

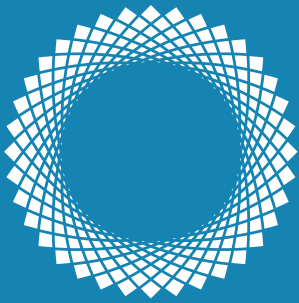
# OKOTOKS COMMUNITY VISIONING 2014

**SHARE YOUR IDEAS.  
SHAPE YOUR COMMUNITY.**  
SHARE TO SHAPE 2014.

## SUMMARY

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Prepared by: O2 Planning + Design  
Prepared for: Town of Okotoks



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## SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT PHASES

**ONE** IDENTIFY VALUES AND ASPIRATIONS

**TWO** REFINE IDEAS

**THREE** PREPARE DRAFT AND FINAL VISION

PROJECT LAUNCH SEPTEMBER 10  
LESSONS FROM THE FUTURE FOR CITIES

### ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



**13**

WEEKS (SEPTEMBER 10 – OCTOBER 15)  
WEEKS (OCTOBER 22 - NOVEMBER 12)  
WEEKS (NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 12)



**2**

ROVING SHARE-TO-SHAPE KIOSKS



**10**

LOCATIONS



**5**

WORKSHOPS  
(PUBLIC (2), STAFF, COUNCIL, COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL)



**3**

COMMUNITY EVENTS



**2**

DROP-IN EVENTS  
(GALLERY EVENT, OPEN HOUSE)



ONLINE  
MAPPING TOOL



ONLINE SURVEYS



ONLINE DISCUSSION  
FORUM



STAKEHOLDER  
COMMENT FORMS



COMMENT BOX



IMAGINE THE FUTURE VIDEO  
GRADE 6

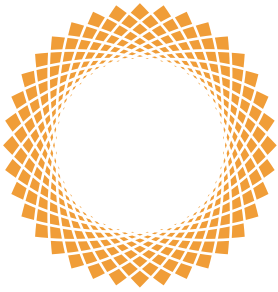
IMAGINE THE FUTURE ACTIVITY  
ELEMENTARY + HIGHSCHOOL

**2500+** COMMENTS RECEIVED  
**250+** PEOPLE ATTENDED

PHASE ONE  
1800+  
140+

PHASE TWO  
600+  
80+

PHASE THREE  
60+  
30+



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## THEMES

Fourteen major themes that imagine what Okotoks could become in the future have been identified and refined during the OCV process.

### SOCIAL CAPITAL (PEOPLE)

- People are the most highly valued community asset
- Sense of knowing others, sense of community, friendliness, and coming together at community events are the foundation of the “small town feel”
- Okotoks needs more places for people to gather (plazas, markets, creative centres)
- “We give each other that Okotokian acknowledgement of smiling, waving ‘thanks’ for stopping to let us cross the roads or allowing each other into lanes on busy roads”
- “I run into people I know about Town”

### PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

- The river valley landscape and mountain views are key natural features to celebrate and protect
- The sense of being close to nature contributes to the “small town feel”
- Pathways and trails connect people to the natural environment, and link-up neighbourhoods
- Preserve and expand the pathways and open space system as the community grows to nurture this asset

### DOWNTOWN

- Downtown should be a more active, vibrant place where there are things to see and do throughout the day and into the evening
- As a central gathering place, downtown requires attention, investment and some re-thinking
- Design, programming and services should reflect the people who make Okotoks great
- Need to address design and mix of commercial / restaurant uses

### NEIGHBOURHOODS

- Neighbourhoods are focal points of community activity
- Design is inclusive, environmentally responsible, compact and complete
- Spaces such as parks, community centres and small-scale commercial services create places for people to gather and socialize

### MOBILITY

- Transit (local and regional) is a defining feature of Okotoks in the future
- People choose active transportation options such as walking, biking or other people-powered modes over personal vehicle use
- Streets are safe, with high-quality infrastructure for all transportation modes

### CULTURE

- Okotoks is a cultural village where residents have access to a range of cultural opportunities
- Heritage, cultural and creative resources contribute to a thriving economy and residents' quality of life
- Cultural resources should be valued through community investment and support

### RECREATION

- Recreation facilities (eg. swimming pool, ice space, outdoor space) meet the needs of a healthy, active and engaged population
- Indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities are equitable, accessible and affordable
- Recreation contributes to a healthy lifestyle

### DESIGN / BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- The built environment is beautiful, reflects pride in the natural landscape, is well-connected, and supports the creation of an active and healthy lifestyle
- Housing is affordable, flexible and more diverse, and meets the needs of all residents young and old
- Develop a distinctive style beyond the “suburban” aesthetic

### ENVIRONMENT

- The Town is a leader in the provision of environmentally responsible services (recycling, composting, waste management)
- Focus on renewable energy and eco-innovation (solar power, district heating)
- Reduce waste, reduce energy use, preserve the river valley
- Create affordable environmental solutions

### GOVERNANCE

- Continue to invest in community events, high-quality provision of services, emphasis on relationships with people
- Model a “culture of yes” to promote innovation
- Regional focus to promote collaboration and cooperation
- Balance provision of services with affordability

### ECONOMY

- Locally-based
- Attract a range of professional and “living wage” jobs to improve affordability and reduce number of people who need to commute
- Market attractiveness of living in a complete community to attract small and medium-sized businesses
- Tourism is a component of economic development

### EDUCATION

- School spaces keep pace with population growth
- High-quality opportunities for continuing education, including a potential post-secondary campus
- Schools are multi-purpose community hubs

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Promote a healthy and active lifestyle through recreation opportunities, cultural outlets and resident participation
- Facilities and services are inclusive, and help people stay healthy through every stage of their life
- Embrace an outlook that allows people to thrive in Okotoks throughout their entire lives

### COMMERCIAL / RETAIL SERVICES

- A full range of commercial and entertainment services reduces commuting to Calgary, and helps “complete” the community
- Ensure that shopping and restaurants are balanced north and south of the river
- Neighbourhood-level services animate community nodes that can be easily accessed by walking, cycling or other active modes

## VALUES

Six core community values were distilled from the fourteen major themes. Values are the building blocks for the vision and principles, and are a collective expression of what is most important to the Town.

### CARING

- People are friendly
- People look out for one another
- People take pride in their Town
- People thrive

### COMPLETE

- A range of housing, jobs, educational opportunities, services, recreation and culture are provided in the community
- The needs of all residents, regardless of income or age, are equitably met

### CONNECTED

- People can easily access community services
- Mobility emphasizes walking, cycling and transit use
- Integrated design links the built, social and natural environments

### ACTIVE, INCLUSIVE + DIVERSE

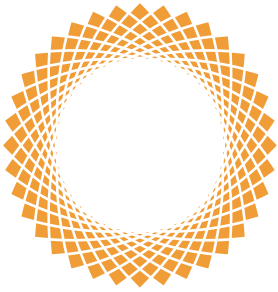
- Healthy, balanced lifestyle for all
- Strong participation in civic culture / community events
- Accessible heritage, cultural, creative, play-based and sporting resources

### GREEN

- Respect and conserve the natural environment
- Become leaders in climate change adaptation, energy reduction and renewable resources
- People are mindful of their actions and impacts

### RESILIENT

- Strong leadership
- Enduring commitment
- Affordable services
- Adaptive management
- People and municipal government strive for innovative and creative solutions



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## TOWN OF OKOTOKS COMMUNITY VISION

The Town of Okotoks is resilient, where people, businesses, ideas and sense of community thrive. Grounded by the Sheep River valley and supported by thoughtful planning and design, a strong local economy and a vibrant civic culture, Okotoks offers exceptional quality of life at every stage of life. Respect for each other and the natural environment makes Okotoks home.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

#### Livable Okotoks

People make Okotoks the caring, safe and welcoming place that it is. Public spaces are cherished, natural features are valued, and community needs are met. An appropriate mix of land uses, mobility options, infrastructure and accessible, affordable and equitable services provide the foundation for sustainable growth. High-quality education opportunities support life-long learning. The transportation network is multi-modal, allowing for the environmentally responsible and cost-effective movement of people and goods.

#### Inclusive Neighbourhoods

Neighbourhoods are connected, fostering a sense of community among residents. Housing is flexible, affordable and desirable, and meets the needs of residents of all ages, income levels and family types. Design and architecture create places that reflect neighbourhood culture. Community gathering spaces are animated and anchor neighbourhoods. Streets are lively and engaging places, where people can move around in a safe and inclusive environment. New communities are permeable and connected to encourage active transportation.

#### Sustainable Design

The places and spaces that make up Okotoks are designed with the environment in mind. Energy, air quality, land and water conservation are critical elements integrated in all planning and development projects. Okotoks is a leader in low-impact, environmentally conscious design. Creative resources, advanced technologies and respect for nature create a unique sense of place based on environmental stewardship. Regional and local transit provide efficient transportation alternatives and reduce vehicle use.

#### Vibrant Civic Culture and Heritage

Residents joyfully embrace Okotoks, and cultivate a rich quality of life. Okotoks provides access to a wide range of cultural resources, fostering audiences, participants and creators who contribute to community building and economic development. The strong tradition of community events is a hallmark of living in Okotoks. Residents are engaged in civic life, and Town Council and administration promote open dialogue.

#### Active Lifestyle

Residents enjoy an active lifestyle that nurtures community well-being. Health and wellness facilities support the needs of residents at every stage of life. Opportunities for sport and play are accessible in high-quality recreation facilities, multi-use civic buildings and a complete parks and open space network. These public spaces strengthen the bond between residents, and to the places they share.

#### Strong Local Economy

Okotoks-based employment and businesses strengthen the economy. Okotoks takes a collaborative approach to economic growth, creating new opportunities that complement the region. Okotoks promotes innovation and attracts businesses and industries. A thriving downtown supports economic development. Okotoks is a place to live, work and play, where local employment encourages residents to actively engage in their community.