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Airdrie beats out bigger communities for lowest taxes for residents and businesses

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – Airdrie home and business owners are reaping the benefits of location. Alberta Municipal Affairs released the latest Financial Indicator Report showing Airdrie has the lowest average net municipal property taxes per capita of the five communities in their group – 25% percent lower than average and 42% percent below the group maximum.

“Airdrie can take pride in the fact that the City’s total operating expenditures per capita and tax rates remain comparatively favourable,” says Dorian Kachur, Business Strategy Team Leader, City of Airdrie. “Continued strong population and assessment growth is translating into a lower tax rate – the lowest in the group.”

In previous years, Airdrie was typically compared to a group of eighteen urban municipalities, all smaller than Airdrie in population. This year, Airdrie has been included with five cities, all with larger populations. Those cities include: Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat, St. Albert, Lethbridge and Red Deer. Lethbridge’s data was not available at the time that the data was compiled.

“We are so pleased and proud of our standing amongst these other cities,” says Mayor Linda Bruce. “The results can be attributed to the diligence of administration, the Finance Committee and Council during the budgeting process.”

As Airdrie's net municipal property taxes per capita are the lowest in the grouping and 25% below the median value. This figure is 8.5% higher than 2006 levels, increasing 37% since 2002, while the median for the group has increased 54% during that time. These numbers are not adjusted for inflation which was 20.6% since 2002, meaning taxes per capita have increased only 16.4% over five years, and are 42% below the group maximum.

Airdrie's total operating expenditures per capita are the lowest in the group and significantly below median values by 14.4%, a gap that has favourably widened from last year’s 9.5%. This figure is also 29.8% below the group maximum.

“The fact that Airdrie’s total operating expenditures per capita are the lowest in the group shows we are delivering services to residents at an efficient rate,” says Kachur. “We will continue to strive to provide the best value for the taxpayer.”

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