

WHAT
WE **HEARD**
FROM YOU
AT THE



²⁰²⁷⁻²⁰²⁸
BUDGET
OPEN HOUSE

Table of Contents

Background.....	3
About the Input Received	4
Attendees.....	5
Participants of the Open House.....	5
City Services Attendees Said They Use.....	5
How People Heard About the Open House.....	6
Services, Priorities and Themes	7
Strong support for the Library and broader community supports.....	7
Residents value recreation, culture, parks, trails and public spaces	8
Infrastructure renewal remains a practical concern	8
Interest in transit, accessibility and connection to services.....	8
Social supports, housing and vulnerable residents were important to some attendees	8
Public safety and emergency access were noted.....	8
Environmental concerns and land-use impacts were raised.....	9
Residents want clear communication about services, taxes and the budget process	9
Summary.....	10

Background

The City of Camrose is preparing the 2027–2028 Budget, which is expected to go to Council for consideration in December 2026. To help inform that work, the City asked residents and taxpayers what municipal services they use, what they value, where they would like to see changes or improvements, and how they think about service levels, affordability, taxes and long-term financial planning.

The purpose of the engagement was to give the public an opportunity to share input before Council considers the 2027–2028 Budget, as required by the Municipal Government Act and the City's Public Engagement Policy. The Open House was not a statistically representative survey of the whole community. It was one way for Council and Administration to hear examples, comments and themes from residents as part of the broader budget process.

The Budget Open House was held at City Hall on June 3, 2026, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm, and had 21 attendees. Attendees could visit several stations about the budget and City services, including Intro / Budget, Protective Services, Long-Term Financial Planning / Strategic Priorities and Major Projects, General Government, Infrastructure, Community Services, and Community Development. Members of Council and General Managers were available to answer questions, receive comments and record key themes.

About the Input Received

Camrose has approximately 20,000 residents, including about 15,000 residents aged 20 and over. The 21 Open House attendees represent a very small share of the community. This does not make the input unimportant, but it does mean the results should be interpreted carefully. Council represents the full community, so the comments from the open house should be considered alongside other budget information, including service-level data, legislative requirements, asset management needs, financial forecasts and broader community priorities.

Attendees

Participants of the Open House

This table shows how attendees identified themselves on the sign-in sheet. Most attendees who marked a resident type were property owners. A smaller number were business owners, and a few did not mark a resident type.

Resident Type	Count
 Property Owner	17
 Tenant	0
 Business Owner	1
 Undeclared or unclear	3

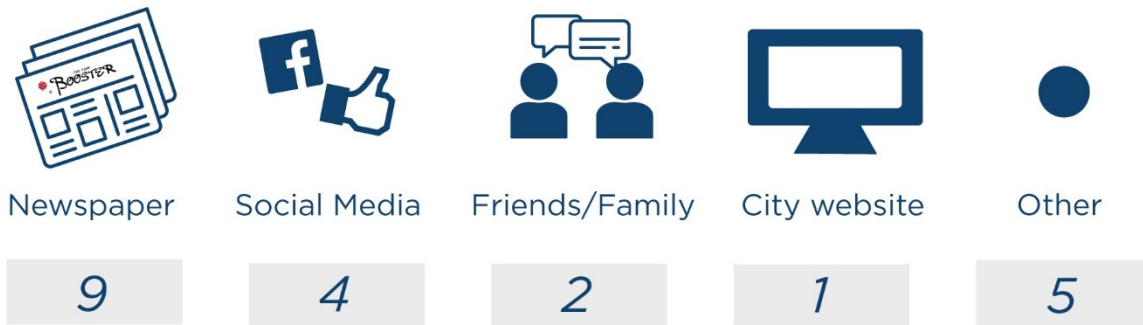
City Services Attendees Said They Use

The graphic below lists the City services that attendees said they use, are signed up for, or mentioned on the sign-in sheet. The numbers show how many attendees marked or identified each service, so they should be read as a snapshot of what this small group uses - not as a ranking of all City services or the whole community's priorities.



How People Heard About the Open House

The sign-in sheet asked attendees to identify how they heard about the open house. The most common response was the local newspaper / Booster, which was identified by nine respondents. Four respondents identified social media or Facebook, two identified friend or family, one identified the City website or online information, three identified other sources, and two responses were either blank or unclear.



This suggests that the Booster continues to be an effective communication method for this type of public engagement. Social media also played a role, but based on the sign-in sheet, traditional local media was the most commonly identified source for those who attended.

Services, Priorities and Themes

This section brings together two types of input from the Budget Open House: service-level preferences recorded through the scoring sheets and broader comments captured through the sign-in sheet, comment boards, and station summary forms.

The items below are not intended to be a complete list of every comment received. They highlight the clearest service-level findings from the input sheets, which help explain why the broader themes that follow are important.

\$ Pay More, Get More = Keep It The Same ⊖ Pay Less, Get Less

Service	\$	=	⊖
 Aquatic Centre	2	4	0
 Arenas (available ice time for rentals)	0	0	0
 Bylaw (Bylaw Enforcement and Animal Control)	2	2	1
 Parks and trails maintenance	2	2	0
 Residential Snow Removal	0	3	0
 Road and Sidewalk Maintenance	1	2	0
 Sports fields (ball diamonds, soccer pitches)	0	0	0
 Support for Community Organizations and Events	7	0	0
 Transit (additional bus for service on northside of tracks)	3	1	0
 Transit (additional hours)	7	0	0

The detailed themes below build on that information by explaining the issues, values and concerns that appeared across the written comments and conversations.

Strong support for the Library and broader community supports

The Library was one of the most frequently and strongly mentioned services. Residents described it as an essential community service, noted that it fills gaps in community need, and specifically asked for appropriate funding, more staff/service capacity, and consideration of a better building. There were also related comments about the Library needing support due to Bill 28, a bus stop at the Library, and the role of the Library within the broader social support network.

Residents value recreation, culture, parks, trails and public spaces

A recurring positive theme was that residents value the City's parks, trails, recreation, culture, library and community facilities. Comments included support for trails, trees, parks, the Bailey Theatre, aquatics/pool hours, the Arts Centre, and replacing or refreshing the Ole Uffda mascot/costume. The message is not simply "keep costs down"; many comments reflected that these services contribute to quality of life and community identity.

Infrastructure renewal remains a practical concern

Infrastructure comments focused on tangible service-level items: sidewalk replacement, snow removal, street maintenance, road condition, laneway upkeep, water security, transit access and additional bus stops. The Infrastructure station also identified sidewalk replacement, rain barrel programming, snow removal and street maintenance as recurring themes.

Interest in transit, accessibility and connection to services

Transit and mobility were mentioned in several ways, including on-demand transit, additional bus stops, a bus stop at the public library, and general accessibility to services. This connects to both infrastructure and social inclusion, especially where residents are trying to access community services, the Library and supports.

Social supports, housing and vulnerable residents were important to some attendees

Several comments pointed to the need for the City and community partners to support residents experiencing housing insecurity or other barriers. Specific comments referenced housing and community supports navigation, FCSS, women's shelter, food bank, neighbourhood aid, PACT, laundry/shower facilities, and the broader social safety net. This theme suggests residents see municipal services and partner agencies as connected, not separate.

Public safety and emergency access were noted

Public safety came up through references to Police, EMS, Fire, emergency access on the north side, and emergency service considerations. It was not the dominant written theme, but it was clearly present as a core service expectation.

Environmental concerns and land-use impacts were raised

Environmental comments included support for trees and parks, interest in rain barrel programming, water security, and concern about potential AI data centres, with comments asking the City to say no due to perceived environmental impacts. There were also comments about monitoring new builds for cleanup and allowing backyard chickens.

Residents want clear communication about services, taxes and the budget process

Several comments suggest that residents want to better understand how City services are funded, how taxes and assessments work, and how public engagement information will be shared. Suggestions included keeping residents informed about City services, posting materials online, using the Booster/local newspaper, and improving communication around the budget process.

Summary

The Budget Open House provided useful public input for Council and Administration as part of the 2027–2028 Budget process. While the number of attendees was small relative to the overall population and property owner base, the comments received help identify issues, services and concerns that matter to those who participated.

The highest-level messages heard were that residents value the Library and community supports; they value recreation, culture, parks, trails and public spaces; they continue to expect reliable core infrastructure and public safety services; and they want clear information about budget choices, service levels, taxation and trade-offs.

The input received should be considered as one part of the overall budget development process. It provides qualitative feedback from engaged residents but should be balanced with the needs of the broader community, Council's strategic priorities, legislative requirements, operational requirements, infrastructure renewal needs, and the City's long-term financial plan.

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