

# Alberta Carbon Levy and Rebate Program

## Lethbridge Public Opinion Study – Winter 2019

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Faron Ellis PhD, Research Chair  
*Citizen Society Research Lab*  
faron.ellis@lethbridgecollege.ca  
Lethbridge College  
3000 College Drive South  
Lethbridge AB T1K 1L6  
[www.lethbridgecollege.ca](http://www.lethbridgecollege.ca)



## Methodology

### *Population*

The city of Lethbridge has a total population of 99,769 residents (2018 census) approximately 80% of which are 18 years of age or older (79,800). A total of 48,883 Lethbridge residents are male (49.0%), 50,697 are female (50.8%) and 18 (0.2%) prefer not to identify. South Lethbridge is home to 32,109 residents (32.2%) while the rapidly expanding west side is now home to 39,960 residents (40.1%). There are 27,700 north Lethbridge residents (27.8%).

### *Sample*

*Data Collected* by Lethbridge College students in the winter of 2019. Students interviewed 882 randomly selected adult Lethbridge residents by telephone from February 9 to 13, 2019 under the supervision of CSRL Research Chair, Dr. Faron Ellis. We sincerely appreciate and thank all those who took time to respond to our survey. Full methodological notes and results from previous CSRL Opinion Studies can be accessed by visiting CSRL web pages at: <https://lethbridgecollege.ca/departments/citizen-society-research-lab>.

### *Representativeness*

Analysis of the demographic data indicates that, within acceptable limits, the sample accurately represents the demographic distribution of the adult population within the city of Lethbridge. The sample has been statistically weighted to even better reflect that of the population (sex, age, and area of the city of Lethbridge).

### *Confidence*

The sample yields a margin of error of  $\pm 3.3$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data.

### *IB Commons Call Centre*

The CSRL operates as a division of the Centre for Applied Arts and Sciences. Students conducted interviews using the facilities of the Lethbridge College IB Commons Call Centre with support from the Lethbridge College Facility Management, Instructional Technology, and Audio Visual teams.

### *Sponsorship*

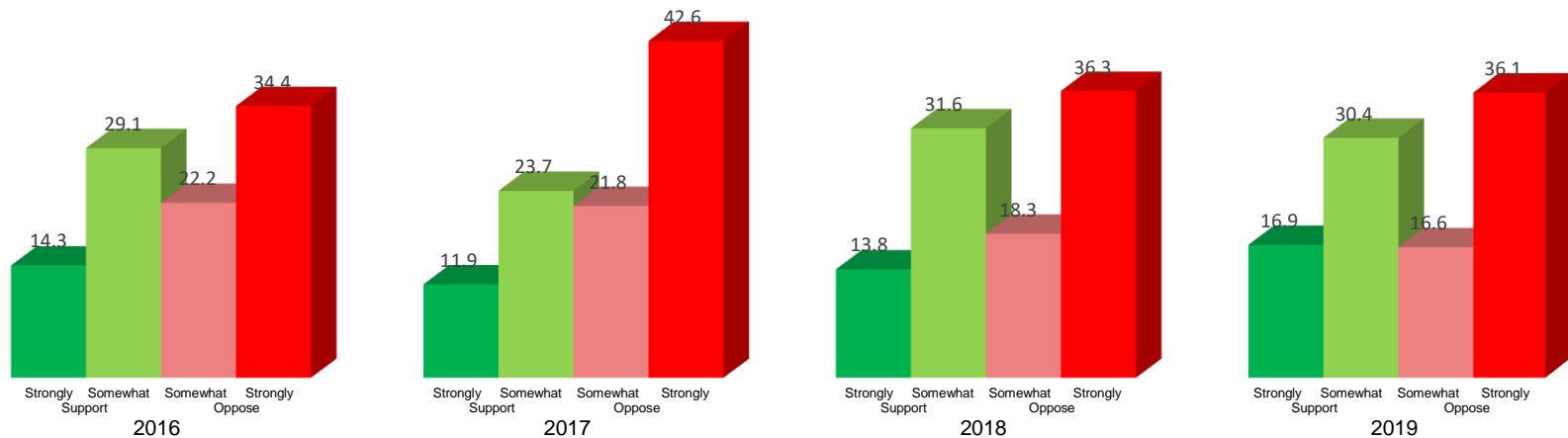
These data are part of a larger study of the opinions and attitudes of Lethbridge residents conducted by the Citizen Society Research Lab at Lethbridge College. This particular set of questions was derived from student, faculty and community interest in the topic.

## Carbon Levy and Rebate Program

When asked to express their opinions about the provincial government's carbon levy and rebate program, a slim majority of Lethbridge residents stated they are opposed (52.7%). Nearly as many Lethbridge residents (47.3%) are supportive. Approximately five percent did not know how to respond, while eight respondents refused to provide an opinion. These later cases have been removed from the summary data below.

- While a slight majority was opposed in 2016 (56.6%), opposition peaked at nearly two-thirds (64.3%) opposed to the plan immediately after its initial implementation in 2017. Opposition has since moderated to below pre-implementation levels.
- Support levels have increased to 47.3% from only slightly more than one-third in 2017 (35.7%).
- However, opposition is much more intense than is support. For example, 36.1% of Lethbridge residents are strongly opposed but only 16.9% are strongly supportive. Conversely, moderate support (30.4%) is much greater than is moderate opposition (16.6%).

Carbon Levy & Rebate (%)	2016	2017	2018	2019		2016	2017	2018	2019
Strongly support	14.3	11.9	13.8	16.9	Support	43.4	35.7	45.4	47.3
Somewhat support	29.1	23.7	31.6	30.4					
Somewhat oppose	22.2	21.8	18.3	16.6					
Strongly oppose	34.4	42.6	36.3	36.1					



## Carbon Levy and Rebate Program by Selected Demographic Groups

- Men (55.9%) are more opposed to the provincial government's carbon plan than are women (49.4%) who are evenly split on the issue.
- Support and opposition levels fluctuate slightly across the different areas of the city of Lethbridge with majorities opposed in north (55.7%) and west (55.4%) Lethbridge, but a slight majority supportive (52.7%) in south Lethbridge.
- Middle-income (57.4%) and upper-income (55.2%) residents are more opposed than are lower-income (39.7%) residents, the latter of which is one of the few groups to demonstrate substantial majority support (60.3%).
- College, technical and trades graduates (57.9%) and those with high school education or less (61.8%) are more opposed than are university graduates, a majority of which are supportive (57.5%).
- Majorities of most age groups are opposed, with the exception of the youth where a majority are supportive (60.1%).
- Partisanship is the most important factor correlated with opinion differences.
  - Provincial partisanship is most important with 85.3% of provincial NDP voters supporting the levy and rebate plan while 83.0% of United Conservative Party voters are opposed. Provincial Liberal partisans (73.0%) are much more supportive than opposed, while Alberta Party and Freedom Conservative voters are more evenly split.
    - United Conservative voters are most intense in their opposition with a clear majority (62.6%) strongly opposed.
    - NDP partisan are most intense in their support with 46.6% strongly supportive.
  - Federal partisanship shows similar division with 81.1% of Liberal voters, 83.1% of NDP voters, and 80.6% of Green voters supportive. Conversely, 77.9% of Conservative supporters are opposed, as are the small number of People's Party of Canada voters (70.0%).
- Only minor differences of opinion are measured between the two Lethbridge provincial electoral districts.
  - Lethbridge West residents are evenly split on the merits of the carbon levy and rebate program with 49.5% opposed and 50.5% supportive.
  - Lethbridge East residents are more likely to be opposed (54.7%) than supportive (45.3%), but only marginally so.

## Carbon Levy and Rebate Program 2019 (%)

Sex/City/Prov Elect Div	Male	Female	Lethbridge	Lethbridge West	Lethbridge East
Support	44.1	50.6	47.3	50.5	45.3
Oppose	55.9	49.4	52.7	49.5	54.7

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge
Support	52.7	44.3	44.6
Oppose	47.3	55.7	55.4

Household Income*	Under \$40,000	\$40,001 to \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Support	60.3	42.6	44.8
Oppose	39.7	57.4	55.2

Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Support	38.2	46.3	42.1	57.5
Oppose	61.8	53.8	57.9	42.5

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Support	60.1	43.3	43.9	43.2
Oppose	39.9	56.7	56.1	56.8

Provincial Vote*	NDP	UCP	Liberal	AB Party	Free. Con.	Undecided
Support	85.3	17.0	73.0	42.9	50.0	41.8
Oppose	14.7	83.0	27.0	57.1	50.0	58.2

Federal Vote*	Liberal	Conservative	NDP	Green	PPC	Undecided
Support	81.1	22.1	83.1	80.6	30.0	48.8
Oppose	18.9	77.9	16.9	19.4	70.0	51.2

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%; \* sig < 0.05

## Carbon Levy and Rebate Program 2019 (%)

Sex*/City/Prov Elect District	Male	Female	Lethbridge	Lethbridge West	Lethbridge East
Strongly support.	17.8	16.1	16.9	20.2	17.1
Somewhat support	26.3	34.5	30.4	30.4	28.4
Somewhat oppose	14.2	18.6	16.6	16.6	17.1
Strongly oppose	41.7	30.8	36.1	32.8	37.5

Area*	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge
Strongly support	21.5	14.0	16.5
Somewhat support	31.2	30.3	28.2
Somewhat oppose	14.2	21.7	14.9
Strongly oppose	33.1	33.9	40.5

Household Income*	Under \$40,000	\$40,001 to \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Strongly support	18.4	15.9	19.9
Somewhat support	42.2	26.8	24.9
Somewhat oppose	9.2	22.1	14.9
Strongly oppose	30.3	35.3	40.3

Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Strongly support	13.8	15.6	14.6	22.0
Somewhat support	24.3	30.6	27.7	35.7
Somewhat oppose	21.7	15.6	17.4	13.3
Strongly oppose	40.1	38.1	40.3	29.0

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Strongly support	19.7	18.0	13.5	18.6
Somewhat support	40.4	25.8	30.4	24.5
Somewhat oppose	13.8	18.8	18.3	15.5
Strongly oppose	26.1	37.5	37.7	41.4

Provincial Vote*	NDP	UCP	Liberal	AB Party	Free. Con.	Undecided
Strongly support	46.6	2.6	30.7	21.4	14.7	5.5
Somewhat support	38.8	14.4	42.0	21.4	35.3	35.9
Somewhat oppose	5.1	20.4	11.4	14.3	20.6	22.8
Strongly oppose	9.6	62.6	15.9	42.9	29.4	35.9

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100; \* sig < 0.05

## Demographics

Area of City (%)		Gender (%)		Income (%)		Education (%)		Age (%)	
South	32.9	Male	49.6	Under \$40,000	27.4	H-School/less	19.2	18-29	23.5
North	28.2	Female	49.8	\$40-100,000	47.7	Some P-Sec.	20.1	30-44	15.7
West	38.9	Other	0.6	Over \$100,000	25.0	Col-Tech-Grad	30.6	45-64	34.1
						University Grad	30.1	65 or older	26.6

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

## Question

- As part of its climate change strategy, the Alberta government implemented a carbon tax and rebate program this year. From what you know about the Alberta government's carbon tax and rebate program, please tell me how much you support or oppose the introduction of the Alberta carbon tax and rebate plan.

*Supplemental Information about tax and rebates if requested:*

<u>Carbon Tax Info:</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Gasoline	4.49 ¢/L	6.73 ¢/L
Natural Gas	1.011 \$/GJ (\$320/year)	1.517 \$/GJ (\$470/year)
Diesel / Propane	5.35 ¢/L / 3.08 ¢/L	8.03 ¢/L / 4.62 ¢/L

Rebate Info: 60% of Alberta households will be eligible for maximum rebates based on income.

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Individuals (income less than \$47,501)	\$200	\$300
Families (income less than \$95,001)	\$300	\$450
Children (under 18 - maximum of 4 per family)	\$30	\$45