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# City of Saskatoon and Saskatoon Census Metropolitan Area Population Projection 2015 to 2035

## Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager, Community Services Department, dated March 6, 2017, be forwarded to City Council for information.

## Topic and Purpose

This report summarizes and conveys the City of Saskatoon and Saskatoon Census Metropolitan Area Population Projection 2015 to 2035 report.

## Report Highlights

1. This report projects the population of Saskatoon, the Saskatoon Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), and the surrounding municipalities that make up the Saskatoon CMA 20 years into the future. Three growth scenarios were used, each based on characteristics of the growth experienced over the 2006 to 2015 period.
2. Saskatoon is projected to reach a population of 312,772 by 2025, and 380,650 by 2035, assuming a Medium Growth Scenario annual growth rate of 2.0%. This growth rate is similar to what Saskatoon experienced over the 2006 to 2015 period.
3. The projected population growth in the Medium Growth Scenario will require the equivalent of six neighbourhoods and 24,000 dwelling units by 2025. An additional six neighbourhoods and 26,000 dwelling units may be required by 2035.
4. The Saskatoon CMA could reach a population of 366,155 by 2025, and 448,985 by the year 2035, assuming Saskatoon grows at the Medium Growth Scenario annual rate of 2.0% and surrounding municipalities grow at an annual rate of 3.0%.
5. In the Medium Growth Scenario, the population of the surrounding municipalities will grow from 41,703 in 2015, to 53,383 in 2025, and 68,335 in 2035, assuming an annual growth rate of 3.0%. This is equivalent to adding approximately three communities the size of Warman or Martensville by 2035.

## Strategic Goals

This report contributes to the City of Saskatoon's (City) Strategic Goals of Quality of Life and Sustainable Growth by providing population planning information.

## Background

Population projections are regularly undertaken by the Planning and Development Division, Community Services Department; the most recent projection was done in

2012. Projections assist the City in developing its policy framework and long-range plans, and in forecasting future municipal servicing needs and land acquisition.

Population projections are also useful to community agencies planning for future service provision. See Attachment 1 for the City of Saskatoon and Saskatoon Census Metropolitan Area Population Projection 2015 to 2035 report (Population Projection).

## **Report**

The Population Projection, like earlier projections, uses a “cohort survival” method for Saskatoon. This approach results in an estimate of the population’s future age-sex profile or distribution. Saskatoon’s population was projected 20 years into the future, in five-year intervals to the year 2035, using Low, Medium, and High Growth Scenarios of 1.5%, 2.0%, and 2.5% annual growth rates, respectively.

The Saskatoon CMA population was projected using a simple arithmetic projection for the population of the area surrounding Saskatoon at three growth rates. That result was then added to Saskatoon’s projected growth. A cohort survival projection model was not applied to the surrounding area. Individually, these municipalities are too small and are subject to too much potential change driven by individual developments to make a cohort survival projection reliable.

The highlights from the Population Projection are:

1. Saskatoon is projected to reach a population of 312,722 over the next 10 years, and 380,650 over the next 20 years, in the Medium Growth Scenario, based on an annual growth rate of 2.0%.
2. Net migration is forecast to account for between 69.0% and 74.0% (62,000 and 122,000 persons) of the population increase projected in the next 20 years, depending on the growth rate.
3. Saskatoon’s average household size is 2.4 people (Statistics Canada, 2011) and new neighbourhoods are typically designed to house 10,000 people. The Medium Growth Scenario will require the equivalent of six neighbourhoods and 24,000 dwelling units by 2025. An additional six neighbourhoods and 26,000 dwelling units may be required by 2035.
4. Combined, the 0 to 4, 5 to 14, and 15 to 19 cohorts represent the children coming into, or already in, the primary and secondary school systems. The Medium Growth Scenario projects this population to increase by 17,597 (28.8%) by 2025, and 35,965 (58.8%) by 2035.
5. Across all growth scenarios, the aging of the baby boom generation will result in a large increase in the number of people over age 65. The Medium Growth Scenario shows the seniors population increasing by 12,582 (38%) by 2025, and

- 21,907 (66.9%) by 2035. The total seniors population will reach approximately 53,486 in the Medium Growth Scenario by 2035.
6. The population proportion of the seniors population will increase from its current 12.8% across all growth scenarios by 2035. The Medium Growth Scenario projects the seniors population to make up 14.1% of the total population by 2035.
  7. Across all growth scenarios, the aging of the baby boom generation will result in a large increase in the number of people over age 80. The Medium Growth Scenario projects the population of oldest seniors to increase from 10,272 to 16,291; a 58.6% increase.
  8. The estimated median age is projected to increase from 35.8 in 2015, to between 36.7 and 38.2 in 2035. The Medium Growth Scenario projects a median age of 37.4 in 2035.
  9. The dependency ratio increases slightly from 58 in 2015, to between 65 and 67 in 2035.
  10. The labour force replacement ratio is expected to remain above replacement across all years and growth scenarios of the projection. The Medium Growth Scenario has a labour force replacement ratio of 115 in 2035.
  11. The Saskatoon CMA projected population is 448,985 in 20 years for the Medium Growth Scenario based on a projected population of 380,650 for Saskatoon and 68,335 for the surrounding municipalities. This is an average annual growth rate of 2.6% for the Saskatoon CMA and 3.2% for the surrounding communities.
  12. The Medium Growth Scenario suggests a total population of 68,335 for the surrounding communities, an increase of 26,632 people.

### **Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement**

There is no public or stakeholder involvement.

### **Communication Plan**

After this report is received by City Council, a Public Service Announcement will be distributed informing the public of the new population projections. The Population Projection will also be posted on both the “Planning Publications and Maps” page on the City’s website and the CommunityView Collaboration website, and will also be provided to the members of the Saskatoon North Partnership for Growth.

### **Other Considerations/Implications**

There are no options, policy, financial, environmental, privacy, or CPTED implications or considerations.

**Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion**

The population projection is typically done on a three-year cycle. A new report will be completed in 2019.

**Public Notice**

Public notice, pursuant to Section 3 of Public Notice Policy No. C01-021, is not required.

**Attachment**

1. City of Saskatoon and Saskatoon Census Metropolitan Area Population Projection 2015 to 2035

**Report Approval**

Written by: Bill Holden, Senior Planner, Planning and Development  
Reviewed by: Lesley Anderson, Director of Planning and Development  
Approved by: Randy Grauer, General Manager, Community Services Department

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