

RESULTS OF MLA QUESTIONNAIRE

- 1) The rules of the House are too formal. We shouldn't worry about whether it's time for question period or time for estimates, we should just talk about the issues that are important to the people.

4 Agree strongly
 5 Agree somewhat
 5 Disagree somewhat
 10 Disagree strongly

- 2) Although there are important social divisions in the NWT, when you get down to fundamentals, all Northerners face pretty much the same problems and need pretty much the same things from government.

8 Agree strongly
 8 Agree somewhat
 6 Disagree somewhat
 2 Disagree strongly

- 3) Many questions asked of ministers in Question Period are too critical and too hostile; MLAs should be more respectful of ministers.

0 Agree strongly
 4 Agree somewhat
 11 Disagree somewhat
 9 Disagree strongly

- 4) In order that the Legislature truly work on the basis of consensus, more than a bare majority of votes (perhaps two-thirds or three-quarters) should be required to pass a bill or a motion.

5 Agree strongly
 7 Agree somewhat
 7 Disagree somewhat
 5 Disagree strongly

- 5) When it comes to government funding or services, MLAs think too much about their own ridings, and don't consider whether other members' ridings need the services more.

8 Agree strongly
 7 Agree somewhat
 6 Disagree somewhat
 3 Disagree strongly

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- 6) As long as an MLA works fairly hard and avoids serious mistakes or scandals, he or she is pretty well assured of being re-elected.

6 Agree strongly
10 Agree somewhat
6 Disagree somewhat
2 Disagree strongly

- 7) Too many of the important decisions made by the Legislature are really settled in private; these things should be decided more openly so that the public knows what's going on.

8 Agree strongly
8 Agree somewhat
5 Disagree somewhat
3 Disagree strongly

- 8) Even though the ordinary members outnumber the cabinet, they are usually too disorganized or too divided among themselves to be able to make the cabinet change its mind.

5 Agree strongly
8 Agree somewhat
5 Disagree somewhat
6 Disagree strongly

- 9) Ajaqtit does pretty much what an opposition does in other Canadian legislatures.

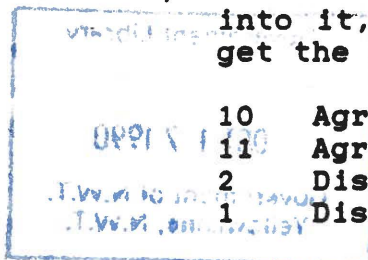
4 Agree strongly
8 Agree somewhat
8 Disagree somewhat
4 Disagree strongly

- 10) The ridings of ministers get better services and more funding from government than the ridings of ordinary members.

7 Agree strongly
7 Agree somewhat
4 Disagree somewhat
6 Disagree strongly

- 11) If he or she has a reasonable case, and puts enough effort into it, it is not all that hard for an ordinary member to get the government to change a policy.

10 Agree strongly
11 Agree somewhat
2 Disagree somewhat
1 Disagree strongly





- 12) The Government of the Northwest Territories is far too concentrated in Yellowknife; many government operations and much of its staff could and should be moved out to the communities.
- 13 Agree strongly
7 Agree somewhat
3 Disagree somewhat
1 Disagree strongly
- 13) The Legislature should have the power to approve or reject government nominees for senior civil service positions (deputy minister or equivalent).
- 8 Agree strongly
0 Agree somewhat
6 Disagree somewhat
10 Disagree strongly
- 14) If an MLA is strongly critical of a minister in public (for example in Question Period), the minister will be less likely to give the MLA's riding a fair share of government services.
- 5 Agree strongly
7 Agree somewhat
9 Disagree somewhat
3 Disagree strongly
- 15) Whether it was the government or an ordinary member who had the idea for a policy change, it doesn't matter who gets the credit as long as its a change for the better.
- 12 Agree strongly
8 Agree somewhat
3 Disagree somewhat
2 Disagree strongly

- 16) The rules of the House favour the government over the ordinary members.
- 3 Agree strongly
8 Agree somewhat
7 Disagree somewhat
6 Disagree strongly
- 17) The ordinary members should stick together more so that they can put more pressure on the government.
- 13 Agree strongly
6 Agree somewhat
4 Disagree somewhat
1 Disagree strongly
- 18) On major issues which strongly affect one of the territories' principal cultural groups (Inuit, Dene-Metis, White), a majority of the MLAs of that group should have to agree to the decision, whether or not an overall majority of the House agrees.
- 10 Agree strongly
5 Agree somewhat
4 Disagree somewhat
5 Disagree strongly
- 19) Raising an issue publicly in the House is a more effective way of getting the government to act on it than trying to resolve it behind the scenes.
- 7 Agree strongly
9 Agree somewhat
5 Disagree somewhat
3 Disagree strongly
- 20) Whenever possible (and certainly much more often than now) local communities should be able to decide for themselves whether a law or regulation should apply to them.
- 10 Agree strongly
4 Agree somewhat
9 Disagree somewhat
1 Disagree strongly
- 21) The people should be directly consulted by referendums and plebiscites much more often than they are now.
- 7 Agree strongly
6 Agree somewhat
6 Disagree somewhat
5 Disagree strongly

- 22) Generally speaking, the views of ordinary members are considered very seriously by the government.
- 8 Agree strongly
 - 10 Agree somewhat
 - 6 Disagree somewhat
 - 0 Disagree strongly
- 23) The consensus system works well for routine matters of policy, but it doesn't work well at providing leadership on difficult, divisive issues because the government can retain the support of the House and stay in power only through compromises.
- 8 Agree strongly
 - 9 Agree somewhat
 - 2 Disagree somewhat
 - 4 Disagree strongly
- 24) It would not be practical for ordinary members to have more direct influence in running the government than they do now.
- 6 Agree strongly
 - 8 Agree somewhat
 - 2 Disagree somewhat
 - 8 Disagree strongly
- 25) Ministers pay more attention to their civil servants than to MLAs.
- 8 Agree strongly
 - 7 Agree somewhat
 - 4 Disagree somewhat
 - 5 Disagree strongly
- 26) Members of the Legislature prefer not to debate in the House issues which may be divisive but are of fundamental importance to the NWT (such as the creation of Nunavut, land claims, or constitutional development).
- 4 Agree strongly
 - 7 Agree somewhat
 - 7 Disagree somewhat
 - 6 Disagree strongly

- 27) During Question Period in legislatures in Southern Canada, members often try to embarrass ministers or to make them look bad, but our legislature shouldn't operate this way.
- 10 Agree strongly
 - 9 Agree somewhat
 - 4 Disagree somewhat
 - 1 Disagree strongly
- 28) The voters in each riding can only pass judgement on the record and the abilities of the local MLA; they have no opportunity to pass judgement on the record and the abilities of the cabinet. This is a serious flaw in our political system.
- 8 Agree strongly
 - 6 Agree somewhat
 - 4 Disagree somewhat
 - 6 Disagree strongly
- 29) Our system of consensus government and the British parliamentary system are fundamentally incompatible.
- 3 Agree strongly
 - 11 Agree somewhat
 - 4 Disagree somewhat
 - 6 Disagree strongly
- 30) In theory, the ordinary members have power over the government because of their ability to vote it out of office, but in reality it's extremely unlikely that members would bring down a government, since doing so would create a chaotic situation.
- 6 Agree strongly
 - 9 Agree somewhat
 - 4 Disagree somewhat
 - 5 Disagree strongly
- 31) Our Legislature would work a lot better if MLAs cooperated and helped each other more instead of attacking each other and attacking the government so much.
- 8 Agree strongly
 - 9 Agree somewhat
 - 5 Disagree somewhat
 - 2 Disagree strongly

32) When an MLA criticises a department's policy, it's really a personal criticism of the minister.

- 0 Agree strongly
- 3 Agree somewhat
- 7 Disagree somewhat
- 14 Disagree strongly

33) In situations where the rights or needs of an individual conflict with the rights or needs of the group to which the individual belongs, the group should almost always be favoured over the individual.

- 4 Agree strongly
- 12 Agree somewhat
- 6 Disagree somewhat
- 2 Disagree strongly

34) The different cultural groups in the NWT have such different political traditions and their political objectives are so different that any political system satisfactory to one is bound to be unsatisfactory to others. ("Political system" in this question means methods and institutions of governing rather than territorial division.)

- 8 Agree strongly
- 5 Agree somewhat
- 6 Disagree somewhat
- 5 Disagree strongly

Questions 35 and 36 were answered by ordinary members only.

35) On issues that affect only my riding, I am satisfied with my ability to influence government policy.

- 3 Agree strongly
- 7 Agree somewhat
- 5 Disagree somewhat
- 2 Disagree strongly

36) On issues of importance to the entire NWT, I am satisfied with my ability to influence government policy.

- 5 Agree strongly
- 9 Agree somewhat
- 2 Disagree somewhat
- 1 Disagree strongly

- 37) How often do the speeches made in the House affect the outcome of issues?
- 6 fairly often
 - 12 occasionally
 - 6 not very often
- 38) If a group was trying to make a decision on an important issue, and had discussed it thoroughly, with everyone having had an opportunity to express a view, but it was unable to agree on what to do, would it be better
- 8 for the leaders of the group to decide, using their best judgment
 - 15 for the group to keep discussing the question in an attempt to reach a solution that the whole group accepts
- 39) Assuming that the House will continue to sit for about the same length of time that it now sits, should it
- 1 spend more time dealing with the specific problems of individual communities
 - 11 spend more time dealing with basic issues that affect the entire NWT
 - 12 keep the present balance between local and territorial issues
- 40) Over the past few years, would you say
- 6 the cabinet has been gaining power at the expense of the ordinary members
 - 11 the balance between the ordinary members and the cabinet hasn't changed very much
 - 7 the ordinary members have been gaining power at the expense of the cabinet

- 41) To understand how MLAs think and act, which is more important?
- 11 their individual characteristics and personalities
 - 13 the social and cultural groups to which they belong
- 42) On routine issues of government policy which come before the Legislature, would you say the government usually
- 2 just tries to get the support of 4 or 5 MLAs, so that it is assured of having a majority in the House for its policy
 - 12 tries to get the support of as many MLAs as possible, but doesn't work all that hard at it once it has enough MLAs to ensure a majority for its policy
 - 10 tries hard to get the support of all MLAs, even if it already has the support of enough MLAs to ensure a majority for its policy
- 43) On important issues of government policy which come before the Legislature, would you say the government usually
- 1 just tries to get the support of 4 or 5 MLAs, so that it is assured of having a majority in the House for its policy
 - 8 tries to get the support of as many MLAs as possible, but doesn't work all that hard at it once it has enough MLAs to ensure a majority for its policy
 - 15 tries hard to get the support of all MLAs, even if it already has the support of enough MLAs to ensure a majority for its policy
- 44) Which statement better describes the way caucus operates most of the time?
- 19 caucus is 24 individuals discussing problems and trying to find solutions
 - 4 caucus is a discussion between the cabinet and the ordinary members about government policy

- 45) If you and another MLA both wanted government funding for similar projects in your ridings, but the minister said that there was not enough money for both projects, would you most likely
- 6 try to convince the minister that your project should be funded rather than the other member's project
 - 3 agree to split the available money with the other member's project
 - 15 try to convince the minister to fund both projects by taking money from another part of the department's budget
- 46) Sometimes when MLAs support other MLAs' motions or proposals its not because they're good ideas but because by doing so they will gain support for their own projects. How often does this happen?
- 15 not very often
 - 8 fairly often
 - 1 all the time
- 47) What's more important in a leader?
- 10 the willingness to make a decision on a controversial issue if he or she believes its the right thing to do
 - 12 the ability to draw people together and reach agreement on contentious issues
- 48) How effective do you think the committees of the House are in influencing routine or detailed policy questions?
- 11 very effective
 - 10 moderately effective
 - 3 not very effective
- 49) How effective do you think the committees of the House are in influencing major policy questions?
- 10 very effective
 - 11 moderately effective
 - 3 not very effective

- 50) As an MLA, is it more important for you be involved in
- 10 decisions about funding of specific projects and about levels of service in government programmes
 - 13 decisions on the principles underlying major government policies
- 51) How often does it happen that MLAs agree to support government policies in return for having the government direct services or funding to the MLAs' constituencies?
- 8 never
 - 5 not very often
 - 9 now and then
 - 2 all the time
- 52) Do you want to have political parties in territorial politics?
- 5 yes
 - 19 no
- 53) Do you think that the Government Leader should be able to pick his own cabinet?
- 6 yes
 - 18 no
- 54) The Government Leader now has authority to dismiss a minister. Do you think that this power should only be used only in extreme circumstances, such as clear cases of wrongdoing or major errors, or should the Government Leader be able to remove a minister for any reason?
- 17 only in extreme circumstances
 - 7 any reason
- 55) Do you think the Government Leader should be able to request a dissolution or should this power be reserved for the Assembly?
- 7 Government Leader
 - 17 Legislative Assembly
- 56) Do you think that a minister should be able to publicly disagree with the government and remain a minister?
- 8 yes
 - 16 no