

Alberta Provincial Politics Carbon Levy and Rebate Program

Alberta Public Opinion Study – October 2018

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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 fall of 2018. Students interviewed 1,364 adult Alberta residents by telephone from September 29 to October 4, 2018 under the supervision of principal investigator Dr. Faron Ellis, Research Chair, Citizen Society Research Lab. Landline/hybrid 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

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 ± 2.65 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data (Calgary ± 5.1 percentage points, Edmonton and immediate area ± 5.1 percentage points, North ± 5.6 percentage points, South ± 5.6 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 nearly two years of experience with the Alberta government's carbon levy and rebate policies, a clear majority of Albertans (55.0%) remain opposed, considerably fewer than the 67.2% who were opposed at the same time in 2016 before full details of the rebate structure were known to voters. More than two of every five Albertans are supportive (45.0%), considerably more than the one-third (32.8%) who thought similarly in 2016. Only 7.0% of Albertans were undecided about these policies while 0.7% 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, more than twice as many Albertans (38.3%) are strongly opposed to the government's carbon program than are strongly supportive (14.2%). Although strong opposition is down from the majority (52.5%) who were strongly opposed in 2016, strong opposition is more than double soft opposition (16.7%). Intensity of support is opposite with twice as many Albertans registering soft (30.8%) rather than strong (14.2%) support.
- Edmonton is the only area of the province to indicate majority support for the government's carbon levy and rebate policies (53.7%). Substantial majorities in all other areas of the province are opposed, with opposition strongest in northern Alberta (63.6%), followed by southern Alberta (58.5%) and Calgary (53.7%).
- Partisanship is the best predictor of opinion about the carbon tax. A substantial majority of provincial NDP voters (77.6%) support the levy and rebate plan, as does a clear majority of provincial Liberal voters (70.5%) and a smaller but clear majority of Alberta Party voters (55.8%). Conversely, a substantial majority of UCP supporters (80.3%) are opposed, as is a majority of undecided voters (55.3%).
- Similarly, a substantial majority of federal Conservative voters are opposed (76.1%), while strong majorities of federal Liberal (79.7%), NDP (69.5%), and Green (74.2%) voters approve of the plan.
- Men (57.0%) are slightly more opposed than are women (53.6%). University graduates (53.3%) are more supportive than are other education groups, all of which indicate majority opposition. Younger voters are the only age group to demonstrate majority support (55.1%) and are more supportive than are older voters and seniors, where majorities are opposed. Upper-income (61.2%) and middle-income (59.1%) Albertans are more opposed than are lower-income Albertans who now demonstrate majority support (54.3%).

Carbon Levy and Rebate Program (%)

	2016	2017	2018		2016	2017	2018
Strongly support	13.7	12.9	14.2				
Somewhat support	19.0	27.7	30.8	Support	32.8	40.5	45.0
Somewhat oppose	14.7	20.8	16.7	Oppose	67.2	59.5	55.0
Strongly oppose	52.5	38.7	38.3				

Carbon program by demographic group (2018) (%)

Gender	Men	Women	All Alberta		
Support	43.0	46.4			
Oppose	57.0	53.6			
Area of Province*	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South	
Support	46.3	53.7	36.4	41.5	
Oppose	53.7	46.3	63.6	58.5	
Household Income*	Under \$60,000	\$60,001 to \$120,000	Over \$120,000		
Support	54.3	40.9	38.8		
Oppose	45.7	59.1	61.2		
Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad	
Support	41.1	45.9	35.3	53.3	
Oppose	58.9	54.1	64.7	46.7	
Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older	
Support	55.1	47.9	37.2	41.5	
Oppose	44.9	52.1	62.8	58.5	
Provincial Vote*	NDP	UCP	Liberal	Alberta Party	Undecided
Support	77.6	19.7	70.5	55.8	44.7
Oppose	22.4	80.3	29.5	44.2	55.3
Federal Vote*	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Support	23.9	79.7	69.5	74.2	53.8
Oppose	76.1	20.3	30.5	25.8	46.2

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

Carbon program by demographic group (2018) (%)

Gender	Men	Women	All Alberta
Strongly support	16.1	12.1	14.2
Somewhat support	26.9	34.2	30.8
Somewhat oppose	15.8	18.3	16.7
Strongly oppose	41.1	35.4	38.3

Area of Province*	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South
Strongly support	12.1	17.6	13.4	13.1
Somewhat support	34.3	36.1	23.1	28.1
Somewhat oppose	17.0	15.8	15.9	18.2
Strongly oppose	36.6	30.5	47.6	40.5

Household Income*	Under \$60,000	\$60,001 to \$120,000	Over \$120,000
Strongly support	21.0	11.5	10.0
Somewhat support	33.2	29.4	29.0
Somewhat oppose	13.2	18.7	19.7
Strongly oppose	32.6	40.4	41.3

Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Strongly support	12.6	15.2	11.2	16.9
Somewhat support	28.3	30.7	24.0	36.5
Somewhat oppose	15.7	16.0	18.3	17.3
Strongly oppose	43.3	38.1	46.5	29.3

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Strongly support	23.1	12.0	10.9	12.9
Somewhat support	32.2	35.9	26.4	28.6
Somewhat oppose	14.3	20.4	18.5	15.1
Strongly oppose	30.4	31.7	44.2	43.4

Provincial Vote*	NDP	UCP	Liberal	Alberta Party	Undecided
Strongly support	27.2	4.7	35.2	18.9	6.9
Somewhat support	50.4	15.0	35.2	36.8	38.2
Somewhat oppose	9.6	20.4	10.7	12.6	26.5
Strongly oppose	12.9	59.9	18.9	31.6	28.4

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

Demographics (%)

Area of Province		Gender		Income		Education		Age	
Calgary	27.6	Male	49.8	Under \$60,000	39.0	H-School/less	20.8	18-29	24.7
Edmonton	27.2	Female	49.5	\$60-\$120,000	35.7	Some P-Sec.	19.2	30-44	23.3
North	22.4	Other	0.7	Over \$120,000	25.3	Col-Tech-Grad	25.2	45-64	26.5
South	22.8					University Grad	34.8	65 or older	25.5

Mean age = 48.7 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