# Phase 2 Online Survey Summary Report

Lawrence Heights Community Recreation Centre and Child Care Centre July 2024







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#### Introduction

The City of Toronto is designing a new Community Recreation Centre and Child Care Centre for the Lawrence Heights Community. The Community Recreation Centre (CRC) will be one of the City's newest and largest community centres. Community engagement is an important part of the process, and the City has launched a three-phase engagement process to help inform the design, features, and programming of the new CRC.

We are in the second of three phases of community consultation to help inform the design, features, and programming of the new CRC. Phase One was held between September 2023 and January 2024, which focused on creating a new community-led vision, guiding principles, and big moves that guided the design team as they developed a draft proposed design for the new Lawrence Heights CRC.

Part of the engagement process for Phase Two included seeking community feedback on the draft proposed designs for the new CRC through an online survey.

#### **About this Report**

This report summarizes feedback received through the online survey, which was live from July 8 to July 29, 2024. The survey was hosted on the City of Toronto's <u>webpage</u> about the new Lawrence Heights CRC. In this report, the feedback received is organized in the following sections:

- 1. Key themes in the feedback
- 2. Detailed feedback
  - a. Feedback on the overall design
  - b. Feedback on each key space
- 3. Other feedback
- 4. Demographic information

This summary was written by Third Party Public, an independent facilitation team supporting the City of Toronto's community engagement about the new Lawrence Heights CRC. For questions where qualitative feedback was requested in the survey, the intent of this report is to capture the range of feedback provided by the respondents, and not to quantify exactly how many respondents provided which suggestions.

For more information about the project and to review summaries from previous community engagement activities, visit the project webpage: <u>toronto.ca/LawrenceHeights.</u>

#### **Overview**

The purpose of the survey was to present and seek feedback on the draft proposed design for the new CRC. The City was looking to hear the community's thoughts on:

- How well the draft design reflects the vision, principles and big moves.
- What the design of the following key spaces in the new CRC should include:
  - 1. Aquatics space located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor
  - 2. Gymnasium located on the ground floor
  - 3. Social and public spaces spread across all floors of the CRC
  - 4. Youth lounge, technology, and music spaces located on the 3rd floor
  - 5. Fitness and weights spaces located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor
  - 6. Multi-purpose spaces located on the ground floor and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
  - 7. Community kitchen and food located on the ground floor
  - 8. Ground floor outdoor space
  - 9. Roof outdoor space
  - 10. Indigenous cultural needs spaces

The draft design presented in this phase was developed based on feedback received from those who participated in the first phase of community engagement. The survey informed the respondents about the proposed features that will be included in the design of each key space, and asked them the following questions:

- Do you support the proposed features in the design of the space?
- Which features do you not support being included in the space, and why?
- What else (if anything) should the design of the space include?
- Does the draft design of the space adequately reflect the vision, guiding principles, and big moves?
- Tell us how the design for the space could better reflect the vision, guiding principles, and/or big moves.

Along with feedback on the design of key spaces, the survey also asked respondents for demographic information. Information shared has been summarized in aggregate in this report.

In total, the survey received 152 responses from 293 respondents. Note that multiple people from the same household can take the survey. This report provides a summary of all the respondent feedback, along with a section on key highlights from the feedback.

#### **Key Themes in the Feedback**

**Overall, many respondents supported the features included in the draft proposed design of the key spaces.** The features included in the draft proposed design received support from at least 80% of the respondents for each of 10 spaces and for the overall design.

Many respondents think the draft proposed designs adequately reflect the vision, guiding principles, and big moves. In each of the key spaces and in the overall design, at least 85% of the respondents thought the vision, guiding principles, and big moves were adequately reflected.

The respondents emphasized that the CRC must be welcoming to and accessible for all community members and address the distinct needs of people from all age groups, genders, and cultures, and the needs of families and people with disabilities. They provided feedback on many ways in which this objective could be achieved through design.

The new CRC should have spaces for individual use as well as spaces that facilitate community use and social interactions. While some respondents wanted quiet, separated spaces for personal use, like study and reading, many said the CRC should be flexible enough that it can be converted into spaces for community use and social interactions. They also stressed that the design should strive to reduce potential conflicts (like excess noise, sanitary concerns, and humidity) due to spaces with different uses being located near each other.

#### **Detailed Feedback**

This section captures detailed feedback on the draft proposed overall design of the new Community Recreation Centre, as well as feedback on the key spaces.

#### Feedback on the overall design

#### Question: Does the draft overall design adequately reflect the vision, guiding principles, and big moves?

Of the 101 respondents who responded to this question, 90% said yes, 6% said somewhat, and 4% said no.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	91		90%
Somewhat	6	-	6%
No	4		4%
			N 101

#### Question: Tell us how the overall design could better reflect the vision, guiding principles, and/or big moves.

- Make the space welcoming by adding more colour and art. There were concerns that the wooden façade and the all-white look has a sterile feeling, likely will not age well, and removes much of the existing culture and colour from the Lawrence Heights neighbourhood. Consider having more ornamentation, art installation, articulating the vertical slats on the façade differently, a designed graffiti wall mixed with modern vibes.
- Consider having a community garden on the roof to help achieve a living green roof and a space for locals to grow their own food.
- Make sure the pool areas are brighter.
- Include more quality and dedicated pickleball courts.

#### Feedback about the gymnasium

Respondents were informed that the following features will be included in the design of the gymnasium:

- Basketball, volleyball, pickleball, and badminton facilities
- Seating and spaces for people to congregate
- Flexible space for community events and programming for different age groups
- An indoor track

Respondents were also informed that the draft design for the gymnasium will reflect the following:

- Principle 2: Be flexible to support a range of different activities.
- Big Move 2: Provide space for fitness and physical activity including a gym, weight room, indoor track, and fitness studios.

**Question: Do you support including the features listed above in the design of the gymnasium?** Of the 150 respondents who answered this question, 90% said they support all the features listed, followed by 9% who said they support some of the features listed, and 1% who said they do not support any of the features listed.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes, I support all of the features listed	135		90%
I support including some of the features listed	13	-	9%
No, I do not support any of the features listed	2	1	1%
			N 150

### Question: Tell us which features you do not support being included in the gymnasium, and why.

- Concerns about including space for pickleball since it can take up a lot of space and because there's already publicly funded pickleball courts in the area.
- The gym takes up a lot of space in the new CRC which can be a wonderful opportunity if the space is free of cost for community members, and community organizations are allowed access to the gym at reasonable prices. In absence of this, or if the gym is only available through City programming, it would not be useful to the community and the space should be used in another way.
- Concern that the gym being located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and surrounded by youth programs might make it not seem welcoming for older patrons.

#### Question: What else (if anything) should the design of the gymnasium include?

Respondents said they would like to see:

- Spaces for yoga
- Spaces for badminton, tennis, futsal / indoor soccer
- Infrastructure for dance and gymnastics, or a dance studio with mirrored wall.
- Additional storage area
- A rink
- A restaurant or bar area, a café
- Gender neutral, tightly secured changing rooms

#### Question: Does the draft design of the gymnasium adequately reflect the vision, guiding principles, and big moves?

Of the 134 who responded to this question, 81% said yes, 18% said somewhat, and 1% said no.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	109		81%
Somewhat	24		18%
No	1	I construction of the second sec	1%
			N 134

#### Question: Tell us how the gymnasium design could better reflect the vision, guiding principles, and/or big moves.

Respondents suggested including the following:

- A table tennis court
- A space for destressing the mind, through mindfulness and yoga
- Accessibility features
- Infrastructure for 'new sports' such as pickleball. A respondent said that the demand for dedicated pickleball courts is not being met by the City, and they would like to see a dedicated pickleball court in the new CRC, instead of leveraging shared spaces for the sport.
- Outdoor sports area
- More change rooms
- A dance space for zumba, flamenco, and other dance forms
- Private areas for gender-specific activities

#### Feedback about the aquatics space

Respondents were informed that the following features will be included in the design of the aquatics space:

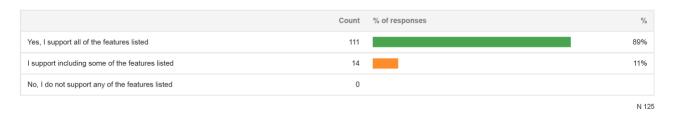
- 6-lane lap pool
- Space for sports training, aquafit, leisure swimming, relaxation, and water aerobics
- Therapeutic pool
- Water play features
- Family change room with private change stalls and fully enclosed washroom stalls
- Programming for the aquatics space will include permitting for community events and genderspecific programming

Respondents were also informed that the draft design for the aquatics space will reflect the following:

- Principle 1: Be open to all ages and accessible to diverse abilities
- Principle 3: Respect the unique needs of different members of our communities, and be a welcoming, safe, and inclusive space that can facilitate programming for people of all ages, races, religions, cultures, genders and identities.
- Big Move 1: Provide year-round aquatic space, including a lane pool and leisure tot pool.

#### Question: Do you support including the features listed above in the design of the aquatics space?

Of the 125 respondents who responded to this question, 89% said they support all the features listed and 11% said they support some of the listed features. None of the respondents said they do not support any of the listed features.



### Question: Tell us which features you do not support being included in the aquatics space, and why.

- There were a range of opinions on whether the aquatics space should include gender separated or gender-neutral (family) change rooms as currently proposed, with an overall focus on safety for people all genders. A respondent said they would like to see showers in change rooms and not only on the deck.
- A respondent said they did not think including gender specific activity time was necessary.

#### Question: What else (if anything) should the design of the aquatics space include?

Common themes in respondents' feedback to this question included:

- Make the pool larger than 6-lanes to ensure access at all times of the day. An example of a bigger pool for reference is the University of Toronto pool on Spadina.
- Provide adequate spectator seating, with a suggestion of including a larger viewing gallery on main floor with bench like setting.
- Ensure that the pool is easily accessible for seniors and for people with physical disabilities.
- Ensure privacy during gender specific activity times.
- Ensure the pool water is saltwater rather than purely chlorinated.
- Include family change rooms, a big water slide, hot tub / spa / jacuzzi areas.

#### Question: Does the draft design of the aquatics space adequately reflect the vision, guiding principles, and big moves?

Of the 122 who responded to this question, 87% said yes, 13% said somewhat, and none of the respondents said no.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	106		87%
Somewhat	16		13%
No	0		
			N 122

#### Question: Tell us how the aquatics space design could better reflect the vision, guiding principles, and/or big moves.

- There were a range of opinions on whether the change rooms should be gender separated or gender neutral (family change rooms). Some said having only family change rooms may dissuade community members from some cultures to use the facility, while some said they would like to see gender neutral family change rooms.
- A respondent noted that gender-specific programming may impact inclusivity for people from different gender identities, and suggested ensuring that the space is safe for trans and non-binary people as well.
- Ensure a larger pool that can accommodate all programs including recreational swimming, swimming lessons, and lane laps.
- Ensure that the design allows for pool to be closed or private for certain swim programs to ensure privacy.
- Include better shower spaces and a water slide.

#### Feedback about social and public spaces

Respondents were informed that the following features will be included in the design of the social and public spaces:

- A lounge and social space
- Spaces for study
- An outdoor event space, multi-court space and all-ages play area
- Natural daylight
- Public art and unique representation of the community

Respondents were also informed that the draft design for the social and public spaces will reflect the following:

- Principle 5: Encourage positive social interactions and community bonding throughout the many unique communities that will use the new centre.
- Big Move 5: Provide gathering spaces for community meetings, events and celebrations, including indoor and outdoor spaces.

### Question: Do you support including the features listed above in the design of the social and public spaces?

Of the 115 who responded to this question, 90% said yes, they support all the features listed, 8% said they support some of the features listed and 3% said they do not support any of the features listed.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes, I support all of the features listed	103		90%
I support including some of the features listed	9	-	8%
No, I do not support any of the features listed	3	1	3%
			N 115

### Question: Tell us which features you do not support being included in the social and public spaces, and why.

- Two respondents said they did not support public art being included in the social and public spaces. One of the respondents said they did not think inclusion of public art was important in this facility and that the focus of the CRC should be exercise and fitness, not art.
- A respondent said they did not support outdoor event space, since it cannot be used for large parts of the year due to weather constraints, and since there are no regulations to control noise impacts on the surrounding community.
- A respondent said they did not see the need for large-scale city-arranged gathering spaces, since people can gather in their own homes. Schools also provide additional gathering and study spaces.

• A respondent said open areas from the aquatics space may lead to an increase in humidity and can cause damage to musical instruments, kilns, etc. They said these would thus be better suited for higher floors.

#### Question: What else (if anything) should the design of the social and public spaces include?

Common themes in respondents' feedback to this question included:

- Provide more seating, and study and gathering spaces within the central corridor with small nooks and crannies for people to inhabit. Increased seating would make the CRC better equipped to host events like science fairs and small markets.
- Spaces for people to sit and congregate, socialize, and study, and welcoming spaces for teenagers and young adults.
- There were mixed opinions on including art in the new CRC. While two of the respondents said they would like to see more art, including Indigenous artworks, a respondent suggested using the funding for public art to instead share information such as rules of different sports, exercise and safety tips, health and wellness information, or to share information about programming in the facility.
- Have some distance and separation between study spaces and special spaces so that people are not distracted.
- Meeting room spaces dedicated to health and wellness, including spaces where lectures or presentations can be hosted.
- More full-time staff on the main floor to deal with inquiries/issues.
- Having two kitchens. A respondent also said they would like to see a kosher kitchen included.
- Other features / facilities suggested to be included were a restaurant / bar area, an outdoor public basketball court, and a library.

#### Question: Does the draft design of the social and public spaces adequately reflect the vision, guiding principles, and big moves?

Of the 114 who responded to this question, 88% said yes, 11% said somewhat, and 1% said no.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	100		88%
Somewhat	13		11%
No	1	I	1%
			N 114

#### Question: Tell us how the social and public spaces design could better reflect the vision, guiding principles, and/or big moves.

- Include separate areas for quiet study or reflection which are separated from noisy gathering areas.
- Address blind spots in the facility, such as the east hallway area, to improve visibility for staff and control centers.
- Include an amphitheater for productions, theatre, music shows, etc.
- Ensure that the social, program, and community spaces are flexible, with activity rooms that can be converted from large to small sizes as needed.
- Create more public spaces for seniors with slower health exercise routines or for them to socialize.
- Consider including a café.
- Provide more meeting rooms, allocate additional space for PF&R staff, programming, and events.
- Ensure that the CRC has Indigenous trees and shrubs.

# Feedback about the youth lounge and technology and music spaces

Respondents were informed that the following features will be included in the design of the youth lounge, and technology and music spaces:

- Safe, dedicated youth space
- Space for arts, indoor games, and a lounge
- An outdoor youth area
- A music recording studio
- Technology/ a computer lab
- Space for employment support, tutoring, and study

Respondents were also informed that the draft design for the youth and technology spaces will reflect the following:

- Principle 6: Accommodate the importance of arts, culture, music, science, technology, accommodate access to technology.
- Big Move 4: Provide dedicated youth space where youth will have access to technology and youths specific programming.
- Big Move 6: Provide tech spaces that enable community creativity and growth including a music recording studio, public WIFI, and tech-connected meeting spaces.

### Question: Do you support including the features listed above in the design of the youth lounge, and technology and music spaces?

Of the 114 respondents who responded to this question, 89% said they support all of the features listed, 11% said they support some of the features listed and no respondents said they do not support any of the features listed.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes, I support all of the features listed	101		89%
I support including some of the features listed	13		11%
No, I do not support any of the features listed	0		
			N 114

### Question: Tell us which features you do not support being included in the youth lounge, and technology and music spaces, and why.

- A respondent said they do not support an outdoor youth area, since it will be underutilized when the weather does not permit. They said if the intention is to get more youth together, it can be better achieved through an indoor space.
- A respondent said they did not support the recording studio.
- A respondent expressed concern about whether the spaces were adequately sized, and said they seemed too squeezed.

#### Question: What else (if anything) should the design of the youth lounge, and technology and music spaces include?

- Ensure the computers and other tech are accessible, up to date, and well maintained. They suggested having enough budget to ensure maintenance and creating the tech space on first floor for increased physical accessibility.
- Consider breaking down the large youth area into small rooms or study carrels for quiet tutoring or homework.
- Consider partnering with the nearby TPL Barbara Frum library branch, since it is nearby and also offers youth programming.
- Ensure the space is monitored and supervised to prevent issues such as bullying, drug use, and other undesirable activities.
- Determine if outdoor spaces will be open for community and youth use. Consider including features like warming stations for winter to ensure year-round usability, if the youth space are outdoors.
- Include a meditation space.
- Integrate programming in youth spaces with social and lounge areas to encourage movement between spaces, especially for young people and teens.

- Balance the design to appeal to all age groups, not just youth. A respondent said the floor currently seems youth centric which may deter older patrons from using the space.
- Add more seating for youth to gather in wide corridors, possibly with bar-style seating facing the outdoor roof space.
- Design the space to accommodate video editing lessons for broadcasting, podcasting, etc.
- Create a computer room and quiet areas for youth to study, tutor, etc.,
- Design the space to support skateboard features.

#### Question: Does the draft design of the youth and technology spaces adequately reflect the vision, guiding principles, and big moves?

Of the 113 who responded to this question, 88% said yes, 12% said somewhat, and none of the respondents said no.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	99		88%
Somewhat	14		12%
No	0		
			N 113

#### Question: Tell us how the youth and technology spaces design could better reflect the vision, guiding principles, and/or big moves.

- Create a flexible space where youth can bring their own technology too, rather than relying on the City to provide it, since ensuring good internet and creating a space where youth can work/study can be hard enough.
- Ensure the space is not just for youth since adults in the area may also need computer access, music recording facilities, and space for job fair assistance, etc. Another respondent suggested avoiding a design that is overly youth-centric to prevent deterring older patrons from using the facility.
- Include a multimedia/presentation studio and a photography studio where lighting equipment can be checked out, similar to the recording studio.
- Include space for 'fixed activities' like ping pong and a pool table.

#### Feedback about fitness and weights space

Respondents were informed that the following features will be included in the design of the fitness and weights space:

- An open concept setup
- New and accessible equipment
- A larger weights training room than the current CRC
- Space for fitness classes
- Vending machines

Respondents were also informed that the draft design for the youth and technology spaces will reflect the following:

• Big Move 2: Provide space for fitness and physical activity including a gym, weight room, indoor track, and fitness studios.

#### Question: Do you support including the features listed above in the design of the fitness and weights space?

Of the 112 respondents who responded to this question, 88% said they support all the features listed, 12% said they support some of the features listed and no respondents said they do not support any of the features listed.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes, I support all of the features listed	99		88%
I support including some of the features listed	13		12%
No, I do not support any of the features listed	0		
			N 112

#### Question: Tell us which features you do not support being included in the fitness and weights space, and why.

- A few respondents said do not support the vending machines. They said vending machines typically sell overpriced, processed and unhealthy food, and could be replaced with water refill stations.
- A respondent expressed concern about the space being too small and suggested combining the small weight training and fitness class spaces into a more dynamic area that can be adjusted based on popularity and use, with separate sections for weight training and fitness classes.
- A respondent said they need more information on which equipment will be present in the room to provide informed feedback.

#### Question: What else (if anything) should the design of the fitness and weights space include?

Fifteen respondents answered this question and suggested the following additional features and facilities:

Common themes in respondents' feedback to this question included:

- Ensure the equipment can be used by everyone, including people with disabilities.
- Ensure that fitness and weight equipment are integrated to help break down gender barriers between conditioning and cardio exercise spaces.
- Ensure space for workout classes, spinning classes, aerobics etc. can be hosted close to the gym area.
- Include a small area where healthy food and drinks can be purchased. Alternatively, if vending machines are added, only permit healthy options to support healthy lifestyles.
- Include noise dampening martials to prevent the weights room being too noisy for those using the floors downstairs.
- Ensure there is staff supervision of the space.
- Other suggested features include squat racks, Jacob's Ladder, a stair stepper, a dance studio, change room and showers, and a rink with spectator area.

### Question: Does the draft design of the fitness and weights space adequately reflect the vision, guiding principles, and big moves?

Of the 112 who responded to this question, 89% said yes, 11% said somewhat, and none of the respondents said no.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	100		89%
Somewhat	12		11%
No	0		

N 112

### Question: Tell us how the fitness and weights space design could better reflect the vision, guiding principles, and/or big moves.

- Gender barriers and separated times and activities will ensure everyone feels like they have access to fitness and weights area, including members from the Muslim and Jewish communities.
- Ensure there is adequate space for fitness and weights area bigger dedicated spaces for a few facilities are better than smaller spaces for several facilities.
- Consider including change rooms and showers are needed on this level.

#### Feedback about the multi-purpose space

Respondents were informed that the following features will be included in the design of the multipurpose space:

- Facilities for different age groups
- Quiet space to read and study
- Sensory room
- Space for dance, yoga, and martial arts
- Space for music practice or teaching
- Space for arts activities pottery, painting, etc.
- Access to teaching kitchen
- An indoor-outdoor connection
- Space for community events by grassroots groups and local community agencies

Respondents were also informed that the draft design for the multi-purpose space will reflect the following:

- Principle 2: Be flexible to support a range of different activities.
- Big Move 7: Provide a variety of multi-use spaces that can support a diverse range of community uses including arts and cultural programs, seniors' programs, accessible and sensory programming, prayer spaces, community meetings, incubator space, etc.).

#### Question: Do you support including the features listed above in the design of the multipurpose space?

Of the 112 respondents who responded to this question, 88% said they support all the features listed, 12% said they support some of the features listed and no respondents said they do not support any of the features listed.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes, I support all of the features listed	99		88%
I support including some of the features listed	13		12%
No, I do not support any of the features listed	0		
			N 112

### Question: Tell us which features you do not support being included in the multi-purpose space, and why.

Common themes in respondents' feedback to this question included:

• The space seems to have too many features and is trying to be everything for everyone. A respondent said prayer spaces might not be needed since there are already spaces like that at homes, churches, temples and synagogues etc.

- The open space seems too small and creates narrow hallways, suggest making the space open concept to make the best use of it.
- The multi-purpose space seemed to be set up around a classroom style spatial organization, with many of the principles focused on arts. They suggested including internal partitions so that the space can be used flexibly for many recreational activities.
- Unsure if many multi-purpose spaces are needed. A respondent said they feel like they will not be used enough.

#### Question: What else (if anything) should the design of the multi-purpose space include?

13 respondents answered this question and suggested the following additional features and facilities:

- Need for more space for seniors, where they can join different health groups for exercise, quiet contemplation and mental health.
- The space should be available to all groups and include appropriately designed spaces for practices and meetings.
- Ensure as much space for seniors as for children.
- Include a food prep space, a food bank, and a community garden.
- Ensure there are quiet spaces in the design of this space. A respondent suggested moving the music lessons elsewhere if this space is supposed to be quiet.
- Other suggested features included: a ping pong tables, space for knitting and related activities, projector screen or built in TV, a dance studio with mirrored wall, and adequate storage.

#### Question: Does the draft design of the multi-purpose space adequately reflect the vision, guiding principles, and big moves?

Of the 110 who responded to this question, 89% said yes, 11% said somewhat, and none of the respondents said no.



N 110

#### Question: Tell us how the multi-purpose space design could better reflect the vision, guiding principles, and/or big moves.

- Make the space open-concept and flexible. Closing off the space does not use the space effectively.
- Include table tennis tables and dance spaces in the design.

#### Feedback about community kitchen and food spaces

Respondents were informed that the following features will be included in the design of the community kitchen and food spaces:

- Spaces for cooking and gathering around food
- A kitchen for community events
- Connections to the multi-purpose room
- A community garden
- A nutritional resource food space in the multipurpose room
- Indoor-outdoor connections
- Space for food focused programming and cooking for youth

Respondents were also informed that the draft design for the community kitchen and food spaces will reflect the following:

- Principle 7: Respect and embrace the importance of food to the local community through cooking, eating, gardening.
- Big Move 3: Provide spaces to support food-centred programming including a community teaching kitchen and space to grow edible plants.

#### Question: Do you support including the features listed above in the design of the community kitchen and food spaces?

Of the 108 respondents who responded to this question, 92% said they support all the features listed, 7% said they support some of the features listed 1% respondents said they do not support any of the features listed.



#### Question: Tell us which features you do not support being included in the community kitchen and food spaces, and why.

 There were mixed opinions on the need for a food bank / food distribution space in the CRC. Some respondents said they did not see a need for a food distribution space and that a community kitchen was an ineffective use of the space. They said the space should be focused on recreation or could be used for other facilities in the CRC. However, others said a dedicated food bank space was needed in the design.

- A respondent said that they thought the design aimed to accommodate a lot of elements and it might be an overreach to include everything, unless this is a kitchen for catering events.
- A respondent said they found this part of the design most lacking and found the placement of the space awkward and negatively impacting the halls and rest areas.

#### Question: What else (if anything) should the design of the community kitchen and food spaces include?

Common themes in respondents' feedback to this question included:

- Provide more storage, including safe food storage.
- Include internal partitions so that the space can be divided into wet and dry areas. Ensure the kitchen is sanitary.
- Space for a commercial kitchen or demonstration spaces.
- Consider attaching the outdoor patio space to the kitchen.
- Other suggested features included a kosher kitchen/kosher section, a community garden and greenhouse, and healthy food art on the walls.

### Question: Does the draft design of the community kitchen and food space adequately reflect the vision, guiding principles, and big moves?

Of the 107 who responded to this question, 92% said yes, 7% said somewhat, and 2% of the respondents said no.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	98		92%
Somewhat	7		7%
No	2	I	2%

N 107

### Question: Tell us how the community kitchen and food spaces design could better reflect the vision, guiding principles, and/or big moves.

- Make it clear how the kitchen and multi-purpose room would be connected to the community/outdoor garden space.
- Consider including a greenhouse in the design to ensure ability to grow food in the winter.

#### Feedback about ground floor outdoor space

Respondents were informed that the following features will be included in the design of the ground floor outdoor space:

- A children's playground
- Multi-sport court
- Gardens, planting areas
- Seating and tables
- A mindfulness space or garden for reflection
- Shade structures
- Space for events, dancing and yoga
- Space for sacred fire

Respondents were also informed that the draft design for the ground floor outdoor spaces will reflect the following:

- Principle 5: Encourage positive social interactions and community bonding throughout the many unique communities that will use the new centre.
- Big Move 9: Provide lively, all-ages outdoor spaces on the ground floor and rooftop that can accommodate potential community gardens and pollinator gardens, fitness and activity space, gathering and event space and play space.

#### Question: Do you support including the features listed above in the design of the outdoor spaces on the ground floor?

Of the 104 respondents who responded to this question, 88% said they support all the features listed, 12% said they support some of the features listed none of the respondents said they do not support any of the features listed.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes, I support all of the features listed	92		88%
I support including some of the features listed	12		12%
No, I do not support any of the features listed	0		
			N 104

#### Question: Tell us which features you do not support being included in the ground floor outdoor spaces, and why.

• Two respondents said they did not support the multi-sport court, and suggested including high quality, dedicated pickle ball courts instead to meet the exponential demand and to ensure that seniors aren't competing for space with kids on the multi-sport court.

- Concern that the community square seems like a hardscape without much furnishing or shade. The respondent suggested adding more seating to the area and to the softscape area behind the ceremonial space, along with tables and umbrellas, patterned tiles and other art elements. They said this should be an intentionally plan area and a fun space to meander through and read.
- Concern that the space for sacred fire may be underused.
- A respondent said they did not support the mindfulness area.
- Concern that the current design does not include enough parking for a CRC this large. A daycare would require a 10-minute pick up zone.

### Question: What else (if anything) should the design of the outdoor spaces on the ground floor include?

- Provide more seating and shaded areas included.
- Ensure safety of seniors walking near the courts by adding cages around the courts.
- Ensure that the playgrounds are accessible. The respondent suggested contacting Dr. Timothy Ross from Bloorview Research Institute, who has published an Inclusive Playbook and is happy to meet the City staff to discuss how to design playgrounds as accessible from the start. They provided Dr.Ross' contact information, which will be forwarded to the project team and a link for more information: https://hollandbloorview.ca/research-education/bloorviewresearchinstitute/research-centres-labs/epic-lab-inclusive.
- Consider including a dog park and an off-leash area.
- Include separate spaces for basketball and pickleball, since they are usually played by different age groups, and add a tennis court and space for adult calisthenics. A respondent said this space could also replace the aging Lawrence Heights Skatepark.
- Consider including space for outdoor skating or all seasons skating.
- Consider making space to support the use of a community garden to grow food for the community.
- Consider including native and local plants.
- Consider including more trees and bushes, which bring a notion of safety.
- Consider including more art to the space.
- A respondent said they were extremely happy to see a dedicated space for the sacred fire.

### Question: Does the draft design of the outdoor spaces on the ground floor adequately reflect the vision, guiding principles, and big moves?

Of the 104 who responded to this question, 87% said yes, 13% said somewhat, and none of the respondents said no.



#### Question: Tell us how the design of the outdoor spaces on the ground floor could better reflect the vision, guiding principles, and/or big moves.

Common themes in respondents' feedback to this question included:

- Consider adding more seating facing the playground, more art installations, additional parking, a skatepark, and a tennis court, and to ensure the park space is accessible to people with disabilities.
- There were different opinions on whether the play areas should be divided by age groups or not. A respondent suggesting designating sports courts for junior and senior youth to prevent younger kids from being squeezed out, while another said play areas should be designed to accommodate families with children of different ages and allow parents to oversee children playing in both areas simultaneously.
- Consider adding a splashpad, possibly replacing one of the sports courts, and relocating the courts to the other side to minimize exposure of younger children to inappropriate language from older kids.
- Ensure that the vegetable garden is clearly delineated.
- Provide dedicated spaces for basketball and pickleball rather than multi-sport courts to better serve different age groups.

#### Feedback about the roof outdoor space

Respondents were informed that the following features will be included in the design of the outdoor spaces on the roof:

- Gathering spaces for movies or yoga
- Seating and tables
- Fitness stations
- Shade structures
- Mindfulness space or garden
- for reflection
- Planting raised beds edible planting

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• BBQ and social area

Respondents were also informed that the draft design for the outdoor spaces on the roof will reflect the following:

- Principle 5: Encourage positive social interactions and community bonding throughout the many unique communities that will use the new centre.
- Big Move 9: Provide lively, all-ages outdoor spaces on the ground floor and rooftop that can accommodate potential community gardens and pollinator gardens, fitness and activity space, gathering and event space, and play space.

### Question: Do you support including the features listed above in the design of the outdoor spaces on the roof?

Of the 102 respondents who responded to this question, 93% said they support all of the features listed, 7% said they support some of the features listed none of the respondents said they do not support any of the features listed.



### Question: Tell us which features you do not support being included in the outdoor spaces on the roof, and why.

- A few respondents said they did not support the BBQ area with one saying it might be unsafe for kids.
- Concerns with making it difficult to enjoy his space with the smoke of the BBQ. Some were concerned if drinking is going to be allowed with the BBQ.
- A respondent said they did not think the mindfulness area was needed in this space.
- Concern for potential difficulty for people with disabilities to access the rooftop if the elevator was out of service.

#### Question: What else (if anything) should the design of the outdoor spaces on the roof?

- Many respondents said there is a need for shade in the outdoor space. Suggestions included adding shaded seating areas, ensure shaded spaces for kids to play, and to add rooftop friendly plants which could provide natural shade.
- Relocate the BBQ area on the ground floor, where it will be easier to access for families.

#### Question: Does the draft design of the outdoor spaces on the roof adequately reflect the vision, guiding principles, and big moves?

Of the 102 who responded to this question, 94% said yes, 6% said somewhat, and none of the respondents said no.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	96		94%
Somewhat	6	-	6%
No	0		
			N 102

#### Question: Tell us how the design of outdoor spaces on the roof could better reflect the vision, guiding principles, and/or big moves.

• Need for more information on how the space will be used, who will have access to it, and what the operating hours will be.

#### Feedback about Indigenous cultural needs spaces

Respondents were informed that the following features will be included in the design of the Indigenous cultural needs spaces:

- Indigenous art
- Space for ceremonies
- Space for drum circles
- Space for Pow Wow social nights
- Ventilation systems for smudging
- Performance and dance spaces
- Quiet spaces / spaces for mindfulness
- Use of natural materials
- Space for sacred fire
- Indigenous-focused gardens and planters

Respondents were also informed that the draft design for the Indigenous cultural needs spaces will reflect the following:

- Principle 10: Integrate Indigenous design in keeping with the importance of Indigenous Placekeeping in Cityspaces. This includes seeking input from the First Nation, Métis and Inuit, and seeking the involvement of an Indigenous design advisor.
- Big Move 10: Incorporate Indigenous cultural needs, the needs of First Nation, Métis and Inuit families, and ensures the CRC is a unique and welcoming, Indigenous place.

The survey focused on getting feedback from First Nations peoples about the Indigenous cultural needs spaces. For other allies, the survey asked how else the design can support Truth and Reconciliation and inclusion of Indigenous peoples. Of the 101 respondents to the questions below, 46 identified as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian, and 55 did not.

#### Feedback from those who self-identified as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian:

#### Question: Do you support including the features listed above in the design of the Indigenous cultural needs spaces?

Of the 46 respondents who responded to this question, 91% said they support all of the features listed, 4% said they support some of the features listed none of the respondents said they do not support any of the features listed.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes, I support all of the features listed	42		91%
I support including some of the features listed	4	<b>—</b>	9%
No, I do not support any of the features listed	0		

N 46

#### Question: Tell us which features you do not support being included in the Indigenous cultural needs spaces, and why.

- A respondent said they were concerned that these spaces might not be properly used because there isn't a large Indigenous community in the neighborhood.
- A respondent noted that Pow Wow events occur both during daytime and night, and references about Pow Wow should not only be made for nighttime.

#### Question: What else (if anything) should the design of Indigenous cultural needs spaces?

• Indigenous communities should be consulted. Needs expressed by Indigenous community members should be taken into account.

#### Question: Does the draft design of the outdoor spaces on the roof adequately reflect the vision, guiding principles, and big moves?

Of the 102 who responded to this question, 94% said yes, 6% said somewhat, and none of the respondents said no.



#### Feedback from those who did not self-identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian:

#### Question: Do you support including the features listed above in the design of the Indigenous cultural needs spaces?

Of the 55 respondents who answered this question, 80% said they support all of the features listed, 15% said they support some of the features listed and 5% of the respondents said they do not support any of the features listed.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes, I support all of the features listed	44		80%
I support including some of the features listed	8		15%
No, I do not support any of the features listed	3		5%
			N 55

### Question: Tell us which features you do not support being included in the Indigenous cultural needs spaces, and why.

- Two respondents said they were not sure if the spaces will be used enough by Indigenous people, since there are not enough Indigenous community members in Lawrence Heights neighborhood.
- A respondent said the center should also include cultures of other communities that live in Lawrence Heights.
- Two respondents said the spaces should be multipurpose so that non-Indigenous community members can also use them. One of the respondents shared a concern that separate spaces can be tokenizing and alienating.
- A respondent expressed concern that some of the features so not have a connection to community health and fitness.

#### Question: How else can the design of the new Lawrence Heights CRC support Truth and Reconciliation and the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples?

Common themes in respondents' feedback to this question included:

- Include Indigenous-led and Indigenous-only opportunities for mixed groups and raise Indigenous awareness of these opportunities. The new CRC will be accessible by subway so Indigenous people from across the city should be aware of these opportunities and welcomed. The CRC should especially enhance the related Truth and Reconciliation Report Calls to Action. For example, Calls to Action 87-91 addressing increased sports opportunities for Indigenous people.
- Offer programming to teach non-Indigenous people about the wisdom and practices of Indigenous peoples.
- Include opportunities for Indigenous methods of exercising, including equipment used by Indigenous people to exercise.
- Include programming for arts and education.

#### Question: Does the draft design of Indigenous cultural needs spaces adequately reflect the vision, guiding principles, and big moves?

Of the 55 who responded to this question, 85% said yes, 11% said somewhat, and 4% of the respondents said no.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	47		85%
Somewhat	6		11%
No	2		4%
			N 55

### Question: Tell us which features you do not support being included in the Indigenous cultural needs spaces, and why.

- Indigenous-led initiatives should be incorporated as much as possible. This CRC is a large centre and should enhance Toronto's reconciliation efforts, particularly addressing the relevant Truth and Reconciliation Report Calls to Action such as #87-91 for enhancing Indigenous peoples access to sports opportunities.
- A respondent said all people's needs should be addressed and proportional to the population using the facility. Another said they were concerned that not enough Indigenous community members will use the space.
- Ensure that the spaces are functional and helpful, and do not alienate or tokenize the Indigenous community.

#### **Other Feedback**

#### Question: Do you have any other suggestions or advice for the City on the design of the new CRC that you have not already shared?

- More information is needed on who will have access to the CRC, what the hours of operations will be and how big the spaces will be, to be able to answer the survey questions better.
- Consider early registration dates or reserved spaces for local residents to accommodate those with transportation barriers.
- The new CRC should include a dedicated space for a food bank, which is a vital service for the community. The current food bank in the community is already busy and may get even busier.
- Concerns about community members, especially seniors, being able to access the new CRC with the increasing congestion at major access roads, like Lawrence Ave and Allen Road and Marlee Ave.
- Other facilities and features that respondents said they would like to see, were:
  - Indigenous spaces
  - a restaurant or bar facility
  - a hockey rink
  - a multi-sport spectator area
- Engage with youth and all potential users of the youth tech space and address their needs. A respondent also suggested recognizing the cultural needs of the youth to design these spaces.
- Consider partnering with the TPL Barbara Frum branch since they offer similar youth programming.
- Ensure sufficient, safe, and affordable parking; consider accessibility and weather conditions throughout the year.
- Design playgrounds and facilities to be fully accessible, including touch-free doors and higher toilets in washrooms for seniors. Consult Dr. Timothy Ross from Bloorview Research Institute for guidance.
- Include an off-leash dog park or enclosure, ample outdoor seating, and grassy areas for relaxation.
- Address safety concerns with trees, bushes, and ensure practical maintenance for shaded spaces.
- Incorporate adult outdoor calisthenics equipment and replace the aging Lawrence Heights Skatepark with a new small concrete skatepark.
- Include separate spaces for different sports, like dedicated basketball and pickleball courts, and include a tennis courts.
- Provide a large music hall for community concerts and performances.
- Ensure the facility reflects the community's heritage and includes afro-centric art and contributions from Lawrence Heights residents.
- Add fun aquatic features to the children's pool and consider a Snoezelen room and pool for inclusive options.

- Include phone and laptop charging stations, water refill stations, and STEM engagement initiatives such as 3D printers and robotics equipment.
- Ensure the facility has ample security measures, including cameras and good lighting to enhance safety.
- Provide secure lockers for personal belongings during activities.
- Offer reasonable hours to accommodate working people.
- Ensure all community segments feel welcomed by hiring staff from diverse ethical, cultural, and religious backgrounds.
- Address potential impacts on surrounding housing and ensure construction does not displace residents.
- Maintain color and vibrancy of murals and include fun and engaging elements in the design.
- Allow for drop-in use of spaces, not just for scheduled programs, to increase accessibility for all.

#### **Demographic Information**

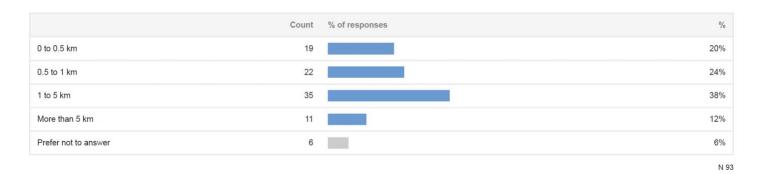
#### Question: Have you participated in any of the following Lawrence Heights Community Recreation Centre consultation process led by the City before? Select all that apply.

Of those who responded, 51% said they have never participated in the City-led consultation process for the new Lawrence Heights CRC, followed by 18% who said they have participated in the Online visioning survey (September to November 2023), and 15% of the respondents said they have attended In-person pop-up events in the community (September and November 2023).

	Count	% of responses	%
I have never participated in the City-led consultation process for the new Lawrence Heights CRC	47		51%
Online visioning survey (September to November 2023)	17		18%
In-person pop-up events in the community (September and November 2023)	14		15%
Prefer not to answer	13		14%
Community workshop (September 2023)	9		10%
Community Advisory Committee meetings (January and April 2024)	8		9%
Indigenous communities virtual sharing meetings (October 2023 and April 2024)	0		
			N 93

#### Question: How far do you travel to get to Lawrence Heights CRC?

Of those who responded, 38% said they travel 1 to 5 km to get to the CRC, followed by 24% who said they travel 0.5 - 1 km, and 20% of the respondents said they travel less than 0.5 kms to get to the CRC.



### Question: When visiting Lawrence Heights CRC, who do you go with most often? Select all that apply.

Of those who responded, 30% said they have never been to Lawrence Heights CRC, 27% of the respondents said they go to the CRC alone, 23% said they go with children, and 22% said they go to the CRC with family.

	Count	% of responses	%
I have never been to Lawrence Heights CRC	28		30%
Alone	25		27%
Children	21		23%
Family	20		22%
Spouse or partner	12		13%
Friends	12		13%
Prefer not to answer	7		8%
Pets	1	L	1%
Other, please specify	0		
			N 93

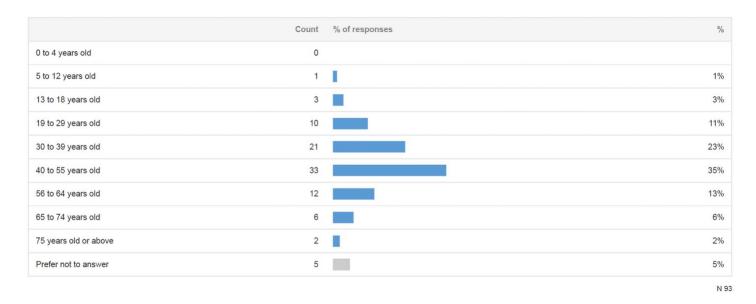
#### Question: How often do you visit Lawrence Heights CRC?

Of those who responded, 33% said they have never been to the Lawrence Heights CRC, 30% said they visit the CRC a few times a year or less, and 9% said they visit a few times a month.

	Count	% of responses	%
Daily	4		4%
A few times a week	7		8%
Once a week	4		4%
A few times a month	8		9%
Once a month	1	I	1%
A few times a year or less	28		30%
I have never been to Lawrence Heights CRC	31		33%
Prefer not to answer	10		11%

#### Question: What is the age of the person filling out this survey?

Of those who respondent 35% said they were 40 - 55 years old, 23% said they were 30-39 years old, and 13% said they were 56 to 64 years old. 15% of the respondents were below the age of 29, and 8% above the age of 64.



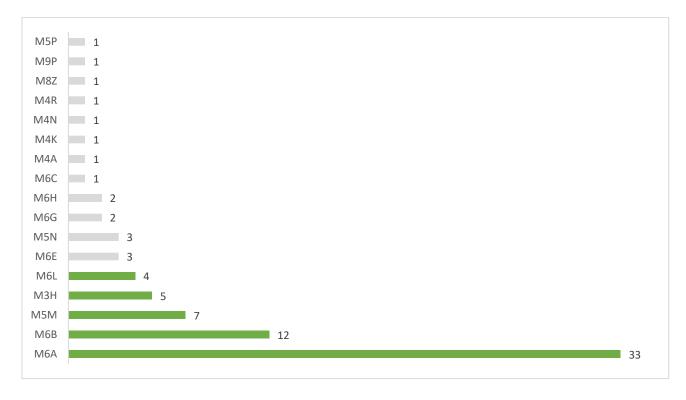
#### Question: Excluding yourself, how many people of each age group participated in this survey?

Of those who responded to this question, most said they answered the survey alone, followed by a few who answered it with another person aged 40 - 55, and a few who answered it with one more person aged 30 - 39.

	0	1	2	3	4	5+	Prefer not to answer	Not applicable
	0	1	2	3	4	57	Prefer not to answer	ног аррисари
0 to 4 years old	52	4	2	1	0	1	5	2
5 to 12 years old	42	6	4	2	0	2	5	3
13 to 18 years old	46	6	1	1	1	0	5	3
19 to 29 years old	45	7	1	1	0	0	5	3
30 to 39 years old	45	9	3	0	0	0	5	з
40 to 55 years old	37	19	2	0	0	1	4	3
56 to 64 years old	45	6	3	0	0	0	5	з
65 to 74 years old	52	4	0	0	0	0	5	з
75 years old or above	51	4	0	0	0	1	5	3
	415	65	16	5	1	5	44	28

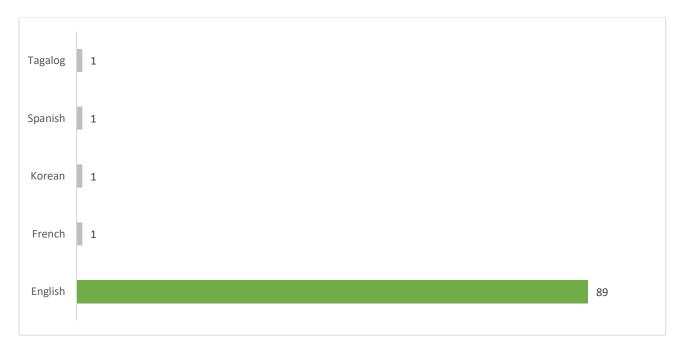
#### Question: Please provide the first three characters of your postal code (e.g. M5H)

Of those who responded, 33 said the first three letters of their postal code were M6A, followed by 12 who said M6B, and 7 who said M5M.



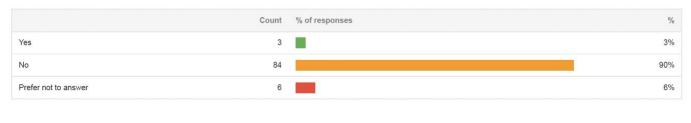
#### Question: What language do you prefer speaking?

Of the 93 who responded to this question, 89 said they preferred speaking English. 1 respondent each said they preferred speaking French, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog.



# Question: Indigenous people from Canada identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian. Does the person filling out this survey identify as Indigenous to Canada?

Of those who responded, 3% self-identified as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian.



N 93

# Question 26: People often describe themselves by their race or racial background. For example, some people consider themselves "Black", "White" or "East Asian". Which race category best describes the person filling out this survey?

Of those who responded, 46% said they self-identified as White (e.g. English, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Slovakian), 10% identified as Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese), 9% self-identified as being East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean), 5% self-identified as Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean), and 11% preferred not to answer.

Those who answered 'Other' self-identified as: Indigenous other, Jewish, White and Southeast Asian, South Asian and White, African Indigenous, and Middle Eastern and White.

	Count	% of responses	%
White (e.g. English, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Slovakian, Eastern European)	46		49%
Prefer not to answer	10		11%
Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese)	9		10%
East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean)	8		9%
Other, please describe	6		6%
Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)	5		5%
Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian)	5		5%
More than one race category or mixed race	3	I	3%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo- Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)	2	1	2%
Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish)	1	1	1%
First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis	0		
			N S

Question: Disability is understood as any physical, mental, developmental, cognitive, learning, communication, sight, hearing or functional limitation that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society. A disability can be permanent, temporary or episodic, and visible or invisible. Does the person filling out this survey identify as a person with a disability?

Of those who responded, 17% self-identified as being people with disability.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	16		17%
No	66		71%
Don't know	3		3%
Prefer not to answer	8		9%
			N 93

#### Question: Excluding yourself, does anyone in your household identify as a person with a disability?

Of those who responded, 20% said someone in their house identifies as a person with a disability.

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	19		20%
No	61		66%
Don't know	5	<b>—</b>	5%
Prefer not to answer	8	-	9%
			N 93

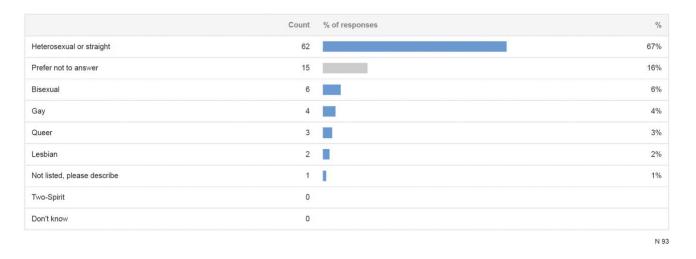
# Question: Gender identity is the gender that people identify with or how they perceive themselves, which may be different from their birth-assigned sex. What best describes the gender of the person filling out this survey?

Of those who responded, 67% self-identified as a woman, 23% self-identified as a man, 2% identified as trans men, and 1% as gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous).

	Count	% of responses	%
Woman	62		67%
Man	21		23%
Prefer not to answer	7		8%
Trans man	2	I	2%
Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous)	1	1	1%
Trans woman	0		
Two-Spirit	0		
Not listed, please describe	0		
			N 9

# Question: Sexual orientation describes a person's emotional, physical, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to other people. What best describes the sexual orientation of the person filling out this survey?

Of those who responded, 67% self-identified as heterosexual or straight, 6% self-identified as bisexual, and 4% self-identified as gay.



#### Question: What best describes your current housing situation?

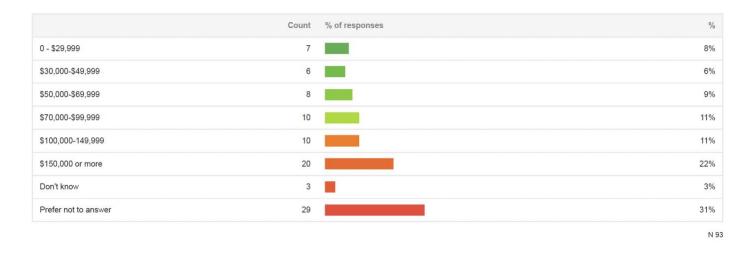
Of those who responded, 52% said they were homeowners, 31% said they were renting and 8% said they were permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s).

	Count	% of responses	%
Home owner	48		52%
Renting	29		31%
Permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)	7		8%
Temporarily staying with others (no fixed address)	0		
Unhoused (staying outside, in a shelter, in a 24-hour respite)	0		
Prefer not to answer	9		10%
Not listed, please describe	0		
			N 93

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#### Question: What was your total household income before taxes last year? Your best estimate is fine. Please select one only.

Of those who responded, 22% said their household income was \$150,000 or more, followed by 11% each who said their income was between \$70,000 to \$99,000 and \$100,000 to \$149,000.



#### How did you find out about this survey? Select all that apply.

Of those who responded, 56% they found out about the survey from a City of Toronto social media account, followed by 17% who found out through an email from the project team, and 10% who found out about the survey through a poster in their neighbourhood.

	Count	% of responses	%
Ad or post from a City of Toronto social media account	52		56%
Email from the project team	16		17%
Poster in the neighbourhood	9		10%
Word of mouth (including non-City of Toronto social media account)	7		8%
Councillor's Office communications	6		6%
The project webpage	6		6%
I don't know/Prefer not to answer	6		6%
Project sign at the current Lawrence Heights Community Centre	4		4%
			N 93

#### **Next Steps**

The feedback gathered from survey, in conjunction with the feedback gathered through other engagement activities held in Phase Two, will help inform the final preferred design for the new Lawrence Heights Community Recreation Centre.

The final preferred design is anticipated to be presented to the community for feedback in Phase Three of the engagement in late 2024 / early 2025. For more information and to sign up for project updates, please visit: <a href="https://www.toronto.ca/LawrenceHeights">www.toronto.ca/LawrenceHeights</a>