



What We Heard

BanffViewpoints Online Panel

Snapshots Survey – August 2023

Background

BanffViewpoints.ca is the Town of Banff's website for compiling projects that require public input to help inform municipal decisions. Projects are profiled on the website regardless of whether they involve in-person engagement or online engagement or a combination of types of engagement. Projects include documents and resources and, after the public input processes are complete, they include What We Heard documents. Closing the loop on public input processes by sharing the aggregated feedback back to participants is an essential transparency step in municipal consultation.

For projects using online engagement, tactics that may be employed include surveys, discussion forums, idea generation and mapping and photo voice. Depending on the topic under consultation, participants may remain anonymous, they may be required to enter an email address to allow for follow up, or they may be required to register their demographic information and email. When the detailed demographic information is requested, it can be used to determine if the participant sample is representative of the Banff population or if important targeted groups are represented. In response to findings, the Town can increase targeting to underrepresented groups or scale responses to reflect representation.

From time to time, the Town of Banff will deploy online engagement that is not tied to a specific municipal engagement project. The Snapshots Survey is an example of a tool to gather public opinion on a variety of topics that are not specifically part of an engagement project, but the results will help with municipal planning. Although this tool was started in 2019, it was paused in pandemic periods due to the population in flux.

Infrequently, the Town will seek opinions on hot-button topics that may not be within the municipality's jurisdiction. Benefits of this approach include sharing results that may benefit a community conversation, while demonstrating that not all engagement questions are critical to Town decisions.

More importantly, surveying on popular topics helps recruit participants to the Online Panel. The Online Panel of participants who have provided their demographic information will become a useful panel of Banff residents when the size is statistically significant and representative. The Town is in a process of regrowing the participation, since the population is more stable than during the pandemic. Rapid surveys for Council or Administration questions will be able to be deployed with meaningful results gathered within a week, rather than the standard of one month surveying.

Engagement Overview

The quarterly Snapshots Survey of multiple topics in August 2023 was focused on special events with these topics:

- Canada Day activities
- New Year's Eve activities
- National Indigenous Peoples Day activities

- Parades in Banff
- Fireworks and Pyrotechnics Displays in Banff
- Free and Low-Cost Activities for Residents
- Digital notifications and newsletters

Engagement Activities

The online survey was deployed for 22 days, from August 9 to August 31.

The survey was promoted on the Town of Banff's social media channels for Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly called Twitter), and in the Town's information advertisement in the Rocky Mountain Outlook newspaper. The survey was also promoted in three newsletters: the Town's *Banff This Week* newsletter, the *Public Input Opportunities* newsletter and the newsletter for BanffViewpoints engagement topics.

What We Heard – Summary

The Snapshots Survey had 127 participants who registered to the online panel, or were previously registered, and provided responses to almost all of the approximately 25 questions, documented below in the What We Asked section. Participants had the option of skipping any of the questions.

A large portion of survey respondents said they would like to see a return of moving, traditional parades for Canada Day and a return of pyrotechnics displays on Canada Day and New Year's Eve.

Almost 52% of respondents said they attended Canada Day activities. The list of reasons for not attending was evenly distributed among "I wanted to avoid crowds" (30%), "I was out of town" (24%), "I was working" (19%), "I had other things to do" (11%), and almost 16% identified other reasons.

Survey respondents indicated music performances as the most enjoyable activity on this past Canada Day and a moving parade as most important for upcoming July 1 celebrations. Regarding past New Year's Eve activities, participants indicated a fairly even prioritization of favoured activities, with pyrotechnics and activities for all ages receiving greatest support.

A large portion of respondents said they would like to participate in Canada Day activities as volunteers or participants in parade displays.

Almost 80% of respondents said they did not attend National Indigenous Peoples Day activities, with the most frequently cited reason as they were working, followed by they were out of town. For those who said they attended, they indicated the music and dance performances in Central Park were the most popular activity.

Regarding questions about free and low-cost activities, the strong majority indicated use of the Banff Public Library, followed by free Roam Public Transit in Banff. The open-ended question about suggestions for other free and low-cost activities received a range of comments but no single item emerged as a popular service.

A majority of respondents said they have signed up for the Emergency Notices through Voyent Alert, but 17% of people who answered this question were not registered. Next most popular digital information service was parking ban notification, also offered through the Voyent Alert system for people who do not opt out of the information notification topics. Of the six topics listed for public input process in Banff, the majority of respondents who answered the question said they had provided input to the Community Plan update (84%), followed by people who said they gave input to the Community Social Assessment (44%).

The most frequently suggested topic for future Snapshot Surveys was the Pedestrian Zone and traffic issues.

What We Will Do

The Town plans to return a moving parade to the 2024 Canada Day celebrations, with the option for vehicle-powered floats, but with width restrictions and increased safety marshals, and encouragement of human-powered participants. The greater area of road closure will require additional measures for traffic management.

The Town plans to return with pyrotechnics display for the 2023 New Year's Eve celebration, similar to the 2022 event, unless Parks Canada directs the Town to remove pyrotechnics from its celebration. The municipality is awaiting an assessment of pyrotechnics from the Banff National Park field unit and its response to an application for a Restricted Activity Permit to allow low-altitude, lower noise pyrotechnics on New Year's Eve.

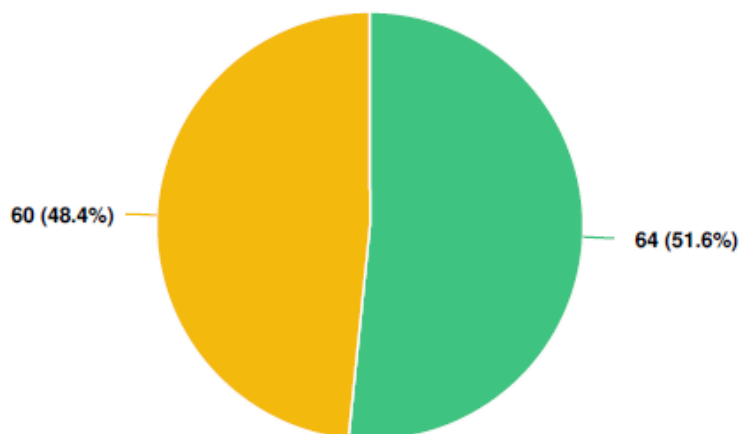
Due to a large number of participants indicating interest in volunteering or working in the celebrations, the Town will increase recruitment efforts earlier, despite very low volunteer rates in past years.

The Town will review top activities suggestions for event planning. The Town will also review and assess suggestions for new free or low-cost options for any services not currently offered. The municipality will add promotions of digital information services throughout the year.

The next quarterly Snapshots Survey will include a focus on transportation issues. This fall, the Town will launch its previously scheduled Pedestrian Zone consultation.

What We Heard – Details

Q1 Did you attend Canada Day events in Banff this year?



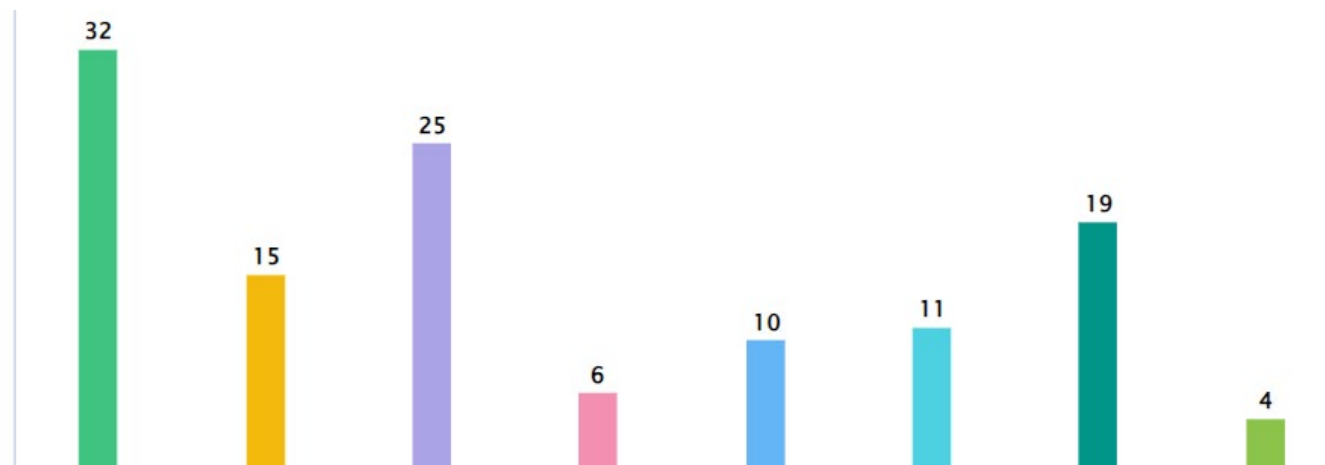
Question options

Yes No

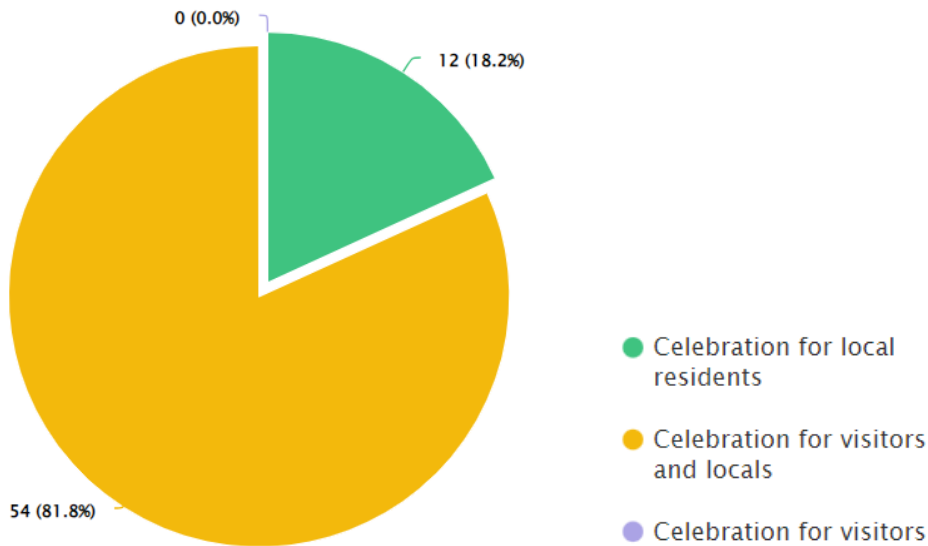
Q2 What did you like most about Canada Day? (Select up to 3)

Music at the Central Park Main Stage

- Music at the Central Park Main Stage: 32 (48.5%)
- Activities, games and performances in the High School Fun Zone: 15 (22.7%)
- Marching bands and performances at Caribou Corner in the pedestrian zone: 25 (37.9%)
- Bicycle / wheeler parade: 6 (9.1%)
- Artisans displays and demonstrations in Central Park: 10 (15.2%)
- Art Lane and chalk drawing in the pedestrian zone: 11 (16.7%)
- Bear Street's cooling zone and calm live music: 19 (28.8%)
- I don't know: 4 (6.1%)



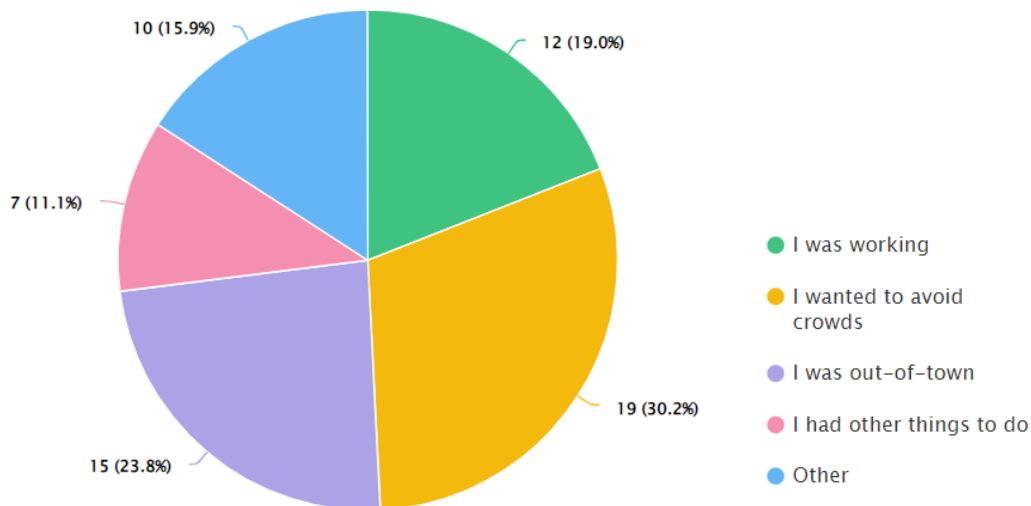
Q3 What do you think the focus should be for Canada Day?



Q4 Were there any other Canada Day events you really liked?

See verbatim responses, at end of report

Q5 Why did you not attend Canada Day events?

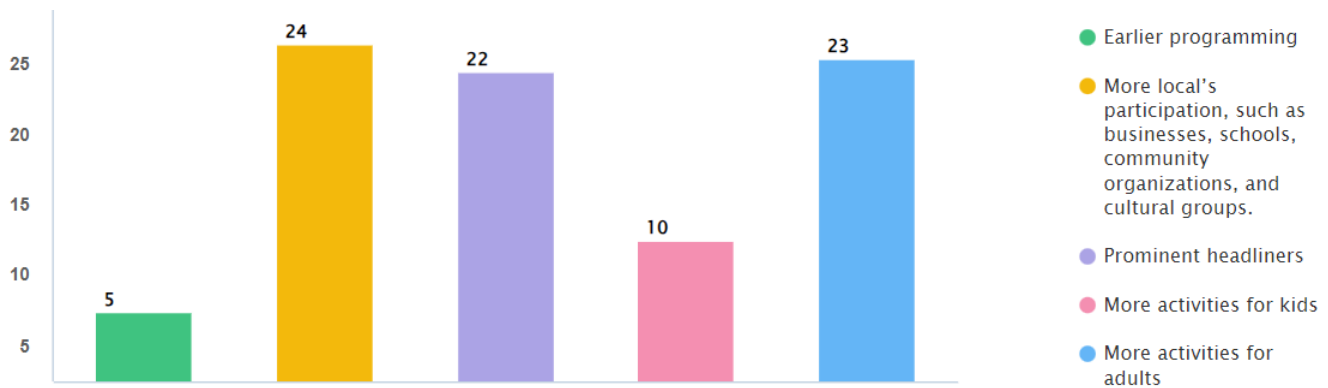


Q6 Other:

- No parade
- I would like to see real Canada day parade back
- Nothing to see no parade no fireworks OK no point
- The events did not interest me. I wanted a parade.
- I went to Granum for fireworks

- Because they get worse and worse every year
- Boring, bring back the parade and the fireworks
- I went to the Canmore Parade instead
- Went to Canmore parade

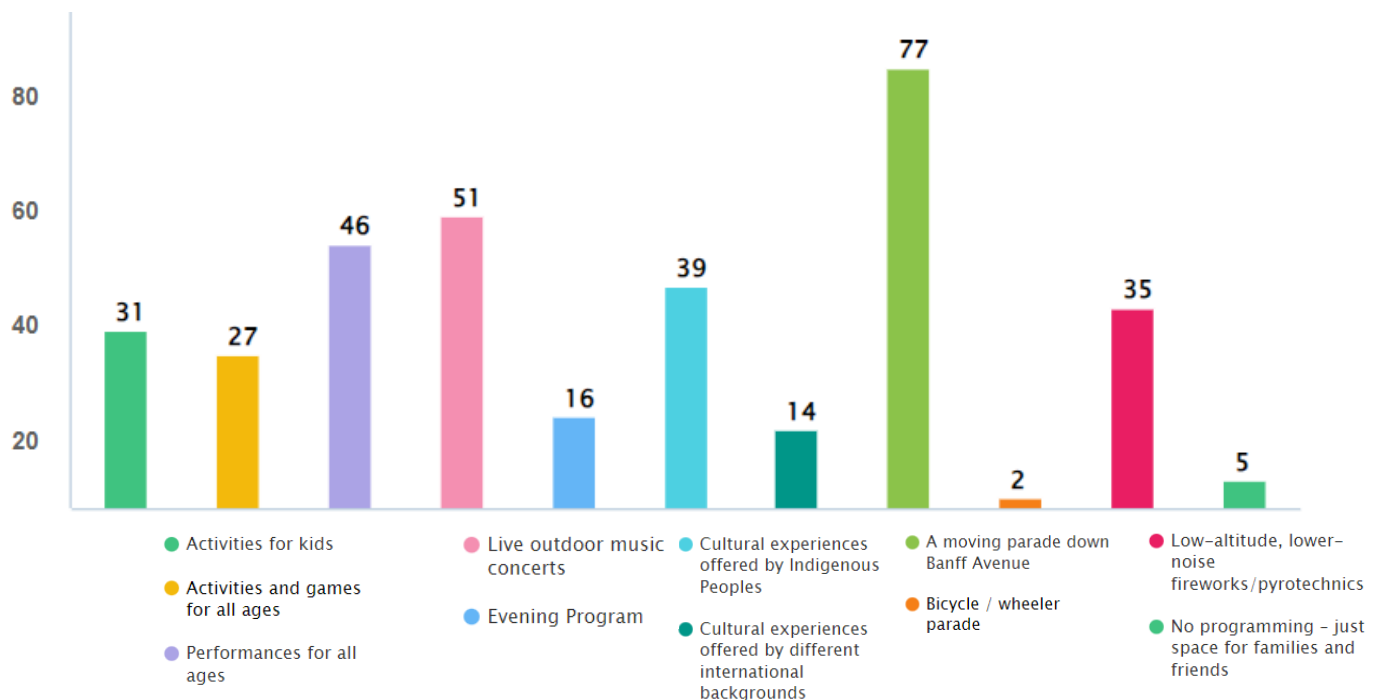
Q7 What would entice you to attend next year? (Select any that apply)



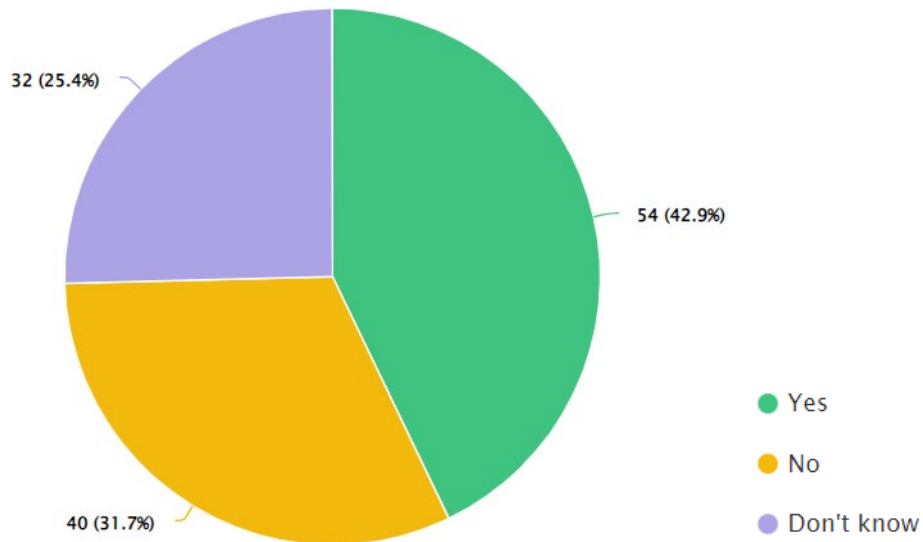
Q8 What else would encourage you to attend next year?

See verbatim responses, at end of report

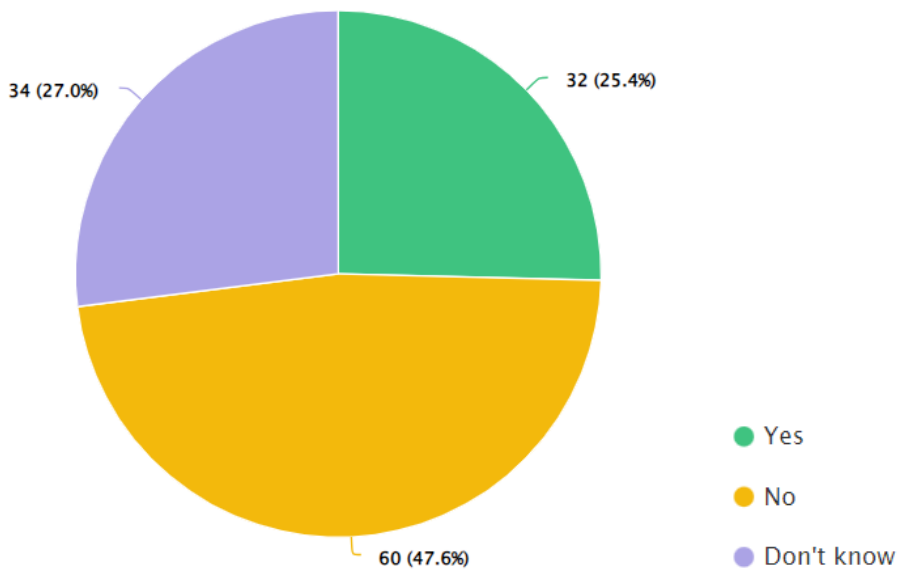
Q9 What Canada Day activities in Banff do you think are most important? (Select up to 3)



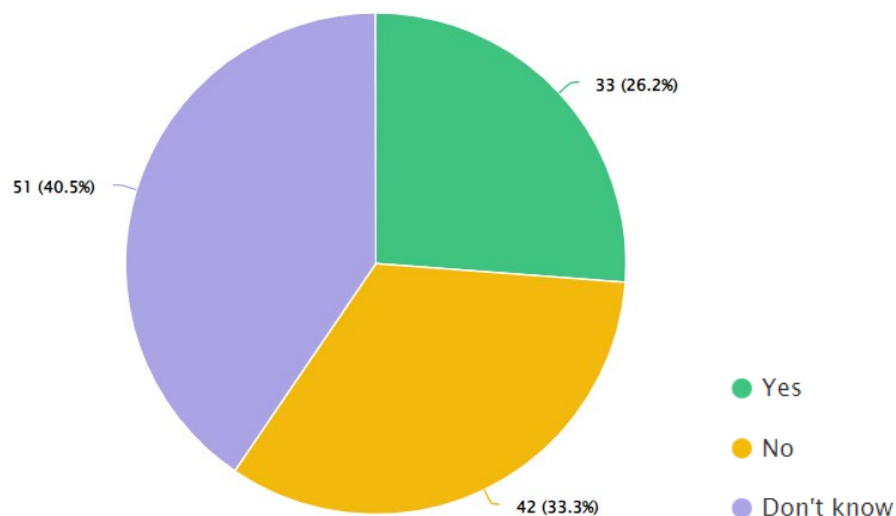
Q10 | Next year, do you think you as an individual participant, or your place of work, or community organization you belong to would like to participate in the Canada Day parade?



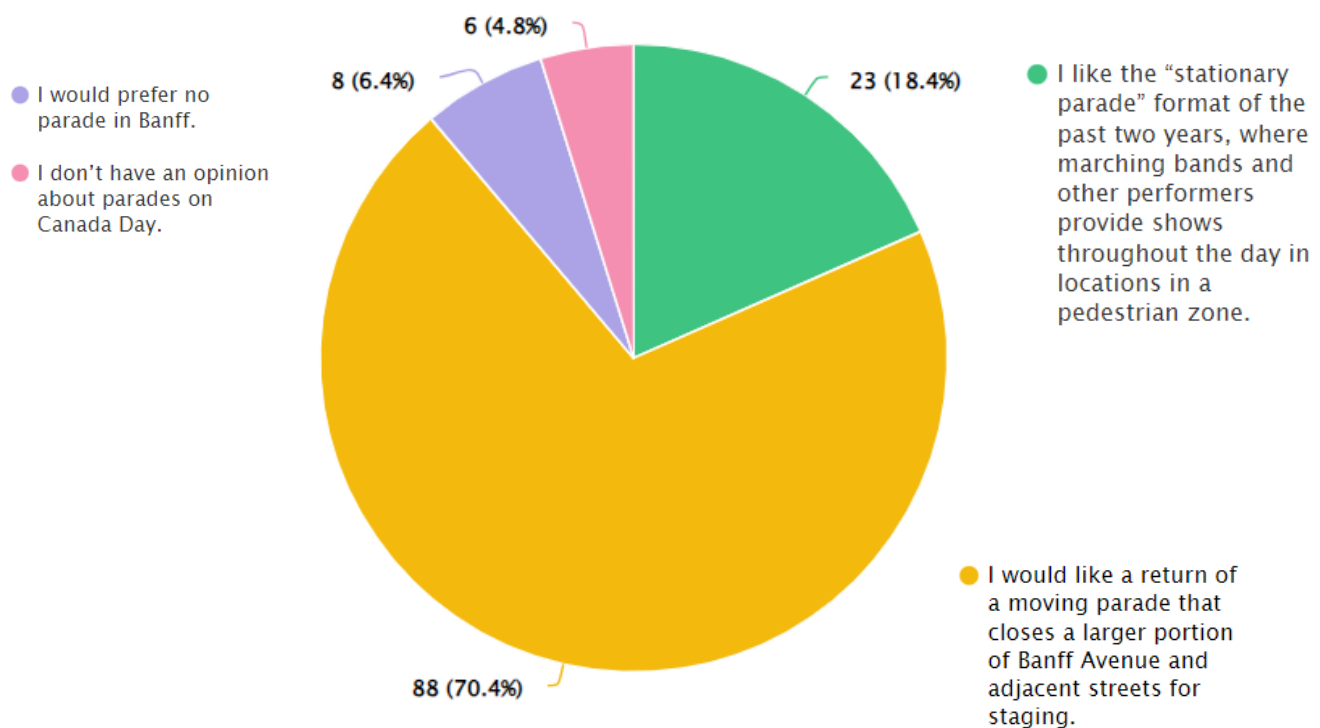
Q11 | Next year, do you think you as an individual participant, or your place of work, or community organization you belong to would like to have an activation (display/demo/service/fundraiser) on Banff Ave or Central Park?



Q12 | Next year, do you think you as an individual participant, or your place of work, or community organization you belong to would like to be a volunteer for Canada Day?



Q13 | For next year's Canada Day, which statement about a parade do you agree with most?

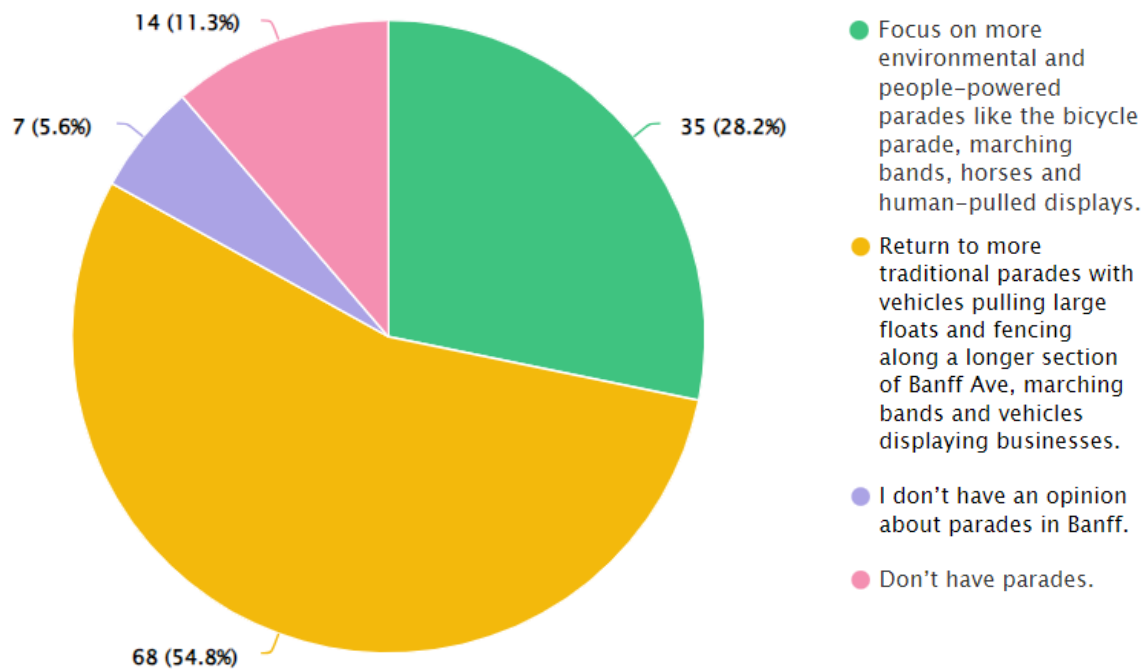


Q14 Do you have any comments about Canada Day?

See verbatim responses, at end of report

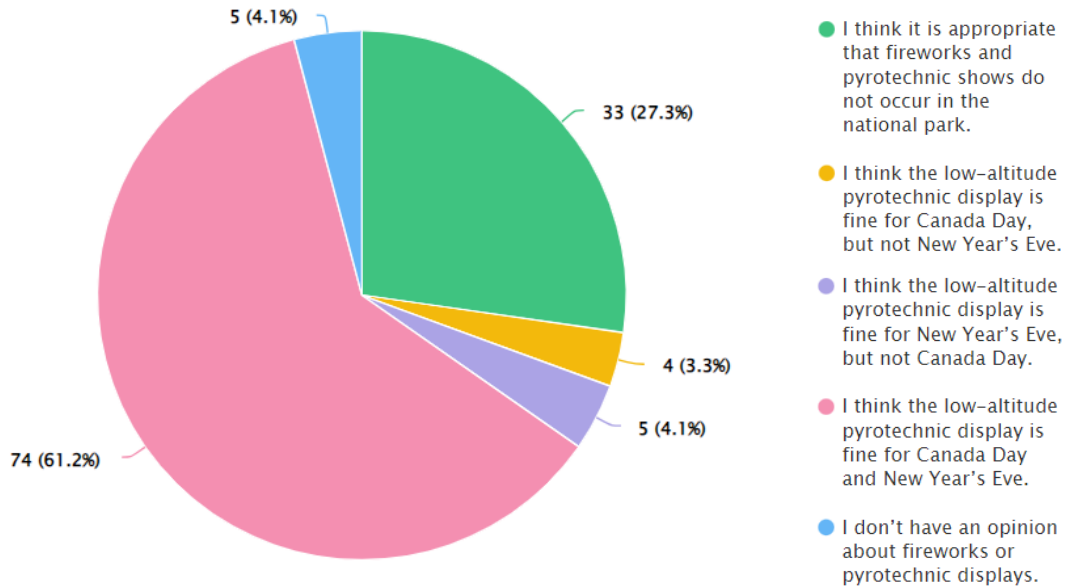
Q15

Regarding all potential parades in Banff (Canada Day, Christmas or other events), the Town has moved to encouraging people-powered parades as the priority over than fossil-fuel powered vehicles pulling floats in order to: reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas production, make it safer for spectators and participants, and reduce the need for fencing installed on the parade route. Which do you prefer for parades most:



Q16

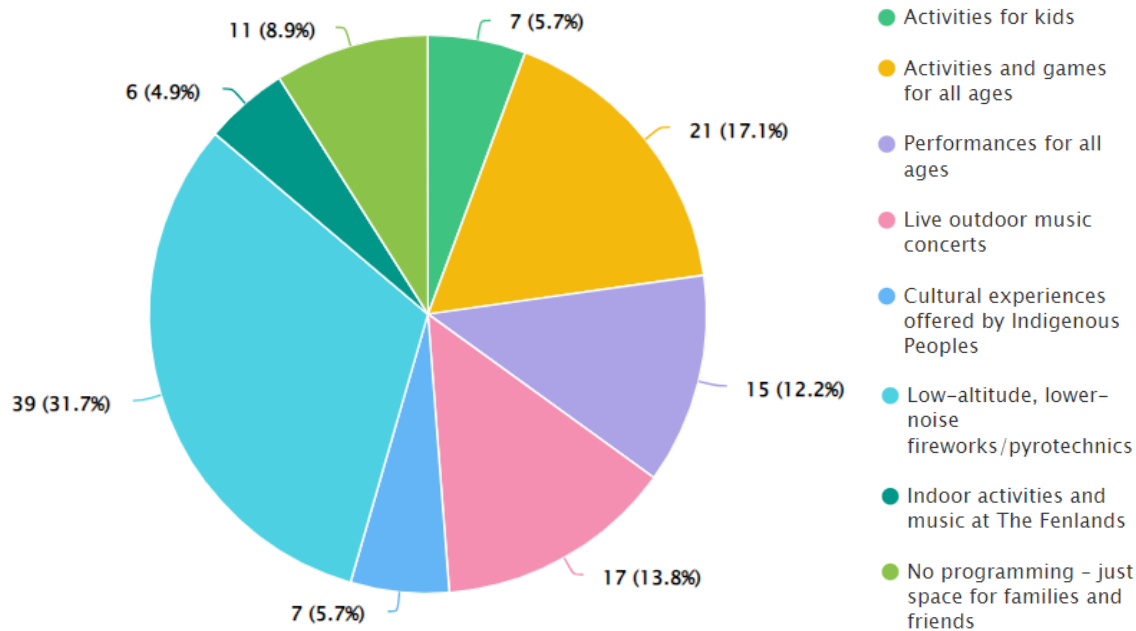
Traditional fireworks on Canada Day and New Year's Eve were replaced in 2018 with low-altitude, lower-noise pyrotechnics displays to reduce the stress caused to wildlife and pets. In 2023, the Canada Day pyrotechnics display was not planned due to an ongoing review of the impact by Parks Canada and the Town's assessment of the impact of flashing lights, sounds, litter and smoke caused by low-altitude pyrotechnics. Canmore also paused their fireworks in 2023. Parks Canada may not allow pyrotechnics in the national park in the future. Which statement do you agree with most:



Q17 Do you have any comments about pyrotechnics/fireworks?

See verbatim responses, at end of report

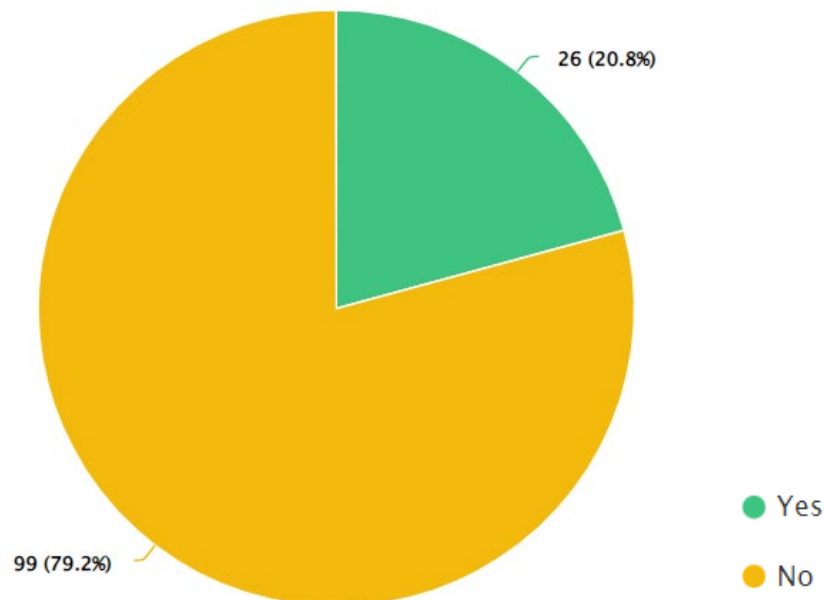
Q18 The Town of Banff has produced a range of activities over the years for New Year's Eve, with a priority on individual and community safety and all-ages enjoyment. Activities in recent years have included live concerts; skating parties; broomball; a choo-choo train ride for tots; fire pits and marshmallow roasting; try-it fat biking, snow shoeing, kick-sleds; fire performers and other street performers, and more. What do you think is most important for New Year's Eve activities?



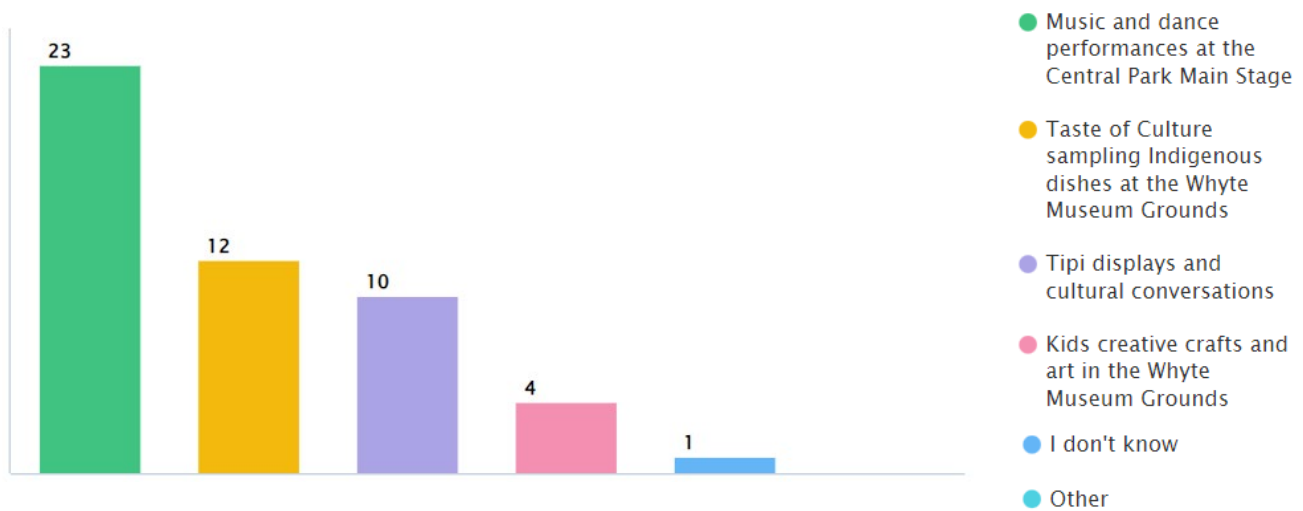
Q19 Any comments on New Year's Eve in Banff?

See verbatim responses, at end of report

Q20 Did you attend events on National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21) in Banff this year?



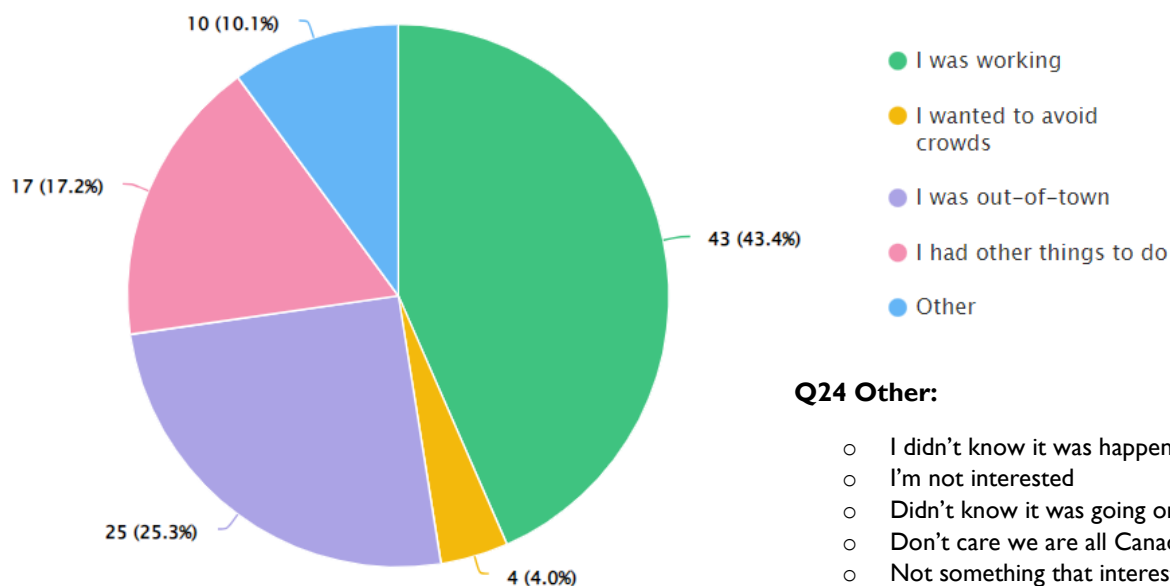
Q21 What did you like most about National Indigenous Peoples Day?



Q22 What other National Indigenous Peoples Day events did you like, if anything?

- Pow wow, dancing, tipi building, cultural craft market
- Don't compete with others. Stage them to move people around and not overlap
- Dancing at the school
- You should seriously get some more elders involved. Story telling and immersive activities to explain the culture
- Anything I can learn about Indigenous culture is important to me.

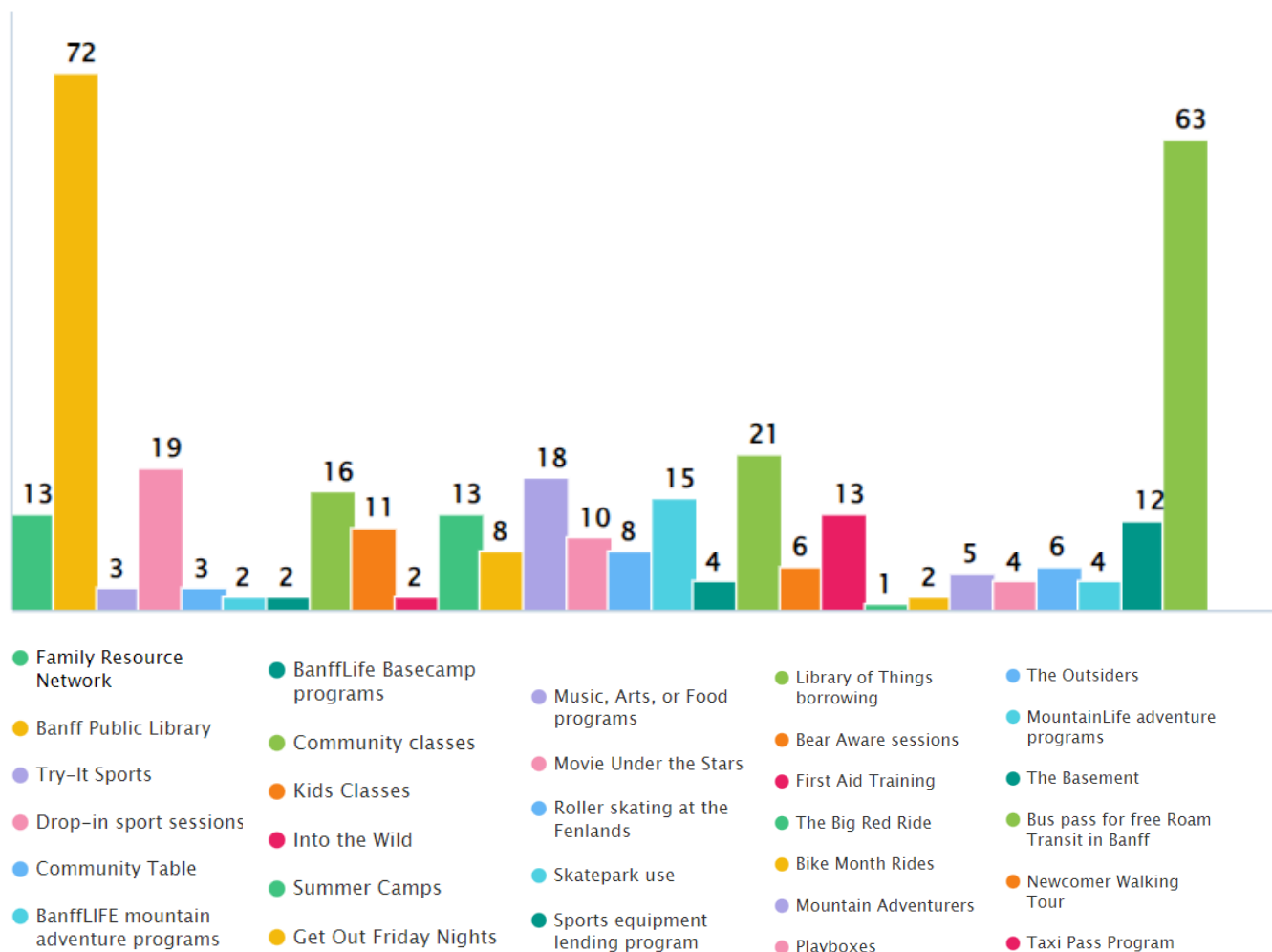
Q23 Why did you not attend National Indigenous Peoples Day?



Q24 Other:

- I didn't know it was happening
- I'm not interested
- Didn't know it was going on
- Don't care we are all Canadian
- Not something that interests me
- I didn't know it was happening
- Other family plans
- Not interested
- I didn't know there was events

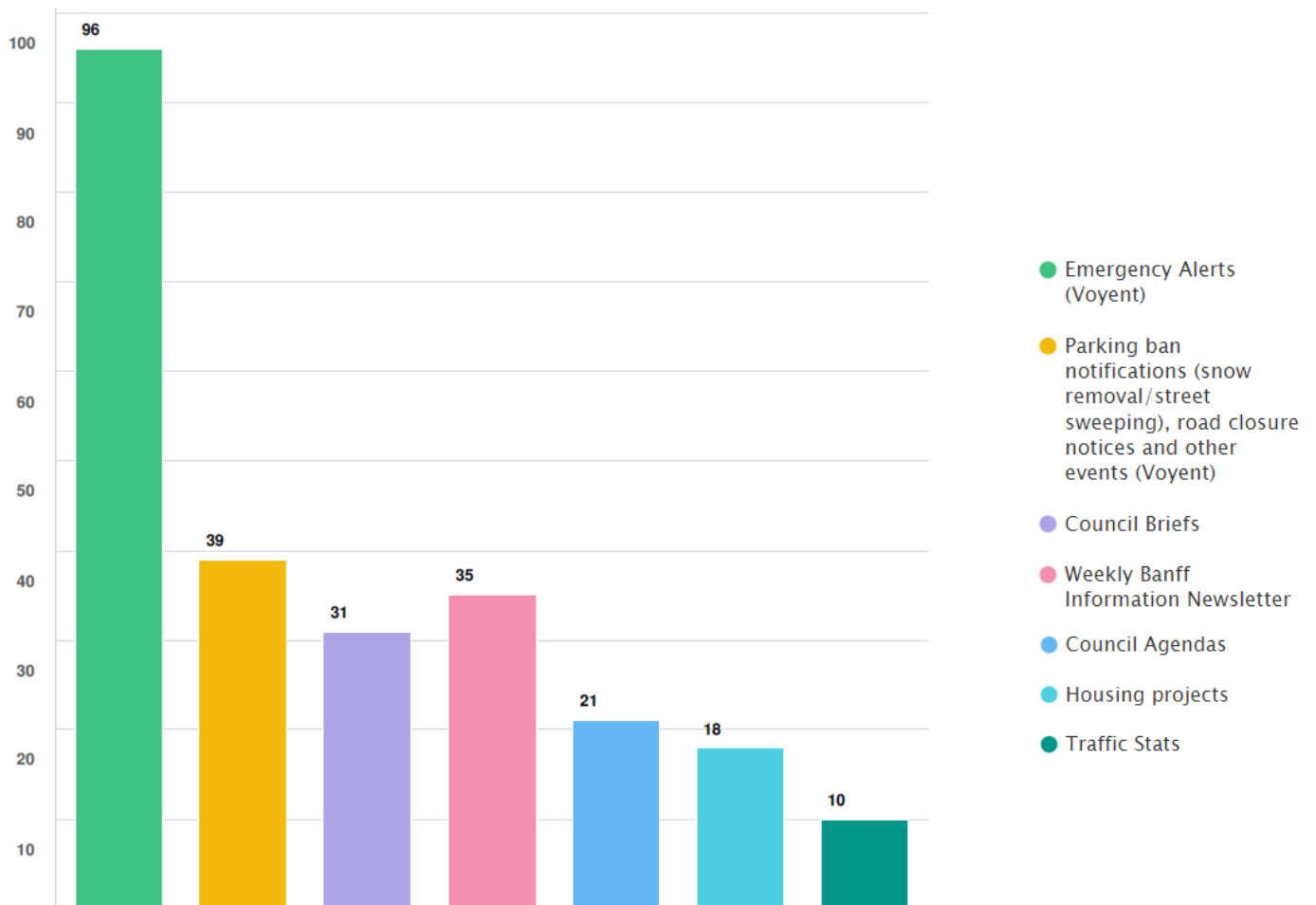
Q25 Which of the following free or low-cost activities have you or a family member participated in over the last 6 months? Select any that apply:



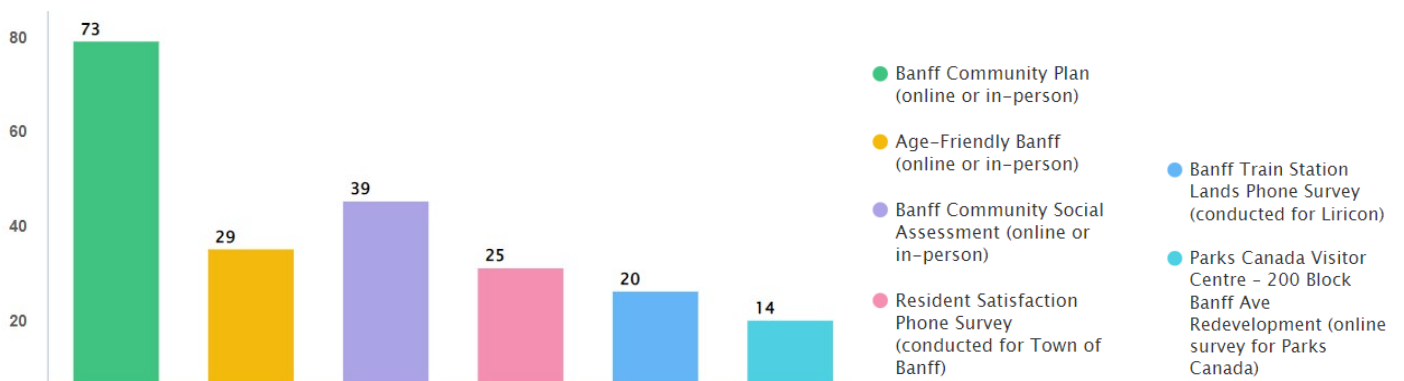
Q26 Do you have suggestions for other free or low-cost programs in town:

See verbatim responses, at end of report

Q27 Are you signed up for any of these free digital notifications and newsletters from the Town of Banff? Select all that you have registered to receive:



Q28 Have you provided comments and opinions on any of these current or recent public consultation opportunities? Select any that you have attended or gone online to provide input:



Q29 | Do you have topics to suggest for next quarter's survey?

- Banff Ave. pedestrian zone survey for tax paying residents only.
- Halloween spooky walk/ instalation.
- Public pool for Banff? We really should have one. Do you know that Banff youth have nowhere to swim without adult supervision until over 16. Also it costs \$16 for kids to swim at the Sally Borden. Doesn't the town give money to the Banff Centre to fund 'public swim'? \$100 000 per year I believe?
- Yes, ask how residents think the Town of Banff, Mayor, Council and employees are helping or not helping the residents to make this a livable place that you want to be a part of.
- How about a survey to see how many Banffites (other than me) want you to STOP CLOSING BANFF AVENUE
- There is need for some of the surveys available to tax paying residents only as there is too much opportunity to swing the results by fraudulent means, as evidenced by many previous surveys. Put another one out regarding whether the Banff Avenue pedestrian zone should be made permanent but for tax paying residents only.
- Lighting on dark paths. Glen Ave, etc.
- Affordable housing crisis.
- The over crowding situation by the lakes and the tourists that constantly litter there.
- Would like to see the question of public support for summer closer of Banff Ave. I really like it closed, but it felt like the unofficial plebiscite thing we had where Banff asked for opinions was skewed, because only people who felt strongly about the issue voiced their support (i.e. people who DON'T like the closure all REALLY don't like it, whereas I imagine there are a lot more casual supporters who like the closure, but didn't feel the need to send a letter saying as much. I could be wrong though - would love to see a town-wide survey about it though.)
- I suggest exploring how closing the parking lot at the Gondola in the summer would positively benefit traffic flow crossing the bridge. They closed parking at Moraine Lake due to Traffic issues, and if the Power Outage at the Gondola had any positives, it was to show how much the traffic from the Gondola backs up traffic going across the bridge.
- Anti-litter campaigns for the tourist public, Tourism environmental awareness and impact campaign for the tourist public.
- I'd like to see some feedback from small business owners or aspiring entrepreneurs about some of the biggest challenges to breaking in to the Banff market. The dominance of the bigger companies is becoming stifling, most of the hotels and restaurants are owned by just 2 groups. What can be done to diversify and make things more friendly to small operators with new ideas?
- Please actually bring some affordable housing to Banff instead of continuing constant construction on places that do not benefit your average human being here. Your focus on guests and business owners constantly is becoming not only a joke within town, but you're actually becoming a punch line for tv programs which is embarrassing for us all
- Rent control, landlord licensing, community land trusts
- Drones!
- I have concerns about workers working outside during smoky periods. I feel like the closing of Banff Ave to allow these businesses to operate during the summer may not be good for employees health during smoky periods. It should actually be implemented in a bylaw or looked at by WCB. This working condition is very unhealthy.

Who Participated

Year of Birth - used only to see the demographics of people providing input.

Age range	# participants	Birth years	% (with rounding)
15-24	2	2008-1999	1
25-34	22	1998-1989	17
35-44	39	1988-1979	31
45-54	25	1978-1969	20
55-64	22	1968-1959	17
65-74	13	1958-1949	10
75-84	3	1948-1939	2
85+	1	1938	1

Where do you live?

Location	# participants
Resident of Banff	119
Resident of Bow Valley	5
Resident of Calgary Region	1
Other visitor	2

Do you rent or own where you live?

Type	# participants
Own	71
Rent	56

Where do you work?

Location	# participants
Town of Banff	94
Elsewhere in Banff National Park	9
Elsewhere in the Bow Valley	8
Other	16

Do you own a business in Banff?

Business owner	# participants
Yes	21
No	106

How many in your family live in your dwelling, including you?

Number	# participants
1 – I live alone	19
2	53
3	29
4	22
More than 4	4

What is your primary mode of transportation for commuting to work in summer?

Type	# participants
Vehicle	48
Public transit	4
Walking	39
Cycling	33
Other	3

What is your primary mode of transportation for commuting to work in winter?

Type	# participants
Vehicle	69
Public transit	7
Walking	42
Cycling	5
Carpool	1
Other	3

What is the primary language spoken in your household?

Language	# participants
English	123
French	3
Other	1

What We Asked

Survey Preamble, following FOIP Statement:

We're seeking opinions and ideas from ViewPoints panel members on a variety of topics affecting the Banff Community with a quarterly survey. Results of the survey will be published on the BanffViewpoints Snapshots Survey page. Most topics will be about municipal programs, but some topics will be about other issues affecting people in Banff. And we'll want your topic ideas.

Only Banffites who sign up to join the panel can provide input. We ask for demographic information to measure how representative our panel is, compared to our census. No personal information is connected to survey results or shared with anyone.

Canada Day and parades

1. Did you attend Canada Day events in Banff this year? Y/N

2a. If yes, what did you like most? (Select up to 3) *randomized options*

- Music at the Central Park Main Stage
- Activities, games and performances in the High School Fun Zone
- Marching bands and performances at Caribou Corner in the pedestrian zone
- Bicycle / wheeler parade
- Artisans displays and demonstrations in Central Park
- Art Lane and chalk drawing in the pedestrian zone
- Bear Street's cooling zone and calm live music
- Other_____
- I don't know

2b. If no, why not?

- I was working
- I wanted to avoid crowds
- I was out-of-town
- I had other things to do
- Other_____

2c. If no, what would entice you to attend next year? (Select any that apply)

- Earlier programming
- More local's participation, such as businesses, schools, community organizations, and cultural groups.
- Prominent headliners
- More activities for kids
- More activities for adults
- Other_____

3. What Canada Day activities in Banff do you think are most important? (Select up to 3) *randomized options*

- Activities for kids
- Activities and games for all ages
- Performances for all ages

- Live outdoor music concerts
- Evening Program
- Cultural experiences offered by Indigenous Peoples
- Cultural experiences offered by different international backgrounds
- A moving parade down Banff Avenue
- Bicycle / wheeler parade
- Low-altitude, lower-noise fireworks/pyrotechnics
- No programming – just space for families and friends

4. Next year, do you think you as an individual participant, or your place of work, or community organization you belong to would like to:

- Participate in the Canada Day parade?
 - Y/N/don't know
- Have an activation (display/demo/service/fundraiser) on Banff Ave or Central Park?
 - Y/N/don't know
- Be a volunteer for Canada Day?
 - Y/N/don't know

Parades

5. For next year's Canada Day, which statement about a **parade** do you agree with most? *randomized options*

- I like the “stationary parade” format of the past two years, where marching bands and other performers provide shows throughout the day in locations in a pedestrian zone.
- I would like a return of a moving parade that closes a larger portion of Banff Avenue and adjacent streets for staging.
- I would prefer no parade in Banff.
- I don't have an opinion about parades on Canada Day.

6. Do you have any comments about Canada Day

Regarding all potential **parades** in Banff (Canada Day, Christmas or other events), the Town has moved to encouraging people-powered parades as the priority over than fossil-fuel powered vehicles pulling floats in order to:

- reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas production
- make it safer for spectators and participants, and
- reduce the need for fencing installed on the parade route.

(The Santa Claus Parade was cancelled last year due to businesses and organizations unable to dedicate staff and resources to participate.)

7. Which do you prefer for parades most:

- Focus on more environmental and people-powered parades like the bicycle parade, marching bands, horses and human-pulled displays.
- Return to more traditional parades with vehicles pulling large floats and fencing along a longer section of Banff Ave, marching bands and vehicles displaying businesses.
- I don't have an opinion about parades in Banff.
- Don't have parades.

Fireworks / Pyrotechnic Displays

Traditional **fireworks** on Canada Day and New Year's Eve were replaced in 2018 with low-altitude, lower-noise pyrotechnics displays to reduce the stress caused to wildlife and pets. In 2023, the Canada Day pyrotechnics display was not planned due to an ongoing review of the impact by Parks Canada and the Town's assessment of the impact of flashing lights, sounds, litter and smoke caused by low-altitude pyrotechnics. Canmore also paused their fireworks in 2023.

8. Which statement do you agree with most:

- I think it is appropriate that fireworks and pyrotechnic shows do not occur in the national park.
- I think the low-altitude pyrotechnic display is fine for Canada Day, but not New Year's Eve.
- I think the low-altitude pyrotechnic display is fine for New Year's Eve, but not Canada Day.
- I think the low-altitude pyrotechnic display is fine for Canada Day and New Year's Eve.
- I would like traditional fireworks brought back.
- I don't have an opinion about fireworks or pyrotechnic displays.

Do you have any comments about pyrotechnics/fireworks?

New Year's Eve

The Town of Banff has produced a range of activities over the years for New Year's Eve, with a priority on individual and community safety and all-ages enjoyment. Activities in recent years have included live concerts; skating parties; broomball; a choo-choo train ride for tots; fire pits and marshmallow roasting; try-it fat biking, snow shoeing, kick-sleds; fire performers and other street performers, and more.

9. What do you think is most important for New Year's Eve activities? Select up to 3:

- Activities for kids
- Activities and games for all ages
- Performances for all ages
- Live outdoor music concerts
- Cultural experiences offered by Indigenous Peoples
- Low-altitude, lower-noise fireworks/pyrotechnics
- Indoor activities and music at The Fenlands
- No programming – just space for families and friends

Comment on NYE: _____

10. Did you attend events on National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21) in Banff this year? Y/N

10a. If yes, what did you like most?

- Music and dance performances at the Central Park Main Stage
- Taste of Culture sampling Indigenous dishes at the Whyte Museum Grounds
- Tipi displays and cultural conversations
- Kids creative crafts and art in the Whyte Museum Grounds
- Other _____
- I don't know

10b. If no, why not?

- I was working
- I wanted to avoid crowds

- I was out-of-town
- I had other things to do
- Other_____

Free and Low-Cost Activities for Residents

11. Which of the following free or low-cost activities have you or a family member participated in over the last 6 months? Select any that apply:

- Family Resource Network
- Banff Public Library
- Try-It Sports
- Drop-in sport sessions
- Community Table
- BanffLIFE mountain adventure programs
- BanffLife Basecamp programs
- Newcomer Walking Tour
- Community classes
- Kids Classes
- Into the Wild
- Summer Camps
- Get Out Friday Nights
- Music, Arts, or Food programs
- Movie Under the Stars
- Roller skating at the Fenlands
- Skatepark use
- Sports equipment lending program
- Library of Things borrowing
- Bare Aware sessions
- First Aid Training
- The Big Red Ride
- Taxi Pass Program
- Bike Month Rides
- Mountain Adventurers
- Playboxes
- The Outsiders
- MountainLife adventure programs
- The Basement

12. Do you have suggestions for other free or low-cost programs in town:

Digital Information Services and Engagement

13. Are you signed up for any of these free digital notifications and newsletters from the Town of Banff? Select all that you have registered to receive:

- Emergency Alerts (Voyent)
- Parking ban notifications (snow removal/street sweeping), road closure notices and other events (Voyent)

- Council Briefs
- Weekly Banff Information Newsletter
- Council Agendas
- Housing projects
- Traffic Stats

14. Have you provided comments and opinions on any of these current or recent public consultation opportunities? Select any that you have attended or gone online to provide input:

- Banff Community Plan (online or in-person)
- Age-Friendly Banff (online or in-person)
- Banff Community Social Assessment (online or in-person)
- Resident Satisfaction Phone Survey (conducted for Town of Banff)
- Banff Train Station Lands Phone Survey (conducted for Liricon)
- Parks Canada Visitor Centre – 200 Block Banff Ave Redevelopment (online survey for Parks Canada)

(Upcoming public engagement topics include Mountain Ave Express Bus Lane and Downtown Pedestrian Zone Long-Term Plans)

15. Do you have topics to suggest for next quarter's survey?

Thank you for taking time to submit your opinions to the quarterly Snapshots Survey. We will post aggregated results on the Snapshots project page soon after the survey closes.

Only Banffites who sign up to join the panel can provide input. We ask for demographic information to measure how representative our panel is, compared to our census. No personal information is connected to survey results or shared with anyone.

Verbatim Responses

Q4 Were there any other Canada Day events you really liked?

- I really enjoyed all the performances and getting time to watch them.
- The whole vibe was great
- Only attended the live music
- I like having activities around town and not just on Banff Ave. It disperses the crowds.
- Live music throughout the town is my favourite
-
- Market, would be nice if this had been expanded on bear street or banff ave
- I like the market
- The market was great!
- The market
-
- I want a parade back.
- We really miss the Canada day parade!
- Parade and fireworks are the essentials for Canada Day for me.
- Traditional Parade and Fireworks
- Fireworks, old style parade
-
- No, just people wandering around looking for things
-
- No. I found this year was not as fun as others.
- It was so crowded downtown that it was impossible to see the performers and really difficult to get around. It was a disappointing day.
- No, I found the Canada day events disappointing
- Way better when I was a kid, too focused on everything else but the actual holiday
- nothing stood out... so not positive
- Very subdued
-
- The Danish marching band! I liked that they went to the Luxton Museum after their performance and performed there as well. It was really nice.
-
- I preferred the painting by the Whyte museum in the past. Didn't enjoy the new location and the chalk was less than exciting for the kids.
-
- Missed seeing pet tricks and having more local fundraising efforts. Many of the organizations that used to do things can't compete with the out of towners

Q8 What else would encourage you to attend next year?

- An active parade like there has been in previous years
- A real parade
- Bringing the parade back
- Moving parade
- An actual parade
- Parade
- Parade not activities

- parade
- Having the parade on Banff avenue
- Parade at 5 PM fireworks at dusk
- A moving parade down Banff ave
- A parade and fire works just like we used to
- I hate to say fireworks as I understand why they aren't done anymore. But my kids love fireworks so we go where we can see them
- Parade
- Parade, concerts, fireworks
- I honestly don't understand how we allow constant construction, with insane hydronic jack hammers but don't allow fire works. I don't understand how we allow millions of people to harass wildlife but can't have fireworks. Anything to not spend money on lo
- Bring back the parade and fireworks
- Having a normal parade at 4 pm with some sort of fire works and better entertainment
- Parade
- Parade and fireworks
- A parade and fireworks
- Having an actual parade again
- The return of the traditional Canada Day Parade at 5:00 pm
-
- less traffic congestion
-
- food booths/food trucks
- Food trucks
-
- Classic Rock Festival
- Concerts cultural events
-
- Simplified applications for block parties for neighbourhoods separate from the crowds downtown
- More things spread out all over town.
- More activities for children & a parade
- Free events for locals
-
- More effort put towards reconciliation with indigenous people in the area.
- Music in CP. Indigenous content
- Better music, fireworks, activities for kids
-
- Less tourists and less noise
- Nothing. Too many people. Too noisy.
- Normally I attend by working at one of the venues. I find canada is not for me because of the crowds. But being backstage working where I can still enjoy shows and not have to deal with crowds is what is best for me
- Better crowd management
- Nothing. At this point there are too many people coming to town for long weekends, we don't need to do anything extra to draw any more large crowds
- Too many people. Too crowded.
- Nothing could entice me. We typically make a point to leave town during every long weekend knowing it gets invaded by larger than normal crowds.
- Probably would be hiking or doing some sort of outdoor activity no matter what so really wouldn't matter.
- We try to avoid busy parts of town, so no event would draw us in to the crowd.
-

- Felt like the schedule of events was slightly unclear, we did go down to see the parade but missed it somehow. However enjoyed doing a hike away from crowds instead.
-
- I don't usually miss, other things happening this year
- I thought the event looked fantastic this year. I wish I could have attended

Q14 | Do you have any comments about Canada Day?

- The last 2 years of Canada Day celebrations have been awful! The central park market has no place in the Canada Day celebrations, and the lack of a set performance schedule has been terrible. Completely disorganized the past two years. Going forward you need to eliminate the Banff Ave. pedestrian zone permanently, and bring back the Banff Ave. moving parade.
- The Canada Day parade in the past was so amazing. It should have come back in full in 2022.
- I find it very offensive, that we have forgone a traditional Canada Day parade. Something culturally significant to a vast majority of Canadians.
- Bring back the parade. Closing Banff Ave all summer simply adds to the gridlock and congestion chaos. Bear Street is the pedestrian street. Leave Banff Ave open to cars, have cafe/restaurant patrons eat in those places instead of on the road and have a moving parade.
- "I miss the old days of a moving parade and the kids collecting candy. My kids still talk about it and get sad with this gone.
- Please return to the traditional parade. It was a highlight for me as a kid, and now my kids would love a parade
- The Canada Day Parade was one of the best things that Banff had done that and the fireworks display.
- I would like a parade back.
- The parades have been drawing crowds of locals and tourists alike. It is really disappointing that the town of Banff has taken that away from us!
- An actual parade with vehicles, floats, fire trucks,
- A marching band is not fun to watch when it's not marching and no Polish or Ukrainian dancers, who must have been so put off from their hidden performance that no one could find last year. Having a real parade and one main location at Central Park for the entertainment would be the best. Also, the Wednesday market should not be set up as people can buy items like that from Banff stores and different food booths would be much better. No one likes these past couple of Canada Days that have been here, so please don't try to say that this survey was favourable to this type of disjointed, no parade, no fun Canada Day.
- Hard to see a stand still parade
- You gotta have fireworks and a moving parade...it's not really Canada Day without them.
- It's important to celebrate that we are Canadian. I would like all cultures represented
- I don't feel like celebrating due to the genocide of indigenous people that's still ongoing.
- Not an important day for me. Don't need anything special.
- Bring back a parade and fireworks!!
- I miss the Canada Day parade and fireworks. I love the Indigenous celebrations, that shows the love of where we received our lovely home from. I felt that the parade and fireworks showed the locals and visitors that we love our country/ town that we live in and want to celebrate it.
- Put the parade time back to 5 PM so participation of entries can do both Canmore and Beav
- Return to pre-pandemic parade event with times that align with Canmore to allow floats to engage in both community parades
- Open up Banff Ave to vehicles and reintroduce the early evening parade
- I loved the parade. It was so important to me as a child and now as an adult. The next generation should also be able to enjoy the amazing parade we had.
- I miss the sidewalk art in front of the Whyte Museum. I realize it was done on Banff Ave., but it was just not the same.
- We found there was not much going on for Canada Day for adults. We walked down Banff Avenue and went home. I would like the return of the moving parade and events at night.

- Bring back a fun parade with marching bands, etc. This year felt very subdued and not that different than a normal busy summer day in Banff.
- I think, like the danish band did this year, after or before each band perform they also perform at a smaller venue so more people have access - Caribou corner is great for the tourist but you're lucky if you don't get trampled on. Having more intimate performances also at Luxton, Whyte, Banff Springs, Banff Centre, the Canoe docks would ensure more people can watch and listen.
- the stationary parade is not accessible for family with young children
- Canada Day needs to have a large moving Parade!!
- What we use to have was awesome, the MOVING parade needs to be at 5pm not 11 am as most of us locals are working, not everything needs to be geared to tourists, maybe something for locals would be nice. Also bring back the fireworks on July 1st, Halloween and New Years, you tree huggers have got rid of everything in this town, enough is enough. Oh the animals, they will survive! Bring back the Santa Claus parade too. Open Banff Ave.
- Bring back parade and family activities, live music
- I miss the parade. I started working Canada Day as a result of not having one anymore.
- It has always been a lovely day to watch the parade and be with family and friends.
- I found it impossible to see anything at the stationary parade because too many people were crowded in one intersection. Maybe setting up a stage would help people see some of the shows. Or, setting up bleachers at the high school could be an option?
- For the parade - I would prefer a moving parade with a blend of vehicle and non-vehicle displays. For example, a vehicle that just has a couple signs advertising a business is a poor use of a vehicle, but a creatively developed float designed on a vehicle or being towed by one is ideal. Marching bands, horses, and walking/biking floats are other great things to be included as well. This will help maintain some of the tradition of having creatively designed floats, while striving for a bit more an environmental/emission reduction focus.
- The traditional Canada Day moving parade at 5:00 to accommodate bands and floats that participate in Canmore Canada day as they hold their parade earlier in the day. It worked well for decades.
- It's about to go back to the old time for one day lots of people were disappointed
- "The Canada Day parade as well as the Santa Clause parade have been greatly missed by myself, my kids. Our whole extended family from Calgary used to come to celebrate both.
-
- Fireworks are exciting and fun. Brings the whole community out on the streets at night to gather and watch.
- I have had dogs my whole life and I don't feel dogs or animals know the difference between fireworks and a thunder storm.
- My dog howls when he hears a siren. He thinks it's other dogs. Just saying
- Real fireworks would be great!!
- please bring back the pyrotechnics. Really only watch shows, and "fireworks"
- Bring back fire works
- Bring back fireworks & parade
- Bring back REAL fireworks! It's a shame they stopped
-
- I think letting crowds move about is good. The pedestrian banff ave summer is a pain for local drivers but seems good for keeping tourists in that zone
- I don't enjoy the Parade or the fireworks and believe the funds can be better spend elsewhere.
- While the *IDEA* of a Canada Day Parade is great, it would require huge amounts of planning and support to be able to move guests and residents around town with the necessary road closures (I was responsible for road closures and traffic plan for BLLT's Santa Claus parade for over 10 years, and that was a smaller parade on an off-peak weekend!)
- I think the event is great, and I think the parade is too much logistics for locals let alone what it must take for the TOB.
- Let's make it about doing, not watching, and let's make it about experiencing, not buying things. "Happy Canada Day - now we're going to sell you stuff" is not my motto.
-

- One of the most important days for locals as well as visitors. A great day to showcase CANADA!
- Its our country's birthday. We are all fortunate to live in Canada so we should celebrate our country and our cultures
-
- I do love how the festivities are spread out around town now. It's great to see. Maybe with the new rec grounds we could encourage even more events over there. It would be great to see a carnival style event set up for families and allow more people to move freely around town. Kids do miss the jumping castles etc so what about a few rides/ little Farris wheel, food trucks etc
- It always feels like the town is trying not to spend money on residents. News flash. You don't need to spend money to get people here. They will ALWAYS come. You need to focus on keeping your disappearing community here. If the residents are happy, that will automatically enhance the guest's experience when they visit
- I would just like to see Banff do more for locals and for visitors too, too have more activities and things to do for all of us! It's Canada's first national park! Such as cheap food booths, souvineers, maybe a dog shoe things like that!
- Have a pancake breakfast for locals
- Entertainment for locals is just as important as visitors, many locals miss the actual parade
- The pancake breakfast is missed and so is the painting on the sidewalk.
- The chalk was okay but it was so lovely being able to walk down the street a week later and still have the memories of the days celebrations. Better activities at the high school besides the blow ups would be nice. Not all kids are able to participate in all the blow ups as they are too big and they do not have a lot of other options to play there with friends."
-
- More indigenous programming, Nuit Blanche style night programming, parade, musicians
- Do better vetting on performers. There's no excuse to be allowing Falun Gong to perform and aggressively solicit people. You don't have to platform cults in the name of inclusivity—they exploit their adherents, rail against queer life and mixed-race marriages, pal around with American arch-conservatives, and otherwise do not represent the values I think people are celebrating on July 1.
- Expand markets and stalls along banff Ave and bear street.
- Free flags, buttons. temporary tattoos & other swag please.
- I think it is important that Banff continue to celebrate Canada Day with community activities suitable for resident, Indigenous and visitor audiences.
- As a father with a young child (3 years old) I found the programming in the school field challenging for us to connect with and enjoy.
-
- I was dressed up in Canadian attire, went down to Banff Ave and it seems nothing much was going on
-
- I leave town on Canada Day as I can't stand the crowds and the never ending loud music. Second hand noise is every bit as bad as second hand smoke. Look it up...
- Bigger isn't always better. With the masses of tourists, overcrowding and indicated negative impact of visitation which residents express, it would be great to keep Canada Day resident focused and not do advertising to draw more folks here that weekend.
- "No need to solicit endless opinions on whether or not there should be a lot of pomp, circumstance, and fireworks. Bring in performers and make fun possible. We don't need vehicle parades or fireworks. Project some confident leadership on environmental concerns and give folks the autonomy to pick up the rest.
- Again, we are at the point where we should be doing nothing extra to draw crowds to Banff.
- We do not need to provide more reasons for crowding on a long weekend. We have absolutely reached capacity.
-
- More signage about events and times.

Q17 Do you have any comments about pyrotechnics/fireworks?

- I have never seen any animals frightened by fireworks. The set up involves many people and and noise which would keep wildlife out of the area anyway.
- "It happens twice a year.. for 15 minutes. The trains, traffic and people everyday cause more disturbances. Let's be realistic here and not try to white knight a non-issue. If we are truly worried about disturbing animals there are a great many other things we should work towards. "
- The fireworks do not harm the animals anymore than thunder.
- Real fireworks are better
- I miss the fireworks. Train goes through every day here scaring the animals. 10 minutes of the same noise won't bother the animals or damage our park anymore then the tourism and traffic does now
- Question 12 does not provide an option to return to traditional fireworks. We should return to traditional fireworks. We have hundreds of avalanche control explosives each year in the park. I do not think a couple nights of pyrotechnics would adversely affect any park inhabitants moreso.
- I don't see a problem with regular fireworks displays they have not caused a problem in the past.
- You don't list it as an option but, why don't you have the lower-noise pyrotechnics at the original higher-altitude so as to reduce the noise and smoke that may bother people and animals?
- love fireworks
- Also bring back the fireworks for halloween. Halloween is my favourite time of year and I was ecstatic that banff used to make huge celebrations with fireworks for it
- If we do bring back fireworks/ pyrotechnics we should have it for Halloween too. Or at least bring the bonfire back
- You got to have fireworks - it brings in so many people and everyone loves a good fireworks display. I get that we are in a national park but we already do so much for the environment and for the wildlife. Surely we can treat ourselves and our kids to 1 or 2 little fireworks displays each year!?
- Please have REAL fireworks again
- None...bring them back...and on Halloween. We need more celebrations that have community spirit...not solely focussed on tourists...tourists will benefit/participate if the community is positive and engaged.
- If we can't have real fireworks (not low-altitude pyrotechnics) then don't have fireworks at all
- Years ago the fireworks used to shoot off of Tunnel Mtn and all would gather on Banff Ave at Caribou Corner. Since the street has already been closed off it would nice to see them there again so it is not so crowded in together.
- Bring back real fireworks
- Regular fireworks are fine
- Bring back fire works, no louder than construction or trains. Might even move wildlife away from the townsite. Isn't that what we want?
- We should have fireworks for both and Halloween. The bonfire should be back too.
- "The Canada Day parade as well as the Santa Clause parade have been greatly missed by myself, my kids. Our whole extended family from Calgary used to come to celebrate both.
- Fireworks are exciting and fun. Brings the whole community out on the streets at night to gather and watch. I have had dogs my whole life and I dont feel dogs or animals know the difference between fireworks and a thunder storm. My dog howls when he hears a siren. He thinks it's other dogs. Just saying.
- Bring on the full fireworks!!
- Bring back the old firework show on New Year's Eve, Canada Day and Halloween
- Return to the normal Fireworks that have been held in Banff for the past 30 - 40 years+!!
- Preferred the classic fireworks, as this could be done by our local firefighters and had a minimal cost outside of the fireworks themselves. The pyrotechnic display seemed just as loud as the fireworks, especially with the addition of the music and was obviously way more expensive to have to hire a specialized company. There is the new thing of using drones... but again that is a high price point.
- Let's go back 5 years ago
- definitely want it back

- I like them!! They are cool!! And not noisy
- Boom!
- Bring them back.
- Honestly I don't go to the pyrotechnics shows so I don't know much about them. Just not interested. I watch the fireworks from afar
- Have fireworks
- My favourite part of Canada Day and New Years (and Halloween) in Banff has always been the fireworks. Venturing downtown to watch them on the bridge or in the middle of Banff Ave with all our friends, families, and other locals was always so special and brought everyone together for at least a few minutes. It's so rare in this day and age to enjoy one thing, at the same time, with hundreds of other people.
- I am personally it a fan of the low altitude pyrotechnics and a strong supporter of the full fireworks. I recognize that the decision was made due to wildlife impact so there isn't really anything that can be done. I just really enjoyed them.
-
- How about DRONES?
- Have we considered a laser light show instead
- "Maybe there is someone to hire for a Drone Art show!
- I saw these in London for New Year's Eve and it went along with music. It was beautiful and sound, litter and smoke free! Perfect for a national park 😊"
-
- Any safe light display is good
- Wouldn't mind a low-altitude display for Halloween with the bonfire as well!
- A light show of some kind is important as it's typically the highlight for people of all ages. If you don't have a fireworks or a light show, expect people to go elsewhere. And that is not a bad thing! It's ok for people to go somewhere other than Banff sometimes.
- "Maybe get fireworks that don't make a sound that go high into the sky, so we can see them.
- Quiet ones that would not scare wildlife and pets would be fine.
- I enjoy them and support the more wildlife/pet friendly version.
- I love the quieter display.
-
- If you do not do a firework display at least do something at night that is interesting for adults. I found this year was only geared towards small children.
-
- While they are fun to see, they disturb wildlife and create a lot of throw away garbage
- No
- fireworks are bad for cats, dogs and wildlife
- I think they don't have a place in a National Park
- Set the example, Banff. No more noise and smoke!
- Strongly against pyrotechnics/fireworks due to the environmental impact, impact on wildlife/pets, and the impact on people living with things like PTSD, autism, and other sensory based medical issues.
- Go to the Stampede to see grandstand show and fireworks. We don't need it.
- Although I love fireworks, and really think they are quite special, I understand the negative impact they have on animals, so am ok if we don't have fireworks/pyrotechnic shows.
- It has been shown that these have a negative effect on the wildlife. There is no way to justify a large light show while also upholding environmental stewardship. How is this even still in question?
- I don't think they have a place in a national park and for environmental reasons anywhere.
- Don't care for them. Waste of tax money.
- No firework please. Air pollution and ghg emissions in a national park for what? 2min of spectacle?
- Pyrotechnics really have no place in a National park.
- "You do not need to solicit public feedback on this. What do people who understand wildlife have to say about this? If they are saying it needlessly interferes with wildlife, don't do it. We're in a park and their needs ought to

take priority. That seems to be the case. So stop asking 🙄 It riles up people already over-invested in a 15-minute event that happens once a year."

- I personally don't enjoy fireworks and I think they do more harm than good. Domesticated and wild animals get stressed from fireworks, and I think it is important that the national park continues to focus on activities that benefit a national park. There are many other places you can watch fireworks, and I just don't see the need for fireworks to be included in Banff's celebrations.
- I love fireworks as much as the next person, but I don't know
- People should stay in Calgary if they want to see fireworks. We need to stand behind Parks Canada and the reason why we enjoy living here to begin with.
- I feel they are a waste of money and would much rather the funds be spent on a local non-profit or charity, versus disturbing noise and light.
-
- You talk about being environmentally friendly with regards to parades but on August 27th, that gas fireplace on Bear St was burning, how environmentally friendly was that ????"
- I think it's pretty foolish that we allow others to drive around constantly bringing garbage and pollution into the park and residents suffer. I think you should focus more on taking away from the guests to be able to enhance residents quality of life. A quote from Reno 911 'never. Ever. Vacation in Banff' is my new favourite quote. Because all that happens is residents are continually exploited for people who will never come back.

Q19 Any comments on New Year's Eve in Banff?

- Outdoor street festival with a downtown countdown! Banff use to be fun at NYE, all the patrons in the bars flood the streets to watch the fireworks. Why not set a stage and have music and a countdown
- It's a special day, that deserves special accommodation.
- Add activation on high school field with indoor options in the Cascade mall for cold weather planning. Close 200 and 300 block of Banff Ave.
- Loved the bon fire pit on by the fire department.
- Last years NYE was well set up and fun!
- I like what you do
- I celebrate New Years Eve with fam and friends and am not interested in Town activities
- too noisy
- I think we should also acknowledge that this is only one of many new years eves and such. Christmas parades should play hannuka music, and kwanzaa, and other music celebrating winter solstice. It should more inclusive of holidays than just the european north american santa claus
- Larger police presence for drunk scary people. It's dangerous for normal people wishing to take part in New Years activities downtown.
- This new years was great
- Every year you are not prepared for the number of people wanting hot chocolate etc. either have enough for all or don't offer it at all.
- Alcohol free is best
- Activities that are inclusive of marginalized groups and mindful of reconciliation efforts with indigenous people. Something that brings people together and encourages feelings of belonging, celebration, and community.
- It's just another work day for me.
- I think it would be nice if there were some daytime activities to celebrate.
- I like that the focus and vibe has been geared toward families and not appealing to party goers. It would be great to have New Years focused on Banff residents- animating local spaces and refraining from advertising events to draw visitors here in an already busy time.
- A few family friendly options at Fenlands is great. You can't guarantee weather temps are great for an evening outdoors.

- Nearly as enjoyable as years ago
- Last year (2022/3) was epic, unexpected awesome eve.
- More activities for adults.
- Drone art for evening performances or in replacement of fireworks
- Let's party
- Free Outdoor events and music would be fun, however I get that it can be hard with the cold and snow.
- Live performances and kids activities
- I live winter outdoor activities and my families holiday celebrations revolve around doing outdoor activities.
- If your going to do something it should be done well. Last New Years that train idea for kids was lovely but there was not enough lighting .
- Obvious challenges give weather. Utilize indoor musical experiences for all ages. Bring back fireworks...it created a once in a lifetime experience for locals and visitors to go onto Banff Ave for fireworks.
- Fireworks and outdoor concerts are also must haves.
-
- Do we need to throw everyone a party? Not really.
- Again, there is no need to have extra activities to draw crowds to Banff
- People will come to Banff if there are events or not, so low-key is best for the environment.
-
- Normal fireworks
- The return to Real fireworks would be great.
- Depending on weather it could be a hit or miss. Just fire works and maybe skating downtown. Not much money needed for that and if it's -30 not much money is lost either.
- Reinstate the fireworks.
- Thought last year was a lot of fun! Still missed the fireworks.
- Fireworks and fun activities
- Really well done in 2023. Just need the "fireworks" and it would be perfect!
- Fireworks
- Regular fireworks
- Hopefully Parks Canada can get their butts together and approve it sooner rather than later...
- proper fire works. I don't want to hear another thing about them being too loud when I've been living next to a construction site that's sounded like a war zone for two years straight. You don't have any ground to stand on with the noise excuse with me. Sorry folks
- Bring back fireworks
- Return the normal Fireworks that have been held in Banff for 30-40 +years
- Bring back the fireworks! So much fun!
- would like to see the return of a lower noise pyrotechnic, but having activities and performances available for all ages is also very important. Cultural experiences as well
-
- I personally have never even thought of Banff for New Years. I will follow to see what the plans are as it would be a cool destination for New Years eve.

Q26 Do you have suggestions for other free or low-cost programs in town:

- I think you are doing a fantastic job here.
- I know a few people who only recently moved to Banff but got \$1000 rebate on e-bikes. As long term citizens we were only eligible for \$500. We barely make it by in Banff, it's so expensive to live here. It seems unfair that folks who are only passing through get more low cost options and the biggest rebates and those of us who have been here for years (yet barely earn above the threshold) don't get the same benefits. You should have to live here a while before you get the benefits/tax payer rebates.
- More yoga sessions in am

- I would like to see a program that residents could get at home mail delivery, including parcels. One cannot avoid going downtown if that's where mail is.
- The playbox at rotary Park has a phone number to open it that is no longer in use. Signage could use updating
- We need a good indoor water park - doesn't have to be a big one, just a few water slides.
- More group activities with kids - even maybe the cinema having kids movies so we can take our children there over the winter or summer holidays.
- Water activities at the park - there was a really good water activities at Callaway Park- it wouldn't cost too much to have something like that at the park.
- Some sort of cub scout program for kids over the summer holidays.
- Sports games at the school over the summer holidays - especially for little kids.
- More summer activities for kids - since school has finished, my 4 year old only sees her friends at the park. More group activities so she isn't so bored over the holidays."
- Canmore has food and friends. More free/low-cost food based social events to help with building community and addressing rising food prices which are impacting people's ability to provide meals for themselves.
- As a parent, I think it would be great if there were more programming for kids offered. Also, what about adding more time for open turf and public skating?
- Low cost, kids swim lessons please. Kids soccer & rugby
- Swimming lessons. It's mind boggling we are raising a community of kids without easy local affordable access to swimming lessons. What are we thinking?
- Keeping teens busy is always great - would be great to see more drop in sports.
- A lot of the mountain adventures programs are only during the week and some people only have weekends off. Some weekend availability so everyone can participate.
- Paint events? Literally in such a beautiful place to just paint what you see
- Fendland gym should open to residents to free or lower costs
- Better and more reliable access to the dog parks.
- Non-profit community hockey league, especially geared towards novice/intermediate players. There's something extra special about playing on a team above and beyond shinny, but private leagues have a pretty high barrier to entry.
- "I think the town of Banff seriously needs to start subsidising the cost of living for residents. Furthermore focusing on the mental health and well-being of residents. Ie paying for half a season pass for lower income residents so they're able to get out and be active in the winter time. Having crime watch people at night to help locals from bar situations, having narcan in literally everywhere. Keeping drugs out of town. Allowing for free drug testing stations at anywhere where drugs may appear. There's so much more that you could be doing to assist your community and the quality of life of the residents but you choose not to "
- swimming lessons for children
- Family friendly live performances
- Free swag.
- More Pickleball on the town schedule. Could play every day if it was available