



Recreation Master Plan

Socio-Demographic Profile of the Municipal District of Taber

Updated August 2019

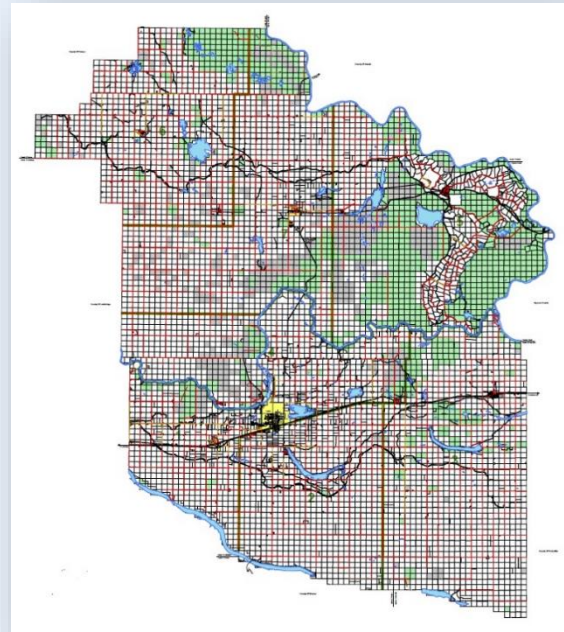




Socio-Demographic Profile of the Municipal District of Taber

The M.D. of Taber is developing a Recreation Master Plan to assist long term community planning and development. The master planning process will address a variety of issues to determine how best to serve the recreation, culture, and parks (hereafter referred to as recreation) needs of the community. Different aspects of the community will be examined for the Recreation Master Plan such as how residents recreate, what comprises the recreation sector in the region, and whether community needs and expectations for recreation services are being met. This socio-demographic profile of the M.D. of Taber will help inform these issues, as well as the overall master planning process.

The community is situated in south central Alberta and is mainly comprised of rural agricultural lands producing a wide variety of crops and livestock. Indeed, a major portion of the population is employed in the agricultural industry; which includes farming and ranching, but also agri-food processing.



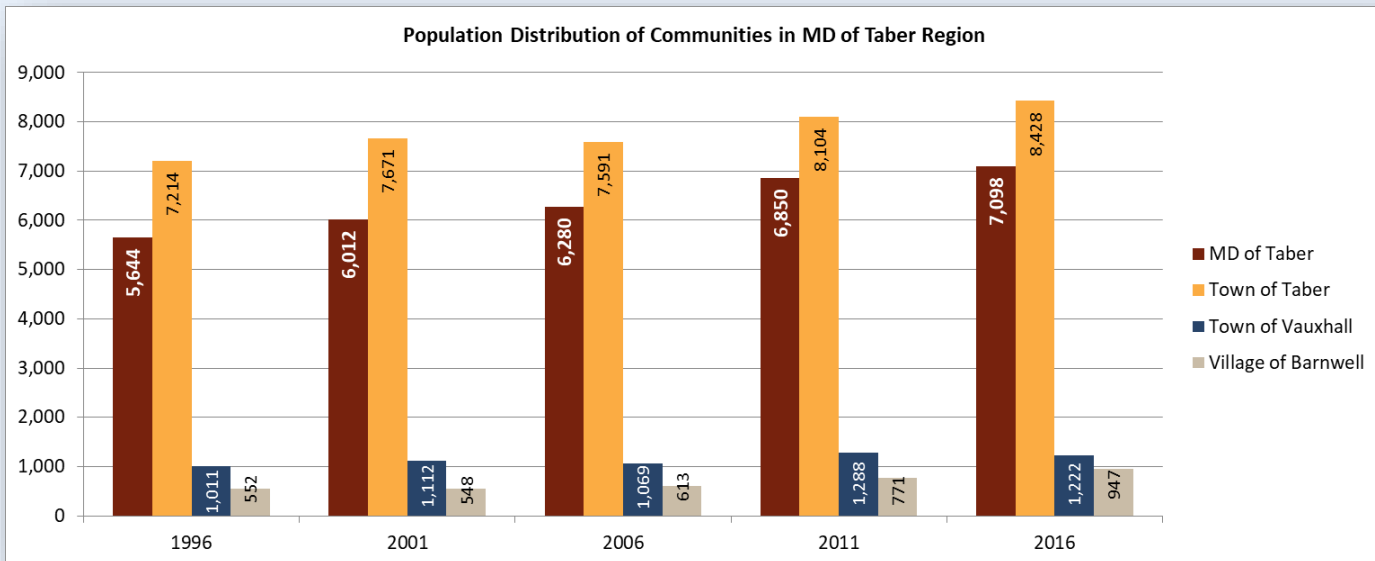
Within the M.D. of Taber are 5 hamlets:

- Grassy Lake
- Enchant
- Hays
- Johnsons Addition
- Purple Springs

The communities of Barnwell, Vauxhall, and Taber are also located within the M.D. of Taber's boundaries and represent service centres for many M.D. residents. Lethbridge is also located approximately 30 kilometres from the western border of the M.D.

Industry of Employment among Working Population					
	% of Working Population (2015)				
	MD of Taber	Town of Taber	Town of Vauxhall	Village of Barnwell	Alberta
Agriculture; forestry; fishing and hunting	43	6	17	10	3
Construction	7	8	9	18	10
Manufacturing	5	14	12	3	6
Retail trade	5	13	9	13	11
Transportation and warehousing	5	6	7	13	5
Health care and social assistance	5	8	3	12	11
Other	28	46	44	28	53
Total	100	99	100	99	98

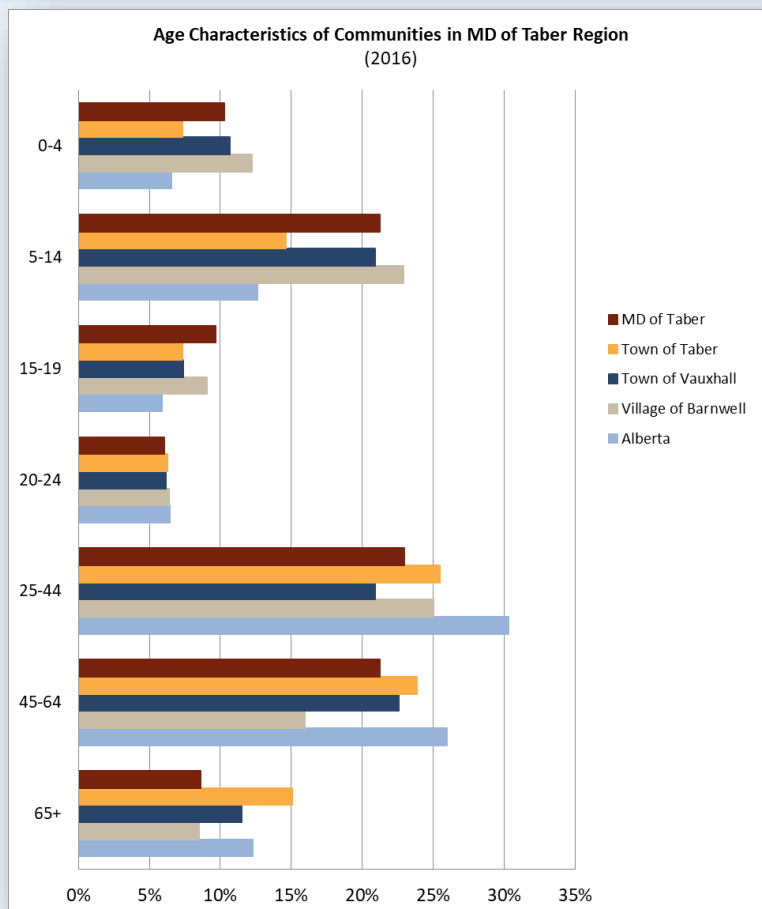
Source: Statistics Canada



Source: Statistics Canada

The population of the M.D. of Taber in 2016 (Federal Census) was 7,098, which represents an increase over the past two decades of approximately 25% (or just over 1% a year). Actually, the population of the region, as a whole, has experienced growth with the M.D. and Village of Barnwell being the communities experiencing the highest rate of growth (see appendix).

The age composition of the M.D. population suggests that there is a considerable proportion of families with children and youth residing in the home. A similar observation can be applied to the Town of Vauxhall and the Village of Barnwell. The significance of this characteristic is apparent when comparing the data of these communities to that of the Alberta population, which tends to have a much older population. The Town of Taber population seems to have characteristics that are more



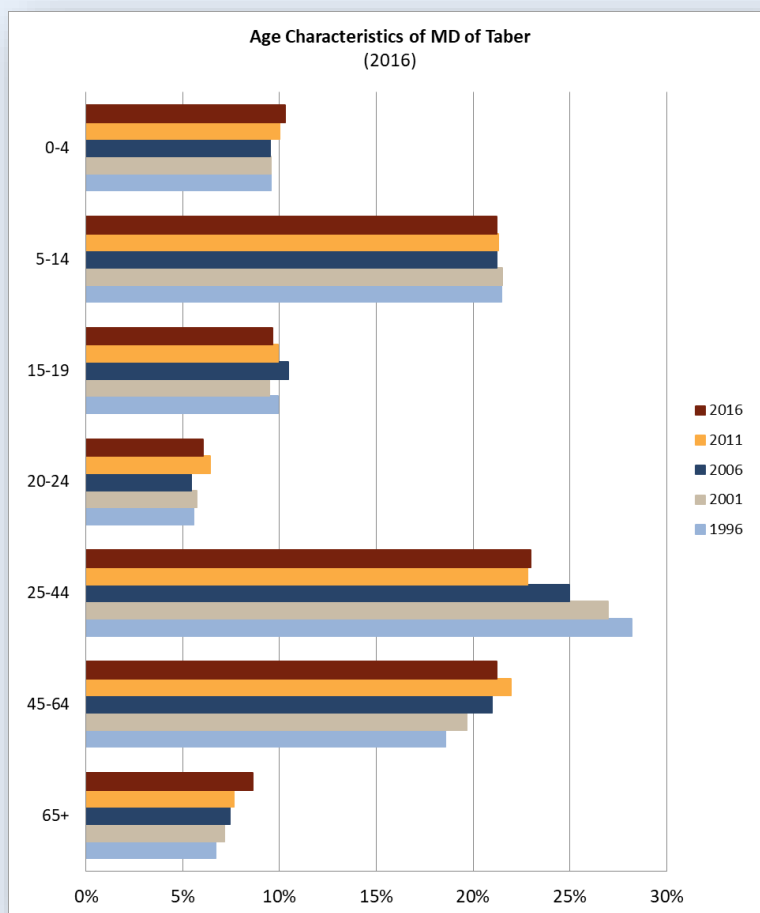
Source: Statistics Canada



consistent to that of the Alberta population than communities in the rest of the region. From a recreation perspective, these distinctions are relevant in that participation and interests among families with children or youth can be different from those of mid-aged adults (without children/ youth at home) and seniors.

While the M.D of Taber population has increased, the proportion that are children and youth has remained fairly consistent over the past two decades. There has been a decline in the proportion of younger adults (aged 25 to 45), although much of this decline occurred between 1996 and 2006, and an increase in older adults (aged 45+); particularly among seniors. If these patterns prevail, particularly over the short term (e.g. over the next ten years), the population of the community may continue to increase, but with age patterns similar to those that have occurred in the past.

A possible explanation for the proportion of children/youth age categories remaining consistent within the community, while there being a decline in the proportion of younger adults aged 25 to 44, is that families may be having more children. Evidence for this suggestion comes from the increase in the average number of members among M.D. households over the past ten years.



Source: Statistics Canada

	MD of Taber	Town of Taber	Town of Vauxhall	Village of Barnwell	Alberta
2016	3.5	2.6	2.9	3.6	2.6
2011	3.4	2.6	3.0	3.6	2.6
2006	3.3	2.6	2.6	3.5	2.6

Source: Statistics Canada

It is also worth noting that most residents (5,762) live in rural areas of the municipality. The hamlet populations are 815 for Grassy Lake, 259 for Enchant, 163 for Hays, 130 for Johnson’s Addition, and 44 for Purple Springs for a total of 1,411 (source: 2016 Municipal Census).

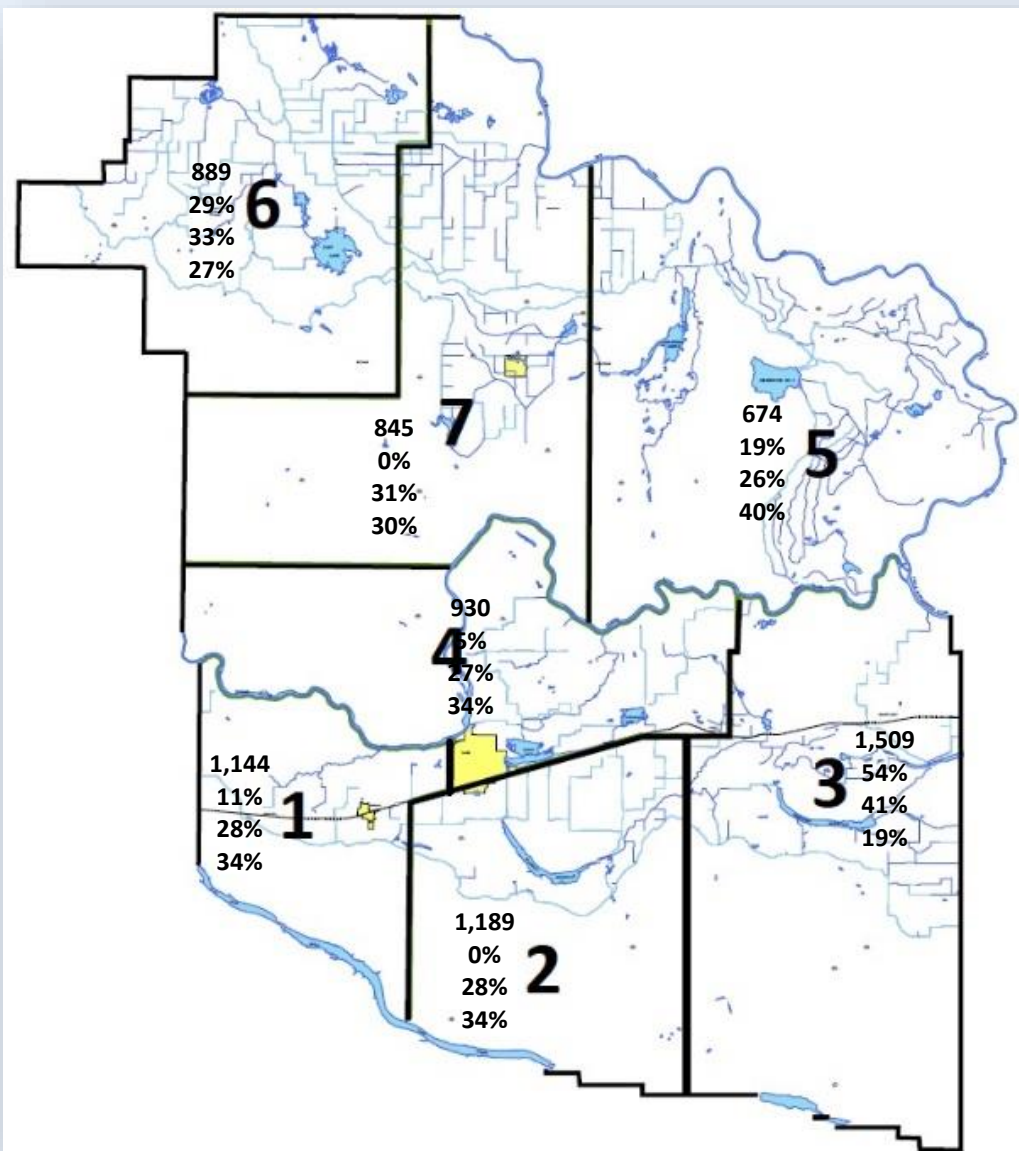


The M.D. of Taber conducted a municipal census in 2016 that provides further information about demographic composition of the community. The community is divided into seven divisions, each of which have distinct characteristics (see appendix). Some notable observations from the data include:

- Most of the population (53%) lives in the southern portion of the M.D. (Divs. 1, 2, and 3).

- Almost half of the population (45%) are in Divisions (1, 2, and 4) that border the Town of Taber.
- Division 3 has the largest population and most of the residents live in the hamlet of Grassy Lake. It also has a high proportion of children who are under 15 years of age.
- Division 5 has the smallest population and has a high proportion of residents who are at least 45 years of age.

Characteristics of M.D. of Taber Divisions



Statistics for each Division:

- Population
- Population living in hamlets
- Population under 15 years old
- Population at least 45 years old



Immigration has contributed to population growth within the M.D. Over 1,700 M.D. residents were identified as being immigrants in the 2016 Federal Census and 200 of them immigrated to Canada between 2011 and 2016 (about 3% of the total population). Other communities in the region have also attracted immigrants, many of which have come from Mexico (e.g. Low German Mennonites); although the Town of Taber has attracted a sizable portion of immigrants from the Philippines.

Over the past few decades, a number of studies have been conducted on the recreational behaviours and interests of immigrants and ethnocultural minorities. For the most part, these studies have surmised that recreation participation is lower and different among immigrant and ethnocultural minorities compared to the general population. For instance, it has been found that participation in

Immigration						
	MD of Taber	Town of Taber	Town of Vauxhall	Village of Barnwell	Alberta	
Non-immigrants	71	81	66	80	77	
Immigrant	Before 2006	18	11	19	12	12
	2006 to 2010	6	2	6	6	4
	2011 to 2016	3	4	7	3	5
	Non-permanent residents	2	1	2	0	2
	Total	100	100	100	100	100
Country of Origin	Mexico	72	45	92	78	2
	Netherlands	14	6	0	5	2
	Philippines	1	19	0	0	15
	Other	13	30	8	16	82
	Total	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Statistics Canada (2016)

formal sports activities among children and youth of immigrant families is typically lower than that of non-immigrant families. Also, recreational interests among immigrant residents can differ from those of non-immigrant residents. It is expected that these kinds of issues will emerge as the master planning process is undertaken, given the prevalence of immigration within the community.

The Federal Census results suggest that the vast majority of M.D. residents have a working knowledge of English. Nonetheless, other

languages such as German dialects are common within the community. The prevalence of German dialects is also evident in the Town of Vauxhall and, to a lesser degree, Village of Barnwell.

Languages Spoken at Home						
		% (2016)				
		MD of Taber	Town of Taber	Town of Vauxhall	Village of Barnwell	Alberta
Mother Tongue	English	45	77	45	62	75
	German	46	14	49	36	2
	Tagalog (Pilipino; Filipino)	0	3	0	0	2
	English and non-official language	4	1	2	0	2
	Other	5	5	3	2	19
	Total	100	100	100	100	100
Knowledge of English		94	99	94	96	99

Source: Statistics Canada



Household Income and Work Characteristics						
		MD of Taber	Town of Taber	Town of Vauxhall	Village of Barnwell	Alberta
Household Income	Median total income of households	\$ 76,544	\$ 73,894	\$ 63,104	\$ 83,200	\$ 93,835
	Median after-tax income of households	\$ 68,907	\$ 64,971	\$ 57,408	\$ 73,984	\$ 80,300
Employment	Employee	70	87	93	76	86
	Self-employed	30	12	7	24	12
	Total	100	100	100	100	100
	Worked at home	29	5	0	0	8
	Worked outside Canada	0	0	0	0	0
	No fixed workplace address	21	17	24	26	15
	Worked at usual place	50	79	75	74	77
	Total	100	100	100	100	100
Commute	Commute within census subdivision (CSD) of residence	32	75	45	0	73
	Commute to a different census subdivision (CSD) within census division (CD) of residence	60	23	48	94	22
	Other	8	2	7	4	5
	Total	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Statistics Canada (2015)

The average total income and after-tax income of households in the M.D. of Taber and region is fairly similar; although it is slightly lower within the Town of Vauxhall. These income levels are slightly lower than the average within Alberta.

About three in ten M.D. residents are employed work at home. It is expected that many of these residents are employed in farming or ranching. However, among the remaining residents who work outside the household, most travel outside the M.D. to get to work; presumably to communities such as Taber, Vauxhall, Lethbridge, and other towns and villages in southern Alberta.

The information presented in this profile will be used to help understand and address issues that arise within the recreation master planning process. Nonetheless, the information demonstrates that there are socio-demographic distinctions between the residents of the M.D. of Taber and those of Barnwell, Vauxhall, and, in particular, Taber. These differences may be important to acknowledge and articulate when working with other municipalities to address public recreation in the region. As well, there may be differences in recreational behaviors, interests, and expectations among M.D. residents, based on family life stage, immigration, location, commute destination, etc. and should be explored in the master planning process (e.g. in the community survey).



Appendix

		1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	Average Annual Growth - 20 Years
Population	MD of Taber	5,644	6,012	6,280	6,850	7,098	73
	Town of Taber	7,214	7,671	7,591	8,104	8,428	61
	Town of Vauxhall	1,011	1,112	1,069	1,288	1,222	11
	Village of Barnwell	552	548	613	771	947	20
	Region	14,421	15,343	15,553	17,013	17,695	164
	Alberta	2,696,826	2,974,807	3,290,350	3,645,257	4,067,175	68,517
% Change	MD of Taber	n/a	1.3%	0.9%	1.8%	0.7%	1.3%
	Town of Taber	n/a	1.3%	-0.2%	1.4%	0.8%	0.8%
	Town of Vauxhall	n/a	2.0%	-0.8%	4.1%	-1.0%	1.0%
	Village of Barnwell	n/a	-0.1%	2.4%	5.2%	4.6%	3.6%
	Region	n/a	1.3%	0.3%	1.9%	0.8%	1.1%
	Alberta	n/a	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	2.3%	2.4%

Source: Statistics Canada

Population Statistics from 2016 Municipal Census								
		Divisions						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Populations		1,144	1,189	1,502	930	674	889	845
Population living in hamlets		11%	0	54%	5%	19%	29%	0
Population under 15 years		28%	28%	41%	27%	26%	33%	31%
Population at least 45 years		34%	34%	19%	34%	40%	27%	30%
Age Groups	Newborn to 4	8%	9%	15%	7%	7%	11%	9%
	5 to 14	20%	18%	25%	20%	19%	22%	22%
	15 to 19	10%	10%	9%	11%	10%	10%	10%
	20 to 24	5%	5%	7%	6%	5%	6%	5%
	25 to 44	23%	24%	25%	21%	20%	24%	24%
	45 to 64	25%	21%	15%	25%	27%	20%	22%
	65+	10%	12%	4%	9%	13%	8%	8%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%