

Alberta Provincial Politics

## Public Use Areas Protection Plans: OHV and Random Camping Restrictions

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Alberta Public Opinion Study – October 2017

**Faron Ellis, PhD**  
**Research Chair**

faron.ellis@lethbridgecollege.ca  
[www.lethbridgecollege.ca/go/csrl](http://www.lethbridgecollege.ca/go/csrl)

Lethbridge College  
3000 College Drive South  
Lethbridge AB T1K 1L6



## Methodology

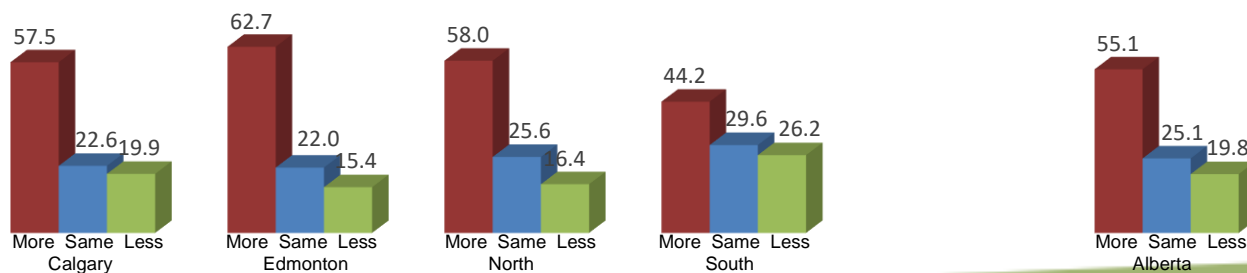
- **Population** The province of Alberta has a total population of 4,286,134 residents (Alberta Economic Dashboard) approximately 78% of which are 18 years of age or older for an adult population of 3,343,200.
- **Sample** Data were collected by Lethbridge College students in the fall of 2017. Students interviewed 1,481 adult Alberta residents by telephone from September 30 to October 5, 2017 under the supervision of principal investigator Dr. Faron Ellis, Research Chair, Citizen Society Research Lab. Landline telephone numbers were selected from a sample drawn from InfoGroup directories and supplemented with a selection of mobile numbers from 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/go/csrl](http://www.lethbridgecollege.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 province of Alberta. The sample has been statistically weighted where necessary to even better reflect the demographic distribution of the population (gender and age).
- **Confidence** The weighted sample yields a margin of error  $\pm 2.55$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data (Calgary  $\pm 4.9$  percentage points, Edmonton and immediate area  $\pm 5.1$  percentage points, North  $\pm 5.2$  percentage points, South  $\pm 4.9$  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.

## HOV Restrictions

- A clear majority of Albertans (55.1%) support the provincial government placing further restrictions on the use of off-highway vehicles in Alberta's public use areas. Most of those (44.1%) believe OHV use should be more restricted than it is now, while 11.0% believe OHV use should be completely banned in all public use areas. One-quarter of Albertans think current OHV use restrictions are fine as they are, while one in five Albertans (19.8%) believe there should be fewer restrictions on OHV use. Most of those (13.7%) believe restrictions should be somewhat relaxed while 6.1% would like to see no restrictions at all on OHV use in Alberta's public spaces.
- Women (64.3%) are more supportive of greater restrictions than are men (46.2%).
- Southern Albertans are least supportive of increased restrictions (44.2%) and the south is the only region without majority support for greater restrictions. Southern residents are also the most likely to want fewer restrictions (26.2%).
- Lower income residents are less supportive of greater restrictions than are other income groups, and are also most supportive of fewer restrictions.
- University grads are most supportive of greater restrictions (68.2%) while less well-educated residents are less supportive but still more likely to support more restrictions than fewer.
- Middle-aged and senior residents are more supportive of greater restrictions than are Alberta's youth, who are more likely to favor fewer restrictions than greater restrictions. In fact, the youth are the only group to demonstrate greater support for reduced (38.7%) restrictions than greater restrictions (31.3%).
- NDP voters – provincial (76.7%) and federal (76.9%) – are most supportive of greater restrictions while other partisans are less supportive of increased restrictions, but still more supportive of greater restrictions than fewer.

### OHV Policies (%)

Ban in all public places	11.0	Greater restrictions	55.1
Be more restricted than now	44.1	Status quo	25.1
Be no more or less restricted	25.1	Fewer restrictions	19.8
Be less restricted	13.7		
Have no restrictions at all	6.1		



## OHV restrictions (2017) (%)

Gender*	Male	Female	Alberta
Greater restrictions	46.2	64.3	55.1
Status quo	27.4	22.9	25.1
Fewer restrictions	26.4	12.8	19.8

Area of Province*	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South
Greater restrictions	57.5	62.7	58.0	44.2
Status quo	22.6	22.0	25.6	29.6
Fewer restrictions	19.9	15.4	16.4	26.2

Household Income*	Under \$60,000	\$60,001 to \$120,000	Over \$120,000
Greater restrictions	47.3	59.0	56.9
Status quo	25.6	22.7	30.1
Fewer restrictions	27.1	18.3	13.0

Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Greater restrictions	47.7	46.6	53.1	68.2
Status quo	24.0	29.2	28.4	18.8
Fewer restrictions	28.3	24.2	18.5	12.9

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Greater restrictions	31.3	46.3	64.7	75.2
Status quo	30.1	32.0	23.3	14.6
Fewer restrictions	38.7	21.7	12.0	10.2

Provincial Vote*	NDP	UCP	Liberal	Alberta Party	Undecided
Greater restrictions	76.7	49.3	43.9	45.8	64.5
Status quo	14.0	28.6	32.3	30.6	17.4
Fewer restrictions	9.3	22.1	23.9	23.6	18.0

Federal Vote*	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Greater restrictions	50.5	56.7	76.9	53.5	64.5
Status quo	27.7	26.1	17.6	23.3	17.4
Fewer restrictions	21.8	17.2	5.6	23.3	18.0

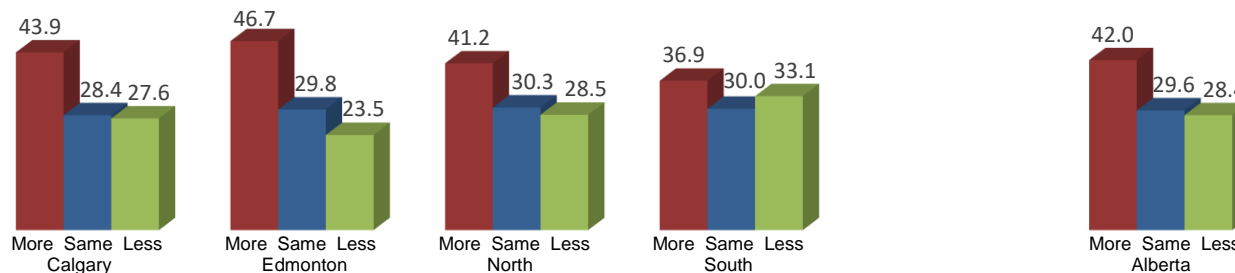
Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%; \* sig < 0.05

## Random Camping Restrictions

- Slightly more than two of every five Albertans (42.0%) support the provincial government placing greater restrictions on random camping in Alberta's public use spaces. Approximately three of every ten (29.6%) believe current restrictions are adequate, while nearly the same amount (28.4%) would like to see fewer restrictions on random camping. Like with OHV restrictions, opinion about further restricting random camping is not polarized, with less than one in ten Albertans wanting either a total ban (8.0%) or no restrictions at all (9.3%).
- Women (48.4%) more likely to want greater restrictions than are men (35.6%), who are equally likely to want fewer restrictions (35.6%).
- No significant regional differences emerge although the south, like with OHV restrictions, is again the least supportive of greater restrictions.
- Lower income residents are again the least supportive of greater restrictions.
- University graduates are more supportive of greater restrictions (52.8%) than are other education groups and are one of the few demographic groups to demonstrate majority support for greater restrictions on random camping.
- Age is a significant predictor of opinion. Alberta's youth have a clear preference for fewer restrictions (42.8%) compared to 27.1% who support greater restrictions, while a majority of seniors (52.8%) support greater restrictions, with very few seniors supporting less restriction (19.2%).
- NDP voters again distinguish themselves as more supportive of greater restrictions than are other partisans, but differences between partisans are not as pronounced with respect to random camping as with OHV restrictions.

Random Camping Policies (%)

Ban in all public places	8.0	Greater restrictions	42.0
Be more restricted than now	34.0	Status quo	29.6
Be no more or less restricted	29.6	Fewer restrictions	28.4
Be less restricted	19.0		
Have no restrictions at all	9.3		



## Random Camping restrictions (2017) (%)

Gender*	Male	Female	Alberta
Greater restrictions	35.6	48.4	42.0
Status quo	28.8	30.5	29.6
Fewer restrictions	35.6	21.1	28.4

Area of Province	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South
Greater restrictions	43.9	46.7	41.2	36.9
Status quo	28.4	29.8	30.3	30.0
Fewer restrictions	27.6	23.5	28.5	33.1

Household Income*	Under \$60,000	\$60,001 to \$120,000	Over \$120,000
Greater restrictions	38.9	43.8	44.1
Status quo	26.5	29.5	35.1
Fewer restrictions	34.6	26.7	20.8

Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Greater restrictions	31.7	37.1	41.6	52.8
Status quo	27.0	31.1	34.0	25.6
Fewer restrictions	41.3	31.8	24.4	21.6

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Greater restrictions	27.1	33.6	49.3	56.7
Status quo	30.1	33.3	29.5	24.0
Fewer restrictions	42.8	33.0	21.2	19.2

Provincial Vote*	NDP	UCP	Liberal	Alberta Party	Undecided
Greater restrictions	55.2	40.1	33.1	36.1	43.2
Status quo	29.7	31.4	29.3	25.0	26.2
Fewer restrictions	15.1	28.6	37.6	38.9	30.6

Federal Vote	CPC	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Greater restrictions	40.4	45.6	53.2	32.6	37.8
Status quo	30.5	29.3	31.2	27.9	25.9
Fewer restrictions	29.1	25.2	15.6	39.5	36.3

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

## Demographics

Area of Province		Gender		Income		Education		Age	
Calgary	26.2	Male	49.8	Under \$60,000	37.5	H-School/less	19.8	18-29	22.9
Edmonton	24.1	Female	49.5	\$60-\$120,000	39.1	Some P-Sec.	21.1	30-44	23.2
North	23.4	Other	0.7	Over \$120,000	23.5	Col-Tech-Grad	28.8	45-64	31.0
South	26.4					University Grad	30.3	65 or older	22.9

Mean age = 48 years old

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

## Questions

To better protect the province's wilderness and park areas, the Alberta government has announced it will restrict or ban off-highway vehicles and random camping in the newly created Castle provincial park, and possibly other public use areas over the next three to five years.

a) Beginning with off-highway vehicles, also known as OHVs, please tell me if you think there should be more or less restrictions on OHVs in public use areas. Would you say OHVs should be...

Additional Information if requested) Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) are often referred to as All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and include quads, motorcycles, dirt bikes, side-by-sides, and snowmobiles.

b) Thinking now about random camping. Random camping occurs when people camp outside of designated campgrounds. Please tell me if you think there should be more or less restrictions on random camping in Alberta's public use areas. Would you say random camping should be...

- Banned in all public places
- More restricted
- No more/less restricted
- Less restricted
- No restrictions at all
- don't know (unprompted)
- refused (unprompted)