

News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local employment outlook surpasses low-level radioactive waste as the top issue for Port Hope residents, public attitude survey finds.

PORT HOPE, ONTARIO – A random public attitude telephone survey conducted in mid-November 2006 indicates that over 80% of Port Hope residents are aware of the Port Hope Area Initiative. Yet 78% “never” or “not very often” think about living in a community dealing with radioactive waste management problems. The survey found the top issue on the minds of Port Hope respondents to be “unemployment and the lack of economic growth.” In four previous surveys, issues related to low-level radioactive waste were the most frequently mentioned important issue facing the community.

Port Hope residents continue to have a good level of confidence in the PHAI. Three-quarters (73%) are at least “somewhat” confident that the waste can be safely managed at the recommended facility for the long term, with the proportion who are “very confident” at its highest level to-date.

IntelliPulse, a public affairs and marketing research firm, engaged by the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office (LLRWMO), polled 351 people in Port Hope (251 in Ward 1 and 100 in Ward 2) in mid-November 2006. This was the fifth annual survey conducted for the Port Hope Area Initiative.

The LLRWMO continued to receive positive assessments regarding its public communications efforts, with about two-thirds of the respondents providing a “very good” or “good” assessment of the manner in which the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office is addressing questions about its activities. Respondents are satisfied with accessibility of the information about the Port Hope project (85%) and the manner in which they were able to provide input into the environmental assessment studies.

Seven-in-ten respondents (71%) support the recommendations of the municipality's citizen advisory committee that both active and passive recreational uses should be provided at the storage site. One-fifth (21%) are opposed to the recommendations. The survey did not pursue reasons for this opposition, but correlation analysis indicates that these are people who have less confidence that the waste can be safely managed at the recommended facility over the long term.

Results of five rounds (2002-2006) of public attitude surveys can be reviewed at the Project Information Exchange at 196 Toronto Road (west side, near 401) in Port Hope. From 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday visitors can drop in, discuss their views and pick up information on the Port Hope Area Initiative.

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For further information:

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