

How happy are you with the quality of the water and wastewater systems in your regional municipality in Niagara?



Niagara Region	GENDER		AGE			REGION			
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	East (Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Fort Erie)	Centre (St. Catharines, Thorold, Welland, Port Colborne)	West (Lincoln, Pelham, Wainfleet, Grimsby, West Lincoln)	
Very happy	20%	24%	16%	17%	17%	24%	19%	21%	20%
Somewhat happy	42%	47%	37%	47%	45%	38%	39%	45%	38%
Somewhat unhappy	23%	20%	27%	25%	27%	20%	25%	22%	27%
Very unhappy	9%	5%	13%	6%	6%	12%	13%	6%	10%
Not sure	5%	4%	7%	5%	4%	6%	5%	6%	5%

Poll conducted by Research Co. for CUPE Ontario in the Niagara Region - April 21, 2026

In November 2025, Doug Ford's provincial government passed a law that gives it the power to force cities and towns to transfer publicly owned and operated water and wastewater services—including the water and sewage pipes and filtration plants that municipalities currently own—to business corporations.

What should be done about this?



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My local mayor, councillor, and regional councillor should resist this new provincial law if the Ford government tries to use it here in Niagara	61%	62%	61%	54%	66%	60%	62%	59%	61%
My local mayor, councillor, and regional councillor should accept this new provincial law if the Ford government tries to use it here in Niagara	17%	18%	15%	16%	17%	17%	16%	17%	18%
Not sure	22%	19%	24%	29%	18%	22%	22%	24%	21%

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Currently, water and sewage is a service provided for the residents of Niagara's 12 cities and towns by the Niagara Regional government. It is fully owned by residents through their government and provided on a not-for-profit basis. Last November, Doug Ford's provincial government passed a law giving it the power to force any municipal government in Ontario to transfer water and wastewater assets (filtration plants, pipes, sewers) to business corporations. When it comes to water and sewage, which of the following is closest to your own view?



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It is important for my democratically elected representatives, like the mayor and regional councillors, to keep control of water services. I don't want crucial infrastructure that my neighbours and I have paid for over the years to be transferred to a business corporation with shares that could be bought, sold, or traded.	74%	74%	74%	73%	77%	71%	74%	74%	71%
It doesn't matter whether my democratically elected representatives, like the mayor and regional councillors, keep control of water services. It's okay if crucial infrastructure that my neighbours and I have paid for over the years gets transferred to a business corporation that could be bought, sold, or traded.	15%	16%	15%	13%	11%	20%	15%	15%	17%
Not sure	11%	10%	11%	14%	12%	9%	12%	11%	12%

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In other places, the cost paid by consumers has increased when water has been owned or run by business corporations. Niagara region already has some of the highest water rates in the province. Do you support or oppose the provincial government using its new water corporations law (Bill 60) to change how water is provided in Niagara Region?



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Strongly support	7%	8%	6%	7%	6%	8%	7%	8%	6%
Moderately support	21%	21%	20%	32%	21%	16%	22%	18%	25%
Moderately oppose	23%	22%	24%	25%	28%	19%	20%	25%	20%
Strongly oppose	37%	38%	36%	17%	37%	44%	38%	37%	37%
Not sure	12%	10%	14%	19%	8%	13%	13%	12%	13%

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Water infrastructure—including pipes, sewers and filtration plants—in Niagara is getting old and some of it needs to be repaired or updated. Also, for more housing to be built, more water infrastructure needs to be added. Updating current and building more water infrastructure will cost millions of dollars. Thinking about this, which of these four ideas do you prefer?



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The provincial government can borrow money at a much cheaper rate and should borrow the money that is required to repair and build new water infrastructure that Niagara needs, even if that means increasing taxes paid by corporations and any individual whose income is \$250,000 or more

Very good idea	19%	20%	18%	18%	17%	21%	16%	20%	19%
Good idea	52%	52%	51%	50%	56%	48%	54%	48%	53%
Bad idea	11%	12%	11%	13%	8%	14%	10%	13%	9%
Very bad idea	5%	3%	6%	9%	4%	4%	6%	5%	5%
Not sure	13%	13%	14%	10%	15%	13%	14%	14%	15%

The provincial government should make my municipal government transfer our current water infrastructure to a business corporation that can borrow the money required to repair and build, even if that means water use rates go up and corners get cut affecting the safety of water drinkers and lake water quality

Very good idea	5%	4%	5%	8%	3%	4%	6%	3%	6%
Good idea	17%	17%	17%	20%	16%	17%	19%	17%	17%
Bad idea	27%	26%	27%	29%	27%	25%	23%	29%	22%
Very bad idea	37%	39%	35%	25%	37%	41%	35%	37%	37%
Not sure	15%	13%	16%	18%	17%	12%	17%	14%	18%

The Ford government should borrow the money that is required to repair our current water infrastructure, even if that means increasing taxes paid by corporations and individuals earning \$250,000 or more, and let my municipal government charge fees that real estate developers must pay to recover some of the cost of building new water infrastructure because developers make good profits selling new housing

Very good idea	20%	23%	18%	15%	17%	25%	23%	18%	24%
Good idea	45%	45%	45%	46%	49%	41%	44%	44%	45%
Bad idea	13%	14%	13%	18%	10%	14%	11%	16%	9%
Very bad idea	7%	4%	9%	7%	7%	6%	6%	8%	5%
Not sure	14%	13%	15%	14%	16%	13%	15%	14%	18%

The provincial government has an infrastructure fund and should pay the full cost needed to upgrade water infrastructure at the municipal level in Ontario even if that means increasing taxes paid by corporations and bringing in a new wealth tax on millionaires and billionaires

Very good idea	25%	26%	24%	28%	24%	25%	25%	27%	24%
Good idea	49%	50%	48%	45%	52%	48%	46%	49%	48%
Bad idea	10%	9%	10%	11%	7%	11%	11%	10%	9%
Very bad idea	3%	3%	4%	6%	2%	3%	4%	3%	4%
Not sure	13%	12%	14%	10%	14%	13%	15%	13%	15%