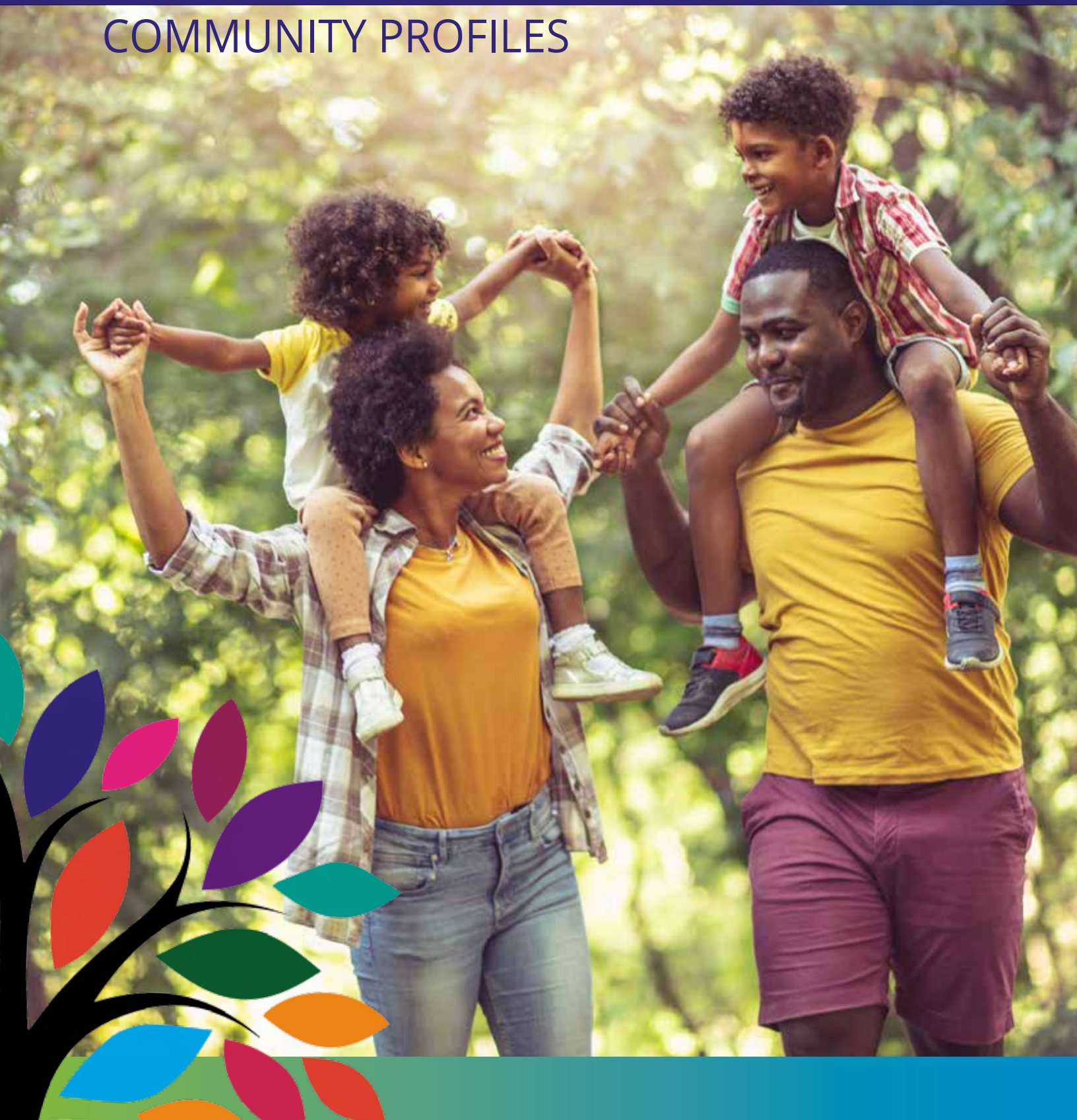


Welcoming Places

to Settle in Manitoba



COMMUNITY PROFILES



Altona

Community Overview

- Altona is a town in southern Manitoba, about 112km south-west of Winnipeg and 133 km north of Grand Forks, North Dakota, USA.
- Old Altona was founded in 1880 by Plautdietsch-speaking Mennonites from the Russian Empire.
- Altona is known as “The Sunflower Capital of Canada” and is home to the largest replica of a famous “Sunflowers” painting by Vincent van Gogh.
- The first Mennonite Central Committee self-help centre (now Gift and Thrift Store) in Canada was founded in Altona in 1972.

Economy/Employment

- Much of the surrounding area is devoted to farming and agriculture-based businesses. One of the biggest is Bunge, the oil-seed crushing plant in Altona.
- Friesens Corporation is the primary printer of yearbooks in North America as well as printing commercial consumer books specializing in colour art and educational books. The company employs hundreds of people.
- Other manufacturers are Conquest Manufacturing Ltd., Loewen Manufacturing, Sunland Steel Works and more.
- There are employment possibilities in healthcare, retail, and other industries that provide goods and services to businesses and consumers.
- To search for a job please visit: www.altona.ca/residents/employment/, www.pembinavalleyonline.com, Employment Manitoba office or talk to staff at Regional Connections., Employment Manitoba office or talk to staff at Regional Connections.



Housing

- The average home price in the Pembina Valley is \$244,000.
- The rental market is strong with limited vacancies. Rent for a two-bedroom unit in and around Altona ranges from \$700 - \$1,000 per month with older units being less expensive.
- To buy a house, contact a local real estate agent www.pembinavalleylifestyles.com/realtors-2.
- For apartments or rental houses, visit www.pembinavalleyonline.com, www.varagesale.com or contact staff from Regional Connections for a list of apartment buildings and landlords.

Education

- Altona public school system consists of four schools: Ecole Elmwood School (K-Grade 3), Ecole West Park School (Grades 4-6), Ecole Parkside School (Grades 7-8) and the high school W.C. Miller Collegiate.
- Altona is located in and is home to the head office of Border Land School Division.

Healthcare

- The Altona Community Memorial Health Centre has a 24-hour emergency department, surgery and diagnostic services as well as many wellness programs. Please call (204) 324-6411.
- The Boundary Trails Health Centre (BTHC) located midway between the communities of Winkler and Morden is the major referral hospital for all south-central Manitoba. Contact number to BTHC is (204) 331-8800.
- Altona Clinic offers regular medical appointments. Please call (204) 324-6447.
- For mental health support please contact Health Care Services in Winkler or call Community Mental Health 1-(888)-310-4593.
- Altona offers services of dentists, chiropractors, physiotherapists, and other health care specialists.
- For local health services visit: www.altona.ca/residents/health-services/



Daycares

- www.pembinavalleyonline.com lists local daycares, big and small. Another option is to search through www.godaycare.com.

Leisure

- Top attractions to visit in Altona and the area:
 - Centennial Park – featuring baseball diamonds, volleyball courts, tennis courts, skate park, playground, and picnic shelters
 - Altona Aquatic Centre
 - Millennium Exhibition Centre - state of the art multi-use recreation centre
 - Gallery in the Park
 - Neuberghthal Heritage Site – historic preserved Mennonite village
 - Musée St. Joseph Museum – commemorate lives of Franco-Manitoban pioneers
 - Oakview Golf and Country Club
 - Buffalo Creek Nature Park

Events:

- The Sunflower Festival – annual event with many family-friendly activities
- Montcalm Heritage Festival – takes place in mid-June every year at Musée St. Joseph Museum and includes a petting zoo, a parade, entertainment, and lavish meals
- For more leisure information, please visit <https://altona.ca/tourism/recreation-leisure/>

Amenities

- Altona offers many business and professional services, a variety of stores, restaurants and cafes, including food chains. Most popular shopping places are Altona Mall, IGA, Red Apple, Sun Valley Co-op Food Store, MCC Gift and Thrift Store.
- Accommodations include hotels, motels, inns, lodges, and campgrounds. Some are in Altona, and others are in the surrounding area.

- Altona is the headquarters for the Golden West Broadcasting group hosting the local radio station CFAM (AM 950).
- Much more local information is listed at www.altona.ca.

Newcomer Support

- Regional Connections Immigrant Services is the one-stop-shop that provides services, resources and referrals to newcomers living in south-central Manitoba. They provide settlement services, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, literacy classes for adults, employment services for unemployed or underemployed newcomers and Canadians. There are also community integration events and a volunteer program that helps connect newcomers to their new community.
- Regional Connections has four offices to serve newcomers close to their homes:
 - Winkler (204) 325-4059
 - Morden (204) 822-4387
 - Altona (204) 324-6858
 - Dauphin (204) 647-0693
- Visit their website for details www.regionalconnections.ca
- Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership (PVLIP) provides opportunities for newcomers to connect with local ethno-cultural groups to meet new people and fully participate in community events, sports or other recreation activities.
- For more newcomer support information, visit: <https://altona.ca/residents/immigration/>

Ethno-cultural Communities

- Most common ancestry group in Altona is German. Recent increase in immigration to the region resulted in greater cultural diversity with visible minority groups representing South Asian, Filipino, Black and Latin Americans.
- Local Russian, Ukrainian and Muslim weekend cultural schools to teach children the language, history, and culture.
- There are several places of worship to choose from in Winkler, Morden and Altona including Protestant, Catholic, Mennonite, and a Mussallah.
- A listing of mosques and prayer locations can be found here: <https://www.miaonline.org/prayer-locations/>



To learn more about the benefits of living in rural Manitoba, contact MIIC by phone (204) 977-1000 or email info@miic.ca



Brandon

Community Overview

- Brandon is the second-largest city in the Province of Manitoba.
- It is the primary hub of trade and commerce for the Westman region as well as parts of southeastern Saskatchewan and northern North Dakota, an area with a combined population of over 180,000 people.

Economy/Employment

- Brandon is rated as the best municipality for small business in Western Canada. The City's overall business cost competitiveness has been ranked #1 by KPMG of over 30 North American mid west cities surveyed.
- There are over 2,000 businesses operating in Brandon. Agri-food products and related services represent the area's largest industrial cluster. The manufacture of metals, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals account for the bulk of the remaining industrial jobs. Its largest employers include: Maple Leaf Foods, Behlen Industries LP, Koch Industries, Pfizer, Paul's Hauling, Westoba Credit Union, Prairie Mountain Health Authority.
- Brandon's diverse portfolio of economic contributors includes the Canadian Forces base in Shilo.
- Manitoba Youth Job Centre offers free assistance to youth 12 to 29 seeking employment.



Housing

- Brandon offers a variety of housing options in all price ranges and types.
- In 2020, there were 579 residential units sold through Brandon Area REALTORS® with an average price of \$292,024. These figures are inclusive of duplexes, single attached and detached homes, however, does not include condos or mobile homes.
- Average monthly rental rate for a two-bedroom unit is \$1,126. Visit the following links for rental information: www.brandon4rent.ca, www.point2homes.com, www.rentcafe.com, Manitoba Housing Authority – www.gov.mb.ca/housing.
- Finding housing: for a listing of current homes for sale and local real estate agents, please visit: Brandon Area REALTORS® <https://brandonarearealtors.ca/>
- Brandon has personal care homes, mobile home parks, senior accommodations, homebuilders, Samaritan House Safe & Warm Emergency Shelter and Brandon University Residence for student housing for Brandon University and Assiniboine Community College students.

Education

- There are four high schools and 20 early and middle year schools in the Brandon School Division. French Immersion programming is offered from K-12 at four division schools.
- The division offers an Advanced Placement program at Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School and Vincent Massey High School as well as Vocational Training at Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School.
- Brandon University offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in many areas, as well as several pre-professional programs.



- Assiniboine Community College offers English language training for newcomers.
- Other learning opportunities include Assiniboine Community College Adult Collegiate, Manitoba Emergency Services College, The Learning Company - Robertson College, Systems Beauty College, Brandon Flight Centre, and a few more.
- Kiwanis Club provides a babysitting course.

Healthcare

- Brandon Regional Health Centre offers a wide range of health services and programs to the citizens of Brandon and the municipalities of Cornwallis, Elton, and Whitehead.
- There are over 100 physicians and specialists with admitting privileges at the Health Centre as well as numerous medical clinics located throughout the City to meet the needs of residents.

Daycares

- The Economic Development Brandon website <http://economicdevelopmentbrandon.com/index.php> lists 25 Nursery and Pre-school centres available in Brandon.
- To find current childcare vacancies, please use the Manitoba Child Care Search tool: <https://childcaresearch.gov.mb.ca/>.

Leisure

- Brandon has a reputation as a sports-oriented city full of top-notch recreation facilities that include one of the largest convention, entertainment, agricultural and recreation complexes of its kind in western Canada.
- Throughout the City one can find National Hockey League sized ice surfaces, numerous sheets of curling ice, an indoor soccer arena, multiple indoor fitness centers, racquet ball and squash courts, an outdoor running track, skateboard park, numerous

pools, one being Olympic sized, and four children's water spray parks as well as Community Centres, Brandon School of Dance, cinema, museums, and much more.

- Spruce Woods Provincial Park, 76km from Brandon, has a desert like area called Spirit Sands and a swinging bridge on the Souris River 47 km away.

Amenities

- The city brings many options for grocery shopping, thrift stores, department stores, convenience stores, floral and gifts, clothing, jewelry, restaurants and many more services you would find in any other big city.

Newcomer Support

- Westman Immigrant Services is a not-for-profit registered charity that provides the following services and programs to immigrants and refugees in the Brandon and Westman area: Settlement, Employment, ESL Classes, Interpreters, Volunteering, Settlement Workers in schools, Resettlement Assistance Program. For more information, please contact: info@westmanimmigrantservices.ca.
- Brandon Local Immigration Partnership (BLIP) is supporting long-term integration and settlement of immigrants and newcomers. For more information contact lip@bnrc.ca or email info@brandonlip.com.
- Brandon Economic Development website <http://economicdevelopmentbrandon.com/index.php> has a lot of useful information for newcomers including a relocation guide, housing, employment opportunities, education, childcare, arts, culture and recreation, community contacts, a community events calendar as well as information about immigration opportunities under Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot in partnership with IRCC.

Ethno-cultural Communities

- Brandon community is vibrant and multicultural with many active ethnocultural organizations, ethnic stores, and places of worship to serve this diverse population. For more information please visit www.brandonlip.com/explore-brandon.



To learn more about the benefits of living in rural Manitoba, contact MIIC by phone (204) 977-1000 or email info@miic.ca



Cartwright



Community Overview

- Cartwright is a village in southwestern Manitoba, Canada. Just 13 kilometres east of Cartwright you will find Mather. Both communities reside in the newly amalgamated Cartwright-Roblin Municipality.
- Annual Mather Fall Festival is a very popular event in the area.
- Ponderosa Days is held the long weekend in August and has rodeos, bowling tournaments, parade and much more.
- Clay Banks Bison Jump is a unique historical site once used by First Nation tribes to hunt American bison.

Economy/Employment

- With a population of 1,254 people, most residents of Cartwright-Roblin, MB are above the low-income cut-off, or the income a person must earn to be considered part of the low-income group.
- There are 107 businesses and services listed in the area looking for employees in agriculture, light manufacturing, retail, carpentry, and construction.

Housing

- 37.18%, which is the majority of homes in Cartwright Roblin, MB, have four or more bedrooms. Homes with three bedrooms are also very popular, with 120 homes built with this number of bedrooms. The third largest category of homes according to number of bedrooms are two-bedroom homes representing 24.36% of dwellings.
- The average monthly rent for a two-bedroom unit is approximately \$900.

- Local agent, Arlene Klassen, has a variety of homes for sale within the Cartwright-Roblin Municipality. Please visit her updated website at <https://arlene-klassen.c21.ca/> or phone (204) 529-2433, (204) 523-6092 for more information.
- Undeveloped lots are available for building. Located centrally in Cartwright, these lots have been subdivided along the old railroad track. Contact the Community Development Officer for more information (204) 529-2363 or cdo@cartwrightroblin.ca

Education

- Cartwright has Cartwright School (classes from K – Gr. 12) under Prairie Spirit School Division. Grade 12 is funded and operated by Cartwright Community Independent School (CCIS). Funding is obtained in the community through donations and fundraisers.
- Rock Lake School is a private school established by the Mennonite Church of God in Christ. It is located about one mile north-west of Cartwright, in the RM of Roblin.
- Willow Creek Colony School is a public school operated by the Prairie Spirit School Division located on the Willow Creek Hutterite Colony. This colony is in the southwest corner of the RM of Roblin.

Healthcare

- Prairie Mountain Health/Santé Prairie Mountain (PMH) covers a geographically large area, around 67,000 sq. kilometres. It runs east to west from Saskatchewan/Manitoba border communities like Benito, Elkhorn and Russell to Waterhen Lake, Lake Manitoba and Treherne. From north-south, the region runs from the 53rd parallel north of Mafeking and close to Dawson Bay, right down to the United States border near communities like Melita, Deloraine, Boissevain, Killarney and Cartwright.



- In Prairie Mountain Health Region, there are 20 acute care (hospital) sites, 43 long term care (personal care home) sites, and nine transitional care sites. A transitional care site is defined as a site where the client/patient does not require 24-hour care per day/7 days a week medical (Physician) supervision and/or intervention. Emergency Numbers: Division Memorial Health Centre and Cartwright & District Hospital: 1 (204) 529-2483
- The compassionate staff at Cartwright & District Hospital provide individualized medical services designed to meet the needs of each patient. These dedicated health professionals provide careful assistance and quality care, personalized to meet the needs of each patient.

Daycares

- The Cartwright and District Early Learning Centre currently employs two full-time staff, two part-time staff, plus additional casual help. The Director is Cindy Bergen, and you may reach her at the daycare by calling (204) 529-2698 or by emailing cartwrightanddistrictelc@outlook.com.

Leisure

- Cartwright has many areas of local interest for inquisitive visitors and for the community such as: Buffalo Jump, Cartwright Town & Country Golf Club, Heritage Park Museums, The Blacksmith Museum, Reflection Park Garden, Badger Creek Park, The Rock and Memorial Wall in Mather, beautiful Rock Lake and many more.
- Cartwright has many sports and recreation facilities offering opportunities for golfing, skating, hockey, curling, swimming, fishing, paddling and working out.

Amenities

- Cartwright and its neighbourhood has many options for grocery shopping, and offers various restaurants and hotels.

Newcomer Support

- Cartwright Killarney Boissevain Settlement Services (CKBSS) strives to provide quality, welcoming resources for newcomers, employers, and community members in those areas. The main objective of CKBSS is to help newcomer individuals and families settle into the communities.
- Settlement services include a variety of programs to assist people learning to live in a new country and to help people develop knowledge and skills to settle and adapt to life in rural Manitoba. Please contact Settlement Services worker at Email: cdo@cartwrightroblin.ca Telephone: (204) 529-2307.

Ethno-cultural Communities

- The area was initially settled by German, Russian and other Eastern European immigrants but recently has become much more multicultural with East Indian, Chinese, Korean, Filipino and other Europeans. There is also a small population of Indigenous peoples, and a Hutterite Colony is nearby. There are various places of worship serve to these residents.



To learn more about the benefits of living in rural Manitoba, contact MIIC by phone (204) 977-1000 or email info@miic.ca



Churchill

Community Overview

- Churchill is a town in northern Manitoba, Canada, on the west shore of Hudson Bay, accessible only by train or plane.
- It is most famous for the many polar bears that move toward the shore from inland in the Autumn, leading to the nickname "Polar Bear Capital of the World" that has helped its growing tourism industry.
- Churchill is great for people who would like a small, close-knit community and outdoor activities.
- The winters in Churchill are long and cold; snow stays from October to April or May, and the temperature in winter can dip to -50°C.

Economy/Employment

- At present, Churchill, Manitoba has a population of 899 people. The cost of living is higher than in central or southern Manitoba.
- The four pillars of the economy are Tourism & Hospitality, Health Care & Social Services, Transportation & Logistics, and Science, Education & Research.
- Tourists visit to watch beluga whales in the Churchill River in July and August and the famous polar bear migration. The area is also popular for birdwatchers and to view the aurora borealis (northern lights).
- The main employers are the Churchill Health Centre (a division of the WRHA), the Town of Churchill and the Port of Churchill (seasonally).
- There are many volunteer opportunities in Churchill.



- For more information, contact Employment Services at <https://www.facebook.com/T2EChurchill/>.

Housing

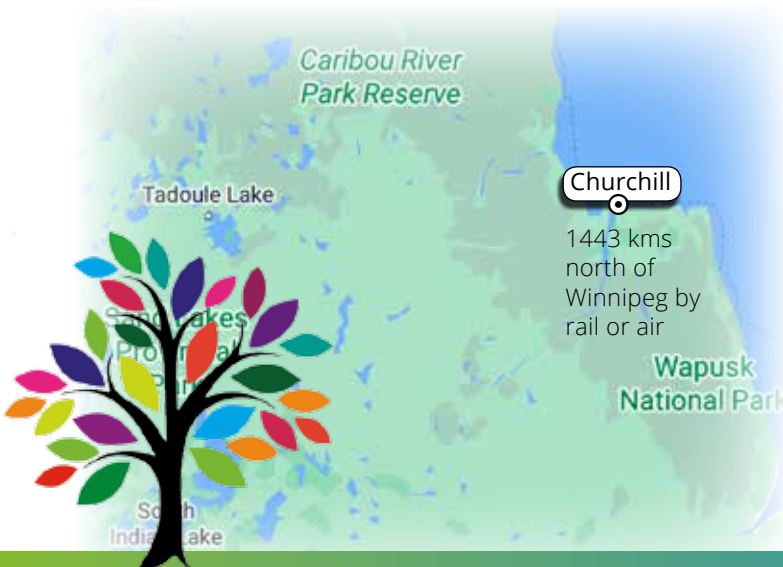
- Studio, 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom, 3-bedroom and 4-bedroom houses are available. The average monthly rent for a two-bedroom unit is \$860.
- Manitoba Housing is the biggest property owner in Churchill, however, there are some private rentals as well as houses for sale.
- Contrary to Winnipeg, for instance, you can apply for a Manitoba Housing unit in Churchill even if you do not qualify for a rent subsidy (if your income is above a certain threshold, you pay a market price for rent). There are usually waiting lists for public housing.

Education

- Churchill has one English school "Duke of Marlborough" from Kindergarten to High School, with an extensive offering of recreational activities and a warm-hearted, welcoming population.
- Duke of Marlborough School is part of the Frontier School Division www.fsdnet.ca.

Healthcare

- The Churchill Health Centre is a part of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, which gives Churchill residents access to many other services as well. Please call (204) 675-8881.
- 24-hour emergency services (paramedics), emergency admissions, long-term care, acute care, primary care, public health, diagnostic services, mental health services, social work and a pharmacy is provided year-round. Dentists and ultrasound technicians come to the community regularly.



- The Churchill Health Centre has a Children's Centre that provides multi-service care to all children between the ages of 18 months and 12 years of age. The Children's Centre has a daily program which is consistent with the Centre's goals and objectives. They offer a nutritious hot lunch, as well as two light snacks to ensure that nutritious food from Canada's Food Guide is being provided through the snack and lunch program. Contact number is (204) 675-8310.

Daycares

- The Churchill Health Centre operates a Children's Centre (daycare).

Leisure

- The town has an indoor playground, movie theatre, gymnasium, hockey arena, curling rink, swimming pool, library, town administration offices, public meeting space, bowling alley, and weight gym / fitness room. Duke of Marlborough School and Churchill Health Centre are adjacent to the Town Complex.
- Nearby is the Itsanitaq Museum, operated by the Diocese of Churchill-Baie d'Hudson, with over 850 high quality Inuit carvings on permanent display. The exhibits include historic and contemporary sculptures made of stone, bone, and ivory, as well as archaeological and wildlife displays.
- Recreational activities include Parks Canada Visitor Centre, yoga, kayaking, canoeing, stand-up paddleboard (SUP), hiking, circuit training, badminton, and soccer. Others are community/volunteer groups, Canadian Rangers, Junior Rangers, and Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary.
- The train trip to Churchill from Winnipeg is an adventure of its own.

Amenities

- Churchill has two grocery stores, one hardware store, four gift stores, seven hotels (one open year-round), four restaurants (one open year-round), one train station (VIA Rail and freight), taxi, one bank (RBC), post office, one car rental, one gas station/auto parts and service.
- The airport offers connecting flights to Winnipeg and Nunavut communities.
- Churchill has fibre internet (fast and strong).
- There is one taxi company but no other public transportation. However, the town is compact, and most places are accessible by foot.

Newcomer Support

- Churchill Community Immigration Initiative seeks applications from skilled foreign workers with education and work experience in priority and in-demand National Occupation Classifications (NOCs) as well as the intention to settle in Churchill permanently. Please contact immigration@churchill.ca for more information.
- Newcomers in Churchill can access services online through Regional Connections in Dauphin, (204) 647-0693.
- Few other employers in Churchill have brought in Temporary Foreign Workers and supported their subsequent Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program applications.
- Although there are no permanent offices of government services like Service Canada, Manitoba Public Insurance, and Manitoba Health, all services are easily accessed remotely.

Ethno-cultural Communities

- As of the 2016 Canada Census, just over two-thirds (67%) of the population are Indigenous and the rest (23%) are non-native. Many residents are Dene and Swampy Cree (43.9%), with some Métis (18.6%) and a small number of Inuit (4.5%).
- The largest immigrant communities are people coming from the Philippines followed by Ukraine. Other nationalities present in Churchill are Portuguese, Russian, Austrian, Australian, New Zealander, Honduran, Hungarian, and Kenyan.



To learn more about the benefits of living in rural Manitoba, contact MIIC by phone (204) 977-1000 or email info@miic.ca



Killarney

Community Overview

- Killarney Turtle-Mountain with a population of approximately 3,233 has everything you need, from accommodations, businesses, services, and special attractions to round out a terrific vacation.
- Killarney Turtle-Mountain has a beautiful, peaceful environment, urban amenities and a strong commercial sector located at the junction of Highway 3 and 18 in the Westman Region of the Province, one hour from Brandon.

Economy/Employment

- Agriculture and tourism combine to give Killarney and surrounding area a stable economic base. The town serves as a business and trading centre for a large area and a growing number of people.
- The 175 businesses and services offer various opportunities for employment.
- Many businesses on the edge of town provide sales of seed, inputs, and equipment to the local farming community. A host of agricultural related services are also available in and around town.

Housing

- To know the availability of vacant lots, please contact: The Municipal Office: 204-523-7247
- The average single-family house of 3 bedrooms and 2 baths is around \$193,000.
- For real estate inquiries, contact Arlene Klassen - Century 21 Westman.com Ltd. (204) 523-6092, Lewis & Jones Group (204) 523-4922.



- The average monthly rent for a two-bedroom unit is \$1,100.
- For rent related queries, please check out Facebook Marketplace "Houses for Rent Near Killarney, Manitoba."

Education

- Turtle Mountain School Division is in the south-western corner of the Province of Manitoba, directly north of the Canada/US border.
- The Turtle Mountain School Division operates Killarney Collegiate Institute (KCI). With student enrolment approaching 600 and approximately 40 teaching staff, KCI is the largest K-12 school in rural Manitoba.
- The Turtle Mountain Adult Education Centre, located at 510 Finlay St., has been in operation since 1998, providing quality educational opportunities to adult students of all ages. As well, Campus Manitoba offers University and College-level education via interactive online technology.

Healthcare

- Killarney is a regional centre for the delivery of health and community services. The Tri-Lake Health Centre, a modern facility with an attached personal care wing, provides the best in medical care, acute care, 24-hour emergency services at the local hospital, along with palliative care and a host of other important services including a lab facility and state of the art x-ray unit and ultrasound.
- A team of doctors takes appointments, including walk-ins at the adjoining medical clinic. This is also the site for MB Telehealth, which links patients from southwest Manitoba to specialists across the Province with live video and audio.



- Dentists, optometrists, and a chiropractor serve the needs of patients from Killarney and the surrounding area.
- The skills of two pharmacists, a physiotherapist, a licensed massage therapist and a dietician are also readily available.
- Killarney-Turtle Mountain has been designated an "Age Friendly Community" by the Province of Manitoba. As an age-friendly community, policies, programs, and services are designed to make it easier for older adults to stay active and healthy, so they can continue to contribute to their communities.

Daycares

- For any childcare related query, please contact: Killarney Nursery School (204) 523-4486 or (204) 523-1566 (Tracy Sanders) or Killarney Kiddie Korner (204) 523-8940.

Leisure

- Many of the properties on Killarney Lake are seasonal cottages and weekend retreats for the people of Brandon and other local centres.
- The Lakeside Golf Course is one of the biggest attractions in Killarney.
- The Shamrock Centre and Sports Park is the home of Heritage House, the curling rink, several baseball diamonds, the fair barns, and The Little Irish Downs.
- Turtle Mountain Provincial Park has many beautiful lakes for fishing and watersports.
- Killarney also has several organized sports and recreational programs for all ages, from minor sports like hockey, soccer and baseball, to seniors' programs and clubs. There is something in Killarney for everyone, www.killarneyrecreation.ca.

Amenities

- The Killarney Shoppers Mall, a 50,000 square foot indoor shopping facility, is one of the few indoor malls in rural Manitoba. The mall houses many shops and businesses and provides a comfortable walking place for exercise during the cold winter months.
- Motels and restaurants in town provide food and lodging to the many visitors who come to the area each year.

Newcomer Support

- Cartwright Killarney Boissevain Settlement Services (CKBSS) strives to provide a quality, welcoming resource for newcomers, employers, and community members in those areas. The main objective of CKBSS is to help newcomer individuals and families settle into the communities. Settlement services include a variety of programs to assist people learning to live in a new country and to help people develop knowledge and skills to settle and adapt into life in rural Manitoba. Contact CKBSS via email: cdo@cartwrightroblin.ca and telephone: (204) 529-2307.

Ethno-cultural Communities

- Rooted in agriculture the area welcomed settlers from all corners of the world.
- For many Irishmen the landscape reminded them of their home country therefore they named the lake "Killarney" later adopted by the town.
- Killarney is a community with a strong sense of spirituality and faith. With churches serving a variety of denominations, most people can fill their spiritual needs locally.



To learn more about the benefits of living in rural Manitoba, contact MIIC by phone (204) 977-1000 or email info@miic.ca



Morden

Community Overview

- Morden is a city located in the Pembina Valley region of southern Manitoba near the US-Canada border. It was recognized as the “Cultural Capital of Canada” in 2008.
- Morden and Winkler are often referred to as Manitoba’s Twin Cities due to their close proximity, shared services and economic ties.
- The local settlement was originally known as Cheval and was renamed “Morden” after Alvey Morden on whose family’s land the community was established in 1882.
- Morden is also called a “City of Discovery” and is home to the largest collection of marine reptile fossils in Canada, with “Bruce”, a 13-metre-long, approximately 80-million-year-old mosasaur, the longest mosasaur on public display in the world.
- The community is one of the most natural, green communities in the region.

Economy/Employment

- Morden is a regional services hub with a significant share of employment industries such as education, healthcare, and professional services as well as relatively large manufacturing sector featuring 12 firms.
- The Modern-Winkler Corridor is a 9 km stretch of highway between Morden and Winkler with Pembina Connection retail development near Morden featuring many restaurants, clothing stores and sport/leisure dealerships.
- Since the Morden area experiences some of warmest temperatures in Manitoba it has become home to agricultural and horticultural research. Its agricultural sector is growing potatoes and many other crops as well as operating livestock farms.
- Morden’s top in-demand jobs include welders, early childhood educators, manufacturing supervisors, construction managers, carpenters, painters, cooks, food service supervisors (for fast food), and massage therapists.



- To search for a job please check www.pembinavalleyonline.com, the local newspaper, Employment Manitoba office or talk to staff at Regional Connections.

Housing

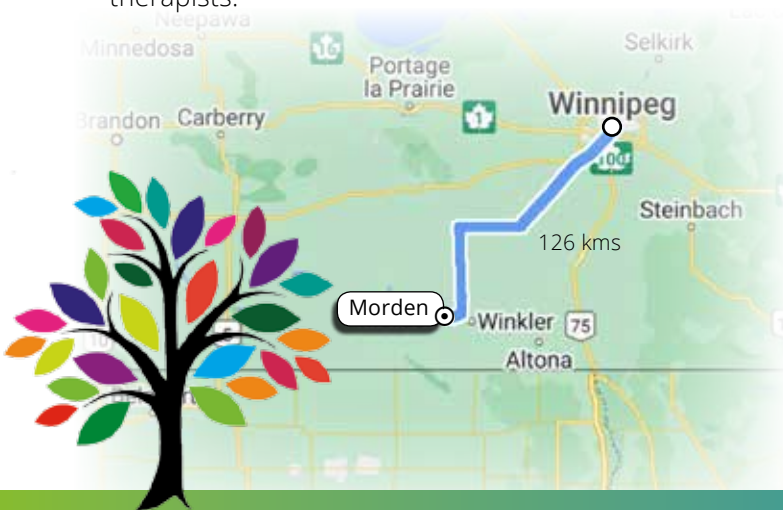
- The average home price in the Pembina Valley increased in comparison to last year and it is on average \$244,000. Yet on the market you can find farmhouses starting at \$50,000 and a large property for over \$1 Million, and everything in between. The rental market also remains strong with limited vacancies. Rent for a two-bedroom unit ranges from \$800-\$1,200 per month.
- To buy a house visit a local real estate agent www.pembinavalleylifestyles.com/realtors-2.
- For apartments or rental houses, look at www.pembinavalleyonline.com, www.varagesale.com or contact staff from Regional Connections for a list of apartment buildings and landlords.

Education

- Morden public school system consists of two elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. Red River Technical Vocational Area provides further opportunities for secondary level students within the Western School Division.
- Post-secondary education is offered by the Campus Manitoba programs.
- Morden also has an Adult Education Centre.
- See www.mordenmb.com/living-in-morden/education.com for information about public schooling, preschool and post-secondary options.

Healthcare

- The Boundary Trails Health Centre (BTHC) located midway between the communities of Winkler and Morden is the major referral hospital for all south-central Manitoba. It includes 94 beds (including 40 medical, seven obstetric, 18 surgical, four special care and 25 extended treatment unit/rehab assessment), an emergency department capable of accommodating 15,000 visits annually, three state-of-the-art operating rooms, dialysis, chemotherapy and appropriate support services, new programs of



CT scanning and MRI, ultrasound, X-Ray and diagnostic mammography, laboratory and much more. Contact number to BTHC is (204) 331-8800.

- Menzies Medical Centre offers regular appointments with medical doctors and has walk-in clinic hours. Please see www.menziesmedical.ca or call (204) 822-4474.
- For mental health support please contact Menzies Medical Centre or call Community Mental Health 1 (888) 310-4593.
- For other medical practitioners see listings under www.mordenchamber.com.

Daycares

- www.pembinavalleyonline.com lists local daycares, big and small. Another option is to search through www.godaycare.com.

Leisure

- Access Event Centre – known as Morden Arena is a multi-purpose facility with two indoor arenas, community hall, conference rooms and Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame.
- Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre - located at Access Event Centre has the largest collection of marine reptile fossils in Canada.
- Pembina Hills Arts Centre – aims to promote the arts and artists of the Pembina Valley region.
- Stardust Drive-In-Theatre and ALH Motor Speedway.
- Recreation – skate park, curling, outdoor hockey rinks, outdoor basketball, yoga and dance classes, hiking and cycling (with free bike rentals), fishing, golfing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, camping, picnicking, swimming and water sports at Lake Minnewasta.
- Parks – Pembina Valley Provincial Park, Livingstone Nature Park, Morden Park, Confederation Park, Suncatch Park, Stanley Centennial Park, and Lake Minnewasta with its trails and pathways.
- Events – annual Corn & Apple Festival with many attractions/activities including concerts, with past appearances by famous musicians like Randy Bachman, Prairie Oyster and many others.



To learn more about the benefits of living in rural Manitoba, contact MIIC by phone (204) 977-1000 or email info@miic.ca



- Please visit www.mymorden.ca/recreation for City of Morden recreation programs.

Amenities

- Morden offers many business and professional services, various types of stores, restaurants offering a variety of ethnic foods, bars and cafes. The main grocery stores are Co-op Foods, Giant Tiger, and Kolos European Grocery. Find a complete list of local services, stores, and restaurants at www.mordenchamber.com.
- Accommodations include hotels, motels, Bed and Breakfasts, vacation homes, resorts, inns, lodges, and campgrounds.
- Morden's weekly local newspaper is The Winkler-Morden Voice.
- A lot of local information is listed at www.mordenmb.com and www.mymorden.ca.

Newcomer Support

- Regional Connections Immigrant Services is the one-stop-shop that provides services, resources and referrals to newcomers living in south-central Manitoba. They provide settlement services, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, literacy classes for adults, employment services for unemployed or underemployed newcomers and Canadians. There are also community integration events and a volunteer program that help connect newcomers to their new communities.
- Regional Connections has four offices in the Province. Contact the Morden office at (204) 822-4387 or visit their website at www.regionalconnections.ca for information.
- A Newcomer's Guide to City of Morden offers a lot of useful information for people who have chosen to make Morden their home.

Ethno-cultural Communities

- Morden's population is diverse with the largest ethnic groups coming from Europe (Germany, Russia, Ukraine) and Latin, Central and South America (Mexico). Several immigrants from Europe are of Mennonite descent.
- Visible minority groups represent South Asian, Filipino, Black and Latin Americans.
- There are several places of worship to choose from in Winkler, Morden and Altona including Protestant, Catholic, Mennonite, and a Mussallah. See www.mordenmb.com/living-in-morden/placesofworship for a listing.
- A listing of mosques and prayer locations can be found here: <https://www.miaonline.org/prayer-locations/>

Neepawa

Community Overview

- Neepawa is known as the Land of Plenty as the meaning of the word “Neepawa” in Cree is “plenty” or “abundance”. Neepawa is located on the Yellowhead Highway, at the intersection of Highway 16 and 5.
- Neepawa, “where stories take a beautiful turn,” is the hometown of famous Canadian novelist and short story writer, the late Margaret Laurence, whose house is now a Museum.
- The town offers many tourist attractions and local job opportunities and has its own municipal government which provides fundamental infrastructure and services like policing, fire department, water and waste management and recycling.

Economy/Employment

- With a growing population of almost 6000, Neepawa’s diverse workforce supports a regional economy that includes agriculture, logistics, manufacturing, healthcare and wholesale trade.
- Neepawa has many new businesses and jobs emerging in a variety of manufacturing and retail sectors. Some positions are bilingual.
- The HyLife hog plant attracts more people into Neepawa because of the employment opportunities available at the plant. Another big employer is Stella-Jones an international lumber processing plant.



Housing

- There has been a steady increase in the average home price in Neepawa despite the lower average home price of \$223,023 when compared to average home price of \$297,444 in Manitoba in 2016.
- The vacancy rate for housing is a low 1-2%.
- Rent for a two-bedroom unit ranges from \$1,200-\$1,500 per month.
- For the latest updates regarding residential lot sales, please contact: Marilyn Crewe, Economic Development Officer, Office: (204) 476-7607, E-mail: edo@wcgwave.ca and for sale of houses there are many real estate agents from Century 21 Westman Realty - Neepawa Office, RE/MAX Prairie Mountain, Royal LePage/ Martin-Liberty Realty and Gill & Schmall Agencies.

Education

- The Town of Neepawa is located within the Beautiful Plains School Division and has three schools – Kindergarten to Grade 4 at Hazel M. Kellington School, Grade 5 to 8 at Neepawa Middle School and Grades 9 to 12 at Neepawa & Area Collegiate Institute.
- Children aged three and four may choose to attend Neepawa Nursery School.
- Newcomers make up over 50% of the students at all three schools.

Healthcare

- The Neepawa Health Centre provides 24-hour emergency services.
- The town currently has nine doctors servicing two medical clinics (Beautiful Plains Medical Clinic and Mountain Medical Clinic) and the Neepawa Health Centre.



- The town also has dental care, optometry, chiropractic, massage, acupuncturists, and physiotherapy services. For the wait time list, please visit: https://forms.gov.mb.ca/family_doctor_finder/

Daycares

- To find current childcare vacancies, please use the Manitoba Child Care Search tool for precise waiting time. The vacancies change in a timely manner so please visit <https://childcaresearch.gov.mb.ca/>

Leisure

- Neepawa provides plenty of multi-cultural art programs and recreational opportunities for all ages including Beautiful Plains Museum.
- The Town's Recreation department manages the Neepawa Swimming Pool, Neepawa Summer Day Camp, Disc Golf Course, and the recreational trails.
- The HyLife Back Forty Multi-Use Trail Park is a 5.1 km cycling course with varying levels of difficulty for all ages. Open year round for cycling, fat biking, mountain biking, walking/hiking, tobogganing, cross country skiing and snowshoeing.
- Langford Trail is the 36.39km long portion of the Trans Canada Trail – the longest recreational trail in the world with 27,000 kms stretching across 13 Canadian Provinces and Territories.
- Lily Nook offers over 150 varieties of locally grown lilies.
- The Neepawa Bird Sanctuary has become a popular resident and tourist destination. Nestled on the south of town by Park Lake, the sanctuary is home to emus, pheasants, peacocks, ducks, geese, rabbits, and other animals.
- Riding Mountain National Park, 80 km away, offers beautiful lakes and a bison enclosure.

Amenities

- The Town of Neepawa has a total of five hotels, motels, and Bed & Breakfast for visitors. It offers known food chains like Tim Hortons, McDonalds, Boston Pizza, Subway and local restaurants like Neepawa Golf & Country Club and Bamboo Garden Restaurant, etc.
- The Town brings options for grocery shopping with Canada Safeway, Giant Tiger, Neepawa Gladstone Co-op and many other services and small boutiques for convenience.
- Farmery Estate Brewery offers locally brewed beer and is also a tourist attraction.

Newcomer Support

- Neepawa and Area Immigrant Settlement Services (NAISS) provides immediate and ongoing assistance to Permanent Residents & refugees learning to adapt to life in a new country including settlement and employment assistance, and Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) program, Volunteer program, English language classes, childminding, workshops, information sessions, and community connections.
- NAISS serves clients over a large area including Eden, Gladstone, Plumas, Glenella, Minnedosa, Erickson, Rapid City, Brookdale, Rivers, Neepawa, Carberry, Hamiota and nine rural municipalities. Please visit their website for more information: www.neepawasettlement.com
- Westlake Employment Skills & Services Centre (WESSC) provides employment assistance services to unemployed and under employed Manitobans in the Town of Neepawa, the Rural Municipality of Rosedale, and the surrounding municipalities of Glenella-Lansdowne, North Cypress-Langford, and Westlake-Gladstone.

Ethno-cultural Communities

- The Town of Neepawa has many churches of various denominations to serve the religious needs of the community.
- Neepawa has a large and growing population of newcomers from the Philippines.



To learn more about the benefits of living in rural Manitoba, contact MIIC by phone (204) 977-1000 or email info@miic.ca



Portage La Prairie

Community Overview

- Portage la Prairie is a small city in the Central Plains Region of Manitoba, with the world's largest Coca-Cola can.
- According to Environment Canada Portage la Prairie has the highest number of sunny days during warm months in Canada.
- MoneySense Magazine's list of the best places to live in Canada placed Portage la Prairie in 49th place of 200 places profiled, as a "good place to live."

Economy/Employment

- The local economy is largely dependent on agriculture and supporting industries (trucking, transportation, chemical/fertilizer, farm machinery dealerships, etc.).
- The biggest employers with many job opportunities are McCain Foods Ltd.- frozen food manufacturer, HiTech Industries and Cobalt Industries specializing in machinery manufacturing, Simplot – agriculture fertilizer producer, food processing and other agricultural needs, Roquette – the global leader in plant-based ingredients for cosmetics, food and nutrition uses.
- The City is a commercial hub for the Central Plains Area; it serves some 50,000 people living within an approximate 50 km radius. In the last two censuses, its employment rate grew by 1.2%, an average growth rate of 0.24% per year from 2011 to 2016.



Housing

- Various new residential developments including an assisted living facility for seniors, and an upsurge in renovating older homes is contributing to the improvement of housing stock in the community. These new housing developments are occurring on the south side of the town, on or near Crescent Lake and Garrioch Creek.
- The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment is \$1428 whereas an average single-family house in Portage la Prairie with three bedrooms has a median house price of \$224,950 when compiling all the home listings from August 2016.
- For real estate related queries, you may contact Royal Le Page Portage Realty (204) 239-6767, Century 21 Fox Realty Ltd (204) 239-6461, Portage La Prairie Real Estate (204) 857-4111.

Education

- The City has nine public schools and two private schools for elementary and secondary levels.
- Post-secondary schools:
 - Red River College Portage Campus
 - Portage Learning & Literacy Centre has a mature Grade 12 High School Diploma and Adult Literacy program.
 - Assiniboine Community College offers training for Licensed Practical Nurses.

Healthcare

- Portage la Prairie has the Portage District General Hospital that has many essential services and facilities like Emergency Department, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, obstetrics, diagnostic ultrasound, X-Ray, physiotherapy, dialysis, Cancer Navigation Services and many more. The City also has a walk-in clinic and two personal care homes.



- To find a family doctor and the waiting time, contact <https://forms.gov.mb.ca/family-doctor-finder/>

Daycares

- The Online Childcare Registry makes it easy for families to find and apply for licensed childcare in Portage la Prairie and surrounding area. The registry also displays provincially licensed centre-based and home-based programs across Manitoba.
- Visit <http://manitoba.ca/onlinechildcareregistry> for most recent waiting times and availability.

Leisure

- The City has beautiful parks and outdoor recreation including Island Park and Splash Island Water Park, Fort La Reine Museum, Prairie Fusion Art Gallery and Performance Centre, the Portage Regional Library, Stride Place Recreation Facility, arboretum, cinema centre, dance programs, community theatre group, curling, a golf club and much more.
- It offers sports activities for youth and adults through Portage Minor Hockey Association, Portage Gymnastics Club, Manitoba Major Soccer League (Men's League), Portage Jiu-Jitsu, Portage Junior Rifle Club, and bike club.
- Southport, a community located within 3 km of Portage la Prairie, offers housing, daycare, restaurants, gym, bowling alley and golf course. Southport is most famous for its Aerospace Centre which is an active training centre for pilots and aircraft mechanics as well as a campus for a community college.

Amenities

- This City has Portage la Prairie Mall, Walmart Supercentre, Portage Supermarket, Sobeys, Co-op Food, Rona, McMunn & Yates, Canadian Tire, MCC Furniture Store, farmers' market, locally owned

greenhouses, thrift and gift shops, and other more affordable options for the community.

- The City offers many familiar restaurant chains and local family owned restaurants.
- All big city services are available for public convenience.

Newcomer Support

- The Portage Learning and Literacy Centre is a settlement service providing organization, with a program called Newcomer Settlement Services. It is an informational hub where newcomers can find the services needed to have meaningful and rewarding lives in a new community and country including assistance with important documents and referrals to different resources in the community.
- They also offer access to Canadian Language Benchmark assessments and English as a Second Language classes, assistance with funding and maintaining employment and housing, opportunities for community integration (i.e., social functions, fun events and celebrations, volunteer opportunities) For more information, please visit: www.pllc.ca.
- Portage la Prairie Local Immigration Partnership (PLIP) Council is a multi-sector partnership comprised of all levels of government, immigrant serving agencies, public institutions, and other key community stakeholders. PLIP's goal is to create a local settlement strategy that will improve the integration of newcomers and establish an action plan to produce a more welcoming and inclusive community. For more information, please contact: plip@portagecrc.com.

Ethno-cultural Communities

- Portage la Prairie was originally inhabited by people who were on the land for a thousand years before immigrants, mostly European, started arriving in the 1700s. Now the community is diversely multi-cultural with Indigenous peoples, Southeast Asians, Filipino, South Asians, Africans, Latin Americans, European and people from Middle East.



To learn more about the benefits of living in rural Manitoba, contact MIIC by phone (204) 977-1000 or email info@miic.ca



Russell

Community Overview

- Russell is an urban community in Russell-Binscarth Municipality, approximately 15 km east of the Saskatchewan border.
- Russell is the home of Manitoba's Beef and Barley Festival, which is held annually in October to celebrate the region's strong agricultural tradition.
- Eight steel arches along Main Street welcome visitors to Russell.

Economy/Employment

- The diversity of the labour force can be offered by:
 - The Primary sector – industries that extract and produce raw materials, for example, agriculture like Bunge Canada - a canola processing plant in Harrowby, or mining potash in nearby Saskatchewan.
 - The Secondary sector – industries that change raw materials into goods, for example, manufacturing or construction.
 - The Tertiary sector – industries that provide goods and services to business and consumers, for example health care, accounting, retail, tourism, and hospitality.
- Most businesses in the area are in the primary sector of agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting with 532 of them listed. The tertiary sector of real estate, rental and leasing has 116. There are 87 businesses in the secondary sector of construction and manufacturing.



Housing

- The residential real estate market offers a variety of housing alternatives from starter homes to family options in a town or rural setting. There is also well-planned room for custom homes to be constructed in serviced lots located in Russell and Binscarth.
- In addition, the Municipality has rental housing options that will meet the current and future needs of the community.
- Rent for a two-bedroom unit ranges from \$800-\$1,200 per month.

Education

- Russell provides educational facilities ranging from daycare and nursery to post-secondary facilities.
- Russell is part of the Park West School Division with Major Pratt School and Binscarth School. For more information, contact Park West School Division at pwsdoffice@pwsd.ca.
- Russell also has L.E.A.R.N. (Lifelong Education for Adults: Reading & Numeracy) Inc.
- The community has access to First Year Distance Education transmission, allowing individuals to take first-year education via internet.

Healthcare

- Prairie Mountain Health/Santé Prairie Mountain (PMH) covers a geographically large area, around 67,000 sq. kilometres.
- Russell offers Russell Health Care and Russell Personal Care Home.
- Services Provided: Acute Care, Emergency Services, Hemodialysis, Community Cancer Program, Diagnostic Services, Emergency Medical Services, Community Rehabilitation Services, Community Mental Health Services, Family Physician Services/Clinics, and more.



Daycares

- To register in Russell's Lots-a-Tots Daycare Inc. please contact: Facility Director Heather Betke (204) 773-2681; Email: lotsatot@mts.net.

Leisure

- Recreational facilities include a serviced campground, tennis courts, ball fields, curling and hockey arenas, community halls, a swimming pool, snowboarding and downhill skiing, and a nine-hole golf course. The main indoor facility is Russell Arena and Fitness Centre.
- Russell is located only 27 km (17 mi) from Assinippi Provincial Park, the site of Assinippi Ski Area & Resort—a world-class ski facility and year-round family park. The park contains the Lake of the Prairies, a 64 km-long lake with great fishing and cabin rentals.

Amenities

- Russell and surrounding areas bring many options for grocery shopping like IGA Russell, Twin Valley Co-op Ltd, Russell Filipino Store, etc.
- Russell also brings a variety of well-known food chains and local restaurants.
- There are plenty of hotel-type accommodations in the region.
- Russell has its own airport.
- Regional Employment Resource Centre will help you to find a job.

Newcomer Support

- Westman Immigrant Services (WIS) is a not-for-profit registered charity that provides services to clients within the region. The offices of WIS are in Brandon, Russell, Virden, and Cartwright. The Russell office looks after the seven municipalities

of Roblin, Russell, Inglis, Rossburn, Birtle, Shoal Lake and Hamiota. WIS provides the following services and programs to immigrants and refugees in the Brandon and Westman area: Settlement, Employment, English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes, Interpreters, Volunteering, Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS), Resettlement Assistance Program. For more information, please contact: Regional Settlement Facilitator, russell@westmanimmigrantservices.ca.

- Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/WISRussell/>
- For more information about local services please see the following websites:
 - Assiniboine Valley Community Development Corporation www.avrcdc.com
 - Municipality of Russell-Binscarth www.russellbinscarth.com

Ethno-cultural Communities

- Russell area is home to Metis people and also has settlers from Europe, Africa, and Asia (mostly Filipino and Chinese) and offers a number of churches to serve the diverse community.



To learn more about the benefits of living in rural Manitoba, contact MIIC by phone (204) 977-1000 or email info@miic.ca



Steinbach

Community Overview

- Steinbach is one of the fastest growing communities in the Province. The City has consistently ranked as one of the top three regional immigrant destinations in Manitoba offering great jobs and a high standard of living.
- Steinbach is regionally known as the “Automobile City”, “It’s worth the trip” and “more for you here”.
- Steinbach is primarily an agricultural community; however, as the regional economic hub of southeastern Manitoba, it is the regional shopping and services centre.

Economy/Employment

- As the economic centre of Southeastern Manitoba, service/retail industries employ most of the working population.
- Large manufacturing plants, especially those operated by Barkman, Bausch, and Loewen Windows (which is also headquartered in Steinbach), create a significant number of jobs. Exceldor, Enns Brothers, HyLife and other big employers also offer full time and part time jobs.
- Diverse job market consists of mid-sized and large-sized businesses in manufacturing, transportation, agribusiness, pharmaceuticals, retail, food services, healthcare, and financial services such as the Steinbach Credit Union.
- Trucking/Transport—Big Freight, Penner International, Steve’s Livestock Transport.

Housing

- The average single-family home in Steinbach this year sold for \$302,370. The average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment is \$1049. There are many new developments in Steinbach.
- There are several different property management companies and realtors like RE/MAX Performance Realty, Coldwell Banker, Delta Real Estate, Century 21 Gold Key Realty, Schinkel property, Royal LePage, Reimer Agencies and many more.
- Apartments, condos, and houses are available for sale and at rates according to one’s budget.
- HavenGroup is a full-service senior care provider which includes housing opportunities for seniors.

Education

- The schools in Steinbach consist of three Early Years Elementary Schools (Kindergarten to Grade 4) and two Middle Schools (Grades 5 to 8). Steinbach Regional Secondary School provides Grades 9 through 12 for Steinbach and the surrounding region.
- Steinbach Christian School, a private school, offers all grades.
- Steinbach is the home of Steinbach Bible College, which shares a campus with Steinbach Christian School.
- Steinbach has a post-secondary education program available through Providence College and Eastman Education Centre campus, which offers courses from Red River College, University of Winnipeg, and Assiniboine Community College.
- Red River College offers Steinbach Language Training Centre that has classes and childcare for permanent residents and refugees.
- Academy of Learning, Harv’s Air, Workplace Essential Skills Training (WEST).



Healthcare

- Bethesda Regional Health Centre is a hospital in Steinbach, Manitoba. It is the largest hospital in the Eastman region. There are about 11 walk-in clinics across the City of Steinbach.
- CancerCare Manitoba unit.

Daycares

- Daycare registration can be done online, and the waiting period depends on availability
<https://direct3.gov.mb.ca/daycare/fs/fs.nsf/welcome>
- Kinder Corner Centre—three locations.

Leisure

- Steinbach has its own Aquatic Centre, big A.D. Penner Park with BMX track and picnic areas, baseball diamond, softball diamonds, soccer parks, football fields, one of which is appropriate for rugby, skate park and golf course.
- There are also other parks and splash parks, playgrounds, gyms, movie theatres and tennis courts.
- Kids Zone family entertainment is the perfect place for kids to enjoy an indoor play structure, while at Kismet Creek Farm they can learn and appreciate the rescued farm animals.
- TG Smith Centre—Junior A Hockey Club—Steinbach Pistons, host hockey and ringette.
- Other leisure events and facilities:
 - Steinbach Curling Club
 - Pat Porter Active Living Centre for seniors
 - Mennonite Heritage Village—Pioneer Days and Fall on the Farm
 - Lilac Resort
 - Steinbach Arts Council
 - Annual Summer in the City—celebrates arts and culture

Amenities

- This beautiful City has many options for big retail shopping including Loblaws, Canadian Tire, Walmart and more but also offers smaller shops, boutiques, and discount stores etc.
- You can enjoy big city services including popular food chains and great local restaurants and coffee shops.
- The City offers libraries, an art gallery, schools for music, first aid training, driver training and performing arts.
- Steinbach Airport

Newcomer Support

- As Steinbach's only immigrant service organization, Eastman Immigrant Services (EIS) assists newcomers arriving to the region of southeastern Manitoba and is often the first point of contact for many new immigrants.
- Eastman provides settlement services, employment services, English for work, Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS), Eastman Region Immigration Partnerships (ERIP) and many more. For more information, please visit their website:
<https://eastmanimmigrantservices.com>
- Steinbach Chamber of Commerce—information on how to start a business, etc.

Ethno-cultural Communities

- The Mennonite Heritage Village is Steinbach's foremost cultural facility and tourist attraction. It provides a glimpse into the life of Mennonite settlers through a reconstructed street village and interpretive displays.
- The community is very multicultural with main ethnic groups being German, Scottish, Ukrainian, Russian, Irish, Filipino and Dutch but many other countries and cultures are also represented.
- SEMFA—South Eastman Filipino Association



To learn more about the benefits of living in rural Manitoba, contact MIIC by phone (204) 977-1000 or email info@miic.ca



Swan River

Community Overview

- Swan River is a town in west-central Manitoba close to the Saskatchewan boundary.
- It is a hub for the Swan River Valley region and its surrounding communities
- It is situated along Swan River which flows into Swan Lake which is believed to be named for the swans once frequenting the lake.
- The beautiful scenery of the Valley is made up of Duck Mountains to the south, the Porcupine Hills to the north, Thunder Hill to the west and Lake Winnipegosis to the east.

Economy/Employment

- Farming plays a major role in the Valley with almost 50% of the surrounding area under cultivation, most of which is seeded for cereal grain, oilseeds, and other speciality crops.
- There are also many mixed farms producing cattle, hogs, sheep, buffalo, goats, horses, and farm raised wild animals.
- Employment opportunities in the community are in agriculture (like Co-op Agro Centre), real estate, construction, retail services, tourism, healthcare, and forestry with two big mills and companies manufacturing wood (Spruce Products Ltd. and Louisiana-Pacific Swan Valley).

Housing

- In Swan River, the biggest boom in construction of new houses was between 1961-1980 but with a steady increase in population since 2011, construction started increasing again.
- Most accommodations offered have two bedrooms and are in single dwelling houses but there are also some apartments available.



- Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom unit is \$1,000.
- 60% of houses in the region are privately owned and 40% are rented. The average price for houses in the region is around \$250,000.
- For housing information, contact local real estate agents or get advice from Settlement Coordinator from Norwest Reginal Immigrant Services located in Swan River by calling (204) 734-9874.

Education

- Public schools in Swan River are governed by the Swan Valley School Division.
- There are four public schools in the Town of Swan River serving students from kindergarten to Grade 12.
- Ecole Swan River South School is French Immersion from Kindergarten to Grade 8.
- Swan Valley Regional High School offers Grade 9 to 12 education for students in the region and provides a variety of technical courses.
- Community Bible Fellowship Christian School is a local private school offering classes from kindergarten to Grade 8. Contact www.cbfchristianschool.ca.
- Distance education is offered by eCourses Manitoba, visit www.ecoursesmb.ca.
- Post-secondary education with a variety of courses is offered in Swan River by the University College of the North. For more information visit www.ucn.ca or call (204) 734-4419.

Healthcare

- Swan Valley Health Centre located in downtown Swan River is the primary healthcare centre in the Swan River Valley. It has 25 acute-care beds, in-patient medical/surgical services, diagnostic, out-patient services, mental health services, and occupational therapy. For Primary Care Clinic call (204) 734-6600. The hospital and its Emergency department serves the whole Swan River Valley area 24 hours a day, contact number (204) 734-3441.



- There are also private practicing family doctors, dentists, optometrists, and chiropractor in Swan River. A few pharmacy stores serve the needs of the local population.

Daycares

- Seven schools in Swan Valley offer Junior Kindergarten or Kindergarten care.
- There is one nursery school in Swan River.

Leisure

- Sports and Recreation- explore beautiful Duck Mountains Provincial Park and Porcupine Provincial Forest, ski some of Manitoba's longest runs at Thunderhill Ski Area (a short drive from Swan River), play hockey at Swan River Centennial Arena, swim in Swan River Kinsmen Pool, relax in Swan Valley Credit Union Aquatic Centre (part of Richardson Recreation and Wellness Centre), skate at Swan River Lions Skate Plaza, play baseball or soccer, go bowling at Up Your Alley Bowling Centre, or curling at Swan River Curling Club, or golfing in Swan River Golf and Country Club or simply enjoy walking through two parks within the town.
- Attractions – Swan Valley Historical Museum and Heritage Village, Star City Cinema, Harley House – heritage site serving arts community, Pretty Valley Honey – tours to the honeybee farm, Highway 83 – the world's longest continuously numbered highway, 3,450 kms, which runs from Swan River to the US/Mexico border, Magnet Hill off Highway 83 on Harlington Road – move up hill when car is in neutral.
- Events – annual Northwest Round-up and Exhibition (in July) hosted by Agricultural Society includes chariot and chuck wagon races, rodeo, concerts, dances, parade, bull riding and much more, Demolition Derby - in August at the old school grounds in Durban, Down on the Farm – agricultural show which lets you experience life on the farm now and in the past, Swan Valley High School Rodeo, Trail Rides – The Cowan Trail following the pioneers' original route into Swan Valley and the Birch River Riding Club horse trail ride – both in August.



To learn more about the benefits of living in rural Manitoba, contact MIIC by phone (204) 977-1000 or email info@miic.ca



Amenities

- Swan River and Swan Valley region offer options for grocery and retail shopping, basic services, fine dining as well as popular food chain restaurants like Tim Hortons, A&W, Subway, KFC, Pizza Place and Chicken Chef.
- There is a post office in Swan River, eight hotels/motels in Swan Valley and many seasonal campgrounds.
- Swan River is also home to the RCMP detachment.
- Swan Valley Star and Times is the local newspaper.
- The local airport is used for charter services and emergency flights.

Newcomer Support

- Northwest Regional Immigrant Services, office number (204) 734-9874, attends to settlement needs of immigrants and newcomers to the Swan River Valley and The Pas area. Settlement services include, but are not limited to, information sessions about life in Canada, Swan River and The Pas, help finding housing, employment, and connection with other community services like schools, doctors, dentists etc., language referrals, help with filling out various forms, support with community connections/developing network of friends and social support. They also offer Settlement Worker in School (SWIS) program supporting newcomer students and families to settle in new school and community. For assistance please contact Subin, the Swan River Settlement Coordinator at (204) 281-0359 or subin@swanvalleyimmigrantservices.com or SWIS Worker, Stephanie at (204) 281-5240 or stephanie@swanvalleyimmigrantservices.com both located in Swan River.

Ethno-cultural Communities

- The area is an ancestral home for the Cree people.
- The first permanent European settlement dates back to 1770 when fur traders from the Hudson's Bay Company and The North West Company established outposts along Swan River.
- The first pioneers from Europe arrived in 1897 and started to cultivate land for farming.
- Presently the community is diverse, with settlers from Ukraine and Germany but also from Philippines, East India, Iran, Korea, Jamaica, and Nigeria.
- There are many places of worship in Swan River and the surrounding area. See local newspaper for more information.

Virden

Community Overview

- The Town of Virden is located at the junction of the Trans-Canada Highway (Highway 1) and Highway 83, the 'Palms to Pines' route. It is surrounded by the Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth and very close to the Saskatchewan border.
- Virden has been known as the Oil Capital of Manitoba since oil discovery in 1951.

Economy/Employment

- Virden has its roots as a farming community, but it grew in population due to the brick and flour industry as well as with the discovery of oil in the 1950s. Oil related businesses are Tundra Oil & Gas, GoHard Oilfield Services, Diversified Oilfield, and Premier Oilfield.
- Virden is a regional service centre with a stable commercial sector and employment opportunities in retail, customer service, construction, health and more.
- There are 239 businesses registered in the Town of Virden Business Directory.
- Employment Resources: Virden Employment Skills Centre website www.vdnesc.ca.
- Town of Virden www.virden.ca/p/employment-opportunities, Prairie Mountain Health www.prairiemountainhealth.ca/careers, local newspaper Virden Empire-Advance.

Housing

- The Community of Virden has several new subdivisions including Bolton Bay and Kenderdine subdivisions.



- Average house sales range from \$120,000 up to \$350,000 for newer homes but you can find houses for less than \$100,000 or estates for \$700,000 to \$800,000. Please contact local Realtors from Remax, Sutton-Harrison Realty, Royal LePage or Century 21.
- Monthly rental rates range from \$1,000 to \$1,250 on average. Please see the Town of Virden Relocation Guide on the Virden website www.virden.ca for a list of rental properties.
- Virden offers affordable accommodations for Seniors in three senior complexes, Kin Place, Bolton Place and Princess Lodge, and in two Personal Care Homes, The Sherwood Home and Westman Nursing Home, offering long term care.
- Habitat for Humanity is active in Virden and recently built homes for four families.

Education

- Virden is located in the Fort La Bosse School Division.
- Virden has two elementary schools, Goulter School and Mary Montgomery School, offering Kindergarten to Grade 4 classes, Virden Junior High offering Grades 5 to 8, and Virden Collegiate Institute offering Senior 1 to Senior 4 classes with diverse programming including trades and technology.
- Fort La Bosse School Division also oversees two mixed grade schools in Hutterite colonies: Plainview Colony School and Boundary Lane Colony School, both offering German as first language classes.
- A.P.P.L.E. – The Association of Parents and Professionals for Literacy Education is dedicated to helping adults improve literacy skills by offering computer instruction, GED preparation, Mature Student High School Diploma, general tutoring, English improvement, and distance exam proctoring.

Healthcare

- Virden Health Centre, phone (204) 748-1230, operates under Prairie Mountain Health (PMH) and provides emergency medical services (24 hours a day, 7 days per week ambulance services), acute care (25 beds, inpatient



services, high care needs, palliative care), outpatient services, diagnostic services, community rehabilitation services and family physician services at Virden Medical Clinic, phone (204) 748-1345.

- Virden Health Unit, phone (204) 748-2321, offers mental health services, public health services and home care.
- Dentists from Prairie Life Dental and Virden Dental Clinic, Optometrists from Virden Eyecare Centre, Chiropractors and Physiotherapists (three centres) and Massage Therapists (three centres) are available to serve the needs of patients from Virden and area.

Daycares

- For childcare related inquiries in Virden, you can contact Funshine Early Learning Centres Inc. www.funshineearlylearning.ca or Rhythm and Glue with programs located in Goulter School, phone (204) 851-0056.
- Manitoba Online Childcare Registry helps finding childcare easier. Register online at www.manitoba.ca/onlinechildcareregistry.

Leisure

- Attractions – Virden Pioneer Home Museum known as “Victorian Home on the Prairies”, Virden CPR Station Historic Centre - the old Canadian Railway Station now hosting art gallery and town offices, The Aud Theatre - a beautifully restored municipal building and the opera house from 1911-12, St. Mary's Anglican Church - the first church building in Virden from the 19th century.
- Sports and Recreation – Tundra Oil & Gas Place is a multi-purpose recreational facility with hockey rink, walking track and fitness centre, Virden and District swimming pool with outdoor heated pool, five baseball diamonds, outdoor skating rink, soccer fields, football field and track, two outdoor tennis courts, curling arena and Virden Wellview Golf Course, snowmobile trails, and more.

- Victoria Park and Centennial Park – with beautiful landscape, walking trails, picnic and outdoor activity space, lawn bowling and summer Music in The Park.
- Events – Virden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze in late August was voted “Rodeo of the Year”, annual Virden Demolition Derby, Virden Music and Arts Festival, Community Expo and Culture Days, Pow Wow in the Park, a glance of Dakota culture with great entertainment.
- Souris – 70 km away from Virden offers a lot of year-round attractions like their swinging bridge, Hillcrest Museum, Railway Museum and Victoria Park Bird Sanctuary.

Amenities

- Virden has the same amenities you will find in the city including shops, restaurants, fast food chains, gas stations, post office, hotels and motels and various other services.
- Sport facilities, the historic Aud Theatre, the Virden Branch of Border Regional Library, and Arts Mosaic Gallery and Market add to the variety.
- Virden Empire-Advance is the weekly local newspaper.

Newcomer Support

- Westman Immigrant Services - Virden provides quality, welcoming resource for newcomers, employers, and community members in Virden and area. The main objective is to help newcomer individuals and families settle into the community. Settlement services include a variety of programs to assist people learning to live in a new country and to help people develop knowledge and skills to settle and adapt into life in rural Manitoba. For appointment, email virden@westmanimmigrantservices.ca or call (204) 748-1560.
- Virden Relocation Guide offers a lot of information for newcomers to the region. Please see www.virden.ca.

Ethno-cultural Communities

- Rooted in agriculture, the area welcomed settlers from all corners of the world, many of them from Germany. The town name may have originated from the misspelling of the German town name “Verden”.
- The community is mostly Caucasian with a moderate Aboriginal population and a growing visible minority population.



To learn more about the benefits of living in rural Manitoba, contact MIIC by phone (204) 977-1000 or email info@miic.ca



Winkler

Community Overview

- Winkler is Manitoba's sixth-largest city and the second fastest growing in the Province, located 126 km southwest of Winnipeg, offering many employment opportunities and vibrant multicultural community life.
- Traditional land of the nomadic Ojibway-speaking Anishinaabe people.
- Situated on the prehistoric beaches of Lake Agassiz which, when drained thousands of years ago, formed beautiful scenery and the rich soil.

Economy/Employment

- Winkler is the economic hub of southern Manitoba with plenty of diverse employment opportunities.
- Over 30% of the work force is employed in the industrial sector with the Triple E Recreational Vehicles manufacturer being one of the largest in the area. Other products manufactured in Winkler are mobile homes, houseboats, farm equipment, windows, and doors. There is also a straw fiber plant and tire recycling plant.
- 20% of the work force is employed by health and education sector.
- Winkler's agricultural sector is one of the most productive and diversified in Manitoba growing potatoes and many other crops as well as operating livestock farms.



Housing

- The average home price increased compared to last year. For Winkler, \$259,000 vs \$244,000 for the area, yet on the market you can find farmhouses starting from \$50,000 and a big property for over \$1 Million, plus everything in between. With strong demand in these growing communities, house values are expected to continue to climb in Winkler and Morden over the next year. The rental market also remains strong with limited vacancies. Rent for a two-bedroom unit ranges from \$800-\$1,200 per month.
- For details contact Winkler Real Estate Brokers and Sales Representatives, Choice Realty, Realtor.ca, any real estate agent or Settlement Workers.

Education

- Winkler public school system operates under Garden Valley School Division and consists of five elementary schools and two high schools.
- Post-secondary education is offered by Garden Valley Technical School and Red River College campuses.

Healthcare

- The Boundary Trails Health Centre (BTHC) located mid-way between the communities of Winkler and Morden is the major referral hospital for all of south-central Manitoba. It includes 94 beds (including 40 medical, seven obstetric, 18 surgical, four special care and 25 extended treatment unit/rehab assessment); an emergency department capable of accommodating 15,000 visits annually; three state-of-the-art operating rooms, dialysis, chemotherapy, and appropriate support services; new programs of CT scanning and MRI, ultrasound, X-Ray and diagnostic mammography; laboratory and many more. Contact number to BTHC is (204) 331-8800.



- The C. W. Wiebe Medical Centre is the largest in the area with primary care providers, urgent care, teen clinic and a panel of IRCC-approved physicians for immigration medical exams.
- Winkler has many medical clinics including mental health and teen clinic, dentist offices, pharmacy stores and privately practicing doctors. BTHC offers Home Care support and Public Health-Healthy Living programs.

Daycares

- PembinaValleyOnline lists 22 daycares (big and small) operating in Winkler and area. Another option is to search through www.godaycare.com.

Leisure

- Winkler Arena hosts ice hockey teams (its former player Ed Belfour was a goaltender in the NHL and won a Stanley Cup with the Dallas Stars), local high schools have multiple sports teams, and there are also men's and women's soccer teams.
- Winkler's main festival is the Harvest Festival and Exhibition held in Winkler Parkland in mid-August and Cripple Creek Music Festival in July.
- Pembina Threshermen's Museum includes historical buildings and a collection of agricultural machinery.
- Arts and Culture Centre offers monthly art shows, children and adult art classes and many special events
- La Riviere ski slopes are great for winter activities and Winkler Aquatic Centre and Campground for summer fun.
- Bethel Heritage Park is a beautiful summer gathering place with fountain, historic storyboards, floral display and music and theatre in the park all summer.
- Visit www.cityofwinkler.ca for local leisure information.

Amenities

- Winkler offers many business and professional services, various type of stores, restaurants, bars, and cafes.
- Winkler is home to two radio stations of its own and publishes a weekly local newspaper The Winkler Times.

Newcomer Support

- Regional Connections Immigrant Services is the one-stop-shop that provides services, resources and referrals to newcomers living in south-central Manitoba. They provide settlement services, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and literacy classes for adults, employment services for unemployed or underemployed newcomers and Canadians, Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) as well as community integration events and a volunteer program that helps connect newcomers to their new communities. Regional Connections has four offices in the Province. Contact the Winkler office at (204) 325-4059 or visit their website at www.regionalconnections.ca/ for information on their other offices.
- Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership (PVLIP) is a multi-sector partnership designed to improve the integration of newcomers in the Pembina Valley and strengthen the region's ability to better address their needs. For more information, see www.pvlip.ca.

Ethno-cultural Communities

- Most common ancestries in Winkler are German (from Germany, USSR, or Latin America) Dutch, Russian, Ukrainian, French, Aboriginal, Scottish, Irish, Polish and Icelandic.
- Most Winklerites are of Mennonite descent (their settlement dates to 1876).
- For over 50% of Winklerites, English or French is not their first language.
- Over the last few years, the largest group of newcomers are from the Philippines and India, however the community is still diverse.
- Most communities have local places of worship, but some must travel to Winnipeg.
- There are several places of worship to choose from around Winkler, Morden and Altona including Protestant, Catholic, Mennonite, and a Mussallah.
- A listing of mosques and prayer locations can be found at <https://www.miaonline.org/prayer-locations/>



To learn more about the benefits of living in rural Manitoba, contact MIIC by phone (204) 977-1000 or email info@miic.ca





Welcome!

To learn more about the benefits of living in rural Manitoba, contact MIIC by phone (204) 977-1000 or by email info@miic.ca