

Almost Half of Ontarians Support Carbon Pricing, Even if Costs Go Up

Toronto, ON, February 27th, 2018 – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by Forum Research, on behalf of Canadians for Clean Prosperity, amongst 1005 Ontario voters,

Almost half (TOP2: 46%) of Ontarians supports having a price on carbon emissions, even if it makes some things more expensive. Just under a third (BTM2: 28%) say they would oppose a price on carbon if it made some things more expensive.

About one-sixth (18%) say they would neither support nor oppose a carbon tax if it made some things more expensive, while about 1 in 10 say they do not know (8%).

Respondents most likely to say they support a price on carbon emissions, even if it makes some things more expensive include those aged 35-44 (50%) or 55-64 (49%), females (50%), the most wealthy (57%), with a post-graduate degree (54%), living in Northern Ontario (50%) or Toronto (48%), and supporting the Liberals (71%).

Respondents most likely to say that they oppose a price on carbon emissions if they make things more expensive include those aged 34 and younger (31%), 45-54 (29%) or 55-64 (28%), males (35%), earning \$40,000-\$60,000 (35%) or \$60,000-\$80,000 (32%), living in Southwestern Ontario (36%), and supporting the PCs (44%).

There is a stark contrast amongst leaning and core PC supporters. Amongst core supporters, the third (34%) of voters that say they are very likely to vote Progressive Conservative in the upcoming provincial election, only a quarter (TOP2: 28%) say they would support a price on carbon emissions if it made things more expensive, with about half (BTM2: 48%) saying they would oppose such a measure.

Conversely, amongst leaning voters, the sixth (16%) that say they somewhat likely to vote PC in the next provincial election, the opposite is true. About half (TOP2: 49%) say they would support a price on carbon emissions, even if it made some things more expensive, while a quarter (BTM2: 25%) say they would oppose it.

Amongst undecided voters, opinion is divided. One quarter (TOP2: 28%) would support carbon pricing, even if it made things more expensive, while a third (BTM2: 33%) say they would oppose it.

Half of Ontarians say more should be done to limit climate change

Half (51%) of Ontarians say the province should do more to limit climate change, while a quarter (26%) says the province should continue at its current level of support.

About one sixth (17%) says Ontario should do less, while fewer than 1 in 10 (7%) say they do not know.



Respondents most likely to say Ontario should do more include those aged 34 and younger (56%), females (60%), earning \$20,000-\$40,000 (54%), \$60,000-\$80,000 (53%), \$80,000-\$100,000 (52%), or the most wealthy (51%), those with a college/university degree (56%), living in Toronto (54%), the 905 (53%), or Northern Ontario (54%), and supporting the Green Party (80%).

Respondents most likely to say Ontario should do less include those aged 45-54 (19%), 55-64 (19%), or 65+ (20%), males (29%), the least wealthy (18%), earning \$20,000-\$40,000 (17%), \$40,000-\$60,000 (18%), or the most wealthy (17%), the least educated (25%), living in Eastern Ontario (21%) or Southwestern Ontario (20%), and supporting the Progressive Conservatives (29%).

While PC supporters are the most likely to say the government should do less, the plurality of PC supporters (34%) say the government should do more.

Amongst core and leaning PC supporters, once again a considerable difference is seen. When considering the support of core PC supporters, those very likely to vote PC in the next election, about one-third (29%) say that Ontario should do more to limit climate change, the same proportion (29%) says it should do about the same as now (29%), and another third (32%) said Ontario should do less.

Amongst leaning PC supporters, however, the data tells a different story. More than half (55%) say Ontario should do more to limit climate change. About one-third (29%) says Ontario should do about the same as now, while one-sixth (17%) says Ontario should do less.

Half of undecided voters (50%) say Ontario should do more to limit climate change. More than a third (37%) say Ontario should do about the same as now, while just 1 in 10 (10%) say Ontario should do less.

Ontarians prefer a revenue neutral carbon tax to cap-and-trade or a Federal Carbon Tax.

One-third (33%) said that Ontario should replace its current cap-and-trade system with a made-in-Ontario carbon tax, the proceeds of which would be used to reduce other taxes in Ontario.

2-in-10 (22%) said Ontario should keep its existing cap-and-trade system.

About one-sixth (15%) said Ontario should eliminate its existing cap-and-trade system and accept the Federal carbon tax instead.

One-third (30%) said they do not know.

Respondents most likely to support a made-in-Ontario carbon tax that is revenue neutral include those aged 34 and younger (40%), males (39%), earning \$40,000-\$60,000 (38%), with some college/university (40%), living in Eastern (37%) or Northern (37%) Ontario, and supporting the PCs (37%) or Greens (38%).



Respondents most likely to say Ontario should keep its existing cap-and-trade system include those aged 45-54 (28%), the most wealthy (28%), with a post-graduate-degree (28%), living in the 905 (27%) or Northern Ontario (24%), and supporting the Liberals (29%).

Respondents most likely to say Ontario should accept the Federal carbon tax include the least wealthy (19%), earning \$20,000-\$40,000 (17%), or the most wealthy (18%), and supporting the Green Party (26%).

Amongst core and leaning Progressive Conservative supporters, the plurality supports a revenue neutral carbon tax. Amongst core supporters, those very likely to support the PCs in the upcoming election, about 4 in 10 (39%) say they would support a carbon tax, the proceeds of which reduced other taxes in Ontario. 2 in 10 (21%) say Ontario should keep its existing capand-trade system, while about 1 in 10 (12%) say Ontario should accept the Federal carbon tax instead. About one quarter (28%) say they do not know.

Amongst leaning Progressive Conservative supporters, however, the differences are narrower. The plurality (30%) say the government should develop a carbon tax that is revenue neutral, while one-quarter (26%) says Ontario should keep the existing cap-and-trade system. 2 in 10 say Ontario should accept the Federal carbon tax. About one quarter (24%) say they do not know.

Amongst undecided voters the plurality (37%) indicates they are not sure which of the three options would be best. About one-quarter (28%) say the province should keep the existing capand-trade system, a similar proportion (23%) opts for a revenue neutral carbon tax, with 1 in 10 (12%) saying the province should accept the Federal carbon tax.

Ford and Elliott lead amongst the public

Doug Ford (18%) and Christine Elliott (17%) are the leadership candidates that received the most support from the public, with Patrick Brown (13%) and Caroline Mulroney (12%) just behind.

Few (3%) say they would support Tanya Granic Allen.

The plurality (37%) says they do not know which of the leaders they are most likely to vote for during a general election.



Overall, PCs lead amongst Decided and leaning voters

The Progressive Conservatives lead amongst decided and leaning voters by a comfortable margin, with almost half (46%) of Ontarians saying they would support the PCs if an election were held today.

One quarter (24%) say they would support the NDP and 2 in 10 (21%) say they would support the Liberals. 1 in 10 (7%) say they would support the Green Party, and few say they would support another party (2%).

"The Progressive Conservatives hold a considerable lead amongst decided and leaning voters," said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research. "When probing the support of those leaning toward the PCs, however, we see many of these voters are highly engaged on the environment. They think Ontario should do more to limit climate change and they also support a price on carbon. This narrow band of leaning voters, while a smaller proportion of Progressive Conservative support overall, could make the difference between a slim minority and a majority for the party."

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About Forum Research Inc.:

Founded in 1993 and headquartered in the heart of downtown Toronto, 100% Canadian owned Forum Research Inc. is a unique market research firm that has conducted market and consumer research for a wide range of clients including Federal, Provincial, and Municipal governments, crown corporations, major telecommunications companies, and more.

With offices across Canada and around the world, Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms.



Methodology

This survey was conducted by Forum Research on behalf of Canadians for Clean Prosperity.

The results are based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1005 randomly selected Ontario Voters. The poll was conducted February 22-23, 2018 and dialed using a mix of landlines and mobile phones.

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.

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Voter intention

If a provincial election were held today in Ontario, which party are you most likely to vote for? + Even though you may not have made up your mind, which party are you leaning towards at this time? [Base=decided and leaning]

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1005	168	127	155	232	323	552	428
Progressive Conservative	44	38	45	46	44	47	52	37
Liberal	20	18	20	18	23	20	17	22
New Democratic	23	30	21	20	17	22	17	27
Green	7	7	7	8	7	4	6	7
Another Party	1	2	1	1	0	3	2	1
Undecided	6	5	6	7	8	4	5	6

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1005	90	132	129	131	116	188
Progressive Conservative	44	32	40	44	49	42	48
Liberal	20	25	18	17	19	25	16
New Democratic	23	29	31	26	18	15	23
Green	7	3	9	7	7	9	6
Another Party	1	3	2	1	1	1	1
Undecided	6	7	0	5	6	7	6

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1005	161	264	395	185
Progressive Conservative	44	46	46	46	34
Liberal	20	17	18	19	26
New Democratic	23	21	24	21	27
Green	7	5	7	7	5
Another Party	1	2	1	1	2
Undecided	6	9	5	6	7



%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	1005	167	220	247	225	146
Progressive Conservative	44	49	37	43	47	42
Liberal	20	19	28	19	14	20
New Democratic	23	18	24	26	24	16
Green	7	6	4	5	10	10
Another Party	1	2	1	1	2	2
Undecided	6	6	6	6	4	10



PC voter likelihood

How likely or unlikely are you to consider voting for the Progressive Conservatives in the upcoming provincial election?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1005	168	127	155	232	323	552	428
NET: TOP2	50	51	47	53	50	48	57	45
NET: BTM2	41	41	42	38	40	43	35	45
Very likely	34	32	34	34	36	34	41	30
Somewhat likely	16	18	13	19	14	13	17	15
Not likely	7	7	7	12	4	6	8	6
Not at all likely	34	34	35	25	36	38	27	38
Don't know	9	8	11	9	10	9	7	11

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1005	90	132	129	131	116	188
NET: TOP2	50	44	49	51	56	45	52
NET: BTM2	41	46	43	39	36	43	43
Very likely	34	33	33	38	39	31	34
Somewhat likely	16	12	15	14	18	14	18
Not likely	7	9	7	7	6	9	7
Not at all likely	34	36	36	32	29	34	36
Don't know	9	10	8	10	8	12	5

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1005	161	264	395	185
NET: TOP2	50	56	52	51	38
NET: BTM2	41	32	36	39	58
Very likely	34	38	39	34	26
Somewhat likely	16	18	14	18	12
Not likely	7	6	4	8	10
Not at all likely	34	26	33	31	48
Don't know	9	12	11	9	4



%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	1005	167	220	247	225	146
NET: TOP2	50	51	42	53	54	45
NET: BTM2	41	42	48	36	37	47
Very likely	34	40	28	36	38	26
Somewhat likely	16	11	14	18	16	19
Not likely	7	9	8	6	5	9
Not at all likely	34	33	40	30	32	37
Don't know	9	7	10	10	9	9

Provincial vote

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Other Parties	Undecided
Sample	1005	461	213	169	71	33	58
NET: TOP2	50	87	15	19	37	38	28
NET: BTM2	41	10	74	71	58	50	26
Very likely	34	72	2	6	8	6	6
Somewhat likely	16	15	13	13	29	32	21
Not likely	7	1	14	12	9	5	11
Not at all likely	34	9	60	59	49	46	15
Don't know	9	4	11	9	5	12	47



Leader

Which of the following Progressive Conservative leadership candidates are you most likely to vote for in a general election?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1005	168	127	155	232	323	552	428
Doug Ford	18	22	18	21	13	13	23	14
Caroline Mulroney	12	11	9	9	17	16	12	12
Christine Elliot	17	11	15	14	25	27	17	18
Patrick Brown	13	10	16	16	15	8	15	10
Tanya Granic Allen	3	3	2	3	4	4	3	3
Don't know	37	43	40	37	27	31	30	42

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1005	90	132	129	131	116	188
Doug Ford	18	22	25	22	17	16	13
Caroline Mulroney	12	3	10	9	9	21	17
Christine Elliot	17	12	12	17	12	23	24
Patrick Brown	13	11	12	8	17	16	14
Tanya Granic Allen	3	4	2	4	4	2	4
Don't know	37	48	39	40	41	21	29

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1005	161	264	395	185
Doug Ford	18	30	24	14	11
Caroline Mulroney	12	13	9	14	10
Christine Elliot	17	11	11	20	24
Patrick Brown	13	8	15	14	11
Tanya Granic Allen	3	1	4	3	3
Don't know	37	37	37	34	41



%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	1005	167	220	247	225	146
Doug Ford	18	14	26	20	14	13
Caroline Mulroney	12	14	10	10	14	13
Christine Elliot	17	16	16	24	16	7
Patrick Brown	13	10	12	11	13	22
Tanya Granic Allen	3	4	4	3	2	3
Don't know	37	42	32	32	41	41

Provincial vote

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Other Parties	Undecided
Sample	1005	461	213	169	71	33	58
Doug Ford	18	23	11	16	22	18	9
Caroline Mulroney	12	12	13	12	12	0	15
Christine Elliot	17	21	16	14	12	11	16
Patrick Brown	13	18	8	8	10	13	8
Tanya Granic Allen	3	2	2	5	4	12	1
Don't know	37	23	50	46	40	47	52



Climate change

In your opinion, should Ontario do more, do less, or do about the same as now to limit climate change?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1005	168	127	155	232	323	552	428
More	51	56	51	48	51	47	41	60
About the Same	26	22	28	26	26	26	29	23
Less	17	14	13	19	19	20	23	10
Don't know	7	7	8	7	4	7	7	7

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1005	90	132	129	131	116	188
More	51	48	54	48	53	52	51
About the Same	26	20	22	28	27	28	29
Less	17	18	17	18	14	14	17
Don't know	7	14	7	6	7	6	3

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less			Post graduate studies
Sample	1005	161	264	395	185
More	51	40	51	56	47
About the Same	26	25	24	24	31
Less	17	25	14	15	17
Don't know	7	10	11	4	5

Region

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	1005	167	220	247	225	146
More	51	43	54	53	49	54
About the Same	26	28	24	27	22	26
Less	17	21	13	15	20	14
Don't know	7	8	9	5	8	6



Provincial vote

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Other Parties	Undecided
Sample	1005	461	213	169	71	33	58
More	51	34	62	69	80	50	50
About the Same	26	29	26	21	10	14	37
Less	17	29	6	5	4	26	10
Don't know	7	8	6	6	6	9	4

PC voter likelihood

%	Total	Q2 - NET: TOP2	Q2 - NET: BTM2	Q2 - Not at all likely	Q2 - Not likely	Q2 - Somewhat likely	Q2 - Very likely	Q2 - Don't know
Sample	1005	508	408	337	71	154	354	89
More	51	37	66	67	64	55	29	62
About the Same	26	29	21	20	23	29	29	25
Less	17	26	7	9	3	12	32	4
Don't know	7	8	5	4	10	4	10	8



Approach to carbon

The federal government has announced that every province must put a price on carbon emissions. If a province does not have a carbon pricing system, the federal government will impose its own carbon tax instead. Ontario currently has a cap-and-trade system that makes industries pay for the carbon emissions they release into the atmosphere. Which of the following options best reflect your opinion on this?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1005	168	127	155	232	323	552	428
Ontario should keep its existing cap-and-trade system in place	22	21	19	28	21	20	21	23
Ontario should replace its cap-and-trade system with a carbon tax that the province develops, where the money collected is used to reduce other taxes in Ontario	33	40	30	28	33	31	39	28
Ontario should eliminate its cap-and-trade system and accept the Federal Carbon Tax instead	15	15	14	15	17	14	13	16
Don't know	30	23	36	30	29	36	27	33

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20- \$40K	\$40- \$60K	\$60- \$80K	\$80- \$100K	\$100- \$250K
Sample	1005	90	132	129	131	116	188
Ontario should keep its existing cap-and-trade system in place	22	14	22	22	24	23	28
Ontario should replace its cap-and-trade system with a carbon tax that the province develops, where the money collected is used to reduce other taxes in Ontario	33	36	30	38	32	33	33
Ontario should eliminate its cap-and-trade system and accept the Federal Carbon Tax instead	15	19	17	14	13	12	18
Don't know	30	31	32	26	31	32	21



Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1005	161	264	395	185
Ontario should keep its existing cap-and-trade system in place	22	17	19	23	28
Ontario should replace its cap-and-trade system with a carbon tax that the province develops, where the money collected is used to reduce other taxes in Ontario	33	32	40	32	27
Ontario should eliminate its cap-and-trade system and accept the Federal Carbon Tax instead	15	18	12	15	16
Don't know	30	33	30	30	29

Region

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South- western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	1005	167	220	247	225	146
Ontario should keep its existing cap-and-trade system in place	22	19	19	27	18	24
Ontario should replace its cap-and-trade system with a carbon tax that the province develops, where the money collected is used to reduce other taxes in Ontario	33	37	31	30	34	37
Ontario should eliminate its cap-and-trade system and accept the Federal Carbon Tax instead	15	16	16	14	14	15
Don't know	30	28	35	28	34	24

Provincial vote

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Other Parties	Undecided
Sample	1005	461	213	169	71	33	58
Ontario should keep its existing cap-and-trade system in place	22	21	29	21	13	10	28
Ontario should replace its cap-and-trade system with a carbon tax that the province develops, where the money collected is used to reduce other taxes in Ontario	33	37	26	33	38	34	23
Ontario should eliminate its cap-and-trade system and accept the Federal Carbon Tax instead	15	12	15	18	26	18	12
Don't know	30	31	31	29	22	38	37



PC voter likelihood

%	Total	Q2 - NET: TOP2	Q2 - NET: BTM2	Q2 - Not at all likely	Q2 - Not likely	Q2 - Somewhat likely	Q2 - Very likely	Q2 - Don't know
Sample	1005	508	408	337	71	154	354	89
Ontario should keep its existing cap-and-trade system in place	22	23	23	22	27	26	21	14
Ontario should replace its cap-and-trade system with a carbon tax that the province develops, where the money collected is used to reduce other taxes in Ontario	33	36	31	29	38	30	39	24
Ontario should eliminate its cap-and- trade system and accept the Federal Carbon Tax instead	15	14	15	17	10	19	12	16
Don't know	30	27	31	32	26	24	28	46



Things getting more expensive

Overall, do you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose Ontario having a price a carbon-emissions, even if it makes some things more expensive?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1005	168	127	155	232	323	552	428
NET: TOP2	46	46	50	45	49	43	42	50
NET: BTM2	28	31	25	29	28	25	35	21
Strongly support	24	30	30	16	24	19	22	26
Somewhat support	22	16	20	29	26	24	20	24
Neither support nor oppose	18	19	17	19	16	17	15	19
Somewhat oppose	10	12	14	9	7	7	11	9
Strongly oppose	18	19	12	20	21	18	24	12
Don't know	8	5	8	8	7	15	7	9

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1005	90	132	129	131	116	188
NET: TOP2	46	36	49	40	49	52	57
NET: BTM2	28	27	24	35	32	20	22
Strongly support	24	21	30	21	20	26	33
Somewhat support	22	14	19	19	29	26	24
Neither support nor oppose	18	30	18	18	13	21	18
Somewhat oppose	10	9	11	9	9	5	10
Strongly oppose	18	18	13	27	22	15	12
Don't know	8	8	9	7	7	7	4

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1005	161	264	395	185
NET: TOP2	46	34	45	48	54
NET: BTM2	28	34	29	28	23
Strongly support	24	14	18	26	36
Somewhat support	22	20	27	22	18
Neither support nor oppose	18	17	18	18	16
Somewhat oppose	10	11	10	9	10
Strongly oppose	18	22	18	19	13
Don't know	8	16	9	6	6



%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	1005	167	220	247	225	146
NET: TOP2	46	48	48	46	42	50
NET: BTM2	28	28	27	27	36	19
Strongly support	24	30	28	24	19	23
Somewhat support	22	19	20	22	23	27
Neither support nor oppose	18	17	18	18	14	22
Somewhat oppose	10	5	9	10	14	10
Strongly oppose	18	23	18	17	22	9
Don't know	8	6	7	9	8	9

Provincial vote

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Other Parties	Undecided
Sample	1005	461	213	169	71	33	58
NET: TOP2	46	32	71	57	60	37	28
NET: BTM2	28	44	8	11	21	41	33
Strongly support	24	10	44	36	44	13	5
Somewhat support	22	21	27	21	15	24	23
Neither support nor oppose	18	17	13	26	13	18	20
Somewhat oppose	10	15	3	6	10	12	11
Strongly oppose	18	29	5	5	12	29	22
Don't know	8	8	8	7	6	4	18

PC voter likelihood

%	Total	Q2 - NET: TOP2	Q2 - NET: BTM2	Q2 - Not at all likely	Q2 - Not likely	Q2 - Somewhat likely	Q2 - Very likely	Q2 - Don't know
Sample	1005	508	408	337	71	154	354	89
NET: TOP2	46	35	62	64	57	49	28	44
NET: BTM2	28	41	14	13	18	25	48	16
Strongly support	24	11	44	46	32	17	9	13
Somewhat support	22	23	19	17	25	32	19	31
Neither support nor oppose	18	18	17	15	22	20	17	20
Somewhat oppose	10	14	6	5	11	15	14	2
Strongly oppose	18	26	8	9	8	10	34	14
Don't know	8	7	7	8	3	6	7	20