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By: Mia Rabson
14/01/2009 1:13 PM | [Comments \(0\)](#)

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OTTAWA - Only one in four Canadians think the federal government is doing a good job of dealing with the current economic crisis, and more than one in three have little or no confidence in the government's ability to deal with the problem, a new poll shows.

The poll, conducted by Nanos Research for the National Union of Public and General Employees, found one in three Canadians think the government is doing a bad job.

In total, 1,003 Canadians were surveyed by phone between January 3 and January 7. The poll is considered accurate within 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

It found 25.4 per cent of Canadians believed Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government was doing a good or very good job of dealing with the crisis.

Forty per cent said it was doing an average job, and 32.7 per cent said the government is doing a poor or very poor job.

Western Canadians are the most likely to say the government is doing a good job, with 30.4 per cent of Westerners choosing good or very good, although an almost equal number from the West (31.6 per cent) said the government was doing a poor or very poor job.

Atlantic Canadians are the most likely to say the government is handling the crisis poorly or very poorly (38.8 per cent).

The poll also found 40.8 per cent of Canadians have little or no confidence in the Harper government's ability to handle the economic downturn, while 30.4 per cent said they were confident or very confident it could.

More than half of Canadians said cutting government services would make the downturn worse and 44.5 per cent said it is very important for the government to increase investments in public services like health care and education during the economic downturn.

The entire poll can be found online at www.nupge.ca.

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