

Majority of Canadians call for more robust efforts to curb climate change

Two-thirds say Canada should be a “global leader” on the environment

October 23, 2014 – Nearly two-thirds (64%) of Canadians say this country should be a global leader on environmental issues, while as many (63%) say the country’s official response on the climate change file is “too weak”.

These are among the findings of an online survey self-commissioned by the Angus Reid Institute (ARI).

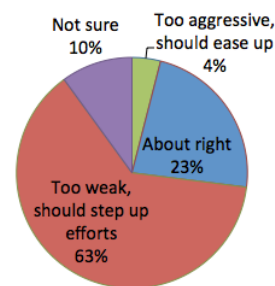
Key Findings:

On the issue of whether humans have played a role in climate change, the survey shows two-in-five (38%) Canadians say this not the case.

When asked how much of a threat climate change poses for the planet, three-quarters (75%) say the threat is either very serious, or serious (38%, and 37% respectively). Twelve per cent thought the threat was minor, while seven per cent felt it was not a threat.

Regional Breakdown:

Regionally, half of those in Canadian prairie provinces (53% in Alberta, and 48% in Manitoba and Saskatchewan) are less inclined to believe climate change is a result of human activity. Nearly seven-in-ten respondents (67%) in Atlantic Canada and Quebec



Do you think Canada’s overall official approach to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions has been too aggressive, about right, or too weak in recent years? Total (1505)

METHODOLOGY:

On Sept 24-26, 2014, ARG conducted an online survey among 1505 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. A probability sample of this size carries a margin of error of +/- 2.5%, 19 times out of 20.

Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

These surveys were self-commissioned and paid for by ARG.

Detailed charts, tables and regional results are found at the end of this release.

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believe it is human caused; slightly fewer in British Columbia and Ontario (63% each) agree.

Opinions over time:

Based on finding from earlier surveys, opinions have oscillated over time. In November 2009, an [Angus Reid Global](#) survey found 63 per cent of surveyed Canadians believed global warming was caused by human emissions. This opinion has remained consistent when compared to a measurement from October 2010 (60 per cent), yet it reached its lowest level in August 2011, when just over half believed this to be the case (52%). In March 2013, opinion on this question was at 58 per cent.

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Detailed tables are on the following pages.

Visit the website: <http://www.angusreid.org>

ARI was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. It has the status of a registered charity in Canada. ARI is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research organization established to enhance and encourage better understanding of issues and trends affecting economic, social, governance, philanthropy, public administration, domestic, and foreign policy in Canada and its world.

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of climate change (or global warming)?					
	Sept. 2014	March 2013	Aug. 2011	Oct. 2010	Nov. 2009
Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities	62%	58%	52%	60%	63%
Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by natural changes	14%	20%	21%	16%	16%
Global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven	12%	13%	14%	14%	16%
Not sure	12%	9%	13%	10%	5%

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of climate change (or global warming)?							
	Total (1505)	Region					
		BC (196)	AB (162)	MB/SK (100)	ON (563)	PQ (370)	ATL (114)
Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities	62%	63%	53%	48%	63%	67%	67%
Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by natural changes	14%	16%	16%	15%	13%	12%	16%
Global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven	12%	11%	17%	19%	13%	8%	9%
Not sure	12%	9%	14%	18%	11%	14%	8%

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Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of climate change (or global warming)?						
	Total (1505)	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18 - 34	35 - 54	55+
Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities	62%	61%	64%	67%	61%	60%
Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by natural changes	14%	16%	11%	11%	13%	17%
Global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven	12%	14%	10%	10%	12%	14%
Not sure	12%	9%	15%	12%	14%	10%

How much of a threat, if any, do you think climate change poses for planet earth?							
	Total (1505)	Region					
		BC (196)	AB (162)	MB/SK (100)	ON (563)	PQ (370)	ATL (114)
A very serious threat to the planet	38%	41%	33%	30%	38%	39%	45%
A serious threat	37%	35%	33%	33%	38%	37%	37%
A more minor threat	12%	11%	21%	12%	11%	12%	10%
Not really a threat at all	7%	7%	10%	16%	7%	4%	4%
Not sure	6%	6%	3%	9%	6%	7%	4%

How much of a threat, if any, do you think climate change poses for planet earth?						
	Total (1505)	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18 - 34	35 - 54	55+
A very serious threat to the planet	38%	35%	41%	42%	37%	37%
A serious threat	37%	35%	38%	36%	37%	37%
A more minor threat	12%	15%	10%	10%	13%	14%
Not really a threat at all	7%	11%	3%	4%	9%	7%
Not sure	6%	4%	8%	8%	5%	5%

Thinking about the overall approach and actions the Canadian government has been taking on the issue of climate change over the past few years, would you say you generally approve or disapprove of their performance on this issue?

	Total (1505)	Region					
		BC (196)	AB (162)	MB/SK (100)	ON (563)	PQ (370)	ATL (114)
Strongly approve	6%	5%	8%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Moderately approve	26%	25%	32%	31%	28%	20%	25%
Moderately disapprove	21%	23%	22%	19%	22%	19%	21%
Strongly disapprove	30%	35%	17%	20%	27%	40%	30%
Not sure	17%	12%	21%	23%	17%	15%	19%

Thinking about the overall approach and actions the Canadian government has been taking on the issue of climate change over the past few years, would you say you generally approve or disapprove of their performance on this issue?

	Total (1505)	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18 - 34	35 - 54	55+
Strongly approve	6%	9%	4%	5%	6%	7%
Moderately approve	26%	26%	26%	24%	27%	27%
Moderately disapprove	21%	21%	21%	21%	23%	19%
Strongly disapprove	30%	35%	25%	27%	29%	34%
Not sure	17%	9%	24%	22%	16%	13%

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Putting this another way, do you think Canada's overall official approach to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions has been too aggressive, about right, or too weak in recent years?

	Total (1505)	Region					
		BC (196)	AB (162)	MB/SK (100)	ON (563)	PQ (370)	ATL (114)
Too aggressive, should ease up	4%	4%	8%	6%	5%	2%	3%
About right	23%	26%	31%	28%	24%	17%	19%
Too weak, should step up efforts	63%	62%	51%	54%	62%	70%	69%
Not sure	10%	8%	10%	12%	9%	11%	9%

Putting this another way, do you think Canada's overall official approach to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions has been too aggressive, about right, or too weak in recent years?

	Total (1505)	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18 - 34	35 - 54	55+
Too aggressive, should ease up	4%	6%	3%	5%	5%	3%
About right	23%	27%	19%	19%	24%	26%
Too weak, should step up efforts	63%	61%	64%	64%	62%	63%
Not sure	10%	6%	13%	13%	9%	8%

Some recent international environmental reports have given Canada a low ranking for its record on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. What kind of international standing do you think Canada should aim to have in this area?

	Total (1505)	Region					
		BC (196)	AB (162)	MB/SK (100)	ON (563)	PQ (370)	ATL (114)
Canada should be a global leader on the environment, including emissions reductions	64%	65%	55%	57%	63%	68%	67%
It's ok for Canada to follow the lead of other developed countries	27%	24%	29%	19%	28%	28%	27%
Canada can trail others on emissions reductions since we're a cold, oil-producing country	9%	10%	16%	24%	8%	4%	5%

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It's ok for Canada to follow the lead of other developed countries	27%	29%	25%	27%	26%	29%
Canada can trail others on emissions reductions since we're a cold, oil-producing country	9%	13%	5%	7%	10%	10%

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