



YOUR OPINION MATTERS

BUDGET 2025

Public Engagement Survey Results
August 2024



This report was developed for the Town of Morinville in August 2024 with full objectivity, free of pre-conceived notion or bias, and with the intention of supporting the Town's goals and priorities through this process.

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Budget Engagement Report Summary

Overview

The 2025 Budget Engagement Survey was launched through the Municipality's EngageMorinville.ca portal in Summer 2024, with a total of **523 participants**. This includes those who completed the survey online, as well as those who submitted hard-copy surveys, which were made available to the public as a means to reduce barriers to participation. This survey built upon the previous year's budget engagement process, though some shifts in survey approach were made to secure the most accurate representation possible.

The total of 523 participants for the Budget 2025 Engagement Survey mirrors that of Budget 2024 engagement, which also saw the participation of 523 community members. An identical participation level from one year to the next is rare, but it is strictly a coincidence. The group of participants from this year is not the identical group of participants from last year's budget engagement process.

This rate of participation, however, is a good news story. From Budget 2023 to Budget 2024 engagement, participation rose by 250%. Being able to maintain such a significant level of participation year-over-year, to this Budget 2025 process, is a clear indication that residents are actively seeking to be engaged on matters of local importance. Further, this maintained rate of participation is proof that efforts to report on and incorporate survey results in a meaningful manner throughout the budget process have struck a chord with residents.

Council's [2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#) includes six core areas of strategic priority, Under the pillar of "Community Building," it is an objective of Council that:

Residents and businesses have opportunities to actively engage in, and are informed of, decision-making and planning for our future.

This budget engagement process was developed in reflection and support of that goal. This Strategic Plan alignment did include an engagement objective of maintaining or increasing year-over-year engagement participation rates, which was achieved in this instance.

Further, this engagement aligns with the strategic priority of "Collaborative Relationships," under which it is stated:

Strengthen relationships with community stakeholders through enhanced communication and engagement.

To ensure survey results prove a meaningful contribution to Council's budget deliberations, respondents were provided with an appropriate level of context surrounding numerous financial considerations and implications of relevance to Morinville's current state. As a result of these efforts to provide accurate and appropriate information within the survey, residents were able to respond to questions based on a clear baseline understanding of current state, shared by all respondents who reviewed contextual information.

This report was developed in a manner intended to be immediately relevant to Morinville Council and Senior Leadership Team by exploring resident opinions on a number of topics pertinent to the development of Budget 2025, and to the broader delivery of services to the community. As future budget engagement processes take place, it will be important to continue to build on what has been achieved. This approach will allow for the identification and analysis of year-over-year and multi-year trends. In theory, this will help Council see the impacts on its decisions through resident satisfaction levels, user rates, and more.



Budget Engagement Report Summary (cont.)

How We Engaged

Morinville's Budget 2025 Engagement Survey was completed in Summer 2024, through the EngageMorinville.ca platform. The intent of the survey was to provide Morinville residents, business owners, and other potential community members of impact with the opportunity to engage in the municipal budgeting process.

Emphasis was placed on providing residents appropriate levels of context throughout the survey, ensuring a baseline understanding of the numerous topics on which surveying was conducted.

Additionally, it was important to gather as much resident input as possible, securing a minimum of 4% resident representation through survey responses. This is consistent with best practice for a municipality the size of Morinville, and was exceeded at 4.9%.

A wide variety of methods were used to communicate the Budget 2025 Engagement Survey to members of the community. Public communications were designed to reach people in all parts of the community, aligning with the principle of 'meeting people where they are.' A concerted effort was made to ensure survey communications were approachable, and that residents understood the value of their participation in the budgeting process. Communications tools included:

- Town website
- Town social media and digital platforms
- Paid digital and print advertising
- Media release
- Posters
- On-street signage and other physical materials
- Utility bill insert

Why Engagement Matters

Council's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan identifies a strong commitment to public engagement. This desire by Morinville's elected members aligns with industry best practice and emerging trends from the past five years, during which time a large number of municipalities have been increasing their public engagement efforts.

The survey and engagement process were developed using the *Engagement With Intent* framework, which emphasizes meaningful public consultation, of value to Council and Administration through intentional questions to the public and appropriate reporting. This survey included an appropriate depth of contextual information, ensuring respondents were well informed before answering questions. Involving the public in these discussions enhances civic education, empowering residents by making them active participants in governance. Effective engagement design carries a clear intent of fostering an environment of transparency and accountability, with an added goal of continuing to develop the relationship between residents and the Town.

From a tactical perspective, engagement of this nature encourages the reflection of community priorities in local resource allocation through the budgeting process, while also contributing to informed and equitable decisions. Engaging the public allows Council to understand the diverse needs, concerns and desires of residents. This can bring perspectives into the fold which would not otherwise be considered, including potential innovations of relevance. Ultimately, effective public engagement is key to municipal success, stability and sustainability.



Budget Engagement Report Summary (cont.)

Service Level Satisfaction

As part of the Budget 2025 Engagement Survey, respondents were asked about a number of different services and programs offered by the Town of Morinville. Respondents who confirmed they have used a Town service or program were then asked how satisfied they were with that service/program. This means that not all 523 survey respondents provided their input on all areas of service explored; instead, only those who have personal experience with a service or program provided further input on that specific area of questioning. While this does provide for a more accurate picture of service level satisfaction than if all respondents answered questions on all services, it does mean that different areas of service are representative of a different percentage of Morinville’s total population. For this reason, the number of responses per question have been included in the more in-depth analysis of survey responses in this report.

The following breakdown includes a high-level overview of the percentage of respondents satisfied with each Town service/program surveyed, with percentages rounded to the nearest whole number. As noted, these figures are further expanded upon later in the report.

Service/Program	Satisfaction Level
Emergency Services	96%
In-person customer support	94%
Morinville Community Library	94%
Economic Development & business attraction	93%
Morinville Museum	88%
Bylaw enforcement	82%
Garbage, organics & recycling collection	80%
Town-produced events	77%
Parks & open spaces	75%
Telephone customer support	75%
Seniors cultural, recreational & fitness programming	74%
Morinville Community Cultural Centre	73%
Online customer support	66%
Adult cultural, recreational & fitness programming	60%
Children and youth cultural, recreational & fitness programming	55%
Morinville Leisure Centre	48%
Morinville’s summer road and maintenance work	46%
Wellbeing, support, and referral services	46%
Winter road maintenance, snow removal & ice removal	40%

Table 1. Overview of service level satisfaction resulting from Budget 2025 Engagement Survey.



Budget Engagement Report Summary (cont.)

Service Level Changes

Survey respondents were also asked about current levels of service offered by the Town of Morinville and, as part of Budget 2025, whether they would like to see those levels of service increased, maintained or decreased. Survey respondents were provided context around the fact that increased levels of service often require increased financial investment from the municipality, while maintained levels of service may require increased municipal investment due to cost increases through inflation.

Overall, the majority of respondents stated they would like to see service levels maintained across all categories, without exception. However, in each category, there were respondents who stated a desire for either increased or decreased levels of service. The following represents the three services which saw the highest percentage of survey respondents state they would like to see an increased level of service, with percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

Service/Program	% of survey respondents who selected the option for an increase in service level
Winter road maintenance, snow removal & ice removal	48%
Parks & open spaces maintenance & infrastructure	38%
Morinville Leisure Centre	33%

Table 2. Top three services in which Budget 2025 Engagement Survey respondents stated a desire for increased service levels.

Similarly, in each service category, there were survey respondents that stated a desire for decreased service levels. The following represents the three services which saw the highest percentage of survey respondents state they would like to see a decreased level of service, with percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

Service/Program	% of survey respondents who selected the option for a decrease in service level
Morinville Museum	31%
Morinville Leisure Centre	19%
Morinville Community Library	18%

Table 3. Top three services in which Budget 2025 Engagement Survey respondents stated a desire for decreased service levels.

In this instance, the Morinville Leisure Centre landed in the Top 3 for both categories – both in the percentage of residents hoping for increased levels of service associated with the MLC, and those hoping for decreased service levels associated with the MLC. This tells a story on its own. However, the majority of survey respondents (approx. 48%) stated they would like to see MLC service levels maintained.



Budget Engagement Report Summary (cont.)

Taxation

In developing questions specific to taxation, as was the case with last year's budget engagement process, it was important that potential responses were rooted in reality. For example, it doesn't make sense to include an option for a tax decrease given current municipal financial trends in Alberta and the proposed budget likely to be presented to Morinville Council.

As part of this approach, survey respondents were asked to provide input on the level of potential residential tax increase they would feel most comfortable with seeing. For reasons of clarity and transparency, these options were presented in terms of monthly dollar value, ranging from potential increases valued at \$10/month to \$25+/month.

Approximately 77% of respondents selected they would be most comfortable with a residential tax increase with a dollar value of \$10-\$14/month.

Budget Comments

While options for a potential residential tax change were presented in a manner that was consistent with reality and current best practice, respondents did have the opportunity to provide additional thoughts on Morinville's Budget 2025 through written comments (see Appendix A). Through these written submissions, a significant number of survey respondents stated they would have selected an alternative choice of no residential tax increase for Budget 2025, had that been an available option.

These comments are an important part of a survey of this nature, providing qualitative input in addition to the survey's quantitative results. In order, the top five budget-related topics addressed by survey respondents through written comments were:

1. Taxation & Value for Tax Dollars
2. Parks, Culture & Recreation
3. Fiscal Management
4. Snow Clearing
5. Economic Development & Business Attraction

Community Growth

Unique to this year's consultation, the Budget 2025 Engagement Survey ended with a series of questions focused on Morinville's potential future growth. Through this, it was identified that approximately 82% of survey respondents support local growth.

Respondents were also asked to rank a series of priorities in pursuing growth, and in consideration of Morinville's future. The resulting top priority selected by survey respondents was "Minimizing property taxes in the future," followed by "Economic development and business attraction."

The full ranking is included later in this report.



SURVEY RESULTS





Section 1 – Demographics

Use of Demographics

Respondent demographics were collected to provide context to budget questions of pertinence, focusing on two core areas: age and living situation. In this instance, living situation was used to ensure relevancy of responses to this process. It was not necessary to collect additional layers of demographics information for this specific survey.

Instead of asking all questions of all survey respondents, this year’s budget survey tailored certain questions to each respondent completing the survey, resulting in a more accurate picture of resident service level satisfaction rates. This includes that age-specific services, such as those tailored to seniors, were asked only to those survey respondents for whom the surveys are intended. For example, only survey respondents above the age of 45 were asked whether they used Seniors Cultural, Recreation & Fitness Programming in the past year; those respondents who had used such services were then asked their level of satisfaction in doing so.

Similarly, survey respondents were asked whether they had children below the age of 18; those respondents who selected “Yes” were then able to say whether they used Children and Youth Cultural, Recreation & Fitness Programming within the past year and, for those who did, their level of satisfaction in doing so.

In each case, the number of respondents to subsequent layers of questioning decreased dramatically, providing for a smaller but much more relevant sample size of respondents stating their level of satisfaction with a Town service. As such, the number of responses have been included next to each question heading as (*R=respondent number*).

Age Demographics

Age	Budget 2025 Engagement	Budget 2024 Engagement	Census Demographics ¹
18-24 / 15-24*	2.5%	1%	13.7%
25-34	16.1%	15.7%	18%
35-44	32.8%	35.9%	21.5%
45-54	18.4%	20.1%	14.1%
55-64	15.9%	14.3%	16%
65-74	12.3%	11.1%	10.1%
75+	1.9%	1.9%	6.5%

Table 4. Age demographic distribution amongst Budget 2025 Engagement Survey respondents, compared to age demographic distribution amongst Budget 2024 Engagement Survey respondents and actual age demographic distribution of the community.

* Though the Budget 2025 Engagement Survey included an age category of 18-24, Census demographics data are based on an age category of 15-24.

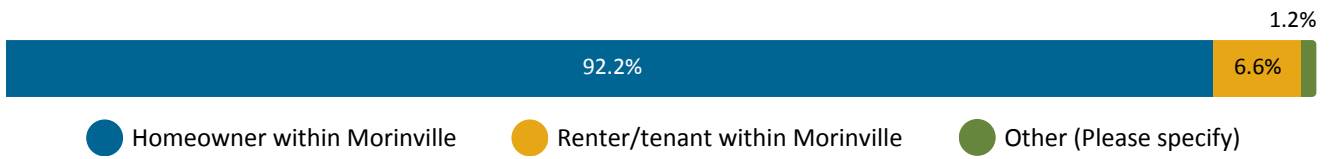
1 Town of Morinville age demographics informed by Statistics Canada Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=Morinville&DGUIDist=2021A00054811068&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0>



Demographics (cont.)

Current Living Situation

Asking respondents about their current living situation serves two purposes. First, it ensures that survey responses are coming from appropriate members of the community. Second, it clarifies the stake respondents hold in the community. For instance, by asking whether a respondent is a homeowner, tenant, or business owner, their responses are better understood through the lens of their day-to-day interactions with the Town. This information did not drive specific question sets, and was not analyzed beyond this one question for information purposes.



Other (Please specify)

Those who selected “Other” in asking their current living situation – representing just 1.2% of respondents – were asked to provide additional information on their relationship to the Town of Morinville and this engagement process. Those responses included:

- Landlord in Morinville (1)
- Business owner (1)
- Live in Sturgeon County (1)
- Homeowner in Cardiff (1)
- Homeowner near Morinville (1)
- Work in Morinville (1)





Section 2 – Town Services

The following questions focused on service levels offered in Morinville, satisfaction levels tied to current service levels, and desired levels of service.

The number of respondents per service are included after the service heading as (R=respondent number). Variances in response rate are in reflection of the fact that not all questions were mandatory for response; this is, as noted, to ensure that appropriate demographics are responding to different questions on service level use, and to allow residents to answer those questions on which they are informed to do so.

Use of Town Services

For each area of service or programming explored through the Budget 2025 Engagement Survey, residents were asked whether they accessed/used that service in the past year. These results are not necessarily reflective of the total usership of different services and Town amenities, and must be considered holistically alongside other municipal data available at this time. For each service identified as having been used by a respondent, as outlined above, that respondent was then asked their level of satisfaction in using the relevant service. Additional service areas were posed to all respondents, as they impact all residents to one extent or another, such as snow clearing.

Service Level Satisfaction

For each service identified as having been used by a respondent, that respondent was then asked their level of satisfaction in using the relevant service.

Did you use **Adult Cultural, Recreation & Fitness Programming** over the past year? (R=518)



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

Yes I used this service, and was... (R=144)



- Satisfied
- Neutral
- Dissatisfied

Did you use **Seniors Cultural, Recreation & Fitness Programming** over the past year? (R=251)



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

Yes I used this service, and was... (R=27)



- Satisfied
- Neutral
- Dissatisfied





Town Services (cont.)

The number of respondents per service are included after the service heading as (R=respondent number).

Did you use **Children & Youth Cultural, Recreation & Fitness Programming** over the past year? (R=256)



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

Yes I used this service, and was... (R=122)



Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied

Did you use **Wellbeing, Support and Referral Services** over the past year? (R=489)



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

Yes I used this service, and was... (R=24)



Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied

Did you participate in **Town-produced Events** over the past year? (R=489)



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

Yes I used this service, and was... (R=284)



Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied



Town Services (cont.)

Did you use **Parks and Open Spaces** over the past year? (R=489)



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

Yes I used this service, and was... (R=410)



Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied

Did you use the **Morinville Leisure Centre** over the past year? (R=489)



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

Yes I used this service, and was... (R=246)



Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied

Did you use the **Morinville Community Cultural Centre** over the past year? (R=489)



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

Yes I used this service, and was... (R=232)



Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied



Town Services (cont.)

Did you use the **Morinville Museum** over the past year? (R=489)



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

Yes I used this service, and was... (R=32)



Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied

Did you use the **Morinville Community Library** over the past year? (R=489)



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

Yes I used this service, and was... (R=187)*



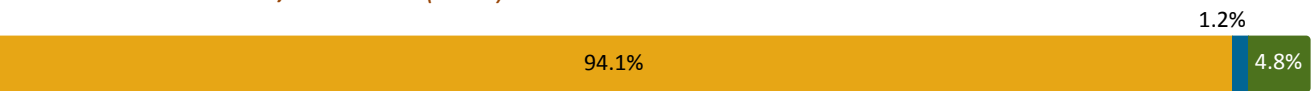
Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied

Did you use **Customer Service Support – In-person** over the past year? (R=489)



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

Yes I used this service, and was... (R=83)



Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied



Town Services (cont.)

Did you use **Customer Service Support – Online** over the past year? (R=489)



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

Yes I used this service, and was... (R=55)



Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied

Did you use **Customer Service Support – Telephone** over the phone? (R=489)



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

Yes I used this service, and was... (R=80)



Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied

Service Level Satisfaction

The following satisfaction levels are disassociated from usage rates, as each of the following services are provided to the community in full. This means that, in theory, all survey respondents are impacted by – and therefore have made use of – these services.

The number of respondents per service are included after the service heading as (R=respondent number).

Summer Road and Sidewalk Maintenance satisfaction level (R=520)



Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied



Town Services (cont.)

Summer Road and Sidewalk Maintenance satisfaction level (R=520)



● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied

Winter Road Maintenance, Snow Removal and Ice Removal satisfaction level (R=520)



● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied

Garbage, Organics and Recycling Collection satisfaction level (R=519)



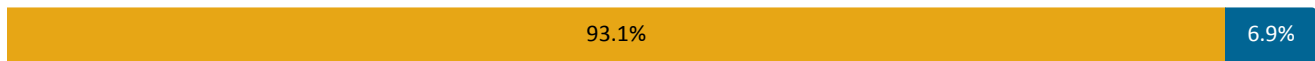
● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied

Bylaw Enforcement satisfaction level (R=518)



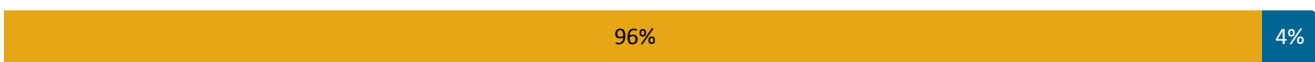
● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied

Economic Development and Business Attraction satisfaction level (R=517)



● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied

Emergency Services satisfaction level (R=518)



● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied



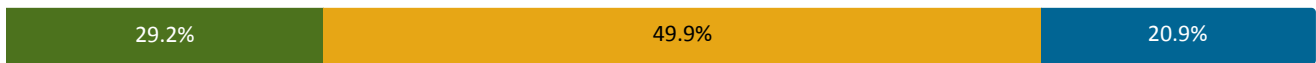
Town Services (cont.)

Service Level Changes

The following section pertains to survey respondents' desire for a potential change in levels of service or lack thereof. For each of the following service levels/programs, respondents were asked whether service levels should be increased, maintained or decreased.

● Increased ● Maintained ● Decreased

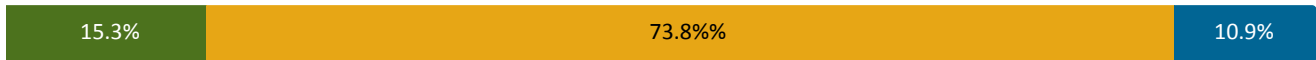
Adult Cultural, Recreation and Fitness Programming (R=518)



Seniors Cultural, Recreation and Fitness Programming (R=520)



Wellbeing, Support and Referral Services (R=515)



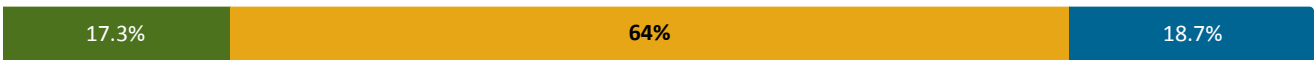
Town-produced Events (R=517)



Parks and Open Spaces (R=518)



Bylaw Enforcement (R=518)



Emergency Services (R=518)



Economic Development and Business Attraction (R=517)



Summer Road and Sidewalk Maintenance (R=519)





Town Services (cont.)

● Increased ● Maintained ● Decreased

Winter Road Maintenance, Snow Removal and Ice Removal (R=518)



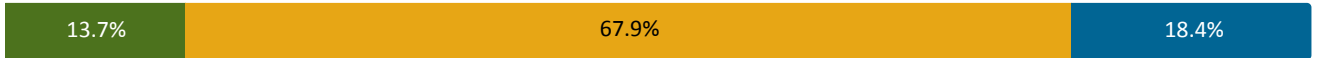
Morinville Leisure Centre (R=516)



Morinville Community Cultural Centre (R=517)



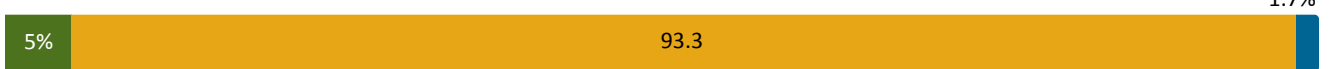
Morinville Community Library (R=516)



Morinville Museum (R=512)



Waste, Organics and Recycling Collection (R=519)





Section 3 – Municipal Budgeting

The following questions pertain specifically to Budget 2025.

Please share your perspective on the 2025 municipal budget (R=500)



- Generally speaking, I would like to see service levels maintained over the coming year, recognizing that maintaining service levels requires increased funding to account for inflation.
- Generally speaking, I would like to see service levels increased over the coming year, recognizing that increasing service levels requires increased funding.

While contextual information was included throughout the full Budget 2025 Engagement Survey, the following is worth noting specifically as a lead-in to the following question on taxation.

The municipality is responsible for maintaining, repairing, and replacing physical capital assets, such as roads, buildings, land, water, and other utility systems and infrastructure, along with assets such as vehicles, equipment, and computer hardware. This currently amounts to around \$142 million in capital assets, which cannot be sold or otherwise converted into financial assets. To fund the management of existing capital assets in full, the Town would have to invest around \$8 million per year. At the same time, the Town spends less per person than other comparable municipalities, while also collecting less revenue than those municipal comparators. If the Town were to increase per-capita revenue to match the average rate collected by others in our situation, it would result in an additional \$5 million raised annually.

What increased tax dollar value would you be comfortable paying? (R=447)



- \$10-\$14/month
- \$15-\$19/month
- \$20-\$24/month
- \$25+/month

As noted, there was no option for an increase below \$10/month. This is in recognition of the current reality of cost pressures, setting a baseline on which engagement was conducted. These survey results do not necessarily bind Council to an increase.



Municipal Budgeting (cont.)

The following question pertains to Morinville’s future, through which survey respondents were asked to rank their priorities from amongst a list of options (as seen below), with the opportunity for respondents to select “Other,” and then include their own top-ranked area of focus. Year-over-year (YOY) shifts between engagement conducted for Budget 2024 and this year’s Budget 2025 Engagement Survey results are included as part of the rankings below, showing the consistency in resident priorities from one year to the next.

As Morinville prepares for the future, which of the following is most important to you? (R=515)

1	Minimizing property taxes in the future	YOY: Unchanged
2	Economic development and business attraction	YOY: Unchanged
3	Addressing local infrastructure needs	YOY: ▲ 3 priority levels
4	Ensuring long-term Town fiscal sustainability	YOY: ▼ 1 priority level
5	Ensuring future growth is well planned	YOY: Unchanged
6	Maintaining or increasing service levels	YOY: ▼ 2 priority levels
7	Other	YOY: Unchanged

Other (Please specify)

Those who selected “Other” in asking their current living situation – representing 4.7% of respondents – were asked to provide additional information on their community priorities. Those responses, copied verbatim, included:

- Clothing stores, community pool, something for the bigger kids. Bowling alley? Larger splash park? Our teens need something
- A good balance of dealing with roads and utilities along with attracting business revenue to the town. This town does things like a small town, not one of 10K+ people. This residential tax base can't support the projects the council wants. More revenue not off the backs of residents is needed. That means attracting businesses.
- While I understand inflation has hit everyone hard, i feel the town needs to do a better job allocating funds. I get my streets plowed once a year if I am lucky. Mlc closes earlier and earlier. We need more businessness that offer something different to help take the burden off of the residents.
- All of these are big needs



Municipal Budgeting (cont.)

- Clean parks and outdoor spaces for young adults
- A pool and better fitness facility along with economic development and business attraction
- Solar and wind energy
- Bring back parades, fire works, and give us a pool.
- Bring back better snow removal and community events (fireworks, parades, etc).
- All of these items should be focused on
- All of the above.
- Town beautification. Our main streets look, sloppy, there do not seem to be any standards set out that must be followed by business owners.
- Pool
- Both maintaining and increasing levels of service as well as ensuring future growth is planned are both important to me
- All of the above should be capable under the amount of taxes we are paying. As said before we came here a few years ago and the small city was beautiful, plenty of recreational places. Lots of parks and businesses opening up. Great roads, and snow removal for every inch of the city!
- As a senior of this town needing help with lawn and snow removal there is a major concern with prices going up. All the town does is find us someone to do the work and still charges the big dollars. Really no help what so ever. When I set money as side to retire I felt it was sufficient not anymore.
- Is it too much to ask that all of these be a high priority? It seems to me that that is what municipal governance exists for.
- Lower costs to live in Morinville. No property tax increases and rein in utilities
- Clear Snow off the street in the winter my street was not done once this year
- I feel addressing local infrastructure needs lends to economic development and business attraction
- The TOM needs to manage its budget, no increases in taxes. Start looking at prioritizing spending.
- All of the above as well as seek city status from the province as Morinville now has more than 10000 people
- I think it needs to be a mix of economic development attraction for future growth, and infrastructure investment.
- Keeping taxes low, and attracting business to offset the constantly rising tax burden for residents

Identifying trends amongst these comments, the top-listed areas of future concern noted by survey respondents are as follows:

1	Economic Development & Business Attraction	16.7%
T2	Recreation Facilities & Programming	11.9%
T2	Roads, Infrastructure & Utilities	11.9%
T2	Snow Clearing	11.9%
5	Minimizing Property Taxes	9.5%



Section 4 – Future Growth

This section focused on where respondents would like to see their community go, and how they would like to see growth progress.

Thinking about Morinville 20 years from now, please rank the following statements in order of importance with 1 being most important and 7 being least important. (R=509)

- 1 Morinville is a great place to raise a family.
- 2 Morinville is a safe and welcoming community.
- 3 Morinville hosts sustainable planning and development
- 4 Morinville has a vibrant, diverse and independent economy.
- 5 Morinville maintains a ‘small town’ feel and culture.
- 6 Morinville is a great place to start a business.
- 7 Morinville respects the environment and promotes responsible use of land and resources.

Please select the response which best represents your position on growth. (R=506)



- Morinville should embrace growth. This would increase the local tax base, and potentially attract more services and employment opportunities.
- Morinville should embrace growth. However, focus should be placed on residential development, specifically.
- Morinville should allow growth. However, the Town should not actively pursue it.





Analysis

The Budget 2025 Engagement Survey, like all community consultation efforts, provides insight into the current thinking of local residents. With the survey completed by 523 community members, the level of participation reaches approximately 5% of the local population, which qualifies as statistically valid. The written comments included, verbatim, as appendices to this report help provide context to the quantitative data included already. That said, trends are largely consistent between what was seen in direct survey responses and through written comments.

Perceptions Around Taxation

Morinville, as an organization, is in a difficult position. Based on the results of this survey, residents feel the level of taxation has reached a tipping point. Many respondent comments specifically addressed a perceived lack of value for taxes. Meanwhile, numerous respondents asked for increased levels of service in multiple areas. These two concepts are not necessarily opposed, but are not fully aligned either. A fair amount of residents, through written comments, alluded to a perceived need for improved fiscal management or of an independent review of sorts.

Key Takeaway

Residents are concerned over the increased cost of living. While this was communicated mainly in relation to municipal residential taxation, there were written comments that provide context around residents feeling their lives have become more expensive in general. It is often the case that local government is a target for financial restraint in times of financial hardship, as the order of government closest to residents, and in comparison with larger cost increases tied to inflation and those stemming from other orders of government. On the latter, some survey respondents' written comments voiced frustration over having to pay education taxes, not realizing that these are provincial taxes, collected through municipalities. Additional public education is warranted in this respect.

Service Levels and Programming

A decrease in service usage seen through survey responses does not align with what has been seen by Administration. This discrepancy may be the result of some service areas needing to be better described and qualified in future surveys; for instance, it is possible that not all residents have a shared understanding of what is included in "Adult Cultural, Recreation and Fitness Programming."

Additionally, it is possible that this survey's respondents are, in some cases, not fully representative of the broader public, resulting from qualifying questions narrowing the number of respondents questioned on certain areas of service. For example, around 250 respondents answered the question on whether they had used Seniors Cultural, Recreation and Fitness Programming over the past year – representing fewer than half of the total survey respondents, and falling to a percentage of total community of just 2.3%. While it provides Council with a better picture of usage amongst survey respondents, it creates a situation where the participants' survey responses are less statistically valid in the bigger picture of total population.



Analysis (cont.)

Summer & Winter Maintenance

There is a significant amount of concern amongst respondents over the current state of Morinville’s snow clearing and road maintenance practices. Naturally, these require budgetary investment while residents are asking for increased fiscal constraint. That said, it is clear that respondents are seeking increased levels of service in both winter snow clearing and summer road maintenance.

	Summer Road and Sidewalk Maintenance	Winter Road Maintenance, Snow Removal and Ice Removal
Satisfaction Level	Only 25.9% of respondents are satisfied with current summer road and sidewalk maintenance in Morinville.	Only 39.7% of respondents are satisfied with current winter road maintenance, snow removal and ice removal practices.
Service Levels	29% of survey respondents believe there should be increased service levels tied to summer road and sidewalk maintenance in Morinville.	47.8% of survey respondents believe there should be increased service levels tied to winter road maintenance, snow removal and ice removal.

Table 5. Budget 2025 Engagement Survey satisfaction levels and service level desires.

Recreation, Parks and Culture

While the number of written comments requesting a pool in Morinville has decreased year-over-year, the demand is still present.

In seeing references in written comments to other communities with pools that were not built recently, it is possible that residents do not understand the current costs associated with building a pool facility, nor how those costs would translate back to the community. It is quite common that residents in towns across Alberta are requesting hometown pools.

However, the majority of comments tied to recreation, parks and culture in Morinville focused on operating hours at the Morinville Leisure Centre; a strong desire for Town-produced events, with positive feedback on those events already taking place in Morinville; and a desire for increased maintenance in green spaces and parks. Satisfaction levels specific to parks, recreation and culture are included on the following page.

Cost Breakdown

In 2017, Morinville Council was provided with cost estimates tied to the development of a local pool facility, to the tune of \$43.5 Million.

If that estimate were to hold true, adjusted for inflation (23.77% over seven years, based on an annual inflation rate of 3.09%), a new pool in Morinville would cost approximately \$53.8 Million in today’s dollars.



Analysis (cont.)

Town Services/Program	Satisfaction Level
Town-produced Events	76.7%
Parks & Open Spaces	74.5%
Seniors Cultural, Recreational & Fitness Programming	74%
Morinville Community Cultural Centre	73%
Adult Cultural, Recreational & Fitness Programming	60%
Children & Youth Cultural, Recreational & Fitness Programming	54.6%
Morinville Leisure Centre	48%
Town-funded Service/Program	Satisfaction Level
Morinville Community Library	93.5%
Morinville Museum	87.5%

Table 6. Budget 2025 Engagement Survey satisfaction levels specific to parks, recreation and culture.

Positive Takeaways

While these sorts of analyses typically focus on the negatives to address moving forward, there are a number of positives that have emerged through this survey.

Respondents were:

- Supportive of Morinville’s Town-produced events, with numerous residents applauding Administration’s efforts in putting together family-friendly community events;
- Complimentary of Morinville’s frontline staff, specifically noting a high level of satisfaction with in-person customer service encounters. Those staff members working specifically in a customer service capacity should be proud of this feat; and,
- Thrilled with Morinville’s garbage, organics and recycling collection. Though this is often an area of contention for Alberta municipalities, survey respondents were overwhelmingly pleased with current waste collection services, with a satisfaction level exceeding 80%, and just 5% of respondents wanting an increased level of service.





Final Thoughts

The Town of Morinville is not unlike other Alberta municipalities in facing numerous cost pressures tied to inflation, infrastructure deficits, downloading of costs from other orders of government, supply chain disruptions, and so on. As residents feel the financial crunch in their own homes, the reaction is to ask that their local government show restraint in budgeting.

As seen through some survey results, there is currently a lack of municipal financial literacy in the community, with some survey respondents voicing concerns over paying education taxes (provincial jurisdiction) and the high costs of groceries (corporate control). Some work should go into ongoing public education on the role of local government versus that of other orders of government.

There is a difficult balance to strike moving forward, in this respect, including bridging resident expectations and current financial realities. In communicating the final budget, it will be important to frame figures in terms that are easily understood, including:

- Framing any changes in taxation and/or rates in real dollars, rather than as percentages;
- Being realistic about some of the cost pressures faced by Morinville;
- Reframing the conversation in appropriate terms, such as discussing the Municipal Price Index versus the Consumer Price Index;
- Addressing certain community expectations head-on, including the desire for a pool in Morinville; and,
- Being transparent in financial reporting throughout the year,

It is equally important that Council consider the results of the Budget 2025 Engagement Survey as part of budget deliberations, while recognizing these results are one input of many, and that they should be considered alongside other inputs of relevance.





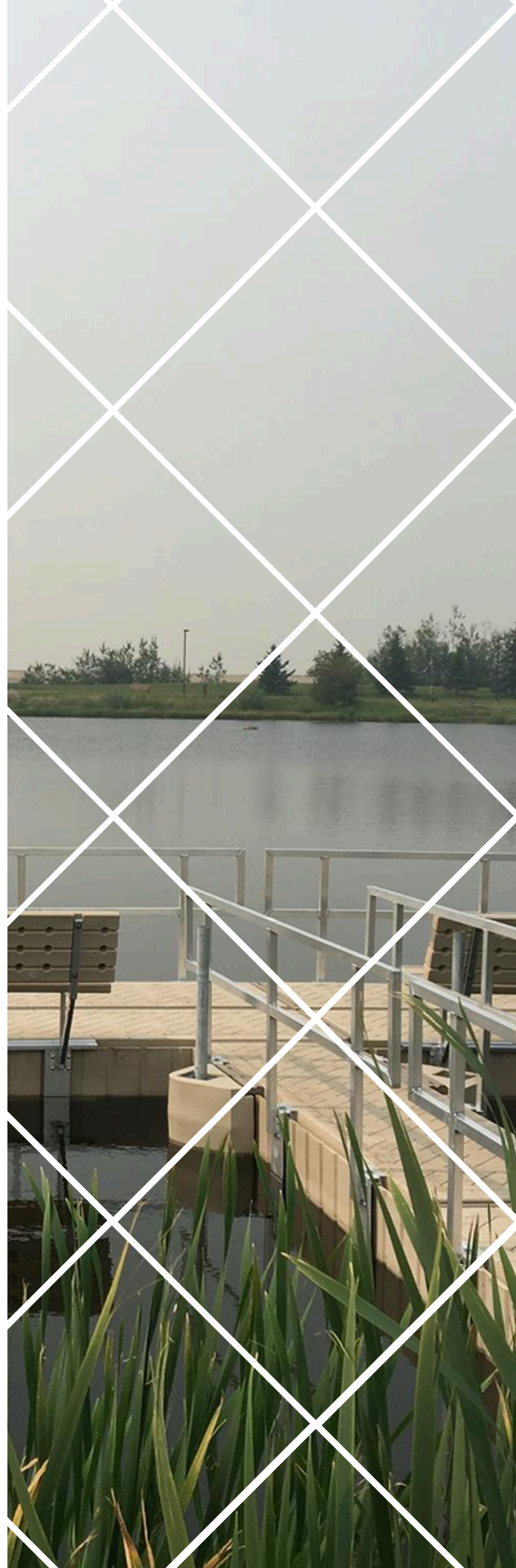
APPENDICES

Appendix A

Written Comments on Budget

Appendix B

Written Comments on Growth



Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget

Survey respondents were given the opportunity to provide longer-form qualitative opinions on Budget 2025 through written submissions, included in this appendix. Trends were identified in the topics addressed throughout the written comments, which do tend to skew more negative than positive, though there are certainly positive comments herein, as well.

Identifying trends amongst these comments, the top-listed areas of future concern noted by survey respondents are as follows:

1	Taxation & Value for Taxes	23.6%
T2	Parks, Recreation & Culture	14.5%
T2	Fiscal Management	12.2%
T2	Snow Clearing	10.0%
5	Economic Development & Business Attraction	8.80%

All comments are included on the following pages, as provided. This means that written responses have not been edited or altered in any way to ensure that the respondent's intent is not accidentally altered. Profanity and Morinville employee names have been censored, as inappropriate to include in a document of this nature. In the future, survey respondents are encouraged to communicate their concerns and opinions respectfully.

Please provide any additional comments/suggestions you have for the Town of Morinville's Budget 2025.

No option for anything other than a tax increase.

My additional comments/ suggestions for the next budget is to seek city status from the province as Morinville now has exceeded the population threshold to become a city

We pay enough for property tax now

I am appalled at the amount of property taxes that we pay for what little services that we actually get here. Our street wasn't plied once this past winter. Disgusting!!! Between the increase in property taxes and every other thing that can possibly be taxed, I will likely never be able to retire. The cost of living is outrageous and it would be nice to see our property taxes go down for once. One of these questions there is no option but to select an increase in property taxes. I do not want to see property taxes increase!! I have lived here for 23 years and it increases every single year. I'm guessing at this point that part of it is due to fiscal mismanagement.

I already pay disproportionately high taxes for services delivered, the answer to question 31 should have included an option for NO increases.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

The taxes we pay in Morinville are unacceptable for a small town. How we pay so much and are constantly expected to pay more is insulting to the members of the town. Life has gotten to expensive that many pinch pennies to survive, yet we see no improvements throughout town and my taxes went up just shy of \$500 this year. Make it make sense. It's unacceptable

Need the mlc open on Sundays! Rent out the ice and the field house (hockey and indoor soccer) to help offset the cost of being open on Sundays! Stop hiring so many people! The town is over run with employees! It's like a small empire! And try to share employees with other towns! Why does Morinville need a complete Human Resources department and bon accord, gibbons, red water also need their own hr department? Need to get creative to reduce costs and stop trying to raise taxes to cover even more expenses!!!!

Question 27 should allow a no pay increase... cause I personally do not believe that taxes should be raised for things like maintenance on equipment, buildings, vehicles or computer hardware - this should already be budgeted from previous years. The town has not grown enough to charge tax payers more with the [REDACTED] work that morinville has put forward to its residents. Especially with selling the hockey arenas/curling arena. If my taxes are to go somewhere its not to line the pockets for "vehicle and equipment maintenance" which would be a lie you are telling the people of mornville but to better the usage of clubs to keep it going. I work in this industry you are trying to portray.... and that is how I know that saying you need the money for this means you have lined the pockets of other things then properly take care of the machines that you are required to have to maintain your job...you know the job of taking care of the town.

I would be comfortable in reducing recycling collection to bi-weekly with a shift to include more recyclable materials like plastics and glass. Is there a possibility to increase users fees for some facilities and services, in order to ensure there are additional funds available for infrastructure and capital maintenance? Also, is there an ability to review the vehicle and equipment replacement schedule to reflect longer leases or use of the equipment prior to replacement in some cases?

The municipality has an issue with maintaining its current assets. There needs to be a change in mindset and communication to the residents on how Public Works' Leadership plan to make maintaining these assets a priority, before recommending any new infrastructure projects to council.

Like to see different senior leaders. Appear to be dysfunctional. Council meetings reduced costs for meals etc. emergency services takes up lots of budget but little return. Cut rcmp positions as they are mainly in the county and repurpose that money. Fix boundary road. Takes too long to get responses from different areas and they don't solve the problems. Why does the communications department and Human Resources departments need to be so big. Stop funding other non core functions such as museum and library.

Every year all we hear is tax increase, why not look internally to find ways to reduce waste? Buying a custom-built fire engine for over a million dollars is insane when Sturgeon County provides coverage to a much larger and more diverse area using engines that cost half that amount. The ladder truck was an exercise in vanity under the last chief and now the new one continues down the same path, chrome bumpers and checker plate don't help put out fires. Get creative and stop looking at tax increases as the only way to grow revenue, that's part of your job....

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

Overall the Town provides high service levels to its residents. However, it would be nice to see the MLC remain open 7 days a week year round to provide stability to the people who use the facility. Closing on Sundays during the summer months forces people to head south to remain active on Sundays and along with the activities, they shop and spend money in another municipality and that hurts our local businesses. The town also needs to plan for the completion of the MDP and start reviewing other documents that will reduce red-tape in the development process. I also feel the town should conduct a human resources audit, it seems that administration is very top heavy. I'm not sure 3 managers are needed for a staff of 5 or 10 individuals (in some departments). That money could be reinvested into the failing infrastructure and help to increase our nearly non-existent reserves.

Please focus on fixing the roads and build the pool.

I do not support yet another tax increase for the town. Year over year the increases are coming and being passed to homeowners and are making a small town less and less affordable. The town needs to bring more business to increase the business tax revenue to the town to offset the constantly increasing costs being passed to the residents. Unfortunately, Pizza, Weed, and Liquor are not valid businesses to have dozens of each in the town the size of Morinville. A review should be completed of the overhead and operating costs because those were sold last year as "needed" for the town to improve services to residents, but all it has done is increased the taxes for residents. I am also not impressed that there isn't an option to have services reviewed for possible decreases and the only selections for items 27 and 28 are to "agree" to a property tax increase when inflation is showing signs of cooling.

The town should really make use of the outdoor rink in the summer by adding pickleball courts. Many of us are travelling into St. Albert to make use of outdoor options. The arena option of the MLC is too dusty, slippery, and hard on the knees being on concrete.

I think a plan should be made for a pool and made public. I am happy with the town's level of service for a young family. We often take advantage of the events.

A monthly online accounting of public funds for all taxpayers to see where their money is going - monies coming in and monies going out. This could be posted at the town office, MCCC and MLC. A daily update online where the snow removal is at present to anticipate when my street should be cleared.

We are seniors and are willing to pay for services required, however, if taxes rise to equal other communities with more services for the same price relocation comes to mind. We need business other than, pot shops, booze shops and pizza places. It is hard when we live so close to a city, however, to keep us here local development is needed.....I also notice that Galen Weston has taken over the majority of our drug stores. No competition, prices get higher. What are the plans for the vacated spaces when one store opens out by No Frills.....

Given the levels of service we have and the already HIGH taxes we pay when compared to other towns and cities in our general area; I would think we should be able to achieve a significantly small tax increase or none at all in the next budget.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

I believe there are more possible solutions than the options provided in question 25 and 26. I believe that all governments need to be managed like a business.

My taxes cannot keep going up for sub par services. I am lucky to get my street swept or plowed once per year. Town grass is full of weeds and spreads to our yards. I love the library and the eat well food basket. Children's camps have gone down hill with the exception of after school hang out.

Road maintenance sucks now! Winter is terrible town does not plough the roads people constantly getting stuck in the roads by our homes. Deep ruts in the roads, damaging the vehicles undercarriages Absolutely . disgusting. Morinville used to have great road maintenance but now it is non existent

People are stretched thin and most people will be in trouble if more bills increase again. I understand people want more but maybe maintaining none essential services maybe a good idea and decreasing the nice to haves also necessary.

Please build more parks and more commercial business. Less liquor stores and marijuana stores.

For what we pay in taxes there are very few amenities. There seems to be a lot of wasted wages on town employees for the work that they do/don't do. Why does it take 4 town employees and 2 trucks to change the speed limit signs for example.

I don't want to pay anymore tax increases. I would like to see tax decreases and budgets balanced even if it means less services. Cut wages starting at the CAO. Make local government smaller.

We need to get a handle on why our tax rates are some of the highest in the region (third highest if I recall), if our capital budget is so under funded. Also, question 29 should offer an option to reduce service levels to help control the tax increase. Both options only propose spending more...

Other municipalities have 24/7 gyms, is there a scenario where this could be accommodated? Could the gym be moved downstairs and meeting rooms upstairs to reduce noise from weight room in meeting rooms which accommodates more bookings? Closed on a Sunday when that's people's day off? Have a survey with more specific questions towards the MLC to canvas other solutions to drive up business there

There should be no increases on tax revenues if this town / council were to expand our building residential homes and business to account for the increase of required monies. To be added to these increases or perhaps town council should take a decrease in their pay not an increase, such as the town CAO maybe they should be brought into check with their pay. looks like we are getting too top heavy. and we are not St. Albert so there should be no comparison to St. Albert. If council wants to compare us to St. Albert, when is the swimming pool coming or a proper recreation centre for the kids of this town so the families can stay within the town which would equal more revenue for the town.

Counsel should lead by example

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

I am ok with some increase to cost in order to maintain or improve the current state of the town. Town employees and elected officials are likely also in need of a raise to keep up with the cost of living. Please spend some time reviewing expensive 3rd party/private contracts that are burdening the budget.

beautify the town a bit to get people living here. This place looks like [REDACTED] and turns off perspective buyers. Our tax rate is nearly as high as St. Albert for being the ugly red-headed step child (ie. less amenities, empty lots, vacant builds, etc)

Would be nice to see some more trails, more trees and would also like to see some more businesses in the empty lots around Morinville, as well as a swimming pool- we have a lot of hockey rinks but no pool. Would also be nice to either lower the speeding limit on 100 Ave just off of the hwy exit, or have regular enforcement for speeding, as cars are going extremely fast on a daily basis and not abiding by the speed limit.

As a long-term resident, I would like to see future upgrades to the gravel trail off Grandin Drive adjacent to and along the back of Notre Dame Soccer field/park. Why hasn't Notre Dame not been identified for trail upgrades in the 2022-27 Budget? Sunshine Park, Old Town and Cardiff have all been identified with MSI reserves for the amount of \$417,500. allocated towards future upgrades. The trail from the Leisure centre connecting to Sunshine across the old highway past Old Town to Fish & Game Pond has been paved and maintained annually.

Instead of increasing residential taxes, increase business taxes! Businesses are well under-taxed comparable to other municipalities.

It would be advantageous to recognise that seniors are on a fixed income and therefore have difficulty managing with rising costs to support the budget. Maybe moving to privatizing some of the buildings such as cultural and leisure centre through sponsorship from companies would be beneficial. Not all residents use the facilities or need to, yet we pay for them. Increasing the monitoring of speeding in residential areas would also be a benefit. We live on a street that is used to avoid the traffic lights at 100 Ave, and during periods of the day it is a speedway. No one is complying with the much appreciated 40Kmp limit.

Everything you people are doing is perfect in my opinion. I will revote you all. One thing I would like to see is more green natural areas. Less mowing. Just a thought!

The town isn't giving any options. The only option they are giving is to increase, increase & increase taxes. If the town has so much capital assets why are they continually purchasing and driving around in all these new vehicles and pieces of equipment. Why does the fire department need multi million dollar fire trucks when trucks that cost \$500,000 can provide the same service. Is there even a process for the town for purchasing? Why do staff take home town owned vehicles every night? Asset management for fuel, kms & hours could be saved with them staying at the workplace. Town administration needs to find places to reduce money so taxes don't go up. They are getting outrageous for the services that seem to change every year so that town staff don't have to do routine service as much. Seems like the town hires more staff but service levels decrease. I am against any increase. The town put themselves into this situation when they built the MLC. I'd be looking to live elsewhere if taxes go up the way the town wants them too.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

NO MORE TAX INCREASES!!!! We are already paying comparable to St. Albert and Edmonton, and we get nothing for it. Morinville overspent on the cultural building and then turned around and overspent on the big white elephant on the highway which only caters to one demographic...hockey people. I guess the rest of the people don't matter. STOP overspending on the ONE administrative staff that gets over 200,000 a year and allocate the money elsewhere. Also, you have far too many staff in the summer if we can drive by at any time and see them standing around doing nothing. Fixing the budget does not mean charging people who can't afford it more money. Not everyone gets raises. What will happen if you continue to raise taxes, as you will lose citizens. Stop having parties and events every time someone fixes a stapler, downgrade the expensive administrative person that we don't need for a town of 10,000 people, attract more commercial businesses and tax them appropriately to offset residential taxes. As a taxpayer in Morinville, we get nothing for the increased taxes. My wages do not increase and in fact, I have made less money this year than last and I can't find a job here and won't drive in the winter. To get a job here, you have to know people. It's not based on what you know or your experience. So, I'm losing wages and you want more money along with increased utilities, increased insurance, increased groceries, increased gas prices, when is enough?! When you drive everyone out? Enough is enough! Maybe take a look at how Westlock is operating because they are making it work. No increased taxes!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Morinville needs to attract more businesses and stop raising taxes for no services.

Memberships for the Leisure centre are not affordable for seniors or families. Therefore the maintenance, upkeep and improvements for walking trails and parks and playgrounds are so important to ensure ALL people can get out and enjoy our community.

Clear the streets in the winter faster, its absolutely brutal

Where is the continued plans for the rec center no ball diamonds just wasted money continually regrading and redoing bike path and drainage. Where is the plan for a indoor pool missed oppurtunity with all the problems in St.Albert MLC has been a waste only catering to hockey families.

Please bring back Incredible Edibles in 2025. Seeds would be cheaper than plants/flowers and everyone loved the free access of fresh veggies. I'm not sure what happened to all the tree saplings that were planted near Fish and Game Pond a few years ago, but they look to be gone, as are all the fruit trees (orchard) that were planted near the Lakes many years ago. The trees that died along MLC pathway should be warrantied (they were delivered in the hottest part of the summer last year and laid on the ground for a week+ before planting, how sad!). As a nature lover, it's disappointing to see the waste of money and nothing done to help increase the natural look in our community. It should be common practice to plant native species in new developments, parks, pathways, storm ponds, to help increase biodiversity and have all the benefits (drought resistant, disease resistance, increase pollinators, etc.). Most roads in the town need work and we could probably think about reducing garbage delivery to bi-weekly. In developer owned green spaces (ie. land across from GHP School and Qualico- owned land by walking path), encourage them to DO something natural there - plant native trees, perennials, fruit trees, etc. Would like to see more pickleball lessons "how to play" offered in evenings in the fall.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

Make the skatepark better

More garbage cans around as well as public bathrooms in parks and walking trails.

I would feel comfortable paying 0\$ increase in the last question. That should be an option. This survey only allows us to choose options that will increase the taxes. Citizens of the town pay taxes to be provided with SERVICES! Services are being cut from the citizens in order to pay for administration employees of the town. Too many "managers" and not enough front line employees- the people who actually help provide the citizens with the services! Why is there never an option to remove useless management type positions? Maybe decrease the amount of staff in higher roles and make them actually do work to deserve the salaries and benefits they get paid for. It's always to increase taxes to be able to get the bare amount of services in Town. The Town hired a new CAO to make changes, and he has not done anything. There have been no changes. He is as useless as the rest of management. Maybe an overhaul of all administration and decision makers, so this Town can actually provide the services that the citizens are PAYING FOR! Stop sending out stupid surveys that don't change anything. This costs money too. Asking generalized questions such as should we increase, maintain or decrease funding for this.... I'm sorry, I'm not sure? I don't know what the current funding is, what it is used for and if it's a surplus/deficit.

When we have thaws in the winter deal with the roads, scape them. Don't let them continue to freeze and thaw. It's extremely hard on vehicles and unsafe Keep the same winter hours at the leisure all year around. Summer hours are unaccommodating to people that work long hours or have spouses that do and young kids at home/ work full time jobs that prevents them from being able to attend the gym

Town doesn't do much for events that are not for small children as an adult with no children there is zero attraction to any of the planned events, so maybe plan events that can involve more then children or cut back on events since there isn't much point in going to them anyway

Please if anything bring back the festival days parade and Canada Day fireworks!

Having lived here for 32 years the remove of snow and ice over the last couple of years has not been very good. I'm not a happy camper that the town would let the roads get as bad as they did!!!

Your survey, does not allow explanations and reasoning. Sometimes you can just move some money from one dept to another therefore no tax increase needed. By law enforcement need not be technically increased, but if bylaw does not see issues like weeds not maintained on vacant land or the area by the tracks where the old Masons landscaping was, something is wrong. Should have been cleaned up a couple of years ago. Many by law issues. By law needs to drive around town as if they are seeing the town for the first time, see it like a tourist or a prospective new citizen. I got frustrated with your questions so stopped answering them.'

Need to spend wisely and safe money when ever possible. Taxes can't continue to go up at at the rapid pace they have been. It will scare people from buying here and chase away the small business that can't afford the rent increases charged to them, because of the taxes on the buildings.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

The leisure center need the pool built asap

Why no option to indicate desire to not have yet another increase in our taxes. We too are experiencing the same pressures you've stated in the survey yet the sentiment is an expectation we have no voice to express our opinion on no increase at all. Has the town even considered or communicated what a no tax increase would result in?

Idea for an event: community cleanup. Sorry but this town is pretty disgusting, taking a walk with my dog in a filthy environment doesn't really give me the small town feel

Many people are upset with increasing taxes and not enough to show for it. A way to help with that would be for the higher town administration (CFO etc) to NOT get annual raises. I understand the effects of inflation, but we regular citizens are facing tougher times than people who are making over \$100K a year. I live Morinville and would love to see more diverse businesses in town

swimming poolfor the leisure center

I know that money is tight for everyone - including the Town., Knowing this I feel that the Town should find a way to have a zero increase to taxes in the upcoming budget. My taxes are as high as some places in St. Albert however I have very little services for my money, compared to all the services available in St. Albert. I love my community but the taxes here have gone up over \$100 per month in the last 30 years, with very little to show for it. We now have 2 white elephants - it's time to tighten the purse strings!

Council is in desperate need of an overhaul and a financial review. Taxes continue to increase with a noticeable decrease in services. The leisure centre is a mismanaged, underdeveloped attempt at appeasing the 19% (as per the initial poll before construction) that were in favor of a new arena. The inability to staff and stay open as well as a lacking fitness centre contributes to a declined membership.

Morinville leisure center should not have any increase for budget the building is useless. If it had a pool it would worth it to increase the budget. The gym sucks and the kid play area is pathetic for 2 and under maybe but nothing for the bigger kids. Support local then why can't we have a pool? We hear support local always but the. We also hear that the same amenities are in St. Albert so we don't need a pool. Pick one. Support local or don't.

Taxes already seem high enough when comparing to other Alberta communities. Find more creative solutions to solve the economic problems. Attract more businesses and grow the town population- get more money in the coffers that way. It is hard to find the advantages to living in Morinville lately. The town feels like it is devolving rather than evolving. It is unacceptable that you are suggesting more increases as the only option again this year and no one is allowed to have the opinion that finding ways to save money and cut costs should be the solution. Why is that not an option for question 30?

No more tax increasing for the little this town offers. The pleasure centre is a joke!

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

Maintain your roads and utilities - including the water pump house in St Albert. The leisure centre and cultural centre are supposed to be self supporting. If they can't be, they need to be sold off to someone who can make them run as intended. The residents of this town cannot afford vanity projects that are hung around our necks. The cost of living has increased and there's been talks of raising taxes to pay off the leisure centre? Read the room.

Having a pool would be a great way to invest in the community and provide services that are being provided outside of our community. Truly showing people they want wellbeing and recreation in our town would be a wise investment. I would pay more to have a pool.

there is a lot of duplication of services that are provided by local clubs, organizations, and private businesses.

I'm very unhappy with the town of morinville my taxes went up 500 this year and for what. We have nothing here that I use.

We would like to see the trail system developed for walking and cross country skiing and clearly mapped and available online like the inventory of parks, with related fitness and cultural events making use of them. We would like to see main streets regenerated, with business facades and sidewalks improved to attract more visitors and businesses - a scenic experience for people to see Morinville as a destination to visit and live. Perhaps the creation of a theme for the Town and grants for businesses to update their facades, add patios, etc. Currently, our 2 main streets do not positively or accurately reflect or encourage vibrancy of the current programs, activities of the town. More affordable seniors housing. Seniors transportation for better access to Community Services and programs.i.e. discount taxi service. Use of the community bus for general transportation.

I believe that Council and Administration are doing a more than adequate job at budgeting to maintain the services required while increasing the services most needed at this time. As the financial position of the Town improves they will be able to reevaluate new projects and provide increased service levels in the future.

taxes are too high now for the service we get. I do not see any real effort to manage expenses and it looks as if the towns only effort is to increase taxes and keep spending on goods and services that are not needed or could be put off .

nothing, Its perfect

For the love of god stop increasing our taxes when the town has gotten nothing new. This is asinine. Leave people alone and stop making them pay for the community centres no one uses. It's bad enough we'll be paying for the leisure centre for the next twenty years. Population continues to grow in the town, there's no reason to increase peoples taxes. Leave them be.

Please add the parade back in for festival days. It adds such a great sense of community. If the old route was an issue, have the parade take a different route through town. Please also look at the Garrison rec centre programs. Look at all their programs and costs. The Morinville leisure should be similar.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

It seems like there are an over abundance of, supervisors, and staff running the town. We need people to step up and do the job, and not complain of being over worked, because "you are not".

I have lived here for 4 years now. Just bought our very 1st home ever in 2022 because we decided to stay forever. Our property taxes are thru the roof. There is no reason to have such high taxes when there is nothing in this town. The roads are never repaired, they are horrible. Lines are painted every now and then, makes it very difficult for teenage new drivers to know how to drive properly. Recycling collection is a joke sometimes or maybe it's the workers. Can't take single use plastics... really.. then where would u like them to go.. unless the town decides to release info on HOW the recycling should be done, which I have never seen... something has to be explained. Right now we throw more out into the garbage because they don't take our recycling half the time. Businesses in this town are being killed by the taxes. Small shops that have run here for decades are being forced to close shop because of taxes.. and for what??? The Town charges \$150 for 1 display table at the Town weekend events in June. I work with a huge Non Profit here in town and they wanted \$150 for me and my team to put up and table and man it all day long. That is ridiculous. 100% out of the question. So many non-profit places and supports around town get great support to a point and then boned in the end. And what's up with the Peace Officers pulling people over for nothing but a dirty license plate? Or driving around town with their lights flashing for no reason. Or spending more time patrolling the Dog Parks then dealing with all the teenage drinking parties that go on around the ponds or down the tracks. Or how about the dumping zones along the tracks... or my favorite.. is listening to the [REDACTED] that drag race up and down the road by the ball diamonds or donuts in the parking lot... I live in this area and I get to watch and listen to this daily. What a great resource of our tax dollars to pay our employees to grade the parking lot every few days because of ppl that do this. Why can't the cops be around for that? Our RCMP cover a very large area and and very respectful to everybody, but the Peace Officers are not so friendly. But that's a personality issue I guess.

The town events for children are not good at all. No parades or good events for holidays

I think this Survey is a waste of my tax dollars & employee time. The last question should also ask if we want a decrease to taxes & not an increase. I think we pay high enough taxes for the lack of amenities in this town. You cant ask my if I want to increase the snow removal budget when my cul-de-sac was not plowed once in 2023-2024. All the questions asked are very blanketed and you need more in-depth information to make an adequate decision. I think there is areas in the current budget that can be looked at & reworked before upping our taxes. There is a lot of management & not many front line workers. I think work can be dispersed more for certain supervisors/ management to have to earn their wage. I think that the people how present this budget to council need to seek more information from those who use/work at town events/facilities to see how we can better budget for them. I think Morinville has great potential but its just not there yet. You need to listen to the residents and not just what management wants who are not even residents of this town. When a survey has a poor turn out, use that as feedback & revamp a new way to ask residents what they want.

Tend to see alot of town employees driving around accomplishing which seems like not much. If taxes keep increasing people will not want to move here as they are approaching to be the highest in the area

We have some of the highest taxes in the province. Learn to do more with less. The private sector does that all the time.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

No increase in taxes. Make cuts where required. Administration in particular. No raises for town employees.

I feel the above statement is very misleading. I feel our tax rate combined with the assessed value of properties makes MORINVILLE very compatible to the surrounding communities. There are many variables when it comes to overall revenue compared to services provided. I do feel MORINVILLE has made strides this past year but feel looking at levels of services compared to revenue generated should be taken into consideration before increasing taxes.

Repave roads in Old Town Morinville, especially 97 Ave (Forget Ave) west of Champlain St

For question #26, why isn't there an option for DECREASING service levels? The key to achieving municipal sustainability is being able to cut under-used or low-value services and finding ways to improve results without increasing funding. Of course, staff costs are the Town's greatest costs. Have the courage to go after that. Municipal remuneration (pay/benefits/work hrs) is out-of-synch with private sector realities. Being a civil servant should not offer a career of entitlement.

I feel like the town runs with a lot of inefficiencies from management when it comes to maintenance like road clearing and noxious weed management for example.

For the amount we pay in taxes we have nothing to do here. So manage the funds better. The leisure centre play room could be 100 times better. Would be nice to have better play grounds and fire works for Canada Day finally get pool. A family has to travel to surrounding cities to use there amenities . Maybe tour others towns and see what they do.

Please build a swimming pool. Children all deserve to have swim lessons, seniors need swimming access to maintain fitness.

Stop giving away money to a small Few groups, treat it like a buisness, if you don't have funds learn to say no

We pay more than enough taxes for the services we receive. I don't believe that I'm comfortable paying any more.

More focus on fixing streets and side walks. Not enough gets completed during summer work hrs. Some of the roads in town are better off being gravel. Storm sewer run offs should be monitored. We have one close to our house that needs attention where it drains near the over pass. Flooding each spring results in damage to my property due to neglect of fixing or maintaining where the water goes. Our streets were not cleaned once this pass winter. This resulted in flooding on our street. We pay to have the service done and when it's not performed it makes people of the town very upset to see that the money isn't being allocated properly.

I don't want any increases. You missed an option. I get living here is expensive, but your staff levels are bloated, you're irresponsible with tax dollars and would sooner build a need public works building, pay rent for a second building and bloat fees rather than repair sidewalks and make our community safer by fixing tripping hazards. Bad management. Reduce some "fluffy" staff and give us better value for our tax dollars.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

Dissatisfied with reduced hours of MLC and very Dissatisfied with Council as they all ran on reduced taxes and have passed large increases with reduced services.

Taxes are too high for the services received. On my street we saw only Two snow plows all year. Speed signs are hidden by parked vehicles, busses and you can't seem to paint yellow lines on anything but the two main roads. Motive is approaching St Albert taxes for Legal township services.

Our taxes nearly double in the past 12 years and I see absolutely no increase in amenities other than the council and mayor's pay increase.

I am not comfortable with any increase let alone what you are implying. I do not care what the "average" is elsewhere. If I did I would live elsewhere. The last question is a loaded question and proof that this the town is not interested in fiscal restraint. Maintaining something does not mean doing the same over and over. Mowing the green spaces need not be performed twice a week. Plowing the park sidewalks need not be performed more than once after a snowfall. Present practice appears to be at least twice with different equipment for the same snow fall. It adds up. why is there no spot for Generally Speaking decreasing service levels?

The leisure centre is only good for anything if they start to offer family services. Currently there is no childcare, therefore it is useless to young families.

I recommend looking into paving, East boundary road, at least between 642 & Cardiff road. The increase in traffic has increased the wear and I'm sure maintenance costs.

My taxes are almost \$5000 a year. My cul de sac is plowed once if I am lucky. For the amount we pay here, we have very little to offer. MLC closes early for summer hours when kids need it the most. You keep taking things away and increasing our taxes. I will say town of morinville events are somewhere you excel. The sense of community it wonderful.

It's quite obvious that the town of Morinville has a lot of potential and look forward to commercial growth that needs to happen. I'm ver disappointed in the lack of snow removal on the residential areas. The lack of snow removal has resulted in flooded streets and sidewalks. In other words, the snow removal over the las two years has been embarrassingly deplorable - I hat to see what happens if we get a big snow storm.

If property taxes go any higher, we will be forced to sell our home in morinville.

Taxes have gone up considerable over the past few years, yet services have not. The residential streets don't get plowed the fountains don't get fixed. The general public would like to see a pool in the Rec centre, that would bring families in. I know you've heard that before, but every time I drive by that place it looks like a vacant warehouse with nothing but employee vehicles in the lot. The Christmas parade is terrible, why would you have a family parade a night time in the middle of winter? Why not have it mid day so we don't have to keep our kids up all night? I know we won't be going this year, that's for sure. All in all, as a new resident to Morinville last year, my family is not impressed!

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

Last year we asked for increased snow removal and this year my road wasn't done once. The leisure center membership went up, but the hours in the summer have been cut. Paying \$4800 a year in taxes for winter roads that are so rutted they are causing damage to vehicles and a leisure centre that is inaccessible to those that work and has minimal fitness equipment is ridiculous. Rather than increasing our taxes to pay for things nobody wants, get back to the basics and look after your residents. Morinville isn't offering anything to justify the ridiculous cost of taxes.

We need to do more enforcement in regards to snow/ice removal on sidewalks and roadways as it becomes very dangerous for pedestrians. More has to be done to curb irresponsible dog owners who refuse to clean up after their pets. Roaming cats are also becoming a problem in Morinville. Rules that apply to dogs should apply to all pets. Bylaw enforcement officials need to get off their backs and actually do the job they are being paid to do. We have lived in Morinville since 1988. It is a great place to live and could be even better if people put a little more effort into it and it has to start with the people at the top.

The town overpays staff for the services provided. Ex: 2 employees riding in a truck to empty garbage cans. One works, one stands around talking instead of picking up litter, bylaw enforcement staff drive past undeveloped lots and subdivisions but officers don't direct mowing or cleanup to be done unless there's a complaint and only after a 48 hour warning. And the public works yard is a disgrace to see. As a taxpayer I expect better management and use of employees time & tax dollars.

The only thing for teens to do in the town is the leisure centre and in the months they need it most you've closed it down early. The hours need to be adjusted. Also the large item garage collection should be run at least twice per year. A lot of towns do it after the town wide garage sale and again in the fall for a suggestion. The town is great for young families but the pre/teens have seen less, no carnival rides, no fireworks etc.

We need a walking trail out to Cardiff area to gain more access to the trails out there and increase safety. A swimming pool and other recreational activities for children would increase people wanting to move here and bring more businesses. We pay the same amount in taxes as Leduc but have much less amenities.

Our property taxes are way too high for what we receive. We had 0 snow removal, 0 road fixes and 0 of anything for an increase. Our concerns were not heard nor cared for.

You need to lower the rate of the mayor and councilors annual salary. We have no place in town to buy clean underwear or socks. That's a disgrace. Your maintenance is a joke, the roads are [redacted], the sidewalks are [redacted] and I'm sick and tired of getting taxes raised and nothing more comes out of it. Maybe look at other places to cut like the council over raising our taxes. It's not rocket science that this place needs more for families. Driving 18km to buy the needs we use daily is unacceptable and a joke. Plus on top of that there is no swimming pool which should have been built with the new rec center the fact that you guys did not is a massive mistake. The old arena was supposed to be torn down but yet that place is busier than ever. This town has failed year in and year out. It's time to cut your wages and get this place looking like what it should be for the size of it.

I'm not comfortable paying any more in taxes as we have nothing to show for it. St Albert, a city, pays equality much more facilities and infrastructure.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

I do not support a tax increase AT ALL. If you haven't noticed Canadian residents are being Taxed to death! Soon you'll be taxing the air we breathe!

It is HARD seeing property taxes increase and then seeing waste. I am referring to having multiple staff for the same job such as watering hanging baskets. Reading town employees comments on fb about how town staff won't fill potholes unless reported. Lastly the amount of dog [REDACTED] in parks is disgusting and the town has 0 solutions for the issue. What are we paying for?

I would really like to see minimal increases in home/property taxes and an increase in economic development/business attraction and other sources of revenue. Things are tight for most people already and yet another bill increasing is hard to swallow. I think the town does a great job with parks and greenspace, but I think much could be improved in terms of programming and the MLC.

Stop doing special events that promote groups that not everybody wants or belongs to. No more trips for the town council. We live in a world where video conference work and save thousands in tax dollars.

I strongly believe with more and more people moving to Morinville that we need to add to our rec center...pool ,outside things like tennis courts, basketball courts.... this will make Morinville more attractive to people and families who are looking to move here.. not to mention healthier people will become...and be happy.. I also believe Morinville could do more to attract businesses...

Reducing expenditures wasn't an option that I would have selected.

You don't need to pay people over \$25/hr to sit at a desk at the leisure center. Town of morinville employees are all overpaid and until we have more to do in this town for all ages year round, leave the taxes as they are. This town is extremely mis managed.

Enough with tax increases. We're paying more taxes very year and receive less service. Before covid the walking trails had exercise machines why aren't they back. The cement pads are still all there. It's time to get with the program.

Monies should be spent on maintenance and upgrades. To much is being wasted on small programs. Host large events instead of a bunch of little ones. I/ we pass on small events, but attend larger one. More bang for your buck per se.

Stick to the basics of operation and service of the town.

The town needs a pool and more business development

Lower than \$10/month in taxes would be my vote if had been an option. There really doesn't seem to have much offered for ow high the property taxes are here.

You wouldn't have to increase taxes at all if you put a speed camera on 100 ave like advertised.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

The morinville leisure centre hours are horrible. It makes it difficult for full time working people to attend regularly. Closing on Sundays is stupid and locking the doors an hour before closing is the dumbest thing ever. When people come in tell them how much time is left instead of turning them away. Then when it is leading up to closing make an announcement like they do in stores.

Need to invest more into family events.

Business development around the MLC. Everything is on the other side of town. More people would utilize the MLC if there were other businesses surrounding.

In regards to the last question, the new 2024 tax increase has me paying an additional \$24 per this year. I know inflation is involved but \$24 is quite a bit. I would expect to see the town invest the extra revenue collected from everyone into things that this survey has requested our input in. Such as better snow removal and a better leisure center. Especially the weight room. It's tiny! New, updated parks would be nice in some of the older areas. We need more businesses in order for Morinville to grow and flourish. But not too much that it loses its small town feel.

I do not support an increase in taxes at all. The town needs to get spending under control and operate within their means. The taxes in this town are driving people away. The exact opposite of what Morinville needs.

Fish & game pond walking trail needs to be replaced.

I think anyone over 65 and already paying over \$4500.00 a year in taxes should have taxes frozen at that level. We are on fixed income and can't afford anymore. Soon forced to sell due to tax increases.

Overall I'm quite happy with the services provided by the town. The main things that I've heard lately is the property tax increase but I do understand that the sports complex is needed. I also know that a pool has been a big request for 30+ years. An outdoor pool may be a goal for the future.....perhaps one that is environmentally friendly like the one near Northlands in Edm. Paying down the debt and good fiscal management is the answer right now

My property tax has doubled in the last 10 years and I don't see why, activities are not as they used to be. I don't feel paying more for less is beneficial for anyone. Where's the leadership and creativity gone here in Morinville?

The services provided is an absolute disgrace for the amount of money we have to pay! The leisure centre has decreased their opening hours, the services provided there are a joke. Don't get me started on the snow removal. The threshold that needs to be reached in order to get our street cleared is absolutely ridiculous! Vehicles are constantly getting stuck because you claim the 15 cm threshold has not been reached however it is absolutely unsafe to drive on those streets. The events provided over the summer have decreased over the years. We have lived here for 10 years and it seems like we keep paying more to get less!!

No tax increases.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

The budget needs to be cut to snow removal as no increase services have changed. There should be more family activities and more events at the mlc. The fire service hasnt been increased in call volume but the budget for new staff and vehicles has been increased for no gains. The wages for higher staff should be cut as they get overly paid for the service they provide. The planning and devlopment team needs to rethink their stratigies as having two dollar stores in town is rediciulous

At least attempt to do some residential snow removal for the upcoming winter season. Last year my cul-de-sac was not cleaned once, which is exceptionally frustrating.

Better the playground in south glens

Property taxes are too high - ours have gone up 1400\$ in 2 years and we have nothing extra to show for it. In fact this winter our road wasn't even plowed once! We live on the east side of town and the smell coming from the transfer station needs to be addressed. In addition the field behind us was developed without any timely consultation and our property value will surely be impacted. We keep paying more and feel like our return is ??

The town definitely could use a pool. Along with a clothing store. Marks work warehouse, etc.

I would love to see more community events and more variety in these events. Bouncy castles and vendors seems to be the main attraction for most town events. Fireworks for Canada Day would be great.

Stop spending money on custom town vehicles for managers to use for personal use.

Need public transport. How about a pool?

Like all governments, you should manage the town with the funds available through taxes levels commensurate with the ability for the citizens of Morinville to be able to support. I realize that prices of salaries and materials etc, keep going up, but we are reaching the limit in these trying times. Work with you have and back off.

Your last question did not give a zero% tax increase which I would I would have chosen.

No increase for 2025, there has been increases in property taxes for the last 6 years on my property alone. Current year of increase of \$50/month is unobtainable as a homeowner.

How do the people of Morinville pay almost the same taxes as St Albert? Our roads our garbage (pot holes, South Glens, Juniper heights, just to name a few). We don't have a pool for the kids to learn to swim. Seems like everything is geared towards hockey (believe it or not, some families can't afford their taxes and be able to put their kid in hockey). Maybe we need more pot shops to keep the residents numb to what's going on? Or maybe we actually get out there and try to get some bigger businesses to invest in this town! And not just hockey, kind of like the investors that you sold the curling club to?!? How's that working out? Bylaw needs more funding, crime has gone up, speeding is out of hand. I really feel that we need more funding, but taxing the residents is not the answer, we will lose people due to the high taxes.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

It would be nice for families and our children to invest in a pool at the leisure centre.

We need a pool and a better fitness facility. I do not want to have to go to the base or St. Albert for these amenities.

The mismanagement of funds within this town has become out of hand. We pay very similar property taxes to St. Albert, with arguably less than a third of the services (parks, pools, trail systems, amenities etc). If the town is not careful, majority of its homeowners will move elsewhere, leaving the town bankrupt.

Swimming pool/hotel

Would really love to see the next phase of the leisure centre, with plans to begin pool development in the near future.

my taxes should not increase. when we moved here 10+ years ago this town was amazing. our council has driven it into the ground we pay lots for nothing. start using our money wisely before you raise taxes.

I do not agree with having to increase our property taxes to cover the shortfall of the town. The town should be looking at expanding our revenue by bringing in something like the dog food plant that helped cover the costs. Since driving them away we all pay taxes on par with the city of St. Albert and what do we have? Nothing.... My taxes went up again this year and for what???

Speed bumps for school zones to help with dangerous drivers in such vulnerable areas.

We need a pool for our kids. One like Westlock would be perfect. No excuses why we have a leisure centre but no pool. It's a waste.

Morinville should combine with Sturgeon County & be structured similar to Sherwood Park / Strathcona County. One level of government for an area / population this size is enough.

We need a swimming pool.

Lower taxes

I'm all the answers had more taxes to increase. There has to be a way to keep the spending the same. I run a business in town and my spending doesn't go up every year to maintain the same. Do you run your household in a deficit every week? Probably not. Find a way to maintain what we have and not increase spending. For 5000 in taxes and I can't even get my wife's car out of the driveway without cleaning the road in front of my house. Also the curb is cracked up in front of my house. My guess is the waste water basin is going to start coming up and impede with my drive way. The snow removal crew also has scrapped my drive way leaving large marks from the machinery. Why do council receive a raise every year?

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

Already I think our taxes are too high for the lack of services provided. While I understand inflation increases everything and there will have to be adjustments made sometimes, I have lived in other communities where we pay less taxes and still have more services. I am concerned the taxes may not be used most effectively. I also have a concern that as you continue to raise the taxes more and more without there being a resulting benefit for homeowners that live here, you are going to have an influx of people moving out. Please don't drive people away. While I understand it's incredibly hard to plan a townwide budget and things cost more for upkeep, etc than people realize, please just make sure you're doing your absolute best to actually put tax dollars where people can see the results and benefit from them. Make sure you're using those tax dollars the best way possible. And please stop hiking them unless absolutely necessary because already the average person is struggling to just stay afloat in this economy.

Our property taxes are higher than what they were 2 years ago and nothing really improved or changed, I'd like for them to be lower it makes it hard for a low income family to do anything! Also on 101 ave and 99 st there isn't a curb for bikes, stroller wagons, extra to go on from the road we have to go around the corner to use the drive way and if a car takes the corner really fast they won't see us, and in winter it's very dangerous, I walk my son to and from school and that has been an issue and not just for me for others that I talk to there is a lady who's in a wheelchair who walks her son and she has the same issue, it's a big curb, the closest slop down is the drive way of someone house I would really love to see this fixed!

I thoroughly enjoy the MLC, especially the gym. What's frustrating is the hours being cut during the summer months. Perhaps shutting the lights off at night could save some money. Have a core group of FT staff vs an army of PT. Get rid of the paper towel and wipes in the fitness areas and use reusable towels and spray. Yes someone has to wash them but less trash and saves on buying expensive wipes or paper towel. The membership fees are almost as much as Servus for half the services. We should be charging for skating not free, that rink should have had stands built all the way around to bring in a bigger hockey venue. You guys failed with the Jets, no wonder they left. No one or sport should be getting away with free anything, it's a business every sporting group should be paying their way. The fire dept does not need any funding if anything it needs less and does not need any more full time positions.

Property tax is getting extremely high especially after moving and becoming new owner and receiving "updated" property valuation while neighbours on same street who have not relocated continue to enjoy lower amount. Either do the work and update all property values or increase all fairly by same percentage each year.

Property taxes in this town are absolutely ridiculous. Paying St Albert taxes for not the same services.

Get an outside opinion on budget and where cuts could be made. For a small town, we have very high taxes for the services provided

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

New developments should have wider roadways to allow traffic flow the new area roadways are too narrow

This town needs more pedestrian infrastructure. The path to nowhere isn't sufficient. Connect the town to the South Glens. Plant some trees, put out flowers. I'd pay for this. The MLC MUST have a comparable fitness center and gym to what's available elsewhere for it to be taken seriously. St. Albert gyms are open at 5am and have no shortage of space and equipment. The planners failed miserably with afterthought of a gym. Build it out and it will be a legitimate asset that doesn't require 3rd rate hours. More programming, better advertising of open gym hours. Outdoor pickleball courts, a skating and hockey rink. Come on, surely someone has thought of this. Put some lights outside and build some ball diamonds, basketball courts, and soccer fields. Make it attractive for the people and sponsors. I'd pay for this. More green space - put in BBQ pits, gazebos, etc. This town needs to be prettier. Draw people, draw commercial interest. I'd pay for this. What I don't want to pay for is half [REDACTED] walking paths (ie "paint a line along the industrial park cause that's a beautiful piece of land to walk through" and traffic lights that work great but the lane designation is trash (ie 100 & 100) so I have to sit through 2 cycles to turn right because people can park 20 feet from the intersection. This stuff makes people talk [REDACTED] about the town. Not a huge deal but I can assure you no one I talk to will ever move here. More pride, more people.

More Trails & larger fitness focus in the strength department (more space and strength equipment) More sports & activities throughout the year not just seasonal.

I would like to see the town decrease certain property taxes for those who are elderly & families who are or have a disabled member as we currently already pay more for everything such as medical equipment, extra items to give those disabled members the same chances as non disabled persons. Everything is expensive already without inflation. This would help give us the means to give our loved ones who are disabled or elderly a better chance at life.

Tired of the taxes increasing every year and getting less and less services.

We need to have a second exit from south glens. It needs to be prioritized for safety reasons.

I know I'm not directly part of Morinville. But we are so connected to and reliant on the prosperity of the town for our needs like shopping, business transactions and entertainment. As a new family expecting our first child we would love to see more recreational opportunities. A pool would be greatly appreciated by town residents and outlying communities. Spraydecks and expansion of the dog park would also fall high on my list. More programming for younger children and as a business owner I would love to see additional business development.

The budget should be released for what we are paying our town council and what they are working for hours as well as the expenses for them all. I know one person specifically who is off on trips very often if they can be away as often as they are then what on earth are they doing for council in the time that they are actually here. I am losing my confidence in our town council and have no idea where our money is actually going

We need a pool. And porta potties at parks.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

Build a pool. For the love of God. We are the only town this size with no pool. It's a disgrace.

More thingy the mlc

Question 27 is a joke. You're asking me to solve the city's problem by chasing away businesses because of the obtuse tax bracket. What am I willing to pay to solve the problem? How about you meter your staffing through year as it is required? Your employees drive around aimlessly in trucks they don't need doing nothing for. What appears to be year round. Plow the roads, cut the grass - hire for the season. Pay hourly. Permanent employees can take what's available or go to hourly.

BUILD AN INDOOR POOL AT THE REC CENTRE

Decrease something else to increase winter toad maintenance. Winter road maintenance doesn't happen as often as it should. Been declining every year since the last 25 years.

Our taxes are so incredibly high...we rival St. Albert with how much we pay and they have infinitely more amenities than we do. We chose to move to a small town and are ok with fewer amenities; but don't want to be charged as if we are St. Albert. Also, the leisure centre....what's the plan here? It seems like it's bleeding money instead of making money. You need some innovative and creative ideas in order to generate revenue in this area.

No tax increase? Where's that option? Actually getting something for our money? Investing into drawing in more businesses so our tax base is better?

I am satisfied with most of what the town does, but snow removal is the worst I've ever seen in any town, not including this past winter.

We need a pool !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Decrease the wasteful counsellors. Cut their expense budget, salary and numbers. Quit driving away business... ie Acana, pipeline company by mismanagement. Get rid of a ceo who tells councillors misinformation such as it is discrimination to force town employees to move to Morinville. All municipal staff should live in Morinville. They would then have a vested interest in town. Get competent planners

Last year I know numerous people wrote into the survey that we wanted to reduce staff in the town offices which in the end was ignored. Not sure if it really matters that we do the survey because the town will do whatever it wants to anyway. Ask for input & then ignore it.

Given the fact that our taxes have already increased substantially through the last year I would not be willing to pay any extra taxes until I seen the money actually being used for road maintenance and a plow coming down out street at least once in a winter season !!!!!!! The sidewalks and roads are an absolute disaster in this town with zero forward future planning apperantly in your guys budget.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

I honestly have no idea where the majority of the funding goes in this town. My property taxes are close to 7,000\$ this year and I don't see the value for my money. I paid less living in st.albert and had access to many more businesses, parks, green spaces, and services. I understand the town doesn't have much industry to offset the property tax costs, but at the same time we should be attracting these businesses and industries . St.albert also doesn't have much industry either , but the same tax rate as morinville . I'd like to see and have it made public the breakdown of where the funding goes, as does many other residents I have spoke too.

Less managers, no for events like pride week (these things should be voluntary and shouldn't be funded by everyone) . I also believe that managers should be working harder to find ways to cut costs and keep our taxes low

Taxes are outrageous for what residents receive in this town. Step one is reduce staffing of municipal employees at the MLC and in the town in general. Especially the guys who drive around town in the white half tons and accomplish absolutely zero on any given day. Why drive by my house three times a day? Just burning gas.? Been an issue for 15 years since I've lived here. Only maintenance staff who do any work are the young students hired in summers to cut grass and maintain flowers.

No tax increase period. Developers to pay cost to upgrade water/sewer when sizes need increase...Not longtime residents.

I live in an older part of town. Roads and sidewalks are in terrible condition. These need to be addressed without additional taxpayer funding. These are items that should have been budgeted prior over many tax years based on expected life of this infrastructure.

Please begin to put aside money to add a pool to the recreation centre. With a pool we would be able to provide adult, senior and people with physical limitations low impact exercise in the form of aqua aerobics as well as swim lessons for our local children and youth as well as bring in people from the surrounding area wishing to swim instead of going to St.Albert

More paved trails please

As a senior you have raised taxes to the point that living in this community is no longer viable. I will be selling my property due the enormous tax rates imposed by this community.

I have two comments/suggestions, firstly the snow removal during the winters is absolutely atrocious! I have NEVER seen a grader or even front end loader come and do the snow removal in the area of town that I live in and considering taxes for this year just got increased I hope to see this change this coming winter! My second comments is the fact that during sporting evens in the shell fields the care of those bathrooms is disgusting, the last time there was a sporting event there wasn't any toilet paper and also you have 2 bathrooms there, during big sporting events it draws alot off people and 2 bathrooms is NOT enough, temporary job John's or portable pottys need to be put into place!

Regional Municipality of Sturgeon. Consolidated expenditure and increase tax base.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

My taxes have increased by 100 a month, the numbers above are drastically different then the numbers I need to pay and I don't use anything Morinville offers my child doesn't even go to school in Morinville. So no I'm not ok with any of it!

I find some of the youth programming lacking, especially for the younger age groups. I end up spending money to go into St. Albert for programming. I've noticed a lot more families coming into Morinville lately and I think that should be noted when developing new things for the town. Even events sometimes are not geared towards how many more families are in town and I sometimes end up going elsewhere to meet the needs for my toddler. Stony Plain is a great community to look to. Moved from there and they really worked towards building a family oriented community for events and programming.

Keep the leisure center open to attract different sports events (i.e. ball hockey tournaments) rather than just locking the arena up and shutting the lights off over summer. Also this is the only leisure center that ever ever seen that is closed on a Sunday. (the day people are not working...) Review MLC management as they are not very hospitable at times to children and families. There is way too much staff there. Everything I have been there, there's people sitting around in the reception area for the amount of traffic they get. And, on many occasions there is one individual that works there constantly badgering kids for no reason. It is a family center, not the library.. Also. Trading off maintenance equipment that is still on good service on brand new equipment is also a waste of money. No business could ever run that way, neither can a municipality..

Increased recycling opportunities eg glass and increased plastics

I am not comfortable with tax increases EVERY YEAR for services that are already lacking and/or decreased. GIVE US A POOL. CLEAR OUR SNOW (the snow was not cleared a single time this year and only once last year). FIX ALL THE POTHOLES. FIX THE DRAINAGE ISSUES ON OUR SIDEWALKS. What are you even spending our tax dollars on? There are no parades, no carnival, no fireworks. This town has significantly decreased community events and maintenance in the 9 years since we moved here. It is extremely disappointing.

Stop asking for permission to increase taxes. Be more fiscally responsible with the money you collect.

Increase snow removal in lower traffic areas as the accumulation does damage vehicles and impede emergency services. Offer children's activities later in the day so working parents can get them to the events. Scheduled Town fireworks would be nice for things like Canada day to prevent random people doing their own.

I would prefer my taxes were to decrease based on the amount of amenities we have, not be increased yet again. They continue to rise as our benefits decrease. We no longer have things such as fireworks, St. Jean Baptiste parades, flowers throughout town. All things we had when our taxes were \$1000 cheaper. We have subdivisions that have no crosswalks to access the parks and many kids living there. Cars speed down the Main road in South Glens and kids are constantly trying to cross causing them to run across the road.

The only comment I have is please do not raise our property taxes anymore, they are already extremely high.

Fire town council. Hire new members with an annual salary cap of \$65-75,000.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

Loved the large item curbside pick up!!!

Stop taxing residents so high and concentrate on bringing in commercial business, use the industrial park as the means to attract and keep large business this will generate way more revenue

End the split mill rate and make businesses pay their fair share. I shouldn't be subsidizing local business owners' fancy cars or vacations with the taxes I pay on my primary residence.

No tax increase

Bylaw needs to spend time walking the trails to ensure pet owners are adhering to the leash laws. Worst town I've seen for off leash dogs. If we need more than I'd be happy increasing dollars to fund it.

Come up with a different management system for the assets, or sell non-revenue producing assets. Everything can be sold and taxpayers don't need an additional \$15+ per month in taxes.

The taxes should not go up. We pay more than everywhere around us. And get nothing.

I think the amount of staff at all town facilities are extremely inflated. We do not need 2-3 people just sitting at the front desks. There's no one in the MCCC so that's not necessary and it doesn't take 3 people to sign you in at the MLC. These extra staff are a huge cost

Our taxes have been climbing over past 10 yrs. The service in most cases has gotten a little worse. The advantage of small town close to St Albert is no longer there. I pay more than I would in St. Albert. And get no better service. The town is not getting any better looking either. It is starting to look like small town Alberta. There is beauty

More events such as fireworks, increased farmers market or community engagement. More funding for RCMP/police (new Detachment) as the current one seems really run down.

The MCCC and Leisure Centre have the appearance of being mismanaged. I'm not sure why they aren't utilized to their full potential and bringing in a profit as a result.

I want you to recognize that the tax dollar collected here in Morinville are atrocious compared to other municipalities such as Westlock, Gibbons etc. too many employees, too many committees who contribute nothing. Our mayor when campaigning stood at my door and promised increase tax funding generated from more businesses and he has done the exact opposite. Shame on him.

Cut town council salary and build a leisure center with proper amenities. This town is more expensive to live than any other municipality and has less to offer. Stop pushing small businesses out. Stop paying summer students to water plants in the rain or mow grass that is not long.

Increase the leisure centre to include a pool

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

I don't know why I'm paying almost \$5100 in taxes it's such BS!! You guys send me a letter saying I know how have to maintain TOWN property, the fence for my yard is rotten and you guys telling me i have to replace it. My land deed the fence is on TOWN property, you know the ugly blue fencing everyone has here. Our street was not cleared of snow 1 time the past winter!!! Yet you guys plow Skyline diamond parking lot, and continually to waste tax dollars to repair the gravol all summer because the town bylaw and rcmp is a joke. You guys don't do anything to stop the people drinking in the parking lot and ripping donuts all night (waking everyone up), throwing dust at my house all night, so I can't keep windows open. Yes I have called bylaw and rcmp and infact they went and talked to the kids drinking in the parking lot and let them all drive away after. You plant trees down our street but I'm not allowed a tree on MY property because I'm a corner lot. Rediculous!! You guys have not watered any of the trees on this street at all this year ether, you know those trees our tax dollars went to, that are not being maintained. Now, The roads! There still is NO lines painted so peopled are driving down the middle of 2 lanes, almost side swiping people who actually know where the lanes are. The intersection at Sobeys, people use the left hand turning lane facing north, to go straight thru causing near miss from the other direction turning left, as the turn lane is Supposed to be to turn, not go straight. I have witnessed pedestrians almost be hit because of this too. Another issue that is not enforced or watched. If anything there should be a left hand turn lane in each direction, if anything the other lane be straight AND right hand turns. The 4 way by circle K. People constantly run the stop signs, they don't even yield the stop they just blow thru. Again, another issue bylaw and RCMP never watch and enforce the rule breakers, but they'll fine you for a dirty license plate or burnt out bulb. Why is tax money paying for both of these 2 lousy "enforcement" companies?

After reviewing some of the budget items for Morinville, we feel that the Mayor and Town Council should re-evaluate some of their spending. When our taxes are so high compared to other municipalities, and our streets are not getting cleared and we are spending money on a back up generator for town hall, this money could have rather been spent maintaining our roads and infrastructure. We could also try to draw in other businesses to town which can benefit our residents instead of more liquor, pizza or cannabis stores.

Better road maintenance during winter would be best, also a suggestion would be increased activities year round, for example having an Oktober fest to engage the public better and to attract businesses interested into coming to Morinville and supporting the ones we have, more businesses means more options to invest into the town

I would be willing to pay more if I saw some real progress in maintenance. Roads in older neighbourhoods are dismal. Patch repair is not the solution. These roads are a priority, both for attractiveness and presentation of a community. Many visitors have commented on the disarray of our roads. This may be small, but it negative to attracting people to our community. Like a home for sale, presentation is everything. Foolish projects (ie. The main road crossing curbs) to me are very low on the priorty scale. Don't justify this as public safety. Driving habits are the root cause of safety issues, and flashing lights are a cheap supplement to increase driver awareness.

Why is the town paying for the small canadian flags to be placed at everyone's driveway. This is not only a waste of town dollars, but they directly go into the garbage and end up at the landfill. Its a nice gesture, but not with the tax increases.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

Our taxes are quite high considering we don't get snow removal on our street at all. The money saved from not having to do snow removal on our street two years in a row should help with not increasing our taxes. Thanks.

there should be money in the budget for hanging flower baskets. Where did they go? The Town used to be so pretty! Recycle collections should be collecting glass and cans too.

Roads were not plowed once last year where did that money go..There are no stores in this town for the amount of taxes we pay. A big increase in our taxes and nothing to show for it. Sidewalks are in terrible shape

Get back to the basics. The roads and sidewalks are terrible in all the areas. Cut back on other areas and increase funding to achieve better roads, etc. It should not be an automatic increase in taxes to achieve a goal. Look at the manpower level and again I stress, this is not sustainable. There are far too many "administration/supervisors/managers and not enough workers on staff. Water and Sewer Dept has not had an increase in manpower in how many years and yet how many Client Service Reps do you have on staff now? Far too many!!

There are grants and subsidies for the Town of Morinville to the repair of the trail around the fish and game pond and other areas. See attached website information: <https://www.alberta.ca/municipal-grants-management-application>. This is from the Alberta.ca website. I have encountered seniors who are wary about walking around the Fish and Game pond due to the many cracks in the trail.

Everyone complains and wants more amenities but they aren't in favour of spending more money. It would be nice to have more amenities but we have an overabundance already in Pot stores, Liquor stores. I think council should look into more variety in stores that would be for everyone, like clothing stores. We don't need more than two Dollar Stores, etc. quality over quantity.

- more beautification done. 4 planter on main street doesn't do it. There used to be planters and baskets down the main streets. Plant trees in the boulevards along hwy 642 quit piling snow there, again there were trees. Take a hard look at Fire dept vehicle replacement intervals. Replacing too soon for the amount they are used. Attract a Hotel/motel to compliment events that could come to use our facilities. Go back to having a summer parade and fireworks and cut the winter parade

Prioritization of infrastructure, business growth and upkeep/upgrading of green spaces. Cut funding to all diversity initiatives.

It would be nice if the town would build the pool like they showed when building started for the MLC, access to activities during our cold winters would benefit a lot of people, especially when travelling in winter isn't always an option. Also the play place at the MLC is very disappointing. Parents would love a place to take littles with more options to play, grow and learn. Having access in town so I could buy a pair of pants would be nice as well. Similar to giant tiger for example. St. Albert receives so much of our business simply because Morinville doesn't have the things we enjoy or need.

Please attract more local jobs

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

No tax increase is best

I'd like to see the fountain in St. Jean Babtiste Park in operation. It has not worked for years. Why is That? Also the historic walk signs are all gone. Is it that costly to maintain the signs and provide a historic walk for residents and visitors? Has the historic walk been discontinued? If so please remove the placard/sign markers. Could we modify the entrance on Cardiff Road and 100 St. to be free flow for traffic coming off Hwy 2, and add a merge lane for traffic turning right from 100 st. on to Cardiff road? Let's take a more progressive look at our community and look at continuous improvement. There was a long range plan to add a swimming pool to the leisure centre. What ever happened to that initiative? Families in this Town deserve more, evey if it costs more. What is the long range plan for the leisure centre?

This all came down to the tax dollar! Election time: won't be voting for any of the current candidates on board, lazy!

As a resident from South Glens: when will the East Boundary Road be paved? When will there be a trail going down East Boundary Road? The trail alongside is too close to 100 Street. There are large vehicles driving down this road, and I need to move off the opposite side of the trail so my dogs won't get spooked. During winter the snow plough went thru our street once! During summer, park maintenance in South Glens is poor. Crews haven't trimmed around light posts, sign posts, mail boxes, and dog poop bags haven't been replenished.

Update these old buildings and make them into something people will use

Why is there no option for a 0 dollar tax increase. We have had large increases over the past 3 years and we need a break.

Taxes are already high for what this town offers. Which is not much in comparison to other communities around. People of the town should not have to pay increased taxes as I dont believe it is fair.

There is a lot of uncompleted neighborhood development in Morinville. I think council should push developers to complete these existing areas before we stretch our existing infrastructure by developing new neighborhoods.

It feels very much like the value for our tax dollar is not there. It's frustrating to see so many people seek recreation/shopping options/sports opportunities elsewhere. As a family with teens, there are not a lot of things to do in this town nor job opportunities to keep them interested in staying here after high school. It is imperative that the business community be strengthened and expanded to create a more affluent tax income for the town.

I am against all tax increases would consider leaving Morinville if taxes were increased

Would love to see more restaurants and stores open up as well as a pool to be built. More green spaces with trees/shade and seating. Would also love more benches within the dog park that aren't low enough for dogs to pee on the seats.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

I own a home south glens. There is only snow removal on the 1 main road through the neighbourhood. The 2 playgrounds have been mowed but no weed whacking. South glens is very underdeveloped when it comes park, walking trails and roads to access the neighbourhood. There are no commercial developments. We are already paying a substantial amount to taxes for very little amenities and maintenance in our neighborhood.

Roads in the older parts are town are terrible. Only a few pot holes get fixed and many are missed. When they are missed - they just get bigger and won't get fixed until next year. The town used to tar the cracks every year - which helps with less road repair in the long run. I have been here for 40 plus years and there has been a decline in the work done.

Bring back the Incredible Edibles program - food security is important, and it's an easy program for the Town to re-implement and maintain. We don't really need flowers(save the \$\$ to use for food producing plants) in the ground-based planters on main streets and the East boundary garden - grow food and herbs and get the community involved! No one "wants" a tax increase, but as the financial stewards of this community, Council MUST consider the long-term viability of this Town, and the real amount of revenue required to keep it that way while planning for our future needs in infrastructure and rainy-day reserves. Stop campaigning as the good guys and do what really needs to be done! Governance is not a popularity contest.

We have some of the highest taxes & least services compared to surrounding areas. We have to go outside the town for a good dog park/off leash pond & trail; Canada Day fireworks; treed parks & most shopping. Our residential roads are dangerous to drive on in the winter & cars often get stuck in our cul de sac due to such slow snow removal. My husband & I are always questioning where the bulk of tax money goes, because they keep going up yet nothing seems to be changing on the big items families seem to utilize. We don't believe we should be paying almost \$1000 more on our taxes than friends in Sherwood Park, which boasts far more than Morinville. We're not after living in a city but we would desire our taxes to reflect the small town we live in.

I don't think the fire department needs any more funding. They have the nicest equipment in the surrounding area. I think the town should up keep the grass around the rec center. It doesn't look very appealing driving into town with the way it looks. I would like to see the trails and parks keep getting funded to expand and be maintained. I would like to see the tennis courts get re done. I wish there was a swimming pool added to the rec center. Can there be a spot to bring extra grass or tree branches if your barrel is full.

I wouldn't have any problem at all paying more taxes if services increased. Our street/cul-de-sac is never plowed. We can barely get out of our driveways with small cars.

I would like to see a more detailed budget to see what is being spent where.. as property taxes increased quite a bit yet we lack a lot of other amenities as other comparable towns.

I can't afford to pay more. That's why I live here. If it gets too expensive, I'm moving to the city

Pls build a pool

Having drop in child care services at the leisure centre would help.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

Morinville roads are a disaster. Also we never received one time that snow removal was done. transportation to St. Albert would be another one that our town needs.

I am actually not comfortable with any increased tax dollar in morinville. 0 was not an option to select and that should have been an option to select in this survey. Morinville has taxes that are pretty darn similar to St. Albert and Edmonton and for what. Morinville has absolutely nothing. Groceries are expensive in town. We will travel to St. Albert for that. Swimming lessons for kids we have to travel for that. You guys say you aren't putting in a swim pool in Morinville because other places have the option for us to use their pool except swimming lessons registration opens a week early for the residents where the swimming pool is at so picking swim lessons when it opens up to the public is very slim picking to sometimes none in St. Albert. The base charges an arm and a leg. Our population is more then Westlock so compare prices how much they loose in money for having a pool is ridiculous because they population is 3500 and it is an older community Westlock. But hey at least they have a hospital and pool to show for that town. Morinville has a population of over 10000 and you guys wanted to spend money to call it a city! A city with no pools, no good businesses, no Walmart, no movie theatre, no pool, no competition for other businesses to drive their prices down in town except for the liquor stores. We get charged for garbage removal and are often missed once every 3 months and yet we get the same response from the town lady that the garbage said they reply they have picked it up and we have to always respond if they picked it up we wouldn't be contacting the town about this. Then are told the garbage company are reviewing their video footage and that is it. I'm sorry I would like the video proof they picked up the garbage because they are lying. We do not get any reimbursement for them missing our garbage can which is a rip off. There is no way our property taxes should be at the same rate as St. Albert as their population is way higher then ours and has all the amenities. People will not want to live here anymore and you will not get new people to live in Morinville. They will choose to live in St. Albert knowing that our property tax is the same as theirs and we have absolutely nothing to show for it. Morinville also does not give fireworks in Canada days or any other special holidays. We also have to travel to legal or St. Albert for these. Our tax dollars is being spent on pretty much mayors and councillors salary and not for the people who have voiced their concerns on property tax. Kids cannot get jobs very easily in town because their isn't many businesses here.

Control your spending for projects that are not critical; like the cost of speed limit signs; turnabout traffic circles where traffic lights would be cheaper; control wages

The walking path at the lake in the lakes is terrible. It is basically unusable most of the year as it is all under water. I would like to see some work to grade it so the water doesn't accumulate and possibly have it paved. I would prefer no tax increase. Instead look at other cost savings strategies. For example, split shifts at MLC- I drive by and see 5-7 cars in the lot. When you cut hours during the summer I can't help but wonder if it would be better utilized in the morning and evening and not middle day. Where can I find the data used to make the decision to reduce the hours to what they are? We saw plows out when there was only a skiff of snow. Remove some town operated positions. 3 people working in the library at the same time when I was the only one in there... can 1 person be there at a time? Etc. we put council in place to also come up with cost saving ideas so I don't think I need to do all the thinking.

We need a pool!

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

Paving east boundary road would be very beneficial personally as well as alleviating some of the through traffic in town. I understand this is a capital project and bigger than budget 2025.

I voted to increase taxes to improve snow removal services and saw nothing to show for it. Unless I see actual improvements I am not content with any increases

The town council needs to understand that running our town is not like running a business. You are providing a service to its residents. If you want to encourage people to stay here, don't give them reasons to leave the community and spend money elsewhere. I strongly feel if red water and Thorhild can properly fund an outdoor pool, our town that is well over 10,000 can also fund one too. You would kids here, create jobs for youth and the cost would be from May until end of September I hope council can start thinking about progress and the future of our town instead of their conservative friends and only the people who vote for them. Some people cannot see past the end of their nose when it comes to progress

I would like to see less money spent on development parkland where money is spent on development, grass and shrubbery, then it is wasted as no one looks after it cause it cost too much. Case in point the leisure center and the lawns around there must of cost a bundle to us the tax payer. Now it is just a pile of fox tails and weeds. Cut the waste of the leisure center and staff. There are rarely enough cars there that it is paying for itself and most of the cars must belong to the staff. Or create better programs that brings payers in. I would like my snow in my crescent cleaned at least once this season. 2 seasons no snow removal which resulted in a lot of ice build up and ice jams in driveways, thanks. I pay over 3 thos a year in taxes and get very little for that very little. Why do seniors have to pay a school tax. I paid it when my kids went to school but why do seniors who have no kids have to pay for others kids. Its all the extras that force seniors and others out of their homes, again thanks.

Questions 28 and 29 only account for increased taxes, with no option for staying the same or decreasing taxes. The economy is tough on everyone, not just government. Individuals are forced to use the same amount of money more effectively, so government on all levels should be expected to do the same.

I believe that more strategic planning could lead to better distribution of funds. Raising taxes shouldn't be an option until essential services, such as snow removal on all roads, are significantly improved

You can either make better decisions and bring some industry into this town. So you can lower taxes or you can leave. None of this council seems to know what they are doing. There are all of these bs pet projects and the old arena fiasco. Sell the mlc and figure something out about bringing business to the town. Raising property tax is going to make people move. I'm on the verge of leaving myself. Also get rid of the stormwater tax. I k ow you call it a fee. It's a tax, I have no choice but to pay it. I can't control the rain and snow, so get rid of it. I'd be ok if it was still like \$5 a month but \$20. Get real. It should be \$0. We pay taxes for that kind of stuff. I would like a -1000 a year tax or at minimum a \$0 a month increase. This council is so full of it they hold private meetings. All meetings should be open to the public and there should be live streams of all of them. How about you save some money so that we can start paying off the town debt. Sell building permits for commercial and industrial so we can get the town rolling in the right direction.

Would be amazing to have snow removal on side streets. I don't think the street were plowed once last year.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

I feel that the funds should just be out to better use. It does not make sense to me that the taxes are nearly as high as St. Albert while providing only a small fraction of services they offer. I also come from a town where property taxes on an \$800k home is less than what we pay here on \$300k home. It is very disappointing and to me signals a misuse of residents tax dollars. Many residents are disgusted at how fast the tax assessments are climbing while seeing either no difference or less in quality and quantity of services offered by this town. I can only hope that this survey hears the same responses I have personally heard from residents of this town. Maybe the town should look at pauses in salary of employees.

While I understand not having the population of other communities around us means we as tax payers need to pay more for the town to afford the costs of infrastructure and community maintenance, I do not see anywhere near the value in regards to services for what we pay. For 2 winters now, our road has not been plowed a single time, while almost all other surrounding communities have theirs plowed multiple times a season. Maintenance of green spaces appears to have the absolute bare minimum of a mow every few weeks, but no weed whipping completed allowing grass and weeds to grow out of hand along fence lines, benches etc. We have a very expensive rec center with a barely usable gym, and unless you are a family with kids involved in sports, I don't see any value in it otherwise, yet an exorbitant amount of taxes goes to maintaining this rec center every year. The only options available in this survey has me answering that I only support an increase in taxes when what I would really like is for the town to be fiscally responsible enough to make me see the value of service that we receive for our current tax rate. It's hard for me to say yes to increasing taxes without even having a single snow ow drive down my street for over two years.

I understand that previous councils have not maintained infrastructure leading to the hole we are in now. This fact is also poorly communicated to the public. I feel that a re-prioritization of where budget money is spent should happen first. I think we have budget money being poorly used, ex. the library. Also, the question, what increased tax value are you comfortable paying, has no option that says no tax increase or reallocation.

Our taxes are SO high!!! It's actually ridiculous. The town of St. Albert has taxes this high! Cost of living is currently atrocious. What is being done around Morinville to justify taxes being so high? From our perspective we can't see it. Sidewalks aren't plowed quickly, we live next to an elementary school that's not plowed timely in the winter. That's just ridiculous. Increase nothing. Nobody can afford an increase right now anyways.

To provide context, I am dissatisfied with the winter snow and ice removal not because there is too much attention paid to some areas and not enough in others. In the winter the main roads are plowed constantly, and I often see plows needlessly clearing the main streets after barely any snow has fallen. On the other hand, the street on which I live is rarely plowed, and some of the other streets in our area get very difficult to drive on. It will often take a full week for our street to get plowed after a heavy snowfall, and the back lane won't be plowed at all. It's frustrating to have to shovel our street just so that we can drive on it while the main streets are scraped bare to the asphalt. I am also frustrated to hear that taxes will be increasing again for 2025. We have only lived in Morinville since purchasing our house 3 years ago, and taxes have already increased significantly during that time. We're paying tax rates similar to what we paid when we lived in St. Albert, and getting way less value in terms of amenities and services back.

The Town of Morinville needs to invest in the beautification of 100th Avenue and 100th Street.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

Why does the town of Morinville have so many employees to do most of the outside jobs, but instead they hire it out to contractors and our machines just sit there.

Although we'd be willing to support funding for attracting business or even some kind of swimming pool/recreation where people can actually go to keep fit.. there seems to be nothing here for people in their 30's - 50's. Having moved here in the past few years, the taxes and availability of things in this town, do not go hand in hand. Living on South Glens we already pay astronomical taxes, compared to the small city we moved from that had EVERYTHING for all ages. The parks were beautiful, leisure centres with pools, running tracks. The abundance of stores/restaurants and snow removal for everyone there! Not one Winter have Morinville cleared out snow where we are in south glens, leading to problems with driveways and packed snow on top of ice. Not sure where these high taxes actually go to!!??

We just moved to morinville and love the town. Would love to see a little work done on the roads, new lines painted on main street. Also baby swings added to all parks and we would love for there to be a swimming pool at the leisure centre

Pool

I'm fine with paying higher taxes, but I would like to see something come of it. Better snow removal, better festivals for all ages, not just toddlers. Bring more business.

It is a growing concern that Morinville residents pay fairly high taxes considering the services provided are far less than other municipalities. I feel that rather than constantly increasing residential/commercial rates, there should be a halt on wage increases for council and staff to reflect the current economy affecting other industries throughout Morinville.

Keep tax increases under 3.5 %

I've lived in Morinville for 31 years and love the community. Taxes have remained reasonable with the increase in infrastructure, and it seems to be attracting business. Hopefully that will help keep our taxes low.

Snow removal is a disgrace

I do not want any increase in tax dollars. My taxes have already gone up by over \$1000 since I moved here in 2011. I only have one entrance/exit to my subdivision, south glens, my road has maybe been plowed 3 times in the last 3 years. Our sidewalks are falling apart in places, we have to chip ice away from the drains on the road every year not to mention chipping the ice away on the road in front of our house so that the road is not higher than the sidewalk. Until services improve in our subdivision I am not accepting of an increase to my taxes. We are already considering selling due to the lack of services and moving to st albert

I would like to see a better system of walking and biking trails. Not have to go on town sidewalk to get to them. We also really need a swimming pool. My kids are moving away with my grandkids because they want more for the price of their taxes.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

For future surveys it would be prudent to include “no opinion” as an option. For example, I have not had experience with a number of the services listed above so I selected “maintained” simply because I cannot speak in favour of more or less investment in a service I have not used.

I feel for the amount we pay in taxes and bills there are not enough services to reflect this. Taxes are already too high yet your questions only relate to increasing taxes. This survey being biased towards increasing taxes in the end questions will have everyone stating they want taxes increased as there is no option for looking at alternate ways to either keep taxes where they are or decrease them.

Reduce the wages of council members. Do not spend money on religious or special interests groups like LGBT picnic picnics. The government should be a neutral, unbiased entity. Follow Westlock’s example in this manner. Lastly, the reception staff at the town office have always, in my experience, been friendly and professional.

Taxes are already much too high for the level of services provided.

I am tired of asking for anything from the town because before the survey started it would mean more taxes when we don't get the service any more like a number of years ago. Now I understand the excuse that the cost of everything goes up, but how is the management being handled. For example when they did maintenance on our road in front of our home it was pathetic. There were about 7 people and a number of trucks and after the work was so called completed it looked like 2 young men with ambition and only a wheel barrow could have done far more than all of them combined. Where is the management skills to handle something like this. I guess I remember the old story was when the town used to do the work it took 10 supervisors and one to do the work. Things never change no one (management) in the town cares and if inspected to see if it done correctly. In other words they almost done nothing and get paid to do it. If you think I am one of those chronic complainers I am not, but would like to see my tax dollars at work. Maybe you should hire people and pay them big wages to ask us if we want our taxes raised like the town did so lovingly and faithfully during COVID when everybody was struggling financially. Maybe you needed to hire more people hahaha. Signed maybe you could hire me to a critic I don't mind to get paid big money to do nothing well at least I can think.

No tax increase is best

If taxes are going to be increased then make sure it is for everyone. Taxes are already so expensive and all we have to show for it is 2 hockey rinks.

I am pretty satisfied, except in the case of snow removal. You leave it until it dangerous. Many pie shaped lots have absolutely not where to put the snow except the street Do better snow removal. Not one time did you remove snow/ice from my street last winter ... not once. Use common sense not some snow pack gauge.

We really need to focus on bringing in industrial and commercial properties to offset the tax burden on residents. We need to be more future thinking, attract people to our area, but difficult when the municipality is in such a financial debt situation.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

If we are going to increase taxes to pay for increased services, I expect to see increased services. We increased our taxes last year to pay for more/ better snow removal and some how I didn't get any snow removal. Not one single day did anyone come to remove snow on my street. Not only that but when I first moved to Morinville, they use to completely remove the snow off the roads. Now they leave big piles of snow on the side of the roads. How are we paying more for less services? I like the thought of paying more to grow our community. But only if we are getting more growth out of it. The service center lost hours and yet we paid more taxes. We pay less in taxes than other cities because we have less infrastructure/ services to take care of. How does it make sense that we are close to paying the same as st Albert or edmonton in taxes when we are MUCH SMALLER! And have way less amenities/ services to take care of. How are we paying more in taxes every year and yet our roads still have giant craters in them? So sure, take more taxes. Your going to anyways. BUT ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING WITH THEM. DO WHAT YOUR PROMISES. If you increase then to provide more snow removal, then provide more snow removal!!!! Maybe you should be doing surveys on how happy we are with the way you spend our money to begin with and stop asking us for more.

I support a zero dollar per month increase to account for inflation. I don't understand how the last few statements can be true per capita when our tax rate is one of the highest of all the greater edmonton area. If you cannot convert your assets into financial gains (???) then maybe you should consider divesting some of these high maintenance assets and/or reducing the amount if full-time employees the town has.

Disappointed with poor financial management by Council. When elected they said taxes going down.

Small request: I wish areas like the outdoor rink got more service since it's usually filled with debris and rocks. It's the only flat area to rollerskate in town and I can barely use it without falling over rocks

We pay for Bylaw enforcement but I don't see the Bylaws being enforced ie trailers hanging over the roadway or sidewalks. Bushes hanging halfway over the sidewalk restricting passage.

I have none at the moment.

I really don't know if the Bylaw budget needs to be increased but I would like to know what bylaw officers do any why a complaint has to be called in when blatant infractions are taking place. ie vehicles and boats parked on front lawns.

Although increases are expected due to inflation, the Town continues to waste money through my observations of inefficient operations, inadequate long term asset management renewal programs, fails to compel developers from building appropriate neighborhoods with connective asphalt trails to existing nor boulevard trees, nor appropriate Final Acceptance Certification requirements of infrastructure. The Town needs to examine why and how much money is being spent on mobile equipment replacement compared to contracting service external for more cost effective means of public works equipment and operations, as well consider lessor expensive alternatives to vehicles of fleet as well as fire service apparatus which appear to be the absolute highest end unit/options.

Infrastructure I think should be a priority

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

Pump track by the skate park better splash park and make a swim able lake in Morinville with slides like whitecourt

I do not support any raises to taxes. Find savings and alt revenue streams. This survey does not permit the resident to not support increased taxes. Furthermore, town utilities have been increasing drastically.

The last question on what tax increase I would be comfortable paying does not have a zero or nil to check. Also, we moved to Morinville over ten years ago. Lower tax rates partially helped us decide to move from St. Albert to here. Taxes have increased every year since we have been here and with very few public amenities IE. pools, recreation facilities, it is really hard now to justify continuing to reside in Morinville.

Services such as organics pick up should start earlier and end later. In Bylaw, unkept properties should be held responsible for the look of the town itself. It is difficult to live next to these derelict properties year after year. They certainly bring down property values.

We have lived in Morinville for five years. Our taxes have gone up from \$4900 to \$6100. We have never lived anywhere before where our taxes have increased dramatically like that. Our road 106 Avenue was not plowed in this winter located in the lakes. The gardens behind our house are not taken care of properly which is disappointed especially with climate change the town should be taken care of the trees!!

I've seen job opportunities like "Communicating the Town's Goals" etc... Office jobs. The pay seems pretty high. Over \$100,000. Wondering if that is necessary. How much are the rest of the town employees paid? I think if you want to make 100,000 you should be working in the private sectors and not small town Alberta where people are having a hard time making ends meet. I could be wrong. Other than that I love Morinville.

If facing financial hard choices, basic services (road maint, snow/ice removal) should always take precedence over any cultural themed events or recreational funding. Just keeping the lights on and the water clean seems to be challenging to most municipalities nowadays. Let get the basics right.

I do not see my tax dollars at work. The dead trees on Main Street, the potholes, the empty business buildings/lots, the cars racing down the street with no consequences. Enough of the woke crap like pride flag raising & picnic, and more actual day to day things that we ALL want done. (Oh, and we all want a pool!!)

Had \$1,500 damage to SUV because of ice ruts on my road. Son also got stuck & he owns a Toyota Tundra!

I feel the town should put more money into fixing the downtown. Make it look more presentable and modern. Bring in more Infrastructure and new businesses. The Town could save money by getting rid of some personnel like HR. There are 6 who work for the town that's too many. And communication personnel you only need 1 or 2 not 4 or 5. The Town spends way too much money on town employees, especially... *[ineligible/handwritten comment]*

A partnership with the YMCA of Northern Alberta may take some costs away for community services - maybe even possibly offer child care / summer services if a space is available? Just an idea.

Appendix A – Written Comments on Budget (cont.)

Generally, I would like to see service maintained, if needed a decrease in grass cutting, and museum could be cut.

I would not support an increase in any tax increase until I see what the Mayor / Council propose.

After living here for 37 years it would be really nice if our road and sidewalk was repaired properly as opposed to the extremely half-hearted job that was done about 15 years ago. Especially after watching every other part of town done at least once!

The Pride event was amazing and very much appreciated! Was a great family event. Also, out of all the services in town, the library is the one we use the most. It has saved us so much and allows us to still be entertained despite the rising cost of everything, including books! Plus the programming and socializing has been a boost for my mental health. Thank you for investing in these town events and services!

Find a way to return to year around early morning and late evening to accommodate the fact that people who work wish to be able to exercise before or after work.



Appendix B – Written Comments on Growth

The final part of the Budget 2025 Engagement Survey focused more on growth than anything, examining how respondents would like to see Morinville evolve in the coming years. As part of this, survey respondents were given the opportunity to provide longer-form qualitative opinions on growth through written submissions. These written comments are included below, verbatim; comments have been unedited and unaltered, to ensure that the original intent of the respondent’s opinion is not lost.

Many of the comments received in offering this opportunity to respondents pertain to the need for economic development and diversification, and the need to grow the tax base while diversifying from residential taxes as a main source of funding.

Please provide any additional comments/suggestions you have on Morinville’s growth.

Morinville has a long standing infrastructure deficit and needs to address that prior to creating even more roads it cannot maintain. Attract commercial and industrial growth first.

As Morinville has more than 10000 people needed to become a city, why hasn’t it seek city status from the province and when does it plan on seeking city status from the province?

If it decreases the amount of property taxes we pay by having more people or businesses paying taxes then I am all for it. As it is, I am thinking of leaving Morinville bc of the high taxes.

Stop gate keeping the town and allow businesses to move in with ease

Need to add industrial as well as commercial and residential. Otherwise taxes get out of hand.

Growth is needed if our municipality wants to fiscally prosper, but future residential developments must take a “connect community” approach. Green Spaces & Paths should take future development into consideration, so there is continuity throughout the town.

Morinville needs to embrace growth, both residential and non-residential growth. The current Economic Development team is making strides in making the development process easier. However, there are still ASP's that create more red tape than necessary. More investment is needed in making lands development ready.

Build the pool and more people will come, more business will come and more tax base.

With too much growth, I worry about more crime.

In order to make it worth while to residents to stay within the Town of Morinville, the business and services sector need to improve. Putting more residents and trying to triple in size is not sustainable and will damage the charm that the town is working to create

I enjoy the small town feel. I think if the population doubles we would move further ‘out’.

Appendix B – Written Comments on Growth (cont.)

Has consideration been made to share services with surrounding communities eg: HR, payroll, streamlining services that may be duplicated in other communities...if online customer service is being utilized perhaps this service can be shared thus reducing personnel who provide this service in each community.

I think that growth needs to also respect what residents also do for work in town. Making life more difficult for residents to make business owners happy is not the correct action

Attract more businesses so people can truly support local. Use increased revenue from business taxes to reduce the burden on residential taxes

Stop allowing liquor stores, pizza parlours and cannabis stores we have more than enough. Why can't we bring in DIFFERENT businesses

if you are going to think about growth start with redoing the intersection my Sobeys and getting traffic flow better. We can not grow if there is no room for more traffic

Need more commercial and business tax base

Get rid of some of the red tape to make it more affordable and easier to invest and get rid of some high paying jobs that aren't necessary at the town.

Do not create exceptions for development that are going to saddle the town with future infrastructure or budget issues. (ie. South Glens). The development needs to be well planned, thought out, and the impacts that come with a large population increase (ie. Fire Services, new RCMP Depot), more traffic lights, ect. need to be understood and accounted for.

Make us not have to commute to other communities for basic amenities. Bring in a better grocery store like Walmart/superstore with clothing, housewares, electronics etc.... Have a pool!

I would like to see more diverse businesses in town other than what is already here.

Make the town attractive and a place people want to live in. Look at our Main Street for example.

Don't agree with being taxed more for growth.

If you build it, they will come...

Growth of the town is important, but asking residents to pay for it is not sustainable. People move here because of the advantages of being a small town. But sustainability is important to the residents. Maybe the town needs to attract private enterprise to support infrastructure, rather than increasing cost to residents. Increasing town size needs a balanced budget not deficits before growth continues.

When is the swimming pool coming to the centre

Appendix B – Written Comments on Growth (cont.)

Need the infrastructure and service improved before further growth

Believe in traffic lights and don't tax us to death, consider wages changes before anything else.

Any more residential development must have wide enough streets, some only have room for 1 car. Totally unsafe

Everything sounds great

Many of us have chosen to live in Morinville and raise our families here because it is a smaller, safer town with a community feel to it and we do not WANT to live in a City. We also do not need any more business in Morinville if it is just another liquor, vape or cannabis store. We are maxed out in that area and any new business allowed should be more useful and "family" and "senior" focused... like clothes and shoes stores. We cannot even buy a pair of socks in Morinville.

Make the skatepark better

Make it attractive to businesses. Tax breaks

Let's ensure we are bring a variety of stores, no more pizza, alcohol or pot stores. Offer tax incentives in to attract new business.

Town should grow and become more diverse and open to new people. Town is rather racist as someone who is white and has lived on this town over 30 years I don't know why new people would want to move here town isn't very welcoming to people who are not white straight and Christian

We could really benefit from actual shops/amenities that would attract new residents. Such as a strip mall with a winners/sportchek etc

If your projecting this much growth, taxes can remain the same if not less and gather money from the projected growth instead.

We need more diverse business growth. Further liquor stores, pot shops and pizza places should be rejected.

Small businesses struggle in Morinville, not sure why other than people don't like to shop local. They seem to shop close to where they work more often.

In order for the Town to financially thrive, we desperately need business growth. Homeowner taxes are clearly not enough to handle the towns financial needs. Too many of our teenagers cannot find work within town and therefore are looking for work in St. Albert.

We need more clothing stores and options. More sit down restaurants not liquor stores or bars or fast food joints. We need a pool and things for our older youth

Appendix B – Written Comments on Growth (cont.)

More Industrial land is required

I'm glad I raised my kids here, but if I had to do it again not a chance. There are fewer amenities here now compared to when I moved here in the 1980s. I also felt Town Of Morinville somehow kept their employees longer and they were all friendlier and knowledgeable. I don't believe it is that way now. And definitely not that it is the town's fault, but to not even be able to obtain the small store in town so that seniors could buy some needed clothing or shoes without having to go to Saint Albert. So a young family when their child loses his winter boots they could go somewhere to get another pair of boots.

Approval for new businesses should be thoroughly thought out prior to approval. We don't need another dog food plant fiasco. Resident's quality of life should always trump every business approval.

I'm not sure how the town expects to grow when it's clear to anyone travelling through town that the roads aren't kept up. People looking to move here would typically be commuting. They'd expect to get in and out of their neighborhoods without taking out a rim or tire.

A pool is essential

Fix the leisure centre, build the gym larger, less management, hire only locals, allow CornHole, welcome local leagues to use the facilities without charging an arm and leg, this will grow the community instead of these leagues growing elsewhere.

More residents equals more demand for local goods and services which means increasing the local business community. More businesses means less reliance on residential taxes to fund the municipality which is what we should be focused on.

It would be nice to see a better variety of grocers and pharmacies (that aren't owned by Loblaws), like an H&W or Giant Tiger. Bigger companies are a good fit here for more jobs, people wouldn't have to drive out of town for work.

Need more businesses. Not beer, pizza, and weed stores. What about family restaurants. Or chains like Giant Tiger, they would do so good around here. Need more Dr's. Need better mental health systems. If you want a town to grow, and raise taxes just because... then bring in more to the town to make it better. And lower the prices on things... if it's cheaper for me to get things from the city or online then locally.. I'm gonna do that before buying locally... that's not how you support your town and keep it bustling.

Swimming pool

Fix the current roads and infrastructure before planning growth.

MORINVILLE need to increase the non resident tax to offset residential taxes and bring more services that will trigger residential growth.

Appendix B – Written Comments on Growth (cont.)

Hold off more weed. Liquor and hair salons

In general, locally provide the stores and services required by the population so that our dollars don't have to be given to businesses in St. Albert and Edmonton. Also, find/create a NICHE for Morinville's economic growth. Right now we are nothing but a suburb, with no identifiable advantages for businesses to bother coming here. Should we be an agriculture hub? Should we cater to businesses and workers in the Sturgeon Heartland? What advantage does Morinville have in order to attract a strong business/industrial base from across Northern Alberta, all of Alberta, or even all of Canada. At present, Morinville is nothing but a liquor store, pot-store commercial magnet. To still be relevant in 5-years, we need more than just pot and liquor stores.

We really would benefit from a hotel. The town economic staff should pursue this with companies. Doesn't make sense we host so many tournaments and people have to leave town.

Offer great opportunities for different kinds of businesses. To attract new growth and people to invest into the town.

Encourage more business tax base..

Make entrances into all subdivisions wider

Try and attract more businesses to town. You can get the bare essentials here but still need to travel into St Albert/Edmonton for other items.

It's too close to the city, you're going to lose your small town feel anyway... it's already gone.

Focus on making what is here amazing before focusing on what else can be brought in. Things will get forgotten.

Need to tax businesses at equitable rate to attract growth that will bring development

The town of Morinville is not suited to any higher population, just look at 100 Av, 100 St and then add 3 times the amount of cars. It would be total disfunction. Keep this town as a small quiet town.

The only growth in Morinville is down by NO Frills. 99 Avenue is dying. The province owning hwy642 thru town has not improved development along the roadway. More and more lots are being vacated in the down town core. The old Zoo is a perfect example - sold for back payment to the town and is now a vacant fenced gravel lot. There are lots along 642 that have been vacant for years. The town needs to encourage growth along 642 not 2 Km from the down town core. Shoppers moving by No Frills will leave another vacant building. There are rumours of another large business vacating the down town core. Get with the province and encourage the growth of the old down town core. Get some of the money back from the province taken by the Kenny government and encourage the growth of businesses so less of the tax burden will be on the residents.

Spend money better use to grow community, stop spending money on items that could be use towards road care

Appendix B – Written Comments on Growth (cont.)

As of now, it seems to be stagnant.

Growth allows for more business opportunities, which will employ the locals and increase town revenue

The Main Streets in town are unsightly and poorly maintained. The thrift store looks like it vomits it's entire contents onto the sidewalk every morning, bylaw enforcement seems blind to it, and public green spaces and easements are w full of weeds and overgrown grass. To attract growth surely a more welcoming and tidy environment would be helpful.

I find the problem with businesses in town is business hours. If they are not open after 6:00 a lot of business is being lost to St. Albert. Also if we could get a Hotel it would increase business at the MCCC. With no place in town to stay it limits opportunities.

Raise business taxes

We need places to buy underwear

I still don't believe in raising our taxes.

No additional taxes,

Town needs to be more receptive to new Businesses and actively engage in negotiations to grow the business sector.

I think we should bring in businesses other than shoppers, pizza joints and liquor stores.

I think there needs to be more of an emphasis on all around growth, not just residential. I would love more services in town, and I think that goes hand in hand with sustainable growth.

A balanced approach of attracting business to support the tax base and allowing for residential growth at the same time.

The town needs to make better choices when allowing new business opportunities. Allow different types of business rather than being repetitive (liquor, pizza, gas business). I truly don't know how they all survive, yet other stores with no competition can't survive. This makes no sense.

The town needs to attract businesses to support households like clothing etc.

More services (restaurants, shopping) would be nice to have - more options in town instead of having to go to St. Albert or Edmonton. Big on supporting local business within town, but no more weed and liquor stores!

Growth is good but not tooo quickly. I noticed St Albert grow quite a bit in the years I lived there. I also noticed the crime and vabalism rate increase at the same time.

Appendix B – Written Comments on Growth (cont.)

It needs to plan an industrial area with highway access and plan neighborhoods around trails and Parks.

We need less pizza, pot, and gas stations. We need to be able to buy underwear in town.

Stop allowing liquor and cannabis stores to open shop, we don't need all the commercial business in our town being so close to St. Albert. More than half the residents don't work here and don't shop here. You want to feel like a small town, stop trying to become a big city.

We need to increase business tax base to reduce burden on home owners.

Increased growth needs to be carefully weighed knowing that infrastructure and support services would need to keep up with the demand which in turn would increase property taxes. Keeping growth moderate while maintaining adequate services is paramount. Planning for an outdoor pool is also extremely important to give kids and families a "go to" place in summer months thus decreasing negative behaviours when kids have too much spare time. I would suggest the pool etc be in a centralized location easily accessible to lower income families

Stop spending money on custom equipment when you can get it cheaper as stock

Key positions within the Town of Morinville should be filled by residents of Morinville only! Economic Development Officer and others in similar positions don't have to worry if there are no jobs or businesses here, their taxes don't go up and they still collect a fairly sizable income.

Keep it under 5% growth

It would be great to see some new business come with additional growth. Such as food chains, shopping options and no more liquor and weed dispensaries

More job opportunities

No tax increases

Focus on swimming pool build. Better day to day management of sidewalk replacement/infrastructure repairs.

I can barely pay my monthly taxes along with all my utilities going up as well as food increased prices. I will be retiring soon and I won't be able to live in my home and enjoy retirement if my taxes keep going up. Please just leave Morinville the way it is.

have proper roads in the new residential areas.. with all the school buses in this town and people parking on the street it makes it difficult to get around

To attract quality homeowners/citizens, you need services that match people's needs. This town almost has no services. Majority of people commute to St. Albert for most of their shopping needs

Appendix B – Written Comments on Growth (cont.)

Low income housing programs

I would like to see more reputable businesses come to morinville.

The town needs something to Help lower our property taxes.

No more pizza, weed or liquor stores

Embrace growth, but enough with the taxes!!! I could move to St Albert and pay the same and get way more!!!

We need local bussing to at least St. Albert for seniors, teens and anyone who isn't able or comfortable to drive. We also need at least one small shopping center with s variety of items such as clothing, shoes, toys, food etc. A Red Apple or Giant Tiger comes to mind.

There are lots of undeveloped areas in current residential areas that need to be developed.

Growth is great and helps keep a town thriving. However if services aren't provided or businesses can't thrive here, it does put more of a strain. We can't just be a residential town. While there are new businesses opening soon, we do need more in town than just pharmacies, vape & liquor shops and pizza places. It seems to be that only convenience businesses do well while everything else seems to shut down fairly quickly...

We moved here for the small town vibes that's what got us, me and my husband both was raised in a small town that "grew" and now it's not the same so we picked mornville to raise our kids because it gave us the vibes we had growing up and I don't really want to see it grow in population

The town doesn't need more employees, we can't afford it. Yes we are a bedroom community but we are paying as much as St.Albert for property taxes in some areas for what. I don't get the snow removed from in front of my house because it's not a priority, I'm in a cul de sac we don't have large front yards to put our snow...so guess what it's going in the middle of the road.

Should not be allowing re-zoning blindly to maximize profit for the builders. Newer built areas should mandate adequate parking and not turn the roads into parking lots. Same goes for greenery.

A pool as previously promised. Increasing businesses and decreasing residential taxes.

Definitely need more assortment of business to keep the money in morinville

It would be nice to have something like a giant tiger to have a decent place to shop in town. there is no where's to buy clothes or birthday presents. It would be good for the economy and the town as it would bring people from other towns to shop there.

Need to work on our infrastructure before trying to grow our town. Out sewer system needs to be priority, followed by our roads.

Appendix B – Written Comments on Growth (cont.)

We have to make this town attractive. It has a reputation of smelling like dog food and being "far" from work, attractions, shopping, and leisure. That's all bad news. We need to rebrand and invest in Town run assets like the MLC, the MCCC, and local events. Whatever we've been doing for the last 20 years isn't working. In fact, we're losing business. Your residents spend their money in St. Albert and Edmonton. The MLC needs commercial around it, like yesterday. I don't know what we're doing to attract that but it's not noticeable. Hotels, restaurants, gas stations, parks and trails. That should be a priority since it was decided to get in bed with the County rather than build it along the highway where people would actually acknowledge it's existence. More commercial all around. Make it undesirable for residents to spend money and time elsewhere. If I were a business owner, that's what I would look for. Right now, I'm 10 minutes from Costco and a myriad of better options than what would be a two minute drive or a bike ride.

its tough to provide additional opinions as we live only a few minutes drive from St.Albert as that has much of everything we need. although, morinville needs to build some low income housing, intergrate ems & fire services like St.Albert. Get rid of the RCMP and go through the outdated bylaws and scrap some of them as they just sound like a waste of resources.

Business and residential growth are directly related. People wont move into an area without amenities.

More sports. health & wellness features

Must make easy access for pedestrians from south glens area. It is dangerous for kids

Build a pool. It's embarrassing that the MIC has no pool. Expand the gym and bring back proper hours. It's unusable like this.

More local businesses

Your tax levels are preventing business from coming here . Maybe a new business tax break for the first 5 years?

Build a pool

Morinville's main roads coming into morinville off highway 2 at the Cardiff turn and the lights by Sobeys cannot handle the volume of traffic there is right now. It's only going to get worse if this town grows any more.

We need a pool

Town council and administration need to be held accountable for the damage caused by high handed bureaucracy in Town business and development.

This survey tries to drive responses to what the non residential staff want. Make it a priority to have staff live in town. Read the Alberta Human rights legislation residence is NOT a protected ground

All growth needs to be sustainable. It has be self sufficient financially.

Appendix B – Written Comments on Growth (cont.)

Morinville will continue to grow and will eventually turn into a smaller st.albert in my opinion. As people keep leaving the bigger cities they will come to the smaller towns. Keep investing in growth, and attracting businesses.

The reason people move to Morinville is because it's quieter not as busy and noisy as Edmonton or St.Albert

More industrial / commercial growth will organically bring in more tax revenue..

Increased business growth

Plant more trees for tomorrow's shade. Inclusivity stickers should be provided for any business willing to display them.

The town is not going to continue to grow unless there are jobs and activities that are both affordable and available to the population

Regional Municipality of Sturgeon.

We just moved to morinville to get away from large city problems. With growth, comes more socio economic problems. Isn't the small town feel one of the charming things about Morinville?

With growth comes new people, businesses with new energy and ideas. Long time residents would appreciate a new brigade of willing outlooks.

It's crucial to grow within the existing footprint. There is a huge economy of scale to be found by encouraging higher-density development in all the existing vacant lots, etc.

Fire town counsel.

It has been wonderful to see more business moving in but please no more liquor stores or pharmacies

So you're saying, doubling the population requires no tax increases, increases tax revenues and could result in a tax decrease? Excellent!

The town seems to have many vacant lots around the new areas. I would like to see the town commit to finishing residential areas that are started and left unfinished rather than start new areas.

Balancing infrastructure and growth is difficult. The roads for example are starting to show major wear in some areas. We seem to do things small. Example enclosed dog park. (But at least there is one seems to be the answer I hear) the Main Street buildings look 100 yrs old, I know developers won't make that business decision in coming in but what would that take? The business that are here we treat as only in emergency we use that is because the products they are offering are more expensive and not the best quality (groceries as an example) we go to St Albert because of this.

Appendix B – Written Comments on Growth (cont.)

Many Morinville residents must travel to Edmonton or other surrounding communities for certain services or amenities. Morinville should focus on providing more local business and commercial growth to compliment the growing population and make Morinville a more desirable location to live and work in.

Increased population would also increase costs for services. The increased tax base would also see a corresponding increase in costs.

With the increase to growth one must also consider an increase to police/ fire services to maintain a safe community

Less liquor stores and bars

The town makes it extremely hard for businesses to grow with the amount of red tape

Morinville is a great community. As a resident of more 35 years, Morinville's growth has always been fairly consistant. Reasonable taxes and communy presentation to me are the main drivers.

If growth means cheaper property tax I am all for it.

This town has nothing for the amount of taxes. Get rid of your high paying employees and use that money for the town amenities. We need a bus to St.Albert and more stores. Nothing at all in this town.

The Town of Morinville needs to upgrade, and maintain the infrastructure. As needed water, sewer and gas will need to be added and connect to the current infrastructure in the town.

I would love to see Morinville grow but in a balanced manner. Our population more than doubled since I moved here in 1997 but the corresponding business, services and employment opportunities did not. We built a big beautiful Leisure Centre that is perfectly situated to host tournaments, etc...but the teams have to go to St Albert to sleep and eat. Of note (not that you haven't heard this), population doubled and my property taxes tripled.

Infrastructure and business are needed for growth of a town. Though relatively new in town, we have heard the rumblings that our council isn't that interested in building business, etc and people have watched business close and leave. I always try to support and buy local, but you can't if you don't have the business or services here.. the shoppers DrugMartis a start. We really don't need another liquor store on each block or a Pot Shop. There are more in town than any other business. Quality stores , like clothing stores, are a must.

Sell cultural centre to MCHS and build a pool to attract more residential growth

Entertainment for our youth -ie pool, better splash park, Access to shopping in town for clothes, household things etc

Get on with it!

Appendix B – Written Comments on Growth (cont.)

Quit the use ambiguous emphasis on terms such as “safe” , “welcoming” and “sustainable”. These are loaded terms and many of the modern meaning are detrimental to society rather than helpful as they suggest. Be more explicit in what exactly what the intent is please.

Morinville still lacks a Pool and a store that provides dry goods such as clothes and child type birthday gifts. I think there needs to be more available for young teens and tweens in the evenings provided by the community like the afternoon program during the school year. This could promote mental health in our youth that seems to be on a rapid decline.

Town sucks

Consideration should be given to better supporting local, nonprofit organizations that provide healthy, safe activities for citizens. Senior’s centers, curling martial arts, dance....

Get rid of these old buildings and make them look better and more stores

Morinville needs affordable housing that would attract young families. We need work done to fix our Main street so our community can be proud of our Town. It is a mess, we need to fix the grates where trees died and all of the trip hazards that they try to grind each year.

People live here because it has a small town vibe; would hate to lose that.

It is difficult to choose the above statement as it seems as though we already pay such high taxes and already do not receive what would be expected considering the high taxes we pay. It is hard to foresee that raising taxes in order to attract more services would actually happen. Rather they continue to raise taxes but we dont actually see where that money is going.

I think geographically morinville is advanced for growth. Ways to improve would be to increase opportunities for more commercial and economic growth.

Stick to the plan to increase the split rate for res. vs. non-res. It's the ONLY way forward. More people will equal more business attraction will equal more non-res tax revenue. You're not doing the residential property owners by constantly trying to back-peddle the best plan put in place by previous Councils. Morinville deserves better, and to be in line with what other successful communities have in place.

If we are going to have a population of 30000 we better have businesses to support that versus the comments saying St. Albert and other communities closer have those so we do not need to build business like that. If I am paying property taxes the same as St. Albert we better have a pool, we Better have a Walmart and other business that can offer jobs to people that live in the community, our money can be put into businesses in our community.

We should grow our residential. This will provide more funding for services and attract more businesses.

Appendix B – Written Comments on Growth (cont.)

I think the town is going to inevitably grow. It's best to embrace it and make the most of it to serve the residents and businesses of Morinville.

Transportation to nearby cities

Stay independent of Federal funds; too many regulations that do nothing more than increase costs.

People are so afraid of change in the town. I hear quite often from Long time residents that "this isn't the way we did things 30 years ago". Well unfortunately we are not a small town like we were 30 years ago. We need to grow and accept growth and change. You won't have people stay here if you don't grow with their needs.

More industrial and commercial. Commercial north of the lakes. Expand industrial park.

Growth is good and bound to happen eventually no matter what. With that said it should be embraced and supported.

The town should attract businesses that will increase town revenue keeping residents spending supporting local businesses instead of having to shop in Edm/St Albert.

I feel growth should be focused on bringing businesses of all types to the town. I feel retail businesses should be encouraged to populate 100 Ave and not 100 St south. 100 St south is more suited for light industrial or agricultural businesses once the 3 way stop is upgraded.

Let's be honest Morinville is used as a more affordable base. The small town feel is what most are going for. We have easy city access.

We need more growth, less liquor stores, pot stores and junk food. Nice restaurants, A MALL, a leisure centre with a pool, sauna/spa/greek baths etc Boutiques, hair salons, Just a mini St Albert so that people want to spend here. There is a thrift shop here that is more expensive than going to buy new!! I live in Morinville and I spend most of my money in St Albert. I go to sobeys, sometimes no frills, the dollar tree etc However, I mostly go to St Albert for large grocery shops as the prices here are high! My reasons for rating economy low is it doesn't have to be cultural and diverse, if it is then that's fine but this along with the sustainability question is not what I think is important. These labels are causing divisive opinions. The wording needs to leave political narratives/divisive terms out of the equation and let all live organically together. Sustainability is part of an agenda and that won't work as it's another money grab.

If I wanted to live in a city I would live in St. Albert or Edmonton. I want to live in Morinville because it's a small town in a beautiful county. It will be a shame if the town focuses on growing instead of improving, and on tearing up green space to build more cookie cutter townhouses.

we need a decent gym, the one at the rec center is simply a failure, most people i know drive to st. albert instead of going to the rec center, that should say something. as well as try to bring in a decent place to eat, something like an earls on the main street corner would be one heck of a bump as a town

Appendix B – Written Comments on Growth (cont.)

Please DO NOT approve anymore liquer stores!!!!

Keeping the small town feel through fiscal policy doesn't work, and must be done through the resident's actions.

Need more light industrial

I hope there is continued preparation for the population increases. Residential growth is good, with the proper planning and accomodations. Many of us are bound to travel to the city regularly living out here, so its important to me to stay realistic on what this town really needs for the future. Houses, schools, road improvements and increased policing yes, a swimming pool or major commercial developments, maybe not.

Happy to see some new commercial construction happening.

Where is the option to bring in business to create jobs and fix tax rates?

My answer for anyone wanting to move hear would be, if you want to move here would be have lots of money because they don't care about the low income bracket citizen or maybe I should say that they care about you just like our federal government.

I welcome growth in business. And a small population growth. But ppl mainly come to Morinville for lower property taxes. I like the small twin feel. A swimming pool and movie theater would be nice. I wouldn't want us to surpass the 30 thousand ppl mark.

The planned residential growth areas you mention, are they offset by a proportionate industrial area? If not, they should be and more commercial zoning (not on 100th st or ave) should be planned for as well. We are already disproportionately residential.

Businesses should be taxed at same rate as other communities

With that amount of growth further recreational facilities, especially for youth would e needed.

Wish for more walkable mixed use zoning (apartments with stores under it). Ideally making it so even disabled people don't have to drive to get things like groceries which is impossible right now. Growth should be less sprawling suburbs and more central, dense and walkable with more parks. Especially since we lack public transportation in town or to St. Albert to accommodate non drivers and disabled/elderly

We need a pool

I have none at this time.

Collaborate on more regional events to attract people to Morinville. Have something unique to draw people here (ie. Various Sporting events like provincials). Encourage hotel builds perhaps by the MLC to make it a sports hub area?

Appendix B – Written Comments on Growth (cont.)

A larger business tax base would be desirable

Morinville is becoming to big, our taxes are expensive and it is loosing the town feel.

The streets are already congested with traffic at times, if you want growth ... you need to improve how we move traffic more efficiently.

Better trail system so everyone can enjoy it

This town is considered to be a bedroom community, if wanting to stick with a small town community feel, I think that gradual expansion would be a good choice. I also think that more businesses needs to be considered to help offset public taxes

Growth is not necessarily a good thing. It brings higher costs and resource demands along with big city problems eg crime. If we must grow, let's grow downtown and "up" vs out. Green belt the town and protect agricultural areas.

Let's get this town more diverse non residential growth, don't stifle entrepreneurial investment by small businesses and don't let existing historical businesses attempt to inhibit other competition business

Morinville needs to attract more business IE theatres, bowling lanes etc. and plan to build more recreation facilities to attract young people who are starting families.. I personally know young couples who are not considering buying a home in Morinville because of the lack of amenities.

The town must encourage businesses and senior health services so people can also age in their community.

Really like the small town feel.. Scared of too much growth but also would like more business and increase tax base. Don't want more undesirables moving in.

Just make sure that all infrastructure is in place and fully functional before allowing any new developments.

Again, look into collaborating with non-profits / charities.

I feel growth projections are not reliable. The ToM should be looking at its long term debt, normal projection of inflation. Money talks and walks....spend for a reason not for emotion.

Morinville needs to create an environment where business would want to invest their own capitol in. Coeur de Morinville is supposed to be the Morinville's downtown: the main streets (100 Avenue and 100 Street). We have a vacant lot at the corner with a chain fence around it. Let's sort this eyesore out.

Growth done responsibly is great. I do however, have a big problem with all the building on no. 1 farmland

Affordable housing is greatly needed.

Appendix B – Written Comments on Growth (cont.)

Diversify commercial. How many pizza, liquor, Cannabis stores does a town of this size need. More restaurants that offer more variety which would keep more \$\$ in the community.

Morinville needs to focus on growth of the town ie, new infrastructure, making the town modern. there are alot of people who work for the town but don't live here, they don't care about the growth of the town. We who live here shouldn't have to depend on going into St. Albert for things when we should be bale to get it here.



