

# Town of Edson Citizen Budget Update



# Overview



- **Second year for Town of Edson**
- **Launched October 31, 2019, active until November 15, 2019.**
- **62 Responses (26 Responses last year)**



## Protective Services

### Areas Addressed:

- Fire Department
- Bylaw
- RCMP Services

### Comments Trends:

- Two fully functioning fire stations within 2 km of each other.
- More Enforcement in residential areas
- More pedestrian crossings.
- Bylaw response times
- More enforcement for unkempt properties/Sidewalks not cleared of snow/Junk vehicles parked in front of and behind their homes.
- More RCMP to deal with drugs and crime in the Town
- Do Traffic enforcement to generate revenue



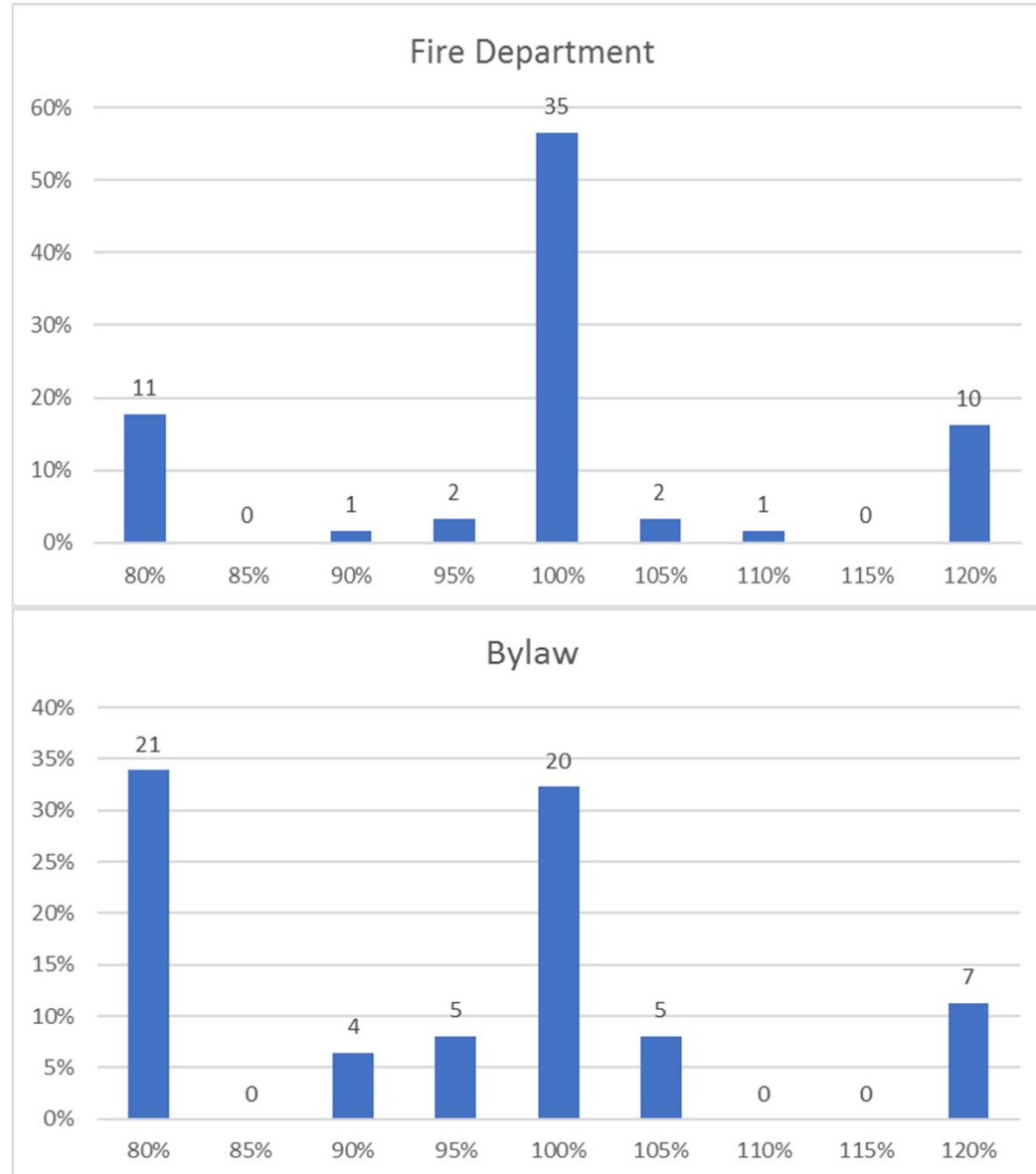
# Protective Services

## Fire Dept:

23% lowered funding  
56% stayed status quo  
21% increased funding

## Bylaw:

48% lowered funding  
32% stayed status quo  
20% increased funding

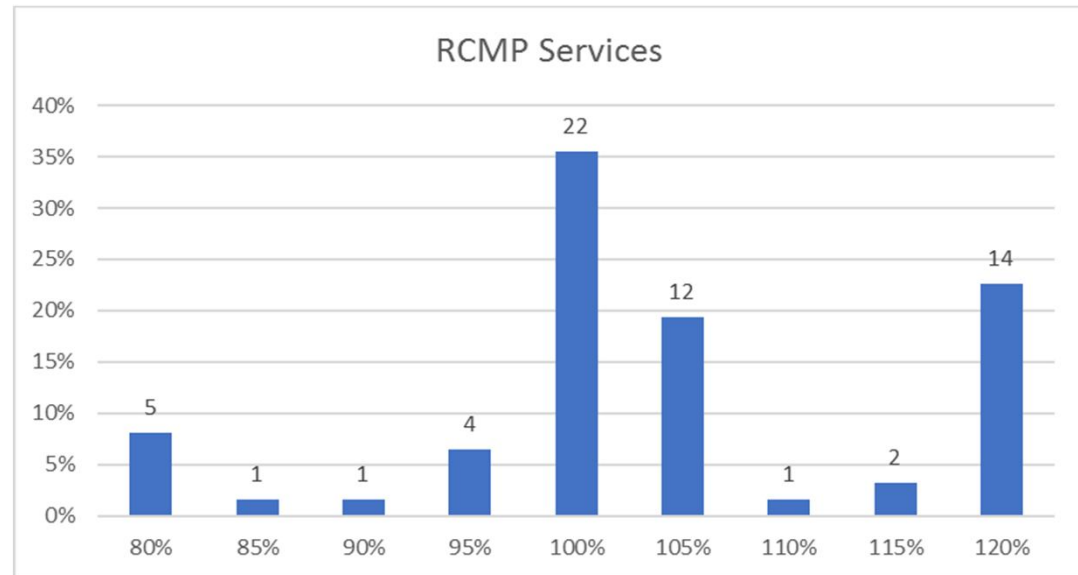




# Protective Services

## RCMP Services:

18% lowered funding  
35% stayed status quo  
47% increased funding





## Community Services

### Areas Addressed:

- FCSS
- Parks
- Community Development
- Repsol Place

### Comments Trends:

- Times are tough, Community Services is an area that can be cut
- Don't spend anything you don't need to on Repsol. Put money towards the new multiplex – Build it already!
- Repsol Place should be maintained and support itself, increase fees
  - Too many people seen doing one task – garbage, weeding, filling in holes in a field.
- Vision Park upgrades needed
- Family Centre needs to be bigger and included in the Multiplex
- Great job with Parks!



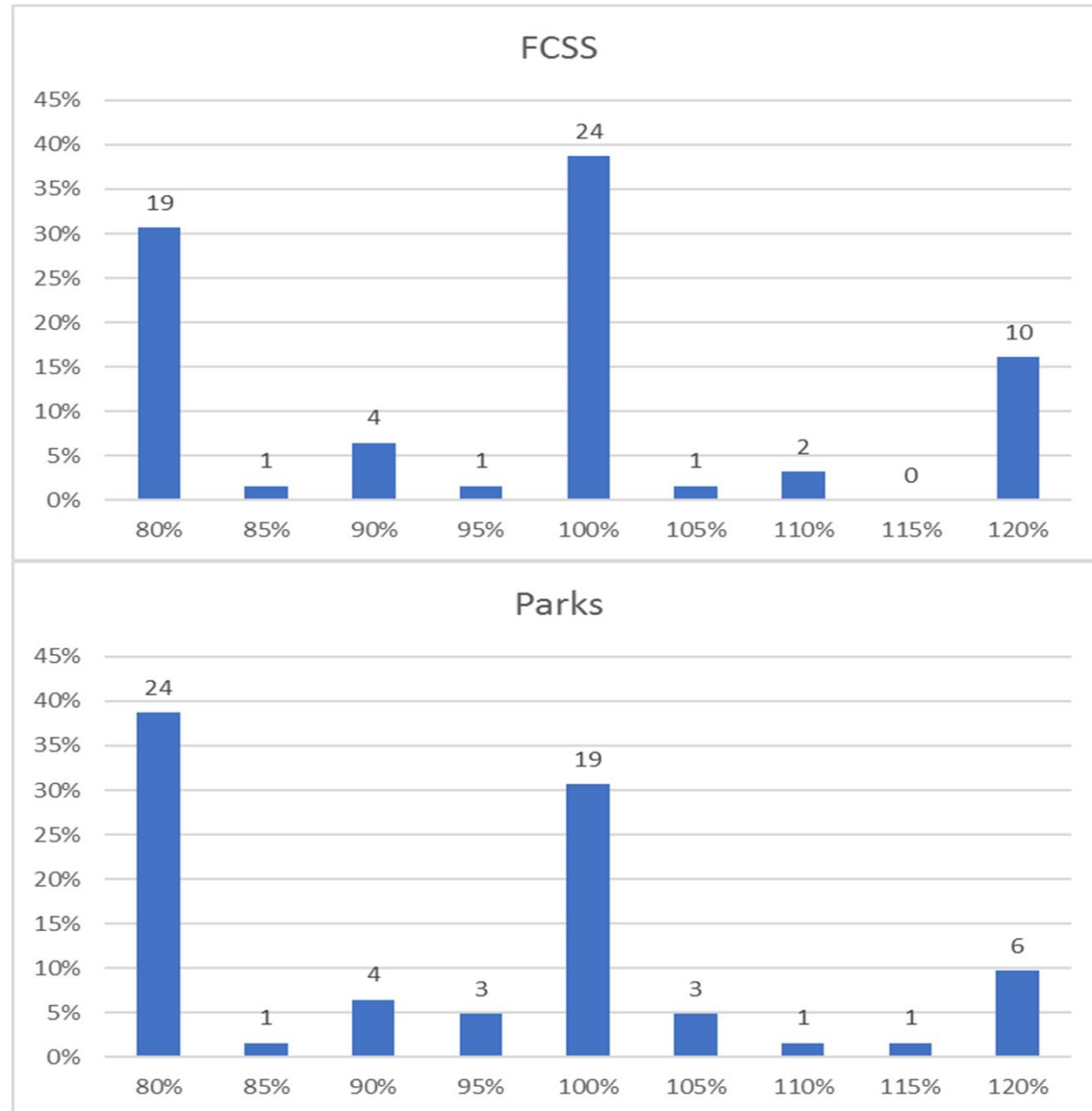
# Community Services

## FCSS:

40% lowered funding  
39% stayed status quo  
21% increased funding

## Parks:

52% lowered funding  
30% stayed status quo  
18% increased funding





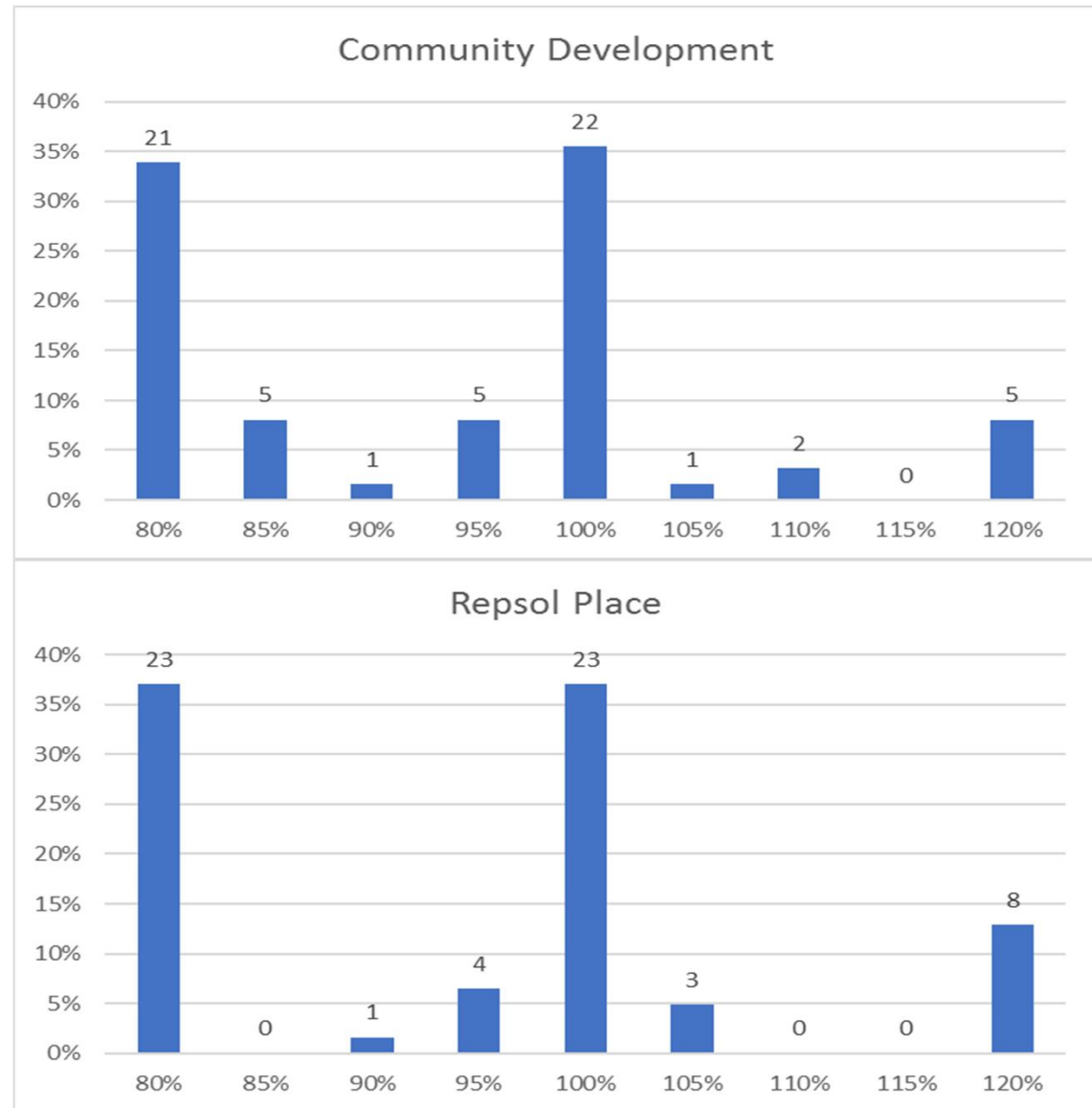
# Community Services

## Community Development:

52% lowered funding  
35% stayed status quo  
13% increased funding

## Repsol Place:

45% lowered funding  
37% stayed status quo  
18% increased funding







## Infrastructure Services

### Areas Addressed:

- Roads/Snow Removal
- Waste Collection
- Landfill

### Comments Trends:

- Addition of Curbside Recycling pickup
- Would pay more for more snow removal and street sweeping.
- Great job with snow removal.
- Garbage pickup has decreased
- Landfill not being available
- Loss of Spring Clean-up
- Spend money on roads, not new buildings (Multiplex)



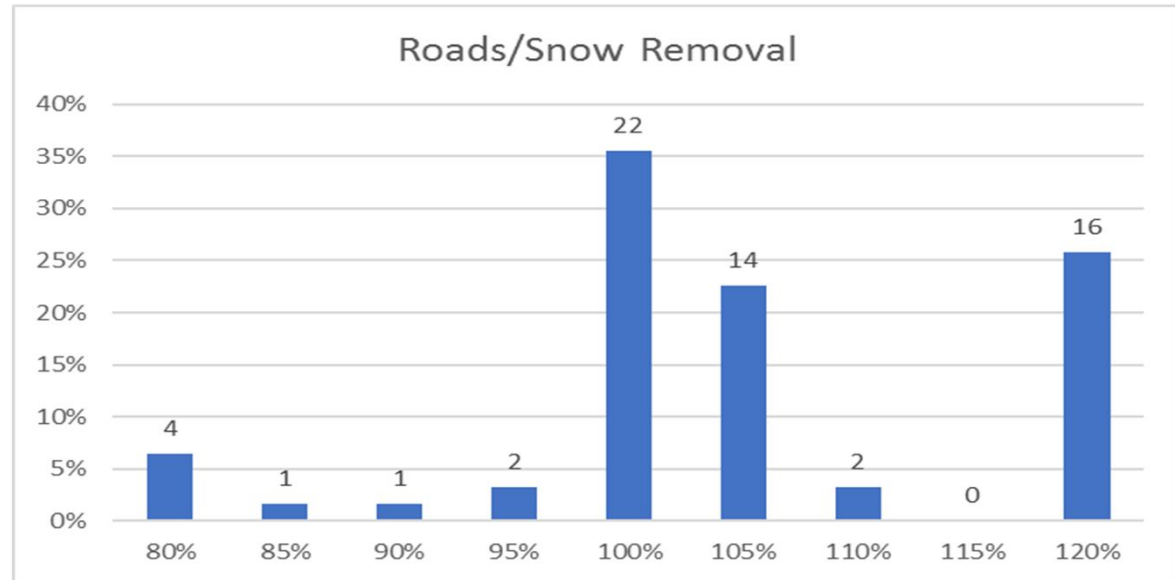
## Infrastructure Services

### Roads/Snow Removal:

13% lowered funding  
35% stayed status quo  
52% increased funding

### Waste Collection:

31% lowered funding  
47% stayed status quo  
23% increased funding

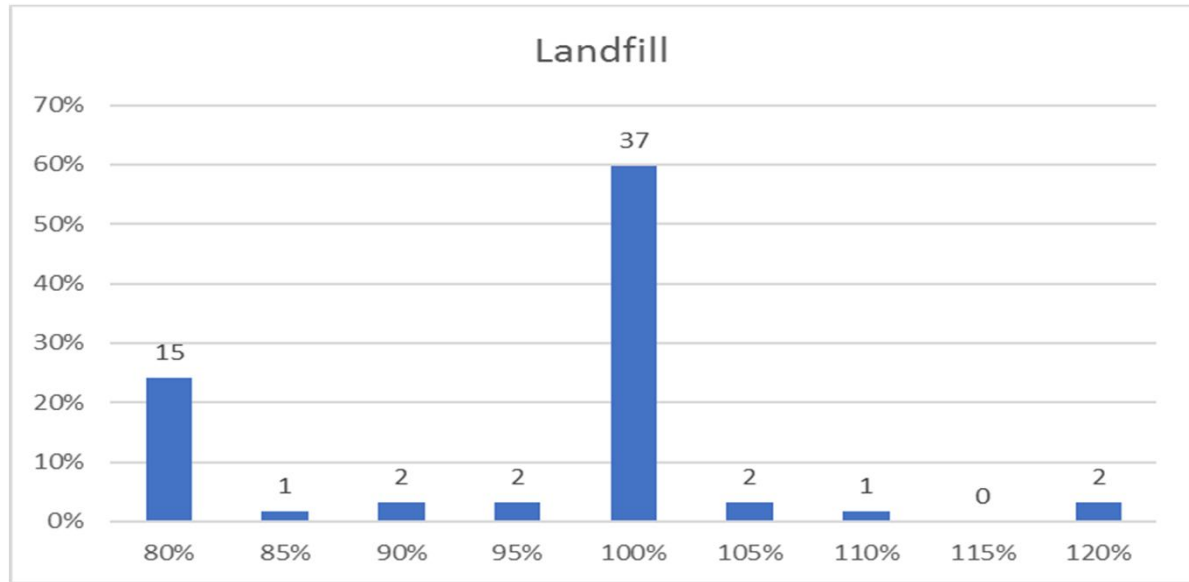




# Infrastructure Services

Landfill:

32% lowered funding  
60% stayed status quo  
8% increased funding



## Comments from Citizen Budget 2020.

Below are all the comments from the Citizen Budget tool:

### Protective Services:

- Why do we have two fully functioning fire stations within 2 km of each other? Make a regional fire station with the County
- There is absolutely no need for a bylaw officer in town. Waste of tax payers money.
- Need more enforcement in residential areas. More pedestrian crossings.
- I find our law enforcement aren't focusing on the safety of the town and are focused more on bringing in money. This town needs to deal with the drug and theft problem and the safety of the children when it comes to drugs and theft. Right now they seem more focused on money producing tickets (Which I also know is a big part of the job)
- I feel that with the rising property crimes in town, we would benefit more from increasing the RCMP. When dealing with the Peace Officers, Bylaw etc. I feel that they are not as knowledgeable as they should be when dealing with citizens concerns regarding animals, unkempt yards, abandoned vehicles....just to name a few.
- We all have to restrain spending. Many people have lost there jobs and or taken up to 40% wage cuts in the private sector. How can a town council keep increasing spending each year. Please be responsible and reduce spending by increasing efficiencies in each department. Thank you.
- Bylaw rarely responds when called. When they do respond it is often hours later
- Have not seen much done by bylaw. We have residential homes that are unkept ie. Grass taller than their fence overgrown onto the streets. Sidewalks not cleared of snow and junk vehicles parked in front of and behind their homes. Why has nothing been done?
- This area could generate revenue to offset reductions like in larger communities especially if it did traffic enforcement
- Arrest the skids riding around on bikes stealing from hard working citizens.
- The bylaw in this town is a joke. I don't see value in giving money to a useless service.
- Very necessary services and with the amount of crime in town I would support an increase in this.

### Community Services:

- Love what this department does. They make a big impact on the quality of life for our community. The Family Centre needs to be bigger and included in the Multiplex. They are at max capacity and could do so much more if they had the space.
- Build the multiplex already!!
- my wages are going to be cut this year after not getting a raise for 4 years, so this is certainly an area where funding could be cut to save taxpayers money.
- Why are my taxes paying for contractors to hang xmas lights up in the park. Last year this was done on a Sunday - what does this cost us?

- I think the town does a great job with the parks, and community development. That being said, keeping Repsol place and not building the new Rec complex would play a huge part in the town being able to afford things that we NEED
- Don't spend anything you don't need to on Repsol. Put money towards the new multiplex
- I feel that Repsol Place should be maintained and look at ways to make revenue in the space to help with costs. As far as fencing an off leash dog park at the cost of 50,000.00 this should not be funded. We have many dogs in our neighbourhood that are allowed to bark steady and be left outside for hours. Also, the amount of dogs running in town needs to be dealt with more than a fence is needed. Perhaps the dog owners have a club that could help raise money towards the fencing. Show some initiative and only then should the town look at helping out.
- Is there really a need for tax payer funded walks that get cancelled regularly? Do people really need the town to organize when they walk?
- Can't wait for the multiplex to be built. It's just what we need here. And I hope more work can be done at Vision Park to deal with the water that sits on the fields.
- make repsol place more user pay and increase prices there
- I would decrease as I have witnessed numerous times where it takes 3 town employees to fill holes in a field that is not in use. That is just one example ...
- Nice for the community but it could be more efficient if it was more funded my by grants. Should focus on the places people use and facilities
- Times are tough, people don't have much money right now. Residents are taking pay cuts or losing job. Community services is an area that can be cut.
- We have noticed that the people working in the park cutting grass have been doing a great job. We have also noticed that the people picking up garbage bags come in pairs and may carry away one bag from the containers. We have also noticed that the people that look after the weeds and flowers seem to come in bunches of four or more and have no little or no idea what they are there to do and have no one checking on their work as completed. This non service costs the taxpayer extra money.
- Repsol place should support its self

### Infrastructure Services:

- Would love to see the addition of recycling. I also think the Town does a great job at snow removal.
- My taxes and utilities were increased last year. My property assessment went down \$5,000.00 however my taxes increased by \$120.00. I am paying \$197.00/month for a mobile home on a town lot. Considering my taxes previous to that in one of the mobile home parks was \$34.00 a month this is a substantial increase for the same size mobile home. Where is the justification in that? You suggested adding the recycling at \$9.00/month to our utility bills and increase the waste removal fee with the average household looking at an increase of \$11.00/month. My utility bill is already at between 49 to 53.00 per month. I am a single person on a tight budget. Water & sewer services should not be increased. Increasing the \$11/month does not justify what I consume per month. I do laundry once a week and use the dishwasher very rarely. I do not use the compost bin very much in the winter. Once a month would be sufficient for pickup.

Snow removal services seems to be more prevalent for those people living on emergency routes and their taxes seem less than what we pay for less services. After watching a town council meeting it has been suggested to also add in 10th Avenue as an emergency route for snow removal. If services for snow removal is going to be increased then I think the people living along the emergency routes should be increased to accommodate the amount of times snow removal is done on those routes. I think a little planning and perseverance should also be used with town services. I have seen street sweepers out sweeping in pouring rain. I don't understand the logic in that. After watching the Alberta Budget with Jason Kenney it was suggested that municipalities may be responsible for their own policing with no funding from the government. If this is true, our rates will go up yet again. Not to mention once the multi-plex goes ahead, our taxes are going to go up again. I have only lived in my mobile in this location for a year and I have seen one increase in property tax and an increase in utility bills. I can't comment on the landfill because as a taxpayer and resident I am not well informed as to the process involved in maintaining the landfill or if waste is trucked to Hinton, number of contractors, etc. I don't utilize Repsol and rarely attend Art in the Park. The only thing I utilize are the walking trails. I think the dog park is fine where it is. We, as a taxpayer don't need additional costs and another increase to our taxes. The space is more than adequate. The water source could be a concern if pet owners are not able to control their pets. I have not had an issue. Bylaw as far as I'm concerned does not assist the public as much as they should be. I have had noise issues in the mobile home park (nothing was done) and issues with overgrown trees on my mobile home from a neighbor. I was told talk to the neighbor and yes I was allowed to trim the trees but could be liable if there was damage to the neighbors trees. There should be an enforceable bylaw to suggest that residences trees not encroach onto other people's properties. Residents should not have to approach the situation on their own and if they do, why do we have a bylaw officer? I'm sure bylaw officers do other things but I am not aware of the full scope of their position. I have enjoyed being able to watch a live council meeting, however it would be a lot easier to understand if councillors spoke to the point and not in circles or speaking just to hear themselves speak. In closing, does it really matter what residents want or provide their input when the Town of Edson will just decide to go ahead anyways? I am pleased with most councillors who seem to have the interests of residents at heart. I know that cost of inflation, increased costs to supplies, day to day living increases but when people who work to just try to make ends meet and do not get an inflation increase or raise or need to work two jobs, single parent families, seniors it is not easy. Thank you for your time.

- I think spending more money on snow removal and street cleaning is greatly needed in this town. We need better street sweepers and snow blowers. Our streets are the DIRTIEST I have ever seen in a community like ours. This is also why I strongly disagree with the new recreation complex. We can't afford to even keep our streets clean, yet we are going to go broke paying for an unnecessary building.
- Increase the funding for road improvement. We have many streets in town that are showing their age. When pavement begins heaving in places and creating speed bumps in the middle of residential neighbourhoods, this can cause accidents as many drivers seem unaware or are driving to fast to avoid them. First Avenue has gone back to the 1950's with more dirt/gravel than pavement. It is hard to expect businesses to want to invest in properties in Edson when things are definitely showing their age and lack of maintenance.

- I would happily pay more for more snow clearing.
- We pay exponentially more in utilities our garbage pick up has decreased, landfill hours have decreased and we lost our spring cleanup as well as the ability to use a dump trailer at the landfill. Cost keep increasing while services decrease.
- curbside recycle pickup please
- Decrease as our recyclables are picked up biweekly in the winter. This past year landfill has not been opened when residence needed to use it. Our streets are a disgrace
- roads, snow, Utilities, need em. Why isn't my recycling picked up if I need to pay this much for it?
- I pay at the dump to use it. There are free options available.
- Please consider curbside recycling pick up.
- It appears that you do not want to discuss Administration and Council costs. I would hope that you realize that the many of citizens of this Town are having difficulty paying their bills and feeding their family's. The seniors are among this group and as a matter of fact have only been given a 2.7% increase on CPP income and a 2.1% increase on OAS income in 2019. Some of the other people that we have talked have not received any increase in their income and many have said they have had a decrease in their family income. We would hope that this Council understands the instability that they will create in the Town of Edson if they increase if they raise our taxes and utility rates as much as they propose. I would also hope that Administration and Council would take a decrease instead of an increase in their pay and show that they are true leaders that have been elected by the citizens of the Town of Edson. We truly believe that if they want to, Council, Administration and Department heads can find a way to reduce costs without reducing the level of service in any of the departments. We also feel that this budget simulator is lacking information that would be useful to the Taxpayers.
- These costs increase like crazy! It's getting ridiculous.