

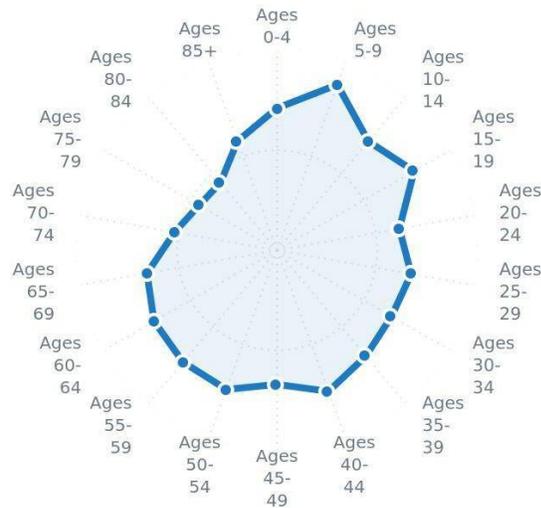
MELFORT-ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE COMMUNITIES PROFILE

MELFORT

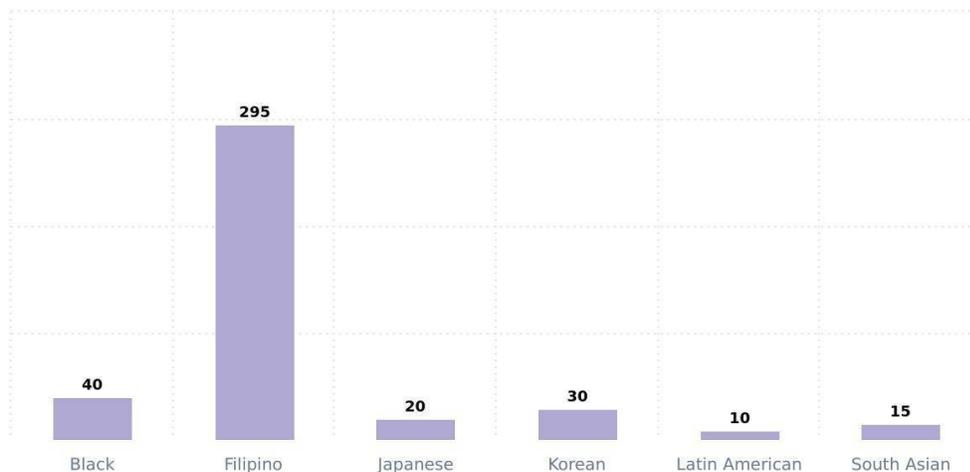
www.melfort.ca

Melfort is one of fifteen Saskatchewan cities, and has a population of just under 6000 people as of the 2016 census. It is located 180 kilometers north and east of Saskatoon on Highway 41 and 91 kilometers east of Prince Albert on Highway 3.

The age of population chart below (updated as of May, 2017) indicates a relatively young population (covered area is to the right, rather than centered or to the left), with 58.72% of the population in the “working population” (between the ages of 15 and 64).



Immigration has been on the rise since 2006, with the current distribution of visible minorities indicated in the chart below.



Melfort's current slogan is "PLAY MELFORT", and it truly is a great place to live, work and play.

Melfort has all the great amenities to visit, raise a family, go to school, own a business or retire. Amenities include shopping, a movie theatre, bowling, tennis courts, curling rink, a skating rink/swimming pool complex, an 18-hole golf course, multiple parks throughout the city, and a brand new, state of the art, skateboard park. An extensive array of leisure activities, including a wide range of minor sports, is available.

For more information, visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for Play Melfort – this short 4 minute video will give you a sense of the community.

EDUCATION

The North East School Division, which is responsible for K-12 education of approximately 5000 students in the North East, has its headquarters for the division located in Melfort.

Within Melfort itself are the following schools, with student population as of September 2018:

- Brunswick Elementary (K-6) – 257 students
- Maude Burke Elementary (preK-6) – 222 students
- Reynolds Elementary (preK-6) – 264 students
- Melfort Unit Comprehensive Collegiate or MUCC (7-12) – 609 students. Many students are bused into Melfort from the surrounding area.

Cumberland Regional College offers both technical training and first and second year university classes in Melfort.

RECREATION

The city is proud of its many recreational facilities. Our state-of-art skateboard park opened in the summer of 2018. An accompanying soccer pitch is scheduled to open in the spring of 2019. The Northern Lights Palace is a large multi-purpose arena with artificial ice, an indoor leisure wave pool, water slide, sauna and hot tub. The community also maintains a 6-sheet curling rink with artificial ice. Melfort and District Regional Park's 18 hole golf course and fully lit ball diamonds are popular summer facilities. Other amenities include a theatre, a bowling alley, tennis courts, a paved walking path and several parks and paddling pools for family outings. There is a campground on the southern edge of the city on Highway #41. Organized sport is available including hockey, soccer, lacrosse, football, Tae Kwon Do, Judo and Karate. The Melfort Mustangs are a community-owned hockey team that competes in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League (SJHL).

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Melfort has a fine museum which houses artifacts and memorabilia from the district's early days. The Art Gallery hosts local arts and crafts sales and displays many touring exhibits. The Kerry Vickar Centre, which opened in the fall of 2009, includes a full size indoor soccer pitch/gymnasium and a performing arts theatre. The Melfort Music Festival Association holds an annual Festival that draws musicians from across the region to compete in Band, Choral and Piano. Music lessons are available from a number of local teachers, including voice and guitar as well as piano. We have a community band and a community choir. Culture Days, hosted each September, features local craftspeople as well as the various cultures that are part of Melfort's demographic. Melfort also has an active amateur drama group (MAD) that performs several times each year, and regularly competes in the provincial drama festival.

HEALTH CARE

Health care in Saskatchewan is managed by the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Currently, Melfort has a 28 bed hospital. In 2018, fourteen physicians practice in Melfort alongside a general surgeon. There are visiting specialists in pediatrics, ENT, urology, ophthalmology and psychiatry. Home Care and Assisted Living are available, including a 105-bed long term care facility, Parkland Place, which opened in 2003.

In addition, Melfort has services from 3 dentists, 3 optometrists, 5 chiropractors, and 6 massage therapists. Publicly funded Physiotherapy and Occupational therapy is available through the Saskatchewan Health Authority as well as a private physiotherapy clinic.

BUSINESS

The Melfort and region business community is diversified and growing. The region has long been sustained by some of the best farmland in western Canada; and from these roots has grown a manufacturing cluster the envy of the province. Melfort is ideally situated in the centre of this cluster with over 1,000 employees in manufacturing or processing within 60 kilometers of the city. The city is strategically located on the intersection of Highways 3, 6 & 41 and serves as the major retail and service centre of northeastern Saskatchewan. With over 115 billion dollars in annual retail sales, Melfort has one of the strongest retail sectors per capita in Saskatchewan. Mining may

become a very important part of our future with Shore Gold's diamond exploration project at Fort à la Corne. This is one of the largest mining exploration projects in the world and Melfort is strategically located to capitalize on spin-off opportunities, as well as being an ideal location for employees to live. Doing business in Melfort is rewarding, with employees that symbolize the Saskatchewan work ethic combined with lifestyle and amenities that are envied all over the province.

Melfort supports a thriving downtown business district, a mall at the north end of main street, a new retail development on the south side, and a number of automobile and implement dealerships, as well as several home-based businesses. The community has several banking facilities, hotels/motels and restaurants.

The community is served by a number of lodges and service clubs, including Rotary, Elks & Royal Purple, Kinsmen & Kinettes, and the Royal Canadian Legion. There is a dance studio and a community band.

There are two daycare centers and a number of play schools available in the city.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

While a manse is not provided in this pastoral charge, a housing allowance is provided in lieu.

Melfort offers a wide range of property types; single family detached homes, townhouse, condo, low income, apartment. Rental rates range from a \$600- \$900 for an apartment or basement suite; Detached houses would range from \$800 - \$1400. Purchase price of an average quality home (1970's, 3 bedroom bungalow) would range from \$125,000 - \$275,000.

A March 2018 report from a local realtor indicates the following:

The Melfort real estate market has seen a decrease in the number of sales the past few years. In 2017, there were 91 residential sales versus only 72 in 2018. The average sales price of homes in Melfort also saw a decrease. In 2017, the median sale price was \$195,000.00. In 2018, the median sale price dropped to \$175,000.00. There are currently 52 active residential listings in Melfort; 4 of those are condos.

Prices of active listings range from \$59,000-\$689,000.00.

Most real estate brokerages no longer provide property

management for rentals in Melfort. There are several rental options ranging from apartments, condos and houses. The average rent in Melfort would be close to \$900/mth. There are several landlords and rental companies in Melfort.

MELFORT PASTORAL CHARGE

The Melfort-Ethelton Pastoral Charge was formed in 1995, and that is still the legal name, although services are no longer held in Ethelton. The Official Board meets approximately 8 times annually, with meetings not being held in December, July or August and a February meeting dependent upon the date of the annual congregational meeting.

Currently, we have one full time minister in the pastoral charge, who does not live in the community.

In addition to the church services in Melfort, our people lead services in the care homes in Melfort approximately four times per year.

There is a sanctuary and an attached Christian Education centre.

The pastoral charge employs a secretary/treasurer who works in the office of the Melfort church.

The charge has a Lay Pastoral Care Team which meets regularly and carries out pastoral visits to people in hospital, respite and in their homes.

Other Christian denominations in the Melfort-Ethelton area include Anglican, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Apostolic, Baptist, Covenant, Salvation Army and other evangelical congregations. There is a Ministerial Association for the community of Melfort and also a Regional Ministerial Association, which covers the Carrot River Valley area.

MELFORT CONGREGATION

The Melfort congregation has 220 members (198 resident and 22 non-resident), and 120 giving families. This number includes people who are residents of Parkland Place.

There is one weekly service. In 2017, congregation ranged from a low of 24 to a high of 78, with an average of 56. Added to that is the choir, which ranged from a low of 4 to a high of 30, and an average of 14.

Overall average attendance in 2017 was 70. Similar information for 2018 shows not much difference – the congregation ranged from 24 to 83 (with one anomaly of 118 at Easter when 2 baptisms were held) with an average of 59; and the choir ranged from 0 to 27, with an average of 13. Overall average attendance was 72 people.

There is an active Sunday School with attendance on a weekly basis ranging from 4 to 22 children and youth.

The United Church Women have a membership of 40 women divided between two units: Naomi and Women Alive.

Bible study is an important part of the life and work of the church, and is seen as a positive aspect of our church. A session that began in October 2018 has about four people attending.

On the first Sunday of every month a church committee prepares and hosts lunch. The lunch provides an opportunity for the congregation to share fellowship, and also serves as a small regular fundraiser.

The Ministry of Music is important to this congregation and it is identified as one of the things we do well. We enjoy both an inter-generational choir directed by our staff music director as well as a Hand bell Choir directed by a volunteer. The intergenerational choir has between 25 and 30 participants; and the handbell choir has between 8 and 10, most of whom also sing in the intergenerational choir. There is a paid accompanist for the choir.

We have a full church board with several working committees functioning under it. The board chairperson and the chairs of each committee make up the executive committee of the board.

We are the hosts for the community Rotary Carol Festival. We have assisted with the Salvation Army's Christmas Kettle campaign and provided Christmas hampers for underprivileged families. Donations are gathered regularly for the local Food Bank.