



ONTARIO
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Perceptions of a New GTA Nuclear Reactor *Telephone Survey Report*



October 2021

Table of Contents

Methodology & Logistics	2
Vote Intent	3
New Reactor	4
Safety & Concerns	5
Climate Change	7
New Technology	8
Nuclear Waste	9
Nuclear vs Other Options	10
Results by Question	11

Methodology & Logistics

Overview

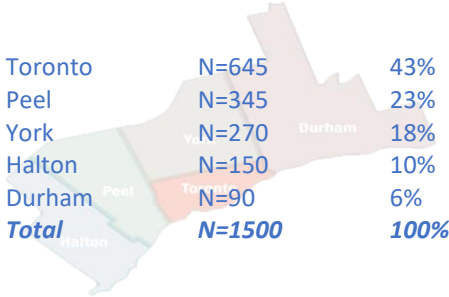
The following represents the results of an October 2021 telephone survey of N=1500 Greater Toronto Area residents, 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted by Oraclepoll Research Ltd for the Ontario Clean Air Alliance (OCAA). The objective of the poll was to gather opinions from residents on issues related to the plan by the government of Ontario to build a new nuclear reactor in the Greater Toronto Area.

Reporting

This report contains the executive findings from the survey and presents the results in the order they were asked. Some results presented may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Study Sample

A total of N=1500 interviews were completed, with residents across Greater Toronto Area (GTA). All respondents were screened to ensure that they were 18 years of age or older and residents of each region. The sample was stratified to ensure a representative breakdown and the adjacent table provides a breakdown of the total sample by area or region.



A randomized dual sample frame database was used that was inclusive of cellular and land line telephone numbers.

Logistics

The poll was conducted by telephone with live person-to-person operators at the Oraclepoll call centre facility using computer-assisted techniques of telephone interviewing (CATI) and random number selection (RDD). A total of 20% of all interviews were monitored and the management of Oraclepoll Research supervised 100%.

Interviews were conducted between the days of October 1st to October 8th, 2021.

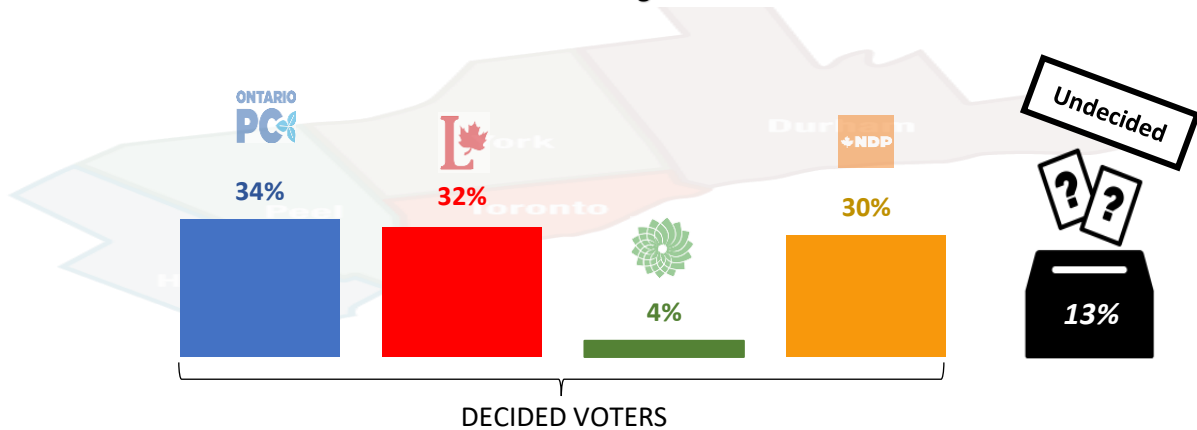
Confidence

The margin of error for the N=1500 sample is $\pm 2.5\%$ 19/20 times. Error rates vary and are larger for geographic and demographic sub-samples of the survey population.

Vote Intent

Respondents were first asked about their provincial vote intent. The chart below illustrates the findings of decided voters, with the undecided result (13%) shown separately.

Q1. If a provincial Election were held today in Ontario, which Party would you vote for or be leaning towards at this time?



	PC	NDP	Green	Liberal
Toronto	27%	36%	5%	31%
Peel	39%	28%	3%	31%
York	41%	20%	4%	35%
Durham	36%	31%	4%	29%
Halton	37%	27%	5%	31%

The PC's have a small advantage among decided voters across the region at 34% support, with the Liberals and NDP close behind at 32% and 30% respectively. The Green Party is backed by 4%, while 13% said they were undecided.

The Progressive Conservative's lead in Peel, York, Durham and Halton and perform poorest in Toronto. The NDP shows best among voters in Toronto, with the Liberals in second, while Grit support in the GTA is highest in York.

New Reactor

Respondents were next asked if the plan to build a new nuclear reactor in the Greater Toronto Area was a good or bad idea.

Q2. The Government of Ontario is planning to build a new nuclear reactor in the Greater Toronto Area. Do you think this is a good or a bad idea?



	Good idea	Bad idea	Unsure
Toronto	36%	50%	13%
Peel	49%	35%	16%
York	42%	44%	14%
Durham	61%	33%	6%
Halton	43%	45%	12%

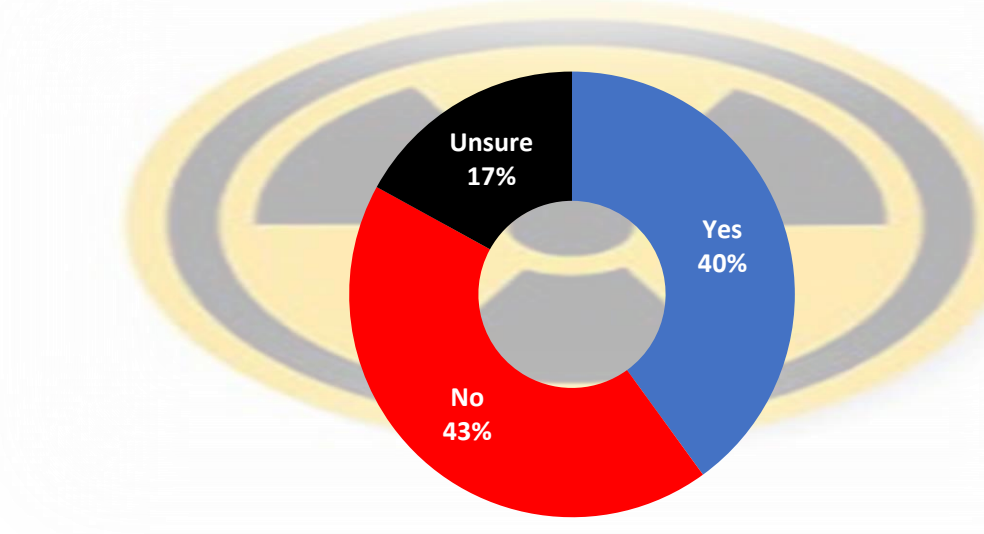
	Good idea	Bad idea	Unsure
PC	88%	7%	5%
NDP	21%	64%	15%
Green	2%	91%	7%
Liberal	29%	55%	16%
Undecided	23%	52%	25%

Opinion was split with 44% saying the plan is a bad idea and 42% a good idea, while 14% were unsure. Those answering good idea tended to be PC voters and Durham residents. Younger respondents 18-34 (72%) and 35-44 (49%) most answered bad, while older 55-64 (63%) and 65+ (74%) residents as well as \$100,000+ earners named good (63%).

Safety & Concern

In this probe, residents were asked if they felt the Greater Toronto Area is a safe location for a new nuclear reactor.

Q3. In your opinion, is the Greater Toronto Area a safe location for a new nuclear reactor?



	Yes	No	Unsure
Toronto	33%	50%	17%
Peel	47%	34%	19%
York	41%	41%	18%
Durham	61%	32%	7%
Halton	43%	44%	13%

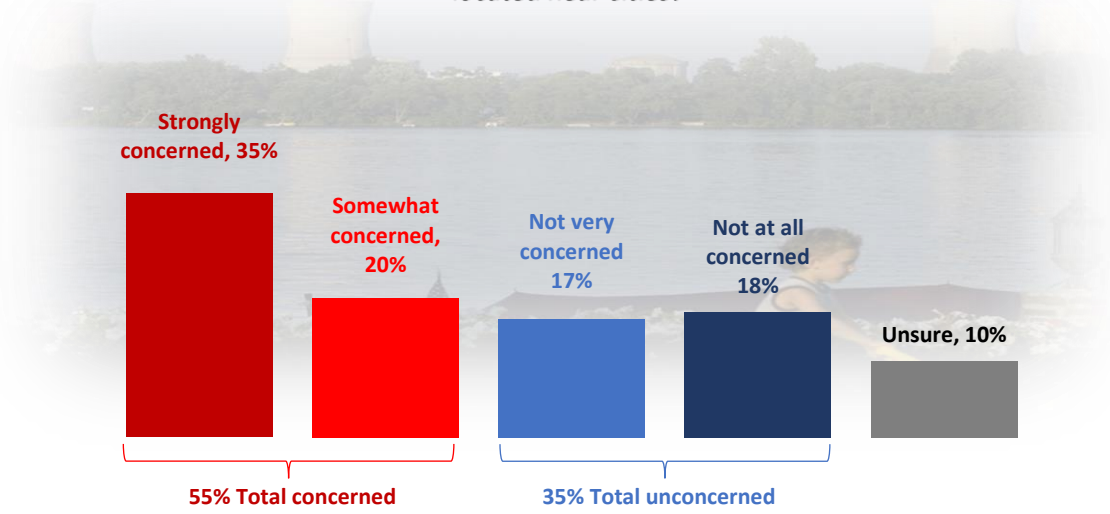
While there was a divide of opinion, slightly more or 43% do not feel the GTA is a safe location (“no”) for a new reactor, compared to 40% that feel it is safe (“yes”). A significant 17% were unsure.

	Yes	No	Unsure
PC	86%	4%	10%
NDP	17%	64%	19%
Green	2%	91%	7%
Liberal	27%	55%	18%
Undecided	21%	52%	27%

Only a third of Toronto residents answered yes the area is safe, as did a low number of New Democrats (17%), Liberals (27%) and Greens (2%). Most PC backers (86%) and a higher percentage of residents from Durham (61%) said yes or that they feel the GTA is safe location.

In the following question, respondents were asked how concerned they are with the safety risks of having nuclear reactors located near cities. A four-point rating scale was used.

Q4. How concerned are you with the safety risks of having nuclear reactors located near cities?



	Strongly concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Unsure
Toronto	42%	16%	17%	13%	11%
Peel	30%	23%	18%	19%	10%
York	31%	24%	20%	17%	9%
Durham	14%	22%	17%	42%	4%
Halton	33%	18%	13%	26%	10%

Fifty-five percent are concerned or very concerned with the safety risks of having reactors near cities, only 35% are unconcerned, while 10% are unsure.

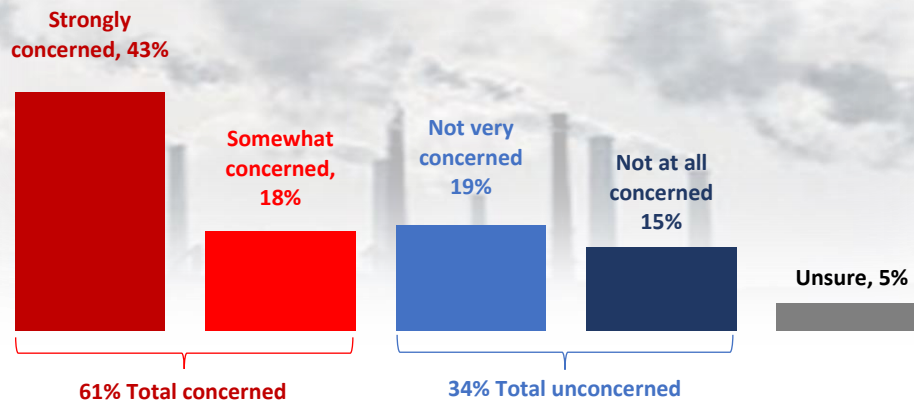
	Strongly concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Unsure
PC	3%	19%	31%	43%	5%
NDP	53%	20%	10%	7%	9%
Green	88%	12%			
Liberal	45%	19%	13%	12%	11%
Undecided	32%	26%	16%	4%	22%

Climate Change

A brief statement was first read about the proposed reactor and its estimated start time to be operational. Respondents were then asked a question about their concern over the fact the proposal does not take immediate action on climate change.

Some advocates of nuclear power say it lessens our dependency on fossil fuels and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. However, the proposed Greater Toronto Area nuclear reactor would not be operational until 2035 at the earliest.

Q5. Given the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions now, how concerned are you that this proposal does not take immediate action on climate change? Are you...?



	Strongly concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Unsure
Toronto	50%	16%	18%	10%	6%
Peel	38%	20%	19%	16%	7%
York	37%	20%	19%	21%	4%
Durham	24%	21%	27%	27%	1%
Halton	41%	15%	19%	19%	6%

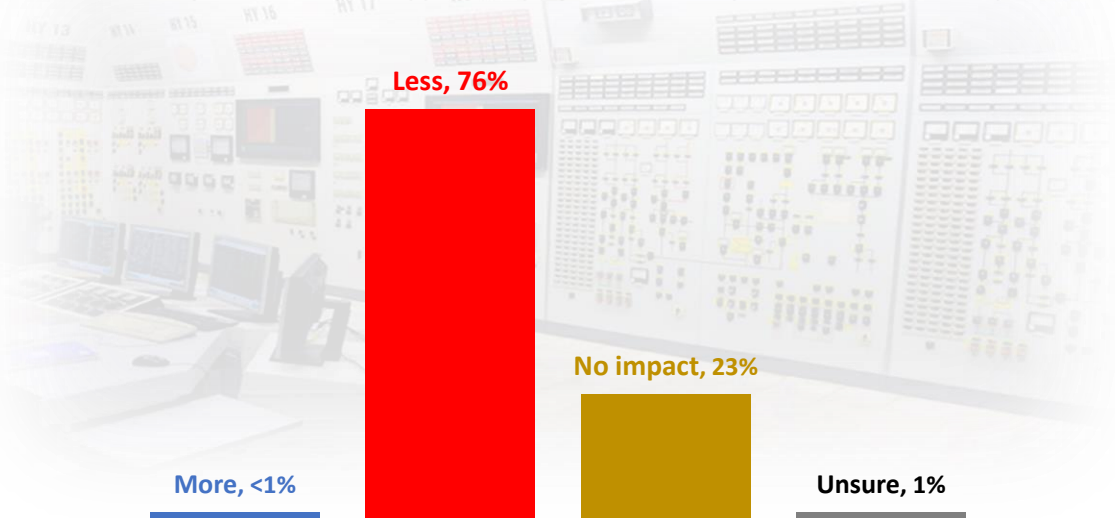
	Strongly concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Unsure
PC	4%	15%	38%	42%	1%
NDP	64%	26%	5%	0%	5%
Green	96%	4%			
Liberal	51%	19%	20%	5%	5%
Undecided	54%	8%	9%	11%	18%

Resident concern with not taking immediate action on climate change is 61%. Concern was highest in Toronto (66%) and among Green (100%), NDP (90%) and Liberal (70%) supporters. Younger resident 18-34 (92%) and 35-44 (75%) were most concerned as were more females (62%) than males (58%).

New Technology

Respondents were informed about the new untested technology being used and were then asked if this would make them less likely to support the project, more likely or if it would have no impact on their decision.

Q6. The new technology to be used for this proposed nuclear facility has never been tested in commercial operation and there is no current working model. Does knowing this make you less likely to support the project, more likely, or does it have no impact



	Less	More	No impact	Unsure
Toronto	79%	0%	20%	1%
Peel	76%	1%	23%	1%
York	74%	<1%	26%	<1%
Durham	67%	1%	31%	1%
Halton	73%	1%	25%	

More than three-quarters of residents from across the GTA said knowing that the technology has never been tested would make them less likely to support the project.

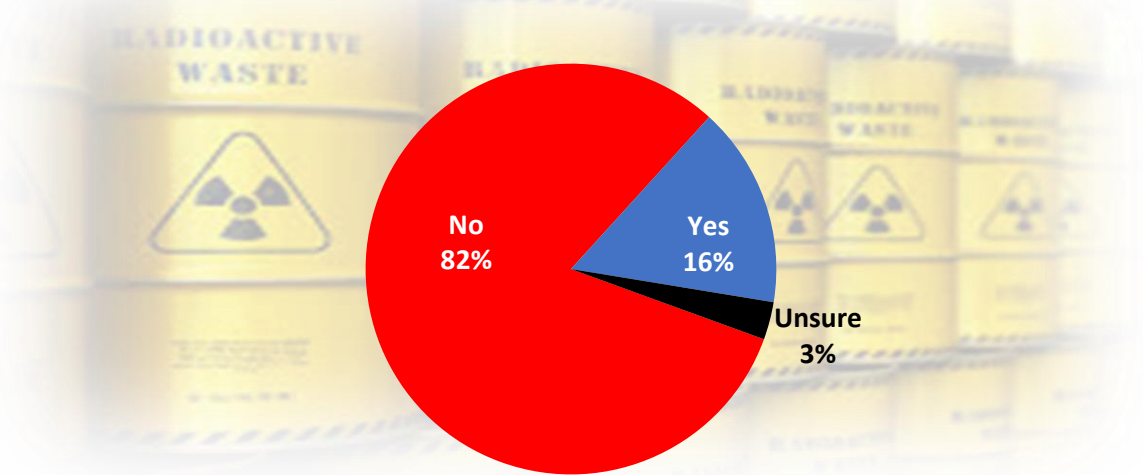
	Less	More	No impact	Unsure
PC	32%	1%	65%	2%
NDP	98%		1%	1%
Green	100%			
Liberal	94%	<1%	5%	1%
Undecided	87%	1%	12%	1%

Nuclear Waste

A statement was read about the lack of a long-term storage facility for nuclear waste and where the radioactive material from the proposed reactor would be stored. Respondents were then asked if they felt a new reactor should be built without having a permanent storage facility.

Q7. Canada does not have a facility for the long-term storage of our radioactive nuclear waste. As a result, the waste from the proposed nuclear reactor will be stored indefinitely in conventional, commercial storage buildings on the shore of Lake Ontario.

In your opinion, should a new nuclear reactor be built in the Greater Toronto Area before we have a permanent safe storage facility for nuclear waste?



	Yes	No	Unsure
Toronto	11%	87%	2%
Peel	12%	82%	6%
York	21%	77%	1%
Durham	33%	64%	2%
Halton	21%	77%	2%

An 82% majority do not think a new nuclear reactor should be built before there is a permanent safe storage space for nuclear waste. Even PC voters were split on the issue, with nearly half of them answering no to the question.

	Yes	No	Unsure
PC	44%	49%	7%
NDP	2%	97%	1%
Green		100%	
Liberal	4%	95%	1%
Undecided	9%	89%	2%

Nuclear vs Other Options

In the final question, respondents were first told about the cost of the new reactor and were then asked which form of power they preferred.

Q8. The government says the cost of power from the new nuclear reactor would be more than twice the current cost of renewables and energy conservation. In your opinion, should the province build a new nuclear reactor or get more electricity from wind, solar, energy conservation and waterpower from Quebec?



	Build nuclear	Wind, solar, conservation, waterpower	Unsure
Toronto	16%	77%	7%
Peel	16%	72%	12%
York	20%	72%	7%
Durham	47%	48%	6%
Halton	24%	71%	5%

Obtaining electricity from wind, solar, energy conservation and waterpower from Quebec was the preferred option to most or 73% of residents. Less than two in ten or 19% named new nuclear builds, while 8% were unsure.

	Build nuclear	Wind, solar, conservation, waterpower	Unsure
PC	57%	22%	21%
NDP	2%	97%	1%
Green	2%	98%	
Liberal	4%	93%	2%
Undecided	6%	88%	6%

Support for wind, solar, energy conservation and waterpower from Quebec was very strong among those backing opposition Parties and undecided's.

Results by Question

Q1. If a provincial Election were held today in Ontario, which Party would you vote for or be leaning towards at this time?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
PC	442	29.5
NDP	392	26.1
Green	57	3.8
Liberal	414	27.6
Unsure	195	13.0
Total	1500	100.0

Q2. The Government of Ontario is planning to build a new nuclear reactor in the Greater Toronto Area. Do you think this is a good or a bad idea?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Good idea	636	42.4
Bad idea	661	44.1
Unsure	203	13.5
Total	1500	100.0

Q3. In your opinion, is the Greater Toronto Area a safe location for a new nuclear reactor?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	601	40.1
No	645	43.0
Unsure	254	16.9
Total	1500	100.0

Q4. How concerned are you with the safety risks of having nuclear reactors located near cities?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Strongly concerned	521	34.7
Somewhat concerned	296	19.7
Not very concerned	261	17.4
Not at all concerned	274	18.3
Unsure	148	9.9
Total	1500	100.0

Q5. Given the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions now, how concerned are you that this proposal does not take immediate action on climate change? Are you...?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Strongly concerned	641	42.7
Somewhat concerned	264	17.6
Not very concerned	289	19.3
Not at all concerned	228	15.2
Unsure	78	5.2
Total	1500	100.0

Q6. Does knowing this make you less likely to support the project, more likely, or does it have no impact on your decision.

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Less	1139	75.9
More	7	.5
No impact	340	22.7
Unsure	14	.9
Total	1500	100.0

Q7. In your opinion, should a new nuclear reactor be built in the Greater Toronto Area before we have a permanent safe storage facility for nuclear waste?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	235	15.7
No	1224	81.6
Unsure	41	2.7
Total	1500	100.0

Q8. In your opinion, should the province build a new nuclear reactor or get more electricity from wind, solar, energy conservation and waterpower from Quebec?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Build nuclear	288	19.2
Get more electricity from wind, solar, energy conservation and waterpower from Quebec	1093	72.9
Unsure	119	7.9
Total	1500	100.0

Q9. Which of the following age groups may I place you in?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
18-34	415	27.7
35-44	264	17.6
45-54	308	20.5
55-64	342	22.8
65+	171	11.4
Total	1500	100.0

Q10. What is your combined household income before taxes?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Under \$50,000	218	14.5
\$50,000-\$74,999	337	22.5
\$75,000-\$99,999	273	18.2
\$100,000 or more	316	21.1
Refused	356	23.7
Total	1500	100.0

D5. Gender

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Male	740	49.3
Female	760	50.7
Total	1500	100.0