

Subject: Municipal Census 2018**APPROVALS:****Annette Antoniak**_____
Director_____
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT the Municipal Census 2018 results be accepted as information for Municipal planning purposes.

Summary:

The Municipal Census 2018 was conducted between April 9 and July 31, 2018 and achieved a 100 percent completion rate. The total population count (including the permanent and non-permanent populations) is 111,687. This result represents a 10.67 percent decrease of the regional population from 2015.

The Municipal Census 2018 results provide detailed demographic information that is needed by municipal departments, private businesses, and not-for-profit organizations. Council's acceptance of the Municipal Census 2018 results will enable stakeholders in the community to plan initiatives that best suit the region's needs, given detailed and current population characteristics.

Background:

Census 2018 was conducted in accordance with all provincial census regulations stipulated in the Determination of Population Regulation (Alberta Regulation 63/2001) and the Municipal Census Manual. In addition, a rigorous quality assurance protocol was implemented to ensure that the census data collected was accurate and complete. Collection of personal information was conducted in accordance with Alberta's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The census differentiates between the permanent population, which refers to the number of individuals whose usual residence is in the Municipality, and non-permanent population. Non-permanent population includes people who are present in the Municipality on a regular basis, and have a residence elsewhere, but do not consider the Municipality to be their permanent residence.

Three data collection methods including self (online) enumeration, door-to-door

enumeration and telephone enumeration were used to enumerate all households and temporary workers' accommodation facilities.

<u>Response Method</u>	<u>Response Rate</u>
· Door-to-door interview method	75.8%
· Self-enumeration online	24.2%

A telephone interview method was primarily used to contact and enumerate project accommodations.

The Municipal Census 2018's questionnaire was slightly different from 2015. While most of the questions from 2015 were maintained, new questions were added to enhance the demographic information of the region. Some of the questions added to the Census 2018 questionnaire asked residents to identify their ethnicity, and place of residence before the 2016 Horse River Wildfire.

Results indicate that between 2015 and 2018 the population of the Municipality decreased by 10.67 percent. It is worth noting that this is the first time in the last two decades that the Municipality has experienced a decrease in population. Furthermore, the total number of dwellings also decreased between 2015 and 2018. These decreases can largely be attributed to the downturn in the region's economy and the devastating effect of the 2016 Horse River Wildfire.

While much has changed in the Municipality since 2015, the demographic composition of the population has not changed. The Municipality continues to have a young population with a higher proportion of males to females across all age cohorts. The permanent population also continues to be unevenly distributed between the Urban Service Area (USA) and Rural Service Area (RSA), with the majority living in the USA.

The following table shows the population breakdown, as reported to Alberta Municipal Affairs on August 28, 2018:

Total Permanent Population	75,009
• Urban Service Area	72,056
• Rural Service Area	2,953
Total Nonpermanent Population (Shadow)	36,678
• Urban Service Area	3,559
• Rural Service Area	264
• Project Accommodation	32,704
• Staff Accommodation	151
Total Population	111,687

Budget/Financial Implication:

The Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) grant, and the Gas Tax Fund (GTF) use the

official population count including the shadow population as published by Alberta Municipal Affairs as a component when calculating the grant allocation to the Municipality. The Basic Municipal Transportation Grant (BMTG) uses the urban and the urban shadow population as a factor when deriving the amount of available grant funds. The official 2018 population count for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo will be used to estimate the grant money that will be available to the Municipality

Rationale for Recommendation:

Many municipal departments, as well as private businesses and not-for-profit organizations rely on updated and accurate census information to plan their operations. The 2018 Census will provide detailed demographic information of the region since the 2016 Horse River Wildfire, which will enable all stakeholders to plan and utilize resources that best fit the needs of the region. The Municipality will also be able to refine the population component of its projected future growth and determine the impact on municipal services, facilities, transportation systems, social programs, and municipal budgeting.

Strategic Priorities:

Responsible Government
Regional Economic Development

Attachments:

Census 2018 Results

Census-2018-Executive-Summary

Census-2018-Report