

Census 1996 Population and Dwelling Counts

Data Summary

Prepared for the
Northern Labour Market Information Clearinghouse

May, 1997



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Introduction

This report is the first in a series of data summaries from the 1996 Census of Canada (C96). As data is released we will break it down into the Clearinghouse region and the communities served by each of the partners (see below for a listing of the communities used for each institution's primary service area). The first set of C96 data contains population and dwelling counts only. Further summaries will follow the release of data by Statistics Canada. The scheduled release dates are:

October 14, 1997	age and sex, marital status/common law, families
November 4, 1997	immigration and citizenship
December 2, 1997	mother tongue, home languages, official and non-official languages
January 13, 1998	aboriginal
February 17, 1998	ethnic origin, visible minorities
March 17, 1998	labour activities, occupation and industry, household activities, place of work, mode of transportation
April 14, 1998	education, mobility and migration
May 12, 1998	sources of income, family and household income
June 9, 1998	families: social and economic characteristics, occupied private dwellings, housing costs

Methodology

The data as released by Statistics Canada lists populations and dwelling counts for all Census Subdivisions (CSDs) in Canada. This was broken down into those CSDs in Alberta, those in the Clearinghouse area and those in the primary service areas of each of the partner institutions. Those service areas were determined from information supplied by the colleges and are displayed on the map on page 3. In cases where an institution's service area includes the vast majority of a County or Municipal District, that jurisdiction's population is included for the appropriate college (i.e. M.D.s 17 and 131 are counted as part of AVC - Lesser Slave Lake's service area). Where the service area boundary cuts a County or M.D. roughly in half, those towns within the service area are counted toward the college but the rural population is not (i.e. County 19 and M.D. 87 are counted under "Other North" though the towns of St. Paul, Bonnyville and Cold Lake, and those south of them, are counted in Lakeland College's areas; likewise, the town of Wainwright is included but M.D. 61 is not). Census 91 population data was added for the sake of comparison.

Data

Table 1: Population and Dwelling Count Figures.

Geography	Population 1991	Population 1996	Per Cent Change	Dwellings 1996
Alberta	2 545 553	2 696 826	5.9	984 275
Clearinghouse	280 500	296 695	5.8	100 491
GPRC	64 779	70 953	9.5	24 002
Fairview College	39 442	41 896	6.2	13 141
AVC - LSL	33 575	36 547	8.9	11 830
Lakeland College	62 622	66 387	5.9	20 324
Keyano College	37 407	36 124	-3.4	12 333
Other North*	42 635	44 788	5.0	14 955

*Areas not in any of the partner institutions' primary service areas but within the NADC boundary.

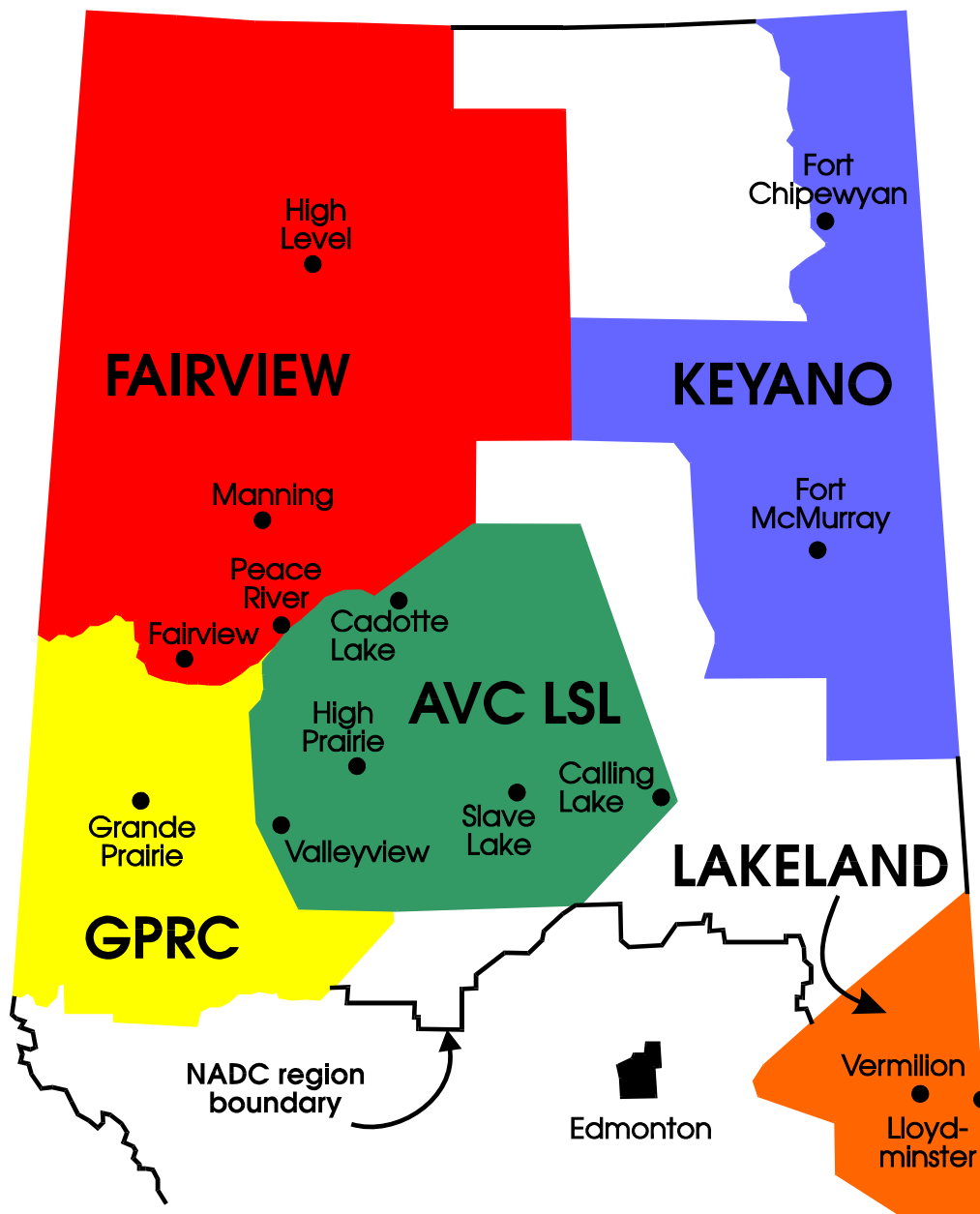
The figures for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo have been called into question. Local officials have estimated the Municipality's population to be as high as 44 000, with significant growth following the June, 1996 announcements of extensive oilsands developments. (Fort McMurray Today, April 15, 1997.)

Overall, population growth in northern Alberta appears to closely match that across Alberta, with increases of 5.8% and 5.9% respectively, from 1991 to 1996. This includes the disputed population drop in Wood Buffalo. In many parts of the Clearinghouse region, population growth is higher than the provincial average, particularly in the Grande Prairie and AVC - LSL areas.

On the whole, northern Albertans have more people per dwelling than others in Alberta. The provincial average is 2.7 persons per dwelling while northern figures range from 2.9 persons in the Keyano region to 3.3 persons per dwelling in Lakeland's area.

The growth in the overall population would suggest growth in the number of potential students. However, the full implications for post-secondary institutions will not become clear until age and other data are released.

Primary Service Areas of the Clearinghouse Partner Institutions



Sources

Statistics Canada, "GeoRef 1996 Census". CD-Rom, Catalogue # 92F0085XCB.

Fort McMurray Today, "Census Figures Questioned" April 15, 1997.