Population Projection
Highlights

From the medium (reference) scenario:

- Alberta is projected to add roughly 2.1 million residents over the next 29 years, reaching 6.4 million by 2046; an average annual growth rate of 1.4%.

- The majority of the expected growth will be due to migration, with 48% from international migration and 18% from interprovincial migration.
  By comparison, natural increase is projected to account for the remaining 34% of growth.

- In the short term, net interprovincial migration will recover from the outflows of the past two years, leading to an increase in population growth over the next five years.

- Alberta's population is projected to continue aging, where the average age is expected to climb to 41.6 years by 2046 from 37.9 in 2017.

- In 2017, a newborn girl could expect to live an average of 83.4 years, while a boy could live to 79.0 years. By 2046, life expectancy at birth is projected to rise to 87.1 for females and 83.5 years for males.

- The number of seniors aged 65 and older is expected to more than double from almost 530,000, or about 13% of the total population in 2017, to over 1.1 million, or around 18% by 2040. Almost one in five Albertans is projected to be aged 65 or older by 2046.

- While the number of Albertans in working ages (15 to 64 years) is expected to increase, the population share of this cohort is projected to drop from its current level of 69.1% to 64.0% by 2046.

- By 2046 CD 4 (Hanna) is projected to be the oldest region with 29.7% of its population aged 65 or older. CD 17 (Slave Lake) is expected to be the youngest with a 13.5% population share of seniors.

- Between 2017 and 2025, the population aged 5 to 17 years is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 2.1%.

- Growth is expected to be concentrated in regions with larger urban centres, especially the Edmonton-Calgary Corridor. By 2046, four out of five Albertans are projected to be living in the three census divisions that make up this region, CD6 (Calgary), CD 8 (Red Deer) and CD 11 (Edmonton), up from 76% in 2017.

- Except for CD 4 (Hanna), CD 7 (Stettler) and CD 13 (White Court), positive population growth is expected in all regions of the province. However, growth is projected to be very small in CD 3 (Pincher Creek), CD 15 (Banff), and CD 14 (Edson).

For more information on the *Population Projections* see:

- **Population Projections, Alberta and Census Divisions, 2018-2046.**
  Provides some discussion and details of the provincial and regional projected populations.

- **Data for Alberta Population Projections.**
  Includes estimated (1996-2017) and projected (2018-2046) population of Alberta and its 19 Census Divisions by single year of age and sex as well as some summary statistics.

- **Population Projection Methodology and Assumptions.**
  Details the methodology and assumptions of the long-term population projections.

Alberta Government