

Canadian Municipal Barometer 2022: Data Summary

2022-02-28

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Introduction

Thanks for your interest in the Canadian Municipal Barometer! In this report, we'll provide an anonymized overview of this year's survey results. If you would like to read more in-depth analyses and academic research from this year's survey, please feel free to visit our website or follow us on Twitter. As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions or requests – we would like these results to be as interesting for you as they are for us!

In this report, we will begin with an overview of survey responses for two sets of questions we're especially excited about in this year's survey. We begin by summarizing responses to questions about municipal-provincial and municipal-federal relations in Canada – including fascinating data we collected this year in a parallel survey of provincial and federal elected representatives. Then, in the next section, we describe responses to questions about elected representatives' attitudes on electoral reform, including changes to the municipal franchise, ballot-counting procedures, ward and at-large elections, and more.

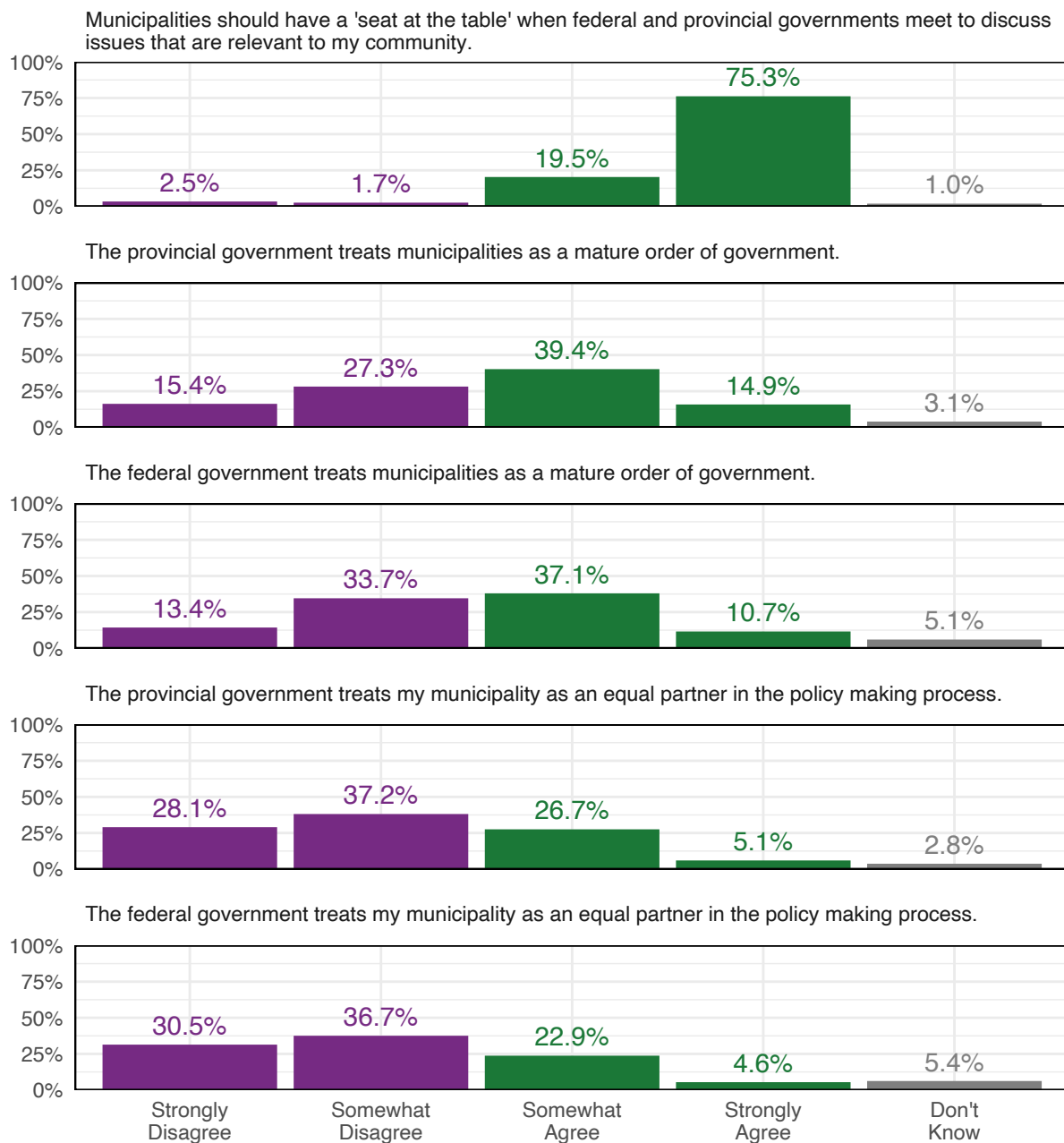
After these mini-analyses, we provide a detailed breakdown of responses to all questions in this year's Canadian Municipal Barometer survey, including our annual tracking questions, the questions on intergovernmental relations and democratic reform, a distinctive battery of questions about the character of Canadian municipal democracy, and much more. As always, we conclude our report with technical information about the number of mayors and councillors who completed this year's survey.

We hope that you find these results interesting and informative. Please be sure to get in touch if you have any comments or requests, and be sure to check in on our website or Twitter feed this year for more in-depth analysis.

Overview: Intergovernmental Relations

A Seat at the Table

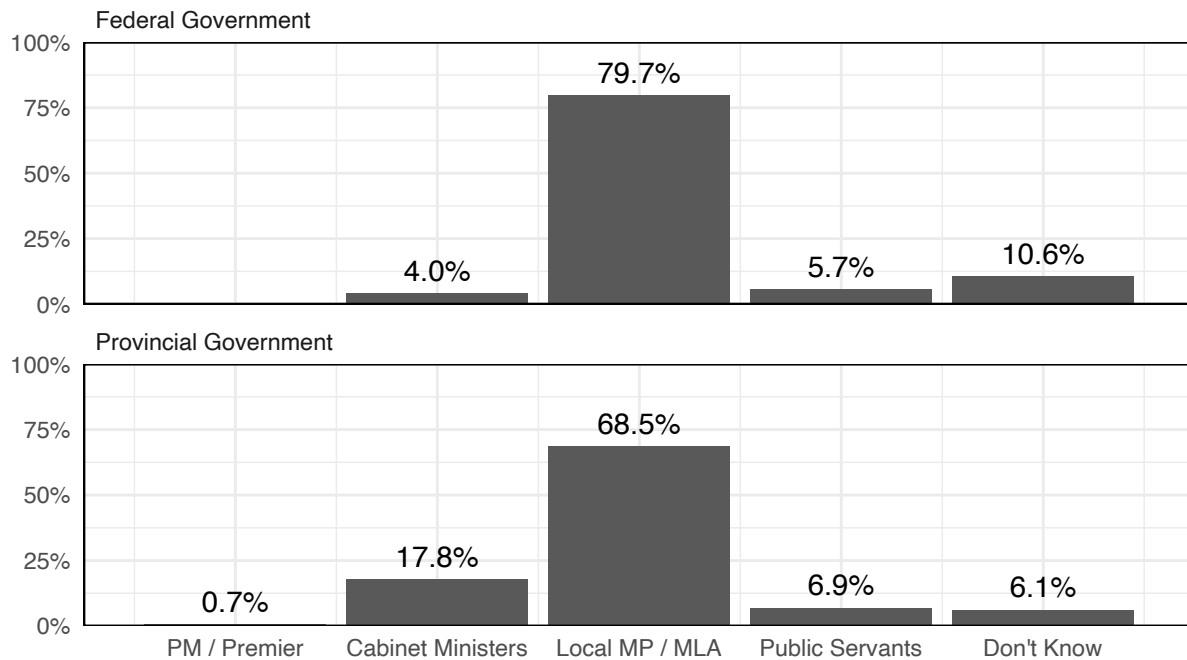
The 2022 survey contains a number of questions about intergovernmental relations and municipal-provincial-federal relationships. Nearly every municipal representative (95%) agrees that municipalities *should* have a seat at the table in relevant intergovernmental conversations. But do they? Responses are quite mixed. 54% of respondents somewhat or strongly agree that their provincial government treats municipalities as a mature order of government, and 48% agree that the same is true of the federal government. However, being treated as “mature” is not the same as being treated as an equal partner in the policy process: just 32% agree that their municipality is treated as an equal partner by the provincial government, and 27% for the federal government.



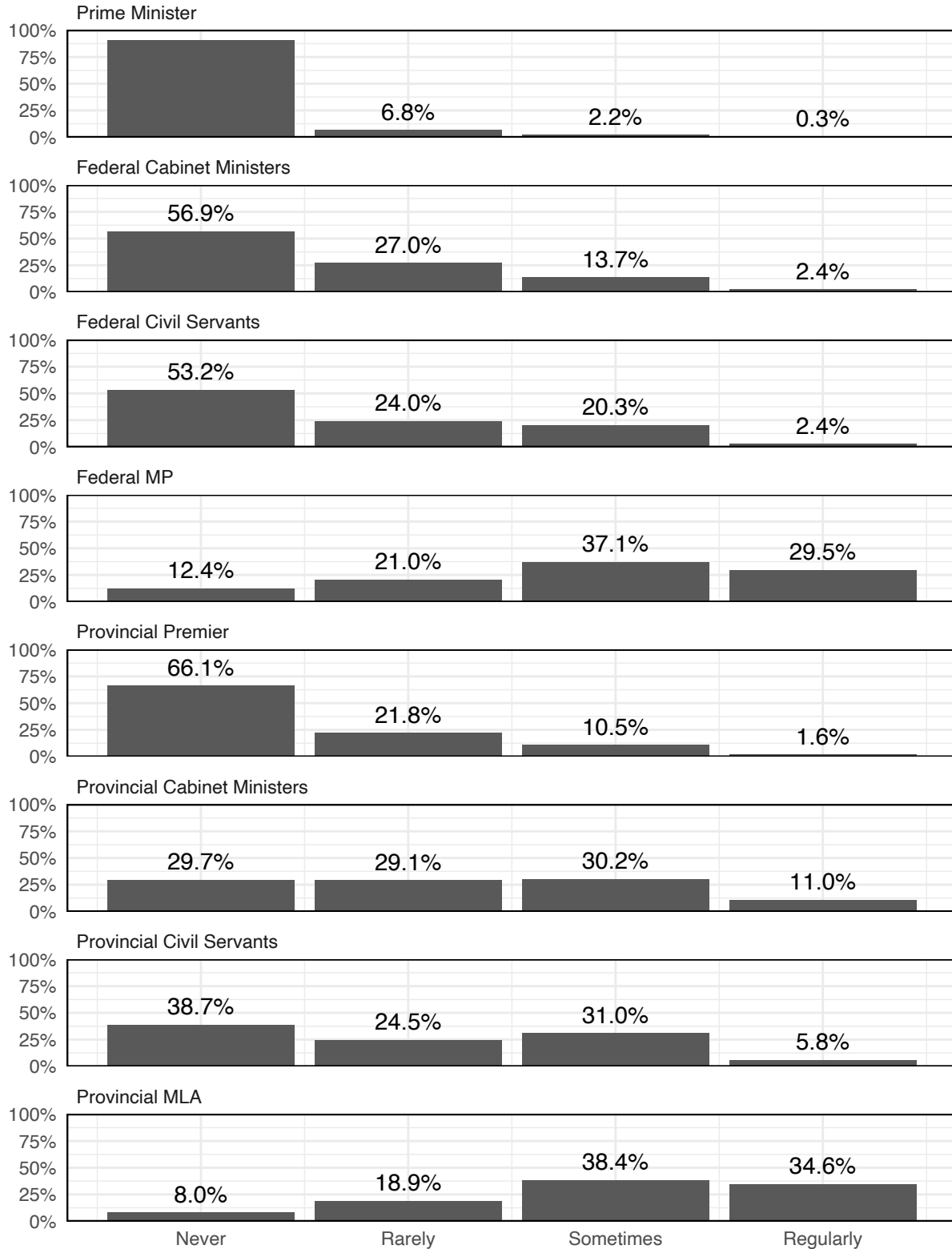
Intergovernmental Communication

We also asked about the details of intergovernmental communication, beginning with a question about who each respondent communicates with most often in the provincial or federal government. The overwhelming majority of respondents told us that they communicate most regularly with their local counterparts (MLAs/MNAs/MPPs and MPs) at the provincial and federal levels.

Who do you communicate with most often in your provincial/federal government?



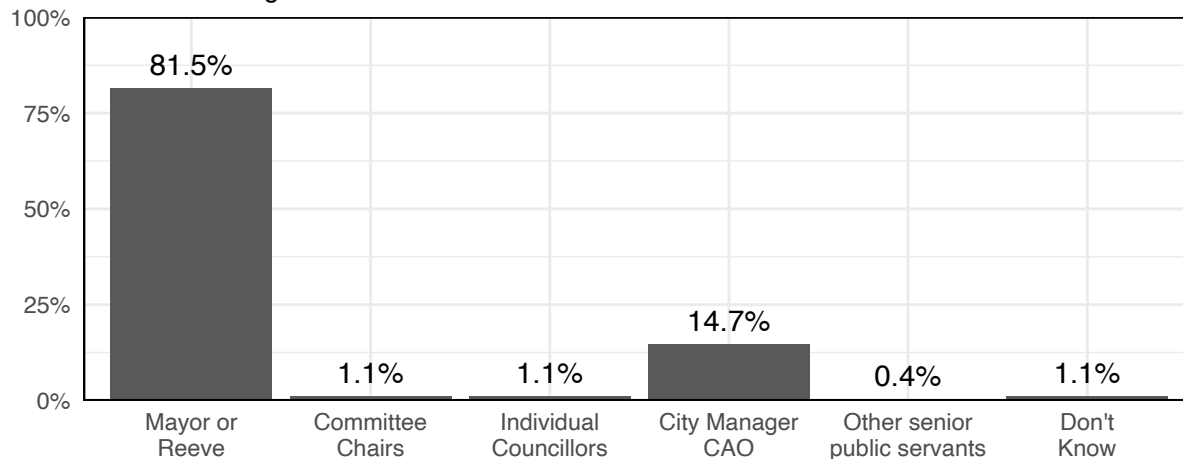
We also asked how often mayors and councillors interact with provincial and federal officials. The results add nuance to the previous figure, but also reinforce the overall message: interaction with local MPs and local MLAs/MPPs/MNAs is, by far, the most common category.



Intergovernmental Spokespeople and Advocacy

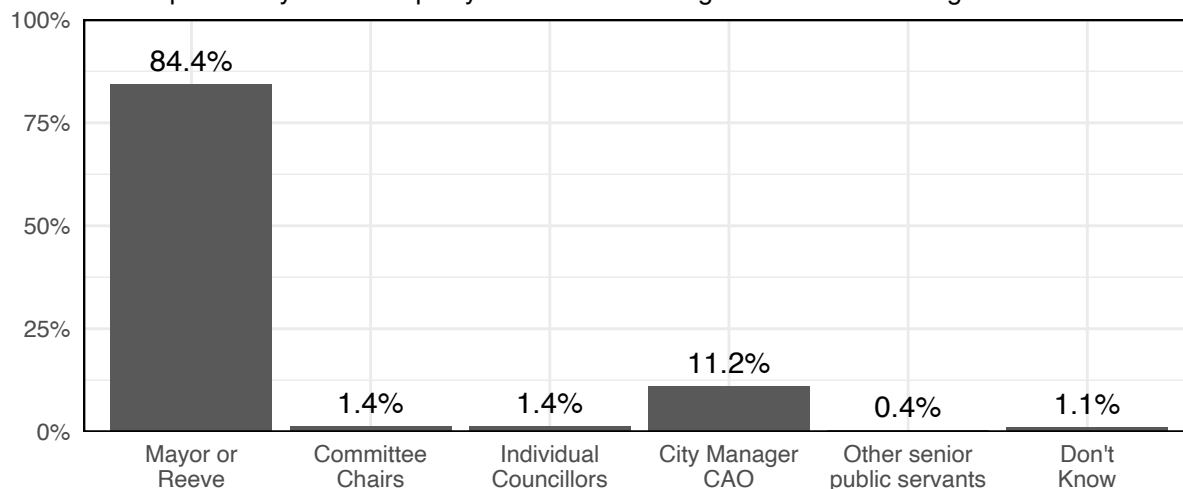
Most respondents told us that their municipality's mayor or reeve was the most important spokesperson when communicating with other orders of government, followed (in a distant second place) by city managers or chief administrative officers.

Who is the most important spokesperson for your municipality when communicating with other orders of government?



When we asked who represents the municipality at intergovernmental meetings, responses were very similar.

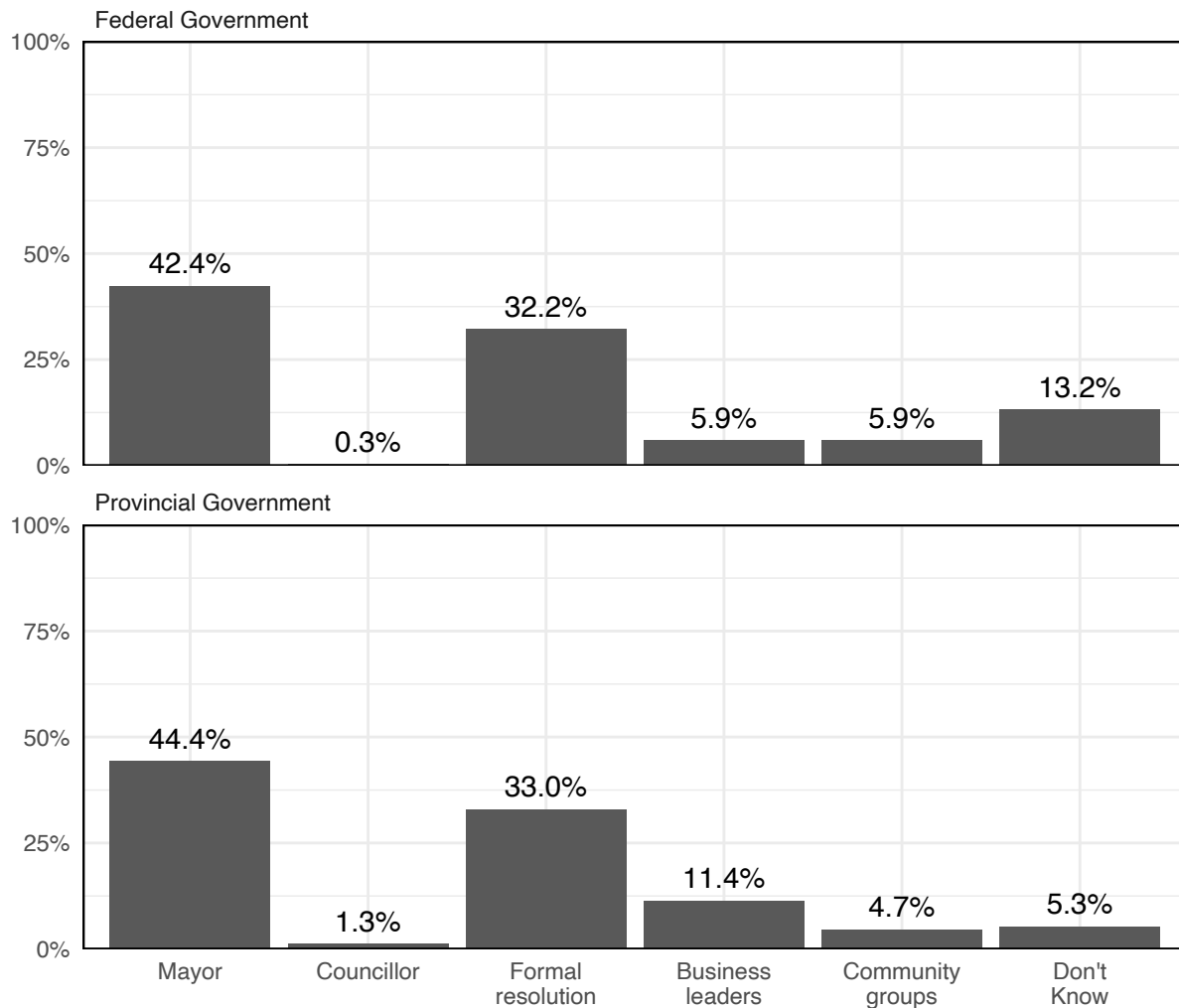
Who represents your municipality most often at intergovernmental meetings?



Municipal Intergovernmental Advocacy

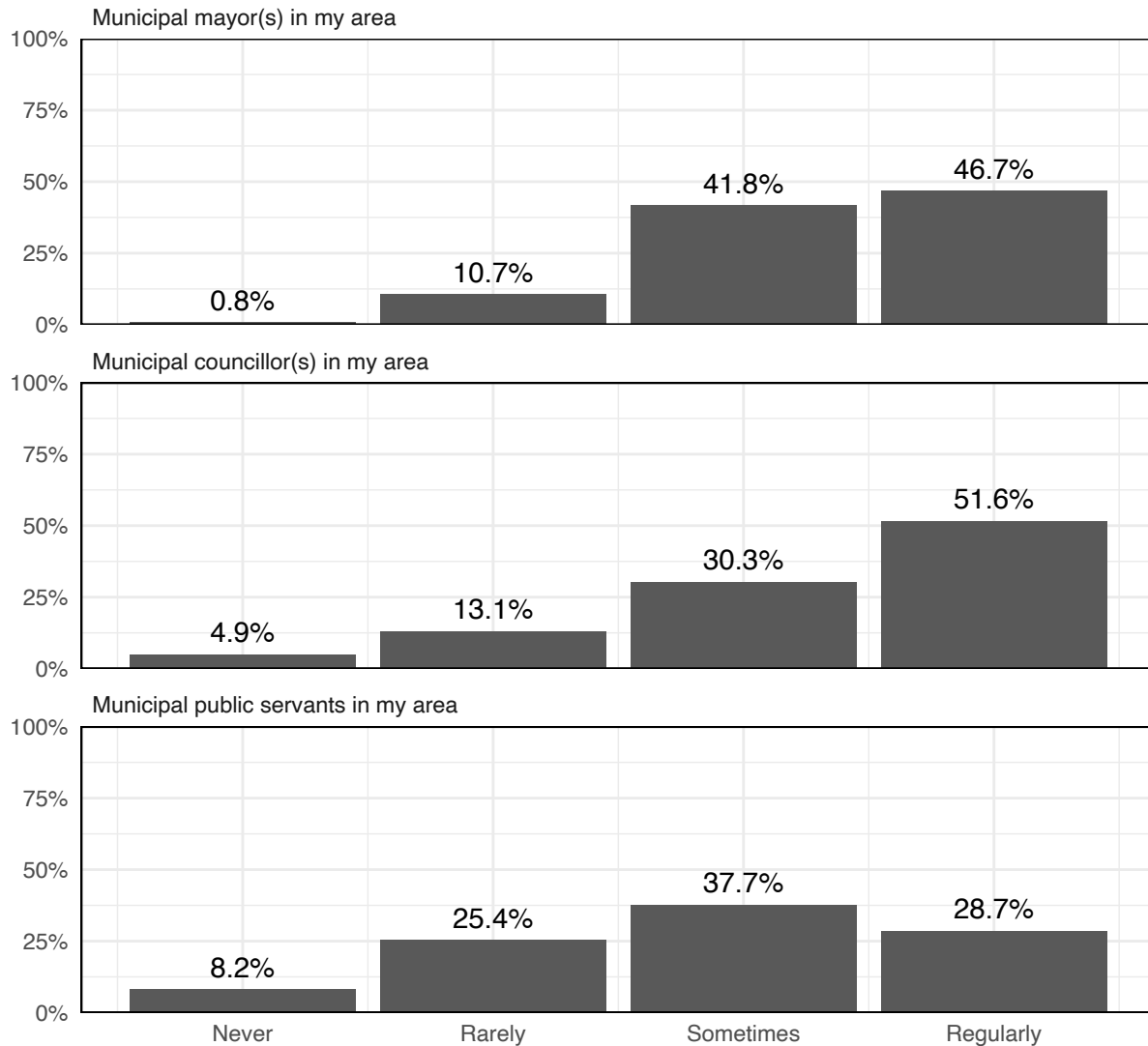
How should a municipality advocate for its interests to provincial and federal governments? This year, we asked elected representatives if they believed municipal advocacy was most effective if it came from the local mayor, city councillor, a formal resolution of council, local business leaders, or local community groups. The most common responses were the local mayor and a formal resolution of council.

In your experience, when is the federal/provincial government most likely to collaborate on an issue that is important to your municipality? When the request comes from:



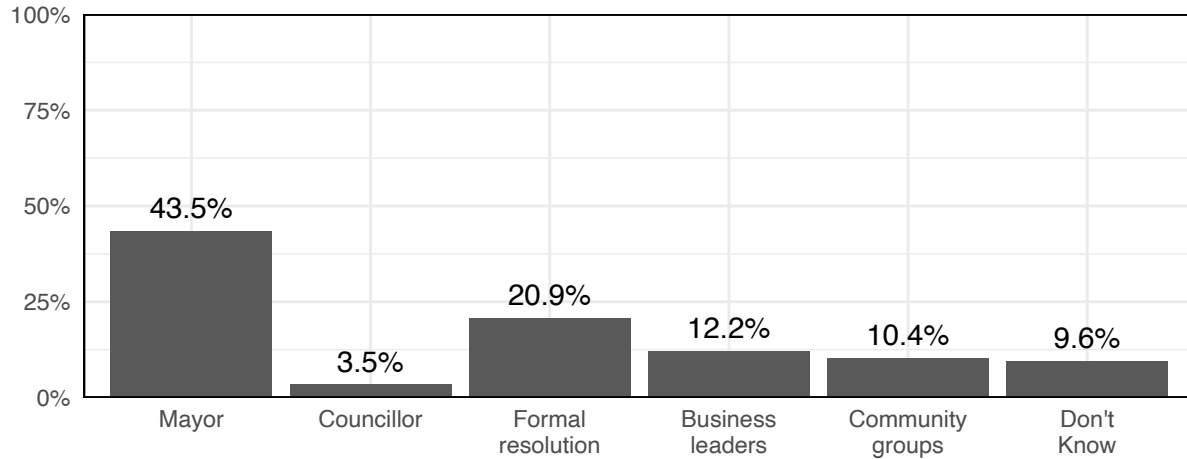
Intergovernmental Relations: Provincial and Federal Responses

Alongside this year's survey of municipal mayors and councillors, we also sent a survey to provincial and federal elected representatives. We received a total of 162 responses from provincial and federal representatives, allowing for an alternative perspective on many of the same questions described above. For instance, we asked provincial and federal representatives how often they had a substantive conversation with municipal officials, and found that they, too, reported regular communication with municipal elected representatives.



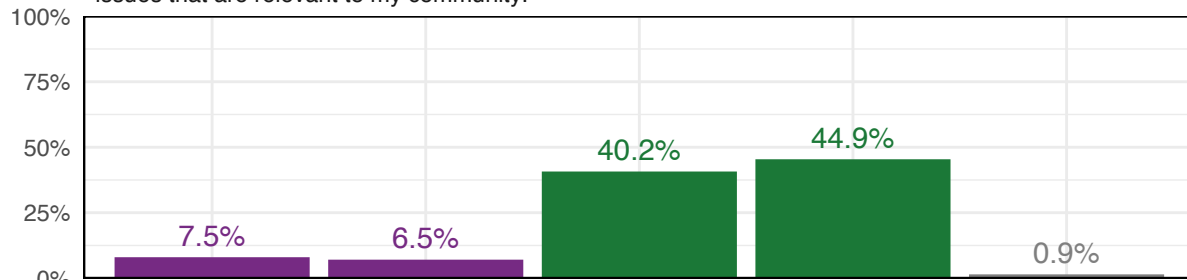
We also asked federal and provincial representatives about the effectiveness of municipal advocacy. Once again, responses were very similar to those from municipal representatives; mayors were seen as the most effective source of advocacy for collaboration, followed by a formal resolution of council.

In your experience, when is the government most likely to collaborate on an issue that is important to a municipality in your district? When the request comes from:

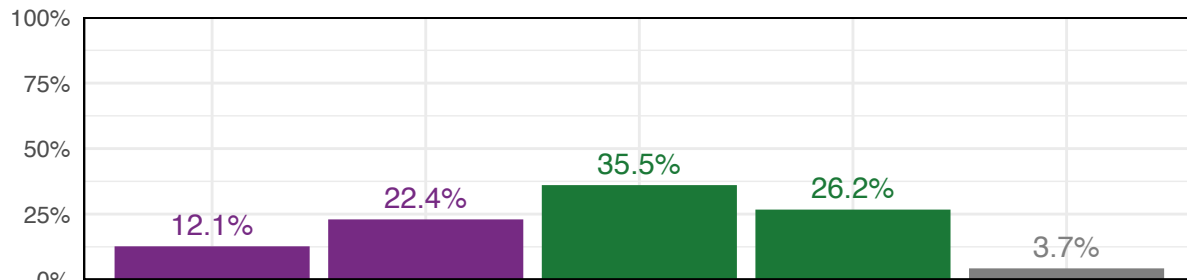


Finally, we asked provincial and federal representatives several of the “seat at the table” questions described above. Strikingly, provincial and federal representatives feel even more strongly than municipal representatives that their governments do not treat municipalities as equal partners in the policy making process. Overall, then, representatives across all levels of government generally appear to share a similar perception of the character and quality of provincial-municipal-federal relationships.

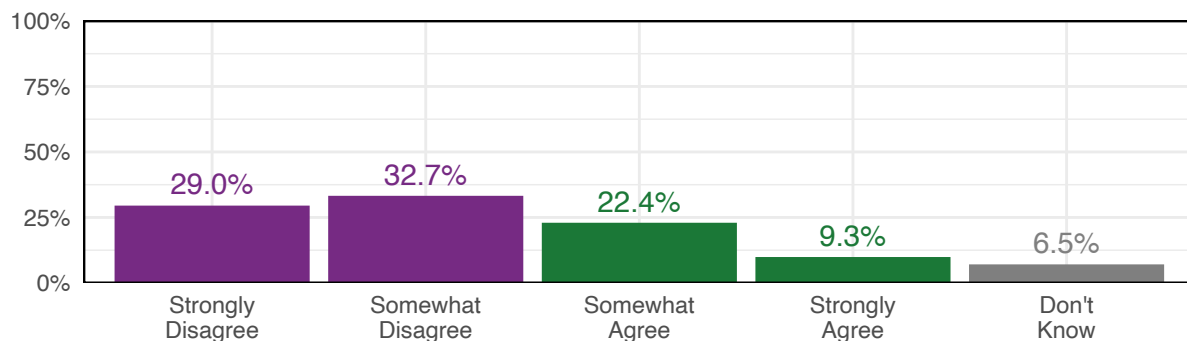
Municipalities should have a 'seat at the table' when federal and provincial governments meet to discuss issues that are relevant to my community.



The government treats municipalities as a mature order of government.



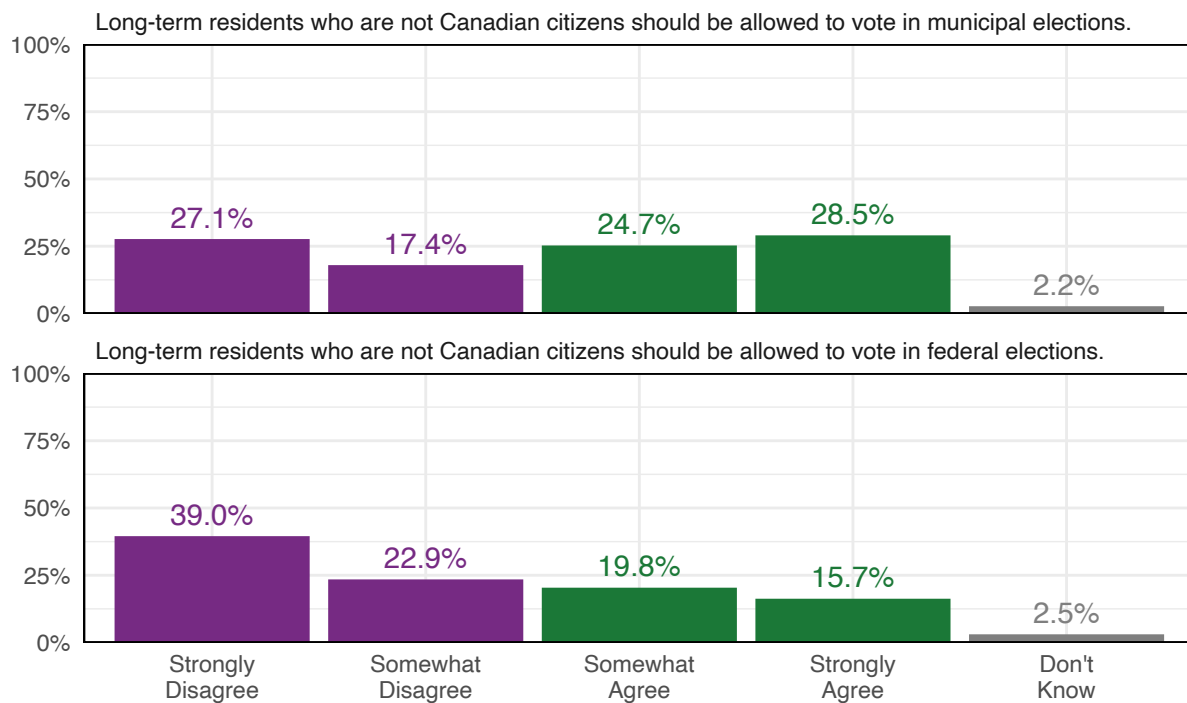
The government treats all municipalities as an equal partner in the policy making process.



Overview: Electoral Reform

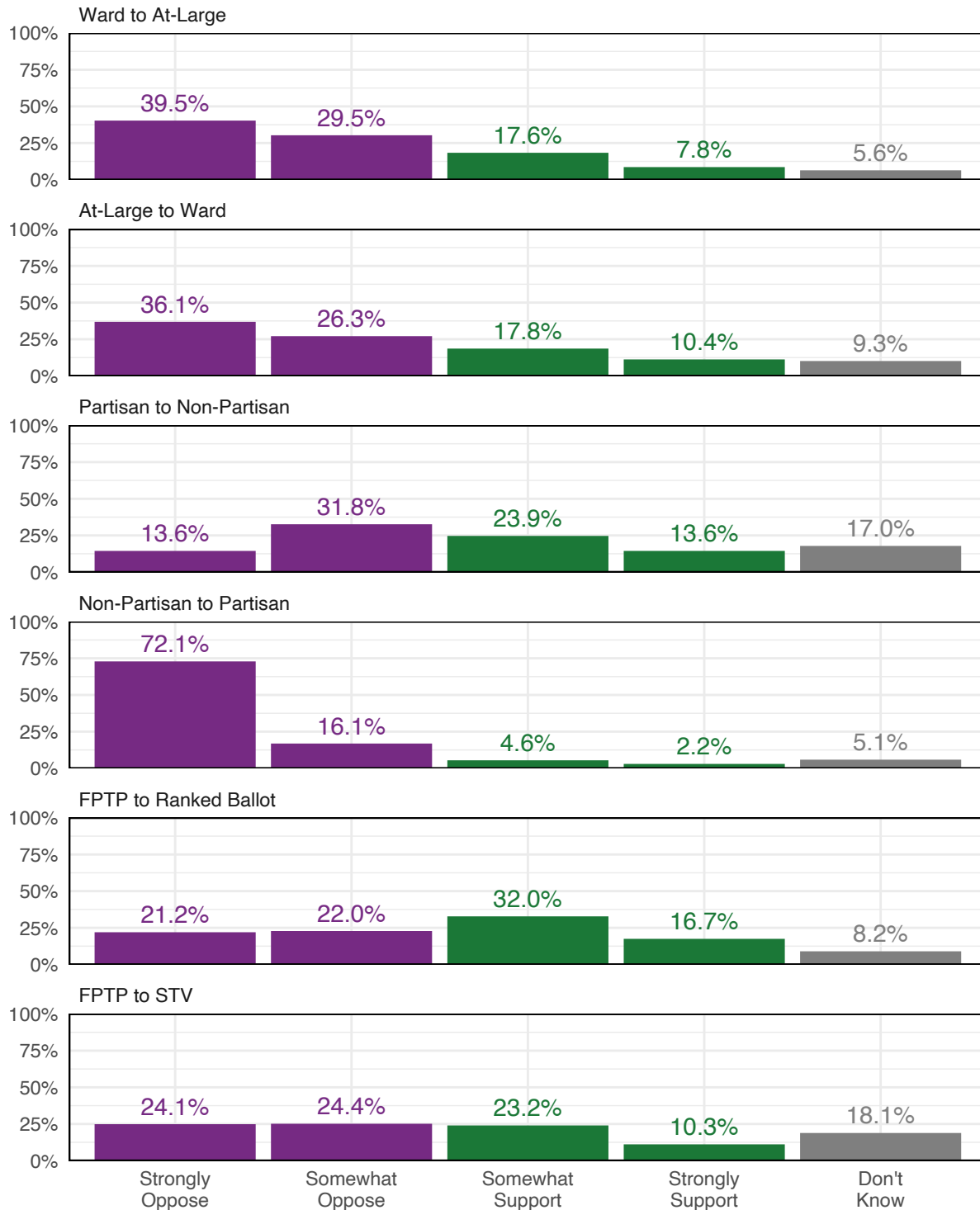
The Municipal and Federal Franchise

A number of municipalities across Canada have recently discussed the possibility of voting opportunities for long-term municipal residents who are not Canadian citizens. Among mayors and councillors, opinion on this issue is quite divided, with 53% supportive and 45% opposed. For comparative purposes, we asked the same question about federal voting rights, where we found that a considerably larger percentage (62%) of respondents were opposed.

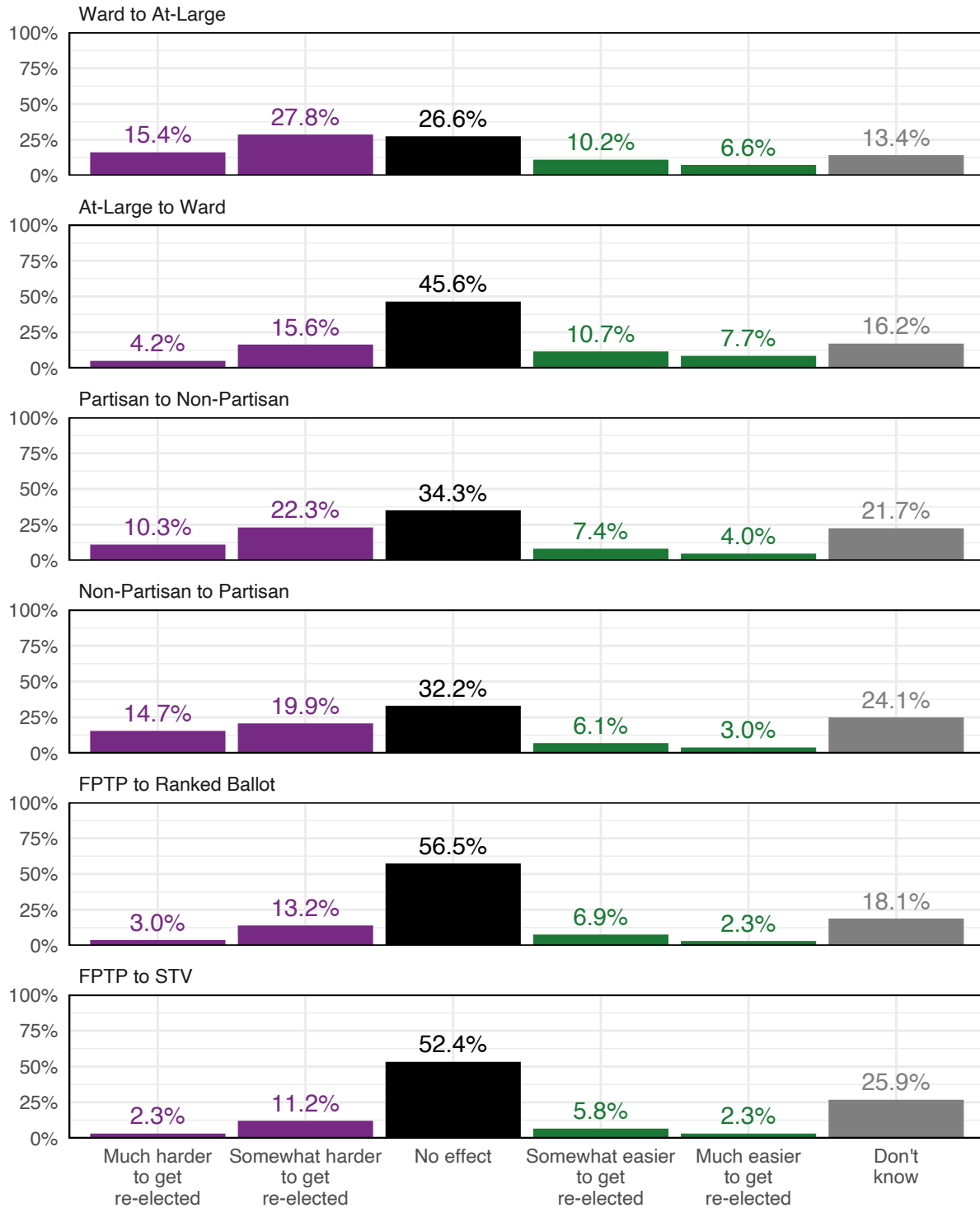


Municipal Democratic Reform

This year, we asked municipal representatives about a variety of institutional reforms in their municipalities. These questions were conditional on the “status quo” in each municipality; representatives in at-large municipalities were asked about a shift to ward elections (and vice versa); representatives in partisan municipalities were asked about a shift to non-partisan elections (and vice versa); and all respondents who indicated that they were at least “somewhat” familiar with ranked ballot and/or STV systems were asked about those reforms.



We also asked mayors and councillors about the consequences of these reforms for their own re-election prospects.



Complete Survey Questions and Results

Annual Tracking Questions

direction In your municipality, do you feel that things are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel that things are on the wrong track?

	Freq	%
(1) Right Direction	835	84.09
(2) Wrong Track	118	11.88
(9) Prefer not to say / Don't know	40	4.03
Total	993	100.00

economy_mun Over the past year, has the economy in the following places gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same? Your municipality.

	Freq	%
(1) Worse	244	25.31
(2) About the Same	454	47.10
(3) Better	250	25.93
(9) Don't Know	16	1.66
Total	964	100.00

economy_prov Over the past year, has the economy in the following places gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same? Your province

	Freq	%
(1) Worse	461	47.92
(2) About the Same	295	30.67
(3) Better	160	16.63
(9) Don't Know	46	4.78
Total	962	100.00

economy_fed Over the past year, has the economy in the following places gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same? Canada as a whole.

	Freq	%
(1) Worse	507	52.70
(2) About the Same	295	30.67
(3) Better	92	9.56
(9) Don't Know	68	7.07
Total	962	100.00

sat_democracy In general, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in your municipality?

	Freq	%
(1) Extremely dissatisfied	72	7.48
(2) Somewhat dissatisfied	151	15.68
(3) Somewhat satisfied	454	47.14
(4) Extremely satisfied	283	29.39
(9) Don't Know	3	0.31
Total	963	100.00

fiscalhealth Thinking about the overall fiscal health of your municipality today on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst (fiscal crisis) and 10 is the best (perfect fiscal health), how would you rate your municipality's overall fiscal health today?

	Freq	%
(0) Fiscal Crisis	2	0.21
(1)	2	0.21
(2)	11	1.15
(3)	30	3.14
(4)	43	4.51
(5)	70	7.34
(6)	127	13.31
(7)	238	24.95
(8)	257	26.94
(9)	127	13.31
(10) Perfect fiscal health	44	4.61
(99) Don't Know	3	0.31
Total	954	100.00

fiscalhealth_past Has your municipality's fiscal health improved, stayed the same, or gotten worse in the past fiscal year?

	Freq	%
(1) Improved	225	23.58
(2) Stayed the Same	480	50.31
(3) Gotten Worse	228	23.90
(9) Don't Know	21	2.20
Total	954	100.00

fiscalhealth_future Do you expect your municipality's fiscal health to improve, stay the same, or get worse in the next fiscal year?

	Freq	%
(1) Improved	302	31.66
(2) Stayed the Same	436	45.70
(3) Gotten Worse	192	20.13
(9) Don't Know	24	2.52
Total	954	100.00

provmun_particular How would you describe the relationship between your provincial government and your municipality?

	Freq	%
(1) Poor	122	12.80
(2) Fair	294	30.85
(3) Good	409	42.92
(4) Excellent	103	10.81
(9) Don't Know	25	2.62
Total	953	100.00

fedmun_particular How would you describe the relationship between the federal government and your municipality?

	Freq	%
(1) Poor	125	13.14
(2) Fair	306	32.18
(3) Good	368	38.70
(4) Excellent	57	5.99
(9) Don't Know	95	9.99
Total	951	100.00

General Factual Questions

Most of these questions are used for programming purposes elsewhere in the survey.

position To which of the following positions were you elected?

	Freq	%
(1) Mayor / Reeve	150	15.74
(2) Deputy Mayor	33	3.46
(3) Councillor	765	80.27
(6) Other	5	0.52
Total	953	100.00

place type Which of these descriptions best describes the geographic area (e.g. ward or municipality) that you represent?

	Freq	%
(1) Mostly Urban	267	28.02
(2) A Mix of Urban and Suburban	113	11.86
(3) Mostly Suburban	76	7.97
(4) A Mix of Suburban and Rural	145	15.22
(5) Mostly Rural	119	12.49
(6) A Mix of Urban and Rural	231	24.24
(9) Don't Know	2	0.21
Total	953	100.00

at large / ward Were you elected at-large (that is, in a municipality-wide race) or in a ward?

	Freq	%
(1) At Large	508	53.36
(2) Ward	444	46.64
Total	952	100.00

party / slate Did you run with a party or slate?

	Freq	%
(1) Yes	203	21.48
(2) No	742	78.52
Total	945	100.00

Fiscal Questions

revenue_sources If you could choose any of the following options for raising revenue, which would you prefer? Please select up to three items.

Raise property taxes.

	Freq	%
Not Selected	822	86.71
Selected	126	13.29
Total	948	100.00

Collect a portion of the income tax, with the rate set by municipal governments.

	Freq	%
Not Selected	658	69.41
Selected	290	30.59
Total	948	100.00

Collect a portion of the sales tax, with the rate set by municipal governments.

	Freq	%
Not Selected	555	58.54
Selected	393	41.46
Total	948	100.00

Increase user fees.

	Freq	%
Not Selected	765	80.70
Selected	183	19.30
Total	948	100.00

Implement and/or increase development charges.

	Freq	%
Not Selected	689	72.68
Selected	259	27.32
Total	948	100.00

Increase grants from provincial or federal governments.

	Freq	%
Not Selected	260	27.43
Selected	688	72.57
Total	948	100.00

My municipality does not need more revenue.

	Freq	%
Not Selected	915	96.52
Selected	33	3.48
Total	948	100.00

revenue_rank Please rank your choices, beginning with your most preferred option. (Note: this table reports the proportion of respondents who, having selected an item, subsequently ranked it in first position.)

Revenue Type	Freq	%
Raise property taxes	17	22.7%
Collect a portion of the income tax, with the rate set by municipal governments	55	30.4%
Collect a portion of the sales tax, with the rate set by municipal governments	76	34.9%
Increase user fees	20	21.7%
Implement and/or increase development charges	27	20.0%
Increase grants from provincial or federal governments	171	54.1%

operatingcuts Imagine that your municipality faced a situation where you had to cut five per-cent from your operating budget. In which of the following areas would you make those cuts? Please select up to five items.

Fire

	Freq	%
Not Selected	266	29.39
Selected	639	70.61
Total	905	100.00

Policing

	Freq	%
Not Selected	394	43.54
Selected	511	56.46
Total	905	100.00

Ambulance Services

	Freq	%
Not Selected	662	73.15
Selected	243	26.85
Total	905	100.00

Public Health

	Freq	%
Not Selected	852	94.14
Selected	53	5.86
Total	905	100.00

Social Services

	Freq	%
Not Selected	764	84.42
Selected	141	15.58
Total	905	100.00

Roads and transportation

	Freq	%
Not Selected	531	58.67
Selected	374	41.33
Total	905	100.00

Public transit

	Freq	%
Not Selected	666	73.59
Selected	239	26.41
Total	905	100.00

Parks and recreation

	Freq	%
Not Selected	444	49.06
Selected	461	50.94

	Freq	%
Total	905	100.00

Libraries

	Freq	%
Not Selected	595	65.75
Selected	310	34.25
Total	905	100.00

Waste management

	Freq	%
Not Selected	805	88.95
Selected	100	11.05
Total	905	100.00

Water

	Freq	%
Not Selected	892	98.56
Selected	13	1.44
Total	905	100.00

Planning and other development

	Freq	%
Not Selected	531	58.67
Selected	374	41.33
Total	905	100.00

Other

	Freq	%
Not Selected	678	74.92
Selected	227	25.08
Total	905	100.00

operatingcuts_open Is there anything you would like to add about why you would select the items you've chosen if you had to make cuts to your operating budget? [Open ended question; responses not displayed]

cuts_constraints Are there any areas where you would make cuts in this situation, but are prevented from cutting due to legislative or regulatory constraints? [Open ended question; responses not displayed]

Democratic Theory

elec_blame Some say that voters often blame or reward politicians for events that are totally outside the politician's control. Others say that voters are good at knowing which events politicians are and are not responsible for. Where would you position yourself in this debate?

	Freq	%
(0) Unfairly Blame or Reward	23	2.49
(1)	34	3.69
(2)	105	11.39
(3)	163	17.68
(4)	143	15.51
(5)	164	17.79
(6)	96	10.41
(7)	96	10.41
(8)	48	5.21
(9)	11	1.19
(10) Correctly Blame or Reward	19	2.06
(99) Don't Know	20	2.17
Total	922	100.00

elec_policy Some say that voters make their decisions based on their policy preferences. Others say that voters' choices have much more to do with their deeply held partisan or other group identities. Where would you position yourself in this debate?

	Freq	%
(0) Policy preferences	18	1.95
(1)	23	2.49
(2)	59	6.40
(3)	98	10.63
(4)	91	9.87
(5)	174	18.87
(6)	140	15.18
(7)	168	18.22
(8)	78	8.46
(9)	20	2.17
(10) Deeply held identities	15	1.63
(99) Don't Know	38	4.12
Total	922	100.00

elec_pastfuture Some say that voters make decisions based on candidates' policy commitments and promises for the next term. Others say that voters base their decisions on "rewarding" or "punishing" their mayor or councillor for how well they have performed in the previous term. Where would you position yourself in this debate?

	Freq	%
(0) Look to the future	33	3.58
(1)	23	2.49
(2)	42	4.56
(3)	82	8.89
(4)	77	8.35

	Freq	%
(5)	197	21.37
(6)	116	12.58
(7)	186	20.17
(8)	105	11.39
(9)	22	2.39
(10) Look to the past	17	1.84
(99) Don't Know	22	2.39
Total	922	100.00

elec_improvedlives Some say voters judge governments on whether they've improved everyone's lives. Others say voters judge governments on whether they've improved their own personal lives. Where would you position yourself in this debate?

	Freq	%
(0) Everyone's lives	38	4.13
(1)	39	4.24
(2)	55	5.98
(3)	79	8.59
(4)	69	7.50
(5)	128	13.91
(6)	134	14.57
(7)	188	20.43
(8)	116	12.61
(9)	35	3.80
(10) Their own personal lives	23	2.50
(99) Don't Know	16	1.74
Total	920	100.00

elec_issuesamount Some say each voters makes voting decisions based on one or two policy issues that they care strongly about. Others say each voter's decision is based on a wide range of policy issues. Where would you position yourself in this debate?

	Freq	%
(0) Single-issue voting	10	1.08
(1)	30	3.25
(2)	115	12.47
(3)	174	18.87
(4)	115	12.47
(5)	136	14.75
(6)	81	8.79
(7)	99	10.74
(8)	77	8.35
(9)	23	2.49
(10) Many-issue voting	50	5.42
(99) Don't Know	12	1.30
Total	922	100.00

elec_knowledge Some say that when citizens vote they are by and large knowledgeable about political issues, while others say they generally know very little. Where would you position yourself in this debate?

	Freq	%
(0) Voters know very little	29	3.14
(1)	27	2.93
(2)	95	10.29
(3)	162	17.55
(4)	153	16.58
(5)	158	17.12
(6)	120	13.00
(7)	91	9.86
(8)	54	5.85
(9)	11	1.19
(10) Voters are knowledgeable	13	1.41
(99) Don't Know	10	1.08
Total	923	100.00

elec_shortterm Some say that voters are impatient and think about the short term when they vote. Others say that voters are able to ignore short-term distractions and focus on the long term. Where would you position yourself in this debate?

	Freq	%
(0) Short term focus	22	2.39
(1)	34	3.69
(2)	102	11.06
(3)	169	18.33
(4)	117	12.69
(5)	154	16.70
(6)	80	8.68
(7)	101	10.95
(8)	64	6.94
(9)	26	2.82
(10) Long term focus	42	4.56
(99) Don't Know	11	1.19
Total	922	100.00

elec_will Some say that voters prefer politicians who follow the will of ordinary people. Others say voters want politicians who follow the advice of experts. Where would you position yourself in this debate?

	Freq	%
(0) Voters prefer politicians who follow the will of ordinary people	21	2.28
(1)	28	3.04
(2)	61	6.62
(3)	115	12.47
(4)	108	11.71
(5)	228	24.73
(6)	118	12.80
(7)	122	13.23

	Freq	%
(8)	69	7.48
(9)	20	2.17
(10) Voters prefer politicians who follow the advice of experts	24	2.60
(99) Don't Know	8	0.87
Total	922	100.00

Issue Positions

issue_propertyvalues It is good for a neighbourhood when it experiences rising property values, even if it means some current residents might have to move out.

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly Disagree	202	22.39
(2) Somewhat Disagree	349	38.69
(3) Somewhat Agree	276	30.60
(4) Strongly Agree	62	6.87
(9) Don't Know	13	1.44
Total	902	100.00

issue_livingwage Municipalities should require that all municipal contractors pay their employees a living wage, even if it means increased costs for the municipality.

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly Disagree	65	7.21
(2) Somewhat Disagree	134	14.87
(3) Somewhat Agree	331	36.74
(4) Strongly Agree	358	39.73
(9) Don't Know	13	1.44
Total	901	100.00

issue_climatechange Municipalities should play a strong role in reducing the effects of climate change, even if it means sacrificing revenues and/or expending financial resources.

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly Disagree	51	5.65
(2) Somewhat Disagree	80	8.86
(3) Somewhat Agree	292	32.34
(4) Strongly Agree	476	52.71
(9) Don't Know	4	0.44
Total	903	100.00

issue_socialservices Municipalities should prioritize keeping taxes low, even if it means low-income residents have access to fewer social services.

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly Disagree	275	30.49
(2) Somewhat Disagree	409	45.34

	Freq	%
(3) Somewhat Agree	152	16.85
(4) Strongly Agree	48	5.32
(9) Don't Know	18	2.00
Total	902	100.00

Intergovernmental Relations Questions

igr_represent Who represents your municipality most often at intergovernmental meetings?

	Freq	%
(1) Mayor or reeve	764	84.42
(2) Committee Chairs (if applicable)	13	1.44
(3) Individual Councillors	13	1.44
(4) City Manager (CAO)	101	11.16
(5) Other senior public servants	4	0.44
(9) Don't Know	10	1.10
Total	905	100.00

igr_spokesperson Who is the most important spokesperson for your municipality when communicating with other orders of government?

	Freq	%
(1) Mayor or reeve	738	81.55
(2) Committee Chairs (if applicable)	10	1.10
(3) Individual Councillors	10	1.10
(4) City Manager (CAO)	133	14.70
(5) Other senior public servants	4	0.44
(9) Don't Know	10	1.10
Total	905	100.00

igr_participate Have you personally participated in intergovernmental relations with other orders of government?

	Freq	%
(1) No	324	35.80
(2) Yes	573	63.31
(9) Don't Know	8	0.88
Total	905	100.00

igr_subjects What is the most common subject of discussion in these meetings?

	Freq	%
(1) Presenting suggestions or complaints from constituents	58	10.16
(2) Advocating for greater authority/autonomy	58	10.16
(3) Negotiating funding arrangements	220	38.53
(4) Discussing service delivery requests	144	25.22

	Freq	%
(5) Other	87	15.24
(9) Don't Know	4	0.70
Total	571	100.00

igr_communicate_prov Who do you communicate with most often in your provincial government?

	Freq	%
(1) Premier	6	0.67
(2) Cabinet ministers	161	17.85
(3) Local MLA/MPP/MNA	618	68.51
(4) Deputy ministers / senior public servants	62	6.87
(9) Don't Know	55	6.10
Total	902	100.00

igr_communicate_fed Who do you communicate with most often in the federal government?

	Freq	%
(1) Prime Minister	0	0.00
(2) Cabinet ministers	36	3.99
(3) Local MP	719	79.71
(4) Deputy ministers / senior public servants	51	5.65
(9) Don't Know	96	10.64
Total	902	100.00

igr_comm_freq_pm During your time on council, how often have you had a substantive conversation with: The Prime Minister?

	Freq	%
(1) Never	817	90.68
(2) Rarely	61	6.77
(3) Sometimes	20	2.22
(4) Regularly	3	0.33
Total	901	100.00

igr_comm_freq_fedcab During your time on council, how often have you had a substantive conversation with: Federal Cabinet ministers?

	Freq	%
(1) Never	512	56.89
(2) Rarely	243	27.00
(3) Sometimes	123	13.67
(4) Regularly	22	2.44
Total	900	100.00

igr_comm_freq_mp During your time on council, how often have you had a substantive conversation with: Local MP?

	Freq	%
(1) Never	112	12.43
(2) Rarely	189	20.98
(3) Sometimes	334	37.07
(4) Regularly	266	29.52
Total	901	100.00

igr_comm_freq_fedciv During your time on council, how often have you had a substantive conversation with: Deputy ministers / senior public servants in the federal government?

	Freq	%
(1) Never	479	53.22
(2) Rarely	216	24.00
(3) Sometimes	183	20.33
(4) Regularly	22	2.44
Total	900	100.00

igr_comm_freq_prem During your time on council, how often have you had a substantive conversation with: provincial premier?

	Freq	%
(1) Never	596	66.15
(2) Rarely	196	21.75
(3) Sometimes	95	10.54
(4) Regularly	14	1.55
Total	901	100.00

igr_comm_freq_procab During your time on council, how often have you had a substantive conversation with: Provincial Cabinet Ministers?

	Freq	%
(1) Never	268	29.74
(2) Rarely	262	29.08
(3) Sometimes	272	30.19
(4) Regularly	99	10.99
Total	901	100.00

igr_comm_freq_mla During your time on council, how often have you had a substantive conversation with: Local MLA/MPP

	Freq	%
(1) Never	72	8.04
(2) Rarely	169	18.88
(3) Sometimes	344	38.44
(4) Regularly	310	34.64

	Freq	%
Total	895	100.00

igr_comm_freq_proci During your time on council, how often have you had a substantive conversation with: Deputy ministers / senior public servants in the provincial government?

	Freq	%
(1) Never	349	38.73
(2) Rarely	221	24.53
(3) Sometimes	279	30.97
(4) Regularly	52	5.77
Total	901	100.00

igr_channels_fed How important is each of the following channels when interacting or engaging with the federal government? Please rank each item in order of importance. (Note: this table reports the percentage of respondents who ranked each option first in importance).

Channel	Freq	%
Personal conversations with cabinet ministers	96	12.6%
Personal conversations with local MPs	291	38.2%
Personal conversations with federal public servants	36	4.7%
Formal meetings between your municipality and federal representatives	198	26.0%
Meetings organized by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities	102	13.4%
Meetings organized by non-governmental organizations	39	5.1%

igr_channels_prov How important is each of the following channels when interacting or engaging with your provincial government? Please rank each item in order of importance. (Note: this table reports the percentage of respondents who ranked each option first in importance).

Channel	Freq	%
Personal conversations with cabinet ministers	170	22.9%
Personal conversations with local MLAs/MNAs/MPPs	253	34.1%
Personal conversations with provincial public servants	44	5.9%
Formal meetings between your municipality and provincial representatives	176	23.8%
Meetings organized by municipal associations	73	9.9%
Meetings organized by non-governmental organizations	25	3.4%

igr_source_fed In your experience, when is the federal government most likely to collaborate on an issue that is important to your municipality? When the request comes from:

	Freq	%
(1) The mayor	372	42.37
(2) A city councillor	3	0.34
(3) A formal resolution of council	283	32.23
(4) Local business leaders	52	5.92
(5) Local community groups / civil society	52	5.92
(9) Don't know	116	13.21
Total	878	100.00

igr_source_prov In your experience, when is the provincial government most likely to collaborate on an issue that is important to your municipality? When the request comes from:

	Freq	%
(1) The mayor	390	44.37
(2) A city councillor	11	1.25
(3) A formal resolution of council	290	32.99
(4) Local business leaders	100	11.38
(5) Local community groups / civil society	41	4.66
(9) Don't know	47	5.35
Total	879	100.00

igr_specialist To the best of your knowledge, does your municipality employ any intergovernmental relations specialists?

	Freq	%
(1) No	563	63.83
(2) Yes	220	24.94
(9) Don't know	99	11.22
Total	882	100.00

igr_specialist_detail Where do these intergovernmental relations specialists work? Please select all that apply. (Note: these responses are only for those who answered “yes” to the previous question).

Mayor's office

	Freq	%
Not Selected	140	63.64
Selected	80	36.36
Total	220	100.00

Councillor's Office

	Freq	%
Not Selected	210	95.45
Selected	10	4.55
Total	220	100.00

City manager / CAO

	Freq	%
Not Selected	84	38.18
Selected	136	61.82
Total	220	100.00

Within Municipal Departments

	Freq	%
Not Selected	163	74.09
Selected	57	25.91
Total	220	100.00

seat_1 Municipalities should have a “seat at the table” when federal and provincial governments meet to discuss issues that are relevant to my community.

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly disagree	22	2.50
(2) Somewhat disagree	15	1.71
(3) Somewhat agree	171	19.45
(4) Strongly agree	662	75.31
(9) Don't know	9	1.02
Total	879	100.00

seat_2 The provincial government treats municipalities as a mature order of government.

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly disagree	135	15.36
(2) Somewhat disagree	240	27.30
(3) Somewhat agree	346	39.36
(4) Strongly agree	131	14.90
(9) Don't know	27	3.07
Total	879	100.00

seat_3 The federal government treats municipalities as a mature order of government.

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly disagree	118	13.42
(2) Somewhat disagree	296	33.67
(3) Somewhat agree	326	37.09
(4) Strongly agree	94	10.69
(9) Don't know	45	5.12
Total	879	100.00

seat_4 The provincial government treats my municipality as an equal partner in the policy making process.

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly disagree	247	28.13
(2) Somewhat disagree	327	37.24
(3) Somewhat agree	234	26.65
(4) Strongly agree	45	5.13
(9) Don't know	25	2.85
Total	878	100.00

seat_5 The federal government treats my municipality as an equal partner in the policy making process.

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly disagree	268	30.52
(2) Somewhat disagree	322	36.67
(3) Somewhat agree	201	22.89
(4) Strongly agree	40	4.56
(9) Don't know	47	5.35
Total	878	100.00

seat_placetype_prov You've described the place you represent as (piped in) In your opinion, how much attention does the provincial government pay to these kinds of places?

	Freq	%
(1) Much more than other places	34	3.89
(2) Somewhat more than other places	163	18.65
(3) About the same as other places	257	29.41
(4) Somewhat less than other places	228	26.09
(5) Much less than other places	149	17.05
(9) Don't know	43	4.92
Total	874	100.00

seat_placetype_fed You've described the place you represent as (piped in) In your opinion, how much attention does the federal government pay to these kinds of places?

	Freq	%
(1) Much more than other places	30	3.43
(2) Somewhat more than other places	141	16.11
(3) About the same as other places	271	30.97
(4) Somewhat less than other places	174	19.89
(5) Much less than other places	204	23.31
(9) Don't know	55	6.29
Total	875	100.00

Electoral Reform

franchise_1 Long-term residents who are not Canadian citizens should be allowed to vote in municipal elections.

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly disagree	238	27.14
(2) Somewhat disagree	153	17.45
(3) Somewhat agree	217	24.74
(4) Strongly agree	250	28.51
(9) Don't know	19	2.17
Total	877	100.00

franchise_2 Long-term residents who are not Canadian citizens should be allowed to vote in federal elections.

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly disagree	342	39.00
(2) Somewhat disagree	201	22.92
(3) Somewhat agree	174	19.84
(4) Strongly agree	138	15.74
(9) Don't know	22	2.51
Total	877	100.00

familiar_fptp How familiar are you with each of the following electoral systems? Plurality / First-Past-the-Post

	Freq	%
(1) Not at all familiar	130	14.93
(2) Somewhat familiar	210	24.11
(3) Very familiar	273	31.34
(4) Extremely familiar	258	29.62
Total	871	100.00

familiar_ranked How familiar are you with each of the following electoral systems? Ranked ballot / Alternative vote

	Freq	%
(1) Not at all familiar	226	25.95
(2) Somewhat familiar	320	36.74
(3) Very familiar	221	25.37
(4) Extremely familiar	104	11.94
Total	871	100.00

familiar_stv How familiar are you with each of the following electoral systems? Single Transferable Vote

	Freq	%
(1) Not at all familiar	487	55.98
(2) Somewhat familiar	219	25.17
(3) Very familiar	101	11.61
(4) Extremely familiar	63	7.24
Total	870	100.00

switch_ranked We are interested in your views on hypothetical changes to local institutions and election processes in your municipality. Would you support or oppose these changes? Switching from first-past-the-post to alternative vote / ranked ballot?

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly oppose	127	21.17
(2) Somewhat oppose	132	22.00

	Freq	%
(3) Somewhat support	192	32.00
(4) Strongly support	100	16.67
(9) Don't know	49	8.17
Total	600	100.00

switch_stv We are interested in your views on hypothetical changes to local institutions and election processes in your municipality. Would you support or oppose these changes? Switching from first-past-the-post to single transferable vote?

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly oppose	84	24.07
(2) Somewhat oppose	85	24.36
(3) Somewhat support	81	23.21
(4) Strongly support	36	10.32
(9) Don't know	63	18.05
Total	349	100.00

switch_atlarge We are interested in your views on hypothetical changes to local institutions and election processes in your municipality. Would you support or oppose these changes? Switching from ward to at-large elections. [Note: this was an option for anyone who indicated that they were elected in a ward]

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly oppose	162	39.51
(2) Somewhat oppose	121	29.51
(3) Somewhat support	72	17.56
(4) Strongly support	32	7.80
(9) Don't know	23	5.61
Total	410	100.00

switch_ward We are interested in your views on hypothetical changes to local institutions and election processes in your municipality. Would you support or oppose these changes? Switching from at-large to ward elections. [Note: this was an option for anyone who indicated that they were elected at large]

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly oppose	166	36.09
(2) Somewhat oppose	121	26.30
(3) Somewhat support	82	17.83
(4) Strongly support	48	10.43
(9) Don't know	43	9.35
Total	460	100.00

switch_partisan We are interested in your views on hypothetical changes to local institutions and election processes in your municipality. Would you support or oppose these changes? Switching from non-partisan to partisan municipal elections. [Note: this was an option for anyone who indicated that they were elected in a partisan race]

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly oppose	498	72.07
(2) Somewhat oppose	111	16.06
(3) Somewhat support	32	4.63
(4) Strongly support	15	2.17
(9) Don't know	35	5.07
Total	691	100.00

switch_nonpartisan We are interested in your views on hypothetical changes to local institutions and election processes in your municipality. Would you support or oppose these changes? Switching from partisan to non-partisan municipal elections. [Note: this was an option for anyone who indicated that they were elected in a non-partisan race]

	Freq	%
(1) Strongly oppose	24	13.64
(2) Somewhat oppose	56	31.82
(3) Somewhat support	42	23.86
(4) Strongly support	24	13.64
(9) Don't know	30	17.05
Total	176	100.00

cons_reform_ranked We'd also like to know what you think the consequences of local institutional changes might be for your re-election prospects. Switching from first-past-the-post to alternative / ranked ballot?

	Freq	%
(1) Much harder to get re-elected	18	3.01
(2) Somewhat harder to get re-elected	79	13.21
(3) No effect on my re-election prospects	338	56.52
(4) Somewhat easier to get re-elected	41	6.86
Much easier to get re-elected	14	2.34
(9) Don't know	108	18.06
Total	598	100.00

cons_reform_stv We'd also like to know what you think the consequences of local institutional changes might be for your re-election prospects. Switching from first-past-the-post to alternative / ranked ballot?

	Freq	%
(1) Much harder to get re-elected	8	2.31
(2) Somewhat harder to get re-elected	39	11.24
(3) No effect on my re-election prospects	182	52.45
(4) Somewhat easier to get re-elected	20	5.76
Much easier to get re-elected	8	2.31
(9) Don't know	90	25.94
Total	347	100.00

cons_reform_atlarge We'd also like to know what you think the consequences of local institutional changes might be for your re-election prospects. Switching from ward to at-large council elections.

	Freq	%
(1) Much harder to get re-elected	63	15.37
(2) Somewhat harder to get re-elected	114	27.80
(3) No effect on my re-election prospects	109	26.59
(4) Somewhat easier to get re-elected	42	10.24
Much easier to get re-elected	27	6.59
(9) Don't know	55	13.41
Total	410	100.00

cons_reform_ward We'd also like to know what you think the consequences of local institutional changes might be for your re-election prospects. Switching from at-large to ward elections.

	Freq	%
(1) Much harder to get re-elected	19	4.17
(2) Somewhat harder to get re-elected	71	15.57
(3) No effect on my re-election prospects	208	45.61
(4) Somewhat easier to get re-elected	49	10.75
Much easier to get re-elected	35	7.68
(9) Don't know	74	16.23
Total	456	100.00

cons_reform_partisan We'd also like to know what you think the consequences of local institutional changes might be for your re-election prospects. Switching from non-partisan to partisan municipal elections.

	Freq	%
(1) Much harder to get re-elected	101	14.66
(2) Somewhat harder to get re-elected	137	19.88
(3) No effect on my re-election prospects	222	32.22
(4) Somewhat easier to get re-elected	42	6.10
Much easier to get re-elected	21	3.05
(9) Don't know	166	24.09
Total	689	100.00

cons_reform_nonpartisan We'd also like to know what you think the consequences of local institutional changes might be for your re-election prospects. Switching from partisan to non-partisan municipal elections.

	Freq	%
(1) Much harder to get re-elected	18	10.29
(2) Somewhat harder to get re-elected	39	22.29
(3) No effect on my re-election prospects	60	34.29
(4) Somewhat easier to get re-elected	13	7.43
Much easier to get re-elected	7	4.00
(9) Don't know	38	21.71

	Freq	%
Total	175	100.00

Party Involvement in Municipal Elections

provincialparty Are you currently a member of a provincial party?

	Freq	%
(1) No	549	63.03
(2) Yes	313	35.94
(9) Don't know	9	1.03
Total	871	100.00

federalparty Are you currently a member of a federal party?

	Freq	%
(1) No	592	67.97
(2) Yes	270	31.00
(9) Don't know	9	1.03
Total	871	100.00

partysupport In elections in your municipality, do candidates get formal or informal support from provincial or federal parties in any of the following ways? Please select all that apply.

Voters list or members lists from parties

	Freq	%
Not Selected	803	92.41
Selected	66	7.59
Total	869	100.00

Donor lists from parties

	Freq	%
Not Selected	821	94.48
Selected	48	5.52
Total	869	100.00

Volunteer lists from parties

	Freq	%
Not Selected	800	92.06
Selected	69	7.94
Total	869	100.00

Public endorsement from parties

	Freq	%
Not Selected	814	93.67
Selected	55	6.33
Total	869	100.00

Campaign support from parties (e.g. web design, graphic design)

	Freq	%
Not Selected	834	95.97
Selected	35	4.03
Total	869	100.00

Other

	Freq	%
Not Selected	823	94.71
Selected	46	5.29
Total	869	100.00

None of the above

	Freq	%
Not Selected	251	28.88
Selected	618	71.12
Total	869	100.00

Don't know

	Freq	%
Not Selected	755	86.88
Selected	114	13.12
Total	869	100.00

support_personal When running for municipal office, have you personally received formal or informal support from provincial or federal parties in any of the following ways? Please select all that apply.

Voters list or members lists from parties

	Freq	%
Not Selected	854	98.39
Selected	14	1.61
Total	868	100.00

Donor lists from parties

	Freq	%
Not Selected	857	98.73
Selected	11	1.27
Total	868	100.00

Volunteer lists from parties

	Freq	%
Not Selected	850	97.93
Selected	18	2.07
Total	868	100.00

Public endorsement from parties

	Freq	%
Not Selected	847	97.58
Selected	21	2.42
Total	868	100.00

Campaign support from parties (e.g. web design, graphic design)

	Freq	%
Not Selected	855	98.50
Selected	13	1.50
Total	868	100.00

Other

	Freq	%
Not Selected	845	97.35
Selected	23	2.65
Total	868	100.00

None of the above

	Freq	%
Not Selected	90	10.37
Selected	778	89.63
Total	868	100.00

Don't know

	Freq	%
Not Selected	854	98.39
Selected	14	1.61
Total	868	100.00

Progressive Ambition

appeal_mayor If you could no longer be in your current position, how appealing would each of the following positions be? Municipal mayor/reeve

	Freq	%
(1) Very unappealing	136	18.50
(2) Somewhat Unappealing	194	26.39
(3) Somewhat appealing	250	34.01
(4) Very appealing	130	17.69
(9) Don't know	25	3.40
Total	735	100.00

appeal_councillor If you could no longer be in your current position, how appealing would each of the following positions be? Municipal councillor

	Freq	%
(1) Very unappealing	40	23.53
(2) Somewhat Unappealing	45	26.47
(3) Somewhat appealing	59	34.71
(4) Very appealing	17	10.00
(9) Don't know	9	5.29
Total	170	100.00

appeal_mla If you could no longer be in your current position, how appealing would each of the following positions be? MLA / MPP / MNA

	Freq	%
(1) Very unappealing	217	24.89
(2) Somewhat Unappealing	247	28.33
(3) Somewhat appealing	241	27.64
(4) Very appealing	137	15.71
(9) Don't know	30	3.44
Total	872	100.00

appeal_mp If you could no longer be in your current position, how appealing would each of the following positions be? MP

	Freq	%
(1) Very unappealing	286	32.80
(2) Somewhat Unappealing	241	27.64
(3) Somewhat appealing	203	23.28

	Freq	%
(4) Very appealing	114	13.07
(9) Don't know	28	3.21
Total	872	100.00

run_prov What are the chances you would ever run for provincial office?

	Freq	%
(0) No Chance	296	34.02
(1)	72	8.28
(2)	82	9.43
(3)	68	7.82
(4)	65	7.47
(5) 50-50 Chance	165	18.97
(6)	34	3.91
(7)	30	3.45
(8)	26	2.99
(9)	9	1.03
(10) Certain to Run	23	2.64
Total	870	100.00

run_fed What are the chances you would ever run for federal office?

	Freq	%
(0) No Chance	383	44.02
(1)	93	10.69
(2)	85	9.77
(3)	72	8.28
(4)	45	5.17
(5) 50-50 Chance	103	11.84
(6)	19	2.18
(7)	30	3.45
(8)	22	2.53
(9)	8	0.92
(10) Certain to Run	10	1.15
Total	870	100.00

Ideology

ideology In politics people sometimes talk of left and right. Where would you place yourself on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means left and 10 means right?

	Freq	%
(0) Left	15	1.73
(1)	29	3.35
(2)	51	5.89
(3)	118	13.63
(4)	124	14.32
(5)	200	23.09

	Freq	%
(6)	133	15.36
(7)	91	10.51
(8)	49	5.66
(9)	13	1.50
(10) Right	17	1.96
(99) Don't Know	26	3.00
Total	866	100.00

ideology_ward Using the same scale, where would you place the average resident in your ward?

	Freq	%
(0) Left	3	0.74
(1)	0	0.00
(2)	4	0.99
(3)	16	3.94
(4)	51	12.56
(5)	111	27.34
(6)	83	20.44
(7)	80	19.70
(8)	29	7.14
(9)	5	1.23
(10) Right	5	1.23
(99) Don't Know	19	4.68
Total	406	100.00

ideology_resident Using the same scale, where would you place the average resident in your municipality?

	Freq	%
(0) Left	2	0.23
(1)	3	0.35
(2)	12	1.39
(3)	31	3.58
(4)	117	13.53
(5)	206	23.82
(6)	181	20.92
(7)	181	20.92
(8)	77	8.90
(9)	14	1.62
(10) Right	7	0.81
(99) Don't Know	34	3.93
Total	865	100.00

ideology_council Using the same scale, where would you place your municipal council?

	Freq	%
(0) Left	3	0.35
(1)	9	1.04

	Freq	%
(2)	24	2.77
(3)	78	9.02
(4)	148	17.11
(5)	221	25.55
(6)	164	18.96
(7)	125	14.45
(8)	44	5.09
(9)	9	1.04
(10) Right	2	0.23
(99) Don't Know	38	4.39
Total	865	100.00

ideology_premier Using the same scale, where would you place your current provincial Premier?

	Freq	%
(0) Left	9	1.04
(1)	14	1.62
(2)	21	2.43
(3)	32	3.70
(4)	60	6.94
(5)	63	7.29
(6)	91	10.53
(7)	160	18.52
(8)	151	17.48
(9)	100	11.57
(10) Right	120	13.89
(99) Don't Know	43	4.98
Total	864	100.00

ideology_pm Using the same scale, where would you place the current Prime Minister?

	Freq	%
(0) Left	81	9.39
(1)	64	7.42
(2)	88	10.20
(3)	115	13.33
(4)	124	14.37
(5)	147	17.03
(6)	83	9.62
(7)	60	6.95
(8)	31	3.59
(9)	9	1.04
(10) Right	15	1.74
(99) Don't Know	46	5.33
Total	863	100.00

Partisanship and Demographics

partisanship Provincial and federal party identification.

gender Are you:

	Freq	%
(0) Male	487	56.17
(1) Female	319	36.79
(8) My gender identity is [open text box]	45	5.19
(9) Prefer not to say	16	1.85
Total	867	100.00

yob In what year were you born?

education What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

	Freq	%
(1) Did not complete high school	10	1.15
(2) Completed high school	45	5.19
(3) Some postsecondary (no diploma/degree)	106	12.23
(4) Completed technical / community college	177	20.42
(5) Bachelor's degree	277	31.95
(6) Master's degree	159	18.34
(7) Professional degree or doctorate	65	7.50
(9) Prefer not to answer	28	3.23
Total	867	100.00

children Do you have children?

	Freq	%
(1) No	131	15.11
(2) Yes	729	84.08
(9) Prefer not to answer	7	0.81
Total	867	100.00

race Thinking about your background, do you consider yourself:

	Freq	%
(1) White	770	89.22
(2) South Asian (e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)	5	0.58
(3) Chinese	6	0.70
(4) Black	19	2.20
(5) Filipino	1	0.12
(6) Latin American	5	0.58
(7) Arab	3	0.35
(9) Southeast Asian (e.g. Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian, etc.)	0	0.00
(10) West Asian (e.g. Iranian, Afghan, etc.)	1	0.12

	Freq	%
(11) Korean	1	0.12
(12) Japanese	0	0.00
(13) Indigenous (Inuit, Métis, First Nations	9	1.04
(14) Other	43	4.98
Total	863	100.00

Technical Detail and Breakdowns

The CMB 2022 survey received 867 complete responses, along with 107 responses to our survey of provincial and federal politicians. This represents a response rate of 23% for the survey of municipal politicians and 10% for the survey of provincial and federal politicians. We received at least one response from 91% of the municipalities in the Canadian Municipal Barometer study.

Breakdown: Province

This table compares the proportion of our population from each province to the proportion of our completed responses by each province. In the “difference” column, negative numbers indicate under-representation in our sample relative to the population, and positive numbers indicate over-representation in our sample relative to the population.

Table 126: Provincial Representativeness: Population and Sample

Province	Population	Sample	Difference
AB	0.09	0.11	0.02
BC	0.12	0.09	-0.03
MB	0.03	0.02	-0.01
NB	0.03	0.03	0.00
NL	0.01	0.01	0.00
NS	0.03	0.03	0.00
NWT	0.00	0.00	0.00
ON	0.36	0.32	-0.04
PEI	0.01	0.00	0.00
QC	0.29	0.35	0.05
SK	0.02	0.03	0.00
YT	0.00	0.00	0.00

Breakdown: Gender

This table compares the proportion of women in the sample to the proportion in the survey population. In the “difference” column, negative numbers indicate under-representation in our sample relative to the population, and positive numbers indicate over-representation in our sample relative to the population.

Table 127: Gender Representativeness: Population and Sample

Gender	Population	Sample	Difference
F	0.35	0.41	0.07
M	0.65	0.59	-0.07

Breakdown: Municipal Population Size

This table compares the proportion of politicians in our overall population by each municipal population category, along with their proportion in our sample. In the “difference” column, negative numbers indicate under-representation in our sample relative to the population, and positive numbers indicate over-representation in our sample relative to the population.

Table 128: Population Representativeness: Population and Sample

Pop. Cat.	Population	Sample	Difference	popcat
1	0.30	0.26	-0.05	<15,000
2	0.21	0.19	-0.02	15,000 - 25,000
3	0.16	0.15	-0.01	25,000-50,000
4	0.12	0.12	0.00	50,000-100,000
5	0.14	0.15	0.01	100,000-500,000
6	0.07	0.08	0.01	500,000 +