



WHAT WE HEARD AT THE FEBRUARY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

*Community Relations and Engagement
February 2024*



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We humbly acknowledge that the land on which we live, learn, work and play is Treaty 8 Territory, the traditional and ancestral lands of the Cree, Dene, and unceded territory of the Métis.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

This report contains the feedback that residents shared with facilitators at the February community engagements. We met residents at the Multicultural Expo (hosted by Wood Buffalo Multicultural Association) and the Beacon Hill Neighbourhood Engagement.

The Neighbourhood Engagement Series is an ongoing municipal engagement held in alternating urban neighborhoods on a regular basis. These sessions focus on building meaningful relationships by encouraging open and honest input and feedback from residents.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) public engagement team continues to seek resident feedback on important neighborhood issues, emphasizing the importance of community insights and understanding.

In February, the Neighbourhood Engagement team visited the residents of Beacon Hill. Earlier in the month, the team had great conversations at the Multicultural Expo hosted by Wood Buffalo Multicultural Association.

PARTICIPANTS

Over 4500 residents attend the Multicultural Expo – an event that grows in popularity each year. Attending for the first time in 2024, we had 327 interactions.

At the February Neighbourhood Engagement in Beacon Hill, participants came from Beacon Hill, Downtown, and Timberlea. 46 residents attended this engagement.

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

- ✓ Social media
- ✓ Facebook event page
- ✓ Linked In event page.
- ✓ Electronic traffic signs
- ✓ Lawn signs
- ✓ Mac Calendar
- ✓ [Rmwb.ca/participate](https://rmwb.ca/participate)
- ✓ Radio
- ✓ Schools shared social media post

ENGAGEMENT TACTICS



- In-person open space meeting
- Community open-skate event (Beacon Hill Neighbourhood Engagement)
- Dotmocracy



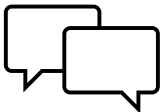


KEY THEMES AT MULTICULTURAL EXPO

Participants brought forward the following themes through conversations and online engagement tools.



PREFERRED LANGUAGES



ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

KEY THEMES AT BEACON HILL NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGAGEMENT SESSION

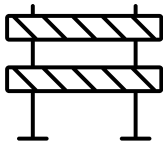
Participants brought forward the following themes through conversations and online engagement tools.



TRAIL PAVING



SPEEDING IN SCHOOL ZONES



SIDEWALK REPAIR



OVERVIEW

POP-UP AT MULTICULTURAL EXPO

The engagement team was eager to participate in this event, as the attendees represent an under-engaged demographic.

BEACON HILL NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGAGEMENT

We hosted a community open skate at the Frank Lacroix Arena, immediately after school hours. This was a drop-in event featuring subject matter experts and free hot chocolate.

WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT

MULTICULTURAL EXPO

Attendees were asked if they would feel more comfortable participating in engagement surveys if they were written in their primary language. Most respondents indicated that this would encourage participation.

The Multicultural Expo provided a great opportunity to ask which languages – aside from English – could be explored for translation. The results were varied and included: Afrikaans, Amazigh, Arabic, Bengali, Cree, Dene, Gujarati, Hindi, Mandarin, Nigerian (Igbo), Nigerian (Yoruba), Portuguese, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Telugu, and Urdu.

During our conversations, we highlighted the translation feature on the new Participate Wood Buffalo platform.

BEACON HILL NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGAGEMENT

The following general questions and topics were used to prompt discussion at the neighbourhood engagement session.

What matters most to you in your neighbourhood?

- “Fix all the sidewalks and lampposts.”
- “More frequent lawn mowing of greenspaces (to the tree line). This was only done once last summer”
- “Fix the empty lots and take down steel fences.”
- “Why are bus shelter doors still chained open?”
- “Downtown needs more parks. I live at Alberta Drive and Blair – and the nearest park is Waterways”
- “We need to have less cigarettes on the ground. I do not want animals to get sick from eating cigarettes”



- “Unlock the tennis courts.”
- “Can we pave the ring trail around Beacon Hill? The gravel is a mess.”
- “My tax dollars don’t seem to be going to Beacon Hill. Where are they going?”
- “We need speed bumps at the schools. People are going way to fast.”
- “We need paving done” (resident brought a map of areas that should be paved)
- “Encourage dog park users to pick up after their pets.”
- “Build a dog memorial.”
- “Concrete curb repair and replacement should be a priority.”

NEXT STEPS

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) thanks all participants for their valuable input. Engagement findings will be shared with the public, Administration and Council for review and consideration.

Have questions or concerns? You can reach out to the public engagement team directly at participate@rmwb.ca or submit a Pulse inquiry at rmwb.ca/pulse.

We encourage you to continue using your voice to make our region even better by learning about all current projects. Visit participate.rmwb.ca to stay connected. Thank you for participating!



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