

2011-2012 Pre-Budget Consultation Questionnaire - Summary of Responses

Total number of respondents	2,957
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Q1. What should be the government's top priorities for 2011-2012?		
Total responses to Q1	8,048	100.0%
Health care	1,815	22.6%
Senior and home care	722	9.0%
Social services	411	5.1%
K-12 education	1,256	15.6%
Universities and community colleges	464	5.8%
Economic development and job growth	1,199	14.9%
Local government	141	1.8%
Public infrastructure	682	8.5%
Environment	466	5.8%
Energy and NB Power	547	6.8%
Other	345	4.3%

Q2. Best way to balance budget and reduce net debt		
Total responses to Q2	2,957	100.0%
Reduce spending/programs	1,270	42.9%
Increase taxes, fees, other revenue	320	10.8%
Both reduce spending and increase taxes	1,367	46.2%

Q3 (pt1). Reductions to public service programs and services		
Total responses to Q3 (pt1)	12,661	100.0%
Reduce health care spending	530	4.2%
Reduce senior and home care spending	278	2.2%
Reduce other social services spending	751	5.9%
Reduce K-12 education spending	371	2.9%
Reduce operating grants to universities and colleges	817	6.5%
Reduce costs by regionalizing services	1,634	12.9%
Reduce capital spending on roads and buildings	840	6.6%
Reduce funding for local government	735	5.8%
Reduce grants and loans to business	1,678	13.3%
Reduce funding for regional economic development	708	5.6%
Reduce overall size of government	2,007	15.9%
Control salaries, wages and benefits	1,595	12.6%
Other	717	5.7%

Q3 (pt2). Increasing revenues to pay for services

Total responses to Q3 (pt2)	11,413	100.0%
Increase Personal Income Tax (PIT)	439	3.8%
Increase Corporate Income Tax (CIT)	1,474	12.9%
Increase gasoline and diesel tax	660	5.8%
Increase provincial property tax	138	1.2%
Increase tobacco tax	2,302	20.2%
Increase beer, liquor and wine prices	1,814	15.9%
Increase fees/permits/licences	744	6.5%
Increase natural resource royalties	1,401	12.3%
Introduce highway tolls in strategic areas	1,884	16.5%
Other	557	4.9%

Q3 (pt3). Evaluating the sale of government assets

Total responses to Q3 (pt3)	5,912	100.0%
NB Liquor	1,087	18.4%
Algonquin Hotel	1,890	32.0%
Larry's Gulch fishing lodge	1,890	32.0%
Provincial parks, recreation facilities, tourist destinations	486	8.2%
Other	559	9.5%

Q4. Return to balanced budgets

Total responses to Q4	2,957	100.0%
Over four-year term	1,216	41.1%
Over shorter term (1-3 years)	488	16.5%
Over longer term (5+ years)	1,253	42.4%

Q5 (pt1). Do you feel New Brunswick health care system is one of the best in North America?

Total responses to Q5 (pt1)	2,847	100.0%
Yes	1,064	37.4%
No	1,783	62.6%

Q5 (pt2). To prioritize health spending and strengthen system, which do you support?

Total responses to Q5 (pt2)	9,277	100.0%
Reduce costs by regionalizing services	1,436	15.5%
Reduce number of hospitals/health care facilities	714	7.7%
Reform Prescription Drug Program	882	9.5%
Reduce overall size of health care system	782	8.4%
Control salaries, wages, benefits and fees-for-services	1,366	14.7%
Streamline health administration	2,130	23.0%
Reduce/eliminate other programs to fund health & senior care	476	5.1%
Increase revenues to pay for health and senior care	743	8.0%
Other	748	8.1%

Q6 (pt1). Do you feel New Brunswick education system ensures children receive a quality education?

Total responses to Q6 (pt1)	2,840	100.0%
Yes	1,161	40.9%
No	1,679	59.1%

Q6 (pt2). To prioritize education spending and strengthen system, which do you support?

Total responses to Q6 (pt2)	10,854	100.0%
Reduce costs by regionalizing services	1,231	11.3%
Reduce number of K-12 schools	819	7.5%
Increase class size	589	5.4%
Re-examine curriculum	1,484	13.7%
Reduce overall size of K-12 education system	524	4.8%
Control salaries, wages and benefits	1,199	11.0%
Reduce number of school districts	1,223	11.3%
Streamline education administration	2,097	19.3%
Reduce/eliminate other programs to fund K-12 education	450	4.1%
Increase revenues to pay for K-12 education	638	5.9%
Other	600	5.5%