

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Finance

Date: February 7, 2024

Subject: 2024 Budget Survey Results

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receives this report for information.

BACKGROUND:

Over the last two years as part of the annual budget process, the District of Mackenzie (District) has provided the residents an opportunity to provide feedback on how well the District is serving its community and what services may need more attention going into the current budget year.

From November 20, 2023 to January 11, 2024 the 2024 Budget Feedback Survey was available on the Let's Chat Mackenzie website, as well as paper copies available at the Municipal Office. Staff held a Finance Open House on December 5, 2023 at the Mackenzie Recreation Centre as well as procured a booth in the Mackenzie Centre Mall on December 20, 2023 as additional avenues to engage with the residents. A "What We Heard" summary of the 2024 Budget Feedback Survey have been attached to this report.

The following provides some examples of the survey results being incorporated into the 2024 operational and capital budgets:

- Promoting local business programs such as Business Façade and Shop Local Program
- Investment attraction advertising campaign for recruiting new business
- Relocation Guide and Advertising Project to promote Mackenzie as a place to live
- Accessibility and Inclusion Initiatives being created with an accessibility lens on all upgrades or new projects
- Bylaw Enforcement Department currently being staffed and will be providing bylaw services
- Grant funding provided an Emergency Management Coordinator to work on plans and projects
- Paving Plan being developed that will guide a multi-year rehabilitation/replacement priority for streets and sidewalks

- Replacement of commercial garbage bins with metal bear resistant garbage bins
- Window coverings to be installed in Community Hall
- Updating and adding signage as per the Municipal Signage Strategy
- Floating dock and accessible upgrades to 1st beach
- Water and sewer work plans being developed to guide maintenance and infrastructure replacement
- Capital projects are focused on rehabilitation/replacement of current infrastructure/equipment
- Asset management facility condition assessments and inventories being completed.

A full copy of the survey results are available in the Centre Table File.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Community and Social Development

- Our investment in the municipality's services and infrastructure, our commitment to principles of social equity and well-being, and our belief in the value of resident engagement, creates a healthy community in which everyone feels valued and enjoys a high quality of life.

Strong Governance and Finances

- As the municipality's elected governing body, we serve all residents and businesses in the community. We engage residents and stakeholders on important issues and make our decisions through open and transparent processes. We are careful in our use of resources, mindful of the need to maintain programs and services, while also meeting the community's infrastructure needs.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Kerri Borne, Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed By: Corporate Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer