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Airdrie Taxpayers Receive Great Value

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – Airdrie home and business owners continue to be in an enviable situation when it comes to value for their tax dollar. Alberta Municipal Affairs released the latest Financial Indicator Report showing Airdrie again has the lowest average net municipal property taxes per capita of the six communities in their group by an increasingly widening gap – 32 per cent lower than the median and 55 per cent below the group maximum. As well, Airdrie’s taxes per capita actually went down slightly year-over-year.

“These most recent benchmarks provide audited, verifiable third-party information that indicates that Airdrie is a fiscally responsible and economically sustainable municipality, delivering quality service at much lower than average cost,” says Dorian Kachur, Business Strategy Team Leader, City of Airdrie.

According to the report, Airdrie also has the lowest expenditures per capita. “While we spend the least per capita, we still maintain the incredibly high overall citizen satisfaction rate of 98 per cent. The data provides Airdrie residents and businesses with assurance that they are continuing to receive exceptional value for their tax dollar and sound fiscal stewardship,” added Kachur.

Airdrie has again been compared with six cities, all with larger populations. Those cities include: Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat, St. Albert, Lethbridge and Red Deer. Airdrie’s total operating expenditures per capita are again the lowest in the group by a very substantial 32 per cent margin. This statistic is particularly meaningful, as while each municipality delivers services differently (for example, a contracted service versus their own staffed service), each delivers essentially the same services or basket of goods. All of those costs, regardless of delivery method, are captured in the total operating expenditures for every municipality.

Highlights from the report show Airdrie far below the median per capita cost in all major categories including:

- 56 per cent lower than the median in spending on materials, goods, supplies and utilities
- 49 per cent lower than the median in expenditures on contracted and general services
- 46 per cent lower than the median in long term debt
- 37 per cent lower than the median on transportation expenditures
- 30 per cent lower than the media on personnel costs
- 29 per cent lower than the median in residential and 34 per cent lower in non-residential tax rates

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“Administration is very pleased to be able to deliver such outstanding results to the Airdrie taxpayer. A lot of collective effort on the part of staff, Finance Advisory Committee and Council goes into keeping expenditures down and providing effective service delivery to the community, contributing to resident’s very high quality of life. ”

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Dorian Kachur
Business Strategy Team Leader
City of Airdrie
(403) 948-8800 ext. 8759
dorian.kachur@airdrie.ca
www.airdrie.ca