

# Survey Results

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December 2016

## Carbon Pricing Survey

In November 2016 the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce circulated its carbon pricing survey to the membership. The results of the carbon pricing survey will be used to update the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce policy surrounding carbon pricing. The survey was sent to members on November 30<sup>th</sup>, and 129 member representatives provided responses.

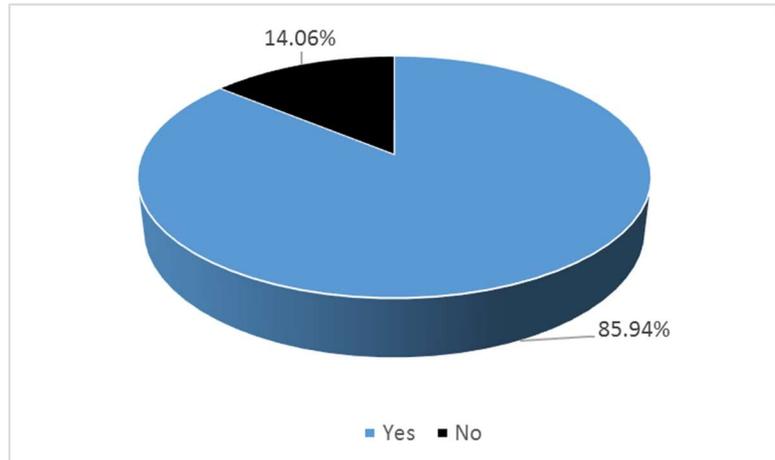
Key results of the survey:

- 86% of respondents support the reduction of carbon emissions in general
- Only 29% support the pricing of carbon as a tactic to reduce emissions.
- 72.8% of respondents felt that the SCC should continue to fight against the implementation of carbon pricing.
- When asked which makes more sense in Saskatchewan, carbon tax or cap-and-trade, 65% of respondents selected cap-and-trade while only 35 % were in favour of a carbon tax. Respondents were forced to make a selection of one or the other, as noted above only 29% actually support carbon pricing
- 78% of respondents believe that a Saskatchewan cap-and-trade system should remain internal rather than joining an emission exchange with Quebec, Ontario and California.

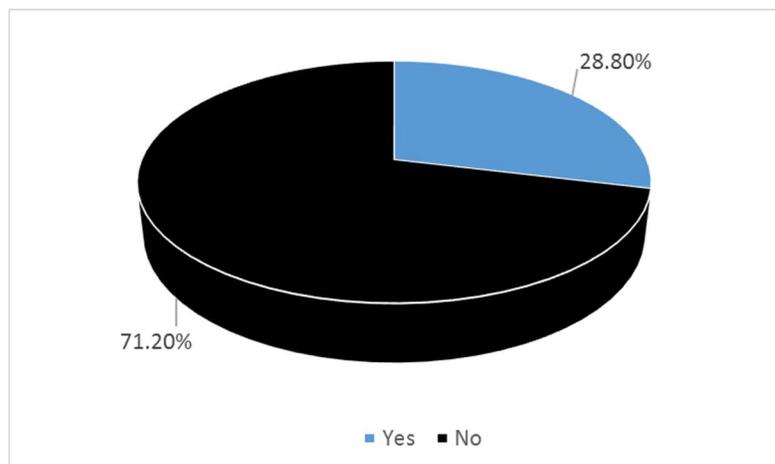
## Results

Respondents were asked the following questions

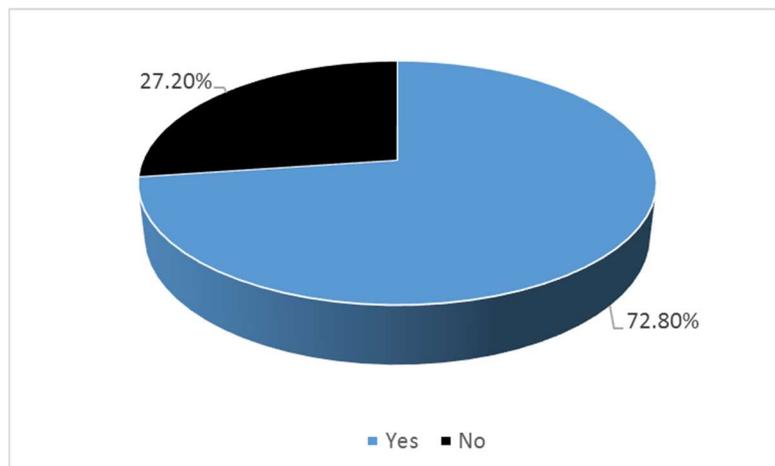
**1. Do you, as a representative of your business, support the reduction of carbon emissions in general?**



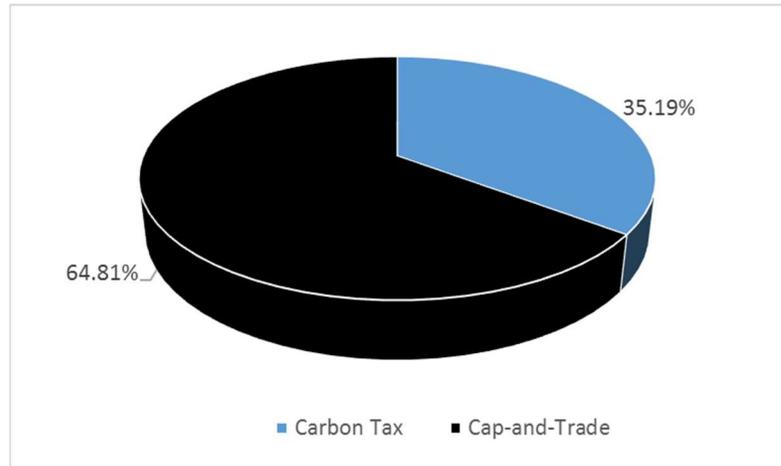
**2. Do you, as a representative of your business, support the pricing of carbon as a tactic to reduce emissions?**



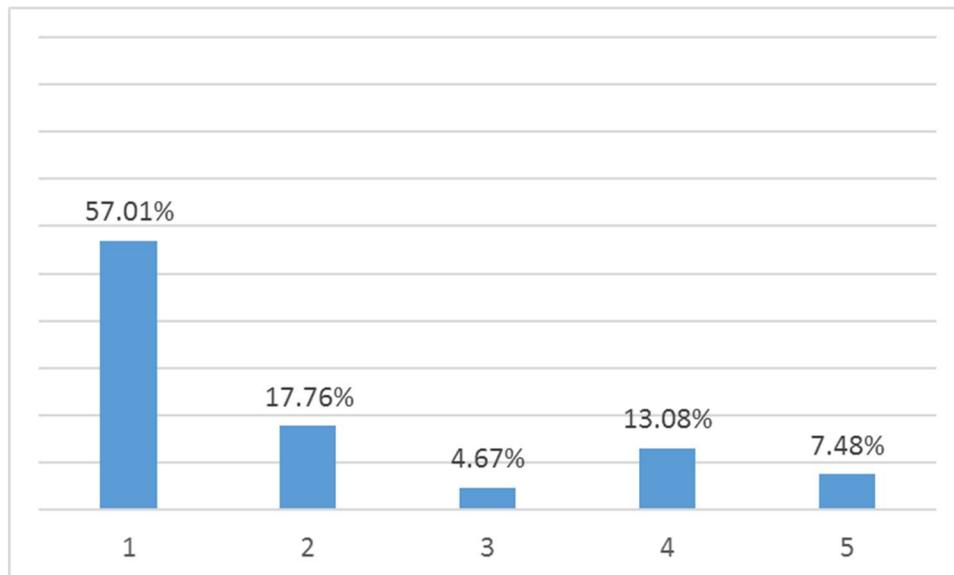
**3. In your opinion, is it worthwhile for the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce to continue fighting against the implementation of carbon pricing?**



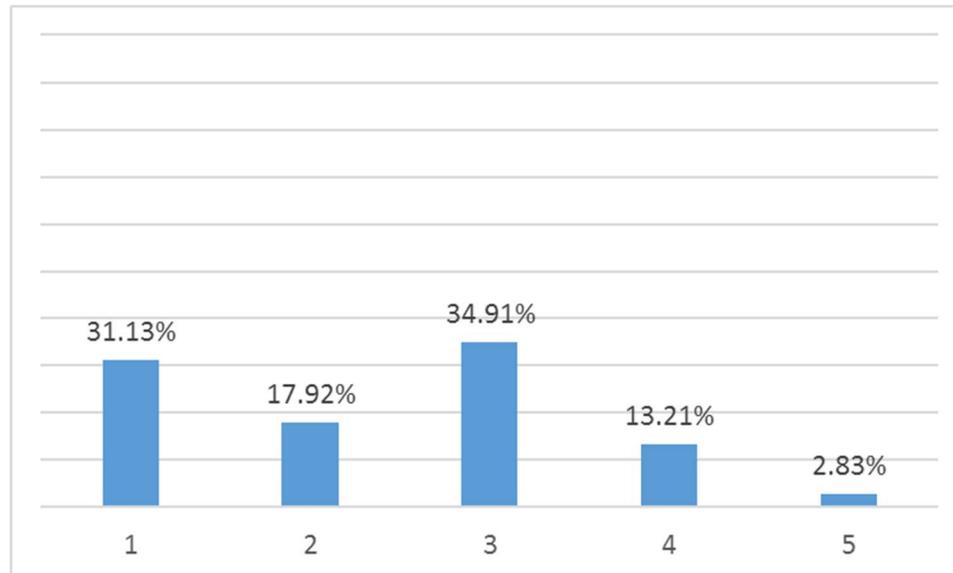
**4. Of the two forms of carbon pricing currently in place in Canada (carbon tax or cap-and-trade), which do you think, from your business' perspective, makes more sense for Saskatchewan?**



**5. On a scale of 1-5, where 1 is extremely unsupportive and 5 is extremely supportive, how strongly would you, as a representative of your business, support the implementation of a carbon tax in Saskatchewan?**



6. On a scale of 1-5, where 1 is extremely unsupportive and 5 is extremely supportive, how strongly would you, as a representative of your business, support the implementation of a cap-and-trade system in Saskatchewan?



7. If not a carbon tax or cap-and-trade, what should be Saskatchewan's plan to reduce carbon emissions? (options listed by frequency of response)

- Invest in technology such as carbon capture
- Tax incentives to businesses that can prove a reduction in emissions
- Tax incentives for programs/operations to reduce emissions - incentivize green alternatives;
- Incentives to those who develop alternate sources of energy
- Emissions capped and industries over the cap pay into a technology fund used to reduce emissions
- Refund initiatives on greener technologies
- Implement solutions that are working in other jurisdictions (wind power, solar, power generation from sound barriers along freeways, etc)
- Increase awareness of reduction opportunities
- Explore buying hydro from MB and using small nuclear reactors
- Invest in agriculture technology to improve CO<sub>2</sub> uptake
- Encourage carpools, bike paths, and invest in cleaner public transportation

**8. What should the Government of Saskatchewan do with any revenue that is collected from carbon pricing? (options listed by frequency of response)**

- Return it to the source from which it was collected
- Invest in renewable energy/green initiatives and innovative technologies to reduce emissions
- Return tax revenues to those that reduce their GHG emission through improved performance
- Invest it in the development of the new, greener, energy system
- Reduce the corporate tax rate
- Pay down the debt
- Invest in infrastructure
- Reduce income taxes
- Use to reduce other tax burdens
- Use it to ensure that energy consumers pay the tax, not the energy producers
- Invest it in repair and replacement of power transmission infrastructure
- Give it back, dollar for dollar to the parties who are forced to pay it
- Save it in a fund to construct small-scale nuclear-powered generation
- Put into the health and education system

**9. What, if any, sectors should be exempt from the carbon tax?**

- None
- Agriculture
- Manufacturing
- Healthcare
- Education
- Construction

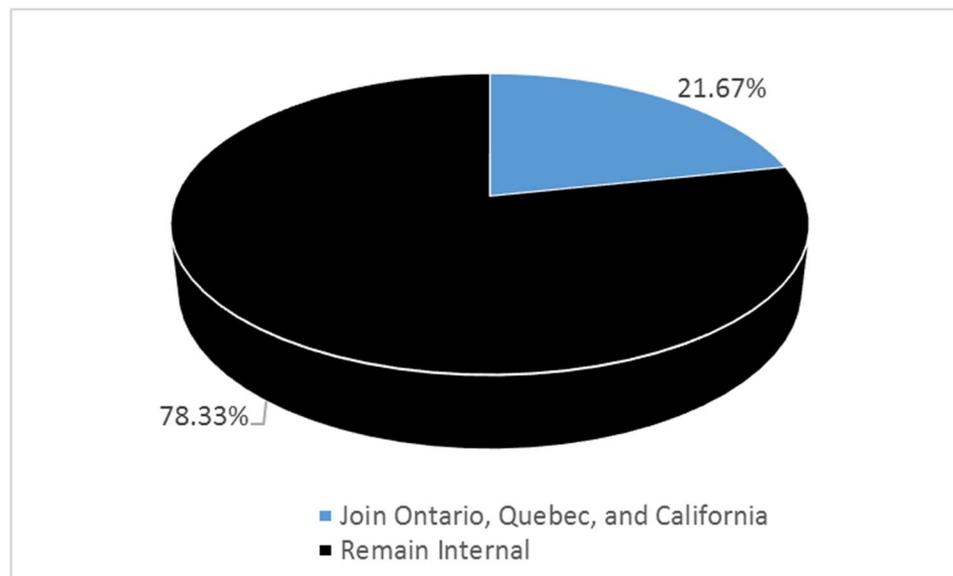
**10. What advice would you give the provincial government regarding the design and application of a carbon tax in Saskatchewan?**

- Continue to oppose the establishment of a carbon price
- Make it revenue neutral
- All tax collected should be re-deployed in the economy by a return to taxpayers
- Stop putting economics ahead of the environment
- View the carbon tax as a way to foster long term sustainability in both the energy sector and the economy
- Develop a real plan that moves our province to low emissions vs giving it lip service
- Apply a carbon tax beginning at \$10 and moving to \$30 in 5 years. Return the funds to those that reduce carbon emissions.
- Keep control of the funds
- Have everyone pay the tax and then have the exempt industries apply for the refund

**11. What, if any, sectors should be exempt from the cap-and-trade system?**

- None
- Agriculture
- Consideration for certain trade exposed sectors
- Commodity companies such as Potash Corp., etc.
- Forestry
- Healthcare and education
- Industry with a head office in Western Canada
- Power generation

**12. Should a Saskatchewan cap-and-trade system join the emission exchange with Quebec, Ontario and California or remain internal to itself?**



**13. What advice would you give the provincial government regarding the design and application of a cap-and-trade system in Saskatchewan?**

- Continue to oppose the establishment of a carbon price
- Stop playing politics and work toward solution
- Make it simple to administer
- The current SK model for an emissions cap with the payment of levies into a Technology Fund that can be used to reduce emissions
- Keep it local, a made in Saskatchewan system to meet our unique business landscape
- Take into account our province's size. There is not a large amount of trading opportunity, which may leave businesses that can afford to trade off emissions stuck holding onto them due to the small market.

**14. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?**

- Continue to oppose the establishment of a carbon price
- Carbon pricing is a purely political play
- Consider and maximize the benefits of carbon sinks Saskatchewan has
- Business is a priority, but not a higher priority than sustainability. There is no “high ground” in defending pollution.
- Work with the business community to develop a plan of action that is actually actionable and fair with regard to the use of other energy sources
- Push for nuclear power production
- If a carbon tax helps Canada gain the "social license" to build oil pipelines, then implement it
- Though touted as "a cost effective means of reducing carbon emissions," carbon taxes will have a huge impact not only on businesses (of all sizes) but on all citizens, as every aspect of life will increase in cost. Carbon taxes are simply not practical and will largely be ineffective.
- Do not hamper the province's ability to compete. Mechanisms, perhaps using any revenues earned, need to be considered to mitigate a reduction in competitiveness.
- With the USA now unlikely to impose carbon taxes or cap-and-trade, Canada needs to rethink the proposed carbon tax.
- The carbon price should be maxed out at \$25 or \$30
- Be considerate of small businesses and low income people