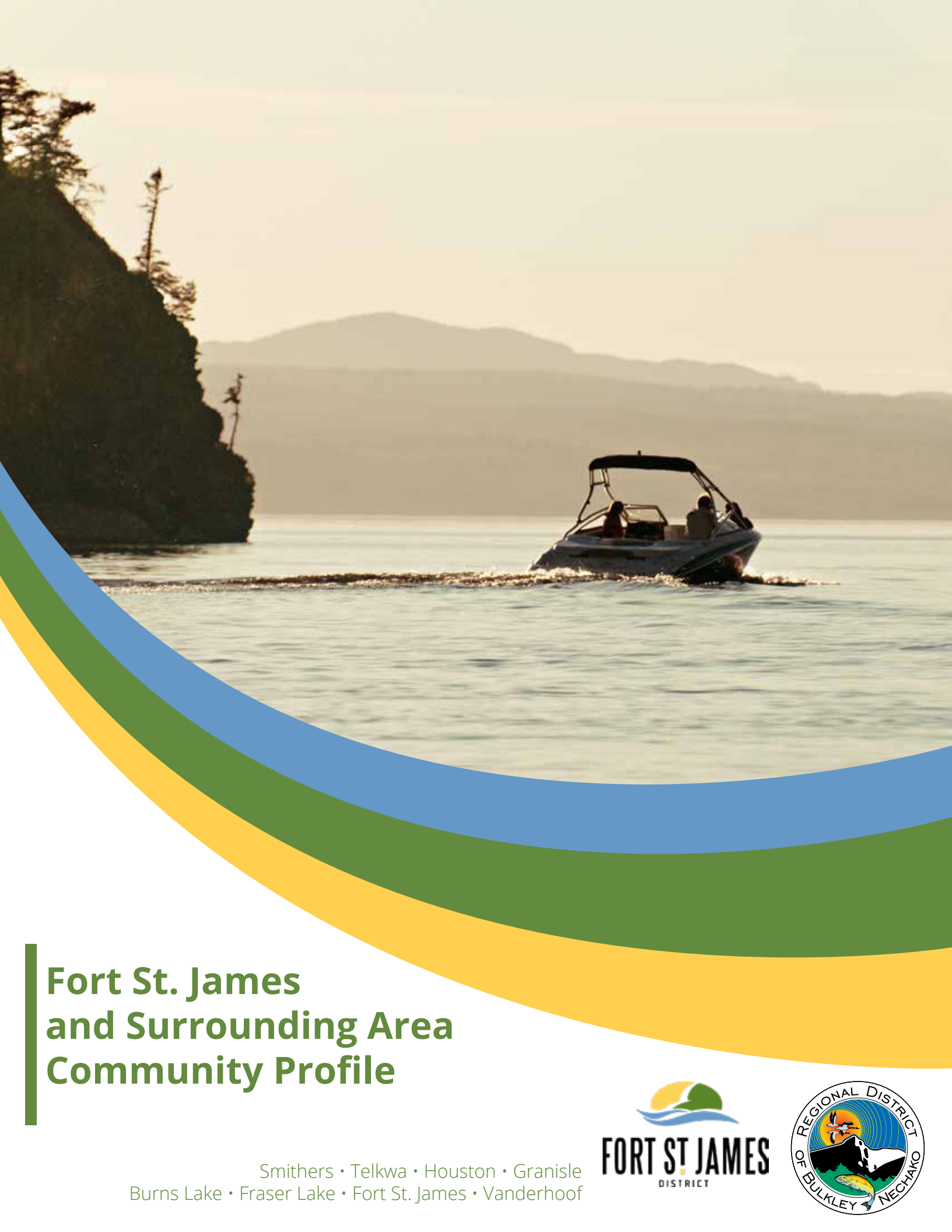




Fort St. James and Surrounding Area Community Profile

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





Fort St. James and Surrounding Area

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

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

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

The Regional Profile

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.



Distance to Major Centres

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



Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)



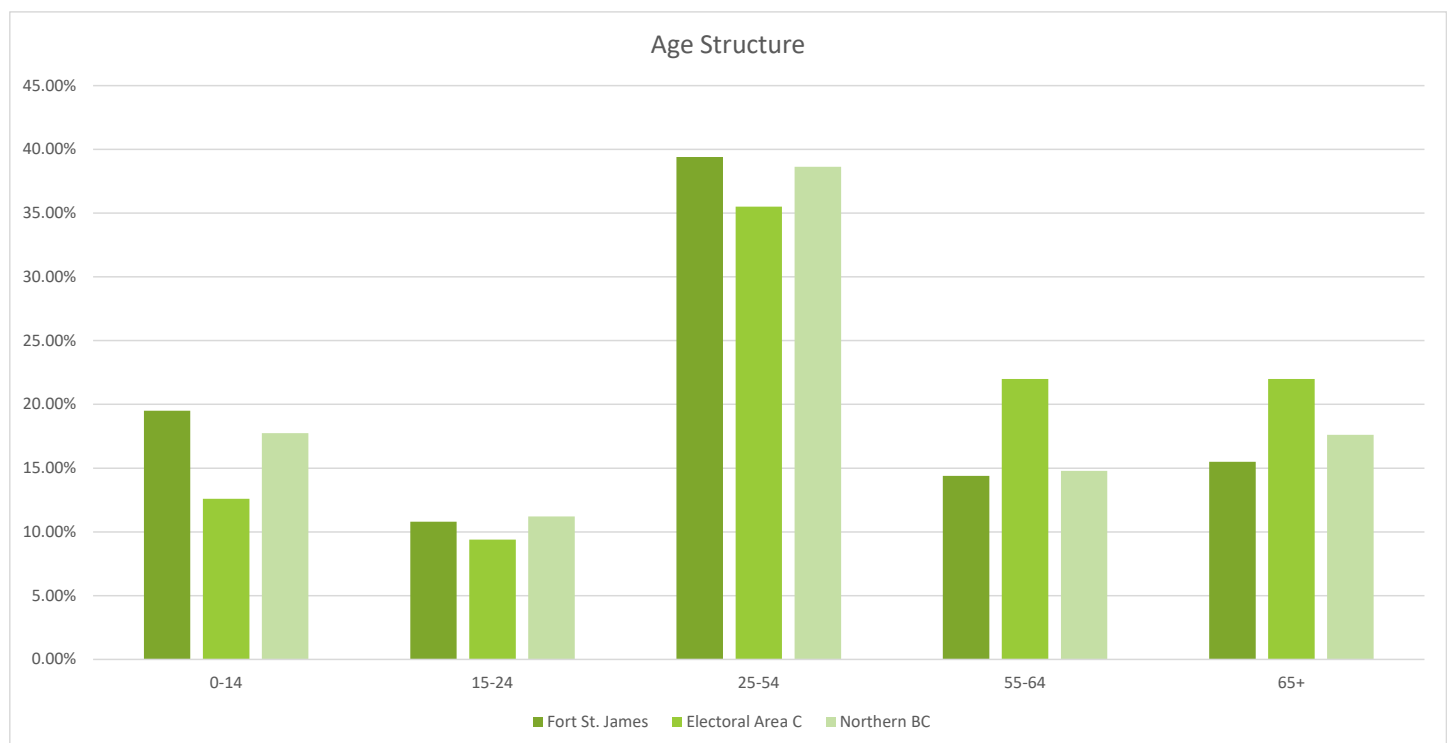
Population Growth

POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016	2021
Fort St. James	1,355	1,691	1,598	1,386
Electoral Area C (James Rural)	1,355	1,429	1,415	1,266
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225	319,628

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2021

In 2021 Fort St. James had a population of 1,386. The population of Fort st. James has declined by 18% since 2011

Age Structure



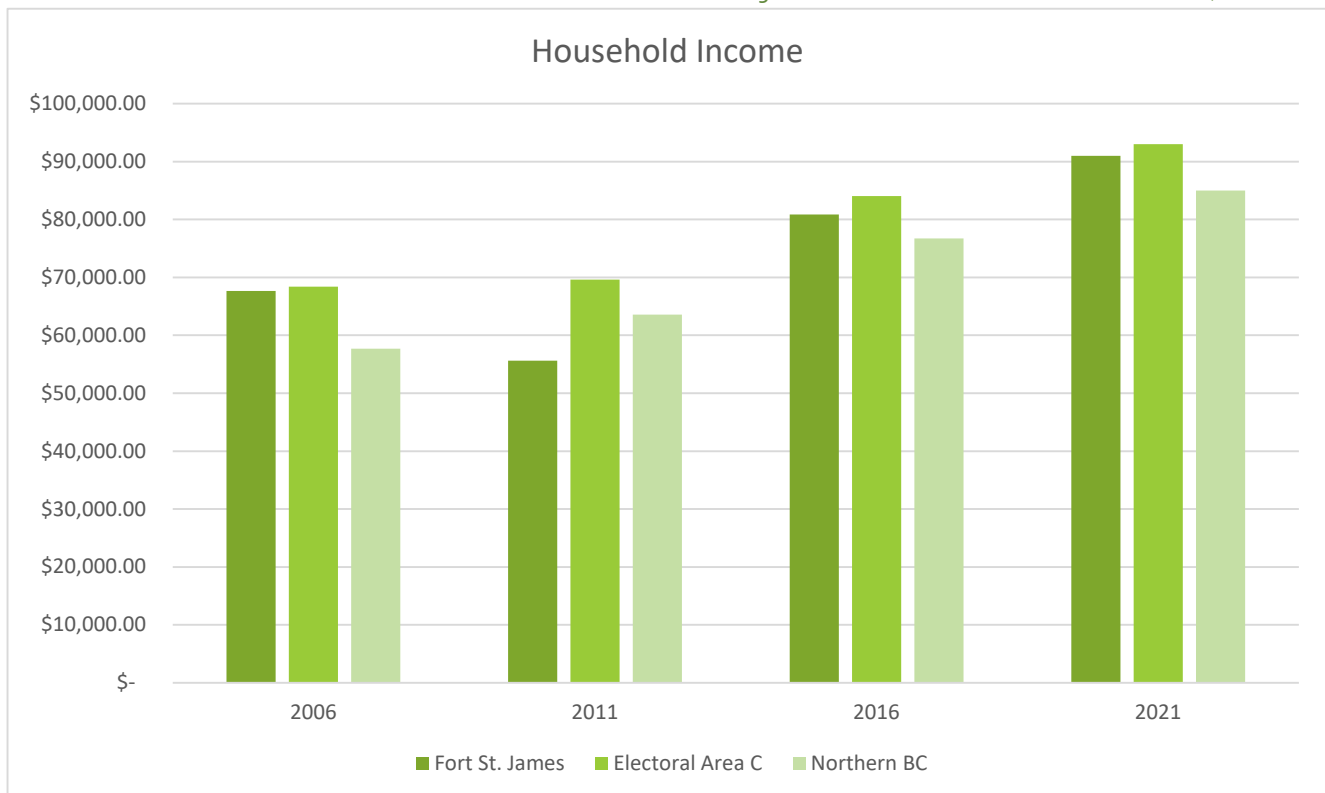
Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2021

Fort St. James has a higher population of children aged 0-14 and a lower population of seniors than Area C or the rest of Northern BC.

Demographic Data

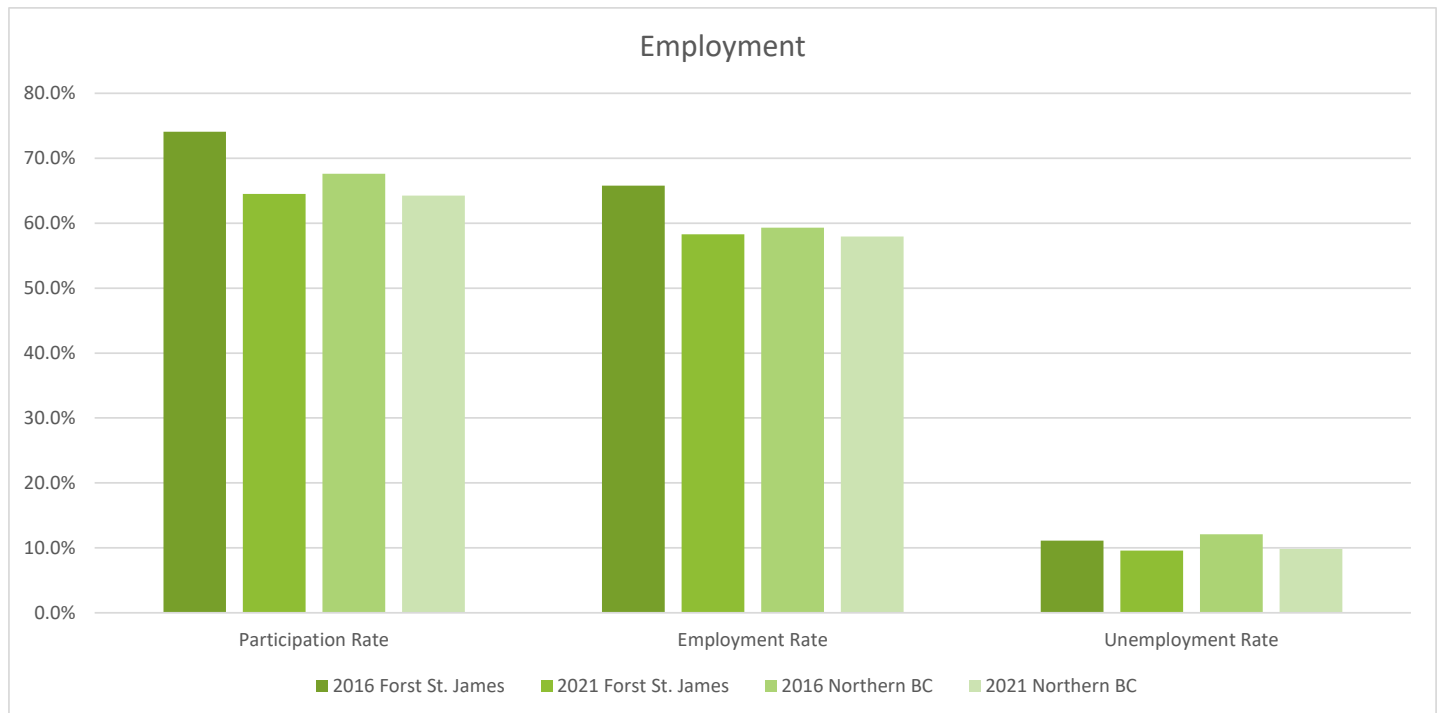
Household Income

Median household income in Fort St. James and Electoral Area C, 2006-20



Workforce Profile

Educational attainment in Fort St. James and Electoral Area C, 2021



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

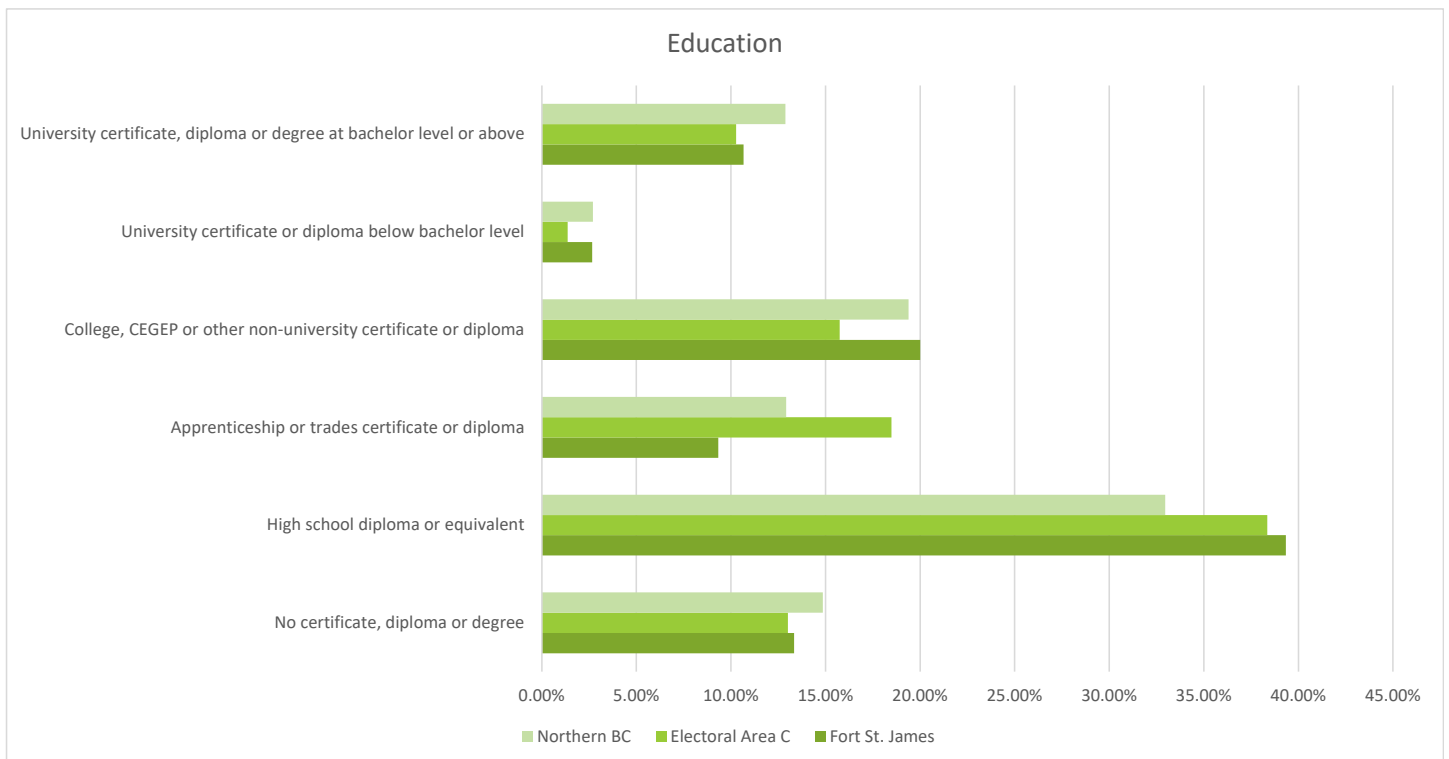
Fort St. James' rate of unemployment fell between 2016 and 2021, as did the workforce participation rate.





Education

Education in Fort St. James and Electoral Area C, 2021

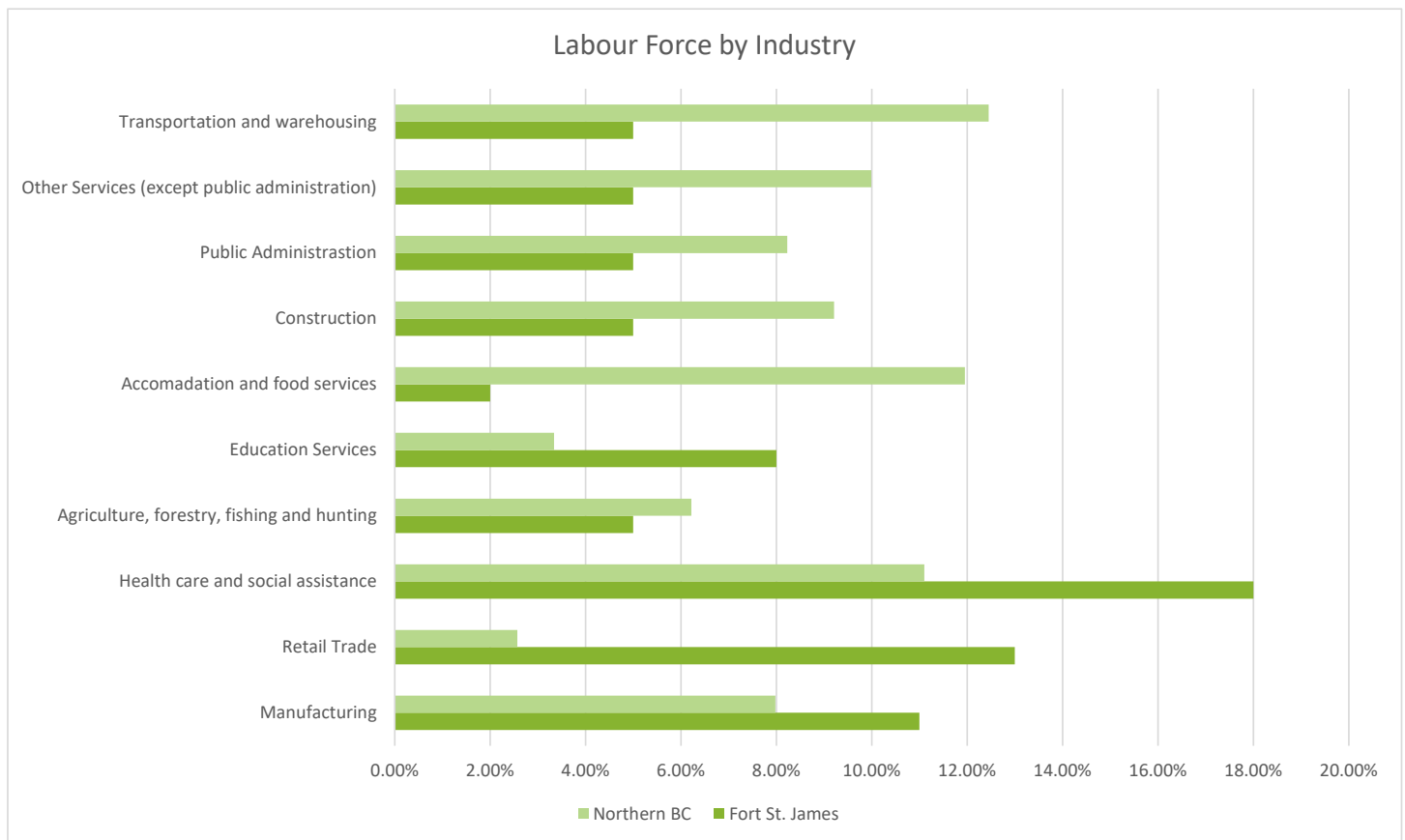


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey

In 2021, Fort St. James had a higher portion of the population with a university education and people with a college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma as compared to Northern BC.

Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in Fort St. James and Northern BC in 2021



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey

In 2021, Fort St. James' biggest employers were the health care industry, retail trade, and manufacturing.

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

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



Employment Services

Local Post-Secondary Education Facilities and Employment Service Providers

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

Transportation Services

Available Providers

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

Fort St. James Airport

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

Water

Source of Water Supply and Means of Access

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

WATER SUPPLY VS. DEMAND	
Rated Capacity	968 gallons/minute
Average Daily Demand	1,000 gallons
Peak Demand	1,200 gallons

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL WATER RATES	
Residential Cost	\$282.74/year
Commercial Cost	\$341.66/year



Solid Waste

Solid Waste Disposal Services

CAPACITY OF WASTE DISPOSAL VS. PROJECTED DEMAND	
Clearview Landfill	Clearview Landfill
Location	22 km South of Fort. St. James
Capacity Left at Current Site	95%/90 years
Plans for New Capacity	None
Transfer Station	Necoslie Rd. Fort St. James

Recycling

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



Local Government Data

Taxes

The following chart summarizes 2022 tax rates in Fort St. James. For up to date information contact the municipality. Tax rates are calculated in dollars of tax per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value.

PURPOSE OF TAX RATE	RESIDENTIAL	UTILITIES	MAJOR INDUSTRY	LIGHT INDUSTRY	BUSINESS / OTHER	MANAGED FOREST LAND	RECREATION / Non- PROFIT	FARM
Municipal	4.81970	32.76160	70.64110	11.00020	15.42300	0.00000	3.68250	0.00000
Regional District	1.10860	3.88020	3.76950	3.76950	2.71620	0.00000	1.10860	0.00000
Hospital District	1.29210	4.52230	4.39310	4.39310	3.16560	0.00000	1.29210	0.00000
School	2.85350	12.72000	3.52000	3.52000	3.52000	1.90000	2.03000	6.98000
Other	0.30570	1.41410	1.38700	1.02440	0.76710	1.04790	0.30570	0.30570
Total	10.37960	55.29820	83.71070	23.70720	25.59190	2.94790	8.41890	7.28570

Development Fees

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

Economic Development Services

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

Business Support/Funding Services

- Community Futures Stuart-Nechako
- Fort St. James Chamber of Commerce
- District of Fort St. James Revitalization Tax Exemption

Incentive Programs

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

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

Economic Development Services

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

Brooke Eschuk

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

Hannah Prestage

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

Mayor Martin Elphee

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

Housing

DESCRIPTION OF TYPICAL HOUSING STOCK	# OF UNITS
Total Private Dwellings (2021 census)	671
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents (2021 census)	586
Single detached houses (2021 census)	430
Movable dwellings (2021 census)	25
Row houses (2021 census)	40
Semi detached houses (2021 census)	10

TYPE OF HOUSING	COST
Average value of dwelling (2021 census)	\$201,256.00

Accommodations

- The View Hotel
- New Caledonia Motel

Restaurants

- King's Restaurant
- Little Jimmy Fry's
- Miguel's Pizza
- Carrier Food and Fuel
- St. James Restaurant
- North Arm Pub & Grill
- Stuart Lake Golf Club Restaurant
- Subway
- National Historic Site Cafe
- Mariano's Pizza
- Murray Rider Ski Hill Cafeteria and Lounge
- Suspenders

Media

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

Other Facilities with Capacity for Hosting Events

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

Shopping

Shopping District: Downtown Fort St. James

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

Financial Services

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

Legal Services

- Daniel Lyons Law Corp.

Quality of Life Factors

Local Community Organizations

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

Local Community Assets

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

Schools

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

Health Services

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

Stuart Lake Hospital

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



www.fortstjames.ca



Area C
Fort St. James Rural



Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

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

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

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

Population

POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016	2021
Electoral Area C	1,355	1,429	1,415	1,266
Regional District Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,896	37,737
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225	16,031

The population in Electoral Area C had a population of 1,266 in 2021, which was a decrease of just over 10% since 2016.

Age Structure



Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2021.

The population of Electoral Area C tended to be older than the RDBN and Northern BC in 2021. Its age structure reveals that Electoral Area C had a lower youth population (ages 0-14) and lower population between the ages of 25-54 compared to the RDBN and Northern BC.

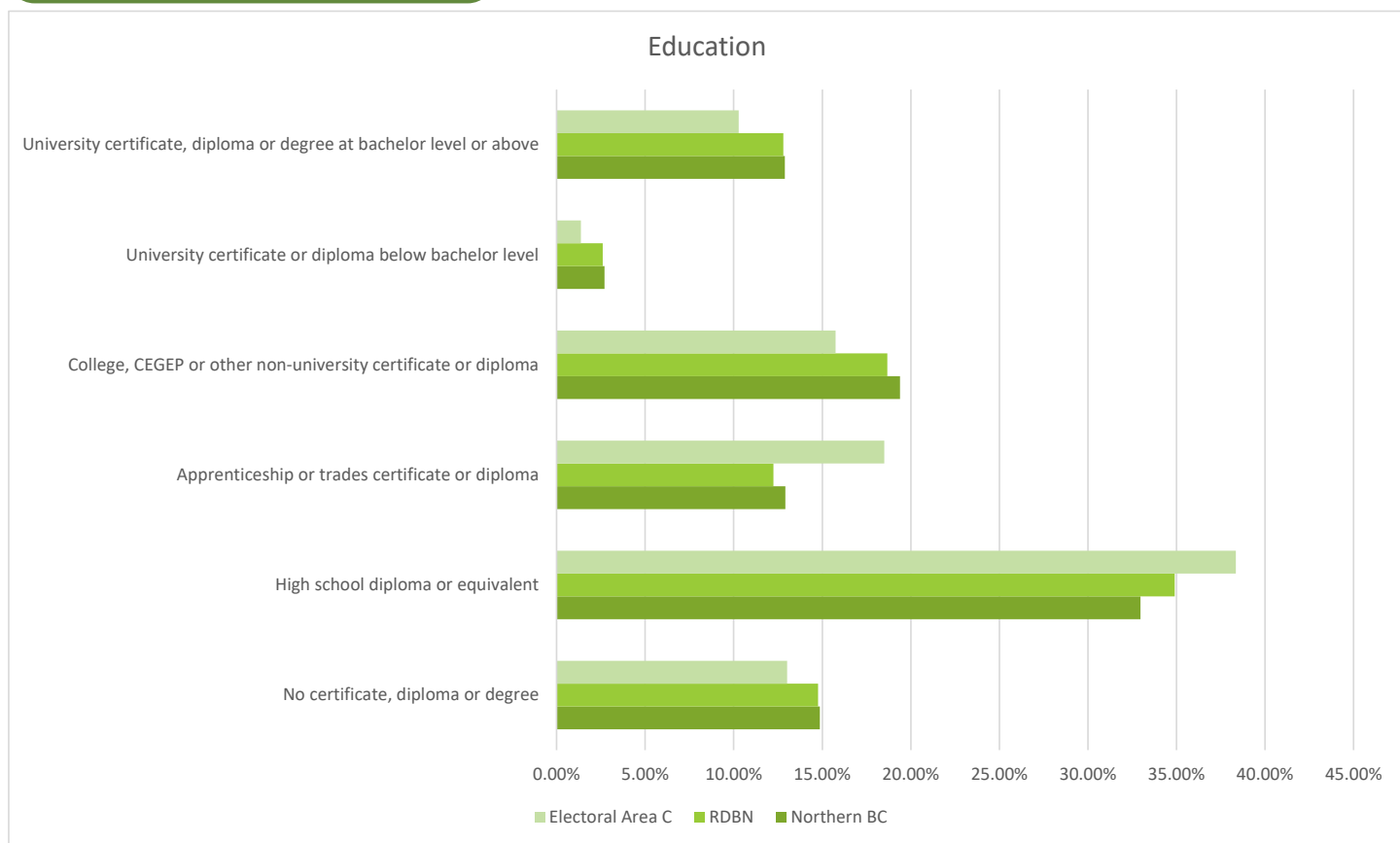
Household Income



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2021.

In 2021 Electoral Area C had highest household income compared to the RDBN and Northern BC. The household income in the rural area was higher than the RDBN and Northern BC from 2006 to 2021.

Education



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey

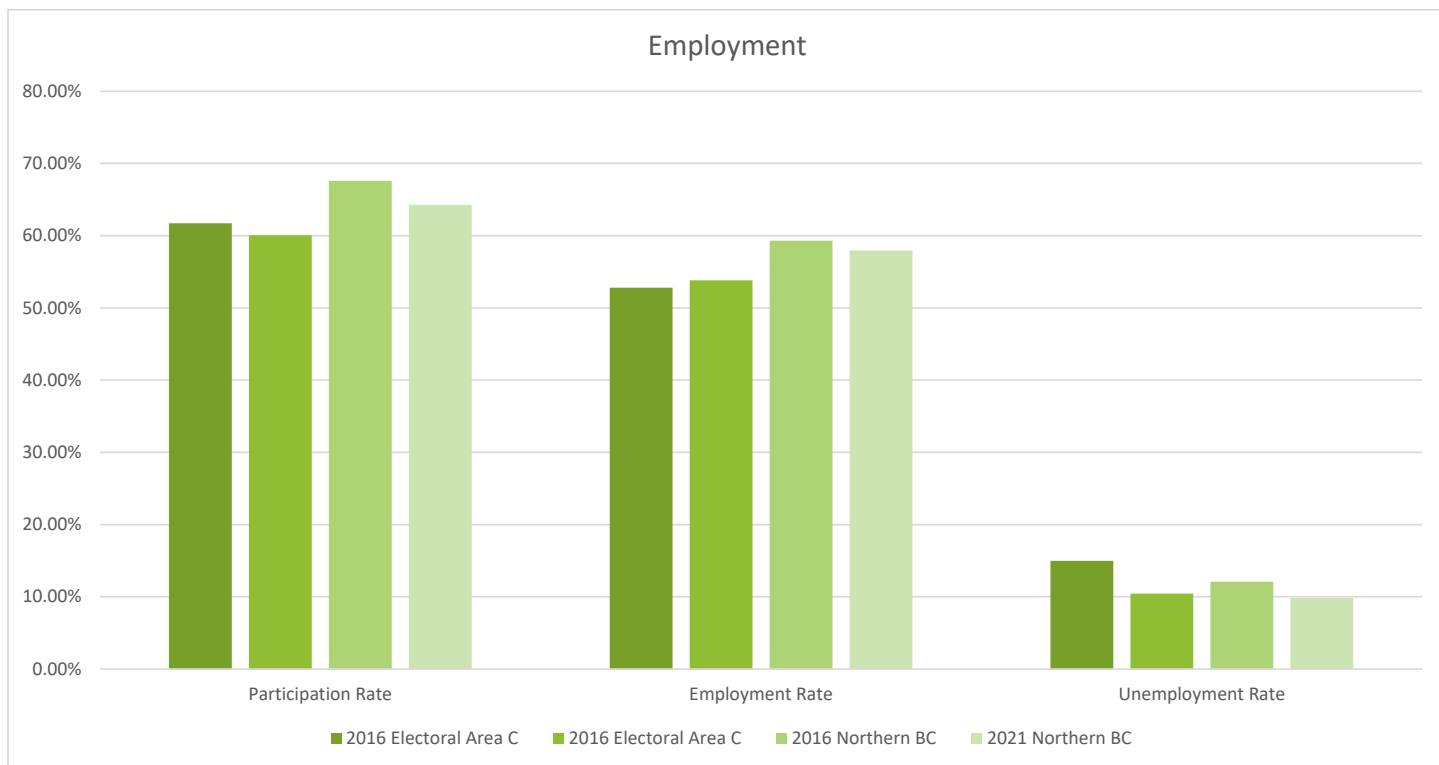
In 2021, Electoral Area C had a higher percentage of residents with a highschool diploma or equivalent than the rest of the RDBN or Northern BC.





Employment

Employment data in Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) and the RDBN, 2011-2021

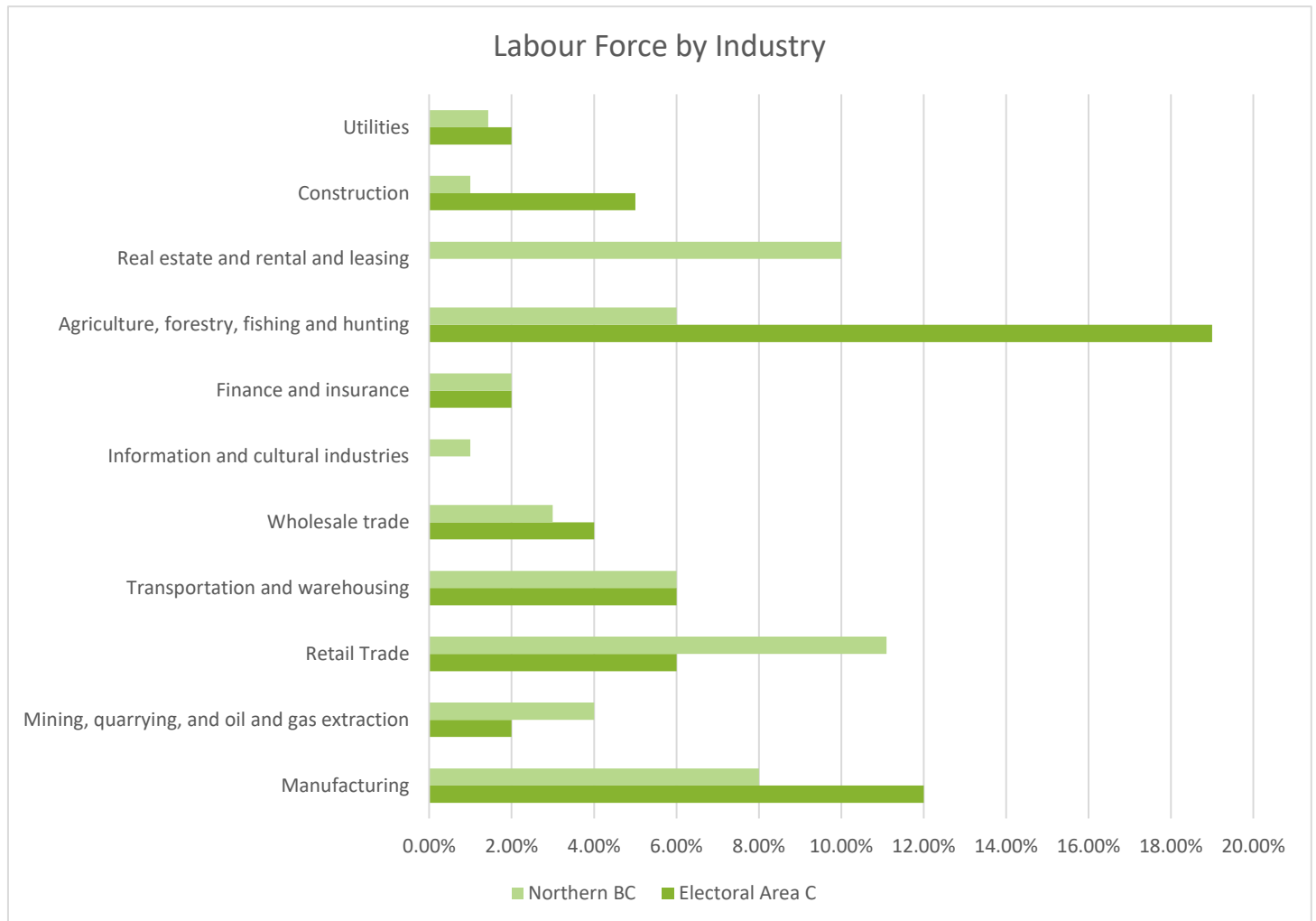


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2021.

The unemployment rate in Electoral Area C fell from 2016 to 2021, as did the workforce participation rate.

Labour Force By Industry

Labour force by industry in Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) and the RDBN, 2021



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey.

In Electoral Area C, the agriculture/forestry and manufacturing were major sources of employment in 2021. Among these major employers, the two sectors employed a greater portion of the labour force as compared to Northern BC.

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

Director Judy Greenaway

PO Box 1296
Fort St. James, BC V0J 1P0
Email: judygreenaway@rdbn.bc.ca

Official Community Plan

Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

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

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

Local Economic Development Services

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

Local Community Organizations

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

Takla Nation

The traditional territory of the Takla First Nation is located in North Central British Columbia and totals approximately 27,250 square kilometres. The territory is a rich environment of lakes, rivers, forests, and mountains, bordered on the west by the Skeena Mountains and on the east by the Rocky Mountains.

Our Nation is an amalgamation of the North Takla Band and the Fort Connelly Band, a union which occurred in 1959. Our traditional lands are the geographic area occupied by our ancestors for the community, social, economic and spiritual purposes. Carrier and Sekani place names exist for every physical feature and place that we occupy. Each name reflects the significance of the feature or site and today provides us with historical information to the rich history and extensive knowledge of our land and our resources.

Community Administration Office

Takla Landing, BC V0J 2T0

Tel: 250-996-7877

Fax: 250-996-7874

Toll Free: 1-877-794-7877

Prince George Office

510 Carney St.

Prince George, BC V2M 2K6

Tel: 250.564.9321

Fax: 250.564.9521

Website: www.taklafn.ca



This information is current as of 2023.



Nak'azdli Band

Nak'azdli Whut'en is a non-treaty First Nation located adjacent to Fort St. James, BC. It has eighteen reserves in total around Fort St. James and Nak'albun (Stuart Lake) with 230 Homes. Most people live on Indian Reserve (IR) #1 which is separated from Fort St. James by Kwah Road. There are also a few families on IR #1A up the North Road at Four-Mile and William's Prairie Meadow.

The current population of Nak'azdli is just over 2,000 members although only about 700 live "on-reserve". Many Nak'azdli Whut'enne live in Fort St. James and Prince George. There is also a significant population in Vancouver, Kamloops and others are scattered throughout BC and beyond. Nak'azdli Whut'enne are Dene people who speak Dakelh language. They depend on natural resource economy and still practice traditional trapping, hunting, fishing, gatherings, arts and crafts.

Nak'azdli runs an independent school called Nak'albun Elementary. It is located on the site of the former Catholic school and is beside the old church, Our Lady of Good Hope (built by people of Nak'azdli 1873). Nak'azdli has a daycare and nursery school program.

There are a number of businesses owned or partially owned by Nak'azdli through the Nak'azdli Development Corporation (NDC). NDC owned companies include Sana'aih Market (pronounced Sa-na-eye, the name means sunset), Carrier Food and Fuel ("Petro"), and Nak'al Koh Logging.

Administration Office

120 Hwy 27
P.O. Box 1329
Fort St. James, BC V0J 1P0
Phone: 250.996.7171
Fax: 250.996.8010
Website: www.nakazdliwhuten.ca

This information is current as of 2023.





Tl'azt'en Nation

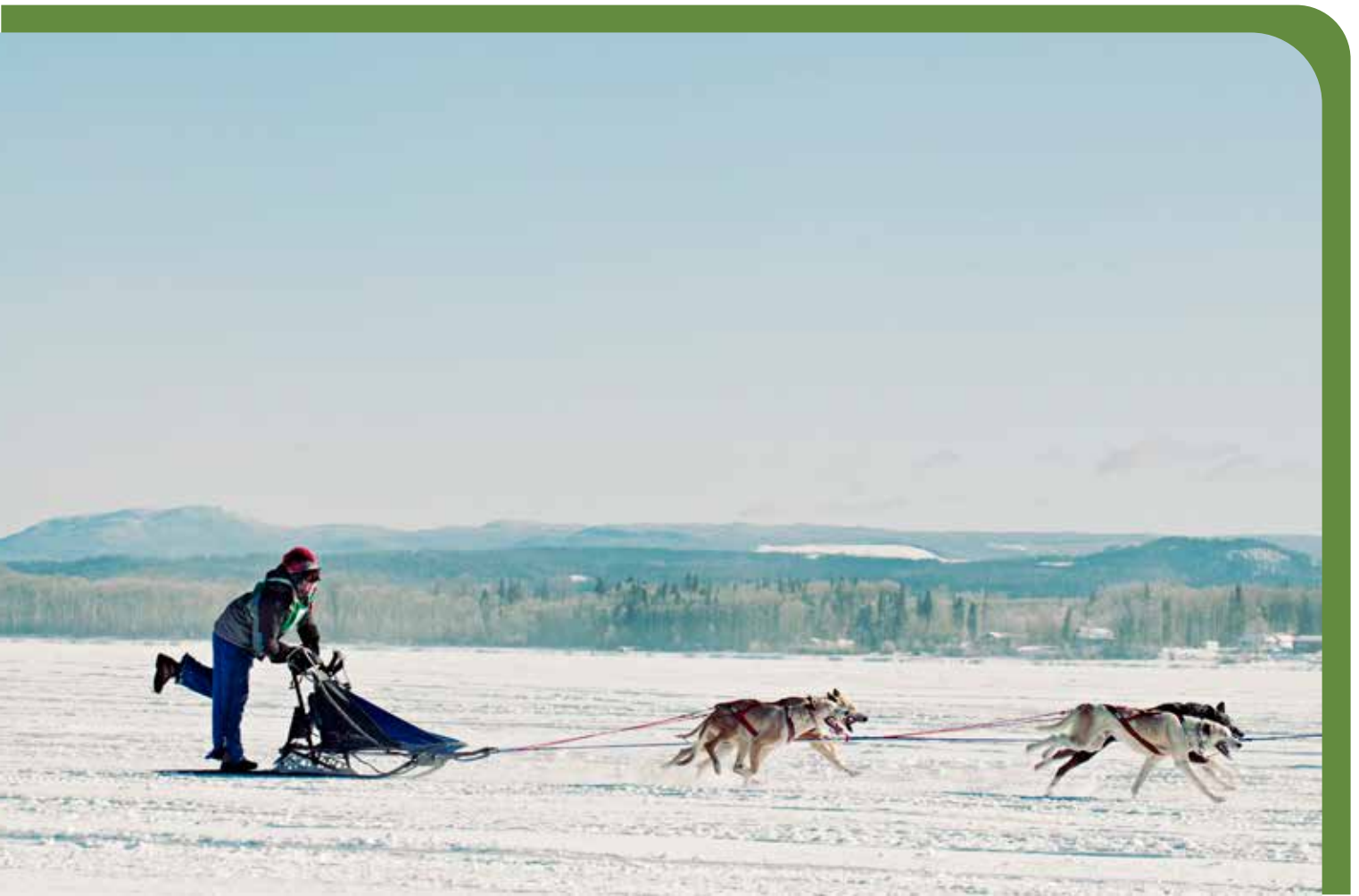
Tl'azt'en Nation is located along the north shore of Stuart Lake in the northern interior of British Columbia. The two main villages belonging to Tl'azt'en Nation are Tache, 60 km northwest of Fort St. James and Binche, 40 km northwest of Fort St. James. The small settlements of Middle River on Trembleur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

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

Administration Office

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

This information is current as of 2020.



Indigenous Communities

Yekoochie First Nation

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

Yekooche is a small community reserve. The registered population of the Yekooche is 225 members as of February 2014, of which 130 live on the Yekooche reserve. Near to Yekooche are Babine, Cunningham and Whitefish Lakes, which are used to collect winter food for families.

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

Administration Office

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

This information is current as of 2023.



