



**TASK FORCE ON
HOMELESSNESS
INTERIM REPORT FEEDBACK
MARCH 2024**



INTRODUCTION

TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS

During the City of Red Deer's 2022 Point in Time Homeless count, 334 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness, more than double the 144 individuals identified as experiencing homelessness in 2018.

Recognizing the growing impacts of homelessness throughout Red Deer, the Red Deer & District Chamber of Commerce formed a volunteer Task Force of business leaders to understand the homelessness situation in Red Deer better and identify specific areas where the business community can actively contribute to address the issue and advocate for meaningful change.

INTERIM WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

Following eight months of comprehensive research, reviews of best practices, targeted interviews, and community conversations, the Task Force on Homelessness released its interim "What We Heard" report on January 31, 2024.

The interim report outlined the Task Forces' understanding of the homelessness situation in Red Deer and provided a summary of what was learned during the research phase.

INTERIM REPORT FEEDBACK

The Task Force invited Red Deerians to review the interim report and provide their feedback. Feedback was gathered from January 31 until February 16, 2024.

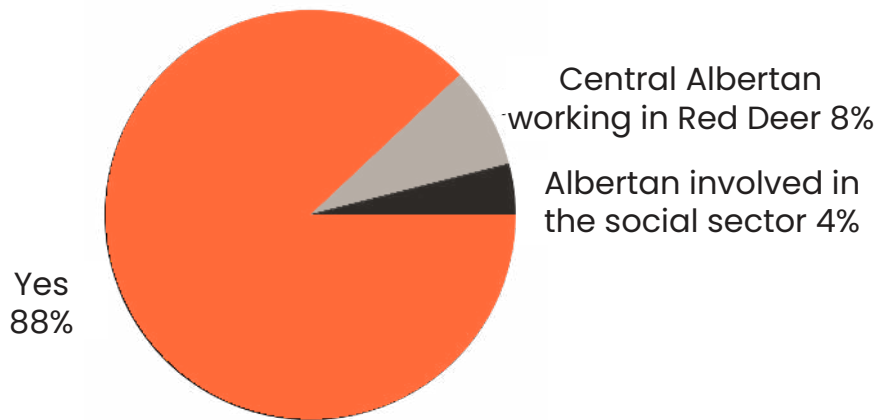
The feedback opportunity was shared:

- Via two press releases from the Chamber
- On the Chamber's website
- Social media posts from the Chamber
- Two articles in the Chamber's weekly e-blasts
- Targeted emails to targeted conversations and community conversation participants

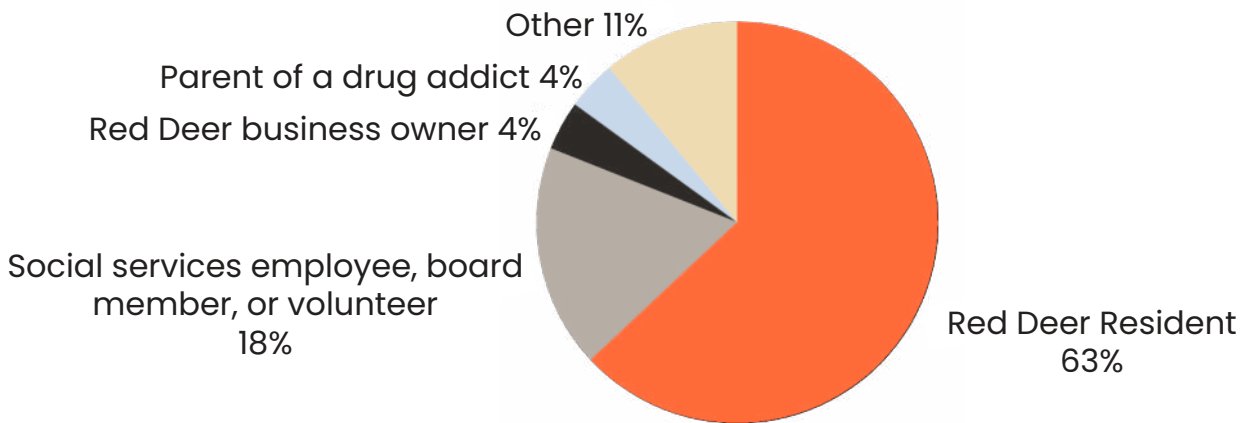
Over 50 individuals, social sector employees and government representatives responded to the feedback opportunity.

FEEDBACK RESULTS

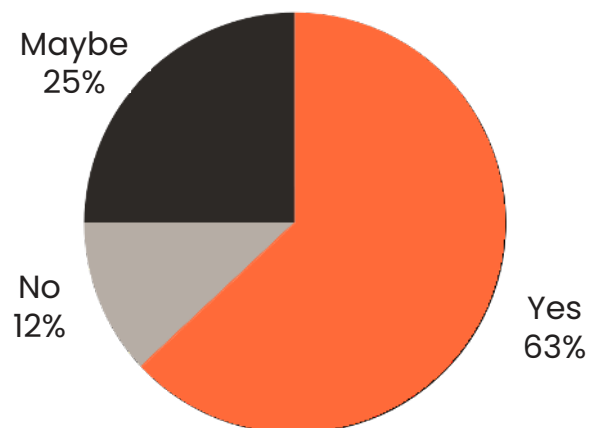
Are you a Red Deer resident?



What best describes your involvement or interest in the homelessness situation in Red Deer?



Do you feel the "What We Heard" report captures the complexities and nuances of the homelessness situation in Red Deer?



FEEDBACK RESULTS CONTINUED

Below, is a high-level summary of the results of the feedback received by the Task Force.

In what specific ways do you believe the report reflects the homelessness situation in Red Deer?

- Captured the complexity of homelessness in Red Deer
- Identified the need for comprehensive solutions and collaboration
- A fair critique of current systems

What aspects of the homelessness situation in Red Deer do you feel may not have been adequately addressed or explored in the report?

- Additional exploration of the intersectionality within the homeless population (e.g. mental health, addiction, poverty, domestic violence, etc.)
- Detailing challenges around housing (e.g. lack of labour to build, lack of current inventory, etc.)
- Adding homeless youth information

How do you envision the findings shared in the report being utilized to inform recommendations aimed at addressing homelessness in Red Deer?

- Community engagement and collaboration – no more silos
- Cut red tape – advocate for streamlined processes
- Develop recommendations that go beyond a lack of housing – addressing the various causes of homelessness

Is there a specific recommendation that you would like to share with the Task Force where you feel the community can actively contribute to addressing the homelessness issue?

- Fast-track affordable/subsidized housing projects
- Repurpose existing government facilities (e.g. Valley Park Manor, Michener Centre)
- Advocate for the integration and coordination of various support services
- Increase community engagement and awareness
- Advocate for collaborative efforts across all levels of government

NEXT STEPS

The Task Force appreciates the constructive and insightful feedback received on the interim report and will incorporate the feedback, as appropriate, into their forthcoming actionable recommendations for the community to consider.

These recommendations will be brought forward in early April.

