

### Canadians & Climate Change

June 7, 2023 Catherine Philogène Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee (WSAC) Understanding Canadian attitudes vis-à-vis climate change



CLIMATE CHANGE KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING CANADIAN VERSUS GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES CONSIDERATIONS FOR WSAC

#### Perspectives on climate change

- 72% of Canadians agree that humans are responsible for climate change
- 50% believe climate change is causing mental health issues
- 17% think the government is doing a good job in their actions to address climate change
- 55% understand that greenhouse gas emissions are the primary cause of climate change



#### Climate change perceptions vary by gender

Knowledge and Understanding	Men	Women
Personally, how well-informed do you feel you are about climate change?	68%	43%
Pass rate on climate survey knowledge quiz (5 or more correct answers)	69%	65%

Perceptions of Climate Change	Men	Women
I am certain that climate change is happening	78%	87%
Human beings are responsible for climate change	69%	74%
Climate change poses risks to Canadians	73%	80%

Source: Canadians' Perspectives on Climate Change & Education: 2022, Learning for a Sustainable Future

### Knowledge and mental well-being



#### What Canadians are doing to mitigate climate change



Country	Agree	Disagree
Global Country Average	70%	10%
Colombia	86%	5%
Chile	84%	<b>6%</b>
Mexico	83%	5%
Peru	83%	<b>%</b>
Argentina	83%	<b>%</b>
South Africa	81%	<b>6%</b>
China	79%	<b>%</b>
Malaysia	76%	5%
Brazil	76%	7%
India	75%	8%
Ireland	74%	10%
Spain	73%	7%
Sweden	71%	13%
Italy	71%	9%
Turkey	69%	12%
Saudi Arabia	68%	<b>6%</b>
Australia	68%	13%
Hungary	68%	9%
South Korea	67%	8%
France	67%	9%
Great Britain	66%	10%
Belgium	65%	9%
Switzerland	64%	14%
Netherlands	63%	14%
Germany	63%	11%
Canada	62%	16%
United States	61%	16%
Poland	61%	12%
Japan	44%	16%
Russia	41%	17%

Climate change is a heavy burden for some to carry

Q: If individuals like me do not act now to combat climate change, we will be failing future generations

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Base: 22, 534 online adults across 30 countries, 18 Feb – 4 Mar 2022, NB excludes Norway due to methodological differences in how question was asked.

Country	A great deal / fair amount	A little	Not at all
Global Country Average	48%	31%	15%
Colombia	71%		19% 8%
Chile	69%		23%
Italy	69%		<b>19%</b>
Mexico	68%		27% 36
Argentina	63%		26% 7%
India	63%		24% 8%
South Africa	61%	2	5% 12%
Turkey	60%	2	<b>24% 9%</b>
Peru	59%	2	9% 9%
Spain	54%	29%	15%
Brazil	53%	32%	<b>11%</b>
Malaysia	50%	38%	6 7%
Poland	49%	27%	15%
Hungary	46%	31%	15%
France	45%	31%	15%
South Korea	45%	37%	14%
Switzerland	45%	29%	18%
Belgium	42%	37%	16%
Ireland	41%	36%	20%
Saudi Arabia	39%	31%	10%
Sweden	39%	36%	20%
United States	38%	28%	29%
Australia	36%	32%	27%
Germany	36%	38%	18%
Canada	34%	32%	
Great Britain	34%	34%	
Japan	34%	4% 38%	
Netherlands	31% 38%		24%
Russia	29% 38%		26%
China	28%	46%	

Canada below the global average of climate worriers

Q: To what extent, if at all, have you worried about climate change in the last 2-3 weeks

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#### **Carbon Tunnel Vision**



# Avoiding tunnel vision

Having a singular focus on carbon emissions can make us lose sight of the interconnectedness of sustainability issues

# Considerations for WSAC

- Education and communication reaching the unreachable
- Mental health awareness impact of social media youth focus
- Acknowledging income disparities climate change mitigation strategies for everyone, regardless of income
- What's the low hanging fruit?

THANKYOU