

**Village of Willingdon Viability Review:
Summary of Stakeholder Input
August 6, 2015**

1. What does a viable community mean to you?

Participants indicated that a viable community is one comprised of both residences and commercial businesses. The need to attract residents must be balanced with providing the services and amenities residents can expect, and residents must be prepared to support these businesses. Rising taxes and the long-term affordability as well as the high rate of administrative turnover were also thought to affect the viability of the village.

2. Based on your knowledge and understanding of the community, do you believe that Willingdon is viable? Why or Why not?

A number of respondents indicated that they did not feel the Village of Willingdon was viable citing reasons such as population, reliance on provincial grants, high taxes and concerns with how the village was governed and administered. Some respondents indicated that the village was viable or could be viable if incentives were provided to encourage businesses, if the village retained proper leadership and were able to receive stable government funding.

3. What are the most significant viability issues within the village? How would you address this?

The level of taxation, service levels and types of services were the main responses received. Respondents were concerned that a reduction to services or an increase in taxes would make it difficult for those living on fixed incomes. The establishment of a shared service agreement with other municipalities was seen as a way to build administrative capacity, reduce administrative costs, and add stability to village operations. The establishment of reserves for future infrastructure repairs was also identified.

4. What municipal services are important to you?

Respondents indicated that water and sewer, garbage pick-up, snow removal, road/sidewalk maintenance and weed control/grass cutting were the municipal services that were of most importance. There was also a request from participants to have better communication between village council and residents.

5. Are there any services currently provided by the village that are not meeting your needs?

Bylaw enforcement and weed control were among the top responses received.

6. Are you satisfied with the level of municipal taxation in 2015? Why or why not.

The majority of the responses received on this question indicated that residents were not satisfied with the level of municipal taxation in 2015 or the increases assessed in recent years. Participants felt that the amount of taxes collected did not necessarily match the level of infrastructure provided or the level of services received.