

October 19, 2004

Verification of *It's Your Future* survey results ...

Close to 300,000 responses were received to the Alberta government's *It's Your Future* survey with submissions still coming in. As of October 14, 2004, 258,256 surveys had been analyzed.

The survey is accurate 99 times out of 100, plus or minus one percent. This is more accurate than a traditional sample survey. To ensure the validity of all survey responses, each submission was reviewed by hand to check for multiple response patterns and to ensure validity of sections one and two prior to scanning and keypunching.

The mail-in responses (144,000+) were hand-checked for batch submissions with identical markings and responses. Consecutive, multiple submissions with identical response patterns and markings were removed, allowing only two responses to be counted from the group.

For Internet submissions (114,000+), multiple responses from the same IP address were checked for time and frequency of submission and variability in response answers. Where response patterns were identical for a single IP, and submission time was consecutive and displayed only at marginal intervals between submissions, only two responses were allowed. This precaution was undertaken to eliminate any invalid mass submissions that could potentially skew survey results. In addition, any non-Alberta IP addresses, where identifiable, were removed.

As the number of responses received via the Internet accounts for approximately 40 per cent of the total response rate, the Internet component was analyzed separately to determine if any significant variation was apparent from the mean response before inclusion into the general results. No significant variation was evident.

Out of the total responses received from all sources, 310 responses were removed from paper survey form submissions and 478 were removed from the Internet submissions, for a total of 788, 0.3 per cent. Reasons for removing responses included multiple submissions over two from the same source, out of province submissions and blank submissions. Every survey returned was considered a response. As some people chose not to respond to some or all questions contained in the survey, not all of the questions had the same frequency of response in the analysis.

- 30 -

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