

Public Questionnaire

Background

An independent committee is currently reviewing the financial compensation for Edmonton's City Council. The goal is to ensure that people from all walks of life look at serving on Council as a viable option and to adequately compensate Council members for their time and level of responsibility.

Limiters

As this survey relates to the Edmonton municipal government, it is intended for people who live in the city of Edmonton. Please enter the first three numbers of your postal code

First Three Digits of Postal Code: ___ ___ ___

City Council

City Council consists of the Mayor and 12 Council members. Together they make decisions concerning the services provided to residents as well as overseeing the City of Edmonton's \$1.8 billion operating budget.

Mayor

The Mayor's workload averages at least 70 to 80 hours per week. The Mayor's time is spent working closely with Council, the City Manager and community representatives to develop plans and strategies, and policies important to the City's business.

In addition to performing these duties, the Mayor is the key public representative of the City and is called on to represent the City organization and the community at meetings, public functions, ceremonies and other events. These often occur during evening hours and on weekends. For example, in 2011, the Mayor received over 2,000 such invitations and was able to attend 570 of them.

The Mayor is the chief spokesperson for the City in discussions with elected officials in other municipalities and/or the provincial and federal governments. This often involves initiating and building important relationships with decision-makers outside of the community.

1. What do you consider to be the position that is most similar to that of Mayor? [Select One Response]

- Superintendent of a School Board
- Cabinet Minister (Federal)
- Member of Parliament (Federal)
- Member of the Legislative Assembly (Provincial MLA)
- Senior manager - Health, Education, Social Services

2. Below are some average annual salary ranges in Alberta. Which salary bracket do you think should be/is comparable to that of the Mayor? [Select One Response]

- Superintendent of a School Board \$250,000 to \$325,000
- Cabinet Minister (Federal \$233,000) \$200,000 to \$250,000
- Member of Parliament (Federal \$157,000) \$150,000 to \$200,000
- Member of the Legislative Assembly (Provincial MLA \$134,000) \$125,000 to \$150,000
- Senior manager - Health, Education, Social Services - \$100,000 to \$125,000

Councillors

Each Councillor represents the approximately 60,000 people who live in their ward. A Councillor's workload averages 70 to 80 hours per week. A Councillor's time is spent working closely with the Mayor and other Councillors. Attendance at and participation in Council and Committee meetings is mandatory and is a requirement to fulfill the representative and legislative responsibilities of elected office.

Councillors are the key public representatives of the City and their ward, and are called on to represent the City organization and the community at meetings, public functions, ceremonies and other events. These often occur during evening hours and on weekends.

3. What do you consider to be the position that is most similar to that of City Councillor? [Select One Response]

- Cabinet Minister (Alberta)
- Member of Parliament (Federal)
- Member of the Legislative Assembly (Provincial MLA)
- School Principal
- Residential Construction Manager

4. Below are some average annual salary ranges in Alberta. Which salary bracket do you think should be/is comparable to that of a Councillor?

[Select One Response]

- Cabinet Minister (Alberta \$210,000) \$175,000 to \$225,000
- Member of Parliament (Federal \$157,000) \$150,000 to \$175,000
- Member of the Legislative Assembly (Provincial MLA \$134,000) \$125,000 to \$150,000
- School Principal - \$100,000 to \$125,000
- Residential Construction Manager \$75,000 to \$100,000

5. The job of Mayor and Council of Edmonton is most similar to that of the Mayor and Council of: [Select One Response]

- Calgary
- Winnipeg
- Regina
- Vancouver

Increases

Council compensation is adjusted effective the first pay of each year by the same percentage increase or decrease as the Alberta Average Weekly Earnings from September to September as reported by Statistics Canada (survey of employment payroll and hours) for the immediately preceding year. Statistics Canada tracks the weekly earnings across Canada and reports monthly and annual changes by province. This is the same indicator that is used to determine wage increases for many other municipalities across Canada.

6. Using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, please rate your level of agreement with the following statement:

“This way of determining an increase is fair”

Comments

7. Below is an opportunity to make a comment concerning Council compensation:

Limit of 500 keystrokes

For more information regarding Council Compensation in the City of Edmonton, please click on the link below:

Council Compensation

Salaries

Salaries are adjusted effective the first pay period of each year. The percentage increase or decrease is calculated using the Alberta Weekly Earnings from September to September, as reported by Statistics Canada for the immediately preceding year.

The following is the salary that Members of Council are eligible to receive:

	2010	2011	2012
Mayor	\$144,061	\$150,748	\$158,813
Councillors	\$79,787	\$83,488	\$87,955

One third of the Mayor and Councillor's salary is tax exempt, as allowed by the *Municipal Government Act* and the federal *Income Tax Act*.

The grossed up equivalent salary would be:

	Gross equivalent (no tax free portion)
Mayor	\$184,468
Councillors	\$99,881

Benefits

	City of Edmonton	Council Member
Alberta Health	0%	0%
Major Medical	70%	30%
Dental Plan	65%	35%
Long Term Disability	0%	100%
Life Insurance	50%	50%

All members of Council receive an annual \$500 flexible Health Care Spending Account.

Vehicle Allowance

Mayor	\$1158.00 per month (1/3 tax exempt) or the choice of a City-owned vehicle
Council	\$578.00 per month (1/3 tax exempt)

Vehicle allowance amounts are indexed by the increase or decrease in the City of Edmonton mileage rate from January 1 of the previous year to January 1 of the current year.

RRSP

The City of Edmonton contributes an amount equal to 11% of the elected official's total annual salary to support retirement.

Transition Allowance

The City of Edmonton Members of Council will be provided with a transition allowance, upon the conclusion of their service, equal to three weeks salary for each year served, to a maximum of 36 weeks.

Parking

Members of Council are provided with parking permits for reserved stalls in City Hall, valued at **\$3,540 per year**. This figure includes complimentary parking at Stanley Milner Library or Canada Place parkades, which Councillors may or may not choose to use. The figure also includes permits for metered parking on City-owned property and restricted residential parking.

Transit Passes

Members of Council are offered City transit passes and may or may not choose to accept them. They are valued at **\$84.50 per month** (\$1,014 per year).

Employee Savings and Discounts

Members of Council may take advantage of savings and discounts offered to all City employees, including a 50% discount for admission to City recreation facilities.

Independent Council Compensation Committee

In 2006 an independent committee made recommendations for City Council remuneration. It recommended their salaries to be adjusted up or down each year according to the average weekly earnings of Albertans.

[2006 Council Compensation Review Final Report](#)