

Medicine Hat United Ratepayers Association (MHURA) Survey Report

Overview

This report was pulled on September 4, 2025, with the most recent response date of September 3, 2025. So far, the MHURA survey collected 50 responses to assess our member's opinion on the current council, priorities for the next council, and ways to improve. The survey remains open to receive valuable insights from our members.

Below is a summary of the findings.

Key Findings

1. Council Performance

- o **Values:** 100% of respondents believe the current council **has not** upheld the City of Medicine Hat values of Respect, Integrity, Accountability, Courage, and Caring.
- o **Salary Increases:** 100% of respondents oppose council members approving salary increases for themselves.

2. Skills & Experiences for Candidates

- o **Top Skills:**
 - Common sense decision-making (78%)
 - Financial literacy & accountability (76%)
 - Transparency & integrity (74%)
 - Local knowledge & solutions (70%)
- o **Other Skills:** Business/leadership experience (54%), teamwork & collaboration (46%), strong communication (44%), community engagement (56%), political awareness (32%), and conflict resolution (40%).

3. Highest Priorities for Next Council (2026–2029)

- o **Top Priorities:**
 - Keep taxes & utilities affordable (98%)
 - Transparency in spending & decisions (84%)
- o **Other Priorities:** Support small business & economic growth (60%), public accountability (58%), infrastructure upkeep & planning (46%), affordable housing & homelessness solutions (28%), and youth/recreation/community wellbeing (20%).

4. Skills Lacking in Current Council

- o **Top Skills Missing:**
 - Transparency & accountability (84%)
 - Leadership (70%)
 - Financial management (70%)
 - Common sense & preparedness (82%)

- o **Other Skills Missing:** Public engagement & listening (56%), business/economic development skills (48%), and team cohesion & collaboration (58%).

5. Infrastructure Priorities

- o **Top Priorities:**
 - Utility's reliability & upgrades (70%)
 - Roads & sidewalks maintenance (35%)
- o **Other Priorities:** Transportation Master Plan (20%), parks/green spaces/recreation facilities (18%), downtown revitalization (14%), and entertainment facilities (6%).

6. Additional Comments

- o **Key Themes:**
 - Concerns about downtown revitalization and homelessness.
 - Calls for fiscal responsibility, reduced reliance on consultants, and better road maintenance.
 - Opposition to narrowing streets and "woke" initiatives.
 - Suggestions for affordable housing and better accountability from city administration.

7. Forum Attendance

- o 48.8% are interested in attending forums, while 44.2% are unsure of the locations.

8. MHURA Involvement

- o **Suggestions:**
 - Keep residents informed about council activities and decisions.
 - Publish candidate profiles and vet priorities.
 - Hold council accountable and ensure transparency.
 - Advocate for fiscal responsibility and common-sense governance.

Conclusion

The survey highlights significant dissatisfaction with the current council, emphasizing the need for transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility. Respondents prioritize affordable taxes/utilities, infrastructure maintenance, and public engagement. MHURA is encouraged by its' members to act as a watchdog, keep residents informed, and ensure candidates align with community values and priorities.