

# Census 2025

## Census 2025: A snapshot of Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo

Census 2025 tells a story about Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo, a northern community moving forward with purpose, grounded in opportunity, a strong economy, and a place where families continue to build their lives.

After a decade shaped by challenges and resilience, the region is growing again for the first time in 10 years. The Municipality's total population is 107,740, a 1.6% increase from 2021. The increase may be modest, but it matters. It reflects people choosing to stay, come back, and to build their lives here, drawn by opportunity, connection, and a sense of place.

### More people are calling Wood Buffalo home

Since 2021, the number of people who live in Wood Buffalo permanently has grown by 11.16%, and the number of temporary workers living in camps or short-term accommodations has decreased by 22.15%. Work camps in the region also declined from 68 facilities to 25.

This means more people are choosing to live here full-time, which shows that efforts to support a local workforce and long-term residency are making a difference.

### A young, working-age community

Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo remains a young and working-age community, with 43% of people between the ages of 20 and 44.

The largest age group has shifted from 35 to 39 in earlier census cycles to 40 to 45 in 2025, which points to a community that is becoming more settled.

### More seniors are staying here

Seniors aged 65 and over make up 5.5% of the population, an increase of 1.2% since 2021, indicating a relatively small but gradually growing older population. This shows that more seniors are choosing to stay in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo after they retire.

### People are coming from across Canada

People continue to move to the region from across Canada. Over half of people relocating were from somewhere within Alberta (51.47%). This was followed by Ontario (13.36%) and Newfoundland & Labrador (10.27%).

Connecting with family is the top reason people move to the region, followed by housing and employment opportunities. This shows that social ties and quality of life are just as important as jobs.

## People are staying in Wood Buffalo longer

At the same time, many people have lived here for more than a decade (29.51%), with a large group calling Wood Buffalo home for more than 20 years (23.39%).

## A diverse and welcoming northern community

Residents identify with many ethnic backgrounds, showing that the region continues to be culturally diverse. For the first time, the census also collected more inclusive gender information, helping ensure that everyone is represented.

Nearly 4,000 people also reported living with one or more disabilities, highlighting the importance of accessible spaces, services, and programs that work for everyone.

## How we live: Our homes and households

Nearly 70% of households in the region are comprised of families, showing that Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo is a place where people truly put down roots.

## Counting our furry, feathered, and scaled friends in Wood Buffalo

For the first time, Census 2025 asked about pets in households, helping build a clearer picture of life in Wood Buffalo and the role animals play in it. The goal was simple and practical: to better understand local needs related to veterinary care, animal services, and emergency preparedness.

With more than 18,000 pets reported, the results show just how important animals are to many people and families across the region.

## Looking ahead to the future

Census 2025 tells the story of a region that is growing, stabilizing, and evolving. It reflects a community shaped by long-term residents and newcomers alike, by families and individuals, and by people choosing Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo as a place to stay, invest, and build their lives.

These insights give the region a clearer view of where it is headed. They help inform planning, services, and decisions that support a strong economy, healthy families, and inclusive communities, ensuring Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo continues to move forward with confidence, now and into the future.



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