



CANADA
IN A
CHANGING
CLIMATE

What we've heard about climate change impacts in Canada

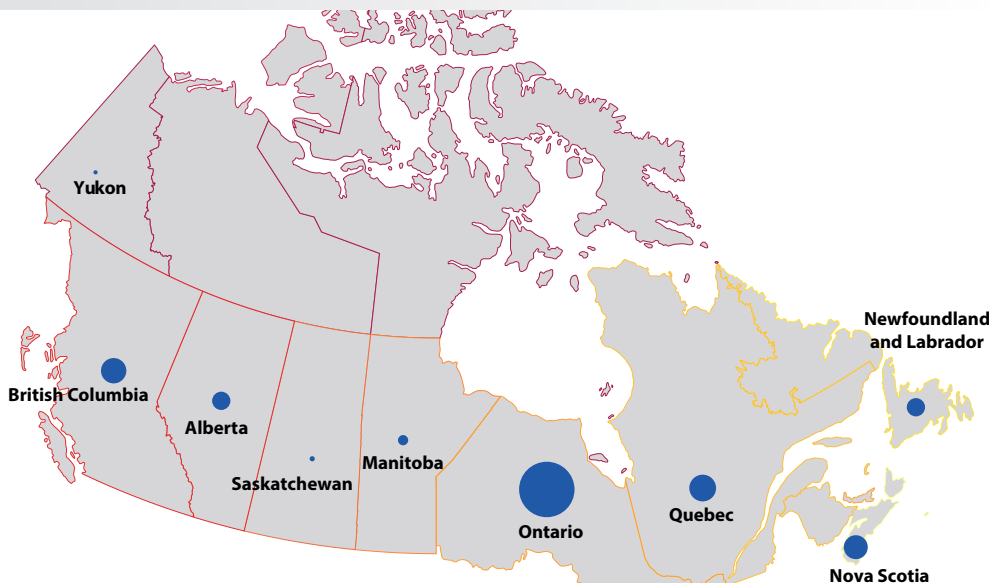
About the participants



145*

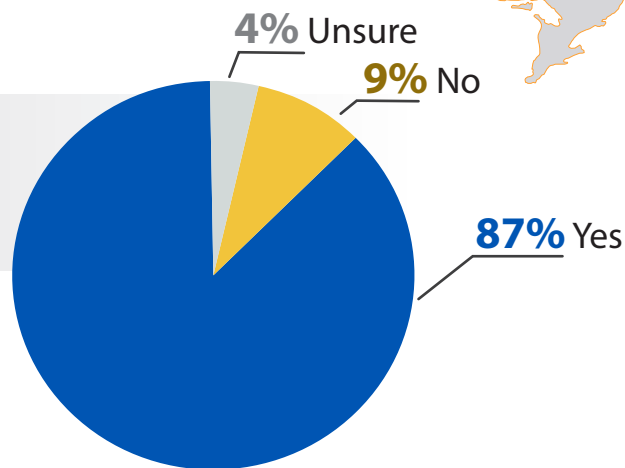
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
WHO COMPLETED THE SURVEY

* Note: This survey was a small pilot project to refine our approach for future surveys.



1

Do you feel you are already seeing the effects of climate change in your daily life?



2

A changing climate affects the frequency, intensity and timing of weather events in Canada and around the world. Please rate the following weather events by how much risk they pose to you.



Freezing rain events
and winter storms



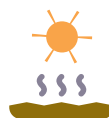
Heavy rain and
thunderstorms



Flooding



Heat waves



Droughts



Wildfires



Hurricanes and
storm surges

Highest risk

Lowest risk

3

As temperatures warm and precipitation patterns change, water-related problems, such as shortages (droughts), excess (floods) and water quality issues are expected to worsen in many parts of the country. Please rate the following water-related problems by how much risk they pose to you.



More frequent and severe extreme water events, such as droughts and floods



Increased water quality issues, such as unsafe drinking water, beach closures and impacts on the health of wildlife



Less water for ecosystems, tourism, energy production and household use



Increased competition over water and potential increases in water costs



Impacts of sea-level rise on coastal communities and ecosystems

Highest risk

Lowest risk

4

A changing climate presents Canadian food producers with a number of opportunities as well as risks that will challenge the food supply. Please select up to three of the following food-related challenges that concern you the most.



Decreased access to affordable, healthy food due to climate change impacts on domestic food production and food imports



Impacts on food producers due to the effect of warmer weather, droughts and floods on the health and productivity of crops and livestock



Impacts of warming oceans, lakes and rivers on fisheries and the availability of fish



Reduced access to, availability, and/or quality of wild foods in northern and remote communities



Impacts on crops and livestock from saltwater contamination of groundwater due to sea-level rise

Highest risk

Lowest risk

5

Climate change poses significant risks to human health and well-being in Canada. Please rate the following risks to human health and well-being by how much risk they pose to you.



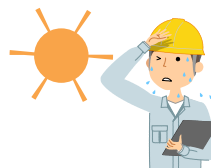
Greater risk of illnesses spread by insects, ticks and rodents, such as Lyme disease, West Nile virus and Hantavirus



Increasing air quality issues (e.g. more smog days, more airborne allergens such as ragweed, and more wildfires) that can impact breathing



Extreme temperatures, such as more frequent and severe heat waves that increase the risk of heat stress



Increased health risks for vulnerable populations (e.g. outdoor workers, the elderly, young children, people with pre-existing health conditions)



Increasing physical and mental health risks from extreme weather events such as flooding, severe droughts, mudslides, wildfires and storms



Increased incidence of food and water contamination causing illness, boil-water advisories and food recalls

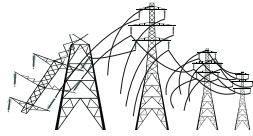
Highest risk

Lowest risk

6 Well-maintained infrastructure is more resilient to a changing climate. Please choose up to three climate change risks to infrastructure that are the most important to you.



Damage to roads, bridges, ports and/or railways from storms and extreme weather events



Damage to energy and telecommunications infrastructure (e.g. cell towers and power lines) from high winds, ice storms and other extreme weather



Damage to buildings, such as homes, businesses and hospitals from storms and/or extreme weather events



Water quality and availability issues related to failure of water infrastructure



Damage to coastal infrastructure from sea-level rise



Impacts on northern infrastructure (e.g. buildings, roads, airstrips) from melting permafrost and ice

Highest risk

Lowest risk

7 Climate change impacts on Canadian business and industry could have significant economic implications. Please choose up to three economic impacts that concern you the most.



Reduced access to affordable goods and services



Changing and more variable energy costs related to heating and cooling



Job losses in weather-dependent sectors such as natural resources, agriculture, tourism and recreation



Rising insurance premiums



Impacts on your financial investments

Highest concern

Lowest concern

8 Canada's natural environments, including plants and animals, are under increasing pressure from climate change. Rate which of the following potential impacts on Canada's natural environment that are of greatest concern to you.



Loss of ecosystems due to cumulative climate change impacts



Introduction of new pest species or extended pest seasons



Reduced biodiversity as species that are unable to adapt and become extinct



Impacts on ecosystems from increases in natural disturbances, such as wildfire and insect outbreaks



Increased stress on ecosystems from invasive species



Shifts of the distribution of plants and animals and the health of wildlife

Highest risk

Lowest risk