

Health³

- Rates of arthritis, diabetes, leisure time physical activity, perceived mental health and self-reported stress are similar to provincial averages
- The region has a slightly higher prevalence of asthma and high blood pressure relative to provincial averages
- Despite relatively high levels of care and reductions in smoking and drinking, the region reports poorer health than provincial averages

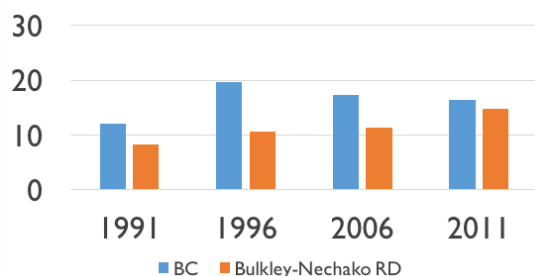


Very good/excellent perceived health (%)
 Overweight or obese (%)
 Current daily smoker (%)
 Heavy drinking (%)
 Consuming fruit/veg > 5 times daily (%)
 Has Regular Doctor (%)

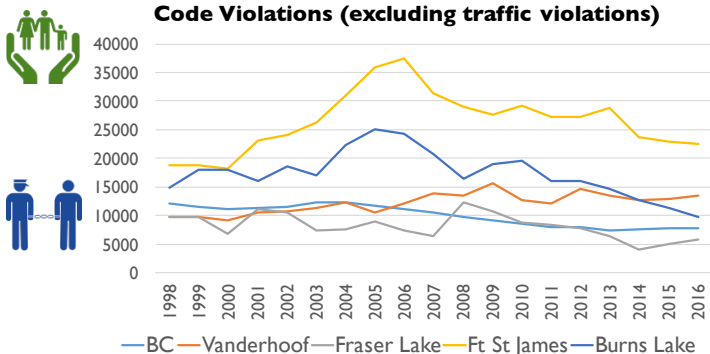
	2001		2009		2013	
	Northern Interior	BC	Northern Interior	BC	Northern Interior	BC
Very good/excellent perceived health (%)	54.1	57.7	50.3	56.9	54.1	59.9
Overweight or obese (%)	53.0	46.9	63.1	45.1	59.5	46.6
Current daily smoker (%)	26.0	18.3	18.3	14.2	19.9	11.1
Heavy drinking (%)	26.5	20.5	17.9	15.5	15.0	16.3
Consuming fruit/veg > 5 times daily (%)	35.6	39.1	52.7	42.4	37.2	41.3
Has Regular Doctor (%)	90.3	88.1	91.2	86.8	83.8	86.0

Social Services^{1,2} and Crime²⁰

Prevalence of Low-income Individuals (before tax), 1991-2011



Crime Rate per 1,000,000 for all Criminal Code Violations (excluding traffic violations)



Data for the region suggest that “while income in this Local Health Area appears to be similar to the provincial average, rates of high school completion, female labour force participation, income assistance and serious crime are higher than the BC averages. These differences are particularly notable in relation to women (especially single mothers in the region) and children...the average income in 2010 for female lone parents in Nechako was approximately 35% less than the average in BC. The proportion of children who live in care was more than twice the provincial average and, the teen pregnancy rate was almost triple.”²¹

About this project

CIRC—with funding from the Real Estate Foundation of BC—is focused on broad and inclusive public engagement. This project seeks to build new tools to support regional cumulative impacts assessment and enhance natural resource decision-making.

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Add a project to our living library of resources:

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About the CIRC

The CIRC is a pan-UNBC initiative and a platform for original research and community dialogue on the cumulative environmental, community and health impacts of resource development. We are located in Prince George.

Exploring the Cumulative Impacts of Resource Development A Regional Profile of the Bulkley-Nechako Region, British Columbia

About this document

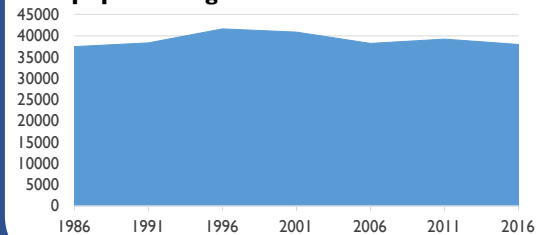
Resource development is a primary driver of local economies and social development in northern communities across British Columbia. However, there is an increasing need to understand the long-term positive and negative impacts of development activities for environments, communities and human health. This regional profile integrates a variety of data sources to provide a ‘snapshot’ of change in the Bulkley-Nechako Region over time. While this is one tool to understand cumulative impacts of development activities, the perspectives and lived experiences of communities are an equally important source of information. UNBC’s Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC) hopes this document, and the stories it elicits, will inform a collective conversation on the following question:

“How do we make better land-use decisions that account for long-term impacts to environmental, community and health values?”



Regional Demographics¹⁻²

Bulkley-Nechako's census population grew 1.13% since 1986



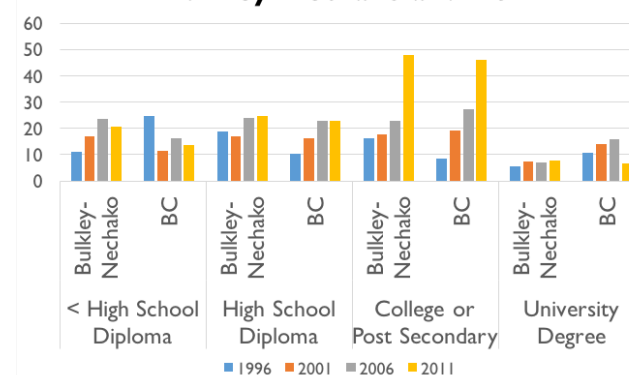
- In 2016, the region’s population had a median age of 41.1 relative to 43.0 for the province.
- From 1996-2006 regional population decreased 8.2%

% of Census Population Identifying as Indigenous, Aboriginal, First Nations or Metis

Year	Bulkley-Nechako	BC
1996	13.6	3.7
2001	14.8	4.4
2006	18.8	4.8
2011	18.8	5.3

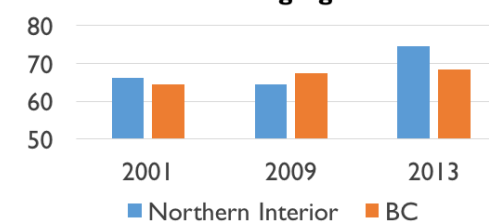
At least 14 First Nations communities claim territory in the Bulkley-Nechako region.

% of census population by education, Bulkley-Nechako and BC



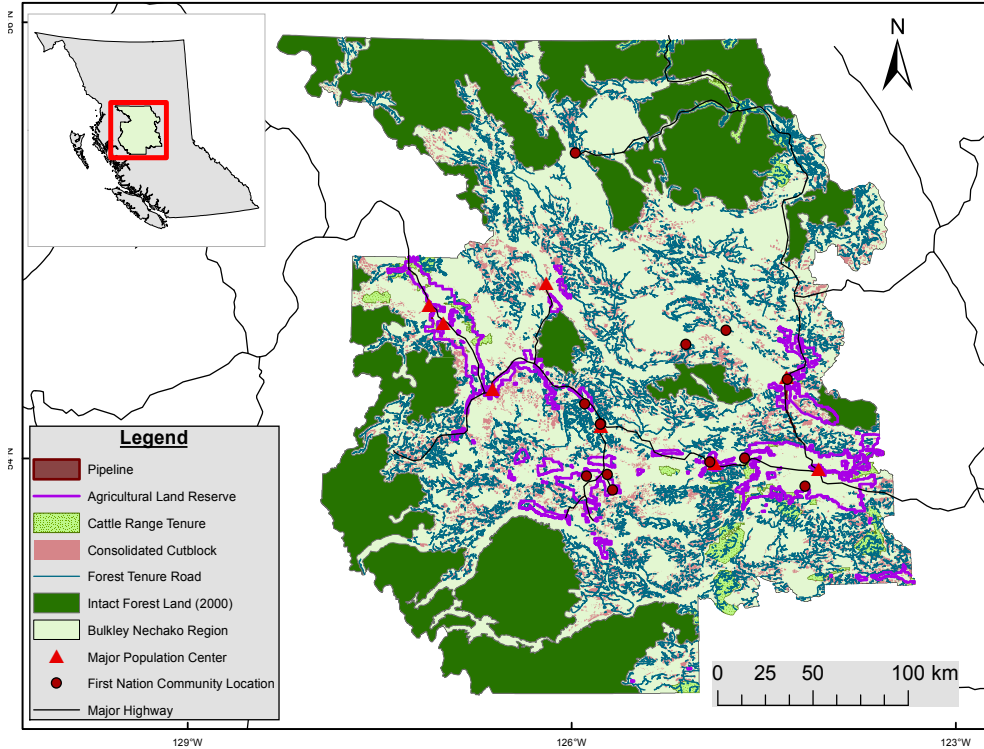
- Rates of education are improving in the Bulkley-Nechako region. However, as of 2011, 20.7% of the regional population did not have a high school diploma

% of people indicating strong/somewhat strong sense of community belonging



Residents of the Northern Interior have a strong sense of connection and belonging to their communities.³

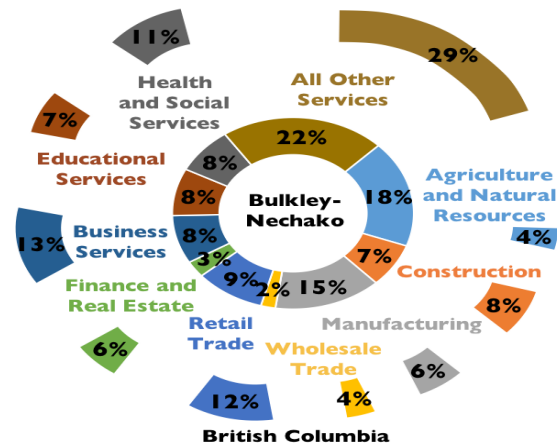
Industrial Activities in Bulkley-Nechako (1996-2006)⁴



“How government and the ministry will use the Cumulative Effects Framework assessments in the decision-making process for future natural resource development proposals has not yet been determined. This is concerning because if the assessments are to be of value, they must inform and support decisions about if and how development should proceed.” (BC Auditor General 2015, *Managing the Cumulative Effects of Natural Resource Development in BC*)¹⁵

I-2

Workforce Profile (Aged 15+) in Bulkley-Nechako and BC, 2011



Climate Change (2050)⁵⁻⁶



- Increases in average annual temperature
- Increases in precipitation, especially during the winter months
- Reduction in snowpack, especially in spring

Air Quality⁷⁻⁸



- Between 2011 to 2013, towns throughout the region exceeded national standards for PM2.5
- Primary sources of air pollution include road dust, combustion engines, and industrial operation throughout the region

Water Quality⁹⁻¹⁰



- Impoundment of water, mountain pine beetle and forest loss impact water quality in the Nechako watershed

Fish and Wildlife¹⁰⁻¹²



- 12 red-listed and 64 blue-listed plant and animal species live in the Nechako watershed and area
- Nechako River White Sturgeon are projected to decline to 200 individuals by 2040
- Moose, salmon and the Tweedsmuir caribou herd are all experiencing population declines

Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR)¹³⁻¹⁴



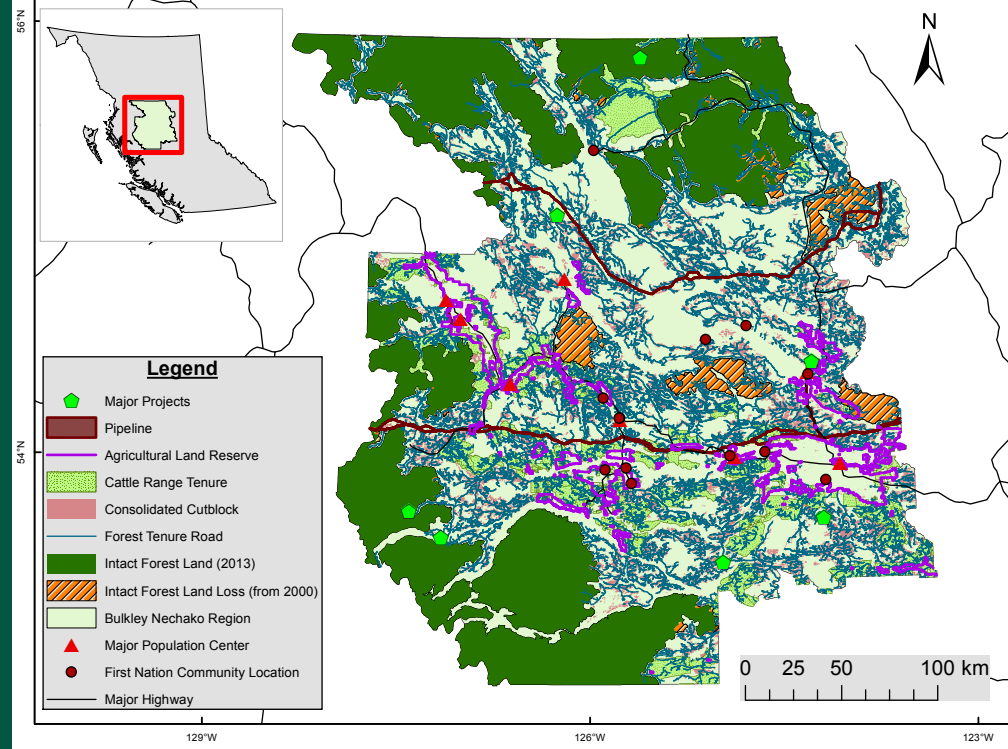
- 4.8% of the Bulkley-Nechako is within the ALR; Bulkley-Nechako comprises 8% of provincial ALR
- 8% decline in total farmland area; 5% decline in total farms from 2006-2011

Employment Profile¹⁻²

	Bulkley-Nechako		BC	
	1996	2011	1996	2011
Median Income	\$20,556	\$27,562	\$19,982	\$28,765
Unemployment Rate	12.5%	10.5%	9.6%	7.8%
Employment Growth	9.5%		20.0%	

- Bulkley-Nechako has historically higher unemployment than provincial averages¹⁶
- The region is one of the most manufacturing dependent areas of BC producing 15.7% of total provincial lumber production in 2002¹⁷

Industrial Activities in Bulkley-Nechako (2006-2016)⁴



“Over the past 200 years, and accelerating rapidly in the past half-century, cumulative effects in many forms and from many sources (almost all beyond the control of Carrier Sekani Tribal Council member Nations) have impacted heavily on many of the resources relied upon by CSTC member Nation[s] to practice their traditional mode of life.” (MacDonald 2014, *Cumulative Effects on the Aboriginal Rights and Interests of CSTC Nations*)¹⁸

Housing^{1-2,19}

- House prices increased over 30% in the Bulkley-Nechako region between 1996-2011 with Vanderhoof seeing an increase of 40%
- Rental housing demand in Bulkley-Nechako is projected to increase by 4% to 14% over the next 25 years

	Bulkley-Nechako		BC	
	1991	2011	1991	2011
Average House Value \$	\$75,748	\$229,729	\$175,559	\$543,635
Average Rent \$	\$465	\$659	\$658	\$989
Median Owner Major Payments on Housing \$	\$516	\$676	\$666	\$1,023
% of owners spending 30% or more of household income on shelter costs	8.3%	10.7%	13%	23.8%
% of tenants spending 30% or more of household income on shelter costs	21%	36.9%	32.9%	45.3%