

CUPE May 2011 National Survey

May 25, 2011

CUPE·SCFP



ENVIRONICS
RESEARCH GROUP

Research Overview and Methodology

Research overview

This report summarizes the results of a national survey undertaken on behalf of CUPE in order to understand the opinions and behaviours of Canadians in the following areas:

- Attitudes towards municipal government services;
- Behaviours and opinions related to drinking and waste water.

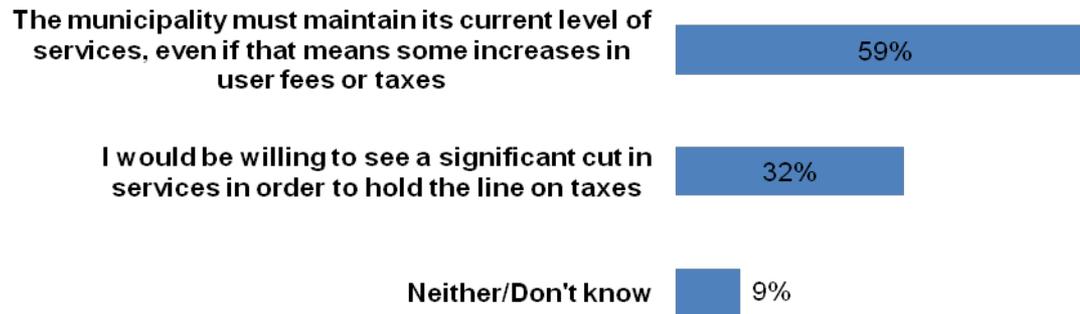
Methodology

These results are based upon a representative national telephone survey conducted among 1,000 randomly selected Canadian participants aged 18 years and older. Results are weighted to replicate the actual population distribution, by gender and age within region. The margin of error for a sample of this size is +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20. Surveys were completed between May 12 and May 16, 2011.

In this report, results are analyzed for the total population and by regional, demographic and socioeconomic subgroups. Noteworthy statistical differences, where present, are cited in the report. Results are expressed as percentages unless otherwise noted and may not add to 100% due to rounding or multiple responses.

The majority of Canadians prefer maintaining current municipal service levels, even if it means tax increases

Views of city services and taxes

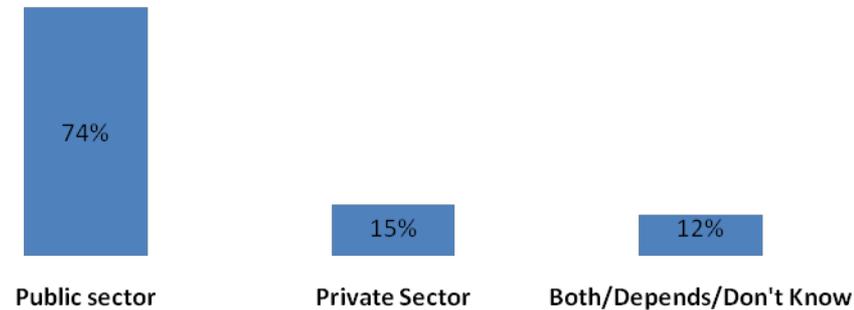


Three of five Canadians say they are willing to accept increases in user fees or taxes in order to maintain the current level of municipal services, while a smaller portion, one third, say they would accept significant service cuts to keep tax levels the same.

Q.1 Which of the following statements most accurately reflects your view on city services and taxes today in your municipality?

Three quarters of Canadians trust the public sector to provide water and sewage treatment services

Who should provide drinking water and sewage treatment services

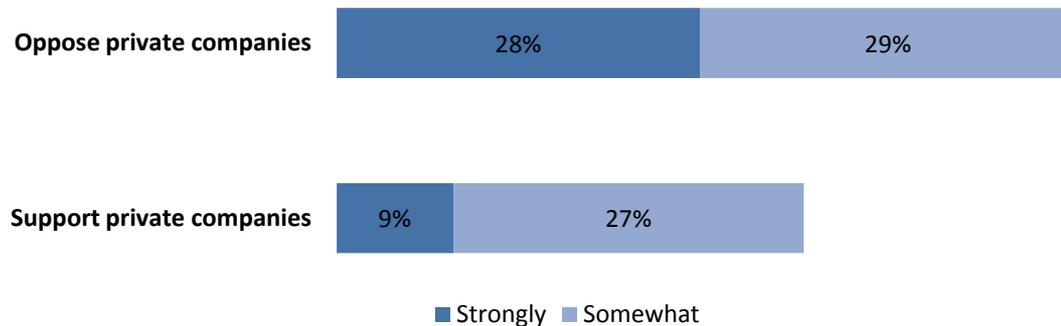


For water and sewage treatment services, most Canadians (74%) trust the public sector over private corporations.

Q.2 Now thinking about drinking water and sewage treatment services provided where you live, who do you trust more to provide those services, the public sector or private corporations?

The majority of Canadians oppose the use of private corporations to deliver water treatment services

Support for/opposition to private corporations delivering water and sewage treatment services

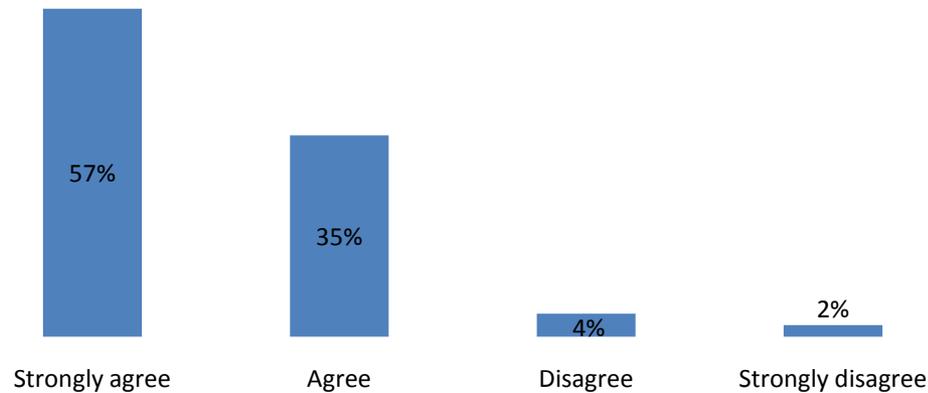


More than half of Canadians at least somewhat oppose private companies providing water treatment services, and a quarter oppose this strongly.

Q.3 Again thinking about water and sewage treatment services, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the use of private companies and/or contractors to deliver these services?

Nine in ten Canadians agree the federal government should fund upgrades to water treatment facilities

Level of agreement with federal government support for upgrading water treatment facilities

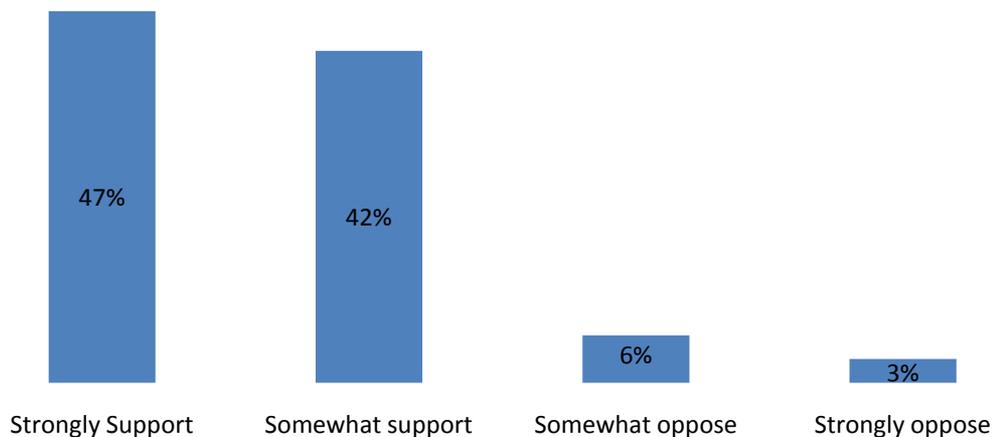


Almost all Canadians agree that the federal government should help municipalities pay for upgrades to water treatment facilities in order to meet new federal regulations, while a majority strongly agree.

Q.4 The federal government has adopted new water regulations to improve water quality and safety. This will require municipalities to upgrade water treatment facilities to meet the standards. But municipalities are already struggling with the costs of dealing with aging facilities, roads and buildings. Generally speaking do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree that the federal government should help pay for the costs of upgrading water treatment facilities to meet the new water regulations?

The vast majority of Canadians support increased federal and provincial funding for municipal governments

Support for increased federal and provincial funding to support municipal governments



Nine in ten Canadians support federal and provincial contributions to aid municipalities in upgrading infrastructure; nearly half strongly support additional funds for municipalities.

Q.5 Municipal politicians say they face a significant deficit to pay for upgrading infrastructure like roads, bridges, water and sewage systems. They are asking federal and provincial governments to contribute more to help meet costs. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose increased federal and provincial funding to support municipal governments?

Canadians are more likely to consider water a precious resource than a commodity

Views about water as a resource

Water is our most precious resource. Governments at all levels should take special care to ensure that we retain public control over water and protect it from private interests.

87%

Water is a commodity. Private corporations should be allowed to buy and sell water and water services just like any other natural resource.

11%

Nearly nine in ten Canadians view water as a precious resource that must be protected, rather than as a commodity to be bought or sold.

Q.6 Which of the following comes closest to your views...