

News

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People like living in Port Hope and are confident in the handling of historic radioactive waste, attitude survey finds

PORT HOPE, ONTARIO – The people of Port Hope are, for the most part, confident that low-level radioactive waste issues in the community are being properly addressed. In late October 2007, the 6th annual public attitude survey was conducted for the Port Hope Area Initiative. The 15-minute survey polled 350 people in Port Hope (250 in Ward 1 and 100 in Ward 2) to find out how knowledgeable residents are about the project to manage the historic low-level radioactive waste and if they are confident it can be done safely. Survey results in October 2007 are similar to findings of the survey conducted in November 2006. This year three out of four people expressed confidence that the waste can be safely managed at the recommended facility – rising from 72% in 2006 to 75% in 2007.

Over 70% of people who responded never or not very often think about low-level radioactive waste in the community. Awareness of the Port Hope Area Initiative is high (86%) and over 80% are satisfied with accessibility of information from the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office. This is the sixth annual random telephone survey in the Municipality of Port Hope conducted by the independent research firm Intellipulse Inc. seeking public attitudes about the Port Hope Long-Term Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Project.

Over 90% of Port Hope residents are satisfied with living in their community and 78% claim to know about low level radioactive waste in the area. An issue related to “radioactive waste” was volunteered by 27% of the respondents when asked about the most important issue facing the community. The “radioactive waste” issues mentioned included radiation/radioactivity, relocation of the waste and groups or people complaining about the waste. Support for Municipal advisory committee recommendations regarding active and passive recreational use of the completed long-term waste management facility stands at 65%.

Results of all six rounds of public attitude surveys can be reviewed at the Project Information Exchange at 196 Toronto Road in Port Hope. During business hours, Monday to Friday, visitors can drop in, discuss their views and pick up information on the Port Hope Area Initiative.

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