EVERYTHING IS LOCAL

THE ROLE OF MUNICIPALITIES IN CANADIANS’ LIVES AND OPINIONS ABOUT NEW FUNDING TOOLS

SPRING 2019

NATIONAL SURVEY OF 5,106 CANADIANS
This study was commissioned by FCM.
The survey was conducted online with 5,106 Canadian residents aged 18 and over, from March 14th to 28th, 2019. A random sample of panelists were invited to complete the survey from a set of partner panels based on the Lucid exchange platform and the Dynata Panel. These partners are typically double opt-in survey panels, blended to manage out potential skews in the data from a single source.
The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of the same size is +/- 1.39%, 19 times out of 20.
The data were weighted according to census data to ensure that the sample matched Canada’s population according to age, gender, educational attainment, and region. Totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding.
FINDING #1

MUNICIPAL ISSUES IMPACT PEOPLE’S DAY TO DAY QUALITY OF LIFE.
To what extent do the following impact your quality of life where you live?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>A lot</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>A little</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The affordability of housing</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The quality of roads and highways</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow clearing services</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and sewer services</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police and fire services</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The amount of traffic congestion</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The public transit system</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and recreational services</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FINDING #2

INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING, AND CLIMATE CHANGE ARE PRIORITIES.
Thinking more broadly, below is a list of possible issues governments could focus on. How much of a priority do you feel each one should be?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Top priority</th>
<th>High priority</th>
<th>Medium priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developing and maintaining public infrastructure, like roads and sewers</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making housing more affordable</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding solutions for climate change</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building better public transit</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building positive relationships with Indigenous communities</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FINDING #3

THE PERFORMANCE OF MUNICIPALITIES IS VIEWED MORE POSITIVELY THAN FEDS OR PROVINCES.
How would you rate the overall performance of…

RATING OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Municipal government
- Excellent: 5%
- Good: 31%
- Acceptable: 45%
- Poor: 14%
- Very poor: 5%

Provincial government
- Excellent: 5%
- Good: 22%
- Acceptable: 37%
- Poor: 24%
- Very poor: 12%

Federal government
- Excellent: 3%
- Good: 20%
- Acceptable: 34%
- Poor: 26%
- Very poor: 16%
CANADIANS BELIEVE MUNICIPALITIES ARE BEST AT...
UNDERSTANDING LOCAL CHALLENGES.
FINDING LOCAL SOLUTIONS.
IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE.
PLANNING AHEAD.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>Provincial</th>
<th>Municipal</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understands the challenges residents in your community are facing</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find solutions to solve problems in your community</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows how to improve the quality of life of residents in your community</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is best able to plan ahead for what infrastructure upgrades and</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maintenance your community needs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thinking about the different levels of government, which one do you think….
FINDING #4

MOST FEEL THAT THE FEDERAL AND MUNICIPAL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT DO NOT TALK ENOUGH.
WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING DECISIONS THAT AFFECT YOUR COMMUNITY, DO YOU THINK THE FEDERAL AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS TALK...

- Too much: 3%
- The right amount: 14%
- Not enough: 82%

When it comes to making decisions that affect your community, do you think the federal and municipal governments talk.
FINDING #5

ALMOST HALF OF CANADIANS DON’T THINK MUNICIPALITIES HAVE ENOUGH RESOURCES TO MAINTAIN AND BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE.
Do you think your municipality has enough resources to manage, maintain, and build infrastructure?

- More than enough: 8%
- Enough: 43%
- Not enough: 48%

Do you think your municipality has enough resources to manage, maintain, and build infrastructure?
FINDING #6

THERE IS BROAD PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR A NEW FISCAL ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPALITIES.
BIG MAJORITIES THINK IT’S A GOOD IDEA TO GIVE MUNICIPALITIES MORE CONTROL AND REVENUE

Allowing municipal governments greater control to manage local infrastructure projects

21% A very good idea
65% A good idea

86%

Allowing municipal governments greater control to choose which projects to spend money

22% A very good idea
61% A good idea

83%

Below are some ideas for funding local projects in your community. For each, tell us whether you think it is a very good idea, a good idea, an acceptable idea, a bad idea or a very bad idea?
If a federal political party promised to give municipalities permanent, dedicated funding that allowed them to decide what to spend the money on…

- A very good idea: 18%
- A good idea: 66%
- A bad idea: 13%
- A very bad idea: 3%

If a federal political party promised to give municipalities permanent and dedicated funding that allowed local municipalities to decide what projects the money was spent on, do you think this a very good idea, a good idea, an acceptable idea, a bad idea, or a very bad idea?
If a federal political party promised to give municipalities permanent and dedicated funding that allowed local municipalities to decide what projects the money was spent on, do you think this a very good idea, a good idea, an acceptable idea, a bad idea, or a very bad idea?