



Palliser
Regional Library

2018

Elbow Community Needs Assessment



Photo Courtesy of Pat Ryan – The Elbow Project

**Elbow Public Library Board &
Palliser Regional**

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Accuracy of information

While the Information is considered to be true and correct as of October 1, 2018 – the date of publication - changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of the Information. The Information may change without notice and Palliser Regional Library is not in any way liable for the accuracy of any information printed and stored or in any way interpreted and used by a user.

Elbow and District Overview

The Elbow and District community consists of the Village of Elbow, the Rural Municipality of Loreburn #254, and the Resort Village of Mistusinne. The Village of Elbow functions as a hub for this area. It provides the RCMP detachment, fire department, commercial services, and the public library that can be accessed by the residents of the district. Recreational facilities include the fitness centre, arena, marina, ball diamonds, civic centre, rodeo, mini golf, lake tours, and the Bayshore Centre. The Harbour Golf Club and Resort is an 18-hole championship golf course with fantastic views along Lake Diefenbaker. People in the area are regularly drawn to Elbow for the new walking trails as well. Residents travel to Loreburn for K-12 schooling, and first responders are stationed there as well.

Elbow and District Statistical Information

Retrieved from Statistics Canada Census of 2011 & 2016

Statistical Overview					
Community	Census Data 2016	Census Data 2011	% Change	Private Dwellings	Median Income
Elbow	337	314	6.8	243	\$ 38,711
RM of Loreburn #254	327	346	-1.1	132	\$37,374
Mistusinne	77	66	16.7	244	-
Total	741	726	2.1	619	\$76,085
Saskatchewan	1,098,352	1,033,381	6.3	432,622	93,942
Canada	35,151,728	33,476,688	5.0	14,072,079	\$47,487

Population Age Distribution						
Community	Mean Age	0-4 years	5-19 years	20-39 years	40-64 years	65+ years
Elbow	50.4	3.0%	11.9%	17.9%	20.9%	30.9%
RM of Loreburn #254	44.5	4.5%	19.7%	10.6%	39.4%	22.7%
Mistusinne	59.0	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	31.3%	43.8%
Total	51.3	2.5%	10.5%	10.3%	30.5%	32.5%
Saskatchewan	39.1	6.7%	25.8%	27.0%	31.7%	15.5%
Canada	41.0	5.4%	17.0%	26.0%	34.7%	16.9%

Ethnicity			
Community	Aboriginal or Métis	French Only	Immigrants in the last 10 years
Elbow	10	0	10
RM of Loreburn #254	0	0	0
Mistusinne	0	0	0
Total	10	0	10
Saskatchewan	177,355	125,810	72,305
Canada	2,130,520	4,144,685	2,268,170

Education Level			
Community	No High School	High School	Post-Secondary
Elbow	60	65	140
RM of Loreburn #254	35	40	150
Total	95	105	290
Saskatchewan	177,210	261,210	418,880
Canada	5,239,575	7,576,400	15,827,040

Occupation	Elbow	Loreburn No. 254
Management	35	95
Business/Finance/ Administration	15	0
Natural/Applied Sciences	10	0
Health Occupations	0	0
Education/Law/Social and Government Services	0	10
Art/Culture/Recreation /Sport	0	0
Sales and Service	15	25
Trades/Transport/ Equipment Operators	40	-
Natural Resources/ Agriculture	10	20
Manufacturing/Utilities	10	0
Total Labour Force	145	165

Saskatchewan Statistical Information

Saskatchewan Literacy Statistics		
Statistic	Saskatchewan	Canada
Reading		
Proportion of Students Reading at Level 1	16.0%	12.0%
Proportion of Students Reading at Level 2 (expected level of reading)	74.0%	74.0%
Proportion of Students Reading at Level 3	9.0%	14.0%
Mathematics and Science		
Overall Mean Score in Mathematics	80.5%	85.2%
Males	81.3%	85.3%
Females	79.7%	85.3%
Overall Mean Score in Science	81.8%	84.7%
Males	81.8%	84.2%
Females	82.0%	85.2%

Source: PCAP 2016 Literacy Study

Crime Rate		
Statistic	RCMP Data 2016	RCMP Data 2015
Crime Rate per 100,000 Population	5,904.5	5910.1
% Rate Increase from Previous Year	-0.09	2.3

Source: Statistics Canada

Poverty Rates*			
Statistic	2010	2014	2015
Child Poverty Rates			
Overall Child Poverty Rate (SK)**	23.0%	24.6%	24.1%
First Nations Poverty Rate	50.0%		
Immigrant Poverty Rate	29.6%		
Canada Poverty Rate	17.4%		
Food Insecurity Rates			
Household Food Insecurity		10.6%	
Children in Food Insecure Households		19.0%	
Cost of Weekly Groceries for a family of 4	2009	2012	2015
Provincial Average	\$205.02	\$218.24	\$243.64
Large City (Southern SK)	\$184.91	\$193.69	\$215.20
Small City (Southern SK)	\$188.28	\$194.09	\$220.46
Town (Southern SK)	\$202.20	\$216.46	\$238.66
Rural (Southern SK)	\$206.94	\$223.60	\$246.65

Sources: Hunter & Sanchez, *Child and Family Poverty in Saskatchewan: November 2017*, PROOF: Food Insecurity Policy Research, Saskatchewan Food Costing Task Group's *The Cost of Healthy Eating in Saskatchewan*

*Based on Statistics Canada data Sanchez and Hunter found low income can be classed as \$18,213 annually for a single adult with no child, \$25,498 annually for a lone parent with one child, \$30,962 annually for a lone parent with two children, \$25,498 annually for a couple with no child, \$30,962 annually for a couple with one child, and \$36,000 for a couple with two children.

** Only Manitoba and Nunavut have higher child poverty rates than Saskatchewan (27.5% and 36.1% respectively).

Village of Elbow

Size and Location

The Village of Elbow is a community of 337 people located in the south-central part of Saskatchewan.

- The land area of Elbow is 3.92 square kilometers, and the population density of 80.1 people per square kilometer.
- Elbow is located 38 Kilometers southeast of Gardiner Dam on Lake Diefenbaker in the RM of Loreburn. It is 8 kilometers northwest of Mistusinne, 10 kilometers northwest of Douglas Provincial Park and 16 kilometers southeast of Loreburn.
- The town contains a marina, boat storage and house boat rental, an 18-hole championship golf course, a boat dealership and two restaurants.

Facts about Elbow

- The village got its name from its position on the elbow of the South Saskatchewan River, which resembles a bent arm.
- The population of Elbow swells every summer from 337 people to well over 3,000 on any given day.
- Lake Diefenbaker is huge, and the area that surrounds it encompasses dozens of communities (including Elbow), highways, and attractions. There are two ways to get across the lake, by ferry or by way of the Gardiner Dam.
- The first known settler in the area was James Middagh, who arrived via Moose Jaw in 1898 and engaged in ranching just southeast of the present resort village of Mistusinne. Extensive settlement of the area began about 1903, and by the end of the decade much of the land of Elbow was occupied.
- The town site of Elbow was established in 1908 as the CPR line from Moose Jaw to Outlook was being built and completed in 1909. A popular slogan of the day was "Fifty years ago Palliser slept here, nobody is asleep here now!" On April 6, 1909, the village was incorporated, and Elbow flourished until the Depression.
- In 1958 the agreement between the federal and provincial governments to build the GARDINER Dam was signed, and in 1959 construction began. The SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER Project brought an influx of workers and their families to the region, and Elbow's population almost doubled during the decade. From 281 residents in 1956, the community's numbers skyrocketed to 470 by 1966. By the mid-1970s, however, Elbow's population was back down to its pre-project level.
- The assessment value for the Village of Elbow is \$53,745,800.
- For details on average income, age of population, educational levels attained, types of employment, child poverty, etc. please see tables Elbow and District Statistical Summary.
- A cairn create from pieces of the giant Cree sacred rock Mistaseni (the Buffalo Child Stone) which was blown up when the Gardiner Dam was made, can be found overlooking the Elbow harbour and marina.

Local Government

Box 8, Elbow SK, S0H 1J0

Telephone: 306-854-2277

Fax: 306-854-2229

Email: elbow@sasktel.net

Website: www.elbowsask.com

Village of Elbow Council 2018

Mayor:	Hundeby	Robert (Rob)
Councillor:	Hoppenreys	Colleen
Councillor:	Dorward	Blake
Councillor:	Brochu	Joanne
Councillor:	Soggie	Heidi
Administrator:	Jess	Yvonne

Sources: Saskatchewan Municipal Directory, Village of Elbow Website

RM of Loreburn No. 254

Size and Location

The Rural Municipality of Loreburn is a community of 327 located in south-central Saskatchewan, east of Lake Diefenbaker. The shores of Lake Diefenbaker represent its western boundary.

- The land area of the rural municipality is 966.78 square kilometers, with a population density of 0.3 people per square kilometer.
- The villages of Hawarden, Strongfield, Loreburn, and Elbow are all located within the municipal boundaries.

Facts about the RM of Loreburn

- The first organization was a Local Improvement district first meeting in January 1910, with representatives from Elbow, Loreburn, Strongfield, and Hawarden.
- A referendum held in August 1910 favored the formation of a municipality, and the first council meeting was in December 1910.
- During the 1960's, the building of the Gardiner Dam on the South Saskatchewan River brought many changes to the countryside and also to farming practices in the area, making irrigation a new agricultural option and making the area a beautiful tourist location.
- The municipality is mainly known for its agriculture, including dryland farming techniques and livestock raising, cattle in particular.

- Irrigation in the area is served from the Gardiner Dam, the Southeast Water Supply System, and related canals.
- In recent years, the area has seen considerable growth along the shores of Lake Diefenbaker. Tourism has increased abundantly as seasonal recreation is developed, and the area is well known for its many attractions, particularly Lake Diefenbaker.
- The assessment value for the RM of Loreburn is \$708,724,900.
- For details on average income, age of population, educational levels attained, types of employment, child poverty, etc. please see tables Elbow and District Statistical Summary.

Local Government – RM of Loreburn Office

Box 40, Loreburn SK, S0H 2S0

Telephone: 306-644-2022

Fax: 306-644-2064

Email: rm254@sasktel.net

RM of Loreburn Office

Reeve:	Vollmer	Kevin
Councillor:	Kretsch	Joseph
Councillor:	Brown	Brian
Councillor:	Book	Garry
Councillor:	Vollmer	Rod
Councillor:	Taylor	Douglas
Councillor:	Stone	Garry
Administrator:	Tastad	Vanessa

Sources: Saskatchewan Municipal Directory, RM of Loreburn Website

Resort Village of Mistusinne

Size and Location

The Resort Village of Mistusinne is a resort village of 66 permanent residents located along the shores of Lake Diefenbaker in south-central Saskatchewan. There are 247 cottage sites.

- It is part of the Rural Municipality of Maple Bush.
- Due to its proximity to Elbow, all basic services are provided by Elbow.
- Mistusinne’s land area is 1.49 square kilometers, with a population density of 44.3 people per square kilometer.
- The community serves as a summer retreat that contains many cabins, expanses of sandy beaches, and a 9-hole golf course, with a view of Lake Diefenbaker.

Facts about Mistusinne

- The village's name is derived from the Plains Cree word *mistasiniy*, meaning "big stone," which refers to a 400-ton granite boulder resembling a sleeping bison that once rested in the Qu'Appelle Valley before Lake Diefenbaker was built. It was a glacial erratic and a sacred gathering place for the Cree and Assiniboine peoples.
- During the South Saskatchewan River Dam Project, the boulder Mistaseni was in the flood path to the new reservoir of Lake Diefenbaker, so in 1966 the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration had the rock blasted apart with explosives, despite efforts by groups to save it.
- Pieces of the rock were used in monuments to Chief Poundmaker, and in a memorial to the boulder itself in Elbow.
- The assessment value for the Village of Mistusinne is \$41,419,700..

Local Government – Village of Mistusinne

Box 160, Elbow SK, S0H 1J0

Telephone: 306-854-4637

Fax: 306-854-4668

Email: mistusinne@sasktel.net

Website: www.mistusinne.com

Village of Mistusinne Council 2018

Mayor:	Montgomery	Lloyd
Councillor:	Summers	Brian
Councillor:	Moffat	Lorrie
Councillor:	Treble	Darren
Councillor:	Dorward	Bruce
Administrator:	Jess	Yvonne
Clerk:	Hurlburt	Leeanne

Sources: Saskatchewan Municipal Directory, Mistusinne Website

Elbow Community Programs and Services Directory:

Programs

Education Based Programs

Schools

Loreburn Central School (K-12) – Sun West School Division # 207
Box 220, Loreburn SK, S0H 2S0
539 Main Street
Telephone: 306-567-3216
Email: jill.long@sunwestsd.ca

Library and Library Programs

Elbow Public Library

402 Minto Street, Elbow SK
Telephone: 306-854-2220
Email: elbow@palliserlibrary.ca
Website: <https://www.palliserlibrary.ca/spm/branches>
Librarian: Sandy Dean
Hours:
 Wed. 12:30-5:30
 Thurs. 12:30-5:30
 Fri. 12:30-5:30

Churches

Holy Redeemer Catholic Church

Aiktow Avenue, Elbow SK
Telephone: 306-854-2054

Elbow United Church

1360 Railway Avenue, Elbow SK
Telephone: 306-854-2024

Bethel Lutheran Church

1360 Railway Avenue, Elbow SK
Telephone: 306-854-2044
Email: info@bethelelbow.com

Sports, Culture & Recreation

Sports

Elbow Swim Club

Contact: Ryan Shaw

Telephone: 306-567-4292

19ers Minor Hockey Association

Contact: Chad Allan

Telephone: 306-567-4349

19er Senior Hockey Team

Contact: Shalene Johnson

Telephone: 306-567-4320

Elbow Pickleball

Combination of Karate and Kickboxing

Telephone: 306-567-3179

Culture

Elbow & District Museum & Historical Society

Telephone: 306-854-2277

Email: elbow.museum@outlook.com

Elbow Art Society

Telephone: 306-854-2041

Nothing New Home Treasures & Art Within Concrete

Telephone: 306-854-2112

Recreation Groups & Clubs

Lake Diefenbaker Yacht Club

Commodore: Duane Weekes

Email: dn.weekes@sasktel.net

Harbor Golf Club & Resort

Telephone: 306-854-2300

Website: www.harborgolfclub.com

Line 19 Figure Skating Club

Mens & Ladies & Seniors Golf Clubs

Swimming Lessons

At Tuft's Bay - Preschool, Level 1 and up, and Family lessons

Contact: Michelle

Telephone: 306-867-4471

Email: m.babiarz@live.com

Carmen Heimlich's Woodturning & Acrylics

Telephone: 306-854-4760

Gallery 148

Art gallery and gift shop

Telephone: 306-203-9019

Driftwood Studio and Gift Shop

Telephone: 306-854-2200

Lakeview Friendship Club

Aberdeen Street, Elbow SK

Telephone: 306-854-2022

Summer Camps

Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp

Box 776, Outlook SK, S0L 2N0

Telephone: 306-854-2155

Email: info@elbowluthernbiblecamp.com

Parks & Playgrounds

Tufts Bay Campground

Telephone: 306-867-4163

Email: j_kpeddle@hotmail.com

Elbow Community Park and Peace Tower

Call the Recreation Office

Telephone: 306-567-2908

Recreation Facilities

Elbow Family Fitness Centre (Gym)

Telephone: 306-867-3460

Elbow Arena

Book through Village Office

Telephone: 306-854-2277

Email: elbow2@sasktel.net

Lakeside Marina Services

Telephone: 306-854-2211

Website: www.lakesidemarina.ca

Ball Diamonds, Slo-pitch

Douglas Provincial Park

Elbow Harbour Marina

Telephone: 306-854-2211

Elbow Civic Centre

Book through Village Office

Telephone: 306-854-2277

Email: elbow2@sasktel.net

Douglas/Danielson Provincial Parks

Telephone: 306-854-6266

Email: douglaspark@serm.gov.sk.ca

Elbow Trail

South Elbow Drive

Roping & Rodeo Ring

Elbow Rodeo Grounds

Harbour Lights Mini Golf

Telephone: 306-854-4523

Wendeebee II

Yacht lake tours

Telephone: 306-242-3625

Bayshore Centre

Event rental facility

Telephone: 306-867-4163

Harbor Golf Club & Resort

Telephone: 306-854-2300

Website: www.harborgolfclub.com

Service Clubs & Societies

Loreburn-Elbow Legion Branch #251

Contact: Joe Sitavanc

Telephone: 306-854-2083

Elbow & District Wildlife Federation

Contact: Tammy Lemcke

Telephone: 306-854-2113

4-H

Elbow Service Club

Elbow Museum Board

Palliser Regional Library Board

Community Development Committee

Lakeshore Stampede Rodeo Committee

Elbow Willing Workers

Alcoholics Anonymous

Website: www.sk-alanon.ca

Email: district9rep@sk-alanon.ca

Community Electronic Swap Meet

Telephone: 306-854-2277

Email: classifieds@elbowsask.com

Lakeview Friendship Club

Located in Civic Centre Basement

Thursdays 1-4 pm

Services

Health & Well-Being

Elbow Wellness Clinic

Every 3rd Tuesday in the Elbow Civic Centre
Registered nurse and foot care, blood pressure check, dressing change, removal of stitches, vitamin B shots

Contact: Marg Willis

Telephone: 306-854-4446

Five Hills Health Region

Central Butte & Area Clinic

Physician or Nurse Practitioner

Telephone: 306-796-2180

Home Care

Nursing & home making services

Contact: Janet Hundebly, RN

Telephone: 306-854-2167

Dental Services: Outlook & Central Butte

Optometrist: Outlook, SK

Heartland Health Line

1-877-800-0002

Commercial Services

Retail

Pyrotechnician (fireworks)

Dale Norrish

Telephone: 306-857-2007

Back Home Bakery & Deli

Telephone: 306-854-2244

Variety Sales

Including Watkins

Contact: Henry and Sylvia Harms

Telephone: 306-854-2287

Lakeshore Foods

Telephone: 306-854-4630

Elbow Fine Foods

Telephone: 306-854-2055

R&J Lakeside Services

Telephone: 306-854-2166

Elbow Hotel Bar

Telephone: 306-854-2214

Financial Services/Real Estate/Law

Stacey Gifford

Life and Hail Insurance Broker

Telephone: 306-831-8056

Zirka Financial Management Inc.

Telephone: 306-854-2096

Simply Outrageous! Accessories & More

Telephone: 403-669-0656

Chinook Winds Boatique

Telephone: 306-854-2232

Fancy Feet Sandals & More

Ladies clothing and sandals

Telephone: 306-860-7961

Concert Master Piano Accessories

Telephone: 306-854-2233

Joel Florist Shop

Telephone: 306-854-2233

The Jelly Bean Shoppe

Telephone: 306-690-7288

Harbor Golf Club & Resort Pro Shop

Telephone: 306-854-2300

Website: www.harborgolfclub.com

Prairie Centre Credit Union

Telephone: 306-854-2118

PCCU Insurance Ltd

Telephone: 306-854-2113

Email: pccuinsurance@sasktel.net

Website: elbowagencies.saskbrokers.com

Garmac Management & Real Estate

Telephone: 306-854-2003

Email: garmac36@sasktel.net

Website: www.garmacmanagement.com

Tourism/Events

Elbow Hotel

Telephone: 306-854-2214

Lakeview Lodge Hotel

Telephone: 306-854-4444

Sarah's Cove Condo Rentals (Harbour Inn)

Telephone: 306-854-2003

Email: sarahscoveatelbow@sasktel.net

Media

Internet Providers:

- XPLORNET – 844-730-8047
- Shaw) - 855-285-1105
- SaskTel – 855-531-8845
- Access Communications

Sandy Shores Resort Development

Near Gardiner Dam on Lake Diefenbaker

Telephone: 306-249-2939

Email: info@sandyshoresresort.ca

Website: www.sandyshoresresort.ca

Harbor Golf Club & Resort

Telephone: 306-854-2300

Website: www.harborgolfclub.co

Davidson Leader

Custom printing, advertising, floral arrangements

Telephone: 306-567-2047

Email: theleaderonline@gmail.com

Website: www.leaderonline.ca

The Outlook (newspaper)

E-mail: Theoutlook@sasktel.net

Restaurants

Elbow Chinese Restaurant

216 Saskatchewan St. Elbow

Telephone: 306-854-0010

Email: petercho2007@hotmail.com

Website: www.elbowcr.com

Elbow Hotel Bar and Grill

Harbour Bar and Grill

Seasonal - Harbour Golf Club

Back Home Bakery and Deli

431 Saskatchewan Street, Elbow

Public Transportation

None

Industrial Services

Bramble Excavating & Trucking

Telephone: 306-854-2030

Amaris Inc. Finish Concrete

Telephone: 306-854-0007

Greg's Mobile Welding & Tire

Telephone: 306-221-3100

Commutron Industries Ltd

Telephone: 306-854-2265

Government Services

Municipal Services

Village of Elbow Office

Box 8, Elbow SK, S0H 1J0

Administrator: Yvonne Jess

Telephone: 306-854-2277

Fax: 306-854-2229

Email: elbow@sasktel.net

Website: www.elbowsask.com

Rural Municipality of Loreburn No. 254

Box 40, Loreburn SK, S0H 2S0

Administrator: Vanessa Tastad

Telephone: 306-644-2022

Fax: 306-644-2064

Email: rm254@sasktel.net

Emergency Services

First Responders & Volunteer Fire Dept.

Services Loreburn & District Area

Telephone: 306-230-2050

Diefenbaker Seed Processors Ltd

Telephone: 306-644-4704

Coppertop Towing

Telephone: 306-867-4443

Millar's Waste Septic Disposal

Telephone: 1-888-866-8877

Resort Village of Mistusinne Office

Box 160, Elbow SK, S0H 1J0

Administrator: Yvonne Jess

Telephone: 306-854-4637

Fax: 306-854-4668

Email: mistusinne@sasktel.net

Website: www.mistusinne.com

Elbow Housing Authority

Senior/Low income Housing units

Contact: Harry Locke

Telephone: 306-854-2288

RCMP – Elbow Detachment

Telephone: 306-854-1830

Government of Saskatchewan Services

SGI Motor License Issuer

PCCU Insurance Ltd.

153 Saskatchewan Street, Elbow SK

Telephone: 306-854-2113

Email: pccuinsurance@sasktel.net

Website: www.elbowagencies.saskbrokers.com

Government of Canada Services

Canada Post

Located at Driftwood Studio & Gift

Box 284, Elbow SK, S0H 1J0

302 Stanley Street

Telephone: 1-866-607-6301

MLA/MP

MLA

Greg Brkich

102 Washington Avenue, Davidson SK

Box 1077

Telephone: 306-567-2843

Email: gregbrkich@sasktel.net

Website: www.gregbrkich.ca

MP

Tom Lukiwski

#1 - 54 Stadacona Street W, Moose Jaw SK

Telephone: 306-691-3579

Email: tom.lukiwski@parl.gc.ca

Sources: Village of Elbow Website, RM of Loreburn Website, Village of Mistusinne Website, Greg Brkich MLA Website, Tom Lukiwski Website, Hutterite Colony Directory, KidsCamps Directory of Saskatchewan Overnight Camps, Saskatchewan Municipal Directory

Community Responses to Needs Assessment

Part One: Strengths, Present-Oriented

1. What makes this community a great place to live?

- People are kind and friendly
- Welcoming atmosphere
- Small town feel in the winter, bustling tourist community in the summer
- Steady growth
- Lake and golf course nearby
- Laid back and stress free environment
- Everyone knows one another
- Nature/wildlife
- Local RCMP detachment
- Banks, churches
- Safety
- Very community-oriented
- Lots of community activities and support

2. If you met someone who was new to town and they asked you what is there to do around here, what would you say? (What are the activities that are of the most interest to people in this community?)

- Active retirement and resort community
- Swimming, boating, sailing, fishing, and water sports on the lake
- Yacht Club
- Golf course
- Pickleball club
- Gym
- Camp sites and walking/hiking trails
- Cycling
- Rodeo and horseback riding
- Close to two provincial parks
- Bingo nights
- Many sports to play or watch, all different ages
- Unique shops
- Ice cream shop
- Art galleries
- Community park and Joe Fafard Peace Tower

- Restaurant
- Library
- Sand dunes
- Community park and orchard
- Museum and original sod house
- Lots of things to get involved in the community and meet people
- For kids there are sports, activities at the libraries and churches
- Hunting and archery range
- Adult classes and events at the library
- Laying on the beach
- Spending time at a cottage or camping

Part Two: Weaknesses, Present-Oriented

3. What are the challenges about living in this community?

- Few employers, mainly summer employment
- Not enough activities for the youth
- Volunteer burnout
- Far away from major shopping centers and resources such as lumber and hardware
- Fewer activities during the winter
- Few businesses
- Far away from emergency services
- Poor highway conditions
- No medical care close
- People aligning themselves into groups instead of communicating and working together
- Resistance to change

4. If you could change one thing about this community what would it be? (How is the way you envision your ideal community different from how you see things now?)

- More employment year-round
- More families moving in
- Less divide between those who attend church and those who do not
- Paved streets
- Access to lake water for watering lawns
- More businesses, both for tourism and year-round
- People thinking more about the future, not clinging to the past
- Adding a lumber yard
- Having a doctor
- More members of the community involved with volunteering
- Working together rather than just a few doing all the work

5. What are the hot button issues of this community?

- Quality of highways
- Paved streets
- Community center, rink, and other buildings are old and small, and there is debate over whether they should be repaired or replaced with newer buildings
- Updating the sewer system
- Saving or demolishing the grain elevator
- The new water intake
- Expanding the gymnasium
- Availability of resources, especially for the elderly
- Attracting more businesses to Main Street

Part Three: Opportunities/Threats

6. How would you describe your ideal vision for the future of this community? (What do you want [this community] to be for the next generation?) (What kind of Community do you want to live in and why is that important to you?)

- More employment opportunities
- Improvement to the school
- Improved roadways to encourage tourism
- Continued sustainable growth
- Temporary housing for people moving into town for summer employment
- Care home for the elderly
- More year-round businesses
- Tourism year-round (ice fishing, ski doing, and cross-country skiing)
- Continue to offer all the services we have now while continuing to grow the community
- Things for seniors to do
- More amenities

7. What are some of the things that need to happen to create that kind of change?

- More employment opportunities
- More young families moving in
- Create a new industry, like a potash mine, to produce jobs and draw in more young people
- Changing people's mindsets about the future
- Continued partnership with Lake Diefenbaker Tourism
- We need rental properties to house workers for the store and restaurant
- Promotion and people knowing what a great community we have
- Communication between the council and community members

8. What type of educational opportunities/skills/knowledge is needed to make that vision become a reality?

- Improving the school
- Training for work in the tourism industry and communication skills
- Education geared toward business and agriculture
- Continuing the existing programs at the library and creating new ones for all age groups
- More specialized educators for students with special needs
- Medical facilities
- Education about organizational structure, maybe through the library
- More young people moving into the community

9. What barriers do you see that might prevent the creation of your ideal community?

- Few people participating in local events
- No doctor, hospital, or pharmacy
- Poor condition of the highways
- The seasonal nature of the tourism industry
- People not thinking about the future
- Funding
- Lack of volunteers and skilled employees

10. Do you see yourself leaving in this community long term? What would make you leave this community? What would make you stay?

- Reasons for leaving
 - o Health deterioration
 - o Career opportunity
 - o Availability of resources
- Reasons for staying:
 - o Great people
 - o Small town feel
 - o Proximity to the lake
 - o Activities in the community
 - o Children are established in school and the community
 - o Good careers
 - o Good values and morals
 - o Feeling of safety
 - o Access to a great school

11. Any last thoughts?

- I use the library a lot and it is a really great place
- The library staff are great for the community
- The community benefits from library programs and fundraising

- This community is great, especially for hunters, fishermen, boater, and outdoorsy people
- The library's organic garden and internet are beneficial to the community
- Elbow has a bright future because of its tourism industry

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