

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

New 905 Poll Shows Conservatives Should Embrace Carbon Taxes

LEGER/CLEAN PROSPERITY POLL CONDUCTED BY CONSERVATIVE POLLSTER

What Does the Poll Show?

1. Conservative leader Erin O'Toole would have an easier time winning the 905 if he reverses course on carbon taxes, and pairs it with income tax reductions.

O'Toole [said](#) he needs a credible climate plan to win 905 voters. Our poll confirms 905ers are looking for a credible climate plan that includes carbon pricing.

Key facts:

- 67% of potential Conservative voters say they cannot vote for a party that doesn't have a credible climate plan.
- 67% also say a carbon tax and rebate should be a priority in a credible plan.
- 28% of 905 voters say they'd be more likely to vote for the Conservatives if they adopted a carbon tax paired with reductions in personal income taxes.

2. Ontario Premier Doug Ford is deciding this week whether to appeal his gas pump sticker court loss. Our poll says he shouldn't. Most Ontarians do not support the premier's campaign against the carbon tax.

Key fact:

- 65% of potential Conservative voters say they oppose Doug Ford using taxpayer money to fight the carbon tax.



3. The Supreme Court will hear Ontario and Saskatchewan’s challenges to the carbon tax on September 22-23. Our poll shows the case is unpopular with 905ers.

Key facts:

- 67% of voters support the carbon tax and rebate when told the money goes back to Canadians, including 58% of Conservative voters.
- Only 41% of 905ers support Ford’s carbon tax challenge.

The Leger/Clean Prosperity poll was conducted by past Conservative Party of Canada pollster Andrew Enns. It surveyed a representative sample of 1,001 voting-age respondents across the 905 region between August 21 and August 27, 2020.

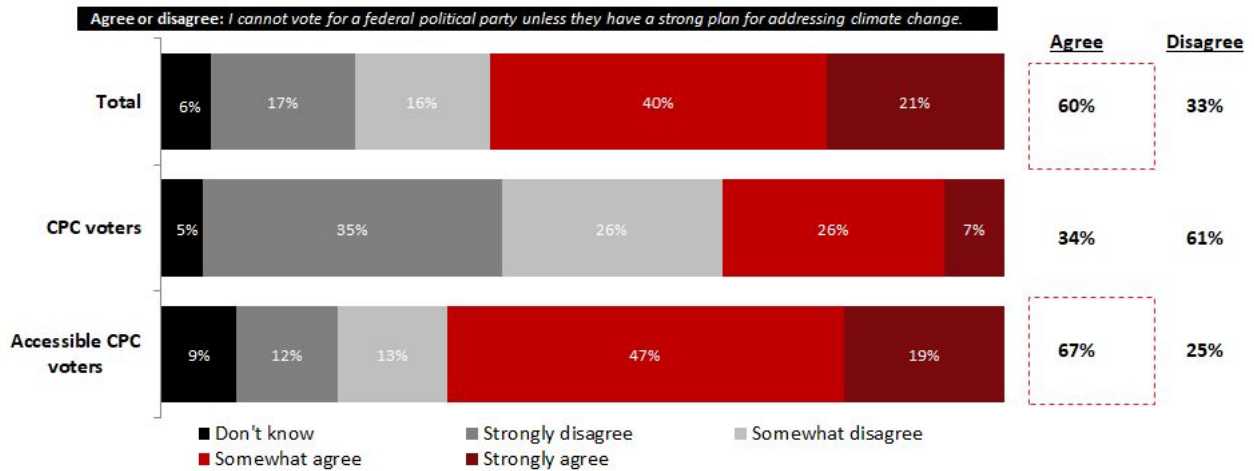
Clean Prosperity is a Canadian non-profit that works toward market-based solutions to the climate crisis. We envision a world where a strong economy co-exists with a sustainable environment.

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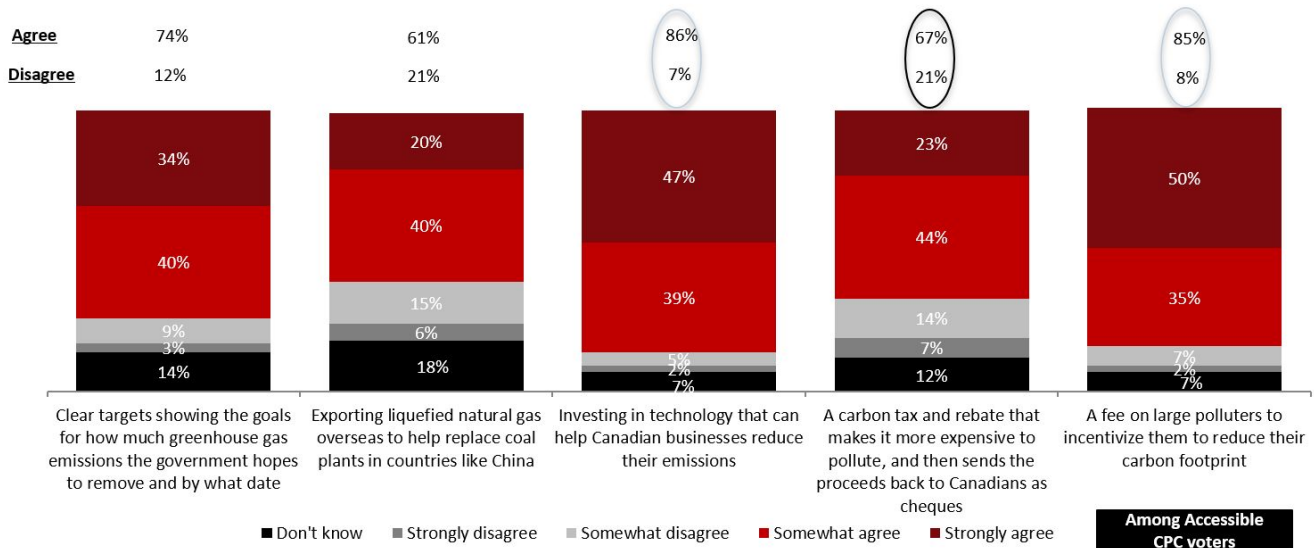
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Two-thirds of accessible CPC voters say they can't vote for a party without a strong climate plan



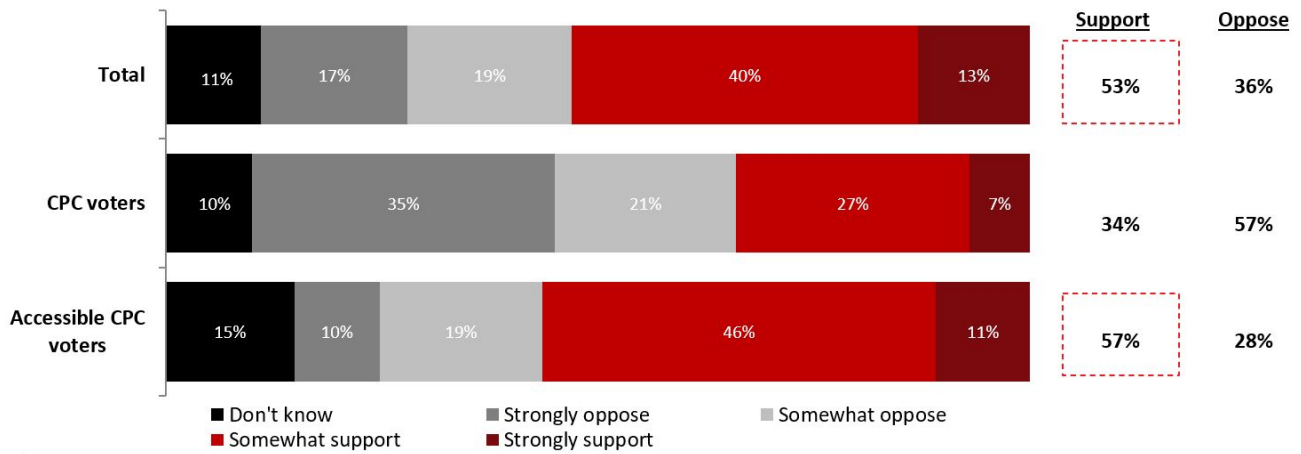
Q10: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: *I cannot vote for a federal political party unless they have a strong plan for addressing climate change.* Base: Greater Toronto Area Residents (n=1001)

Two-thirds of accessible voters also believe a carbon tax should be a priority for a climate plan



Q22: Below are several actions which Governments-Federal or Provincial- could implement as part of an effective and credible climate change plan. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree these actions should be priorities to include in a climate change plan. Base : Greater Toronto Area Residents (n=1001) 26

Support for carbon pricing is up 5% from February Poll to 53%, and receives 57% support with swing voters



Information on screen: The system of charging for carbon pollution that is currently active in Ontario is commonly referred to as a carbon tax. This year, it added 7 cents to the price of gasoline and increased costs for home heating by an average of \$12 per month. The average Ontario household also received \$448 back in rebates from this carbon tax. The carbon tax and the carbon rebate will both rise each year until 2022. In that year, the tax will add \$12 cents / liter in gasoline and will return \$700 in rebates to the average Ontario household.

Q13C: Do you support or oppose this policy?
 Base : Greater Toronto Area Residents (n=1001)

Support for the carbon tax rises further if rebates are switched to personal income tax cuts, and is a net vote winner for the CPC

Over half of residents support the policy of using pollution charges to get tax cuts, no major effect on likelihood to vote CPC

Leger

Support/oppose

Opinion on Policy: Where the proceeds from charging for carbon pollution are used to cut personal income tax rates

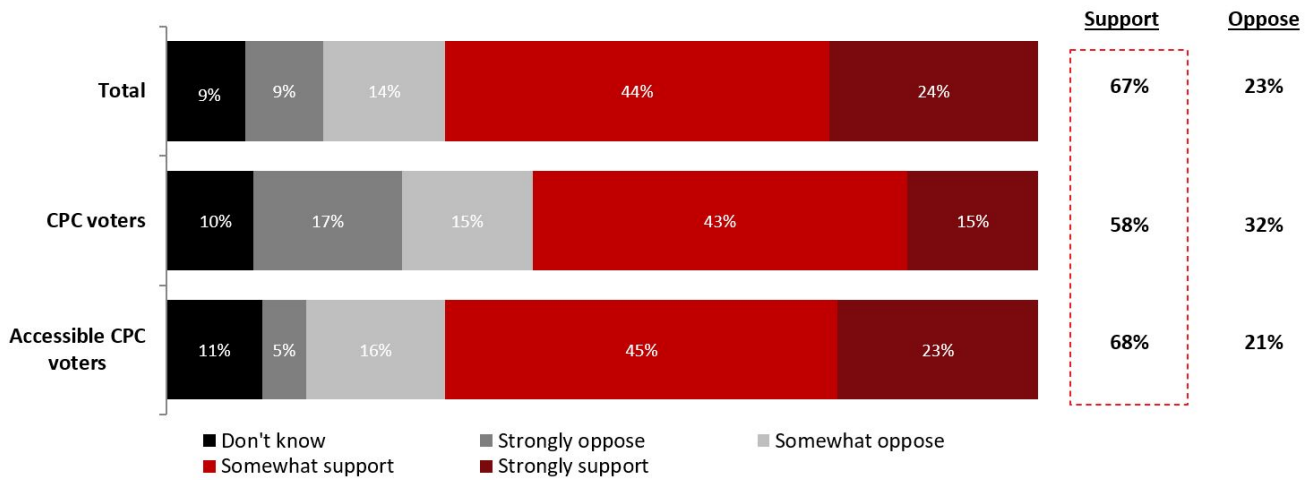
Issues	Total	CPC voter	Accessible CPC voter
Total 'N'	1001	274	455
Strongly Support	15%	11%	16%
Somewhat support	46%	42%	45%
Somewhat oppose	17%	19%	18%
Strongly oppose	9%	16%	7%
Don't know	13%	11%	14%
Total support	61%	54%	61%
Total Oppose	26%	35%	25%

Q14A: Do you support or oppose a policy where the proceeds from charging for carbon pollution are used to cut personal income tax rates?
Base : Greater Toronto Area Residents (n=1001)

Issues	Total	CPC voter	Accessible CPC voter
Total 'N'	1001	274	455
Less likely	18%	17%	19%
Not change likelihood	37%	44%	33%
More likely	28%	27%	28%
Don't know	17%	13%	19%

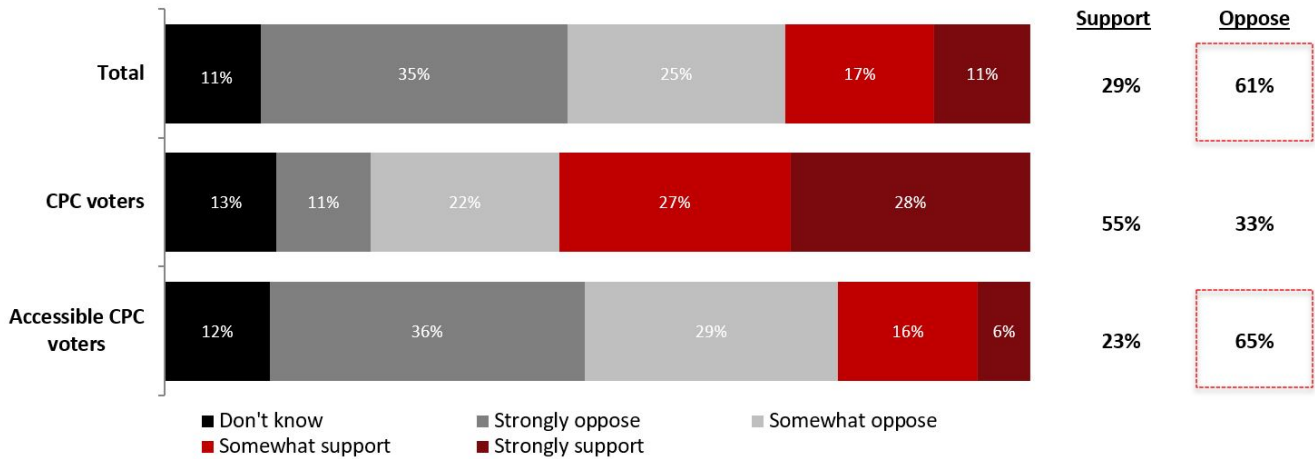
Q14B: If the Conservative Party of Canada were to adopt this policy, would it make you more likely to vote for them in an election, less likely or not change your likelihood of voting Conservative?
Base : Greater Toronto Area Residents, CPC and accessible CPC voters (n=729) 20

When told money will be rebated, support for a carbon tax rises to 67% including 58% among CPC voters



Q23: Would you support or oppose a carbon tax if you knew that all the money from the tax was being rebated back to families and businesses?
 Base : Greater Toronto Area Residents (n=1001)

Two-thirds of potential Conservative voters are opposed to Doug Ford’s campaign against the carbon tax*



Preamble: Doug Ford has launched a campaign to oppose the carbon tax and rebate policy, and his government has approved spending \$30 million on this campaign.

Q21: Do you support or oppose Premier Ford using taxpayer money to wage this campaign against the carbon tax and rebate?
 Base : Greater Toronto Area Residents (n=1001)

***Doug Ford voters are split, with 52% supporting his ad campaign**