

Survey Fact Sheet

The Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade's 2009 annual membership survey – conducted from Nov. 9 to 13 -- offered members the opportunity to highlight a broad range of issues that were important to their businesses. These topics will be used to help guide the Board's activities in the coming year.

Profile of Respondents

- 68 members responded to the survey, representing a statistically relevant 12% of the membership.
- 80% classified themselves as owners, CEOs or management.
- 79% of responses were from companies of fewer than 50 employees; nine percent were from companies of between 50 and 249 employees; and seven percent were from companies with 250 employees or more.

A summary of the results by issue has been compiled below.

Synopsis of Findings by Issue

1. Economic Development

70% of respondents cited economic development issues that were important to their business. Respondents cited the importance of support for existing business development and attracting new business.

2. Taxation

63% of respondents cited taxation-related issues that were important to their business. Many members were particularly interested in the pending impact of the harmonization of GST and PST.

3. Health Care

56% of respondents cited health care topics that were important to their business. Access to hospital services and physicians were among those issues to be highlighted.

4. Education

54% of respondents listed education-related issues that were important to their business. Issues surrounding employee training and the development of skilled trades received the majority of comments. UOIT, Durham College and local schools are viewed as business partners in meeting employee education requirements.

5. Energy

53% of respondents cited energy-related topics as important to their business. Respondents noted the importance of energy conservation, green initiatives, and alternate energy sources in conjunction with cost controls. Some referenced nuclear development.

6. Environment

51% of respondents cited environment-related topics that were important to their business, with specific references to electronics recycling and education in environmental practices.

7. Government Funding

50% of respondents noted issues around government funding that were important to their business. Members noted a combination of government stimulus funds and other grants.

8. Transportation

50% of respondents listed transportation-related topics that were important to their business. References to road and highway topics included the expansion of Highway 407, and measures to ease highway congestion.

Members cited public transit as a topic of interest, both within Durham Region and connections throughout the GTA.

The future of Pickering Airport lands was also referenced by respondents.

9. Crime

42% of respondents cited crime-related issues that were important to their business.

Referenced topics included various crimes such as break-ins, theft, vandalism, graffiti and gang activity. Employee safety and theft of intellectual property were also cited.

10. Emergency Services

37% of respondents cited topics surrounding emergency services as important to their business. Most were favourable when referencing the level and response times of local emergency services.

Some respondents cited the need to increase awareness about emergency plans.

11. International Trade

28% of respondents noted issues surrounding international trade that were important to their business.

Members cited challenges including red tape at the border, protectionism, exchange rates, and import duties.