



Office of the Auditor General / Bureau du vérificateur général

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2007 AUDIT OF THE POPULATION GROWTH
PROJECTIONS**

2009

**SUIVI DE LA VÉRIFICATION DES PROJECTIONS DE CROISSANCE
DÉMOGRAPHIQUE DE 2007**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Follow-up to the 2007 Audit of the Population Growth Projections was included in the Auditor General's 2009 Audit Plan.

The key findings of the original 2007 audit included:

- Population growth projections the City had in place from 2001 to 2007 were too high.
- At the outset of this audit, in meetings with senior management, it was acknowledged that the existing population growth projections were too aggressive and that revised estimates were to be developed in advance of the 2008 Official Plan update.
- In September 2007, the new figures were presented to Council.
- The recommended 2031 projection is now 1.136 million, a figure that is lower than the earlier projection for 2021.
- As a result, the City's growth-related strategies, plans and programs may have been overly aggressive.
- Departments should be notified of the new projections so that any on-going programs which were designed based upon the higher projections can be revisited to ensure that the updated estimates are properly accounted for.

Summary of the Level of Completion

The table below outlines our assessment of the level of completion of each recommendation as of Fall 2009.

CATEGORY	% COMPLETE	RECOMMENDATIONS	NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS
LITTLE OR NO ACTION	0 – 24	-	-	-
ACTION INITIATED	25 – 49	-	-	-
PARTIALLY COMPLETE	50 – 74	-	-	-
SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE	75 – 99	-	-	-
COMPLETE	100	1, 2	2	100%
TOTAL			2	100%

Conclusion

In November 2007, Council approved the revised population growth projection to 2031 for the City of Ottawa. A return to the methodology used in 1997 by the former Region has resulted in estimates that are now lower than what was previously projected for 2021. The revised figures have now been incorporated into the Official Plan.

Acknowledgement

We wish to express our appreciation for the cooperation and assistance afforded the audit team by management.

RÉSUMÉ

Introduction

Le Suivi de la vérification des projections de croissance démographique de 2007 était prévu dans le Plan de vérification du Bureau du vérificateur général de 2009.

Les constatations principales de la vérification initiale de 2007 sont les suivantes :

- Les projections de croissance démographique que la Ville utilisait de 2001 à 2007 étaient trop élevées.
- Dès le début de cette vérification, au cours des réunions avec la haute direction, il a été reconnu que les projections de croissance démographique adoptées étaient trop hautes et que des estimations révisées devaient être établies avant la mise à jour du Plan officiel en 2008.
- En septembre 2007, les nouvelles estimations ont été présentées au Conseil.
- La projection recommandée pour 2031 est maintenant de 1,136 million, ce qui est inférieur à la projection utilisée avant pour 2021.
- Par conséquent, les stratégies, les plans et les programmes de la Ville établis en fonction de la croissance prévue étaient peut-être trop audacieux.
- Les services devraient être avisés des nouvelles projections afin que tout programme courant conçu en fonction de projections plus élevées soit réévalué afin de veiller à ce qu'il soit tenu compte des estimations actualisées.

Sommaire du degré d'achèvement

Le tableau ci-dessous présente notre évaluation du degré d'achèvement de chaque recommandation à l'automne 2009 :

CATÉGORIE	POURCENTAGE COMPLÉTÉ	RECOMMANDATIONS	NOMBRE DE RECOMMANDATIONS	POURCENTAGE DU TOTAL DES RECOMMANDATIONS
PEU OU PAS DE MESURES PRISES	0 - 24	-	-	-
ACTION AMORCÉE	25 - 49	-	-	-
COMPLÉTÉE EN PARTIE	50 - 74	-	-	-
PRATIQUEMENT COMPLÉTÉE	75 - 99	-	-	-
COMPLÉTÉE	100	1, 2	2	100 %
TOTAL			2	100 %

Conclusion

En novembre 2007, le Conseil a approuvé les projections révisées de croissance démographique jusqu'en 2031 pour la Ville d'Ottawa. Un retour à la méthodologie utilisée en 1997 par l'ancienne Région s'est traduit par des estimations qui sont

maintenant plus basses que celles prévues auparavant pour 2021. Les données révisées ont été intégrées au Plan officiel.

Remerciements

Nous tenons à remercier la direction pour la coopération et l'assistance accordées à l'équipe de vérification.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Follow-up the 2007 Audit of the Population Growth Projections was included in the 2009 Audit Plan.

2 KEY FINDINGS OF THE ORIGINAL 2007 AUDIT OF THE CITY'S POPULATION GROWTH PROJECTIONS

- Population growth projections the City had in place from 2001 to 2007 were too high.
- At the outset of this audit, in meetings with senior management, it was acknowledged that the existing population growth projections were too aggressive and that revised estimates were to be developed in advance of the 2008 Official Plan update.
- In September 2007, the new figures were presented to Council.
- The recommended 2031 projection is now 1.136 million, a figure that is lower than the earlier projection for 2021.
- As a result, the City's growth-related strategies, plans and programs may have been overly aggressive.
- Departments should be notified of the new projections so that any on-going programs which were designed based upon the higher projections can be revisited to ensure that the updated estimates are properly accounted for.

3 STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 2007 AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

2007 Recommendation 1

That management review all existing growth-related plans and programs and revise where necessary to ensure the updated population growth projections are properly reflected.

2007 Management Response

Management agrees with this recommendation.

The reviews of the Official Plan, Transportation Master Plan, Infrastructure Master Plan, and Development Charge By-law being undertaken in 2008, reflect the updated population growth projections, and will be considered by Council in 2009. Planning, Transit and the Environment (PTE) management will ensure that all City departments are informed about the necessity to review and revise growth related plans as population forecasts are revised. All City departments are committed to ensuring that accurate information is utilized to support program development and

will continue to review, and where necessary revise, all existing growth related plans within their respective department as population forecasts are revised by PTE.

Management Representation of the Status of Implementation of Recommendation 1 at December 31, 2008

The revised growth projections adopted by Council in November 2007 are being incorporated into the Official Plan as part of the current OP review, to be completed in May 2009. The revised projections are also the basis of the Transportation Master Plan, Infrastructure Master Plan and current updating of the Development Charges By-law.

Management: % complete *75%*

OAG's Follow-up Audit Findings regarding Recommendation 1

With the completion of the Official Plan review and the incorporation of revised population growth figures, this recommendation is now complete.

OAG: % complete *100%*

Recommendation 2

That, when the need for significant changes to population growth estimates becomes clear, management ensure that all stakeholders, including Council, are informed in a timely manner so that the potential impacts on growth-related plans and programs can be identified.

2007 Management Response

Management agrees with this recommendation.

Planning, Transit and the Environment monitors population growth information on an annual basis, and provides regular updates every five years, with the next regular update scheduled for 2012. If the need for significant changes to population growth estimates becomes clear between regular updates, PTE management will provide notification to all internal and external stakeholders, including Council.

Management Representation of the Status of Implementation of Recommendation 2 at December 31, 2008

Management: % complete *100%*

OAG's Follow-up Audit Findings regarding Recommendation 2

OAG: % complete *100%*

4 SUMMARY OF THE LEVEL OF COMPLETION

The table below outlines our assessment of the level of completion of each recommendation as of Fall 2009.

CATEGORY	% COMPLETE	RECOMMENDATIONS	NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS
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TOTAL			2	100%

5 CONCLUSION

In November 2007, Council approved the revised population growth projection to 2031 for the City of Ottawa. A return to the methodology used in 1997 by the former Region has resulted in estimates that are now lower than what was previously projected for 2021. The revised figures have now been incorporated into the Official Plan.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to express appreciation to the staff and management for their cooperation and assistance throughout the audit process.