

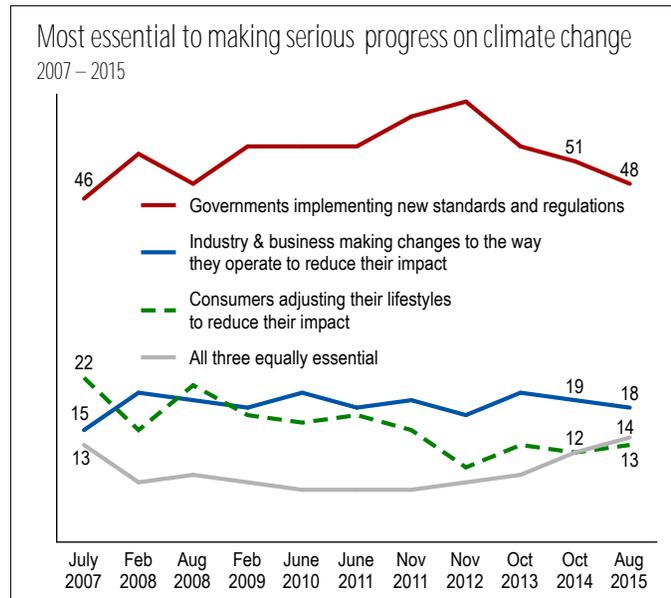
Government leadership on climate change

Canadians continue to look to governments rather than to industry or consumers to play the key leadership role in addressing climate change. But this view is gradually diminishing over time, suggesting that the public may be losing confidence in their governments' commitment and/or capacity for leadership.

Who is seen as the most essential actor in addressing the climate change challenge in this country? As on past surveys, the public is most likely to look to their governments to implement new standards and regulations (48%), rather than to industry and business making changes in the way they operate (18%) or to consumers adjusting their lifestyles (13%).

But Canadians' focus on government leadership has declined marginally since 2014 (down 3 points), continuing a gradual downward trend dating back to 2012 (when 59% expressed this view). This trend is mirrored by a gradual rise in the proportion who volunteer that all three sectors are equally essential to make progress in addressing climate change (14%, up from 8% in 2012).

Government is identified as the most essential sector by at least a plurality of Canadians in all groups, but most widely among residents of eastern Canada (53%), and those who support the NDP (57%) and Green Party (55%), and predictably among those clearly concerned about climate change (55%) and who accept the science (55%). By comparison, government is least apt to be identified as the most essential actor on climate change among Albertans (39%) and Conservative Party supporters (37%). The decline in this view since 2014 is most evident among Canadians under 35 years of age, British Columbians, rural residents and Liberal Party supporters.

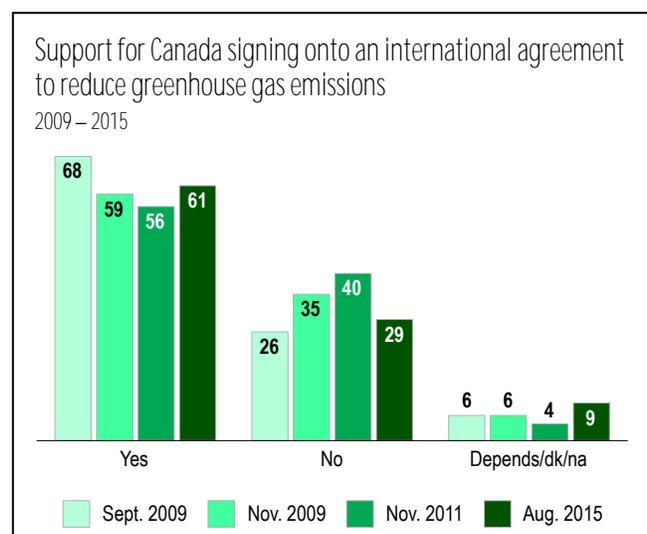


International climate change agreement

An increasing majority of Canadians want their country to sign a new international climate change agreement, even if this may affect jobs and consumer prices. Strong supporters outweigh strong opponents by more than three to one.

Public support for a new agreement. While public opinion about the reality and seriousness of climate change has changed little over the past few years, there is growing support for policy action. A growing majority (61%) of Canadians say their country should sign a new international agreement to reduce worldwide greenhouse gas emissions, even if this may result in some domestic industries losing jobs and higher costs for some goods and services.

Public support for an international agreement is up from November 2011 (56%), although remains below the high water mark in September 2009 (68%)

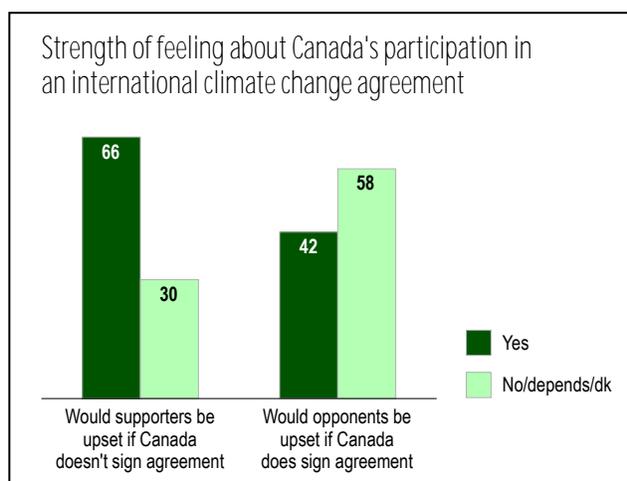


during the lead up to the much anticipated international summit in Copenhagen. Fewer than three in ten (29%) now oppose such an agreement (down 11 points), while an increasing number say it would depend or have no opinion (9%, up 5).

The increase in support for a new international agreement has taken place across most of the population, but most significantly among residents of Ontario and B.C., Canadians 55 and over, and those without a high school diploma. Support is now most widespread in Quebec (70%), among Canadians with a university degree (68%) and supporters of the NDP (75%) and the Liberal Party (72%). This view is least apt to be shared by Albertans (49%, but up 4 points since November 2009) and Conservative Party supporters (42%, versus 48% who oppose it).

How strongly do Canadians care? Most Canadians express an opinion about this type of international climate change agreement, but do they really care whether or not it happens? The survey reveals that supporters are more likely to feel strongly about this issue than opponents.

Among those who support a new international agreement on climate change, two-thirds (66%) say they would be upset if Canada does not participate (this translates to 40% of the total population). By comparison, among those who oppose such an agreement, 42 percent would be upset if Canada *does* participate (12% of the total population). This means that strong supporters outweigh strong opponents by more than three to one, almost identical to the balance recorded in November 2009. (Supporters are marginally less apt to be upset than in 2009, but there are also more of them than before, and the reverse applies to opponents.)



Supporters of a new international agreement most likely to be upset if Canada does not participate include residents of Quebec and Ontario, Canadians 55 and older, and supporters of the Federal NDP and Green Parties. Opponents of a new agreement most likely to be upset include Albertans and Conservative Party supporters.