

Alberta Residents League
(April 2004)

JMCK Polling

JMCK Polling
(A Division of JMCK Communications Inc.)

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Methodology:

Data were collected April 5 to April 10, 2004 by **JMCK Polling** (a division of JMCK Communications Inc.). JMCK Polling is headquartered in Calgary, Alberta.

A total of 1274 adult Albertans were interviewed by telephone. Where necessary, the sample has been statistically weighted to more accurately represent the demographic distribution of the population. The margin of error is ± 2.7 per cent, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the population.

Executive Summary:

These data measure mixed support among Albertans for this policy agenda. Support is strongest with respect to reducing Alberta's share of equalization contributions and with respect to the federal division of powers. Support is weakest with respect to establishing a provincial police force and an Alberta pension plan.

Support tends to be strongest in areas outside of the major cities and is weakest among university educated Albertans and Edmontonians.

Progressive Conservative voters tend to be more supportive than Liberal or New Democrat voters and Conservative opinion tends to lineup more with undecided voters and the minor parties on most issues. Liberal and New Democrat voters tend to align with each other on most issues. These patterns of divergence and convergence are most pronounced with respect to the equalization issue.

Albertans are evenly split over the issue of establishing an Alberta pension plan.

A slim majority (50.9%) supports Alberta collecting its own income tax.

A majority (54.4%) is opposed to creating an Alberta police force.

The vast majority of Albertans (68.9%) believe that the province is paying too much to Ottawa in equalization contributions, however, most still believe Alberta should be contributing something.

A clear majority of Albertans wants the province to have more powers in relation to Ottawa.

Questionnaire:

- Q1** The province of Quebec is not a participant in the federal Canada Pension Plan. Should Alberta also withdraw from the Canada Pension Plan to create an Alberta Pension Plan that would be controlled by Albertans?
- Q2** Should Alberta collect its own revenue from personal income tax, as the province already does for corporate income tax?
- Q3** In Ontario and Quebec the RCMP are used to police federal statutes while provincial police are used to enforce provincial laws such as the highway traffic act. Should Alberta also create a Provincial Police Force to police Alberta's laws?
- Q4** Canada has a mix of equalization programs that transfer money from the two have provinces, Alberta and Ontario, to all the other have not provinces. From 1961 to 1997 Albertans paid \$167 billion into equalization while Quebec received \$202 billion. This year Albertans will make \$9 billion in equalization payments. Do you think Albertans' contribute too much to equalization, about the right amount, or too little?
- Q5** How much do you think Albertans should contribute to federal equalization programs?
- Q6** When considering Alberta's role within the federation, which of the following scenarios would you most support? Scenario 1 - A strong central government in Ottawa with only limited powers going to Alberta and the other provinces. Scenario 2 - The current balance of powers between Ottawa and the provinces should remain. Scenario 3 - A strong provincial government in Alberta and in the other provinces with only limited powers going to Ottawa. Scenario 4 - Alberta should become independent from Canada.

Alberta Pension Plan:

Q1 The province of Quebec is not a participant in the federal Canada Pension Plan. Should Alberta also withdraw from the Canada Pension Plan to create an Alberta Pension Plan that would be controlled by Albertans?

Albertans are evenly split on the issue of whether or not it would be wise for their provincial government to break with the Canada Pension Plan and establish an Alberta plan. Although 44.8% support moving to an Alberta plan, 43.9% are opposed and 11.4% remain undecided.

Men (51.2%) are slightly more supportive than are women (39.3%) and middle income earners (49.7%) are more supportive than lower (42.0%) and upper (45.8%) income earners. Those with a high school education or less are most supportive (54.4%) while those with university degrees (35.4%) are the least supportive.

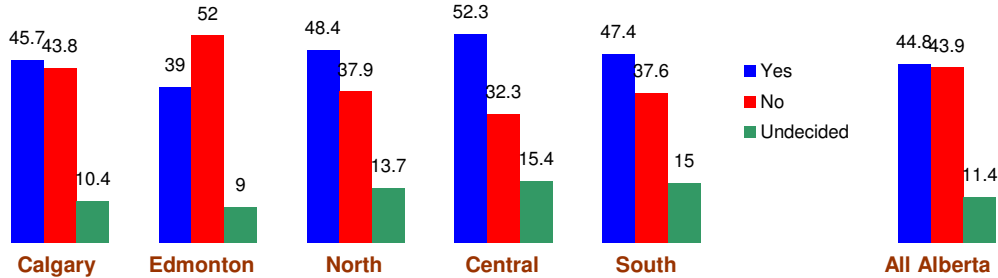
Support for an Alberta plan is strongest among the youth (52.9%) and decreases as Albertan age, reaching a low of 35.3% among seniors.

Edmonton (39.0%) distinguishes itself as the region where support is weakest, while central Alberta residents are the most supportive (52.3%).

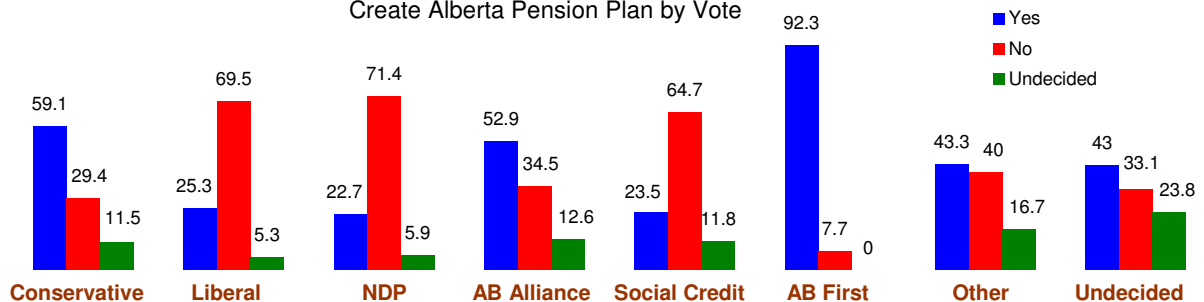
The most significant differences among subgroups of the Alberta population are measured between supporters of the various provincial political parties. Differences between Progressive Conservative voters' support (59.1%) and the established opposition party voters (25.3% for Liberals and 22.7% for New Democrats) are dramatic and provide an early indication of a pattern that emerged throughout the analysis.

Progressive Conservative voters tend to hold opinions that are more similar to those of undecided voters and both tend to differ dramatically from Liberal and New Democrat voters' opinions. For example, only 29.4% of Conservative voters are opposed to creating an Alberta pension plan while 33.1% of undecided voters are also opposed. This compares to 69.5% opposition among Alberta Liberals and 71.4% opposition among New Democrats.

Create Alberta Pension Plan by Region



Create Alberta Pension Plan by Vote



Alberta Income Tax Collection:

Q2 Should Alberta collect its own revenue from personal income tax, as the province already does for corporate income tax?

A slim majority of Albertans (50.9%) supports Alberta collecting its own income tax rather than relying on the federal government. Slightly less than two-in-five Albertans (38.5%) are opposed while 10.7% are undecided.

Men (55.2%) are slightly more supportive than are women (47.2%), while middle income residents are more supportive (57.6%) than are either lower income (46.6%) or upper income (49.9%) Albertans. In all cases, however, there is more support than opposition.

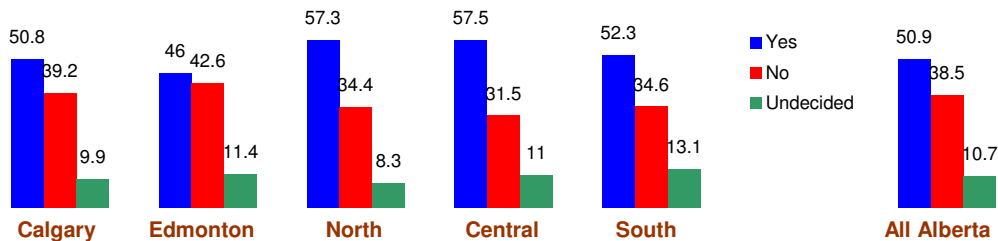
Support tends to decrease as education increases with nearly two-thirds (64.7%) of Albertans with high school education or less education indicating support and only about one-third (37.5%) of those with a university education supportive.

Few significant differences are measured between age groups.

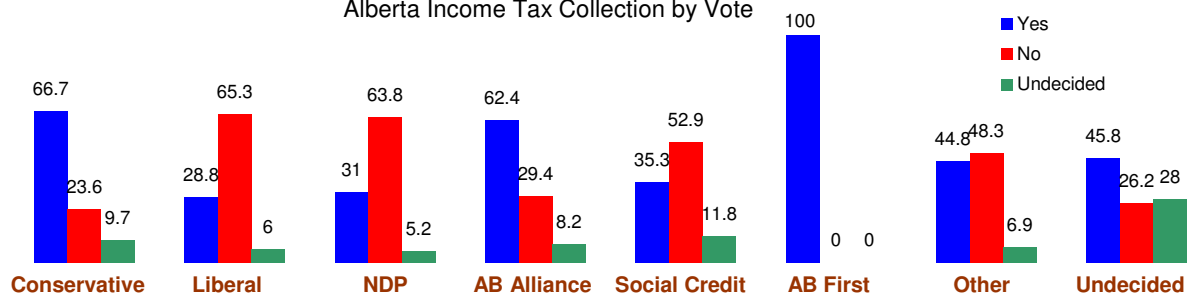
Edmontonians are again the least supportive (46.0%) while northern (57.3%) and central (57.5%) Albertans are most supportive.

Two-thirds (66.7%) of Conservatives are supportive while only 28.8% of Liberals and 31.0% of New Democrats agree. Opposition levels are highest among Liberal (65.3%) and New Democrat (63.8%) voters and lowest with Conservative (23.6%) and undecided (26.2%) voters. Undecided voters are also the most undecided about this issue (28.0%).

Alberta Income Tax Collection by Region



Alberta Income Tax Collection by Vote



Alberta Provincial Police Force:

Q3 In Ontario and Quebec the RCMP are used to police federal statutes while provincial police are used to enforce provincial laws such as the highway traffic act. Should Alberta also create a Provincial Police Force to police Alberta's laws?

A majority of Albertans (54.4%) opposes creating an Alberta police force. Slightly more than one-third (36.0%) of all Albertans support such a move while 9.5% are undecided.

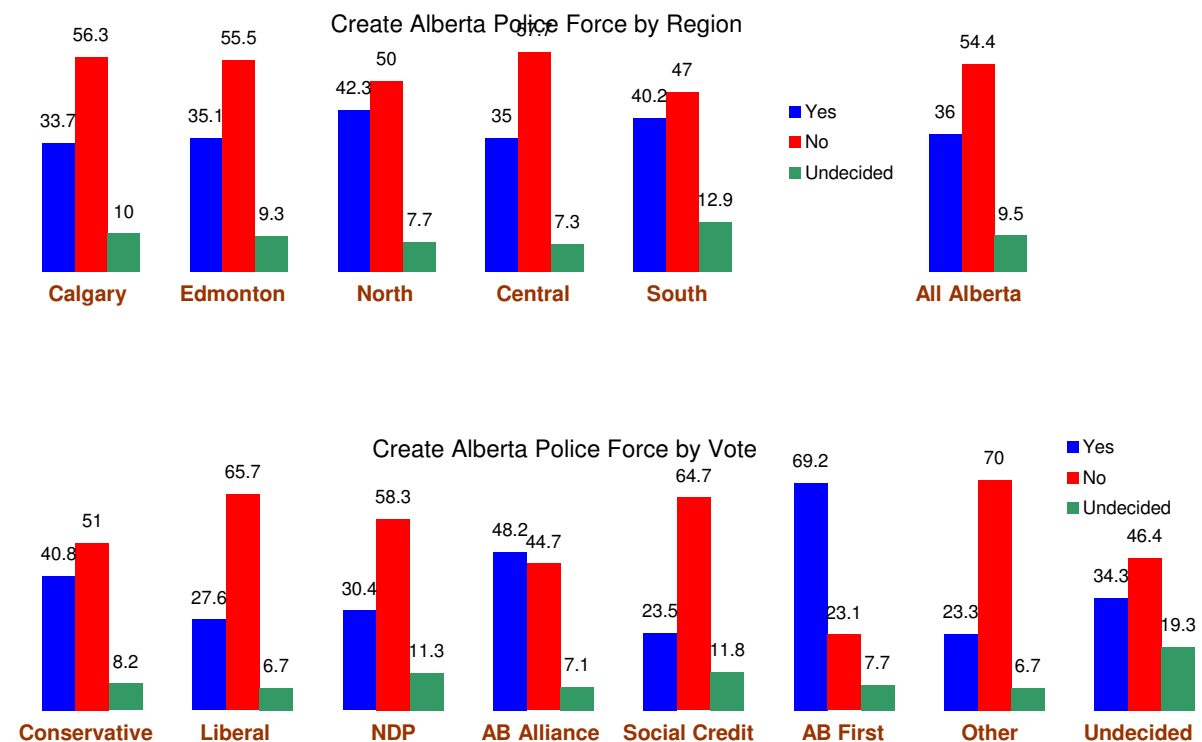
Few differences are measured between subgroups of the population with majorities in almost all subgroups opposed.

A majority of both men (55.1%) and women (53.9%) are opposed. Opposition increases as income increases with 45.4% of lower income Albertans opposed, increasing to 53.0% for middle income earners and 62.3% among upper income residents.

Opposition also increases as education increases with lowest educated Albertans (43.1%) the least opposed, and the only subgroup to demonstrate majority support (51.0%), compared to over two-thirds (67.3%) of university educated Albertans who are opposed.

Few significant differences are measured between different age and regional subgroups.

Few significant partisan differences are measured although Liberals (65.7%) and New Democrats (58.3%) are among the most opposed.



Alberta Equalization Contributions – Share:

Q4 Canada has a mix of equalization programs that transfer money from the two have provinces, Alberta and Ontario, to all the other have not provinces. From 1961 to 1997 Albertans paid \$167 billion into equalization while Quebec received \$202 billion. This year Albertans will make \$9 billion in equalization payments. Do you think Albertans' contribute too much to equalization, about the right amount, or too little?

The vast majority of Albertans (68.9%) believe that the province is paying too much to Ottawa in equalization contributions. About one-quarter (27.7%) believes Albertans are paying about the right amount while 3.4% believe Albertans pay too little.

Large majorities of both men (70.3%) and women (67.6%) believe Albertans pay too much.

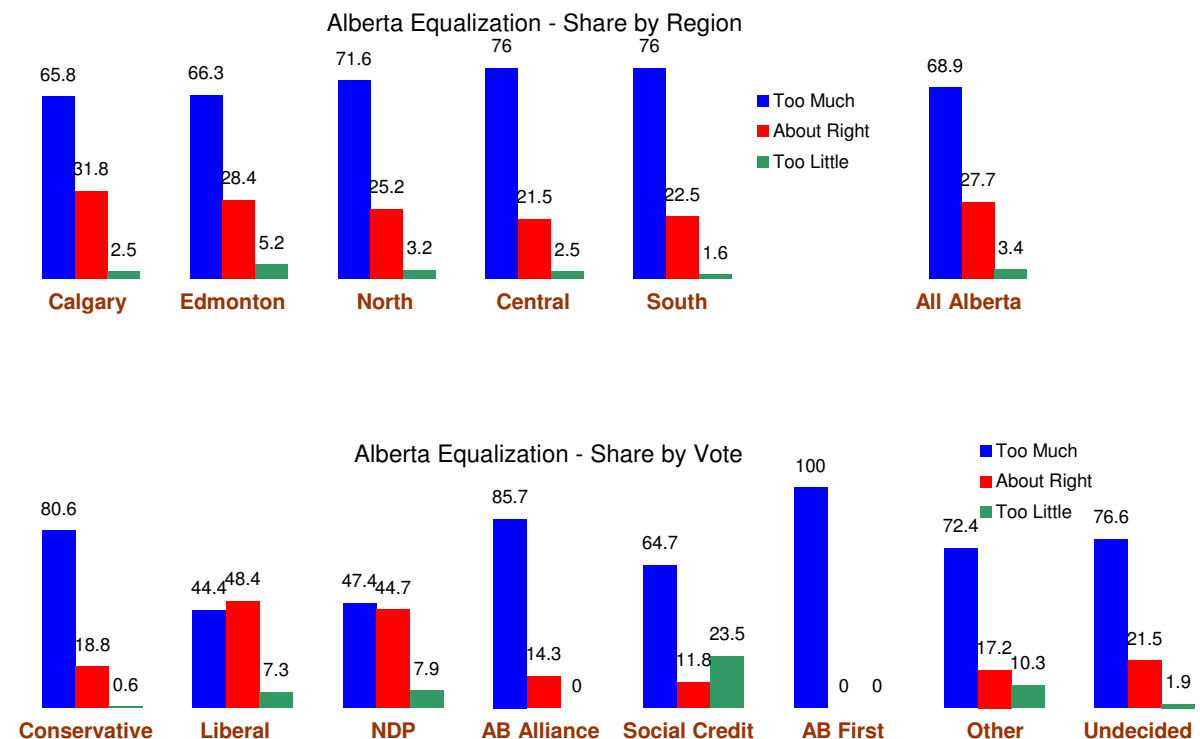
Upper income earners (64.1%) are slightly less likely to think Albertans pay too much than are middle (72.1%) and lower (72.4%) income earners.

Again, university graduates distinguish themselves from all other Albertans with only 52.2% believing Albertans pay too much and 41.4% believing Albertans pay about the right amount. Those with high school education or less are most likely to believe Albertans pay too much (81.9%).

Few significant age or regional differences are measured, although Albertans outside of the two major cities are slightly more likely to believe Albertans pay too much.

Significant partisan differences are measured with Conservatives (80.6%) and undecided Albertans (76.6%) among the most likely to believe Albertans are paying too much. New Democrats (47.4%) and Liberals (44.4%) are among the least likely to believe Albertans pay too much, and the most likely to believe Albertans pay the right amount (44.7% for New Democrats and 48.4% for Liberals) or that Albertans pay too little (7.9% for New Democrats and 7.3% for Liberal voters).

Undecided voter opinion mirrors that of Conservative voter opinion (and diverges from that of the other two opposition parties) more on equalization than on any other issue.



Alberta Equalization Contributions – Amount:

Q5 How much do you think Albertans should contribute to federal equalization programs?

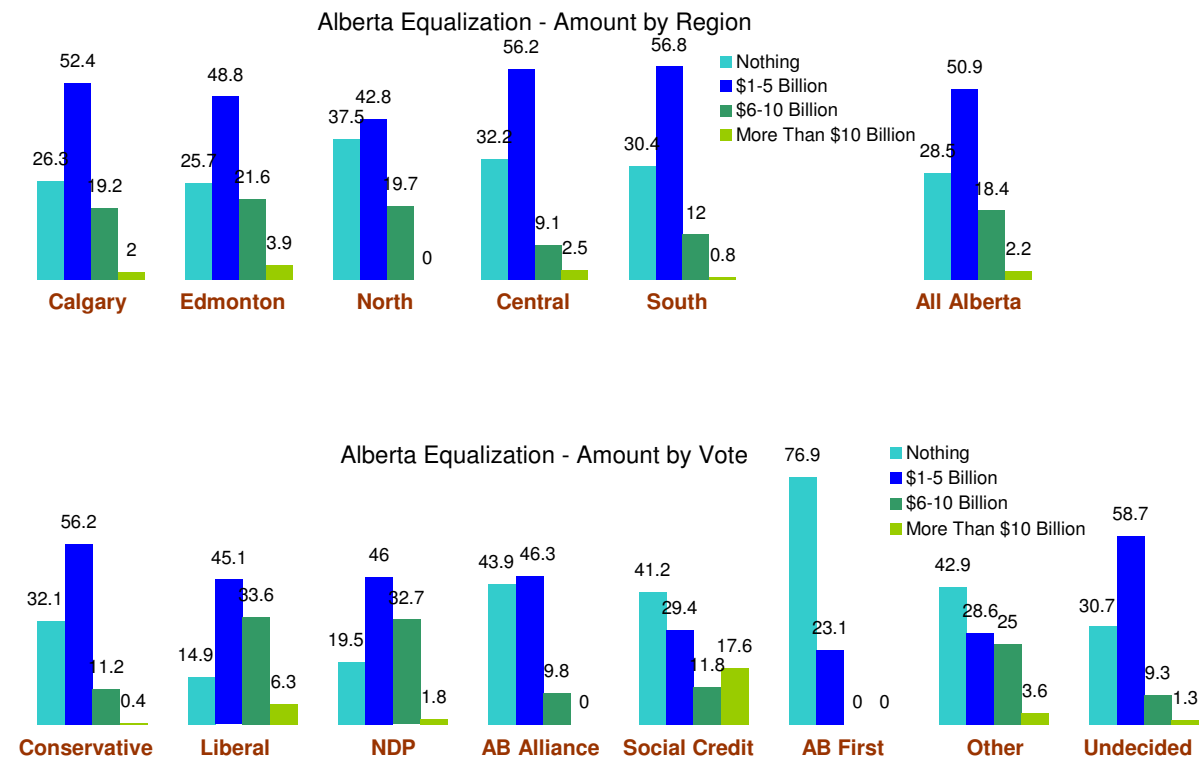
Although the majority of Albertans believe their province is contributing too much to Ottawa in equalization, only 28.5% believe Albertans should be paying nothing. A slight majority (50.9%) would like to see Alberta's contributions reduced to the \$1 to \$5 billion range while 18.4% believe Albertans should contribute somewhere between \$6 and \$10 billion. Only 2.2% believe Albertans should contribute over \$10 billion annually.

Men (33.2%) are more likely than women (24.3%) to state Albertans should be paying nothing into equalization.

Lower income earners (31.1%) are more likely than middle (28.3%) or upper (26.1%) income earners to believe Albertans should be contributing nothing while university graduates were the least likely (21.2%) to think this way.

Support for Albertans paying nothing declines slightly with age and Albertans outside the two major cities are slightly more likely than are their Calgary and Edmonton counterparts to support the idea of Albertans paying nothing.

Again, Progressive Conservative voters' opinions mirror those of undecided voters while Liberal and New Democrat voters' opinions are more closely aligned.



Federal Power Distribution:

Q6 When considering Alberta's role within the federation, which of the following scenarios would you most support? Scenario 1 - A strong central government in Ottawa with only limited powers going to Alberta and the other provinces. Scenario 2 - The current balance of powers between Ottawa and the provinces should remain. Scenario 3 - A strong provincial government in Alberta and in the other provinces with only limited powers going to Ottawa. Scenario 4 - Alberta should become independent from Canada.

A clear majority of Albertans wants the province to have more powers in relation to Ottawa. The largest plurality (46.4%) support the idea of strong provincial governments with only limited powers going to Ottawa. A further 9.7% believe Alberta should become independent. Only 10.6% support the idea of a strong central government in Ottawa with only limited powers going to the provinces, while one-third of all Albertans (33.4%) support the current balance of powers between Ottawa and the provinces.

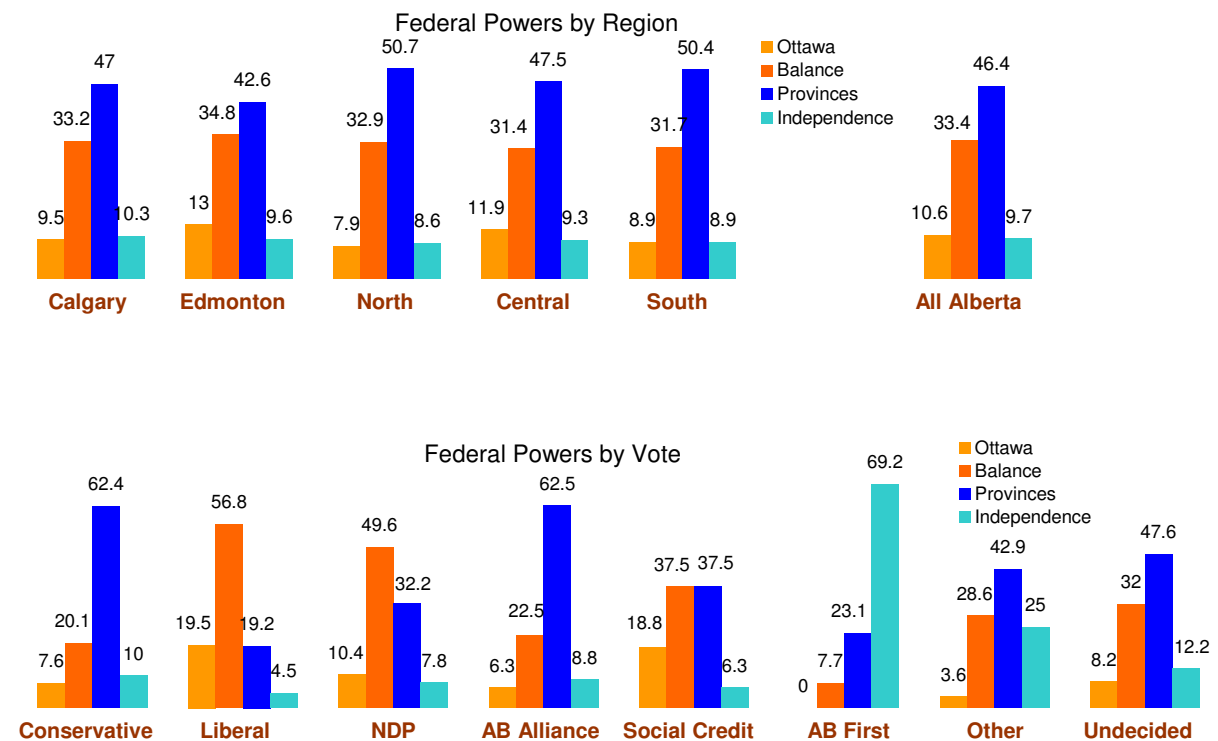
Few significant gender, income, education or age differences are measured, with significant pluralities or majorities in most subgroups supporting more powers for the provinces.

Albertans with the lowest levels of education (14.3%) and those 30 to 44 years old (11.6%) are the most likely to choose the independence option.

Few significant regional differences emerge although Edmontonians are slightly less supportive of more powers to the provinces, and more supportive of Ottawa, than are other Albertans.

Significant partisan differences are measured. Conservative voters are the most supportive (62.4%) of more provincial powers while Liberals (56.8%) and New Democrats (49.6%) prefer the current balance. Liberal voters (19.5%) are also much more likely to support Ottawa than are New Democrats (10.4%) and Conservatives (7.6%).

Undecided voters are closer to average Albertan opinion than are all declared partisans, and undecided voters are also the most likely to be entertaining the independence option (12.2%).



Alberta Pension Plan:

Q1 The province of Quebec is not a participant in the federal Canada Pension Plan. Should Alberta also withdraw from the Canada Pension Plan to create an Alberta Pension Plan that would be controlled by Albertans?

Alberta Pension Plan

Yes	44.8
No	43.9
Undecided	11.4

AB Pension by Gender	Men	Women
Yes	51.2	39.3
No	38.7	48.3
Undecided	10.1	12.4

AB Pension by Income	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000-\$70,000	\$70,000 or more
Yes	42.0	49.7	45.8
No	47.3	40.2	43.0
Undecided	10.6	10.1	11.2

AB Pension by Education	High School or less	Some Post-Secondary	College-Trade Tech Grad	University Grad
Yes	54.4	44.4	51.4	35.4
No	36.3	43.3	37.1	55.1
Undecided	9.3	12.3	11.5	9.6

AB Pension by Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 plus
Yes	52.9	47.6	42.7	35.3
No	37.2	38.4	45.8	56.9
Undecided	9.9	14.1	11.6	7.8

AB Pension by Region	Calgary	Edmonton	North	Central	South
Yes	45.7	39.0	48.4	52.3	47.4
No	43.8	52.0	37.9	32.3	37.6
Undecided	10.4	9.0	13.7	15.4	15.0

AB Pension by Vote	PC	Liberal	ND	Alliance	SC	AB First	Other	Undecided
Yes	59.1	25.3	22.7	52.9	23.5	92.3	43.3	43.0
No	29.4	69.5	71.4	34.5	64.7	7.7	40.0	33.1
Undecided	11.5	5.3	5.9	12.6	11.8	0.0	16.7	23.8

Alberta Income Tax Collection:

Q2 Should Alberta collect its own revenue from personal income tax, as the province already does for corporate income tax?

Alberta Income Tax Collection

Yes	50.9
No	38.5
Undecided	10.7

AB Tax Collection by Gender

	Men	Women
Yes	55.2	47.2
No	36.4	40.2
Undecided	8.4	12.5

AB Tax by Income

	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000-\$70,000	\$70,000 or more
Yes	46.6	57.6	49.9
No	42.4	33.2	40.7
Undecided	11.0	9.2	9.4

AB Tax by Education

	High School or less	Some Post-Secondary	College-Trade Tech Grad	University Grad
Yes	64.7	51.1	57.5	37.5
No	24.5	37.8	32.6	54.9
Undecided	10.8	11.1	9.9	7.6

AB Tax Collection by Age

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 plus
Yes	45.5	53.2	51.7	51.6
No	40.3	34.5	39.4	41.1
Undecided	14.3	12.3	9.0	7.3

AB Tax by Region

	Calgary	Edmonton	North	Central	South
Yes	50.8	46.0	57.3	57.5	52.3
No	39.2	42.6	34.4	31.5	34.6
Undecided	9.9	11.4	8.3	11.0	13.1

AB Tax by Vote

	PC	Liberal	ND	Alliance	SC	AB First	Other	Undecided
Yes	66.7	28.8	31.0	62.4	35.3	100.0	44.8	45.8
No	23.6	65.3	63.8	29.4	52.9	0.0	48.3	26.2
Undecided	9.7	6.0	5.2	8.2	11.8	0.0	6.9	28.0

Alberta Provincial Police Force:

Q3 In Ontario and Quebec the RCMP are used to police federal statutes while provincial police are used to enforce provincial laws such as the highway traffic act. Should Alberta also create a Provincial Police Force to police Alberta's laws?

Alberta Provincial Police Force

Yes	36.0
No	54.4
Undecided	9.5

AB Police by Gender	Men	Women
Yes	39.1	33.4
No	55.1	53.9
Undecided	5.8	12.7

AB Police by Income	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000-\$70,000	\$70,000 or more
Yes	42.6	39.9	29.0
No	45.4	53.0	62.3
Undecided	12.0	7.1	8.7

AB Police by Education	High School or less	Some Post-Secondary	College-Trade Tech Grad	University Grad
Yes	51.0	40.1	36.1	25.4
No	43.1	48.5	53.9	67.3
Undecided	5.9	11.5	10.0	7.3

AB Police by Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 plus
Yes	38.0	36.2	33.6	38.5
No	53.3	52.2	57.1	53.7
Undecided	8.7	11.6	9.2	7.8

AB Police by Region	Calgary	Edmonton	North	Central	South
Yes	33.7	35.1	42.3	35.0	40.2
No	56.3	55.5	50.0	57.7	47.0
Undecided	10.0	9.3	7.7	7.3	12.9

AB Police by Vote	PC	Liberal	ND	Alliance	SC	AB First	Other	Undecided
Yes	40.8	27.6	30.4	48.2	23.5	69.2	23.3	34.3
No	51.0	65.7	58.3	44.7	64.7	23.1	70.0	46.4
Undecided	8.2	6.7	11.3	7.1	11.8	7.7	6.7	19.3

Alberta Equalization Contributions – Share:

Q4 Canada has a mix of equalization programs that transfer money from the two have provinces, Alberta and Ontario, to all the other have not provinces. From 1961 to 1997 Albertans paid \$167 billion into equalization while Quebec received \$202 billion. This year Albertans will make \$9 billion in equalization payments. Do you think Albertans' contribute too much to equalization, about the right amount, or too little?

Alberta Equalization Contributions – Share

Too much	68.9
About right	27.7
Too little	3.4

AB Equalization by Gender

	Men	Women
Too much	70.3	67.6
About right	25.6	29.4
Too little	4.1	2.9

AB Eq. by Income

	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000-\$70,000	\$70,000 or more
Too much	72.4	72.1	64.1
About right	25.1	24.6	32.1
Too little	2.5	3.3	3.8

AB Equalization by Education

	High School or less	Some Post-Secondary	College-Trade Tech Grad	University Grad
Too much	81.9	71.5	75.8	52.2
About right	16.7	25.8	22.0	41.4
Too little	1.5	2.7	2.2	6.4

AB Equalization by Age

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 plus
Too much	65.8	71.5	67.4	70.5
About right	31.6	24.8	29.5	25.3
Too little	2.7	3.7	3.1	4.1

AB Equalization by Region

	Calgary	Edmonton	North	Central	South
Too much	65.8	66.3	71.6	76.0	76.0
About right	31.8	28.4	25.2	21.5	22.5
Too little	2.5	5.2	3.2	2.5	1.6

AB Eq. by Vote

	PC	Liberal	ND	Alliance	SC	AB First	Other	Undecided
Too much	80.6	44.4	47.4	85.7	64.7	100.0	72.4	76.6
About right	18.8	48.4	44.7	14.3	11.8	0.0	17.2	21.5
Too little	0.6	7.3	7.9	0.0	23.5	0.0	10.3	1.9

Alberta Equalization Contributions – Amount:

Q5 How much do you think Albertans should contribute to federal equalization programs?

Alberta Equalization Contributions – Amount

Nothing	28.5
\$1 to \$5 billion	50.9
\$6 to \$10 billion	18.4
More than \$10 billion	2.2

AB Equalization by Gender	Men	Women
Nothing	33.2	24.3
\$1 to \$5 billion	44.8	56.3
\$6 to \$10 billion	19.3	17.6
More than \$10 billion	2.7	1.8

AB Eq. by Income	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000-\$70,000	\$70,000 or more
Nothing	31.1	28.3	26.1
\$1 to \$5 billion	52.3	52.3	45.7
\$6 to \$10 billion	15.2	18.0	24.4
More than \$10 billion	1.4	1.4	3.8

AB Equalization by Education	High School or less	Some Post-Secondary	College-Trade Tech Grad	University Grad
Nothing	33.5	28.4	32.9	21.2
\$1 to \$5 billion	59.6	53.3	50.9	40.7
\$6 to \$10 billion	5.9	16.9	14.9	34.0
More than \$10 billion	1.0	1.5	1.2	4.2

AB Equalization by Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 plus
Nothing	32.6	29.6	27.6	25.2
\$1 to \$5 billion	48.2	49.9	50.0	57.0
\$6 to \$10 billion	17.0	18.5	20.4	15.4
More than \$10 billion	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.3

AB Equalization by Region	Calgary	Edmonton	North	Central	South
Nothing	26.3	25.7	37.5	32.2	30.4
\$1 to \$5 billion	52.4	48.8	42.8	56.2	56.8
\$6 to \$10 billion	19.2	21.6	19.7	9.1	12.0
More than \$10 billion	2.0	3.9	0.0	2.5	0.8

AB Eq. by Vote	PC	Liberal	ND	Alliance	SC	AB First	Other	Undecided
Nothing	32.1	14.9	19.5	43.9	41.2	76.9	42.9	30.7
\$1 to \$5 billion	56.2	45.1	46.0	46.3	29.4	23.1	28.6	58.7
\$6 to \$10 billion	11.2	33.6	32.7	9.8	11.8	0.0	25.0	9.3
More than \$10B	0.4	6.3	1.8	0.0	17.6	0.0	3.6	1.3

Federal Power Distribution:

Q6 When considering Alberta's role within the federation, which of the following scenarios would you most support? Scenario 1 - A strong central government in Ottawa with only limited powers going to Alberta and the other provinces. Scenario 2 - The current balance of powers between Ottawa and the provinces should remain. Scenario 3 - A strong provincial government in Alberta and in the other provinces with only limited powers going to Ottawa. Scenario 4 - Alberta should become independent from Canada.

Federal Power Distribution

Ottawa	10.6
Balance	33.4
Provinces	46.4
Independence	9.7

Powers by Gender	Men	Women
Ottawa	10.3	10.9
Balance	31.6	34.9
Provinces	43.2	49.2
Independence	14.9	5.0

Powers by Income	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000-\$70,000	\$70,000 or more
Ottawa	10.2	10.4	12.0
Balance	35.0	32.0	33.2
Provinces	45.2	46.7	46.4
Independence	9.5	10.9	8.4

Powers by Education	High School or less	Some Post-Secondary	College-Trade Tech Grad	University Grad
Ottawa	11.3	11.1	8.7	11.5
Balance	24.1	32.2	27.3	45.9
Provinces	50.2	47.9	53.4	35.4
Independence	14.3	8.8	10.6	7.3

Powers by Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 plus
Ottawa	13.3	8.4	10.8	11.2
Balance	37.6	29.0	32.8	37.2
Provinces	40.0	51.0	47.3	43.7
Independence	9.0	11.6	9.1	7.9

Powers by Region	Calgary	Edmonton	North	Central	South
Ottawa	9.5	13.0	7.9	11.9	8.9
Balance	33.2	34.8	32.9	31.4	31.7
Provinces	47.0	42.6	50.7	47.5	50.4
Independence	10.3	9.6	8.6	9.3	8.9

Powers by Vote	PC	Liberal	ND	Alliance	SC	AB First	Other	Undecided
Ottawa	7.6	19.5	10.4	6.3	18.8	0.0	3.6	8.2
Balance	20.1	56.8	49.6	22.5	37.5	7.7	28.6	32.0
Provinces	62.4	19.2	32.2	62.5	37.5	23.1	42.9	47.6
Independence	10.0	4.5	7.8	8.8	6.3	69.2	25.0	12.2

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About Us

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