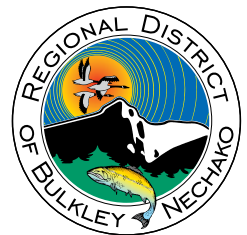




Smithers and Surrounding Area Community Profile

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



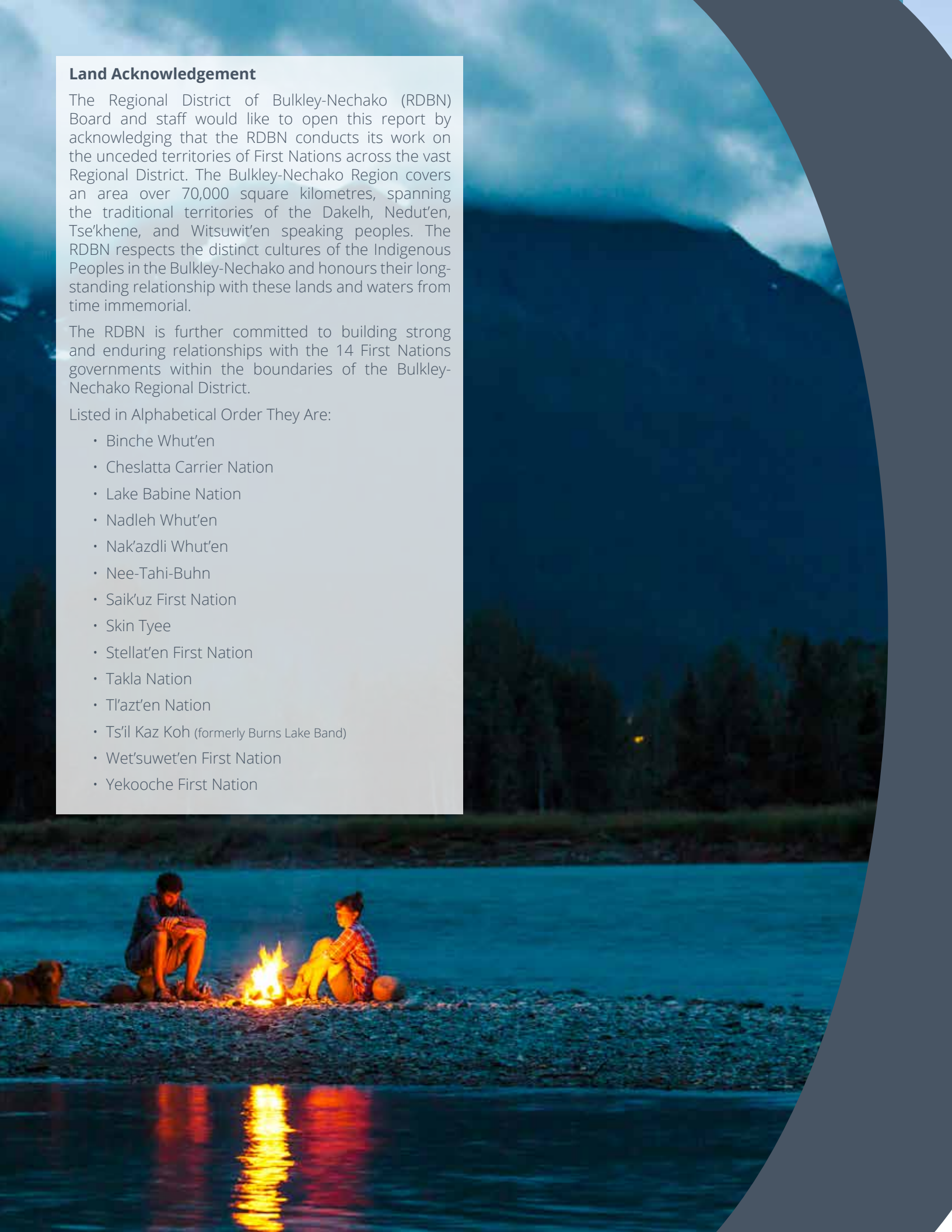
Land Acknowledgement

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 kilometres, 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





Smithers and Surrounding Area

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

From fishing, hunting, and golfing to downhill and cross-country skiing, 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 centre for the larger Bulkley Valley.

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 to Major Centres

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



Electoral Area A
(Smithers/Telkwa
Rural)

**Local Area
Maps**

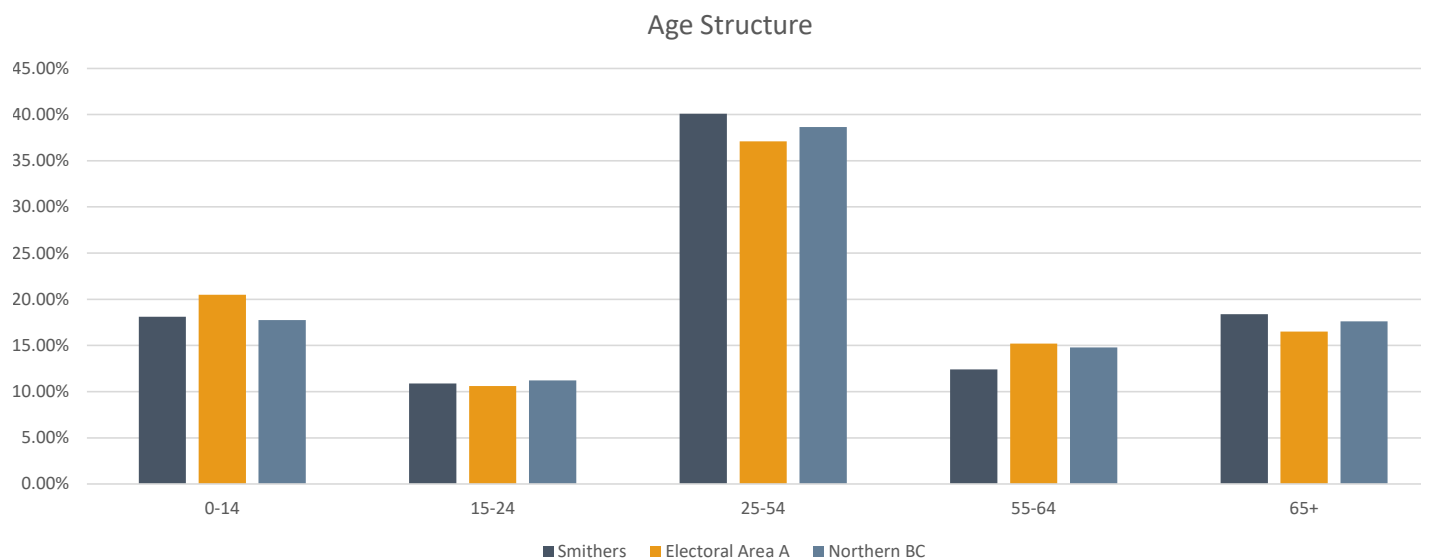
Population Growth

	2006	2011	2016	2021
Smithers	5,217	5,404	5,401	5,378
Electoral Area A	5,290	5,391	5,256	5,587
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225	319,628

Source: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2021.

In 2021, the Town of Smithers had a population of 5,378, and the population has remained relatively stable since 2006.

Age Structure

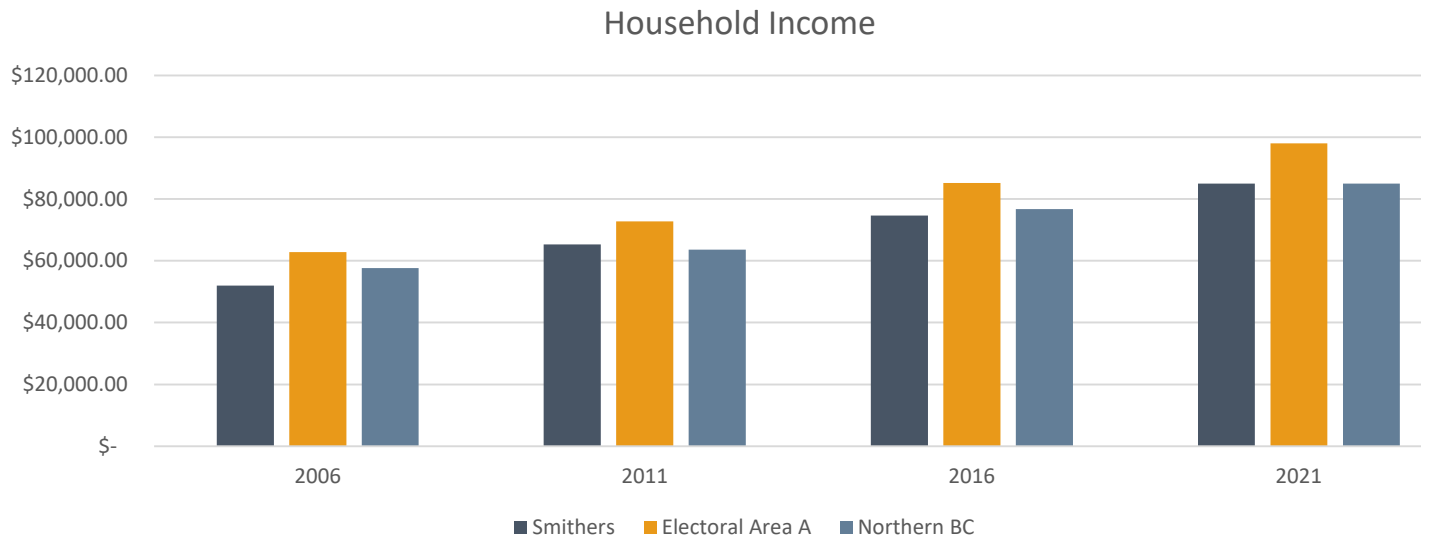


Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2021

In 2021, Smithers had a larger portion of youth and young adults than the rest of Northern BC. There was also a higher portion of those 65 and over.

Household Income

Median household income in Smithers and Electoral Area A in 2006-2021



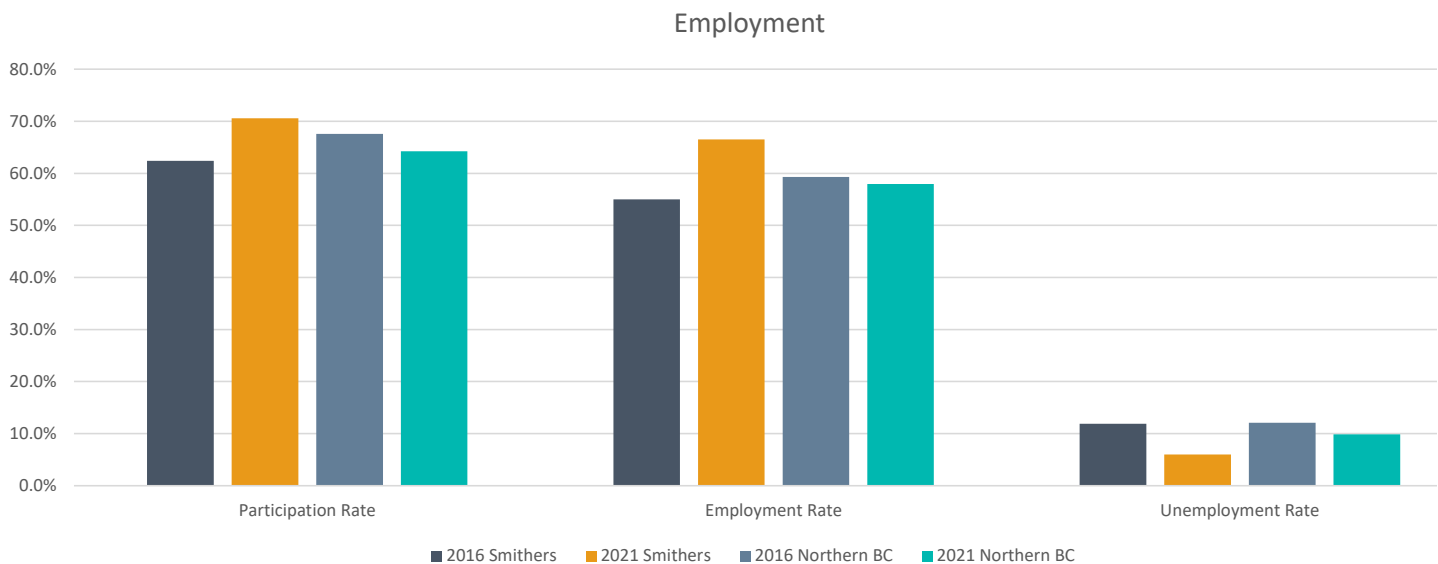
Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2021

The household income in Smithers has risen steadily since 2006, roughly matching the average for Northern BC.



Workforce Profile

Employment Data in Smithers and Northern BC, 2016-2021



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

The unemployment rate in Smithers fell substantially from 2016 to 2021. Employment and participation rates both increased as well.

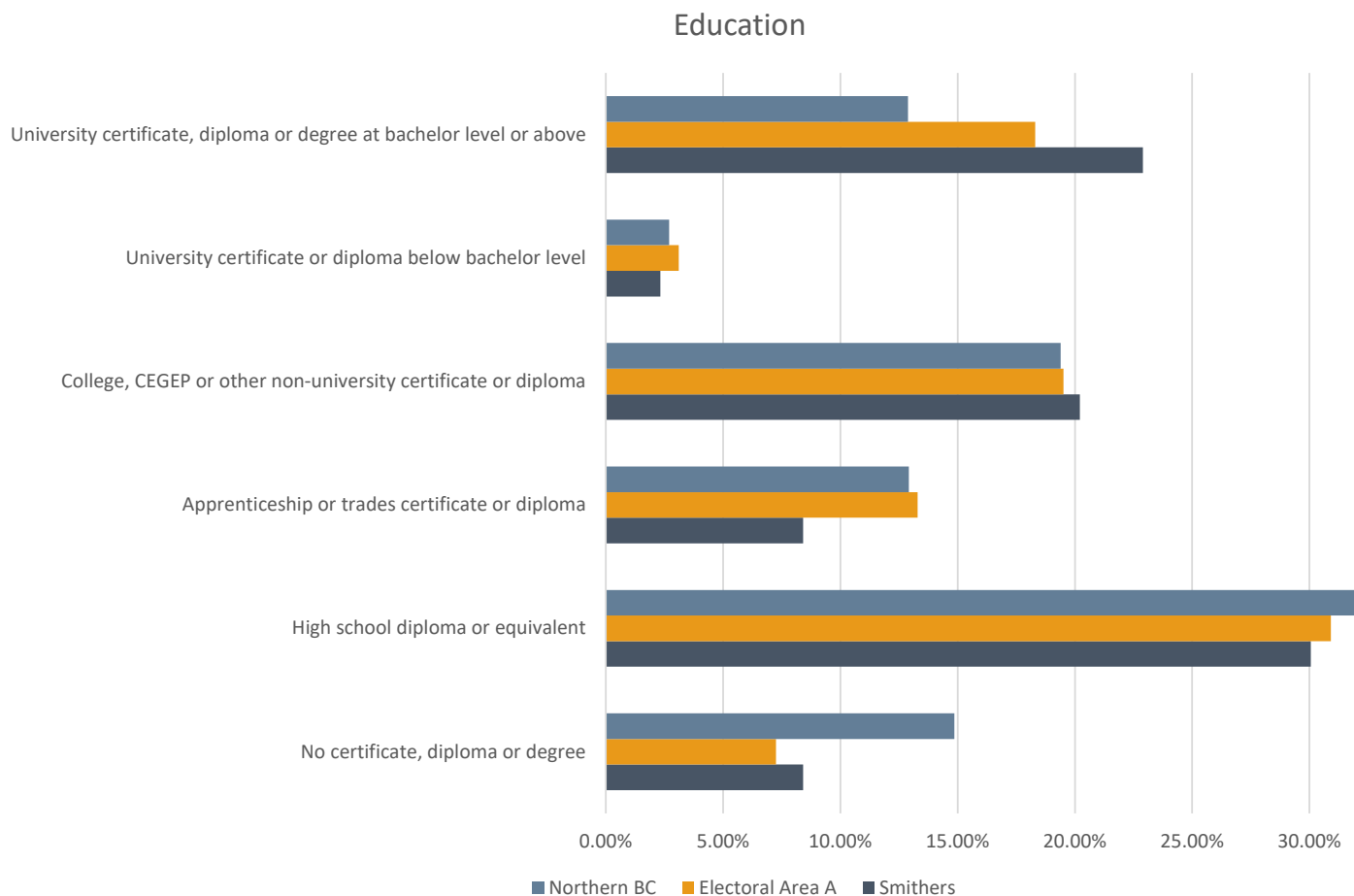
Top Employers

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

NAME	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
School District No. 54	393
Bandstra Transportation Services	380
Northern Health Smithers	380
Hy-Tech Drilling	369
Government of British Columbia	278
West Fraser Concrete	235
CN Rail	221
Pacific Inland Resources	200
Smithers Community Services Association	64
Town of Smithers	60

Education

Educational attainment in Smithers and Electoral Area A in 2021

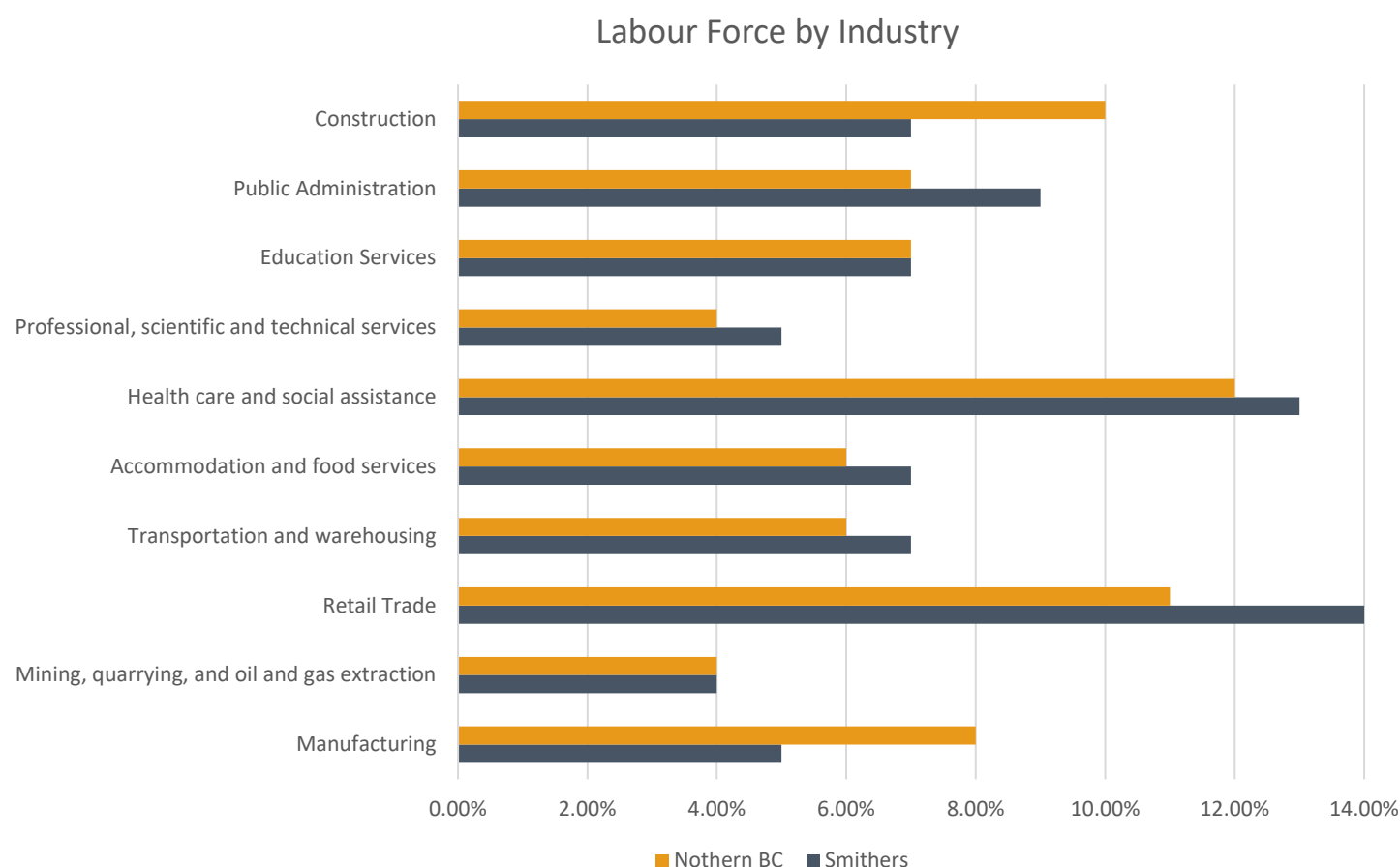


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey

Smithers had a higher portion of the population with a university education and lower portion with no certificate, diploma or degree than Electoral Area A and the rest of Northern BC in 2021.

Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in Smithers and Northern BC in 2021



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey

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 health care services.

Education and Employment Services

NAME	FACILITY OR SERVICE
Coast Mountain College	Post-Secondary Institution
Community Living BC	Developmental Disability Services
Smithers Community Services Association	English as a Secondary Language Training
WorkBC Employment Services Centre	Employment Services

Local Government

The following chart summarizes 2023 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	3.72370	46.59805	91.47974	24.23098	18.63921	0.00000	5.09601	0.00000
Regional District	1.28120	4.48420	4.35608	4.35608	3.13832	0.00000	1.28120	0.00000
Hospital District	0.50470	1.76645	1.71598	1.71598	1.23678	0.00000	0.50470	0.00000
School	1.84040	12.57000	1.33000	3.33000	3.33000	1.95000	1.99000	7.29000
Other	0.03380	0.45570	0.45570	0.09710	0.09690	0.23860	0.03380	0.03380
Total	7.83310	67.01478	97.35459	35.41245	27.08772	2.13600	9.36737	7.01510

Development Fees

TYPE OF FEE	COST
OCP Amendment	\$1,500
Zoning Bylaw Amendment	\$1,500
Development Permit	\$750
Board of Variance Application	\$800
Building Permit (Commercial)	\$6.25/\$1000 construction value
Building Permit (Residential)	\$5.50/\$1000 construction value
Business License for period of January 1 - December 31	\$160 - \$1,000
Business License for period of July 1 - December 31	\$80 - \$500

Smithers' Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw are available at www.smithers.ca

Economic Development Services

Jill Barrowman

Economic Development Officer
Town of Smithers
Email: jbarrowman@smithers.ca
Phone: 250-847-1600

Transportation

Smithers is located on a sophisticated transportation network, providing access to key markets, enabling easy movement of commodities and finished products to markets in Canada, North America, Asia and around the globe.

The following transportation businesses and facilities are found in Smithers.

NAME	CATEGORY
Air Canada	Airplane Services
Alpine Lakes Air Ltd.	Float Plane Services
BC Bus North	Bus Service
BC Transit - Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit System	Bus Service
Canadian Helicopters Ltd.	Helicopter Services
Central Mountain Air Ltd.	Charter Airplane Services
DJ Airside Services	Airplane Services
Mustang Helicopters	Helicopter Services
Silver King Helicopters Inc.	Helicopter Services
Smithers Regional Airport	Airport
Tsayta Aviation Ltd.	Airplane Services
Via Rail Canada Inc.	Passenger Rail Services
Kaizer Taxi Services	Taxi Services

Smithers Regional Airport

- The Town of Smithers owns and operates the Smithers Regional Airport.
- NavCanada operates a Flight Service Station at the Smithers Airport.
- Air Canada provides two direct flights per day between Smithers Regional Airport (YYD) and Vancouver Airport (YVR). The airport accommodates charter flights on a regular basis.
- Distance from Smithers Airport to downtown Smithers: 5.5 km
- Hours of operation: Runway is open 24/7/365. Maintenance staff on site: winter 07:00 - 19:30 seven days per week, and summer 07:00-17:00 Mon-Fri. Maintenance staff available after-hours charges apply.
- Full instrumentation: Runways have GPS approaches RNAV/VNAV/LPV, not full instrument (ILS) approaches.
- Runway length: 7,500 ft
- The terminal building can accommodate 125 persons in the secure boarding lounge (seating for 118) and the main terminal can hold approximately 125 persons.
- Customs point of entry: No. The nearest customs branches are in Prince Rupert and Prince George Airport.



Road

Highway 16 (Yellowhead Highway) originates in Manitoba and extends to Prince Rupert on the West Coast. Highway 16 passes through Smithers, providing an excellent truck transportation infrastructure for the movement of supplies. Highway 16 is well maintained and “all-weather”, permitting efficient travel and easy access by vehicle.

- Taxi / airport shuttle service;
- BC Transit passenger bus service;
- BC Bus North: intercity bus service between Prince Rupert and Prince George;
- Northern Health Connections: for patients needing to travel for out-of-town appointments;
- Vehicle and truck rental services;
- Various freight transportation companies: services include household moving, refrigeration, container hauling, cross-border, etc.

Sea

The Port of Prince Rupert, located 349 km west of Smithers, is a global gateway, exporting bulk commodities from Canada to destinations all over the world. Prince Rupert is the second largest port on the West Coast of BC and is the deepest natural harbour in North America, remaining ice-free year-round. The Port of Prince Rupert accommodates the largest vessels in the shipping route and is the closest North American West Coast port to Asia, 500 nautical miles closer than other ports in the Pacific Northwest. The Port of Prince Rupert has a direct, single-line connection to the extensive reach of CN's continental rail network.

Rail

Intermodal Transportation Services

Smithers is located on the Canadian National Rail line, linking Prince Rupert and the North American marketplace. CN Rail has a railyard and station in Smithers.

Passenger Rail Service

Passenger Rail transport includes VIA Rail from Prince Rupert to Jasper, with stops in many communities along the route, including Smithers.

Water

Source of Water Supply and Means of Access

The water supply for the majority of Smithers’ residents is sourced from three deep wells on the southeast side of town. The water quality is good and is 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. One of the reservoirs holds 265,000 gallons of water, while the second reservoir holds 1,000,000 gallons. Both reservoirs have a single inlet/outlet and the distribution system is flushed annually. The Town of Smithers also operates a separate water system at the Smithers Regional Airport. The airport system consists of two deep wells 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 a community facility near the airport. The Smithers Airport water system includes treatment year-round with sodium hypochlorite and a water softener.

Significant changes to the federal drinking water regulations have caused the Town’s drinking water to be non compliant and has prompted upgrades to all of the Town-operated water systems. Recently the Town system at the Airport was awarded a \$2,900,000 grant for a new water treatment plant. The Airport water treatment plant was designed through 2023 and is expected to be constructed through 2024 and 2025. Master planning has started for the other town water systems. Adding water treatment to a large established distribution system is complicated, technical and expensive. Master planning, new deep well research and development, as well as treatment and distribution options will be part of master planning.

Water Supply vs. Projected Demand

Avg daily demand	0.549 (mgd)
Peak Demand	1.5 (mgd)

Residential, Commercial and Industrial Water Rates

Residential	\$325
Non-Residential	\$0.9402/cubic metre

Description of Waste Treatment Facility and Capacity

Rated Capacity	2.2 mgd
Average Daily Demand	0.57 mgd

Waste

Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Services

Commercial and residential garbage is picked up once a week. Residential solid waste is picked up weekly from the curbside. Residential recycling is collected biweekly alternating with garbage. There is also a Recycle BC Depot located in Smithers, as well as recycle drop-off at the Smithers-Telkwa Transfer Station. Commercial cardboard is not accepted at the Transfer Station.

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	62 years
Plans for New Capacity	None
Transfer Station	Smithers-Telkwa Transfer Station - 6150 Donaldson Rd



Housing

DESCRIPTION OF TYPICAL HOUSING STOCK	# OF UNITS
Total Private Dwellings (2021 census)	2,411
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents (2021 census)	2,313
Single detached houses (2021 census)	1,450
Moveable Dwellings (2021 census)	150
Row houses (2021 census)	75
Appartment Units (2021 census)	400
HOUSING	COST
Average value of Dwellings	\$406,800

Schools

- SD 54 - Bulkley Valley Education Connection
- SD 54 - Bulkley Valley Learning Centre
- SD 54 - Muhiem Elementary School (K-7)
- SD 54 - Smithers Secondary (grade 8-12)
- SD 54 - Walnut Park Elementary School (K-7)
- Bulkley Valley Christian School (K-12)
- Ebenezer Canadian Reformed School (K-12)
- Project d'école francophone à Smithers (K-12)
- St. Joseph's Catholic School (K-7)



Quality of Life Factors

Health Services

- Bulkley Valley District Hospital
- Bulkley Lodge Long-Term Care
- Smithers Health Unit
- Bulkley Valley Chiropractic
- Smithers Family Chiropractic
- Willowvale Chiropractic
- Alpine Physiotherapy
- Smithers Physiotherapy Centre
- North Valley Physiotherapy
- Smithers Naturopath
- Tyhee Dental
- Driftwood Dental
- Trillium Integrative Health Centre

Bulkley Lodge

Bulkley Lodge is a stand-alone, long-term care home. It provides care to 70 residents across four units within the building.

Event Hosting

- Alpenhorn Bistro and Bar
- Aspen Inn
- Civic Centre
- Della Herman Theatre
- Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge
- Smithers Civic Centre
- Smithers New Arena
- Smithers Senior Centre
- The Legion
- The Old Church

The Meadows

Provides seniors with disabilities with self-contained bedroom units, hospitality and personal care services, social and recreation activities.

Bulkley Valley District Hospital

The Bulkley Valley District Hospital is an 18-bed acute care facility, which integrates home and community care into one facility. Services include:

- Emergency/outpatient
- Medical
- Surgical
- Maternity
- Palliative Care
- Psychiatric observation unit
- Laboratory
- Radiology
- Pediatrics services
- Community Cancer Clinic

The medical staff in Smithers consist of family physicians, visiting specialists and surgeons.

Media

- Bell Media: Pure Country
- Smithers Community Radio: CICK
- Smithers Interior News
- Vista Radio Ltd: The Moose Radio / My Bulkley Lakes Now



Quality of Life Factors

Local Community Organizations

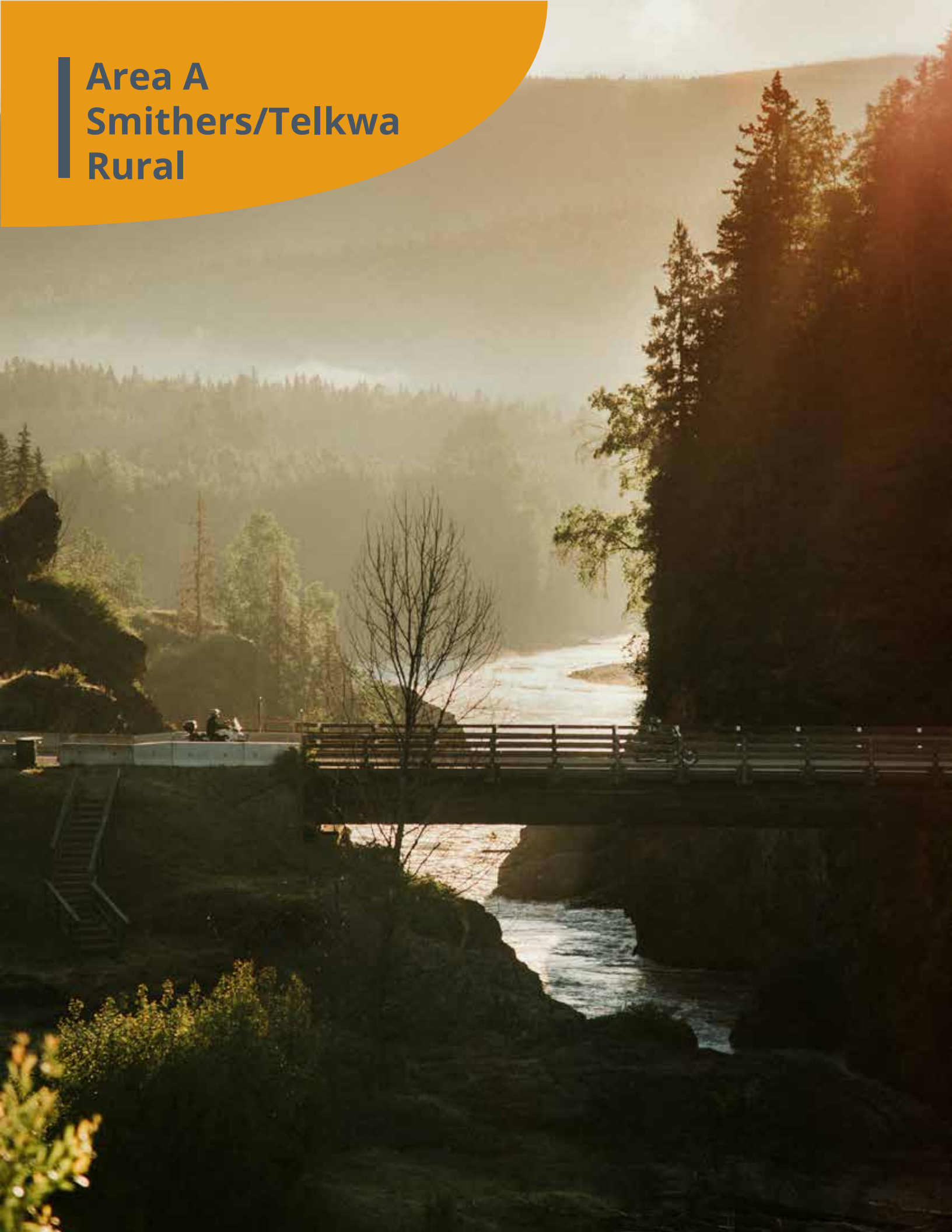
- Bulkley Valley Community Foundation
- Bulkley Valley District Hospital Auxiliary
- Bulkley Valley Hospice Society
- Bulkley Valley Kinsmen Club
- Bulkley Valley Museum Society
- Bulkley Valley Search & Rescue
- BV Arts Council
- Community Living BC
- Cycle 16 Trail Society
- Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society
- High Roads Services Society
- Legal Services Society
- Northern Society for Domestic Peace
- Northwest Animal Shelter Society
- Positive Living North
- Rotary Club of Smithers
- Royal Canadian Legion Smithers Branch 63
- Salvation Army
- Smithers & Area Housing Society
- Smithers Community Services Association
- Smithers District Chamber of Commerce
- Smithers Multicultural Society
- Tourism Smithers Society
- The Grendel Group



Local Community Assets

- Archery - BV Bowmen (Fair Grounds)
- ATV & Snowmobile Tours - Harvey Mountain Adventures
- ATV - Bulkley Valley Quad Riders
- Bulkley Valley Concert Association
- Bulkley Valley Disc Golf Association
- Bulkley Valley Fall Fair Grounds
- Bulkley Valley Museum
- Bulkley Valley Otters Swim Club
- Bulkley Valley Pool & Recreation Centre
- Bulkley Valley Racquetball Society (Tennis & Pickleball)
- Bulkley Valley Rod & Gun Club
- Bulkley Valley Soccer Society (Youth Soccer)
- BV Backpackers
- Canoe and Kayak Rentals - Aquabatics
- Climbing Wall - BV Pool
- Evelyn 4-H Club
- Hockey
 - Smithers Minor Hockey Association
 - Northern Hockey School
 - Smithers Steelheads Hockey
- Horse Riding:
 - BV Saddle Club
 - Double D-lux (Trail Riding and Petting Zoo)
 - Mountain View Adventures (Trail Horse Riding)
 - Northern Saddle Club
 - Northwest Backcountry Horsemen
- Music:
 - Bulkley Valley Youth Fiddlers
 - BV Community Band
 - Smithers Music
- Northern Summit Volleyball
- Roi Theatre
- Shogun Dojo Martial Art School
- Skiing:
 - BC's Northern Adaptive Snow Sports Program (skiing for the disabled)
 - BV Nordic Centre - Skiing, cross country/biathlon
 - Hudson Bay Mountain Ski Resort
 - Nancy Greene Alpine Downhill Ski Program
 - Smithers Ski & Snowboard Club
- Smithers Rugby
- Smithers Art Gallery
- Smithers Bowl (Bowling)
- Smithers Curling Club
- Smithers Figure Skating Club
- Smithers Flag Football
- Smithers Girl Guides: Sparks & Embers
- Smithers Golf & Country Club
- Smithers Judo Club
- Smithers Junior Softball
- Smithers Mountain Bike Association
- Smithers Ringette
- Smithers Saltos Gymnastics Club
- Smithers Sea Cadets - Royal Canadian Legion
- Smithers Scouts: Beaver & Cub Scouts
- Smithers Slo Pitch Softball
- Special Olympics BC - Smithers
- Spin Classes
- Squash – BV Pool
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Yoga: The Yoga Loft
- Town of Smithers:
 - Chandler Park Soccer Fields
 - Civic Centre & New Arena
 - Elks Park Ball Diamonds
 - Mountain Bike Park
 - Riverside RV Park
 - Skateboard Park

Area A Smithers/Telkwa Rural





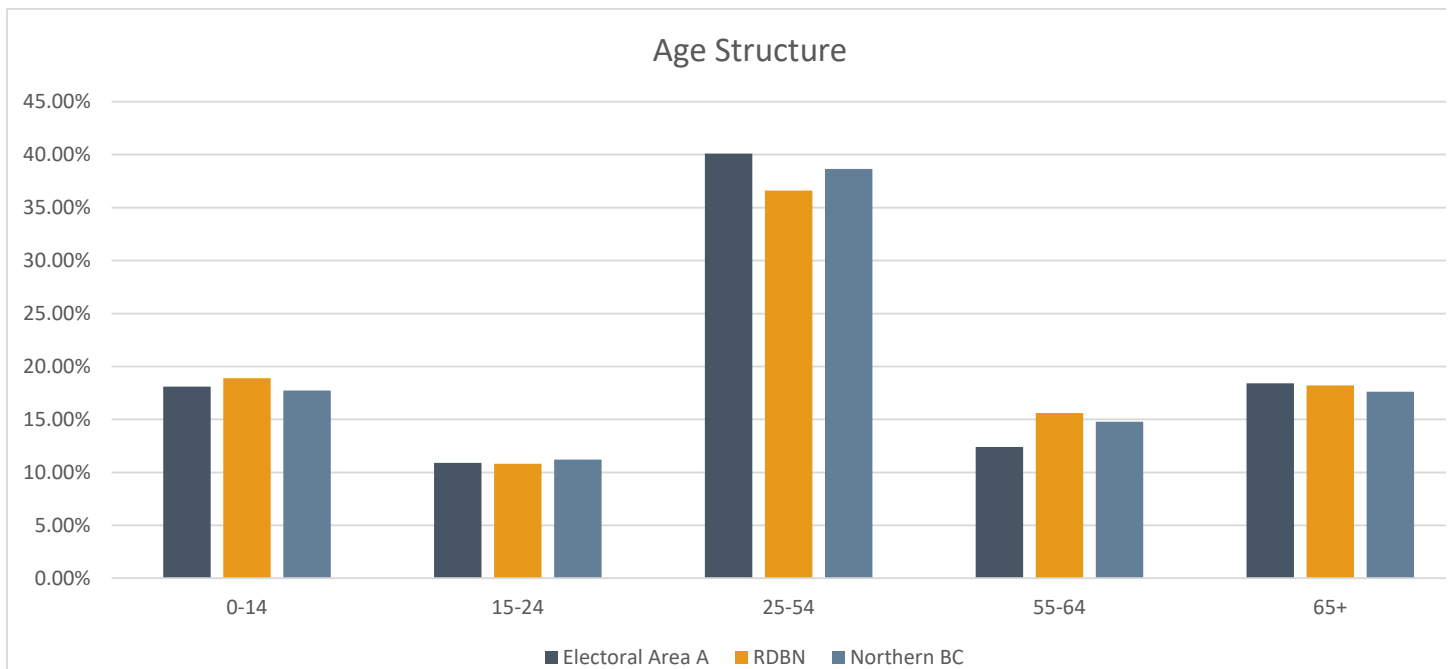
Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Smithers/Telkwa 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.

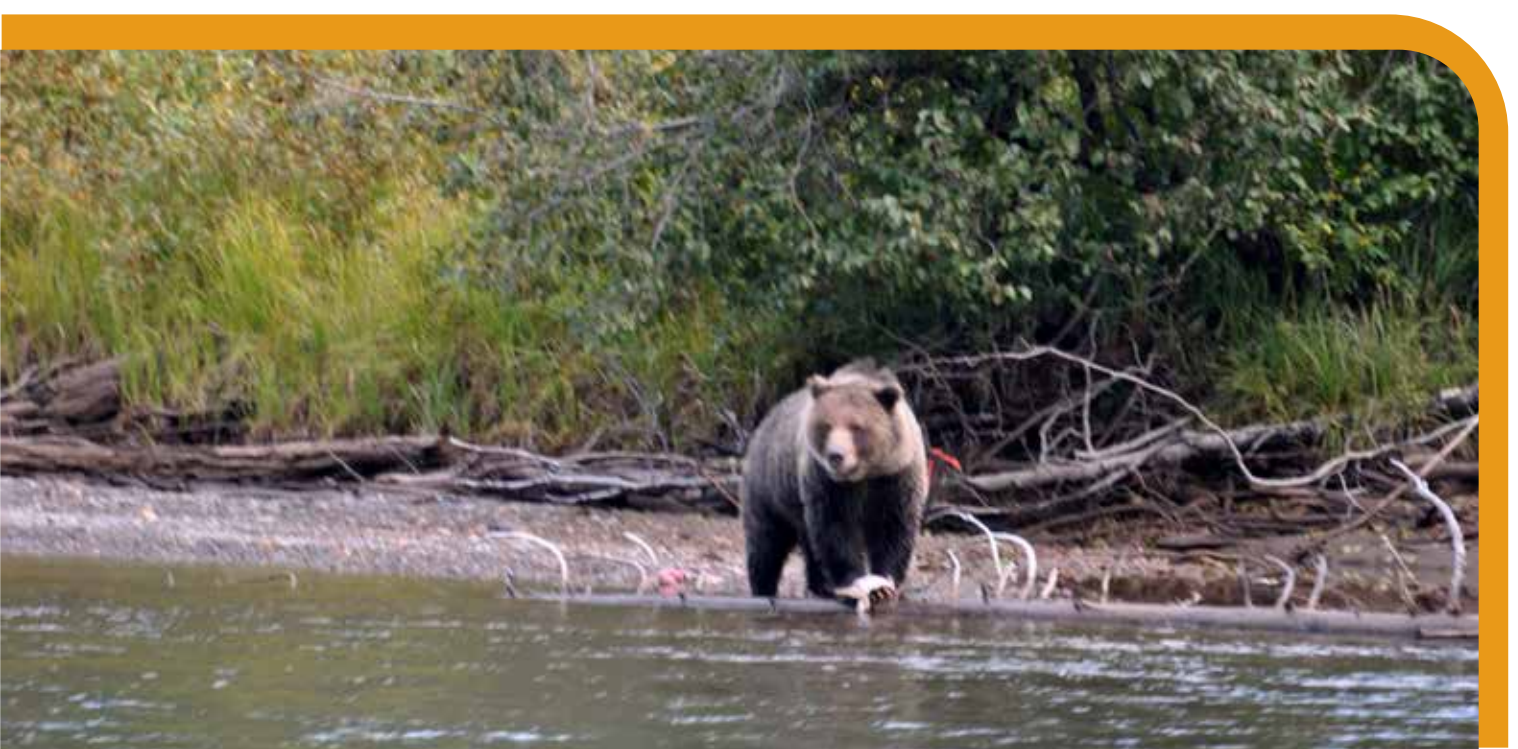
The Office of the Wet'suwet'en is located in Smithers, which manages the surrounding traditional territory.

Age Structure



Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2021.

The population of Electoral Area A is slightly older than the RDBN and Northern BC in 2021. Electoral Area A also had a higher percentage of youth aged 0-14 than the rest of Northern BC.



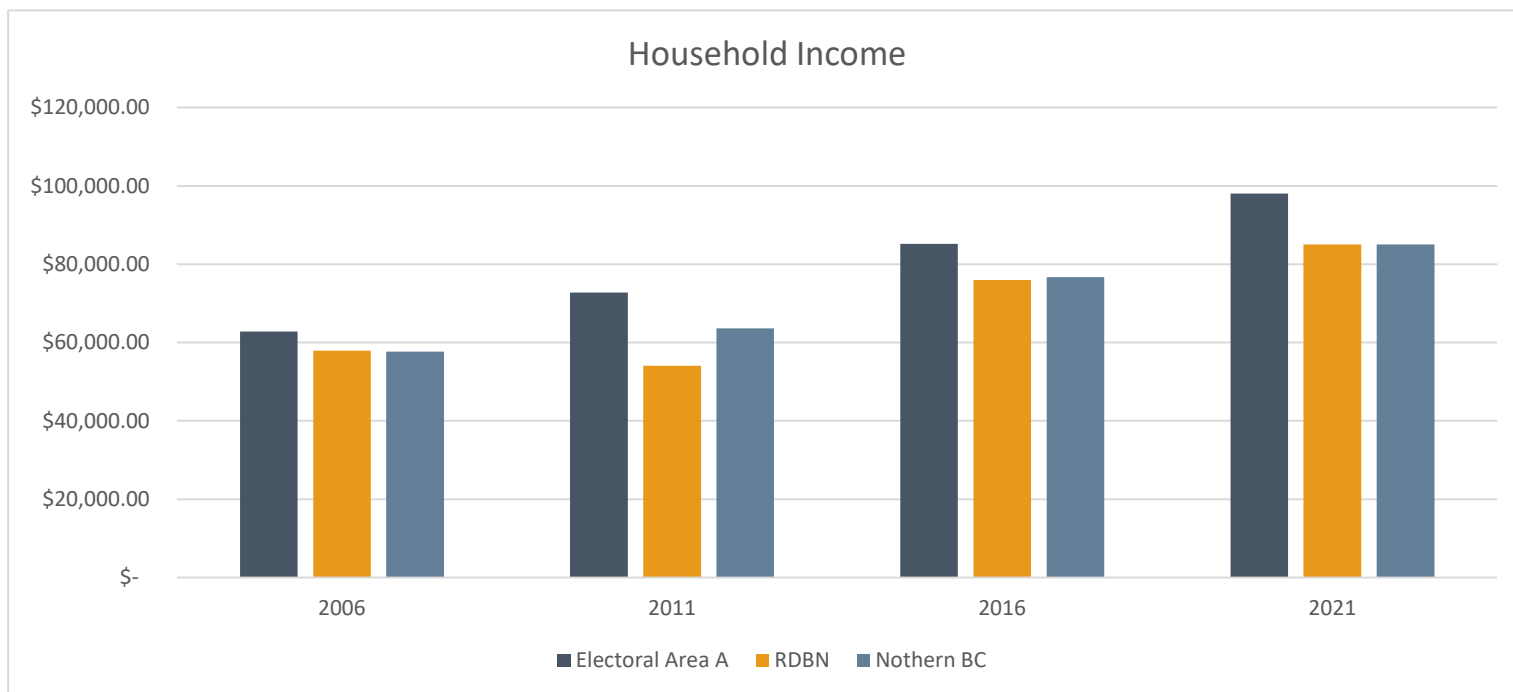
Population

POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016	2021
Electoral Area A	5,290	5,391	5,256	5,587
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.

Electoral Area A had the highest population among the electoral areas in the RDBN, with a total population of 5,587 in 2021. The population has remained relatively stable over the past 15 years.

Household Income



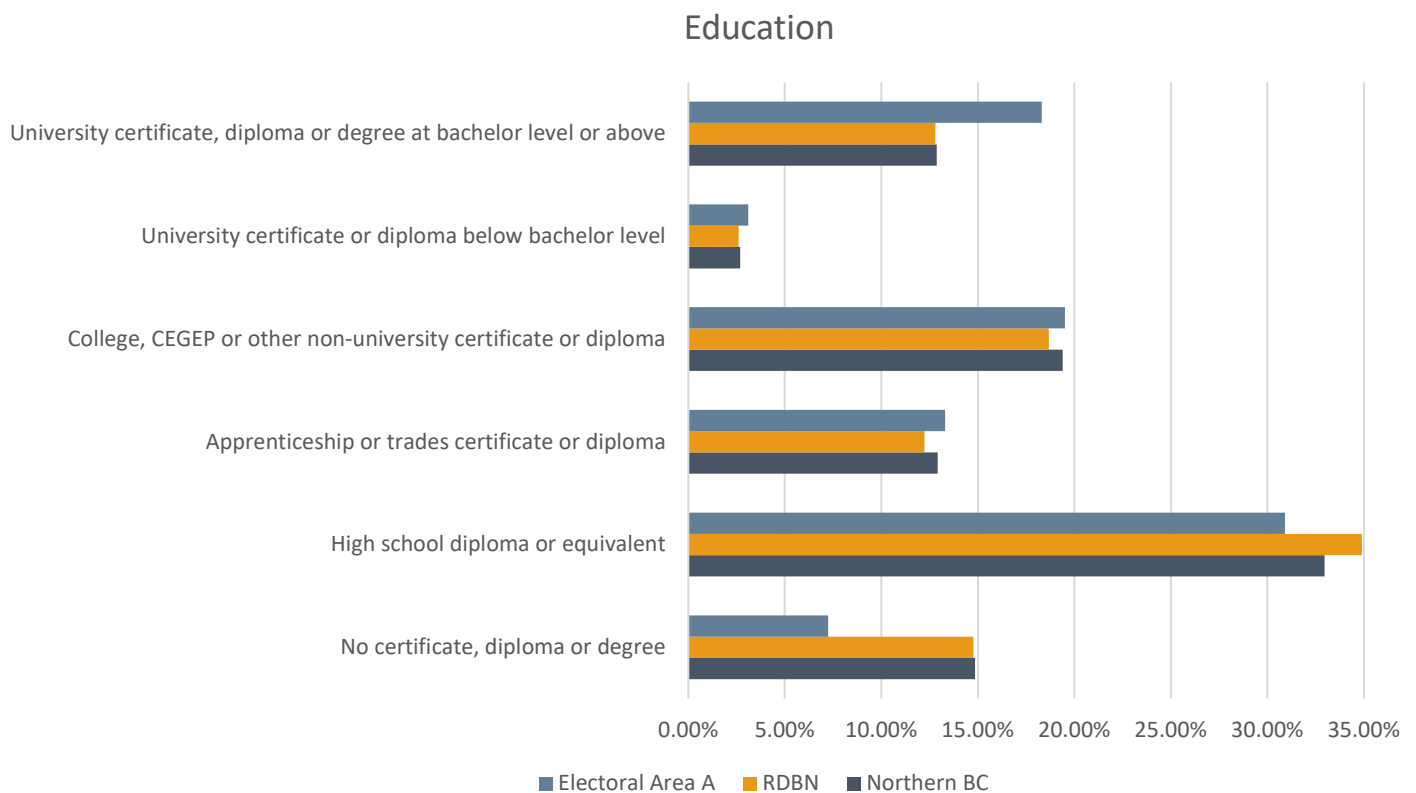
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2021.

In 2021, Electoral Area A had the highest median household income among the electoral areas. The household income in Electoral Area A has been higher than in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2006 to 2021.



Education Level

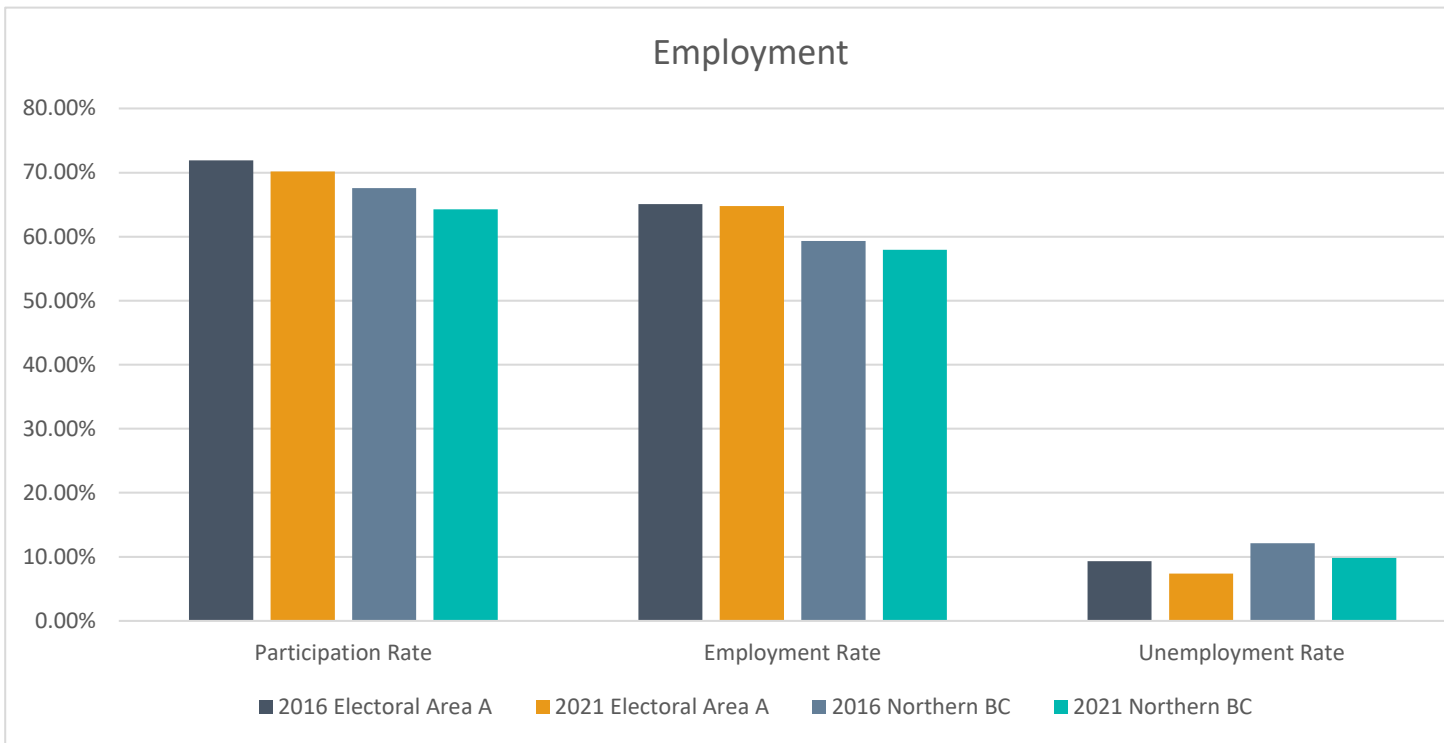
Education in Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) and the RDBN, 2021



Sources: Statistics Canada, 2021 National Household Survey.

Electoral Area A has a higher population of university, college, and trades education than the rest of the RDBN or Northern BC.

Employment



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

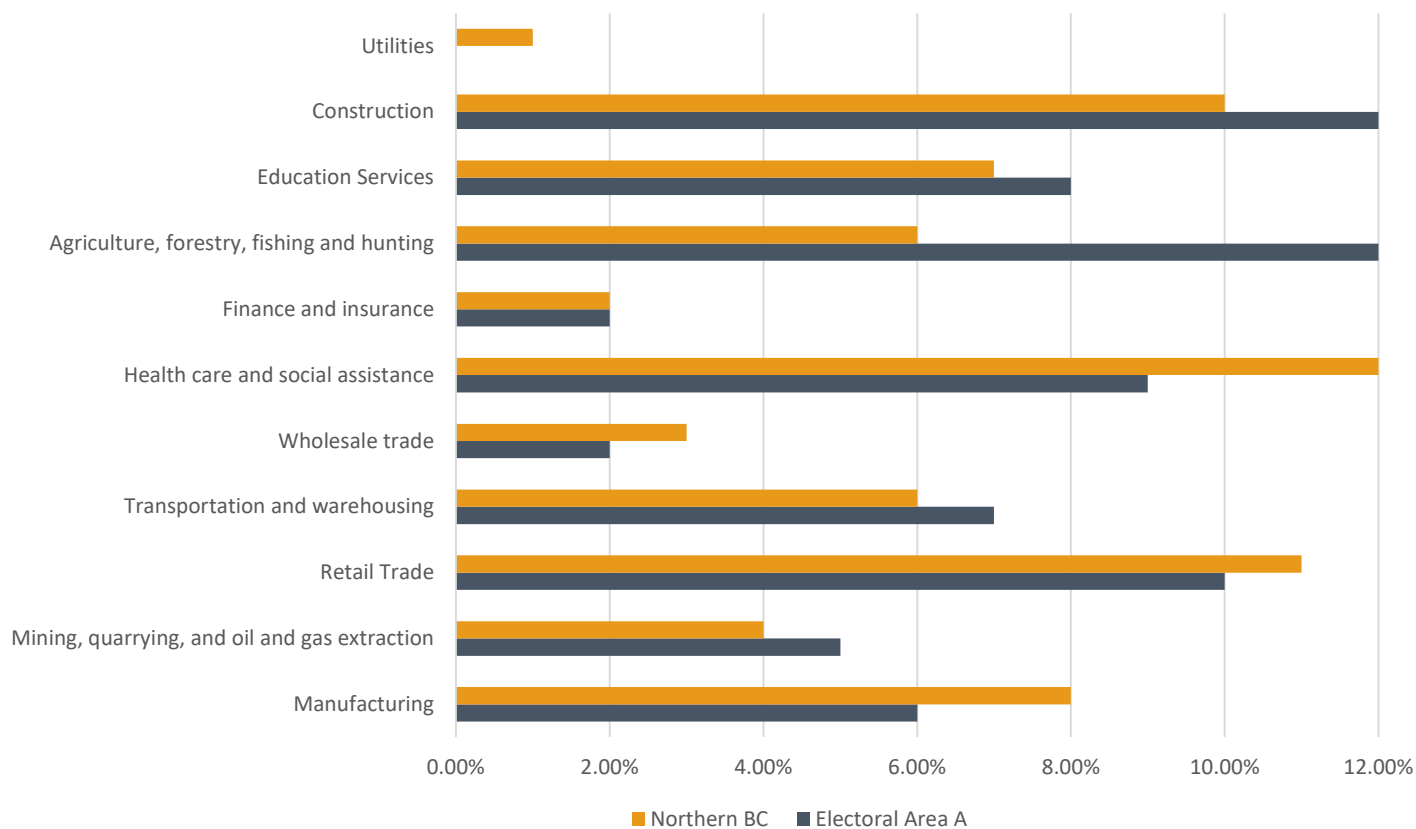
Electoral Area A had a lower unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2016 and 2021.





Labour Force by Industry

Labour Force by Industry



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2021 National Household Survey.

In 2021, Electoral Area A, the major sources of employment came from primary industries such as agriculture, forestry, and fishing, as well as construction.

Economic Development

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

Nellie Davis

Manager of Regional Economic Development
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Email: nellie.davis@rdbn.bc.ca
Phone: 250-692-3195 / 1-800-320-3339

Director Stoney Stoltenberg

Email: stoney.stoltenberg@rdbn.bc.ca

Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Electoral Area A, Smithers Rural, official community plan is available at: www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/planning.

- [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 Community Organizations


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

- Evelyn Community Hall
- Round Lake Community Hall
- Driftwood Community Hall

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
- Tyee Mountain Ski Trails



"Smithers is surrounded by spectacular landscapes, has a thriving arts and recreation culture and vibrant downtown. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong and the economy is diverse, making Smithers a destination of choice to invest, work live and play. " - **Mayor Gladys Atrill**

"There are many things that make our region special. The nature, recreation opportunities, and services we enjoy are second to none. What truly sets our community apart, however, are our neighbours."

- **Director of RDBN Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)**

www.smithers.ca

www.rdbn.bc.ca