

RIGOLET

kikiak

Community Profile

2025



NUNATSIAVUT

Ilinnianikmik amma kenaujaliugutaugunnatunik Pivalliatiksinikmik
Education and Economic Development

325

Total
Population



Contents

Introduction.....1	Remoteness.....5
Location.....1	Population Overview.....6
Local Business/Industry.....2	Education.....7
Local Opportunities and Attractions.....3	Employment, Income, and Labour Force.....8
Governance and Public Services.....3	
Community Information.....4	

CONTACT INFORMATION

Inuit Community Government
709-947-3382

Nunatsiavut Government (Rigolet Office)
709-947-3383

Introduction

Originally known by its Inuktitut name, "kikiak," the community of Rigolet was founded with the help of European explorers and traders visiting the area in the 18th century.

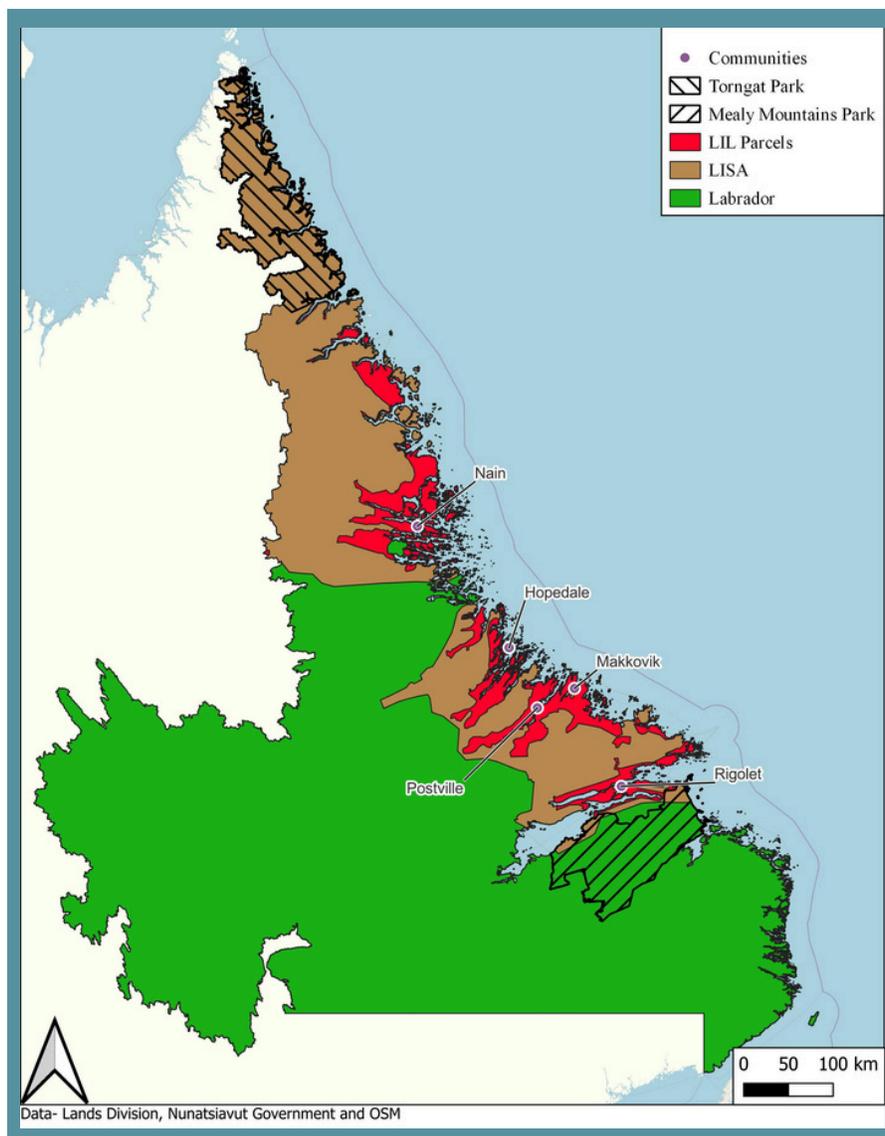
Rigolet is a picturesque town located at the entrance of Lake Melville, on the North Coast of Labrador. Rigolet is the southernmost Inuit community in Nunatsiavut and was incorporated in 1977.

Inuktitut name

kikiak

Translation

nail



Location

Total Land Area

5.27 km²

Coordinates

54°10'33.2"N
58°26'11.8"W

Climate

Rigolet has a subarctic climate characterized by cool summers and cold winters, largely due to its proximity to the Labrador Sea. Throughout the year, the temperature ranges from around -20°C to 20°C with winter bringing significant snowfall.

Local Business/Industry

Rigolet is home to a growing business community with retail operators, accommodations, contractors, and specialized service providers. This list provides an overview of the business/industry environment and may not be reflective of all business activities in the area.



For more information, view the [Nunatsiavut Business Directory](https://nunatsiavut.com/business-directory/) online:
nunatsiavut.com/business-directory/

Retail/Food

Northern Store – Northern Stores carry food and general merchandise

Accommodations

Michelin's Efficiency Units Inc. – Michelin's Units offers 4 full-equipped units with kitchenette and living room space

Sinittavik Inn – Sinittavik Inn provides 5 rooms that have access to a fully equipped kitchen, dining room, living room, laundry services, and internet access

Contractors

Groswater Bay Contracting – General contracting focused on small scale work including building houses, concrete work, mechanical plumbing, and electrical

Specialized Services

Bird's Eye Inc. – Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)/drone service provider for commercial video/photography/photogrammetry needs related to media, monitoring, research, etc.

Levert Personnel Resources (Eastern) Inc. – Industry-ready personnel resources, executive recruitment, staffing & employment opportunities within the industrial sectors

Rigolet Craft Shop – The shop highlights the various crafts such as grass work, moosehide boots, slippers and mitts which Rigolet is so well known for

Local Opportunities and Attractions

National Parks

Torngat National Park

A 9,700 km² wilderness area, located 200 kms north of the community of Nain. The Park is an area that includes mountains, polar bears, small glaciers, and caribou and is where the Inuit hunt, fish, and travel. The park also includes the Torngat Base camp and research Station.

Mealy Mountain National Park

The largest National Park in eastern Canada, the Mealy Mountain Park is a 10,700 km² park area with a landscape of mountain tundra, marine coasts, boreal forests, islands and rivers that have been traditional hunting, trapping and fishing areas for Indigenous people of Labrador.

Rigolet is the gateway community for the Mealy Mountain National Park.

Community Attractions

- Lord Strathcona House
- Boardwalk
- Net Loft Museum
- Craft Shop

Rigolet has many skilled artisans who provide a variety of crafts that are exclusive to the region.

Developing Cruise Ship Market

Nunatsiavut communities welcomed 1,741 cruise ship passengers during the 2022-2024 seasons.

In 2022, approximately 4% of NL residents travelling within the province visited Labrador. Residents tended to stay longer in Labrador (11 nights) than in other parts of the province (overall average of 3.4 nights). Labrador was the primary destination of approximately 7% non-residents visiting NL.

Sources: Newfoundland and Labrador Resident Travel Survey, December 2022; Survey of Non-resident Visitors to Newfoundland and Labrador (Peak Season May to October 2022), November 2022

Governance and Public Services

Governance

Municipal
Inuit Community Government

Regional
Nunatsiavut Government

Provincial
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Provincial Electoral District
Torngat Mountains

Federal Electoral District
Labrador

Public Services

Health Services
Rigolet Community Clinic

Fire Services
The Rigolet Fire Brigade

Police Services
Rigolet RCMP Detachment

Postal Services
Canada Post

Government Services
Nunatsiavut Government Office
Provincial Government Office

Radio Station
Rigolet Radio Station

Community Centre
Kuvianattuvik Centre

Community Information

Annual Taxes & Fees

Residential

Water & Sewer Tax – \$144.00

Poll Tax – \$50.00

Land Plot – \$5,000.00

Commercial

Water & Sewer Tax – \$576.00

Business Tax Rate – 2/10 of 1%

For more information including garbage collection fees, rental equipment and other community information, please contact the Rigolet Inuit Community Government.

Children and Youth Programming

Programs involve fun, culturally relevant activities with healthy snacks provided.

Grades K-3 (youth group) – Weekly

Grades 4-6 (youth group) – Weekly

On occasion there are events for elders and teens that focus on providing a space for interaction and knowledge sharing.

Regulated child care is available at the Kangnik Centre for ages 2-5.

Remoteness

Rigolet is a remote community. There is currently no road access to Nain so residents travel by air or marine transport to commute to neighboring communities or travel outside the region. Remoteness impacts many aspects of the community including food security, energy infrastructure, and telecommunications.

Energy Infrastructure

Most households rely on wood and oil for heat.

Solar panels are now among the available energy options.

Rigolet relies on a NL Hydro Fossil-Diesel plant for electricity generation. Fuel is transported by ship.

- Capacity: 1,320 kW
- Demand: 2,823 MWh/year

Internet Services

High-speed internet is available through two service providers.

Bell Aliant

Download speed: 1.5 mbps

Upload speed: 0.54 mbps

Starlink

Download speed: 133+ mbps

Upload speed: 133+ mbps

Food Security

According to a 2014 Household Survey, 21.6% of households in Rigolet were found to be food insecure—experiencing worry about or difficulty in accessing food on a regular basis.

61.1% of households in Nunatsiavut were found to be food insecure.

Source: Nunatsiavut Government

Remoteness (continued)

Transportation

Air Travel

Scheduled air services are available year-round through Air Borealis (operating out of Happy Valley-Goose Bay)

Infrastructure: 663m x 44m gravel airstrip

Destination	Air Travel Time	Rate (As of Sept 2025)
Nain	145 minutes*	\$422.89
Hopedale	85 minutes*	\$278.31
Makkovik	25 minutes	\$239.49
Postville	55 minutes*	\$239.49
Happy Valley-Goose Bay	40 minutes	\$413.92

*Includes stop(s)

Ferry Travel

Labrador Marine – MV Kamutik W provides seasonal transportation between communities.



Passenger Rates (one way)

Destination	Rate (As of Sept 2025)
Nain	\$73.50
Hopedale	\$52.50
Makkovik	\$40.50
Postville	\$49.50
Happy Valley-Goose Bay	\$25.50

Crossing Times

- Goose Bay to Rigolet (167 km): 6.5 hours
- Rigolet to Makkovik (274 km): 11.5 hours
- Makkovik to Postville (69 km): 3 hours
- Postville to Hopedale (132 km): 5 hours
- Hopedale to Natuashish (102 km): 4.5 hours
- Natuashish to Nain (133 km): 5.5 hours

Adult rates are shown above. Senior, student, and child rates are available. Cabins and vehicles are extra. Visit labradormarine.com for more detail.

Population Overview

Source: Statistics Canada (unless otherwise noted)

325

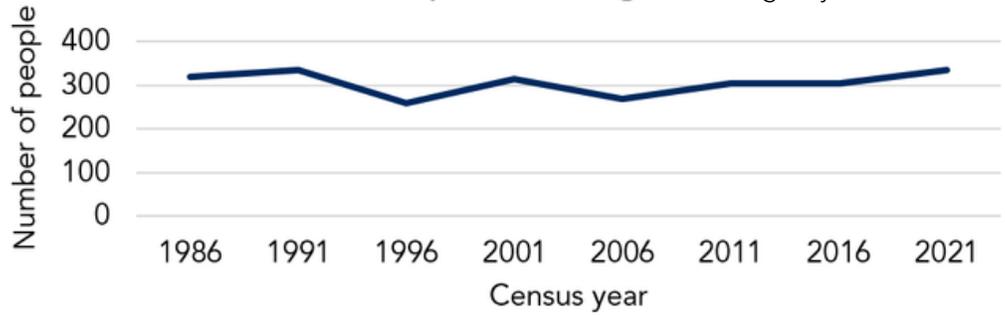
Total Population

134

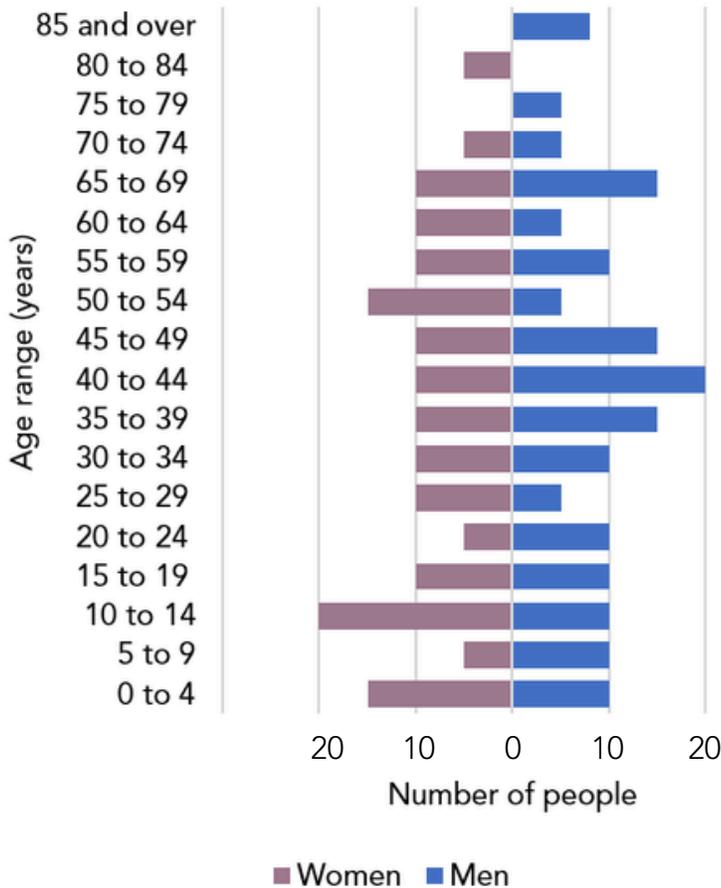
Total Private Dwellings

Population of Rigolet (1986-2021)

Source: Newfoundland & Labrador Statistics Agency

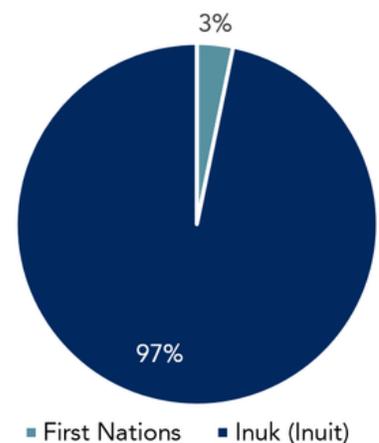


Population Structure (2021)



Indigenous Identity (2021)

95% of Rigolet's population identifies as Indigenous.

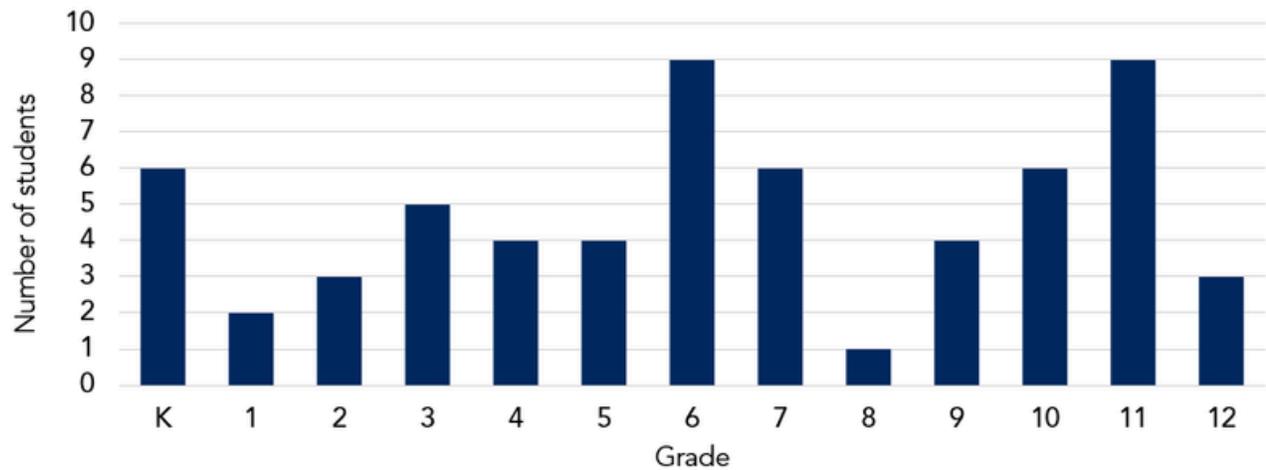


Education

Community School Enrollment (2024-2025)

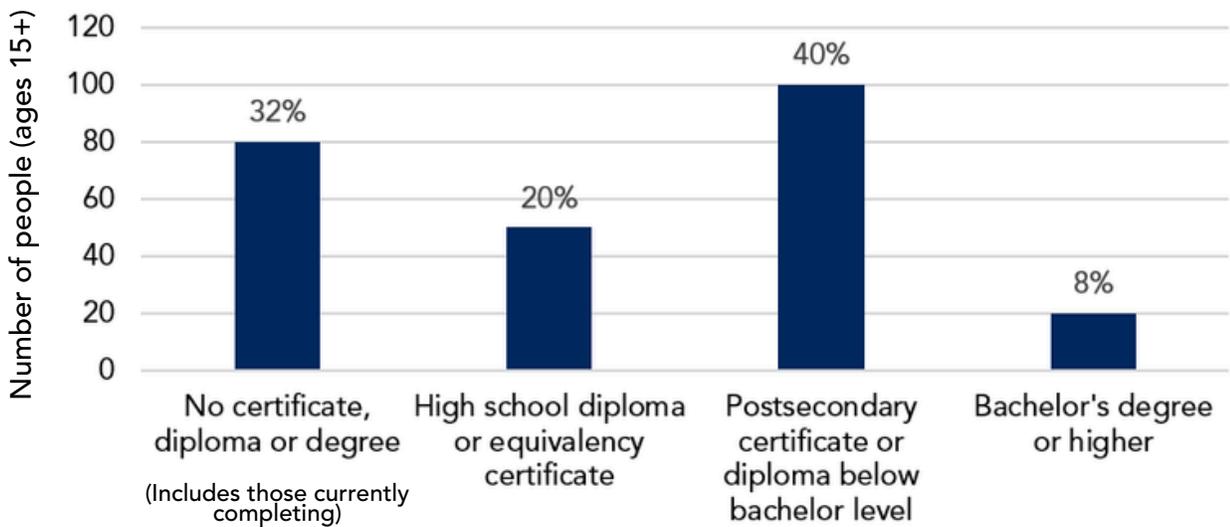
Source: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Northern Lights Academy is a K-12 Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (NLESD) school located in Rigolet. Total enrollment is 63 students.



Highest Level of Education, Ages 15+ (2021)

Source: Statistics Canada

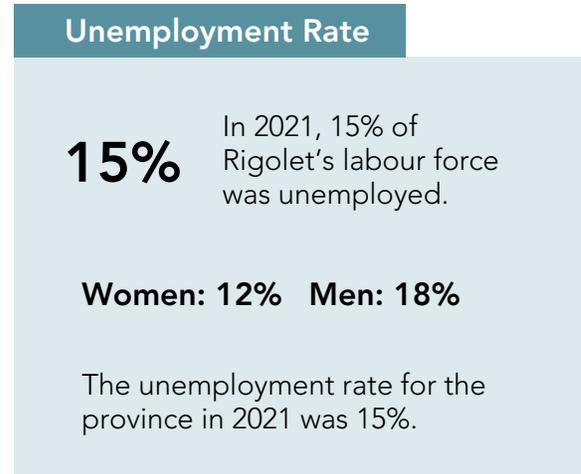
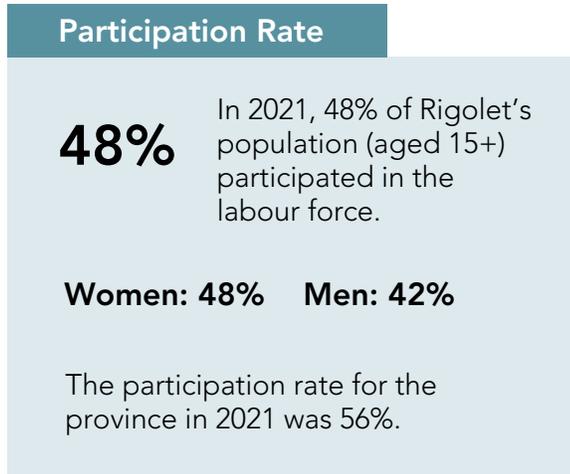


Employment, Income, and Labour Force

Source: Statistics Canada

Work Activity (2021)

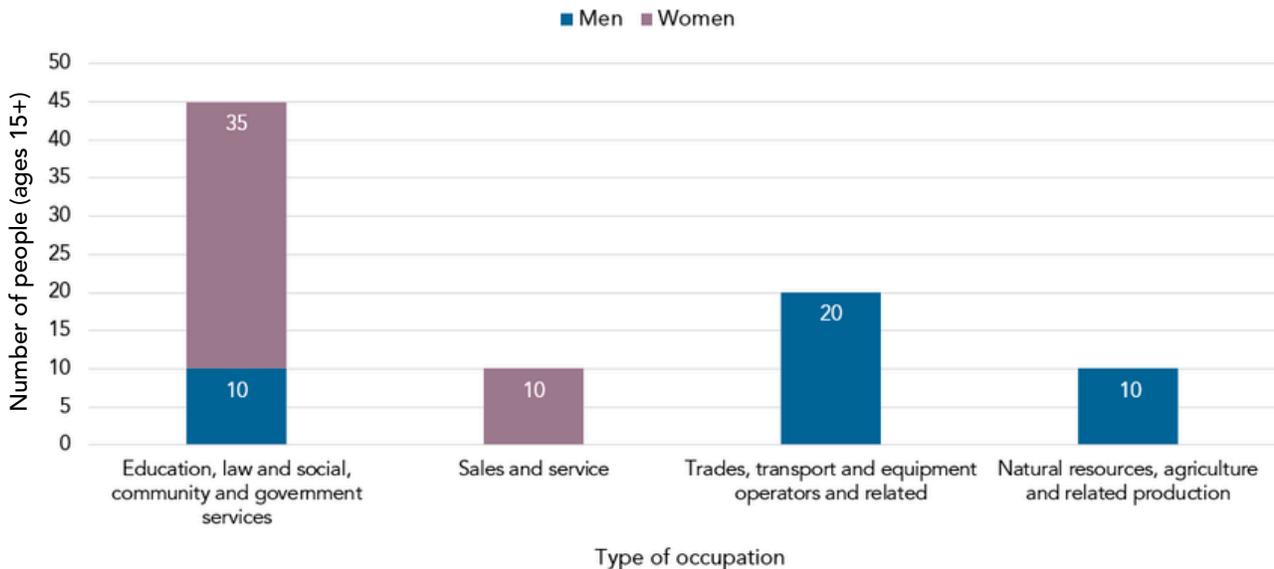
In 2021, 31% of Rigolet’s employed population were full-time, year-round. 69% of the employed population were part-time and/or part year (for example, seasonal employment).



Participating in the labour force means a person is employed or looking for work. The unemployment rate indicates the proportion of individuals participating in the labour force that are currently unemployed and looking for work (often collecting Employment Insurance).

Occupations (2021)

All occupations of those living in Rigolet (aged 15+) have been categorized using the National Occupational Classification system.



Employment, Income, and Labour Force (continued)

Source: Statistics Canada

Median Income (2019)

In 2019, the median income in Rigolet was \$28,000. Approximately half of the population received less and half of the population received more than this amount.

	Total	Men	Women
Rigolet	\$28,000	\$33,200	\$24,200
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$35,200	\$42,400	\$29,600

Employment Insurance (2019)

95 individuals (aged 15+) in Rigolet collected employment insurance benefits in 2019. Approximately 56% of recipients were men and 44% were women.

Note: The most recent data available for median income and employment insurance are from Statistic Canada's 2021 Census of Population for the year 2019.



This Rigolet Community Profile has been created to bring together important information and data on various aspects of the region for use in regional and community planning, business development, community promotion, and local decision making.

This project is a partnership with Nunatsiavut's Department of Education and Economic Development and Memorial University's Regional Analytics Lab (RAnLab). Information contained within this profile has been collected from the most current data sources and will be updated as needed. If you have any questions or concerns about the data presented in this profile, please contact Heather Sheppard, business development officer, at Nunatsiavut's Economic Development Division: heather.sheppard@nunatsiavut.com



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