



CANADA 2020.CA

Progressive policy for a modern Canada

**NATIONAL SURVEY OF
CANADIAN & AMERICAN
PUBLIC OPINION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE**

Fall 2013 | US / Canada Crosstabs | Weighted Data

canada2020.ca/climatepoll

Université 
de Montréal



The Canada 2020/Université de Montréal National Survey of Canadian Opinions on Climate Change was designed by Erick Lachapelle (Université de Montréal), Chris Borick (Muhlenberg College) and Barry Rabe (University of Michigan).

Léger administered the survey to a nationally representative sample of 1,502 adult Canadians (aged 18 and over). All surveys were conducted via telephone in English and French from 10 October to 20 October 2013. Calls were made using both landline and mobile phone listings. The margin of sampling error for the full sample is plus or minus 2.5% in 19 out of 20 samples. Regional margins of error vary according to subsample size. Results reported here are weighted according to gender, age, language and region to reflect the latest population estimates from Statistics Canada (Census 2011).

The American portion of the survey was administered by the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion to a nationally representative sample of 984 adult Americans (aged 18 and over). All surveys were conducted from 3 to 14, 2013. Calls were made using both landline and mobile phone listings. The margin of sampling error for the US sample is plus or minus 3.5 per cent, 19 times out of 20. All American results reported here are weighted to gender, race income, educational attainment and age to reflect the most recent population estimates in the United States according to the 2010 US census.

Notes: column percentages may not add up to exactly 100 per cent due to rounding. Not sure includes refused to answer.

For more information about the poll, please contact Erick Lachapelle at Erick.lachapelle@umontreal.ca or Canada 2020 through Alex Paterson at alex@canada2020.ca.

‘From what you’ve read and heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past four decades?’

	Canada (2011)	Canada (2013)	US (2013)
Yes	80%	81%	61%
No	14%	12%	25%
Not sure	6%	8%	14%

Canadian regional breakdown 2013

	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	MA	National
Yes	85%	82%	65%	71%	81%	85%	81%
No	7%	12%	14%	21%	13%	6%	12%
Not sure	7%	6%	21%	7%	5%	8%	8%

‘How confident are you that the average temperature on earth is increasing?’
(Believers only)

	Canada (2011)	Canada (2013)	US (2013)
Very confident	48%	57%	47%
Fairly confident	41%	35%	49%
Not too confident	7%	5%	3%
Not confident at all	2%	2%	<1%
Not sure	2%	<1%	1%

'Is the earth getting warmer because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels, or mostly because of natural patterns in the earth's environment?'
(Believers only)

	Canada (2011)	Canada (2013)	US (2013)
Human activity	43%	58%	40%
Natural patterns	15%	15%	21%
A combination	36%	23%	36%
Not sure	5%	4%	3%

'How confident are you that the average temperatures on earth are NOT increasing?' (Non-believers only)

	Canada (2011)	Canada (2013)	US (2013)
Very confident	32%	24%	30%
Fairly confident	41%	46%	60%
Not too confident	16%	20%	5%
Not confident at all	7%	8%	4%
Not sure	3%	2%	1%

‘How concerned are you about the issue of [VER A:] global warming [VER B:] climate change?’

	Version A: global warming		Version B: climate change	
	Canada	US	Canada	US
Very concerned	35%	26%	32%	23%
Somewhat concerned	42%	33%	45%	34%
Not too concerned	16%	20%	14%	21%
Not concerned at all	8%	22%	8%	22%
Not sure	<1%	0%	<1%	1%

‘Thinking about the various economic and environmental issues facing the federal government in Ottawa, please tell me, on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means not at all a priority and 10 means should be a major priority, how much of a priority should it be for the federal government to do the following?
(Randomize order)

	Low (0-4)	Medium (5-7)	High (8-10)
Protect the environment	4%	25%	71%
Strengthen the economy and create jobs	4%	25%	70%
Reduce taxes	22%	39%	40%
Show leadership on the issue of global warming internationally	13%	28%	59%

‘Now on the same scale, where 0 means very poor and 10 means very good, how would you rate the performance of the Harper government in Ottawa on...?’

	Poor (0-4)	OK (5-7)	Very good (8-10)
Protect the environment	45%	36%	19%
Strengthen the economy and create jobs	27%	47%	26%
Reduce taxes	40%	45%	15%
Show leadership on the issue of global warming internationally	50%	35%	16%

‘From what you know or have heard, how would you rate Canada’s efforts to address the problem of global warming relative to the efforts of other countries? Do you think Canada is currently doing a better job, doing a worse job, or doing about the same job addressing global warming as...’

	The US	The rest of the world
Canada is doing a better job	35%	25%
Canada is doing a worse job	18%	34%
Canada is doing about the same	40%	32%
Don’t know	7%	9%

'As you may already know, government leaders from around the world will meet in November to negotiate a new international agreement to limit global emissions of greenhouse gases.

Version A: 'How much do you support Canada [the U.S.] signing onto an international agreement?'

Version B: '...even if it means doing so ahead of other countries such as China?'

	Version A		Version B:	
	Canada	US	Canada	US
Strongly support	51%	29%	49%	22%
Somewhat support	25%	26%	29%	30%
Neither support or oppose	7%	22%	7%	23%
Somewhat oppose	5%	7%	6%	6%
Strongly oppose	7%	9%	6%	11%
Not sure	5%	8%	3%	8%

'Still thinking about Canada's international role in combating global warming, can you tell me if Canada [the U.S. is part of the Kyoto protocol?'

	Canada	US
Yes	33%	17%
No	41%	27%
Not sure	26%	56%

There have been a number of ideas proposed for how provincial governments can reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases. For each idea I mention, tell me if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the proposed ways provinces can reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

‘Provincial [state] governments should increase taxes on all fossil fuels in order to increase greenhouse gas emissions’

	No cost specified		Even if it raises cost of energy by about 10 per cent	
	Canada	US	Canada	US
Strongly support	16%	5%	15%	9%
Somewhat support	37%	19%	32%	14%
Somewhat oppose	16%	16%	22%	19%
Strongly oppose	25%	55%	28%	53%
Don't know	5%	5%	4%	5%

‘Provincial [state] governments should allow businesses to buy and sell permits to release greenhouse gases’

	No cost specified		Even if it increases the cost of some goods by about 10 per cent	
	Canada	US	Canada	US
Strongly support	19%	10%	16%	5%
Somewhat support	27%	22%	36%	22%
Somewhat oppose	20%	11%	17%	24%
Strongly oppose	26%	34%	26%	43%
Don't know	8%	22%	5%	6%

‘Provincial [state] governments should require a set portion of all electricity to come from renewable energy sources such as wind and solar’

	No cost specified		Even if it increases the cost of electricity by about 100 \$ per year	
	Canada	US	Canada	US
Strongly support	58%	46%	44%	18%
Somewhat support	24%	33%	28%	27%
Somewhat oppose	8%	7%	11%	13%
Strongly oppose	7%	11%	15%	39%
Don't know	4%	3%	2%	3%

‘Provincial [state] governments should increase taxes on gasoline in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions’

	No cost specified		Even if it increases the price of gasoline by about 7 [25] cents per [gallon] litre	
	Canada	US	Canada	US
Strongly support	13%	6%	12%	3%
Somewhat support	24%	11%	23%	8%
Somewhat oppose	19%	18%	20%	14%
Strongly oppose	41%	63%	40%	73%
Don't know	3%	3%	5%	2%

There is a proposed system called cap and trade where the government would issue permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out. Companies that do not use all their permits can sell them to other companies. The idea is that many companies will find ways to put out less greenhouse gases because that would be cheaper than buying permits.”

‘Have you heard a lot about this system, a little, or not at all?’

	Canada	US
A lot	13%	10%
A little	30%	37%
Not at all	52%	48%
Not sure	6%	5%

‘Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose this type of system?’

	Support for cap and trade		Cost specification : 15 \$ a month	
	Canada (2013)	US (2013)	Canada (2013)	US (2013)
Strongly support	18%	11%	25%	8%
Somewhat support	32%	27%	32%	23%
Somewhat oppose	14%	14%	14%	25%
Strongly oppose	18%	19%	23%	34%
Don't know	17%	30%	5%	10%

‘Another way to lower greenhouse gas emissions would be to increase taxes on carbon based fuels such as coal, oil, gasoline and natural gas...’

‘What if the carbon fuels tax significantly lowered greenhouse gases but increased your energy costs by 15 dollars a month?’

	Support for cap and trade		Cost specification : 15 \$ a month	
	Canada (2013)	US (2013)	Canada (2013)	US (2013)
Strongly support	15%	6%	21%	7%
Somewhat support	32%	16%	36%	21%
Somewhat oppose	22%	24%	19%	24%
Strongly oppose	25%	46%	21%	44%
Don't know	5%	8%	3%	4%

Version A: ‘And what if revenues from the tax were used to fund research and development for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs?’

Version B: ‘And what if the tax was made to be completely ‘revenue neutral,’ meaning that every dollar collected by the government would be returned in the form of a tax rebate payment made to you each year?’

	Version A		Version B	
	Canada	US	Canada	US
Strongly support	43%	21%	40%	23%
Somewhat support	34%	39%	36%	40%
Somewhat oppose	8%	12%	6%	10%
Strongly oppose	9%	20%	13%	19%
Don't know	5%	9%	5%	8%

'An alternative policy would set a hard cap on emissions from coal-fired electricity. Do you strongly support...'

'Stephen Harper/Barrack Obama has proposed setting a hard cap on emissions from coal-fired electricity. Do you strongly support...'

	Support for hard caps		Stephen Harper/Barack Obama	
	Canada	US	Canada	US
Strongly support	35%	9%	37%	14%
Somewhat support	35%	27%	37%	26%
Somewhat oppose	10%	18%	8%	16%
Strongly oppose	12%	26%	8%	25%
Don't know	8%	20%	10%	19%

'If it required you to pay extra money each year in order for more renewable energy to be produced, how much would you be willing to pay?' (CLOSED)

	Canada (2011)	Canada (2013)	US (2013)
Nothing each year	21%	18%	42%
1 to 50 \$ per year	28%	23%	19%
50 to 100 \$ per year	19%	24%	16%
100 to 250 \$ per year	13%	16%	11%
250 to 500 \$ per year	6%	8%	4%
Over 500 \$ per year	7%	4%	1%
Not sure	5%	5%	6%

Now, please identify your level of agreement with the following statements
 ‘If the federal government fails to address the issue of global warming it is my province’s responsibility to address the problem”

	Canada (2011)	Canada (2013)	US (2013)
Strongly agree	37%	33%	19%
Somewhat agree	33%	34%	31%
Somewhat disagree	14%	15%	17%
Strongly disagree	12%	15%	27%
Not sure	4%	3%	6%

‘Provincial [State] governments will boost their economies by requiring greater use of renewable energy”

	Canada (2011)	Canada (2013)	US (2013)
Strongly agree	34%	37%	21%
Somewhat agree	42%	40%	35%
Somewhat disagree	9%	9%	11%
Strongly disagree	7%	6%	13%
Not sure	8%	8%	20%

‘My province [state] should not adopt anti-global warming policies unless its neighbouring provinces [states] also adopt similar policies’

	Canada (2011)	Canada (2013)	US (2013)
Strongly agree	16%	19%	8%
Somewhat agree	18%	23%	26%
Somewhat disagree	21%	20%	27%
Strongly disagree	41%	33%	29%
Not sure	4%	4%	11%

‘My province [state] has already felt the negative effects of global warming’

	Canada (2011)	Canada (2013)	US (2013)
Strongly agree	30%	34%	15%
Somewhat agree	35%	34%	33%
Somewhat disagree	17%	13%	20%
Strongly disagree	8%	12%	23%
Not sure	9%	6%	9%

‘Rich countries like Canada [the US] have a moral obligation to show international leadership by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions’

	Canada (2013)	US (2013)
Strongly agree	57%	22%
Somewhat agree	27%	35%
Somewhat disagree	5%	14%
Strongly disagree	7%	18%
Not sure	4%	11%

'The federal government should take primary responsibility for addressing the issue of global warming in Canada [the US]

Canada (2013)	
Strongly agree	57%
Somewhat agree	30%
Somewhat disagree	6%
Strongly disagree	5%
Not sure	2%

There is currently some discussion around the expanded use of pipelines to transport oil and gas across parts of Canada and the United States.

'Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the expanded used of pipelines to transport oil and gas?'

	Canada	US
Strongly support	27%	28%
Somewhat support	32%	34%
Somewhat oppose	17%	13%
Strongly oppose	16%	15%
Don't know	8%	10%