



Data Walk What We Heard Report

Does Poverty Exist in Stony Plain?



stonypain.com/



Throughout the Summer of 2026, the Town of Stony Plain hosted a data walk to discuss the question: Does poverty exist in Stony Plain?

A data walk is an interactive way to share community data and invite people to respond to what they see. Visual displays help residents explore local data, share what it means to them, and contribute their perspectives and lived experiences. The goal is to build understanding, create space for conversation, recognize different perspectives, and encourage residents to think about how we can respond to poverty together.

The data walk was promoted through neighbourhood bulletin boards, community posters and the Town's social media channels. Residents could share their feedback through an online survey.

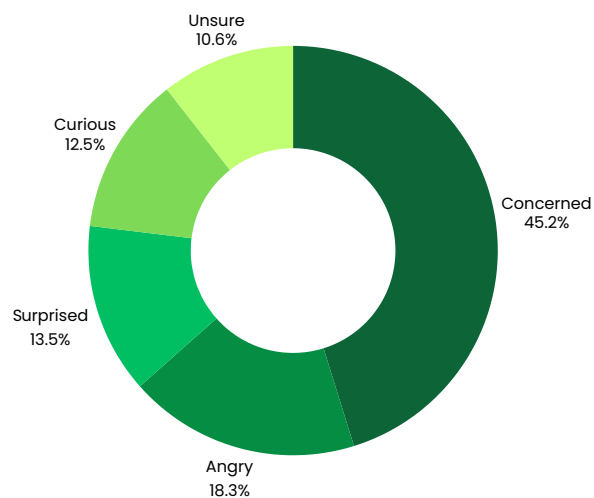
68 residents provided feedback through the survey.

A bit about who responded...

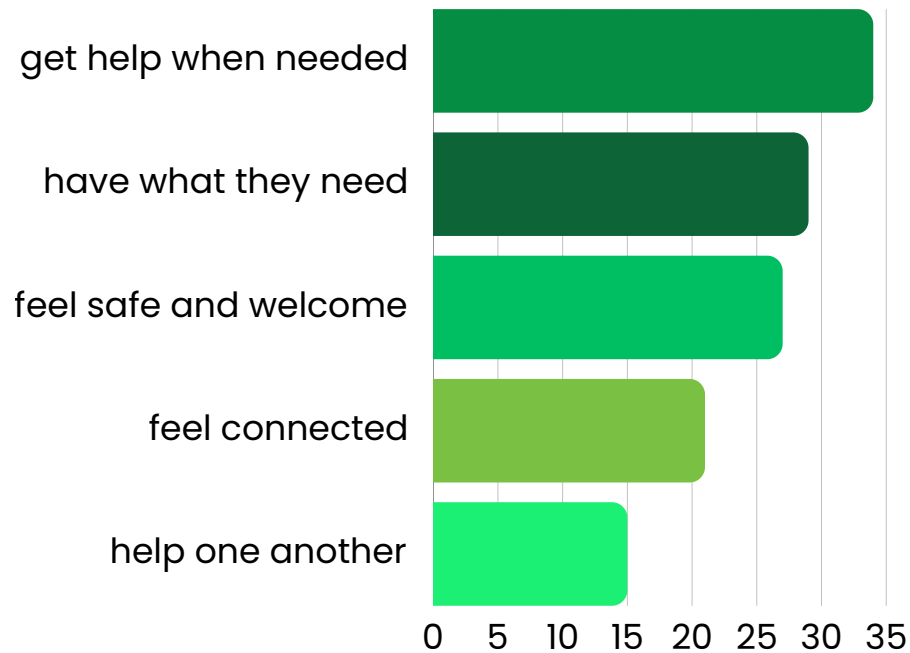
When asked how they felt about their financial situation, **only 11% felt they were doing well**; 47% were managing; and 41% were facing difficulties.

13% of respondents felt their current housing situation was not meeting their needs; compared to 32% who were facing housing challenges and 49% who felt they were doing well.

How people felt about the data...



Respondents agreed that, in a thriving community, people...



33% of respondents feel people in Stony Plain need more support.

25% of respondents feel people in Stony Plain are struggling and **24%** feel there are gaps in Stony Plain supports.



Making Sense of Local Data

Housing Affordability

Residents are concerned about the availability and cost of housing, particularly for low-income residents, seniors, single adults and people at risk of homelessness.

Key Insight

Poverty is not necessarily experienced as unemployment. Housing costs can create financial insecurity even for people who are working and contributing to the community.

Working Poverty

Several comments challenge the idea that poverty is simply about unemployment. Residents described working full-time, working multiple jobs, or earning minimum wage while still struggling to afford basic needs.

Key Insight

The responses reinforce the importance of distinguishing between unemployment, underemployment, low wages and working poverty.





Local Services Matter

Residents identified gaps in affordable housing, affordable groceries, recreation, health care and opportunities to connect and support one another.

Who's Responsible?

Some residents want stronger government/ community supports, while others emphasized employment, personal responsibility and limiting government intervention.

Myths and Concerns

Some comments connected homelessness with crime, immigration and community safety. Others demonstrated a desire to better understand homelessness and highlighted how difficult it can be to find appropriate local supports.

Key Insight

Residents are not only identifying problems—they are asking for practical ways to participate in solutions.

Key Insight

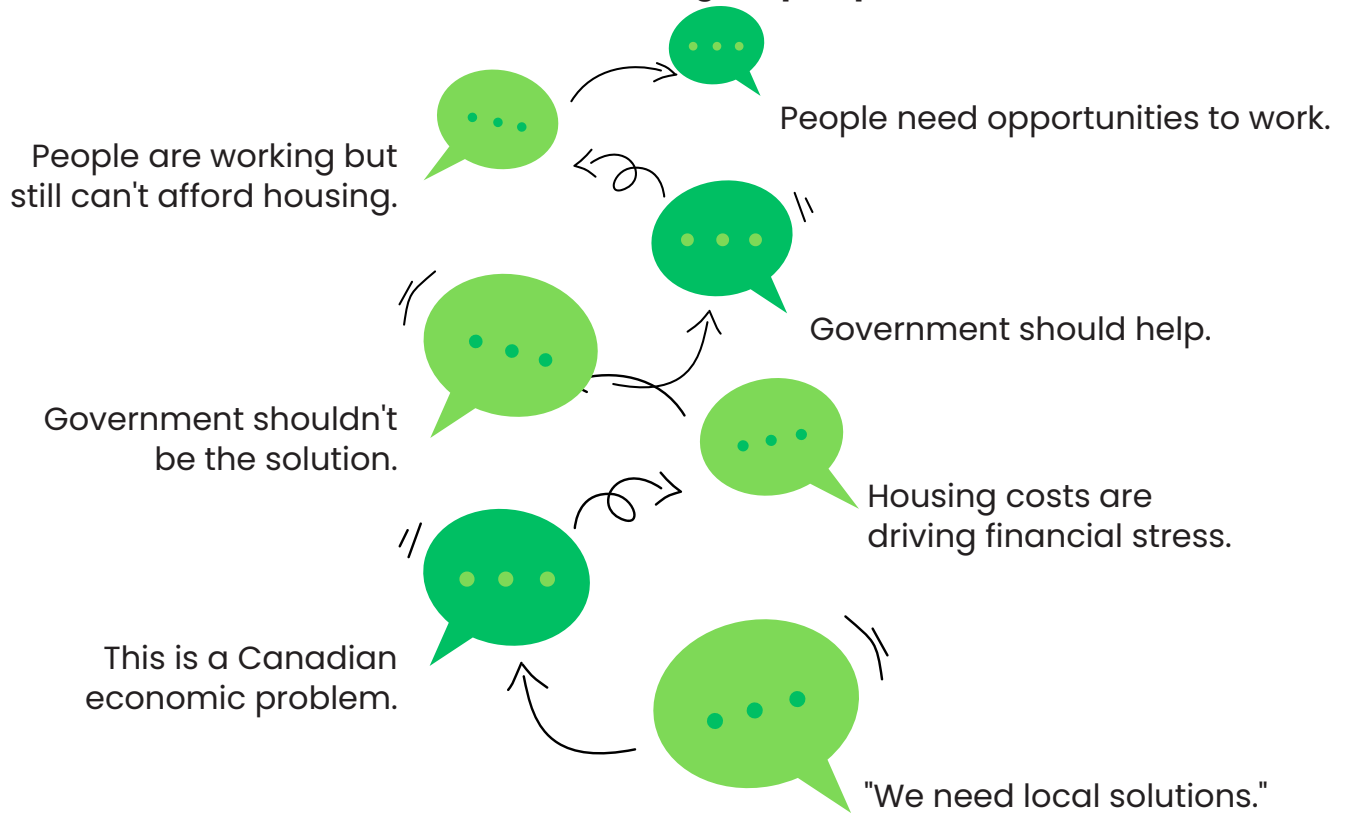
There is not a single community consensus about how poverty should be addressed. Any community conversation about poverty will need to acknowledge both the desire for supports and concerns about taxation, government responsibility and individual responsibility.

Key Insight

The responses reveal a need for continued public education about homelessness, housing insecurity and the local service system, particularly around the difference between someone being unhoused and someone experiencing broader housing instability.

Poverty is being understood as a community issue— but not everyone understands it the same way.

The feedback reveal a range of perspectives:



Learn more about the Stony Plain Poverty Reduction Strategy.
stonyplain.com/poverty

What's next

The conversation revealed both empathy and misconceptions—highlighting the importance of continuing to build understanding about poverty, housing insecurity and homelessness in our community. Community needs to create space for residents to examine assumptions and have conversations about what poverty looks like locally.

"I'm so glad you are doing this work. It's incredibly important."



stonyplain.com/poverty