

Alberta Carbon Tax and Rebate Program

Lethbridge Public Opinion Study – Winter 2017

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Methodology

Population The city of Lethbridge has a total population of 96,828 residents (2016 census) approximately 80% of which are 18 years of age or older (77,500). A total of 47,457 Lethbridge residents are male (49%) while 49,371 are female (51%). South Lethbridge is home to 31,720 residents (32.8%) while the rapidly expanding west side is now home to 37,929 residents (39.2%). There are 27,179 north Lethbridge residents (28.1%).

Sample Data Collected by Lethbridge College students in 11 courses enrolled in a variety of Lethbridge College programs in the winter of 2017. Students interviewed 1,501 randomly selected adult Lethbridge residents by telephone on February 11-16, 2017 under the supervision of CSRL Research Chair, Faron Ellis. We sincerely appreciate and thank all those who took time to respond to our survey. Full methodological notes and results from previous Lethbridge and Alberta Public Opinion Studies can be accessed by visiting the CSRL web pages at: www.lethbridgecollege.ab.ca/go/csrl.

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 ± 2.5 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, drawing on support from the Lethbridge College Facility Management team, Instructional Technology, Audio Visual, and the Centre for Applied Research and Innovation.

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 Tax and Rebate Program

On January 1, 2017, Albertans began paying the provincial government's carbon tax on gasoline, diesel, propane and natural gas. Later in the month, over sixty percent of Alberta families received a carbon rebate from the government, the amount of which varied depending on their income and number of dependent children.

When asked to express their opinions about the provincial government's carbon tax and rebate program, a sizable majority of Lethbridge residents stated they are opposed (64.3%). Slightly more than one-third of Lethbridge residents (35.7%) are supportive.

- While a slight majority was opposed in 2016 (56.6%), nearly two-thirds (64.3%) of Lethbridge residents are now opposed
- Support levels have decreased from 43.4% in 2016, to slightly more than one-third in 2017 (35.7%).

Carbon Tax & Rebate (%)	2016	2017		2016	2017
Strongly support	14.3	11.9			
Somewhat support	29.1	23.7	Support	43.4	35.7
Somewhat oppose	22.2	21.8	Oppose	56.6	64.3
Strongly oppose	34.4	42.6			

- Men (66.7%) are slightly more opposed than are women (62.4%), but these differences not statistically significant.
- Northside residents are most opposed (69.5%), followed by southside residents (63.9%) and westsiders (60.9%).
- Middle-income residents are more opposed (65.5%) than are upper-income (61.7%) and lower-income (60.6%) residents.
- Less well-educated residents are more opposed than are well-educated residents, but majorities of residents in all education categories are opposed.
- Seniors and gen-Xers are more opposed than are youth and boomers, but age differences are slight and not statistically significant.
- Partisanship is the most important factor in determining opinion.
 - Provincial partisanship is most important with 80.4% of NDP voters supporting the tax and rebate plans. Only 10.1% of Wildrose partisans and 18.0% of PC voters are supportive. Provincial Liberal partisans are more evenly divided.
 - Federal partisanship shows similar division with 66.5% of Liberal voters and 75.5% of NDP voters supportive. Conversely, 85.6% of Conservative supporters are opposed. Federal Green Party supporters are more evenly divided in their opinions.
- Although we were prepared to offer supplemental information to respondents who believed they did have enough information to render an opinion, 96.9% of respondents did not request further information; 1.3% requested information only about the taxes, 0.4% asked for information only about rebates, while 1.4% asked for information about both taxes and rebates.

Carbon Tax and Rebate Program 2017 (%)

Gender	Male	Female	Lethbridge
Support	33.3	37.6	35.7
Oppose	66.7	62.4	64.3

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge
Support	36.1	30.5	39.1
Oppose	63.9	69.5	60.9

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,001 to \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Support	39.4	34.5	38.3
Oppose	60.6	65.5	61.7

Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Support	28.1	35.8	29.5	45.7
Oppose	71.9	64.2	70.5	54.3

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Support	38.2	32.8	37.5	33.0
Oppose	61.8	67.2	62.5	67.0

Provincial Vote*	NDP	Wildrose	PC	Liberal	Undecided
Support	80.4	10.1	18.0	53.1	32.1
Oppose	19.6	89.9	82.0	46.9	67.9

Federal Vote*	Liberal	Conservative	NDP	Green	Undecided
Support	66.5	14.4	75.5	47.4	39.0
Oppose	33.5	85.6	24.5	52.6	61.0

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

Carbon Tax and Rebate Program 2017 (%)

Gender*	Male	Female	Lethbridge
Strongly support	12.0	11.9	11.9
Somewhat support	21.3	25.7	23.7
Somewhat oppose	19.9	23.6	21.8
Strongly oppose	46.7	38.8	42.6

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge
Strongly support	12.2	10.7	12.7
Somewhat support	23.8	19.9	26.5
Somewhat oppose	22.4	20.1	22.4
Strongly oppose	41.6	49.4	38.4

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,001 to \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Strongly support	10.2	14.3	13.3
Somewhat support	29.3	20.1	25.0
Somewhat oppose	26.1	20.1	20.0
Strongly oppose	34.4	45.5	41.7

Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Strongly support	8.1	10.0	8.0	19.3
Somewhat support	19.7	25.9	21.4	26.2
Somewhat oppose	19.7	24.4	21.4	21.3
Strongly oppose	52.5	39.7	49.1	33.2

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Strongly support	9.4	12.4	13.0	12.9
Somewhat support	28.6	20.2	24.5	20.1
Somewhat oppose	29.8	23.1	17.8	18.3
Strongly oppose	32.2	44.2	44.6	48.7

Provincial Vote	NDP	Wildrose	PC	Liberal	Undecided
Strongly support	37.3	1.1	2.8	15.6	5.2
Somewhat support	43.1	9.0	15.1	37.4	27.4
Somewhat oppose	9.8	18.3	23.9	29.9	39.3
Strongly oppose	9.8	71.6	58.3	17.0	28.1

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

Demographics

Gender (%)	Area of City (%)	Income (%)	Education (%)	Age (%)
Male 48.9	South 33.7	Under \$40,000 30.0	H-School/less 18.7	18-29 25.3
Female 51.1	North 28.7	\$40-100,000 44.7	Some P-Sec. 27.5	30-44 17.4
	West 37.6	Over \$100,000 25.3	Col-Tech-Grad 25.2	45-64 31.5
			University Grad 28.6	65 or older 25.8

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

- Did respondent ask for additional information about the carbon tax, about rebates, or about both?
 - No additional information requested/provided
 - Yes - info only about carbon tax only
 - Yes - info only about rebates
 - Yes – info about both taxes and rebates