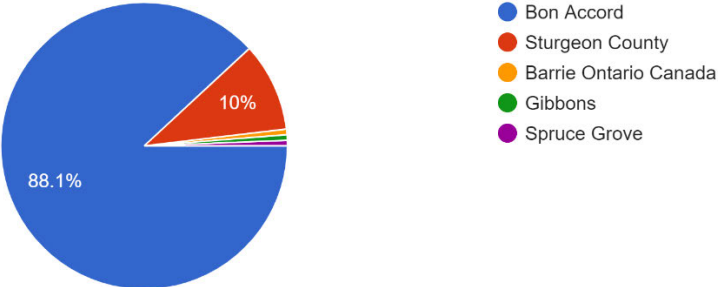


The survey received 167 responses (160 online, 7 paper). The following charts show the results of the online responses.

Where do you live?

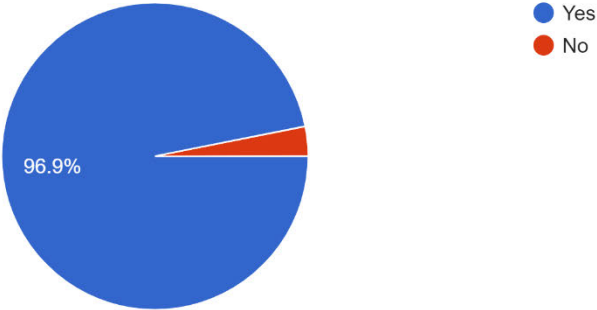
160 responses



Paper: 6 in Bon Accord, 1 in Sturgeon County

Did you know the Town of Bon Accord is a Dark Sky Community?

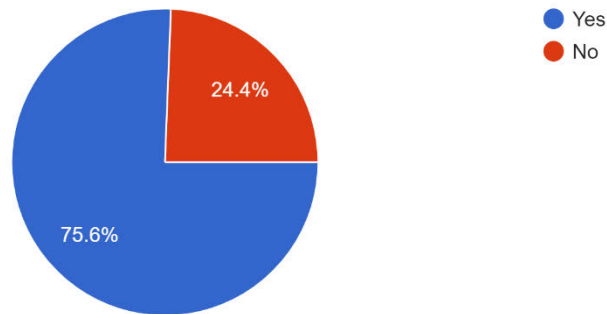
160 responses



Paper: 7 – Yes

Do you find value in this designation?

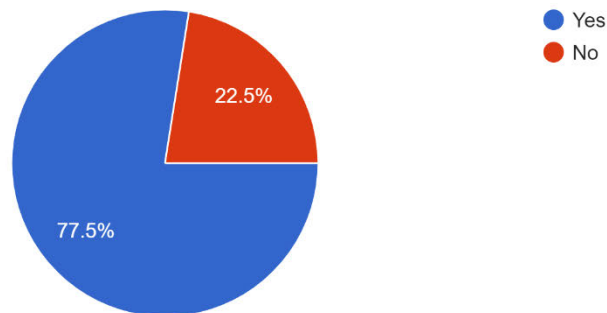
160 responses



Paper: 4 – Yes, 2 – No, 1 – Unanswered

Do you want the Town to continue with this designation?

160 responses



Paper: 4 – Yes, 1 – No, 2 – Unanswered

Topics of attached comments from the survey included:

- Associated costs relating to:
 - Keeping the designation
 - Events
 - Tax rate
- Concern regarding light levels and crime
- Town's environmental initiatives complemented by designation
- Uniqueness of designation
- Enforcement of Light Efficient Community Bylaw
- More could be done with designation

Administration appreciates the feedback received from the community on this matter. Lots of participation and discussion on the Facebook posts as well. Residents appear to be very passionate about this topic.

Should Council wish to maintain the Dark Sky designation, some options to bolster the designation could include:

- Annual event(s)
- Signage for 2 existing rubber telescope pads
- New, updated brochures
- Updated webpage on Town website
- Information shared to social media re: night skies. I.e.: upcoming meteor showers, planets visible, etc.

SURVEY COMMENTS

We don't use the designation for anything that i know of. may have been a good idea but there needs to be a long term strategy with it and the change you will see. Then you can see if the value you want from the designation is coming true. It needs to be a partnership with others that will get value as well to truly succeed.

Stricter rules on brightness of outdoor lights allowed in town for residential houses to keep it a dark sky community

As long as cost the tax payers , residential tax is high enough.

Don't understand the purpose of the designation

I wish the little domes would be available again

It would be a huge disappointment to lose this designation after all the hard work previous council did to achieve it and get Bon Accord recognition for something amazing

The dark skies designation is why I chose bon accord to buy a house in last fall.

This is a designation that I am very proud that the Town achieved. It is possibly our only unique attribute amongst every other small town in Alberta. It approaches enviro-consciousness in something that cannot be duplicated.

Without any background information on this designation, it was not a fair survey. People in this community have a wrong misconception that it means that we have fewer lights and it makes our community less safe. Instead of the fact that it just directs the light downward so as to control light pollution. This designation should be celebrated and promoted as something significant to Bon Accord as an asset to set us apart.

Lower light levels also help with our environmental concerns as well.

Repeal all the bylaws related to this. We need to replace all the streetlights in this town with LED to try and lower some taxes, as well as allow residents to install whatever lighting they want on their houses. There has been 0 value to the dark sky designation other than it being a previous councilors inappropriate Scrap it now

What would be the purpose in not continuing with the designation?

Depends on the cost to the town but is an added benefit to have a special designatio

Place a few of the red chairs all over town into the centre park to be used for the music in the park I doubt they are used much where they are at the moment.

I am moving to Bon Accord, on December 2022 and I love the Idea of dark sky community.

Not only is it pleasant to be able to look out the window and see stars and the northern lights, it's also better if there is less energy spent on lighting. If crime is an issue, people have their camera and motion sensing lights and dogs and watchful eyes to help out. We learn to keep our stuff locked up too

Bon Accord achieved something six years ago that other cities, towns, and villages are just now working to achieve in terms of light efficiency policies and environmental stewardship regarding light pollution. We continue this path of environmental concern with initiatives like the solar farm and electric charging stations.

The designation makes Bon Accord stand out as a leader, since we were the first community in Canada to receive this recognition for our efforts. The continuance of the designation aligns with the town's Strategic

Plan and it's mission and vision statements and focus.

The town needs to embrace what we already have and use it to promote Bon Accord. Why would we want to move backwards and lose a positive identity that we worked so hard to achieve? What is the endgame? I'm pretty sure no one wants to lose the view we have of our night sky. Look to the local Facebook community page where people post pictures and comments each time the Northern Lights are present.

Are we changing our lighting bylaws? If so, how, and again to what end? Why would we reverse what others are trying to achieve. About 3-4 years ago, Fortis changed out streetlight heads to accommodate new LED lights all throughout the Sturgeon County region and elsewhere throughout the province. In doing so, they reduced power usage, increased lamp longevity, and reduced light pollution since the new heads purposely focused a less intense colour of light downward and effectively cut upward shine. Result? Less sky glow and a more visible night sky. Guess who got there first?

Bon Accord: Canada's 1st Dark Sky Community! That stands out.

Do we really want to be known as the first community to lose this unique designation? And why? Is it because we're too lazy to put some effort into something we said we believed in, but now suddenly don't care about. If we truly are focused on the environment in Bon Accord, then we do the work and build on our status. Incorporate the designation into other initiatives and branding. Use it, don't lose it.

Nothing stops us from being known for multiple things...

Thank you for the opportunity to let us speak on this.

Do something with it. The first years hype was amazing. Then nothing was done withit besides small **Inappropriate** shacks (observatories). Maybe market towards the amateur night sky photographers.

Dark Sky's is an environmental initiative and aligns with Bon Accords green plan. Dark Sky designation is also historically ground breaking, being the first Dark Sky Community, and puts us in many noted publications regarding environmental initiatives.

Adds no value to the town whatsoever.

It is something unique to the area that can not easily be claimed by other communitites.

More a question. If the town is designated dark sky, are there designated areas for viewing marked out?

I'd like to propose that Bon Accord keep the designation and perhaps make it more meaningful and generational by investing in the schools in town. BACS is planning outdoor projects that could be linked to not only the Dark Sky community but also to Indigenous links to the night sky. Ursa Major is a popular constellation, BACS Bears would be an easy link to this theme in my opinion. I think it'd be a shame to let the designation go although I'm not sure what the requirements are to keep it..is it money? Projects? The survey doesn't specify so it's hard to fully weigh the pros and cons. Thank you

Why would this be an option? You can't make it any less dark or beautiful

Does the designation cost the town money? I would base the last answer off of this answer

Did you change the street lights to meet requirements? Does installation of solar panels for street lights matter to anyone? What is going on install observation domes take them away then what ?

Need to enforce the bylaws that go with this designation: outdoor lights shaded, pointing down,, not white, etc.

The town is doing nothing to hold this title. Domes are taken away, etc what is the town doing to keep this title?

If this is going to cost us more money then no I think it was a waste money in the first place. Also being fined \$250 if are lights are changed is not right, how many people in town even know this.

I disagreed with the continue question as No other option besides y/n
This can continue In my thoughts but would just want to know the expenses to keep it going

With the increased crime in the overnight hours I think we need more lighting not less!!!

The Dark Skies Designation is the best thing that has ever happened to Bon Accord. It is a designation that could still be developed and capitalized on. We have an opportunity of a lifetime to put Bon Accord on the national map but leadership is sadly lacking and interest f has waned and dwindled over the years to this? Will the Town of Bon Accord never understand the concept of economic development? Especially an opportunity that has low costs attached. Dark skies don't have to be negotiated. Dark skies don't have to be built. Dark skies don't leave town because the taxes are too high. It's a no brainer - it just requires some vision, some enthusiasm, and yes, some work to honour the designation. It would be a significant shame to let it go because our dark skies have become clouded by doubt, indecision and a lack of desire to develop it's potential.

I think it is great for these little communities to do things like this, I think there should be more that comes with it, maybe something through the year that is specific to this designation

Should host dark sky events to make the designation more exciting.

My answers would change to no I'd by not continuing the designation our taxes lower...if that doesn't make a difference then I would like to keep the designation.

Bon Accord has the designation as the FIRST Dark Sky Community in Canada...if it is let go you will never be able to lay claim or obtain it again. It can be retained with low cost investment through educational programs, awareness campaigns, etc. You would think that in this time where environmental initiatives are very important to the people and the province that it would be a priority. The designation achievement was made to align with the culture of Bon Accord and the surrounding area. There is an incredible sky out there. There were grants and incentives to convert commercial and home external lighting at one time...not sure what is in place now tho. Whatever the decision ...I hope it's unified. I should note that I am not a resident ...just a nearby neighbour who enjoys the night sky and not the glow from the city while sitting around a campfire.

I came to the dark sky festival with Chris Hadfield and my family and I live visiting Bon Accord for star gazing and seeing the Aurora.

Although I appreciate the opportunity to have some input about this topic, I think a little more background information would be helpful. People like me, who have lived in Bon Accord for 32 years, are familiar with the designation, but newcomers are not. I would love to see the town go back to hosting a Dark Sky celebration, as happened in the past. Obviously, the costs of putting on such events are a strain on the town's budget, but could there not be a grant accessed, or a fundraiser started? This 'survey' is not really a survey in my mind - it is a yes or no questionnaire, designed to support a decision that already seems to have been made.

If Bon Accord keeps this designation, I would be happy to sit on a committee that would work to develop concepts, ideas and funding to maintain and celebrate this important designation.

S. 17

What's the cost to the Tax Payer?

We should bring back the equinox celebration by having fun activities for the day on the main streets and a glow in the dark walk from the library to the arena to watch the northern lights.

It is very valuable to international tourists, dark sky appreciators, and aurora borealis photo buffs. It is Bon Accord's most impressive claim to fame. Definitely keep it up!

This is such a basic questionnaire. It seems that the intent is to discontinue this designation with these simple questions. I'm disappointed in this.

I hate seeing Bon Accord losing ties to the past, former councils work to bring notice to Bon Accord in different ways then they fall to the gutter with new town staff and councils, there is so little history of Bon Accord. Does it really require a lot of town staff time to keep the designation? See articles in magazines every year about Bon Accord and the Dark Skies, so we get the recognition, just need to have people come.

Take the money that you spent on that stupid speed sign and put it into plowing more than once a season, **S. 17** and take that money and put it into road maintenance for the winter. Either way, why am I paying \$4200 a year in taxes if you can't do simple maintenance? Maybe you should do a survey about that. I am sure you will get the same answer from the entire town that doesn't live on the main streets. That's is all

What is the annual or any related costs, what is the up side to having this. Why are other municipalities in the region doing this.

It's an important designation that should be kept. It makes us distinct

With the high theft in the area, I think the town should have More Lit Up LED bright lights and street lights, because thieves are drawn to low lit areas, and we do not have a police station close and they know that, and take advantage of these facts.

The Dark Sky initiative was developed to assist in attracting people to our town. Also, without the spillover light from street lights, porch lights, etc. migrating birds migration routes are not affected allowing them to proceed without interference. The Bylaw - as drawnup - was too specific and scientific to understood and implemented to be useful and was cancelled without replacement. This is the one thing that makes Bon Accord unique!

S. 17

Paper Comments:

"I think it is a positive. We had people visit us from Florida who knew about it."

"Wondering if there is a fee (annual, monthly, otherwise) to maintain the designation"