

Public Opinion Research

Perceptions of Canada's net-zero
target and the concept of setting
carbon budgets

April 2020

CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR
CLIMATE CHOICES



INSTITUT CANADIEN POUR DES
CHOIX CLIMATIQUES

ENVIRONICS
RESEARCH



Photo by Casey Horner on Unsplash

Methodology

- This report is based on 1,503 online surveys conducted with a nationally representative sample of Canadians aged 18 and older. The sample is drawn from an online research panel of Canadians who recently participated in Environics' annual social values survey.
- **Field dates:** March 26 to April 2, 2020

Notes:

- In this report, results are expressed as percentages unless otherwise noted.
- Results may not add to 100% due to rounding or multiple responses.
- Labels for values less than or equal to three percent are not shown in stacked bar charts.

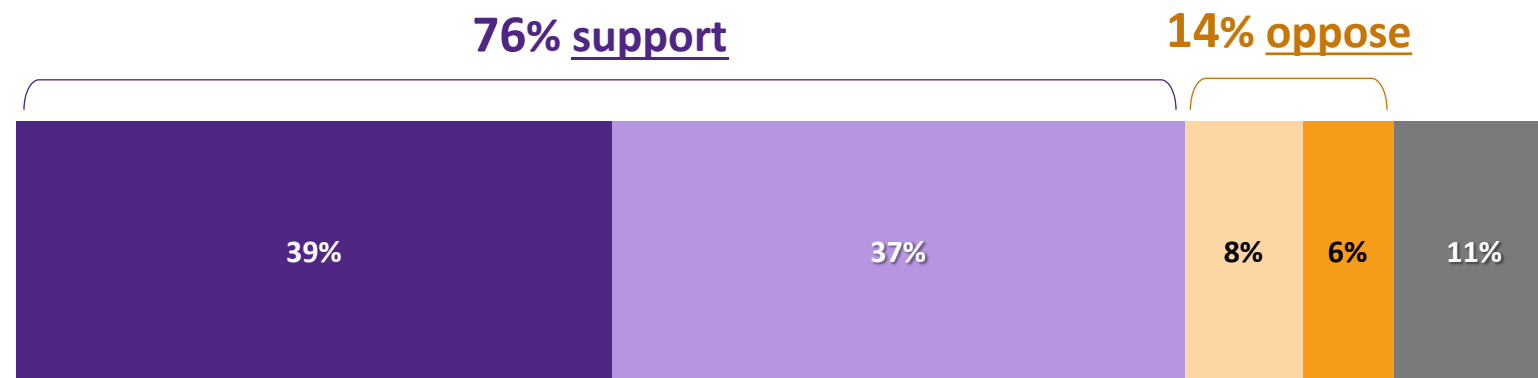
Three quarters of Canadians are supportive of a net-zero target, based on the definition provided

Respondents were shown the following definition of net-zero emissions before being asked if they supported it for Canada:

Achieving net-zero emissions means **reducing** greenhouse gas emissions (also known as carbon pollution) to a point where any remaining emissions can be balanced out by **removing** carbon pollution from the atmosphere (a process known as carbon storage).

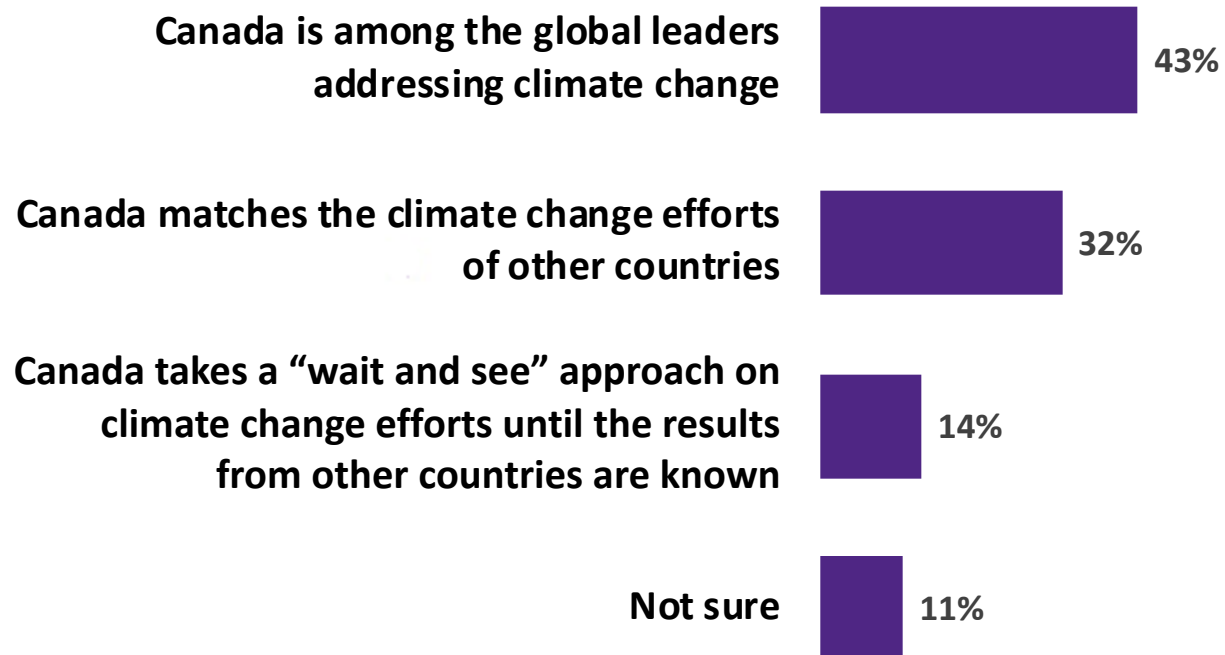
Support for net-zero target for Canada

■ Strongly support ■ Somewhat support ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose ■ Not sure



The public is most comfortable with Canada taking a position of global leadership to address climate change – or at least match efforts by other countries.

Preferred approach for personal future



Canadians are most optimistic that achieving net zero will benefit future generations, and least so their own job prospects; relatively few think it will have a negative impact.

Impact of achieving net-zero target

■ Improve ■ Makes no real difference ■ Worsen ■ Not sure

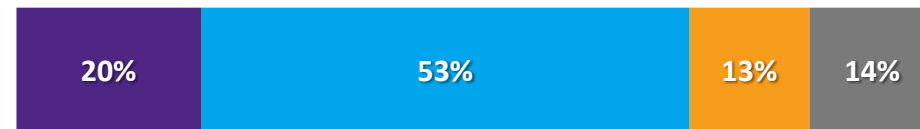
The standard of living for the next generation
(your children, nieces and nephews)



Your standard of living



Your future job prospects



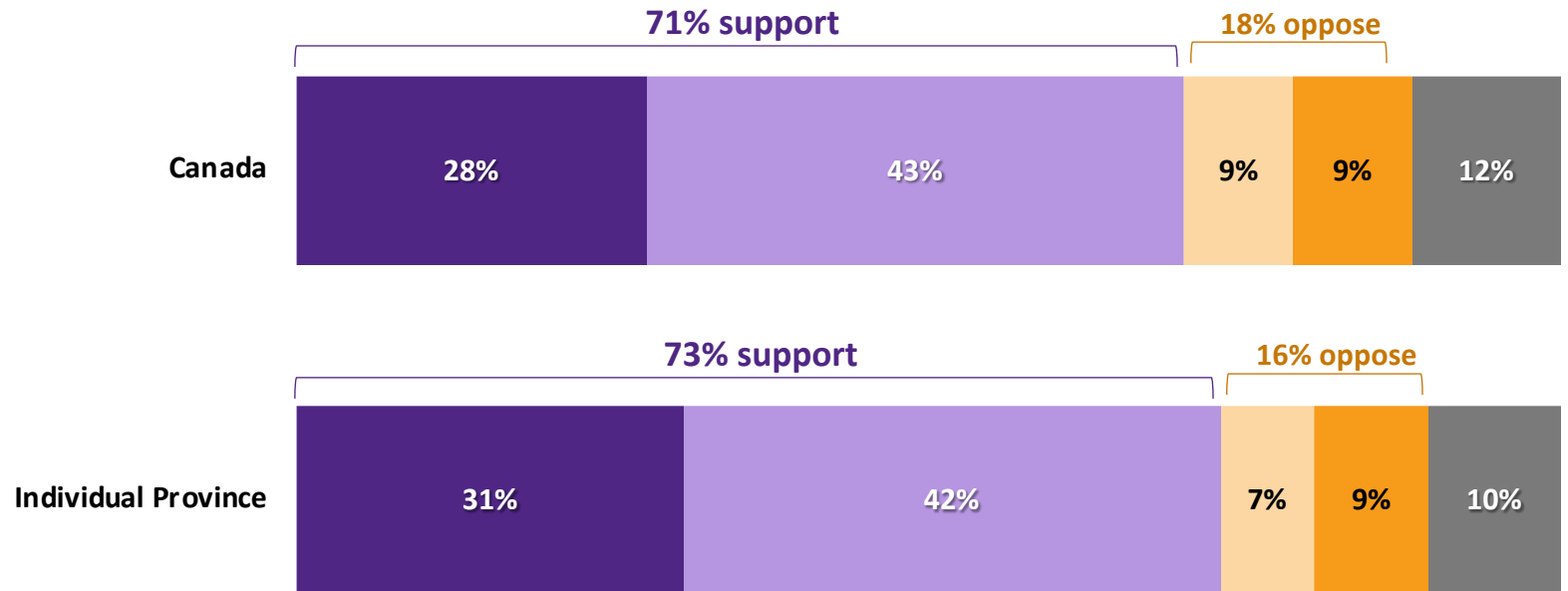
Seven in ten Canadians support both a national and a provincial carbon budget.

Respondents were shown the following statement before being asked if they support carbon budgets for Canada and their province:

One way for Canada to stay on track to meet its net-zero 2050 emissions goal is to set a series of shorter-term “carbon budgets”, which limit the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced each year between now and 2050.

Support for carbon budgets to reduce emissions

■ Strongly support ■ Somewhat support ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose ■ Not sure



**For further information
or questions**

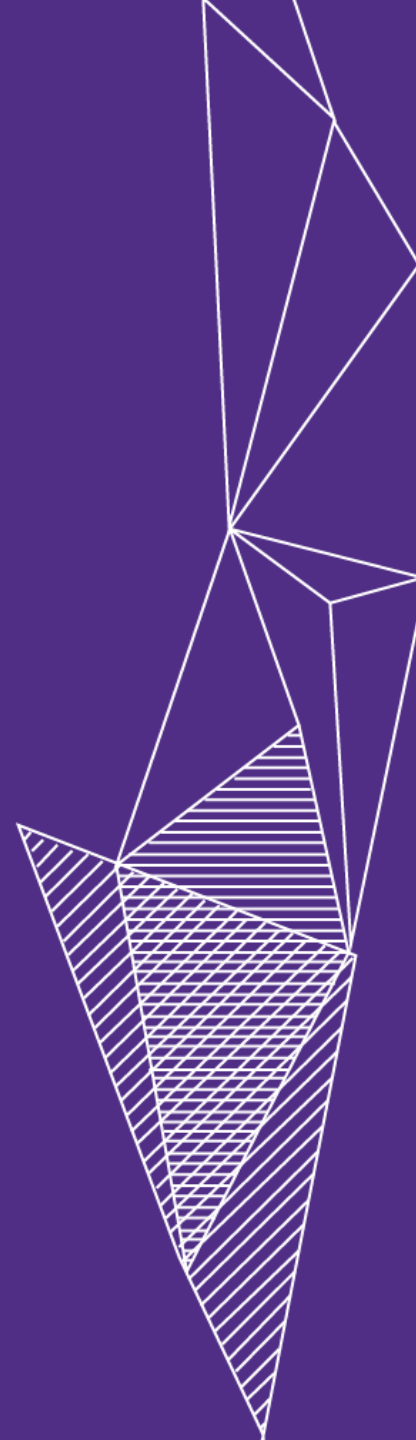


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