

2019 JULY



MUNICIPAL

CENSUS

US

REPORT

REPORT



OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

In June of 2019, the Town of Fox Creek undertook a municipal census to obtain an accurate count of the population and to update important demographic information. An accurate population count enables better economic development and serves as a foundation for planning new community services and enhancing existing ones. Without the correct census information, we cannot plan community projects such as schools, libraries, health and childcare, and transportation. An accurate count reflects the growth of the Town and ensures that maximum per capita grants are received.

The census data is also important to businesses that are considering locating in Fox Creek. The information contained in this report can assist businesses when decided on developing a location in the Town- an activity that will lead to new jobs while enhancing the quality of life in Fox Creek.

Residents had the option of answering the census online, rather than being interviewed. 48% of Fox Creek households used this option. The remaining 52% either contacted the municipal office, were interviewed either via phone or at their homes to complete the survey or the residence did not respond.

Questions asked in the 2019 Municipal Census included the following:

- Population numbers
- Full-time permanent resident vs. shadow or part-time resident
- Place of employment for the part-time shadow residents
- Age of the full-time residents
- Whether or not the full-time residents paid for childcare in the previous year
- Aspects of dwellings within the Town of Fox Creek as of June 3, 2019 (including type of dwelling, vacant vs. occupied status, number of dwellings under construction and ownership status)

The data presented in this report presents overall totals for the Town of Fox Creek.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ The total population of the Municipality is 2189. This represents an 11% increase from 2016.
- ✓ The total shadow population is 400 which includes people who were in Fox Creek on June 3, 2019, have been in Fox Creek for more than 30 days in 2019 and work for a company in the Town.
- ✓ Temporary worker's dwellings (hotels, the RV Park and Industrial accommodations account for 9.5% of the shadow population.
- ✓ The total number of dwelling units in the Municipality is 1133. This represents an increase of 7.5% from 2016 (1054).



- ✓ 5.4 % of the population paid for childcare in 2018.
- ✓ Single detached dwellings continue to be the dominant (46%) form of housing in the Municipality.
- ✓ More than half (68%) of the Municipality's population live in a single-detached dwelling.
- ✓ The Municipality has an average household size of 3 people per dwelling unit, which is a slight increase from 2016 when it was 2.5 people per dwelling unit.
- ✓ 57% of dwellings are owned.
- ✓ Approximately 48% of all responses were obtained through self (online) enumeration.
- ✓ 101 people answered the census that have lived in Fox Creek for more than 30 days a year but work outside of the Municipal boundaries. Fox Creek was not able to include this number in the census count.

METHODOLOGY

Census 2019 was conducted between June 3, 2019 and June 30, 2019, with June 3 being used as a reference date for the census questions. Three main data collection methods were used to enumerate all households and accommodation facilities:

1. Self (online) Enumeration

Residents had the opportunity to self-enumerate using an online census platform. To prevent duplication, a package containing a unique Personal Identification Number (PIN) was delivered to each address on the census inventory list. Approximately 48% of all the responses were obtained through this method.

2. Door to Door Enumeration

Enumerators visiting every dwelling that did not self-enumerate online to collect census information. Hand held electronic devices (IPad) were used to facilitate the process.

3. Telephone or Email Enumeration

This method was used to enumerate the shadow population living in accommodation facilities in the Municipality as well as to count the people that were not home during the times the Enumerators visited or did not fill out the census via the online method. Further, some residents telephoned the Census office to enumerate themselves.



QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Town of Fox Creek used the City of Airdrie's online census platform to facilitate data collection and to monitor progress and data quality. A unique PIN was created for every address in the Municipality to facilitate the enumeration process. Further, a rigorous quality assurance protocol was implemented to ensure the census data collected was accurate and complete. In compliance with the Municipal Census Manual, a quality assurance check (QA check) was conducted by randomly contacting dwellings that were enumerated by an enumerator or by a telephone call. The Municipal Census Manual states that a total of 10 percent should be contacted for a QA check.

Participation in Census 2019 by residents was voluntary. An extensive advertising campaign was used to inform residents about the census, its timelines and the benefits of enumeration. This campaign involved advertisements on local radio stations, social media, distribution of news releases, advertisements in the newspaper and the creation of information videos. A census homepage was also created on the Town website and it received close to 422 unique pageviews over the census period.

OVERALL OUTCOMES

The results of Census 2019 indicate the total population of the Municipality in 2019 is 2189. This represents an 11% increase from the 2016 federal census count. The total number of dwellings and temporary workers' dwellings in the Municipality increased from 1054 in 2016 to 1133. A breakdown of the total population and dwellings in 2016 and 2019 is presented in Table 1.1 below:

Table 1 Population and Dwelling Count for the Municipality, 2015 and 2018

	POPULATION		DWELLINGS	
	2016 Census	2019 Census	2016 Census	2019 Census
Permanent Population	1971	1789	1054	1133
Shadow Population	--	400	--	--
Total	1971	2189	1054	1133

DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

The population of the Municipality is primarily made up of a permanent and a shadow population. The Permanent population refers to people whose usual place of residence is within the Municipality. In contrast, the shadow population refers to temporary residents (those who have a usual place of residence outside of the Municipality) who are employed by an industrial or commercial establishment in the Municipality for a minimum of 30 days within a Municipal census year.



HOUSING

DWELLING COUNT AND OWNERSHIP

The total dwelling count, 1133 is the total number of residential dwellings enumerated during the 2019 Municipal Census.

The average number of people per household in Fox Creek is 3 which is an increase from 2016 when it was 2.5 people per dwelling unit. The Municipal average household size is considerably higher than both the nation and provincial averages, which in 2016 were 2.4 and 2.6 respectively.

In 2019 57% of residents owned their home. This information is presented graphically in figure 1.

HOUSING TYPES

The residents of Fox Creek primarily live in single-detached homes (68%) with apartments and apartment-style condominiums representing the second most prevalent occupied dwelling type (14%), while 7% of residents live in multi-family rental units. 8% of the census respondents preferred not to answer the dwelling question.

CONCLUSION

While the population of Fox Creek grew, an accurate count of the amount of people that Fox Creek is currently servicing is hard to gather given the restrictions put on counting the shadow population for a municipal census. Fox Creek historically slows down during the summer months and this year was no different. We encountered a number of vacant dwelling units – especially in the multi-family portion of the community so having the census date on June 3 proved to have an impact on the accurate reflection of our population. The other big limiting factor is the requirement that the individuals must work within the boundaries of Fox Creek. While we saw 100 people fill out the census saying they live in the community and work outside the boundaries, we know that there were a lot of people that chose not to participate because they did not meet the criteria.

Fox Creek continues to grow. We saw an increase in both our population count as well as the amount of dwellings in the community. These are positive signs for our town and we continue to look forward to what the future has in store for us.

