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**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 & 28, 2023**

# THE WORLD-Spectator

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**Donation to STARS**

The Moosomin Elks Lodge presented \$5,000 last week to STARS Air Ambulance. From left are Ron Potter of the Moosomin Elks, STARS Clinical Operations Manager Darcy McKay, STARS Community Engagement Officer Kathy Skomar, and Wayne Hopkins of the Moosomin Elks, who was once a patient on a STARS Air Ambulance.

**Statistics Canada ups Moosomin count by 117 people**  
**Agency says it missed 74 dwellings, estimates 70 are occupied by a total of 117 people**

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK  
Call it a virtual population boom. Moosomin's official population, reported by Statistics Canada, is up 4.3 per cent overnight.  
After the results of the 2021 census were released in 2022, showing a small decline in Moosomin's population after one of the largest increases in rural Saskatchewan between the 2011 and 2016 censuses, the

"Statistics Canada has undertaken a detailed investigation and confirmed that the population and private dwelling counts were incorrect,"  
— Lise Rivais of Statistics Canada

World-Spectator reported that the number of households reported in Moosomin in the census was less than the number of households the town sends water and utility bills to, and that residents of some

senior residences said their entire buildings had been missed, despite calls to Statistics Canada to try to be included.  
The town of Moosomin asked for the census to be reviewed, and Statistics Canada

replied last week that it has reviewed and changed the official census count for Moosomin.  
"Statistics Canada has undertaken a detailed investigation and confirmed that the population and private dwelling counts were incorrect," Lise Rivais of Statistics Canada wrote to the town last week.

Continued on page 3 »

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# Statistics Canada ups Moosomin count by 117 people

## Agency says it missed 74 dwellings, estimates 70 are occupied by a total of 117 people

Continued from front

"The investigation involved a detailed analysis of all the documents and procedures used by census enumerators during the 2021 census. The census enumeration records were examined, street by street, for each part of the town. Maps were checked to verify current boundaries and confirm that all population and dwellings within those boundaries were correctly allocated.

"The investigation found that 74 private dwellings were missed by census enumerators, 70 of which are estimated to be occupied by 117 usual residents. Those 74 private dwellings will be added to the total dwelling counts for Moosomin and 117 additional persons will be added to the population count."

Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson is not happy with Statistics Canada's efforts. "I'm very disappointed," said Tomlinson. "I don't think they did anything, I really don't. I think they just came up with a number they thought would make us happy. It looks to me that they did nothing—



Published and Revised Counts for 2021

2021 Census Census Subdivision (CSD)	Population		Private Dwellings Occupied by Usual Residents		Private Dwellings Other (unoccupied + occupied by Foreign or Temporary Residents)		Total Private Dwellings	
	Published counts	Revised counts	Published counts	Revised counts	Published counts	Revised counts	Published counts	Revised counts
Moosomin (T) # 4705004	2657	2774	1102	1172	105	109	1207	1281

they didn't do any more actual counting or anything."

Tomlinson said he isn't confident that the new number is accurate.

"I think all they did was just try to appease us a little bit. I have no confidence in

the new number at all. I don't think they did anything."

Tomlinson said he would like to see Statistics Canada do a total recount of Moosomin's population. "I thought that's what we might get, but evidently not. I'm go-

ing to phone Dr. Robert Kitchen to see if he can get us a recount, so we'll see where that goes, but it's very disappointing actually.

"All they did was a little poking around here and there, and I think the number still might be low. I'm still not sure if they ever did get the seniors' homes. Some of our funding hinges on it so we're going to pursue it some more."

### Esterhazy numbers to be reviewed

Statistics Canada will be reviewing Esterhazy's census number as well.

"Statistics Canada will first review our internal database, but may subsequently request additional documentation to help substantiate the error in the form of administrative records (e.g. assessment records, utility records, customer addresses, building permits, election lists or recent census counts). Derek Cheuk of Statistics Canada wrote to the town of Esterhazy.

### \$5,000 contribution:

## Moosomin Elks donate to STARS Air Ambulance

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

"It's a lifesaver. It's as simple as that," Moosomin's Wayne Hopkins says of STARS Air Ambulance.

"I had a heart attack. That was eight years ago. STARS took me into Regina. They treated me excellent. They're professionals and they treat you accordingly."

Ron Potter of the Moosomin Elks said he knew he wanted to support STARS as soon as he got the request.

"We got a letter from STARS and I thought that's something we should support. When I took it to the meeting, everybody was quite interested in it and we thought we should be donating some money, and that's when we came up with the figure of \$5,000.

"Because they basically saved Wayne's life by getting him there so fast, everyone knows how important it is."

Potter says the funds were raised by the Elks in the community.

"It's money we've raised in the community, and we like to put it back in the community, but this is a huge community service. The average age in our lodge is almost 70, and we feel this is a service that is needed in our town and surrounding area, where we raise our funds, so it was a unanimous vote. Everyone was in agreement that this is something we should be supporting."

"As Elks we always want to support the community," added Hopkins.

Darcy McKay, Clinical Operations Manager for STARS, grew up in Moosomin. He said support such



as that shown by the Elks is important to STARS.

"It's very important. To operate both bases, Saskatoon and Regina, it costs about \$21 million annually," he says. "The government kicks in 50 per cent of that, so we basically need to fundraise \$10 million, and then we get some from the calendars. It's like the old saying how do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time. \$10 million is a lot to fundraise, and this is a bite out of that elephant. It makes a huge benefit of that."

"Every donation counts," adds Kathy Skomar, community engagement officer for STARS.

"Every donation makes a difference."

"We get about \$2.5 million to \$3 million from the calendars, and we get a lot of donations from industry but we get a lot of donations from groups like this and mom and pop, grandma and grandpa, people who have been affected by STARS," says McKay. "A lot of it is people saying you

helped me, you picked up my friend, now I want to help you. It's as simple as that. Sometimes they come out of nowhere, they come with a donation, and they tell a story that's just fantastic.

"It's good to see patients that we've picked up and see that they're doing well."

McKay says STARS is updating and upgrading its fleet. "We've had to renew our fleet. We used to fly the BK117. Now we've upgraded to the H145. Our helicopter in Regina was

at the Calgary Olympics in 1988. It got to the point that it was tough to find parts for it, so we had no choice but to upgrade the fleet. We have three helicopters in Saskatchewan. There's one in Regina, one in Saskatoon, and we share the third, so if one helicopter is down for maintenance, that third one will take its place. A new machine costs \$13 million."

STARS helps thousands of patients each year. Skomar says there were 1,075 flights in Saskatchewan in 2021-22.

### Steven Bonk, MLA

for Moosomin Constituency  
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McKay has been with STARS since the beginning. "I was hired back in 2011, we started education that year then we started operations in 2012. It's the best organization I've ever worked for. You get to make a difference in people's lives, and they give you the tools to do that."

"I've only been there

since August, so I'm fairly new," says Skomar, "but I'm just amazed at the generosity that the people in this province have. Even if you are from Regina or Saskatoon you know someone who has used STARS and you see the importance of it and how it helps everybody. It's really important to the province."

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Weedmark  
Editor  
and Publisher**

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We welcome your comments. Write to Box 250, Moosomin, Sask. S0G 3N0, call (306) 435-2445, fax (306) 435-3969, or email world\_spectator@sasktel.net

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In our opinion:

## 2022 the year net-zero fantasy ran smack into hard reality

Last year my year-end column, Fossil-fuel follies, hypocrisy and ignorance plague us all, focused on the bizarre impacts of the Great March Greenward by net-zero zealots intent on replacing the 84 per cent of global energy supplied by fossil fuels with electricity from windmills and solar panels.

Some effects were so ridiculous as to be almost humorous.

As 2022 made painfully clear, however, there's nothing at all funny about the enormous damage currently being inflicted by pursuing this technically impossible goal.

Germany's ill-conceived decision to shut down its zero-emission nuclear plants and replace them with unreliable wind and solar power left it no alternative but to import Russian natural gas. Russia's contemptible invasion of Ukraine left Germany with a classic Hobson's choice: either help fund the murderous invasion or devastate its own citizens' economic and personal well-being. Realizing the enormous power Germany's need for Russian gas gave him, Russian President Vladimir Putin cut back gas flows, driving European prices to stratospheric levels.

Events this year also demonstrated the impact of another fossil fuel folly that handed the Russian dictator enormous power. Years of net-zero-inspired policies reduced oil supply replacement in Western countries, leaving markets dependent on the so-called "OPEC+ Coalition," of which Russia is a key member. The Ukraine crisis revealed just how narrow the global oil supply margin has become. Then came the shocking news that most of that thin margin was in Putin's hands.

Western countries were already producing at full capacity – except for Canada, that is, though we have the world's third-largest oil reserves. Urgent calls went out for Canada's help in lifting Putin's stranglehold on the oil supply. But to no avail: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had presided over a seven-year anti-oil industry pogrom, thwarting multiple export pipelines that could have helped supply countries now dependent on Putin's blood oil.

Trudeau's shameful answer to those calls for help revealed our country as an impotent imposter on the global stage. During his trip to Latvia in March, a reporter asked whether Canada could help make up for the oil supply reductions. His response: "We will be there to support, as the world moves beyond Russian oil and indeed beyond fossil fuels, to have more renewables in our mix."

As I wrote at the time, this breathtakingly bizarre answer came as innocent Ukrainians and their beautiful country were being ravaged by a tyrant who was also threatening the world with nuclear Armageddon.

World oil prices soon skyrocketed to a staggering US\$120 per barrel. Though they have since fallen, the International Energy Agency projects world oil demand will rise by one million barrels per day annually. The global oil supply/demand margin will continue to be narrow, with virtually all of it in the hands of OPEC+.

Oil still fuels over 95 per cent of all transportation of goods and people, with no viable alternative in sight. And the natural gas supply/demand margin is also, and almost certainly will continue to be, narrow.

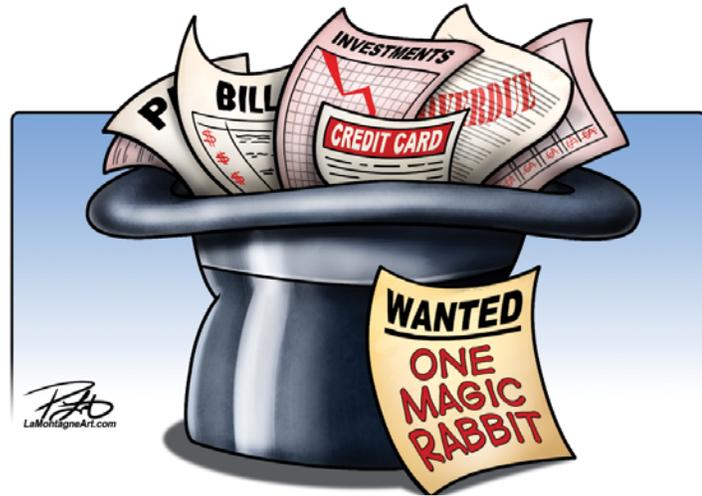
History will likely see 2022 as the year when net-zero fantasy ran smack into hard reality. The world's focus now needs to be on avoiding debilitating shortages of fossil fuels.

That doesn't mean the net-zero crowd will toss in the towel, of course. They will continue to advocate starving the industry of the funds needed to replace, let alone grow, production. But when the cost of driving your car and heating your home starts to squeeze your disposable income, especially as oil-endowed despots continue their predatory behaviour, those net-zero voices will fall on deaf ears.

How ironic that the net-zero fantasy has empowered a despicable despot named Putin. But he has not been the only beneficiary. The net-zero ideologues have also lauded Chinese President Xi Jinping for his promises to reduce emissions. In reality, he has authorized building over 200 carbon-spewing coal-fired power plants to supply cheap power to his factories.

At the same time, North American and European politicians worshipping at the net-zero altar have mandated costly and unreliable wind and solar power generation and imposed escalating carbon taxes that make it impossible for the West's factories to compete, leaving consumers no choice but to buy Chinese goods. China then uses those enormous revenues to produce weapons to further its military ambitions. Who would have imagined that one legacy of the West's net-zero policies would be two dictators in control of both global energy security and the supply of manufactured goods?

*This editorial was written by Gwyn Morgan, a retired Canadian Business Leader who has been a director of five global corporations.*



## Real reporting makes a difference for communities

If I have learned one thing in my years of journalism, it's that real reporting makes a real difference for communities.

Real reporting shines a light on issues, brings them to the attention of the powers that be, and leads to solutions.

Last year we did some reporting on the census numbers for our local communities when they came out.

We reported that residents of seniors homes in Moosomin came into our office to tell us they had been missed by the census, even after calling to try to ensure they would be counted.

We reported that the number of households in communities like Moosomin, Esterhazy and even Fleming were lower than the number of households those towns know to exist because they send them water bills and tax bills.

Town councils wrote to Statistics Canada to point out the issues.

In Moosomin's case, a response came from Statistics Canada last week saying they looked over all the information and decided to increase the number of households in Moosomin by 74, and the official population by 117.

In Esterhazy's case, Statistics Canada recently wrote the town saying it will review the 2021 figures.

In this case, reporting on the facts around the census numbers, letting people know that more than one town was impacted, and reaching out to Statistics Canada may have had an impact on the outcome.

And the outcome will be positive for local communities, as they should have more provincial revenue sharing coming because of the higher population.

Another example of how reporting can make a difference is in SaskTel cell coverage.

We did some reporting over the last few months about the problem with cell service in communities near the border.

In one case, an emergency responder said she could not get calls in emergencies on her cell phone in Welwyn.

The problem is the federal CRTC does not want SaskTel's signals crossing the border into Manitoba, so the cell towers are set to not have signals near the border.

Sierra did a lot of great reporting on this, and in the course of our reporting, SaskTel said the problem would be lessened once 5G transmitters are on those towers, since the signal footprint can be controlled more precisely, so it may work better in border areas, where the signal needs to reach as close to the border as possible without



Kevin Weedmark

crossing it. SaskTel is in a five year transition to 5G, with a thousand towers to convert.

Sierra and I spoke with Don Morgan, the minister responsible for SaskTel on Thursday, and when the issue was explained to him, he said he would speak to SaskTel officials and see if it would be possible to move border area transmitters up on the list, if that's going to help with coverage right along the border. Just one more example where real reporting makes a difference.

### Federal officials show once again they don't understand how the world works

If you ever get the sense that federal officials in our country don't know what they're talking about, you're not alone.

In an opinion piece recently, Christyn Cianfarani, executive director of the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries, said that while the federal government has called on her industry to ramp up production, it has not provided the equipment orders to do so.

Canada has a large arms industry, from the automatic rifles produced by Colt Canada to the LAVs produced by General Dynamics to the Senator armored vehicles produced in Canada to the ammunition produced by General Dynamic to the AMADS air defence system

Canada has not put in place a framework to ramp up production to meet the demand triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Cianfarani wrote, the industry has heard "vague pleas" from the Liberal government "for companies to get with the program," without any clear sense of which items of equipment are needed and what the long-term expectations might be. That's like the government telling me I should print more newspapers—I print the number I can sell (which, as an aside, is more than we needed to print five years ago, and many more than 10 years ago).

"Canadian defence companies can and would step up if they knew exactly what, and how much, to step up with," she wrote.

Just one more instance where federal officials don't seem to have any idea how the world actually works.

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**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 & 4, 2023**

# THE WORLD-Spectator

Publications Mail Agreement 40011909

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## New Census numbers mean \$25,000 a year more for Moosomin

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK  
New Census numbers for Moosomin mean at least \$25,000 more for Moosomin each year in provincial Revenue Sharing, or \$100,000 before the next census.

The provincial revenue sharing formula for 2022-23 includes \$212.90 per capita based on the 2021 census populations.

That works out to \$24,885.90 more that Moosomin would have received for the current year based on the now official census population of Moosomin, which is 117 people higher than the previous count.

Statistics Canada initially reported that Moosomin had a population of 2,675 in the 2021 census. The World-Spectator investigated and found that the number of households reported in the census were lower than the number of utility bills going out to households.

At the next Moosomin Town Council meeting after the World-Spectator's article, Mayor Larry Tomlinson suggested the town ask Statistics Canada to review the census numbers for Moosomin.

The town followed up with evidence that Statistics Canada's numbers are wrong.

Statistics Canada responded recently with a revised census number that is 4.3 per cent higher for Moosomin than the initial 2021 number.

"Statistics Canada has undertaken a detailed investigation and has confirmed that the population and private dwelling counts were incorrect," Lise Rivais of Statistics Canada wrote.

The count of total private dwellings has been increased from 1,207 to 1,281 and the official census population has been increased from 2,657 to 2,774.

Saskatchewan's Ministry of Government Relations told the World-Spectator it will increase Moosomin's revenue sharing grant in line with the higher population numbers.

"The results of formal Statistics Canada census reviews will be used for future year's Municipal Revenue Sharing calculations (2023-24 and on)," the ministry told the World-Spectator.

The department said it would not revisit the 2022-23 grant despite the fact that it was based on what Statistics Canada now says are incorrect figures.

"The Town of Moosomin's 2022-23 Municipal Revenue Sharing grant will remain unchanged, since it was calculated on the official census count for the town at the time the grant was made," the ministry said. "That funding would remain the same whether the amended census number increased or decreased to avoid potentially clawing back provincial funding."

*Continued on page 3*



Kara Kirna photo

Janlyn Tolentino of Rocanville enjoys a hot dog on a beautiful winter day at Moosomin Regional Park's Winter Wonderland event on Sunday, January 22. Turn to pages 28-29 for more photos.



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Last Tuesday, the Rocanville Thrift Store donated \$10,000 to the Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation in support of funding a CT Scanner for the hospital. **From left are**, volunteers of the thrift store Kim Wahoski, Joyce Surrige, Linda Bock, Marjorie Thompson, Mayor of Rocanville and member of Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation Ron Reed, volunteers for the thrift store Willie Restau, Paul Bunz, and Alma Ducharme, and Wendy Lynd of the Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation.

## Thrift store donates \$10,000 for CT Scanner

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

In support of funding a CT Scanner for the Southeast Integrated Care Centre Moosomin, the Rocanville Thrift Store donated \$10,000 to the Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation last Tuesday.

"We're hoping we can get a CT Scanner in Moosomin, not anywhere else, but in Moosomin," said Linda Bock, volunteer at the Rocanville Thrift Store.

"There isn't a person here

that hasn't had to use a CT Scanner, or their kid or grandchild.

"I've been to Yorkton, Brandon, Estevan, and Regina to get one. They have a perfectly good hospital in Moosomin that we don't utilize at all (for CT Scans). The government doesn't let us."

So far, the foundation has raised close to \$50,000 in support of purchasing a CT Scanner for SEICC.

Wendy Lynd of the Moosomin and District Health Foundation said they will

start actively fundraising for the CT Scanner as soon as they get government approval.

"It's surprising the range of people that come to Moosomin's hospital," Ron Reed added. Reed is the mayor of Rocanville and member of the health foundation.

"The support is coming from all of the communities, the government seems to be the hold up right now.

"Even if we got enough personal or corporate dona-

tions to pay for it completely, it's still going into a SHA facility so they will have to sign off on it."

The foundation is hoping to hear some good news, about the project, from the Government of Saskatchewan.

"We're hoping in February to have another meeting with the health minister," said Lynd.

"Hopefully from that, we'll get some direction, and time lines, is what we would like."

## New Census numbers mean \$25,000 a year more for Moosomin

Continued from front

The 2023-24 Municipal Revenue Sharing estimates will be announced as part of the provincial budget in March.

The ministry told the World-Spectator it is asking municipalities to request a formal review of their census numbers if they feel there is an issue.

"The Government of Saskatchewan Municipal Revenue Sharing website reminds municipalities to request a formal review of their census numbers, if they believe an error occurred, and that the results of any formal reviews will

be used for future years' Municipal Revenue Sharing calculations," the ministry said.

### Esterhazy numbers to be reviewed

While the review of Moosomin's numbers has been completed and the census number revised, Statistics Canada will be reviewing Esterhazy's census number as well.

"Statistics Canada will first review our internal database, but may subsequently request additional documentation to help

substantiate the error in the form of administrative records (e.g. assessment records, utility records, customer addresses, build-

ing permits, election lists or recent census counts)," Darrick Cheuk of Statistics Canada wrote to the town of Esterhazy.

### Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency

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# THE WORLD-Spectator



**Kevin Weedmark**  
Editor  
and Publisher

Issued every Monday by McKay Publications Ltd., a subsidiary of Weedmark Communications Ltd., from the office, 714 Main Street, Moosomin, Sask.

We welcome your comments. Write to Box 250, Moosomin, Sask. S0G 3N0, call (306) 435-2445, fax (306) 435-3969, or email world\_spectator@sasktel.net

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## In our opinion:

# If we don't get energy transition right, we're screwed

Have you heard about Canada's unjust energy transition?

Better pay attention: it's unfolding before your very eyes.

The unjust transition will cost people jobs, create new and more insidious types of energy poverty, and accelerate negative environmental impact—the very opposite effects of what the putative notion of a just transition is intended to achieve.

We're in an alarmingly unjust phase of energy transition now for many reasons but looming large among them is the petty politicking between Alberta and Ottawa. It's dressed up in sovereignty sound-bite feel-good platitudes and the like, but in reality, it's a semantical tug-of-war between the uber-woke and the uber-unwoke. It's not about finding common ground at all; it's about a startling amalgam of profound myopia exacerbated by ideological dogmatism.

Meanwhile, Canadians who occupy some sane middle ground between those two polarizing extremes are being shortchanged out of direct involvement in what is the single largest collaboration challenge of their lifetimes.

It's also the single largest economic opportunity ever—one that will continue to roll over decades—if it's led and managed correctly and maturely.

In a nutshell, if we don't get energy transition right—as a Canadian collective—to be colloquial, we're screwed six ways to Sunday.

And it's all because politicians want us to believe in their overwrought faux earnestness about the importance of people and their energy lives.

Talk about fiddling while Canada combusts.

If Canadians are to "get" energy transition, we must figure out how to move beyond "just" and "transition" as words of mass destruction and reimagine them as words of mass (and collaborative) construction.

We won't get there with Alberta Premier Danielle Smith and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau poking at each other about things neither really understands well enough to make a difference; their general ignorance about the nuts and bolts of transition makes them more dangerous than useful to the cause. An energy-illiterate media compounds the rancour and animosity and plays a major role in fanning the flames of adversity.

It's common in "oil and gas" these days to hear the rallying cry: "We have to change the narrative." That belies a fundamental ignorance about what narratives are and how they're built. Nobody gets to construct a narrative; rather, narratives are self-forming phenomena generated from discourses—how people talk about things and make their meaning about them shape perceptions that politicians all too often misinterpret as mandates.

Right now, the energy transition discourse is reeling and caroming around society like a drunken sailor, thanks to political jousting.

So, here's a sanity solution: find someone who knows a little bit about discursive change and invite them to the party.

Take an organization that sits and thinks right in that middle ground, one which is sufficiently pragmatic, but simultaneously just a tiny bit woke. An organization whose ethos is all about constructively radicalizing that middle ground to engineer an approach to our energy future in which all Canadians can see themselves making a difference.

Come on down Energy Futures Lab.

The Energy Futures Lab is a social innovation lab built around the passions, talent and experience of about 45 women and men bound together by a common set of values and visions. It has just announced its new fellowship cohort, which now includes bright and creative minds like Marie Sereneo and David Ghoris. They're ready for the challenge.

Then take a brilliantly perspicacious individual with no dog in the Canadian energy transition fight; someone who can dispassionately but authoritatively advise Canadians about their energy transition conduct in a global leadership context.

Come on down Tisha Schuller of Adamantine Energy.

Schuller is an energy-transition thought leader in every sense of the term. Her firm, U.S.-based Adamantine, is all about shifting perspectives on the processes we need to ensure a successful—and de-risked—transition. Schuller herself thrives on deconstructing—and then reconstructing—the paradoxical idea that two seemingly opposing notions can both be simultaneously true.

Here are two things that are both true: the world will be using fossil fuels and their product derivatives for decades to come. But the terms and conditions of those various uses will be fundamentally different than they are even today—and that includes oil and gas becoming increasingly integrated and interlocked within a system-of-systems approach to energy supply.

If the Alberta premier and Canadian prime minister were authentically invested enough in getting transition right, they might invite the Energy Futures Lab and Adamantine Energy teams together on this premise: Create a multi-dimensional transition framework that accounts for all the things we ought to worry about, including but not limited to: An ever-healing environment, Indigenous reconciliation, Future employment and skills development, Clean technology innovation, Global sustainability leadership, Energy prosperity and economic stability, Regulatory tools that protect environmental integrity while supporting economic competitiveness, Well-defined milestones and related objectives by critical timelines out to 2050 and beyond, Perhaps most important: A guide to energy transition civics and literacy that helps ordinary Canadians step up, be heard, be seen and be active.

Political posturing and ad hominem attacks will do nothing to advance these dynamics, so politicians ought to just get out of the way of doing "just" the right way.

The power of conjoining EFL and Adamantine perspectives rests in a pragmatism inspired by a passion for change and an ethos for effectiveness—apolitically.

Indeed, their collaboration might also produce another semantical shift: one that transforms "just" from a fuzzy, poorly defined adjective into an active and inspiring verb—a variation on the Nike theme: JUST DO IT.

That's something Canadians can countenance.

Bill Whitelaw is the Managing Director of Strategy & Sustainability with Geologic Systems.



IS EVERYBODY WORKING  
ON THE SAME PICTURE?

## Moosomin Census numbers don't add up

As Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson was speaking at the Chamber of Commerce meeting last week about the town's fight to correct the 2021 Census numbers, one woman said neither she nor anyone on the block was counted in the census.

"Neither was I," said the mayor. Case closed. Definitely people were missed.

Stats Canada admits that and is changing the numbers, adding 4.3 per cent to Moosomin's official count.

That's a start, but the official count is still low. And the more you look at the census numbers for Moosomin, the stranger they look.

The Census counts 280 Filipinos in the town of Moosomin under visible minorities, but it says only 160 people in Moosomin have a Filipino ethnic or cultural origin. Under visible minorities, the census lists 335 people as being part of a visible minority, but other than the 280 Filipinos, it lists zero under every other possible category. It says there are zero Koreans in Moosomin, zero South Asians, zero Southeast Asians, zero Central Americans. Anyone who has ever been to Moosomin can tell you that all of those are wrong.

According to the census there are only 20 people in Moosomin who speak Spanish, but I would swear our Honduran, Mexican and Cuban population is higher than that. But of the 20, Stats Can says ten are men and five are women.

The initial census numbers before the revision show 750 children in the community, precisely half of whom are boys and precisely half of whom are girls, 375 each. Strange that it would be exactly half, that looks like a formula has been applied, not an actual count, but I will concede that it's possible although extremely statistically unlikely. There is not a single grade at McNaughton High School today with the same number of boys as girls, and staff there say they can't remember there ever, ever being the exact same number of boys and girls in a single grade. At MacLeod Elementary School, of the 13 classrooms, one has the exact same number of boys and girls.

According to the census, 620 of those children are in two-parent families. Again, precisely half, 310, are boys and precisely half, 310 are girls. The statistical chances of that being accurate are astronomically low.

According to the census 125 children are in single-parent families. The number of boys and girls is identical, at 65 each, but add the two and you get 130, not the 125 total reported, and add the 125 to the 620 and you are a little short of the total of 750 children counted.

According to the census there were zero people 100 or over in Moosomin in May of 2021. I know that to be false. Looking at the Sask Health covered population numbers for June of 2021, I see one male at the age of 100. I know that to be true, and I know who that was. It shows one female at 101 and one female at 104. In a small town we all know those to be accurate because we know those people. Once again, Stats Can is simply wrong.

Those individuals who I can identify from the Saskatchewan Health numbers are among the 3,236 people that Saskatchewan Health covered who had a Moosomin address in 2021, a figure that had risen to 3,303 by June of 2022.

According to the census, there are 25 people in Moosomin whose first language is French, 10 of whom are men and 20 of whom are women.

If those numbers seem impossible, the census has another mind-bending factoid: there are zero people in Moosomin whose first language is a First Nations lan-



Kevin Weedmark

guage, and five of the zero are men.

In one section, the census says only 150 people in Moosomin work in natural resource extraction (mining and oil) and agriculture, and all fields related to those industries.

But in the next section it says 130 work directly in mining and oil, and 75 work directly in agriculture, so 205 people work right in the mines, the oilfield or on farms, but only 150 work in those industries and everything related to them. Wow. This is the Twilight Zone of censuses.

According to the original census numbers for Moosomin there are 60 Baptists in Moosomin, only 10 of whom are male and 45 of whom are female. Pastor Jonathan Shierman laughed when I told him there are 10 male Baptists in Moosomin—he gets many more than that at his Men's Bible Study. Let alone at church on Sunday.

Now what I want to see is what attributes Statistics Canada applies to the 117 people it is guessing live in the 74 households it admits it missed. What religion, language and income will it apply to them to make the numbers add up? Perhaps it will add some to the Anabaptist (Hutterite or Mennonite) column. According to the census there are 10 of them in Moosomin, but zero of them are men and zero of them are women.

Statistics Canada used to know how to conduct a census, as government agencies have done very accurately for hundreds of years.

Censuses used to be accurate. I can look up the 1911 Census of Ireland and see one of my grandmothers listed, Rebecca Crumley, nine and a half years old, able to read and write at that point, a member of the Church of Ireland, and listed with her eight siblings and parents. At age nine and a half her occupation was listed as "scholar" along with the other school-age children.

I can see in the census which house they lived in, in Moross, Rossnaskill, County Donegal. I can see that they had quite a few outbuildings on their farm, with a stable, a barn, a 'cow house' and a separate 'calf house', a piggery, a 'fowl house', a 'potato house', granaries, and sheds. And I can look at the 1901 Irish census and see the family at that point, and know that it is all correct, and I can see the family in the 1916 and 1921 Canadian censuses once they came to this country.

Somehow they were able to count people accurately in 1901 in rural Ireland, and in 2023 Statistics Canada appears to not have that ability at all. I can see a glimpse of reality in those Irish census numbers. And, as much as Saskatchewan Health says its count of active health cards is not a census and cannot be used as such, I see reality in those numbers. I know that 100 year old man they reported. We took a picture at his 100th birthday, and his 101st. I know those other Centenarians in Moosomin.

But Stats Can says there is no one in that age group in Moosomin.

I do not see Moosomin's reality reflected in StatsCan's numbers. I see an impossible mishmash of numbers that just don't add up.

# Kitchen disappointed in census process

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Souris-Moose Mountain MP Dr. Robert Kitchen says he is disappointed in the fact the Statistics Canada undercounted several communities in the region in the 2021 census and is hoping that in the case of Moosomin, where StatsCan admitted it made an error and added 117 people to the official count, the agency is willing to look at the numbers again as the town council still feels the numbers are low.

"It is disappointing to see what happened, in particular what I'm hearing from basically my eastern side of the riding," he said.

"These numbers don't seem to be anywhere close to what the local towns and RMs are reporting."

Kitchen said he is trying to get StatsCan to look at the Moosomin numbers again.

"Based on the letter that I received and got a copy of from Stats Canada, it says that if there's concerns, they can go and contact this certain individual, but they've already responded and basically that letter is saying no, they aren't making any more changes."

"But when you look at how they were able to identify that there were 74 homes that weren't found and 117 people. So if you're able to do that, what work did you even do to come up with those numbers? That's part of my questioning."

"It is concerning, I can tell you that I've just signed a letter that I'm sending to Minister Champagne. So I've drafted that, it's



SOURIS-MOOSE MOUNTAIN MP ROBERT KITCHEN

signed and will be sent off today to the minister asking him a) if they are aware of this, b) are they aware of it happening in other places and c) are there avenues for which they'll be able to look at this and provide assurances to the Town of Moosomin in particular, that it's not going to negatively impact them—because the impact is quite significant."

He said he believes the problem may be widespread.

"I think in a lot of cases people haven't looked into it and I am worried about those numbers and how accurate they are because it does bring question to it."

"The article that you wrote for The World-Spectator, I thought it was fantastic because it talks about how we know this. We know in Moosomin how many people are over

100 years of age and the fact that the census says there aren't any—it's like hello, what were you doing? How can you miss that?"

"We know these aspects, why is it they are missing them, what sort of survey are they doing? One would like to think that they're hiring local people to do it so that those people that they've hired would have some understanding in their rationale and in their training. I don't know because I haven't been involved in it, but it is definitely something of concern."

Kitchen said he believes towns and RMs should check their household counts against the census counts of private dwellings.

"Having those accurate numbers, to me, would be helpful when you're appealing something. You can say here are accurate

numbers as of such and such a date. To me there is no better proof than to have that aspect of it."

"The question is, and part of my request from the minister, is to look at the policies that are there and decide do they need to be changed so that they have a better reflection of that."

He said he is hoping there will be a response from the minister responsible for Statistics Canada since the town of Moosomin still feels the census count is incorrect for Moosomin.

"I am hopeful that I'll hear something back from the minister. Whether it'll be a positive response will be another question but I do anticipate that we will get some form of response from the minister," he said.

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# THE WORLD-Spectator



**Kevin  
Weedmark  
Editor  
and Publisher**

Issued every Monday by McKay Publications Ltd., a subsidiary of Weedmark Communications Ltd., from the office, 714 Main Street, Moosomin, Sask.

We welcome your comments. Write to Box 250, Moosomin, Sask. S0G 3N0, call (306) 435-2445, fax (306) 435-3969, or email world\_spectator@sasktel.net

Member of  
**NMC, SWNA and CMCA**  
Publications Mail Agreement No. 40011909

In our opinion:

## Federal government's tax hikes will hurt the middle class in 2023

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised to govern for "the middle class and those working hard to join it." Canadians can be forgiven if we feel he's forgotten that promise.

Whether it's the nurse working at the hospital, the mom who commutes to work each day or the newcomers to Canada who opened a small business, middle-class Canadians will feel the pain of Trudeau's five tax hikes in 2023.

A worker making above \$66,600 will be forced to pay an extra \$255 through the mandatory Canada Pension Plan tax this year. That worker will also have to pay an extra \$50 through the Employment Insurance tax.

The total payroll tax bill for a nurse making more than \$66,600 will be \$4,756 in 2023. That's a lot of money, and it could otherwise cover nine months of payments on the SUV she needs to drive to work at the hospital.

Every business owner will also have to fork over \$5,157 in payroll taxes for each middle-class worker they employ. That's enough to give that worker an eight per cent raise. Or, it's enough money to give the college-aged son who works at the family business after school a nice year-end bonus.

Trudeau is also raising the carbon tax to 14 cents per litre of gas on April 1, 2023. The government claims that "families are going to be better off" with its carbon tax and rebates.

But that math doesn't add up. How is the government going to tax everyone, then skim some off the top to pay for 330 new carbon tax bureaucrats and still make everyone better off? The Parliamentary Budget Officer shows the carbon tax will cost the average family between \$402 and \$847 in 2023 even after the rebates.

Even if you did receive more back in rebates, that would mean someone else would need to get less. Who are you taking money from? Maybe it's the mom who moved to Port Hope to raise her kids but still commutes to Richmond Hill and back for work.

Trudeau is also imposing a second carbon tax through fuel regulations next year.

The government's number crunchers say "lower and middle-income" Canadians will feel the most pain from the second carbon tax as fuel prices rise. That includes "households currently experiencing energy poverty," such as "single mothers" and "seniors living on fixed incomes."

By 2030, Trudeau's two carbon taxes could add 50 cents per litre to the price of gasoline.

You could be forgiven if all these tax hikes drive you to drink.

Maybe you had a tough week at work. The kids could be driving you nuts, or maybe you just need a little extra holiday cheer to get through dinner with the in-laws. But when you pick up the case of Keith's, a bottle of Pinot or mickey of rum, Trudeau will be taking an extra 6.3 per cent from you through his alcohol tax hikes.

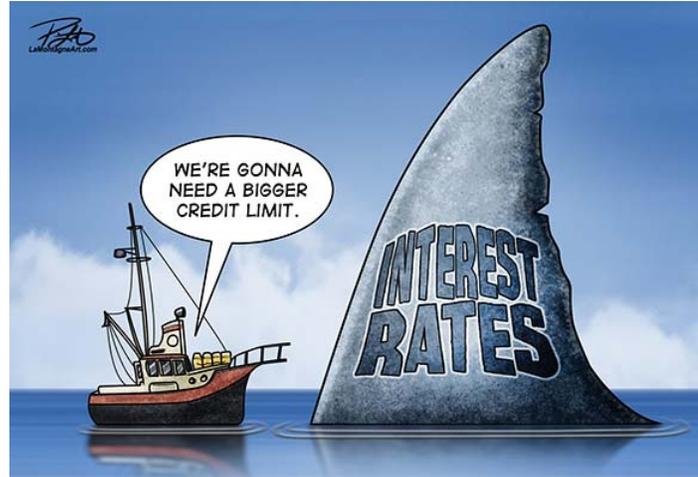
These tax hikes have consequences for real people. And the more Trudeau spends, the more he needs to take.

But is the nurse's life better when the government gives \$295 million to the Ford Motor Company? Is the working mom's life less stressful when the governor general spends more than \$1 million on a week-long trip to the Middle East? Does the small business benefit when the CBC hands out \$51 million in bonuses and raises during a pandemic?

Here's the simple truth: hard-working Canadians, middle class and not, are paying too much tax because the government wastes too much money.

*This editorial was written by Franco Terrazzano, the Federal Director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.*

Let us know what YOU think!  
send your letters to the editor  
to world\_spectator@sasktel.net



## Stats Can initial census number for Moosomin absolutely impossible

I came to Moosomin in 1988. It was a much smaller, much quieter town back then.

The Trans-Canada Highway was a two-lane highway that came through town where Park Avenue now is.

The Classic Inn, now the Country Squire, was the largest and most modern hotel in town. There was no development north of what was then the highway, now Park Avenue. No Flaman's, no department of highways site, no Red Barn and Dano's (the Red Barn was a smaller burger restaurant on the old highway at the time), no A&W, no Dairy Queen, no Ezzo Strip Mall, no Canalta Hotel, no Best Western, no Motel 6, no big new Celebration Ford on the highway, no massive Co-op gas bar, no Tim Hortons. There was nothing like the development north on Highway 8, no IJACK, no Moosomin Dodge, just much smaller John Deere and New Holland dealerships than are out there now.

Heritage Place was not developed yet. There were no houses on the west side of Cook Road on the south end of town. There was no Pipestone Villas. There was no Kin Place. There was little development on Dorchester Place. There was no Hussein Drive, and no houses on the east side of Cook Road west of Hussein Drive. There was no Windsor Condos. There were no houses along Wright Road. There were no three storey condo buildings on Main Street. There was no Eastside Suites. On West Broadway there was a large open space which is now filled with fourplexes and duplexes.

Moosomin was a much smaller place back then. It has developed entire new subdivisions since that time and has grown steadily. Anyone can see that. Over the years Moosomin has seen hundreds of newcomers come from the Philippines, Honduras, Korea, South Africa . . . we even had an influx of people from New Brunswick when the Nutrien mine in New Brunswick closed and people moved here to work at the Rocanville mine.

And yet Stats Can says there were 2,557 people in Moosomin in 1986, a couple of years before I got here in 1988, when this was a small, quiet town, and their initial count for 2021 was 2,657.

They counted 100 more people in 35 years. That is not true. That is not accurate. That is not possible. The 2021 census figures for Moosomin were pure fiction.

Statistics Canada admitted that and added 117 people to the count. That's still wrong. It's still a fiction. The Statistics Canada count and the Saskatchewan Health Covered Population numbers for Moosomin have been steadily diverging, with Saskatchewan Health saying there are 3,303 active health cards belonging to people in Moosomin as of last June, while StatsCan initially counted 2,657 in the 2021 census—646 fewer than the Health Card count and only 100 more than what was a much smaller town of Moosomin 35 years ago. Now



Kevin Weedmark

StatsCan says there were 2,774 people in Moosomin in May of 2021, still 529 less than the number of active health cards.

But as an indication of how important those census numbers are, the small concession StatsCan made to Moosomin means an additional \$100,000 or so in Revenue Sharing for the town before the next census.

A bit of advice for the town of Moosomin and every other community in the area. Keep track of new households coming online. Moosomin will have 42 new housing units with Cobblestone House this year, another 24 with the apartments planned by Keller Developments. That and a couple of houses under construction is close to the 70 households StatsCan said it missed last time—and that's new households coming online within a year. The town should keep a count of new households from the time of the last census in May of 2021 until the next census in 2026 so it can check the census household numbers in the next census against what it knows to have been added.

Also, local communities should be planning campaigns during the next census to let people know how important it is to fill out their census.

While the census could be filled out online in 2021, it couldn't be filled out without a specific code for the household, either dropped off or mailed to each household. There was an obvious problem in Moosomin where many, many households did not receive a code.

Knowing how important it is to have an accurate count, local communities should promote the census ahead of time and engage volunteer groups in going door to door to ask people if they filled out their census and help them get a household code if they didn't receive one from Stats Can.

Like much in the world today, a lot of effort is spent trying to fix problems when someone simply didn't do their job.

I wouldn't be writing this now, you wouldn't be reading this now, I and town council and town employees and our MP wouldn't all be spending time trying to get the census numbers corrected if Statistics Canada has simply done its job and done the 2021 census correctly.

Local communities may have to take a proactive approach to the 2026 census to ensure that people are properly counted, and to ensure that the census captures the reality of growth in our region.

# StatsCan not opposed to reviewing Moosomin census again

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

With the Town of Moosomin saying the revised numbers for Moosomin's 2021 census by Statistics Canada as inaccurate and requesting a further review, StatsCan stated they are open to taking another look, based on the information provided by the town.

"The town can provide additional information and data, and explain their concerns in detail. Statistics Canada will examine any additional evidence provided by the town closely and will reopen the case if required. The town will be informed of the outcome," said Anne-Marie Rollin, Manager of the 2021 Census of Population Certification Task.

Back when the 2021 census numbers were released, StatsCan reported that Moosomin had a population of 2,675. The World-Spectator investigated and found that the number of households reported in the census was lower than the number of utility bills going out to households.

After seeing the discrepancy, Moosomin's town council contacted StatsCan requesting a formal review for the town's census numbers, and provided information that supported having a higher population then reported in the 2021 census.

In early January, the town received a revised census number from StatsCan that was 4.3 per cent higher for Moosomin than the initial 2021 number.

The revised census numbers of total private dwellings increased from 1,207 to 1,281 and the official census population increased from 2,657 to 2,774.

Yet, the town employees believe Moosomin's population to be closer to the 3,000 mark, due to 3,236 people having a Moosomin address under Saskatchewan Health in 2021.

StatsCan provided an explanation of how they conducted their multi-step investigation process for Moosomin's revised census numbers that showed a population of 2,774.

"Statistics Canada was requested by the Town of Moosomin to undertake a formal review of the population and private dwelling counts from the 2021 Census. The policy on response to formal review requests of 2021 Census population and dwelling counts is posted on the Statistics Canada website," Rollin stated.

"First, the boundaries of the town were verified to confirm that the census used the correct boundaries when enumerating the dwellings and population for Moosomin. Then, the census enumeration records were examined, street by street, for each part of the town and the surrounding areas to ensure that all dwellings identified as being within the boundaries of the town were correctly counted there.

"The dwellings identified as unoccupied or occupied by foreign or temporary residents were reviewed to ensure that the correct follow-up actions were taken to confirm their status. In addition, addresses listed in the 2021 Census data were compared with addresses listed in the 2016 Census and dwellings that were not included in 2021 were verified and added if still existing as residential dwellings.

"Statistics Canada has a process to determine the occupancy status and number of usual residents for dwellings where no questionnaires were completed, so this process was then implemented for the dwellings identified as

missed."

Based on the people who move into town for work, StatsCan was asked if there's a time limit for how they determine who a temporary resident is.

"There is no time limit to determine if someone is an usual resident or a temporary resident at a particular address," said Rollin.

"On the 2021 Census questionnaire distributed to each dwelling, the instructions ask respondents to include all individuals who have their main residence at this address, even if they are temporarily away. For spouses or common-law partners temporarily away who stay elsewhere while working or studying, instructions mention that they 'should be listed at the main residence of their family, if they return periodically'."

"In the case of Moosomin, workers who do not have another residence elsewhere were enumerated in the town, whereas workers with a main residence elsewhere were enumerated at that location if they return periodically."

With no questionnaires provided to residents in Moosomin to determine the occupancy status during its formal review, StatsCan further explained the approach they took for determining if a resident lived in Moosomin in 2021.

"When no census questionnaire is received from a dwelling after the non-response follow-up operations, the dwelling is considered a non-response dwelling and is subject to Whole Household Imputation (WHI) which resolves census total non-response," Rollin said.

"Results from the Dwelling Classification Survey (DCS) are used to first establish the number of non-response dwellings that are occupied, ensuring the rate of occupancy equals the DCS estimate for the region.

"Once a private non-response dwelling is imputed as occupied, a procedure is then used to impute the number of usual residents, based on the household size distribution of occupied private dwellings from the DCS estimate for the region."

Detailed information on the DCS and WHI is provided

in the Coverage Technical Report, Census of Population, 2016 (statcan.gc.ca).

## Request for further investigation

With members of the community stating that the re-counted numbers for Moosomin's 2021 census is still inaccurate, Stats Can was asked how they know their revised figure is correct.

"Statistics Canada undertakes a number of quality control steps prior to, during and post collection to identify and correct potential errors. Despite best efforts, occasionally errors may occur, due to factors such as boundary or dwelling misclassifications, or missed or misallocated dwellings," said Rollin.

"To address concerns about errors in census results, Statistics Canada has a well-established process to review cases as they are brought forward. Requests for reviews of population and dwelling counts are a normal part of the census process and when errors are confirmed, the counts are revised accordingly.

"Statistics Canada undertook a formal review of the 2021 Census counts for Moosomin, as described in the steps above, and identified that a small number of private dwellings had been missed in the enumeration of the town. The population and private dwelling counts have been adjusted to correct that error and the town was notified of the final results."

Considering the census is completed every five years, and it being the main factor for determining how much funding municipalities and cities receive, the Town of Moosomin will continue to follow up with StatsCan in hope of receiving another formal review.

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Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Village of Spy Hill for the year 2023 has been prepared and is open to inspection at the office of the Assessor, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday, Thursday and Friday, excluding statutory holidays. The Assessment roll is open from February 10, 2023 to March 13, 2023.

A bylaw pursuant to Section 214 of The Municipalities Act has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required. Any person who wishes to appeal against his/her assessment is required to file his/her notice of appeal with:

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Box 69, 205 Main Street,  
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by March 13, 2023

Dated this 10th day of February, 2023.

Susan Gawryluk  
ASSESSOR - VILLAGE OF SPY HILL

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Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office - 602 Main Street, Moosomin, Saskatchewan.

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.

Cheryl Barrett  
Returning Officer

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# THE WORLD-Spectator

Publications Mail Agreement 40011909 Saskatchewan's first community newspaper • Published weekly since 1884



Kara Kinna photo

## Rangers, Rockets to meet in Big Six final

The Moosomin Rangers scored their way to a 7-2 victory over the Bienfait Coalers on Wednesday night in Moosomin, to win the Big Six Hockey League semifinal and move on to the final against the Redvers Rockets. The semifinal series was tied 2-2 going into Wednesday's game in Moosomin, with two of the games ending in overtime. After establishing a lead over the Coalers in the first period, the Rangers didn't look back on Wednesday, and continued to score their way to a solid victory. At right is Big Six League Top Scorer, Bud Holloway, in action for the Rangers on Wednesday. Holloway scored three goals, and had three assists in the game on Wednesday. He ended the regular season with 76 points, including 37 goals and 39 assists. In playoffs, he has 7 goals and 21 assists so far, for 28 points.

## Moosomin asks Statistics Canada to review census numbers again, in light of World-Spectator reporting

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The town of Moosomin is asking Statistics Canada, which has already revised Moosomin's 2021 census population upward by 4.3 per cent, to take a look at the number again.

The town sent a letter to StatsCan in early March thanking them for revising the number upward once, but asking for another look in light of reporting by the World-Spectator. Statistics Canada responded saying it "will review the additional informa-

tion provided with the Census review team and provide further response."

"Council does appreciate the January 17 email from Statistics Canada indicating that the Published and Revised Counts for 2021 has resulted in an increase in popula-

tion from 2,657 to 2,774," the town wrote. "However at their regular meeting of February 8, 2023, Council further discussed this matter and still believe the census count is in error."

*Continued on page 5*

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# Moosomin asks Statistics Canada to review census numbers again, in light of World-Spectator reporting

Continued from front

"In reviewing the facts uncovered by the World-Spectator and the Plain and Valley newspapers, there are many inaccuracies that have been identified in the census reporting, and council feel that another review is warranted even so far as to perform another physical recount," the town said in its letter.

"Therefore, council does respectfully request that Statistics Canada review the attached portions of the newspapers to respond to the inaccuracies identified, and advise if another physical count will indeed be undertaken."

When the 2021 census numbers were released in early 2022, the World-Spectator investigated as Moosomin had gone from the highest growth rate in rural Saskatchewan between the 2011 and 2016 censuses to losing population over the next five years before the 2021 census.

The World-Spectator heard from multiple readers who said they had not been included in the census.

One resident of a Moosomin seniors' residence said no one in the residence received the household codes needed to fill out the census, even though they contact Statistics Canada several times about the error, and were told they would receive codes, but they never did.

The World-Spectator compared the number of households reported by Statistics Canada with the number of households shown by utility connections in Moosomin and other local communities.

In 100 per cent of the communities examined, Statistics Canada had incorrect and low numbers of households, off by as much as 34 per cent from known household numbers.

In addition to an incorrect number of households, the census showed large numbers of vacant homes in local communities, hundreds in some cases and almost 300 in the case of Esterhazy.

Following that reporting in early 2022, council asked for the number to be reviewed.

The town followed up with Statistics Canada over several months.

Earlier this year, Statistics Canada reviewed the numbers, and concluded that it was in error.



An aerial picture of Moosomin taken by Kevin Weedmark.

It increased Moosomin's official population upward by 4.3 per cent, which will mean \$100,000 more for Moosomin in provincial revenue sharing alone.

Since then, more people have come forward and said that they and their neighbors were never counted in the 2021 census. At the January meeting of the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce, a resident mentioned they had never been included in the census and no one on their block had been. "Neither was I," said Mayor Larry Tomlinson, who lives a couple of blocks away.

The World-Spectator looked further into the 2021 numbers and found for example:

- The 2021 census shows zero people 100 and over in Moosomin, while the Sask Health numbers show three as of 2021. Those three people are known to a lot of Moosomin residents.

- The census showed 280 Filipinos in Moosomin under visible minorities, and zero under any other category, (no Koreans, no Hondurans, no south Asians) but a total of 335 visible minorities. But is also reported only 160 people with a Filipino ethnic background.

- Stats Can showed Moosomin with 2,557 people in Moosomin in 1986, 35 years ago, when entire sections of town were undeveloped, when there were no condos and fewer apartments. And its initial figures for 2021 showed 2,657, an increase of 100 people in 35 years. Over those years, the Stats Canada figure started deviating from the

health counts more and more. As the town grew, that was reflected in the health counts but not the StatsCan counts. The initial 2021 count was 646 people or 19.5 per cent less than the health card count.

**Moosomin & District  
REGIONAL PARK**

**Lease available for Lake Store**

The Moosomin & District Regional Park Authority is looking for someone to lease and operate the Lake Store/Kitchen for the months of May, June, July, August and September.

This Lease will start May 1, 2023. Those who are interested in this opportunity must reply by March 24, 2023 to PO Box 1044 Moosomin, SK S0G 3N0 with their proposal.

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**Kevin Weedmark**  
Editor  
and Publisher

Issued every Monday by McKay Publications Ltd., a subsidiary of Weedmark Communications Ltd., from the office, 714 Main Street, Moosomin, Sask.

We welcome your comments. Write to Box 250, Moosomin, Sask. S0G 3N0, call (306) 435-2445, fax (306) 435-3969, or email world\_spectator@sasktel.net

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## In our opinion:

# Get ready for yet another increase in alcohol taxes

Taxes alone account for around 50 per cent of the price of beer, 65 per cent of the price of wine, and 75 per cent of the price of spirits

Everything is more expensive these days at the grocery store. We've also seen increases at the liquor store, or wherever you purchase your favourite alcoholic beverages. Well, these products are about to get more expensive yet again.

In 2017, the federal government had the brilliant idea of indexing taxes on alcoholic beverages to align with inflation. It's called an escalator tax on alcohol. The idea was to make hikes more predictable, but without any parliamentary oversight or consideration for changing market conditions. Despite concerns registered by our alcohol industry, Ottawa marched on.

Before the pandemic, inflation was not as significant an issue as now. Few noticed that taxes on alcohol increase every year. But the shock will hit us this year due to our very high inflation rate. So in a few weeks from now, on April 1, that tax will increase by 6.3 per cent, making it the highest increase ever. Canadians will have to pay an additional \$125 million in taxes per year, starting April 1, when buying beer, wine and/or spirits.

Canada already has the highest alcohol taxes amongst G7 countries. In fact, taxes alone account for around 50 per cent of the price of beer, 65 per cent of the price of wine, and 75 per cent of the price of spirits.

We have seen five consecutive hikes since the escalator clause was implemented in 2017, which allowed Canada to surpass Japan with the highest tax rate on alcohol in the industrialized world. For anti-alcohol advocates, this may be seen as encouraging news. Making alcohol more financially prohibitive will get consumers to drink less. It makes perfect sense from a public health perspective, which is clearly what Ottawa is going after. Fiscal measures impacting alcohol consumption are nothing new, but Canada is now reaching a point where an entire industry can be negatively affected by our government's thirst for more tax dollars, no pun intended.

The market size for Canadian breweries will exceed \$7.5 billion by the end of this year. Over 17,000 people work in the beer industry alone. We now have more than 1,200 breweries and microbreweries in the country, and many are operated by craft brewers employing just a handful of employees. The wine industry contributes almost \$12 billion to our economy at present. And, of course, we have restaurants, pubs, and bars, which all rely on alcohol sales to make a living.

The food service industry is already hurting. According to Restaurant Canada, in 2022, in many provinces, for every restaurant opening, two establishments closed. And that trend is likely to continue into 2023. As a result, the ripple effect of increased prices on the alcoholic beverage industry is clearly measurable. Across Canada, beer sales are down 3.6 per cent over the last 12 months, according to Beer Canada.

Liquor boards will also be impacted by the tax increase. Gross profits for all liquor authorities and government revenue from sales of alcoholic beverages across the country now reach almost \$10 billion per year, according to Statistics Canada. These sales are helping provinces fund hospitals, schools, roads, and other infrastructure they need to maintain.

We learned from similar increases in tobacco tax that higher prices might lead to an increase in illicit activities as consumers seek cheaper alternatives.

For alcohol, this means bootlegging and smuggling, which can negatively affect public health and safety, as illicitly produced alcohol may be of lower quality and pose greater risks to consumers. This is not the road we want to take, especially right now.

Some maintain the escalator tax, which few Canadians know about, is undemocratic because of the lack of parliamentary oversight. Perhaps, but there is no denying that the escalator tax will eventually make all legal alcohol products in Canada less affordable.

It may be time for Parliament to step in and investigate the escalator tax and see whether it should be capped or at least a ceiling clause of some sort set when inflation reaches a certain level.

Ottawa, after all, has already benefited from inflation: the federal government's deficit has melted away to about \$4 billion in the last eight months. Ottawa doesn't need more revenue from "sin taxes."

Ottawa should protect our agri-food industry as much as possible by making it attractive to investors while offering high-quality, decently-priced food and beverage products to Canadian taxpayers.

Or else, with higher taxes, many companies will flee Canada, eliminating options and reducing competition, thus pushing prices even higher.

*This editorial was written by Dr. Sylvain Charlebois, senior director of the agri-food analytics lab and a professor in food distribution and policy at Dalhousie University.*



## How things should work

Sometimes, things work like they should. The case of Moosomin's census numbers is one of those cases.

When the census numbers first came out, I thought the numbers looked wrong. Moosomin had gone from the highest growth rate in rural Saskatchewan in the previous census to losing population, although new condos and new houses had been built and occupied. It seemed impossible.

We reported on issues with the census, and people started coming to us with their stories. We had a resident of a local seniors' residence saying no one in the residence received the household codes needed to fill out the census, even though they contact Statistics Canada several times about it. We compared the number of households reported by Statistics Canada with the number of households we know to exist in Moosomin and other local communities because of utility hookups. We found that, in 100 per cent of the communities we looked at, Statistics Canada had incorrect and low numbers of households, off by as much as 34 per cent. On top of that, we found that StatsCan reported ridiculously large numbers of vacant homes in local communities—about 300 in the case of Esterhazy.

We did our job in reporting the facts, and that led to questions about the accuracy of the census numbers for local communities.

Then the town of Moosomin did their job. The council discussed the reporting, and the administration wrote to Statistics Canada to ask them to review their figures. And the town followed up to ensure that Statistics Canada would respond.

Statistics Canada did its job, reviewed the numbers, and concluded that it was in error. It adjusted Moosomin's official population upward by 4.3 per cent, a move that will mean \$100,000 more for Moosomin in provincial revenue sharing alone.

So that's how things work when everyone does their job—things get fixed.

We are now on to round two.

The town wrote to Stats Canada after the first revision to say it is still not happy with the census number. In its response, Statistics Canada first of all provided false information, claiming that Saskatchewan Health population figures, which are substantially higher for Moosomin than StatsCan's figures, are not statistically valid. "The population counts from health records do not refer to a specific reference date as does the 2021 census population, where the reference date was May 11, 2021." That is false. Like any statistic, the health numbers are constantly changing, so of course the annual covered health population numbers are tied to a date, June 30 of each year, so within seven weeks of the census.

Since then, our reporting has found more issues with the census numbers. More people have come forward to say they were missed in the census. We looked closely at the initial 2021 census numbers for Moosomin and found many impossibilities. We pointed out that Stats Can reported zero people over 100 in Moosomin in the 2021 census, while the Sask Health numbers show three as of 2021, and we know that is accurate because we know those people, whose specific ages are reported in the health numbers. The census showed 280 Filipinos in Moosomin under visible minorities, zero under any other category, (no Koreans, no Hondurans, no south Asians) but a total of 335 visible minorities. But it also reported only 160 people with a Filipino ethnic background. That's just an example. There are many



Kevin Weedmark

more impossible numbers in the details of the 2021 census. We also looked at historical census numbers. Stats Can showed Moosomin with 2,557 people in Moosomin in 1986, 35 years ago, when entire sections of town were undeveloped, when there were no condos and fewer apartments. And its initial figures for 2021 showed 2,657, an increase of 100 people in 35 years. Over those years, the Stats Canada figure started deviating from the health counts more and more. As the town grew, that was reflected in the health counts but not the StatsCan counts. The initial 2021 count was 646 people or 19.5 per cent less than the health card count. And as I've said, we know the three people 100 and over in Moosomin who had an active health card in 2021 is an accurate and true number because we know the individuals, and we know that the zero 100 and over reported by StatsCan is false.

The town wrote to StatsCan including all of our reporting on the issue.

In reviewing the facts uncovered by the World-Spectator and the Plain and Valley newspapers, there are many inaccuracies that have been identified in the census reporting, and council feels that another review is warranted, even so far as to perform another physical recount," the town wrote.

StatsCan has written back that it will review the additional information. If things work as they should, StatsCan will do a more thorough review and revise the number even higher and closer to reality.

We at the World-Spectator do the hard work of original reporting every day. When the announcement came out that Saskatchewan would be bringing in \$10 a day daycare, we reached out to local daycares to figure out what the impact would be. While other media simply reported on what the government said in the news release about how good \$10 a day day care would be, we called local daycares and found that all of them said that the new plan would be problematic. With the province of Saskatchewan already reducing daycare costs by 70 per cent, families were paying \$200 a month. Now they would be paying \$217.50. Most of the other media in the province reported the comparison the government used, saying the average family would save money on daycare costs compared to the average cost in March of 2021. Why would the news release go back to 2021 for a comparison? Because daycare cost reductions in the fall of 2022 actually made daycare more affordable than it will be in the new system.

The new system is geared toward full time spaces and will also create problems for people who rely on daycare on a part-time basis.

An organization with massive resources, CBC, simply reported the comparison to March, 2021 costs, parroting the government news release. Our reporter, Sierra, did the work to reach out to actual daycares to uncover the actual facts.

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# THE WORLD-Spectator

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## Moosomin revenue sharing up \$104,750 18.5 per cent increase in part due to revised census numbers

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The town of Moosomin has seen its revenue sharing grant from the provincial government increase by \$104,750 this year, an 18.5 per cent increase from last year. Revenue sharing had decreased in 2022 because of incorrect census figures.

The provincial government increased funding for revenue sharing in the 2023 budget, but Moosomin is receiving a much larger increase in funding than most communities because of the increase in census population.

"We're happy to get the revenue sharing back up closer to what it should be," said Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson. "With what we're going into this year, with the pre-expense of the water treatment plant, we can use every dollar we can get. It's good that we're getting more, and it helps. I'm glad we got that census number up closer to where it should be, because that really makes a difference."

## StatsCan rejects more changes Moosomin Census population was increased 4.5 per cent, agency says no more changes

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

After initially reviewing Moosomin's 2021 census numbers, admitting it made errors, and revising the census number upward by 4.5 per cent, Statistics Canada has turned down a request by the town to completely redo the census.

After the census numbers were initially released, investigation by the World-Spectator showed that census dwelling counts for Moosomin and other local communities were far fewer than the number of households towns know to exist because of utility connections and property tax records.

The town submitted information to show that was the case, and Statistics Canada admitted it was in error and increased the official 2021 census population of Moosomin by 4.5 per cent.

The World-Spectator followed up and found further inconsistencies and errors in the 2021 census. The town asked StatsCan to totally redo the census and forwarded all of the information uncovered, but Statistics Canada has said it is unwilling to redo Moosomin's census and unwilling to revise the census numbers again.

*Continued on page 7*



### Two gutsy women

Nancy Apskrum and Charlie Leslie of Moosomin will both take part in the 2023 Gutsy Walk, Crohn's and Colitis Canada's largest single day fundraiser. See details on page 7.

## Municipalities could see huge bills for retroactive RCMP costs

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Municipalities that pay for RCMP policing face huge costs as a result of retroactive pay increases for RCMP that the federal government negotiated but is unwilling to pay.

The federal government reiterated in the 2023 budget that it will not

cover the cost for retroactive pay increases and will pass the costs on to municipalities.

Towns and RMs have not been given precise figures for their cost in the retroactive pay deal, but the Federation of Canadian Municipalities provided examples of four towns

and cities and estimated costs. Town of Moosomin CAO Paul Listrom averaged those FCM figures and found an average cost to municipalities of \$70.58 per capita, meaning a cost of \$195,788.92 to the town of Moosomin.

*Continued on page 7*

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# StatsCan rejects more changes

**Moosomin Census population was increased 4.5 per cent, agency says no more changes**

*Continued from front*

"In response to your request for a physical recount, Statistics Canada will not re-send questionnaires or enumerators to a community undergoing a formal review to re-conduct the census in that location," Lise Rivais, Western Region director for Statistics Canada wrote to the

town April 12. "It would not be effective to re-enumerate now, given the time that has passed since the reference date (May 11, 2021), nor does Statistics Canada maintain the resources and infrastructure following the completion of its census field operations. The information provided in the World-Spectator and Plain and Valley

newspapers has been carefully reviewed and deemed not sufficient to warrant a further adjustment to the 2021 Census population and dwelling counts for the town of Moosomin.

"The next census will be held in 2026 and we look forward to your community's participation at that time."

Mayor Larry Tomlinson said he doesn't think more can be done to review the 2021 census, but he wants to ensure the next census is done right. "We've done all we can do on this one, but I'd like the town to be involved next time to make sure it's counted properly. It doesn't look like it was done very well this time," he said.



Donna Beutler photo

**\$155,000 raised by Farmers and Friends Bonspiel**  
The Whitewood Farmers and Friends Committee raised \$155,000 in this year's bonspiel, bringing the total over the past six events to over half a million dollars. \$105,000 will be given away through their grant which is open until May 31. \$5,000 will be designated to the World's Larger Broom project and \$10,000 for the Whitewood Curling Club and Junior Curling program.

## Municipalities could see huge bills for retroactive RCMP costs

*Continued from front*

After months of lobbying by municipalities across Canada, the federal government indicated in the 2023 Budget that it will not be meeting the request to absorb the retroactive costs associated with the latest RCMP collective bargaining agreement.

The budget confirmed that communities across Canada that are dependent on RCMP services for local policing are expected to cover these costs, and offered details on a repayment period for municipalities. This falls well short of the call from municipalities to fully absorb the costs.

"Municipalities have been crystal clear," said FCM president Taneen Rudyk. "Local governments were not at the table for these negotiations. And while cost estimates were provided to some municipalities, these turned out to be far below the final agreement's increase over six years, with retroactive pay going back to 2017."

"The federal government's refusal to absorb these costs—which were essentially negotiated with municipal money but not with municipal input—is not acceptable. Municipal councils will be forced to make incredibly tough decisions, such as making cuts to essential services or passing the bill along to residents, at a time when Canadians' concerns about local

safety and the cost of living are already rising."

"This decision is an example of a federal commitment that deeply impacts municipalities without municipalities being properly consulted or involved," said FCM. "Municipal governments are paying a growing share of policing costs, but they cannot run deficits and have limited revenue tools."

"Communities across the country are facing significant costs associated with this decision of the federal government. Outlined below are cost estimates shared by some:

- City of Moncton, NB: \$5.7 million, population 79,470
- Town of Hinton, AB: \$750,000, population 9,882
- City of Portage la Prairie, MB: \$800,000, population 13,270
- City of Vernon, BC: \$3.4 million, population 44,519

"FCM is clearly reiterating the need for municipalities to be actively involved in any future processes regarding contract policing."

"This situation cannot occur again," said Rudyk. "Going forward, municipalities must be properly consulted on issues related to policing costs given the municipal responsibility to keep our communities safe."

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- Southeast College Estevan Campus - 532 Bourquin Road, Estevan.

**WEYBURN: APRIL 27TH**

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# THE WORLD-Spectator

Publications Mail Agreement 40011909 Saskatchewan's first community newspaper • Published weekly since 1884



## Moosomin places first in Smile Cookie sales in Sask.

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
 Moosomin had the highest Smile Cookie sales ever for the community and the highest in the entire province, bringing in a total of \$34,335 during Tim Hortons Smile Cookie week from May 1 to 7.

The community placed first in Saskatchewan and eighth across Canada.

All of the proceeds raised will be going to support the MacLeod Elementary School Playground Fund, to create a new inclusive playground at the north side of the school.

"It was pretty amazing to find out we placed first," said Greg Crisanti owner of Moosomin Tim Hortons. "We were pretty excited and pretty happy. I always give credit firstly to our guests who are the ones purchasing the cookies."

Continued on page 5 <sup>ES</sup>

### Proud moment

Sergeant-Major Scott Williamson, at right, Riding Master for the RCMP Musical Ride, was part of the delegation that presented Noble, an RCMP-trained mare raised in Saskatchewan, to King Charles.

Turn to page 21 for more on Williamson and the Coronation.

## Most revised counts in Sask., Manitoba, were too low, in Quebec, Newfoundland too high Census numbers were too low in many local communities

**Stats Can missed two-thirds of people in Carievale in the original census count, and reported the village lost 65 per cent of its population**

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Moosomin isn't the only community in southeast Saskatchewan to have its census numbers revised upwards by Statistics Canada in the wake of questions about the accuracy of the 2021 census.

Following reporting by the World-Spectator on inaccurate census numbers in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, many communities in southeast Saskatchewan and across both provinces appealed their numbers.

Statistics Canada has revised the census numbers for more communities in Saskatchewan than in any other province. There have been 37 census revisions from the original 2021 census in Saskatchewan, 20 in Manitoba, 16 in Newfoundland, 10 in Alberta, 9 in each of British Columbia and Nova Scotia, 8 in Quebec, 2 in Ontario, and one in each of New Brunswick and PEI.

The 57 revisions in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, where the World-Spectator originally found issues with the census

numbers, compares with 56 in the entire rest of the country.

Around 70 per cent of the revisions in Saskatchewan and Manitoba resulted in higher census numbers than originally reported, but that wasn't the case across the country.

In Quebec, Statistics Canada seemed to have the opposite problem to Saskatchewan, overcounting residents rather than undercounting them.

Continued on page 15 <sup>ES</sup>



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# Many communities in southeast Saskatchewan undercounted in 2021 census

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

Within the province of Saskatchewan there were 37 communities that received a revision for their 2021 Population and Dwelling count amendments Census.

The majority were revised upwards because of undercounts.

Within the southeast region, communities such as the RM of Martin, the Town of Wapella, the Town of Moosomin, the village of Fairlight and the village of Carievale had their official 2021 census revised.

## RM of Martin population count revised upward by 25 per cent after review

In the original census count, the population of the RM of Martin was reported as 254 residents. After it was reviewed, the count was revised to 319 residents.

CAO Cheryl Barrett said she knew immediately that the number reported for the RM of Martin in the original census count was incorrect.

"As soon as I saw our numbers from the census I knew that they were too low. I then went through my list of where I know people live, and I did an estimate of how many people live there," she said.

"I also talked to a few people who said they never even got the census to fill out so it wasn't surprising that our numbers were low. That's why I asked them to relook at them."

The households counted for the RM of Martin went from 101 households to 125 households after the revision.

Barrett said having the census of a municipality's population being precise helps make a difference to the RM's income and expenses.

"More accurate numbers are important because we receive money based on our population for different government programs," she said.

"We also pay into different programs based on our population, for instance the RCMP, the library, there's lots of things we are billed and receive money for based on our population."

"Having a more accurate number is important. Also if there was an emergency, knowing how many people you have in your RM if you had to evacuate is important, although the chances of that happening here are very slim. It's mostly for the programs that we pay for or funding that we receive based on population, is why those census numbers are important."

## Carievale's official population count triples after census revision

Assistant Administrator for the Village of Carievale Lynda Minshull said Car-

ievale will be receiving \$60,951 in revenue sharing for 2023 compared to the \$20,104 they received last year, based on StatsCan's original 2021 census of the village.

Revenue sharing is tripling because the official population count tripled after it was reviewed.

After the population was revised from 85 people to 244 people, and revised from 34 households to 103 households within Carievale, the municipality received their correct revenue sharing from the government for 2023, but will not recover the revenue sharing it lost in 2022 because of Statistics Canada's error.

"This year we're getting \$60,951 versus the \$20,104 we got last year. It's about a \$40,000 difference that we don't have to come up with," Minshull said.

"That's the revenue sharing we get, without it we basically would have to start taxing the municipality's ratepayers to make up for that."

Minshull said the village had a very tight budget in 2022 because of the drastic drop in revenue sharing due to Statistics Canada undercounting the community by two-thirds.

"We kept the budget as tight as we could," she said.

"We were purchasing a tractor and actually pulled out of our savings to put the down payment on the tractor. That's something we wouldn't have done, and we didn't put anything into reserves."

"Last year we tried to set up a reserve so we would have a bit of safety net for big fixes or anything like that. Last year we definitely weren't able to do that."

"We actually pulled a little bit from our reserve as well to try and get the budget balanced out by itself."

Minshull said she knew something was wrong when they received their revenue sharing in 2022.

"We had an email come through with our municipal revenue sharing from the provincial programming we get every year and it was considerably lower than what I was anticipating," she said.

"We went looking to see why and it was because the census was off of line."

Minshull explained the process she went through in order to get the village's census numbers corrected.

"When we got our census report, it said if you don't agree with it you would have to have a formal review," said Minshull.

"I initiated the formal review. They asked me to show proof, and it's not like you know exactly how many people live in your town, but when your kids go to school in Carievale, your kid plays hockey in Carievale, and you grew up in Car-

ievale, you know how many people live there.

"Initially we sent how many water bills there are in the village, and how many tax notices go out. I can probably name almost every household of who lives there. Then they went back and did the formal review which went from 85 people to 244 people."

## Fairlight population count revised up by 60 per cent

The village of Fairlight was one of the many communities in Saskatchewan that received a revised census by StatsCan.

In the original census count, Fairlight's population was 25 people and it has been corrected to 40 residents—an increase of 60 per cent.

Mayor Barry Metz said the village's council knew right away the original reported census was incorrect.

"As soon as the census numbers came out we could just tell," said Metz.

"We're in a small town so you can tell right away when something like that is wrong, because you know how many people live around you. It was a bad miscount."

He said the CAO of Fairlight worked hard on getting the census corrected.

"Our administrator spent a lot of time on the phone with the government trying to get it all straightened out," said Metz.

"She finally did, but it took her quite a while, but there's been a lot that were miscounted."

Metz said the revised census count represents Fairlight's population more accurately now.

"This helps when you get into your revenue sharing grants. Every person helps," he said.

"It doesn't make a huge difference in terms of dollars, just because our numbers are small, so it's not big dollars, but in a little town every dollar counts."

"The cost of running a town or municipality, everything has gotten expensive so every dollar that we can get from the gov-

ernment is a dollar that we don't have to get out of the taxpayers."

## Wapella census review adds 45 more residents to count, up 16 per cent

The Town of Wapella's revised census numbers showed their area having a total of 323 residents, with 133 dwellings, compared to the original census count for the town being 278 residents and 117 dwellings.

Mayor of Wapella Sandy Hintz said the town sent in documents reflecting the number of residents in the town to get the census count revised by Stats Can.

"We knew that was wrong like everyone else so we did our count and sent it in to the department," Hintz said. "It's a small community so we knew roughly who lives here and provided the information."

He explained why the town felt it was important to follow up with StatsCan and get their 2021 census corrected.

"The numbers weren't right and we receive less for our grants and revenue sharing," said Hintz. "I think it was almost a \$20,000 difference. If you lose that you have to make it up somewhere else."

Hintz said he was surprised to see 37 communities in Saskatchewan receive a revised census count for 2021.

"Whatever the process of how the census was done isn't working, and the government has to do a better job on getting it right."

## Esterhazy waiting to hear back about census review

The Town of Esterhazy contacted StatsCan shortly after the 2021 Census came out to have their numbers be reviewed.

Although the town and StatsCan exchanged emails back and forth about receiving a revised census count for the community, the town had never received a formal review from StatsCan.

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# Corrected numbers have not replaced incorrect counts, but are posted separately Incorrect census numbers remain on StatsCan website

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

While Statistics Canada has corrected census numbers for many communities across the country, the incorrect numbers remain on the census profile online for each affected community.

Communities with revised numbers were told by Statistics Canada that the information would be corrected. "Statistics Canada has undertaken a detailed investigation and confirmed that the population and private dwelling counts were incorrect," Lise Rivais of Statistics Canada wrote to the town of Moosomin.

"The investigation found that 74 private dwellings were missed by census enumerators, 70 of which are estimated to be occupied by 117 usual residents. Those 74 private dwellings will be added to the total dwelling counts for Moosomin and 117 additional persons will be added to the population count."

But rather than replace the incorrect information on each municipality's community profile, Statistics Canada still has the incorrect population and household counts, with a footnote at the bottom of the page, after hundreds of lines of incorrect information, stating "use with caution," with a link to a page where the user can scroll down and find the correct information for the community.

"How is the average person supposed to know what that E is for?" asked Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson.

"It looks like they don't care about people getting the right information, they just did this to appease us, telling us they would correct the information, and then not really correcting it."

"What's the point of keeping the wrong information there on their website? They already admitted they were wrong. It's just ridiculous. I don't know what to think about it. It certainly doesn't fix the problem."

The World-Spectator requested an interview with François-Philippe Champagne, the federal minister responsible for Statistics Canada, on the agency website continuing to display incorrect census information, and on other issues with the 2021 census, but the request was declined.

"Thank you for sharing your request with us. After consideration, the Minister's office has respectfully declined your request to interview Minister François-Philippe Champagne at this time," a media relations officer wrote.

If you look up on Statistics Canada's website the 2021 census population of Carievale, or any other community that has had its census population revised, you will find incorrect information. For Carievale, StatsCan shows a population of 85, which is about a third of what StatsCan admits is the actual population of Carievale, 244. The small E beside the 2021 population and the line claiming a 64.6 per cent decrease in population since the last census is meant to take readers to a footnote hundreds of lines down.

Carievale, Village (V) ID Saskatchewan [Census subdivision]		Counts		
Characteristic	Total	Men	Women	
<b>Population and dwellings</b>				
Population, 2021	85	—	—	
Population, 2016	240	—	—	
Population percentage change, 2016 to 2021	-64.6	—	—	
Total private dwellings	37	—	—	
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents	34	—	—	

Rather than indicate the numbers are actually false, the footnote simply tells readers to "use with caution" then links to another webpage with revised numbers.

**Symbol legend**  
 — not applicable  
 \* suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act  
 † use with caution. Refer to the 2021 population and dwellings count amendments or the 2016 population and dwelling count amendments for further information.

On that page, you can scroll down to find Saskatchewan, and to find the numbers for Carievale, corrected from 85 to 244, along with corrected household counts.

Division	CSO	2021	2016	2011	2006	2001
Borden, V (2021A00054718011)	CSO	281	312	120	133	131
Carievale, V (2021A00054701004)	CSO	85	244	34	103	37
Creighton, T (2021A00054718051)	CSO	1,208	1,254	552	560	610



**Littlest ball fan**

One-year-old Parks Weidenhamer isn't old enough to play with the Moosomin Badgers just yet, but he was on the sidelines on Tuesday night watching his dad Jake play at Bradley Park. The Badgers senior men's baseball team held an exhibition game against Elkhorn Tuesday.



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Issued every Monday by McKay Publications Ltd., a subsidiary of Weedmark Communications Ltd., from the office, 714 Main Street, Moosomin, Sask.

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In our opinion:

## Geopolitical catastrophes in the making

### How bad choices are leading to self-harm in the global arena

Cognitive science offers clues as to why national leaders sometimes make such awful choices in international relations. Professor Andy Clark of Sussex University argues in a new book, *The Experience Machine: How our minds predict and shape reality, that the human mind operates in mechanical 'perception-action loops'.*

While actions are based on the internal logic of one's own perceptions, they may lead to self-harm in the real world where opposing perceptions collide.

Could this theory of mind explain why Vladimir Putin took the demonstrably bad decision to invade Ukraine in February 2022? After all, he could have chosen to avoid all the trouble. Consider the rumour that he has a portrait of Czar Nicholas I hanging in the antechamber of his office in the Kremlin. Nicholas I was the Russian leader who, in an 1853-56 war, fought for and lost control of Crimea against Britain, France and the Ottoman Empire. The Czar himself died before his war ended in defeat.

Perhaps this historical baggage of 'righting a historical wrong' contributes to Putin's perceptions of reality. Reuniting parts of the collapsed former Soviet empire most assuredly does as well. He took Georgia with little resistance in 2008. Emboldened, he took Crimea in 2014, again with negligible pushback.

Conditioned to believe it would be easy, he invaded Ukraine itself last year. But this time, facing massive resistance, he persists despite the obvious self-harm. That harm includes not only the failure of the original mission to grab Kyiv and topple the Zelenskyy government, but also the economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. and NATO allies, the expansion of NATO to include Finland and soon Sweden and perhaps even Ukraine itself. And, most importantly, the pointless deaths of thousands of soldiers in the process.

Is this form of bad decision-making the preserve of authoritarian leaders who have the means to act out their delusions?

It would be nice if geopolitics could always be assessed in absolutes: right vs wrong, democracy vs dictatorship, and so on. Unfortunately, it's more complicated than that. Bad choices are made in democracies as well.

The U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, as justifiable as it seemed at the time, can now be viewed as a poor choice resulting from the emotional reaction to the 9/11 attacks, which were actually perpetrated mostly by Saudi nationals. The subsequent U.S. invasion of Iraq was justified on the mistaken perception—either naive or willful—that Saddam Hussein was building weapons of mass destruction.

This brings us to another looming catastrophe. Chinese President Xi Jinping has reportedly set 2027 as the year China will take control of Taiwan. An island inhabited and contested for thousands of years, it was annexed in 1683 by the Qing dynasty of China but ceded to Japan in 1895. Chinese nationalist forces retreated to Taiwan in 1949 after being overthrown in Mao's communist revolution.

If these are the historical scores to be settled in Xi Jinping's thinking, he will almost certainly commit the same mistake as Putin.

And the results will be similarly catastrophic. Any attempt to capture the capital, Taipei, will face enormous resistance. With its island geography and heavy defences, Taiwan will not submit to China's pressure as Hong Kong did. Nor will a strategy of choking the island into submission through a naval and aerial blockade go off without hitches.

Dominoes would quickly fall. The U.S. Pacific fleet, forward-positioned in Japan, Korea, the Philippines and elsewhere, would advance with allies in support. They would likely stage a retaliatory blockade of energy and other critical supplies to China, seeking co-operation from Saudi Arabia, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, and others along the supply routes.

China would target rival carrier groups with hypersonic missiles. Russia would come to China's aid. North Korea might move to take the entire Korean peninsula. It might also lob missiles at Japan. Deployment of troops on the ground couldn't be ruled out. Nor could Nuclear escalation.

So what exactly would motivate and justify such self-harm to China's own interests? The West cannot absolve itself of some responsibility for shaping China's perceptions. Former U.S. President Richard Nixon conceded a one-China policy when he opened relations with Beijing in 1972. This policy, adopted by the U.N. and most member countries, would have been a very clear signal if it hadn't been combined with the U.S. policy of "strategic ambiguity" over the defence of Taiwan.

In the meantime, the island has emerged as a thriving democracy in recent years. It resists the idea of unification with the mainland but dares not declare independence. It also happens to have risen in geopolitical importance because it supplies 90 per cent of the world's most advanced semiconductors. U.S. President Joe Biden has said that the U.S. would defend Taiwan, and countering China's rise is a rare issue garnering bipartisan support in Congress.

Though Xi Jinping will find justifications in his own mind, any challenge to the status quo through the use of force will result in predictably violent reactions. Bad choices from conflicting feedback loops will again lead to self-harm for the aggressor and widespread death and destruction for others.

The peculiarity of human cognition seems to ensure that we will remain our own worst enemies. Sadly, excluding a miracle, this seemingly endless cycle of bad choices will continue to yield catastrophic consequences for global peace and stability.

*This editorial was written by Randolph Mank is a former Canadian diplomat and business executive. He currently heads MankGlobal consulting, serves on several boards of directors, and is a Fellow of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute and the Balsillie School of International Affairs.*

## STUFF THAT RUINS A GOOD SUMMER



## Statistics Canada very poor at correcting errors, and there are a lot of errors

Statistics Canada made errors in many communities census population counts in the 2021 census, and its approach to correcting those errors does not engender any confidence that the agency we trust with our statistics has a commitment to being forthright and transparent with the facts.

When the community population numbers from the 2021 census were first published in 2022, it was clear to us that the numbers for many of our local communities just didn't add up.

The number of households reported by StatsCan was lower than what we found to be the number of households local municipalities had on record, and in many towns, sometimes hundreds of the reported houses in various communities were reported to be empty.

I will credit our newspaper's reporting for the fact that many communities across our region questioned and appealed their census numbers, to the point that the majority of revisions across the entire country are in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, with the largest number in Saskatchewan and the second largest number in Manitoba.

And while Statistics Canada has admitted the original census data it published was wrong, rather than put the correct information in its database and on its main website where everyone can find it, it has chosen to keep the wrong information along with a pointer to a footnote. If you scroll down through a thousand lines of details about Moosomin's census numbers, you come to the line that is I guess meant to tell you that the reported number is actually wrong, and the right number is somewhere else. Despite its admission that its original number was wrong, StatsCan can't quite bring itself to say that, so it says "use with caution. Refer to the 2021 population and dwelling count amendments or the 2016 population and dwelling count amendments for further information." Then there is a link to take you to the population and dwelling count amendments, where the revised numbers can be found, after scrolling through dozens of other revised numbers.

So there are three different issues with the 2021 census:

1) A large number of communities in the region have had revisions to their census numbers, such as the village of Carievale, where Statistics Canada missed two-thirds of the residents.

2) Rather than correcting the information in the census community profiles online, Statistics Canada is keeping all the incorrect information posted, with no indication that it is incorrect, just an indication that the data should be "used with caution" and a link to the correct information, buried on a page



Kevin Weedmark

with every other revision from the census.

3) While about 70 per cent of revisions in Saskatchewan and Manitoba are upward revisions because of undercounts, the situation in other parts of the country was reversed, notably Quebec and Newfoundland, where the majority of the revisions were downward revisions because of overcounts, which looks, to say the least, odd.

There are a lot of questions around the census, and Statistics Canada doesn't want to answer them. We requested an interview with the federal minister responsible for Statistics Canada to try to get some answers and he declined the request. That's unfortunate, and in stark contrast to our provincial government's responsiveness—cabinet ministers always make themselves available to answer questions. As a matter of fact I was on the phone with Addictions and Mental Health Minister Everett Hindley Thursday when Energy and Resources Minister Jim Reiter called—we had an interview with him scheduled later in the afternoon but he had a few minutes free earlier and thought he would give us a call.

We're certainly not going to get any answers from Statistics Canada itself. The agency acts with impunity and with no accountability. When we first raised issues with the census numbers for Moosomin, pointing out some figures from the Saskatchewan Health covered population, such as the number of people in Moosomin 100 years and over—people we know—while the census showed zero people in that age group, StatsCan responded that the health numbers can't be trusted because they have no base date. That is false, those numbers are as of June 30 each year. So StatsCan defended its figures, which it later admitted were wrong, by outright lying. After revising the numbers for Moosomin once and being told the town still thought they were low, StatsCan simply said it wasn't going to review the numbers again. It didn't refute the evidence the town provided that the StatsCan numbers are impossible, it didn't answer that evidence in any way, it simply said it wasn't going to review the numbers again, and there is nothing anyone can do about that.

Their refusal to look at the evidence and the minister's refusal to answer questions tells you everything you need to know.

# Most revised counts in Sask., Manitoba, were too low, in Quebec, Newfoundland too high

## Census numbers were too low in many local communities

### Stats Can missed two-thirds of people in Carievale in the original census count, and reported the village lost 65 per cent of its population

Continued from front

Sixty-two per cent of communities in Quebec that were reviewed were revised downward, including the Eeyou Istchee Baie James census subdivision, where the population was initially counted as 2,628 and was revised to 1,261, so the initial population count was more than twice as high as the revised figure. In another subdivision in Quebec, the revised figure was one third of the original reported figure.

In Nova Scotia, there were some major revisions downward. The Annapolis Valley First Nation was originally reported to have a population of 743 people in 322 households. The revised count is 200 people in 78 households, so the original incorrect count was 3.7 times the actual count. And in Indian River, Nova Scotia, the original population count of 2,739 is almost two and a half times the revised count of 1,119.

In Newfoundland, 56 per cent of the revisions were

downward including Division 9, Subdivision G, reduced almost 50 per cent, from 96 to 50.

In southeast Saskatchewan, every revised number is higher than the original count.

The village of Carievale had an original population count of 85 in the 2021 census, which was revised to 244, meaning Statistics Canada missed two-thirds of the population of the village in the original count. The census also missed almost exactly two-thirds of the households in Carievale, counting 37 and later revising that to 103.

In Fairlight, StatsCan originally counted 25 people in 12 households in the 2021 census, and has revised that to 40 people in 18 households, increasing the official population count by 60 per cent.

In the RM of Martin, StatsCan originally counted 354 people in 101 households in the 2021 census, and has revised that to 319 people in 125 households, increasing

the official population count by 25 per cent.

In the Town of Moosomin, StatsCan originally counted 2,657 people in 1,102 occupied dwellings. It has revised that to 2,774 people in 1,172 occupied dwellings, but the town still doesn't believe the figure is accurate. According to StatsCan, even with the revised numbers, there are 74 unoccupied dwellings in Moosomin.

In the Town of Wapella, StatsCan originally counted 278 people in 117 occupied dwellings, meaning that by StatsCan's count there were 44 empty houses in Wapella. It has revised that to 323 people in 133 households, increasing the population count by 16 per cent.

One community in Saskatchewan was revised to a population more than five times higher than originally reported. Amiskosakahikan First Nation was originally reported to have a population of 20 people in four households, which was corrected to 102 people in 23 households.

# MP, Mayor find census revelations shocking

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Souris-Moose Mountain MP Dr. Robert Kitchen, and Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson, say they find revelations about the 2021 census uncovered by the World-Spectator shocking.

The World-Spectator found three things:

1) A large number of communities in the region have had revisions to their census numbers, such as the village of Carievale, where Statistics Canada missed two-thirds of the residents

2) Rather than correcting the information in the census community profiles online, Statistics Canada is keeping all the incorrect information posted, with no indication that it is in incorrect, just an indication that the data should be "used with caution" and a link to the correct information

3) While about 70 per cent of revisions in Saskatchewan and Manitoba are upward revisions because of undercounts, the situation in other parts of the country was reversed, notably Quebec and Newfoundland, where the majority of the revisions were downward revisions because of overcounts.

"My eyes are just looking at these numbers and I just can't get my head around it," said MP Kitchen.

"When my staff told me about this, I was thinking 'okay there's a number here or a number there, but what you've uncovered

**'My eyes are just looking at these numbers and I just can't get my head around it.'**

—MP Dr. Robert Kitchen

**'How could they be that wrong? How could it be screwed up that bad?'**

—Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson

here, this is unbelievable. We're paying hundreds of millions of dollars to this organization, to Statistics Canada, to do such an inferior job.

"I'm just shocked to see these numbers. Not only, as you indicated, for our local communities and the impact, because that is a huge impact on them. Some of them lost a lot of funding because Statistics Canada got it so wrong. But you look around the country at where they've overestimated. It's like, so what are the parameters that they're using to have numbers that are so far fetched, that are so far from reality? How can they possibly do such a bad job? I just can't get my head around it."

Kitchen said he has a lot of questions about why the majority of revisions in Saskatchewan were upward revisions because of undercounts, while in

some provinces the opposite was true, and most revised counts were revised downward because of overcounts.

"I have a lot of questions and I can tell you based on what you've sent me here, I've already sat and talked to my Chief of Staff and we're looking at ways to address the issue.

"First we're going to go to the Library of Parliament and then from there we're going to see what's out there publicly and then we're going to try and progress from that to get a better answer as to the accountability here and what steps StatsCan is taking to correct this."

What did Kitchen find most surprising about the revelations?

"I think the most surprising is that in certain parts of the country, you had one problem, counting too few people, and in other parts

of the country you had the other problem, counting too many.

"To me, that's shocking. You have to ask why that is. You have to ask, how could that be.

"I look at it and in Saskatchewan, one of the arguments was that the weather was terrible at the time of the census, so there were big challenges when that happened when they were doing it. But when they have numbers that are so far out across the country did everyone have a bad weather day that day? I mean how can it be? Is it the process? It can't be bad weather all across the country."

Kitchen said he hopes Statistics Canada can fix the issues.

"I want to have some accountability, to be honest with you. When you have the mayor of Moosomin sending letters to StatsCan and getting a response and getting a revised number, then, again, contesting the response that they got saying, 'You're still undercounting what we have, there's still a problem,' and then StatsCan turning around and saying, 'We're not changing it. We're not doing anything else to it.' Well how are they accountable for that? How do they make their decisions when they will review numbers or not? How can they just say to some towns, sorry, we're not looking at it.

"How can it be when

all of a sudden you have population counts up over 2,000 that they supposedly counted and yet it was actually only 1,200. You're talking 1,400 extra people—how do you count 1,400 people that aren't there? How is that possible?"

"It's not possible if you're doing what you're supposed to be doing, which is going out to the communities and basically having some form of recognition of population. Something is very, very wrong here. Something is not right with StatsCan."

"We knew the numbers were wrong for Moosomin from the start and we still think they're too low, but I look at those numbers for Carievale and think how can that be? How is that possible?" says Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson. "How could they be that wrong? How could it be screwed up that bad. I look at some of the other towns, too, and it's just mind-boggling.

"I see in some towns in Quebec they counted way more people than were there, more than twice as many. I just can't get it through my head. How can it be that bad? How can they not do their jobs and count people right. I see those numbers and I don't understand it.

"I honestly don't know how they could have screwed it up so bad. Whoever was in charge should

be taken to task.

"We knew our numbers were wrong from the start, but at first they wouldn't even talk to us. Then when you wrote some stories they started to look. And now that everybody's appealing they don't want to look at the numbers anymore.

"I think there are so many problems they need to do a whole recount."

(Tomlinson also had questions about incorrect information remaining on StatsCan's website—see article on page 3.)

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## Regarding Sylvain Charlebois' column on owning farmland which was printed on Feb. 27

Dear Editor: Regarding Sylvain Charlebois on owning farmland versus renting land.

I feel that tenant and share cropping is ancient history since even though they get paid, farmers will never own their own

place.

For the sake of argument, how would he like to live his whole life in a place that he will never own?

Everybody should have the right to own their own property and decide what they want on their land and usually do a better job of sustaining the land to create profit in the long run.

Maverick Smith  
Regina

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# Town of Esterhazy Council: 2021 Census numbers revised

By SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

At Wednesday's Esterhazy Town Council meeting, CAO Tammy MacDonald informed council that the town's 2021 census numbers were revised by Statistics Canada, with the town's population going up by 53 people and its private dwellings increasing by 25.

The original census numbers for the town showed the population count as 2,345 residents, and has now been revised to 2,398 residents. The original count for private dwellings occupied by usual residents was 1,068, and has now been revised to 1,093.

"The review determined that 25 private dwellings were misclassified as unoccupied, when in fact they should have been coded as occupied by usual residents," stated the letter from Statistics Canada.

"The population of these 25 private occupied dwellings is estimated at 53 persons. Population estimates for the misclassified dwellings were calculated based on the average number of people per occupied private dwelling in the town (2.1 persons)."

Although council stated the revised numbers still do not accurately reflect Esterhazy's population, they were satisfied that a change was made.

The higher census numbers will result in additional provincial revenue sharing for Esterhazy in the next year.

## Great turnout for Canada Day, community enjoying pool in town

Recreation Director Garth Forster told council he was happy to see the community come out and enjoy the town's event for Canada Day.

"I just want to thank Councillors Nickel, Bot and Pe-tracek who were at the Canada Day barbecue celebration at the museum on Canada Day," said Forster.

"We had a good turnout for holding it for the first time in a few years, that was good to see. We already have the wheels turning about what we can do to enhance it and make it better for next year. It just shows that there was a need for it, people definitely enjoyed it."

Forster also informed council about how much people in the community are using the D. A. Mackenzie Aquatic Center.

"We got the pool open last week, it was a cool first day, but lots of people came out to enjoy it," he said.

"The staff that we have in place are all working out

very well.

"Next week we will expand our schedule, we will have aquatone at 12 p.m. and lane swimming at 5:30 p.m. All of the staff have picked up the routine really well and are working together which is exciting and great to see."

Forster said the intentions are to keep the added swimming programs for the rest of the summer and possibly expand it further in August, depending on how smoothly things continue to run.

CAO Tammy MacDonald also mentioned how great recreation is doing in town.

"The swimming pool has opened, the kids are doing fantastic so much so that they felt confident that we're going to be able to expand the hours to get that lane swimming in, and aquatone, to try to get everyone comfortable on the deck. This is good and exciting," she said.

## Community picnic table policy

Council decided to work on a policy regarding the community picnic tables they have in town.

The policy will focus on allowing the public to borrow the town's picnic tables for events free of charge, while making sure they are held liable if any damages are done to the tables.

Council said they are glad to see the community using the picnic tables for events, and want residents and groups in town to know they are available if needed.

## Update on Public Works projects

Public Works Consultant Ron McCullough gave council an update on the projects that are being worked on in town.

He handed council a copy of a list of current priority projects that are being completed, and divided them into two categories: short term priority projects—which are to be completed within three to six months—and long term priority projects—which are to be completed within six to 12 months.

## Questions about paying municipal taxes through credit cards

Mayor Grant Forster asked council if the town can accept people paying their taxes through credit cards, after seeing comments made by residents in town asking about the matter on Facebook.

Council brought up their concerns about the service fee charges associated with credit card payments, and whether that would be charged to the municipality or residents, if they were to pay their taxes by credit card.

CAO Tammy MacDonald said she will review the matter and bring it to council in the near future.

## Motion passed for acting CAO

Council passed a motion to have Ron McCullough public works consultant as acting CAO during the time Tammy MacDonald is out of office. Donald will be out of office from July 24 to August 11.

Council also passed a motion to have one council meeting for the next month, which is set to be on August 16.

## Swipe cards being delivered

MacDonald was happy to inform council that a new digital swipe system was installed at the town office for workers to access the building.

"We now have new locks on our doors, we no longer have the old key system. We have digital swipe cards," she said.

"Council had approved it in the 2021 budget, we got some quotes and reviewed it. Finally in the 2023 budget we approved the purchase of them, and they are implemented and put into place on just a few places for now to see how they work out. Then hopefully we can continue to expand them and have them in more places every year."

## Fire Board Meeting report

At Wednesday's meeting, Mayor Grant Forster informed council about the Fire Board meeting the Town of Esterhazy had with the RM of Spy Hill and RM of Fertile Belt on July 6.

At the meeting, they asked if the Town of Esterhazy can review the town's bylaw about how much the RMs are being charged for the services from Esterhazy's Fire Department.

The town currently charges residents in the municipality for the emergency services, in addition to charging the RMs a portion of the fire department services.

All three CAOs—The Town of Esterhazy, RM of Spy Hill and RM of Fertile Belt—will set up a meeting to review the bylaw collectively.

# Moosomin woman loses her life in collision

A Moosomin woman, Virginia Glenn, lost her life in a highway collision early Friday morning.

At approximately 1:40 am Friday, Moosomin RCMP received a report of a two-vehicle collision involving a semi-truck and a car, west of Moosomin on Highway 1.

Moosomin RCMP responded immediately. Initial investigation determined a semi-truck and a car collided along the

eastbound lane.

The two adult male occupants of the semi-truck did not report any injuries to police.

The female adult driver from Moosomin, who was the lone occupant of the car, sustained what were reported as serious, life-threatening injuries.

She was transported to a hospital where she was later declared deceased.

Her family has been notified.

A Saskatchewan RCMP Collision Reconstructionist, local fire and EMS also attended the scene. The Saskatchewan Coroners

Service also assisted with the investigation and has ordered an autopsy which is scheduled to take place at a later date. The investigation is ongoing.

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