ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND COVID-19

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INTRODUCTION

- According to Harvard University's Dr. Aaron Bernstein while we don't have direct evidence that climate change is influencing the spread of COVID-19…we do know that climate change alters how we relate to other species on Earth and that matters to our health and our risk for infections. Many of the root causes of climate change also increase the risk of pandemics. Research by Harvard Professors Nethery, Wu and Dominici found that people who live in places with poor air quality are more likely to die from COVID-19 even when accounting for other factors that may influence risk of death such as pre-existing medical conditions, socioeconomic status, and access to healthcare (https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/c-change/subtopics/coronavirus-and-climate-change/).

- That which follows looks at the extent to which Canadians believe that there are links between environmental problems, climate change and COVID-19.

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THREE IN FOUR CANADIANS FEEL THEY ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES BUT ONLY ONE IN TEN ESTIMATE THAT THEY ARE VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE

How knowledgeable do you think that you are about environmental issues? Would you say very knowledgeable, somewhat knowledgeable, not very knowledgeable or not knowledgeable at all?									
	Total	Man	Woman	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +
TOTAL YES	76%	79%	74%	78%	69%	74%	73%	81%	81%
Very knowledgeable	11%	13%	9%	10%	12%	11%	11%	12%	10%
Somewhat knowledgeable	65%	66%	65%	69%	58%	62%	62%	69%	72%
TOTAL NO	24%	21%	26%	22%	31%	26%	27%	19%	19%
Not very knowledgeable	22%	18%	25%	22%	28%	23%	25%	17%	18%
Not knowledgeable at all	2%	3%	1%	0%	3%	4%	2%	2%	1%

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MOST CANADIANS THINK THAT ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS WILL BE WORSE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION WITH YOUTH MOST LIKELY TO HOLD THIS VIEW

Do you think the condition of the environment for the next generation will be better, worse, or about the same as it is now?									
	Total	Man	Woman	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +
Better	14%	17%	11%	11%	8%	13%	14%	16%	18%
Worse	60%	56%	64%	75%	67%	57%	54%	60%	55%
Same	25%	26%	23%	12%	20%	29%	30%	23%	26%
I prefer not to answer	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	1%	2%	1%	1%

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MOST CANADIANS THINK PEOPLE CAN DO SOMETHING TO STOP CLIMATE CHANGE THOUGH ONE IN FIVE THINK IT IS OUT OF OUR CONTROL

As best you can tell, do you think we can do something to stop or slow down climate change or do you think climate change is beyond our control?									
	Total	Man	Woman	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +
Humanity could do something	76%	72%	79%	85%	75%	67%	74%	76%	80%
Beyond humanity's control	20%	24%	16%	11%	19%	27%	23%	21%	18%
I prefer not to answer	4%	3%	4%	4%	5%	6%	4%	3%	2%

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ONE IN FOUR CANADIANS BELIEVE THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS THE TRANSMISSION OF THE CORONA VIRUS

Does climate change affect the transmission of Coronavirus? - Please answer Yes or No to the following. In your view…									
	Total	Man	Woman	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +
Yes	24%	20%	29%	31%	26%	29%	19%	21%	23%
No	76%	80%	71%	69%	74%	71%	81%	79%	77%

NEARLY ONE IN THREE CANADIANS THINK THAT AIR POLLUTION INCREASES THE RISK OF GETTING THE CORONA VIRUS

Does air pollution increase the risk of getting Coronavirus? - Please answer Yes or No to the following. In your view…									
	Total	Man	Woman	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +
Yes	31%	30%	33%	36%	33%	32%	25%	26%	36%
No	69%	70%	67%	64%	67%	68%	75%	74%	64%

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OVER ONE IN FOUR CANADIANS THINK THAT WARMER WEATHER SLOWS THE SPREAD OF THE CORONA VIRUS

Does warmer weather slow the spread of Coronavirus? - Please Answer Yes or No to the following. In your view…						
	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	28%	27%	29%	33%	26%	26%
No	72%	73%	71%	67%	74%	74%

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METHODOLOGY

Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.

From November 6 to November 8, 2020 some 1534 Canadians were surveyed via web panel

Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1534 respondents would have a margin of error of ±2.52%, 19 times out of 20.

The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.

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