

Kitchen Table Conversation Report

Name of Group/Organization: Alberta Health Services

Conversation Topic: Lethbridge at 100K

Number of people in Conversation: 12

Date: September 12th, 2016

Describe your Conversation: During the morning of September 12, Lethbridge-based Alberta Health Services public and environmental health staff members joined City of Lethbridge Community Planners to talk about our City at 100,000 people. The conversation was facilitated by Perry Stein and Andrew Malcolm, from the City of Lethbridge and Sean Robinson, from Alberta Health Services.

There was strong consensus among the group that parks and open spaces in the City are a huge community asset, as well as the foresight to place industrial activities on the East side of the City. There was also consensus that while the City has done a good job at protecting environmental resources and public health, there are always opportunities to improve (e.g., development in proximity to the River Valley, hazardous materials transportation, pedestrian safety).

Conversation 1: What do we do well as a City?

- Parks and public spaces are clean
- Street maintenance
- Air quality
- The location of industrial activities downwind (east Lethbridge)
- Amount of parks and easy access to parks by foot and bike
- Tree canopy and health—existing and new; species mix
- Good amount of off-leash parks
- River Valley is relative untouched / undeveloped compared to other communities
- Open relationships with government (e.g., AHS)
- Downtown revitalization (e.g., Galt Gardens; downtown events)
- Number of community facilities / amenities (e.g., pools, arenas)—spread out throughout the community
- Volunteers
- State of the art water treatment plant
- Environmental stewardship



Conversation 2: In what areas can we improve?

- Environmental stewardship
- Access to and from west Lethbridge (emergency planning)
- Public transit
- Six Mile Coulee subdivision / coulees—need to keep development away from the River Valley
 - There was consultation but no consideration for input

- Performing arts centre
- Trains – hazardous materials traveling through the centre of the community
- Incorporate cycling early into the development process to avoid trying to fit it in later
- School site locations—should not be on major neighbourhood entrance roads
- Crosswalks / pedestrian safety needs to be improved—especially for older residents
- Shelter
 - Too large, should be split up into multiple locations around the City
 - The general area around the shelter can be improved to make access safer (e.g., under Stafford Drive bridge; Stafford Drive bridge pedestrian movement)
 - Need to focus on harm reduction, not hands-off; safe intoxic site
- Food security needs to be considered and improved
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