

## Survey Results: Rural Ontario Priorities for the Federal Election

Concerns	1 Highest Priority	2	3	4	5 Lowest Priority	N/A Doesn't require any attention	Response Count	WEIGHTED VALUE: RANKING
Access to quality medical services nearby	165	146	63	13	3	4	394	1627
Services for aging population: aging in place/home care/housing	150	162	61	14	7	1	395	1616
Water quality in lakes, streams, rivers	170	134	60	19	4	2	389	1608
Financing for infrastructure (local sewer/water and roads)	155	138	75	20	2	1	391	1594
Youth employment/underemployment	131	145	92	17	2	2	389	1547
Poverty and income disparity	147	117	78	33	12	5	392	1515
Municipal financial stability (intergovernmental transfers and/or	122	137	96	25	7	1	388	1503
Food security	138	119	86	28	14	2	387	1494
Farmland loss/protection	122	129	105	18	12	3	389	1489
Water quantity/supply for drinking, irrigation	130	125	84	37	8	3	387	1484
Developing local food systems	125	131	90	23	13	7	389	1478
Labour force development - workforce skills shortages	104	146	98	37	3	1	389	1475
Improved broadband services - higher speed, wider access	134	112	85	35	17	3	386	1460
Housing affordability	118	118	102	37	13	5	393	1455
Youth out-migration/retention	104	134	95	40	13	3	389	1434
Access to post-secondary education/training	89	152	100	31	11	5	388	1426
Business support - access to capital, incubators, succession,	94	135	107	38	8	8	390	1415
Protecting parks and wilderness	94	130	108	41	11	4	388	1407
Improving public transportation services	109	115	100	38	20	8	390	1401
Intergovernmental transfers for health care	79	141	122	30	11	4	387	1396
Health promotion, active living and availability of recreational	86	119	121	42	14	8	390	1367
Support for primary industries e.g. mining, farming, forestry	86	128	101	45	19	8	387	1354
Addictions and/or mental illness	79	120	119	52	16	3	389	1352
Climate change - adaptation	105	114	92	32	30	17	390	1351
Climate change - fossil fuel reduction	118	95	86	44	30	16	389	1346
Movement of goods: investment in rail, harbours, airports, highway	70	135	117	43	18	5	388	1345
Availability of community data (e.g. census or labour force survey)	98	102	98	51	27	10	386	1321
First Nations - improved education, health and social services	109	99	81	50	34	13	386	1318
Access to childcare	73	116	119	51	25	8	392	1313
Performance of key sectors - e.g. manufacturing sector	64	121	123	47	23	6	384	1290
Managing lake levels - Great Lakes agreements	73	112	118	49	21	9	382	1286
Renewable energy production - e.g. wind, solar	80	108	111	38	42	14	393	1283

Resource management policies - e.g fracking, tax credits	69	108	123	54	26	5	385	1280
Species at risk/loss of biodiversity	70	103	110	65	27	8	383	1249
Tourism promotion	52	107	140	53	28	10	390	1242
Newcomer attraction/retention	68	89	129	60	33	8	387	1236
Volunteerism/civic engagement, capacity of non-profits	69	94	119	64	23	14	383	1229
Invasive species	45	124	118	59	32	5	383	1225
Protection of ag. supply management in trade negotiations	63	115	93	62	44	5	382	1222
Regulatory burden on the private sector	71	94	98	69	43	11	386	1206
Nuclear energy and waste disposal	69	75	112	80	37	11	384	1178
Electoral reform	75	69	82	76	61	27	390	1110
Success of international/inter-provincial trade deals	28	78	142	88	39	12	387	1093
Crime - law enforcement	31	69	134	90	51	12	387	1064
Other - please explain below...	47	5	1	1	4	33	91	264

This table presents the responses to the following question and is sorted according to a weighted ranking where the responses were assigned values from 5 down to 1 from highest priority to lowest priority. "A range of concerns are listed below crossing a spectrum of economic, environmental and social matters. On a scale of 1 to 5 rank each concern regarding how much of a priority this matter should have with respect to the rural communities you are most familiar with. A ranking of 1 signifies you believe it is of the highest priority and a ranking of 5 suggests it is currently a relatively low priority. Select N/A if you believe the matter is not a concern that currently needs attention."

*NOTE: This survey was conducted between July 13 and 24 2015. An on-line link was distributed to Rural Ontario Institute subscribers and redistribution was encouraged. In total 403 responses were received. This is a non-scientific sample from a set of self-selected engaged stakeholders and therefore does not necessarily accurately reflect the priorities of the rural Ontario population as a whole. More information on the geographic breakdown and sectoral affiliation of respondents is available from the Rural Ontario Institute. [info@ruralontarioinstitute.ca](mailto:info@ruralontarioinstitute.ca)*