

September 6, 2011

Census to be held in St. Albert, Morinville and Legal

Part of long-term solution to GSACRD secular education issue

Edmonton... A census will be held in St. Albert, Morinville, Legal and parts of Sturgeon County beginning in September to determine whether Catholics or Protestants are the minority faith among resident electors in these areas.

The decision to conduct the census follows parents' requests for a secular education program in Morinville, a program the Greater St. Albert Catholic Regional Division (GSACRD) says it could not accommodate within its regular program. GSACRD is the only public school board serving Legal and Morinville.

"Determination of minority faith will allow government to consider all options to appropriately represent the interests of minority- and majority-faith electors in these communities and to develop a long-term solution to the issue of secular education in Morinville," said Education Minister Dave Hancock.

GSACRD and neighbouring Sturgeon School Division recently negotiated an agreement to have Sturgeon provide a secular program in Morinville beginning this school year.

"The provision of education in the Greater St. Albert area has served the needs of students well for decades," said Hancock. "This declaration will have no bearing on a parent's ability to choose the educational program that best meets the needs of their children."

The minority faith is determined by comparing the number of eligible electors declared Roman Catholic with those declared Protestant within each community.

Census forms will be mailed to local households in late September. Follow-up communications will be conducted beginning in October. The census is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Eligible electors must be Canadian citizens, 18 years of age or older who have resided in Alberta for at least six months prior to the census.

Alberta Education will cover the estimated \$125,000 cost of the census - including costs for advertising, data collection and analysis.

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Backgrounder: Frequently Asked Questions

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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Frequently Asked Questions about the census

What is the census about?

A census of eligible school board electors who reside in parts of Sturgeon County, the City of St. Albert and the Towns of Morinville and Legal is required in order to determine the minority denomination, to consider all of the options available to appropriately meet the interests of both separate school and public school electors, and to assist in the implementation of any steps necessary to ensure that these interests are met.

This data will ultimately support the Government of Alberta's primary education mandate: to provide education programs to students through two publicly funded dimensions - public schools and separate schools. This preserves and maintains the rights guaranteed under the Constitution of Canada.

Why is the census limited to residents of St. Albert, Morinville, Legal and parts of Sturgeon County?

Currently, the only public school board serving St. Albert, Legal and Morinville is Greater St. Albert Catholic Regional Division, which offers only a Catholic education. In St. Albert, the minority faith is currently represented by St. Albert Protestant Separate School District, a Protestant board.

The provincial government will use the data gathered through this census to verify the minority faith and determine the most appropriate options with which to represent the interest of all electors in these areas.

Who is eligible to participate in the census?

You are eligible if you meet the following requirements:

- 18 years of age or older;
- A Canadian citizen;
- A resident of Alberta for six consecutive months prior to the census; and
- A resident of one of the specified communities on the day of the census.

The following rules also apply to your place of residence:

- A person can have only one place of residence;
- A person's residence is the place where that person ordinarily lives and sleeps and to which, when absent from the residence, that person intends to return;
- When a person leaves a district, division or unorganized territory, as the case may be, with the intention of becoming resident somewhere else, that person's residence in that district, division or unorganized territory ceases; and
- When a person leaves Alberta with the intention of residing outside of Alberta, that person's residence in Alberta ceases.

Can anyone in the household complete information on behalf of other eligible electors in the household?

The person completing the information must be 18 years of age or older, a resident of Alberta and of one of the specified communities and authorized to provide the information on behalf of the other eligible electors in the household.

Should I complete this census if I do not have children or am not interested in education issues?

All eligible electors are encouraged to complete the census. If you do not wish to complete the census, please return the form in the self-addressed envelope indicating you decline to complete it.

My children do not attend a school in any of these communities. Do you still require the ages of my children?

Yes. This information will help Alberta Education determine the number of children who are eligible to attend schools in these communities.

My children attend the secular education program offered by Sturgeon School Division at Morinville Public Elementary School. Should I complete the census?

Yes. The information will help us determine the number of children who are eligible to attend schools in these communities.

How do I determine my religious affiliation?

Please refer to the list of religious affiliations below.

Roman Catholic:

For the purposes of this census, a Roman Catholic is defined as an individual who recognizes the Pope as the head of the church, a baptized member of the Roman Catholic Church or one of the Eastern Catholic churches in communion with the Pope of Rome. The following is a list of examples:

Alexandrian Tradition

1. Coptic Catholic Church
2. Ethiopian/Eritrean Catholic Church

Antiochian Tradition

1. Maronite Catholic Church
2. Syrian Catholic Church
3. Syro-Malankara Catholic Church

Byzantine or Constantinopolitan Tradition (Greek Catholic):

1. Melkite Greek Catholic Church
2. Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church
3. Romanian Greek Catholic Church
4. (Ruthenian) Byzantine Catholic Church
5. Eparchy of Muka'evo
6. Hungarian Greek Catholic Church
7. Slovak Greek Catholic Church

Armenian Tradition

1. Armenian Catholic Church

Chaldean or Eastern Syrian Tradition

1. Chaldean Catholic Church
2. Syro-Malabar Catholic Church

8. Ruthenian Apostolic Exarchate in Czech Republic
9. Italo-Albanian Greek Catholic Church
10. Apostolic Exarchate for Serbia and Montenegro
11. Eparchy of Kri'evci
12. Apostolic Exarchate in FYROM (Macedonia)
13. Bulgarian Greek Catholic Church
14. Greek Catholic Church in Greece and Turkey

Protestant:

For the purposes of this census, a Protestant is defined as a Christian who is not a Roman Catholic. The following is a list of examples:

1. Alliance
2. Anglican Church of Canada
3. Baptist
12. Jehovah's Witness
13. Lutheran
14. Mennonite

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| 4. Christian Reform | 15. Methodist |
| 5. Christian Science | 16. Pentecostal |
| 6. Church of the Nazarene | 17. Presbyterian |
| 7. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon) | 18. Salvation Army |
| 8. Eastern Orthodox | 19. Seventh Day Adventist |
| 9. Episcopal | 20. The Church of England |
| 10. Foursquare | 21. Ukrainian Orthodox |
| 11. Hutterite | 22. Unitarian |
| | 23. United Church of Canada |

Other:

For the purposes of this census, a person who is neither Roman Catholic nor Protestant is defined as 'Other.' The following is a list of examples:

1. Atheist
2. Buddhist
3. Church of Scientology
4. Hindu
5. Islamic (Muslim)
6. Jainism
7. Jewish (Judaism)
8. Sikh
9. Taoist
10. Zoroastrian

Is the information I provide protected? For what purposes will it be used?

The information is protected by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP). It will enable the ministry to determine the minority denomination; to consider all of the options available to appropriately meet the interests of both separate school and public school electors; and to assist in the implementation of any steps necessary to ensure that these interests are met.

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