

Pipelines & opinions: 63% support pipeline from Alberta to B.C.; economic arguments prove most persuasive

Those opposed to both BC and ON projects say Canada should be more concerned about environment

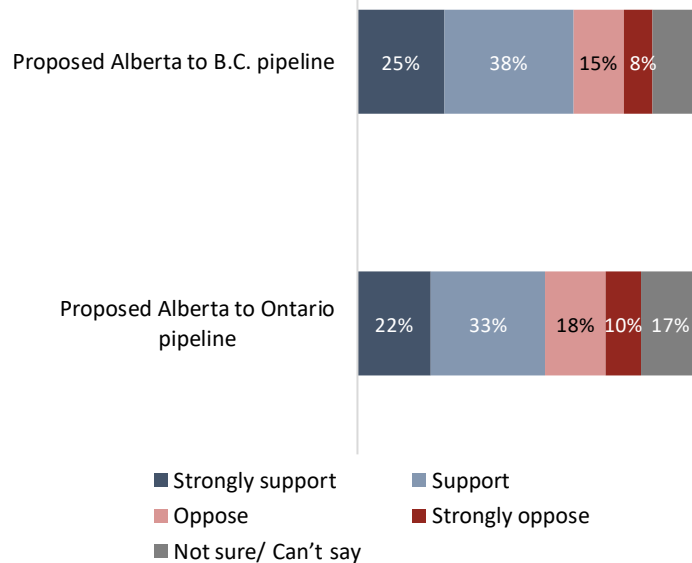
July 16, 2026 – The Calgary Stampede political circuit was focused on the two Ps: pancakes and pipelines. Plenty of the former were flipped while plans were laid for the latter.

Now, new data from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute finds majority support both for the long awaited proposal for a new pipeline from Alberta to B.C. (63%) and the less heralded announcement of a plan to bring oil to Sarnia, Ontario touted by Alberta Premier Danielle Smith and Ontario Premier Doug Ford (55%).

However, in both cases, only about half of Canadians say they have truly made up their minds about the projects, suggesting both proposed pipelines sit on proverbially shifting ground. In the case of the Alberta to B.C. pipeline, one-quarter of Canadians (27%) say their support for the project is immovable while 33 per cent say they currently support the project but could be convinced otherwise. The minority (21%) in opposition are similarly split between those who have made up their minds (11%) and those who say they could be convinced to support the pipeline (10%).

The arguments most compelling to Canadians to build the Alberta-to-B.C. pipeline are economic. A majority (55%) say diversifying Canada's oil markets away from the U.S. and the general importance of oil to Canada's economy (51%) are convincing arguments to build. More than two-in-five (45%) also like that the pipeline would bring jobs.

**Support vs. oppose each pipeline project
(All respondents, n=2,649)**



METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey from July 10 - 14, 2026, among a randomized sample of 2,649 Canadian adults. Respondents are drawn from the [Angus Reid Forum](#), a large-scale online panel developed to include Canadian residents in each of the 343 federal ridings in Canada and representative of the Canadian population by age, gender, family income, ethnic status and education. The sample was weighted to be representative of adults nationwide according to region, gender, age, household income, and education, based on the Canadian census. For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The survey was self-commissioned and paid for by ARI. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

For more information on our polling methods, [click here.](#)

But 41 per cent say in turn that Canada should be investing in renewable energy instead, underscoring *their* reasons not to pursue Alberta's B.C. pipeline project. One-third (34%) also worry Canadians may not

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see economic benefit that would outweigh the cost of construction along the existing Trans Mountain corridor.

Notably, in B.C., where resistance to pipelines has been a persistent story throughout the past two decades, three-in-five (62%) say they support this new project proposed by Alberta. Two-in-five (40%) in B.C. say they find the fact that the pipeline won't be breaking a new path and will instead follow the existing Trans Mountain pipeline as a compelling reason to support the project.

Also key to this discussion: Canadians appear well-versed in the western project. Nine-in-10 (88%) have either been following it closely (27%) or know a little (60%). And support changes little when it's asked before the arguments for and against the project are presented to respondents (61%) and after respondents have had a chance to weigh the arguments (63%).

More Key Findings:

- Knowledge of the proposed Alberta to Ontario project is much lower. Two-in-five (41%) hadn't heard of it compared to the eight per cent who say the same of the Alberta to B.C. pipeline.
- Economic arguments also drive support for the potential Ontario pipeline. A majority (55%) say they're compelled by the argument that it would create jobs and half (52%) say oil is an important source of income to Canada's economy.
- For both pipelines, national unity appears to be a secondary reason driving support. One-in-eight (13%) say they find that compelling as a reason to build the B.C. pipeline; one-in-five (18%) say the same of the Ontario project.

About ARI

The Angus Reid Institute (ARI) was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. ARI is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research foundation established to advance education by commissioning, conducting and disseminating to the public accessible and impartial statistical data, research and policy analysis on economics, political science, philanthropy, public administration, domestic and international affairs and other socio-economic issues of importance to Canada and its world.

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Part One: Alberta to B.C. pipeline

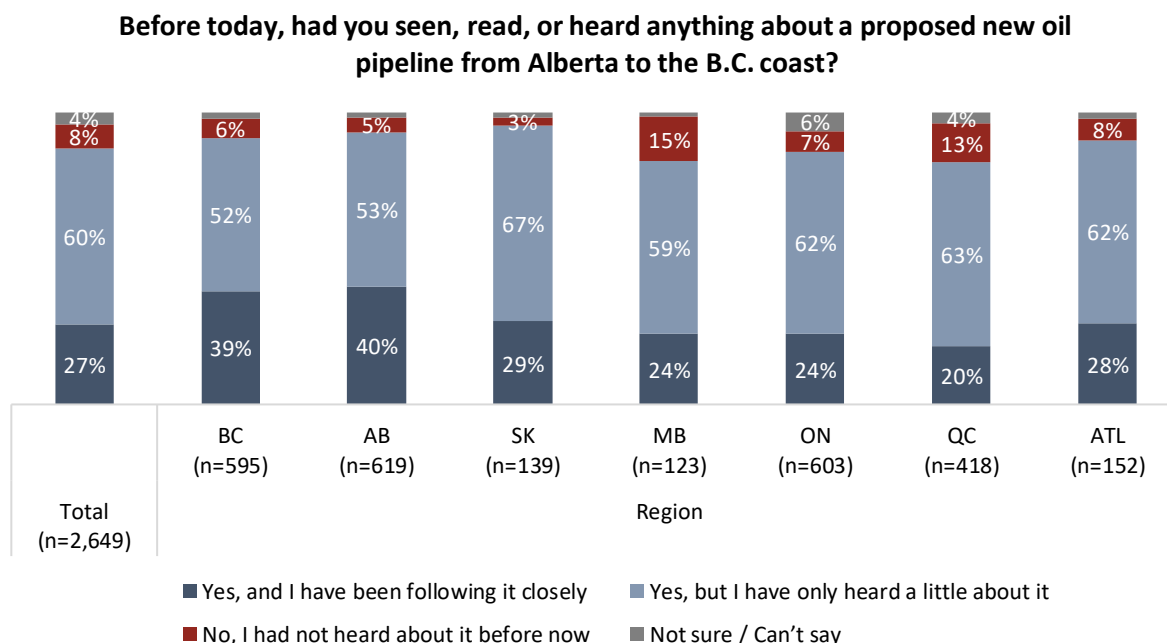
Significant attention across the country

Alberta Premier Danielle Smith [formally presented her province's plan](#) for a new pipeline from Alberta to B.C. to Prime Minister Mark Carney when the two connected at the Calgary Stampede. The project will leverage both an Alberta crown corporation, the federally backed Trans Mountain Corp. and the private Pembina Pipeline corp. to build a pipeline along the existing Trans Mountain path that is designed to ship one million barrels of oil per day.

The announcement is the culmination of months of negotiations between Alberta and Carney's government following last fall's memorandum of understanding between the province and Ottawa.

Related: Pipeline Politics: Post MOU announcement, Carney's approval unchanged in B.C., picks up in Alberta

At this point, most Canadians are aware of the proposed pipeline, with three-in-ten (28%) saying they have been following the news closely. That number is higher in the provinces the pipeline will eventually traverse, Alberta (40%) and B.C. (39%):



In the fall, after the signing of the Alberta-Ottawa MOU, the Angus Reid Institute found high support for a new Alberta to B.C. pipeline, albeit one that would've hypothetically travelled across northern B.C.

Related: 60% could support an Alberta-BC pipeline nationally, but sign-off in Canada's westernmost province no sure thing

Carney's government confirmed the tanker ban on the B.C. north coast would stay in place, firmly entrenching a key barrier to that pipeline route. Instead, Alberta's proposal would place a new pipeline

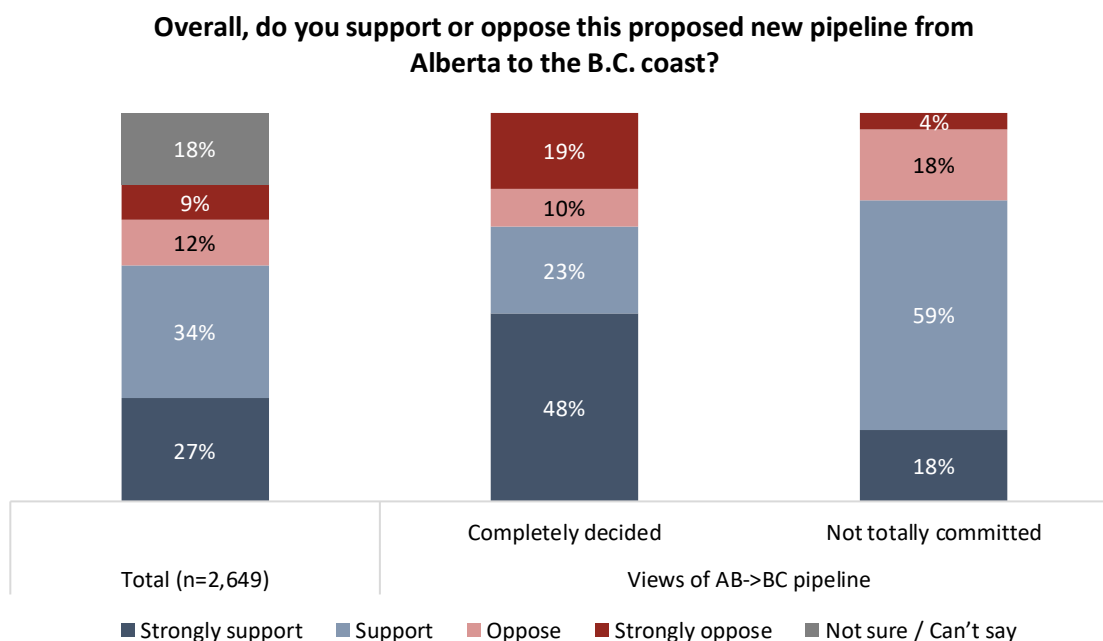
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along the same route as the existing Trans Mountain pipeline. That pipeline path is supported by three-in-five (61%), a similar figure to support seen for a hypothetical north B.C. pipeline in the fall.

ARI asked respondents about whether their position on the new proposed Alberta to B.C. pipeline was fixed or fungible and found a near even split (47% say their mind is set, 53% say they could change their mind, [see detailed tables](#)).

Among the completely decided, support outweighs opposition by more than two-to-one (71% to 29%), with half (48%) saying they strongly support Alberta's pipeline plan. Support is still higher than opposition among those who say their mind can be changed, but there are fewer strong opinions:

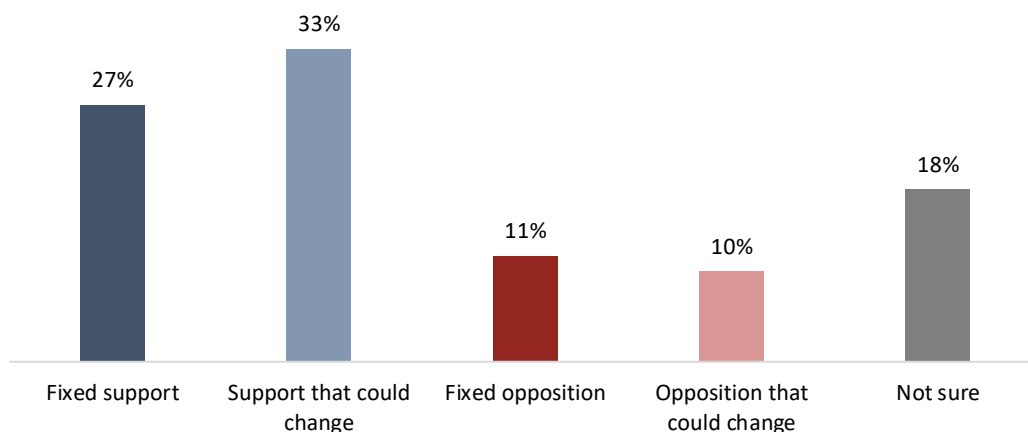


Taking the support and the openness to persuasion together, one-quarter (27%) of Canadians say they support the pipeline and won't change their mind, one-third (33%) say they support it but are persuadable, one-in-ten (11%) are opposed and steadfast in their opposition, and one-in-ten (10%) say they are opposed but could be convinced otherwise. One-in-five (18%) aren't sure where they stand on the Alberta to B.C. pipeline currently:

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**Support and commitment for Alberta to B.C. pipeline
(All respondents, n=2,649)**



Arguments for building

According to most Canadians, the reasons for supporting the pipeline are relatively well defined. Consider that half or more say that increasing sales beyond the U.S. and bolstering the economy more broadly are both compelling lines of reasoning. Notably, national unity, a significant discussion in recent months, with a referendum on a referendum vote set for October in Alberta, is not widely seen as a solid reason to support the pipeline project:

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Here are some arguments in favour of building the Alberta to B.C. pipeline. Which, if any, do you feel are the most compelling?								
	Total (n=2,649)	Region						
		BC (n=595)	AB (n=619)	SK (n=139)	MB (n=123)	ON (n=603)	QC (n=418)	ATL (n=152)
Helps Canada sell oil to markets outside US	55%	53%	63%	60%	52%	57%	49%	57%
Oil is an important source of income for Canada's economy	51%	47%	56%	56%	51%	53%	47%	52%
The pipeline project would create jobs and economic growth	45%	41%	56%	49%	47%	48%	34%	52%
The route largely follows an existing pipeline	35%	40%	36%	35%	34%	34%	31%	38%
The project would improve national unity especially in Alberta	13%	10%	16%	13%	18%	16%	8%	16%
Economic opportunities for Indigenous	12%	10%	12%	18%	13%	14%	9%	16%
Ottawa will invest in ports, electricity, LNG, etc. in BC	10%	17%	6%	5%	6%	11%	7%	13%
Something else, specify	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%
None of these are a good argument for building it	13%	14%	8%	7%	9%	8%	23%	11%

Arguments against building

On the other end of the spectrum, two-in-five Canadians, and half in Quebec, say that Canada should not be focused on these types of projects and should instead be investing in renewable energy more robustly. Another one-in-three say the best reasons to oppose construction are related to concentrated economic benefits that may not reach enough Canadians to justify the project, and the risk of environmental damage:

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Here are some arguments against building the Alberta to B.C. pipeline. Which, if any, do you feel are the most compelling?								
	Total (n=2,649)	Region						
		BC (n=595)	AB (n=619)	SK (n=139)	MB (n=123)	ON (n=603)	QC (n=418)	ATL (n=152)
Canada should be investing in renewable energy instead	41%	40%	29%	29%	39%	40%	50%	47%
Canadians may not see enough economic benefit from the cost	34%	32%	28%	23%	29%	34%	39%	36%
The project creates too much risk of an oil spill /environmental damage	30%	36%	19%	20%	29%	32%	31%	28%
The project would increase greenhouse gas emissions	24%	23%	14%	16%	14%	24%	29%	27%
May not include enough consultation w/ Indigenous	23%	16%	22%	24%	24%	29%	17%	21%
Canada should not be building more oil pipelines	9%	9%	5%	7%	8%	8%	14%	10%
Something else, specify	6%	7%	11%	16%	8%	6%	3%	8%
None of these are a good argument against building it	24%	25%	35%	32%	31%	20%	20%	23%

Key points of debate for the moveable middle

For those who oppose the project but could still offer their support, the fact that the pipeline follows largely the same route as a pre-existing project is key. This, as well as diversification beyond the U.S. are the top selling features:

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Here are some arguments in favour of building the Alberta to B.C. pipeline. Which, if any, do you feel are the most compelling?						
	Total (n=2,649)	Support of AB to BC Pipeline				
		Fixed Support (27% of pop)	Support that could change (33%)	Fixed Opposition (11%)	Opposition that could change (10%)	Not sure / Can't say
Helps Canada sell oil to markets outside US	55%	64%	70%	14%	41%	46%
Oil is an important source of income for Canada's economy	51%	72%	59%	6%	30%	43%
The pipeline project would create jobs and economic growth	45%	63%	53%	8%	26%	35%
The route largely follows an existing pipeline	35%	30%	41%	11%	41%	41%
The project would improve national unity especially in Alberta	13%	19%	16%	2%	4%	12%
Economic opportunities for Indigenous	12%	13%	13%	7%	16%	12%
Ottawa will invest in ports, electricity, LNG, etc. in BC	10%	14%	12%	2%	9%	7%
Something else, specify	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
None of these are a good argument for building it	13%	0%	2%	69%	17%	15%

For those who support the project but say they could still change their mind, two key lines of reasoning have their attention. This group is concerned that the benefits of the project will not be spread widely enough and also feel that more attention should be paid to renewable energy:

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Here are some arguments against building the pipeline. Which, if any, do you feel are the most compelling?						
	Total (n=2,649)	Support of AB to BC Pipeline				
		Fixed Support (27% of pop)	Support that could change (33%)	Fixed Opposition (11%)	Opposition that could change (10%)	Not sure / Can't say
Canada should be investing in renewable energy instead	41%	14%	40%	77%	70%	47%
Canadians may not see enough economic benefit from the cost	34%	24%	42%	27%	35%	40%
The project creates too much risk of an oil spill /environmental damage	30%	10%	31%	44%	51%	39%
The project would increase greenhouse gas emissions	24%	9%	21%	48%	41%	26%
May not include enough consultation w/ Indigenous	23%	10%	23%	32%	28%	33%
Canada should not be building more oil pipelines	9%	3%	3%	39%	21%	7%
Something else, specify	6%	9%	5%	5%	6%	5%
None of these are a good argument against building it	24%	52%	21%	1%	1%	12%

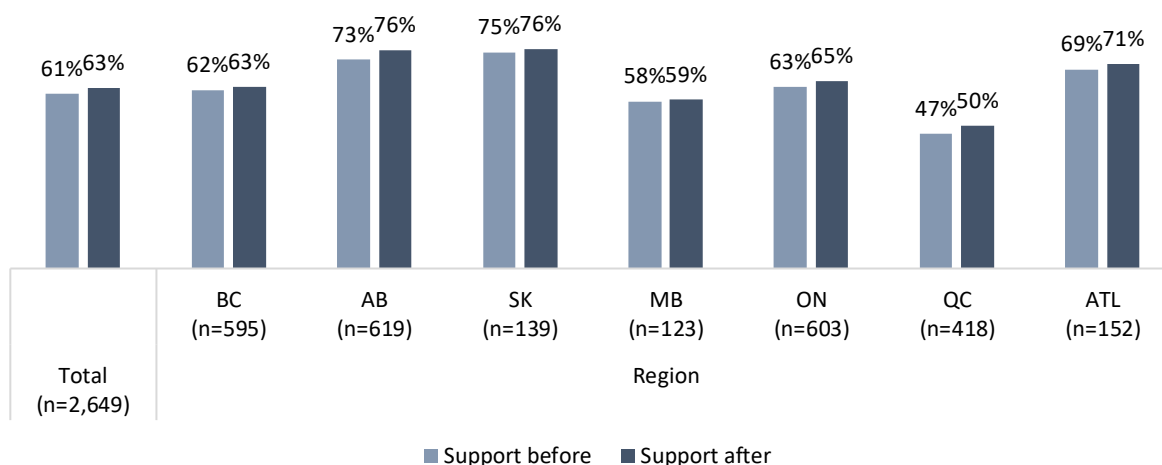
Support levels after considering the debate

After reading these statements and determining which they do or do not find compelling, Canadians were prompted to again consider the Alberta to B.C. pipeline. Notably, in every jurisdiction the proportion who support it rose ever so slightly:

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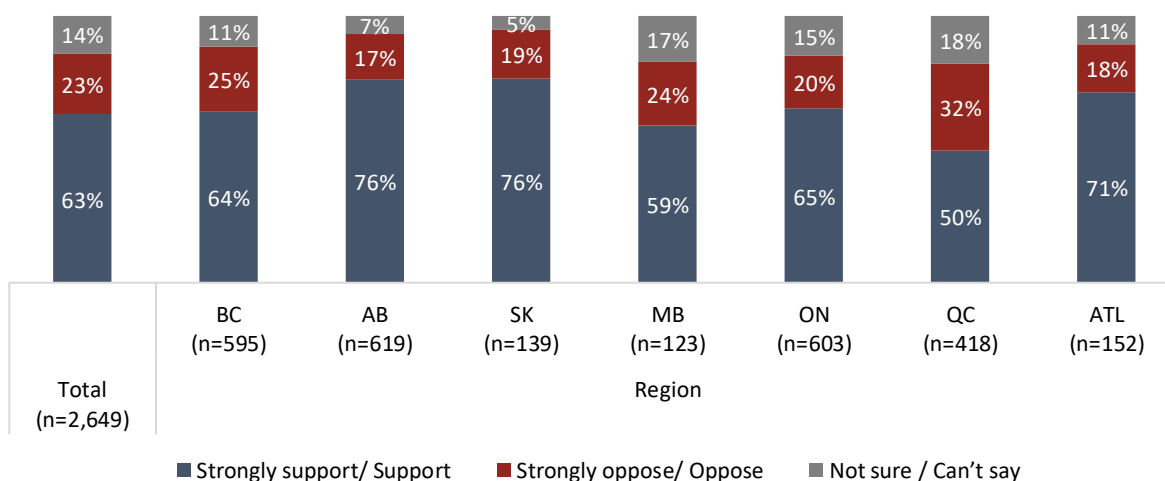
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Support before and after reading arguments for and against Alberta to B.C. pipeline



Opposition is highest in Quebec, where 32 per cent say they oppose the project, while one-quarter in British Columbia also push back.

Now, considering the arguments for and against the proposed pipeline from Alberta to a port on the south coast of B.C, do you support or oppose it?

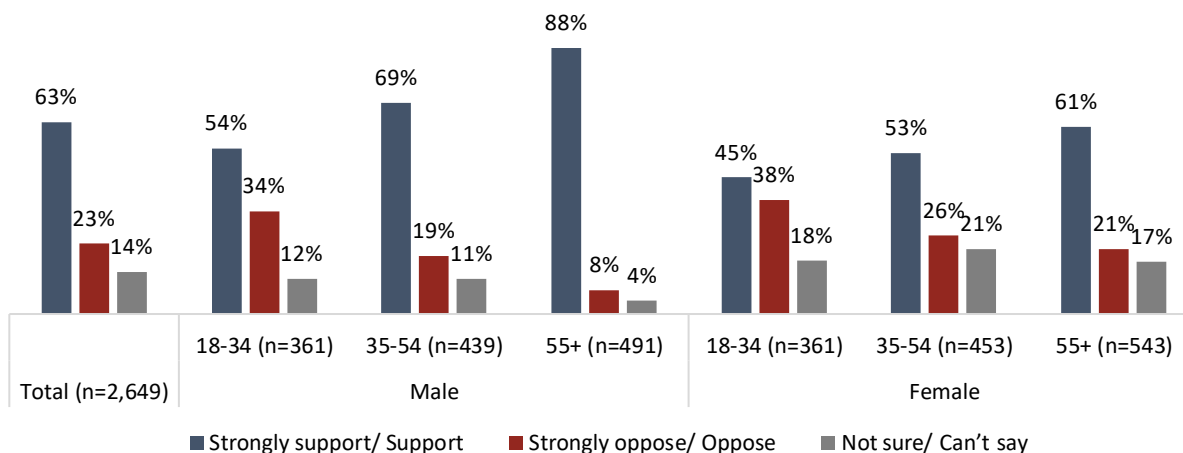


Support rises with age. Among young men, a slight majority support building the pipeline, while among young women, this drops to a plurality.

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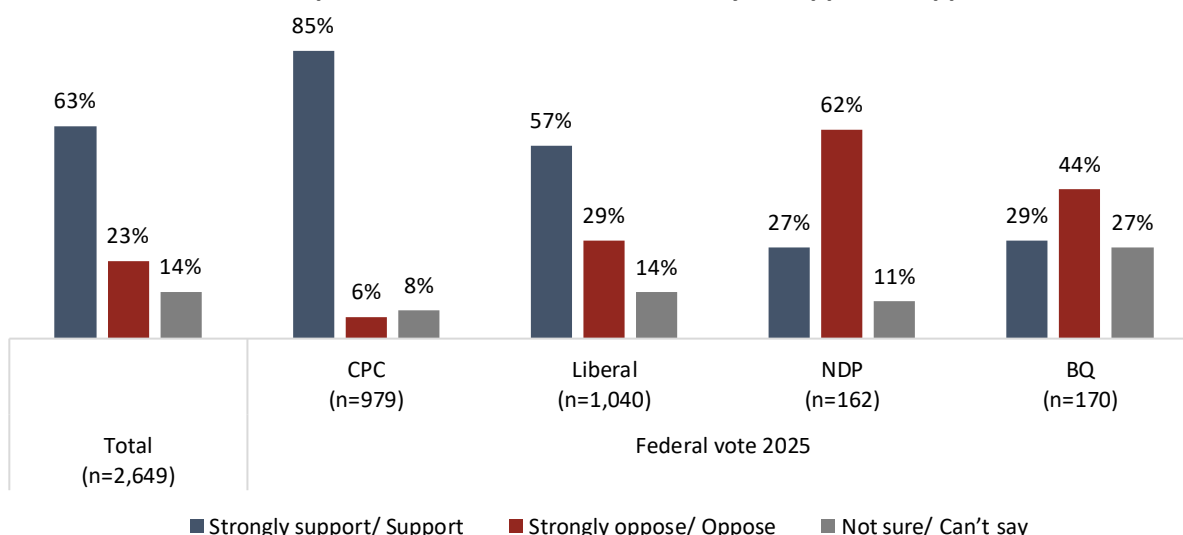
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Now, considering the arguments for and against the proposed pipeline from Alberta to a port on the south coast of B.C, do you support or oppose it?



Mark Carney's Liberal base of voters from the 2025 election support the project at approximately a two-to-one ratio (57% vs 29%). Among Conservative voters, support is nearly the only view, while among New Democrats and Bloc Québécois voters, opposition carries:

Now, considering the arguments for and against the proposed pipeline from Alberta to a port on the south coast of B.C, do you support or oppose it?



Part Two: Alberta to Ontario pipeline

Another recently proposed pipeline has drawn less attention. On July 6, Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Alberta Premier Danielle Smith unveiled the proposed Northern Shield Energy Corridor, a 3,300-kilometre crude oil pipeline running from Hardisty, Alberta, to refineries in Sarnia, Ontario. The project remains at

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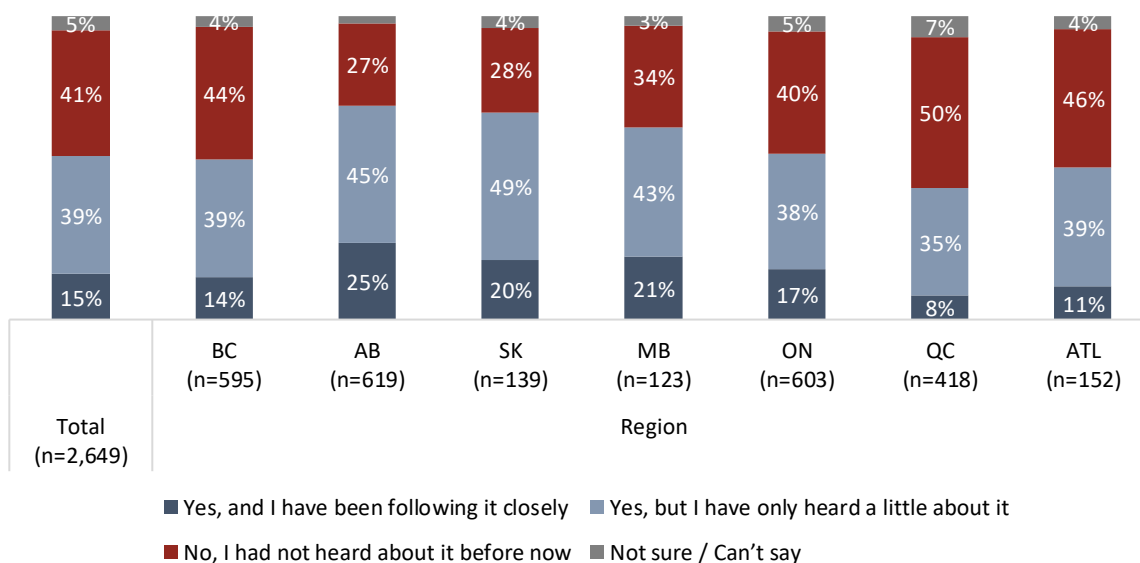
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an early stage, with no private-sector proponent or cost estimate identified and a feasibility study expected by the end of 2026.

Much less attention on west to east pipeline proposal

Two-in-five Canadians (41%), including 40 per cent in Ontario, say they haven't heard anything about the project. This is five-times the number who say this of the Alberta to B.C. pipeline (8%):

Now, similarly, have you seen, read, or heard anything about a proposed new oil pipeline from Alberta to Sarnia, Ontario?

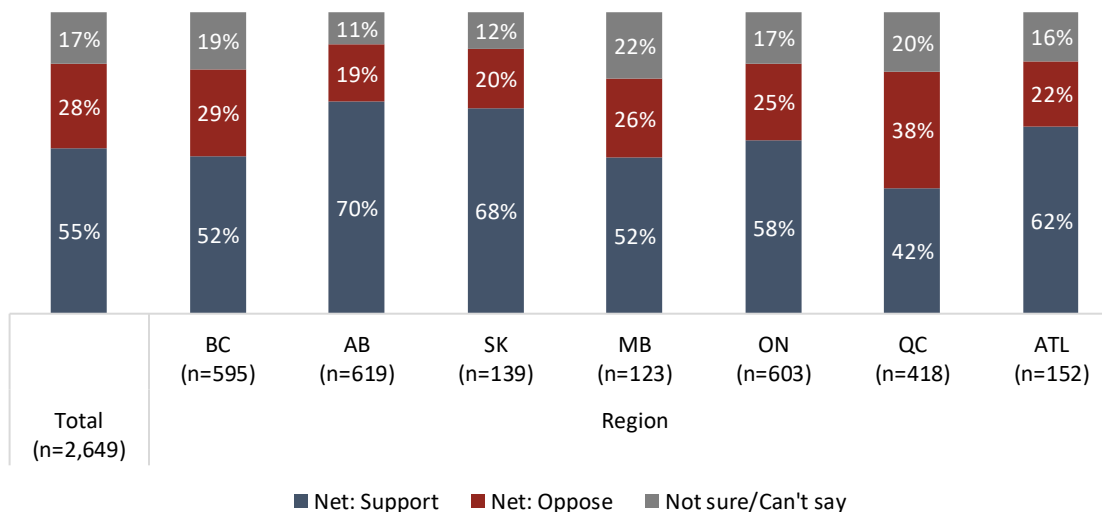


Awareness is low for the burgeoning proposal, but majority support is evident. More than half (55%) say they would support the project, including two-to-one support versus opposition in Ontario (52% vs 26%). In Quebec, however, support and opposition are near-equal. For more data regarding opinions on this project, [see detailed tables](#):

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Now, considering the arguments for and against the proposed pipeline from Alberta to Sarnia, Ontario, do you support or oppose it?



Pipeline opinions over the years

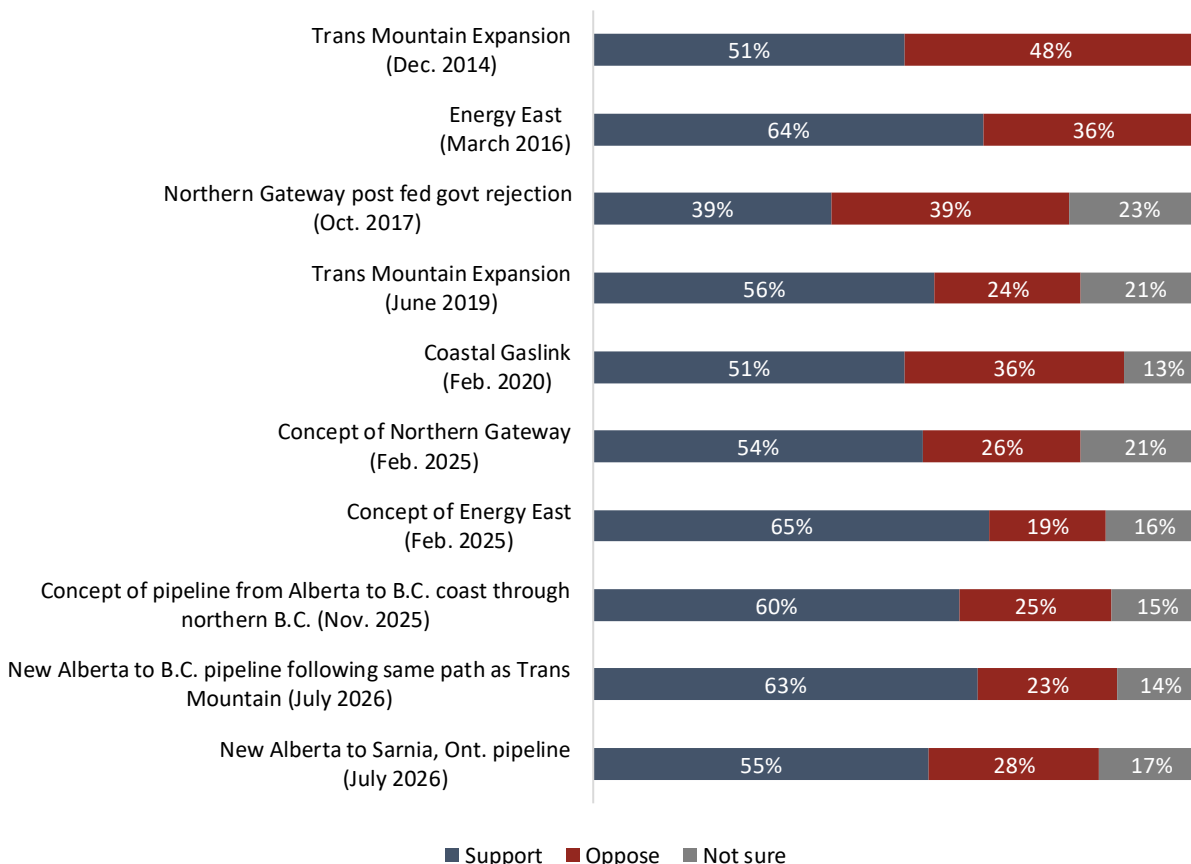
The Alberta-Ontario proposed pipeline bears some resemblance to the former [Energy East project](#), but is considerably narrower in scope. While Energy East would have carried up to [1.1 million barrels](#) of oil per day from Alberta to refineries in Central Canada and an export terminal in Saint John, New Brunswick, Northern Shield would initially transport about [500,000 barrels](#) per day to Sarnia, Ontario. The new proposal is framed primarily around domestic energy security and reducing reliance on routes that pass through the United States, rather than creating a direct Atlantic export corridor.

Energy East has been widely supported when ARI has asked about it, with 64 per cent support in 2016 and 65 per cent support in 2025, which suggests, though does not guarantee, that if awareness of the project increases, support may rise to similar levels.

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Support and opposition to pipeline projects in Canada over time



For detailed results by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, [click here](#).

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