

INFORMATION ONLY COUNCIL REPORT Finance, Administrative & Protective Services For the August 27, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

DATE: August 20, 2019

TO: Paul Gipps, CAO

FROM: Kirsten Jones, Strategic Communications Manager

RE: 2019 Citizens' Survey Results

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council agreed to take a different approach to its annual survey of West Kelowna residents in 2019 in the interest of encouraging more surveys to be completed and a more accurate demographic sampling. The 2019 Citizens' Survey was mailed as usual to 1,000 randomly-selected households but was also offered online for the first year ever. The result was 284 surveys returned in the mail and 683 completed online and a larger sampling from residents under 55 years old.

The mailed and online survey results, when compared, are similar and help to establish confidence in online, voluntary surveys despite not meeting the criteria of a statistically-accurate survey.

Both surveys indicate the following services are not meeting expectations:

- Drinking water quality
- Roads
- Road Maintenance
- Sidewalks
- Growth & Development Planning
- Illegal Dumping Cleanup Program
- Economic Development
- Recreation Program for Teenagers

Also, the mailed survey results indicated **Dedicated Bicycle Lanes** and the online survey results indicated **Protection of Waterways** as areas not meeting expectations.

BACKGROUND:

The 2019 Citizens' Survey was conducted in the month of June with two, concurrent surveys offered. The City of West Kelowna mailed 1,000 surveys to randomly-selected households across the community. The survey was also offered online. Council agreed at its meeting on May 14, 2019 to offer the survey online in 2019 in an effort to encourage more responses and to secure a more accurate demographic polling.

Completed Surveys

The City received 283 completed mailed surveys in 2019. This is typical of the mailed survey. In 2018, the City received 281 completed surveys, a lower number than was received in 2017 (317) and 2016 (360). The City received 608 completed online surveys. This number can likely be increased in future with some adjustments to the survey. Approximately 300 surveys were abandoned with a common concern of respondents being that the survey was too long.

Age Demographics

The mailed survey, which has been offered each year since 2008, typically has a higher-thanproportional age demographic. For instance, in 2018, 69% of respondents were 55 years of age or older. The 2019 mailed surveys indicate just over 64% of respondents were over the age of 55 (with 17%, or 49 respondents, not answering the question). By contrast, the online survey age demographics indicate 40% of respondents are 55 years of age or older. The demographics of the online survey align more closely with the statistical age demographics of the community than the mailed survey demographics (35% of West Kelowna's population is 55 years of age or older; 2016 Census.)

RESULTS

Importance Versus Quality

A key element of both the online and mailed survey is the Importance Versus Quality comparison. Respondents are asked to rate a service for importance and then again for quality. The data is graphed and clearly indicates when a larger than normal discrepancy exists between service level and importance. Discrepancies determine if a service exceeds, meets, or falls short of taxpayers' expectations.

Results of the Importance Versus Quality comparison are broken out by Mailed and Online Responses and listed with last year's survey results.

NOT MEETING EXPECTATIONS				
2019 MAILED RESPONSES	2019 ONLINE RESPONSES	2018 MAILED RESPONSES		
 Drinking Water Quality Roads Road Maintenance Sidewalks Growth & Development Planning Illegal Dumping Cleanup Program Economic Development Recreation Programs for Teenagers Dedicated Bicycle Lanes 	 Drinking Water Quality Roads Road Maintenance Protection of Waterways Sidewalks Growth & Development Planning Economic Development Illegal Dumping Cleanup Program Recreation Programs for Teenagers 	 Drinking Water Quality Road Maintenance Roads Street Lighting Sidewalks Illegal Dumping Cleanup Program Growth & Development Planning Building Inspection 		

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS					
2019 MAILED RESPONSES	2019 ONLINE RESPONSES	2018 MAILED RESPONSES			
 Swimming Pool Arenas Public Library Soccer/Football Fields West Kelowna Website Ball Fields Skateboard/Bike Parks Tennis/Pickleball Courts 	 Yard Waste Collection Arenas Public Library Noise Control West Kelowna Website Soccer/Football Fields Ball Fields Animal Control Skateboard/Bike Parks Tennis/Pickleball Courts 	 Recreational Trails Swimming Pool Arenas Public Library Sports Fields – Soccer/Football Sports Fields – Baseball West Kelowna Website 			

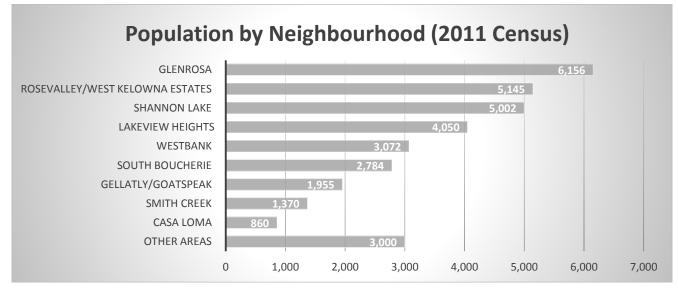
MEETING EXPECTATIONS					
2019 MAILED RESPONSES	2019 ONLINE RESPONSES	2018 MAILED RESPONSES			
 Residential Recycling Trash Collection Fire Department First Response Snow Clearing/Removal Fire Fighting Emergency 911 Ease of Travel by Car Police Enforcement Sewage Treatment Yard Waste Collection Fire Prevention Air Quality Beaches Street Lighting Water Conservation Efforts Protection of Waterways Parks (Open Space) Recreational Trails Playgrounds Noise Control Recreation Programs for Seniors Economic Development 	 Fire Fighting Fire Department First Response Emergency 911 Fire Prevention Police Enforcement Snow Clearing/Removal Beaches Air Quality Ease of Travel by Car Parks (Open Space) Residential Recycling Trash Collection Sewage Treatment Recreational Trails Street Lighting Water Conservation Efforts Playgrounds Swimming Pool Recreation Programs for Children Bylaw Enforcement Personal Customer Service 	 Ease of Travel by Car Snow Clearing/Removal Residential Recycling Trash Collection Fire Department First Response Fire Fighting Emergency 911 Police Enforcement Beaches Air Quality Fire Prevention Yard Waste Collection Sewage Treatment Parks (Open Space) Protection of Waterways Water Conservation Efforts Noise Control Playgrounds Personal Customer Economic Development Bylaw Enforcement Recreation Programs for Seniors 			

MEETING EXPECTATIONS - Continued						
2019 MAILED RESPONSES	2019 ONLINE RESPONSES	2018 MAILED RESPONSES				
 Bylaw Enforcement Recreation Programs for Adults Personal Customer Service Recreation Programs for Children Building Inspection Recreation Programs for Pre-School Tourism Promotion Community Centres - Halls Ease of Travel by Transit Boat Launch with Parking Facilities Animal Control Marina Cemetery Museum 	 Recreation programs for Seniors Recreation Programs for Adults Recreation Programs for Pre-School Building Inspection Tourism Promotion Community Centres - Halls Dedicated Bicycle Lanes Ease of Travel by Transit Boat Launch with Parking Facilities Marina Cemetery Museum 	 Recreation Programs for Teenagers Recreation Programs for Adults Recreation Programs for Children Community Centres - Halls Dedicated Bicycle Lanes Recreation Programs for Pre-School Tourism Promotion Boat Launch with Parking Facilities Ease of Travel by Transit Animal Control Marina Cemetery Tennis/Pickleball Courts Skateboards/Bike Parks Museum 				

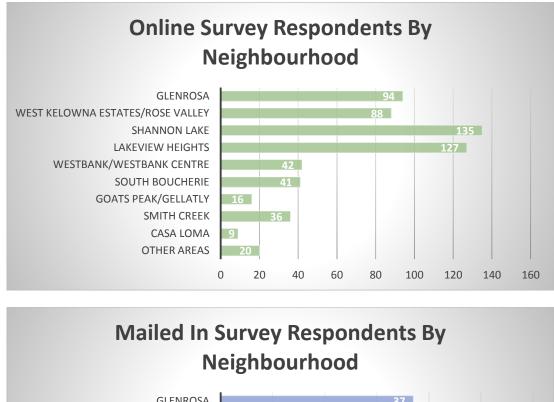
Demographics

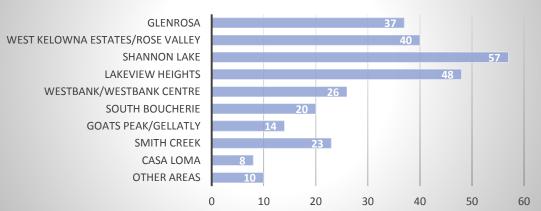
Neighbourhoods

• Survey respondents were asked to indicate what neighbourhood of West Kelowna they live in, see graphs below. The survey indicates slightly more than proportional representation in both the Mailed and Online Surveys from Shannon Lake, Lakeview Heights and Smith Creek and less than proportional representation from Glenrosa.



2019 Citizens' Survey Results Page 4 of 13





Age & Gender

- The Mailed survey sampling indicated a greater than proportional representation from people over the age of 55 with 64.59% compared to the City's population statistics (2016 Census) which indicates 35% of residents are over the age of 55. The Online sampling, with 40% over the age of 55, generally adheres to the City's population statistics.
- Over 49% of Mailed survey respondents are male; over 61% of Online survey respondents are female

Workplace

• The Mailed sampling indicates 46.29% of respondents are retired with Online results indicating 24.51% are retired.

Quality of Life

• 85.16% of Mailed survey respondents indicate their quality of life in West Kelowna is Good or Very Good compared to 81.91% of Online survey respondents.

• 41.34% of Mailed survey respondents indicate the performance of their elected officials as Good or Very Good, down from 45% in 2018. 40.79% of Online respondents indicated the performance as Good or Very Good.

Strategic Planning

- 52.3% of Mailed survey respondents and 51.97% of Online respondents indicated that West Kelowna is growing at the right pace; 36.75% of Mailed survey respondents and 32.4% of Online respondents indicated that growth is too fast.
- A slight majority of respondents in both surveys indicate they are Somewhat or Very Knowledgeable about the City's Master Transportation Plan, Official Community Plan, Westbank Centre Revitalization Plan and Recreational Trails Master Plan but the majority of respondents in both surveys indicate no knowledge of the City's Agriculture Plan, Economic Development Strategy, CNR Wharf Plan, Memorial Park Plan or Parks Master Plan.

Core Infrastructure Ranking

• Survey respondents were asked to rank from one to six, with one being most important, how they would invest core infrastructure capital funding. Below are the results from the Mailed and Online survey, as well as from the 2018 survey.

RANKED CORE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING				
2019 MAILED RESPONSES	2019 ONLINE RESPONSES	2018 MAILED RESPONSES		
 Water Infrastructure Roads Sidewalks Environmental Protection Sewer Infrastructure Drainage Infrastructure 	 Water Infrastructure Roads Sidewalks Environmental Protection Drainage Infrastructure Sewer Infrastructure 	 Water Infrastructure Roads Drainage Infrastructure Sewer Infrastructure Sidewalks Environmental Protection 		

- 40.28% of Mailed respondents and 41.28% of Online respondents would support a 1% tax increase for their chosen core infrastructure investments.
- 20.49% of Mailed respondents and 27.63% of Online respondents would support a 5% tax increase for their chosen core infrastructure investments.

Discretionary Infrastructure Ranking

• Survey respondents were asked to rank from one to 10, with one being most important, how they would invest discretionary infrastructure capital funding. Below are the results from the Mailed and Online survey, as well as from the 2018 survey.

	RANKED DISCRETIONARY INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING				
	2019 MAILED RESPONSES		2019 ONLINE RESPONSES		2018 MAILED RESPONSES
1.	Waterfront Parks	1.	Waterfront Parks	1.	Waterfront Parks
2.	Beautification/	2.	Beautification/	2.	Bicycle Lanes
	Revitalization		Revitalization	3.	Beautification/
3.	Bicycle Lanes	3.	Bicycle Lanes		Revitalization
4.	Running/Walking Track	4.	All Weather Sportsfield	4.	Running/Walking Track

2019 MAILED RESPONSES	2019 ONLINE RESPONSES	2018 MAILED RESPONSES
5. All Weather Sports Field	5. Running/Walking Track	5. All Weather Sports Field
6. Soccer Fields	6. Outdoor Swimming Pool	6. Baseball Fields
7. Outdoor Swimming Pool	7. Outdoor Sports Field	7. Boat Launches
8. Boat Launches	Lighting 8. Boat Launches	8. Soccer Fields
9. Outdoor Sports Field Lighting	9. Ball Field	9. Outdoor Swimming Pool (Note: Outdoor Sports Field
10. Baseball Fields	10. Soccer Fields	Lighting) was removed in 2018

- 37.10% of Mailed respondents and 40.78% of Online respondents would support a 1% tax increase for their chosen discretionary infrastructure investments.
- 13.07% of Mailed respondents and 15.63% of Online respondents would support a 5% tax increase for their chosen discretionary infrastructure investments.

Westbank Centre

- 68.2% of Mailed respondents and 66.12% of Online respondents indicate they visit Westbank Centre once a week or more.
- Respondents were asked what encourages them to or discourages them from visiting Westbank Centre. Below is a summary of the comments provided with a full listing of written comments provided in Council's 2019 Citizens' Survey Results binder. Some respondents had multiple answers, in total there were 849 reasons. 178 (21%) comments were encouragements and 671 (79%) comments were discouragements.

Encouragements (35%) – Mailed Responses				
Most noted issues	Number of Responses	% of Total Responses	Common themes	
Business/Amenities	66	23%	 Groceries Drug Stores Hardware Coffee Medical offices 	
Proximity/Convenience	27	9%	Close to homeStores are close in proximity	
Discouragements (65%)	- Mailed Respo	onses		
Traffic/Congestion/Noise	38	13%	 Need Bypass or Divert Highway One way couplets need to go Traffic lights need better timing 	
Lack of variety	36	12%	 Lack of unique/independent businesses More restaurants 	

Discouragements (65%) – Mailed Responses continued				
Most noted issues	Number of Responses	% of Total Responses	Common themes	
Ugly/Rundown	32	11%	 Out dated Old and run down Needs revitalization 	
Drugs/Crime/Homeless	24	8%	 Bus loop Homeless/Beggars Public discomfort 	
Lack of parking	22	7%	Parking on side of highwayMore parking areas needed	

Encouragements (21%) – Online Responses				
Most noted issues	Number of Responses	% of Total Responses	Common themes	
Business/Amenities	116	14%	 Library Groceries Coffee Breweries Restaurants 	
Proximity/Convenience	28	3%	 Proximity to homes in area Far from others	
Discouragements (79%	ն) – Online Resp	oonses		
Homeless/Drugs/ Crime/Safety	137	16%	 Main St. Bus Loop Lions Hall Loitering Crime Discomfort/Fear 	
Traffic/Congestion/ Noise	119	14%	 Highway Traffic flow Traffic light timing Cross highway driveway One way streets Not family friendly Loud 	
Ugly/Rundown/Dirty	99	12%	 Empty buildings Old/Ugly Not family friendly Not cohesive 	
Lack of variety	81	9%	More sit down restaurantsMore retail storesMissing Lakeview	

Discouragements (79%) – Online Responses continued				
Most noted issues	Number of Responses	% of Total Responses	Common themes	
No reason to go there	56	7%	Not much to doNo reason to go there	
Parking	52	6%	 Free parking – Good Lack of available spots Side of highway dangerous Need more 	
Lack of culture/character	41	5%	 Lack of public art/entertainment Westside needs to be known for something Lack of local unique shops Nothing memorable 	

Top Issues

Respondents were asked what were the three top issues facing West Kelowna Council today. Issues have been summarized in the table below. A full listing of responses is provided in Council's 2019 Citizens' Survey Results binder.

Most Important Issues – Mailed Responses					
Most Important Issue	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents (226)	Common themes		
Water issues/quality	82	36%	 Quality needs improvement Treatment plants need work Upgrade our water system 		
Traffic/ Congestion	60	26%	 By-pass needed Too much traffic congestion No one way couplet Divert Highway 		
Development/ Growth	56	25%	 More long term planning needed City's rapid growth Take into account how to support said growth Attract new developers 		
Homelessness/ Crime	56	25%	 Fix the homeless problem More RCMP needed More break-ins occurring 		
Roads	47	21%	 Roads need fixing Road planning needs improvement Consider more roundabouts 		

- Less common, but duly noted issues indicated by Mailed survey respondents include:
 - o more sidewalks and streetlights needed
 - Westbank Centre concerns (no downtown core, needs updating, more local business attraction and homeless concerns)
 - Environment and green space concerns (more public lakefront, recycling program improvements).
 - Taxation concerns (too high, not used responsibly, need for larger tax base)

Most Important Issues – Online Responses					
Most Important Issue	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents (1282)	Common themes		
Water Quality	221	17%	 Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant Lakeview Heights Water System Clean drinking water Less advisories Needs addressing 		
Homeless/Crime/Safety	193	15%	 Community feels unsafe Address shelter i.e. placement, hours of operation, etc. Needs addressing 		
Traffic	119	9%	 Highway Congestion Speeding Couplet Traffic flow Bypass/Overpass Traffic control/calming 		
Roads	101	8%	 Bike lanes Maintenance Roundabouts Drainage/Sewer 		
Development/Growth/Planning	93	7%	 More structured planning Open to/support growth Think in the future Lack of planning Plan more eco friendly 		

- Less common, but duly noted issues indicated by Online survey respondents include:
 - Need for proper cross walks, sidewalks and lighting in residential and school areas
 - Consider pedestrian overpass
 - o Infrastructure revitalization, keep clean, updating
 - More parks, respect/protect green spaces
 - Development and tourism
 - Develop waterfront
 - o park upkeep
 - Compost/Recycling programs

Bylaw Enforcement

• 74.56% of Mailed survey respondents and 69.74% of Online survey respondents indicate they do not support a tax increase to change Bylaw Enforcement to a proactive level of service. In 2018, 78% or respondents did not support.

Recreational Trails

Respondents were asked to rank from 1 to 3 where West Kelowna Council should pursue development of recreational trails. Below are the results.

RANKED RECREATIONAL TRAIL DEVELOPMENT					
2019 MAILED RESPONSES	2019 ONLINE RESPONSES	2018 MAILED RESPONSES			
 Waterfront Trails Neighbourhood Trails Backcountry/Crown Land 	 Waterfront Trails Neighbourhood Trails Backcountry/Crown Land 	 Waterfront Trails Neighbourhood Trails Backcountry/Crown Land 			

Affordable Housing

- 44.52% of Mailed survey respondents and 56.58% of Online respondents indicated they don't feel there is enough entry level housing in West Kelowna.
- 45.95% of Mailed survey respondents and 39.64% of Online respondents indicated they don't feel there is enough entry level housing for seniors in West Kelowna.

City Services

- Online bill payment option and continues to be the top ranked customer service enhancement in both surveys; online business licensing is also ranked high by Mailed survey respondents.
- 52.3% of Mailed survey respondents and 56.09% of Online respondents indicate the service provided by City staff is Good or Very Good.
- 60.78% of Mailed survey respondents and 59.38% of Online respondents indicate the quality of special and seasonal events is Good or Very Good. A slight majority of Mailed respondents indicate they would like to see the same amount of events and a slight majority of Online respondents would like to see more events.
- Garbage collection is rated Good or Very Good by 79.86% of Mailed respondents and 77.31% of Online respondents.
- Economic Development Initiatives are indicated as Important or Very Important by the majority of respondents in both surveys, with the notable exception of Foreign Labour Recruitment which was indicated as Not Important by the majority of Online respondents.
- Transit continues to never be used by vast majority of respondents to both surveys (81.27% of Mailed and 81.74% of Online)

- The survey continues to be the top way respondents in both surveys would like tob e involved in municipal budget decisions.
- The majority of respondents indicate that website, telephone, email and in-person visits to municipal hall are the way they connect with the City.
- 81.27% of Mailed respondents do not follow the City on social media channels; 55.10% of Online respondents do not.

Additional Comments

Respondents in both surveys were asked to provide additional comments. Following is a summary of the comments. A full listing of responses is provided in Council's 2019 Citizens' Survey Results binder.

There were 141 Mailed responses. Of those, 19 (13%) were positive, 110 (78%) were negative, and 12 (9%) were neutral. Key comments that were frequently mentioned are listed below.

Additional Comments – Mailed Surveys					
Most frequent comments	Number of respondents	Common Themes	Positive	Negative	
Traffic/	14	Divert highway	0	14	
Congestion		HWY97 congestion			
Developments/ Planning	12	More strategic planning Prepare for population increase	1	9	
City Staff	11	Work Hard Professional Shouldn't be as many Shouldn't be paid as much	3	8	
Council	10	Less focus on tourists more on locals Council is forward thinking	3	6	
Taxes/ Budget	10	Property Taxes too High Unfair distribution of funds	0	10	
Sewer and Water	9	Poor Water Quality Need Water Plant	0	8	
Boucherie Wine Trail	7	Waste of money Disappointing Beautiful Please build more	2	5	

There were 329 Mailed responses. Of those, 60 (18%) were positive, 265 (81%) were negative, neutral. Key comments that were frequently mentioned are listed below.

Additional Comments – Online Surveys					
Most frequent comments	Number of respondents	Common Themes	Positive	Negative	
Thank You/ Good Job	31	Good job Keep up the good work West Kelowna is a beautiful place to live	31	0	

Additional Comme	ents – Online Sur	rve	eys		
Most frequent comments	Number o respondents	of	Common Themes	Positive	Negative
Sidewalks/ Streetlights/ Pedestrian Safety	25		More sidewalks More streetlights Shannon Lake Rd. needs more sidewalks More sidewalks near schools	0	25
Developments/ Planning	21		More forward thinking Plan for rapid growth More structured planning	0	21
Council	21		Need to be more forward thinking Represent the citizens Listen to peoples concerns i.e. Emails, letters, social media, etc. Good Job	10	11
Environment/ Parks/ Waterfront	21		Need more park up keep Maintain natural beauty with enviro efforts Revitalize lake front	0	21
Traffic/Congestion/ Flow	20		Highway Overpass Bottleneck creates congestion Speed Noise	0	20
Homeless/ Crime	20		Needs addressing Community feels unsafe	0	20

Improvements to Council to consider for next year's survey

- Reducing the size of the survey by removing questions that provide little informational value. Online respondents in particular declared the survey was too long and several respondents did not complete surveys.
- Monitoring of results combined with social media investment to reach target neighbourhoods to improve proportional representation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

Tracey Batten, Deputy CAO Paul Gipps, CAO

Powerpoint: Yes X No 🛛

Attachments: 2019 Citizens' Survey Results