

Greenwood Neighbourhood Place **SUNDRE & AREA** Community Study



GREENWOOD
Neighbourhood
PLACE

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Overview

In May 2020 Greenwood Neighbourhood Place Society began work on the Sundre and Area Community Study. This study is designed as a social needs assessment, to support and build on local efforts to make living here the best it can be for everyone. We gathered information from the community about services, programs and activities – *what is great, and what needs to be improved?*

For this study, Sundre and Area includes the Town of Sundre and the surrounding rural area and communities – and anyone who lives, works, goes to school and/or participates in activities here. In the past 18 months we have heard from over 660 individual youth, adults and seniors, in their responses to GNP Community and Youth Surveys. Many representatives of community services, agencies and organizations also contributed to the project development and information gathered in this research. This report is based on the information and views from participants in the Study. It is not possible to generalize from the information gathered, to the opinions of everyone. That said, the individual survey responses and comments, and information from service providers and community organizations offer important insights into what is valued in Sundre and area, and the challenges we face.

The Sundre and Area Community Study results present a very good picture of the many reasons why it is great to live around here. At the same time, survey responses identify a wide range of changes, ideas and suggestions for actions to make living in this area better.

At Greenwood Neighbourhood Place Society, it is our hope that this report will provide a resource and ideas for all community services, organizations and individuals involved with, and planning for services, projects and activities in Sundre, and the nearby area and communities.

Greenwood Neighbourhood Place

Greenwood Neighbourhood Place Society (GNP) is an Information and Resource Centre located in Sundre, Alberta. GNP provides easy access to a network of services and social supports and administers Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) locally.

GNP staff provide confidential support and referrals to community services including: mental health professionals, foodbanks, income supports, transportation options and accessing subsidies, housing, government agencies, and learning opportunities. The Society provides a wide range of programs for people of all ages and assists with connecting volunteers with local organizations.



About Sundre and Area

The Town of Sundre is located on the Red Deer River approximately 60 km east of the Rocky Mountain foothills. Nearby communities include Bearberry, on the edge of the mountains, Bergen to the south, and James River to the north. All of these communities and area rural residents combine to a permanent population estimated at approximately 7,000¹. It is important to note that the seasonal/summer population is very much larger. Community services (including health care, RCMP, and all other facilities, resources, and commercial services) support this increased population for a significant part of each year.

Services in Sundre and area include: hospital and health care, municipal services (Town and Counties) as well as elementary and high schools. This area is also supported by a wide range of community and social services, local organizations and associations, and access to a large number of recreational opportunities (indoor and outdoor) all year round. The local natural environment, including the Red Deer River and Rocky Mountain foothills, is an important and highly appreciated part of living and visiting here.

There are many resources available for learning more about Sundre and the surrounding area. These include: Town of Sundre, Sundre and District Historical Society/Sundre Museum, Municipal Library, Chamber of Commerce/Tourist Information Centre, Alberta Health Services as well as Greenwood Neighbourhood Place. These and others are listed in [Appendix A](#).



1. Sundre and area population (including Bergen, Bearberry and James River) estimate is based on the Sundre Local Geographic Area (LGA) referenced by the Alberta Health Authority. Area population for 2016 was 6968. A map showing this area is included in [Appendix B](#). Town of Sundre information: Town population - 2800; Trade area population - 8000; and Summertime population - 12,000. <https://www.sundre.com/p/economic-development>.

GNP Community Study Design and Methodology

This project began with a review of recent social needs assessment reports from communities across Alberta. Our study makes use of methods common to other needs assessments including: consultation with community service providers and organizations, and surveys available to community members. The GNP study began with the objective of considering the community strengths and priorities very broadly, and providing opportunities to hear views about the challenges we face in the future.

Project planning began in May of 2020 with a series of meetings including representatives of community organizations and service providers. The information about local experiences and priorities gathered in these meetings was the starting point for developing questions to use in surveys of community members.

Surveys included tick box questions and space for comments on the following topics: public and community services and spaces; recreation and activities; health services and supports for individuals and families; diversity and inclusion; local organizations; and information resources and communication.

Where to Find the Details!



GNP Community Survey: The detailed results of GNP Community and Youth Surveys, including the survey questions are available at:

<https://www.mygnp.org/publications/>



GNP Youth Survey:

<https://www.mygnp.org/publications/>

GNP Community Study Design and Methodology

The Sundre and Area Community Study included the following:

June to September 2020:

Meetings were held with representatives of the Town of Sundre, local schools, and representatives of organizations and service providers in health care, individual and family support services, seniors' supports and services, community education/library, and public safety.

November 8 to December 18, 2020:

GNP Community Survey was available online and in paper format to community members. This survey received four hundred and twenty two (422) responses.

April 6 to May 6, 2021:

GNP Sundre and Area Youth Survey was available online. Two hundred and forty five (245) responses were received from youth ages 12 to 19.

June 15 to July 30, 2021:

Community Services, Agencies and Organizations Survey was available online and provided an opportunity for representatives of service providers and organizations to highlight their projects, priorities and the resources needed to support their work. We received more than forty (40) responses from a wide range of community organizations and service providers.

It is important to note that the entire GNP study has taken place under a range of COVID conditions and protocols. From the beginning it was pretty clear that community forums, or other group settings would not be available to us as ways to gather information. Individual surveys – online and in paper, with lots of space for comments, proved to be the best and safest way to support community participation.

This report includes survey response highlights and summaries of comments. All findings are based on information from people who chose to participate in the surveys and provide responses to some or all of the questions. The share of responses from within the Town of Sundre was slightly higher than the the distribution of population between in and out of town – but for both the Community and Youth Surveys participation from the area outside of Sundre accounted for approximately half of total responses. While responses from the age group of 20 to 40 were fairly low, the responses rate from youth was very high. More detailed information about survey participation is included in the [Appendix B](#) on Methodology.

What we could not predict was the overwhelming response in written comments. Comments altogether filled almost 100 typed pages and often included very specific and detailed recommendations for actions to improve services, facilities and opportunities for everyone living in this area. Comments have been reviewed and summarized to provide the best possible reporting of the results without repetition, and highlighting the views and ideas most often expressed.

GNP Community Study Highlights

What is great about living in Sundre and Area?

The following points provide an overview of facilities, services and activities described in the GNP Community Survey as *Very good/Excellent* or in the Youth Survey *Best places/things*.

Trails, pathways and natural environment; river and nearby mountains were identified most often by all age groups as the best, most appreciated things about this area. “...close to the mountains, beautiful scenery”; “The geography, wildlife, waterways”; “...it is really cool to have a hiking place that is available to anyone, but still has the feel of a natural environment”.

Hospital, health care services and supports were also clearly among the most valued services by community members including: hospital emergency services available 24/7; access to lab services; and health care supports for everyone including youth. “All services at our current Acute care hospital are excellent!”; “The hospital is a huge benefit for everyone in the area.” Just over half of the youth survey responses described health care - including advice and information, as *Very good/Excellent*.

Community life, small town and the people were highlighted in many comments for Sundre and for nearby areas. “So many great people!”; “We have a very supportive community and I appreciate that”; “...a great community organization here in Bearberry”; “We...like the acreage community lifestyle”; Over one third of youth survey responses identified the “people” or “community” among the the best things. A number of youth also identified “friends” and “small town”.

Wide range of activities and opportunities for recreation, including both indoors and outdoors, were among best things about living in this area identified in comments. “Friendly, helpful people with many available community activities for all age groups”; “Plenty of indoor activities available. Lots of outdoor activities ie. hiking by river, on Snake Hill, cross country skiing etc.”; “We are very close to the West country for hiking and camping”; “Living close to nature, and the Red Deer River, and day trips to so many areas in a 50 km radius; Coal Camp Road, Birch Lake, etc.”.

Large number of services and facilities for a small community were also identified by many as a benefit of living in this area. The services highlighted include: good schools and healthcare; Library, Aquaplex, Skate Park, Arts Centre, GNP, and community and seniors’ organizations as well as stores and commercial services.

GNP Community Study Highlights

What needs to be improved?

The responses to surveys and meetings with service providers present a wide range of views and often detailed suggestions. The points below are a few of the areas for improvement mentioned most often. More detail is included in the pages that follow.

Improvements in pathways, trails and park areas would expand accessibility, use and extend support for a wide range of outdoor activities for all ages.

Hospital care available in Sundre and other supports for individuals and families are a high priority. Improvements would ensure continued and increased access and support for the community and surrounding area. In the case of the hospital, comments leave no doubt that nothing should happen that would erode or limit access to this essential service in our rural area.

Activities available in the community were identified, most often by youth, as an area for improvement. Having more things to do and places to go – indoors and outdoors - are important. Also affordability and having more than one opportunity to participate, are things to consider in planning activities.

Living with Covid has brought many important community needs to the forefront. This research project has taken place entirely during pandemic times, but most of the issues highlighted by the pandemic are long standing and remain major challenges for the future. These include the following:

Difficulty finding affordable housing, and unemployment/inadequate income to meet needs were considered to be serious or urgent concerns for individuals or families living in Sundre and area, by more than one third of responses to the Community Survey.

Mental health resources were identified by many responses to surveys as a priority – including how to find out about the supports available, accessing services locally and finding the right supports to meet a range of different circumstances including crisis situations and ongoing community needs.

Internet access improvement is a community priority. Pandemic conditions have intensified the need for good internet connection to support working from home, school at home, and accessing information and services. The development of improved internet access in Sundre is one step now underway, but the problems of rural service, affordability, and access to training and technology, in a rapidly changing online world, continue to be priorities.

GNP Community Study Highlights

What needs to be improved?

Respect for diversity and support for inclusion is addressed in the Community and Youth Surveys. Responses included a number of areas for action:

Increasing awareness, and understanding of the systemic causes of discrimination, racism and prejudice, and the effect this has on all community members, is identified as an important goal.

Recognizing and addressing the impact that words (spoken and on social media) and actions (e.g. bullying) can have, is necessary to create communities where everyone can feel safe and respected.

Community recognition of diversity, through events, information and opportunities to meet and share common concerns were also identified as areas for improvement.

Addressing barriers to inclusion in community life including: the cost of services, programs and activities; physical impediments to accessing buildings and outdoor spaces; inadequate supports for children and adults with disabilities to support participation; and lack of transportation options.



GNP Community Study Highlights

What needs to be improved?

Improvement in communications and available information about services, programs and activities were addressed in many responses to the GNP Community Study. The surveys asked where people look for information and a summary of the results is included in this report. One important note – this is a rapidly changing area as technology, devices, skills, internet access and information sources and options change. The challenges to consider include the following:

Where do I look to find the information I need? Finding the best way to access information is a priority. Areas identified include: individual and family supports, local and area activities and events, employment opportunities for youth, and emergency contact information for urgent or crisis situations.

How do we “get the word out” from organizations, activities and services? Survey results indicate that a wide range of communications strategies may be needed to share information about services, programs and activities – including online (websites, social media, email), paper (mail, posters, leaflets), as well as newspapers and radio media. These are all important, as is information from family, friends and others – according to a large number of survey responses.

For Greenwood Neighbourhood Place – as a community resource centre – these challenges are a very high priority. We look forward to building on the information from this Study to improve our support for communications and information sharing.



Community Spaces, Facilities and Activities

What we have learned

This report is organized by major topics considered in this project and presents summary information from the survey results and comments provided.

People living in Sundre and area have access to a range of community spaces, facilities and activities. Many of these are among the most important and highly valued resources and supports for community life. Survey results and comments are summarized under major topics below:

Trails, Parks and Pathways

GNP Community Survey

- Almost 46% of Community survey responses describe trails and pathways as *Very good/Excellent*.
- Comments also identify trails and pathways as one of *the best things about living in or near Sundre*.
“Beautiful natural area, great walking, hiking and cross country ski trails”.

GNP Youth Survey

- Over 40% of youth identifying trails, paths, river, and Snake Hill as among *the best things about living in this area*.
- Over 25% of youth survey participants go to these areas *often*; an additional 54% go *sometimes*.

Major findings and suggestions for improvement include:

- Expanding trails (including bike paths, accessible paved paths), adding more bike trails (along the river) and developing linked trail systems throughout Sundre with possible extension beyond town.
- Improving maintenance and trail marking (possibly some with lighting) as well as trail repairs and fixing “the scar” on Snake Hill.
- More garbage cans, keeping the trails clean and ensuring people clean up after their dogs.
- Expanding paved accessible trail/track (walking, strollers, wheelchairs) for year round use.



Community Spaces, Facilities and Activities

What we have learned

Recreation facilities – Indoors (Aquaplex & Arena)

Aquaplex:

GNP Community Survey

- Most responses to the Community Survey said that swimming and fitness facilities were either *Very good/Excellent* (24%) or *Meets basic community needs* (39%). Twenty-three percent (23%) of responses indicated the need for *some or major improvement*.

GNP Youth Survey

- Seventy-seven percent (77%) of youth participating in the Youth Survey said they went to the pool/fitness centre *Often* (19%) or *Sometimes* (58%). Forty nine percent (49%) described the pool/fitness centre as *Great*.

Major findings and suggestions for improvement:

- Comments on the Aquaplex support the importance of this facility for all ages and for learning to swim as a “life saving skill” and as “essential for the town”.
- Notable recommendations for change and/or improvement in the Community Survey focused on the role of the Town of Sundre in ensuring the successful operation of the pool – including support for direct municipal operation. Other recommendations include: “desperately needed” improvements and upgrades; also more slides and fitness equipment.

Arena:

GNP Community Survey

- Thirteen percent (13%) describe the arena as *Very good/Excellent*; 37% checked *Meets basic community needs*; and 30% indicated that *some or major improvements are needed*.

GNP Youth Survey

- Thirty-one percent (31%) of youth responding described the arena as *Great*; 31% said that it was *Not bad but could be better* and 9% said *Major changes were needed*. Fifty-seven percent (57%) of the youth surveyed stated that they went to the arena *often* or *sometimes*.

Major findings and suggestions for improvement:

- There was strong support in some comments for major improvements and upgrades to support skating and hockey e.g. “... a solid plan in place for upgrades and new facilities”. Some comments proposed a new facility (e.g. multi-sport building).
- Heating improvements (arena seating is cold, dressing rooms too hot), better seating, more food at concession, and new paint.

Community Spaces, Facilities and Activities

What we have learned

Recreation facilities – Indoors (Community Centre)

Community Centre:

There was no specific question in the surveys about the Community Centre but it was identified in a number of comments. Suggestions include the following:

- Improved access to the community centre with no cost for youth activities;
- The need for expanded/larger facilities for events and gatherings that is affordable – like the facilities in Eagle Hill and Spruce View.
- Also suggested were more indoor facilities for fitness and racquet sports.



Community Spaces, Facilities and Activities

What we have learned

Recreation Facilities – Outdoors (Parks, Skate Park, sports fields, rinks)

GNP Community Survey

- Playgrounds, including outdoor rinks and Skate Park were identified as needing *some* or *major improvement* by 15% of responses.
- Sports fields were identified as needing *some* or *major improvement* by 20%.

GNP Youth Survey

- Skate Park was checked as *Great* in 25% of responses. Thirty-six percent (36%) said *Not bad but could be better*, and 8% checked *Major changes needed*.
- The Youth Survey did not include a separate question about parks and sports fields, but highlights from comments on those areas are included below.

Major findings and suggestions for improvement:

Both the Community and Youth surveys included a number of comments about outdoor recreation spaces (parks, sports fields, skate park, rink etc.). Responses show the importance of these areas in the community and include many suggestions for improvements:

- The Skate Park is used *often* or *sometimes* by more than half of youth responding and identified as one of the *Best public outdoor places*. Expanding the Skate Park and adding lighting were most often commented on as areas needing improvements.
- The need for a large outdoor recreational skating rink was identified in both Community and Youth Surveys.
- Improvements are needed to basketball and tennis courts, as well as ball fields (e.g. lighting, seating and cleaning up rocks in outfield).
- More public washrooms and garbage bins, more tables and benches in park areas and a free source of drinking water were also noted in comments.
- Suggestions for additional outdoor facilities include: dog park, splash/water park and sand volleyball court.

Community Spaces, Facilities and Activities

What we have learned

Library and Arts Centre

GNP Community Survey

- The Library and Arts Centre are described as *Very Good/Excellent* by many – (54% and 45% respectively).

GNP Youth Survey

- Youth survey respondents reported going to the Library *often* (9%) and *sometimes* (25%), with 34% describing the Library as *Great*.

Major findings and suggestions for improvement:

- The Library is noted in comments as a great community resource, and has played a very important role in supporting the community during COVID. Improvements suggested include: expanding library space, and adding new technology, activities, and book choices.
- The Youth Survey did not include a direct question about the Arts Centre, but many comments addressed the importance of drama, music and art activities for youth – specifically, more opportunities in music, drama and arts – with consideration to cost of participation.



Community Spaces, Facilities and Activities

What we have learned

Community Infrastructure and Related Services

Internet – About half of the responses to both surveys identified the need for major improvement to internet access. Since these surveys, work is underway to install high speed broadband internet infrastructure in the Town of Sundre. Rural internet access remains a challenge. The Youth Survey comments also identified the need for free access to internet anywhere in Town (as available in Olds) to support the ability of youth to contact someone if needed, and to reduce data use costs.

Recycling and garbage – Over one third (38%) of Community Survey responses indicated the need for some, or major improvement to recycling and garbage services – both in town and in rural areas. Improvements recommended include: expanded hours for transfer stations and recycle facilities; more frequent pick up of compost and garbage in warm months; place for glass jar recycling; and improvement for business recycling.

Affordable housing - Just over forty percent (40%) of respondents to the Community Survey described access to affordable housing as a serious or urgent concern. Accessible housing for all income brackets is needed – both for rent and for purchase. Also improvements to housing options need to address the specific needs of individuals, families, seniors and people with disabilities.

Transportation - Providing transportation options for smaller communities and rural areas is a major challenge – but also an important community resource. Survey responses support the need for some or major improvements (Community Survey – 48% of responses; Youth Survey – 44% of responses). For youth, lack of transportation can be a barrier to participating in activities and events. For adults, more often, lack of transportation options can make it difficult to access services – to the point that when driving yourself is not longer possible, you may have to “reconsider where to live”. More detailed information on what is needed, as well as what is working in other communities, may be a good place to begin assessing the possibilities for transportation options for Sundre and area.

Sidewalks, streets and roads – Comments on sidewalks, streets and roads appeared in responses to both the Community and Youth Surveys. The issues most often addressed were safety and accessibility:

- Traffic: Aggressive driving, summer (east/west) traffic, crosswalk safety and correct use of roundabouts, safe access to parking places, as well as pedestrian and traffic safety at the road to Bergen intersection (Hwy 27 and 760).
- Walkways: sidewalk repairs and upgrades, snow clearing including the main bridge, and challenges with accessibility (on gravel paths).

Community Resources: Health Care and Support Services

What we have learned

Health Care and Hospital Services

GNP Community Survey

- The following health services were most often identified as providing *Very good/Excellent* service and community support: Lab services available at Sundre Hospital (62%), Hospital emergency room available 24/7 (60%) and Family doctor/ clinic in the community (57%).

GNP Youth Survey

- Health care, including advice and information, was identified in the Youth survey as *Very good/Excellent* in 51% of responses.

Major findings and suggestions for improvement:

- The importance and appreciation of health care service available to Sundre and area is clear from the Community Survey:
 - “...superb health care in Sundre”
 - “We are so fortunate to have the health care and support services, that we have. Good job!”
 - “All services at our current Acute care hospital are excellent!”
 - “The hospital is a huge benefit for everyone in the area”.
- With respect to the hospital, suggested future action includes: building a new hospital and community health care facility in order to increase space, and house a wide range of health related services.
- Some responses addressed concerns about possible government decisions related to the future of health care and hospital services. “Don't EVER even consider or allow our hospital to CLOSE!!” and “Rural health care is NOT the place to cut”.
- In the Youth Survey, the hospital, clinics, staff and services, doctors and walk-in appointments were described in some comments as “great”, “excellent options” and/ or “easily accessible”. “Wait times” to be seen (mostly related to hospital visits for cuts, injuries) were most often identified as needing improvement.
- Other areas for improvement identified in Youth Survey comments include: access to information and “more places to go that (feel) safer to talk” outside of hospitals/clinics. Information needs identified include: vaccines, safe sex and pregnancy.

Community Resources: Health Care and Support Services

What we have learned

Mental Health Services and Supports

GNP Community Survey

- Mental health services and supports were described as *Very good/Excellent* by 15% of responses. Thirty-eight percent (38%) identified the need for *some or major improvement*.

GNP Youth Survey

- Counselling and mental health resources were described as *Very good/Excellent* by 22%. Thirty-one percent (31%) identified the need for *some or major improvement*.

Major findings and suggestions for improvement:

- **Accessibility:** Locally available mental health resources are important as travel can be a barrier. Also identified in comments was the need for improved access to services on evenings and weekends, and workers available to provide support to people in their homes. Cost of mental health/counselling services, and finding the right support can also be barriers. For youth, mental health/counselling support may not be accessible without parental consent.
- **Communication about available resources:** Both the Community and Youth Surveys identified challenges with finding out where and how to access mental health resources and supports. Suggestions include more visible information in the community about the services available and the supports they provide, and community education support for mental health awareness.



Community Resources: Health Care and Support Services

What we have learned

Community Services for Individuals and Families

The points below summarize survey comments on a range of services and supports. While some community members may not have experience with all of these services, the responses and comments are helpful feedback for service providers and support improvements for the future:

- **Long term care, home care, palliative care and caregiver supports** – All of these services are highly valued in our community. Supporting increased access to these supports is important to meet community needs at all care levels. Accessible facility care and home support locally, as well as support for caregivers is the best assurance that people can receive the care they need in their home communities.
- **Parenting and other family supports** – One third of responses indicated a need for improvement. Examples include: support for expecting and new parents; improving continuity in relationships with support workers; affordable child care and activities, and mentoring and support for youth.
- **Addiction services and supports** – The need for some or major improvement to addiction services and supports was identified by twenty-nine percent (29%) of respondents to the Community Survey. Areas for improvement include: Committed (safe/private) space for counselling and support groups, and access to programs to meet all needs, including young people.
- **Community Resource Centre: GNP** – The work of Greenwood Neighbourhood Place Society is widely appreciated. Improvement to GNP services, programs, events, planning and hours of operation would benefit from an increase in secure, ongoing funding. It is also important to ensure that the community is aware of what GNP provides.



Community Resources: Health Care and Support Services

What we have learned

Improving access to health care and support services – Additional comments

Additional suggestions for ways to improve accessibility of health care and support services include the following:

- Adequate health care budgets to support an increase in staffing levels.
- Improved internet services to support more access to specialists in urban centres without needing to travel.
- Reducing wait time for clinic appointments and ambulance service response.
- More supports (including support groups) for seniors and people with chronic disease.
- More specialized counselling for addiction and mental health including support groups.
- Affordable transportation for those who need to go to doctor's appointments in town or out of town.
- Better advertising for programs and services available to area residents.



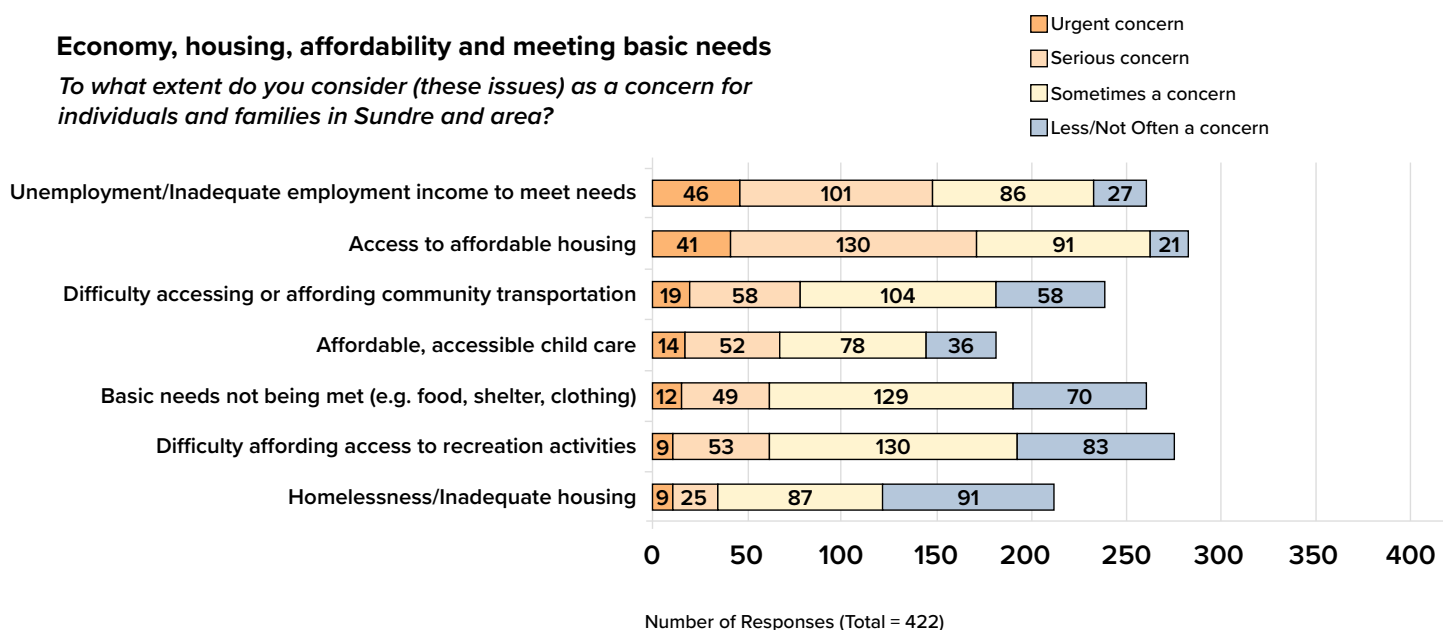
Social Issues and Challenges

What we have learned

All communities face social issues, challenges and changes. Understanding the issues is necessary to respond to social needs and build a safe, responsive and inclusive community. Questions on a range of social issues and challenges were included in both the Community and Youth Surveys. This topic was also a focus of discussion with community service providers and organizations.

Economy, Housing, Affordability and Meeting Basic Needs

The issues most frequently identified as urgent or serious concerns were: *Access to affordable housing* (41% of responses) and *Unemployment/inadequate employment income to meet needs* (35%). GNP Community Survey responses on these and related issues are summarized in the chart below:



Basic needs not being met (e.g. food, shelter, clothing) was identified as *serious/urgent* by 14% of respondents, with an additional 31% checking *sometimes a concern*. Other areas identified as *serious/urgent* include: *Difficulty accessing or affording community transportation* (18%), *Access to affordable child care* (15%) and *Homelessness/Inadequate housing* (8%) of responses.

Also included in both Community and Youth surveys was a question about affordability of recreation activities. The Community Survey results indicate that *difficulty affording access to recreation activities* is an *urgent, serious or sometimes a concern* for 46%. According to the Youth Survey, 38% of responses indicate that *Affordable recreation and sports activities* need some or major improvement.

Social Issues and Challenges

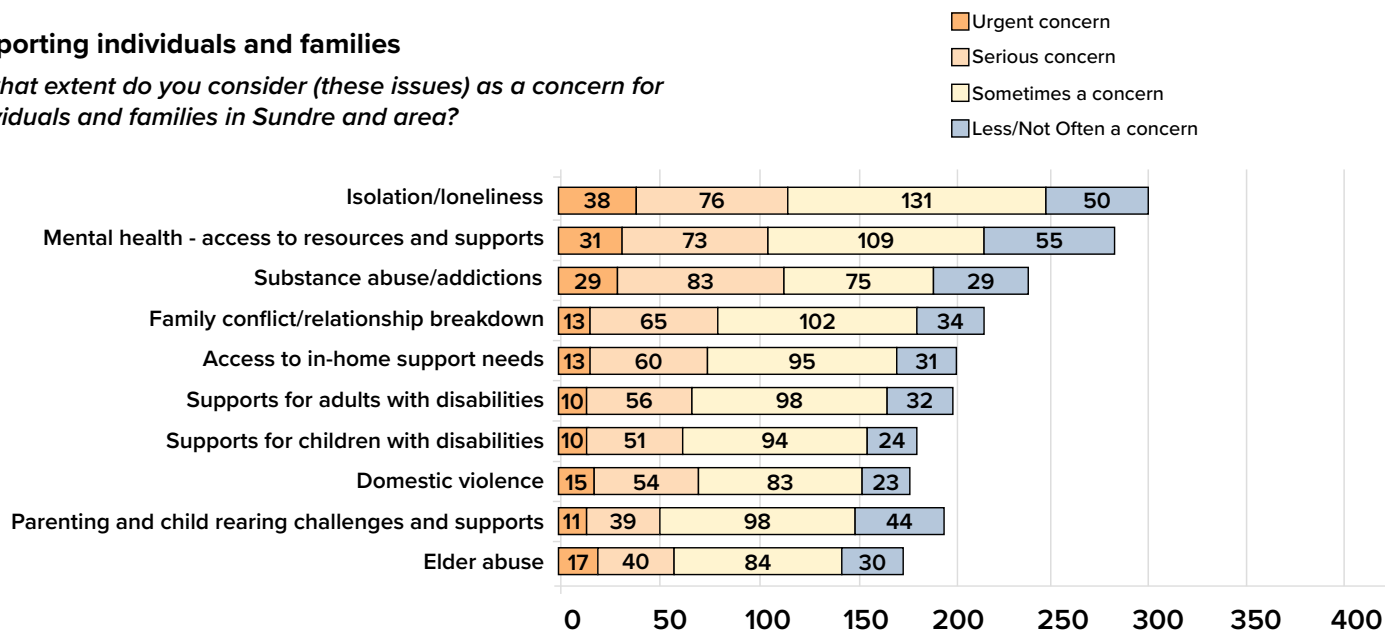
What we have learned

Supporting Individuals and Families

The experience of the pandemic has intensified the challenges many community members face, and underlines the continuing need for many different supports for individuals and families after the pandemic. The Community Survey responses on a number of areas of concern are summarized in the chart below:

Supporting individuals and families

To what extent do you consider (these issues) as a concern for individuals and families in Sundre and area?



Isolation/loneliness and access to mental health resources were identified as *urgent/serious* concerns by more than 24% of responses. Adding *sometimes a concern*, that number goes up to more than 50%.

For all of the other areas listed above, between 34% and 45% of respondents indicate some level of concern (*urgent, serious or sometimes a concern*). It is important to note that these responses do not, in any sense, rank the importance of social issues, but reflect the experiences and knowledge of community members responding to the survey.

The importance of **all** of the social issues and challenges we face is clearly described by these comments:

These issues “are very much a concern to every community, and Sundre is no exception”.

“Many of these issues are life threatening, even if they don't necessarily apply to everyone in the area”.

Social Issues and Challenges

What we have learned

Respect for Diversity and Support for Inclusion

The GNP Community and Youth Surveys included specific questions addressing diversity and inclusion. The Community Survey included a question about awareness, understanding and actions to respect diversity and support inclusion. Both surveys included questions about feeling safe in your community, and about bullying.

The Community survey comments included a wide range of views - from “this is not an issue”, to specific experiences and concerns related to bullying, racism and prejudice. Youth comments were also wide ranging. While some did not see problems with *Respect for diversity*, others identified serious concerns in their comments including “*discrimination*”, “*prejudice*” and “*bigoted opinions*” related to race, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Adult comments in the Community Survey tended for focus on personal experiences (e.g. whether or not a person has seen or experienced racism). Youth comments extended that view to include broader social problems with prejudice and discrimination in speech, attitudes, and on social media more widely – creating barriers to respect and inclusion.

The Community Survey included this reference from Alberta Municipalities* “Welcoming and Inclusive Communities”

(*Formerly Alberta Urban Municipalities Association AUMA)

Being inclusive means being respectful and appreciative of differences in ethnicity, skin colour, race, religious beliefs, gender, age, place of origin, income, occupation, social class, immigration status, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, language, education, and physical or mental ability... Inclusion is a state of being valued, respected and supported. It is about ensuring the right conditions exist so everyone can achieve their full potential.²

2. Source: Alberta Municipalities (formerly Alberta Urban Municipalities Association) <https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/social-issues/welcoming-inclusive-communities/all-forms-diversity>

Social Issues and Challenges

What we have learned

Respect for Diversity and Support for Inclusion

GNP Community Survey

In your experience, please check any of the following statements that describe Sundre and area. More than 23% of all respondents checked each the following statements:

- “Actions to address respect for diversity and support inclusion are very limited in Sundre and area.”
- “Some efforts are being made by organizations and groups to address the issues of racism and discrimination.”
- “Information and initiatives are needed to support understanding of the systemic causes of inequality, and barriers to inclusion.”

Bullying/Verbal abuse/Threats were identified as urgent or serious concerns by 25%; Thirty-two percent (32%) said this was sometimes a concern.

Feeling unsafe in my community was identified as urgent or serious by 5% and an additional 23% said this was sometimes a concern.

GNP Youth Survey

- Respect for Diversity was described in the Youth Survey as follows: *Very good/Excellent* (33%), *Needs some improvement* (30%); *Needs major improvement* (11%).
- *Action against bullying* was identified as *needing some improvement* by 33% of responses and *major improvement* by an additional 27%.
- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of responses from the Youth Survey indicated the need to improve *Feeling safe in my community*. Many said that they feel safe, however, for some - walking alone, incidents/fights that occur, drug use, or being faced with prejudice and hateful talk make the community less safe.

Comments on actions needed to improve respect for diversity, support for inclusion and action against bullying include the following:

- More education and awareness of diversity issues for both older people and youth.
- Development of indigenous and multicultural recognition, supports, and events celebrating diversity.
- Informative anti-bullying programs to help with bullying issues in our community, at work and school, and resources to support understanding of how bullying can affect people.
- A place to go, or person to talk to if someone is being bullied.
- Increasing workplace support for diversity and inclusion.
- Moving forward on action to implement “real change”, not just talk about it.
- Keeping the community current socially, challenging discrimination, and supporting diversity in the population.

Information from the Youth Survey

The GNP Youth Survey included a number of questions addressing experiences and priorities of youth in Sundre and Area. Highlights are summarized below.

Activities for Youth

Of all topics covered in the GNP Youth Survey, activities for youth is most often mentioned. Survey results indicate that local places to go and the activities available are regularly used by youth. More than half of youth reported using the trails, pool, arena or skate park, or participating in team sports/training *Sometimes* or *Often*. Between 30% and 50%, reported going the library, and/or participating in music, drama, art and a range of other community activities after school *Sometimes* or *Often*. Many suggestions for changes and improvements were included in the survey responses.

In response to the question “*What would make living in this area better for youth?*” The most common answer was more youth activities, and recreation related activities are a major priority. Comments included:

- Improvements to skate park, community parks and playgrounds, sports team opportunities
- More things to do, indoors and outdoors - theatre, arcade, bowling alley, hobby shop, restaurants, splash park, and more to do in the summer
- More variety in activities available recognizing there is a wide range of different interests
- Ensuring that activities are affordable
- Activities for all ages (e.g. family recreation spaces, theatre and bowling alley)
- Special events were also identified as a great resource for the community

Place for Youth to Hangout

The Youth Survey asked: “*Are there other resources or supports that are needed for youth in Sundre and Area?*” In addition to more activities, many comments addressed the importance of having places to go and get together with others or just hangout.

- “I believe that we would all feel much more supported and welcomed if we had a place to be ourselves and spend time together”
- “Definitely a place on weekends where all teenagers can go and hang out without the risk of drugs or bullying”
- “There is nowhere for us to go really except restaurants”
- “This town has no place for teenagers to do things!”
- “There aren’t any public indoor places to go except for the library”
- “There really aren't that many places for us to hang out without getting in trouble for being there”

Supporting Access and Inclusion in Resources and Services for Youth

Access to opportunities for getting together with others is an important part of supporting inclusion for all youth. Some of the barriers are a result of *lack of access to transportation* and *costs of activities*. In addition, Youth Survey responses included the following:

- “Having activities we can afford and maybe being able to do things a couple times in case the first time doesn't work for getting to the activity”
- Better access to free/affordable mental health supports; more access to health care professionals and building mental health awareness.
- Increasing inclusiveness in recreation/sports (e.g. the opportunity to play on girls’ hockey teams nearby).
- Creating more opportunities for youth who are home schooled, or do not live in Sundre to “meet other kids and stay in contact”.
- Expanding resources for people to educate themselves about “racism, sexism, ableism, and homophobia” and safe spaces to meet with others in the community, LGBTQ+ and people of colour, including opportunities for support, education and just getting together.
- Places for information about employment opportunities and support for applying for jobs.

The importance of *Resources and supports for youth and teens* was also identified as a *serious or urgent concern* in 25% of responses to the GNP Community Survey. An additional 20% considered this to be *sometimes a concern* for individuals and families in this area.

The GNP Community Survey also supports the Youth Survey priorities of more activities for teens, youth and younger adults and more areas to get together. Suggestions included: developing outdoor and natural spaces, indoor activities (e.g. Youth Centre); and family activities, especially in winter.



Youth Centre for Sundre

Both the Community and Youth Survey provide strong support for expanding spaces and activities for youth. The Youth Survey asked specific questions about establishing a youth centre. Out of the 245 responses, 40% checked *I think this is a great idea!* Another 28% checked *It might be good but it depends how it is set up and run.*

Responses from youth included many detailed ideas about what a Youth Centre could include, and what is important. Activities suggested include: games; study, music and art space; food; special events; free internet/computer access; sports.

Additional suggestions from the Youth Survey: *“Just a place I can go to hang out with other teens and my friends without worry of being overly noisy and that all teens can go to just hangout if they are waiting for someone to come get them”*; *“just a place to hang out, nothing that feels extremely over monitored”*; *a place with “things that will get youth involved and excited. ...a diverse variety of activities”*.

With the survey results from earlier this year and very wide support from the community, Greenwood Neighbourhood Place opened THE DEN – S.Y.C. (Sundre Youth Centre) on October 16, 2021. The new Youth Centre will carry out diverse programs and activities for enhancing deeper connections, all in a judgement free “safe” place where all teens can find acceptance. The Youth Centre is powered by Y.E.P. (Youth Enrichment Project) and initial grant funding through the Rural Mental Health Project and the Canadian Mental Health Association as well as individual and corporate donations.

The Youth Centre program director along with trained and screened volunteers will promote inclusion, provide positive supports and informed referrals to help teens cope with personal setbacks and reach their true aspirations. The goal of this initiative is to fill this gap in Sundre, a “place” to connect providing experiences and activities that promote inclusion, build skills, and social connections. This hub would provide numerous opportunities for partnerships and other ongoing programs for children and youth who can utilize the cool space. The successful launch was possible because of a whole community approach!



Community Organizations and Service Providers

Sundre and area has many organizations involved in a wide range of activities, services and events. These organizations are supported in large part by the work of volunteers.

Community organizations and other service providers participated in the GNP Community Study in three major ways:

1. Many service providers and organizations contributed to preliminary discussions and the development of the Study design and survey questions.
2. Everyone participating in the GNP Community Survey had the opportunity respond to questions about local organizations, their activities, as well as the leadership, volunteer and participation opportunities provided.
3. Service providers and organizations also had the opportunity to participate in a short survey asking about their major priorities and objectives, and the resources needed to support their work and activities.



The GNP Community Survey – Organizations and Activities Questions

The Chart below summarizes the GNP Community Survey responses including information about the wide range of activities, the extent of community participation, and the very active role of volunteers.

Organizations and Activities <i>Please consider the following questions and choose the answers that best describe your participation in each of these areas of activity or organizations. (Please include any participation over the past TWO years, as many activities have been limited by restrictions resulting from COVID-19).</i>	How often do you participate? (Response numbers and percentages)		Are you a volunteer, board member, or leader in these activities?
	Very often	Sometimes	Yes responses
Agricultural organizations/activities (e.g. Ag Society, 4H, riding clubs and events)	30 (7%)	66 (16%)	40 (10%)
Arts, Culture (e.g. Museum, Arts Centre, music, creative arts, crafts)	57 (14%)	174 (41%)	49 (12%)
Community education and workshops (e.g. health and wellness workshops, arts and crafts, life skills)	20 (5%)	137 (33%)	19 (5%)
Community development activities supported by volunteers (e.g. Hospital Futures, Chamber of Commerce, Memory Park and Gazebo projects)	21 (5%)	74 (18%)	22 (5%)
Community activities supporting individuals and families (e.g. GNP and Library events and activities, supports and activities for seniors)	35 (8%)	152 (36%)	39 (9%)
Faith based organizations, community supports and activities	57 (14%)	75 (18%)	42 (10%)
Group recreation/fitness activities (e.g. community walks, pickleball, aquafit, Bike 'n Ski)	38 (9%)	108 (26%)	15 (4%)
Individual recreation/sport activities (e.g. walking, running, biking)	143 (34%)	125 (30%)	20 (5%)
Local community associations, service clubs, or community safety organizations	48 (11%)	81 (19%)	66 (16%)
Organized sports, leagues and events (e.g. hockey, curling, martial arts, figure skating club)	48 (11%)	63 (15%)	32 (8%)

In addition to the above, there is also a very large contribution by community members/ volunteers in health care, seniors facilities and other community services (child care, palliative care support, Hospital Auxiliary and more!) A number of survey participants also noted that while they have not been active volunteers in recent years, they had been very involved in organizations in past years. On a related note, the importance of building volunteer support for the future is identified as a challenge for many organizations, and is essential to support many community activities.

Community Organizations and Service Providers

What we have learned

GNP Survey sent to Services, Agencies and Organizations

In June and July of 2021, community services, agencies and organizations were invited to participate in a short online GNP survey.

The survey asked two questions:

What are the major priorities or objectives for your service, agency or organization, at this time and over the next few years?

What resources are needed to support your work and/or activities (e.g. funding related, volunteer support, training etc.)?

Over forty (40) responses were received from a very wide range of organizations and service providers including the following:

- Primary health care and prevention, home care, chronic disease management, hospice and palliative care and supports, mental health and counselling services
- Child, youth and family support services, child care, infant care and nutrition
- Women's shelter services, emergency food and shelter resources, community safety, crime prevention and victim services
- Town of Sundre (Community Services and Economic Development), local community associations, seniors' organizations, service clubs, recreation organizations, and faith groups
- Library, Arts Centre and Museum

These organizations provide a wide ranging network of very different but often related and interdependent services. Some deliver core health care, education and municipal services that are funded and have staff to support service delivery. Others are non-profit agencies and services with trained and skilled staff, but often dependent on year to year, or program specific financial support. Many are supported by volunteer boards and the work of community volunteers.

There are a number of common themes in the responses about major priorities and objectives. Many organizations are working to provide resources and support for physical, emotional and social well being including: community education, health promotion, and community safety. Other programs and activities respond to care needs – physical and mental health, trauma, and the range of economic, emotional and personal challenges community members face. And other organizations support recreational and cultural opportunities, social well being and the protection and development of the resources in our environment for the benefit of all.

Priorities for Community Organizations

Despite very different activities, organizations have much in common with respect to what is needed to support their work. Consider the following:

Funding: Public service budgets for health care, education and municipal services are at the core of community well being. The importance of public investment in these areas is clear in the responses to all questions in the surveys that are part of this Study. In addition to major public services, many essential community supports are provided by organizations that continue to depend at least in part, or entirely, on fund raising, donations and applications for grants to support their activities. Ensuring funding is available requires significant work and community support. Ongoing and reliable funding is necessary to support programs, future planning and to secure the availability of services people rely on.

Working together: Many comments addressed the importance of collaboration among service providers/organizations. Community partnerships and information sharing ensure that information about programs and resources is available, that referrals can be made to the right places, and coordination on common goals and projects is possible. Cindy Easton, Executive Director of Mountain Rose Women’s Shelter commented in the survey: “It will take many agencies and partnerships to address social issues in our communities – one agency can’t do it alone”.

Volunteer support: The contributions of volunteers in almost all areas is very important and the range of volunteer opportunities is almost unlimited. Greenwood Neighbourhood Place Society works with local non-profit organizations to provide information to the community about available volunteer opportunities. At the time of writing, twenty-eight (28) organizations have posted contact information on the GNP website, for people interested in volunteering. For volunteers - there are new experiences, community connections and often training. For organizations - volunteers play essential roles in ongoing activities/ programs as well as in special events and often as leaders and/or board members. The high level of volunteer activity is clear in the Community Survey responses, but efforts to support volunteer recruitment and engagement are always ongoing. There is always a need for more volunteers!

Public awareness: “Getting the word out” is a theme in many comments from community organizations. As services and activities change, keeping up to date on what is available and how to participate is very important. Also, as mentioned above, communication between organizations is essential to support referrals, shared projects and build connections to support future work. For some recreation and service clubs, building membership and support depends on letting the community know about their activities and opportunities to participate.

Priorities for Community Organizations

Additional comments: Some projects and initiatives depend on support (funding or services) from different levels of government and their planning and budget processes. Barb Rock, Community Services Coordinator for the Town of Sundre shared these comments:

“The Town of Sundre works with a 4 (four) year budget...We need to identify trends and needs in the community, facility maintenance/upgrades, and service level for the community to ensure budget funding covers these costs. If we do not have funds in the budget things can't be done until the next budget cycle...Various projects from the community come forward which are not budgeted for and the community and volunteers have been amazing over the years with the 'Get r' done' attitude.”

Some organizations are working to address the most challenging social concerns – responding to basic needs for food, housing and economic security. In those cases, resources needed include building community awareness and actions to ensure the supports are there for everyone when needed.

There are also very specific resources needed by organizations in order to support their work and activities. These include: meeting spaces, space for education/workshops/ programs, internet services to support rural community activities, as well as access to computer technology and training.

Another area identified is the need for continuous renewal of supports and resources. This can take many forms – engaging new volunteers, annual and ongoing fundraising activities, keeping up with technology, updating community contacts with other organizations and services, and new ideas to support activities and programs going forward.



Communications and Information

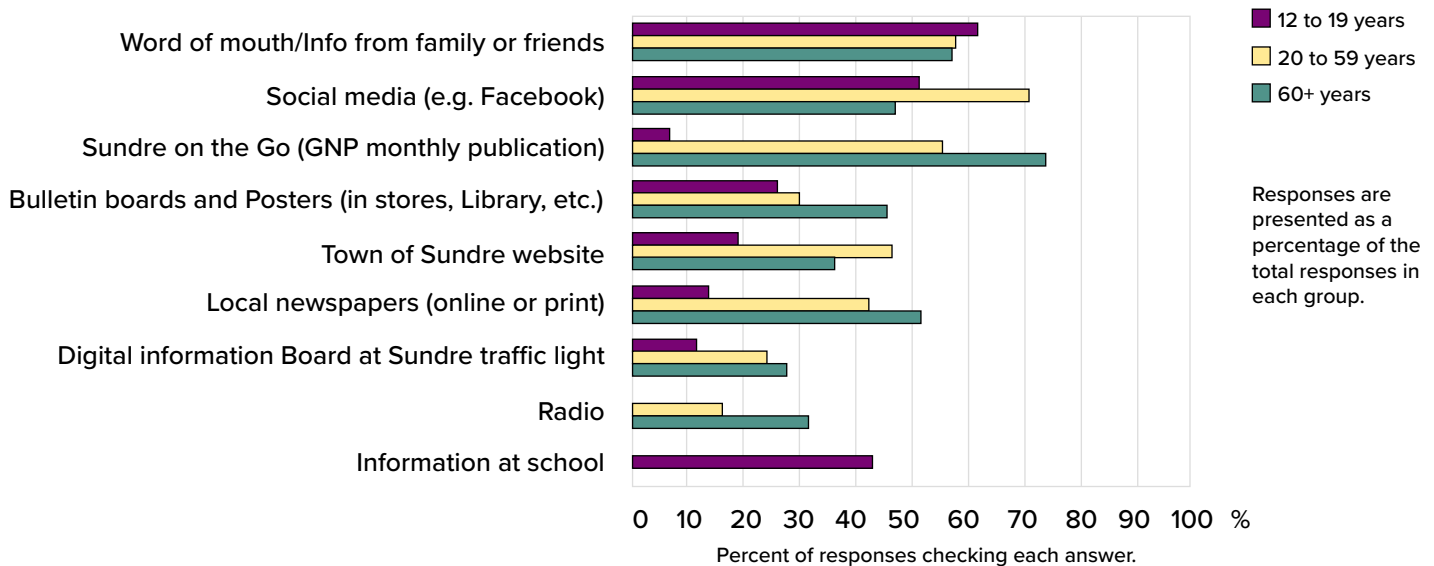
What we have learned

Both GNP Community and Youth Surveys included the following question:

Where do you look for information about Sundre and area services, programs and activities?

(Note: Respondents could choose multiple answers to this question). Responses are summarized in the chart below:

Where do you look for information?



For all age groups, *information from friends/family and social media* and are among the major resources for learning about events, services and programs. Print, mail and radio continue to be essential sources of information in order to reach all community members. *Sundre on the Go* and local newspapers were identified by more than half of all respondents 60 years of age and older.

The follow-up question asked about for suggestions of other places/ways to hear about, programs, events and activities. Responses included the following:

- Email (e.g. weekly event email)
- More information in mail (e.g. upcoming local events)
- Community newsletters
- On websites - including counties, libraries, and churches; community bulletin boards; social media
- School newsletters
- A single place in the newspaper to find information specific to Sundre area
- Places people go (e.g. library, stores, restaurants).

Communications and Information – Highlights

Survey responses about where people look for information are very useful – to assist organizations and service providers sending out information. It is also important to consider comments about expanding information and improving access. Examples include the following:

Health care and services for individuals and families: Information issues raised include knowing about where and how to access health services including after hours services and mental health supports. Suggestions for improvements include:

- A 24/7 “help line” to send you to the right place for help in a crisis
- Ongoing/longer daily hours of support to find information about the right resources to respond to individual and family concerns and challenges
- Better advertising of support programs for individuals and families, and information about opportunities for training and support for caregivers.

Internet access: The pandemic has highlighted the importance of internet access for everything including health care, education, social connection and preventing isolation. Without computers or other devices, good internet connection and training/support for use of technology, many people are at a great disadvantage in accessing information about services, community supports and local events and activities.

Diversity and Inclusion: Communication and information were identified as important for supporting inclusion and respect for diversity in the GNP Community and Youth surveys. Both surveys also identified the need for resources including: information supporting community education and awareness, and posters identifying resources.

Local Government: A number of comments address the importance of local government communication and information related to decision making, future planning, service sharing between town and county, openness, maintaining infrastructure, and affordable living.

Resources, services, programs, events and supports: Accessible and up to date information about all of these is essential to meet social needs and support community life. Gaps exist, challenges remain and many services need to be developed and expanded. At the same time, it is important to ensure that where services and opportunities are available, that the right people know about them at the right time. Youth survey comments provided good examples including: the need for better and/or more central information about job postings, activities, events and services available to youth.

What Comes Next?

The GNP Community Study is the first social needs assessment information collected for Sundre and Area since 2006. Having information about *What is great* and *What needs to be improved* creates a place to begin. It is also a reference point for follow-up in the future. Community social needs assessments are often done every three years, to check in on what has been accomplished, what still needs to be done and to identify new priorities and challenges.

For now, there is an opportunity to build on the strengths and resources we have, and to begin work on areas that will improve life for everyone living in this area.

Greenwood Neighbourhood Place Society

This Study is important to support a number of GNP projects currently underway, and others to be developed in the future. These include the following:

GNP Community Information Resources: GNP provides referrals and information about services, programs, and activities in a variety of ways including:

- Responding to in person, telephone and email requests with the support of staff at our office in Sundre
- Publishing *Sundre on the Go*, a monthly publication distributed in local mail, and available on the GNP website – all non-profit community organizations can share information about activities, programs and events
- Making use of all local opportunities to share information about events and activities including posters, social media, and on [the GNP website](#).



Greenwood Neighbourhood Place Society

GNP's resource centre activities are supported and advanced by information from this research project.

Working together with community service providers: As the Community Study shows, a wide range of agencies and services participate in supporting the health, wellness, as well as social supports and recreation opportunities available. GNP plays a role in keeping up to date with these activities and supporting information and coordination of services. Examples include:

- GNP hosts Sundre Interagency quarterly meetings providing an opportunity for a wide range of service providers (in health, supports for individuals/families, recreation and community services) to network, discuss trends and share information about current programs.
- Volunteer coordination – GNP assists local non-profits by promoting their volunteer opportunities and assists volunteers to be matched to the organizations who need them. Annually during National Volunteer week, GNP and the Town of Sundre hold appreciation events, encourage volunteerism, and acknowledge all volunteers for their contributions to many valuable community programs. Information about volunteer opportunities is updated on Volunteer Sundre Facebook group, Volunteer Connect Corner in *Sundre on the Go*, in the office and on [the GNP website](#).
- GNP also supports special projects and initiatives in collaboration with other organizations.

The Community Study reflects the importance of information sharing and coordination of community services, and highlights the service gaps and priorities to be addressed in the future.

GNP Community Services: Greenwood Neighbourhood Place provides a number of direct services to community members.

- At present these include seniors' supports, youth activities, coordination of Christmas hamper program, tax filing assistance, community garden, public access computers and a myriad of programs for all ages.
- Most recently, GNP has opened, The Den – S.Y.C (Sundre Youth Centre). The youth centre provides a space and opportunity to begin to expand resources for teens and is supported by a staff coordinator and Advisory Committees with youth representation and community volunteers working on a variety of activities. While this project is a GNP initiative, it has only been possible with extensive community support – in funding, in supplies and in volunteer work.

The Community Study provides information to consider in all areas of GNP work. The youth centre is a direct outcome of the Study, but all GNP community service areas are supported and informed by the information from our community.

Greenwood Neighbourhood Place Society

Who can benefit from this study?

The topics covered in the Community Study address issues well beyond the work of GNP. Service providers in health care, seniors services, community supports for individuals and families, and public safety are funded, administered and delivered by different levels of government and designated organizations. Local governments (Town of Sundre and neighbouring Counties) also have responsibilities for community infrastructure and services including facilities, trails, parks, economic development, and waste management. In addition, many organizations support, maintain and develop a very wide range of services and opportunities for activities and participation.

The GNP Community Study was developed to ask about the broadest possible range of activities and resources that contribute to the quality of life for everyone living in this area. It is our hope that the information gathered will be a resource to support and advance the work of service providers and local organizations and may provide some ideas for new projects for the future.

There are many community projects and initiatives currently underway that address topics considered in this Community Study and more to come! Greenwood Neighbourhood Place will continue to share information and support all the work that is so important for making our community the best it can be.

Thank You to All!

The GNP Sundre and Area Community Study was developed by GNP staff and a volunteer committee. A grant from the Town of Sundre made possible facilitation of youth focus groups, survey printing and professional design and production of the final report. This project depended entirely on the support and participation of people from Sundre and area – information from service providers, organizations and everyone who participated in the Community, Youth and Organization surveys. Thank you!

Appendix A:

Sundre and Area – Information Resources

The following are a number of places to look for information about Sundre and area – including information about community services, recreation and activities, local history, and demographic information.

Greenwood Neighbourhood Place Society: Community Information and Resource Centre

www.mygnp.org

(403-638-1011)

- Information and referral including: community services, government supports, volunteer opportunities
- Job board, meeting space, welcome to newcomers
- Community programs/Family Community Support Services (FCSS) and much more
- **Sundre On The Go** – monthly publication: promoting and publicizing upcoming special events in and around Sundre

Town of Sundre

www.sundre.com

- Economic Development <https://www.sundre.com/p/economic-development>
- Tourism <https://sundre.com/t/tourism/>
- Community Services <https://www.sundre.com/p/community-services->

Alberta Government Regional Dashboard: Information for Sundre

<https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/sundre/#/>

History

- Sundre and District Historical Society/Sundre Museum <https://www.sundremuseum.com/>
- Sundre Municipal Library <https://sundre.prl.ab.ca/>
- Daryl Mary Smith. THE LITTLE TOWN THAT COULD – Commemorating 100 years and more of Sundre History. Town of Sundre, 2008.

Mountain View Corridor

<https://sundre.mountainviewcorridor.ca/>

- Online tool with information including: business and industry trends, community facilities, environment and utilities.

Appendix B:

Notes on GNP Community Study Design and Methodology

This appendix includes additional information on the design and methodology used in the GNP Sundre and Area Community Study. The notes that follow describe the challenges we faced during this project under pandemic conditions, and our plan to share information during the course of this project as it was available.

Background

Greenwood Neighbourhood Place Community Study has been developed by a committee of volunteers and GNP staff. The study design draws on community social needs assessment methodology, as well as a broad based approach to gathering information about community strengths and the changes needed to improve quality of life in Sundre, local communities and rural areas.

Project planning began with a series of meetings including representatives of community organizations and service providers (May to Sept 2020). The information about local experiences and priorities gathered in these meetings was the starting point for developing surveys to gather information more broadly.

- Meetings were held with representatives of the Town of Sundre, local schools, and representatives of organizations and service providers in health care, individual and family support services, seniors' supports and services, community education/library, and public safety.
- Most of these meetings were held outdoors, in accordance with COVID restrictions in place at the time. This led to interesting locations including the outdoor cookhouse space and the gazebo in the municipal campground, outdoor bench/garden space by the local schools and under a canopy on the lawn outside the GNP office.

Survey Projects

The initial consultations provided the basis for developing surveys – of community members, youth and local organizations and services. Every effort was made to support wide community participation, knowing that we were unlikely to be able to have meetings, forums or face to face gatherings. Individual surveys – online and in paper, with lots of space for comments, proved to be the best and safest way to support community participation.

GNP Community Survey

November 8 to December 18, 2020 – *GNP Community Survey* was available online and in paper format to community members. This survey received four hundred and twenty two (422) responses. The survey was available online, distributed in community mail boxes, print copies available from the GNP office, and copies dropped off/picked up from seniors' housing.

Youth Survey

It was important to find a way to support youth participation – covering many of the same topic areas but with specific questions identifying the concerns and priorities of youth. Two youth focus groups were held online to provide background for developing the Youth Survey. From April 6 to May 6 – GNP Sundre and Area Youth Survey was available online. Two hundred and forty five (245) responses were received from youth ages 12 to 19.

Appendix B:

Notes on GNP Community Study Design and Methodology

Survey Participation

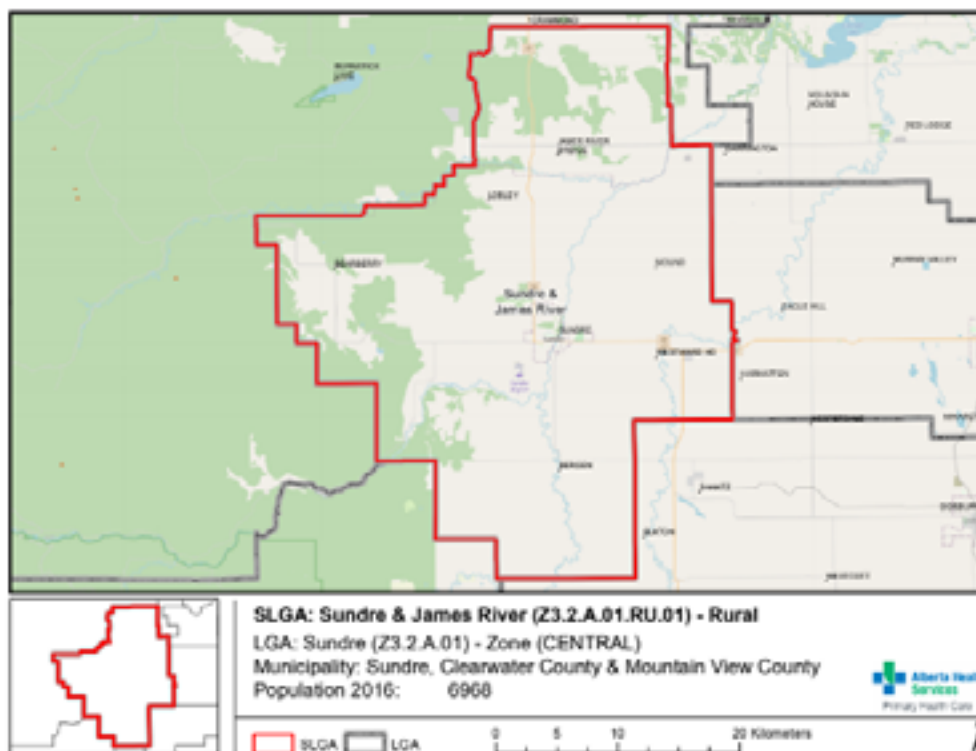
In order to compare the survey results with population and age information, we used as reference: the Town of Sundre population and the population numbers for Sundre and James River Local Geographic Area – LGA used to record vaccination uptake in this area (see map below).

This is only a general estimate as responses to both surveys may have included some from outside this area. The comparisons indicate that while the responses from Sundre residents are somewhat over represented as a proportion of total population, both the Community and Youth Survey included a high level of participation by residents outside of the Town (approximately half of all responses to each survey). With respect to age distribution, participation by adults age 20 to 39 was low – about 4%. For older age groups (40 to 59 years, and 60 plus) the responses represent almost 9% of population. Notably the Youth Survey response was over 35% when compared with the Local Geographic Area population for 12 to 19 years old.

It is important to note, once again, all the information summarized should be considered qualitative, and represents the views of those who participated in the surveys. All of the percentages reported here are based on the total response to each survey, including cases where there was no response to a particular question.

Area Population Reference Map (Alberta Health Services)

- Map source: <https://ahs-geographic-information-systems-ahs.hub.arcgis.com/> (Scroll to bottom Local Geographic Area listings – select Sundre)



Appendix B:

Notes on GNP Community Study Design and Methodology

Sharing survey results during the course of the GNP Community Study

This project took place over a period of more than 18 months and many of the issues addressed were immediate concerns during that time. For that reason, the results of both the Community Survey and the Youth Survey were released as separate reports as soon as possible after the surveys were completed.

As a result:

- The report from the GNP Community Survey was available on the GNP website in May 2021, and the report from the GNP Youth Survey in October 2021.
- Information from the surveys was available in the community to support projects, activities and planning as soon as possible.
- Creating separate reports allowed space for more detailed presentation of the results which became reference documents for this final report. The survey reports and this final report are all available at this link: <https://www.mygnp.org/publications/>

The survey results have been used to support a number of activities including: the development of the Sundre Youth Centre; planning and support for the activities of Greenwood Neighbourhood Place and other community services; and are also referenced in the Regional Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan¹.

From the beginning, the GNP Community Study was intended to be an ongoing resource. In addition, the findings and experience of undertaking this study will provide a baseline for future assessments of the priorities and actions needed to support the quality of life in Sundre and area.

1. <https://www.mountainviewcounty.com/parks-recreation-culture/regional-parks-recreation-and-culture-master-plan>



GREENWOOD
Neighbourhood
PLACE

