Report

Attitudes towards Extreme Weather Events

A survey of Canadians

June 16, 2025

Methodology

This week, we conducted a survey of Canadians to explore their views and experiences related to extreme weather events.

Method

Online survey among Canadian respondents 18 years of age or older. (**n= 1,529)**

Respondents had the option of completing the survey in French and English and were randomly recruited using LEO's online panel.

Weighting

Results were weighted according to **age, gender, mother tongue, region, education and presence of children in the household** in order to ensure a representative sample of the Canadian population.

When

Data collection from **June 13 to June 15, 2025**.

Margin of error

For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this size yields a margin of error no greater than **±2.51%**, (19 times out of 20).

Significant differences

Data in bold **red** characters indicate a significantly lower proportion than that of other respondents. Conversely, data in bold **green** characters indicate a significantly higher proportion than that of other respondents.

Rounded data

The numbers presented have been rounded up. However, the numbers before rounding were used to calculate the sums presented and might therefore not correspond to the manual addition of these numbers.

Questions

Have questions about the data presented in this report? Please contact Andrew Enns, Executive Vice-President, Central Canada at the following e-mail address: aenns@leger360.com or Sébastien Dallaire, Executive Vice-President, Eastern Canada, at sdallaire@leger360.com.

Notes

A more detailed sample breakdown is presented in the Appendix.

The Most Accurate Polling Firm in Canada

CANADA 2021

	LEGER POLL Published on September 18, 2021	OFFICIALS RESULTS 2021 Canada Federal Election
	33%	33.7%
	32%	32.6%
NDP	19%	17.8%
	7%	7.7%
PPC	6%	5.0%
	2%	2.3%

BRITISH COLUMBIA 2024

	LEGER POLL Published on October 18, 2024	OFFICIALS RESULTS 2024 British Columbia Provincial Election
NDP	46%	45%
	42%	43%
greens	9%	8%
Others	3%	4%

UNITED STATES 2024

	LEGER POLL Published on November 4, 2024	OFFICIALS RESULTS 2024 United States Presidential Election
	49%	50%
	49%	48%
Others	2%	2%

Some of **the key highlights** of our survey...

More Frequent Events

- Canadians continue to see an increase in wildfires (74%), poor air quality (66%), and temperature swings (62%). But fewer now perceive more extreme heat (55%, 9-point decrease), heavy rainfall (39%, 16-point decrease), or floods (39%, 17-point decrease) than in August 2024.

Personal Impact of Extreme Weather Events

- One fourth of Canadians (23%) report being personally affected by extreme weather in the past year. Most common effects are staying indoors due to air quality concerns (65%) and suffering emotional stress (39%).

Cautious Outlook on the Future

- While most (57%) still expect extreme weather to become more frequent, this is 4 points lower than last August. Concern about hotter summers and future heat waves has also dropped: 62% are concerned today versus 70% last year, with a 6-point drop in those “very concerned”.

Concerns on Climate Change

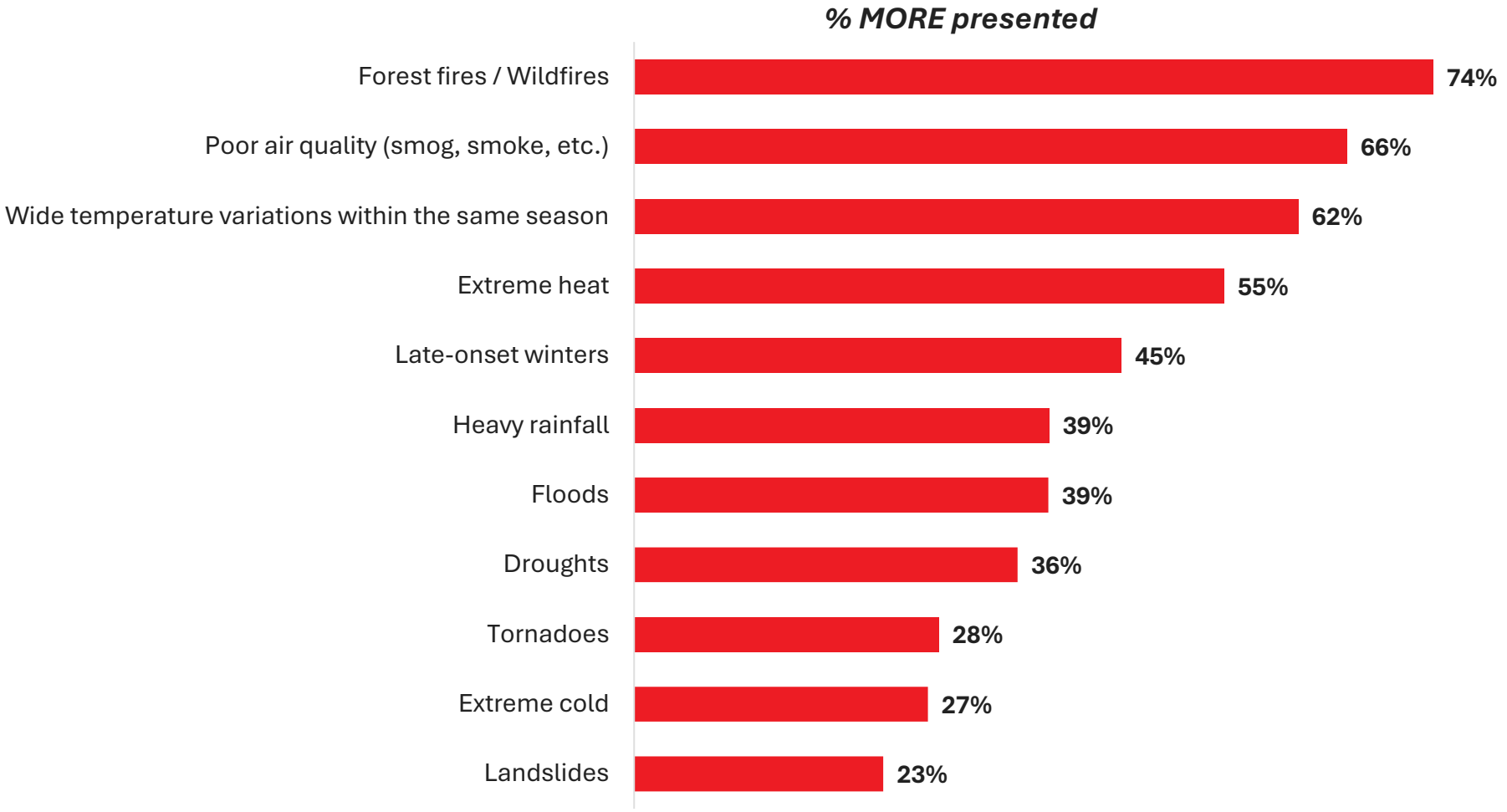
- Concern about climate change is softening slightly: 59% say it worries them, compared to 63% in August. At the same time, about half of Canadians (50%) believe it’s still possible to reverse the effects of climate change, a level comparable to last August. One in ten Canadians (13%) does not believe in climate change. This proportion rises to 24% in Alberta.

Extreme Weather Events

Perceived Changes in the Frequency of Certain Events in Canada Over the Past Five Years (1/2)

Q1. In your opinion, are there more, the same or fewer of the following events in Canada compared to five years ago?

Base: All respondents (n=1,529)



Perceived Changes in the Frequency of Certain Events in Canada Over the Past Five Years (2/2)

Q1. In your opinion, are there more, the same or fewer of the following events in Canada compared to five years ago?

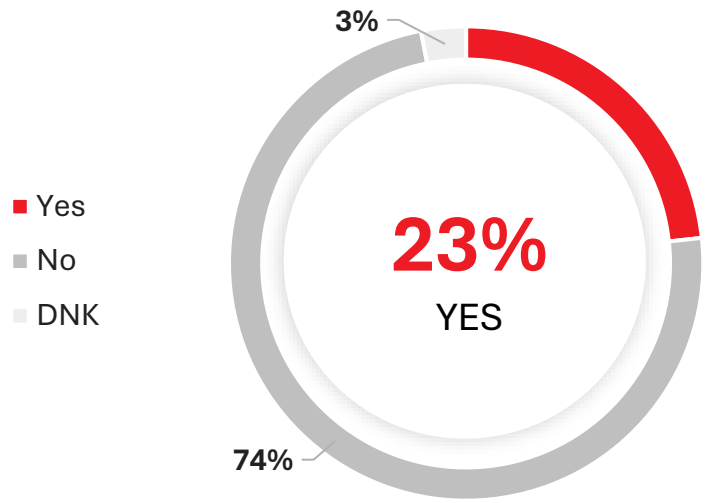
Base: All respondents (n=1,529)

% MORE presented	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Total August 19th 2024	Gap
Weighted n=	***1,529***	***102***	***354***	***593***	***99***	***169***	***212***	***745***	***784***	***407***	***491***	***631***	***1,526***	
Unweighted n=	***1,529***	***101***	***413***	***605***	***129***	***126***	***155***	***693***	***836***	***346***	***488***	***695***	***1,526***	
Forest fires / Wildfires	**74%**	74%	78%	72%	**85%**	75%	71%	**67%**	**82%**	72%	**69%**	**81%**	**72%**	*+2*
Poor air quality (smog, smoke, etc.)	**66%**	57%	70%	66%	**78%**	65%	63%	**60%**	**72%**	67%	65%	67%	**59%**	*+7*
Wide temperature variations within the same season	**62%**	64%	**69%**	63%	64%	**44%**	59%	**56%**	**68%**	64%	59%	63%	**59%**	*+3*
Extreme heat	**55%**	62%	56%	**49%**	49%	57%	**68%**	**49%**	**61%**	54%	53%	57%	**64%**	*-9*
Late-onset winters	**45%**	53%	**56%**	45%	**31%**	41%	38%	**42%**	**49%**	**52%**	47%	**40%**	**49%**	*-4*
Heavy rainfall	**39%**	45%	**53%**	**43%**	**10%**	**19%**	**29%**	**35%**	**42%**	35%	37%	**42%**	**55%**	*-16*
Floods	**39%**	44%	**53%**	36%	**20%**	**22%**	41%	**34%**	**43%**	**31%**	38%	**44%**	**56%**	*-17*
Droughts	**36%**	29%	39%	**28%**	43%	**48%**	42%	**33%**	**39%**	**29%**	33%	**42%**	**40%**	*-4*
Tornadoes	**28%**	34%	**44%**	27%	**16%**	21%	**16%**	26%	31%	**20%**	**32%**	31%	**36%**	*-8*
Extreme cold	**27%**	25%	26%	**33%**	21%	22%	24%	**22%**	**33%**	**32%**	28%	**24%**	**26%**	*+1*
Landslides	**23%**	19%	**41%**	**15%**	**11%**	**16%**	**31%**	22%	25%	20%	20%	**28%**	**28%**	*-5*

Personal Impact of Extreme Weather Events in the Past 12 Months

Q2. In the past 12 months, have you been personally impacted by an extreme weather event (such as extreme heat, flooding, fires, tornadoes, etc.)?

Base: All respondents (n=1,529)

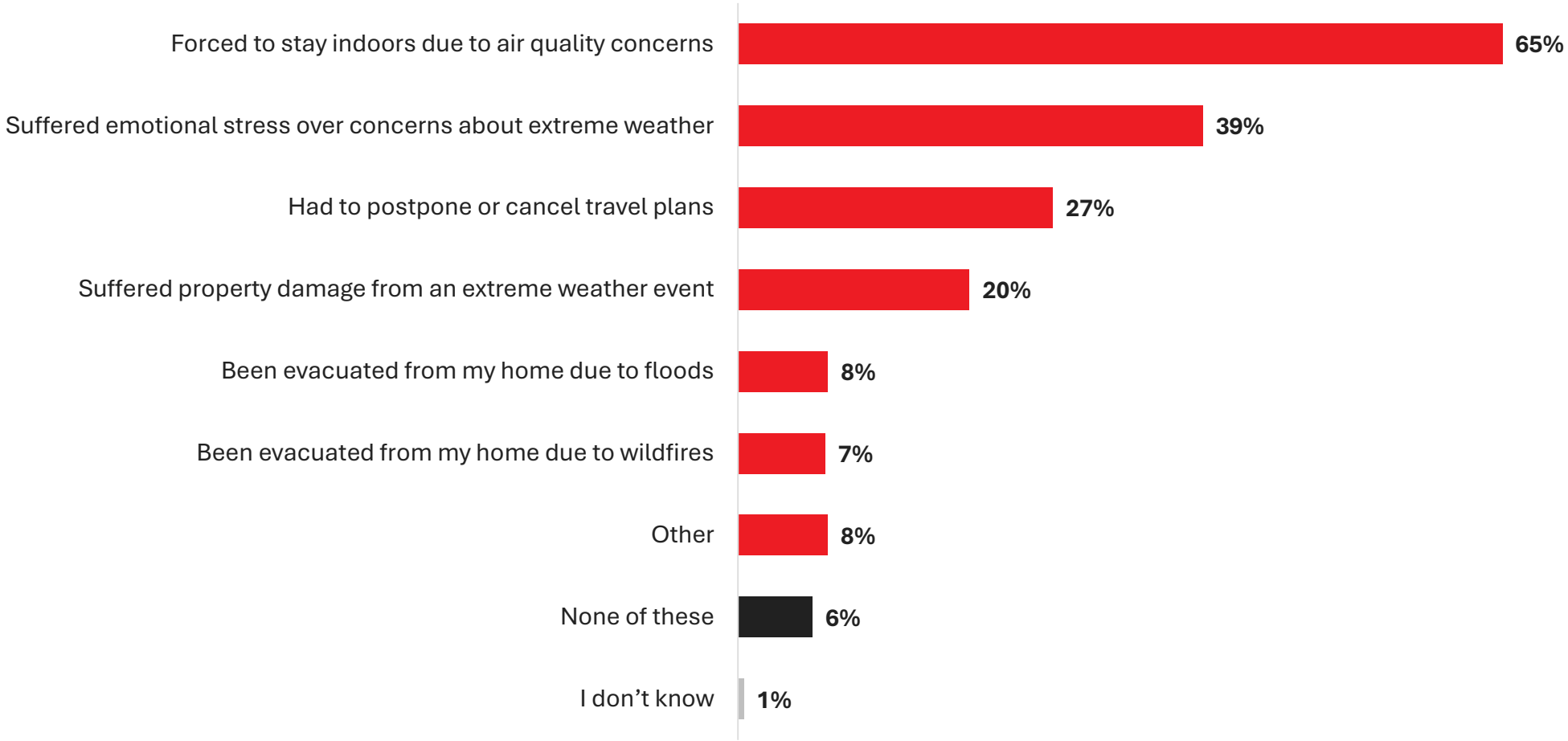


	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Total August 19th 2024	Gap
Weighted n=	***1,529***	***102***	***354***	***593***	***99***	***169***	***212***	***745***	***784***	***407***	***491***	***631***	***1,526***	
Unweighted n=	***1,529***	***101***	***413***	***605***	***129***	***126***	***155***	***693***	***836***	***346***	***488***	***695***	***1,526***	
Yes	**23%**	19%	23%	**20%**	30%	31%	26%	22%	25%	**32%**	24%	**17%**	**35%**	*-12*
No	**74%**	81%	75%	**77%**	67%	67%	68%	75%	72%	**63%**	72%	**82%**	**61%**	*+13*
DK/Refusal	**3%**	**0%**	2%	3%	2%	2%	6%	3%	3%	5%	4%	**1%**	**3%**	-

Nature of Personal Impact from Extreme Weather Events (1/2)

Q2B. How have you been impacted? *Multiple mentions**

Base: Respondents who have been impacted by an extreme weather event (n=352)



Note: Since respondents could select more than one answer, totals may exceed 100%.

Nature of Personal Impact from Extreme Weather Events (2/2)

Q2B. How have you been impacted? *Multiple mentions**

Base: Respondents who have been impacted by an extreme weather event (n=352)

	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Weighted n=	***356***	***19***	***80***	***120***	***30***	***52***	***55***	***162***	***194***	***131***	***117***	***108***
Unweighted n=	***352***	***14****	***98***	***122***	***39***	***42***	***37***	***152***	***200***	***108***	***123***	***121***
Forced to stay indoors due to air quality concerns	**65%**	45%	**53%**	65%	**80%**	78%	69%	63%	66%	59%	**75%**	62%
Suffered emotional stress over concerns about extreme weather	**39%**	42%	**29%**	41%	32%	39%	53%	**30%**	**47%**	42%	44%	32%
Had to postpone or cancel travel plans	**27%**	51%	**9%**	28%	30%	31%	35%	25%	28%	**36%**	**18%**	25%
Suffered property damage from an extreme weather event	**20%**	9%	23%	**27%**	**0%**	29%	4%	21%	18%	23%	19%	16%
Been evacuated from my home due to floods	**8%**	13%	12%	8%	4%	2%	7%	**11%**	**5%**	**15%**	6%	**1%**
Been evacuated from my home due to wildfires	**7%**	20%	**1%**	5%	**0%**	18%	12%	6%	9%	11%	6%	5%
Other	**8%**	18%	**2%**	9%	9%	7%	10%	8%	7%	4%	9%	11%
None of these	**6%**	7%	**15%**	5%	9%	0%	1%	4%	8%	7%	6%	7%
I don't know	**1%**	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%	2%	0%

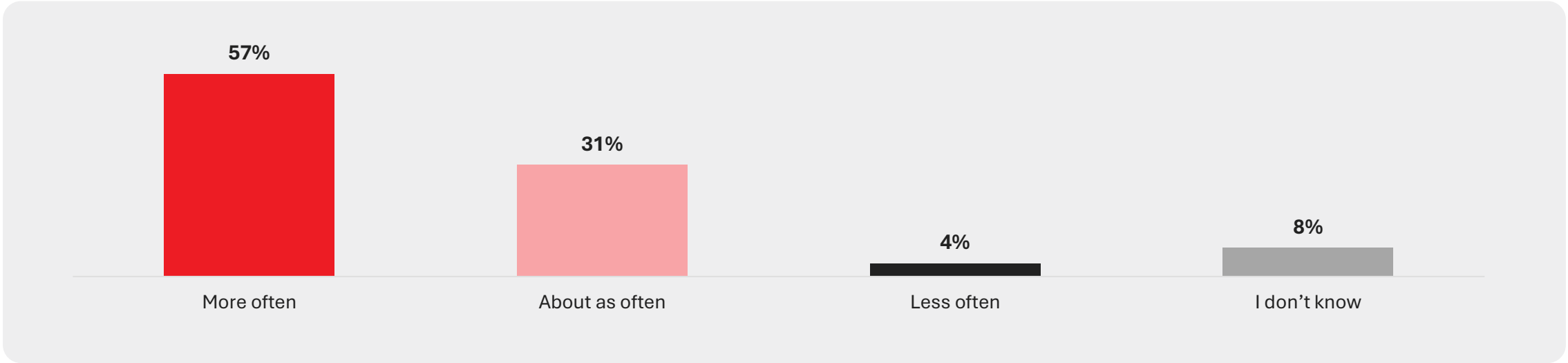
Note: Since respondents could select more than one answer, totals may exceed 100%.

**Given the small number of respondents (n<30) data is presented for illustrative purposes only.*

Expectations About the Future Frequency of Extreme Weather Events

Q3. In the future, do you think extreme weather events (such as wildfires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, etc.) will occur more often, about as often or less often than they do currently?

Base: All respondents (n=1,529)

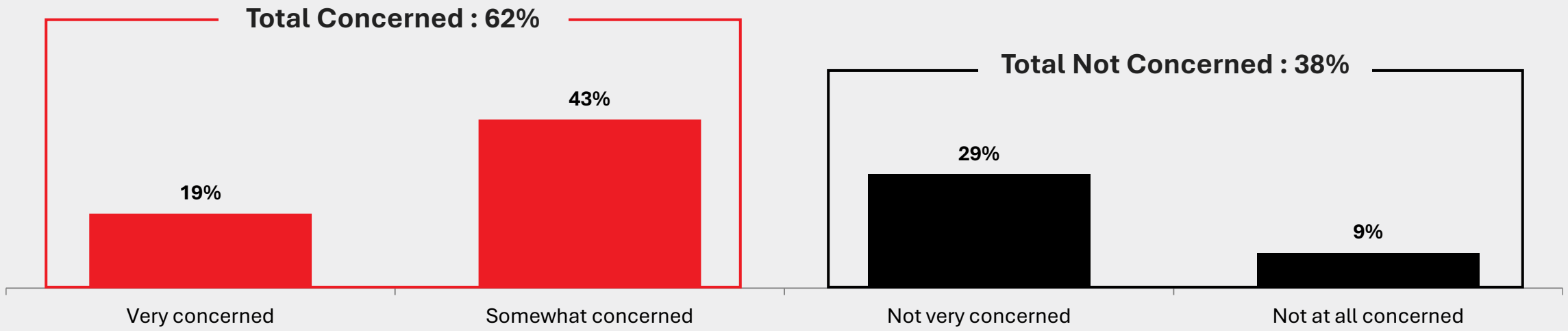


	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Total August 19th 2024	Gap
Weighted n=	***1,529***	***102***	***354***	***593***	***99***	***169***	***212***	***745***	***784***	***407***	***491***	***631***	***1,526***	
Unweighted n=	***1,529***	***101***	***413***	***605***	***129***	***126***	***155***	***693***	***836***	***346***	***488***	***695***	***1,526***	
More often	**57%**	59%	**67%**	**52%**	53%	51%	59%	**49%**	**65%**	53%	55%	**60%**	**61%**	*-4*
About as often	**31%**	31%	**24%**	35%	32%	37%	30%	**38%**	**25%**	29%	34%	31%	**30%**	*+1*
Less often	**4%**	1%	2%	5%	6%	4%	2%	**5%**	**3%**	**7%**	3%	**2%**	**3%**	*+1*
Don't know	**8%**	8%	6%	9%	9%	7%	8%	8%	8%	10%	8%	7%	**6%**	*+2*

Concern About Increasingly Hot Summers and Future Heat Waves (1/2)

Q4. How concerned are you that you will experience increasingly hot summers and more heat waves where you live in the future?

Base: All respondents (n=1,529)



Concern About Increasingly Hot Summers and Future Heat Waves (2/2)

Q4. How concerned are you that you will experience increasingly hot summers and more heat waves where you live in the future?

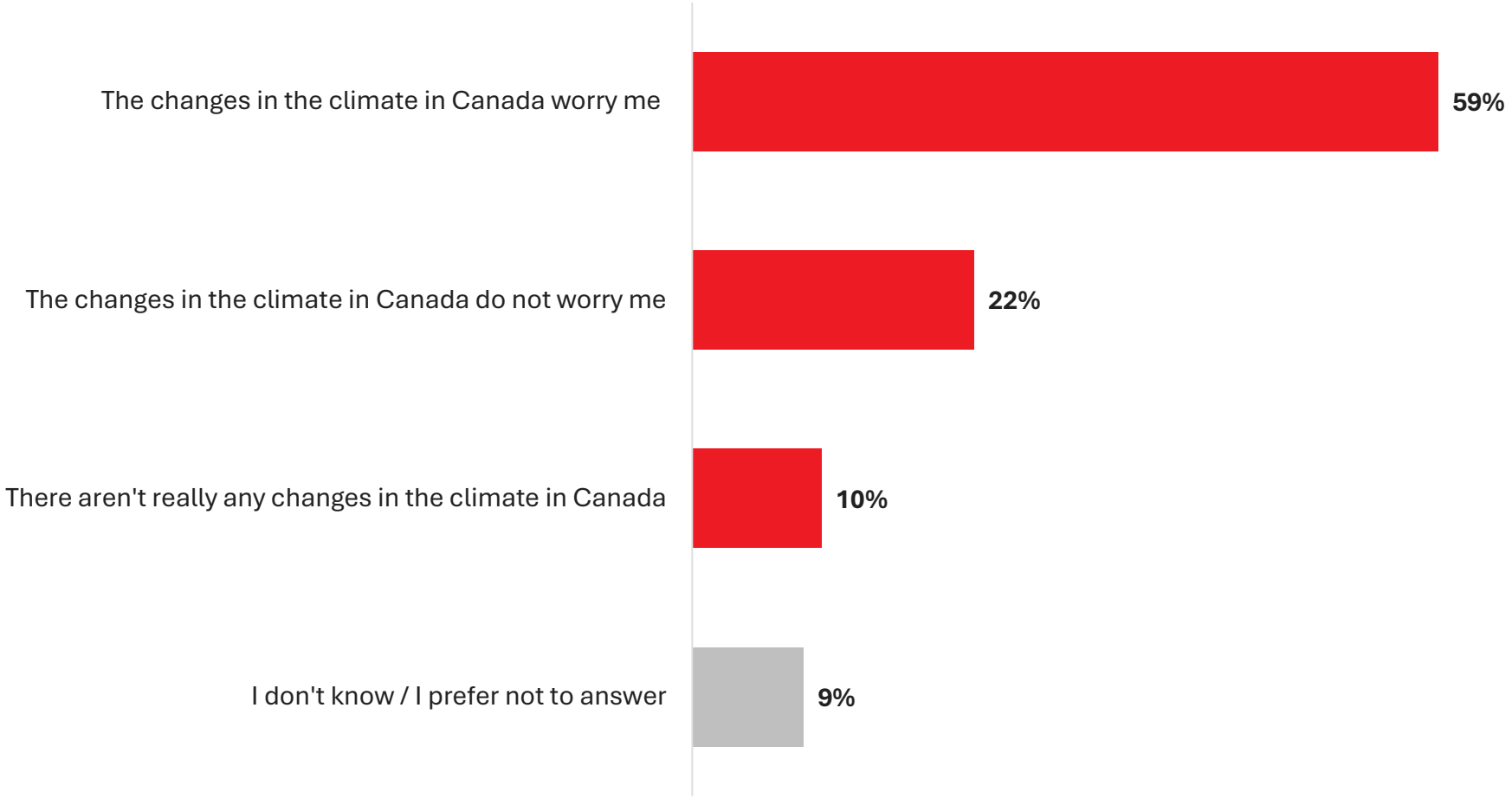
Base: All respondents (n=1,529)

	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Total August 19th 2024	Gap
Weighted n=	***1,529***	***102***	***354***	***593***	***99***	***169***	***212***	***745***	***784***	***407***	***491***	***631***	***1,526***	
Unweighted n=	***1,529***	***101***	***413***	***605***	***129***	***126***	***155***	***693***	***836***	***346***	***488***	***695***	***1,526***	
TOTAL CONCERNED	**62%**	57%	**54%**	62%	58%	67%	**74%**	**57%**	**67%**	**69%**	61%	**58%**	**70%**	*-8*
Very concerned	**19%**	20%	**12%**	17%	20%	**29%**	**29%**	**15%**	**23%**	21%	22%	**16%**	**25%**	*-6*
Somewhat concerned	**43%**	38%	42%	45%	38%	37%	45%	42%	43%	**48%**	39%	42%	**45%**	*-2*
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	**38%**	43%	**46%**	38%	42%	33%	**26%**	**43%**	**33%**	**31%**	39%	**42%**	**30%**	*+8*
Not very concerned	**29%**	38%	**39%**	26%	32%	23%	**16%**	**32%**	**26%**	25%	29%	30%	**23%**	*+6*
Not at all concerned	**9%**	4%	7%	11%	10%	10%	10%	**11%**	**8%**	**6%**	10%	11%	**8%**	*+1*

Opinions on Climate Change and Its Impact in Canada (1/2)

Q5. Which of the following statements best represents your opinion?

Base: All respondents (n=1,529)



Opinions on Climate Change and Its Impact in Canada (2/2)

Q5. Which of the following statements best represents your opinion?

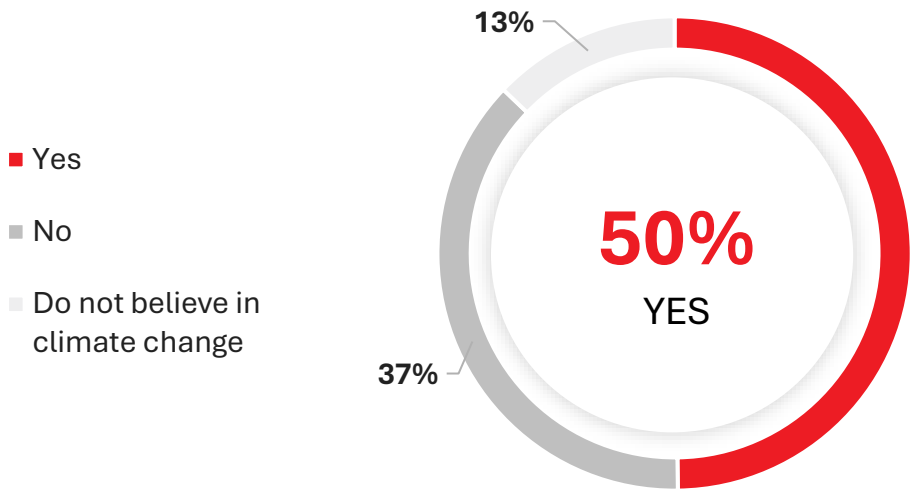
Base: All respondents (n=1,529)

	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Total August 19th 2024	Gap
Weighted n=	***1,529***	***102***	***354***	***593***	***99***	***169***	***212***	***745***	***784***	***407***	***491***	***631***	***1,526***	
Unweighted n=	***1,529***	***101***	***413***	***605***	***129***	***126***	***155***	***693***	***836***	***346***	***488***	***695***	***1,526***	
The changes in the climate in Canada worry me	**59%**	53%	**64%**	**54%**	54%	57%	**69%**	**55%**	**63%**	61%	57%	59%	**63%**	*-4*
The changes in the climate in Canada do not worry me	**22%**	25%	23%	24%	22%	22%	**14%**	**26%**	**18%**	25%	22%	21%	**19%**	*+3*
There aren't really any changes in the climate in Canada	**10%**	8%	**6%**	11%	17%	15%	9%	12%	9%	**7%**	11%	12%	**10%**	-
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	**9%**	14%	7%	10%	6%	6%	8%	7%	10%	7%	10%	9%	**8%**	*+1*

Perceptions of the Possibility of Reversing Climate Change Consequences

Q6. Do you think it's still possible to reverse the consequences of climate change?

Base: All respondents (n=1,529)



	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Total August 19th 2024	Gap
Weighted n=	***1,529***	***102***	***354***	***593***	***99***	***169***	***212***	***745***	***784***	***407***	***491***	***631***	***1,526***	
Unweighted n=	***1,529***	***101***	***413***	***605***	***129***	***126***	***155***	***693***	***836***	***346***	***488***	***695***	***1,526***	
Yes, there is still time to reverse the consequences of climate change	**50%**	49%	49%	51%	47%	47%	51%	47%	52%	**56%**	49%	**46%**	**48%**	*+2*
No, I think it is too late to reverse the consequences of climate change	**37%**	39%	**44%**	35%	35%	29%	40%	37%	37%	37%	36%	39%	**38%**	*-1*
I do not believe in climate change	**13%**	12%	**8%**	13%	18%	**24%**	9%	**15%**	**10%**	**6%**	15%	**15%**	**13%**	-

Respondent Profile

Respondent profiles

(Base n=1,529)

The table below presents the Canadian distribution of respondents before weighting.

Gender

	Unweighted	Weighted
Male	**693**	**745**
Female	**836**	**784**

Language (Mother Tongue)

	Unweighted	Weighted
French	**371**	**301**
English	**1,017**	**1,095**
Other	**140**	**132**

Age

	Unweighted	Weighted
18 to 34	**346**	**407**
35 to 54	**488**	**491**
55+	**695**	**631**

Province

	Unweighted	Weighted
British Columbia	**155**	**212**
Alberta	**126**	**169**
Manitoba/Saskatchewan	**129**	**99**
Ontario	**605**	**593**
Quebec	**413**	**354**
Atlantic	**101**	**102**

Our Credentials

Canada

Leger is a member of the Canadian Research Insights Council (CRIC), the industry association for the market/survey/insights research industry.

Europe

Leger is a member of ESOMAR (European Society for Opinion and Market Research), the global association of opinion polls and marketing research professionals.

America

Leger is also a member of the Insights Association, the American Association of Marketing Research Analytics.

International

Leger is a member of the Worldwide Independent Network of Market Research (WIN), a global alliance of leading independent market research and polling firms that collaborate to share expertise, methodologies, and insights across diverse markets.

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Strategic and operational customer experience consulting services

Leger Analytics (LEA)
Data modelling and analysis

Leger Opinion (LEO)
Panel management

Leger Communities
Online community management

Leger Digital
Digital strategy and user experience

International Research
Worldwide Independent Network (WIN)

300
employees

185
consultants

8
offices

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VANCOUVER | NEW YORK

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