

BACKGROUND

Canadians' Views on the Federal Government's Top Arctic Priority

The Pembina Institute commissioned McAllister Opinion Research, a professional opinion research firm based in Vancouver, British Columbia, to conduct a poll that gauged Canadians' views concerning the top priority for the federal government in the Canadian Arctic.

Poll Methodology

This research is based on a national random digit dial telephone survey of 1,007 Canadians aged 18 years and older. The survey was conducted in English and French from April 29 to May 9, 2008 inclusive. The sample is weighted using age, gender and regional population data from the 2006 Census.

A random sample of this size yields a margin of error of +/- 3.1 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

Interpretative Notes

- Unless otherwise stated, all numbers are percentages.
- All numbers are rounded up to the nearest per cent.

Question

Which of the following do you think should be the top priority for the federal government in the Canadian Arctic? Should it be to address... (list read in randomized order).

	%
Global warming	29
Environmental protection	26
Social problems	18
Canadian sovereignty	17
Economic development	7
DON'T KNOW (Volunteered)	3

Background Information: Canada's Arctic and Climate Change

Canadians living in the Arctic have been among the first to feel the effects of global warming. Climate change is already strongly affecting people in many Arctic communities, and in some cases, threatening their cultural survival.¹

¹ ACIA. 2005. Arctic Climate Impact Assessment. New York: Cambridge University Press.



According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the world's most authoritative climate science body, the Arctic has been warming at almost twice the global average rate in the past 100 years. The IPCC also states that some projections have found that the Arctic's late-summer sea ice will be almost entirely gone by the second half of this century.²

In 2007, Arctic sea ice shrunk to 23 per cent below its previous record low.³

² IPCC, 2007: Summary for Policymakers. In: *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Solomon, S., D. Qin, M. Manning, Z. Chen, M. Marquis, K.B. Averyt, M. Tignor and H.L. Miller (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA. p. 7, 15.

³ National Snow and Ice Data Center. 2007. "Arctic Sea Ice Shatters All Previous Record Lows," news release, October 1, 2007. Available online at http://nsidc.org/news/press/2007_seaiceminimum/20071001_pressrelease.html.

