



NEWS RELEASE - *For Immediate Release – August 28, 2006*

2006 Official Census Results Announced

County of Grande Prairie No.1 – The results of the County's 2006 Spring Census are in. The 2006 official recorded population for the County of Grande Prairie is 17,989.

The new census figure represents a 17% total population increase from 2000. This means a 3% average population increase per year.

"6611 census forms were completed, said Dianne Nellis, Manager of Legislative Services. "Based on the assumption that this number reflects the number of dwellings in the County, there is an average population of 2.7 people per dwelling."

"The most significant increases in population were shown in Division 2 – Clairmont/North Grande Prairie and Division 4 – Wembley/West Grande Prairie," said Everett McDonald, County Reeve. "Division 2 experienced over 42% growth and now sits at a population of 3,103. Division 4 was recorded at a population of 2,962, showing 45% population growth since 2000."

The Hamlet of Clairmont (located within Division 2) grew an astounding 59%, to a population of 2174, from a population of 1367 in the year 2000.

42% (7564) of the County's 2006 population reported living on a farm setting. The second most populated type of residence within the County was the subdivision (3,505), followed closely by the Hamlet (3,428).

Regional prosperity and the influx of workers and families to the region were clearly reflected in the demographic information collected. 46% of the County's population is between the ages of 31 and 60 and almost a quarter of the population (24.1%) is between the ages of 0 and 15.

"The census results confirm Council's expectations," said Everett McDonald, County Reeve. "The enormous growth that the County and region are experiencing means that Council has had to shift their thinking about the kind of services we will provide. Council is committed to well-managed growth and to fostering a regional environment that supports quality lifestyles and sustainable communities. This commitment will be reflected in increasing community infrastructure and recreation services to meet these needs."

Census takers began visiting residences in the County on March 24th 2006, to gather information on population and dwellings, along with specific demographic and



recreational user information. Up to date census information is important for municipalities as it is used as the basis for grant funding applications and strategic planning purposes.

“Our census was originally scheduled for last year,” said Bill Rogan, County Administrator, “but we could not find enough qualified census workers and were forced to delay it until this year. We needed to complete our census in 2006 in order to qualify for 2007 federal and provincial funding grants that would be based on our 2006 population figures.”

“You can imagine how our budgets would be affected if the funding we received was based on our 2000 census figure (15,320),” said Bill Rogan. “With the amount of growth being experienced in the Peace Region and the challenges we are facing to maintain infrastructure and provide for enhanced community programs and services, these new census figures are essential.”

“On behalf of our census workers, I want to thank all County residents for showing cooperation and courtesy to the enumerators as they collected this important information,” said Dianne Nellis, Manager of Legislative Services. “The personal information that residents have provided is protected by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and all names and responses will be kept confidential.”

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2006 Census Summary County of Grande Prairie No.1

Population Comparison by Division 2006 to 2000

Division	OFFICIAL COUNT		INCREASE (DECREASE)	% INCR. (DECR.)
	2000 CENSUS	2006 CENSUS		
1-Bezanson/East G.P.	1,558	1,750	192	12.3%
2-Clairmont/North G.P.	2,182	3,103	921	42.2%
3-Grande Prairie (G.P.)	2,663	2,997	334	12.5%
4-Wembley/West G.P.	2,034	2,962	928	45.6%
5-Beaverlodge/Huallen	1,576	1,648	72	4.6%
6-Elmworth/Halcourt	990	969	-21	-2.1%
7-Hythe/Demmitt	1,097	1,007	-90	-8.2%
8-Valhalla/LaGlance	1,421	1,494	73	5.1%
9-Sexsmith/Teepee Creek	1,799	2,059	260	14.5%
TOTAL	15,320	17,989	2,669	17.4%

INCREASE OVER ACTUAL OFFICIAL POPULATION:				
PREVIOUS POPULATION	15,320	*County 2000 census	15,638	Federal 2001
2006 CENSUS	<u>17,989</u>			
INCREASE	2,669	17.4%	15.0%	
	avg year.....	2.9%	3.0%	avg/year

*Note that approximately 275 of the 2000 census population resided in an area annexed by the City of Grande Prairie in 2001

Distribution of Population by Location Type and Comparison to 2000

The majority of County residents (7559) reported living on a farm setting. The second most populated type of residence within the County was the subdivision (3,513), followed closely by Hamlet residences (3,017).

Location Type	2006	%	2000	%
Farm	7,564	42.0%	7,479	48.8%
Subdivision*	3,505	19.5%	4,610	30.1%
Acreage*	2,004	11.1%	<i>incl.in sub'd</i>	
Hamlet***	3,428	19.1%	2,302	15.0%
Mobile Home Pk	1,314	7.3%	833	5.4%
Other	174	1.0%	96	0.6%
	17,989		15,320	**
Percentage increase over 2000 County Census				17.4%

*Acreage was included with Subdivisions in 2000, and separated into a new category for 2006
 ** Note, estimated 275 population of the 2000 census resided in area annexed by the City of Grande Prairie in 2001
 ***Lakeview Mobile Home Park is included in Hamlet of Clairmont Numbers

Age Ranges By Division

46% of the County's population is between the ages of 31-60. Almost a quarter of the population (24.1%) is between the ages of 0 and 15.

AGE RANGES BY DIVISION

Division	AGES BY RANGE										TOTAL
	0-4	5-12	13-15	16-19	20-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-85	>=86	
1-Bezanson/East G.P.	103	213	88	118	182	442	437	126	40	1	1750
2-Clairmont/North G.P.	296	357	147	178	674	707	519	180	35	10	3103
3-Grande Prairie (G.P.)	137	333	170	227	389	739	720	235	40	7	2997
4-Wembley/West G.P.	212	361	147	165	451	715	666	209	29	7	2962
5-Beaverlodge/Huallen	92	203	100	110	159	414	400	134	30	6	1648
6-Elmworth/Halcourt	45	103	64	53	75	213	248	134	33	1	969
7-Hythe/Demmitt	42	122	58	50	106	205	249	138	34	3	1007
8-Valhalla/LaGlance	119	203	73	95	170	298	315	169	49	3	1494
9-Sexsmith/Teepee Creek	147	276	116	121	240	527	454	139	32	7	2059
TOTALS	1193	2171	963	1117	2446	4260	4008	1464	322	45	17989
PERCENTAGE	6.6%	12.1%	5.4%	6.2%	13.6%	23.7%	22.3%	8.1%	1.8%	0.3%	