



WHAT WE HEARD:

AGENCY, BOARD & COMMISSION INPUT TO INFORM THE 2026-2029 STRATEGIC PLAN



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Participation Overview	3
Method & Data Notes	3
Section 1: What We Heard Across All ABCs, Organized By Each Survey Question	4
Section 2: Summary of Each Individual ABC’s Feedback Across All Questions	13
Affordable Housing Committee	13
Arts Endowment Committee	15
Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan Committee (DARP)	17
Echo Lacombe Association.....	19
Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)	20
Heritage Resources Committee (HRC)	22
Lacombe Art Collection Committee.....	23
Lacombe Athletic Parks Association (LAPA).....	25
Lacombe County Fire Services Advisory Committee	27
Lacombe Days Committee	27
Lacombe & District Chamber of Commerce	29
Lacombe & District Historical Society	30
Lacombe and District Rikubetsu Society.....	30
Lacombe Emergency Management Advisory Committee	32
Lacombe Performing Arts Centre	32
Lacombe Police Commission.....	36
Lacombe Regional Emergency Management Partnership.....	39
Lacombe Regional Tourism and Marketing Association	40
Mary C Moore Public Library	42
Municipal Planning Commission (MPC)	43
Parkland Regional Library	44
Recreation, Parks and Culture Board.....	45
Regional Airport Committee	46
Wolf Creek Public Schools.....	46
STAR Catholic Schools	48

Executive Summary

Our Advisory Boards and Committees are one of the City's greatest strengths. They bring local knowledge, expertise, and front-line experience to issues that matter to Lacombe: economic growth, quality of life, cultural vibrancy, safety, social support, and community identity. They reflect the energy, passion, and commitment of people, mainly volunteers, who care deeply about this City.

In 2025 the City invited ABCs to share their perspectives on their work and their relationship with the City. They expressed a clear sense of pride in what's already been achieved. From downtown improvements and new public art, to accessible playgrounds, stronger policing, and tourism initiatives.

Equally important, though, was their candor about the challenges they face. Funding remains a recurring concern, communication with the City can be strengthened, and volunteer capacity is a shared pressure point. At the same time, there's real enthusiasm that if we continue to invest in and strengthen these partnerships, we can build on what's already strong, respond thoughtfully to what's emerging, and keep Lacombe a place people are proud to live, work, and belong.

This report presents the ABC feedback in two complementary ways:

- **Section 1** summarizes what we heard *across all ABCs*, organized by each survey question.
- **Section 2** provides a summary of each *individual ABC's* feedback across all questions.

Section 1 is organized by question which allows Council, to identify city-wide trends, recurring themes, emerging challenges, and system-level opportunities that can inform strategic planning, priority setting, and high-level governance. **Section 2**, by contrast, is designed for Councillors to gain a deeper understanding of the specific ABCs they serve on and provide the on-the-ground perspectives that make each ABC distinct.

Participation Overview

Engagement was broad. We analyzed **60** valid responses. Larger respondent groups included the **Lacombe Performing Arts Centre (9)**, **Lacombe Police Commission (5)**, and **Lacombe Athletic Parks Association (5)**. Four ABCs contributed **4** responses each (Art Collection, DARP, Affordable Housing, FCSS), with many others offering 1–3 responses.

Method & Data Notes

- The specific list of ABCs is included in Appendix A of the [April 14th Council Request for Decision](#).
- Respondents were asked to complete one survey per ABC affiliation where applicable.
- Administration revised the final survey questions from those listed in the Council Report. This was to improve clarity and ensure each question elicits and unique and impactful response.
- Three test/noise entries (e.g., "stuff," "fgh," obvious test text) were removed. ABC names were normalized to the City's official list.
- Where a larger number of similar responses within one ABC signals alignment within that group; it is not weighed as a "vote" over other ABCs.
- Portions of the analysis and drafting were assisted by an AI-driven writing and synthesis tool.
- Where the City liaison assigned to the ABC felt additional context was warranted it is noted as a "Liason Note."

Section 1: What We Heard Across All ABCs, Organized By Each Survey Question

Question 2: Does the ABC you selected above have a long-term or strategic plan?

Yes: 44

No: 6

I don't know: 13

Agency, Board, or Commission	I don't know	No	Yes
<i>Affordable Housing Committee</i>	2	1	1
<i>Arts Endowment Committee</i>	0	0	2
<i>Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan Committee</i>	2	0	2
<i>Echo Lacombe Association</i>	0	0	1
<i>Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)</i>	1	0	3
<i>Heritage Resources Committee (HRC)</i>	2	0	0
<i>Lacombe & District Chamber of Commerce</i>	0	1	0
<i>Lacombe Art Collection Committee</i>	1	0	3
<i>Lacombe Athletic Parks Association (LAPA)</i>	1	2	2
<i>Lacombe Days Committee</i>	0	1	0
<i>Lacombe Performing Arts Centre</i>	0	0	9
<i>Lacombe Police Commission</i>	0	0	5
<i>Lacombe Regional Emergency Management Partnership</i>	0	0	1
<i>Lacombe Regional Tourism and Marketing Association</i>	0	0	1
<i>Lacombe and District Rikubetsu Society</i>	0	0	3
<i>Mary C Moore Public Library</i>	0	0	2
<i>Municipal Planning Commission (MPC)</i>	1	0	0
<i>Parkland Regional Library</i>	0	0	1
<i>Recreation, Parks and Culture Board</i>	0	0	3
<i>STAR Catholic Schools</i>	0	0	1
<i>Wolf Creek Public Schools</i>	0	0	2

Responses show varied alignment across ABCs. Several groups—such as the Lacombe Performing Arts Centre, Police Commission, and Recreation, Parks & Culture Board—reported unanimous “Yes” responses. Others, like the Affordable Housing Committee and Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan Committee, showed split results, suggesting mixed understanding or adoption of strategic planning. A few ABCs had no “Yes” responses, revealing a gap that Council could address through facilitation or resource support.

Question 3: What goals do you personally hope to achieve through your involvement with this ABC? List them below in point form.



Members’ personal goals were diverse but clustered around three themes: **advancing their ABC’s mission, strengthening community impact, and building relationships**. Respondents frequently cited specific ambitions such as improving access to affordable housing, growing arts participation, enhancing public safety, and fostering youth engagement.

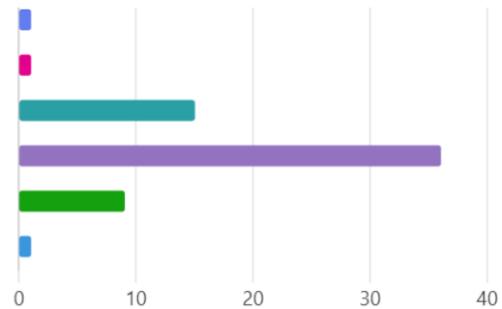
Three representative quotes that capture the spirit of respondents’ goals are below:

- “To bring community members together through arts and cultural events that foster inclusivity and pride in Lacombe.”
- “To help improve recreational opportunities for youth and families, ensuring programs are accessible and meet diverse needs.”
- “To contribute to informed decision-making that enhances public safety and community well-being.”

Question 4: In your opinion, on a scale of 1-5, how successfully are you meeting the goals listed above?

Average score: 3.77 out of 5

● 1 (Not Achieving Goals)	1
● 2 (Rarely Achieving Goals)	1
● 3 (Sometimes Achieving Goals)	15
● 4 (Mostly Achieving Goals)	36
● 5 (Always Achieving Goals)	9
● Other	1



Average ratings varied between 3.0 and 4.5 across ABCs.

Agency, Board, or Commission	Avg. Score	Min	Max
<i>Affordable Housing Committee</i>	3.50	3	4
<i>Arts Endowment Committee</i>	4.00	4	4
<i>Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan Committee</i>	3.50	3	4
<i>Echo Lacombe Association</i>	4.00	4	4
<i>Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)</i>	3.25	3	4
<i>Heritage Resources Committee (HRC)</i>	4.00	4	4
<i>Lacombe & District Chamber of Commerce</i>	3.00	3	3
<i>Lacombe Art Collection Committee</i>	4.50	4	5
<i>Lacombe Athletic Parks Association (LAPA)</i>	3.00	1	4
<i>Lacombe Days Committee</i>	4.00	4	4
<i>Lacombe Performing Arts Centre</i>	4.00	3	5
<i>Lacombe Police Commission</i>	4.20	3	5
<i>Lacombe Regional Emergency Management Partnership</i>	4.00	4	4
<i>Lacombe Regional Tourism and Marketing Association</i>	4.00	4	4
<i>Lacombe and District Rikubetsu Society</i>	4.00	4	4
<i>Mary C Moore Public Library</i>	4.00	4	4
<i>Municipal Planning Commission (MPC)</i>	4.00	4	4
<i>Parkland Regional Library</i>	3.00	3	3
<i>Recreation, Parks and Culture Board</i>	4.33	4	5
<i>STAR Catholic Schools</i>	2.00	2	2
<i>Wolf Creek Public Schools</i>	3.50	3	4

Question 5: *What’s something your ABC has worked on recently that you’ve felt proud to be involved in?*



Examples ranged from infrastructure and beautification projects to community events, program expansions, and cultural initiatives. Pride was often linked to projects with visible, lasting impact—such as murals, playgrounds, capital upgrades, or signature community events. Here are a few examples:

- “Restoration of downtown murals (‘Hey Doreen’).”
- “Hiring a new chief of police & building the framework to the service for future commissioners “
- “The 49C plaza upgrade”
- “Awarding funds to a local not-for-profit to help building housing solutions.”
- “Recently I have been proud to work on the Olds to Lacombe Tourism Development Zone project being led by Travel Alberta. The project identifies opportunities to define sense of place

in Central Alberta while encouraging inter-regional collaboration in tourism destination development for The City of Lacombe.”

- “I’m really proud of the new accessible playground project we completed last year.”
- “We have significantly strengthened our dual credit options for high school students, which helps to create clear pathways to post-secondary, trades, or other pursuits.”

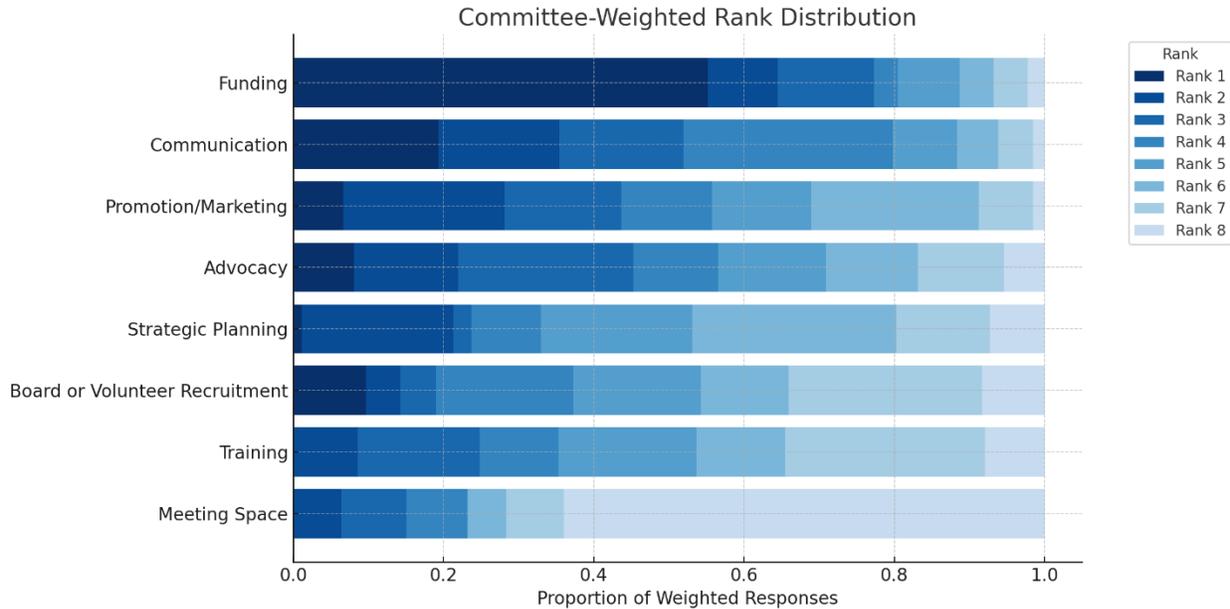
Question 6: *As you think about your ABC overall, what challenges are currently making it harder for the group to serve the community effectively? Please list them below.*



Across all ABCs, the most frequently top-ranked supports were Funding, Communication, and Promotion/Marketing, followed closely by Strategic Planning support and Volunteer Recruitment. Some groups also valued targeted training and access to meeting space. Here are a few examples:

- “Lack of clarity on what is to be done by the city vs by the committee”
- “No barriers - the committee is made up of dreamers and do-ers. Council and administration representation at the meetings has been very effective as well.”
- “- financial reasons - timing to hold events for good turnout can be tricky.”
- “lack of funding to expand”
- “lack of volunteers”
- “lack of community connections within board members”
- “Space- suitable facility to accommodate both performer needs and audience accessibility”
- “Budget. Lacombe is the only library in the Parkland region that charges a fee for library cards.”
- “Lacombe sports facilities are used at nearly 100%... there has been almost no investment in a key sector that drives tourism and growth.”

Question 7: In your view, what areas of support or focus from the City would make the biggest difference to your ABC? Please drag and drop to rank them below in order from "1" being the biggest difference to "8" being the least difference.



The rankings shown above were averaged within each ABC, so every ABC contributes equally regardless of how many people responded.

The highest-ranked areas of support were Funding, Communication, and Promotion or Marketing. These three areas consistently appeared at the top of committee-level rankings and represent the supports most likely to make a meaningful difference to ABC operations and outcomes. Advocacy and Strategic Planning followed as mid-level priorities, reflecting a shared interest in strengthening long-term direction and ensuring that ABC needs are represented in broader community discussions. Training and Meeting Space were identified as the least critical supports overall, suggesting that while these resources are still valued, they are not viewed as major barriers to success at this time.

Question 8: What emerging challenges or opportunities do you think Council should be aware of that may impact the community?



Looking ahead, ABCs flagged housing pressures and affordability, tourism growth and the visitor experience, facility/space needs for programs and events, downtown attraction, and sustaining arts & culture as a signature strength for Lacombe. Respondents pointed to emerging opportunities such as youth programs, tourism development, and expanded cultural offerings. Emerging challenges included volunteer shortages, rising costs, and the need to adapt services to changing demographics. Here are a few examples”

- “housing needs – affordability”
- “Growing a community that engages those in their 20's and 30's. Right now our city isn't appealing to this demographic.”
- “Need to listen to community requests for economic development”
- “challenges: increase in domestic violence, increase in drug and alcohol use, lack of affordable housing”
- “Belt tightening of our audience”
- “One of the most amazing opportunities that I think has come up recently is the idea to turn Lacombe into the very first art town in alberta”
- “Crime is increasing and we need to continue to plan for that.”
- “Travel Alberta recently conducted a survey that identified congestion and traffic as one of the largest tourism hurdles for our area as well as finding that of survey respondents there is a notably low Net Promoter Score for our area with many respondents registering as detractors. This presents a opportunity to foster pride in sense of place, and urgency to continue to invest in advertising that promotes the City of Lacombe.”
- “With the addition of the Kinsmen room, we are increasing programs and events for the community. However, we're also increasing cost for the library. I'm worried we may have to give up the Kinsmen space to save money. Unfortunately this would mean we'd lose a lot of great programming.”
- “The political climate in Alberta is divisive and controversial right now. I think it’s important for council to continue working with all citizens and building a community where everyone is safe, healthy and able to participate fairly. I think it’s important to provide stability and balance.”
- “The lack of gymnasium space and indoor athletic space.”

Question 9: What role do you see your ABC playing in influencing the success of the City overall?



Respondents positioned their ABCs as vital contributors to Lacombe’s success—whether by driving economic development, enhancing quality of life, preserving heritage, or ensuring safety and

preparedness. Many emphasized that their influence is maximized when their ABC’s efforts align with Council priorities. Here are a few examples:

- “Offering support and encouragement to local artists.”
- “Bringing in incremental \$\$ to our local business by attracting visitors and tourists. Keeping downtown vibrant and safe for residents.”
- “Providing strong primary preventative programs and leadership to the other non profits to create a resilient, strong and connected community where people love to volunteer, support eachother and continue to make Lacombe the best city to live, raise a family and retire.”
- “being part of the safety net in the city, a place where people can find help and hope
- “Creating more cultural diversity in the community.”
- “We represent international ties. We exist to enrich cultural opportunities to our local community”
- “The Beautification of the City and generation of community pride in their city, history and culture.”
- “... a vital part of the City's success in creating a safe, caring and welcoming place for the citizens to live and thrive.”
- “This Board is made up of citizens that care about the community and can take some pressure off of Council who have to deal with many bigger issues.”
- “Education plays a large part in where people settle their families. If there is choice in education, this would help bring more families to Lacombe and help it grow.”

Question 10: *What key message would you want to share with Council to guide them for the next four years?”*



The overarching message from respondents was to maintain open, transparent communication and to stay connected to the community’s evolving needs. Many urged Council to take a long-term, forward-looking approach, balancing fiscal responsibility with investment in people, infrastructure, and quality of life. Respondents emphasized valuing the expertise and input of ABCs, using them as partners in problem-solving and innovation. There was a strong call for Council to prioritize collaboration to address both current challenges and emerging opportunities. Several comments highlighted the importance of celebrating community achievements and building on Lacombe’s strengths. Here are some examples:

- “Get to know the people who are primarily affected”
- “Find a way to communicate better with the citizens of Lacombe.”
- “There is a buzz out there about Lacombe being a great place to visit - capitalize on it! Likely a percentage of visitors eventually be come Lacombe residents to boot.”

- “Keep connected with the community and hard working non profits in our City. They have a lot to give. We are so lucky the current council always is present and shows support, listens and advocates for the non profit sector.”
- “as a city, looking at what role they can play in the affordability crisis we’re in right now”
- “We hope you’ll reaffirm your commitment to the cultural twinning relationship with our Japanese sister city.”
- “Continue to recognize and support the ongoing place public art has in making Lacombe an amazing place.”
- “Put money towards expanding the park (track and field area, a dome over the field). Invest in the physical health of your community.”
- “To look ahead when planning, look at the big picture to avoid logistical decisions that will not make sense in a few years from now as the city expands and develops”
- “Ensure the relationship between the commission and council stays healthy.”
- “In the Province of Alberta the tourism industry is the 5th largest contributing sector to Provincial GDP, it requires management and leadership to grow effectively. The City of Lacombe is recognized as a provincial leader in the development of the tourism sector specifically as it relates to small municipalities. Tourism is worth the investment, and with our new strategic plan we know we can continue to lead and encourage this industry to grow in the City of Lacombe.”
- “Try not to get sucked into the weeds of the loud few complainers. Lacombe is a special City with many great amenities!”
- “Above all Lacombe should be a welcoming, engaged city where there are opportunities for everyone regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc. We also need to keep building and supporting the aspects of our city that draw people to visit us including our historic downtown, our small businesses, and our many events.”
- “STAR Catholic has been an integral part of the City of Lacombe, and we would love to work collaboratively to establish a shovel ready site for a new school, so that we can present this to Alberta Education and Infrastructure. Once they know that we have a site, the process will move much quicker.”

Question 11: *What, if any, other comments would you like to make to the next Council?*



Open comments encouraged Council to maintain strong communication, provide stable funding, and foster collaboration across ABCs. Some respondents urged Council to recognize and celebrate ABC achievements more visibly. Here are a few examples:

- “Encourage those with boots on the ground to join in these committees. Their experience is invaluable. I believe Lacombe has done a great job of doing that.”
- “Appreciate how incredible the people are that make this community. They give deeply of their time and their money.”
- “Beauty and Art as much part of a community as Bricks and Mortar.”
- “Take a look at school enrollments, they are going down. What is council going to do to draw more new families into Lacombe?”
- “Those on council have a difficult but very important role to play in our community, and I appreciate the time, effort and dedication that anyone stepping into those roles has for Lacombe. Thank you”
- “I see from some, an unwillingness to lead change, or even accept the need for change. There is a large subset of our population who subscribe to the 'if it's not broken, don't fix it' adage. That only serves the people that the system is benefitting. With many new Canadians making their home in our community and young families who are working hard to make a better life for their kids, please keep in mind we all have different stories and realities. My hope is that Council can employ empathy as they lead our city into the next chapter.”
- “There is no single municipality that can deal with a large event with out assistance from your neighbors. Continue to strengthen partnerships and agreements.”
- “We need safe access out to the new area west of town”
- “Thank-you very much for your support over the years.”
- “As the Superintendent, I would be happy to meet with the CAO to discuss our cooperation in this matter. We are ready and willing! We would just like to work together for the betterment of education and the enhancement of educational opportunities in the City of Lacombe. Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback!”
- “While youth don't pay taxes or complete services, they drive much of Lacombe tourism via baseball and hockey. We have no track facilities, no gym facilities, and school gyms are rented from 4-930 every night.”

Section 2: Summary of Each Individual ABC's Feedback Across All Questions

Affordable Housing Committee

Responses: 4

ABC Strategic Plan?: Yes -1, No – 1, I don't know - 2

Avg goal success (1–5): 3.5

Top City support priorities: Funding > Training > Communication

Notable achievement: Awarding funds to a local not-for-profit to build a transitional housing solution.

Summary: The committee's goals center on expanding affordable and accessible housing in Lacombe, securing grants, and strengthening community involvement and understanding of housing needs. Members are proud of recent progress directing funds toward local housing initiatives, though challenges such as limited funding, NIMBYism, lack of onboarding, and insufficient community engagement continue to limit impact. Looking ahead, the group sees creative housing solutions and growing demand as key pressures, and believes it can influence Lacombe's success by expanding housing options—provided Council offers clear direction, pursues innovative approaches, and continues prioritizing housing as a core community need.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- Obtain grants to increase the affordable housing collaborations and opportunities for our community.
- Get involved in the community of Lacombe
- Learn more about how municipal politics work
- Advocate for more affordable housing in Lacombe
- Advocate for more accessible housing for people with chronic illnesses, disabilities and/or neurodivergence
- Eliminate mandatory parking minimums in Lacombe.
- To offer more long-term and accessible affordable housing options.
- To ensure the City of Lacombe has a variety of housing types as well as affordable housing.

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- Committing to the terms of the grant funding, receiving some funds back to redistribute for a pillar of critical need of obtainable/transitional housing for women and children. This will address a major gap.
- Recommending that city council support The Broom Tree's new housing initiative by allocating all the funds that the Affordable Housing Steering Committee had available to them.
- Awarding funds to a local not-for-profit to help building housing solutions.
- Supporting Broomtree.

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- Looking ahead, seeking out suitable grants and recipients for the grants.
- Lack of funding - Not enough people from under-served communities know about what we do, I'd love to hear more directly from the community about affordable housing
- NIMBYism ("Not In My Backyard" community members who struggle with change and don't want to see affordable housing developments)
- Most people on the committee are a certain kind of person (already heavily invested in local politics and social work), and I'd love to see more young people learning how to do this work (they don't know how fun it is! It sounds dry and stodgy but it's really neat actually being able to make a tangible difference in Lacombe!)
- No onboarding process, we learn as we go, there's no sort of introductory package or anything to explain how the board works or what's expected. I am ok with this since I'm fine with learning on the fly and asking questions as they come up, but probably could use a bit more um, mentoring? Explanations? to be my most effective.
- Personally, I have a severe fragrance sensitivity so making meetings fragrance-free spaces would help me be able to feel alert, healthy and at my best.
- Yeah we don't really talk with people in the community much, most of our work is between agencies. While I think this makes us more efficient, we could serve Lacombe better if we were hearing from everyday people.
- Zoning process and development permits take time, might be worth looking into those to see if they are causing unnecessary friction to building affordable housing in Lacombe.
- Having proper representation from individuals directly affected.
- The cost to build something almost ensures that affordable rent can't be charged. The build would not have a viable business plan.

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- Lack of rentals and/or lots of multiplex units.
- I think the City of Lacombe should pursue creative housing solutions like modular housing, accessory dwelling units, pocket neighbourhoods, etc.. Thinking outside the conventional box for housing is essential to helping improve affordability of housing in Lacombe. Don't just be open to the idea, actively pursue different ways to house people beyond the typical single family dwellings, duplexes and apartment buildings. The Federal Government is currently investing heavily in creative housing solutions, which makes this an excellent time to be working towards creative housing solutions.
- Housing needs – affordability.
- Pressure to build more housing, increasing the amount of infill which citizens usually oppose.

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- Growth in the affordable housing opportunities.
- Making housing more affordable and increasing the range of housing options available in Lacombe.
- Significant.

- It will play a role if the new Council sees it as a priority.

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- Privately owned. Removing these barriers and providing clear, accessible information would support housing development efforts.
- Learn from Strong Towns, about how incremental development is the way to build a stable and prosperous city. Make decisions that prioritise people over cars. Slow infill growth is better than shiny new projects.
- Get to know the people who are primarily affected.
- Give clear direction to this committee.

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- As a member of the Affordable Housing Committee, I encourage Council to continue prioritizing housing as a key pillar in building a healthy, inclusive, and economically resilient community. We are seeing growing needs across diverse populations, from seniors, single parents, low-income workers, to young families. I urge the next Council to explore creative partnerships, leverage available land more strategically, reduce red tape for multi-unit developments, and advocate for sustainable funding from higher levels of government. Affordable housing is not just a social issue, it is foundational to the overall wellbeing and growth of Lacombe. Thank you for your leadership and for continuing to champion long-term solutions.
- There are many people who would want to help, if they know what's going on and why. Talk with people in the community. Make yourself available to answer questions. Explain in plain language what you want to do and why (you think it's simple? make it plainer! almost half of Canadians are functionally illiterate, and nearly all are not involved in municipal politics, so work to not use insider-speak with the public), there are probably more people who would care and get involved if they can hear what's going on in plain language.
- This council has served their community well. We appreciate them.
- No other comments.

Arts Endowment Committee

Responses: 2

ABC Strategic Plan?: Yes -2

Avg goal success: 4.0

Top City support priorities: Promotion/Marketing > Advocacy > Funding

Summary: The committee’s goals focus on supporting and growing the local arts community, helping artists access grants, and learning how municipal committees work. Members are proud of recent work distributing grant funding and hosting art shows, but note challenges such as unclear roles between the City and the committee, difficulty attracting younger adults, and the ongoing struggle to recruit volunteers, especially given the fundraising expectations. They see the committee contributing to Lacombe’s success by fostering local creativity and community spaces, and encourage Council to improve communication with residents and strengthen the city’s appeal to younger demographics and businesses.

Liason note: Attracting and retaining volunteers is an ongoing challenge especially due to the fundraising commitment.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- I want to support art in our community. As an artist, I think it's important to grow other artists. By being involved in the committee, I am learning more about how our city appreciates local artists and their art. I feel this is a gateway for me to become involved in other committees as well.
- Get to know community, Learn how different committees run, Support arts.

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- Distributing grant money to artists.
- Art show and sale.

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- Not sure.
- Lack of clarity on what is to be done by the city vs by the committee.

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- Growing a community that engages those in their 20's and 30's. Right now our city isn't appealing to this demographic.
- Don't know.

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- Offering support and encouragement to local artists.
- Fun events and comments building spaces

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- Find a way to communicate better with the citizens of Lacombe.
- Don't know.

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- Bring more business into the city. You can't even shop on a Saturday. :(
- Don't know.

Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan Committee (DARP)

Responses: 4

ABC Strategic Plan?: Yes -2, I don't know - 2

Avg goal success: 3.5

Top City support priorities: Funding > Communication > Strategic Planning

Notable achievement: "Heart of Lacombe" at the LMC and the 49C project.

Summary: The committee's goals focus on keeping Lacombe's downtown vibrant, accessible, and welcoming by improving infrastructure, supporting local businesses and artists, and ensuring heritage perspectives are represented in planning decisions. Members are proud of their contributions to projects like the 49C upgrades and the Heart of Lacombe, though they note challenges such as limited funding, inconsistent communication, insufficient engagement from downtown businesses, and the strong influence of private property decisions on the area's success. They believe the committee can enhance Lacombe's economic and social vitality by fostering tourism and strategic thinking, and they encourage Council to maintain investment in downtown infrastructure, stay connected with the committee's work, and continue thinking boldly about the future of the city's core.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- Creating a downtown that draws residents and visitors alike, Improve accessibility by improving sidewalks and business entrances to allow for safe and easy access for wheelchairs and other mobility devices, Encourage downtown businesses to keep up or repair aging exteriors, Promote Lacombe in general as a place to live and visit.
- To ensure that the voice of the Lacombe and District Historical Society is represented within the DARP committee. To ensure that adequate consideration for the Lacombe and District Historical Society's needs are considered during DARP committee deliberations. To ensure that the Lacombe and District Historical Society is given adequate notice of downtown changes. To ensure that the Lacombe and District Historical Society can provide assistance with any downtown initiatives that require assistance from Lacombe based societies.
- To make sure downtown stays vibrant and welcoming. To make sure we attract visitors and give them a reason to come to Lacombe.
- The DARP committee was set up to create, promote, and enjoy the downtown usage by citizens and visitors alike. I personally want to see numerous great enhancements for downtown Lacombe with this committee. I have had numerous ideas.

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- The 49C plaza upgrade.
- I've only participated with the 49C ave. redevelopment project. While I am proud that I have been able to assist with this project, my opinions on spending are far more conservative than the majority of committee members and is consistently a minority vote when decisions are made.
- The Heart of Lacombe at the LMC and the 49C project currently underway.
- The Heart of Lacombe on the Lacombe Memorial Center grounds. The 49C upgrades that are happening right now.

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- Ongoing, sustained funding, Lack of communication by the city regarding our projects and the work that we do.
- Lack of input by entire downtown community members/business owners.
- No barriers - the committee is made up of dreamers and do-ers. Council and administration representation at the meetings has been very effective as well.
- The group of members are all highly desirous of having our downtown be vibrant and welcoming. The biggest challenge has been city council to agree with the concepts.

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- maintenance of downtown infrastructure. Sidewalks are in disrepair, alleys need general cleaning and maintenance.
- Challenge: Private development and ownership of properties directly influences downtown footfall. Example: Sweet Capones was an incredible cafe that was replaced by a law firm, overall effect of decreasing downtown footfall. Accounting firms and Lawyers while essential services do not lend themselves to the boutique reputation Lacombe has to tourists and locals. The Museum continually encounters visitors who bemoan the fact that the old art galleries, antique shops, cafes, etc. are no longer downtown.
- Encouraging tourism especially when downtown 49c project is complete.
- Long term funding stability, and long term support of ideas, concepts, and then "selling and promoting" them to the community.

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- Little to no influence, factors outside of the committee's influence play far greater roles in dictating the success of the City. Private ownership of downtown buildings, lease costs, downtown business tax brackets, bylaw creation, automobile traffic management.
- Bringing in incremental \$\$ to our local business by attracting visitors and tourists. Keeping downtown vibrant and safe for residents.
- Strategic thinking, business sense, love of the city.
- Helping to enhance the community economically, socially, ecologically, and create a good feeling

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- Do not cut funding to infrastructure upgrades, maintenance and operations.
- Increasing funding to external agencies for community services rather than internalizing them allows for a greater leveraging of funds and typically an increase in addressing community needs. Because incorporated societies are faced with the threat of dissolution and because they have a board of directors whose specialized qualifications allow for greater guidance and scrutiny of performance, funding external not-for-profits to provide community services rather than internalizing it into the municipal structure will not only increase performance but also increase overall revenue generation through matching grants and fundraising. But this also can only occur with deliberate incentivization systems where organizations who perform well are promoted and organizations who misuse funds are disciplined.

- Moving away from a general granting system to a Service Provider system utilizing contracts and agreements also would allow for higher levels of scrutiny of performance. Replacing a blank cheque at the beginning of each fiscal year with an agreement outlining what services will be provided would allow the Council to ensure that any lack of performance of promised services can be dealt with. This however would require that the City pay service providers market level reimbursement for services. Currently funding levels for external societies, especially in arts and culture are far below market equivalents.
- There is a buzz out there about Lacombe being a great place to visit - capitalize on it! Likely a percentage of visitors eventually become Lacombe residents to boot.
- Stay connected with our committee and understand that it is there to genuinely support our great downtown

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- Please be open to thinking outside the box, grow our city by bringing in value added businesses that bring employment and local spending opportunities to Lacombe.
- Maybe this time if we get busses we keep them longer than 1 council term?
- Encourage those with boots on the ground to join in these committees. Their experience is invaluable. I believe Lacombe has done a great job of doing that.
- If we do not have a vibrant downtown, we do not have a vibrant city. It is critical and one of the important areas of the city to provide positive attention.

Echo Lacombe Association

Responses: 1 (Discussed at Board)

ABC Strategic Plan?: Yes -1

Avg goal success: 4.0

Top City support priorities: Communication > Meeting Space > Training

Notable achievement: Food Rescue

Summary: The respondent hopes to make a positive impact through fair funding decisions, strengthen connections between Burman University and the wider Lacombe community, and contribute analytical expertise to support the board’s work. They are proud of the committee’s involvement in Food Rescue and see few internal barriers, but note that the City should pay close attention to community expectations around economic development. Their key message to Council is to listen carefully to residents, ensure people feel represented and strengthen Lacombe socially, economically, and environmentally.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- Impacting the community positively through wise and fair allocation decisions, Connecting Burman University to the community in which the university resides.
- Providing support to the board using analytical skills.

What’s Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You’ve Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- Food Rescue.

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- No challenges noted.

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- Need to listen to community requests for economic development.

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- Helping to enhance the community economically, socially, ecologically, and create a good feeling.

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- Listen well to your constituents - help them know they are being heard.
- No taxation without representation.

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- None.

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)

Responses: 4

Avg goal success: 3.25

Top City support priorities: Funding > Communication > Strategic Planning

Notable achievement: Social media outreach improving awareness of supports and involvement in the social needs assessment.

Summary: Respondents want to strengthen FCSS's visibility, expand preventative programming, and build a more connected, family-friendly community where people can access support, resources, and a strong social safety net. They are proud of work such as the Social Needs Assessment, Community HUB collaboration, and helping residents access needed services, but they are struggling with rising demand, limited funding, growing complexity of social issues, and communication concerns. They believe FCSS plays a critical role in Lacombe's overall resilience by providing prevention, connection, and hope, and they urge Council to stay closely connected to nonprofits, take an active role in addressing affordability, promote safe and inclusive spaces, and continue supporting the essential community work this sector delivers.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- Keep growing in visibility, services and diversify our programs to impact all citizens in Lacombe in the primary, preventative programming.
- "-to create a stronger sense of community and stronger social safety net for those struggling
-to help create a more younger-family friendly city: financially and socially
-a transportation system connecting us to communities, such as Red Deer"
- Work/life balance and awareness of resources available to small business owners

- I believe in being involved at some level within the community in which I live. If there is a way in which I can serve and contribute to the flourishing of the Lacombe community via the FCSS, then I am more than willing to participate.
- Secondly, I am supportive of FCSS' dedication 'to the strengthening and enhancing of family and community life by offering locally based preventative and supportive services, promoting volunteerism and coordinating partnerships within the community

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- The Social Needs Assessment, the Community HUB collaboration, hosting the Regional Spring FCSSAA meeting and showcasing our City and agency.
- helping those who are struggling connect to various social or community services that can provide needed help
- Social media sharing/awareness of events and supports being shared over social media
- I just joined the FCSS Board...Hence I am becoming more aware of what we are working towards

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- The fast growth of our programs and the rising statistics of people we serve with an increase diverse need. Adjusting our programs and man power to the growth is a challenge.
- Finance
- needs are growing more quickly than resources to help
- costs of everything keeps going up while resources are unable to keep up
- Fear of cross-communication of sensitive information between ABCs
- Finances and making the community aware of what we offer.

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- Increase of people from other communities seeking refuge (Houslessness) in Lacombe. The renowned answer is that Lacombe is safer and gives more.
- challenges: increase in domestic violence, increase in drug and alcohol use, lack of affordable housing
- Cyber/privacy concerns and bullying between/within ABCs
- Cost of living seems to be growing exponentially

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- Providing strong primary preventative programs and leadership to the other non profits to create a resilient, strong and connected community where people love to volunteer, support eachother and continue to make Lacombe the best city to live, raise a family and retire.
- being part of the safety net in the city, a place where people can find help and hope
- Reporting truth and seeking input from stakeholders and board members and other ABCs about that truth
- Creating time and space for a safe accepting community in diversity is celebrated

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- Keep connected with the community and hard working non profits in our City. They have a lot to give. We are so lucky the current council always is present and shows support, listens and advocates for the non profit sector.
- as a city, looking at what role they can play in the affordability crisis we're in right now
- Ask for transparency and give alternative means of communication to share sensitive information
- I wonder if cost of living is a variable making it difficult for all members to flourish. Are there sources of funding that can augment the ever increasing tax rates that are unsustainable for some.
- Messaging around safe and caring spaces for sexual and ethnic diversity need ongoing reflection.
- Furthermore, environmental care is becoming more essential in the ever increasing climate change challenges. Thanks for all the work that is being done to address these challenges.

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- Appreciate how incredible the people are that make this community. They give deeply of their time and their money.
- Thank you for your willingness to serve in these challenging times

Heritage Resources Committee (HRC)

Responses: 2

Avg goal success: 4

Top City support priorities: Funding > Board/Volunteer Recruitment > Promotion/Marketing

Notable achievement: New heritage properties designated.

Summary: Respondents hope to expand Lacombe’s heritage designation program, raise public awareness, and ensure that both the number of protected properties and the support programs that accompany them continue to grow. They are proud of recent progress—including new designations, stronger public outreach, and long-awaited tools like the maintenance guide—but note challenges such as low awareness, hesitation from property owners, and current vacancies on the committee. They see heritage as central to Lacombe’s identity and urge Council to continue funding and promoting this work, focus on what makes Lacombe uniquely itself, and support efforts to preserve the city’s historic character for the future.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- Enhance the heritage preservation program in Lacombe
- Increase awareness of the Lacombe heritage resources programs
- I think we have some clear short and medium term goals, which relate primarily to the growth of our designated inventory and also ensuring that support programs also grow along with it. So far I feel the City and Council has been very supportive of these goals.

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- Getting new heritage properties designated
- The ongoing rate at which we are shepherding owners along the designation path has been great.
- Also general increase of awareness of Heritage programming, having a presence at the trade show and other events, and big projects such as the maintenance guide (which had been talked about for years but we finally got done).

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- Awareness of the programs and funding availableResistance to designating properties due to questions about insurance, restrictions and resale value."
- We have two vacancies at present. Getting some bodies in the seats would be fantastic.

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- Funding
- Maintaining and also upgrading/retrofitting historically significant buildings to green/energy efficient standards will become increasingly more expensive, I feel.

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- Our ABC is influential in promoting the value of Lacombe as a whole and in the heritage properties that make Lacombe unique.
- Heritage is a core aspect of Lacombe's identity. Preserving our built heritage is therefore a necessary part of City success.

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- Continue and increase support in funding the HRC and promoting heritage property designation.
- Don't rush to copy other communities. Lacombe is Lacombe and has so many unique things to offer that have made it a wonderful community to live in. Getting a Moxie's doesn't matter - creating unique experiences DOES matter.

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- Thanks for your support!
- Good luck!

Lacombe Art Collection Committee

Responses: 4

Avg goal success: 4.5

Top City support priorities: Funding > Communication > Promotion/Marketing

Notable achievement: Indigenous_themed mural approval at City Hall.

Summary: Committee members hope to strengthen and diversify Lacombe's public art collection, continue installing murals and outdoor artworks, and deepen connections with local artists and the

broader community. They are proud of recent accomplishments, including new murals, restoration work, and projects celebrating Indigenous and early history, but face challenges such as limited funding, public sensitivity to art choices, space constraints, and shifting project scopes that affect planned installations. They see public art as a driver of tourism, beautification, and community pride, and they urge Council to continue championing arts and heritage, remain open to innovative and progressive art, and recognize the unique value that creative expression brings to Lacombe's identity and success.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- continue mural program and placement of outdoor art installations
- continue to encourage and review donations to the collection
- incorporate diversity of all types in the collection"
- Contribute to the betterment of the community.
- Become more familiar with local artists and community members.
- Enhancement of my artistic skills and find inspiration from the community. "
- Beautification of Lacombe and supporting arts in and around Lacombe
- To support diverse art acquisition for Lacombe.
- To raise awareness of Lacombe many wonderful public art displays"

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- an Indigenous-themed mural for the city hall building
- Restoration of the murals downtown. Particularly "Hey Doreen"
- Replacement of the Hey Doreen mural and working towards adding art to the Sea-Can outside of Lacombe heading west on Highway 12
- I'm proud of the work we've done to get a new mural underway to illustrate Lacombe's early pre-settler history which will be going on city hall.

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- financial constraints (though understandable)
- Fear of public opinion, one must walk a fine line not to upset members of the community.
- Space for new public pieces of art.
- Lacombe Council acceptance of art and where it is placed. Getting people to submit applications for RFP.
- The changing of plans for the 49c plaza was disappointing. We had set aside a sizeable amount to ensure the space got some great public art and the scaled down plan won't be the community space the original plan would have provided, so it doesn't warrant the sort of art we had in mind.

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- can't think of any at the moment
- Potential of creating a tourist corridor on Highway 2A from Lacombe to Red Deer
- Getting volunteers

- I think the opportunity to work with Blackfalds and Red Deer to build and promote a mural route through central Alberta is great. And it's important to continue to support public art even in times of recession.

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- our work increases tourism (providing it's marketed by tourism dept.), bringing in dollars and enhancing our city's reputation as keen to support arts and heritage.
- The Beautification of the City and generation of community pride in their city, history and culture.
- Being a light and a focus of beauty within the City
- The committee is important to promote and provide direction on public art.

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- continue to support arts and heritage in the City of Lacombe
- To provide continued support for your community and encourage the community to give back. A comprehensive partnership between city council and the citizens it represents.
- Making Art a key to the success of Lacombe. Allowing us full creative license.
- Continue to recognize and support the ongoing place public art has in making Lacombe an amazing place.

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- Thanks for your support!
- Beauty and Art as much part of a community as Bricks and Mortar.
- Be open to new and progressive art

Lacombe Athletic Parks Association (LAPA)

Responses: 5

Avg goal success: 3.0

Top City support priorities: Funding > Strategic Planning > Advocacy

Notable achievement: Upgrades to the athletic field and facility.

Summary: Members want to expand Lacombe's athletic infrastructure by adding a dome, building a full track-and-field facility, maintaining the MEGlobal field, and creating a sustainable long-term plan for the park. They are proud of recent fundraising and expansion work but face major challenges, including limited space, high project costs, difficulty recruiting volunteers, and the need for a clear strategic direction as community demographics shift. They see LAPA as essential to attracting young families, supporting community health, and boosting local tourism, and they urge Council to invest in expanded facilities, think long-term, and recognize recreation as a core contributor to Lacombe's vitality and growth.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- Bring another field and a dome for indoor winter sports
- to support an association that provides meaningful athletic opportunities for the community

- Provide a track & field facility for the community at the MEGlobal Athletic Park, whilst keep funding the park's operational costs.
- Continue to provide a quality athletic venue for the community to use.
Enhance the park by building a track and field to join the turf.
Refurbish the field turf.
- Create sustainability
- Complete a strategic plan

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- Expansion
- Fundraising for operating costs.
- Super Bowl and Grey Cup fundraisers.
- Fundraising

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- Lack of available space for renting
- lack of funding to expand
- lack of volunteers
- lack of community connections within board members
- Finding the 1.8 million to complete our track & field expansion project. With the economy and federal funding, as it is, its been a tough sell.
- Securing funding for the track and field additions has been challenging due to the high cost.
- Expanded Facility means more responsibilities and fundraising
- A new strategic plan is needed along with future volunteer recruitment that aligns with responsibilities."

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- People moving away due to insane property tax evaluations
- Our community is getting older. Our schools are decreasing in size. We need more investment in youth to bring in new families.
- For the city schools and the community to have this type of facility would be a great add and would benefit Lacombe.
- Shankin ME Global Field will attract more tourism, promote our community, and ensure our youth have access to a top notch facility in our community.
- What future direction is needed, a Track or a Dome with a track.

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- Without space for activities, population will decline along with schools
- Through expansion we can offer a greater variety of services to the community, young an old, which will draw more members to our community.
- The healthy benefits of having this type of facility.
- Shankin ME Global Field will attract more tourism, promote our community, and ensure our youth have access to a top notch facility in our community.
- LAPA provides a wonderful service to the city, when LAPA succeeds it's a huge asset to the city.

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- Smarten up and stop trying to be everyone's friend. To much government interference irritates people, you don't need a permit for everything, stop trying to control every aspect of everything, give business's incentives to actually come to town
- Put money towards expanding the park (track and field area, a dome over the field). Invest in the physical health of your community.
- If we could build this it would support a lot of the community.
- Look at the long term in benefits investing in enhancing the field; improved tourism and community health.
- Recreation improves people's quality of life. Recreation provides a wealth of benefits to the community.

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- Do better
- Take a look at school enrollments, they are going down. What is council going to do to draw more new families into Lacombe?
- Investing in something like this would truly make alot of people happy! There is no other facility like this in central Alberta.
- Thanks for your continued support.
- Your support to organizations like LAPA is crucial. The MEGlobal field helps put Lacombe on the map.

Lacombe County Fire Services Advisory Committee

Responses: 0

Liason note: This regional committee meets annually.

Lacombe Days Committee

Responses: 1

Avg goal success: 4.0

Top City support priorities: Funding > Communication > Meeting Space

Notable achievement: Successful delivery of Lacombe Days festival.

Summary: Members want to strengthen partnerships, share resources, and bring a festival-focused perspective to broader community planning so Lacombe Days can continue growing as a vibrant, inclusive community event. They are proud of delivering a highly successful festival with around 50 mostly free events, but they face significant challenges including volunteer burnout, inconsistent funding, communication gaps with the City, limited meeting space, and rising logistical pressures. They see Lacombe Days as a major driver of local pride, tourism, and economic activity, and they urge Council to maintain open communication, involve them early in decisions that affect events, and support volunteers and community spaces so the festival can continue strengthening Lacombe for future generations.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- Strengthen collaboration between Lacombe Days and other local agencies, boards, and committees
- Share ideas and resources that help improve community events and initiatives
- Build relationships that lead to new partnerships or sponsorship opportunities
- Stay informed on community needs and priorities to guide future festival planning
- Contribute a festival/events perspective to broader community discussions and decisions
- Learn best practices from other organizations to enhance Lacombe Days
- Help create a more connected, vibrant community through joint efforts

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- We recently finished a successful Lacombe Days, where our committee collaborated with multiple groups and businesses to bring around 50 events to the community — most of which were low- or no-cost. I'm proud to have been part of creating something so welcoming and community-focused.

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- Limited volunteer capacity and board burnout due to the time and effort required to plan such a large festival with many moving parts
- Difficulty securing consistent funding and sponsorships while keeping most events low or no cost
- Lack of communication or conflicting communication from some city officials, which can delay decisions or create confusion
- Not being included in conversations that affect festival planning (for example, construction plans that impacted this year's event)
- Lack of mentorship or structured training, leaving the festival coordinator and committee to figure out many processes and expectations from scratch each year
- Limited access to free meeting spaces, which adds extra costs to the budget that could otherwise go toward events and planning
- Coordinating effectively with multiple groups and businesses
- Managing rising costs and logistical challenges (venues, scheduling, permits) while meeting community expectations

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- **Challenges:** Volunteer fatigue reduces the number of people available to support events and programs, making it harder to sustain community gatherings that foster connection. Population growth and changing demographics create new needs for services and activities to keep all community members engaged and supported. Limited affordable gathering spaces restrict opportunities for residents to come together for social, cultural, and recreational events, impacting community cohesion. Infrastructure projects like construction disrupt access to public spaces, making it more difficult for people to participate in community activities.

- **Opportunities:** Expanding popular community events and celebrating Lacombe’s unique downtown core can boost community pride and strengthen local connections. Introducing new and exciting festival elements that attract tourism supports the local economy and raises Lacombe’s profile. Investing in community spaces and resources encourages more frequent gatherings and increased community engagement. Supporting volunteer recruitment and retention is vital to sustaining the programs that enrich community life.

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- The Lacombe Days Committee plays a significant role in the City’s overall success. As the largest festival in Lacombe, we draw a large number of both locals and tourists to the city during festival weekend, providing a boost to local businesses and showcasing our community. Lacombe Days has been celebrated off and on for 116 years and is woven into the memories of generations of Lacombe residents, helping to build pride and a sense of belonging. Through collaboration with the City and local groups, we continue to foster community spirit, support economic activity, and create experiences that strengthen connections within our city.

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- Continue to prioritize collaboration and open communication with community groups like ours. When Council includes committees in conversations that affect planning and resources, it allows us to create events and initiatives that truly reflect the needs and spirit of Lacombe. Support for volunteers, access to affordable meeting spaces, and consideration of how infrastructure or policy decisions impact events will go a long way in sustaining the programs and festivals that bring pride, tourism, and economic benefit to our city. Together, we can continue building memories and strengthening Lacombe for future generations.

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- Thank you for the work you do in serving our community. Please remember that groups like the Lacombe Days Committee rely on clear communication, collaboration, and City support to offer events and services that mean so much to residents and visitors. Finding ways to work more effectively with ABCs and lighten their workload would help everyone, especially since most are volunteer boards. Your decisions directly impact our ability to create experiences that build pride, strengthen connections, and showcase Lacombe. We look forward to working with you to keep those traditions thriving.

Lacombe & District Chamber of Commerce

Responses: 1

Avg goal success: 3.0

Top City support priorities: Funding > Advocacy > Promotion/Marketing

Notable achievement: Trade Show and Business Breakfast series

Summary: This member hopes to strengthen connections within Lacombe’s business community and better understand the challenges and dynamics local businesses face. They are proud of supporting

initiatives like the Lacombe Trade Show and the business breakfast series, though they note that lingering past biases remain a barrier to fully effective collaboration. They see the committee's role as helping existing businesses thrive and attracting new entrepreneurs to Lacombe, even if they do not have specific advice or concerns for Council at this time.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- To help better connect the business community and understand the dynamics of that aspect of Lacombe

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- The Lacombe Trade Show
- Business breakfast series

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- overcoming past biases

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- nothing that I can think of

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- We strive to support the business sector in a variety of ways and work to help current business owners network and flourish and also to help encourage new business owners to Lacombe

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- nothing at this time

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- nothing at this time

Lacombe & District Historical Society

Responses: 0

Lacombe and District Rikubetsu Society

Responses: 3

Avg goal success (1–5): 4.0

Top City support priorities: Funding > Communication > Promotion/Marketing

Notable achievement (example): Sushi making workshops offered to the community

Summary: Members hope to strengthen Lacombe's long-standing twinning relationship with Rikubetsu by promoting Japanese culture locally, building community connections, and fostering goodwill and educational opportunities between the two communities. They are proud of planning the upcoming

40th-anniversary celebration and offering well-received cultural programs like sushi-making workshops, though they face challenges related to limited reach, financial constraints, and timing events for strong participation. They see the committee as an important contributor to cultural diversity and international ties in Lacombe, and they encourage Council to continue supporting this meaningful partnership so it can keep inspiring youth, enriching local culture, and strengthening global connections.

Liaison note: They've indicated that the relationship doesn't feel as supported as it previously did.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- -be engaged with the community to share Japanese culture.
- To promote the twinning relationship between Lacombe and Rikubetsu.
- To provide liaison between our two communities.
- To provide Japanese cultural and educational opportunities locally.
- To plan and organize events in relation to our twinned community.
- To promote long lasting friendship and goodwill between the two communities. "

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- We are working on planning our 40th anniversary celebration in conjunction with hosting an Alberta/Japan Twin Municipalities conference. More recently, we've received good feedback on our Sushi Making classes and that has been something fun for us to offer.
- Sushi making workshops offered to the Lacombe community.

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- I think our challenges are trying to expand our reach and catch the attention of more people.
- financial reasons
- timing to hold events for good turnout can be tricky. "

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- We are planning to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the twinning of Lacombe and Rikubetsu in May of 2026

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- Creating more cultural diversity in the community.
- We represent international ties. We exist to enrich cultural opportunities to our local community

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- our group is very passionate and keen to make an impact
- Thank you for your support and interest throughout the past years of our twinning. We hope you'll reaffirm your commitment to the cultural twinning relationship with our Japanese sister city. The partnership is about friendship, understanding and shared enrichment between our two communities.

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- Dear Council members, Our twinning has inspired youth to see the world through a wider lens, encouraged collaboration and brought global perspectives into our schools and cultural institutions. With your ongoing support we can strengthen this partnership in the coming years. Thank you for your time.

Lacombe Emergency Management Advisory Committee

Responses: 0

Lacombe Performing Arts Centre

Responses: 9

Avg goal success (1–5): 4.0

Top City support priorities: Funding > Promotion/Marketing > Advocacy

Notable achievement (example): Music in the park, bringing music and performance talent to Lacombe, arts programing, dimensia friendly music, enables theater programming/shows.

Summary: Members want to strengthen and grow Lacombe’s arts ecosystem by expanding programming, increasing accessibility, fostering community connection, and positioning Lacombe as Alberta’s first official “Art Town.” They are proud of a wide range of accomplishments: Music in the Park, expanded literary and drop-in programs, accessible arts initiatives, successful concerts, and the ongoing vibrancy of LPAC—but they face major challenges including limited funding, lack of a long-term arts plan, inadequate or inaccessible space, low public awareness, and the misconception that arts are “frivolous.” They see the arts as a powerful driver of tourism, community wellbeing, mental health, and civic identity, and they urge Council to champion long-term investment, embrace ambitious opportunities, promote the arts broadly, and recognize the essential role LPAC plays in making Lacombe a vibrant, inclusive, and culturally rich community.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- To encourage the continued development of a vibrant Arts community and help Lacombe become the first official "Art Town" in Alberta.
- Provide my experience and encouragement to support the above initiatives.
- To connect with the community that enables me to find the places that I can be the most effective in supporting a healthy community"
- Making the Arts stronger in Lacombe and District
- To continue to grow the organization and provide ongoing entertainment and activities for the community for all ages. To assist the organization in providing a safe space for everyone
- To share passion for the arts by making exposure accessible to more people.
- community involvement and service, promote arts and culture in Lacombe, provide a space for all ages and abilities to participate in activities,
- Bringing theatre, music and arts to the population of Central Alberta and being a go to for acts and artist to perform here
- Promote the Arts in Lacombe

- Help with events
- Fundraising for eventual larger performing and visual arts centre.
- Help foster and grow arts in and around our community.
- Help to create connection & opportunities for connection.
- Foster advocacy for the importance of arts in relation to mental health.
- Create a creative hub/safe space that everyone feels welcome in and excited to visit.
- Bring art into the lives of people of all ages who are/were raised in homes who don't already have a connection with the importance of art/creativity.
- Building community
- Supporting mental health
- Accessibility to arts and culture
- Supporting a diverse city
- Supporting amenities that bring in economic income to the community

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- The continued offering of programs, events, music and central place for the the encouragement and development of Arts in Lacombe at the Performing Arts Centre
- Working with Maureen MacKenzie on these initiatives and understanding what she has already done in leading Arts development in this community! Does the "City" understand the depth of her work and leadership in creating a vibrant Arts scene in a city of this size? She is ahead of comparable sized communities and communities larger than Lacombe in the development of Arts.
- The continued ability and sustainability of the Arts Endowment initiatives and how that is impacting the development of artists in Lacombe.
- Bringing great talent to the public in our community
- The ongoing presentation of Music in the park, the increase in literary programming that has been developed through the center, drop in programs, successful concert series and involvement and coordination with other organizations to present important community events
- Increasing program scope
- Drop in art studio space and time, music for people with dementia
- I am proud to be involved with everything that LPAC does
- Music in the Park
- Cow Patti Silent Auction
- Pup Art at the centre
- Art displays at the centre
- All the Music during the Fall and Winter Series
- Music in the Park, Canada Day, Drop In Art, Under \$100 Art Market, author readings that LPAC has hosted.
- Every time I come into LPAC when there are classes/events/rentals happening in the building, I feel a sense of pride that others are experiencing the energy and vibrancy that happens when people come together in a creative space."
- The accessible arts programs such as Dementia-friendly Music, Drop-in Art, Seniors Week Music Bingo. These programs allow for anyone to partake regardless of financial ability. They bring

together community and offer support through creating and experiencing arts but also through the connections built.

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- Lack of awareness by the community overall of the uniqueness of how developed the Arts are in this community and the need to continue to support its development
- Lack of marketing and support from the City for the Arts and understanding how Arts branding can put Lacombe on the map ie: Arts Tourism
- Tourism not acknowledging Arts and Culture as a draw to the community and Tourism not promoting the City of Lacombe enough overall and yet receiving funding from tax payers. Mandate does seem to be aligned enough with tourism for Lacombe.
- Lack of funding from major donors
- Lack of a consistent plan for Arts from council
- Of course, all non-profit organizations, especially those in the cultural sector, work very hard to have adequate funding to present programming to the community. Our organization has worked very hard at being able to provide that programming and it is a balance between having the budget that we need and what we can afford to provide.
- Space- suitable facility to accommodate both performer needs and audience accessibility
- funding challenges and space issues, Expansion would greatly improve the center but budgets are tight
- Getting support and funding
- More funds
- Always a lack of funding (or a struggle to secure).
- Lack of personnel.
- Awareness. A lot of people have no idea that LPAC exists.
- Sometimes, the naysayers...the ones who feel art is frivolous and don't see the deeper value art brings to a community and mental health."
- Funding and capacity - we are over our capacity to serve the community, but funding has always been a struggle to keep up with the demands.

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- Officially declare Lacombe as an "Art Town" and provide signage and marketing to support it. No other city in Alberta has done this and this is a great opportunity to be the first and provide leadership for other communities that wish to follow suit.
- Belt tightening of our audience
- One of the most amazing opportunities ... turn Lacombe into the very first art town in Alberta.
- Inaccessibility of venue for people with mobility issues. Facility is not inclusive
- Funding challenges
- More partnering with the arts .
- As a growing community, there is increased need for a larger performance space ... we are missing out on bringing larger crowds into town

- Growth of the Lacombe Performing Arts Centre would be a viable and successful investment into the community.

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- Participating in helping the development of the Arts Initiatives and being the tireless voice for Lacombe to become an official "Art Town"
- We bring many visitors to the community
- I feel that with the establishment of the Lacombe reforming Arts center, we have really provided a much-needed community service in Lacombe.
- It provides an assortment of opportunities to be exposed to different types of art and culture and performance.
- The Lacombe Performing Arts Center is a huge win for the city...
- We support and promote when we are supported and promoted
- Being known for bringing great music and art to the city. Offering Music and Art for everyone.
- We aim to be a place that draws people into our community.
- Increasing our capacity to bring in more people to the community...

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- Take the next step... recognize and support the Arts as an integral part of a healthy community...
- Art is important
- Continue your support for arts and culture within the community.
- To look ahead when planning, look at the big picture...
- The arts are important!
- Funding is key and then supporting and promoting what is going on
- Arts and Music bring so many people to the city...
- Arts & culture isn't frivolous...
- Support in moving into long-term goals...

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- Pay attention! You are totally missing an integral part of your community that is providing opportunity...
- Make our city an Art Destination
- Those on council have a difficult but very important rule to play...
- I would like the next Council to understand the impact and reach of the arts...
- I'd like to see more councillors at events .
- Lacombe is a wonderful place to work & live but there is always room for improvement...
- The City needs to invest into its amenities to support the growth and success of a growing centre.

Lacombe Police Commission

Responses: 5

Avg goal success (1–5): 4.2

Top City support priorities: Funding > Communication > Strategic Planning

Notable achievement (example): New Chief recruitment and governance improvements. Communication and alignment with City is much improved.

Summary: Commission members are focused on strengthening community safety through reduced crime, fewer collisions, proactive policing, transparent budgeting, and stronger civilian oversight. They are proud of major recent accomplishments, especially hiring a new Chief of Police, improving governance frameworks, and working closely with the City on bylaws, budgets, and organizational alignment, but note challenges such as rising policing costs, provincial interference, declining fine revenue, and the need for better public understanding of the value LPS provides. Looking ahead, they highlight emerging risks like increased crime, officer recruitment pressures, and provincial policy changes, and encourage Council to maintain a strong relationship with the Commission, communicate the value of local policing, and keep community safety as a core strategic priority.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- Build a safer community through
- Less crime
- Less vehicle collisions
- Education of the citizens on how to protect themselves from being a victim
- Increased understanding of the role of civilian oversight to provision of police service as well as insight to inner workings at municipal and provincial government level.
- Alignment
- Crime management
- Well governed
- Community relations
- Controlled spending yet a good service.
- Honest messaging to citizens about cost of policing.
- Safe community, prevention and proactive policing, community policing.

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- Hiring a new chief of police
- Building the framework to the service for future commissioners"
- Working with city of lacombe in memorandum of understanding, by-law revisions, hiring new chief of police
- Alignment While working on hiring a new police chief we were working with the City. Thus keeping in touch with council and working towards hiring the best person for the job. I feel we were successful with this endeavour.
- Hiring a new chief
- Hiring the new chief and the budget process.

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- Provincial government interference in mandating commission sizes
- seeking community feedback, provincial funding cutbacks
- Managing the budget appears the primary issue that we are dealing with.
- Loss of revenue from fines and police checks.
- Costs are always a concern. Taxes continue to increase for the citizens and I am not always sure they know how fortunate they are that Lacombe has their own police service. I think we need to

do a better job of explaining how the budget works and what the money is being spent on. I think our citizens need to be educated on the level of service they are getting, how safe Lacombe is and why it important to continue to have the LPS a part of the City of Lacombe Strategic Plan.

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- Challenge - Red Deer looking at their own police service and retaining police officers. An opportunity would be to regionalize the service to police a larger area and keep members engaged
- Ongoing attention to the reach of the provincial government into municipal matters including board appointments and funding reductions
- Keep the communication lines open
- Increased crime due people who are houseless, increased drug crimes, potentially recruitment of officers
- Crime is increasing and we need to continue to plan for that.

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- Keeping the community safe and allowing decisions be made in the community rather than from Edmonton or Ottawa
- Assisting the community in feeling well protected and well managed
- Keeping the people of Lacombe safe.
- Reduced crime, perception and reality of being a safe community contributes to people wanting to relocate here
- The Lacombe Police Commission and the LPS is a vital part of the City's success in creating a safe, caring and welcoming place for the citizens to live and thrive. We need to continue to be fiscally responsible, continue to work creatively to generate funding sources outside the city's budget and we need to be innovative within policing to ensure that the standard of service remains high and Lacombe remains a safe community.

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- Policing is expensive but a needed expense, LPS is the reason Lacombe is one of the safest communities in the country
- With a new council coming, we will look forward to each group remembering the restrictions on their roles and the mutual effort for the common goal of safe and efficient and effective policing
- Be flexible and responsive to the policing needs of the city.
- Ensure the relationship between the commission and council stays healthy.
- The LPS is the backbone of making the City of Lacombe a safe and wonderful place to live and raise a family. We need to really share with the citizens why having our own force is a value and it needs to remain a priority in the strategic plan. I am not sure that the average every day citizen really understands what our own service provides to our city that other small cities may not have. I am not sure that the citizens truly understand the uniqueness and the value that having our own service brings to Lacombe. I believe we need to do a better job of showcasing that we have one of the lowest crime index's in the Alberta and that the council places safety for it's citizens as the core value and therefore will continue to make budgeting decisions and strategic planning goals that actualize that core value.

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- Policing in the province and country for that matter is rapidly changing and LPS can be a leader if allowed to do so.
- I appreciate the relationship of support to meet our mandates
- Primary keep an open mind on policing standards and that policing isn't a money making business. Safety of our members and the safety of the public is paramount!
- Do not be afraid to hold the police budget in check.
- Continue the good work that all you do. I know very well that budgeting decisions are always very difficult, but if the strategic plan places safety and community policing as a core value then decision making becomes a bit easier. Best wishes!

Lacombe Regional Emergency Management Partnership

Responses: 1

Avg goal success (1–5): 4.0

Top City support priorities: Board or Volunteer Recruitment > Training > Funding

Notable achievement (example): New, current emergency management plan; strong collaboration

Summary: Members want to strengthen Lacombe's emergency readiness by developing an up-to-date, practical Emergency Management Plan, improving Emergency Social Services strategies, and ensuring staff and partner agencies receive effective training. They are proud of the newly updated regional Emergency Management Plan, but note that heavy workloads, limited time, and the competing priorities of partner municipalities make it challenging to advance work quickly. Looking ahead, they emphasize that emergencies are becoming more frequent and complex, and urge Council to listen to subject-matter experts, stay attentive to provincial trends, and continue investing in strong regional partnerships that are essential during major events.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- An Effective Emergency Response Plan that can respond to trending emergencies. This would include weather related events.
- A Response plan that optimizes Emergency Social Services (ESS) strategies and used current practices.
- Effective training for all municipal staff and support agencies.

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- Creation of a new and current Emergency Management Plan. A plan that reflects the LREMP partnership activity and collaborative work to best protect our communities.

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- The LREMP partnership has skilled and experienced persons that collectively meet to discuss emergency management. These individuals are extremely busy and making decisions takes time.

- Most persons involved in emergency management are leaders in other municipal portfolios. There plates are full and emergency management takes a lower priority.

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- Municipal Emergencies are growing every year. Are we really prepared for every eventuality?

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- A strong and united voice from the partnership

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- Listen to the experts with in the organization. Listen and observe the events that happen around our province.

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- There is no single municipality that can deal with a large event with out assistance from your neighbors. Continue to strengthen partnerships and agreements.

Lacombe Regional Tourism and Marketing Association

Responses: 1

Avg goal success (1–5): 4.0

Top City support priorities: Funding > Strategic Planning > Advocacy

Notable achievement (example): Working with Travel Alberta on tourism zones.

Summary: The respondent aims to strengthen Lacombe’s tourism sector by building industry knowledge in the community, diversifying the local economy, and fostering a strong sense of place that residents are proud of. They are particularly proud of their work on the Olds-to-Lacombe Tourism Development Zone with Travel Alberta, as well as efforts to refresh their strategic plan and website ahead of 2026. Key challenges relate to inconsistent funding, limited skilled labour, and low public understanding of tourism as an industry, while emerging opportunities include positioning Lacombe as a regional tourism leader, addressing congestion concerns, and investing in marketing that improves visitor perception and long-term community growth.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- I hope to encourage and foster:
 - Industry knowledge in the local population that helps the community develop and grow
 - Economic diversity that leads to more opportunities for both locals and visitors alike
 - Community development that encourages residents to think highly of where they live and pride in sense of place

What’s Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You’ve Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- Recently I have been proud to work on the Olds to Lacombe Tourism Development Zone project being led by Travel Alberta. The project identifies opportunities to define sense of place in

Central Alberta while encouraging inter-regional collaboration in tourism destination development for The City of Lacombe.

- Additionally, I've also been proud to start work on the reinvigoration of the organizations strategic plan and website as we head into 2026.

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- Inconsistent funding due to changing membership and advertising revenues
- Limited pool of qualified labor
- Lack of understanding or education in the community that Tourism is a industry

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- Tourism as a industry needs to be nurtured and managed, it can both positively and negatively affect the quality of life of local residents. The City of Lacombe should see this as a opportunity to differentiate itself from other Central Alberta communities and continue to encourage development of infrastructure/services that attracts/serves visitors.
- Travel Alberta recently conducted a survey that identified congestion and traffic as one of the largest tourism hurdles for our area as well as finding that of survey respondents there is a notably low Net Promoter Score for our area with many respondents registering as detractors. This presents a opportunity to foster pride in sense of place, and urgency to continue to invest in advertising that promotes the City of Lacombe.

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- We see ourselves as foundational influence to the future success of the City of Lacombe by introducing the City of Lacombe to future residents/businesses and investors through our external marketing activities, future destination development and event attraction initiatives.
- Tourism encourages relocation and community growth over a period of time we make sure that City of Lacombe is represented in key target markets where visitors are future investors.

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- In the Province of Alberta the tourism industry is the 5th largest contributing sector to Provincial GDP, it requires management and leadership to grow effectively. The City of Lacombe is recognized as a provincial leader in the development of the tourism sector specifically as it relates to small municipalities.
- Tourism is worth the investment, and with our new strategic plan we know we can continue to lead and encourage this industry to grow in the City of Lacombe.

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- Tourism is not a linear industry its difficult to track and results can be skewed, but it reaches beyond linear ROI metrics.
- Positive visitor experience can lead to relocation of residents and businesses increasing quality of life for residents.

Mary C Moore Public Library

Responses: 2

Avg goal success (1–5): 4.0

Top City support priorities: Funding > Promotion/Marketing > Advocacy

Notable achievement (example): Kinsmen space at LMC enabling programs and events

Summary: Members want to keep the library a welcoming, diverse community hub that offers free resources, social connection, and inclusive programming. They're proud of the new Kinsmen space and recent reorganization, but note that ongoing budget pressures, especially being the only Parkland-region library that still charges card fees, could limit programs and threaten the space's future. They urge Council to prioritize stable funding and recognize the library's broader role in education, childcare support, technology access, and community wellbeing.

Admin note: The library has discussed expanding public access through partnerships that potentially involve satellite sites within existing buildings/facilities in Lacombe.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- Providing community members with a social space and free access to resources.
- Create a safe diverse space for the community

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- The Kinsmen space in the LMC. Great space for events, activities, and programs.
- Reorganization of space

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- Budget. Lacombe is the only library in the Parkland region that charges a fee for library cards. If we had more financial support, we could join nearby libraries in helping the library become more accessible for all.
- Budget.

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- We're always working hard to be financially responsible. With the addition of the Kinsmen room, we are increasing programs and events for the community. However, we're also increasing cost for the library. I'm worried we may have to give up the Kinsmen space to save money. Unfortunately this would mean we'd lose a lot of great programming.
- Space issues

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- The library provides many essential services for a community: childcare, education, support for immigrants to integrate into the community (by helping with online application, access to language resources, etc...), and a space for people to gather.

- Libraries are crucial for all members of a community to educate themselves and support people who can't afford a computer, books, or who need a space to meet other people.
- Community Hub

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- Please prioritize the library. We provide more than just books. We provide a space for children, low-cost activities (like art programs, Lego programs, clothing repair, etc), tech support, meeting spaces, and improve literacy of the community. I hope to emphasize to the city that we're not just a place of books, but a place in which community members can truly grow and thrive.
- The library is important and is the heartbeat of the community.

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- Please use the library! Bring your kids here, buy a library card, attend programs! It is a joy when we see councillors using community services. It's been a joy to be a member of the board these past few years, I hope we can continue to work together!
- We need safe access out to the new area west of town

Municipal Planning Commission (MPC)

Responses: 2

Avg goal success (1–5): 4.5

Top City support priorities: Communication > Training > Strategic Planning

Notable achievement (example): Making decisions that balance applicant and City interests.

Summary: Members of the Municipal Planning Commission want to deepen their understanding of zoning and development rules so they can make fair, community-minded decisions. They're proud of contributing to balanced discussions that consider long-term impacts, but note challenges such as complex regulations and local resistance to new development. Overall, they see the MPC as helping shape Lacombe's future by supporting thoughtful, sustainable growth.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- Learn the governing framework of the Lacombe's zoning bylaws, comprehensive plan, and regional planning regulations.
- Understand the scope of my responsibilities as a member of the MPC and make good choices for my community within my scope.
- Provide an impartial objective on decisions that focuses on the best interest rather than personal or external pressures.
- Increase my understanding of the City's development process.

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- Asking why certain decisions are made and the future implications of those actions.
- Making decisions on what's best for both the applicant and the City

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- Some Provincial and Municipal regulations, bylaws, and policies sometimes makes it hard to decisions that make sense

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- It would be important for Lacombe to establish its identity and make it public. Ask yourself what is our towns identity? If we don't have an identity we are not a developed city.
- Changing “not in my back yard” attitudes towards development

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- MPC sets the tone and feel of the City as it grows. This is very important because Lacombe is a developed City with history that should not be lost.
- Support development in the City through common sense decision making

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- A developed City has a common Ethnicity and foundational history: Anglo Saxon Protestants with a history in farming and
- When making development policy or bylaw decisions always keep in mind what’s best for the residents of Lacombe and not what is easier for the City

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- Thank you all for being the hearts of Lacombe
- Promote healthy and sustainable development

Parkland Regional Library

Responses: 1

Avg goal success (1–5): 3.0

Top City support priorities: Advocacy > Funding > Promotion/Marketing

Summary: Parkland members aim to strengthen regional library advocacy, support local boards and staff, and ensure libraries can operate collaboratively and efficiently. They’re proud of recent provincial advocacy efforts that could significantly improve library funding across Alberta. Their biggest challenge is managing a very large, diverse board, and they emphasize that strong, sustainable library services remain essential to Lacombe’s overall attractiveness and quality of life.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- That the Parkland Board and its member library boards will be effective library advocates and promoters of sustainable library service.
- That member library staff and boards will have the knowledge and skills necessary to provide exemplary public library service.
- That Parkland and its libraries will operate within a collegial environment that fosters cooperation and mutual support for the efficient delivery of public library service.

What’s Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You’ve Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- Parkland is involved in a major advocacy initiative related to provincial operating grant funding with the City of Calgary, Calgary Public Library, and the Town of Stettler to put forward a resolution this at the Alberta Municipalities fall convention related to library funding which is to be delivered to the provincial government. If successful, this will have a long-lasting, positive influence on public library service throughout Alberta.

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- The biggest problem we have is that we have an enormous board (over 50 members) 49 library service points and 63 municipalities. Parkland's libraries are all autonomous and have their own expectations and service needs with our limited resources.
- Trying to make everyone happy is a serious challenge given the diversity of our clientele. Especially given that they don't always get along with each other.

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- Changing demographics and increased needs for services. Safety in public spaces is also a concern.

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- We are vital for maintaining public library service in Lacombe on a level equal to larger centers like Edmonton or Calgary. Our challenge is that most people, including councils, don't know how important our role is.

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- Sustaining system and public library services are a key component that make a community attractive. Libraries are also one of the public services that virtually all members of the public use.

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- Thank-you very much for your support over the years.

Recreation, Parks and Culture Board

Responses: 3

Avg goal success (1–5): 4.33

Top City support priorities: Funding > Communication > Promotion/Marketing

Notable achievement (example): New accessible playground project

Summary: Members of the Recreation, Parks & Culture Board aim to support community development and provide thoughtful input on recreation decisions. They are proud of their careful, balanced approach to managing grant funding, especially given high demand and limited provincial support. They encourage Council to stay focused on the broader good, avoid being swayed by a small number of vocal critics, and continue trusting the Board to help steward community resources responsibly.

Admin notes: Applicants report lack of indoor recreational space, school availability is limited.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- community development
- participating in recreation decision making and input

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- The Board has thorough discussions regarding the budget we oversee and put great effort into being fair and responsible to Council, user groups. and the residents of Lacombe.

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- There are lots of requests for support. Grants are divided up quickly.
- Lack of grants from GoA which brings many groups to ask for funding support from the City.

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- Affordable housing?

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- I appreciate that Council trusts the Recreation Board to manage the budget given to us. This Board is made up of citizens that care about the community and can take some pressure off of Council who have to deal with many bigger issues.

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- Try not to get sucked into the weeds of the loud few complainers. Lacombe is a special City with many great amenities!

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- Thanks for putting your name forward to be on Council. As mentioned earlier, please don't let the few loud complainers take hold of decision making.

Regional Airport Committee

Responses: 0

Wolf Creek Public Schools

Responses: 3

Avg goal success (1–5): 4.0

Top City support priorities: Funding > Advocacy > Meeting Space

Notable achievement (example): Strengthened dual credit pathways linking students to postsecondary and trades

Summary: Members emphasized improving youth athletic facilities and strengthening educational pathways that support students' academic, social, and career development. They highlighted successes such as expanding dual-credit options, enhancing off-campus learning, and improving literacy and numeracy outcomes, but noted challenges including limited indoor sports space, constrained funding, and an aging demographic that may affect future enrolment. Looking ahead, they encourage Council to prioritize facilities that attract young families, support diverse housing options, and invest in community hubs that combine recreation and education to keep Lacombe vibrant and competitive.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- Improved youth athletic facilities and opportunities.
- Through ongoing continuous improvement effort, we work to ensure the success of all students. This is multi-faceted and includes academic achievement, social/emotional development, physical and mental health, all within inclusive and safe learning environments.
- to continue to offer an education that successfully prepares students for a meaningful life in their chosen community

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- Student literacy and numeracy.
- We have significantly strengthened our dual credit options for high school students, which helps to create clear pathways to post-secondary, trades, or other pursuits.
- providing a robust off campus experience for students which includes work experience, registered apprenticeship program, green certificate, dual credit, volunteering and a career transition program

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- Lacombe sports facilities are used at nearly 100% and aside from an investment in a subpar adult hockey team, there has been almost no investment in a key sector that drives tourism and growth.
- Our greatest challenge continues to be a shortfall in funding from the provincial government.
- dwindling financial resources
- fixed mindset

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- The lack of gymnasium space and indoor athletic space. The lack of a large auditorium for the arts.
- Lacombe is an aging demographic, and this is evident when looking at enrolment projections in our schools over the next 5 years. Taxes are of highest in Alberta. Young families, and/or young couples looking to start families, need affordable housing options to be attracted to a community. Most young couples cannot enter home ownership with a \$600,000 mortgage. Multi-dwelling units, such as fourplexes, etc., should be a focus. 10 minutes down the road in Blackfalds there are entire neighborhoods being built. If the city does not prioritize this Lacombe will eventually become primarily a retirement community.

- providing opportunity for non traditional alternatives to classroom activities, affordable space for alternative education

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- Key partner in utilization of facilities during the day.
- We could partner in any number of ways to improve the outcomes/opportunities/services/amenities, for youth in the community.
- transitioning high school students into productive members of the community by developing academic skills, personal responsibility, and real-world experience that prepare them for higher education, careers, and civic engagement.

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- Lacombe is a growing community with vibrant sports and cultures, despite small investments compared to nearby communities. This must be a growth area in the coming years. We need an Abbey Centre type facility and should also invest in a "some" facility as planned at the football field.
- the city needs to attract young families/couples. Many people talk about this. There is a sense that existing residents may have issue with multi-family dwellings being built in Lacombe, this is a short-sighted position to take.
- be innovative in your thinking

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- While youth don't pay taxes or complete services, they drive much of Lacombe tourism via baseball and hockey. We have no track facilities, no gym facilities, and school gyms are rented from 4–9:30 every night.
- create even more incentive for commercial development (which will strengthen the tax base). I am of the understanding this has been occurring, though without much success. Raise the bar in terms of what the city is willing to do to bring commercial enterprise (and jobs) to the city.
- I would love to see in this community like I have seen in others where there is a community hub that combines recreational opportunity with educational and community facilities. I have seen many outreach school attached to such facilities, allowing enhance opportunities for both education and community involvement. Thank you!

STAR Catholic Schools

Responses: 1

Avg goal success (1–5): 2.0

Top City support priorities: Communication > Strategic Planning > Advocacy

Summary: STAR Catholic’s primary goal is to secure “shovel-ready” land for a new Catholic high school, as Father Lacombe School is at full capacity with no room to expand. They have successfully partnered with other municipalities to advance similar projects elsewhere, but note that progress in Lacombe has been slowed by difficulty arranging meetings to discuss potential sites. They emphasize that educational choice is a major factor in where families choose to live and urge Council to collaborate on preparing a suitable site so the division can advocate more effectively with Alberta Education and Infrastructure.

Written Responses:

What Goals Do You Personally Hope to Achieve Through Your Involvement with this ABC?

- Part of our Strategic Long Range Plan, is to have a Catholic High School in Lacombe.
- Father Lacombe Catholic School is full, and there is no land for expansion.
- We would like to secure land that is "shovel ready" for the building of a new school.
- We could then inform Alberta Education and Infrastructure that we have land that is available and ready.
- The sooner the better for this, as we have no more room at Father Lacombe.

What's Something Your ABC Has Worked on Recently That You've Felt Proud to be Involved In?

- STAR has successfully worked with the City of Beaumont to advocate for a Catholic High School. We have started the planning phase with Alberta Infrastructure.
- STAR has land secured with the City of Leduc for a new High School. We are in the "shovel ready" phase, and are advocating for this with Alberta Infrastructure.
- STAR has worked with the Town of Drayton Valley to secure "shovel ready" land for a replacement school of a structure that was built in 1962 and is failing.

As You Think About Your ABC Overall, What Challenges are Currently Making it Harder for the Group to Serve the Community Effectively?

- We have tried to connect with the City of Lacombe to discuss "shovel ready" land, however it has been difficult to secure a time to meet with the CAO and Mayor.

What Emerging Challenges or Opportunities Do You Think Council Should Be Aware of That May Impact the Community?

- We have no more space for students at Fr. Lacombe Catholic School after this year. We would like to provide a choice for education in the Lacombe area.

What Role Do You See Your ABC Playing in Influencing the Success of the City Overall?

- Education plays a large part in where people settle their families. If there is choice in education, this would help bring more families to Lacombe and help it grow. Without choice, people may choose to go elsewhere. They may not want an overcrowded school, or a secular education.

What Key Messages Would You Want to Share with Council to Guide Them for the Next Four Years?

- STAR Catholic has been an integral part of the City of Lacombe, and we would love to work collaboratively to establish a shovel ready site for a new school, so that we can present this to Alberta Education and Infrastructure. Once they know that we have a site, the process will move much quicker.

What, if any, Other Comments Would You Like to Make to the Next Council?

- As the Superintendent, I would be happy to meet with the CAO to discuss our cooperation in this matter. We are ready and willing! We would just like to work together for the betterment of education and the enhancement of educational opportunities in the City of Lacombe. Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback!