Provincial Opinion Study

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The views expressed herein are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Royal Commission on Renewing and Strengthening Our Place in Canada.
1.0 Executive Summary ................................................................. 389
1.1 Consultant’s Overview .......................................................... 389
1.2 Research Highlights .............................................................. 390

2.0 Key Findings By Area of Investigation ........................................ 397
2.1 Consider Yourself A Newfoundlander Or Labradorian Or A Canadian First ................................................................. 397
2.2 Value Most About Being Part Of Canada (Aided) .......................... 398
2.3 Most Significant Contribution Canada Has Made To Newfoundland And Labrador ................................................................. 400
2.4 Most Significant Contribution Newfoundland And Labrador Has Made To Canada ................................................................. 402
2.5 Dependency of Newfoundland And Labrador On The Federal Government ................................................................. 405
2.6 Areas On Which Some People Say This Province Depends On The Federal Government ................................................................. 406
  Transfer Payments to Our Provincial Government .............................................. 406
  Transfer Payments to People (Like EI) ............................................................. 408
  Transfer Payments to Businesses (Such as loans from ACOA) ......................... 409
2.7 Overall Satisfaction With Newfoundland And Labrador’s Place In Canada .................................................................................. 411
2.8 Reasons for Satisfaction or Dissatisfaction With This Province’s Place In Canada ................................................................. 413
2.9 Value Most About Being A Newfoundlander Or Labradorian Or Being Part Of This Province ................................................................. 416
2.10 This Province’s Greatest Strengths .................................................. 419
2.11 One Strength, Opportunity, Or Advantage This Province Should Focus on To Achieve Greater Prosperity .................................................. 421
2.12 This Province’s Greatest Weaknesses .................................................. 422
2.13 One Weakness Or Obstacle Need To Address To Achieve Greater Prosperity And Self-Reliance .................................................. 425
2.14 Perception of Whether Other Canadians Have Stereotypes About Newfoundlanders And Labradorians .................................................. 427
2.15 Most Common Stereotypes About Newfoundlanders And Labradorians .................................................. 428
2.16 Extent Feel That Newfoundland And Labrador Is Treated With Respect By The Federal Government .................................................. 431
2.17 Agree Or Disagree That Newfoundland And Labrador Is Often Ignored By The Federal Government .................................................. 433
2.18 Perception Of The Fairness Of The Distribution of Money By The Federal Government To The Provinces And Territories .................................................. 435
2.19 Perception of Whether Confederation Has Been A Good Thing For This Province .................................................. 436
2.20 Should Newfoundland And Labrador Leave Canada And Become An Independent Country ............................................................ 439
2.21 Think That The Federal Government Treats This Province As Part Of The Atlantic Region ............................................................ 440
2.22 Extent Feel Being Treated As Part Of The Atlantic Region Is In The Best Interest Of This Province ............................................................ 442
2.23 What Approach Should The Province Take In Dealing With The Federal Government In The Future ............................................................ 443
2.24 Leave The Upper Churchill Deal In The Past And Move On Or Province Continue To Seek Fair Share ............................................................ 445
2.25 Senate Be More Effective If Each Province And Territory Were Represented Equally ............................................................ 446
2.26 Perception of Whether The Federal Government Is Taking Steps To Rebuild Our Fishery ............................................................ 448
2.27 Who Is Most Responsible For Newfoundland And Labrador Achieving Prosperity In The Future ............................................................ 450
2.28 Extent Feel That The Aboriginal Peoples Within This Province Are Treated With Dignity And Respect ............................................................ 452
2.29 Extent Feel That Women Have Equal Status With Men Within This Province ............................................................ 454
2.30 Extent Feel That Labrador Is Treated Fairly By The Provincial Government ............................................................ 455
2.31 Support Governments Taking A Harder Line And Making Tough Decisions ............................................................ 457
2.32 People in Rural Communities Move Elsewhere To Find Work Or Should Governments Provide Assistance So That They Can Stay In Their Communities ............................................................ 459
2.33 Born In Newfoundland And Labrador ............................................................ 461

3.0 Research Objectives and Methodology ............................................................ 463
3.1 Overall Objectives ............................................................ 463
3.2 Research Methodology ............................................................ 463
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1.0 Executive Summary

This research was commissioned by the Royal Commission on Renewing and Strengthening our Place in Canada in April 2003 in order to assess public opinion in relation to certain views and opinions expressed to the Royal Commission during public consultations and other information gathering processes.

This research primarily investigated Newfoundlanders and Labradorians’ satisfaction with this province’s place in Canada as well as its relationship with the Federal Government. It also elicited input as to the strengths and weaknesses of this province that should be focussed on or addressed in order to achieve prosperity and self-reliance in the future.

A quota of 1000 interviews was set from a random sample of residents of the province 18 years of age or older. Quotas of 200 were set for each of the five key areas outlined below so that any variations in opinion on a regional basis can be identified:

1) West/Northern Peninsula/Port Aux Basques (referred to as the ‘Western region’ throughout the report)
2) Avalon Peninsula (excluding St. John’s CMA)
3) Labrador
4) Central/South/Burin/East (referred to as the ‘Central region’ throughout the report)
5) St. John’s CMA

A total of 1001 interviews were completed providing a statistical margin of error ± 3.10 overall and ± 6.93% at the 95% level of confidence (19 times out of 20) for each of the five areas. The overall results were weighted to reflect the actual populations of the five regions.

A pre-test was conducted on Wednesday April 9th and interviewing was conducted from April 10th to 24th 2003.

The following is a summary of the highlights of this research including the Consultant’s Overview. Section 2.0 follows with a summary of key findings by area of investigation and regional analysis. Section 3.0 outlines the research methodology in more detail.

1.1 Consultant’s Overview

- Overall, it appears that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians made a distinction between ‘Canada’ and the ‘Federal Government’. More positive associations were attributed to Canada and more negative associations to the Federal Government. Consequently, more were satisfied with being part of Canada in general than they were with this province’s relationship with the Federal Government. People of this province value Canada’s contribution of universal health care coverage and other social assistance programs and they value being part of a democratic society. Furthermore, few disagreed that Confederation has been ‘a good thing’ for this province and very few felt that this province should leave Canada.
Nevertheless, one in three Newfoundlanders and Labradorians indicated a level of dissatisfaction with this province’s place in Canada stemming mainly from how they perceive the Federal Government treats this province. Very few respondents perceived that Newfoundland and Labrador is treated with much respect by the Federal Government and most feel that it is often ignored. They felt that this province receives less than its fair share of the money that the Federal Government distributes to the provinces and territories. Many felt that the Federal Government is not taking steps to rebuild the province’s fishery. Furthermore, the Federal Government’s equalization formula was also a cause for concern for some.

Newfoundlanders and Labradorians felt that this province’s most significant contribution to Canada is its natural resources. Although they most value this province’s culture/music/arts as well its safeness, quality of life and sense of community/friendliness of the people, they perceived this province’s natural resources to be its biggest strength. Consequently, many feel that the province should focus on its natural resources to achieve greater prosperity and self-reliance. Many perceived this province’s greatest weakness to be its lack of control over its natural resources. They feel the province needs to focus on gaining control over its natural resources to achieve greater prosperity and self-reliance.

The majority acknowledged that this province is dependent on the Federal Government particularly for transfer payments to the provincial government and to the people for things such as employment insurance. Nearly six in ten Newfoundlanders and Labradorians felt that the people of this province should be the most responsible for Newfoundland and Labrador achieving prosperity in the future...over the Provincial or Federal Government. Respondents were also asked to what extent they would support governments taking a harder line and making tough decisions that are for the greater good of the whole province even if it means some sacrifices for them and their community and almost half (49%) of all respondents indicated that they ‘strongly support’ this idea.

1.2 Research Highlights

- **Consider Yourself A Newfoundlander Or Labradorian Or A Canadian First.** Approximately seven in ten (72%) residents considered themselves to be a ‘Newfoundlander or Labradorian’ first while nearly one-quarter (24%) considered themselves to be a Canadian first.

- **Value Most About Being Part Of Canada (Aided).** When asked to choose from a list of five options, six in ten (60%) Newfoundlanders and Labradorians chose ‘universal health care coverage’ as what they value the most about being part of Canada. However, 18% valued ‘democratic government/constitutional rights’ above all of the other choices. Another 8% said ‘equalization program’ while 7% valued ‘employment insurance programs’ the most and only 3% said ‘a strong armed forces’.

- **Most Significant Contribution Canada Has Made To Newfoundland And Labrador.** On an unaided basis, overall one in three (33%) said ‘don’t know’ and 12% said ‘nothing’.
Nevertheless, overall 30% said ‘health care’, 18% mentioned ‘social assistance’, 11% said ‘government spending/equalization’, and 9% mentioned ‘Canada Pension Plan’.

**Most Significant Contribution Newfoundland And Labrador Has Made To Canada.** ‘Natural resources in general’ was mentioned by over half (53%) of the respondents overall as the most significant contribution Newfoundland and Labrador has made to Canada followed by ‘the fishery’ (18%), ‘people in general/workforce’ (17%), ‘offshore oil’ (14%), ‘Churchill Falls’ (9%), ‘forestry’ (9%), ‘Voisey’s Bay’ (7%), and ‘our culture/music/arts’ (7%).

**Dependency of Newfoundland And Labrador On The Federal Government.** Over half (52%) of the respondents perceived that Newfoundland and Labrador is ‘very dependent’ on the Federal Government while 42% felt this province is ‘somewhat dependent’. Only 4% felt that this province was ‘not very’ or ‘not at all’ dependent on the Federal Government.

**Areas On Which Some People Say This Province Depends On The Federal Government.** Just over half (53%) of all respondents perceived that this province is ‘very dependent’ on transfer payments to our provincial government and another 38% felt that we are ‘somewhat dependent’ on these payments.

Likewise, 63% of all respondents perceived that this province is ‘very dependent’ on transfer payments to people for things such as Employment Insurance while 29% felt we are ‘somewhat dependent’ on these payments.

Fewer respondents (26%) perceived that this province is ‘very dependent’ on transfer payments to businesses for things such as loans from ACOA while another 48% said we are ‘somewhat dependent’ on these payments.

**Overall Satisfaction With Newfoundland And Labrador’s Place In Canada.** Eighteen percent (18%) of respondents indicated being ‘very satisfied’ with Newfoundland and Labrador’s place in Canada, however, another 46% said they were ‘somewhat satisfied’. Nevertheless, 32% expressed a level of dissatisfaction including 12% who said they were ‘very dissatisfied’.

**Reasons for Being Very Satisfied With This Province’s Place In Canada.** Of those who were ‘very satisfied’ (18%) with this province’s place in Canada, the main reasons mentioned overall were: ‘treated fairly’ (34%), ‘access to health care’ (26%), ‘part of a democratic society’ (19%), ‘social assistance programs’ (21%), ‘CPP’ (11%), and ‘government spending’ (4%).

**Reasons for Dissatisfaction With This Province’s Place In Canada.** Many of the reasons mentioned overall for not being satisfied (32%) with this province’s place in Canada related to how this province is treated by the Federal Government: ‘not treated with respect/fairly by the Federal Government’ (51%), ‘equalization formula’ (24%), ‘Federal Government not really concerned/ignore us’ (15%), ‘have no/little say/influence with Federal Government’ (14%). Other reasons included: ‘no control over natural resources’ (27%), ‘not treated with respect/fairly by other Canadians’ (26%) ‘mismanagement of the fishery’ (6%), and ‘not enough jobs/outmigration for work’ (3%).

**Value Most About Being A Newfoundlander Or Labradorian Or Being Part Of This Province.** On a first-mention, unaided basis one-quarter (25%) of all respondents said ‘culture/music/arts’ followed by ‘safe’ (20%), ‘sense of community/friendliness of the
people’ (14%), ‘quality of life/good place to raise a family’ (10%), ‘freedom/democracy’ (12%), and ‘clean/not crowded’ (7%). Overall, combining all mentions, 34% said ‘culture/music/arts’ followed by ‘safe’ (31%), ‘quality of life/good place to raise a family’ (31%), ‘sense of community/friendliness of the people’ (28%), ‘clean/not crowded’ (18%), and ‘freedom/democracy’ (13%).

- **This Province’s Greatest Strengths.** On a first mention, unaided basis just over one-third (36%) of respondents said ‘sense of community/friendliness of the people’. Another three in ten (29%) mentioned this province’s ‘natural resources’ followed more distantly by ‘culture/music/arts’ (5%), ‘safe’ (5%), and ‘available/educated workforce’ (5%). Overall, combining all mentions, 60% said ‘natural resources’ as this province’s greatest strengths followed by ‘sense of community/friendliness of the people’ (41%), ‘culture/music/arts’ (15%) and ‘available/educated workforce’ (10%).

- **One Strength, Opportunity, Or Advantage This Province Should Focus on To Achieve Greater Prosperity.** Although many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians value our culture and people and see these as strengths of our province, many (26%) felt that this province should focus on its ‘natural resources’ to achieve greater prosperity and self-reliance. Fewer mentioned ‘available/educated workforce’ (13%), ‘oil and gas reserves’ (10%), ‘scenery/coastline/tourism’ (9%), ‘fishery’ (5%), ‘good education system’ (4%), ‘Voisey’s Bay’ (2%), and ‘Churchill Falls’ (2%).

- **This Province’s Greatest Weaknesses.** On a first mention, unaided basis approximately one-third (32%) of respondents said ‘not enough jobs’ and 18% said ‘no control over natural resources’ followed much further behind by ‘too dependent on government’ (9%), ‘provincial government/leadership/politicians’ (8%), ‘people/not stand up for themselves/lack confidence’ (7%), and ‘outmigration’ (5%). Overall, combining all mentions, approximately one-third (32%) of respondents said ‘not enough jobs’ and 27% said ‘no control over natural resources’ as this province’s greatest weaknesses followed by ‘outmigration’ (17%), ‘too dependent on government’ (12%), ‘provincial government/leadership/politicians’ (10%), and ‘people/not stand up for themselves/lack confidence’ (10%).

- **One Weakness Or Obstacle Need To Address To Achieve Greater Prosperity And Self-Reliance.** Although more respondents mentioned ‘not enough jobs’ as a weakness of this province, more felt that the province needs to focus on gaining control over our natural resources (26%) than on gaining more jobs (19%) in order to achieve greater prosperity and self-reliance. Fewer said ‘provincial government/leadership/politicians’ (7%), ‘outmigration’ (6%), ‘too dependent on government’ (5%), and ‘people/not stand up for themselves/lack confidence’ (5%).

- **Perception of Whether Other Canadians Have Stereotypes About Newfoundlanders And Labradorians.** Almost nine in ten (88%) respondents perceived that other Canadians have stereotypes about Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

- **Most Common Stereotypes About Newfoundlanders And Labradorians.** Overall, almost half (46%) of all respondents mentioned ‘lazy/don’t work/don’t want to work’ while nearly as many said ‘stupid’ (45%) as common stereotype of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians by other Canadians. Another 24% also mentioned ‘not educated’ as a
common stereotype and others mentioned ‘fish/live in igloos’ (9%), ‘ignorant’ (8%), and ‘friendly’ (7%).

- **Extent Feel That Newfoundland And Labrador Is Treated With Respect By The Federal Government.** Very few respondents perceived that Newfoundland and Labrador is treated with respect by the Federal Government. Only 8% of respondents said this province gets ‘a lot’ of respect while 47% said ‘a little’. Over four in ten (42%) were more negative and said ‘not very’ (29%) or ‘not at all’ (13%) in terms of the extent of respect this province receives from the Federal Government.

- **Agree Or Disagree That Newfoundland And Labrador Is Often Ignored By The Federal Government.** The majority of respondents (84%) felt that the Federal Government ignores Newfoundland and Labrador including almost half (47%) who ‘strongly agreed’ that Newfoundland and Labrador is often ignored by the Federal Government and 37% who ‘somewhat agreed’ with this statement. Only 13% of all respondents disagreed with this statement.

- **Perception Of The Fairness Of The Distribution of Money By The Federal Government To The Provinces And Territories.** Seven in ten (71%) respondents felt that this province receives ‘less than its fair share’ of the money that the Federal Government distributes to the provinces and territories. Another 17% felt that Newfoundland and Labrador receives ‘about the right amount’ and 3% even believed that this province receives ‘more than it’s fair share’.

- **Perception of Whether Confederation Has Been A Good Thing For This Province.** Overall, almost three-quarters (74%) agreed that Confederation has been a good thing for Newfoundland and Labrador including one in three (35.5%) respondents who ‘strongly agreed’ that Confederation has been a good thing for Newfoundland and Labrador and 38.5% who ‘somewhat agreed’ that Confederation has been a good thing. Nevertheless, almost two in ten (18%) Newfoundlanders and Labradorians disagreed that Confederation has been a good thing for the province including 8% who ‘strongly disagreed’. Another 3% were more neutral and volunteered that they ‘neither agreed nor disagreed’ with the statement and 5% could not articulate any opinion and said ‘don’t know’.

- **Should Newfoundland And Labrador Leave Canada And Become An Independent Country.** Eight in ten (81%) Newfoundlanders and Labradorians felt that this province should not leave Canada and become a separate country. Nevertheless, 12% felt this province should separate.

- **Think That The Federal Government Treats This Province As Part Of The Atlantic Region.** Respondents were divided as to whether they feel that the Federal Government treats this province as part of the Atlantic region as 44% said ‘yes’ and 43% said ‘no’. Another said ‘it depends’ while 5% said ‘don’t know’.

- **Extent Feel Being Treated As Part Of The Atlantic Region Is In The Best Interest Of This Province.** Of the 44% who felt that the Federal Government treats this province as part of the Atlantic region, the majority felt that this is in the best interest of the province as evidenced by the 39% who said ‘a lot’ and 38% who said ‘a little’ with regards to the extent to which this is in the best interest of the province. Nevertheless, 20% of this segment did not feel that this was in the best interest of the province.
• **What Approach Should The Province Take In Dealing With The Federal Government In The Future.** Significantly more respondents felt that this province should take ‘a firm but reasoned’ approach (72%) over ‘a confrontational and aggressive’ approach (25%) when dealing with the Federal Government in the future.

• **Leave The Upper Churchill Deal In The Past And Move On Or Province Continue To Seek Fair Share.** When presented with these two alternatives, nearly three in four (74%) felt that the province should continue to seek its fair share of Churchill Falls by whatever means it can. Nevertheless, 21% felt that it is time to move on. Another 3% said ‘don’t know’ and 2% said ‘it depends’.

• **Senate Be More Effective If Each Province And Territory Were Represented Equally.** Over four in ten (44%) ‘strongly supported’ the idea of having each province and territory represented equally in the Senate so that larger and smaller provinces would have the same number of representatives. Furthermore, 28% ‘somewhat supported’ this proposal. Nevertheless, 19% opposed this proposal including 7% who ‘strongly opposed’ it.

• **Perception of Whether The Federal Government Is Taking Steps To Rebuild Our Fishery.** One in three (32%) Newfoundlanders and Labradorians felt that the Federal Government is not taking any steps at all to rebuild the province’s fishery. Another 35% said ‘not very’ in terms of the extent of the steps the Federal Government is taking. Nevertheless, 4% said ‘a lot’ and 27% said ‘a little’ in terms of the extent of the steps the Federal Government is taking to rebuild the fishery.

• **Who Is Most Responsible For Newfoundland And Labrador Achieving Prosperity In The Future.** Respondents were asked who they believe is most responsible for Newfoundland and Labrador achieving prosperity in the future: The Federal Government, The Provincial Government, or The people of Newfoundland and Labrador. Almost six in ten (58%) said ‘the people of Newfoundland and Labrador’. Nevertheless, 15% said ‘the Provincial Government’ while another 7% said ‘both the Provincial Government and the people of Newfoundland and Labrador’ and 6% felt that the Federal Government is most responsible for the province achieving prosperity in the future.

• **Extent Feel That The Aboriginal Peoples Within This Province Are Treated With Dignity And Respect.** Almost four in ten (39%) felt that aboriginal peoples are treated with dignity and respect within this province. However, more felt that aboriginal peoples in this province are not completely treated with dignity and respect as evidenced by the 29% who said ‘a little’, the 15% who said ‘not very’ and the 8% who said ‘not at all’ in terms of the extent of dignity and respect given to aboriginal peoples.

• **Extent Feel That Women Have Equal Status With Men Within This Province.** Approximately half (47%) of all respondents felt that women have equal status with men within this province. However, more felt that women do not fully have equal status with men within this province as evidenced by the 32% who said ‘a little’, the 12% who said ‘not very’ and the 6% who said ‘not at all’ in terms of the extent of equal status between men and women in the province.

• **Extent Feel That Labrador Is Treated Fairly By The Provincial Government.** Just over one-quarter (27%) felt that Labrador is treated fairly by the Provincial Government. However, more felt that Labrador is not completely treated fairly as evidenced by the 36%
who said ‘a little’, the 15% who said ‘not very’ and the 9% who said ‘not at all’ in terms of the extent of fairness to Labrador by the Provincial Government.

- **Support Governments Taking A Harder Line And Making Tough Decisions.** Respondents were asked to what extent they would support governments taking a harder line and making tough decisions that are for the greater good of the whole province even if it means some sacrifices for them and their community. Almost half (49%) of all respondents indicated that they ‘strongly support’ this idea. An additional 34% said they ‘somewhat support’ this idea. However, 10% opposed the idea including 5% who were ‘strongly opposed’ to it.

- **People in Rural Communities Move Elsewhere To Find Work Or Should Governments Provide Assistance So That They Can Stay In Their Communities.** Respondents were divided on their opinion on this issue. Approximately four in ten (38%) felt that people in these communities should move elsewhere in the province or out of the province where they can find work. However, four in ten (41%) also believed that governments should provide assistance so that they can stay in their communities. Another 4% said ‘both’, 13% said ‘it depends’, while another 2% said ‘neither’.
2.0 Key Findings By Area of Investigation

2.1 Consider Yourself A Newfoundlandor Labradorian Or A Canadian First

Approximately seven in ten (72%) residents considered themselves to be a ‘Newfoundlander or Labradorian’ first while nearly one-quarter (24%) considered themselves to be a Canadian first.

Q#1 First of all, do you consider yourself a Newfoundlander or Labradorian or a Canadian first?

Those who were more likely to consider themselves a Canadian first included a higher than average (24%) proportion of the following segments:

- Those who ‘strongly’ agreed that Confederation has been a good thing for NL (32%)\(^1\)
- Those who were not born in NL (56%)
- Those employed year-round full-time for pay (30%)
- College/university graduates (32%)
- Those with household incomes of $40K to just under $70K (29%)

\(^1\) Read as “32% of those who strongly agreed that Confederation has been a good thing for this province consider themselves to be Newfoundlanders or Labradorians first”.

Provincial Opinion Study
Those with household incomes of $70K or more (33%)

2.2 Value Most About Being Part Of Canada (Aided)

Respondents were asked to choose one thing they value the most about being part of Canada from a list of five choices including:

- Universal health care coverage
- Employment insurance programs
- Democratic government/constitutional rights
- Equalization program that provides a sharing of wealth to all provinces
- A strong armed forces

When asked to choose from the list, six in ten (60%) Newfoundlanders and Labradorians chose ‘universal health care coverage’ as what they value the most about being part of Canada. However, 18% valued ‘democratic government/constitutional rights’ above all of the other choices. Another 8% said ‘equalization program’ while 7% valued ‘employment insurance programs’ the most and only 3% said ‘a strong armed forces’.

Those who said ‘democratic government/constitutional rights’ included a higher than average (18%) proportion of the following segments:

- Those living in St. John’s CMA (25%)
- Students (24%)
- Those employed year-round full-time for pay (23%)
- Those with technical/vocation school education (24%)
- College/university graduates (23%)
- Those aged 35 to 49 (23%)
- Those in white-collar occupations (25%)
- Those with household incomes of $70K or more (32%)
Q#2 Now, I'm going to read you a list of some things people say they value about being part of Canada. I'd like you to tell me which one you value the most about this province being part of Canada?

Regionally, ‘employment insurance programs’ were valued the most by those in the Western (10%) and Central (10%) regions than by those in St. John’s (2%). ‘Democratic government/constitutional rights’ was selected by more of those in St. John’s (25%) and by fewer in the Central region (13%).
2.3 Most Significant Contribution Canada Has Made To Newfoundland And Labrador

Respondents were given the opportunity to indicate on an unaided basis what they feel is the most significant contribution Canada has made to Newfoundland and Labrador. Looking at the first response respondents gave, one in three (33%) said ‘don’t know’ and 12% said ‘nothing’. Nevertheless, 23% said ‘health care’, 9% mentioned ‘social assistance’ and 7% said ‘government spending/equalization’.

Those who said ‘nothing’ included a higher than average (12%) proportion of the following segments:

- Retirees (21%)
- Those with less than high school education (18%)
- Those aged 65 or more (21%)
- Those with household incomes of $20K or less (17%)
- Those who were ‘very dissatisfied’ with this province’s place in Canada (29%)
- Those who ‘strongly’ disagreed that Confederation has been a good thing for NL (37%)
- Those who ‘somewhat’ disagreed that Confederation has been a good thing for NL (23%)
- Those who felt that NL should leave Canada and become an independent country (32%)
Q#3a In your opinion, what is the most significant contribution Canada has made to Newfoundland and Labrador?

The following table shows that regionally ‘health care’ was mentioned first as the most significant contribution Canada has made to Newfoundland and Labrador by more in the Central region (33%) and by fewer in Labrador (15%). ‘Social assistance programs’ were mentioned first by more in the Central (11%) and Avalon (11%) regions than in St. John’s (6%). ‘Government spending/Equalization programs’ were mentioned by significantly more in Labrador (17%). Furthermore, residents of St. John’s (42%), the Avalon (35%) and the Western regions (35%) were more likely to say ‘don’t know’ in comparison to those in Labrador (29%) and the Central region (22%).
Combining all mentions, the following table shows that ‘health care’ was mentioned by three in ten (30%) respondents overall as the most significant contribution Canada has made to Newfoundland and Labrador followed by ‘social assistance’ (18%), ‘government spending/equalization’ (11%), and ‘Canada Pension Plan’ (9%).

2.4 Most Significant Contribution Newfoundland And Labrador Has Made To Canada

Respondents were also given the opportunity to indicate on an unaided basis what they feel is the most significant contribution Newfoundland and Labrador has made to Canada. Looking at the first response respondents gave; over four in ten (42%) said ‘natural resources
Provincial Opinion Study

in general’. Others mentioned specific resources including: the fishery (10%), ‘offshore oil’ (6%), ‘Churchill Falls’ (4%), ‘forestry’ (2%), and ‘Voisey’s Bay’ (1%). Another 9% mentioned ‘the people of this province/workforce’ and 5% said ‘our culture/music/arts’.

Q#3b In your opinion, what is the most significant contribution Newfoundland and Labrador has made to Canada?

The following table shows that regionally ‘natural resources in general’ was mentioned first as the most significant contribution Newfoundland and Labrador has made to Canada by more in St. John’s (46%), the Central (46%) and Western (42%) regions and by fewer in Labrador (30%) and the Avalon region (30%). More respondents outside St. John’s and Labrador mentioned ‘the fishery’. Respondents in Labrador were also more likely than those elsewhere in the province to mention ‘Churchill Falls’ and ‘Voisey’s Bay’.
Combining all mentions, the following table shows that ‘natural resources in general’ was mentioned by over half (53%) of the respondents overall as the most significant contribution Newfoundland and Labrador has made to Canada followed by ‘the fishery’ (18%), ‘people in general/workforce’ (17%), ‘offshore oil’ (14%), ‘Churchill Falls’ (9%), ‘forestry’ (9%), ‘Voisey’s Bay’ (7%), and ‘our culture/music/arts’ (7%).
2.5 Dependency of Newfoundland And Labrador On The Federal Government

Approximately half (52%) of all respondents perceived that Newfoundland and Labrador is ‘very dependent’ on the Federal Government. Another 42% said ‘somewhat dependent’. Only 4% felt that this province was ‘not very’ or ‘not at all’ dependent on the Federal Government.

Those who said ‘very dependent’ included a higher than average (52%) proportion of the following segments:

- Those with technical/vocational school education (59%)
- Those with some college/university education (57%)
- College/university graduates (57%)
- Those in white-collar occupations (59%)
- Those with household incomes of $70K or more (61%)
- Those who felt that people in rural areas should move to find work instead of governments providing assistance to help them stay in their communities (60%)

Q#4 All things considered, do you feel that Newfoundland and Labrador is ‘very dependent’, ‘somewhat dependent’, ‘not very dependent’ or ‘not dependent at all’ on the Federal Government?

The following table shows that regionally residents in St. John’s (55%) and the Central (55%) regions were more likely to feel that this province is ‘very dependent’ on the Federal Government than those in Labrador (48%), West (48%) and the Avalon (43%).
2.6 Areas On Which Some People Say This Province Depends On The Federal Government

Transfer Payments to Our Provincial Government

Just over half (53%) of all respondents perceived that this province is ‘very dependent’ on transfer payments to our provincial government and another 39% felt that we are ‘somewhat dependent’ on these payments. Only 3% felt this province is not dependent on these payments and 5% said ‘don’t know’.

Those who said ‘very dependent’ included a higher than average (53%) proportion of the following segments:

- Those employed year-round full-time (61%)
- Those with technical/vocational school education (59%)
- College/university graduates (61%)
- Those aged 50 to 64 (62%)
- Those aged 65 or more (62%)
- Those in white-collar occupations (67%)
- Those with household incomes of $40K to $70K or more (58%)
- Those with household incomes of $70K or more (66%)
- Those who ‘strongly support’ governments taking a harder line and making tougher decisions (60%)
- Those who felt that people in rural areas should move to find work instead of governments providing assistance to help them stay in their communities (62%)
Q#5  Here are some areas on which some people say this province depends on the Federal Government. I’d like to know to what extent you feel that this province is dependent on the Federal Government for each. The first one is ‘Transfer payments to our provincial government, such as Equalization, to help pay for provincial services’. Do you feel this province is ‘Very dependent’, ‘Somewhat dependent’, ‘Not very dependent’, or ‘Not dependent at all’ on the Federal Government Canada for that?

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<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>% within REGION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Labrador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very dependent</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>48.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very dependent</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not dependent at all</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/not sure</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transfer Payments to People (Like EI)

Approximately two-thirds (63%) of all respondents perceived that this province is ‘very dependent’ on transfer payments to people and another 29% felt that we are ‘somewhat dependent’ on these payments. Only 4% felt that this province is not dependent on these payments to people and 5% said ‘don’t know’.

Those who said ‘very dependent’ included a higher than average (63%) proportion of the following segments:

- Those living in the Central region (70%)
- Those living in Labrador (69%)
- Retirees (70%)
- Those with technical/vocational school education (68%)
- Those aged 65 or more (71%)
- Those in white-collar occupations (72%)
- Those with household incomes of $70K or more (68%)
- Those who ‘strongly oppose’ governments taking a harder line and making tougher decisions (79%)
to people such as employment insurance. Do you feel this province is ‘Very dependent’, ‘Somewhat dependent’, ‘Not very dependent’, or ‘Not dependent at all’ on the Federal Government Canada for that?

**DEPENDENCE ON TRANSFER PAYMENTS TO PEOPLE LIKE EI**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>Labrador</th>
<th>West/PAB/St. Anthony</th>
<th>Central/Eastern/Svh/Blr</th>
<th>Avalon</th>
<th>St John's CMA</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Very dependent</td>
<td>68.5%</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>60.2%</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat dependent</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very dependent</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not dependent at all</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>.7%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>.9%</td>
<td>.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/not sure</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Transfer Payments to Businesses (Such as loans from ACOA)**

Fewer respondents (26%) perceived that this province is ‘very dependent’ on transfer payments to businesses for things such as loans from ACOA while another 48% said we are ‘somewhat dependent’ on these payments. Another 10% did not feel this province is dependent on transfer payments to business while 16% said ‘don’t know’.

Those who said ‘very dependent’ included a higher than average (26%) proportion of the following segments:

- Those living in the Central region (31%)
- Retirees (70%)
- Those with less than high school education (31%)
- Those with technical/vocational school education (30%)
- Those in pink/grey-collar occupations (33%)
- Those with household incomes of $70K or more (68%)
- Those who ‘strongly oppose’ governments taking a harder line and making tougher decisions (38%)
Q#5 Here are some areas on which some people say this province depends on the Federal Government. I'd like to know to what extent you feel that this province is dependent on the Federal Government for each. The next one is 'Transfer payments to businesses such as loans from ACOA'. Do you feel this province is 'Very dependent', 'Somewhat dependent', 'Not very dependent', or 'Not dependent at all' on the Federal Government Canada for that?
2.7 Overall Satisfaction With Newfoundland And Labrador’s Place In Canada

Eighteen percent (18%) of respondents indicated being ‘very satisfied’ with Newfoundland and Labrador’s place in Canada. Another 46% said they were ‘somewhat satisfied’. Nevertheless, 32% expressed a level of dissatisfaction including 12% who said they were ‘very dissatisfied’.

Those who were ‘very satisfied’ included a higher than average (18%) proportion of the following segments:

- Those in the Western region (24%)
- Those in the Central region (23%)
- Homemakers (34%)
- Students (26%)
- Those with less than high school education (37%)
- Those aged 18 to 24 (24%)
- Those aged 65 or more (27%)
- Those with household incomes of $20K or less (33%)
- Those who strongly opposed governments taking a harder line and making tough decisions (29%)
- Those who felt that governments should provide assistance to those in rural communities who cannot find enough work (25%)
- Those who felt that this province is treated with ‘a lot’ of respect by the Federal Government (43%)
- Those who ‘strongly’ (33%) or ‘somewhat’ (29%) disagreed that the Federal Government ignores this province
- Those who felt that this province receives more than its fair share of money distributed by the Federal Government (44%)
- Those who ‘strongly’ agreed that Confederation has been a good thing for NL (31%)

Those who were ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ dissatisfied included a higher than average (32%) proportion of the following segments:

- Males (41%)
- Those with technical/vocational school education (40%)
- Those with household incomes of $40K to $70K (38%)
- Those who felt that this province is not treated with respect by the Federal Government (48%)
- Those who ‘strongly’ agreed that the Federal Government ignores this province (46%)
- Those who felt that this province receives less than its fair share of money distributed by the Federal Government (39%)
Those who ‘strongly’ disagreed that Confederation has been a good thing for NL (81%)
Those who ‘somewhat’ disagreed that Confederation has been a good thing for NL (51%)
Those who felt that this province should leave Canada (59%)
Those who felt that the Federal Government does not treat this province as part of the Atlantic region (46%)
Those who strongly support equal representation in the Senate (39%)
Those who don’t feel the Federal Government is taking steps to rebuild the fishery (47%)

Q#6 All things considered, how satisfied are you with Newfoundland and Labrador’s place in Canada?

The following table shows that regionally higher satisfaction levels were evident in the Central (68%) and Western (70%) regions and by fewer in Labrador (60%) the Avalon region (62%) and St. John’s (59%).

Conversely, dissatisfaction levels with this province’s place in Canada were higher in St. John’s (36%), Labrador (36%), and the Avalon region (32%) in comparison to the West (28%) and Central (29%) regions.
2.8 Reasons for Satisfaction or Dissatisfaction With This Province’s Place In Canada

Respondents were given the opportunity to say why they were satisfied or dissatisfied with this province’s place in Canada.

Selecting those who indicated being ‘very satisfied’ with this province’s place in Canada (18%), the following table shows the main reason mentioned first was ‘treated fairly’ (28%) followed by ‘access to health care’ (14%), ‘part of a democratic society’ (13%), and ‘social assistance programs’ (6%). Almost one-quarter (23%) of those who indicated being ‘very satisfied’ could not articulate a reason for their satisfaction with this province’s place in Canada and said ‘don’t know’.
Combining all mentions of those who were ‘very satisfied’ with this province’s place in Canada (18%), the following table shows the main reasons to be: ‘treated fairly’ (34%) followed by ‘access to health care’ (26%), ‘part of a democratic society’ (19%), ‘social assistance programs’ (21%), ‘CPP’ (11%), and ‘government spending’ (4%).

Looking at those who indicated being ‘dissatisfied’ with this province’s place in Canada (32%), the following table shows the main reason they mentioned first was ‘not treated with respect/fairly by the Federal Government’ (42%) followed much further by ‘equalization formula’ (14%), ‘no control over natural resources’ (13%), and ‘not treated with respect/fairly by other Canadians’ (9%).
Combining all mentions, the following table shows the main reasons for not being satisfied included: ‘not treated with respect/fairly by the Federal Government’ (51%) followed by ‘no control over natural resources’ (27%), ‘not treated with respect/fairly by other Canadians’ (26%), ‘equalization formula’ (24%), ‘Federal Government not really concerned/ignore us’ (15%), ‘have no/little say/influence with Federal Government’ (14%), ‘mismanagement of the fishery’ (6%), ‘not enough jobs/outmigration for work’ (3%).
2.9 Value Most About Being A Newfoundlander Or Labradorian Or Being Part Of This Province

When asked what they value most about being a Newfoundlander or Labradorian, or being part of this province, one-quarter (25%) of all respondents said ‘culture/music/arts’ on a first-mention, unaided basis followed by ‘safe’ (20%), ‘sense of community/friendliness of the people’ (14%), ‘quality of life/good place to raise a family’ (10%), ‘freedom/democracy’ (12%), and ‘clean/not crowded’ (7%).
Q#8 What do you value most about being a Newfoundlander or Labradorian or being part of this province?

The following table shows that regionally, more respondents in St. John’s (28%) mentioned ‘culture/music/arts’ on a first-mention basis in comparison to the other regions. Furthermore, more respondents in the Western region (28%) mentioned ‘safe’ than those in the other regions. ‘Sense of community/friendliness of the people’ was mentioned by more of those in St. John’s (19%) while ‘clean/not crowded’ was mentioned by more in Labrador (13%), ‘freedom/democracy’ was mentioned by more in the Avalon (15%) and Central (15%) regions, and ‘quality of life/good place to raise a family’ was mentioned by more in the Western (15%) region in comparison to the other regions.
Combining all mentions for what respondents said they value most about being a Newfoundlander and Labradorian, or being part of this province the following table shows that overall 34% mentioned ‘culture/music/arts’ followed by ‘safe’ (31%), ‘quality of life/good place to raise a family’ (31%), ‘sense of community/friendliness of the people’ (28%), ‘clean/not crowded’ (18%), and ‘freedom/democracy’ (13%).

### VALUE MOST ABOUT BEING A NFLDER OR LABRADORIAN OR PART OF NL - 1ST MENTION (RECODED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% within REGION</th>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>Labrador</th>
<th>West/PAB/St. Anthony</th>
<th>Central/Eastern/SSts/StBarin</th>
<th>Avalon</th>
<th>St. John's CMA</th>
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<td>Culture/Music/Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
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<td>22.6%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of life/place to raise a family</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sense of community/friendly people</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean/not crowded/scenery</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom/democracy</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>8.0%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
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<td>5.1%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
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<td>100.0%</td>
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### VALUE MOST ABOUT BEING A NFLDER OR LABRADORIAN OR PART OF NL - ANY MENTION (RECODED)

<table>
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<th>% within REGION</th>
<th>REGION</th>
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<th>Central/Eastern/SSts/StBarin</th>
<th>Avalon</th>
<th>St. John's CMA</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Culture/Music/Arts</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
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<td>29.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of life/place to raise a family</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of community/friendly people</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean/not crowded/scenery</td>
<td>42.3%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freedom/democracy</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
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<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.10 This Province’s Greatest Strengths

Respondents were asked to articulate this province’s strengths. On a first mention, unaided basis just, over one-third (36%) of respondents said ‘sense of community/friendliness of the people’. Another three in ten (29%) mentioned this province’s ‘natural resources’ followed more distantly by ‘culture/music/arts’ (5%), ‘safe’ (5%), and ‘available/educated workforce’ (5%).

Regionally, more respondents outside Labrador and St. John’s mentioned ‘natural resources’ first as a strength of this province in comparison to those in these two regions. Fewer respondents in the Western region mentioned ‘sense of community/friendly people’ in comparison to the other regions.
Combining all mentions for strengths of this province, the following table shows that overall 60% mentioned ‘natural resources’, followed by ‘sense of community/friendliness of the people’ (41%), ‘culture/music/arts’ (15%) and ‘available/educated workforce’ (10%).
2.11 One Strength, Opportunity, Or Advantage This Province Should Focus on To Achieve Greater Prosperity

After articulating the strengths of the province, respondents were then asked what one strength, opportunity or advantage this province should focus on to achieve greater prosperity and self-reliance. Approximately one-quarter (26%) said ‘natural resources’ followed more distantly by ‘available/educated workforce’ (13%), ‘oil and gas reserves’ (10%), ‘scenery/coastline/tourism’ (9%), ‘fishery’ (5%), ‘good education system’ (4%), ‘Voisey’s Bay’ (2%), and ‘Churchill Falls’ (2%).

Regionally, more respondents in Labrador than in any of the other regions mentioned ‘natural resources’ (33%) as a strength on which this province should focus in order to achieve greater prosperity and self-reliance. More respondents in the Avalon (13%) and St. John’s (13%) regions recommended focusing on this province’s ‘oil and gas reserves’ in comparison to the other regions. More of those in the Western (11%) region mentioned ‘scenery/coastline/tourism’ as an area on which the province should focus than in any of the other regions...as outlined in the table that follows.
2.12 This Province’s Greatest Weaknesses

Respondents were also asked to indicate what they feel are this province’s weaknesses. On a first mention, unaided basis approximately one-third (32%) of respondents said ‘not enough jobs’ and 18% said ‘no control over natural resources’ followed much further behind by ‘too dependent on government’ (9%), ‘provincial government/leadership/politicians’ (8%), ‘people/not stand up for themselves/lack confidence’ (7%), and ‘outmigration’ (5%).
Q#11 What are this province’s greatest weaknesses?

Regionally, more respondents in the Central (48%) region mentioned ‘not enough jobs’ while fewer respondents in St. John’s (20%) mentioned this as a weakness. ‘Lack of control over natural resources’ was mentioned by more respondents in the Western region (23%) as outlined in the table that follows.
Combining all mentions for weaknesses of this province, the following table shows that approximately one-third (32%) of respondents said ‘not enough jobs’ and 27% said ‘no control over natural resources’ followed much further behind by ‘outmigration’ (17%), ‘too dependent on government’ (12%), ‘provincial government/leadership/politicians’ (10%), and ‘people/not stand up for themselves/lack confidence’ (10%).
2.13 One Weakness Or Obstacle Need To Address To Achieve Greater Prosperity And Self-Reliance

After articulating the weaknesses of the province, respondents were then asked what one weakness or obstacle this province needs to address to achieve greater prosperity and self-reliance. Approximately one-quarter (26%) said ‘no control over natural resources’ and 19% said ‘not enough jobs’ followed more distantly by ‘provincial government/leadership/politicians’ (7%), ‘outmigration’ (6%), ‘too dependent on government’ (5%), and ‘people/not stand up for themselves/lack confidence’ (5%).
Q#12 What one weakness or obstacle do we need to address to achieve greater prosperity and self-reliance?

Regionally, more respondents in Central (32%) mentioned ‘not enough control over natural resources’ in comparison to the other regions. Likewise, the table that follows shows that more respondents in this region mentioned ‘not enough jobs’ than in the other regions.
2.14 Perception of Whether Other Canadians Have Stereotypes About Newfoundlanders And Labradorians

Almost nine in ten (88%) respondents perceived that other Canadians have stereotypes about Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. There was no significant variation in opinion by region.
Q#13 Do you think that other Canadians have stereotypes about Newfoundlanders and Labradorians?

2.15 Most Common Stereotypes About Newfoundlanders And Labradorians

On a first mention, unaided basis one in three (34%) respondents said ‘stupid’ as a common stereotype of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians by other Canadians followed by ‘lazy/don’t work/don’t want to work’ (22%), ‘not educated’ (11%), and ‘fish/live in igloos’ (5%).
Q#14 What do you believe are the most common stereotypes about Newfoundlanders and Labradorians?

Regionally, more respondents in the Western region (29%) mentioned ‘lazy/don’t work/don’t want to work’ as a stereotype while more in the Central region mentioned ‘stupid’ (41%).
Combining all mentions, almost half (46%) of all respondents mentioned ‘lazy/don’t work/don’t want to work’ while nearly as many said ‘stupid’ (45%) as a common stereotype of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians by other Canadians. The following table also shows that overall 24% also mentioned ‘not educated’ as a common stereotype as well as ‘fish/live in igloos’ (9%), ‘ignorant’ (8%), and ‘friendly’ (7%).
2.16 Extent Feel That Newfoundland And Labrador Is Treated With Respect By The Federal Government

Very few respondents perceived that Newfoundland and Labrador is treated with respect by the Federal Government. Only 8% of respondents said this province gets ‘a lot’ of respect while 47% said ‘a little’. Over four in ten (42%) were more negative and said ‘not very’ (29%) or ‘not at all’ (13%) in terms of the extent of respect this province receives from the Federal Government.

Those who said ‘not at all’ included a higher than average (13%) proportion of the following segments:

- Retirees (20%)
- Those with less than high school education (19%)
- Those aged 65 or more (20%)
- Those who would ‘strongly’ oppose governments taking a harder line and making tougher decisions (19%)
- Those who ‘strongly’ agreed that this province is ignored by the Federal Government (21%)
- Those who ‘strongly’ disagreed that Confederation has been a good thing for NL (40%)
- Those who felt that this province should leave Canada (29%)
- Those who felt that the Federal Government does not treat this province as part of the Atlantic region (21%)
- Those who felt that the Federal Government is not taking any steps to rebuild the fishery (26%)
- Those who indicated being ‘very dissatisfied’ with this province’s place in Canada (43%)
Q#15  All things considered, to what extent do you feel that Newfoundland and Labrador is treated with respect by the Federal Government?

Regionally, more respondents in the Avalon region (49%) said ‘not very’ or ‘not at all’ in terms of the amount of respect this province gets from the Federal Government. Conversely, the table that follows shows that more respondents in Labrador (61%) gave more favourable ratings to the Federal Government in this regard than those in the other regions.
2.17 Agree Or Disagree That Newfoundland And Labrador Is Often Ignored By The Federal Government

The majority of respondents (84%) felt that the Federal Government ignores Newfoundland and Labrador including almost half (47%) who ‘strongly agreed’ that Newfoundland and Labrador is often ignored by the Federal Government and 37% who ‘somewhat agreed’ with this statement. Only 13% of all respondents disagreed with this statement.

Those who ‘strongly agreed’ with this statement included a higher than average (47%) proportion of the following segments:

- Retirees (55%)
- Those aged 50 to 64 or more (56%)
- Those with household incomes of $70K or more (55%)
- Those who would ‘strongly’ oppose governments taking a harder line and making tougher decisions (52%)
- Those who felt that this province receives less than its fair share of the money distributed by the Federal Government (54%)
- Those who ‘strongly’ disagreed that Confederation has been a good thing for NL (76%)
- Those who ‘somewhat’ disagreed that Confederation has been a good thing for NL (58%)
- Those who felt that this province should leave Canada (68%)
- Those who felt that the Federal Government does not treat this province as part of the Atlantic region (65%)
- Those who ‘strongly support’ equal representation in the Senate (56%)
- Those who felt that the Federal Government is not taking any steps to rebuild the fishery (66%)
- Those who indicated that the province should take a confrontational and aggressive approach in dealing with the Federal Government in the future (60%)
- Those who indicated being ‘very dissatisfied’ with this province’s place in Canada (75%)
- Those who indicated being ‘somewhat dissatisfied’ with this province’s place in Canada (61%)
Q#16  Do you agree or disagree that Newfoundland and Labrador is often ignored by the Federal Government?

The table that follows shows that regionally, more respondents in the Avalon region (22%) disagreed that this province is often ignored by the Federal Government and conversely, more in the Western (88%) region agreed with this statement.
2.18 Perception Of The Fairness Of The Distribution of Money By The Federal Government To The Provinces And Territories

Seven in ten (71%) respondents felt that this province receives ‘less than its fair share’ of the money that the Federal Government distributes to the provinces and territories. Another 17% felt that Newfoundland and Labrador receives ‘about the right amount’ and 3% even believed that this province receives ‘more than it’s fair share’.

Regionally, more of those in the Western (77%) and Central (76%) regions felt that this province receives ‘less than its fair share’ of the money the Federal Government distributes to the provinces and territories in comparison to those in the Avalon (68%), St. John’s (66%), and Labrador (62%) regions as outlined in the table that follows.
2.19 Perception of Whether Confederation Has Been A Good Thing For This Province

Overall, almost three-quarters (74%) agreed that Confederation has been a good thing for Newfoundland and Labrador including one in three (35.5%) respondents who ‘strongly agreed’ that Confederation has been a good thing for Newfoundland and Labrador and 38.5% who ‘somewhat agreed’ that Confederation has been a good thing. Nevertheless, almost two in ten (18%) Newfoundlanders and Labradorians disagreed that Confederation has been a good thing for the province including 8% who ‘strongly disagreed’. Another 3% were more neutral and volunteered that they ‘neither agreed nor disagreed’ with the statement and 5% could not articulate any opinion and said ‘don’t know’.

Those who ‘strongly agreed’ that Confederation has been a good thing included a higher than average (35.5%) proportion of the following segments:

- Females (40%)
- Those in Labrador (44%)
- Homemakers (47%)
- Those aged 65 or more (44%)
- Pink-grey collar employees (those in sales or clerical/administrative positions)
- Those who said that people in rural communities should move to find work (41%)
- Those who felt that this province receives more than its fair share of money distributed by the Federal Government (57%)
- Those who felt that this province receives about the right amount of money distributed by the Federal Government (58%)
- Those who felt that this province should not leave Canada (41%)
- Those who felt that the Federal Government treats this province as part of the Atlantic region (48%)
- Those who would ‘strongly oppose’ equal representation in the Senate (49%)
● Those who felt that the Federal Government is taking ‘a lot’ of steps to rebuild the fishery (53%)
● Those who indicated being ‘very satisfied’ with this province’s place in Canada (58%)
● Those who indicated being ‘somewhat satisfied’ with this province’s place in Canada (41%)
● Those who disagreed ‘strongly’ that the Federal Government ignores this province (44%)
● Those who disagreed ‘somewhat’ that the Federal Government ignores this province (59%)

Those who ‘strongly’ or ‘somewhat’ disagreed that Confederation has been a good thing included a higher than average (18%) proportion of the following segments:

● Those who would ‘strongly’ oppose governments taking a harder line and making tougher decisions (28%)
● Those who felt that this province should leave Canada (64%)
● Those who felt that the Federal Government does not treat this province as part of the Atlantic region (28%)
● Those who felt that the Federal Government is not taking any steps to rebuild the fishery (27%)
● Those who indicated that the province should take a confrontational and aggressive approach in dealing with the Federal Government in the future (27%)
● Those who indicated being ‘very dissatisfied’ with this province’s place in Canada (30%)
● Those who indicated being ‘somewhat dissatisfied’ with this province’s place in Canada (61%)
Q#18 All things considered, do you agree or disagree that Confederation has been a good thing for this province?

Regionally, as outlined in the table that follows, more respondents in Labrador (81%) and the Central region (80%) felt that Confederation has been a good thing for this province versus those in the Western (72%), Avalon (71%), and St. John’s (70%) regions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Labrador</th>
<th>West/PAB/St. Anthony</th>
<th>Central/Eastern/ Sth/Burin</th>
<th>Avalon</th>
<th>St. John’s CMA</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>38.6%</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>40.9%</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7.4%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>11.0%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither A nor D</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3.7%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
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</table>
2.20 Should Newfoundland And Labrador Leave Canada And Become An Independent Country

Eight in ten (81%) Newfoundlanders and Labradors felt that this province should not leave Canada and become a separate country. Nevertheless, 12% felt this province should separate.

Those who felt that this province should leave Canada included a higher than average (12%) proportion of the following segments:

- Those currently seeking work (17%)
- Those with technical/vocational school education (17%)
- Those with annual household incomes of less than $20K (20%)
- Those who felt that the Federal Government does not treat this province as part of the Atlantic region (20%)
- Those who would ‘strongly’ support equal representation in the Senate (17%)
- Those who felt that the Federal Government is not taking any steps to rebuild the fishery (21%)
- Those who indicated being ‘very dissatisfied’ with this province’s place in Canada (34%)

Q#19  Do you think Newfoundland and Labrador should leave Canada and become an independent country?
Regionally, slightly more respondents in the Central region (85%) than in any of the other regions indicated that this province should not leave Canada.

**Should NL Leave Canada and Become an Independent Country**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>St. John's</th>
<th>St. John's</th>
<th>St. John's</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depends</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
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<td>Don't know</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2.21 Think That The Federal Government Treats This Province As Part Of The Atlantic Region

Respondents were divided as to whether they feel that the Federal Government treats this province as part of the Atlantic region as 44% said ‘yes’ and 43% said ‘no’. Another said ‘it depends’ while 5% said ‘don’t know’.
Q#20  Do you think that the Federal Government treats this province as part of the Atlantic region?

Regionally, more of those in Labrador (51%), St. John’s (48%), and the Central region (46%) felt that the Federal Government treats this province as part of Atlantic Canada than those in the Western (37%) and Avalon (38%) regions as outlined in the table that follows.
2.22 Extent Feel Being Treated As Part Of The Atlantic Region Is In The Best Interest Of This Province

Of the 44% who felt that the Federal Government treats this province as part of the Atlantic region, the majority felt that this is in the best interest of the province as evidenced by the 39% who said ‘a lot’ and 38% who said ‘a little’ with regards to the extent to which this is in the best interest of the province. Nevertheless, 20% of this segment did not feel that this was in the best interest of the province.

Q#21 To what extent do you feel this is in the best interest of this province?

Regionally, more of those in the Avalon (84%), Western (80%), and Central (78%) regions felt that being treated as part of the Atlantic region by the Federal Government was in the best interest of the province versus those in Labrador (72%) and St. John’s (72%).
2.23 What Approach Should The Province Take In Dealing With The Federal Government In The Future

Respondents were asked which of two approaches the province should take in dealing with the Federal Government in the future: a confrontational and aggressive approach or a firm but reasoned approach. Significantly more respondents felt that this province should take ‘a firm but reasoned’ approach (72%) over ‘a confrontational and aggressive’ approach (25%).

Those who felt that this province should take ‘a confrontational and aggressive approach’ included a higher than average (25%) proportion of the following segments:

- Those in the Western region (33%)
- Those in the Central region (31%)
- Those with less than high school education (31%)
- Those who would ‘strongly’ oppose governments taking a harder line and making tougher decisions (35%)
- Those who would ‘strongly’ support equal representation in the Senate (32%)
- Those who felt that the Federal Government is not taking any steps to rebuild the fishery (38%)
- Those who indicated being ‘very dissatisfied’ with this province’s place in Canada (40%)
- Those who ‘strongly agreed’ that this province is ignored by the Federal Government (33%)
- Those who ‘strongly disagreed’ that Confederation has been a good thing for this province (48%)
- Those who felt that this province should leave Canada (42%)
- Those who felt that this province is not treated with respect by the Federal Government (39%)
Q#22 What do you think our province’s approach should be in dealing with the Federal Government in the future?

Regionally, more of those in the Central (31%) and Western (33%) regions favoured ‘a confrontational and aggressive’ approach than those in the other regions. Those in the St. John’s region were most in favour of ‘a firm but reasoned approach’ (79%) as outlined in the table that follows.
2.24 Leave The Upper Churchill Deal In The Past And Move On Or Province Continue To Seek Fair Share

Respondents were asked whether the province should ‘leave the Upper Churchill deal in the past and move on’ or ‘continue to seek our fair share by whatever means we can’ and a significant majority (74%) said that the province should continue to seek its fair share. Nevertheless, 21% felt that it is time to move on while 3% said ‘don’t know’ and 2% said ‘it depends’.

Those who felt that it is time to move on included a higher than average (21%) proportion of the following segments:

- Students (30%)
- College/university graduates (26%)
- Those aged 65 or more (28%)
- Those with household incomes of $70K or more (33%)
- Those who feel that this province receives ‘more than its fair share’ of the money distributed by the Federal Government (32%)

Q#23 With respect to Churchill Falls, which of the following statements best expresses your view?
More of those in the Avalon (23%) and St. John’s (22%) regions felt that it is time to move on and leave the Upper Churchill deal in the past in comparison to those in the other regions… as outlined in the table that follows.

### WHICH STATEMENT BEST EXPRESSES VIEWS ABOUT CHURCHILL FALLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>% within REGION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labrador</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central/Eastern/Sih/Placentia</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avalon</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John's CMA</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.25 Senate Be More Effective If Each Province And Territory Were Represented Equally

Over four in ten (44%) ‘strongly supported’ the idea of having each province and territory represented equally in the Senate so that larger and smaller provinces would have the same number of representatives. Furthermore, 28% ‘somewhat supported’ this proposal. Nevertheless, 19% opposed this proposal including 7% who ‘strongly opposed’ it.

Those who more likely to not support this proposal (those who ‘strongly’ or ‘somewhat’ opposed it) included a higher than average (19%) proportion of the following segments:

- Those in St. John’s (25%)
- Those currently seeking work (27%)
- Those with some college/university education (27%)
- Those aged 18 to 24 (28%)
- Those who felt that this province receives more than its fair share of money distributed by the Federal Government (26%)
- Those who ‘somewhat’ disagreed that the Federal Government ignores this province (25%)
On another topic, the Senate of Canada has 105 members. Ontario and Quebec each have 24 senators while each of the remaining provinces has 10 or less including our province, which only has 6. Some people believe Canada’s Senate would be more effective if each province and territory were represented equally, so that larger and smaller provinces would have the same number of representatives in the senate. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

Regionally, those in the Avalon (54%), West (52%), and Labrador (51%) regions were more likely to ‘strongly support’ the idea of equal representation in the Senate by all provinces and territories. Conversely, more of those in the St. John’s region (25%) were opposed to this proposal as outlined in the following table.
2.26 Perception of Whether The Federal Government Is Taking Steps To Rebuild Our Fishery

Respondents were told, “With Confederation, the Federal Government assumed responsibility for the overall management of the fishery and that today the fishery has almost disappeared”. They were then asked to what extent they felt the Federal Government is taking steps to rebuild the province’s fishery. One in three (32%) Newfoundlanders and Labradorians felt that the Federal Government is not taking any steps at all to rebuild the province’s fishery. Another 35% said ‘not very’ in terms of the extent of the steps the Federal Government is taking. Nevertheless, 4% said ‘a lot’ and 27% said ‘a little’ in terms of the extent of the steps the Federal Government is taking to rebuild the fishery.
Q#25  With Confederation, the Federal Government assumed responsibility for the overall management of the fishery. Today the fishery has almost disappeared. To what extent do you feel the Federal Government is taking steps to rebuild our fishery?

Regionally, those in Labrador (52%) more positively viewed the effort the Federal Government is taking to rebuild the fishery than those in the other regions as outlined in the following table. Conversely, those in the Central (76%), Western (72%) and Avalon (67%) regions more negatively viewed the efforts of the Federal Government in this regard as outlined in the following table.
2.27 Who Is Most Responsible For Newfoundland And Labrador Achieving Prosperity In The Future

Respondents were asked who they believe is most responsible for Newfoundland and Labrador achieving prosperity in the future: The Federal Government, The Provincial Government, or The people of Newfoundland and Labrador. The majority (58%) said ‘the people of Newfoundland and Labrador’. Nevertheless, 15% said ‘the Provincial Government’ while another 7% said ‘both the Provincial Government and the people of Newfoundland and Labrador’ and 6% felt that ‘the Federal Government’ is most responsible for the province achieving prosperity in the future.

Those who said ‘the people of Newfoundland and Labrador’ included a higher than average (58%) proportion of the following segments:

- Those in Labrador (64%)
- Those employed year-round full-time for pay (69%)
- Homemakers (65%)
- Those aged 18 to 24 (65%)
- Pink/grey-collar employees (62%)
- Those who ‘somewhat’ opposed governments taking a harder line and making tougher decisions (65%)
- Those who ‘somewhat’ disagreed that the Federal Government often ignores this province (63%)
- Those who ‘somewhat’ disagreed that Confederation has been a good thing for NL (66%)
- Those who said that this province should leave Canada (64%)
Q#26  Who do you think is most responsible for Newfoundland and Labrador achieving prosperity in the future?

Regionally, more of those in St. John’s (19%) said ‘the Provincial Government’ than those in any of the other regions as outlined in the table that follows. However, more of those in Labrador (65%) than in any of the other regions said ‘the people of Newfoundland and Labrador’ are most responsible for the province achieving prosperity in the future.
2.28 Extent Feel That The Aboriginal Peoples Within This Province Are Treated With Dignity And Respect

Almost four in ten (39%) felt that aboriginal peoples are treated with dignity and respect within this province. However, more felt that aboriginal peoples in this province are not completely treated with dignity and respect as evidenced by the 29% who said ‘a little’, the 15% who said ‘not very’ and the 8% who said ‘not at all’ in terms of the extent of dignity and respect given to aboriginal peoples.
Q#27 All things considered, to what extent do you feel that the aboriginal peoples within this province are treated with dignity and respect?

Regionally, those in the Central (51%) were more likely than those in any of the other regions to feel that aboriginal peoples within this province are treated with dignity and respect. More of those in the Labrador (27%), Western (27%) and St. John’s (29%) regions felt that aboriginal peoples within this province are not treated with dignity and respect as outlined in the table that follows.
2.29 Extent Feel That Women Have Equal Status With Men Within This Province

Approximately half (47%) of all respondents felt that women have equal status with men within this province. However, more felt that women do not fully have equal status with men within this province as evidenced by the 32% who said ‘a little’, the 12% who said ‘not very’ and the 6% who said ‘not at all’ in terms of the extent of equal status between men and women in the province.

Those who felt most strongly that women do not have equal status with men (those who said ‘not very’ or ‘not at all’) within this province included a higher than average (18%) proportion of the following segments:

- Females (23%)
- Those in the Western region (23%)
- Those currently seeking work (29%)
- Those aged 65 or more (23%)

Q#28 All things considered, to what extent do you feel that women have equal status with men within this province?

Regionally, more of those in the Central (55%) region than in any of the other regions felt that women have equal status with men within this province. Conversely, more of those in the
Western region (23%) felt that women do not have equal status with men within this province as outlined in the table that follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOMEN HAVE EQUAL STATUS WITH MEN WITHIN NL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% within REGION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labrador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.30 Extent Feel That Labrador Is Treated Fairly By The Provincial Government

Just over one-quarter (27%) felt that Labrador is treated fairly by the Provincial Government. However, more felt that Labrador is not completely treated fairly as evidenced by the 36% who said ‘a little’, the 15% who said ‘not very’ and the 9% who said ‘not at all’ in terms of the extent of fairness to Labrador by the Provincial Government.

Those who felt most strongly that Labrador is not treated fairly by the Provincial Government (those who said ‘not very’ or ‘not at all’) included a higher than average (24%) proportion of the following segments:

- Those living in Labrador (56%)
- Those currently seeking work (29%)
- Those with technical/vocational school education (31%)
- Those with household incomes of $70K or more (33%)
Q#29  All things considered, to what extent do you feel that Labrador is treated fairly by the Provincial Government?

Regionally, more of those in the Central (69%) region felt that Labrador is treated fairly by the Provincial Government. However, those in Labrador (57%) were the most likely to say that Labrador is not treated fairly by the Provincial Government.
2.31 Support Governments Taking A Harder Line And Making Tough Decisions

Respondents were asked to what extent they would support governments taking a harder line and making tough decisions that are for the greater good of the whole province even if it means some sacrifices for them and their community. Almost half (49%) of all respondents indicated that they ‘strongly support’ this idea. An additional 34% said they ‘somewhat support’ this idea. However, 10% opposed the idea including 5% who were ‘strongly opposed’ to it.

Those who ‘strongly supported’ the idea of governments taking a harder line included a higher than average (49%) proportion of the following segments:

- Those in St. John’s (56%)
- Retirees (57%)
- College/university graduates (54%)
- Those with household incomes of $70K or more (58%)
- Those who said that the Provincial Government is most responsible for this province achieving prosperity in the future (60%)

Those who ‘strongly’ or ‘somewhat’ opposed the idea of governments taking a harder line included a higher than average (10%) proportion of the following segments:

- Those living in Labrador (22%)
- Those currently seeking work (23%)
Q#30  To what extent would you support governments taking a harder line and making tough decisions that are for the greater good of the whole province even if it means some sacrifices for you and your community?

Regionally, those in the Central (53%) and St. John’s (56%) regions were more likely to ‘strongly support’ the idea of governments taking a harder line and making tough decisions than those in the other regions. Those in Labrador (22%) were the most likely to oppose this idea as outlined in the table that follows.
2.32 People in Rural Communities Move Elsewhere To Find Work Or Should Governments Provide Assistance So That They Can Stay In Their Communities

Respondents were asked for their opinion on the following: “Many communities in rural areas depend on seasonal jobs. If people in these communities cannot find enough work do you think they should move elsewhere in the province or out of the province where they can find such work, or should governments provide assistance so that they can stay in their communities?”

Respondents were divided on their opinion. Approximately four in ten (38%) felt that people in these communities should move elsewhere in the province or out of the province where they can find such work. However, four in ten (41%) also believed that governments should provide assistance so that they can stay in their communities. Another 4% said ‘both’ and 13% said ‘it depends’ while 2% said ‘neither’.

Those who felt that people in these communities should move elsewhere in the province or out of the province where they can find such work included a higher than average (38%) proportion of the following segments:

- Those living in St. John’s (50%)
- Those employed year-round full-time for pay (50%)
- College/university graduates (48%)
- Those in pink/grey-collar occupations (50%)
- Those in white-collar occupations (50%)
- Those with household incomes of $40K to just under $70K (51%)
- Those with household incomes of $70K or more (54%)

Those who believed that governments should provide assistance so that people can stay in their communities included a higher than average (41%) proportion of the following segments:

- Those in the Western region (48%)
- Those employed year-round part-time for pay (50%)
- Those currently seeking work (57%)
- Homemakers (51%)
- Students (50%)
- Those with less than high school education (57%)
- Those with household incomes of $20K or less (59%)
- Those with household incomes of $20K to just under $40K (49%)
- Those who felt that the Federal Government is most responsible for this province achieving prosperity in the future (48%)
- Those who ‘strongly’ oppose governments taking a harder line and making tougher decisions (53%)
- Those who ‘somewhat’ oppose governments taking a harder line and making tougher decisions (59%)
Q#31 Many communities in rural areas depend on seasonal jobs. If people in these communities cannot find enough work do you think they should move elsewhere in the province or out of the province where they can find such work, or should governments provide assistance so that they can stay in their communities?

Regionally, those in St. John’s (50%) were more likely than those in any of the other regions to feel that governments should provide assistance so that these people can stay in their communities. Those in the Western (48%) and Central (45%) regions were more likely than others to feel that governments should provide assistance so that people can stay in their communities. As outlined in the following table, more respondents in the Avalon (18%) region said that it would ‘depend’.
2.33 Born In Newfoundland And Labrador

Just over nine in ten (92%) respondents were born in the province. The incidence of this was highest in the Western (96%) and Avalon (96%) regions and lowest in Labrador (85%) and St. John’s (88%).
Q#32 Were you born in Newfoundland and Labrador?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>Labrador</th>
<th>West/PAB/St. Anthony</th>
<th>Central/Eastern/ Sth/Burin</th>
<th>Avalon</th>
<th>St. John's CMA</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>85.2%</td>
<td>96.0%</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
<td>96.3%</td>
<td>88.1%</td>
<td>92.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
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<td>6.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
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</table>
3.0 Research Objectives and Methodology

3.1 Overall Objectives

This research was commissioned by the Royal Commission on Renewing and Strengthening our Place in Canada in April 2003 in order to investigate the representativeness of the attitudes and opinions expressed to the Royal Commission by residents during its public consultations and other information gathering processes.

3.2 Research Methodology

a) Sampling

A questionnaire was administered by telephone by experienced interviewers employed by Ryan Research & Communications, a local marketing research company. The universe was identified as all residents of the province aged 18 years or more.

The sampling procedure used for this study is known as stratified random sampling, whereby quotas are set by ‘strata’ or geographic areas based on their proportion to the total population. The strata for this study consisted of 5 geographic areas. Subsequently, proportionate quotas were set by region relative to the population in each region.

A quota of 1000 interviews was set from a random sample of residents of the province 18 years of age or older. Quotas of 200 were set for each of the five key areas outlined below so that any variations in opinion on a regional basis can be identified:

1) West/Northern Peninsula/Port Aux Basques
2) Avalon Peninsula (excluding St. John’s CMA)
3) Labrador
4) Central/South/Burin/East
5) St. John’s CMA

A total of 1001 interviews were completed providing a statistical margin of error ± 3.10 overall and ± 6.93% at the 95% level of confidence (19 times out of 20) for each of the five areas. The overall results were weighted to reflect the actual populations of the five regions.

b) Interview Timing and Results

Interviewing was conducted from April 10th to 24th 2003. Each interview was approximately 9 to 18 minutes in duration. A total of 1000 interviews were completed.

The table below outlines the total sample generated in relation to the number of fully-completed questionnaires. The completion rate was comparable to other studies conducted by Ryan Research & Communications in this market.
c) Limitations

First, telephone interviewing is somewhat limited in the number and types of subject areas that can be investigated. The complexity of consumer decision-making and their difficulty in recalling and verbalizing motivations, attitudes and beliefs, points to these limitations. However, the specific research objectives and questionnaire design used in this study were developed with a sensitivity to the unique characteristics of the telephone interview method of data collection...in order to minimize the impact of these methodological shortcomings. In addition, interviewers observed that respondents were generally pleasant, interested, and very cooperative.

A second limitation of this study is the length of the questionnaire employed. However, conversational style and engaging flow of topics...combined with skilled and experienced interviewers...appears to have overcome the inherent dangers of respondent fatigue and irritation.