

Alberta Carbon Levy and Rebate Program

Lethbridge Public Opinion Study – Winter 2018

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Methodology

Population The city of Lethbridge has a total population of 98,198 residents (2017 census) approximately 80% of which are 18 years of age or older (78,500). A total of 48,173 Lethbridge residents are male (49.1%) while 50,002 are female (50.9%). South Lethbridge is home to 31,660 residents (32.2%) while the rapidly expanding west side is now home to 39,085 residents (39.8%). There are 27,453 north Lethbridge residents (28.0%).

Sample Data Collected by Lethbridge College students enrolled in 9 sections of 6 courses in a variety of Lethbridge College programs in the winter of 2018. Students interviewed 1,288 randomly selected adult Lethbridge residents by telephone from February 10-15, 2018 under the supervision of CSRL Research Chair, Dr. 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: <https://lethbridgecollege.ca/departments/citizen-society-research-lab>.

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 ± 2.7 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 with support from the Lethbridge College Facility Management, Instructional Technology, and Audio Visual teams.

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.

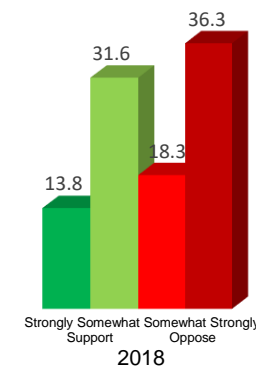
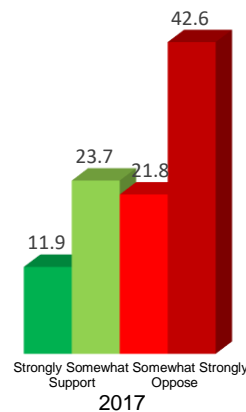
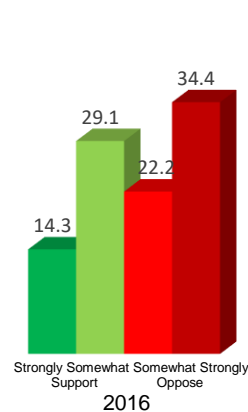
Carbon Levy and Rebate Program

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 income and number of dependent children in the household.

When asked to express their opinions about the provincial government's carbon tax and rebate program, a majority of Lethbridge residents stated they are opposed (54.6%). More than two of every five Lethbridge residents (45.4%) are supportive. Nearly seven percent did not know how to respond, while six respondents refused to provide an opinion. These later cases have been removed from the summary data below.

- While a slight majority was opposed in 2016 (56.6%), opposition peaked at nearly two-thirds (64.3%) opposed to the plan in 2017 after its initial implementation. Opposition has moderated to pre-implementation levels approximately one year into the program.
- Support levels have increased to 45.4% from only slightly more than one-third in 2017 (35.7%).
- Opposition is more intense than is support. For example, 36.3% of all Lethbridge residents strongly opposed but only 13.8% strongly supportive. Conversely, 31.6% of Lethbridge residents are somewhat supportive but only 18.3% are somewhat opposed.

Carbon Levy & Rebate (%)	2016	2017	2018		2016	2017	2018
Strongly support	14.3	11.9	13.8				
Somewhat support	29.1	23.7	31.6	Support	43.4	35.7	45.4
Somewhat oppose	22.2	21.8	18.3	Oppose	56.6	64.3	54.6
Strongly oppose	34.4	42.6	36.3				



Carbon Levy and Rebate Program by Selected Demographic Groups

- Equal majorities of both men (54.8%) and women (54.5%) are opposed to the carbon levy and rebate program. Men are more intense in their opposition (39.7% strongly opposed) than are women (32.4% strongly opposed).
- Support and opposition levels do not fluctuate significantly across the different areas of the city of Lethbridge with majorities opposed in each of the south (54.1%), north (53.4%) and west (53.8%) regions of the city.
- Middle-income residents are more opposed (58.4%) than are upper-income (50.9%) and lower-income (47.5%) residents, the latter of which is one of the few groups to demonstrate majority support (52.2%).
- College, technical and trades graduates are more opposed (65.6%) than are other education groups, particularly university graduates where a clear majority are supportive (56.3%).
- Boomers and seniors more opposed than are younger residents, but majorities in all age groups are opposed.
- Partisanship is the most important factor correlated with opinion differences.
 - Provincial partisanship is most important with 84.9% of provincial NDP voters supporting the levy and rebate plan, while 80.4% of United Conservative Party voters are opposed. Provincial Liberal partisans (75.6%) are much more supportive than opposed, while Alberta Party voters are more evenly split (56.1% support).
 - United Conservative voters are most intense in their evaluations with a clear majority of UCP partisans (57.3%) strongly opposed
 - NDP partisan are less intense in their support with 37.8% strongly supportive.
 - Federal partisanship shows similar division with 82.9% of Liberal voters and 79.5% of NDP voters supportive. Conversely, 76.0% of Conservative supporters are opposed. Federal Green Party supporters are more evenly divided in their opinions.
- Significant differences of opinion are measured between the two Lethbridge provincial electoral districts.
 - Lethbridge West residents are evenly split on the merits of the carbon levy and rebate program with 50.7% opposed and 49.3% supportive.
 - Lethbridge East residents are more likely to be opposed (58.7%) than supportive (41.3%).

Carbon Levy and Rebate Program 2018 (%)

Sex/City/Prov Elect Div*	Male	Female	Lethbridge	Lethbridge West	Lethbridge East
Support	45.2	45.5	45.4	49.3	41.3
Oppose	54.8	54.5	54.6	50.7	58.7

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge
Support	45.9	46.6	46.2
Oppose	54.1	53.4	53.8

Household Income*	Under \$40,000	\$40,001 to \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Support	52.5	41.6	49.1
Oppose	47.5	58.4	50.9

Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Support	45.9	44.9	34.4	56.3
Oppose	54.1	55.1	65.6	43.8

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Support	48.9	47.7	42.1	43.9
Oppose	51.1	52.3	57.9	56.1

Provincial Vote*	NDP	UCP	Liberal	AB Party	Undecided
Support	84.9	19.6	75.6	56.1	47.0
Oppose	15.1	80.4	24.4	43.9	53.0

Federal Vote*	Liberal	Conservative	NDP	Green	Undecided
Support	82.9	24.0	79.5	60.0	44.2
Oppose	17.1	76.0	20.5	40.0	55.8

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

Carbon Levy and Rebate Program 2018 (%)

Sex/City/Prov Elect Div*	Male	Female	Lethbridge	Lethbridge West	Lethbridge East
Strongly support	14.1	13.2	13.8	12.3	13.0
Somewhat support	31.0	32.2	31.6	37.0	28.4
Somewhat oppose	15.2	22.1	18.3	17.1	21.4
Strongly oppose	39.7	32.4	36.3	33.5	37.3

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge
Strongly support	17.4	13.2	12.2
Somewhat support	28.5	33.4	34.0
Somewhat oppose	17.9	20.3	18.4
Strongly oppose	36.2	33.1	35.4

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,001 to \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Strongly support	14.9	13.5	16.8
Somewhat support	37.6	28.3	32.3
Somewhat oppose	16.3	18.0	19.8
Strongly oppose	31.2	40.2	31.0

Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Strongly support	11.5	16.0	8.4	18.2
Somewhat support	34.4	28.9	26.1	38.1
Somewhat oppose	13.9	20.9	21.1	16.4
Strongly oppose	40.2	34.1	44.4	27.4

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Strongly support	12.7	12.7	13.5	15.2
Somewhat support	36.2	35.0	28.6	28.8
Somewhat oppose	16.8	18.2	22.7	14.8
Strongly oppose	34.3	34.1	35.2	41.3

Provincial Vote	NDP	UCP	Liberal	AB Party	Undecided
Strongly support	37.8	3.5	21.0	10.5	10.0
Somewhat support	47.1	16.1	54.6	45.6	37.3
Somewhat oppose	8.4	23.1	11.8	21.1	26.0
Strongly oppose	6.7	57.3	12.6	22.8	26.7

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

Demographics

Area of City (%)		Gender (%)		Income (%)		Education (%)		Age (%)	
South	32.0	Male	49.0	Under \$40,000	29.4	H-School/less	18.3	18-29	23.8
North	27.7	Female	50.3	\$40-100,000	45.8	Some P-Sec.	24.9	30-44	19.7
West	40.3	Other	0.7	Over \$100,000	24.8	Col-Tech-Grad	28.2	45-64	33.7
						University Grad	28.7	65 or older	22.7

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