

19.0 SOCIAL BACKGROUND

Project infrastructure will be located in the Peace River Regional District (PRRD), the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG), the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN), the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine (RDKS), and the Regional District of Skeena-Queen Charlotte (RDSQC). The region is relatively sparsely populated, with population concentrated in a handful of larger cities and towns, including Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Prince George, Smithers, Terrace, Kitimat, and Prince Rupert.

In 2011, PRRD had a population of 60,082, an increase of 3.1% since 2006. (Statistics Canada 2012a) The PRRD contains two main population centres: Fort St. John and the Dawson Creek. Fort St. John had a 2011 population of 18,699, which has grown by 5.7% since 2006 (Statistics Canada, 2012b). Dawson Creek had a population of 11,583 in 2011 and its population has grown 5.4% since 2006 (Statistics Canada, 2012c). The PRRD has four municipal districts. The population of the District of Hudson's Hope declined 4.2% from 2006 to 2011, with a 2011 population of 970 (Statistics Canada, 2012d). The District of Chetwynd's population increased 0.1% from 2006 to 2011, with its population in 2011 being 2,635 (Statistics Canada 2012e). The District of Taylor's population declined 0.8% from 2006 to 2011; its population in 2011 was 1,373 (Statistics Canada 2012f). The District of Tumbler Ridge's population increased 10.5% from 2006 to 2011. In 2011, its population was 2,710 (Statistics Canada 2012g).

In 2011, RDFFG had a population of 91,879, an increase of 0.4% since 2006 (Statistics Canada, 2012h). The RDFFG has one city and one municipal district. The City of Prince George's population in 2011 was 71,974, which is a 1.0% increase from the adjusted population in 2006 (Statistics Canada 2012i). The District of Mackenzie's population declined 22.7% from 2006 to 2011. In 2011, its population was 3,507 (Statistics Canada 2012j).

In 2011, RDBN had a population of 39,208, an increase of 2.5% since 2006 (Statistics Canada, 2012k). The RDBN has one town and three municipal districts. The Town of Smithers's population, according to the 2011 census, was 5,404, which is a 3.6% increase since 2006 (Statistics Canada, 2012l). The District of Fort St. James' population increased 25.3% from 2006 to 2011. In 2011, its population was 1,691 (Statistics Canada, 2012m). The District of Houston's population declined 0.5% from 2006 to 2011. In 2011, its population was 3,147 (Statistics Canada, 2012n). The District of Vanderhoof's population increased 10.2% from 2006 to 2011. In 2011, its population was 4,480 (Statistics Canada 2012o).

In 2011, RDKS had a population of 37,361, a decrease of 2.9% since 2006 (Statistics Canada, 2012p). The RDKS has one city and three municipal districts. The City of Terrace's population, according to the 2011 census, was 11,486, which is a 1.5% increase since 2006 (Statistics Canada, 2012q). The District of New Hazelton's population increased 6.2% between 2006 and 2011. In 2011, its population was 666 (Statistics Canada, 2012r). The District of Stewart's population decreased 0.4% from 2006 to 2011. In 2011, its population was 494 (Statistics Canada, 2012s). The District of Kitimat's population decreased 7.3% from 2006 to 2011. In 2011, its population was 8,335 (Statistics Canada 2012t).

In 2011, RDSQC had a population of 18,784, a decrease of 4.5% since 2006 (Statistics Canada, 2012u). The RDSQC has one city and one municipal district. The City of Prince Rupert's population, according to the 2011 census, was 12,508, which is a 2.4% decline since 2006 (Statistics Canada, 2012v). The District of Port Edward's population declined 5.7% to 544 from 2006 to 2011 (Statistics Canada, 2012w).

Social valued components (VCs) considered for the Project are community infrastructure and services (Section 20), transportation (Section 21), visual quality (Section 22), and land and resource use (Section 23).