



Nichols
APPLIED MANAGEMENT INC.

Community Social Needs Assessment

Submitted to:

City of Wetaskiwin

Submitted by:

Nichols Applied Management Inc.

Management and Economic Consultants

Suite 2401, 10104 – 103 Avenue NW

Edmonton, Alberta T5J 0H8

January 2019

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Approach to this Social Needs Assessment	4
3. Summary of Research Findings.....	7
4. Community Overview.....	9
Location and Important Linkages	9
Population (Region).....	10
Demographics (City of Wetaskiwin)	10
Ethnic Composition.....	11
Household Composition	13
Education.....	14
Employment.....	15
Income	17
Poverty	19
Housing.....	20
Crime and Sense of Safety.....	22
Health (Region)	25
Deprivation Index (Region).....	26
5. Quality of Life	27
Community Quality of Life Strengths.....	27
Community Quality of Life Constraints	29
Poverty and Income Inequality	29
Housing Affordability.....	29
Homelessness and Vagrancy.....	32
Substance Abuse and Addictions and Mental Health	33
Inclusion and Sense of Belonging	34
6. Responding to Wetaskiwin’s Social Needs.....	36

List of Figures

Figure 2-1	Wetaskiwin Social Needs Assessment – Overview of Approach.	4
Figure 4-1	Regional Population 2001-2016	10
Figure 4-2	Age Distribution of Population	11
Figure 4-3	Wetaskiwin Ethnic Composition (2016).....	12
Figure 4-4	Proportion of Population Identifying as Aboriginal (2001-2016).13	
Figure 4-5	Wetaskiwin Household Composition	14
Figure 4-6	Wetaskiwin Education Levels.....	14
Figure 4-7	Wetaskiwin Labour Force	15
Figure 4-8	Wetaskiwin Employment in Key Sectors	16
Figure 4-9	Employment of Males and Females	16
Figure 4-10	Wetaskiwin Median Household Income	17
Figure 4-11	Wetaskiwin Median Income – Individuals Aged 15 and Over	18

Figure 4-12	Wetaskiwin Median Income – Individuals Aged 15 and Over by Gender.....	19
Figure 4-13	Wetaskiwin Vacancy Rate	21
Figure 4-14	Total Violations	23
Figure 4-15	Violent Crime	23
Figure 4-16	Property Crime	24
Figure 4-17	Impaired Driving Charges.....	24
Figure 4-18	Drug Violations	25
Figure 5-1	Wetaskiwin Quality of Life Framework	27

List of Tables

Table 4-1	Income Sources of Residents who Have Income	18
Table 4-2	Wetaskiwin: Prevalence of Low Income by Age Groups (LIM, after tax)	20
Table 4-3	2017 Core Need Income Thresholds for Wetaskiwin	22
Table 5-1	Wetaskiwin Affordable Housing Overview.....	31

Appendix

Appendix A	Survey Questionnaire	38
------------	----------------------------	----

2. Approach to this Social Needs Assessment

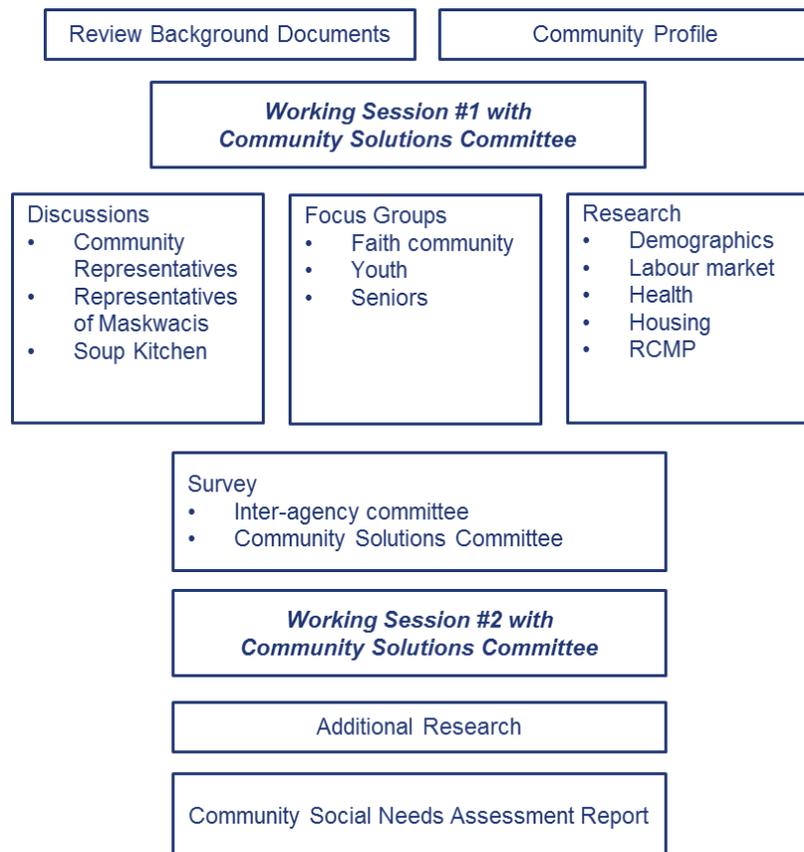
The approach taken for this Social Needs Assessment balanced collaborative work with the City’s FCSS Manager and members of the Community Solutions Committee, and independent research undertaken by the consulting team.

The initial phase involved reviewing background documents, including the previous Community Social Needs Assessment completed in 2015, and updating community profile and trend information of particular relevance to understanding the community’s changing social landscape. This involved analyzing data on regional population growth and characteristics, education levels, employment and income levels, housing, health, and crime.

An initial working session with the Community Solutions Committee took place in late November 2017. This provided an opportunity to review community profile information, factors unique to Wetaskiwin that influence social well-being in the community, and Wetaskiwin’s social strengths and challenges.

The discussion at this session lead to the development of a community-specific quality of life framework, which is presented in Figure 5-1 on page 26 of this report. The quality of life framework guided the consulting team’s subsequent inquiries in discussions and focus groups and the more in-depth research that was undertaken.

Figure 2-1 Wetaskiwin Social Needs Assessment – Overview of Approach



In addition to two working sessions with the Community Solutions Committee, input on social needs in the community was obtained through:

- One-on-one discussions with community leaders in Wetaskiwin, including the RCMP
- Focus groups with representatives of local churches, youth and youth service providers, and seniors
- Informal discussions with individuals at the local drop-in soup kitchen

Recognizing the strong social and economic interconnections between Wetaskiwin and the neighbouring community of Maskwacis, the research also included seeking perspectives of some current and former residents of Maskwacis on matters that may affect social well-being of residents of both communities. The consulting team had discussions with members of all four Maskwacis Nations. Subsequently, a member of the consulting team was invited to attend a meeting with the Chiefs and Councils of the four Nations. This provided a valuable opportunity to share information about this needs assessment and what was being heard, and to seek additional input.

Midway through the research, the consulting team sought additional input on community social priorities through a confidential survey of members of the Inter-agency Committee and the Community Solutions Committee. This was not intended to be a broad community survey, but a targeted survey of individuals who have a good understanding of social needs and dynamics in the community. The survey was voluntary, and 28 individuals participated. It is important to recognize that the survey findings, although useful for this research, cannot be interpreted to represent the perspectives of the community as a whole. The survey instrument can be found in Appendix A.

Findings emerging from the needs assessment research were shared with the Community Solutions Committee at a second working session. Committee members discussed the causes and impacts of social issues in the community, and the complex inter-relationships among issues. Following this meeting, the consulting team carried out additional research on the identified priority social needs.

Extensive analysis of available socio-economic data was undertaken as part of this research to inform discussions with – and provide a context for – the insights and perspectives obtained in discussions and working sessions.

A Note on Terminology

Aboriginal

In Section 4 of this report, the term Aboriginal refers to individuals identifying as being First Nations, Métis or Inuit in the Census of Canada. This is the terminology used in Statistics Canada's reporting on the Census of Canada.

Following issuance of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples of Canada are now more commonly referred to collectively as Indigenous Peoples.

Affordable Housing

Alberta's Affordable Housing Strategy defines affordable housing as government-sponsored housing available for Albertans, who because of financial, social or other circumstances, cannot afford private market rental rates. Housing is considered "affordable" when a household spends no more than 30% of its gross income on shelter.

Violent Crime

Statistics Canada defines violent crimes as crimes involving the use or threatened use of violence against a person, including homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault and robbery. Robbery is considered a crime against the person because, unlike other theft offences, it involves the use, or threat of, violence.

3. Summary of Research Findings

Building Understanding of Wetaskiwin's Social Needs

Section 4 of this report presents detailed information about key population, household, labour market, income, housing, health and crime trends relevant for building understanding of the community's social circumstances and dynamics.

The data show:

- The population of Maskwacis is growing more quickly than the population of both the City of Wetaskiwin and the County of Wetaskiwin No. 10. Between 2001 and 2016, the Maskwacis population grew at an average annual rate of 2.4%. Over the same period, the City of Wetaskiwin's average annual rate of population growth was 0.8% and the County's was 0.3%.
- The strongest growth in Wetaskiwin's population in recent years has been in age groups between 55 and 69.
- Wetaskiwin has become somewhat more ethnically diverse in recent years. Approximately 23% of residents identify their ethnicity as being Aboriginal (12% of residents in 2016), Asian, Latin American, Caribbean, African or Oceania.
- The proportion of lone-parent households is higher in Wetaskiwin than Alberta (12% vs. 9%).
- Although the labour force participation rate of residents identifying as Aboriginal in Wetaskiwin is higher than the overall rate in the community (69% vs. 66%), Aboriginal residents experience significantly higher levels of unemployment (18% vs. 9%).
- The median household income in Wetaskiwin (\$67,056 in 2015) is about 30% lower than the provincial median (\$93,835 in 2015).
- Residents of Wetaskiwin identifying as Aboriginal are twice as likely to be low income (26% vs. 13%).
- Approximately 23% of children under the age of six in the community live in a low-income household (vs. 13.5% provincially).
- Although average monthly shelter costs for those renting housing in Wetaskiwin are lower than the provincial average (\$1,038 vs. \$1,279 in 2016), many households in the community are still challenged by housing affordability because of low income.
- Although some crime statistics are trending downwards in the community (specifically charges for impaired driving and drug violations), Wetaskiwin's overall crime rate remains high (25,060 per 100,000 population vs. 8,801 per 100,000 population provincially in 2016).

Quality of Life Strengths

Wetaskiwin has notable strengths in some key areas that are linked to residents having a higher quality of life. These are:

- Recreation and leisure
- Services to support physical health
- Education services

- A strong sense of social and community connection for some residents

Quality of Life Constraints

Factors that constrain quality of life to varying degrees for some individuals and households in Wetaskiwin and that impact quality of life generally in the community include:

- Poverty and income inequality
- Access to affordable housing
- Homelessness and vagrancy
- Mental health, substance abuse and addictions
- Inclusion and sense of belonging

4. Community Overview

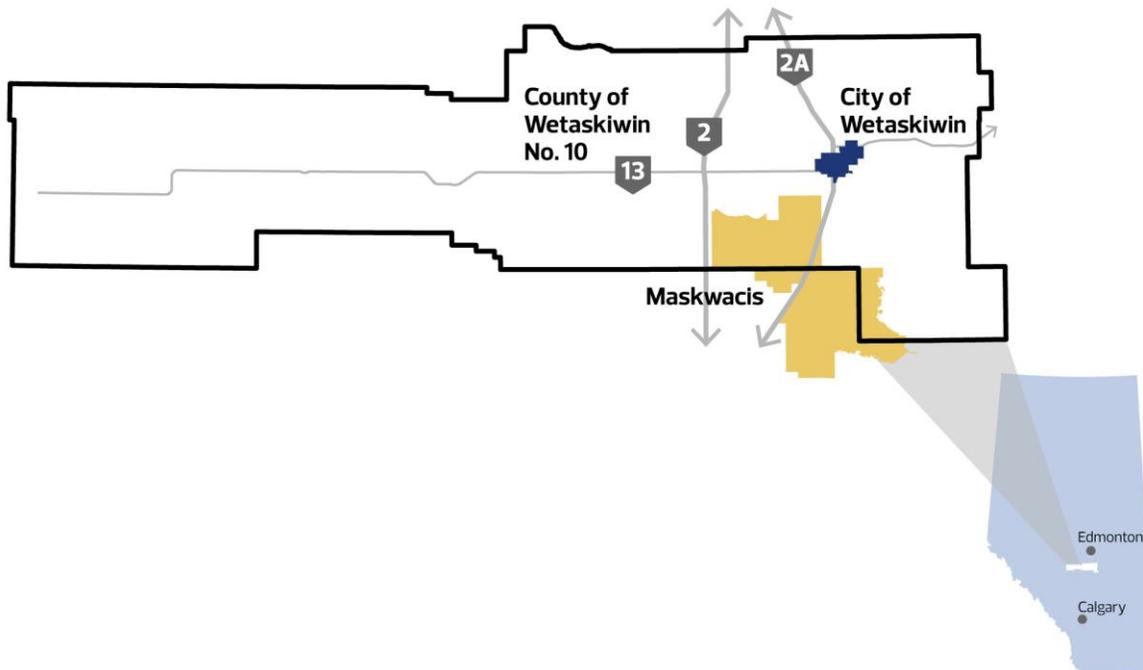
Location and Important Linkages

The City of Wetaskiwin is one of the largest urban municipalities in Central Alberta, with an estimated population of 12,655 in 2016.² The boundary of the County of Wetaskiwin No. 10 extends around the City in all directions and Maskwacis is approximately 16 km to the south. Leduc, Nisku and Edmonton are approximately 35 km, 45 km and 70 km north of City, respectively.

Many residents of the County of Wetaskiwin No. 10 and Maskwacis visit Wetaskiwin regularly to work, shop, access health and other services, attend school, visit with friends or family, or participate in recreational activities. Some choose to move to Wetaskiwin.

In turn, many residents of Wetaskiwin are frequent visitors to Edmonton, which offers a range of shopping options, services, and recreational and cultural activities less than an hour's drive away. Some Wetaskiwin residents also travel to Leduc to work or shop, or to Nisku to work or to travel from the Edmonton International Airport.

The proximity of and linkages among these communities influence social dynamics and quality of life of Wetaskiwin residents.



² Statistics Canada 2016 Census

Population (Region)

The City of Wetaskiwin experienced modest growth at an average annual rate of approximately 0.8% between 2001 and 2016 (a total increase of 13% between these years). Over the same 15-year period, Alberta’s population grew by 37% at an average annual rate of 2.1%.

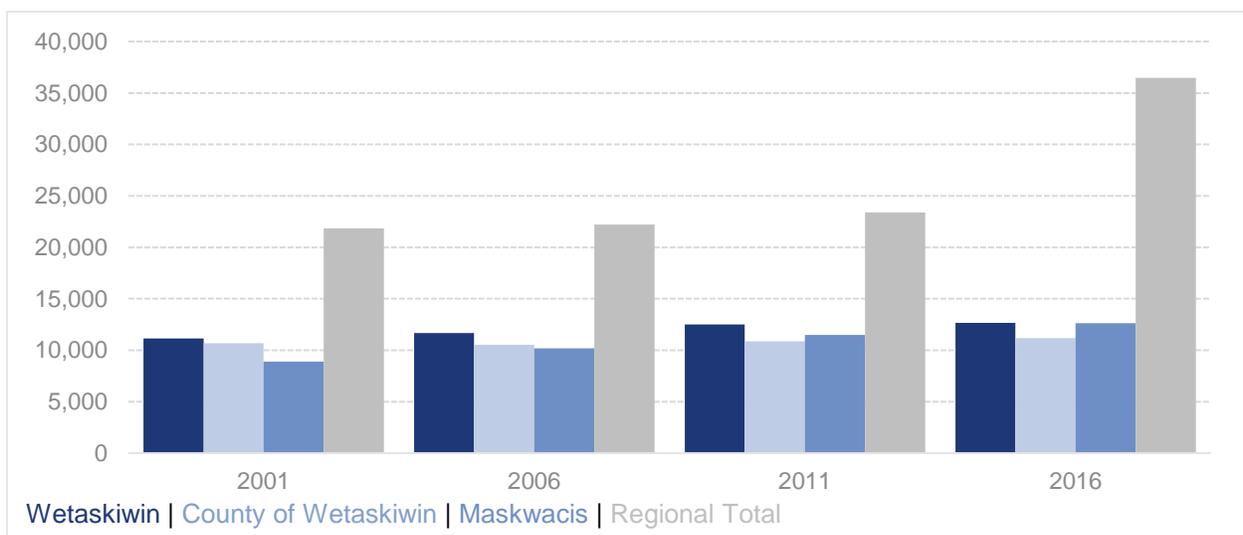
Because of the close ties between the City of Wetaskiwin and the County of Wetaskiwin No. 10 and Maskwacis, it is useful to look at regional population trends as well.

In 2016, the County’s population was estimated to be 11,181³ and the on-reserve population of the nearby Maskwacis First Nations - Ermineskin, Louis Bull, Montana and Samson – was 12,620.⁴

Between 2001 and 2016, the Maskwacis population grew at an average annual rate of 2.4%, higher than the rates for the province overall (2.1%), and for both the City and County of Wetaskiwin (0.8% and 0.3% respectively).

The regional population (shown by the grey bar in the figure below) is currently around 36,500. The City of Wetaskiwin and Maskwacis account for about 35% each of the regional population, while the County of Wetaskiwin accounts for about 30%.

Figure 4-1 Regional Population 2001-2016



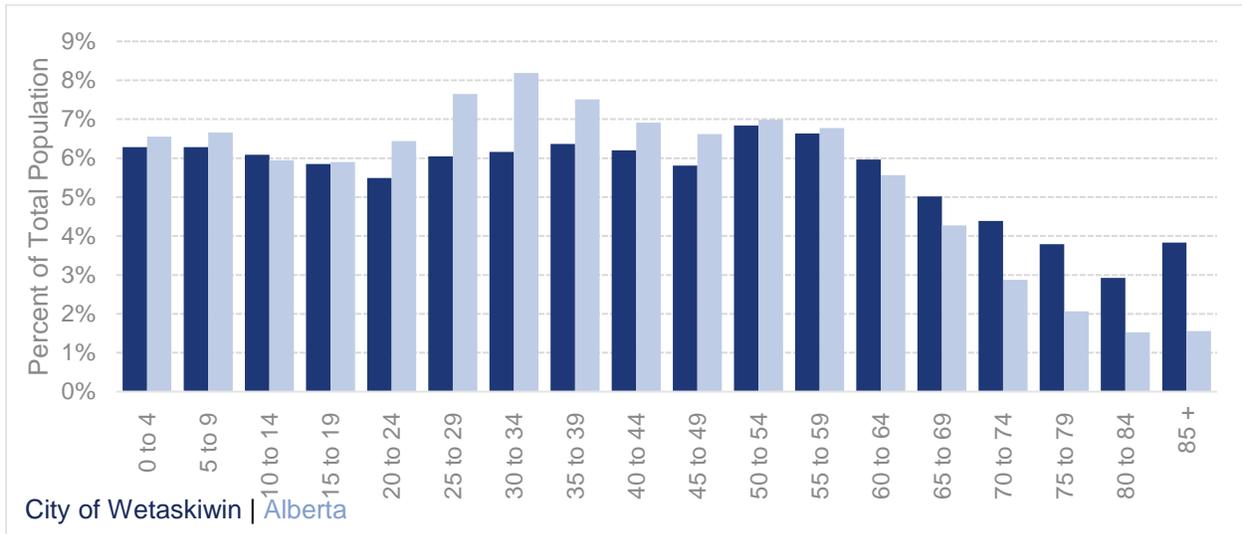
Source: Statistics Canada Census 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

Demographics (City of Wetaskiwin)

The age distribution of City of Wetaskiwin residents is compared to the age distribution of Alberta’s overall population below.

³ Statistics Canada 2016 Census
⁴ 2017 Municipal Affairs Population List

Figure 4-2 Age Distribution of Population



Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census

Age groups that stand out when looking at differences in the age profile between Wetaskiwin and Alberta are between 20 and 49 (account for smaller proportions of Wetaskiwin residents) and 65 and over (account for larger proportions of Wetaskiwin residents).

The average age of Wetaskiwin residents is 42 years, four years higher than the provincial average of approximately 38 years.⁵ Wetaskiwin residents identifying as being Aboriginal tend to be much younger, with an average age of 27.

Segments of Wetaskiwin’s population showing the strongest growth between 2011 and 2016 were:

- Ages 55 to 59: 10% increase
- Ages 60 to 64: 16% increase
- Ages 65 to 69: 11% increase

During that same five-year period, the population aged 70 and over declined by about 5%.

Ethnic Composition

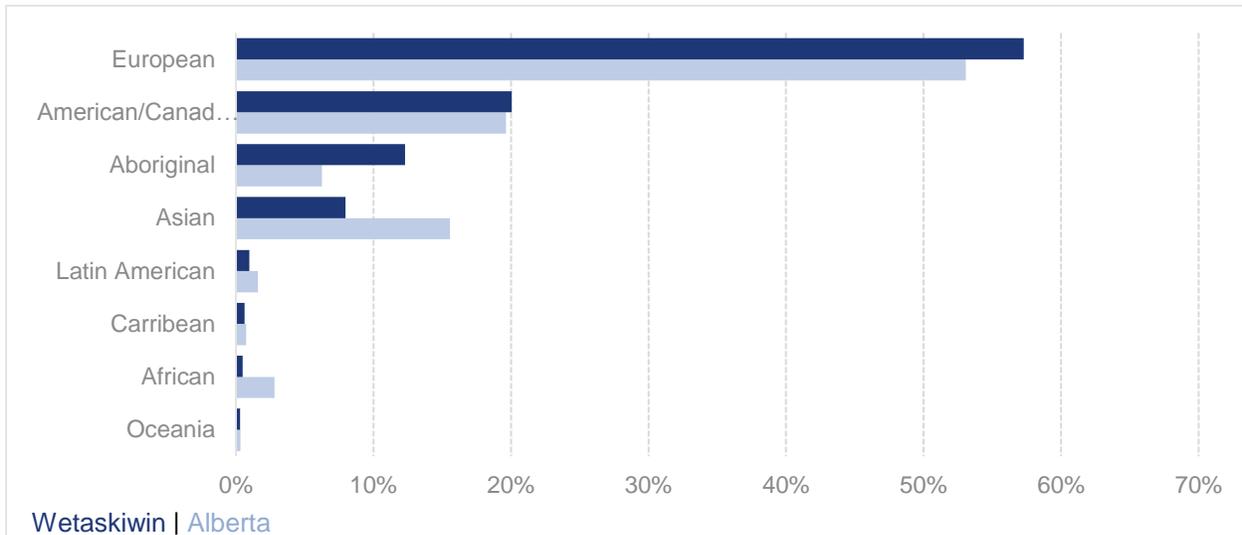
Ethnic diversity can have a positive effect on the vibrancy of a community, allowing residents to learn about and experience different traditions, languages and ways of life.

Wetaskiwin has become somewhat more ethnically diverse in recent years, with approximately 23% of residents participating in the 2016 Federal Census identifying their ethnicity as being Aboriginal, Asian, Latin American, Caribbean, African or Oceania (compared to 27% provincially). Although there are proportionately fewer residents of Asian ethnicity living in Wetaskiwin than in Alberta (8% vs. 16%), the community’s Asian population is increasing.

⁵ Statistics Canada 2016 Census

The top three places of origin of immigrants arriving in Wetaskiwin in the past five years are: Philippines, India and Germany.

Figure 4-3 Wetaskiwin Ethnic Composition (2016)



Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census

The proportion of Wetaskiwin’s population identifying as Aboriginal has tended to fluctuate between approximately 9% and 12% in the last 15 years (see Figure 4-4). In 2016, approximately 12% of Wetaskiwin residents (1,750) identified as being Aboriginal – double the percentage of Alberta residents identifying as Aboriginal (6%).⁶ Children under the age of 18 account for roughly 43% of Wetaskiwin’s Aboriginal population.

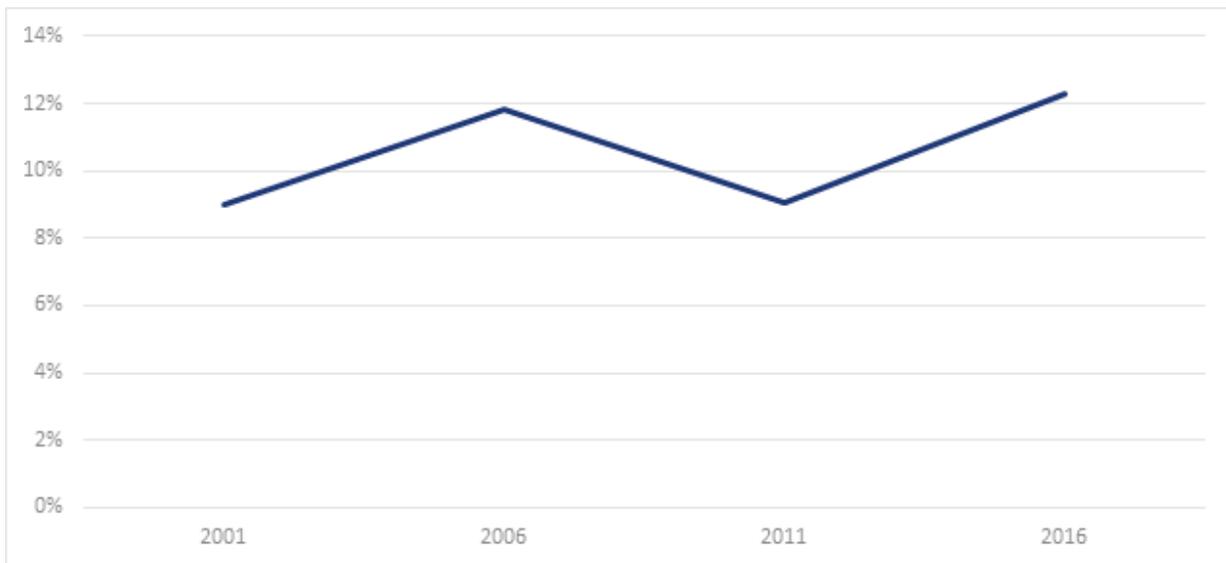
The proportion of Wetaskiwin’s population identifying as Aboriginal tends to fluctuate between 9% and 12%. In 2016, approximately 12% of Wetaskiwin residents (1,750) identified as being Aboriginal.

Many of Wetaskiwin’s Aboriginal residents have relocated from Maskwacis for reasons that may include: employment opportunities; better and less-crowded housing;⁷ to attend NorQuest College; to provide education and other opportunities for their children; to remove themselves from stressful and in some cases unsafe personal or family situations; and, being required by their First Nation to leave their community.

⁶ Statistics Canada 2016 Census

⁷ The shortage and poor condition of housing in Maskwacis has been referred to as a housing crisis. There are typically 15 or more people living in a single home in Maskwacis.

Figure 4-4 Proportion of Population Identifying as Aboriginal (2001-2016)



Source: Statistics Canada Census 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

Household Composition

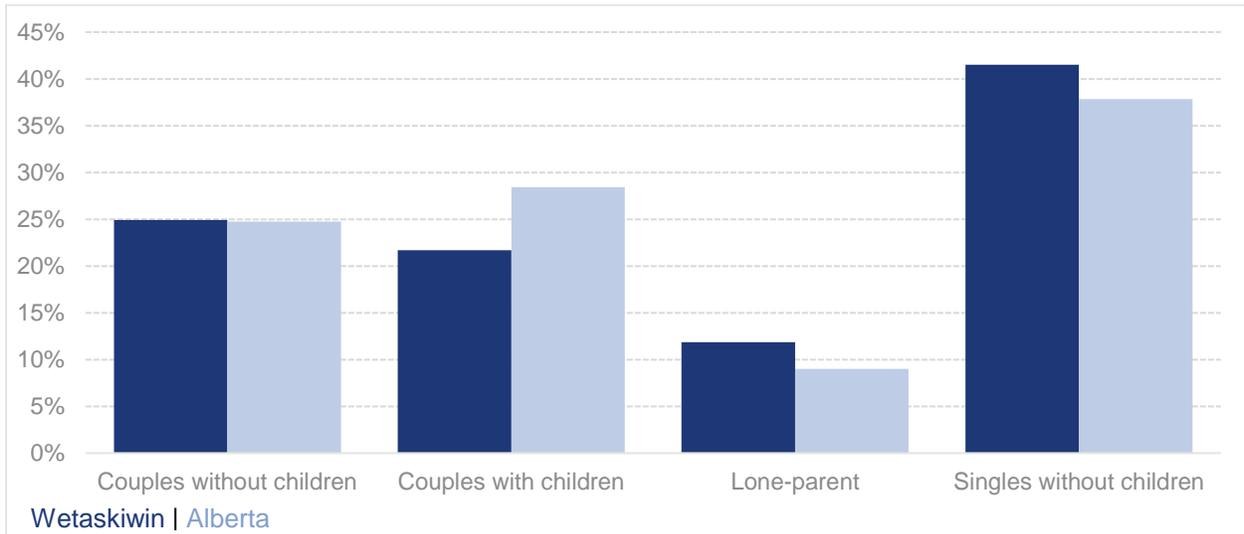
Household composition is an important consideration in assessing social needs in a community.

The figure below compares household composition in Wetaskiwin to household composition across the province. Wetaskiwin has a higher proportion of lone-parent households (12% compared to 9% for Alberta). In Wetaskiwin’s Aboriginal identity population, 10% of families are lone-parent (compared to 8% provincially).

The proportion of households that are couples without children is comparable to that of the province, however, the proportion with children is lower (22% compared to 28% for Alberta).

As can be expected with the comparatively older population in the community, single households without children account for a larger share of households (42% compared to 38% for Alberta).

Figure 4-5 Wetaskiwin Household Composition



Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census

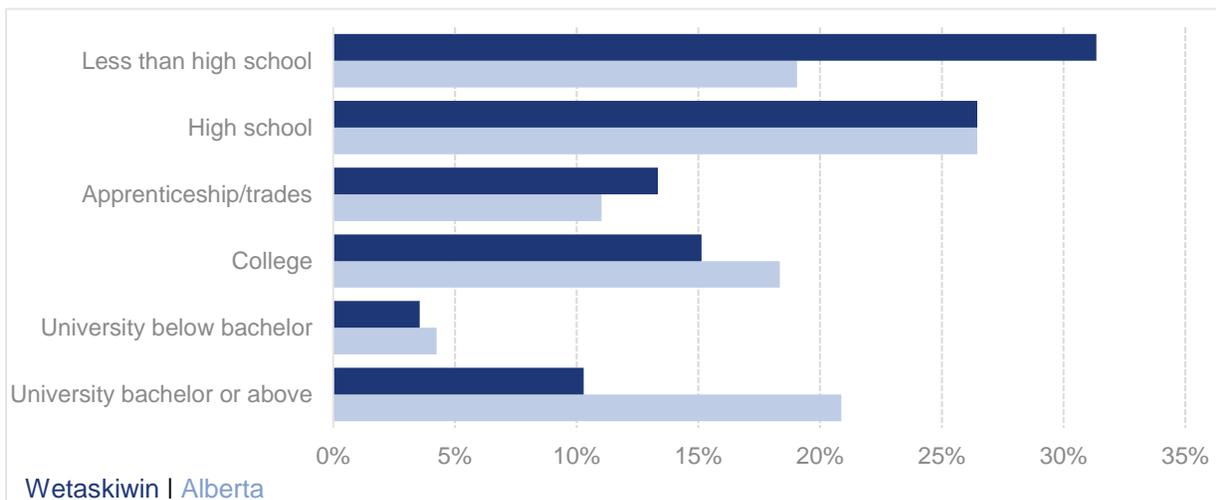
Education

Over 40% of Wetaskiwin residents aged 15 and over have some form of post-secondary education.

The figure below compares education levels in Wetaskiwin to provincial education levels. Key differences that stand out are:

- Wetaskiwin has a higher proportion of residents that have not completed high school (31% as compared to 19% provincially).
- Wetaskiwin has a lower proportion of residents that have completed university (10% as compared to 21% provincially).

Figure 4-6 Wetaskiwin Education Levels



Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census

Employment

Two labour force metrics are useful to look at when assessing social needs in a community: the labour force participation rate and the unemployment rate. The participation rate refers to residents aged 15 years and older that are either employed or actively looking for work (i.e., in the labour force) relative to the total population 15 years and older. The unemployment rate refers to the proportion of residents in the labour force without employment.

In 2016, the labour force participation rate of residents of Wetaskiwin was somewhat lower than the provincial rate (66% as compared to 72%).

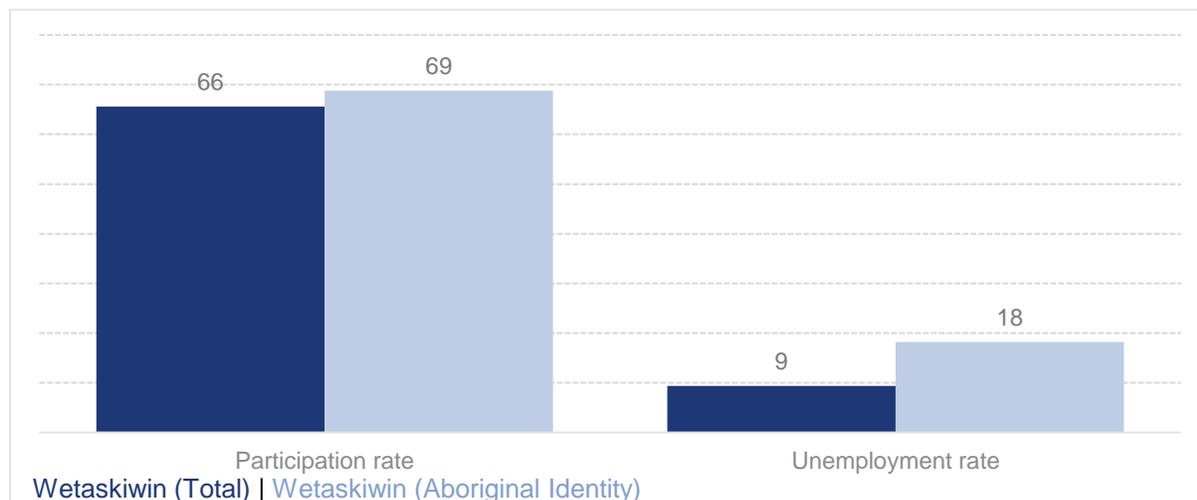
Wetaskiwin's unemployment rate tends to follow a similar pattern as the provincial unemployment rate. In 2016, when Alberta's economy was feeling the effects of low world oil prices, Wetaskiwin's unemployment rate was the same as the provincial unemployment rate of approximately 9%.

Two observations about labour force participation and unemployment rates of males and females in Wetaskiwin are:

- The participation rate among males is higher (73% as compared to 59% for females), meaning there are more males working or actively looking for work than females.
- In 2016, unemployment was higher among males than females (11% as compared to 7% for females). The higher level of unemployment among males in recent years is related in part to employment tied to Alberta's oil industry (e.g. Leduc/Nisku, Fort McMurray and elsewhere in the province), which tends to attract more men than women.

The figure below compares labour force participation and unemployment rates for all Wetaskiwin residents and those residents identifying as Aboriginal in the 2016 Census. While there is slightly higher labour force participation among Aboriginal residents (69% as compared to 66% for all Wetaskiwin residents), Aboriginal residents experience significantly higher levels of unemployment (in 2016, 18% as compared to 9% for all Wetaskiwin residents).

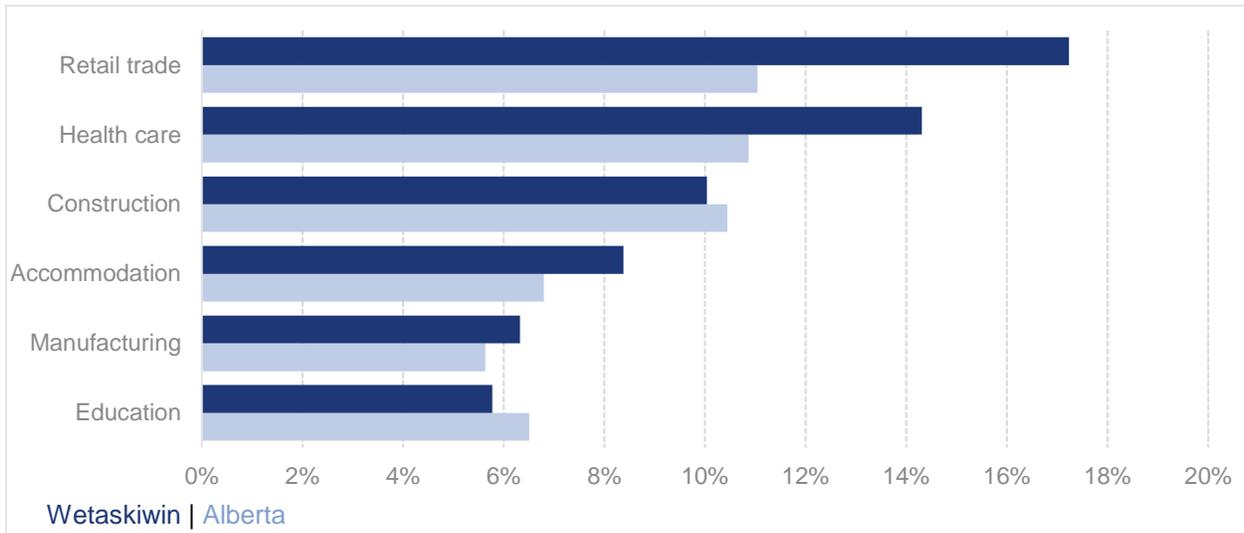
Figure 4-7 Wetaskiwin Labour Force



Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census

The figure below compares employment in the six sectors with the largest number of employees in Wetaskiwin to provincial employment in those sectors.

Figure 4-8 Wetaskiwin Employment in Key Sectors



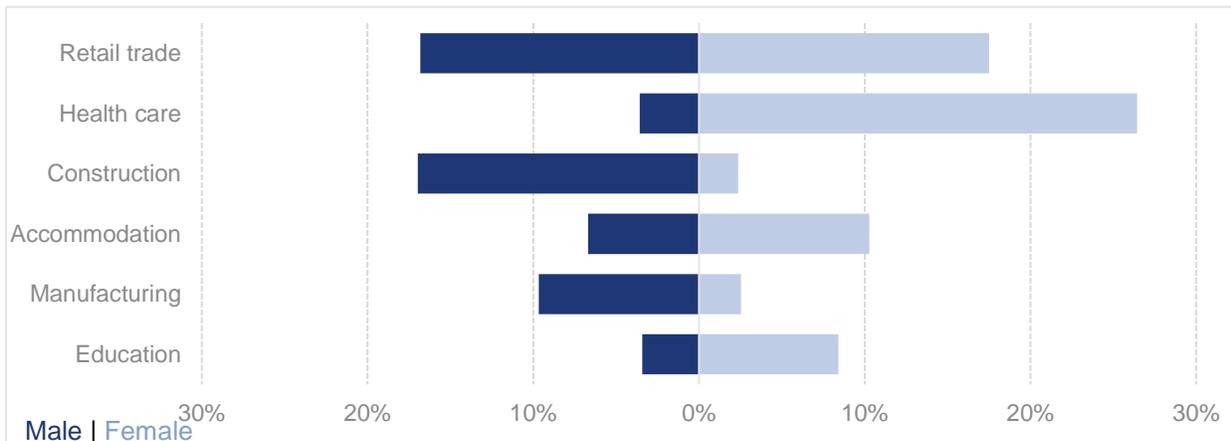
Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census

Sectors where higher levels of employment are seen in Wetaskiwin are:

- Retail trade (Wetaskiwin has several car dealerships that account for a large share of retail trade in the community).
- Health care (the Wetaskiwin Hospital and Care Centre is a major employer in the community).

Differences in employment of males and females in these sectors in the community are shown in Figure 4-9.

Figure 4-9 Employment of Males and Females



Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census

Compared to the province, Wetaskiwin has a smaller proportion of residents employed in professional services (e.g. law, accounting, architecture, etc.).

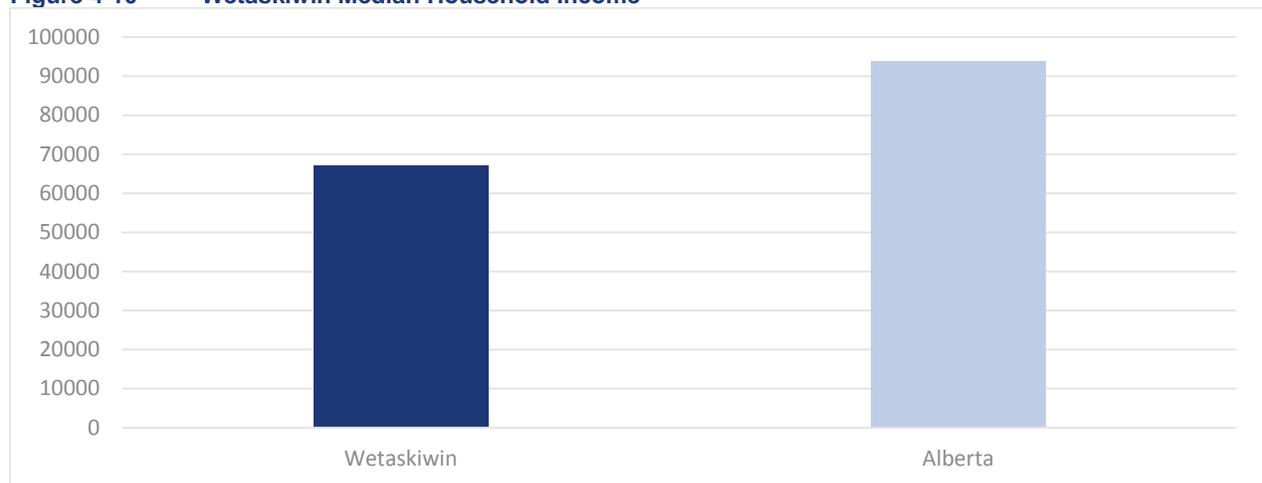
Looking at employment data for Aboriginal residents in Wetaskiwin, it can be seen that Aboriginal residents are more likely to work in the accommodation and food services sector (14% as compared to 6% of Wetaskiwin’s overall labour force) and less likely to work in the retail sector (15% as compared to 19% of Wetaskiwin’s overall labour force). The employment levels of Aboriginal residents in health care, construction, public administration, manufacturing and education are similar to the City’s overall population.

Income

The 2016 Census reported the median household income⁸ of Wetaskiwin residents in 2015 at \$67,056, almost 30% less than the provincial median of \$93,835.⁹

Household incomes in Wetaskiwin tend to be lower than household incomes in Alberta

Figure 4-10 Wetaskiwin Median Household Income



Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census

Income comes from a variety of sources. Table 4-1 shows the percentage of total income of residents receiving income from employment or government transfers.¹⁰

⁸ Median household income refers to the income amount which divides the distribution of all incomes in the City into two halves. Median income is reported instead of average income as the median measure is less impacted by outliers (e.g. household incomes that are distant from others in the community). Data are for 2015 as reported in the 2016 Census.

⁹ Median household income data are unavailable from the 2016 Census for residents identifying as Aboriginal in Wetaskiwin

¹⁰ Government transfers include all cash benefits received from federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments in the reference period (i.e., 2015). Included are:

- Old Age Security Pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement, Allowance or Allowance for the Survivor
- Retirement, disability and survivor benefits from the Canada Pension Plan and Québec Pension Plan
- Employment Insurance (EI) benefits and Québec Parental Insurance Plan benefits
- Child benefits from federal and provincial programs
- Social assistance benefits
- Workers’ Compensation benefits
- Working income tax benefit
- Goods and services tax credit and harmonized sales tax credit
- Other income from government sources

Government transfers account for a larger share of income of residents in Wetaskiwin than in the province. In part, this is related to seniors accounting for a larger share of the City’s population. As is the case provincially, females are more reliant on government transfers for income than males.

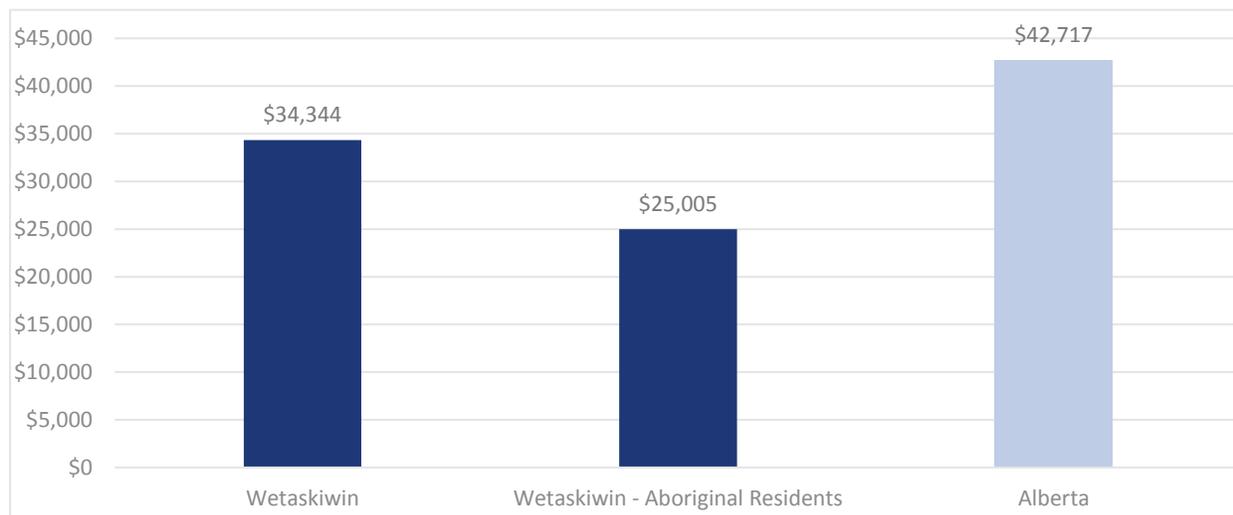
Table 4-1 Income Sources of Residents who Have Income

	Wetaskiwin		Alberta	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Employment	38%	36%	43%	38%
Government Transfers	27%	40%	23%	35%

Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census

The figure below shows the median total income in 2015 for *individuals* aged 15 years and over (not households, as above) for Wetaskiwin, Wetaskiwin’s Aboriginal identity population, and the overall province. Again, it is observed that incomes of individuals in Wetaskiwin lag provincial income levels (by about 20%). The gap between incomes of individuals identifying as Aboriginal in the community and Albertans is larger (about 40%).

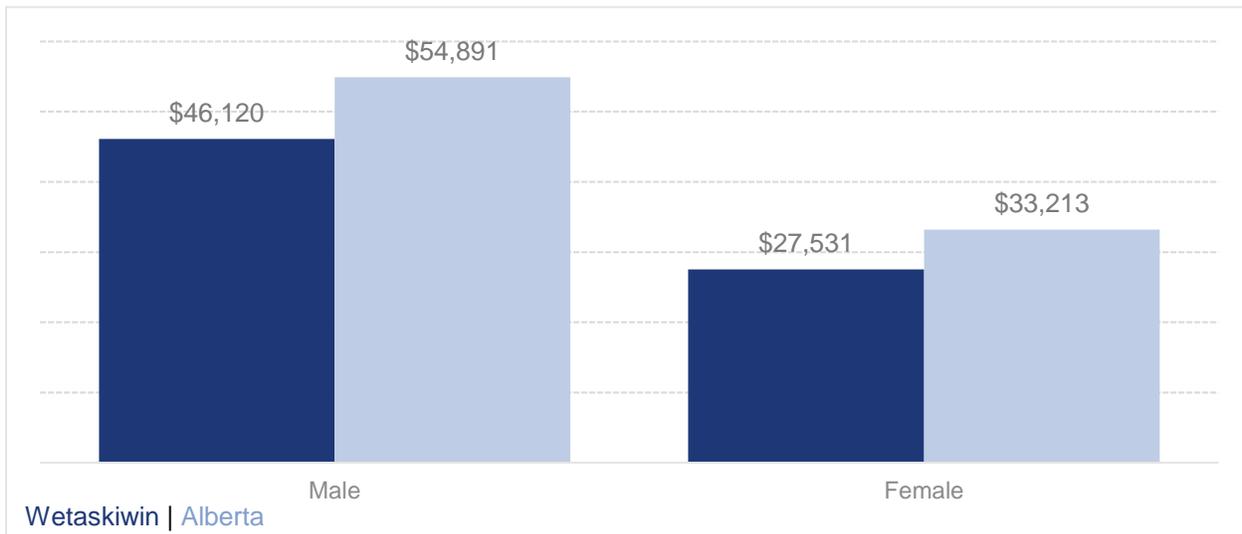
Figure 4-11 Wetaskiwin Median Income – Individuals Aged 15 and Over



Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census

As is the case provincially, females have lower incomes than males in Wetaskiwin. There can be many explanations for this, including lower labour force participation by females and females being less likely to be employed in sectors that tend to offer higher paying jobs.

Figure 4-12 Wetaskiwin Median Income – Individuals Aged 15 and Over by Gender



Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census

Poverty

There are different approaches to assessing the prevalence of low income in communities. The one that has been used in this analysis is the Low-Income Measure (LIM), which is 50% of the median household income in a geographic area. The LIM is a *relative* measure of low income and an indicator of income equality.

There is income inequality in Wetaskiwin, particularly for Aboriginal households and females

After-tax LIM data from the 2016 Census¹¹ provides insight into the prevalence of low-income in Wetaskiwin:

- The prevalence of low income is approximately 4% higher in Wetaskiwin than provincially (13% as compared to 9%)
- There is a significantly higher prevalence of low income among households identifying as Aboriginal in the community (26% as compared to 13% for the community overall)
- The prevalence of low income is higher among females than males in the community (14% as compared to 11% for males)

¹¹ Income data reported in the 2016 Census is for economic families in 2015.

The prevalence of low income based on the LIM after tax measure among different age groups in Wetaskiwin is shown in Table 4-2. Compared to Alberta, the prevalence of low income in the age 0 to 5 age group is significantly higher (23% as compared to approximately 14%).

Table 4-2 Wetaskiwin: Prevalence of Low Income by Age Groups (LIM, after tax)

Age Group	Low Income 2015 (LIM, after tax)	
	Number	% in Age Group
0 to 5 years	225	23%
6 to 17 years	275	15%
18 to 64 years	815	11%
65 years and older	250	12%

Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census

Housing

There are approximately 5,560 private dwellings in Wetaskiwin. The rate of housing growth in the community lags that of the province. The number of dwellings in Wetaskiwin increased by 2% between 2011 and 2016, whereas the number of dwellings in the province increased by 10% over that time.¹²

Approximately 64% of the dwellings in Wetaskiwin are owned and 36% are rented. The distribution between owned and rented housing in the community has remained relatively constant over the past ten years.¹³ Compared to the province, Wetaskiwin has a higher proportion of dwellings that are rented (36% as compared to 27%).¹⁴

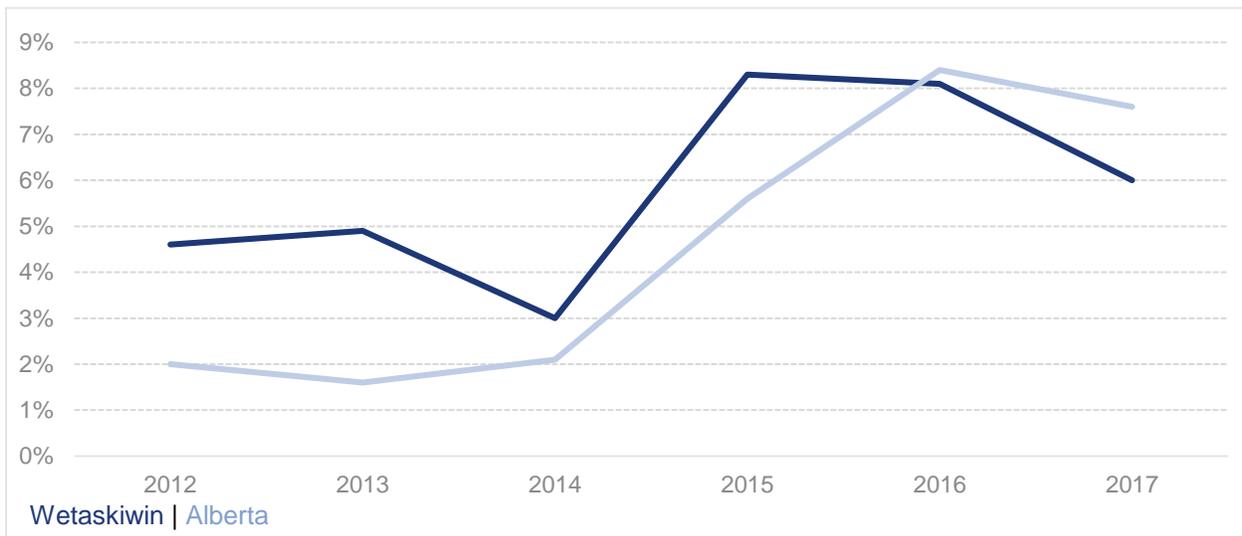
Figure 4-13 shows vacancy rates in Wetaskiwin and in Alberta for the years 2012 to 2017. The local and provincial vacancy rates increased in 2014 following the drop in world oil prices. Wetaskiwin’s vacancy rate has been trending downwards in the past few years, indicating a tightening in the rental housing market in the community.

¹² Statistics Canada 2016 Census

¹³ Statistics Canada 2016 Census

¹⁴ Statistics Canada 2016 Census

Figure 4-13 Wetaskiwin Vacancy Rate



Source: CMHC

Wetaskiwin had an average of 17 new housing starts per year between 2012 and 2016, with over 75% of these being single family dwellings. There have been no new apartments added to the local housing supply since 2011, although there have been some new semi-detached and row housing units built. There have been three Habitat for Humanity projects in the community since 2009.

Although average monthly shelter costs for those renting housing in Wetaskiwin are lower than the provincial average (\$1,038 in 2016, when the provincial average was \$1,279), many households in the community are still challenged by housing affordably because of low income.¹⁵

A commonly-used indicator of the general affordability of housing in a community is the proportion of households spending 30% or more of their gross household income on housing-related costs. The proportion of renters in Wetaskiwin spending more than 30% of their income on housing is higher than the provincial proportion (40% as compared to 36% provincially).¹⁶

Alberta Seniors and Housing calculates Core Need Income Thresholds (CNITs) to assess eligibility for subsidized rental housing. The 2016 CNITs for Wetaskiwin for rental units of various sizes are shown below.

¹⁵ Statistics Canada 2016 Census
¹⁶ Statistics Canada 2016 Census

Table 4-3 2017 Core Need Income Thresholds for Wetaskiwin

Size of Accommodation	2017 Core Need Income Thresholds (Wetaskiwin)
Bachelor	\$30,000
1 Bedroom	\$31,500
2 Bedrooms	\$40,500
3 Bedrooms	\$65,500
4+ Bedrooms	\$75,500

Source: Alberta Seniors and Housing, 2017 Income Thresholds

Based on household income data from the 2016 Census, it is estimated that at least 940 households in Wetaskiwin (roughly 18%) have incomes that would allow them to be eligible to apply for subsidized rental housing. However, only approximately 14% lived in subsidized housing (compared to 10% provincially).

The proportion of houses in Wetaskiwin in need of major repairs has remained steady at approximately 7% since 2011. This is slightly higher (1% higher) than the proportion of houses reported to be needing major repairs in the province.

Crime and Sense of Safety

The sense of safety in a community has a significant bearing on overall social well-being. Residents reported that there are areas of the city where they do not feel safe as well as times of day when safety is more of an issue. It was mentioned that some parks may not have sufficient lighting. This makes residents, including youth who walk to get to activities and to and from school, feel less safe in the evenings particularly in winter months.

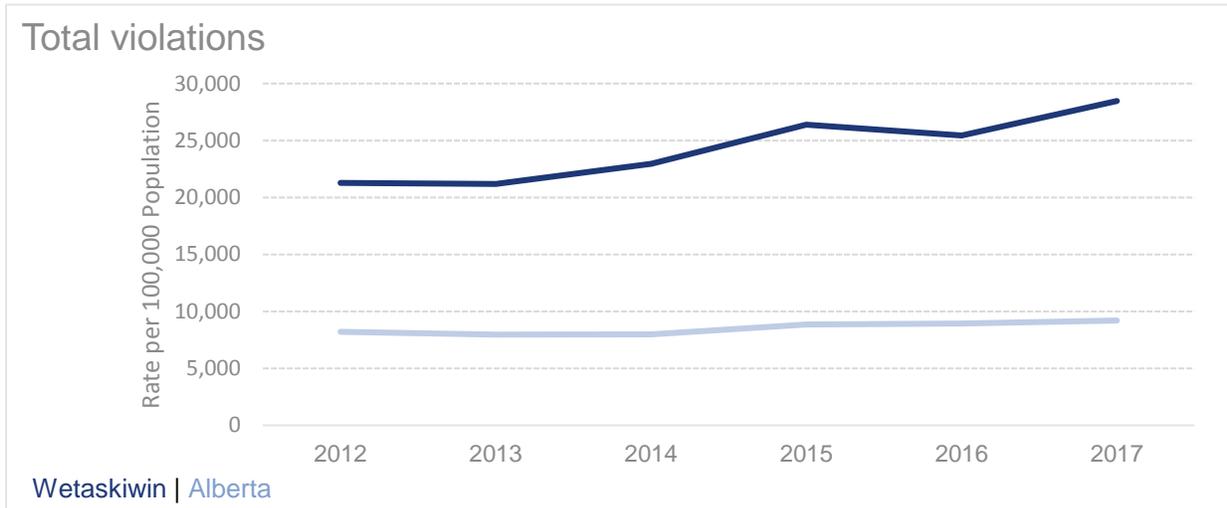
Trends in crime statistics for Wetaskiwin between 2012 and 2017 are shown in the following figures.¹⁷ These statistics relate to actual charges. Because calls and services that do not result in charges are not reported by Statistics Canada, these statistics only provide partial insight into policing and by-law enforcement activity in the community.

The following trends are observed:

- Wetaskiwin’s crime rate (violations per 100,000 population) was higher than the provincial rate each year between 2012 and 2017. In 2017, it was over three times higher.
- Wetaskiwin’s violent crime rate was higher than the provincial rate each year between 2012 and 2017. In 2017, it was over three times higher.
- Property crime in the community has been trending upwards. Between 2012 and 2017, charges for property crime violations in the community increased by over 50%. In 2017, the property crime rate in Wetaskiwin was roughly double the provincial rate.
- Following a steep rise in impaired driving charges in the community between 2013 and 2016, a significant drop was seen in 2017.
- Drug violations have also been declining in the community in recent years. The gap between the province’s and the community’s drug violation rates has narrowed each year since 2014.

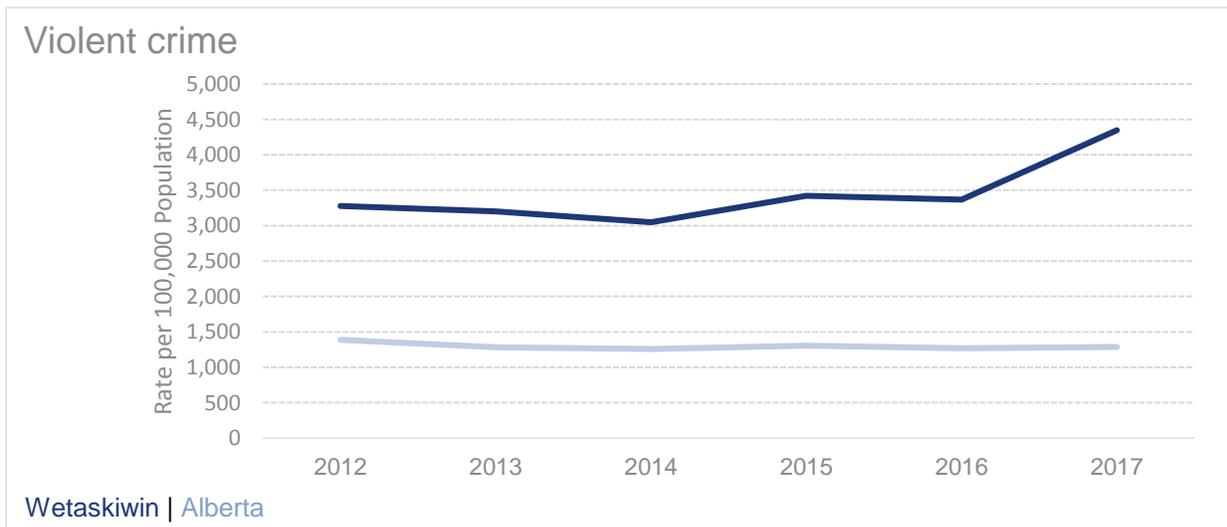
¹⁷ Statistics Canada. Table 252-0080. Incident-based crime statistics, Alberta.

Figure 4-14 Total Violations



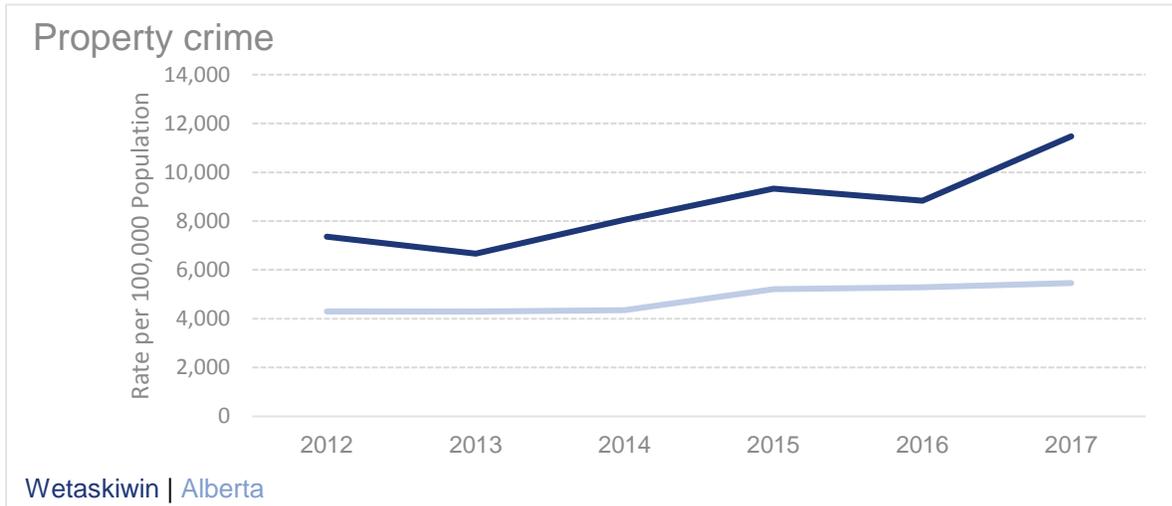
Source: Statistics Canada. Table 252-0080 - Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations and police services, Alberta, annual

Figure 4-15 Violent Crime



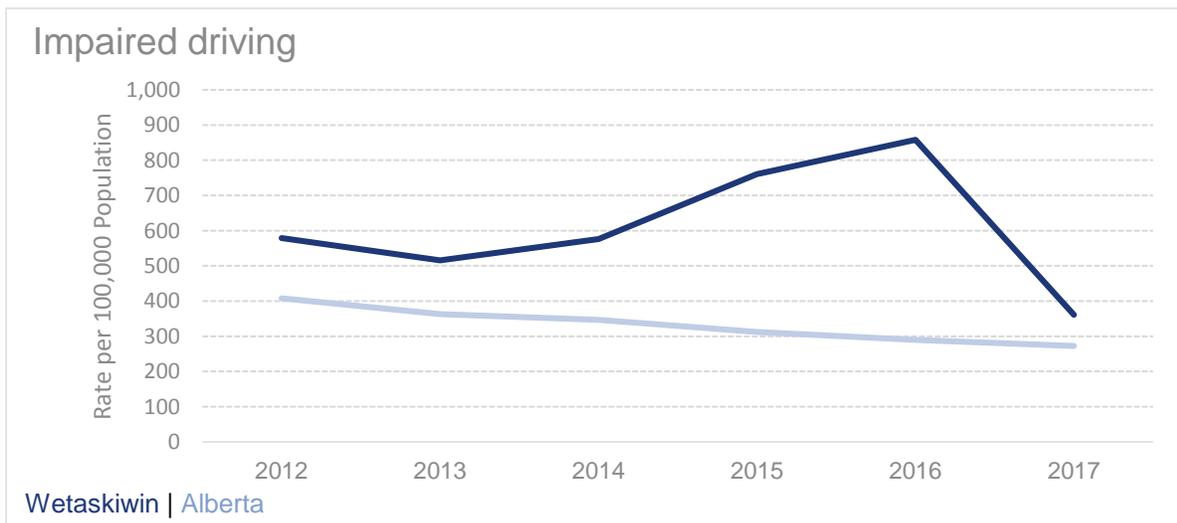
Source: Statistics Canada. Table 252-0080 - Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations and police services, Alberta, annual

Figure 4-16 Property Crime



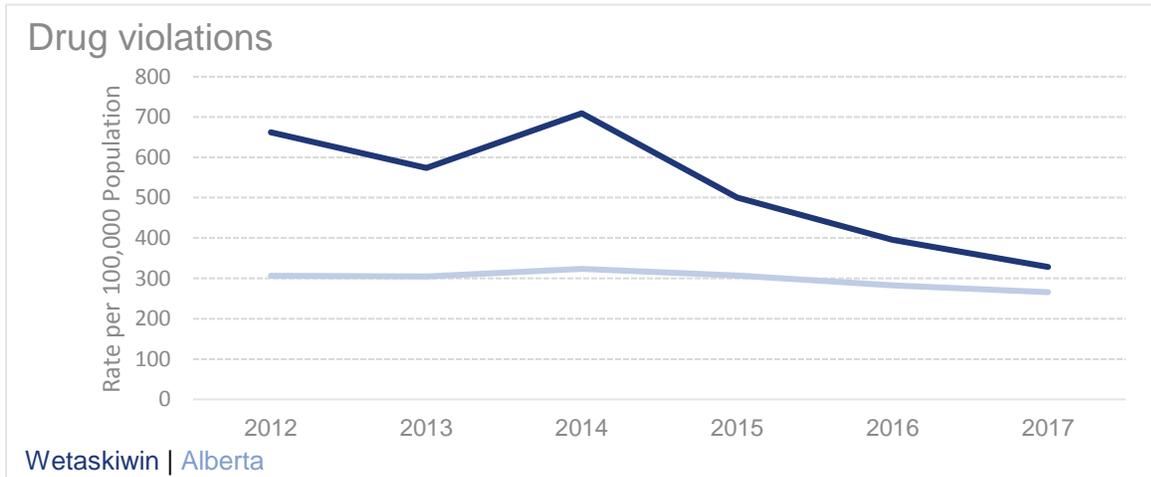
Source: Statistics Canada. Table 252-0080 - Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations and police services, Alberta, annual

Figure 4-17 Impaired Driving Charges



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 252-0080 - Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations and police services, Alberta, annual

Figure 4-18 Drug Violations



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 252-0080 - Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations and police services, Alberta, annual

Health (Region)

Alberta Health aggregates health statistics for the City of Wetaskiwin, the County of Wetaskiwin No. 10 and Maskwacis into the Wetaskiwin County Local Geographic Area (LGA). This area aligns closely with what we referred to earlier in this section as the “region”.

Some key indicators of relevance to gaining insight into health and well-being in the region are:¹⁸

- A higher proportion of children under age 17 (27% compared to 22% for Alberta)
- A higher proportion of individuals aged 65 and over (14% compared to 12% for Alberta)
- A higher proportion of First Nations and Inuit people (27% compared to 3% for Alberta)
- A higher incidence of hypertension (1.2 times higher than the provincial rate)
- A higher overall birth rate and a significantly higher teen birth rate (teen birth rate is over 3 times higher than the provincial rate)
- Higher rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) than provincial rates
- Significantly higher emergency department visit rates for non-urgent and semi-urgent matters (approximately 2.5 times higher than the provincial rate)
- Upper respiratory infections are the dominant reason for emergency visits (almost 2.5 times higher than the province)
- Higher rates of inpatient separation (a measure of the utilization of hospital services) for pneumonia (almost 3 times higher than the province), mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use (almost 3 times higher than the province), and diabetes (3 times higher than the province).

¹⁸ These data have been drawn from Alberta Health’s publication *Community Profile: Wetaskiwin County*, 3rd edition, March 2017

- Much higher emergency department visit rate for mental and behavioural disorders (5 times higher than the province).

Deprivation Index (Region)

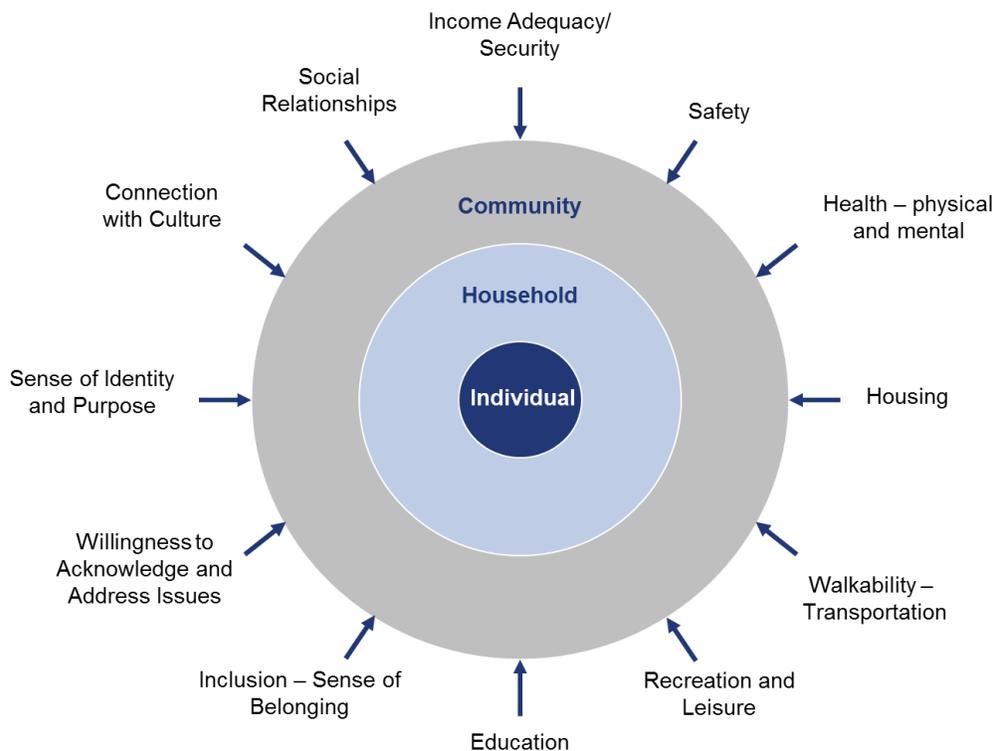
The Canadian Deprivation Index is used to help understand how environmental and economic factors may be affecting health in a community. The index is derived from information related to income, education, family structure and geography. The index for Wetaskiwin County (again, aggregated data for the City, County and Maskwacis) indicates that approximately 5% of the population in the region are at risk of having poor health because of non-health related factors.¹⁹

¹⁹ Alberta Health's Interactive Health Data Application

5. Quality of Life

There are a number of factors that contribute to creating a good quality of life in a community. These factors can impact the well-being of individuals, households and the community as a whole. Key influences on social well-being in Wetaskiwin were identified by the Community Solutions Committee, leading to the development of the community-specific quality of life framework below. As the research progressed, additional insights were gained into how these factors are influencing individual, household and community well-being (both positively and negatively) and to differences in perspectives about the priority that should be given to various factors in future planning.

Figure 5-1 Wetaskiwin Quality of Life Framework



It became clear in discussions with both Wetaskiwin and Maskwacis residents that the quality of life in one community can affect the quality of life of residents in the other community because of the proximity and close linkages between the communities.

Community Quality of Life Strengths

Wetaskiwin has notable strengths in some key areas that are associated with higher quality of life.

Recreation and Leisure

There was general agreement that Wetaskiwin’s recreational amenities offer opportunities that can contribute to improved health and well-being for residents. There was frequent mention of how the Manluk Centre is a valued addition to the community’s recreational assets. Other community recreational

and leisure assets include By-the-Lake Park (which has a man-made lake and trails used for year-round recreational activities), sports fields, and museums, including the well-known Reynolds-Alberta Museum.



More than three-quarters of those who provided input via the survey agreed that Wetaskiwin offers:

- Parks that residents use to enjoy the outdoors
- A diversity of recreation and leisure activities for all demographics

Health (Physical)

Services and facilities to support health, particularly physical health, were also identified as a strength in the community.

The Wetaskiwin Primary Care Network (PCN) has increased access to primary care services, including chronic disease management, women's and teen health, and foot care in recent years, and meets some of the demand for mental health services in the community.

The Wetaskiwin Hospital and Care Centre is one of the major health facilities in central Alberta, providing emergency, acute care and long-term care services in the region. In addition to serving Wetaskiwin residents, it also draws residents from the County and Maskwacis.

Although not unanimous, there was a high level of agreement among those who completed the survey that Wetaskiwin offers good access to healthcare services (about four out of five survey respondents).

Education

Access to education is also considered to be a strength in the community. There are two school jurisdictions providing K-12 education (Wetaskiwin Regional Public School Division and St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division #38), a campus of NorQuest College (provides upgrading and some occupational training), and the Wetaskiwin Community Learning Program (offers some computer training, family literacy programs, and English Language Learning opportunities).

The Wetaskiwin Public Library is also a valued resource in the community. It offers programs for all age groups and is supporting the establishment of library services in Maskwacis.

More than four out of five of those who responded to the survey felt that Wetaskiwin offers good schools and educational opportunities.

Social Relationships

The sense of social and community connection within Wetaskiwin is generally, but not uniformly, strong. More than one-half of survey respondents considered the following to be current social strengths of Wetaskiwin:

- Diverse religious/spiritual communities
- "Small town" feel
- Strong culture of volunteering
- People greet each other in passing

- Diverse cultural groups and activities

Community Quality of Life Constraints

There are some factors, however, that constrain quality of life of individuals and households in the community to varying degrees and affect the City's overall social well-being.

Poverty and Income Inequality

Wetaskiwin is not a homogenous community socio-economically.

The incidence of low income, however measured, is higher in Wetaskiwin than Alberta as a whole. Individuals and households experiencing low income for extended periods of time often face daily challenges meeting their basic needs for housing, food and clothing. Food security was identified by the Community Solutions Committee as a concern in Wetaskiwin. In addition, more than one-half of survey respondents identified affordable transportation as a priority for residents with disabilities in the community, and affordable child care as a priority for single parents.

At an individual level, poverty is associated with higher levels of stress, a higher prevalence physical and mental health concerns, and substance abuse and addictions, all of which can negatively impact the quality of life of others in their households and communities.

The proportion of children under the age of six in low-income households in Wetaskiwin is of particular concern (23% in this age group applying the LIM of low income). Children who live in poverty can face challenges that make learning more difficult and perpetuate cyclical patterns of poverty in families.

The proportion of children under the age of six in low-income households in Wetaskiwin is a concern

However, it is not only absolute poverty that affects well-being in a community. There is a growing body of research on the strong and complex linkages between *relative* poverty (i.e., being less well off than the average) or *income inequality* in a community on individual, household and community well-being.

Income inequality is correlated with health, social and economic problems

Income inequality has been found to be related to substance abuse, physical health and life expectancy outcomes, educational performance, teenage births, violence, and involvement in the criminal justice system.

Income inequality can also dampen economic growth in a community:

- **Health:** Workers experiencing high levels of stress in their life or experiencing mental health challenges may be less productive
- **Disposable income:** Households struggling to meet their basic needs have limited resources to purchase goods and services from local businesses
- **Investment in education and skills:** Low-income households are less able to invest in education and skill development that may make them more valuable in the local labour market, reducing opportunities for increased earnings

Housing Affordability

There is a shortage of affordable housing in Wetaskiwin.

Although housing costs are lower in Wetaskiwin than in the province, generally, many individuals and families find it difficult to secure affordable housing, particularly affordable rental accommodation. The stock of multi-family housing units in the community is growing at a slower rate than the stock of single family dwellings.

The Community Solutions Committee identified affordable housing as a priority need in Wetaskiwin. More than one-half of those who responded to the survey also felt affordable housing should be a priority for social planning in Wetaskiwin.

Residents who may need affordable housing cross many segments of the population:

- Individuals/families with low income
- Households with low income wanting to move from renting to owning their home
- Individuals with physical or mental disabilities
- Individuals with addictions that require special supports
- Individuals with multiple and/or complex needs (e.g. mental health, addictions and/or physical disabilities)
- Individuals or families experiencing domestic violence
- Individuals or families experiencing homelessness (including youth, women and men)
- Seniors with limited income who can live independently
- Seniors with limited income who require supports

Table 5-1 provides an overview of the types and availability of affordable housing in Wetaskiwin.

Affordable housing needs that appear to be of lesser urgency in the community are:

- Independent living for seniors
- Supportive/assisted living for seniors
- Market housing for seniors
- Supportive housing in group home settings

The most pressing affordable housing needs in the community appear to be:

- Shelters - for residents and others in the community experiencing homelessness or domestic violence
- Transitional housing – for individuals or families transitioning from homelessness or shelters
- Supportive/supported housing - for individuals with complex needs (e.g. substance use and/or mental health) or experiencing long-term homelessness
- Subsidized housing (community housing, rent supplements, subsidized ownership) for singles who are not seniors and families with low or modest income. The most acute need in this category is reportedly for affordable one-bedroom units for non-senior households.

Table 5-1 Wetaskiwin Affordable Housing Overview

	Non-Market Housing				Market Housing	
	Shelters	Transitional Housing	Supportive/ Supported Housing	Subsidized Housing	Market Affordable Housing	Pure Market Housing
Description	<i>Emergency facilities that offer short-term space (i.e. a mat to sleep on, food and some support services)</i>	<i>Accommodation typically for 6 months to 3 years with extensive support services</i>	<i>Long-term housing that combines housing with needed support services for people with needs related to physical or mental health, developmental disabilities or substance use Services may be provided on-site, or accessed in the community or through home visits</i>	<i>Subsidized rental or ownership housing for households with limited income that do not require on-site support services. Subsidies can be capital or operating.</i>	<i>No subsidization of housing cost (capital or operating), but incentives to build or purchase new units</i>	<i>No subsidization of housing cost (capital or operating) or incentives to build or purchase</i>
Availability in Wetaskiwin	No provincially-funded emergency shelters Nearest women’s shelter is in Camrose (roughly 40 km away) Local church provides shelter for the homeless during extremely cold weather	No transitional housing for individuals or families transitioning from homelessness or shelters	No long-term supportive (i.e., housing with on-site supports) or supported (i.e., self-contained housing with supports provided as needed either in home or in the community) for individuals with complex needs or having experienced long-term homelessness Some group homes for persons with disabilities (including developmental disabilities) and supportive/supported seniors’ facilities	Insufficient subsidized housing for non-senior households with limited income Subsidized housing in the community currently includes: Independent seniors’ living - rent geared to income: Kiwanis Kourt, Legion Arms, Luther Manor Community housing – rent geared to income: 49 units (rental properties owned by the province) Rent supplement –financial support for households with low or modest income (rental properties not owned by the province) Habitat for Humanity	None	Some pure market seniors’ housing (e.g. Madyson Manor, Seasons, Sunrise Village)

Homelessness and Vagrancy

The homeless population in Wetaskiwin includes people living with friends or family temporarily (some of whom may be “couch surfing” temporarily or over a longer term) and “living rough” on the street or in parks.

Wetaskiwin is not alone in facing the realities of homelessness. Homelessness spans all cities and many rural areas in Alberta.

About one-half of the survey respondents considered homelessness to be priority social issue in Wetaskiwin. Homelessness was identified as one of the top three priorities for youth and people with disabilities.

The issue of homelessness in Wetaskiwin is compounded by and interrelated with a vagrancy issue.²⁰

Vagrancy is related to a complex and dynamic interplay of factors, which can include:

- Experiencing the effects of intergenerational trauma, which can affect how individuals relate to other people and respond to stress
- Living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), which can affect physical and mental development and behavior²¹
- Substance abuse or addiction, often accompanied by mental health issues
- Family or relationship breakdown issues
- Expulsion from homes or communities
- Lacking a sense of belonging and purpose, which can stem from broken family and community relationships, lack of pride in and connection with culture, and not having stable employment

The RCMP estimates that the number of vagrants in Wetaskiwin at any given time is around 40. This is higher than other communities of a similar size in the province. Vagrants tend to gravitate towards the south side of the community where there is a higher concentration of liquor stores.²²

Over the past four years, the RCMP estimates that between 27% and 30% of their manpower costs have related to managing vagrants in the community. In addition to putting pressure on the RCMP, vagrants also put added strain on the City’s Protective Services (e.g. Fire Protection, Peace Officers), hospital emergency department, social services and courts.

Vagrancy in Wetaskiwin affects the overall quality of life in the community in several ways. It:

- Is a factor in the community’s higher crime levels
- Reduces the sense of safety of residents
- Contributes to racial tensions

²⁰ The Cambridge Dictionary defines vagrant as “a person who is poor, does not have a home or job, and moves from place to place”.

²¹ Individuals with FASD experienced prenatal brain damage caused by exposure to alcohol during pregnancy. It is a lifelong condition.

²² Wetaskiwin has more liquor stores per capita than other communities of similar size in Alberta, including Cold Lake, Brooks, and Lacombe.

- Is believed to have been a factor in the decisions of businesses to not locate in Wetaskiwin, reducing employment, shopping and service options in the community

Substance Abuse and Addictions and Mental Health

Substance abuse and addictions and mental health were identified as social priorities in Wetaskiwin by the Community Solutions Committee, by most of those who provided input through interviews and focus groups, and by survey respondents.

Substance abuse and addictions was identified as the highest priority for social planning by survey respondents - higher than mental health – and the top priority for youth.²³

Substance abuse and addictions and untreated mental health issues affect the well-being of individuals, families, workplaces and communities

Alberta Health Services data also point to the prevalence of substance abuse and addictions and mental issues among those receiving hospital services in the community: the rate of hospitalization for mental and psychoactive substance abuse is three times higher than the province; the emergency department visit rate for mental and behavioral disorders is five times higher than the province;

According to the RCMP, drug issues in the community have increased in recent years, even though drug violations have seen a decline. The availability and use of crystal meth in Wetaskiwin is of particular concern: it is less expensive than other opioids, is highly addictive, and withdrawal from crystal meth is particularly harsh. Crystal meth use is being seen in youth as young as age 12 in the community (among both boys and girls) and underlies the bullying experienced by some youth in the community.²⁴

In addition to the concerns about crystal meth in the community, fentanyl use is also becoming more widespread.

Substance abuse and addictions in families are associated with higher levels of domestic violence, which over one-half of survey respondents felt was an issue in Wetaskiwin. The groups identified as being more likely to be affected by family violence were single parents and Indigenous residents.

About two-thirds of survey respondents felt Wetaskiwin does not offer good access to addiction services. However, there is recognition among members of the Community Solutions Committee and some others who provided input to this research that addictions *treatment* services may not always be the most appropriate response.

For individuals who cannot or are unwilling to reduce or stop their use of alcohol or drugs, a *harm reduction* approach may be more appropriate. A harm reduction approach emphasizes reducing the potential for adverse health, social and economic consequences of alcohol and drug use. There is currently no supportive or supported housing in the community for individuals with complex needs (e.g. addiction *and* mental health issues) or who have experienced long-term homelessness (where addiction and mental health issues are often underlying factors) (See Table 5-1).

Access to mental health services has been a longstanding issue in Wetaskiwin, as it has been across the province. While the PCN has improved access somewhat and Alberta Health Services has expanded its

²³ Over three-quarters of those who responded to the survey identified substance abuse and addictions as one of the five issues that should be given priority in social planning in Wetaskiwin in the next five years; over one-half identified mental health as one of the five issues that should be given priority.

²⁴ Bullying was identified by survey respondents as one of the top three priorities for youth in the community.

services under its Indigenous Mental Health Program, there is still unmet demand for mental health services in the community.

In assessing needs for mental health services in a community, the needs of Indigenous people require special attention. For those experiencing the effects of intergenerational trauma, the journey to mental wellness can be a long one, involving services that also consider the physical, emotional and spiritual dimensions of wellness.

Inclusion and Sense of Belonging

Wetaskiwin is becoming more ethnically diverse and proportionately has a larger Indigenous population than Alberta overall. In addition to having approximately 1,750 Indigenous residents, Wetaskiwin also draws residents from nearby Maskwacis who visit the community to shop and access services, including hospital services.

There are many examples of strong, positive relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents of Wetaskiwin and between Wetaskiwin and Maskwacis, including:

- Economic relationships – business and employment relationships
- Personal relationships – friendships and family connections

However, these positive relationships can be overshadowed by negative perceptions and experiences of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents and visitors to Wetaskiwin.

The Community Solutions Committee identified racism as one of the priority social issues in Wetaskiwin and over three-quarters of survey respondents felt that discrimination/racism was a challenge in meeting social needs in the community. Issues related to racism and discrimination were also identified by the Maskwacis leaders and community members who participated in this research. It was mentioned that people from Maskwacis have felt unwelcome at local businesses, discriminated against by landlords and when applying for jobs, and not treated respectfully at the hospital.

Maskwacis leaders accept that the behaviour of some of their members who live in or visit Wetaskiwin can be problematic and are open to collaborating with the City on solutions.²⁵

Wetaskiwin has had mixed success in strengthening its relationships with Maskwacis First Nations and addressing the complex interplay of factors that influence the community being viewed as welcoming, inclusive and safe.²⁶ In 2010, the City joined the Coalition of Canadian Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination with the intention of developing a plan to reduce racism and discrimination in the community. Momentum on this initiative reportedly stalled because of insufficient interest when volunteers were sought to move it forward.

²⁵ The number and concentration of liquor stores and pawn shops in Wetaskiwin was mentioned as a contributing factor by many of those participating in this research.

²⁶ Being viewed as clean, welcoming and safe by all was identified as one of the outcomes in the City's 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.

However, there has been some regaining of momentum with inclusiveness as well as reconciliation with First Nations in recent years. For example, in 2017, the Treaty 6 flag was raised at City Hall to recognize that Wetaskiwin is on Treaty 6 land and has a relationship with Treaty 6 First Nations.²⁷

Many of those providing input to this research feel that the greatest overarching need for the future social well-being of Wetaskiwin is sincere and ongoing collaboration between Wetaskiwin and Maskwacis to build cross-cultural understanding and respect, and to work together on solutions to social issues.



²⁷ The four Nations in Maskwacis are in Treaty 6 territory.

6. Responding to Wetaskiwin's Social Needs

Wetaskiwin is not alone in facing social challenges related to poverty, affordable housing, homelessness and vagrancy, substance abuse and addictions, mental health and inclusion. Unfortunately, these issues are common across Alberta and elsewhere in Canada. However, Wetaskiwin's challenges are more pronounced and complicated by its proximity to and linkages with other communities, Maskwacis in particular.

Wetaskiwin's social issues are significant and complex. Different understandings and perspectives on what underlies important social issues affecting the community and on responsibilities for addressing issues makes agreeing on priorities and collaborating on solutions challenging.

One of the challenges in addressing social issues in Wetaskiwin that was mentioned in several discussions is the perspective of some in the community that Wetaskiwin's most tough and visible social problems are "Four Bands' issues, not Wetaskiwin's issues". The jurisdictional landscape related to social well-being in Alberta is complicated and includes the Treaty relationships between First Nations and the Government of Canada. The landscape is also shifting, with municipalities taking on a larger role in researching issues in their communities, facilitating collaboration to address issues (including with First Nations and Métis organizations), and providing policy direction and funding - and advocating for funding from the provincial and federal governments - to address issues (e.g. affordable housing).

Wetaskiwin has social strengths upon which to build and with the current City Council and Maskwacis leadership, there are opportunities for more collaboration between Nations and Wetaskiwin and also among Nations on social issues.

Providing recommendations for actions to respond to the needs identified through this research was beyond the scope of this project. However, the following are suggested next steps:

- Share the findings from this research broadly within the community to raise awareness of social issues, support informed discussion of the issues, and build consensus around priorities.
- Establish multi-stakeholder working groups (including representatives of Maskwacis) to develop a comprehensive community social master plan that identifies specific goals, actions and responsibilities for addressing priority social needs in the community. Ensure there is Council leadership and support, shared understanding of priorities across working groups, involvement of appropriate provincial government representatives on working groups, and clarity around the role of the Community Solutions Committee.
- Reaffirm the City's commitment to reduce racism and discrimination in the community and develop and implement an action plan on racism and discrimination.
- Together with leaders of the Four Bands in Maskwacis, collaborate on initiatives to advance reconciliation and address quality of life concerns in both communities. The raising of the Treaty 6 flag at City Hall was an important step, however, an ongoing focus on reconciliation is needed for enhanced social well-being in both Wetaskiwin and Maskwacis.
- Continually review the balance between preventive and enforcement initiatives to address social issues in the community.

- Take a more integrated approach to economic and social planning for the City. This would see explicit reference to economic and social development goals in the City's strategic documents, and then applying social development criteria in assessing economic development options and economic development criteria in assessing social development options.

Appendix A Survey Questionnaire



Nichols
APPLIED MANAGEMENT INC.

**Stakeholder Survey
City of Wetaskiwin
Social Needs Assessment**

MANAGEMENT & ECONOMIC CONSULTANTS

Thank you for participating in this important survey. I can assure you that your input will be kept confidential by our staff. Your responses will not be attributed to you or your organization in any way in our reporting to the City of Wetaskiwin.

1. Communities are often considered great places to live because of their social strengths. For each of the following, please indicate whether you think it is a current social strength of Wetaskiwin.

	Yes	No	Unsure
a) "Small town" feel	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₉
b) People greet each other in passing	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₉
c) New residents are made to feel welcome in the community	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₉
d) Diversity of recreation and leisure activities for all demographics	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₉
e) Sense of safety	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₉
f) Strong culture of volunteering	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₉
g) Strong sense of community identity and pride	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₉
h) Parks that residents use to enjoy the outdoors	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₉

2. Are there other social strengths that make Wetaskiwin a great place to live?

₁Yes

₂No

₉Unsure

(if yes, please specify)

3. There are many factors that can influence social well-being in a community. Please indicate whether you think Wetaskiwin offers each of the following for all residents, including youth, women, men, seniors, residents of different ethnicities/cultural backgrounds.

	Yes	No	If no, please explain in a few words	Unsure
a) Diverse employment opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂		<input type="checkbox"/> ₉
b) Diverse recreational groups and activities	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂		<input type="checkbox"/> ₉
c) Diverse cultural groups and activities	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂		<input type="checkbox"/> ₉
d) Diverse religious/spiritual communities	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂		<input type="checkbox"/> ₉
e) Good schools/education opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂		<input type="checkbox"/> ₉
f) Good access to healthcare services	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂		<input type="checkbox"/> ₉
g) Good access to mental health services	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂		<input type="checkbox"/> ₉
h) Good access to addiction services	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂		<input type="checkbox"/> ₉
i) Housing choice and affordability	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂		<input type="checkbox"/> ₉
j) Easy and affordable to get around in the community	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂		<input type="checkbox"/> ₉

4. Which three (3) population groups do you feel should be given priority in social planning in Wetaskiwin in the next five years? Please rank your top 3 choices from priority 1 to 3. Mark a 1, 2, or 3 in the boxes of your choice.

- 1 Children ages 0 - 5
- 2 Children ages 6 - 12
- 3 Youth ages 13 - 18
- 4 Single parents
- 5 Families with a parent who works outside the community for extended periods of time
- 6 Seniors
- 7 Women
- 8 Men
- 9 Indigenous residents
- 10 Immigrants and refugees
- 11 Residents with disabilities (physical, intellectual or learning disabilities, mental illness, neurological disabilities)

5. Some issues that can have a negative impact on social well-being in a community are listed below. Please indicate whether you think these issues might be of particular concern for the groups you identified as priorities in question 4.

Issue	This is an issue for the group I identified as:		
	Priority # 1	Priority # 2	Priority # 3
a) Substance abuse and addictions	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
b) Bullying	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
c) Mental health	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
d) Physical health	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
e) Affordable housing	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
f) Affordable transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
g) Affordable childcare	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
h) Isolation and loneliness	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
i) Poverty	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
j) Family violence	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
k) Unemployment	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
l) Underemployment (employment below potential)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
m) Homelessness	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3

6. Are there appropriate programs or services in Wetaskiwin to help address these potential social issues?

Program and Service Areas	Yes, there are appropriate programs or services in Wetaskiwin for the group I identified as priority #:		
	1	2	3
a) Substance abuse and addictions	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
b) Bullying	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
c) Mental health	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
d) Physical health	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
e) Affordable housing	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
f) Affordable transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
g) Affordable childcare	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
h) Isolation and loneliness	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
i) Poverty	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
j) Family violence	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
k) Unemployment	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
l) Underemployment (employment below potential)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
m) Homelessness	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3

7. Which five (5) issues do you feel should be given priority in social planning in Wetaskiwin in the next five years?

a) Substance abuse and addictions	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
b) Bullying	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
c) Mental health	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
d) Physical health	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
e) Affordable housing	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
f) Affordable transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
g) Affordable childcare	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
h) Isolation and loneliness	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
i) Poverty	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
j) Family violence	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
k) Unemployment	<input type="checkbox"/> 11
l) Underemployment (employment below potential)	<input type="checkbox"/> 12
m) Homelessness	<input type="checkbox"/> 13

8. Are there social issues or needs not mentioned in this survey that you think should be given priority in Wetaskiwin in the next five years?

1 Yes

2 No

9 Unsure

(if yes, please specify)

9. Do you think any of the following are challenges in meeting social needs in Wetaskiwin?

	Yes	No	Unsure
a) Lack of shared understanding of social needs in the community	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
b) Lack of agreement on social priorities in the community	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
c) Existing services are underfunded	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
d) Social needs are growing faster than the social services sector can respond	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
e) Lack of collaboration among organizations and neighbouring communities to address social needs	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
f) Residents do not know what supports and services are available to them	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
g) Supports and services that are available in the community are difficult to access	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
h) Denial that certain social issues exist in the community	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
i) Belief that Wetaskiwin is not responsible for addressing certain social needs - other orders of government or communities are	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
j) Discrimination/racism	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9

10. Are there other challenges in meeting social needs in Wetaskiwin?

1 Yes

2 No

9 Unsure

(if yes, please specify)

11. You are welcome to provide any further comments in regard to social needs in Wetaskiwin.



Nichols Applied Management Inc.

Management and Economic Consultants
Suite 2401, 10104 – 103 Avenue NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 0H8

Main Contact: Jane Somerville, Principal
Office: (780) 424-0091 / Direct: (780) 409-1758
Email: j.somerville@nicholsappliedmanagement.com
www.nicholsappliedmanagement.com

MANAGEMENT & ECONOMIC CONSULTANTS