



MEMBER ADVISORY

POLL - PUBLIC ATTITUDES ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL FUNDING IN MANITOBA

November 13, 2008 – As a follow-up to our member poll (conducted last spring and released last week) the AMM took part in an Omnibus survey to gauge public attitudes on infrastructure renewal funding in Manitoba. This survey was administered by Probe Research to a random sampling of 1,000 adults between September 15 and October 6, 2008.

The survey questions were designed to gauge Manitobans' attitudes towards the importance of infrastructure renewal projects, their opinion on the affordability of such projects, and their support of a 1% sales tax dedicated to infrastructure programs.

Key Findings

- When asked how much priority municipal governments should give to infrastructure renewal projects, the vast majority feel that municipalities should be giving either “highest” priority (27%) or “high” priority (67%) to these types of projects. This priority was offered by all respondents regardless of location or socio-demographic background.
- A majority of Manitobans do not, however, feel their own municipal government could afford to pay for infrastructure upgrades without raising taxes or looking to other levels of government for financial support. Only a little more than one third (35%) surveyed felt their municipality could pay for its own infrastructure needs, while over half (55%) were convinced that their municipality could not afford to cover these projects.
- A majority of Manitobans (54%, including 22% who “strongly” support) report they would support the idea of an additional one per cent municipal tax dedicated exclusively for infrastructure renewal projects.

Conclusion

These findings support previous polls, including last year's Federation of Canadian Municipalities' poll showing the majority of Canadians (68%) would have preferred the Federal Government had left the GST at six per cent and used the remaining funds to help municipalities improve their local infrastructure.

This poll also shows there is public support for a 1% municipal sales tax dedicated to infrastructure renewal.

The complete report is available for viewing on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca.