

Alberta Provincial Politics – Carbon Levy and Rebate Program

Alberta Public Opinion Study – October 2017

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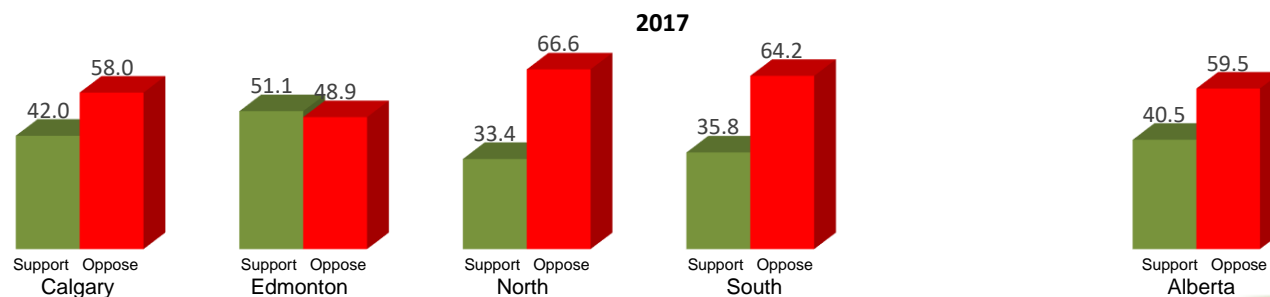
Methodology

- **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
- **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 ± 2.55 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data (Calgary ± 4.9 percentage points, Edmonton ± 5.1 percentage points, North ± 5.2 percentage points, South ± 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 IT 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. This question was derived from student and faculty interest in the topic.

Carbon Levy and Rebate Program

- After nine months of experience with the Alberta government's carbon levy and rebate policies, a clear majority of Albertans (59.5%) remain opposed, slightly fewer than the 67.2% who were opposed at the same time last year before full details of the rebate structure were known to voters. Two of every five Albertans are supportive (40.5%), slightly more than the one-third (32.8%) who thought similarly last year. Only 2.8% of Albertans were undecided about these policies.
- Nearly two of every five Albertans (38.7%) are strongly opposed to the government's carbon levy and rebate program, down from the majority (52.5%) who were strongly opposed at the same time last year. A further one-fifth (20.8%) is somewhat opposed. More than one-quarter of all Albertans (27.7%) are somewhat supportive, up from one-fifth (19.0%) in 2016.
- Edmonton is the only area of the province to indicate majority support for the government's carbon levy and rebate policies (51.1%). Substantial majorities in all other areas of the province are opposed, with opposition strongest in northern Alberta (66.6%), followed by southern Alberta (64.2%) and Calgary (58.0%).
- Partisanship is the best predictor of opinion about the carbon tax. An overwhelming majority of provincial NDP voters (83.2%) support the levy and rebate plan, as does a clear majority of provincial Liberal voters (60.3%). Conversely, overwhelming majorities of UCP (78.5%) and Alberta Party (68.5%) voters are opposed, as is a clear majority of undecided voters (55.6%).
- Similarly, a substantial majority of federal Conservative voters are opposed (75.9%), while strong majorities of federal Liberal (73.9%) and NDP (75.7%) voters approve of the plan. Interestingly, a majority of federal Green Party voters are opposed (56.1%).
- Men (63.1%) are more opposed than are women (55.6%) although clear majorities of both genders are opposed. University graduates (51.9%) are more supportive than are other education groups, all of which indicate majority opposition. Younger voters are more supportive than are older voters and seniors, but all age groups demonstrate majority opposition. Middle income Albertans (63.2%) are more opposed than are their upper income (56.7%) lower income (54.5%) counterparts.

Carbon Plan (%)	2016	2017		2016	2017
Strongly support	13.7	12.9			
Somewhat support	19.0	27.7	Support	32.8	40.5
Somewhat oppose	14.7	20.8	Oppose	67.2	59.5
Strongly oppose	52.5	38.7			



Carbon program by demographic group (2017) (%)

Gender*	Male	Female	Alberta
Support	36.9	44.4	40.5
Oppose	63.1	55.6	59.5

Area of Province*	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South
Support	42.0	51.1	33.4	35.8
Oppose	58.0	48.9	66.6	64.2

Household Income	Under \$60,000	\$60,001 to \$120,000	Over \$120,000
Support	45.5	36.8	43.3
Oppose	54.5	63.2	56.7

Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Support	30.8	41.6	33.7	51.9
Oppose	69.2	58.4	66.3	48.1

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Support	43.5	44.9	38.8	35.3
Oppose	56.5	55.1	61.2	64.7

Provincial Vote*	NDP	UCP	Liberal	Alberta Party	Undecided
Support	83.2	21.5	60.3	31.5	44.4
Oppose	16.8	78.5	39.7	68.5	55.6

Federal Vote	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Support	24.1	73.9	75.7	43.9	50.4
Oppose	75.9	26.1	24.3	56.1	49.6

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

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