

**REPORT FOR INFORMATION****Strathcona County Social Profile 2018****Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee with a brief overview of the recently completed Strathcona County Social Profile 2018.

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

**Report**

A community social profile provides a social portrait of the community. It reports socio-demographic characteristics of the community and its sub-groups such as seniors, youth or families. The data are presented to identify notable trends, such as an increase in the senior's population or an increase in reports of domestic violence. The information can help citizens and organisations identify challenges and opportunities. It can support organisations as they plan, partner and innovate. The Strathcona County Social Profile 2018 reports characteristics of the population, households, income and earnings, education, and mental health amongst other topics. The data are compiled from Federal Censuses, Municipal Censuses, and a variety of other regional and local sources.

The Strathcona County Social Profile 2018 is organised by topic. Readers can review either a section of particular interest or the full document. Although data and trends are best expressed in the full document, several trends are notable. Sources for the statistics presented here are available in the full Strathcona County Social Profile 2018 document.

Since 2011, the population in Strathcona County grew by 6% from 92,495 to 98,381 in 2018. The seniors' population had the most significant growth of all age categories with 35% increase in population from 10,185 to 13,735 from 2011 to 2016 respectively. In 2016, 72% of the Strathcona County residents live in urban areas compared to 28% living in rural areas in hamlets, country estates, housing subdivisions and farms.

The visible minority population in Strathcona County grew by 2% from 5.5% in 2011 to 7.7% in 2016. In comparison, the visible minorities in Edmonton grew at a higher rate from 30% in 2011 to 37.1% in 2016. In Red Deer, the visible minorities grew from 9.7% in 2011 to 15.5% in 2016. The top 3 visible minority population in Strathcona County consists of South Asian, Filipino and Chinese.

The number of Strathcona County residents making emergency department visits for opioid-related drug overdose has nearly tripled in the last few years. There has been a 166% increase in the number of emergency department visits by Strathcona County residents for opioid use from 2013 to 2016 (56 cases to 149 cases). Over the last 5 years (2013-17), nearly 3 out of 4 individuals (73%) in Strathcona County visiting the emergency department for opioid use were between the ages of 15 and 34. In addition, males are more likely than females to be victims of opioid overdose at a ratio of 6 to 4 respectively. The numbers of drug overdose deaths in Strathcona County either accidental or suicidal from 2013 to 2017 include 11 deaths related to fentanyl, 7 deaths due to non-fentanyl opioid and 12 deaths related to non-opioid drugs and alcohol.

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The incidents of reported domestic violence to RCMP in Strathcona County have more than doubled over 8 years with an increase of 113% from 414 cases in 2010 to 883 cases in 2017. Caution should be used when interpreting these numbers. Although the data may suggest a significant increase in the number of domestic violence cases, some of that increase may be due to increase in awareness and reporting by residents when they are witness or subject to such an act.

The median income of all households in Strathcona County for 2015 was \$140,039, which was significantly higher than Alberta average of \$109,997. However, from 2014 to 2017, the demand for Food Bank services increased by 87% from 4,897 visits in 2014 to 9,151 visits in 2017. The majority of Food Bank users surveyed during the full month of March 2017 were employed (34%) followed by those who were on social assistance programs (18%). The number of persons who have benefited from the Recreation Access Program over the past few years has increased by 54% from 1,252 persons in 2013 to 1,925 in 2017. According to the 2016 Federal Census, the median value of dwellings in Strathcona County was \$450,119 as compared to \$400,104 for Alberta. In 2017, Strathcona County also had the highest average rent for apartment buildings in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region at an average monthly cost of \$1,343 followed by St. Albert at \$1,253.

Further details are available in the full Strathcona County Social Profile 2018 document.

**Other Impacts****Policy: n/a****Legislative/Legal: n/a****Interdepartmental: n/a****Master Plan/Framework: n/a****Enclosure**

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