



### Groundwater as Drinking Water

Groundwater is water found in underground aquifers that supplies wells and springs. It is only viable as a source of potable drinking water if it is within 150 metres of the surface. The deeper the water, the more likely it is to be salinated and therefore undrinkable.

2,071,591 Albertans in the South Saskatchewan drainage region, which covers most of Southwestern Alberta, source their drinking water from surface water.



110,729 residents living in the same region, rely on a groundwater source for drinking water.

In Alberta, 142,030 people rely on a drinking water source that comes from groundwater.



**Did You Know?** The Blood Indian Reserve No. 148 is the largest reserve in Canada, with an area of 1,413.87 km<sup>2</sup>.

### Water on First Nations Reserves

A long-term drinking water advisory (LTDWA) is a water quality advisory that has been in effect for longer than one year. Since starting with 105 advisories in November 2015, 33 new advisories have been added and 64 have been lifted from First Nations Reserves throughout Canada. As of June 2018, there were still LTDWAs in place in 74 First Nations communities. Four LTDWAs are in effect for Indigenous communities in Alberta, for the Kehewin, Whitefish Lake, Frog Lake, and Kapawe'no First Nations.

### Water Rights

The Kainai Nation in Southwestern Alberta was one of four Alberta First Nations groups who came together to sue the federal government in 2014, hoping to obtain a federal court decision to force the government to upgrade their water systems, and to provide money for continued maintenance. The government responded in its Statement of Defence: "Canada denies it has any obligation or duty to the Plaintiffs, as alleged or at all." The lawsuit is on hold pending negotiations between the parties.

#### KAINAI NATION



Standoff Water Line: Upgraded in 2014, the Standoff Water Treatment Plant provides water to 4,500 people per day.

#### PIIKANI NATION



The Piikani Water Treatment Plant, located in Brocket, was completed in 2002 at an approximate cost of \$1.4 million.

### Economic Growth

In 2016, 92.1% of all businesses in Southwestern Alberta were classified as small businesses (having between 1 and 49 employees).



In 2017, the City of Lethbridge registered 651 new businesses.



In the Lethbridge-Medicine Hat Economic Region, the unemployment rate in 2017 was 5.7%, down from 6.9% in 2016.



In 2017, there was a labour force of 152,800 and a working age population (ages 15-64) of 229,800.

The average hourly wage in 2017 was \$24.15 (compared to a provincial average of \$28.39).

**HOW THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS** In 2017, the Community Foundation awarded \$69,200 in grant funding to seven organizations for projects focused specifically on enhancing quality of life within the Living Standards Impact Area.

## Crime in Southwestern Alberta

In the South Zone of Alberta Health Services, 74.4% of individuals reported a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging, compared to the Alberta average of 69.5%. Public Safety Canada reports that youth with strong family or community support systems are less likely to develop risk factors for offending. Juvenile delinquency is strongly linked to youth who suffer from early onset of antisocial behaviour, or those with unstable homes or difficulties in personal relationship.

Rural RCMP detachments in Southwestern Alberta reported 6,973 violations in 2016 (compared to over 22,000 in all of Alberta), representing an increase of 777 violations over 2015.



These violations resulted in charges laid against 1,754 adults and 166 youth.

Of these charges, 491 were violent crimes and 349 were property-related.

Established in 2018 by the Alberta government in response to increases in rural crime, the Southern Alberta District Crime Reduction Unit filed 234 charges, made 30 arrests, executed 47 warrants, and recovered 20 vehicles. In that time, property crimes have decreased by 8% compared to the same period in 2017.

The Southern Alberta District spans RCMP detachments in the lower third of the province, as far north as Lake Louise and Drumheller, but excludes Calgary.

On Maclean's list of Canada's Most Dangerous Places, the Lethbridge region was the 26th most dangerous municipality out of 229.



In the Lethbridge region, homicide and sexual assault rates decreased from 2017. However, firearms offences increased.

A majority of the crimes reported were Breaking and Entering (595), Fraud (636), and Impaired Driving (211).

## Caring for Seniors

As of the national 2016 Census, Alberta is the youngest province, with an average age of 37.8 years (compared to the national median of 41.2 years). Lethbridge has the largest share of children of any city in Canada—19.1% of the city's population is 14 years of age or younger. Seniors make up 12.3% of Alberta's population.

In Southwestern Alberta, the average age is 39.5. Seniors make up 16% of the population, 3.7% higher than the rest of the province.

Our seniors have a positive outlook on their own mental health. Almost 70% of residents 65 and over rated their mental health as very good or excellent. Though this rate is about 2% higher than the previous year, it is below the provincial average of 72.2%, and significantly lower than youth ages 12-17, at 79.3%.

For those receiving standard care, the average cost in Alberta in 2017 for a one-bedroom residence in an assisted living facility was \$3,051 per month. For those requiring heavy care—1.5 hours or more of care per day—the cost jumps to \$5,456 per month.

In March of 2016, there were almost 25,000 long-term care beds available in Alberta.



32 residential continuing care and assisted living facilities in Southwestern Alberta.



3 are undergoing renovations.



1 new facility is being built in Fort Macleod with completion expected in 2018.

In 2016-17, 56% of patients needing residential care were placed in a continuing care facility within 30 days of being assessed, down from 60%.



**Did You Know?** The term "Sandwich Generation" refers to middle-aged adults that become responsible for raising their children as well as caring for aging parents.