

# Atlantic Canada friendliest to oil sands: study

Jeff Labine, National Post  
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There are some surprising regional differences in how Canadians view the oil sands, according to a new survey. When asked how Alberta's oil sands impacts Canada's reputation, Atlantic Canadians had a more positive view than those in the west.

Nanos Research asked more than 1,000 Canadians two questions; one about how the oil sands were affecting Canada's reputation and one on the importance of minimizing the environmental impact and maximizing the economic prosperity of the region.

Nik Nanos, president of Nanos Research, said he was very surprised by the way Canadians were thinking.

Results were mixed as 35% of Canadians felt the oil sands have a negative impact on the country's reputation abroad. Twenty-six per cent felt their impact was positive, with the remainder being either unsure or saying the impact was neutral.

"What really jumped out was the regional variation on a lot of these numbers," Mr. Nanos said. The regional categories were split between Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario and Western Canada. Western Canada had a negative of 36%. Atlantic Canada gave a positive of 40%. Quebecers were the most hostile while Ontarians were fairly ambivalent.

The survey is considered accurate to within 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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