

## 3.2. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

This section of the plan provides a socio-economic profile of the Stats Canada Parklands Economic Region (Figure 3.73), that approximates the location of Forest Management Licence #3. The Parklands Region is an amalgamation of Census Divisions 16, 17, and 20. All data were summarized by Statistics Canada (2017) from the 2006, 2011, and 2016 censuses. The first part of the profile looks at the demographic characteristics of the area, such as population and age trends. Languages spoken in the area are summarized. Income and wealth statistics are part of the socio-economic profile, as is employment.



Figure 3.75 The Parklands Economic Region (Manitoba Bureau of Statistics 2012)

### 3.2.1. Economic Geography of the Parklands Region

The Forest Management License #3 area is located in west-central Manitoba, and is also known as the Parklands Region. The licence area is adjacent to the Saskatchewan border, and the edge of Riding Mountain National Park to the south, Dauphin in the southeast, and is bounded on the east by Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis (Figure 3.74).

The topography of Riding Mountain and the Duck Mountain form obstacles to travel, therefore the main lines of travel and communication go around the mountains. Highway #5 runs east-west between Riding Mountain Park and Duck Mountain Provincial Park. Highway #10 is a provincial trunk highway that connects Dauphin to Swan River and communities to the north. Lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis impede travel east into the centre of the Province (the Interlake region). The Trans-Canada highway is a major east-west artery, but is hundreds of kilometers to the south of FML #3. Thus, the Parklands region is geographically isolated and has a greater natural affinity with eastern Saskatchewan than with the rest of Manitoba.

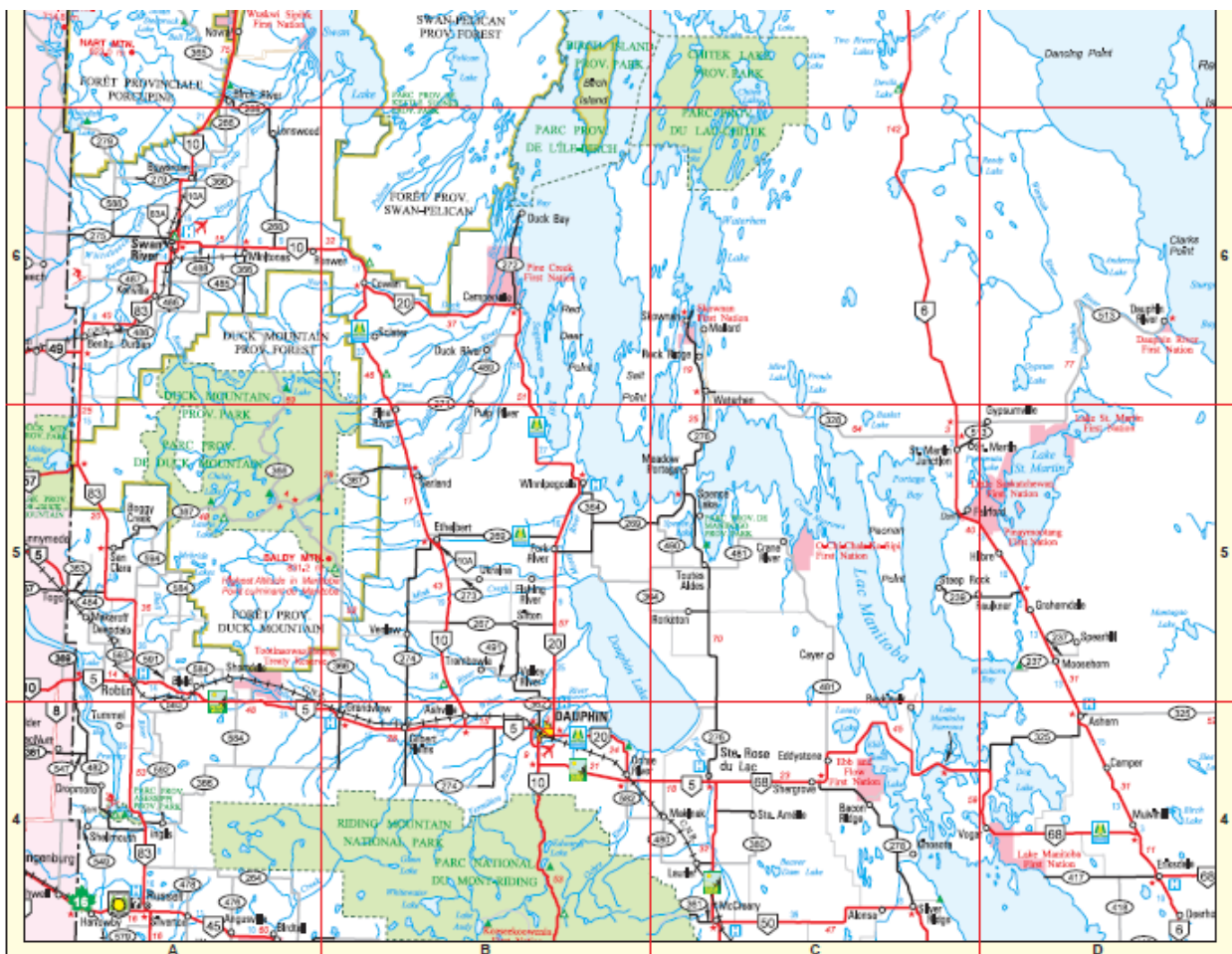


Figure 3.76 The Parklands Region general area.

Dauphin is the only city in the Parklands Region, and is a regional hub. Towns are the next smallest community type. There are five towns in the area, including Grandview, Minitonas, Roblin, Ste. Rose du Lac, and Swan River. Villages, such as Bowsman and Ethelbert, are even

smaller. Some residents of the Parklands live on a farm or an acreage within a Rural Municipality (RM) instead of a town or village.

There are five First Nations reserve areas within Forest Management Licence #3. They are: O Chi Chak ko Sipi (Crane River); Ebb and Flow; Pine Creek; Tootinaowaziibeeng (Valley River); and Wuskwi Sipi. Numerous Metis settlements are also in the licence area. There are also First Nations Reserves outside the licence area, including Sapotaweyak, Rolling River, Waywayseecappo First Nation, and others.

### 3.2.2. Population Trends

The population of the Province of Manitoba expanded by 5.8% in the last census period (2011 and 2016). However, most of Manitoba's population increase (69%) occurred within the City of Winnipeg. The Parklands Region was the only region in Manitoba to decline in population (1.0%) between 2011 and 2016. The Parklands Region population also declined in the previous census period (2006 to 2011) by 1.5%.

Larger communities within the Parklands region (*i.e.* Dauphin and Swan River) experienced modest population growth. Smaller population centers in the Parklands Region experienced declines in population, with the exception of the town of Grandview and the villages of Ethelbert and McCreary.

**Table 3.27 Population trends in the Parklands Region.**

Location	2016	2011	2006	% change 2011 2016	% change 2006 2011
<b>Province of Manitoba</b>	1,278,365	1,208,268	1,148,401	5.8%	5.2%
<b>Parklands Economic Region</b>	41,674	42,088	42,708	-1.0%	-1.5%
<b>CITIES</b>					
Dauphin	8,457	8,251	7,906	2.5%	4.4%
<b>TOWNS</b>					
Gilbert Plains	785	811	760	-3.2%	6.7%
Grandview	864	859	839	0.6%	2.4%
Minitonas	465	522	497	-10.9%	5.0%
Roblin	1,697	1,774	1,672	-4.3%	6.1%
*Rossburn	512	552	546	-7.2%	1.1%
*Russell	1,599	1,669	1,590	-4.2%	5.0%
Ste. Rose du Lac	1,021	1,023	995	-0.2%	2.8%
Swan River	4,014	3,907	3,869	2.7%	1.0%
<b>VILLAGES</b>					
Benito	370	377	370	-1.9%	1.9%
*Binscarth	407	425	395	-4.2%	7.6%
Bowsman	262	298	315	-12.1%	-5.4%
Ethelbert	277	275	312	0.7%	-11.9%

Location	2016	2011	2006	% change	
				2011 2016	2006 2011
McCreary	507	472	487	7.4%	-3.1%
Winnipegosis	617	647	628	-4.6%	3.0%

*\*town or village is in the Parklands Economic Region, but not within Forest Management Licence #3*

All of the Rural Municipalities in the Parklands Region experienced substantial declines in population between 2011 and 2016 (Table 3.27) with the exception of the RM of Dauphin.

**Table 3.28 Population trends in rural municipalities in the Parklands region.**

Rural Municipality	2016	2011	% change	
			2011 2016	2006 2011
Dauphin	2,388	2,200	8.6%	
Swan Valley West	2,829	2,923	-3.2%	
Grandview	1,482	1,508	-1.7%	
Ste. Rose	1,712	1,794	-4.6%	
Gilbert Plains	1,470	1,623	-9.4%	
Minitonas/Bowsman	1,653	1,816	-9.0%	
Hillsburg/Roblin/Shell River	3,214	3,284	-2.1%	
Lakeshore	1,363	1,401	-2.7%	
Mossey River	1,145	1,186	-3.5%	
Ethelbert	607	629	-3.5%	
Mountain North	559	637	-12.2%	
Mountain South	419	467	-10.3%	
Alonsa	1,247	1,270	-1.8%	
Riding Mountain West	1,420	1,390	-2.2%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,508</b>	<b>22,128</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>	

Demographic data were available for some, but not all Indigenous communities in the region. Population data and trends are summarized in Table 3.28.

**Table 3.29 Population trends in Indigenous communities in the Parklands region.**

Community	2016	2011	% Change	
			2011 2016	2006 2011
Camperville	820	547	49.9	
Ebb and Flow	1,341	1,297	3.4	
Pine Creek	631	685	-7.9	
Shoal River	810	802	1.0	
Swan Lake	23	49	-53.1	
Valley River	353	364	-3.0	
Waywayseecappo	1,365	1,219	12.0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,359</b>	<b>6,974</b>	<b>5.5</b>	

### 3.2.3. Age Trends

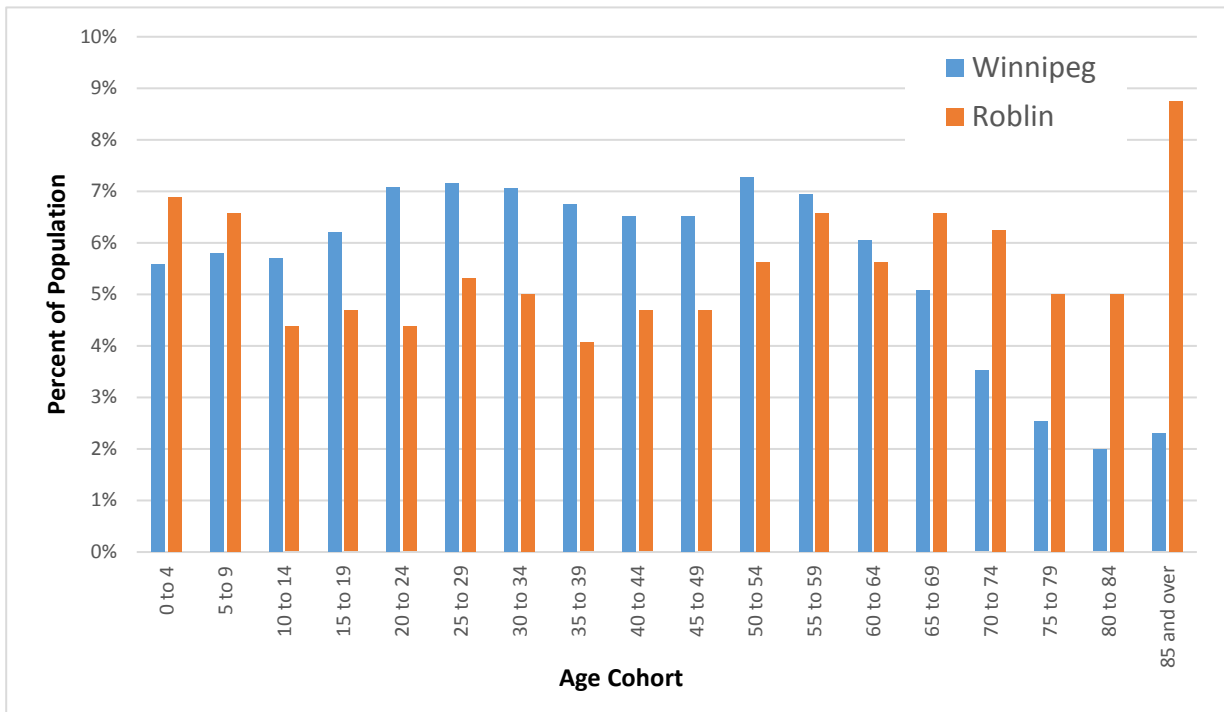
Community resident ages for the year 2016 are summarized in this section. Median age of all persons in the Parklands Region is almost a decade higher than the Province of Manitoba's median age (Table 3.29). The median age of residents by community varies slightly, but not significantly. The distribution of age groupings across communities is quite similar across the Parklands Region. There are slightly less young (0 to 14 year olds) people in the Parklands Region than the Provincial average, but significantly more seniors than the Provincial average, especially the 85 year old and over category.

**Table 3.30 Age summary comparison by location.**

Location	Median age (years) 2016	0 to 14 years old (%)	15 to 64 years old (%)	65 years old and over (%)	85 years old and over (%)
<b>Province of Manitoba</b>	38.3	19.1	65.4	15.6	2.3
<b>Parklands Economic Region</b>	45.8	18.2	58.5	23.3	3.9
<b>CITIES</b>					
Dauphin	44.5	17.4	56.5	26.1	5.3
<b>TOWNS</b>					
Gilbert Plains	48.6	16.6	53.5	30.6	7.0
Grandview	56.8	14.5	45.7	39.3	9.8
Minitonas	49.0	16.0	58.5	24.5	4.3
Roblin	49.1	17.9	51.5	30.9	8.5
*Rossburn	54.3	15.7	48.0	35.3	9.8
*Russell	45.3	16.6	56.6	26.9	7.2
Ste. Rose du Lac	52.7	15.2	51.0	33.3	8.3
Swan River	45.4	17.1	56.2	26.8	6.4
<b>VILLAGES</b>					
Benito	47.8	13.5	55.4	31.1	6.8
*Binscarth	51.0	13.4	59.8	26.8	2.4
Bowsman	46.5	17.3	59.6	23.1	1.9
Ethelbert	49.2	17.9	53.6	30.4	3.6
McCreary	55.0	15.8	48.5	37.6	6.9
Winnipegosis	48.8	18.7	54.5	26.8	5.7

*\*town or village is in the Parklands Economic Region, but not within Forest Management Licence #3*

The City of Winnipeg has a younger population than the Town of Roblin (Figure 3.75). 64% of Winnipeg's population is less than 50 years of age, and only 7% of the population older than 75 years. Roblin has 19% of the population is 75 years or older, and only half of the population is younger than 50 years of age.



**Figure 3.77 Population cohorts in Winnipeg and Roblin, Manitoba (Statistics Canada, 2016).**

### 3.2.4. Languages Spoken

Canada is a bilingual country. Both English and French are Canada's two official languages. In the Parklands Region, English is spoken by most residents (Table 3.30), with 4.8% of residents being bilingual, and a very small percentage speak French only. Only 0.1% of Parklands residents speak neither English nor French.

**Table 3.31 Official languages spoken in the Parklands Region.**

Language	2016 number of respondents	percentages
Total - Knowledge of official languages for the total population excluding institutional residents - 100% data	40980	100%
English only	38935	95.0%
French only	15	0.04%
English and French	1970	4.8%
Neither English nor French	60	0.1%

The mother tongue concept refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and the language is still understood. An amazing number of different languages (Table 3.31) are spoken and considered 'mother tongue' in the Parklands Region. The majority of these languages are Ukrainian, Aboriginal, and German languages, with a fractional percentage of languages from all over the world.

**Table 3.32 Mother tongue languages in the Parklands Region.**

Language	Number of respondents 2016
<b>Official languages</b>	36055
English	35215
French	835
<b>Non-official languages</b>	4330
<b>Aboriginal languages</b>	<b>715</b>
Cree-Montagnais languages	90
Plains Cree	5
Swampy Cree	10
Cree; n.o.s.	80
Ojibway	605
Michif	20
Dakota	5
Aboriginal languages; n.o.s.	5

Language	Number of respondents 2016
<b>Non-Aboriginal languages</b>	<b>3615</b>
Afro-Asiatic languages	30
Semitic languages	30
Amharic	5
Arabic	25
Tigrigna	5
Austro-Asiatic languages	5
Vietnamese	5
Austronesian languages	255
Bikol	5
Cebuano	25
Ilocano	5
Tagalog (Pilipino; Filipino)	215
Creole languages	10
Creole; n.o.s.	5
Dravidian languages	45
Malayalam	50
<b>Indo-European languages</b>	
<b>Balto-Slavic languages</b>	
Latvian	5
<b>Slavic languages</b>	
Belarusan	5
Czech	40
Polish	75
Russian	60
Serbian	5
Slovak	5
Ukrainian	1980
<b>Germanic languages</b>	
Afrikaans	25
Danish	20
Dutch	65
German	680
Icelandic	5
Norwegian	10
Vlaams (Flemish)	10
Greek	5
<b>Indo-Iranian languages</b>	



Language	Number of respondents 2016
Gujarati	15
Hindi	10
Konkani	5
Punjabi (Panjabi)	15
Urdu	10
Iranian languages	5
Indo-Iranian languages; n.i.e.	5
<b>Italic (Romance) languages</b>	
Portuguese	10
Romanian	25
Spanish	55
Korean	15
Niger-Congo languages	10
Niger-Congo languages; n.i.e.	5
Sign languages	5
<b>Sino-Tibetan languages</b>	
Chinese languages	75
Cantonese	20
Mandarin	15
Chinese; n.o.s.	35
<b>Uralic languages</b>	
Finnish	5
Hungarian	15

### 3.2.5. Income and Wealth Statistics

Statistics Canada collects census data regarding family income, which is a strong indicator of overall socio-economic well-being. Median family income data are shown for regional communities in Table 3.32. The Parklands region reports lower median incomes than the average for Manitoba. Swan River, Dauphin, Ste. Rose du Lac, and Minitonas report higher than average 2016 family income within the Parklands Region.

**Table 3.33 Median family income data by community.**

Cities and Towns	2016 income (\$)
Swan River	\$74,112
Dauphin	\$73,326
Ste. Rose du Lac	\$72,875
Minitonas	\$71,424
Gilbert Plains	\$68,352
Winnipegosis	\$67,840
Roblin	\$66,304
Grandview	\$61,440
Bowsman	\$58,368
Benito	\$58,112
Ethelbert	\$52,672
<b>AVERAGE (All)</b>	<b>\$65,893</b>
AVG (pop'n < 1000)	\$62,601
AVG (pop'n > 1000)	\$71,654
<b>Parklands Region</b>	<b>\$69,642</b>
<b>Manitoba</b>	<b>\$84,441</b>

Table 3.33 shows the median income data by Rural Municipality (RM). The RMs of Dauphin and Swan River have higher median income than other RMs, while the RMs of Alonsa, Ethelbert, and Mountain South have lower than average median incomes within the Parklands Economic Region.

**Table 3.34 Family income statistics for communities by Rural Municipality.**

Rural Municipality	2016 income (\$)
Dauphin	\$83,328
Riding Mountain West	\$83,712
Minitonas/Bowsman	\$76,442
Swan Valley West	\$75,392
Gilbert Plains	\$73,856
Hillsburg/Roblin/Shell River	\$70,528
Lakeshore	\$69,274
Ste. Rose	\$69,120
Mossey River	\$68,864
Grandview	\$66,048

Rural Municipality	2016 income (\$)
Mountain North	\$60,459
Ethelbert	\$54,656
Alonsa	\$51,456
Mountain South	\$47,232
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$67,883</b>

Statistics Canada also provides dwelling price estimates, but this metric is a less reliable indicators of overall socio-economic well-being. Nevertheless, dwelling values are shown since they make attractive indicators of a community's current and future prospects. Communities that are healthy and socio-economically sound will be desirable places to live and one would expect that housing prices would reflect this. Furthermore, if prospects were bright, this would encourage strong house prices, whereas an uncertain future would lead to low prices as some people would opt to relocate and relatively few people would be willing to move into a declining community.

Table 3.34 shows dwelling price data for communities in the Parklands Region. Data for individual Rural Municipalities are not shown.

**Table 3.35 Single family detached dwelling 2016 values by community.**

City and Towns	2016
Swan River	\$180,156
Dauphin	\$159,847
Roblin	\$149,528
Ste. Rose du Lac	\$125,293
Minitonas	\$129,778
Gilbert Plains	\$100,160
Winnipegosis	\$99,882
Grandview	\$79,984
Ethelbert	\$80,001
Bowsman	\$75,160
Benito	\$70,141
<b>AVG (All)</b>	<b>\$113,360</b>
AVG (pop'n < 1000)	\$90,729
AVG (pop'n > 1000)	\$153,706
<b>Parklands Region</b>	<b>\$150,070</b>

### 3.2.6. Employment

Table 3.35 shows general statistics related to the workforce and employment in the region. In general, there is a high participation rate (*i.e.* a high proportion of the eligible population is willing to work) and the rate of employment in the region is relatively high. It is notably higher in the rural municipalities and very small villages, however given the population declines experienced in those settings, these data indicate that people who live in a rural area but are out of work either get work quickly or move elsewhere.

**Table 3.36 General work force and employment statistics for the Parklands region.**

Population Segment	Region # persons in 2016
Total population 15 years and over	32,760
In the labour force	19,710
Employed	18,465
Unemployed	1,250
Participation rate	60.2%
Employment - population ratio	56.4%
Unemployment rate	6.3%

In the Swan River area, a large percent of the economy depends upon agriculture. Cereal farming for seeded grains and oilseeds is prevalent in the region, while there is also some mixed farming for producing cattle, dairy, pigs, and other animals. Other major sectors are services, including health, education, accommodation, and food services. Tourism is also important, since the provincial parks and nearby national park attract an increasing number of tourists to the area.

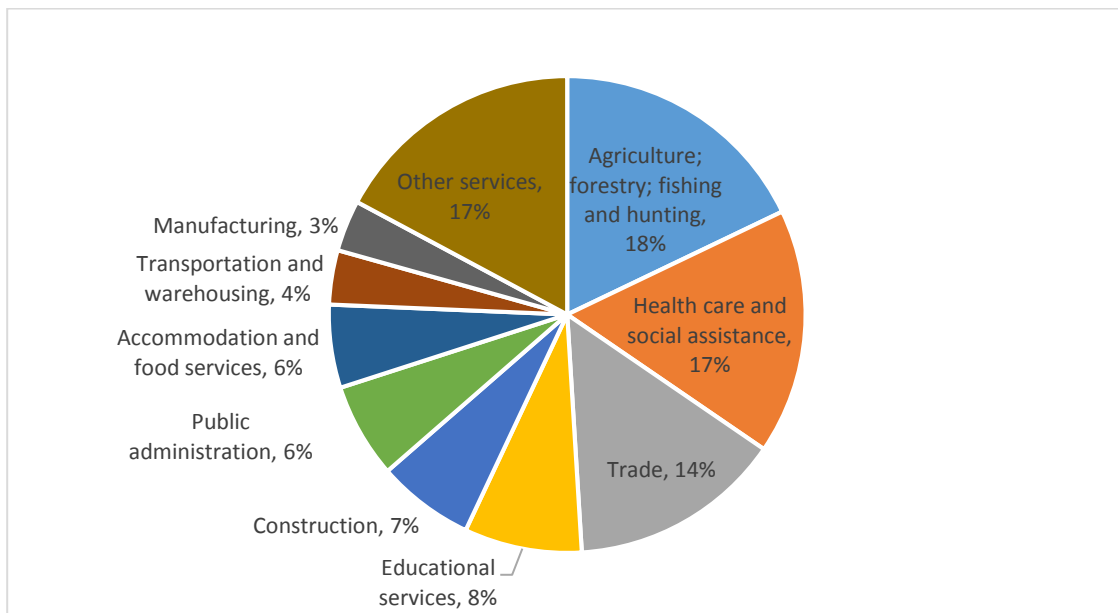
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (Table 3.36 and Figure 3.76) reports the highest percentage of employment in the Parklands Region, and is well above the Manitoba percentage, mainly due the amount of agricultural activity in the region. Commercial large game and game bird outfitting provide a seasonal income source in the region. Outfitting is very popular for non-resident black bear, white-tailed deer, and game birds.

Healthcare and social assistance is the next highest percentage of employment in the region. The percent of Parklands Region residents employed by healthcare and social assistance is higher than the Manitoba provincial average.

Trapping provides a significant seasonal income to the area. Records are available for only the Duck Mountain and Porcupine Registered Trapping Sections, where 65 trappers were permitted and generated an estimated \$72,386 in raw fur sales in 2016-2017. The surrounding lands are in the Open Trapping Area and have significant trapping activity, although specific harvest locations for each trapper are not known and values cannot be determined.

**Table 3.37 Employment by sector, summarized for Manitoba and the Parklands region.**

Sector	Manitoba 2016	Parklands Region 2016
Management of companies and enterprises	0.10%	0.00%
Mining; quarrying; and oil and gas extraction	0.84%	2.19%
Utilities	1.14%	0.54%
Real estate and rental and leasing	1.27%	0.62%
Information and cultural industries	1.67%	0.72%
Arts; entertainment and recreation	2.00%	1.44%
Administrative and support; waste management and remediation services	3.43%	1.88%
Finance and insurance	3.99%	3.27%
Other services (except public administration)	4.32%	3.76%
Professional; scientific and technical services	4.38%	2.75%
Agriculture; forestry; fishing and hunting	4.42%	17.89%
Transportation and warehousing	5.46%	3.68%
Accommodation and food services	6.72%	5.64%
Public administration	7.18%	6.44%
Construction	7.63%	6.59%
Manufacturing	8.41%	3.48%
Educational services	8.47%	7.98%
Wholesale and retail trade	14.10%	14.47%
Health care and social assistance	14.47%	16.66%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



**Figure 3.78 Distribution of Employment by sector in the Parklands Economic Region.**

### 3.2.7. Economic Profile of the Town of Swan River

The Town of Swan River is a major trading center for the region, since very few other communities are located in the region that can provide the range of services available in Swan River. The economic base is diversified with several industries contributing to the local economy, including agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, and tourism. Salient features of the community and its' workforce are shown in Table 3.37. Swan River shows an unemployment rate of 5%, which is lower than the Parklands Region.

**Table 3.38 Selected economic features of the Town of Swan River.**

Particulars	2016
Population	4,032
Participation Rate (%)	58.7
Employment Rate (%)	55.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.0
Total Experienced Labour Force	1,790
Engaged in Primary Industries	110
Engaged in Manufacturing and Construction	200
Engaged in Service Industries	1,475

### 3.2.8. Economic Profile of the Town of Minitonas

Minitonas is a smaller community whose salient features are shown in Table 3.38. The population of Minitonas has decreased in recent years. Minitonas shows an unemployment rate of 4.8%, lower than the Parklands Region average.

**Table 3.39 Selected features of the village of Minitonas.**

Particulars	2016
Population	465
Participation Rate (%)	53.8
Employment Rate (%)	51.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.8
Total Experienced Labour Force	210
Engaged in Primary Industries	0
Engaged in Manufacturing and Construction	60
Engaged in Service Industries	155

### **3.2.9. Economic Contribution by the Forest Industry**

Statistics Canada lumps agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing together in the same category, so it is not possible to separate forestry's contribution to the Parklands Region economy based on Statistics Canada data only. However, there is a significant economic contribution by the forest industry in FML #3 by Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd., Spruce Products Ltd., and 21 Quota Holders. This is evidenced by the towns of Swan River and Minitonas having lower unemployment rates than the Parkland Region average. In addition, median family income and house prices are also higher than the Parkland Region average.

LP employs nearly 5,000 workers in North America, 1,400 direct employees in Canada, and 230 hourly and salary employees in Manitoba. The current annual Manitoba payroll is approximately \$16,000,000. It has been noted by local residents that the LP jobs are very steady, and that LP provides a significant benefit to the local economy. In addition to a significant amount of employment, LP has paid \$2,260,000 in Crown dues to the Province of Manitoba in the 2017-2018 harvest season. The LP mill converted from Oriented Strand Board to LP Smart Siding (\$117 million upgrade) in 2015.

In addition to the mill, there are harvest and haul jobs for 500,000 m<sup>3</sup> of wood each year. Current annual log purchase contracts total \$21,000,000 annually, which employs approximately 250 people. There are also spin-off benefits for all the support to the mill, harvest, and haul.

Spruce Products Ltd. (SPL) is a privately held sawmill that employs a staff of approximately 60 people at their mill and woodlands division. SPL harvests softwoods from within FML #3 as well as the Porcupine Mountains and surrounding area. SPL has been supplying products for Canadian and International markets since 1942. In addition to being a major employer in the area, Spruce Products is also a strong member of the community and provides support to numerous organizations and local events each year.

### **3.2.10. Recreational, Cultural, or Historic Values that Contribute to Socio-Economic Conditions**

There are some recreational, cultural, and historic values that contribute to the socio-economic conditions in the Parklands Region. Some of these values provide direct income, other values provide indirect income or spinoff benefits. Cultural and historic values provide improvements to quality of life in the Parklands Region, even if there is little monetary gain.

#### *3.2.10.1 Recreation and Tourism*

Recreation and tourism are detailed in the Land Use section of this chapter. However, this socio-economic section provides a linkage between socio-economic conditions and recreation in the Parklands area. For example, the Thunder hill area with ski hills and mountain bike trails is a significant recreational area. In the Town of Swan River there is a snowboard, ski, and mountain bike shop named 'Rumors'. This speciality store and its' employees would not exist without the Thunder hill ski area providing valuable winter recreation opportunities.

#### **Trails**

Snowmobile trails in the forests provide an experience for local Parklands residents. People outside the Parklands also bring their snowmobiles into the local area to utilize and experience the forested trails. In winters where there is little or no snow in southern Manitoba, but snow in the Parklands Region, there is a significant increase in snowmobile tourism. Community hosted snowmobile poker derbies are common across the Parklands region. There are economic benefits to the local hotels, restaurants, and gas stations. The popularity of snowmobiles and ATVs is evidenced by the high number of snowmobile and ATV dealers and repair shops in Swan River, Dauphin, and other Parklands towns.

Trails are also used for non-motorized recreation, such as hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing.

#### **Parks and Campgrounds**

Duck Mountain Provincial Park provides some socio-economic benefits to the local area. It has four campgrounds offering a mix of basic and electrical sites, in addition to rental cabins and full-service lodges. Many of the park activities (e.g. hiking trails, fishing) are listed in other sections.

Asessippi Provincial Park provides some socio-economic benefits to the Parklands Region. It is located at the southern end of the Lake of the Prairies, in the south western portion of FML #3.

#### **Ski Hills**

Asessippi Ski Area & Resort near Inglis, MB offers skiing and snowboarding on 26 runs, two terrain parks, and a beginner area. In addition, there is a tubing park features five downhill runs, snow biking, snow shoeing, sled dogs, snow skates, and kiteboarding. In the summer, mountain biking occurs on the hills.



Thunder hill Ski area is on the western edge of the Swan Valley, and features 22 groomed downhill ski runs, two runs of almost 3/4 mile with 450 feet of elevation. There are also 2.2 km of unmarked cross-country ski trails & snowshoe trails.

Recreation not associated with a landscape feature (e.g. Thunder hill) but with a significant seasonal socio-economic effect in the Parklands includes:

**Northwest Regional Roundup and Exhibition (rodeo)** is hosted on the last weekend of July in Swan River each year. Attendance is in the thousands, and people come from across Canada to attend. The four day event features a parade, western rodeo, exhibits, demonstrations, concerts with live entertainment, and a Midway with amusement rides. <http://www.northwestroundup.ca/details.html>

**Dauphin Countryfest** is an annual music festival hosted at the Countryfest site south of Dauphin. The site has a 12,000 seat amphitheater, 450-800 capacity hall, 3 outdoor stages, and vendor booths. <https://countryfest.ca/>

Recreational sports in the Parklands have a seasonal, but significant socio-economic effect. Sports tournaments bring people from across the Province, which benefit local area hotels, restaurants, and shopping. Facility-based recreation includes:

**Hockey arenas** exist in most communities.

**Curling rinks** in almost every community host bonspiels and tournaments during the winter months.

The **Kinsmen Aquatic Centre** (Dauphin) provides residents the opportunity to take part in year round recreational swimming, aquasize, competitive swimming, water sports, and lessons. The Kinsmen Aquatic Centre accommodates up to 200 people and includes a water slide, wave pool, hot tub, and four lane 25 meter pool.

**Swan Valley Credit Union Aquatic Centre** (Swan River) and waterpark is located in the Richardson Recreation and Wellness Centre. It includes a four lane competition pool, zero entry leisure pool, waterslide, swirl pool, and sauna.

**Skate Park** (Swan River) features approximately 8,000 square feet of integrated plaza and bowl terrain. The Swan River Lions Skate Plaza is the only full-size, permanent concrete skateboard park in the Parklands region. The facility is also a favorite for BMX bike riders and was designed for use by snowboarders in the winter months.

**Ball diamonds** are a common recreational sports feature in most communities. Larger communities have multiple baseball diamonds for large tournaments.

**Soccer fields** have grown in number as soccer becomes more popular.

**Community halls** provide great venues for many events and activities such as family reunions, weddings, or community celebrations

**Golf courses** are common in the area, and include:

Dauphin <https://golddauphinlake.ca/>

Swan River <https://www.swanrivergolf.com/>

Roblin <https://golfrobin.com/>

Gilbert Plains <https://www.golfgilbertplains.com/>

Prairie Lake Lodge Golf Course & Country Club

<https://asessippiparklandtourism.com/entities/prairie-lake-lodge-golf-course/>

Ste. Rose and Winnipegosis also have golf courses, but no website.

Benito has a new sport, disc golf

<http://valleybiz.ca/businessdirectory/Shaker-City-Disc-Golf-82-3.htm>

**Fishing** – there are sport fishing opportunities in the Parklands almost year round. The Provincial Fisheries Branch and the Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement Inc. work to maintain and improve fish populations and fishing opportunities. [Swan Valley Sport Fishing](#)

Manitoba's Angler Guide [https://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/fish/pdf/angling\\_guide.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/fish/pdf/angling_guide.pdf)

**Hunting** – there are waterfowl, upland game, and large game hunting opportunities across the Parklands.

### *3.2.10.2 Cultural Values*

Cultural values provide improvements to quality of life in the Parklands area.

**Dauphin Ukrainian Festival** is a Canada-wide National festival every August long weekend at Selo Ukraina, south of Dauphin. This festival showcases Ukrainian culture, food, dance, music, ceremonies, arts, and crafts. The Selo Ukraina site also boasts a Ukrainian Heritage Village, Memorial Park, and the Ukrainian Musicians Hall of Fame, described at this website: <https://cnuf.ca/>

**Elbert Chartrand Friendship Centre** in Swan River is a non-profit community centre and Aboriginal program/service delivery organization. The friendship center provides services to Aboriginals, including Inuit, Métis, First Nations, Non-Status Aboriginal, and Non-Aboriginal people who live in urban areas, detailed in the website: <http://www.elbertchartrandfc.com/>

**Swan Valley Folk Festival** is a multi-cultural event held each June. There are usually 20 different booths, one for each ethnic background, highlighting the diverse cultural background in the Swan Valley. Booths are decorated with traditional items from their host country, and staff are dressed in traditional clothing. Ethnic food from many cultural backgrounds can be sampled. Entertainment includes a wide variety of spectacular music, dance, and colorful ethnic attire.

**Manitoba Communities in Bloom program** promotes community development, and can increase community involvement and civic pride. It encourages all sectors of the community to work together to develop best practices to achieve clean, green sustainable communities that celebrate their heritage and unique potential. Participating communities are evaluated by judges with a bloom rating (1 to 5), a community highlight is also identified. An Evaluation Report focuses on beautification, environmental action, heritage conservation, urban forestry, landscaped areas, and floral displays, as described in the website: <http://www.mbcommunitiesinbloom.ca/>

### *3.2.10.3 Historic Values*

Historic values provide improvements to quality of life. There are many opportunities in the area to see and experience local history.

#### **Swan Valley Historical Museum**

The Swan Valley Historical Museum is a museum and pioneer village that portrays the history and culture of the Swan River Valley. In addition to the main building which have archives, antiques and artifacts on display, visitors can explore over a dozen historical buildings with authentic furnishings from the area. The site also includes operational clay bake ovens as well as a selection of vintage machinery.

#### **Historic Buildings, Collections, and Heritage Sites**

There are several other museums, historic buildings, and heritage sites throughout the Swan Valley that document and celebrate our rich history. Built in 1902, Harley House is a rare example of a Red River frame structure in western Manitoba and also one of the oldest surviving homes in the Swan Valley. The Lumax Family Heritage Museum features many treasured items, dating from as far back as 1898. The Village of Cowan has a restored one-room school house that offers a small window into the past.

**Trappers Museum at the Duck Mountain Forest Center** is currently under construction, and when finished will be filled with historical items that highlight the historical importance of trapping in the region.

#### **Historic Cowan Trail Celebration**

Cowan Trail was the first access into the area used by pioneer settlers that moved into the Swan Valley in 1898. The Cowan Trail celebrations is held the fourth Saturday of August each year. It includes a pancake breakfast for all, wagon and horse ride entourage, followed by the ATV derby.

### **3.2.11. Economic Development Policies**

The Province of Manitoba has pledged to enhance the Province's economic development capabilities. Therefore, a Manitoba-wide framework for economic alignment and growth was recently created (Deloitte 2017), and is categorized by economic endowments, economic development assets and tools, and policy considerations.

The City of Dauphin has a community development plan (City of Dauphin, 2010). The development plan identifies issues that will receive priority such as land-use compatibility, servicing efficiencies and costs, development constraints, environmental sustainability, and community quality of life.

The Town of Swan River has a valley-wide economic development policy, created by the Swan Valley Regional Initiative for a Strong Economy Inc. (RISE). This was established by a group of municipalities who recognized the necessity of an active, strategic approach to economic development. The name "RISE" reflects the mandate of increasing economic growth to ensure a sustainable and viable future for the Swan Valley region.

The RISE Board of Directors is comprised of two representatives from each municipality that is financially supporting the initiative. To date, the Town of Swan River, Town of Minitonas, RM of Swan River, and RM of Minitonas have each committed 3 years of funding to RISE.

Strategic planning sessions involving municipal officials from each of Swan Valley's seven municipalities identified the following three areas as RISE priorities:

1. Creating a Climate for Economic Growth
2. Supporting the Retention and Expansion of Local Businesses
3. Developing the Region as a Visitor Destination

### 3.2.12. Conclusions

The Parklands Region of Manitoba's population has been in a slight but steady decline. The Province of Manitoba has been increasing in population, especially in the City of Winnipeg. The City of Dauphin and the Town of Swan River have been growing, but most Parklands towns and villages have declined. Populations in the Rural Municipalities substantially declined between 2011 and 2016, with the exception of the RM of Dauphin.

The ages of residents in the Parklands Region differs from the Provincial distribution of age. The proportion of senior citizens is much higher in the Parklands Region, especially the 85 year old and over age class. Therefore, the median age of residents in the Parklands is almost a decade higher than the Province of Manitoba's median age. There are slightly less young (0 to 14 year old) people in the Parklands Region than the Provincial average.

There are many different languages spoken in the Parklands Region. The mother tongue of Parklands Region residents includes English, Ukrainian, French, Ojibway, German, Cree, Filipino, and many other languages from across the world.

The Parklands Region reports lower median incomes than the average for Manitoba. Swan River, Dauphin, Ste. Rose du Lac, and Minitonas report higher than average 2016 family income within the Parklands Region. The villages of Benito, Bowsman, and Ethelbert report lower than average 2016 family income within the Parklands Region.

The Parklands Region's main employment sector is agriculture and forestry, which are lumped together as a single category by Statistics Canada. The second largest sector is health care and social assistance, followed by wholesale and retail trade.

During the last 15 years, the impact of the construction and operation of LP's OSB plant, as well as the attendant office, have provided an economic boost to the towns of Swan River and Minitonas. While the two surrounding regional municipalities have continued to experience population declines, the two towns closest to the mill have experienced population increases on the order of 10% between 1990 and 2005, which makes them unique in the Parklands region. The relative vitality of these communities is also expressed in increases in employment, income, and housing prices.

There are some recreational (*e.g.* Duck Mountain Provincial Park), cultural (*e.g.* Elbert Chartrand Friendship Centre, Dauphin Ukrainian Festival), and historic values (*e.g.* Swan Valley Historical Museum) that contribute to the socio-economic conditions in the Parklands Region. Some of these values provide direct income, other values provide indirect income or spinoff benefits. Cultural and historic values provide improvements to quality of life in the Parklands Region.