

# Alberta Provincial Politics Carbon Levy and Rebate Program

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Alberta Public Opinion Study – February 2019

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## Methodology

**Population:** The province of Alberta has a total population of 4,334,025 residents (Statistics Canada, 2018) approximately 78% of which are 18 years of age or older for an adult population of 3,380,540.

**Sample:** Data were collected by Lethbridge College students in the winter of 2019. Students interviewed 1,055 adult Alberta residents by telephone from February 2 to 5, 2019 under the supervision of principal investigator Dr. Faron Ellis, Research Chair, Citizen Society Research Lab. Landline, hybrid and mobile telephone numbers were selected from a sample drawn from InfoGroup directories and supplemented by CSRL lists. We sincerely thank all participants who took time out of their day to respond to our inquiries. Further results from this study and results from past studies can be accessed by visiting the CSRL web pages at: [www.lethbridgecollege.ca](http://www.lethbridgecollege.ca)

**Representativeness:** Analysis of the demographic data indicates that, within acceptable limits, the sample accurately represents the demographic distribution of the adult population within the province of Alberta. The sample has been statistically weighted where necessary to even better reflect the demographic distribution of the population (gender, area of province and age).

**Confidence:** The weighted sample yields a margin of error  $\pm 3.0$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data (Calgary  $\pm 5.6$  percentage points, Edmonton and immediate area  $\pm 5.8$  percentage points, North  $\pm 6.3$  percentage points, South  $\pm 6.3$  percentage points 19 times out of 20).

**IB Commons Call Centre:** Students conducted interviews using the facilities of the Lethbridge College IB Commons Call Centre. We thank members of Lethbridge College's ITS and AV teams for their support in helping maintain the IB Commons Call Center.

**Sponsorship:** These data are part of a larger study of the opinions and attitudes of Alberta residents conducted by the Citizen Society Research Lab at Lethbridge College. These questions were derived from student and faculty interest in the topics.

## Carbon Levy and Rebate Program

- After two years of experience with the Alberta government's carbon levy and rebate policies, nearly two-thirds of Albertans (65.4%) remain opposed, nearly as many as those opposed at the same time in 2016 before full details of the rebate structure were known to voters (67.2%). Slightly more than one-third of Albertans are supportive (34.6%), similar to the one-third (32.8%) who thought similarly in 2016. Only 6.1% of Albertans were undecided about these policies while 0.8% refused to answer, these cases have been removed from the tabular data below.
- Delving deeper reveals that opposition is much more intense than is support. For example, nearly half of Albertans (48.8%) are strongly opposed to the government's carbon program while only 12.7% are strongly supportive. Moderate support (21.9%) is only slightly greater than moderate opposition (16.5%).
- Majorities in all areas of the province are opposed, although Edmonton support (47.7%) is nearly as great as is the opposition in the provincial capital area (52.3%). Substantial majorities in all other areas of the province are opposed, with opposition strongest in northern Alberta (79.4%), followed by Calgary (69.9%) and southern Alberta (61.3%).
- Partisanship is the best predictor of opinion about the carbon levy and rebate program. A substantial majority of provincial NDP voters (77.5%) support the plan, as does a clear majority of provincial Liberal voters (59.1%). Conversely, clear majorities of Alberta Party voters (73.7%) and UCP supporters (85.5%) are opposed, as is a majority of undecided voters (55.5%).
- Similarly, a substantial majority of federal Conservative voters are opposed (83.2%), while strong majorities of federal Liberal (80.0%) and NDP (79.7%) voters approve of the plan. Interesting, a majority of the small number of federal Green voters are opposed (64.3%).
- Men (69.0%) are slightly more opposed than are women (61.5%). Although a majority of university graduates (52.3%) are opposed, they are much less opposed than are other education groups, all of which indicate much stronger majority opposition. Age and household income have no significant impact on support or opposition levels with strong majorities of all income and age groups opposed.

Carbon Levy and Rebate Program (%)

	2016	2017	2018	2019		2016	2017	2018	2019
Strongly support	13.7	12.9	14.2	<b>12.7</b>					
Somewhat support	19.0	27.7	30.8	<b>21.9</b>	Support	32.8	40.5	45.0	<b>34.6</b>
Somewhat oppose	14.7	20.8	16.7	<b>16.5</b>	Oppose	67.2	59.5	55.0	<b>65.4</b>
Strongly oppose	52.5	38.7	38.3	<b>48.8</b>					

# Carbon program by demographic group (2019) (%)

Gender*	Men	Women	All Alberta		
Support	31.0	38.5	34.6		
Oppose	69.0	61.5	65.4		
Area of Province*	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South	
Support	30.1	47.7	20.6	38.7	
Oppose	69.9	52.3	79.4	61.3	
Household Income	Under \$60,000	\$60,001 to \$120,000	Over \$120,000		
Support	32.7	35.6	34.4		
Oppose	67.3	64.4	65.6		
Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad	
Support	29.9	31.3	26.7	47.7	
Oppose	70.1	68.7	73.3	52.3	
Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older	
Support	31.6	34.7	35.3	36.5	
Oppose	68.4	65.3	64.7	63.5	
Provincial Vote*	NDP	UCP	Liberal	Alberta Party	Undecided
Support	77.5	14.5	59.1	26.3	44.5
Oppose	22.5	85.5	40.9	73.7	55.5
Federal Vote*	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Support	16.8	80.4	79.7	35.7	56.6
Oppose	83.2	19.6	20.3	64.3	43.4

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

## Carbon program by demographic group (2019) (%)

Gender*	Men	Women	All Alberta
Strongly support	12.6	12.7	12.7
Somewhat support	18.5	25.8	21.9
Somewhat oppose	14.7	18.9	16.5
Strongly oppose	54.2	42.6	48.8

Area of Province	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South
Strongly support	11.0	16.4	9.0	14.0
Somewhat support	19.4	31.3	11.7	24.9
Somewhat oppose	14.5	15.3	20.2	16.7
Strongly oppose	55.1	37.0	59.2	44.3

Household Income	Under \$60,000	\$60,001 to \$120,000	Over \$120,000
Strongly support	14.4	12.0	11.5
Somewhat support	18.2	23.6	23.0
Somewhat oppose	19.2	16.3	12.6
Strongly oppose	48.2	48.2	53.0

Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Strongly support	13.4	7.5	7.2	21.0
Somewhat support	16.6	23.9	19.5	26.5
Somewhat oppose	12.8	22.9	17.1	14.2
Strongly oppose	57.2	45.8	56.3	38.2

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Strongly support	15.1	11.8	11.2	13.1
Somewhat support	16.8	22.6	24.3	23.4
Somewhat oppose	19.8	19.3	15.1	12.7
Strongly oppose	48.3	46.2	49.3	50.8

Provincial Vote*	NDP	UCP	Liberal	Alberta Party	Undecided
Strongly support	33.0	4.1	20.9	14.0	11.6
Somewhat support	44.5	10.4	37.2	12.3	33.3
Somewhat oppose	11.0	16.3	18.6	15.8	24.0
Strongly oppose	11.5	69.2	23.3	57.9	31.0

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

## Demographics (%)

Area of Province		Gender		Income		Education		Age	
Calgary	28.5	Male	50.0	Under \$60,000	39.0	H-School/less	19.0	18-29	23.7
Edmonton	26.5	Female	48.8	\$60-\$120,000	39.5	Some P-Sec.	20.7	30-44	21.4
North	22.6	Other	1.2	Over \$120,000	21.5	Col-Tech-Grad	29.2	45-64	29.7
South	22.4					University Grad	31.1	65 or older	25.1

Mean age = 48.6 years

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

## Question

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

Would you say you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose...

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- don't know (unprompted)
- refused (unprompted)

(Additional info, if requested)

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

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

	2017	2018
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