

SUMMARY

59%

of respondents support or accept carbon pricing; support grows to over 70% when rebates are highlighted

Data Highlights

“It’s clear from this poll that most people in the commuter regions of Toronto and Hamilton are comfortable with carbon pricing, once they’re given basic details about the policy. The carbon rebate is the key – it means Ontarians don’t have to choose between protecting the planet and protecting their pocketbook. When told about the rebate, well over 70% of respondents support or accept the policy. The bottom line is that carbon pricing with rebates is a fair, affordable and effective way to address the urgent challenge of climate change.”

Michael Bernstein

Senior Vice President for Policy & Strategy
Canadians for Clean Prosperity

Carbon pricing is supported or accepted by 59% of Ontarians in the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (excluding downtown Toronto), compared to 28% who oppose the policy and 13% who are undecided.

When told that all the money from carbon pricing would go back to households and businesses, 48% of those opposing the policy switched their position to support or accept.

When asked how their views would change if they received a rebate that exceeded their costs, as will be the case for an estimated 8 out of 10 Ontarians, according to the federal government, 60% of those who opposed switched their position to support or accept.

Understanding about the rebate is low – just 41% of Ontarians in the surveyed area were aware of the federal government’s plan to rebate money to households and businesses.

METHODOLOGY

Conducted in Ontario, excluding downtown Toronto, from January 31 to February 15, 2019.

504 respondents, balanced by age group and gender.

The survey was presented online, using the Qualtrics platform.

All results are weighted to represent the general population of Ontario, accounting for age group, gender, country of origin, and home ownership

Poll analysis done by the Loewen Lab at University of Toronto

59% of respondents support or accept carbon pricing

Question asked:

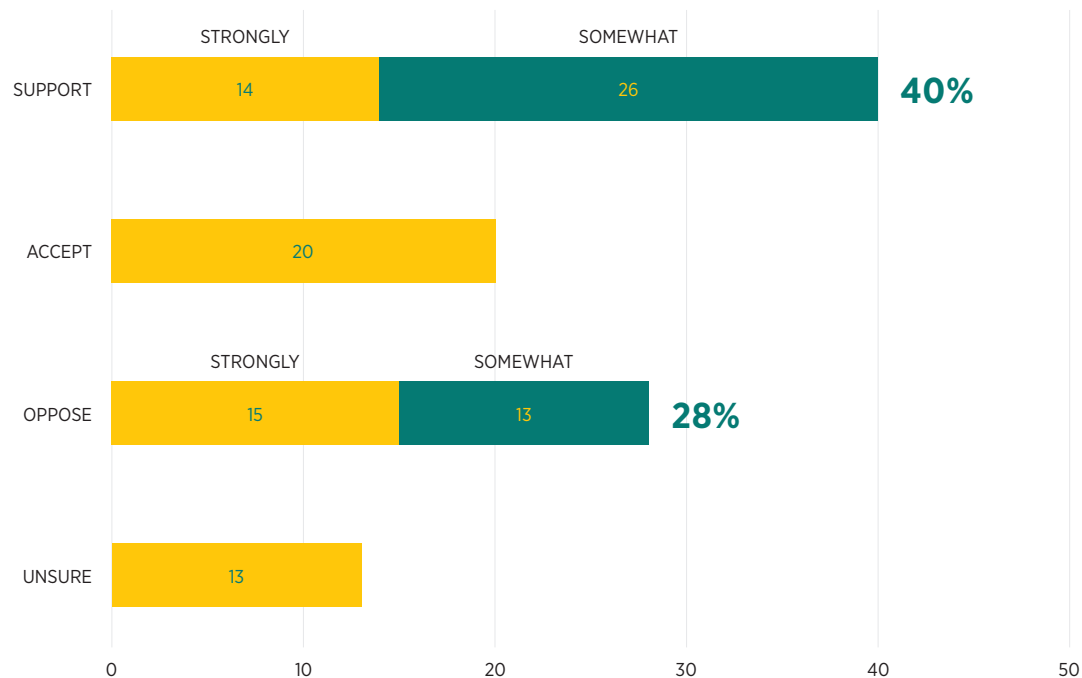
The federal government plans to introduce a carbon tax on April 1, 2019 in provinces that haven't already set their own prices on carbon emissions. The purpose of the carbon tax is to incentivize people and companies to reduce carbon emissions.

This tax is expected to increase fuel costs by 4.4 cents/litre in 2019 and then rise gradually to 11 cents/litre in 2022.

The Trudeau government also announced it will return 90 percent of revenue from the carbon tax to households that pay it in the form of a rebate, and that most households would receive more in rebates than they would pay in tax (the remaining of 10 percent will go to businesses)

Based on whatever you've seen or heard about the federal government's plan, including in this survey, would you say you support, accept, or oppose it?

Do you support or oppose a carbon tax?

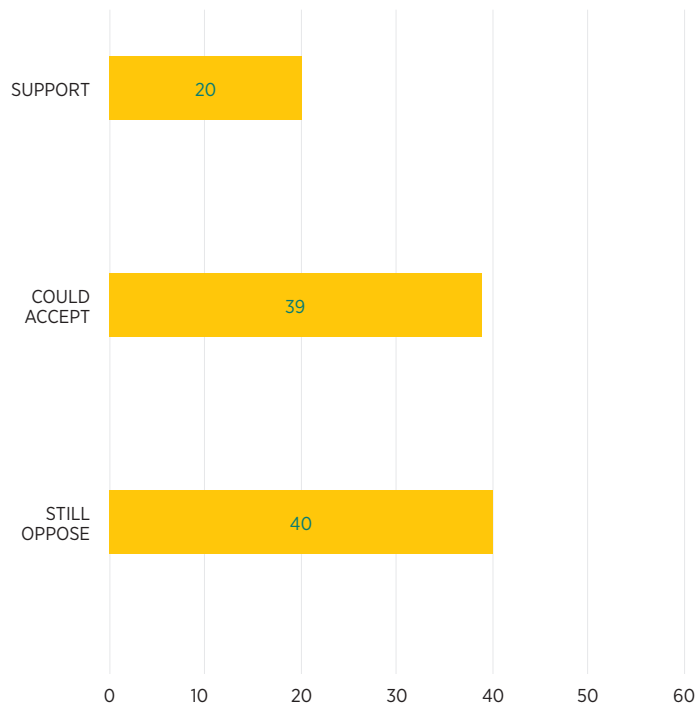


Highlighting the rebate builds significant support

Respondents who opposed

If you personally received more back in rebates than you had to pay in extra costs, how would this impact your opinion?

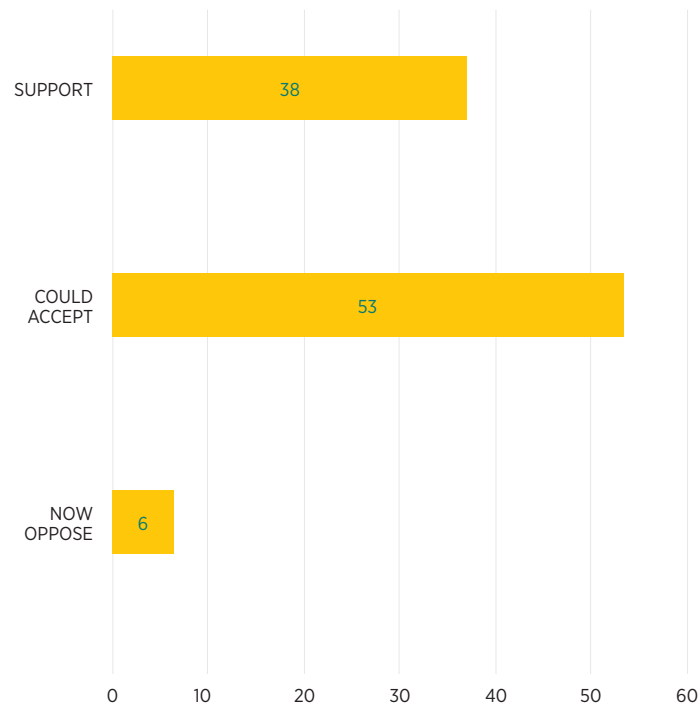
60% of opposers switched to accept or support



Respondents who accepted

If you personally received more back in rebates than you had to pay in extra costs, how would this impact your opinion?

46% of accepters switched to support

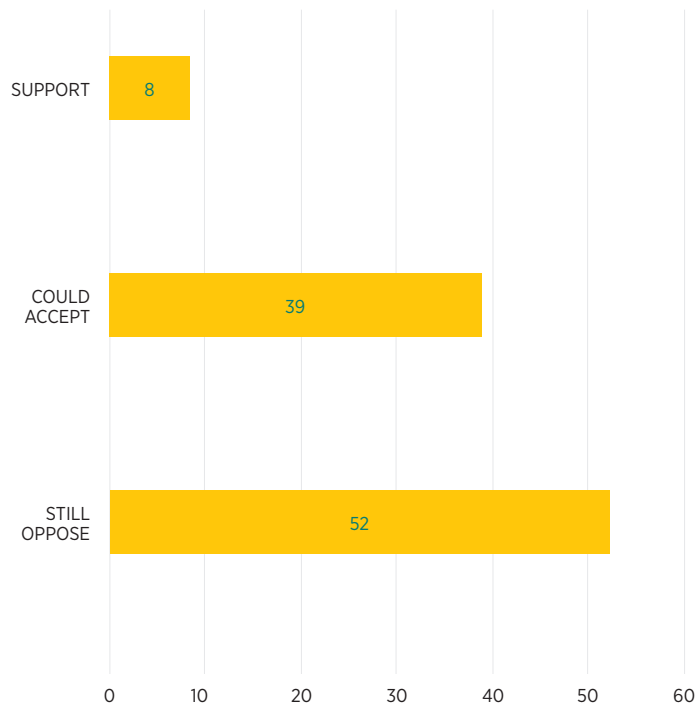


Highlighting the rebate builds significant support

Respondents who opposed

If all the money is returned to households and businesses.

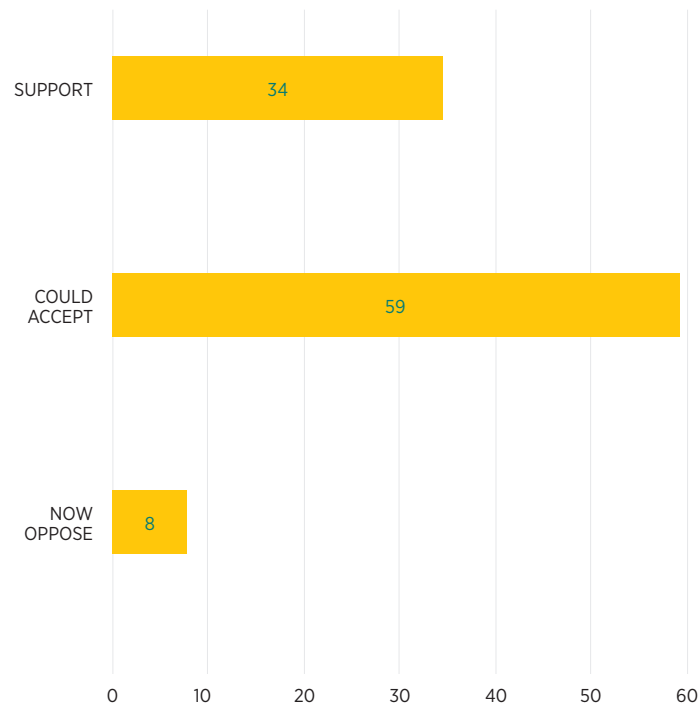
47% of opposers switched to accept or support



Respondents who accepted

If all the money is returned to households and businesses.

46% of accepters switched to support



Though the rebate is poorly understood

Which of the following statements is correct?

“The money from the federal carbon tax will be used for green infrastructure, like public transit.”

OR

“The money from the federal carbon tax will be rebated back to households and businesses”

