



Site 21: Benito, Manitoba

Located in Southwestern Manitoba, Benito sits in the Swan River Valley, adjacent to the Saskatchewan border and 474 km northwest of Winnipeg. With a population of 460, the community is known primarily as a farming service center as well as a health service provider because of the local hospital.

Although Benito provides essential services to its residents, including an elementary-middle school, it relies on neighbouring Swan River for most things.

Since there are only a few employers within Benito, most residents work and shop in Swan River.

Benito's future as a viable community rests on maintaining the school and hospital as well as through marketing itself successfully as a "bedroom community" for Swan River. Benito's budding tourism industry, if given the chance, could help compensate for the loss of business due to its three grain elevator closures.



Maps courtesy of Statistics Canada, Geography Division, 2000

<i>Characteristics in 1996</i>	<i>Benito</i>	<i>Manitoba</i>	<i>Canada</i>
Population	460	1 113 898	28 846 761
1991 to 1996 population change (%)	7.7	2.0	5.7
% of population ages 15 and over	83.6	78.0	79.5
Unemployment rate	6.2	7.9	10.1
Participation rate	47.1	66.3	65.5
% Primary industry	6.3	8.5	5.6
% Secondary industry	31.3	16.2	20
% Tertiary industry	62.5	75.3	74.4
Average number of persons in married or common-law families	2.7	3.2	3.1
Average number of persons in lone-parent families	2.0	2.6	2.6

Source: Statistics Canada

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