

What has happened since the survey went out?

- Oscar's Place has extended hours from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, they are in discussion with the Salvation Army to take on management, clients collect garbage with COPPs, and they have an odd job crew.
- The Town of The Pas met with Swampy Cree Tribal Council to discuss transient and homeless members coming to The Pas. SCTC is putting together a working group to address the issue.



Oscar's Place Survey Report – Executive Summary

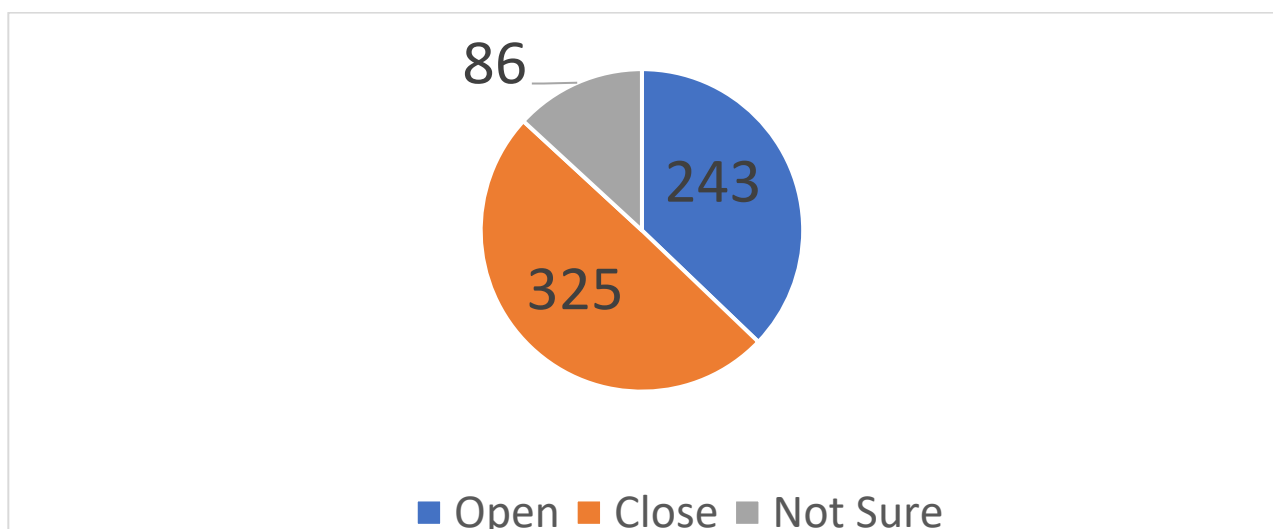
August 2020

The purpose of this survey is, in part, to inform the Crime Prevention: Community Capacity and Mobilization Initiative known as 'Make Shift Happen.' It is one piece of the larger assessment that will be used together with numerous resources, consultations, interviews and research to develop an overall tri-community crime prevention strategy. A convenience sample was used, the results cannot be generalized to the entire population. For details on design, methodology and analysis please refer to the full report.

657 surveys were collected, 5.5% of the area's population, 8.3% of the Town of The Pas population (based on Manitoba Health Population Report: June 1, 2016).

OPEN OR CLOSE OSCAR'S PLACE?

- Survey respondents are divided in terms of why they do (50%) or don't (37%) want Oscar's Place to close. A majority suggest it should be closed, however 13% remain undecided.
- There are similarities in comments between those who want to keep it open and those who want it closed in terms of what they view as the (1) underlying causes and their (2) potential suggestions.
- When all categorized comments are combined there is greater clarity.
- When all comments are combined, the top four **underlying causes** of the many and differing issues with Oscar's place become clearer:
 - a. *The increasing number of visitors that Oscar's Place attracts from communities outside the Pas are increasing demands.*
 - b. *This is an issue of untreated, complex addictions.*
 - c. *There is a lack of programs and services to address underlying issues e.g. day programs, counselling, affordable housing, jobs.*
 - d. *Oscar's Place is not functioning as originally intended.*
 - e. When all comments were combined for "suggested solutions", the significant finding was:
 - **Respond to the complexity.**

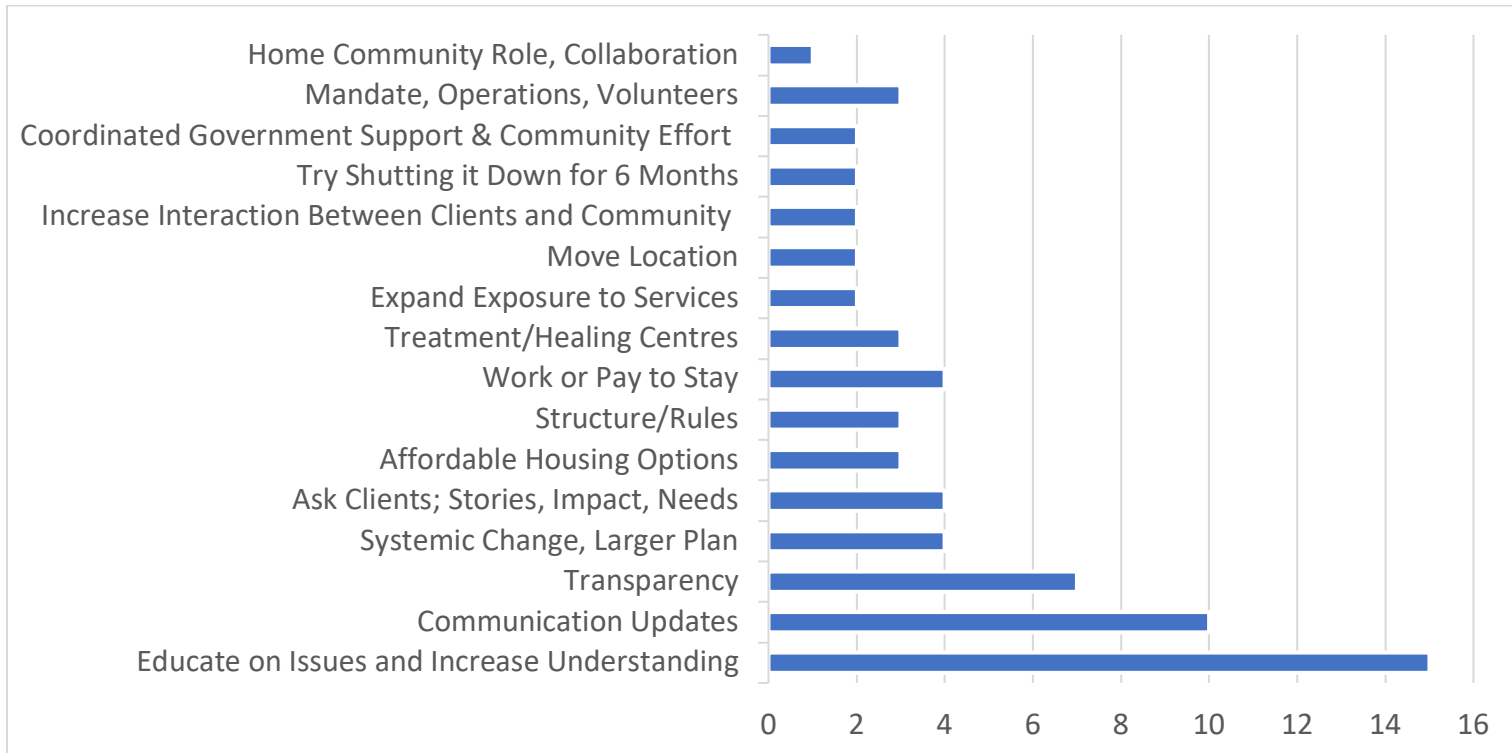


What information do you need?

There is a lack of awareness and understanding of Oscar's Place. Respondents are concerned about a lack of transparency citing a lack of public communication and information sharing. Other questions are related to:

- collaboration with other service agencies, other local action and long-term plans
- potential alternatives focused on systemic issues
- home community support and reintegration
- education regarding homelessness and transient populations and underlying causes

Participants want to find solutions by learning from other communities that have successfully dealt with the issue. Other **suggested solutions** can be seen on the chart below.



What changes are needed?

A combination of changes related to larger social issues and those specific to Oscar's Place suggests:

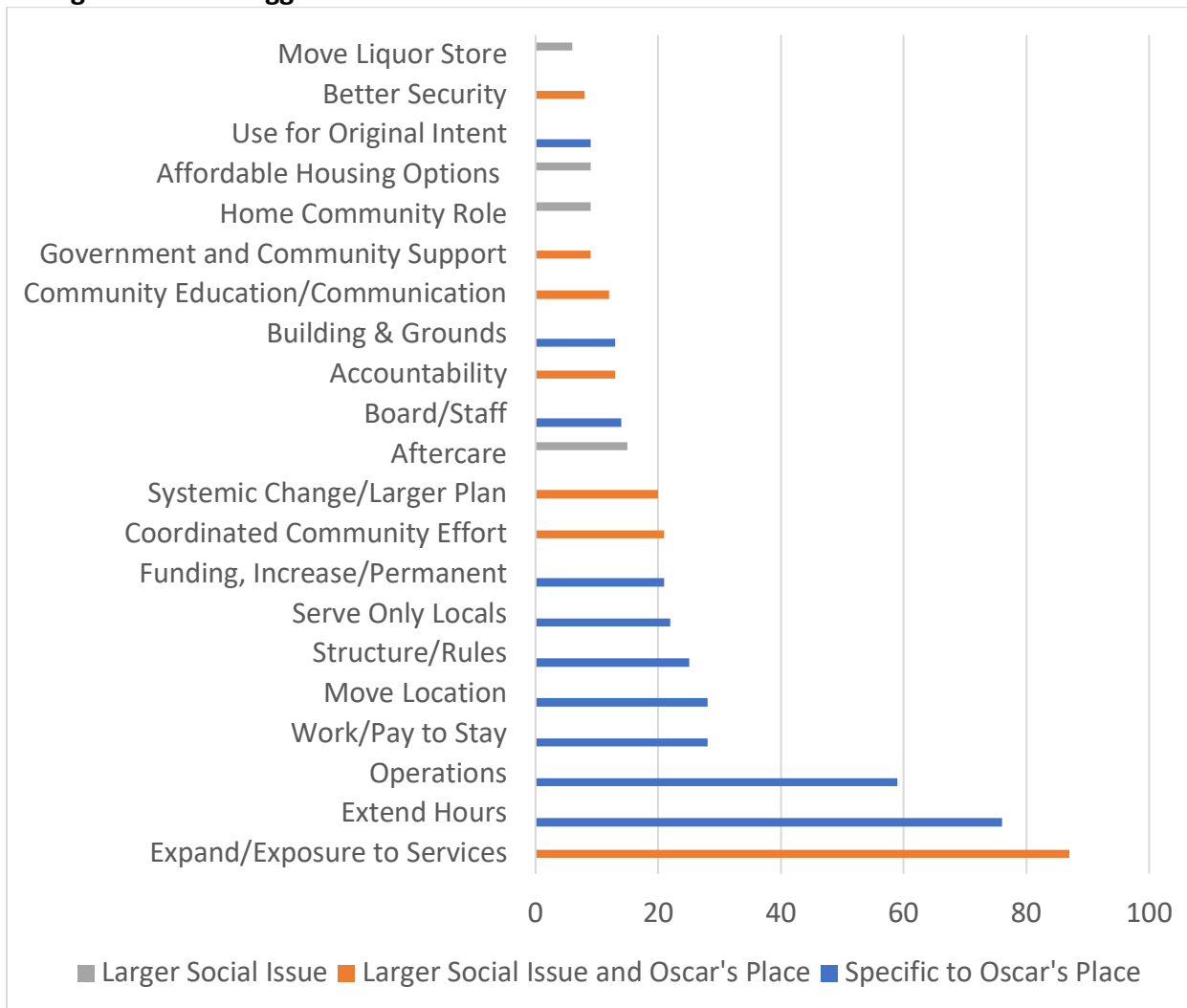
- Respond to the complexity of the underlying causes with an expansion of services and/or coordinated referrals, integrated services, aftercare and transitional services, affordable housing, treatment centres, focus on education, communication and accountability.*
- Address homelessness through a coordinated response from a social, health, and housing perspective.*
- The role and responsibility of home communities is imperative with reintegration back to home communities seen as "high priority".*

More specific to Oscar's Place:

- Extend Oscar's Place hours to provide a place for individuals to go during the day*
- Improve or change the operations of Oscar's Place*
- Work/pay to stay, client accountability and responsibility*
- Move location away from the downtown core*
- Serve only local people*
- Use Oscar's Place for its original intent*
- Revisit Board structure and directors to ensure more engagement and ownership for its success*
- Provide more and permanent funding for increased services, more and better-trained staff, programs*

Sentiments shared throughout responses included a sense of hopelessness, “no hope”, not knowing how to address the issue, “I don’t know, there is no easy answer,” and the desire to go beyond “band aid” solutions.

Changes Needed: Suggested Solutions



Values

- While there is anger and frustration in evidence, there are also many respondents who convey kindness, compassion, and an understanding that this is about broader issues and underlying causes that will require community engagement, collaboration, and cross-sectoral initiatives to resolve.
- There is a general understanding of the complexity of the issue of Oscar’s Place. However, that complexity has contributed to frustration as there isn’t a collective vision or coordinated effort for the future.
- While there are indications that people want to contribute to fixing the issues, there is also acknowledgement that this needs to be about having a broader view of the current situation rather than blaming Oscar's Place or "outsiders". As one respondent put it, “...We are all outsiders unless we are Swampy Cree, Metis, or Ojibway...they were here long before the buildings and bridge existed. Instead of continued relocations, how about...living with and caring for each other in the North?”
- It is generally acknowledged that wherever possible the Town of The Pas, RM of Kelsey, and OCN will need to be involved in generating shared solutions.

Please refer to the final report for a complete summary of the survey including options for moving forward.

To view the Final Report visit:

<http://fourward.ca/Oscar's%20Place%20Survey%20Summary%20FINAL%202.0.pdf>