



PUBLIC SAFETY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

WHAT WE HEARD

NOVEMBER 2024



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This report was developed for the Town of Peace River in November 2024 with full objectivity, free of pre-conceived notion or bias.

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Executive Summary

Public consultation took place over a period of one week (7 days), garnering **nearly 500 responses** from the community. This level of involvement is notable over a short period of time, showing the impact of this discussion on residents.

Overview

This public engagement process was conducted to gauge public opinion on the Public Safety Pilot Program, through which APEX Private Security was contracted as a third-party resource, initiated by the Town of Peace River in June 2024, including two core areas of focus:

1. The program's efficacy and impact to date.
2. The future of working with a private contractor in continuing the public safety program.

Each of these considered respondent experiences around public safety throughout the Town, while also looking at the financial impacts of potentially continuing this program, and the likely tax impacts of doing so.

This report outlines all quantitative and qualitative data, as well as an overview of key results. However, there are two clear trends that bear acknowledging, from the responses received.

1. While the majority of respondents did **not** contact APEX Security during the pilot project, those who have used the service are generally pleased with its efficacy.
2. Respondents do not want to see tax increases to pay for the continued execution of this public safety program; however, those who have contacted APEX Private Security were more likely to accept a tax increase to maintain the program.

493

RESPONSES

88%

LIVE IN TOWN

18%

CONTACTED APEX

How We Engaged

This public consultation effort was limited in scope to the use of surveys, made available to the public both as a digital survey and in hard print version, the latter being made available at all Town facilities (including the Baytex Energy Centre) for pickup and submission to the Town's Communications Coordinator.

This approach of making surveys available through all means possible ensured that we eliminated barriers to access in providing the Town with insights on the public safety program.



Survey Promotion

The survey was promoted through various organic means, including the Town of Peace River's existing communications resources, such as social media, the Town's website, and utility bill inserts. Local radio advertising was purchased to help promote the survey to those who may not follow the Town online, and who do not receive utility bills.

The survey's strong uptake is attributed to a combination of effective engagement opportunity promotion, and that the survey touched on a topic of significant relevance to local residents.



Survey Creation

The survey was developed in alignment with the best-practice *Engagement with Intent (EWI)* framework, which seeks to ensure that resident insights and feedback collected are meaningful in the decision-making process carried forward by Council. This includes that the following questions were posed in the survey's development, stemming directly from the EWI Framework:

1. Why are you engaging?
2. What are you prepared to change?
3. How will engagement results be used?
4. How will participation be maintained?

The answers to those questions influenced the manner in which questions were posed, ensuring that Council can find value in the responses, and that residents will continue to seek to be involved as the process moves forward.

The EWI Framework also emphasizes that Council is to consider public engagement results as one input of many:

Resident Engagement	Operational Needs	Future Growth Needs
External Pressures	Strategic Plan Alignment	Subject Matter Expertise

What We Heard

This engagement process was notably truncated, with a short consultation process, open for just 7 days. However, the number of responses collected – 493 – represent 7.4% of the Town’s population. This figure is deemed statistically valid as a representative opinion of the broader community, with a benchmark based on population set at 4%, or 265 responses.

The following statements represent those main trends which were seen through an analysis of both the quantitative and qualitative survey results.

1 WE HEARD THAT...

The majority of respondents did not contact the APEX Public Security Unit for assistance between July 15, 2024 and October 15, 2024.

2 WE HEARD THAT...

There are significant public security concerns in the Town of Peace River, fueled by a sense of reduced safety resulting from the behaviours of unhoused individuals in the community.

3 WE HEARD THAT...

The majority of public safety concerns centre around Peace River’s downtown core, with additional specificity pointing to areas along the riverbank and dike, on the pedestrian bridge, and around the shelter.

4 WE HEARD THAT...

Half of respondents would like to see the Public Safety Program continue, though of those, most think a change in the program is required.

5 WE HEARD THAT...

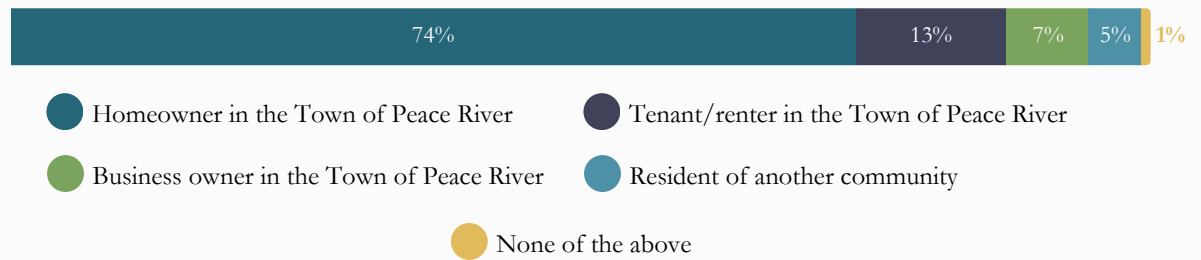
A great majority of survey respondents do not want a continued Public Safety Program funded through increased taxes.



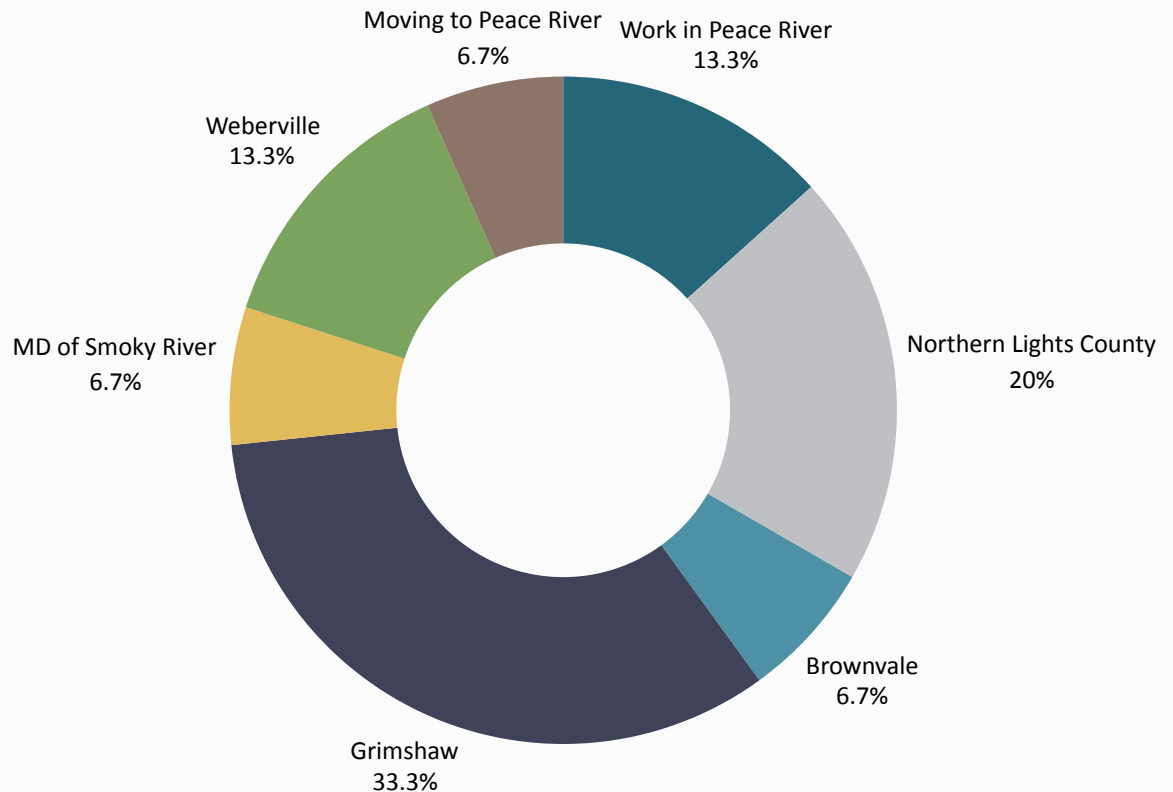
Quantitative Data

The following information represents the raw quantitative data collected through the Public Safety Engagement survey initiated by the Town of Peace River. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

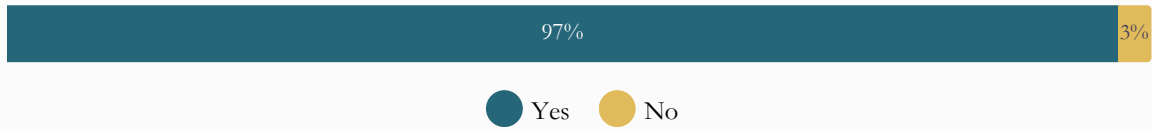
What is your connection to the Town of Peace River? (While more than one option may apply to you, please select just one)



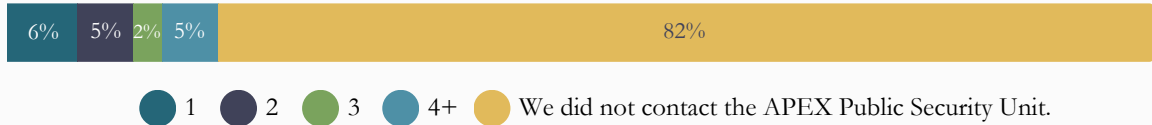
Those who selected “Resident of another community” were asked to specify where they live, or otherwise expand on their response. This resulted in the following written answers:



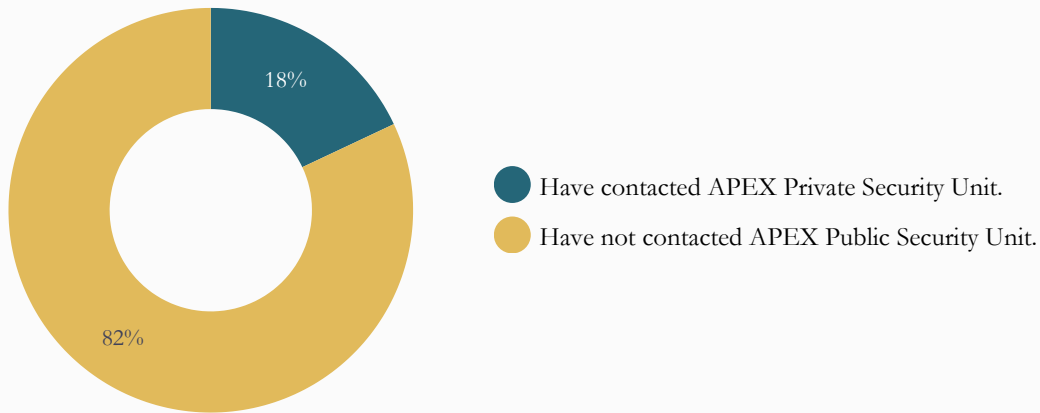
Prior to taking this survey, were you aware of the enhanced security pilot project?



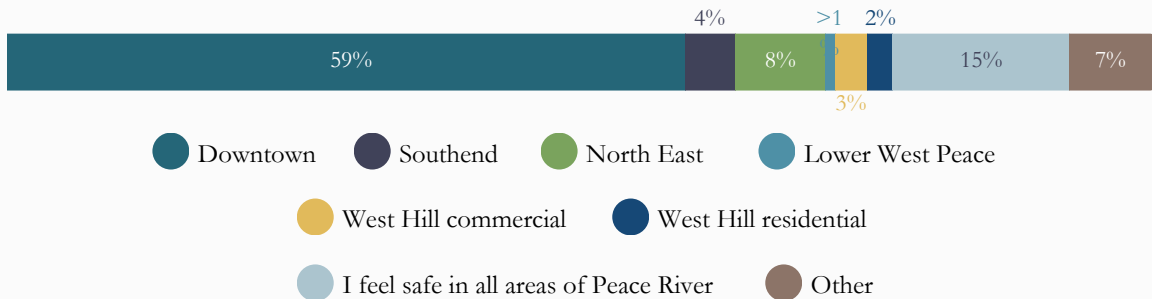
Between the dates of July 15, 2024 and October 15, 2024, how many times did you (or someone in your household) directly contact the APEX Public Security Unit for assistance?



In broader terms, this breaks down in the following manner:



In which area of the Town of Peace River do you currently feel the highest level of safety concern?



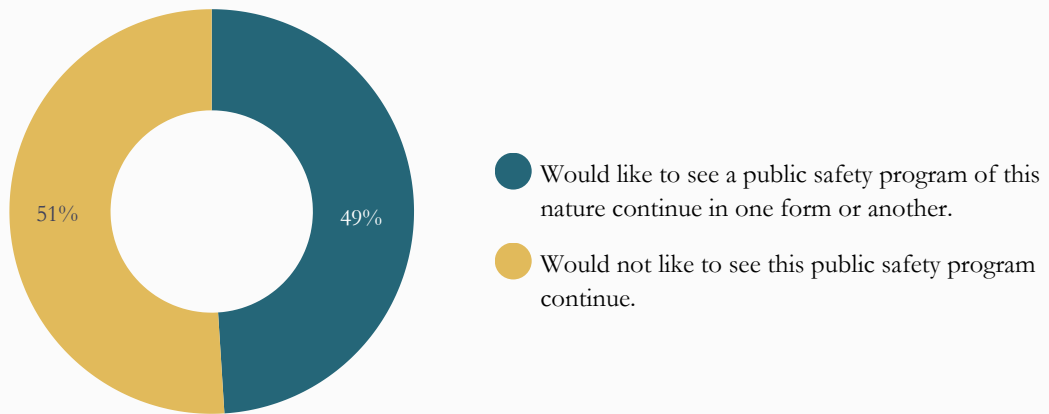
The vast majority of respondents who selected “Other” then qualified their response by pointing to one of the options already included; those responses have been folded into the bar graph above to give a more accurate representation of respondents’ input. Of the 7% remaining “Other” responses, over 90% stated they feel the entire Town has become unsafe, and that they can therefore not select one specific area.

Would you like to see the continuation of an enhanced public security approach in the Town of Peace River, similar to that executed through this pilot project?



- Yes, I'd like to see this program continue.
- Yes, I'd like to see a program of this nature continue, but think changes are required.
- No.
- I'm not sure.

Not including those who are unsure of their response, and looking at the broader context of this question, this then breaks down as follows:



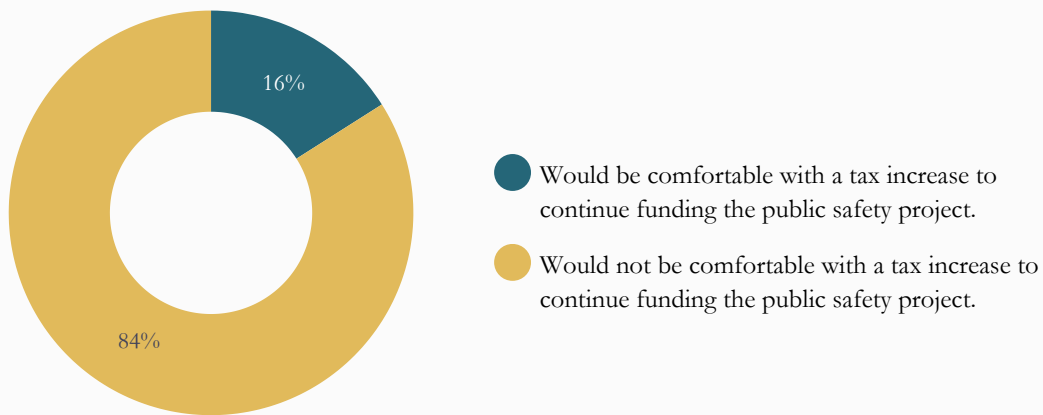
Those who selected that they would like to see the program continue, but with changes made, were then asked to qualify their selection by describing where changes could occur to improve the current program. These written responses have been included verbatim, as Appendix A.

A continuation of this project for enhanced public security will result in an estimated increase of \$80,000 per month in Town spending, to maintain current 24/7 coverage. If approved, this would be included in the 2025 operating budget. How much would you be willing to pay in increased property taxes to fund these public security measures?



- 5%-8% (resulting in reduced 12/7 service delivery)
- 8%-10% (resulting in continued 24/7 service delivery)
- I do not want this initiative to be funded.

Alternatively, this breaks down in the following manner:

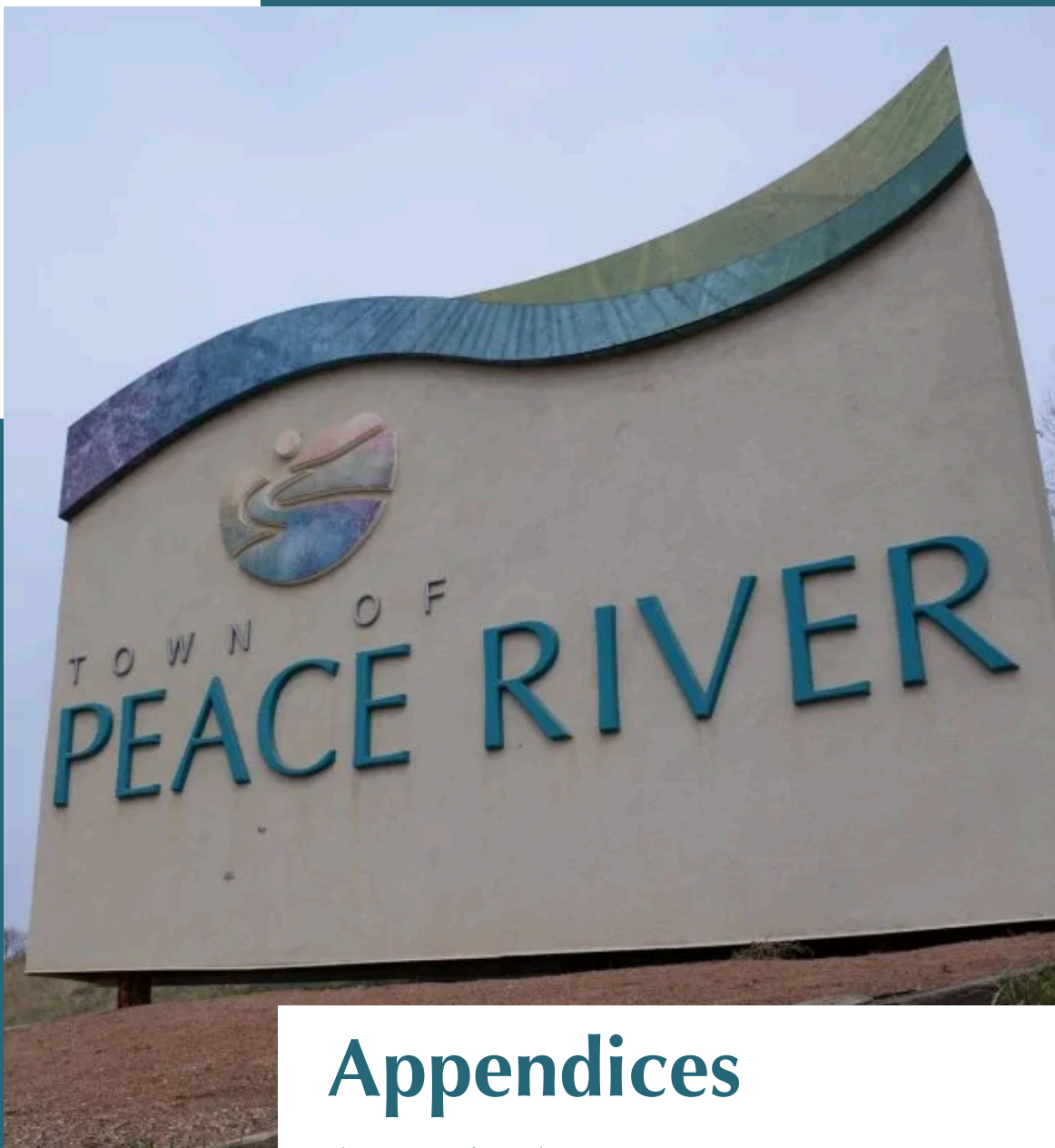


Point of Anecdotal Analysis: In a previous question, asking in which areas survey respondents were experiencing the most significant reduced sense of safety, one respondent who provided a written response by selecting “Other” stated:

“All in the valley, but I am not willing to pay money for peace of mind.”

This sentiment seems to prevail amongst survey respondents, with 49% stating a desire for the public safety program to continue, in one form or another, but only 16% stating they would be comfortable with a tax increase to fund the programs continuation.





Appendices

Appendix A: Q9 Written Responses

Appendix B: General Written Comments

Appendix A:

Reasons for Calling APEX

The following written submissions represent those comments provided by respondents who said they have called APEX a minimum of one (1) time, following which they were then asked to provide a written response for why they phoned APEX.

Those written responses are included on the following page in raw format, meaning that they are unedited and unaltered from initial submission.

Q6 Please provide details surrounding the reason(s) you called the APEX Public Security Unit for assistance. (Skip if this does not apply to you)

Answered: 73 Skipped: 416

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Safe walk to car after meeting Intoxicated person passed out on bench - wellness check	11/19/2024 6:55 PM
2	(3) Homeless people lingering in the area. I was worried they were going to gain entrance into an abandoned house across the street. I called apex three times, with no answer, no voicemail and no return call. I the. Called the RCMP and they come to our aid. A homeless person was found and retained as he had stolen property	11/19/2024 1:19 PM
3	Two negative interactions with unhoused individuals. I am a Girl Guide Leader and these interactions happened when girls were leaving the facility. We contacted APEX and asked for a presence/walk out for Guides.	11/19/2024 9:10 AM
4	To let them know the activity going on around the times as we noticed a little pattern.	11/19/2024 8:26 AM
5	Concern about evidence of theft around the Saddleback area. (discarded and hidden items along walking path)	11/18/2024 2:42 PM
6	Intoxication	11/17/2024 7:01 PM
7	A camp fire near the belle centre Possible encampment	11/17/2024 6:14 PM
8	NOISE: A group of regular "homeless" gathered to charge phones, visit and make noise both vocally and with the speakers playing music after 10 pm--- SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY & NOISE at work site after hours when no one was working a group was gathered and I was concerned for tools possibly being stolen from work trailer or camper parked during the project of the new roof being installed. NOISE: The organizers/owners of the carnival rides were allowed to camp in the parking lot right next to the flag monument and backed against our building. They parked a generator between their campers to have enough auxilliary power to run their A/C units etc. in their 5th-wheel campers. The generator noise came straight against our building where guests were trying to sleep.	11/15/2024 5:27 PM
9	Marie yelling and hitting cars. Intoxicated individual passed out in park. Asked someone else to call.	11/15/2024 1:34 PM
10	Didn't have to call they where already at the fire	11/15/2024 12:41 PM
11	Suspicious characters on our property & checking our vehicles. And suspicious characters littering on our property.	11/15/2024 10:27 AM
12	Homeless deciding our property is okay for their dumping grounds.	11/15/2024 8:44 AM
13	APEX was valuable when dealing with patrons refusing to leave when told to due to inappropriate behavior or in issuing letters notifying said patrons that they have been temporarily banned from the library for their behaviour. APEX always responded promptly and we're always courteous, compassionate, and professional.	11/14/2024 11:53 PM
14	4 youngsters hanging around area all afternoon and into evening that did not reside acting very suspicious	11/14/2024 9:31 PM
15	Public intoxication, loitering, aggressive behavior, public drug consumption, petty theft, trespassing, vandalism, weapons, suspicious behavior	11/14/2024 8:32 PM
16	homeless encampment and loitering	11/14/2024 5:05 PM
17	Several times for homeless people congregating/asking for money from people in cars pulling up to come into business. A couple times for homeless people dumping bags and clothing around the business.	11/14/2024 2:44 PM
18	Individuals messing with/trespassing on private property and attempting access to parked	11/14/2024 2:02 PM

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	vehicles	
19	See above	11/14/2024 9:09 AM
20	Personally was yelling and swearing	11/13/2024 10:37 PM
21	As per previous	11/13/2024 10:34 PM
22	A person scouting and suspiciously loitering (hiding in dark areas) around their workplace after hours.	11/13/2024 10:21 PM
23	Disturbing the peace call at 530 am. A neighbour's dog had been left out all night in the rain and kept us up all night so I called to see if anything could be done as I felt it was a public disturbance. They drove by about 20 minutes later, did not stop, did nothing at all. I did not bother calling them again	11/13/2024 6:48 PM
24	Noise complaint about a neighbor.	11/13/2024 6:39 PM
25	Belongings found looked to be stolen and gone though called apex they were able to get belonging back to owner	11/13/2024 5:44 PM
26	I caught 2 people on camera and called for help as I went up to get rid of them.	11/13/2024 5:40 PM
27	see above they eventually called me 45 min later	11/13/2024 4:09 PM
28	Disoriented person	11/13/2024 3:55 PM
29	Noise disturbance Possible thefts from vehicles	11/13/2024 3:20 PM
30	Loitering at business, stolen property found at boat launch	11/13/2024 11:30 AM
31	Vandalism	11/13/2024 10:06 AM
32	To deal with the encampment over the river bank and the homeless in and around our property	11/13/2024 9:32 AM
33	Caught an individual attempting to break in. Fire hazard at property next door.	11/13/2024 9:27 AM
34	People hanging around, looking into cars, making my staff feel unsafe to leave work at night.	11/13/2024 9:15 AM
35	Public loitering	11/13/2024 9:14 AM
36	Nuisance	11/13/2024 9:05 AM
37	I didn't call, I seen them on a patrol and talked to them. The area previously had a small encampment, but I was seeing more encampment garbage in the area. I asked if they could check it out, but they actually just found a huge camp there the day before I spoke with them.	11/13/2024 9:05 AM
38	Open drug and alcohol use, fighting amongst individuals at the Sagitawa over night shelter, vandalism, loitering, littering all at the overnight shelter.	11/13/2024 8:56 AM
39	Threat's loitering theft control	11/13/2024 8:43 AM
40	Camping overnight at boat launch. With all the additional space there now there are more people camping overnight at the boat launch and way more garbage.	11/13/2024 7:50 AM
41	Homeless female sleeping in the park where children play. Apex arrived to drive her to a shelter	11/13/2024 7:28 AM
42	Theft in yard overnight	11/13/2024 7:26 AM
43	Disturbance, encampment theft	11/13/2024 7:19 AM
44	Unknown persons appearing intoxicated behind our residence walking the trail	11/13/2024 7:15 AM
45	Trespassing and Theft on our property	11/12/2024 10:50 PM
46	Disturbance at a business, an encampment concern and a group of individuals making a mess around a dumpster.	11/12/2024 10:49 PM
47	People rummaging dumpsters.	11/12/2024 9:28 PM
48	Found stolen property under the walking bridge. Suspicious man pushing the item deeper under the bridge	11/12/2024 9:16 PM

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49	Transient individuals hauling stolen goods, attempting to break atm, drunken fights, people breaking in to belle center	11/12/2024 9:09 PM
50	Encampments, concerns for people at risk ie: walking in middle of road garbage dumpster issues with theft	11/12/2024 9:05 PM
51	Weapons on display, public intoxication.	11/12/2024 8:40 PM
52	Drunk and disorderly	11/12/2024 8:26 PM
53	Public concern,	11/12/2024 7:50 PM
54	Noticed a squatter	11/12/2024 7:44 PM
55	See above	11/12/2024 7:39 PM
56	To address the person and possibly see what other stash of stolen items he may have had	11/12/2024 7:04 PM
57	Because there on my business every single day and at lease they show up right away rcmp don't care anymore half hour and more before you get someone so I just stop calling loosing my time	11/12/2024 6:29 PM
58	Stolen property	11/12/2024 5:59 PM
59	Homeless/prisoner released	11/12/2024 5:55 PM
60	Two homeless on my lawn saying rude racist things. But apex actually failed to come a help and said that they had left. They had not.	11/12/2024 5:54 PM
61	Something RCMP would have not responded to — Apex did a wellness check.	11/12/2024 5:50 PM
62	Public drunkenness & drug use at the United church. Hanging out & making a camp at Sagitawa.	11/12/2024 5:50 PM
63	Vandalism, theft, Threats, harassment and loitering	11/12/2024 5:28 PM
64	With our business being on Main Street, we get a front row seat to see if street people are on drugs and acting in a frightening manner. They might be harassing people on the street or coming into our business and we have got 16 year-old staff members, although no staff member should have to deal with these instances.	11/12/2024 5:23 PM
65	Vagrants high and pounding on the windows of my wife's business	11/12/2024 5:18 PM
66	Individual was smoking drugs outside my business and an employee did not feel safe leaving work	11/12/2024 5:13 PM
67	I stopped them while I was on my routine walk and asked if they ever checked on the area of 103 st and 111 avenue at all because there is an old abandoned large office building left with no security in a residential area and it has had numerous people trespassing and destroying the place. Apex had NO IDEA this place was there. They advised they would add it to their places to patrol.	11/12/2024 5:07 PM
68	Theft, dealing with homeless issues. Camping out under awning. Break and enters resulting in finding stolen items in encampments. One person on drugs.	11/12/2024 5:04 PM
69	We had vagrants sleeping on the roof of our building as well as gaining access to the insulation de. No damage occurred. We asked them to keep a close eye on the building & roof.	11/12/2024 4:59 PM
70	I called to report two individuals who were walking down the middle of 99th St screaming at night. I was not sure if they were under the influence or having a mental episode. The first time I called, they couldn't even locate the street. The second time I called, the person I was speaking with was located in Grande Prairie and didn't even know what street I was talking about. By the time Apex arrived, the one individual was gone. The second individual was then on the sidewalk still screaming. Apex pulled up beside her and didn't even once get out of their vehicle. Instead, they followed her along the sidewalk in their truck while the continued walking and screaming.	11/12/2024 4:46 PM
71	I would never call them, they are a useless neighborhood watch with 0 Authority to do anything of any substance.	11/12/2024 4:32 PM
72	N/A	11/12/2024 4:29 PM

Appendix B:

Q9 Written Responses

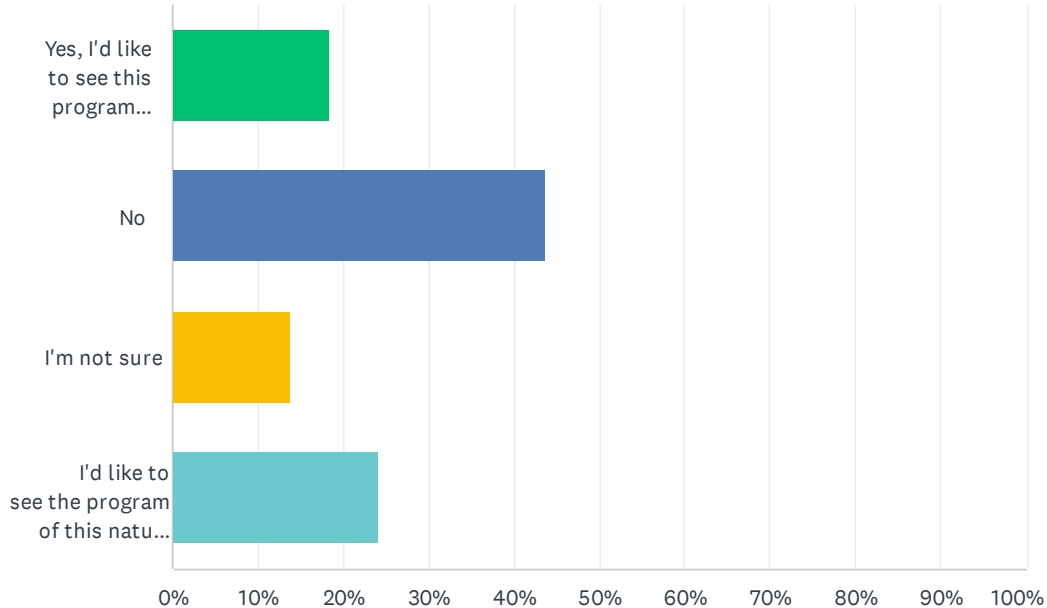
The following written submissions represent those comments provided by respondents for Q9: **Would you like to see the continuation of an enhanced public security approach in the Town of Peace River, similar to that executed through this pilot project?** and who selected the response, **I'd like to see the continuation of a program of this nature, but think changes are required.**

Those respondents were then asked to expand upon their response, to provide additional context for where they believe changes to the program would be appropriate and beneficial.

Those written responses are included on the following page in raw format, meaning that they are unedited and unaltered from initial submission.

Q9 Would you like to see the continuation of an enhanced public security approach in the Town of Peace River, similar to that executed through this pilot project?

Answered: 427 Skipped: 62



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I'd like to see this program continue	18.27%	78
No	43.79%	187
I'm not sure	13.82%	59
I'd like to see the program of this nature, but think changes are required. (Please specify)	24.12%	103
TOTAL		427

#	I'D LIKE TO SEE THE PROGRAM OF THIS NATURE, BUT THINK CHANGES ARE REQUIRED. (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I'd like to see what other options are available. Might the town be able to hire staff to do a similar role to that of Apex?	11/19/2024 10:44 PM
2	Employ CPO vs contracted security guards	11/19/2024 6:55 PM
3	I would rather see the money go to local sheriffs/bylaw officers in order to keep the money in the community	11/18/2024 2:42 PM
4	maybe have a lockdown at night at the old sagitawa. Also should not have the jail dropping off inmates in the town of Peace River. If they don't have a ride home than they should stay in jail.	11/18/2024 11:29 AM
5	I need alot more information before I can answer this question	11/17/2024 8:39 PM
6	Not at the price we paid. Taxes are too high	11/17/2024 7:01 PM
7	The visibility of the uniformed APEX staff helped move people along but did not really change	11/17/2024 4:18 PM

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the number of people wandering and hanging around.

8	Bi-law officer x 2 should do the job	11/17/2024 8:01 AM
9	Hire local. Would be cheaper	11/16/2024 11:07 AM
10	We pay for a RCMP detachment....get the powers that be to allow them to do their jobs	11/15/2024 8:44 PM
11	With By law and Peace Officers, why are we not implementing a division, that is home grown? Or adjusted hours? A million a year for an outside company, seems ridiculous when we have 3 positions already here, and the vehicles. The infrastructure has to be built to develop this.	11/15/2024 8:42 PM
12	I'm not sure but it was a great program.	11/15/2024 1:34 PM
13	I should not have to pay increased taxes for a service I cannot use	11/15/2024 12:09 PM
14	Nit if it means increasing property taxes	11/15/2024 11:50 AM
15	I feel the residents of the community shouldn't have to pay additional taxes to be safe in their communities.	11/15/2024 11:43 AM
16	I'd like to see a log of all the complaints, interactions the officers actually had before deciding	11/15/2024 11:11 AM
17	I think we need to staff our RCMP appropriately as mentioned. The resources we pay for as taxpayers work within our community. And I dont believe we need to spend 240 000 to study this - nor should it be on the taxpayers to pay yet again for basic services in our town. 80 000 a month seems totally crazy for the APEX person to drive around town. We could fund (if we can ticket - not sure if we can do this anymore) or at last provide education and change the signs! the whole thing with the speeders just going through the school and playground zones in this town.	11/15/2024 9:53 AM
18	But only if the money is taken out of the pay for our town council as they appear to be unable to do their jobs in the first place.	11/15/2024 8:44 AM
19	The idea is there, but how it was implemented this summer was a failure. The people seem very frustrated with the company and do not trust it.	11/15/2024 8:12 AM
20	They were very visible when I was out and about. Maybe 50% cutback so still have presence without overkill.	11/14/2024 11:52 PM
21	You guys get more then enough tax money for this. Budget better	11/14/2024 10:28 PM
22	More affordable options are available and should be investigated	11/14/2024 10:00 PM
23	Some type is needed but not at the ridiculous cost that the past 3 months has cost. The residents cant afford this and a property tax hike is not the answer. We are still adjusting to the humungous increase in the towns water Bill's!! One can only take so much in increases without needing to work 3 jobs to keep up. Perhaps rather than purchasing an old building that will require thousands of dollars in renovations to become your new Town Office some of that money could have been budgeted to keep citizens and the community safe. In my opinion you needed to purchase the Midwest building like I needed an extra butt!! Or the money paid to Apex could have been put toward bus passes so when inmates were released they get driven to the bus stop and be put directly on the bus back home on a prepaid bus pass and we wouldnt have these people loitering around. \$24,000. Would purchase a heck of a lot of bus tickets.	11/14/2024 9:31 PM
24	Criminal behaviors need to be addressed by the rcmp	11/14/2024 8:32 PM
25	See below for comments	11/14/2024 8:15 PM
26	Contact the Alberta Sheriff's	11/14/2024 7:41 PM
27	Self defence by home and property owners	11/14/2024 6:41 PM
28	It is not required 24/7, consider 10p-6a - not all the time	11/14/2024 5:05 PM
29	Not so expensive, cut the costs	11/14/2024 4:45 PM
30	The cost for benefit is not there. There needs to be an alternative way.	11/14/2024 2:44 PM
31	Yes, but this program is expensive. prior to the release of the report no performance metrics are available.	11/14/2024 2:02 PM

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32	Something needs done but this program didn't work. I would rather see money put into support the people with mental health, food, shelter.	11/14/2024 1:33 PM
33	Just not effect are property tax as if we keep raising property take people won't be able to afford to live here anymore.	11/14/2024 12:51 PM
34	Cover the whole town. The pilot only benefitted downtown	11/14/2024 11:01 AM
35	provide REAL assistance to the homeless instead of telling them to leave public parks and sidewalks. They are no less human than we are. treat them that way. or atleast do a better job of acting like you do. these people have lives and stories.	11/14/2024 10:21 AM
36	I think a rotating single shift could suffice based on need	11/14/2024 9:09 AM
37	Instead of sending g billions to Ukraine set up a homeless shelter	11/14/2024 8:22 AM
38	More surveys like this is needed so the town can first be open to solutions. Right now I feel the towns administrators have a closed mind on the topic. Please continue to seek public input so we can save money and have a safe place.	11/14/2024 8:07 AM
39	I don't think this problem addresses the addictions issues at the root of the problem. I am also aware that is not an issue the town has much authority over although perhaps the problems could be better resolved through improved interagency cooperation. Money may be better spent in finding ways to resolve addictions and homelessness	11/14/2024 7:13 AM
40	I question the "value" of the project. I believe that the Apex project has helped with the encampment issue, but unsure of residential/commercial break in and theft issues as they don't have ability to enforce.	11/13/2024 10:34 PM
41	This program was certainly helpful, but feels like a bandaid. The underlying causes need to be fixed so this program isn't needed long term.	11/13/2024 10:21 PM
42	I like it but can't afford an increase in property tax's	11/13/2024 9:21 PM
43	Hire staff to patrol the area. Would be cheaper.	11/13/2024 7:37 PM
44	A council that will follow up on provincial policies. The jail dropping off released inmates in town instead of sending them home is wrong	11/13/2024 6:54 PM
45	Peace Officers that can actually take action not just observe.	11/13/2024 6:39 PM
46	I believe the people doing patrols need to have more power to detain and arrest individuals committing or intent on committing crimes.	11/13/2024 5:40 PM
47	I heard there were issues with apex knowing their role versus rcmp role. I think more clear boundaries about what they can and can't do would be important. Working downtown I did not notice much of a difference in safety when apex was there or not, I think putting the money into different support systems or transport may be a stronger approach.	11/13/2024 4:46 PM
48	Instead of 24/7 security what about just night time operations . This would significantly reduce cost and keep crime down that is most prevalent at night. Not during daytime hours.	11/13/2024 3:36 PM
49	You can kick people out of parks all you want but if nobody is bringing these convicts home then the problems will continue, apex or not.	11/13/2024 3:12 PM
50	Town needs to take an expert advise on dealing the situation	11/13/2024 12:52 PM
51	Make cuts elsewhere to provide a safe community and don't rely on the public's funds to provide.	11/13/2024 12:50 PM
52	I feel as tho Apex did help with security although didn't address the real concerns but yet displaced the issues to elsewhere. I think addressing the root causes of the issues is of greater importance.	11/13/2024 12:01 PM
53	Extended to residential areas primarily north and south end	11/13/2024 11:36 AM
54	Local properly trained peace officers would be better suited I believe.	11/13/2024 11:30 AM
55	More cops not security officers	11/13/2024 11:10 AM
56	A program of this nature is beneficial however not at such an expense. I have chosen to live	11/13/2024 11:01 AM

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outside of town for for greater security at the cost of convenience. The problem very clearly lies at the Sagitawa friendship center where the problem causing individuals are housed fed and made comfortable. A cost effective and efficient way of ending security and crime issues downtown is to examine how the out of the cold shelter is run. If the whole point of APEX is to remove individuals from certain areas then why are we calling them to peace river in the first place with promises of comfort/food. Additionaly, The out of the cold shelter has been given money to transport wanting individuals out of peace river. This is not happening.

57	There should be a place for u housed people to go. It is unjust to have them just removed with nowhere safe to be.	11/13/2024 10:08 AM
58	The way security approaches non criminals, or people who are not doing anything wrong.	11/13/2024 10:08 AM
59	Costs	11/13/2024 10:06 AM
60	Hire two bylaw officers who can help with fire, speed control and homeless issues.	11/13/2024 10:05 AM
61	I'd like to see the cops do there job rather than worry bout minor items like window tint. And bring back transportation of prisoners to their home towns after released	11/13/2024 10:03 AM
62	Perhaps businesses could share cost	11/13/2024 9:55 AM
63	With Government Grants or RCMP	11/13/2024 9:53 AM
64	A security program is good idea however it would not be required if the problem of homelessness was solved at it's source instead.	11/13/2024 9:35 AM
65	The increase in taxes shouldn't apply to residents outside of the patrolled areas	11/13/2024 9:35 AM
66	They would need more people. There was still a lot of crime happening	11/13/2024 9:28 AM
67	I think security services should be allowed to arrest and detain security threats if necessary.	11/13/2024 9:22 AM
68	Justice system requires harsher punishment for petty crimes.	11/13/2024 8:53 AM
69	Find money somewhere else other than raising taxes.	11/13/2024 8:26 AM
70	Change the bylaws and hire a bylaw officer who is a Peace Officer	11/13/2024 7:50 AM
71	Tax money is not suppose to increase for our safety	11/13/2024 7:32 AM
72	Counter offer the quote to get it at a lower cost	11/13/2024 7:32 AM
73	The program is great but the complaints from some citizens was surprising. Some claimed to be harassed or found Alex to be unprofessional at times. It may have been an issue of a lack of education of the expectations on both sides.	11/13/2024 5:28 AM
74	I believe we need help, but council should do their best to advocate for assistance from other governments.	11/12/2024 10:49 PM
75	This should be funded by not raising taxes and town council being more responsible with tax payers money. We live in an unsafe town. People can do crack right down town on the street.	11/12/2024 10:38 PM
76	It seems like the program did a good job of pinpointing issues/trouble areas and maybe the coverage doesn't need to be 24/7 everywhere.	11/12/2024 10:30 PM
77	Hire peace officers	11/12/2024 10:26 PM
78	Maybe if costs are too high it could focus on night time?	11/12/2024 9:28 PM
79	Not sure	11/12/2024 9:16 PM
80	I think the town needs to focus Peace Officer duties on the drug/homeless/criminal activity. And need to strongly petition bussing out from the jail to return from provincial gov.	11/12/2024 7:56 PM
81	Seeing apex members in uniform shopping with a running truck in the parking lot tells me a change is necessary if this program is to continue.	11/12/2024 7:47 PM
82	Let's get rid of the overnight shelter that seems to hold more out of town people which are causing most of our issues	11/12/2024 7:44 PM
83	I would like to see the data before responding to this survey. Cost/benefit is there a difference?	11/12/2024 7:25 PM

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84	Including partnerships with out reach programs to help those that are causing issues	11/12/2024 7:23 PM
85	The program is good but cost much. Hire your own peace officer to deal with the issues.	11/12/2024 6:50 PM
86	Town Bylaw officers	11/12/2024 6:27 PM
87	Tax businesses or provincial funding	11/12/2024 5:55 PM
88	I'd like to see our peace officers back.	11/12/2024 5:49 PM
89	We should have a local company.	11/12/2024 5:49 PM
90	Instead of apex security guards hire 4 field drug and addictions personal to responsibly deal with the addictions crisis at hand.	11/12/2024 5:42 PM
91	The cost of the program needs to be detailed as the cost of this program in my mind is unjustified.... I would also like to see the security program change from a 24 hour program to having them focused on the statistically high times	11/12/2024 5:40 PM
92	Unlown what, we still had far too many thefts.	11/12/2024 5:26 PM
93	Was very costly	11/12/2024 5:25 PM
94	Apex was a definite asset and made a huge difference. If the town could hire one to two police officers then maybe we could have Apex on a part-time basis because granted we probably don't need them 24 hours a day every day. Their absence was definitely noticed immediately!	11/12/2024 5:23 PM
95	An appointment of legislative authorities beyond TPA etc, Possibly appointment as peace officers.	11/12/2024 5:18 PM
96	Could they supplement the RCMP rather than cross over? Night time is the biggest concern right? Also citizens on patrol type organization could help.	11/12/2024 5:15 PM
97	I think 24/7 would be ideal but probably not financially feasible. Maybe night time or event coverage	11/12/2024 5:10 PM
98	Perhaps have an in house security force that could be employed by the town. Might be more cost effective than hiring a company for \$1M/year. I think there needs to be more analysis into why the police for \$2.6 million a year are unable to cover our needs before you look at increasing taxes 10%.	11/12/2024 5:04 PM
99	Possibly seasonal	11/12/2024 5:02 PM
100	We need a service that can actually do something like the RCMP. Apex cannot arrest anyone and often times just needs to contact the RCMP anyway.	11/12/2024 4:46 PM
101	Downtown businesses should pay for the service and not the tax payers	11/12/2024 4:33 PM
102	TEST	11/12/2024 4:25 PM
103	In house CPO	11/12/2024 4:23 PM

Appendix C:

General Written Comments

The following written submissions were provided by survey participants in response to the statement, **Please share any additional comments you might have on the public security pilot project, or the continuation of this project moving forward.**

Those written responses are included on the following page in raw format, meaning that they are unedited and unaltered from initial submission.

Q11 Please share any additional comments you might have on the public security pilot project, or the continuation of this project moving forward.

Answered: 309 Skipped: 180

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I don't want to pay extra taxes for an enhanced security approach, rather I'd like to see changes to the budget to allow costs to be met through current revenue streams.	11/19/2024 10:44 PM
2	Excellent work on encampments. I would prefer the town employ and develop this program continuation	11/19/2024 6:55 PM
3	No more taxes, cut payroll, staff and services but no more taxes	11/19/2024 4:45 PM
4	We need to remove the problems from town; we should not have to pay for this!! We have been terrorized for years already with stolen property and vandalism. If people have mental illness they need to be in hospital. If they are repeat offenders they should be in jail or at a work camp. Let's be like Slave Lake and close the Shelter!!!	11/19/2024 1:19 PM
5	It helped, but when cold weather comes along rent-a-cops with no authority will not dissuade them from continuing to loiter for warmth. APEX will have to call the police for any actual enforcement and this will result in 2-3 hours of wait time	11/19/2024 8:55 AM
6	I found it did not help with the theft and break and entering as they could not really do anything about it.	11/19/2024 8:26 AM
7	I feel like our property taxes are very high already (\$7000 per year for us, north end home)so if this initiative is to be continued I would ask that methods besides further taxation be undertaken. It seems every day I hear of an increased expense the town is planning to pass to its residents. I'm interested to see data how we compare to other towns of our size. Perhaps a re-evaluation of the budget to determine if there is any spending that is unnecessary or can be decreased. That being said I did feel like apex presence made a difference to downtown and a 12/7 program that covered evenings may be sufficient.	11/18/2024 5:41 PM
8	As we work in the industry of attracting and retaining businesses, we believe that another tax increase will prove to be even more detrimental to the state of our struggling community and economy than that which we have experienced in the past several years. As a portion our tax dollars are already going to the funding of our local RCMP, the security of our town, properties and citizens must continue fall within their jurisdiction.	11/18/2024 2:43 PM
9	Hopefully the program will partner with the Sagitawa centre and result in individuals returned to their home communities.	11/18/2024 2:42 PM
10	I feel that this additional security effort has been required due to the mistaken policy of housing, feeding and enabling the increase in homeless individuals, facilitated by the funding of Sagitawa, and other initiatives. An additional problem is how the people released from the Peace River Correctional Center are provided with no transportation options to be returned to their home community's / Last known addresses. Although I understand and am compassionate to these individuals, our community does not have the necessary support structures to help these individuals re-assimilate into society. I believe the town should consider a transportation policy similar to Slave lake and other community's that have realized (like us) that they do not have the necessary support structure for this undertaking..... furthermore it should be noted that the community as a whole can in no way support additional taxation of any type as both companies and individuals are already stretched to the limit. In the meantime, while exploring options, the security of the community needs to be protected (as it has historically) by our RCMP.	11/18/2024 11:54 AM
11	Lock down at night at the old sagitawa, might have an impact on the number of thefts at night.	11/18/2024 11:29 AM
12	If you people can not fit this program into your budget, then it will have to be scrapped.	11/18/2024 10:06 AM
13	My preference is town operated general security (Bylaw, Peace Officer) where the Town can work with other agencies (RCMP, Sagitawa, Mental Health) rather than just moving people	11/18/2024 9:28 AM

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around

14	I think it would be better to hire bylaw officers or request additional RCMP officers to help within the community APEX had no authority to do anything they still had to call the police to take care of anything. I'm not sure that APEX made a difference in the area that I work, we still had people out in the lobby and in the washrooms and in the parking areas.	11/18/2024 9:06 AM
15	This program has not reduced or provided any sort of security to the town. Apex does not have authority to deal with crime and the issues at hand should be dealt with through RCMP. More lobbying should be done to increase RCMP numbers and the funding can go towards outreach or other more pressing issues in the town such as the current utility rate increase. Those who are causing the issues around town won't stop just because Apex is present, it is a social issue and is a veneer over the real problem.	11/18/2024 8:02 AM
16	Apex has been nothing more than bar bouncers ushering the homeless around. They have interfered with police investigations more than they have helped. Specifically engaging in a foot chase with a theft suspect rather than contacting police when they have no authority to even detain a person. This is a huge expense for essentially nothing but a couple people to agitate the homeless. How about instead spend this money towards programs intended to help get these people off of the streets. Rehabilitation and education with rules for compliance with sobriety and good behavior. Make these people become citizens again rather than drunk harassing our business owners	11/17/2024 9:51 PM
17	I'm a low income individual - I can not afford a hike in rental cost. Looking forward to the future I wouldn't be able to buy a house. Instead of paying for people walking around doing nothing but being bar bouncer. Focus on growing the town and providing a better structure welcoming in large companies and producing more jobs for a larger town income.	11/17/2024 9:44 PM
18	I have many concerns with regards to asking the citizens of Peace River to contribute to additional costs of security without: 1. Knowing what percentage we pay RCMP and what percentage of service is provided. 2. Why private security vs Peace Officers as neither can handle criminal issues but Peace officers can also create an income stream for the town. 3. Why are junior RCMP officers not brought in to deal with only Town issues? 4. Are other contributing factors being considered when evaluating the safety of our citizens, ie Alberta assistance in providing public transportation in and out of community I cannot honestly answer this survey without more information, having authored suveys myself, this is so biased I do not see how the results can provide accurate information.	11/17/2024 8:39 PM
19	Town taxes are astronomically high for what we receive.	11/17/2024 7:01 PM
20	I would like to see proactive policing from the RCMP and possibly other programs such as citizens on patrol	11/17/2024 6:14 PM
21	This is not a town of Peace River problem but a Government of Alberta problem. People who are incarcerated in PR Remand Centre come from different areas and should be returned to wherever they are from. Talk to the politicians in Edmonton and have them take care of the problem or shut the facility down and relocate it elsewhere. You are already looking to increase utility rates to cover capital costs. Now you want to have us pay \$80,000 per month for peace of mind when according to RCMP statements APEX did not have a significant impact on crime rates. To what end? Council wants to review honoraria for council and guess what? I bet the suggestion will be to increase it. The town just purchased the old, run down building that housed the apprenticeship offices and of course it will have to be renovated and that will cost more money. If I as a homeowner budgeted for my expenses as the Town of Peace River does, I would soon be homeless. Oh but I can get help for that! Whatever happened to citizens on patrol? I would be a part of that. Perhaps we as residents need to become more vocal and more involved. You as a council need to start representing us as homeowners, taxpayers, residents and business owners in this town! Adding increases here and there, making unwise purchases and unrealistic town utilities increases puts the burden on the few. This is utter madness. I do not support this initiative.	11/17/2024 6:12 PM
22	The way the price of things are rising in this town the average citizen will need to sell and move . I truly feel if we closed the shelter in town then prisoners would not be allowed to be dropped off in the town and that would alleviate most of the problems. No place to stay no legal drop off.	11/17/2024 5:17 PM
23	For #8, I am still unsure of my answer.	11/17/2024 4:18 PM
24	I feel Apex moved the homeless out of their camps and into residential areas. Kicking the	11/17/2024 12:02 PM

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homeless out of downtown doesn't solve anything, it just spreads them out.

25	I worry that the majority of the time spent during the project only encouraged problematic people to move to other areas of town & didn't deal with the actual problem of having them in programs where they don't continue to cause issues.	11/17/2024 8:01 AM
26	Use money for more RCMP	11/17/2024 7:53 AM
27	I believe a restructuring of current town employees could manage a security component at a much lower cost than what was previously paid to Apex.	11/16/2024 2:29 PM
28	Prior to providing informed feedback, a complete report from the 3 month trial is required. It would be best if the results and analysis of the the trial was provide by a town representative or at the very least a third party rather than the contractor themselves. Because the PSU is interacting mostly with vulnerable persons, it imperative that the security guards are held accountable to standards. Who at the town administration was responsible for overseeing the contractor's conduct during the trial. Was there any investigation into the guards performance. No such standards have been communicated in the provide material. Neither have any mechanisms to ensure security guard compliance. If the contractor has been providing daily updates to the town, what are the results reported daily: have the results been summarized and or has the town completed an evaluation? The two reports that have been provided publicly are less than a trial assessment and more of a brochure like report, chronicling the activity of the security guards. The reports do not identify expected outcomes, indicators, terms and definitions, nor whether the specific outcomes were achieved. In addition to understanding the nature of the offence being committed it would also be important to understand how many are repeat offenders? How many individuals are we dealing with? It is less professional for the contractor to be providing feedback on facebook regarding questions and concerns about the trial. A representative of the town or council should be addressing any questions from the citizens: the contractor should not be advocating. Concerning funding for the proposed additional security services. Prior to raising property taxes as is proposed, town council should revisit the existing budget, prioritize all current services and eliminate all none essential services or expenditures. In addition, the monies if approved may be better spent to address the root causes of the offences rather than being reactive. Furthermore, the reports notes that guards cleared encampments from private property (ie cemetery and rail bridge), should the owners not bare some responsibility for the burden of the cost of such actions?	11/16/2024 11:56 AM
29	I feel my taxes are too high for the services I receive. I feel a hard look at your spending practices should be a priority. 4000/year on a 60 year old home is crazy. All while our infrastructure to me is falling apart.	11/16/2024 11:07 AM
30	Asking the opinion of the residents of Peace River before the overnight shelter project happened would have been more appropriate. The Sagitawa Friendship Center has been given a massive amount of money to run the overnight shelter and several properties in downtown Peace River, with the approval of the Town of Peace River. The residents should not have to pay for security for a project that has been funded to operate safely; if it can not be operated safely, it should be discontinued; and it is not safe in Peace River. The Sagitawa Friendship has been funded to operate this project; they should be providing the necessary security. Peace River is where we chose to raise our children; I would not recommend Peace River as a community to move to and believe the town counsel owns responsibility for their decisions.	11/16/2024 10:31 AM
31	Our taxes are already too high. Don't spend money you don't have....like on new office buildings and security companies	11/15/2024 8:44 PM
32	Apex is not the police, nor do they carry the same procedures and laws to support, policing. Which is what the town wants. Though more is needed, I am not in suportr of this, but would rather see a few more Peace Officers hired and keeping it local (with rules and regulations).	11/15/2024 8:42 PM
33	If this project is to be pursued it needs to be put out for tender for the most cost effective option. Between property taxes and utility rates the cost of living in Peace River is high enough without spending a million dollars per year on private security.	11/15/2024 6:53 PM
34	Money would be better spent working on solutions, not security. If homelessness is the concern, initiatives to help this should be priority. Mental health supports, addictions supports, social workers. Support for those released from the jail, like transportation back to their communities, access to community supports. Homeless shelter. Increasing property taxes in a community that's already struggling with the current rates of inflation due to mortgage and rent increases and grocery prices sky rocketing is just going to lead to more homelessness and	11/15/2024 5:27 PM

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more people struggling to make ends meet, which will just lead to an increase in the things the security is having to deal with.

35	I did not witness any issues during the day light hours, so in an effort to reduce the cost I would think there would be greater benefit for night-time patrols. However, I am unaware of the issues that neighbours may have experienced during the day time hours and would like to know if there was a lot of call for help during the day time.	11/15/2024 5:27 PM
36	I support the continuation of this project but am not willing to pay any increase to my taxes. Funds will have to come from somewhere else within the budget and the service should be tendered out to any company that wants to apply.	11/15/2024 5:13 PM
37	I don't want to pay more taxes. I believe the existing taxes can be better allocated.	11/15/2024 4:42 PM
38	We should be focusing on prevention and holding the province responsible for their operations at the jail. "A society is only as strong as its weakest link"(JFKennedy) What is presently with happening with the release of individuals from the jail is wrong on so many levels.	11/15/2024 2:03 PM
39	\$80,000 would approximately be the equivalent of a starting salary with benefits for one Peace Officer.	11/15/2024 1:35 PM
40	Thank you for the work you do. It would be good to have a strategic plan of working towards not needing the company long term. I would like to see an audit on the data after a year and base staffing on busier times. I'm not sure 2 employees is necessary at different times of the day/night. I think more RCMP involvement, street and community is needed. I wonder if transparency around some of the contents of the reports they gave during the trial period, may help some people understand what's happening in our community. I trust all these things are being considered. Again, Thank you!	11/15/2024 1:34 PM
41	Hiring additional peace officers, cops, etc, at a fraction of the cost, but who can actually do something other than just tell people to disperse. Waste of money for what we got with APEX.	11/15/2024 1:23 PM
42	Enforcement did little to change the situation. Prevention through public education and municipal negotiation to hold enforcement agencies accountable is required.	11/15/2024 1:00 PM
43	Instead of increasing home taxes, increase taxes on the owners of all the empty buildings in town.(SAAN building, old finning building, calico fabric, ect) make those who own property but are not here being a part of our community pay. The buildings are eye sores and maybe then they will do something with them.	11/15/2024 12:41 PM
44	As someone who lives near peace river but not in town and does not use or have access to apex services, having to pay increased taxes towards this service is a complete waste for us as we pay money for a service we cannot use. Very frustrating and useless	11/15/2024 12:09 PM
45	If you want to fund a security project. 1. I would rather money go towards supplementing the ramp, not a privately owned company. 2. Take it oir of whoever salary who approved spending 1 million \$ on an unnecessary town building office.	11/15/2024 11:50 AM
46	When I moved in 2018, the town had a number of Peace Officers. Clearly there was an operating budget set aside for that program. If the town no longer employs Peace Officers, where has this money been reallocated to. It should be reallocated to covering the security enhancement cost.	11/15/2024 11:43 AM
47	I'd like to see if any other solutions regarding the delinquents situation can be found as well.	11/15/2024 11:11 AM
48	Reevaluate funding from other areas that do not require as much funding.	11/15/2024 10:27 AM
49	This project needs work - taxpayers should get what other communities provide for security and bylaw enforcement and RCMP services without an EXTRA cost. we also need a safe alternative to our new canadian service workers transportation in this town.	11/15/2024 9:53 AM
50	We think that cuts to some of Peace River's services should be used to fund this initiative - fireworks are nice, but very expensive, decorated utility boxes are nice but again expensive etc. We would love to see the hot tub fixed but again expensive. When finances are tight, our family focuses on paying for needs and reducing wants. We feel that the Town of Peace River needs to do the same.....cut back on the wants and focus on the needs e.g. security, infrastructure, etc. Re-examine department budgets. Reduce waste. One of the things that makes the town look run down is the number of private properties that are in disrepair.....uncut grass, weeds, unshovelled sidewalks etc. If people would start taking care of their lawns - the	11/15/2024 9:53 AM

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way they did 20 years ago, this town would be much prettier. Bylaw enforcements and / or social media ads explaining the benefits of keeping your property clean would help. I also think that a conversation should be held with the social agencies who are enabling the hoodlums to stay in town - e.g. who is staying at the shelter, people who genuinely need a helping hand or hoodlums. Who are using the soup kitchens - people who genuinely need assistance or hoodlums. We have a responsibility to assist those who are struggling financially. However when we are enabling people who are addicted we are contributing to their eventual death. People only change when the pain of staying the same is greater than the pain of changing. By making it easier to live on the street there is no reason for these hoodlums to return home. Sometimes tough love is the kindest thing that one can offer (provided it is done in a respectful way and with the correct intention. Also the town could look at the location of the shelter - re-examine zoning laws - it should not be located near residential properties or near the downtown core. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our views.

51	Taxes are already way too high for services not provided. For example we have seen a significant decrease in road maintenance over the past few years. Our back laneway has seen next to no maintenance. Winter it goes unplowed and summer time there is zero grader work. A poor attempt was made this summer to reslope some of it without using the appropriate equipment. (Skid steer) we also maintain 120' x 30' of grass in front of our property that belongs to the town. Street lights are non existent. Paying more for less is not ideal. One idea would be to mulch/remove 70% of willows/brush along the river bank to remove hiding spots	11/15/2024 9:46 AM
52	I feel like the policy needs to be reviewed on PRCC bringing the offenders into town.	11/15/2024 8:50 AM
53	If the money is not taken from the town councils pay, then do not fund it. The town council has shown how inept they are and are undeserving of their pay anyway.	11/15/2024 8:44 AM
54	My taxes are high enough, and with the coming raises to the utilities prices I don't understand how we can justify charging people even more. Seems like we could cut somewhere else to help pay for this.	11/15/2024 8:37 AM
55	We do not need this services when the Town gets their bylaw officer. This project will bring down the Towns economy. People or residents will complain and blame the Town as always for higher prices or high living cost which is not good. People will find other place to live in and how will the Town survive. That safety could be covered by the bylaw officer. You will pay more to a private sector more than getting one person assigned to this. Please don't waste time on this and use the funds wisely for the good of the community.	11/15/2024 8:22 AM
56	I did not see a positive change with the pilot. I found it was PR. The security does not bring safety or seems to have appropriate training to deal with people.	11/15/2024 8:12 AM
57	Our tax dollars already pay for the RCMP. More security isn't the only solution. Lack of consequences for crime committed is the reason for continued and escalating levels of crime.	11/15/2024 6:37 AM
58	5% maximum only with a tax rollback if/when program is discontinued	11/14/2024 11:52 PM
59	Leave the law to the RCMP. All security does is chase the problem Around. Not illuminate it	11/14/2024 10:41 PM
60	Don't raise taxes anymore. Find other ways	11/14/2024 10:28 PM
61	I do not want to see any tax dollars go towards this project. The town can't even keep existing venues operating properly. Spend your money on fixing the hot tub and slide at the swimming pool.	11/14/2024 10:19 PM
62	I am currently looking at purchasing a house in Peace River or surrounding area but would prefer to reside in town. Cost of living is extremely high right and for the properties I've viewed the property taxes already seem too high along with the water bills which are also going to increase. Affordability is an issue in Peace River right now and if there continue to be increases I will not purchase a house here. I think Apex did a great job and if nothing else is done by the town to deal with crime and homelessness it is one solution. I am not sure if there is potential for grants or provincial funding to help with the expense but I would not be willing to pay more in taxes. I feel that money could be allocated differently in the budget to pay for Apex - a new building and renovations did not seem necessary when crime is such a massive issue downtown.	11/14/2024 10:15 PM
63	Could something possibly be put up for Tender rather than just going forward with one high priced firm??? Did the town even bother looking for any other companys in this same line of work?? I personally have not seen an RCMP vehicle even drive down my street within the past	11/14/2024 9:31 PM

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yr and a half why are they not doing their due diligence?? What are their responsibilities to the town any longer?? Why are they not involved in community safety??? Almost seems like we need Citizens on Patrol back but with all the drugs etc that isnt a safe option in this day and age! Hope someone can brainstorm and come up with a reasonable \$\$ solution!! I worked at the court house a few yrs back when the PRCC had funds and would issue bus passes to released inmates. Why has that practice stopped??? Did the govt run out of \$\$? Seems like everything has regressed instead of progressed..

64	The increased crime in the downtown is directly correlated with the increased number of inmates being released in the downtown core. This problem was caused by the province and the solution to it should also be funded by the province not the town.	11/14/2024 8:32 PM
65	<p>I am appalled that this is even an option. My property taxes are approximately 40% of my mortgage payment, and you want to increase it 10%? Why is the town even entertaining this thought. The world is bigger than just Peace River. Look at what is happening Nation wide and world wide. We are heading into a significant recession, with our GDP and inflation issues. In 2025 an estimated 80% of mortgage renewals will NOT be approved by the bank. These are YOUR community members who are going to be losing their mortgages and leaving empty homes. And you have the audacity to tell them you want MORE? We are being crippled with our utility costs and fees up here and now this? This is shameful upon the town of Peace River management to entertain. Totally shameful. This is making your neighbour's and community pay for YOUR choice to allow an unregulated homeless shelter in our area. People are concerned about the homeless people here, but you allow a program to continue here which likes to keep people homeless. What is the success rate for these homeless people getting housing and moving on? What are the numbers for homeless who aren't actually from this area? Where is the accountability from Sagitawa to regulate its population and ensure they are NOT committing crime? All APEX can do is drive around and push people along. Why on earth would I pay money to someone who can do no more than tell people to move to a different bench and call RCMP whenever it gets too hard for them to handle. APEX and systems like APEX are failing and being canceled all over the country because they have no tangible impact. APEX did NOT stop crime from happening. We still had encampments, we still had people wandering the streets, and we still had crime...it just moved elsewhere. The town is killing itself, leaving empty run down buildings everywhere, not having beautification projects downtown to make it attractive to our regular person. If we had more available to go to and enjoy in our downtown area, more residents would be there; because we have empty buildings and run down places and lack of beautification, our average residents don't flock to downtown, making it very attractive to our common criminal who likes to do their dirty work when they're not being watched! The people running our town need to get their heads out of the sand and realize that they need outside help to figure this all out. Call on cities slightly larger in size, such as Okotoks, Cochrane, Medicine Hat, Edson, Sylvan Lake and others and ask them what they're doing and if they feel they're doing it right or wrong. All APEX has done is pushed the problem away from downtown. Listen to the people in the industrial area near canadian tire and how much they're getting broken in to! I am so disgusted at the mismanagement of our elected officials, that this project would be proposed again. Do any of the elected officials, or people pushing this idea, have a vested interest in APEX or NDS? Who is investing in those companies, who is just hiring their dear friends? Conflict of interest of this manner should be investigated. Speaking of investigations. I thought the RCMP told the town exactly how many new RCMP officers we could get with that same money, and members who were totally dedicated to downtown/ the core? Isn't the RCMP partially funded by the federal or provincial government? At least if we increased the RCMP, they would be more visible and have real powers? I have personally witnessed APEX dealing with our homeless people and heard an RCMP member tell them they put hands on that person without a detention or arrest. I heard that officer get told off by APEX when they were just trying to educate APEX so there wasn't a charter breach. If APEX is breaking the law and causing more headaches because of these issues, are they worth the cost? Are they worth the liability? It won't take much to have one homeless person know a little more than the rest and choose to sue. And if you don't want more RCMP for whatever insane reason you have... If you put out a survey looking for input on what you think the town should be doing with nearly 1 million dollars per year, I am sure your community would tell you a bunch of great ideas that are tangible. I for one think we need to start being proactive. Our teens and youths have zip all to do around here and they get into trouble because of it. I went to Edmonton to visit my sister a few weeks ago and we took all the kids to the YMCA. Peace River needs a YMCA. There was a pool, gym, classes for all the kids of all age groups. Hoards of kids with something to do, teams to play with and things to learn. Not only that, but there were so many teens and adults with JOBS. Our kids signed up for an art class and it was FREE with our day pass, and it was just some 17 year old girl</p>	11/14/2024 8:19 PM

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teaching the kids how to make spider web art. No, it's not fancy, but our kids were entertained for an hour and a half doing this while my sister and I enjoyed a spin class. It was a win win for everyone. A teen had a job, 6 kids got to do art, 2 moms got to work out, all for the cost of a day pass to all the facility. I would pay 1 million to get the YMCA to take over the baytex and pool and gymnastics place in a HEARTBEAT. Why? Because then we create jobs, we create utilization of space, we create tons for our community members and youth to do, regardless of income level (YMCA does subsidized memberships for those with low income). Or hey what about doing OTHER things that make our community feel safe? What about ensuring we have sidewalks everywhere? Fixing potholes everywhere? Ensuring we have enough streetlights? Installing cameras on our main street roads or near schools (like they have in Europe), maybe attract bigger and better stores to our area so more residents utilize the space, naturally driving out the homeless from where you don't want it. All this sounds like to me, is the town having created its own problem: 1. Making an empty safe haven for the homeless downtown 2. Not ensuring Sagitawa's accountability to ensure it's users are not being a nuisance to the community. 3. Not planning ahead for population spikes and the need for increased police as the population has increased, and you have introduced and influx of homeless people here (get real. Did you honestly think opening the only homeless shelter in the region wouldn't come with problems like this, straining the RCMP resources who now need increased numbers to deal with it?) 4. And now dumping the cost of literally only watching the problem, on its residents, creating more financial strain on the average person. Sarcastically...What could go wrong with that? We cannot afford this. Our elders cannot afford this. Our low income people cannot afford this. We are all struggling here, hardly keeping our heads above water and proposing this just shows how out of touch the elected officials actually are with reality. I am disgusted. I want to know which elected officials are backing this up, and I want some form of investigation done about their motives and vested interest in doing this. As a resident here, who can hardly pay for our bills and keep food on my kids table, increasing our costs MORE will break my family. Literally will break us. Things like this will force us to cut our losses and sell and move to somewhere more affordable. Please rethink whatever life decisions brought you to this point where you would consider such a needless expensive item, to be funded by me and my community.

66	I think the town needs to look at other initiatives such as lobbying the government officials, accessing grants, partner with neighbouring communities in cost sharing, not purchase and renovate a new town office in an older building; work on cleaning up the eye sores downtown where the windows are knocked out, (the old downtown shell and calico fabrics) work on attracting individuals to the community; already paying for baytex arena, repair the potholes make Peace River great again and affordable! No more increases, between property taxes, federal taxes and utilities one can no longer afford to live.	11/14/2024 8:15 PM
67	I would like to see the town use its budget for bylaw and peace officer appropriately and increase the town's communications and partnership with local security forces, RCMP, Sheriff, Bylaw/Peace officer. If anything I would prefer an increase in funding for bylaw officers via property tax rather than private contractors.	11/14/2024 8:14 PM
68	I think the town should fund this project, it is needed and valuable. There should be grants available from the provincial government to cover this. Our tax dollars should NOT be used for our safety, yet our safety is vital!	11/14/2024 7:58 PM
69	Nothing to note.	11/14/2024 7:45 PM
70	Contact MLA Dan Williams to speak about the possibility of the Alberta Sheriff's providing a service. We have two provincial law enforcement agencies in town that serve Peace River and abroad.	11/14/2024 7:41 PM
71	I personally do not see how this idea is helping the citizens. Security and protection is what the locals already pay for. The citizen's safety should be more of a right than a privilege. Paying that much extra money for APEX seems a little excessive when the town is asking their residents to cover the costs. I thought the RCMP was supposed to be doing that job already? Maybe we need to hire more RCMP then.	11/14/2024 7:20 PM
72	We have RCMP. They should be policing as they are well funded and we should not be paying to take their jobs away.	11/14/2024 7:14 PM
73	The property tax rates are already high compared to surrounding communities and county's. The town utility bills have already more than doubled in the last 3 years with the added monthly "fixed utility charge". Now there is a discussion of a 10% per year rate increase. I do not support Increasing property taxes to support this "public security project".	11/14/2024 7:14 PM

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74	Incase the town has not noticed the cost of living is very high for families, I don't think most of us can afford to pay higher taxes. I think Apex is a good idea but the cost is just too much. There has to be a better solution, why is our town all of sudden having increase crime? I really think we pay taxes and get very little in return in our community. The money spent on Apex could have fixed up our pool	11/14/2024 7:10 PM
75	You had a highly skilled and trained bylaw officer who had rolled up his sleeves and had singlehandedly cleaned up the downtown but, you don't want arrests made and actual law enforcement happening, you want the appearance of security without the need for long term follow throughs, court dates, overcrowded prison, etc. You now have a bylaw officer whose main concern is weeds and "unsightly" things. We were paying \$80,000 a year for a fantastic bylaw officer, and that was replaced with a million dollar a year weed controller and Apex truck parades. Ridiculous! So no, I'm not willing to pay. Our water bills have nearly tripled in the last few years and my commercial property taxes continue to rise dramatically each year with nothing to show for it. Our roads are complete [REDACTED]. STOP SPENDING OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY STUPIDLY, PLEASE, I BEG OF YOU!	11/14/2024 6:55 PM
76	You charge too much now with no results, mayor is a joke, most of the council are useless, just there for the undeserved paycheque, roads are a mess, downtown looks like a slum operator runs it. I used to have great pride in this town and community but I'm sorry to say I no longer feel that way!	11/14/2024 6:41 PM
77	Our taxes and Town utilities are already among the highest in the province! There is something wrong with budgeting and spending in this town.	11/14/2024 6:05 PM
78	When you siphon everyone's pockets and there is no more money left to embezzle because everyone had to move away so they can afford to live.... who's going to pay for your wanna be police officers who have zero authority and just have to call the rcmp anyway.... so essentially a very expensive taxi 🚗 pretty sure there are spots in this town that should be repaired instead. And how is this tax hike going to affect the people of lower west peace who have already been told their taxes which are already [REDACTED] ridiculous are being hiked more to repaved but only the parts that are already paved but yet the new part that is all gravel gets jack [REDACTED] but still have their taxes hiked because you guys decide to allow more to be built there without storm drains and that's the reason they can't be paved. And this is why our town has gone to [REDACTED]	11/14/2024 5:37 PM
79	I feel that this whole project was a waste of town finances that could have gone to other services.	11/14/2024 5:35 PM
80	I may want this to be funded but I would like to see how the other spending is being allocated, can we get a survey on a hot tub and slide at the pool? could a 10% increase fund both 8-10 hour security and the pool?	11/14/2024 5:05 PM
81	80,000 per month is over priced? Cut costs elsewhere.	11/14/2024 4:45 PM
82	I don't understand why you hire a for profit company. I know the rcmp are understaffed. Do we get a rebate on this? Why not hire more town constables and train them properly. Get them sworn in and give them powers of arrest.	11/14/2024 4:38 PM
83	Close the shelter like many other municipalities were forced to do because of the increase of crime, the shelter is not working and only attracting more crime and adding encampments to Peace River then use any of the funding the shelter receives for additional Town Security. Also ask for Provincial funding... the crime is not the citizens cause.	11/14/2024 3:52 PM
84	Look into initiatives to lower town taxes not increase them. I already feel value received isn't there	11/14/2024 3:21 PM
85	I am a single person, living alone and own my own home in Peace River. The property taxes I pay are already extremely high for the services that are provided. My street will not get plowed in the winter for weeks on end. Last year a resident of our cul-de-sac had to use their personal skid steer to clear the road which was almost impassable by that time. There needs to be a better alternative than creating a larger burden on the taxpayers of Peace River when we are already dealing with soaring inflation. People are struggling to put food on the table for their families, this is not the time to be looking at increasing property taxes by 8-10%. If the taxes are increased by that amount I will not be able to stay in my home.	11/14/2024 2:45 PM
86	Please direct funds to a dedicated RCMP officer presence in town at all times.	11/14/2024 2:44 PM

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87	Rcmp need to do their jobs better starting with having files numbers created Instantly for every case or phone call, action can't move smoothly if the system has flaws and things get missed and also the corrections facility and the town need to work together to get the released imaged back to where they came or A bigger center or facility that is equipped to deal with their state With more options Than this little Old Town That doesn't even have a bus service anymore	11/14/2024 2:41 PM
88	I think this could be done more cost effective if the town hired their own employees rather than contract it out. 10% tax hike for that alone is ridiculous.	11/14/2024 2:11 PM
89	The amount I pay in property taxes is absurd. Increasing our property taxes is only going to make everyone incredibly angry when there is other ways to ensure the safety of our residents.	11/14/2024 2:09 PM
90	In my opinion, the pilot project only dispersed the homeless and crime. We now have homeless in the south end, north end and west hill. The encampments only moved but are still being built. Instead of raising taxes. The town council should approve the RCMP and have them do their job. In my opinion the police are focusing on the wrong issues such as tint and minor offences when are town in falling apart in front of us all. They have much bigger issues to address. The town should also approach the jail and Sagitawa, as it's public knowledge that this is where majority of the homeless are coming from. I personally watched the jail let out to inmates with garbage bags by the fire department. With no money, they have nothing to reside to other than crime. I have been a resident of Peace River for 43 years, on and off. I'm extremely embarrassed and disappointing in what our beautiful town has become.	11/14/2024 1:52 PM
91	put money into supporting the homeless and stop putting fear into the public that they are a threat.	11/14/2024 1:32 PM
92	I would Think that there are other security companies out there that would bid on a contract like this. Better off to get to the root of the problem with this money then trying to enforce it after the dact	11/14/2024 1:29 PM
93	Property tax is already high. People can't afford to keep having property tax go higher. People are already wanting to move away with the recent rise in property tax!	11/14/2024 12:51 PM
94	We already pay some of the highest property taxes around. Would like to see that be addressed before any more increases happen	11/14/2024 12:45 PM
95	Only think 12/7 is of value in the evenings(7pm-7am), would not be of value for 12 hours if it was during daytime in my opinion.	11/14/2024 12:43 PM
96	I've asked council members for a plan to reduce operating costs and provide rate payers with a tax cut. I got lots of offers to go for coffee but, even after nearly two years, have yet to see a plan. I want to see a plan to reduce costs such as utilities and also taxes. When can I expect this?	11/14/2024 12:35 PM
97	I feel like the security concerns could be addressed in a much more frugal manner, simply by investing in free housing for the homeless, and centers for addiction recovery. Apex Security is a band-aid solution to a much larger problem.	11/14/2024 11:15 AM
98	We pay extremely high taxes. We also pay the RCMP to do this.	11/14/2024 11:01 AM
99	The Service provider treated people like convicted members at Shaftsbury Hotel along the river. They publicly stated on radio that they were guards and not security personnel to help the less fortunate community members. There (service provider) presence and their treatment of these people initiated the retaliation we have seen around town in the form of more criminal activity. The root cause of all of this is the drugs that are being allowed to available in Peace River. These hard drug providers should have constant pressure from the RCMP until they stop preying on the young and less fortunate. Between the Town and the RCMP, this situation can be controlled prior to any more deaths related to the hard drugs,	11/14/2024 10:24 AM
100	the treatment of the homeless by APEX was absolutely disgusting. i work in a building right on main street and have had to unfortunately watch the mistreatment through my own work window. I have a lot of ideas on how to make some changes in regards to the treatment of the homeless population.. including; small businesses signing up for a program that allows the homeless to assist small business owners in exchange for tokens. which can be redeemed for food, clothing, toiletries, etc. this town needs to give these people a chance to redeem themselves. but in a town where they are constantly reminded that they are seen as less than, it abolishes all chances of that redemption.	11/14/2024 10:21 AM
101	This increase in taxes is unacceptable. It is way too high.	11/14/2024 10:04 AM

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102	I think this project was useless, and did nothing but bully vulnerable people. Maybe look into funding something to actually help the homeless population and not harass them.	11/14/2024 9:30 AM
103	Our property taxes are already way too high for our area. People can't afford it to be raised. APEX did absolutely nothing when they were here.	11/14/2024 9:10 AM
104	Thank you for taking action to clean up the situation. Safety is of paramount concern and this coincides with helping the at risk individuals.	11/14/2024 9:09 AM
105	The liberals want us all homeless by taxng us to death	11/14/2024 8:22 AM
106	Increase funding to the RCMP or dedicated town officers that are motivated by providing a service, not a profit. Fund Sagitawas bus to take released inmates to their home communities.	11/14/2024 8:11 AM
107	Money can be spent more effectively through technology and bylaw enforcement. It seems my AI camera system work well tracking the movement of people and they stay in the shadows. This system cost me 500 dollars. Why not offer these systems pre built and help install for a permanent effect to the comunity. Security patrolling is an old school approach that isn't as effective as technology. It can add to things but if there were AI tracking cameras everywhere I would put strong money on that people would just leave. Also close of the hiding places inbetween downtown builinds and make sure all places have address numbers. You can talk to the local delivery drivers if you want to know where they are. Thing about police wasting time finding addresses in an emergency situation. Keep asking and doing these surveys and things will improve with low costs. The public has input and ideas.	11/14/2024 8:07 AM
108	This is a waste of money. the fact that you expect us to pay more money for taxes (which being said our taxes are insane already compared to other places in Alberta) there is a root problem here and hiring security is slapping a band aid on it	11/14/2024 7:21 AM
109	I really felt like this made a Huge difference for our town, it reminded me of why I loved living here, over the years this lovely little town has gotten so unsightly that it just made me want to leave. Thank you for sharing this with us. Best of luck with it.	11/14/2024 7:10 AM
110	There was ZERO change seen during the 3 month pilot In fact, if you look at the incidents over the last 3, our little town has seen an uptick. Peace River does not have a good reputation	11/14/2024 5:58 AM
111	So after the project was over did all the POS move right back in? If so, project failed.	11/14/2024 5:49 AM
112	Get rid of the problems rather than bandaid and expect the tax payers to pay more	11/13/2024 11:15 PM
113	Are there other security contract companies offering competitive security contracts? What does the tendering process look like? What would the costs look like associated with lobbying the judicial system for meaningful punishment to keep the repeat offenders incarcerated? These are questions I have to administration/council.	11/13/2024 10:34 PM
114	Having downtown security just moves the problem from one end of the town to another. It doesn't actually fix the issues, just relocates it. APEX can patrol the town but that will just push crime out to rural areas or different parts of Peace River. Like I said, it doesn't fix the problem, just moves it to a different area.	11/13/2024 10:32 PM
115	While these issues persist a program like this certainly has value! But I don't feel like the burden to pay for it should fall to the town of PR residents directly. Our justice system, primarily federal criminal law, is failing to keep repeat offenders contained. Then with the provincial system releasing offenders into downtown Peace River, and the homeless shelter providing food and shelter to them afterward which seems to enable and/or encourage them to stay in the area rather than utilize the transportation options to return home. And so it seems to me that those three elements combined are responsible for the increasing public safety concerns in Peace River. So for lasting results the root causes need to be addressed in a meaningful way.	11/13/2024 10:21 PM
116	It was a big imputing the downtown area. Felt much safer. Unfortunately I think it caused them just to relocate to other areas of town.	11/13/2024 9:47 PM
117	I appreciate the increased security but think that it's too expensive and that the RCMP should do more to patrol within the town. Also if the town were to continue with APEX they should look into funding from the provincial government. With inflation in recent years it is difficult enough to afford the basics let alone this service should there be a properly tax increase.	11/13/2024 9:21 PM
118	I don't think it's fair to increase taxes again. As a homeowner in Peace River we are already	11/13/2024 8:08 PM

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faced with very high taxes. I believe the root of the problem is bigger than an enhanced public security system. I have concerns over the 24h/7 shelter and inmates from the correctional centre being dropped off in our town with no means to get home, and honestly no reason to go home because we have a 24h/7 shelter and no longer a "Emergency Shelter". I don't know enough in all the logistics but I know that an increases in taxes would be terrible. All that being said, I have heard from business owners that Apex was a good thing for the town, but I don't believe that we should have our taxes increased for it.. I would hope there would be an area the town could divert their money from to fund such a system... Thank you.

119	The tax payer money shouldn't been used to support Sagitawa anymore as all this is doing is give homeless and criminals a place to stay and destroy our town. Being tolerant to the people living on the street is causing additional damage to there lives as all their basic needs are being taken care of, and they can waste away with no drive or ambition. If the current way this town is being ran continues it will cause additional damage to the residents lives and people living on the street. The money used to support the Sagitawa should be used to transport the homeless to an area where they can receive help or change need to be made so that the help they receive is is warranted.	11/13/2024 7:54 PM
120	I think the pilot project was successful but very expensive. If we hire people it would be cheaper.	11/13/2024 7:37 PM
121	Our property taxes are already through the roof for very little services and people cannot afford to pay anymore!!	11/13/2024 7:24 PM
122	We pay some of the highest taxes for a small town. Any higher tax will impact those already feeling strained. Criminals need to be prevented to be dropped off in town. Our Member of parliament needs to hear and act upon our/your concerns. This is a bigger problem. 80,000 a month charge to the citizens of this town is excessive.	11/13/2024 7:21 PM
123	This is a world wide problem, use your head, the problem and solution is provincial government's responsibility. They should be working on that.	11/13/2024 7:13 PM
124	It didn't t help it pushed them in to other areas and crime didn't go down it got worse	11/13/2024 7:06 PM
125	I don't think my tax dollars should fund this project. Our taxes have gone up every year for 15 years or home ownership and nothing has changed. The town has problems	11/13/2024 6:54 PM
126	APEX does not have the kind of authority needed to deal with the security issues and crime in Peace River. We need a Peace Officer.	11/13/2024 6:48 PM
127	I would not support this project but I would support Peace Officers that could enforce Bylaw and take action on offenses not just observe and call law enforcement.	11/13/2024 6:39 PM
128	Peace River is already becoming too expensive to live in. To address the underlying issue, we need to identify and tackle the root cause of the problem, rather than relying on patrols. Spending money on patrol teams won't be effective—they can't be everywhere at all times, and once people learn the patrol schedule, they'll easily find ways to avoid detection. If necessary, consider hiring peace officers, who could also assist with bylaw enforcement (if empowered to do so) and potentially generate revenue through fines. In my opinion, using public funds for security patrols should not be the primary solution.	11/13/2024 6:33 PM
129	Apex is not a solution to the issue, it's an incredibly expensive band aid. The question of whether to use that potential amount of money for a security team to discourage loitering is disappointing. A security team does not address the root issue of individuals who are struggling or don't have resources, transportation etc. An interesting topic to respond to with a tax increase in this economy.	11/13/2024 6:10 PM
130	Why should the people pay for the oooice force if apex does a better job?. I think the town council van handle paying for it from their pockets too. Don't put it all on the residents shoulders.	11/13/2024 5:59 PM
131	Not worth any more tax's if your looking to spend money look into transportation for inmates and offenders to get them out of our town!	11/13/2024 5:44 PM
132	I do not want my taxes to go up. We do need this project, I expect the town to find other ways to fund it rather than raising taxes again and again and again. The 10 years I have been a home owner my taxes have been raised every single year. The town needs to do something about inmates being released downtown as well. They are being dumped in our town, it is our towns duty to fix it. Thus aiding the crime and homelessness crisis.	11/13/2024 5:40 PM

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133	A lot of the issues stem from there being a shelter available and there are to many people that need assistance for it to work properly so they take matters into their own hands and live by the river or wherever they can find to set up shelters. This is the root of all of the thefts, vandalisms and harassment to our town people. We do not feel safe to walk down our street even during the day when there was patrols as the offenders just scatter then come back as soon as security is around. We need a better way to help people and when they refuse to better themselves they need to be dealt with in harsher punishment when crimes are committed. I was willing to help people in the past but the bad apple has spoiled my ability to do that anymore. Another issue is the court system needs to be changed to make people have consequences to doing bad. Now I want people to be given a chance but if they continue to do bad throw them in a work camp in prison or something. Why do criminals have more rights then the citizens they are abusing.	11/13/2024 5:40 PM
134	Our taxes are out rages already. We have the RCMP which do a great job.	11/13/2024 5:11 PM
135	This project would be nice to have however Peace River already has one of the highest property taxes in Alberta and I think instead of increase taxes cause we are already struggling to survive the town should better budget or find an alternative that won't hinder us financially.	11/13/2024 4:58 PM
136	There is a provincial obligation to fund police to patrol areas where public safety is a concern. There is a judicial obligation to keep those who a danger to others off the streets. Both obligations are not being met. If there are folks who commit crimes and vandalism in the town of Peace River - is there not a contract with the RCMP to enforce the law?	11/13/2024 4:47 PM
137	I don't think there was enough of an impact to warrant the significant increase in funding	11/13/2024 4:46 PM
138	Instead of increasing already high taxes and utilities look at cutting cost spending elsewhere. If you're unable to do that get someone that can. Apply for grants. Throw fundraisers. The town has more than enough tax revenue.	11/13/2024 4:44 PM
139	The problem is the homeless shelter I think that should be closed or security watching that building more it's caused nothing but problems!	11/13/2024 4:39 PM
140	There is no need - we have police in town already.	11/13/2024 4:36 PM
141	Our taxes are already extremely high. Driving people and businesses away from our community. We need multiple changes in this community and raising our taxes is not one of them	11/13/2024 4:14 PM
142	taxes here are way too high already, you guys need to figure it out without gouging the pockets of your residents	11/13/2024 4:11 PM
143	my current financial position with the amount of taxes i pay is not compatible with what i make. Our taxes are high what would be beneficial in our area by kaufmann hill highschool area is proper street lights and repaired side walks this would enhance safety and perhaps having police monitor all the impaired drivers that speed up that hill on most weekends	11/13/2024 4:09 PM
144	I'd like to see cuts made elsewhere to fund the project, not increases to taxes	11/13/2024 3:55 PM
145	It would be ignorant to say the security program made no difference at all. It was actually quite a night and day difference but was still met with criticism, kudos to council for atleast TRYING to mitigate the problem. - our current issue is we do not wanna see the cost of taxes go up. The reduced hours is more practical and offers the protection residents deserve well they sleep. During the day that responsibility has to fall on the RCMP. A big conversation the town has to have is why arnt the surrounding community's paying their fair share of RCMP costs ? Why does this fall on the residence of just peace river . Does grimshaw little buffalo caddotte pay their fair share for our policing services ? More over Apex isnt the end all. Apex should be a momentary supplement for the next phase and that is finding those people who have no bussiness in peace river to begin with a ride home to their origin of arrest . Wether it's finding a bussing service or creating a new one.	11/13/2024 3:36 PM
146	The loitering needs to be stopped, parking lots need more patrolling, parks need to be able for people to Use them again and feel safe.	11/13/2024 3:20 PM
147	I'm down with additional security services if required but that's just a bandaid. It does nothing to fix the problem. The general problem is homeless people but the specifics need to be identified and plans need to be put in place to address those problems. Simply bullying	11/13/2024 3:19 PM

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homeless people doesn't fix anything long term and will only result and constantly increasing expenses. We need actual long-term meaningful changes.

148	Bus tickets to elsewhere is a cheaper alternative to the homeless in peace river. Home less will stay where they are looked after.Taxes are too high in peace river already and make realestate in peace river unaffordable.	11/13/2024 2:35 PM
149	The RCMP should be providing 24/7 security for the town. They are funded to do so already	11/13/2024 2:34 PM
150	I did see a level of difference in how safe I felt getting in and out of my car downtown and at CoOp. The whole area does seem a lot cleaner, as well. I'd rather a decision be made after we see the exact results of the three month Apex trial in PR. This also brings up things like the RCMP. Why can't they do this? Are they so loaded with protocols that they can't do the same thing Apex did? I feel that we spend a lot of money on RCMP. Do we pay for Sheriffs? How are they working in our town ? Still a lot of questions. I am not in favor of increased taxes. You guys need to work a lot harder to find ways to find this with money we already pay to the town. TPR seems to employ a lot of people in the office in recent years, yet the town itself has not grown, and we are losing business to Grimshaw and even the industrial area in NSC.	11/13/2024 2:34 PM
151	Apex security was established and primarily served the businesses of Peace River. Not the residential areas. In addition to this service being initiated, the primary concern was the increased homeless population in town. The unfortunate reality of this situation is that more people are becoming homeless due to the cost of living yet the town continues to increase property taxes on residents (one of the highest in our area might I add) without providing adequate amenities for residents from these tax dollars. The homeless population that the town seems to be concerned with yet would rather "police" these people, infringe on human rights to "send them back where they came from". What really needs to be done by the Town of Peace River is proper advocacy to the provincial and federal governments to open detox, treatment facilities, and transitional housing for these individuals. The homeless populations are rarely a danger to the general public, any "violence" that may occur is amongst themselves due to substance abuse, and environmental stressors such as lack of resources, housing, food, clothing. The OOTC shelter assists in meeting basic needs but the shelter environment alone for an individual may be extremely stressful which only causes more trauma for these individuals. Peace River is a hub in the North but yet residents who need supports such as detox or treatment have to travel to centres minimum 2 hours away, and at that in the midst of an opioid and drug crisis there is not enough beds to provide services or after care services to assist these individuals in sustaining any sort of "normality" in their lives. As stated previously the impact of "crime" in Peace River is primarily businesses; if it's the business owners of peace river that are requesting more policing or security then it's the businesses that should pay. Not the residents. I will acknowledge the amount of vehicle theft in recent years, but that does not mean the town taxes residents more; and provide security for such. At the end of the day, each resident can purchase a camera, lock their cars and they also must have insurance for said cars if they want some sort of protection. That is an individual responsibility.	11/13/2024 2:33 PM
152	Property taxes are already crazy high	11/13/2024 1:56 PM
153	We have a police force in our town we pay for through taxes already	11/13/2024 1:48 PM
154	I think it was helpful for business owners but taxes are way too high as is. If I moved to Grimshaw my tax bill would be cut in half. Why is the province short-changing municipalities? Policing is supposed to be subsidized by the provincial government. Send them the bill. Ask our MLA why they refuse to allocate appropriate funds. Ask them why people released from the correction center are dropped off at the shelter rather than back to their home town.	11/13/2024 1:48 PM
155	We cannot afford continued increases of taxes.	11/13/2024 1:47 PM
156	Defund sagatowa	11/13/2024 1:32 PM
157	My taxes are already way to high and the town is casing me to sell my house and move to grimshaw because of it. Since the new mayor my water bill has doubled and my taxes are \$6k a year for a 1200 sq ft house. Moving is my only option to be able to afford to live. Whatever you do don't raise taxes any more than you have as it will force more peace River residents to do the same !!	11/13/2024 1:15 PM
158	It's a NO. As we already have increased water bill , in saddleback the town rate of already close to 4-5 K per annum . It's high time the council needs to be restructured,if they can't generate income , than there is something lacking with the town board .basically people behind the scenes are not performing . The town needs to give opportunities to open new business.	11/13/2024 12:52 PM

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159	I think it's ridiculous to ask for an increase in property tax when we have an inflated cost in comparison to any other area, have less amenities and poorer facilities.	11/13/2024 12:50 PM
160	I don't feel we received any benefit for the cost. It's just as unsafe downtown now as it was in the summer. The homeless used to be fairly harmless. They rarely made me uneasy to walk by even at night. But this summer I encountered 3 young males (20's/30's) in broad daylight that made me so uneasy that I locked myself in my jeep and waited for them to be a block away before I got out to put a parcel in the post office drop box. I have a 100lb pitbull that generally makes me feel fairly secure on nightly walks (also why I walk him late at night when we won't encounter off leash dogs) but even with him by my side, I won't walk through downtown anymore day or night.	11/13/2024 12:50 PM
161	Why does it cost 80,000 dollars a month for a couple people and pickups to drive around town, way too high of cost, we need to save money not spend it like that, other companies do it cheaper , way cheaper than that, I want to see the break down of the apex bill per month	11/13/2024 12:44 PM
162	I would like this program to continue, but do not believe we need to increase our property taxes more than they already are. The Town needs to come up with a better solution on how the money is spent so it can be spent more efficiently.	11/13/2024 12:30 PM
163	This should be done on a contract basis. If taxes were raised to implement and then the program discontinued, would our taxes then be reduced? Probably not. Perhaps would rather see this funded on our utility bill as a service. Just a thought. Transparency is key.	11/13/2024 12:23 PM
164	I think our RCMP need to do a better job with resources and people. If they can't then the province should pay to enhance the policing	11/13/2024 12:11 PM
165	As much as I value feeling safe downtown, I simply can't afford to pay more property taxes. Our property taxes are already disproportionately high relative to the services we receive, and compared to other towns of similar size. A solution that does not involve increasing property taxes would be very much welcomed.	11/13/2024 11:46 AM
166	Sell all unused properties and the baytex and pool as well as airport and used saved money also get the big media to investigate the prison release system and why it was changed	11/13/2024 11:36 AM
167	Have we considered using these funds to transport inmates back to their last registered residence or town rather than leaving them all downtown in our hometown? I've spoke to some and they are not able to get home in a timely manner then they start getting intertwined in the downtown community and drugs and don't want to go back. We cannot support this new population that does not contribute to our community. They need to go straight from the jail to their hometown.	11/13/2024 11:30 AM
168	There was nothing wrong with the town having their own peace officers but... the town needs to be willing to train them properly. There have been very good ones in the past that have been slammed on Facebook for taking time and engaging youth doing something as simple as street hockey. THIS is how you engage with the younger community and earn their respect. And regarding higher taxes?? What for? I moved here from Sylvan paying \$1,400 in a new house in a town with fantastic amenities to Peace River where my property tax was over \$3,000... some friends are over \$7,000... and for what? I have heard good things about the security project but personally haven't witnessed them. There were still continuous posts about thefts outside of the down town areas. Personally from what I've seen nobody can afford yet another increase in taxes or can justify it without at least seeing some hard data from the town and local RCMP regarding the trial run of the program.	11/13/2024 11:30 AM
169	In my opinion people are already struggling to make payments and keep their properties with groceries and everything else being so high. I don't see how making us pay more will help since we pay so much to the town and to the federal and provincial governments. I believe if property tax will go up more homes will be going up for sale in the near future. Instead of hiring a different company to come do security in peace river why don't we add more of a police presence in town and at all hours of the night and day. From what I've seen on Facebook and heard from talking to other people around town. Not many people have respect for the apex security officers. So wouldn't it make sense to put police officers in town that already have the respect of the public and have more laws and rights to do things if something does need to be dealt with? I don't agree with this and don't see how it's going to help in the long run.	11/13/2024 11:10 AM
170	Reallocate funding if you want to make this happen, do not raise residential taxes for this especially since APEX was not seen in my neighborhood. If businesses downtown want this	11/13/2024 11:06 AM

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then raise business taxes not residential taxes.

171	Make the obvious necessary changes before spending money on a band aid fix of a public security unit. It may be controversial to reduce the amount of support to the "unhoused" people. However they will simply just move on to the next city that supports them or move back to their homes. Cities already have the infrastructure and security in place to support these individuals in need. Peace River does not. If you build it they will come.	11/13/2024 11:01 AM
172	I already pay ridiculously high property taxes. Any further increase and id consider moving out of town.	11/13/2024 10:52 AM
173	Hold the RCMP accountable, Town Council initiate a root cause analysis find the problem and move forward. Taxing citizens is not a solution only a band aid which will continue if not addressed at the base core of the problem	11/13/2024 10:13 AM
174	Citizens should not be responsible for the towns lack of security	11/13/2024 10:11 AM
175	Instead of wasting money on apex the funds should instead go towards building another shelter or place for houseless people to eat, get clean and be given assistance on finding appropriate housing and work	11/13/2024 10:08 AM
176	I feel there can be security but it needs to be approached in a different way. As well, the town should look at grants to fund this program. Today, it's so expensive to live, so why would you raise property taxes when people are struggling to buy FOOD on the table. Or find a way to get these criminals out of town, and help the homeless..	11/13/2024 10:08 AM
177	Helped a bunch having them around - Downtown was safe, and safe to walk around on the river paths after 3 years	11/13/2024 10:06 AM
178	To expensive for what they did. Hire local bylaw positions to deal with enforcement, speed control, fire and ambulance assistance.	11/13/2024 10:05 AM
179	Start managing things properly. Not putting it on tax payers back as this situation was not created by them but by piss poor, lazy policing and bad justice system.	11/13/2024 10:03 AM
180	I feel like a lot of PR residents, we already pay enough taxes for the little services we do have. The source of the problem has to be dealt with first instead of just throwing money at the problem. No one wants to take a stance for fear of repercussions! Personally if things continue the way they are in PR I will have to sell and move away. So to make it perfectly clear I DO AGREE WITH A TAX INCREASE!!	11/13/2024 10:03 AM
181	I already pay too much in taxes . Let alone the increase in water and garbage every year is a damn joke . Keep increasing the cost of living in this town and I'm going to leave like many other planning too . I guess u as town council would like this place to be an empty ghost town. I can't pay anymore than I already do I A one income home . This is compete Bs	11/13/2024 10:00 AM
182	I feel that we have to understand where the people are coming from.The location of the shelters encourage them to linger during the daytime	11/13/2024 9:55 AM
183	Are grants available for this? Property Taxes are already too high. Not enticing to new comers. Possibly businesses contribute for just downtown evening security. Would love to see facility improvements if property taxes increased (pool)	11/13/2024 9:53 AM
184	This project does not need to continue. We pay currently more in property taxes than the surrounding area by a large margin. I understand there are costs to running a town however there is also a duty for council to select where and how to spend the money efficiently. Increasing taxes does nothing more than to increase frustration on citizens as well as increase the distrust between town council and us the tax payers.	11/13/2024 9:38 AM
185	The crime, public intoxication and safety concerns are a result of Peace River's homeless situation. If homelessness in Peace River was dealt with accordingly then there would be no need for an increased security presence in the town of Peace River.	11/13/2024 9:35 AM
186	I don't own a home in the areas that would be patrolled. I don't agree with increasing taxes for residents outside of the areas that won't benefit from this other than when they are shopping or visiting the downtown.	11/13/2024 9:35 AM
187	Do not want my taxes going up to provide more security	11/13/2024 9:29 AM
188	Thanks	11/13/2024 9:28 AM

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189	Contact woodland cree lubicon lake peerless lake and loon river have them fund there members	11/13/2024 9:26 AM
190	I grew up in Peace River and have spent most of my life in this town (moved away for college and moved back). I have never felt more unsafe in this town than I do now. My workplace is very close to the Sagitawa overnight shelter (by the fire department) and I have seen violence, unsettling behaviour loitering, and even individuals actively abusing drugs and alcohol from my work window. Customers have felt afraid to come in/leave the store do to the individuals loitering by the shelter, people with their children coming in while people are smoking crack within 10 meters. I am afraid to be at work alone at this point. I have even seen police, sheriffs, bylaw, and apex all drive right past these incidents openly happening in public. Public safety should be one of the towns top priorities and our current council is letting us down. We currently receive criminals around Alberta via the Peace River Correctional Center and there is no appropriate program that helps these people get back to their communities after they are released from prison, thus adding to the population of homeless here in Peace River. These people have no resources and dropping them off at a shelter in a town they are unfamiliar with with no caseworker to help them reintegrate into society, is not helpful to them or other citizens in town. Sagitawa shelters either need to be shut down and released criminals relocated, or we need to revamp the shelter to truly help these people get back on their feet such as rehab services and counselling, if they refuse then they can not stay here.	11/13/2024 9:22 AM
191	Peace river already has some of the highest property taxes in Alberta. Paying a security company to monitor the streets isn't going to solve the issue, it's just going to move the issue to another part of town. 80k a month can go to alot more proactive approaches then security that won't solve anything in the long term.	11/13/2024 9:16 AM
192	Burden should be placed on the business owners to keep their staff safe, keep customers coming. Your options are not the only options available. The cost should be paid by those who are directly impacted. Banks, law firms, drug stores, restaurants, Co Op. and IF the homeless move to the north end, then we revisit this and see if the residents want to pay. Maybe move the hot tub savings fund to the public security fund and find other ways to cut costs in your budget to share the burden. I know that the increased expense will really hurt a few small businesses and that's unfortunate but it would also really hurt many fixed income residents.	11/13/2024 9:15 AM
193	I feel it's absolutely ridiculous that we have to pay more taxes. People can't afford anymore.	11/13/2024 9:14 AM
194	I believe the town can be more efficient with the current funds they collect	11/13/2024 9:10 AM
195	At one time this would have been covered by the RCMP. What happened to them? Where Are they? Handing out tickets for tinted windows, speeding in town, not stopping at stop signs.maybe devote 1/2 of their time to the security issue. Oh yes but then they don't receive any revenue for this good service to the community.	11/13/2024 9:10 AM
196	Help from the Province should be sought to fund the expense or look at businesses funding the increase cost as that is where I notice the most issues.	11/13/2024 9:05 AM
197	Seeing Apex around town all the time gives me a peace of mind. I run a lot, I won't go in certain areas because I don't feel safe. I used to love running across the bridge and now I hate it, I'm terrified the entire time. I have had drugged out people confront me on it. I now have to carry dog spray with me to feel slightly safer. I have seen Apex walking the bridge and they were making a difference with the riff raff hanging out on it. I want my kids to be able to go for a bike ride by themselves but we can't do that, I hardly feel safe, there's no way they will feel safe. My kids don't like coming to the dollar store downtown with me anymore because homeless always come and confront us. This is an expensive program but without it town will continue to go in a downhill spiral. The RCMP seem to be doing less and less, so Apex fills the gap.	11/13/2024 9:05 AM
198	This should NOT be on the people of the town to fund, if we are going to fund something it should be for additional RCMP who can actually deal with problems from start to finish.	11/13/2024 9:04 AM
199	Maybe Sagitawa Over night Shelter should fund this....seems to be where all the problems are stemming from. That and the Peace River Correctional Center for dropping recent released prisoners back into our community instead of taking them home. Peace River has become very dangerous and unsafe. Having Apex did honestly nothing for us, we would call and they didn't do anything except let us know how many encampments they've taken down. Doesn't change the thieves trying to break into our establishments.	11/13/2024 8:56 AM
200	Stop the tax and spend. Make cuts to fund this if it's necessary. We are considering moving	11/13/2024 8:53 AM

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out of the TPR due to it's reckless spending.

201	Substance abuse facilities should be opened and get the people clean of the addiction that are funded by the crimes committed. It should be federally funded. Tax payers in peace River pay enough in taxes as it is with little or no result in public safety from the criminals in this town.	11/13/2024 8:53 AM
202	I think that this security project does address issues that the town has, but does not help solve the causes of the issues. It seemed like a reactionary band aid solution. I do appreciate that residents concerns were heard and acted upon by the town. However, I believe that using the money to address the root causes of the problems would be a better option. For example services for homeless, providing transportation services, setting up neighborhood watch programs, crisis services and public education programs would be more effective. These would also provide a much larger and sustained return on investment. It is also a little embarrassing that we have to hire a private contractor at great expense to handle our towns issues.	11/13/2024 8:42 AM
203	defund the homeless shelter and have peace officer patrolling. Rcmp presence. Councilors want a raise, find money elsewhere	11/13/2024 8:37 AM
204	I think the town needs to find a way to restructure funding this project, whether that is more RCMP or other peace officers. Taxes are already excessively high for a town of our size and available services. (We want to move into town and our taxes will triple just by doing so, and really the main difference in services is that recycling will be picked up instead of us having to drop it off).	11/13/2024 8:26 AM
205	I'd rather see money go towards rcmp funded on a municipal/provincial level. Peace River is not the only area struggling with increased crime, especially theft.	11/13/2024 8:23 AM
206	I understand the purpose of having security in the downtown area, in other Municipalities isn't this funded by the businesses that are affected. Or maybe more money should be given to the police agency of jurisdiction. At least they would have the authority to do something. You're paying APEX for what other towns have volunteers for "Citizens on Patrol". Apex employees have the same authority as a regular person to arrest or detain someone but you want to pay 80k a year for this service. I would like to see the stats for APEX's calls for service or anytime they dealt with the RCMP for turning "arrested individuals" over to them.	11/13/2024 8:20 AM
207	Public security is a major issue, but I do not support this large of an increase for this service.	11/13/2024 8:19 AM
208	Rather than waste tax money on a bandaid solution to a problem that the gov created, fix the problem by sending the released jail inmates back to their homes. By releasing them in town you are essentially collecting homeless inmates for the town of Peace River to deal with.	11/13/2024 8:17 AM
209	What were the final results of the pilot project? I wish I had more information about what the issues were to know what a "continuation" might best look like. I think the town needs to look at other ways to save money for this type of service, for example get rid of the annual flower beds in lower west peace and at the entrance of lower west peace. Plant perennials and be done with it. There is very little pedestrian traffic past these flower beds and is a waste of money to plant them and have to water them. I would vote for losing the flowers for increased capacity to deal with all issues in town by someone with the proper authority (ie Peace Officer + updates bylaws). They could deal with camping and littering at the boat launch, the issues downtown of the unhoused, and maybe one day could deal with the motorized vehicles on Misery Mountain.	11/13/2024 7:50 AM
210	I would rather see a budget increase of \$960k per year be allocated to the RCMP to enhance policing. There should be no profit line item in public service.	11/13/2024 7:37 AM
211	We already pay the tax to have safety as part of our lives. Lets take this up with the government	11/13/2024 7:35 AM
212	Use existing law enforcement resources. Maybe hire another by-law enforcement officer. If third party security cannot intervene on criminal behaviour then I don't see any value in continuing with the project. The problem is the catch and release mentality of our justice system. If the law breakers were dealt with in the first place then the re-occurrences would be fewer.	11/13/2024 7:35 AM
213	The town should help fund more services like the Sagitawa Friendship Society who are reaching out and helping people. The Town should be actively lobbying the government (why has this stopped?). The town should work with mental health, RCMP, and bylaw officers. Apex only helped businesses in the downtown core, they did not help residents. If businesses want	11/13/2024 7:35 AM

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it then can pay for it. Apex never solved the 'problem' and they add to practices of stereotyping, if someone was doing something illegal you would call the RCMP, anything else is suspicion/stereotype. We get groups of roughly 10 people that rotate into the town and then some leave some don't and new ones are added. Can you imagine if that \$80,000.00 went towards a full time staff member who would walk the streets building connections, taking them to the food bank, encouraging them that its going to be okay and they can help them. When I am low thats what I need, a cheerleader, I need help, I don't need to feel like me existing is a nuisance, I don't need to be treated like I don't belong and no one wants me. The friendship center has stated that what the town needs is a halfway house, somewhere that is staffed with a nurse/security/mental health and financial aid. Teach people how to pay bills and organize their life, to help them through their addictions and struggles. As administration said the pilot project did not allow any other company to bid on this opportunity. The town should consider and compare this option to others. I do not think this is a good use of tax payers dollars.

214	Whoever thought of the questions in this survey should be out of a job. Clearly you don't need to raise taxes for this. Eliminate useless things like the hot tub as well as certain useless positions like the business retention specialist. Get rid of and sherriffs and bylaw officers and even consider lowering the police force by 1 member in this town. Also of course the businesses shouldn't pay for it all but they should most certainly pay more than a home owner. The taxes in this town are the reason there are next to zero new houses built and many young people buy in Grimshaw.	11/13/2024 7:32 AM
215	Do not move forward. Cannot handle another increase to taxes.	11/13/2024 7:31 AM
216	I don't believe that this program should be placed on the taxpayer. If it is then cuts to other areas of the budget are needed so that taxes don't have to be increased.	11/13/2024 7:31 AM
217	We should not be responsible to fix a problem that is a government issue. We should be able to spend this \$80,000 per year on community enhancements	11/13/2024 7:28 AM
218	There are people living paycheck to paycheck in this town who would not benefit from these services. Adding to people's hardships is not the resolution. All you hear in this town is raising taxes. Is that really the only option for everything?	11/13/2024 7:26 AM
219	I think that while downtown businesses noticed a difference, we didn't see a difference in residential areas. I don't think property owners should have to pay; I do think if the town chooses to fund this it should come from business owners (which I am also a part of).	11/13/2024 7:25 AM
220	We were impressed and thankful for their service	11/13/2024 7:19 AM
221	This does nothing to solve any problems and instead compounds the issues. Partner with surrounding indigenous communities. Contribute a portion of this money to harm reduction policies, housing, support services. This is a bandaid solution. Very disappointed in Town Council. Displacing these people are not going to make them any less of a problem. SHAME ON YOU	11/13/2024 7:15 AM
222	Property Taxes and utility charges in this town are already way to high in comparison to a neighboring community which I own and pay property taxes. More need to be taken to cut operating expenditures rather than increasing taxes!!	11/13/2024 7:15 AM
223	Our property taxes are already some of the highest in the region. Further increases are unsustainable and will unduly impact those that can barely cover their bills as it is. It would be better to lobby the provincial government to change their policy regarding depositing released inmates downtown and instructing the RCMP to take the petty crime committed by the homeless more seriously.	11/13/2024 7:08 AM
224	This proposed tax increase is insane, not nearly worth it	11/13/2024 6:48 AM
225	I work at the PR hospital and I noticed less homeless and intoxicated patients in the ER. I think they helped take some of the load off the RCMP	11/13/2024 4:32 AM
226	It would be nice to see money and supports targeted to the root of the problem	11/13/2024 3:35 AM
227	I do not support funding the private security service through increased property taxes. The three-month trial, costing \$240,000, demonstrated that there are more sustainable, cost-effective alternatives. Feedback & Suggestions: 1. Maximize RCMP Resources: We should make better use of our existing law enforcement. Adjusting RCMP patrol schedules or adding a single evening patrol officer could provide coverage without the significant added expense. 2. Address Root Causes: Collaborating with social services to provide safe spaces for the	11/12/2024 11:54 PM

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homeless in designated areas—away from residential zones—could improve safety and reduce the need for additional security. 3. Consider Cost-Effective Measures: Instead of expensive contracts, funds could support proactive safety measures like improved lighting, surveillance, or hiring a community safety officer, all at a fraction of the cost. 4. Seek Alternative Funding: If extra security is necessary, the town should ask local businesses if they're willing to fund it. Residential property owners should not bear this cost; safety should be the responsibility of the town through the RCMP we already pay for, not an added burden in an already high property tax environment. 5. Engage the Community: A survey or forum could gauge broader community support for any new expenditures, especially those impacting property taxes. These alternatives would enhance safety in a more strategic, cost-effective way, avoiding a tax increase that doesn't justify the limited returns of the security contract.

228	The cost for this program is absolutely ridiculous. There is other more cost efficient methods to produce the same results that you have received from this private security company. The town boast how much it has saved over the past 2 years but this program was extreme overkill.	11/12/2024 11:23 PM
229	These "security guards" did not stop any crimes. There is absolutely no need to increase our taxes so these guys can drive or walk around. Taxes need to be invested elsewhere	11/12/2024 10:52 PM
230	10% of my property taxes is an extra 450 per year on a 400,000 home - more on a 400,000 commercial property - add in a few rentals and and my property taxes go up by 4000-5000 per year - on top of any other increases, on top of all the increases to date, on top of the increased fees for water and sewer the last few years (ongoing) the recent added increase of 10% announced for water and sewer, on top of whatever other thing the town wants to spend more money on next year, increased franchise fees for utilities, and the regular cost of living increases for town employees, staff, and town council - with all those increases, and the rest of increases across Canada, everything is getting downloaded on the consumer - I would rather the RCMP do their job, and put pressure on them - in the event we were going to spend 1M-1.2 M per year, that would fund an extra 4-5 positions for the the RCMP	11/12/2024 10:47 PM
231	Apex did not provide a value that outweighed the cost. Hiring a private security firm does not provide any resolution. In Canada, the objective of security is to observe and report, the same thing summer students working in a STEP program could do, or you and I. They have no power other than their words. Funding should be directed into programs to assist people. Apex had great success at moving the homeless problem to another part of town. Instead of focusing on removing benches and decreasing the community aspect of our town council should look at meaningful options for change. Removing benches and paying a 1/4 million dollars for two gentleman to pick up trash or help kids cross the street while kind is a gross miss management of public funds. As a sub note I have elected to remain anonymous due to the pressures to follow the pack and specifically Councillor Schamelhorn aggressively telling citizens they should sign up for council simply for providing feedback or an opinion. You all signed up to be our representatives, you should serve the community with respect and have pride for our community. Everyone's opinion matters, so I appreciate this outlet to collect the information. I support the use of surveys, giving the ability to provide insight without fear of repercussion	11/12/2024 10:42 PM
232	Why doesn't the town think about hiring their own safety people. Town staff. Where is the town Bylaw officer This cost would be less. Also many other things the council is approving that is a waste of money. The town could have saved money and provide more safety. Peace River has become one of the most unsafe places. This is not the fault of the tax payer. Shut down the shelter. Our people In peace River are suffering from the crime. I want something funded but not more taxes. There is money in the current paid taxes for safety or stop and think why is it unsafe now. ?	11/12/2024 10:38 PM
233	By these numbers 12/7 would probably cost me \$200 in additional property taxes which does seem high but there are nights I would have gladly paid it for the extra security for my daughter (if they were in the area). Questions I would want answered would be things like, Is contracted security the only option being considered/are others being explored (Direct hiring, COP etc). How much has been looked at in terms of targeting times/locations where there is more activity/people are most at risk. I would want the report results and an action plan before supporting increased taxes, but if the results and a solid plan can be shown I would support it.	11/12/2024 10:30 PM
234	Fire the CAO and hire cpo-s and cpo sgt!	11/12/2024 10:26 PM
235	Why not just hire 2 people to do the job? Hire a Sargeant, peace officer, a by-law officer, instead of hiring back apex. It's unbelievable how high our taxes are and when it comes to the	11/12/2024 9:46 PM

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safety of the people, the town just seems to be throwing away money instead of hiring individuals who will be committed to keeping our town safe and will be for long term.

236	As someone looking to become a homeowner in Peace River, I already find property taxes to be really high. If they keep increasing i will be looking to buy a home elsewhere	11/12/2024 9:45 PM
237	I'd be open to increases in full if absolutely necessary. I find it frustrating that so many issues seem to arise from the prison and shelter yet we are being faced with further tax increases to simply use our town and support local businesses. I would love to see the town be clear to the community about how our provincial government could help our community and isn't, or the challenges with understaffed RCMP. There seems to be a disconnect in the information people need to make an informed decision and to approach things with logic instead of frustration.	11/12/2024 9:28 PM
238	I think it's a waste of money unless the town it's self can cut there costs to help cover it more. We in this town pay too much to live here as it is and the town workers drive around in fancy new vehicles. Not necessary that we need to pay more when the town can cut budget it they tried harder	11/12/2024 9:23 PM
239	Get back the peace officers the town is supposed to have.	11/12/2024 9:21 PM
240	I would rather pay 0 increased property taxes and allow the police and justice system to complete their roles in public safety. I would be interested to know the cost to provide increased municipal funding for police services if that is a barrier for them to complete said task. Since the town of Peace River already pays \$2.6million to RCMP services, I do not see how an additional expense is justifiable to address current concerns when Apex is not able to resolve the root issue of why the Town feels the need for increased security	11/12/2024 9:21 PM
241	Our taxes have increased every year by hundreds of dollars. Our sidewalks in the south end are unwalkable -some. I believe there needs to be something done about the not homeless in our town. The residences that decide to stay on our streets when they have a residence aomewheee else	11/12/2024 9:16 PM
242	Apex did an excellent job	11/12/2024 9:09 PM
243	Future possible grants	11/12/2024 9:05 PM
244	Taxes are too high now.	11/12/2024 8:57 PM
245	Property taxes are already enough in this town. We do not need security guards driving around town at a cost passed onto residence.	11/12/2024 8:42 PM
246	I think you will drive even more people out of this town my raising tax rates instead of putting effort to solving the issue at its core, which is we as a society can't keep housing and feeding people who are a deterrent to this town. You are taking money directly from your towns peoples and to put a bandaid on a situation that needs to be addressed at the base level. The town is harming itself and its people with initiatives such as taxing us more to put money in the pocket of Apex.	11/12/2024 8:42 PM
247	Having them around is great, unfortunately it isn't super helpful if the RCMP don't enforce things. Warnings only go so far.	11/12/2024 8:40 PM
248	Absolutely not interested in any increase to my already high priced property taxes to fund any such program	11/12/2024 8:26 PM
249	I would like to see the town focus on the root of the problem not moving the problem around	11/12/2024 8:17 PM
250	AHS and GOA should be paying for the majority of this.	11/12/2024 8:02 PM
251	I believe this pilot project was successful in reducing nuisances in the downtown area. However, homeowners are already struggling in this economy with the cost of living. A raise in property taxes is not what this community needs right now.	11/12/2024 8:02 PM
252	I think we need more RCMP. Not apex. You need to push federal and provincial since we pay a ton of taxes there already. Also have them not drop the convict into our downtown and ship them home.	11/12/2024 8:01 PM
253	I appreciated seeing Apex making their rounds around town	11/12/2024 8:01 PM
254	The town needs to budget around our already existing high taxes & ask for provincial funding for the towns security if unwilling to return funding for bussing from the jail. Thats how this all	11/12/2024 7:56 PM

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	started.	
255	The public security pilot project is a bandaid solution. There are bigger problems that require solutions that would help solve this solution as well. Consider options like a program that helps recent inmates return to their communities. An increase in tax on a town that is already highly taxed to throw money at a problem that isn't the direct problem is not a solution.	11/12/2024 7:50 PM
256	The public security pilot project is a bandaid solution. There are	11/12/2024 7:47 PM
257	If on duty workers should be working, not running personal errands.	11/12/2024 7:47 PM
258	Honestly if we never opened up the homeless shelter we probably wouldn't need the extra security. It all started around the same time as the shelter we have people from out of town coming to use the shelter and a lot of them are the ones we are having issues with. Maybe we start cutting cost with admins, town staff(pretty sure we don't need 2-3 people to drive around emptying garbage cans.	11/12/2024 7:44 PM
259	The security helped but they cannot arrest individuals and only provide a thin veneer of safety in the grand scheme. The security officers are great and work hard but limited legislative power means they basically call the police. We need to have more police officers available or local town peace officers to do this job. This cost is a waste of money in my opinion if we are looking for a long term solution.	11/12/2024 7:39 PM
260	The cost of public safety should not be the burden of the residents/taxpayers of the town. The issue of not feeling safe in town is NOT the fault of most and many criminals are not residents of the town. An increase to the already inflated and unaffordable taxes in this town would be deplorable. It is decisions like approving \$500,000 for a hot tub in a decaying building that was awaiting formal inspection that should be investigated and halted.... Where is the long term planning? How are you going to ensure a prosperous town when your residents won't be able to afford to live in it anymore?	11/12/2024 7:31 PM
261	What are the issues happening that Apex handled that the RCMP couldn't?	11/12/2024 7:25 PM
262	I do not feel safe down town	11/12/2024 7:22 PM
263	If you can't get grant or gov't funding, it should not be funded. Leave our ridiculously high property taxes alone, leave our ridiculous water bills alone, just stop with all the freaking increases already	11/12/2024 7:04 PM
264	This project is wasting towns money. It moves our transients around but does not solve the problem. Security guards have ZERO authority to do anything and puts themselves at risk. Invest this money in more police officers who have the ability and lawful authority to deal with the problems. Taxes in this town are already outrageous, let's fix the problem not shuffle it around. Dedicate a police presence downtown, establish a police patrol plan. These are factual methods that will aid "us" as residents.. Security Guards Observe and Report, Police Arrest and Charge.. why pay for 3rd party police callers?! It doesn't make fiscal sense.	11/12/2024 6:58 PM
265	Take the needed money from what you are paying the RCMP, then you have funding.	11/12/2024 6:55 PM
266	Close the homeless shelter and hire peace officer to patrol the town.	11/12/2024 6:50 PM
267	We feel that Apex did a really good job in the 3 month contract.	11/12/2024 6:33 PM
268	The shelter needs to be closed, this is the problem, not the jail, Mr Boychuk needs to get his facts straight and stop deer mongering	11/12/2024 6:32 PM
269	It a no brainer cut the fund for rcmp because they only come to town for the shelter so you could have apex no problem one more time close the shelter that the major problem and me on my end I want to sell and move away so fast can not handle it anymore that how serious I am 5 years the town said they will do something and nothing done	11/12/2024 6:29 PM
270	My taxes are already too high for services rendered. \$80000/month is outrageous. When are the next municipal elections???	11/12/2024 6:27 PM
271	The safety concern with the street people is connected to the release of PRCC inmates, this is an issues that needs to be addressed provincially and it is the municipality's duty to bring it to provincial government. APEX Security services is a bandaid for a systematic issue.	11/12/2024 6:26 PM
272	We pay extremely high property taxes for what we get in Peace River already and they go up every year. I think it's time to give everyone a break rather than even thinking about imposing	11/12/2024 6:25 PM

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higher taxes. This is actually outrageous to even ask when many people are barely making it as it is!!!

273	I don't think raising taxes will "fix" the issues we're having by having security that is not able to make any arrests or retrieve stolen property even if it's right in front of their faces.. which was my case ..	11/12/2024 5:59 PM
274	I think it was helpful, but shouldn't be funded with property tax.	11/12/2024 5:55 PM
275	I think there's value in the apex but I cannot afford another increase to my taxes. It's getting ridiculous. Get a grant or rcmp or remove the homeless and criminals to their hometowns they don't need to takeover ours.	11/12/2024 5:54 PM
276	We had amazing peace officers and bylaw officers that were beneficial in the community, and my taxes were not raised. They were doing a fantastic job throughout the years. To see my taxes raised year after year and nothing in the community changes for programming, etc. I don't want my taxes raised for a program that we had people working (peace officers) that were doing the job needed and "forced" out to fund another company. Makes me want to leave the community when our taxes are rising significantly year after year as well as utilities. We need to utilize the resources we have.	11/12/2024 5:49 PM
277	Is any thought being given to re-vamp Citizens on Patrol? Accountability and enthusiasm for the contract should not be allowed to fade from beginning of contract.	11/12/2024 5:49 PM
278	Please please try to pull this money from someplace else. In the past 2 years my property taxes have doubled (\$1000 per year). And when we called the assessment company they said our assessment went down... but the cost is going up. We cannot afford \$1000 extra per month. I understand the money has to come from somewhere, but I would like to see other options.	11/12/2024 5:46 PM
279	The program is great, but ideally funding can be secured from sources other than just tax dollars considering that Peace River's safety issues are largely due to the homeless shelter and Correctional Centre (two services that benefit other communities/areas of government). It seems unfair that citizens from other communities can come here and then we (Peace River citizens) have to pay because they're here. I'm all for social supports, but I don't want to see a large hike in taxes because of them. I would support a small increase, however. Thank you.	11/12/2024 5:43 PM
280	Look forward to seeing the results of this survey.	11/12/2024 5:42 PM
281	I think that the business owners in the higher crime areas need to pay a bit higher percentage to having them secure the downtown areas.	11/12/2024 5:40 PM
282	The town contracted a company to advise on better security measurements, it was advised to have better street lighting, enclose areas between buildings as deterrent amount several other fantastic options, the town has not made any of these changes which are much less in cost then security agency	11/12/2024 5:38 PM
283	After the security was out in place I felt so much more secure walking and going through downtown.	11/12/2024 5:32 PM
284	Our taxes are already too high for Peace River. I did not find this piglet project helpful in the industrial park at all. As a matter of fact, we are in the same vicinity as Apex and still it did not stop the constant break ins.	11/12/2024 5:28 PM
285	When I look at what our town is looking like nowadays (roads, vacant buildings, etc) I don't think our town can afford this service and due to cost of living we are now facing, tax payers cannot afford to pay for this service.	11/12/2024 5:27 PM
286	The towns taxes are already too high compared to other towns. Once water/utilities go up again it will be worse. I am looking at options to move out of PR due to this.	11/12/2024 5:26 PM
287	Like many others I wouldn't like to see an increase in property taxes because that is one of the biggest complaints. We hear from people in regards to affordability in peace, river. But I also understand this isn't in the towns budget. I guess this would be a fair compromise, but I would rather look at possibly relocating the overnight shelter or maybe having another group manage it as a shelter instead of the long-term flop house. It has sadly turned into because we also get a front row seat to that.	11/12/2024 5:23 PM
288	As a home owner we already way to high of property taxes as is. And also extremely high cost	11/12/2024 5:21 PM

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of water. We need to find ways to lower property taxes and the cost of water. The cost of living is way too high.

289	Our taxes are high enough already	11/12/2024 5:20 PM
290	It's not that I don't want this to be funded, however property taxes in Peace River are not reflective of what we currently have for even basic amenities. We're paying Big city taxes for our small community already, They're already too damn high for a lack of anything to look forward to in terms of development.	11/12/2024 5:18 PM
291	Draw funding from other areas. Cut funding to places like the ski hill and sagitawa. We already pay insane property taxes for zero services... just drive around the roads. Pretty sad when I pay as much tax on my home as someone does on a 1 million dollar home in Edmonton.	11/12/2024 5:18 PM
292	I do not support increasing property taxes for this. If business wish, they can hire their own private security.	11/12/2024 5:17 PM
293	I would like the initiative to continue however as an already high property tax payer in this town I believe the town should reallocate their funds more appropriately.	11/12/2024 5:13 PM
294	I'm not sure what other choice there would be, it's not looking like funding will increase for RCMP and they just aren't able to manage. It was a noticeable difference while Apex was going on, it's nice to have some deterrent. It's not the same crowd anymore that use to spend the summers down town, and bothered no one, now it's damaging and scary for the community.	11/12/2024 5:10 PM
295	The province and the feds who are allowing catch and release are responsible and need to fund these. Sagarowa is getting plenty of funds and need to help more.	11/12/2024 5:09 PM
296	Perhaps the province and feds should help out in funding. It has never been as bad as in the past few years since changing where people get dropped off after being released from prison. What happens in other towns of our size with institutions like drumheller, wetaskiwin, grande cache? This government action is not fair to peace river residents and it is not fair to treat these people in this manner.	11/12/2024 5:07 PM
297	It was a good program and I feel there was good results, but I cannot pay any more property taxes!!!!	11/12/2024 5:04 PM
298	Apex made a difference. We can see much more mobility of homelessness in the downtown core since. Pl awe look into continuing APEX or a more competitively priced security company of the same quality. My apologies if you've recieved my submission twice. I got an error message & thought it best to send again:)	11/12/2024 4:59 PM
299	I cannot believe that our elected officials are so out of touch with the world that they are even entertaining this idea. People are stretched financially. I choose to opt out. I couldn't care less if APEX just looked the other way when passing my house because I do not want to pay more money for their services. I pay enough and get very little benefit from the town. I thought they couldn't arrest people anyways? I thought the cost you spent could have paid for like, 4 or 5 more RCMP? Why wouldn't we want more cops who can actually arrest people?! I do not consent to my tax dollars going toward APEX. I have more important things to spend money on.	11/12/2024 4:56 PM
300	I appreciate the town looking into this service however I do not think it is fair for the residents of town to foot the bill. This is something that provincial legislation should be looking into. Ie adequate housing for displaced individuals, more access to health care and mental health services	11/12/2024 4:55 PM
301	I think it is pointless and unnecessary. Total waste of taxpayer money.	11/12/2024 4:48 PM
302	For certain instances, I think Apex is great. Other times, not so much. For the price, I do not think they are worth it. At almost 1 million a year, how many more RCMP could the town bring in? The town should be looking into other options. Placing this on taxpayers isn't it.	11/12/2024 4:46 PM
303	Maybe stop giving yourself raises and there would be funding to actually do something for the town. This is getting ridiculous.	11/12/2024 4:32 PM
304	N/A	11/12/2024 4:29 PM
305	Na	11/12/2024 4:19 PM

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306	Property taxes are high enough. Stop dropping off vagrants downtown. Get a bus and ask if they want a ride to Edmonton.	11/12/2024 4:14 PM
307	I'm not paying for this. The RCMP can deal with complaints and the town should get a bus company or something to get these homeless addicts out of our community. How much debt is the town in this year? Still millions? Maybe the town should ask the government for money again like they always do. Residents should NOT pay for a service provided by RCMP - that is literally THEIR job to respond to complaints and emergencies. Apex also did nothing but get paid to frolic around town and look like they are doing something. I have seen them drive by as their is an addict digging through trash. Find a better solution to getting these addict criminals out of our town instead of trying to make the community pay for security. We pay enough	11/12/2024 4:09 PM
308	This is an abject waste of money. It will not improve security in town. I don't want to pay a single extra cent in property taxes to fund this. Unless crime stats in Peace River (collected by the RCMP, not Apex, who have an obvious conflict of interest) show a substantial reduction in crime, I do not support this initiative.	11/12/2024 4:06 PM
309	I feel this is not an area that private security units should be responsible for. If further funds are available, policing opportunities should be explored. Ideally, a robust protective / enforcement services program should be created. This allows the town to hire sworn peace officers that have the appropriate authority to deal with the complex issues that this town is facing. \$80,000 per month would be more than enough funding to create and maintain a well staffed enforcement services department. Hiring a company to build community relationships and prevent crime, on the towns behalf is backwards. The town should be hiring its own localized staff to address these challenges. Forming direct relationships and building a community led program. Current risks of a private security company include; what authority are they acting under to deal with security risks of nuance individuals. I have heard of several incidents where Apex security dealt with the problem by seizing items or relocating high risk individuals to another location. Under what authority? This is a high risk function that could open the town up for risk. Secondly, I assure you the security officers are not being compensated more than \$25 dollars an hour. With 24/7 coverage, and two "officers" per shift, that does not equal \$80,000. This is a misuse of public funds and does not appropriately address public safety or long term relationships with community. A well funded enforcement services team can supplement policing activities and address the public safety concerns in a lawful and community led manner. Sworn bylaw officers have much more training and opportunities for advanced training than a private security firm have. A redirection of funds would attract professionals who would be compensated enough to stay in the community long term and directly represent the town of Peace River. I do not support this initiative whatsoever and strongly discourage proceeding with this route.	11/12/2024 3:59 PM