

## APPENDIX

THE FOLLOWING PAGES INCLUDE RESPONSES TO OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN THE VOYAGE FORWARD SURVEY.

## If you were able to move out of Koochiching tomorrow, would you do it?

- Because of family, friends and rainy lake. Not because of the city/county!
- While I don't live in Koochiching, I've been a seasonal resident for almost 38 years in the International Falls area, east of Ranier. Nepotism and unions are killing this region...its sad to watch.
- The lake is beautiful, but if my husband weren't rooted here I would have been out of town yesterday. And you can't even tell this town is on a lake until you drive out of it.
- As an older member of society, I find I am happily supplied with all I can expect or need.
- Positives outweigh negatives so far.
- Life has been established here.
- We already go south for the winter.
- My family loves small town life in Ifalls and we hope to live here forever, but in order to do that we need to continually invest in new business, healthcare and education. I would like to see more of our local govt. "get along" - city, county, etc and see more obstacles removed so private businesses can create more growth.
- "My aging parents need my assistance in order to stay in their home.
- I care a lot about my hometowns success. I feel the position of keeping taxes low is misguided and we have local resources and revenues to update and modernize our collective circumstance here. We need to stop thinking that grants are the solution... If we desire a service, we should be prepared to pay for it. To the people that live outside the City and want City services as well, they understand that they should also pay their share in providing those services instead of being subsidized by the City residents."
- No problem with Koochiching just have lived here all my life and would like to experience living somewhere else. I would pick somewhere quite similar with beautiful lakes, trees, small town atmosphere.
- But would come back for the summer months
- "I was born and raised here and want to stay here.
- I wish something could be developed so our young people could stay here and make a living."
- "County government elected leadership has never been satisfactory -- always uninformed and uninspired and sometimes even a bit shifty.
- City government elected leadership has been quite good until the last few years. Now we are headed backwards."
- Not because I don't love it here, but because my family lives elsewhere.
- I have lived here my entire life and felt it was the best place for me however in the last few years I have considered moving because of the lack of opportunities for kids, distance to work and the instability of our community.
- International Falls need to clean up this town looks like dump in most places. Take pride in what we have we have bad roads but we are adding onto 107 crazy how long will 155 have a dirt spot same with there park road lets fix what we got.
- Like it here, hunting, fishing, Backus arts, neighbors helping neighbors, here for each other. Need a new city mayor, tho. Someone who is younger, more inclusive and can think like the current generation of people.He thinks he's the mayor of Koochiching County.
- This could become one of the most desirable places to live in the US if only the people could understand the value of the purity of the area. The more the night skies become filled with noise and light pollution the less likely anyone will want to stop and visit,or drink the cloronated water that's being served as water.People who are being poisoned on a daily basis will not be able to voyage forward.
- The reason that I live here is because of the quality of life and the environment that we live in. However, in order to sustain that quality of life, we do need to think about the future of Int'l Falls and what we need to do entice others to return and or come to the Falls. We need more business opportunities and employment

## If you were able to move out of Koochiching tomorrow, would you do it?

- opportunities and better health care and education.
- "Koochiching County is a very nice place to live. it is quite a beautiful County and I think our downtown area is at least average for other small towns. I think the largest problem has to do with the attitude of the people. Unfortunately, the attitude is ""take it or leave it."" I believe if we are to prosper we must have a much more engaging attitude towards people who were not born and raised here, such as tourists or people who have moved into the area.
- Our mill is a wonderful thing to have in this area, however, young people seem to have the attitude that if they don't do well in school or some other work environment they can always go work in the mill. Perhaps it always was that way, but that is not the future now. Long-term thinking needs to change from the current short-term thinking in terms of life goals and what will be available the future.
- When you look at where we are and where we were the outlook is not good. Excellence in education is no longer part of our school system, government has become personal and vindictive and economy has declined. The economy is not only locally but state and nationwide which we have some control over, but education and local government is something that we can control. Expectations need to be raised from not only for students but also the instructors. We need to challenge students so that they have the opportunity to succeed in their future endeavors. As far as government wouldn't it be nice to see our council/boards working together. Imagine what could be accomplished if people checked their egos and left personal agendas and attacks at the door!
- "All of the residents of Koochiching County truly need to make a conscious decision to change culturally. By culturally I mean our overall (minor to major issues) approach to our existence must change. We are very good at being exclusive. We are not very good at being inclusive. This mentality affects our economy. And if the economy were better (more diverse mainly), many of the smaller, yet important details, would be approached as challenges that could be remedied.
- It can be said that we work here (beautiful Rainy Lake, hunting, etc.) so we can live here. Folks in metro areas oftentimes live there to work there. We need to figure out how to evolve so we want to BOTH live here and work here.
- I answered No, but I will probably leave the county at least half time when I retire
- No reason to leave other than the isolation of the community
- Negative community, do not work together for better of all citizens.
- I love our community. It would be nice to have more employment opportunities here. When I mean employment, I mean livable wage job. My daughters are making ok wages as servers and cabin cleaners, but they are still living at home and working before college.
- I'd choose Beltrami or Itasca County. Their attention to the Northome area has been better than Koochiching's. (Based on services offered to students who are from all three counties). Kooch does the least and is the slowest.
- We decided to move into this area and do not regret it. This community is very supportive and amazing for our business and more importantly for our family.
- I have to say I have been living out of Koochiching since 2002! and been living Bemidji, MN since 2002! I have been down here for 13yrs. I moved down here for a better job in my area that I was working! since then I have two jobs both seasonal! Bemidji State End Aug to May and Ruttger's Birchmont Lodge End May to Mid-Aug! Been at BSU 12yrs and Ruttger's 11yrs. (My Parents are Dave & Cindy Peterson of I Falls and they run the Hardee's up there! And I like it down here!
- "Questions 1 & 2 should not have government, community, and infrastructure all lumped together, my answers for each would be quite different.

## If you were able to move out of Koochiching tomorrow, would you do it?

- Question number 5 is a meaningless question that could be answered both ways by anyone depending on different circumstances or events."
- Question number five is a terrible question. There are too many variables to the answer to make it useful for the survey.
- It's very hard to operate a business with the high cost to operate day to day but the low income of the community. I could have the same business elsewhere and make a decent living focusing solely on my business instead of having to work two to three jobs. The lack of government support and funding to our community is disturbing. This community NEEDS growth and tourism
- It has been my home for 25+ years. I don't want to leave.
- I would move only if the opportunity would greatly enhance my life and lifestyle. I have a hard time seeing that happen but am open to the possibility.
- The lack of jobs is causing a decline in population.
- I would move back to South Kooch county tomorrow if I could, but there is no housing for me and no job. Tough to want to live somewhere that doesn't offer any opportunity. Tough to have opportunity in the south portion of the county when the county leadership can't see beyond the southern city limit of Int'l Falls.
- I will stay here, but have to work outside of kooch
- "There is nothing in the northome mizpah area for jobs to keep people around. Many folks have to drive between 15 and 60 miles one way a day just to work for minimum wage .
- The community is a safe place but there is nothing there anymore."
- I bought a house last year - in one hand I think it was a right decision because this is a safe environment to settle down in and raise a family, but in the other hand I regret it deeply because I feel trapped and out of options. What does this town have left to offer me?
- We worry too much about tourism and bringing people back to town. We need jobs in this town and county for people already here. I don't remember a business brought into this town that did not fail in the first year or for sure the second.
- I grew up in Int'l Falls so do not live there but hope to again one day. I hope for all good things for the community.
- I love the area, but I am sad about all of the unemployment.
- We live here May to Nov. in a cabin on the lake. We lived Littlefork/Big Falls area for 18 yrs. then moved up here about 4 years ago. If we weren't on the lake we would not stay in Int'l Falls/ Kooch. Co.
- Bob Anderson needs to leave office, so that this community can grow instead of being "old & stagnet"
- The problems need to be fixed and that cannot be done if everyone leaves!!!
- Pick something anything pick a goal industry's boat building, camping equipment, border customs taining facilities, more hotel, Backus needs to bring in current relevant entertainment not everyone wants to see the shows they bring in. And charged for it
- tourists have a poor first impression of our city as it does not have neat and orderly appearance
- But it is not out if the question to move if services or conditions decline
- Retired
- I am a snowbird, but I consider Koochiching my home. It it a beautiful, peaceful and safe place to live. As a Senior, this is what i am looking for.
- I am currently unemployed; if the move would provide me with better job opportunities I would definitely have to go.
- Over 30 years ago this city was a city. Now since we moved back, what a disappointment. Very limited family retail. Too many good old boys (girls) club holding offices. Very disappointed in what this town has become.

## If you were able to move out of Koochiching tomorrow, would you do it?

- The biggest recreation is getting drunk or taking drugs or treating tourists better than the local towns people.
- My family has recently returned to International Falls. The return could not have happen soon enough. However, our concern now is the decline in population and what the City proposes to attract families to relocate to this area since industry is down and jobs are becoming more and more scarce therefore forcing young families to move away.
- Not at the age I am.
- I have grew up here. I think it is very important to promote the community from with. This starts at the political level and works it's way down. Voices need to be heard and need not to be taken lightly.
- Our children do not live here, so if there was the right opportunity we would move.
- To be closer to family, restaurants and other services, including better quality medical services
- "Build new roads on every street in International Falls.
- Replace traffic signs with new traffic signs, and insert street signs on every avenue and street.
- Do not leave snow in the middle of the street for days.
- Parks and playgrounds need to be safe and well kept.
- We need employers to start up new businesses here and pay a competitive wage, not the \$12-15/hour. We need to find jobs for those workers that were laid off from Boise. A lot of the salaried workers weren't called back to work.
- We need employers to hire some of those still laid off from the Boise lay-offs. We need good paying jobs, not \$12-15/hour jobs.
- There should be a question about increasing taxes related to marketing tourism in the area and increasing cultural opportunities. With good business,through IFEDA, tourism initiatives for the park and area, and good culture all of the categories above will thrive.
- One of my biggest irritants and it may turn off potential businesses considering relocation here or individuals who may move here is back biteing between some city and some county officials and the constant desire of the city to pass on expenses to county residents. I pay way more than my fair share and am tired of Cynthia Jaksa wanting me to help fund the airport, the sewer and water and other infrastructure of the city. She more than others also feeds the negativity between the city and county residents and officials and her comments and things in the paper feed a certain negativity and split between county and city. How can we help tourist industries for example as many are int he county, if they must keep picking up the tab for city services or pay more than their share. Many of the tourist industry has 3 primary months each year to make their profit. They have to pay for septic pumping, sometimes water delivery and other things. Why should Boise get all the breaks (big industry), we need to look at our smaller businesses that really support more what we are all about.
- It has been difficult the past few years getting proper health care for my aging parents. I hope this new clinic in the hospital is the start of something good!
- Not if Koochiching was able to sustain jobs, retail, etc. so a person didn't have to go 100 miles or more or rely on the internet for purchasing items. I would prefer to keep my dollars local and stay in Koochiching.
- I currently have two school aged daughters. I like the security I feel in Ifalls, and feel it is a great place to raise the girls. One concern I have once the girls are gone is the level of health care available.
- It is where my grandkids and children are and I believe it is a great place to raise a family.
- As I am aging, there are amenities that we do not have in this area. Movi. G to an area with more conveniences has been an ongoing thought.
- We know that we are soon going to be too old to maintain our home and property so we likely will have to move. We hope that it will not be tomorrow.

## If you were able to move out of Koochiching tomorrow, would you do it?

- I suppose it would depend on the financial incentive, however. We realize that we will eventually have to move. We are close to being too old to keep up with the yard and garden.
- While I consider Koochiching County to be "home" I reside outside the county most of the year. In order to pursue employment opportunities it was imperative that I seek employment elsewhere. Opportunities do not exist for professional, educated members of the workforce within the confines of Koochiching County. Community Resources are limited and opportunities that have been introduced within Koochiching county historically have been concentrated and focused towards the northern end of the county, without consideration given to workforce resources beyond International Falls city limits.
- I am already living outside of the area due to college, but I continue to come back for the nature and the hometown feel.
- The political bullying is damaging the very image of our community and growth. Focus is self-serving versus community serving.
- Quality of life should be on your list along with cost of living.
- Being retired, I have a favorite place at home in Iowa, but will continue to live here with my present family circumstance prevailing.
- There is no real development of industry, economy, or establishment of real jobs as in other same size towns. The persons taking a paycheck for job development have provided no improvement to the community.
- I would not leave my job. Ask me again when I retire.
- Like small town living
- PCA/BOISE has become a Nightmare to work for. They don't care about their employees or the community. All they want is to suck as much money as possible out of this community & leave.
- I don't live in Kooch County, but grew up there and would like to see it continue to thrive.
- lived here all my life
- Been here all my life
- i live in itasca county
- I love it here, but we can do better in attracting others to this area.
- The reason I wouldn't move out of Koochiching County is because the cost-of-living and crime rate is low compared to metropolitan areas, and the natural beauty of the area is spectacular.
- But would depend on the circumstances, if need be and we had to move to find work or for kids to go to a better school, it would definitely be a possibility.
- Koochiching County has a lot to offer but needs to improve with new industries and attractions
- This town is for those who like to go to the bars. Clothes shopping here is for the rich. We need the police to get more funding to watch out for our community to catch the trouble makers and enforce the 10:00 PM curfew.
- There needs to be some form of industry here other than bosie to provide jobs for residents and to keep people and especially the young from moving away ...if there aren't jobs and decent paying one there is really no reason to be here..why live somewhere where you cannot support yourself and your family or future family
- I was ready to but I love it here wish there was better paying jobs here that paid \$25 an hour with just a high school education.. So we need more plants industry jobs
- I love my town I only want to see it thrive
- seems like the council has its own agenda. some are doing it for themselves and that's why there there.
- This town needs more industry and jobs to survive. Who are we joking that tourism is going to be the savior. We need quality employment opportunities to see this town we all love grow.
- Only because of distance from family.

## If you were able to move out of Koochiching tomorrow, would you do it?

- I feel there is an absolute conflict of interest that lies within most EDA and city council members. Terms for the respected organizations should be set at a maximum of no more than three years served.
- Koochiching County is our home and we would only move if appropriate housing and health care were not available and up to our standards.
- My focus is South Koochiching, the Northome area, which is spinning a slow spiral towards death due to a lack of jobs to attract young families, a lack of housing for any young families that do get a job in the area, and a lack of potential new industry because there are no workers because there is no housing. Add to this a total disconnect from the northern half of the county where leadership sits....and stays...and ignores.....and it seems South Koochiching has no future, no destiny, and no hope for either.
- I love this community. It has been good to my family. A great place to raise a family.
- We have lived here and worked here for 40+ years. Why would we want to move away from things we have worked to build and improve upon.
- The feel I get from the community is a strong sense of pride in red-neck, uncivil, white trash. Local business appears to have little interest in customer service.
- This is said even though I have a decent career as does my spouse. It is easier said than done as I have older family members in the area, who make it difficult, but when you see the community going downhill slowly its like waiting for the other shoe to fall--meaning if Boise closes or we do not have any other industry/technology started. It seems many people are not open in every sense of the word--to other people or to changes in the way we do business. There seems to be a refusal to let go of old ways and embrace change. I'd like to see people stop playing this elitism game where you are either in or out because its becoming the downfall of our community.
- This is somewhat unrelated to the quiz.
- I believe we should have people with STS hours help with the upkeep of the cemetery grounds."
- I don't live in Koochiching county; however, I grew up there and several family members live there. The viability of the county is still very important to me.
- "I love it here, has always been my home and have raised my family here.
- I like the thought of shaking things up around here and getting away from status quo and the good old boys club.
- Glad to see people with a vision and not afraid to think out of the box.
- We live in God's country and are very fortunate to be here.
- It is about time that those who are on committees care enough about the people who live here that they are starting to listen and not just about their own agenda, or their own business, but the community as a whole. Voyage Forward is a very good thing so far and is much needed.
- I want young people to be able to stay here or come back here. To have good job opportunities, to be able to raise their families.
- On the above 3 priorities, it is hard to pick because they all go hand in hand and are all important to our community."
- There is no economy here. Nothing to keep young families in the area. We need jobs to keep people here. Sad how we keep loosing young people & families because they can't afford to live here unless they are on welfare.
- This is my home.
- We are suffering from lack of good paying jobs. My husband is leaving Monday to Alaska to work cause there is no full time jobs for a electrician in the area. I know many wives that are left behind without their husband raising kids on they're own. We need better paying jobs. No one can live here and afford food on minimum

## If you were able to move out of Koochiching tomorrow, would you do it?

- wage..
- Definitely need more business opportunities, stabled jobs and security. Take a risk do something good with our good water. Such as bottled it like Buhl or open a Beer Pub.Brewery.
  - Grew up here and love that family is here. Love the community
  - I see Kooch as stagnant. If we are not moving forward we are dying. We keep electing the same people and expect different results, that is Einstein's definition of insanity.
  - My wife and I chose to retire in the Falls and would not think of moving out of the county today.
  - I believe Koochiching County has the potential to be one of the best places in the country to live. So, I think I'll stick around and see if I can help make that happen!
  - "Our area community is a wonderful place to live, to grow and thrive. The people who choose to make their lives here and call this home are not only tough inside and out, but the most caring, generous, capable and committed individuals that one will ever encounter in a rural/remote/border town--that prides itself in being the ice box of our nation. People stand together in the good times and the not so good times.
  - This survey, which is part of the Voyage Forward Project is one example of our ""Journey to Success.""
  - The presence of Rainy River Community College in our Falls community is a very important part of high quality life in the area. RRCC's ability to increase access and opportunity, promote high-quality and high value learning programs and services that enhance and sustain the economic competitiveness of our region are a huge party of this Voyage Forward Project.
  - Leaders who support and initiate innovation are at the core of this project. It is with gratitude and appreciation that I take the time to write my thoughts."
  - I think because of people losing their jobs or not feeling welcome, they tend to have to move on to other places.
  - Rainy Lake is probably the only thing that keeps people in this area. Tourism is a huge draw to Koochiching County but it is not touted enough. Look at Baudette and Walker which are more progressive communities than Int'l Falls and they are much smaller. I. Falls needs to host more Walleye fishing tournaments in the summer and winter and get more people coming to the area. Put a nice Hotel on the river out towards the Lake more. Get some nice Restaurants in the community that are different than the same old thing. I. Falls could sure take a page out of Bemidji's economic development authority and request some help.
  - Not tomorrow, but I would not rule it out if things don't change with our local government structure. It is absolutely sickening and embarrassing to read the paper/city council minutes. I would truly like to understand the motives behind the man.
  - I moved here to live here. As long as I am employed and earning a livable wage, I will do anything I can to stay.
  - I feel we have lost our community pride and it seems we only worry about how things will affect ME instead of how it will affect US
  - I love Rainy Lake
  - The climate is the only unchangeable aspect I would avoid if the opportunity came
  - Enjoy the area- just wish city/county taxes would be increased to improve the services provided. The county services are minimal, but could be improved if the county taxes were increased annually. We are doing ourselves any favors by not increasing taxes slightly every year to keep up with the economy.
  - Hypocrites are in control
  - The public bickering has to stop. We look like hicks.
  - I reside in St. Louis County, but work in Koochiching County.
  - We need a new mayor that cares about the town not himself
  - We need to identify items (and improve those items if we can) that make our area a more viable option than



## If you were able to move out of Koochiching tomorrow, would you do it?

other areas in the Country/world for businesses to locate and operate profitably here (obviously the business needs to make more money here than other options). To benefit our area the businesses we focus our improvements and resources on must be the type that derive most of their income from outside our County and that pay living wages (Pay range must give workers enough income to pay for basic needs such as housing, utilities, food, vehicle, health, etc. and have some disposable income left over to recirculate into our local economy. I'm thinking wouldn't it be nice if there was enough housing demand and new disposable income that a few houses a year were actually built in Int'l Falls.). Tourism should stand on its own and not consume our resources. All of Northern MN has similar tourism opportunities and we are farther from population and therefore less demand. The demand and profit margin in this areas tourism industry does not support enough new development to be viable (Tourism Demand doesn't support newly built resorts, Condo development etc.) plus most wages in this industry are seasonal and are not living wage. Improving the quality of life for the existing residents should be a high priority (rebuilt streets, immaculate and desirable existing parks with facilities that are available to the residents 24/7, high quality schools and school facilities with the highest ratings in the State for education, the existing indoor facilities, gyms, hockey rinks, Library etc. should be available for winter use and should be maintained and improved to a higher level than current levels, a city owned YMCA open 24/7 would be nice for residents (Fort Frances has the Sports Plex, what do we provide to our residents). We need to inspire residents by making it nice for them. If the existing residents believe this is a great place to live because they are proud of the quality of opportunities and quality of life they have, then they will have positive attitudes and will share their positive stories with others. This has the potential to change the culture from pessimistic to positive. Once that change occurs, the sky is the limit because people will want to be here. We should have only 1 economic development agency. Maybe the city could use some of the resources from this to put into KEDA and the remainder into streets, parks, Library, etc. What I am talking about is difficult but with proper focus and hard work from champions (hopefully our elected officials) who inspire the residents to work with them toward the same goals, It can happen! Many of the items discussed in my comment would be greatly helped by additional living wage jobs that create a larger tax base but that should not sway us from taking action on our priority list and continue to make our community higher quality. Improvement of housing should not be our focus as it is a private matter that gets improved by more demand. If there were higher wages and more jobs you would see new housing demand (new apartments built, refurbished homes, new homes built, etc.). If you get a grant, that is fine, but our resources and focus needs to be on the existing infrastructure, streets, parks, schools, indoor facilities, etc. I'm not saying you don't take care of blight, but you have the existing resources and policy in place to take care of this. Building new apartments or housing units with grants or government money doesn't change the demand and in fact will create more blight as you will be shifting existing demand to the new units and therefore the lowest quality stock will be left vacant because there is not enough demand.

- We should do away with the EDA and KEDA. That money could be spent more wisely. The Chamber of Commerce can promote development and encourage business's to move here. We have an industrial park and free trade zone that should be encouraged to develop. We should not be buying and owning property for the rail spur. People and business's have property for sale and the city or county should not be giving it away. The city should be selling the Donahue Property and making money off of it and putting it back on the tax rolls. The County should be auctioning off tax forfeited land every year and putting it back on the tax rolls. The city and County need to manage better what they have.
- I have an aging parent who wouldn't leave the county
- I have an aging parent who wouldn't leave the county
- I WOULD MOVE OUT OF THE COUNTY ONLY BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER. I WOULD MOVE OUT OF INT'L FALLS FOR MANY REASONS, BUT PRIMARILY THE HISTORY OF INCOMPETENT GOVERNMENT.

## If you were able to move out of Koochiching tomorrow, would you do it?

- I have had the opportunity to move several times but I believe in our community and want to see it grow and improve so my kids can continue to enjoy the quality of life in Koochiching County well into the future.
- I have an aging parent who wouldn't leave the area
- I love living in Koochiching County and Int'l Falls and will likely never move. My family struggled financially in our early years despite knowing that moving would result in better job opportunities and financial stability. We made a conscientious choice to stay and tough it out so our children could grow up in a small community as we did.
- It would depend on where because my choice to stay in Koochiching County is due to the beautiful outdoors and "small town".
- tempted
- From International Falls and still working in city but live in Fort Frances, Ontario, Canada
- I will probably spend more time out of the County in the future
- to near retirement - if had to start over it would not be here - to hard to make a living
- I love International Falls, however if there was job opportunity I would leave. But I want my daughter to graduate from here, so it is hard because there is not a lot here.
- Very nice community, great, caring people. Not enough higher paying jobs and not enough business.
- I was born and raised here in the Falls area, and except for the winter months. It's a wonderful place to live and raise a family.
- as I near retirement I'm staying put, if I was to start my working carrier over again I would move elsewhere where making a living is not such a struggle and move to a community where people are upbeat, (not so negative)
- We have government that makes some very poor choices. They need to learn to work together and they need to work for the good of the people instead of their self-serving ways. Good old boys club is very apparent. I like our area but it is so far away from everything. Our shopping, schools etc are poor. We do not have many services that are available only 100 miles away. We need to quit fighting about everything and work together to make us better all around. If you read our city council, school and county board reports in the newspaper would you relocate a business or your family here?
- We have a large young family and would love to raise our children here until they graduate but having little opportunity in this area makes it very hard to want to stay. There have been very bad decisions made by some of the boards in this town that have prevented growth or change.
- If my family didn't live here and my husband didn't have a great job, I would move. There is not enough shopping (target would make a world of difference), entertainment for adults and children and I feel our city has a terrible job mowing grass this year and keeping the parks up.
- Love the city, but need more culture, better healthcare and things to do.
- too invested in this community to move - unless God had a different plan, we're staying....
- My home...move during winter though
- Definitely need more work on infrastructure. City Loop for example uses the street in places due to lack of sidewalks. No trail for walkers/runners in winter.
- learship needs to make hard decisions
- The quality of health care is very poor
- No until our children graduate anyways.
- I love it hear but people need good paying jobs.
- I have a good job I enjoy, I have a beautiful house on the river, my kids participate in activities, we are happy with our personal life

## **If you were able to move out of Koochiching tomorrow, would you do it?**

- Naturally beautiful area. But few living wage jobs, not sure how long we'll be able to stay.
- Continue to live in Intl Falls because my children live here. As long as there are jobs for them, I will continue to live here
- The town is dying and too many people do not support economic development and rather it be "not in their backyard".
- Who would buy our house?
- If my family did not live here, I would choose a more vibrant rural city where the Mayor and Council are more progressive. I look toward Grand Rapids and Bemidji as examples of communities that have similar geographic landscapes and quality of life. It's simply the petty politics of this town that make it unpleasant at time. It's embarrassing when people read about us - the dysfunction is one of the biggest detriments to growing our community.
- This area has a secret that it does not promote. The summer season daily temperature. Air conditioning is hardly needed in one's home. You can be outside without the discomfort of high temperatures combined with high humidity.
- If I was retired I would definately move out of the area.
- The town overall just looks dumpy. We need to focus on the aspects of the community that we can realistically improve aside from economic development, for example, blight, strong schools and health care entities, quality upscale housing and infrastructure.

**Of the following broad business and industry categories, select THREE you believe would enhance the economic vitality of Koochiching County?**

- Retail, K-Mart is a very unattractive buisness in our community.
- Its important to note that the government produces nothing, it only takes money from private industry. Koochiching county needs a whole lot of private industry. This will be tough given the union mentality of people in this area.
- Arts & Culture
- a four lane highway would probably double our tourism. Not another hotel, there just is not anything here that warrants another hotel.
- Small resource and environmentally friendly businesses other than manufacturing.
- walmart or target!!!!
- Health care if we can compete with wages in other communities, for example Good Samaritan is a major employer but many individuals don't stay because of low wages in comparison, ie: LPNs.
- "We need to strongly promote a local brewery and our exceptionally high quality drinking water. Rainy Lake Brewing Co., that does locall brews and contract brewing for others. Brewing is big business in this State!!!
- Should also look into raising local foods. Locally raised chicken, turkeys, swine and beef could be sold locally I.e. Ewald of old.
- Get a developer to develop the Donahue property with condos and townhouses along the golf course and river"
- Tourism is often touted, but it offers low wages.
- "We need economic and community development
- in South Koochiching."
- RRCC is a resource that has not been fully exploited. I realize it is a Minnesota-governed operation, but perhaps more effort could be made to work with the state to develop locally beneficial programs of all types.
- "Beer pub
- Bottling our good water
- Bakery
- THERE IS A CONSTANT PROBLEM WITH ATV USE. WHY DOESNT THE CITY AND COUNTY GET TOGETHER AND PUT MONEY INTO TRAILS, BRIDGES, ETC.. ALSO BUILD AN ATV RAMP NEAR HOLIDAY AT THE TRAIL HEAD FOR PEOPLE TO LOAD AND UNLOAD.
- EDA keeps talking about places moving in but no ground is being broken. Talk is cheap. we don't need another hotel. the river was messed up when the city build a park building and let boarder partrol build on the river what wasted space.
- More restaurants and dining options. Like a Qdoba or Jimmy Johns.
- Naturalist education and implement more group outdoor workshops and camping adventues for children as well as adults, enhance the quality of life by creating opportunities for learning to live.
- Federal Prison
- Our No. 1 rated water!
- Prison Facilities
- The plans for our current hospital needs to include plans for efficiency. Having two clinics is extremely confusing.as I understand it, there is no new phone book. As such, if you need to contact the new clinic, there is no phone book option. Therefore, people keep calling the old clinic by accident. Also, the new clinic seems to have some scheduling problems. While these things seem trivial, they are often a result of the "take it or leave it" attitude.

## **Of the following broad business and industry categories, select THREE you believe would enhance the economic vitality of Koochiching County?**

- We should strongly consider alternative to forest industry and instead work to preserve, enhance and protect our local ecology!! Focusing on the health of our community also invites the tourism industry. Mutually beneficially to maintain beautiful landscapes and forests to enhance the relaxation quality for community members and visitors.
- Do not forget that education, especially higher education, plays an essential education and/or training role in all three of the above-marked broad business and industry categories. There is only one institution of higher learning in International Falls - Rainy River CC - and it has both liberal arts and technical education. RRCC is part of a college district and state system that can help Koochiching County enhance its economic vitality.
- Focus on what our niche is....land, location, and opportunity for law enforcement training area. We have the location and would encompass all areas (border, land, water, highway, etc.). Perfect area for training grounds/facility...a destination place.
- The core issue is developing value-added industries that retain wealth in the local economy.
- I would like see jobs the pay a living wage for the majority of the employees that work there. I also would like there to be an equal opportunity for all businesses. At this point does it matter if the company is union or not? Our community needs quality jobs and not being open to and hostile towards a business because it is not union hurts us not helps.
- Sell this community as a great place to live for people who can tele-commute.
- There really isn't a choice here - health care, technology, and tourism WILL be a part of the future. Small manufacturing could have an economic impact, but effort would be needed to attract it to the area. Bio-tech is a gamble. You have already ridden the forest products train far longer and farther than you should have. Gov't is self-serving, not helpful to enhancing economic vitality....Kooch is a prime example - what good has the Kooch gov't done for the WHOLE county? None. The Kooch gov't only knows/cares/thinks about the northern half of the county.
- We live in a retirement community, there needs to be an assisted living for the elder.
- "If we had more health care availability (and more employment opportunities for people in that field) residents would be more likely to stay in the area. Hard being far away from medical help!
- Also, as college degrees are not necessarily the norm for our area (another thing to work on!) we need some options for employment!"
- Need to make our communities more inviting.
- Tourism still can be worked on , but it will not draw like it did ten years ago.
- With VNP and Rainy Lake being our biggest assets to our tourism resource we need to offer at least one main land camping option for visitors. We really have none. What ever happened to Clarks Park? Or how about having VNP put a main land camp ground by the visitor center. I work out at the lake and very often have people ask where can we camp.
- Public Transportation
- Good jobs are way to scarce here. I think replacing Ms. Mason would be a good place to start. This town wouldn't even let in Walmart so now people have to go out of town or have a visa to shop. This town is just about tourists, like some would try to get everyone to believe.
- I feel these three areas would be the best choice to generate a larger employee base. However, small businesses are also encouraged. Based on present census, I think government is top-heavy.
- Large retail stores
- Build new roads through out the entire city and county.

**Of the following broad business and industry categories, select THREE you believe would enhance the economic vitality of Koochiching County?**

- The lake and river is International Falls two reasons why people visit the city. Take advantage of that by implanting housing, hotels, food industries, etc. along the river and lake properties. "
- Any business that fits in the multi model district and the FTZ and any business that does not take away from store front business, like mariner farms. It can exist without a store front downtown and still assist our economic growth. No competition against existing
- We need living wage manufacturing industrial jobs. Not only will these jobs strengthen our tax, we would not be relying on one company for a large chunk of of our commercial tax base (very scary)
- I am concerned that we are "on the way" to places but we are not a stop. There are very few places to camp in the area. We have a great area that is under used by the outside world.
- More diverse retail.
- Develop a retreat for people/veterans with post trauma stress or an environmental center
- Community Members need to focus and concentrate on the reality of what exists regarding resources... what's available in Koochiching County? Nothing. A whole lot of NOTHING. Which is PERFECT for promoting Eco-Tourism within the county... what exists is wilderness and nature and solitude and rural, small-town hospitality... in the SOUTHERN END of the County.
- OUR COLLEGE SHOULD BE ACTIVELY SEEKING A LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM THAT ENCOMPASSES A TRAINING FACILITY FOR CUSTOMS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, DNR, STATE PATROL, ETC. WE ARE IN A PRIME LOCATION FOR THIS!
- Encourage self employment
- I believe that we need to bring in more job opportunities in different areas and skill needs. We need to develop programs for our youth and to provide more technical education and find ways to attract and keep our younger population in our community.
- Specialty Agriculture
- The influx of junk/thrift stores and dollar stores make the downtown look trashy. The storefronts are in disarray. Allow real business to come and grow here.
- Koochiching is a remote location, however with low-cost shipping these days a company that manufactures or produces items for shipping could do well here with a lower overhead cost because we are more rural.
- The labor pool is poor.
- Large industry/manufacturing
- Small businesses and tourism have potential for growth in this area. More incentives should be offered for entrepreneurs.
- I would like to see more small businesses but if we don't have something a bit bigger that draws in a few more people, we cannot maintain the smaller business owner. As evidenced by losing the nursing home.
- Large manufacturing company
- Get rid of EDA and Shawn Mason
- Get rid of Voyaguers National Park. It's a nightmare & hasn't added to our community's economy whatsoever.
- Senior prisons, power plant, large scale manufacturer plants, methane gas plant,
- Most of our community is poverty we need jobs that offers more (pay and health )
- Cottage industries. Small businesses where people are already invested in our community and likely to stay.
- Core foundations for economic endurance. While healthcare is great and currently expanding we need more higher skilled manufacturing jobs, or a facility similar to United Health Group.
- Using the renewable resources we have in our area would be a logical inclusion.

**Of the following broad business and industry categories, select THREE you believe would enhance the economic vitality of Koochiching County?**

- A tech school would be a very nice addition to the area, with many jobs in the Northern Minnesota area needing people with many of those skill sets.
- Keep in mind, North Koochiching leaders, that when we all do better, we all do better. I have a cynical suspicion that what I am answering will be used to enhance the l'Falls area, which is fine unless the southern half of the county is once again ignored.
- "increasing employment. I see a lot of jobs turn people way over a conviction even if it was years ago, which is very sad.
- Also, a daycare center for single families so, if they had to work nights they can have a place to take them.
- Increase in pay would be nice.
- Drug court is a joke, get rid of that crap.
- Fix your crappy roads.
- new housing for single families would be nice.
- bring in doctors.
- Enforce laws and rules
- have the police out doing their job instead of allowing them to sit at the chocolate moose or subway for hours on end!
- The judge needs to show up to court on time not on his time!
- Also, people allowing to bring cell phones into a jail to visit their friends should NEVER be allowed!
- The streets need to be cleaned up and apartments need to up to code that includes businesses!
- Better education like, sex n drug/alcohol talk
- four wheeler/snow-machine trails
- my list can go on!!"
- Recreation Center
- We need to bring jobs in besides dollar stores, bars, liquor stores and more hotels/motels.
- Get fiber-optic high speed internet everywhere and cell phone service.
- Expanding on what we have already. I would like to see the college be able to grant 4 yr. degrees and they could offer a Bachelor of Arts in forest mgmt. or forestry which is a big part of our community.
- "We truly need better internet capabilities, we also need AT&T towers.
- We want people to move here and come back home, many of these people work from their homes but with services as they are now make this very difficult at best."
- Would be nice to get a Target or something other than KMart & all those dollar stores.
- We need diversity in our economy while embracing Wood products and Tourism.
- It's nice to see the Rainy Lake Medical campus doing so well. I'm hoping it continues to grow also.
- Fertile, inexpensive land in northern MN could be utilized to develop a grass fed livestock production industry. Developing this market could lead to significant economic growth. Farms could be put back into production and generate many diverse support jobs.
- Expansion of educational opportunities through a vo-tech either through expansion of what the college offers or a separate entity. This would increase jobs, educate locally and bring in people seeking a education.
- putting our town name out on the internet and having reviews could really get more people here for tourism. There are more review pages than ever online.
- Look at Polaris, Arctic Cat, or Digi-Key which are all operated in small towns and are highly successful. Digi-Key can't employ enough people. Get a satellite business here in town.

**Of the following broad business and industry categories, select THREE you believe would enhance the economic vitality of Koochiching County?**

- Take advantage of being busiest rail port in US
- Get actual places to shop and eat...Not a Shopko...get a TARGET, an Applebee's, and a Scheels....towns of our similar size have them...we always have to go out of town or online to spend money because this town doesn't offer quality places to go. If you want people to keep their money in town...give them things that are worth staying in town for.
- Any business industry that can be more profitable here versus another location and derives most of its income from outside the County while creating living wage jobs should be our focus. I only checked the 3 because it was required. Look to partnering with Fort Frances with things that can be done differently in Canada or the US. We need to see if something on the trains can make a business more profit if it were to locate a facility here. We are a resource based economy so we do need to continue to find new ways to use our existing resources. Work with PCA to find additional fiber use opportunities (Textiles, etc.) There are mineral lease sites throughout Koochiching County that we need to push for more investigation from the lease holders to see if it is viable to extract the resources. Look for 1 business for sale that could be relocated here and still have the same profits and have possibility for expansion, government buy and relocate and then resell it after it is up and running here...maybe partner up with the new buyer who would run it here. Find more ways we can help the Credit Union to continue to expand. Clean up the fish plant location in the business park (If you have to buy it, do it, fix it so it looks nice and resell it to someone that will operate a full time business there and utilize the infrastructure.) pave and curb and gutter the existing Int'l Falls business park so it looks appealing (Make sure utilities are into each lot so you don't have to dig in the street again). City should partner with Keda to get this done. There is not a lack of things to do and it can be overwhelming but prioritize the list, prioritize funding (reallocate funding if necessary) and continue getting things improved. If you have a list of all things (It will be a living list as you keep adding to it and completing items on it) and can show the public how you have progressed and prioritized resources then the conversation will be about what the priority should be instead of why are we not doing this or that. People can respect the use of resources when they see actual improvements on the ground.
- "I really want a target!
- I'm not sure, but maybe it may create 100 jobs?
- I have lived here almost a year and I cannot believe the traffic going to Bemidji each weekend!"
- Promote less government regulations such as wetlands, County and cities should regulate and State and Federal government should be less involved.
- Promoting GREEN; be proud we have no industries requiring fertilizing. We have Boise which is bad enough for our health but good for economic.
- Large Manufacturing or retail.
- They are all important
- WE NEED ALL JOBS and any industry that creates REAL New jobs, New retail only displaces existing retail - more people in and the area is the key
- We need ways to attract business and industry to us that provide living wages. People working 2 and 3 jobs to make ends meet is not acceptable employment.
- Allow new business to come in period. Without change there is no growth. Tell new businesses they want to be here, and then make it easy for them to come here! No one wants a town that doesn't want to change.
- More industry that pay living wages and benefits. Diversification!
- as we "age", health care is very important.....



**Of the following broad business and industry categories, select THREE you believe would enhance the economic vitality of Koochiching County?**

- Attract people to seasonal play
- "govt needs to understand economics
- need leadership changes"
- There needs to be more open-mindedness when prospective businesses and industries are thinking about establishing themselves in the area. A number of possibilities have come up over the past 5 years but were turned down.
- We need another Accounting firm, another Veterinarian office, Dental office.
- Emphasis on eco-tourism
- Hospitality and tourism ties with my desire to have technology. Our cold weather makes it possible/desirable for us to information stored here. We have space and cool weather.
- "Agriculture. Producing food locally (in our County) using new methods.
- Renewable energy, wind and solar, etc.
- Green building and refurbishing of existing buildings.
- Be a leader, not a follower, in all of the above. Use and expand our educational facilities to educate individuals to join the workforce in the above fields.
- Lead, lead, lead and promote, promote, promote."
- While Tourism jobs are not the "bread and butter" jobs of a community, they are important. All leaders need to be on board with embracing Voyageurs National Park and using it as venue to grow tourism and a more vibrant community.
- Green technology, renewable energy
- We need a first class hotel, restaurant and conference center. From a tourism standpoint, all we have to offer are dated fishing resorts.

**ISD 361 (INTERNATIONAL FALLS)**

**What type of education and training programs would you like to see offered at Rainy River Community College to support your business, organization, or personal career development?**

- Any trade that would be useful in the northern Minnesota region. Welding, engineering, nursing, ect. It would be nice to see the RN program back.
- Careers for the 21st century...technology and high tech. It would also be good to get I-Falls schools technology focused, starting in the elementary level. Coding, engineering, etc. This is the future.
- carpentry
- Computers, graphic & web design
- Vocational
- More vocational and technical trade programs, arts & culture.
- blue collar trades--plumbers, electricians, etc
- Technology and computer related
- I would like to see more accounting, business, computer and healthcare (RN level) programs being offered at RRCC.
- Paralegal
- Brewing, business start up
- More adult (older than average college student) programs for adults changing careers in mid-life including more evening and weekend classes
- Certification programs such as Real Estate, Contracting license, Appraisal, Etc.
- I am retired. RRCC should offer classes for seniors.
- more available vo-tec oriented courses
- More small business education.
- Business trades like accounting, financial, management. Automotive trades like mechanics and autobody.
- Technology and trades
- Any type of trade (I.e. Electrical, plumbing, etc.)
- Technical training, computer training
- Sports need to stop kids don't need to come here to place sports at re They should come here cause they want to learn. Lets turn re into a tech school hands on classes not a community college funded by state money ok our money for kids to play sports. I hate seeing my money wasted on community college sports. The high schoolers should not go there to get a degree.If they wanted to get a AA degree they should be able to get it at the high school. With strict guidelines
- Mice. Technology, computer software training, hospitality and customer satisfaction for retail businesses.
- Interview our high school age citizens and ask them. Get into the classrooms, and ask them what would RRCC need to offer to entice them to enroll at RRCC. Has anyone asked the students?
- Office manager / project managrt
- Focus on the students ability to think on their own, allow the imaginative process to be experienced rather than dictated by the past failures of our society. Solar product developement and production, 3-D printers, refine wind energy collectors available to all people. There is an enormous list of possibilities that are available to those who are connected to forward thinking people. That includes aliminating basic curriculum for students that are very intelligent and yet cannot do math. Thats one reason why we are all here - to bring our own individual abilities and talents to contribute to the project.
- Mining welding foresrty healthcare
- variety of trades

**ISD 361 (INTERNATIONAL FALLS)**

**What type of education and training programs would you like to see offered at Rainy River Community College to support your business, organization, or personal career development?**

- Basically, ones in which we offer employment.
- More in the medical field besides nursing such as coding, medical secretary, physical therapy assistant
- computer, mechanical, medical
- "cosmetology school
- more computer tech classes
- home economics "
- Truck driving here instead of traveling to take it. Hospitality/ chef
- Mining, welding, health care
- I would like to see more adult learning classes, and am thinking of seniors because there will be so many more of us with aging baby boomers. I would be interested in taking courses in geology, astronomy, religions of the world, philosophy, literature, world cultures, etc.
- Health care allied professionals, outdoor leadership, mechanical, electrical, information technology, communications.
- "I think the aquaponics idea is very good, but the financial cost to the area is very one sided. I would rather see an international program involving Canada and the US in a study of the lakes and waterways of this area and have that operated through local schools.
- I would like to see local schools involved in an intense robotics program. Robotics really is the career of the future.
- Another line of education might be in the hotel industry management areas.
- I would like to have RRCC regain their old nursing program. It was a wonderful way to bring new people into the area that to show off what a great area and is to live in."
- teaching
- Trade related programs.
- unsure
- PTA or COTA,
- Nursing or maybe x-ray tech - medical fields
- I would like to see RRCC create a niche and become a desired education destination for that niche.
- First - do not ignore RRCC's top ranking in the state of MN for both graduation rates and credit transferability. RRCC's core is time tested and it is the Liberal Arts. Second - continue to build on the momentum in and around RRCC's current Industrial Maintenance (IM) program. The IM program is diverse in its industrial curriculum. Third - connect a new or shared technical program that is required for a business that is not currently in Koochiching County. Own the Supply and Demand of technical education based on the plethora of data available to us. What is in demand in technical education? If RRCC can house the program, then start the process of making that program(s) happen."
- Any programs that provide work-force training for students.
- Business management classes
- Computer maintenance/networking, web development, marketing, dental hyg/ass, paralegal, carpentry
- N/A
- RRCC needs to begin focusing on trades and training or certifications and degrees.
- hospitality management and marketing, environmental careers
- ??

**ISD 361 (INTERNATIONAL FALLS)**

**What type of education and training programs would you like to see offered at Rainy River Community College to support your business, organization, or personal career development?**

- Mechanic
- nursing
- Niche programs relating to technology, nursing and law enforcement, (I know we already have nursing and some technology, but how do we grow that?)
- Computers
- There is little evidence that the school board is aware of the competitive standards for most colleges. Local youth do not have enough access to college prep courses.
- Natural resource oriented ( timber, fisheries, geology)
- Outdoor leadership, health care training
- We live in International Falls, but my daughter attends Littlefork. All my answers pertain to school district 362.
- Technology
- "Technical programs expanded such as industrial tech.
- Partnerships with federal law enforcement agencies--CBP/NPS"
- Business and hands on trades
- Pharmacy Technician
- Something that makes students come to the area
- Engineering
- "Information Technology (not an Excel class here and there, real networking)
- Computer Science Basics (Such as programming, writing code)"
- Any trade. Mechanic, HVAC/R, Dental. Anything that can be used in a job or to be self-sufficient. I don't feel like the Teens are getting taught some basic life skills at home any more. For example, money management, home maintenance, etc. If they can take care of themselves, they won't fall through the cracks and be dependent on handouts.
- IT/computer skills, basic math (ability to make cash register change), social skills (consumer/client interaction)
- I'd like to see more collaboration between the Biology program and the park service.
- Nursing, biological trainings,
- "Health related jobs
- Large equipment operating
- Computer training
- Truck driving
- Service industry
- carpentry, hospitality, health care, forestry, veterinary medicine, technology
- Computer science
- Definitely health care. With the large nursery home and new clinic we need staff.
- IT
- More bachelor level classes, in conjunction with Bemidji and other MN Universities.
- RN
- Online courses
- Health Care
- healthcare, buisness,

**ISD 361 (INTERNATIONAL FALLS)**

**What type of education and training programs would you like to see offered at Rainy River Community College to support your business, organization, or personal career development?**

- more technical programs
- trucking, welding, management
- More tech programs to attract college students and to help retain them. RRCC should be working on implementing programs that will attract college students to make RRCC a place that students want to come for their college education.
- Add teck programs for those of us looking for work. Seems there more interested in getting high school kids then college kids.
- RRCC is a joke, a waste of time and money.
- Courses that we can't get now, but could be done by computer and be sponsored by the college. This could be an unlimited variety of courses.
- Hvac, electrical technician
- With today's technology, RRCC could offer more collaboration with other educational institutions to allow students to further there educational needs/desire without leaving the other area such as in healthcare, trades, and vocational. International Falls businesses often times find it difficult to attract these vocations to relocate into this area do to high cost of living (food/housing) vs lower wages and limited housing options.
- HVAC, Auto mechanic, auto body, electrician, plumbing/pipe fitters, etc.
- Nursing
- It should be geared toward entrepnuerialship, and dedicated toward higher learning
- Sports need to go at RRCC that seems the most important to them hey look who signed with RRCC who cares. Lets train people can can help this region grown. RRCC is a joke. They don't need to bring students the the south to play sports they should be here to learn. Lets get some hands on classes more tech stuff.
- technology related courses, programming, electronics
- Trades plumbing and electrician training
- More specialized Craft training
- "HVAC/ Plumbing Electrical, Automation/instrumentation, Law Enforcement,
- Any health programs (lab technician etc). "
- Environmental
- Health Care
- Unsure - not for me but for others
- CNA training (certified nurses assistants)
- more IT related classes.
- Office assistant or marketing certificates for small business.
- Law enforcement
- More trade/technical opportunities to those who do not want to attend 4 years of college.
- EMS, Electrical, Construction
- TRADE PROGRAMS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT.
- Technology, Human Resources, Building Trades
- skills that fit with area industry and businesses or with new commerce
- Technical programs with health care fields, industry fields
- Mature student opportunities and community-oriented activities
- Teach the Trades and collaborate with their Unions

**ISD 361 (INTERNATIONAL FALLS)**

**What type of education and training programs would you like to see offered at Rainy River Community College to support your business, organization, or personal career development?**

- "Automotive
- Small repair"
- Area related training programs.
- Computer skills
- Homeland security training
- vo-tech classes
- NA
- I am retired. Don't know what they already have.
- education to meet the needs of current industries in the area, road construction, logging, health care
- RRCC is fantastic!! The staff and faculty that serve our community are second to none. The county and city should help subsidize more technical programs at RRCC. Welding, as well as some Canadian technical certifications.
- Law enforcement
- Technology and computer related courses. Small business and retail planning courses.
- Circulate technical program offerings from other MnSCU colleges. Choose programs with high employment possibilities.
- health care, law enforcement
- Health care, industrial trades and programs to direct kids to available on the job training opportunities.
- electricition,RN program,plumbing
- n/a
- Police academy, beauty school. Etc.
- If we had manufacturer in town what every trade prospective employees would need so young people can stay in the town they love
- Tech programs in health care
- Science, environment, politics.
- "Customer Service Training for Hospitality&
- Technology"
- More medical programs.
- I feel Rainy staff need to find out regionally or state wide where the gaps in programs exist and try to offer them.
- various skilled trades
- Arts, theatre, and more science programs.
- Agriculture and health
- Business classes
- N/A
- Retired, therefore not applicable.
- "Medical/Health
- Mechanical
- Since Rainy River is a MNSCU school, it would be great to see some distance offerings where students can attend Rainy River but obtain a degree through LSC, etc. For example, classes could be held via teleconference

**ISD 361 (INTERNATIONAL FALLS)**

**What type of education and training programs would you like to see offered at Rainy River Community College to support your business, organization, or personal career development?**

or a combination of in person/online without the need for travel. I think the degrees offered at Rainy River are very slim and that causes students to feel like they need to move to Duluth or Bemidji to obtain their education.

- Business
- I would like to see more programs for criminal justice or art.
- Instrumentation, Large Equipment Mechanics
- "cosmetology
- Welding
- automotive
- Criminal Justice programs-like probation officer
- Art degree program would be awesome
- Culinary arts
- Dental hygiene
- some designing option
- diagnostic medical imaging
- Construction management
- behavioral health/human services
- different languages would be nice like, American sign language/french/German/Spanish language
- Photograph classes and digital video production
- Paralegal studies
- Youth work Proficiency certificate
- Theater
- Medical insurance and billing
- Creative writing
- Computer technology
- Respiratory care technology
- Journalism
- landscape technology
- Lactation Education and Consultant
- marketing
- medical assisting
- Management and supervisory development
- <Music Producer
- Peace and conflict studies
- Social justice
- Retail management
- Real estate
- Radiology
- Radiography
- All sorts of trades would be nice

**ISD 361 (INTERNATIONAL FALLS)**

**What type of education and training programs would you like to see offered at Rainy River Community College to support your business, organization, or personal career development?**

- veterinary tech
- There are just a few that i think people would be interested in!
- More technology training for students that are not college bound.
- Self defense classes
- trades
- Beautiful school, police academy. Etc.
- computer tec
- Park and Forest management bachelor programs as well as bachelor science degrees so we can retain students who want to go into areas where they can obtain a career right here utilizing our vast natural resources.
- With the Boise layoffs we lost quite a few of our community members due to schooling options. Bemidji has a great technical college that offers many more classes than I Falls. Nursing degree (RN), mechanics, electrical, etc....
- "not sure
- I think RRCC is expanding their courses and are getting some that are choices that students can use such as the trade programs and nursing programs. What a blessing this has been for many students. Also, the high school is offering a CNA course for older students this coming year I've been told. I also that is a good opportunity for those who want exposure and experience in that field."
- Cosmetogy
- More online programs to better suit people's interests. Online classes are better for working families who are unable to make it to class during regular work hours.
- Health Care and Industrial Training
- no comment
- More medical, engineering, science
- Trucking
- "Border Patrol trainings
- Diverse and Cultural Trainings
- Electrical
- Forestry
- Law enforcement"
- Hospitality Training
- Electrician, millwright, pipefitter, mechanics
- Four year degrees, if possible. Otherwise more social science degrees.
- Teaching programs, engineering programs, small motors.
- Hospitality, customer service,
- shadowing, internships
- more support for technical programs for trades"
- unsure
- Health Care programs
- "Welding
- Law Enforcement



**ISD 361 (INTERNATIONAL FALLS)**

**What type of education and training programs would you like to see offered at Rainy River Community College to support your business, organization, or personal career development?**

- Teaching
- Plumbing
- Carpentry"
- vocational and technical trade that corresponds with the need in the job market.
- Border patrol    Law enforcement    Customs    Health Care fields
- Any trades such as electrical, instrumentation and etc.
- more trade programs
- techinal & trade education
- techinal:plumbing,welding,electrician etc
- Niche programs that would help train for business and industry in both countries. A certification that would work in both countries, potentially tied with a new area business.
- Bring the LPN course back to RRCC not ICC.
- Aquaponics
- More trade based opportunities
- border patrol
- Entrepreneurial courses - who knows? Maybe someone would start a new business here...
- Law enforcement training for border patrol and natural resource training.
- Small Engines
- Culinary
- Medical"
- Offer Medical Assistant, CNA, Home Health Aide, Personal Care Certificates packaged as a 1-2 semester long program eligible for financial aid assistance. Currently CNA and Home Health Aide too expensive and financial aid does not cover. This is a barrier for many low income adults who need training.
- Why just RRCC. Why not Co-Op with other colleges that are willing to help our High Schoolers, instead of try and take them out of our High Schools? RRCC tries to get our High School students to go there which in return takes much needed money out of our schools pockets.
- Nursing better, more tech
- construction, computer, getting RN training local or easier with least travel, encourage moving past AA.
- vo-tech, industrial skills, Law enforcement. computer programming skills
- More class offerings overall...more choices and options...people go elsewhere because we don't offer enough options. We need to offer programs that relate to what we have and what we would like to develop... (forestry, law enforcement, border patrol, wildlife and fisheries DNR, Boise, athletic training, sports management etc...)
- Courses on self improvement
- small motors, landscaping classes, legal secretary, law enforcement
- Vocational classes. (Computers, secretarial, small motor, etc.)
- small motors, computer tech.,health care related.
- More community based offerings in evenings , summer classes, more pre- professional programs in addition to technical training. Would like to see high school and college collaborate more.
- Construction trades, mechanics
- Plumbing/HVAC, electrical, forestry

**ISD 361 (INTERNATIONAL FALLS)**

**What type of education and training programs would you like to see offered at Rainy River Community College to support your business, organization, or personal career development?**

- forestry, DNR program, wildlife management, carpentry, mechanic
- Engine repair/mechanics
- Plumbing
- Forest industry related training/education
- More health care related programs
- The College employees need to find ways to help people get degrees at the lowest cost possible. They need to help people get credits without payment if someone has education from other sources, whether that is experience or from previous education at other educational institutions and have the attitude of whatever it takes to get this customer a credit at no cost or find a way to test their knowledge so they can test and receive the credit without wasting time and money by taking the class on something they already understand. There could be a lot more people with degrees if they permitted testing at \$0 or greatly reduced cost to test out of things they already know. You would probably get more students as this would create a logical and less costly and time consuming way of obtaining a degree. The students that could test out of some courses then might be more encouraged to take the remaining courses they need, if any, to finish the degree. Our Secondary education system should recognize that knowledge is obtained in many ways and therefore give credit for obtaining the knowledge not for paying money for classes you do not need. We also need to make our K-12 school the best in the state.
- I just looked at their website.... there is no computer related degrees at all? Hello! IT Networking? I am a graphic designer working for a company in another state, and I cannot believe the amount of computer illiterate people here.
- Background: I am from TRF and went to college in Bemidji, moved to cities, worked. Then my husband's job in healthcare brought us back here to his home town."
- Writing classes-all types. Coach training opportunities, as well as certification options for other physical fitness types such as yoga, strength training, senior swim, etc
- IT/Computer Technology Licensing
- Whatever works to attract students.
- WINTERS: Parenting for single parents. Adult reading. Regarding PRev ?'s: Playground supervision for children. Rated FIRE Dept low; I hear we have few FULL time firemen. Our city rev cannot afford many FT Fire (do not replace as they retire)
- office etiquette; such as communication (oral & written), and how to treat people (customers and coworkers) in a professional manner
- more online courses, that promote working from home. More business courses, trade school course, carpentry, mechanics, computers.
- no response
- A four year college.
- mechanical, clerical
- technology
- tech
- Vet Tec., physical therapy, counseling
- Medical tech, dental hygiene, welding, heating and air conditioning
- Computer

**ISD 361 (INTERNATIONAL FALLS)**

**What type of education and training programs would you like to see offered at Rainy River Community College to support your business, organization, or personal career development?**

- Programs I believe RRCC could incorporate and occupations in demand: Auto/Marine/Heavy Equipment mechanic. Welding. Social/Human Services. Truck Driving CDL. Culinary Arts. Law Enforcement/Park Ranger. Dental Assistant. Optometry. Auto Body Repair. Railroad Operators. Computer Technology/Networking. Radiology Tech. Educational Assistant/Paraprofessional. Water Quality Technologies. Veterinary Technician. HVAC. Heavy Equipment Operators. Plumbing/Pipefitting. Banking/Finance.
- I'm not sure what they offer over at RRCC but I love the idea that high schoolers can stay at FHS and get their AA
- law enforcement
- small engine mechanics
- Tourism, historical interpretation
- Alternative energy technician (Solar, Wind, etc) installation and site analysis.
- Medical
- No good ideas
- healthcare field
- I do not feel qualified to answer this. I think looking at local needs for employers and what type of occupations are providing employment for people is what needs to be looked at.
- Local nursing program for LPN and RN, industry fields
- Criminal justice, engineering, information technology
- Not for me personally, but expanded health career programs - radiology tech, ultrasound, dental hygiene.
- ?
- Welding, electricity,
- More of skilled trades.
- Renewable Energy related programs
- Tech skills, training for a job (any job). The general AA is really not that relevant anymore and if people do not go on to earn a BA or BS, their AA is not going be very worthwhile. As a hiring manager, I do not view and AA with any more value than a HS diploma.
- Electrician, welding, heavy equipment
- "electrical/plumbing
- foreign language"
- prepare students for further educ in meaningful degrees.
- woodworking, welding
- Information technology or other computer related training.
- 4-year degree and not on-line-Vo-Tech classes like mechanic, food service, furnace& air-conditioning.
- More office classes.
- cooking, expanded technology
- CNA, and any trade that could happen.
- Increase art-focused courses and foreign language options
- Theater and the arts
- Tourism mgmt
- Mechanics. Business.
- Healthcare careers, is physical therapy assistant

**ISD 361 (INTERNATIONAL FALLS)**

**What type of education and training programs would you like to see offered at Rainy River Community College to support your business, organization, or personal career development?**

- Environmental studies, Forestry, DNR, etc.
- Child Development, Construction/Construction Management, mechanical engineering
- Bring in jobs, train for those jobs. Education basically makes you overqualified to work in the area.
- preparing people to work in a group home setting
- associates in accounting, RN programs, Heavy equipment operator courses, Culinary training.
- basic work ethics
- I believe that RRCC is too focused on "Stealing" students from Falls High School, they need to quit relying on PSEO students to stay open. If they cannot run a college without high school students supplying a large chunk of their revenue, close the doors and let our students get a quality education elsewhere.
- "More health-related training.
- Skills such as construction aimed at women."
- Something that is not in competition with the opportunities offered at ISD 361. WE CAN NOT HAVE THE COLLEGE SURVIVE AT THE COST OF THE HIGH SCHOOL. They are competing for the same clients. Develop a program in masonry, electricity, small motors, mechanics, large equipment certification. The vocational schools seem to be doing better than we are.
- tourism, business, accounting
- Renewable energy, new agricultural techniques for growing foods, green building (lead) techniques. Programs that will ready individuals for the needs to meet our changing environment and climate.
- We need RRCC to develop one or two strong niche programs that can be a magnet for student enrollment. RRCC should be known for something great, so those seeking higher education say "I need to go to RRCC because they are the best community college that offers "x".
- I would like to see RRCC having ongoing communication with businesses throughout the county and tailoring programs to meet the training needs of businesses and more collaboration/cooperation with ISD 361
- Customer Service Training
- Programming, tech design, telecommunications, fiber optics.
- Financial, teaching, technology, healthcare certificates/diplomas
- Recreation

**ISD 362 (LITTLEFORK – BIG FALLS)**

**What type of education and training programs would you like to see offered at Rainy River Community College to support your business, organization, or personal career development?**

- More online programs
- IT programs
- Natural resources based coursework and degree/certificate programs.
- Electrician program, more choices for the healthcare field besides the nursing program (Coding, Transcription), Summer classes,
- NONE
- Specific job training (photography, culinary etc), small business courses, entrepreneur courses and trades
- Anything that keeps people from moving out of area to find work
- Technology degree
- "Border Patrol & Customs training
- Truck Driving
- Forestry
- Workshops
- I am currently a student at RRCC & would love to be able to continue working for my degree in Criminal Justice while remaining in the area.
- Mechanics cosmetology just about anything
- customer service
- Helping kids think and prepare for the future. Exploring different jobs
- Local nursing program
- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Small Business Entrepreneurship

**ISD 363 (NORTHOME INDUS)**

**What type of education and training programs would you like to see offered at Rainy River Community College to support your business, organization, or personal career development?**

- one year programs and basic vocational type training to enhance peoples job opportunities
- Hospitality and Tourism.
- Rainy river turned into a technical college
- local native plants, native american history, culture, language
- Continue with the industrial tech training, expand business/office training
- This is a question more for I Falls because of proximity.
- This would involve more discussion with businesses and individuals who would benefit from it.
- Don't know
- Hospitality and Tourism. Offered on campus, but especially online. A continuing educational program (at least a diploma) for current and future resort owners/employees, fishing guides, and park/recreation employees to expand their knowledge of new and innovative ideas within the tourism industry. - from a former resort employee and current park employee
- CDL training and equipment operation. Logging and road construction is the only job opportunities in this area the college should teach related coreses if you want to keep people in the area.
- training for people so that they stay in area and start business
- Business, biology, agriculture, law enforcement, criminal justice
- A leadership program, a class on business, and another on career exploration
- Have no clue what Rainy River offers
- I don't care about rainy river community college. I care about the northomw public school district and the area my children and I live in not international falls.
- ?
- forestry and wood industry training
- maintenance repair
- Rainy River just barely impacts south Koochiching.
- I live too far away to benefit from these progrms
- I'm not certain of what they offer, but we need health care programs, construction type programs like electrical and plumbing, and solar/wind power programs.
- Commercial art(computerized)
- no opinion as I am not sure what they offer at this point
- ...Rainy River Community College?? How does this pertain to the southern portion of Koochiching County?? Does RRCC offer distance learning through district 363 for community members, business owners, adult distance learners? If so- fantastic. If not... why include the question in a survey which is supposed to pertain to Koochiching County as a whole. Even this portion of the SURVEY is BIASED!!!!!!
- More agriculture courses
- Health care management, small business management, environmental support, and specific trades such as mechanic, welding, lineman...
- Family and Consumer Sciences programs leading to teacher licensure in a four-year institution. There is a shortage of these teachers in northern Minnesota. There could be an articulation with Mankato or North Dakota. Also, Hospitality and tourism training.
- Culinary Arts
- More technical programs.

**ISD 363 (NORTHHOME INDUS)**

**What type of education and training programs would you like to see offered at Rainy River Community College to support your business, organization, or personal career development?**

- Local doctoral programs
- I don't know much about rainy river community college.
- Machine tool and manufacturing
- technology
- Not informed enough on this to answer
- In career areas where individuals could remain in Koochiching County and find work at a livable wage.
- Batchelor's in Engineering
- Electrician, plumber, landscaping, forestry, heating & cooling, culinary, manufacturing machine expertise, and robotics, radio, aeronautics mechanics, auto mechanics, graphic art program, hair and aesthetics,....
- Home based business
- Technology degree, on-site CDL class with all endorsements, including driving portion.
- Forest industry related & engineering
- Building trades, plumbers, electricians.
- I would like to see vocational/training programs offered in the high schools.
- One year technical programs or programs that fit into a persons work schedule. An example would be evenings or weekends. Also, online training to cover the rest of Koochiching county.
- Business, Marketing, IT
- Electrical, Plumbing & Heating, Diesel Mechanic
- Business admin, technology
- currently not familiar with what RRCC offers, however, I do understand there is a new 2-yr. vo-tech program? GREAT! develop that into something bigger.....
- forestry related

## If you are not a resident of Koochiching County, what would you need to move here?

- A vibrant job market with good quality jobs.
- I believe we need housing for people to move to our area right Now! There are several people that want to come back or relocating here for jobs and have no where to live!
- more job opportunities
- Greatly improved healthcare facilities, improved water and sewer systems, small business jobs, healthy lifestyle promotion
- NA
- To move here full time Northome would need to have a vastly expanded food business focusing on local food. Environmentally-focused and community-art culture would need to be the heart of Northome.
- More cultural opportunities, reliable air service
- haven't been a resident since 2002 and don't plan on moving back sorry! I was born and raised in I Falls 1982 to 2002 19yrs i lived there! my parents have lived there for 34yrs. they run the Hardee's there!
- Overall community enrichment. Drawing in young, innovative, and educated new community members to help cultivate all areas of Koochiching county towns to grow into thriving homes for lots of families by offering quality, affordable housing, job opportunities, recreation/tourism, entertainment, and opportunities for small business growth.
- Better jobs.
- I teach. I would have to take a pay cut to move back to Kooch and teach.....which probably wouldn't matter since there's no quality affordable housing available in the southern half of the county where I would like to live. So I would need a competitive salary and a place to live.
- Nothing. I love it just the way it is.
- Jiby
- "Jobs, jobs and more jobs. You can't hardly raise a family in northome mizpah area. There is no mom and pops places. Most people have to drive several miles one way to work. The lack of school activities in northome sucks and the children deserve to have more options well.
- Things to do for children and families like bowling or roller skating."
- Better paying jobs
- job
- jobs at reasonable wage
- I live just across the county line in Itasca County but Northome IS my hometown and area.
- Two high quality jobs or business opportunities. Better school options would be great too (ie the Ober School).
- city water where there is "city" sewer; high speed internet; less bickering between city officials - the mayor is a major embarrassment; less religion thrown everywhere, like it is the only way and everyone believes and accepts.
- High paying professional job. Quality newer single family home, quality education and more sports and facilities for youth.
- Better roads and better housing options.
- I live just outside the county, so moving isn't part of the plan. But if it was, to move I would need high speed internet, and a neighborhood without dilapidated buildings.
- A winterized cabin.
- "Better Schools
- Better Athletic Facilities
- New Roads
- More Lake and River Attractions



## If you are not a resident of Koochiching County, what would you need to move here?

- New and Clean Parks
- New softball park facilities
- Better community as a whole in general
- House and property owners need to take BETTER care of everything on their property. Nobody needs four boats, 8 lawnmowers, 3 cars, and a pool sitting in their front yard."
- Job Opportunities in the SOUTHERN END of Koochiching County.
- Quality job and housing opportunities
- NA - I live in ARdenhurst
- N/A
- Quality employment opportunities for my fiancé. Jobs with good wages and benefits with opportunities for advancement. Much more to offer in the community as far as businesses and entertainment. But mostly more good paying jobs for the citizens of Kooch Co.
- A job, a place to live, a sign from the north that it will no longer ignore the south.
- If my husband and I moved to Koochiching County, it would most likely be to the southern end. This area lacks quality healthcare and affordable, adequate housing, two important elements that would support our move to this area. There is opportunity in the Northome for small businesses that would attract tourism and support the local economy; unfortunately, the focus of this survey seems to be on the I. Falls area.
- Better employment opportunities
- Live on county line, not moving
- More employment opportunities in the northome area.
- I live in St. Louis County, but work and grew up in Koochiching County.
- N/A but need to voice opinion on Hwy 332 bike trail. If truly coming we need a connection. From schools, up old hwy 11 (cnty rd 2 N) to NEW CR 107 & up 11/71
- Career opportunities for scientists, lower pollution levels, better public recreation areas, acceptable places for visitors to stay, better youth engagement.
- Still work and part of community but live in Fort Frances
- Better Schools, Better Single Family Housing and Better Jobs
- Better more stable economy. More job opportunities. Better control over the drug cartel. Revamp the police department, out with the old in with the new. Same for the good 'ol boys club. Out with the old in with the new.
- More jobs
- safe health care.
- Change in U.S. employment policies.
- Move my house 200 yards from St. Louis County into Kooch county.

## If you are a returning resident, what brought you back?

- Family and friends.
- I love this area and love NORTHOME!
- Hometown - family - job - great place to raise a family - friends
- A sense of community, which is now only ""so-so"". This is a cultural waste land. There is very little to do, or to go to, with one's free time. I don't see this as changing. I wish we had moved someplace else, and we still think about doing it.
- Family and safety
- Rainy Lake and the people....
- Family and the lake
- Family, husband, smaller community, easier to navigate, hometown feel.
- Family
- Family.
- Cost of living to raise a family
- NA
- The small town pace of life and knowing so many people.
- Quality of life for raising children, including safety, closeness to family, outdoor recreation. Opportunities.
- Voyageurs and Rainy Lake
- my family
- family
- Rainy Lake and family and friends
- My work at Voyageurs National Park
- Na
- Family, friends, and love of the land
- Job offer
- I would never move back until there were jobs available in the northome mizpah area
- Small town living, safe environment to raise kids, strong community support.
- "Never left, never will but no way our kids will
- move back before retirement - no jobs."
- Parents are here. I am working here while at university. I don't have plans to return after school.
- quality of life
- Left 30 years ago & returned to care for ailing mother. Otherwise would never have come back to this town. Not much here anymore.
- Job opportunity, always LOVED this community and the potential it has to grow!
- Love the quiet and peaceful feeling on Rainy Lake. Have good memories of previous trips.
- Family
- Professional Employment
- Rainy Lake and home town community
- Beautiful Area, Family, Grew up here
- My hometown. The people I know.
- "Parental illness, general lower cost of residential homes
- Rainy Lake"
- employment opportunity
- Business opportunity
- Caring for a parent.
- Family, raise kids

## If you are a returning resident, what brought you back?

- Love of the area
- Job opportunity
- NA - I live in Ardenhurst
- Rainy Lake
- Born and raised here and my family is here.
- Family, tired of the big city after 45 years away, this is home.
- To care for family
- I grew up in our community moved away after High school realized we have a strong community a safe place to live and a beautiful lake that gives us year around activity I only wish to see our community growth and thrive
- N/A
- Employment, family, and the desire to be in a small community
- Small town feel, family, friends
- My husband is a returning resident - I am from the Duluth area. We moved here to raise our children in a safer community.
- I want to come back full time, and I will come back someday. I worry that there will be nothing to come back to. Kooch has been extremely shortsighted for as long as I can remember by exploiting the forest industry as if it would last forever and not proactively adjusting to the changing world that uses less paper. And now, as the county circles the bottom of the toilet, you start looking to the future. Good luck.
- Returned to be near family, and Rainy Lake
- Family, Boise
- A desire to return to my hometown in my retirement years. Heritage, family history, nostalgia. Belief that the Falls was a great place to live.
- Health needs of parents
- family
- RAINY LAKE and being able to find a decent paying job that had the same retirement as my old job.
- family, job, outdoors
- Family
- I moved away for college, but missed being close to family and the slower paced easy going lifestyle here. I returned to the area because I was offered a full time job with great benefits and a decent salary. I would not have been able to return had it not been for this.
- "An open mind supported by life experiences. I feel like our community struggles with being close minded do to not being exposed to diversity and difference in opinion.
- I also bring ambition to influence our youth to aspire to dream bigger than what they are right now. I feel that we often set them up to be comfortable with their current reality; and they easily forget that a stagnant life is not their only option. If the decide they want a change or to try new experiences, hard work and taking advantage of new opportunities will get them to new places.
- I would really like to see opportunities like internships or job training more available to the high school age students to encourage thinking about their future goals earlier. In addition to that, a mentorship or incentive to dream big, be a contributing member of society, and take pride in where we come from! "
- The love of the area and feeling that this is home.
- employment and family
- Rainy Lake
- my husband's career in healthcare
- Husbands home town.

## **If you are a returning resident, what brought you back?**

- FAMILY, the Outdoors with so many things to do.
- Family, Rainy Lake, and the people. People of this community support each other in times of need like no where else I've seen. I believe it's something unique to our community.
- Home
- Closeness to family, small town environment
- N/a
- Family, affordable homes/living
- Family. Raising my children here and having my family to help. I was born and raised here- my husband too. Our extended families keep us in IFalls
- The desire to raise my children where I grew up.
- Being close to family and having the lake to enjoy in both summer and winter.
- My husband and I are originally from International Falls, and we both left the area for college. When it was time to start our life together, we moved home because wanted to be near our families and return to a small town way of life. This is a beautiful area, and we feel fortunate to raise our child here.
- family
- family, beautiful area, etc
- Family
- Family
- Affordability, quiet, family, safety.