



**Municipality of French River
Report to Council
by the Environmental Department**

RE : Waste Management Public Consultation - Final Report

OBJECTIVE: To provide Council with a final report on the information gathered through the waste management public consultation and to recommend a Waste Management Operations solution

BACKGROUND:

Since 2014, staff has been addressing long-term issues in the waste management system following its expiration in 2013. Recognizing the challenges, staff consistently reported to the council, highlighting the potential for system transformation without the need for reinvesting in collection assets. In 2016, the council opted to reinvest in a waste collection vehicle and temporarily addressed the issue by applying makeshift solutions to extend the lifespan of transfer site collection bins.

Subsequently, starting in 2019, the municipality initiated internal and external thorough reviews of the entire waste management system, implemented interim measures to assist in extending expired assets, worked towards alleviating extensive waste and bulk waste volumes at transfer site locations, and utilized staff resources to mitigate challenges within the 20-year-old waste collection system. Despite best efforts, the municipality continues to struggle with the aging assets of the system, limited controls at sites which are impacting the landfill lifespan, environmental compliance, and environmental responsibility.

On November 15th, 2023, Council directed staff to launch a two-tier public consultation process consisting of a public survey and an in-person /virtual public consultation session to provide each household with equal opportunity to be engaged in the decision-making process and for a method in which to solicit feedback in writing to the Municipality on the two remaining waste management options being considered by council.

The Consultation period was launched on November 22, 2023, and was open until January 26th, 2024. On January 24th, 2024, Staff presented the initial results from the waste management public consultation survey.

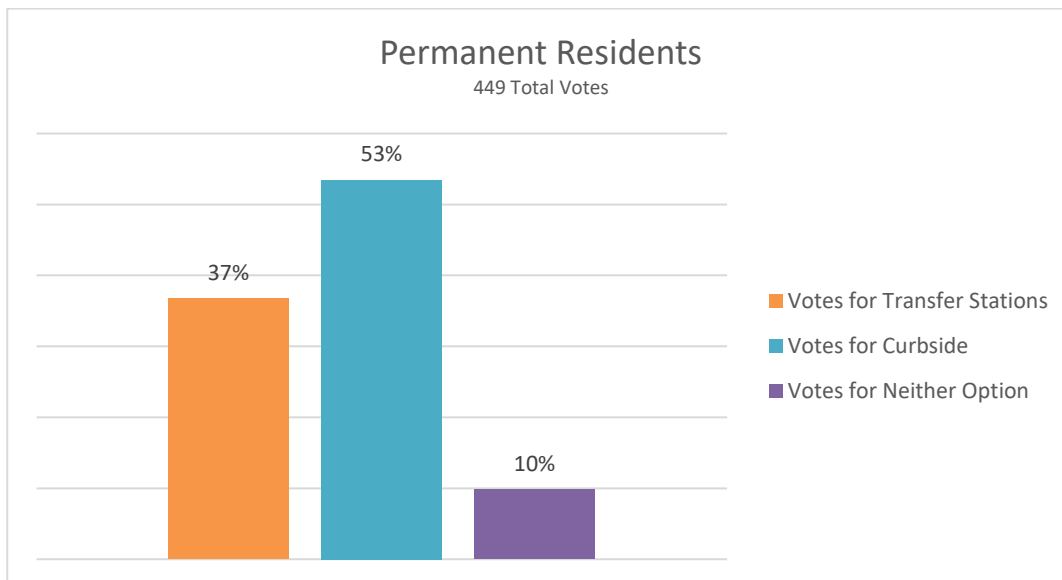
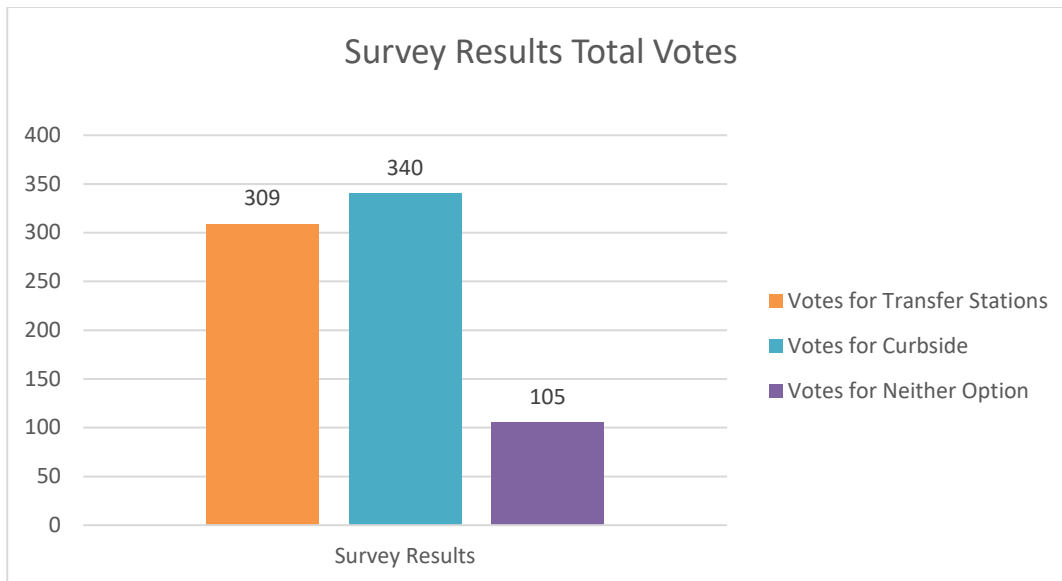
ANALYSIS:

The special meeting included the in person/ virtual public consultation process, the Municipality had 32 guests join in Council Chambers for the in-person process, 11 registered participants, 5 in which joined virtually and 2 others in person participants that provided their views on the potential changes and options that council is considering for the waste management system.

In summary of the discussions and comments that were received through the consultation process:

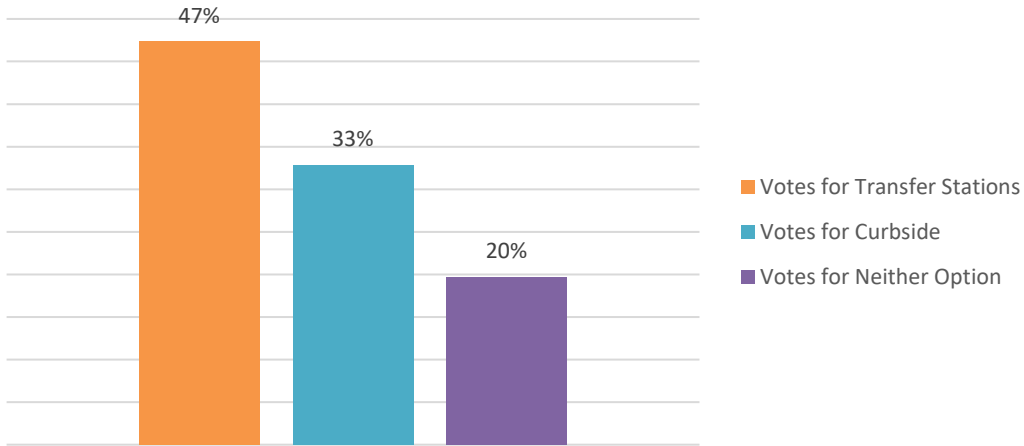
- Wildlife accessing waste and potentially becoming a danger.
- The increase in tax assessment that would be consumed by residents/ businesses for option 1- transfer sites.
- The increase in taxation for option 1 impacting economic development.
- The increase in taxation for option 1 impacting other municipal projects and their financial feasibility.
- The convenience of no controls that exists with 24-hour access to current system.
- Island residents limited access to services (both curbside recycling and transfer sites)
- Seasonal residents' apprehension of not having collection services align with their residency.
- Level of service for Monetville Residents (under option 1)
- Card Pass as an option at transfer site locations instead of attendant.

Survey Results

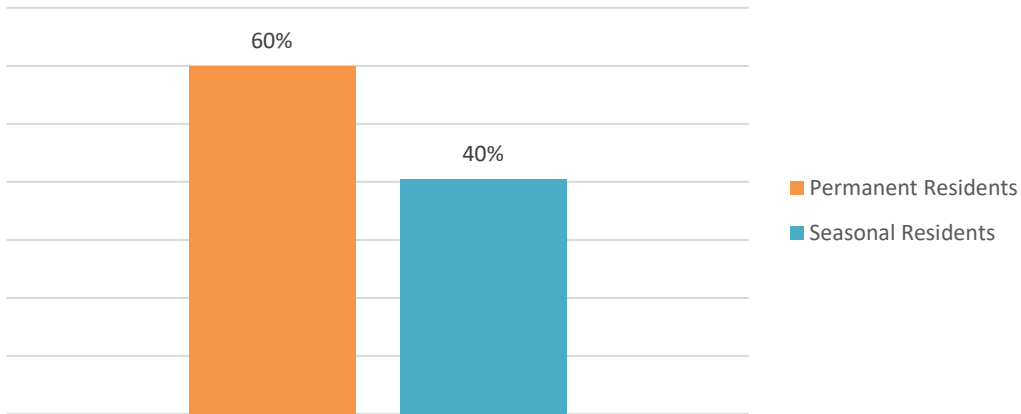


Seasonal Residents

304 Total Votes

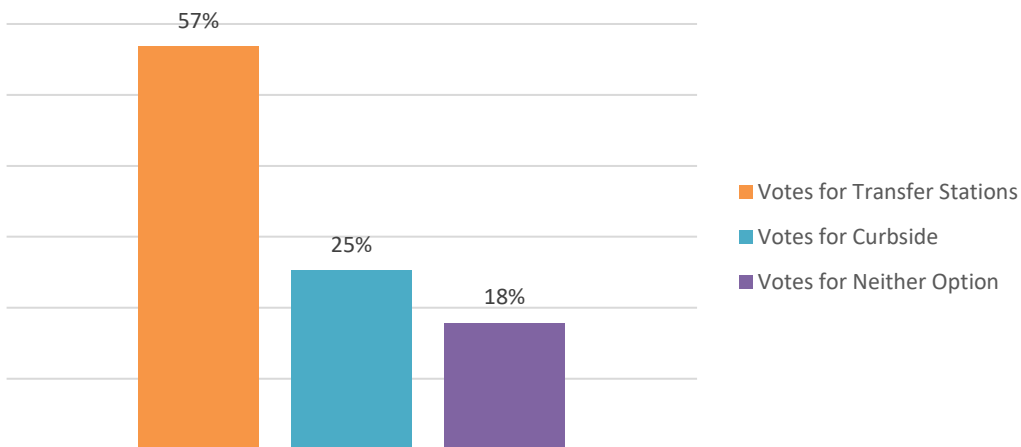


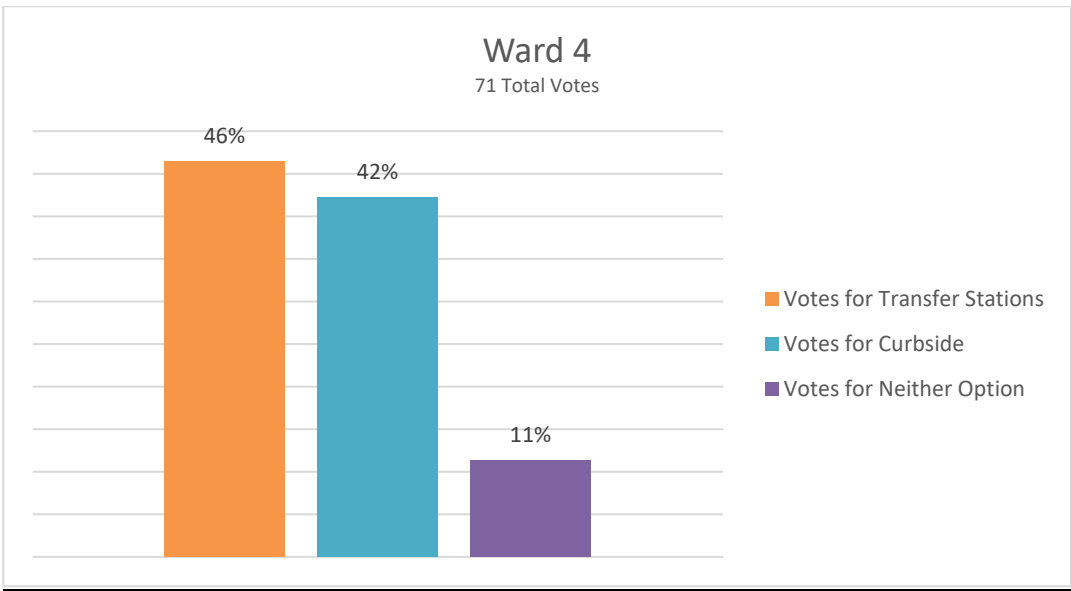
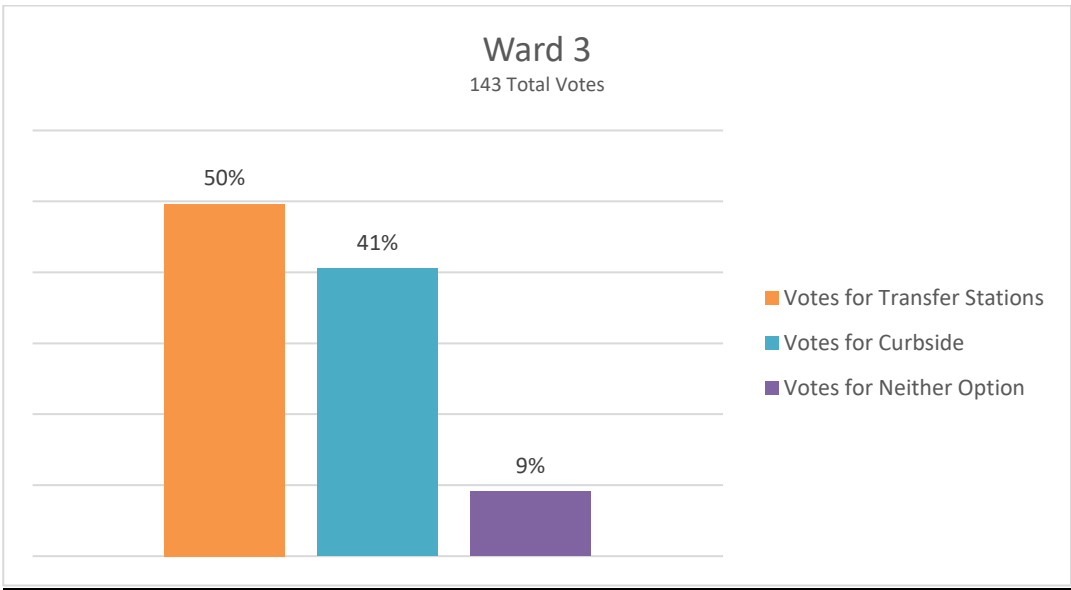
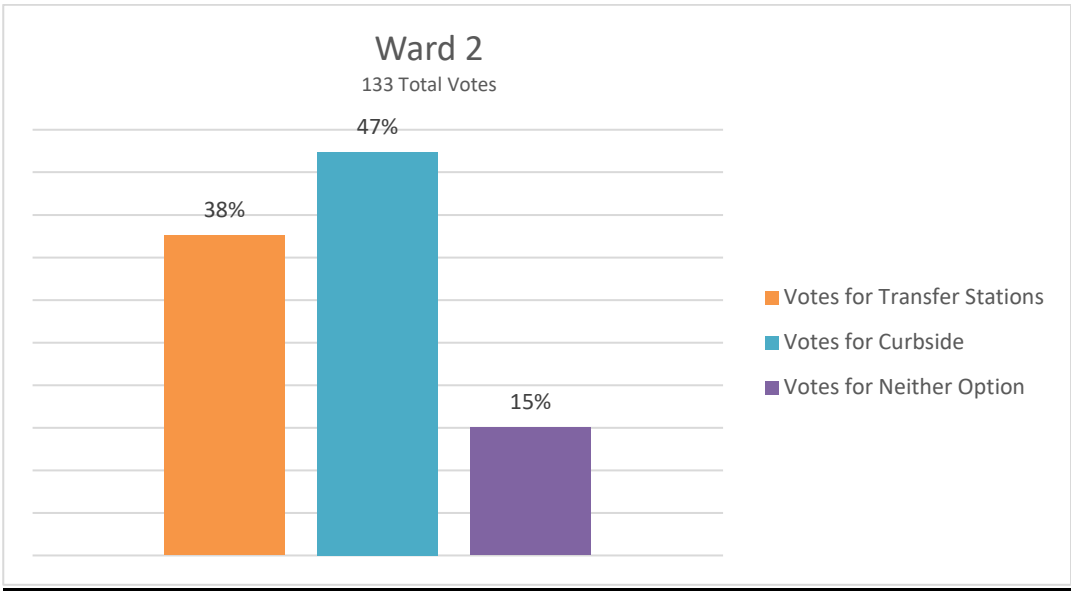
Residency Status of Survey Participants

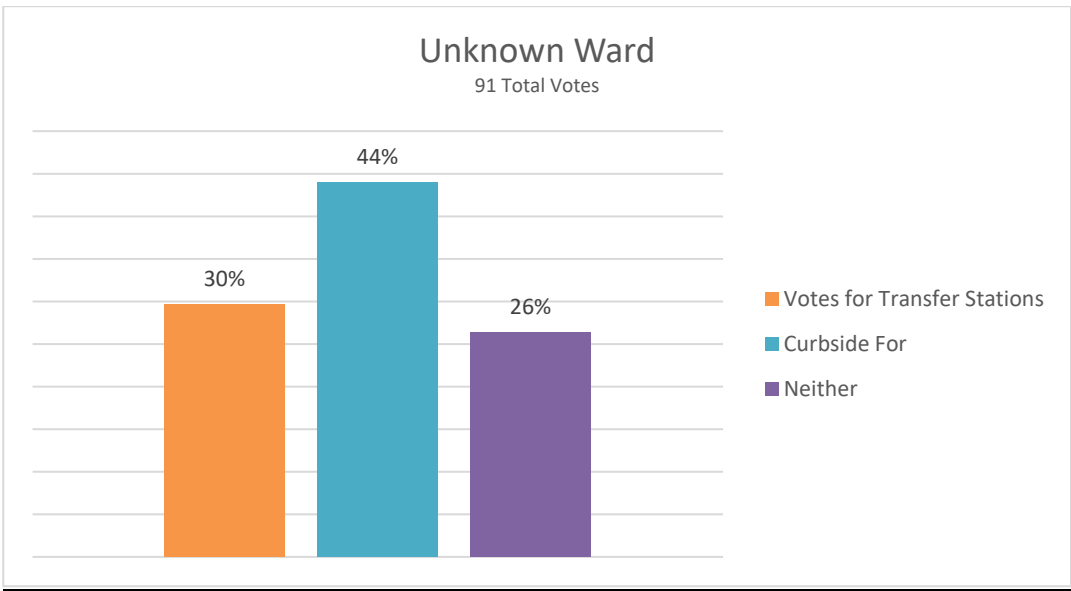
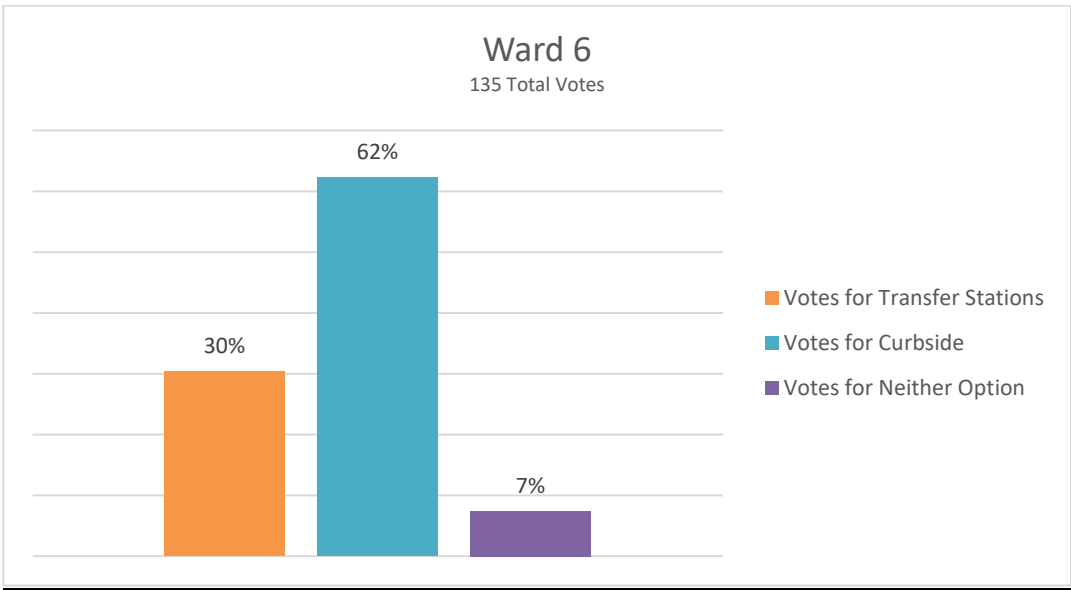
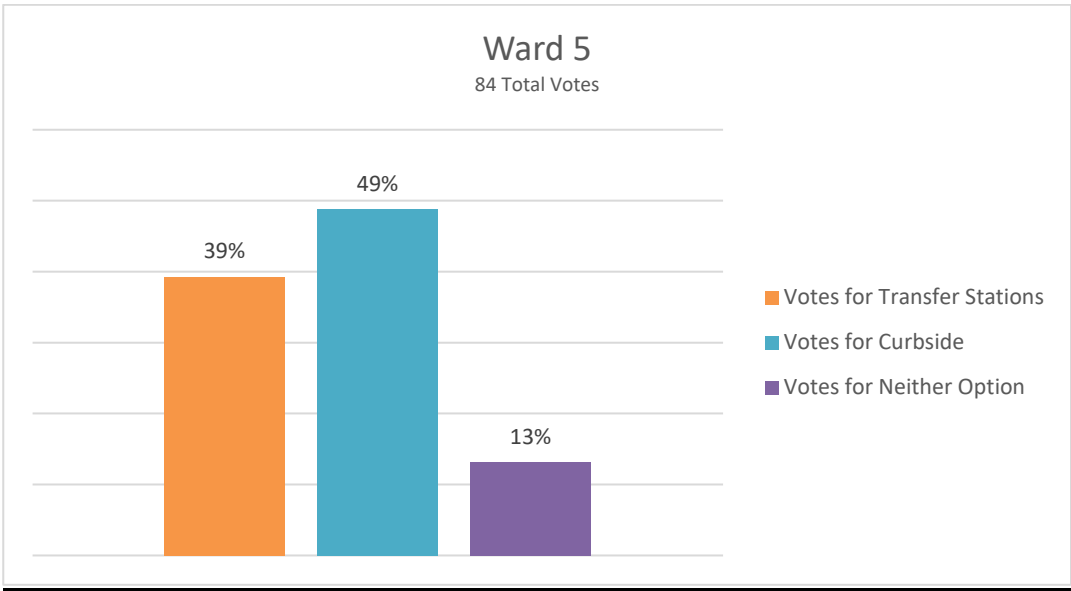


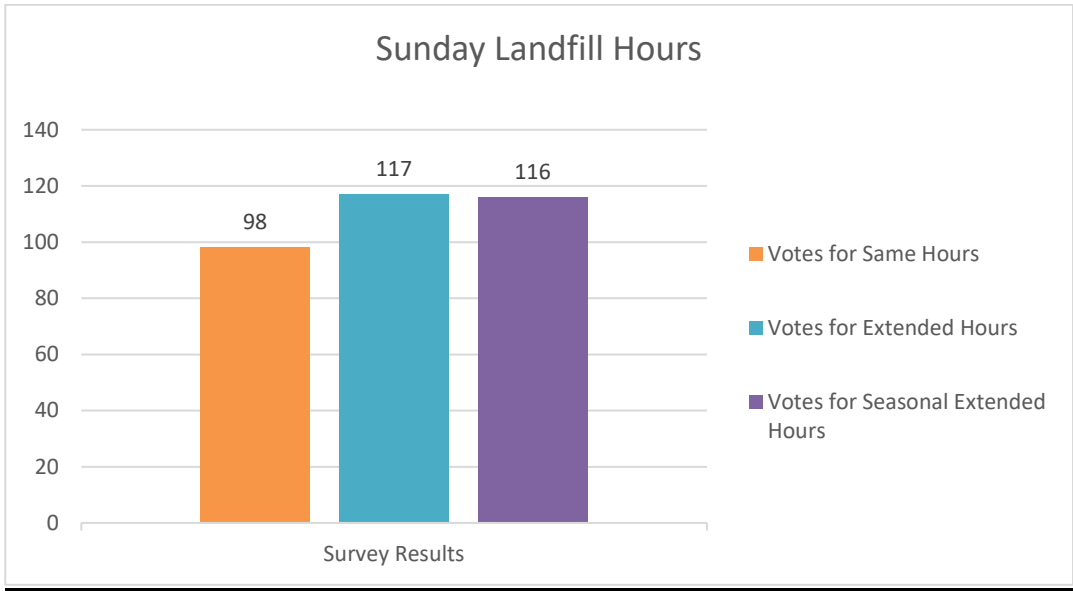
Ward 1

95 Total Votes









CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendation is for Council to choose Option 2 - Curbside Waste Collection and to enter into a trial household waste curbside collection contract for a minimum of three years, and to discuss potential issues or changes to the program beginning of the second year and that the decision regarding Sunday Landfill Hours be postponed to a later date.

Respectfully submitted:

Michelle Clark
Operations/ Fleet
Coordinator

Kevin Benvenuti
Manager, Environmental & By-Law
Services

Approved:

Marc Gagnon, Chief
Administrative Officer

Date of Meeting: February 7th 2024