

FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION: CANADIANS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND EDUCATION

2025 Survey Results

BRITISH COLUMBIA REPORT



LSF
Learning for a
Sustainable Future



Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF)



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- Canadian charity founded in 1991
- Bilingual (EN/FR)
- Our mission is to promote—through education—the knowledge, skills, values, perspectives and practices essential to a sustainable future
- Working at all levels of the education system: students, teachers, administrators, boards, governments, etc.

Overview

From Awareness to Action: Canadians on Climate Change and Education is the third national survey from Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF), building on findings from 2019 and 2022 to track shifts in public attitudes and climate education across Canada in 2025. This report provides a summary of the key findings with a focus on British Columbia.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS:

A Pan-Canadian Snapshot

This report reflects the views of 4,228 Canadians, including students, educators, parents, and the general public from every province and a subset of the Territories, offering a broad and inclusive perspective on climate change education.

Tracking Change Over Time

Using selected data from 2019, 2022, and 2025, the survey highlights evolving perceptions, priorities, and opportunities to strengthen climate learning across Canadian schools.

Expanding the Conversation

New, timely questions were added to the 2025 survey to further explore public confidence in the education system, augment student voice on their expectations for climate action in schools, highlight supports requested by teachers, and illustrate growing concerns around misinformation and disinformation.

From Awareness to Action

The report moves beyond measuring awareness. It offers insight into what's currently happening in classrooms and identifies key areas where schools can deepen their climate education efforts and empower meaningful action.

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Recruitment Procedures

An online survey in both English and French, consisting of short and long answer questions on climate change and education, was conducted for LSF through Leger's LEO panel.

Leger panelists received an email invitation to complete the survey with a unique link for each respondent

4,228 Canadians participated between October 9 and November 29, 2024. This report highlights the results from British Columbia, where 538 residents took the survey.

The data are weighted by age, gender and province (based on 2021 Statistics Canada proportions) to ensure that data are representative of the Canadian public and reflective of Canadian opinion.

Population Segmentation

For this survey, the following populations were identified:

- **Educators** – includes public and private school teachers in formal *K-12 education systems, educational assistants, department heads, curriculum leads and curriculum consultants working for school boards, vice-principals, principals, district leaders/school administrators, and former educators.
- **Parents** – includes parents of students in K-12 education system
- **Students** – includes current students from grades 7 to 12 in the formal education system
- **Members of the general public** – includes members of the general public who do not identify as educators, students, or parents.

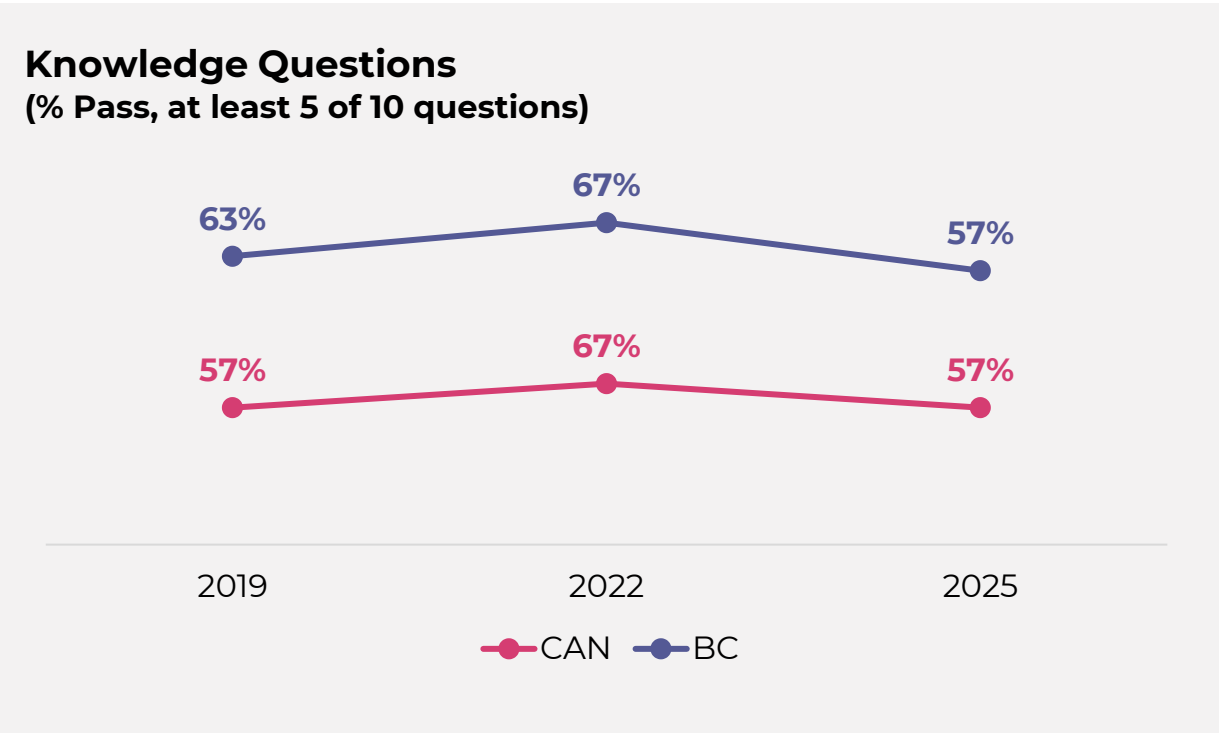
*K-12 education includes CÉGEP in Quebec

Survey Results Knowledge Questions

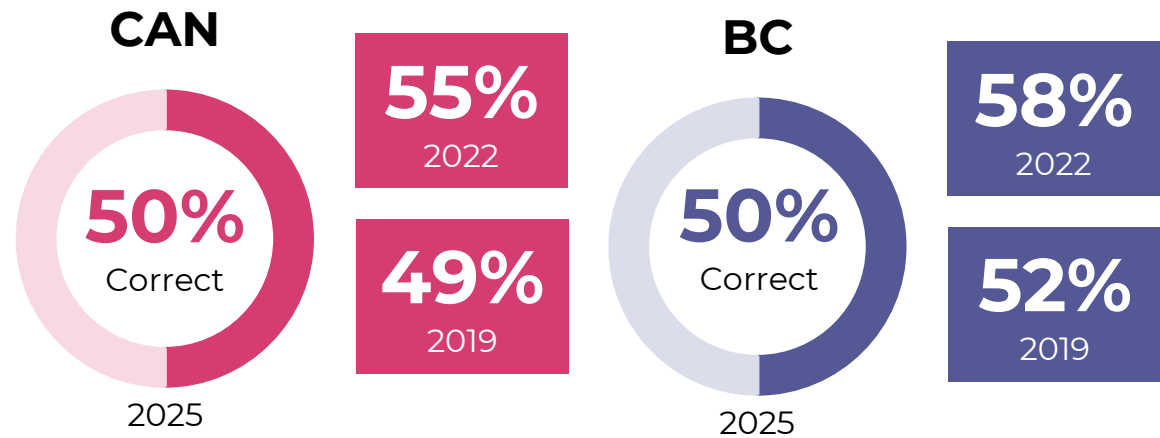
Survey Report

BC residents demonstrate relatively similar knowledge of climate change compared to the Canadian average. However, notable gaps remain in their understanding of its causes and impacts, highlighting the need for continued improvement

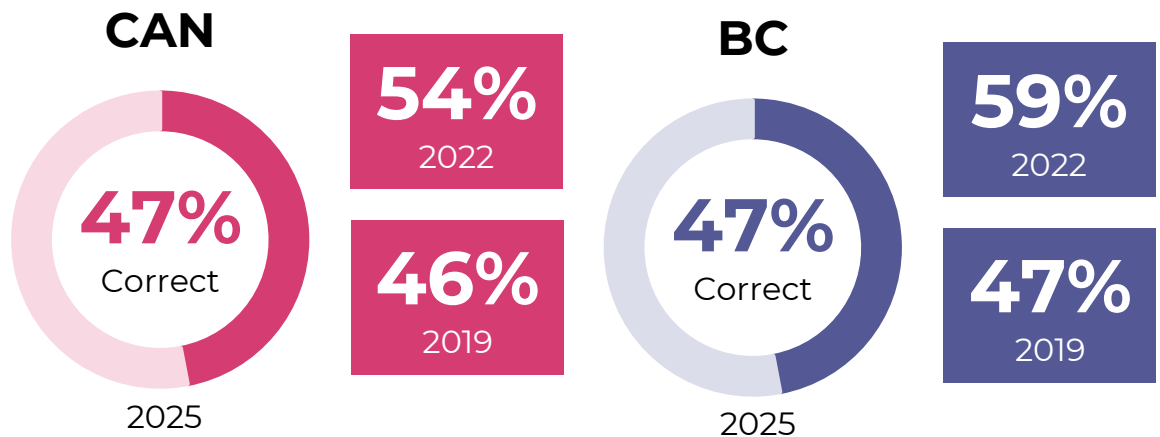
When it comes to knowledge on climate change, BC residents are aligned with Canadians overall – both this year and trends over last few years. Knowledge test pass rate for BC residents is the lowest seen since trending began, and despite increases in 2022, knowledge on climate change is returning to 2019 levels for BC residents.



**Percentage of correct answers to the survey question:
Climate change is caused by carbon dioxide
and other greenhouse gases.**

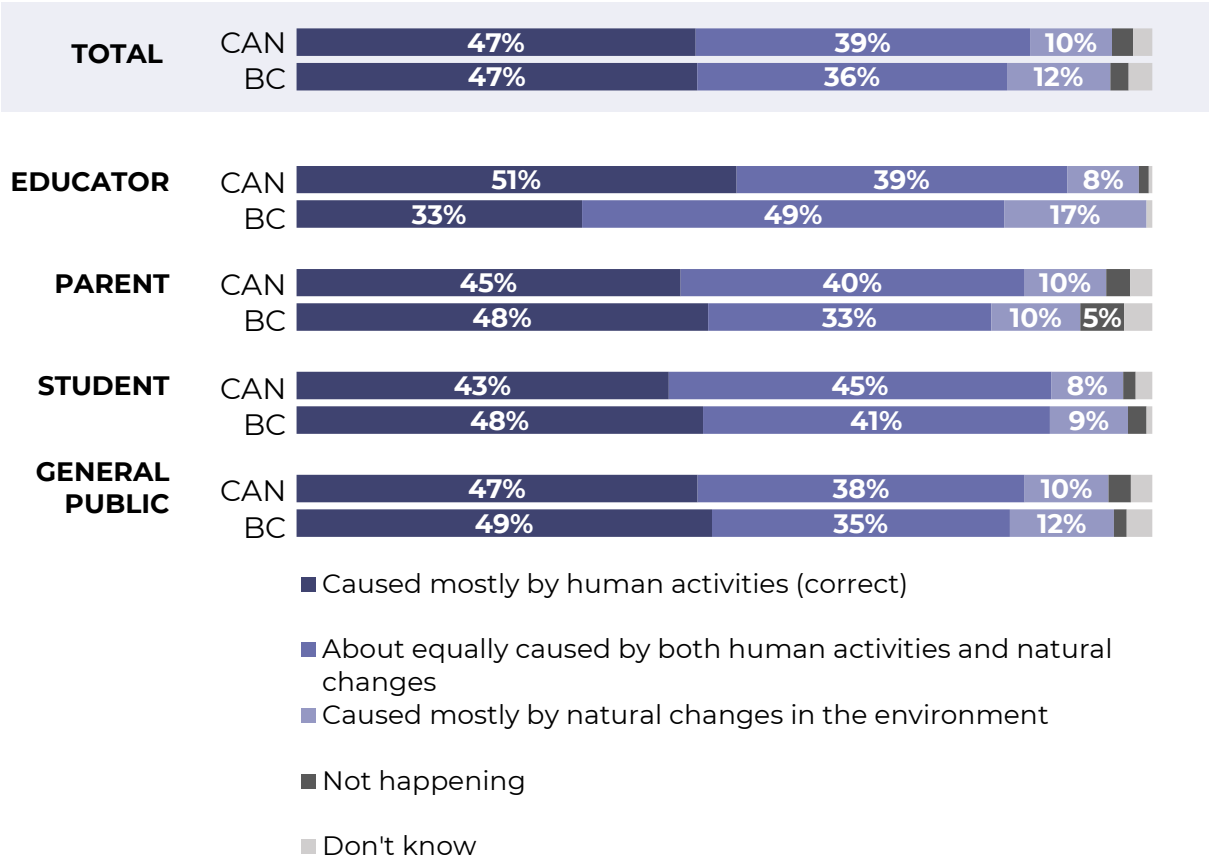


Climate change is caused mostly by human activities ...



Nearly half (47%) of BC residents are correct in their belief that climate change is caused mostly by human activities, matching Canadians overall (47%). Only 33% of BC educators were correct, much lower than the average Canadian educator (51%)

Total Results by Respondent Group

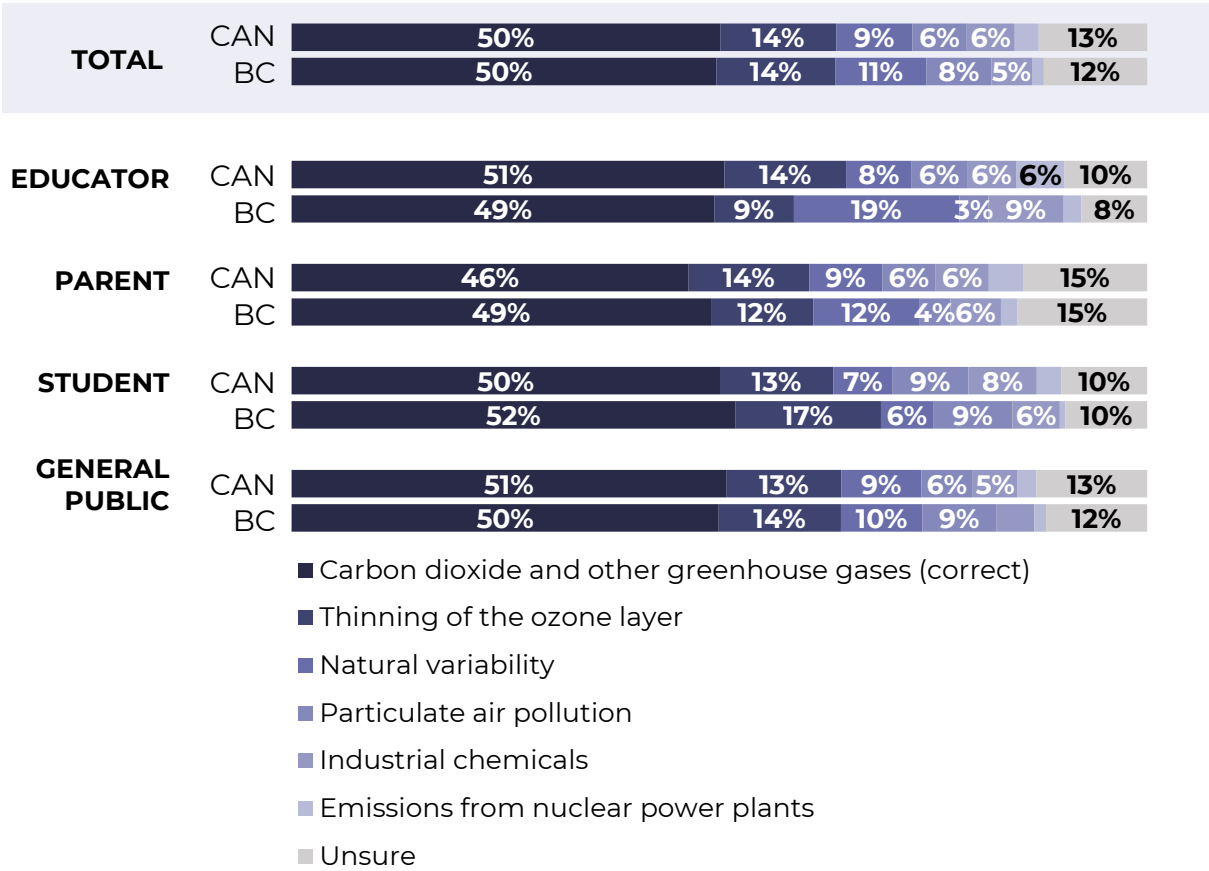


Province/Region

	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Caused mostly by human activities (correct)	47%	47%	37%	31%	44%	48%	54%	38%	55%
About equally caused by both human activities and natural changes	39%	36%	41%	42%	38%	41%	35%	46%	31%
Caused mostly by natural changes in the environment	10%	12%	14%	18%	10%	8%	7%	11%	9%
Not happening	2%	2%	6%	6%	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Don't know	2%	3%	2%	3%	4%	2%	2%	4%	3%

Half (50%) of BC residents correctly believe that climate change is caused by carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, in line with Canadians overall (50%). While this is the correct answer, BC residents also believed that climate change could be caused by a variety of other factors.

Total Results by Respondent Group

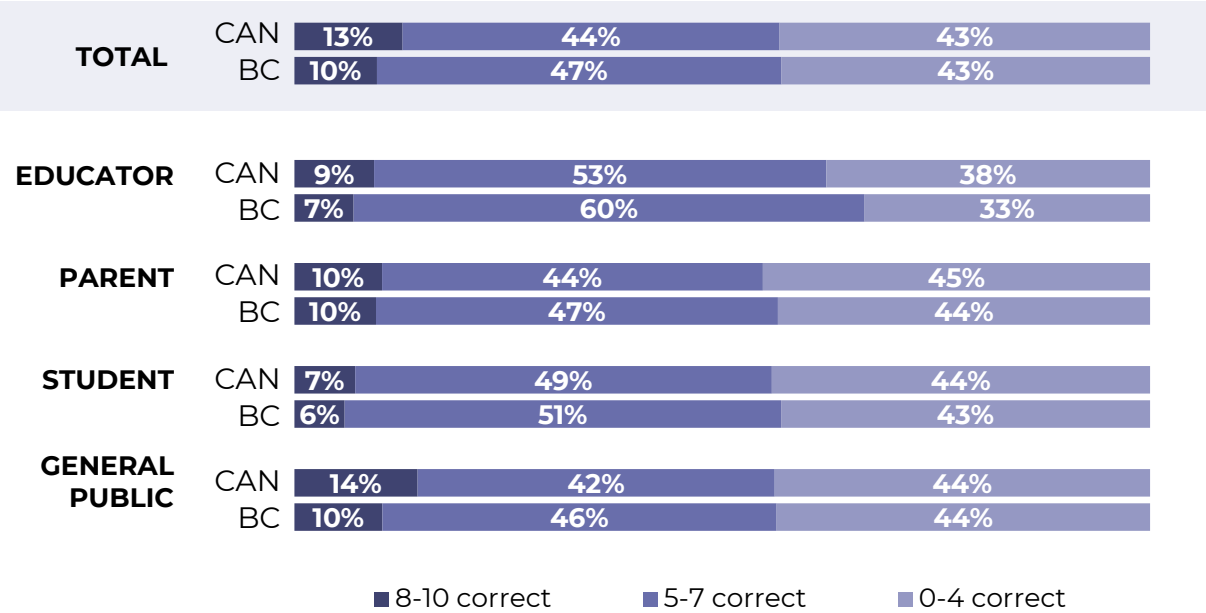


Province/Region

	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (correct)	50%	50%	39%	38%	36%	52%	58%	44%	46%
Thinning of the ozone layer	14%	14%	15%	15%	13%	14%	12%	16%	10%
Natural variability	9%	11%	16%	20%	11%	7%	5%	13%	8%
Particulate air pollution	6%	8%	8%	8%	8%	6%	6%	5%	13%
Industrial chemicals	6%	5%	5%	5%	10%	5%	6%	5%	6%
Emissions from nuclear power plants	3%	1%	3%	1%	1%	4%	2%	4%	3%
Unsure	13%	12%	14%	14%	21%	12%	11%	13%	14%

57% of BC residents got a passing grade (5 or more knowledge questions correct out of 10). Fewer B.C. residents got 8-10 questions right in comparison to Canadians overall (10% vs. 13%). 67% of BC educators got a passing grade compared to 62% of educators nationally.

Total Results by Respondent Group



Province/Region

	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
8-10 correct	13%	10%	11%	11%	5%	14%	15%	13%	15%
5-7 correct	44%	47%	37%	22%	46%	42%	51%	44%	41%
0-4 correct	43%	43%	53%	66%	49%	44%	34%	43%	44%

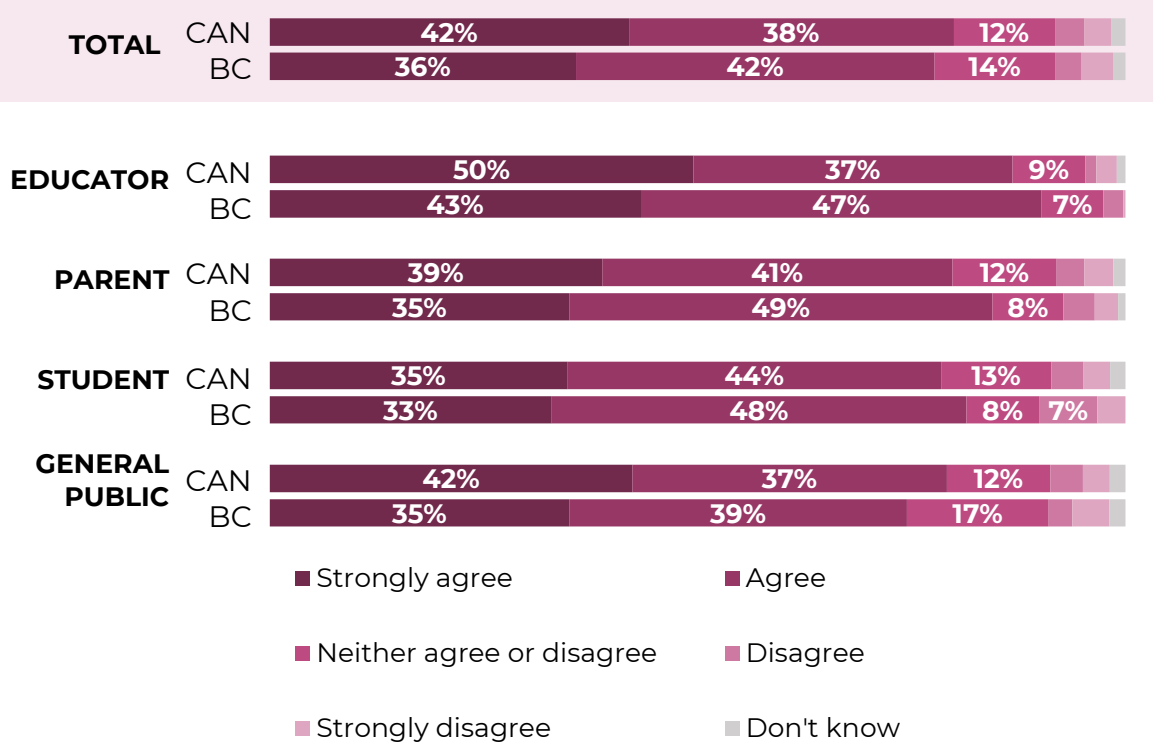
Survey Results Perceptions of Climate Change

Survey Report

Most BC residents feel the province hasn't done enough to care for the planet and are willing to make lifestyle changes to address climate change. More people are reporting personal experiences of its impacts, and negative emotions including anxiety and frustration are common. There is also a strong belief that meaningful systemic change is needed.

78% BC residents agree that people have failed to care for the planet. Fewer BC residents strongly agree with this (36%) compared to the Canadian average (42%).

Total Results by Respondent Group

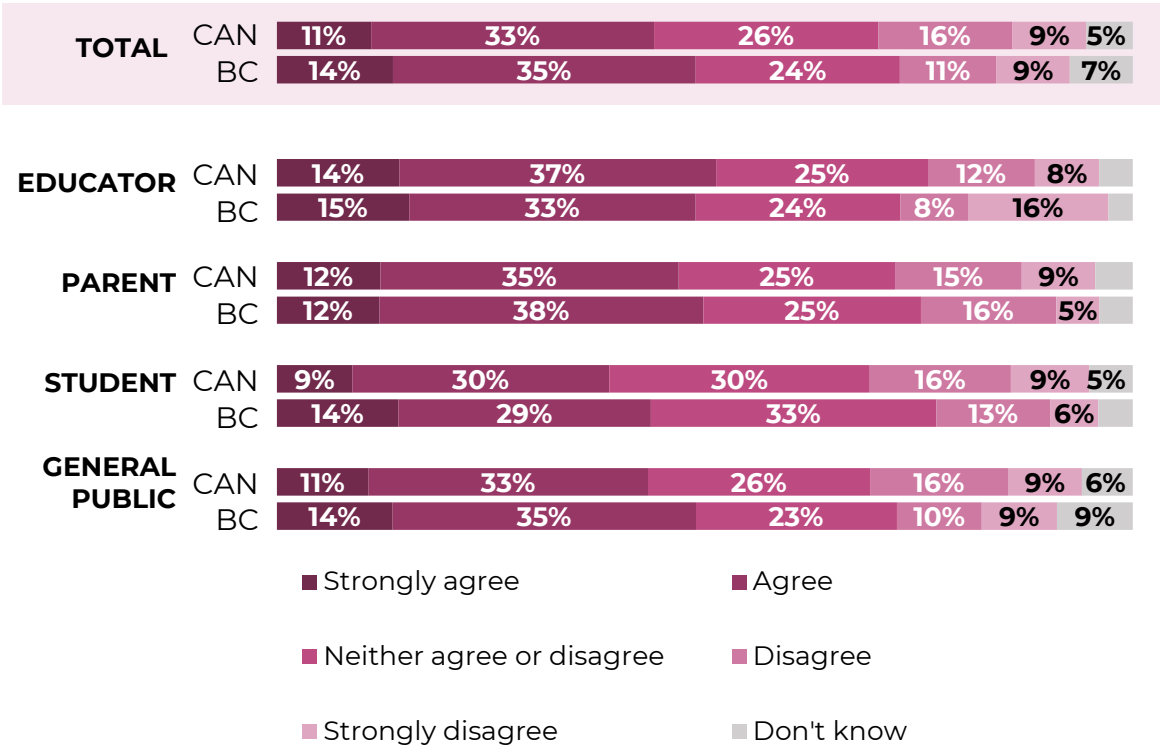


Province/Region

	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Strongly agree	42%	36%	37%	30%	32%	44%	49%	40%	39%
Agree	38%	42%	33%	34%	47%	38%	36%	40%	39%
Neither agree or disagree	12%	14%	16%	20%	12%	11%	8%	14%	7%
Disagree	3%	3%	7%	6%	5%	3%	2%	4%	4%
Strongly disagree	3%	4%	4%	8%	2%	3%	3%	1%	8%
Don't know	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%

Nearly half (49%) of BC residents agree that they have personally experienced the effects of climate change, higher than Canadians overall (44%).

Total Results by Respondent Group



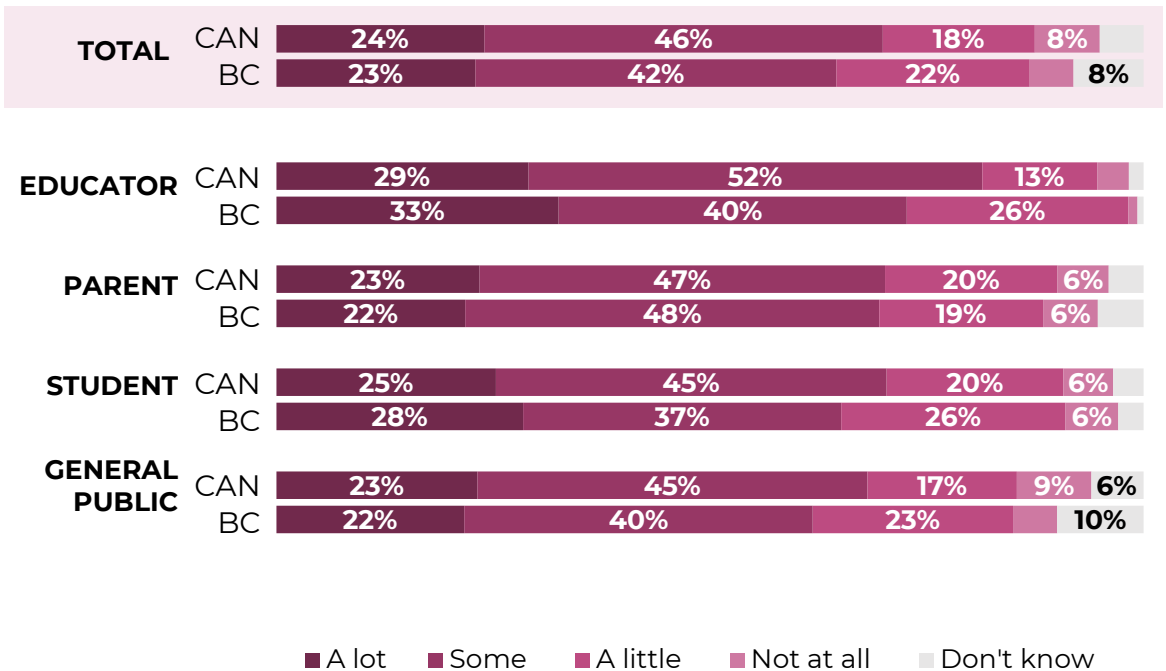
Province/Region

	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Strongly agree	11%	14%	11%	9%	7%	12%	9%	13%	27%
Agree	33%	35%	39%	28%	32%	33%	27%	38%	44%
Neither agree or disagree	26%	24%	22%	29%	28%	27%	27%	26%	11%
Disagree	16%	11%	11%	17%	17%	15%	23%	13%	7%
Strongly disagree	9%	9%	11%	15%	10%	8%	9%	6%	2%
Don't know	5%	7%	5%	3%	7%	5%	5%	4%	9%

In the next few years, how much would you be willing to change in your life (at school, work or home) to help reduce the effects of climate change?

A large majority (87%) of BC residents are willing to change their life at least a little to help reduce the effects of climate change, in line with Canadians overall (87%).

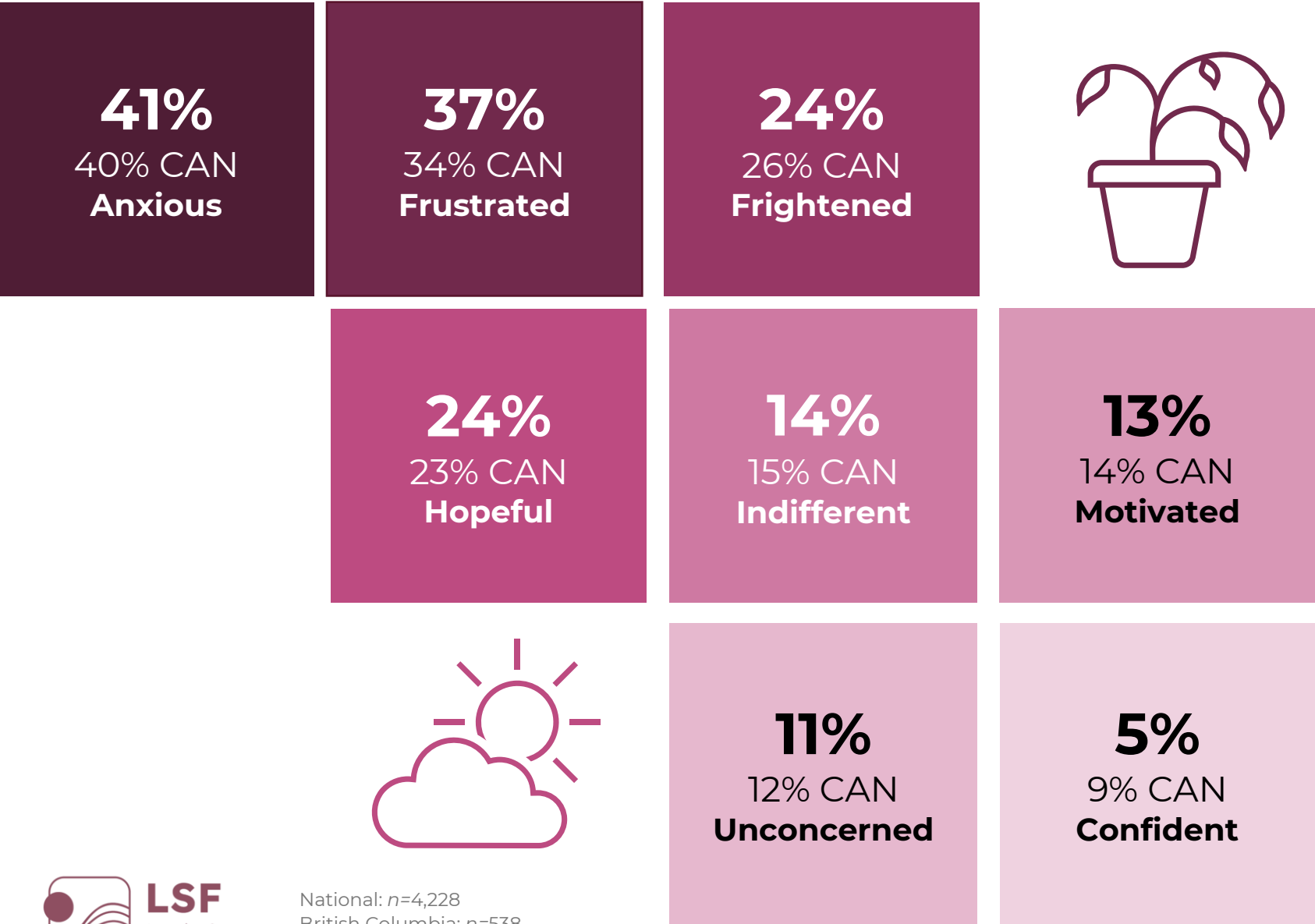
Total Results by Respondent Group



Province/Region

	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
A lot	24%	23%	18%	18%	16%	26%	27%	25%	31%
Some	46%	42%	41%	38%	44%	46%	53%	45%	53%
A little	18%	22%	23%	28%	19%	17%	12%	18%	9%
Not at all	8%	5%	11%	7%	12%	8%	6%	9%	2%
Don't know	5%	8%	7%	9%	9%	4%	3%	4%	4%

When you think about climate change, what main emotions or feelings arise?



BC residents have a variety of emotions surrounding climate change, but tend to be more negative, including emotions such as being anxious, frustrated or frightened. Still, nearly one-quarter (24%) of BC residents are hopeful. Only 5% of BC residents feel confident compared to 9% of Canadians.

When you think about climate change, what main emotions or feelings arise?

Perceptions of Climate Change

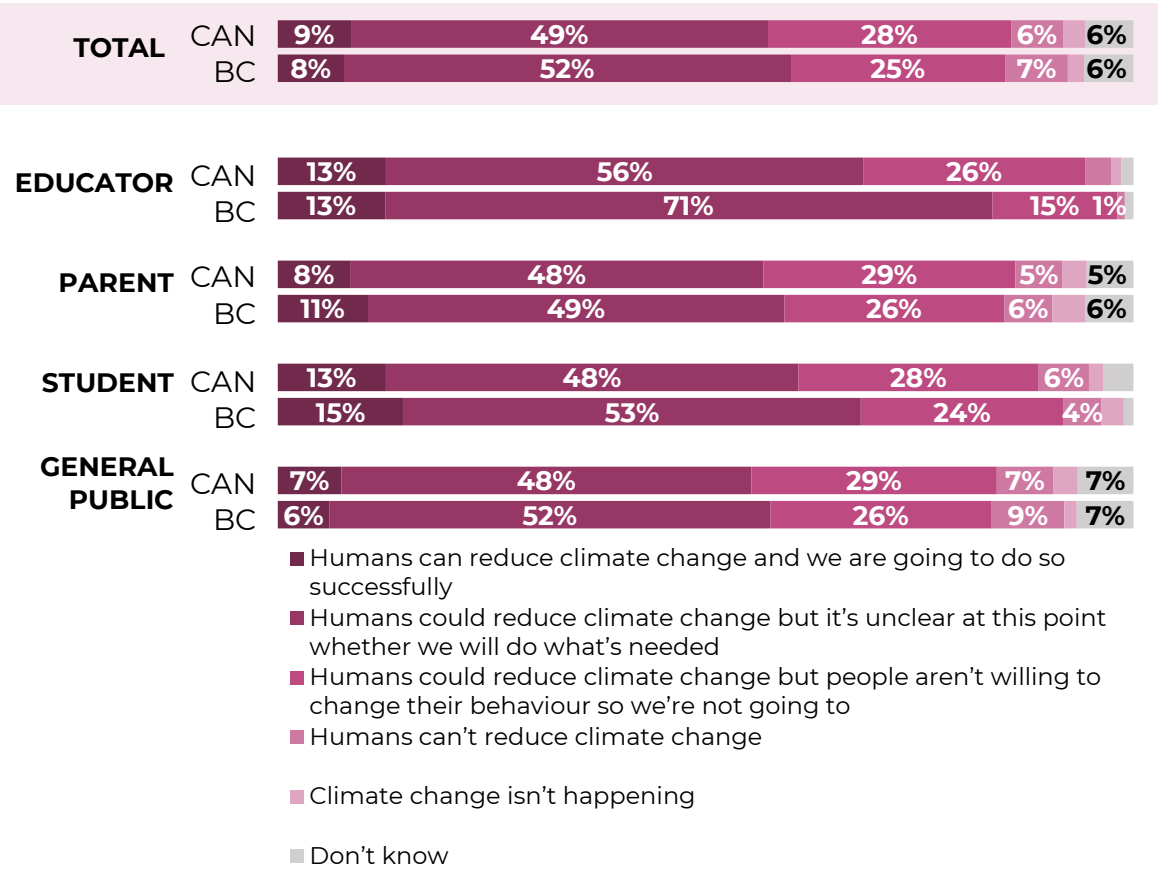
When thinking about climate change, BC residents feel many different emotions, but most are negative and fairly aligned with average Canadian trends. BC educators report feeling significantly more hopeful (40%) compared to the average for all Canadian educators (28%), but also more frightened (36% vs. 29%), BC students are more likely to feel unconcerned than all Canadian students (16% vs. 11%), and slightly more anxious (45% vs. 41%).

% Selected			Respondent Group							
	Total		Educator		Parent		Student		General Public	
	CAN	BC	CAN	BC	CAN	BC	CAN	BC	CAN	BC
n=	4,228	538	782	65	1,283	173	1,053	151	1,369	173
Anxious	40%	41%	43%	49%	39%	34%	41%	45%	39%	42%
Frustrated	34%	37%	31%	36%	33%	36%	30%	32%	36%	37%
Frightened	26%	24%	29%	36%	28%	25%	27%	25%	25%	22%
Hopeful	23%	24%	28%	40%	24%	22%	25%	21%	22%	23%
Indifferent	15%	14%	9%	2%	16%	20%	16%	11%	16%	13%
Motivated	14%	13%	19%	13%	15%	18%	14%	12%	13%	13%
Unconcerned	12%	11%	9%	12%	11%	11%	11%	16%	12%	11%
Confident	9%	5%	13%	5%	6%	6%	9%	11%	9%	4%

Which one of the following statements comes closest to your personal view?

Few (8%) BC residents believe that humans can and will reduce climate change, while over half (52%) believe humans could reduce climate change, but it is unclear if we will do what is needed.

Total Results by Respondent Group



Province/Region

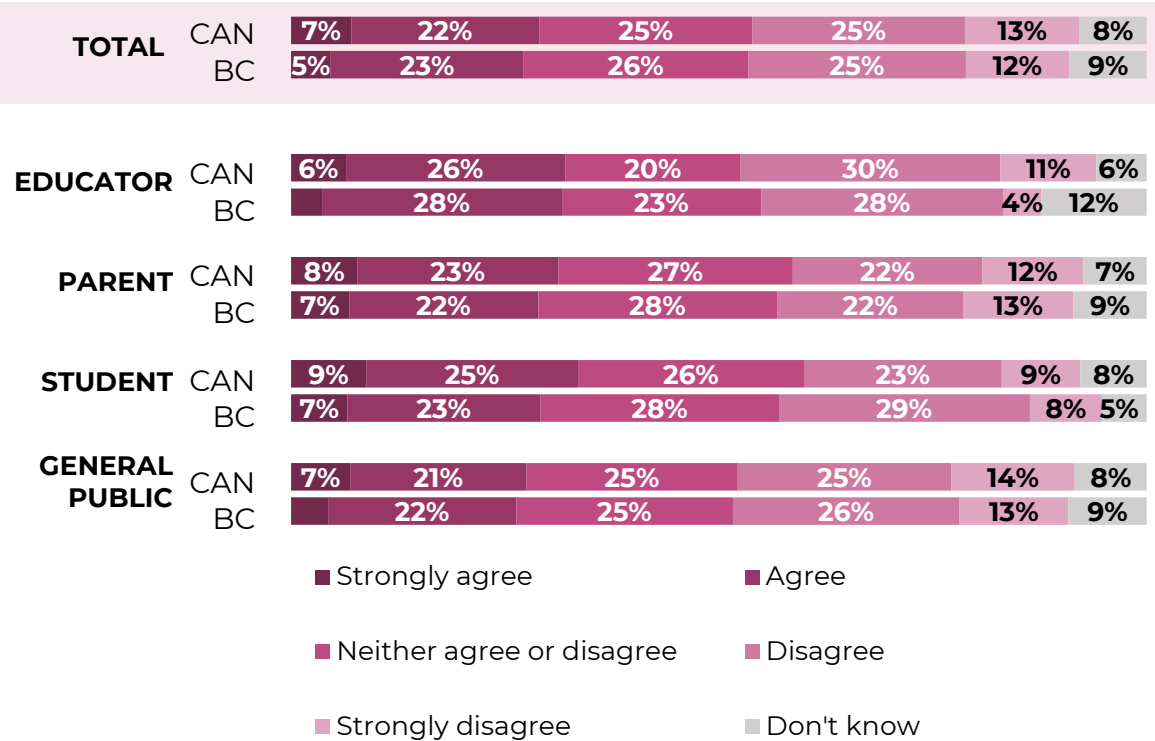
	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Humans can reduce climate change and we are going to do so successfully	9%	8%	10%	7%	7%	9%	7%	11%	9%
Humans could reduce climate change but it's unclear at this point whether we will do what's needed	49%	52%	46%	48%	50%	49%	48%	47%	49%
Humans could reduce climate change but people aren't willing to change their behaviour so we're not going to	28%	25%	24%	25%	22%	29%	34%	27%	28%
Humans can't reduce climate change	6%	7%	10%	10%	5%	5%	5%	5%	6%
Climate change isn't happening	3%	2%	4%	3%	5%	2%	3%	3%	1%
Don't know	6%	6%	6%	7%	10%	6%	4%	6%	7%

New technologies can solve climate change without individuals having to make big changes in their lives.

Perceptions of Climate Change

Similar to Canadians, BC residents have mixed views as to whether they think new technologies can solve climate change but more disagree (38%) than agree (27%)

Total Results by Respondent Group



Province/Region

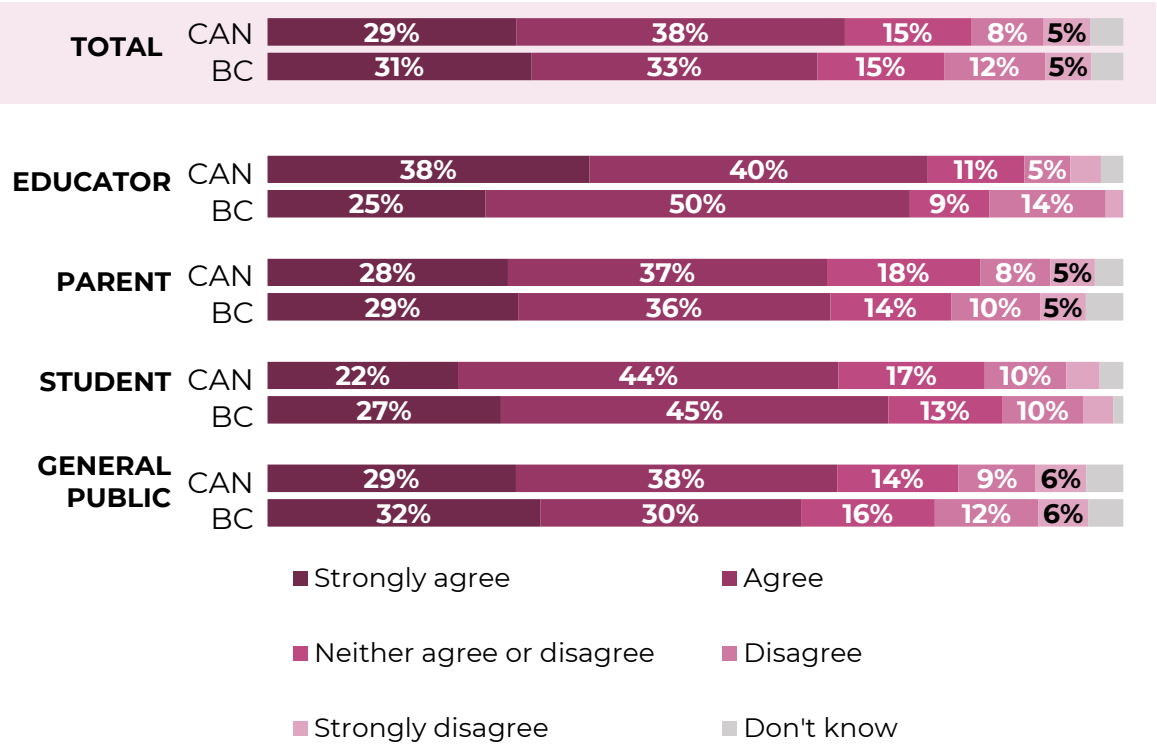
	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Strongly agree	7%	5%	8%	6%	7%	8%	6%	11%	7%
Agree	22%	23%	23%	19%	21%	25%	16%	25%	28%
Neither agree or disagree	25%	26%	27%	25%	28%	24%	24%	25%	28%
Disagree	25%	25%	27%	31%	18%	23%	27%	24%	20%
Strongly disagree	13%	12%	8%	11%	13%	12%	21%	9%	14%
Don't know	8%	9%	7%	8%	14%	9%	6%	6%	3%

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
“We are experiencing a climate emergency.”

Perceptions of Climate Change

64% of BC residents agree that we are experiencing a climate emergency. Of the 64% agreement, 31% strongly agree, similar to the Canadian average across all provinces (29%). 72% of BC students agree compared to 66% across Canada.

Total Results by Respondent Group

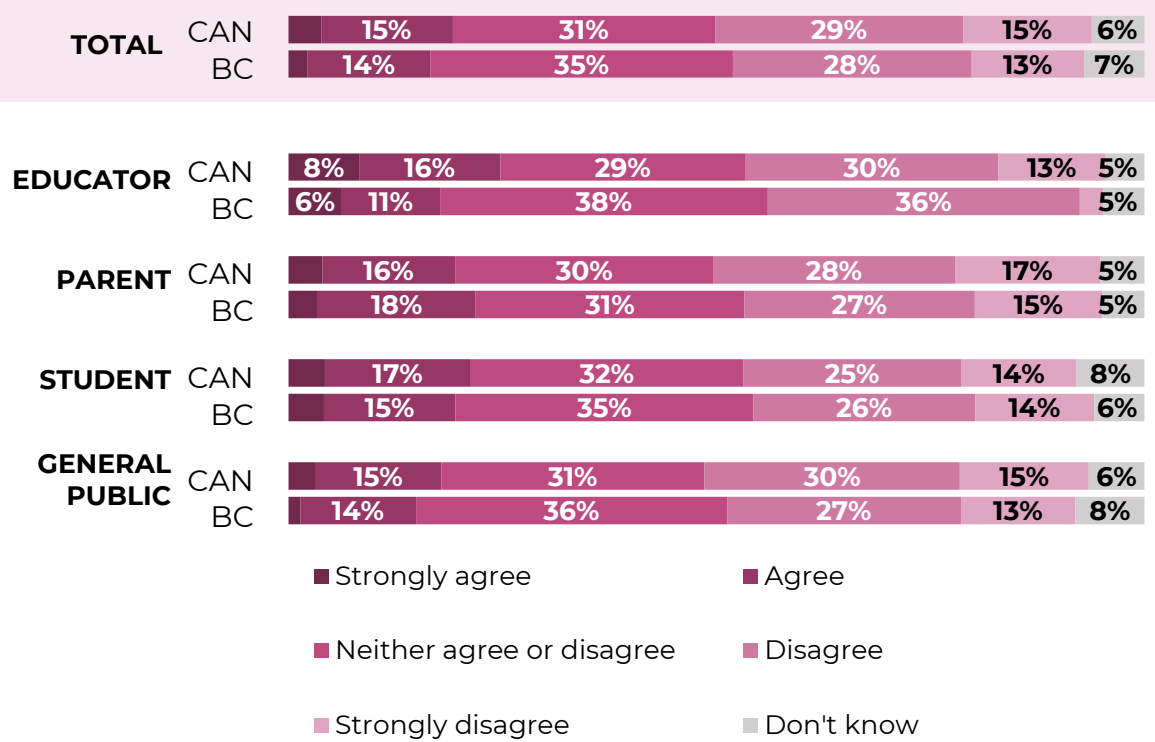


Province/Region

	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Strongly agree	29%	31%	17%	20%	17%	27%	41%	23%	38%
Agree	38%	33%	31%	32%	38%	43%	39%	37%	30%
Neither agree or disagree	15%	15%	22%	22%	13%	14%	11%	18%	24%
Disagree	8%	12%	11%	11%	12%	8%	4%	13%	3%
Strongly disagree	5%	5%	12%	11%	8%	4%	3%	5%	2%
Don't know	4%	4%	6%	4%	10%	3%	2%	5%	3%

Few Canadians (19%) and even fewer BC residents (17%) agree that the government is doing a good job in their actions to address climate change.

Total Results by Respondent Group



Province/Region

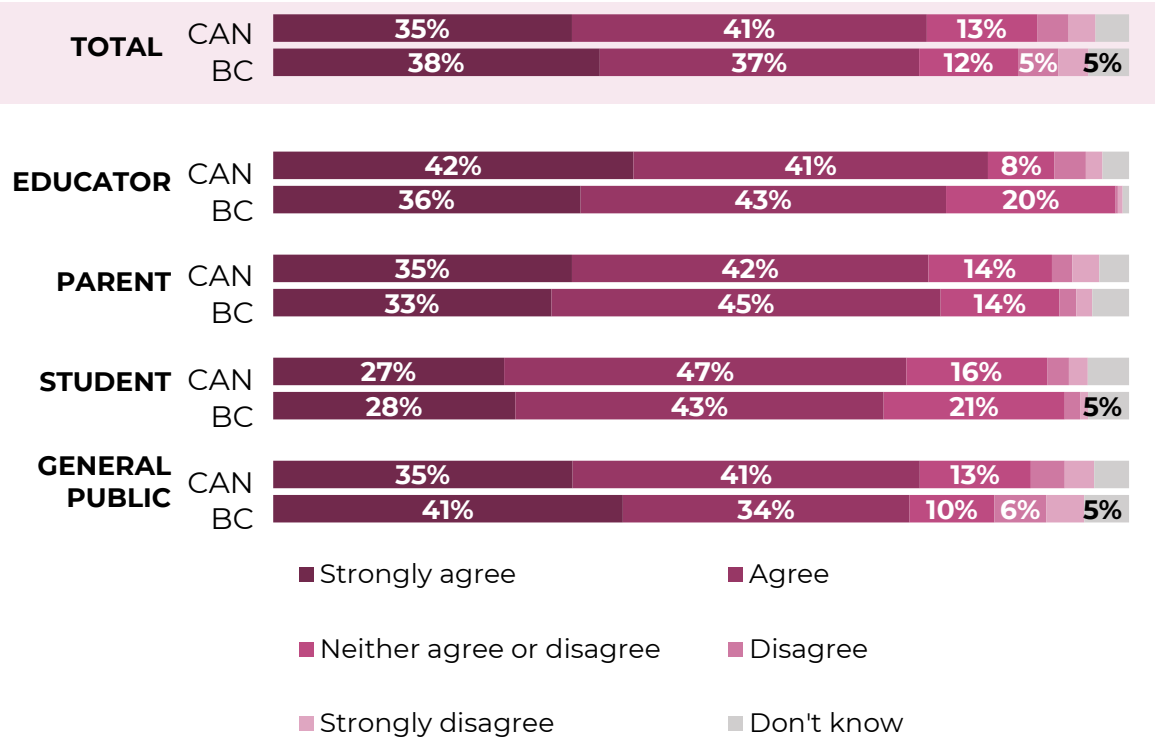
	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Strongly agree	4%	2%	3%	4%	3%	5%	3%	5%	6%
Agree	15%	14%	12%	13%	14%	18%	14%	18%	12%
Neither agree or disagree	31%	35%	25%	28%	34%	29%	32%	32%	25%
Disagree	29%	28%	30%	24%	23%	29%	33%	22%	18%
Strongly disagree	15%	13%	23%	22%	12%	14%	12%	16%	31%
Don't know	6%	7%	7%	8%	14%	5%	5%	7%	8%

Personal actions are important, but systemic change is required to address climate challenges.

Perceptions of Climate Change

Three-quarters (75%) of BC residents agree that while personal actions are important, systemic change is required to address climate challenges, in line with Canadians overall (76%) BC educators are most likely to agree (79%), closely followed by parents (78%).

Total Results by Respondent Group

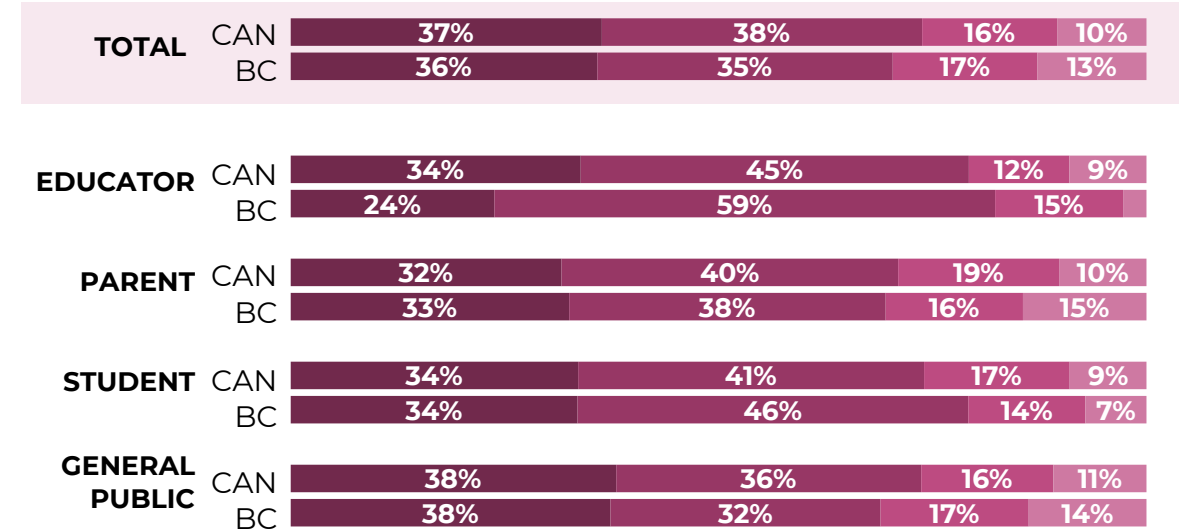


Province/Region

	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Strongly agree	35%	38%	29%	24%	23%	34%	41%	35%	37%
Agree	41%	37%	41%	37%	41%	46%	39%	37%	42%
Neither agree or disagree	13%	12%	16%	19%	21%	12%	11%	17%	7%
Disagree	4%	5%	5%	8%	4%	3%	3%	4%	5%
Strongly disagree	3%	4%	5%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Don't know	4%	5%	4%	8%	8%	3%	4%	5%	7%

Most BC residents are either ‘Empowered’ (36%) or ‘Aware’ (35%) regarding climate change, while fewer are ‘Skeptics’ (17%) or ‘Dismissive’ (13%), similar to Canadians overall. While 59% of BC educators are aware only 24% are empowered, less than the national average (34%).

Total Results by Respondent Group



■ Empowered ■ Aware ■ Skeptics ■ Dismissive

Province/Region

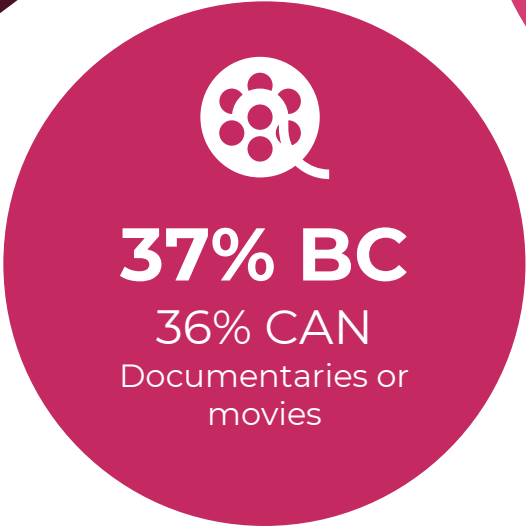
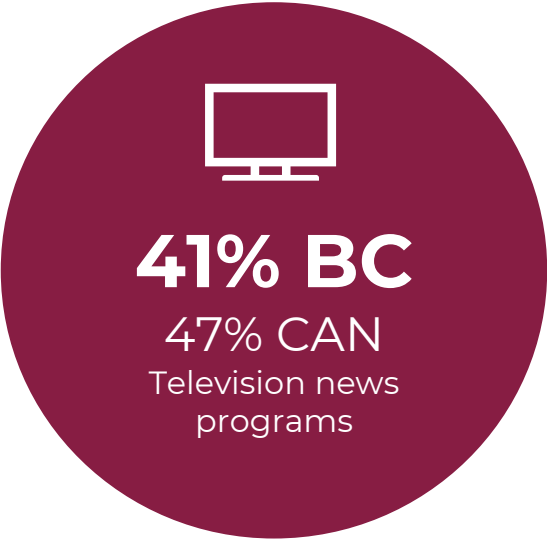
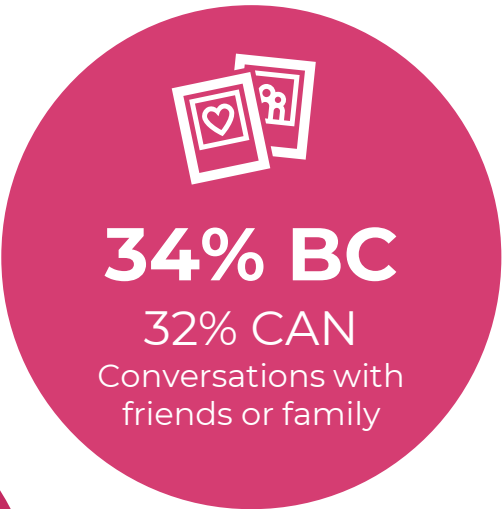
	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Empowered	37%	36%	26%	22%	37%	36%	46%	32%	27%
Aware	38%	35%	38%	33%	27%	40%	37%	42%	47%
Skeptics	16%	17%	24%	30%	21%	15%	9%	19%	16%
Dismissive	10%	13%	14%	18%	15%	9%	9%	7%	12%

Note: Engagement categories are from EcoAnalytics who has tracked Canadian climate opinion through its Canadian Ladder of Engagement since 2016. They identify four key audiences: Dismissives, who deny climate change; Skeptics, who doubt or are unsure of human causes; Aware individuals, who accept it but feel powerless; and Empowered individuals, who believe in both the problem and the potential for action.

Survey Results Climate Change Information

Survey Report

To develop effective climate communication and education strategies, it's crucial to understand where BC residents access climate change information. As misinformation spreads, pinpointing trusted messengers and preferred channels is key to ensuring that climate education, especially for young people is both credible and meaningful.



News is the primary source that BC residents use to inform themselves on climate change, either through newspapers, online news websites or television news.

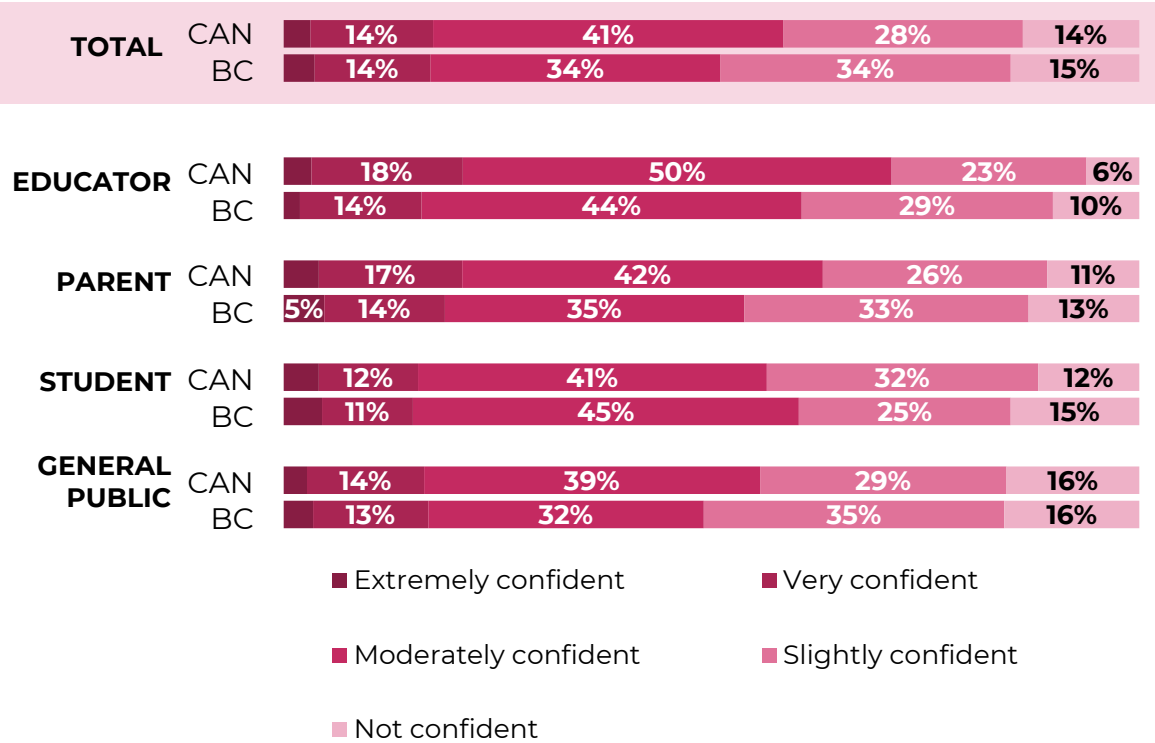
BC educators rely more on TV and radio news, while BC parents depend less on conversations with friends and family compared to parents across Canada.

% Selected	Respondent Group									
	Total		Educator		Parent		Student		General Public	
	CAN	BC	CAN	BC	CAN	BC	CAN	BC	CAN	BC
n=	4,228	538	782	65	1,283	173	1,053	151	1,369	173
Television news programs	46%	41%	50%	56%	39%	37%	32%	26%	49%	41%
Newspaper and/or online news websites	44%	48%	49%	54%	43%	41%	22%	21%	45%	52%
Documentaries or movies	36%	37%	41%	47%	39%	32%	29%	28%	36%	38%
Conversations with friends and family	32%	34%	38%	41%	32%	25%	41%	38%	30%	35%
Radio news programs	22%	19%	29%	52%	21%	20%	10%	13%	23%	16%
YouTube	22%	21%	23%	35%	24%	24%	36%	36%	19%	18%
Academic journals	13%	14%	23%	25%	15%	11%	7%	7%	12%	15%
Facebook	13%	13%	21%	18%	18%	16%	14%	13%	11%	12%
Books	12%	12%	17%	21%	13%	16%	15%	15%	11%	10%

How confident are you that you can tell the difference between real and fake climate change information?

Only 18% of BC residents are extremely or very confident that they can tell the difference between real and fake climate change information, in line with Canadians overall (17%).

Total Results by Respondent Group



Province/Region

	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Extremely confident	3%	4%	3%	5%	2%	3%	2%	6%	5%
Very confident	14%	14%	12%	10%	10%	13%	20%	16%	16%
Moderately confident	41%	34%	40%	39%	33%	38%	53%	38%	41%
Slightly confident	28%	34%	29%	29%	25%	31%	20%	27%	32%
Not confident	14%	15%	16%	17%	29%	16%	5%	14%	7%

Survey Results Climate Change Education

Survey Report

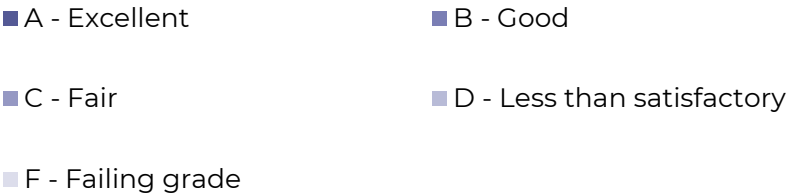
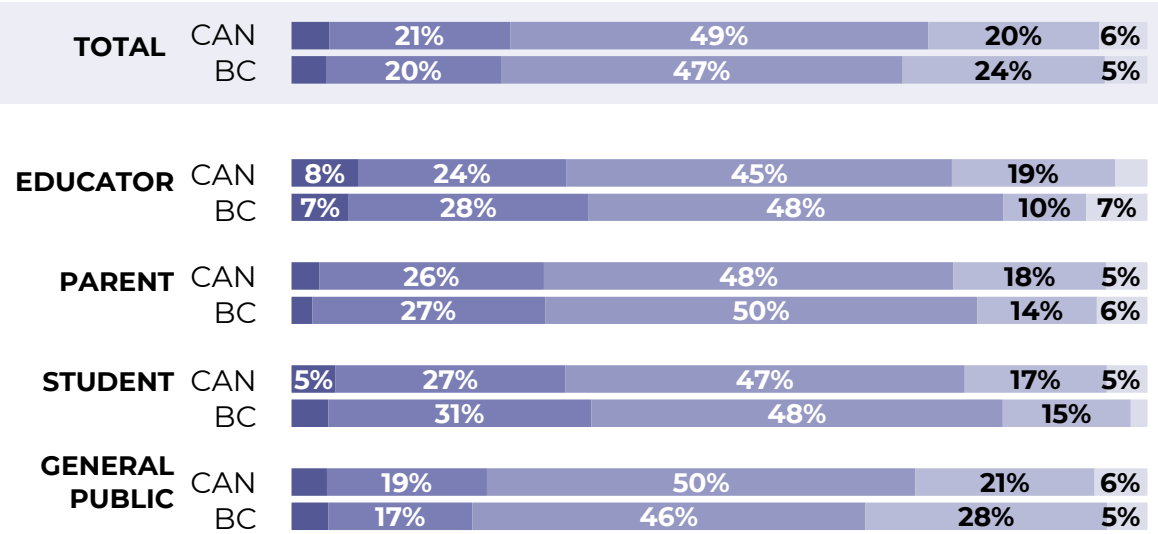
While climate change education is viewed as important in BC, it is not sufficient. BC residents are very supportive of starting early and expanding climate education beyond just the science. Teaching students to be critical thinkers is essential to meet the urgency of the issue and properly equip British Columbians.

What overall grade would you give schools in preparing students to understand and address climate change?

Climate Change Education

Most BC residents align with the rest of Canada in feeling schools are falling short in preparing students to understand and respond to climate change. Nearly half (47%) of BC residents would give schools a ‘C – Fair’ in preparing students to understand and address climate change. Similar to Canadians, few BC residents would give an ‘A’ grade (4%). 28% of the BC general public gave the grade of a ‘D’ which is higher than the national average (21%).

Total Results by Respondent Group



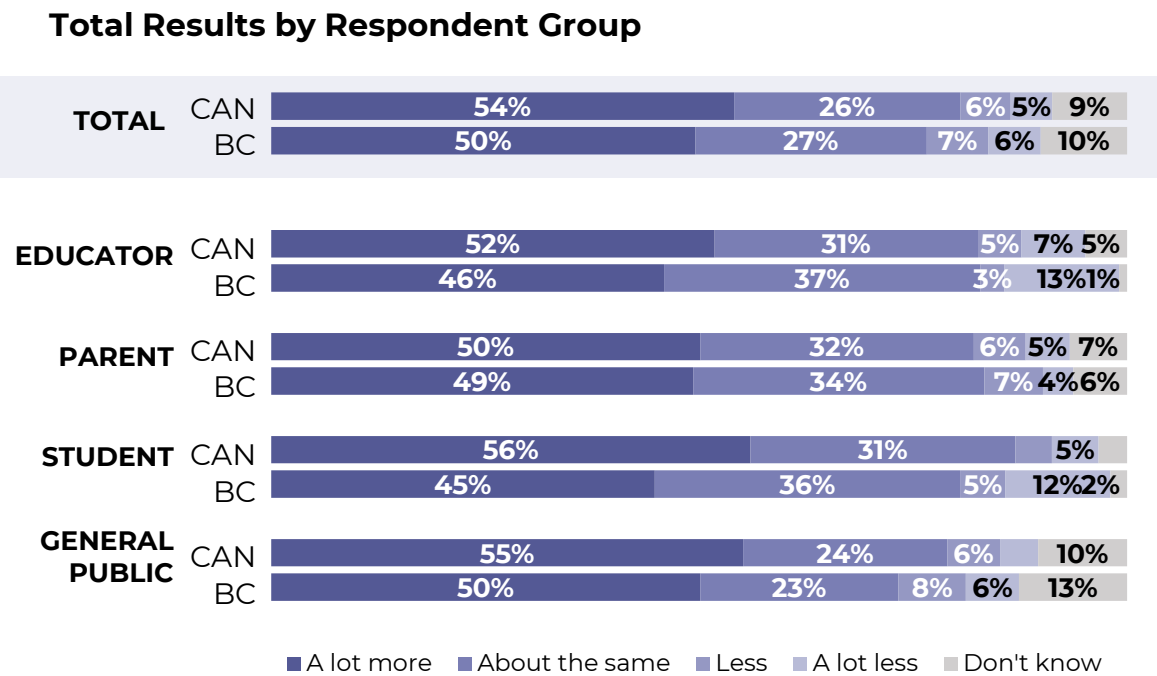
Province/Region

	NAT	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
A - Excellent	4%	4%	4%	6%	7%	4%	4%	7%	5%
B - Good	21%	20%	18%	17%	16%	22%	21%	26%	30%
C - Fair	49%	47%	50%	54%	55%	48%	49%	46%	47%
D - Less than satisfactory	20%	24%	24%	17%	13%	19%	20%	17%	17%
F - Failing grade	6%	5%	3%	6%	8%	6%	6%	4%	1%

Do you think the education system should be doing more, less, or about the same as now to educate young people about climate change?

Climate Change Education

Half (50%) of BC residents feel the education system should be doing a lot more to educate young people about climate change, slightly less than Canadians overall (54%).



Province/Region	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
A lot more	54%	50%	42%	37%	45%	56%	63%	55%	59%
About the same	26%	27%	30%	38%	29%	26%	22%	28%	29%
Less	6%	7%	12%	9%	11%	4%	4%	4%	3%
A lot less	5%	6%	5%	6%	3%	5%	5%	2%	1%
Don't know	9%	10%	11%	10%	12%	9%	5%	10%	7%

Climate change education is important to BC residents, with large proportions agreeing that climate change education needs to teach students to be critical thinkers (79%), should change the way people behave (66%) and be a high priority for schooling (58%). Very few BC educators agree that it is not the role of schools to teach about climate change (9%) compared to the Canadian average (22%).

% Agree (Agree/Strongly Agree)			Respondent Group							
	Total		Educator		Parent		Student		General Public	
	CAN	BC	CAN	BC	CAN	BC	CAN	BC	CAN	BC
	n= 4,228	538	782	65	1,283	173	1,053	151	1,369	173
Climate change education needs to teach students to be critical thinkers in order to counteract misinformation found on social media and other sources.	79%	79%	86%	93%	76%	74%	77%	81%	79%	79%
Climate change education should aim to change the way people behave.	70%	66%	75%	79%	69%	69%	71%	64%	70%	63%
Climate change education should be a high priority for schooling.	62%	58%	68%	57%	59%	62%	61%	57%	61%	57%
Climate change education should be the role of all teachers.	56%	55%	66%	65%	56%	57%	59%	54%	54%	53%
The topic of climate change is too complex and should not be discussed in younger grades.	20%	15%	25%	10%	21%	18%	20%	18%	20%	15%
It is not the role of schools to teach students about climate change.	18%	18%	22%	9%	20%	21%	19%	17%	16%	18%

When compared to other provinces, BC residents are less likely than most provinces to believe that the topic of climate change is too complex to be discussed in younger grades (15%) vs. 30% in MB, and 29% in AB.

% Agree (Agree/Strongly Agree)	Province/Region								
	CAN Total	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
n=	4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Climate change education needs to teach students to be critical thinkers in order to counteract misinformation found on social media and other sources.	79%	79%	79%	71%	73%	79%	82%	80%	71%
Climate change education should aim to change the way people behave.	70%	66%	58%	61%	60%	73%	78%	71%	70%
Climate change education should be a high priority for schooling.	62%	58%	52%	50%	46%	66%	64%	65%	64%
Climate change education should be the role of all teachers.	56%	55%	46%	48%	43%	58%	61%	56%	56%
The topic of climate change is too complex and should not be discussed in younger grades.	20%	15%	29%	29%	30%	22%	14%	21%	16%
It is not the role of schools to teach students about climate change.	18%	18%	16%	21%	26%	19%	14%	18%	19%

To what extent do you agree or disagree that climate change should be addressed in younger grades - Kindergarten to Grade 3, through the following topics?

Climate Change Education

When it comes to teaching younger (K-3) grades about climate change, BC educators agree that topics including green energy (73%) rather than more social elements such as mental health (43%) and peaceful protests (27%) should be taught. BC educators are more likely than their Canadian counterparts to think K-3 education should address social justice and racial inequities (56% vs. 49%).

Educators (% Agree/Strongly Agree)		CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL
	n=	782	65	74	41*	55	173	198	153
Green energy		77%	73%	62%	75%	66%	82%	75%	86%
Biodiversity/habitat loss		75%	67%	71%	80%	67%	79%	71%	83%
Over-consumption		75%	72%	70%	70%	66%	76%	77%	79%
Extreme weather		68%	80%	58%	76%	67%	70%	63%	75%
Carbon footprint of food/agriculture		62%	67%	62%	69%	61%	67%	51%	77%
Threats to physical health		58%	55%	53%	68%	45%	60%	54%	67%
Social justice and racial inequities		49%	56%	30%	57%	40%	53%	45%	56%
Eco-anxiety/threats to mental health		42%	43%	34%	47%	44%	48%	31%	57%
Peaceful dissent/protests		36%	27%	26%	46%	25%	41%	34%	38%

Most BC students report sometimes (55%) or rarely (30%) discussing climate change in their classes, few report always (1%) or often (8%).

K-12 Students (% Selected)	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL
n=	1,053	151	156	100	100	210	208	122
Always	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	-	1%
Often	9%	8%	10%	10%	10%	12%	4%	10%
Sometimes	48%	55%	52%	47%	40%	47%	47%	45%
Rarely	33%	30%	27%	32%	42%	33%	36%	38%
Never	9%	7%	10%	10%	7%	7%	14%	6%

How many hours over a course/school year would you typically spend on covering topics related to climate change in your classroom?

Climate Change Education

In alignment with students’ perceptions that climate change is rarely or never discussed, BC teachers are more likely to spend up to 10 hours (58%) than more than 10 hours (18%) within a course or school year on topics related to climate change. Only 19% do not cover climate change topics at all (not covered or not applicable), lower than Canadian educators overall (21%).

K-12 Teachers and Faculty of Education Instructors (% Selected)	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL
n=	611	45*	50*	31*	52	126	159	135
1 - 2 hours	15%	16%	24%	8%	13%	8%	19%	20%
3 - 5 hours	20%	15%	15%	22%	19%	24%	17%	22%
6 – 10 hours	16%	27%	23%	18%	17%	13%	14%	12%
11 – 15 hours	6%	15%	6%	3%	5%	5%	3%	8%
16 – 20 hours	10%	2%	3%	1%	1%	20%	3%	7%
21 – 30 hours	1%	1%	-	5%	3%	<1%	1%	6%
31 – 40 hours	2%	-	4%	-	-	3%	-	2%
More than 40 hours	1%	-	2%	2%	-	1%	-	2%
Don't know	9%	5%	11%	28%	14%	6%	9%	9%
Not covered/Not applicable	21%	19%	10%	13%	29%	18%	34%	13%

Survey Results What do Educators Say?

Survey Report

In British Columbia, educators face notable challenges in delivering climate change education. Few feel fully confident in their knowledge or teaching approaches. Common barriers include limited time, uncertainty around best practices, inconsistent support from school leadership and limited professional development. BC educators feel more supported from leadership compared to Canadians overall.

What degree of formal professional development on teaching climate change have you received?

What do Educators Say?

Current educators in BC report receiving various degrees of professional development on teaching climate change, with the majority having limited (21%) or moderate (37%). Fewer educators in BC have had no professional development on teaching climate change relative to the average Canadian educator (28% vs. 37%).

Current Educators (% Selected)	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL
n=	681	56	61	35*	54	147	172	143
Extensive	7%	1%	1%	8%	8%	10%	7%	14%
Considerable	18%	12%	32%	32%	17%	13%	17%	25%
Moderate	17%	37%	4%	27%	18%	21%	7%	16%
Limited	21%	21%	38%	16%	28%	16%	20%	23%
None	37%	28%	24%	16%	29%	40%	49%	22%

Perceived barriers to teaching climate change

What do Educators Say?

While there is interest among BC educators to teach climate change education, there are barriers. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of educators note a lack of time, and almost half (47%) sometimes feel unsure of the appropriate instructional strategies. Over half (53%) of BC educators do, however, feel they have the knowledge and skills needed to teach climate change, slightly higher than Canadian educators.

K-12 Teachers and Faculty of Education Instructors (% Agree/Strongly Agree)	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL
n=	611	45*	50	31*	52	126	159	135
I feel that a lack of time within course/grade to teach the topic of climate change is a significant barrier.	66%	63%	86%	78%	50%	66%	58%	67%
I sometimes feel unsure that I know the appropriate instructional strategies to teach this complex topic.	50%	47%	44%	60%	51%	54%	41%	58%
I feel I have the knowledge and skills needed to teach climate change.	47%	53%	45%	55%	55%	51%	27%	64%
I would like to include climate change education but feel parents might not be supportive.	35%	40%	39%	55%	36%	31%	25%	59%

How supported by your principal and your board do you feel in teaching climate change?

What do Educators Say?

20% of BC educators feel very supported by their principal and board in teaching climate change. Fewer BC educators reported not feeling supported by their principal and board (14%) compared to the average Canadian teacher (25%).

K-12 Teachers (% Selected)		CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL
	n=	568	44*	47*	29*	50	110	152	132
Extremely Supported		5%	3%	2%	7%	1%	3%	2%	18%
Very Supported		17%	20%	10%	15%	30%	19%	8%	33%
Moderately Supported		27%	47%	22%	27%	27%	21%	26%	26%
Slightly Supported		26%	16%	38%	40%	19%	29%	27%	16%
Not Supported		25%	14%	29%	10%	23%	28%	36%	7%

Survey Results Next Steps in Supporting Climate Change Education

Survey Report

In British Columbia, students are especially looking to feel empowered when it comes to climate change. Educators support this interest and believe action projects are important. Still, gaps remain in both content coverage and systemic support. There is a clear opportunity to strengthen climate education by making it a mandatory part of the curriculum, according to BC educators.

Students - If you could decide what you would learn in school about climate change, what would you tell your teacher?

Next Steps

When it comes to climate change education, BC students are interested in learning about solutions to the problem (40%) and scientific evidence (21%). More BC students want teachers to help them feel empowered (12%) compared to other provinces.

K-12 Students (% Mentioned)	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL
n=	594	98	88	61	62	117	88	77
Offer solutions to the problem / How to reduce your carbon footprint (e.g. alternate transportation, less pollution)	35%	40%	40%	41%	39%	36%	20%	37%
Explain scientific evidence of what cause climate change / Facts	22%	21%	23%	26%	26%	23%	20%	14%
Make people aware of their actions / Consequences of actions	11%	14%	5%	11%	14%	12%	10%	7%
Educate people more / Awareness (general)	8%	9%	5%	13%	4%	6%	6%	20%
Empower individuals so they feel they can make a difference	4%	12%	1%	-	4%	3%	2%	8%
Controversial issues should be kept out of classrooms	4%	5%	8%	-	5%	2%	4%	-
Recycling programs	4%	-	1%	-	2%	2%	12%	2%
Talk more / Discussions	3%	4%	-	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%
Other	6%	6%	3%	8%	4%	7%	7%	5%
Nothing / Satisfied with things currently	3%	2%	2%	-	-	4%	4%	1%

Educators respond to each of the following statements, as they apply to their classes.

Next Steps

BC educators are likely to include a variety of methods in teaching climate change, such as including solutions to climate change (58%) and encouraging students to take action (56%). Fewer BC educators include Indigenous traditional knowledge (16%) than Canadian educators overall (32%).

K-12 Teachers and Faculty of Education Instructors (% A moderate amount/A great amount)		CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL
	n=	611	45*	50	31*	52	126	159	135
I encourage students to take action as part of their learning.		60%	56%	68%	68%	39%	66%	54%	57%
I include solutions to climate change.		49%	58%	51%	64%	36%	52%	45%	50%
I teach critical media literacy so students can make the distinction between fact and opinion.		48%	52%	61%	45%	34%	53%	36%	51%
I emphasize aspects of ethics and social justice within climate change impacts.		32%	31%	26%	34%	25%	36%	28%	36%
I include Indigenous traditional knowledge about climate change.		32%	16%	13%	43%	27%	51%	9%	42%

*Use caution when interpreting results due to low sample size (n<50). Groups with <30 respondents not shown due to small sample size. Territories included in total but not reported due to insufficient sample.

What changes would you suggest to improve climate change education?

Next Steps

To improve climate change education, BC residents would like to see support for student-led climate action projects and activities (53%) and more flexibility in curriculum to allow for climate change topics (45%). Educators in BC are most likely to agree (46%) that mandatory climate change curriculum should be taught in all grades.

% Selected			Respondent Group							
	Total		Educator		Parent		Student		General Public	
	CAN	BC	CAN	BC	CAN	BC	CAN	BC	CAN	BC
n=	4,228	538	782	65	1,283	173	1,053	151	1,369	173
Support for student-led climate action projects and activities	45%	53%	49%	66%	41%	43%	45%	48%	46%	55%
More flexibility in curriculum to allow for climate change topics	42%	45%	40%	41%	39%	38%	41%	42%	43%	47%
Professional development for teachers on climate change	39%	38%	47%	52%	33%	31%	35%	33%	40%	39%
Mandatory climate change curriculum to be taught in all grades	38%	38%	39%	46%	34%	36%	37%	33%	39%	38%
Incorporation of climate change education in teacher preparation programs	38%	43%	44%	28%	36%	34%	35%	35%	38%	48%
Stronger collaboration between schools, parents and community organizations	36%	38%	37%	37%	34%	38%	37%	41%	36%	38%
Increased funding for climate change education programs and resources	35%	34%	42%	40%	34%	29%	37%	33%	35%	34%
Promote pathways for sustainability and climate-related careers	35%	37%	37%	28%	34%	31%	33%	34%	35%	40%

What changes would you suggest to improve climate change education?

Next Steps

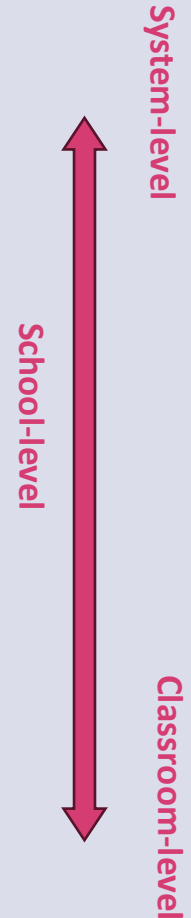
Compared to other provinces across Canada, more BC residents suggest support for student-led activities (53%) and the incorporation of climate change education in teacher preparation programs (43%) especially compared to MB (26%).

% Selected	Province/Region								
	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
n=	4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Support for student-led climate action projects and activities	45%	53%	36%	29%	44%	45%	48%	44%	48%
More flexibility in curriculum to allow for climate change topics	42%	45%	38%	31%	42%	42%	42%	44%	51%
Professional development for teachers on climate change	39%	38%	37%	35%	35%	40%	39%	42%	52%
Mandatory climate change curriculum to be taught in all grades	38%	38%	29%	35%	31%	43%	35%	39%	48%
Incorporation of climate change education in teacher preparation programs	38%	43%	33%	33%	26%	37%	41%	37%	40%
Stronger collaboration between schools, parents and community organizations	36%	38%	33%	32%	33%	36%	35%	37%	48%
Increased funding for climate change education programs and resources	35%	34%	31%	31%	32%	40%	30%	42%	42%
Promote pathways for sustainability and climate-related careers	35%	37%	37%	31%	37%	37%	29%	34%	38%

From Awareness to Action

Key Action Items to Improve Climate Change Education in Schools:

- **Integrate climate change across the curriculum** and give teachers greater flexibility to integrate climate change topics into existing curriculum.
- **Expand Professional Development**, including pre-service teachers
- **Invest in more resources** for teachers, as well as **enhanced strategies to teach complex** topics such as helping students identify and address misinformation, linking climate change to social inequities and racial injustice, and effectively teaching controversial or political topics.
- **Foster a School-Wide Culture of Climate Learning** - Teachers are calling for stronger leadership that values climate change education.
- **Increase classroom time on climate change topics** and focus on **solutions and student-led climate action projects** to increase real-world learning and empowerment.
- **Teaching critical thinking and media literacy** has never been more urgent – Canadians don't feel confident identifying false climate change information, and highly support teaching students to evaluate conflicting information.



Respondent Profile

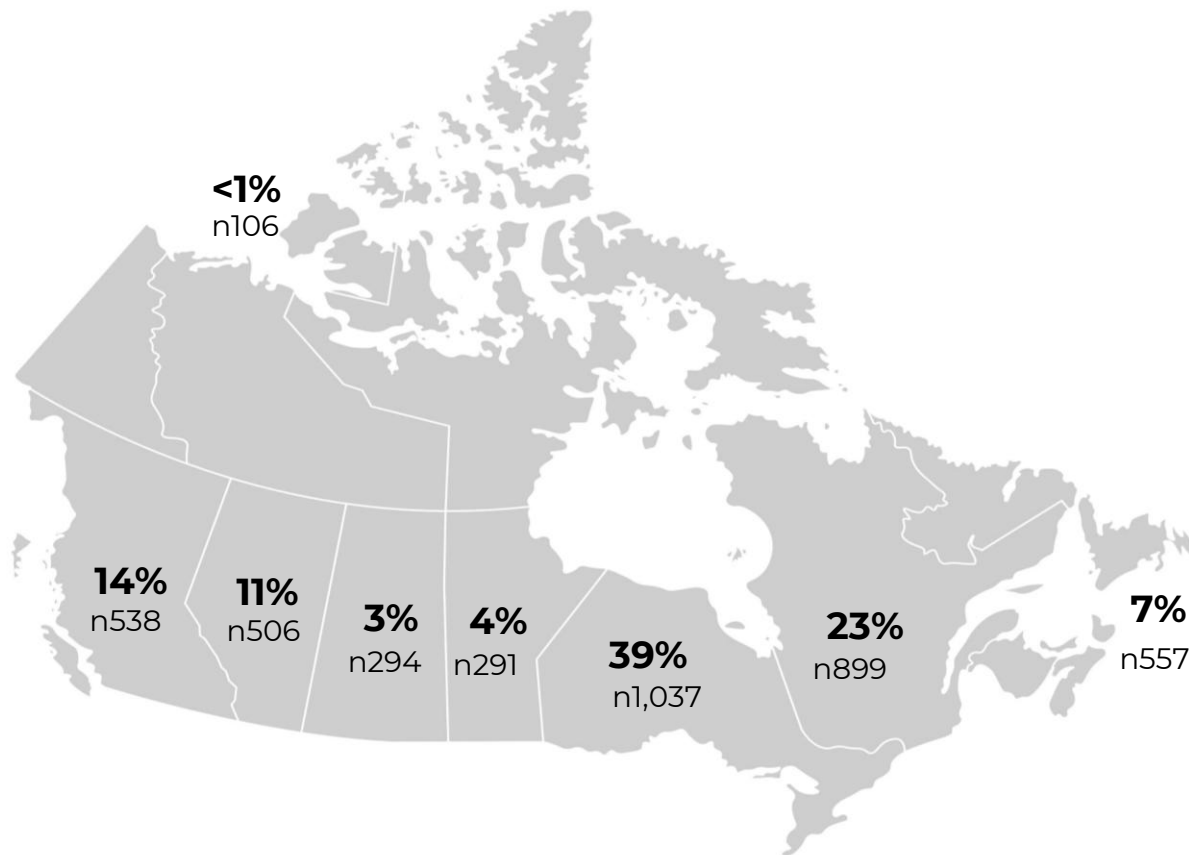
Survey Report



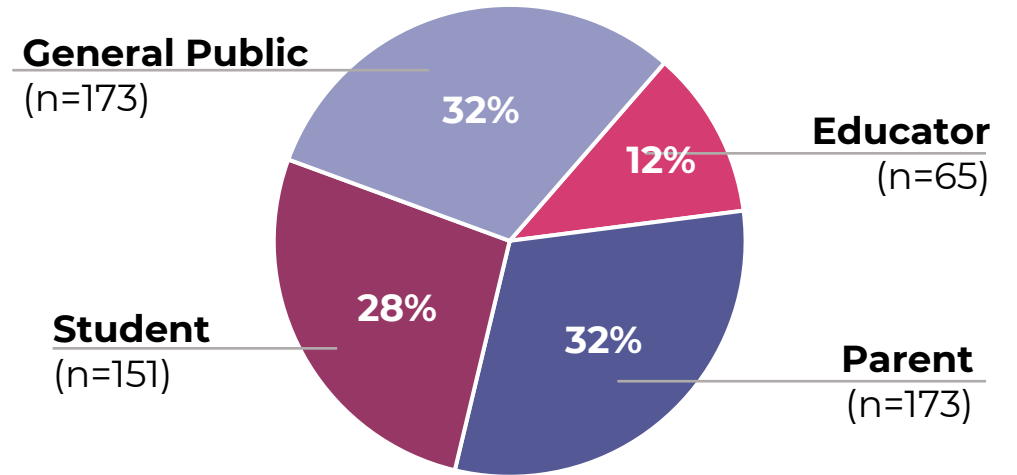
LSF
Learning for a
Sustainable Future

Respondent Profile

Province/Region



Respondent Group - British Columbia



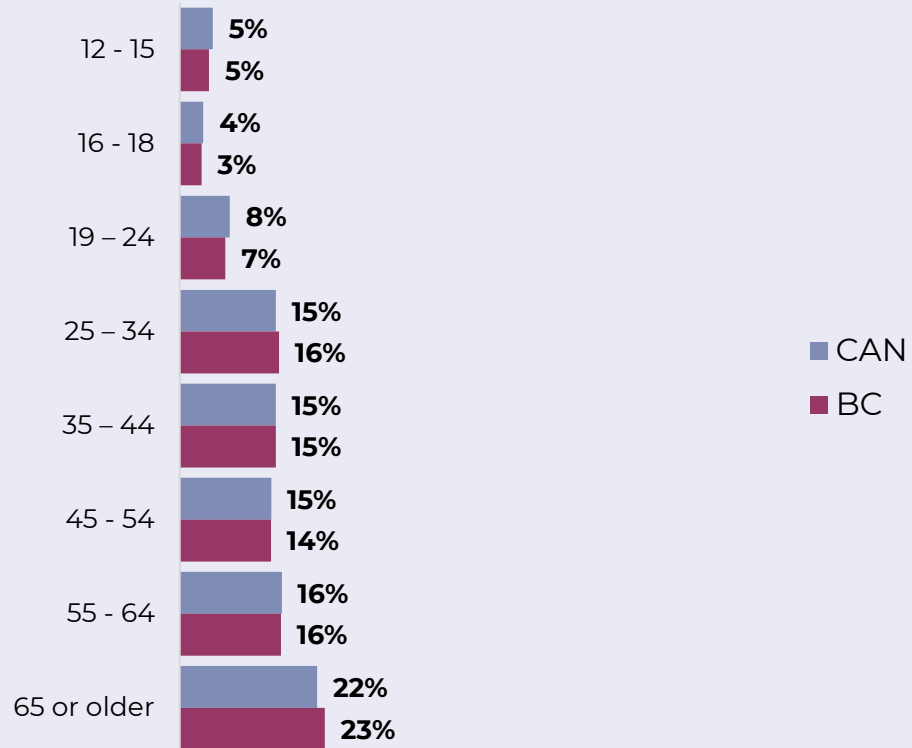
National

Educator	18% (n=782)
Parent	30% (n=1,283)
Student	25% (n=1,053)
General Public	32% (n=1,369)

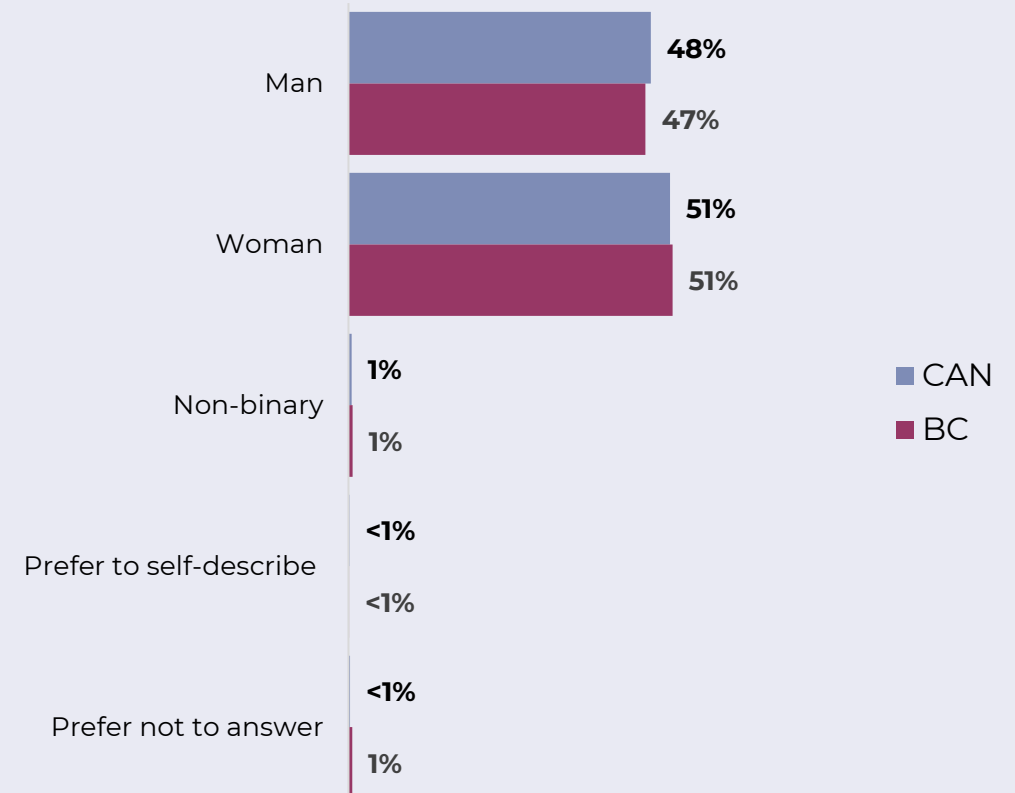


Respondent Profile

Age

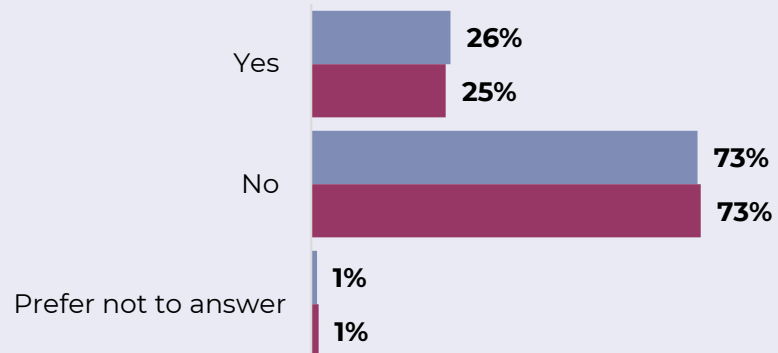


Gender

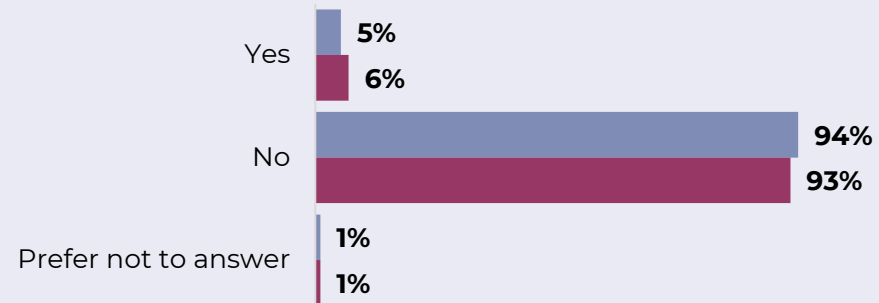


Respondent Profile

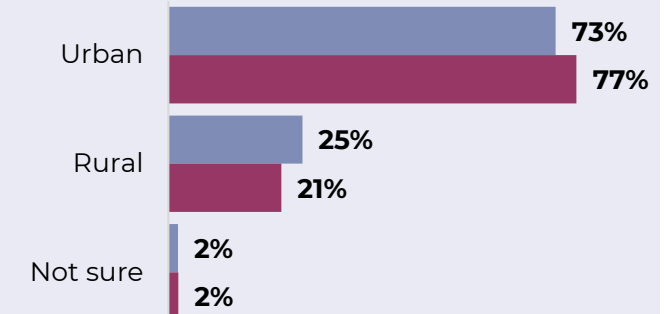
Children in Household



Identify as Indigenous



Area



■ CAN
■ BC





Contact information

Jenn Stevens
President and CEO
Learning for a Sustainable Future
cc-survey@LSF-LST.ca
1 877 250 8202

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