



Chamber of Commerce

Grande Prairie & District 1915

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BACKGROUND

Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce 2009 Advocacy Survey Highlights

BACKGROUND

In January 2009, the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce surveyed its membership of over 1100 business and organizations. The survey was conducted electronically and by fax; the return rate was 19%.

Members responded to a number of questions that would assist the Chamber in identifying what issues are most important to them. Member feedback is very important to our Chamber as it is our membership that provides our board with direction as to what priorities we will work on throughout the year. This feedback ensures we can continue to focus on improving the local business environment. As emerging issues arise, our advocacy committee and board of directors incorporate these into our planning.

It is our large and active Chamber membership working together that has created an effective advocacy organization and a respected voice of business in Alberta's northwest.

RESPONSES

HEALTHCARE

Availability of physicians

20% satisfied

77% dissatisfied

3% unsure

Availability of other healthcare services

35% satisfied

60% dissatisfied

5% unsure

Access to hospital services

34% satisfied

61% dissatisfied

5% unsure

Availability of senior's homes

10% satisfied

48% dissatisfied

42% unsure

Availability of nursing homes

8% satisfied

51% dissatisfied

41% unsure

TRANSPORTATION

City Road Conditions summer

55% satisfied
43% dissatisfied
2% unsure

City Road Conditions winter

45% satisfied
53% dissatisfied
2% unsure

Local Highway Conditions summer

70% satisfied
26% dissatisfied
4% unsure

Local Highway Conditions winter

62% satisfied
34% dissatisfied
4% unsure

Level of rail service

18% satisfied
28% dissatisfied
54% unsure

Air travel options

74% satisfied
24% dissatisfied
2% unsure

UTILITIES, TAXES AND SERVICES

Percentage of those that had an opinion:

Water and Sewer rates

74% satisfied
26% dissatisfied

Garbage Disposal

87% satisfied
13% dissatisfied

Prevention of Crime

58% satisfied
42% dissatisfied

Comments: Many positive comments about the work police are doing, but members would like to see more officers available to deal with growth.

Recreation and Tourism Facilities

76% satisfied
24% dissatisfied

Power Rates

27% satisfied
73% dissatisfied

Gas (heating) rates

38% satisfied
62% dissatisfied

Business Taxes (City)

54% satisfied
46% dissatisfied

Business Taxes (County)

61% satisfied
39% dissatisfied

INDUSTRY

The following industries ranked significantly higher in “concerned” category. These are ranked starting with most concerned:

- Current forest situation
- Mountain pine beetle
- Government response to local economic needs
- Health and future of agriculture
- Impact of impending royalty payments on our region
- Impact of a potential carbon tax

The following industry was nearly balanced in the “concerned” and “unconcerned” category, and a number of respondents indicated that they require more information on the subject.

- Potential nuclear power plant in our region

EDUCATION

Respondents were asked to rank the following satisfied, dissatisfied, unsure/NA:

Program offerings at K to 12 schools
Trades Training Opportunities
Certificate/Diploma Opportunities
Degree Completion Opportunities
Workforce Development Opportunities

Respondents selected “satisfied” for all categories. However, satisfaction levels of trades training opportunities and degree completion opportunities were lower and many respondents indicated they would like to see more options in these areas. As well, several respondents commented that they were concerned that once our youth complete high school and leave for training that is not offered here, they are less likely to return to our region.

Respondents also indicated that they are concerned about overcrowding in schools for K to 12.

LEVEL OF IMPORTANACE OF ISSUES

(Percentage of those who felt the issue was important to address through advocacy)

98%	Economic Development
93%	Doctor Recruitment, Retention, & Medical Staff Training
91%	Hospital Construction
90%	Crime Levels and Prevention
89%	Regional Municipal Cooperation
88%	Highways in the Grande Prairie Area
87%	Utility Prices
87%	Environment
84%	University Degree Opportunities at GPRC
83%	Trades Training
82%	Employee Recruitment, Retention & Training
76%	Recreation & Tourism

