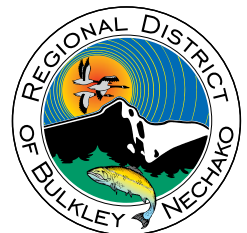




Houston and Surrounding Area Community Profile

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



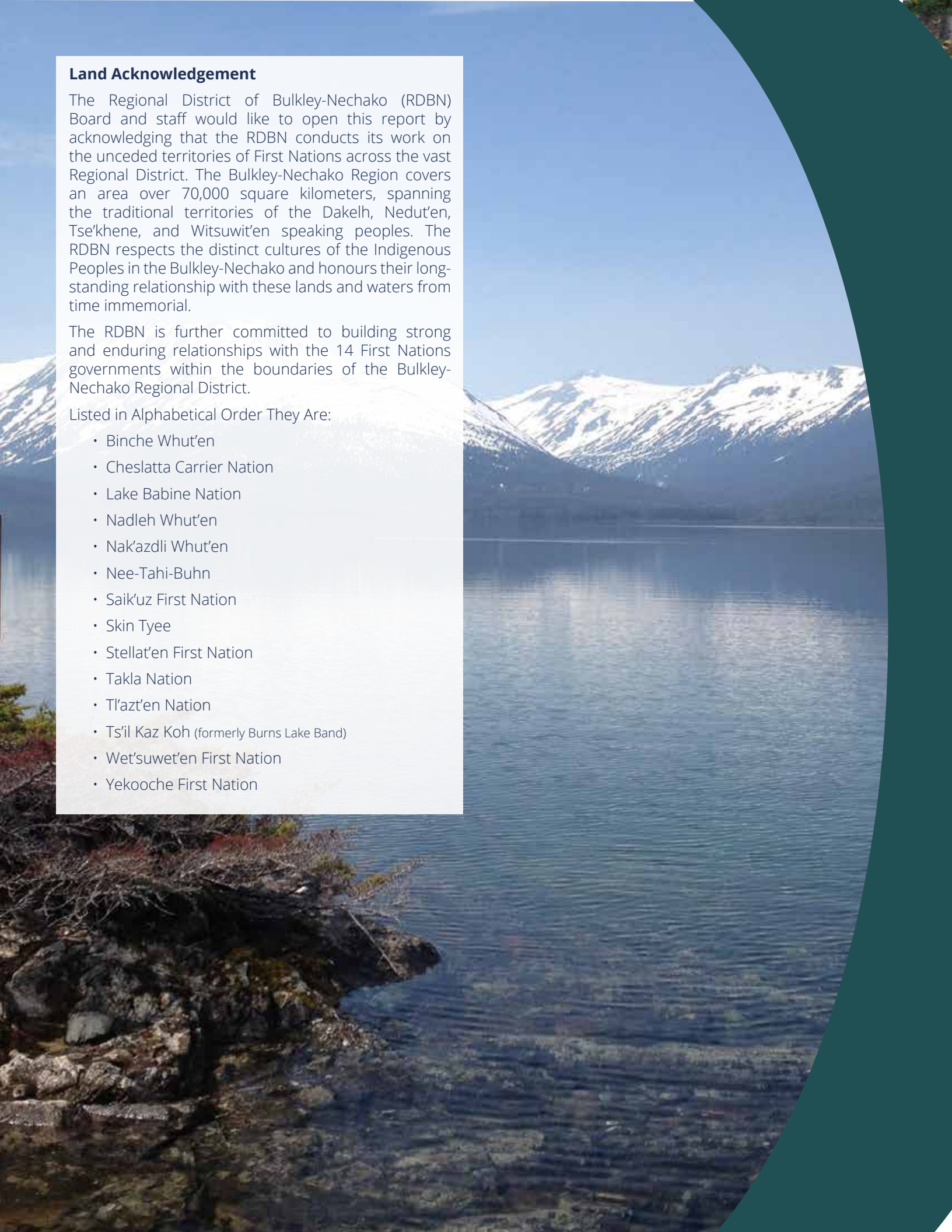
Land Acknowledgement

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





Houston and Surrounding Area

The community of Houston is nestled in the beautiful Bulkley Valley, among BC's finest outdoor recreation opportunities. An ideal setting for the outdoor enthusiast, Houston is where beautiful riverbanks, pristine lakes and many walking and hiking trails are waiting to be enjoyed. Houston is a quiet community with a comfortable pace of life. The people are friendly and visitors are made to feel welcome.

Originally a farming community which benefited from the rich soils often found in valley bottoms, Houston has become an industrial centre while maintaining its agricultural base. Houston is a resilient community that embraces the challenge of changing economic conditions to enhance long term sustainability. Opportunities within Houston and Area G are abundant, and the community is ready to welcome new ideas for production and innovation.

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 Houston to Major Centres

PLACE	DISTANCE (KM)	DRIVING TIME (HR)
Prince George, BC	307	3 hr 38 min
Kitimat, BC	323	3 hr 59 min
Prince Rupert, BC	411	5 hr 5 min
Edmonton, AB	1,045	11 hr 46 min
Vancouver, BC	1,087	12 hr 2 min
Calgary, AB	1,092	13 hr
Seattle, WA	1,201	13 hr 18 min
Whitehorse, YT	1,313	17 hr 24 min
Portland, OR	1,482	16 hr 1 min
Yellowknife, NT	1,912	22 hr 47 min
Anchorage, AK	2,444	32 hr



Electoral Area G (Houston/ Granisle Rural)



Local Area
Map

Population Growth

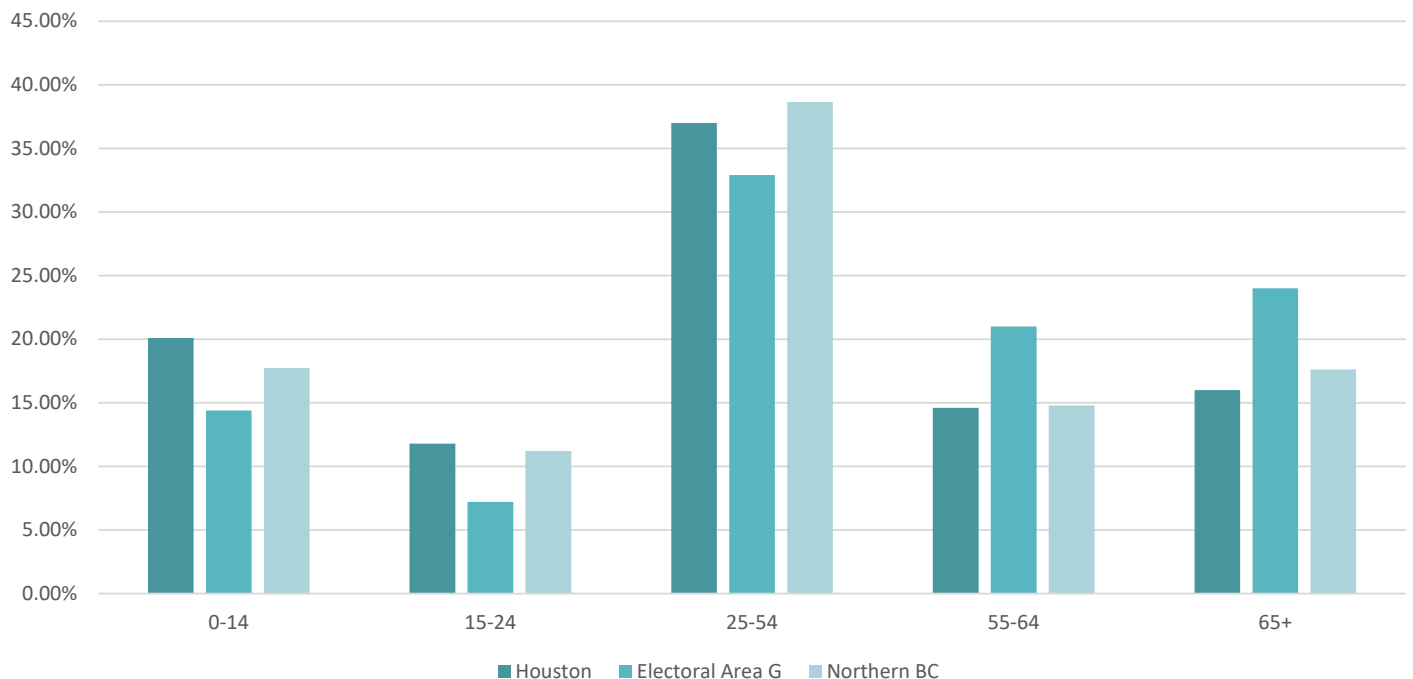
	2006	2011	2016	2021
Houston	3,163	3,147	2,993	3052
Electoral Area G	1,059	975	903	836
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225	319,628

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2021

The District of Houston had a population of 3,052 in 2021, which has increased slightly since the decline in population from 2006-2021.

Age Structure

Age Structure

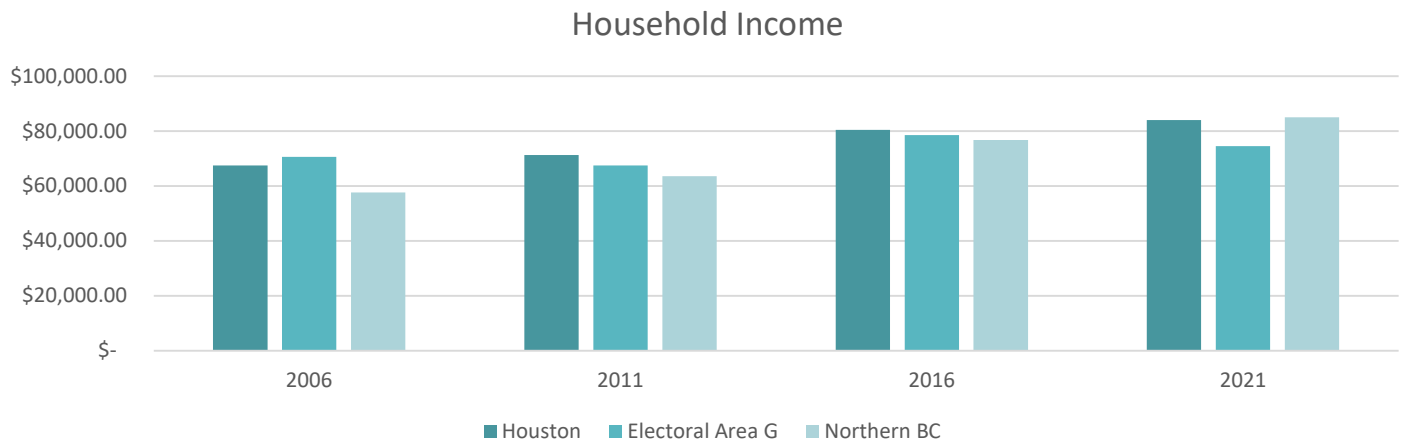


Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2021.

Houston has a higher portion of youth and young adults than Area G or Northern BC, and has a slightly lower population of those 55 and over than the rest of Northern BC.

Household Income

Median household income in Houston and Electoral Area G, 2006-2021



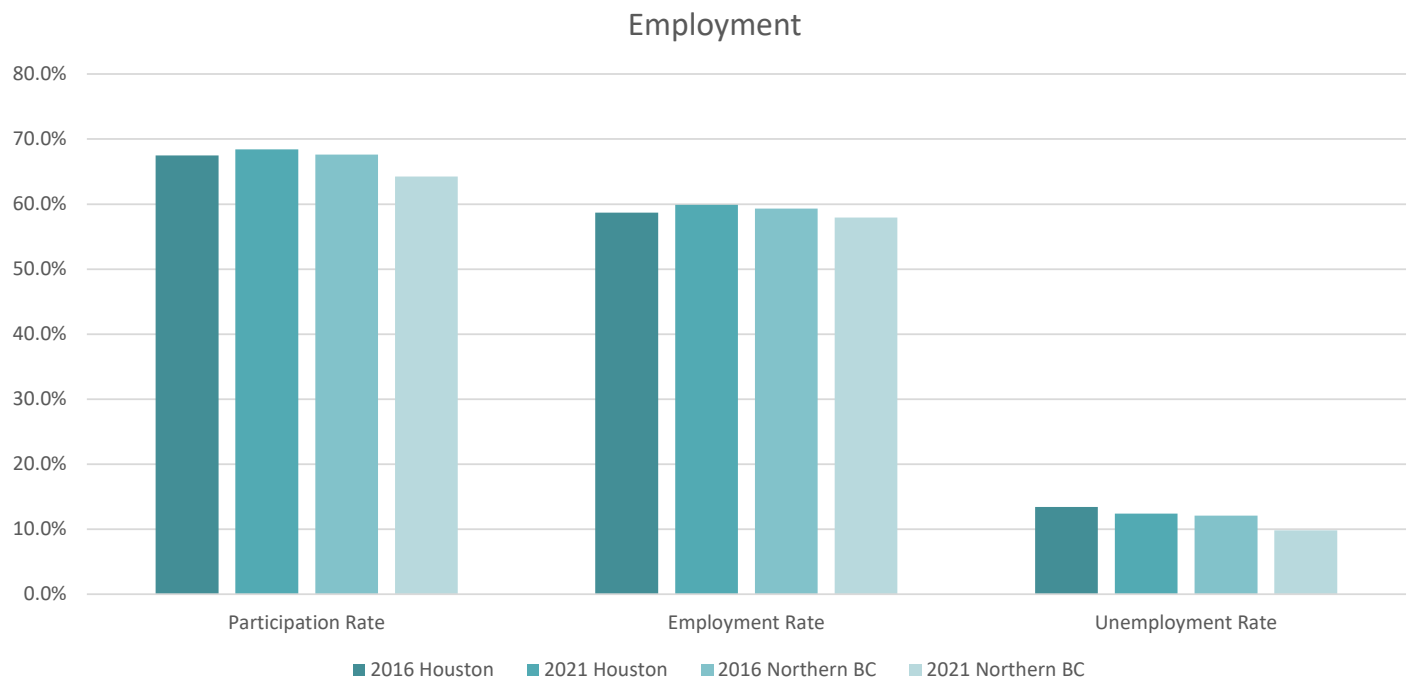
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2021

The median household income in the Houston was higher than Northern BC from 2011-2016. In 2021, the median income fell slightly behind Northern BC despite a growth of 4.4% since 2016.



Workforce Profile

Employment data in Houston and Northern BC, 2016-2021



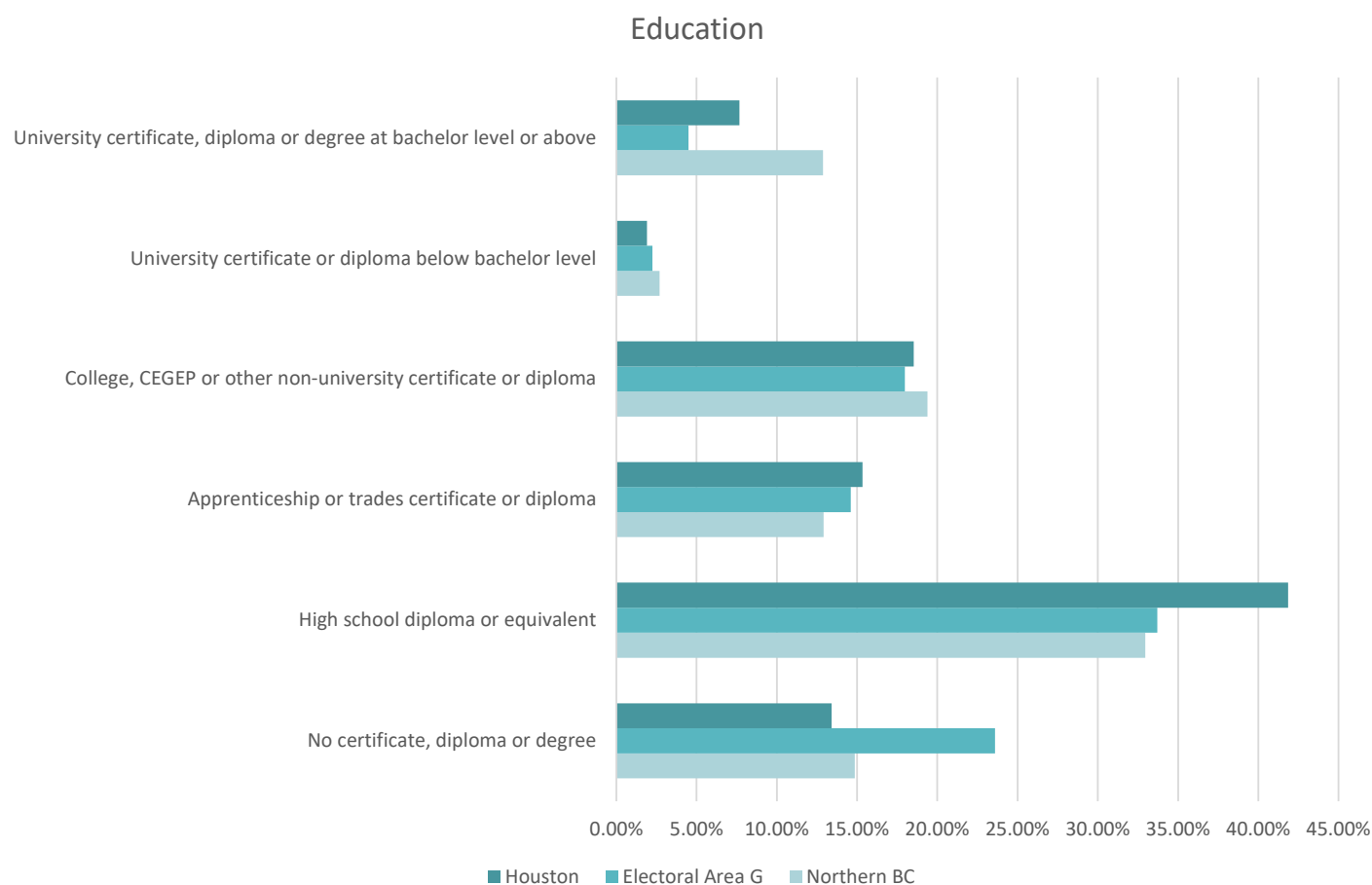
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2021

Though the unemployment rate in Houston fell from 2016-2021, the unemployment rate for the town was slightly higher than that of the rest of Northern BC.

HOUSTON
SECONDARY
SCHOOL

Education

Education in Houston and Electoral Area G, 2021



Sources: Statistics Canada, 2021 National Household Survey

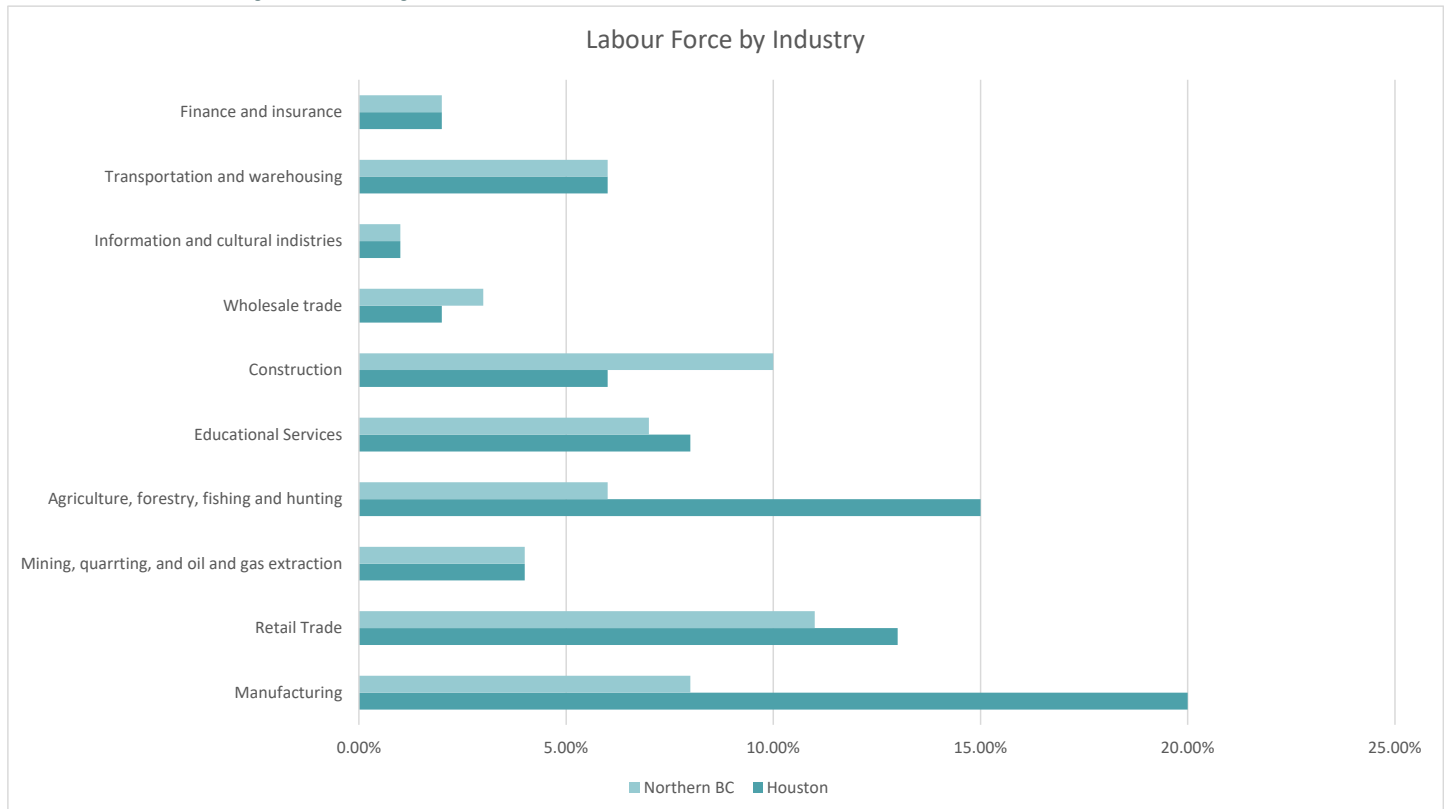
The District of Houston had a larger percentage of residents with a high school diploma compared to Electoral Area G and Northern BC in 2021. The town also had a higher percentage of residents with an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma compared to Northern BC.

Local Post-Secondary Education Facilities and Employment Service Providers

NAME	FACILITY OR SERVICE
Community Futures - Nadina	Business and Employment Programs
Coast Mountain College	Post Secondary
College of New Caledonia	Post Secondary

Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in Houston and Northern BC in 2021



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey

In 2021, manufacturing, as well as agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and retail trade were major sources of employment in Houston.

Transportation Services

NAME	CATEGORY
VIA Rail Canada Inc	Rail
BC Bus North	Bus
Houston Municipal Airport	Airport
Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit	Bus

Houston Municipal Airport

The Houston Municipal Airport is located 13km west of Houston and offers aircraft parking space and private hangars. The runway is open during snow-free months.

Labour Force by Industry

The District of Houston's water system is comprised of a main well, a back up well, and a 500,000 gallon reservoir. Two of the wells are used on a regular basis and two are for back up purposes. One of the backup wells has a standby diesel engine that can be used in the event of a sustained power failure. The water system is chlorinated.

Water Supply Vs. Projected Demand	
Rated Capacity	5.8 m ³
Average Daily Demand	1,700 m ³
Peak Demand	4,560 m ³

Water Rates	
Residential Cost	\$368.05
Industrial Cost	\$0.90-1.01/m ³

Solid Waste Disposal Services

Commercial and residential garbage is picked up once a week.

Capacity of Waste Disposal Site vs. Projected Demand

Landfill and Public Drop Off:	Knockholt Landfill
Location:	12km east of Houston
Capacity Left at Current Site:	70%/65 years
Plans for New Capacity:	None

Recycling

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

Local Government Data

Taxes

The following chart summarizes the 2022 tax rates in Houston. 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	5.57599	38.94887	87.28164	69.74141	20.40213	7.0041	6.26592	6.63359
Regional District	0.81738	2.86213	2.77910	2.77910	2.00258	2.8877	0.81738	0.81738
Hospital District	0.51469	1.80142	1.74995	1.74995	1.26099	1.9376	0.51469	0.51469
School	1.94150	12.72000	3.52000	3.52000	3.52000	1.9000	2.03000	6.98000
Other	0.37692	1.66329	1.62919	1.26659	0.94161	1.4889	0.37692	0.37692
Total	9.22648	57.99571	96.95988	79.05705	28.12731	15.2183	10.00491	15.32258

Development Fees

TYPE OF FEE	COST
Building Permit	\$7 per \$1,000 of construction cost
Business License	\$100 - \$650 depending on type
Development Permit	\$100 - \$750 depending on project value
Re-Zoning Application	\$400
Subdivision Application	\$250 first two lots, \$50 each extra lot

Houston's Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw are available at www.houston.ca

Economic Development Services

Andrea Newell

Director of Economic and
Community Development
Email: ecdev@houston.ca
Phone: 250-845-2238

Maureen Czirfusz

Executive Director
Houston & District Chamber of Commerce
Email: info@houstonchamber.ca
Phone: 250-845-7640

Mayor Shane Brien

3367 12th Street, PO Box 370
Houston, BC V0J 1Z0
Email: mayor@houston.ca

Incentive Programs

Business Support Services

- **Community Futures Nadina**

Business Funding Programs

- **Community Futures Nadina**
- **Revitalization Tax Exemption**
- **NDIT Northwest RAC**

Council has passed a Revitalization Tax Exemption bylaw in conjunction with its Five Year Financial Plan. The objectives of the Revitalization Tax Exemption program are to foster economic growth and community revitalization through increased commercial and industrial growth. The program would be accomplished by providing an incentive to owners of eligible commercial and industrial lands to invest in improvements to their lands in order to increase capacity, productivity and employment levels in the District of Houston.



Quality of Life Factors

Housing

DESCRIPTION OF TYPICAL HOUSING STOCK	# OF UNITS
Total Private Dwellings (2021 census)	1,461
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents (2021 census)	1,271
Single detached houses (2021 census)	765
Semi-detached houses (2021 census)	15
Other attached dwellings (2021 census)	295
# of owned dwellings (2021 census)	900
# of rented dwellings (2021 census)	370

HOUSING	COST
Average value of Dwellings	\$237,200

Accommodations

- Houston Motor Inn
- Pleasant Valley Motel
- Sunshine Inn Houston
- Bearspaw Suites

Restaurants

- A&W Restaurant
- Brewstir's
- Mixer's Bar and Lounge
- Houston Food Market
- Houston Subway
- Idylwild Motor Inn
- The Palisades Cafe
- Tim Horton's
- Mr. Sub
- Pleasant Valley Restaurant
- The Elements Restaurants

Community Assets

- Claude Parish Memorial Arena
- Houston & District Curling Rink
- Houston Leisure Facility
- Houston Public Library
- Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club
- Pleasant Valley Plaza
- Willow Grove Golf and Country

Other Facilities with Capacity for Hosting Events

- Royal Canadian Legion Hall
- Claude Parish Arena
- Claude Parish Arena Viewing room
- Community Hall
- Library Meeting Room
- Pleasant Valley Plaza Lounge
- Sr. Citizens Activity Centre
- Council Chambers
- Pleasant Valley Theater

Shopping

Shopping District: Downtown Shopping Core

Shopping Mall: Houston Shopping Mall

Schools

- Houston Secondary (8-12)
- Silverthorne Elementary School (K-3)
- Twain Sullivan Elementary School (4-7)
- Houston Christian School (K-12)

Quality of Life Factors

Local Community Organizations

- Bulkley Valley Community Foundation
- Bulkley Valley Youth Soccer Association
- Houston Adult Mixed Slow Pitch
- Houston Community Services Association
- Houston Figure Skating Club
- Dze L’Kant Friendship Centre Houston
- Houston Hospice Society
- Houston Leisure Development Society
- Houston Link to Learning
- Bulkley Valley Drag Racing Association
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Canadian Red Cross
- Houston District Curling Club
- Houston Hikers Society
- Houston Minor Hockey
- Houston Minor Softball
- Houston Museum
- Houston Retirement Housing Society
- Houston Ringette Association
- Houston Search and Rescue
- Houston Senior Citizen Association Branch 97
- Houston Snowmobile Club
- Houston Mountain Bike Trails
- Mixed Dart Club
- Morice Mountain Marksmen Association
- Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club
- Nadina Offroad Society
- Pleasant Valley Horse Club
- PV Cattleman Association
- Royal Canadian Army Cadets No 3020
- Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary
- Senior Citizen Association Branch 97
- Houston Mountain Bike Association
- Houston Volunteer Fire Department
- Houston Farmers Market
- Quick 4-H Club
- Topley 4-H Club
- GEMS

Financial Services

- Bulkley Valley Credit Union Houston Branch
- Royal Bank of Canada

Legal Services

- Gidding & Company

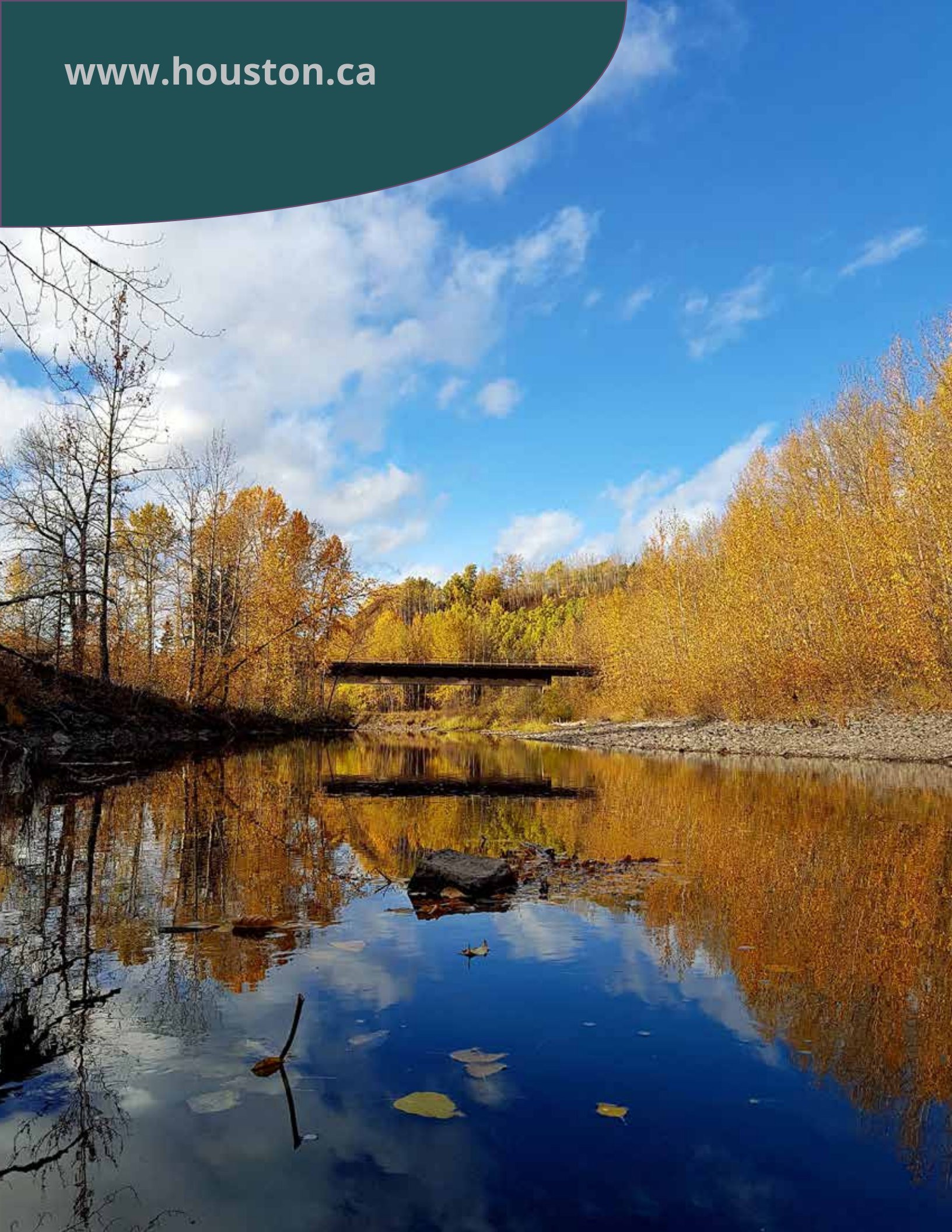
Media

- Houston Today
- The Local Connector
- CBC FM
- CJFW Radio
- The Peak
- CJFW TV
- CityWest Cable TV

Houston Health Clinic

Houston Health Centre is a unique facility that supports many services under one roof, from urgent care and outpatient services, to public health, home and community care. Further services available include ADP program, mental health and addictions, private physiotherapy clinic, child and infant development programs, women’s health clinic, and visiting specialists that include pediatrics and gynecology. The health centre provides space for many community groups, such as club house, a support group learning life skills and moms and tots, a weekly support and social group for new mothers.

www.houston.ca





Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

Houston/Granisle Rural, or Electoral Area G, offers natural landscapes of lakes and rivers, as well as scenic drives that allow travelers and residents to take in the wilderness of central BC. The unincorporated communities of Perow, Topley Landing, and Topley as well as the municipality of Houston and Granisle are within its boundaries.

The rural area has a stable population of approximately 1,000 people. Residents of Houston Rural have the highest percentage of apprenticeship or trades certification in the RDBN, and many work in construction and manufacturing.

Lake Babine Nation has three communities in Electoral Area G. They are the communities of Fort Babine, Old Fort, and Tachet.

Population

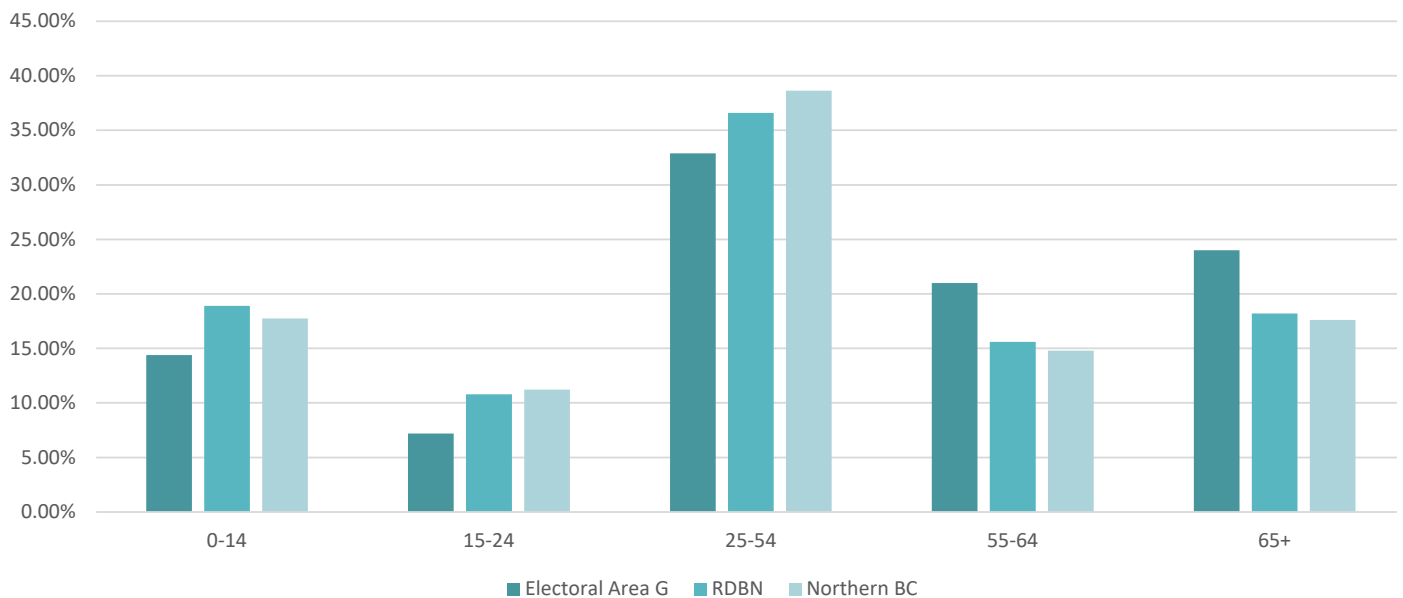
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016	2021
Electoral Area G	1,059	975	903	836
Regional District Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,896	37,737
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225	319,628

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile 2006-2021.

From 2016 to 2021, the population of Area G (Houston/Granisle rural) decreased by 67.

Age Structure

Age Structure

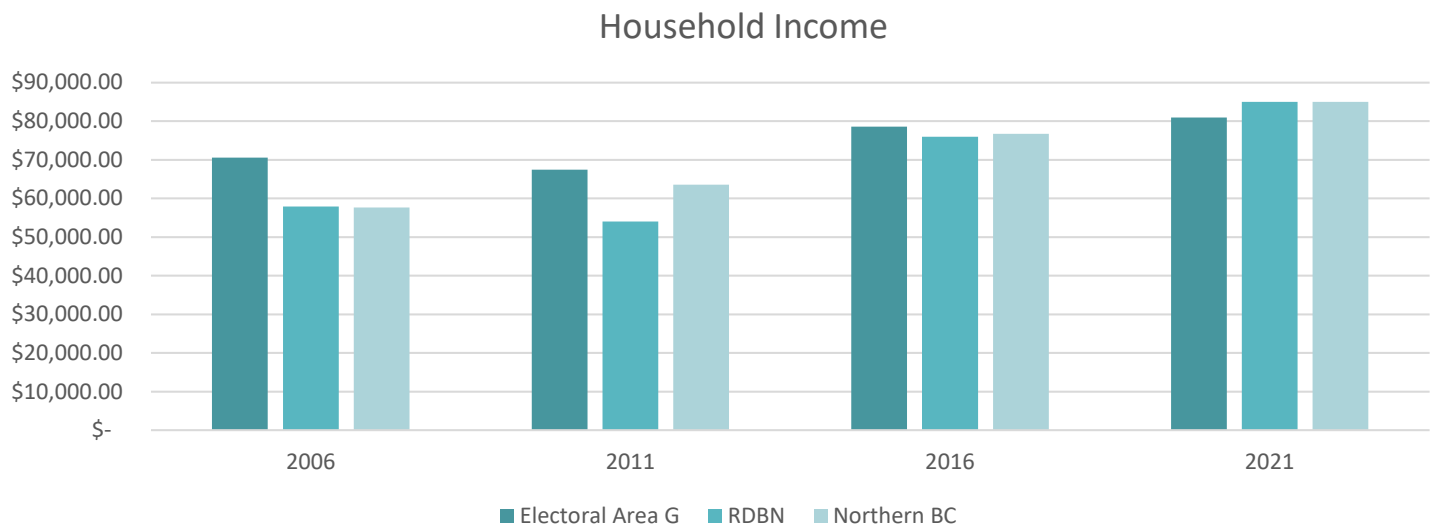


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2021.

The age structure reveals that the Electoral Area has a lower youth population (ages 0-14) and lower percentage of residents between the ages of 25-44 as compared to the RDBN and Northern BC.

Household Income

Median household income in Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural), and the RDBN, 2006-2021



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

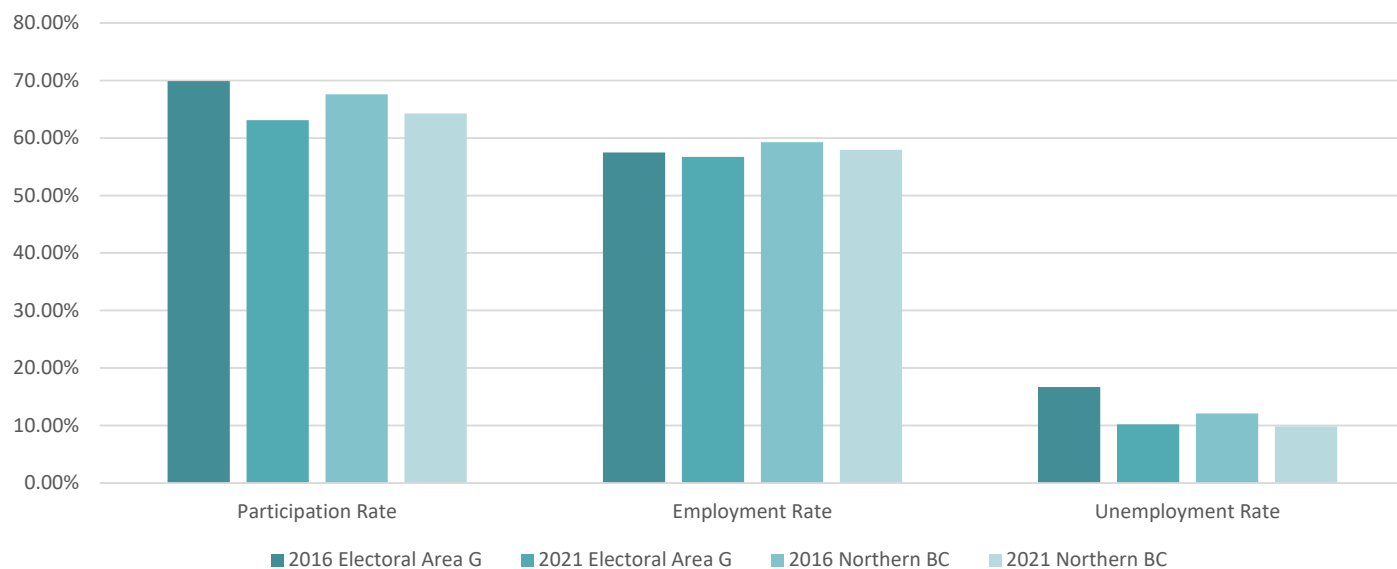
The median household income in Electoral Area G has increased by 3.1% from 2016-2021.





Employment

Employment

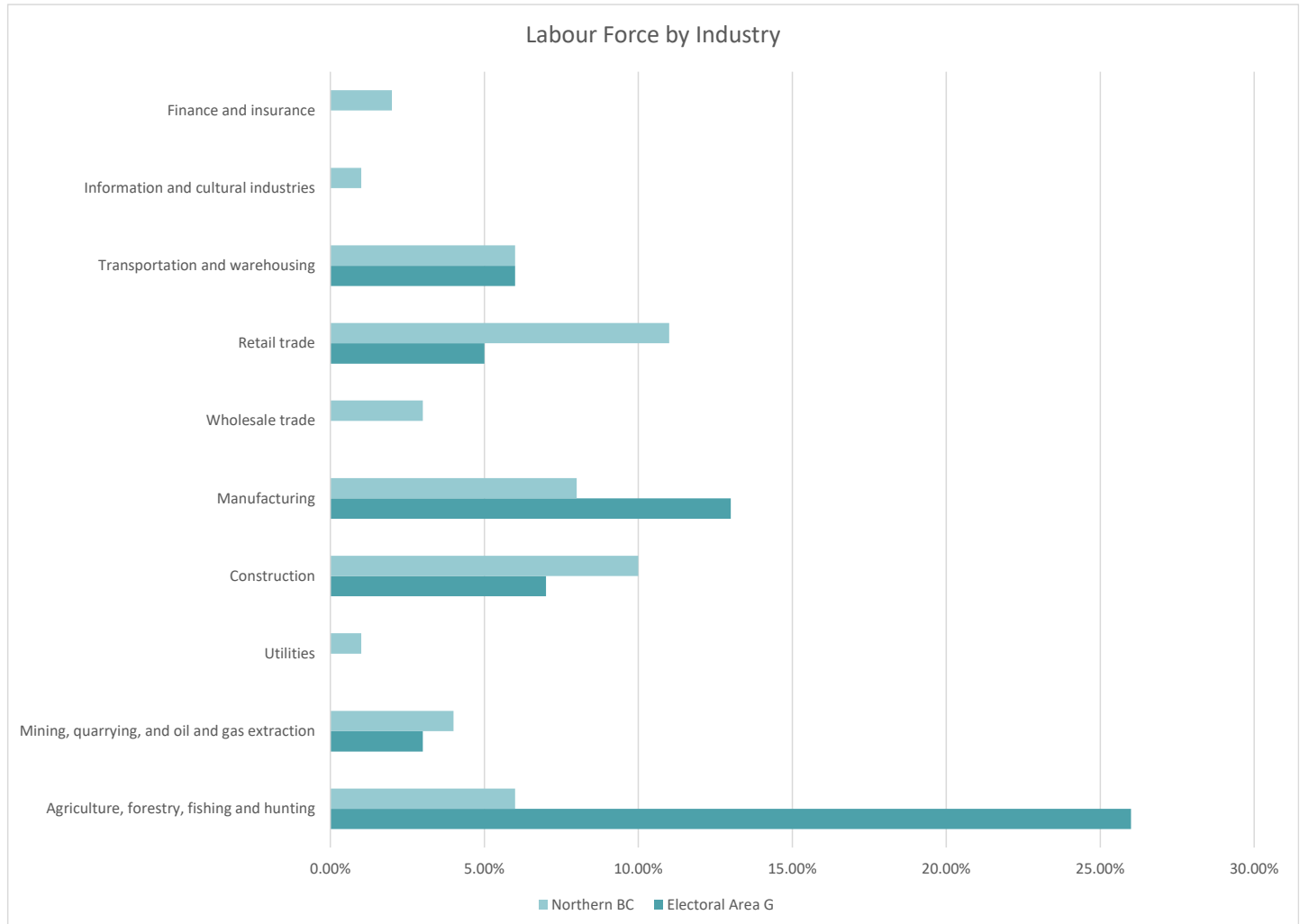


Sources: Statistics Canada, 2021 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2021.

In 2021, the participation rate in the labour force and the unemployment rate were higher for Electoral Area G than the rest of Northern BC.

Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural) 2021

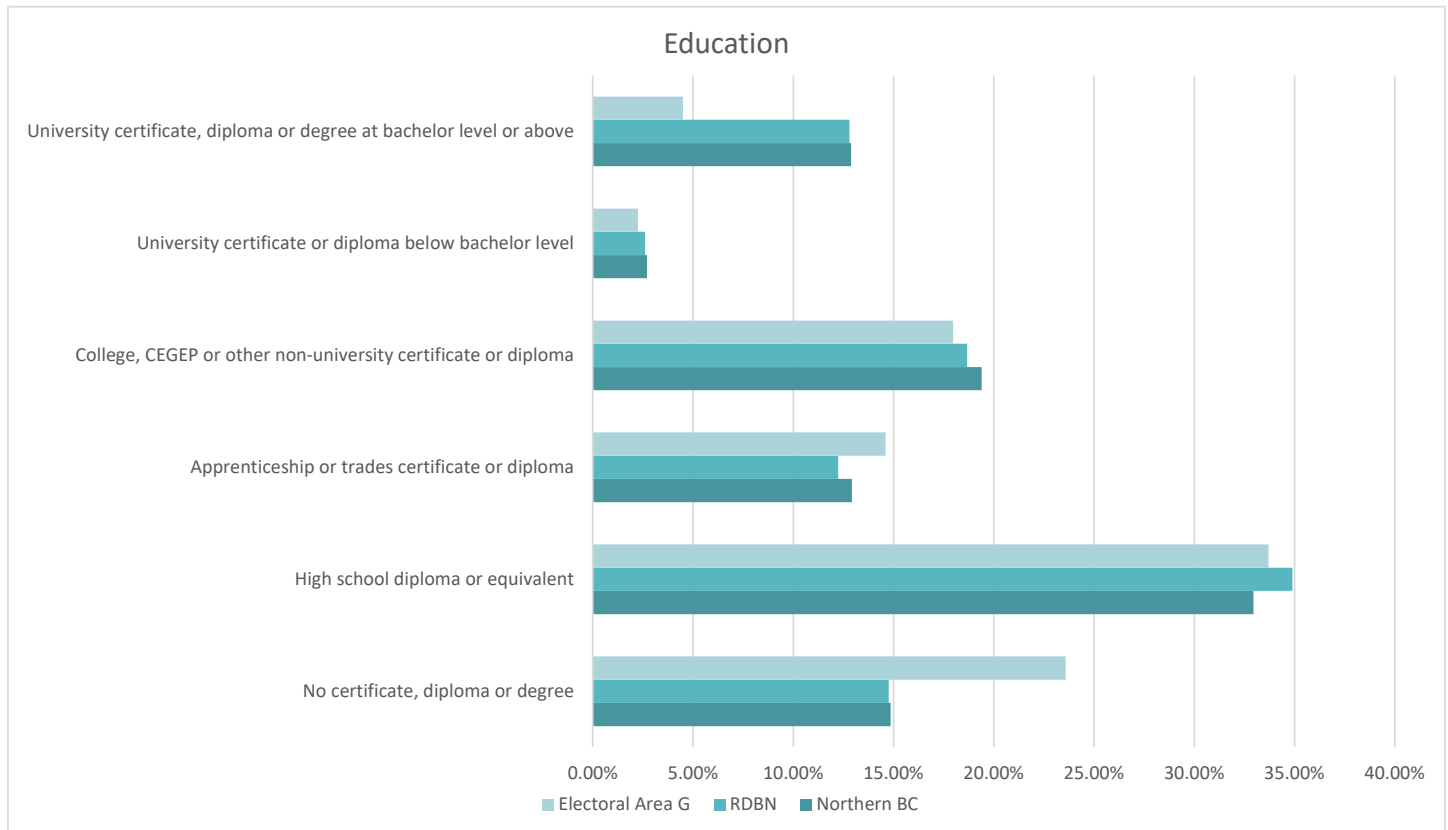


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey.

In 2021 in Electoral Area G, agriculture, forestry, fishing and logging were the biggest employment sectors, followed by manufacturing and construction.

Education Level

Education in Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural), and the RDBN, 2021



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey.

The percentage of Area G residents with apprenticeship or trades certificates or diplomas was higher than the RDBN or Northern BC in 2021.

Local Community Organizations

- Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club
- Topley Community Club
- Houston Hikers Society
- Houston Snowmobile Club
- Morice Mountain Marksmen

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 Chris Newell

16897 Buck Flats Rd
Houston, BC V0J 1Z1
Email: chris.newell@rdbn.bc.ca
Phone: 250-845-3564

Indigenous Communities

Tachet

Tachet is located on the Fulton River near Babine Lake and the town of Granisle. It is part of the Lake Babine Nation band. The community has a child care facility, outdoor sports access, a health clinic, and a community hall. There are approximately 130 permanent residents in Tachet. The band also owns the Eagles Landing Gas Station in Granisle.

Old Fort

Old Fort is a seasonal community on Babine Lake. It is roughly 13km Northwest of Granisle and is only accessible via boat. The community is used for fishing, hunting and gathering during the summer and fall.

Fort Babine

Fort Babine or Wit'at is a community located at the northern tip of Babine Lake. There are sixty permanent residents. The community features treated water service, the Fort Babine Lodge Resort, and year round access via a maintained gravel logging road.



rdbn.bc.ca