



Is Regina getting its fair share of population growth?

By STU NIEBERGALL

President & CEO of the Regina & Region Home Builders Association

When I chat with people who are not in the residential construction industry I often ask, "Do you think Regina is growing?"

The most common response is "I think so."

Some level of growth is simply going to occur as the population of Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan is projected to rise steadily over the next 25 years. Newcomers to Canada will create roots somewhere.

While Regina is getting some of the benefits of the natural population growth of our nation, the data more than suggests Regina is not getting its fair share of the growth, especially amongst Western Canada.

Despite the strong economic conditions in Saskatchewan, Regina has fallen short of realizing its potential. The city has seen a rise in population thanks to strong international immigration, adding almost 70,000 people over the last two decades. Yet Regina had the second lowest population growth rate among all metropolitan cities in Western Canada, with only a seven-per cent increase between 2017 and 2022.

Add to this the ongoing outflow of residents seeking better opportunities elsewhere in Saskatchewan and other provinces has resulted in negative domestic migration for the past 8 years, significantly hindering population growth and erasing 37.4% of the gains made from international immigration since 2014.

Moreover, our neighbour to the north is surpassing Regina in terms of population growth. In 2002, Saskatoon's population was 17.4% larger than Regina. Today that gap has grown to 29.3%.

Some might suggest Saskatoon's strong and diverse economy has attracted people looking for job opportunities while in comparison, Regina's economic growth has been more sluggish, with most job growth coming from the publicly driven industries. Between 2018 and 2022, Regina created 2,300 new jobs, while Saskatoon created over 22,700 jobs, primarily in the private sector.

It stands to reason that the residential construction sector and our Association are strong

Regina & Region
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proponents of growth. It is what makes our industry viable. However, the residential construction sector is only a reflection in what is going on in the larger local economy.

Regina is facing a more pressing local challenge, the steady emigration of its population. To sustain Regina's growth and competitiveness the city must find a balance between meeting its short-term and long term needs.

Regina once again needs to invest in creating an environment that attracts private-sector investment, drive innovation, and provides well-paying, long-term opportunities.

A recent report from Desjardin suggests that Canada's increased immigration targets will spur economic growth, with the prairies poised to benefit the most by leveraging its affordability to attract a higher share of newcomers. However, Regina runs the risk of continuing to lag if it fails to boost its capacity for retaining population and sustaining growth.

UPCOMING REGINA CHAMBER EVENTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

HOMEGROWN SUCCESS: THE STATE OF LABOUR IN REGINA
Presented in partnership with Economic Development Regina.

Join the conversation and share your voice at this State of Labour event.

Conference to include keynote speakers along with a moderated panel.

9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The Atlas Hotel

To register or for more information click [HERE](#).



THURSDAY, APRIL 6

23RD ANNUAL PARAGON AWARDS

Celebrating and honouring the achievements of the Regina Business Community

Delta Regina

Reception: 6 p.m.

Dinner & Awards to follow

If you know of deserving business, nominations can be made by calling 306-757-4648 or emailing jtonita@reginachamber.com

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For more information or to register for these outstanding Chamber event click [HERE](#)

"We acknowledge, with respect and truth, that we work and support the business community in Treaty 4 Territory and the traditional lands of the nêhiyawak (Cree), Anihšīnāpēk (Saulteaux), Dakota, Lakota, Nakoda, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation."

Canadian Western Bank to assist Z99 Radiothon

Canadian Western Bank (CWB) has two events planned in March in support of the 36th annual Z99 Radiothon. All funds raised by the events and the Radiothon will support the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in the Rawlco Centre For Mother Baby Care at the Regina General Hospital.



CWB's first event is an All You Can Eat Pizza/Pasta Bar night on Sat., March 11 at the Western Pizza Broadway. Sittings for the event are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25.



The second event is "Shaving Heads & Saving Babies" on March 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Hill Tower II lobby. CWB is looking for people who will commit to raising pledges to have their heads, beards, moustaches, etc. shaved or a body part waxed.

To purchase tickets for the All You Can Eat Pizza/Pasta Bar night or to register for the "Shaving Heads & Saving Babies" event, call 306-337-1579.



Sask Polytechnic offering course about grants & proposals

Saskatchewan Polytechnic is offering an Introduction to Grants and Proposals Course (BCOM 1803), a course that teaches the fundamentals of researching, writing and applying for funding.



The following topics are covered within the course:

Define elements of fund development

- Define key terms in fund development
- Discuss the roles and key players in fund development
- Discuss the ethics and standards for fund development

Apply funding applications and its processes

- Explain request for proposals (RFP's)
- Explain the grant writing process
- Discuss the adjudication process
- Research potential funding opportunities in Saskatchewan
- Write a funding application

This course is scheduled from March 27 – April 28, 2023, and will be delivered online in a asynchronous format.

Tuition is \$365.00. The registration deadline is March 19, 2023.

Details about registration can be found [HERE](#).



Upcoming Course dates

Regina:

- March 27, 28, April 4th (3 days)
- June 8, 15, 22 (3 days)
- Oct 3 - 5 (3 days)

Saskatoon:

- April 11, 18, 25, May 2 (4 days)
- Sept 12, 19, 26 (3 days)
- Nov 7, 14, 21, 28 (4 days)

STRUGGLING TO FIND GREAT EMPLOYEES?

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