

## NRE SITE PROFILES 2000

Community name Tumbler Ridge NRE cell number 28

### 4. SITE HISTORY - MAJOR EVENTS & STORIES

#### TUMBLER RIDGE

Tumbler Ridge is British Columbia's newest town founded in association with the province's last resource development "mega-project". Tumbler Ridge is located in Northeastern British Columbia on the eastern slope foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The region's coal resources were well known, but in the mid-1970s world prices prompted a flurry of interest and activity. The two mines that were established as a result are "Bullmoose" (owned by Denison Mines) and "Quintette" (owned by Teck Corporation). They are the primary employers in Tumbler Ridge with tertiary employment through services and administration in the town. The management of planning and developing the community around the new mines was undertaken by the Provincial Government, through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Tumbler Ridge was officially opened in 1982 and in 1998 the population was approximately 2,300. In March 2000, Quintette announced that it would be closing on August 31, 2000. (From: Housing Transition in Single Industry 'Instant Towns'. Prepared for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation by Greg Halseth and Lana Sullivan, 2000)

#### TUMBLER RIDGE

- 1990-** Supreme court ruling demands that Quintette drop its price by \$12.50 per tonne over the next three years
  - temporary and permanent cutbacks at Quintette, termination packages offered
  - BC Rail strike affects community
  - \$ 1 million from GO BC to help pay for the construction of the new aquatic centre
- 1990-** Teck will assume management of Quintette
- 1991-** Teck acquires 33% interest in Quintette from Dennison Mines
- 1992-** Health Care Centre renovation
  - Community Access Program: \$8,000 for library Internet access, computers and printers
- 1996-** New contracts with Japanese Steel Industry gives the mines in Tumbler Ridge guaranteed production until April 2003
- 1997-** Local population enumeration identified 2,300 residents
  - demand for coal on market is dropping, jobs threatened
  - Fall: Bullmoose puts 15 houses on the market for mine employees and 7 houses on the general market
- 1996-** collapse in market has also affecting BC Forest Industry
  - Bullmoose layoffs, many rehired temporarily to stockpile coal at Ridley Island port to meet contract price bonus
  - September: Bullmoose puts 17 houses on the market (\$23,480 - \$27,500)
  
- 1996-** Government subsidies for coal mines cut
  - Bullmoose puts 9 houses on the market (average: \$25,000)
  - March 01: Teck Corporation announces Quintette mine closure set for the end of August 2000
  - success of housing 'victory' company and CMHC owned houses to go on sale
  - Tumbler Ridge Revitalization Task Force set up, includes British Columbia Ministry of Volunteers and Co-operatives
  - June: Dawson Creek School District #59 states Claude Galibois Elementary school will close for education purposes, school space will remain available for voluntary organizations and associations

## 5. Communications and Infrastructure

**5.2** Are the following available within this site, yes or no? If appropriate, record the number (#) of these available (i.e. 10 radio stations, or 2 newspapers). Comment on any changes since 1998. Remember, in most cases this is an update from 1998, so not a lot of detail is required, except where noted.

Note: Please obtain a copy of the local paper and any newsletters, and mail them to David Bruce.

Item	Yes/No/#	Comments
<b>Communication Inventory</b>		
Cable TV (is local programming in the form of "text" messages only, or actual programs as well)		text messages on Channel Two for advertisements and listing community events and job postings
Cable TV Provider (who is the cable provider, name the company)		Regional Cable
Internet (which companies provide Internet (ISPs), list community website address)		Pris www.district.tumbler-ridge.bc.ca
Speed of Internet Access (indicate which forms are available: Vibe, DSL modem, cable, other)		modem
Public Internet Access Terminals		2 Terminals found in the Tumbler Ridge Public Library.
Local Newspaper (frequency)		"Community Connections" every two weeks "The Tumbler Ridge Observer" is weekly
Regional Newspaper		The Prince George Citizen The Peace River Block News
National Newspaper		The Globe and Mail
Community Newsletters (how many, how frequent, only include church bulletins if they carry more than church news)		the Community Center bulletin booklet was the closest to a newsletter that could be found
Local Radio Station		none
# of Radio Stations available in the site (use your radio dial)		5 stations from Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Grand Prairie and Vancouver
Community Bulletin Boards (how many can you find, usually in stores or post offices, comment on what they are used for - mostly local notices, personal notices, regional notices, government notices, etc)		Six sites were found in town with community bulletin boards. They are used to advertise community events, hockey news, the recreation activities available at the Recreation Center, notices from the District of Tumbler Ridge, the services available at the local family support society, job postings and for buy and sell purposes. The 'official' community bulletin board across from the Fire Hall is largely unused. There are many smaller bulletins used to convey information.
<b>Community Identity Inventory</b>		

Community "Welcome" Sign (describe what it says and any symbols or pictures)		"Welcome to Tumbler Ridge" *no pictures
Community Flag (please describe)		A white background with the Tumbler Ridge symbol in brown.
Community Symbols (crests, coat of arms, icons, etc, please describe)		The Tumbler Ridge symbol is the letters TR linked together. (See hardcopy of symbol)

## 6. Social Services - Availability and Accessibility

For each item determine whether or not it is located within the site boundaries (Yes/No column). If it is not, please indicate:

- which community residents travel to for these services (Community column)
- and how far it is by personal car, both in time (minutes) and distance (Time and Kms columns).

Add any additional relevant comments. For example, perhaps the elementary school has closed since 1998, or there has been a change in who provides a particular service. The key is to ask "What has changed?" of the person(s) you are speaking to.

ITEM	Yes/No	If "no", how far?			Comments
		Which Community?	Time	Kms	
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Elementary School					One elementary school as one has closed it doors to students as of June.
High School					Tumbler Ridge High School
CÉGEP/comm. college					Northern Lights College (community college)
University					University of Northern BC satellite campus that is inactive.
Continuing Education and Extension Courses					Northern Lights College
Other Educational Institutions					Through the college you can access correspondence courses that they may not offer.
<b>HEALTH/SAFETY</b>					
Hospital					Tumbler Ridge Community Health Centre: no overnight patients, but it has the basic facilities.
Blood/Urine Testing Facility					They can do most tests, some may have to be sent away.
X-Ray Facility					The x-ray capabilities are limited. They no longer have access to ultrasound because the woman who would come from Dawson Creek with the machine doesn't come anymore.

Baby Delivery Facility					Only in absolute emergencies. They do not have the facilities to deal with any complications. At the seven month mark women are asked to get a doctor in Dawson Creek. Two weeks before they are due, the women are asked to go and stay in Dawson Creek until they deliver.
CT Scan Facility					None
Nursing Home					None. Many have to relocate away from home to Dawson Creek if they need care. They become isolated from their family and friends.
Doctor(s)					There are two doctors in Tumbler Ridge. Their medical clinic is run separately from the T.R. Health Centre, but they have agreed to provide emergency services to the health center if they need it.
Nurse(s)					The Health Centre will be facing a crisis in terms of nurses because of people leaving town. There will only be two nurses on staff which will only amount to 1.4 FTE to cover 24 hour (including on call) medical service.
Dentist(s)					There is one dentist in Tumbler Ridge with an office at the Health Centre.
Dental Surgeon(s)					None in town, must go to Dawson Creek.
Optometrist(s)					They used to have an optometrist, but he recently left town. They now have to travel to Dawson Creek.
Home Care/Visits					Home Care visits are provided by one nurse from the Health Unit.
VON					N/a
Social Worker(s)					There is currently one social worker in town temporarily for six months.
Pharmacy					The pharmacy is located in Koal's True Value Hardware.
Ambulance					All of their ambulance workers are volunteer. The number is now 15 but it will change depending on how many move from Tumbler Ridge.
Emergency Services					TR has Fire and Rescue Emergency Services.
Public Health Nurse					There is a Public Health Nurse that rents space in the Tumbler Ridge Community Health Centre.
Rehabilitation - Physiotherapy					They used to have a physiotherapist, but not anymore.
Rehabilitation - Speech Therapy					The woman who works for the school district as a speech therapist visits the Health Centre for one afternoon per week.

Rehabilitation - Occupational Therapy					None
Police (local or RCMP)					They have four paid police officers.
Fire Department (state if comprised of volunteers, paid staff, or both)					They have one paid fire chief and presently 21 volunteers.
911 Emergency Line					Not yet.
<b>LEGAL</b>					
Lawyer					None.
Notary					There is no notary public but there is a "Commissioner of Oath."
Citizenship Court					None
<b>FINANCIAL</b>					
Bank					They have a Royal Bank.
Credit Union					None.
ATM Machine					Royal Bank ATM and one in TAGS Food and Gas.
Micro-Financing Group					None
Insurance Office					Barton Insurance
<b>SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY AND DAYCARE</b>					
Daycare					Tumbler Ridge Children's Centre Society, located in the Community Centre. They also have a pre-school but it is not open in the summer.
Senior Citizens' Retirement Home					None. They must go to Dawson Creek.
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>					
Employment Insurance Office					None. Employment Transition Center shares space with the USWA and some services are provided by the Northern Lights College.
Revenue Canada Office					None.
Provincial Automobile Licence Office					This service is contracted out to Barton Insurance.
Welfare Office					Can be found at the Ministry of Social Services, the service is offered once a week.
Town Hall					Yes.
Band Council					No. There is a Métis Association.
Post Office					Yes.
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>					
Food Bank					Salvation Army provides this service at Christmas.
Clothing Exchange or Depot					Salvation Army.
Second-Hand Stores (profit & charitable)					Salvation Army.
Drop-In Centre					Public Health Nurse, no youth drop in center.

Half-Way House				None.
Personal Aid Services(counseling, family distress, etc)				There is the Tumbler Ridge Family Support Society located in the Health Centre. There are a range of counseling options available at the health centre and through the church groups and other resource groups in town and employee assistance through Quintette. There is also a Safe House program.
<b>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</b>				
Bus				There is a Greyhound kiosk at TAGS Food and Goods which provides a package service, not a passenger service
Train - Passenger				There is no passenger train.
Train - Freight				There is the electric train that hauls the coal, but nothing for average freight.
Air				There is an airport facility. It does have the capabilities for emergencies with a 4,000 foot paved runway (Medi-Vac etc). There are no scheduled flights to or from Tumbler Ridge.
Helicopter				No landing pad. I believe that a parking lot is used in emergencies. Private helicopter use only.
Boat				This is not applicable unless considering it for recreation purposes.
Taxi				The closest taxi services are found in Dawson Creek or Chetwynd. Both places are an hour drive.
<b>FACILITIES</b>				
Curling				Yes.
Municipal Swimming Pool (indoor & outdoor)				Indoor pool.
Municipal Skating Rink (indoor & outdoor)				Indoor rink.
Community Playing Field				Community playing field and the school fields.
Community Gym				Found at the Community Centre.
Community Centre				Yes. The 'recreation centre' is also the community centre. There are meeting rooms available.
YMCA/YWCA				No. The closest known Y is Prince George.
Athletic Club				The facilities (weight room etc) at the community can be considered an athletic club.
Theatre				The high school has a theatre, but it is not a free standing community building.
Cinema				None.
Museum				No. The library has all historical collections.

Library					Yes, it is located in the community centre.
Parks					Yes.

## 8. COMMERCIAL SHOPPING

We want to determine the level of retail / commercial shopping in the site, and the distance and time to travel to any higher levels of retail / commercial shopping. We are roughly following Hodge / Stabler's classification scheme.

For example, if the community is a full convenience centre, write "yes" in the Yes/No column beside that description. Then for each of the four descriptions of more extensive retail / commercial centres, identify the nearest community people in this site would travel to for that level of shopping, and how far that is in terms of time and distance by personal automobile.

Description	Yes/No	If "no", how far?			Comments
		Which Community?	Time	Kms	
minimum convenience centre (gas and basic groceries)					TAGS Food and Gas
full convenience centre (minimum plus some general merchandise, full grocery store, implement dealers)					Koal's True Value Hardware and Shop Easy Foods
partial shopping centre (above plus selected merchandise - small malls)					window shops combine to make a partial shopping center
complete shopping centre (above plus extensive retail merchandise - large malls)					none
secondary wholesale-retail centre (above plus some wholesale)					none
primary wholesale-retail centre (above plus central wholesale outlets)					none