



# The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

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## Staff Report

**Report Title: 2025 Budget Community Engagement**

**Date: Feb. 21, 2025**

**Report Number: TRE-2025-08**

**Department: Treasury**

**File Number: C11 TRE 25**

**Prepared By: Christine Heinisch, Manager of Financial Services/Treasurer**

**Attachments: Survey Responses Report**

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### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby receives for information Report TRE-2025-08 prepared by Christine Heinisch, Treasurer.

### **Background:**

The public was engaged in a brief survey to help guide the development of the annual budget and ensure our programs and services continue to meet the needs of the community. There were a few more questions added to the survey this year to engage feedback in preparation for the 2025 Asset Management Plan.

### **Discussion/Analysis/Overview:**

Survey responses were down about 30% from last year.

Some highlights that provide useful information for staff and Council to consider during the budget process include:

- The responses continue to represent a fairly even split between those who agree versus those who disagree that the services received for their tax dollars represent good value.
- The majority of respondents have a good understanding of what their taxes pay for and use the municipal website as a main source of information.
- The majority of respondents want to see service levels maintained across all categories. The highest support for increasing service levels was in transportation and the highest support for decreasing levels of service was in the category of General Government.
- The majority of respondents believe in the importance of saving for future infrastructure needs and own a primary residence in Huron-Kinloss.
- The highest level of participation was from lakeshore residents, age 60 and older. A significant number of people want to learn more about the budget process and of those interested, would use the municipal website to find information, although almost half of those interested also mentioned our newsletter H-K Connects as a method to learn more about the budget.

- The majority of respondents have not read the Asset Management Plan, however, the majority feel that safe and well maintained roads, bridges and reliable drinking water are important to invest in.

Appreciation is extended to all who completed the budget survey. Their valuable input supports the preparation of the budget, which is guided by the strategic principles of openness and transparency to ensure informed planning and decision making.

**Financial Impacts:**

N/A

**Performance Measurement:**

131 Responses received vs 198 Responses received last year.

**Strategic Area:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Municipal Service Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare for Inclusive Growth       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure Financial Stability                    |

**Strategic Goal: Encourage strong communication and community engagement**

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Christine Heinisch, Manager of Financial Services/Treasurer

**Report Approved By:**

Jodi MacArthur, Chief Administrative Officer