# RIGOLET
## kikiak

Community Profile

2025


Photo Courtesy: Bird's Eye Inc.

NUNATSIAVUT
Ilinnianikmik amma kenaujaliugutaugunnatunik Pivalliatiksinikmik
Education and Economic Development

**325**
Total Population

**Contents**


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




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.

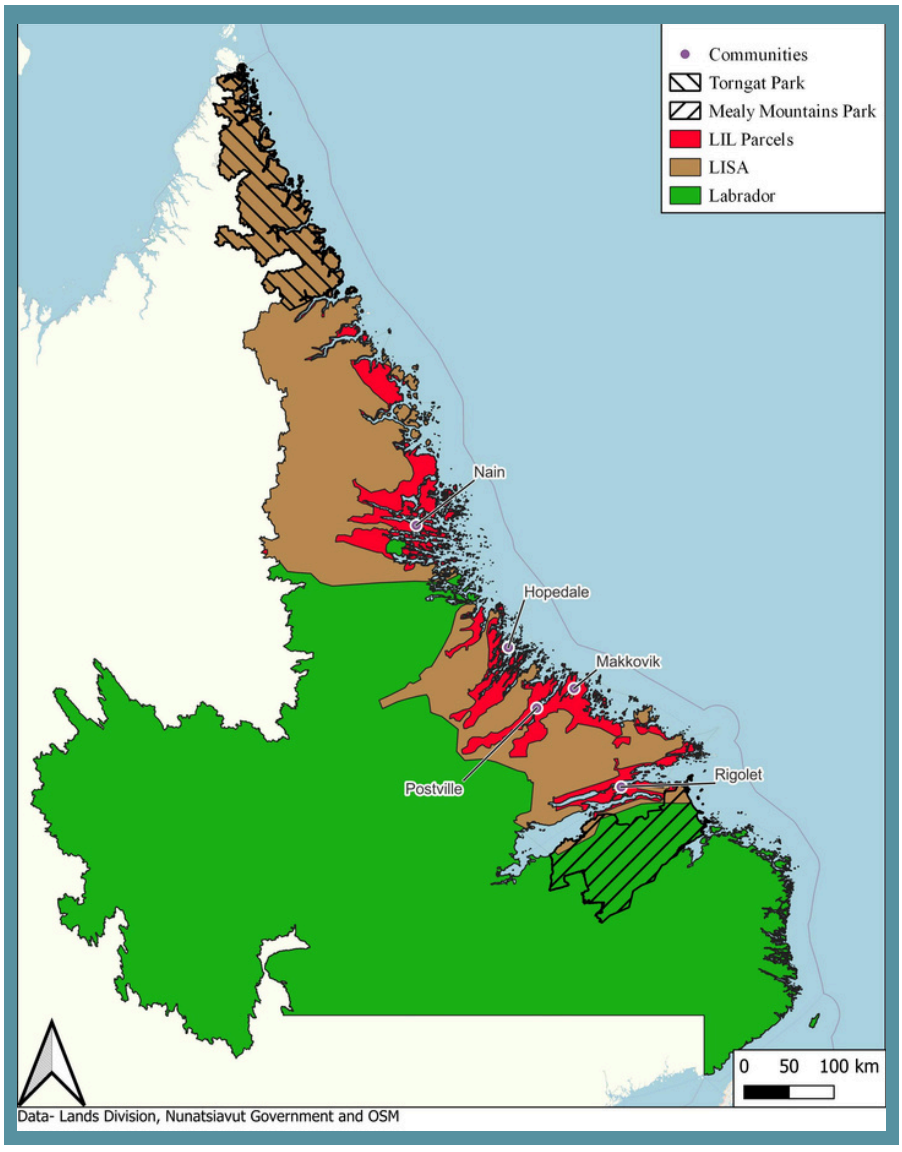
Rigolet is a picturesque town located at the entrance of Lake Melville, on the North Coast of Labrador. Rigolet is the southernmost Inuit community in Nunatsiavut and was incorporated in 1977.

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 online: nunatsiavut.com/business-directory/

## Retail/Food

**Northern Store –** Northern Stores carry food and general merchandise

## Accomodations

**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.

**Guido & Sherri Rich Fishing Company Inc. –** Fishing enterprise, harvesting crab/turbot & shrimp.

# 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 Rigolet 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)

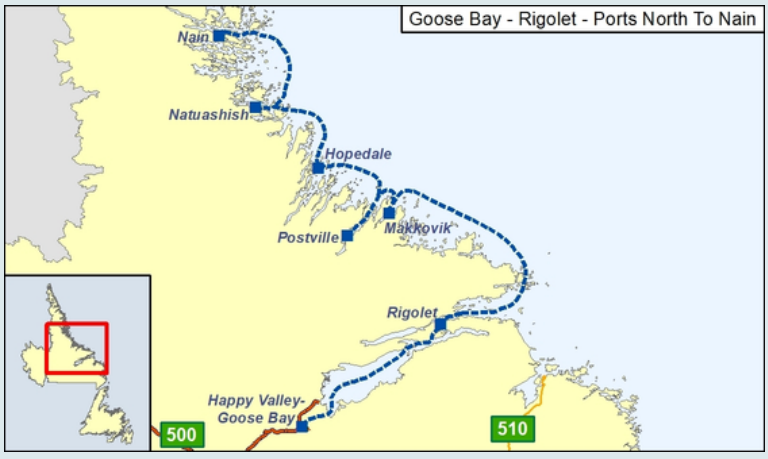
Infrastructure: 663m x 44m gravel airstrip

| **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.




**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

**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 |

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

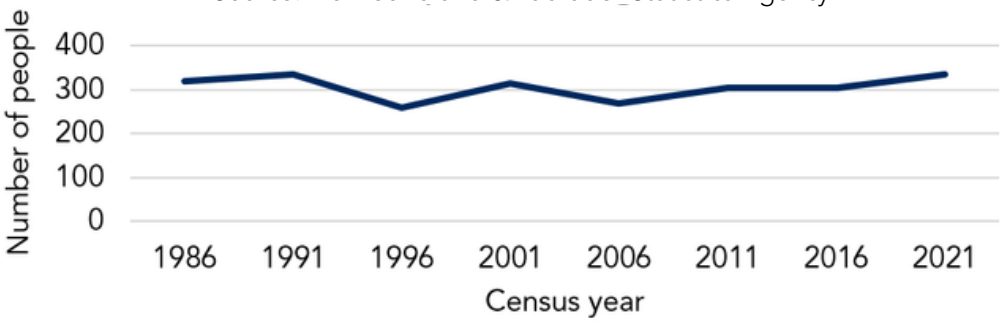
# Population Overview

Source: Statistics Canada (unless otherwise noted)

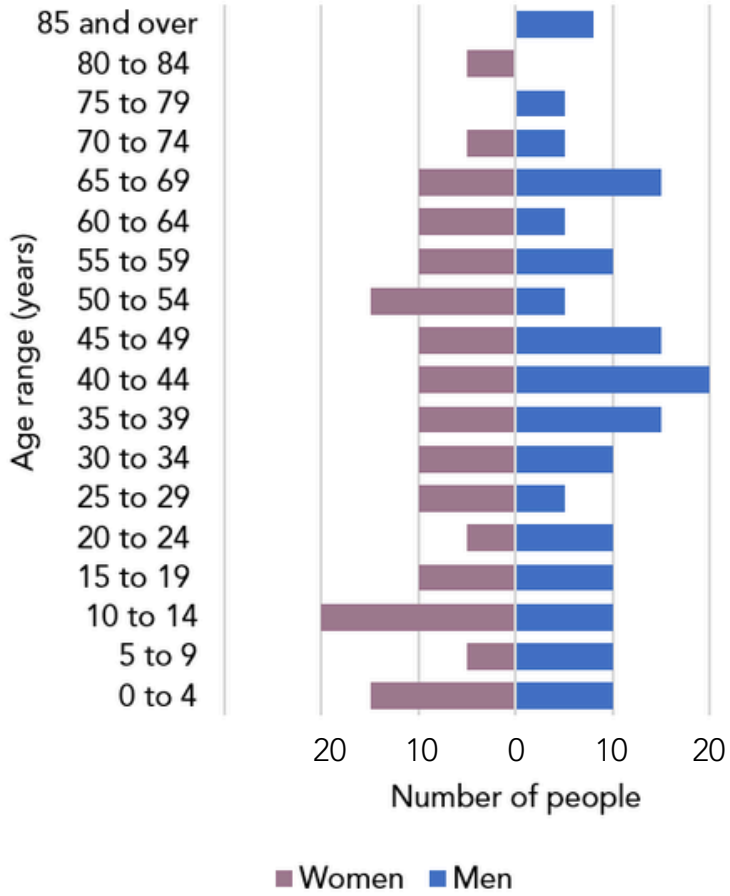
**325**
Total Population

**134**
Total Private Dwellings

**Population of Rigolet (1986-2021)**
Source: Newfoundland & Labrador Statistics Agency

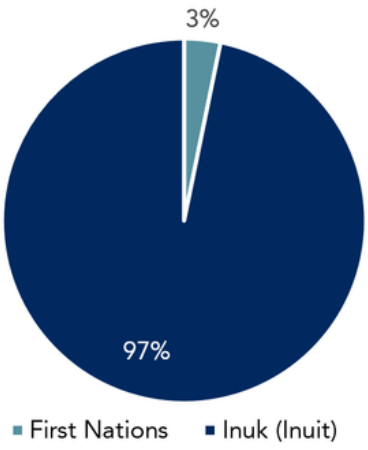



**Population Structure (2021)**




**Indigenous Identity (2021)**

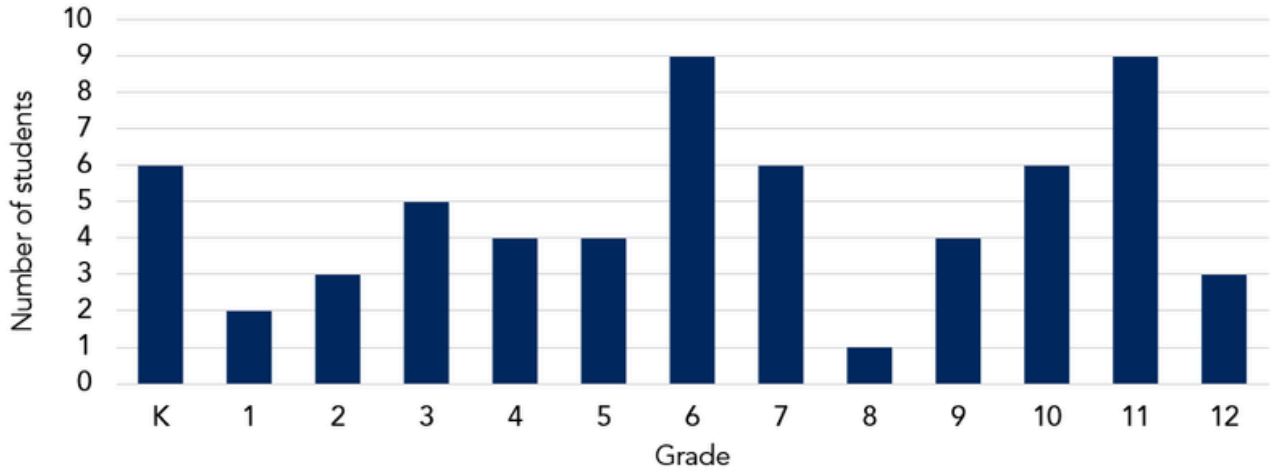
95% of Rigolet's population identifies as Indigenous.



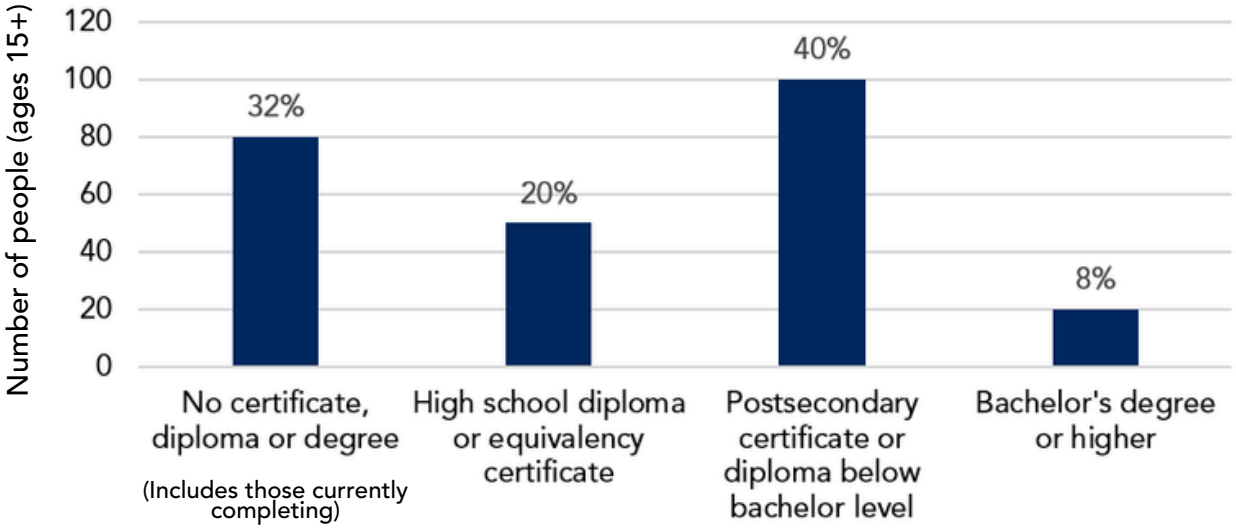
# Education

### 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).

**Participation Rate**

**48%**

In 2021, 48% of Rigolet's population (aged 15+) participated in the labour force.

**Women: 48%** **Men: 42%**

The participation rate for the province in 2021 was 56%.

**Unemployment Rate**

**15%**

In 2021, 15% of Rigolet's labour force was unemployed.

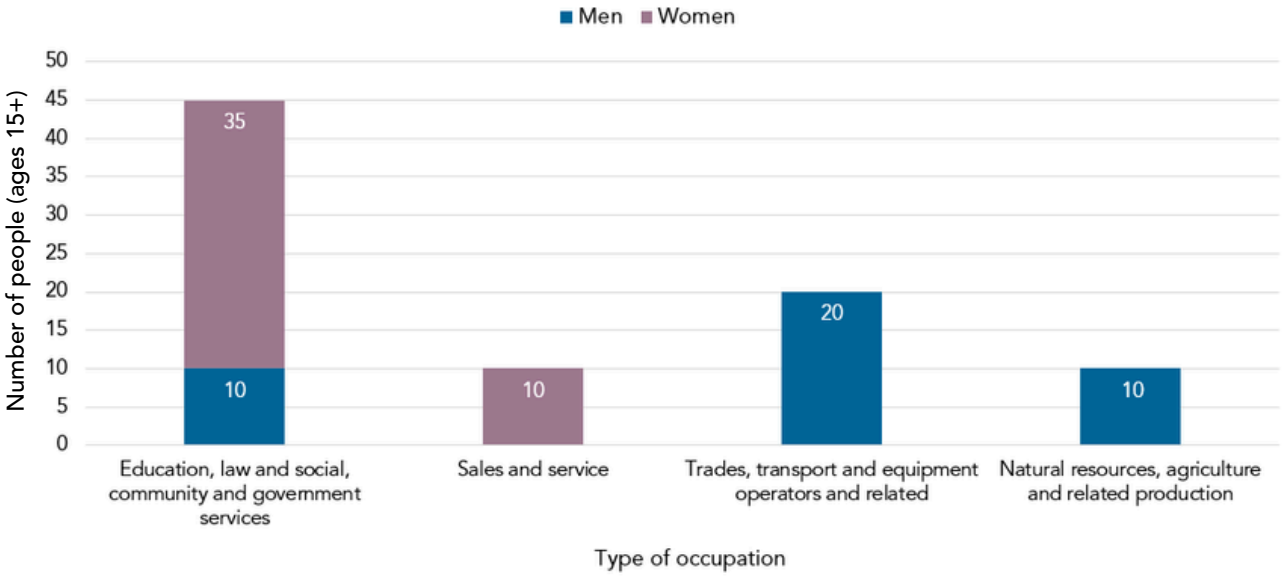
**Women: 12%** **Men: 18%**

The unemployment rate for the province in 2021 was 15%.

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

NUNATSIAVUT

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Education and Economic Development

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