

WHAT DO CANADIANS REALLY THINK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

2026

Re.Climate

Norway House, M.B. – Members of the Royal Canadian Air Force help evacuate Abbie Duskun (seated) and her daughter Veronica Clarke as they board an aircraft on June 3, 2025. DAVID LIPNOWSKI/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

Re.Climate is Canada's centre for training,
research and strategy on climate change communication
and engagement at Carleton University.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Ghadah Alrasheed

RE.CLIMATE RESOURCE AND
TRAINING DIRECTOR



Chris Hatch

RE.CLIMATE COMMUNICATIONS
CONSULTANT, AUTHOR OF THE
WEEKLY ZERO CARBON NEWSLETTER



Sonja Solomun

MCGILL UNIVERSITY
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

METHODOLOGY

- Reviewed over 100 surveys
- Dig beneath “headline” results
- Explore conflicting opinions
- Identify attitudes that advance or stall climate action

[Read the report](#)



**WHERE PUBLIC
OPINION IS STRONG**

TAILWINDS

- **Concern remains**

- ¾ of Canadians say they're concerned or 'very concerned' about climate change

- **Strong preference for a renewable energy future**

- 70% of Canadians more proud of becoming a renewable energy superpower than an oil and gas superpower



Varenes, Q.C. — A Hydro Quebec employee looks over monofacial solar panels installed on the 5,6 hectares at the Robert-A.-Boyd Solar Power Plant on July 21, 2025. THE CANADIAN PRESS/CHRISTINNE MUSCHI

CONCERNING TRENDS

HEADWINDS

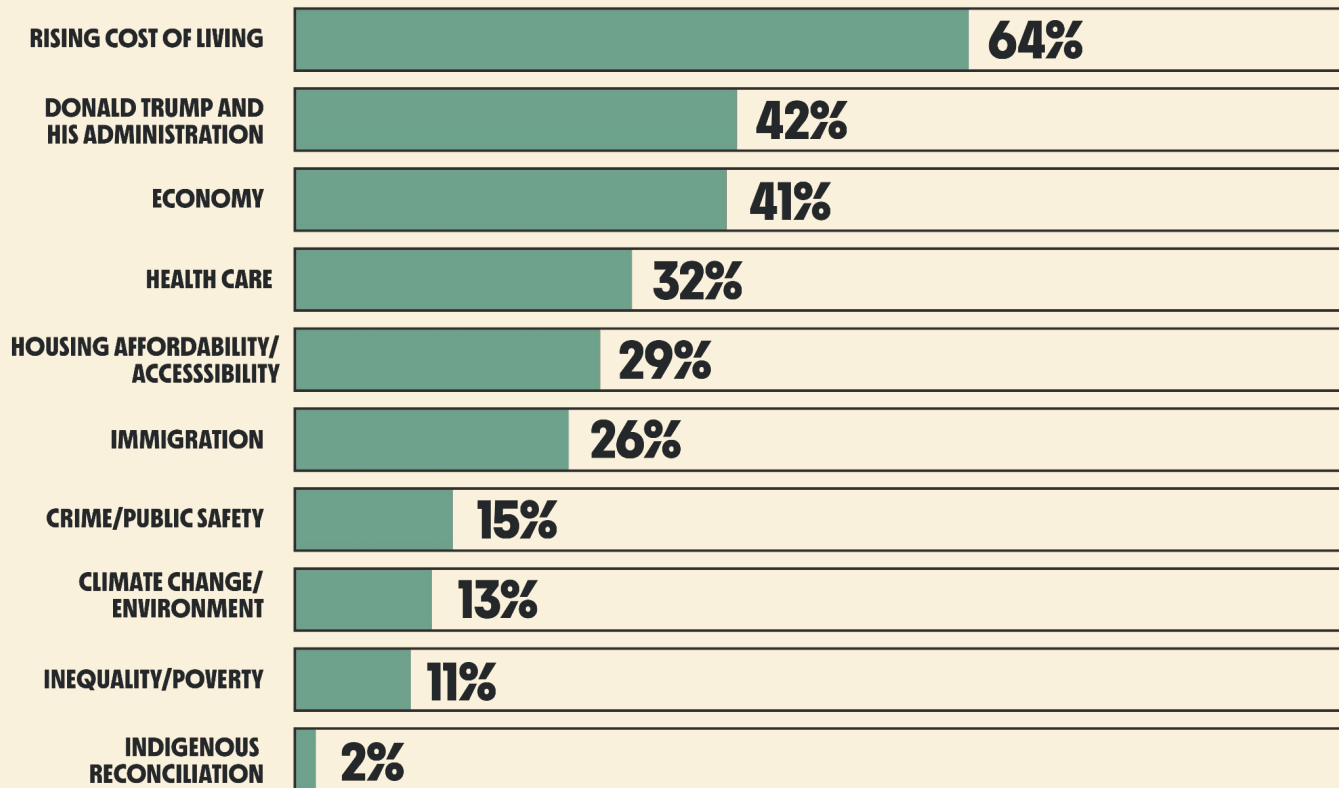
- **Priority has dropped**
- **Climate literacy is weak and declining**
 - Only 1/2 of Canadians say climate change is entirely human-caused. Percentage is declining
 - Only 1/2 identify fossil fuels as the primary cause
- **Demand for action is soft**
 - Most Canadians rate current efforts as “acceptable”



Abbotsford, B.C. — A semi-truck crosses a flooded street on December 11, 2025. ETHAN CAIRNS/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

WHAT CANADIANS CARE ABOUT

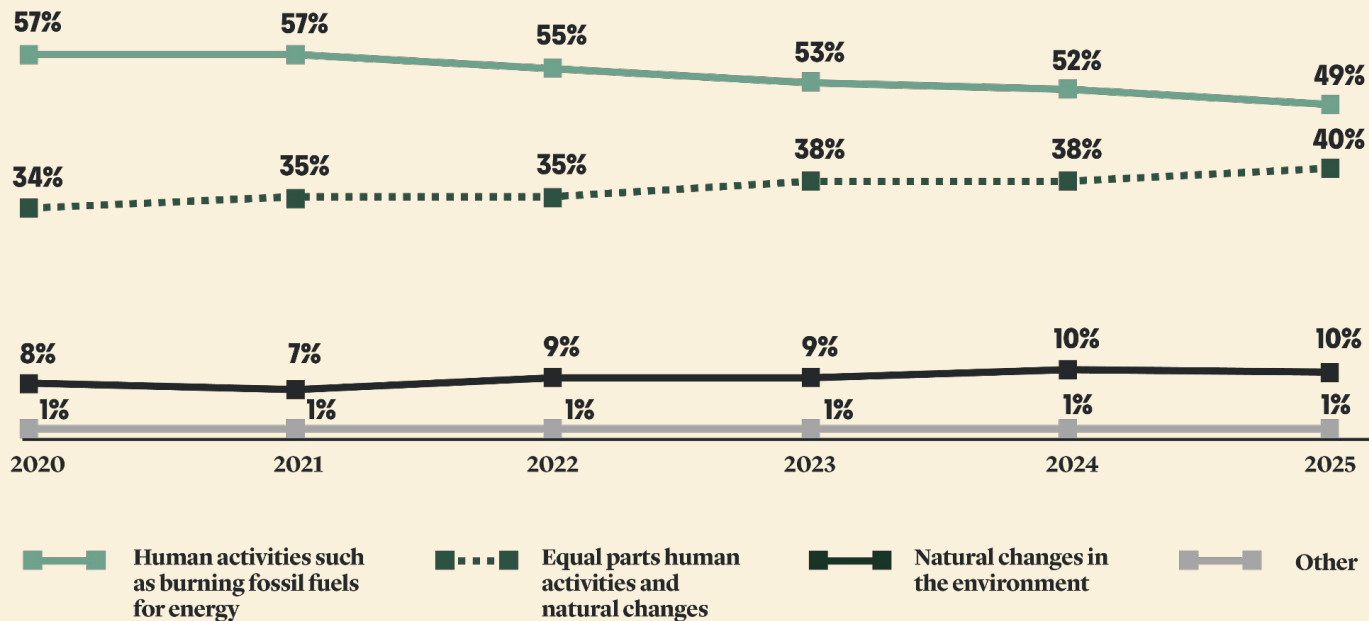
“What are the 3 most important issues facing Canada today?”



Source: Abacus, 2026f

WHAT CAUSES CLIMATE CHANGE?

“Are the causes of climate change human, natural or both?”



Source: Consortium on Electoral Democracy, 2025

IS IT FOSSIL FUELS?

“Climate change is caused by...?”

**CARBON DIOXIDE
AND OTHER
GREENHOUSE GASES**



Source: Learning for a Sustainable Future, 2025

BURNING FOSSIL FUELS



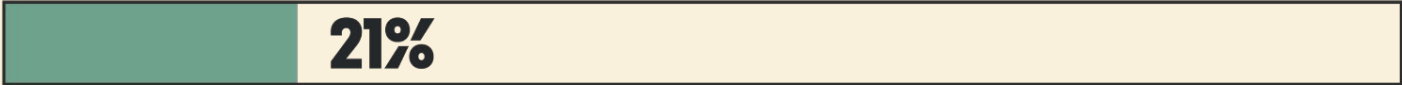
Source: Environics & Re.Climate, 2024

IS IT A HOAX?

“Is climate change exaggerated? Is it a hoax?”

**“CLIMATE CHANGE
IS A HOAX”**

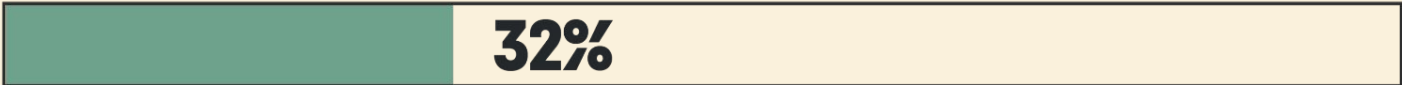
21%

A horizontal bar chart with a teal-colored segment on the left representing 21% of the total. The bar is enclosed in a thin black border.

Source: Abacus & Re.Climate, 2025a

**“EFFECTS OF CLIMATE
CHANGE ARE SERIOUSLY
EXAGGERATED”**

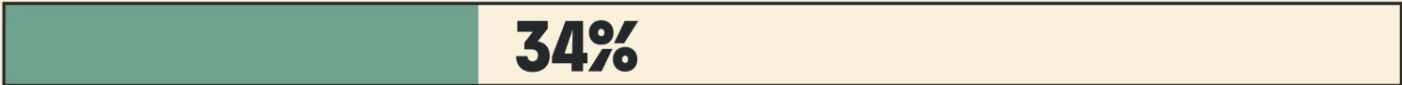
32%

A horizontal bar chart with a teal-colored segment on the left representing 32% of the total. The bar is enclosed in a thin black border.

Source: Abacus & Re.Climate, 2025a

**“CLIMATE CHANGE
IS A HOAX”**

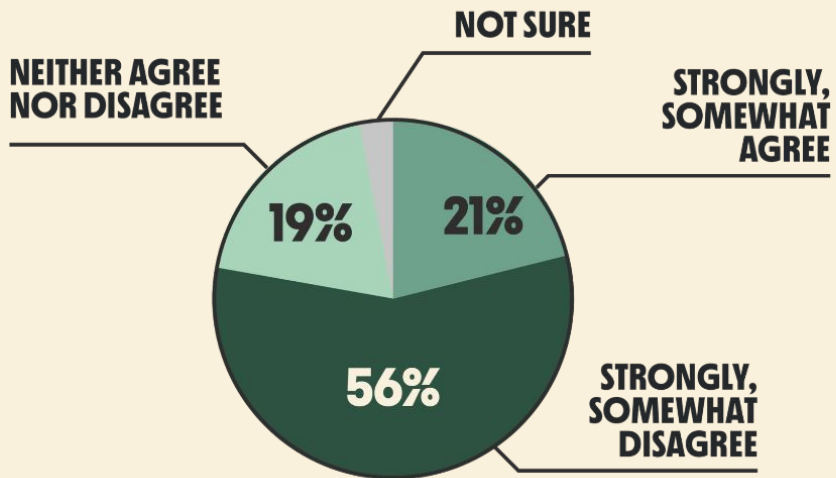
34%

A horizontal bar chart with a teal-colored segment on the left representing 34% of the total. The bar is enclosed in a thin black border.

Source: Spark Advocacy, 2025

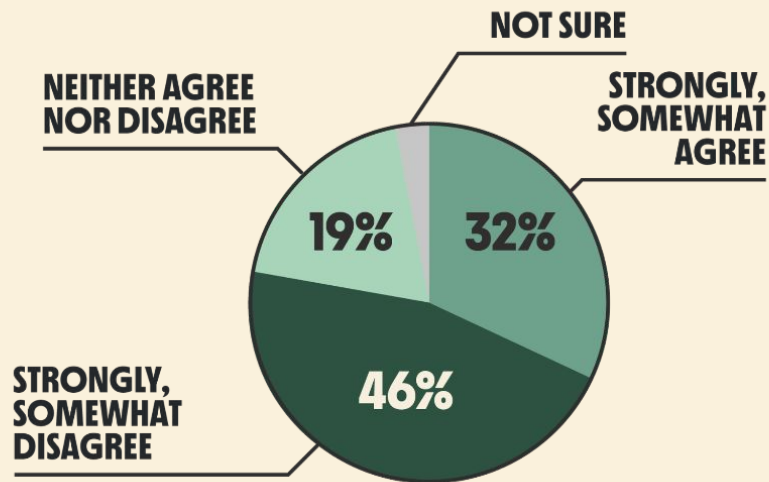
IS IT NOT A HOAX?

“Climate change is a hoax.”



Source: Abacus & Re.Climate, 2025a

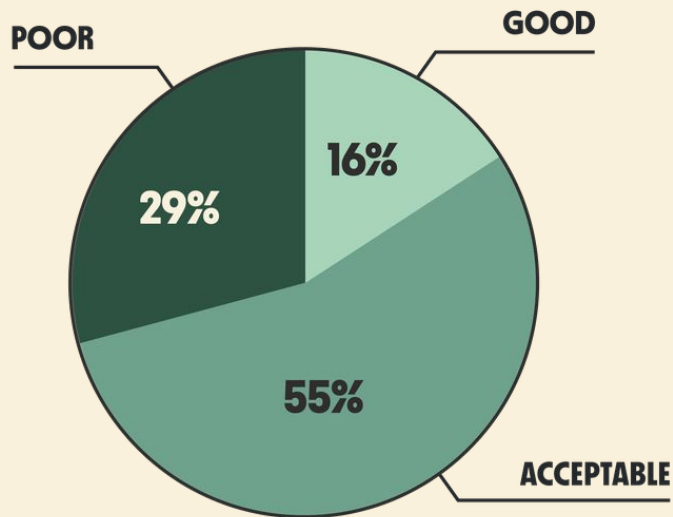
“Effects of climate change are seriously exaggerated.”



Source: Abacus & Re.Climate, 2025a

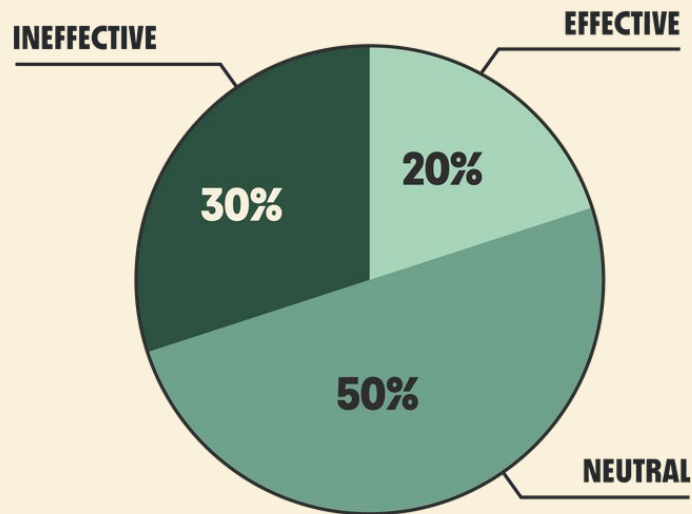
DEMAND FOR ACTION

“Would you say the federal government led by Mark Carney is doing a good job, an acceptable job or a poor job in combating climate change?”



Source: Spark Advocacy, 2026

“How effectively do you think the Liberal government is addressing climate change today?”



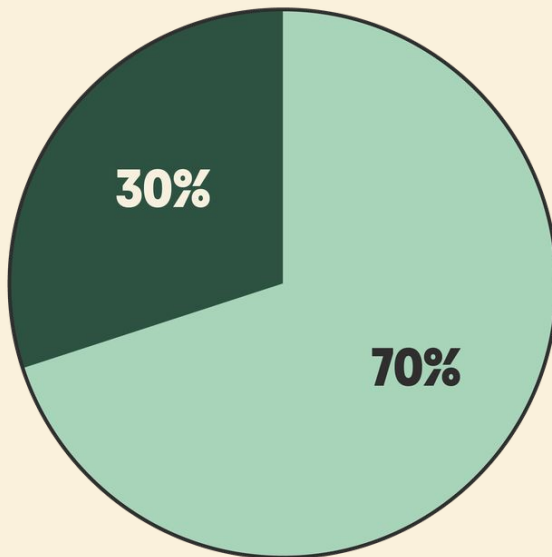
Source: Abacus, 2025c

ATTITUDES ABOUT ENERGY

DESIRED FUTURE

Type of energy superpower

I FEEL MORE PRIDE THINKING ABOUT CANADA BECOMING AN OIL AND GAS SUPERPOWER THAN I DO ABOUT CANADA BECOMING A RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPERPOWER.

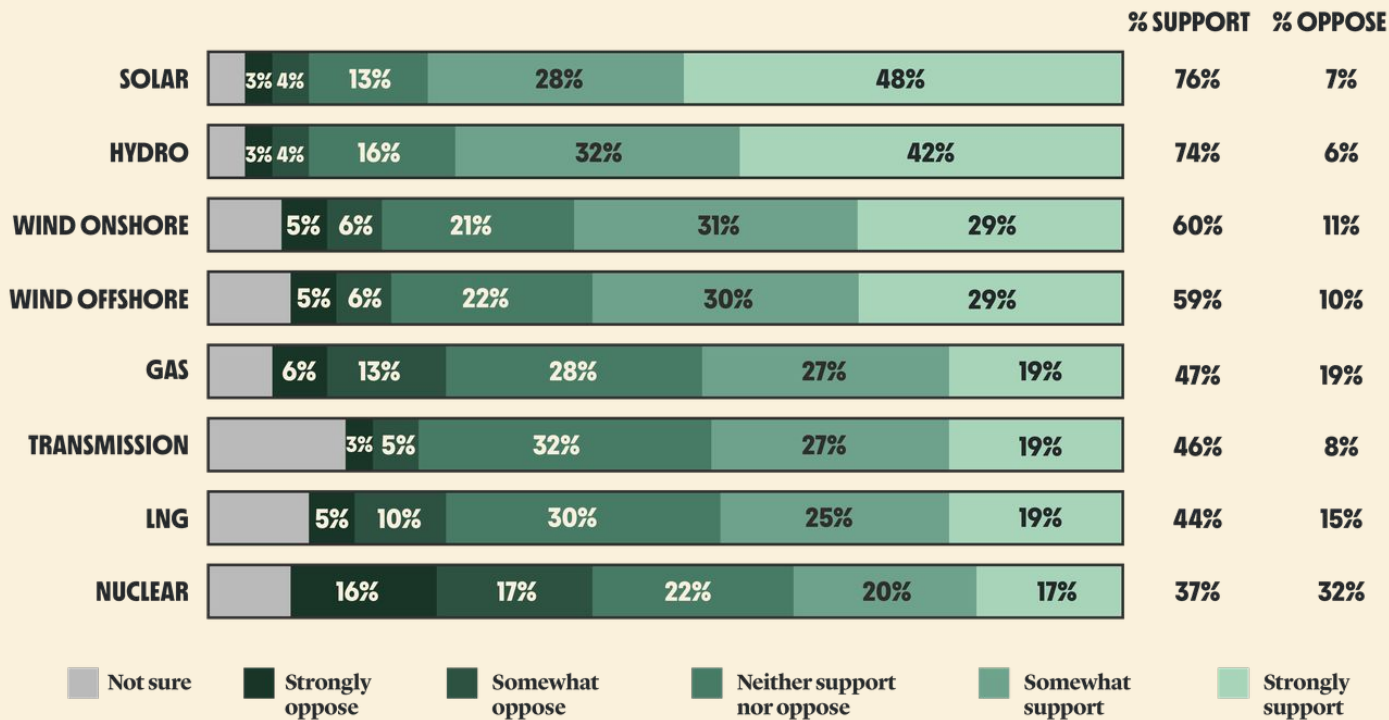


I FEEL MORE PRIDE THINKING ABOUT CANADA BECOMING A RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPERPOWER THAN I DO ABOUT CANADA BECOMING AN OIL AND GAS SUPERPOWER.

Source: Abacus & Re.Climate, 2025b

RENEWABLES ARE POPULAR

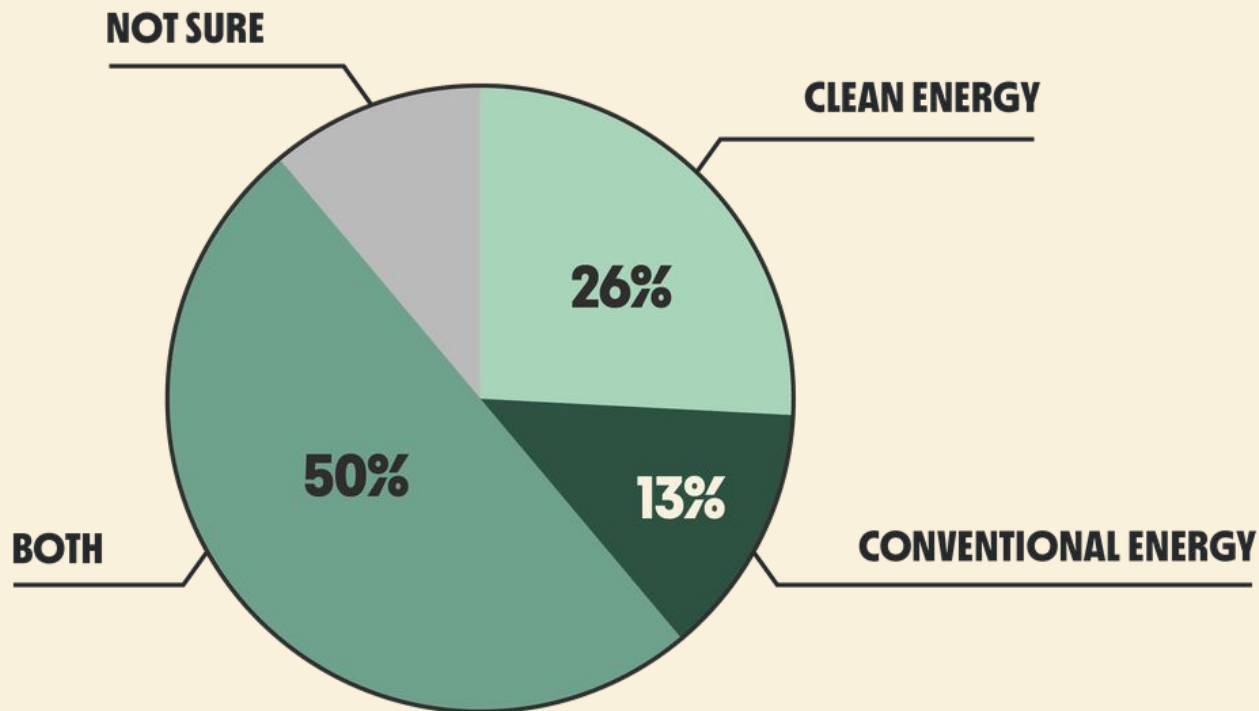
“How much do you support or oppose the following energy sources or supporting infrastructure to generate electricity that you rely on?”



Source: Abacus & Re.Climate, 2025b

BOTH CLEAN AND FOSSIL ENERGY

“Which of the following should the federal government prioritize?”



Source: Environics Research, 2025

BOTH PIPELINES AND GHG REDUCTIONS

“Possible to build new pipeline and for Canada to achieve an overall reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions.”



Source: Environics Research, 2025

PIPELINES WITH CONDITIONS

- Increased support for new pipelines (results as high as 76%)
 - No surveys find opposition above 25%
- Half of Canadians oppose bypassing environmental reviews
- Support for new pipeline drops below half if:
 - Opposed by provinces
 - Opposed by First Nations
 - No private proponent
 - Remove oil tanker ban
 - But: still plurality of support

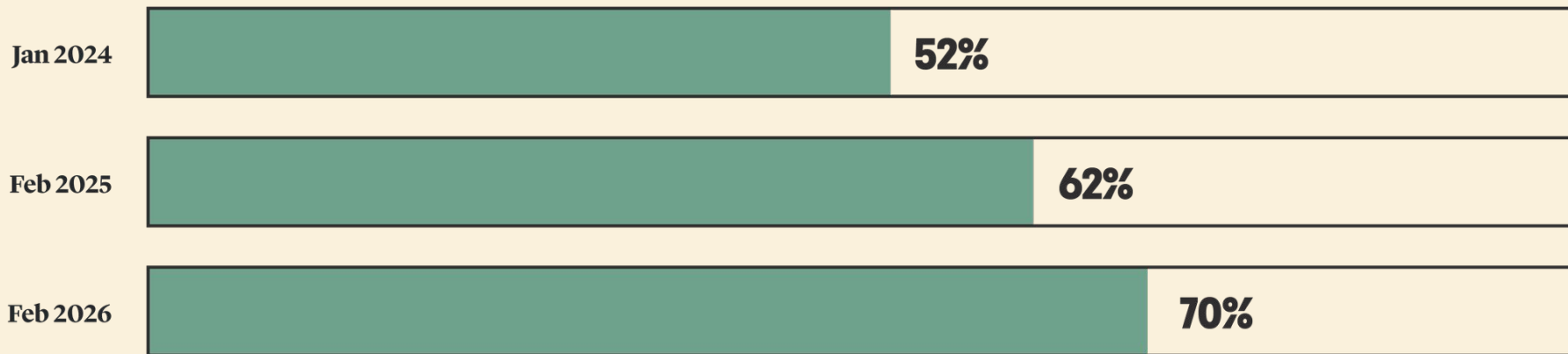
Abacus, 2026



Calgary, A.B. — Prime Minister Mark Carney, right, signs an MOU with Alberta Premier Danielle Smith on November 27, 2025. JEFF MCINTOSH /THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

SHOULD WE EXTRACT MORE OIL & GAS?

“Canada should expand oil and gas exports to help the world have more secure and reliable energy supplies.”

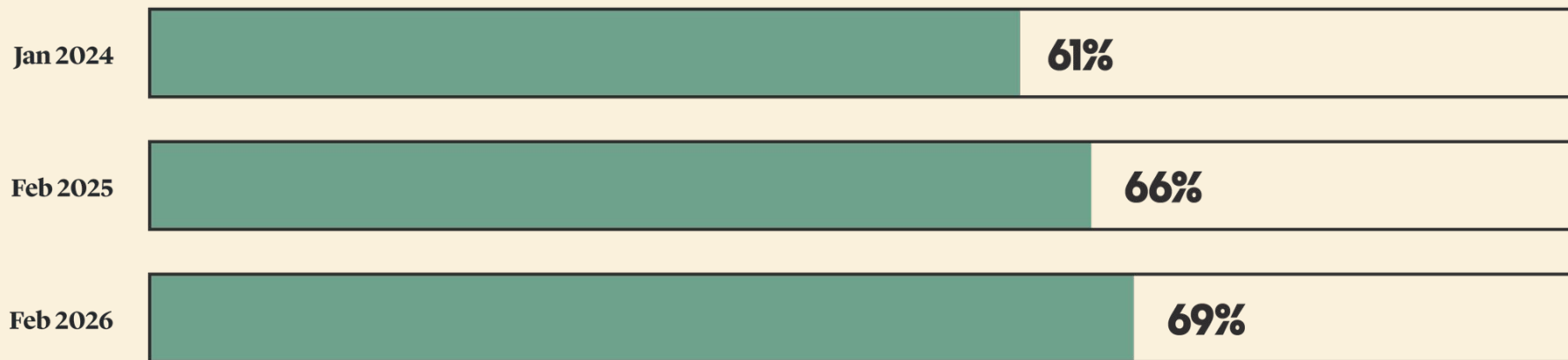


“AGREE”, SOMEWHAT AGREE

Source: Nanos & Positive Energy, 2026

SHOULD WE EXPORT MORE OIL & GAS?

“Exports from Canada’s oil and gas sector can contribute to combatting global climate change if our exports displace energy sources in other countries that are more damaging to the climate.”



“AGREE”, SOMEWHAT AGREE”

Source: Nanos & Positive Energy, 2026

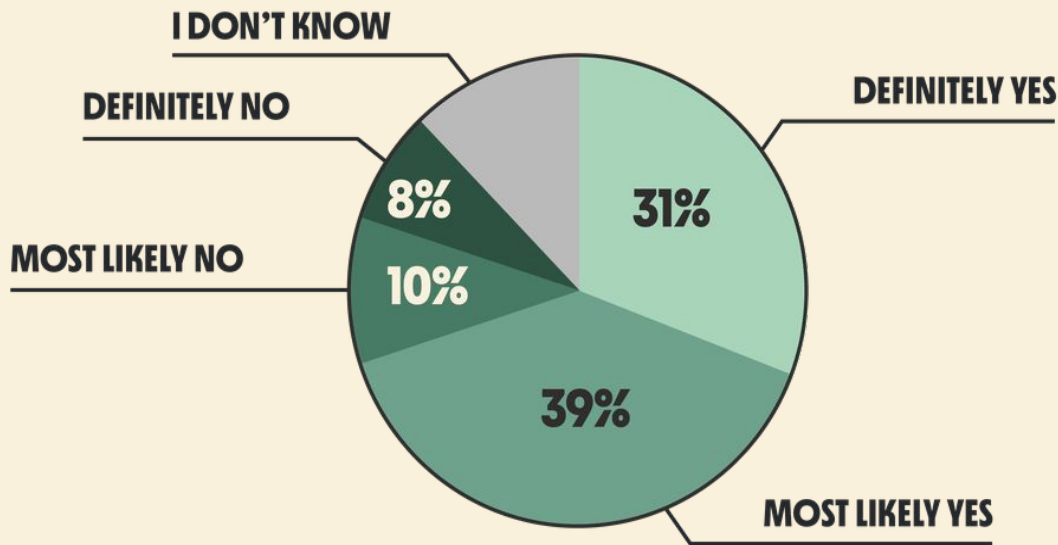
HOUSEHOLD ACTION

EVs and heat pumps in new homes

“Do you think newly built homes should come with EV charging (or at least the necessary electrical work done) and heat pumps, assuming the cost is minimal?”

- **64% think EVs are cheaper in the long run**
- **56% have a heat pump or view them positively**

GTA & Vancouver; Abacus/Clean Energy Canada, 2025



Source: Abacus & Clean Energy Canada, 2025

FIRES & EXTREMES

FIRES & EXTREME WEATHER

“Are there more, the same or fewer of the following events in Canada compared to five years ago?”

FOREST FIRES/WILDFIRES

74%

**POOR AIR QUALITY
(SMOKE, SMOG, ETC.)**

68%

EXTREME HEAT

66%

**WILD TEMPERATURE
VARIATIONS WITHIN THE
SAME SEASON**

59%

DROUGHTS

48%

LATE-ONSET WINTERS

42%

FLOODS

41%

HEAVY RAINFALL

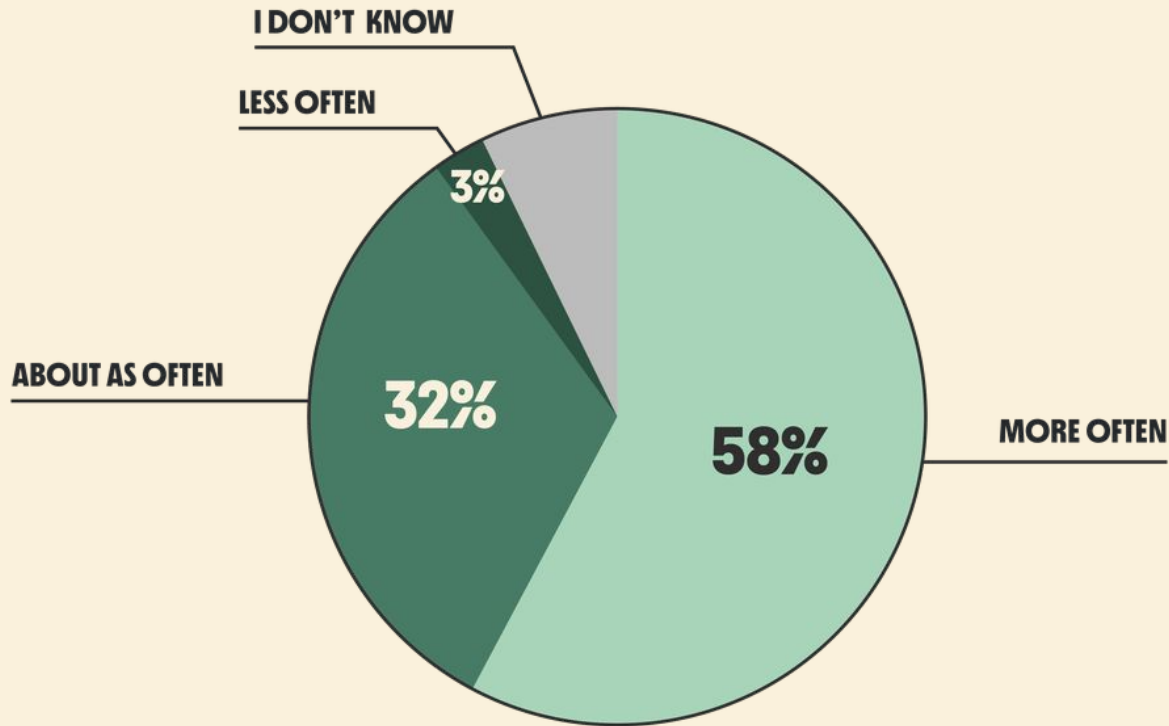
37%

“MORE COMPARED TO FIVE YEARS AGO”

Source: Leger, 2025f

WONDERING ABOUT THE WEATHER

“Do you think extreme weather events (such as wildfires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, etc.) will occur more often, about as often or less often than they do currently?”

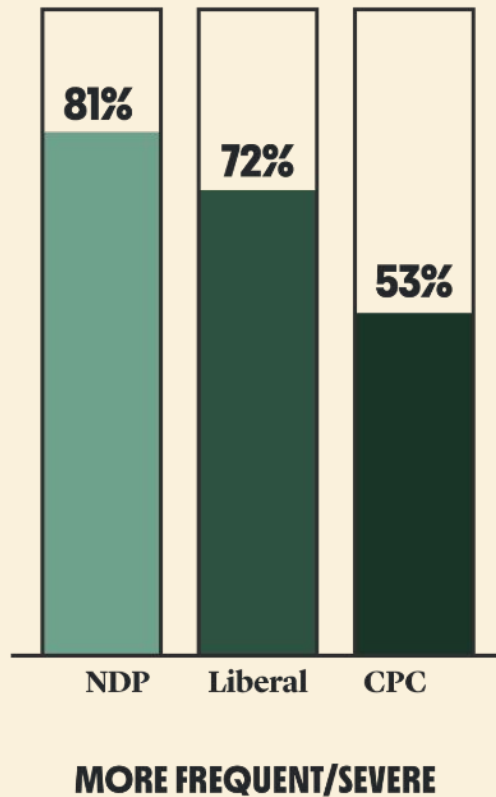


Source: Leger, 2025f

CLIMATE DIVIDES

DIVIDED OVER WEATHER

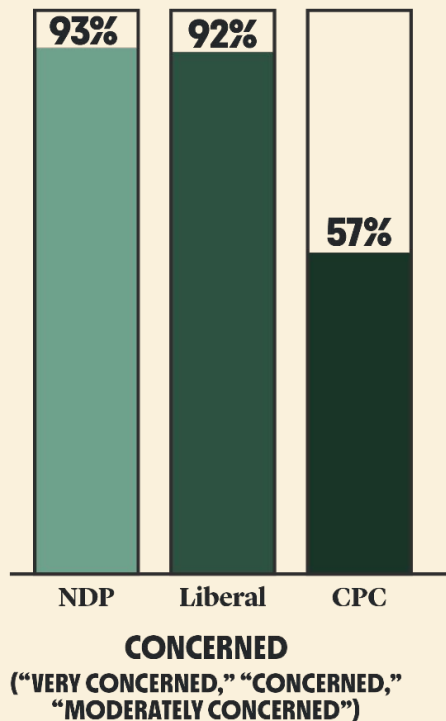
“Extreme weather events (e.g., floods, wildfires, heatwaves) in Canada are becoming more frequent/severe?”



Source: Abacus, 2025c

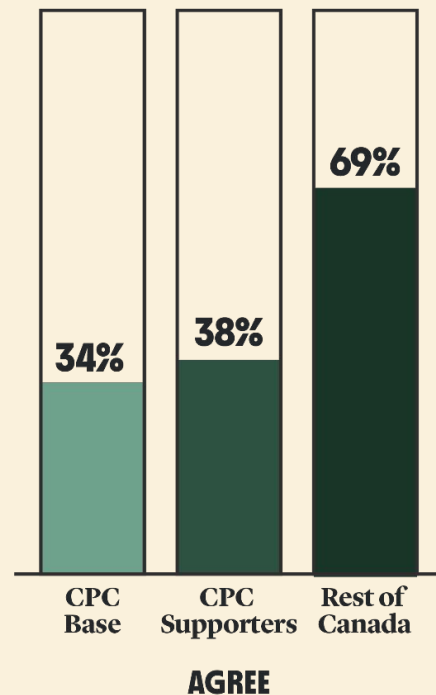
CLIMATE DIVIDES

“What is your level of concern about climate change and its potential impact on our future?”



Source: Abacus, 2025c

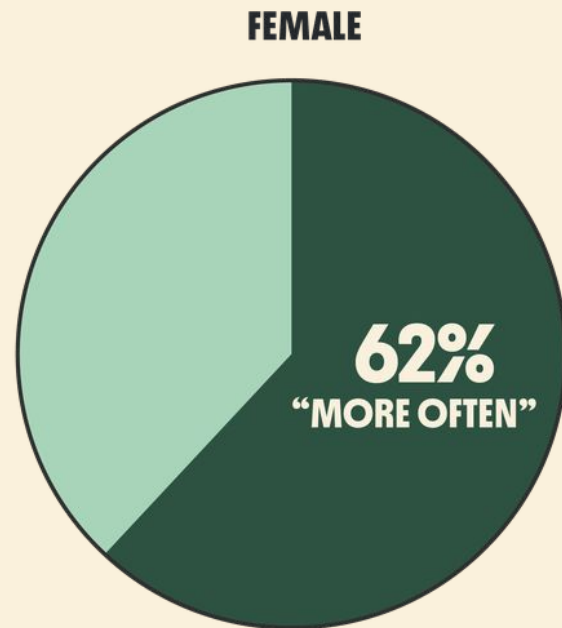
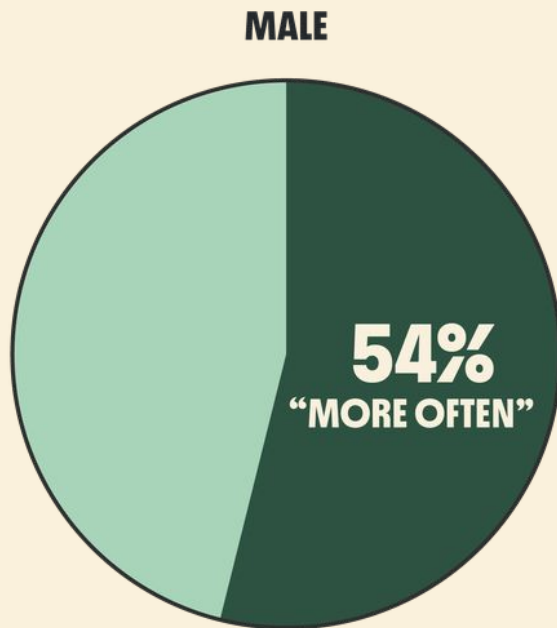
“Climate change is an urgent problem that requires immediate action.”



Source: Abacus, 2026b

GENDER GAP

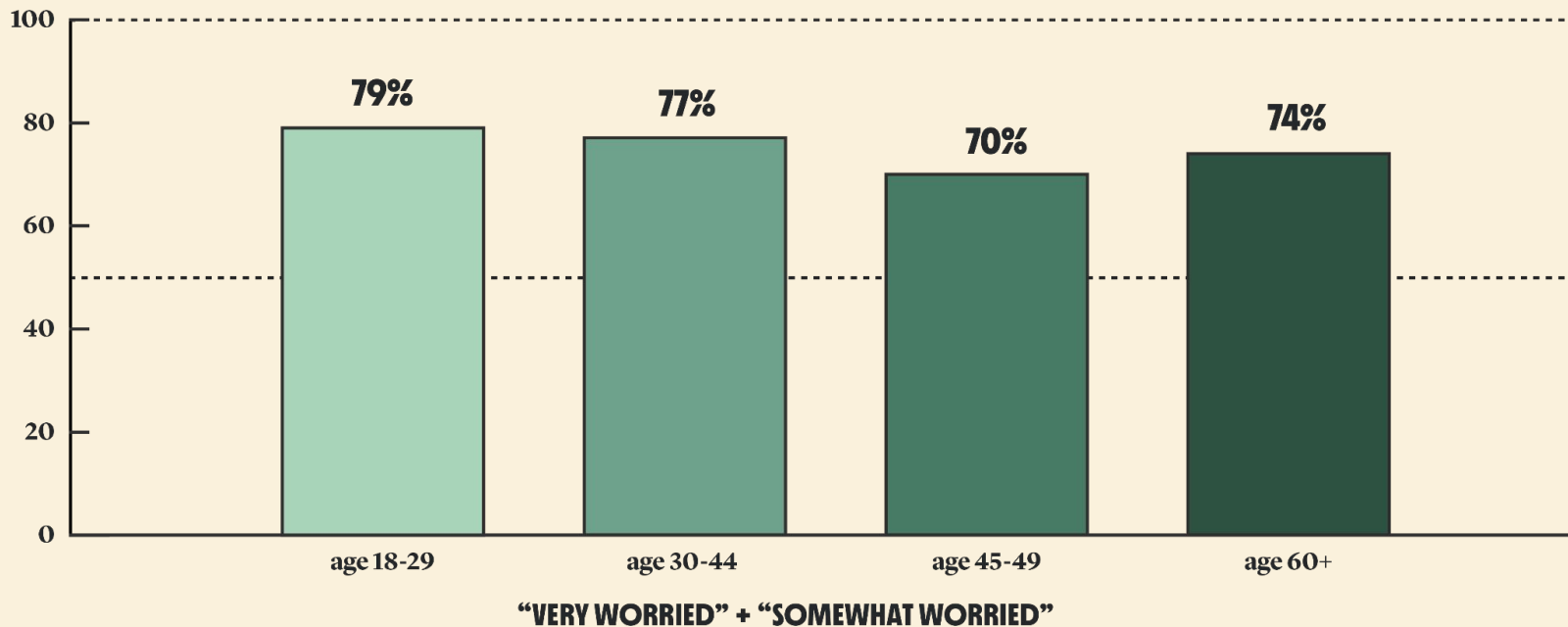
“In the future, do you think extreme weather events (such as wildfires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, etc.) will occur more often, about as often or less often than they do currently?”



Source: Leger, 2025f

CONCERN BY AGE

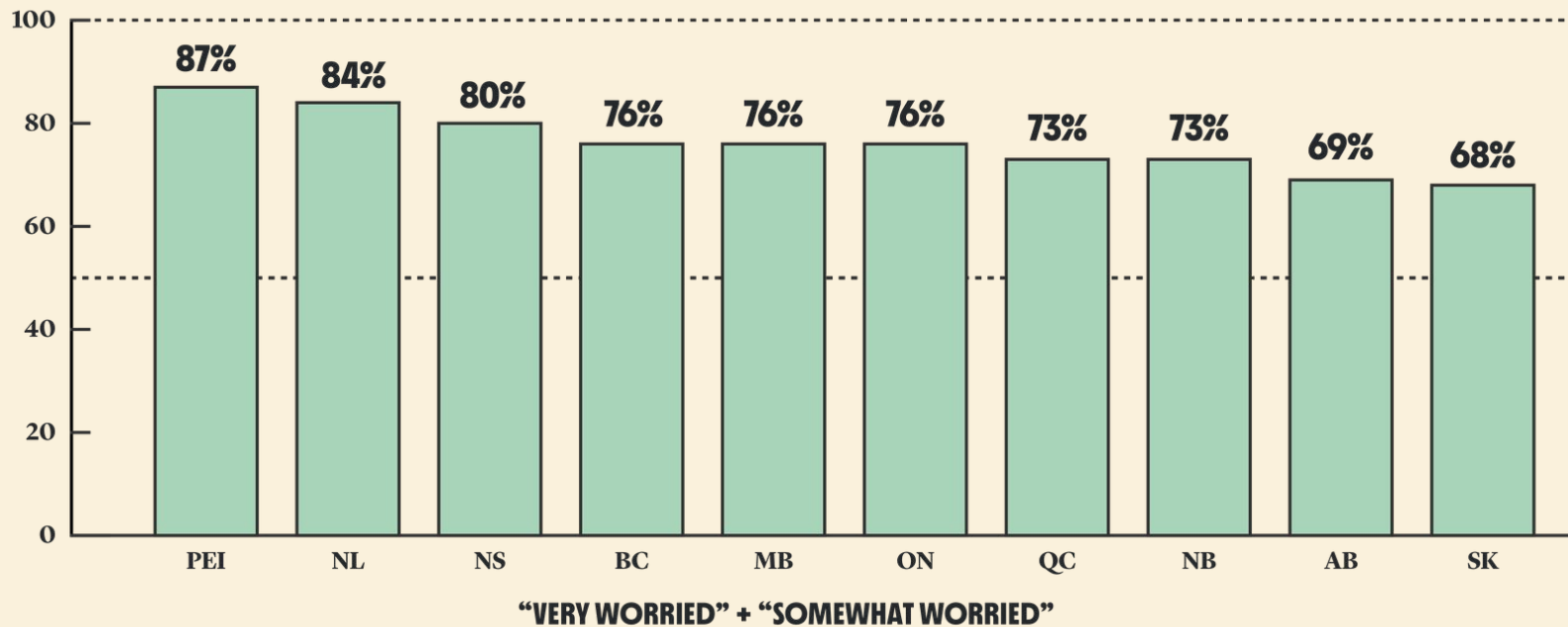
“How worried are you, if at all, about climate change?”



Source: Abacus & Re.Climate, 2025a

CONCERN BY REGION

“How worried are you, if at all, about climate change?”



Source: Abacus & Re.Climate, 2025a

SPIRAL OF SILENCE

- 42% of Canadians think about climate change more than once a week
- Yet most believe only 26% of their neighbours do the same
- A 16-point “perception gap” means climate concern is underestimated
- Even where concern is lowest, over $\frac{2}{3}$ of residents say they’re “concerned” or “very concerned” (e.g., 69% of Albertans)

Abacus & Re.Climate, 2025a



Vancouver, B.C. — A pedestrian wears a mask while walking on the False Creek seawall as smoke from wildfires burning in B.C. and the U.S. hangs in the air on September 3, 2025. THE CANADIAN PRESS/DARRYL DYCK



Thank You

Re.Climate