



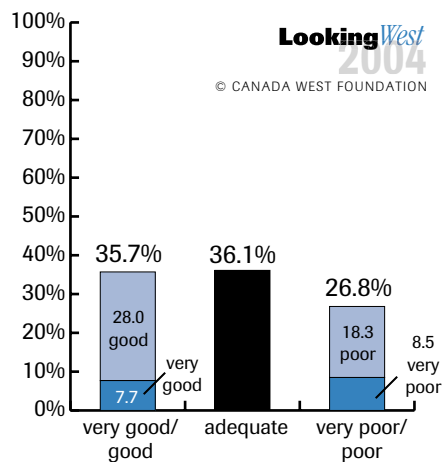
Environment

The Looking West 2004 policy priorities data demonstrate almost two-thirds (65.6%) of westerners feel that protecting the environment is a high priority for long-term provincial prosperity and quality of life, while almost three in ten (27.6%) feel it is a medium priority. Less than one in ten feels it is either a low priority (5.8%) or not a priority (0.8%).

To further probe attitudes about the environment, Looking West 2004 survey respondents were asked two questions specific to environmental stewardship, defined to respondents as “the long-term management of our land, water and other natural resources.” First, respondents were asked, “How would you rate the [province] government’s performance in the area of environmental stewardship? Very good; good; adequate; poor; very poor.” Second, respondents were asked, “How would you rate the federal government’s performance in the area of environmental stewardship? Very good; good; adequate; poor; very poor.”

Westerners do not have overwhelmingly positive opinions about how governments are handling environmental stewardship, but clearly see the provincial government in a better light. Just over one-third (35.7%) rates their provincial government’s performance as good or very good, while over one-quarter (26.8%) rates it as poor or very poor. The plurality (36.1%) states that their provincial government’s performance is adequate.

Figure 1:
Provincial Government Environmental Stewardship -
Western Respondents, 2004

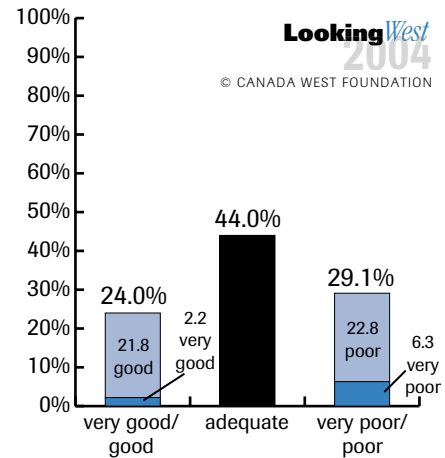


How would you rate the [province] government’s performance in the area of environmental stewardship? Very good; good; adequate; poor; very poor.

The federal government fares worse, with less than one-quarter (24.0%) rating its performance on environmental stewardship as good or very good, and close to three in ten (29.1%) rating it as poor or very poor. The plurality (44.0%) rates the federal government's performance as adequate. There is almost a twelve percentage point gap between the number of westerners who rate the provincial government's performance as good or very good and the number who rate the federal government's performance as good or very good.

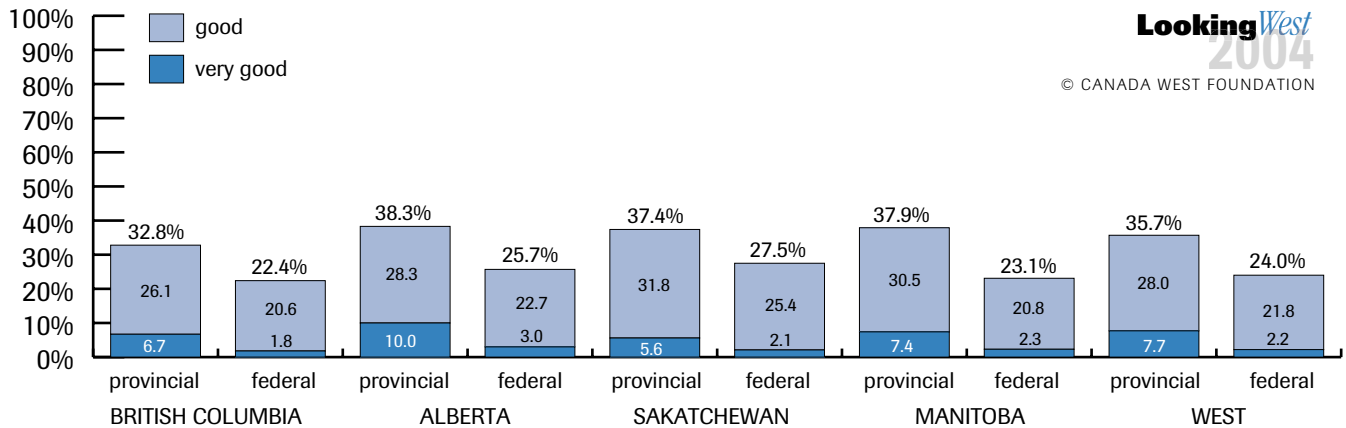
Similar attitudes are seen across the western provinces individually. British Columbians are somewhat less likely than prairie respondents to rate their provincial government as good or very good in environmental stewardship. British Columbians and Manitobans are the least likely to rate the federal government's performance as good or very good, while Saskatchewan respondents are the most positive of the western provinces about the federal government's environmental performance.

Figure 2:
Federal Government Environmental Stewardship -
Western Respondents



How would you rate the federal government's performance in the area of environmental stewardship? Very good; good; adequate; poor; very poor.

Figure 3:
Environmental Stewardship Good/Very Good



How would you rate the [province] government's performance in the area of environmental stewardship? Very good; good; adequate; poor; very poor.

How would you rate the federal government's performance in the area of environmental stewardship? Very good; good; adequate; poor; very poor.



This summary was authored by CWF Director of Research Loleen Berdahl, and is part of the Canada West Foundation's Building the New West Project. The Kahanoff Foundation, Western Diversification, the Privy Council Office, the Government of Saskatchewan, and Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations provided funding support for this research study. The opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Canada West Foundation's donors, subscribers or Board.