

# Survey Report

15 September 2018 - 14 October 2018

# Strategy to Reduce Poverty and Homelessness - Survey

PROJECT: Strategy to Reduce Poverty and Homelessness

**Connect Spruce Grove**

engagement   
by Bong the Table

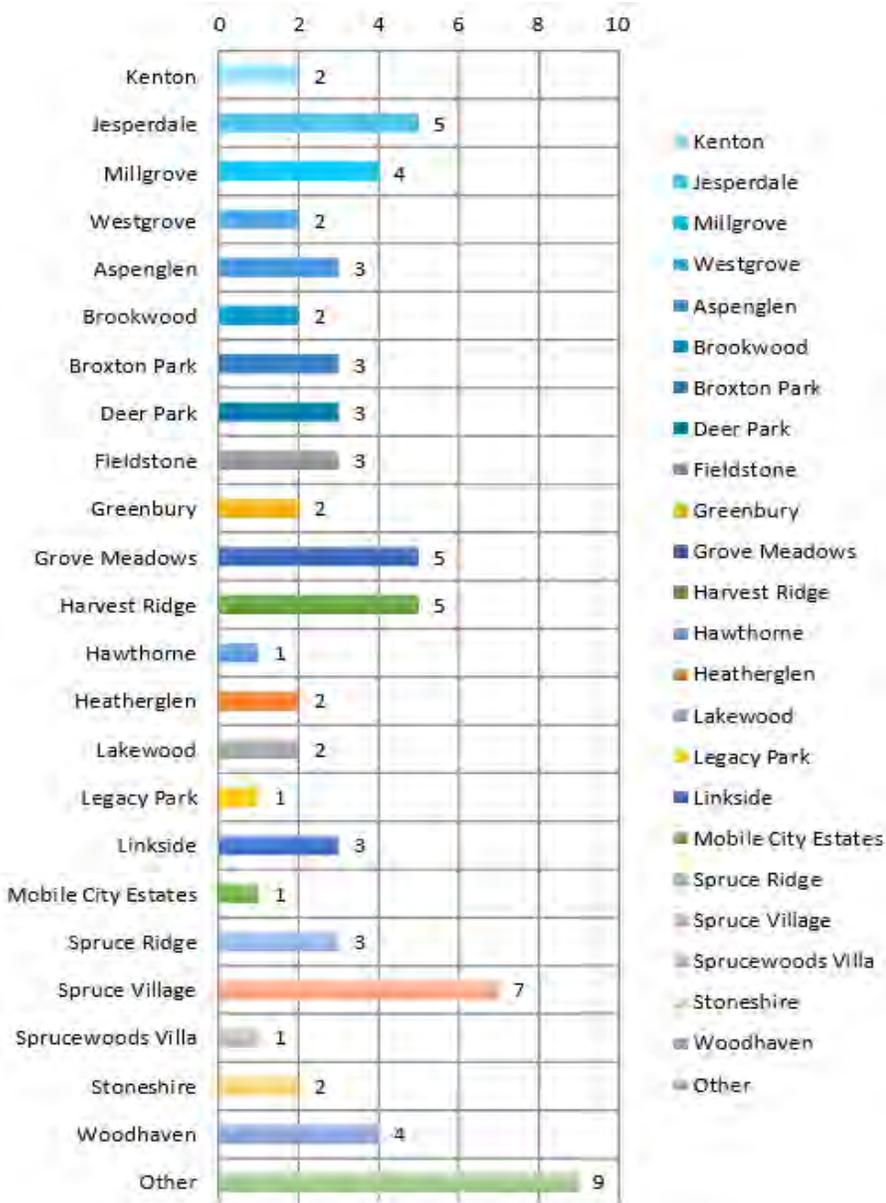
# Strategy to Reduce Poverty and Homelessness public survey

Number of survey responses received: 75

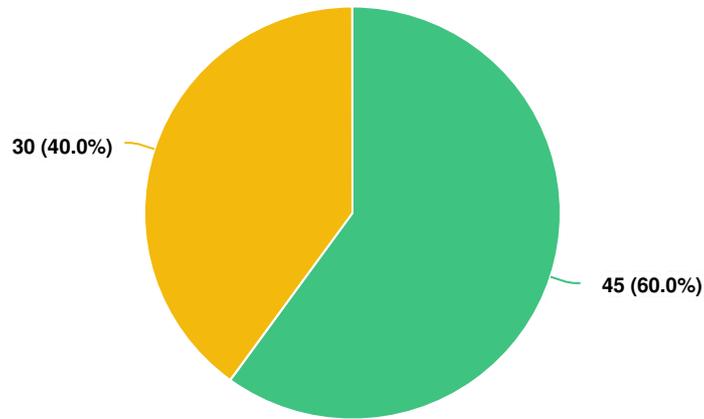
## Age breakdown:



## Neighbourhood:



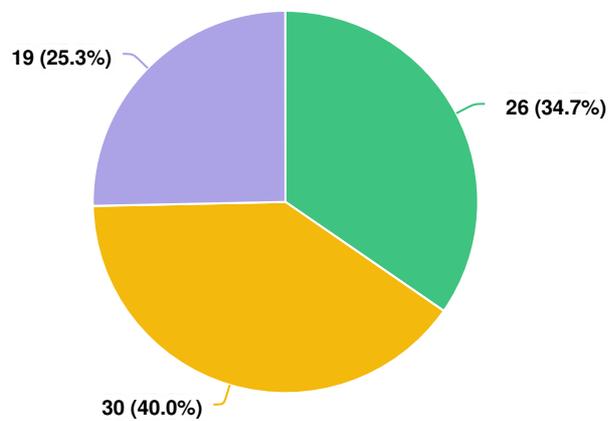
**Q1** Are you aware that the City of Spruce Grove is developing a strategy to reduce poverty and homelessness?



**Question options**

- Yes
  - No
- (75 responses, 0 skipped)

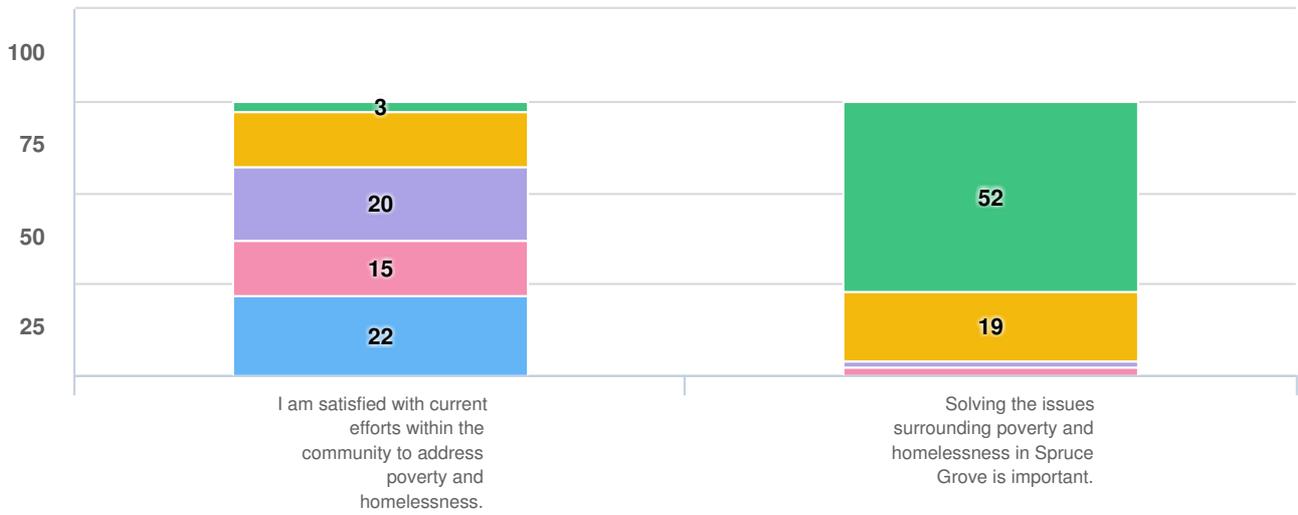
**Q2** Over the past three years, poverty and homelessness in Spruce Grove has:



**Question options**

- Increased Greatly
  - Increased Somewhat
  - Not Sure
- (75 responses, 0 skipped)

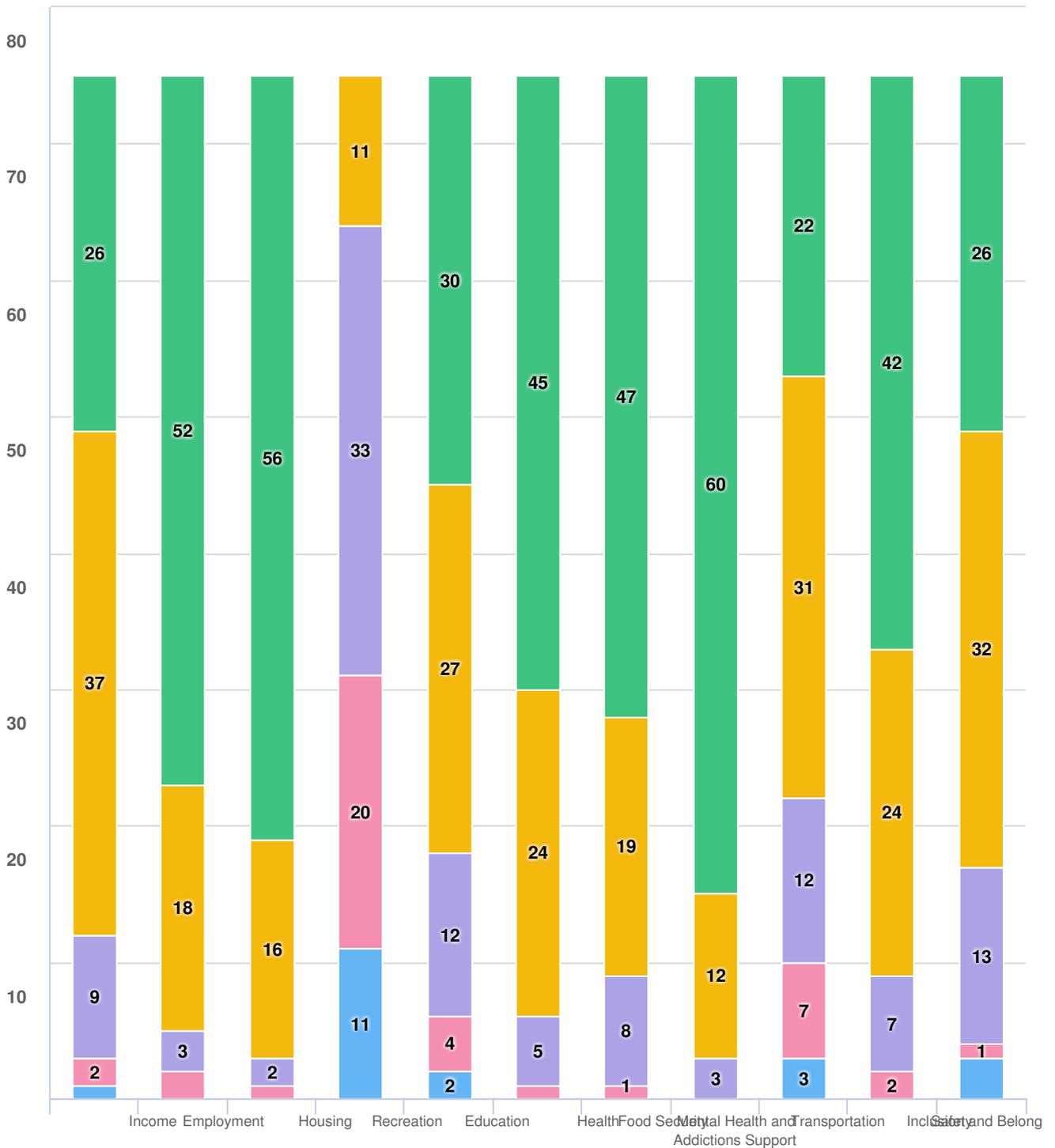
**Q3** Please indicate how you feel about each of these statements:



**Question options**

● Strongly Agree ● Agree Somewhat ● Disagree Somewhat ● Strongly Disagree ● Not Sure  
(75 responses, 0 skipped)

**Q4** Please RATE the following factors in relation to ending poverty and homelessness in Spruce Grove.

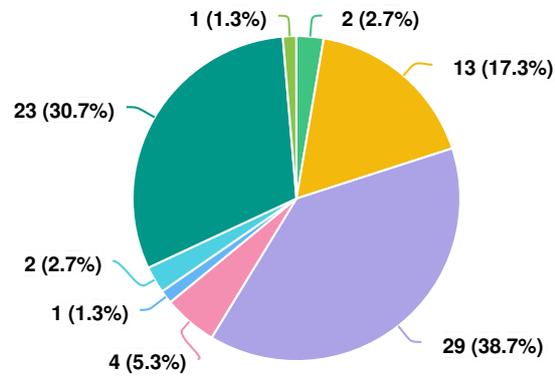


**Question options**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Neutral
- Not very important
- Not important

(75 responses, 0 skipped)

**Q5** | If you could only prioritize ONE of these factors to end poverty and homelessness in Spruce Grove, what would it be? (Selec...

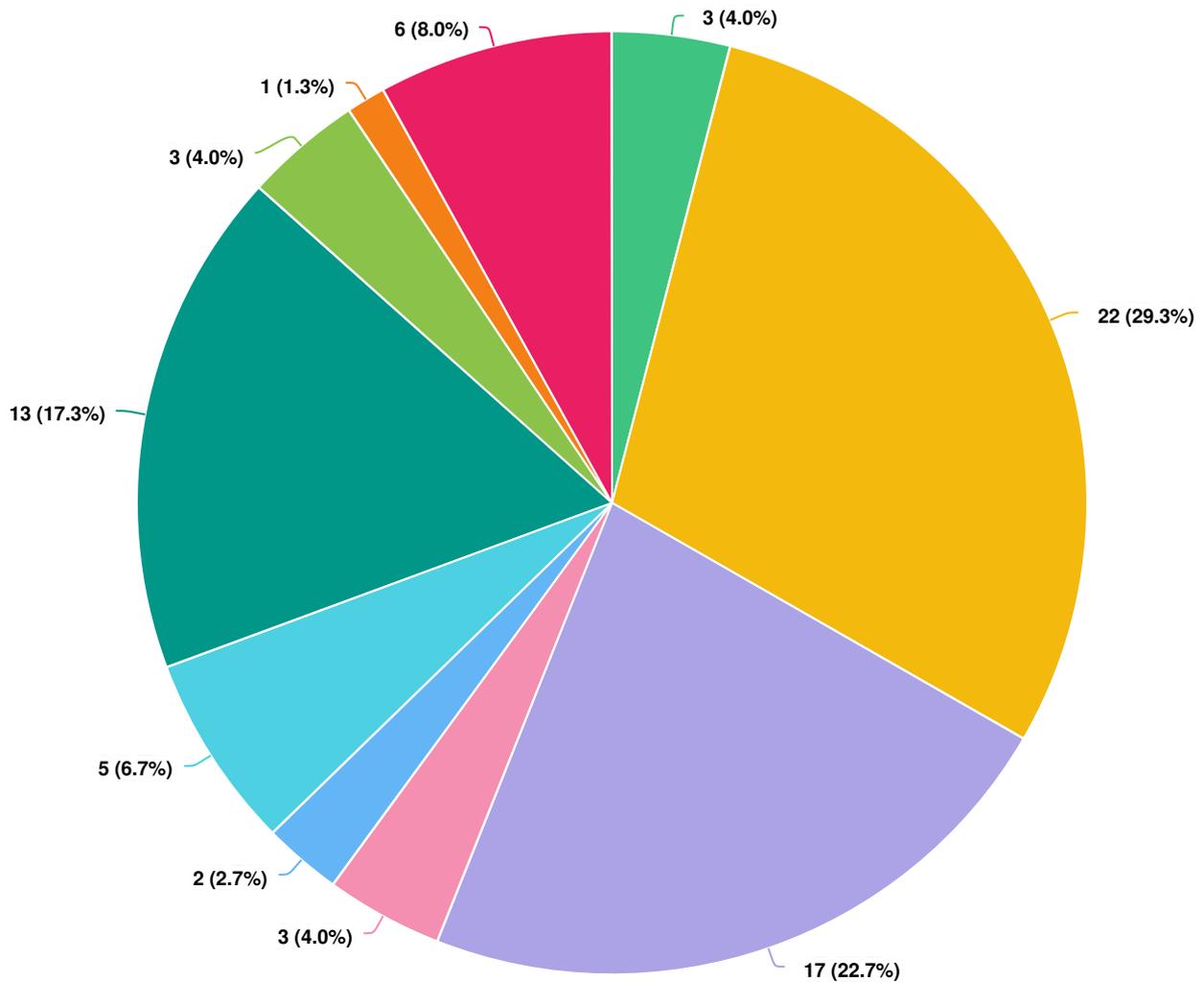


**Question options**

- Income
- Employment
- Housing
- Education
- Health
- Food Security
- Mental Health and Addictions Support
- Safety

(75 responses, 0 skipped)

**Q6** | If you could only prioritize a **SECOND** of these factors to end poverty and homelessness in Spruce Grove, what would it be?



**Question options**

- Income    Employment    Housing    Education    Health    Food Security
- Mental Health and Addictions Support    Transportation    Safety    Inclusion and Belonging

(75 responses, 0 skipped)

**Q7 | When would you no longer consider someone to be poor/at risk for homelessness?**

When they are in sustainable, appropriate housing and have the supports (financial, social, and health) to stay there.

Stable employment, support systems including mental health and addiction support, safe place to live, food security

Stable housing and employment

When they are housed, and have a reliable income.

If they have sustainable employment (longer than 6 months) and sustainable housing (longer than 6 months)

That's a pretty tough question, someone should ask a candidate for government office that question. I think they would need to have housing that they can afford and know that they have enough money and or support that they could be sure of living in that location for at least 3 months into the future. ie enough money/income assistance to afford rent for 3 months even if they lose their job.

When they have stable and affordable housing.

When they have a steady job that will pay their bills

When they have a steady job and roof over their head

When they have a secure place to live

When they have a purpose, shelter, support network, feel safe and have food

When they no longer need to have use of the food bank, are not sleeping in their vehicle or living in a tent within the city

When that individual is not in fear or risk of not having a stable, affordable place to live.

When they have honestly tried to find work and have no family or friends.

Follow guidelines set out by mortgage holders, no more than 35%? of income should go to housing cost - rent or mortgages Affordable housing costs should be set by income.

When they have a clean, safe place to sleep on a regular basis and are able to provide themselves food and other items required to live independently.

When they can provide all the basic necessities for themselves

When they are able to get basic needs such as food, shelter, supports without great difficulty

No Idea

When they have secured income (either through government assistance or employment) and secured access to basic needs (food, shelter)

When they are able to support themselves

When they have secured housing and have the ability to pay for it.

This is a very vague question. Who is the someone? What are their variables?

A safe, secure place to live, food security and having the ability to attain a job (including barriers to access, child care while at work and inclusive work places).

?

hard to say

They are able to maintain stable housing and income without continued supports from agency or services.

When they don't have to spend more than 40% of their net income on food and shelter.

If they are mentally stable, employed they should have some ability to keep from being homeless

When have housing, food security and a steady income.

When they have been in a housing situation with employment and food for longer than 1 year

When they have a job with affordable housing and enough money to control all other costs in their life.

When they have a stable job and a place to live.

When their mental state is good and they are able to go out and get themselves employment.

When they have a full time job & place to live

Working & living clean.

When they have the ability to maintain a full time job and make regular rent/mortgage payments

Unsure

When they have full time employment and good work ethic to hold a job.

when they have employment and permanent housing - like an apartment, something with stability.

When they can fully support themselves - basic needs, shelter, water, heat, food

When they are safely housed, have food security, a regular and adequate income, and are participating as active and positive parts of society

If they have a job and a roof over their heads.

When a person is able to financially pay their own housing, food, taxes and have enough money to spend on recreation, that's when they would not be considered in poverty.

After they have functioned on their own for a year or more. This means positive landlord relations, financial responsibility, meaningful daily activity, addiction support, mental health support

Can hold a job and prioritize how to pay bills and buy food

Everyone is "poor" it is how you choose to live that is the problem. We are not taught how to manage life anymore as we once were

When they have housing, continuous income to cover there needs.

When they actively seek and receive employment

When they can recieve the help they need

When basic needs are being met (food, shelter, clothing)

when above poverty level

When they are living in a safe environment.

When they have a steady job.

Can't find a usual indoor place to call home, and can't find or keep income and social supports.

Self sufficient on their own

When they are able to afford to pay for shelter as well have stable meaningful employment

When they do not have to use government services, they have a place to live and have food.

If they have employment and are earning enough to afford housing. I would help the working poor ahead of the addicts .

Most working families are potentially in danger of being homeless depending on their work and financial situation.

Generally I feel these fall into two categories. one being they do not understand financing and therefore have taken on too much debt. The second is job security and income from said jobs. People today really have a hard time with finding meaningful employment and job security.

When they are fully aware of and have access to employment training resources, affordable housing options, mental health aid, and other resources required to help them get out of their situation.

When they have accommodation for no less than 2 months, and food for no less than one week, and income/grants to maintain that.

When they are self sufficient and have a place to call home

Too many factors that cause risk of homelessness...money, mental health, sickness, addictions, family, debt or combinations of all

When they no long have to worry about where they are going to live and how they are going to get food.

Never. Unforeseen events can put anyone into poverty or homelessness; but with proper 'safety nets' in place a person will have the opportunity to getting back onto their feet.

When they have employment and a home to live!

Employment and able to eat and have a warm place to sleep

When they have a safe environment to protect from the elements and decreased health risks from poor housing or / and nutrition.

When a family or individual has enough money to met all their basic needs PLUS have extra for health and wellness (leisure, recreation).

When housing is 30% or less of total income

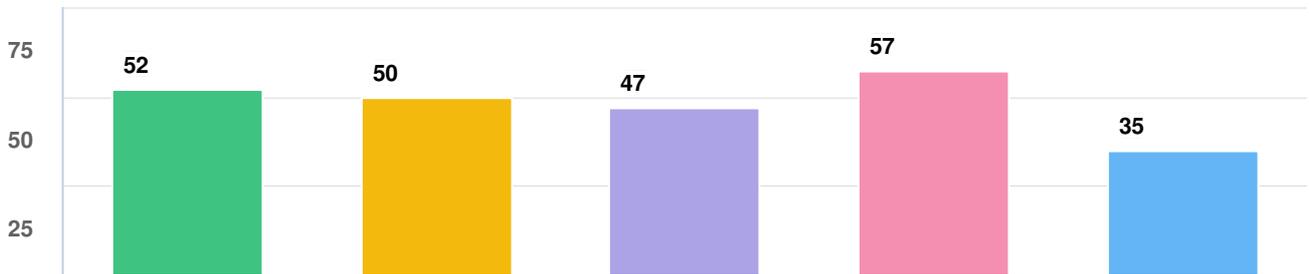
When a person can have safe housing and supports in place to help them along the way, they are much less at risk for homelessness and cost the system far less in terms of policing and health care system.

You are no longer at risk of homelessness or being poor, when you have a steady, decent income that can comfortably satisfy your basic needs to survive. Comfortably satisfy is the key here.

When they had stable income and affordable housing.

Someone who is able to find and keep employment and had a safe and secure place to go to when they are not working.

**Q8** What types of housing options would help reduce poverty and homelessness in Spruce Grove? Select all that apply.



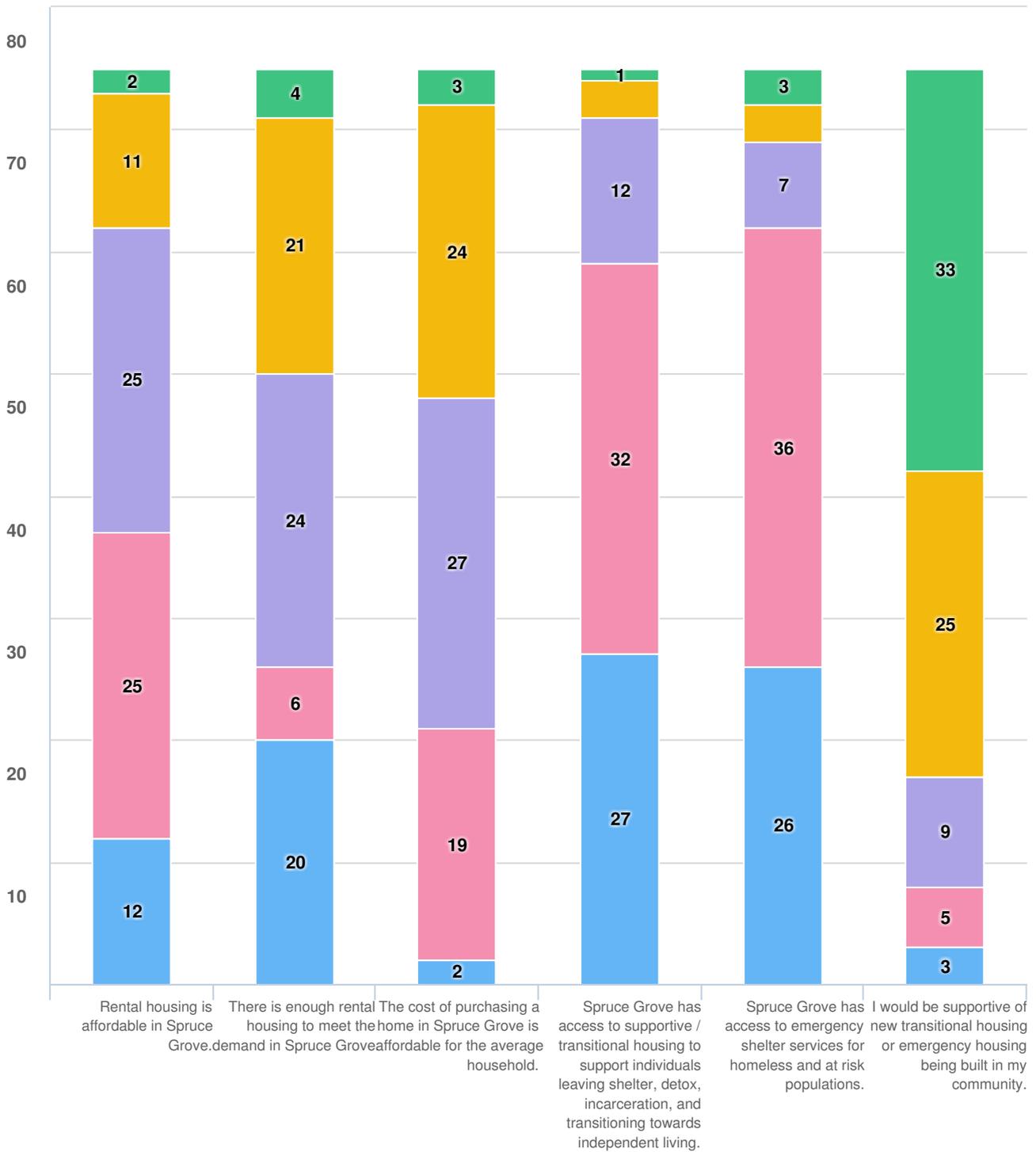
**Question options**

- Emergency Housing (short-term accommodation for people who are homeless or in crisis providing basic necessities such as a place to sleep, shower, do laundry, eat, or obtain clothing)
- Transitional Housing (an intermediate step between emergency crisis shelter and permanent housing, transitional housing is longer-term and more private, but time-limited with intensive services)
- Permanent Supportive Housing (combines rental or housing assistance with individualized, flexible, and voluntary support services for people with high needs related to physical or mental health, developmental disabilities, and/or substance abuse)

▲ 1/2 ▼

(75 responses, 0 skipped)

**Q9 Please indicate how you feel about each of these statements:**

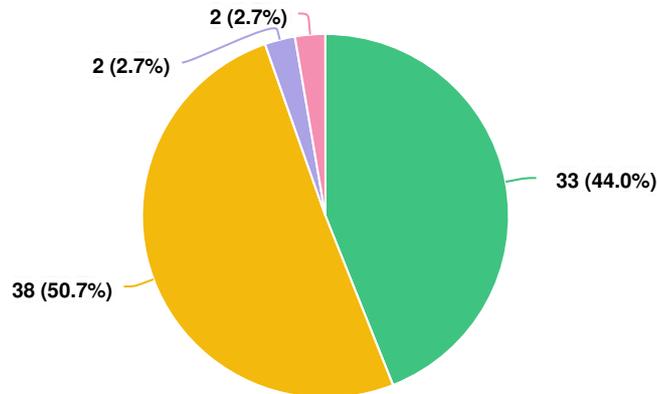


**Question options**

● Strongly Agree   
 ● Agree Somewhat   
 ● Disagree Somewhat   
 ● Strongly Disagree   
 ● Not Sure

(75 responses, 0 skipped)

**Q10 | Do you currently spend more than 30% of your gross income on shelter costs?**

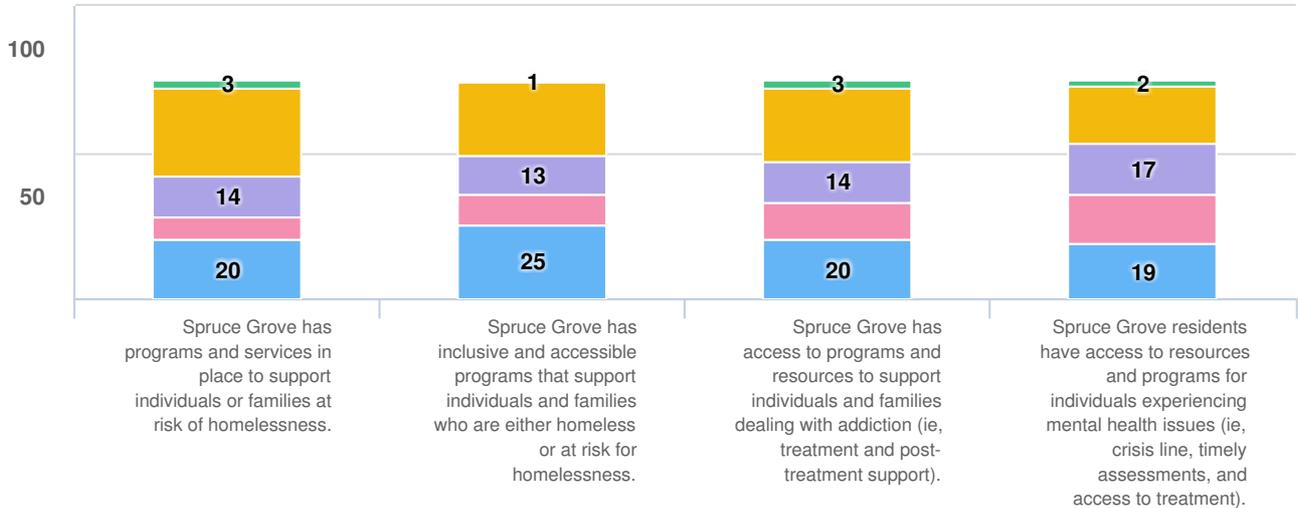


**Question options**

Yes No Don't Know Not Applicable

(75 responses, 0 skipped)

**Q11 | Please indicate how you feel about each of these statements:**

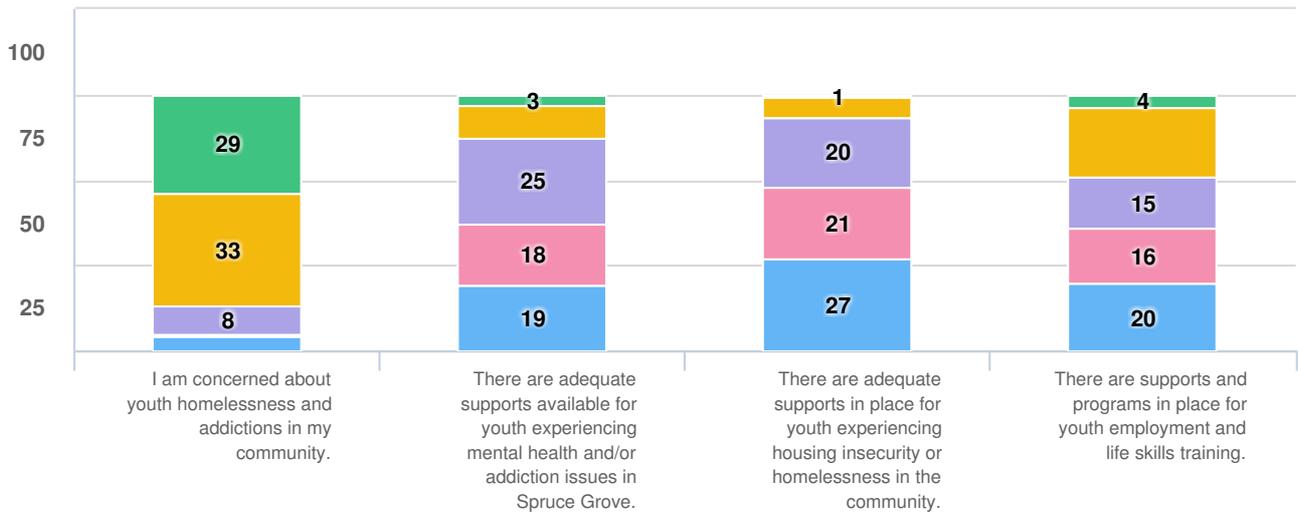


**Question options**

Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Strongly Disagree Not Sure

(75 responses, 0 skipped)

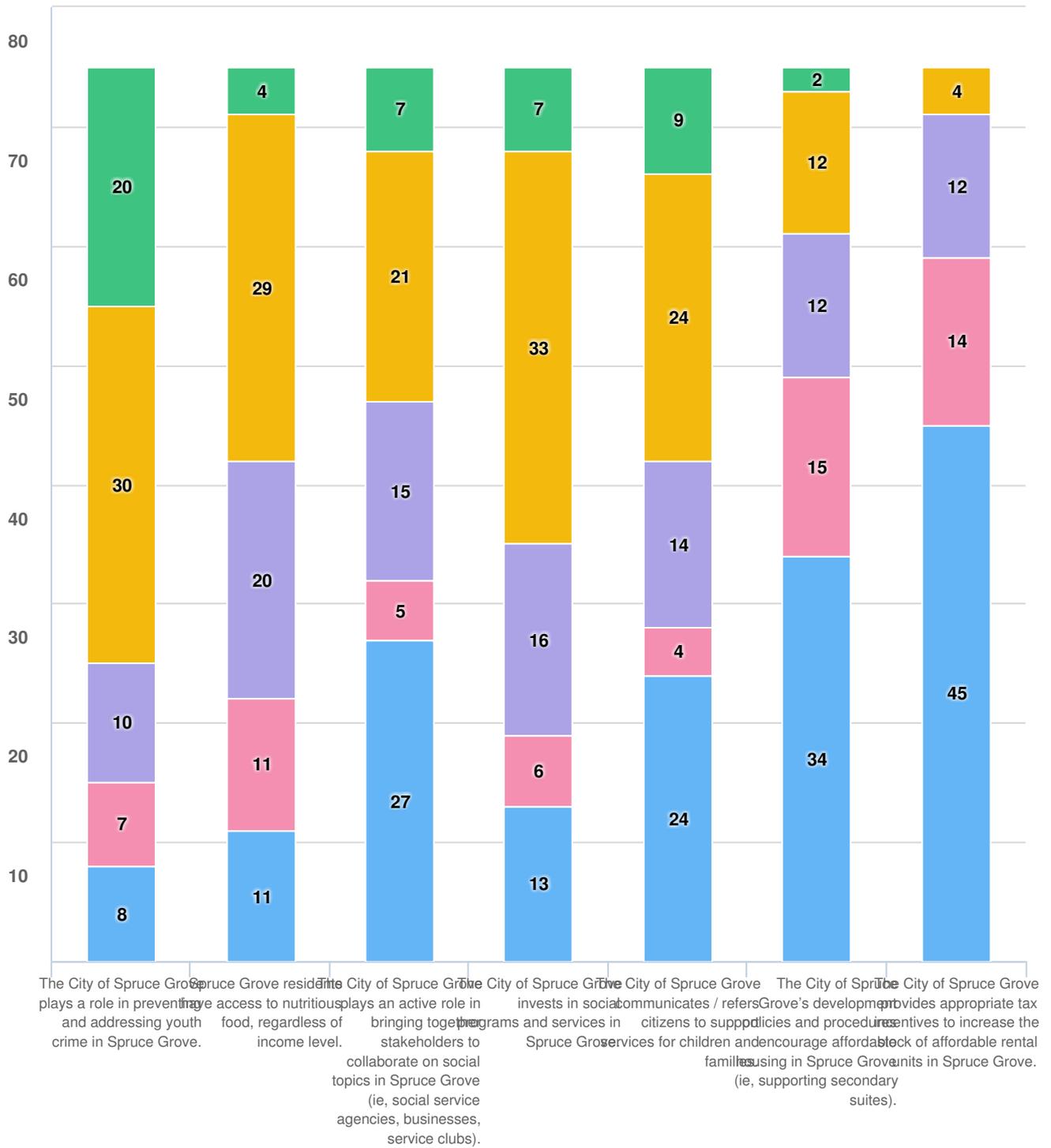
**Q12 Please indicate how you feel about each of these statements:**



**Question options**

● Strongly Agree   
 ● Agree Somewhat   
 ● Disagree Somewhat   
 ● Strongly Disagree   
 ● Not Sure  
 (75 responses, 0 skipped)

**Q13 Please indicate how you feel about each of these statements:**



**Question options**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree Somewhat
- Disagree Somewhat
- Strongly Disagree
- Not Sure

(75 responses, 0 skipped)

**Q14 | Do you have any specific comments or suggestions related to housing and homelessness in Spruce Grove?**

We need to support development of a housing continuum to meet the changing needs of the community. More focus on supports for youth, especially those who do not "fit in" or identify with sports groups.

No where in this survey does it speak about the negative impact to general homeowners in terms of increased crime, decreased sense of safety in the trail system and cost/impact of homelessness and addiction to the property tax payer nor does it elude to the provincial responsibilities in this area

The homelessness problem in Spruce Grove is either non-existent or invisible. I hear that it exists, but I don't see it first hand, and it does not affect me. However, I would be in favour of helping those that do need assistance.

I think we should stop handing them everything, yes some families are struggling but for the youths that are homeless follow the rules at home and my guess is you would have a place to stay, we are quick to hand out to all these people who are sitting in bars eating in restaurants and carry cell phones and I have seen it first hand, yes help those who try and help themselves but for the others always looking for handouts NO.

current practice when dealing with homeless camps is to evict, load all their belongings onto trucks and haul to a dumpster. Not sure if they are offered shelter but this does not seem helpful or supportive in any way, just haul all they own away and hope they don't come back. We are displacing the same group of homeless people 3 to 4 times a season If they had somewhere to go or proper programs this cycle could end.

Too many uninformed, small-town attitudes here toward social issues. This isn't 1950 - people need to realize the world has changed. The judgement and arrogance toward the marginalized and fragile members of our population is appalling.

The increase in our homeless population is an indication that something needs to be done NoW!!

No

I keep hearing that it is an issue but I am not aware of what programs we already have (if any) & where any gaps may exist.

no

There needs to be a solution in place to address the why behind the homelessness and not just a house for individuals to go. Mental health

supports, job training, etc. Need to be made available along side of housing Mental health needs to be addressed in preventing homelessness. The new legalization of marijuana needs to be taking seriously. Since we can't stop it now, more education and mental health awareness needs to take place Spruce grove needs to increase transit to the areas where supports exist. For example, have public transit that goes past the food bank and through the industrial part of town.

Rental prices are far too high, as is the cost of purchasing a house. Most people are stuck renting and even more shuffle to just afford to rent. Some cant even affors to rent because prices to high and are not capped. If people had the ability to pay rent with a comfortable amount of money to save to buy a house, it would help greatly.

No

Homelessness is not always connected to joblessness. Homelessness will become a larger problem as mortgage rates and rules change on a federal level.

Make it affordable. The price we pay for shelter is absolutely outrageous, and I have rented and owned so I know both sides.

We need mental health help for addictions and more programs like Auggie's Cafe and Neighbourlink

More resources, human and otherwise, need to be put into place to address the growing needs of our lesser fortunate people. Youth shelters, transition shelters and especially more support for people with addictions (drug and alcohol) need to be addressed in structured, open, and healthy ways. Make it less difficult for people to access support services, before a crisis happens in their lives.

Cost of renting is high here.

Homeless people choose to be without homes. You don't need homes!

I do not believe that we have a homeless issue within the city with our youth. They have a home to go to should they decide to change perhaps attitudes and live with their parents. They are sometimes asked to leave their parents homes because they do not like the home rules etc, so they decide voluntarily to wander.

Something needs to be done sooner than later

Sounds like they need an education campaign considering how many times I answered "not sure"

My brother has a brain injury and is on a fixed income. Spruce Grove doesnt have any appropriate and affordable housing for him. He doesnt like the hustle and bustle of Edm so his family is forced to supplement his housing

costs therefore sacrificing their own income. We need to look at places like Medicine Hat who has eliminated homelessness. Why don't we have a program where people capable of part time work, like my brother, helps with city work such as snow removal, lawn mowing, rtc in exchange for a more affordable place to live? He would love something to do a few days a week in exchange for help. And I'm sure he is not the only one. Eliminated huge wage costs to the city as well.

Not much has been shared on the topic. This is the first I've heard of addressing it.

Haven't actually seen homelessness in spruce grove, is it a big problem ?

There is a gap in the creation of affordable and transitional housing. These should be funded by private enterprise and assisted with Municipal government grants and other forms of incentives to get these built. Similar programs like Cornerstones in Edmonton offer grants to offer insensitive for construction of basement or garden suites.

no

It is good to see the City taking a proactive step before this becomes too big a problem to address.

Spruce Grove is behind other municipalities of equal size (and even smaller) in addressing the housing needs of it's community.

The feeling that I have is that the City is busy trying to be a big city and has lost the sense of community that is so evident in Stony Plain. The FCSS programs and services available in Stony Plain support the community as a whole and at risk groups especially. I think spruce Grove needs to look at what is really happening, not try to make the world think this is a perfect place. No place is perfect if people are marginalized or left at risk because of mental health issues, race or gender identity. spruce grove needs to be more caring.

This is a city that has the appearance of "not in my back yard", when it comes to lower income families. Poorer individuals don't fit with the "thriving" appearance that is being advertised. The connotation that is associated with 'Lower Income' is "lower-class citizens". However, for some people, the shift is a direct result of the high cost of living and is not a reflection of their character.

**Optional question** (34 responses, 41 skipped)