

FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION: CANADIANS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND EDUCATION

2025 Survey Results

ONTARIO REPORT



LSF
Learning for a
Sustainable Future



Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF)



Learn more at LSF-LST.ca



- 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 Ontario.

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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Methodology

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 Ontario, where 1,037 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.

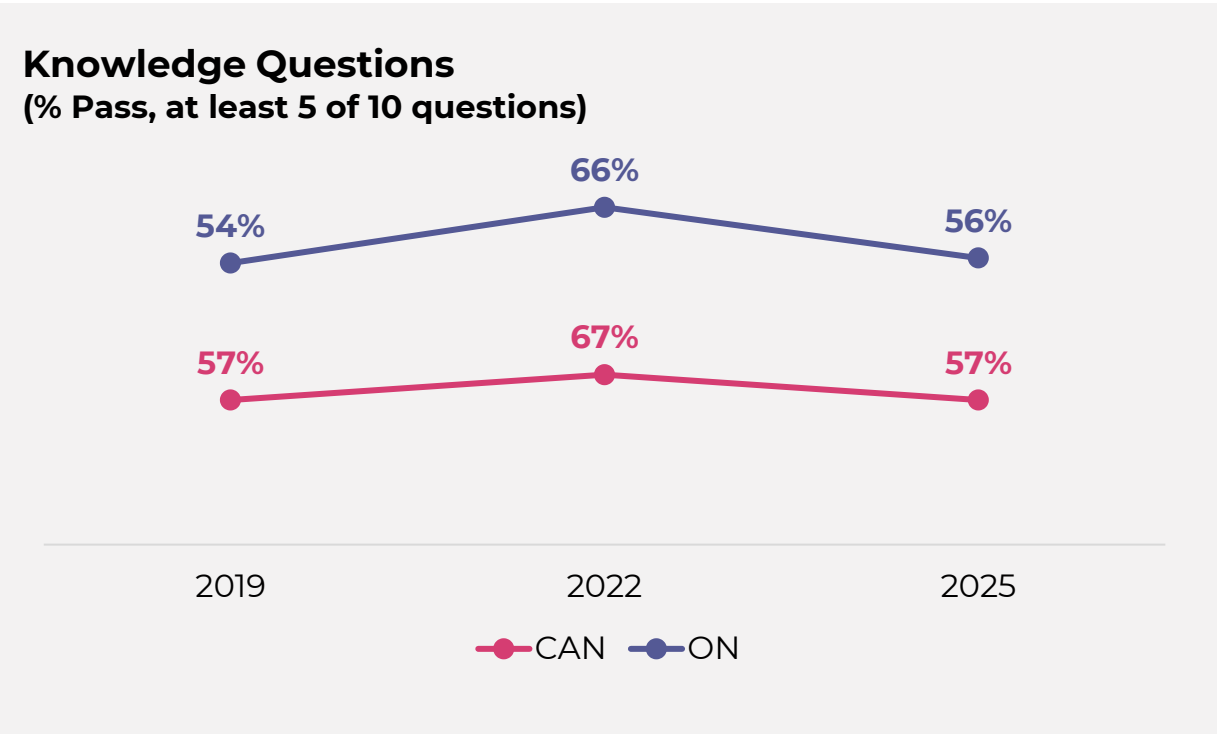
*K-12 education includes CÉGEP in Quebec

Survey Results Knowledge Questions

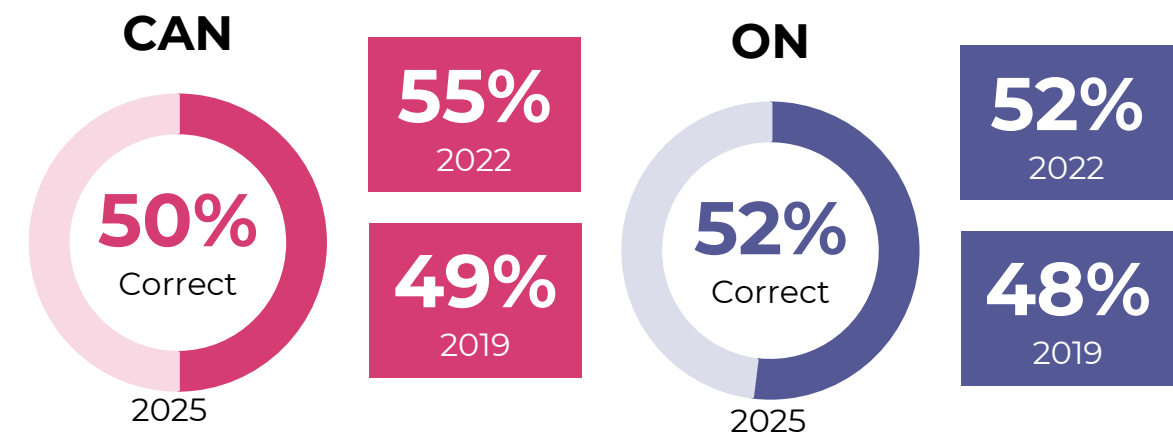
Survey Report

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

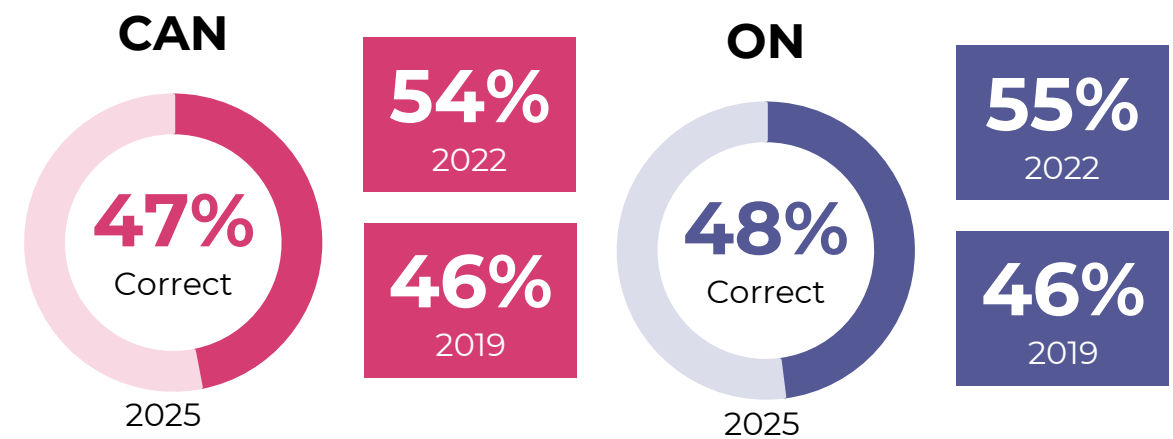
When it comes to knowledge on climate change, Ontario residents are similar to Canadians overall. However, they both follow the same trend of returning to 2019 levels after rising in 2022.



Climate change is caused by carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases....

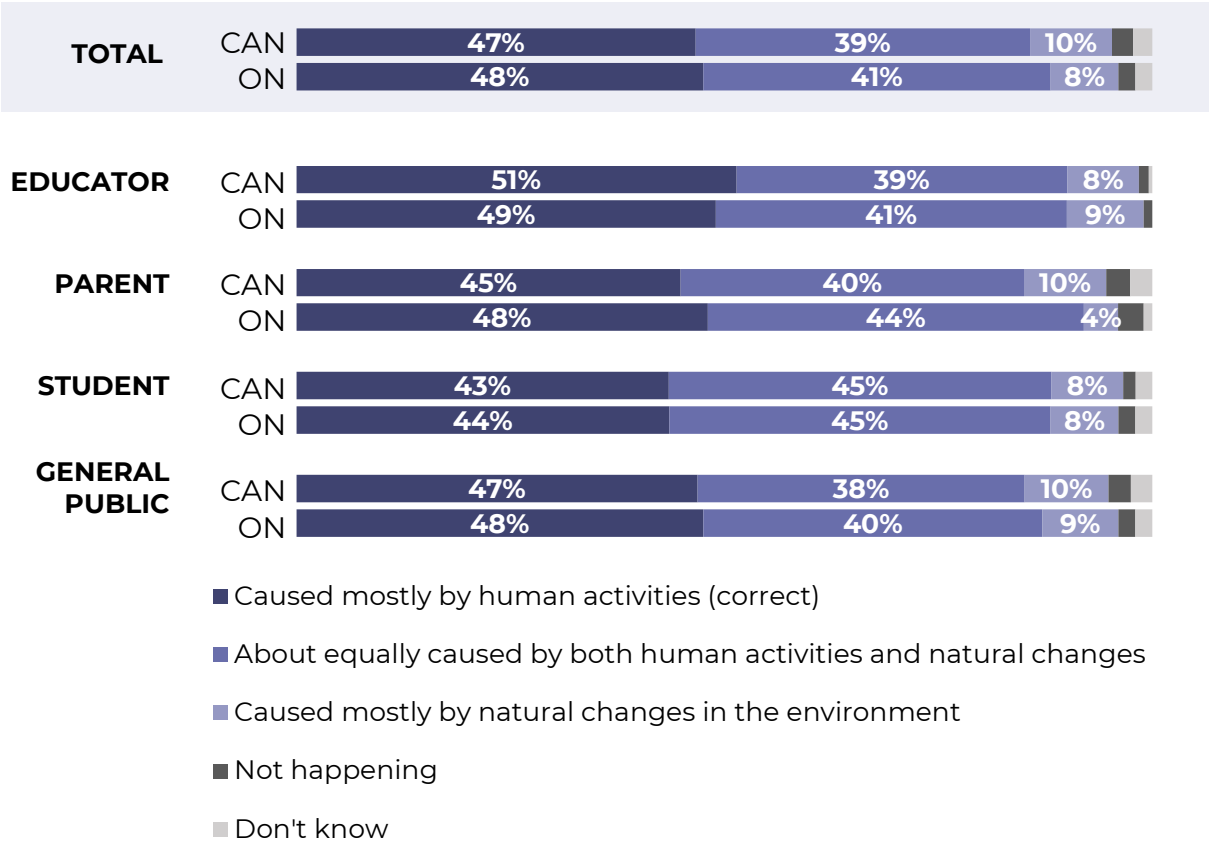


Climate change is caused mostly by human activities



Nearly half (48%) of Ontario residents are correct in their belief that climate change is caused mostly by human activities, matching Canadians overall (47%).

Total Results by Respondent Group

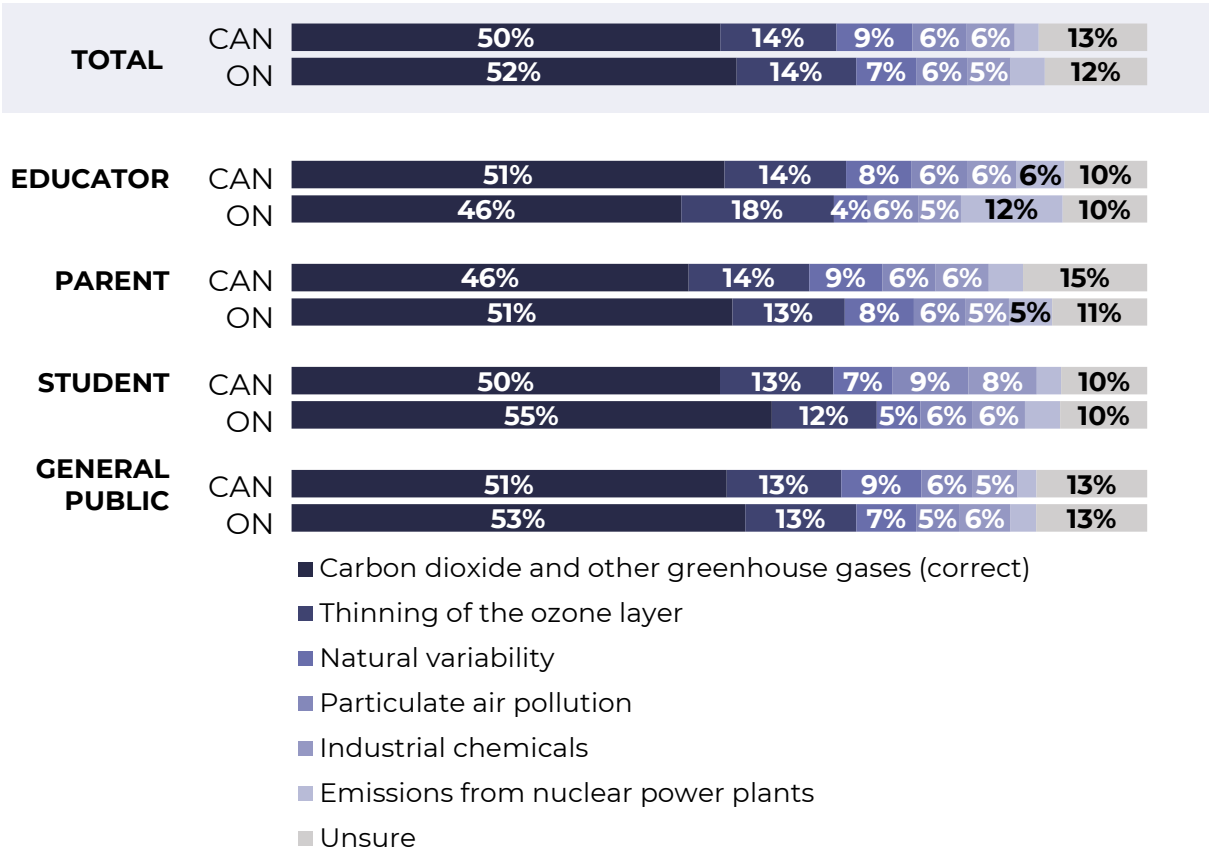


Province/Region

	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%

More than half (52%) of Ontario residents believe that climate change is caused by carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, similar to Canadians overall (50%). While most selected this correct answer, a notable portion of Ontario residents also believe that climate change could be caused by a variety of other factors.

Total Results by Respondent Group

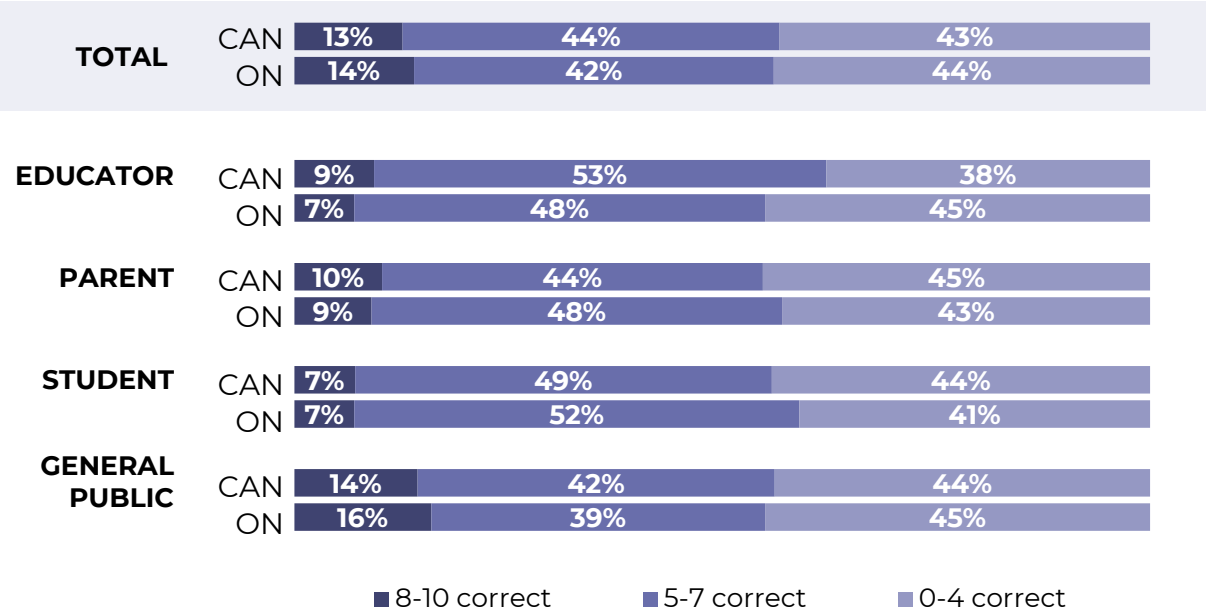


Province/Region

	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%

56% of Ontario residents received a passing grade (5 or more knowledge questions correct out of 10) similar to the Canadian average of 57%. Ontario educators had a lower pass rate (55%) than Canadian educators (62%).

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%

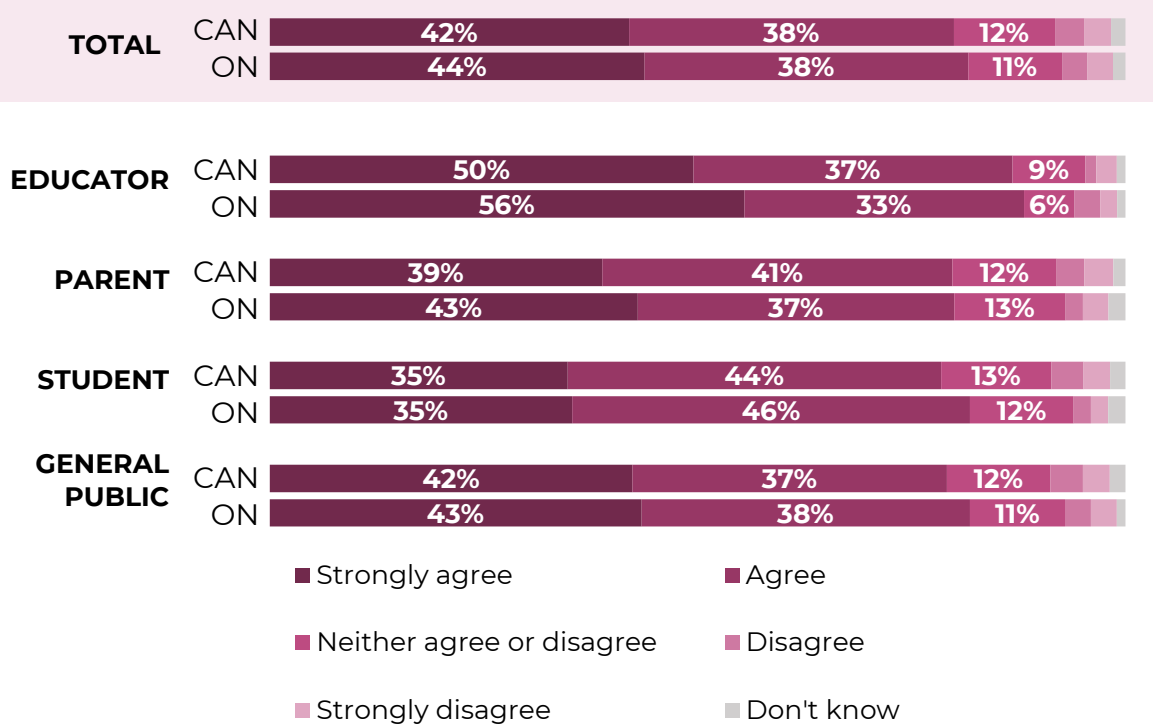
Survey Results Perceptions of Climate Change

Survey Report

Ontario residents overwhelmingly believe we have not done enough to care for the planet and are willing to make lifestyle changes to address climate change. Almost half of Ontario residents report they have personally experienced climate change effects, and negative emotions including anxiety and frustration are common, with Ontarians feeling slightly more hopeful than the average among Canadians. Ontarians also tend to have a slightly more positive response to government action.

A large majority of Ontario residents (82%) agree that people have failed to care for the planet, in line with Canadians (80%). Ontario educators are more likely to strongly agree (56%), compared to the Canadian educator average (50%).

Total Results by Respondent Group



Province/Region

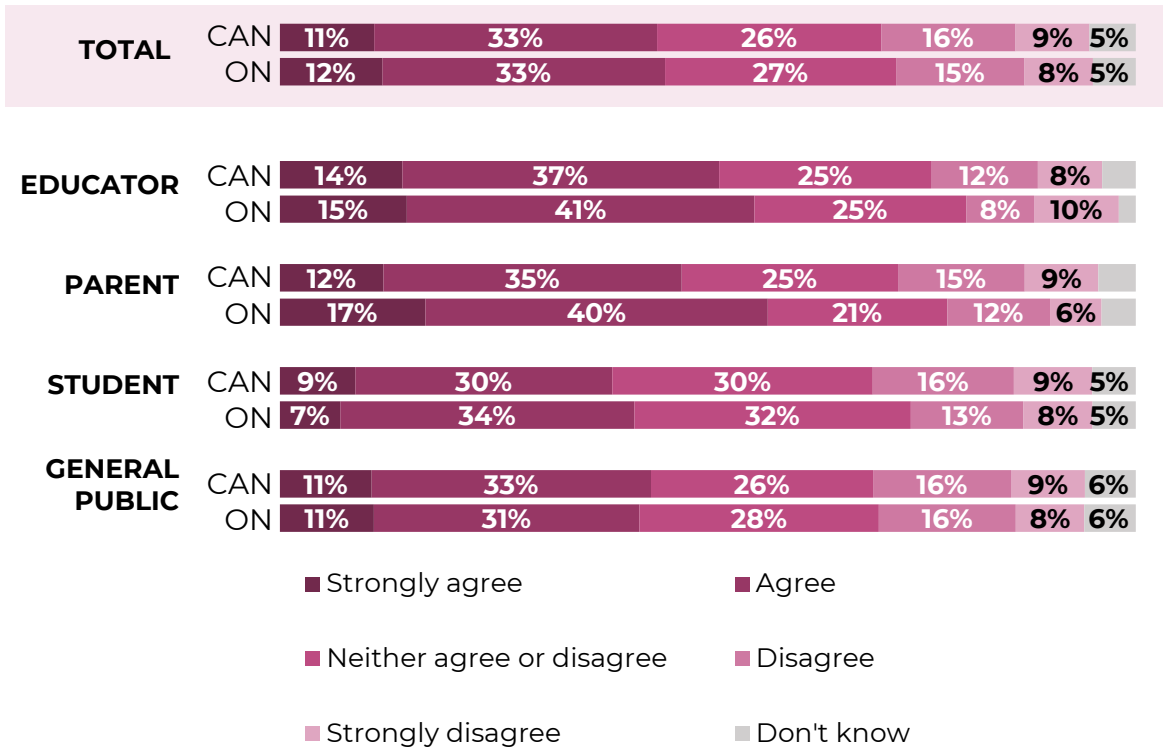
	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Strongly agree	42%	36%	37%	30%	32%	44%	49%	40%	39%
Agree	38%	42%	33%	34%	47%	38%	36%	40%	39%
Neither agree or disagree	12%	14%	16%	20%	12%	11%	8%	14%	7%
Disagree	3%	3%	7%	6%	5%	3%	2%	4%	4%
Strongly disagree	3%	4%	4%	8%	2%	3%	3%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

I have personally experienced the effects of climate change.

Perceptions of Climate Change

Almost half (45%) of Ontario residents agree that they have personally experienced the effects of climate change, similar to other Canadians (44%). More Ontario parents agree (57%) than Canadian parents (47%).

Total Results by Respondent Group



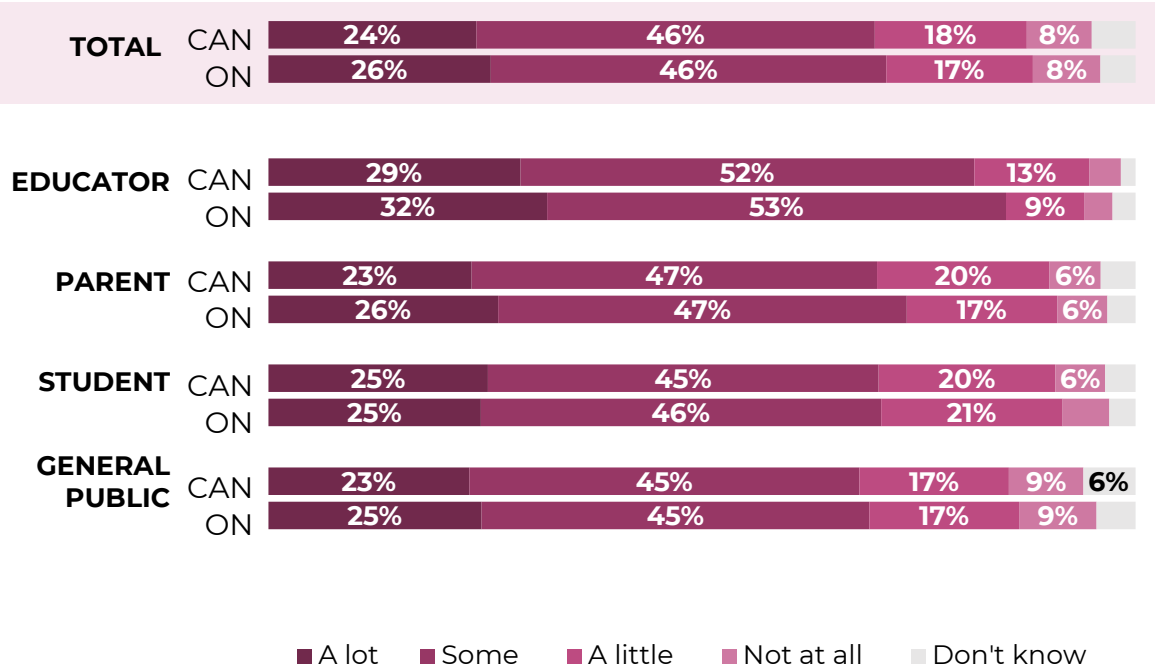
Province/Region

	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 (88%) of Ontario 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%).

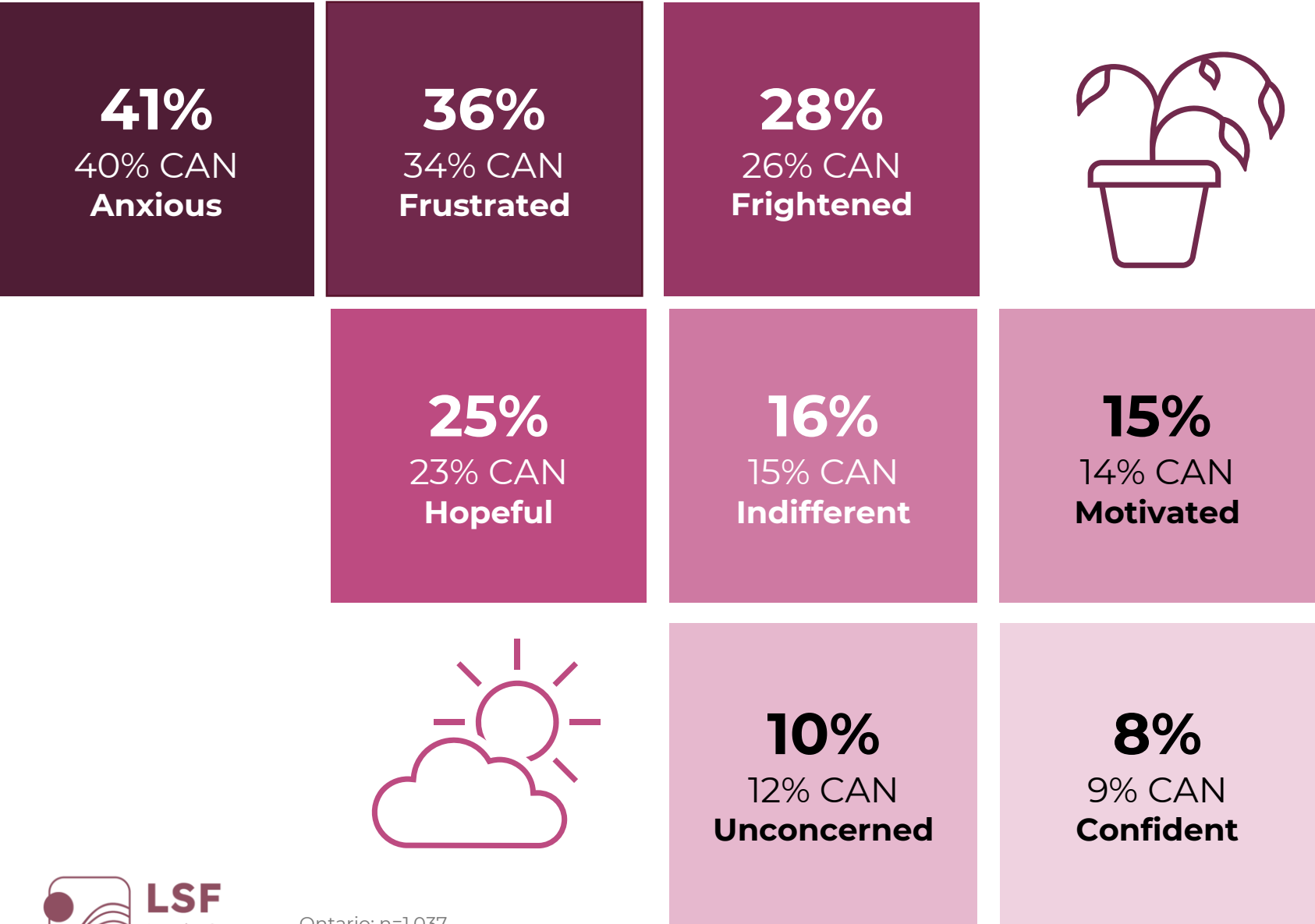
Total Results by Respondent Group



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?



Ontario residents mirror the Canadian averages regarding emotions surrounding climate change. Feelings tend to be negative, including emotions such as being anxious, frustrated or frightened.

Still, 25% of Ontario residents are hopeful, slightly higher than the Canadian average (23%).

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

Perceptions of Climate Change

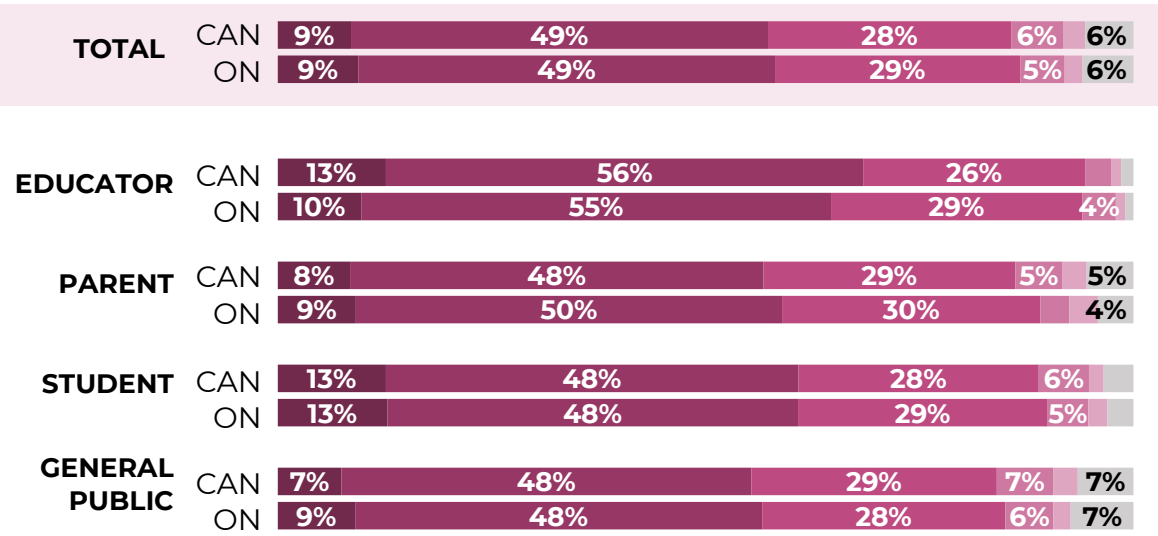
When examining climate change emotions more deeply by respondent groups, Ontario students report feeling less anxious (37%) and more hopeful (28%) when compared to the average for all Canadian students (41% and 25% respectively).

% Selected			Respondent Group							
	Total		Educator		Parent		Student		General Public	
	CAN	ON	CAN	ON	CAN	ON	CAN	ON	CAN	ON
	n= 4,228	1,037	782	173	1,283	268	1,053	210	1,369	448
Anxious	40%	41%	43%	48%	39%	44%	41%	37%	39%	41%
Frustrated	34%	36%	31%	35%	33%	32%	30%	30%	36%	37%
Frightened	26%	28%	29%	26%	28%	34%	27%	27%	25%	27%
Hopeful	23%	25%	28%	28%	24%	28%	25%	28%	22%	24%
Indifferent	15%	16%	9%	12%	16%	14%	16%	15%	16%	17%
Motivated	14%	15%	19%	19%	15%	16%	14%	12%	13%	14%
Unconcerned	12%	10%	9%	6%	11%	7%	11%	12%	12%	10%
Confident	9%	8%	13%	10%	6%	4%	9%	8%	9%	9%

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

Few (9%) Ontario residents believe that humans can and will reduce climate change, while almost half (49%) believe humans could reduce climate change, but it is unclear if we will do what is needed. These views match other Canadians.

Total Results by Respondent Group



- Humans can reduce climate change and we are going to do so successfully
- Humans could reduce climate change but it's unclear at this point whether we will do what's needed
- Humans could reduce climate change but people aren't willing to change their behaviour so we're not going to
- Humans can't reduce climate change
- Climate change isn't happening
- Don't know

Province/Region

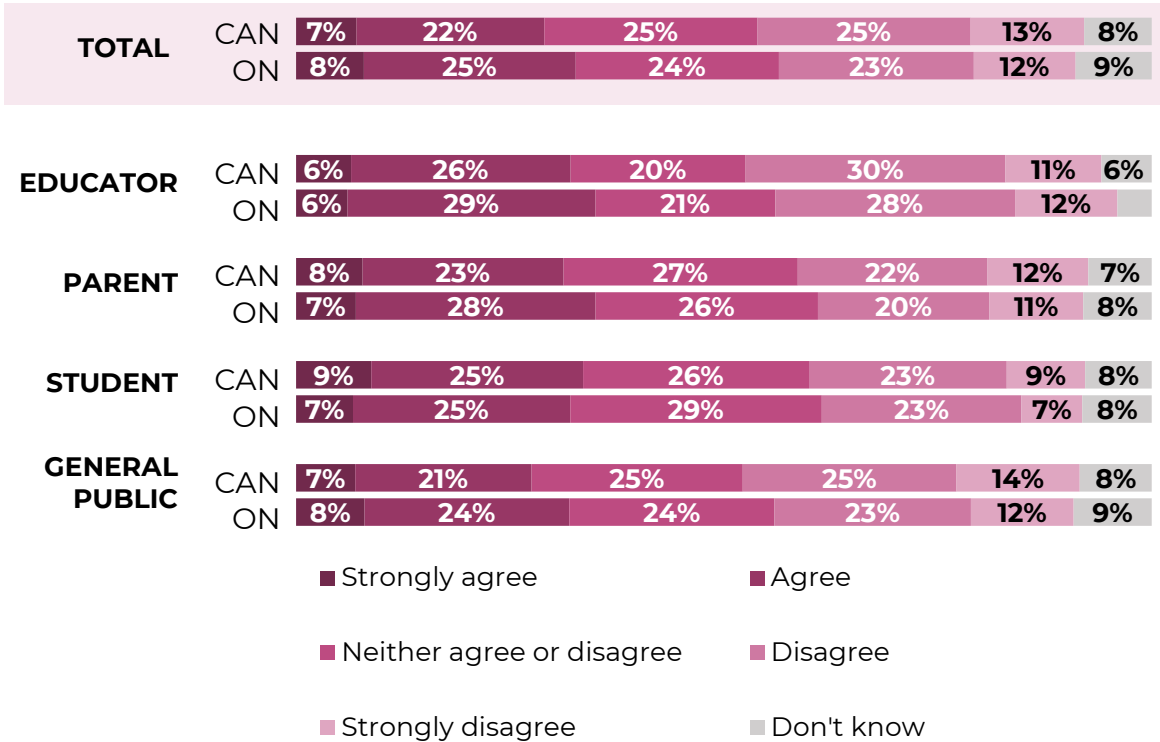
	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Humans can reduce climate change and we are going to do so successfully	9%	8%	10%	7%	7%	9%	7%	11%	9%
Humans could reduce climate change but it's unclear at this point whether we will do what's needed	49%	52%	46%	48%	50%	49%	48%	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

Ontario residents have mixed views as to whether they think new technologies can solve climate change. More Ontario educators and parents agree (35% and 35% respectively than the Canadian average (32% and 31% respectively).

Total Results by Respondent Group



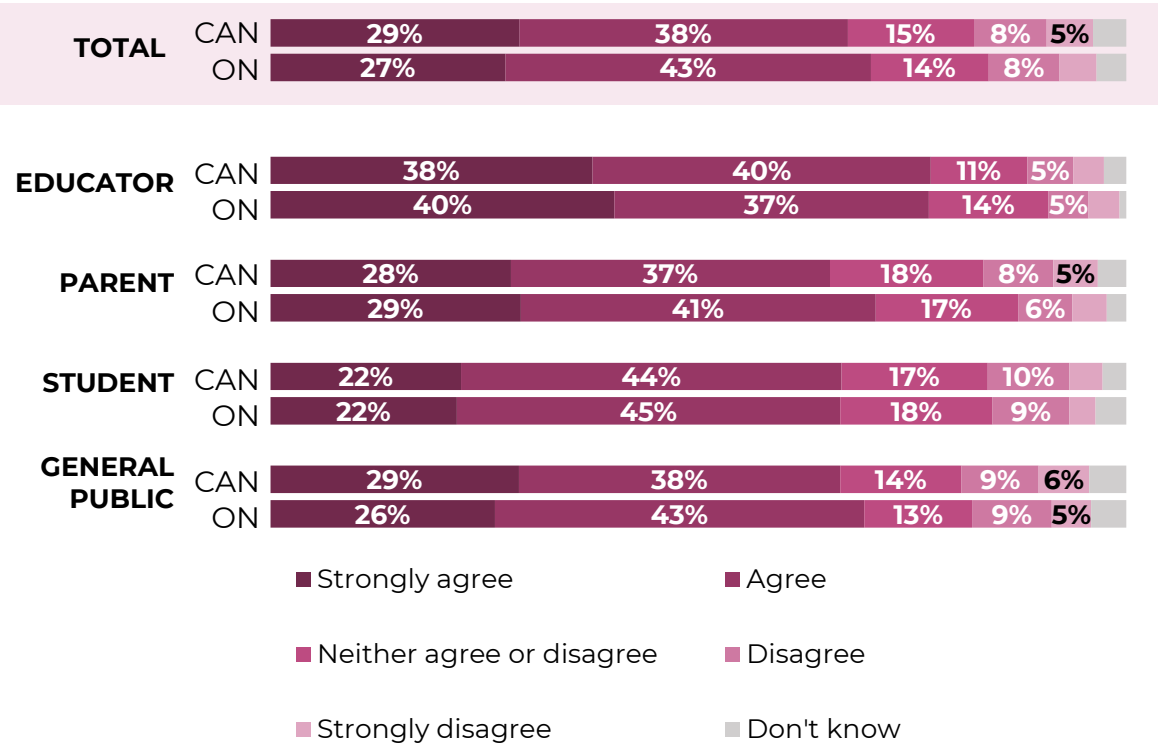
Province/Region

	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.”

70% of Ontario residents agree that we are experiencing a climate emergency, with 40% of Ontario educators strongly agreeing with the statement.

Total Results by Respondent Group

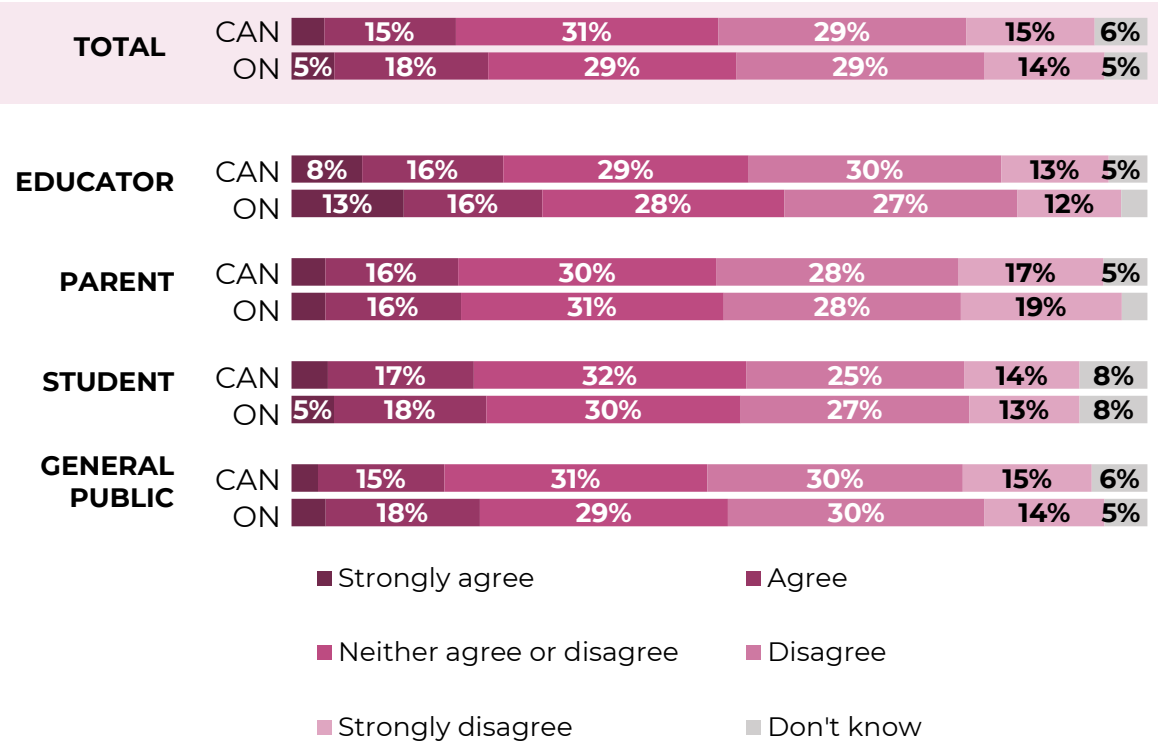


Province/Region

	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%

Almost one-quarter (23%) of Ontario residents agree that the government is doing a good job in their actions to address climate change, higher than the Canadian average (19%). Ontario educators are especially supportive with 29% agreeing with the government response.

Total Results by Respondent Group



Province/Region

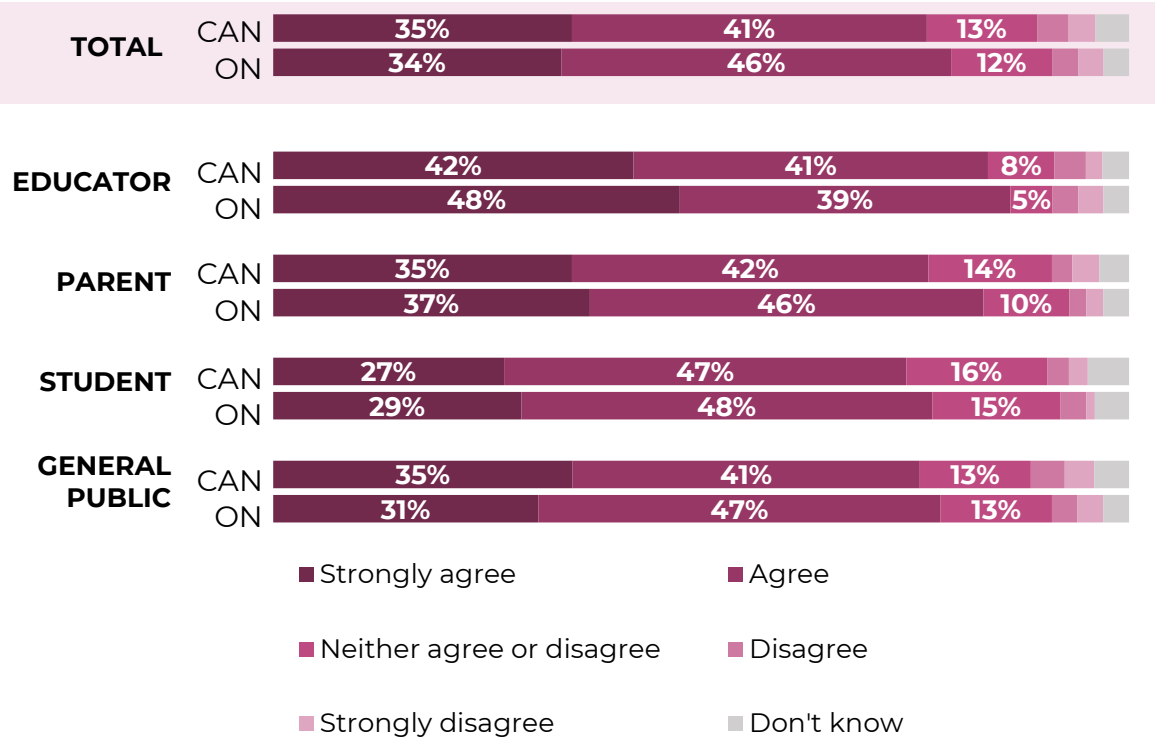
	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Strongly agree	4%	2%	3%	4%	3%	5%	3%	5%	6%
Agree	15%	14%	12%	13%	14%	18%	14%	18%	12%
Neither agree or disagree	31%	35%	25%	28%	34%	29%	32%	32%	25%
Disagree	29%	28%	30%	24%	23%	29%	33%	22%	18%
Strongly disagree	15%	13%	23%	22%	12%	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

79% of Ontario residents agree that while personal actions are important, systemic change is required to address climate challenges, in line with Canadians overall (76%). Ontario educators and parents are the most likely to feel this way (87% and 83% respectively).

Total Results by Respondent Group

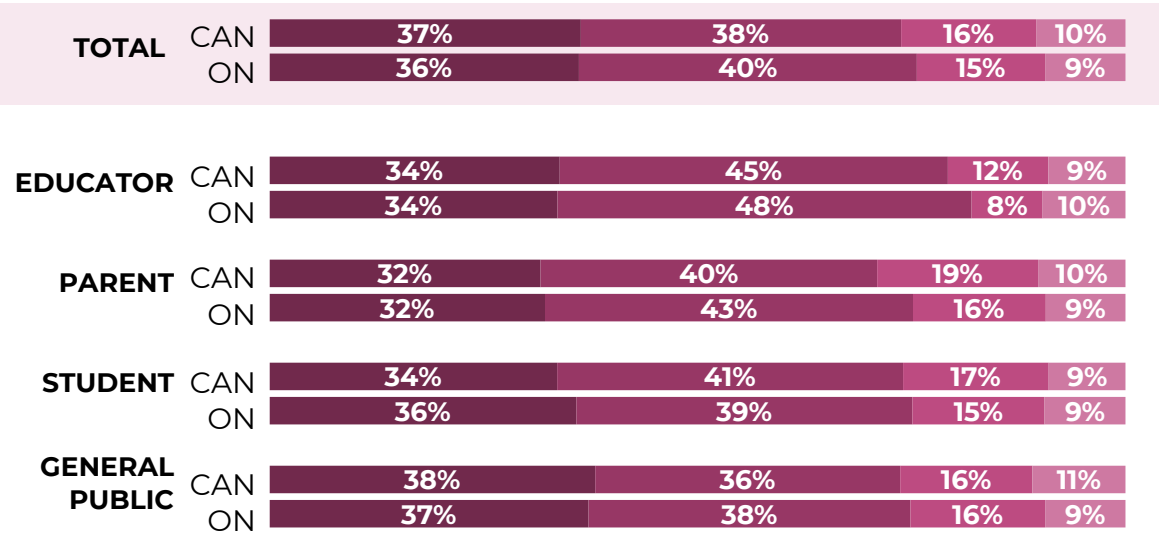


Province/Region

	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 Ontario residents are either ‘Empowered’ (36%) or ‘Aware’ (40%) surrounding climate change, while fewer are ‘Skeptics’ (15%) or ‘Dismissive’ (9%); similar to rates among Canadians overall.

Total Results by Respondent Group



■ Empowered ■ Aware ■ Skeptics ■ Dismissive

Province/Region

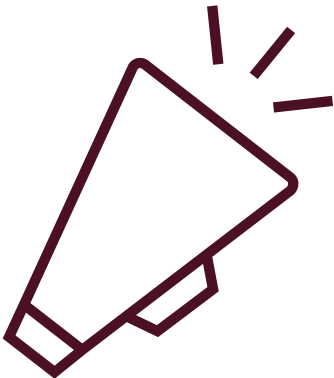
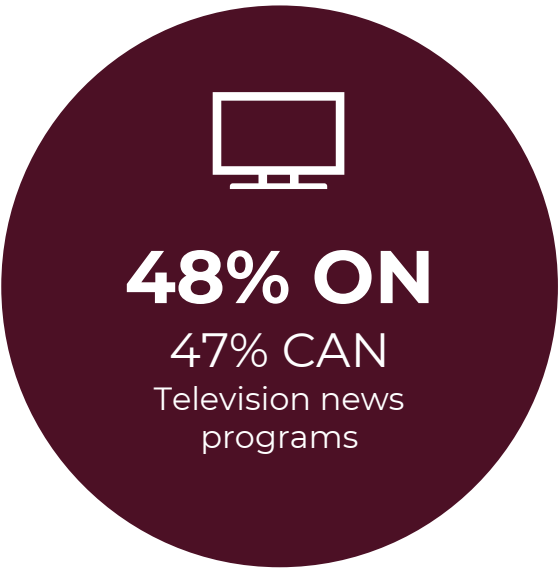
	CAN	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	TER
	n= 4,228	538	506	294	291	1,037	899	557	106
Empowered	37%	36%	26%	22%	37%	36%	46%	32%	27%
Aware	38%	35%	38%	33%	27%	40%	37%	42%	47%
Skeptics	16%	17%	24%	30%	21%	15%	9%	19%	16%
Dismissive	10%	13%	14%	18%	15%	9%	9%	7%	12%

Survey Results Climate Change Information

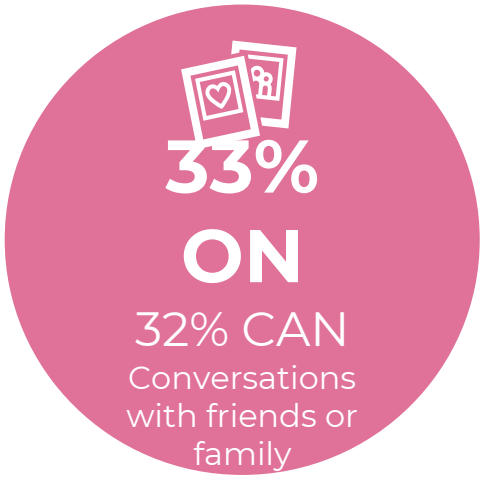
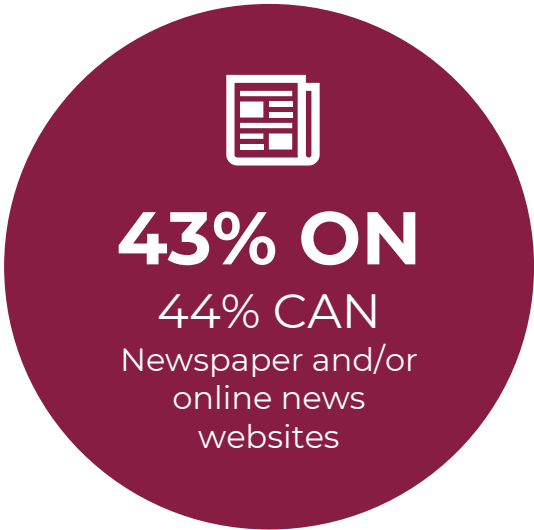
Survey Report

Understanding where Ontario residents seek climate change information – is essential for developing effective communication strategies and education efforts. As misinformation continues to spread, identifying trusted messengers and preferred channels can help ensure that climate education reaches target audiences, especially young people, in ways that are both credible and relevant.

Which of the following do you use to inform yourself about climate change?



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



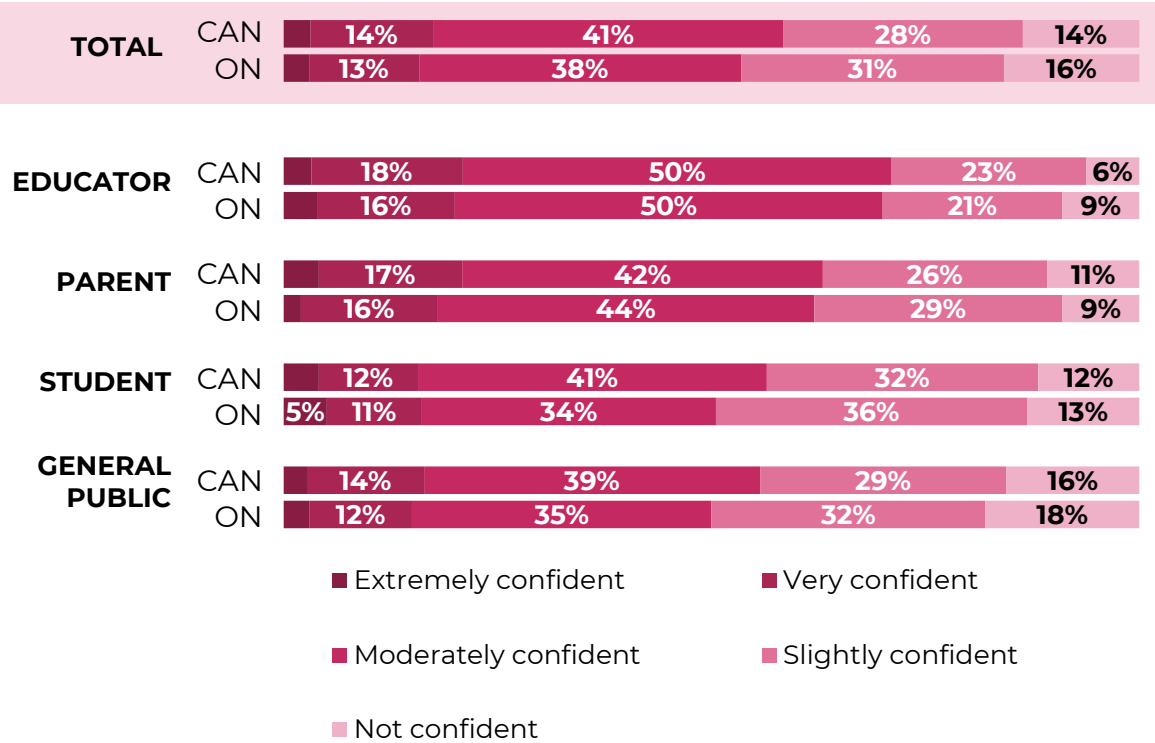
Ontario residents use a variety of sources to inform themselves about climate change, including television news (48%) and newspaper and news websites (43%). Educators in Ontario are more likely to watch television news (58%) than the national educator average (50%).

% Selected	Respondent Group									
	Total		Educator		Parent		Student		General Public	
	CAN	ON	CAN	ON	CAN	ON	CAN	ON	CAN	ON
n=	4,228	1,037	782	173	1,283	268	1,053	210	1,369	448
Television news programs	46%	48%	50%	58%	39%	41%	32%	33%	49%	49%
Newspaper and/or online news websites	44%	43%	49%	51%	43%	42%	22%	23%	45%	44%
Documentaries or movies	36%	36%	41%	39%	39%	40%	29%	28%	36%	35%
Conversations with friends and family	32%	33%	38%	38%	32%	37%	41%	42%	30%	30%
Radio news programs	22%	22%	29%	26%	21%	21%	10%	9%	23%	23%
YouTube	22%	21%	23%	17%	24%	32%	36%	37%	19%	19%
Academic journals	13%	14%	23%	24%	15%	14%	7%	8%	12%	13%
Facebook	13%	12%	21%	25%	18%	17%	14%	11%	11%	10%
Books	12%	13%	17%	16%	13%	12%	15%	16%	11%	12%

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

Only 16% of Ontario 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

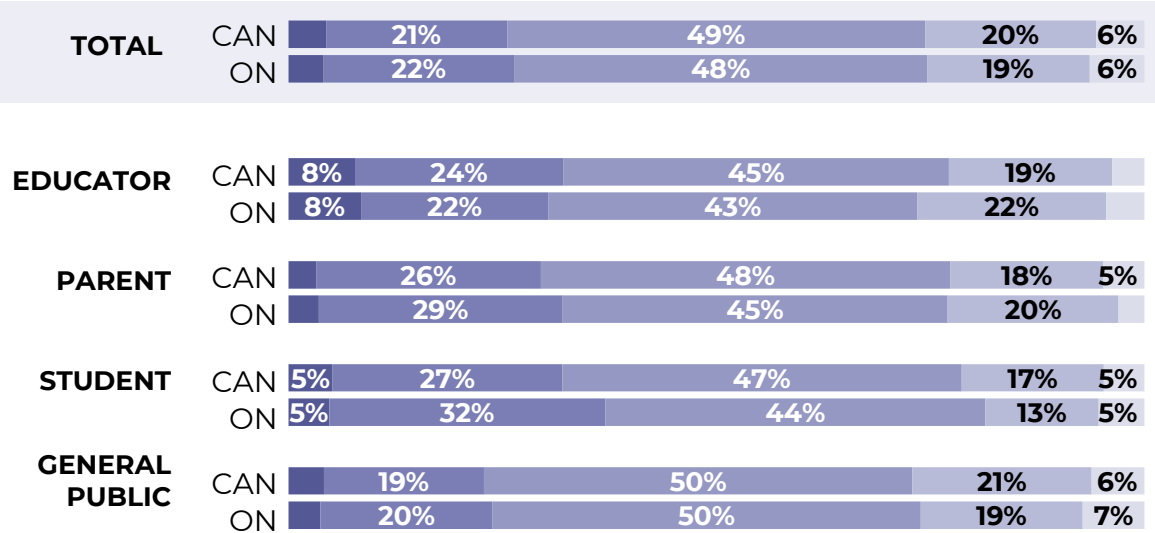
Survey Report

Climate change education in Ontario is recognized as important but remains insufficient. There is growing recognition that schools must do more. To be effective, climate education needs to go deeper than just the science, expand to include key solutions, how to take effective action, and most notably, focus on critical thinking. Above all, it should inspire real change in how people think and behave.

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

Most Ontario residents align with the rest of Canada in feeling schools are falling short in preparing students to understand and respond to climate change. Only 26% would award an A or B grade, while nearly half offer a ‘C – Fair’. Students in Ontario are more likely to give a B (32%) than students in the rest of Canada (27%).

Total Results by Respondent Group



- A - Excellent
- B - Good
- C - Fair
- D - Less than satisfactory
- F - Failing grade

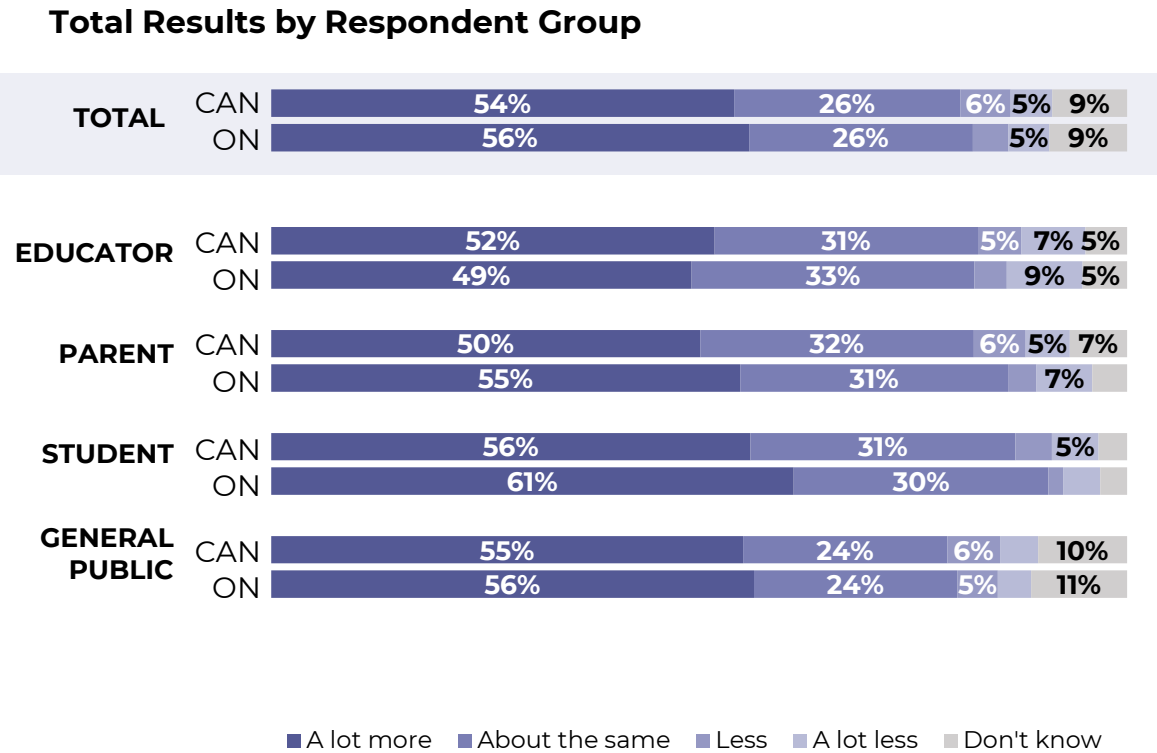
Province/Region

	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

More than half (56%) of Ontario residents feel the education system should be doing a lot more to educate young people about climate change, similar to Canadians overall (54%). This rate increases to 61% for Ontario students.



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 Ontario residents, with large proportions agreeing that climate change education needs to teach students to be critical thinkers (79%) and should change the way people behave (73%). 73% of Ontario educators think that climate change should be a high priority for schooling and 72% think it should be the role of all teachers.

% Agree (Agree/Strongly Agree)			Respondent Group							
	Total		Educator		Parent		Student		General Public	
	CAN	ON	CAN	ON	CAN	ON	CAN	ON	CAN	ON
	n= 4,228	1,037	782	173	1,283	268	1,053	210	1,369	448
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%	86%	76%	80%	77%	76%	79%	78%
Climate change education should aim to change the way people behave.	70%	73%	75%	77%	69%	73%	71%	72%	70%	72%
Climate change education should be a high priority for schooling.	62%	66%	68%	73%	59%	64%	61%	62%	61%	66%
Climate change education should be the role of all teachers.	56%	58%	66%	72%	56%	59%	59%	61%	54%	55%
The topic of climate change is too complex and should not be discussed in younger grades.	20%	22%	25%	30%	21%	21%	20%	20%	20%	21%
It is not the role of schools to teach students about climate change.	18%	19%	22%	27%	20%	20%	19%	18%	16%	18%

When compared to other provinces, Ontario residents feel the most strongly that climate change education needs to teach students to be critical thinkers to counteract misinformation (79%) and aim to change the way people behave (73%), especially when compared to Saskatchewan (71% and 61% respectively).

% 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?

When it comes to teaching younger (K-3) grades about climate change, Ontario educators agree that various topics including green energy (82%), biodiversity (79%), over-consumption (76%), and extreme weather (70%) are the most important. Other topics including carbon footprint (67%), and eco-anxiety (48%) were more important relative to educators in other provinces.

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%

A third of Ontario students report “rarely” discussing climate change and almost half (47%) report discussing it “sometimes”. This is similar to the rates among all Canadian students.

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

Ontario teachers are more likely to spend up to 10 hours (45%) vs. more than 10 hours (30%) within a course or school year on topics related to climate change, with the highest proportion spending 3-5 hours (24%). Only 18% do not cover climate change topics at all (not covered or not applicable), slightly lower than Canadian educators overall (21%).

K-12Teachers 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 Ontario, educators face significant challenges in teaching climate change. Notably, a high number have not received professional development on the subject. Key barriers include limited time and uncertainty about effective teaching strategies. There is significant room for improvement when it comes to educators feeling well supported by their principal or school board.

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

What do Educators Say?

Most (60%) current educators in Ontario report having received various levels of professional development on teaching climate change, though 40% report not having received any. The proportion of educators in Ontario that have had no professional development on teaching climate change is relatively high compared to all other provinces excluding Quebec.

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 Ontario educators to teach climate change education, there are barriers. Two-thirds (66%) of educators note a lack of time, and over half (54%) sometimes feel unsure of the appropriate instructional strategies. A small majority of Ontario educators (51%) feel they have the knowledge and skills needed to teach climate change, slightly higher than the Canadian average (47%).

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?

Only 19% Ontario educators feel very supported by their principal and board in teaching climate change, while 28% feel they are not supported.

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 Ontario, like many provinces, students show strong interest in learning about climate change, particularly science and solutions. Educators are likely to employ a wide range of strategies when they teach about climate change in their classroom. However, many Ontarians see opportunities to strengthen the education system, specifically through curriculum integration, teaching across grade levels, and additional funding.

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, Ontario students are interested in learning solutions to the problem (36%) and scientific evidence (23%).

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

Ontario educators are likely to use a variety of methods when teaching climate change, such as encouraging students to take action (66%) teaching critical media literacy (53%) and discussing solutions (52%). Ontario educators are more likely to include Indigenous traditional knowledge (51%) relative to 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

Ontario residents would like to see support for student-led climate action projects and activities (45%) and more flexibility in curriculum to allow for climate change topics (42%). Compared to the rest of Canada, Ontario educators are more supportive of mandatory climate change curriculum in all grades and Ontario parents are more supportive of promoting pathways to climate-related careers.

% Selected			Respondent Group							
	Total		Educator		Parent		Student		General Public	
	CAN	ON	CAN	ON	CAN	ON	CAN	ON	CAN	ON
n=	4,228	1,037	782	173	1,283	268	1,053	210	1,369	448
Support for student-led climate action projects and activities	45%	45%	49%	49%	41%	43%	45%	46%	46%	45%
More flexibility in curriculum to allow for climate change topics	42%	42%	40%	43%	39%	43%	41%	45%	43%	41%
Professional development for teachers on climate change	39%	40%	47%	46%	33%	36%	35%	39%	40%	40%
Mandatory climate change curriculum to be taught in all grades	38%	43%	39%	45%	34%	41%	37%	40%	39%	43%
Incorporation of climate change education in teacher preparation programs	38%	37%	44%	45%	36%	45%	35%	37%	38%	35%
Stronger collaboration between schools, parents and community organizations	36%	36%	37%	38%	34%	37%	37%	34%	36%	36%
Increased funding for climate change education programs and resources	35%	40%	42%	54%	34%	39%	37%	40%	35%	38%
Promote pathways for sustainability and climate-related careers	35%	37%	37%	41%	34%	41%	33%	36%	35%	36%

What changes would you suggest to improve climate change education?

Next Steps

When comparing suggestions to improve climate change education by province, Ontario residents' recommendations aligned with other Canadians. However, they were more likely to support mandatory climate change curriculum being taught in all grades, increased funding for climate change education and promotion of career pathways.

% 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.

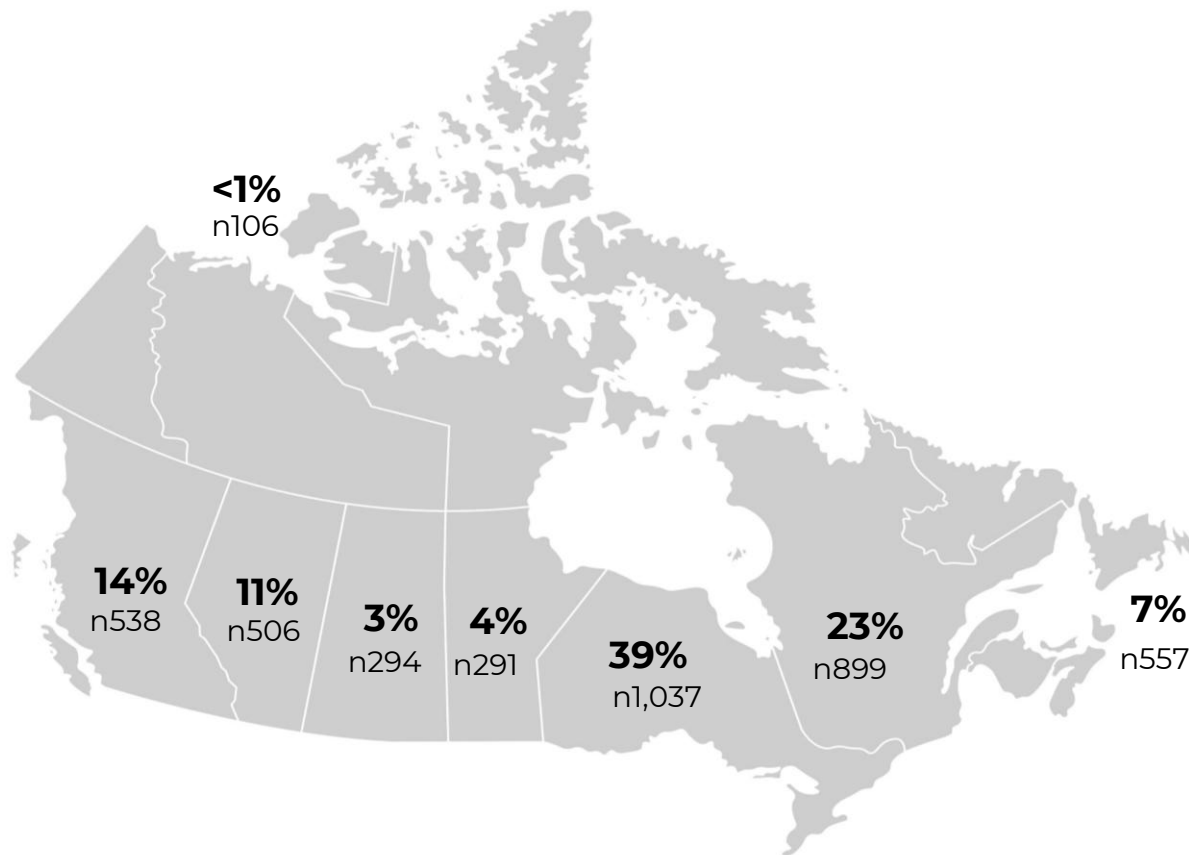


Respondent Profile

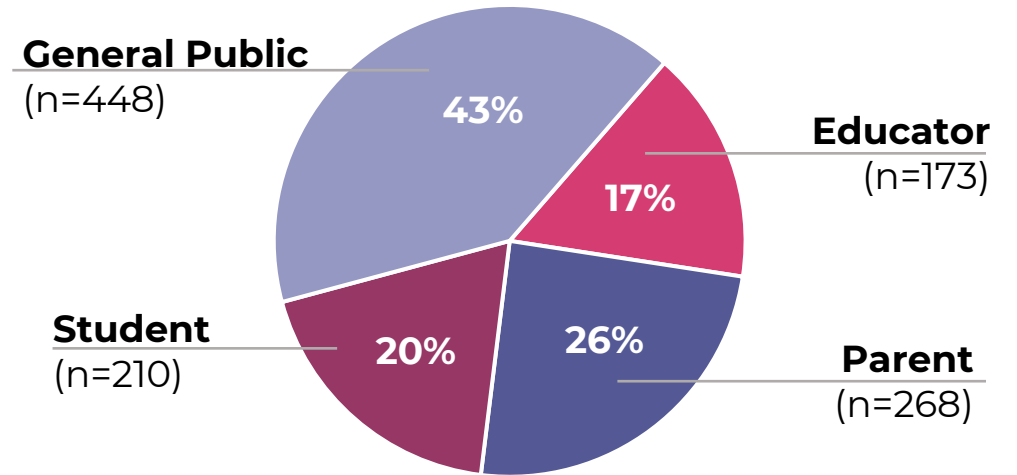
Survey Report

Respondent Profile

Province/Region



Respondent Group - Ontario



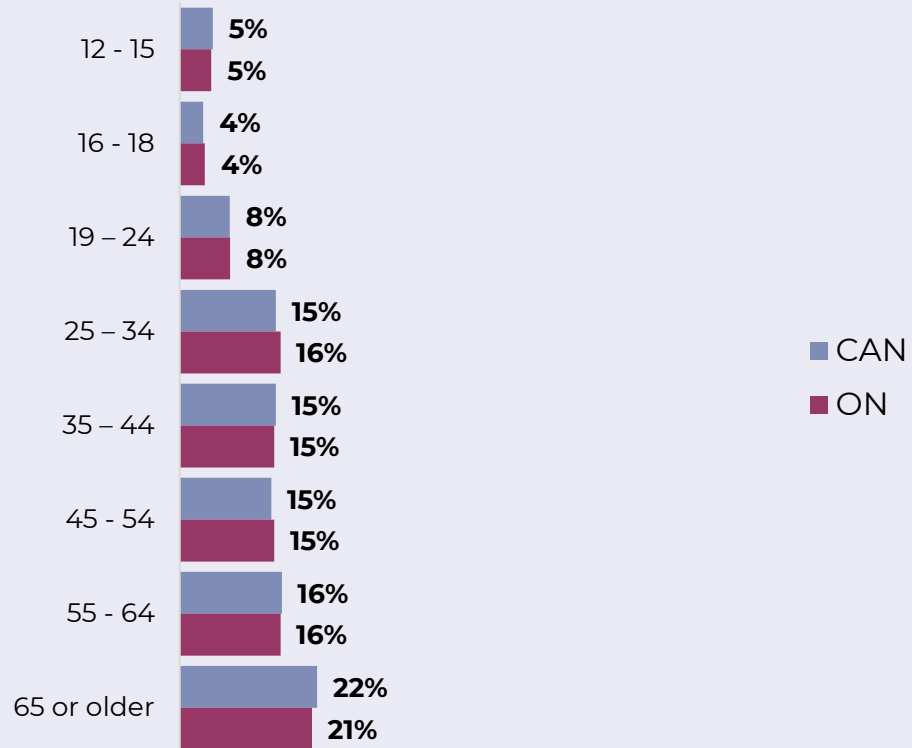
National

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

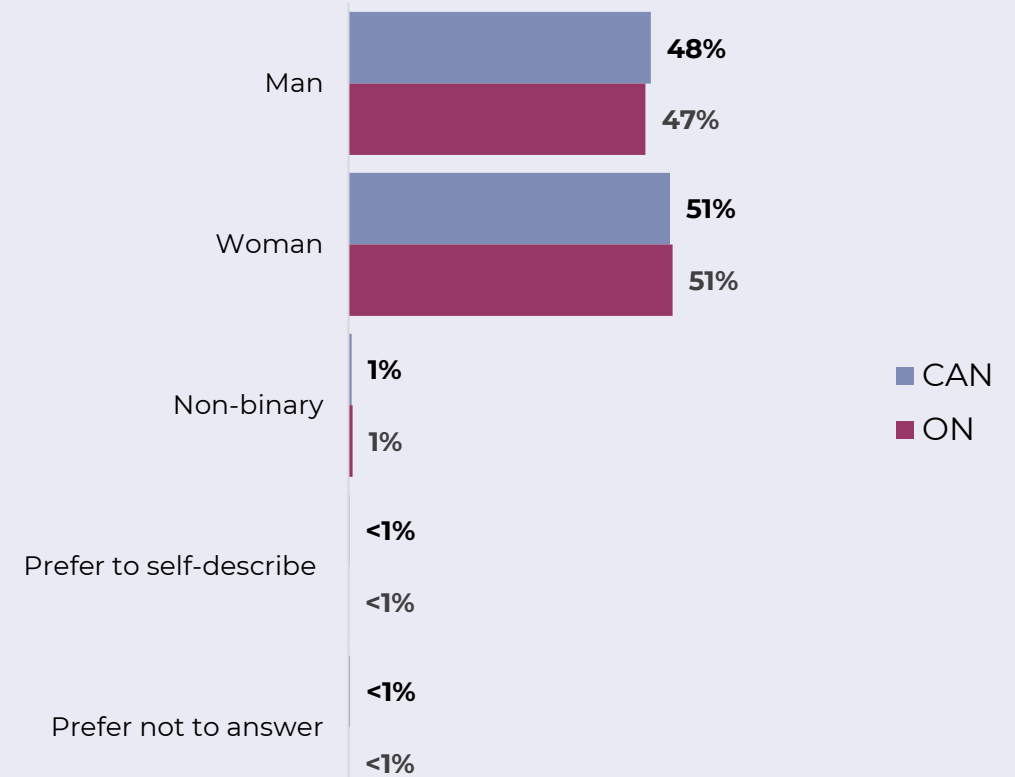


Respondent Profile

Age

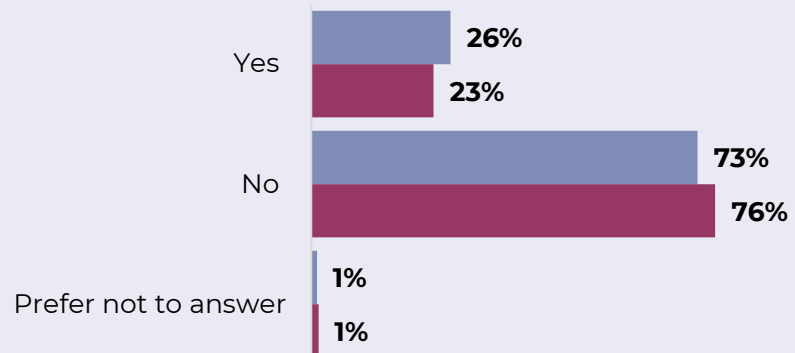


Gender

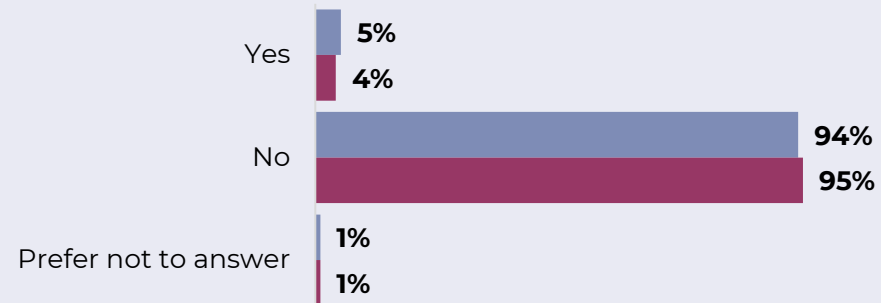


Respondent Profile

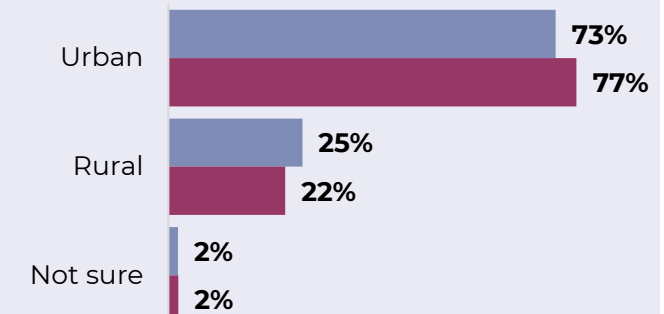
Children in Household



Identify as Indigenous



Area



■ CAN
■ ON





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