



Policing Priorities Survey

2026 Results Report

County of Minburn

Survey Period: March 23 – April 7, 2026

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Executive Summary

The County of Minburn conducted its policing priorities survey to understand the views of County residents and those employed within the County as it relates to the RCMP and their areas of focus. The intent of the survey was to utilize the data to help inform the local RCMP detachment as they embark on their next planning cycle. 150 county residents completed the survey between March 23 and April 7, 2026. In addition, seven individuals who work in the County of Minburn but live outside the County also completed the survey for a total of 157 completed responses. Three individuals did not fully complete the survey. Their partial responses have also been included. The following provides a brief executive summary of the results.

Four Numbers That Define This Survey

61%

Rate Safety Good or Very Good

A meaningful positive baseline among county residents.

68%

Report Low or Zero RCMP Visibility

The most urgent operational finding in this report.

92.5%

Named Property Crime as Top Priority

Near-unanimous signal — no other priority is close.

47.5%

Believe Crime Has Increased

Growing concern beneath an otherwise stable surface perception.

n=160 respondents | March 23 – April 7, 2026 | 150 residents + 7 locally employed non-residents+ 3 partially completed surveys.

What the Survey Found

Community Safety Rating: The majority of residents (61.3%) rate the County of Minburn as a good or very good place to live in terms of safety, a meaningful baseline. However, this figure is tempered by the fact that 47.5% of respondents believe crime has increased over the past year (14.4% significantly), signalling growing concern beneath an otherwise stable surface perception.

Top RCMP Priorities: Property crime is the dominant concern by a wide margin: 92.5% of residents placed it in their top three priorities and 58.1% ranked it #1, the single strongest signal in the survey. Family violence (51.9%) and drug offences (55%) form a closely contested second tier.

Patrol Visibility — Critical Finding: Two-thirds of residents (68.1%) report low or zero RCMP visibility in their area, with 35.6% saying they cannot see any patrol presence at all. This is the most urgent operational finding in the report. Open-text responses consistently identify late-night hours (midnight–7 AM) as the period when most crime occurs and RCMP presence is at its lowest.

RCMP Satisfaction: Of the 149 residents who had contact with RCMP, 26.8% were satisfied or very satisfied, while 34.9% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. The predominant criticism is not a failure of individual officers, many residents explicitly acknowledge officers work hard with limited resources, but a systemic gap in staffing, visibility, and proactive rural patrol.

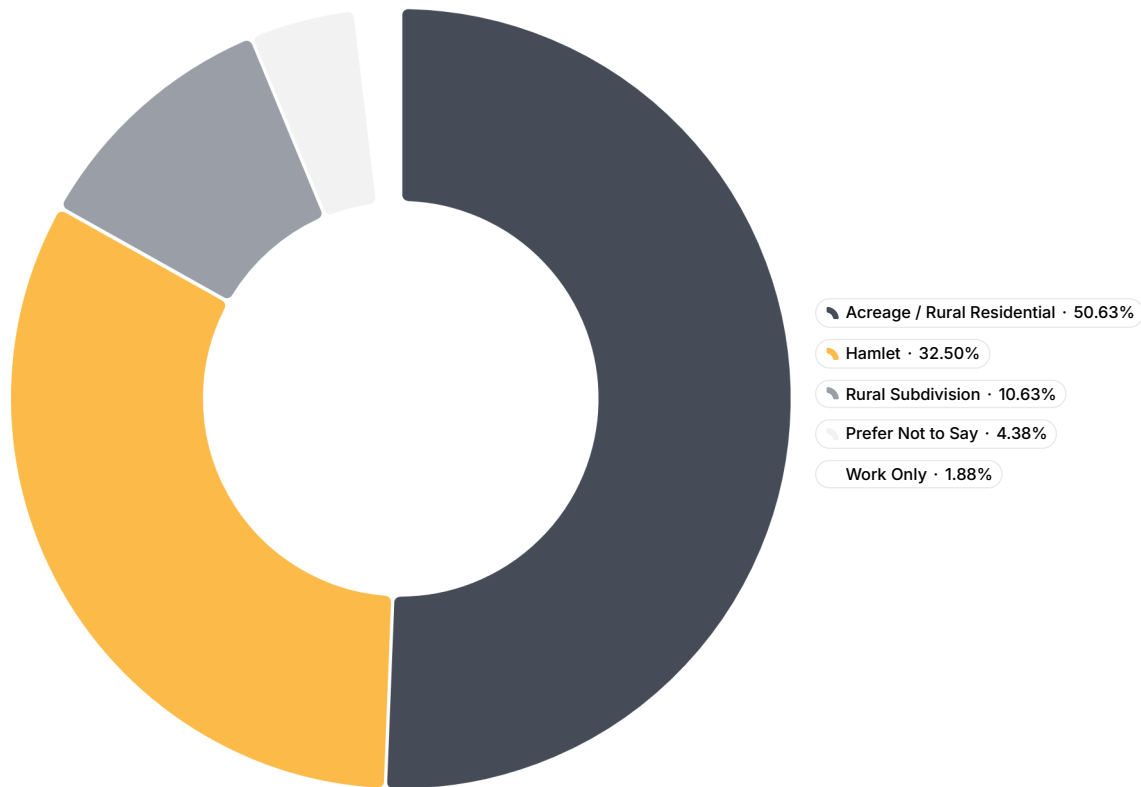
Crime Directly Experienced: Aggressive driving is the most personally experienced crime type (46.2%), followed by break and enter (38.8%) and vehicle break-ins (22.5%). The prevalence of aggressive driving aligns directly with the patrol visibility finding.

Respondent Profile

160 Respondents | March 23 – April 7, 2026

Where Respondents Live

Q4 — Residence Type (n=160)



Q4 — Where do you primarily reside within Minburn County? (n=160)

- More than half of respondents (50.6%) live on acreages, dispersed rural residential properties. Combined with hamlet residents (32.5%), 83.1% of survey participants live outside any urban centre. This geography fundamentally shapes every policing challenge identified in this report, particularly response times, patrol visibility, and the challenges of rural policing.

Who Responded

Age, Gender, and Tenure in County

Age Distribution (Q2)

Age Group	n	% of Total
25-34	14	8.8%
35-44	35	21.9%
45-54	32	20.0%
55-64	39	24.4%
65-74	27	16.9%
75+	10	6.2%
Prefer not to answer	3	1.9%

Gender (Q3)

Gender	n	% of Total
Female	92	57.5%
Male	61	38.1%
Self-identified	6	3.8%
Prefer not to answer	1	0.6%

Years in County (Q5)

Years in County	n	% of Total
Less than 1 year	3	1.9%
1-5 years	33	20.6%
6-10 years	13	8.1%
11-20 years	28	17.5%
20+ years	81	50.6%
Prefer not to answer	1	0.6%

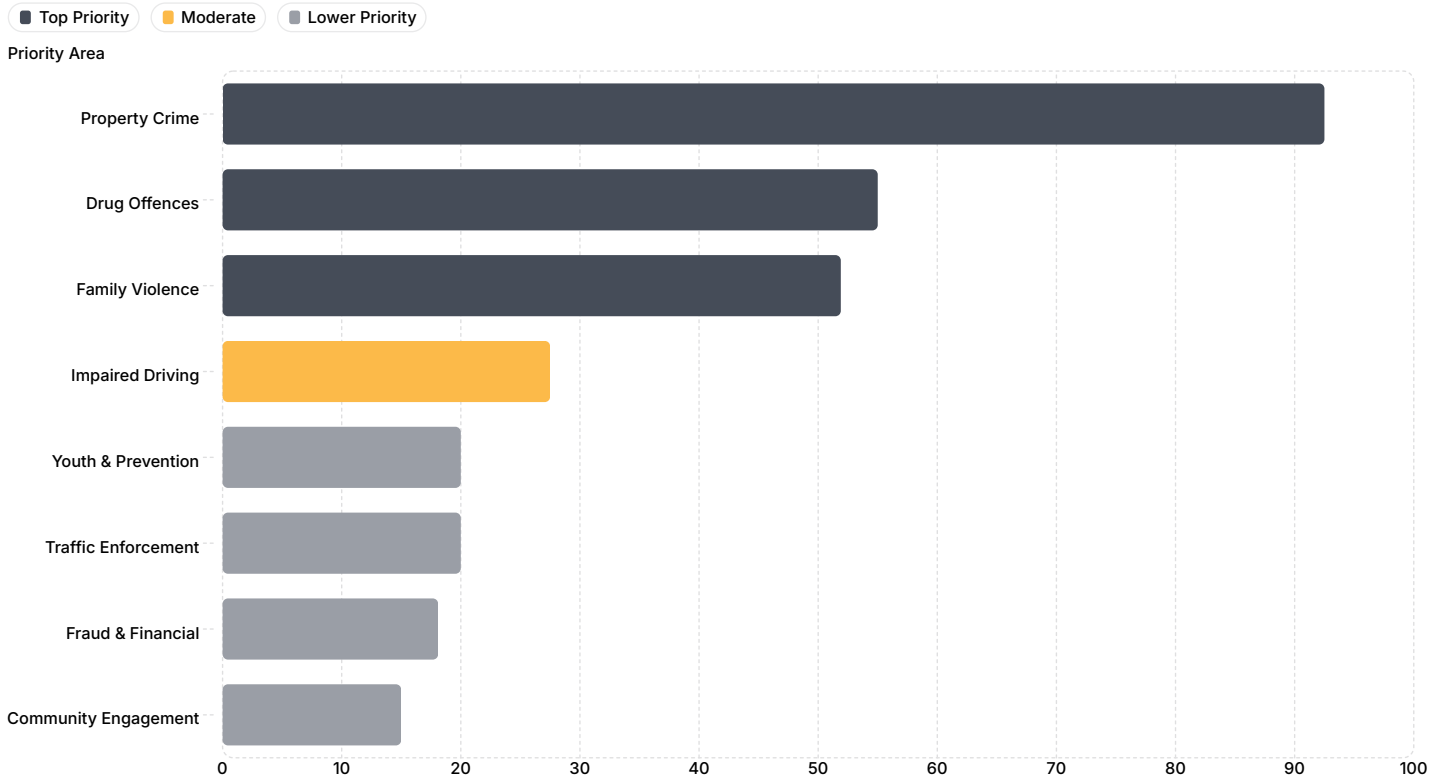
Survey skews toward middle-aged and longer-tenured residents. No respondents under 25. 50.6% have lived in the County 20+ years.

RCMP Priority Rankings

What residents want the RCMP to focus on

Property Crime Stands Alone

Q7 — Free-Selection Top-3 Multi-Pick (n=160)



Q7 — Select your top 3 policing priorities (n=160, multiple response)

Property Crime selected by 92.5% of respondents. Drug offences (55%) and family violence (51.9%) form a closely contested second tier. All other categories fall below 28%.

Ranked Priorities — Forced-Rank Results

Q6 — % placed in Top 3 and ranked #1

Priority Area	Top-3 %	Ranked #1 %
Property Crime (theft, B&E, vandalism)	91.9%	58.1%
Family Violence & Crimes Against Persons	68.8%	20.0%
Impaired Driving	49.4%	5.6%
Drugs (trafficking, production, possession)	43.8%	7.5%
Traffic Enforcement	15.6%	2.5%
Fraud & Financial Crimes	13.1%	3.8%
Youth Engagement & Crime Prevention	12.5%	1.9%
Community Engagement & Public Education	5.0%	0.6%

☐ Property Crime is the #1 priority for **58.1%** of respondents, more than double Family Violence (20.0%) in second place. In the free-selection Q7, drugs rank second (55%) ahead of family violence (51.9%). Both signals are valid. Property crime is unambiguously first.

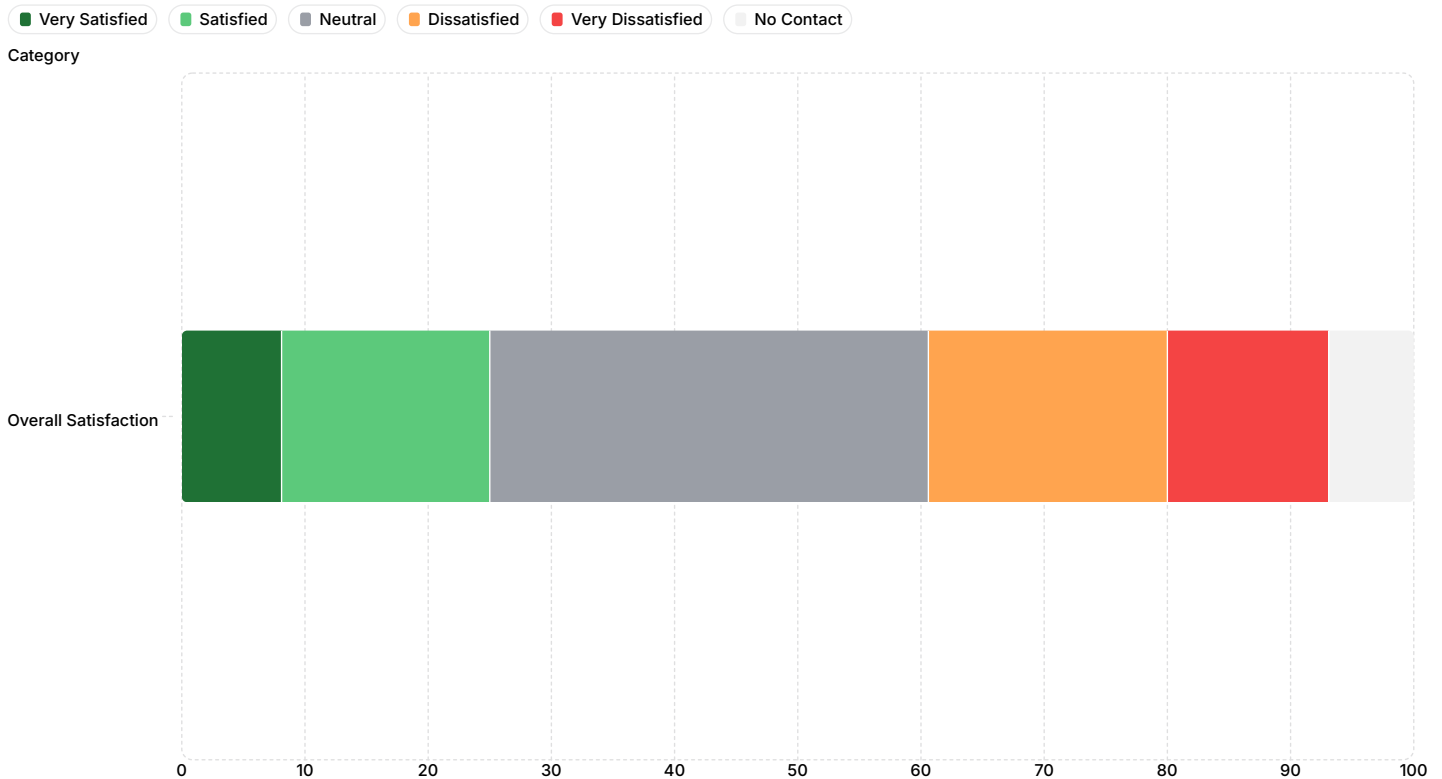
Note: Q7 (free-pick) and Q6 (forced-rank) show slightly different second/third tier ordering. Both are reported; neither overrides the other.

RCMP Satisfaction & Patrol Visibility

How residents rate service and presence

Satisfaction

Q8 — Overall RCMP Satisfaction (n=160)

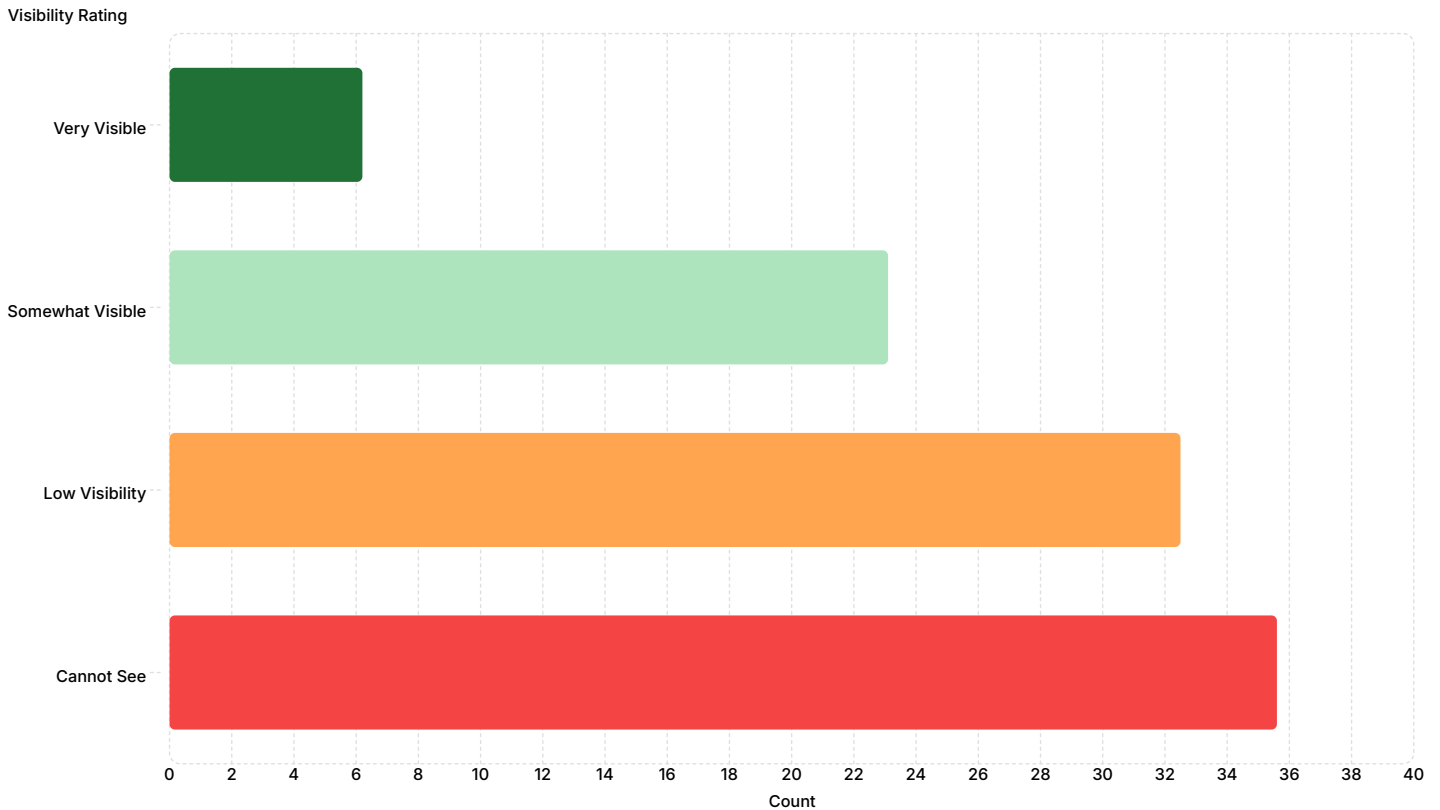


Q8 — Overall satisfaction with RCMP service (n=160) |

- Of residents who had RCMP contact (n=149): 26.8% satisfied or very satisfied, 38.3% neutral, 34.9% dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. The neutral group is the single largest, though dissatisfaction outweighs satisfaction by more than 8%. Many residents are cautiously dissatisfied, recognizing officers work under resource constraints rather than expressing hostility toward individual officers.

Patrol Visibility: Critical Finding

Q9 — RCMP patrol visibility in your area (n=160)



Q9 — How visible is RCMP patrol presence in your area? (n=160) | **68.1% report low or zero RCMP visibility**

CRITICAL: 68.1% of residents report low or zero RCMP visibility. Only 6.2% describe patrol as very visible. Open-text responses identify midnight–7 AM as the highest-crime window with lowest patrol presence. Named locations: Mannville, Minburn, Ranfurly, RR 881, Hwy 631, Hwy 857, and Akasu Road. 2.5% had no opinion.

Response Time Satisfaction

Q13 — n=121 residents with RCMP contact

Rating	n	% of Total
Very Satisfied	15	9.4%
Satisfied	32	20.0%
Neutral	26	16.3%
Dissatisfied	31	19.4%
Very Dissatisfied	17	10.6%
Never Contacted RCMP	38	23.8%

38.8% satisfied or very satisfied with response times. 39.7% dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. Open-text responses frequently reference 15–20 minute wait times in Mannville and surrounding hamlets as a key operational constraint.

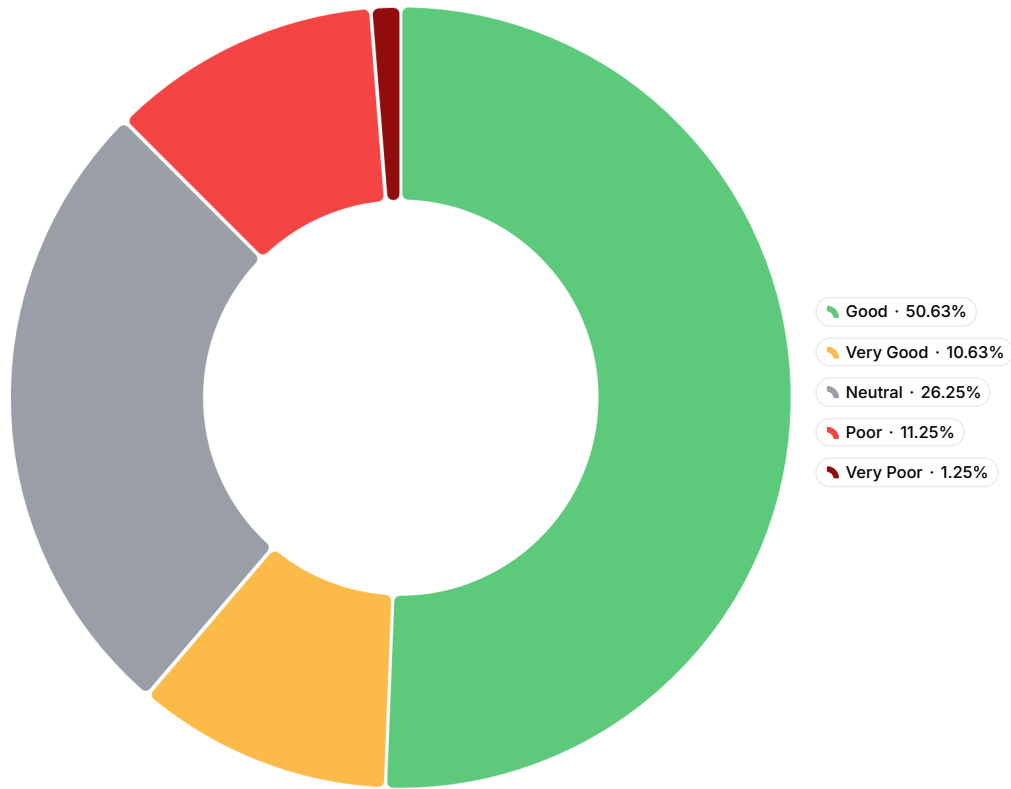
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Community Safety Perceptions

How safe residents feel, and whether that's changing

61% Rate Safety Good or Better — With a Caveat

Q11 — Community Safety Rating (n=160)

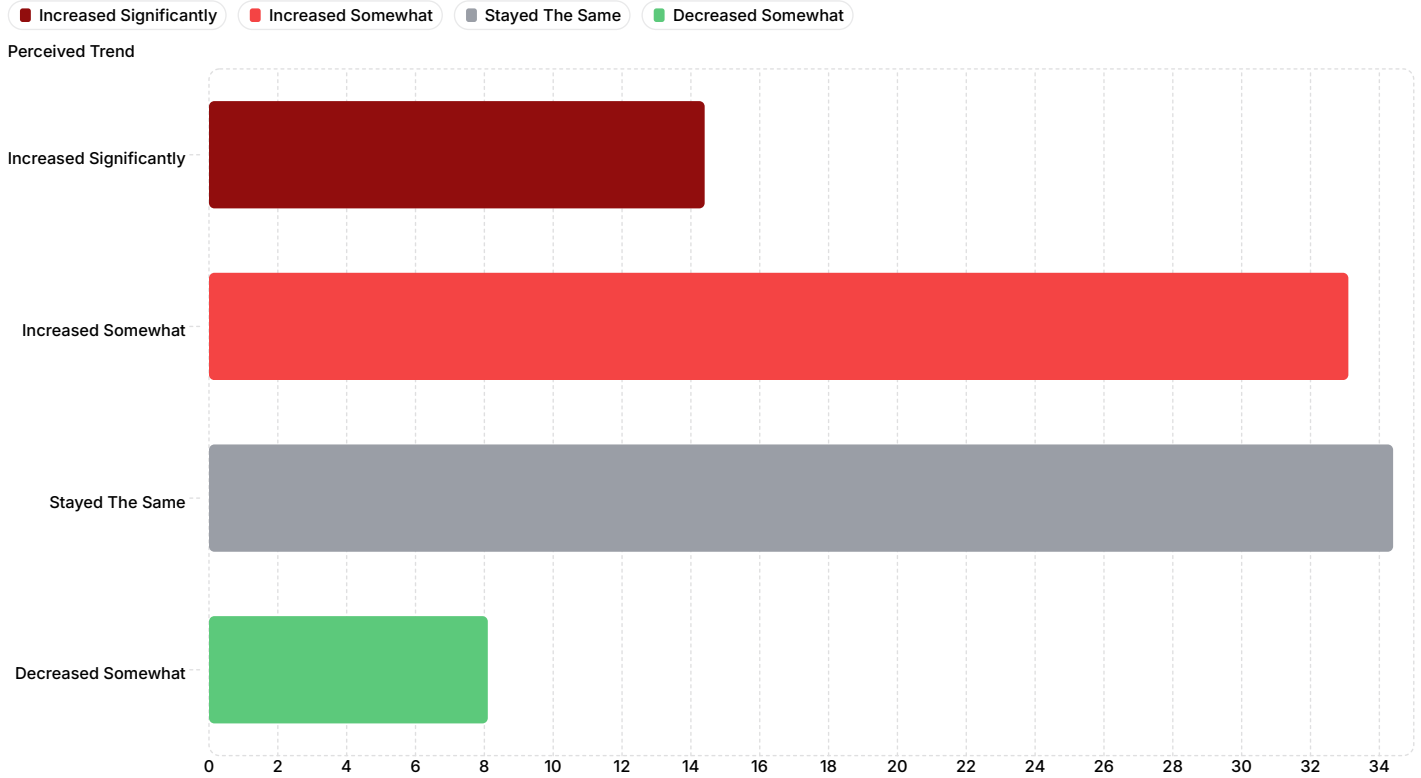


Q11 — How safe is the County of Minburn as a place to live? (n=160)

A meaningful positive baseline, but the crime trend data on the following card shows this is a fragile equilibrium.

Nearly Half Believe Crime Is Getting Worse

Q12 — Perceived Crime Trend vs. Last Year (n=160)



Q12 — Compared to last year, how has crime changed in Minburn County? (n=160) | **47.5% believe crime increased**

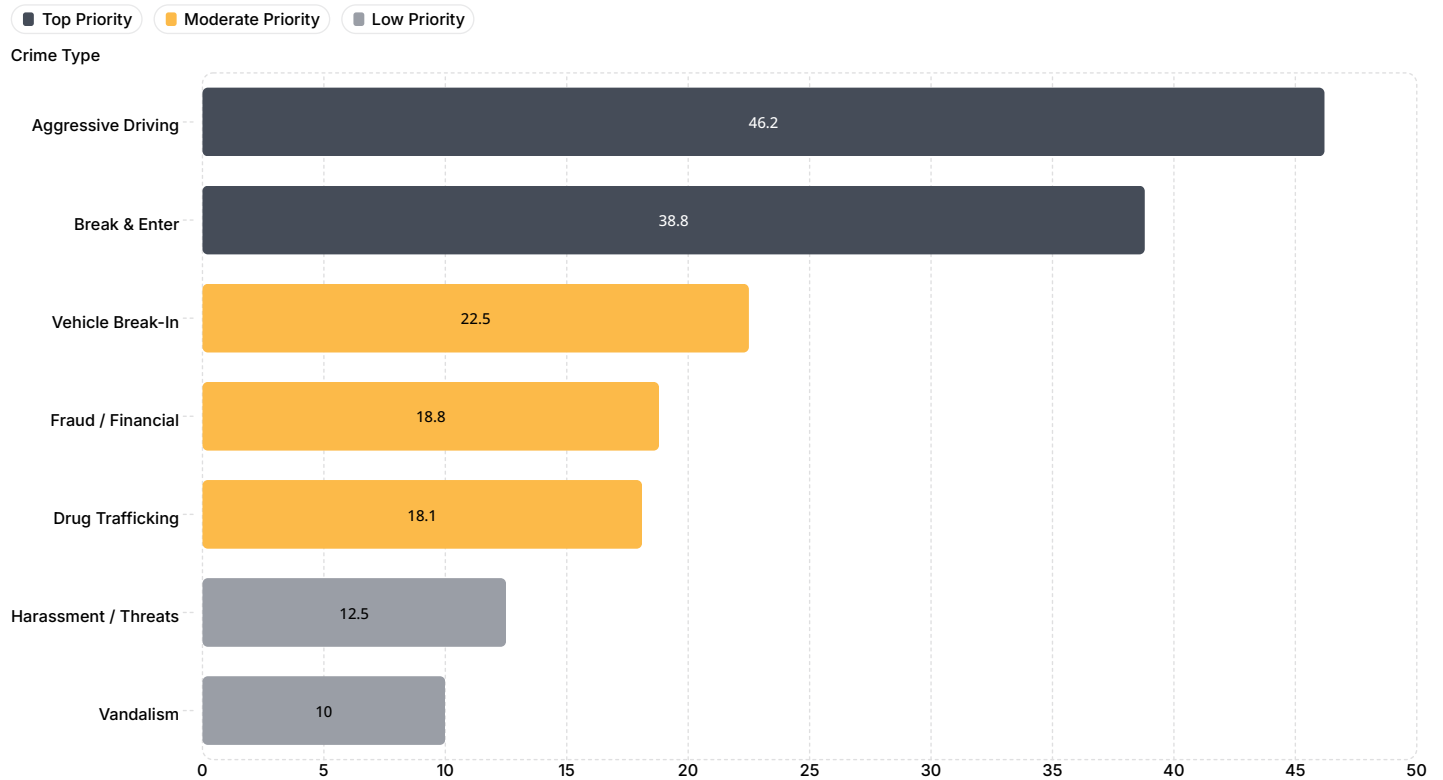
- 47.5% of residents perceive crime has increased over the past year. Only 8.8% perceive improvement. A stable safety baseline alongside growing concern is a fragile equilibrium, and the key trend signal for RCMP planning discussions. Note: 0.6% reported crime decreased significantly.

Crimes Directly Experienced

What residents have personally experienced or witnessed

Aggressive Driving and Break & Enter Dominate

Q14 — Crimes personally experienced (n=160, multiple response)



Q14 — Which of these have you personally experienced? (n=160, multiple response)

Top 3 experienced: Aggressive Driving — 74 residents (46.2%). Break & Enter — 62 residents (38.8%). Vehicle Break-In — 36 residents (22.5%). 20.6% report no personal crime experience. The prevalence of aggressive driving reinforces the patrol visibility finding, residents encounter dangerous driving precisely because they see no deterrent patrol presence.

Open-Ended Response Analysis

What residents said in their own words

General RCMP Comments

Q10 — 70 responses

The 70 open-text comments cluster around five dominant themes. The most prevalent is rural crime and patrol visibility, residents describe a widely shared perception that RCMP patrol patterns are concentrated on Hwy 16 and town limits while communities such as Mannville and Minburn, and rural road networks, see little to no presence. A recurring specific complaint is that crime occurs predominantly between midnight and 7 AM, while patrol activity appears concentrated in daytime hours. Property crime is the second most frequent theme, with multiple respondents describing a pattern of known repeat offenders cycling through the justice system. Satisfaction is deeply mixed — a meaningful minority express genuine appreciation for officer professionalism, while an equally vocal group describes dismissive or inadequate service experiences. Resource concerns surface repeatedly in a constructive frame: many residents explicitly acknowledge understaffing as the root cause rather than officer attitude. Outlier themes include calls for a provincial police force and criticism of the justice system's approach to repeat offenders.

“
“Police presence goes a long way. If you are around, and/or people know you will be around, crimes will occur less. Criminals are generally repeat offenders, and know that it takes the police forever to respond to our small towns once a crime has been reported so they know they can get away. Stagger your times of patrol. Make them sporadic.”
— Resident, 35–44, Acreage, 20+ years in County
”

“
“Mannville needs more police presence especially during night when theft happens.”
— Resident, 55–64,
”

“
“I think they are doing what they can based on number of police officers and resources available. Hire more officers, improve visibility and we would all feel safer.”
— Resident, 45–54, Acreage
”

Specific Locations of Concern

Q15 — 79 responses | Actionable geographic intelligence for RCMP deployment

The location data provides specific, actionable geographic intelligence for RCMP deployment decisions. Mannville is the most frequently named location, with concerns centring on nighttime crime (theft, B&E), RR 881 north and south, and Highway 16 intersections. The Highway 631 corridor between Hwy 36 and Hwy 857 is the second most cited, named for stop-sign violations, speeding, and theft activity. The Minburn area is described as having zero patrol presence, with residents citing racing, stunting near parks, and impaired driving. Akasu Road, Range Road 152/Holden Road, and Ranfurly are also named. School zones, including Innisfree school zone, Vegreville crosswalks, and high school dismissal traffic, appear across multiple responses.

<p><i>"Minburn is DESPERATE for patrol cars to be visible!"</i></p> <p>— Resident, 55–64, Hamlet</p>	<p><i>"Highway 16 near Mannville and RR 881 both north and south."</i></p> <p>— Resident, 45–54, Acreage, 6–10 years in County</p>	<p><i>"In the village of Mannville, where most of our crime is committed. More patrols at night."</i></p> <p>— Resident, 25–34, Acreage, 1–5 years in County</p>
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What Residents Say RCMP Is Doing Well

Q16 — 60 responses

This field yielded the highest proportion of blank or "no positive to report" answers of any open-text question, many residents cannot identify RCMP strengths because they rarely see or interact with officers. Where positives are named, three themes emerge. First, officer professionalism and courtesy in direct interactions: residents who have had contact describe officers as kind, professional, and responsive when reached. Second, highway traffic enforcement on Hwy 16 is acknowledged by several respondents as visible and active, though a number also criticize this same presence as misaligned with community priorities. Third, specific community touchpoints, school events, town halls, fire department support, and senior centre visits, are praised where they occur but described as infrequent.

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"Showing up at kids' events like Baseball and at schools is good. The kids love seeing them and asking questions. They will learn respect for officers and won't be frightened of them."

— Resident, 65–74, Rural Subdivision, 20+ years in County

“
"I am very impressed by the officers I've had contact with. They responded quickly, bravely, and effectively during an attempted home invasion and have taken my reports of neighbourhood drug dealing, peace disturbance, and domestic violence seriously."

— Resident, 55–64, 20+ years in County

“
"I believe the officers are doing a fantastic job with the limited resources they have. The county is a vast area and needs a larger police force."

— Resident, 25–34, 1–5 years in County

What Residents Want from Community Partnership

Q17 — 61 responses

The community partnership question produced the most forward-looking and constructive responses in the survey. Residents want RCMP to be visible community members, not just incident responders, sub-themes include officers knowing residents by name, attending local events (hockey games, baseball, seniors events, town halls), and school-based programming. Rural patrol visibility overlaps significantly with partnership expectations: many respondents equate "partnership" with simply being physically present. Resource concerns appear constructively, with multiple respondents proposing structural solutions including a resident officer in Mannville, a citizen patrol program, and additional rural-dedicated staff. A notable subgroup addresses accountability and feedback loops — residents want to see how their survey input translates into operational changes.

“
"Instead of just reacting to crimes, police and community work together to share information to be proactive on public safety with shared prevention goals to reduce crime."

— Resident, 35–44,
Acreage, 20+ years in
County

“
"Public engagement and opportunity to voice opinions. Then — Transparency. Clearly demonstrate how engagement data is analyzed, internalized, and executed on the ground for the public to clearly see if their voices even have an impact. There is no point in calling it 'community partnership' if the loop isn't closed."

— Resident, 25–34,
Acreage, 6–10 years in
County

“
"Effective policing starts with immediate response to calls that are made. Immediate attendance to serious problems. Keep the complainant aware of investigations progress and keep the public in the loop on issues affecting the community."

— Resident, 65–74,
Acreage, 20+ years in
County

Facebook Public Sentiment Analysis

Supplementary qualitative context, excluded from all survey statistics

Public Comments — County of Minburn Facebook Page

❏ **NOTE:** The following reflects public comments posted in response to the survey announcement. These are not survey responses and are excluded from all statistics. They represent supplementary qualitative context. Individual names have been removed.

The County's Facebook post generated a thread of public comments. The overall tone was more critical than the formal survey sample, which is expected given the self-selecting nature of social media engagement. The formal survey's satisfaction results are the more representative measure of county-wide sentiment. The Facebook thread is nonetheless useful context for understanding the RCMP's community trust-rebuilding objectives.

Theme	Summary
Skepticism About the Process	Several commenters doubt this consultation will produce meaningful change. The County and RCMP should be prepared to demonstrate how resident input translates into specific operational commitments with follow-up reporting.
Provincial Police / Alberta Sheriffs Debate	Multiple commenters advocate replacing RCMP with Alberta Sheriffs or a provincial police force, reflecting a broader provincial conversation.
Frustration with Federal/Political Context	Several comments extend policing frustration to federal political grievances. These are outliers relative to the formal survey and reflect social media's amplifying nature.
Catch and Release / Justice System Criticism	"No more catch and release" echoes one of the most consistent themes in the formal survey's open-text fields. This cross-channel alignment adds weight to the finding.
Traffic Enforcement / Dangerous Driving	Aligns with formal survey data on aggressive driving (46.2%) and Q15 school zone flags.