

APPENDIX A: RECOMMENDED INDICATORS

Main Priority Goal	Outcome Measure Short Name	Long Name - What is being Measured	Why Measure This?
Overall indicators	Population	Total Population	Total population tells us about the size of the community and whether the community is changing in size. Diverse communities provide more opportunities for intergenerational interaction help to measure whether communities are attractive to a range of ages. Related to: Economy and Healthy Community.
Overall indicators	Median income	Real taxfiler/census median employment	Median individual income can help reflect a community's overall economic wellbeing. As a proxy of purchasing power, it is also one measure contributing to individual quality of life. Median income is a commonly measured indicator and is readily comparable across communities. Related to: Economy and Healthy Community.
Overall indicators	Housing affordability	Ratio of median income to the median assessed home value	Housing costs are a significant indicator in determining whether residents choose to live in the community. The proportion of gross income spent on housing is a standard measure of housing affordability. Related to: Economy and Healthy Community.
Overall indicators	Quality of life	Proportion of residents stating a very good to excellent quality of life in Lacombe	This is a very high level indicator that takes all aspects of the community into account. Related to: Economy, Healthy Community, and some relation to Heritage and Culture.
Building a strong, local and diverse economy	Business licenses	Number and mix of business licenses	A healthy investment climate can be reflected in the total number of new businesses forming, continuing operations and closing. Tracking new business licenses, renewals of licenses and non-renewals provides a proxy for these categories.
Building a strong, local and diverse economy	Career/Job opportunities	Proportion of residents very satisfied with job and career opportunities	Satisfaction with job and career opportunities indicates a robust and diverse economy. Greater satisfaction usually translates into tendency to stay longer in and contribute to the community.
Building a strong, local and diverse economy	Commercial services access	Proportion of residents very satisfied with access to commercial and retail services	Satisfaction with access to commercial and retail services indicates choice and diversity in the economy. Greater satisfaction usually translates into tendency to stay longer in and contribute to the community.
Building a strong, local and diverse economy	Economic dependency ratio	Ratio of community income transfers such as E.I., social assistance, etc., to total community income	Economic dependence is an indicator of economic health as well as of general societal health. A high number of people on EI generally indicates lack of employment and often relates to decreased individual and family wellbeing and reduced ability to purchase goods and services. Related to: Healthy Community.
Building a strong, local and diverse economy	Economic diversity	Labour force breakdown by export industry (tourism, forestry, education, recreation, etc.)	A diverse economy is one strategy that can help to build a more resilient economy that over time is less impacted by events that might target one sector of the economy.

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Building a strong, local and diverse economy	Educational attainment	Proportion of residents completing formal post secondary education/university certificate, diploma or degree	Individuals' prosperity, economic opportunity, inclusion, health and sense of wellbeing is often tied to education. Education also generally contributes to a skilled and productive workforce, and helps communities to address opportunities and challenges as they arise. Related to: Healthy community.
Preserving and enhancing heritage and culture	Historic/heritage sites protected	Number of buildings that are provincially designated; number of buildings that are municipally designated	A consistency or an increase in number of protected sites indicates a commitment to historic/heritage protection.
Preserving and enhancing heritage and culture	Heritage protection	Total amount of funding for heritage protection	A consistency or an increase in amount of funding for protected sites indicates a commitment to historic/heritage protection.
Preserving and enhancing heritage and culture	Number of events	Total number of community wide events and festivals with an open invitation to all community members	Events and festivals are a demonstration of heritage and culture celebration and preservation.
Preserving and enhancing heritage and culture	Arts, Cultural, Heritage opportunities	Proportion of community very satisfied with cultural programs and services	This indicator measures people's satisfaction with opportunities for cultural programs and services.
Promoting a healthy, connected and active community	Recreation opportunities	Proportion of residents very satisfied with recreation programs and services	Recreation and healthy lifestyles are important values for residents. Managed recreation facilities, parks and fields play an important role in facilitating recreation activities, social gathering, team activities and celebrations.
Promoting a healthy, connected and active community	Physicians	Ratio of physicians to residential population	This is a measure of the quality of health care available in the community.
Promoting a healthy, connected and active community	Health services	Proportion of residents very satisfied with the quality and access of health services	This indicator measures people's satisfaction with the level and quality of health services available. Satisfaction with health services is increasingly important with an aging population.
Promoting a healthy, connected and active community	Learning opportunities	Proportion of residents very satisfied with learning opportunities	Satisfaction with learning opportunities indicates a healthy and vibrant community. Greater satisfaction usually translates into tendency to stay longer in and contribute to the community.
Promoting a healthy, connected and active community	Sense of belonging	Proportion of residents stating that Lacombe is a good place to live long term (>20 years)	A sense of desire to live in the community long term is the basis for sound mental health and for commitment to place. It is the foundation of good civic behaviour, accountability to the community and is a pre-requisite for local inclusive relationship building, community development and volunteerism.

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Promoting a healthy, connected and active community	Commuting mode	Proportion of workers commuting via non-motorized/self-propelled transport	Commuting to work constitutes a large proportion of residents' transportation trips and transportation in single occupancy vehicles (SOV) is generally more resource intensive and polluting than other modes. Commuting times (including dropping kids off at school) also coincide with peak traffic volumes. The regularity of work commuting may also make it one of the easier trips to shift from single occupancy vehicle (SOV) to alternative transportation such as carpooling, transit, biking or walking. Related to: Natural Environment, Healthy Community.
Protecting our natural environment	Green Space	Total area of green space, trails, water features and parks throughout the community	Accessible landscaped park areas are used by a wide variety of people and they enrich community life. Urban parks facilitate interaction amongst all demographic groups in individual neighbourhoods and in the community as a whole. Related to: Healthy Community.
Protecting our natural environment	Protected areas	Total area of protected environmental reserves	One of our greatest assets is the abundance of healthy and intact natural ecosystems. Due to past habitat losses the current extent of permanent natural areas should be maintained or enlarged. Failure to do so may contribute to the fragmentation and degradation of this critical environment.
Protecting our natural environment	Energy consumption	Total annual energy consumption	Energy is a critical input to certain aspects of day to day life. At the same time, non-renewable energy use has an impact on future energy supplies as well as ecosystem and human health locally and abroad. Even large renewable projects such as hydroelectric dams have significant impacts on land and aquatic ecosystems. An ability to reduce dependence on energy resources may help the community better adapt to future price shocks, reduce overall environmental impact and avoid associated negative health issues.
Protecting our natural environment	Solid waste	Total annual solid waste (recycling, landfilled waste, other)	Maintaining resident lifestyles and needs and offering visitor services currently requires significant quantities of various materials, which in turn can quickly produce 'waste'. Landfilled waste represents materials that are often unnecessary or may have been used for something more purposeful such as composting, recycling or potentially energy use. Solid landfilled waste also takes up land space, emits greenhouse gases and among other things can leach harmful materials into the surrounding environment. Even with increased diversion, increasing material flow indicates higher rates of consumption, which include embodied energy and GHG in production and transportation of goods.

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Protecting our natural environment	Water use	Total annual water use	Water is one of our important assets, supporting natural areas, wildlife and residents. Using water resources wisely is fundamental to an environmentally-responsible approach to living. This issue relates not only to the availability of the resource; it is also a municipal infrastructure priority that can translate into millions of dollars spent or saved. This indicator provides an important snapshot of whether demand management of water resources are resulting in overall resource conservation.
Protecting our natural environment	Greenhouse gas emissions	Total annual GHG emissions	Scientists agree that greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are contributing to global climate change. This changing climate will impact the local economy, community life, visitor experiences as well as directly on the local natural environment. Climate change and GHG emissions are global and local issues that require solutions at all levels and reducing the community's contribution is an important aspect of our commitment to stewardship of the natural environment, environmental responsibility and long-term sustainability. Related to: Healthy Community.
Providing high quality services and infrastructure	Wastewater treatment OR water quality	Total number of incidents where operating agreement levels are exceeded	Wastewater is a potential pressure on local and regional water bodies.
Providing high quality services and infrastructure	Public transportation	Total number of people using Connex transportation	This measures availability of a public transportation service for seniors and those who are mobility challenged. Related to Healthy Community.
Providing high quality services and infrastructure	Public transportation	Total number of people using public transportation	This indicator measures the availability of public transportation in the region. Increase in public transportation use can mean a decrease in private automobile use, which has environmental and reduced energy consumption benefits. Related to: Healthy Community, Natural Environment.
Providing high quality services and infrastructure	Highway 12 safety	Proportion of residents feeling that Hwy 12 corridor is safe	Many Lacombe residents indicated that they didn't feel that Hwy 12 was safe. This indicator measures the perception of safety improvements to the highway. Related to: Healthy Community.
Providing high quality services and infrastructure	Recycling services	Proportion of residents feeling satisfied with the available recycling options in the City of Lacombe	Availability of recycling was a key issue in the community survey. Satisfaction with recycling options gives an indication of the level of recycling services available in the city. Related to: Natural Environment.
Providing high quality services and infrastructure	Communications	Effectiveness of the City of Lacombe's efforts to communicate information about City programs, services and facilities	Community survey results indicated that there needs to be greater leadership and communication from the City to the community.