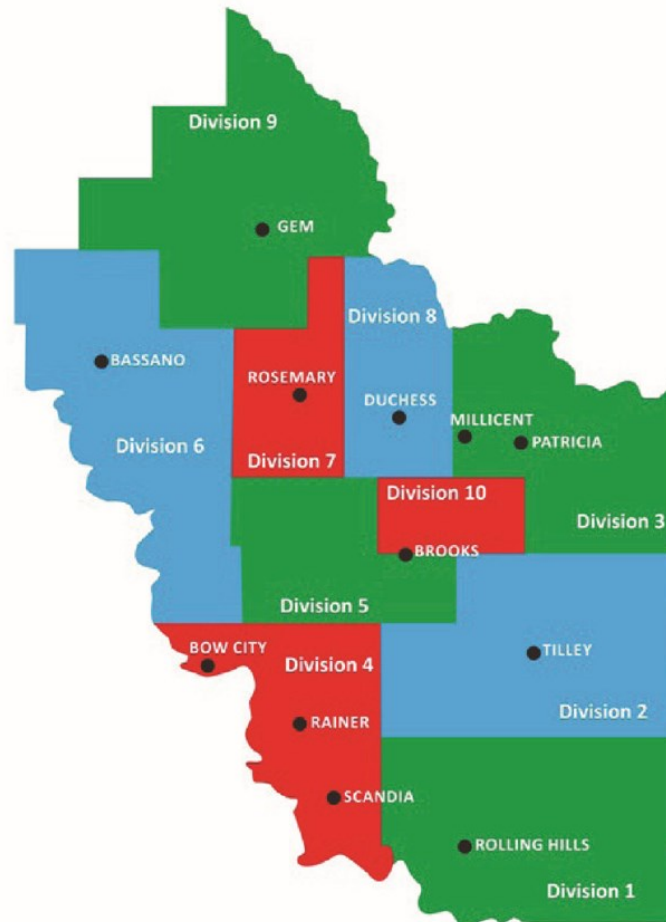


# QUALITY OF LIFE #3

## THE COUNTY OF NEWELL 2023



COUNTY OF  
**NEWELL**



*For a copy of the Quality of Life  
Full Reports and Snapshots for  
communities within the Brooks-  
Newell Region visit:*

[www.grasslandsregionalfcss.com](http://www.grasslandsregionalfcss.com)

Grasslands Regional FCSS  
[grasslandsregional.fcss@telus.net](mailto:grasslandsregional.fcss@telus.net)  
403-362-4549



Grasslands Regional FCSS Board of Directors, 2022



Top Left to Right: County of Newell; Councillor Holly Johnson; Clarence Amulung (Chair); Village of Rosemary; Mayor Yoko Fujimoto, Danealle Reinke  
Bottom Left to Right: Village of Duchess; Councillor Tina Preston (Vice Chair); Vienna Dahle; City of Brooks; Councillor Marissa Wardrop; Cindy Woller

### Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Grasslands Regional FCSS Board of Directors and Staff, I am pleased to release the County of Newell Quality of Life #3 Snapshot in 2023. It is our hope that the information will help further understand our communities and also prove useful for planning, funding and working together.

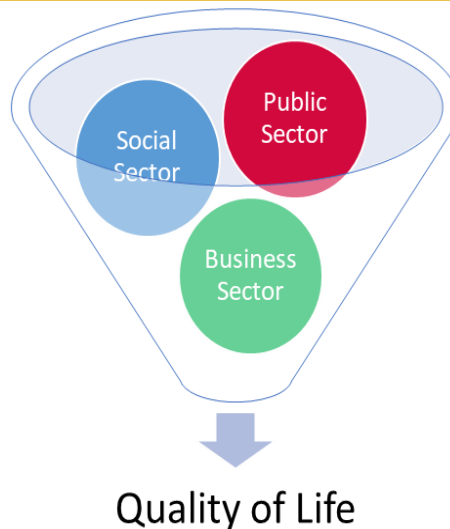
FCSS will also be releasing full reports for the City of Brooks and the Brooks-Newell Region and Community Snapshots for the Town of Bassano, Village of Rosemary, the City of Brooks, the Brooks-Newell Region and the Village of Duchess.

Clarence Amulung, Chair, Grasslands Regional FCSS

Copies available for download or viewing on [www.grasslandsregionalfcss.com](http://www.grasslandsregionalfcss.com)

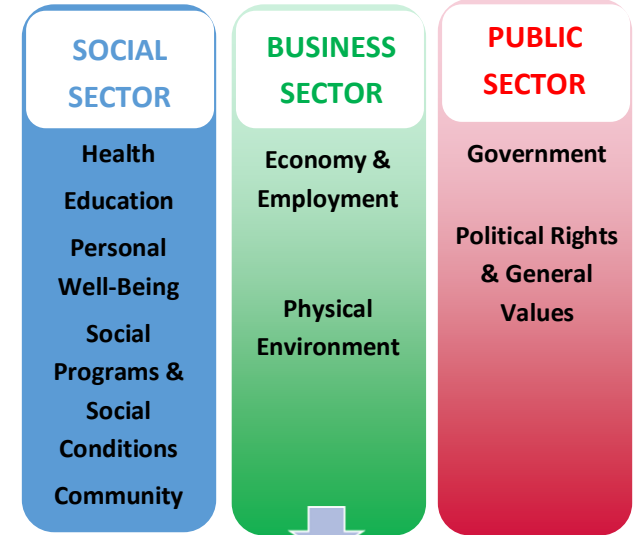
## THE QUALITY OF LIFE

- **Background:** The Grasslands Regional FCSS Community Mapping Project (2007) showed the unique characteristics of our region.
- Prior to the Quality of Life Survey there was no established means to collect and analyze cross-sector (**Business; Public and Social**) data in our region.
- The Quality of Life Survey and analysis provides the ability to complete a **Gap Analysis** which compares Ranking of Importance to Ranking of Satisfaction.
- The survey measures levels of importance within the nine factors variables to measure what residents think are important to their quality of life.
- The analysis also includes residents' feedback on Levels of Satisfaction with services and programs and Overall Satisfaction with the Quality of Life in individual communities, the municipalities and the Newell Region as a whole.
- Comparisons to 2013 and 2017 results are included where relevant



## NINE QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

The survey uses the Nine Quality of Life Factors (Categories) established by the Canadian Policy Research Network. These nine categories provide the foundation for all questions and analysis within the sectors.



### QUALITY OF LIFE VARIABLES

- Within each of the Nine Factors are Variables of Importance and Variables of Satisfaction with services.

### QUALITY OF LIFE SNAPSHOT

- The **Quality of Life #3. County of Newell Snapshot 2023** is a summary of the Gap Analysis completed to compare the Rank of Importance and the Rank of Satisfaction within each of the nine Quality of Life factors.
- The County of Newell Snapshot 2023 is an addendum to the Brooks-Newell Region Quality of Life Report. The snapshot is a summary of the Quality of Life results for the County and also contains comparisons to the Brooks-Newell Region in which the County of Newell is located.

For more information refer to the Brooks-Newell Region Quality of Life Report at [www.grasslandsregionalfcss.com](http://www.grasslandsregionalfcss.com)

# Community Profile

## SAMPLE SIZE

The sample size of 381 respondents from the County of Newell, (which is 5.1% of the County of Newell's population) does not guarantee that the Quality of Life Survey responses are representative of the opinions of community but it does provide a sample of the opinions of the community residents.



County Sign

## DATA SOURCE

- Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released February 8, 2023. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed February 27, 2023).

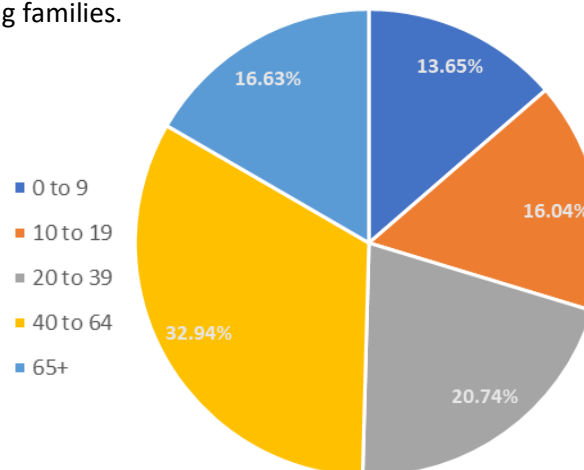
*Statistics Canada does not publish data which can identify individuals so some of the data may have been rounded.*

## COUNTY OF NEWELL SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA

- In 2021, the population of The County of Newell was 7,465 compared to 7,524 in 2016. This is a 0.8% decrease in population.
- The County of Newell has a land area of 5,810/km<sup>2</sup> and a population density of 1.3/km<sup>2</sup>. There are 2,642 private dwellings in the County of which 2,404 are occupied.

## AGE RANGE

- The median age in the County of Newell was 39.2 years in 2021 which is 0.3 years older than the median age in the Brooks-Newell Region.
- 6.4% of The County of Newell's population is over the age of 65.
- 30.1% of the population in The County of Newell is under the age of 19, indicating there are many young families.



## Statistics Canada 2021 Age Demographics Total: 7,524

Age Range	#	%
0 to 4 years	495	6.63%
5 to 9 years	535	7.17%
10 to 14 years	635	8.51%
15 to 19 years	575	7.7%
20 to 24 years	400	5.36%
25 to 29 years	385	5.16%
30 to 34 years	350	4.69%
35 to 39 years	430	5.76%
40 to 44 years	490	6.56%
45 to 49 years	445	5.96%
50 to 54 years	495	6.63%
55 to 59 years	520	6.97%
60 to 64 years	535	7.17%
65 to 69 years	445	5.96%
70 to 74 years	325	4.35%
75 to 79 years	215	2.88%
80 to 84 years	110	1.47%
85 years and over	80	1.07%



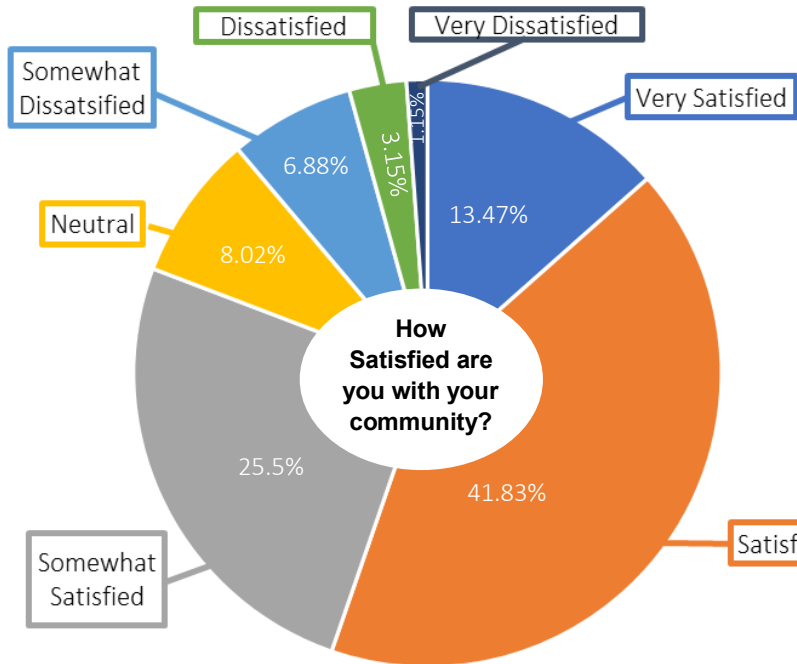
# Community Profile

## COMMUNITY SATISFACTION CHART

★ 349 people answered the question:  
**“Overall how satisfied are you with your Community?”**

**In 2022, 80.8% (282 people) expressed Overall Satisfaction with the Community.**

- **79.4% (301 people) in 2017** ★
- **82% (269 people) in 2013**

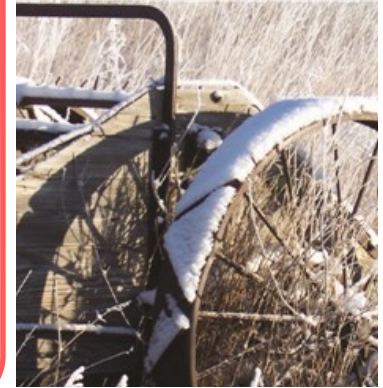


## ETHNO-CULTURAL DIVERSITY

MOTHER TONGUE	
English	5,585
French	40
Non-official Languages	1,660
Other languages spoken are Tagalog (5), Ukrainian (10), Russian (5), Slovak (10), High German (1,270), Low German (210), Danish (10), Spanish (85), Japanese (5), Chinese (5), Hungarian (5)*	
*Statistics Canada 2021	

## Did You Know?

County of Newell *Couples with Children* have the highest Median after-tax income of economic families in the Brooks-Newell Region



## FAMILY STRUCTURES

- 68.2% of persons 15 years and older are married or living common-law.
- There are 125 lone-parent families and 780 couple families with children and 780 couple families without children living in the County of Newell.
- The average size of census families in the County is 2.7, which is lower than the Brooks-Newell Region (3.04).

## NUMBER OF PERSONS/HOUSEHOLD

The average number of persons per household in The County is 2.7 which is the same as the Brooks-Newell Region,.

## DWELLING TYPE\*

\*Statistics Canada 2021

<b>Total number occupied dwellings</b>	<b>2,405</b>
Single-detached house	2,015
Semi-detached house	5
Row house	0
Apartment in a duplex style building	5
Apartment in a building that has Fewer than five storeys	5
Other single attached house	5
Movable dwelling	375



# Findings from the QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

DIVISION	RURAL AREA	POPULATION CENSUS(2021)
1	Rolling Hills Area	273
2	Tilley Area	318
3	Patricia/Millicent Area	78
4	Scandia, Rainier, Bow City Area	169
5	Lake Newell Resort/Cassils	457
6	Bassano Area	1,216
7	Rosemary Area	370
8	Duchess Area	1,053
9	Gem Area	N/A
10	Brooks	14,924



One Gap differs when compare Brooks-Newell Region and The County:

- Education System is identified as a Match Gap

## GAP ANALYSIS

The Gap Analysis reviews the alignment between individuals Rank of Satisfaction with Services and the Rank of Importance of community variables. Ideally individuals would feel the same level of satisfaction as well as rank of importance for any given factor creating a match and resulting in no gap. When the Rank of Satisfaction and Rank of Importance vary it results in a gap; if the Rank of Satisfaction is higher than the Rank of Importance it results in a Positive Gap, alternatively if the Rank of Satisfaction is lower than the Rank of Importance it results in a Negative Gap.

If individuals rate a factor with a more satisfied ranking than ranking of importance the resulting positive gap demonstrates that the community is satisfied with the factor, but it creates inequality within the other factors as it is impossible for all nine factors to present with a positive gap.

## COUNTY OF NEWELL GAP ANALYSIS 2022

Factor	Rank of Importance	Rank of Satisfaction	Gap Analysis Result
Health	1	5	Negative
Personal Well-Being	2	2	Match
Education System	3	4	Negative
Economy and Employment	4	6	Negative
Sense of Community	5	3	Positive
Physical Environment	6	1	Positive
Political Rights and General Values	7	9	Negative
Social Programs/Social Conditions	8	7	Positive
Government	9	8	Positive

# PERSONAL WELL-BEING

MATCH GAP

SOCIAL SECTOR



**Personal Well-Being Ranks #2 for Level of Importance**

Each Factor is measured using variables. Variables measure either the importance of a topic or the satisfaction with access to a service. The variables reviewed to determine the Personal Well-Being Factor are below.

QUALITY OF LIFE	QUALITY OF PLACE
<i>Importance variables</i>	<i>Satisfaction variables</i>
Personal Health	Free Time Activities
Personal Safety	Personal Development
Spiritual & Religious Acceptance	Community Gathering Places
Family	
Friends	

Since 1989 Alberta has celebrated **Family Day** in February as many believe it is important to recognize the need for families to spend more time together.



**Overall Satisfaction with Personal Well-Being was 79.21% (82.4% in 2017 87% in 2013)**

## SATISFACTION: Personal Well-Being

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Community Gathering Places	3.45%	5.75%	12.36%	19.25%	21.55%	29.6%	8.05%
Free Time Activities	4.4%	4.69%	13.49%	32.84%	16.72%	22.58%	5.28%
Personal Development	1.75%	2.33%	7.87%	41.4%	20.41%	23.03%	3.21%



The County of Newell has 7 churches located in its' rural communities. Rolling Hills has 2 churches: Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Pentecostal Church of God. There are 2 churches in Gem: The Gem Mennonite Brethren Church and the Gem Presbyterian Church. Tilley also has 2 churches, the Bethany Lutheran Church and the Tilley Mennonite Church. Scandia has 1 church, the Salem Lutheran Church.

## IMPORTANCE: Personal Well-Being

	Not At All Important	Not Important	Neutral	Important	Very Important
Family	0%	0%	2.12%	10.32%	87.57%
Friends	0%	1.33%	8.49%	38.46%	51.72%
Personal Health	0%	0%	1.86%	22.28%	75.86%
Personal Safety	0%	0%	3.98%	30.24%	65.78%
Spiritual and Religious Acceptance	5.05%	9.57%	24.73%	31.65%	28.99%



There are 11 Hutterian Brethren Colonies in rural areas of the County of Newell.

# PERSONAL WELL-BEING

MATCH GAP

SOCIAL SECTOR

## KEY FINDINGS & COMPARISONS

*The Personal Well-Being Factor in The County Of Newell is a **Match Gap**: This Factor Ranks #2 for Importance and # 5 for Satisfaction in the County*

### IMPORTANCE

- All Personal Well-being variables had a very high rating of Importance with the exception of Spiritual and Religious Acceptance.
- **Family** had a 97.9% rating of Importance, similar to 2017 (98%) and 2013 (98.9%).
- **Friends** had 90.2% rating of Importance, similar to 2017 (91%) and 2013 (92.8%).
- **Personal Health** had 98.1% Importance rating, similar to 2017 (96.7%) and 2013 (98.2%).
- **Personal Safety** at had a 96.2% rating of Importance, similar to 2017 (96.5%) and 2013 (97.5%).
- **Spiritual and Religious Acceptance** decreased to a 60.6% rating of Importance compared to 2017 (61.2%) and 2013 (66.7%).



Most hamlets in the County have community halls and places for the community to gather and organize suppers, concerts, community events and fundraisers.

### SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES

- Personal Well-being Overall Satisfaction with Services within the variables decreased in 2022.
- **Community Gathering Places** continued to have the least Neutral responses at 15.4%.
- **Community Gathering Places** had highest Overall Satisfaction rating of 59.2% in 2022 compared to 2017 (64.8%) and 2013 (68.1%). Overall Dissatisfaction had an increase to 21.6% compared to 2017 (14.6%) and 2013 (16.5%).
- **Free Time Activities** had an Overall Satisfaction rating of 44.6% in 2022 compared to 2017 (50.3%) and 2013 (49%). **Free Time Activities** also had the most Overall Dissatisfaction responses at 22.6%.
- **Personal Development** had an Overall Satisfaction with Services rating of 46.6% in 2022, compared to 2017 (54.5%) and 2013 (53.2%).



Individuals in the Alberta Health Services South Zone have a average life expectancy of 81.3 years old. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/about/southzone.aspx>



# HEALTH

NEGATIVE GAP

SOCIAL SECTOR

## IMPORTANCE: Health

	Not At All Important	Not Important	Neutral	Important	Very Important
Community Suicide Rates	1.33%	2.93%	18.13%	42.93%	34.67%
Lifestyle	0.8%	1.33%	14.93%	45.87%	37.07%
Mental Health	0.26%	1.32%	5.03%	37.83%	55.56%
Physical Activity	0.27%	1.86%	5.85%	45.74%	46.28%
Rates of Disease	2.66%	2.93%	14.89%	45.74%	33.78%

Overall Satisfaction with Health Services was 73% (75.7% in 2017; 75.5% in 2013) ★

★ Health Ranks #1 for Level of Importance ★

Each Factor is measured using variables. Variables measure either the Importance of a topic or the Satisfaction with access to a service. The variables reviewed to determine the Health Factor are below.

QUALITY OF LIFE	QUALITY OF PLACE
<i>Importance variables</i>	<i>Satisfaction variables</i>
Community Suicide Rates	Addiction
Mental Health	Persons with Disabilities
Rates of Disease	Access to Physicians
Lifestyle	
Physical Activity	



County of Newell residents can access Health Services, Medical Clinics and Dental Clinics in either Brooks or Bassano.

Residents travel primarily to Medicine Hat, Calgary and Lethbridge for Specialized Services.

## SATISFACTION: Health

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Access to Physicians (Doctors)	9.77%	9.77%	14.94%	9.2%	16.95%	31.32%	8.05%
Addiction	4.35%	9.86%	12.75%	50.43%	9.86%	11.01%	1.74%
Persons with Disabilities	2.9%	5.51%	11.01%	44.64%	20.29%	13.33%	2.32%



## KEY FINDINGS & COMPARISONS

The Health Factor in The County of Newell is a **Negative Gap**: This Factor Ranks #1 for Importance & #5 for Satisfaction of Services in the County.

### IMPORTANCE

- **Mental Health, Physical Activity and Lifestyle** remained of very high Importance in 2022, with **Mental Health** becoming the #1 variable of Importance in the Health category. No Level of Importance responses were also very low. **Mental Health and Physical Activity** had the lowest Neutral responses.
- **Mental Health** had a 93.4% rating of Importance in 2022 compared to 2017 (86.7%) and 2013 (87.5%).
- **Physical Activity** had an Overall Importance rating of 92% in 2022 compared to 2017 (90.3%) and 2013 (89.9%).
- **Lifestyle** had an Overall Importance rating of 82.9% compared to 2017 (87.7%) and 2013 (83%).
- **Rates of Disease** had an Overall Importance rating of 79.5% in 2022 compared to 2017 (86%).
- **Community Suicide Rates** had an Overall Importance rating of 77.6% in 2022 compared to 72.3% in 2017 and 72.55 in 2013.

### SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES

- **Access to Physicians** had the highest decrease in Overall Satisfaction at 56.3% in 2022 compared to 2017 (72.5%) which is similar to 2013 (59.1%). **Access to Physicians** also had twice the Overall Dissatisfaction rate compared to 2017. It also had the highest Overall Dissatisfaction response in the Health category in 2022 at 34.5% compared to 17.9% in 2017 and 29.4% in 2013. It also had the lowest Neutral responses at 9.2%.
- Overall Satisfaction with **Addiction services** was 22.6% compared to 2017 (38.2%) and 2013 (36.2%). Addiction services had an overall level of Dissatisfaction rate of 27%, an increase from 2017 (18.9%) and 2013 (19.2%). Neutral responses was high at 50.4%.
- Overall Satisfaction with **Persons with Disabilities** services was 35.9% in 2022 compared to 46.6% in 2017 and 37.8% in 2013. Overall Dissatisfaction was 19.4% compared to 16.6% in 2017 and 19.1% in 2013. Neutral responses was high at 44.5%.

### Respondents were asked: “Do any of the following conditions negatively affect you or anyone in your household?”

124 people responded to the question

	Individuals negatively affected by condition	Households negatively affected by condition
Physical Conditions	40	39
Mental Conditions	34	37
Health Problems	56	65
Limited Mobility	30	37
Hearing Problems	27	34
Vision Problems	27	19
Communication Problems	6	9

# EDUCATION

NEGATIVE GAP

SOCIAL SECTOR

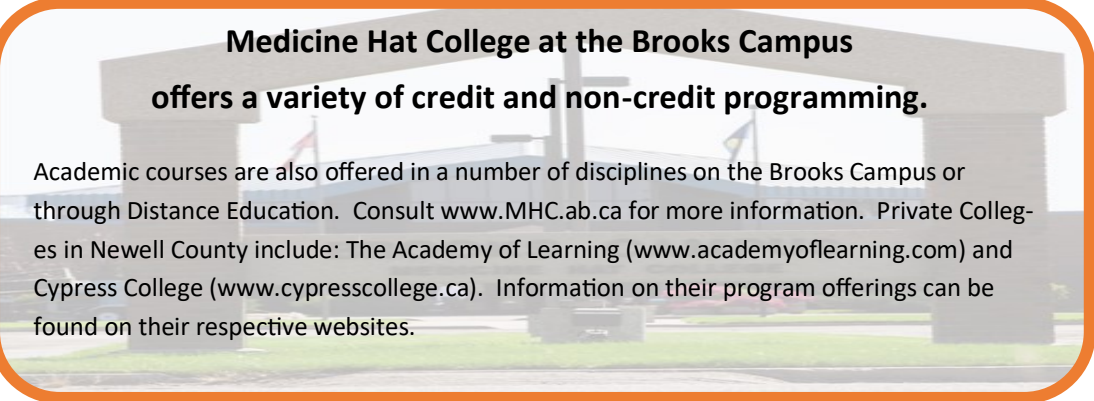
Each Factor is measured using variables. Variables measure either the Importance of a topic or the Satisfaction with access to a service. The variables reviewed to determine the Education Factor are below.

QUALITY OF LIFE	QUALITY OF PLACE
<i>Importance variables</i>	<i>Satisfaction variables</i>
Education	Post-Secondary Education
High School Drop Out Rates	Adult-Continuing Education
Community Literacy Rates	Job Training Programs
Adult Literacy	
Personal Education Achievements	

★  
Education Ranks #3 for Level of Importance  
★

**Medicine Hat College at the Brooks Campus offers a variety of credit and non-credit programming.**

Academic courses are also offered in a number of disciplines on the Brooks Campus or through Distance Education. Consult [www.MHC.ab.ca](http://www.MHC.ab.ca) for more information. Private Colleges in Newell County include: The Academy of Learning ([www.academyoflearning.com](http://www.academyoflearning.com)) and Cypress College ([www.cypresscollege.ca](http://www.cypresscollege.ca)). Information on their program offerings can be found on their respective websites.



★ Overall Satisfaction with Education was 72.44% (76.7% in 2017; 74.7% In 2013)

**SATISFACTION: Education Services**

	Very	Dissatisfied	Somewhat	Neutral	Somewhat	Satisfied	Very
Adult/Continuing Education	2.92%	4.09%	9.36%	38.89%	20.47%	21.35%	2.92%
Job Training Programs	2.33%	3.79%	7.58%	53.94%	16.03%	12.83%	3.5%
Post-Secondary Education	2.89%	6.94%	9.25%	36.71%	19.36%	21.1%	3.76%

**IMPORTANCE: Education**

	Not At All Important	Not Important	Neutral	Important	Very Important
Adult Literacy	2.13%	3.46%	17.82%	46.81%	29.79%
Community High School Dropout Rates	3.18%	6.1%	27.32%	41.11%	22.28%
Community Literacy Rates	3.73%	5.87%	27.47%	41.33%	21.6%
Education	1.08%	1.35%	7.82%	34.5%	55.26%
Personal Educational Achievements	2.39%	5.32%	23.14%	42.29%	26.86%



# EDUCATION

## NEGATIVE GAP

## SOCIAL SECTOR

### KEY FINDINGS & COMPARISONS

*The Education Factor in The County is a **Negative Gap**: This Factor Ranks #3 for Importance and #4 for Satisfaction with Services in the County*

#### IMPORTANCE

- Most respondents felt that the **Education** category Importance variables were Important or Very Important . No Importance responses continued to be low.
- The highest increase in Neutral responses in 2022 was **Personal Education Achievements** at 23.1% (2017: 13.3%; 2013: 18.3%).
- **Adult Literacy** had an Importance rating of 76.6% in 2022 compared to 2017 (77.2%) and 2013 (82%).
- **Community High School Dropout Rates** had an Importance rate of 63.4%, a decrease from 2017 (68%( and 2013 (72.3).
- The Importance of **Community Literacy Rates** was 62.9%, a decrease from 2017 (69.5%) and 2013 (74%).
- The Education variable continued to have the highest Importance rating at 89.8% compared to 2017 (90.6%) and 2013 (94.5%).
- Personal Educational Achievements had an Importance rating of 69.1%, a marked drop from 81.5% in 2017 and 78% in 2013.

Education encompasses the broad range of education including Pre-School, Kindergarten to Grade 12 and Adult Education including Post-Secondary and Further Education.

### SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES

- Neutral responses to Satisfaction with services in the Education category continued to be high in 2022 particularly Job Training Programs (54%).
- Overall Satisfaction with **Adult/Continuing Education** was 44.7%, a decrease from 2017 (50.1%) and 2013 (55.2%). Dissatisfaction increased to 16.4% from 12.3% in prior years. Neutral responses (39%) were similar to prior years. Neutral responses was 39%.
- **Job Training programs** Overall Satisfaction was 32.4% and Dissatisfaction was 13.7%, similar to prior years.
- Overall Satisfaction with the **Post-Secondary** services was 44.2%, a decrease from 2017 (50.1%) and 2013 (54.3%). Overall Dissatisfaction was 19%, an increase from 15% (2017) and 13.7% (2013). Neutral responses was 36.7%.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Grasslands School Division administers schools within the County.
- Hamlet Schools Include: <sup>1</sup>
  - ◆ Rolling Hills—K -Grade 9
  - ◆ Gem—Grade 1—6
  - ◆ Alcoma—k—Grade 9
  - ◆ Tilley—Grade 1—9
  - ◆ There are also 7 There are also 7 Hutterian Brethren Colony schools (Grade 1-9) that cater to Hutterite children living in the colonies.
- Students within the Grasslands School Division have a 56.7% rate of enrollment in post secondary within 6 years of graduation. <sup>2</sup>
- The Newell Further Education Council offers a number of workshops/courses throughout the County of Newell.

<sup>1</sup> Grasslands Public Schools, Capital Plan 2023—2026

<sup>2</sup> Grasslands Public Schools, Combined 3 Year Education Plan 2019-2022

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.alberta.ca/federal-provincial-child-care-agreement.aspx>



# ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

NEGATIVE GAP

BUSINESS SECTOR

Economy & Employment Ranks  
#4 for Level of Importance

Each Factor is measured using variables. Variables measure either the importance of a topic or the satisfaction with access to a service. The variables reviewed to determine the Economy & Employment Factor are below.

QUALITY OF LIFE	QUALITY OF PLACE
<i>Importance variables</i>	<i>Satisfaction variables</i>
Unemployment Rate	Poverty
Employment Rate	Affordable Housing
Level of Income	Employment
Financial Effect of Crime	
Community Rate of Bankruptcies	



## IMPORTANCE: Economy & Employment

	Not At All Important	Not Important	Neutral	Important	Very Important
Community Employment Rates	1.6%	2.66%	20.74%	52.39%	22.61%
Community Rate of Bankruptcies	2.39%	6.1%	34.48%	41.11%	15.92%
Community Unemployment Rates	2.92%	3.18%	22.02%	53.32%	18.57%
Financial Effects of Crime	1.59%	1.86%	15.38%	48.28%	32.89%
Level of Income	0.27%	3.45%	21.75%	50.93%	23.61%

There are no **Affordable Housing** units in the County of Newell but the Newell Housing Foundations operates Seniors Villas and the Provincial Government rent subsidy Program

Overall Satisfaction with Economy & Employment was 70.65% (61.6% in 2017; 73.5% in 2013)



## SATISFACTION: Economy & Employment Services

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Affordable Housing	4.36%	6.4%	9.01%	41.28%	17.44%	17.73%	3.78%
Employment	3.21%	3.21%	8.75%	35.86%	25.07%	20.12%	3.79%
Poverty	1.44%	5.76%	8.07%	51.01%	15.56%	16.14%	2.02%

In 2021 Newell County had an *Unemployment Rate* of 7%, The Provincial *Unemployment Rate* was 7.1%<sup>1</sup>  
In April 2023, the Provincial *Unemployment Rate* is 5.9%<sup>1</sup>  
In May, 2023, the Lethbridge-Medicine Hat Region and Alberta *Unemployment Rate* was 5.7%<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> 2021 Census Data - Stat Canada - <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/2d875f91-c500-4779-b772-756819f9cc92/>



# ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

NEGATIVE GAP

BUSINESS SECTOR

## KEY FINDINGS & COMPARISONS

*The Economy & Employment Factor in The County is a **Negative Gap**:  
This Factor Ranks #4 for Importance and #6 for Satisfaction in The County*

### IMPORTANCE

- All Economy & Employment variables continued to be important to respondents in 2022. Compared to prior years, Neutral responses were similar and No Levels of Importance responses remained consistently low.
- **Financial Effects of Crime** had the highest Overall Importance rate at 81.2% ( 2017; 79.7% and 2013: 81.5%). Neutral response rate was 15.4%.
- **Community Employment Rates** had an Overall Importance rating of 75%, very similar to 2017 and 2013. Neutral responses were 16%.
- **Level of Income** maintained an Overall Importance at 74.5%, a decrease from 81.9% in 2017 and 79.6% in 2013. 21.7% were Neutral.
- **Unemployment Rates** had an Overall Importance rate of 72.9%, similar to 2017 (72.9%) and 2013 (68.6%). 22% were Neutral.
- **Community Rate of Bankruptcies** had an Overall Importance rate of 57%, similar to 2017 (62.1%) and 2013 (55.6%).

### SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES

- Overall Satisfaction levels remained highest for **Employment** in 2022 compared to 2017 (45.5%) and 2013 (50.2%). Overall Dissatisfaction was 15.2% compared to 2017 (22.8%) and 2013 (16.4%). Neutral responses were 35.9%, similar to prior years.
- **Affordable Housing** remained the second highest for Overall Satisfaction at 38.6%, a decrease from 2017 (42.3%) and 2013 (42.4%). Overall Dissatisfaction was 19.8%, similar to 2017 (18.1%) and 2013 (19.3%). Neutral response was 41.3%.
- **Poverty services** had an Overall Satisfaction rate of 33.7%, a decrease from 2017 (39.1%) and 2013 (42.1%) Overall Dissatisfaction was 15.3%, similar to 2017 (16%) and an increase from 2013 (12.4%). Neutral response was 51%. of respondents, the continued highest Neutral response over the years.



# POLITICAL RIGHTS & GENERAL VALUES

## NEGATIVE GAP

## PUBLIC SECTOR

Each Factor is measured using variables. Variables measure either the importance of a topic or the satisfaction with access to a service. The variables reviewed to determine the Political Rights & General Values Factor are below.

QUALITY OF LIFE	QUALITY OF PLACE
<i>Importance variables</i>	<i>Satisfaction variables</i>
Honesty	Discrimination
Respect	Immigration
Integrity	English as a Second Language
Freedom of Speech	
Sharing	



The County of Newell has a Council elected throughout the Region. There are 10 Councillors representing 10 divisions. Four councillors were acclaimed in the 2021 election. In 2017, seven Councillors were acclaimed.

In 2021, 983 votes were cast by eligible voters.

### IMPORTANCE: Political Rights & General Values

	Not At All Important	Not Important	Neutral	Important	Very Important
Freedom of Speech	0.27%	1.33%	9.28%	30.77%	58.36%
Honesty	0.27%	0%	1.33%	18.83%	79.58%
Integrity	0%	0.53%	4.53%	31.47%	63.47%
Respect	0%	0.27%	1.06%	25.99%	72.68%
Sharing	1.59%	3.71%	26.79%	41.11%	26.79%

### DID YOU KNOW...

**20.1%** GERMAN SPEAKERS  
COUNTY OF NEWELL

The County of Newell has a large proportion (20.1%) of German mother tongue speakers mostly from Hutterite and Mennonite Communities.

Political Rights & General Values Ranks  
#7 for Level of Importance

Overall Satisfaction with Political Rights & General Values was 58.69%  
(70.9% in 2017; 70% in 2013)

### SATISFACTION: Political Rights & General Values

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Discrimination	3.48%	6.67%	12.75%	39.71%	15.36%	16.52%	5.51%
English as a Second Language	5.23%	3.78%	4.94%	53.49%	13.08%	13.95%	5.52%
Immigration	3.49%	3.49%	7.27%	52.03%	12.21%	16.86%	4.65%



# POLITICAL RIGHTS & GENERAL VALUES

NEGATIVE GAP

PUBLIC SECTOR

## KEY FINDINGS & COMPARISONS

*The Political Rights & General Values Factor in The County is a **Negative Gap**: This Factor Ranks #7 for Importance and #9 for Satisfaction*

### IMPORTANCE

- Most Political Rights & General Values responses to the importance of variables have remained similarly of high importance throughout the years, with Neutral and No Level of Importance rates being very low. **Sharing** is the only exception.
- **Respect** had the highest Overall Importance in 2022 at 98.7%, similar to 2017 and 2013. Neutral and No Level of Importance responses were insignificant.
- **Honesty** continued to be of high importance at 98.4%, very similar to prior years. Neutral and No Level of Importance responses were insignificant.
- **Integrity** continued to have a high Overall Importance rating at 95%, very similar to 2017 and 2013. Neutral and No Level of Importance responses were insignificant.
- **Freedom of Speech** had an Overall Importance of 89.1%, a slight decrease since 2017 (91.9%) and 2013 (95%). Neutral and No Level of Importance responses were insignificant.
- **Sharing** had the lowest rating of Overall Importance at 68%, a continued decrease from 2017 (72.2%) and 2013 (78.4%). Compared to the other variables, **Sharing** had a high Neutral response at 26.8%.

### SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES

- Overall Satisfaction with lack of **Discrimination** was 37.4% compared to 39.5% in 2017 and 40.4% in 2013. Dissatisfaction response rate was 22.9%, an increase from both 2017 (22%) and 2013 (17.6%). Neutral responses remained high at 39.7%.
- Overall Satisfaction with **English as a Second Language** services was 32.6%, a decrease from 39.5% in 2017 but similar to 2013 (33.7%). Neutral responses remained very high at 54%.
- Overall Satisfaction with **Immigration** services was 33.7%, a slight increase from 2017 (32%) and 2013 (28.1%). Overall Dissatisfaction was 14.2%, a decline from 2017 (18%) and 2013 (19%). 52% were Neutral responses, similar to prior survey responses.





# SENSE OF COMMUNITY

POSITIVE GAP

SOCIAL SECTOR

Sense of Community Ranks #4 for Level of Importance

Each Factor is measured using variables. Variables measure either the importance of a topic or the satisfaction with access to a service. The variables reviewed to determine the Sense of Community Factor are below.

QUALITY OF LIFE	QUALITY OF PLACE
<i>Importance variables</i>	<i>Satisfaction variables</i>
Knowing Neighbors	Domestic Violence
Working Together	Community Safety
Helping Others	Social Inclusion
Community Safety	
Sense of Belonging	

### SATISFACTION: Sense of Community

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Community Safety	1.16%	4.07%	9.3%	18.6%	27.33%	32.85%	6.69%
Domestic Violence	2.91%	8.14%	11.92%	49.42%	11.63%	13.66%	2.33%
Social Inclusion	1.17%	3.22%	5.85%	47.08%	18.13%	19.01%	5.56%



### IMPORTANCE: Sense of Community

	Not At All Important	Not Important	Neutral	Important	Very Important
Community Safety	0.27%	0.8%	4.24%	42.18%	52.52%
Helping Others	0.27%	0.8%	7.96%	45.89%	45.09%
Knowing Neighbors	0.8%	3.46%	17.55%	52.66%	25.53%
Sense of Belonging	1.33%	4.26%	19.41%	40.96%	34.04%
Working Together	0.8%	1.06%	12.77%	45.21%	40.16%



### Honouring a Community Dinners

- Scandia Honoured Rosemary (2011)
- Rosemary Honoured Tilley (2012)
- Tilley honoured Bassano (2013)
- Bassano Honoured Duchess (2013)
- Duchess Honoured Rolling Hills (2015)
- Rolling Hills Honoured Scandia (2016)
- Scandia Honoured Brooks (2017)
- Brooks Honoured Gem (2017)
- Gem Honoured Cassils (2019)
- Cassils Honoured the Region 2023

### FOSTERING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Community Halls are located throughout the County of Newell; Tilley, Patricia, Gem, Rainier, Scandia, Rolling Hills, Cassils and Bow City.



Overall Satisfaction with Sense of Community was 72.3% (75% in 2017; 82% in 2013)



# SENSE OF COMMUNITY

POSITIVE GAP

SOCIAL SECTOR

## KEY FINDINGS & COMPARISONS

*The Sense of Community Factor in The County is a **Positive Gap**:  
This Factor Ranks #5 for Importance and #3 for Satisfaction*

### IMPORTANCE OF SERVICES

- Generally all respondents felt that all Sense of Community Importance variables were very important or important to building a Sense of Community.
- **Community Safety** received the highest Overall Importance rating at 94.7%, a similar response to 2017 (93.2%) and 2013 (94.3%). Neutral and Not Level of Importance responses were very low.
- **Helping Others** remained of high importance in 2022 at 91%, a slight decrease from 2017 (90.7%) and 2013 (95.3%). Neutral and No Level of Importance responses were very low.
- **Working Together** had an Overall Importance rating of 85.4%, a slight decrease from 2017 (86.2%) and 2013 (89.5%). No Level of Importance response was very low and Neutral response was 12.8%.
- **Knowing Neighbours** had an Overall Importance rating of 78.2%, an increase from 72% in 2017 and slight decrease from 2013 (80.7%). No Level of Importance response was very low. Neutral response was 17.6%, similar to prior years.
- Sense of Belonging had an Overall Importance rating of 75%, the largest decline in Sense of Community Importance variables. **Sense of Belonging** importance in 80% in 2017 and 85.3% in 2013. No Level of Importance was low at 5.6%, similar to prior years. Neutral responses was 19.4%.

### SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES

- **Community Safety** had the highest level of Overall Satisfaction at 66.9% , a decrease from 2017 (72%) and 2013 (69.5%). Overall Dissatisfaction at 14.5% increased slightly from 2017 (10.4%) and 2013 (12.5%). Neutral response remained consistent to prior years at 18.6%.
- **Domestic Violence** Services had an Overall Satisfaction rating of 27.6% , a decline from 2017 (41%) and 2013 (39.3%). Overall Dissatisfaction was 23% in 2022, 19.3% in 2017 and 17.6% in 2013. Neutral rates remained high at 49.4%, an increase from 2017 (39.7%) and 2013 (43.1%).
- Overall Satisfaction with **Social Inclusion** was 42.7%, a decline from 48.6% in 2017 and 43.6% in 2013. 10.2% expressed a level of Dissatisfaction with **Social Inclusion** in 2022 compared to 12.9% in 2017 and 10.2% in 2013. Neutral responses remained high at 47%.



Grasslands  
Regional FCSS  
**Citizen and Junior  
Citizen of the Year  
2023**  
**Ross Annett and  
Selma Abdulkadir**

# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

POSITIVE GAP

BUSINESS SECTOR

Each Factor is measured using variables. Variables measure either the importance of a topic or the satisfaction with access to a service. The variables reviewed to determine the Physical Environment Factor are below.

QUALITY OF LIFE	QUALITY OF PLACE
<i>Importance variables</i>	<i>Satisfaction variables</i>
Quality of Water	Recycling
Air Quality	Waste Management
Noise Pollution	Environmental Awareness
Greenhouse Gas	
Land Pollution	

Overall Satisfaction with Physical Environment was **82.3%** (80.1% in 2017; 82.4% in 2013)

**IMPORTANCE: Physical Environment**

	Not At All Important	Not Important	Neutral	Important	Very Important
Air Quality	0.53%	1.33%	4.26%	25.27%	68.62%
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	12.27%	9.07%	32.8%	30.93%	14.93%
Land Pollution	1.06%	2.92%	11.94%	46.95%	37.14%
Noise Pollution	2.65%	5.84%	23.87%	45.09%	22.55%
Quality of Water	0.26%	0%	2.91%	14.02%	82.8%

**Regional Water**

The Newell Regional Service Corporation (NRSC) was formed by partnership of all Urban Municipalities in the Newell Region to manage the installation of water pipelines throughout the region. Potable water through the pipelines is now available to all rural and urban residents in the region.

For more information : <http://www.nrsc.ca/> and <http://www.countyofnewell.ab.ca/p/>



**SATISFACTION: Physical Environment**

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Environmental Awareness	1.73%	3.76%	8.38%	35.84%	23.99%	23.12%	3.18%
Recycling	3.75%	4.9%	14.99%	10.37%	25.65%	33.14%	7.2%
Waste Management	1.74%	2.9%	7.83%	28.7%	18.26%	31.59%	8.99%

# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

POSITIVE GAP

BUSINESS SECTOR

## KEY FINDINGS & COMPARISONS

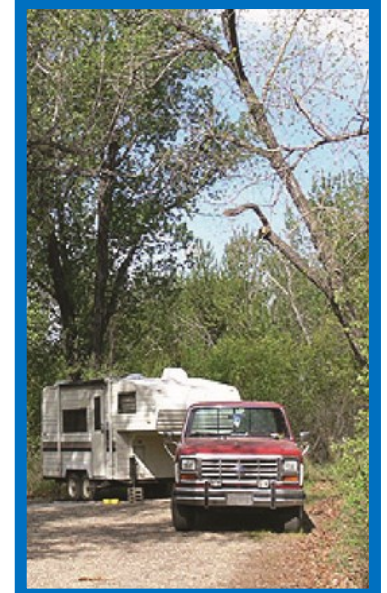
*The Physical Environment Factor in the County is a **Positive Gap**.  
This Factor Ranks #6 for Importance and #1 for Satisfaction in Bassano*

### IMPORTANCE

- **Quality of Water** has retained the highest level of Physical Environment Importance variables over the years. In 2022, **Quality of Water** had an Overall Importance rate of 96.8%, similar to 2017 and 2013. No Level of Importance and Neutral responses remain very low.
- The importance of **Air Quality** remains high at 93.9%, similar to prior years with a low number of No Level of Importance and Neutral responses.
- **Land Pollution** remains important at 84%, similar to 2017 (83.5%) and a slight decrease from 2013 (90.6%). No Level of Importance response was low at 4%, similar to prior years. Neutral response was 11.9%, similar to 2017 (13%) and higher than 2013 (7.2%).
- **Noise Pollution** had an Overall Importance of 67.7% compared to 2017 (70.6%) and 2013 (69.3%). No Level of Importance response remains low at 4%. Neutral response was 23.8%, similar to prior years.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions** remains the least important of the Physical Environment variables with a decrease in Overall Importance 2022 (45.9%) compared to 53.2% in 2017 and 62% in 2013. No Level of Importance and Neutral responses remain the highest of the variables.

### SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES

- **Recycling** had the highest Overall Satisfaction rate of 66% compared to 70.1% in 2017 and 62.1% in 2013. The Overall Dissatisfaction rate increased to 23.6% from 18.9% in 2017 with a decrease from 27.6% in 2013. **Recycling** had the lowest Neutral responses at 10.4%.
- **Waste Management** Overall Satisfaction rate at 58.8% compared to 60.7% in 2017 and 55.4% in 2013. Overall Dissatisfaction was 12.5% in 2022 compared to 2017 (17%) and 2013 (20.8%). Neutral response was 28.7%.
- **Environmental Awareness** Overall Satisfaction rate was 50.3% compared to 2017 (53.7%) and 2013 (48.5%). Dissatisfaction was 13.9% compared to 2017 (13.9%) and 2013 (11.8%) and 2013 (15.8%). Neutral rate remained high at 35.8%.





# SOCIAL PROGRAMS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS

POSITIVE GAP

SOCIAL SECTOR

Each Factor is measured using variables. Variables measure either the importance of a topic or the satisfaction with access to a service. The variables reviewed to determine the Social Programs & Conditions Factor are below.

In January 2022 Alberta entered in the Federal-Provincial Child Care Agreement, this agreement works to expand childcare services and lower costs for Albertans.

IMPORTANCE: Social Programs & Social Conditions					
	Not At All Important	Not Important	Neutral	Important	Very Important
Accessing Transportation	3.19%	12.5%	27.66%	36.17%	20.48%
Availability of Public Housing	6.65%	8.24%	33.24%	34.84%	17.02%
Availability of Social Assistance and Programs	3.99%	6.38%	23.4%	41.76%	24.47%
Community Centers for Arts and Cultural Events	5.87%	8.27%	31.73%	37.87%	16.27%
Community Homelessness	1.86%	5.31%	24.14%	45.62%	23.08%

QUALITY OF LIFE	QUALITY OF PLACE
<i>Importance variables</i>	<i>Satisfaction variables</i>
Accessing Transportation	Public Transportation
Availability of Public Housing	Homelessness
Availability of Social Assistance	Access to Childcare
Homelessness	
Community Centres for Arts & Culture	

*There are many community groups and clubs who work diligently to organize events, beautify the town and increase the overall Quality of Life in The County of Newell.*



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The County of Newell offers Mini Bus services to residents once for transportation into and around Brooks to shop, visit, and attend appointments.

## SATISFACTION: Social Programs & Social Conditions Services

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Access to Childcare	3.2%	4.94%	6.1%	61.92%	9.88%	11.63%	2.33%
Homelessness	1.74%	4.07%	8.43%	56.69%	11.92%	13.37%	3.78%
Public Transportation	5.48%	12.1%	12.1%	44.09%	12.1%	10.66%	3.46%

★ Social Programs & Conditions Ranks #8 for Level of Importance ★

★ Overall Satisfaction with Social Programs & Conditions was 61.8% (68.2% in 2017; 66.4% in 2013)



# SOCIAL PROGRAMS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS

POSITIVE GAP

SOCIAL SECTOR

## KEY FINDINGS & COMPARISONS

*The Social Programs & Social Conditions Factor in The County is a **Positive Gap**: This Factor Ranks #8 for Importance and #7 for Satisfaction*

### IMPORTANCE

- **Community Homelessness** received the highest Overall Importance responses at 68.7%, similar to 2017 (69.8%) and 2013 (70%) with No Level of Importance responses remaining low at 7.2%. Neutral responses were consistent to prior years at 24.1%.
- Consistent with 2017 and 2013, **Availability of Social Assistance** received the second highest Importance rate at 66.2% , a slight decline from 2017 (68.9%) and 2013 (68.2%). No Level of Importance response rate was 10.4%. Neutral response was 23.4%, similar to prior years.
- **Accessing Transportation** had an Overall Importance of 56.6%, a decline from 2017 (65.4%) and 2013 (60.9%). No Level of Importance increased to 15.7% from 11.1% in 2017 and 12.4% in 2013. Neutral response was 27.7%, similar to prior years.
- **Community Centers for Arts & Culture** had similar responses to prior years. The Overall Importance was 54.2%, No Level of Importance response was 14.1% and Neutral responses remained high at 31.7%.
- **Availability of Public Housing** Overall Importance responses declined in 2022 at 51.9% compared to 54.2% in 2017 and 61.8% in 2013. NO Level of Importance was 14.9%, a decline from 15.3% in 2017. Neutral responses increased to 33.2% from 2017 (30.5%).

### SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES

- Neutral responses for Satisfaction with Social Programs & Social Conditions services remained high.
- Overall Satisfaction **with Homelessness** services was 29%, a decline from 2017 ( 33.8%). 57% of respondents were Neutral and 14.2% expressed a level of Dissatisfaction.
- **Public Transportation** services had an Overall Satisfaction of 26.2%, a decline from 2017 (35.7%) and 2013 (27.4%). 29.7% expressed a level of Dissatisfaction and 44% compared to 2017 (35.8%) and 2013 (30.8%). 44% were Neutral.
- **Access to Childcare** had an Overall Satisfaction of 23.8% (2017: 38.9%; 2013: 24.6%). Dissatisfaction with **Access to Childcare** was 24.2%, similar to prior years. Neutral responses remained high at 61.9%.
- It is to be noted there are no license Childcare Centres and very few licensed family day homes in the County.

### RURAL HOMELESSNESS

Research points to the hidden nature of homelessness in rural communities where persons may sleep rough, live in unsafe dwellings, seasonal cottages or recreational trailers.<sup>9</sup> Research also indicates that rural living means having the funds to pay for utilities, heat, snow removal and the need to have reliable transportation to access services including grocery shopping.

Waegemakers Schiff J. & Turner A. Housing First in Rural Canada May 2013

### WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP

#### **SENIORS STAY IN THEIR HOMES**

Grasslands Regional FCSS, Seniors Outreach, Newell Foundation (Newbrook Lodge) and Volunteer Drivers partner in the Brooks-Newell Region to offer the *Wheels to Meals* Seniors Program.

# GOVERNMENT

## POSITIVE GAP

## PUBLIC SECTOR

Each Factor is measured using variables. Variables measure either the importance of a topic or the satisfaction with access to a service. The variables reviewed for the Government Factor are below.

QUALITY OF LIFE	QUALITY OF PLACE
<i>Importance variables</i>	<i>Satisfaction variables</i>
Level of Trust in Government	Local Population Growth
Maintained Roads	Emergency Services
Government Water Policies	Utilities
Community Taxes	
Barriers to Entrepreneurship	

Government Ranks #9 for  
★ Level of Importance ★

Overall Satisfaction with Government was 65.6%  
(69.1% in 2017; 57% in 2013) ★

IMPORTANCE: Government					
	Not At All Important	Not Important	Neutral	Important	Very Important
Barriers to Entrepreneurship	2.13%	3.47%	32.8%	39.73%	21.87%
Community Taxes	0.53%	0.27%	9.28%	46.42%	43.5%
Government Water Policies	1.06%	2.39%	16.18%	44.3%	36.07%
Level of Trust in Government	1.85%	0.53%	5.56%	31.22%	60.85%
Maintained Roads	0%	0.53%	5.04%	49.87%	44.56%

SATISFACTION: Government							
	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Emergency Services	6.73%	7.31%	8.77%	14.04%	23.98%	30.12%	9.06%
Local Population Growth	2.31%	5.19%	11.53%	42.36%	19.88%	15.85%	2.88%
Utilities	12.72%	8.67%	14.45%	21.97%	20.52%	17.92%	3.76%



- County of Newell Council**
- Division 1 (Rolling Hills): **Dan Short**
  - Division 2 (Tilley): **Adena Skanderup**
  - Division 3 (Patricia/Millicent): **Lynette Kopp**
  - Division 4 (Scandia/Rainier/Bow City): **Holly Johnson**
  - Division 5 (Cassils/Lake Newell Resort): **Greg Skriver**
  - Division 6 (Bassano): **Deputy Reeve, Kelly Christman**
  - Division 7 (Rosemary): **Ellen Unruh**
  - Division 8 (Duchess): **Amanda Philpott**
  - Division 9 (Gem): **Reeve, Arno Doerksen**
  - Division 10 (Brooks): **Neil Johnson**



# GOVERNMENT

POSITIVE GAP

PUBLIC SECTOR

## KEY FINDINGS & COMPARISONS

*The Government Factor in the County is a **Positive Gap**:  
This Factor Ranks #9 for Importance and #8 for Satisfaction*

### IMPORTANCE

- Similar to prior years, **Maintained Roads**, **Level of Trust in Government** and **Community Taxes** were the top 3 Government variables of Importance.
- Neutral responses and No Level of Importance responses remained low with the exception of **Barriers to Entrepreneurship** as in past years.
- **Maintained Roads** received the most Very Important and Important responses at 94.4% (2017: 92.3%; 2013: 94.6%).
- **Level of Trust in Government** received the second highest Overall Importance responses at 92% (2017: 91%; 2013: 88.7%).
- **Community Taxes** had an increased Overall Importance at 89.9% (2017: 83.9%; 2013: 85.6%).
- **Government Water Policies** had an Overall Importance at 80.4% (2017: 81.7%; 2013: 78.7%).
- **Barriers to Entrepreneurship** had an Overall Importance at 61.6% (2017: 60.8%; 2013: 60.2%). Neutral response remained high and similar to prior years at 32.8%.

### SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES

- Similar to other municipalities within the Brooks-Newell Region, County of Newell residents expressed declining Satisfaction levels and increasing Dissatisfaction levels with **Emergency Services** and **Utilities** services in 2022.
- Although **Emergency Services** highest Overall Satisfaction rate at 63.2%, this was a decrease from 75.4% in 2017 and 79.4% in 2013. Overall Dissatisfaction increased to 22.8% (2017: 10.1%; 2013: 7%). Neutral responses remained similar at 14%.
- **Utilities** services had the highest Overall Dissatisfaction response and an increase to 35.8% (28.2%; 2013: 22.4%). Neutral response was similar to 2017 and 2013. Overall Satisfaction was 42.2%.
- **Local Population Growth** continued to receive the largest number of Neutral responses at 42.4%, similar to 2017 and 2013. Overall Dissatisfaction was 19%, similar to 2017 and a decrease from 39.2% in 2013.





# QUALITY OF PLACE

## QUALITY OF PLACE

May be defined as “the physical characteristics of a community—the way it is planned, designed, developed and maintained—that affect the quality of life of people living and working in it, and those visiting it, both now and into the future”.



Lake Newell is the largest  
Man-Made lake in Alberta.



Community Halls are the hubs  
of County of Newell  
communities.

## ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC SERVICES

Community programs operated primarily by non-profit organizations/associations or municipal government may include:

- Municipal Office
- Community Halls
- Community Recreation Centres
- Green Spaces, Playgrounds , Walking Paths
- Outdoor and Indoor Recreation Spaces.
- Ball Diamonds

## FINDINGS

- **Retail and Shopping** and **Maintained Streets** had the highest rates of Dissatisfaction and the lowest Neutral responses.
- Consistent with 2013 and 2017, **Green Spaces** has the highest Overall Satisfaction at 73.2%, similar Dissatisfaction (10.4%) and Neutral results (16.4%) as prior surveys.
- **Sports and Leisure Facilities** had the second highest Overall Satisfaction rate at 66% (2017: 68.6%; 2013: 73.4%) with a Dissatisfaction rate of 18% and Neutral rate of 16%.
- **Maintained Streets** had the 3rd highest Overall Satisfaction (61.8%), similar to 2017 and an increase from 51% in 2013. Maintained Streets also had the 2nd highest rates of Dissatisfaction (24.1%), similar to 2017 and decrease from 35% in 2013. Neutral response remained low at 14%.
- **Retail and Shopping** services Dissatisfaction remains high but has had a continuous drop in Overall Dissatisfaction (2022:41.7% ; 2017: 59.5%; 2013: 52.3%). Retail and Shopping has had a marked increase in Overall Satisfaction to 42.6% an increase from 2017 (24.7%) and 2013 (31%).
- **Heritage Structures** continued to have a high Neutral response at 36.2%. Overall Satisfaction was 52.6%, a slight drop from 2017 (55.7%) and 2013 (60.5%), . Overall Dissatisfaction was 11.2%.
- **Transport Routes** had the highest Neutral rate at 39.9% an Overall Satisfaction rate of 46.2% and an 13.8% Dissatisfaction rate., similar to prior years.

## How satisfied are you with the following in your Community?

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Building Maintenance	0.86%	2.87%	10.32%	30.09%	20.06%	31.52%	4.3%
Retail and Shopping	7.14%	12%	22.57%	15.71%	24.29%	15.71%	2.57%
Accessible Public Services	2.6%	6.65%	8.96%	35.55%	23.41%	20.52%	2.31%
Sport and Leisure Facilities	2.86%	6.57%	8.57%	16%	22%	33.14%	10.86%
Green Spaces	2.59%	2.59%	5.19%	16.43%	23.34%	35.16%	14.7%
Heritage Structures	2.01%	3.16%	6.03%	36.21%	18.1%	26.72%	7.76%
Maintained Streets	4.02%	6.61%	13.51%	14.08%	23.56%	31.9%	6.32%
Neighbourhood Design	2.3%	4.31%	8.05%	32.76%	20.11%	25.29%	7.18%
Transport Routes	2.89%	5.2%	5.78%	39.88%	12.72%	29.19%	4.34%
Accessible Arts & Cultural Facilities	3.17%	2.59%	7.20%	45.24%	14.41%	24.21%	3.17%

# QUALITY OF PLACE

Communities throughout the County of Newell offer many Sports and Leisure activities for residents!

Do you feel that your neighborhood needs more services in any of the following areas?

	Yes	No	Unsure
Pre Schoolers (Age 5 and under)	20.17%	33.72%	46.11%
School-aged children (ages 6-12)	26.01%	32.37%	41.62%
Youth (ages 13-17)	36.44%	26.24%	37.32%
Young Adults (ages 18-24)	36.23%	26.09%	37.68%
Adults (ages 25-64)	36.07%	33.43%	30.50%
Seniors (ages 65 or older)	44.19%	27.91%	27.91%
Families with children	44.15%	24.56%	31.29%

## FINDINGS

- **Accessible Public Services** had an Overall Satisfaction of 46.2% (2017: 45%; 2013; 50%). Neutral rate remained high and increased to 35.6%. Overall Dissatisfaction decreased slightly to 18.2%.
- Similar to prior surveys, Satisfaction with **Neighbourhood Design** was 52.3%, Dissatisfaction was 14.7% and Neutral rate was 32.7%.
- **Building Maintenance** results were similar to 2013 and 2017 with Overall Satisfaction (55.9%), Dissatisfaction (14%) and Neutral (30%) .
- Accessible **Arts & Cultural Facilities** Neutral response rate remained high and increased to 45.2% . Overall Satisfaction has decreased slightly to 41.8% (2013: 46%; 2017: 45.3%) and Dissatisfaction has also decreased to 13%.



## Residential Utilities

	2022	2018
<b>Water</b>	Hamlets—\$37.98 with usage charge of \$2.49/m3	Hamlets - \$31.73 with usage charges of 2.11/m3
	Rural Water Distribution System \$53.30 (trickle system restricted flow)	Rural Water System - Base Charge \$28.43 Usage Fee flat rate of \$34.42
<b>Garbage</b>	Only available in Tilley - \$10.55	Only available in Tilley - \$10
<b>Sewer</b>	\$30.00	\$25.68

	2022	2018
<b>Residential Property Taxes</b>		
<b>Residential Municipal Mill Rate</b>	3.6289	3.9170
<b>ASFF Requisition (Previously Education Property Tax)</b>	2.6828	2.5166
<b>Seniors Foundation (Newell Housing)</b>	0.10507	0.2123
<b>Police Funding Model **NEW AS OF 2021**</b>	0.1403	-

# COVID FINDINGS BROOKS-NEWELL REGION

The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Individuals in the Brooks Newell Region										
Factor	No Impact		Somewhat Negative		Very Negative		Somewhat Positive		Very Positive	
	Physical Health	47.8%	596	35.1%	438	8.2%	102	6.0%	75	2.9%
Mental Health	25.0%	317	46.0%	583	19.3%	245	5.4%	68	4.3%	54
Financial Stability	51.6%	646	25.5%	319	12.7%	159	7.1%	89	3.1%	39
Family Relationships	35.1%	442	39.2%	494	12.2%	154	7.9%	99	5.7%	72
Community Involvement	18.2%	234	42.1%	540	30.0%	385	5.4%	69	4.3%	55
Social Life/Connection with Others	11.3%	146	43.1%	558	34.3%	444	5.7%	74	5.7%	74
Work/Employment	49.4%	619	26.7%	334	13.4%	168	6.6%	83	3.8%	48
Ability to Help Others	30.1%	379	39.1%	492	19.7%	248	7.1%	90	4.1%	51
Education/Schooling	59.7%	742	17.0%	211	15.9%	198	3.9%	48	3.5%	43
<b>Total Number of Respondents</b>										<b>1315</b>



# COVID FINDINGS BROOKS-NEWELL REGION

## ALL RESPONDENTS:

### Physical Health

47.8% of respondents reported No Impact on their lives, while 43.3% reported a Negative range response and 8.9% reported a Positive range response.

### Mental Health

25.0% of respondents reported No Impact on their lives, while 65.3% reported a Negative range response and 9.7% reported a Positive range response.

### Financial Stability

51.6% of respondents reported No Impact on their lives, while 38.2% reported a Negative range response and 10.2% reported a Positive range response.

### Family Relationships

35.1% of respondents reported No Impact on their lives, while 51.4% reported a Negative range response and 13.6% reported a Positive range response.

### Community Involvement

18.2% of respondents reported No Impact on their lives, while 72.1% reported a Negative range response and 9.7% reported a Positive range response.

### Social Life/Connection with Others

11.3% of respondents reported No Impact on their lives, while 77.4% reported a Negative range response and 11.4% reported a Positive range response.

### Work/Employment

49.4% of respondents reported No Impact on their lives, while 40.4% reported a Negative range response and 10.4% reported a Positive range response.

### Ability to Help Others

30.1% of respondents reported No Impact on their lives, while 58.8% reported a Negative range response and 11.2% reported a Positive range response.

### Education/Schooling

59.7% of respondents reported No Impact on their lives, while 32.9% reported a Negative range response and 7.4% reported a Positive range response.

## BY AGE

- Individuals aged 15-19 had the largest positive impact percentages of all age groups, especially under the Family Relationships category with 35.1% reporting a positive experience. They also noted high positive experiences under Mental Health (30.0%), Social Life/Connection to Others (25.4%) and Education/Schooling (27.1%) categories.
- Individuals aged 15-19 experienced the greatest negative impact on Education/Schooling, with 62.7% of the demographic reporting a negative experience during the pandemic.
- Individuals aged 40-59 experienced the greatest negative impact on Physical Health, with 51.3% of the demographic reporting a negative experience in that category. This demographic also had the second highest negative experience in the Mental Health category with 73.4%.
- Individuals aged 20-39 experienced the greatest negative impact on Mental Health, with 74.5% of the demographic reporting a negative experience during the pandemic.
- In regards to Financial Stability, 28% and above of all demographics experienced No Impact during the pandemic, but individuals aged 15-19 reported the worst financial hardship with 47.4%. Individuals aged 70 plus experience the lowest impact, with 71.3% of the demographic identifying No Impact.
- The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a great effect on the social lives of individuals, and all demographics identified low percentages of No Impact. Individuals aged 40-59 experienced the greatest negative experience of all demographics with over 75%.

# COVID FINDINGS BROOKS-NEWELL REGION

## BY GENDER:

- Females, overall, experienced a greater impact (negatively and mostly positively) with the COVID-19 Pandemic than males, with the male demographic reporting higher experiences of No Impact in each category than their female counterparts.
- Females reported the highest overall positive impact for Family Relationships (14.8%) and Social Life/Connection with Others (11.6%). The male demographic reported positive experience rates of 10.3% and 11.3%, respectively.
- The number of Individuals who do not Identify as Male or Female, or Prefer not to Say was very low (6) for the Brooks Newell Region, so those results cannot be compared statistically to the other two genders.

## BY RELATIONSHIP STATUS:

- Widowed individuals experienced the highest No Impact with Financial Stability, Work/Employment and Education/Schooling; with 65.6%, 73.8% and 82.2% of the demographic reporting, respectively, a no impact experience rating.
- Married or Common-Law individuals experienced the highest overall Negative impact with Community Involvement and Social Life/Connection to Others, with the demographic reporting a negative experience rating of 75.3% and 80.7% respectively.
- Never Been Married individuals experienced the highest overall Positive impact with Family Relationships, with 28.0% of the demographic reporting a positive experience rating.

## BY INCOME:

The highest Negative impact experiences per category and income earned brackets:

Physical Health – Less than \$10,000 (53.8%)

Mental Health - \$100,000 and Over (74.1%)

Financial Stability – Less than \$10,000 (60.9%)

Family Relationships - \$60,000 - \$79,000 (58.2%)

Community Involvement - \$100,000 and Over (78.6%)

Social Life/Connections with Others - \$100,000 and Over (86.2%)

Work Employment - \$60,000 - \$79,000 (81.3%)

Ability to Help Others – \$80,000 - \$99,000 (64.9%)

Education/Schooling – Less than \$10,000 (55.3%)

- Individuals who earn \$100,000 and Over, and Less Than \$10,000 experienced the highest Negative impact in three of the nine categories (individually). Individuals earning less than \$60,000 - \$79,000 experienced the highest Negative impact in two of the nine categories. This demonstrates the value in not making assumptions about the impacts of the pandemic on individuals by class.
- Individuals who earn Less than \$100,000 and Over, and who in theory have more access to resources due to higher income, experienced the highest negative experience rating with Mental Health at 74.1%.
- Individuals who earn Less than \$10,000 also experienced the highest positive experience rating with Mental Health (19.0%), Financial Stability (16.3%), Family Relationships (23.7%), Social Life/Connection to Others (18.1%), and Education/Schooling (17.0%). They had higher-than-average positive experience ratings in all categories, which means they experienced more positive impact than the other demographics.

# COVID FINDINGS BROOKS-NEWELL REGION

## SUMMARY

- This section of this report provides a snapshot of the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on individuals in the Brooks Newell Region, examining feedback from All Respondents as well as a breakdown of responses based on age, gender, relationship status and income categories.
- The look at responses from all survey respondents provides a snapshot of the impact overall.
- The breakdown can be useful to explore since responses may be different depending on the demographic you are examining. For example, an individual that earns less than \$10,000 a year may experience a greater negative impact financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic than an individual making \$100,000 and Over.
- It's also important to note the percentages of respondents which indicated no impact in the categories.
- The negative impacts on physical health in the Brooks Newell Region is lower than the national level data provided by Angus Reid (43.3% versus 48%). Approximately 48% of Brooks Newell Region respondents experienced No Impact in regards to physical health during the pandemic, and approximately 9% experienced a positive impact.
- Overall, the impact on mental health by the pandemic in the Brooks Newell Region has been higher than the national average as indicated by the Angus Reid poll. Approximately 65% of Brooks Newell Region respondents indicated that their mental health has worsened, compared to the Angus Reid poll (54%).
- Respondents aged 20-39 experienced the greatest negative impact with 74.5%
- Females also experienced a high negative impact with 68.1%.
- Approximately 9.7% of all respondents experienced a positive impact during the pandemic, which is slightly lower than the national averaged identified by the Angus Reid poll (12%).
- The Angus Reid poll also identified that 33% of Canadians experience no impact on their mental health, while 25% of Brooks Newell Region respondents identified the same.
- Although the pandemic has had a negative impact on the economy at the national level, regarding financial stability and work/employment in Alberta, No Impacts is identified at 51.9%. In the Brooks-Newell Region, 49.4% of respondents identified No Impact.
- However, 38.2% of respondents identified experiencing a negative impact regarding financial stability, and 40.1% of respondents enduring a negative experience regarding work/employment.



# FUTURE TRENDS

## YOUNG ADULTS:

In 2020, the employment rates for young adults between 14 and 24 declined the most out of all age groups, but each age group also saw a decline in employment.

Poverty is a result of under/unemployment due to the changing workforce and rising cost of living

Anxiety and types of mental illness are major concerns

Young adults need access to post-secondary education and employment that offers the possibility of career exploration and job training programs.

Rural communities often find it difficult to retain young people due to the lack of employment and training opportunities.

If the current trend continues, while some Young Adults will remain or return to their home communities to raise their family or be closer to aging parents, the majority will settle in other communities.

## Young Families

Young families are attracted to rural communities that provide easy access to schools, a safe environment, affordable housing and a quick commute between work and home.

Survey responses reflected satisfaction with programs and services relevant to young families.

## The Future of Work

Work is changing rapidly. Research conducted by Harmonics and the *Future of Work: OIGP Global Research Study* released in 2017 explored the skills employees must have to be competitive today, the most significant people challenges currently facing organizations, the is an increase of around 1.9 million from 2020. Alberta's population in 2046 will be older, with an average age of 41.5 years, and increasingly diverse; arrivals from other countries will account for about 54% of expected growth by 2046. Migration to Alberta is dependent on a number of factors, namely its economic conditions compared to the other provinces. Due to the economic downturn, Alberta saw a net outflow of interprovincial migrants in 2016. Although Alberta was starting to recover, the dual shock of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the collapse in oil prices led an unprecedented contraction, and thus stalling the recovery. Due to this, net migration is expected to be lower than in the past, but is expected to increase over time. The Province's future population will mostly be concentrated in urban areas, specifically the Calgary-Edmonton Corridor (almost 80% are expected to live in this region).

Alberta's total fertility rate (TFR) has fluctuated over the past two decades. In 1994, the TFR was 1.81 but declined over the following seven years to 1.65 in 2001. It then increased continually over the next seven years to 1.89 in 2008. From 2008 to 2013 it declined to 1.71, but started to increase in 2013 with 1.72. However, in 2021 the total fertility rate in Alberta was 1.55. Natural increase (birth minus deaths) will continue to have a positive impact on Alberta's growth over the projection period; adding approximately 600,000 people by 2046. Natural increase's contribution to Alberta's growth is directly tied to migration, since the majority of migrants set to arrive over the next 26 years will be young adults aged 18-34. However, natural increase's impact on Alberta's growth will diminish overtime due to that advanced aging of the baby boomer generation.

<https://www.harmonics.ie/future-work-global-research-study-2017/>

[https://prosource.fi/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Future-of-Work-Report\\_2019.pdf](https://prosource.fi/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Future-of-Work-Report_2019.pdf)

# FUTURE TRENDS

## Childcare and Early Learning

Access to Childcare is compounded by the lack of public transportation, employment that consists of 12 hour shifts, or outside the normal operating hours of childcare facilities of 6:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday.

Currently, in the Brooks Newell Region, there are six licensed daycares and fifteen licensed day homes. Another daycare is scheduled to open in Duchess in May 2023, which will increase the number of licensed daycares to seven.

It is difficult to interpret the 15.3% Overall Dissatisfaction rate (14.8% in 2017 and 19.5% in 2013) of Access to Childcare and 30.2% Overall Satisfaction rate (37.9% in 2017 and 31% in 2013) without an understanding of whether or not the respondents were parents, grandparents, caregivers, employers or had any involvement in childcare. With that being said, overall Satisfaction with Access to Childcare has increased and decreased, and overall Dissatisfaction has decreased and increased in the time between the Quality of Life Studies.

Email: Anita Bruce, Teacher/Administrator, Brooks Preschool, and Executive Director, Brooks and County of Newell Early Childhood Development Coalition, March 29, 2023.

## Food Bank Usage by Households type 2022

Household Breakdown	
Single Parent w Children	27%
Two-Parent w Children	15%
Couple w No Children	8%
Non-Traditional	5%
Single	45%
Total	100%

## Poverty:

A significant number of residents continue to access food bank services to help meet their basic needs:

According to the 2021 Canadian Census, in the Brooks-Newell Region there were 2,365 (1,285 households in the City of Brooks ) living in low income-based thresholds based on the Low-Income Measure; After Tax (LIM-AT) compared to 2,310 households in 2016. This is only a slight increase in prevalence counts for all ages in comparison to 2016.

Significantly, though low-income prevalence counts decreased since 2016 for children, it increased for adults and particularly for seniors (from 225 to 350).

Lack of sufficient income continues to be a concern for seniors, single parents and persons living with disabilities.

Email: Aurora Champlone, of Brooks Food Bank Foundation, February 1, 2023.

## Meals on Wheels/ Wheels to Meals

<u>2021</u>	<u>2017</u>
Meals Served: 4,053	Meals Served: 5,608
Seniors Served: 280	Seniors Served: 322

Grasslands Regional FCSS partners with the Newell Housing Foundation and Seniors Outreach to provide the *Meals on Wheels* Program to Seniors in Brooks and the *Wheels to Meals* Program throughout the Region outside of Brooks.

Source: Grasslands Regional FCSS

# FINDINGS SUMMARY

- The sample size of 381 respondents from the County of Newell (an increase from 315 in 2017) does not guarantee that the Quality of Life Survey responses are representative of the community but it does provide a sample of the opinions of the community residents.
- Overall, Community Satisfaction remained high at 80.8% with County respondents!
- The County has had an .8% decrease in population since 2016.
- 30% of the population of 7,465 are under 20 years, which indicates there are many young families and supports the need for activities and programs for children and youth.
- 6.4% of the population are Seniors, a marked decrease from 11.6% in 2016.
- The ranking of the importance for the 9 Factors was consistent with 2013 and 2017.
- **Health** continued to be the #1 Factor of Importance. The **Mental Health** and **Physical Activity** variables had the highest Importance rating. The #5 ranking of satisfaction indicates a need for improved services.
- Overall Satisfaction with **Health** services decreased slightly to 73%. **Access to Physician** satisfaction at 56.3% is a marked decrease in satisfaction from 72.5% in 2017 but more similar to 2013 (59%). Residents travel to Brooks for most medical needs. Like other communities in the Region, access to regular and specialized medical services is dependent on access to transportation for in-region and out-of-region appointments.
- The top 3 conditions which 124 respondents are being impacted by were Health Problems, Mental Conditions and Hearing Limited Mobility. This supports the value of the County Mini-bus service.
- **Personal Well-being** was the #2 Factor of Importance with most variables having a high rating of importance ( **Personal Health, Family, Personal Safety, Friends**) with the exception of **Spiritual and Religious Acceptance**. The #1 ranking of satisfaction is an indication of residents' positive quality of life pertaining to personal well-being.
- **Within the Personal Well-being** factor, **Community Gathering Places** continued to have the highest Overall Satisfaction with services within the Personal Well-being Factor rating in 2022 although Overall Dissatisfaction saw a marked increase to 21.6% from 14.6% in 2017. This indicates the value that residents place on gathering spaces such as Community Halls and other community facilities and spaces.
- **Education** continued to be the #3 Factor of Importance particularly the variables of Education; Adult Literacy and Personal Educational Achievements. The #4 ranking of satisfaction indicates there may be a need for increased services. Satisfaction with Education services has seen a decline from prior surveys although it is important to note the high numbers of neutral responses to the Education variables ( from 36.7% to 54%).
- **Economy & Employment** remained the #4 Importance Factor. The #6 ranking of satisfaction is a negative gap, indicating there may be a need for increased opportunities and services within this factor.
- Overall Satisfaction with **Economy & Employment** has increased to 70.6% from 61.6% in 2017 (which was during the economic downturn) and a decrease from 73.5% in 2013. Consistent with prior surveys, less than 49% of respondents were satisfied with Affordable Housing, Employment and remediation to Poverty indicating continued concern.
- **Sense of Community** was the #5 Factor of Importance. Although Overall Satisfaction with **Sense of Community** remains high at **66.9%, this is a decrease from 72% in 2017 and 69% in 2013**). Although most residents satisfied with the Community Safety variable, this decrease may reflect a growing concern with rural crime regardless of whether crime statistics indicate a decrease in rural crime.
- The **Physical Environment** was ranked the #6 Factor of Importance and was the #1 Factor of Satisfaction with the **Air and Water Quality** variables being most important. Residents continue to be satisfied with **Waste Management, Recycling** and **Environmental Awareness** (although Recycling satisfaction decreased .4% from 2017).



# FINDINGS SUMMARY

- **Political Rights & General Values** was ranked the #7 Factor of Importance and the #9 Factor of Satisfaction. Although Neutral responses were high within the **Discrimination, English as a Second Language** and **Immigration** variables of satisfaction, it is important to note the Overall Satisfaction with these variables ranged from 32.5% to 37.4% and the Overall Dissatisfaction ranged from 14% to 22.9%. This indicates some disconnect between what residents consider to be important and the quality of life for residents within the **Political Rights & General Values** factor.
- The **Social Programs & Social Conditions** was ranked the #8 Factor of Importance and the #7 Factor of Satisfaction. While Neutral responses were high, it is important to note that levels of satisfaction with **Access to Childcare, Homelessness** and **Public Transportation** all decreased since 2017 but were similar to responses in 2013.
- The Government Factor was ranked the #9 in Factor of Importance and the #8 Factor of Satisfaction. Overall Satisfaction was 65.7%, a decrease from 69.1% but an increase from 57% in 2013. It should be noted that Neutral responses have remained consistent through all three surveys the Local Population Growth variable having a far higher neutral response. Dissatisfaction increased in all three Government variables ( Emergency services; Local Population Growth and Utilities), most significantly with Emergency Services.
- Within the **Government Factor**, residents continue to be satisfied with **Emergency Services** variable although there has been a marked decrease to 63.2% from 75.4% in 2017 and 79.4% in 2013. This is consistent throughout the Region; although the reason cannot be determined, this may be related to changes in Ambulance Services delivery and the pandemic.
- Also within the **Government** Factor, the **Utilities** variable continues to have the highest level of Dissatisfaction at 35.8% , compared to 28.2% in 2017 and 22.4% in 2013. Neutral response rate has remained consistent around 21%. This indicates a continued concern with utilities and respondents may also consider provincial utility rates when responding to this question.
- Overall, County of Newell respondents were satisfied with the **Quality of Life** variables.

- Overall, residents were satisfied with the Quality of Place with the exception of **Retail & Shopping** which continued have high levels of dissatisfaction at 41.7%, the lowest Neutral response at 15.7% and a low satisfaction response of 42.6%. This is consistent with respondents throughout the Region.
- The top three **Social Conditions negatively affecting Households** in the County of Newell were Discrimination (30.6%), Housing Costs (38.6%) and Lack of Transportation (26.5%).
- Respondents were asked about the **Need for More Services** within different age categories. The highest need for more services responses were for services for Seniors and Families with children.
- Results of the Quality of Life #3 Survey demonstrate that **Transportation** remains a concern within the County of Newell. Travel to health and government related services in Calgary, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge remains an issue for residents who do not have access to a reliable personal vehicle or who are unable to drive themselves to services. Although, the County Mini-bus is a valuable service, with impending demographic changes in the Region, this issue will become more pressing in the coming years. The decrease in the senior population may be due, in part, to County of Newell residents being displaced from their home to move to Brooks or other centres to be closer to services.
- **Affordable Housing** appears to be a growing issue and is subject to the major industry players within the community as the economics of rental housing often fall into a supply and demand paradox. Residents most affected by the affordability of housing are newcomers, temporary foreign workers, seniors (especially single seniors), single parents and persons on Alberta Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) or social assistance.
- The difference in responses by the various age groups, the comparison of the three surveys and awareness of demographics within communities would be helpful to municipal councils, non-profits and businesses to adapt programs, services and activities to match the needs and interests demonstrated by the findings.

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- Ron Gietz, MSc

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### **Survey Distribution and/or Collection 2022:**

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- Newbrook Lodge
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- L'Ecole Le Ruisseau
- Brooks Composite High School
- Patricia Hotel
- St. Josephs Collegiate
- Rolling Hills Post Office
- Global Village Centre
- SPEC Association for Children and Families
- Bassano FCSS
- Seniors Outreach.
- Grasslands Regional FCSS

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