

NEWS RELEASE



Progress Alberta launches with new poll that shows progressives in Alberta are the quiet majority

January 5, 2015 (Edmonton) – A new poll shows that Alberta is more progressive than you think. Almost 60% of Albertans identify themselves as progressive but Albertans also drastically overestimate just how conservative other Albertans actually are.

The poll and report, commissioned by Progress Alberta and conducted by Abacus Data, surveyed a representative sample of 1,000 Albertans online between December 2 and 7, 2015.

“Urbanization, in-migration, and generational change are all shifting the province’s political attitudes and behavior,” says David Coletto of Abacus Data. “Most Albertans think the province has become more progressive in the past five years. More identify as progressive than they do conservative. And the province’s most popular political leader [Naheed Nenshi] is seen as a progressive himself. Perhaps it might be time to reconsider the notion of conservative Alberta.”

The Abacus report buttresses other recent demographic analyses and election results that indicate Alberta is now a vastly more progressive place.

“More than 500,000 people have moved to Alberta in the past nine years. That’s a city half the size of Calgary that never experienced Ralph Klein and has no connection to the traditional patterns of Alberta politics,” says Progress Alberta executive director Duncan Kinney. “Alberta has also become more urban, more educated and younger in the past 20 years – all traits that correlate with identifying as progressive.”

The Abacus report also finds widespread support for progressive policies. More Albertans support the economy wide carbon tax, coal phase-out and legislating a carbon emissions limit on the oilsands than oppose it. Two thirds of respondents also support raising taxes on higher earners and banning corporate and union donations from politics.

In addition, political leaders on the progressive end of the political spectrum have more support than conservative leaders.



About Progress Alberta:

Progress Alberta is a multi-issue, independent, non-profit advocacy organization that begins operations today. Progress Alberta is a positive, proudly progressive force focused on building a stronger and more diversified economy, a healthy environment and a more inclusive province.

Duncan Kinney is the Executive Director and the Advisory Board consists of:

Lewis Cardinal
Dave Cournoyer
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Jen Grant
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Gil McGowan
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Brian Singh

Attached to this release are the poll results and report from Abacus Data. Supplementary demographic analysis and polling data can be found at http://www.progressalberta.ca/quiet_majority

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