

Community Safety and Well Being Plan Update 2026-2030

Almaguin Highlands has a regional Community Safety and Wellbeing (CSWB) plan for 2021 to 2025. A small group from 3 participating municipalities was formed to review the plan by celebrating accomplishments, updating information and offering any new actions as an update for the plan for the next 5 years.

The document is supplemental to the original CSWB plan and in effect until the end of 2030.

COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

The original plan included demographic information from the 2016 Census data. Please find below the updated census data using 2021 Census data.

Municipality	Population (2021)	Median Total Income by Household (2020)	Age % (15 – 64 yrs)
Township of Armour	1459	69,500	31.8 65 yrs +
Village of Burk's Falls	957	54,400	60.2
Township of Joly	293	71,000	55.2
Town of Kearney	974	68,000	60.0
Township of Machar	969	70,000	53.1
Municipality of Magnetawan	1753	67,000	55.0
Township of McMurich/Monteith	907	62,800	59.1
Township of Perry	2650	72,000	59.8
Municipality of Powassan	3346	79,500	57.2
Township of Ryerson	745	67,000	59.1
Village of South River	1101	61,200	59.1
Township of Strong	1566	70,000	55.9
Village of Sundridge	938	61,200	50.5

The total population for the region grew by approximately 5.1%. Eight municipalities increased their population count with the top three being Magnetawan, Perry and Strong. Five municipalities decreased in population count with the top three being Powassan, Burk's Falls and Sundridge.

When looking at the median total income of households, the income has increased on average over \$12,000 per household across the region from the 2016 Census.

Every municipality saw a reduction in the percentage of adults aged 15-64 in their municipalities.

PRIORITY RISKS

The following 5 risks were identified by survey ranked in order of importance. Below each risk, relevant updates have been summarized.

1. *Physical Health, Access to Healthcare*

- The Sundridge & District Medical Centre's Lead Physician coordinates additional HCP to provide services to patients that are outside of the scope of services the medical centre's HCP offer [ie dietician, social work, etc.]
- Expansion of services for after hours
- The SDMC is a partner of the MAOHT and has representation on the various committees under that umbrella, and the SDMC has a representative that sits on the AHHCC.
- Various communities contribute \$1,000 per year to the MAHC HR Recruiter Position
- South River Machar Medical Centre now partners with the Powassan and Area Family Health Team for expanded services
- Efforts to attract a corporate rideshare service are being made
- Council Representatives sit on the ACED Community Transportation Committee to investigate collaborative transportation options and solutions

2. *Access to Services*

- Carpool Almaguin initiative in place and regularly promoted to support safe ride sharing opportunities
- Employing staff dedicated to economic development both in local and regional capacities that assist with addressing gaps in service delivery/availability
- A new Magnetawan Economic Tourism Committee has been formed to address and react to local needs

3. *Employment Opportunities*

- Municipalities advertise on Indeed and through Employment North and Agilec as required
- Summer students are employed every summer for various municipal roles
- Connections with local high school are improving and providing opportunities for initiatives and programs focused on engaging youth in various capacities

4. *Affordable Housing*

- Some municipalities have lowered minimum building size to accommodate smaller homes (as low as 200 sq. ft.) in all zones except for Shoreline
- ACED Housing Task Force created to promote collaborative approaches to addressing housing challenges in the region. A recommendations summary report has been circulated to all municipalities.

5. *Services to Youth and Education Institutions*

- Regional partners have partnered within the Rural Communities Immigration Program (RCIP) to support the infilling of local employment gaps
- Almaguin Highland Secondary School Engagement Project through ACED
- Burk's Falls based Rural Youth Group Committee is working to establish a rural youth centre and/or youth programs
- Novar based Youth Program primarily aged 13 to 19 providing weekly services including a carpentry program, substance abuse program, community serve program assisting seniors or those requiring assistance in the community and Kingdom Building Projects.

ACTIONS

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| 1) Identify positions and update contacts that have changed. | All Clerks |
| 2) Make sure the new Police Services Board is aware of the CSWB plan. | Secretary to Board |

CONCLUSION

The Clerks and Treasurers group of the Almaguin Highlands municipalities will present this supplemental document to their respective councils for approval. The group also agrees to review the plan again prior to the end of 2030.