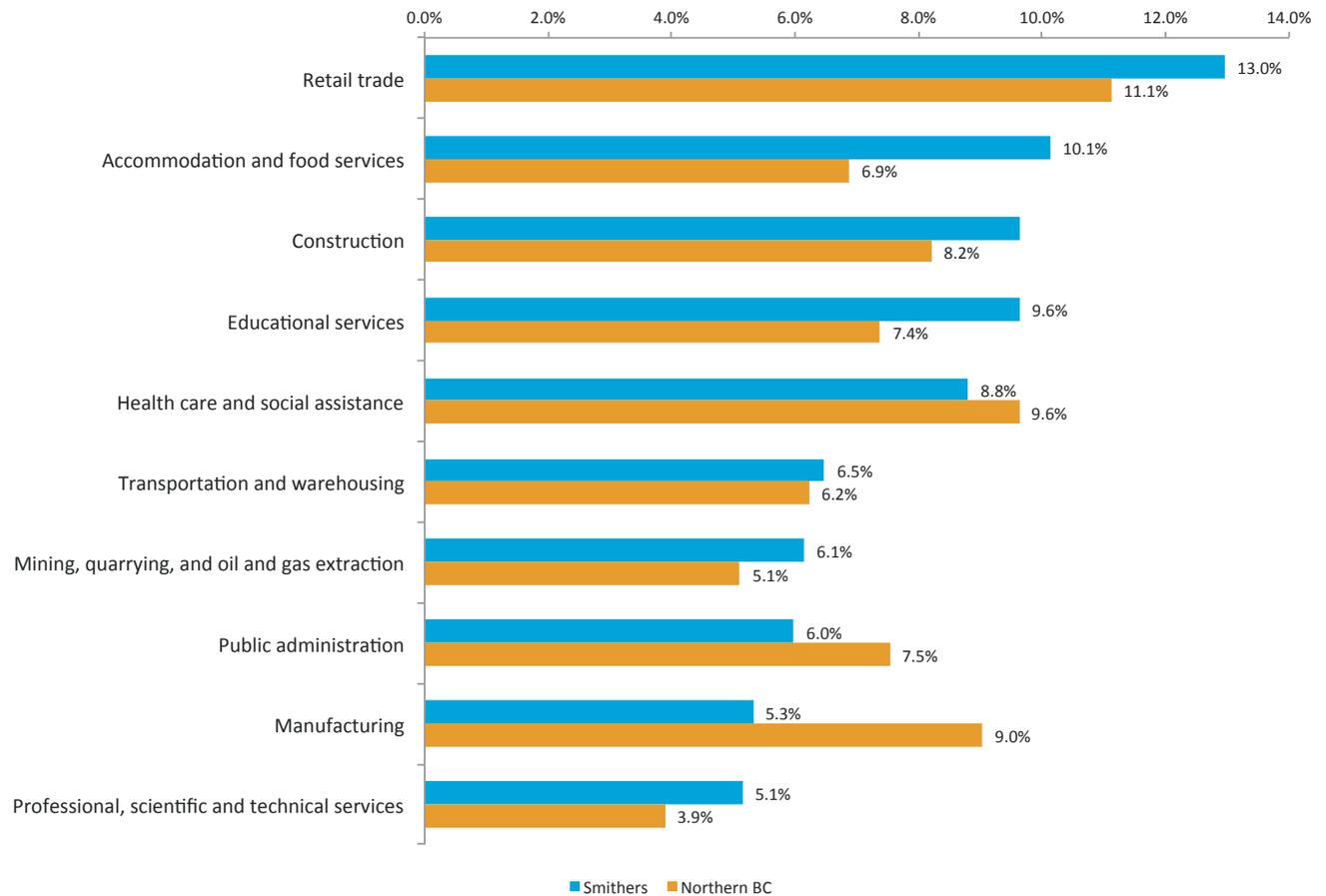


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey

Smithers had a higher portion of the population with a university education and lower portion with no certificate, diploma or degree than the rest of Northern BC in 2011. Compared to Smithers, Electoral Area A had a higher percentage of the population with a university degree and a lower portion with no certificate, diploma or degree.

# Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in Smithers and Northern BC in 2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey

In 2011, Smithers had a total labour force of 3,010 people. In Smithers and Northern BC, employment is distributed across the economy in a number of sectors. The sectors that employed the most people in Smithers were retail trade and accommodation and food services.



Major employers in Smithers are balanced between the private and public sectors. Some major employers in Smithers include the following:

NAME	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
Government of British Columbia	278
School District No. 54	270
Pacific Inland Resources	240
Hy-Tech Diamond Drilling	171
Bulkley Valley Credit Union	81
Town of Smithers	65
Hudson Bay Mountain Adventures	60
Hudson Bay Lodge	60
Northern Engineered Wood Products	50

## Local Post-Secondary Education Facilities and Employment Service Providers

NAME	FACILITY OR SERVICE
Northwest Community College	Post-Secondary Institution
Community Living BC	Training Services
Smithers Community Services Association	ESL Training
Kopar Administration Ltd	Employment Programs
WorkBC Employment Services Centre	Employment Services

# TRANSPORTATION

The following transportation businesses and facilities are found in Smithers.

NAME	CATEGORY
Alpine Lakes Air Ltd.	Airplane Services
Canadian Helicopters Ltd.	Helicopter Services
Central Mountain Air Ltd.	Airplane Services
DJ Airside Services	Airplane Services
Glacier View Aviation Ltd.	Airplane Services
Greyhound Express - Smithers	Bus Service
Hawkair Aviation Services Ltd.	Airplane Services
Highland Helicopters Ltd.	Helicopter Services
Interior Helicopters	Helicopter Services
Jazz Air Inc.	Airplane Services
Mustang Helicopters	Helicopter Services
Northern Thunderbird Air	Airplane Services
Silver King Helicopters	Helicopter Services
Smithers and District Transit	Public Transit
Smithers Regional Airport	Airport
Tsayta Aviation Ltd.	Airplane Services
VIA Rail Canada Inc.	Rail Service

# COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Telus
- CityWest
- Cybernet
- Starlynx
- Bell
- Rogers



# WATER AND WASTE

## Water

### Source of Water Supply and Means of Access

Water supply for the majority of Smithers' residents is sourced from three deep wells on the southeast side of town. The water quality sourced is very good and is only treated approximately one month of the year with sodium hypochlorite during the Town's annual water main flushing operations. The Town currently does not fluoridate its water. The wells feed into a single pressure zone distribution grid which includes two water storage reservoirs capable of holding 505 ML. The Smithers Airport is supplied by a separate water system from the Town. It consists of one deep well and three underground storage cisterns, two small distribution pumps and a fire pump. The airport system also services a 29 lot subdivision on Lake Kathlyn and an elementary school.

### Water Supply vs. Projected Demand

Avg daily demand	0.73(mgd)
Peak Demand	1.5 (mgd)

### Residential, Commercial and Industrial Water Rates

Residential	\$170
Commercial	\$2.38/thousand gallons,
Industrial	actual costs

### Description of Waste Treatment Facility and Capacity

Rated Capacity	2.2 mgd
Average Daily Demand	0.57 mgd

## Solid Waste Disposal Services

Commercial and residential garbage is picked up once a week.

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

Landfill Name	Knockholt Regional Landfill
Location	8072 Aitken Road, 81 km east of Smithers
Capacity Left at Current Site	64 years
Plans for New Capacity	Current plans will add an additional 3-5 years
Transfer Station	6150 Donaldson Rd

Residential solid waste is pickup weekly from the curbside. Self serve recycling depot located in Smithers

### Recycling

Although no curb side recycling is available at this time several recycling options are available to residents of Smithers. For more information go to [www.rdbn.bc.bc/environmentalservices/recycling](http://www.rdbn.bc.bc/environmentalservices/recycling)

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## Taxes

The following chart summarizes 2013 tax rates in Smithers. 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	4.6694	42.7504	59.9945	23.0588	17.1002	14.0081	4.7308	4.6694
Regional District	1.4089	4.9311	4.7902	4.7902	3.4518	4.2267	1.4089	1.4089
Hospital District	0.6549	2.2923	2.2268	2.2268	1.6046	1.9648	0.6549	0.6549
School	3.0906	14.0000	6.2000	10.8000	6.2000	2.3000	3.4000	6.9000
Other	0.0612	0.5220	0.5220	0.1818	0.1816	0.3356	0.0612	0.0612
Total	9.8850	64.4957	73.7335	41.0576	28.5381	22.8352	10.2558	13.6944

## Development Processes and Fees

Before signing a lease or moving into a building where a business will be located, the Town of Smithers recommends contacting Development Services Department to verify basic information about a property. This can prevent future obstacles in permits and development projects.

Currently, there are 629 licenced businesses in Smithers. Business license fees range from \$160 to \$660 per year.

## Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Smithers' official community plan and zoning bylaws are available at [www.smithers.ca](http://www.smithers.ca)

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

# Incentive Programs

Startup Smithers is a free, volunteer-based program created by local entrepreneurs to assist new entrepreneurs in getting their business off the ground. It is done in the spirit of an open and inclusive community with the benefit of having new businesses creating a better community for everyone.

## Business Support Services

- Community Futures Nadina
- Startup Smithers
- Smithers District Chamber of Commerce
- Bulkley Valley Economic Development Association

## Business Funding Programs

Community Futures Nadina

# Local Economic Development Services

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

Allan Stroet  
Economic Development Officer  
Bulkley Valley Economic Development Association  
201 – 3848 3rd Avenue, Box 3243  
Smithers BC, V0J 2N0  
Email: [allanstroet@bveda.ca](mailto:allanstroet@bveda.ca)  
Phone: 250-847-4355

Heather Gallagher,  
Chamber Manager  
Smithers District Chamber of Commerce  
1411 Court Street, Box 2379  
Smithers BC, V0J 2N0  
Email: [heather@smitherschamber.com](mailto:heather@smitherschamber.com)

# Mayor Contact

Mayor Taylor Bachrach  
1027 Aldous St, PO Box 879  
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0  
Email: [mayor@smithers.ca](mailto:mayor@smithers.ca)

# QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

## Housing

The housing stock in Smithers consists of the following:

DESCRIPTION OF TYPICAL HOUSING STOCK	# OF UNITS
Total Private Dwellings (2011 census)	2,265
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents (2011 census)	2,190
Single detached houses (2011 census)	1,410
Semi-detached houses (2011 census)	100
Apartments, duplex (2011 census)	345
Other dwellings (2011 census)	20
# of owned dwellings (2011 census)	1,594
# of rented dwellings (2011 census)	671
RECENT AND FUTURE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS	# OF UNITS
# of dwellings constructed before 1986 (2006 census)	1,455
# of dwellings constructed between 1986-2006 (2006 census)	671

The typical cost for a single family home was \$165,489 in 2006.

### Rental Vacancy Rates

The availability of rental accommodation is currently low in Smithers. The Town expects that an additional rental 36 units will be constructed by April 2015.

## Accommodations

- Sandman Inn
- Hudson Bay Lodge
- Aspen Inn and Suites
- Sunshine Inn
- Stork Nest Inn
- Capri Motor Inn
- Smithers Guesthouse
- Fireweed Motor Inn
- Florence Motel
- Sidewinder Inn
- Twin Valley Inn
- Mountain View Motel

## Restaurants

- Capri Family Restaurant
- Celina's Greek Tavern
- Chatters Pizzeria
- Louise's Kitchen
- Luftikus Restaurant and Bistro
- Masa-Yama Japanese Restaurant
- Northern Star Cafe
- Streak House on Main
- A&W
- Dairy Queen
- McDonalds
- Javas Fine Coffees
- KFC
- Panagopolis
- Subway
- Trackside Cantena
- Blue Fin Sushi Bar

## Other Facilities with Capacity for Hosting Events

- Hudson Bay Lodge Convention Centre
- The Old Church
- The Legion
- Aspen Inn
- Della Herman Theatre
- Smithers Civic Centre
- Dan Hamhuis Arena

# Shopping

Shopping District: Main Street retail district

Shopping Mall: [Smithers Mall](#)

## Banks

- Bulkley Credit Services
- Bulkley Valley Credit Union Smithers Branch
- Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
- Complete Mortgage Services
- Investors Group Financial
- Royal Bank Of Canada
- Scotia Bank

## Legal Firms

- Yuen Westwood Law Corporation
- Perry & Company
- G.E. Greene Law Corporation
- Donald A. Giddings Law Corporation
- Buri Overstall Barristers & Solicitor
- James Fitzmaurice
- Terrance Hudson Law Office
- Barbara Barker

## Media

- CICK community radio
- CJFW Radio (Astral Media)
- The PEAK - CFBV Radio
- Smithers Interior News
- Smithers/Telkwa Online
- CFTK-TV BC North
- Northword Magazine

# Local Community Organizations

- BVD Hospital Auxiliary
- The North West Animal Shelter Society
- BV Arts Council
- Smithers Community Services Association
- Dze L Kant Friendship Centre
- Healthy Services for Community Living
- Northwest Addiction Services
- Smithers Snowmobile Association
- Bulkley Valley Kinsmen
- Royal Canadian Legion Smithers Branch 63
- Smithers Lions Club # 7599
- Rotary Club of Smithers
- Bulkley Valley Backpackers
- Smithers Motocross Association
- Valley Youth Fiddlers
- BV Museum Society

# Local Community Assets

Community assets are the services and organizations that enrich or support the experience of living in the community.

- Smithers Civic Centre
- Smithers Art Gallery
- BV Museum
- BV Pool & Recreation Centre
- Fitness Northwest Gym
- BV Fall Fair Grounds
- Smithers Golf and Country Club
- Smithers Bowl
- Skeena Heliskiing Inc
- Roi Theatre
- Riverside Golf Course & RV Park
- Red Door Studio & Gallery
- Pure North Yoga & Pilates Studio
- Hudson Bay Mountain Resort
- Smithers Curling Rink

## Schools

- Smithers Secondary (grade 8-12)
- Bulkley Valley Learning Centre
- Lake Kathlyn Elementary School (K-7)
- Muhiem Elementary School (K-7)
- Walnut Park Elementary School (K-7)
- St. Joseph's Catholic School (K-7)
- Bulkley Valley Christian School (K-12)
- Ebenezer Canadian Reformed School (K-12)

## Health Services

- Bulkley Valley District Hospital
- Bulkley Lodge
- Smithers Health Unit
- Smithers Family Chiropractic
- Alpine Physiotherapy
- Transitions Physiotherapy
- Smithers Physiotherapy Centre
- Smithers Naturopath
- Tyhee Dental
- Driftwood Dental

### Bulkley Valley District Hospital

The Bulkley Valley District Hospital is a 25 bed acute care facility providing emergency, medical, surgical, maternity and palliative services. A specialist nursing team provides care for those under cancer treatment. The medical staff in Smithers consist of family physicians, three anesthetists, a pediatrician, visiting surgeons and other specialists. Some community services are also based at the hospital, including home support, home care nursing, and rehabilitation therapy.

### Bulkley Lodge

Bulkley Lodge provides long-term care for the elderly.

### Smithers Health Unit

The Smithers Health Unit offers Public Health Nursing services including family health services, post-partum support, parent-baby drop-in, immunization clinics, school health, Options for Sexual Health, communicable disease services, harm reduction and needle exchange services, injury prevention, quit smoking services, and community development.

“Smithers is the quintessential community. It has the geography, the resources, and the beauty. Most of all it has the people. There is an amazing energy of collaboration that is present in Smithers and it is felt throughout the community at large and it is certainly present in the business community. There is no better place for a startup. We have already started.”

Tim Tchida, President, Summit Reforestation.

“I came to Smithers because it was a great place to bring a family. It was conveniently located for my business to grow.”

Dan Young, President and Founder, All-West Glass Ltd.

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

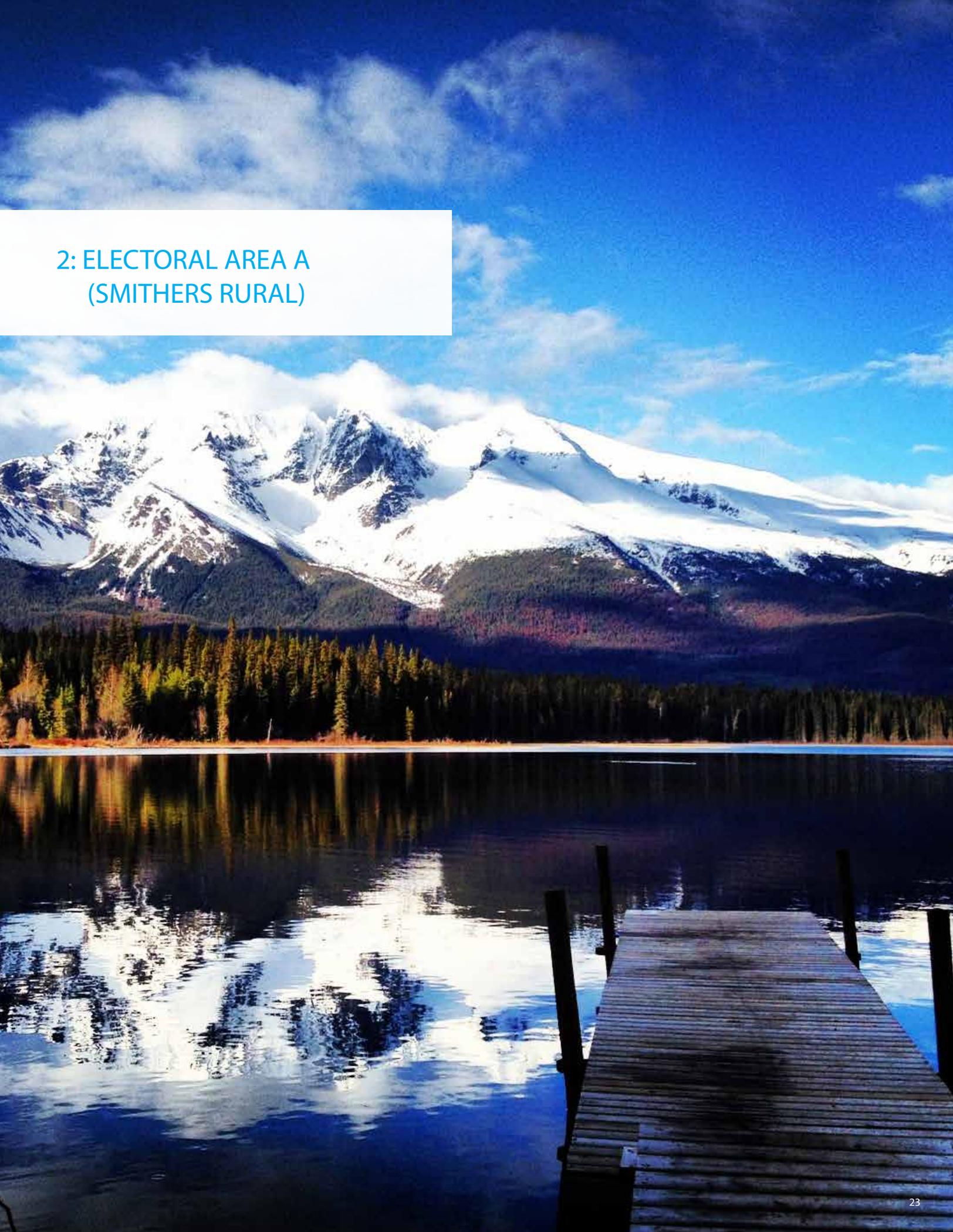


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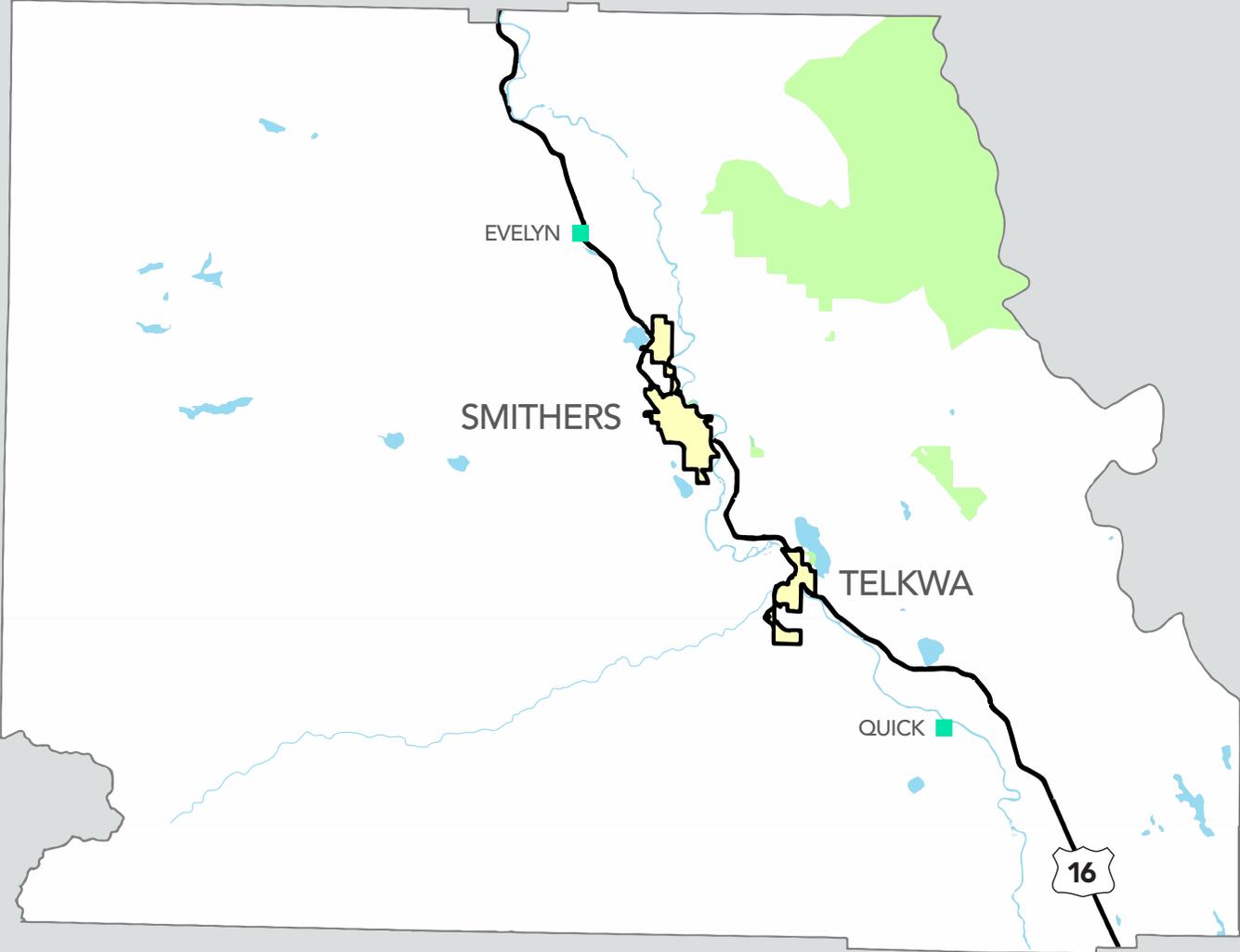


2: ELECTORAL AREA A  
(SMITHERS RURAL)



# ELECTORAL AREA 'A'

(Smithers Rural)



### Legend

- Municipal Boundary
- Unincorporated Communities
- Lakes

- Electoral Area Boundary
- Parks
- Highway



## Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural)

Smithers Rural, or Electoral Area A, is the most populated Electoral Area in The RDBN. The rural area is known for its mountainous landscape and the municipalities of Smithers and Telkwa within its boundaries.

The rural area has a relatively high median household income, a high percentage of university and college graduates in its population and relatively high participation in the local labour force.

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en is located in Smithers, which manages the surrounding traditional territory.



# DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

## Population Growth

Population growth in Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) 2001-2011

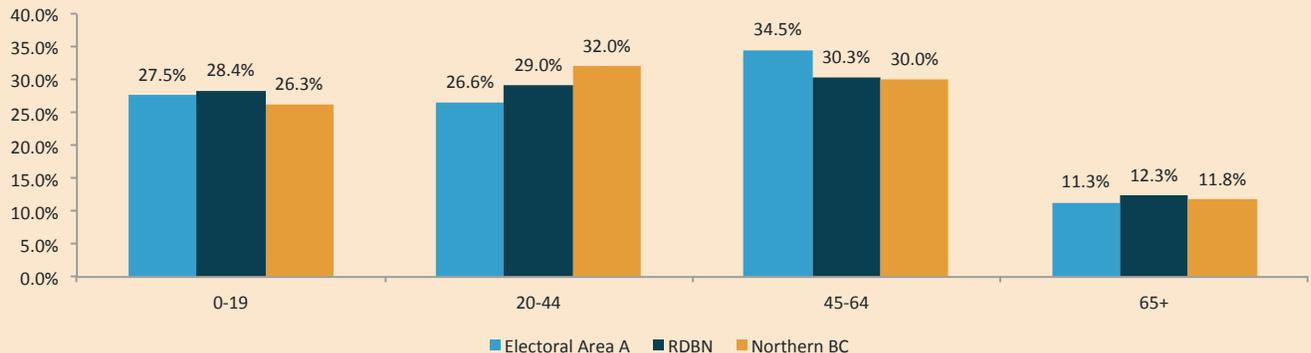
POPULATION GROWTH	2001	2006	2011
Electoral Area A	5,696	5,290	5,391
Regional District Bulkley-Nechako	40,856	38,243	39,208
Northern BC	315,217	304,173	304,620

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2001-2011

Electoral Area A has the highest population amongst the Electoral Areas in the region with a total population of 5,391. The population in Electoral Area A has remained relatively stable over the past 5 years. From 2001-2006 the population in the Northern B.C. decreased by 3.5% while in District A the decrease was 7.1%. However, from 2006 to 2011 District A saw a 1.9% increase to its population which was greater than the 0.1% growth experienced in Northern B.C.

## Age Structure

Age structure in Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) and the RDBN, 2011

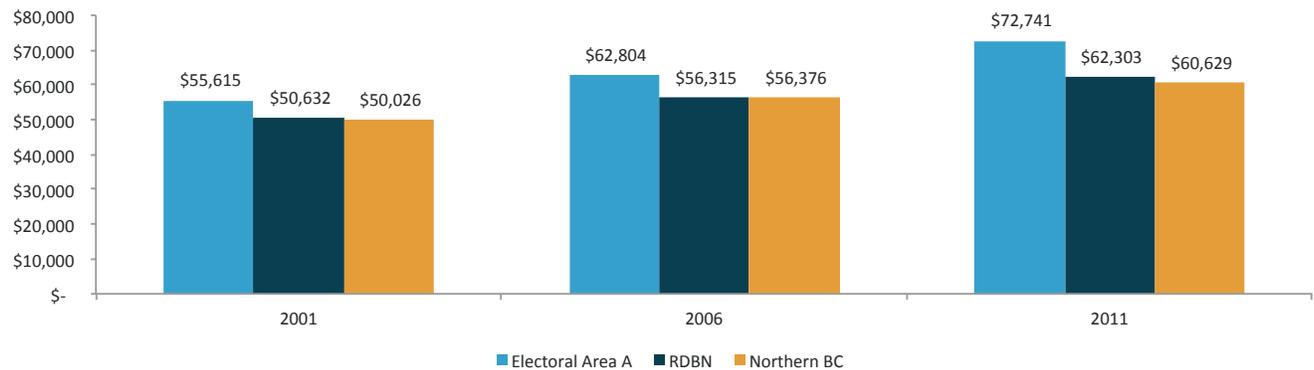


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011.

The population of Electoral Area A tends to be older than The RDBN and Northern B.C. The median age in Electoral Area is 42 while in The RDBN and Northern B.C. the median is 39. Its age structure reveals that District A has a higher older worker population (ages 45-64) and slightly lower proportion of people 65 years and older compared to The RDBN and Northern B.C.

# Household Income

Median household income in Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) and the RDBN, 2001-2011



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

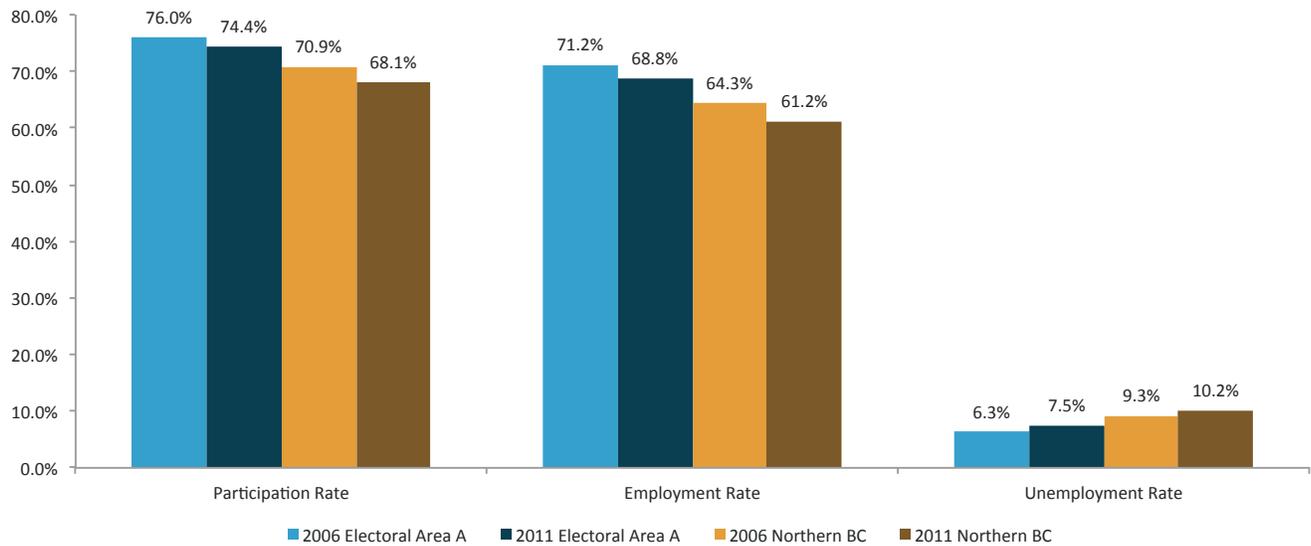
In 2011, Electoral Area A had the highest median household income among the electoral areas, of \$72,741. The household income in Electoral Area A has been higher than in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2001 to 2011. Income growth during this period also outpaced growth in the RDBN and Northern BC. Electoral Area A experienced a 13% increase in median household income between 2001 and 2006 and a 16% increase from 2006 to 2011.



# WORKFORCE PROFILE

## Employment

Employment data in Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) and the RDBN, 2006-2011



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

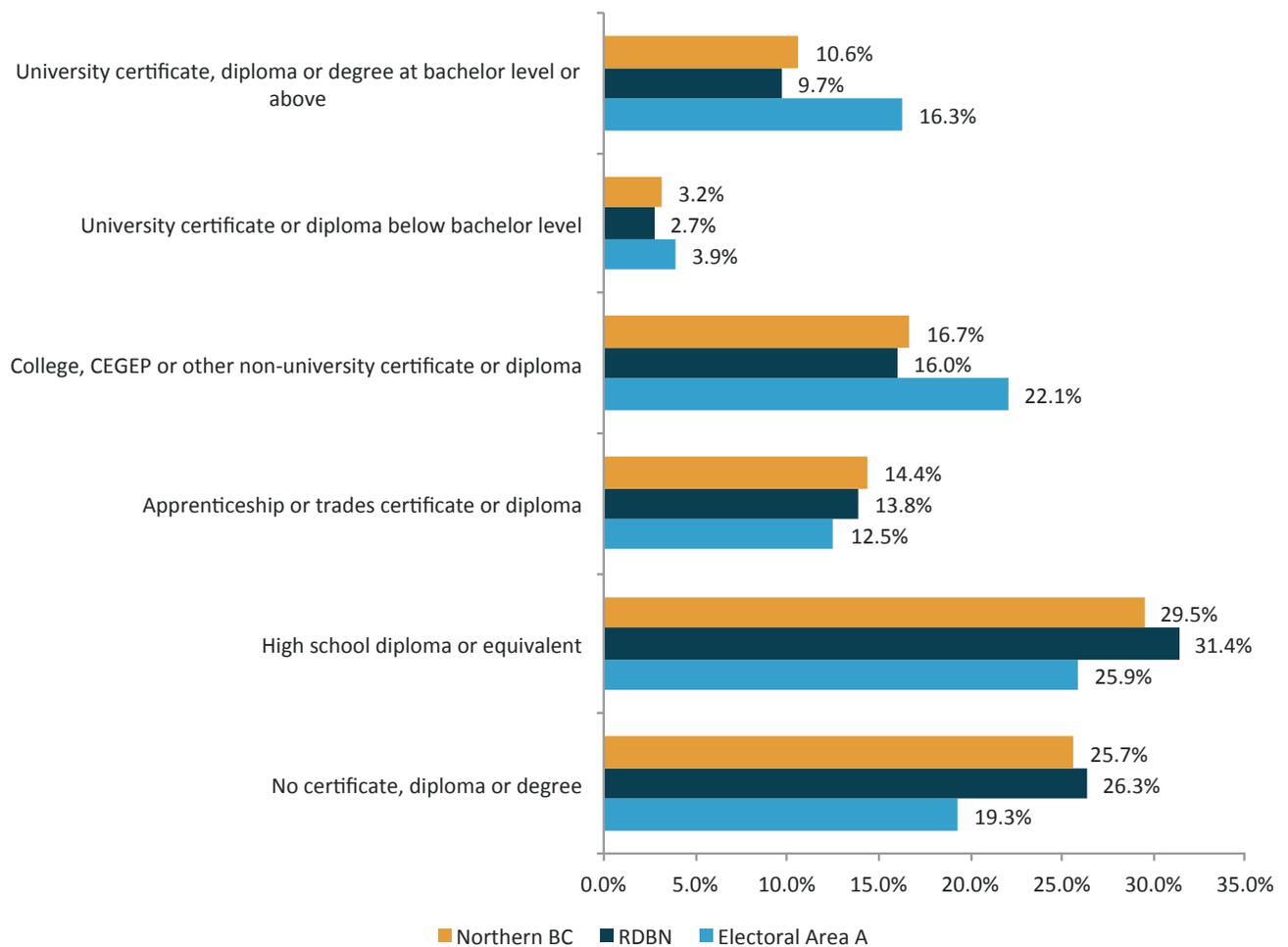
In 2011, Electoral Area A had the lowest unemployment rate and highest participation rate among the electoral areas in the RDBN. Electoral Area A had a lower unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2006 and 2011 and the unemployment rate increase from 2006 to 2011 was similar to Northern BC.





# Education

## Education in Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) and the RDBN, 2001

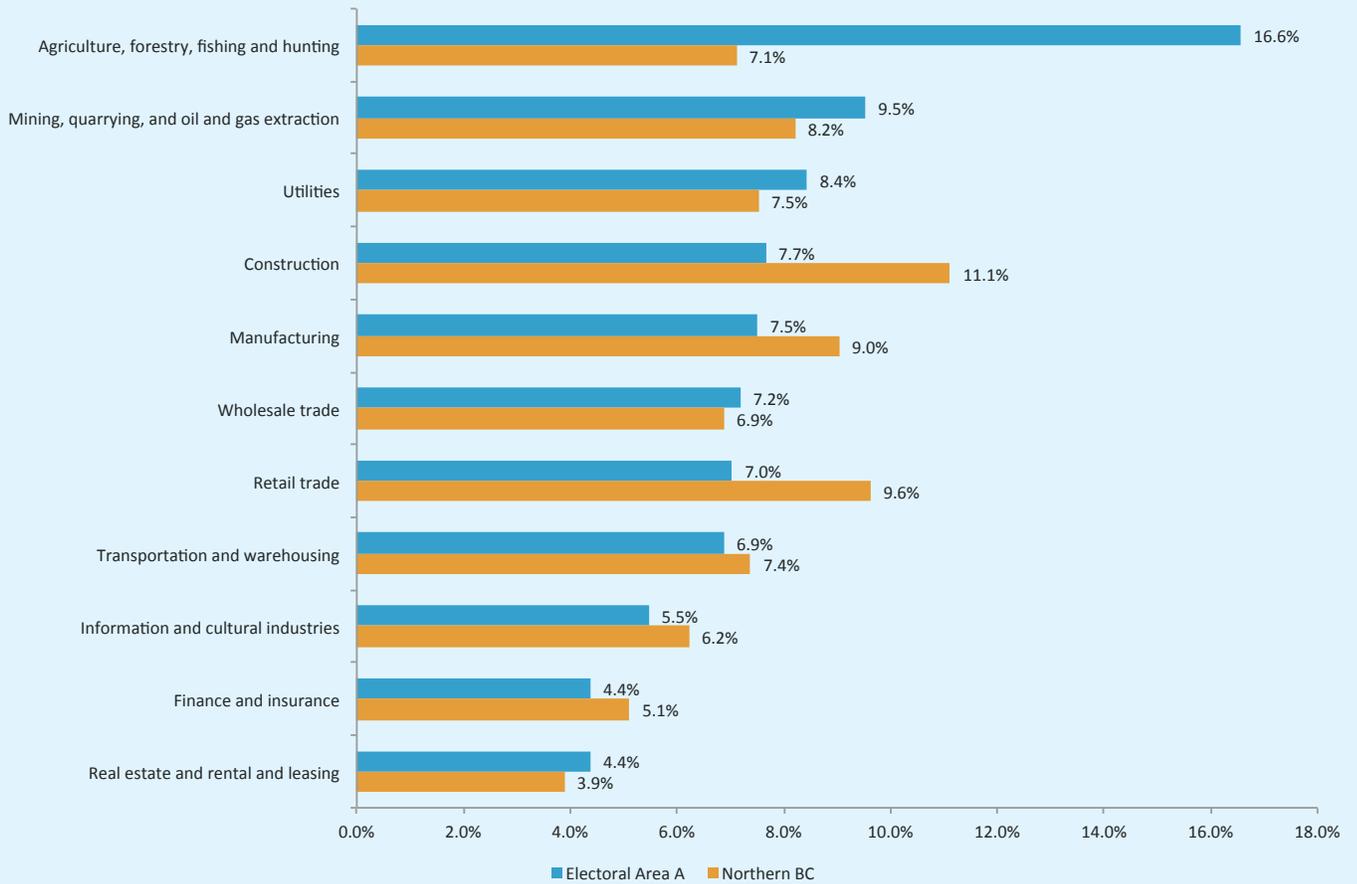


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey.

Electoral Area A has a well-educated population compared to Northern B.C as a whole. A higher portion of the population in the District has a university or college education compared to The RDBN and Northern B.C. Electoral Area A had an equivalent portion people with an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma to The RDBN in 2011.

# Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) and the RDBN, 2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey.

In 2011, Electoral Area A had a total labour force of 3,200 people. The major sources of employment come from primary industries such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, etc. The primary industries employed around 17% of the labour force, while in Northern B.C. this sector accounts for only 7% of the work force. The construction and public administration sectors are also major employers as they support 10% and 8% of employment.

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Electoral Area A, Smithers Rural, official community plan is available at: [www.rdbn.bc.ca/planning-department](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/planning-department).  
Smithers Telkwa Official Community Plan

## First Nations Services

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en is located in Smithers and was created as a central office for a number of First Nations in the area. The office offers many services throughout the traditional territories focusing on lands and resources, fisheries & wildlife, human and social services and treaty negotiations.

## Local Economic Development Services

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

Corrine Swenson  
Manager of Regional Economic Development  
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako  
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## Electoral Area Director Contact

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# QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

## Local Community Organizations

The following civic and social organizations are present in the area:

- Evelyn Community Hall
- Round Lake Community Hall
- Driftwood Community Hall
- Smithers Motocross Association
- Smithers Ski Club
- Smithers Snowmobile Association
- Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club

## Local Community Assets

The following is a list of physical and intangible assets within the community:

- Riverside Golf Course and RV Park
- Smithers Golf and Country Club
- Hudson Bay Mountain Resort
- Hankin Evelyn Back Country Ski Area



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



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







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

# Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Profile

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

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

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

## The Regional Profile

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

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

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

# DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

## Population Growth

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

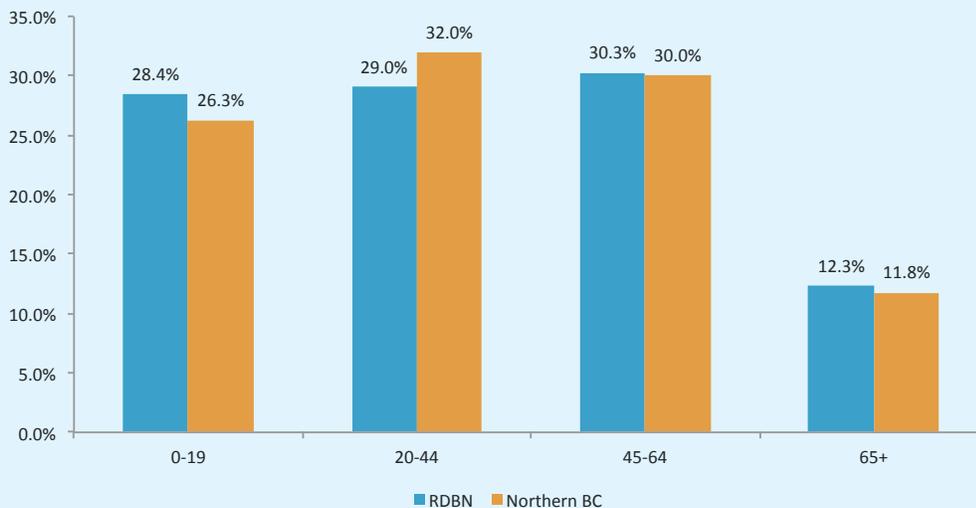
POPULATION GROWTH	2001	2006	2011
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako	40,856	38,243	39,208
Northern BC	315,217	304,173	304,620

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2001-2011

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

## Age Structure

Age structure in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011

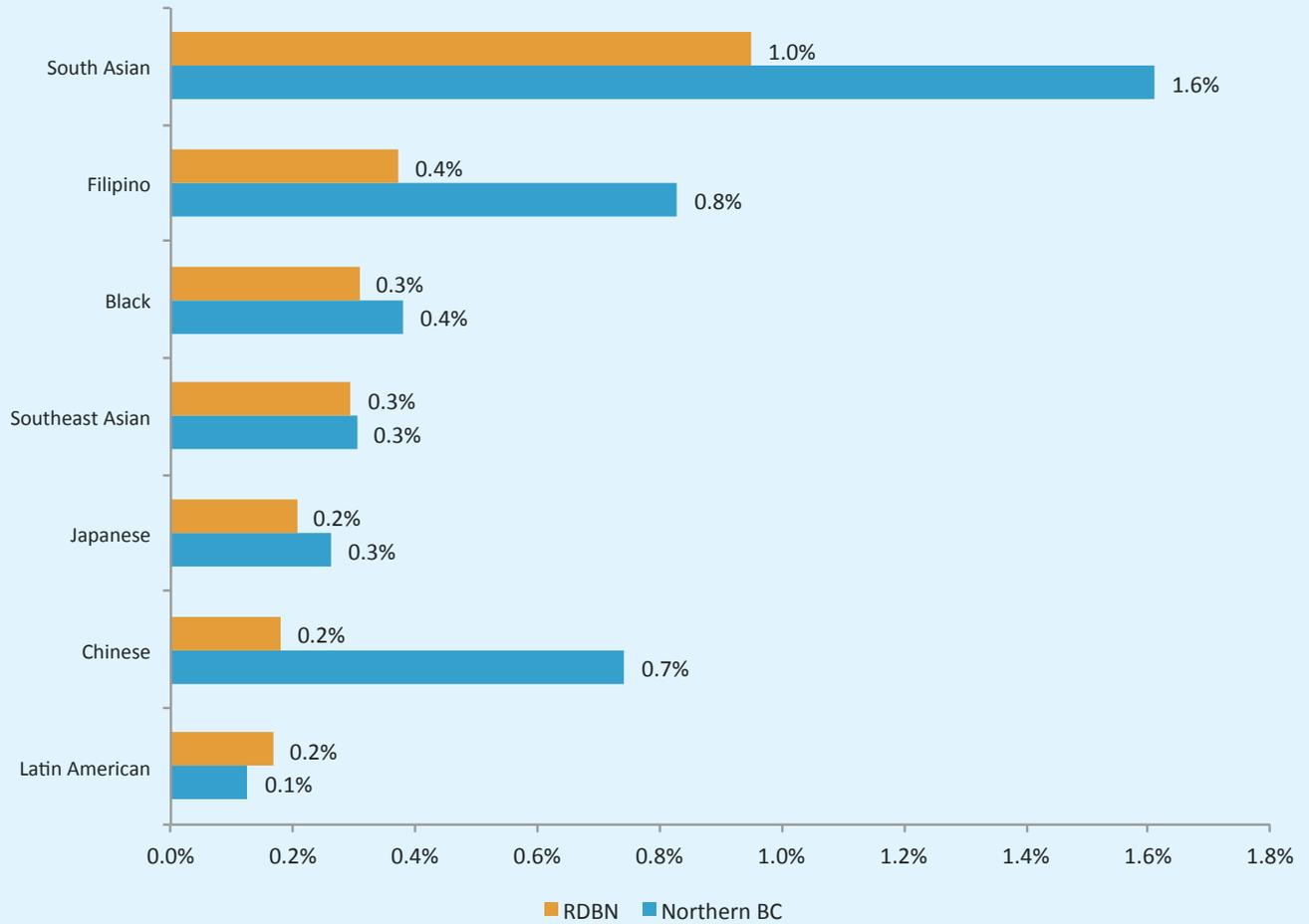


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011

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

# Ethnic diversity

Visible minority population in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011

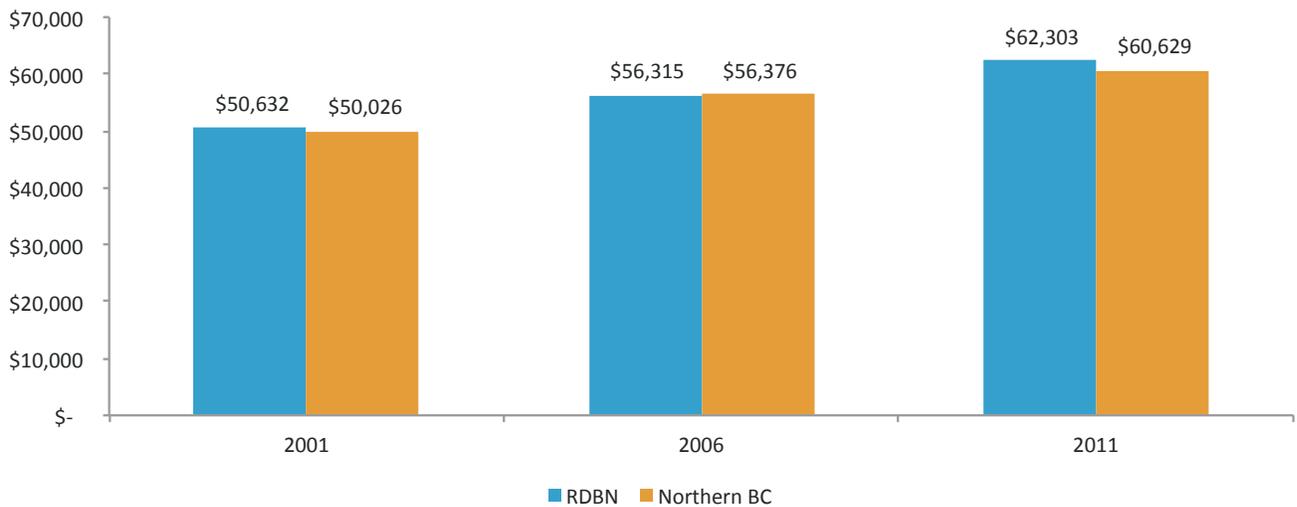
The total visible minority population of the RDBN was 2.5% of its total population, while Northern BC's proportion of visible minorities was higher, at 4.5%. The RDBN and Northern BC had a similar distribution of population amongst visible minority groups in 2011.





# Household Income

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



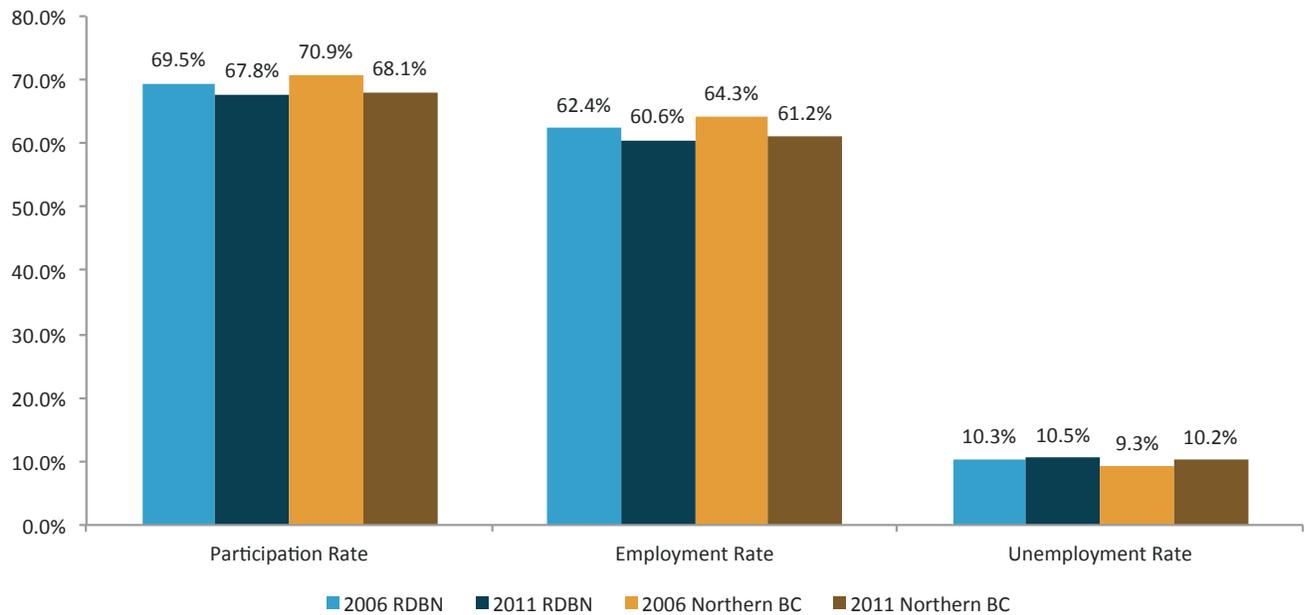
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2001-2006

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

# WORKFORCE PROFILE

## Employment

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



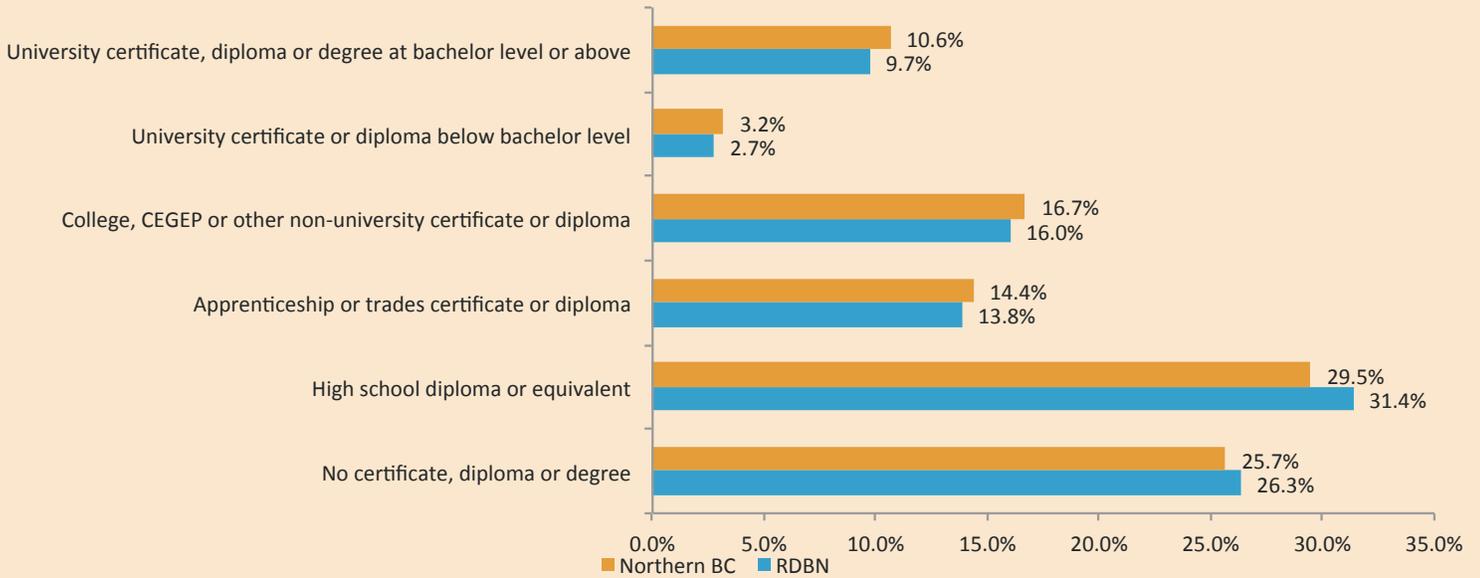
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006

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



# Education

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



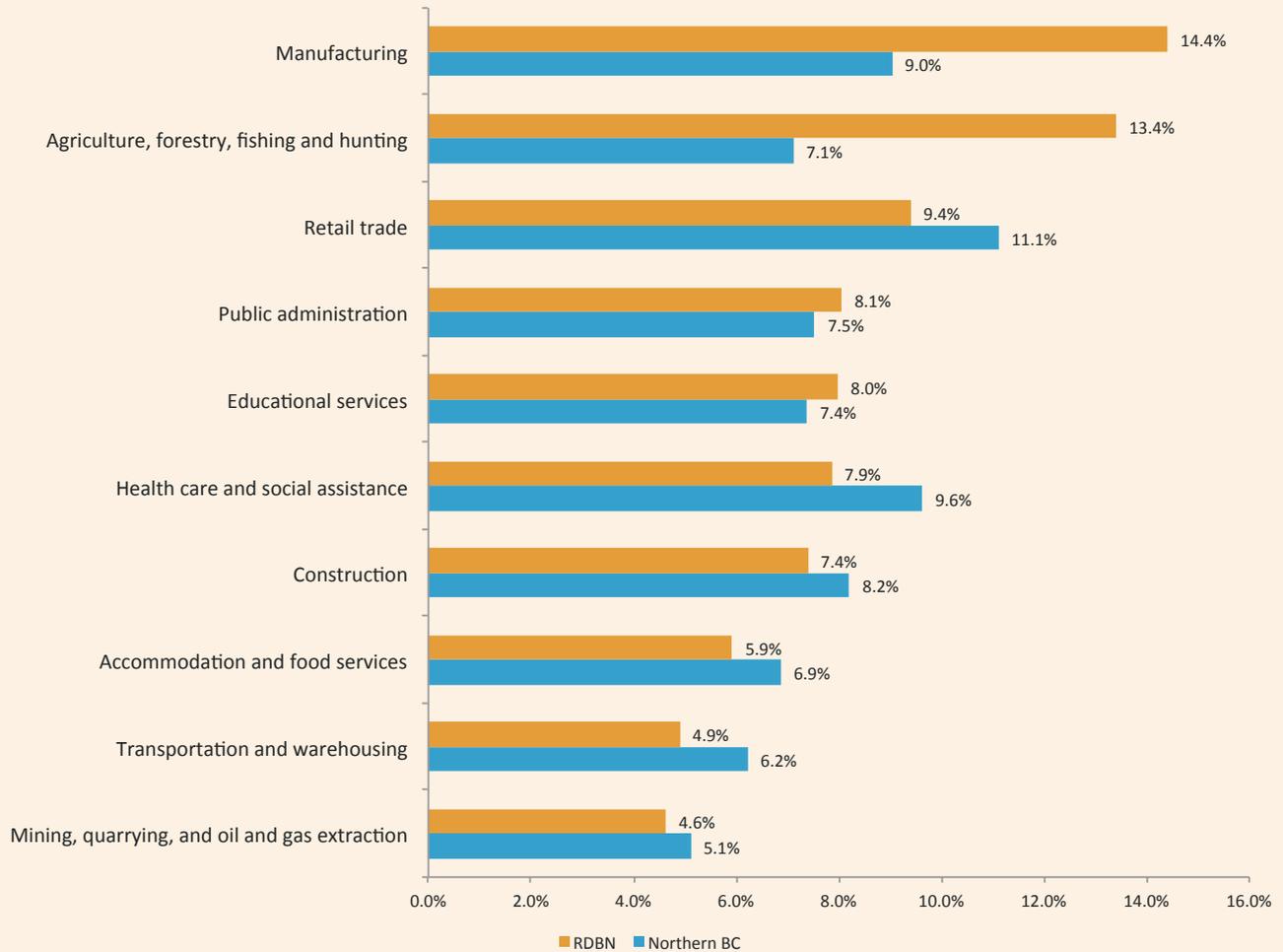
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey.

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



# Labour Force By Industry

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



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey.

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

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

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

## Post-Secondary Education Facilities

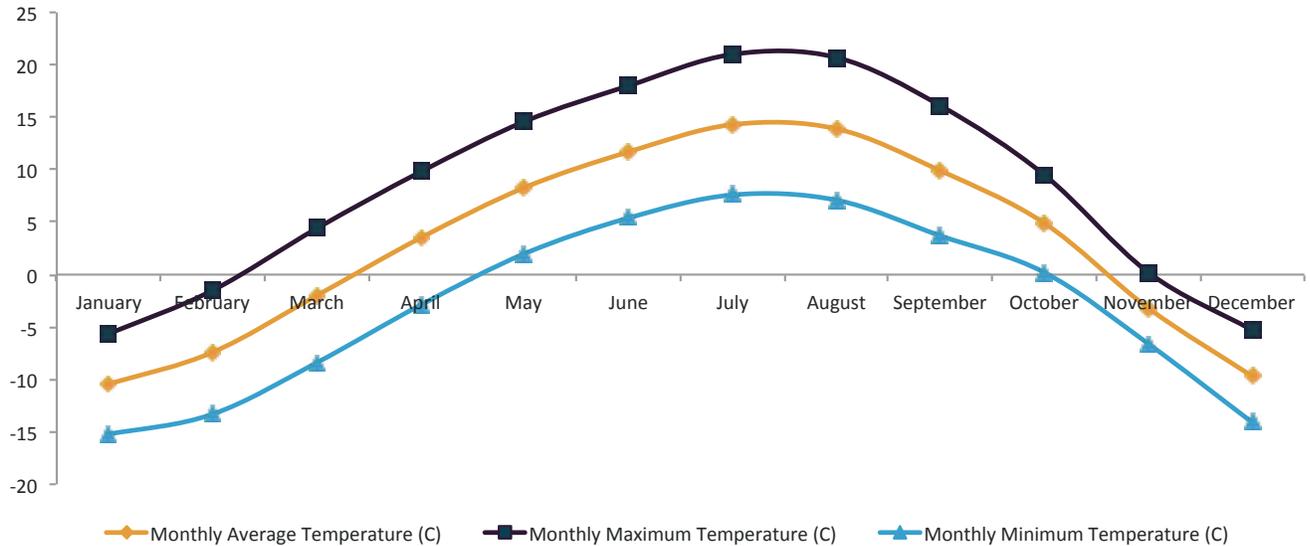
In the RDBN, post-secondary educational facilities are conveniently available in many communities.

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

# CLIMATE

## Monthly Temperature

Monthly temperature in the RDBN in 2010



Environment Canada: 1981 to 2010 Canadian Climate Normals

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



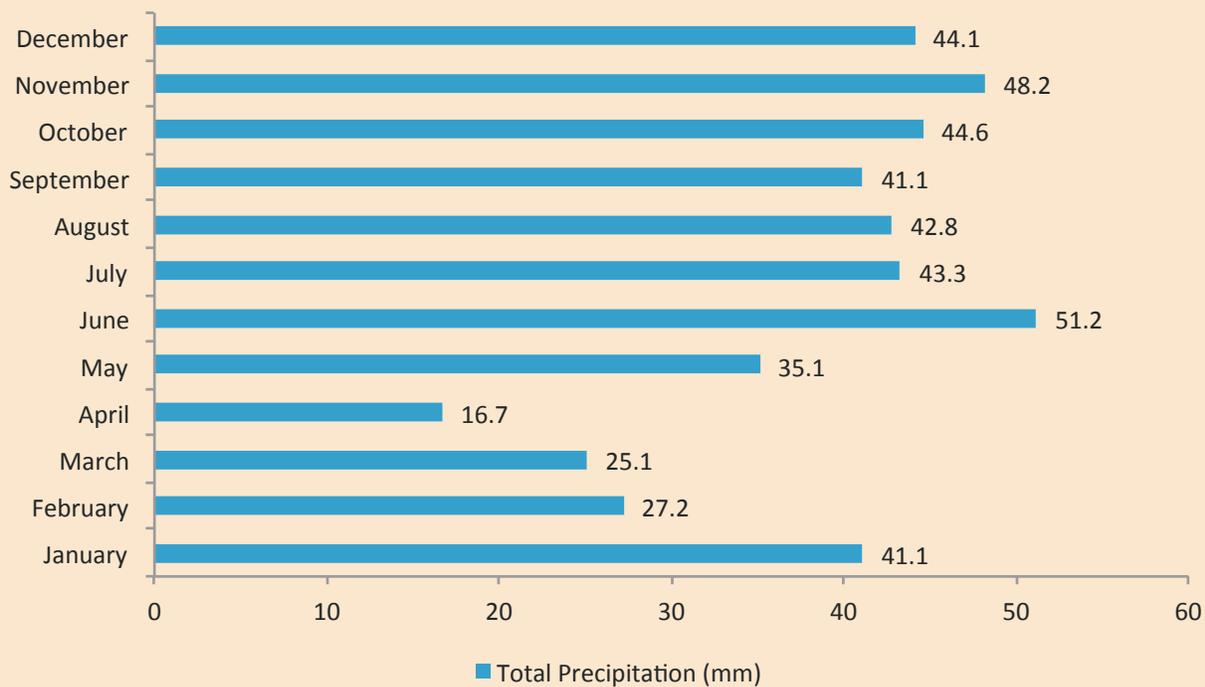
# Wind Speed

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

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

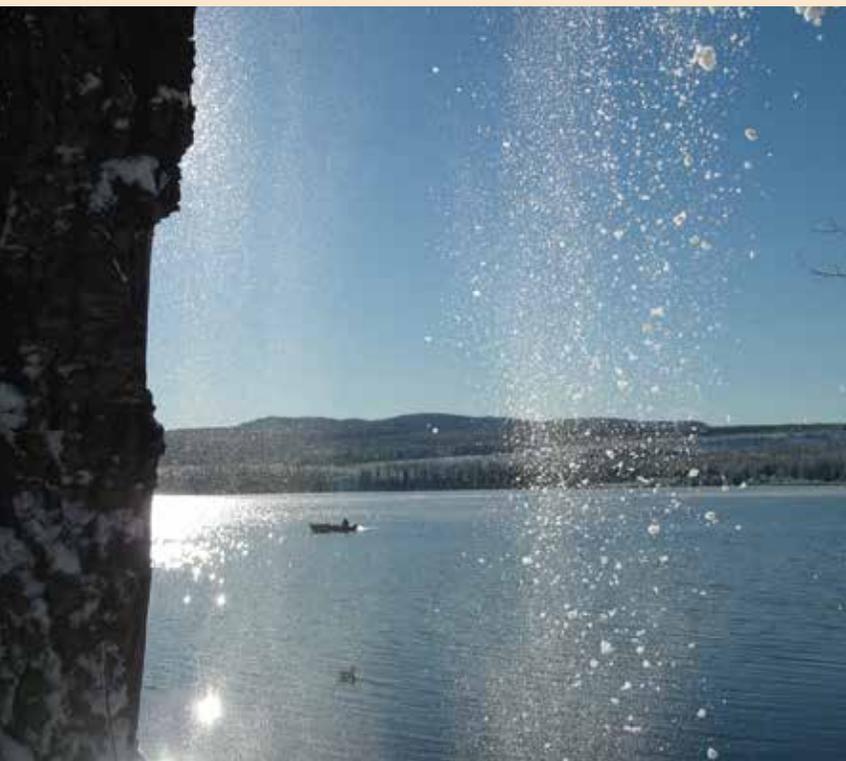
# Precipitation

## Precipitation in the RDBN in 2010



Source: Environment Canada, 1981 to 2010 Canadian Climate Normals

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



# TRANSPORTATION

## Road

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

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

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

## Rail

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

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

## Airport

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

NAME	LOCATION	OPERATOR
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.
- Hawkair—Service to and from Terrace and Vancouver.

# ENERGY AND UTILITIES

## Electricity and Gas Service Providers

The following businesses provide electricity and gas services:

- BC Hydro
- Pacific Northern Gas

## Commercial and Residential Rates for Electricity and Gas

BC Hydro electricity rates:

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

BC Hydro residential rates are listed as follows:

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

BC Hydro commercial rates are listed as follows:

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

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

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

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

### BC Northern Gas: Residential and Commercial Gas Rates

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



# Business and Workforce Support Services and Funding Programs

## Business Support Services

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

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

## Business Funding and Tax Credit Programs

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

# Regional Employment Service Providers

The following employment service providers are available within the RDBN.

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

## Local Economic Development Services

The RDBN is engaged in the following economic development projects:

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

RDBN supports the following initiatives:

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

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

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Manager of Regional Economic Development  
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