

Poll: Canadians react positively to national climate and clean growth plan

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DECEMBER 19, 2016

CATEGORY – CARBON, ELECTRICITY

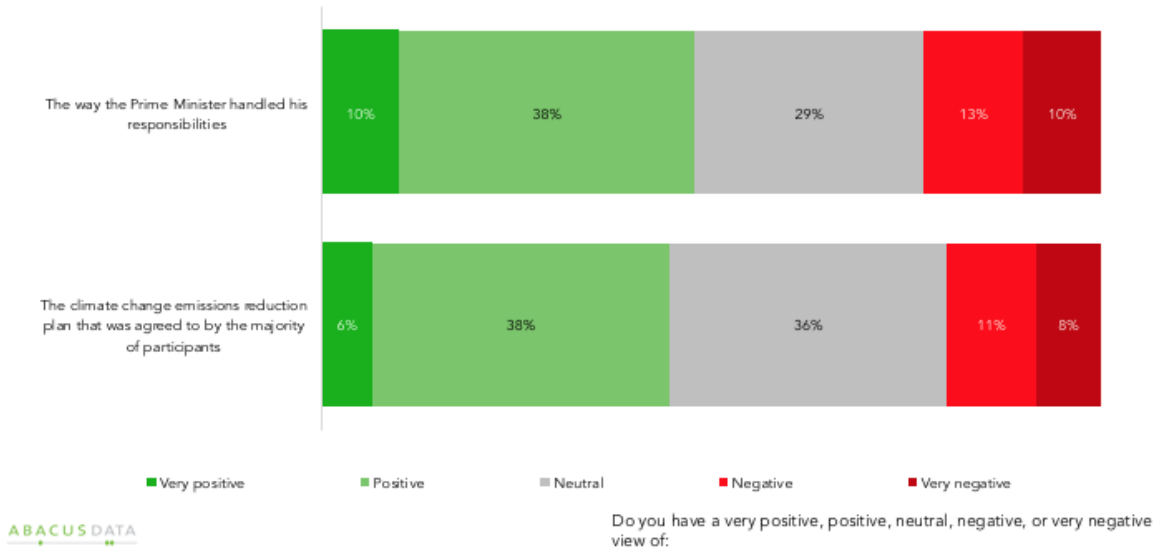
Survey also shows most Canadians support a transition from fossil fuel reliance as quickly as possible, including half in Alberta

OTTAWA—New public opinion research found that roughly 20 million Canadian adults (69 per cent) heard something about the recent First Ministers' Meeting on climate—including 9 million who heard either a lot or a fair bit about it. Among those who were aware of the meeting, which resulted in the adoption of a new national plan to tackle climate change and spur clean energy, reactions to the outcome were broadly positive, with little evidence of anxiety. For example:

- People were more likely to have a positive than a negative reaction to the emissions reduction plan agreed to by the majority of the premiers, by a margin of two to one.
- By a similar margin, people were more likely to approve than disapprove of how the prime minister handled his responsibilities.
- While critics of climate policies often cite the potential for economic risk, that argument resonates with only 29 per cent of those surveyed. In comparison, 42 per cent think the measures in the national climate plan will make Canada's economy stronger over time.

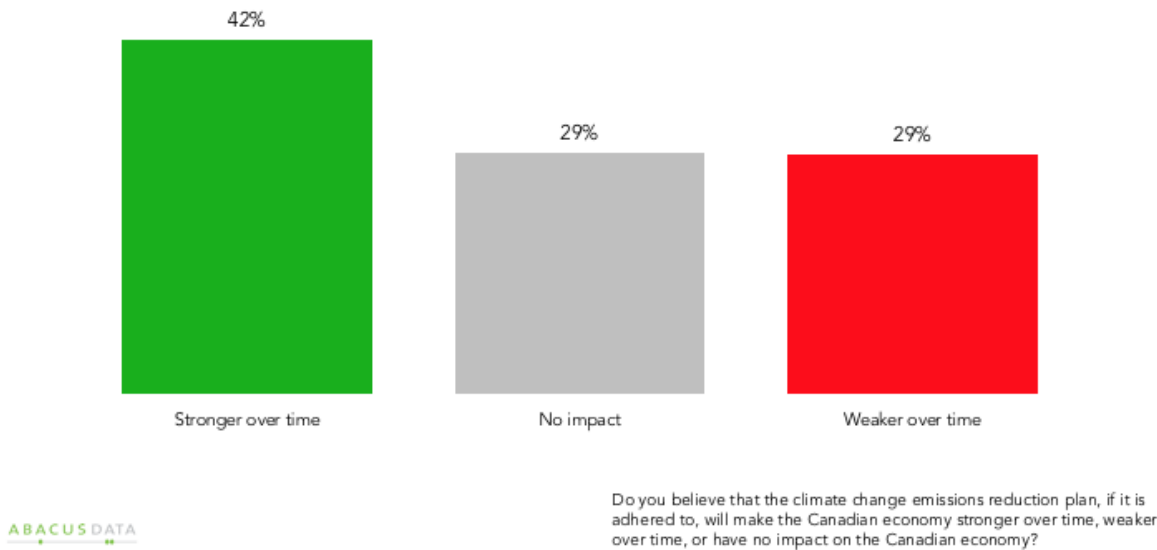
IMPRESSIONS OF MEETING RESULTS

Only those aware of meeting



HOW WILL CLIMATE PLAN AFFECT CANADA'S ECONOMY?

Only those aware of meeting



These results come from a survey of 1,848 Canadians conducted December 12 to 14, 2016, by Abacus Data at the request of Clean Energy Canada, measuring Canadians' views of climate and clean energy policy issues, including the new *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*.

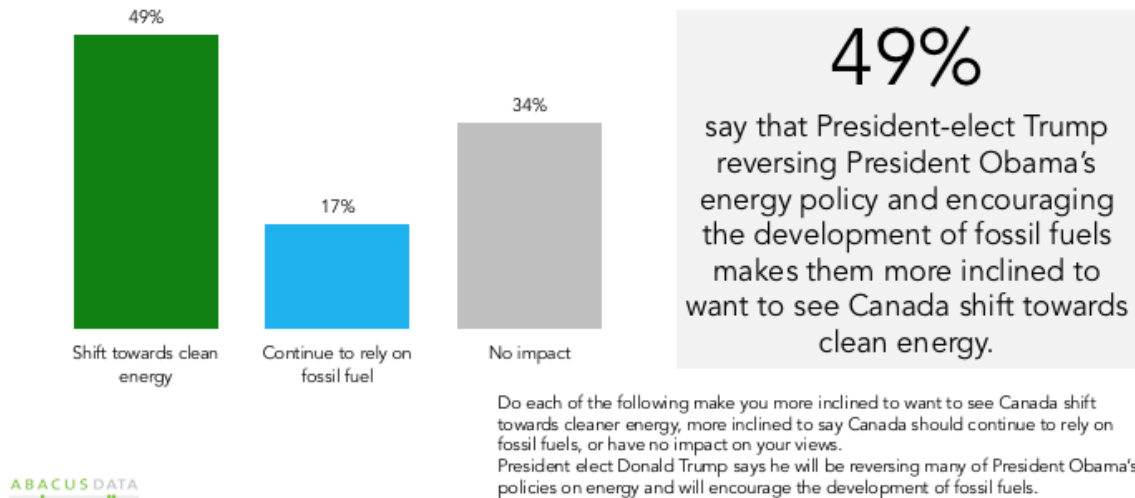
Support for clean energy, despite Trump agenda

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall did not agree to the new climate framework, and said the likely direction of U.S. climate and energy policy under president-elect Donald Trump means we need to be

very cautious about adopting climate policies in Canada.

However, only 17 per cent of Canadians think Canada should stick with fossil fuels for the long term in light of Mr. Trump's energy agenda. Many more (49 per cent) said Mr. Trump's pro-fossil fuel stance made them *more* inclined to want Canada shift towards cleaner energy.

WHAT SHOULD TRUMP'S STANCE ON ENERGY MEAN FOR CANADA?



Support for a transition away from fossil fuels

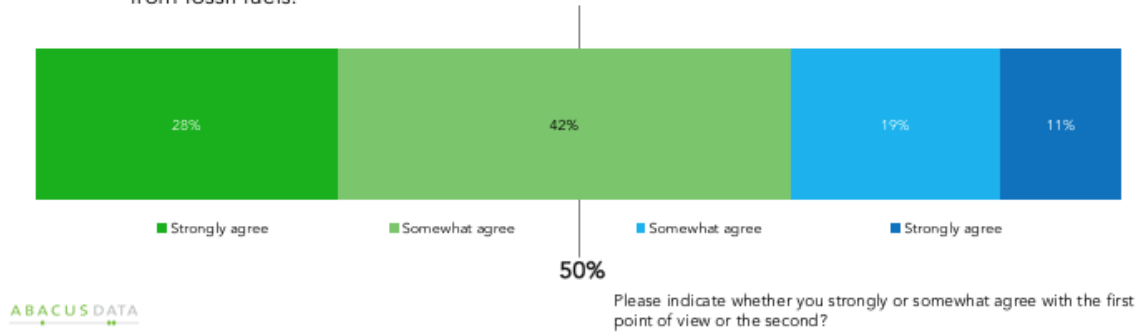
The survey found that 70 per cent of Canadians want the country to “shift its energy use as quickly as possible to cleaner, lower-carbon sources of energy and away from fossil fuels.” Just 30 per cent said they felt it was “better for Canada to stick with mostly fossil fuel energy for a long time to come.”

In every region but Alberta, a majority favours a transition from fossil fuels. In Alberta, opinion is evenly divided. The overwhelming majority (82 per cent) of Canadians under 35 favour a shift as quickly as possible.

WHAT SHOULD CANADA'S APPROACH TO ENERGY BE?

VIEW 1: Some people say that Canada should shift its energy use as quickly as possible to cleaner, lower carbon sources of energy and away from fossil fuels.

VIEW 2: Others say that it's better for Canada's to stick with mostly fossil fuel energy for a long time to come.



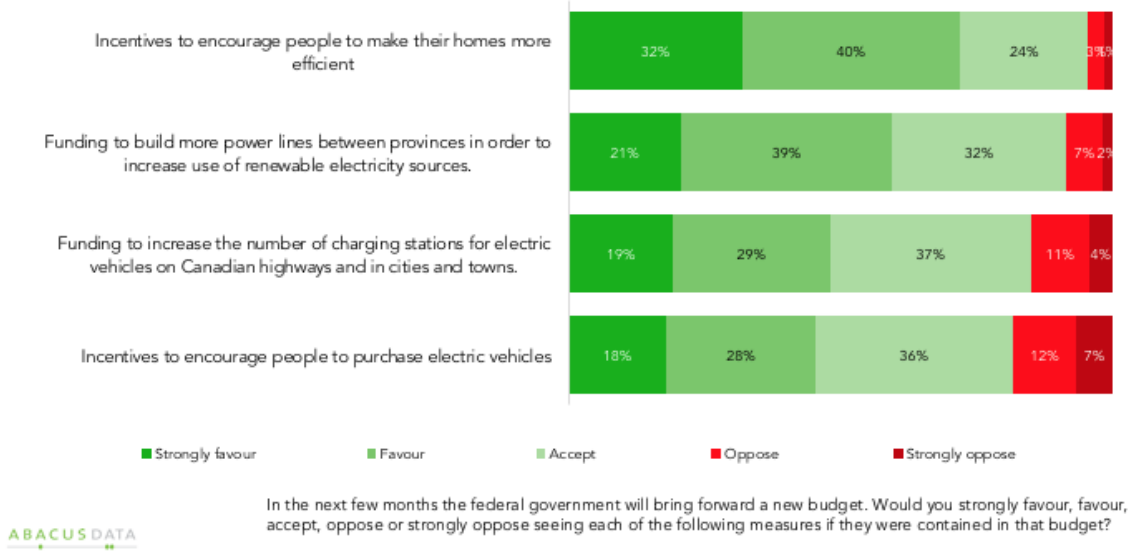
2017 federal budget

To deliver on the new national climate plan, the next federal budget will need to include funding for initiatives to reduce carbon pollution. Our survey shows that a large majority of Canadians support or would accept allocating funding in the 2017 federal budget to a range of clean energy priorities, including:

- Incentives to help people make their homes more energy efficient
- Building power lines between provinces to make renewable electricity more available
- Installing electric vehicle charging stations near highways, cities and towns, and
- Offering incentives to people who buy electric vehicles.

Support for these potential budget measures cross all regions of the country, age groups, and partisan supporters.

POTENTIAL BUDGET MEASURES



For further analysis of these results, see the [media backgrounder](#).

Abacus Data’s polling slides are available [here](#).

Quotes

“The national climate plan negotiations were tense at times, but Canadians are largely happy with the results. Most Canadians believe that we can build a stronger economy by taking action to cut carbon pollution—and they see it as one of the prime minister’s jobs to deliver that clean growth by investing in clean energy.”

— **Clare Demerse, Federal Policy Advisor, Clean Energy Canada**

“Canadians support a shift in our energy use from fossil fuels to cleaner energy as quickly as possible. And the election of Donald Trump in the U.S. hasn’t dented that support—if anything, this survey suggests that the new U.S. leader’s position actually makes Canadians more inclined to support clean energy here at home.”

— **Merran Smith, Executive Director, Clean Energy Canada**

“Canadians broadly believe in shifting towards cleaner sources of energy, because they are convinced doing so will benefit the planet, and are unconvinced by the argument that such a transition would gravely damage the economy.

“Assembling a workable public consensus on energy and climate change is the most challenging agenda item in Canadian politics today. These numbers reveal that while no government could please everyone, especially where economic stakes differ and emotions run high, the Trudeau government has laid out a path towards a lower-carbon economy that has alienated few and found acceptance by a large majority.”

— Bruce Anderson, Chairman, Abacus Data



**Controversial? Among Canadians
aware of the new climate plan,
only 19% don't like it.**

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**Most Canadians think climate
action will make the economy
stronger or do no harm.**

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