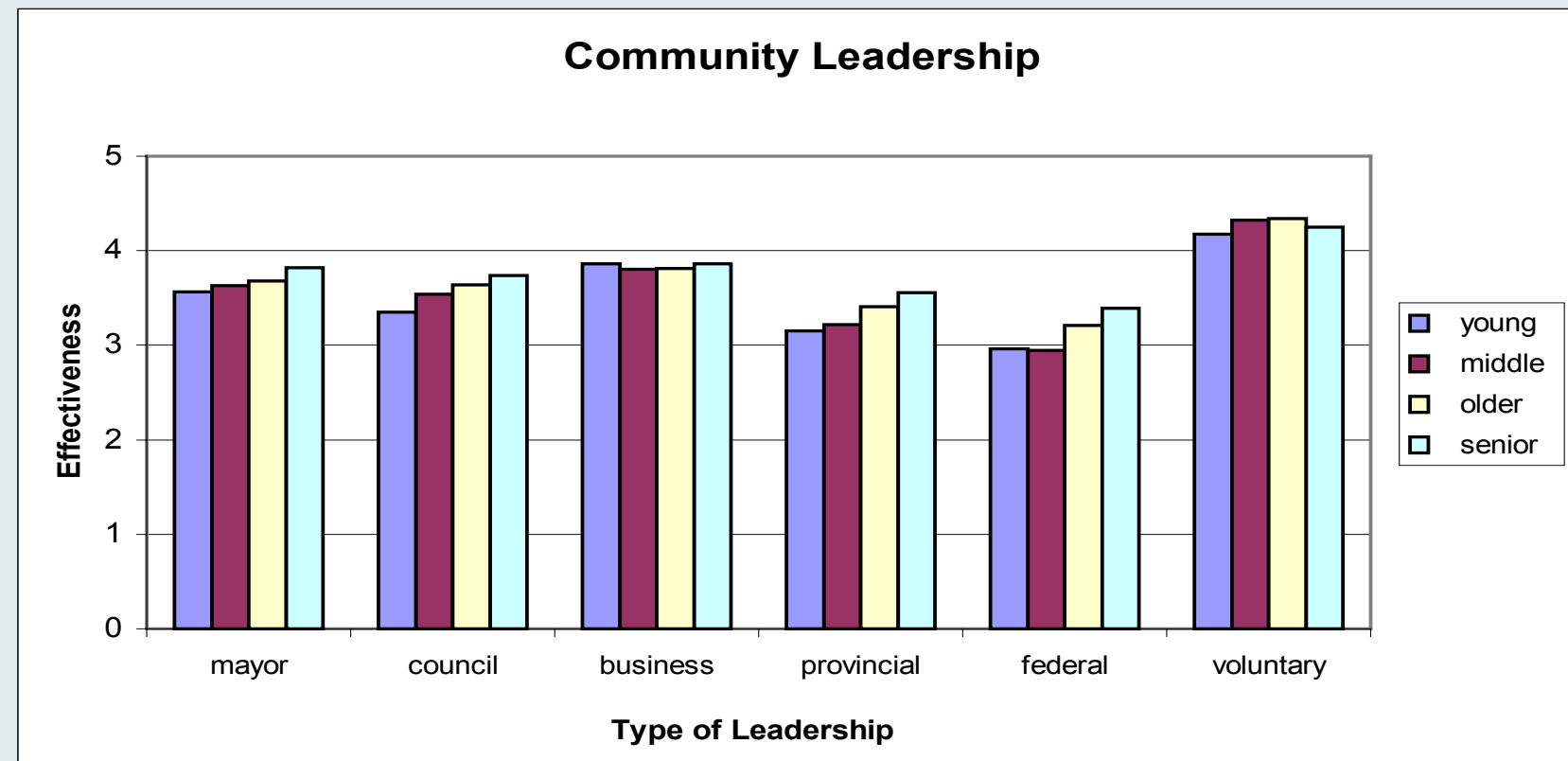


RURAL MATTERS

Governance Matters

Changing economies, populations and institutions mean that the old forms of governing face severe challenges. Local responsibilities seem to be increasing while the resources and ability to meet those responsibilities are declining. In the face of these challenges, municipal organizations remain the first point of contact for rural people and one that they find more effective than either provincial or federal organizations. Only voluntary organizations are ranked higher. This suggests there may be considerable potential for voluntary organizations to provide important options in the future.



Most respondents (63%) expressed an interest in local issues. In many cases they took action in the form of: donating funds; signing petitions; and, attending public meetings. A larger proportion of residents in our western sites reported taking more action in the community than the other NRE sites across Canada.

