

Attention: Chief Administrative Officers, Municipal Clerks, and Census Coordinators

Re: Municipal Census Regulation and Municipal Census Manual

In 2019, the Government of Alberta announced its intention to move from municipal census counts to population estimates for the purposes of allocating provincial grants to municipalities. Over the last several months, former Minister of Municipal Affairs Ric McIver and I have both heard that municipalities strongly prefer that we revert to the recognition of municipal census counts. As a result of that feedback, and after consultation with my colleague the Honourable Travis Toews, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, I am pleased to announce the approval of the Municipal Census Regulation and Municipal Census Manual.

The attached regulation and manual not only outline municipal census requirements, but also incorporate the feedback we have received since 2019, including updating the definitions of "usual residence" and "shadow population." In addition, we have extended the period for enumeration, and for how long the ministry will recognize a municipal shadow population count.

The manual was developed in partnership with Statistics Canada and addresses many of the concerns identified by you, our municipal partners. The manual, when used alongside the Municipal Census Regulation, provides municipalities with the tools necessary to conduct a municipal census that is consistent with best practices and ensures an accurate population count.

Some of the more notable enhancements over previous versions include:

- standardized methodology to enumerate persons with no usual residence;
- alignment of collection methodologies to reflect best practices and key learnings from the most recent federal census;
- updates to key census definitions including usual residence and shadow population;
- standardized approach to enumerating shadow population;
- the ability to include an estimated resident count for non-contacted dwellings and refusals recognized as part of the population total;
- a mechanism to review population submissions and verify population counts; and
- several other textual changes to the included forms, templates, and materials.

The new regulation and census manual will allow municipalities to conduct a census in 2024. Following the submission of the 2024 results, my department will be reaching out to you in an effort to capture what worked well, and what could be improved.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the regulation or manual, please contact a Municipal Information Advisor by email at ma.updates@gov.ab.ca or by telephone, toll-free by first dialing 310-0000, then 780-422-2555.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Schulz', written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Schulz
Minister

Attachment: Municipal Census Regulation and Manual



ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Shaw

MINISTERIAL ORDER NO. MSD:001/23

I, Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Municipal Affairs, pursuant to Section 604 of the *Municipal Government Act*, make the Municipal Census Regulation as set out in the attached Appendix.

Dated at Edmonton, Alberta, this 28th day of March, 2023.

Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Municipal Affairs

FILED UNDER
THE REGULATIONS ACT
88 ALBERTA REGULATION 88/2023
ON APRIL 6 20 23

DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF REGULATIONS