

## Don't hike taxes to fix economy: Poll

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Residents of the GTA want governments and business to act now to lessen the blow of the faltering economy.

The caveat, though, is they don't want higher taxes to pay for it, according to a new Nanos Research poll.

"We wanted to get a sense of the appetite for action," said Nik Nanos of Nanos Research. "The appetite is very strong ... but, and this is the kicker, we asked Ontarians how they felt about increasing personal taxes to pay for this. It was a resounding 'No.' "

According to the survey, 65% of Ontarians believe government should intervene in key sectors of the economy, and 62% of GTA residents say now is the time for governments to increase spending, stimulate the economy and incur debt.

But 52% of Toronto-area residents oppose -- and another 6% somewhat oppose -- increasing taxes to pay for that action and stimulus.

"When we look at everything Ontarians would like to see, and what they're willing to pay for, the message is: 'Don't turn to us to foot the bill at this particular time,' " Nanos said.

So, with Ontarians embracing the need for efficient government action, about 250 municipal and business leaders from around the GTA met yesterday in Markham to forge a path forward for the region to weather the current economic storm.