

## **Council receives emergency surveys results gathered from 1,377 respondents**

(Penticton, BC – April 23, 2020) – The results of two emergency surveys involving the effect of COVID-19 on residents and the business community were presented to City Council today to help guide decision-making involving relief and recovery measures.

A total of 1,377 people responded to the surveys targeted toward Penticton residents and South Okanagan business owners. Participants were invited to submit their entries between April 8-16 at [ShapeYourCityPenticton.ca](http://ShapeYourCityPenticton.ca) or by phone to a dedicated call centre line.

“It’s clear that many in our community are struggling with financial hardship due to COVID-19. Our small businesses in particular are facing very real challenges and we are working closely with the Economic Recovery Task Force to build a path toward recovery,” said Economic Development Specialist, Andrew Kemp.

“We would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the surveys,” said Penticton Mayor, John Vassilaki. “Your feedback will play an instrumental role in shaping how we move forward with important decisions to help our community and economy recover from COVID-19.”

### **Penticton Resident Impact Survey Results**

Of the 1,047 Penticton residents who responded to the Penticton Resident Impact Survey, more than one-third (37%) stated their employment has been impacted by COVID-19. Of these:

- 12% are temporarily working from home
- 10% are temporarily laid off
- 10% own/operate a business that has been affected
- 2% are taking unpaid leave
- 2% have been permanently laid off
- 1% are taking sick days/unpaid leave

Of those who have been temporarily laid off, 38 per cent reported they believe they will be rehired before the end of the year, whereas 57 per cent were unsure and 6 per cent felt they would not be rehired.

## **South Okanagan Business Impact Survey**

Of the 292 Penticton-based business owners who responded to the South Okanagan Business Impact Survey, 91 per cent indicated their business revenue had been negatively affected by COVID-19.

Other highlights:

- 67% stated the economic impact to their business was “significant” and 16% said it was “substantial”
- 69% reported seeing a drop in revenues or deal flow
- 52% have had to temporarily/indefinitely shut down their office
- 36% have laid off staff
- Nearly half (48%) indicated they feel they can only continue for another one to three months under current conditions

The City thanks everyone who provided their feedback. Please visit [shapeyourcitypenticton.ca](https://shapeyourcitypenticton.ca) for the full results.

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### **Contacts:**

Andrew Kemp  
Economic Development Specialist  
City of Penticton  
250-490-2590

Philip Cooper  
Communication Manager  
City of Penticton  
250-490-2583