



# STRATHCONA COUNTY COMMUNITY BACKGROUNDER

**Our shared goal is to create a supported, safe and connected community in Strathcona County.**

Set in the centre of Alberta's energy and agricultural heartland, Strathcona County is a vibrant specialized municipality that offers almost **96,000 residents** a perfect blend of urban and rural living. Strathcona County is made up of over **1,200 square kilometers** that include hamlets, acreages, urban neighbourhoods and rural and industrial lands. We are a welcoming place to live and attract people of all ages, cultures and walks of life to come join us.

- **1 in 7 is a senior** and this segment of the population will continue to grow.
- **1 in 11 are immigrants** and this number is growing.

## COMMUNITY

- **86%** of residents gave Strathcona County high/very high ratings as a safe community in which to live.
- **95%** of residents would recommend Strathcona County to others as a good place to live.
- Over **4200 hours** of community volunteer service in the past year.
- Over **1,250,000** annual admissions to recreation facilities in the past year.
- **14 Community Halls & 4 Seniors Centres**

## EDUCATION

- High school completion rates and university education levels are among the highest in Alberta.

## INCOME

- Residents experience some of the highest income in the province.

## EMPLOYMENT

- **Employment rate is 72.3%** compared to 67.3 % for Alberta.
- **Unemployment is 5.3%** compared to 7.8% for Alberta.



Life isn't always easy. Sometimes life is complicated. Let's talk to each other to better understand what we need.

## COMMUNITY

- Knowing **6 or more neighbours** by name has been decreasing.

## EDUCATION

- Younger students are more likely to feel they live in a caring community. This feeling decreases as students move into high school.
- **40%** of Junior High and High school students said they were bullied.

## INCOME

- **1 in 20** residents live on less than \$40,000/yr.
- Some single family homes live on less than \$20,000/yr.
- **1 in 3** seniors live on less than \$40,000/yr.

## HOUSING

- **Average cost of a home** is among the **highest in the region**.
- **1 in 7** is spending more than **30%** of income on housing alone.

## STRATHCONA FOOD BANK USAGE

- **Foodbank usage has doubled in 2016.**

## MENTAL HEALTH

- **Significant increase in doctor referrals** for depression, anxiety and stress in 2016 compared to 2015.

## ADDICTIONS

- **Increase in the number of referrals** to addictions services and more opiate use than seen in previous years.

## FAMILY VIOLENCE

- Reported number of **domestic violence cases increased by 18%** in 2015.