APPENDIX 7

Town of
Rainbow Lake

TOWN OF RAINBOW LAKE

As of 2019, the Town of Rainbow Lake had a population of 795, and this fluctuates dependant on the level of oil and gas activity, an industry the Town is heavily reliant on for its economy. Located west of the Town of High Level at the end of Highway 58 West, within Mackenzie County,[1] the Town carries the name of the nearby lake formed on the Hay River.

With heavy reliance, and development based on, the oil and gas industry and the surrounding wells and industrial camps, Rainbow Lake has been adversely impacted by the oil crisis in Alberta. Once a vibrant and prosperous Town, they now face challenges to support residents and attract new ones.

There is a tremendous strain on the Town to maintain services, retail, and infrastructure, and to ensure the long-term sustainability of this community. The Town is restricted by its location at the end of the highway with little to no pass-through traffic to support retail and leisure activities. There are also great opportunities for industry development since much of the infrastructure and utilities were built to support large-scale industry.

Needs and Priorities

Table 246[2] identifies the needs and priorities of the Town based upon the primary and secondary data collected, as well as the data gaps identified.[3] 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 quality education, safe and healthy homes, adequate employment, transportation, physical activity, and nutrition, in addition to quality health care.
2. Industry development is essential for the survival of this community. The Oil and Gas industry is both declining and shifting its operations, and the Town must secure diversified, sustainable sources of income.
3. Population retention for 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 (i.e. employment opportunities, lower living expenses, safe neighborhoods and access to community health and recreation services).[4]

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 Town of Rainbow Lake a sustainable income is essential to them to provide for their residents.

However, with reduced access to education, healthcare services, and leisure activities (for 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.

[1] Please note this section only presents data for Rainbow Lake, data for Mackenzie County is in Appendix 5.
[2] CMR Consulting Inc., Open House Data Collection, 2020.
[3] The NWSAR Open House for Rainbow Lake was hosted at the Rainbow Lake Rec Plex with 3 participants.
[4] Irshad, Humaira. Attracting and Retaining People to Rural Alberta; Rural Development Division, 2013.

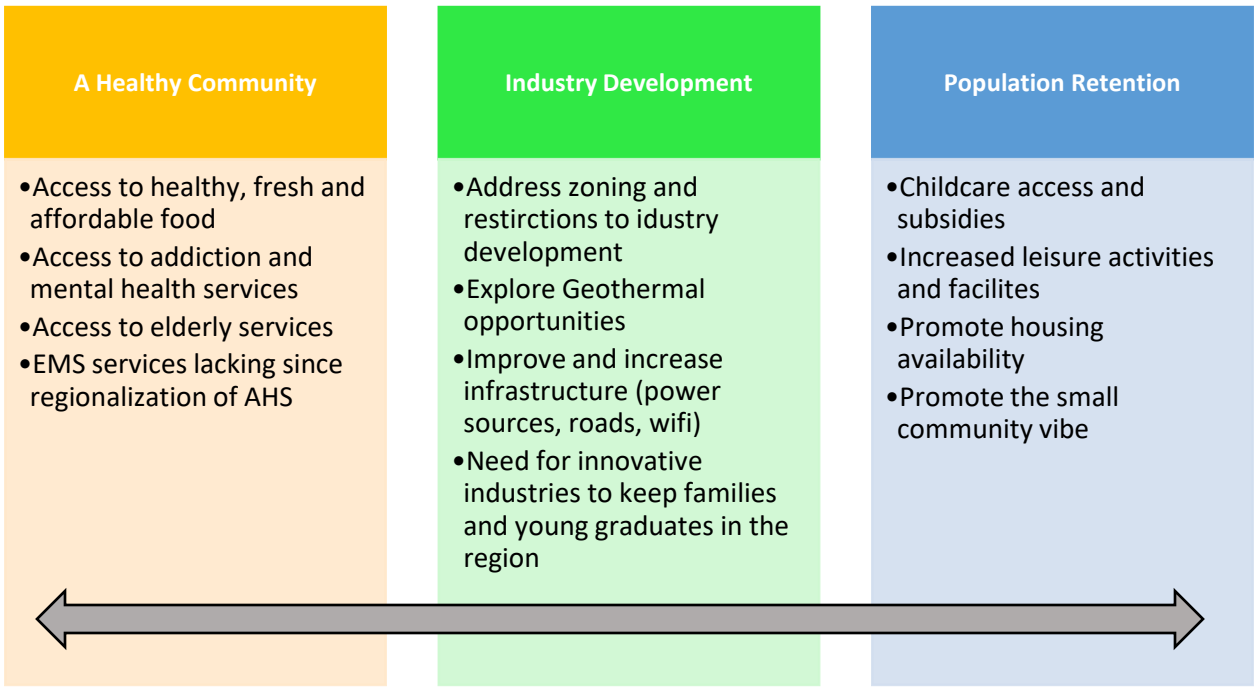

Table 246 Town of Rainbow Lake, Needs and Priorities, 2020.

Regional Travel Distances and Times

The residents of Rainbow Lake must travel outside their community, County and sometimes Province, to access services (e.g. health care), retail and employment. Table 247 shows approximate travel distances and times (each way).

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 →	High Level	Peace River	Hay River (NWT)	Grande Prairie	Edmonton
Rainbow Lake	~ 135 kms/ 1.25 hrs	~ 430 kms/ 4.5 hrs	~ 450 kms/ 4.5 hrs	~ 580 kms/ 6 hrs	~ 875 kms/ 9 hrs

Table 247 Approximate Travel Distances and Times for Town of Rainbow Lake 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 urgent priority in the NWSAR Region. Research for this report did not find any data available for the Town of Rainbow Lake.

Appendices 5 and 6 show substance addiction, FASD rates and available services for Mackenzie County and the Town of High Level.

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 (580 kms/6 hrs one way drive)	Local Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) group meetings, and the AHS High Level Office provides some services[5]	AL-ANON (Hope and Help for Family and Friends of Alcoholics)[6]	None within the Town of Rainbow Lake	Northern Addictions Centre offers: • Medically Assisted Detox; • 24hr Clinical Care; and • Individualized Treatment for: ○ Substance Abuse; ○ Opiate Addiction; and ○ Alcoholism. • Individual and Group Therapy.[7]
Drug Addiction	Data Not Available		The AHS High Level Office provides some support services[8]	None within the Town of Rainbow Lake	None within the Town of Rainbow Lake	
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)	Data Not Available	Northwest Regional Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Society (NWR-FASD) in High Level (135 kms/ 1.25 hr one way drive)	NWR FASD Society offers: • PCAP • Prevention Conversation Project • Youth Coach Program • Family Coach Program • Life Coach Program • Mackenzie FASD Adult Diagnostic Clinic[9]	NWR FASD Society has a facility within High Level and a long-term goal of housing up-to 11 residents at a time. They also have a 4-bedroom supported residence with 24/7 supervision.	10+ within High Level and surrounding area[10]	See information below.

Table 248 Access to Substance Addiction and FASD services for residents within Town of Rainbow Lake, 2021.

The NWR FASD Society – Mackenzie Network serves the region in the needs for those with FASD and their family and support networks. In last 12 years, they have worked with more than 800–1200 individuals over that time period. Within the region, they operate diagnostic clinics, about 16 for adults and 24–30 youth per year. In the last quarter worked with 314 individuals, many who are caregivers for adults and children, 130 under the age of 18 (rates for the first quarter of 2020). The annual number varies between

[5] See Appendix 6 of this report.
[6] https://al-anon.ab.ca/contacts/
[7] https://www.rehab.ca/northern-addictions-centre/1100682-r#methodology
[8] See details above this Table.
[9] http://nwr-fasd.ab.ca/our-work/
[10] http://nwr-fasd.ab.ca/contact/staff-directory/

300 and 400 and depends which kids have moved out of the area; the variance is with youth. They have a waitlist of 80 youth and 150 adults awaiting diagnosis; they can wait up to 7–8 years.

The NWR FASD Society have programming for caregivers, children, youth, young adults and adults. But only for those who are suspected of or diagnosed have access to those programs. There is a prevention program, which is province-wide where they inform youth of the risks of alcohol during pregnancy. They currently have a supported residence – currently 4 adults and 1 baby; it is a four-bedroom house, with two workers and a supervisor 24/7. They purchased the Action North building to expand this capacity, but they will also have their offices within; long-term goal is 11 residents.[11]

At present, there is no addiction support in place within the Town; Action North Addictions Centre closed its doors in November 2018. Some addiction services are offered at the hospital in High Level, only short term, and no one on staff is directly trained for this type of treatment.

1.1.2 Health Care

Facilities and Services

The Health Clinic has regular doctor days and a maternity nurse once a week. Most residents will travel to High Level for their health care services or outside of the County if specialist services are needed. Table 249 shows the current medical services and facilities available in the Town of Rainbow Lake.

Facility	Facility Type	Primary Services	Public Programs/Services
Rainbow Lake Community Health Clinic	Nursing Station	• Addiction and Mental Health – Adult and Youth Intake • Breastfeeding Clinic • Community Health Centres • Home Care – New Born Babies • Mental Health Services • Public Health – immunization • Tuberculosis Testing	• Addiction Services – Prevention

Table 249 Medical Facilities and Services, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2020.[12]

Healthcare and Specialist Providers

Table 250 offers a breakdown of health care and specialist providers in the Town of Rainbow Lake.

Service/Specialization	# of Providers	Additional Information[13]
Cardiologist	0	
Chiropractor	0	Closet Chiropractor service is in High Level
Dentist	0	Closet Dentists are in High Level
Diagnostics	0	Closet Diagnostics services are in High Level

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

[12] https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/findhealth/facility.aspx?id=1000129 It is important to note, that not all these services are available all of the time, very dependent on available staffing and resources.

[13] Refer to Table 247 for distance and travel times outside of Town boundaries.

Family Physician/ General Practitioner (GP)	2	Come twice a week from High Level 9am – Noon
Gynaecology	0	Closet Gynaecologist service is in High Level
Licensed Practical Nurse[14]	1	Lives in Rainbow Lake and works a shift work rotation
Maternity/Midwife	0	Based in Mackenzie County
Mental Health	0	
Nephrology	0	
Neurologist	0	
Oncologist	0	
Ophthalmologist	0	
Other	0	
Paediatrics	0	
Paramedics	2	Clinical Paramedics based at the Health Clinic and available 24/7 for emergency responses. Received specialized training to be able to serve as emergency response within the clinic above and beyond ambulance personnel. Can also provide Laboratory sampling services if there is no doctor available when the matter is urgent, and can assist with diagnosis and treatment with a doctor on the phone.[15]
Physiotherapist	0	Closet Physiotherapist is in High Level
Registered Nurse (RN)[16]	0	
Rheumatologist	0	
Special Needs	0	
Surgeons (general)	0	Closet Surgeon services are in High Level
Laboratory Services	0	Samples are taken and sent away for analysis – no Laboratory Services.

Table 250 Health Care and Specialist Providers, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2020.

Diagnostic Services – Town of Rainbow Lake Residents							
Diagnostic Service	Resident Community	Number of services per year					Other Information
		2015	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	
X-Ray	Rainbow Lake			500	609	629	All X-Rays are performed in High Level, and some residents may choose to travel outside of the region for this service

[14] https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page8486.aspx
[15] Stakeholder Interview, December 2020.
[16] https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page8605.aspx

Ultrasound	Rainbow Lake	27	10	13	12	5	All Ultrasounds are performed in High Level, and some residents may choose to travel outside of the region for this service
CT Scan	Rainbow Lake	42	28	36	27	35	All CT Scans are performed in High Level, and some residents may choose to travel outside of the region for this service

Table 251 Diagnostic Services for Town of Rainbow Lake Residents, 2015–2019.[17]

1.1.3 Elderly Services

No facilities, services or data available for the Town of Rainbow Lake, the nearest available facilities and services are located within the Town of High Level – see Appendix 6.

1.1.4 Culture, Leisure and Tourism

Table 252 lists public facilities and cultural activities available within and surrounding the Town Rainbow Lake.

Town/Hamlet/ Community	Public Facilities	Community Clubs & Events
Rainbow Lake	• Rec Plex Complex • Baseball diamond • Basketball court • Tennis courts • Playground • Library • Golf Course • Youth Centre[18] • Rainbow Lake Campground and Provincial Day Use • Shady Acres Campground • Lederer Enterprises RV Park	• Winter Carnival • Annual Christmas Tree Lighting • Christmas Eve Free Skate • New Year's Eve Free Skate • Easter Egg-stravaganza • Community Church Fall Supper • Annual Town Cleanup & Free Garbage Day • Annual Campground Cleanup • Canada Day Parade & Celebrations in the Park • Volunteer Appreciation Night • Community Night • Hockey Tournament • Annual Father's Day Fish Derby • Rainbow Lake School Science Fair • Rainbow Lake School Sports Day • Rainbow Lake School Christmas Concert • Rainbow Lake School Craft and Bake Sale • Rainbow Lake School Book Fair • Oilmen's Curling Bonspiel • Men's, Ladies & Mixed Bonspiels • Victim Services Golf Tournament

[17] Stakeholder Provided Data, April 2021.

[18] Daily group time, information and referral services for youth at risk, opportunities for youth work experience, movie nights, monthly dances, user ID cards, being home alone safely program, babysitting course, opportunities for youth to assist in volunteering for family orientated community events, leisure activities including pool, computer games, music, video games, board games and puzzles, movies, past photo albums and hanging out with friends.

		• Senior's Golf Tournament • Rainbow Lake Member's Golf Tournament • Men's, Ladies and Junior Golf Tournaments • Oilmen's Golf Tournament

Table 252 Public Facilities and Community Events, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2020.

Leisure activities, community events, lake access for boating and fishing activities draw regional tourism to the Town of Rainbow Lake. Due to their location, at the end of the highway there is no pass-through tourism, which has made it challenging to attract visitors from outside the Mackenzie region. However, having a local airport does allow tourists to fly in for easy access.

Table 253 shows the accommodation and food services available in the Town of Rainbow Lake. Data that is not available is the number of visitors annually and the income generation they bring to the region, this a clear data gap that warrants data collection to support tourism development in the Town and for the NWSAR Region.

	# of Hotels & Guest Houses	# of Campgrounds	# of Restaurants[19]	# of Visitors/Year	Annual Tourism Income
Rainbow Lake	1	2	2	Data Not Available	Data Not Available

Table 253 Accommodation & Food Services in the Town of Rainbow Lake, 2020.

1.1.5 Food Security

Table 254 shows current data on food security in the Town of Rainbow Lake, there are clear data gaps, which need to be filled to address residents' 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/ measurements	Location	Additional Information
Grocery Stores	1	Rainbow Lake	There are also 2 convenience stores with limited grocery options
Farmers Markets	0	N/A	Closest market is in High Level's Curling Rink (May – September)
Food Banks	0	N/A	Closet food bank is located at the Native Friendship Centre in High Level
Locally Grown Food (%)	Data Not Available		

Table 254 Food Access, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2020.

Table 255 shows the average food costs for three grocery stores in the Town of Rainbow Lake for July 2020, compared to average food costs for Canada in the same month.

[19] These include coffee houses that serve food.

Product	Quantity	Month (2020)	Bigway Foods	Av. Cost TORL	Av. Cost Canada
Round Steak	1 kg	July	28.90	28.90	18.39
Ground Beef	1 kg	July	18.93	18.93	12.50
Chicken	1 kg	July	9.99	9.99	7.41
Bacon	500 g	July	10.99	10.99	7.25
Partly Skimmed Milk	4 l	July	7.99	7.99	5.34
Orange Juice	1.54l	July	7.64	7.64	4.26
Eggs	1 dz	July	6.89	6.89	3.62
Apples	1 kg	July	6.99	6.99	4.58
Bananas	1 kg	July	2.79	2.79	1.56
Onion	1 kg	July	3.39	3.39	2.50
Carrots	1 kg	July	5.99	5.99	2.72
Mushrooms[20]	1 kg	July	2.89	2.89	9.50
Potatoes	4.54 kg	July	9.49	9.49	11.15
Bread	675 g	July	3.92	3.92	2.82
Flour	2.5 kg	July	9.49	9.49	4.73
Peanut Butter	500 g	July	5.89	5.89	2.82
Paper Towels[21]	6 rolls	July	11.98	11.98	3.19
Bathroom Tissue[22]	12 rolls	July	9.78	9.78	2.52
Shampoo	300 ml	July	9.27	9.27	3.88
Toothpaste	100 ml	July	6.33	6.33	3.37

Table 255 Average Food Costs, Town of Rainbow Lake, July 2020.[23]

[20] Mushroom prices from the region were calculated for $/227g in store so the average price for the Town has been adjusted to match the metrics for the Canada average prices.
[21] Canadian average price for paper towels was for two (2) rolls. NWSAR region provided packs of six (6) or more paper towels for sale.
[22] Canadian average price for bathroom tissue was for four (4) rolls. NWSAR region provided packs or twelve (12) or more bathroom tissue for sale.
[23] Local data was collected by NWSAR Committee member on July 26th 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

1.1.6 Political Participation

The Town of Rainbow Lake has a Mayor, Deputy Mayor and three Councillors, all who are elected by the Town residents. Table 256 shows voter turnout rates for the Town of Rainbow Lake in the most recent election years.

% Municipal (2017)	% Provincial (2019)	% Federal (2019)
~ 28%[24]	~ 32.3%[25]	~ 46%[26]

Table 256 Voter Participation Rates, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2017–2019.

1.1.7 Poverty

Tables 257 and 258 show a five-year trends for median family income, average income and poverty rates for the Town of Rainbow Lake.

All Families Income[27]			Couple Families Income[28]			Lone-Parent Income[29]		
2018	2013	Change	2018	2013	Change	2018	2013	Change
$210,720	$161,510	**30.4%**	$220,990	$173,710	**27.2%**	Data Not Available	$52,370	**Data Not Available**

Table 257 Median Family Incomes, Five-Year Trends, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2013–2018.

Average Household Income (RL)	Average Household Income (Alberta)	Prevalence of Low-Income (RL)	Prevalence of low-Income base (Alberta)
$ 175,036	$93, 835	3.2%	9.3%

Table 258 Average Income and Poverty Rates, Town of Rainbow Lake and Alberta, 2016.[30][31]

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=getS urvey&SDDS=2301#a2.

[24] Town of Rainbow Lake, 2020.

[25] Average of voter turnout rates for Rainbow Lake https://officialresults.elections.ab.ca/orResultsED.cfm?ED=77&EventId=60

[26] This is only an approximation pulling raw data from https://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=res&dir=rep/off/43gedata&document=byed&lang=e that accounts for Rainbow Lake in the Grande Prairie-Mackenzie Federal Election District.

[27] 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/rainbow-lake/median-family-income/#/?from=2014&to=2018

[28] 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/rainbow-lake/couple-families-median-income/#/?from=2011&to=2015

[29] 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/rainbow-lake/lone-parent-families-median-income/#/?from=2011&to=2015

[30] For the 2016 Census, the reference period is the calendar year 2015 for all income variables.

[31] https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4817097&Geo2=CD&Code2=4817&SearchText=Rainbow+Lake&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=Income&TABID=1&type=0

1.1.8 Social Services

Ambulance Services

Prior to 2011, Rainbow Lake had two ambulances, which they were required to have to service the oil industry for 20-minute response times for worker safety. However, these services were re-allocated by AHS with the decline in the oil and gas industry.

Husky Energy Inc. offered to buy an ambulance staffed by the Town, but this was declined by AHS. Some residents now wait up to six hours for an ambulance because the ambulances are based out of High Level, where there are only two available and shared with the region.[32]

Furthermore, the cost is $1,200 if you need to travel to High Level, versus $300 if treated in Rainbow Lake. Tables 259 and 260 show the EMS Events by Station and Events by Community from 2017–2019.

EMS Events by Station						
Community	**# of Vehicles**	**# of Call Outs/Year****			**# of Volunteers**	**# of Paid Staff**
		2017	**2018**	**2019**		
Town of Rainbow Lake	1	372	383	377	N/A	4

Table 259 EMS Events by Station, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2017–2019.[33]

EMS Events by Community						
Community	**# of Vehicles**	**# of Call Outs/Year****			**# of Volunteers**	**# of Paid Staff**
		2017	**2018**	**2019**		
Town of Rainbow Lake	1	42	43	71	N/A	4

Table 260 EMS Events by Community, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2017–2019.[34]

Fire Services

The Town of Rainbow Lake has a volunteer Fire Department. The Town is a Fire Smart Community within the Forest Protection Area of Alberta.

The Rainbow Lake Fire Department is equipped with easily deployable sprinkler kits for structure protection during a Wildland Urban Interface event. The Town also has access to a second sprinkler system through their industry partner Husky Energy if needed.

Rainbow Lake holds the distinction of being the highest risk community for wildfires in Alberta. Due to this, the Town in partnership with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has invested millions of dollars over the past eight years in wildfire mitigation through vegetation management.

[32] Stakeholder Interview, January 2020.
[33] 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.
[34] 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.

With the final milestone being completed by March 2021, the Town will be completely surrounded by fire guards, and in the higher hazard areas, two fire guards. The interior of these fire guards have all been treated to FireSmart standards including thinning, pruning and mulching of the dead and down.

These efforts have been completed under the guidance of a 10-year vegetation management plan and a Wildfire Mitigation Strategy completed in 2016.

The Town will be working on the development of a new 10-year vegetation management plan and wildfire mitigation strategy in late 2021 to determine resource allocations in future years towards maintenance of the existing protection assets.

In 2015, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry constructed a new Air Tanker Base at the Rainbow Lake Airport and extended the runway by 500 feet. This allows for the quick and easy deployment of air tanker units in the fight against wildfires in the Rainbow Lake Area.

This base is typically staffed throughout the fire season with the ability to pre stage resources in the area based on fire behaviour predictive modelling.[35]

Community	Type of Facilities	# of Trucks	# of Volunteers	# of Paid Staff	Average Response Times (chute from the fire hall)
Rainbow Lake	Fire Hall	4	14	0	5 mins (In Town) 15 mins (Out of Town)

Table 261 Fire Services, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2020.[36]

Fire Call by Type	2019	2018	2017
Alarms (actual and false)			
Medical (Co-) Response (MCR)			
Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA)	2	1	0
Hazmat Response			
Structural Fire		3	
Exterior Fire/Wildland	1	1	2
Other[37]	2	1	

Table 262 Fire Call by Type, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2017–2019.[38]

[35] Stakeholder Interview, November 2020.
[36] Town of Rainbow Lake, 2020.
[37] This includes, but not limited to Gas/Odor, Safety Investigation, Rubbish Fire, Vehicle Fire, Flood Mitigation, ATV, Gas Leak, Powerline, Deployment, Technical Rescue, Hazmat.
[38] Town of Rainbow Lake, 2020.

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 closet shelter is the Rotary House in Grande Prairie (580 kms/6 hrs one way drive)
Women's Shelter	0		N/A	N/A	The closet shelter is the SAFE Home in High Level (136 kms/ 1.25 hrs one way drive)
Victim Services	1	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	Victims Services are located at the Chateh RCMP Detachment and administered by the Assumption Region Policing Society

Table 263 Emergency Services, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2020.

Crime and Justice

Crime, Charges and Convictions	Chateh Detachment[39]		
	Town of Rainbow Lake		
(Total #)	2019	2018	2017
Homicides & Offences related to death	0	0	0
Charged / Charges Recommended	0	0	0
Sexual Assaults	0	1	0
Charged / Charges Recommended	0	0	0
Assault	1	5	5
Charged / Charges Recommended	0	1	1
Break and Enter	2	4	1
Charged / Charges Recommended	0	1	0
Theft of Motor Vehicle	2	5	3
Charged / Charges Recommended	1	1	0
Theft Over $5,000	0	0	0
Charged / Charges Recommended	0	0	0
Theft Under $5,000	0	2	1

[39] The Catchment Area (Communities) for this detachment Amber River Basset Lake Chateh Habay Hay Lake Rainbow Lake Virgo Oilfield Zama Lake for a population of 1,678 served by 10 RCMP Police Officers. The data in the table is for crimes committed within the Town of Rainbow Lake only.

Charged / Charges Recommended	0	0	1
Fraud	3	1	2
Charged / Charges Recommended	1	0	0
Arson	0	0	1
Charged / Charges Recommended	0	0	0
Impaired Driving	4	4	1
Charged / Charges Recommended	4	4	1
Drug Enforcement Production	0	0	0
Charged / Charges Recommended	0	0	0
Drug Enforcement Possession	0	0	2
Charged / Charges Recommended	0	0	0
Drug Enforcement Trafficking	0	0	1
Charged / Charges Recommended	0	0	0

Table 264 Crime, Charges and Convictions, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2017 – 2019.[40]

Judicial and Correctional Services

	Name/ Location/ Total (#)
Court House Location	Chateh
Court House Catchment Area (Communities)	Amber River Basset Lake Chateh Habay Hay Lake Rainbow Lake Virgo Oilfield Zama Lake
Population Served (#)	1,678
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

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

Nearest Youth Group Home	High Prairie – AB
Probation Officers (#)	3[41]
Docket Days (Schedule)	Criminal: Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday Youth and Family: Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday

Table 265 Judicial and Correctional Facilities, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2021.[42]

Town of Rainbow Lake[43]	2019	2018	2017
Cases Commenced	290	442	237
Cases Concluded	236	388	229
Tickets Filed	81	78	114
Trials Heard	52	83	61

Table 266 Cases, Tickets and Trials, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2017–2019.[44]

1.2 Business & Employment

1.2.1 Economic and Community Development Incentives

Table 267 lists past and ongoing economic and community development incentives and initiatives in the Town of Rainbow Lake.

Program/Incentive	Description	Additional Information
Community Capital Assistance Program (CCAP) Grant	Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) has access to funds to provide research assistance or report development for local groups to utilize for economic or cultural recreational projects.	• Business development and small business loans throughout the year
Community Futures Development Cooperation	Community Futures Northwest Alberta, a Community Futures Development Corporation, is a federally sponsored community directed not-for-profit organization, to support local business development.	
Scholarship Program	Rainbow Lake school selects and submits two students each year, one for academic excellence and one for community involvement.	• Two annual scholarships at $500 each.
Town Spring Clean Up	Town Council contributes funds towards the Town's annual spring clean-up event, administered by Town and School, includes supplies and barbeque lunches to	• ~$7,000 annually

[41] 3 Probation Officers, 1 Admin and 1 Corrections Canada Contracted Parole Officer all based in High Level.
[42] Stakeholder Provided Data, January 2021.
[43] 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.
[44] Stakeholder Provided Data, January 2021.

	volunteers. Town beautification includes both clean up and flowers at town owned facilities throughout Town.	
Various Community events to promote an inclusive and active community.	Various events include: Canada Day Movie Nights Winter Carnival International Day of Older Persons Summer Fun Program Free Skates Halloween Fun Easter Egg Hunt Community Night Christmas Tree Lighting	• ~$30,000 annually
Volunteer of the Year Award	One award annually based on community nominations and Town Council is responsible for selecting the recipient. Usually host a volunteer steak supper for all volunteers to attend.	• ~$2,500/annually. Award consists of an engraved plaque/trophy, gift package and a certificate
Youth Centre, VSU and Nursery School Subsidies	Subsidies for community groups providing services to all residents.	• ~$30,000 annually

Table 267 Economic and Community Development Incentives, Town of Rainbow Lake.

1.2.2 Employment

Table 268 shows the participation, employment and unemployment rates for 2011 and 2016 for the Town of Rainbow Lake.

Participation Rate			Employment Rate			Unemployment Rate			Seasonal Labour Rate
2016	2011	Change	2016	2011	Change	2016	2011	Change	
82.4%	83.2%	**-0.9%**	76.5%	78.4%	**-2.4%**	7.1%	5.8%	**22.4%**	Data Not Available

Table 268 Participation, Employment and Unemployment rates, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2016.[45]

1.2.3 Industry

Table 269 shows the total number of business registrations by industry type within the last five years for Town of Rainbow Lake.

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	5 Year Trend (%)
Annual Business Registrations	36	39	39	41	43	-17.22

[45] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/#/

Business Size	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	Annual Change from 2019–2020 (%)
Large (200+ employees)	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Medium (50–199 employees)	1	0	0	1	1	N/A
Small (1–49 employees)	35	39	39	40	42	-10.30

Industry Type	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	Annual Change from 2019–2020 (%)
Accommodation & Food Services	2	4	3	3	4	-50.00
Admin & Support, Waste Management & Remediation Services	2	2	2	2	3	0.00
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	0	0	0	1	1	N/A
Construction	7	5	6	8	7	-28.60
Educational Services	1	1	1	1	1	0.00
Finance & Insurance	1	1	1	1	1	0.00
Healthcare & Social Assistance	3	4	4	4	4	-25.00
Information & Cultural Industries	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Management of Companies & Enterprises	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Mining, Quarrying, Oil & Gas Extraction	7	7	6	6	6	0.00
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2	2	3	2	3	0.00
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	2	2	1	1	1	0.00
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	1	0	2	2	2	N/A
Retail Trade	3	3	3	3	3	0.00
Transportation & Warehousing	4	4	5	5	4	0.00

Utilities	1	1	1	0	0	0.00
Wholesale Trade	2	1	1	2	3	100.00

Table 269 Business Registrations, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2016–2020.[46]

- In 2020, the Town of Rainbow Lake had 36 businesses, representing a decline of 7.69% from 39 in 2019, with the Wholesale Trade segment saw the largest increase over the year.[47]
- In 2020, 97.2% of businesses in Rainbow Lake were small business;
- The percentage of small businesses declined by 2.78% year-over-year, and decreased -0.57% in the last five years;[48] and
- 1 new business incorporated in 2019, reflecting a 0% change year-over-year, and a decrease of 66.7% in the last five years.[49]

The 2016 Federal Census data is shown in Tables 270 and 271 with a breakdown of the Workforce by Occupation and Industry, as well as by gender for the Town of Rainbow Lake.[50]

Occupation	Total	Male	Female
Management	11.2	19.1	14.0
Business, Finance and Administration	12.2	0.0	27.9
Natural and Applied Sciences	10.2	16.4	4.7
Health	0.0	0.0	4.7
Education, Law and Social, Community and Government Services	10.2	0.0	20.9
Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport	2.0	0.0	4.7
Sales and Service	8.2	3.6	16.3
Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators	22.4	38.2	4.7
Natural Resources, Agriculture and Related Production	6.1	7.3	0.0
Manufacturing and Utilities	16.3	25.5	4.7

Table 270 Breakdown of Workforce by Occupation, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2016.

Industry	Total	Male	Female
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	0.0	3.6	0.0
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	34.7	43.6	20.9
Utilities	0.0	0.0	0.0

[46] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/number-of-businesses/#/stacked/industry/?from=2016&to=2020
[47] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/number-of-businesses/#/?from=2016&to=2020
[48] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/percent-small-businesses/#/?from=2016&to=2020
[49] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/incorporations/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[50] https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4817097&Geo2=PR&Code2=48&SearchText=Rainbow+Lake&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=Labour&TABID=1&type=1

Construction	7.1	12.7	0.0
Manufacturing	3.1	3.6	0.0
Wholesale Trade	2.0	3.6	0.0
Retail Trade	13.3	10.9	14.0
Transportation & Warehousing	3.1	7.3	0.0
Information & Cultural Industries	0.0	0.0	0.0
Finance & Insurance	2.0	0.0	4.7
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	0.0	0.0	0.0
Professional, Scientific Services	5.1	7.3	0.0
Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	0.0	0.0	4.7
Educational Services	8.2	0.0	16.3
Health Care and Social Assistance	7.1	0.0	16.3
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	0.0	0.0	0.0
Accommodation and Food Services	3.1	0.0	7.0
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2.0	3.6	0.0
Public Administration	6.1	3.6	14.0

Table 271 Breakdown of Workforce by Industry, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2016.

Energy

The 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 241.79km^2 of pipelines within Mackenzie County.[51]

Table 272 shows the ten-year trends of energy resource production in Mackenzie County from 2009–2019. Many of the residents of the Town of Rainbow Lake are (were) employed by this industry, which has been in steep decline over the last decade.

Between 2003 and 2019, 2,418 new wells were drilled within Mackenzie County. In 2003, there were 521 new wells and in 2015, there were 2 new wells. These represent the highest and lowest number of new wells drilled per year during this time period.[52]

Energy Resources	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**	**2016**	**2015**	**5 Year Trend (%)**	**10 Year Trend (%)**
Natural Gas Reserves (m^3)[53]	9.5B	12.3B	12.2B	10.1B	15.6B	-41.5%	-50.70% (*8 year trend)

[51] Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Human Footprint Inventory, 2018.
[52] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/mackenzie-county/well-count/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[53] 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.

Natural Gas Production (m^3)[54]	1.3B	1.4B	1.5B	1.5B	1.7B	-26.6%	-58.10%
Oil Production (m^3)[55]	378,927	478,357	482,167	518,504	620,013	-46.8%	-66.30%
Well Count[56]	3	16	15	8	2	-90.00%	-88.00%

Table 272 Energy Resources, Ten-Year Trends, Mackenzie County.[57][58][59][60]

Construction

The economic decline of the oil and gas industry is further seen with a complete halt for major projects investment within the Town of Rainbow Lake, and limited investment in new development and construction. In 2014, the value of major projects was $23.4 million, all of which accounted for pipelines.[61]

	2019	2018	Difference from 2018 to 2019	5 Year Trend
Major Projects Value[62]	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**0.00%**	**N/A**
Development Permits (#)[63]	**20**	**29**	**-31.03%**	**129.44%**
Commercial Development Permits	0	0		
Industrial Development Permits	8	5		
Residential Development Permits	12	24		
Other Development Permits	0	0		
Development Permits Value ($)[64]	**$170,000.00**	**$180,000.00**	**5.56%**	**1,353.77%**
Commercial DP Project Value	0.00	0.00		
Industrial DP Project Value	20,000	25,000		
Residential DP Project Value	150,000	155,000		
Other DP Project Value	0.00	0.00		
Building Permits (#)[65]	**2**	**0**	**200.00%**	**N/A**

[54] 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.
[55] Conventional and non-conventional oil (including unprocessed bitumen and synthetic oil) production.
[56] Total development, exploratory, evaluation and experimental wells drilled including natural gas, coalbed methane, crude oil, crude bitumen and other wells.
[57] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/mackenzie-county/natural-gas-reserves/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[58] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/mackenzie-county/natural-gas-production/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[59] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/mackenzie-county/oil-production/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[60] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/mackenzie-county/well-count/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[61] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/major-projects/#/stacked/sector/?from=2010&to=2014
[62] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/major-projects/#/stacked/sector/?from=2010&to=2014
[63] Town of Rainbow Lake, 2021.
[64] Town of Rainbow Lake, 2021.
[65] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/number-of-building-permits/#/stacked/building-type/?from=2015&to=2019

Commercial Building Permits	0			
Industrial Building Permits	0			
Residential Building Permits	2			
Institutional Building Permits	0			
Building Permits Value ($)[66]	**$436,000**	**$0.00**	**5.65%**	**143.62%**
Commercial BP Project Value	0.00			
Industrial BP Project Value	0.00			
Residential BP Project Value	0.00			
Institutional BP Project Value	436,000			

Table 273 Development and Building Permits, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2018–2019.

There are opportunities and interest for new industries within the region, which would benefit the Town directly. In particular, the Rainbow Lake area has long been of geothermal interest.

A recent geological assessment suggests that the resources present beneath Rainbow Lake can be economically used for direct use heating in the portion of Rainbow Lake that lies north of Highway 58.

This will require drilling to a depth of ~2 km to reach the potential target reservoirs, within the Sulphur Point and Keg River formations. The recoverable thermal energy in the Sulphur Point Formation reservoir is estimated to be 9.5 terajoules (TJ) per year over 30 years, which is equal to 3 MWth per year over 30 years. For the Keg River Formation reservoir, the recoverable thermal energy is 284 terajoules (TJ) per year over 30 years, equivalent to 9 MWth per year over 30 years.

Drilling costs for the required pair of wells to develop either of these reservoirs are estimated to be $1,600,000. The total cost estimate for this project, including the cost of drilling and surface installation is estimated to be ~$2.4 million with an annual maintenance cost of ~$117,000. Power generation using this resource could potentially produce ~ 1 MW of power, however this is not economically viable without significant subsidies.[67]

1.2.4 Municipal Tax Assessment

Table 274 shows the Equalized Assessment trends from 2008–2019 in the Town of Rainbow Lake, with Table 275 providing the uncollectable and unpaid taxes from 2008–2020, and Table 276 offering the change rate of the Property Assessment rates from 2018–2019.

Year	Residential	Non-Residential (Non-Regulated)	NR Linear Property	Annual Total
2019	47,063,347	29,359,961	1,580,810	78,004,118
2018	45,858,298	33,015,556	1,726,110	80,599,964
2017	58,920,545	32,605,996	1,733,560	93,260,101
2016	56,810,401	33,412,460	1,705,400	91,928,261
2015	57,630,152	32,318,856	1,726,320	91,675,328
2014	58,524,898	27,112,861	1,617,850	87,255,609
2013	56,679,122	25,915,792	1,645,310	84,240,224

[66] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/value-of-building-permits/#/stacked/building-type/?from=2015&to=2019

[67] Rainbow Lake Geothermal Energy Resource Assessment, Canadian Geothermal Energy Association, 2019.

2012	56,008,220	24,299,147	1,567,450	81,874,817
2011	65,009,098	23,681,580	1,608,250	90,298,928
2010	66,737,140	24,481,816	1,426,870	92,645,826
2009	57,558,748	19,492,300	1,428,780	78,479,828
2008	55,490,902	18,695,331	1,528,930	75,715,163

Table 274 Equalized Assessment Values, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2008–2019.[68]

Year	Total Uncollectable Taxes[69]	Total Unpaid Taxes[70]
2020	~ $200,000.00	~ $290,000.00
2019	$354,063.15	$408,732.13
2018	$352,382.23	$650,515.22
2017	$352,382.23	$623,648.14
2016	$352,382.23	$415,401.55
2015	$351,664.23	$400,961.27
2014	-	$278,868.91
2013	-	$148,710.30
2012	-	$144,537.26
2011	-	$201,909.60
2010	-	$199,676.62
2009	-	$131,768.58
2008	-	$79,345.82

Table 275 Total Uncollectable and Unpaid Taxes, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2008–2020.[71]

Property Type	2018	2019	Annual Change
Farmland	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
Machinery & Equipment (M&E)	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
Non Residential (Non Regulated)	$33.0M	$29.4M	-11.10%
Non Residential Co-Generating M&E	$0.00	$0.00	N/A

[68] https://open.alberta.ca/publications/1844032

[69] Total uncollectable taxes are taxes that are unable to be collected due to age or bankruptcy. Prior to 2015, the Town of Rainbow Lake had some balance outstanding each year, but the balance of unpaid taxes was relatively low and not a significant issue until 2014, where the balance began to grow. At that time, the Town had to begin utilizing an allowance for doubtful accounts to reflect potentially uncollectable taxes for those properties that were then flagged for auction – Stakeholder Provided Data, April 2021.

[70] Total unpaid taxes is the outstanding amount of taxes owing as of the corresponding years, as taxes accumulate each year.

[71] Town of Rainbow Lake, 2021.

Non Residential Linear Property	$1.7M	$1.6M	-8.42%
Non Residential Railway	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
Residential	$45.9M	$47.1M	2.63%
Grand Total	$80.6M	$78.0M	-3.22%

Table 276 Annual Change Rate, Property Assessment Rates, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2008–2019.[72]

Mackenzie County's assessments have dropped, which will likely affect the Town of Rainbow Lake more so than in previous years through increased reduced annual contributions from the County. Furthermore, with provincial changes of assessments of all of Husky Energy Inc.'s wells and pipelines, and some oil and gas companies are receiving tax breaks on taxes owed to municipalities, this will further cripple an already struggling Town and region.

1.2.5 Retail Centres

Most retail stores and services are located within the Town of High Level; these include grocery stores, pharmacy, home improvement and financial services. Most residents will also travel to Peace River or Grande Prairie to shop at Walmart, Costco and other larger retail and box stores. Table 277 breaks down retail businesses available within the Town of Rainbow Lake.

Community	# of Retail Stores	# of 'Big Box' Stores[73]	More Information
Rainbow Lake	3 – Bars	0	For all other retail and Big Box stores, residents will travel to High Level, Peace River, Grande Prairie or Edmonton
	3 – Liquor Stores		
	2 – Grocery or Convenience		

Table 277 Retail Business, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2020.

1.3 Services and Infrastructure

1.3.1 Professional Services and Trades

Table 278 lists Trades and Certifications for 2015 in the Town of Rainbow Lake.

Trade	New Apprentices[74]	Registered Apprentices[75]	Certified Apprentices[76]
Total All Trades	**9**	**24**	**1**
Carpenter	0	1	-
Cook	1	1	-
Crane and Hoist Equipment Operator	0	1	-

[72] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/property-assessments/#/stacked/property-type/?from=2015&to=2019

[73] '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).

[74] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/new-apprentices-registered/#/stacked/trade/

[75] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/total-apprentices-registered/#/stacked/trade/

[76] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/apprentices-certified/#/stacked/trade/

Electrician	0	1	0
Heavy Equipment Technician		1	-
Instrument Technician	3	6	-
Insulator	2	3	-
Machinist	1	1	-
Millwright		2	-
Steamfitter-Pipefitter	1	3	1
Welder	1	4	-

Table 278 Trades and Apprentice Certifications, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2015.

1.3.2 Access to Transportation

Air

The Rainbow Lake Airport is owned and operated by the Town of Rainbow Lake. It is located in the industrial area, within Town limits. Charter services are available, and Husky Energy Inc., in partnership with Canadian North, UNIGLOBE One Travel and the Town of Rainbow Lake provide regularly scheduled charter service to the residents of Rainbow Lake.

The service operates three times a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) for residents travelling to and from Calgary or Edmonton. There is also a car rental operator at the airport, namely Budget Car Rental.

The closest airports for other and international passenger services:

- High Level Airport, High Level AB (135 km drive);
- Grande Prairie Airport, Grande Prairie AB (580 km drive); and
- Edmonton International Airport, Edmonton AB (875 km drive).

Road

Located at the end of Highway 58 West, the highway runs through Town separating largely the industrial uses from the commercial, institutional, recreational and residential uses. The municipal airport and industrial development are to the south of the highway, while single-family residential, multi-family residential and public uses like the school and golf course are to the north of the highway.

There is a longstanding ongoing discussion about extending Highway 58 across the British Columbia border to Fort Nelson, but no serious action has been taken to make this a reality. There are no public bus services providing transportation for residents from Rainbow Lake to other communities within the province.

Road Ownership	Classification	Material	Length/Area (km/m)
Town of Rainbow Lake	Local Government Road	Asphalt	7.47 km
	Local Government Road	Gravel	8.97 km
Town of Rainbow Level Total: 16.46 km[77]			

[77] Alberta Municipal Data Sharing Partnership, 2020.

Government of Alberta	Primary Highway	Asphalt	3.34 km
Government of Alberta Total: 3.34 km[78]			

Table 279 Road Ownership and Total Kilometers, Town of Rainbow Lake.

Rail

Great Slave Railway Line, operated by CN Rail, runs through the Town of High Level to Hay River, Northwest Territories. There are no rail lines within or near to the Town of Rainbow Lake.

Water

There are no waterway transportation services required within the Town.

1.3.3 Childcare

There are no childcare services within the Town. The Rainbow Lake. The Family Centre was forced to close due to the high costs of operation and the inability to secure certified staff.[79]

	2017	2018	2019	2020
# of children in registered day care	Data Not Available			
# of children in registered day homes	Data Not Available			
# of children on a waitlist	Data Not Available			
# of children in informal childcare	Data Not Available			

Table 280 Child Care Demand and Availability, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2017–2020.

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.[80]

There are no child intervention facilities within the Town of Rainbow Lake. Children, youth and young adults from Rainbow Lake who require intervention services would likely access these services from the High Level or Grande Prairie worksites, and the average number of intakes coming from the Town of Rainbow Lake 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 Town of Rainbow Lake. These facilities are located in Grande Prairie (2), the Town of Sexsmith (1) and the Town of High Prairie (1).[81]

	Grande Prairie	Sexsmith	High Prairie
Rainbow Lake	~ 580 kms/6 hrs	~ 570 kms/5.75 hrs	~ 555 kms/5.5 hrs

Table 281 Approximate Travel Distances and Times for Rainbow Lake Residents to the Group Care or Treatment Facilities accessed by the Ministry of Children's Services.[82]

[78] Alberta Municipal Data Sharing Partnership, 2020.
[79] Stakeholder Interview, January 2020.
[80] Ministry of Children's Services, 2021.
[81] Ministry of Children's Services, 2021.
[82] Ministry of Children's Services, 2021.

1.3.5 Education

The Rainbow Lake School is home to students from K–12; there is also a Distance Learning Centre for those who need a little extra instruction, and the Rainbow Lake Nursery School. The concern for the Town is with the declining industry and population, the demand for the school is also decreasing.

There is risk that the school will be closed, as this happened in Zama City, which will mean further loss of population, and additional struggle to attract new residents as many in the region are young families who want access to education and activities for their children.

Currently, students from Chateh are being bussed to attend school in Rainbow Lake, which supports the operations of the school. However, this is also a strain on those students who must travel long distances (~ 40 kms) outside of their home community.The Town of Rainbow Lake is a part of the Fort Vermilion School Division No. 52. Table 281 provides a breakdown of schools by grade, students registered, and location within the Town of Rainbow Lake for the 2018–2019 school year; as well as [select] Annual Education Results.[83]

School	Measure (Local compared to Alberta)					Measure Evaluation Overall
		Current Results	Prev 3 Yr. Average	Current Result (AB)	Prev 3 Yr. Average (AB)	
Rainbow Lake School K–12 (TBC) Students [Rainbow Lake]	Safe & Caring			89.4	89.2	
	Program of Studies			82.4	82.0	
	Education Quality			90.3	90.1	
	Drop Out Rate			2.7	2.7	
	High School Completion Rate			79.7	78.4	
	PAT: Acceptable			73.8	73.6	
	PAT: Excellence			20.6	19.6	
	Diploma: Acceptable			83.6	83.1	
	Diploma: Excellence			24.0	22.5	

[83] 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.

	Diploma Exam Participation Rate			56.4	55.6	
	Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate			66.6	63.5	
Rainbow Lake Nursery School 7–12 (TBC) Students [Rainbow Lake]		**Current Results**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average**	**Current Results (AB)**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average (AB)**	
	Safe & Caring			89.4	89.2	
	Program of Studies			82.4	82.0	
	Education Quality			90.3	90.1	
	Drop Out Rate			2.7	2.7	
	High School Completion Rate			79.7	78.4	
	PAT: Acceptable			73.8	73.6	
	PAT: Excellence			20.6	19.6	
	Diploma: Acceptable			83.6	83.1	
	Diploma: Excellence			24.0	22.5	
	Diploma Exam Participation Rate			56.4	55.6	
	Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate			66.6	63.5	
Other District Programs – Learning Stores 7–12 N/A Students [High Level]		**Current Results**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average**	**Current Results (AB)**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average (AB)**	
	Safe & Caring			89.4	89.2	
	Program of Studies			82.4	82.0	
	Education Quality			90.3	90.1	

	Drop Out Rate			2.7	2.7	
	High School Completion Rate			79.7	78.4	
	PAT: Acceptable			73.8	73.6	
	PAT: Excellence			20.6	19.6	
	Diploma: Acceptable			83.6	83.1	
	Diploma: Excellence			24.0	22.5	
	Diploma Exam Participation Rate			56.4	55.6	
	Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate			66.6	63.5	

Table 281 Schools by grade, registration, annual education results, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2018–2019.

Post-Secondary Enrollment[84]			**High School Enrollment[85]**			**K–9 Enrollment[86]**		
2019	**2015**	**5 Year Change**	**2019**	**2015**	**5 Year Change**	**2019**	**2015**	**5 Year Change**
20	25	**-32.43%**	31	37	**-20.23%**	121	123	**-8.57%**

Table 282 Education Enrollments Five-Year Trends, Town of Rainbow Lake.

Rainbow Lake had 20 students attending a public post-secondary institution in 2019, representing a decline of 20.00% from 25 in 2018. The Health Sciences segment had the largest increase over the last year, increasing by 100.00% to 2.[87]

1.3.6 Housing

In 2019, there were 419 dwelling unit within the Town of Rainbow Lake.[88] Of these homes, 37.7% were single-family homes, which has declined by 2.60% over five years between 2011 and 2016.[89]

More than 80% of the housing in the Town of Rainbow Lake is corporately-owned, only 20% is locally-owned, a little less than 100 are privately-owned.

[84] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/post-secondary-enrollment/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[85] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/high-school-enrollments/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[86] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/k-9-enrollments/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[87] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/post-secondary-enrollment/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[88] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/dwelling-units/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[89] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/percent-single-family-houses/#/

During the height of the oil and gas boom, housing was expensive and in short supply; it could cost up-to $2,500/month to rent a mobile home. Many struggled to find a place to rent regardless of cost; it was cheaper to buy a home than to rent one.[90]

Today, there are several affordable housing options in Rainbow Lake – many are advertised online on "Facebook Buy and Sell", sold at auction or for "a dollar deal".[91]

The struggle for property owners today is the continuously decreasing valuations, and the inability to sell their homes if they are transferred to a position in a different community or lose their job. Some choose to abandon their homes if they are unable to sell.

Table 283 provides the average purchase price for a variety of homes and land transfers within the Town of Rainbow Lake between 2010 and 2020.

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	Value Change
Number of Owned Properties											
Average Housing Sold Prices[92] (Thousands $)	$9.5	$67	$15	$64	-	-	$126	$88	$90	-	-121.17%
Number of Rental Properties											
	2020	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**	**2016**	**2015**	**2014**	**2013**	**2012**	**2011**	**Value Change**
Average Housing Rental Prices[93] ($)	775	775	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,000	1,000	1,209	-12.43%
Value of Land Transfers[94] (Millions $)	1.2	1.14	759,140	685,000	1.4	2.6	3.42	4.27	10.4	1.45	-34.4%
Number of Land Transfers[95]	11	18	9	7	9	17	24	24	46	9	-21.4%
Average Land Prices											

Table 283 Housing Prices and Values, 2009–2019, Town of Rainbow Lake.

Low-Income Housing

The Boreal Housing Foundation (BHF) is currently providing the following low-income housing within Mackenzie County:[96]

- 200 low-income housing units in (High Level, Fort Vermilion and La Crete):

[90] Stakeholder Interview, January 2020.
[91] Stakeholder Interview, November 2020.
[92] Stakeholder Provided Data, August 2020.
[93] Stakeholder Provided Data, December 2020.
[94] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/value-of-land-title-transfers/#/?from=2016&to=2020
[95] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/number-of-land-title-transfers/#/?from=2016&to=2020
[96] Stakeholder Interview, Boreal Housing Foundation, January 2020.

    - 30% of their income is taken towards this housing; and
    - there are currently waitlists in High Level and Fort Vermilion for low-income housing (20 units needed in High Level and 10 units needed in Fort Vermilion).
- 15 SRHI [Sustainable Remote Housing Unit] which is a rent-to-own program.
- 30 participants in the Direct to Tenant Rent Supplement (DTT), which is paid directly to the tenant. This program is a relationship between Boreal 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 BHF. The tenant must submit a receipt to BHF, to confirm that rent has been paid each month in full in order to receive supplement for the next month.[97]
- The group that always 'fall through the cracks' is the 'newly-senior' single person – so not ready for senior homes, but don't have families so often don't qualify for low-income housing, and many of these units are two-bedrooms.
- Single mothers are the biggest group that occupies the low-income housing; as well as Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) & Supports for Independence (SFI) clients.

[97] Stakeholder Interview, September 2020.

1.3.7 Utilities, Services & Waste Management

Electricity

The Town of Rainbow Lake has no transmission lines within Town[98] and is located within ATCO Electric's transmission and distribution territory.[99]

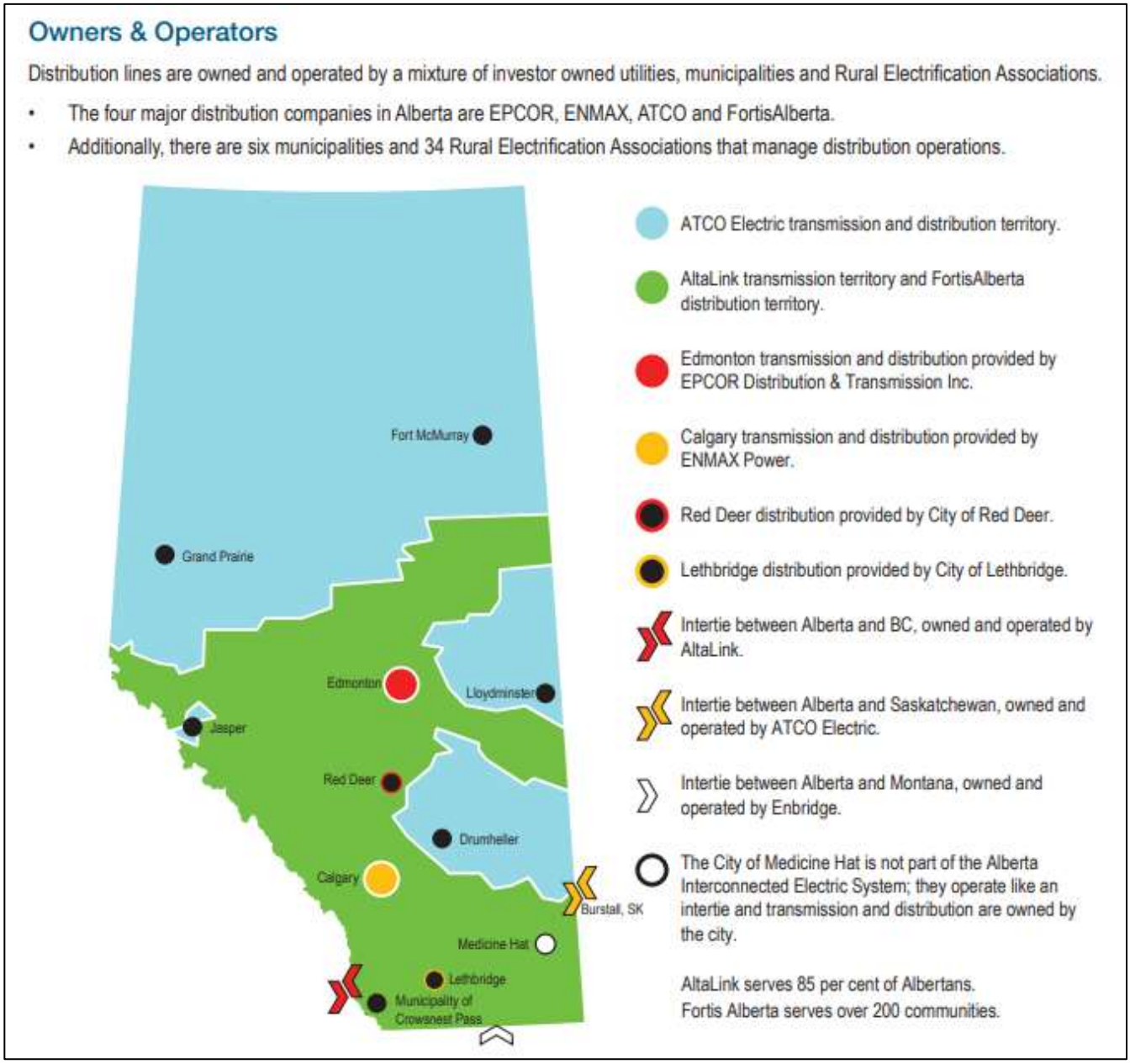

Figure 54 Owners and Operators – Electricity Distribution, Government of Alberta, 2014.[100]

[98] Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Human Footprint Inventory, 2018.
[99] https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/eb73a7a5-7b54-4510-920d-a820fb9bc41a/resource/0497733c-2716-445f-b151-6d26a61c1a3d/download/2014-12-electricity-distribution.pdf
[100] 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 284 2020 Regular Electricity Rates, Utilities Consumer Advocate, 2020.[101]

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 55, 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.[102]

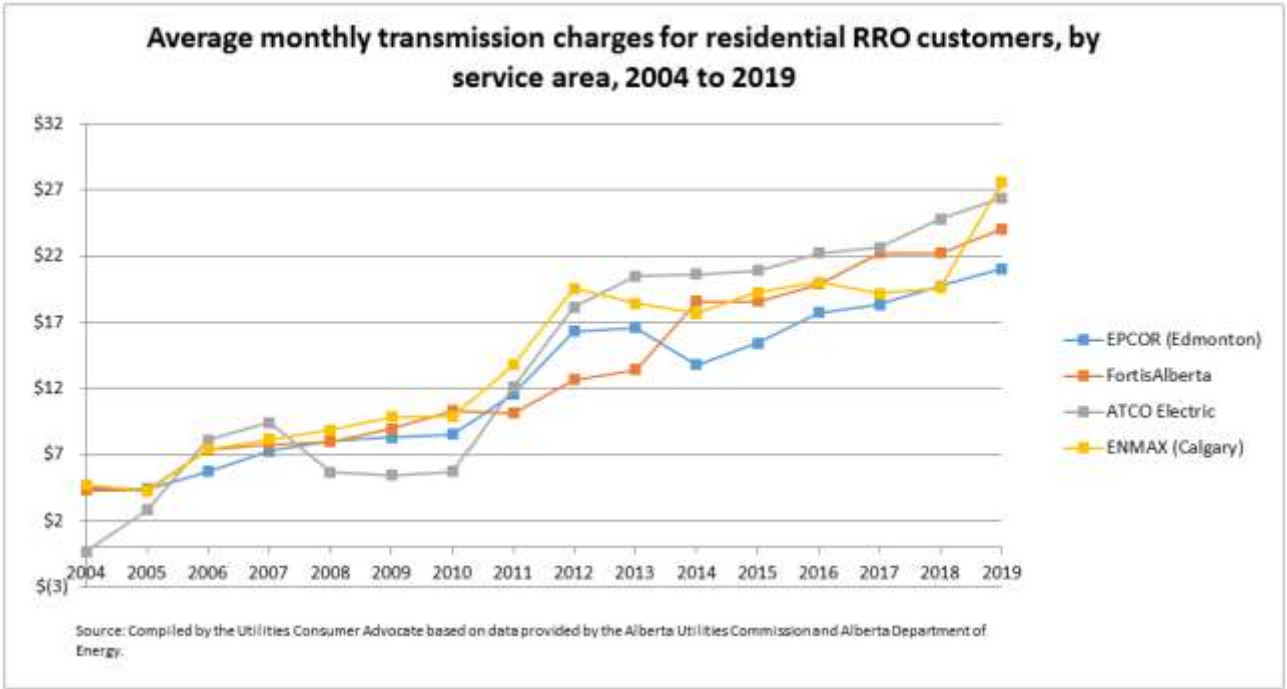

Figure 55 Average Monthly Transmission Charges in Alberta, 2020.

[101] https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/regulated-rates.aspx
[102] 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 56, 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.[103]

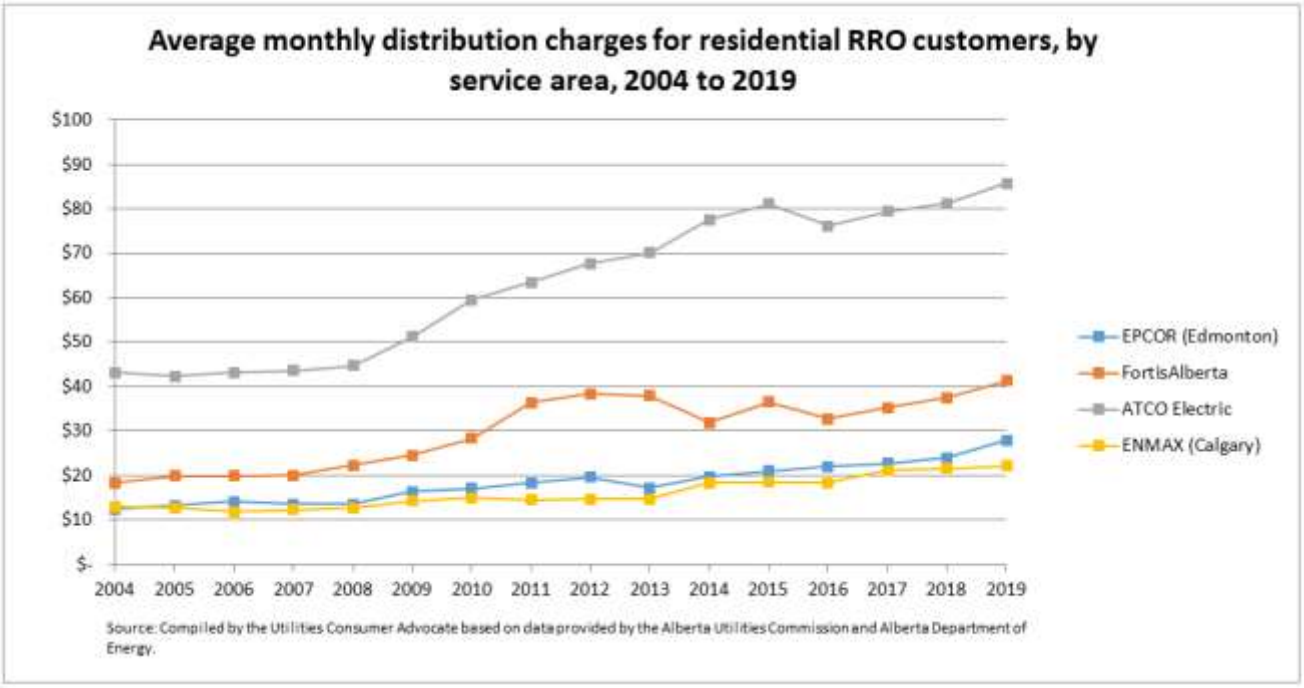

Figure 56 Average Monthly Transmission Charges in Alberta, 2020.

Internet

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)
Alberta SuperNet (Public Sector)	25 Mbps/ 1Gbps	25 Mbps/ 1Gbps	-	Fibre-Optic	Variable – can be significant (>$2,500.00)	Average monthly rate for 1Gbps $99 .00 Residential $599.00 Business
TORL[104]	3.3 Mbps	11 Mbps	115 milliseconds	Coax	$50.00	Average monthly rate for Unlimited is $49.07

[103] https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/electricity-transmission-and-distribution-charges.aspx
[104] Town of Rainbow Lake, 2020.

TORL – New[105]	10 Mbps	100 Mbps	115 milliseconds	Coax	$50.00	Average monthly rate for Unlimited is $49.07
Telus Smart HUB	1 Mbps	25 Mbps	-	Fixed Wireless	$45.00[106]	Average monthly rate for Unlimited is $89.99
Xplornet	1 Mbps	10 Mbps	-	Satellite	$99.00	Average monthly rate for Unlimited is $121.99
Measurement Lab[107]	1.72 Mbps[108]	12.80 Mbps[109]	118.90 milliseconds[110]	-	-	-

Table 285 Internet Services Availability, Town of Rainbow Lake, 2021.

Landfill

The transfer station is open Monday – Friday and accepts household garbage, white metals and household appliances. The burn pit accepts grass and weeds, leaves and tree pruning, wooden materials, etc.

The Mackenzie Regional Waste Management Commission operates a class 2B landfill 3km west of High Level,[111] and curb-side pick-up is available once a week in High Level. The Commission includes two members from each of the three municipalities; Mackenzie County, Town of High Level and Town of Rainbow Lake.

Recycling

There are no recycling facilities or depots available within or surrounding the Town of Rainbow Lake. The Mackenzie Regional Waste Management Commission accepts and recycles white good at the class 2B landfill west of High Level, for a pay by user fee. The Mackenzie Regional Waste Management Commission used to provide a wider recycling service, but the transportation of recyclable goods became too costly and the program has seen ceased.

Natural Gas

The Town of Rainbow Lake provides natural gas to the community at a very low cost, only a $2.25 mark up per joule, the Town owns the entire infrastructure including (high-pressure pipelines, this way they can provide natural gas at a much cheaper rate than the other regional co-ops and providers.

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

Table 286 2020 Regulated Natural Gas Rate, Utilities Consumer Advocate, 2020.[112]

Water

Water is an issue of scale; the rates are low. Requirements will decrease with declines in demand from the industrial camps, where the water truck was a source of revenue for the Town. The water plant was built to scale to meet the demands of industry, but its costs are also at scale, so rates must increase.

[105] Town of Rainbow Lake, 2020.
[106] If an antenna is required, add an additional $99.00 installation fee.
[107] https://www.measurementlab.net/tests/ndt/
[108] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/median-upload-speed/#/
[109] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/median-download-speed/#/
[110] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/rainbow-lake/average-latency/#/
[111] https://www.mackenziecounty.com/departments-a-services/environmental-services
[112] https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/regulated-rates.aspx