

ENVIRONMENT

British Columbians Troubled by Competing Pipeline Projects

Two years after the Carbon Tax came into effect, a majority of respondents claim it has “severely” or “moderately” affected their household’s finances.

[VANCOUVER – Aug. 30, 2010] – People in British Columbia are not currently embracing either of the two proposals to transport crude from Alberta to facilitate its export to China and other Asian destinations, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative sample of 804 British Columbian adults also shows that respondents are disappointed with the implementation of the provincial Carbon Tax two years ago, and few believe it has had an effect on the actual behaviour of residents.

The Pipelines

Enbridge is looking to build two pipelines in British Columbia. The pipelines would carry an average of 525,000 barrels of crude a day and 193,000 barrels of condensate (which is used to thin bitumen) from near Edmonton, Alberta, to Kitimat, in northern British Columbia.

On the other hand, Kinder Morgan has proposed using the existing TransMountain system to ultimately carry an average of 700,000 barrels of crude a day from near Edmonton, Alberta, to BC’s Lower Mainland.

KEY FINDINGS

- **48% are opposed to both of the competing proposals to carry crude from Alberta and throughout BC**
- **49% think the projects could lead to an environmental disaster**
- **56% say the Carbon Tax implemented two years ago has “severely” or “moderately” affected the finances of their household**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From August 24 to August 25, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 804 randomly selected British Columbia adults who are Angus Reid Forum panellists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.5%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of British Columbia. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

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Almost half of respondents in BC (48%) are opposed to both proposals, while support is only slightly higher for the Enbridge plan (35%) than the Kinder Morgan initiative (32%). Opposition surpasses the 50 per cent mark for both plans in Vancouver Island and the North.

Overall, 49 per cent of respondents think the projects are a bad idea that could lead to an environmental disaster, while 33 per cent define them as a good idea that will help the BC economy.

The Carbon Tax

Two years after the Carbon Tax was implemented in the province, more than half of British Columbians (56%) say the levy has "severely" or "moderately" affected the finances of their household. The proportion is higher in the North (80%) and Vancouver Island (64%).

Three-in-four respondents (74%) believe the introduction of the Carbon Tax in British Columbia has not led people to be more mindful of their carbon consumption and change their behaviour.

Analysis

Opposition to the two competing pipeline projects appears to be directly related to environmental concerns. The level of support for the projects is higher in Metro Vancouver and the Interior, but is nowhere near a majority in these two areas or across the entire province. The main worry for British Columbians when thinking about this issue is the possibility of an environmental disaster.

For all our BC polls and more, go to our [website](#) / Follow us on [Twitter](#)

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Environment

On July 1, 2008, a carbon tax was implemented in British Columbia. After two years with the carbon tax, which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?

	British Columbia	GVRD	Vancouver Island	Interior	North
The carbon tax has severely affected the finances of my household	17%	15%	21%	16%	25%
The carbon tax has moderately affected the finances of my household	39%	36%	43%	38%	55%
The carbon tax has slightly affected the finances of my household	29%	33%	21%	31%	14%
The carbon tax has not affected the finances of my household at all	15%	16%	15%	15%	5%

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Do you think the introduction of the carbon tax in British Columbia has led people to be more mindful of their carbon consumption and change their behaviour?

	British Columbia	GVRD	Vancouver Island	Interior	North
Yes, it has	11%	14%	9%	9%	4%
No, it has not	74%	74%	69%	78%	79%
Not sure	14%	12%	22%	13%	17%

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Environment

As you may know, a company has proposed building two pipelines in British Columbia. The pipelines would carry an average of 525,000 barrels of crude a day and 193,000 barrels of condensate (which is used to thin bitumen) from near Edmonton, Alberta, to Kitimat, in northern British Columbia. The crude oil would then be exported to China and other Asian destinations from a new marine terminal in Kitimat. From what you have seen, read or heard about this, do you support or oppose this proposal?

	British Columbia	GVRD	Vancouver Island	Interior	North
Support	35%	37%	30%	37%	28%
Oppose	48%	48%	53%	42%	56%
Not sure	17%	15%	17%	21%	16%

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As you may know, a company has proposed using the existing TransMountain system to ultimately carry an average of 700,000 barrels of crude a day from near Edmonton, Alberta, to BC's Lower Mainland. The crude oil would then be exported to China and other Asian destinations from the Lower Mainland. From what you have seen, read or heard about this, do you support or oppose this proposal?

	British Columbia	GVRD	Vancouver Island	Interior	North
Support	32%	35%	29%	29%	26%
Oppose	48%	48%	54%	45%	51%
Not sure	20%	17%	17%	27%	23%

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Environment

Thinking about these projects, which one of these two statements comes closest to your own point of view?

	British Columbia	GVRD	Vancouver Island	Interior	North
The projects are a good idea that will help the BC economy	33%	35%	33%	31%	28%
The projects are a bad idea that could lead to an environmental disaster	49%	47%	51%	47%	58%
Not sure	18%	18%	16%	22%	14%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a high-quality, multi-streamed approach and an in-depth screening procedure.

The panels are highly engaged communities with industry leading response rates and are researched with state-of-the-art sampling techniques, combined with deep profiling on demographic, behavioural and attitudinal characteristics. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election. More information on our electoral record can be found at:

<http://www.visioncritical.com/record-of-accuracy>

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at

<http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

Copies of this poll are available on our website:

<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>

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