



Canada Votes 2019

Exploring Federal Election Issues in the Metro Vancouver Context

A survey of voters and businesses presented by
Mustel Group, FleishmanHillard HighRoad and the
Greater Vancouver Board of Trade



September 2019

Table of Contents

- Analysis 3
- Survey Methodology 6
- Issues of Concern 6
 - Environmental Issues 9
 - Natural Resources Development 11
 - Transportation 12
 - Housing Affordability..... 12
 - Economy 15
 - Trust in Government 16
 - CPP/Pharmacare 17
 - Immigration 18
 - Crime and Safety 19
 - Cannabis/Decriminalization of Other Drugs..... 19
- Information Sources for the Election 20
- Greater Vancouver Board of Trade: Business Focus 22

Balance between environment and economy will be key election issue for Metro Vancouver residents



According to the latest VoteLocal survey of residents and businesses in Metro Vancouver, the environment is top of mind for voters, but federal parties vying for seats in this battleground region will also need to address concerns about the economy and the region's high cost of living to win over the local electorate.

Heading into the October 21 federal election, the dual crises of affordability and climate change - and how parties plan to strike a balance between the two issues - is shaping up to be the ballot box question.



When asked to list the top issues that will influence their vote in this election, 49% of residents in the Mustel Group poll conducted in late August cited the environment. The economy and jobs (27%), affordability (21%) and various social issues (21%) followed behind. Among businesses surveyed during the same period, the economy was the top issue (45%) with environment the second most cited concern (37%), ahead of taxes (28%) and affordability (21%).



As for the performance of the current federal government, more people believe things are on the wrong track (42%) compared to the right track (35%) - perhaps reflecting a view that government hasn't yet struck the right balance between environmental and economic interests.

Businesses were less likely to say the government is on the right track (29%) compared to the wrong track (53%).

Almost half of residents surveyed (47%) believe people in this region have different priorities compared with residents of other cities, with many suggesting that people in Metro Vancouver are more concerned than their fellow Canadians when it comes to environmental issues, and that our region has been hit harder by escalating home prices.

Almost half of residents surveyed (47%) believe people in this region have different priorities compared with residents of other cities

While Metro Vancouverites are clear in their desire to see governments at all levels do more to address affordability, they are just as concerned that federal decision makers aren't moving fast enough to address the growing threat of climate change. A majority (58%) agree that climate change is "an emergency" that requires immediate action, and almost half (49%) think the current federal government is on the wrong path in addressing the issue.

On energy issues specifically, both residents (53%) and businesses (69%) believe a balanced approach to resource development should be taken, with continued development of oil and gas resources occurring as

the federal government invests in strategies to transition to alternative renewable energy sources. Among residents, a significant number – 39% - believe government should be more aggressive and focus on immediately transitioning away from oil and gas, while 23% of businesses say the same. When asked about the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline, 50% of residents and 76% of businesses surveyed support the project. Those opposed (45%) tend to be younger voters, women and residents of Vancouver and Burnaby.

On housing affordability, all levels of government score poorly on their efforts to address the issue, but the federal government scores slightly behind provincial and local governments, according to residents surveyed. Voters continue to be concerned about foreign buyers' influence on the local housing market, and they want to see the federal government doing more to incentivize new construction in order to create more housing supply. This view is especially strong among renters (87%).

VoteLocal's municipal election survey in October 2018 found affordability was the defining issue at that time – so much so that 46% of residents said they had considered moving away from Metro Vancouver. While home prices and sales have cooled off over the past year, the latest VoteLocal survey found that has done little to allay affordability concerns – with 41% of residents now considering a move away from the region. Among people under the age of 44 that figure rises to 58%, while 67% of renters are thinking of relocating.

23% of business owners and managers said they have considered relocating their enterprise due to affordability issues

Other affordability issues raised by residents, ranked in order of importance included: the cost of food/groceries, gas prices, transportation, taxes, healthcare, childcare and telecommunications services.

Among business owners and managers, affordability issues have led almost a quarter (23%) to consider relocating their enterprise, while 60% report having trouble recruiting and retaining workers due to the high cost of living in Metro Vancouver.

On Canada's economic picture, Metro Vancouver residents aren't overly optimistic, with 28% believing the economy will decline over the next 5 years, and 31% believing it will stay the same. Business owners and managers are more pessimistic; 43% believe the economy will decline. In terms of their own financial prospects over the same period, residents are more hopeful with 50% predicting stability and only 21% expecting their financial situation to deteriorate. Among businesses, 62% are either somewhat or very optimistic about their prospects in the coming year.

Even with ongoing anxiety about affordability in Metro Vancouver, most residents don't have a problem with the amount of federal tax they are paying, with 51% feeling it's "about right." On the carbon tax, environmental concerns again seem to trump pocketbook issues. Although the B.C. carbon tax was introduced 11 years ago, only recently has the current federal government proposed a nation-wide price on pollution. According to the VoteLocal survey, 64% of Metro Vancouver residents support the B.C. carbon tax, and 60% would be willing to keep the tax in place even if residents of other provinces don't end up paying it. Businesses are also accepting of the carbon tax, with 51% of those surveyed saying it has had "no real impact" on their business.



Federal taxes and a declining regulatory environment, meanwhile, are an impediment to businesses, according to the survey. When asked to cite a practical action the next federal government should take to support the business community, 38% said “lower business taxes”, followed by reducing red tape and stabilizing foreign policy. Among those surveyed, 80% of businesses say they are somewhat or very concerned about negative impacts from foreign trade disputes. They also want the federal government to prioritize trade-enabling infrastructure development, and helping companies and workers adapt to emerging technologies and automation.

Aside from the top issues of economy and environment, other standout findings of the VoteLocal survey include:



- Metro Vancouverites are concerned about the opioid crisis, and voters are open to new approaches. Half (50%) of Metro Vancouver residents support the legalization of at least some types of illicit drugs, and a further 25% say the government should study the idea. Among crime and safety issues, residents believe the federal government should place the highest priority on tackling the opioid crisis, compared with money laundering, gang violence and illegal firearms.

- With recent headlines on the government’s handling of the SNC-Lavalin issue, the question of ethics and accountability could yet emerge as a defining issue in the 2019 election campaign, however in Metro Vancouver, it does not appear to be top of mind for voters. Among residents, 50% say trust in federal politicians has declined in the past four years, while 40% say it has stayed the same. When asked to name the top issues that will influence their vote, only 16% cited ethics and integrity – behind the environment, economy, affordability and social issues.



- On transportation, a strong majority of residents (80%) and businesses (79%) agree with Metro Vancouver mayors that the federal government should establish a permanent transit fund to provide a long-term, predictable source of funding for public transit expansion in the region.

- 78% of residents are concerned that ‘fake news’ or other non-factual information sources will affect this election. Most people will turn to journalism (online, TV, radio and print news) as their trusted source of information, with social media the least trusted source.

While businesses are concerned about retaining and recruiting enough workers, the majority of residents and businesses want to maintain current immigration levels and focus on attracting highly skilled immigrants.

VoteLocal is a research initiative of Mustel Group, FleishmanHillard HighRoad and the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, aimed at understanding how local community issues influence elections. VoteLocal seeks to raise awareness of issues in communities and to encourage voter participation in elections. The first VoteLocal survey, undertaken in advance of the October 2018 civic election, explored the views of the public, the business community, outgoing municipal leaders and new municipal election candidates on key issues. The VoteLocal federal election survey – conducted between August 20 and September 3, 2019 – canvassed opinions of the public and businesses in the Metro Vancouver region.



Learn more at VoteLocalBC.ca

Follow us @local_bc

Survey Methodology

The VoteLocal survey included two different groups:

- **A random sample of Metro Vancouver adults, 18 years of age or over (n=600)**
- **Greater Vancouver Board of Trade members (n=261)**

The survey was completed online from August 20th to September 3rd, 2019.

Issues of Concern

Public



The environment is one of the key issues that will influence Metro Vancouver voters in the federal election (cited by 49% when asked to list top three issues). The economy and jobs (27%), various social issues (21%), and affordability (21%) are secondary.

The environment is a key issue for 60% of women (relative to 22% citing the economy), whereas men are almost equally concerned about the two issues (39% environment, 33% economy). Social issues are equally listed by both men and women.

Other influential issues (listed by 15-16% each) include government ethics and honesty, healthcare/national pharmacare plan, immigration, and various government/party ideologies or policies.

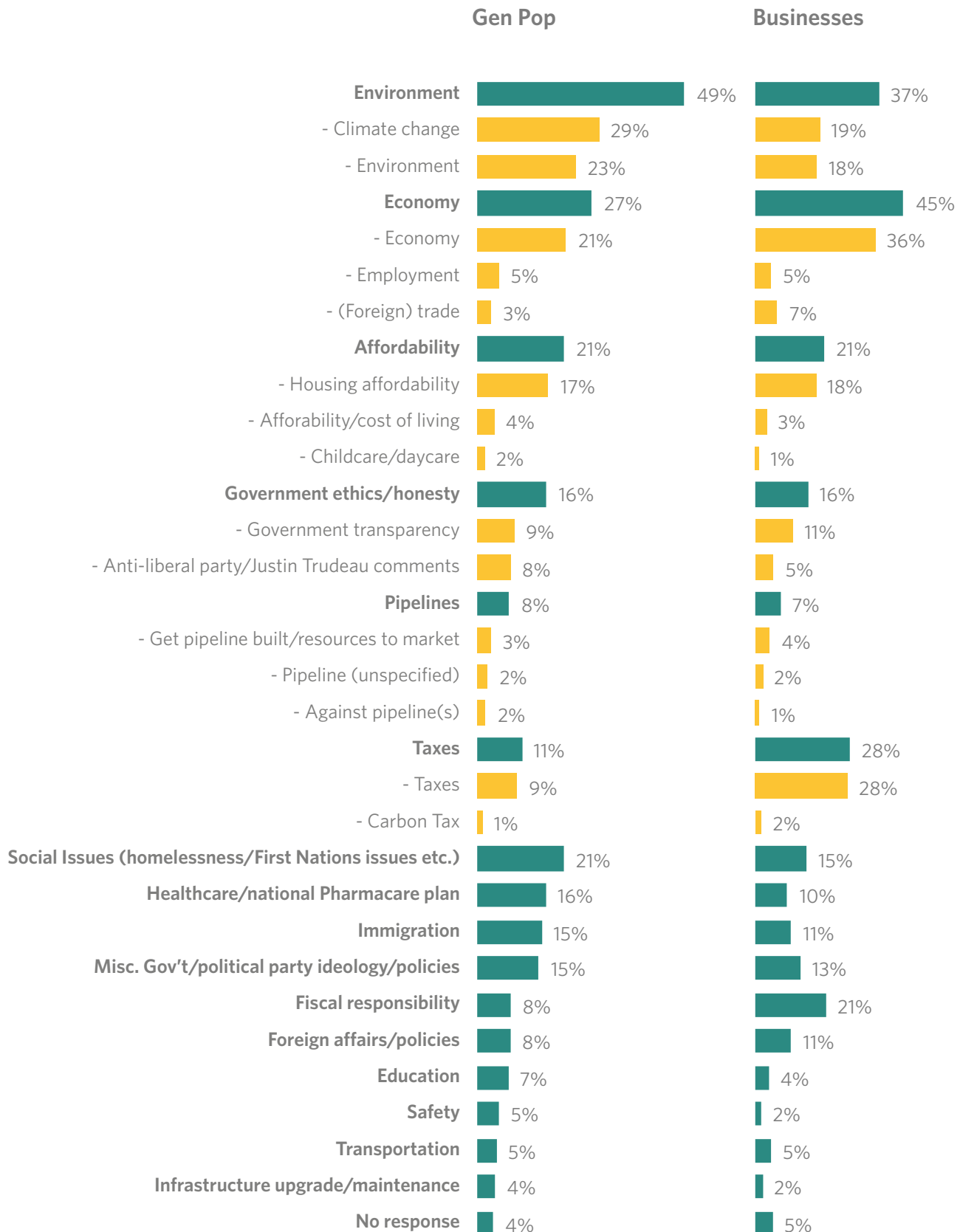
Businesses



The economy is a key issue for businesses (45%) followed by the environment (37%). In terms of the economy, 7% are specifically concerned about foreign trade.

Taxes (28%) and government fiscal policies (21%) are also significant concerns, along with affordability (21%), government ethics (16%) and various social issues (15%).

Important Issues Influencing Voters in 2019 Federal Election (Unprompted)

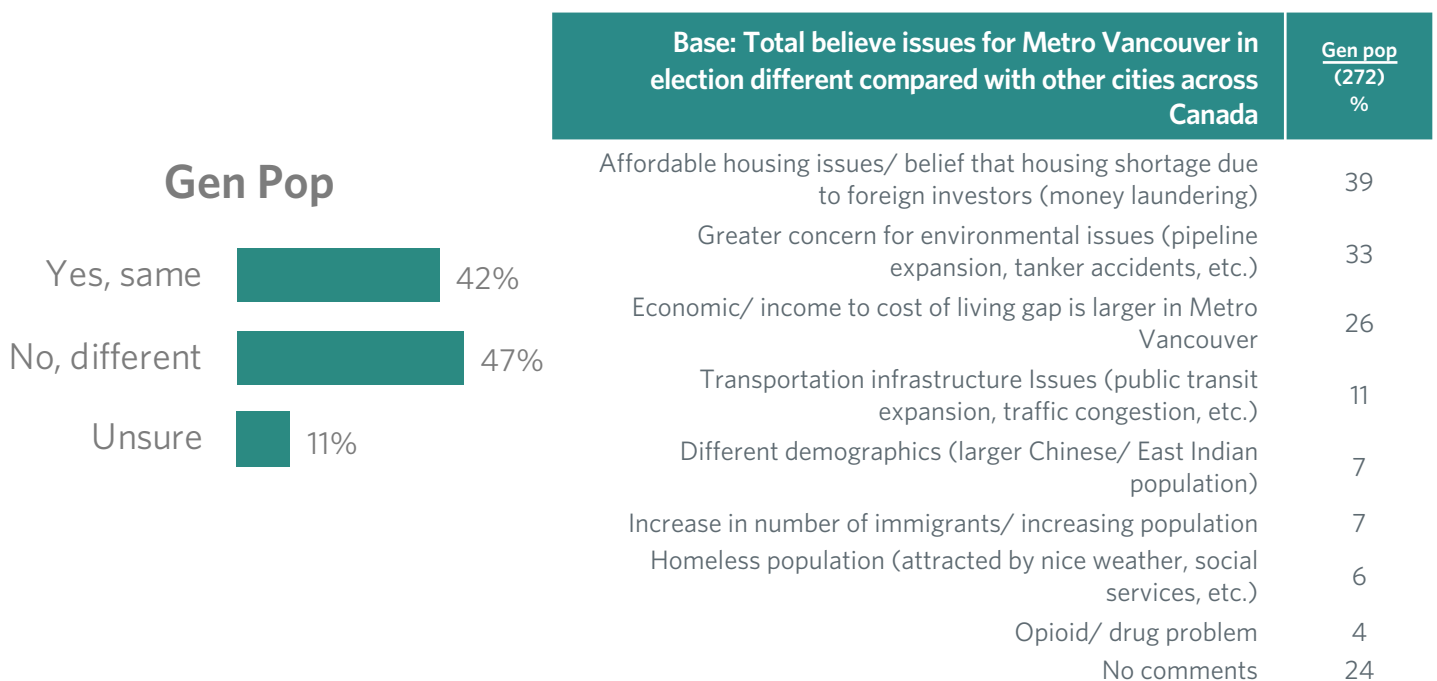


The findings for the public by region are as follows:

- City of Vancouver:** The environment (55%) (specifically climate change - 36%) is the key issue followed by affordability (29%), social issues (27%) and the economy (25%).
- Burnaby/New Westminster:** The highest level of concern about environment relative to other regions is found in Burnaby (64%), followed by social issues (25%) and affordability (25%).
- Northshore:** The environment (51%) followed by the economy (34%) are the key issues, and to a lesser extent, social issues (22%), and affordability (21%).
- Northeast:** The environment is the predominant issue (53%) followed by the economy (28%). A number of other issues are cited by less than 20%.
- Southwest:** The environment (36%) and the economy (34%) are the top two issues, followed by government ethics/honesty (23%).
- Southeast:** The environment is a key issue to 40%, followed by the economy (29%), government ethics/honesty (24%) and social issues (17%).

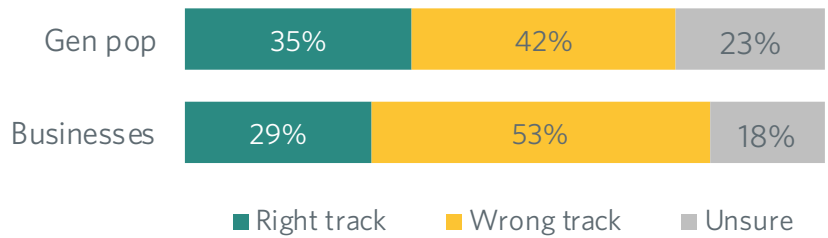
Almost half of residents think the most important issues for Metro Vancouver in this election are different compared with cities across Canada. Our housing issues (with a greater influence of foreign investment), our concern for the environment, and the cost of living and related income gap are seen as unique issues. Other unique issues include our demographic makeup with a higher proportion of ethnic communities and immigration, homelessness, and the opioid problem.

Metro Vancouver Issues Same/Different from Other Cities



Metro Vancouver residents and businesses tend to think the federal government is on the 'wrong track'. In the general population, women and lower income households are most likely to feel this way. Among businesses, business owners are more inclined than senior managers to believe the government is on the wrong track, perhaps because they are more concerned about taxes.

Federal Government on Right/Wrong Track

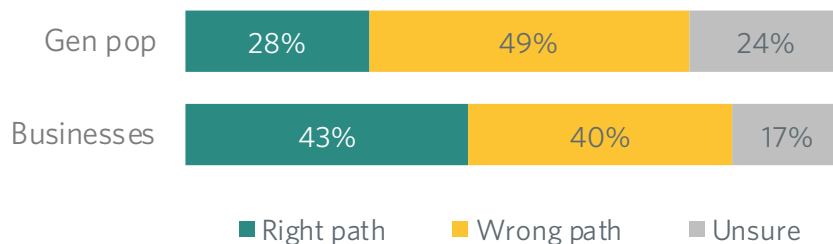


Environmental Issues

Residents tend to think the federal government is on the wrong path in terms of addressing climate change. Younger residents in particular feel this way (58% under 45).

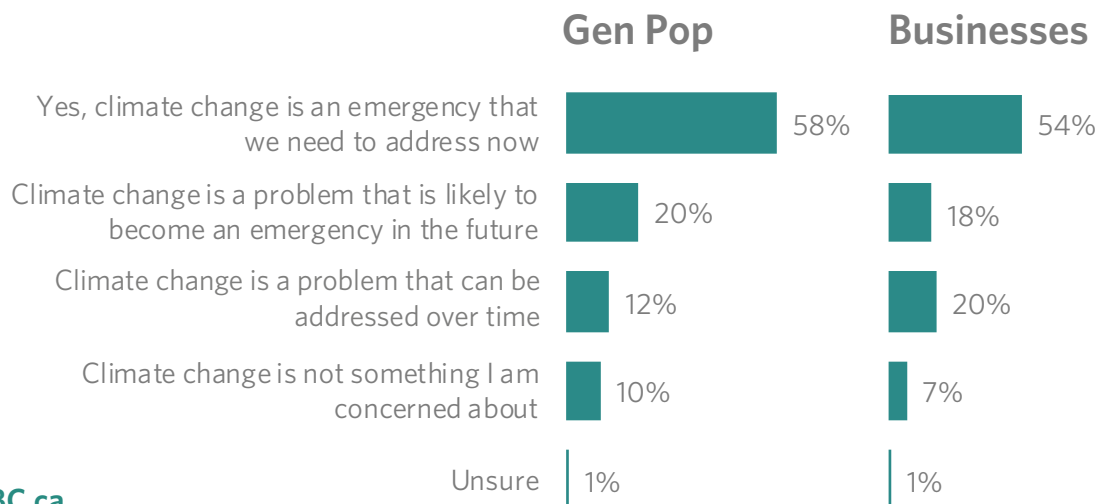
But businesses are divided in their opinions.

Gov't Right/Wrong Path Addressing Climate Change



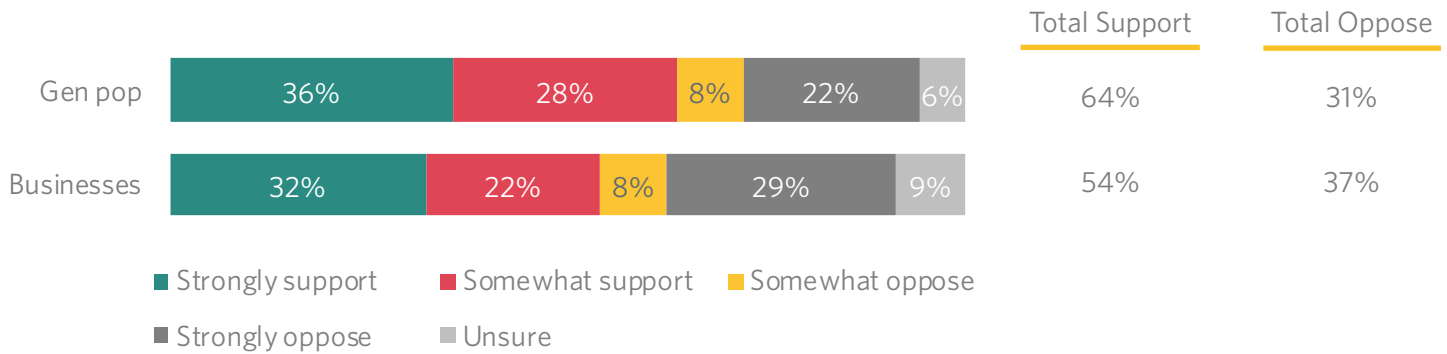
But the majority ascribe to the view that "climate change is an emergency that we need to address now", particularly women and younger residents.

Views of Climate as Emergency



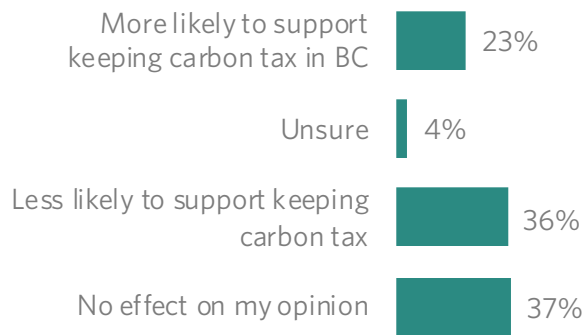
Both residents and businesses tend to support the federal government's coordinated nation-wide carbon tax. Support is consistent throughout the region but opinions are more divided in the Southeast region. Women are particularly supportive but men also tend to support the carbon tax.

Support/Oppose National Carbon Tax



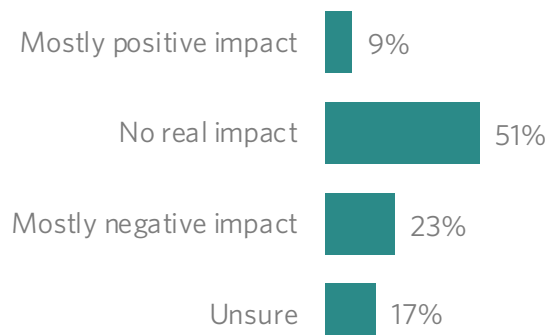
Respondents were explained that certain provinces are taking legal action against the federal government to avoid having to introduce a carbon tax, and asked if other parts of Canada end up paying no or less carbon tax than BC, would they be more or less likely to support keeping a carbon tax in BC. Views are somewhat divided but note that 36% of residents would be less likely to support a BC carbon tax.

Impact of Public Support If Other Provinces Avoid Tax



To date for the majority of businesses, the carbon tax has had no real impact (and in some cases a positive impact). A negative impact has been felt by 23% of businesses.

Carbon Tax as an Impact on Businesses

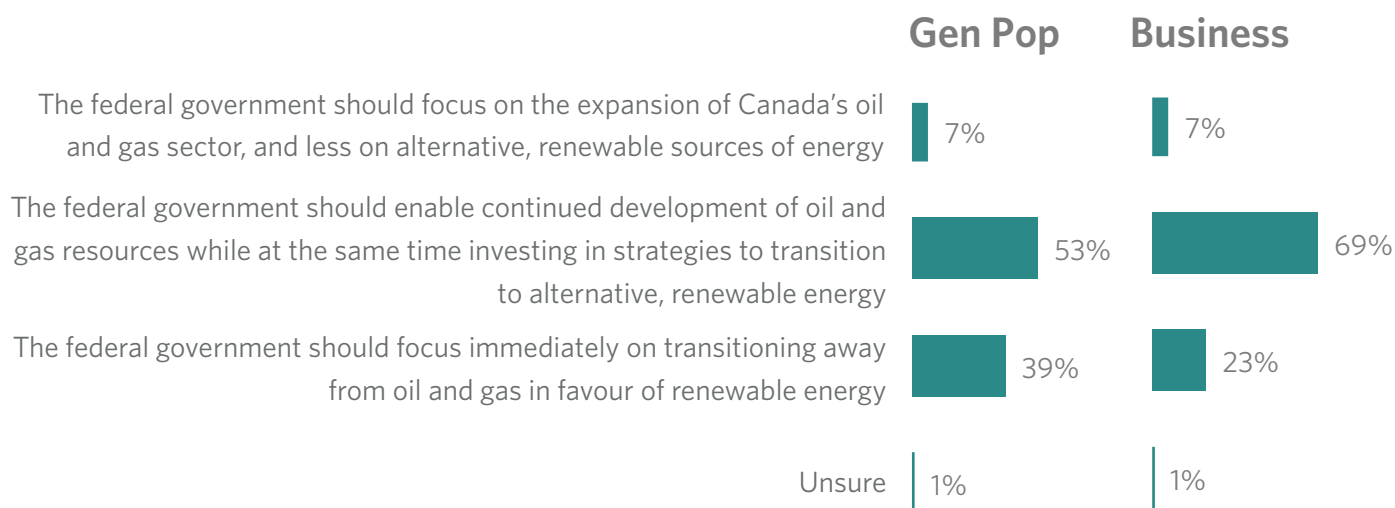




Natural Resources Development

Even in light of the environment being a key issue in the federal election, both Metro Vancouver residents and businesses believe a balanced approach to resource development should be taken: “The federal government should enable continued development of oil & gas resources while at the same time investing in strategies to transition to alternative, renewable energy.” But 39% of residents and 23% of businesses do believe that “The federal government should focus immediately on transitioning away from oil and gas in favour of renewable energy.”

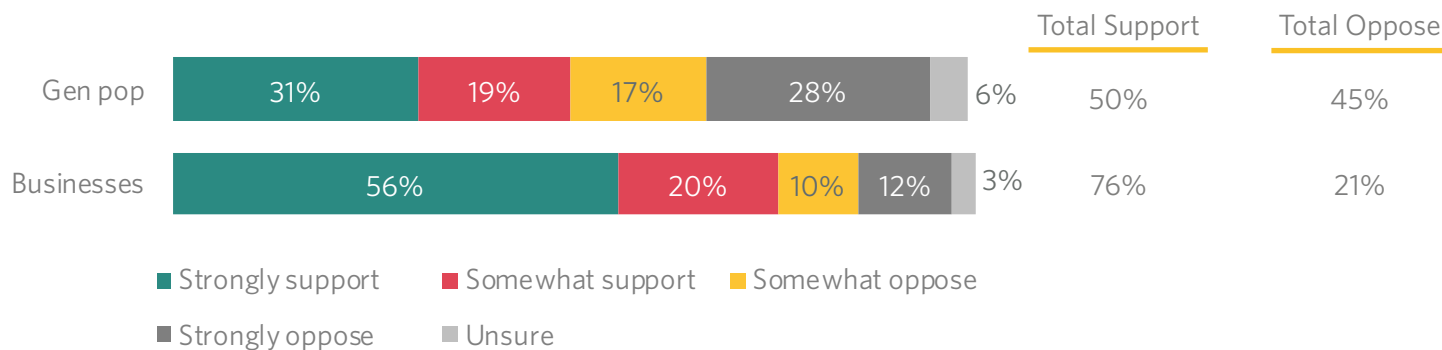
Approach to Energy Resource Development



Among the general public, support continues to slightly outweigh opposition to the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project. Residents of most regions with the exception of City of Vancouver and Burnaby/New Westminster support the project. Opposition also tends to come from women and those under 45 years of age.

The majority of businesses, 76%, support the expansion.

Support/Oppose TMX

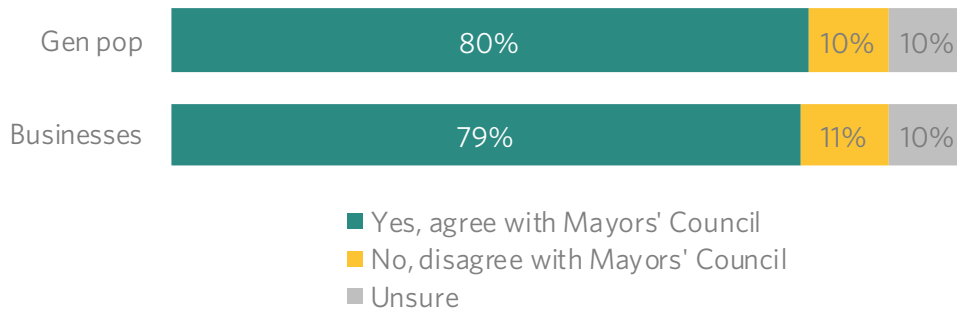




Transportation

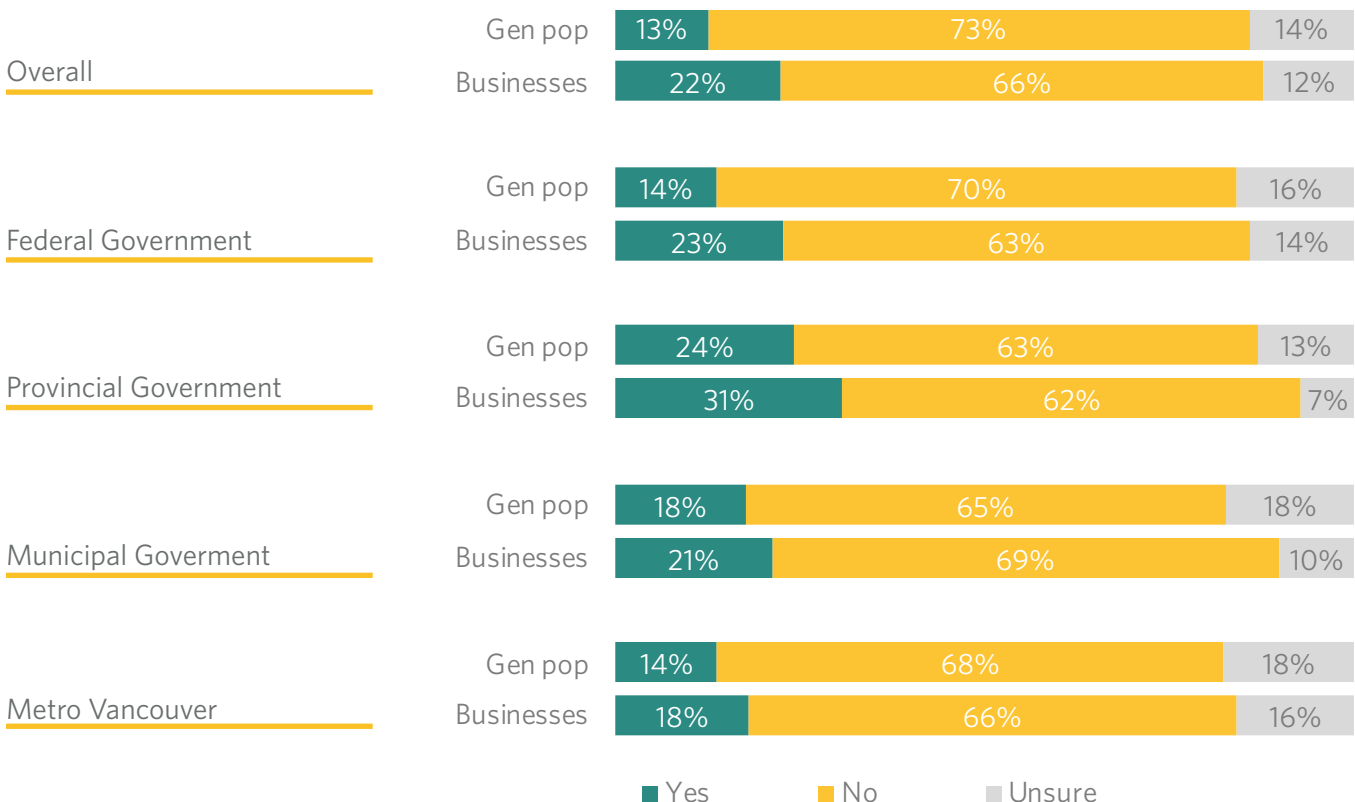
There is overwhelming support for the Mayor’s Council on Regional Transportation recommendation that the federal government should establish a permanent transit fund to provide a long-term, predictable source of funding for public transit expansion in Metro Vancouver and other cities.

Support for Permanent Transit Fund



Housing Affordability

Overall, the public and businesses do not think *any* levels of governments are doing enough to address the housing affordability issue in Metro Vancouver, despite measures taken over the past two years. This opinion is consistent across the region. Renters in particular are critical. Even those from upper income households (\$100,000 plus per year) agree.

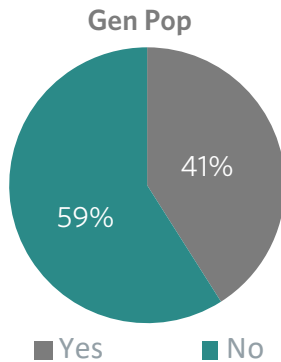


Four-in-ten Metro Vancouver residents (41%) have considered relocating away from Metro Vancouver due to affordability concerns, this level increasing to 54% of those under 45 years of age, and 67% of renters.

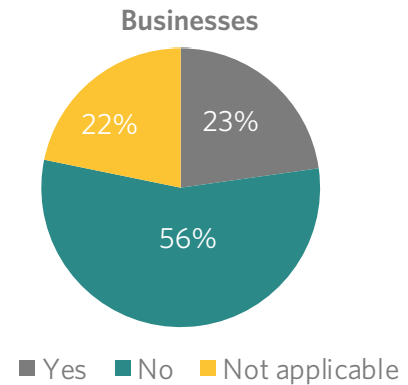
Furthermore, 23% of businesses have considered relocating their businesses away from Metro Vancouver for this reason.

These levels are only slightly lower than measures taken a year ago (46% residents, 37% businesses) further highlighting the need for more measures to address affordability.

Consider Moving Away

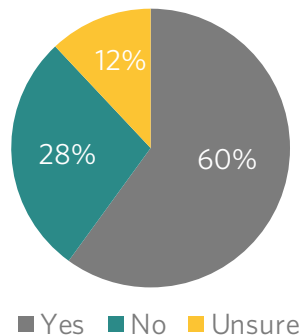


Consider Relocating Business



Furthermore, 60% of businesses report that their ability to recruit or retain employees has been affected by affordability issues.

Ability to Recruit/Retain Employees Affected by Affordability



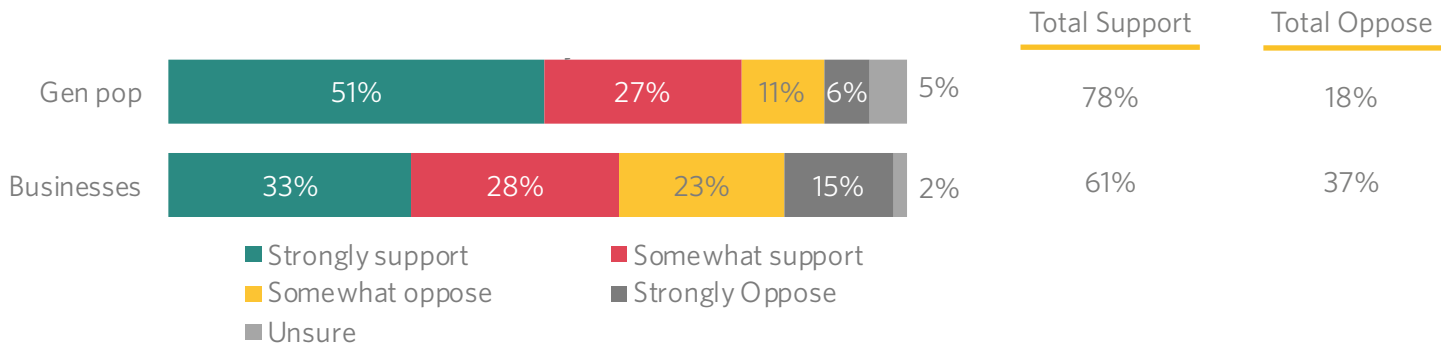
There is strong support from the public (70%) and businesses (69%) for the federal government specifically to incentivize the construction of housing options, including rental, to address housing affordability. Support is particularly strong among renters (87%).

Should Federal Gov't Incentivize Housing Construction to Address Affordability

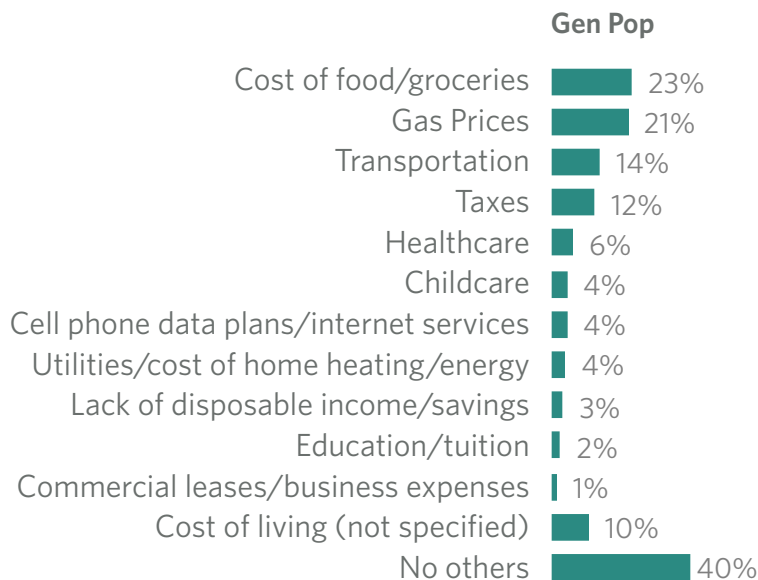


Furthermore, there is **strong support across the region and among businesses for measures to limit or restrict foreign capital** into Canada's housing market.

Support/Oppose Measures to Restrict Foreign Capital



Other aspects of affordability that are of concern to residents include the cost of food/groceries, gas prices, other transportation costs, taxes, and to a lesser extent, healthcare, childcare, cellphone data plans and utility costs.

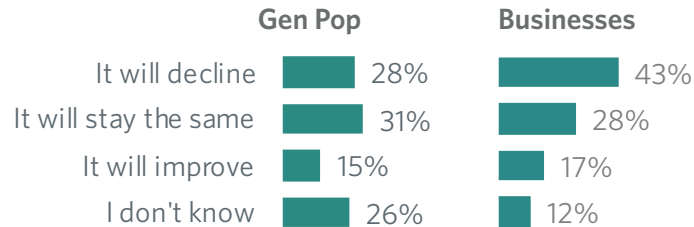




Economy

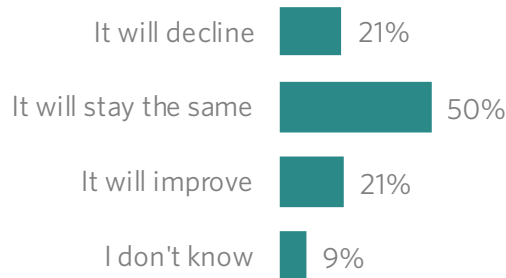
A total of 28% of residents and 43% of businesses believe the Canadian economy will decline in the next five years (versus only 15%/17% thinking it will improve). But many are unsure which is also likely contributing to the angst about our economy and one of the reasons it is a key election issue.

Future of Canadian Economy in Next 5 Years



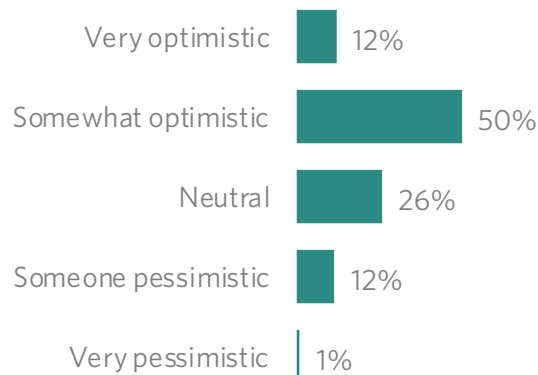
In terms of their own financial security, about half of residents feel it will stay the same and the other half are divided between it improving and declining. Those under 45 are most optimistic and those over 55 most concerned (likely related to their lifecycle in terms of employment).

Personal Financial Security



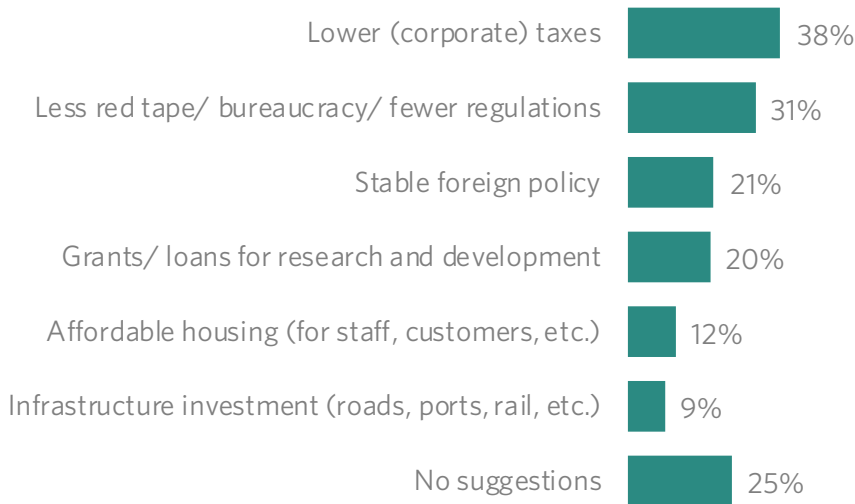
Businesses remain optimistic about their prospects in 2020.

Business Optimism



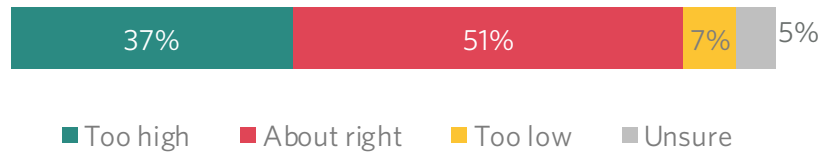
When asked what are some of the practical actions the next federal government should take to support the business community, lower tax rates and less red tape are the top two suggestions.

Business Suggestions for Federal Gov't



Residents tend to think the amount of federal taxes paid is 'about right' (and some even think too low), but one-in-three (37%) think they are too high. Men tend to be more critical than women (43% too high versus 32% of women responding too high) but the findings do not vary significantly by age or household income.

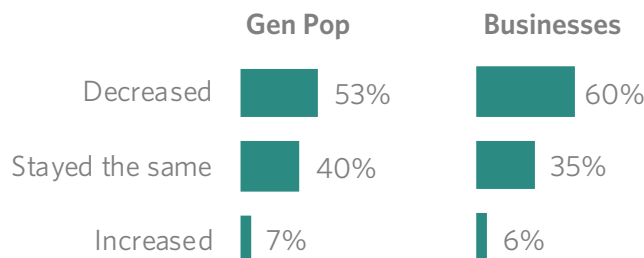
Public's Views of Federal Taxes



Trust in Government

Over half of Metro Vancouver residents (53%) and businesses (60%) report that their trust in politicians to do what's in the public interest has decreased over the past five years. In the general population, men in particular feel this way (60% versus 47% of women).

Trust in Government

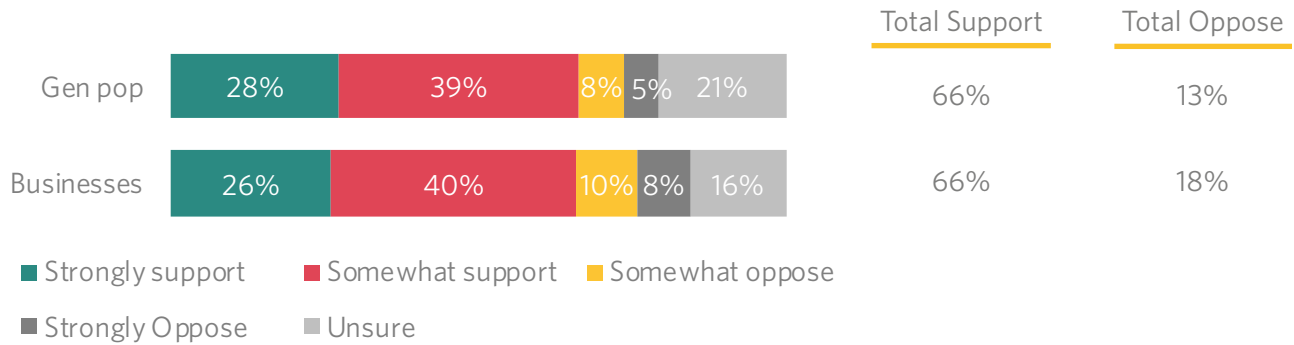




CPP/Pharmacare

The majority of Metro Vancouver residents and businesses (66% each) support the federal government's Canada Pension Plan enhancements, which gradually increases CPP contributions over 7 years and came into effect this year.

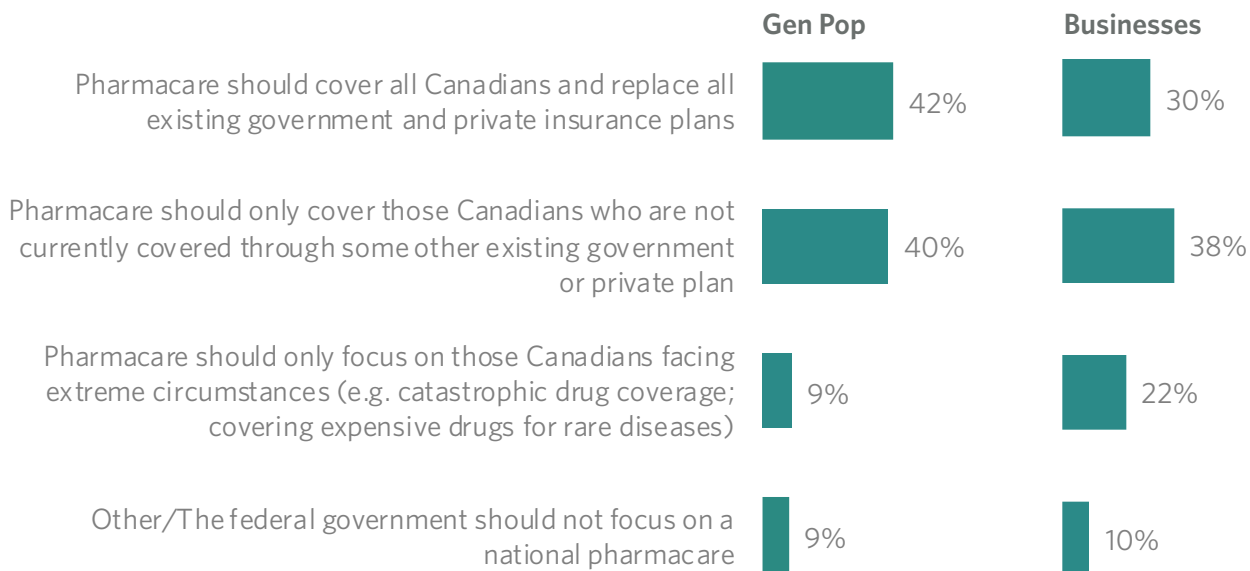
Support/Oppose CPP Enhancements



With respect to a national pharmacare program, residents and businesses are divided on whether such a program should cover all Canadians and replace all existing government and private insurance plans, or whether it should only cover those Canadians who are not currently covered through some other existing government or private plan.

About one-in-five residents and one-third of businesses believe it should only focus on those Canadians facing extreme circumstances, or we should not have a national plan at all.

Opinions of Pharmacare Program

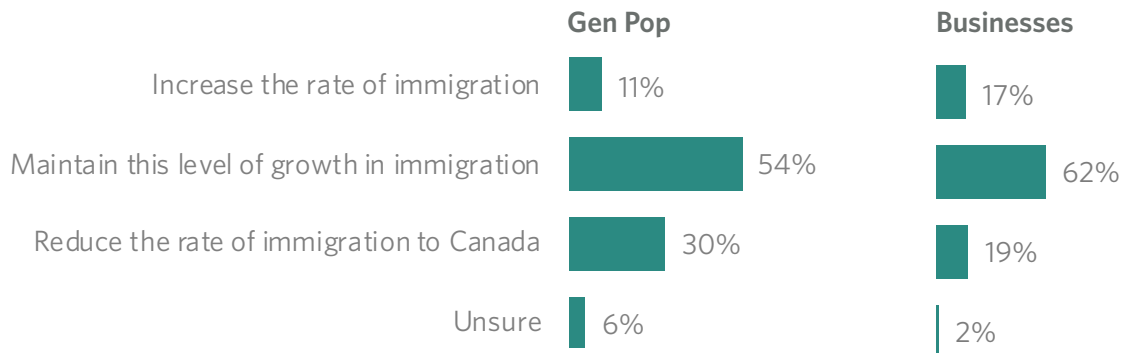




Immigration

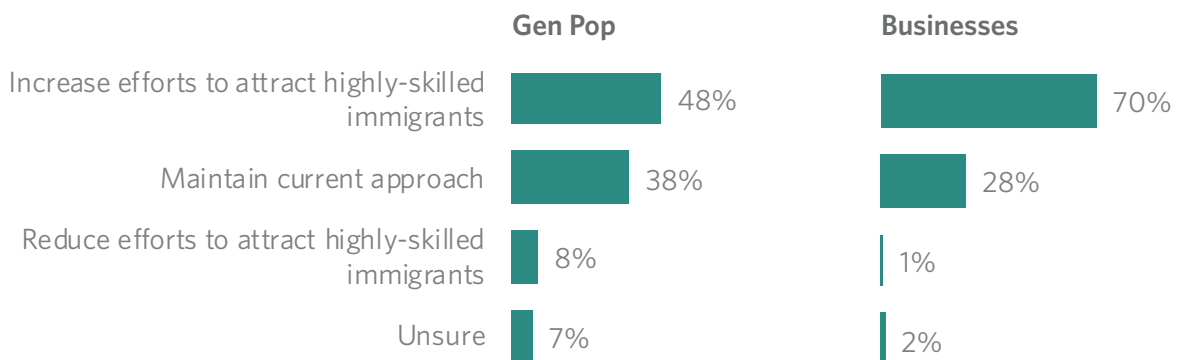
Residents and businesses are generally supportive of current immigration rates versus 30% of residents (19% of businesses) feeling they should be reduced.

Opinions of Immigration Rates

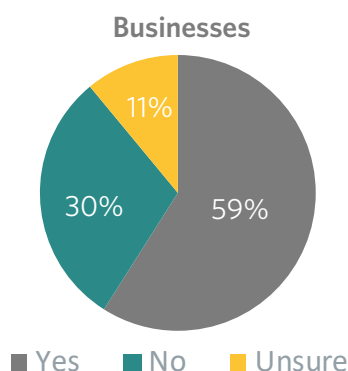


But both residents and businesses tend to support the federal government increasing efforts to attract highly skilled immigrants.

Increase/Reduce Efforts to Attract Skilled Immigrants



This is likely due to the fact that six-in-ten businesses report recently experiencing difficulties hiring workers and employees.

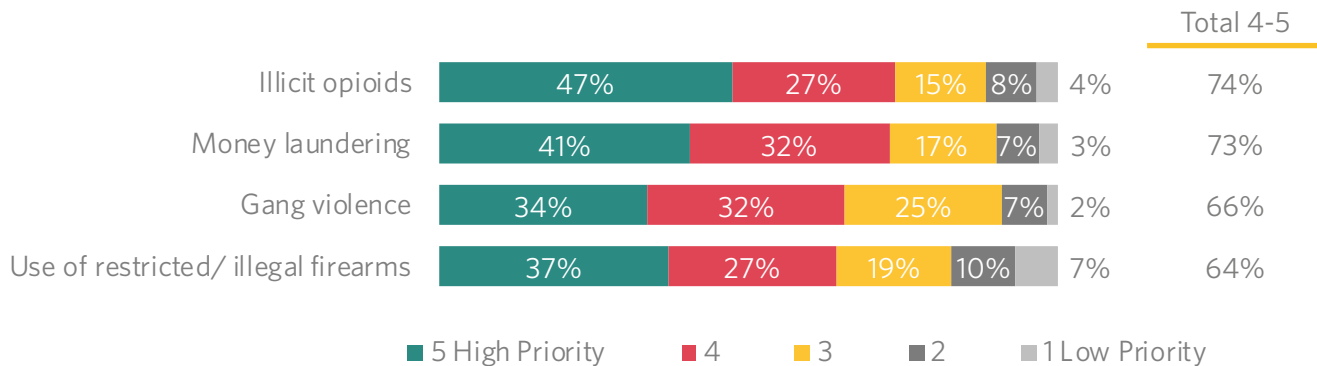




Crime and Safety

When the public was asked to rate several crime and safety issues in terms of the priority each should be for the federal government over the next four years, the highest rated issue is illicit opioids, followed by money laundering. However, gang violence and use of restricted firearms are also rated relatively high.

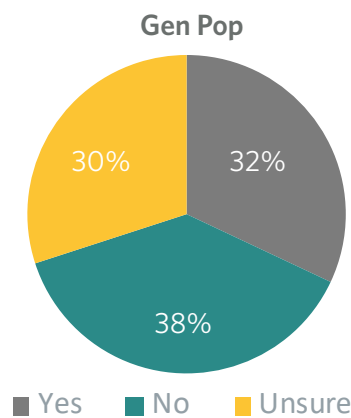
Crime/Safety Priorities for Public



Cannabis/Decriminalization of Other Drugs

Views are divided with respect to how legalization of cannabis has been managed. Those who feel it has been mismanaged (38% of residents), say the bureaucracy and slow rollout is the key criticism, as well as the fact that legalization has not impacted the illegal market and the product is not cheaper.

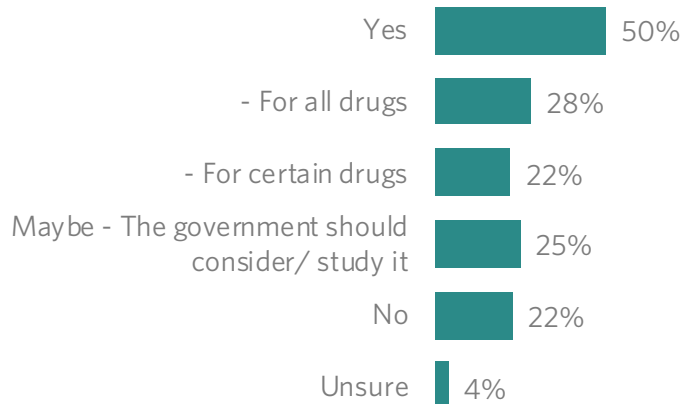
Public Opinion about How Legalization of Cannabis Managed



| | Gen pop (223) % |
|--|-----------------|
| Base: Total feel that the legalization of recreational cannabis has not been managed appropriately | |
| Bureaucratic/ political interference (slow roll out, too many rules, etc.) | 64 |
| Has not affected the illegal market/ cheaper to purchase than from legal sources | 41 |
| Do not believe cannabis should have been legalized (addiction concerns, dislike smell, etc.) | 25 |
| Distribution issues/ supply is inadequate | 12 |
| No comment | 4 |

Half (50%) of residents support legalization of other illicit drugs, either all or just some drugs. Another 25% are unsure but think the government should consider or study it.

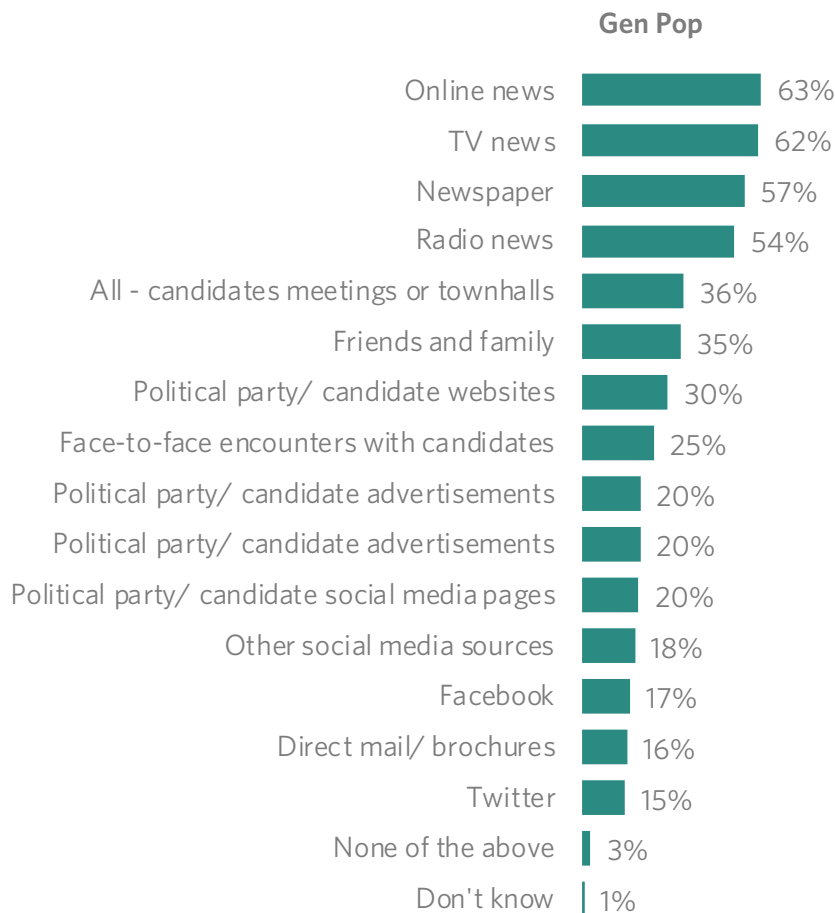
Public View of Legalization of Other Drugs



Information Sources for the Election

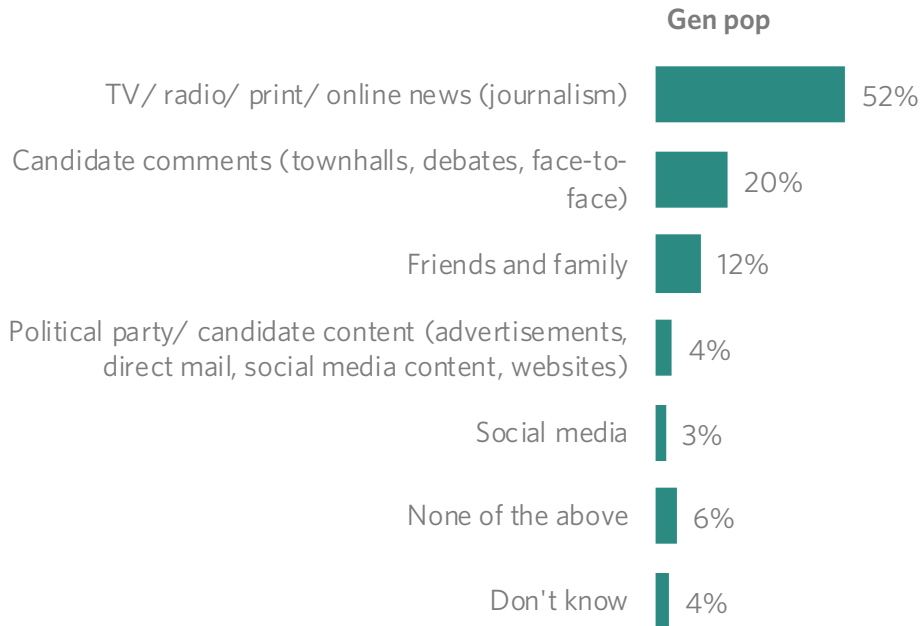
Voters will rely on various sources for election information, with online news, TV news, newspapers and radio news being the most common sources.

Information Sources



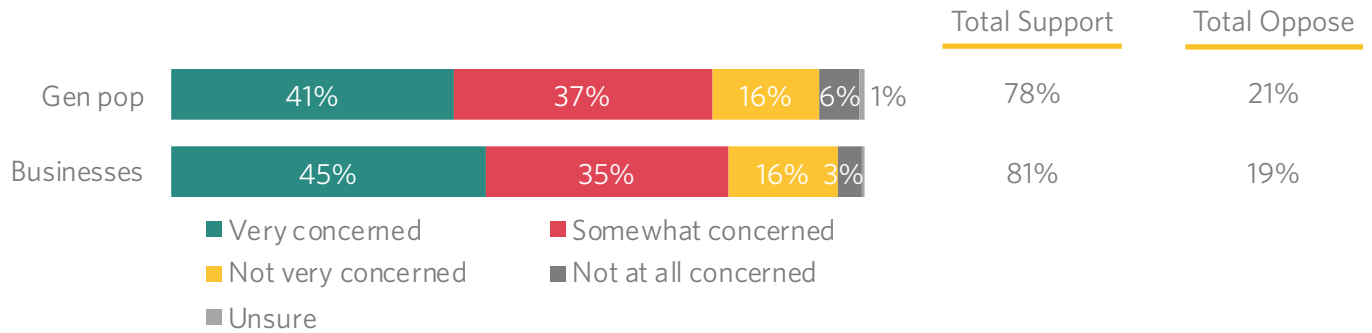
In terms of the most trustworthy sources, the news media is most trusted.

Trustworthy Media Sources



But there is widespread concern about 'fake news' among all demographic segments.

Level of Concern Regarding Fake News





Greater Vancouver Board of Trade: Business Focus

The 2019 VoteLocal survey also sheds light on some of the top priorities and concerns of our region's business leaders, with more than 250 members of the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade completing the survey.

Tapping into this segment of our society is essential because it provides insights into the issues that drive decisions by B.C.'s employers, small business owners, and senior executives. It's also one of the unique factors that differentiate the VoteLocal initiative from other public opinion polls.

Heading into the 2019 Federal Election, the business community identified the economy as the top issue causing them concern, with nearly half of all respondents (45%) ranking it as a key issue, along with related topics such as taxes (28%) and fiscal responsibility (21%).

The business community identified the economy as the top issue causing them concern heading into the 2019 Federal Election

With global growth slowing, business leaders in our region are clearly anxious about Canada's economic competitiveness, resilience, and ability to weather the storm. A total of 43% of business respondents believe the Canadian economy will decline in the next five years, while less than 1 in 5 believe it will improve.

However, the environment is also top-of-mind for many Board of Trade members, with 37% of business respondents identifying it as a key issue - ranking it second just behind the economy.

Perhaps not surprisingly, affordability was another area of concern for our region's business community, with many respondents feeling that no level of government is doing enough to address housing affordability in our region.

1 in 4 businesses have considered relocating due to affordability concerns

It is quite alarming to the Board of Trade that nearly 1 in 4 businesses have considered relocating from our region due to affordability concerns — but it's not entirely surprising. The Board of Trade has been hearing this concern from our Members for several years, with employers struggling to attract and retain talented workers due to the lack of affordable and available housing options.

In the VoteLocal survey, 60% of businesses reported that their ability to recruit or retain employees has been impacted by affordability. As a result, there is strong support from the business community for the federal government to incentivize the construction of housing options in our region.

There is also overwhelming support from the business community for the federal government to establish a permanent transit fund to provide a long-term, predictable source of funding for public transit expansion in our region and others across the country. As identified in the Greater Vancouver Economic Scorecard 2018, transit expansion is one crucial way that we can address our region's housing crisis, and it's also key to reducing

congestion in the Metro Vancouver region and improving our collective quality of life.

When asked about some of the practical actions the next federal government should take to support the business community, the top suggestions from business leaders were to lower taxes (38%) and decrease red tape (31%).

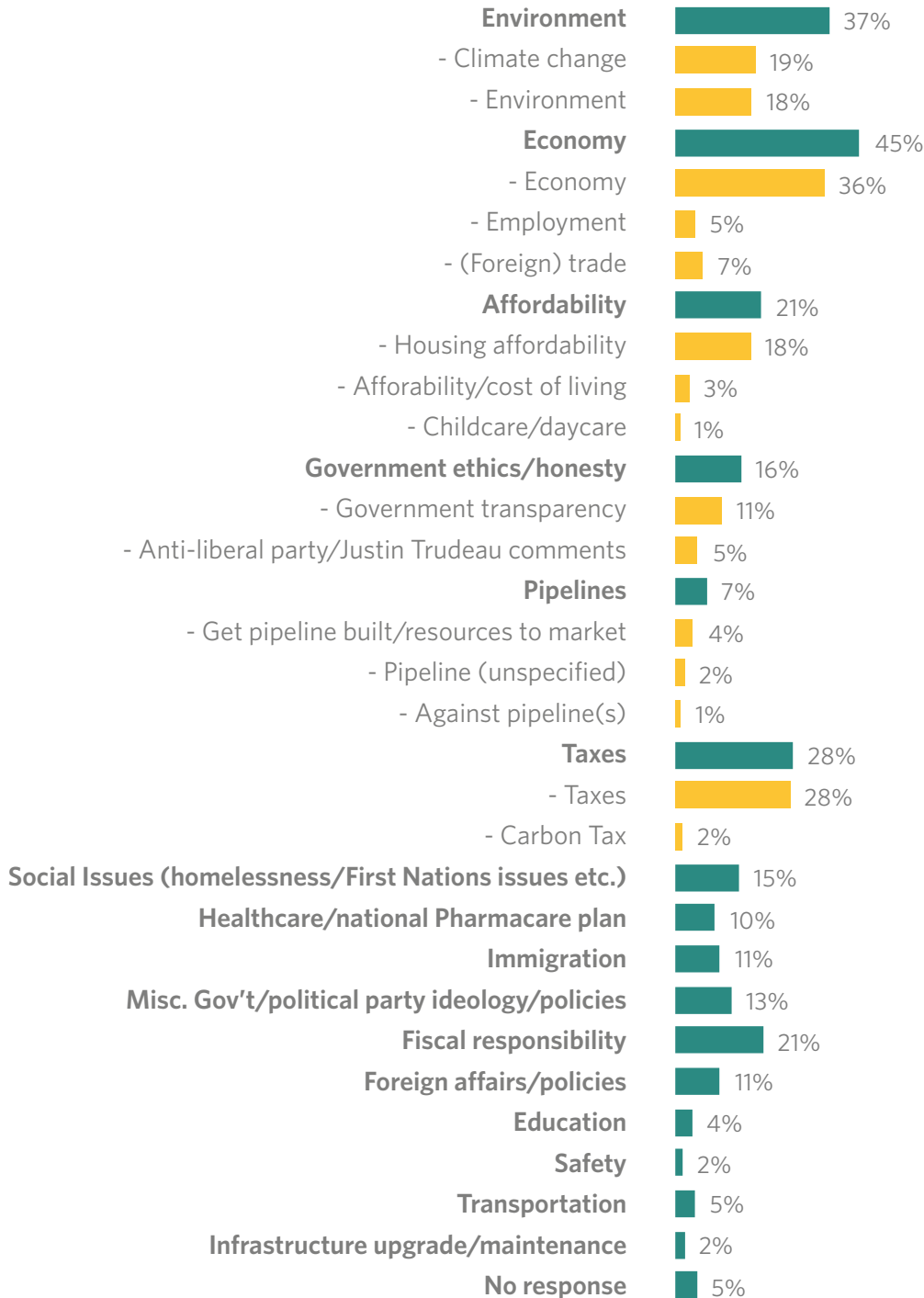
To strengthen our economy, the business community would also like to see more federal investment in trade-enabling infrastructure, along with support for businesses that wish to innovate and adopt new technologies or that must adapt to automation or AI. More than half of all respondents also believe the federal government needs to step in and help support B.C.'s struggling forestry sector.

International trade disputes are also causing a great deal of consternation for business leaders in Metro Vancouver, with a staggering 80% of respondents saying they are concerned about potential impacts on their businesses. Nearly half of respondents also believe Canada's international reputation as a place to invest or do business has declined over the past five years, in large part due to our cumbersome regulatory environment and the uncertainty over some recent major infrastructure projects.

Business Findings

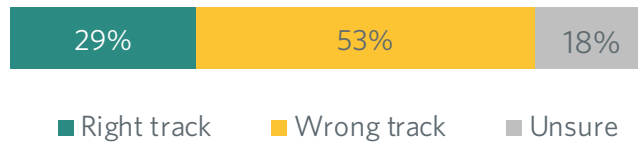
When asked about the most important issues in the 2019 federal election, the economy is a key issue for businesses (45%) followed by the environment (37%).

Taxes (28%) and government fiscal policies (21%) are also significant concerns, along with affordability (21%), government ethics (16%) and various social issues (15%).



Metro Vancouver businesses tend to think the federal government is on the 'wrong track'. Among businesses, business owners are more inclined than senior managers to believe the government is on the wrong track, perhaps because they are more concerned about taxes.

Federal Government on Right/Wrong Track



Economic Outlook and Affordability

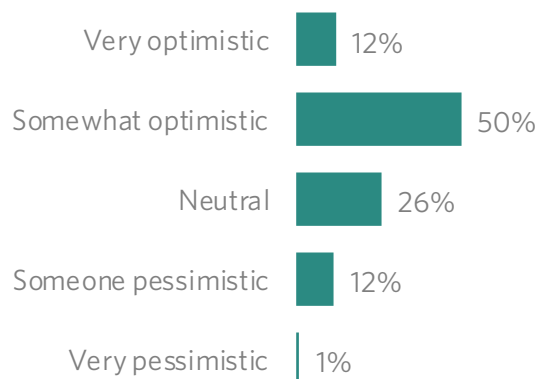
Economy

A total of 43% of businesses believe the Canadian economy will decline in the next five years (versus only 17% thinking it will improve). But many are unsure which is also likely contributing to the angst about our economy and one of the reasons it is a key election issue.



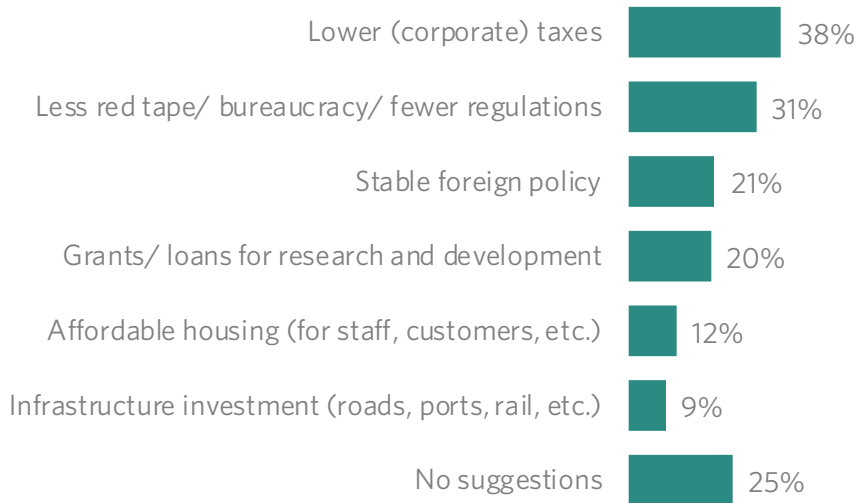
Businesses remain optimistic about their prospects in 2020.

Business Optimism



When asked to identify some of the practical actions the next federal government should take to support the business community, lower tax rates and less red tape are the top two suggestions.

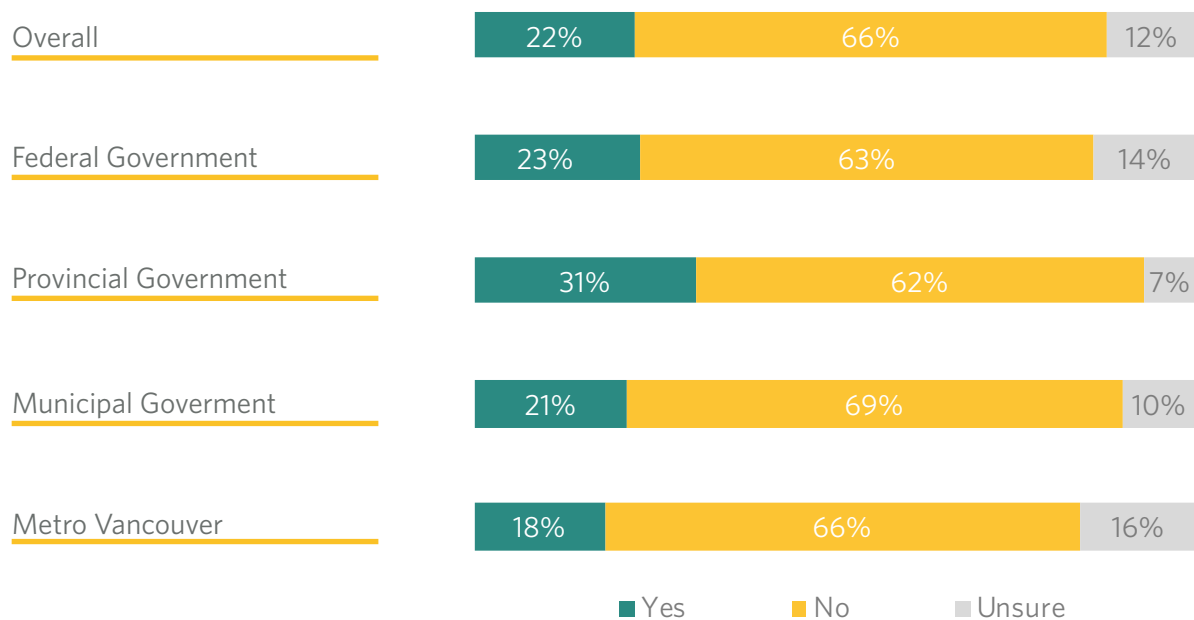
Business Suggestions for Federal Gov't



Housing Affordability

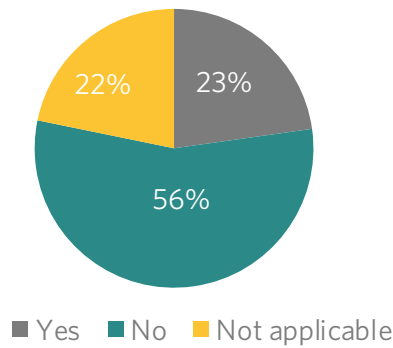
Overall, businesses do not think any levels of governments are doing enough to address the housing affordability issue in Metro Vancouver, despite measures taken over the past two years.

Gov't Doing Enough to Address Housing Affordability



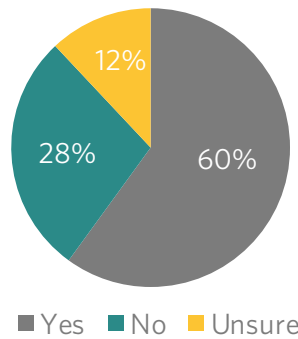
Twenty-three percent of businesses have considered relocating their businesses away from Metro Vancouver due to affordability concerns. These levels are only slightly lower than measures taken a year ago (37% businesses) further highlighting the need for more measures to address affordability.

Consider Relocating Business



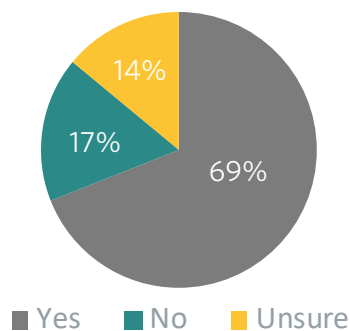
Furthermore, 60% of businesses report that their ability to recruit or retain employees has been affected by affordability issues.

Ability to Recruit/Retain Employees Affected by Affordability



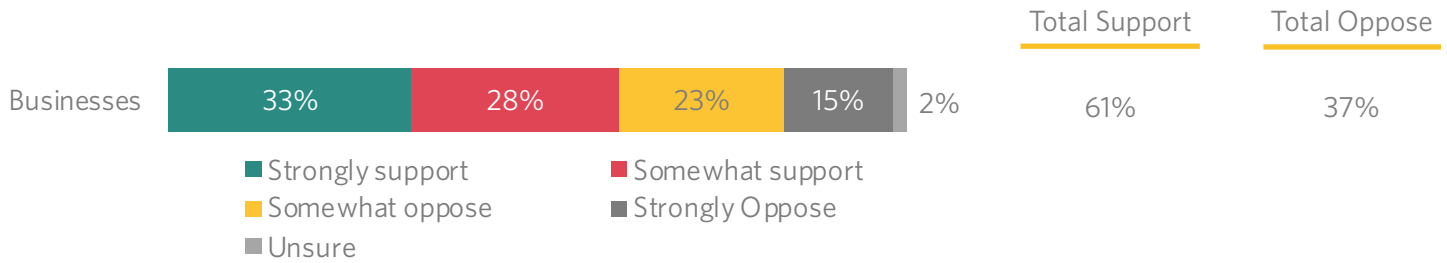
There is strong support from businesses (69%) for the federal government specifically to incentivize the construction of housing options, including rental stock, to address housing affordability.

Should Federal Gov't Incentivize Housing Construction to Address Affordability



Furthermore, there is **strong support across the region and among businesses for measures to limit or restrict foreign capital** into Canada’s housing market.

Support/Oppose Measures to Restrict Foreign Capital



Industry Sectors

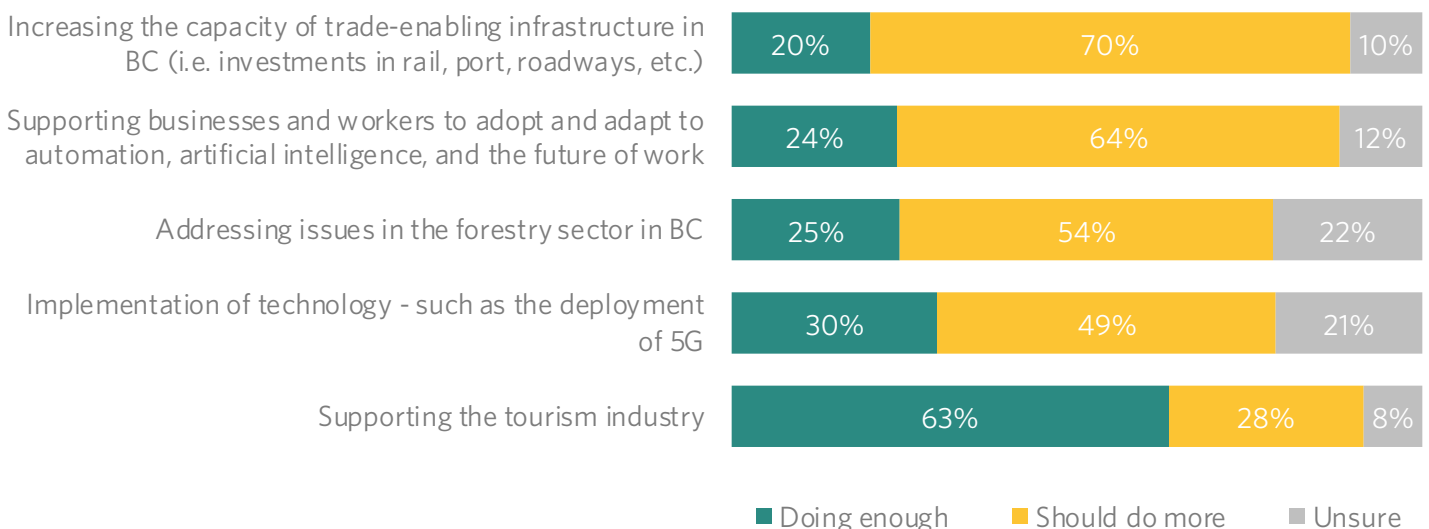
Businesses were asked about the level of federal government support provided in a number of industry sectors or on issues facing businesses. The majority of businesses believe the federal government should be doing more to:

- increase the capacity of trade-enabling infrastructure in BC (70%)
- support businesses and workers to adopt and adapt to automation, artificial intelligence, and the future of work (64%)
- address issues in the forestry sector in B.C. (54%)

In addition, nearly half (49%) believe more should be done in implementation of technology – such as the deployment of 5G.

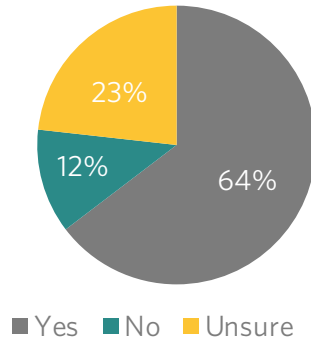
But most believe enough is being done to support the tourism industry.

Federal Gov’t Doing Enough or Should do More



Furthermore, the majority believe the federal government should take a more proactive role in protecting industrial lands (for example by means of requiring local governments in important trade corridors to collaborate on regional land use strategies including industrial lands).

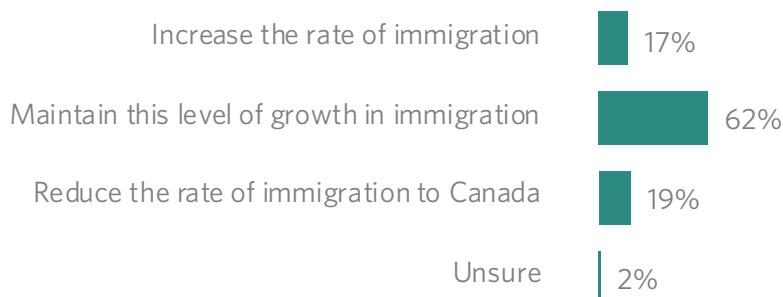
Should Federal Gov't be More Proactive in Protecting Industrial Lands



Workforce and Immigration

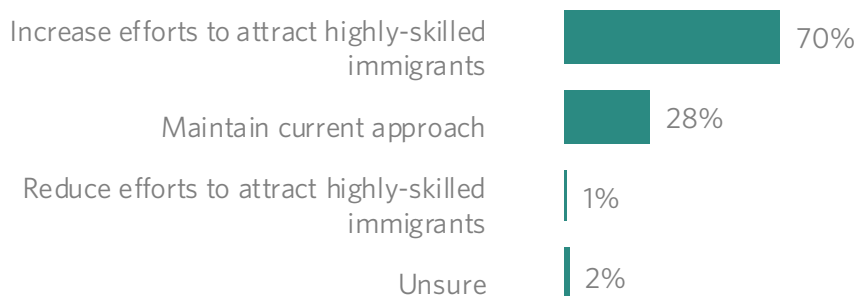
Businesses are generally supportive of current immigration rates while 19% of businesses feel they should be reduced.

Opinions of Immigration Rates



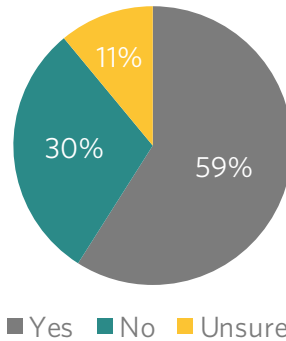
Businesses tend to support the federal government increasing efforts to attract highly skilled immigrants.

Increase/Reduce Efforts to Attract Skilled Immigrants



This is likely due to the fact that almost six-in-ten businesses report recently experiencing difficulties hiring workers and employees.

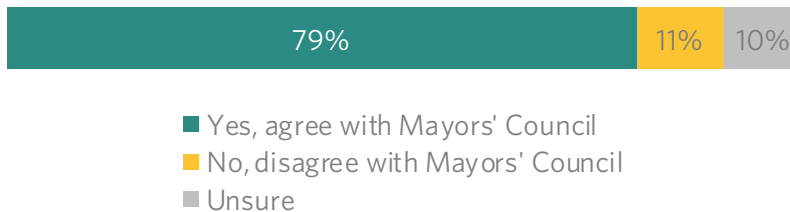
Difficulty in Hiring



Transportation

There is overwhelming support for the Mayor’s Council on Regional Transportation recommendation that the federal government should establish a permanent transit fund to provide a long-term, predictable source of funding for public transit expansion in Metro Vancouver and other cities.

Support for Permanent Transit Fund

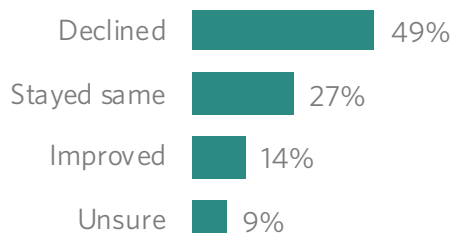


Competitiveness and Trade

Regulatory Environment

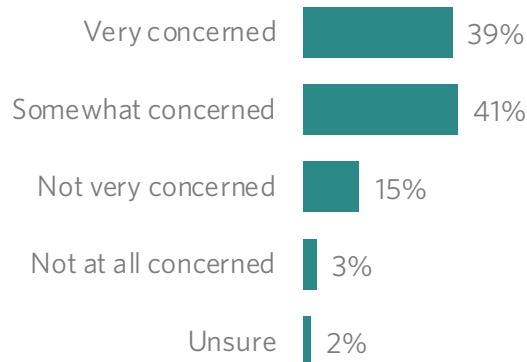
Almost half of businesses believe Canada’s regulatory environment has *declined* in the past five years in terms of making Canada a desirable place to invest or do business, in contrast to only 14% seeing improvement.

Business Opinions of Regulatory Environment in Past 5 Years



In terms of the international trade dispute, 80% of businesses are concerned about its impact on their business.

Business Concern about Trade Dispute Impacts

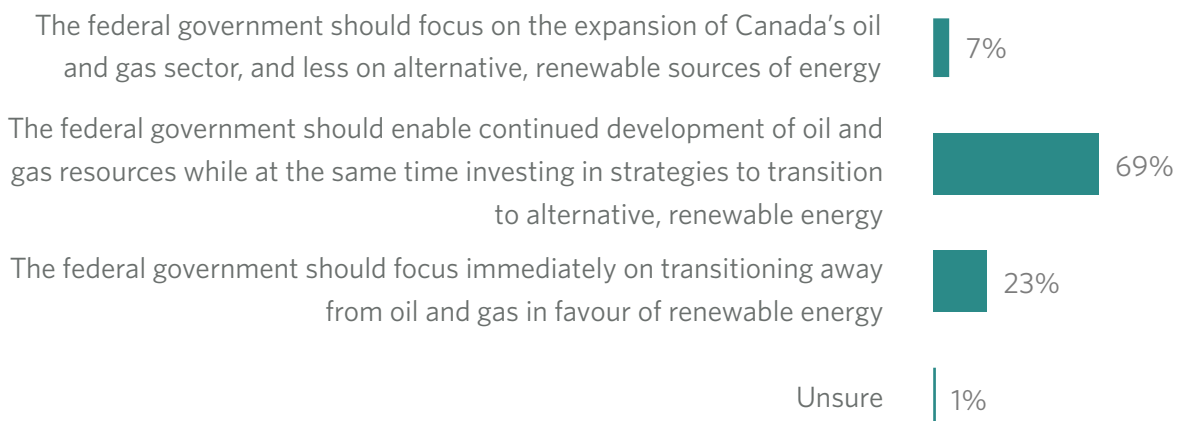


Natural Resources and Environment

Natural Resource Development

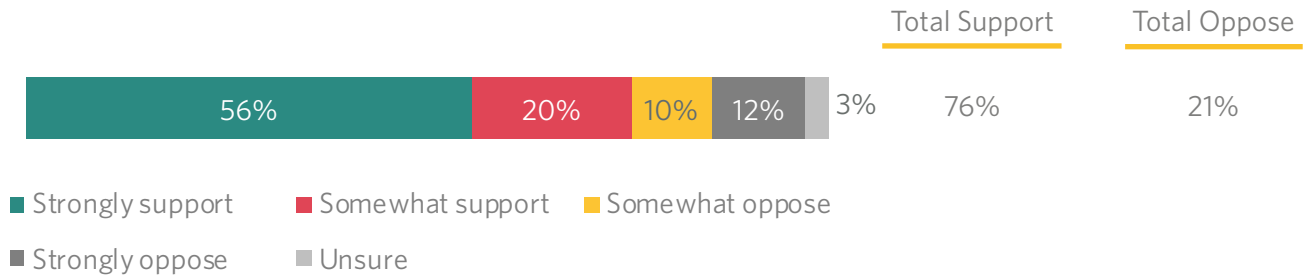
Even in light of the environment being a key issue in the federal election, business believe a balanced approach to resource development should be taken: *“The federal government should enable continued development of oil & gas resources while at the same time investing in strategies to transition to alternative, renewable energy.”* But 23% of businesses do believe that *“The federal government should focus immediately on transitioning away from oil and gas in favour of renewable energy.”*

Approach to Energy Resource Development



There is strong business support, 76%, for the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline.

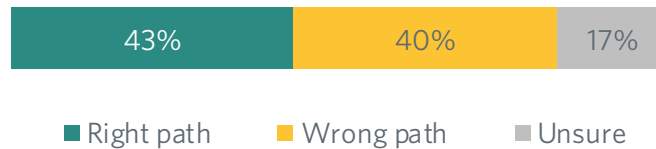
Support/Oppose TMX



Environmental Issues

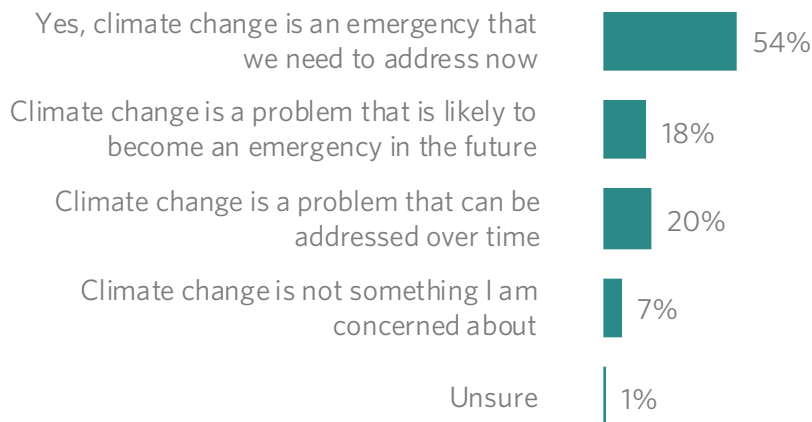
Businesses are mixed as to whether the federal government is on the right path in terms of addressing climate change.

Gov't Right/Wrong Path Addressing Climate Change



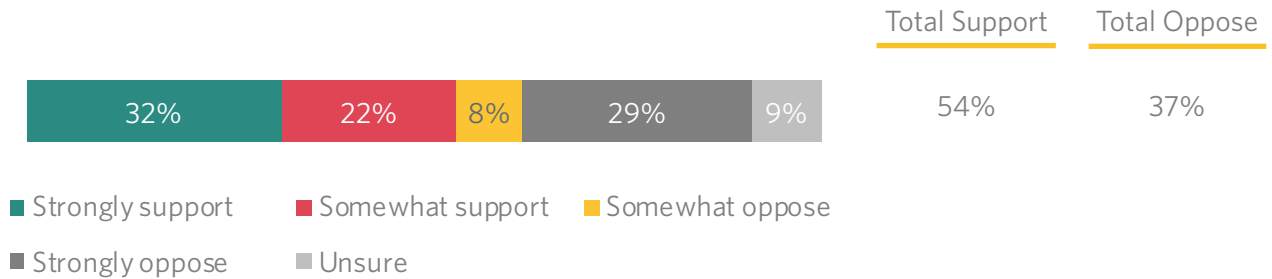
But the majority ascribe to the view that "climate change is an emergency that we need to address now".

Views of Climate as Emergency



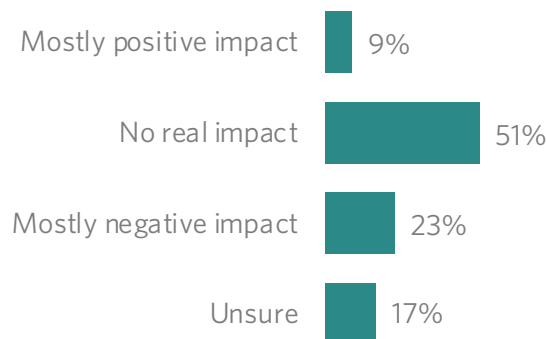
Businesses tend to support the federal government's coordinated nation-wide carbon tax.

Support/Oppose National Carbon Tax



To date for the majority of businesses, the carbon tax has had no real impact (and in some cases a positive impact). A negative impact has been felt by 23% of businesses.

Carbon Tax as an Impact on Businesses

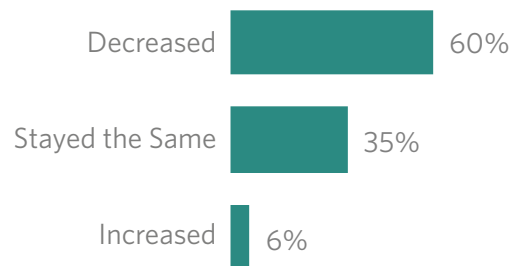


Additional Findings

Trust in Government

Over half of Metro Vancouver businesses (60%) report that their trust in politicians to do what's in the public interest has decreased over the past five years.

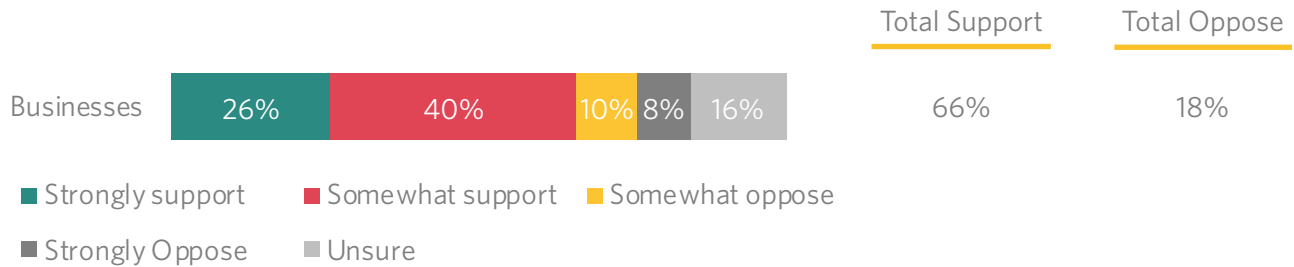
Trust in Government



CPP/Pharmacare

The majority of Metro Vancouver businesses (66%) support the federal government’s Canada Pension Plan enhancements, which gradually increases CPP contributions over 7 years and came into effect this year.

Support/Oppose CPP Enhancements



With respect to a national pharmacare program, two-thirds of businesses believe it should be narrow in scope, covering those without a plan, facing extreme circumstances or that the government should not have a national plan at all.

Opinions of Pharmacare Program

