APPENDIX 4

County of
Northern Lights

COUNTY OF NORTHERN LIGHTS

County of Northern Lights covers an area made up of approximately 1,772,308 hectares[1] and is made up of four Hamlets (Dixonville, Deadwood, Northstar and Notikewin), and five rural agricultural communities (Carcajou, Chinook Valley, Hotchkiss, Keg River, Warrensville and Weberville). The County Administration Building is located within the Town of Manning. The County had a population of 3,656 in 2019, with the Town of Manning having a population of 1,183 in 2016.

The County of Northern Lights is located in the prosperous region of Alberta's North Peace Country and the County benefits from the economic impacts of bountiful agricultural production and profitable forestry and oil & gas industries. The region is home to developing oil sands, currently supporting several multinational companies working to extract oil in innovative and efficient ways. The area is a contributor to Alberta's oil and gas prosperity, generating over $27 billion annually, with 36% of Alberta's natural gas and 50% of the province's crude oil production.[2]

The regional climate offers long summer days contributing to abundant harvests and cold winters which significantly reduces pest problems, Asian and European markets demand the seed that comes from the North Peace Country. Additionally, the region is home to many cattle and bison farms, and community pastures lure southern Alberta cattle producers to bring stock north for summer grazing. However, the region has also seen an increase in commercial farming, which is reducing family farming practices, and in turn, the number of families in the County is also beginning to decline.

Needs and Priorities

Table 87[3] identifies the needs and priorities of the County based on the primary and secondary data collected, as well as the data gaps identified.[4] Three key themes offer specific identification of the needs and priorities within, specific data can be found in the following indicators of this section.

1. A healthy community is one in which all residents have access to a quality education, safe and healthy homes, adequate employment, transportation, physical activity, and nutrition, in addition to quality health care.
2. Attracting and retaining population to small rural communities can be a challenge, as most people prefer to settle in larger cities where the draw of family, friends, ethnic networks and jobs is strong. However, rural communities can attract and retain population by promoting the benefits of living and working in smaller communities (e.g., employment opportunities, lower living expenses, safe neighborhoods and access to community health and recreation services).[5]
3. A sustainable economy is resilient and provides a good quality of life for everybody. Sustained and inclusive economic growth can drive progress, create decent jobs for all and improve living standards.

These three key themes (and their needs and priorities within) are all connected. Population retention and growth is a challenge for many rural communities across Canada and beyond. Specifically, for the County of Northern Lights there is a need to retain their working and youth population to ensure a sustainable and viable economy. However, with reduced access to education, healthcare services, and leisure activities (for

[1] Inter-municipal Development Plan (IDP), County of Northern Lights, Town of Manning, February 2019. V3 Companies; Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency.
[2] http://www.countyofnorthernlights.com/departments/economic-development/core-industry/
[3] CMR Consulting Inc., Open House Data Collection, 2020.
[4] The NWSAR Open House for County of Northern Lights was hosted at the County of Northern Lights Council Chambers with 5 participants[4]. **Important note**: all participants were residents of the Town of Manning.
[5] Irshad, Humaira. Attracting and Retaining People to Rural Alberta; Rural Development Division, 2013.

example) it is harder to not only attract business, workers, and their families, but it is also harder to retain them in their respective communities to sustain the current services and facilities.

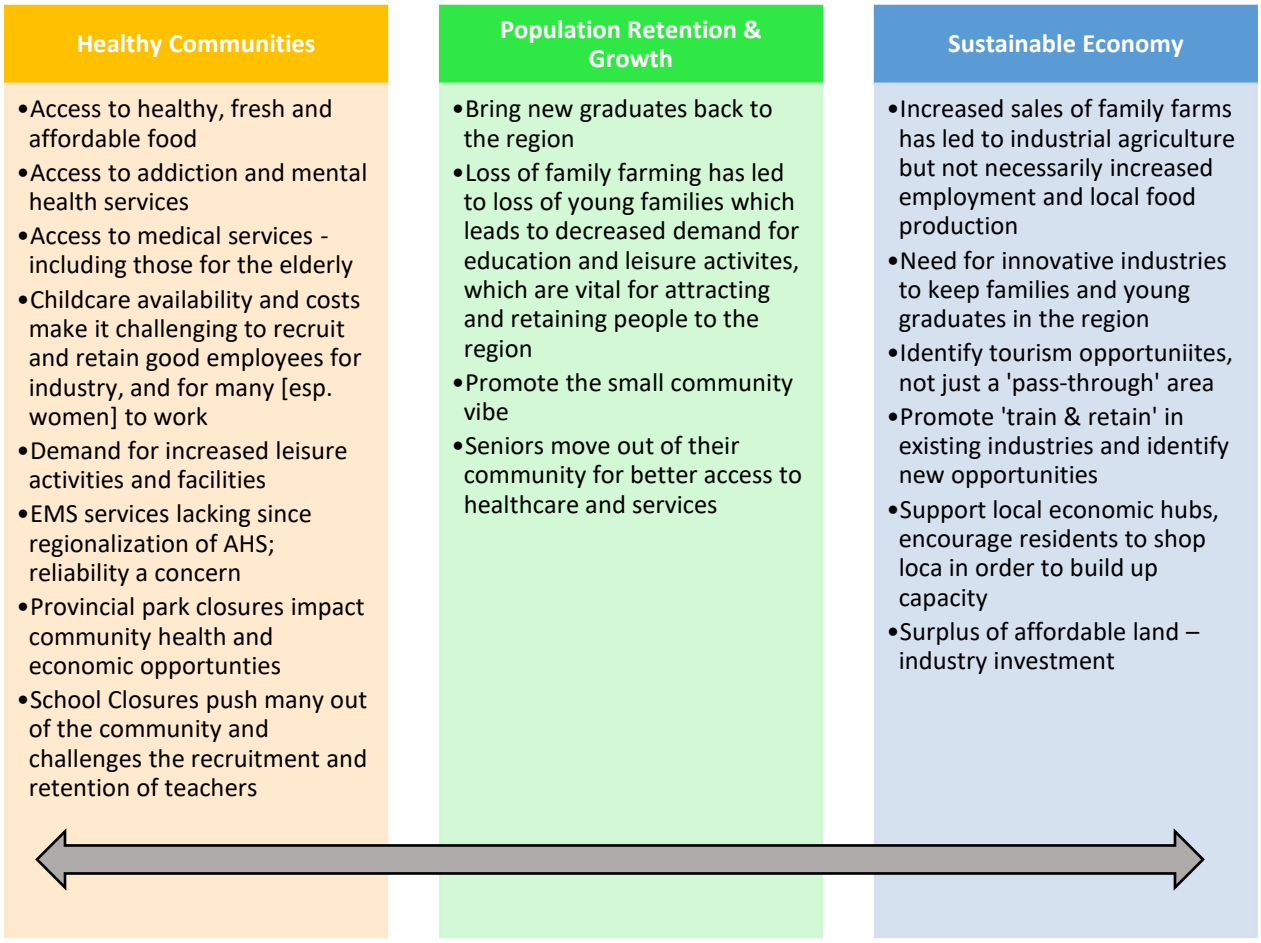

Table 87 County of Northern Lights Needs and Priorities, 2020.

The above identified needs and priorities align with many of the following challenges identified in 2019 by the County of Northern Lights in their 2020–2022 Strategic Issues Document.[6]

Downloading of provincial and federal responsibilities onto municipalities (i.e. health care, policing).
Economic downturn has had an impact on the oil and gas sector, causing some to abandon wells and/or become delinquent on tax accounts (collection difficult).
Changes to assessment policies by the province has and will cause a reduction in non-residential property assessments, which in turn could require an increase to residential and farmland mill rates to compensate.
Increased pressures from provincial government for collaboration with urban neighbours, and subsequent demands of some of those urbans for increased sharing of taxes and/or increased contributions to their municipal budgets.
Immediate lack of a provincial budget and therefore the information required to plan for any decreased grants going forward.

[6] County of Northern Lights 2020-2022 Strategic Issues, County of Northern Lights, 2019.

Tax base dependency: 83% of the assessment base is non-residential. Nearly 50% is related to oil and gas companies.
Increasing amount of large industrial traffic (including agricultural) on aging road infrastructure.

Regional Travel Distances and Times

Many residents of the County travel outside of their communities and County to access services (e.g. health care), retail and employment. The following Table 88 shows approximate one-way travel distances and times. The travel times, costs and safety concerns (winter driving conditions, logging trucks, etc.) add strain for many residents. Though these challenges were identified by many stakeholders as the 'trade-off' for rural living, it is challenging for many youth and senior residents and can lead to isolation, as well as health and safety concerns.

↓ From / To →	Manning	Peace River	Grande Prairie	Edmonton
Carcajou	~ 130kms/90 mins	~232 kms/2.5 hrs	~ 387 kms/4.25 hrs	~ 715 kms/7.5 hrs
Chinook Valley	~ 50 kms/30 mins	~ 55 kms/40 mins	~ 207 kms/2.5 hrs	~ 536 kms/5.5 hrs
Deadwood	~30 kms/30 mins	~ 90 kms/1hr	~ 250 kms/2.75 hrs	~ 575 kms/6 hrs
Dixonville	~ 45 kms/30 mins	~ 55 kms/40 mins	~ 215 kms/2.25 hrs	~540 kms/5.5 hrs
Keg River	~ 115 kms/1.25 hrs	~ 215 kms/2.25 hrs	~ 375 kms/4 hrs	~ 700 kms/7 hrs
Hawk Hills	~ 40 kms/30 mins	~ 145 kms/1.5 hrs	~ 300 kms/3.25 hrs	~ 630 kms/6.5 hrs
Hotchkiss	~ 20 kms/15 mins	~ 120 kms/1.25 hrs	~ 275 kms/3 hrs	~ 600 kms/6.25 hrs
Manning	--	~ 100 kms/1 hr	~ 260 kms/2.75 hrs	~ 585 kms/6 hrs
North Star	~ 7 kms/5 mins	~ 95 kms/1 hr	~ 250 kms/2.75 hrs	~ 580 kms/6 hrs
Notikewin	~ 6 kms/5 mins	~ 110 kms/1.25 hrs	~ 260 kms/3 hrs	~ 590 kms/6 hrs
Warrensville	~ 70 kms/45 mins	~ 30 kms/20 mins	~ 185 kms/2 hrs	~ 515 kms/5.5hrs
Weberville	~ 90 kms/1 hr	~ 15 kms/15 mins	~ 200 kms/2.25 hrs	~ 500 kms/5 hrs

Table 88 Approximate Travel Distances and Times for County of Northern Lights Residents.

1.1 Community Health and Wellbeing

1.1.1 Addiction and Mental Health Services

The need for addiction and mental health services has been identified as an urgent priority in the NWSAR Region. Tables 89 and 90 show substance addiction, FASD rates and available services for the County of Northern Lights.

Services Accessed/Provided		April 2017 - March 2018	April 2018 - March 2019	April 2019 - March 2020
# of Emergency Department Visits	Alcohol	64	24	28
	Other Substance	26	24	24

	Mental Health	133	196	200
# of Discharges	Alcohol	8	8	6
	Other Substance	5	6	3
	Mental Health	20	33	22
# of New Enrolments to Programs at Community Health Clinics	Alcohol	21	22	21
	Other Substance	19	15	7
	Mental Health	93	113	217

Table 89 Substance Addiction and Mental Health Services Accessed by County of Northern Lights Residents, 2017–2020.

Facilities and Services

Measurement	Rate per Capita	Facilities	Programs	After Care Support	Trained Personnel	Additional Information
Alcohol Addiction	Data not Available	Nearest facility is Northern Addictions Centre for substance addiction in Grande Prairie (185-387 kms/2-4.25 hrs One Way drive, depending on origin)	Local Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) group meetings	AL-ANON (Hope and Help for Family and Friends of Alcoholics)[7]	None within County of Northern Lights or Town of Manning	Northern Addictions Centre offers: • Medically Assisted Detox; • 24hr Clinical Care; and • Individualized Treatment for: ○ Substance Abuse; ○ Opiate Addiction; and ○ Alcoholism. • Individual and Group Therapy.[8]
Drug Addiction	Data not Available		None within County of Northern Lights or Town of Manning	None within County of Northern Lights or Town of Manning	None within County of Northern Lights or Town of Manning	
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)	Data Not Available	Nearest facility is Northwest Peace FASD Network[9] in Grande Prairie (185-387 kms/2-4.25 hrs One Way drive, depending on origin)	None within County of Northern Lights or Town of Manning	None within County of Northern Lights or Town of Manning	None within County of Northern Lights or Town of Manning 2 workers from WJS Canada based in Town of Peace River	NW Peace FASD Network have a Prevention Worker (Facilitator) who provides Education and Presentations to these areas. Individuals within the County can be referred to the GP Office and then diagnosed through a Mobile Clinic, which

[7] https://al-anon.ab.ca/contacts/
[8] https://www.rehab.ca/northern-addictions-centre/1100682-r#methodology
[9] https://nwfasdnetwork.com/about/service-area/

						is scheduled in Peace River annually.[10]

Table 90 Access to Substance Addiction and FASD services for residents within County of Northern Lights, 2021.

Table 91 identifies the facilities that residents visit for addiction and mental health services. Many services are not readily available, and many must travel long distances to Peace River, Grande Prairie and other large urban centres (e.g. Edmonton) to access drop-in and rehabilitation facilities.

Services Accessed/Provided	**Location and Occurrences (April 2019 – March 2020)**	
Addiction and Mental Health Discharge from Hospital	Manning Community Health Centre	10
	Northwest Health Centre	7
	Queen Elizabeth II Hospital	4
	Peace River Community Health Centre	3
	St Therese-St Paul Healthcare Centre	1
	Northern Lights Regional Health Centre	1
	Total Number	**26**
Enrolment into Programs in Community Addiction and Mental Health Services	Peace River	150
	High Level	48
	Grande Prairie	33
	Paddle Prairie	6
	Valleyview	2
	Virtual Mental Health	2
	High Prairie	1
	Slave Lake	1
	St. Paul	1
	Total Number	**244**
Addiction and Mental Health Visit to the Emergency Department	Manning Community Health Centre	152
	Northwest Health Centre	53
	Queen Elizabeth II Hospital	28
	Peace River Community Health Centre	18
	Grimshaw/Berwyn and District Community Health Centre	16
	Grey Nuns Community Hospital	2
	Misericordia Community Hospital	2

[10] Northwest Peace FASD Network Email Correspondence, January 2021.

	Beaverlodge Municipal Hospital	1
	High Prairie Health Complex	1
	Okotoks Health and Wellness Centre	1
	Royal Alexandra Hospital	1
	Total Number	**265**

Table 91 Addiction and Mental Health Services Accessed by County of Northern Lights Residents by Facility, 2017–2020.[11]

1.1.2 Health Care

Facilities and Services

The County of Northern Lights is in the Northern Region of Alberta Health Services (Area 2), under the Peace Health Advisory Council. Table 92 shows the current facilities and services available within the County, many residents will travel to Peace River and Grimshaw for other services and greater access to health care providers; some must travel to Grande Prairie and as far as Edmonton for specialized services.

Facility	Facility Type	Primary Services	Public Programs/Services
Manning Community Health Centre	Healthcare services and 24/7 Emergency services	• 24 hour emergency care • 10 Acute care beds • 16 Continuing Care Beds • Addiction Counselling • Cardiac Nurse Educator • Mental Health Services • Diabetes Prevention and Wellness Program • X-ray Services • Health Promotion Program • Home Care • Laboratory Services • Nutrition Counselling • Occupational Therapy Services • Palliative Care • Physical Therapy Services • Therapeutic Recreation Services • Social Work • Telehealth • Ultrasound	• Breastfeeding Support • Building Better Babies • Car Seat Safety • Communicable Disease Control • Early Childhood Development Programs *(available upon request)* • Family Health and Immunization Clinic • Healthy Beginnings Program • Influenza Immunization • Prenatal Education and Counselling • School Health Presentations • School Immunization • Tiny Teeth Dental Program • Travel Health Services
Manning Medical Clinic	Family general practice and specialist services; Walk-in clinic	• Women's health and maternity care • Adult Health care (diabetic care, Hypertension clinic, Asthma clinic, COPD clinic, Arthritis care) • Cancer Prevention Care (Colon cancer screening, Breast cancer screening, Cervical cancer screening) • Paediatrics care • Cardiology	

[11] Stakeholder Engagement, AHS, Addiction and Mental Health, North Zone, June 2020.

		• Minor surgical procedures • ECG • Asthma and emphysema clinic and Spirometry	

Table 92 Health Care Facilities and Services, County of Northern Lights, 2020.

Healthcare and Specialist Providers

The Manning Area Attraction and Retention Committee work to retain health care professionals, but this is an ongoing challenge.[12] Table 93 offers a breakdown of health care and specialist providers in the County of Northern Lights.

Service/Specialization	# of Providers	Additional Information[13]
Cardiologist	0	Must Travel to Edmonton or Grande Prairie
Chiropractor	0	Grimshaw or Peace River
Dentist	0	
Diagnostics	0	Manning Community Health Centre Higher level diagnostics available in Peace River
Family Physician/ General Practitioner (GP)	2 Resident Require Locums to cover resident physician absence	Peace River: 14 Grimshaw: 4 Fairview: 3
Gynaecology	0	Grande Prairie
Laboratory Services	0	Manning
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)[14]		
Maternity/Midwife	0	Peace River, Grande Prairie, High Level & High Prairie
Mental Health	0	Peace River
Nephrology	0	Grande Prairie Edmonton
Neurologist	0	
Oncologist	0	
Ophthalmologist	0	
Other	0	
Paediatrics	0	
Physiotherapist	0	Peace River
Registered Nurse (RN)[15]		
Rheumatologist	0	
Special Needs	0	

Table 93 Breakdown of Health Care and Specialist Providers within County of Northern Lights.

[12] Stakeholder Interview, January 2020.
[13] Refer to Table 88 for distance and travel times across and outside of County boundaries.
[14] https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page8486.aspx
[15] https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page8605.aspx

Diagnostic Services – County of Northern Lights Residents							
Diagnostic Service	Resident Community	Number of services per year					Other Information[16]
		2015	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	
X-Ray	Carcajou	0	0	0	0	0	Although residents can access X-Ray services in Manning, some residents may travel outside of the County – for example Key River to High Level, or Weberville to Peace River
	Chinook Valley/Dixonville	273	316	387	400	357	
	Deadwood	102	140	120	126	90	
	Keg River	146	188	147	176	205	
	Hawk Hills/Hotchkiss	90	140	157	90	106	
	Manning	1,836	2,483	2,403	2,292	2,258	
	North Star	184	215	211	189	181	
	Notikewin	33	52	61	53	55	
	Warrensville/Town of Grimshaw	2,692	3,916	3,999	3,628	3,169	
	Weberville	361	532	579	601	498	
Ultrasound	Carcajou	0	0	0	0	0	Although residents can access Ultrasound services in Manning, some residents may travel outside of the County – for example Key River to High Level, or Weberville to Peace River
	Chinook Valley/ Dixonville	56	76	76	104	94	
	Deadwood	24	41	32	33	29	
	Keg River	15	29	27	23	30	
	Hawk Hills/Hotchkiss	15	16	19	19	20	
	Manning	333	473	522	478	475	
	North Star	19	59	34	44	36	
	Notikewin	1	10	5	10	10	
	Warrensville/Town of Grimshaw	553	899	979	910	914	
	Weberville	126	120	142	162	155	

[16] Residents must travel to the following locations for care: Alberta Children's Hospital, Cold Lake Healthcare Centre, Cross Cancer Institute, Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital, Grey Nuns Community Hospital, High Prairie Health Complex, Leduc Community Hospital, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, Misericordia Community Hospital, Northwest Health Centre, Peace River Community Health Centre, Peter Lougheed Centre, Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Red Deer Regional Hospital, Royal Alexandra Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital – Camrose, Strathcona Community Hospital, Sturgeon Community Hospital, University of Alberta Hospital.

CT Scan	Carcajou	0	0	0	0	0	Although residents can access CT Scan services in Manning, some residents may travel outside of the County – for example Key River to High Level, or Weberville to Peace River
	Chinook Valley/Dixonville	29	37	55	92	69	
	Deadwood	22	24	20	16	20	
	Keg River	14	30	27	25	48	
	Hawk Hills/Hotchkiss	11	15	11	18	21	
	Manning	237	321	328	287	302	
	North Star	22	27	28	35	27	
	Notikewin	6	4	11	9	8	
	Warrensville/Town of Grimshaw	344	479	497	541	456	
	Weberville	52	81	86	85	64	

Table 94 Diagnostic Services for County of Northern Lights Residents, 2015–2019.[17]

1.1.3 Elderly Services

Senior Housing

The North Peace Housing Foundation (NPHF), under the Alberta Housing Act, provides adequate and suitable housing in a variety of housing types that are accessible to low-income households in need. They oversee thirteen municipalities in the region, which includes the County of Northern Lights. The Foundation relies on inter-municipal cooperation for the management of their portfolio of seniors and family housing units throughout the region, totalling 678 units.[18] NPHF offers the following seniors living facilities in the Town of Manning.[19]

Facility	Number of Beds/Units	Description	Provider	Location
Del-Air Lodge	49	Private living space with social activities	NPHF	Town of Manning
Manning Senior Apartment	16	One-bedroom apartments	NPHF	Town of Manning
Manning Community Health Centre	16	Long term care facility	AHS	Town of Manning

Table 95 Senior Living and Care Facilities, County of Northern Lights, 2020.

[17] Stakeholder Provided Data, March 2021.

[18] https://www.nphf.ca/about-nphf.html

[19] North Peace Housing Foundation provides property management services, including maintenance and janitorial services, to its self-contained complexes. Where available, food and housekeeping services may be offered for a nominal charge. The province owns all of the apartment buildings under this program, and any operating deficits are fully funded by the province through an annual budget review process. Management and tenant selection are delegated to the local housing operators. Senior citizens whose income falls below local limits (refer to 2018 Core Need Income Thresholds document) and who are functionally independent, with or without the help of existing community based services are eligible. Applicants are prioritized on the basis of need. (https://www.nphf.ca/seniors-self-contained.html)

Elderly Services, including senior living facilities and extended care were identified as a growing need for the region, including the County of Northern Lights. As of 2016, in the County of Northern Lights, 13.8% was aged 65 or older[20]. A recent announcement of $8.2 million in upgrades to the Manning facility will improve services provided as well as increased residences. Further data on the need for Senior Living Facilities and Services would be essential to quality and sustainable provision in the future.

Elderly Services

Centre/Club/Program	Services/Activities	Location
Golden Age Inn Club	• Facility Rental • Food • Health • Outreach • Recreation	Dixonville
Senior Citizen Star Centre	• Assistance • Facility Rental • Food • Information • Outreach • Recreation	Town of Manning

Table 96 Elderly Services, County of Northern Lights in 2014.[21]

1.1.4 Culture, Leisure and Tourism

The County of Northern Lights has recreation agreements with the Towns of Grimshaw, Manning and Peace River and provides funding for the following community recreation boards and their facilities in support of resident recreation:

- County of Northern Lights South Recreation Board (Wards 1, 2, 3, Towns of Peace River and Grimshaw)
- Northern Lights Recreation Board (Wards 4, 5, 6, 7, Town of Manning)

The County has launched a new recreation and culture website; ExploreCountyofNorthernLights.com The new website encourages the use and discovery of recreational and cultural opportunities, and events in the County of Northern Lights and its support communities of Manning, Peace River and Grimshaw.

Many residents of the County of Northern Lights travel to Peace River and Grimshaw for many of their cultural and leisure activities. Activities include boating, bowling, camping canoeing, theatres, golf, horseback riding, gyms, fishing, skating & hockey rinks, skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, racquet sports, libraries and museums.[22]

Table 97 lists Public Facilities and Community Events in each Town, Hamlet, Reserve, and/or Rural Community.[23]

[20] https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4817076&Geo2=PR&Code2=48&SearchText=Northern%20Lights%20County&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&GeoLevel=PR&GeoCode=4817076&TABID=1&type=0

[21] https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/6b7b2f1b-95a7-4d74-bbfa-5f94de5861c4/resource/d5065fa8-b7c8-41e7-9315-d3437811d397/download/seniors-centres-directory.pdf

[22] https://explorecountyofnorthernlights.com/things-to-do

[23] Though the Towns of Grimshaw and Peace River sit outside County boundaries, many residents travel south to access services, facilities and activities.

Town/Hamlet/ Community	Public Facilities	Community Clubs & Events
Carcajou	• Boat Launch	
Chinook Valley		
Deadwood	• Baseball Diamonds • Kid Zone Day Camp • Deadwood Community Hall • Peace Valley Snowriders – snowmobiling trails	
Dixonville	• Baseball Diamonds • Campground • Community Garden • Community Hall • Community Library • Curling Rink • Hiking Trails • Museum • Peace Valley Snowriders – snowmobiling trails • Playgrounds • Skating Rink	• Agricultural Society (the Dixonville L.I.F.E Club) • Craft Fair • Dixonville Light Up • Riverside Bible Camp • Dixonville Sports Days
Hawk Hills	• Catholic Mission Parish • Curling Rink • Hawk Hills Agriculture Society – Community Hall	
Hotchkiss	• Campground/Baseball Diamonds • Hotchkiss Community Hall	
Keg River	• Community Hall • Library	
Town of Manning (separate municipality)	• Aurora Theatre • Baseball Diamonds • Battle River Pioneer Museum • Hiking Trails • Kid Zone Day Camp • Library • Old Hospital Museum • Ski Hill • Splash Park • Sports Centre Arena • Soccer Pitch • Swimming Pool • Tennis Courts	• Art Competition & Showcase • Battle River Rodeo Parade • Bike Rodeo • Coloured in Fun Run • Emergency Services Cancer Support Walk • Fire Smart Community B.O.B. • Giant Pumpkin Weigh-off • Kids in Bloom Craft Shop • Odd & Unusual Showcase • Pop-Up Day Camp • Regional Trade Show • Santa Clause Parade • Volunteer Week Celebration
North Star	• Playground • Skating Rink (outdoor)	
Notikewin		
Warrensville	• Warrensville Community Hall • Old Lac Cardinal Community Hall	

Weberville	• Fish Pond • Leddy Lake Recreation Area • Peace Valley Snowriders – snowmobiling trails	

Table 97 Public Facilities and Community Events, County of Northern Lights, 2020.

The County of Northern Lights is a member of the Might Peace Tourism Association (MPTA) to bolster tourism promotion and development in the region. The new ExploreCountyofNorthernLights.com website offers visitors accommodation, services and experiences across the County. Attractions and events include First Nations experiences, local museums representing the region's history and annual events celebrating the culture and heritage of the County. Table 98 shows the accommodation and food services available in the County of Northern Lights. Data that is not available is the number of visitors annually and the income generation they bring to the region.

	# of Hotels & Guest Houses	**# of Campgrounds**	**# of Restaurants**	**# of Visitors/Year**	**Annual Tourism Income**
County of Northern Lights	1	11	1	*Data Not Available*	*Data Not Available*
Town of Manning	4	1	7	*Data Not Available*	*Data Not Available*

Table 98 Accommodation & Food Services in the County of Northern Lights, 2020.

1.1.5 Food Security

Table 99 presents current data on food security in the County of Northern Lights; there are clear data gaps that are needed to address resident's needs for access to fresh, healthy and fair-priced food. One of the biggest challenges in the NWSAR Region is the cost and distance of food transportation. The data also demonstrates the need for more local food production to ensure a more sustainable and resilient food system in the region.

	# of Facilities/ Measurement	**Location**	**Additional Information**
Grocery Stores	2	Town of Manning Dixonville	Many residents travel to the larger grocery and box stores (e.g. Walmart) in Peace River, (e.g. Costco) in Grande Prairie.
Farmers Markets	1	Town of Manning	Fridays – seasonal
Food Banks	1	Town of Manning	Manning and Area Food Bank Society (funded by various organizations including the County of Northern Lights). Other closest (serving those in Dixonville and southern portion of the County) is the Salvation Army in Town of Peace River.
Locally Grown Food (%)	Data Not Available		

Table 99 Data Available for Food Security, County of Northern Lights, 2020.

Table 100[24] shows the average food costs for three grocery stores in the County of Northern Lights for July 2020, compared to average food costs for Canada in the same month.

Product	Quantity	Month (2020)	Co-op (Grimshaw)	Freson Bros. (Manning)	General Store (Dixonville)	Av. Cost CNL	Av. Cost Canada
Round Steak	1 kg	July	22.75	33.80	*Not Available*	28.28	18.39
Ground Beef	1 kg	July	14.99	14.82	*Not Available*	14.91	12.50
Chicken	1 kg	July	15.49	13.41	*Not Available*	14.45	7.41
Bacon	500 g	July	13.32	14.99	13.31	13.87	7.25
Partly Skimmed Milk	4 l	July	5.59	5.79	6.65	6.01	5.34
Orange Juice	1.54 l	July	4.52	5.19	*Not Available*	4.52	4.26[25]
Eggs	1 dz	July	3.66	4.37	4.89	4.31	3.62
Apples	1 kg	July	5.27	5.47	5.79	5.51	4.58
Bananas	1 kg	July	1.96	1.96	2.56	2.16	1.56
Onion	1 kg	July	4.12	4.16	2.29	3.52	2.50
Carrots	1 kg	July	3.99	3.49	2.99	3.49	2.72
Mushrooms[26]	1 kg	July	2.49	3.23	*Not Available*	10.96	9.50
Potatoes	4.54 kg	July	12.23	11.70	11.58	11.84	11.15
Bread	675 g	July	4.15	4.30	3.89	4.15	2.82
Flour	2.5 kg	July	7.93	5.98	8.71	7.54	4.73

[24] Local data was collected by NWSAR Committee member on July 12, 2020 at each store listed in the table. Pricing was collected across multiple brands in the stores, then divided by the number of items for the average cost per product. Average food prices for Canada were sourced from the monthly average retail prices for food and other selected products: https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1810000201 this table uses the Consumer Price Index (CPI): https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=2301#a2.

[25] Canadian average price for orange juice was one (1) litre. NWSAR region provided 1.54 litres of orange juice for sale.

[26] Mushroom prices from the region were calculated for $/227g in store so the average price for the County has been adjusted to match the metrics for the Canada average prices.

Peanut Butter	500 g	July	4.62	5.29	3.29	4.40	2.82
Paper Towels[27]	6 rolls	July	10.98	8.97	3.83	7.93	3.19
Bathroom Tissue[28]	12 rolls	July	5.44	3.55	6.79	5.26	2.52
Shampoo	300 ml	July	7.37	8.65	6.29	7.44	3.88
Toothpaste	100 ml	July	4.41	4.82	6.55	5.26	3.37

Table 100 County of Northern Lights, Average Food Costs, July 2020.

1.1.6 Political Participation

The County of Northern Lights is divided into seven Electoral Divisions or Wards, each of which have one council position – see Figure 41.

Table 101 show voter turnout rates for the County of Northern Lights in the most recent election years.

% Municipal (2017)	% Provincial (2019)	% Federal (2019)
~22.6%[29]	~ 44.7%[30]	~70%[31]

Table 101 Voter Participation Rates, County of Northern Lights 2017–2019.

The 2017 municipal election saw one out of seven wards result in a vote for a candidate. The other six wards were elected by acclimation.

The percentage is the amount of one voting ward, with 504 eligible voters and 114 residents participating in the vote.

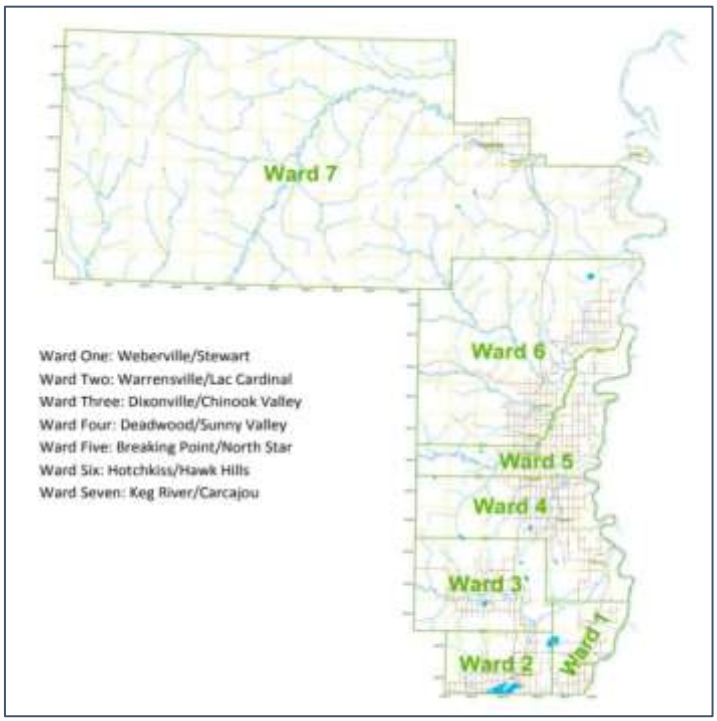

Figure 41 County of Northern Lights Electoral Divisions.

1.1.7 Poverty

Tables 102 and 103 show a five-year trend for median family income, average income and poverty rates for the County of Northern Lights.

[27] Canadian average price for paper towels was for two (2) rolls. NWSAR region provided packs of six (6) or more paper towels for sale.
[28] Canadian average price for bathroom tissue was for four (4) rolls. NWSAR region provided packs or twelve (12) or more bathroom tissue for sale.
[29] County of Northern Lights, 2021.
[30] Average of voter turnout rates for Deadwood, Dixonville, Manning South, Manning North, Notikewan North Star, Hotchkiss, Keg River. https://officialresults.elections.ab.ca/orResultsED.cfm?ED=77&EventId=60
[31] https://enr.elections.ca/ElectoralDistricts.aspx?lang=e. Important note: these are average voter turnout rates for the Peace River – Westlock electoral district, which includes the County of Northern Lights. Of the 51, 649 electors, 80.7% voted for the Conservative Party.

All Families Income[32]			Couple Families Income[33]			Lone-Parent Income[34]		
2018	2013	Change	2018	2013	Change	2018	2013	Change
$79,739	$79,489	0.3%	$93,658	$89,940	4.1%	$39,195	$34,460	13.7%

Table 102 Median Family Incomes, Five-Year Trends, County of Northern Lights, 2013–2018.

Average Household Income (CNL)	Average Household Income (Alberta)	Prevalence of Low-Income (CNL)	Prevalence of low-Income base (Alberta)
$ 100,281	$93, 835	14.6%	9.3%

Table 103 Average Income and Poverty Rate, County of Northern Light and Alberta, 2016.[35]

1.1.8 Social Service

Ambulance Services

EMS Events by Station							
Community/Service	# of Vehicles	# of Call Outs/ Year Events by Station			# of Volunteers	# of Paid Staff	Area Covered
		2019	2018	2017			
Town of Manning	1	533	453	395	N/A	4	Regional coverage – no defined areas.
Town of Peace River*	3	3,258	3,386	3,420	N/A	22	

Table 104 EMS Events by Station, County of Northern Lights, 2017–2019.[36]

[32] The median income of families, including couple families, lone-parent families, and people without children. Half of families have income above this amount while half have income below this amount. https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/median-family-income/#/?from=2013&to=2017

[33] The median income of families with two parents and children. Half of families have income above this amount while half have income below this amount. https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/couple-families-median-income/#/?from=2013&to=2017

[34] The median income of families with one parent and children. Half of families have income above this amount while half have income below this amount. https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/lone-parent-families-median-income/#/?from=2011&to=2015

[35] https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4817076&Geo2=CD&Code2=4817&SearchText=Northern+Lights+county&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=Income&TABID=1&type=0

[36] EMS SPI interactive data by 'Service Detail' & includes all types of events within regional footprint. Date Range: April 1st to March 31st of each year. Stakeholder Provided Data, January 2021.

EMS Events by Community							
Community/Service	**# of Vehicles**	**# of Call Outs/ Year Events by Station**			**# of Volunteers**	**# of Paid Staff**	**Area Covered**
		2019	**2018**	**2017**			
Dixonville	0	2	0	2	N/A	N/A	Regional coverage – no defined areas.
Town of Manning	1	345	304	287	N/A	4	

Table 105 EMS Events by Community, County of Northern Lights, 2017–2019.[37]

Community	STARS Air Ambulance – Grande Prairie Missions within County of Northern of Lights 2019 – 2020 (#)
Hotchkiss	1
Manning	4
Peace River*	8

Table 106 STARS Air Ambulance - Grande Prairie Missions, 2021.[38]

Fire Services

The County has joint agreements with neighbouring municipalities and receives fire protection and motor vehicle rescue services, under the Peace Region Mutual Aid Agreement, from the Town of Manning for services from North of Dixonville to Keg River.

A partnership agreement with the Town of Peace River provides Regional Fire Chief Services, as well as full fire and rescue services for the area from the south boundary to the Silver Creek Road north of Dixonville.

The County provides fire protection services into Clear Hills County to a small area West of Dixonville and the Town of Manning provides fire protection services to the Chinchaga Forestry Road that is not accessible via Clear Hills County roadways. Under this agreement, the County volunteer department in Dixonville, with backup from the Town of Peace River, provides fire protection services into the area as required.

Community	Type of Facilities	# of Trucks	# of Volunteers	# of Paid Staff	Average Response Times (chute from the fire hall)
Dixonville	Fire Hall	• 1 Tender (Tanker with a Fire Pump) • 1 Brush Truck	3	0	13 minutes

[37] EMS SPI interactive data by 'Service Detail' & includes all types of events within regional footprint. Date Range: April 1st to March 31st of each year. Stakeholder Provided Data, January 2021.
[38] STARS Mission Record (2020): https://stars.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/STARS-Mission-Record-2020-AB.pdf

Town of Manning	Fire Hall	• 2 Pumpers • 1 Tanker • 1 Pump Truck • 1 Rescue Vehicle • 1 Brush Truck	19 (normally above 20)	0	6.5 minutes
Town of Peace River	2 Fire Halls	• 2 Engines (Pumpers) • 1 Tender (Tanker with a Fire Pump) • 1 Rescue/Hazmat Unit • 1 Brush Truck • 1 Squad/Brush Truck • 2 Command Trucks • 1 Rescue Jet Boat • 1 Command Trailer • 2 UTV side-by-sides	26	3	3.5 minutes
Weberville	Fire Hall	• 1 Engine (Pumper) • 1 Tender (Tanker no Pump) • 1 Brush Truck	9	0	13 minutes

Table 107 Fire Services, County of Northern Lights, 2020.

	Dixonville				**Weberville**		
Fire Call by Type	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**		**2019**	**2018**	**2017**
Alarms (actual and false)	1	0	1		4	1	3
Exterior Fires	4	0	6		8	6	12
Hazmat Response	0	0	2		0	3	3
Medical Co- Response (MCR)	4	1	4		20	17	15
Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA)	5	4	7		15	17	13
Motor Vehicle Fire	2	2	0		7	5	3
Structural Fire	5	3	4		13	16	16
Technical Rescue	0	0	0		1	3	2
Wildland	-	-	-		-	-	-

Other[39]	0	0	1		0	0	1

Table 108 Dixonville and Weberville Fire Departments Fire Calls by Type, 2017–2019.[40]

	Town of Manning				Town of Peace River[41]		
Fire Call by Type	**2019[42]**	**2018**	**2017**		**2019**	**2018**	**2017**
Alarms (actual and false)	19	2	5		2	0	0
Medical Co- Response (MCR)	40	17	20		0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA)	22	9	21		6	9	4
Structural Fire	4	5	6		3	8	7
Wildland	16	8	4		4	3	6
Other[43]	10	9	5		5	3	6

Table 109 Town of Manning and Town of Peace River Fire Departments Fire Calls By Types, 2017–2019.[44]

Emergency Services

Type of Services	# of Facilities	# of Programs	# of Trained Personnel	Wait times	Additional Information
Homeless Shelter	0	0	N/A	N/A	The closest Homeless Shelters available are in Peace River (Salvation Army) & Grande Prairie (Rotary House).
Women's Shelter	0	0	N/A	N/A	The closest Women's Emergency Shelters are in Peace River and High Level.
Victim Services	0	0	0	N/A	The County of Northern Lights provided a total of $18,606 to the Towns of Peace River and Manning Victims Services between 2017–2019.

Table 110 Emergency Facilities and Services, County of Northern Lights, 2020.

In accordance with the Emergency Management Act of Alberta, the County of Northern Lights and the Town of Manning have established a Municipal Emergency Management Joint Services Agency. The

[39] This includes, but not limited to Gas/Odor, Safety Investigation, Rubbish Fire, Vehicle Fire, Flood Mitigation, ATV, Gas Leak, Powerline, Deployment, Technical Rescue, Hazmat.
[40] Stakeholder interview, County of Northern Lights, August 10, 2020.
[41] This data is pertaining to the Town of Peace River fire only and the service they provide to CNL.
[42] This data is pertaining to the Town of Manning fire only and the service they provide to CNL, these are the total annual calls as of October 7, 2019 (most recent data available).
[43] This includes, but not limited to Gas/Odor, Safety Investigation, Rubbish Fire, Vehicle Fire, Flood Mitigation, ATV, Gas Leak, Powerline, Deployment, Technical Rescue, Hazmat.
[44] Stakeholder Provided Data, January 2021.

Director of the Emergency Management is responsible for fulfilling the obligations of this position pursuant to the County and the Town of Manning Municipal Emergency Management Bylaws.

Part of this mandate is the development and coordination of an overall program of preparedness for, response to, and recovery from, emergencies and disasters as well as assisting other municipalities to develop and maintain a high level of emergency preparedness.

The County of Northern Lights participates in the Peace Region Mutual Aid Agreement along with Northern Sunrise County, MDs of Smoky River and MD of Peace; the Towns of Peace River, Falher, Grimshaw, McLennan, High Level; and the Villages of Donnelly, Nampa and Berwyn. This Agreement provides for reciprocal support from all participants in the event that one party does not have adequate resources to deal with an emergency.

Crime and Justice

The County of Northern Lights receives their police services from two RCMP Detachments. the Manning RCMP Detachment[45] and the Peace River RCMP Detachment.[46] The Provincial Courthouse of closest proximity is located in Peace River.

Table 111 shows the crime rates within the County of Northern Lights from 2017–2019.

Crime, Charges and Convictions	**Peace River Detachment**			**Manning Detachment**					
	Within County of Northern Lights[47]			**Within Town of Manning[48]**			**Within County of Northern Lights[49]**		
	2019	**2018**	**2017**	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**
Homicides & Offences related to death (Total #)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assaults (Total #)	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[45] This Detachment serves a total of 2,570 people with the following Catchment Areas (Communities): Carcajou, Deadwood, Hawk Hills, Hotchkiss, Keg River, Manning, North Star, Notikewin. This detachment has maintained 5 police positions: 1 Sergeant, 4 Constables from 2017- 2019 (Manning Provincial RCMP Detachment, Crime Statistics (Actual) January to December: 2014 – 2019).

[46] This detachment serves a total of 10,972 people in the following Catchment Areas (Communities): Berwyn, Brownvale, Chinook Valley, Dixonville, Grimshaw, Harmon Valley, Judah, Lac Cardinal, Little Buffalo, Marie Reine des Coerus, Nampa, Peace River, Queen Elizabeth Provincial Park, Reno, Roma, Roma Junction, Three Creeks, Warrensville, Weberville, Centreotte Lake, Duncan's First Nation, Lubicon Lake First Nation, Lake St. Isouthore, Woodland Cree First Nation. This detachment has 20 RCMP Police Officer Positions.

[47] Only within County of Northern Lights (not including other community stats)

[48] Only within Town of Manning: not including other community stats)

[49] Only within County of Northern Lights (not including other community stats)

Assault (Total #)	8	9	7	16	20	6	3	6	7
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	2	7	5	6	12	4	1	5	6
Break and Enter (Total #)	16	22	4	2	10	6	4	7	5
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	1
Theft of Motor Vehicle (Total #)	8	2	3	4	1	1	3	3	4
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Theft Over $5,000 (Total #)	4	2	2	0	1	0	0	3	5
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Theft Under $5,000 (Total #)	17	11	13	7	5	12	2	11	7
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0
Fraud (Total #)	1	5	1	5	4	4	1	0	9
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arson (Total #)	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	2
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impaired Driving (Total #)	9	1	2	6	10	3	2	7	5
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	9	1	2	6	10	3	2	7	5

Drug Enforcement Production (Total #)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Enforcement Possession (Total #)	0	2	0	1	2	4	0	0	3
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	2
Drug Enforcement Trafficking (Total #)	0	0	1	7	1	4	3	0	2
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	1

Table 111 Crime, Charges and Convictions for County of Northern Lights, 2017–2019.[50]

Table 112 shows the change in crime rate for communities served by the Manning RCMP Detachment form 2014–2019.

Crime/Incident *All categories contain "Attempted" and/or "Completed"*	**% Change 2014–2019**
Arson	0%
Assault	-61%
Break & Enter	-47%
Criminal Harassment	43%
Disturbing the Peace	13%
Fail to Comply & Breaches	-25%
Extortion	N/A
Fraud	20%
Homicides & Offences Related to Death	-100%
Kidnapping/Hostage/Abduction	300%
Mischief to Property	15%
Offensive Weapons	-90%

[50] Stakeholder data collection, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Strategic Analysis and Research Unit, RCMP "K" Division, Alberta, 2020.

Other Sexual Offences	-100%
Sexual Assaults	-29%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	-18%
Theft over $5,000	-67%
Theft under $5,000	-55%
Uttering Threats	-27%

Table 112 Manning Provincial RCMP Detachment Crime Statistics 2017–2019.[51]

Table 113 shows the number of youths charged by type of crime category in the Manning RCMP Detachment catchment area from 2017–2019.

Youth Charged	2017	2018	2019
Persons	2	3	1
Property	2	5	0
Other	0	4	0

Table 113 Youth Charged by Manning RCMP Detachment catchment area, 2017–2019.[52]

Judicial and Correctional Services

	Name/ Location/ Total (#)
Court House Location	Peace River
Court House Catchment Area (Communities)	Berwyn Brownvale Chinook Valley Dixonville Grimshaw Harmon Valley Judah Lac Cardinal Little Buffalo Marie Reine des Coerus Nampa Peace River Queen Elizabeth Provincial Park Reno Roma Roma Junction Three Creeks Warrensville Weberville Centreotte Lake Duncan's First Nation Lubicon Lake First Nation

[51] Manning Provincial RCMP Detachment, Crime Statistics (Actual) January to December: 2014–2019.
[52] Manning Provincial RCMP Detachment, Crime Statistics (Actual) January to December: 2014–2019.

	Lake St. Isouthore Woodland Cree First Nation
Population Served (#)	10,972
Nearest Male Federal Institution	Grande Cache Institution, Grande Cache – AB
Nearest Female Federal Institution	Edmonton Remand Centre, Edmonton – AB
Nearest Male Correctional Centre (Provincial)	Peace River Correctional Centre, Peace River – AB
Nearest Female Correctional Centre (Provincial)	Edmonton Institution for Women, Edmonton – AB
Nearest Youth Offenders Centre	Edmonton Young Offender Centre, Edmonton – AB
Nearest Youth Group Home	High Prairie – AB
Probation Officers (#)	0[53]
Docket Days (Schedule)	Criminal: Every Monday Youth and Family: Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday

Table 114 Judicial and Correctional Facilities, County of Northern Lights, 2021.[54]

County of Northern Lights[55]	2019	2018	2017
Cases Commenced	927	975	825
Cases Concluded	882	707	858
Tickets Filed	3,890	5,371	5,774
Trials Heard	144	131	149

Table 115 Cases, Tickets and Trials, County of Northern Lights, 2017–2019.[56]

1.2 Business and Employment

1.2.1 Economic and Community Development Incentives

The County of Northern Lights has developed an Economic Development Strategy that seeks to promote entrepreneurship, attract economic investment, and enable business development within the County. To ensure its success within the County, an Economic Development Board has been created to engage industry sector representatives to promote economic growth in our region. The Manning & District Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) also provide funding for a multitude of services, organizations and activities. FCSS funding is provided through the provincial Human Services Ministry.

The Government of Alberta provides 80% of the funding, and partner municipalities provide the remaining 20%. Manning & District FCSS programs/projects are funded in one of five funding categories: Adult,

[53] 2 Probation Officers and 1 Admin all based in Peace River.
[54] Stakeholder Provided Data, January 2021.
[55] The numbers for Cases Commenced, Cases Concluded, Tickets Filed, and Trails Heard are broken down by fiscal years. For example, the values for 2017 represents the 2017/18 fiscal year.
[56] Stakeholder Provided Data, January 2021.

Children and Youth, Families, Seniors and Community Development.[57] Manning & District FCSS boundaries are from Manning, Deadwood north to Keg River.

Table 116[58] lists past and ongoing economic and community development incentives and initiatives in the County of Northern Lights.

Program/Incentive	Description	Additional Information
Bursary Program[59]	The County of Northern Lights has two bursaries available to students to pursue post-secondary studies in several areas in the amount of $1500 each. In partnership with the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) students are eligible for matching amount of funds up to an additional $1500 for a total of a maximum of $3000 per bursary.	• Began in 2008 • 25 awarded (2008 – 2019) • In 2017, $3,000 was awarded • In 2018, $3,000 was awarded • In 2019, $1,500 was awarded
Community Capital Assistance Program (CCAP) Grant [60]	FCSS Funding provided to community organizations, facilities and events. In 2019, the Manning and District FCSS provided $100,604 to various projects and community organizations. Child & youth programs: At Home Alone Plus First Aid; Babysitter's Training Program; Fun Friends; Inspire Youth Art; Journal Fiends; Healthy Relationships for Youth; Roots of Empathy; Summer Programs; Leaders in Training; Keg River Boys & Girls After School. Adult programs: Finding our Voice; Grief Matters: Learning to Come with Loss; Mental Health First Aid. Community events and programming: Family Day; Volunteer Appreciation; Community Welcome; Information & Referral; Information Sessions; Manning Interagency; Parade of Programs. FCSS sits on various organizational and community boards: Early Childhood Development Community Coalition; Community Christmas Hampers; Manning & Area Food Bank Society; Manning Regional Childcare Association; Toy Lending Library. They coordinate with the Joint Emergency Service-Emergency Social Services;	Recipients/projects: • Grimshaw Public Library • Peace Country Sports Club • Dixonville LIFE Ag Society • Riverside Bible Camp • Cowboy Way Society • Grimshaw Curling Club • Hotchkiss Community Hall • Manning Ski Hill • Northern Lites Speed Skating • Peace River Motorcross Association

[57] Annual Report, 2019, Manning & District Family Community Support Services.
[58] Stakeholder Interview, July 2020.
[59] http://www.countyofnorthernlights.com/tiny_uploads/pdfs/2020-bursary-instructions-and-application-form.pdf
[60] Annual Report, 2019, Manning & District Family Community Support Services.

	the Manning Asset Team (MAT). They have the Movin' For Mental Health Initiative in partnership with 3 local schools.	
Council Grants & Donations	Council grants include funding programs such as: Adult Learning (AL); Capital Grants (CG); Community Capital Assistance Program (CCAP); Manning Regional Child Care Association (MRRCA); Peace Outreach Daycare (POD); Recreational Boards (RB); STARS Air Ambulance (STARS); and other Miscellaneous Grants (Misc.). Council donations include funding for Municipal Sharing Agreements (MSA) with the Towns of Grimshaw and Manning; and Airport and Revenue Sharing with the Town of Peace River (TPR).	Between 2017 – 2019, CNL provided funds to the following organizations: • AE: $25,500 • CG: $1,410,980 • MRRCA: $170,000 • POD: $30,000 • RB: $680,497 • STARS: $60,000 • MISC.: $256,005 • MSA: $1,625,736 • TPR: $2,340,296
Hometown Proud Program	Started in 2015, currently have 15 students enrolled, areas of study: Business/Business Admin, Bachelors of Ed, Teaching degree, Engineering, Bach. Communications/PR, Sciences, Insurance & Risk Management, Nursing, Bach. In Sciences, Welding/millwright, AC technician, general sciences/math's.	• One (confirmed) student has returned to the region • Three have completed training & the program
I2P (Idea to Production)	Pilot project launched in 2016 with Alberta Innovation and Technology. Hosted 30-minute sessions on potential business ideas and how to move them forward. Other sessions hosted with Community Futures on Business Plan writing. Based on needs identified the County developed a website (2017) to provide local entrepreneurs with information and contacts. (https://idea2production.com/)	• Engaged 8 local Entrepreneurs
Small Business Training Sessions	These sessions include 'Developing a Social Media Strategy workshop', 'Advanced Social Media Marketing workshop', and 'Alberta Health Food Safety Certificate Course'	
Small Business Week Events	An opportunity to support and encourage local business leaders. Sessions, Award & Recognition Dinner, and Keynote Speakers.	
Regional Trade Show(s)	Peace River & Manning Regional events to showcase local businesses and attract new investors.	• 2017 • 2019

Table 116 Economic and Community Development Incentives, County of Northern Lights, 2020.

1.2.2 Employment

The County of Northern Lights has a free business directory on their County website. Business owners can submit their business information, along with a link to their website and email address for advertisement

on the County's page. The directory includes businesses within the County of Northern Lights and the surrounding areas.[61]

Table 117 shows the participation, employment and unemployment rates for 2011 and 2016 for the County of Northern Lights.

Participation Rate			Employment Rate			Unemployment Rate			Seasonal Labour Rate
2016	2011	Change	2016	2011	Change	2016	2011	Change	
69.0%	69.7%	-1.0%	61.7%	66.7%	-7.5%	10.4%	5.5%	131%	*Not Available*

Table 117 Participation, Employment and Unemployment rates, County of Northern Lights, 2011 and 2016.[62]

1.2.3 Industry

The main drivers of the economy are commercial and industrial enterprises that operate year-round; sectors include agriculture, oil & gas, aggregate resource extraction services, and forestry. Within the County of Northern Lights, there is a lumber mill, major oil and gas plants, a pulp mill, transportation, and oilfield service related companies.[63]

The County has 70% of its employment base in businesses with between 1 and 4 employees and a total of 36 businesses in that size range. The total number of businesses in the County is listed at 122, which includes an estimated 47 that fall under the non-incorporated or with income.

Of the total registered businesses in the County, the primary businesses are in agriculture, forestry, and outfitting, followed by transportation and warehousing.[64] Similarly, many Transportation businesses are closely tied to oil and gas, as is the case in the County. The Town of Manning benefits from a larger employment base that is non-industrial.

Table 118 shows the total number of business registrations by industry type within the last 5 years in the County of Northern Lights.[65]

Size of Industry	# of Industries	Average Annual Revenue		Additional Information
Small (1-4 employees)	51	25	< $100,000	
		12	> $100,000	
		16	Data Not Available	
Medium (5-50 employees)	1	> $100,000		
Unknown	48	Data Not Available		

Table 118 County of Northern Lights Business Registrations 2014–2019.

[61] http://www.countyofnorthernlights.com/merchants/viewcategories/
[62] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/#/
[63] Manning Retail Market Analysis, Cushing Terrell Architecture Inc, 2017.
[64] It should be noted though that oil & gas support services are evident in the County, and while they do not show up in the Business Registry, this is likely a reflection of how they were classified at their time of registration, whereby they may have been classified as agricultural.
[65] Stakeholder Interview, County of Northern Lights Municipal Office July 2020.

There are only two companies with between 200–499 employees; these are major and valuable employers in the County represented by the Mercer – Peace River Pulp Mill and Manning Forest Products Ltd. (West Fraser).

Businesses Type	# of Businesses	# of Employees (estimate)
Agricultural Productions	3	55
Support Activities for Agriculture	1	8
Oil & Gas Extraction	1	9
Mining & Quarrying (except Oil & Gas)	13	193
Oilfield Services	9	428
Water Supply Systems	1	5
General Contractors	4	68
Specialty Trade Contractors	1	20
Wood Product Manufacturing	3	174
Paper Manufacturing	1	357
Petroleum & Petroleum Products Merchant Wholesalers	1	13
Motor Vehicle & Motor Vehicle Repair Parts & Accessories Merchant Wholesalers	1	6
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	1	15
Building Material & Equipment Manufacturing	1	18
Gasoline Stations	3	21
Truck Transportation	4	55
Support Activities for Transportation (Airport including Hangars)	1	31
Warehousing & Storage	10	22
Professional, Scientific & Technical	1	4
Accommodation Services	5	42
Commercial & Industrial Machinery & Equipment Repair & Maintenance	1	3
Vacant/Dormant/Unidentified	0	0

Table 119 Business by Type, County of Northern Lights, 2020.[66]

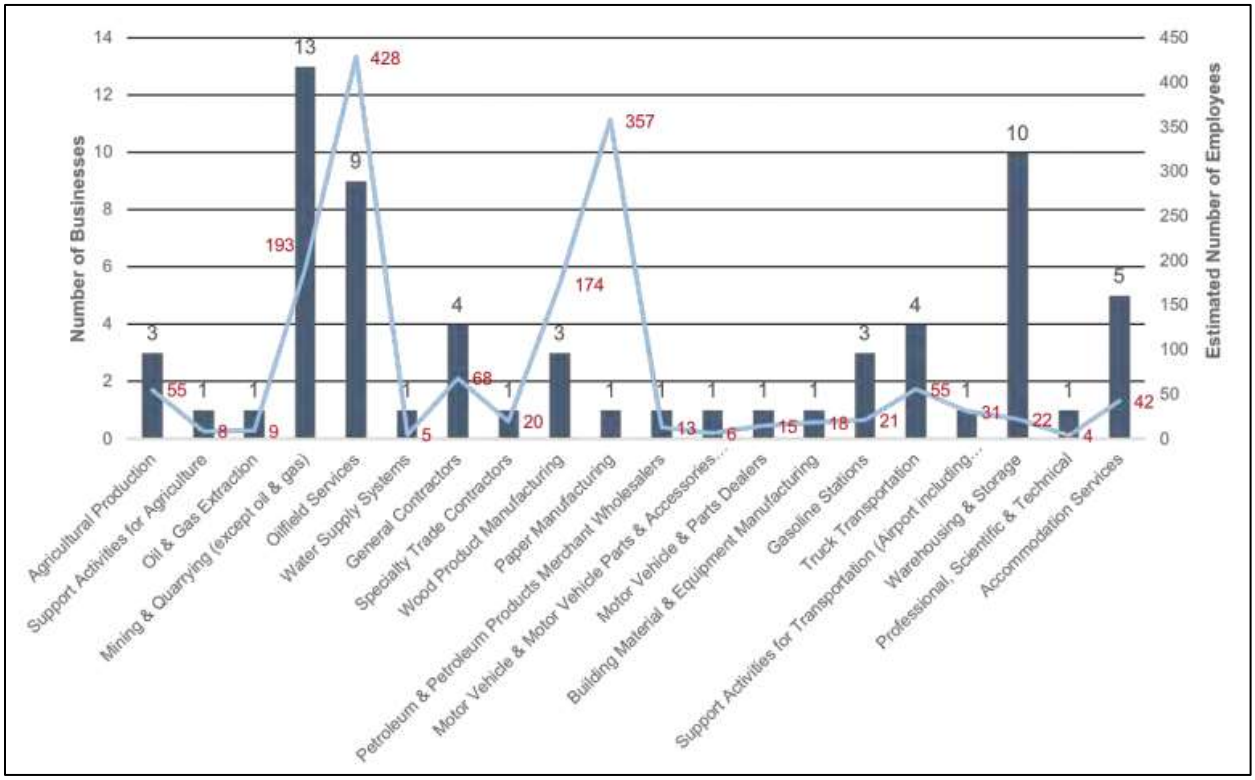

Table 120 Total Acres of Industrial Lands, County of Northern Lights and Town of Manning, 2017.[67]

Table 121 shows the total number of business registrations by industry type within the last five years for County of Northern Lights.[68]

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	5 Year Trend (%)
Annual Business Registrations	42	51	48	47	66	-38.06
Business Size	**2020**	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**	**2016**	**Annual Change 2019–2020 (%)**
Large (200+ employees)	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Medium (50–199 employees)	1	1	0	1	0	0.00
Small (1–49 employees)	41	50	48	46	66	-18.00
Industry Type	**2020**	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**	**2016**	**Annual Change 2019–2020 (%)**
Accommodation & Food Services	0	0	0	0	2	N/A
Admin & Support, Waste Management & Remediation Services	0	0	0	0	0	N/A

[66] Manning Industrial Market Profile, Cushing Terrell Architecture Inc, 2017.
[67] Manning Industrial Market Profile, Cushing Terrell Architecture Inc, 2017.
[68] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/number-of-businesses/#/?from=2016&to=2020

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	16	20	16	18	25	-20.00
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Construction	6	7	7	6	8	-14.30
Educational Services	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Finance & Insurance	1	1	1	1	1	0.00
Healthcare & Social Assistance	1	1	1	1	1	0.00
Information & Cultural Industries	1	1	1	1	1	0.00
Management of Companies & Enterprises	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Manufacturing	1	1	1	1	1	0.00
Mining, Quarrying, Oil & Gas Extraction	1	1	1	1	2	0.00
Other Services (except Public Administration)	3	5	4	3	3	-40.00
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	0	0	0	0	3	N/A
Public Administration	1	1	1	1	1	0.00
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	0	2	2	2	3	-100.00
Retail Trade	3	3	3	3	3	0.00
Transportation & Warehousing	7	7	9	8	11	0.00
Utilities	1	1	1	1	1	0.00
Wholesale Trade	0	0	0	0	0	N/A

Table 121 Business Registrations, County of Northern Lights, 2015–2019.[69]

- In 2020, the County of Northern Lights had 42 businesses, a decrease of 17.60% from 51 in 2019, and the medium sized business (50-199) segment saw the largest increase over the year.[70]
- In 2020, 97.6% of businesses within the County of Northern Lights were small businesses;
- The percentage of small businesses has declined -0.43% year-over-year, and increased 1.30% in the last five years;[71] and
- The County of Northern Lights had 6 new businesses incorporated in 2019. Incorporations have greatly increased 50.0% year-over-year, and increased 20.0% in the last five years.[72]

The 2016 Census data is shown in Tables 122 and 123 with a breakdown of Workforce by Occupation and Industry, as well as by gender, for the County of Northern Lights.[73]

Occupation	Total	Male	Female
Management	435	295	140

[69] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/number-of-businesses/#/stacked/industry/?from=2016&to=2020
[70] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/number-of-businesses/#/?from=2016&to=2020
[71] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/percent-small-businesses/#/?from=2016&to=2020
[72] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/incorporations/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[73] https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4817076&Geo2=PR&Code2=48&SearchText=Northern+Lights+County&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=Labour&TABID=1&type=0

Business, Finance and Administration	330	50	275
Natural and Applied Sciences	85	60	25
Health	100	10	95
Education, Law and Social, Community and Government Services	155	25	125
Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport	15	0	15
Sales and Service	255	60	195
Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators	470	440	30
Natural Resources, Agriculture and Related Production	195	155	35
Manufacturing and Utilities	135	115	20

Table 122 Breakdown of Workforce by Occupation, County of Northern Lights, 2016.

Industry	Total	Male	Female
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	420	290	125
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	220	160	60
Utilities	20	20	0
Construction	215	190	25
Manufacturing	145	110	30
Wholesale Trade	40	20	20
Retail Trade	135	50	85
Transportation & Warehousing	175	120	50
Information & Cultural Industries	0	0	0
Finance & Insurance	30	0	25
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	25	15	10
Professional, Scientific Services	85	35	50
Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	25	10	15
Educational Services	130	15	115
Health Care and Social Assistance	160	0	155
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	15	10	10
Accommodation and Food Services	35	10	30
Other Services (except Public Administration)	155	75	75
Public Administration	135	65	70

Table 123 Breakdown of Workforce by Industry, County of Northern Lights, 2016.

Agriculture

Table 124 shows the agricultural trends from 2011–2016.

	2016	2011	Difference from 2011 to 2016 (%)
# of Farms	375	446	-15.9%
Cropland (Acres)	314,372	350,052	-10.7%

Barley (Acres)	31,541	27,939	12.9%
Canola (Acres)	109,552	109,714	-0.15%
Non-Durum Wheat (Acres)	90,874	89,511	1.52%
Oats (Acres)	14,006	13,607	2.93%
Other (Acres)	68,399	111,281	-38.5%
Cattle and Calves (#)	26,552	18,662	42.3%
Pigs (#)	152	82	85.4%

Table 124 Agricultural Trends, County of Northern Lights, 2011 and 2016.[74][75][76][77]

Forestry

Forestry is a strong industry sector within the region, which encompasses thousands of acres of timber, and has attracted investment from world-recognized operators, such as Mercer International, Manning Forest Products Ltd. a Division of West Fraser and many others. Mercer Pulp Mill is the single largest employer in the County with an estimated full-time employment of over 350.[78]

Forestry Company	Forest Management Unit	FMA/FMU Area (km^2)
Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd.	P19	3,248.61[79]
Manning Forest Products Ltd.	P20	5,654.84[80]
Zavisha Sawmills[81]	P19	2,853.52[82]
Boucher Bros. Lumber Ltd.	P14	1,233.85[83]
Boucher Bros. Lumber Ltd.	P55	5,769.40[84]

Table 125 Forestry Management Area Sizes, County of Northern Lights, 2017 and 2021.

A timber quota is a type of forest tenure that last for 20 years, and is renewable so long as the quota holder is in good standing. In Alberta, timber quotas range from less than 1,000m^3 to over 1,000,000m^3.

Timber quota holders with a combined Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) of 10,000m^3 or more, are responsible for reforestation. Timber quota holders with less than 10,000m^3 can either complete the reforestation work or pay a reforestation levy that allows organizations like the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) to complete the reforestation.[85]

Table 126 provides the AAC for the timber quotas for Forest Management Units that fall fully or partially within the County of Northern Lights in 2019.

[74] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/number-of-farms/#/
[75] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/cropland/#/stacked/crop-type/
[76] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/total-cattle-and-calves/#/
[77] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/number-of-pigs/#/
[78] Manning Industrial Market Profile, Cushing Terrell Architecture Inc, 2017.
[79] Altalis, Geo-Administrative Areas, 2020.
[80] Altalis, Geo-Administrative Areas, 2020.
[81] Overlaps Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd. Forest Management Area – duplication of area; Quota is within P19.
[82] Zavisha Sawmills, 2020.
[83] Boucher Bros. Lumber Ltd., 2017.
[84] Boucher Bros. Lumber Ltd., 2017.
[85] PREDA and REDI Northwest Alberta Commodities, 2020.

Forestry Company	Forest Management Unit (FMU)	Tree Type	Annual Allowable Cut (m^3)
Boucher Bros. Lumber Ltd.	P14	Conifer (softwood)	74,191
Community Based Value-Added Corp,	P14	Deciduous (hardwood)	95,352
Canadian Forest Products Ltd.	P19	Conifer (softwood)	366,507
Zavisha Sawmills Ltd.	P19	Conifer (softwood)	62,105
Tolko Industries Ltd.	P19	Conifer (softwood)	94,056
Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd.	P20	Deciduous (hardwood)	325,500
Community Based Value-Added Corp	P55	Conifer (softwood)	26,030
Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd.	P55	Deciduous (hardwood)	193,428

Table 126 Annual Allowable Cuts for Timber Quotas within County of Northern Lights, 2019.[86]

Energy

Montney Shale Formation spans from Northwest British Columbia to Northwest Alberta and is a source of unconventional natural gas. This shale gas reservoir was once thought of uneconomic and tight, but can now be extracted using horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing. In 2018, there were 111.22km^2 of pipelines within the County.[87]

Table 127 shows the ten-year trends of energy resource production in County of Northern Lights (2009-2019). Between 2003 and 2019, 1,015 new wells were drilled within County of Northern Lights. In 2006, there were 209 new wells and in 2019, there were 3 new wells. These represent the highest and lowest number of new wells drilled per year during this time period.[88]

Energy Resources	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	5 Year Trend (%)	10 Year Trend (%)
Natural Gas Reserves (m^3)[89]	3.2B	3.8B	3.9B	3.1B	3.9B	- 15.30	- 49.20 (*8 year trend)
Natural Gas Production (m^3)[90]	249.5M	399.8M	486.0M	522.6M	619.4M	- 59.70	- 82.00
Oil Production (m^3)[91]	138,898	159,096	175,981	161,584	170,554	- 18.60	- 39.84

[86] PREDA and REDI Northwest Alberta Commodities, 2020.
[87] Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Human Footprint Inventory, 2018.
[88] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/well-count/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[89] Reserves of raw gas or marketable gas or any constituent of raw gas, condensate, crude bitumen or crude oil that is recovered in processing and that is gaseous at the conditions under which its volume is measured or estimated.
[90] Production of raw gas or marketable gas or any constituent of raw gas, condensate, crude bitumen or crude oil that is recovered in processing and that is gaseous at the conditions under which its volume is measured or estimated.
[91] Conventional and non-conventional oil (including unprocessed bitumen and synthetic oil) production.

Well Count[92]	3	4	11	7	8	-62.50	- 78.60

Table 127 Energy Resources, Five and Ten-Year Trends, County of Northern Lights 2015–2019.[93][94][95][96]

Construction

	2019	2018	Difference from 2018 to 2019 (%)	5 Year Trend (%)
Major Projects Value[97]	**$54.2 Million**	**$35.3 Million**	**186.77%**	**44.10%**
Development Permits (#)[98]	**30**	**33**	**-9.09%**	**-23.43%**
Commercial Development Permits (#)	0	1		
Industrial Development Permits (#)	2	0		
Residential Development Permits (#)	8	12		
Other Development Permits (#)	20	20		
Development Permits Value ($)[99]	**$3,972,600.00**	**$5,196,000.00**	**-23.55%**	**95.60%**
Commercial DP Project Value ($)	$0.00	$100,000.00		
Industrial DP Project Value ($)	$1,000,000.00	$0.00		
Residential DP Project Value ($)	$366,000.00	$786,000.00		
Other DP Project Value ($)	$2,606,600.00	$4,310,000.00		
Building Permits (#)[100]	**9**	**12**	**-25%**	**-**
Commercial Building Permits (#)	2	0		
Industrial Building Permits (#)	3	3		
Residential Building Permits (#)	4	9		
Institutional Building Permits (#)	0	0		
Building Permits Value ($)[101]	**$2.7 Million**	**$6.0 Million**	**-55.4%**	**-**
Commercial BP Project Value ($)	$1.0 Million	$0.0 Million		
Industrial BP Project Value ($)	$161,000	$3,354,000		

[92] Total development, exploratory, evaluation and experimental wells drilled including natural gas, coalbed methane, crude oil, crude bitumen and other wells.
[93] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/natural-gas-reserves/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[94] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/natural-gas-production/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[95] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/oil-production/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[96] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/well-count/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[97] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/major-projects/#/?from=2016&to=2020
[98] County of Northern Lights, 2021.
[99] County of Northern Lights, 2021.
[100] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/number-of-building-permits/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[101] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/value-of-building-permits/#/?from=2015&to=2019

Residential BP Project Value ($)	$1.5 Million	$2.6 Million		
Institutional BP Project Value ($)	$0	$0		

Table 128 Development and Building Permits, County of Northern Lights, 2018–2019.

1.2.4 Municipal Tax Assessments

Table 129 shows the Equalized Assessment trends from 2008–2019 in the County of Northern Lights, with Table 130 providing the uncollectable and unpaid taxes from 2008–2020, and Table 131 offering the change rate of the Property Assessment rates from 2018–2019.

Year	Residential	Farmland	Non-Residential (Non-Regulated)	NR Linear Property	NR Railway	Machinery & Equipment	Annual Total
2019	362,668,390	49,830,930	138,089,920	491,821,290	3,895,100	288,729,530	1,335,035,160
2018	368,102,780	49,645,350	138,160,250	493,490,730	3,809,700	288,237,220	1,341,446,030
2017	399,179,667	49,587,330	158,532,321	547,373,690	3,866,550	329,560,040	1,488,099,598
2016	368,196,752	49,602,790	153,968,187	598,181,560	3,639,100	342,900,090	1,516,488,479
2015	341,573,787	49,615,040	149,555,603	605,832,880	3,491,390	350,270,460	1,500,339,160
2014	287,678,899	49,564,640	140,769,160	594,697,940	3,463,010	372,000,540	1,448,174,189
2013	279,690,449	49,554,450	132,889,312	569,543,450	3,094,000	358,382,830	1,393,154,491
2012	246,027,559	50,339,750	126,964,955	561,506,670	2,983,070	358,122,740	1,345,944,744
2011	231,427,352	50,252,400	127,523,320	558,850,850	3,126,470	370,564,330	1,341,744,722
2010	220,896,468	50,231,120	142,273,110	583,229,310	4,020,130	413,483,070	1,414,133,208
2009	175,783,915	50,246,010	131,226,160	531,118,860	3,043,520	401,530,640	1,292,949,105
2008	131,800,505	50,266,150	120,786,330	504,213,230	2,873,710	328,883,520	1,138,823,445

Table 129 Equalized Assessment Trends, County of Northern Lights 2008–2019.[102]

Year	Total Uncollectable Taxes[103]	Total Unpaid Taxes[104]
2020	$1,721,270.00	$3,641,381.00
2019	$490,417.00	$2,348,406.00
2018	$75,953.00	$1,348,406.00
2017	$108,124.00	$1,103,669.00
2016	$274,530.00	$1,226,559.00
2015	$848,334.00	$1,211,205.00
2014	$752,646.00	$1,029,643.00
2013	$534,718.00	$965,583.00

[102] https://open.alberta.ca/publications/1844032
[103] Total uncollectable taxes are taxes that are unable to be collected due to age or bankruptcy.
[104] Total unpaid taxes is the outstanding amount of taxes owing as of the corresponding years, as taxes accumulate each year.

2012	$199,188.00	$392,992.00
2011	$133,432.00	$382,188.00
2010	$133,432.00	$589,600.00
2009	$211,761.00	$368,017.00
2008	$169,742.00	$318,468.00

Table 130 Total Uncollectable and Unpaid Taxes, County of Northern Lights, 2008–2020.[105]

Property Type	2018	2019	Annual Change
Farmland	$49.6M	$49.8M	0.37%
Machinery & Equipment (M&E)	$288.2M	$288.7M	0.17%
Non Residential (Non Regulated)	$138.2M	$138.1M	-0.05%
Non Residential Co-Generating M&E	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
Non Residential Linear Property	$493.5M	$491.8M	-0.34%
Non Residential Railway	$3.8M	$3.9M	2.24%
Residential	$368.1M	$362.7M	-1.48%
Grand Total	$1.3B	$1.3B	-0.48%

Table 131 Annual Change Rate, Property Assessment Rates, County of Northern Lights, 2008–2019.[106]

	Residential	Farm Land	Non-Residential	D.I.P.
Municipal Tax Rate	6.2016	8.5096	14.0093	14.0093
Education-Alberta School Foundation Fund Tax Rate/ Education Opted Out Tax Rate	2.5554	2.5554	3.8119	3.8119
Seniors Lodge Accommodation Tax Rate	0.4704	0.4704	0.4704	0.4704
Designated Industrial Property Requisition				0.0748
2020 Combined Mill Rate	**9.2274**	**11.5340**	**17.896**	**18.3664**

Table 132 Tax Mill Rate, County of Northern Lights, 2020.[107]

1.2.5 Retail Centres

The majority of retail shops and services for the County are located in the Town of Manning, these include grocery stores, pharmacy, home improvement and financial services. Fields is the only department store in the County (in Manning). Dixonville has a general store and Post Office. Most residents of the region travel

[105] County of Northern Lights, 2021.
[106] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/property-assessments/#/stacked/property-type/?from=2015&to=2019
[107] http://www.countyofnorthernlights.com/business/assessment-and-taxation/

to Peace River or Grande Prairie to shop at Walmart, Costco and other larger retail and box stores. Table 133 breaks down retail businesses by community within the County of Northern Lights.

Community	# of Retail Stores	# of 'Big Box' Stores[108]	More Information
Carcajou	0	0	Travel to High Level, Peace River or Grande Prairie
Chinook Valley	0	0	Travel to Grimshaw, Peace River or Grande Prairie
Deadwood	0	0	Travel to High Level, Grimshaw, Peace River or Grande Prairie
Dixonville	1	0	General Store with select retail items Travel to Grimshaw, Peace River, or Grande Prairie
Hawk Hills	0	0	Travel to Grimshaw, Peace River, or Grande Prairie
Hotchkiss	0	0	Travel to Grimshaw, Peace River, or Grande Prairie
Keg River	0	0	Travel to High Level, Peace River or Grande Prairie
Manning	19	0	Good variety of smaller retail stores Travel to Grimshaw, Peace River, or Grande Prairie
North Star	0	0	Travel to Grimshaw, Peace River, or Grande Prairie
Notikewin	0	0	Travel to High Level, Peace River or Grande Prairie
Weberville	0	0	Travel to Grimshaw, Peace River, or Grande Prairie

Table 133 Retail and Big Box Stores, County of Northern Lights, 2020.

1.3 Services and Infrastructure

1.3.1 Access to Professional Services and Trades

Table 134 lists Trades and Certifications for 2015 in the County of Northern Lights.

Trade	New Apprentices[109]	Registered Apprentices[110]	Certified Apprentices[111]
Total All Trades	**21**	**91**	**15**
Agricultural Equipment Technician	-	-	-

[108] 'Big Box' Store is defined as a physically large retail establishment, often part of a chain of stores, and offering a variety of products (e.g. Walmart, Superstore).
[109] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/new-apprentices-registered/#/stacked/trade/
[110] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/total-apprentices-registered/#/stacked/trade/
[111] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/apprentices-certified/#/stacked/trade/

Auto Body Technician	-	2	-
Automotive Service Technician	2	5	0
Carpenter	0	2	1
Crane and Hoist Equipment Operator	1	7	2
Electrician	2	16	2
Gasfitter	0	0	-
Hairstylist	1	3	3
Heavy Equipment Technician	2	16	3
Instrument Technician	2	9	2
Millwright	3	5	0
Natural Gas Compression Technician	0	2	-
Parts Technician	3	7	-
Plumber	3	5	-
Rig Technician	-	0	-
Steamfitter-Pipefitter	1	2	-
Welder	1	10	2

Table 134 Trades and Apprentice Certifications, County of Northern Lights, 2015.

1.3.2 Access to Transportation

Air

The Manning Municipal Airport is located 3 kms north of the Town of Manning and is owned and operated by the County. The airport can accommodate general aviation of all aircraft up to Code 3 designation / category using both Instrument Flight Regulations (IFR) and Visual Flight Regulations (VFR) and is equipped with a modern air terminal to service passenger flights. The airport has a radio-controlled runway lighting, used primarily by AHS fixed wing Medivac and Alberta Wildfire, as well as for STARS Medivac when required.[112]

The closest airports for passenger services:

- Grande Prairie Airport, Grande Prairie AB (185 km – 387 km drive depending on origin); and
- Edmonton International Airport, Edmonton AB (500 km – 715 km drive depending on origin).

Road

[112] Inter-municipal Development Plan: County of Northern Lights and The Town of Manning, V3 Companies, 2019.

Highway 35 (Mackenzie Highway) is a regional corridor and the major artery between NWT and all southern destinations. The Town of Manning, and County of Northern Lights provides services along the regional highway corridor between the more populous communities of Peace River (to the south; 1 hour drive) and High Level or La Crete (to the north; 2 hour drive).

The County of Northern Lights has over 6,000 km of rural roads, 200 bridges and there are 7 secondary highways throughout the County. Table 135 shows the breakdown of road ownership within the County; each owner is responsible for maintaining their roads.

Road Ownership	Classification	Material	Length/Area (km/km^2)
County of Northern Lights	Local Government Road	Asphalt	28.02 km
	Local Government Road	Dirt	28.56 km
	Local Government Road	Gravel	89.87 km
	Local Government Road	Unknown	2,038.34 km
County of Northern Lights Total: 2,184.79 km[113]			
Government of Alberta	Primary Highway	Asphalt	332.84 km
	Unknown	Unknown	110.47 km
Government of Alberta Total: 443.32 km[114]			
Natural Resource Industries	DLO – Licence of Occupation	Unknown	90.01 km^2
	LOC – License of Occupation	Unknown	87.83 km^2
	PLC – License of Occupation	Unknown	0.00 km^2
Natural Resource Industries Total: 177.84 km^2[115]			
Other	Winter Road and Access	Unknown	872.27 km
	Unimproved, Unclassified Roads and Truck Trails	Unknown	2,647.73 km
Other Total: 3,520.00 km[116]			

Table 135 Road Ownership and Total Kilometers, County of Northern Lights.

Rail

Great Slave Railway Line, operated by CN Rail, runs through the County of Northern Lights to Hay River, Northwest Territories. Lumber and grain make up the majority of transportation south, while fuel to Hay River is the major commodity freighted north.

[113] Alberta Municipal Data Sharing Partnership, 2014.
[114] Alberta Municipal Data Sharing Partnership, 2014.
[115] Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Human Footprint Inventory, 2018.
[116] Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Human Footprint Inventory, 2018.

There is a total of 512.29km of railway lines within the County of Northern Lights.[117]

Water

There are no waterway transportation services required within the County.

1.3.3 Childcare Availability

Table 136 shows childcare availability and demand for the County of Northern Lights from 2017–2020. Services are also offered in the Towns of Peace River and Grimshaw.

	2017	2018	2019	2020[118]
# of children in registered day care	8[119]	60	65	65
# of children in registered day homes	20	20	28	20
# of children on a waitlist	5-10	5-10	5-10	Data Not Available
# of children in informal childcare[120]	30-40	30-40	30-40	Data Not Available

Table 136 Childcare Availability & Demand, County of Northern Lights, 2017–2020.

The Manning Regional Child Care Association (MRCCA) is the only childcare organization in the area and administers the following programs:

- Manning Early Learning & Child Care Centre
    - The Learning Tree day care & preschool
- Manning Out of School Care Program (for school age children 6 - 12 years, before and after school)
- Manning Family Day Home
    - 1 Childcare Provider
- Manning Toy Lending Library

MRCCA is on year three of the Government Pilot Project for funded $25/day per child Early Learning & Child Care Centres. The growing concern is that at the end of March 2021 they will not have funding to continue their programs.

Because the region is made up of predominately small rural communities, they do not have the numbers of families that will be able to afford full cost childcare, at double what they are currently paying, so the current programs will no be viable. This will have devastating impacts on the communities reliant on these programs, economically and socially.[121]

[117] Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Human Footprint Inventory, 2018.
[118] The 2020 data was provided mid-year and service was interrupted by COVID-19 closures of childcare centers.
[119] In 2017, the Manning Child Care Centre only offered part-time services.
[120] This figure is only an estimate provided in Stakeholder Interview, July 2020.
[121] Stakeholder Interview, June 2020.

1.3.4 Child Intervention

Child Intervention offers a range of supports and resources for children, youth and families in five regions across Provincial, Metis and Indigenous Children's Services offices and Delegated First nation Agencies.[122]

There are no child intervention facilities within the County of Northern Lights. Children, youth and young adults from the County who require intervention services would likely access these services from the Grande Prairie or Peace River worksites, and the average number of intakes coming from the County of Northern Lights is unknown.

There are four (4) group care or treatment focused facilities accessed by the Ministry of Children's Services, which are located in relative proximity to the County of Northern Lights. These facilities are located in Grande Prairie (2), the Town of Sexsmith (1) and the Town of High Prairie (1).[123]

	Grande Prairie	Sexsmith	High Prairie
Carcajou	~ 387 kms/4.25 hrs	~ 370 kms/4 hrs	~ 350 kms/4 hrs
Chinook Valley	~ 207 kms/2.5 hrs	~ 185 kms/2 hrs	~ 175 kms/2 hrs
Deadwood	~ 250 kms/2.75 hrs	~ 225 kms/2.5 hrs	~ 215 kms/2.25 hrs
Dixonville	~ 215 kms/2.25 hrs	~ 195 kms/2 hrs	~ 200 kms/2 hrs
Keg River	~ 375 kms/4 hrs	~ 355 kms/3.45 hrs	~ 340 kms/3.5 hrs
Hawk Hills	~ 300 kms/3.25 hrs	~ 280 kms/3 hrs	~ 270 kms/3 hrs
Hotchkiss	~ 275 kms/3 hrs	~ 255 kms/2.45 hrs	~ 245 kms/2.75 hrs
Manning	~ 260 kms/2.75 hrs	~ 235 kms/2.5hrs	~ 225 kms/2.5 hrs
Northstar	~ 250 kms/2.75 hrs	~ 230 kms/2.5 hrs	~ 220 kms/2.25 hrs
Notikewin	~ 260 kms/3 hrs	~ 245 kms/2.75 hrs	~ 230 kms/2.5 hrs
Warrensville	~ 185 kms/2 hrs	~ 165 kms/1.45 hrs	~ 155 kms/1.75 hrs
Weberville	~ 200 kms/2.25 hrs	~ 210 kms/2.25 hrs	~ 135 kms/1.5 hrs

Table 137 Approximate Travel Distances and Times for County of Northern Lights Residents to the Group Care or Treatment Facilities accessed by the Ministry of Children's Services.

1.3.5 Education

Education for the County of Northern Lights is provided by two school divisions:[124]

1. Peace River School Division (PRSD) covers 13,000 km² serving 11 communities, including those within the County of Northern Lights. PRSD is compromised of:

[122] Ministry of Children's Services, 2021.
[123] Ministry of Children's Services, 2021.
[124] The Dr. Mary Jackson School in Keg River was closed in 2018, which was part of the Northland School Division. Students from Carcajou and Keg River travel to Paddle Prairie School, other schools of their choice within the region.

- 21 Schools; and
- 3,000 Students.

2. Holy Family Catholic Regional Division (HFCRD) was formed through the regionalization of the former Holy Family Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 17 and the North Peace RCSSD. HFCRD that is comprised of:

    - 9 Schools; and
    - 2,100 Students.

Table 138 provides a breakdown of schools by grade, students registered and location within the County for the 2018–2019 school year; as well as [select] Annual Education Results.[125]

School	Measure (Local compared to Alberta)					Measure Evaluation Overall
		Current Result	Prev 3 Yr. Average	Current Result (AB)	Prev 3 Yr. Average (AB)	
Breaking Point Colony K–12 11 Students [Manning]	Safe & Caring	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	89.4	89.2	*Not Available*
	Program of Studies	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	82.4	82.0	*Not Available*
	Education Quality	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	90.3	90.1	*Not Available*
	Drop Out Rate	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	2.7	2.7	*Not Available*
	High School Completion Rate	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	79.7	78.4	*Not Available*
	PAT: Acceptable	*	*Not Available*	73.8	73.6	*
	PAT: Excellence	*	*Not Available*	20.6	19.6	*
	Diploma: Acceptable	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	83.6	83.1	*Not Available*
	Diploma: Excellence	N/A	N/A	24.0	22.5	N/A
	Diploma Exam Participation Rate	N/A	N/A	56.4	55.6	N/A
	Rutherford Scholarship	N/A	N/A	66.6	63.5	N/A

[125] http://www.prsd.ab.ca/Departments.php; https://hfcrd.ab.ca/. Data values have been supressed where the number of respondents/students is fewer than 6. Suppression is marked with an asterisk (*). Other relevant report notes are available directly in the document sourced.

	Eligibility Rate					
Dixonville School K–9 54 Students [Dixonville]		**Current Results**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average**	**Current Result (AB)**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average (AB)**	
	Safe & Caring	77.1	94.3	89.4	89.2	Concern
	Program of Studies	62.5	91.3	82.4	82.0	Concern
	Education Quality	83.8	96.5	90.3	90.1	Issue
	Drop Out Rate	*	N/A	2.7	2.7	*
	PAT: Acceptable	75.0	68.2	73.8	73.6	Acceptable
	PAT: Excellence	4.2	9.5	20.6	19.6	Concern
Manning Elementary K–6 138 Students [Manning]		**Current Results**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average**	**Current Results (AB)**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average (AB)**	
	Safe & Caring	97.7	96.2	89.4	89.2	Excellent
	Program of Studies	87.8	86.2	82.4	82.0	Excellent
	Education Quality	95.4	94.7	90.3	90.1	Excellent
	Drop Out Rate	N/A	N/A	2.7	2.7	N/A
	PAT: Acceptable	100.00	96.9	73.8	73.6	Excellent
	PAT: Excellence	23.2	30.0	20.6	19.6	Good
Paul Rowe Jr/Sr High 7–12 149 Students [Manning]		**Current Results**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average**	**Current Results (AB)**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average (AB)**	
	Safe & Caring	92.7	88.0	89.4	89.2	Excellent
	Program of Studies	91.1	79.4	82.4	82.0	Excellent
	Education Quality	90.6	86.8	90.3	90.1	Excellent
	Drop Out Rate	3.0	1.1	2.7	2.7	N/A
	High School Completion Rate	74.1	87.0	79.7	78.4	Acceptable

	PAT: Acceptable	61.8	61.2	73.8	73.6	Concern
	PAT: Excellence	6.6	11.3	20.6	19.6	Concern
	Diploma: Acceptable	77.8	73.2	83.6	83.1	Issue
	Diploma: Excellence	6.9	9.2	24.0	22.5	Concern
	Diploma Exam Participation Rate	53.9	49.8	56.4	55.6	Acceptable
	Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	74.1	64.8	66.6	63.5	N/A

Rosary School ECS–9 127 Students [Manning] (HFCRD)		**Current Results**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average**	**Current Results (AB)**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average (AB)**	
	Safe & Caring	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*
	Program of Studies	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*
	Education Quality	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*
	Drop Out Rate	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*
	PAT: Acceptable	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*
	PAT: Excellence	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*	*Not Available*

Table 138 Education Data and Performance Indicators, County of Northern Lights, 2016–2019.[126]

Post-Secondary

Post-Secondary Enrollment[127]			**High School Enrollment**[128]			**K–9 Enrollment**[129]		
2019	**2015**	**5 Year Change**	**2019**	**2015**	**5 Year Change**	**2019**	**2015**	**5 Year Change**
26	51	**-77.17%**	118	134	**-14.08%**	472	509	**-7.92%**

Table 139 Education Enrollments Five-Year Trends, County of Northern Lights.

[126] http://www.prsd.ab.ca/Departments.php; https://hfcrd.ab.ca/
[127] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/post-secondary-enrollment/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[128] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/high-school-enrollments/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[129] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/k-9-enrollments/#/?from=2015&to=2019

The County of Northern Lights had 26 students attending a public post-secondary institution in 2019, representing a decline of 25.7% from 35 in 2018. The Preparatory and Basic Upgrading segment had the largest increase over the last year, increasing by 133.3% to 7.[130]

1.3.6 Housing

In 2019, there were 1,691 dwelling units in the County of Northern Lights.[131] Of these homes, 86% were single-family homes, which has declined 4.28% over five years between 2011 and 2016.[132]

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	Value Change
Average Housing Prices												
Number of Owned Properties												
Number of Rental Properties												
Value of Land Transfers[133] (Millions $)	29.2	36.9	33.6	26.9	32.2	35.6	30.8	25.2	20.3	23.7	20.3	43.8%
Number of Land Transfers[134]	131	163	174	141	153	182	165	153	140	161	151	-13.2%
Land Prices												

Table 140 Housing Prices and Land Value for County of Northern Lights, 2009–2019.

Low-Income Housing

The North Peace Housing Foundation offers Family Housing and Rent Supplements with a range of units and programs to fit their family housing clientele, which includes low and moderate-income families, and individuals with special needs who cannot afford private sector accommodation. They provide property management services for 163 family housing units, operating under two programs.[135]

- Alberta Community Housing Program provides subsidized rental housing to low-income families, senior citizens, and individuals with special needs who cannot afford private sector accommodation. Priority is given based on need, as determined by income, assets, and current housing condition. The tenant's rent, which includes heat, water and sewer expenses, is based on 30% of a household's adjusted income. The tenant is responsible for electricity, telephone and cable television, as well as any additional services they may request (i.e. parking). The following units are available in the County of Northern Lights:
    - Dixonville (1 Unit)

[130] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/post-secondary-enrollment/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[131] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/dwelling-units/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[132] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/percent-single-family-houses/#/
[133] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/value-of-land-title-transfers/#/?from=2008&to=2012
[134] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/number-of-land-title-transfers/#/?from=2009&to=2013
[135] The province owns all of the dwellings under these programs, and any operating deficits are fully funded by the province through an annual budget review process. Management and tenant selection are delegated to the local housing operators. (https://www.nphf.ca/family-housing.html).

- Manning (24 Units)

- Alberta Rural and Native Housing Program is designed to assist low-income eligible households in obtaining affordable rental accommodation in rural communities, generally, with populations of 2,500 persons or less

Rent supplement programs provide financial assistance to households in need to help them obtain and maintain affordable and suitable rental accommodation. The program provides rent subsidies in eligible rental projects. There are two ways in which program operates:[136]

- Private Landlord Rent Supplement (PLRS) is a relationship between North Peace Housing Foundation, the Landlord and the tenant. The relationship between North Peace Housing and the Landlord is mainly regarding rent. The market rent that is set is agreed upon between NPHF and the landlord, and should be in line with similar rents found in the area's private market. These can be found in NPHF's annual market rent survey. The Tenants rent is calculated at 30% of adjusted income and reviewed annually. This is considered the tenants rent, and an addendum to the lease should be signed (provided by NPHF). The landlord should not charge more rent to the tenant than what is calculated by NPHF. The difference between the tenant's calculated rent and the agreed market rate is then paid to the landlord each month. The landlord must submit a monthly claim to NPHF.

- Direct to Tenant Rent Supplement (DTT), which is paid directly to the tenant. This program is a relationship between North Peace Housing Foundation and the tenant. Rent is calculated on 30% of a households' adjusted income, and is reviewed annually. The subsidy paid is the difference between what the tenant should pay, based on their income and the actual market rate to a maximum of $400.00 each month. We confirm the details of the property and terms of rental with the landlord, but other than that, everything is between the tenant and NPHF. The tenant must submit a receipt to NPHF, to confirm that rent has been paid each month in full in order to receive supplement for the next month.[137]

In previous years, NPHF were given a set number of designations for each program, 17 for PLRS and 35 for DTT. Tenants also had to score a minimum number of points in order to be eligible to receive the rent supplement. Currently it is based upon budget; NPHF receives $215,000.00 annually to provide the rent subsidy for both programs combined. That works out to about 47 tenants combined.

In the past, NPHF did not have a waitlist for this program; it has only been within the last 12–18 months that the waitlist has built up. As of September 2020, NPHF has 20 clients waiting for support. This does not include any of the Cleardale seniors. NPHF have received an average of 2–3 new applications each month.

The waitlist for both programs is based upon the Priority of Need Assessment set out in the Social Housing Accommodation Regulation. This assessment gives points based on various factors to determine the need of each applicant. Points are awarded based upon number of children, rent to income ratio, and other factors related to current housing. Points vary between 3–32, and when the supplement becomes available, the person with the highest need is offered the rent supplement.

Once an applicant is offered the supplement, they may continue to receive it until they are no longer eligible, or if the Government of Alberta discontinues the program.

Each application that is received by NPHF is assessed for a housing unit first. If a person is suitable for a housing unit within the foundation (family or senior) that is what is offered to them. The clients that make

[136] https://www.nphf.ca/rent-supplements.html
[137] Stakeholder Interview, September 2020.

up our rent supplement waitlist have been assessed and are either, not eligible, or not suitable for a housing unit.[138]

[138] Stakeholder Interview, September 2020.

1.3.7 Utilities, Services & Waste Management

Electricity

The County of Northern Lights has approximately 1,043km of transmission lines and is located within ATCO Electric's transmission and distribution territory.[139]

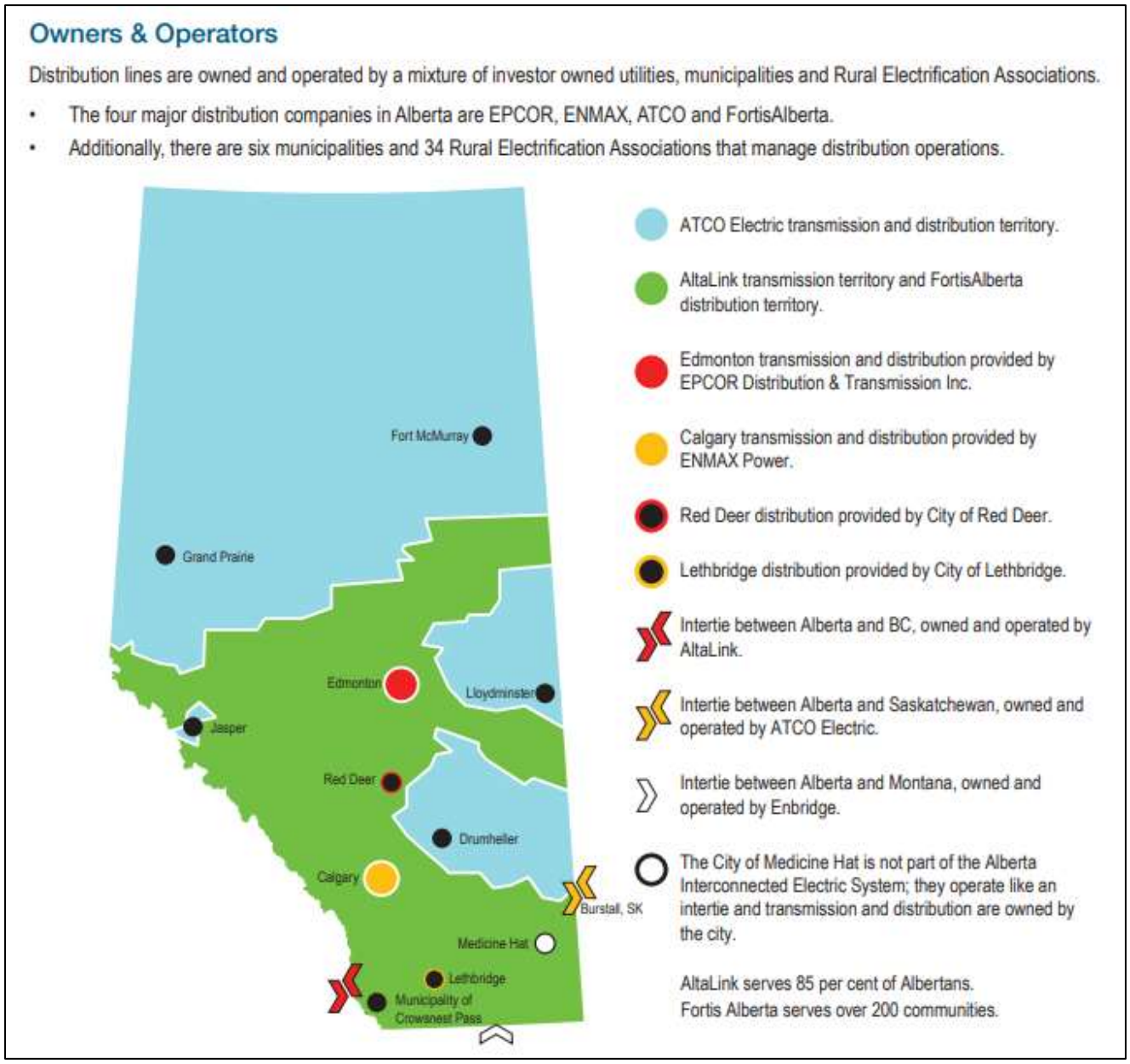

Figure 42 Owners and Operators - Electricity Distribution, Government of Alberta, 2014.[140]

[139] https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/eb73a7a5-7b54-4510-920d-a820fb9bc41a/resource/0497733c-2716-445f-b151-6d26a61c1a3d/download/2014-12-electricity-distribution.pdf

[140] https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/eb73a7a5-7b54-4510-920d-a820fb9bc41a/resource/0497733c-2716-445f-b151-6d26a61c1a3d/download/2014-12-electricity-distribution.pdf

The average cents per kilowatt-hour for electricity regulated rates in 2020 across all four distributors were relatively similar province-wide. However, consumption rates are likely increased in the North zone due to sustained colder temperatures during the winter season.

While the average monthly transmission charges have been similar from 2004 to 2019 across all four distributors, monthly distribution charges have been significantly higher in the North zone since 2004.

Distributor	EPCOR Distribution	Fortis Alberta Inc.	ENMAX Power Corporation	ATCO Electric
Average 2020 Electricity Regulated Rates in cents/kWh	6.809	6.708	6.360	6.590

Table 141 2020 Regulated Electricity Rates, Utilities Consumer Advocate, 2020.[141]

Transmission Charges

Transmission rates are approved and regulated by the Alberta Utilities Commission. The transmission charge on an electricity bill is based on how much electricity the customer has used.

As shown in Figure 43, Alberta has seen an increase in transmission charges since 2004 due to the expansion of infrastructure. There have been a number of large transmission projects, which have led to an increase in costs being passed on to consumers. In 2019, monthly transmission charges paid by the average residential customer with 600kWh of consumption ranged from $21.04 (in EPCOR's service area) and $27.59 (in ENMAX's service area). Transmission charges constitute between 14% and 24% of a customer's total bill.[142]

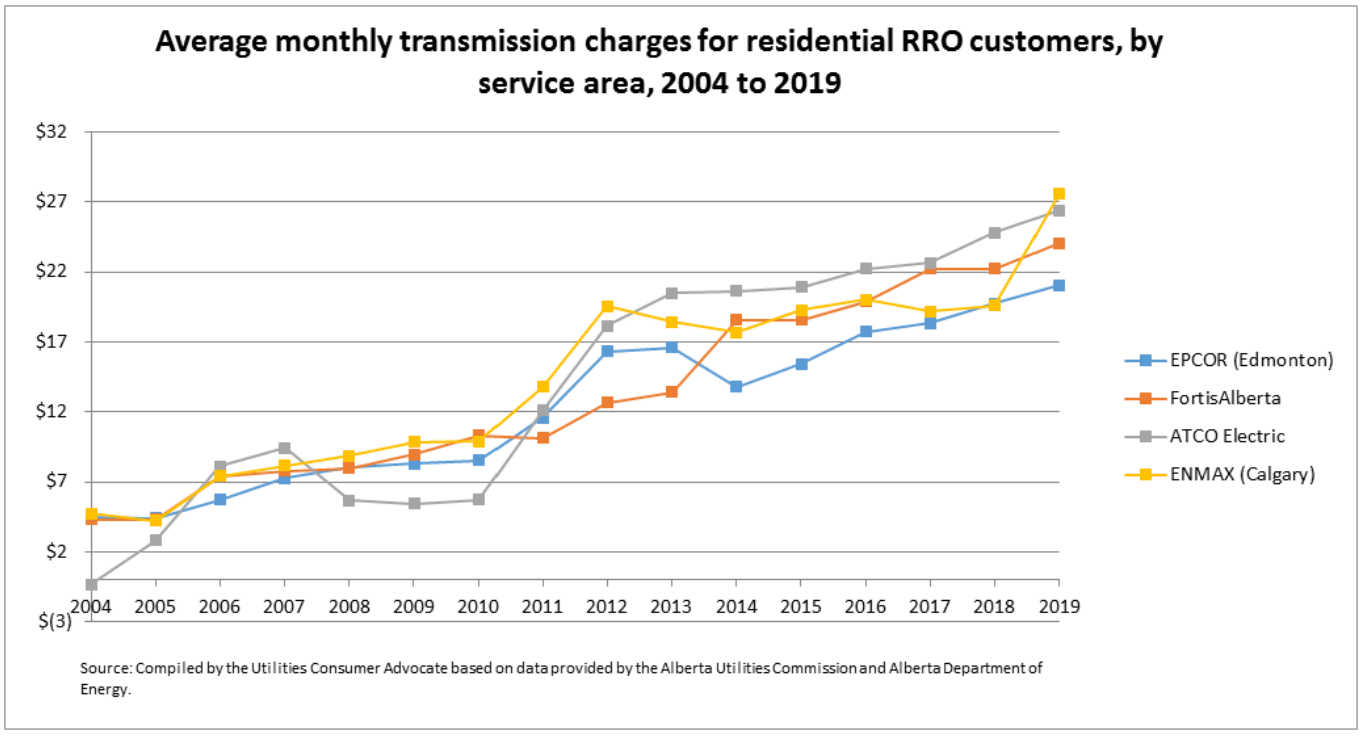

Figure 43 Average Monthly Transmission Charges in Alberta, 2020.

[141] https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/regulated-rates.aspx
[142] https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/electricity-transmission-and-distribution-charges.aspx

Distribution Charges

The Alberta Utilities Commission also regulates distribution rates for Calgary (Enmax), Edmonton (EPCOR), Fortis Alberta and Atco Electric. Distribution rates for Cardston, Ponoka, Red Deer and Lethbridge are approved by local municipal governments and town councils. Rural electrification associations have boards of directors that approve distribution rates on behalf of members.

As shown in Figure 44, distribution costs vary with location and consumption. Distribution charges are higher for customers in rural Alberta than for customers in urban areas because of the low population density and longer distances between customer sites.

In 2019, monthly distribution charges paid by the average residential customer with 600kWh of consumption ranged from $22.13 (in ENMAX's service area) to $85.77 (in ATCO's service area). Distribution charges constitute between 20% and 47% of a customer's total bill.[143]

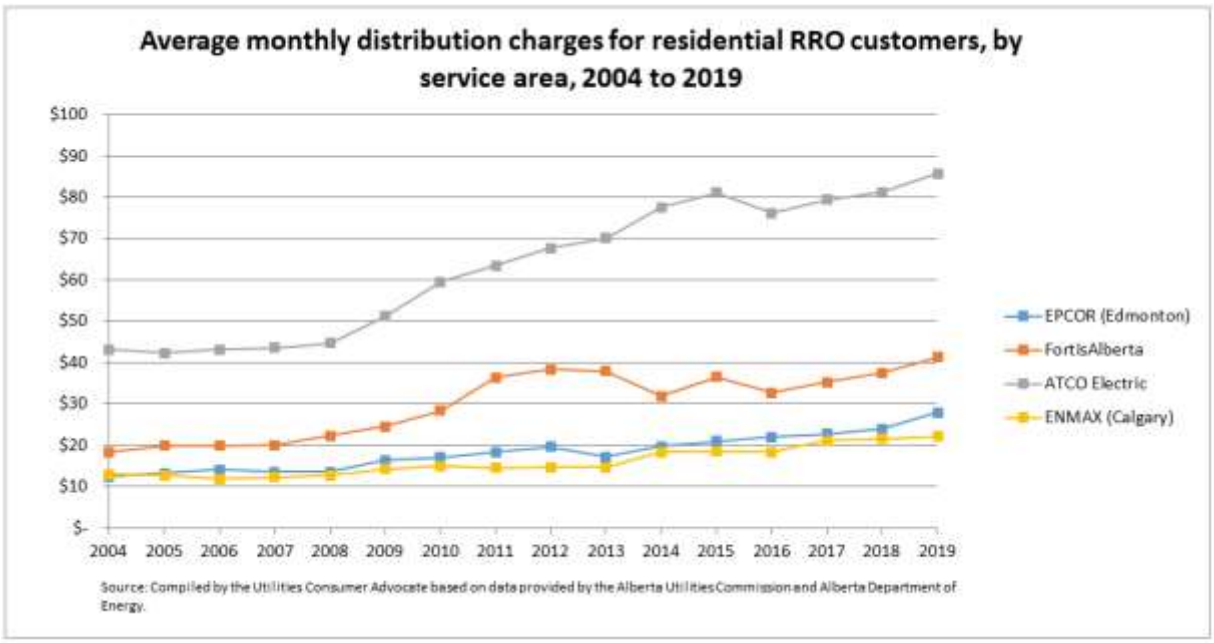

Figure 44 Average Monthly Distribution Charges in Alberta, 2020.

Internet

Currently, the internet service levels that meet the CRTC objectives (50/Mb download and 10/Mb upload) are not available within the County of Northern Lights. The challenge is that a higher population density is required to make broadband enhancements viable (approx. 5,000 individuals)[144] and in 2019, the County of Northern Lights had a population of 3,656.

Internet Provider	Average Upload Speed (Mb per second)	Average Download Speed (Mb per second)	Average Latency Speed (Milli-seconds)	Type of Connection Available (Fibre-Optic, DSL, Fixed-Wireless)	Cost for Connection by Type	Cost for Consumption (per Mb or Unlimited)
AB North						

[143] https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/electricity-transmission-and-distribution-charges.aspx
[144] Northern Alberta Broadband Preparedness Project, Taylor Warwick Consulting Inc, 2017

Mighty Peace Wireless						
Telus Smart HUB[145]	1 Mbps	25 Mbps/ 50 Mbps[146]	-	Fixed Wireless	$45.00[147]	Average monthly rate for Unlimited is $89.99/ $74.99
Xplornet	1 Mbps	10 Mbps	-	Satellite	$99.00	Average monthly rate for Unlimited is $121.99
Measurement Lab[148]	1.39 Mbps[149]	35.75 Mbps[150]	179.9 milliseconds[151]	-	-	-

Table 142 Internet Services Availability, County of Northern Lights, 2021.

Landfills

The County owns, operates and maintains one landfill located in Keg River, and is a member of the Long Lake Regional Waste Management Services Commission (LLRWMSC), which operates transfer stations throughout the County. The LLRWMSC is comprised of four members, one each from the County of Northern Lights, Town of Grimshaw, Town of Berwyn, and the Town of Manning. The commission operates eight sites.

Recycling

The County has municipal service agreements with the Town of Manning and the Town of Peace River to use their recycling facilities.

Natural Gas/Heating

The County of Northern Lights is located within the North Peace Gas Co-operative Ltd. distribution area[152] and ATCO Gas also provides natural gas within the County. North Peace Gas Co-op provides natural gas services to residential, farmers and industrial customers, including trenching, horizontal directional drilling, and water, sewer, and furnace installations.[153]

Construction costs to install new natural gas service:

- Rural Contracts: $7,876.00; and
- Urban Contracts: $3,151.50.[154]

Distributor	ATCO Gas	Alta Gas Utilities
Average 2020 Natural Gas Regulated Rates in cents/kWh	2.238	2.348

Table 143 2020 Regulated Natural Gas Rates, Utilities Consumer Advocate, 2020.[155]

[145] Not available in Carcajou, Dixonville, Deadwood, or Weberville.
[146] 50 Mbps only available in postal code T0H 1W0 – Grimshaw and Warrensville.
[147] If an antenna is required, add an additional $99.00 installation fee.
[148] https://www.measurementlab.net/tests/ndt/
[149] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/median-upload-speed/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[150] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/median-download-speed/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[151] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/northern-lights-county/average-latency/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[152] https://www.fedgas.com/Map
[153] https://northpeacegas.ca/services/
[154] https://northpeacegas.ca/fees/
[155] https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/regulated-rates.aspx

Other sources of heat for County of Northern Lights residential and farm dwellings include:

- propane;[156]
- wood stoves burning wood pellets or logs;[157] and
- diesel generators.[158]

Water

The County of Northern Lights operates and maintains a rural water line network, which supplies potable water to rural and hamlet houses in the County. The rural water lines are fed by potable water coming from two sources, the Town of Peace River and the Town of Manning.

The County also owns half of the Town of Manning's water treatment plant. The County system is made up of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) water lines, distribution pumps, reservoirs, and booster stations. The system has nine truckfill locations where trucks and residents can get potable water to haul water to locations that are not served directly by the water lines.

The Keg River truckfill is a standalone water treatment plant feeding only the truckfill. The County also maintains seven non-potable water supplies (wells and dugouts)[159].

The County of Northern Lights user water costs in 2019:

Water Service for all Hamlets Metered Water & Regional Truck fill stations:

- (first 20 m3/month) $4.40/m ($20.00/1000 gallons)
- (over 20 m3/month) $7.46/m3 ($34.00/1000 gallons)

Rural Water Customers:

- Initial Hook Up Fee $10,000.00
- Maintenance & Administration Charge $20.00/month
- Transmission Charge (Line Fee) $20.00/month

Council determined a Water Policy for expansion. Each individual paid $10,000 per connection; if it cost less than $58,000 per connection, the County was subsidizing this by $48,000. The province is steadfast in that they do not fund distribution lines.

The County is completing a $35 million dollar project from Peace River to Dixonville that will give the hubs for the distribution lines to be put in place. The County's main priority over the last 8 years has been water this is where they think their economic future will be - the make or break to keep people here.

The County maintains eight locations of de-regulated, non-potable water supplies that are not for drinking or household use; and operates three wastewater lagoon systems.

[156] Price per litre of propane in March 2021 was 0.58 cents.
[157] The average cost of a Cord of wood in 2020 was approximately $150.00.
[158] Price per litre of diesel in February 2021 was $1.0469.
[159] Stakeholder Interview, October 2020.