



AMALGAMATION SURVEY REPORT

APRIL 2021

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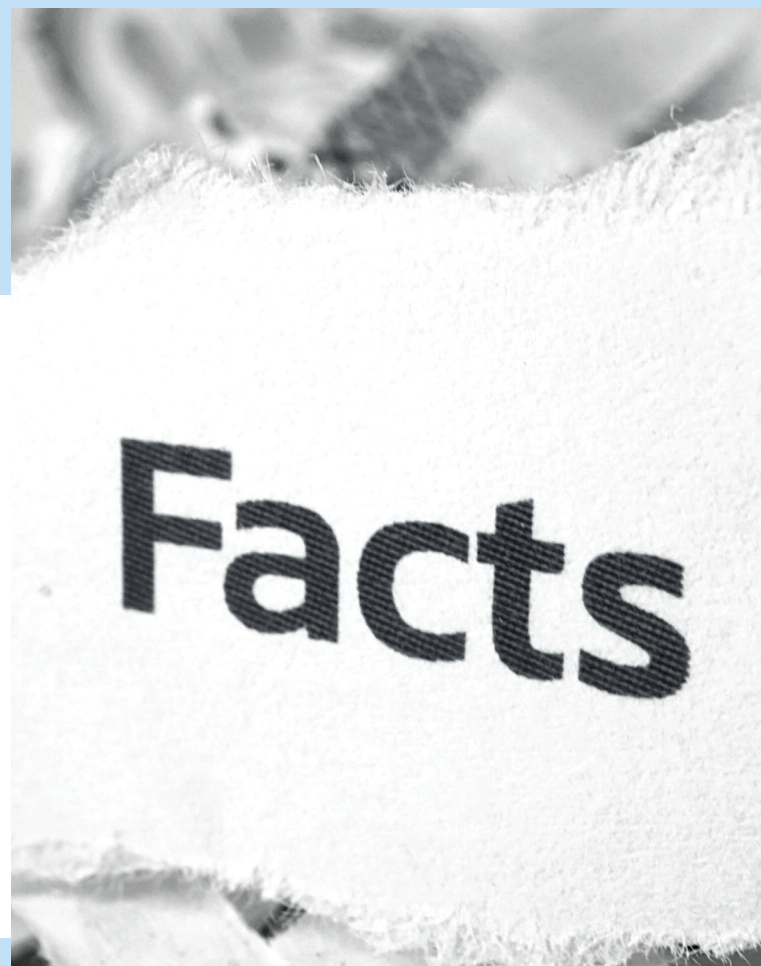
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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet Amalgamation Survey was to determine the level of support Lac du Bonnet residents have for the RM to conduct an amalgamation fact-finding study that would outline the positives and negatives of amalgamating the RM and the Town of Lac du Bonnet.



METHODOLOGY

The Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet Amalgamation Survey was open between November 11, 2020 and March 19, 2021. The original deadline was Jan. 31, 2021, but it was extended once as Code Red COVID-19 restrictions put in place soon after the survey launched prevented the survey from being distributed to local businesses and other strategic locations.

The survey was open to all residents of the RM and Town of Lac du Bonnet, whether permanent or seasonal.

The survey was available to fill out online on SurveyMonkey, available as a PDF on the RM website to fill out and submit to the RM's administrative office, and available as a paper copy at the RM office and area businesses.

The survey was frequently advertised on the RM's social media pages. In late January, a flyer was sent in the mail to RM and Town residents encouraging them to participate.



SURVEY QUESTIONS


The questions for the survey were developed by the survey author in consultation with amalgamation consultant Robert (Bob) Brown and the RM of Lac du Bonnet's Chief Administrative Officer.

The questions on the online version of the survey were as followed:

1. Are you a resident of the RM or a resident of the Town?
2. Are you a full-time or seasonal resident?
3. What is your property ownership/rental status?
4. Did you know that the RM and Town of Lac du Bonnet are separate entities and each have their own Council, budgets, and strategic operating plans?
5. Did you see any of the content the RM created and published this summer about amalgamation on their website or social media?
6. Have you spoken with the RM's Reeve or Councillors, or the Town's Mayor and Councillors, regarding amalgamation at any time in the past?
7. Are you in favour of a study being done to explore the positives and negatives (e.g. operational efficiencies, financial costs/benefits, etc.) of amalgamating the RM and Town of Lac du Bonnet?
8. Do you have any additional comments or information you would like to provide?

On paper versions of the survey the number of the questions above were 3 through 10. Question 1 on the paper survey was "Please provide your name (first and last)" and Question 2 was "Please provide your physical address."

On the online version, the personal information section was not a numbered question.

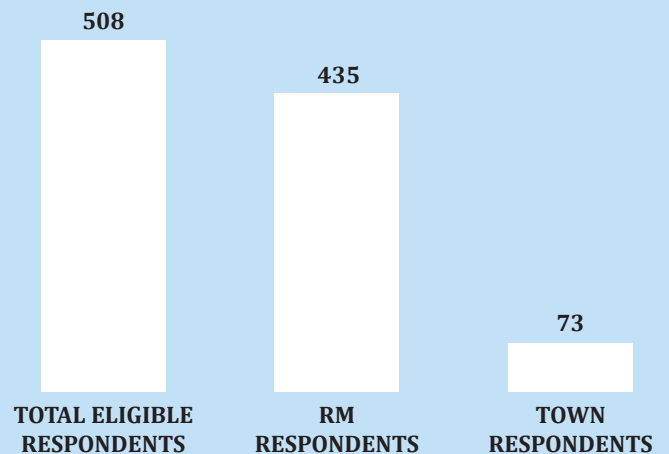


SURVEY RESULTS

RESPONDENTS

In total, 525 surveys were submitted. 17 were deemed ineligible due to respondents either not following instructions or not filling out the contact information section with the required information (such as putting fake names or “anonymous” or not including an address.)

Therefore, 508 responses were included in the statistical analysis.



LEVEL OF SUPPORT

YES
83.26%

423 of all respondents said they'd be in favour of a study being done.

NO
16.74%

85 of all respondents said they would not be in favour of a study being done.

The main purpose of the survey was to determine if Lac du Bonnet residents were in favour of a study being done to explore the positives and negatives (e.g. operational efficiencies, financial costs/benefits, etc.) of amalgamating the RM and Town of Lac du Bonnet.

RM RESIDENTS

YES
79.31%

354 RM residents were in favour of the study.

NO
20.69%

81 RM residents were not in favour of the study

TOWN RESIDENTS

YES
94.52%

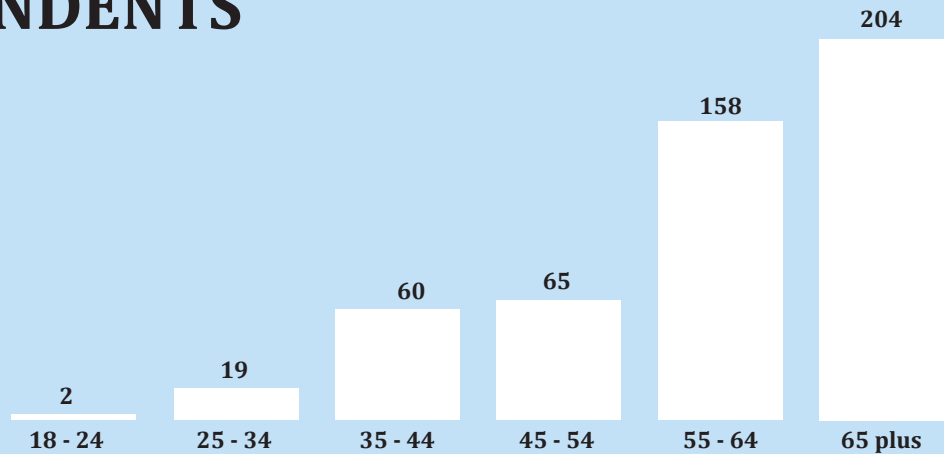
69 Town residents were in favour of the study.

NO
5.48%

4 Town residents were not in favour of the study.

AGE OF RESPONDENTS

18-24 - 2, 0.003 %
 25-34 - 19, 0.3 %
 35-44 - 60, 11.85%
 45-54 - 65, 12.79 %
 55-64 - 158, 31.22 %
 65-plus - 204, 40.15 %

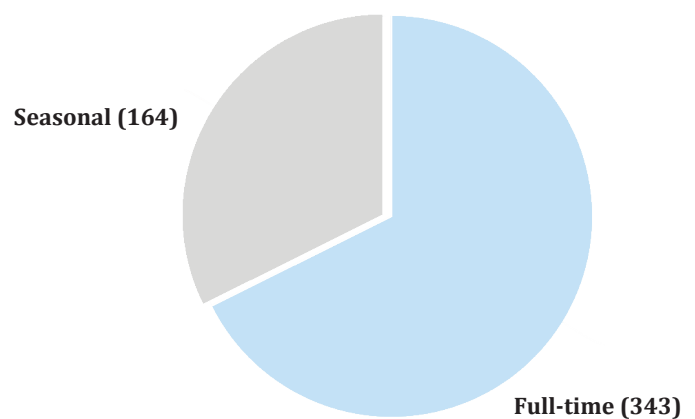


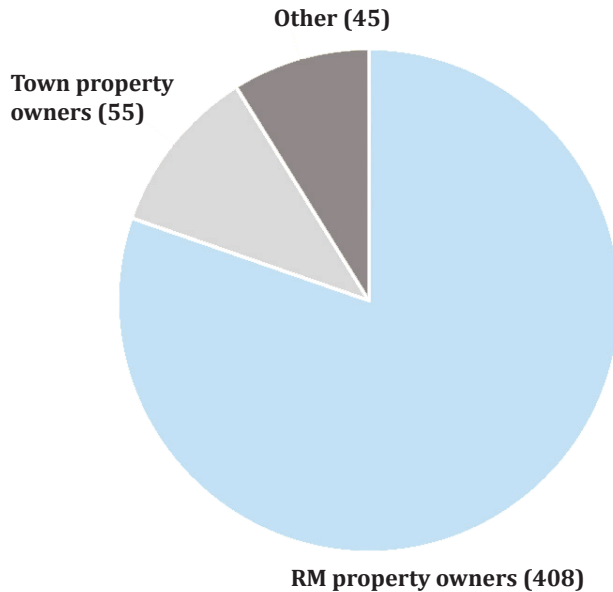
The age of respondents skewed sharply to the older side, with the most respondents being 65-plus, followed by those 55-64. This is in line with what was expected as Lac du Bonnet's median age according to the 2016 census was 54.2, as there are many full-time and seasonal residents who are retirees.

FULL TIME VS SEASONAL

343 (67.51%) respondents reported being full-time residents and 164 (32.28%) reported being seasonal residents.

1 respondent skipped the question.





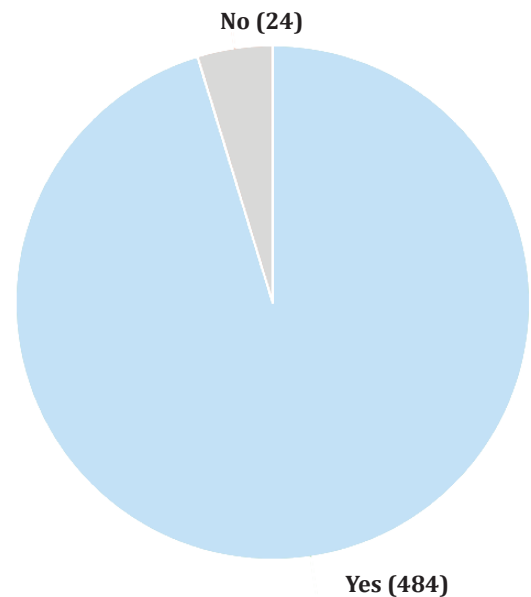
PROPERTY OWNERSHIP STATUS

The majority of respondents (408, 80.31%) were RM property owners. In a distant second were Town property owners (55, 10.82%).

The remaining 45 respondents (8.85%) either own property in both the RM and Town, rent in either the RM or the Town, or do not rent or own a property but live in the RM or Town.

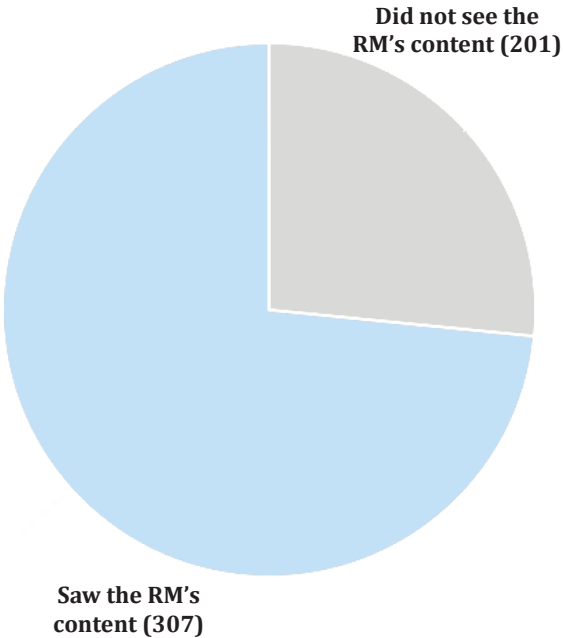
AWARENESS OF RM AND TOWN AS SEPARATE ENTITIES

484 (95.27%) of respondents knew that the RM and Town are separate entities and each have their own Council, budgets, and strategic operating plans. 24 respondents (4.73%) did not.



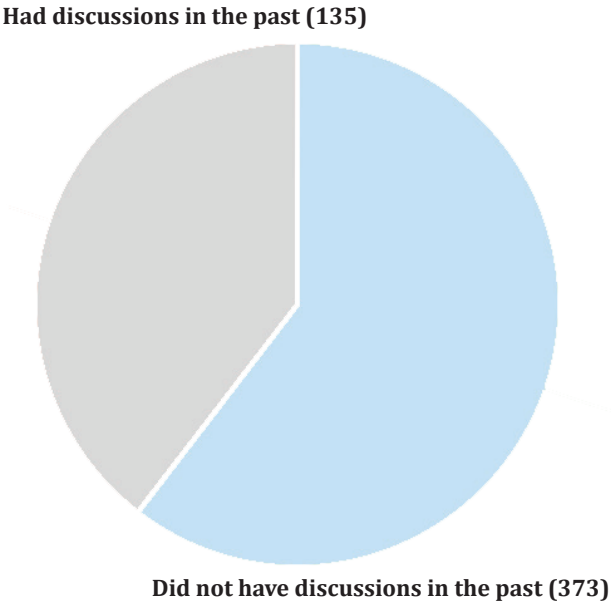
AWARENESS OF RM'S SUMMER AMALGAMATION CONTENT

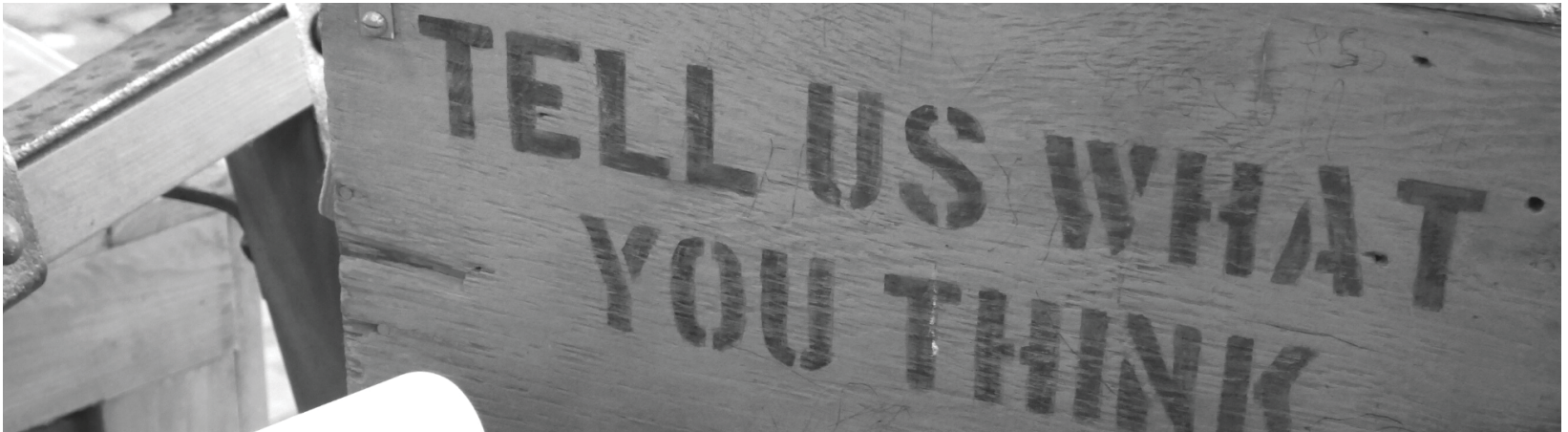
307 respondents (60.43%) saw the content the RM published on their social media platforms and website throughout the summer relating to amalgamation, such as the municipal amalgamation FAQ. The other 201 (39.56%) did not.



DISCUSSED AMALGAMATION WITH RM OR TOWN ELECTED OFFICIALS

135 respondents (26.57%) said they'd spoken with the RM's Reeve or Councillors, or the Town's Mayor and Councillors, regarding amalgamation at some time in the past. The other 373 (73.42%) had not.





RESPONDENT COMMENTS

The survey gave respondents the opportunity to provide additional comments or thoughts, and many did.

All comments have been presented exactly as they were written, except the report's author corrected spelling errors and added punctuation for better readability as needed. Some completely irrelevant comments not germane to the amalgamation survey's questions were removed.

The comments fell into eight major categories. Although there was some overlap, they have been sorted into the following categories at the discretion of the report's author.

Category 1 respondents expressed a "just do it already" sentiment toward amalgamation, but didn't expand on why they want amalgamation, Appendix A.

Category 2 respondents were more specific in their reasons for favouring amalgamation, such as seeing the potential for savings, better services and efficiencies. Appendix B.

Category 3 respondents are against amalgamation. Most did not expand on why, but some did. Appendix C

Category 4 respondents are concerned about matters relating to taxation, and that the Town would benefit at the expense of the RM. These respondents are not necessarily dead set against amalgamation, but many are worried about the Town's debt and are concerned their taxes will go up if amalgamation were to occur and they'd end up paying for services they don't currently receive or want to receive. Appendix D.

Category 5 respondents want to see more cooperation and a better relationship between RM and Town councils. Appendix E.

Category 6 respondents aren't quite sure where they stand on amalgamation and expressed they would like more research done so they can learn more and make an informed decision. Many of these respondents expressed that any study should be conducted by an independent third party. Appendix F.

Category 7 respondents want any decision on amalgamation to go to a referendum. Appendix G.

Category 8 is miscellaneous. Appendix H.

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX A: CATEGORY 1 RESPONSES

<p>01</p> <p>We feel it is a great idea to amalgamate. We have been through amalgamation in our full-time residence and it has been a positive outcome.</p>		<p>02</p> <p>I've been looking for the Town and RM to come together since I moved out here many years ago.</p>	<p>03</p> <p>In favour of amalgamation.</p>
<p>04</p> <p>No need for a study. Just get it done. Amalgamate.</p>	<p>05</p> <p>The sooner the better.</p>	<p>06</p> <p>I'm all for amalgamating. Can only do the town good maybe it will start growing forward because it sure isn't growing.</p>	
<p>07</p> <p>I want the town and the RM to amalgamate. I would also like the Mayor, Mr. Peters to support this in his next newsletter. The town council, CAO and Mayor must support amalgamation and promote the positives of this to town residents. The town will never move into the future on their own.</p>		<p>08</p> <p>The RM and the Town should make an honest and concerted effort to amalgamate.</p>	<p>09</p> <p>Get the amalgamation done already!</p>
<p>10</p> <p>I have been an advocate of amalgamation for 25 years.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Time to amalgamate is now!</p>	<p>12</p> <p>This needs to happen; we are one community, let's become one municipality. The road might not be easy, but it won't happen if we don't start.</p>	

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX A: CATEGORY 1 RESPONSES

<p>13</p> <p>We definitely should amalgamate, because it would be an advantage to both. Example: grants available from Federal and provincial Governments. Less administration for both. I can go on and on.</p>		<p>14</p> <p>We are FOR the amalgamation.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Get it done.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>In favour of amalgamation.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Don't procrastinate, amalgamate!</p>	<p>18</p> <p>It is time to end the negativity between the town and the RM and start to work together by moving forward from a somewhat depressed area to achieve more positive economic development opportunities. This process is long overdue. It is almost 2021 for gosh sake. Let's get a grip on this!!!</p>	
<p>19</p> <p>An amalgamation is long overdue. About time the councils of both entities realize the taxes in the town would be reduced due to the cost of the local council being amalgamated. Wake up councillors. Go through with the amalgamation.</p>		<p>20</p> <p>Get it done, best for everyone.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>This is a great idea. Let's get it done. Thanks.</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Time to amalgamate.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>I am in favour of an amalgamation with the town and RM.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>I strongly suggest the town and RM should amalgamate. The town council is a waste of breath. Two thirds of those council have no knowledge on how to run a business and have no future foresight on which direction the town should go. The town is going backwards. The mayor is slippery !!!</p>	

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX A: CATEGORY 1 RESPONSES

<p>25</p> <p>No need to spend money on a study. Just do it. Tired of all the BS and squabbling. Let's work together to make LDB and SURROUNDING area great.</p>		<p>26</p> <p>I own properties in both the Town and the R.M. Let's get this done with as soon as possible.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>We did: you get this done very soon!</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Get it done already.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>It's a good plan. Headingley MB did the same thing 30 years ago.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>I am for amalgamation: will only need one council rather than two. Joining forces would save this town ... it should have been done years ago.</p>	
<p>31</p> <p>There is no need to do a survey other than to garner public support. The value of municipal amalgamations are available. As someone who led the Hydro District office amalgamations, the benefits go far beyond financial. Take advantage of the financial benefits and promote all the rest.</p>		<p>32</p> <p>Should have amalgamated years ago!</p>	<p>33</p> <p>Smartest project currently being undertaken.</p>
<p>34</p> <p>I don't think a study is necessary. I think the amalgamation should take place.</p>	<p>35</p> <p>Let's do it!</p>	<p>36</p> <p>An amalgamation would minimize the infighting between local governments, likely improve services, maximize our taxes (less organizations to support), have councillors who care. I support amalgamation in its entirety.</p>	

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX A: CATEGORY 1 RESPONSES

<p>37</p> <p>It is long overdue. We must amalgamate town and RM. It will cut costs and end the silly arguments between the councils.</p>		<p>38</p> <p>No brainer, should have been done years ago.</p>	<p>39</p> <p>I feel it is good for all concerned.</p>
<p>40</p> <p>Get it done.</p>	<p>41</p> <p>Good luck in amalgamation, it's been a long time coming.</p>	<p>42</p> <p>Time to do it - a great idea. Do not know if there is an existing study...re costs, etc. If so, do we need another?</p>	
<p>43</p> <p>One council, one community. no one ever says they are heading out to the "Town" or "RM" of Lac du Bonnet!</p>		<p>44</p> <p>Just do it already.</p>	<p>45</p> <p>It would bring so much benefits to the area as a whole. Should have been done a while ago.</p>
<p>46</p> <p>You should proceed if you find it makes sense.</p>	<p>47</p> <p>A step in the right direction, a long time coming.</p>	<p>48</p> <p>I think amalgamation would be excellent for all residents of the town and our RM. We would truly be better together!</p>	

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX A: CATEGORY 1 RESPONSES

<div>49</div> <p>I've lived here all my life and believe that for the future of the communities that they amalgamate.</p>		<div>50</div> <p>It's long overdue.</p>	<div>51</div> <p>Let's get it done. It's about time.</p>
<div>52</div> <p>Let's move forward and get this done!!</p>	<div>53</div> <p>I think it is a good idea to amalgamate.</p>	<div>54</div> <p>Amalgamation makes sense for so many reasons. Too many to list.</p>	
<div>55</div> <p>I believe an amalgamation of the two councils only makes good sense. I am all for it!</p>		<div>56</div> <p>Let's get it done</p>	

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX B: CATEGORY 2 RESPONSES

<p>01</p> <p>I would think that amalgamation would provide a number of cost savings and increases in efficiency that would make it worthwhile to look into. I only hope that councilors can objectively hold the rate payers' interests above their own interests when making this decision.</p>		<p>02</p> <p>The community of Lac du Bonnet would benefit greatly from one strong municipal body.</p>	<p>03</p> <p>Combining services makes good sense for efficiency and cost.</p>
<p>04</p> <p>Amalgamation should happen for the benefit of all.</p>	<p>05</p> <p>It makes sense to amalgamate as it will be more cost efficient.</p>	<p>06</p> <p>Waste of duplicated resources and extra investment in infrastructure. Also the administration costs, time, and energy for admin and councils. Need to look at the region holistically and make good collective decisions for RM and Town as a whole. Silo thinking does not work as town is the hub and resource centre and needs to align with RM as this is where the greater population is. Let's get this done.</p>	
<p>07</p> <p>Both my husband and I are born and raised here. Lived away for several years and now have been back for over 25 years. The amalgamation of the town and RM have always made a lot of sense to us as it would benefit both parties. We have lived in the RM and have now moved to town.....so we've experienced both sides of the fence</p>		<p>08</p> <p>I'm in favor of more efficiencies, and hopefully moderating the taxes as a result. Thanks.</p>	<p>09</p> <p>I think they should amalgamate for advantages both would prosper from.</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Fiscally, it makes sense to amalgamate.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Combining the two would save admin costs and equipment costs. Would save by not duplicating services.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>I believe that the amalgamation of services will be of benefit to both entities. Also in the future some town services, such as water and sewer, may be available to current RM residents where density makes sense.</p>	

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX B: CATEGORY 2 RESPONSES

<p>13</p> <p>Combining services will reduce administrative costs, improve communication and reduce conflicts that currently exist between the 2 entities.</p>		<p>14</p> <p>I feel that the synergies would be economically beneficial.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Makes a lot of sense to combine resources.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>It only makes sense, we are all one community.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Perhaps if they were together we might actually get proper and timely service in the RM!</p>	<p>18</p> <p>In this day and age, we should be looking to pool resources and working together, this is fiscally and environmentally responsible. This model exists elsewhere and it seems like a very large duplication of resources. Plus the groups are synergistic, but also I don't think the towns would survive without the larger population in the RM. The town should not be scared, but embrace the opportunity for greater partnerships.</p>	
<p>19</p> <p>It is now time to amalgamate the two entities. It is very obvious from continuing negative publicity that the Town and RM have a very dysfunctional relationship. Even when efficient services are offered to the Town they are refusing. I believe this refusal is just for the reason they want to hang on as a Municipal Entity.</p> <p>The list of services that could be combined to save taxpayer dollars is endless but include Public Works Departments, Environmental Health Departments, Office Administrative functions, Parks and Boat Launch efficiencies. Even the separate Budget Processes are different and should not be.</p> <p>There are a number of ratepayers (seasonal and full time) that are getting extremely frustrated with the RM financially propping up the Town and the Town not acknowledging this fact. The new Fire Pumper Truck is a current examples of this disfunction on the part of the Town. As a matter of process we believe that each of these above noted efficiencies (and more) should be studied on an individual basis by professionals and not Municipal Politicians with follow-up reports provided to both Councils and ratepayers.</p>		<p>20</p> <p>Makes sense. One set of councillors, administration, and Public Works.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>The RM needs the Town and the Town needs the RM. So amalgamate — it would be better for both!</p>
		<p>22</p> <p>I think amalgamation only makes sense. It would be more efficient and overall cost should be less.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>I feel the amalgamation of the Town and RM is essential to have our community prosper and progress.</p>

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX B: CATEGORY 2 RESPONSES

<p>24</p> <p>Amalgamation could help make it possible to have a marina in town. What good is a waterfront town in a tourism driven economy without a marina? Ideally the timing of the current town dock rebuild would be best to coordinate with amalgamation and build what a waterfront town desperately needs to rise to the next level. What would Kenora or Gimli be without a marina? Seriously, even Pinawa has one.</p>		<p>25</p> <p>I think amalgamation would be great. Everyone would benefit all around especially if town water is available to all, this would increase tax base.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Amalgamation would eliminate duplication of services. This includes office space, workers, reeve/ mayor, and councillors.</p>
<p>27</p> <p>I believe it would be beneficial to have one Council, instead of all the duplication going on, after all between the town and RM a lot of interests are shared by all.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Amalgamation of the communities just makes good sense. This includes economic development and new businesses in an expanded community.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>In that so many facilities, including our Fire Department are shared between the Town of Lac du Bonnet and the R.M. of Lac du Bonnet, common sense suggests that we should operate under one Council and Administration. The Town would not survive without the RM residents and RM residents need and want the facilities (and businesses) in the Town. Amalgamation is a no brainer.</p>	
<p>30</p> <p>The sooner amalgamation happens, the sooner we can start living in harmony in our hearts, and in the eyes of outside public, especially the provincial government that funds infrastructure such as a care home.</p>		<p>31</p> <p>Amalgamation would reduce duplication of services and should provide better service and reduce costs to the ratepayers.</p>	<p>32</p> <p>Am tired of seeing the RM and Town butt heads, it would be a great advantage to both sides to amalgamate. Town has all the amenities, RM has the tax base.</p>
<p>33</p> <p>I'm 100% in favor of amalgamation, I see the benefits. We are in effect one community and our organizations and facilities are suffering because of the us vs them scenario that has developed.</p>		<p>34</p> <p>I would find it difficult to believe that there would be many negative points to amalgamation as a reduction of the duplicate services alone should be enough to justify the amalgamation. Better late than never, go team go!</p>	

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX B: CATEGORY 2 RESPONSES

<p>35</p> <p>The councils need to be one entity, water plant needs to be expanded outside town limits, new arena should be built instead of putting money into an old building, should be made into a ward system.</p>		<p>36</p> <p>This makes perfect sense to not have two entities. There should be really good synergies and cost savings, reduction of positions, budget alignment and savings, equipment sharing and use, etc...</p>	
<p>37</p> <p>If this results in more services for the town, I think it would be a positive. Lac Du Bonnet really lacks services that appeal to young families.</p>	<p>38</p> <p>In my mind it makes total sense to amalgamate. The RM residents use the town facilities so having one council makes sense.</p>	<p>39</p> <p>We are one community, all sharing the same resources we should have amalgamated a long time ago. People that have sewer and water, garbage pickup and such should however pay more a of a premium for these services.</p>	
<p>40</p> <p>Cost Sharing, combined infrastructure, equipment, recreational equipment and activities, possible reduction of duplicated services and positions all seem to be possible benefits. The Town's complete refusal to consider discussions is completely unacceptable. The town mayor and council come off as arrogant and protective of their own roles rather than the overall good of the community.</p>		<p>41</p> <p>I see the amalgamation as a positive step to reduce taxes and increase efficiencies. It's about time and I fully support it....</p>	<p>42</p> <p>Amalgamating will save the taxpayers money in the long run, and everybody getting along would just be a bonus for all involved.</p>
<p>43</p> <p>We must work to make public services as efficient as possible. If this works toward that end it must be done to maximize use of tax dollars collected.</p>	<p>44</p> <p>Amalgamation needs to happen There is too much wasted time and money being separate. Other communities have only positives results from amalgamation.</p>	<p>45</p> <p>Amalgamating the RM and Town is critical to the long-term sustainability of our Community and future economic development. Investors/developers don't want to deal with multiple local government entities. Single window is desired. Costs may increase in the short term; however, the long-term benefits are worth the investment.</p>	

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX B: CATEGORY 2 RESPONSES

46

Just amalgamate so there is one council that would oversee the operation of the Town and RM. Would mean lower costs for both the Town and RM of Lac du Bonnet. RM should continue to use Environmental Options for recycling in Town of LdB.

47

If duplication of services can be eliminated to save money & lower taxes. That a complete audit needs to be done of staff & personnel to see if a more efficient system can be implemented.

48

It doesn't make sense to have two councils, two sets of maintenance crews, two sets of everything to do the job one council could do. It would get rid of in fighting and make things cheaper and smoother.

49

Lots of tax dollars being brought in. Should get good services, need to make taxes affordable. Most people have as seasonal property. Second home. To make life out there viable, need it affordable. Spend money on attractions like trails, outdoor activities, things to do as this is a vacation area. Need it to shine and bring people in!

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX C: CATEGORY 3 RESPONSES

<p>01</p> <p>Do not wish to see RM amalgamation with the town. A 44 year resident sees it as a costly endeavour, that will impact the rate payers with little benefit. The town has had little vision and taken no opportunity to grow. Examples: hospital and big business offers. Would be a monkey on our back. No Amalgamation, thank you!</p>		<p>02</p> <p>I am not in favour of amalgamation.</p>	<p>03</p> <p>I am opposed to amalgamation and see no benefit for RM residents.</p>
<p>04</p> <p>Keep them separated.</p>	<p>05</p> <p>I am not in favor of an amalgamation.</p>	<p>06</p> <p>If any surveys are done, needs to be a 3rd party independent company. Not in favour of amalgamation as the RM doesn't do anything for us where we are, and services would be worse if we amalgamated.</p>	
<p>07</p> <p>As we are in COVID code red crisis, now is not the time to be wasted on whether or not two entities should amalgamate. Historically, amalgamations are net neutral.</p>		<p>08</p> <p>I do not want amalgamation to take place.</p>	<p>09</p> <p>I do hope that they stay separate, I am happy with (RM) council now and the direction they are going.</p>
<p>10</p> <p>I believe that we should stay separate from the town and the minister polity and do not go as a joint venture.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Do not agree with amalgamation.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>The infrastructure deficit and liabilities of the Town should not be joined, amalgamated, or shared with the RM taxpayers. The RM should focus on providing value and services to its taxpayers and residents, and not on undertaking additional costs, risks, and liability to those same people. The RMs conflict with the Town, and various other wild goose chase projects such as the VORR are distractions to the efficient operation and delivery of services to RM residents and property owners.</p>	

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX C: CATEGORY 3 RESPONSES

<p>13</p> <p>In all due respect, I don't think the current Council is right for the Town.</p> <p>It appears that in previous decisions, RM council cares very little about our town and its future. Before spending a lot of money on a study, Council should look more closely at it local. I do not believe there would be substantial savings in the two becoming one.</p> <p>Perhaps the RM needs to consider the ward system. It is in my opinion detrimental to have a council made up of members from one area. Currently, each jurisdiction has an office.</p> <p>The office in town is just not adequate to house the RM and the Town personnel and people would not be satisfied with their admin housed in the RM.</p> <p>In the event of a major snowfall, the RM equipment should be on RM roads. Therefore, the Town would still need their own equipment.</p> <p>The CEO would no doubt want more pay due to more responsibilities and there would no doubt need to be a highly-paid assistant, so I cannot see much savings there. Bottom line, I am not convinced that amalgamation is the answer but rather, two council which will work together for the whole community.</p>		<p>14</p> <p>We should not amalgamate.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Nope the new Council is doing a good job.</p>
		<p>16</p> <p>if you join it will cause problems between farmers and cottages.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>I am not in favor of amalgamation with the Town of Lac du Bonnet.</p>
		<p>18</p> <p>I don't see any advantage for the RM to amalgamate. The RM has far more funds available, much larger tax base.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>We feel very strongly about NOT amalgamating.</p>
<p>20</p> <p>No need for amalgamation at this time.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Not at time but leaning toward not amalgamating.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>The Town is broke. The RM is rich. How about the RM provide just a little more support for the Fire Department, community club, and areas used by full-time RM residents instead of playing games with politics!</p>	

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX C: CATEGORY 3 RESPONSES

23

Amalgamation will not solve the problems. As a chartered accountant involved in numerous amalgamations across Canada, the savings are not what people assume. I don't care what you WILL be told, amalgamations cost taxpayers more money in the long run and the cost of implementation is unknown until all is said and done. In the 13 I was involved in, initial implementation costs were almost triple as compared to budgeted and the money kept flowing years after. The only thing we need to make things right is an RM council that can get along. So far, it has been a miserable job.

24

We strongly do not wish to have the RM amalgamate with the town.

25

This has been done to the detriment of other municipalities in the provinces.

26

I am not in favor of amalgamation.

27

Do not want to amalgamate!

28

A study was done previously and is on record. It was prepared and delivered to the Town and RM at Joint Council meeting by Jim Fenske. Nothing has changed, except RM Council, there is no tangible benefit. There was no overall financial benefit to the residents. Town received a tax reduction benefit and RM residents paid more.

The Fenske report found that the reason for amalgamation was strictly for control by one group, despite many assurances, there was no other logic. Rather than fairly negotiate or establish procedures to fund and operate shared facilities and operations, the feeling was that a takeover would eliminate the need to be fairly working at the table to negotiate solutions. The finding was this negotiation would have to happen regardless due to tax and ownership issues.

Read the report, it was commissioned by the Town and RM to explore amalgamation. There is no financial need except where the RM is presently reneging on many agreements. This amalgamation discussion is an attempt to serve personal political interest not the actual needs of the constituents. The Gaslighting needs to stop. Granted, there is a section of the population that feel that they should not have to pay for things in a community that they do not use, the very things that make a community vibrant and successful. Things they used when they lived elsewhere and raised their children. Those people want to close facilities and lower the quality of life of people starting out or using the facilities. These users are not in the stage of life of the cost cutters and are reliant on the establishment and operation of the facilities and programs. The smokescreen of the panacea of amalgamation should be lifted and show the facts.

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX D: CATEGORY 4 RESPONSES

<p>01</p> <p>I don't see any other way that a general mill rate would conclude but to have the RM rate to go up and Town rate to go down. I see this as a massive benefit for the town and not so much for the RM. What would be the benefit specifically for the RM? Be as specific as possible.</p>		<p>02</p> <p>Only to proceed if it is beneficial to both town and RM residents.</p>	<p>03</p> <p>What effects will it have on our taxes? As they're high enough now.</p>
<p>04</p> <p>RM would benefit way less than town.</p>	<p>05</p> <p>I don't want my taxes to increase and I don't want to pay for services /debts of the town.</p>	<p>06</p> <p>I would not like to see the taxes go up as a result of the amalgamation. Services are minimal, I would not like to see less services I would like to see improvement of the local roads. Please keep us informed of the progress.</p>	
<p>07</p> <p>We are residents of the RM and pay high taxes...for no services except occasional road maintenance/snow clearing. How exactly would amalgamation be of any benefit without any tax increases?</p>		<p>08</p> <p>Any savings for taxpayers is always a very good thing!!!</p>	<p>09</p> <p>As long as we don't subsidize the town.</p>
<p>10</p> <p>All this is going to do is cost us more taxes. We pay too much now and get VERY LITTLE for what we pay, so NO MORE TAX HIKES.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>I am concerned about increase of taxes.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>I lived in the town of Lac du Bonnet prior to being a seasonal cabin owner. We moved to Winnipeg in 1997 and paid less taxes for a bigger home. If amalgamation means raising taxes at all in the RM I am against this plan 100%.</p>	

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX D: CATEGORY 4 RESPONSES

13

I am in favour of a study being done but that does not mean that I am in favour of it actually happening. I am very concerned that my taxes will increase and I am not interested in that and I am also not really sure of the tangible benefits that the RM of Lac Du Bonnet residents would see. Example: I can see a single council being formed so possibly less expenses there for council, two offices, etc. But there is no mention of whether we'd see additional benefits like curbside garbage/recycling pick up, etc.

14

The benefits of an amalgamation are strongly in favour of the town and not the RM. Taxation is already high and enough. Struggle to see why my money should go towards this.

15

My main concern about amalgamation is the property tax implications. I have riverfront property in the RM and am concerned about paying the same rate as water front in the town. We have absolutely no services compared to property owners in town.

16

I would like to see a study regarding: Town debt, RM reserves, Town mill rate, RM mill rate, and projections on increased taxes for RM residents. As it is now, RM residents do not receive the same benefits that the Town does so our mill rate should always be lower than theirs. Can this be guaranteed with an amalgamation?

17

I would like to see a detailed report listing the benefits of amalgamation and the effect on property taxes.

18

Taxes are already very high and we get very little services. I only see the amalgamation benefiting the Town, not the RM.

19

What would the amalgamation do for a resident outside of town? You rarely gravel or plow our roads in Cape Coppermine. We pay for sewer and water. All we get is some garbage tags for the 6000 we pay in taxes. How would the amalgamation benefit us?

20

Amalgamation can be done right and keep financial matters separate such as utility services water and sewer I don't want to see money go towards utilities that directly benefit residents. User pay should be implemented. I feel RM residents have already paid too much towards offsetting the cost of running water to RM residents in the south end of Lac du Bonnet.

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX D: CATEGORY 4 RESPONSES

<p>21</p> <p>My fear as an RM resident is that I will be paying for services that are not offered to me. In the event of an amalgamation, and if the mill rate is the same for all residents, then the services should be the same.</p>			<p>22</p> <p>If there are savings to be had by doing this, will our taxes decrease in the RM?</p>	<p>23</p> <p>As an RM resident I see nothing but tax increases for us to assist the town.</p>
<p>24</p> <p>The town has sewer, water, garbage pickup and the RM does not, leaving an inequality in services for taxation.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>No debt to be absorbed by the RM of Lac du Bonnet.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>I would not want to see RM tax dollars being used simply to decrease Town property taxes. In the RM we pay heavy taxes already for very little service.</p>		
<p>27</p> <p>I live on the southwest corner of the RM. The only service I get is a Transfer Station. That's it. I just wonder how much more this amalgamation will cost me. If I get a paved drive, water and sewer, snow clearing, at no extra cost, I'm for it. I vote no!</p>			<p>28</p> <p>I am open to this idea however, concerned about property taxes. We already pay high taxes for little to no service.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>We should only amalgamate if it is in the best interests of the RM. Not to pay off the town's debt.</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Tax decrease is a hope.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>To be honest, I am for whatever keeps my property taxes lower.</p>	<p>32</p> <p>What will this cost me as an RM ratepayer? What services will we receive if we amalgamate? If this means a tax increase for the same non-existent services, why should I vote to amalgamate? What's in it for the RM ratepayers?</p>		

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX D: CATEGORY 4 RESPONSES

<p>33</p> <p>If amalgamation were to take place there would need to be a mechanism to allow for properties that have their own water supply, sewage holding tanks etc. so that we are not paying for something twice.</p>	<p>34</p> <p>As our seasonal property taxes are higher than our home taxes does an amalgamation mean higher taxes if the amalgamation goes through?</p>	<p>35</p> <p>I am all for efficiencies but not if taxes go up. Our taxes are too high already.</p>
<p>36</p> <p>The mill rate for the RM will go up and the mill rate for town will come down. It would be more beneficial for both of the RM's mill rates were in a closer range then both parties would see more of a benefit. These two RM's are too far apart. An amalgamation is not the answer to fix the towns high mill rate. Let's find a better way to bring the town rate down. I have been familiar with this area for over 20 year and have seen very little growth in the town. The best way to make a stronger town is to attract business. Town has been stagnant in growth, fix that and the benefits will come. The town and the R.M. of LDB should consider each other moving forward, however I do not think this is the proper solution to make both areas stronger. Thank you.</p>		
<p>37</p> <p>Interested in a study being conducted PRIOR to any decisions as I'm curious as to how many RM or cottage owners would actually like to pay MORE property tax, which is not a possibility, but a certainty.</p>	<p>38</p> <p>We are concerned with the fact that our taxes would be going up now and in the future because of the town's financial situation.</p>	<p>39</p> <p>My understanding is the town has substantial debt and I don't want to be paying for it. I feel my taxes are very high for the little amount of services that I receive presently.</p>
<p>40</p> <p>I believe that an amalgamation would be an advantage for the town only, and would not benefit the RM at all. Why does this same question keep coming up and who is trying to bring this in?</p>	<p>41</p> <p>Will our taxes go up with the amalgamation to pay off the town's debts?</p>	<p>42</p> <p>The town has a large infrastructure deficit and cost risks that the RM residents should not be responsible for or comfortable to assume. As an RM resident we receive no services other than snow clearing. High speed internet should be more of a priority than amalgamation.</p>

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX D: CATEGORY 4 RESPONSES

43

The municipality is already overcharging seasonal residents that have no services. So now they'll raise taxes again so they can repair, upgrade, and install new sewers and water plants for the town and the people that will never use it will get charged.

44

We receive very little services for the millions of tax dollars collected from cottage owners. I have no interest in these tax dollars being used for anything other than for cottagers.

45

Definitely require additional information before we could support amalgamation. After reading through the q and a section, the first thing that pops into mind - Are you going to require extensive renovations or new accommodations? I could never support amalgamation if the study indicates increased taxes.

46

I do not wish to have a blended mill rate with the town who has been mismanaged for some time. Why make it our problem, clearly there is a lack of political will to get it done.

47

I think if we start sharing the money that the RM will not be able to clear snow and do everything as quick as they do before because they want to use less machines and less employees to do the same job. I do not see how this will benefit the people of the RM except to use our money.

48

Concerned about the RM vs the Town liabilities and expenses. Town gets water service, garbage pickup and so forth, RM does not. How is that factored in?

49

People of the town have different needs than cottage people, I don't want to be paying more for what people of the town want unless it benefits cottage people. What are going to be the negatives?

50

What advantage for RM residents would be available if we amalgamate? Taxes? Roads? Garbage pickup? Snow Clearing? The taxes eventually even out, all to the advantage of Town residents. In 1986 when I moved to LDB there was 3 employees in the RM office, now about 25-30 in office, I don't believe our population has increased 10 fold. Could be miniscule savings with amalgamating in office personal.

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX D: CATEGORY 4 RESPONSES

51

We get very little service for the amount of taxes we pay right now. We have poor gravel roads. we have no fire department close by. Basically we get the snow plowed and we have somewhere to dump our garbage. We pay higher taxes than what we pay for our 1600 square foot house in North Kildonan in Winnipeg. I am not willing to pay more taxes to support the town of Lac du Bonnet. My fear is the amalgamation will result in more staff, higher overhead, and new buildings in Lac du Bonnet that will not benefit me at all. On top of this we pay school taxes in the city and on our seasonal cottage. Very unfair system.

52

The town does not have its finances in order yet they receive many more services. Efficiencies are always touted in amalgamations but rarely materialize. The RM already pays a disproportionate amount of shared services while the town benefits. Guaranteed the town will retain all their services and the RM residents will eventually pay for them. I am not in favor of amalgamation. The RM should use the Ward system and reduce our share of costs for shared services. Many, or possibly most, of the RM residents will never benefit from the Fire Department and yet we pay 75%. This is complete nonsense. The RM needs to stop shared services such as the Fire Dept.

53

The town is in a negative no growth state of affairs. Businesses that have tried to open in town have run across extreme difficulties getting the support of the council, and as a result, people generally are leaving and or not wanting to locate to the town. The taxes are excessively high for the limited services that homeowners and businesses get, and as a result the town and council has adopted what I would call a poor me or glass is extremely half empty attitude.

They are struggling to find revenue but are unwilling to try anything new to reverse their fortunes. For these reasons I would personally find it insulting if it were suggested that this is a good idea to amalgamate an RM that is well run and fiscally responsible (regardless of the negative garbage that's flaunted on Facebook by a few ill meaning ne'er do wells and sad sacks) with a town held down by an anchor. The town will try to suck the life and the money out of the RM.

I have no intentions of financially propping up the town or the townspeople with my property taxes or future special levies to pay for long forsaken and neglected items in the townsite that are in serious states of underfunding and or disrepair. My wife and I shop local and support as many businesses in town as we can. We appreciate the service and the people in town in that regard, But, no amalgamation please.

Build the new firehall in the RM and buy a new firetruck. Charge the town a fee for service when applicable for the fire service and keep things status quo. The RM and it's tax base will grow and flourish. The town will stay a sad sack. That is the reality regardless of whether the amalgamation occurs or it doesn't. Why would you want to financially punish the RM residents anyways? Because that is the unspoken outcome of an amalgamation. I don't want or need any of the Town's services at my RM door. You will hurt many more people than the amalgamation will help. Just think about it!

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX D: CATEGORY 4 RESPONSES

54

I have spoken to representatives on both sides. There seems to be a lot of “he said she said” and a meeting with residents would be appreciated. There are numerous questions I would like answered. I feel the town is in debt and needs a cash cow but terms must be met. Will this amalgamation benefit me because as of now I receive NO services whatsoever? I pay the same taxes as town residents and they receive services.

55

The amalgamation idea was reviewed approximately 20 years ago between the RM and Town of Lac du Bonnet. Obviously it was not successful. As a permanent resident of 24+ years I have observed the lack of cooperation between the two governments and do wonder if the amalgamation was successful who is the true winner!!! I do not believe the present RM council is worthy and trusting. Going forward at what cost will the RM residents benefit?

56

Before deciding on an amalgamation, I would want to see the results of the study being conducted. At this point, I am not in favour of an amalgamation because I feel this would benefit the Town only and not the RM. I have been in the LDB area for over 40 years and have not seen any significant development in the Town such as restaurants, retail, or any other business development. The Town has deteriorated.

I would want to see the benefits to the RM. The Cape Coppermine Road to the golf course is disastrous and needs major repair. Also a review needs to be done on the speed limit for the current driving conditions. Applying large gravel on the road does not fix the problem of washboard, potholes, and messy roads when wet. A 70 KM speed limit is too high and an accident is going to occur. Reduce to max. of 50 KMs. I have had three windshields repaired last year with stone chips and have had to reduce my speed to 40 KM on some trips. I have heard several people mention that they would not take their vehicles on this road. Not everyone drives an older truck. There are also expensive cars, boats, trailers accessing this road, not to mention that the road leads to one of the Province’s nicest golf courses.

57

I pay \$6000 in property taxes which includes school tax, which I could not use if I wanted to. I also pay school taxes in Winnipeg. I pay close to \$2000 a year for water and septic tank emptying as I cannot have a septic field because of bylaws. I cannot even have a grey water septic field system. I get no services other than the waste/garbage/recycling area. My roads are horrible in the summer and not much better in the winter as my bay is off Cape Coppermine Road.

Over the last two years there has been a walking trail installed between the bays which is great. However, if it wasn’t for the generous effort of a couple of seasonal residents those trails would not be passible in the winter. To make a long story short, given the services I don’t receive which includes basic street lighting, garbage collection, water and sewer services and decent roads, I pay a lot of taxes. I would expect my taxes to go down not up so any amalgamation that is going to raise my taxes to benefit the town i am vehemently against. Unless you remove the school portion of my tax bill which is approximately 60 per cent of my bill. Why do seasonal properties pay school tax? Should the amalgamated RM and Town actively lobby the government to change that law I would support amalgamation. I would even volunteer to coordinate that effort. Something has to be done to reduce the taxes in the RM especially given the lack of services we have.

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX E: CATEGORY 5 RESPONSES

<p>01</p> <p>I would hope that discussions that take place with the Town of Lac du Bonnet will be respectful from both sides. There is just too much negative talk regarding the disrespect that is seen over and over again between the two. Thank you.</p>		<p>02</p> <p>We should be working together, not against each other.</p>	<p>03</p> <p>Hopefully the RM and Town's councils will work together in the best interests of all.</p>
<p>04</p> <p>Dysfunctional town council is hurting shared entities like fire department and arena.</p>	<p>05</p> <p>It's time. Lac du Bonnet has a history of the town and RM not working together for the good of all the people.</p>	<p>06</p> <p>Whether or not they amalgamate, they should be working as partners, not adversaries. Sometimes the RM council likes to pretend it's the "good guy" instead of reality. They need to work together. Play nice in the sandbox.</p>	
<p>07</p> <p>Having two government bodies in such a small proximity is ridiculous. The town and RM act like school kids in a playground. It is embarrassing. The amalgamation is long overdue and will only save money and be more efficient.</p>		<p>08</p> <p>Change is needed. The two municipalities can't agree on anything. Progress is slow and sometimes backwards.</p>	<p>09</p> <p>Just play nice councillors and reeve/mayor. Tired of reading of drama.</p>
<p>10</p> <p>It would be wonderful if the RM and Town stopped their endless bickering about who pays for services. Amalgamation would engender a spirit of one community that we all belong to. Under this condition of oneness the sharing of facilities would be equitable for all members of this one community. It would eliminate power structures generated by the "us versus them" system. Also, we need to go back to the ward system so that all members of the community are fairly represented on Council. For example, there was a time when Cathy Brereton, Cindy Kellendonk, Vera Cardinal, and Rob McLachlan were all from the same area and on RM council. Other areas in the community were not so well represented. If the Town and RM amalgamate the Town would have to be guaranteed equitable representation on Council.</p>			

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX E: CATEGORY 5 RESPONSES

11

As former CAO during the previous amalgamation, \$30,000 was invested in a study at that time, residents and mayor of Town voted against. We believe amalgamation is necessary, but don't waste money on studies, etc. Invest council time to work with the province to make this valuable change. Town residents and council will never vote to give up control no matter what a study reveals.

12

The RM first needs to deal with the town in a non-antagonistic and cooperative manner before embarking on as ambitious a plan as amalgamation. However, I do not believe amalgamation is in the best interests of ratepayers.

13

The lack of integrity of the current RM council gives me no confidence in a unbiased outcome. Any effort must include the town council and be completely fair and open.

14

Why can't they work together? Having facilities for both RM and town and RM should pay their fair share, for there is more RM people than town that use them.

15

Either way look for works best for both parties. As a RM resident I'd like to continue enjoying access to the activities without it coming at a higher cost than those that live in town. I would also expect that the town would have access to things in the RM at equal costs. Put aside personal agendas and past disagreements.

16

I am not opposed to discussion with the Town to discover if there are any projects, or areas where efficiencies can be realized and where a collaborative effort can be of benefit to Town and RM residents. If it is mutually agreed upon that Amalgamation should be pursued then a study designed by both parties and independently administered could be undertaken. But only under those conditions of mutual agreement. Amalgamation should not be pursued or even looked into unless both parties are in agreement.

17

I would like to see a conciliatory and amenable relationship between the Town and RM. There is such potential for growth and development in our community and region. Recycling, environmental conservation, recreation, the arts, and economic development are very important issues and need to be addressed. Climate action is at the heart of how we will proceed as a nation and planet. This should be a construct that guides policies and procedures and future decisions in our community. So, yes explore working collaboratively, just do so in the best interest of our current citizens and those who are yet to be born.

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX E: CATEGORY 5 RESPONSES

18

The more the RM and Town can collaborate and work positively together, the more benefit for all residents. This is more than just cost savings. My family has been connected to this area for over 50 years and now seasonally. We are supportive and proud of LdB and are disheartened when we hear of discontent between the RM and Town councils. So much more could be accomplished and the people deserve a collaborative effort. The Town is the heart of the LdB area and the residents of the RM support the businesses. LdB has caring friendly people and the whole area should be celebrated together without divides. Best of luck in moving forward!

19

The town and RM have different issues and concerns separate and apart from each other. I do believe there may be some areas where the two can collaborate to increase efficiencies and provide better services to the town people and the RM people. And I would not be opposed to the two groups working together to explore what, if anything, that may be. Commissioning a study and the costs involved does not make sense at this time as it appears the RM wants to push for amalgamation and the Town does not appear interested. Mutually discussing and working together on mutually beneficial initiatives makes more sense.

20

Until the Town is on board with exploring amalgamation, it is pointless spending resources on exploring the idea. Given recent hostile actions by the current RM Council with regards to shared services such as the Fire Hall & funding structure for the Community Center, it is understandable that the Town would be hesitant to enter into discussions. Ramming a discussion on Amalgamation down the collective throat of the Town Council is not going to win allies to the cause. The RM Council needs to take a step back, and start acting in good faith in their dealings with the Town.

21

Villages and towns all over Canada function as if they were amalgamated by sharing services to reduce costs and improve efficiencies. The RM has destroyed the business relationship with the Town and this is completely unacceptable. The residents should not have to pay the costs of amalgamation just because the RM councillors cannot get along with the Town and are serving only the cottage owners instead of the entire community. So NO, THERE IS NO NEED TO AMALGAMATE BUT THERE IS A NEED TO GROW UP AND GET ALONG OR GET OUT!

22

It doesn't make sense to have two separate government for the same job. Double the equipment. Double the staff. And the in-fighting is ridiculous.

23

The two councils have historically been unable to work together on many shared services and issues. This unfortunately seems to be exacerbated with our current RM council. If the councils cannot work harmoniously when separate entities I don't see how amalgamation will resolve this. A better approach would be to try to work positively and cooperatively on joint ventures for the next several years in order to demonstrate that it is possible to work together without rancor. Then and only then should amalgamation be considered.

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX F: CATEGORY 6 RESPONSES

<p>01</p> <p>In order to decide if a study should be done, there must be justification and you have not provided any facts or rationale. These are costly to do, and a study should not be just opinion based. There needs to be real facts provided for anyone to make an informed decision otherwise it is a worthless study.</p>		<p>02</p> <p>Should benchmark with other communities with similar issues for possible solutions.</p>	<p>03</p> <p>Once the study is completed, hopefully there will be more than one or 2 meetings to present the findings as well as other means of communication.</p>
<p>04</p> <p>I think it's a good idea to at least do the study. That makes it easier to make an informed decision as to the benefits for both the town and the RM.</p>	<p>05</p> <p>I would expect that any study completed would detail the projected cost savings arising from the amalgamation.</p>	<p>06</p> <p>The study would HAVE to be done by an independent 3rd party. Amalgamation would have to be very favorable for the RM residents, as most of us see little to no benefits at this time. The only thing the RM does for us is a transfer station that is open four hours a week....</p>	
<p>07</p> <p>We need to protect the financial stability of the RM. The interests of the town and the RM are not the same, and this is difficult to quantify via study. Study will be costly. It seems that this proposal to initiate a study comes from mostly a curiosity, with no identified (at least not firmly presented) financial merits. If we aren't able to identify these shortcomings that could be improved before a study, there is no reason to disclose our finances nor embark on an investigative exercise.</p>		<p>08</p> <p>Estimate of cost of study prior to approval.</p>	<p>09</p> <p>The RM should conduct a vote as to "their preference" towards amalgamation decided by RM residents.</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Would like public hearings first.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Didn't see any real positives is amalgamation in the FAQs. Wondering what the positives might be.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Since the majority of taxes and people are outside of the town, the majority of councillors MUST represent out-of-town residents. Must be a substantial reduction in staff and councillors at the time of amalgamation or it won't happen. Must have a play for more forward thinking than has happened in the past tin town. The old boys' club keeping the status quo must go.</p>	

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX F: CATEGORY 6 RESPONSES

<p>13</p> <p>The needs of the town are different from those in the RM. SO a new amalgamated council if they have an even number of town and RM councillors which will create a dead-lock. Otherwise, decisions will benefit one or the other! but with an equal number on both sides, you will have dead lock, and nothing will get done.</p>		<p>14</p> <p>How would amalgamation affect the taxes in the RM and in the Town How would representation by councillors be decided?</p>	<p>15</p> <p>I own property on Hirst. Rd. My concern is potable water. Is there a reasonable explanation why the Town water has not been extended to the immediate and closest RM citizens? Potable water should be a priority.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Need more information in order to decide if an amalgamation is feasible. Benefits to town residents, benefits to RM residents.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Landlord for the Mar's. Paying bills for 15 years. As long as we get some benefits out of that.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>I thought this was part of the consultation where you were looking for input and feedback? It seems you are asking if a study should be done - hard to answer that specific question without particulars on the cost and vendor.</p>	
<p>19</p> <p>It would also be important to seriously and honestly examine what the negatives might be if amalgamation between the town and municipality took place and then weigh them with the positives before any decision gets made.</p>		<p>20</p> <p>Once amalgamated council needs to represent all people - full time residents, seasonal, town and rural. Ward system may help. Items such as water services made available to all. This should not just be for residents - it should be for eligible voters and property owners are included.</p>	
<p>21</p> <p>Will amalgamation make it possible to get water in the RM?</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Please advise or list what the 'improved services' would be in the RM upon amalgamation if this process goes through.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Research and feasibility testing for amalgamation is needed or an informed decision about what is best for our communities can never be reached. Whether amalgamation is the answer or not, I strongly believe the concept of the municipalities working together and sharing resources for joint services must be effectively implemented. Duplication and time spent arguing is not cost effective or beneficial to residents.</p>	

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX F: CATEGORY 6 RESPONSES

<p>24</p> <p>The study should be done by someone that is completely independent, not from the area, and has no conflict of interest with the outcome of the study and not eligible for a follow-on contract. Someone like MNP, and they should be excluded from any follow-on business resulting from the outcome.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Very concerned about cost distribution of specialized town services and the treatment of seasonal residents in a combined entity with more power to full-time residents as a result of increased numbers of full-time residents.</p>
<p>26</p> <p>There are many aspects of amalgamation to be considered in the process but discussions on returning to the ward system where all areas are represented equally must be added to the list.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>We would certainly support an amalgamation review if conducted by a reputable, independent consultant. There have been several successful municipal amalgamations in Manitoba and there is no reason Lac du Bonnet cannot be another success story. Beyond the obvious financial efficiencies, more effective planning and development could be achieved if there is a cooperative, cohesive approach taken. Hopefully, both councils will embrace this review in an open, transparent and cooperative manner with the RM and town's best interests in mind.</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Any discussions on amalgamation MUST show the benefits of said amalgamation. For instance is there a reduction in size of councils, number of buildings, vehicles, personnel etc. Without these essential facts I see an unlikely amalgamation.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Getting the criteria correct to establish the terms (requirements) for the pros/cons of an amalgamation will be huge and I would expect experts will be consulted so this study does not justify what appears to be an already established bias to amalgamate. I seriously doubt any co-location efficiencies will be achieved and the accurate and complete measure of benefits post amalgamation would need to figure promising.</p>
<p>30</p> <p>If the true desire is for a community of Lac du Bonnet to be born, then I am in favour. However, I am staunchly opposed to recreational Winnipeggers making decisions about my home based on their desire to create fiefdoms and plan only for making Lac du Bonnet attractive to outsiders, tourists, and visitors. All planning for Lac du Bonnet should be about us, the community of Lac du Bonnet. If I wanted to live in Gimli, I would move there.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>I think it would be a positive move to consider and study the benefits and costs of amalgamation and report back to the community on the results. It is important to present the facts for consideration, and the options that could be discussed further before any decisions are made.</p>

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX F: CATEGORY 6 RESPONSES

32

I hope the investigation would serve two purposes: show the positives and the negatives so I as a resident of the RM can make an informed choice as it relates to the amalgamation of these two entities. I would also hope that there is a highlight of the difference in service that town people get and what RM people get. IE town get garbage service and the RM does not and street clearing in winter. Those sorts of things I would like to know because I want fairness and equality. I live in an RM where my streets get cleaned not very often and town gets it all of the time.

33

As a former councillor in the RM we did go thru this exercise somewhere around 2003. At that time RM council paid something like \$30,000 for a consultant to prepare a study and recommendation. Needless to say amalgamation did not happen. I am not for or against amalgamation but before thousands of dollars are spent on consultants may I suggest both council set aside a day to meet and go around the table and get everyone's input of pros and cons and if there is enough pros then proceed to the next step.

34

It is time that we explored the factual basis of amalgamation. We have heard all the rumours and the comments of the naysayers. It is time to conduct fact gathering and share the facts with the rate payers of the town.

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX G: CATEGORY 7 RESPONSES

01

I would like to see this question put to a referendum vote. I would also like to know what a new council would look like and how that would be determined.

02

Quit wasting money on studies and let the people vote.

03

Would the hired consultant to have open form meetings once health restrictions allow? Also would like this to be referendum vote so it's the taxpayers' decision not led by politics.

04

It is critical that all discussions and information related to a possible amalgamation be public. It is also critical the final decision is made by ratepayers through a referendum after full disclosure of the impact to both RM & Town ratepayers. Councils should only act on the outcome of that referendum.

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

APPENDIX H: CATEGORY 8 RESPONSES

<p>01</p> <p>This survey is essentially of no value. Deciding to engage professional assistance to study something of this nature is the responsibility of council's, no different than hiring the dog catcher. Participation in this process will be very, very low.</p>	<p>02</p> <p>I would like public hearings first.</p>	<p>03</p> <p>This should be voted on during an election year.</p>
<p>04</p> <p>Survey results should be posted on both the RM and Town websites.</p>	<p>05</p> <p>We would be in favour if Reeve L. Schinkel and the entire RM present Council signed affidavits indicating that they would not seek office in any new amalgamated government that might be created in the Lac du Bonnet rural and urban region. This group does not have the interests of the entire region at heart and for this reason do not deserve to hold public office.</p>	
<p>06</p> <p>As a former Reeve of the Municipality, I have deep interest in this matter. I have assembled a detailed analysis of the issues in PowerPoint and would be willing to share. I have already shared with the Town. To be successful will require trust from both parties without that don't try for amalgamation.</p>	<p>07</p> <p>Just that the current Reeve lied about numerous issues when he did his speech before getting elected. Will never vote for him again.</p>	<p>08</p> <p>Too many surveys done already that have cost too much.</p>
<p>09</p> <p>What are the annual budgets of the town and the RM? What has been the historical reason for having this split this way?</p>	<p>10</p> <p>RM council has appeared to act irresponsibly to the town which provides significant services to RM.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>The only reason I am not in favour, nor or any of my family members and neighbors, is this should not be dealt with by the current RM council body because they are not being honest with us and we cannot expect any honesty on something so big. If it was a different council, then we might consider but not with the current members of council.</p>