

**STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE****Municipal Census Results - 2024****Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee with a summary of the 2024 municipal census and the high-level results.

**Our Strategic Goals**

Goal 4 - Municipal Excellence

**Report**

The 2024 municipal census was conducted from May 1 – June 28, 2024 and May 1 was the designated census day.

Based on the results of the census, Strathcona County's population is 103,829. Both the urban service area and the rural area have experience growth, with the urban service area population now at 75,575 and rural population now at 28,253. The overall population number represents a growth rate of 3.5% for the last two years. In the four years prior, between 2018 and 2022, the County's population grew 2%.

Strathcona County's rate of population growth has more than tripled since 2022. The average annual growth rate for the last two years was 1.7%, whereas between 2018 and 2022 the average annual growth rate was 0.5%.

During the period between the 2022 and 2024 municipal censuses, the Government of Alberta introduced Alberta Regulation 88/2023 *Municipal Census Regulation* and released a new Municipal Census Manual. The new regulation and manual set out rules for conducting municipal censuses in Alberta. The census team carried out the 2024 municipal census in accordance with the regulation and manual, including using the new methodology for estimating the population for non-contacted dwellings and refusals.

In addition to population numbers collected throughout May and June of this year, the census collected other information including dwelling statistics, length of residency, number of vehicles registered, citizenship, household size, gender, age, race/ethnicity of residents, school support for election planning, level of education, and employment/student status.

The County included several new questions this year, seeking to learn about the prevalence and type of disabilities in the community and the most common primary languages spoken at home.

2024 was the County's second paperless census. Census workers once again collected census information on tablets and the census team made a number of improvements to provide a better experience for both census workers and residents. Improvements included the use of a new Working Alone application, provision of portable power packs, and a streamlined address list application.

## **Priorities Committee Meeting\_Sep17\_2024**

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The online participation rate continues to improve each time the County conducts an online census. The combined online/phone in completed rate was 78.4% (70.8% online and 7.6% phone in), representing a 2.4% increase from 2022. Overall, 94.8% of households completed the census.

### **Other Impacts**

**Policy:** N/A

**Financial/Budget:** N/A

**Legislative/Legal:** *Municipal Government Act*, Alberta Regulation

**Interdepartmental:** GIS (ITS), Communications (BEX)

**Master Plan/Framework:** N/A

### **Communication Plan**

A media release will be sent out on September 17 announcing the population and the availability of the municipal census results summary.

### **Enclosures**

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| 1 | Encl 1 2024 municipal census results summary |
| 2 | Encl 2 ppt 2024 municipal census results     |