



ONE CITY, ONE VOICE

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE
CITY OF BRANDON

REPORT FROM THE YOUTH 1 FORUM





Youth 1 Forum, Planning Committee

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Rural Development Institute at Brandon University for their exceptional contribution in compiling the information gathered at the Youth 1 Forum, October 11 & 12, 2005.

In particular, we extend a special thanks to Ryan Gibson, for his dedication to this project in arranging, organizing and formatting the event data in this professional and comprehensive report. Thanks also to Ken Bessant who oversaw and supported this document's development, and Robert Annis who pledged the Rural Development Institute's services to the Youth 1 Forum.

Rural Development Institute, Brandon University

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RDI functions as a not-for-profit research and development organization designed to promote, facilitate, coordinate, initiate and conduct multi-disciplinary academic and applied research on rural issues. The Institute provides an interface between academic research efforts and the community by acting as a conduit of rural research information and by facilitating community involvement in rural development. RDI projects are characterized by cooperative and collaborative efforts of multi-stakeholders.

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One City, One Voice
Report from the Youth 1 Forum
Strategic Planning for the City of Brandon

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Brandon Friendship Centre

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Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba

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CompuTemp's Employment Services

Star 94.7 FM

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Community Volunteer

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VOX Employment Training Program

VOX Employment Training Program

VOX Employment Training Program

VOX Employment Training Program

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- Blockbuster
- Guild Insurance

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- Canada Safeway Ltd.
- Sobey's Brandon South
- Forbidden Flavours Coffee Roastery & Ice Cream Parlor Shop
- C&C Rentals Ltd. (BBQ)
- Maple Leaf

Forward – Youth 1 Forum Co-Chairs

In March of 2004, the community of Brandon entered into a Strategic Planning process, coordinated by the City of Brandon. A group of community members determined 9 key areas of interest and corresponding future statements that were:

- 1) Education & Training: Brandon will be a recognized centre of education & training excellence.
- 2) Economic & Social Environment: Brandon will be an economic & social environment which is supportive, sustainable, innovative and providing equal opportunity for all.
- 3) Recreation / Leisure / Arts: Brandon will be alive with recreation – leisure & arts!
- 4) Youth: Brandon will be an attractive place for youth to live, learn, work and play.
- 5) Environment: Brandon will be a recognized leader in environmental stewardship.
- 6) Agriculture: Brandon will be an agricultural community of excellence.
- 7) Government: Brandon municipal government will be influentially leading locally, provincially and nationally, formally engaged with the full diversity of the community.
- 8) Cultural: Brandon will be recognized as a city which values & promotes cultural diversity.
- 9) Health: Brandon will be a healthy community

From these future statements, community members with interest or experience in each future statement area were brought together to assess where each group was presently, and where they wanted to go. The Youth component was brought together in May 2005, consisting of 9 members representing 7 different community organizations. The group spent two meetings brainstorming, and within one month felt that “youth” had a role / function in each of the eight remaining areas, not only in their own category. The group also felt that in order for the youth component to take any action or forward movement, youth input was needed. Due to the extremely short timeline, a sub-committee was formed within the Youth Steering committee which focused on organizing and coordinating a Youth Forum where young people would have an opportunity to voice their opinions, thoughts, and concerns on each of the remaining 8 components of the Community Strategic Plan.

Over the past 6 months, the Youth 1 Forum Planning Committee was heavily involved in coordinating this event, including:

- A 2 ½ month *Fundraising* effort
- A 4 month *Planning and Preparation* effort
- And lastly, a 2-month *Completion* effort including finalizing details and compiling results.

We are very pleased with the end-product, and are also especially excited about the youth who have recently since the forum, come to the table to offer their “enthusiasm” and

unique “dynamism” in making Brandon an attractive place for youth to live, learn, work and play.

The Youth 1 Forum would not have happened without the dedication, efforts and contributions of many people. We, the Committee would like to extend our thanks to all of those who helped make this event a success and to the participants of the **Youth 1 Forum: “If people were listening, what would you say?”**

Mike Flamand & Marnie Groeneveld
Youth 1 Forum Co-Chairs

Forward – Mayor of Brandon

Over the past eighteen months, the City of Brandon has reached out to the public for their input into Brandon’s future to create our first community strategic plan. The philosophy and direction that we hope to gain from our citizens will be used to build and sculpture our community for many years to come.

Brandon has always been progressive in our way of thinking and we hope to build on this strength by bringing the youth of today into our decision making process. This progressive way of thinking was what brought about the youth segment of our community strategic plan, and led to the recent youth forum this past fall.

After having the opportunity to drop in on the youth forum, I was extremely pleased and impressed by the large turnout of youth to this youth forum. The quality of input that I observed taking place was exactly what I was hoping to see come out of this event. I feel that *Shaping Tomorrow Together* – Brandon’s first community strategic plan, is even more important to the youth as they will be reaping the rewards of the efforts being made today.

It is my desire to see our youth look at Brandon as an exciting option in the future to remain here to live, work and raise their families.

I sensed that there was a strong feeling by the youth in attendance that they were being listened to and they are right. To effectively form our future in Brandon it is imperative to have input from all ages.

Through the community strategic plan process, the next step for youth is to put forward recommendations that came out of this forum to City Council, the School Division, RHA and numerous other organizations. In addition, several youth forum participants have come forward to volunteer with the other desirable future statement groups to assist with implementation of these ideas. I am confident that City Council will be receptive to the feedback and recommendation that we will receive in this report as it is coming directly from our citizens.

Dave Burgess,
Mayor

Introduction

For communities to remain sustainable and vibrant, the existence of an inclusive and complete strategic plan are required. For strategic plans to be meaningful and purposeful, plans must be able to address issues within the community from the perspective of community people. The City of Brandon began the process of developing a strategic plan for 2010 in early 2005. In the fall of 2005, Brandon's strategic planning document, *Shaping Tomorrow Today*, was released. Youth were considered one of the nine desirable future statements in the community strategic plan. The opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities in the City of Brandon was the focus of the Youth 1 Forum. The forum's intention was to encourage youth in Brandon aged 13-29 to participate in shaping the future direction of Brandon.

“Our youth will determine their own future, but also the future of our community in every aspect” (Shaping Tomorrow Today)

Brandon youth are pleased to put this summary forward for discussion and planning by the community. Youth recognize that the community will identify other information topics to be considered and are encouraged to do so. The comments captured are the views of youth delegates. This summary is seen as building on the *Shaping Tomorrow Together*, Brandon's community planning document. Perspectives and comments from the Youth 1 Forum in many ways parallel prior discussions that occurred in the development of Brandon's community plan, however, there are instances where youth have further extrapolated or brainstormed new and different variables. Together, the *Shaping Tomorrow Together* and the *One City, One Voice* reports compliment each other.

Process/Methodology

To capture the voices of youth, a two-day forum was designed. The forum would represent an opportunity for youth voice their opinion on the challenges and opportunities that youth encounter in Brandon. Over the two-day forum, 195 registered youth participated in a series of focus group discussions.

The first day of the forum was targeted towards youth aged 18-29 years old, while the second day was targeted at youth 13-18 years old. The forum was promoted through a variety of means, such as radio, the Internet, television, and through local high schools. With the assistance of local student councils, youth were approached and encouraged to invite students from each of the schools in Brandon.

Each day, youth were divided into small groups. Each of the small groups discussed the themes identified in the *Shaping Tomorrow Today* document. In addition to the eight themes, youth were given two additional opportunities (What is on Your Mind and Open Session) to contribute towards the strategic plan for Brandon. Small group discussions were facilitated by local volunteers while notes were captured on laptops from each of the discussions. The information contained in this document is based on the notes captured

during each of the focus group discussions. In all, 64 focus groups were conducted over the two-day forum.

This report is organized based on the eight main themes of the *Shaping Tomorrow Together* document from the City of Brandon; Agriculture, Cultural Diversity, Economic Development, Education, Environment, Health, Municipal Government, and Recreation, Leisure and Arts. The comments of youth are reported under each of these eight themes. Within each theme, facilitators asked three questions:

1. What is working well?
2. What is not working well?
3. What can be done about it?

Youth contributed comments to each of these questions. In addition, youth were also asked to indicate which comments were priorities. These prioritized comments are presented below under each of the themes. A list of all the comments that were contributed by youth are contained in the *One City, One Voice Appendix*. The Appendix is available on the www.ebrandon.ca or www.brandon.ca/rdi websites. Each of these questions is accompanied by a chart that demonstrates the categories of comments from youth. These categories were established to manage the presentation of all the youth's comments.

Agriculture

What is working well?

Priorities that youth identified include:

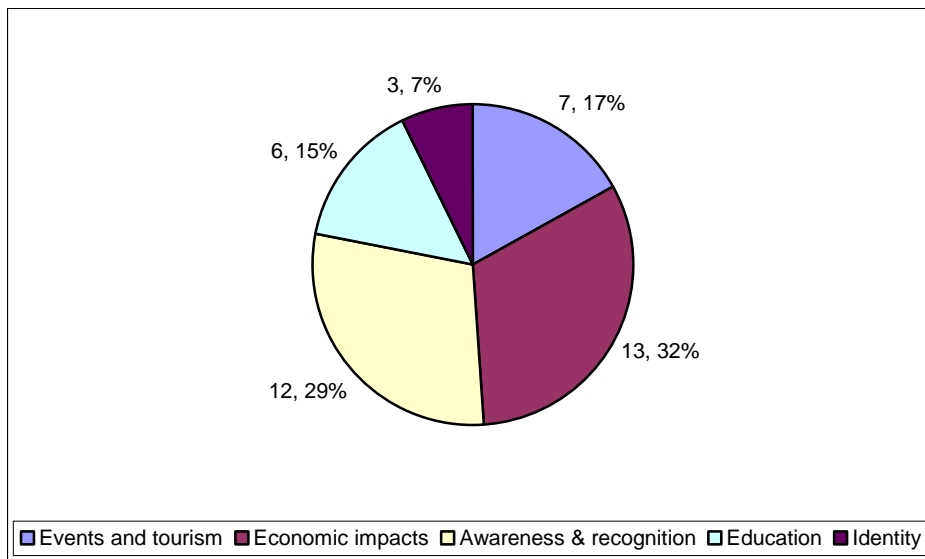
Winter Fair and Ag. Days help to educate

Brings more jobs into Brandon- many jobs rely or are linked with Agriculture

Brings in people who spend money in restaurants etc- brings in money for other businesses

A lot of farmland surrounding city- pretty, part of our identity, gets you out of the city, the variety, get to see how crops are grown, opportunity to appreciate different ways of life

A lot of services for farmers in Brandon, it's a hub



What is Not Working Well?

Priorities that youth identified include:

Lack of knowledge of what would happen if ag industry collapsed

Dependant on one market

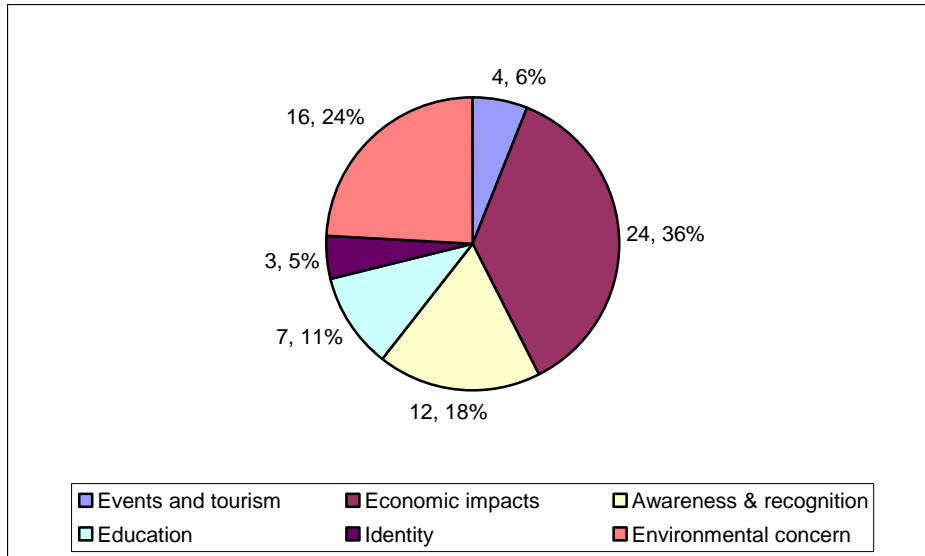
More businesses within Brandon should be supporting the local farmers – for example buying their produce from local farms

Stigma-when you live in Brandon you feel that you are not really attached to anything agriculture

Negative stereotypes of farms

A lot of kids don't know about Ag. Related issues- if they are to be the "future", they need to know more

Loss of small farms/rural depopulation



What Can Be Done About it?

Priorities that youth identified include:

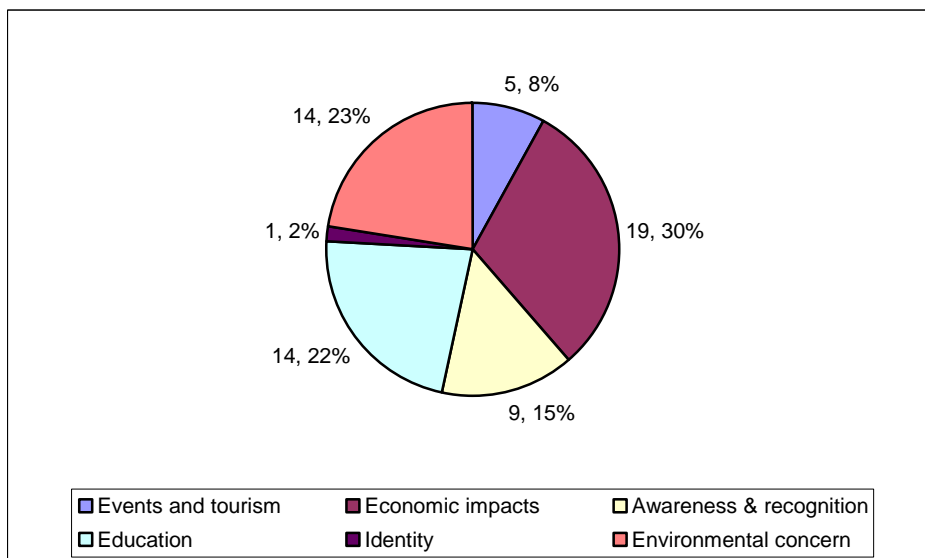
Need more/ better advertising for the Winter Fair and Ag. Days- not in the news because kids don't watch the news a lot

Less dependency on Ag. in the economy- find other industries to count on- need diversification

Agriculture in school curriculum- hands-on teaching, learn that farmers are educated (some have a degree), learn about different areas of farming- bee keeping is a farming activity)

Need more and better enforcement of regulations and laws regarding animal feed and chemical use

Stop expansion towards farms, plan better housing developments so it doesn't take over farm land



Cultural Diversity

What is working well?

Priorities youth identified in what is working well within Cultural Diversity include:

Aboriginal days

Winter festival pavilions

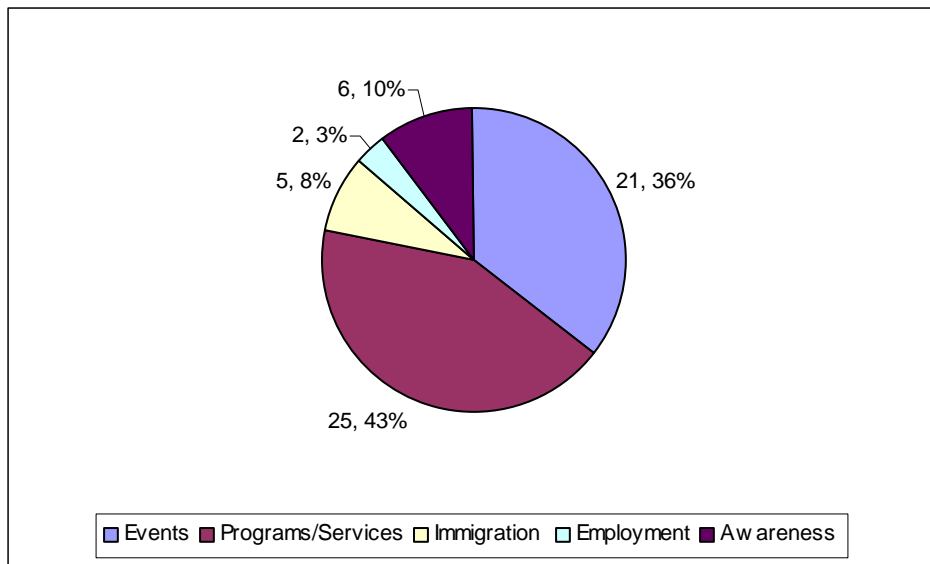
Cultural food tasting at the Art Gallery

Language programs offered at Assiniboine Community College and Brandon University

Brandon University music program

Exchange students are accepted

Maple Leaf is employing immigrants



What is not working well?

Priorities youth identified in what is not working well within Cultural Diversity include:

Events are being promoted more to the older population

Don't know when events happen

Not a good variety of cultural restaurants

Promote English as a Second Language courses offered in Brandon University

Schools are not doing enough to teach students about Aboriginal culture

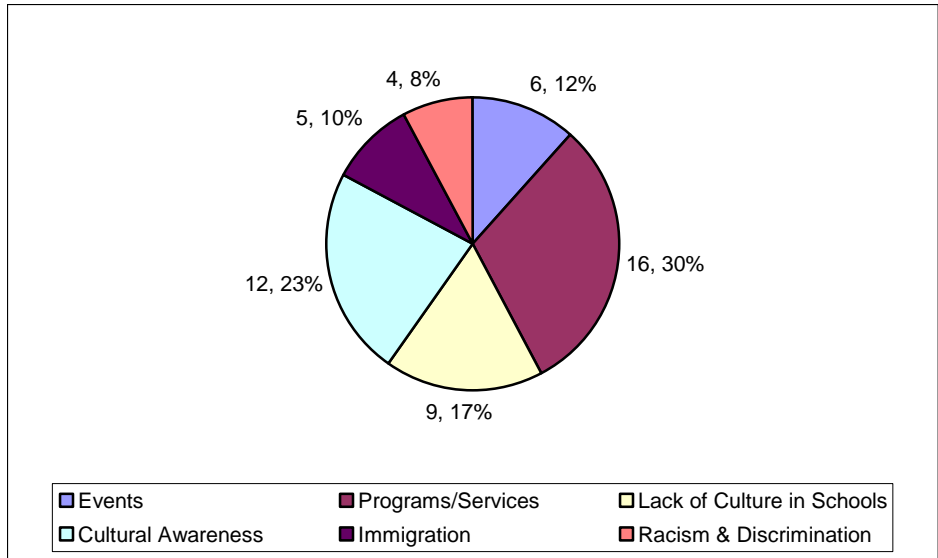
Racism in schools, especially to the Aboriginal population

Dominant white culture. No representation of other cultures within the government

Immigrants only work at Maple Leaf

Racism is very prominent in Brandon

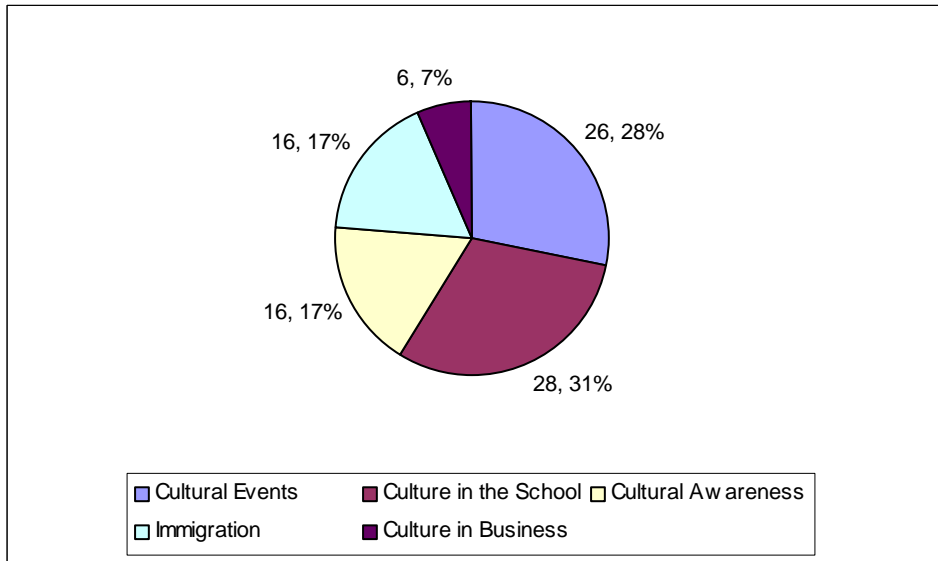
Need to make immigrants feel more welcomed.



What can be done about it?

Priorities youth identified for what can be done about issues in Cultural Diversity include:

- More advertising (radio, television) about cultural events*
- Expand the Winter Fair, but it is a good event*
- Have a festival like the Winter Festival for the high schools*
- More education regarding culture taught at a young age*
- More language options in schools (other than French)*
- Schools should have a welcoming committee to help exchange students adjust and feel welcome*
- Offer a hands-on approach to learning about culture*
- Free English programs for immigrants coming for work*
- Include Brandon Friendship Centre and Manitoba Métis Federation in a more meaningful way*

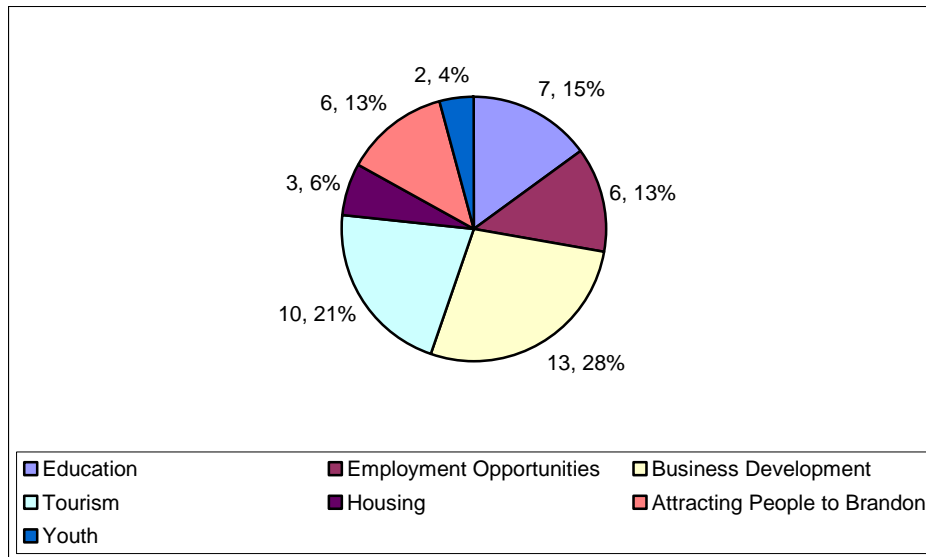


Economic & Social Development

What is Working Well?

Priorities youth identified for what is working well in Economic and Social Development include:

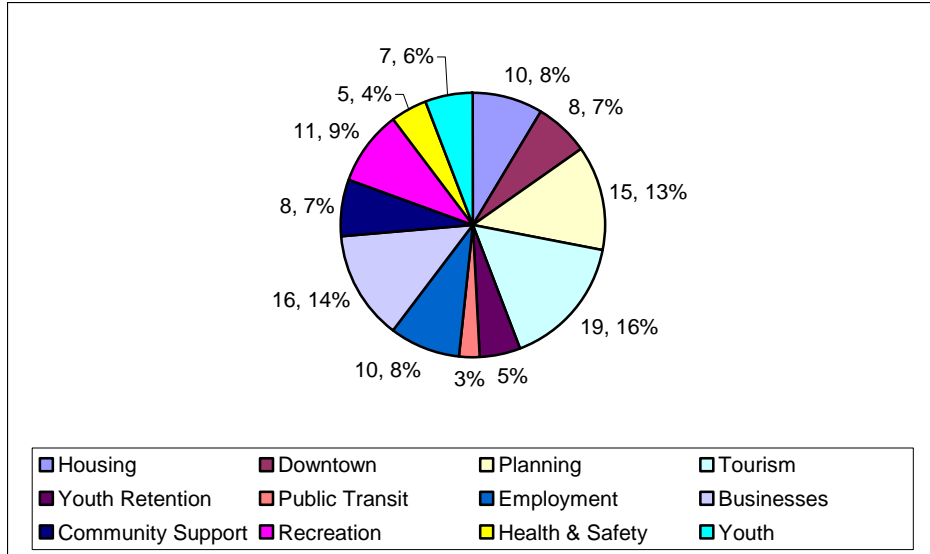
New businesses and local services
More air service in Brandon
Lots of job opportunities
Keystone Centre
Royal Manitoba Winter Fair
New Wok Box restaurant



What is Not Working Well?

Priorities youth identified that are not working well in Economic and Social Development include:

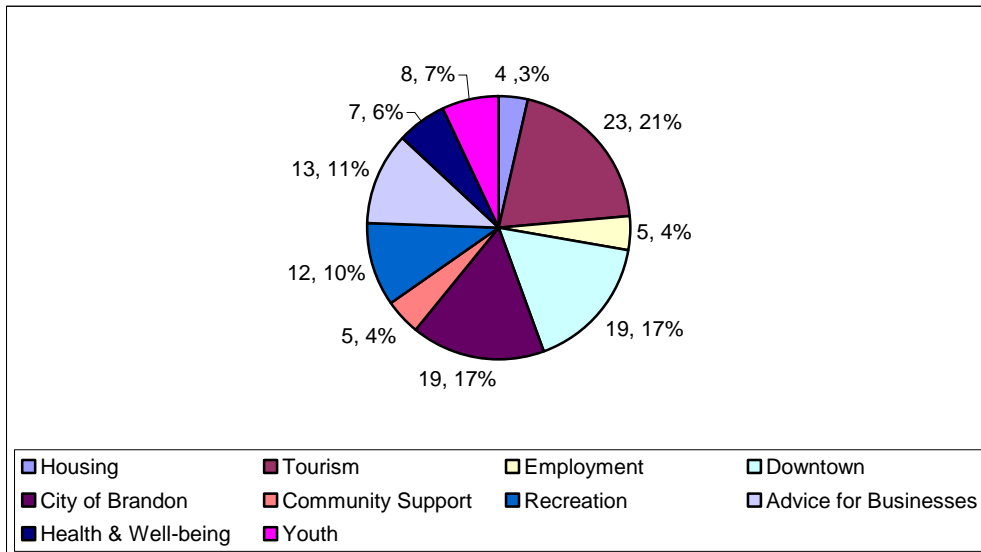
While the city is expanding are they planning appropriately for expansion?
The city works on the basis of who you know and not what you know
Housing shortage
There is a limited number of high paying jobs after university education
Lack of financial support for youth trying to start new businesses
Low retention level for people graduating from ACC and BU
Better cooperation between Brandon and the smaller rural communities
The downtown is not working
Poor relationship with surrounding municipal governments
New developments on the north hill are ruining downtown revitalization efforts
People living with mental diseases need better social programs that promote healthy living



What Can Be Done About It?

Priorities youth identified for what can be done about issues in Economic and Social Development include:

- More housing, cheaper rents, and more competition*
- Make events more affordable*
- Develop affordable childcare options*
- Support existing small businesses*
- Develop and maintain air service in Brandon*
- Promote the downtown*
- Improve parking in the downtown area*
- Better promotions and attractions at the Summer Fair*
- Revitalize downtown by fixing it up and making it more appealing*

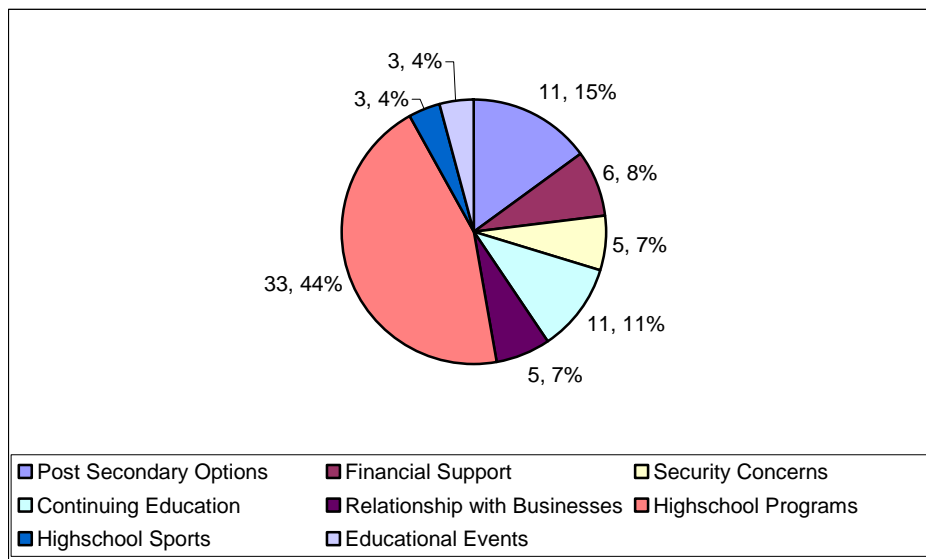


Education

What is Working Well?

Priorities youth identified for what is working well in Education include:

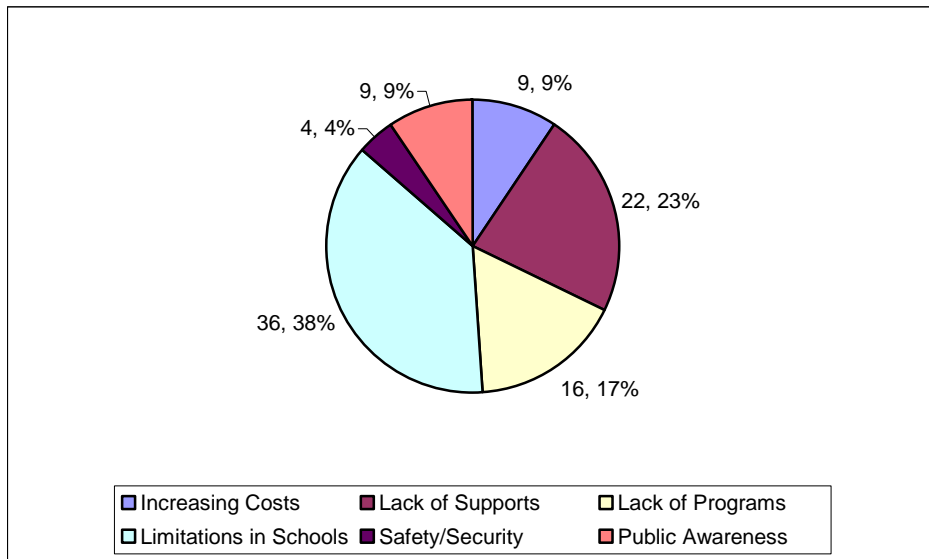
- Great post-secondary institutions in Brandon*
- Availability of specialty programs through ACC and BU*
- Spend A Day program at ACC*
- Schools offer lots of different bursary and scholarship programs*
- Manitoba has lower tuition fees compared to other provinces*
- Day care at post-secondary institutions*
- Brandon Adult Learning Centre*
- Continuing Education at ACC*
- Having business people come into the schools to talk with students*
- Lowering class sizes to increase productivity*
- Lots of course offerings*
- After school activities*
- Career Symposium*
- Availability of vocational programs*



What is Not Working Well?

Priorities youth identified that are not working well in Education include:

- Rising tuition fees for post secondary education*
- Make scholarships and bursaries more well known*
- Expensive and limited living situations for students*
- Difficulty in attracting and retaining good quality teachers/professors*
- The government isn't asking students about their thoughts in terms of education*
- More emphasis on preparing youth for the workforce*
- Lack of an agriculture degree in Brandon*
- Class sizes are too big*
- Lack of funding for new textbooks and technology*
- Teachers/School Boards are being too protective of students, such as canceling field trips due to possible injuries*
- New dress code that was implemented*



What Can Be Done About It?

Priorities youth identified for what can be done about issues in Economic and Social Development include:

Freeze tuition fees

More practical experiences for students to get them ready for the workforce

Creation of additional student residences

Find ways to reduce costs of education for students, such as developing a partial living subsidy for students

Have an agricultural degree program that can be completed in Brandon University

Offer more scholarships and bursaries

Better transportation between high schools

Keep the high school library open later

More security procedures

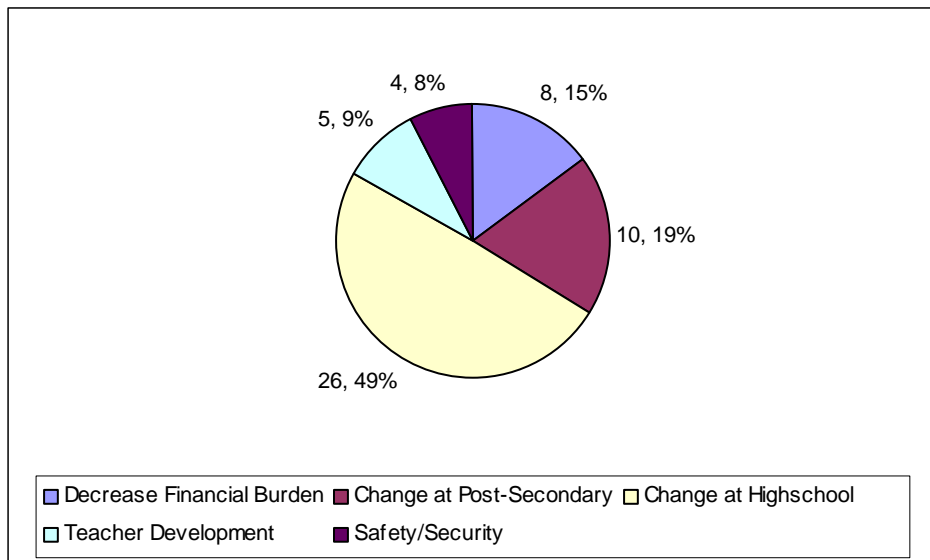
More “Bring your child to work” days

Teachers should be trained to know how to deal with students with special needs

Teachers should have many different teaching methods to assist in student learning

Sexual education should not be taught by teachers, instead by peers and public health nurses

More self-directed learning opportunities



Environment

What is Working Well?

Priorities youth identified for what is working well in the Environment include:

New recycling program with the blue bags

Lots of recycling bins

Communities in Bloom program

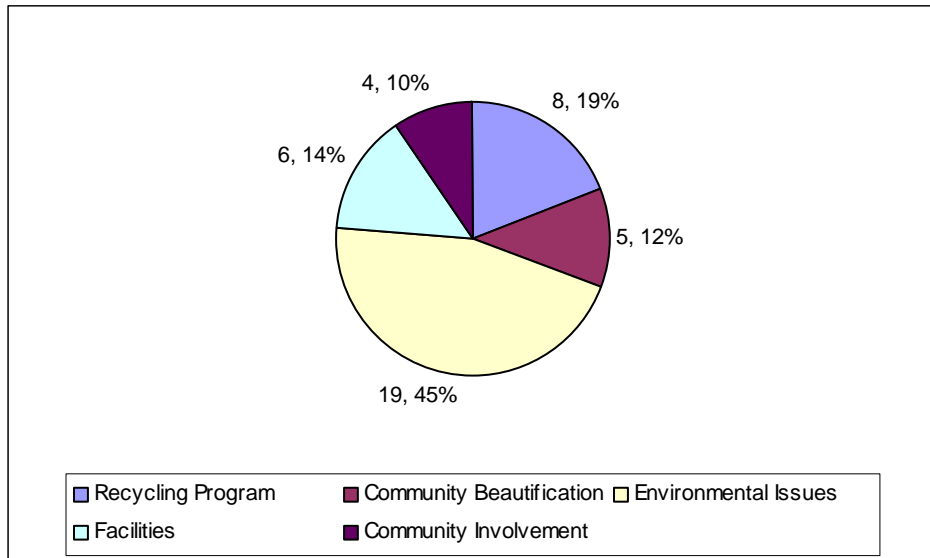
Discovery Centre

Idle free zone signage

Green Team

Lots of walking paths throughout the city

Good garbage pick-up, although sometimes garbage may fall out as they are loading it



What is Not Working Well?

Priorities youth identified that are not working well in the Environment include:

Transit system is not user friendly

Too much reliance on coal and gas

Chemical pollution from plants in Brandon

Brandon is prioritizing development over green space

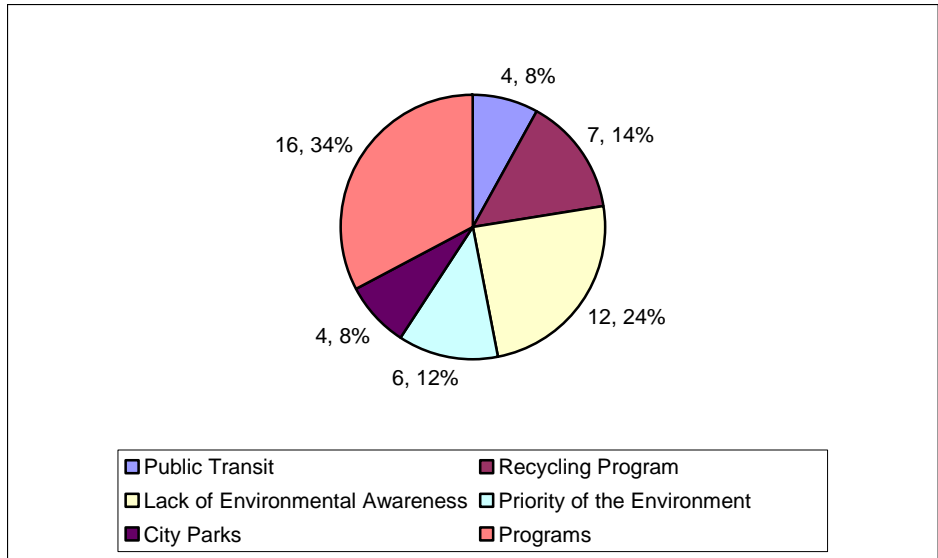
Corral Centre is in a poor location as it is near the walking paths

Parks are dirty, lots of garbage

Pest/mosquito control program needs a lot of work

Run down areas are a safety concern

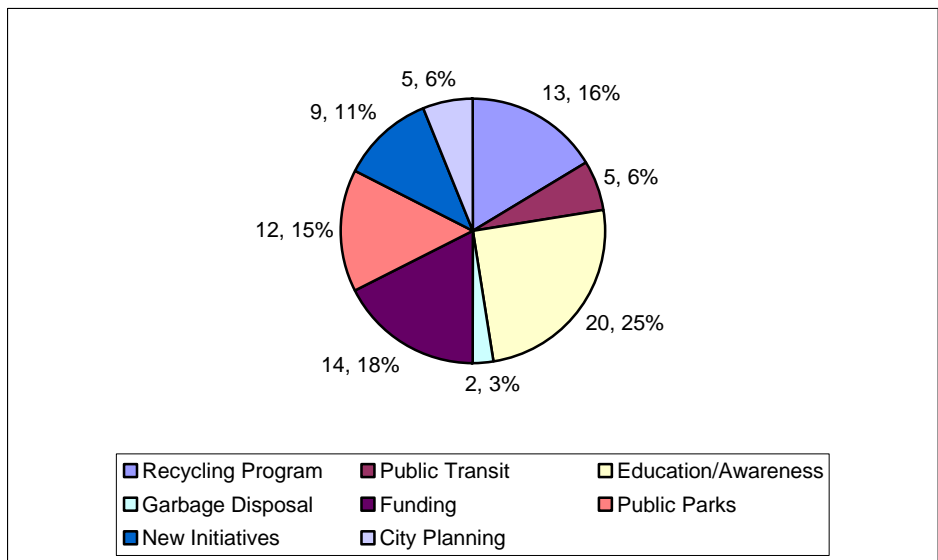
Concerns about the health hazards and chemical run-off into the Assiniboine River



What Can Be Done About It?

Priorities youth identified for what can be done about issues in the Environment include:

- Incentives or rebates for recycling (levy return)*
- More composting*
- Promote recycling and instructions on how to recycle*
- Increase the routes and hours of public transit*
- More green spaces between populated areas*
- More alternative uses of energy, such as wind*
- Placed recreation closer to residential areas to reduce the amount of driving*
- More restaurants need to participate in the bio diesel program*
- Safer methods and chemicals for the mosquito control program*

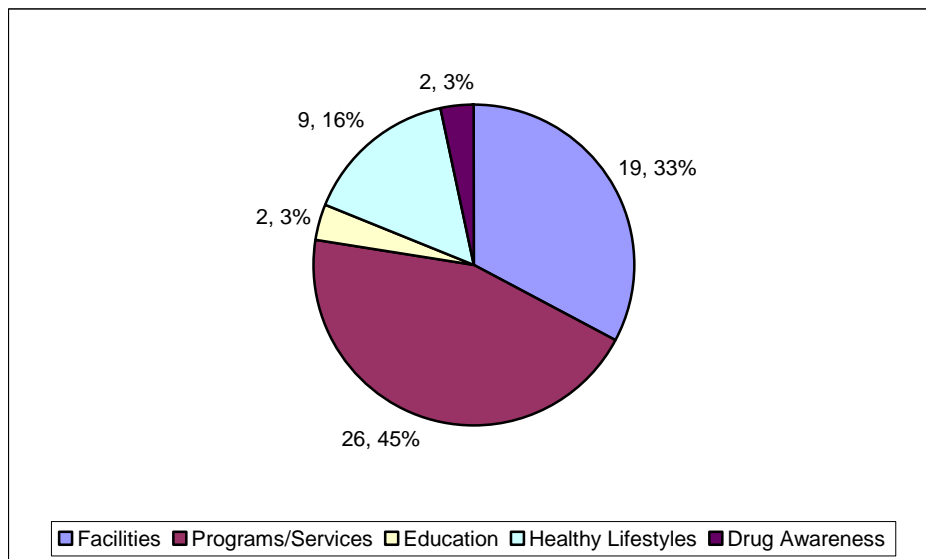


Health

What is Working Well?

Priorities youth identified for what is working well in Health include:

Expansion of the Brandon hospital/health center
7th Street Access Centre
Lots of facilities for promoting physical activity
Blood donor clinic
Response time for ambulance services is good
Having nurse practitioners in the community
Walk-in clinics open late and on weekends
Public health and family planning services
Nursing programs at BU and ACC
Drug forums are held within the city
The smoking ban in public places

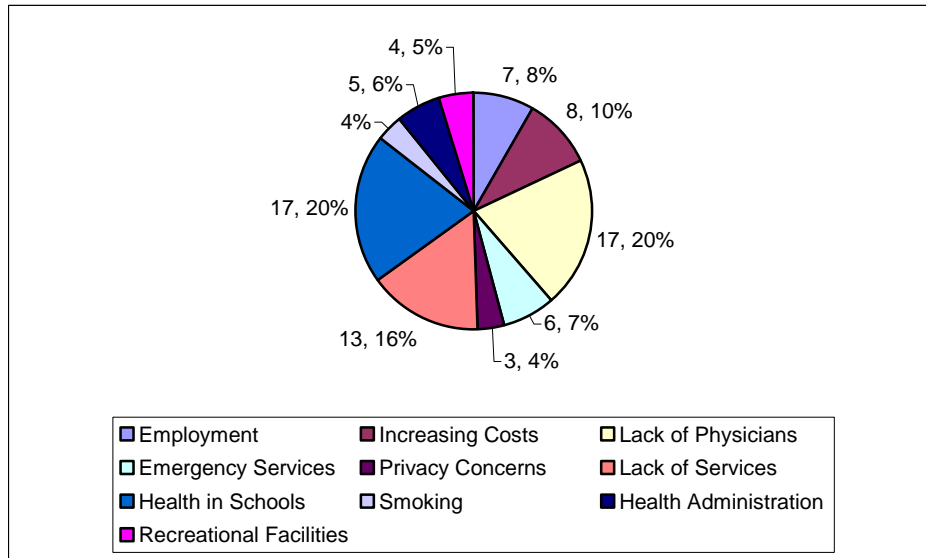


What is Not Working Well?

Priorities youth identified that are not working well in Health include:

Lack of youth employment opportunities in health services ... it is hard for youth to get their foot in the door
Cost of ambulance services is too high
Prescriptions are too expensive
Serious lack of pediatricians
Not enough physicians in the community
Lack of incentives to bring doctors to Brandon
People using the hospital when they could be helped in a clinic
Lack of awareness of what services are offered in Brandon
Lack of senior citizens homes (personal care and assisted living)
Unsanitary bathrooms

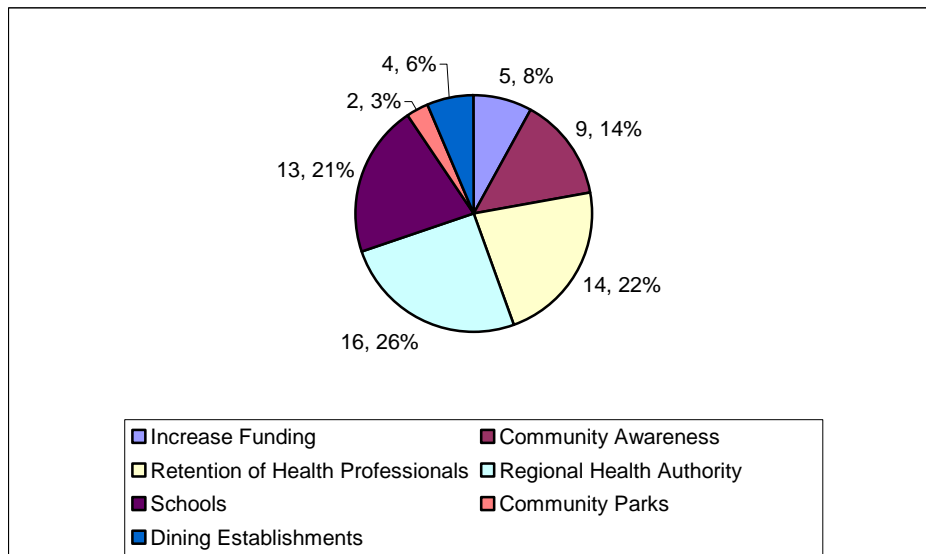
People have to travel to Winnipeg to get some services



What Can Be Done About It?

Priorities youth identified for what can be done about issues in Health include:

- Increase government funding for health services*
- Go into schools to raise awareness regarding health services in Brandon*
- Brandon needs to market what we have to encourage doctors to come and stay here*
- Make a list of doctors available and have it available at the clinics and post on City of Brandon’s website, newspapers, and BRHA website*
- Clinics should be open 24 hours*
- Doctors need to pay more attention to the needs of patients*
- Sex education should be taught by health professionals in the schools*
- Offer better nutrition to students at affordable prices*
- Bring in Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU)*

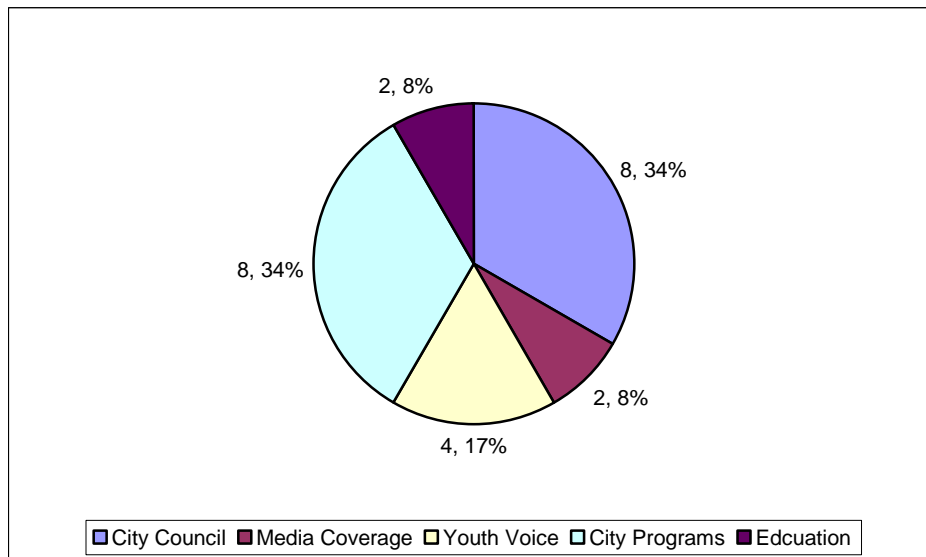


Municipal Government

What is working well?

Priorities youth identified for what is working well in Municipal Government include:

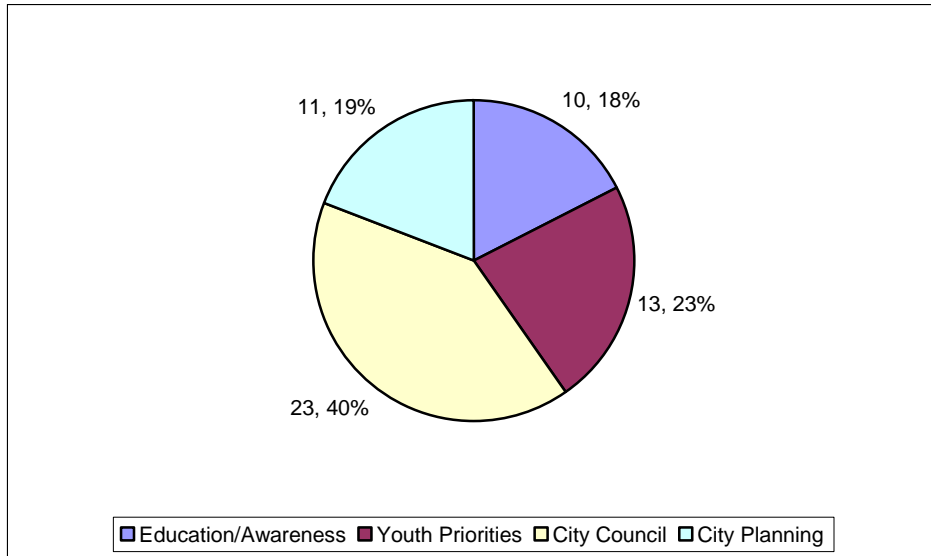
- City Council meetings are on television*
- City Council listens*
- Youth Forums are a step in the right direction*
- City Council is bringing new businesses into Brandon*
- City is kept up-to-date with ebrandon.ca website*
- Students are taught how government works in school*
- City is focusing on the environment, social, and economic projects*



What is not working well?

Priorities youth identified that are not working well in Municipal Government include:

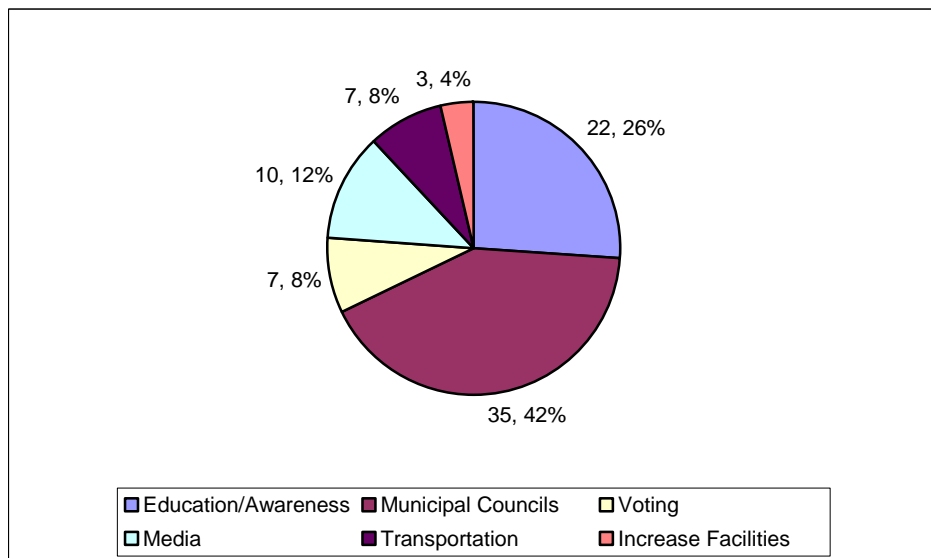
- Youth not properly informed about what is going on*
- Lack of education in regards to municipal government and how the process works*
- Under 18 age group gets forgotten about because we can't vote*
- The government is not planning for today*
- Youth Forums are nice, but do they really listen to the under 30 age group?*
- City Council does not listen*
- City doesn't financially participate in government initiatives*
- Not spending enough money in our own community*
- Unless you are from certain economic backgrounds or families, you don't get much say in Brandon*



What can be done about it?

Priorities youth identified for what can be done about issues in Municipal Government include:

- Educate youth on government*
- Brief updates in the schools about local government*
- Make learning about local government more hands on. Text books are not working*
- Create a mandatory spot on City Council for ages 25 – 40 or 20 – 30*
- More encouragement for Aboriginal people to take part in City Council*
- More youth committees*
- More youth forums*
- City councilors could speak to high school classes*
- Get rid of “West End, East End” mentality*



Recreation

What is Working Well?

Priorities youth identified for what is working well in Recreation include:

Good sporting facilities (i.e. baseball diamonds, hockey rinks, soccer parks)

Good sport programs / leagues

Major festivals (i.e. folk festival, winter festival, festival of the arts, Streetbeat)

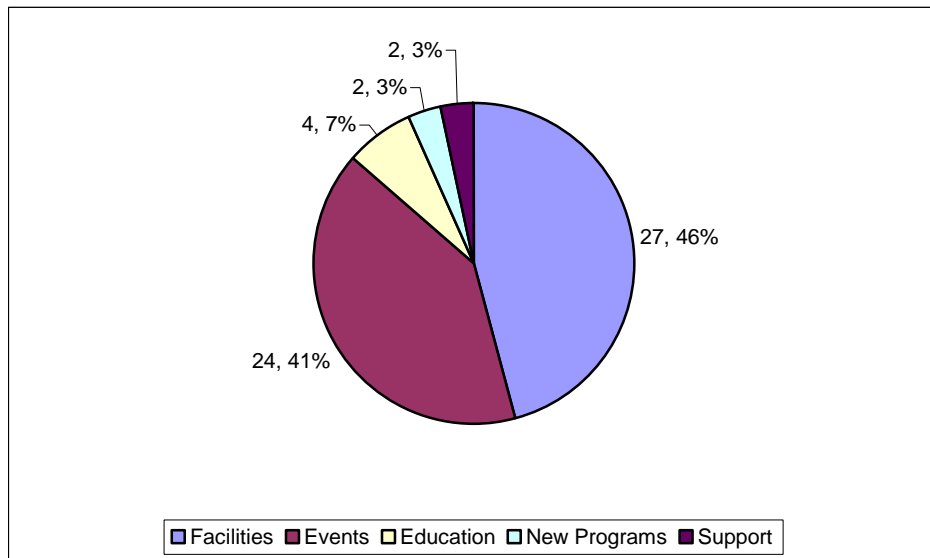
Brandon University Arts Program (Fine Arts), Arts programs in schools, musical programs

YMCA

Theatre (Capitol Theatre, Evans Theatre)

Centennial Auditorium

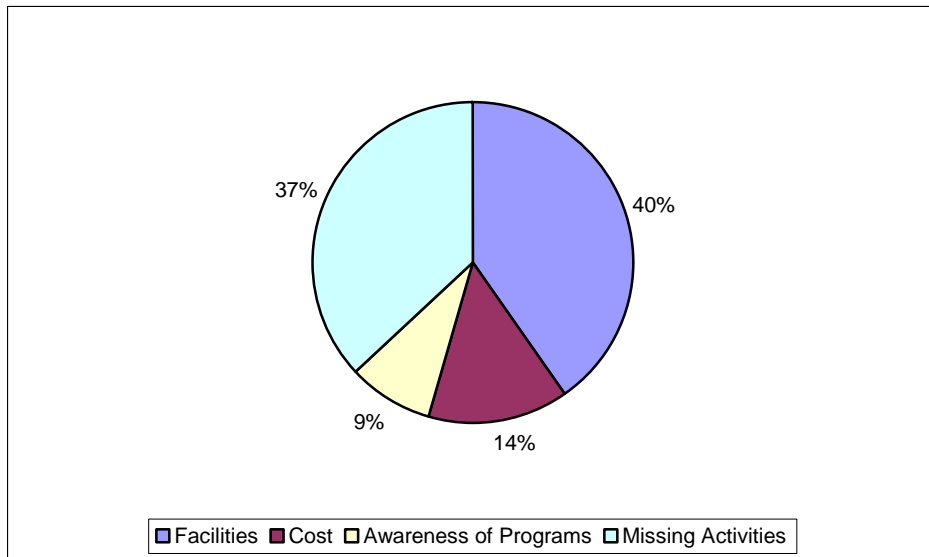
Brandon is supportive of its sports team, businesses spending on teams



What is not working well?

Priorities youth identified that are not working well in Recreation include:

- Parks not taken care of (lack of lights, threat of personal safety)*
- Organized sports expensive – do something to enable all children*
- Lack of communication and publicity (charity walks, lack of information about programs)*
- Lack of sports teams that aren't affiliated with school*
- Youth have nothing to do, youth need more places to go*
- Recreation after high school is not subsidized*
- Lack of public art and sculptures*
- Lack of concerts, night life*



What can be done about it?

Priorities youth identified for what can be done about issues in Recreation include:

Advertise to teens about programs available (i.e. media, website, program co-ordinators would visit school to promote program, posters)

Need to work on advertising to make people aware (i.e. jazz festival, punk show, presentations at community centres)

Improve lighting in certain areas people consider dangerous (leave lights on longer at community outdoor skating rinks)

Need a space (like a bar but no alcohol served, age limit no young kids 15 – 17, not be faith based)

Creating a community arts space (that would include mid size performance space) more money for the arts, provide funds for art classes

Roller skating rink

Bring back the waterslides, bring them closer to town

Create skateboard parks (several smaller ones, easy to access, scattered throughout the city)

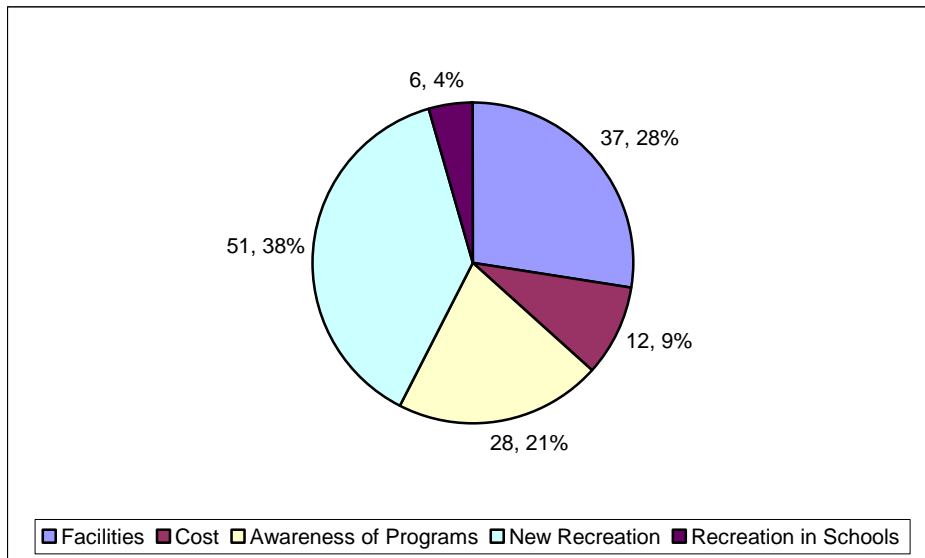
City needs to allocate more money to programs (must get out of the frames of mind that programs must be sefl-sufficient)

Lower high costs associated with sports (i.e. entrance fees, sports equipment, government grants, businesses, extra funding sponsors)

Diversify recreation activities, activities that aren't sports orientated

Increase volunteer levels, need to encourage volunteers, volunteer camps

On school level more focus on music and arts, mandatory programs of arts and recreation in schools



What is on Your Mind?

In addition to the eight formal focus group discussions, youth were also encouraged to contribute general comments. Throughout both of the days, youth wrote comments on a designated board. Listed below are the comments that youth described as “what is on your mind”.

- Better hazardous waste facilities
- It is frustrating to hear politicians obsessively worried about financial costs as if financial costs are the only important factors while neglecting others. For example: talk about policing or fire being over budget. Police / fire are essential services that need to be provided, and cannot be run as a business who’s goal is making money.
- Better ball diamonds
- More incentives for youths, that allows them to come
- Allow young people to buy a house
- Better parking at education centres
- Affordable recreation for low incomes
- A cultural centre for families to learn about other cultures
- The Mayor (local government) keeps giving too many favours to fundamentalists / evangelicals (sending reps to U.S. evangelical thing on cities / taxpayers money, Prayer meeting in office, soliciting donations by fundraising) while pre-judging and discriminating against minority religions and faithless community. Throw Burgess out!
- Transportation: Little vans that cruise around each one has somewhat of a route they follow, can drift. People can wave them down pay a small fee and catch a ride.
- More cultural awareness in educational systems
- Brandon needs to build partnerships with outside and Aboriginal communities. I would like to see Brandon be more welcoming and comfortable to Aboriginal people. More equal opportunities in all areas!
- A big thank you to the organizers. The Youth 1 Forum was a success and a great opportunity for the youth to be heard. We should have one every year!
- This should be a yearly event. Get the youth together to talk about Brandon once a year. Information spreading. I learned a lot about what is currently going on in Brandon here.
- Having an impressive building where the community can get together is important.
- Work seriously and honestly in dealing with the gang issue and drug trade in Brandon. Working towards this can be done in all 8 areas. Make Brandon a Healthy and Safe community
- Brandon lacks enough treatment facilities for youth trying to quit drugs. When they finally try to stop and get help they’re turned away!
- When older people are in Assiniboine centre there is not enough personal care for patience. Family have to come feed patients for them if they need help.
- 24 hour recreation centre/facility
- Teenage ran section of the newspaper (even if it’s the wheat city journal)

- Employment for youth can be hard to find. Why?
- We NEED way more money for education. The curriculum is out of date, as well as our text books. Last time I checked we weren't in the 80's!! NEW TEXTBOOKS!!!!
- Thank you 4 the smoking ban
- The Youth in Brandon have nothing to do.
- Pete got me interested in Agriculture
- We should have more times like today where we meet with other youth to share opinions
- TATU!!
- Locks on bathrooms
- Woo hoo for zero trans fat chips!!
- Farmers ARE NOT a tax burden!!
- I would take part in a youth council
- Jamie made us feel like we mattered and had an opinion
- We like mixed cultures (especially on hockey teams)
- Thanks for wanting to hear my opinion
- Errol Lee – I'm somebody – respect
- I appreciate the Mohawk guys interest in the youth
- This whole day made me realize youth do have a voice
- Bigger skate board park made by skaters to keep us skaters off your building and place more rails more sets of stairs in the park from 3 – 10 stairs like one of each and in a better location in Brandon because the other one is too far out of our way
- Teens Against Tobacco Use
- We should have debate teams in high school
- Should have different kinds of food in schools (for ex. Asian, aboriginal, German food) For aboriginal food you could have bannock, fry bread, deer meat and those kinds of things

Open Session

At the end of the Youth 1 Forum, youth were also given an opportunity to comment on the youth forum and to ask questions. The following illustrates the information that was shared during the Open Session.

- Many not associated with education, people bring specific training and the city does very little to keep people with special unique training in the community. The city needs to do something to keep well trained people in the community
- Glad to see that this took place, an opportunity to make a positive change. We the young people have to start to initiate change in the community. Wanted to thank the committee for organizing the day.
- Is this something that you want to see happen again?
 - Yes – crowd cheered & clapped
- Where can participants see this information compiled?
 - Mike answered that it will be on the www.ebrandon.ca website and the city of Brandon website.
- If anyone wanted to get involved contact us – encouraged to get involved
- TATU – teens against tobacco use!
- The youth forum was a lot of fun – I got a lot out of it, I'm glad that the city of Brandon is finally listening to what we have to say!
- I think that this youth forum was very well done and should be spread around the world to let youth give input

Moving Forward

Brandon youth are pleased to put this summary forward for discussion and planning by the community. They recognize that the community will identify other information topics to be considered and are encouraged to do so. This summary is seen as building on the *Shaping Tomorrow Together*, Brandon's community planning document. Perspectives and comments from the Youth 1 Forum in many ways parallel prior discussions that occurred in the development of Brandon's community plan, however, there are instances where youth have further extrapolated or brainstormed new and different variables. Together, the *Shaping Tomorrow Together* and the *One City, One Voice* reports compliment each other.

The process of moving forward will be a dynamic process and will involve various individuals and organizations in the community. Youth of Brandon have taken an important first step. Realizing that they have an opportunity to contribute to the future of the city, over 190 youth shared their ideas and vision for Brandon. Youth described not only the current state of their community, but also what is required to achieve community goals, hopes, and aspirations. Youth also valued the process and believed strongly that this type of event should occur again in the future.

The *One City, One Voice* document could and should be circulated to organizations and institutions with Brandon. For a copy of this report or the Appendix, please visit www.brandonu.ca/rdi, www.ebrandon.ca, or www.brandon.ca. For more information, please contact

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Youth 1 Forum: Pictures



