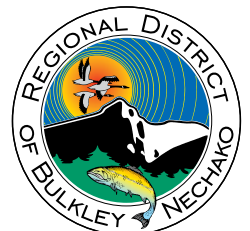




Burns Lake and Surrounding Area Community Profile

Smithers • Telkwa • Houston • Granisle
Burns Lake • Fraser Lake • Fort St. James • Vanderhoof



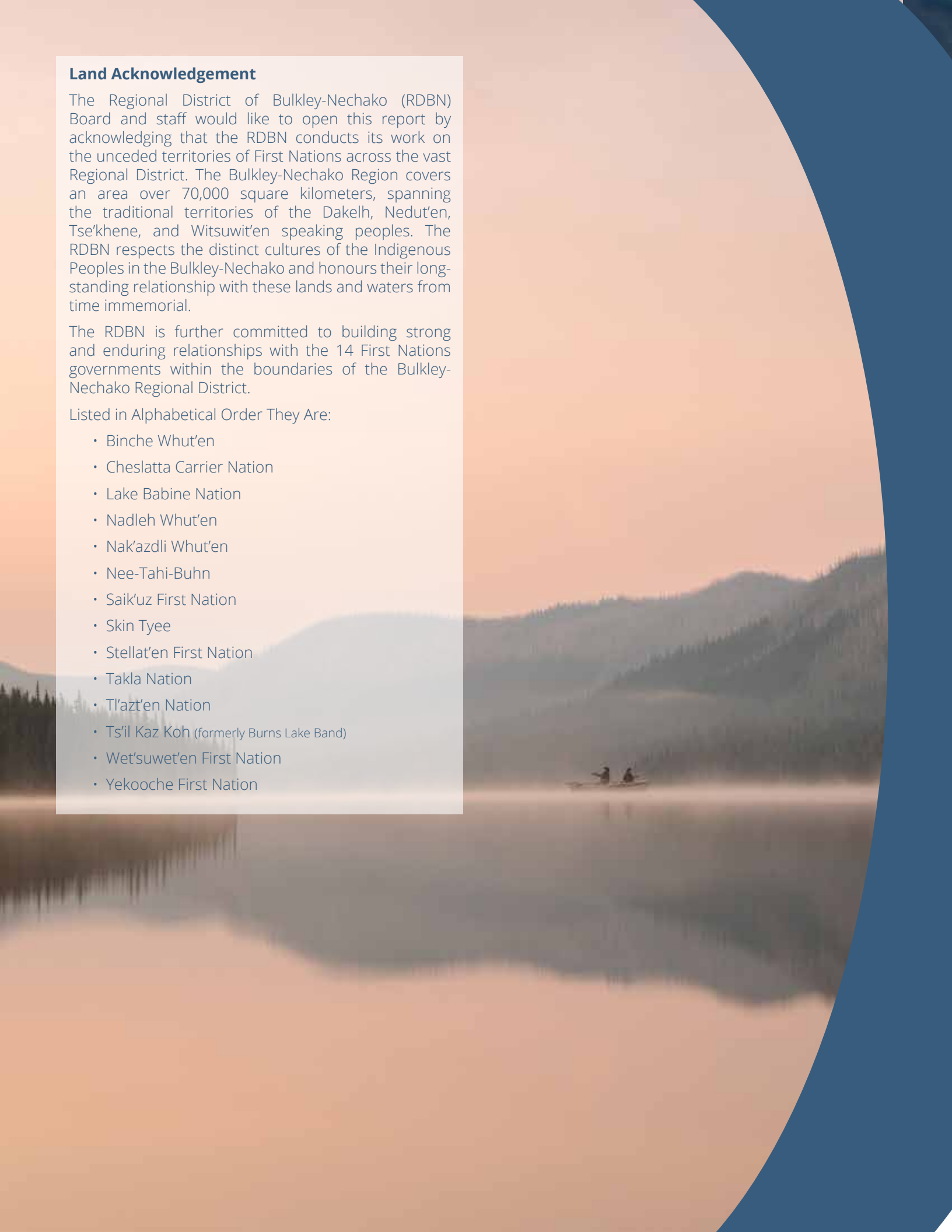
Land Acknowledgement

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) Board and staff would like to open this report by acknowledging that the RDBN conducts its work on the unceded territories of First Nations across the vast Regional District. The Bulkley-Nechako Region covers an area over 70,000 square kilometers, spanning the traditional territories of the Dakelh, Nedut'en, Tse'khene, and Witsuwit'en speaking peoples. The RDBN respects the distinct cultures of the Indigenous Peoples in the Bulkley-Nechako and honours their long-standing relationship with these lands and waters from time immemorial.

The RDBN is further committed to building strong and enduring relationships with the 14 First Nations governments within the boundaries of the Bulkley-Nechako Regional District.

Listed in Alphabetical Order They Are:

- Binche Whut'en
- Cheslatta Carrier Nation
- Lake Babine Nation
- Nadleh Whut'en
- Nak'azdli Whut'en
- Nee-Tahi-Buhn
- Saik'uz First Nation
- Skin Tyee
- Stelat'en First Nation
- Takla Nation
- Tl'azt'en Nation
- Ts'il Kaz Koh (formerly Burns Lake Band)
- Wet'suwet'en First Nation
- Yekooche First Nation





Burns Lake and Surrounding Area

The term “surprising” is used frequently by those visiting Burns Lake and the beautiful area that surrounds the village. Surprisingly friendly and welcoming people, surprisingly beautiful and easy-to-access nature, surprising availability of services, surprising serenity, surprising one didn’t visit earlier. Most of the mountain bikers, cross country skiers, fishers, and nature lovers who have visited, speak of Burns Lake with a warm light in their eyes. The rest probably moved here. “I came for the weekend thirty years ago and never left” might as well be the town motto.

An exceptional recreation facility, a state of the art hospital, excellent shopping, and a dedicated and skilled group of local food producers are just a few of the advantages that the Burns Laker enjoys, all while nestled in the serene Bulkley-Nechako region. All the necessities, including a great cup of coffee and none of the hassles of a city life. Here, if your commute is longer than ten minutes, it’s because you decided to live away from it all on a beautiful lake or an acreage, not because the traffic is bumper to bumper.

The area around Burns Lake is immense and teeming with opportunities to start a farm or a family. Francois Lake and the Southside are picturesque in the extreme, and the local economy is in great need of labour of every kind.

The Regional Profile

This community profile is one of eight such guides, one for each community within the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. The profiles contain the latest census data laid out in an easy-to-read format which can help those considering investing in or moving to the RDBN to better understand the region and its value. Each community is paired with information on the rural Electoral Area that surrounds it. While the data is delivered from the Federal Government separately, each municipality and its surrounding area are very closely linked by their people, their land, and their governments.

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 Map

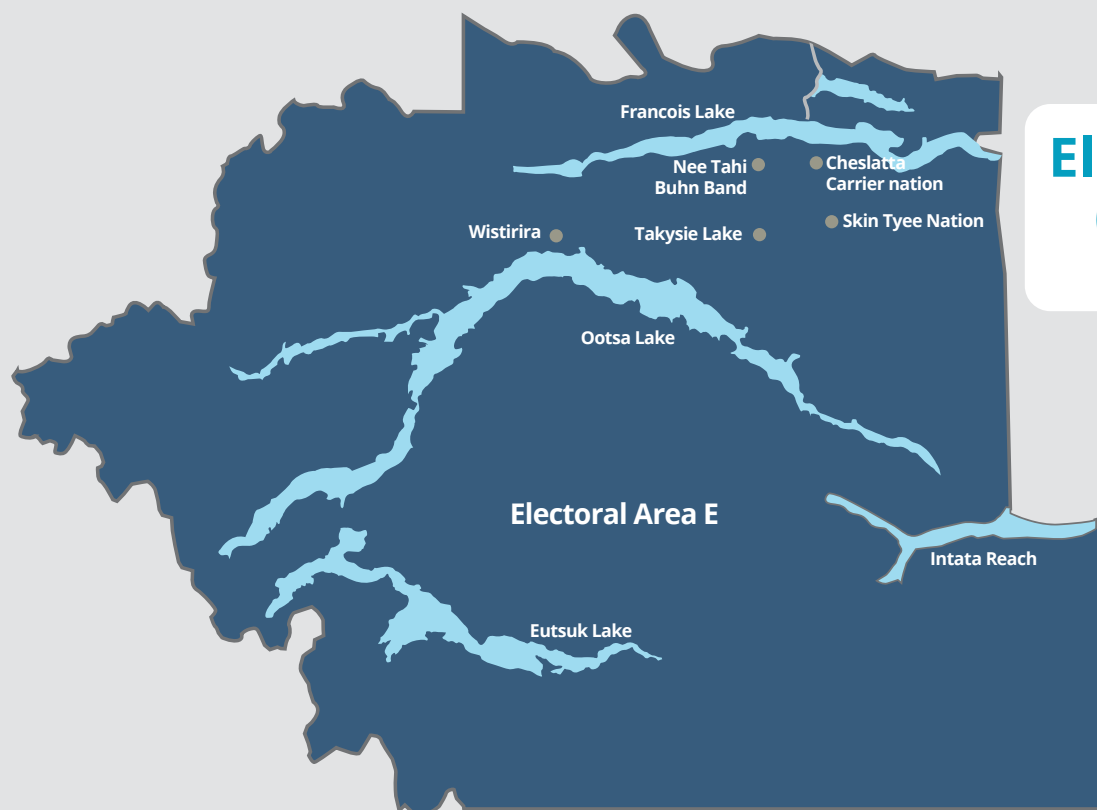


Distance from Burns Lake to Major Centres

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

Electoral Area B

(Burns Lake Rural)



Electoral Area E

(Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Population Growth

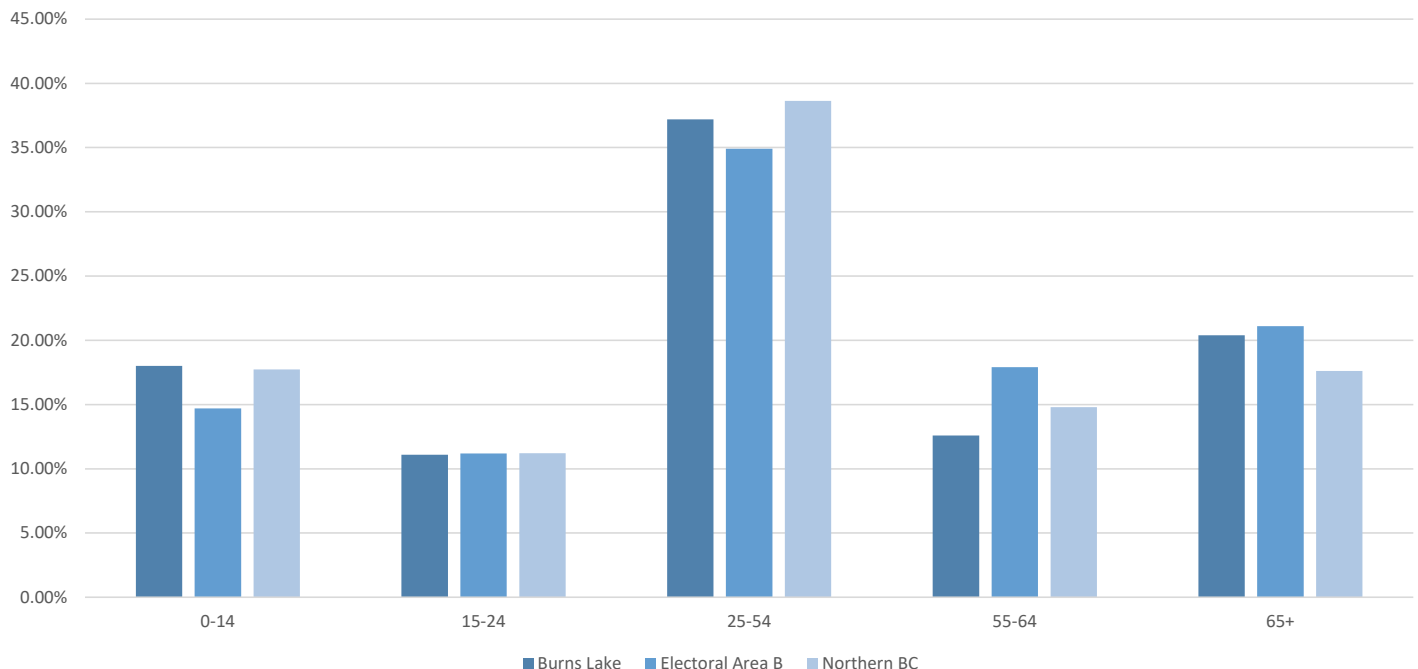
	2006	2011	2016	2021
Burns Lake	2107	2,029	1,779	1,659
Area B	2154	2,102	1,938	1,706
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225	319,628

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2021

The Village of Burns Lake had a population of 1,659 in 2021. The region's population has declined slowly since 2006. The vacancy rate for housing is low. Included within the municipal boundary are the Woyenne and Ts'il Kaz Koh increasing the population of Burns Lake to 2,247.

Age Structure

Age Structure



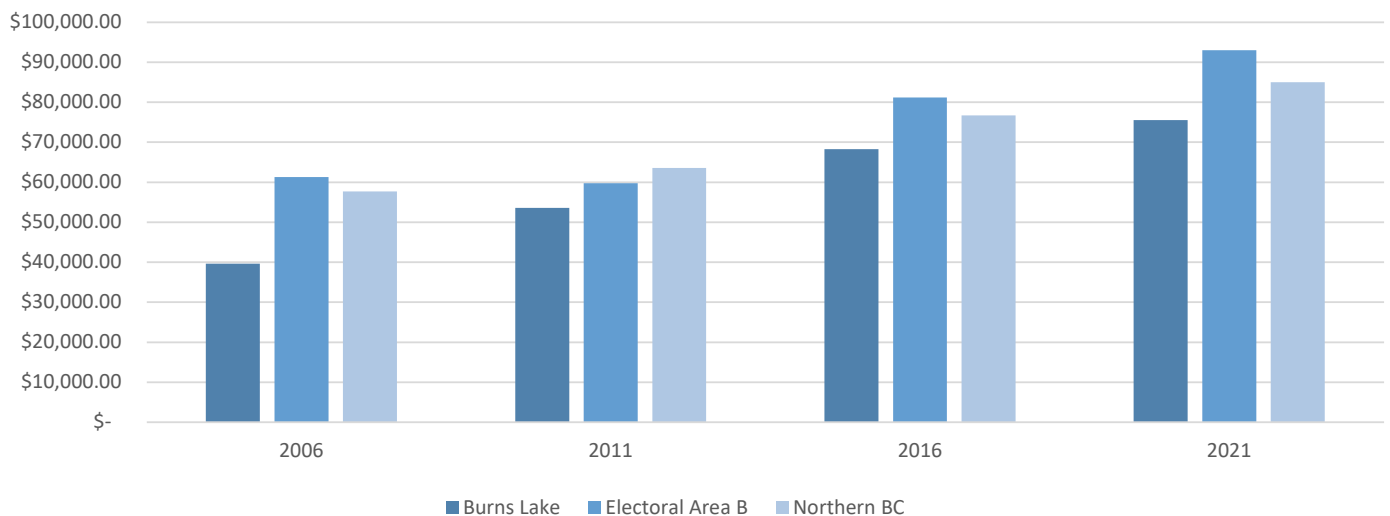
Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2021

The residents of Burns Lake are, on average, younger than Electoral Area B, as well as Northern BC. The median age in Burns Lake is 40, which is similar to the rest of the North, but Burns Lake has a larger proportion of youth age 0-14 and seniors 65 and over.

Household Income

Median household income in Burns Lake and Electoral Area B, 2006-2021

Median Household Income



Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2021

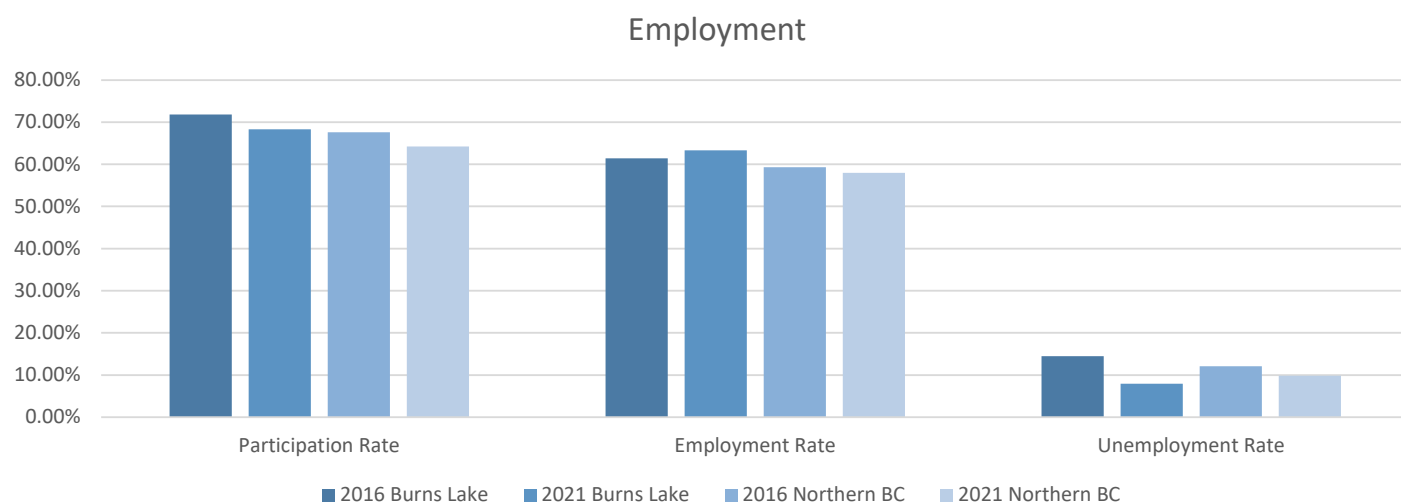
While the median household income for Burns Lake is lower than that of the rest of Northern BC, the gap has been closing significantly since 2006.



Labour and Workforce

Workforce Profile

Employment Data in Burns Lake and Northern BC, 2011-2021



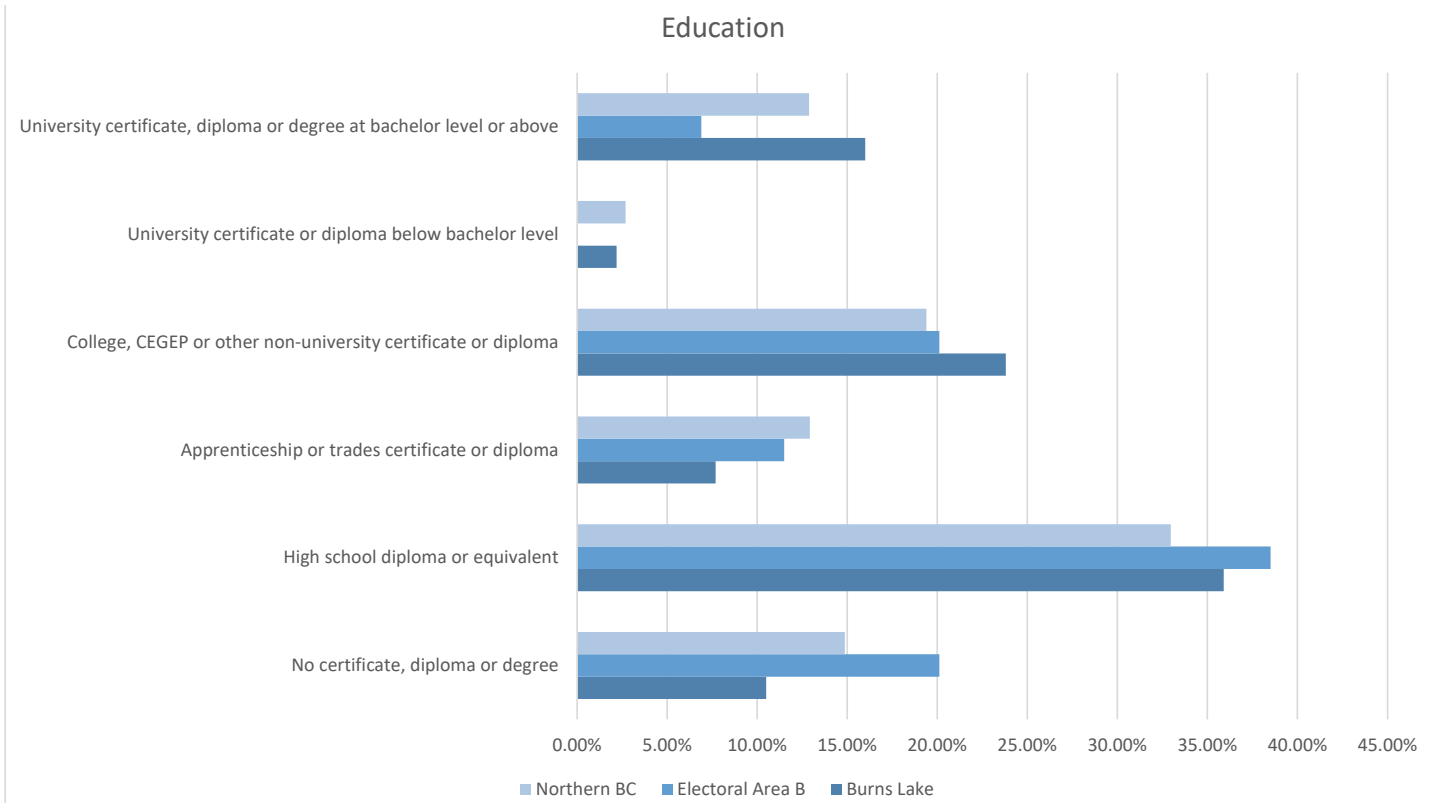
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2021

Burns Lake had a lower unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2021. The unemployment dropped by nearly half between 2016 and 2021 for Burns Lake.



Education

Education in Burns Lake and Electoral Area in 2021



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey

Burns Lake has a higher portion of the population with university and college education than does the rest of the North. There is also a smaller portion of the population with no diploma or degree.

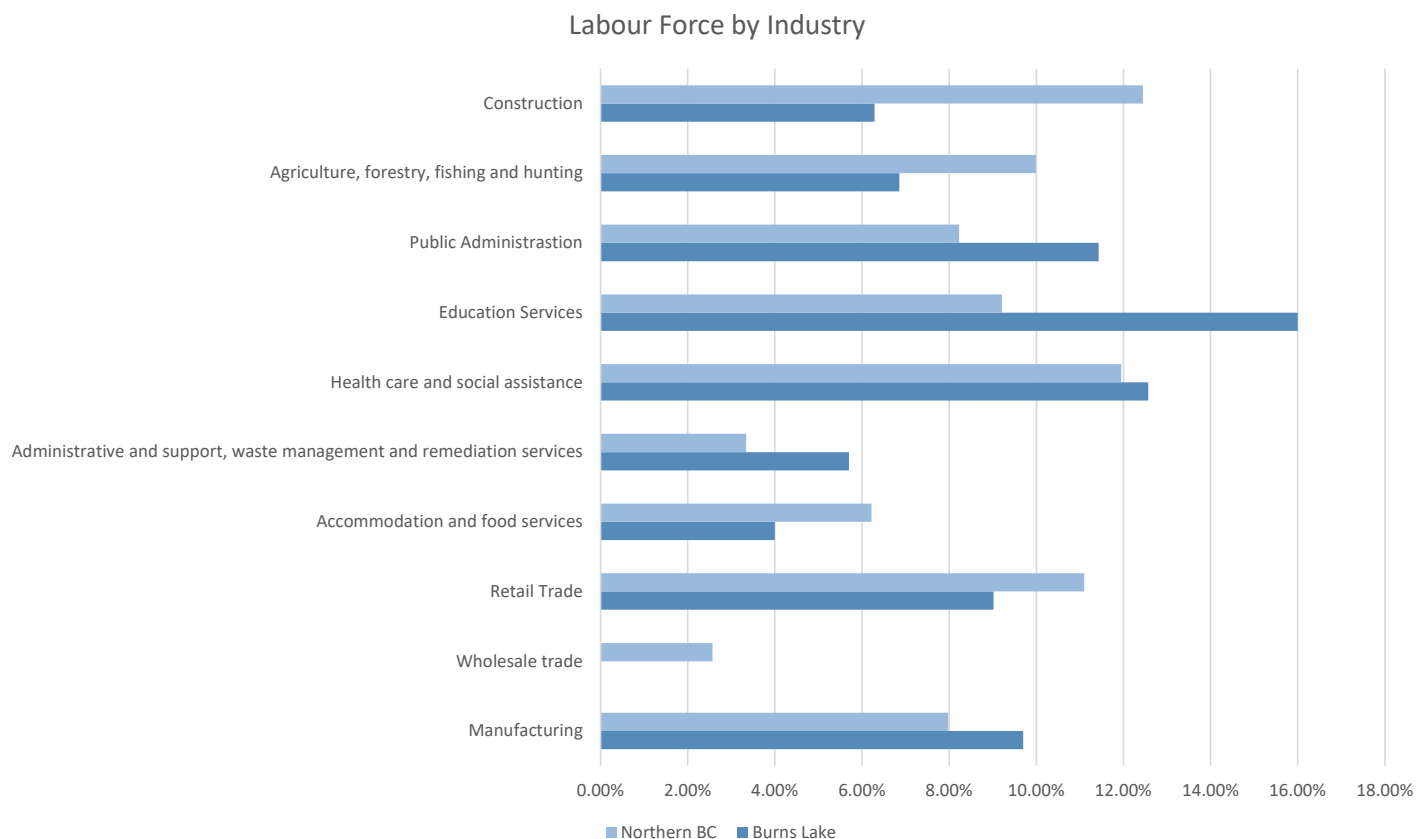
Local Post-Secondary Education Facilities and Employment Service Providers

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

Labour and Workforce

Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in Burns Lake and Northern BC in 2021



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey

In 2021 Burns Lake had a total labour force of 875 people. The size of the workforce has grown by about 30%. About 16% of the workforce within the Village work in the Educational Services sector. While in 2016, nearly a quarter of Burns Lake's workforce was employed in manufacturing, in 2021 only about 10% were employed in that sector. Healthcare and public administration also employed a significant portion of the workforce.

Major Employers

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

Transportation Services

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

Water and Waste

The Village of Burns Lake water system is comprised of three supply wells located on Gerow Island, and is piped under Burns Lake to the high lift station at the Public Works Yard. There is a backup generator installed at the pump site that will provide water during a sustained power outage. In 2021, the Village installed a water treatment facility that reduces the mineral content in the water. The Village has a total storage capacity of 3,833 m³ of water.

Water Supply Vs. Projected Demand	
Rated Capacity	126m ³ /hour
Average Daily Demand	1,100m ³
Peak Demand	2,333 m ³

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 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	62 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 Data

Taxes

The following chart summarizes 2022 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	6.29389	39.96622	39.52565	39.52565	13.13072	0.00000	6.29389	0.00000
Regional District	1.81584	6.35546	6.17388	6.17388	4.44882	0.00000	1.81584	0.00000
Hospital District	1.27729	4.47050	4.34277	4.34277	3.12935	0.00000	1.27729	0.00000
School	2.85350	12.72000	3.52000	3.52000	3.52000	1.90000	2.03000	6.98000
Other	0.37660	1.66210	1.62800	1.26540	0.94070	1.26050	0.37660	0.37660
Total	12.61712	65.17428	55.19030	54.82770	25.16959	3.16050	11.79362	7.35660

Development Fees

TYPE OF FEE	COST
OCP Amendment	\$1,000
Zoning Bylaw Amendment	\$1,000
Development Permit	\$400
Development Variance Permit	\$300
Building Permit(Commercial)	\$6/\$1000 construction value
Building Permit (Residential)	\$6/\$1000 construction value
Business License for period of January 1 - December 31	\$110
Business License for period of July 1 - December 31st	\$55

Prices per the Village of Burns Lake Fees and Charges Bylaw no. 1049, 2022.

Burns Lake's Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw are available at www.burnslake.ca

Economic Development Services

Dolores Funk

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 Henry Wiebe

#15 3rd Ave, PO Box 570
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
Email: mayor@burnslake.ca

Incentive Programs

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

- 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.
- The Village has also utilized the Business Facade Improvement Program offered through Northern Development Initiative Trust when it is available. The program provides matching funds for improving the storefront of a business and has helped to improve the curb appeal of many of the businesses in Burns Lake. The program was not funded by NDIT for the Northwest in 2023, but the Village is hopeful that the program will be funded again in 2024.



Quality of Life Factors

Housing

DESCRIPTION OF TYPICAL HOUSING STOCK	# OF UNITS
Total Private Dwellings (2021 census)	765
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents (2021 census)	689
Single detached houses (2021 census)	440
Row Houses (2021 census)	40
Moveable Dwellings (2021 census)	40
Apartment Units (2021 census)	120

HOUSING	COST
Average value of Dwellings	\$218,000

Accommodations

- Sunshine Inn
- Key-oh Lodge
- Travelers Motel
- Wanakena Motel
- Tweedsmuir Hotel

Shopping

- Evergreen Mall
- Lakeview Mal
- Downtown Business District

Legal Services

- Strimbold Law Office

Community Assets

- Radley Beach & Playground
- 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

Media

- The Moose (Vista Radio)
- Lakes District News
- The Local Connector
- CFNR
- CBC

Financial Services

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

Local Community Organizations

- Burns Lake & District Chamber of Commerce
- Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd.
- Burns Lake Community Garden
- 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 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

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
- Carrier Sekani Health Clinic
- FYI Doctors

Lakes District Hospital & Health Centre

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

Care Homes

- The Pines
- Tweedmuir House
- Heritage Manor

www.burnslake.ca



Area B Burns Lake Rural





Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

A large portion of the population of Burns Lake actually live within RDBN Area B, which encompasses an area approximately 40 km around the town. Almost all property is residential, with some additional industry and farm land. The area provides spectacular housing opportunities within minutes of the town.

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

Population

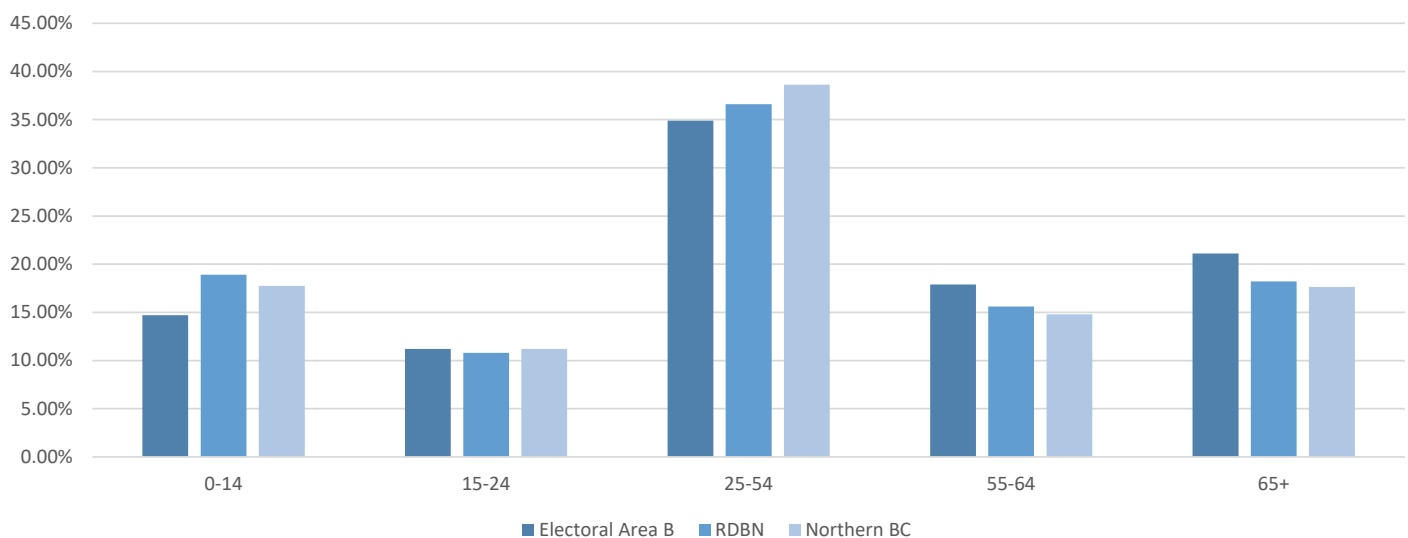
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016	2021
Electoral Area B	2,154	2,102	1,885	1,706
Regional District Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,896	37,737
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225	319,628

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2021

The population of Electoral Area B has declined by just over 20% since 2006, but the vacancy rate for housing is very low.

Age Structure

Age Structure

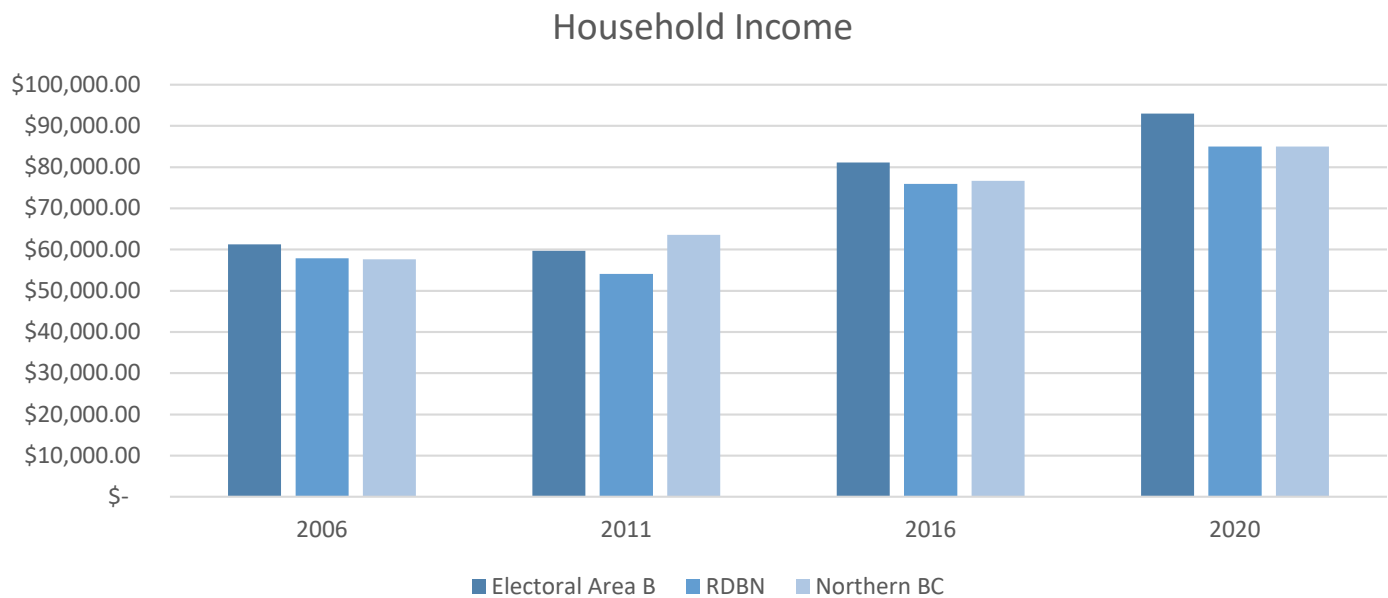


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2021.

The Burns Lake Rural population contains more seniors and retirees than Burns Lake or the rest of the North.

Demographic Data

Household Income



Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2020.

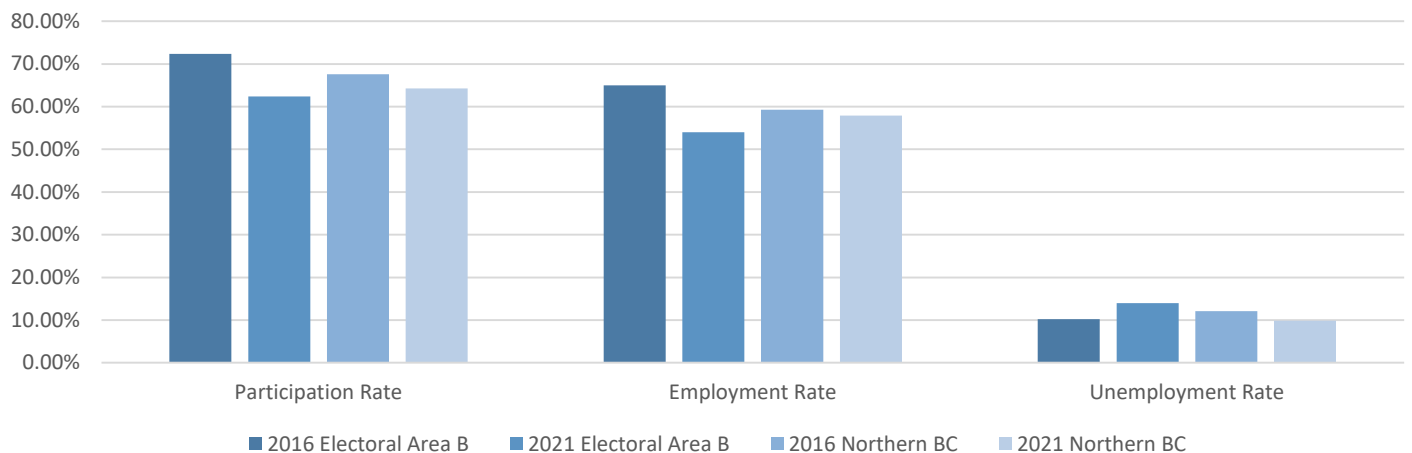
The median household income in Burns Lake Rural, has been higher than in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2006 to 2021. It also has a median income that is \$8,000 higher than the average for the RDBN.





Employment

Employment

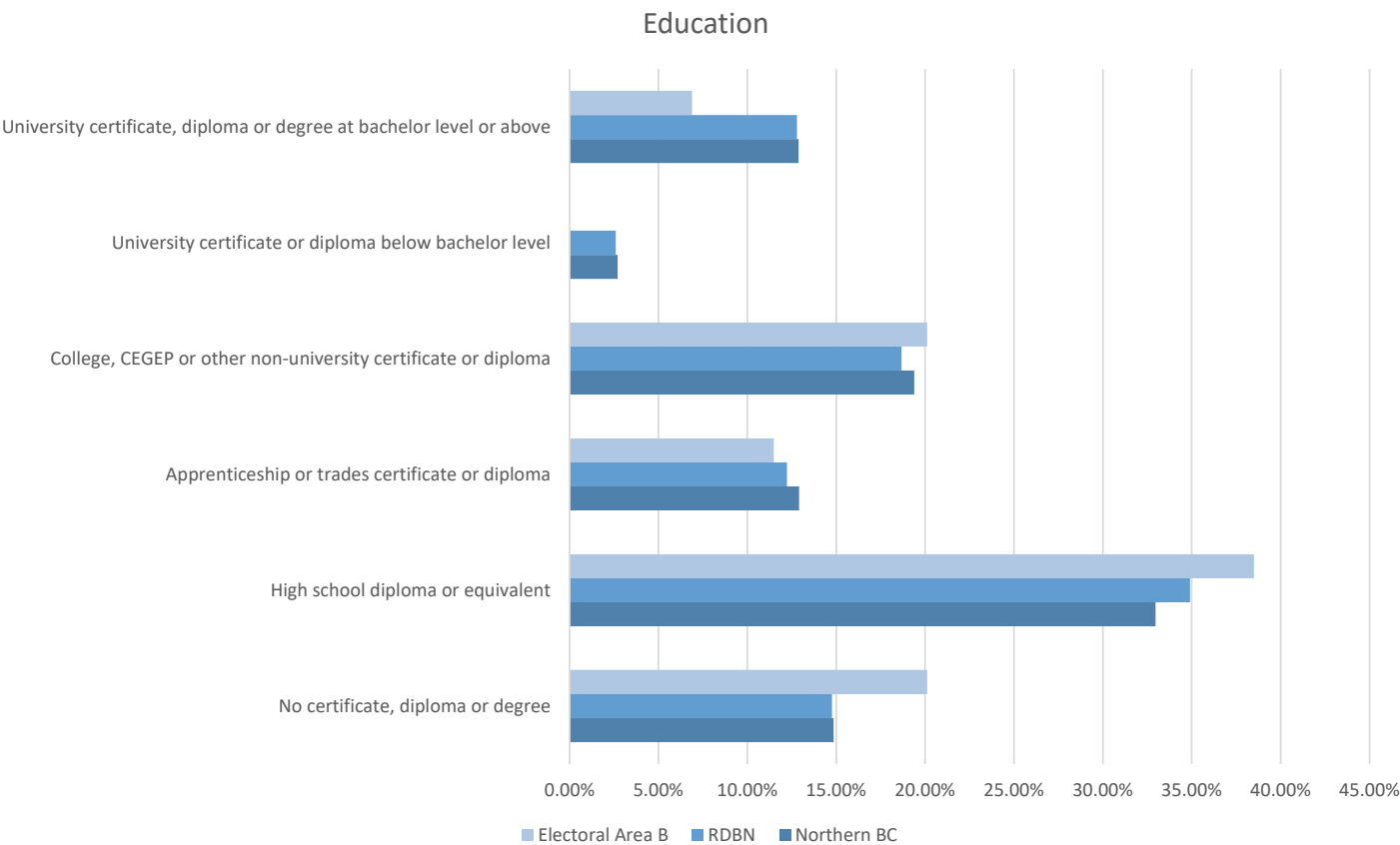


Sources: Statistics Canada, 2021 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2021.

Participation rates and employment rates fell from 2016 to 2021 within Area B, and are now lower than the average for Northern BC.

Education

Education in Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) and the RDBN, 2021

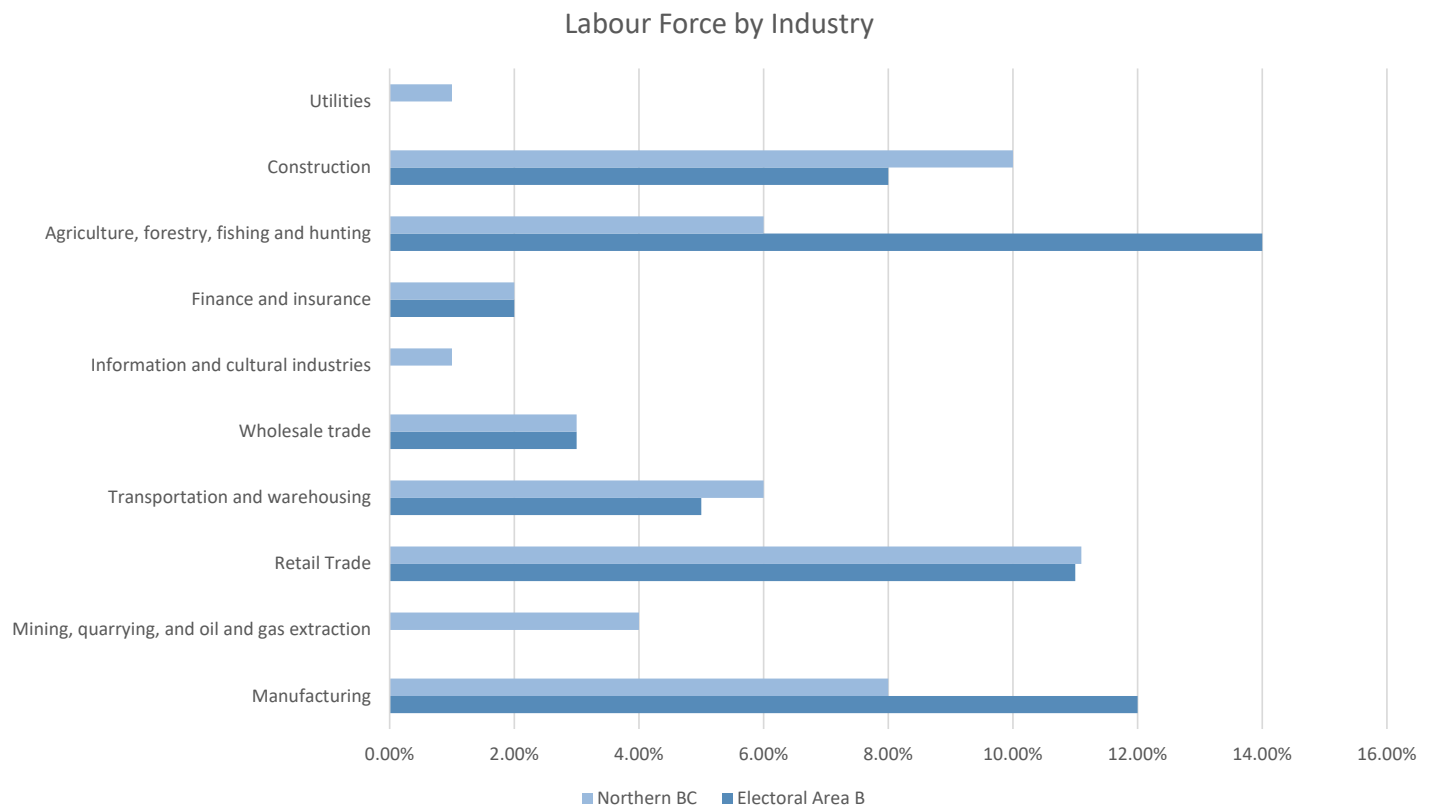


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey.

Electoral Area B has a higher population than the rest of Northern BC with a college certificate or diploma. Area B also has a lower population with a university degree.



Labour Force by Industry



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey.

In Electoral Area B in 2021, the agriculture and manufacturing sectors were major sources of employment. These sectors would include logging and forestry, as well as farming.



Economic Development

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

Dolores Funk

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

Director Michael Riis-Christianson

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

Local Government Data

Community Groups

- 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)

Ts'il Kaz Koh

Ts'il Kaz Koh (formerly referred to as the Burns Lake Band) is a Nation whose main community is located on Burns Lake, with ties to the Dekelh and Wet'suwet'en Nations.

As of 2023, there are 189 Ts'il Kaz Koh members living on and off reserve. The businesses that are owned by the community are now run under Key-oh Development Corporation including the Key-oh Lodge hotel. Ts'il Kaz Koh is a member of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.

Ts'il Kaz Koh Business

- Key-oh Lodge

Administration Office

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

This information is current as of 2023



TS'IL KAZ KOH

Lake Babine Nation

Lake Babine Nation is the third largest Indigenous 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

Administration 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

This information is current as of 2020.



Indigenous Communities

Wet'suwet'en First Nation

The Wet'suwet'en First Nation (No. 725) is located west of Burns Lake in the central interior of British Columbia. It was formerly known as the Broman Lake Indian Band and is still usually referred to as Broman Lake, although this is no longer its official name. The band is a member of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and the Broman Lake Development Corporation.

Wet'suwet'en First Nation is a dynamic, knowledgeable, unified community that will continue to progress towards self-sufficiency through mutual respect, strong leadership, and progressive and strategic activities that advance the social, economic, and cultural values of the community.

WFN Community Values

- Community self sufficiency
- Monies from Economic Development to be used to advance community health
- Working with healing journeys and increase self confidence and address substance abuse in the WFN community
- Support and encourage community gatherings and unity
- Promotion of recreational activities for youth
- Protection of use of traditional medicines
- Cultural education and integrity in WFN development activities

Administration Office

21 Tom Drive PO Box 760
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
Phone: 250.698.7307
Fax: 250.698.7480
Website: www.wetsuweten.net

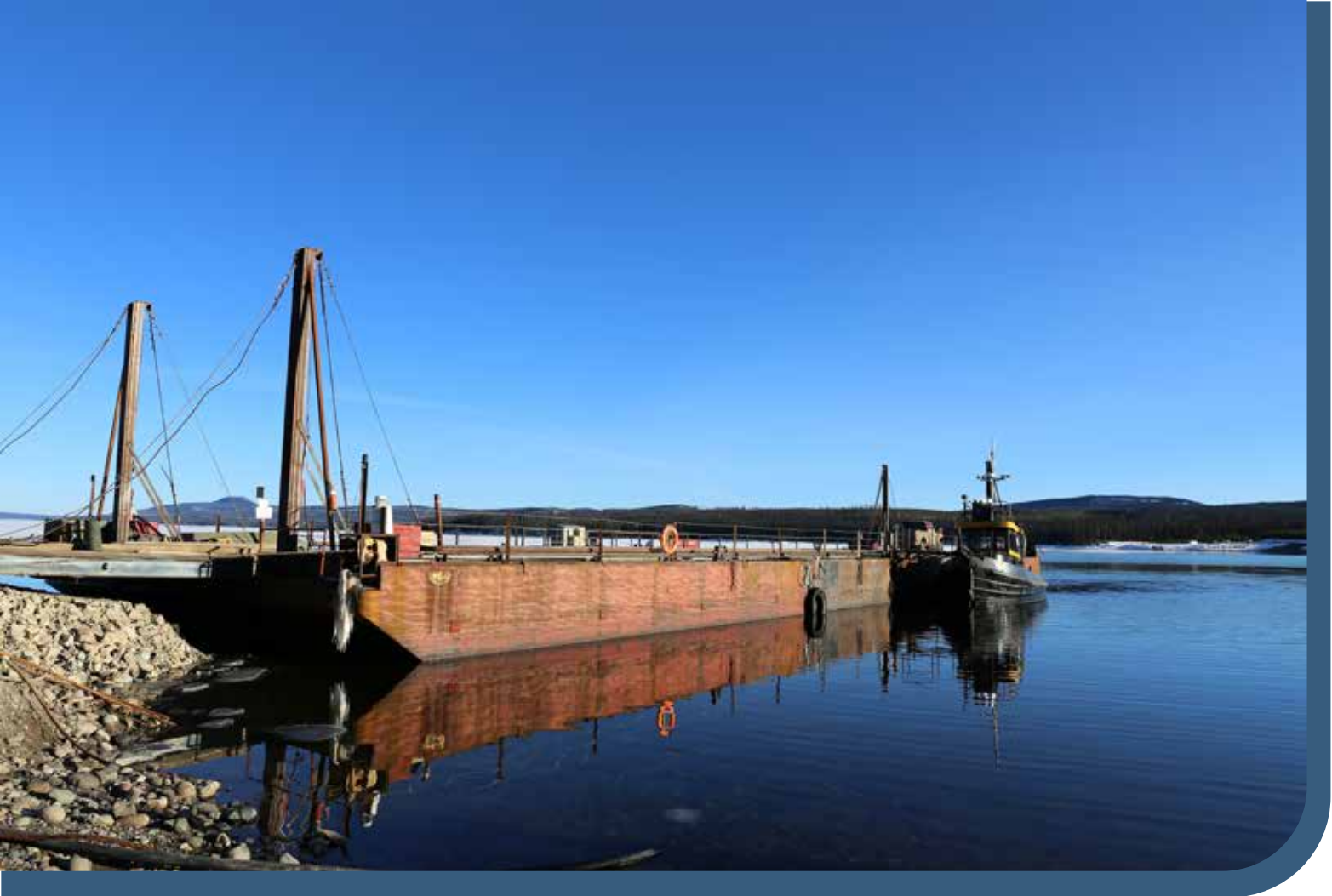


WET'SUWET'EN
FIRST NATION

This information is current as of 2023



Area E
Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural



Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) is a vast rural region that encompasses immense tracts of farm land, spectacular residential properties, and some of the most stunning nature in Canada. The northern part of Area E features homes and ranches located on Francois and Tchesinkut Lake. The Francois Lake Forester, a free ferry that crosses Francois Lake at the southern end of highway 35, allows access to Southbank, and to Ootsa Lake and the spectacular Tweedsmuir Park.

Nearly 25% of the residents of this area work from home, which is much higher than the average for Northern BC. Residents primarily trade in Burns Lake, while efforts are underway to develop more sustainable grocery and other retail on the south side of Francois Lake

The area is situated on the traditional territories of the Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Nee Tahi Buhn Band, and Skin Tyee Nation.

Population Change

Population growth in Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Rural) 2006-2021

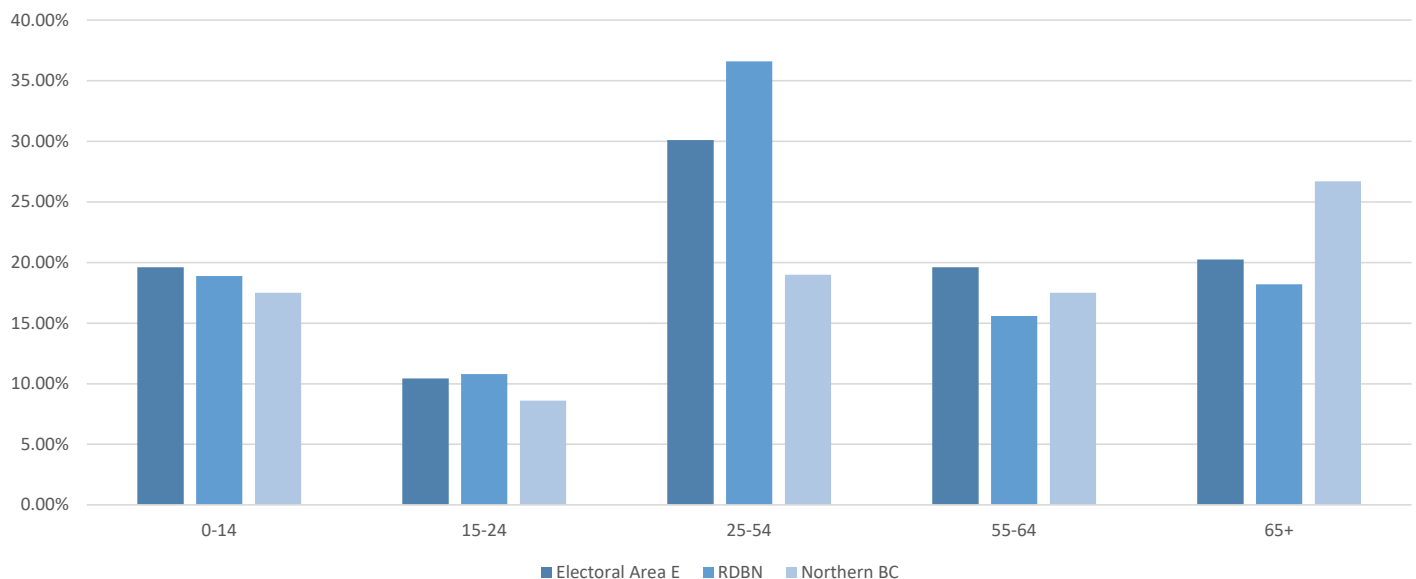
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016	2021
Electoral Area E	1,788	1,507	1,593	1,512
Regional District Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,896	37,737
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225	319,628

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2021

The population of Area E has declined by 15% since 2006 but housing vacancy remains low.

Age Structure

Age Structure



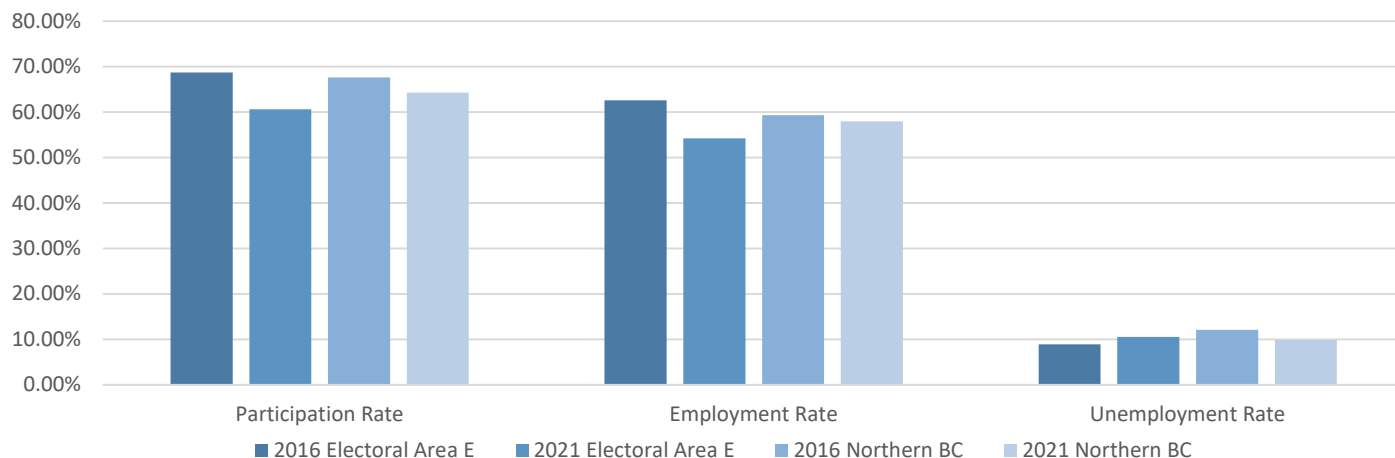
Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2021.

While the median age of Area E is higher than the rest of the region, there is also a larger than average portion of the population of children between the ages of 0-14.

Demographic Data

Employment

Employment

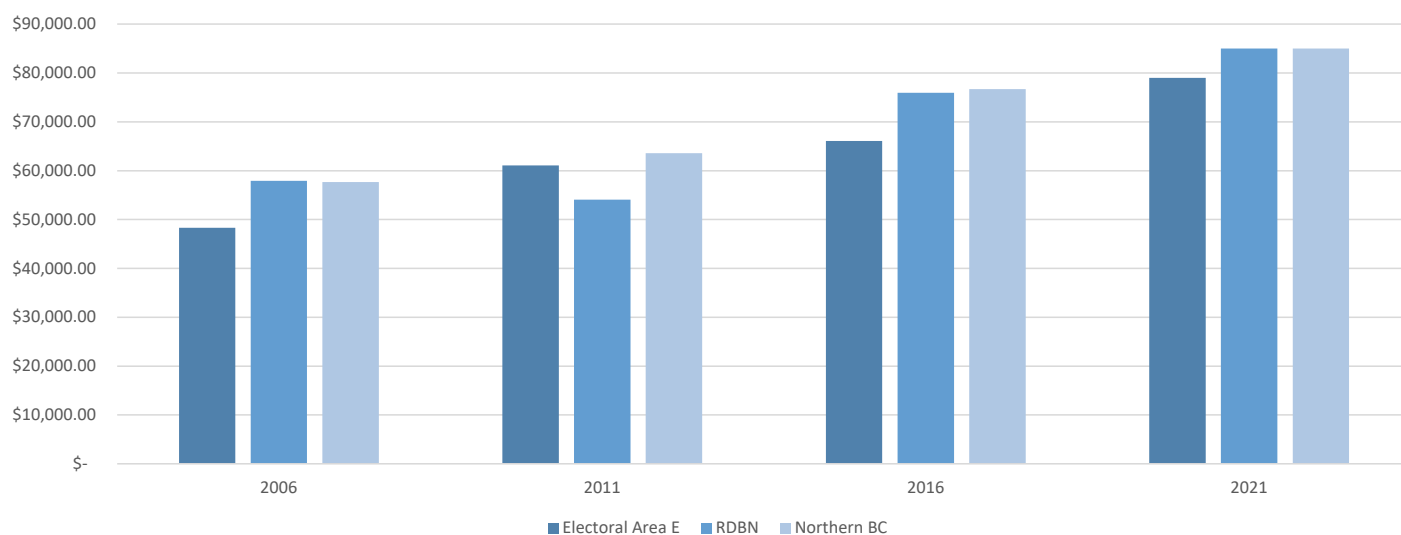


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2021.

The participation and employment rates fell for Electoral Area E between 2016 and 2021.

Household Income

Household Income



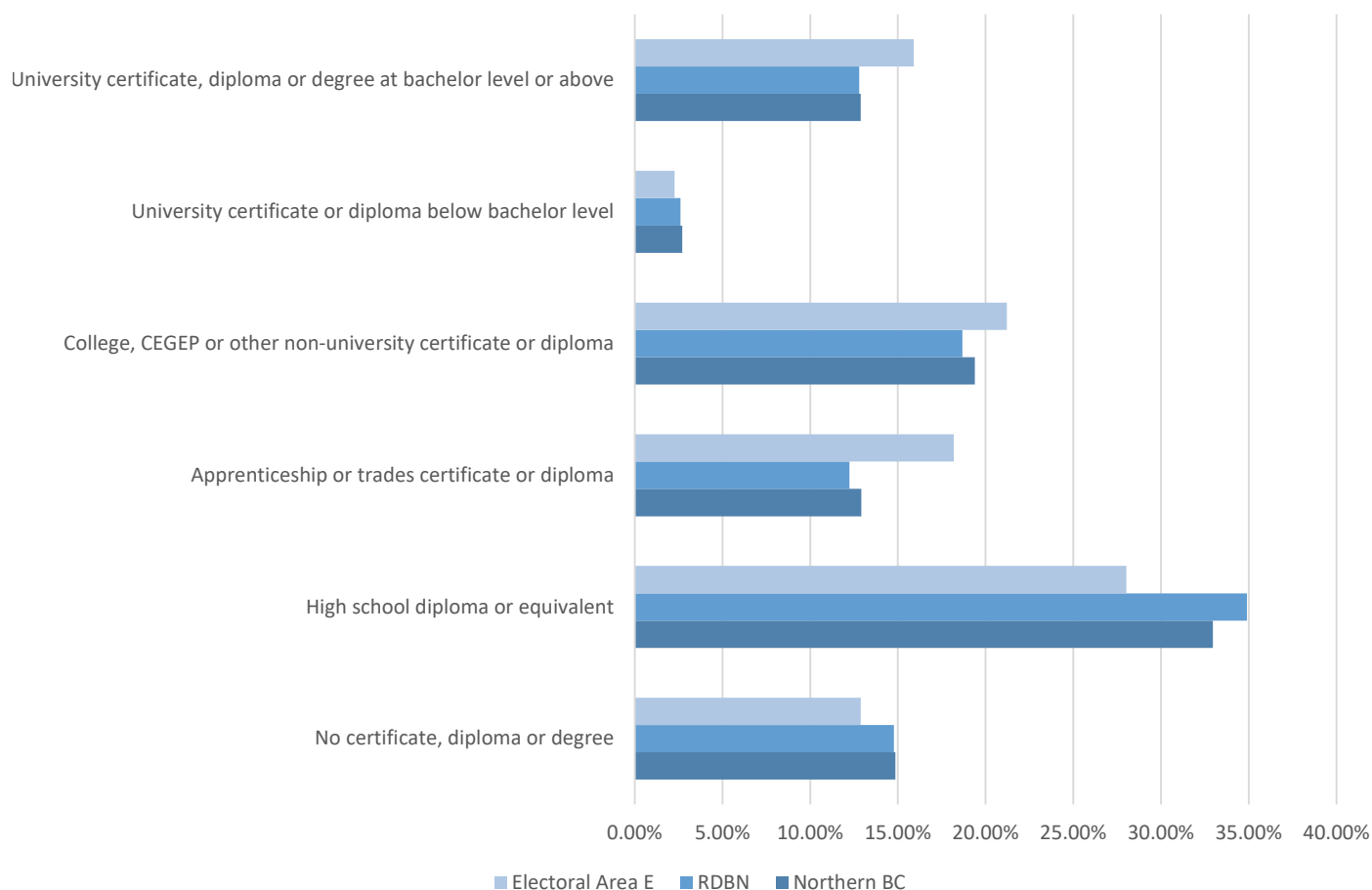
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2021.

Household income is lower than the average for the RDBN and the North. This gap in income has reduced in size since 2006.



Education

Education

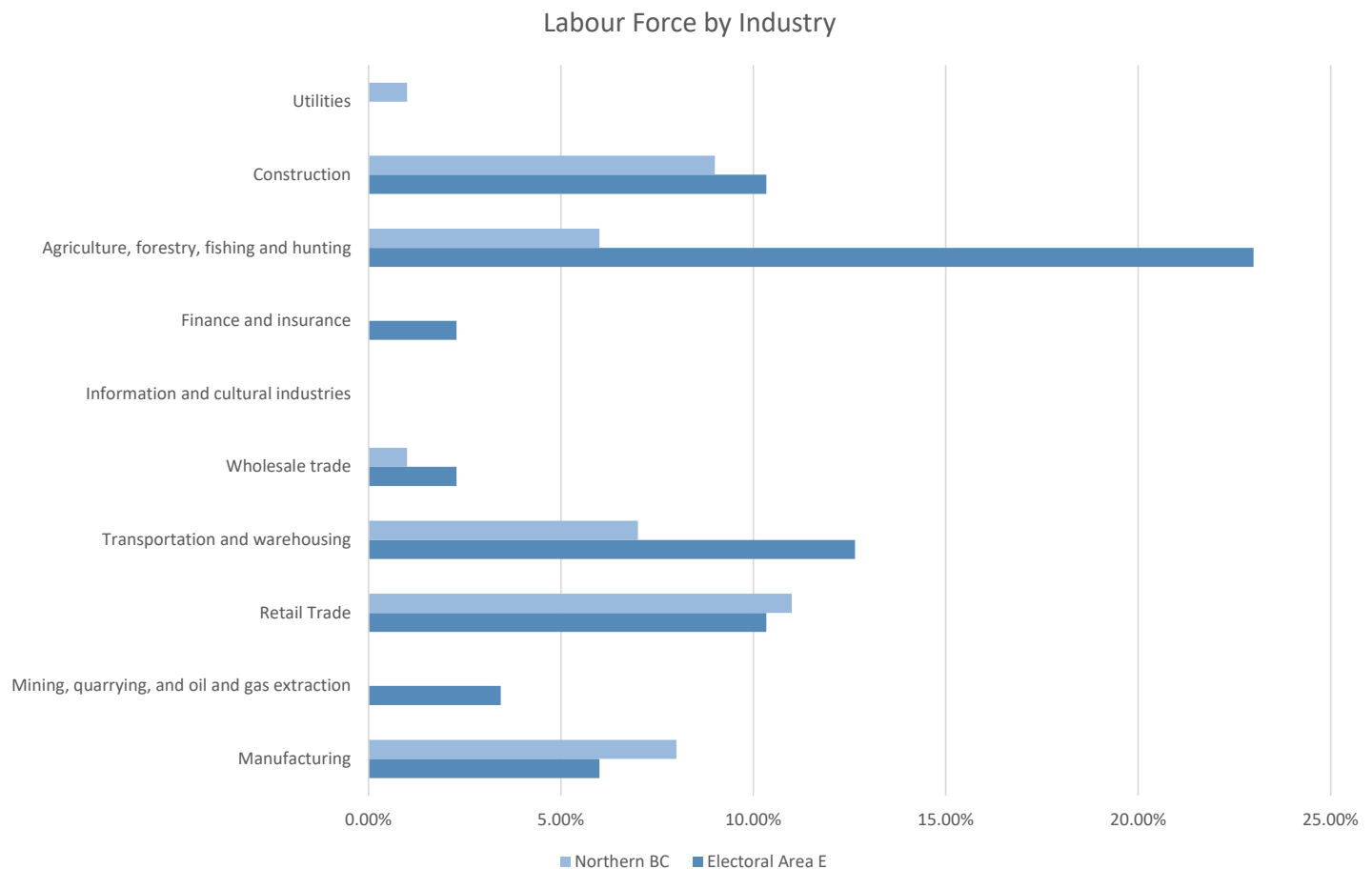


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey.

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 2021.

Labour and Workforce

Labour Force By Industry



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey.

The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sectors were by far the biggest employers for Electoral Area E. While logging and forestry play a key roll, farming and agriculture have become an ever-increasing portion of the employment in the region.

Transportation

The Francois Lake Forester is an inland ferry operated by Waterbridge Equipment Inc. runs from 5:30 am – 11:00 pm with service generally on the half hour. The ferry's capacity is 52 vehicles and 145 passengers.

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/departments/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

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 Organization

- 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

Indigenous Communities

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

Administration 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

This information is current as of 2020

Nee Tahí Buhn

Nee Tahí Buhn is understood as the name for Francois Lake, and means, “it fills at one end and empties at the other.” An additional understanding of Nee Tahí Buhn presented in the 2019 Lakes District Aboriginal Community Resource Guide is “ripples in the water”. Nee Tahí Buhn Band is an independent Band, not currently affiliated with any Tribal Association or other groups. The language of the Nee Tahí Buhn Band is part of the Athapaskan language family in the Wet’suwet’en dialect of the Bulkley Valley/Lakes District language. Nee Tahí Buhn Band participates in the balhats (potlatch) system. Economic, social, judicial, and spiritual activities revolve around the balhats which are organized by matrilineal clans. In 1960 the Decker Lake, Francois Lake, Maxim Lake, and Skin Tyee Bands merged to form the Omineca Band. In 1984 the Omineca Band divided into the Nee Tahí Buhn and Broman Lake Bands. In 2000 the Skin Tyee Band and the Nee Tahí Buhn Band separated to become independent Bands. Nee Tahí Buhn Band was referred to as the “Francois Lake” Band by the Federal Government.

Administration Office

47805 Olson Road
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E4
Phone: 250-694-3494
Fax: 250-694-3492
Office email: generalmanager@ntbb.ca
General Manager: generalmanager@ntbb.ca
Website: ntbb.ca

This information is current as of 2023



Skin Tyee First Nation

The Skin Tyee 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 Tyee Bands merged to form the Omineca Band. In 1984 the Omineca Band divided into the Nee-Tahí-Buhn and Broman Lake Bands. In 2000 the Skin Tyee Band separated from the Nee Tahí Buhn Band.

The Skin Tyee 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.

Administration Office

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

This information is current as of 2020





"The Lakes District is a great place to live, work and play. Don't take our word for it, come see for yourself."

- Henry Wiebe, Mayor of The Village of Burns Lake

www.rdbn.bc.ca