

Date: April 8th, 2024

DIVISION BOUNDARY REVIEW REPORT 2024

Background:

Rural Municipalities (RMs) are now required by legislation to review division boundaries. It stems from a decision in Canada's Supreme Court to uphold the principle of "relative effectiveness".

The purpose of division boundaries is for electoral purposes only. Councillors are responsible for making decisions that are in the best interests of the entire municipality, not just in their respective divisions.

We realize that the dynamics of RMs have changed significantly from when they were formed a century ago, and that in many cases the RM divisions have not changed since then. These divisions still have their regular, square-like boundaries just as they were when first formed in the early 1900s. Population, and therefore voter numbers, have shifted though, with some growth concentrated in a few key areas rather than spread out relatively evenly over all divisions. As a result, some RMs may find that different divisions have different levels of representation on council.

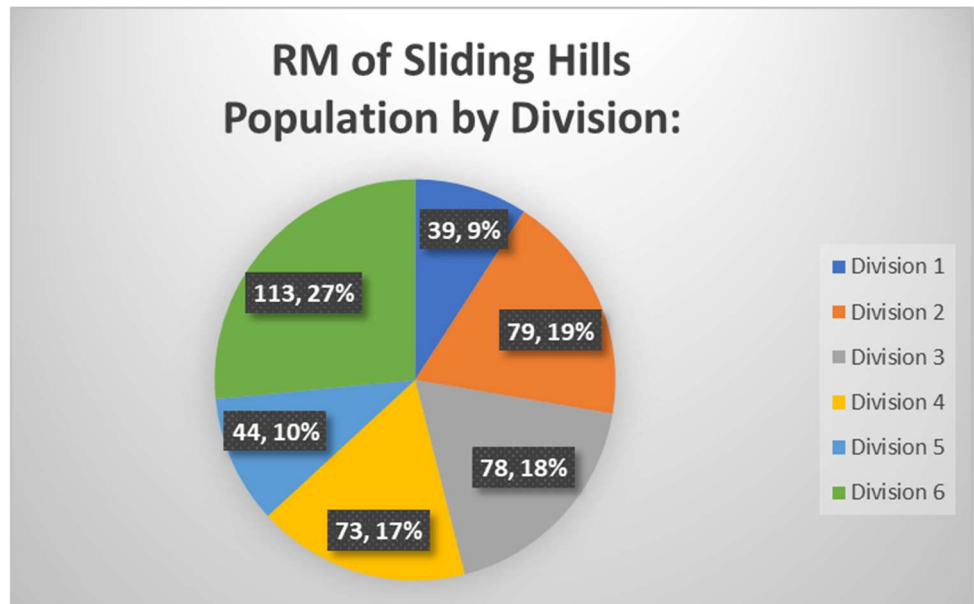
Current Statistics:

The Rural Municipality of Sliding Hills No 273 is located in Saskatchewan with a land mass of 821 sq/km and an approximate population of 426 distributed over 6 electoral divisions.

The Chart and Table 1 below show the population distribution for the 6 divisions and their corresponding percentage of total population.

Table 1.

| Population by Division RM of Sliding Hills | |
|---|-------------|
| Division: | Population: |
| Division 1 | 39 |
| Division 2 | 79 |
| Division 3 | 78 |
| Division 4 | 73 |
| Division 5 | 44 |
| Division 6 | 113 |
| Total: | 426 |



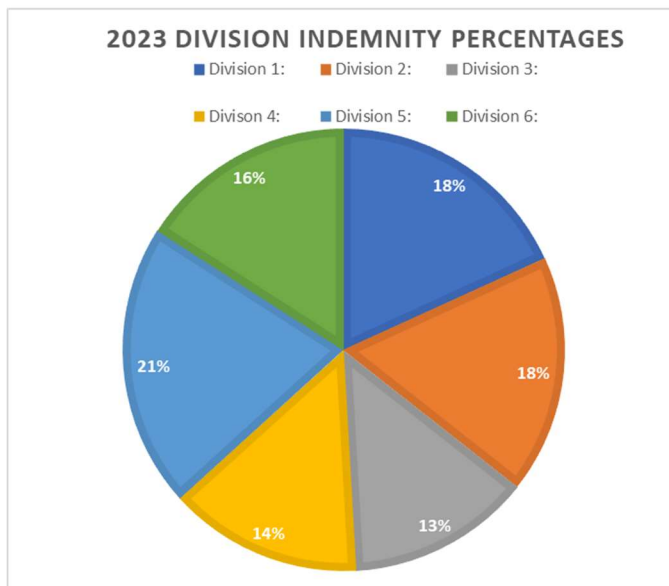
2023 Expense Per Division:

The 2023 expenses incurred for each division council member has been input into the following table (Table 2.) for ease of comparison. Population numbers and expenses have been averaged for the 2023-year.

The yearly average per capita expense for council representation is \$244.15. As seen in the charts and Table 2 the range per capita is from \$146.72 in division 6 to \$491.06 in division 5.

Table 2.

| Expenses per Councillor in the RM of Sliding Hills | | | | | | | | Total Per Category |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Expenses in 2023: | Division 1: | Division 2: | Division 3: | Division 4: | Division 5: | Division 6: | Reeve: | |
| Council Meetings | \$4,272.00 | \$3,678.00 | \$3,828.00 | \$4,062.00 | \$5,050.00 | \$3,449.20 | \$3,916.40 | 28,255.60 |
| Committee Remuneration | \$300.00 | \$300.00 | \$300.00 | \$0.00 | \$300.00 | \$300.00 | \$300.00 | 1,800.00 |
| Committee Mtge Mileage | \$56.00 | \$48.00 | \$48.00 | \$0.00 | \$100.00 | \$27.20 | \$39.30 | 318.50 |
| Other Mtgs Mileage | \$780.00 | \$780.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,511.75 | \$225.60 | \$536.70 | 3,834.05 |
| Other Mtgs Expense Convention | \$1,002.49 | \$931.49 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$852.49 | \$0.00 | \$447.76 | 3,234.23 |
| Other Meetings Convention | \$1,500.00 | \$1,650.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,850.00 | \$1,650.00 | \$1,800.00 | 9,450.00 |
| Supervision-Roads | \$9,240.00 | \$9,240.00 | \$9,240.00 | \$9,240.00 | \$9,240.00 | \$9,240.00 | \$9,240.00 | 64,680.00 |
| Supervision-Office & Mileage | \$181.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$152.20 | \$3,916.40 | 4,249.60 |
| Employer's CPP | \$702.78 | \$667.50 | \$0.00 | \$583.23 | \$829.45 | \$662.77 | \$0.00 | 3,445.73 |
| Cell Phone Allowance | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | \$300.00 | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | 3,900.00 |
| SARM G#21090 | \$272.86 | \$272.86 | \$272.86 | \$272.86 | \$272.86 | \$272.86 | \$272.86 | 1,910.02 |
| Total | \$18,907.13 | \$18,167.85 | \$13,988.86 | \$14,758.09 | \$21,606.55 | \$16,579.83 | \$21,069.42 | 125,077.73 |
| Population Per Division | 39 | 79 | 78 | 73 | 44 | 113 | | 426 |
| Per Capita Expense | \$484.80 | \$229.97 | \$179.34 | \$202.17 | \$491.06 | \$146.72 | | \$293.61 |
| | | | | | \$104,008.31 | | | |
| | | | | | 426 | | | |
| | | | | | \$244.15 | Councillor Average per Capita | | |



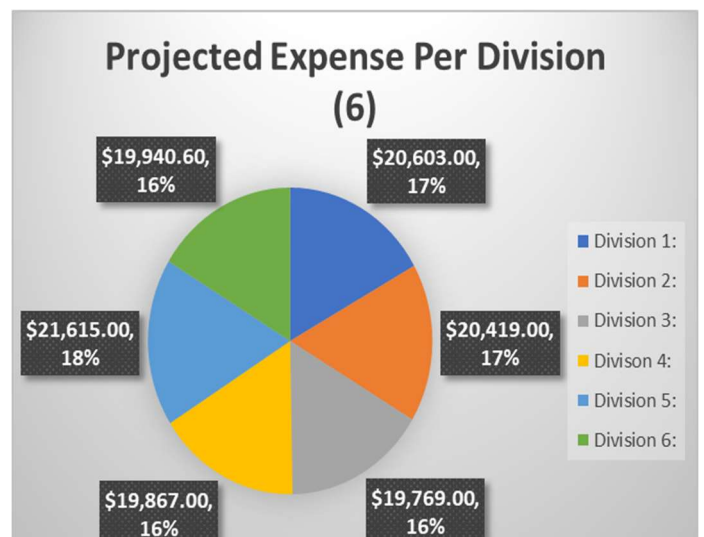
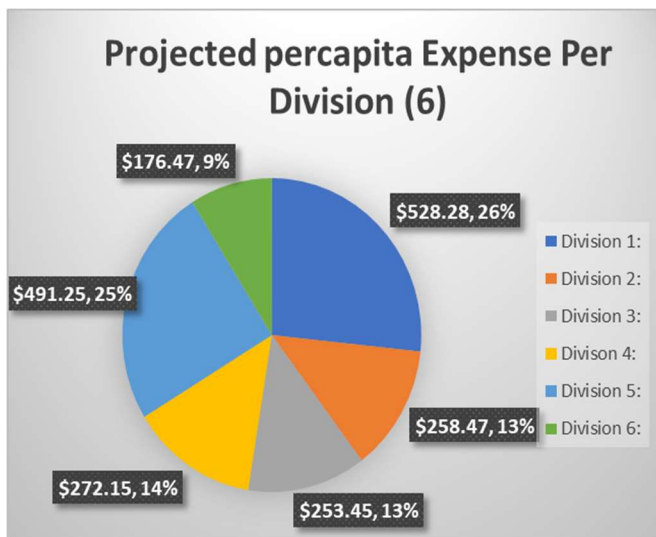
2024 Projected Expense Per Division:

Expenses for the 2024 year have been estimated and entered in table 3 for comparison purposes. Please note that mileage has been calculated using the mileage as would be claimed by the current member of council for each of the 6 divisions. Conventions, convention expense and other meetings mileage have been estimated and these values assigned to each division for equity and fairness as each member of council has equal opportunity to, and may, attend these functions.

The 2024 projected expense per division ranges from \$19,769.00 to \$21,615.00 with an average of \$20,368.93. This transfers to a per capita range per division of \$176.47 to \$528.28 or an average per capita rate across divisions of \$330.01.

Table 3:

| 2024 Projected Expenses | Division 1: | Division 2: | Division 3: | Division 4: | Division 5: | Division 6: | Reeve: | Total Per Category | Average |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Council Meetings | \$4,272.00 | \$4,176.00 | \$4,176.00 | \$3,888.00 | \$4,800.00 | \$3,926.40 | \$3,753.60 | 25,238.40 | \$4,206.40 |
| Committee Remuneration | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | 18,000.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| Committee Mtge Mileage | \$560.00 | \$480.00 | \$480.00 | \$240.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$272.00 | \$128.00 | 3,032.00 | \$505.33 |
| Other Mtgs Mileage | \$325.00 | \$325.00 | \$325.00 | \$325.00 | \$325.00 | \$325.00 | \$325.00 | 1,950.00 | \$325.00 |
| Other Mtgs Expense Conventi | \$850.00 | \$850.00 | \$850.00 | \$850.00 | \$850.00 | \$850.00 | \$850.00 | 5,100.00 | \$850.00 |
| Other Meetings Convention | \$900.00 | \$900.00 | \$900.00 | \$900.00 | \$900.00 | \$900.00 | \$900.00 | 5,400.00 | \$900.00 |
| Supervision-Roads | \$9,240.00 | \$9,240.00 | \$9,240.00 | \$9,240.00 | \$9,240.00 | \$9,240.00 | \$9,240.00 | 55,440.00 | \$9,240.00 |
| Supervision-Office & Mileage | \$206.00 | \$198.00 | \$198.00 | \$174.00 | \$250.00 | \$177.20 | \$3,753.60 | 1,203.20 | \$200.53 |
| Employer's CPP | \$650.00 | \$650.00 | \$0.00 | \$650.00 | \$650.00 | \$650.00 | \$0.00 | 3,250.00 | \$541.67 |
| Cell Phone Allowance | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | 3,600.00 | \$600.00 |
| Total | \$20,603.00 | \$20,419.00 | \$19,769.00 | \$19,867.00 | \$21,615.00 | \$19,940.60 | \$22,550.20 | 122,213.60 | \$20,368.93 |
| Population Per Division | 39 | 79 | 78 | 73 | 44 | 113 | | 426 | |
| Per Capita Expense | \$528.28 | \$258.47 | \$253.45 | \$272.15 | \$491.25 | \$176.47 | | \$330.01 | |

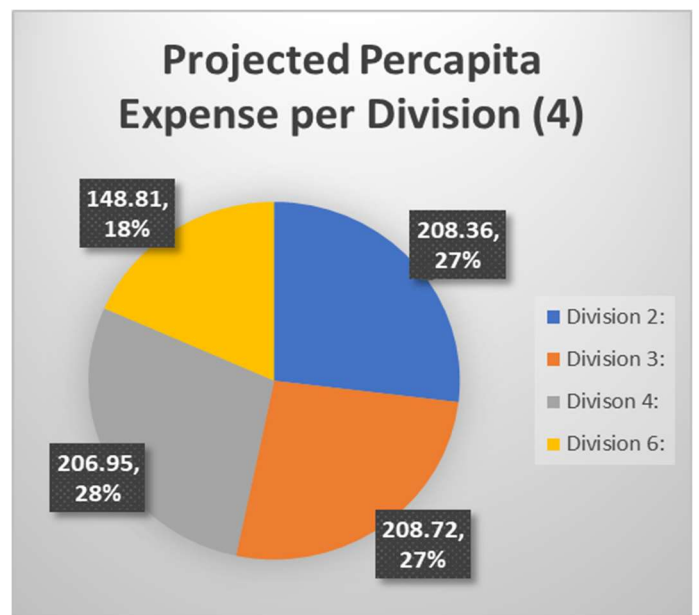
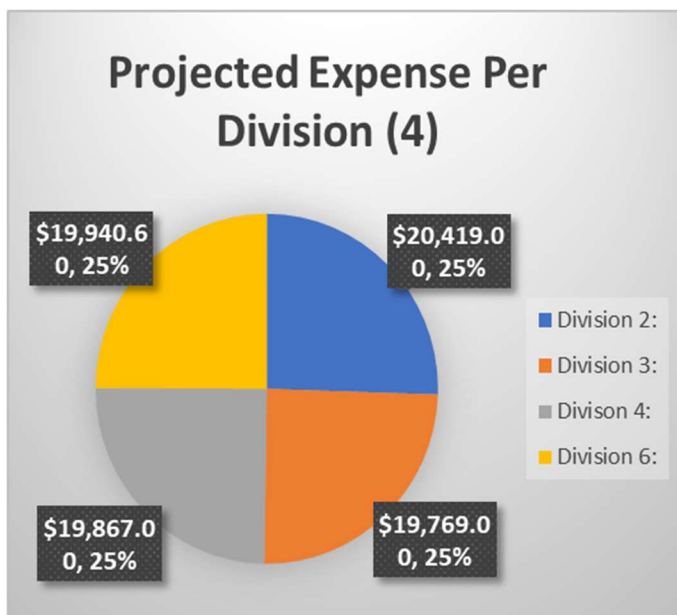


2024 Projected Expense Per Division Comparison:

When reducing the number of divisions to 4 the 2024 projected expense per division ranges from \$19,867.00 to \$20,419.00 with an average of \$20,161.40. This transfers to a per capita range per division of \$148.81 to \$208.36 and an average per capita rate across divisions of \$193.12.

Table 4:

| 2024 Projected Expenses | Division 2: | Division 3: | Division 4: | Division 6: | Reeve: | Total Per Category | Average |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Council Meetings | \$4,176.00 | \$4,176.00 | \$3,888.00 | \$3,926.40 | \$3,753.60 | 16,166.40 | \$4,041.60 |
| Committee Remuneration | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | 12,000.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| Committee Mtge Mileage | \$480.00 | \$480.00 | \$240.00 | \$272.00 | \$128.00 | 1,472.00 | \$245.33 |
| Other Mtgs Mileage | \$325.00 | \$325.00 | \$325.00 | \$325.00 | \$325.00 | 1,300.00 | \$325.00 |
| Other Mtgs Expense Convention | \$850.00 | \$850.00 | \$850.00 | \$850.00 | \$850.00 | 3,400.00 | \$850.00 |
| Other Meetings Convention | \$900.00 | \$900.00 | \$900.00 | \$900.00 | \$900.00 | 3,600.00 | \$900.00 |
| Supervision-Roads | \$9,240.00 | \$9,240.00 | \$9,240.00 | \$9,240.00 | \$9,240.00 | 36,960.00 | \$9,240.00 |
| Supervision-Office & Mileage | \$198.00 | \$198.00 | \$174.00 | \$177.20 | \$3,753.60 | 747.20 | \$186.80 |
| Employer's CPP | \$650.00 | \$650.00 | \$650.00 | \$650.00 | \$650.00 | 2,600.00 | \$650.00 |
| Cell Phone Allowance | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | 2,400.00 | \$600.00 |
| Total | \$20,419.00 | \$20,419.00 | \$19,867.00 | \$19,940.60 | \$23,200.20 | 80,645.60 | \$20,038.73 |
| Population Per Division | 98 | 98 | 96 | 134 | | 426 | |
| Per Capita Expense | \$208.36 | \$208.36 | \$206.95 | \$148.81 | | \$193.12 | |



Committee Recommendation:

The committee has reviewed the information at length and:

1. After reviewing the previous year council expenses and the projected expenses for 2024 the committee found that an overall savings of \$41,568.00 could be realized by reducing the number of rural divisions from 6 to 4 divisions.
2. Using figures projected for the current 6 divisions the per capita expense range is \$176.47 to \$528.28 with an average of \$330.01. By reducing the number of rural divisions to 4 a more moderate per capita expense range of \$148.54 to \$208.36 is realized with an average rate of \$193.12. This calculates to an average per capita reduction of \$136.89.
3. The Committee makes recommendation to apply to the Ministry of Government Relations to alter division boundaries and reduce the number of divisions in the Rural Municipality of Sliding Hills No. 273 from 6 divisions to 4 divisions. In doing this there will also be a reduction in the number of council members for the municipality from 6 members to 4 members and the Reeve.