INVEST OLDS

Economic Development Strategy 2026-2031
Engagement Summary Report

Item 3.4

Purpose of This Report

This report provides Council with a summary of the engagement undertaken in support of the Town of Olds Economic Development Strategy 2026 to 2031. It covers the full lifecycle of this initiative, from the foundational research launched in early 2023 through to the community-facing engagement and strategy presentations completed in spring 2026.

The intent is to demonstrate the depth and breadth of input that has shaped this strategy and to give Council confidence that the priorities and targets embedded in the strategy reflect a grounded understanding of Olds and the broader Central Alberta region.

Engagement at a Glance

3+ Years	**700+**	**8**
of research and engagement	businesses surveyed	targeted stakeholder sessions
101	**41**	**4**
jobseeker surveys completed	in-person employer interviews	supporting research studies

Phase 1: Foundational Research (2023 - 2025)

The Economic Development Strategy is not based on assumptions. It is grounded in a substantial body of primary and secondary research conducted over more than two years. The studies summarized below formed the evidentiary foundation for the strategy's seven pillars and 2030 targets.

Business Retention, Expansion and Workforce Development (BREWD) Survey

Launched in January 2025 and led by Invest Olds in partnership with Central Alberta First, the BREWD project is the most comprehensive business engagement exercise ever conducted in this region. It assessed eight economic foundation areas including human capital, innovation, financial capital, business climate, infrastructure, resources, marketing, and quality of life.

698	87	7
businesses completed the survey	questions per survey	communities across Central Alberta

The BREWD survey significantly exceeded its participation target of 400 respondents. In addition to the business survey, the project included:

- 41 in-person interviews with key employers across the region;
- 101 targeted jobseeker surveys to understand workforce supply and barriers;
- seven individual Community Data Summary Reports, including one specific to Olds; and
- a regional workforce development strategy organized around four pillars: Inform, Attract, Develop, and Retain.

Olds-specific findings from BREWD directly informed priorities related to workforce retention, housing, business climate, and infrastructure. The findings showed a high degree of consistency between Olds and the broader region, reinforcing the value of a collaborative approach to economic development planning.

Commercial Gap Analysis (2024)

Completed in 2024, the Commercial Gap Analysis surveyed residents and non-residents to understand local shopping patterns and identify retail opportunities that Olds is not currently capturing. The analysis identified significant leakage to Red Deer and online platforms and established targets for new commercial floor space, informing the strategy's 2030 target of 125,000 square feet of new commercial development.

Housing Needs Assessment and Strategy (2025)

A comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment was completed in 2025, drawing on quantitative analysis, stakeholder interviews, and a public survey focused on housing conditions in Olds. Key findings confirmed that affordability and limited housing choice are significant barriers to both population growth and business attraction. The resulting Housing Strategy informed the 2030 target of 620 new housing units and supports the broader workforce and population growth goals in the Economic Development Strategy.

Industry Cluster Analysis (2024)

This study identifies industries in Central Alberta with the strongest potential for growth and long-term competitive advantage using data on employment, growth, exports, and economic impact. The key findings are:

- agriculture and food manufacturing represent the strongest opportunity for cluster development;
- focus on growing the agri-food sector as a regional economic driver;

- strengthen connections between local industries and supply chains;
- support emerging sectors with high growth potential; and
- address gaps in professional and technical services.

Phase 2: Strategy Development (2025 & 2026)

Drawing on the research above, the Economic Development Strategy Framework was drafted and presented to Council in October 2025. That presentation established the seven economic pillars, introduced the 2031 targets, and sought Council direction on the proposed engagement plan. Council approved proceeding with targeted stakeholder engagement prior to finalizing the strategy.

The Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) was engaged throughout the development phase, providing ongoing advisory input and playing a supporting role in strategy review and stakeholder outreach.

Phase 3: Targeted Stakeholder Engagement (2026)

Between February and May 2026, administration conducted a series of direct, in-person and formal presentations to key organizations and stakeholder groups. Each session was tailored to the audience and focused on confirming alignment with the draft strategy's direction rather than restarting the research process.

Date	Audience / Organization	Format
Feb. 12, 2026	Olds Chamber of Commerce	Direct presentation and discussion
Mar. 2, 2026	All Clubs (non-profit / volunteer orgs)	Direct presentation and discussion
Mar. 17, 2026	Uptowne Olds	Direct presentation and discussion
Apr. 27, 2026	Olds College Leadership	Direct briefing and discussion
Apr. 30, 2026	Mountain View County Administration	Direct presentation and discussion
May 7, 2026	Community (Coffee with Council)	Community Showcase – strategy as theme
May 1–25, 2026	General Public	Online community survey (olds.ca/engagement)

Olds Chamber of Commerce (February 12, 2026)

The strategy was presented to the Chamber of Commerce board and membership, with discussion focused on investment attraction, business climate, and the 2031 commercial assessment targets. The Chamber represents a broad business community in Olds and provided a key sounding board for our economic priorities.

All Clubs Meeting (March 2, 2026)

Olds has a strong culture of volunteerism and civic engagement. The All Clubs meeting brought together representatives from non-profit and volunteer organizations to share awareness of the strategy and gather input on community well-being, workforce, and quality-of-life priorities that intersect with economic development goals.

Uptowne Olds (March 17, 2026)

Uptowne Olds, as the business organization representing many businesses in our core, was a natural engagement partner given the strategy's focus on commercial growth and the 125,000 square foot commercial space target. Discussion focused on the downtown's role in the broader economic picture and shared goals around retail attraction and streetscape vitality.

Olds College (April 27, 2026)

A briefing and discussion was held with Olds College's executive leadership, covering areas of strategic alignment including agriculture and agri-technology, dual credit trades programming, and graduate retention in Olds. Olds College is one of the town's most significant institutional assets and a key partner for both the human capital and innovation pillars of the strategy.

Mountain View County (April 30, 2026)

The Town's ICC Committee presented the strategy's framework to Mountain View County counterparts, seeking potential input and opportunities beyond the already robust partnership the Town and County have. Key points of current and future discussions will include shared infrastructure, regional workforce, industrial land base, and the potential for coordinated approaches to investment attraction.

Coffee with Council at the Community Showcase (May 7, 2026)

The Economic Development Strategy served as the featured theme of the May Coffee with Council event, held at the Community Showcase. This provided an accessible, informal forum for residents and community members to learn about the strategy's direction, ask questions, and share perspectives directly with Council and administration. A 'What We Heard' report from this engagement session is available on the Town's website.

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Phase 4: Community Survey (May 1 to May 25, 2026)

A public online survey was launched on May 1, 2026, and was open through May 25, 2026, at www.olds.ca/engagement. The survey asked residents to confirm and prioritize the strategic directions identified through the research and engagement process.

This survey was framed as a priority-confirmation exercise rather than a blank-slate consultation. The strategic direction is grounded in two-plus years of rigorous data collection and stakeholder engagement. The survey gives the broader community a voice in affirming where the Town should place its emphasis as it moves toward implementation.

Survey Results

75	82	83%
residents & business owners completed the survey	total responses	agree that economic growth is a top priority

The survey asked respondents to consider seven priority areas identified in the strategy and select the three that were most important to them.

The top three priorities overall were:

- Supporting and growing local business.
- Attracting new investments and opportunities.
- Strengthening Infrastructure to support growth.

Notably, ‘expanding housing options for residents’ showed substantial importance in addition to the other top ranked options.

Respondents had the opportunity to share their thoughts in long form answers. Below is a representation of key words that came up repeatedly in those responses.



What We Heard: Key Themes

Across all phases of engagement, a set of consistent themes emerged. These themes are reflected directly in the strategy's seven pillars and 2030 targets.

Housing is an Economic Issue

Housing was raised consistently by businesses, residents, and partner organizations. Employers identified limited housing availability as a barrier to recruiting staff. Nearly one in ten BREWD survey respondents named housing as a key recruitment constraint. The strategy responds with a target of 620 new housing units by 2030.

Agriculture is a Defining Strength

Every engagement audience recognized agriculture as foundational to Olds and the region. The Cluster Analysis confirmed agriculture and food manufacturing as the strongest cluster candidate in Central Alberta. Stakeholders expressed support for building on this identity.

Workforce Attraction and Retention is a Shared Priority

Employers across sectors identified workforce challenges as a top concern. The intersection of housing, education, and quality of life emerged as the key drivers of whether workers choose Olds. Olds College was consistently identified as a critical community asset for workforce development, dual credit programming, and graduate retention.

The Downtown and Commercial Core Need Investment

Input from Uptowne Olds, the Chamber, and the Commercial Gap Analysis all pointed to the same gap: Olds is losing retail spending to larger centres. The community wants more diverse food and entertainment options, better retail variety, and a more vibrant downtown. The strategy targets 125,000 square feet of new commercial space by 2030.

Regional Collaboration is Both Necessary and Welcome

Engagement with Mountain View County and participation in the broader BREWD and Central Alberta First processes reinforced that many economic challenges and opportunities are regional in nature. Stakeholders expressed genuine interest in deeper collaboration on shared priorities like workforce, infrastructure, and investment attraction.

Community Pride and Identity Matter

Across all sessions, participants expressed pride in what makes Olds distinct: its small-town character, community spirit, strong volunteerism, and institutions like Olds College. The strategy is designed to support economic growth in a way that reinforces rather than dilutes this identity.

Next Steps

This engagement summary report is being presented alongside the Final Draft of the Economic Development Strategy at the June 1st, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting. Administration will

be asking Council for final input and direction to bring it forward to the June 8th, 2026 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

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Engage Olds

Form Results Summary

May 01, 2026 - May 25, 2026

Project: Economic Development Strategy

Form: Untitled

Tool Type: Form

Activity ID: 4

Exported: May 26, 2026, 02:46 PM

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Filter By: No filters applied.

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Open

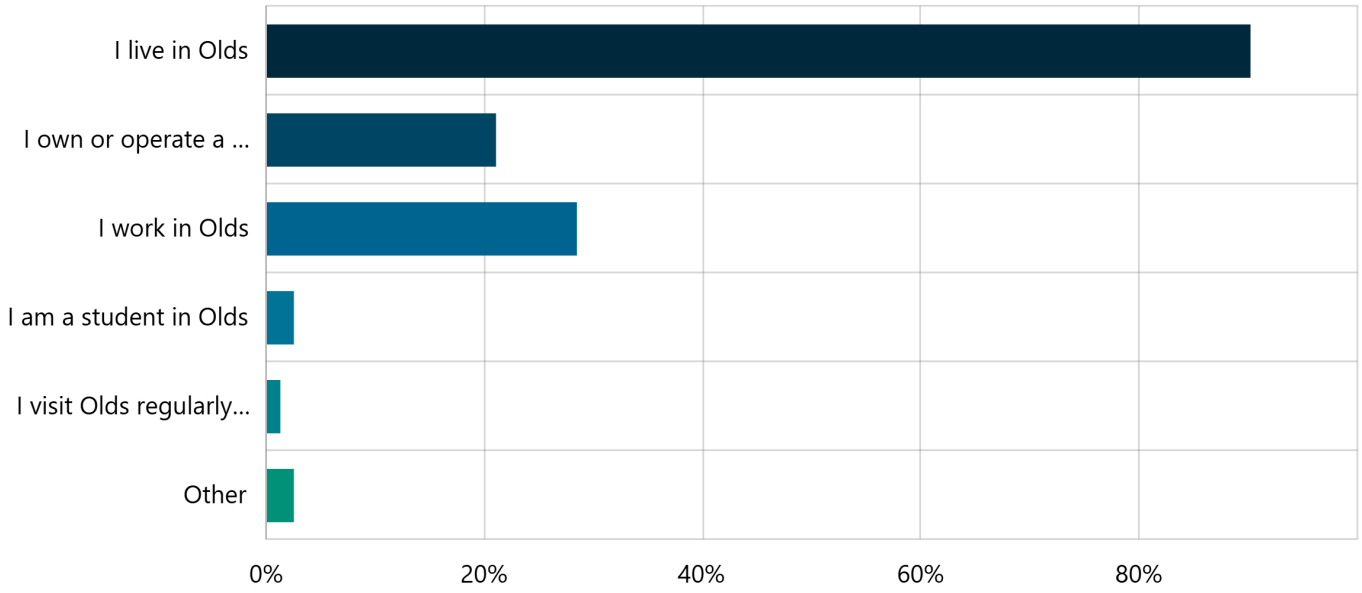
Untitled
Economic Development Strategy

67 Contributors | **82** Contributions

Contribution Summary

1. How would you best describe your connection to Olds? (Select all that apply)

Multi Choice | Skipped: 1 | Answered: 81 (98.8%)

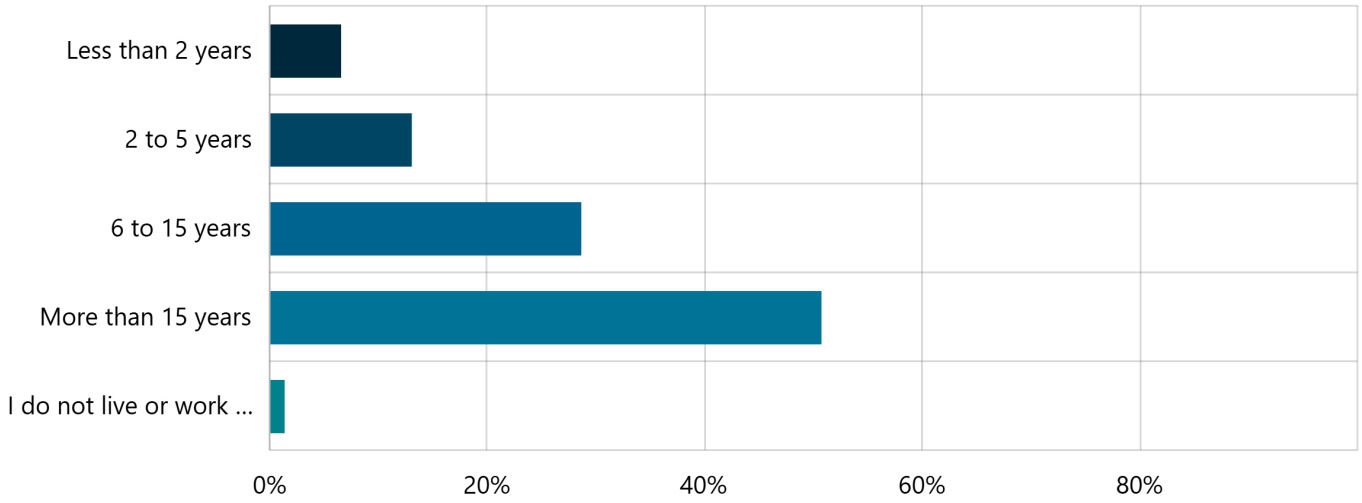


Answer choices	Percent	Count
I live in Olds	90.12%	73
I own or operate a business in Olds	20.99%	17
I work in Olds	28.40%	23
I am a student in Olds	2.47%	2
I visit Olds regularly but live elsewhere	1.23%	1
Other	2.47%	2

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2. How long have you lived or worked in Olds?

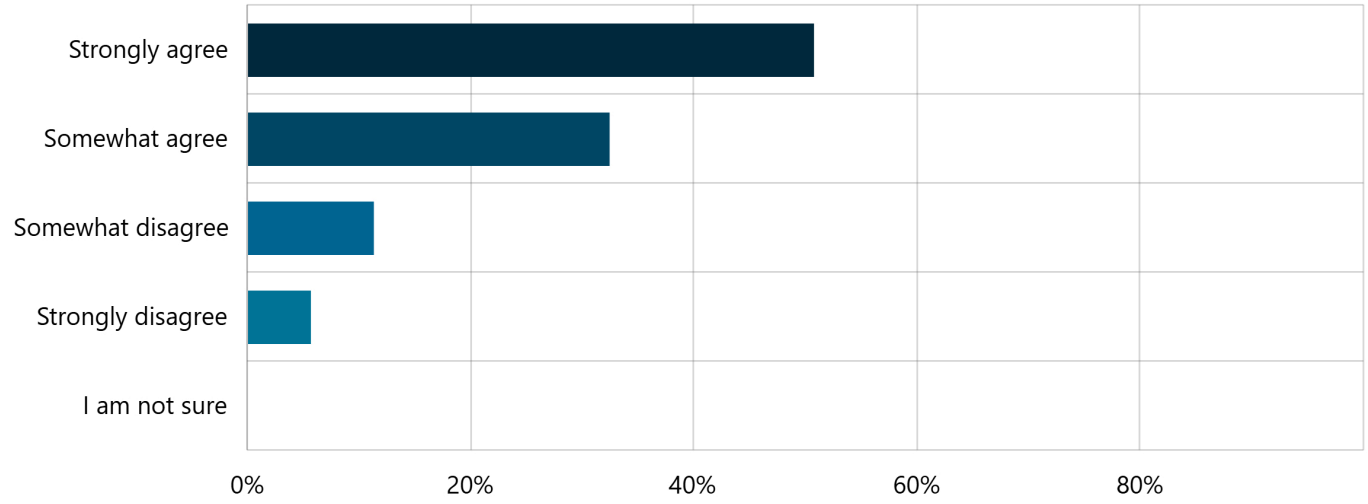
Select Box | Skipped: 5 | Answered: 77 (93.9%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Less than 2 years	6.49%	5
2 to 5 years	12.99%	10
6 to 15 years	28.57%	22
More than 15 years	50.65%	39
I do not live or work in Olds	1.30%	1
Total	**100.00%**	**77**

3. Olds faces real fiscal pressure. A heavy debt load and aging infrastructure mean the Town cannot sustain quality services through tax increases alone. Growing the commercial and industrial tax base is essential to long-term financial sustainability and the ability to fund the services residents expect. To what extent do you agree that economic growth should be a top priority for the Town over the next five years?

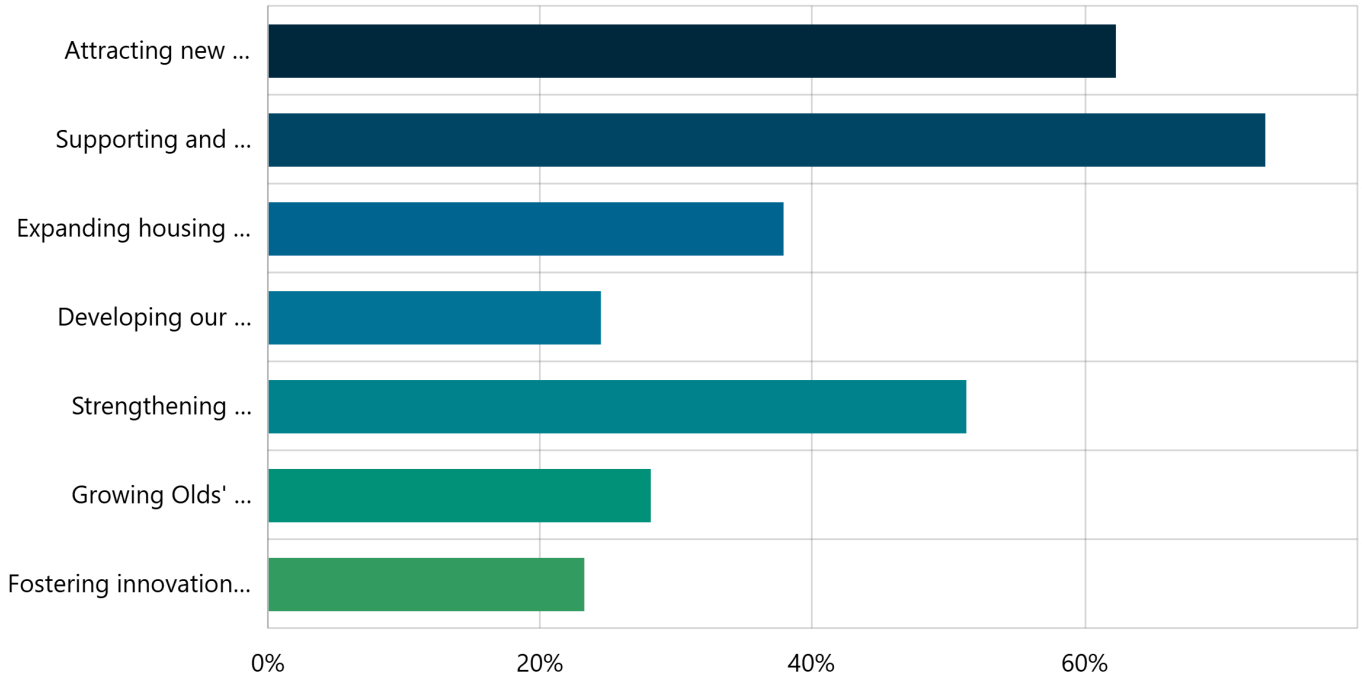
Select Box | Skipped: 11 | Answered: 71 (86.6%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Strongly agree	50.70%	36
Somewhat agree	32.39%	23
Somewhat disagree	11.27%	8
Strongly disagree	5.63%	4
I am not sure	0%	0
Total	**100.00%**	**71**

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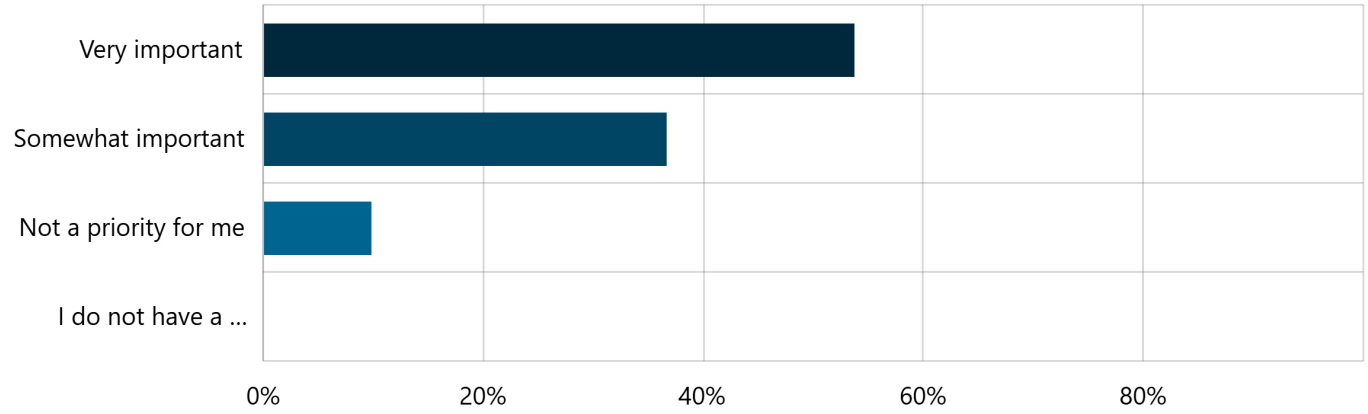
4. The strategy focuses on seven priority areas. Please rank the three that matter most to you. (Select up to 3)
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 82 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Attracting new investment and businesses to Olds	62.20%	51
Supporting and growing local businesses	73.17%	60
Expanding housing options for residents	37.80%	31
Developing our workforce and keeping graduates in Olds	24.39%	20
Strengthening infrastructure to support growth	51.22%	42
Growing Olds' agricultural and ag-tech identity	28.05%	23
Fostering innovation and entrepreneurship	23.17%	19

5. Our research shows that Olds loses a significant share of consumer spending to larger centres like Red Deer and Calgary. How important is it to you that the Town prioritize attracting more retail, dining, and service options locally?

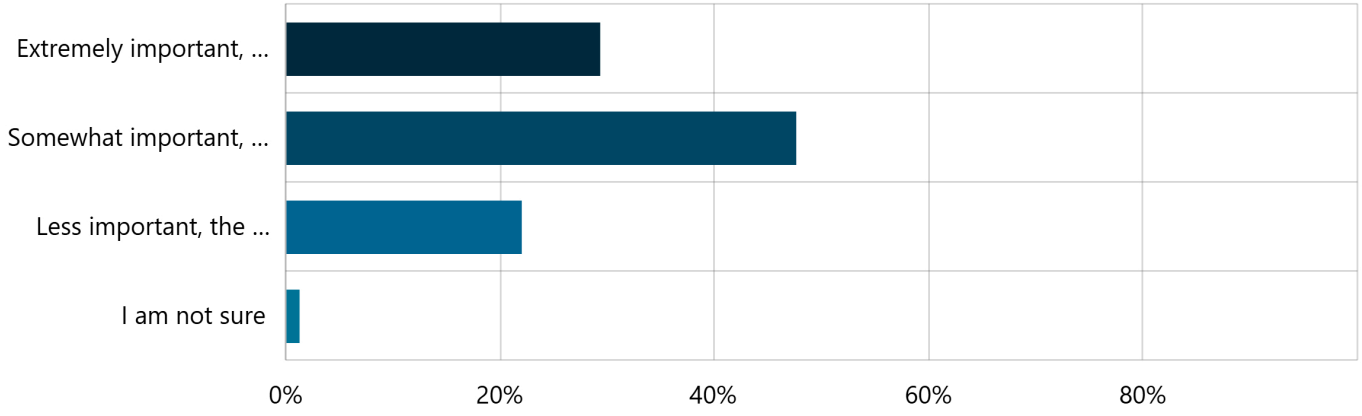
Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 82 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Very important	53.66%	44
Somewhat important	36.59%	30
Not a priority for me	9.76%	8
I do not have a strong opinion	0%	0
Total	**100.00%**	**82**

6. Olds College is a significant local asset in agriculture, applied research, and trades training. How important is it that the Town's economic strategy is closely connected to what the College does?

Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 82 (100%)

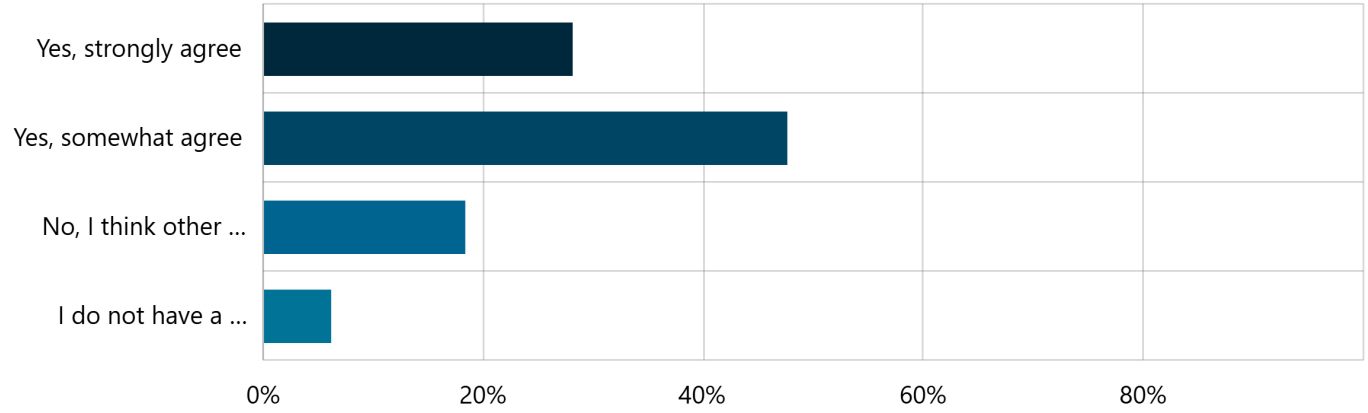


Answer choices	Percent	Count
Extremely important, the College should be central to the strategy	29.27%	24
Somewhat important, it is one of several priorities	47.56%	39
Less important, the Town should focus on other areas	21.95%	18
I am not sure	1.22%	1
Total	**100.00%**	**82**

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7. Agriculture and ag-technology are identified as a foundation of Olds' economic identity. Do you agree that this should be a central theme of our economic development efforts?

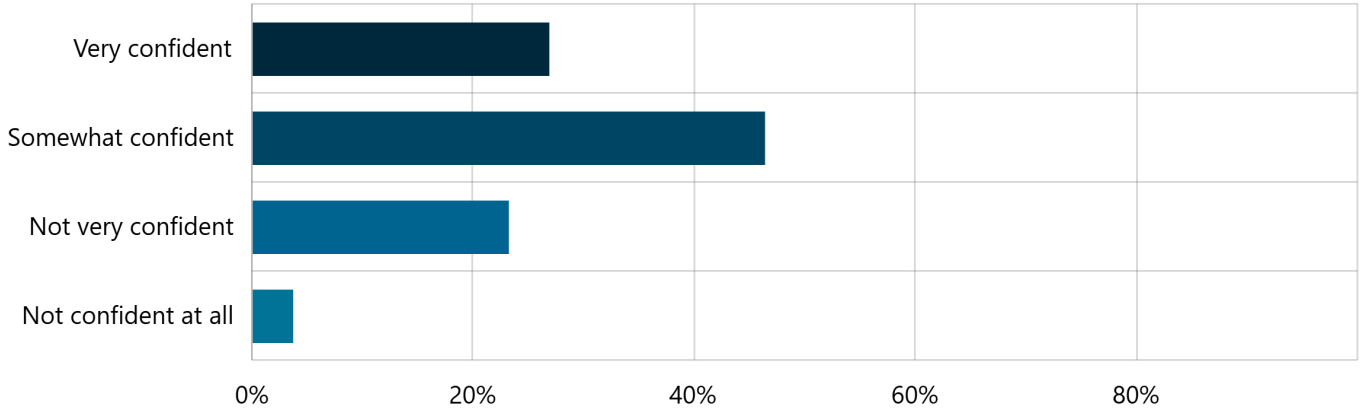
Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 82 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes, strongly agree	28.05%	23
Yes, somewhat agree	47.56%	39
No, I think other sectors should take priority	18.29%	15
I do not have a strong opinion	6.10%	5
Total	**100.00%**	**82**

8. How confident are you that Olds has what it takes to attract the workers and businesses it needs over the next five years?

Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 82 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Very confident	26.83%	22
Somewhat confident	46.34%	38
Not very confident	23.17%	19
Not confident at all	3.66%	3
Total	**100.00%**	**82**

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9. Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?

Long Text | Skipped: 29 | Answered: 53 (64.6%)

Sentiment



Positive	Mixed	Negative	Neutral	Unclassified
43% (23)	17% (9)	23% (12)	17% (9)	0% (0)

Tags



Tag	Percent	Count
build data centres	26%	14
commercial growth	23%	12
support local businesses	23%	12
data centre projects	17%	9
investment and attraction	15%	8
location	13%	7
stop data centres	13%	7
big industry	11%	6
manageable growth	11%	6
growth	11%	6
agriculture	9%	5
infrastructure	9%	5
financial management	9%	5
regional	9%	5
don't grow	8%	4
Tech hub	8%	4

tourism	6%	3
hospital	6%	3
support entrepreneurs	6%	3
community	6%	3
fear	6%	3
jobs	6%	3
industry clusters	4%	2
manufacturing	4%	2
Commercial buildings	4%	2
property taxes	4%	2
quality of life	4%	2
Uptowne Olds	4%	2
economic benefits	4%	2
taxes	4%	2
industry retention	2%	1
processing mills	2%	1
grow	2%	1
agribusiness	2%	1
Olds College	2%	1
chamber of commerce	2%	1
services	2%	1
population	2%	1
family	2%	1
development with community	2%	1
environmental impact	2%	1
communications	2%	1
West Olds	2%	1

fragile economy	2%	1
food industry	2%	1
food security	2%	1
activities	2%	1
families	2%	1
future for youth	2%	1
satellite community	2%	1
long-term planning	2%	1
teachers	2%	1
grow tax base	2%	1
land management	2%	1
more energy needed	2%	1
leverage commercial and tech brand	2%	1
Bus Service	2%	1
public transportation	2%	1

Featured Contributions

I think you could make the regional case stronger, as nearby economic growth will benefit Olds and vice versa.
Contribution 4 of 4 | May 25, 2026

Town and county lack the infrastructure to facilitate economic development. Here at Lohr-A-Lee Greenhouses we are at a crossroads. Foothills Natural Gas Coop cannot supply us with the natural gas required to operate our existing greenhouses let alone facilitate our planned expansion over the next 3 to 4 years. We are left with the decision to shut down our existing (very popular) operation and move it to a location that can supply us with the necessary natural gas - ie - Back to Stettler where it all began. We currently employ 12 to 15 individuals (half of which are family) and our expansion plans would increase that number to at least 20. The Town insists on pursuing Data Centers that require huge amounts of natural gas. Yet an existing established highly popular business has limited access to the required natural gas. There is a desperate and immediate need for Foothills to upgrade its' antiquated and insufficient gas system and access the required natural gas. We have gas wells less than a mile away from the greenhouses.
Contribution 3 of 4 | May 20, 2026

Do not listen only to the naysayers when it comes to the proposed data center. There are a silent majority that realize growth must occur to keep taxes reasonable.
Contribution 2 of 4 | May 19, 2026

Providing opportunities to support entrepreneurs and local businesses
Contribution 1 of 4 | May 19, 2026

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10. Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?
Long Text | Skipped: 32 | Answered: 50 (61%)

Sentiment



Positive	Mixed	Negative	Neutral	Unclassified
46% (23)	18% (9)	24% (12)	12% (6)	0% (0)

Tags



Tag	Percent	Count
build data centres	26%	13
commercial growth	18%	9
housing development	18%	9
investment and attraction	18%	9
financial management	16%	8
stop data centres	12%	6
growth	10%	5
manageable growth	10%	5
community	10%	5
grow tax base	10%	5
big industry	8%	4
data centre projects	8%	4
support local businesses	8%	4
more commercial development	6%	3
taxes	6%	3
location	6%	3

agricultural land	6%	3
don't grow	4%	2
affordability	4%	2
development with community	4%	2
tourism	4%	2
long-term planning	4%	2
regional	4%	2
jobs	4%	2
property taxes	4%	2
grow	4%	2
reduce staff	2%	1
reduce services	2%	1
industry retention	2%	1
land management	2%	1
families	2%	1
not just chains	2%	1
transparency	2%	1
engagement	2%	1
why Olds?	2%	1
services	2%	1
leverage commercial and tech brand	2%	1
Tech hub	2%	1
forward thinking	2%	1
communications	2%	1
sports	2%	1
chamber of commerce	2%	1
Olds College	2%	1

future for youth	2%	1
retention	2%	1
risk	2%	1
casino	2%	1
county	2%	1
infrastructure	2%	1

Featured Contributions

I like what's been happening with housing development. I hope we see more commercial development soon. And I am personally in favor of data centre projects in Olds, but there's too much drama right now for anyone to have proper conversation. Good luck with it though.
Contribution 3 of 3 | May 25, 2026

Data centres are fine. Listen to experts in their respective fields. Don't listen to the nonsense.
Contribution 2 of 3 | May 22, 2026

Think more of healthy growth, if you want revenue, put in a Casino, that would guarantee more jobs & revenue on a consistent basis
Contribution 1 of 3 | May 19, 2026

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Economic Development Strategy		*All long-form reponses included.*	*Note: Sentiment is determined automatically by AI, and reviewed manually by Communications. Please report any concerns.*			
ID	**Question**	**Contribution**	**Sentiment**	**Tags**	**Status**	**Duration**
3	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	We need more industry. It doesn't matter what kind: data centres, processing mills, manufacturing etc. etc. etc.	Positive	big industry; build data centres; commercial growth; industry clusters; industry retention; manufacturing; processing mills; grow	Live	2 to 5 years
3	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	More housing and more business. Don't be too picky.	Positive	big industry; commercial growth; housing development; investment and attraction	Live	2 to 5 years
4	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Data centres?	Neutral	data centre projects	Live, Work	More than 15 years
4	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Let’s attract all the businesses we can, including data centres. The economy is getting worse and we need all the growth we can get.	Positive	big industry; build data centres; commercial growth; growth; investment and attraction; manageable growth	Live, Work	More than 15 years
6	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	no	Neutral		Live	6 to 15 years
6	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	no	Neutral		Live	6 to 15 years
7	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	As a gateway to the west country, we could increase our tourism opportunities by creating an easily accessible area to host farmers markets and local artisans directly off the highway. This would enhance our agricultural identity and create opportunities for local agribusiness in a centralized area.	Positive	agriculture; location; tourism; agribusiness	Live	More than 15 years
7	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Data centers don't belong within our town limits and will not attract people to our area	Negative	stop data centres	Live	More than 15 years
8	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	The data centers that will ruin our town. Enough of that garbage, get a grip and consider the people and sanctity of Olds, not just the dollars, you so hope will flow, until the bubble bursts that is... Data Centers will not make Olds a 'Tech Hub' they will only ruin the quaint, peaceful nature of our town. Data Centers are the Hydro Electric Dams for Tech, essential infrastructure, not anything that will foster innovation. And they will destroy Olds as we know it. And Olds will most likely be left with a stranded asset when AI goes belly up because of the serious lack of revenue vs. investment.	Negative	don't grow; infrastructure; stop data centres	Live	More than 15 years
8	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	We're in debt because of past council and admin decisions, I do not trust this council or Admin, they are seeking a golden goose and should instead, cut services, lay off office staff, shrink or dissolve the Ec Dev dept. and let the free market work on its own, as it should. Olds should be an attractive community to live and work in. Enormous power plants within town limits will change that forever!	Negative	don't grow; reduce staff; reduce services	Live	More than 15 years

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9	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	I support data centres. Let's get them built.	Positive	build data centres	Live, Work	Less than 2 years
9	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Don't lose anymore industry. Build houses workers can afford.	Mixed	affordability; housing development; investment and attraction; industry retention	Live, Work	Less than 2 years
10	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	We should try these data centers. Just listen to the experts and not to people on Facebook who probably don't even work or contribute to the economy.	Positive	build data centres; manageable growth	Live, Business, Work	More than 15 years
10	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Replacing sundial, west steel and the other large businesses we lost is key. They drive the economy.	Positive	big industry; Commercial buildings; commercial growth; investment and attraction	Live, Business, Work	More than 15 years
11	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Does this plan speak to data centres? You should do a better job building a case for them. They're going to be built somewhere, might as well be here.	Positive	big industry; build data centres; commercial growth; manageable growth; Tech hub	Live, Business, Work	More than 15 years
11	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	I support the Town's position on data centres. The province will determine if they're safe enough.	Positive	data centre projects	Live, Business, Work	More than 15 years
12	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	strengthen Hosptial by offering Ct scans, and more surgical procedures.	Positive	hospital	Live	More than 15 years
13	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	DO NOT, DO NOT APPROVE DEVELOPMENT OF THAT DATA CENTRE	Negative	stop data centres	Live	More than 15 years
14	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	I urge the council, mayor, and CAO to be mindful in the ways they allow commercial development. Yes, we need to address the shortfall in revenue and address debt with an increase in commercial property tax, but this cannot come at the expense of our residents' health & wellbeing and with the risks and unknowns the Synapse data centre involves. Yes, let's seek out and supprt economic development, but let's do that in responsible, reasonable ways.	Mixed	commercial growth; data centre projects; manageable growth; property taxes; quality of life	Live, Business, Work	6 to 15 years
14	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	We rely on our Town leadership to protect us, stand up for us, be responsive and attuned to the concerns of residents. Please use your voices and the avenues available to you (i.e. deny the building permit for Synapse - they cannot realistically sue the Town) in order to grow our economy responsibly.	Mixed	community; financial management; stop data centres	Live, Business, Work	6 to 15 years
15	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	I feel like keeping small town businesses should be the priority not attracting big data centre's and natural gas plants in town. We should also be providing opportunities or incentives for businesses that the college is training for e.g. greenhouse vegetable producer, butcher shops, mechanic shops, welding...	Mixed	agriculture; manageable growth; stop data centres; support local businesses; Olds College	Live	More than 15 years
15	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Say no to data centre's that will ruin our town. It will cause people to leave and no one will want to buy a house here so this strategy will be useless.	Negative	housing development; stop data centres	Live	More than 15 years
17	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	My biggest concern is the Synapse project> A 1.4 GW power plant is obviously not "Light Industrial", and the residents of Olds needs you, our elected officials to protect residents from introducing unwanted emissions , Noise, interference to our local wildlife's habitat, protecting our Wetlands.	Negative	data centre projects	Live	6 to 15 years

17	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Zone land correctly in the future.	Neutral	housing development; land management; more commercial development	Live	6 to 15 years
20	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	BREWD's value is questionable.	Negative	financial management; investment and attraction	Live	6 to 15 years
20	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Deal with the financial challenges to support existing, not grow more.	Mixed	don't grow; financial management; support local businesses	Live	6 to 15 years
22	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	I think that the proposed Synapse data Centre would bring great economic positives to our town, but it should NOT be located in town as proposed. We will definitely consider moving from this beautiful town of Olds if the data center goes through. Our daughter and family were considering moving here as well, but will be seriously thinking about changing their plan if it goes through.	Mixed	data centre projects; families	Live	Less than 2 years
23	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Just don't get a bunch of chains. Some are ok, but balance them.	Mixed	manageable growth; support local businesses; not just chains	Live, Work	More than 15 years
23	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	We have a lot of successful local businesses, supporting them more is wonderful. Our Chamber of Commerce is HORRIBLE. It needs to do better. Impressed with what Uptown Olds does.	Mixed	chamber of commerce; growth; support local businesses; Uptowne Olds	Live, Work	More than 15 years
25	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Be more transparent & engaging	neutral	development with community; transparency; engagement	Live	6 to 15 years
25	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Support for existing businesses	Positive	support local businesses	Live	6 to 15 years
26	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Whatever you do just don't overtax the residents to drive people out of town.	Negative	financial management; taxes	Live	2 to 5 years
27	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	increasing the population is critical to create stability in existing business & also encourage new growth in business & services.	Positive	commercial growth; growth; investment and attraction; services; support entrepreneurs; support local businesses; population; family	Live	More than 15 years
28	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Involve citizens in identifying our communities strengths and their ideas on how to further develop the community. This needs to be a broad based approach involving as many citizens as possible (all ages)	Positive	community; tourism; development with community	Live	More than 15 years
28	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	It is important to know what draws people to the community both on a visitor and long term basis. It is also important to know what keeps people here.	Positive	community; investment and attraction; location; tourism; why Olds?	Live	More than 15 years
30	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	The community seems frightened by the idea of big industry and companies. The data center is the current example. We need to have businesses of significant size to reach the goals identified.	Positive	commercial growth; data centre projects; investment and attraction; fear; big industry	Live, Business	More than 15 years
30	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	We need to publish the tax comparisons between communities and stop saying we are in financial trouble. This implies we are over taxed and makes potential businesses look elsewhere. We are not over taxed and have the best services with the lowest taxes. That is the message that we need to shout out	Mixed	financial management; investment and attraction; taxes; services	Live, Business	More than 15 years

31	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Data centres and new tech are fundamental to our town’s survival.	Positive	build data centres; leverage commercial and tech brand; Tech hub	Live	More than 15 years
31	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Fully support data centres.	Positive	build data centres	Live	More than 15 years
32	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Data centres are not going to attract people to the area. The noise, light pollution, environmental impact, traffic, stress on our over crowded hospital is a major concern. 2000 people during the building process alone will result in a higher mortality rate in our local population.	Negative	hospital; infrastructure; stop data centres; environmental impact	Live	More than 15 years
32	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Stop wasting rate payers money on pet projects. A free rink costs money in future years. A useless roundabout on the 2A, MANDATING smart meters (lawsuits because of this is not saving any money), building a new town office, giving millions of dollars to private businesses like O-Net etc without consent from ratepayers is why we are in a financial crunch. The town needs to concentrate on essentials only. IF there is extra money, only then should extras be considered and approved by rate payers before being implemented.	Negative	community; financial management	Live	More than 15 years
35	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	AI and data centres are going to be a HUGE part of the future. Don't miss out!!	Positive	build data centres	Live	Less than 2 years
35	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	We should want as many data centres here as possible. This will help us pay for everything else we need to do.	Positive	build data centres; financial management; growth	Live	Less than 2 years
36	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Data centres are a good idea. Don't run away just because the loudest in the community are scared. If they aren't safe they won't get provincial approval.	Positive	build data centres	Live, Work	2 to 5 years
36	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	It should be clearer about data centres. The topic is soooo big right now.	Neutral	communications; data centre projects	Live, Work	2 to 5 years
38	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	I’m supportive of the data centre projects. Good on you for being forward thinking enough to entertain the idea when there is so much negativity and animosity.	Positive	build data centres; forward thinking	Business	More than 15 years
38	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	With the data centre interest, there is an opportunity to pivot toward an ‘Technology Hub’ branding.	Positive	data centre projects; Tech hub	Business	More than 15 years
40	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	The College attracts many students on a global and national scale. Not all students contribute to Olds upon graduation. Olds needs to focus on what generates money for the town’s growth with a focus on local entrepreneurs. An excellent investment would be a data center.	Positive	build data centres; economic benefits; financial management; growth; investment and attraction; support entrepreneurs; support local businesses	Live, Business, Work	6 to 15 years
41	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Well, Data center needs to be addressed well. I for one, would like to see what mitigating factors we are putting in place to avoid common issues created by Data Centers. I think Data Centers are reality and NIMBY attitude won’t help. If we know what problems it may cause, we need to find out how can we solve them and avoid them.	Mixed	data centre projects; manageable growth	Live, Business	6 to 15 years

41	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Probably some more clarity from town office to let residents know what is going on in the Town.	Neutral	communications	Live, Business	6 to 15 years
42	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	The data centre is a strong and wise choice for Olds. If we want to support business that are in town right now, supporting a data centre would be very important for serial of the town economically.	Positive	build data centres; support local businesses; economic benefits	Live	6 to 15 years
42	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	The proposed data centre may prove to be one of the wisest and most economically important decisions our town has pursued in decades. While there are some ill-informed opinions circulating within the community, the reality is that data centres are not merely a concept of the future — they are already a critical part of modern society and will become increasingly essential in every community across North America. Artificial intelligence, cloud computing, social media, online business, medical imaging, education, communications, and nearly every sector of our economy now depend on data infrastructure. Companies such as Meta, Google, Microsoft, Amazon, healthcare systems, and even medical specialists like radiologists are increasingly reliant on AI-powered systems and data processing capabilities. This is not a temporary trend; it is the direction the world is moving. Communities that recognize this early and position themselves accordingly will benefit from long-term economic growth, infrastructure investment, employment opportunities, technological relevance, and increased business activity. Olds has an opportunity to position itself ahead of many other communities before this economic wave is fully established elsewhere. To ignore or reject this opportunity would risk leaving our town behind economically and technologically. Pursuing this endeavour is not simply about supporting one project — it is about securing future viability, prosperity, and opportunity for our children and future generations.	Positive	build data centres; investment and attraction	Live	6 to 15 years
44	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	The town needs to support attracting new investment and data centres.	Positive	build data centres; investment and attraction	Work	6 to 15 years
45	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	I believe we need to move forward with the data centres despite the loud naysayers. As long as the development passes the Auc scrutiny	Positive	build data centres; manageable growth	Live	6 to 15 years
45	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Transient tourists are good for the small business. Don't forget that. Be more proactive getting large sporting events to Olds. Get a membership to the sports tourism Canada group and work with the college to bring the events here	Positive	tourism; sports	Live	6 to 15 years
47	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Not enough commercial buildings For business's. The down town core also needs a major upgrade. Most of the old buildings are too much of an expense for the owners or renters to upgrade on their own. They need help to grow or expand the downtown businesses	Negative	support local businesses; Commercial buildings; Uptowne Olds	Live, Business, Work	More than 15 years

48	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	I'm in favour of the Synapse Data centre	Positive	build data centres	Live	More than 15 years
49	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Improve the chamber of commerce. It's stuck in the past. I'm fine with data centres, I just don't believe the hype that they'll actually get built. But if they do, great. Nice to see all the rental construction happening. Let's focus on affordable single family homes. The downtown needs a boost. Maybe move the Town office there (eventually)	Positive	build data centres; housing development; chamber of commerce; affordability	Live, Business, Work	6 to 15 years
49	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	I would like to see an emphasis on developing the west area of Highway 27, as its an ideal place for modern commercial developments. It seems this strategy is focused on industrial business, which I understand. But if Olds does not stay ahead of the curve to attract commercial development, we risk other communities taking those anchor businesses that only require 1 location in the Red Deer - Airdrie corridor. So while it might hurt to spend money on potential opportunities, the risk of not being agressive in my opinion is much greater.	Mixed	commercial growth; location; West Olds	Live, Business, Work	6 to 15 years
50	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Enjoy your higher and higher taxes as industry flees to places where Facebook hobos don't run the community.	Mixed		Live	Less than 2 years
50	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	This town is either anti-development or lets those voices rule the day. You should be thankful a data centre would even consider this GD place. Who needs jobs, right?	Mixed	build data centres; commercial growth; jobs	Live	Less than 2 years
51	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	It is very well noted and documented that tech industries, like Data Centers, is being highly sought out for Olds. However, in the industry cluster analysis, it is noted that following political trends can be volatile in nature, and can pose more risk for the town. We can see that with the Cannabis plants, Olds is too fragile of an economy to be dabbling with volatile markets. Olds should be looking to more of the food industry, and other industry clusters that bring stability to the town. Also, the housing crisis has been in Olds for several years. The rental vacancy rate is still critically low, and has been since 2023 in a news article. There has been little improvement, and therefore, before mass growth from major industries come to town, a huge priority of creating homes for people should be implemented. If businesses are struggling to gain employees of lack of housing, why are we creating more competition in the housing markets by bringing more businesses?? There is clearly a demand here already for developers. Focus on supporting locals, expand when it is more appropriate.	Mixed	agriculture; commercial growth; investment and attraction; stop data centres; fragile economy; food industry; industry clusters	Live	6 to 15 years

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51	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Due to the rush to create economic growth, lots of development and planning decisions are being short-cut and creating a town that will be very undesirable to live in, especially the East side of town. Please reconsider the priorities, get a handle on the finances and create a better survey that residents are able to answer more questions as this on is very vague.... And finally, it seems foolish to model our economic strategy after places that do not have the same demographics as Olds. We are unique in nature and do not have the same housing needs at Calgary or the same demographics as places like Lacombe. While it is important to compare and learn from other towns or cities, it is only a reference not the guiding document.	Mixed	financial management; long-term planning	Live	6 to 15 years
52	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	I am a strong supporter of the Data Centre opportunities. maybe have a plebisite to shut up the negative people or figure out some good buy out packages for their homes that face the field where the data centre would be built.	Positive	build data centres; housing development	Live	n/a
52	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	there should be some emphasis on bringing the alberta tourists to Olds for the small businesses. Help create our own tourism ad or something to help them to pull of highway 2 and explore Olds	Positive	investment and attraction; location; regional; support local businesses; tourism	Live	n/a
54	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Say no to the Data Centre! It may create jobs for a few years while being built but after that it will be weaponized against the people as surveillance and will suck the town and surrounding area dry of natural resources.	Mixed	agricultural land; stop data centres	Does not live or work in Olds	
54	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Focusing too much on the goal and less on the people the town needs to serve.	Negative	community	Does not live or work in Olds	
55	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	we need to find a way to convince all the negative people against the data centres to see the positive things it will bring to Olds. Can the developer buy the homes facing the developed area?	Positive	build data centres; commercial growth; grow tax base; housing development	Live	6 to 15 years
55	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	no	Neutral		Live	6 to 15 years
57	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Olds has to get some industrial land serviced if no industry or developer is willing to do it. We have spent a lot of money over the last five years on ED but have very little to show for it except for the Data Centre that is to date very controversial. Innisfail is eating our lunch in attracting industry but shouldn't be because we have everything from location ,Olds College and everything else industry would want. We have to do better!	Mixed		Live	More than 15 years
57	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Why is ED not contacting Sundial to see what they will sell their building for which will be a fire sale price no doubt. Then contact Olds College or through Prov Govt. which business are vegetable growing greenhouses to contact. Bassano has two and we are stuck with everything data centre. In Olds. Why? There is also a Fed govt push for food security so probably grants are available.	Mixed	data centre projects; food security; agriculture	Live	More than 15 years
58	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Data centres are probably a short-term thing until enough supply is brought onto the market. Do we want try and get a piece of this action? I think we should.	Positive	data centre projects; long-term planning	n/a	n/a

58	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	I put that other sectors should take priority over agriculture because I think agriculture has always been here and always will. It will mostly happen without direct efforts. Olds should focus its efforts on those emerging sectors, like AI, manufacturing, and commercial growth.	Positive	big industry; build data centres; commercial growth; manufacturing	Does not live or work in Olds	
60	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	The town needs to incise families to come to town and those young adults to stay. Parks are great but the infrastructure revolving around rec activities (pool, rinks etc) are lacking and you're losing out to places like airdrie and Calgary with the facilities & programming. Young professionals that would raise families here would rather choose Innisfail or Crossfield to be closer to family activities	Positive	activities; families; future for youth; infrastructure; location	Work	2 to 5 years
61	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Providing opportunities to support entrepreneurs and local businesses	Positive	support local businesses; support entrepreneurs	Live, Business	More than 15 years
61	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Town needs to focus on manageable growth in both commercial spaces and housing units	Positive	commercial growth; housing development; manageable growth	Live, Business	More than 15 years
62	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	We need to prioritize jobs in local work places to give our youth real opportunity to stay in the community .	Positive	future for youth; jobs; support local businesses	Live	More than 15 years
63	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	I think Olds is neglecting to value its potential as a satellite community to both Red Deer & Calgary. Many people (particularly gen x and younger) that don't live in either city, myself being one of them, live here because we want a better quality of life than the cities can offer, and we wanted to benefit from that quality of life long-term. Don't underestimate the benefit that this brings to Olds. If Olds continues to prioritize industrial projects that don't consider the impacts of quality of life or wishes of its residents, we will leave, and take the property tax revenue we would contribute for decades with us. Communities like Blackfalds, Okotoks, and Cochrane have boomed thanks to their proximity to urban centres, and the increase of population has spurred investment in local initiatives, businesses and entrepreneurs - don't underestimate this potential and alienate everyone by making Olds an industrial, uninhabitable wasteland. Companies are known to file for bankruptcy and leave an expensive mess behind to clean up.	Mixed	community; don't grow; location; property taxes; quality of life; regional; satellite community	Live	n/a
63	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Retention is infinitely cheaper than recruitment: don't chase the humans away that have invested their lives in this town for ephemeral promises from snakeoil salesmen of vague job numbers that will never materialize. As a longtime resident, I know that the Town is in financial straits, but finding solutions for this is your job. As I am doing mine in order to pay my ever rising property taxes, my expectation is that you will do yours and stop looking for the easiest path for short-term appearances of gains that will end up having real harm on the residents you are supposed to be serving. Opportunities come with risk and potential loss: it's your job to weigh these opportunities and make sure the benefit for Olds RESIDENTS outweighs the risks and ultimate damage. Are you doing this? I'm looking at options of moving to another satellite community because I'm not convinced that you are.	Mixed	community; grow tax base; property taxes; retention; risk	Live	n/a

65	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Growth is important and necessary as long as it is done in a controlled, responsible and sustainable manner that doesn't alienate current business or residents.	Positive	development with community; growth; manageable growth; support local businesses	Live, Business, Work	More than 15 years
66	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Focus on attracting smaller businesses rather than a days center that you think will fix all the problems created by O-Net & the pot plant	Negative	financial management; stop data centres; support local businesses	Live, Work	More than 15 years
66	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Think more of healthy growth, if you want revenue, put in a Casino, that would guarantee more jobs & revenue on a consistent basis	Positive	casino; commercial growth; grow tax base; growth; jobs	Live, Work	More than 15 years
67	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	All of this growth and no real planning for the infrustruture needed to maintain quality of life for residents. We need a bigger hospital and our schools and teachers need support. The town seems short sighted on what they are actually trying to attract. The Data center is not appreciated.	Negative	don't grow; hospital; infrastructure; long-term planning; stop data centres; teachers	Live	More than 15 years
67	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Maintained rule roots is important and our mayor should not be sitting in any position with the olds college. There has to be a way to support the much needed improvements without harming people and animals or our quiet way of life. People choose Olds because they don't want big city.	Negative		Live	More than 15 years
69	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Do not listen only to the naysayers when it comes to the proposed data center. There are a silent majority that realize growth must occur to keep taxes reasonable.	Positive	build data centres; commercial growth; grow tax base; growth	Live	More than 15 years
70	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	The goal of "Grow the tax base" isn't a goal! You can't measure it beyond "yep it grew" or "nope!" How about a min target? Stretch growth? inflation adjusted #s? Who wrote this crap? I taught strategic planning for years: this is garbage to put out	Negative		Live, Work	More than 15 years
70	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Well if the town writes off $2.9M of money from a developer and takes land they can't sell: time to get better agreements for site plans and subdivision agreements to ensure debt can go to taxes as local area charges?	Negative		Live, Work	More than 15 years
73	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Inadequate infrastructure is common throughout the community. Town needs to pay attention to the county for economic development. The Town needs to stop taking prime agricultural land out of production to pursue questionable development. The County is also highly guilty of this as well	Negative	agricultural land; county; don't grow; infrastructure; location; regional	County	More than 15 years

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73	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Town and county lack the infrastructure to facilitate economic development. [redacted] We are left with the decision to shut down our existing (very popular) operation and move it to a location that can supply us with the necessary natural gas - ie - Back to Stettler where it all began. We currently employ 12 to 15 individuals (half of which are family) and our expansion plans would increase that number to at least 20. The Town insists on pursuing Data Centers that require huge amounts of natural gas. Yet an existing established highly popular business has limited access to the required natural gas. There is a desperate and immediate need for Foothills to upgrade its' antiquated and insufficient gas system and access the required natural gas [redacted]	Mixed	infrastructure; more energy needed; support local businesses	County	More than 15 years
75	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	I have a question for you. What industry are we going to attract here? Cause we can't build an economy from restaurants and barber shops alone. People don't like data centres. Thats fine, but who cares. We need jobs more than we need to value people's opinion who have no clue about the economy.	Mixed	big industry; commercial growth; growth; investment and attraction; jobs	Live	6 to 15 years
75	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Get investment here. I don't care what. The ship is sinking.	Mixed	big industry; commercial growth; financial management; grow; grow tax base; investment and attraction	Live	6 to 15 years
77	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Data centres are fine. Listen to experts in their respective fields. Don't listen to the nonsense.	Positive	build data centres; grow	Live, Business	More than 15 years
77	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Everyone is chasing agriculture. olds can't compete with the larger counties. Leverage our commercial and tech brand.	Positive		Live, Business	More than 15 years
78	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Build data centers	Positive	build data centres	Live, Business, Work	6 to 15 years
78	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Build data centers	Positive	build data centres; data centre projects	Live, Business, Work	6 to 15 years
79	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Bus Service to other major hubs. If I want to take a bus to Edmonton, I need to connect in Red Deer. Why can we not have some basic connection or a stop.	neutral	Bus Service; location; public transportation; regional	Live	Less than 2 years
80	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	Being purposeful about becoming a tech AI hub is missing. We have an opportunity to take advantage of unplaced fear and hesitancy elsewhere.	Positive	build data centres; fear; manageable growth; Tech hub	Business	More than 15 years

80	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	Property taxes can't keep rising this much this fast. Let's growth the tax base	Positive	commercial growth; grow tax base; property taxes	Business	More than 15 years
81	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	I don't think this plan is anywhere near ready to finalize. Maybe our Council is listening to the silent majority. However it is obvious they still don't hear! They will sit back and believe a data center will solve all the problems. Focus on what we do have and build on what we have not what we do t have.	Negative	community; stop data centres; support local businesses	Live	6 to 15 years
81	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	This strategy is very narrow minded. You have to come up with a plan and explain how you see it working. Giving discounts on taxes clearly has not worked. Show us what you have done and why you are going in the direction you have outlined.	Negative	financial management; taxes	Live	6 to 15 years
82	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	You should not be looking at a Data Centre, in the end it will hurt the town with bad publicity and not provide near the benefits that they are saying. Look around they do not do lead to long term jobs. I would like council to think how they would feel if the data centre was going in across the street from them. I am sure they would not vote for that.	Negative	jobs; stop data centres	Other (homeowner/lives pt)	More than 15 years
83	Is there anything else you would like the Town to know as we finalize this strategy?	I like what's been happening with housing development. I hope we see more commercial development soon. And I am personally in favor of data centre projects in Olds, but there's too much drama right now for anyone to have proper conversation. Good luck with it though.	Positive	data centre projects; growth; housing development; more commercial development	Live	2 to 5 years
83	Is there an economic development priority, opportunity, or concern that you feel this strategy may not be addressing?	I think you could make the regional case stronger, as nearby economic growth will benefit Olds and vice versa.	Positive	growth; location; regional	Live	2 to 5 years