

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Belief in climate change eroding

Majority still believe human activity is the cause

TORONTO May 14th, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1286 Canadian adults, close to 8-in-10 believe the earth's climate is changing (78%), while just one sixth do not (15%). Very few do not have an opinion (7%). While this is a substantial majority, the last time we polled this subject, belief in climate change was higher than 8-in-10 (July, 2013 - 84%). Belief the climate is not changing is common to the least wealthy (20%), in Ontario and the prairies (18% each) and among Conservatives (26%). Those in Quebec and BC are least likely to say the climate is not changing (11% and 10%, respectively).

Human activities cause climate change - majority

Among those who agree the climate is changing, fully three quarters blame it on human activities (72%), and this is equal to more than half the population as a whole (56%). Just one sixth of Canadians (15%) and one fifth of those who agree the climate is changing say it is a natural phenomenon (20%). Those who believe climate change is a natural phenomenon tend to be older, less wealthy and less educated, and Conservative voters in the prairies and Alberta.

Two thirds disagree federal government doing enough to combat climate change

Two thirds of Canadian adults disagree the federal government is doing its bit to combat climate change (68%), while fewer than a quarter think enough is being done (22%). One tenth don't share an opinion (10%). More than one half of Conservatives are happy with their government's efforts (55%), but just one tenth of Liberals and New Democrats are (9% each).

"This is one of those issues which should cut across political allegiances but doesn't anymore in our increasingly polarized society. Liberal and New Democrats agree the climate is changing and man is the cause and Conservatives don't. Why the proportion agreeing climate change is occurring has shrunk is interesting; it may be due to increased discussion of carbon pricing, or the effect of more junk science leaking over the border from the south," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at lbozinoff@forumresearch.com or at (416) 960-9603.

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TORONTO

May 14th, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Close to 8-in-10 believe the earth's climate is changing (78%), while just one sixth do not (15%).
 - Among those who agree the climate is changing, fully three quarters blame it on human activities (72%), and this is equal to more than half the population as a whole (56%).
 - Two thirds of Canadian adults disagree the federal government is doing its bit to combat climate change (68%).
 - "This is one of those issues which should cut across political allegiances but doesn't anymore in our increasingly polarized society. Liberal and New Democrats agree the climate is changing and man is the cause and Conservatives don't. Why the proportion agreeing climate change is occurring has shrunk is interesting; it may be due to increased discussion of carbon pricing, or the effect of more junk science leaking over the border from the south," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.
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Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1286 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted on May 12-13th, 2015.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™ and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp

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Climate Change

'As far as you know, is the earth's climate changing?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1286	159	171	245	309	402	659	627
Yes	78	80	79	76	83	71	77	79
No	15	16	13	17	12	16	16	14
Don't know	7	4	7	8	5	13	7	7

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1286	70	177	460	116	212	251	1118	168
Yes	78	80	83	74	73	73	84	76	86
No	15	15	11	18	18	17	10	17	9
Don't know	7	6	6	8	9	10	6	8	5

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1286	408	337	335	80	27	40
Yes	78	63	83	87	77	88	69
No	15	26	12	10	14	6	21
Don't know	7	10	5	3	10	6	10

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May 14th, 2015

Climate Change: Human Activity or Natural Phenomenon

‘As far as you know, is the change in the climate due to human activities or is it a natural phenomenon?’

[Think that earth's climate is changing]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	989	126	133	188	255	287	497	492
Caused by human activities	72	78	71	71	68	67	73	71
Natural phenomenon	20	14	21	19	24	25	20	20
Don't know	8	7	8	10	8	8	7	9

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	989	55	144	343	84	154	209	849	140
Caused by human activities	72	54	77	74	66	59	78	70	77
Natural phenomenon	20	20	21	18	25	29	14	20	20
Don't know	8	27	2	8	9	12	8	10	3

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	989	257	284	291	63	22	26
Caused by human activities	72	50	77	81	79	82	74
Natural phenomenon	20	39	14	14	7	18	24
Don't know	8	11	9	5	13	0	2

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Federal Government Doing Enough to Combat Climate Change

'Do you agree or disagree that Canada's federal government is doing enough to combat climate change?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1286	159	171	245	309	402	659	627
Agree	22	16	23	27	23	24	25	19
Disagree	68	74	68	62	71	60	67	68
Don't know	10	10	9	11	6	16	8	13

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1286	70	177	460	116	212	251	1118	168
Agree	22	19	15	24	30	37	15	24	14
Disagree	68	70	79	62	58	50	78	64	80
Don't know	10	11	6	13	12	12	7	11	6

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1286	408	337	335	80	27	40
Agree	22	55	9	9	13	8	31
Disagree	68	30	81	85	78	92	61
Don't know	10	16	9	6	9	0	8

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