

Manitoba Special
(Telecom and priorities for Pallister gov't)

Topic 1: the MTS sale to BCE

Intro:

Today we want to ask Manitobans about some recent events in this province.

As you may have heard, MTS – Manitoba Telecom Services – has been purchased by BCE (Bell Canada Enterprises) for \$3.9 billion. The deal is subject to regulatory approval but is expected to go through by early 2017.

1. How closely would you say you have been following this issue? Would you say you are:

Following it in the news and discussing it with friends and family
Seeing some media coverage and having the odd conversation about it
Just scanning the headlines
Haven't seen or heard anything about it

2. Are you currently an MTS customer for any of the following services:

Household landline
Cell phone service
Cable TV

Columns:

Yes, I am an MTS subscriber
No, I have this service, but not through MTS
I don't subscribe to this service

3. Based on whatever you have seen or heard about the sale of MTS to Bell Canada and on your own general impressions, all things considered, do you think MTS's sale to BCE will be good or bad for each of the following:

The amount of competition in the Manitoba marketplace
The prices Manitobans pay for these telecom services
Investment in communications infrastructure in Manitoba
The number of jobs in this sector in Manitoba

Manitoba as a whole [Anchor]

Very bad
Bad
Neutral
Good
Very good

4. Overall do you approve or disapprove of the sale of MTS to BCE?

Strongly approve
Moderately approve
Moderately disapprove
Strongly disapprove

Topic 2 – new gov't in MB

Intro:

Changing topics now, as you know, the April 19th Manitoba election resulted in a change in government. The Manitoba NDP, led by Greg Selinger, was defeated. The Progressive Conservative Party, led by Brian Pallister, won a large majority in the legislature.

1.-Overall, would you say you are pleased or upset with this outcome?

Very pleased
Somewhat pleased
Neutral
Somewhat upset
Very upset

2. Pallister and his Cabinet have just been sworn in on May 2nd. What **two** priorities from the list below would you say the new Manitoba PC government should focus on as their top priorities?

[This order:]

The economy in general
Jobs/unemployment

Deficit/Debt/Balanced budget
Trim costs/cut waste/find efficiencies
Taxes -- reduce

Education

Healthcare
Child and Family services

Indigenous/Aboriginal issues
Environment
Crime/Justice
Poverty

Infrastructure
Hydro

3. Thinking about the lead-up to this Manitoba election, all things considered, what are your thoughts on what the Pallister PC's have told Manitobans about their plans? Overall, whether or not you support their plans for government, do you think Brian Pallister and the PC's:

Have been generally open and honest about what they plan to do in government
Have a "hidden agenda" with some plans they have not talked about publicly yet

4. How do you think Greg Selinger, the outgoing NDP Premier of Manitoba, will go down in history in terms of the policies and approaches of his government?

Outstanding
Above Average
Average
Below Average
Poor
Don't know

5. And, which party's candidate did you support in last month's Manitoba election?

Progressive Conservative Party
Liberal Party
New Democratic Party (NDP)
Green Party
Other Party
Rather not say
I did not vote