

Oct. 4, 2002

Polling shows most Albertans support a made-in-Canada alternative to Kyoto

Edmonton... A public opinion poll commissioned by the Alberta government reveals a large majority of Albertans (72%) wants the Canadian government to withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol and develop a made-in-Canada solution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Just under one in five Albertans (19%) say the government should ratify Kyoto. The rest are undecided (8%) or would prefer the government do nothing (1%). The vast majority (91%) of Albertans have heard of the Kyoto Protocol and most of those aware of it (55%) say they are very or somewhat familiar with the terms of the Protocol.

If Canada does ratify the Kyoto Protocol, most Albertans (70%) believe that Canada will be at an economic disadvantage because industry will leave Canada for the United States and other countries that will not have to incur the extra costs of meeting Kyoto reduction targets. One in four (25%) do not think Canada will be at a disadvantage, and the rest (5%) are undecided.

A majority (57%) approves of the way Premier Ralph Klein is handling the Kyoto issue. In contrast, only a small proportion of Albertans (16%) approves of the way Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is handling this issue.

"It is clear that the citizens of Alberta are firmly behind the provincial government's position on the Kyoto Protocol," said Janet Brown, research consultant for Environics West.

The Alberta government commissioned Environics West to survey a representative sample of 1,200 Alberta residents, age 18 and over. Surveys were conducted by telephone between Sept. 17 and Oct. 2, 2002. The results of this survey are accurate to within +/- 2.8 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The survey cost a total of \$22,500.

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Backgrounder attached: Summary of survey data

Media calls may be directed to:

Gordon Turtle - Office of the Premier - Tel: (780) 422-8475

Janet Brown - Research Consultant - Tel: (403) 265-7845

Backgrounder

Summary of survey data

Polling of 1,200 Albertans conducted: Sept. 17 to Oct. 2, 2002

Margin of Error: +/- 2.8%, 19 times in 20

1.

Based on what you have read or heard, do you think the Alberta government does or does not have a plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the province?

Has a plan	44%
Does not have a plan	36%
Don't know	20%

2. *If response to above is "has a plan," ask:*

Would you say you approve or disapprove of this plan?

Approve	68%
Disapprove	12%
Don't know	20%

3.

Have you heard of the Kyoto Protocol?

Yes	91%
No	9%
Don't know	0%

4. *If aware of Kyoto Protocol, ask:*

Would you say you are very familiar, somewhat familiar, not very familiar, or not at all familiar with the terms of the Kyoto Protocol?

Familiar	55%
Unfamiliar	45%
Don't know	0%

5.

As you may know, the United States has withdrawn from the Kyoto Protocol and developing countries such as China, India and Mexico are currently exempt from meeting reduction targets under Kyoto. If Canada ratifies the Kyoto Protocol, some people say ...

That Canada will be at an economic disadvantage because industry and investment will leave Canada for the U.S. and other countries where they will not have to incur the extra costs of meeting Kyoto Protocol reduction targets. Other people say...

Canada will NOT be at an economic disadvantage because technology will emerge that will allow companies in Canada to remain competitive. *(These options were rotated.)*

Which view is closer to your own?

Canada will be disadvantaged	70%
Canada will NOT be disadvantaged	25%
Don't know	5%

6.

Thinking of the Kyoto Protocol as it now stands, how do you think the Canadian government should proceed? Should they ...

Withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol and develop a made-in-Canada plan for reducing greenhouse gas

emissions, or should they ...

Ratify the Kyoto Protocol? *(These options were rotated)*

Withdraw and develop a made-in-Canada plan	72%
Ratify the Kyoto Protocol	19%
Do Nothing	1%
Don't know	8%

7.

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the following people are handling the issue of the Kyoto Protocol. *(Names were rotated)*

	Ralph Klein	Jean Chrétien
Approve	57%	16%
Disapprove	27%	70%
Don't know	16%	14%

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