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.

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

- 87% Yes
- 9% No
- 4% Unsure

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: Lowest risk
- Heavy rain and thunderstorms: Lowest risk
- Flooding: Lowest risk
- Heat waves: Lowest risk
- Droughts: Lowest risk
- Wildfires: Lowest risk
- Hurricanes and storm surges: Lowest risk
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest risk</th>
<th>Lowest risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More frequent and severe extreme water events, such as droughts and floods</td>
<td>Impacts of sea-level rise on coastal communities and ecosystems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased water quality issues, such as unsafe drinking water, beach closures and impacts on the health of wildlife</td>
<td>Reduced access to, availability, and/or quality of wild foods in northern and remote communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less water for ecosystems, tourism, energy production and household use</td>
<td>Increased competition over water and potential increases in water costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts on food producers due to the effect of warmer weather, droughts and floods on the health and productivity of crops and livestock</td>
<td>Impacts on crops and livestock from saltwater contamination of groundwater due to sea-level rise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest risk</th>
<th>Lowest risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater risk of illnesses spread by insects, ticks and rodents, such as Lyme disease, West Nile virus and Hantavirus</td>
<td>Increased incidence of food and water contamination causing illness, boil-water advisories and food recalls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing air quality issues (e.g. more smog days, more airborne allergens such as ragweed, and more wildfires) that can impact breathing</td>
<td>Increasing physical and mental health risks from extreme weather events such as flooding, severe droughts, mudslides, wildfires and storms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme temperatures, such as more frequent and severe heat waves that increase the risk of heat stress</td>
<td>Increased health risks for vulnerable populations (e.g. outdoor workers, the elderly, young children, people with pre-existing health conditions)</td>
</tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest risk</th>
<th>Lowest risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impacts of warming oceans, lakes and rivers on fisheries and the availability of fish</td>
<td>Impacts on crops and livestock from saltwater contamination of groundwater due to sea-level rise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased access to affordable, healthy food due to climate change impacts on domestic food production and food imports</td>
<td>Reduced access to, availability, and/or quality of wild foods in northern and remote communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts on food producers due to the effect of warmer weather, droughts and floods on the health and productivity of crops and livestock</td>
<td>Increased competition over water and potential increases in water costs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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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
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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 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