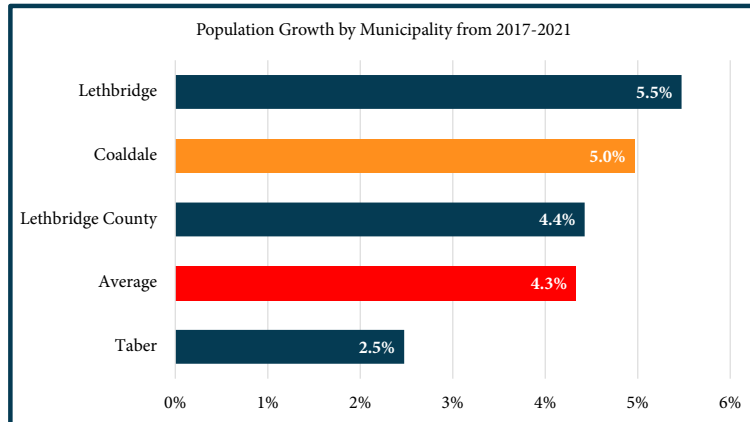# Coaldale Continues to See Above Average Population Growth

As the Town's 2022 Comparative Analysis shows, from 2017-2021 Coaldale saw the second highest population growth among its regional neighbours.

Population Growth by Municipality from 2017-2021

Municipality	Growth
Lethbridge	5.5%
Coaldale	5.0%
Lethbridge County	4.4%
Average	4.3%
Taber	2.5%

In May, the Town of Coaldale officially released its 2022 Comparative Analysis, which compares Coaldale's operational and financial performance to the operational and financial performances of eight other similarly sized and/or neighbouring municipalities: Blackfalds, Drumheller, Edson, Innisfail, Lethbridge, Lethbridge County, Ponoka, and Taber.

In keeping with the Town's previous Analyses, the Town's 2022 Analysis once again takes stock of each municipality's population growth – a performance metric that can be revealing of the relative health and desirability of a community, especially when looked at from a regional perspective. According to the Analysis, from 2017-2021, Coaldale saw the second highest population growth among its regional neighbours (Lethbridge, Lethbridge County, and Taber).

Population statistics used in this Analysis are taken from the Government of Alberta and can be found online at its "regional dashboard." These numbers reflect an estimate that is updated on an annual basis rather than the defined results of a federal census, which are only updated once every five years. According to these figures, Coaldale is performing relatively well. From 2017-2021, population growth in the region averaged 4.3%. During that same period, however, Coaldale's population grew from 8495 to 8917, which

amounts to 5.0% (0.5% less than neighbouring Lethbridge but 0.7% above the regional average). Meanwhile, Taber's population grew by 2.5% while Lethbridge County's population grew by 4.4%. What this suggests is that regionally, Coaldale has positioned itself as an attractive community to relocate to and live in, and that organizational policies focused on promoting and sustaining growth are paying off.

"For a town of Coaldale's size, above average population growth is significant," said Cameron Mills, Director of Growth & Investment for the Town of Coaldale. "While major urban centres like neighbouring Lethbridge are better equipped to weather financial setbacks associated with stagnant or declining population growth, smaller towns like Coaldale and its similarly sized peers simply don't have that luxury. It's nice to see that Coaldale is continuing to grow, and at a pace that's above average for our region. This tells us that if someone chooses to move to Coaldale, it's a reflection not only of where Coaldale is located, but also, of what Coaldale in particular has to offer. It also means that Coaldale is continuing to expand its tax base, which will help position the community to maintain service levels even the face of high inflation. That's a challenge that in recent years, every municipality has had to contend with, including Coaldale."

Apply to Sit on a Municipal Board/Committee!

The Town of Coaldale is currently recruiting for municipal boards, commissions, and/or committees.

DID YOU KNOW?
As a committee/board member you will have direct influence on the formation of Town policy in key areas.

APPLY NOW AT:
https://www.coaldale.ca/government/committees-boards/application

Coaldale Town Council Attends Parades and Community Celebrations Throughout the Region

In each parade, members of Coaldale Town Counil were able to showcase the Town's original 1956 International fire truck.

Over the past few months, members of Coaldale Town Council travelled throughout the region to support parades and community celebrations in Raymond, Stirling, Picture Butte, Lethbridge, Taber, and Coalhurst.

In each parade, members of Coaldale were able to showcase the Town's original 1956 International fire truck, which they also showcased in Coaldale's very own Candy Parade.

Thanks to the Coaldale & District Volunteer Fire Fighters Association for sending Council to all of these events in style!

Here's some photos of Mayor Jack Van Rijn, along with Councillors Lisa Reis, Dale Pickering, Jacen Abrey, Jason Beekman, and Bill Chapman, attending summer celebrations/parades in Raymond, Taber, and Lethbridge.

Members of Coaldale Town Council in Raymond to celebrate Raymond's annual Canada Day festivities (July 1, 2023).

Members of Coaldale Town Council in Lethbridge to show their support for Whoopup Days (August 22, 2023)

Members of Coaldale Town Council in Taber to show their support for Taber Corn Fest (August 24, 2023)

What's Happening in the Community?

On September 12, the Town will hold its annual Fall Community Meetup & Registration (formerly known as "Fall Mass Registration") in an effort to educate residents about various community groups, organizations, and committees they can join or volunteer for. The event will be held at Eastview Park from 5:30-7:30pm.

On Saturday, September 23, Coaldale Town Council will host its 4th and final Quarterly Coffee of the year. The event will feature Administrative Services and take place from 1:00-3:00pm in the atrium of Civic Square. Light refreshments will be served.