

LISTENING TO CANADIANS

National Public Service Week

Department of Finance's Survey
conducted at the June 16, 1998 day event
Valuing Our People



**National Public Service Week: “Listening To Canadians” Program
Survey Date: June 16, 1998**

Question Number 1

Language

Answer	Count	%
1 English	417	68.0
2 Français	196	32.0
	613	100.0

Question Number 2

How do you think the economy will perform over the next few years?

Answer	Count	%
1 Same as Now	188	30.7
2 Better	319	52.0
3 Worse	106	17.3
	613	100.0

Question Number 3

What do you think will be the “three” most important factors to sustain employment and economic growth?

Number of Respondents: 613

Ranked Order

Answer	Responses	%
Training & Education	336	54.8
Lower Taxes	278	45.4
Keep Interest Rates Low	257	41.9
Give Tax Breaks To Small Business	239	39.0
Implement Direct Job Creation	201	32.8
Increase Spending On Technology	177	28.9
Launch New Infrastructure Programs	102	16.6
Increase Government Spending Generally	60	9.8
	1650	

Question Number 4

What about the federal government’s financial situation?

Do you think it will:

Answer	Count	%
1 Get Better	312	50.9
2 Get Worse	85	13.9
3 Stay Same	216	35.2
	613	100.0

Question Number 5

What is the most important thing the federal government should do with any future surpluses?

	Answer	Count	%
1	Pay Down the National Debt	259	42.3
2	Cut Taxes	198	32.4
3	Targeted Spending on Social or Economic Priorities	155	25.3
		612	100.0

Question Number 6

What should the priority be for lowering taxes?

	Answer	Count	%
1	Personal Income Taxes	153	77.7
2	Corporate Income Taxes	8	4.1
3	The Goods and Services Tax (GST)	26	13.2
4	Employment Insurance Premiums	10	5.1
		197	100.0

Question Number 7

What should be the priority for increased spending?

	Answer	Count	%
1	Health Care	72	46.5
2	Technology	5	3.2
3	Environment	11	7.1
4	Transfer Payments to Provinces	6	3.9
5	Child Poverty	32	20.6
6	Education	29	18.7
		155	100.0

Question Number 8

The job of the public servants is to serve Canadians. What you do think should be done to help us serve Canadians better?

	Answer	Count	%
1	Eliminate Administrative Rigidities	130	21.3
2	Improve the Design of Programs and Services	77	12.6
3	Improve Public Servants' Pay and Benefits	137	22.5
4	Have Fewer Executives in the Public Service	44	7.2
5	Improve the Quality of Leadership in the Public Sector	102	16.7
6	Increase the Federal Government's Regional Presence Outside Ottawa	35	5.7
7	Increase Interchange Programs With Business, Academic & Scientific Communities	84	13.8
		609	100.0

Question Number 9

The Department of Finance’s mandate includes a wide range of specific responsibilities.

Which of the following “do not” fall within its mandate?

Number of Respondents: 603

Ranked Order

Answer	Responses	%
* Managing the Production of Paper Money and Coins	287	47.6
* Collection Taxes & Tariff	240	39.8
* Setting Interest Rates	225	37.3
* Negotiating International Trade Agreements	195	32.3
* Approving Departmental Budgets	157	26.0
Screening Foreign Investment in Canada	147	24.4
Administering Major Federal Transfers to Provinces & Territories	85	14.1
Preparing Tax & Tariff Legislation	84	13.9
Preparing Federal Budgets	60	10.0
Managing Federal Government Borrowing on Financial Markets	56	9.3
Representing Canada in International Financial Institutions	52	8.6
Developing Regulatory Policy for the Financial Sector	48	8.0
	1636	

* correct answer

Question Number 10

The Department of Finance is primarily responsible for providing the government with analysis and advice on Canada's broad economic and financial affairs.

How many people do you think work at Finance?

	Answer	Count	%
1	300	65	10.8
2	700	149	24.7
3	1500	186	30.8
4	4000	138	22.9
5	5000	65	10.8
		603	100.0

* The Department's full time equivalent is 706.

Question Number 11

Are you a federal public servant?

	Answer	Count	%
1	YES	557	92.4
2	NO	46	7.6
		603	100.0

Question Number 12

How long have you been a federal public servant?

	Answer	Count	%
1	5 YRS OR LESS	119	21.4
2	6-10 YRS	104	18.7
3	11-15 YRS	73	13.1
4	16-20 YRS	115	20.6
5	21 YRS OR MORE	146	26.2
		557	100.0