



Federal Government Infrastructure Policy for Enquirica Research

Alberta Public Opinion Study – Fall 2012

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Methodology

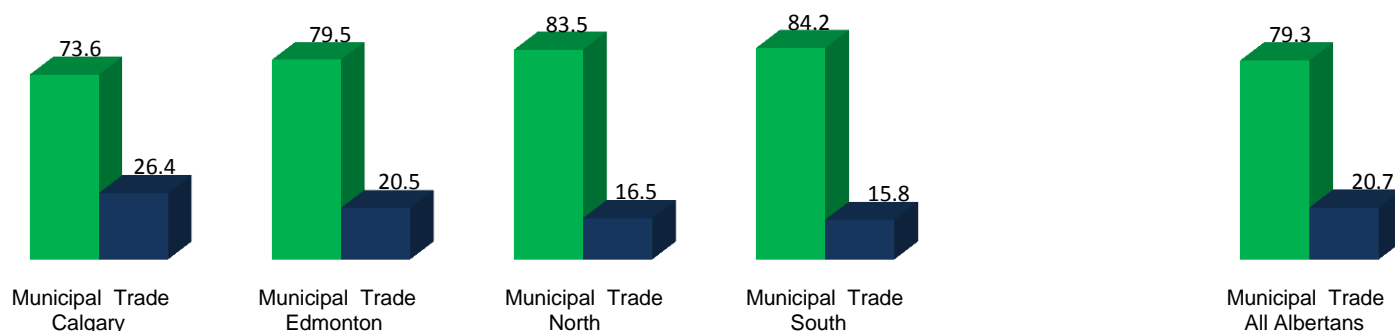
-  **Population** The province of Alberta has a total population of 3,873,700 residents (Statistics Canada, July 1, 2012) approximately 77% of which are 18 years of age or older for an adult population of approximately 2,982,750.
-  **Sample** Data were collected by Lethbridge College and Athabasca University students enrolled in STS270 – Social Science Research Methods and PSC150 – Local Government in the fall of 2012. Students interviewed 1,067 adult Alberta residents by telephone from September 29 to 30, 2012 under the supervision of Canadian Studies faculty members Faron Ellis PhD and Marda Schindeler MA. Telephone numbers were selected from a sample drawn from InfoGroup directories. 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 of ± 3.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data (Calgary ± 5.4 percentage points, Edmonton and immediate area ± 5.5 percentage points, North ± 6.9 percentage points, South ± 6.7 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 and applications originally developed by the Open Source Learning Lab (OSLL). We thank James Manis PhD and OSLL for their efforts in working with us to establish the IB Commons Call Centre.
-  **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 particular set of questions was sponsored by Enquirica Research. We thank Enquirica for their support of our research efforts.

Federal Government Infrastructure Funding Options (%)

Municipal Infrastructure vs. International Trade Infrastructure

By a nearly four to one margin, Albertans support the federal government funding municipal infrastructure projects (79.3%) over international trade infrastructure projects (20.7%). Support for federal funding of municipal infrastructure is strong everywhere, but strongest outside of the major cities where 84.2% of southern Albertans outside of Calgary and 83.5% of northern Albertans outside of Edmonton are supportive (73.6% of Calgarians and 79.5% of Edmontonians are supportive).

Calgarians are most supportive of international trade infrastructure initiatives (26.4%), but are still nearly three times more likely to favor funding municipal infrastructure projects.



Municipal vs. Trade*(%)	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South	All Albertans
Municipal	73.6	79.5	83.5	84.2	79.3
International	26.4	20.5	16.5	15.8	20.7

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

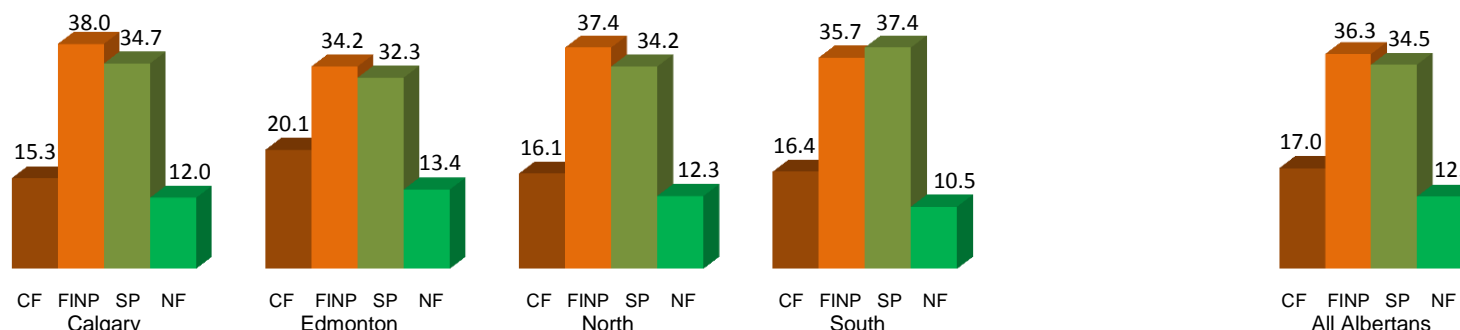
Federal Government Infrastructure Funding Options (%)

Public vs. Private Infrastructure

Overall, Albertans support the private sector being involved in building infrastructure. Fewer than one in five (17.0%) believe that the federal government should completely fund infrastructure projects that would compete with private sector projects. Slightly more than one-third (36.3%) believe that the federal government should only fund projects if no private sector option exists. A further one-third (34.5%) prefer to subsidize private sector projects while 12.2% would prefer no federal funding for infrastructure, leaving all projects to be funded through the private sector.

Opinions are remarkably similar in the various regions of the province, with only Edmonton residents indicating slightly more support for complete federal government funding (20.2%) and, paradoxically, the greatest support for no federal funding at all (13.4%), although none of these slight differences are statistically significant.

Expected patterns of support and opposition are measured between the various supporters of the federal political parties. For example, Conservative supporters are slightly more likely (14.3%) to support no funding than are other Albertans, while NDP supporters are slightly most likely to want the federal government to completely fund projects in competition with the private sector (23.9%).



Private vs. Public (%)	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South	All Albertans
Completely fund	15.3	20.1	16.1	16.4	17.0
Fund if no private	38.0	34.2	37.4	35.7	36.3
Subsidize private	34.7	32.3	34.2	37.4	34.5
No funding-all private	12.0	13.4	12.3	10.5	12.2

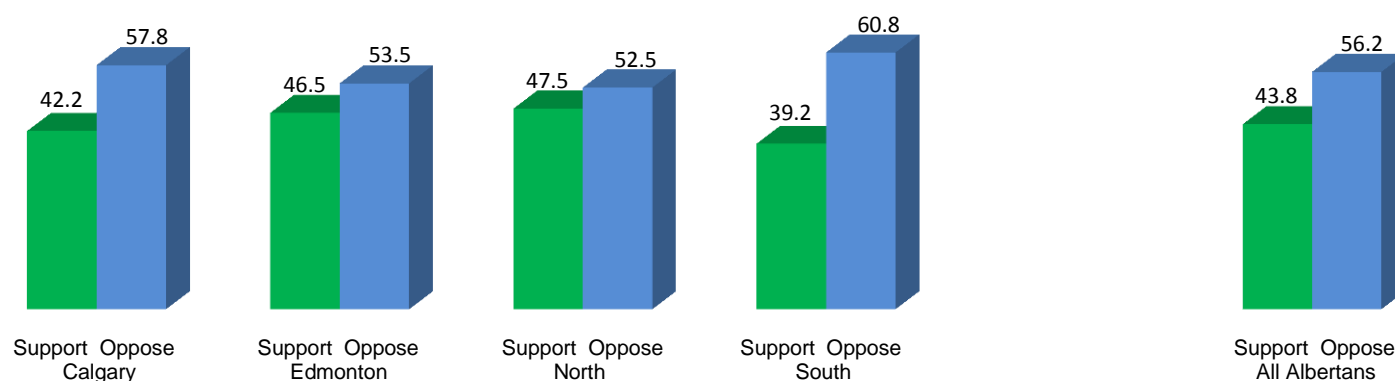
Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%; * sig < 0.05

Federal Government Infrastructure Funding Options (%)

New Detroit-Windsor Bridge

When considered independently from other issues and outside of the context of other projects or priorities, a clear majority of Albertans (56.2%) are opposed to the planned federal government funding of a new bridge linking Detroit Michigan and Windsor Ontario. These results are particularly weak when analyzed in the context of normal patterns of public opinion. That is, most issues receive majority support (most often super-majority support of three-quarters or more) when opinion is measured on individual items, independent from other issues and outside of the context of competing priorities. For example, public opinion research routinely conducted on behalf of various Alberta cities clearly demonstrates that virtually all projects and programs of all types receive strong majority support when considered independently from other issues and outside of the context of competition for limited resources.* Hence, when a project can only muster 43.8% support, as has the proposed federally funded Detroit-Windsor bridge, we can safely say that it is a very low priority for most Albertans.

A majority of residents in all regions of Alberta are opposed to the federal government's plan for a new Detroit-Windsor bridge. Opposition is strongest in southern Alberta with 57.8% of Calgary residents opposed. Opposition increases to 60.8% in other parts of southern Alberta.



Detroit-Windsor Bridge (%)	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South	All Albertans
Support	42.2	46.5	47.5	39.2	43.8
Oppose	57.8	53.5	52.5	60.8	56.2

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

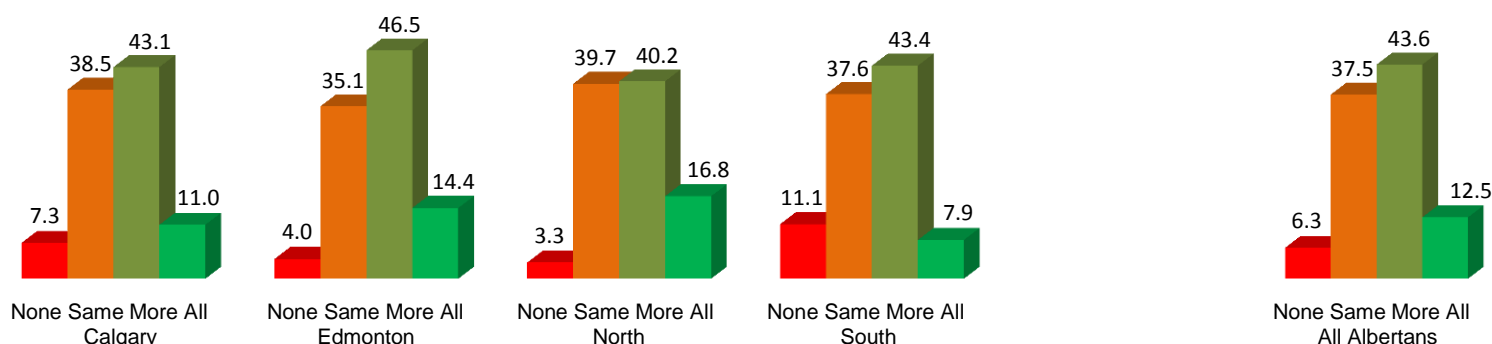
* See for example: *City of Edmonton 2011 Citizen Services Survey: Final Report*, June 17, 2011, Banister Research and Consulting Inc.; *City of Lethbridge 2011 Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results: Presentation*, June 2011, Ipsos Reid.

Federal Government Infrastructure Funding Options (%)

Highway 63 Upgrades

When considered independently and outside of the context of other projects or priorities, a clear majority of Albertans would like to see more federal funding for Highway 63 upgrades. More than two in five Albertans (43.6%) would like to see the federal government provide substantially more funds to this infrastructure project while 12.5% think the federal government should fund it completely. Only 6.3% want no federal funding at all while 37.5% believe the current amount of federal funding is adequate.

Northern Albertans are more likely than southern Albertans to want the federal government to fund more of the Highway 63 upgrades with Edmontonians most likely to want substantially more funding (46.5%) and northern Albertans outside of Edmonton most likely to want the federal government to fund the entire project (16.8%), more than double the number of southern Albertans outside of Calgary who feel similarly (7.9%).



Highway 63 Upgrades (%)	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South	All Albertans
No federal funding	7.3	4.0	3.3	11.1	6.3
Existing is adequate	38.5	35.1	39.7	37.6	37.5
Substantially more	43.1	46.5	40.2	43.4	43.6
Fund completely	11.0	14.4	16.8	7.9	12.5

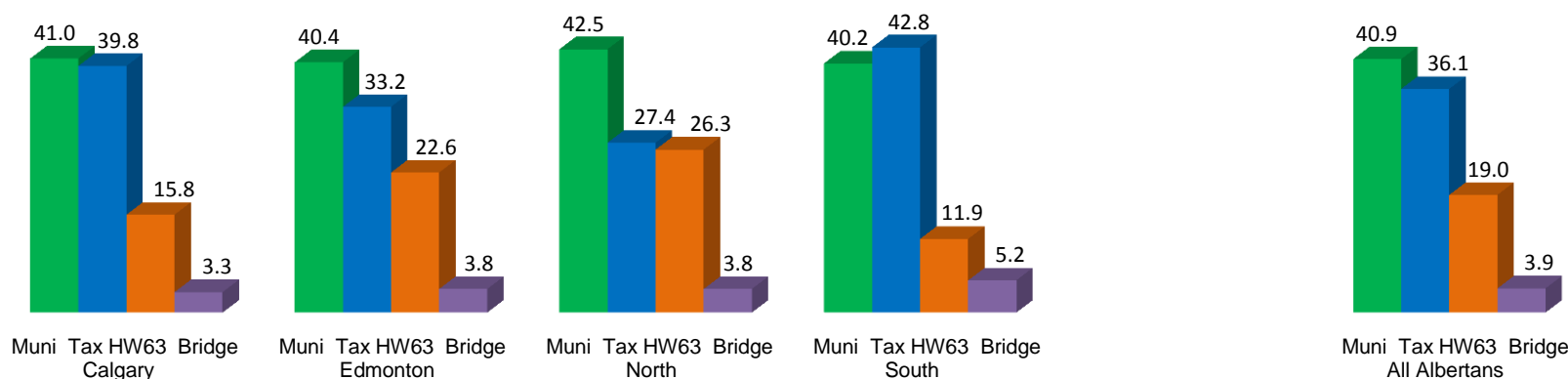
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Federal Government Policy Priorities (%)

When considered within the context of a series of possible federal government funding priorities, Albertans are clearly most interested in the federal government providing additional funding for municipal infrastructure (40.9%) or cutting Albertans' taxes (36.1%). Considerable support exists for funding Highway 63 (nearly one in five or 19%) while a new Detroit-Windsor bridge has very little support (less than one in twenty-five or only 3.9%).

Readers will note that the issues of healthcare and education have been excluded from the list because of their tendency to dominate the priorities of Albertans (and Canadians more generally); hence, the question assumes that healthcare and education are funding priorities and attempts to measure support for items that are of a 'second tier' nature.

Support for more federal funding for municipal infrastructure is strong in every region of the province (at least two of every five Albertans in all regions are supportive) and is the top priority everywhere except southern Alberta outside of Calgary where tax cuts are the top priority (42.8%). Support for more federal funding for Highway 63 upgrades increases as support for tax cuts decreases and is strongest in the northern half of the province. More than one in five Edmonton residents chose Highway 63 upgrades as their top priority (22.6%). This issue rivals tax cuts (27.4%) in the north outside of Edmonton where over one-quarter of all residents rank Highway 63 upgrades as their top priority (26.3%).



Federal Policy Priorities (%)	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South	All Albertans
Municipal projects	41.0	40.4	42.5	40.2	40.9
Tax cuts	39.8	33.2	27.4	42.8	36.1
Highway 63	15.8	22.6	26.3	11.9	19.0
Detroit-Windsor Bridge	3.3	3.8	3.8	5.2	3.9

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

Federal Government Infrastructure Funding Options (%)

Municipal Infrastructure vs. International Trade Infrastructure

Area of Province*	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South	All Albertans
Municipal	73.6	79.5	83.5	84.2	79.3
International	26.4	20.5	16.5	15.8	20.7

Gender*	Male	Female	All Albertans
Municipal	75.5	83.4	79.3
International	24.5	16.6	20.7

Household Income	Under \$60,000	\$60,000 to \$120,000	Over \$120,000
Municipal	80.5	76.9	76.1
International	19.5	23.1	23.9

Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Municipal	81.8	82.2	80.8	74.8
International	18.2	17.8	19.2	25.2

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Municipal	69.5	84.5	81.7	79.4
International	30.5	15.5	18.3	20.6

Provincial Vote	PC	Wildrose	NDP	Liberal	Undecided
Municipal	82.5	76.6	81.1	72.0	86.3
International	17.5	23.4	18.9	28.0	13.7

Federal Vote*	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Municipal	77.2	75.3	80.2	90.9	88.8
International	22.8	24.7	19.8	9.1	11.3

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

Federal Government Infrastructure Funding Options (%)

Public vs. Private Infrastructure

Area of Province	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South	All Albertans
Completely fund	15.3	20.1	16.1	16.4	17.0
Fund if no private	38.0	34.2	37.4	35.7	36.3
Subsidize private	34.7	32.3	34.2	37.4	34.5
No funding-all private	12.0	13.4	12.3	10.5	12.2

Gender	Male	Female	All Albertans
Completely fund	19.2	14.6	17.0
Fund if no private	33.8	39.1	36.3
Subsidize private	34.6	34.4	34.5
No funding-all private	12.4	11.9	12.2

Household Income	Under \$60,000	\$60,000 to \$120,000	Over \$120,000
Completely fund	19.4	17.6	13.2
Fund if no private	34.0	33.8	43.2
Subsidize private	34.4	36.2	31.1
No funding-all private	12.1	12.4	12.6

Education	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Completely fund	17.2	17.0	18.3	15.4
Fund if no private	36.2	36.3	35.7	35.9
Subsidize private	27.6	41.8	35.2	34.3
No funding-all private	19.0	4.9	10.9	14.4

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Completely fund	20.3	12.2	17.9	19.4
Fund if no private	33.7	41.1	34.5	35.4
Subsidize private	41.2	34.6	35.5	25.1
No funding-all private	4.8	12.2	12.2	20.0

Provincial Vote	PC	Wildrose	NDP	Liberal	Undecided
Completely fund	18.1	12.6	19.8	9.5	20.8
Fund if no private	35.4	39.0	34.7	48.6	31.9
Subsidize private	35.7	29.1	42.6	33.8	34.7
No funding-all private	10.8	19.2	3.0	8.1	12.5

Federal Vote*	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Completely fund	14.0	14.3	23.9	17.9	18.3
Fund if no private	36.2	37.7	39.4	41.1	39.4
Subsidize private	35.5	36.4	33.0	30.4	39.4
No funding-all private	14.3	11.7	3.7	10.7	2.8

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

Federal Government Infrastructure Funding Options (%)

New Detroit-Windsor Bridge

Area of Province	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South	All Albertans
Support	42.2	46.5	47.5	39.2	43.8
Oppose	57.8	53.5	52.5	60.8	56.2

Gender*	Male	Female	All Albertans
Support	50.1	37.1	43.8
Oppose	49.9	62.9	56.2

Household Income*	Under \$60,000	\$60,000 to \$120,000	Over \$120,000
Support	54.3	39.8	37.7
Oppose	45.7	60.2	62.3

Education	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Support	42.4	47.9	40.3	45.1
Oppose	57.6	52.1	59.7	54.9

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Support	53.5	36.3	38.2	52.7
Oppose	46.5	63.8	61.8	47.3

Provincial Vote	PC	Wildrose	NDP	Liberal	Undecided
Support	45.5	48.4	43.0	43.4	41.0
Oppose	54.5	51.6	57.0	56.6	59.0

Federal Vote*	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Support	49.1	41.7	50.0	30.4	25.9
Oppose	50.9	58.3	50.0	69.6	74.1

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

Federal Government Infrastructure Funding Options (%)

New Detroit-Windsor Bridge

Area of Province	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South	All Albertans
Strongly support	12.2	15.6	11.7	7.0	12.0
Somewhat support	30.1	30.8	35.8	32.3	31.8
Somewhat oppose	35.8	29.7	30.7	32.8	32.5
Strongly oppose	22.0	23.9	21.8	28.0	23.7

Gender*	Male	Female	All Albertans
Strongly support	19.3	4.4	12.0
Somewhat support	30.8	32.7	31.8
Somewhat oppose	29.6	35.5	32.5
Strongly oppose	20.3	27.4	23.7

Household Income*	Under \$60,000	\$60,000 to \$120,000	Over \$120,000
Strongly support	14.9	9.9	13.6
Somewhat support	39.3	29.8	24.4
Somewhat oppose	24.7	36.6	39.2
Strongly oppose	21.1	23.6	22.7

Education	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Strongly support	13.8	11.1	10.7	13.4
Somewhat support	28.6	37.0	29.6	31.8
Somewhat oppose	32.4	28.6	34.8	32.5
Strongly oppose	25.2	23.3	24.9	22.3

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Strongly support	11.3	7.9	11.5	19.1
Somewhat support	41.9	28.3	26.6	33.5
Somewhat oppose	26.1	41.7	35.7	22.3
Strongly oppose	20.7	22.1	26.2	25.0

Provincial Vote	PC	Wildrose	NDP	Liberal	Undecided
Strongly support	12.5	16.7	14.0	10.8	6.0
Somewhat support	32.9	31.7	29.0	32.5	34.9
Somewhat oppose	35.3	27.4	33.6	31.3	25.3
Strongly oppose	19.2	24.2	23.4	25.3	33.7

Federal Vote*	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Strongly support	14.0	18.6	12.4	10.5	2.4
Somewhat support	35.0	23.3	38.0	19.3	24.7
Somewhat oppose	32.2	26.7	22.3	42.1	37.6
Strongly oppose	18.8	31.4	27.3	28.1	35.3

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

Federal Government Infrastructure Funding Options (%)

Highway 63 Upgrades

Area of Province	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South	All Albertans
No federal funding	7.3	4.0	3.3	11.1	6.3
Existing is adequate	38.5	35.1	39.7	37.6	37.5
Substantially more	43.1	46.5	40.2	43.4	43.6
Fund completely	11.0	14.4	16.8	7.9	12.5

Gender*	Male	Female	All Albertans
No federal funding	8.1	4.5	6.3
Existing is adequate	38.7	36.3	37.5
Substantially more	42.4	45.0	43.6
Fund completely	10.8	14.3	12.5

Household Income	Under \$60,000	\$60,000 to \$120,000	Over \$120,000
No federal funding	10.7	5.1	4.3
Existing is adequate	37.4	40.2	32.5
Substantially more	36.7	44.2	54.5
Fund completely	15.3	10.5	8.6

Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
No federal funding	7.4	9.3	4.3	5.7
Existing is adequate	33.5	35.3	34.5	44.0
Substantially more	39.5	43.1	48.5	42.5
Fund completely	19.5	12.3	12.8	7.8

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
No federal funding	10.3	5.7	4.0	6.5
Existing is adequate	40.2	36.9	37.3	35.8
Substantially more	36.0	43.0	48.4	45.3
Fund completely	13.6	14.4	10.2	12.4

Provincial Vote	PC	Wildrose	NDP	Liberal	Undecided
No federal funding	6.1	4.9	8.8	6.5	6.9
Existing is adequate	36.8	40.2	39.2	41.3	31.0
Substantially more	46.8	46.1	40.2	35.9	41.4
Fund completely	10.3	8.8	11.8	16.3	20.7

Federal Vote	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
No federal funding	4.7	8.2	6.2	15.0	1.1
Existing is adequate	38.3	39.8	36.3	38.3	35.2
Substantially more	47.9	34.7	47.8	28.3	39.6
Fund completely	9.2	17.3	9.7	18.3	24.2

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

Federal Government Policy Priorities (%)

Area of Province	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South	All Albertans
Municipal projects	41.0	40.4	42.5	40.2	40.9
Tax cuts	39.8	33.2	27.4	42.8	36.1
Highway 63	15.8	22.6	26.3	11.9	19.0
Detroit-Windsor Bridge	3.3	3.8	3.8	5.2	3.9

Gender	Male	Female	All Albertans
Municipal projects	40.4	41.5	40.9
Tax cuts	36.3	36.1	36.1
Highway 63	17.5	20.4	19.0
Detroit-Windsor Bridge	5.8	2.0	3.9

Household Income	Under \$60,000	\$60,000 to \$120,000	Over \$120,000
Municipal projects	39.0	45.7	37.0
Tax cuts	37.6	34.7	34.6
Highway 63	18.3	16.3	25.5
Detroit-Windsor Bridge	5.2	3.3	2.9

Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Municipal projects	32.4	42.8	38.7	47.2
Tax cuts	42.1	35.1	37.0	31.7
Highway 63	22.7	17.8	20.2	17.1
Detroit-Windsor Bridge	2.8	4.3	4.1	4.0

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Municipal projects	43.4	39.0	45.5	33.0
Tax cuts	40.2	39.0	35.7	27.6
Highway 63	13.7	19.1	16.0	30.8
Detroit-Windsor Bridge	2.7	2.9	2.8	8.6

Provincial Vote	PC	Wildrose	NDP	Liberal	Undecided
Municipal projects	41.4	32.3	52.2	42.6	42.0
Tax cuts	30.3	49.5	30.4	31.9	43.2
Highway 63	23.5	14.1	13.9	22.3	13.6
Detroit-Windsor Bridge	4.9	4.0	3.5	3.2	1.1

Federal Vote	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Municipal projects	36.7	43.6	51.6	43.5	44.1
Tax cuts	39.2	29.7	25.4	30.6	41.9
Highway 63	18.8	23.8	21.3	21.0	14.0
Detroit-Windsor Bridge	5.2	3.0	1.6	4.8	0.0

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

Demographics

Area of Province (%)		Gender (%)		Income (%)		Education (%)		Age (%)	
Calgary	32.8	Male	49.8	Under \$60,000	34.3	H-School/less	21.7	18-29	21.3
Edmonton	29.7	Female	50.2	\$60-\$120,000	42.2	Some P-Sec.	20.4	30-44	26.5
North	18.3			Over \$120,000	23.5	Col-Tech-Grad	24.4	45-64	32.2
South	19.3					University Grad	33.5	65 or older	20.0
									Mean age = 48.2 years old

Religious Participation (%)		Provincial Vote (%)		Federal Vote (%)	
2-3/month-more	24.5	PC	42.7	Conservative	56.1
Several/year	25.1	Wildrose	22.8	NDP	14.5
Rarely-never	50.4	NDP	13.4	Liberal	11.3
		Liberal	10.6	Green	7.1
		Undecided	10.5	Undecided	11.0

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

Questions

Thinking for a moment about federal government spending on infrastructure:

Given the federal government is currently projecting a \$21-billion deficit for this year, it must prioritize which infrastructure projects it will or will not support in the various regions of the country. For example, it can help fund municipal infrastructure projects like local roads, sewers and water systems. Alternatively, it may choose to fund federal public-sector infrastructure projects in an effort at stimulating international trade.

- Please tell me whether you think the federal government should place more emphasis on funding municipal infrastructure projects or funding international trade related infrastructure projects.
- If the federal government chooses to fund infrastructure projects, please tell me which of the following approaches you think is best.

Thinking for a moment about some economic infrastructure projects for which the federal government has committed funding:

- In June of this year the Canadian government announced that it will fund the entire \$4-billion cost of a new public-sector bridge connecting Windsor Ontario and Detroit Michigan, including the expenditures that will occur in Michigan. This bridge will compete with the existing private-sector Ambassador Bridge that now connects Detroit and Windsor. Please tell me how much you support or oppose the federal government's funding for a new government owned and operated Detroit-Windsor bridge.
- The Alberta government is upgrading the main highway to Fort McMurray, also known as Highway 63, to further develop the Alberta oilsands. The federal government has so far committed to fund approximately 15% of the expected \$1-billion in total project costs (\$150 million so far). Please tell me which of the following best represents your opinion concerning federal government funding for Highway 63.
- And finally, I'm now going to read you a list of four different priorities for the government of Canada and I'd like you to tell me which of these priorities is most important to you personally