



Budget 2024

Public Engagement Survey Results



This report was developed for the Town of Morinville in August 2023, placing survey results through an objective lens to ensure accuracy, and to analyze responses for thematic relevancy.

2023 Catalyst Communications





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Executive Summary

This survey was designed to gain valuable insight from residents in two core areas:

1. Where residents currently find value in the services offered by the Town of Morinville.

2. How residents would like to see the Town of Morinville move forward over the coming years.

The number of survey participants increased significantly year-over-year, from 149 in 2022, to 523 in 2023. This represents an increase in participation of 250%, with approximately 5% of local residents responding to the survey.

Council's [2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#) includes six core strategic priorities. Included as a goal under the strategic priority of "Community Building," Council outlined a collective desire that "residents and businesses are actively engaged in and aware of decision making and planning our future." This budget engagement process was developed in support of that goal, while also being tied to the strategic priority of "Financial Stewardship," including that:

- Operational spending and service levels reflect the principles of relevance, efficiency and effectiveness.
- Manage Morinville's current and future infrastructure needs with diligent planning and affordable spending.
- Continue to seek and obtain additional sources of revenue to mitigate the financial impact on residents and businesses.
- Public engagement results are used as an input in Council's budget deliberations, with results providing Council Members and Town

Administration with valuable insight into residents' and business owners' priorities in service delivery, amenities, and organizational direction.

Respondents were provided with appropriate context to respond to the various areas explored through this survey. Thank you to all residents who participated in the 2024 Budget Engagement Survey, which helps the Town to develop a budget that accounts for residents' desires, while balancing municipal needs.

Budget 2024 has been developed in recognition of the difficult situation being faced by many Town residents, including those tied to inflation and sharply increasing interest rates.

How We Engaged

The 2024 Budget Engagement process was launched through EngageMorinville.ca on June 14, 2023.

One of the key areas of focus in taking on this approach included that the survey be broadly advertised, so as to receive input from as many residents as possible. As such, the Budget 2024 Public Engagement Survey was advertised using the following communications tools:

- Town website
- Town social media and digital platforms
- Paid digital and print advertising
- Media release
- Posters
- On-street signage
- Printed materials, including utility bills
- Participation in Town-organized events



Survey Results



Section 1 – Demographics

Respondent demographics were collected to provide context to the budget questions, and focused on three core areas: age, living situation, and understanding of the municipal budget process.

Age Group

Age	Engagement Participation	Census Demographics ¹
18–24 / 15–24*	1%	13.7%
25–34	15.7%	18%
35–44	35.9%	21.5%
45–54	20.1%	14.1%
55–64	14.3%	16%
65–74	11.1%	10.1%
75+	1.9%	6.5%

** Though the Budget 2024 engagement survey included an age category of 18–24, Statistics Canada's data is based off an age category of 15–24.*

Contextual Information

The ages of those who participated in the Budget Engagement survey are not fully reflective of the age demographics of the Town of Morinville. The largest discrepancy is with the youngest age category, with 1% of respondents filling that category, compared to 13.7% of Morinville's population. However, this comparison is unreliable due to the different reporting between the Town's age category and the census age category.

There is also an overrepresentation amongst those who participated in the survey from the 35–44 age group, with 35.9% of respondents filling that category, while 21.5% of the Town's population is aged 35–44, according to the federal census.

The closest proportional representation by age is within the 65–74 group, which is off between engagement and census data by just 1%. When accounting for all seniors (65+), the discrepancy between survey participants and census data is 3.6%.

¹ Town of Morinville age demographics informed by Statistics Canada Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=Morinville&DGUIDlist=2021A00054811068&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0>



Section 1 – Demographics

Current living situation

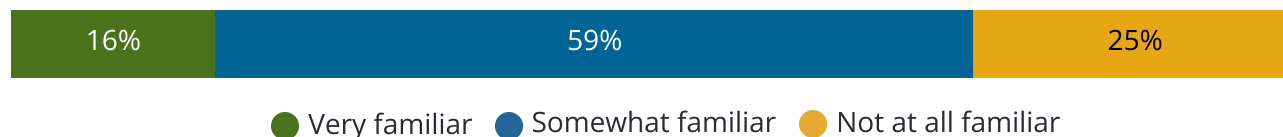


"Other (please specify)"

Those who selected "Other" in asking their current living situation — **representing 1.9% of respondents** — were asked to provide additional information, with responses including:

- Landlord
- Homeowner in Cardiff
- Homeowner in Sturgeon County
- Family living in Morinville
- Moving to Morinville
- Business owner

How would you qualify your familiarity of the municipal budgeting process?

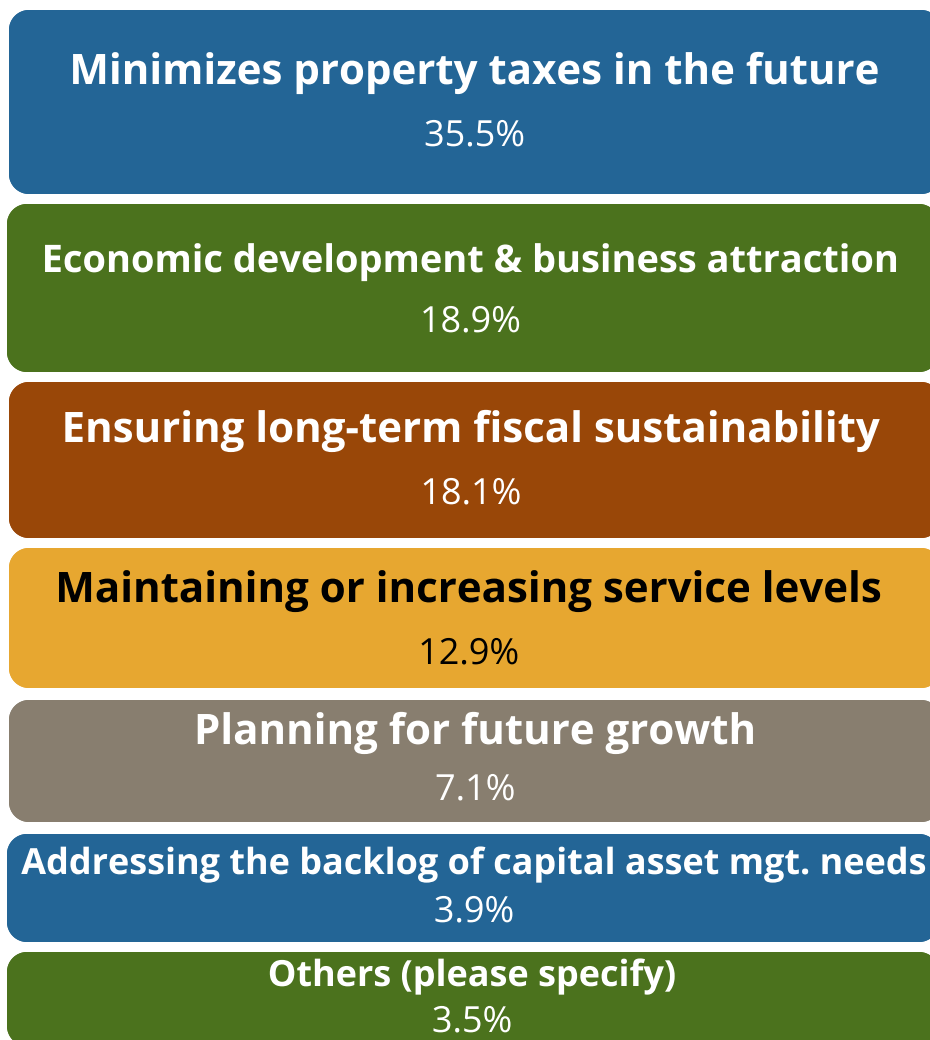




Section 2 – Taxation

Survey results were collected, reviewed, and analyzed for the purpose of developing this What We Heard Report, and as an input to the Town's budgeting process. Null responses, representing questions to which the respondent chose not to answer, were eliminated from the analysis, reducing the number of respondents for those specific questions to ensure full response accuracy.

As the Town of Morinville prepares for the future, which of the following is most important to you?



When respondents selected the "Other" category, they were asked to further explain where they would like the Town's focus to be placed moving forward. Those responses included fiscal responsibility; infrastructure maintenance/improvement; economic development/business attraction; lowering taxes; snow removal; long-term sustainability; events and activities; and pool.

Full responses are provided in Appendix 1 of this report.



Section 2 – Taxation

Recognizing the delicate balance between municipal services and the need for infrastructure investment, which statement best represents your opinion?



- I am OK with a tax increase.
- I don't want my taxes to increase.

To gain additional insight into responses, responses are explored in further areas of analysis. The first outlines the desires of those who do not want tax increases, in relation to the impact that would be on municipal infrastructure and services. The second analyzes responses of those comfortable with a tax increase, to one extent or another, to determine how they wish for increased tax revenue to be used.

"I don't want my taxes to increase..."



- I would like my money currently going to services to instead be allocated to infrastructure spending. This means service levels will decrease.
- I understand this means service levels will decrease, and infrastructure funding won't increase.

"I am OK with..."

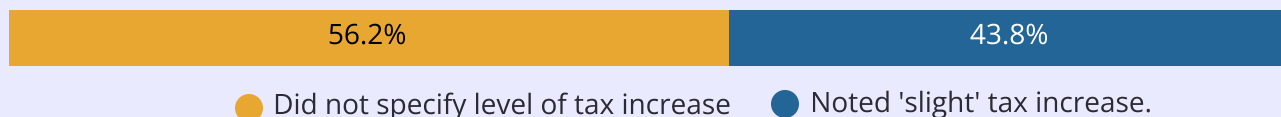


- Slightly higher taxes to maintain current service levels. This means infrastructure needs will continue to be underfunded.
- Slightly higher taxes, but I want that money to fund infrastructure needs. This means service levels will decrease.
- A tax increase so that service levels are maintained and infrastructure needs are adequately funded.
- A tax increase so that service levels are increased and infrastructure needs are adequately funded.



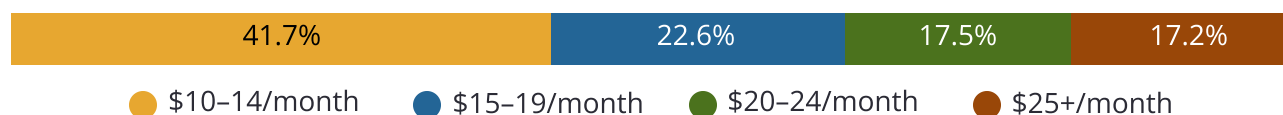
Section 2 – Taxation

Of those who voiced support for a tax increase, the majority (56.2%) were in favour of an increase determined in alignment with what was needed to either maintain or increase service level funding, while adequately funding infrastructure needs.

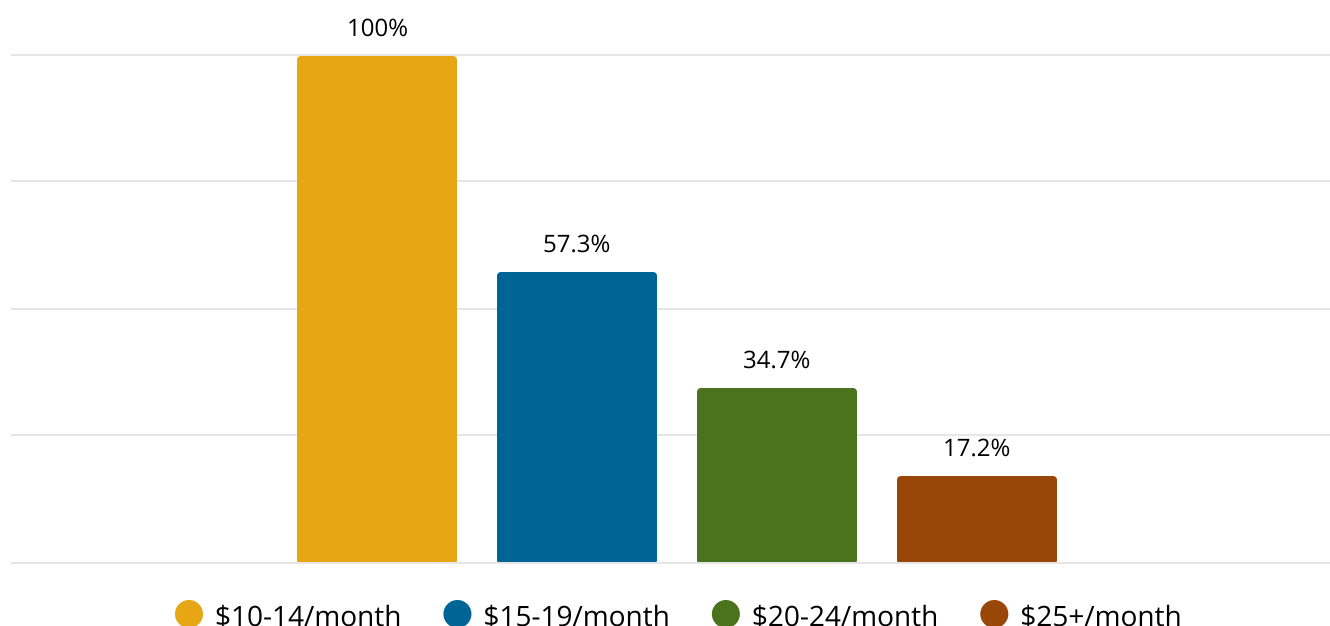


For residents who responded in a manner that showed some level of comfort with increased taxes, we explored what level of tax increase they would find acceptable. This was explored through real dollar values on a monthly basis, rather than through percentages, so that respondents could base their opinions on a sound understanding of household impact.

You noted that you would be OK with a tax increase. What increased tax dollar value would you be comfortable paying?



It is assumed that all those who stated comfortability with higher levels of tax increases would be comfortable, too, with the lower levels of tax increases. For example, if a resident noted they would be OK with an increase of \$15-19/month, they would likely be OK with an increase in the \$10-14/month range, as well. In other words, 100% of those who responded to this question would be OK with a tax increase of \$10-14/month. With that in mind, a more accurate depiction of comfortability levels amongst respondents is included below.





Section 3 – Town Services

The following questions focused on services offered to residents by the Town of Morinville, including how often survey respondents used different services. For those who have used a service, we also explored their satisfaction level in using that service, which has also been outlined below.

Contextual Information

Questions were not tied in any way to respondents' age. This should be accounted for when reviewing questions that may bear relation to participants' age, such as participation in seniors programming, while seniors represented 13% of survey respondents. Similarly, children programming participation have been answered by all respondents, regardless of whether they have children. For a deeper understanding of how specific demographic groups respond to or engage with Town services designed for their respective needs, demographic-specific engagement would likely be required, beyond what can be achieved through general Budget Engagement.

Adult cultural, recreational, and fitness programming (ie. paint nights and art classes, sports programming, personal training)



● Yes, I have used this service in the past year. ● No, I have not used this service in the past year

"Yes, I have used this service in the past year, and..."



● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied

Seniors cultural, recreational, and fitness programming (ie. educational workshops, cooking classes, exercise programming)



● Yes, I have used this service in the past year. ● No, I have not used this service in the past year

"Yes, I have used this service in the past year, and..."



● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied



Section 3 – Town Services

Children's cultural, recreational, and fitness programming

(ie. cooking and art classes, sports programming, family gym time, day camps)



● Yes, I have used this service in the past year. ● No, I have not used this service in the past year

"Yes, I have used this service in the past year, and..."



● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied

Wellbeing, support, and referral services

(ie. Family and Community Support Services [FCSS], documentation support, snow removal and lawn care support)



● Yes, I have used this service in the past year. ● No, I have not used this service in the past year

"Yes, I have used this service in the past year, and..."



● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied



Section 3 – Town Services

Town-produced events

(ie. Festival Days, Lite Up the Nite)



● Yes, I have used this service in the past year. ● No, I have not used this service in the past year

"Yes, I have used this service in the past year, and..."



● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied

Parks and open spaces

(ie. parks, trails, dog parks)



● Yes, I have used this service in the past year. ● No, I have not used this service in the past year

"Yes, I have used this service in the past year, and..."



● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied

Morinville Leisure Centre



● Yes, I have used this service in the past year. ● No, I have not used this service in the past year

"Yes, I have used this service in the past year, and..."



● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied



Section 3 – Town Services

Morinville Community Cultural Centre



● Yes, I have used this service in the past year. ● No, I have not used this service in the past year

"Yes, I have used this service in the past year, and..."



● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied

Morinville Museum



● Yes, I have used this service in the past year. ● No, I have not used this service in the past year

"Yes, I have used this service in the past year, and..."



● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied

Morinville Community Library



● Yes, I have used this service in the past year. ● No, I have not used this service in the past year

"Yes, I have used this service in the past year, and..."



● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied



Section 3 – Town Services

Service Funding

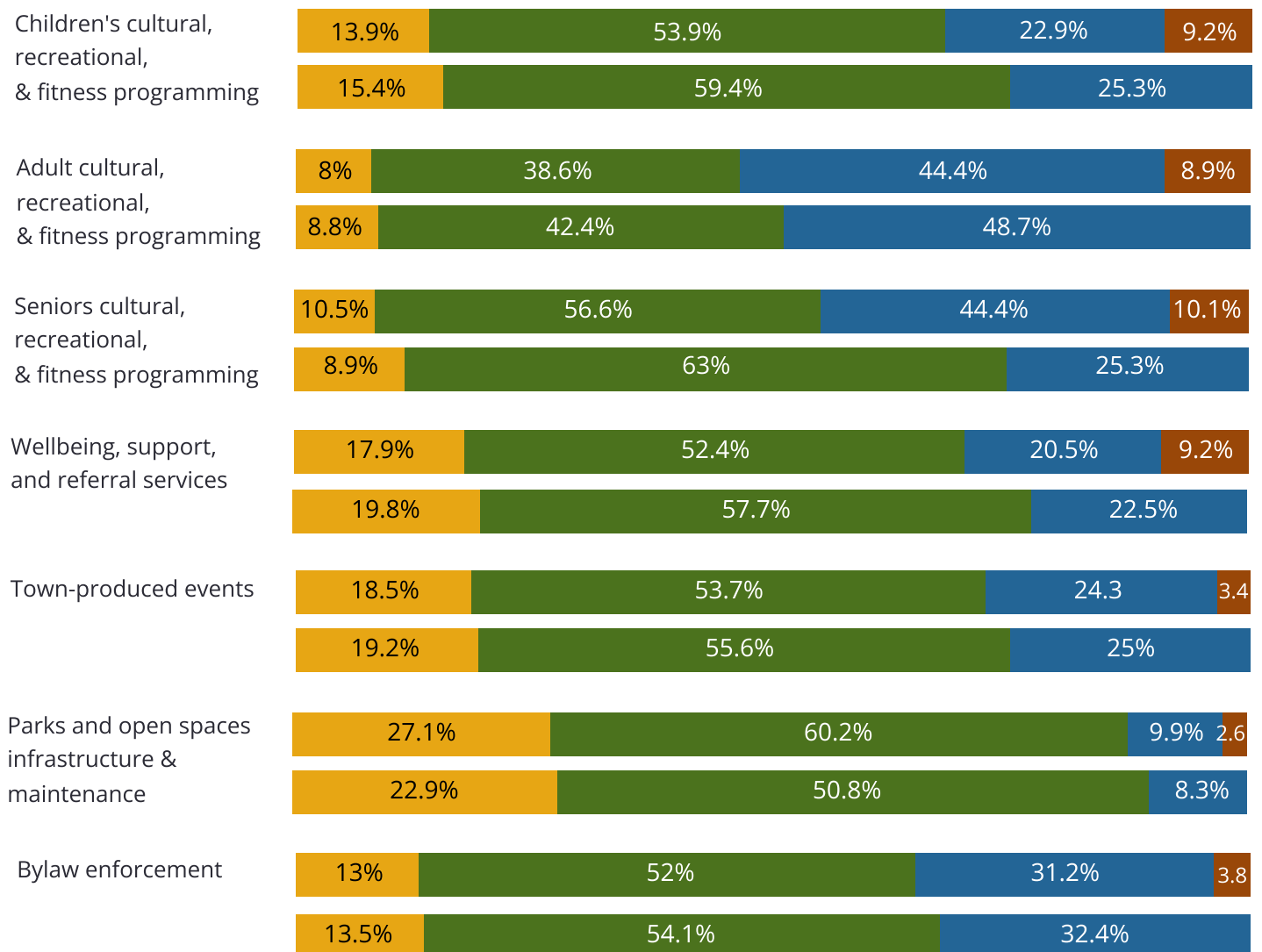
Thinking about the importance of the services and programs that are provided to you and the community, please tell us if the Town should increase, decrease, or maintain its budget investments in the following programs, services, and facilities: (Please note: Values under 2.4% are not labelled below.)

Contextual Information

Values under 2.4% are not labelled numerically below.

The top bar graph for each category represents responses that include "Don't know/Prefer not to answer," as that information is statistically relevant. The lower bar graph for each category represents response percentages when not considering the category of "Don't know/Prefer not to answer."

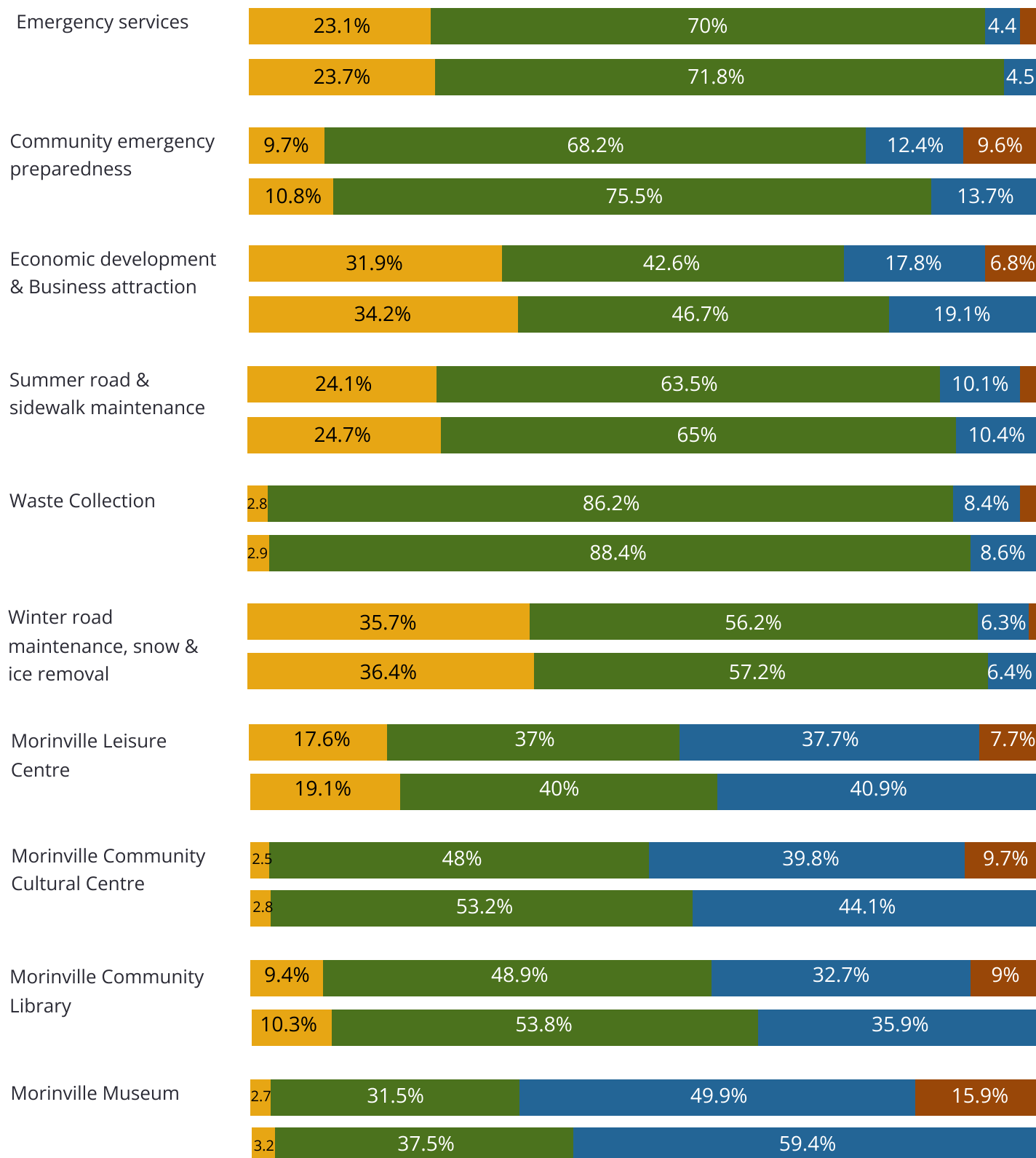
● Increase budget ● Maintain budget ● Decrease budget ● Don't know/Prefer not to answer





Section 3 – Town Services

● Increase budget ● Maintain budget ● Decrease budget ● Don't know/Prefer not to answer





Section 4 – Fees for Services

Resident fee-based service usage

Fees are another way in which the Town collects revenue. This includes fees that you pay directly, and those you pay indirectly, usually as part of a group (ie. a hockey team would rent the arena). Please indicate which fee-based service(s) you have used in Town over the past year.

● Yes, I have paid this fee. ● No, I have not paid this fee.

Development and/or building permit fees



Business license fees



Animal license fees



Performance hall rentals



Meeting rental rooms



Morinville Leisure Centre admission



Court/gymnasium rentals



Arena rentals



Sports field





Section 5 – Revenue Considerations

Increasing fees can increase municipal revenue, to a point. Would you be supportive of the Town potentially increasing certain fees as a method through which we can increase revenue?



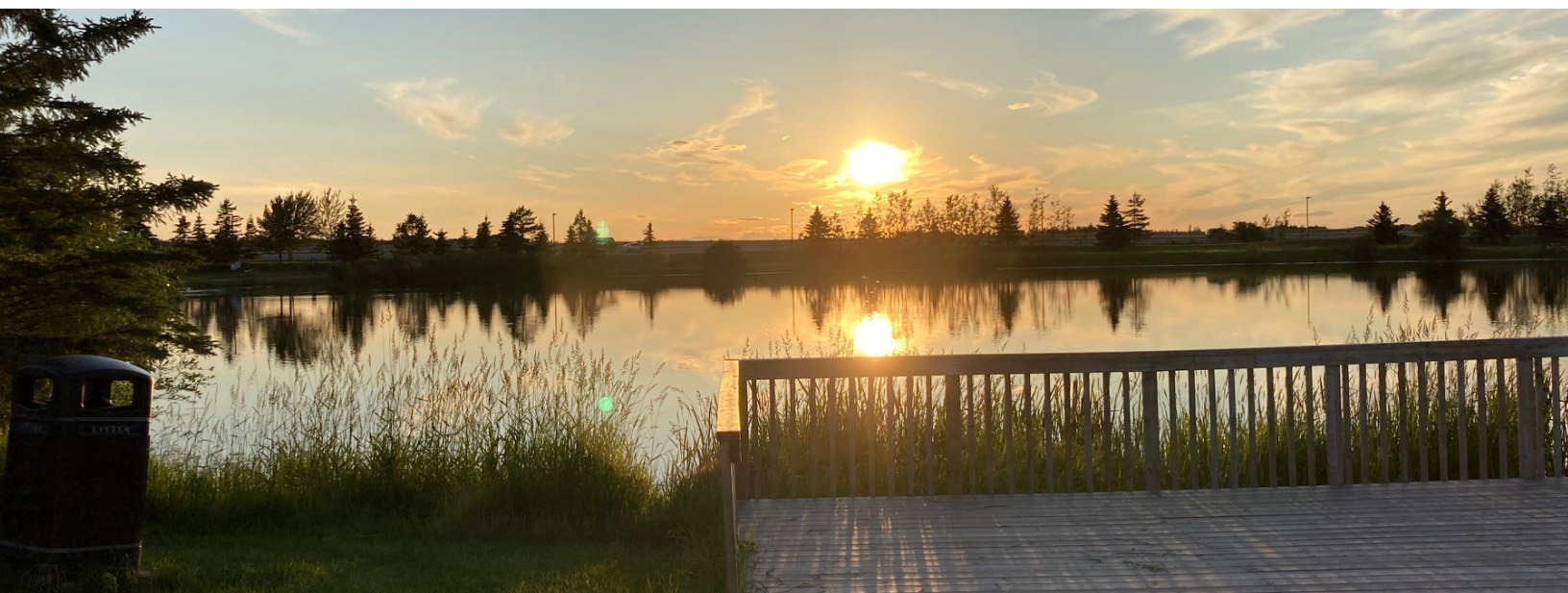
● Yes ● No

Morinville Leisure Centre capital costs

The Morinville Leisure Centre carries significant capital costs. Other communities facing these sorts of long-term capital costs related to a recreation facility — such as the City of St. Albert and the City of Fort Saskatchewan — have implemented tax increases specifically to pay off capital costs associated with their recreation facility. Once capital costs are paid off, the associated tax is eliminated. If Morinville were to implement a similar tax, dedicated to paying off capital costs for the Morinville Leisure Centre, it is expected that this tax would remain in effect for 17 years. Would you support a tax increase of this nature, specifically designated to paying off Morinville Leisure Centre capital costs?



● Yes ● No

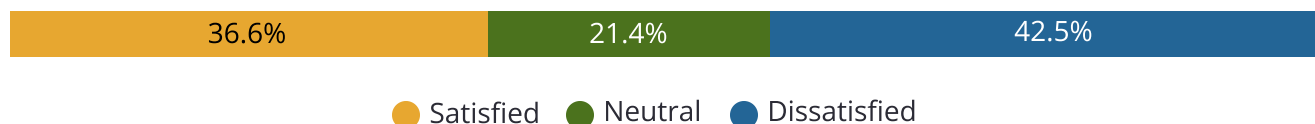




Section 5 – Revenue Considerations

Local Improvement Taxes

Some municipalities have begun implementing Local Improvement Taxes for specific infrastructure projects, as a means to address the backlog of key infrastructure needs. This practice is typically related to an infrastructure project that impacts mainly a portion of the community, such as road maintenance within a subdivision. To fund these projects, some or all of the cost would be covered by taxes collected from the community as a whole, while some or all of the cost would be covered by localized infrastructure taxes paid by those immediately impacted by the project. Under the Municipal Government Act, municipalities are required to give sufficient notice to impacted residents before a project of this nature begins. In consideration of Local Improvement Taxes, and with knowledge of the Town's infrastructure management requirements, please rate the following statement: The Town of Morinville should explore the potential use of Local Improvement Taxes as a means of addressing the backlog of key infrastructure projects:





Section 6 – Comments From Respondents

Do you have any additional suggestions for Morinville Town Council to consider for the 2024 budget?

52.8% of survey respondents chose to leave a written response, providing additional thoughts to those expressed elsewhere throughout the survey. These written responses have been appended to this report (Appendix 2).

Sentiment Analysis



Sentiment was analyzed on all comments submitted, with the majority of comments being either positive or neutral (54.4%), with 45.6% of comments carrying a more negative sentiment.

Top Terms

A number of topics were explored on multiple occasions by respondents who provided additional comments to the core survey. The top recurring topics, and the percentage of responses in which they showed up, were:

Topic	% of comments
MLC/Leisure Centre	37.0%
Pool	26.0%
Wages/Salaries	13.0%
Snow Removal	10.1%
Arena	7.6%
Economic Development/Business Attraction	3.3%



Analysis

Engagement results were reviewed and analyzed with full objectivity, free of bias or preconceived notion. There are many trends that have emerged through these results — not the least of which is a sentiment shift amongst engagement participants' written comments. There was also a notable rise in the amount of residents who took part in this year's survey compared to last year, with a year-over-year increase of approximately 250%. While much of that increase can be attributed to a consolidated Town effort to garner more public participation, some of the uptick in participation may also be attributed to the increase in negative sentiment seen year-over-year. The engagement process leading up to Budget 2023 saw comments that were 32.9% negative, while this year's process saw negative sentiments associated with 45.6% of all written responses. The rate of positive comments fell from 15.7% in 2022, to just 9.9% in this most recent budget engagement process. This is not necessarily indicative of a community-wide trend, as it represents only the sentiments of those who chose to take part in this survey. There are times at which surveys, over all other types of public engagement, can draw participation from those with strong opinions, in one way or another. It is also worth noting that 47.2% of respondents chose not to provide additional written comments.

Still, there has been a decrease that likely points to some issues which ought to be taken into account coming out of this engagement process, and as the Town moves forward not just in the creation of Budget 2024, but in general operations over the coming years.

Engagement results were analyzed for trends, which were discovered through statistically relevant information in benchmarking questions, as well as through respondents' personal comments. The analysis that follows explores key areas and trends that have emerged through survey responses.





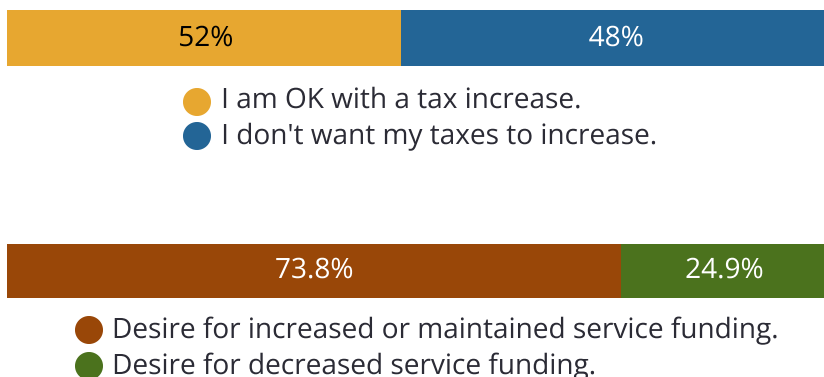
Analysis

There are a few takeaways that fast became evident in reviewing all engagement results holistically.

Taxation Disconnect

One significant issue that will need to be reconciled came in the comparison of respondents' stated desires for tax rates, versus participants' desires for tax dollar allocation per Town service.

Over 35% of respondents stated the Town's main goal should include minimizing future property tax increases, and a total of 52% of survey participants stated they are against a tax increase for Budget 2024. However, when asked whether budget investment should be lowered, maintained, or increased for specific services, survey participants responded overwhelmingly that Town services should see either maintained or increased funding. The only exception, where residents pointed to a desire for less funding, was for the Morinville Museum.



Key Takeaway

Survey participants who spoke against increased taxes also requested maintained or increased services

The above graph on desired funding changes per service represents the percentage of respondents who selected between the options of maintaining, increasing, or reducing funding for all 17 categories explored, and does not account for those who selected "Don't know/Prefer not to answer."

This lack of consistency between stated desired overall tax rate versus per-service funding — combined with other areas of survey responses (including written comments) — depicts a sample in which respondents may not fully understand the municipal budgeting process or municipal government's role.

It is also apparent that there may be a misunderstanding of the link between municipal financial commitments and the residential tax rate (despite 75% of respondents stating they are "somewhat familiar" or "very familiar" with the municipal budget process). **This is not unusual.** However, government should make every effort to ensure that residents are informed on the role of municipal government, including in areas of budgeting, operations, strategy, and governance. These efforts should continue, with future engagement results acting as a potential indication of progress made in this area over time.



Analysis

While many comments referenced last year's tax increase (though some included inaccurate percentage rate increases), no comments directly referenced the dollar impact of that 3.5% rate increase, which was projected to be an average of approximately \$8/month. This is another area in which continued efforts should be made moving forward, regardless of the outcome of this budget process, as survey results support the potential idea that tax increases are not framed in real dollars by residents.

Governance

Part of respondents' apparent disconnect between stated desires relating to the residential tax rate and service funding levels seems to be tied to individual Council Members' election campaigns, ahead of the most recent municipal election. Based on comments provided as part of this survey, it would appear that some Council Members made commitments related to lowering taxes, or more broadly towards 'fiscal responsibility.' Some engagement participants felt this 'commitment' did not align with the 3.5% residential tax increase that came out of Budget 2023. This is despite the Town having held the lowest tax increase within the region in Budget 2023.

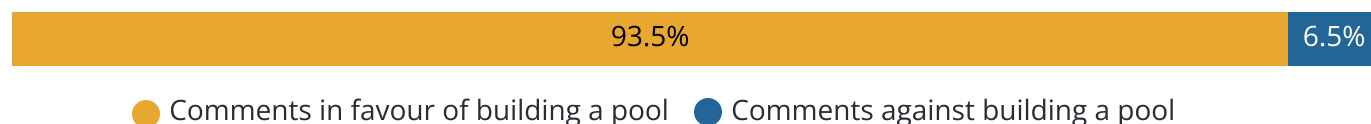
Amenities & Recreation

The Morinville Leisure Centre has a Public Relations problem, more than it has a sustainability issue. Since the hours were changed for the MLC, the centre's user rate has increased (MLC hours were adjusted to account for community usage trends at the facility). Despite the negative comments made about the MLC — with one-third of written responses referencing the facility — of the 50.7% of respondents who said they've used the MLC, 60.8% said they were satisfied with the MLC. Another 9.1% were neutral.

Regardless, 59.1% of respondents stated a desire for funding for the MLC to be either increased or maintained.

The idea of a pool for Morinville remains a contentious issue amongst Town residents. The majority of respondents who acknowledged the pool in their comments seemed to be supportive of the idea for the development of a new pool for Morinville, though a small number alluded to the potential that allocating funding to the development of a pool would not be prudent at this time.

This has been an ongoing area of contention within the Town, including in respondent comments included in the Budget 2023 engagement process, as well as in the [Town of Morinville Parks, Recreation, Culture and Trails Master Plan — Research and Engagement Report \(March 2019\)](#).





Other amenities that stand out in survey results include:

- The Morinville Community Cultural Centre, with a respondent usage rate above 50% — an overwhelming 92.2% of whom were satisfied with or neutral to the quality of the facility. A total of 56% of respondents stated they would like to see MCCC funding either maintained or increased.
- The Morinville Community Library, with a respondent usage rate under 35%, but a 92.4% satisfaction rate amongst those who have used library services. Regardless of the low usage rate expressed by respondents, 64.1% of survey participants stated a desire for MCL funding to increase or be maintained.
- The Morinville Museum, with the lowest respondent usage rate at just over 10%. However, of those who used the facility, 96.3% were either satisfied or neutral with the quality of the facility. The Museum was the only amenity that saw a net respondent rate requesting a decrease in facility funding, at 59.4%.

For the MCCC and MLC, stated usage rates are not reflected in the desire for facility funding to be maintained or increased. The three facilities outlined above, along with the MLC, each received a high stated satisfaction level by respondents who had attended the facility.

Economic Development & Business Attraction

In asking respondents what they believe to be the most important focus for the Town in preparing for the future, "Economic development and business attraction" came in as the second-most selected option, behind "Minimizing property taxes in the future." This, too, was a common theme throughout survey results, including in respondents' comments.

Excluding null responses, 34.2% of survey participants noted they would like to see increased funding for economic development and business attraction. Effective economic development drives long-term success and sustainability, with the potential to decrease residential property taxes, with a higher share of revenue from corporate taxes.

Infrastructure Maintenance & Improvement

In designing the survey used to conduct engagement for Budget 2024, a significant amount of effort was put into providing context to residents relating to the Town's infrastructure needs. In responding to Question 2, survey participants were asked to align their desired tax rate with a consideration of service levels versus infrastructure needs. Of those who noted that they would not like to see a tax increase, 61% stated they would like more money allocated to infrastructure maintenance and improvements, recognizing that service levels would decrease. (Again, this is in stark contrast to the overwhelming desire for maintained or increased service level funding, as evidenced through this survey.)



Analysis

Of those who noted they are OK with a tax increase, 35% wished for service levels to be maintained and infrastructure funding to be increased. Another 29.9% voiced that they would like any increase tied specifically to infrastructure needs, and 20.3% stated they would be comfortable with a tax increase that results in adequate funding for both services and infrastructure needs.

I don't want a tax increase...

61%

- I would like money currently going to services to instead be allocated to infrastructure spending.
- I understand this means service levels will decrease, and infrastructure funding won't increase.

I am OK with...

34.7%

- Slightly higher taxes, but I want that money to fund infrastructure needs. This means service levels will decrease.
- A tax increase so that service levels are maintained and infrastructure needs are adequately funded.
- A tax increase so that service levels are increased and infrastructure needs are adequately funded.

Despite the fact that not all respondents are comfortable with a tax increase, there is a significant amount of support for increased infrastructure-related funding. This throws into question, even further, the notion that 52% of respondents stated they do not want to see a tax increase, now with respondents showing significant support for infrastructure funding, while — again — the vast majority of survey participants voiced support for increased service funding in all but one area specifically referenced.





Conclusion

There are many considerations heading into Budget 2024 from residents' perspective, as represented by those who opted to participate in this year's budget engagement process. It is unlikely that Budget 2024,

in any form, will satisfy all (or potentially even the majority) of residents, based on the results of this budget engagement process. Still, consultation efforts of this nature are crucial to developing a budget that meets the needs of the community now and into the future. The Town gains insight not only into the qualitative and quantitative data that often feeds into the development of an operating budget, but also into the wants and expectations of residents.

There are no recommendations developed through a 'What We Heard' Report of this nature. However, there are recommendations that ought to be considered following approval of Budget 2024, including that the Town:

- Frame any changes to residential and corporate taxes in dollar values, ensuring that residents and business owners have a strong understanding of the potential impacts of any budgetary decisions on a monthly basis.
- Engage with the public to share with them how engagement results may have influenced Budget 2024, or where residents' desires align with aspects of the operating budget.
- Provide ongoing updates throughout the year, beyond presentations to Council, that outline the positive impacts seen in the execution of Budget 2024.

It is also recommended that budget engagement of this nature continue to be executed on an annual basis — an approach the Town has already rightfully embraced.







Appendix 1 – Demographic Responses

Written Responses – "Other (Please Specify)"

The following written responses represent those which were input by respondents who selected "Other (please specify)" to Question 1: *As the Town of Morinville prepares for the future, which of the following is most important to you?*

Increasing the tax base of our town is crucial for effective future management. By expanding the tax base, the town can generate additional revenue to fund essential public services, infrastructure development, and community initiatives. A larger tax base distributes the financial burden across a broader population, reducing the strain on individual taxpayers. It provides the town with a more stable and sustainable source of income, minimizing the risk of budget shortfalls and enabling long-term planning. Moreover, a robust tax base attracts investment, businesses, and talented professionals, stimulating economic growth and job creation. It creates a virtuous cycle, where increased economic activity further bolsters the tax base, allowing the town to better meet the evolving needs and aspirations of its residents.

Repairing and maintenance of sidewalks and roads.

Fiscal responsibility

Proper snow removal on residential streets

Manage the level off service that is currently available and reduce expenditures. Cut where you can cut like everyone during this down turn

Lowering property taxes as well as economic development and business attraction

Roads being cleared more then twice a winter

Attracting commercial and industrial businesses to morinville to help offset our ridiculous tax rates.

A Forensic audit.

A pool

Improving infrastructure



Appendix 1 – Demographic Responses

The town spending our money responsibly.

Lack of community activities for children outside of work hours- events planned for children and youth are often planned to end before 530 and this means many parents can't bring their kids.

Distributing finances appropriately to remain in a good position financially to aid residents in having an affordable place to live

Lower taxes so I can afford to keep a roof over my head

All of the above



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

The following written responses represent those which were input by the 52.8% of survey participants who opted to provide additional thoughts through written comment. These responses are presented as submitted, unedited, with the exception of profanity being redacted.

nope

Although the increases in taxes is a hard pill to swallow, we NEED the increase to get ourselves on a better path for the future. It is the responsibility of this council, and future councils, to look after the community as a whole, and not just the few "door knockers" they speak too.

The taxes have to go up to meet the growing demands of this communities realities. Of course not everyone can afford these increases but we have to do what's best for the town not what's good for those that cannot afford a tax increase. The rest of the town suffers for prolonging the inevitable ie. faulty infrastructure, reduced services. It just stunts the growth of the town and eventually no one will want to move here if we don't start taking care of this problem now. Actually people will move away because we are not progressive enough. Morinville is not a small town anymore, we have to think big picture not what's best for a few citizens.

You're taxing residents out of a place to live. You keep hiring and things never change.

The current level of services provided in 2023 were and are beyond poor. There is no clear picture where tax dollars are spent and as a resident, I do not see any improvements to the town and with the MLC and spray park not operational at capacity, makes for it really hard to accept added taxes for a decrease in services

Please fix the sidewalk drainage issues on 98 avenue between 102-102 street. As well as the road on 98th avenue it's treacherous

Cut staffing that is redundant.

Strongly opposed to Local Improvement Taxes for specific infrastructure projects,. Infrastructure repairs and maintenance should be shared by all taxpayers. But I am sure residents living in new neighbourhoods or recently refurbished neighborhoods would likely not agree with this .

Id like to see what the main backlog of infrastructure projects are that would require the use of local improvement taxes (question 18) and have it voted on by all town residents to determine which ones are priority



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

1. Start approving more housing development to broaden the tax base. Morinville is doing a terrible job of new development in comparison to other municipalities in the capital region i.e St.Albert/Spruce Grove/Stony Plain 2. The town needs to make business attraction and retention a higher priority. The numerous vacant lots and empty business buildings in town and on Main Street is disappointing and upsetting to see as a taxpayer and resident. 3. Re-evaluate the business/residential tax rates to better offset how much of the tax burden is placed on the shoulders of residential home owners.

Reduce Rcmp, Increase Peace Officers

Close all useless buildings in town and put a pool in the arena so you could get more of the town using it. Other then my kids playing hockey the billion dollar arena is pointless. High cost building for some ice we could have fixed at old arena

Grant funding should support some capital investment. User fees could increase and additional funding for economic development could support some capita budget items in future Morinville could also do a better job of seeking naming sponsorships for facilities in the community

The mlc hours and gym rental cost is ridiculous. Address that and more people will use and rent the space.

If the leisure Center had a pool or a play place ir a decent gym id support an increase. Unfortunately it's a low budget facility and by building something cheaply, you won't get buy in for residents to pay more. It's the worst Leisure Center within a 100km radius. Every other one is better.

Please review staffing levels at the MLC and with the men who drive the dodge trucks around all day and do absolutely zero work. Never once have I seen those guys do anything but drive around town. Reduce those jobs by half easy ! Often at the MLC there are far to many people working on the front desk and as personal trainers. No one uses the personal trainers outside of the group exercise classes. Town needs to learn how to staff and manage employee costs

I pay for snow removal in my taxes. We had ZERO SNOW REMOVAL IN edgwood this past winter. If we're not getting thwt service, I am.no longer paying for it and will deduct it from my tax bill. Get it together!! Also, clean up of garbage and fix up the fences along the roadways to new areas. One side of road looks great. Other needs a good mow and proper landscaping. Again, get it together Town of Morinville or I am not paying my taxes. No service. No pay!

NO TAX INCREASE!

Partnering with neighbouring communities for economies of scale.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

What does amalgamation with Sturgeon County look like? I know previous councils have made them mad by not including them in the MLC project, but asking for money after. Morinville needs help. Better to try to work together now over waiting until Morinville is barried in debt. Problem is, what do we have to offer that they can't get from St Albert.... not much.

Taxes in Morinville are disproportionately high versus towns of similar or even larger, with very limited services provided in compensation.

1 build the pool at the leisure center. It Should've been built first we already have an arena! 2 fix the sidewalks in town, EVERY rainfall my sidewalk gets flooded. EVERY spring my sidewalk turns into a skating rink of ice as thick as 6 inches. Y'all want the sidewalks kept clear but do nothing about extremely visible problem areas, infact the snow gets piled right in visible problem areas.

I think it's insane that our property taxes went up \$600 from last year. That being said, I think we should lower taxes for next year. Cut costs. If property taxes go up any higher, lots of us will be forced to sell our homes and move out of morinville.

Stop promoting moving to Morinville if you can't keep up with anything. Taxes are collected from newcomers due to growth, not sure why it can't be kept up too.

They should consider managing their assets such as the leisure center with a view of increasing revenue from these assets. For example court one of the leisure center is used very sparingly throughout the day for "spontaneous play". I am told maybe 10 people a day use it. To my understanding this court is not available for rentals or any other activities that would generate revenue. In my opinion this is a waste of an asset. The focus of our faculties must be on revenue generation as well as expense control for them to be successful.

Council is requesting additional funding (taxation) to support their assertion this is required to provide services and fund capital programs. Since 2018, property assessments in Morinville have increased by \$25 Million and residential assessments are responsible for over 85% of the \$1.4 Billion in assessments. This means that, at a mill rate of 0.0082485, council has already been given an average of extra \$206,000 per year 'raise' to work with, or \$800,000 since 2018. As our property valuations go up, usually in conjunction with taxation rates, council receives a built in increase, year-over-year. Where did that money go?

When considering taxing certain areas for infrastructure projects it should be noted that many areas have already been improved while those areas that are in dire need have been completely ignored. How fair is it to solely tax those areas that have been completely disregarded when they have contributed to those that were not in as much need



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

Spend money efficiently on things that benefit the whole rather than the few. If people complain about not having services but are unwilling to pay more taxes then they have no idea how money works and should educate themselves. In my opinion if residents wish to complain about a tax increase, council should educate them about what that means in regards to services and infrastructure.

Morinville NEEDS a pool. We can never get our kids into swim lessons in St. Albert/Edmonton or other surrounding areas as their community has first priority to sign up their kids for swim lessons for 2 weeks before general Public (Morinville) can even attempt to find a spot for lesson and by then they are all booked up with no spaces available. Morinville families want a Pool, and our kids deserve to have a place to learn to swim and be active.

We. We'd to collaborate with our regional partners. Major mistakes were made when we moved forward with the MLC without our regional partners and now we are faced with the unattainable costs of maintaining that facility as a town. End the differences with Sturgeon County and work together. Recreational facility's, transportation / maintenance services, parks and Rec, emergency services could all collaborate with one another and save enormous costs for both parties. We need to end our differences with each other and become one.

My taxes are extremely high. I would like to see some fiscal responsibility. Maybe considering downsizing the amount of staff and government at the town.

Eliminate fees for minor sports teams to rent fields. Reverse the idiotic decision to close the MLC on Sundays and holidays. Instead reduce the over abundance of staff always present or close on slower days like Mon- Tues. Stop giving so many concessions to Landrex and their development. Make them pay for the infrastructure projects. The town seems to lack any negotiating ability and gives in to whatever they want.

Yes, stop creating new projects for a small minority or group of people that will use them, instead, put the money towards the current infrastructure and improve/replace what we currently have. Roads, side walks, drainage, are all in rough shape throughout the town. Why are we building new walking trails and letting the current sidewalks deteriorate? Finish a project before moving on, the trail on east boundary road looks like garbage. Grass was never planted and now it over run with weeds. Snow/ice removal is terrible. Some areas have to wait over a week to get snow cleared, and anyone with a car struggles to get around and through some streets. If citizens need to maintain their sidewalks and have them shoveled within 72 hours, why cant the town follow the same standards? Sincerely, A Morinville Resident that is sick of the high taxes with no return. Might as well move to St.Albert, their streets are cleared within 24 hours.

Our taxes are almost at St. Albert levels, but our town looks like a shit hole in comparison.

No more tax increases. The taxes are astronomical here already. You can't attract new residents when they can't afford the taxes here.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

Are other surrounding counties/towns willing to contribute to the MLC? How can we add more large scale businesses to our town to balance the ratio of business vs residential property taxes. I find my property tax to be quite high and in line with what people pay in St. Albert; however, in St. Albert they get much more bang for their buck as far as services, city run programs and outdoor parks.

Recent drop off of support from local non-profit groups has resulted in making it more expensive for the town to sponsor community events. Perhaps having a member of council attend a meeting of these groups and enter into a constructive dialog of co-operation

This council was elected on a platform of fiscal responsibility. I am still not convinced that they are really doing more than window dressing. Big ideas are needed. Such as reducing council size, less use of consultants, better use of public employees, and the biggest idea of all. To merge with Sturgeon County. The overlap of public funding happening now is staggering. The status quo is unsustainable long term.

Recent drop off of support from local non-profit groups has resulted in making it more expensive for the town to sponsor community events. Perhaps having a member of council attend a meeting of these groups and enter into a constructive dialog of co-operation

Swimming pool

Decrease the number of want to be bosses driving around in pickups and get there ass out and do some work

Public service remuneration, at all 3 levels of government, is unjustifiably high. Assuming staffing levels cannot be reduced, the cost of employee compensation packages must be brought in line with reasonable private sector compensation. With employee costs often the largest portion of an operating budget, success in this area would greatly alleviate finance and sustainability issues for Morinville.

Think more about a real future focus rather than saving a buck in the present ... it seems that a lot of services are done on a tight budget with future costs to increase for expansion, rather than spending more now to include more services in the original build, thus finding cost efficiencies, even with a present increase. Morinville needs to attract more business and to increase the things available for growing families, particularly teens. We have heard many things about changes and growth coming to Morinville over our 25 years in the community and have seen very, very little of it actually happen.

Build a pool please!

upgrading cardiff rd and 100 st three-way stop to a traffic circle.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

If you want a tax increase to support the debt of the MLC I suggest you have the facility open better hours to support use as well as friendly staff that allow children to actually use the facility by being children. Also the children's area needs to be useful for ages above 2. I also suggest if we pay this high of taxes we can at least bring back the flowers along Main Street, it seems out town is paying more and getting much much less:

The taxes have been raised in the past due to extremely poor spending and a ludicrous wage for a certain administrative staff member of over 200,000 dollars a year! Now, you want to raise taxes even more when residents are already taxed beyond what they can afford. People are losing their homes, social programs are seeing a huge increase in need. In a town of 11,000 people, we don't need a 200,000 staff member....poor spending like the cultural centre caused us to be in the situation we are in currently. Then top that off with the arena, which mostly only caters to hockey people when the town is comprised of many other people who could have utilized the benefit of a pool instead of running the gym out of business here in town (way to support local), the cultural centre could have housed the fitness classes and meeting rooms as it was. The arena could have been fixed as is the case with the gentlemen that bought it.....all I see there with the arena was a sparkle in the previous mayors eyes. She didn't even consult with Sturgeon County in an effort to have them help pay for the facility BEFORE she started going ahead with it. We as tax payers don't have enough say in where our money is going. The pools in St. Albert are all full because hundreds of people live there and pay taxes there and they have a right to use them. Westlock, a small town, has one and it works and has been running for many years, and their taxes are not high! They also have more than 2 sets of traffic lights.....aka the intersection at circle k, down by no frills, and by meds and care pharmacy all need one. The problem with this town is the money is spent carelessly and frivolous with the "well just increase the taxes again" mentality. We are all tired of it. My job doesn't pay wage increases. It is very hard to get a job here unless you know someone. STOP spending!!! It's as simple as that! No careless or grandiose dreams as in previous administration and just pay the bare minimum for a few years and stop overtaxing residents!! Whoever is at the helm of the financial yay or nay needs to give their head a shake. With groceries as high as they are and utilities skyrocketing, how can you honestly even think we can afford yet ANOTHER tax raise?!?! Seriously?! Stop spending!!! A crack in a sidewalk can wait a few years, we don't need a fancy sign on every corner in town. That whole arena could have been handled differently but sparkle sparkle want want want and now we are not in a good position. Don't put that on the residents, that blame falls directly back at the previous admin. It's shameful that we have two arenas in town catering to one specific group of people but nothing for the other people who also pay these ridiculous taxes.....No tax increase!

You need to figure out ways to make the leisure centre profitable. We were promised that building would not increase our taxes and so far it's been nothing but a tax rip off for residents and over half the residents don't even step foot in there. For what we get here in terms of services and maintenance it's soon not going to be worth the rate we pay in taxes



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

As a resident and a person who operates a business in the town. I would like the budget to maintain current service levels in most areas and see administration develop a solid business attraction and economic development plan. What we have now isn't serving our community. Our Area Structure, Transportation Master, Coeur de Morinville Plans, and Land Use bylaw are all over ten years old and inhibit development on 100 Ave & 100 Street. I also understand that revising these plans comes at a significant cost, but if they were amended to be more development-friendly, the added tax revenue in the future would far outweigh the cost in the present. Amending these plans and making them more development-friendly will also help to stabilize residential taxes. A win-win for the community I've called home for 26 years.

Vehicles and equipment can be used for longer. There is no need for replacement of equipment and vehicles of public works or fire chiefs vehicles when they are in still good working condition. Just because a policy says they need to be replaced every so many hours, km or years doesn't mean they need to be replaced. There are other ways administration can get money rather than just tax hike after tax hike, grants should be applied for, cost saving measures should be thought about before the RFP or RFQ process even starts. Start thinking outside the box so it's not all on businesses and homeowners to come up with the money for unfair decisions made by administration.

Don't allow recreational vehicles on the roads

Close the library and museum, give the Cultural Center the high school

Close the library and museum. Close the MCCC.

Should have kept the old hockey rink, some of the present council were on counsel when the decision to sell was made, look for sponsorship of MCL like StAlbert did.

We are a retired couple living on a pension. If the tax rate is too high we will look at downsizing and possibly moving to a new seniors apartment style living in other jurisdictions. We love Morinville and have lived here do 30 years. Thank you.

Would suggest looking at holding wages even for unionized staff as part of negotiations

I am confused by current council as many promised to decrease taxes and have not done it. Why make promises you know you can't keep?

Be smarter while spending my money

Encourage more home building to increase population/tax base, which will attract more businesses.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

Inflation definitely has become an issue but many of us have not received an increase in income. To that degree. How have we dealt with this. We have all had to cut back on our spending to some degree and I suggest the town learns to do likewise. We have to learn to live within our means instead of continuing to raise taxes. Some things will have to be adjusted. As we have not got 7 per cent increase in income the town staff should expect to have to adjust as well. If wages do not go up by 7 per cent this would be a good start at balancing the budget. It's time we stop hitting the taxpayer and start living within our budget like every household in the town has to contend with

forget what other communities taxes are and where ours fall and budget for this community and not to be on par with other communities around us. if we budgeted around sound spending we could be closer to the situation that some towns and villages find them selves in with a surplus in funds and high service levels for the tax payers. Stop using inflation as the only excuse for rising taxes and start looking inward at some out of control spending ie: the MCC and Rec. center debacles.

I think the Town needs to attract more businesses to Morinville to help with the high taxes residents pay. My taxes are getting to the point I might need to move from Morinville. The town is looking really run down now. Morinville needs to add more trees for the good of the environment. When I drive through St. Albert the trees and landscaping is very impressive puts Morinville to shame. Morinville needs its small town charm back!

Administration Needs to Communicate the accomplishments of starting and/or successfully finishing capital projects, not only around budget time, but throughout the year. This will be result in less resentment if we can see where are taxes are going and progress is actually being made!

Why hasn't Morinville been seeking City status from the province since it now has more than 10000 people?

Annexation of land where the leisure center is located on from the county as well as Cardiff echoes subdivision/ hamlet? Establishment of a full-time unit at the fire department, planning for additional fire halls in the long term. A suggestion I would like to make is to add signal lights for fire trucks that would give motorists & pedestrians a warning that a fire truck may depart the fire hall like what St. Albert & Edmonton currently have?

I don't feel I know enough about the towns budget to give any insight. However being here for 2 yrs, we're not impressed. The town is overloaded with liquor/weed stores which is ridiculous (increasing addiction amongst residents) the lack of road maintenance is appalling. And in all honesty the town is not inviting whatsoever. I continually question where are taxes go seeing as they're so high and the town doesn't appear to be taken care of. Do better, I know I'll be taking the time to learn who is involved in decision making and ensuring I voice my preferences at the next election.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

I feel like some things are not being addressed efficiently costing the town. For example having two front desk people at the MLC at all times. Or leaving one Cul-de-sac for later snow clearing when the graders go right by and it takes them 10 minutes to do. I think a review of common sense efficiencies in operation would help a lot with the bottom line. Throwing money at a problem doesn't help solve it. Sometimes cultural changes are needed first.

Deal with the over paid town office staff that are in positions they have zero education for Also if the ccc is not being used everyday why is it open and have staff there full time That's a total waste of money

stop increasing taxes and stop paying the MLC staff over wages and use the money you do have correctly. this town council sucks.

Hold the line on wages, review the administration to make cuts in bureaucracy and simplify regulations.

Remove wasteful spending. Look at salary of managers and general managers compared to similar - way higher for no reason. Stop giving money to other community groups - they can go fundraise. Stop giving money to library and museum. Fund themselves. Stop giving a bunch of food/drinks to council during council meetings. Bring your own food like every other working person has to do. Stop paying so much money for rcmp - look at their call volume in town to county and see how much town is paying for very little service. Reducing one officer will save you 150,000+ per year. Look into if you still pay for rcmp services for a position, if it is vacant. You will be surprised that the position is empty and you are probably still getting billed.

As a tax payers we don't have any issues with a tax increase in the 2024 budget. The issue that we have is the Town of Morinville spending our tax money efficiently. The example that comes to me is the Off-Highway Vehicle Project. How is this even beneficial to the tax payer? All it does is add to the burden of the tax payer.

The leisure centre is not being utilized at this point due to not having a pool. If the town were to have a pool more residence would use the leisure centre

Find a way to be more efficient with the taxes and fees already collected. People cannot keep paying more due to poor previous choices and getting so much less than other communities. If you continue to drive locals out of town for resources, you will never get to the sustainability the town needs. As an example, the rink could have been renovated for less than the construction of a new one. Community survey indicated resident priorities were not with ice surface but with walking tracks, field houses and a pool. Now the leisure center is underutilized and a drain on the community rather than a popular place for locals to use year round.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

Keep gym hours 6-6. Very inconvenient for working customers and tell us after we buy a 1 year membership

The city is in a very tough situation with the cost of everything rising. It might mean a small staff should be used in the town offices.

I would like to suggest building a pool. By itself it may not directly increase the tax base of a town. Instead, the indirect benefits that come from building a pool can contribute to the growth of the tax base. Here are a few ways in which a pool can have an impact on that base: Increased property values: The presence of desirable community amenities, such as a pool, can enhance the appeal and desirability of the town. This can lead to an increase in property values, resulting in higher property tax revenue for the town. Economic development: A well-maintained pool can attract visitors from neighboring areas, especially during summer months or for events and competitions. The increased tourism and spending from visitors can boost local businesses, resulting in increased sales tax revenue for the town. Attraction of new residents: Community amenities like a pool can make a town more attractive to potential new residents, including families and individuals looking for recreational opportunities. This can lead to population growth, bringing in new taxpayers who contribute to the tax base. Business expansion: A vibrant community with recreational facilities like a pool can attract businesses to set up or expand their operations in the area. This can create new job opportunities and generate additional tax revenue from business taxes and income taxes paid by employees. It's important to note that while a pool can contribute to the growth of the tax base indirectly, it's not, for obvious reasons, the sole factor in determining the overall tax revenue of a town and it's growth factor scale once built. However, it absolutely promotes a sense of community and wellbeing as a place for all ages to spend vast quantities of their days, especially on summer and other various multi-day school breaks.

I would not support any tax increases. Every decision this town has made has been a bad one. Cultural centre - Only use is for church when one burns down(which is a lot in this town) Leisure centre. Another rink, a gym that is no bigger than my living room and is closed half the time It is cheaper for me to pay \$26/mth and drive to St Albert to Planet Fitness than pay \$44/mth and provide very little services. Start managing our money better. Every citizen here in Morinville has been asking for a pool for 20years. If you had of used that money from a failed cultural and failed leisure centre, we would have had one hell of a pool!

Keep gym hours 6-6. Very inconvenient for working customers and tell us after we buy a 1 year membership

1. Close the MCCC and move their operations over to the MLC until budget has stabilized. 2. Some staff at MLC should be minimum wage. You don't need a salaried individual handing out basketballs to kids. 3. Property bylaw inforcment hasnt happened for years. There are trailers and cars parked all over the place (the lakes) now. May as well decrease that budget.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

Hopefully the town is looking at attracting more business. In my opinion the morinville Leisure Center was built to see who come To utilize it and Covid put a damper on that.

I am concerned that the only businesses I see growing in Morinville are liquor stores, vaping places and pot places. It is disheartening to see another pizza place open as well. None of my family has elected to stay in their home town and laugh when they return to see nothing happening. Clean up of private places needs to be done. Burned out remains left on Main Street is an eyesore. Yards with three feet of weeds need to be cleaned up and the owners fined. I have lived in Morinville for almost thirty years and unfortunately have seen things depreciate as opposed to appreciate. The sports centre was a huge loss for our town, pretty to look at but the price tag was much too high.

Please provide an outdoor water park for all Morinville children. With no pool they need some fob.

Funds can certainly be funded elsewhere. Snow removal is not the greatest. Roads are terribly done. But there is money to pay employees to wash street signs. Alot of the community events are based for at home parents who work within the community. There is a group a parents within the community who cannot utilize either programs due to timing and/or the leisure centre. The community should really be for everyone, not just those who can make it before 4pm. The crosswalks need to be more visable for our children to be crossing especially during school hours. More law enforcement during these hours as well would be beneficial.

When we said that the sidewalks and roads needed to be addressed in the last budget. Then extentions were added to existing sidewalks, instead of repairing the sidewalks. The sidewalks and roads are horrible and the maintenance is just as bad. Please get contractors that can actually do the job.

Concentrate on the needs of a town , not the needs of selfish people , we require infrastructure, not classes , festivals , not pools , no more niceties till our infrastructure is up to grade. Invest time and effort into long tern industrial , medium and heavy to augment the home property taxes. If we do these things then the nice things can come once the town is financially stable. We need to simplify and concentrate on priorities not frivolous st albert tax eating crap. If people want these services they can move or rent to st albert

Walking to and from EMPS up to three times a day with a stroller, sidewalks are important to my family. Having just moved from the Lakes subdivision, which had excellent sidewalks/walking path access, to the northeast side of town with minimal sidewalks has been a difficult concept to grasp. I highly dislike having to cross 101ave twice with 4 young kids.

Sell the leisure center. It was a waste of money for what was put in it. Very poor planning.

Wasted leisure center. Joke.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

We need to look at the morinville leisure center and making it more useful for the public. The hours right now are awful and we really need to look at investing in a pool in the future.

Maybe consider that a large portion of the residents didn't ask for and don't benefit from the larger infrastructure costs that the town forces in to our taxes. The leisure centre is a joke that only caters to a small crowd and the cultural centre is another big waste of funding. Then the way over budget renovation of the library and town offices pushed that even further. You want these things that cater to the councils needs and benefits nobody but the town council and employees. If you weren't so about what you wanted and looked at the bigger picture you'd realize all this spending and taxing benefits nobody!!

It feels as though each year our taxes go up and the services go down. I understand inflation but I see no real progress in regards to our quality of living. MLC is a waste as it was poorly designed and even more poorly managed. I have seen the wages for town jobs and think if you reduced wages, you'd find a healthier budget to work with.

If the gym can't be open early enough for me to use in the morning or late enough in the evening (after work hours/after dinner hours) then the hockey people need to pay more to fund the new ice rinks they needed to have.

Stop wasting money on poor decisions. The community does not need to pay for two ice rinks and a gym that's hours are garbage. The community does not need another spray park shutdown. Services 10 years ago were better than they are now - grass/snow/ etc. raising taxes more will decrease affordability and create a greater loss when st Albert taxes are comparable with more services/businesses

The Morinville Leisure center is a money pit. While I understand changing the hours for summer because more people are out an about, it's made it inaccessible to most of the people with memberships. I paid \$400 at the end of March and haven't been able to get in since the hours changed from 8-7. Having it open in the middle of the day empty is ridiculous. Increasing taxes continuously when wages haven't done the same is making Morinville unaffordable to live in for the amenities we have.

Maybe, look for private sponsors or funders for Leisure Centre and Community Centre.

Taxes already went up significantly and I don't even think our road was pliers once all winter. Also Not in favour of further tax increases for services that are being underused. Focus what limited service budget there is for those who are most vulnerable; children, seniors, low income.

The property taxes should decrease for 2024



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

We have lived in Morinville for 10+ years, and seeing our property taxes climb to an obscene amount for what we get in return is absolutely mind blowing. Incredibly disappointed with the budget allocation, lack of things to do for kids, businesses. We're always traveling to St Albert or other surrounding areas to participate in extracurricular activities or grocery shop as we're limited with what is in town. And on top of the travel, our tax rate is comparable to St Albert, with not much to show for it in my opinion. Hopefully 2024 will be the Kickstart to bring in more business, things for kids and people to do instead of traveling and bringing business elsewhere.

If people must pay higher taxes because they improve their homes then homeowners that have unkempt property where bylaw has to intervene should pay fines equaling that amount.

Start using local business and contractors for your landscaping and snow projects and any outsourced projects really. These are the people who spend money on our community. The Sponsorships are great, it looked like festival days had a lot of sponsors, that's awesome any "free" events should be like that to cut down on the town costs. Stop filling the town with liquor stores and pot shops, honestly it's a joke at this point. Look at other towns and what they are doing to attract businesses that would draw in visitors. Stony Plain has a great downtown area and beautiful parks. Create an area for food trucks in the summer, charge them to park there for the day. Movie nights at the MCCC, not just baby movies and family movies, show some scary ones at Halloween, run a Christmas series at Christmas (like landmark does) charge \$5 or \$20 for a family to attend open a full concession or work with local restaurants, they could sell pizza by the slice for example. Make some money using what we have and also drive business to our community. Work more with the schools (we have a lot) on field trips to the MLC, and charge a fee. I have 2 kids, neither visited the MLC once during school. Obstacle courses, nerf wars, skating lessons would be awesome field trips you could charge for. Maybe talking to schools to see what would drive them in. The MLC is bleeding money, really look at what's working there and what's not. There's 2 meeting rooms on the main floor for example that are always empty (when I go there) do you really need those? MCCC has tons of meeting rooms people can use. Could that space be added to the under 5 play area so it's bigger and maybe attract people to use it more. You don't need to tear it down just create a walk through the walls and extend the space. There's a good variety of classes, but they seem to get cancelled because of low sign up, so sometimes you get to the point where you don't bother signing up for anything anymore. Maybe drop in is better, less commitment?

I strongly support the installation of traffic signal lights being installed at the corner of Grandin Drive and 100 Ave. if not addressed this year.

Please consider the strain that is already present in our lives with the cost of living situation, which will no doubt only increase due to federal government. Let's not make this any harder.

If the town used the leisure centre to maximize its revenue correctly then we could not have to increase taxes.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

1. Contract out custodial services for all town buildings. 2. Reevaluate monetary compensation for 'facility operators' and their scope of work. 3. Reinstate original MLC operating hours. Memberships were purchased based on the 6am - 11pm hours. Reduced access should equate to reduce membership prices. 4. Follow through with bylaw enforcement. Many unkempt properties, vehicles extending across civic sidewalks, shovelling snow onto the road instead on residential lawns etc are a few examples off the top of my head. 5. Use common sense when planning. Sidewalks that only partially connect to trails. Example - the Leisure Centre loop only connects to the northern east boundary road sidewalk into Sunshine. Not everyone walks from that direction. Blocking off the access off Hwy 642 adds a couple more kms if I want to walk to the MLC for my workout. That lovely bridge was beautifully build but placed in the wrong location. Poor planning and a waste of tax payers money. 6. The poor planning, execution, or supervision of the installation of the wheelchair ramp at the newly constructed MLC. What a joke to first timers to the Leisure Centre. It would work wonderfully if the ramp lined up with the automatic doors. Poor planning or execution and a waste of tax payers money.

Note to question 18. It would be unfair to target a specific area as you do not know if that increase in taxes would cause extreme \$\$ hardship on them. It's better to share the burden.

Put money into more then Just hockey. That leisure center was and is. a waste of our tax dollar. I have played baseball for many years in this town and the diamonds get nothing. Kids play ball in the town and again nothing. I feel the budget should be better balanced and get the opinion of the people first. I bet more then half would have never wanted a leisure center. The residential road ways could be better maintained. Snow removal is not the same anymore. What happened to all the nice flowers that used to be hung in town to make it look inviting. You drive through town and it's not inviting at all. The one parades is mediocre now. No big evens for our children to attend. It's sad actually. I grew up in Morinville and this used to to be a fun place to be but things have changed and that is sad as we are a growing community.

As the town grows with families kids needs more to do. A pool would be perfect. Also people need a way to get to st.albert and edmonton. We need public transportation...

The MLC was a great idea however it appears to have been poorly run. Limited hours and increased fees is a joke, I was a daily user until the hours changed. Perhaps an increase with hockey or allowing more open skates with a drop in fee. How much did the MLC lose out on with the limited hours (even though it's only for a couple months)?? You charge almost as much as Servus place for less than half the services. Put more effort into increasing/promoting the industry and commercial businesses, this way the residents are forced to carry the burden of the increasing taxes. Freeze council and mayor salaries, as well as Town employees. No more new hires just hire those positions that need replacing, obviously we cannot afford those that are there. Does the fire dept need all those Full-time positions? That dept ran perfectly fine with a Volunteer Chief/Deputy Chief. Perhaps it's time to consider turning the dept to the county to alleviate the cost.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

This town is desperate for economic development. How many new homes are being built vs. businesses? We need to keep residents spending their time and money in town. My household pays a premium on membership and commuting to St. Albert or Westlock to utilize their recreational facilities and I would much rather this money go toward developing this community instead of someone else's. We chose to move to Morinville in 2020 because of its proximity to the city while still being a small town like the ones my husband and I enjoyed growing up. Over the years we have been incredibly disappointed with the lack of services here and the recreational facilities (and whatever "festival days" were this year) are a literal joke to residents. If the facilities were in any way satisfactory I'm sure there would be an increase in memberships and utilization of the leisure centre. The fitness facility needs operating hours that are practical for people who work because most of this town's population is not even in Morinville and working in the city during the operating hours. Build the annual pass rates into resident's property tax bills. If everyone bought a pass for the leisure centre based on the people in their household it would generate significant income. If every one of the approximately 3800 (Probably more now given residential development) purchased annual memberships it would generate up to 4 million (based on family membership, but I would make it a discounted rate if everyone is paying on their assessments) in revenue for the town which can go directly towards the improvement of recreational facilities. We could have a functional leisure centre, maybe a tennis court (without a hazardous surface), and dare I mention a pool?

We need to start looking at industrial/corporate taxes to start off setting these tax and money problems. A few years ago we wasted an opportunity to have Champion Pet Foods expand in town. Which would have generated jobs but also TAXES that could have funded lots of things like the MLS and the MCS. So council needs to start being open to that type of growth within the town and not focus on the residence paying for everything. Thanks

The snow removal in the Morinville public school area was unacceptable last year. They pay the same taxes as other communities whose roads were clear the majority of the winter. And this is a school zone where we are trying to keep our children safe. Also the MLC is very disappointing. Not sure what can be done there but it's sad when new residents would prefer to drive 30 mins to a much better facility than to attend a brand new one that's pretty sad only 5 minutes from their homes.

The use of Local Improvement taxes are against everything we do as a society. We use pooled resources to provide infrastructure for all residents and paying to get your project to the front of the line is not something I would ever support. There is only so much construction that can go on in our short summers and utilizing the equipment for those that pay to get to the front of the line will take away from those that don't have the ability to pay.

The town's residential property taxes are absolutely ridiculous compared to the services provided. We are on par with St. Albert, with less than 20% of their resources. Residents will move out of town in droves if tax increases continue.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

Stop hiring!!!! You have people being hired for huge amounts of salaries! Just stop. Maintain what we have for employment. Time to get back to basics and do what needs to be done and leave the expansion for awhile. Open the leisure center on Sundays! Make the times 8 am to 8 pm. Do a better job mowing the grass and keeping the parks clean. Appearances mean more to the citizens then having more people behind the scenes that no one knows what they do. Minimize the taxes being spent on the extras to keep up with what needs to be done for day to day operations. the town is badly run that we. Had to raise taxes to replace a boiler at the MCCC! That was terrible planning in that we didn't have the money available to do that.

Like everyone else, a pool. Membership rate would increase astronomically

To increase any taxes there needs to be a pool put in, to charge more in taxes but you still need to go to other towns or city's to use a pool does not make sense that taxes need to go up

The leisure centre needs to bring back longer hours. People who work can't work out any more. This building and it's administration need to be given a bit more autonomy. The counsellors shouldn't be making programming decisions

We deserve a town council that's going to work towards attracting new businesses that will help offset our tax base. Our property taxes are ludicrous vs the amenities. Anyone can raise taxes, we need a competent group that will grow this community while reducing taxes.

Make it more appealing and supportive for businesses to start up in Morinville. Support the growth of the community and local business owners so that the town can grow into a city and more of the taxes can come from commercial taxes so that residents can be alleviated from carrying the brunt of this burden at a time when the cost of living is already putting the families in this community in a very difficult situation.

Bring business taxes in line with business taxes in other municipalities in the capital region. My residential property taxes should not help subsidize a sweeter deal for local businesses. Why was this not even an option in asking for feedback from residents? It's clearly low-hanging fruit. This is what you get for electing a council of businesspeople.

Please give us bigger garbage cans if not give people a option to cancel garbage pick up and use someone else

The fire department is completely over funded. Having so much money being paid for this service is unsustainable. I would suggest reviewing the structure as having so many paid positions is not reasonable for the amount of fire calls they go on.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

Town services like programs and events, the cultural centre, Morinville museum, leisure centre are all nice to have but not necessities. I'd review the budget to consider where some money can be reallocated to support our infrastructure. Our roads are awful and need to be repaved, desperately. This would be a temporary budget reallocation for this project and then funding for all other services could be returned within a 2-3 year window.

Tax for MLC dept servicing over the next 17 years is hard to form an opinion on without an estimate of what that increase may look like in dollars and cents but I think paying that debt off and re-investing those capital funds in existing infrastructure is key for long term stability in the Town. I pay local improvements on some of my rental properties in other communities and generally find them to be effective as we see the direct results in our neighborhoods. Happy to chat further or answer additional questions if required. Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback.

For the love of god don't build a pool. We already can't afford the leisure centre and our property taxes have already gone up with no additional services. This is insane.

Don't be so afraid of raising taxes. Services need to be maintained in order to protect quality of life in Morinville. If the quality of life decreases, so will your tax payers' base because people will either move elsewhere or not choose Morinville as a place to live. By keeping Morinville attractive to newcomers, you protect the value of our homes.

The leisure Centre is a huge disappointment. Raising fees and decreasing open times is ridiculous. The fact they lock the doors at 7:00 but are "open" until 8:00 pm is dumb. As well, the fact it does not open earlier than 6:00 am makes mornings useless. I actually go to Servus place because I can access the gym at 5:30 am. This has been incredibly frustrating. We bought an annual family pass and will NOT be renewing for these reasons. It is a huge disappointment.

The taxes we pay are already very high for what Morinville has to offer. I feel that the town has not kept up with maintenance and unfortunately this will cost the tax payers. The fields are poorly kept and the amount you charge kids sports is unacceptable. When you visit other communities their facilities are well maintained. For example, Legal doesn't charge their baseball teams diamond rentals and the facilities are beautiful. The town needs to do better for the kids in this community.

We have moved from Lakes into the area North of the RCMP station. The sidewalk situation on 101 Ave is terrible. Before being in the Lakes I could safely walk my kids to school. On 101 Ave we have to use the North sidewalk until RCMP, then South sidewalk until after train tracks, then back to North side to finish going to EMPS. And the sidewalks are more cramped and all it takes is 1 driver failing to yield and it's every parent's worst nightmare. I am sure the town could pick at least 1 side of 101 Ave and build a continuous sidewalk all the way from the courthouse I'm sure to the High School. Would probably contribute to more people getting out and walking



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

We have very little in terms of services in this community and yet our taxes increased this fiscal. A lot of us in this community are barely scraping by and yet you have your hands out asking for more. Federal carbon taxes, provincial taxes and now municipal taxes go up. Our cost for utilities, natural gas and gas are skyrocketing but salaries are not increasing. . People are being forced to sell their homes, stop eating out and reduce their overall spending just to be able to feed their families. What are you doing for us! Snow removal is horrible, sometimes we wait for weeks for snow to be cleared. If the museum is not sustainable close it. Leisure centre hours were reduced but why isn't it open in peak hours and closed during slow times. Most people want to work out before work, not at 8 am. People in this community do work and most of us can't work out between the hours of 8 and 5. Reducing services may be a option but look at the data, figure out when we need the services and when we don't. Increasing our taxes will also hurt the small business in the community because people will simply not be able to eat out, or shop for anything more than bare essentials. We simply don't have anymore to give.

Increase access to fitness and social inclusion from children to seniors. Social engagement and physical wellbeing has to occur beyond mid morning to early evening. The longer term benefits outweigh the cost.

More on snow removal for ALL roads in Morinville. Changing hours to Leisure centre. Pay cut to the higher up employees. Free children activities during the summer. Crime Watch in the budget.

Develop the land on 100 street right after the railroad tracks to bring in new business

ensure Town staff are not forced into a pay freeze

Well the Town of Morinville needs to plant trees behind houses on 108 Street. The highway creates a wind tunnel. They promised to do that 50 years ago when they build that area. Also I hate the MLC I don't want to pay for that I would like it if it had a swimming pool in it. I do t understand why it's too expensive for us to have a pool but other communities in Alberta with a much smaller population can afford a pool.

Sell the cultural center and the leisure center. They both lose money and would provide better services in the hands of private investors, just like the old arena that the town told everyone was "unsaleable" but is now operating AND profitable.

I would like money to be budgeted for Seniors Week. Working with and advocating for seniors across Alberta, I was very disappointed to see the lack of celebration for the seniors living in our community this year. I would also like to see more money budgeted for town festivals. This year's festivals were under staffed and underfunded.

Decreasing their own wages to put more money into the community.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

We have very little in terms of services in this community and yet our taxes increased this fiscal. A lot of us in this community are barely scraping by and yet you have your hands out asking for more. Federal carbon taxes, provincial taxes and now municipal taxes go up. Our cost for utilities, natural gas and gas are skyrocketing but salaries are not increasing. . People are being forced to sell their homes, stop eating out and reduce their overall spending just to be able to feed their families. What are you doing for us! Snow removal is horrible, sometimes we wait for weeks for snow to be cleared. If the museum is not sustainable close it. Leisure centre hours were reduced but why isn't it open in peak hours and closed during slow times. Most people want to work out before work, not at 8 am. People in this community do work and most of us can't work out between the hours of 8 and 5. Reducing services may be a option but look at the data, figure out when we need the services and when we don't. Increasing our taxes will also hurt the small business in the community because people will simply not be able to eat out, or shop for anything more than bare essentials. We simply don't have anymore to give.

No where in this survey does it show a dedicated effort to increase tax base by making the town grow. freezing the mil rate, reducing development costs, building infrastructure to show foresight on future needs (electrical capacity, sewer line capacity, so as to reduce future "dig up" is needed. Planning boulevards, allowing front yard driveways, etc to get the roads opened up for emergency vehicles. Water planning. Even if you started a water reservoir project today, it would be 4 years to complete. People stand around the water cooler and talk about "today's a hot one" without sitting down and actively planning for a changing world will doom this town to an exodus (and lower home value so less taxes) as people migrate to towns that show an understanding of the changing needs now, not after. Please stop planning how to convince people that increased taxes is in their benefit. Please show a resolve to increase the tax base, and the money will be there. No business succeeds by raising prices to the current customers. Growth of customer base is the focus of successful businesses, and towns.

Sell the cultural center and the leisure center. They both lose money and would provide better services in the hands of private investors, just like the old arena that the town told everyone was "unsaleable" but is now operating AND profitable.

No

Repair crumbling infrastructure. Create a better more beautiful community.

I strongly suggest that you cut costs on festivals, library and museum, if you need to find money. My taxes are very high for the very limited resources available in this town. I have lived here for close to 30 years and I still have to drive to at Albert for the things I wish to do.

I have so many suggestions it would fill a book.

Work with what you have without grandiose items as nice to have. Restrict your salary increases of all staff and do not burden the hard working citizens of Morinville with tax burdens.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

council needs to do a hard reassess of budget allocation. close to comparable taxes to St Albert with a fraction of the services shows complete incompetence towards use of funds. the leisure center was an unnecessary underfunded purchase with little attempt at sponsorships. basic maintenance has taken a hard hit over the last 10 years, and yet property taxes have doubled. the fact that council approved their recent pay increase and tax increase, shows they have a sense of entitlement and no connection to the constituents. Morinville continues to drive out business, and a potential business tax increase will continue to do so. the town needs to prioritize industry in order to bring in higher tax revenue. cities/towns/municipalities cannot survive on residential taxes alone.

I have asked the town prior-I have been explained not here in Morinville but possible for the future...."Garbage bins" (size reduction of bin and billing reduced)- I have used this program in St Albert and it works well. I agree with reducing waste and my household has one shopping bag of garbage in such a large bin. Feels like overpaying for a service that does not meet the need but is a pocket pincher that I am not pleased with. Property Tax notices have been re-sent out this year and "I" received 4 other addressed homes notices "OPEN- NOT SEALED Envelopes for all to see (PRIVACY?)" my notice was open completely. Not comfortable with this!! I have hand delivered to correct homes; but your system in place is a Fail. I should not have to be in this position when opening my personal mail. *Please look into this immediatly. Residents have also gone to town center and discussed (angry there's were open). For the Future: Keep our personal and property information private. I will not be patient if it happens again, nor the next resident.

To Town of Morinville Lets call it what it is this Leisure Center should have never happened with out funding and co-ownership from Sturgeon County. Town Of Morinville needs to go crawling back to Sturgeon County and beg them to take over the the Leisure Center (oh wait Sturgeon County just gave what millions and millions of dollars to St Albert). Lets face the whole thing should have never happened with out funding and co-ownership from Sturgeon County. Morinville can not alone support this building which is draining the funds from other budgets (such as snow removal!). The old hockey rink should have never been sold for such a low price and the outdoor rink should have never been bought back for such a ridiculous high price. Really dropped the ball there!! This town is going down hill there is no support it seems from the town business's keep going out of business but yet you keep allowing the same business to open up pizza, pot shops and liquor stores stop allowing this (oh wait you just want the taxes despite how tacky the town keeps looking year over year. Start looking at what other towns are doing within their community Spruce Grove, Stony Plain heck even St. Albert. Also start supporting business's in town as a business owner my self I get asked year after year to donate to the town for their festivals (and over priced sponsorships I might add) but yet nothing ever in return. In the end start looking at the town as whole not just what meets the councils MOTIVE for the year. P.S. Open the leisure center back up to regular hours as the gym goers are the ones paying the memberships right now and the hours make no sense. Also tear that hockey rink out and put something in for family's or moms and kids maybe a swimming pool.

No



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

We do not require the size of our bylaw enforcement team. We need maybe one or two officers at best. Citizens are constantly being pulled over by bylaw at a ridiculous rate. It seems Morinville must be one of the most dangerous places on the planet to walk or drive around. No need for all this enforcement that does nothing for safety. If you are going to keep spending on this wanna be police force they should be doing actual bylaw work. (unsightly properties, roaming dogs, etc.) This would save us substantial cash that is badly needed elsewhere. (roads, sidewalks, lights, etc.) (Painting lines on 100 Ave so we can tell where the lanes are) We need to stick to the basic funding and get rid of any unnecessary funding.

I like the idea of question 17 but do not trust town to eliminate that tax after 17 years. Question 18 has too many loopholes and gray area to go into in this limited space. When I say maintain the budget it is because the town currently provides as minimum a service as it can at this time and has for a while. Not meant as a rude comment but from the financial standpoint it makes sense to provide service as such. Currently the back alley if lucky will get plowed once in winter, the bad sidewalk from 25 years ago still in bad shape - they tell me there is worse, back alley still floods every year no where for water to go but in the garage, was told 25 years ago they would have this fixed...I am ok with this as you must consider the town as a whole collective. But some of the expenses by the town and some lack of expenses in certain areas are a cause for concern. Town should have more of a pulse on its weakest/poorest residents as those in the medium range. I have never seen a town with so little interest in the residents of lesser means.

When you collect taxes for the infrastructure reserves use it for that purpose. This isn't the first time this short fall has happened here because a counsel used the reserves for other things that never should have been pursued if the funding wasn't available by other means than the reserves.

I don't use any of the recreational or community centers in town why should I pay for them

People can not use the leisure center and the leisure cannot possibly build any revenue if it is always closed! Not letting people in after 7pm and being closed on Sundays (the day families are together and can actually go) is not helping. There are 3 staff members at the front that are not needed limit the staff there so that maybe the hours of operation can be longer. This facility is not being used to is full capacity because of the hours of operation I believe!

Efforts should be made to lobby the provincial government to restore and increase municipal funding. Our local MLA should be challenged to stand up for his constituents instead of toeing the party line and supporting Smith in providing corporate welfare like she did in giving one hundred million dollars to her previous employers; big oil. Sidewalk replacement is a cost that should be shared by everyone. For example one half of the homes in my area do not have a sidewalk. I have a sidewalk which I am require to keep clear in the winter but it is used by those that do not have a sidewalk. Asking me to pay to have a sidewalk replaced would be VERY unfair.

No new property tax increases. This years was ridiculous.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

Sell the Morinville Leisure Center to a private operator. That will ensure it becomes a user pay facility not subsidized by those who do not have any use for it. You probably will have to sell it at a loss as no private operator would make that kind of investment for limited returns.

The number 2 attribute of the top 50 managers in Alberta is, “pay attention to details” Here are my 2 additional observations. 1) Mow less grass in areas beside walkways, ie, Fish & Game, other walkways - lets go more Natural :) 2) Have a hierarchy of need for maintaining back alleyways. There is way too much TLC given to our back alley. Even once a year grading is too much in our area. Thank you for this survey - very much appreciated. Frank Steffler in Morinville for 30+ years now

Thank you for your dedicated service Please repave Forget Ave. And I don't mean patch! People have said it is the worst street in town. It is an embarrassment - like the Main Street was when the fix turned to gravel. Otherwise I support your budgeting. Cut snow removal and services rarely used and develop business tax base to improve infrastructure. .

Stop doing tiny fixes for big costs in the end! What about the highway into town that has been blocked off FOREVER?! Fix it already this is stupid!!!

Garbage recycle, organic pick up can be reduced to once every two weeks. Lots of places only pick up twice per month, and it works for them, why not here.

Would like to see a noise by-law brought into effect such as Edmonton. We constantly hear hotrod cars and motorcycles screeching by Grandin Drive. Would like to see more frequent peace officer patrols. Secondly, attract more businesses to contribute to the community by hiring local residents and paying taxes which are in line with other small communities.

The poor budget management has lead to a current decrease in services in town and makes it very challenging for any residents to accept any further tax increases without seeing an actual benefit to the town. To expect more money for less services this years budget was reckless and not sustainable for any residents to want to stay in town. Comparing the town of Morinville to cities like St Albert is not helping the town in residents accepting more taxes since our service levels are significantly less than larger cities, yet residents are expected to pay the same

Planning on creating a family Resource center for the town that incorporates all generations from infants to seniors.

The Leisure centre is a huge waste for young families. If you offered child care and a larger weightlifting area, I guarantee memberships would increase significantly. I would pay \$200 a month for access to that in town.

Should promote building of road ways and houses in empty lots between house divisions. (The Lakes, north of RCMP dispatch. Alot of empty undeveloped lots in the middle of residential.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

1. Review administrative overhead 2. Rationalize community services

I and all of my neighbours that I spoke to say the same thing, we have no revenue coming in, and can't write off property taxes we shouldn't have to bare the brunt to off set business property taxes. Also in the summer everyone (in the dry times) waters their lawns, but this increase in water use does NOT mean we should be paying for an increase in sanitary consumption, one should be charged by monthly average winter time usage. Not rocket science !!

Maybe try and get sponsorships for the facilities in town. Maybe help reduce costs for example Servus place in St. Albert.

Quit wasting time with things like atv pilot programs, allowing businesses where they don't belong, and the sale of fireworks. Many on Council promised to lower taxes and obviously based on this survey this is not possible. Focus on what is important!

Recently a washroom structure that was built and never used in a park at the end of 97 street was removed. What cost was the removal of said building which was never used and was it repurposed to be used elsewhere in town I.e. on the trail system?

Find a way to deal with the wasted investment of a leisure Center that no one really wanted. Use sound business practices in the future for example giving the old arena away that now directly competes with the underused expensive leisure Center. Morinville is I a situation that was 100% caused by bad decisions and misinformation given to the tax payer especially in regards to the arena. Also look at reducing overhead by reducing unnecessary managers in the town system.

I'd love a pool and would be willing to pay more to use this service. There is not enough things to do in our town and I hate going elsewhere. I'd love to support our town and local economy but it seems like when we ask for services (pool, leisure centre to have better hours, walking trails maintained) it doesn't happen.

The wage the town pays to the MLC employees who check in and give out equipment to people is outrageous! This job can be done by teenagers who can be paid a reasonable able rate of pay (ie \$17/hour) NOT (\$25+/hour)! Putting in a second slab of ice for hockey at MLC and charging non-Morinville programs a higher rental rate would provide teams with extra ice availability and support businesses in town when out of town teams/programs come to use the facility! Find more sponsors to develop the rest of the MLC (ie. outside ball fields and soccer fields). There are many surrounding industrial businesses whose families use these facilities. Has anyone reached out to the surrounding businesses for sponsorships? Plant more trees. This community is not attractive or appealing for families or businesses to move to Morinville. Stop putting such a barrier for industrial and commercial businesses to base out of Morinville. This will help with our deficit! We need to attract more businesses.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

Decrease amount of Councillors, base salary on attendance and decrease it. Office staff are overpaid. Payroll position posted was over range, HR position over range and all employees should reside in the community. I have been told by a Councillor that the CAO claimed it was discrimination which is misinformation. Read Alberta human rights legislation. Btw... I have a human resource background

Ya everyone that works for this town should be fired.

Put a pool into that giant waste of a rec center that was built. Charge more to go swimming and people would still gladly pay. My children can't even take swimming lessons because there isn't enough pools and everything books up quickly. Morinville was overdue for a pool years ago.

Focus on more family resources and programs. We drive to St Albert for so many things. In a town of over 10,000 we should have more than pizza, Chinese and weed/liquor stores. When people visit us who haven't been to Morinville before they are always surprised we have so little, a leisure center that is not really used by many, no pool.. no where to purchase even a pair of socks. For what we have here, our taxes are actually quite high.

We need a competent Council that will develop a plan to attract commercial and industry to this community to help offset our ludicrous taxes. Start with revitalizing 100ave. Empty lots, old dumpy buildings doesn't help attract prosperous investment. Regarding our leisure center, council needs to better leverage Dale Nally to assist and seek provincial funding to help get a pool in this town. The current response (St. Albert only 15 minutes away) isn't a solution. Our mill rate is one of the highest in the province. Which is unacceptable for the lack of amenities.

I would like to see more economic growth within the town of Morinville. I'd love to see Morinville one day become a City. To increase taxes without increasing services would anger a lot of current and new Morinville residents. To compare tax collection rates to other municipalities like St. Albert and Fort Saskatchewan is not a fair comparison. They both have more residents and services provided. Comparative tax rates with St. Albert are similar to Morinville at 10% of property value. At least that's what we are paying. I feel the focus needs to be made to develop new businesses in Morinville. Draw in a larger industrial sector. South Glenn's should have never been approved and the industrial area should have been expanded. Street front businesses should have a small grant in place to beautify their overall presence. A lot of Morinville's street front businesses are not very appealing. I realize this grant would cost more money, so that is not a current solution. The Rec Centre was a great asset to the Town's future growth and brings sports teams and money being spent in town. I feel that the weight lifting area should have had more focus though. This is the space which draws in the most recurring month to month membership. I don't go there because it doesn't fit my needs. It's way too small. The town of Morinville needs to focus on getting taxes from businesses that can afford to pay. Residents can't afford to pay more at this in this economic uncertainty. I understand that it is a difficult pendulum to balance. Thanks for reading.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

You have an amazing opportunity to expand and grow this community. Years and years of poor management and misused funds has driven away families and businesses. Do better

I am not responsible for the lack of fiscal responsibility this town has had in the past. Myself and many of the others I know were attracted to moving here because of the lower housing costs and lower property taxes but they continue to increase with nothing to show for the people. There is very little incentive to stay here at this point, and we are all feeling the pressure from the high inflation rates. Most of us have had to make do with less because we've got absolutely no alternative outside of it, I'm not sure why this town thinks they're exempt from that.

I think my taxes are not being spent properly. Town administration seems to use more tax dollars to overstaff at high salaries. Instead of residents suffering from lack of services, maybe the town should "suffer" from lack of staff. I would like to see a review of the staff and the necessity of the positions. Comparing Morinville to St. Albert or Ft. Sask is like comparing apples and oranges. They have way more residents AND services, so increased taxes make sense. Increasing our taxes doesn't make sense when there are no new services but so much staff to over see these so called services. This survey only allows us to select things to increase taxes. There are no options when it asks about senior services to put that it's not applicable to me, since I am not a senior. This will give you false results. Question 2, I did not agree with anything but was forced to make a decision. The Town needs to be more fiscally responsible and maybe review their spending habits and take away unnecessary staff and costs.

Cost to run rec centre. With that said with a family of 20+ kids there isn't any activity to do besides bar. It would be great if not all the court space was rented to out of town. Plus closed on holidays is not beneficial nor only to my family but others. Plus change in hours. The cost is same as the city with fewer machines to work on and smaller space. Town needs more family indoor things to do for teenagers. Taxes are getting out of control almost the same as st albert and Edmonton! Lived here 12 yrs and nothing has changed regarding the items above listed.

I bought here for the lower taxes. I'm seriously considering moving due to the lack of services, ie my road got plowed once this year, and the always increased taxes every year

Garbage pick up could change to every second week if residents used their compost and recycle more. Perhaps summer time once a week because of heat and rot. Not sure of the use of Bylaw officers as I never see them around. If we maintain budget they need to be more visible especially in walking areas. RCMP need to be monitoring town more over night as well as theft is up and it makes residents feel unsafe.

I think we need to reduce the town staff

Please make morinville advantageous for business. We need to build out corporate tax base to offset high residential taxes.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

Programming is highly inaccessible for families. Lack of childcare for adult programming, events for children and families often occur during the weekdays and only the day instead of evenings, family events cater to the grade 4 and under children only or are often only planned by age group such as the bike rodeo leaving parents to make multiple trips in order for all their children to attend or skipping the events entirely.

Please consider the budget for the Fire department. The town of Morinville has some of the nicest fire equipment in Alberta. I don't think we need that nice of equipment for a town this size. A \$500,000 dollar fire truck will pump water and do the same job as the 1.5 million dollar truck. I wish the town would have thought out the leisure center more before building it. I do want to keep sports a big part of our community but I also believe that the leisure center is going to cost us a lot more money then it should have because we borrowed so much money and there for causing it to not be open the hours it should be to have a building like that in our town.

Reduce the salaries of the highest paid employees on town payroll. The top three account for approximately 1/4 of the town's tax revenue, that is ridiculous for a town this size. Alternatively amalgamate with another county to share resources and costs. Hide the library card/membership fee within the taxes so that all residents have access to the library and internet. Mistakes were made with the leisure centre, make better choices. Improving winter road maintenance will reduce the costs of replacing and summer maintenance.

The leisure centre is a drain on residents. Sell it, privatize it. Fix your mistake of building it (and badly at that) in the first place. All we wanted was a pool and a modern gym.

no

Taxes in this community are extremely high for little to no services. I as a resident should not be paying for the poor choices of past councils. I.e. leisure Center. Poorly planned, poorly executed and now every resident is paying for it. Morinville was a community where families could afford to live. That is no longer. High monthly town bills and even higher taxes? What's enticing people to stay here or even move here? Little to no services for families. A move out of this community is in our future

The golf course could use a new pro shop and club house. I think it would draw in more revenue if it was properly funded.

Just a suggestion, but I feel Morinville needs a swimming pool. Could Sturgeon County and surrounding municipalities not help fund this need?

Please consider incentivizing more business to come to town. More business= more taxes collected. More business=more jobs=more people moving to Morinville= also more taxes collected. Win win win.

Honestly the town amenities and events have gone down hill and the taxes have gone up. It's sickening



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

Increase summer hours for mlc to regular winter hours to be more available to residents and generate more revenue

The MLC is an absolute joke if you tax me for that place I'm packing up my family of 5 and I'm moving back to st albert

Senior management and administration wages. What positions are really necessary.

-Reduce recycle collection to every 2 weeks instead of every 1 week to lower expenses (maybe even garbage collection during cold season? residents that need more than 1 bin per 2 weeks can ask 1 extra from the city for a fee). -Plan more activities at Rec center, MCCC and museums that attract local and neighboring residents and families for a low fee (families or residents in need can have subsidies by presenting proper justification) to increase revenues. Big deception for us as a family is not to have a pool/swimming classes at REC centre, which was promised when advertising for building it and we already pay extra tax for since then. We continue to pay membership in another municipality to have access to pool services. -Instead of hiking taxes for residents, try to attract big commerce and businesses.

Cannot support increased taxes for the leisure centre when it is hardly open, and no pool

Cut pay to our useless council members who push through so many unnecessary projects that benefit nobody but cost all of us more and more money. I feel council should be a minimum wage job not PTA mom mean girl vibes going on their wants rather than community need.

Taxes have increased in Morinville every year since we have been here, about 12 years now, we cannot afford another tax increase.

The Leisure Centre needs a complete overhaul of how it operates, the person/people in charge of the day to day operation are absolutely awful, clearly have very little idea of how to run anything. Every option should be on the table for that facility.

Please bring back Incredible Edibles.

Not impressed by the amount of tax increase in this area with how little I have access too. If taxes increase we will not be recommending other military families to buy here. I currently recommend spruce grove or fort sask. The population has not increased and the taxes are ridiculous for the lack of movement in this town.

Create better efficiencies in your public works sector. As a previous employee for the town, more work can be done with less people and less cost. - look better into where your money is actually going.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

I have several comments, not necessarily related: - Has there been a cost benefit analysis regarding the removal of snow from the Town roads? Many other jurisdictions simply plow the roads leaving the removal of furrows up to the occupants. The cost of hauling is high, this would seem like a simply cost saving measure. Removing snow is for convenience it is an asset management activity required to sustain the life span of our horizontal infrastructure. - I have no issues with fees for the MLC, however what are the timelines for the subsequent Phases? I was on the steering committee when designs were being considered. It had seemed at that time two ice surfaces and six curling sheets was a priority. Appreciating many wanted a pool but these are difficult to operate financially. However, the old ice surface is not privately owned and generating a profit for the owners. Would some type of PPP and/or third party O&M type contract work to move forward with the additional phases?

Is there any thought of looking inward at saving opportunities? The only suggestion ever put forward is raising taxes... administration and council appear to have zero creativity or drive to find a different solution. You don't have to talk down to residents about the affects of inflation we all feel it, and after being one of the only municipalities to consistently raise taxes during the pandemic you continue to tell us it's your only option. People are hurting more than ever and this administration and council appear to be completely oblivious and disconnected from the people they're supposed to serve.

Would be nice to see more and better quality parks around town for the kids to play on. Notre Dame/Four Winds area could use some parks that are not school parks (can't access them while school is running) Would be nice to see the leisure center have a better indoor play area for kids. The one there currently is not great as it is a room with pool noodles. Would be nice to have better things for the kids to play on.

The field beside the new fitness Center. There have been trees planted and a nice path, however, it would be nice to have some nice grass, benches and trees on the actual field where you could relax and have picnics, play catch, frisbee, etc. that whole space isn't being used. Also, having the sidewalk around that area cross over from that gravel Road behind sunshine to the Notre Dame area to connect the trail system better.

Look at staffing & council costs - wages

Sell the Leisure Center to a private group, the town can not support it or run it and Build a Pool indoors that can be used year round. Reduce funding to our Bully Bylaw officers who tickets and harasses for minor things. I am 62 and can not believe the waste that goes towards bylaw enforcement for trivial things.. I mean I heard it all Grass too long.. took too long to clear your walk of snow and in the mean time kids are getting hit at crosswalks.. enforce what should be important not the trivial things.. if someone's snow or grass isn't taken care of properly a simple email reminder would suffice instead of the wasted vehicle and officer costs to drive around looking for infractions. I have lived here for over 30 years and can't believe how mismanaged this town is. Nuff said..



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

Please implement a blue bin to eliminate the blue bags for cardboard and recycle able. Airdrie had 3 bins, and it significantly increases the ease of sorting through trash and recycles, leading to less household waste.

pottable water tap at the dog park replace the current services planner with someone who likely knows what they are doing - the snow clearing planning has significantly decreased over the years - our taxes increase - but services, amenities, town activities - especially for children have dramatically decreased. our town is actually kind of embarrassing currently -

We need places teenagers would want to hang out. Young teens only have the skate park. We have no pool, theater, game room in town.

If the town is so in need of money, why would the town purchase a \$1.1 million firetruck when a firetruck costing \$500,000 could provide the same service? Infrastructure services should look at hiring casual operators that are employed year round and work only as needed to alleviate some of the overtime costs or have casual staff to use more town owned equipment rather than hiring contractors and achieve the same service level if not better. More research should be done to get grants for projects to help with costs.

Moved here to not pay the high property taxes that St. Albert has however our taxes went up over 600 this year to be on par with them for a similar home with less services. If this keeps up we might as well move there if we are to pay the same amount.

At the end of the day, Morinville does not have the ammeneties to justify what we are charged in taxes. Something has to change and I don't see the town getting much support from the citizens until there is a more clear understanding of where our hard earned money is going. The salaries of those on the board should be public information, and the bad contracts should be public information. We pay for garage removal in our monthly bills, not property tax. I have lived across Canada and have never paid so much for so little. For a town so small there are a lot of people wanting to leave because we pay so much for so little. Paying peace officers as much as they are paid to hand out tickets to the citizens shows how much we are valued. People are broke. Start acting like it

Cuts can be made on the top end I suggest a wage cut for councilors that position is not meant to be someone's main source of income also I suggest a freeze on other positions too expenditures Need to be reduced the town should not be paying traveling costs for administration also increase spending on emergency services bring in a pool and charge for the use of it increase rental income

Better management of the Leisure Centre. Better management of the Cultural Centre. Morinville Fire Department justification for expenditure on new personal vehicles and the need to send 4 people on multiple trips to look at fire trucks in the US.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

Build the [REDACTED] pool as promised. Give families things to do. It's all well and good to have 5 liquor stores but a bowling alley, arcade or movie theatre is not an impossibility for a town of 10000. Having family fried activities that aren't death trap fair rides once a year isn't shooting for the moon. And town employees who act like you calling isn't a huge inconvenience on their day would be great too. Not to get greedy.

Honestly, this survey shows that the town is rallying around what they have - leisure centre, library, museum, etc. What we need is some new energy in here. I've lived here 4 years, talked to many residents that have lived here much longer and we all say the same thing - this town has nothing new going for it. I've said it before and I'll say it again, St. Albert is creeping this way, way faster than we are going that way. Let's rejuvenate our image - focus on what people love in St. Albert! Mature trees, lots of greenery, lush shrubs, colour - it works! Ask whoever is readying this, do you go to that city and comment how nice it is? While you're there, you get a coffee, lunch, drink, whatever it may be - now you've spent your money there, vs in this town. I truly feel if this town shows physical growth in neighbour development and appearance, it will in turn bring more people to live here, increase tax dollars and bring investors and the potential to get some new businesses. A town pushing limits of a city, yet you can't even buy socks or underwear in it. Just my 2 cents.

I have lived here since 1980, sewer and water fees were supposedly mortgaged to pay for water line and new sewer lines which were a specified period of time from mid 80's, it never went down, so suggesting a period of time to pay for something never ends up as such, they get melded i to the taxes always never going back down. Morinville has no attraction for businesses to set up, we also charge way to much for leases on main street, we need a conservative approach while still adding attractions for people to live here. A high percentage move here for a while then move away to work and stay away, we need businesses and we need new lower fees for attracting businesses to the main streets into vacant bldgs and lots. I would pay more taxes to add a pool to leisure centre - that was all a fiasco, we need better future planning and contractual commitments from others not promises to pay! I enjoy Morinville life but if costs get much higher I will move to where I get more overall for the same taxes. Our wages are too high for this town, we guess too much at what people expect and want or have been. Councillors have not really taken their positions like a job, and some of those that work in Town positions expect too much pay for what we can actually afford. Just my opinions on these matters. Thank you

Cut management salaries. Too many high paid positions. If fire department is still "volunteer", investigate weekly "training". Being paid for training is NOT volunteering! We either have a paid department or part-time paid. Should be made public.

li feel that since the old arena is still being used and not the unsafe place we were lead to believe, it is hard to trust this council. We should have only built a pool at the leisure center not an arena. It is ridiculous that our kids can not get swimming lessons anywhere and we do not have a pool and never will. I see morinville attracting older people rather than young families especially if you increase taxes and decrease services.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

My opinion, I live in the Meadows of Morinville, and i feel we pay high property taxes and receive nothing in return from the town eg, snow removal, street cleaning, and their should be a crosswalk at the entrance to have safe access to the walking trail,

- build pool onto MLC then people would be more willing to pay a little more tax to help pay it off. -hold managers accountable to the money being spent to maintain services and into infrastructure

Stop increasing taxes and paying yourselves more to do the same unless things you've done the past 23 years I've lived and grew up in this town. If you want the dumb leisure center to to used ADD A POOL like 80 percent of the town wanted.

I think densification of the town (apartments and condos), and more bike paths for commuting would greatly benefit this town for long term needs. Roads and suburbs are clearly unsustainable deficits on this community. Making the town centre more bike and pedestrian friendly should greatly ease the burden on the money needed for road maintenance. Better snow clearing for bike paths and sidewalks would greatly increase usability in the winter.

Decrease number of councillors and decrease wage. Office staff are too high and over paid. Decrease education budget for staff and councillors. Do not approve out of town travel for any staff. Decrease the rental cost on the cultural center so it will be utilized for weddings. fully booked for less money is still better than no bookings. Hold toe administration personally responsible for bad financial choices by terminating them.. why do we need a large planning department?

I don't use many of the services on a regular basis because of their current costs. If you increase taxes that will make them even less affordable. My st Albert friends pay less in annual taxes on comparable properties and have more options. Is the town still paying a portion of our taxes to st Albert for the pools? If so that should be eliminated as we no longer have equal access to swimming lessons or rentals as booking for st Albert residents opens earlier.

Stop closing down the water park by the old arena

Morinville residents pay far to much taxes for the minimal crappy services offered. St Albert is 8 mins away so residents will just continue to go there.

As the town continues to grow, it might be worth considering widening Champlain St. to four lanes. An overpass or roundabout would be so lovely on Cardiff road coming in/out of town as well. Thank you.

We could use a Department store and less liquor stores, cannabis shops, etc., I still feel very strongly about getting a swimming pool in this town for infant to senior use.

Please maintain transportation with a fee for using this service.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

control number of members of municipal government and their wage levels

Solar Panels on everything possible. Cut pay for town employees. Saw a job posting for someone to help communicate the towns mission and the pay was 114,000 - 140,000 dollars which seems ridiculous. How much are other employees getting paid? If you want to make over \$100,000 then go work in the private sector. Start cutting pay.

Keep the small town atmosphere, most of us live here because we want the small town and not the big city.

Remove labor Too many workers driving around town Require upper management to wake-up and have someone BIRD DOG these Puddle Pumpers

see too many people driving around back and forth in company vehicles not doing much but driving around

I am sure, as well as others I have spoken to that there would be more interest in paying off the leisure facility if it included a pool. Hockey arenas, cover only a small portion of the population where a pool would engage the entire community. Personally I would be willing to pay extra to fund an aquatics facility, not a hockey arena.

I think if we're now in a crunch, considering tax increases have far outstripped inflation for years, we need to look back and figure out why. We've been told for years "Growth is great and there's all this additional revenue" and yet here we are, bigger and broke than ever. Taxes are likely to increase, again, and we'll still be broke and throwing every dime that can be scraped up away at ever decreasing levels of service and infrastructure maintenance. We the ratepayers don't have more to give. I'd wager most people in town just want the snow cleared and the pipes working and haven't set foot in the leisure or cultural centre other than to vote.

What happened to Morinville? 30 years ago we had clothing stores, tea shops, businesses that we actually utilized. There are way to many liquor stores and dope shops. And please stop considering round-a-bouts!!! We feel that we actually have gone backwards - except for the amount of taxes. Thank you

- need more emphasis on downtown beautification - need a pool - enforcement on weed control/ on empty lots

Pool or supporting other locations with a pool

Stop raising taxes. People keep moving away because of the cost of taxes in this town. There are not enough new businesses or amenities to warrant the amount we pay in taxes compared to other municipalities. Take a look at cutting wages you pay town employees and cultural activities that are not needed.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

Don't open facilities we can't afford if they add such low value to the community. Funnel funds into free things the community can enjoy, like lite up the night and the spray park. We pay enough taxes. Stop making us pay the salary of the 5 people at the front desk doing nothing.

Reduce the number of positions specially management and overall the position duties. Seems to be overload of duplication in many cases.

We need transit running

We need to build a budget that meets citizens' needs and balances what is actually possible given the current economic realities. Priority-based budgeting I am sure is top of mind. Enhanced communication and continued engagement.

Future work towards swimming pool but through provincial government help in funding.

Its a very difficult situation for retired people like myself who don't use many services and would still like basic things like snow removal and garbage collection etc. Living on pensions and savings, it's hard to afford constant property tax increases. If the town could attract more businesses to pay taxes that would maybe help. It's unfortunate that Morinville residents have to go to St. Albert for so many things.

Do the infrastructure projects that have been planned for years and put on the back burner. The leisure centre was a bad idea from the start and is way more expensive than it should be for what we got. This should not be on every resident to pay more - user fees are more appropriate than making residents pay for that instead of having usable roads and sidewalks. There are several fitness places available in or close to Morinville, why the municipality has to compete with private businesses and be subsidized by every single resident (and businesses its competing with) to do so is baffling.

I have heard you say you need to pay high incomes to get the most qualified people but you should keep in mind how small our town is and the small tax base that has to pay for everything. Is it possible to reduce some of the positions we have or reduce salaries especially for vacant positions. Are we top heavy with supervisors and managers for the size of employees and the size of our town. Cuts need to be made somewhere, people can't afford for the prices to keep going up. That being said critical upkeep needs to be done on infrastructure so things don't break down but I'm sure some things can wait. It is a little hard to answer some of the questions without knowing exactly how much money is spent and where it all goes. I must say I don't think it's right paying taxes and then being charged fees on all our utility bills as well, it just makes it seem like you don't want us to know exactly how much we pay in total to the town.

Morinville Leisure Center needs a swimming pool, this can be utilized from birth to 1???. Stop raising taxes, stop plowing snow, when not needed, and then missing streets altogether! Offer less garbage and recycling 🗑 pick-up, of course at a lesser charge for residents with less occupants and residents who mulch their grass. Stop with Morinville Town Concil Raises\$\$\$\$\$ Bylaw can ticket unshoveled/icy sidewalks. Ect,ect,ect where to start?



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

What about library services?

I want to move out of Morinville. I fear that if you continue to raise taxes I will no longer be able to afford to live here. I am so disappointed in our town. For making bad decisions year after year that continues to put us in a deficit that you then rely on the residents to continue to fix your mistakes. Councillors and employees of the town get paid too much. Have too many sick days. And etc. you can start by reducing benefits and pension. And wages. I know employees of the town have a much better pension and benefits than me who has been working in the healthcare field for 10 years. I also know they get paid better than me. And I'm not lower class! I also know that unnecessary positions were created. I also know there is too much upper management and that they get paid a ridiculous amount. Please join forces with sturgeon county. Yes, I know people will lose their jobs. But we can't afford to keep this going. Please look to the province to help instead of residents. There is nothing left of us. As a town we are in desperate need of help due to years of bad decisions. Charge businesses higher amounts of taxes (charge same as other communities around us). Yes, we might not attract new businesses but these residential taxes are killing us. Have businesses help reduce our deficit and then we can look at reducing them again...maybe. Don't waste services. Why are we cleaning a road before winter is done? Why are we half plowing a road? Why are we plowing 1 cm of snow off main roads? Why are there 2 employees running programs that could easily be done by 1? Why are there 5 guys that come to "clean" the playground (1 guy blowing leaves off the turf, 1 guy checking the rails, and 3 guys literally doing nothing). Why did we pay for a spray park that is no different than the original? Why did we build a sidewalk that doesn't comply with standards? Only to have to fix the problem and pay more? Who is planning this? Fire that person! When the survey came out about the Leisure centre before it was built, you asked if we would support a tax increase? Well yes for a pool, no for an arena but that wasn't a choice! You cut hours of the MLC which I am fine with but did you do a needs assessment as to what hours were most utilized? Even someone who doesn't do needs assessments knows that needs assessments can be helpful when making these decisions! You shut the MLC down during its busiest hours (evening). Should have changed the hours 9-9 my guess based on when I have gone at different times of the day and how busy the Parking lot is. Why did you sell the old arena for basically nothing just for them to turn around, fix it, and now compete with MLC? While they are also benefiting from the improvements the town is putting to the grounds beside it? Are these even thoughts that cross any of your minds? I don't work for the town or council and even I can see this!

Pay close attention to the core needs and services. Many of us don't care if there's another parade or more fireworks. Build reserves, adequately staff the organization, fix the roads in a staged approach. Make sure a water main break isn't going to break the municipal bank account. Put public and pedestrian safety at the forefront. Forget frivolous and unnecessary projects. Put aside your pet causes and forget what you heard on the campaign trail. Govern for the current realities of this town.



Appendix 2 – Written Comments

The "Leisure" Center is an abomination. It's a FITNESS center and a poor one at that. The gym was an afterthought and I'm certain the handful of people who come to play basketball for a couple of hours each week aren't keeping that Titanic afloat. That we're paying for a barren facility that is barely open and when it is, no one goes, is a joke. Past councils failed at this project and the current council just seems content to ride out the term hoping people complain less because we all realize the council doesn't care. Either go all in and make it a worthwhile place (amenities & cost) or shut it down and sell it all back to the County. I want the town to pick that building up and move it to Westwinds - where it should have gone. Just a municipal disaster of epic proportions. What does the bylaw office actually do in this town? I see the cars drive around but frankly, it's a waste of money; I don't feel safer because they are here. Why is the fire station so well funded (new trucks?!) and the RCMP detachment is rotting away? That project was put on hold to build the "fitness center". That was a dumb decision and in retrospect probably the most disproportionate fiscal decision that could have been made. Morinville Fire doesn't need more money. The Budget report, it outlines an "unexpected 23% increase in RCMP pay and retroactive pay"; this should not have been a surprise or unexpected. All Alberta municipalities were made aware of the impending raise years in advance but Morinville failed to heed the warning - that's mismanagement not "unexpected". It sounds like the town was getting discount policing for many years and failed to prepare for the wage increase. Poor excuse. I've lived here for 13 years and don't do anything leisurely in this town. My kids don't either. There are no trees, walking trails, retail, commercial, pool, good parks, or kid/teen-safe activities. Comparatives for Morinville by population and tax rate are: *Olds POP 9100 (<https://www.olds.ca/oac> <https://www.olds.ca/sportsplex>) *Innisfail POP 7800 (<https://innisfail.ca/recreation/aquatic-centre-spray-park/> <https://innisfail.ca/recreation/arenas-outdoor-skating/>) *Devon POP 6500 (<https://www.devon.ca/Community/Facilities-Recreation/Devon-Community-Pool> <https://www.devon.ca/Community/Facilities-Recreation/Dale-Fisher-Arena>) *Coaldale POP 8200 (<https://www.coaldale.ca/community/facilities-amenities/coaldale-pools> <https://www.coaldale.ca/facilities/facilities-amenities/parks-leisure#list>) *Bonnyville POP 6000 (<https://town.bonnyville.ab.ca/directory/bonnyville-swimming-pool/> <https://centennialcentre.ca/>) *Ponoka POP 7200 (<https://www.ponoka.ca/p/aquaplex> <https://www.ponoka.ca/p/ponoka-arena-complex>) All of this is a result of doing the bare minimum on every project except for the renovations at Town Hall. Sold a perfectly manageable arena to build a perfectly useless fitness center and arena. Somehow, all of the above communities are maintaining a pool AND "leisure" center. Every single one of these communities has hotels - I've stayed in each place. There are basic retail businesses, for example, a place one could purchase socks and a t-shirt if need be. Community amenities bring businesses. Take care of your people and they will take care of you. Make the cuts and hope for the best. Morinville is in a generational hole that will only see this as a transient town where military employees stop by every 5 years and residents spend their money in other cities.