



# Poll STATION

With Linda Banister



We wanted to find out about the great neighbourhoods that together make Edmonton the City it is. For this *Poll Station* we decided to ask Edmontonians to tell us what was special about the neighbourhoods they were living in.

## HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD?



To begin the survey, we asked respondents how long they had lived in their current neighbourhood. Two percent had been living in their neighbourhood for less than one year, while 22 percent reported one to five years, 29 percent said six to 10 years, 23 percent indicated 11 to 20 years, and approximately one quarter mentioned having lived in their neighbourhood for more than 20 years. The average length of time respondents had been living in their current neighbourhood was 15 years.

## ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD? WHY? OR WHY NOT?

Next, we asked respondents to rate their satisfaction with the neighbourhood they are currently living in. The vast majority—83 percent—were satisfied with their neighbourhood, followed by 13 percent who were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, and four percent who were dissatisfied with their neighbourhood.

Respondents who were dissatisfied with their current neighbourhoods commented that it has a high crime rate, that it lacks parks and playgrounds, that it isn't welcoming, that it is poorly maintained, or that it is in a rough part of town.

Respondents who were satisfied with the neighbourhood they currently live in most frequently provided the reason that their neighbours are friendly (31 percent), that their neighbourhood is quiet or peaceful (23 percent), that it is in a good location or close to amenities (22 percent), and that it is in a safe area (15 percent).

## DO YOU KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS BY NAME?

Respondents were then asked to indicate how many of their neighbours they knew by name. Six percent admitted they knew none, while 18 percent knew one to three, 31 percent knew four to six, 22 percent knew seven to 10, and 22 percent knew 11 or more of their neighbours by name. When asked whether they would like to know more people in their neighbourhood by name, approximately half of respondents (46 percent) agreed, followed by one-third (35 percent) that neither agreed nor disagreed, and 19 percent that disagreed.

## DO NEIGHBOURS HELP EACH OTHER?

We then asked respondents to rate their level of agreement with a series of statements about their neighbourhood. Sixty-one percent agreed that the people in their neighbourhood were willing to help each other, while 28 percent provided a neutral response, and eight percent disagreed. When asked if there were someone in their neighbourhood they could count on in an emergency, three-quarters (74 percent) agreed, while 13 percent provided a neutral response, and 12 percent disagreed. More than half (57 percent) reported that they would not move out of their neighbourhood even if they had the opportunity, while 15 percent neither agreed nor disagreed, and one-quarter (26 percent) disagreed.

## WHAT IS BEST ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD?

Next, respondents were given the opportunity to comment on what they felt was the best thing about their neighbourhood. Slightly less than one-third (30 percent) mentioned their location and convenience to amenities, while one-quarter commented on the friendly neighbours and atmosphere; 18 percent reported that the neighbourhood is quiet, 11 percent that it is safe, and 10 percent that it has nice parks, trails or is close to the river valley.

Respondents were then asked what they would change if there were one thing they could change about their neighbourhood. While 21 percent indicated there was nothing they would change, 11 percent would like to improve safety, 10 percent would like to improve summer road maintenance, five percent would like their neighbours to keep their properties cleaner, four percent would like fewer businesses or stores in their area, and four percent commented that their sidewalks need repairs.

Lastly, we asked respondents if there was anything unique about their neighbourhood they would like other people to know about. Sixty percent reported there was not, however, five percent wanted people to know their neighbourhood has great community spirit and that they help each other out; four percent each mentioned mature trees and great landscaping, being close to the river valley for walking or biking, and having parks close by. ✓

Monthly Poll Station Online Question  
Visit [www.edmontonians.com](http://www.edmontonians.com) to register your opinion

Want a question included in the Edmontonians Poll?  
Contact Linda at 780.451.4444 or e-mail  
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