



Annual
China Institute
Survey

2015

Albertans'
Views on
China

China Institute
University of Alberta

Rm 203 TELUS Centre
87 Avenue & 111 Street
Edmonton, AB Canada T6R 2R1

Tel 780.492.1263
Fax 780.492.8200
Email china@ualberta.ca

www.china.alberta.ca

©2015 China Institute University of Alberta

foreword

This is the fifth year that the China Institute of the University of Alberta (CIUA) has probed in detail the views of Albertans towards the People's Republic of China, working with the more extensive "Alberta Survey," conducted by the Population Research Laboratory of the University of Alberta. The set of questions applied in this year's survey corresponds to the set used in 2011 and 2013, allowing us to identify evolving views over time. The 2015 Survey includes two questions on Chinese investment: one on Chinese investment in Alberta in general, and the second on investment in Alberta's natural resource sector specifically. This year the CIUA has also added an additional question on the contribution of international students from China to Alberta society.

A common theme of public discourse in Alberta in 2015 has been the need to diversify the provincial economy and to seek new markets for Alberta's exports, be they oil and gas, agricultural products, manufactured goods or services. The fastest growing large economy in the past 35 years has been the Chinese economy, and the remarkable rise of China as a global economic and financial entity makes China, already Canada's and Alberta's second largest trading partner, a close partner in the search for diversified markets.

While it is private industry and government officials (in both Alberta and China) who build and manage the trade relationship between this province and China, this activity does not occur in a vacuum. The attitudes of the people of this province towards our trading partners influence the environment in which our foreign trade occurs, and this influence can either advance or hinder the development of the relationship.

The survey indicates that a majority of Albertans accept the importance of decreasing Alberta's reliance on the United States. Albertans also continue, by a wide margin, to support the building of energy infrastructure to export energy to Asia, welcome Chinese tourism, accept that China's significance to Alberta is increasing, and value the contribution of Chinese students to Alberta's society. But when the question of Chinese investment is posed the support dwindles. Less than half of Albertans welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors, and/or Chinese investment period. With a population of only 4 million, given the huge capital cost of developing the provincial economy, and considering that China has the largest pool of available capital, these views matter and have policy implications.

The views of Albertans regarding any given country may or may not be important to this province. But given Alberta's export-driven economy, the views of its citizens towards China—the world's largest economy—do matter. China will grow in importance for Canada and Alberta in this 21st century. Increasing broad understanding of that Asian giant is in the interest of this country and this province.



Gordon Houlden
Director
China Institute
University of Alberta

contents

Executive Summary	7
The Data at a Glance	8
Average Response Rating Comparison	10
The Results	
1. Albertans' Views on China	12
2. Diversification of Alberta's Economy	14
3. Alberta-China Economic Relations	16
4. International Students from China Contribute to Albertan Society	18
5. Differences Due to Political Affiliation	19
6. Regional Differences	21
Edmonton	22
Calgary	24
Non-Metropolitan Area	26
7. Differences Among Education Groups	28
8. Ethnic Backgrounds Affect People's Views	29
9. Reasons for Supporting or Opposing Chinese Investment in the Province	31
Alberta in the National Context	35
The Alberta Survey Methodology	36
Appendix 1: 2015 Questionnaire	37
Appendix 2: Sample of Reasons Alberta Should (Should Not) Welcome Chinese Investment in the Province	40
About the China Institute	45
About the Population Research Laboratory and the Alberta Survey	46

executive summary

Key Findings of the 2015 Alberta Survey

- Albertans generally acknowledge the importance of decreasing Alberta's economic reliance on the US and value the importance of diversifying the economy by trading with Asia.
- A large majority of Albertans are aware of the significance of China as an export market for Alberta and of building infrastructure to export energy to Asia.
- The vast majority of Albertans recognize the importance of increased tourism from China to the province and acknowledge that international Chinese students contribute to Alberta's society.
- There has been a decrease in the percentage of Albertans who agree that China's economic strength will benefit Alberta and will play an important role in future opportunities for Albertans, and agree with building stronger ties with China.
- Albertans are growing increasingly skeptical regarding Chinese investment in Alberta in general. (Support for Chinese investment dropped 12 points to 43% in 2015 from the 2011 level while those who object climbed 12% to almost 1 in 3 Albertans).
- Respondents who received post-secondary education or higher tend to be more open to engaging China than those with high school degrees or less education. Albertans with an advanced education appear to be more comfortable in engaging China.
- Federal Liberal Party voters tend to be more open than others to Chinese investment. Conservative Party of Canada supporters are generally more supportive of building infrastructure to export energy to Asia, while Green Party supporters are the least supportive in this regard. Federal Conservative voters hold the most favourable views in building stronger ties with China but are the least supportive of decreasing Alberta's economic reliance on the U.S. market.
- Calgary tends to be more welcoming to China than Edmonton and non-metropolitan area.
- The views of Albertans are mixed when it comes to Chinese investment. Although some respondents view Chinese investment as an opportunity for economic growth and job creation in Alberta, others disagree.
- Albertans who are open to Chinese investment acknowledge the importance of diversification of the economy, reciprocity in the global economy, China's technological skills and capabilities, and effective regulations of foreign investments.
- Albertans who do not welcome Chinese investment in Alberta are mainly concerned about foreign control over resources; communist ideology, human rights, as well as labour and environmental standards.

THE DATA

At a Glance

Statements	2015			Changes from 2013	
	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta	41%	35%	23%	-11%	+4%
Alberta should build stronger ties with China	48%	28%	24%	-8%	3%
China is important as an export market for Alberta's goods and services	77%	13%	11%	+1%	0%
Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market	54%	19%	27%	-6%	+1%
Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia	69%	22%	9%	+1%	-5%
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the west coast for export to Asia	65%	18%	17%	-2%	0%
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province	43%	27%	30%	-6%	+2%
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province	42%	27%	31%	-1%	-3%
China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans	51%	27%	22%	-12%	+5%
Increased tourism from China is good for Alberta	81%	12%	7%	0%	-1%
International students from China contribute to Albertan society	69%	19%	12%	-	-

Note: the "Do not Know" is not included as part of the total in 2015 calculations. In other words, the denominator in 2015 is different from that in 2013. However, the results are not expected to differ qualitatively, because percentage values of the 'Don't Know' in 2013 are not considerably big.

Agree represents strongly agree and agree; disagree represents strongly disagree and disagree.

Percentages are rounded values.

AT A GLANCE

Survey results show that Albertans are open to increased tourism from China and China being an important export market for Alberta, while acknowledging that Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia and by building better infrastructure for exports to Asia. They also acknowledge that international students from China contribute to Alberta's society. Albertans, however, are increasingly skeptical of Chinese investment in the province in general, and in Alberta's energy sector in particular.

When comparing the results to those of 2013, we find that the percentage of those who agree that China is an important export market for Alberta and that Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia increased slightly. On the other hand, there is a clear drop in the percentage of respondents who agree that Alberta should build stronger ties with China, Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market, China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta, and that China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans, indicating Albertans' growing reluctance to link China to Alberta's economic growth. The numbers of Albertans open to Chinese investments in Alberta in general, and to Chinese investments in Alberta's energy and resource sectors specifically are also on the decline. This reflects Albertans' skepticism regarding the Chinese economic presence in the province.

On the positive side, 4 in 5 Albertans continue to support increased tourism from China. In 2015, a new question was introduced showing that a large majority of respondents (≈ 70%) agree that international students from China contribute to Alberta's society.

AVERAGE RESPONSE

Rating Comparison

China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta



Alberta should build stronger ties with China



China is important as an export market for Alberta's goods and services



Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market



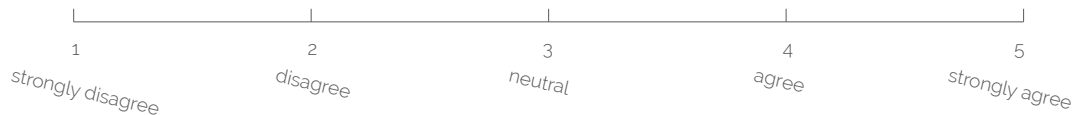
Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia



Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the west coast for export to Asia



Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province



Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province



China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans



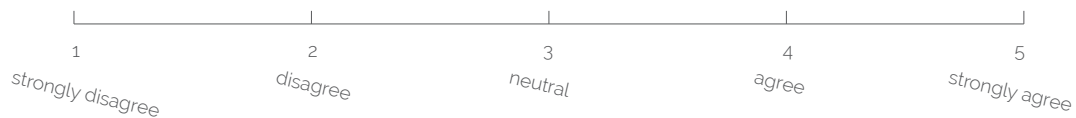
Increased tourism from China is good for Alberta



International students from China contribute to Albertan society



*This question is new to the 2015 Survey, therefore no comparison can be made.



In line with previous results, the average values show that Albertans are open to increased tourism from China, and China has been an important export market for Alberta, acknowledging that Alberta should diversify by trading more with Asia and by building better infrastructure to export to Asia.

Regarding the importance of diversification of the Albertan economy, although the average value decreased in 2013 compared to 2011, 2015 saw a reverse of the previous trend, perhaps reflecting the impact on the province of low oil prices. On the importance of building infrastructure to export energy to Asia, the 2015 and 2013 values are essentially the same and greater than that of 2011. A common observation across all questions is that the average value of responses has decreased over the three years, suggesting a gradual cooling attitude towards China. More specifically, while the 2015 and 2013 average scores are equal and approximately the same, respectively, the values in 2015 and 2013 are lower than in 2011.

A similar pattern is repeated for the question on the views on Chinese investment in Alberta, with the survey showing declining enthusiasm (a decrease in the average value of responses) over the three years. As for Chinese investment in Alberta's energy and resource sectors, average values in support for the years 2015 and 2013 are almost equal and are both lower than in 2011.

The highest averages in 2015 occur for the questions on the contribution of Chinese students to Alberta's society, on the importance of tourism from China, China as an export market for Alberta, trading with Asia, and building better infrastructure to export energy to Asia. The average values for those questions are approximately equal to 4, or 'Agree'. In contrast, questions on Chinese investment in Alberta and in Alberta's energy and resource sectors scored the lowest average of approximately 3 on the scale suggesting very mixed views.

SECTION ONE

Albertans' Views on China

Key Findings

Comparing survey results in 2011, 2013, and 2015, the number of Albertans who agree with statements that China's economic strength will benefit Alberta, that China will play an important role in future opportunities for Albertans, and that Alberta should build stronger ties with China is on a steady decline. This decrease was associated with an increase of those who neither agree nor disagree, as well as an increase of those who disagree, where the increase in the former is larger than the latter.

A slim majority (51%) of Albertans agree that *China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans*, while just over a fifth of respondents (22%) disagree. At the same time belief in China's increasing

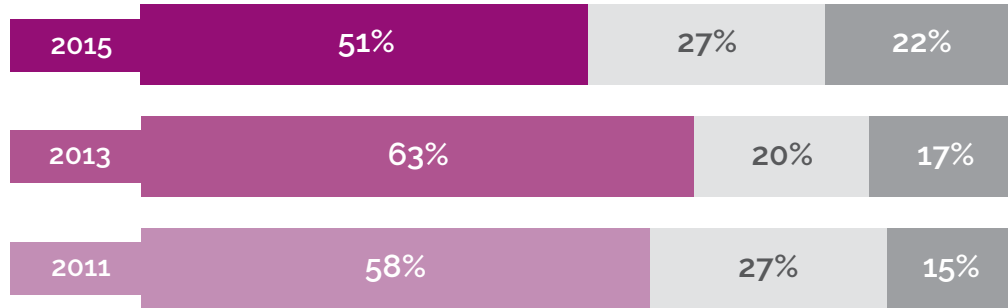
significance in Alberta is down from 2011 and 2013, with disagreement and neutrality having increased. Nearly half (48%) of respondents want to have *stronger ties with China*, while just under a quarter (24%) disagree. Again, the support for stronger ties has dropped since 2011 and 2013, with this year seeing greater percentages of respondents who now either disagree or are neutral. Surveying whether Albertans believe that *China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta*, it emerges that two in five (41%) of Albertans agree, while less than a quarter (23%) disagree. Once more, the percentage of respondents who agree is less than in 2011 and 2013, while those who either disagree or are neutral have seen their percentages increase.

agree

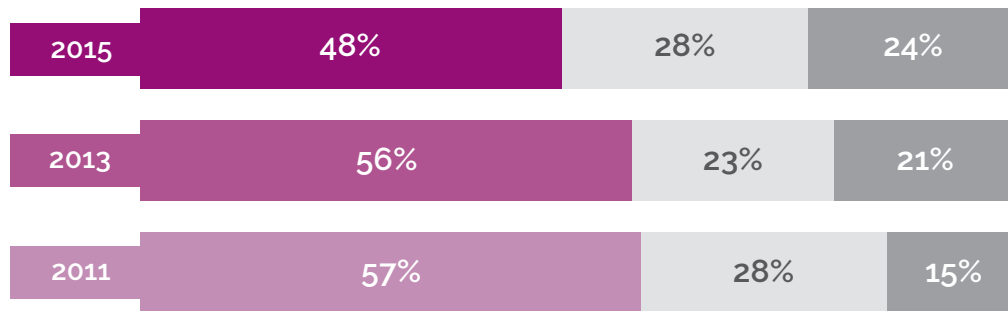
neutral/ don't know

disagree

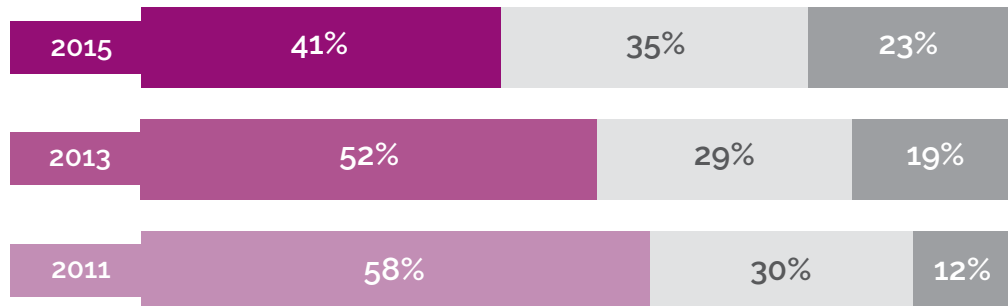
China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans



Alberta should build stronger ties with China



China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta



Note: the 'Do not know' is not included as part of the total in 2015 calculations. In other words, the denominator in 2015 is different from that in 2013. However, the results are not expected to differ qualitatively, because the values of the 'Don't know' in 2013 are not considerably big.

SECTION TWO

Diversification of Alberta's Economy

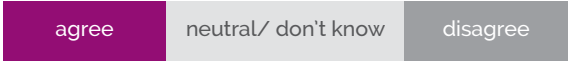
Key Findings

Albertans generally value decreasing Alberta's economic reliance on the US and diversifying the economy by trading with Asia.

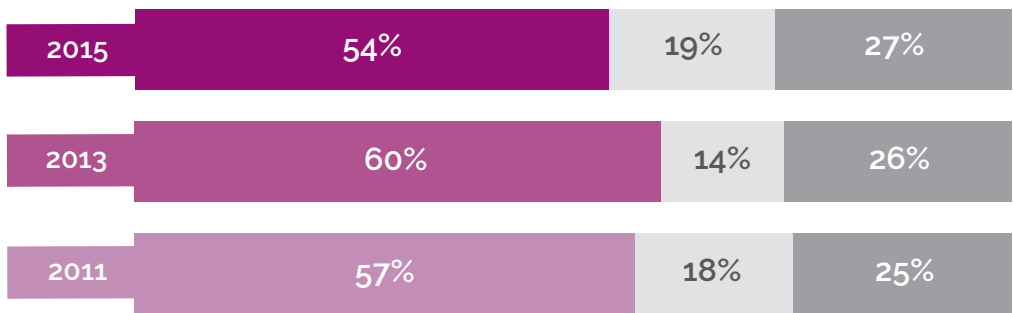
Over half (54%) of Albertans believe that *Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market*, a share that has stayed between 54% and 60% throughout the 2011, 2013, and 2015 surveys. The slightly lower rate of agreement in 2015, as compared to both 2011 and 2013, is associated with a slight increase in disagreement and a larger increase in neutrality.

With regard to whether or not *Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia*, over two thirds (69%) responded as pro-diversification, remaining in the 68% to 72% range of agreement seen in 2011 and 2013. Neutrality on this issue has increased since 2011 and 2013, with 9% who disagree which is the same as what was seen in 2011, and lower than the disagreement in 2013.

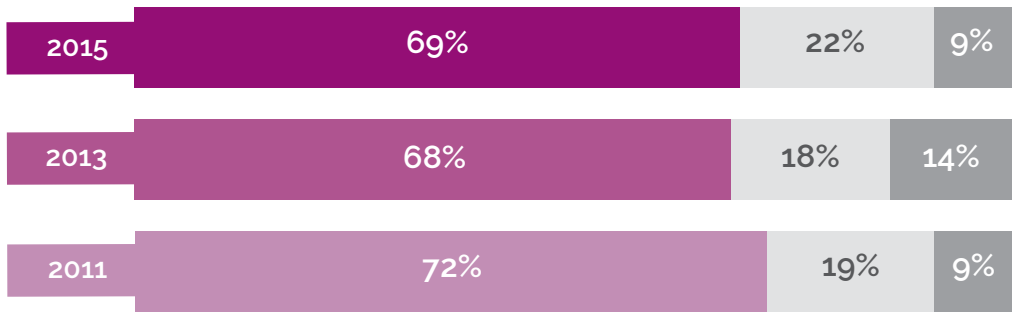
Note: the 'Do not Know' is not included as part of the total in 2015 calculations. In other words, the denominator in 2015 is different from that in 2013. However, the results are not expected to differ qualitatively, because the values of the 'Don't Know' in 2013 are not considerably big.



Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market



Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia



SECTION THREE

Alberta-China Economic Relations

Key Findings

Albertans are aware of the importance of increased tourism from China to the province. Albertans also acknowledge the importance of China as an export market and of building energy infrastructure to the West coast. However, Albertans are increasingly skeptical regarding Chinese investment in Alberta in general, and in energy sectors in particular. The year 2015 saw a 12% drop in support from the 55% recorded in 2011, while those who oppose Chinese investment went up by the same percentage to 30%. In addition, 42% of Albertans view Chinese investment in the resource sector positively, representing a 10 point decrease from the 2011 level, while those who are critical climbed 9 point to 31%.

China is important as an export market for Alberta's goods and services

The percentage of those aware of the importance of China as an export market for Alberta remained high over the three years, increasing from 75% in 2011 to 77% in 2015, signaling a strong desire among the public to sell products and services to the world's second largest economy.

Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province

Although more Albertans still agree that the province should welcome Chinese investment, the percentage has been sliding and those who oppose this has gradually increased over 2011, 2013, and 2015. Neutrality also increased in 2015 after a drop in 2013.

Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province

A similar trend of declining support towards Chinese investment is also evident in the resource and energy sectors. The percentage of those favouring Chinese investment dropped from a modest majority of 52% in 2011 to 42% in 2015, and those who oppose Chinese investment increased from 1 in 5 (22%) in 2011 to almost 1 in 3 (31%) in 2015. The percentage of those who responded as neutral increased from 22% in 2011 to 27% in 2015.

Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the west coast for export to Asia

Despite a lack of any immediate prospect of a pipeline to the British Columbia coast, a large majority of respondents consider adding infrastructure to transport Albertan energy to Asian markets necessary. From 56% in favour in 2011, the number jumped to 67% in 2013 and remains steady at 65% in 2015.

Increased tourism from China is good for Alberta

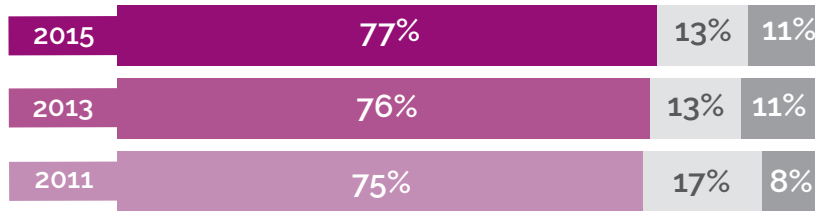
A vast majority of Albertans (over 80%) maintain positive views towards tourism from China despite the slight decrease from 83% in 2011 to 81% in 2015. This decrease was associated with a modest increase in the percentage of those holding neutral views. As growing numbers of affluent Chinese tourists plan to vacation overseas, Canada is expected to receive more travelers from China. Efforts to attract more tourists to Alberta will likely benefit from widespread public support.

agree

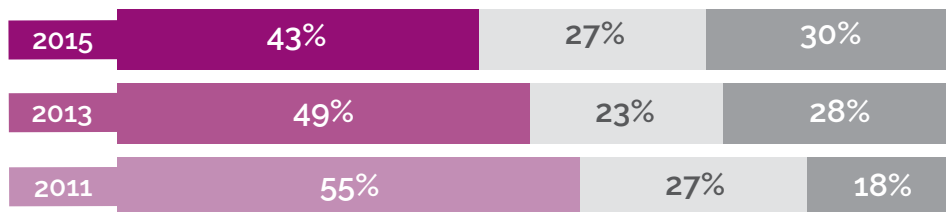
neutral/ don't know

disagree

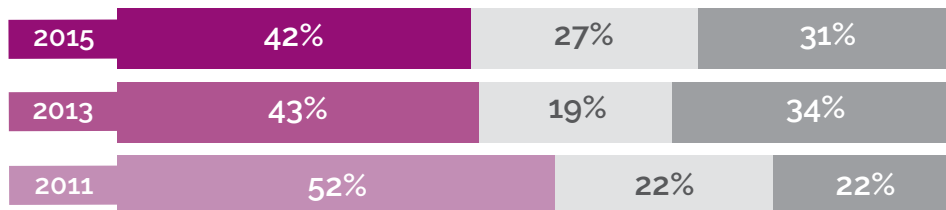
China is important as an export market for Alberta's goods and services



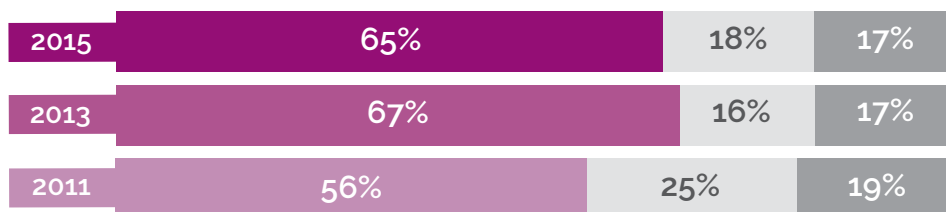
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province



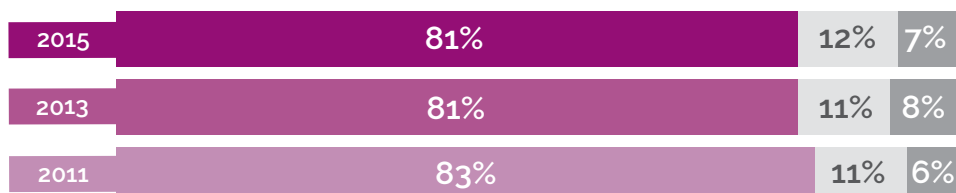
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province



Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the west coast for export to Asia



Increased tourism from China is good for Alberta



Note: the 'Do not know' is not included as part of the total in 2015 calculations. In other words, the denominator in 2015 is different from that in 2013. However, the results are not expected to differ qualitatively, because the values of the 'Don't know' in 2013 are not considerably big.

SECTION FOUR

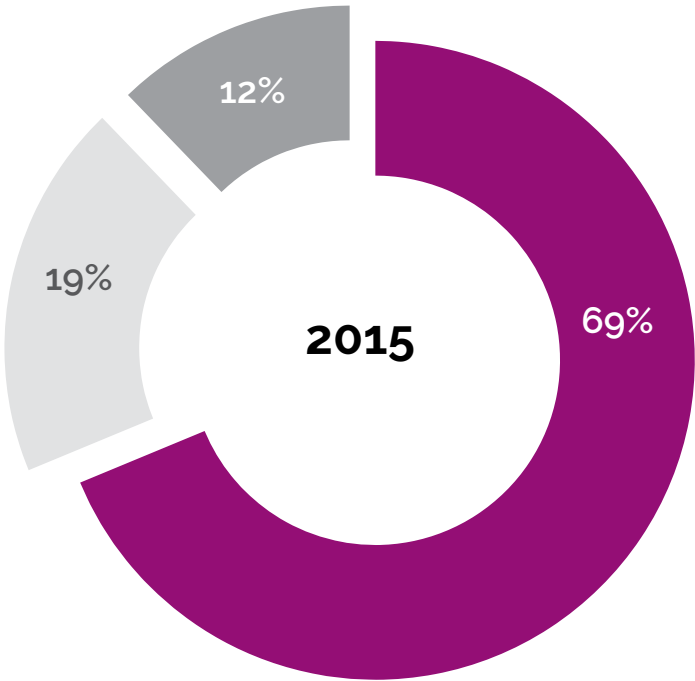
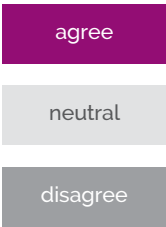
International Students from China **Contribute** to Albertan Society

Key Findings

Thousands of students from China are studying in post-secondary institutions across Alberta and have become one the largest groups of international students on Albertan campuses. This newly added question aimed to gauge if Albertan residents consider these international students a benefit to their host communities. The survey





results show that an overwhelming number of Albertans (approximately 70%) hold positive opinions of this student movement and acknowledge that international Chinese students contribute to Alberta's society. Approximately 19% are neutral.

International Students from China Contribute to Albertan Society



SECTION FIVE

Differences Due to Political Affiliation

Statements					Other	All Respondents
China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta	3.10	3.29	3.45	3.37	2.87	3.45
Alberta should build stronger ties with China	3.18	3.29	3.17	3.34	3.00	3.34
China is important as an export market for Alberta's goods and services	3.72	3.93	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market	3.48	3.49	3.25	3.16	3.67	3.67
Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia	3.66	3.92	3.92	3.80	3.64	3.92
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the west coast for export to Asia	3.10	3.52	2.92	4.08	3.50	4.08
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province	3.06	3.28	3.17	3.19	2.64	3.28
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province	2.93	3.17	3.09	3.13	2.71	3.17
China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans	3.41	3.50	4.00	3.38	3.54	4.00
Increased tourism from China is good for Alberta	3.94	4.05	3.92	4.08	4.00	4.08
International students from China contribute to Albertan society	3.75	3.73	3.83	3.67	3.71	3.83

Note: Approximately 60% of all respondents identified themselves as affiliates of NDP, Liberal Party, Green Party of Canada, Conservative Party of Canada, or other political parties when asked which party they would vote for in the federal election.

The average values, unlike the percentage value, are not affected by the exclusion of "Do not know".
5 Strongly Agree, 4 is Agree, 3 is Neutral, 2 Disagree, and 1 Strongly Disagree



New Democratic Party



Liberal Party of Canada



Green Party of Canada



Conservative Party of Canada

Differences due to Political Affiliation

Key Findings

Regardless of political affiliation, respondents generally acknowledge the importance of China as an export market for Alberta's goods and services, the importance of diversifying Alberta's economy by trading with Asia, and that tourism from China is good for Alberta. For these questions, the average value of responses for all parties is around 4 ('Agree'). As well, regardless of political affiliation, respondents tend to agree that international students from China contribute to Alberta's society.

Respondents who affiliate themselves with the Conservative Party of Canada are generally more supportive of building infrastructure to export energy to Asia, while Green Party voters are the least supportive-. The Green Party of Canada affiliates, however, are more open than supporters of other parties to the idea that China's economic strength benefits Alberta and that China will be increasingly important for creating future opportunities.

Respondents, regardless of their political affiliation, are less supportive of Chinese investment in Alberta and particularly in Alberta's energy sector (averaging a score of approximately 3). Federal Liberal Party voters are more open than others to Chinese investment.

When asked about reducing economic dependency on the U.S. markets, the results suggest Liberal and NDP voters (average scores at 3.5) are more determined to do so than Conservative or Green voters (average values at 3.16 and 3.25 respectively). Liberal and Conservative supporters are slightly more inclined to favour stronger ties with China (average value of 3.3) than NDP and Green voters (average values slightly below 3.2). With respect to Canada's two largest trading partners, respondents are more open to the idea of relying less on the U.S. than to expanding ties with China.

SECTION SIX

Regional Differences

When comparing responses from different regions in Alberta, Calgarians tend to hold more positive views towards China than residents from Edmonton and the rest of Alberta. Calgarians responded more positively on all survey questions with the exception of three questions, and are generally more supportive of engaging China and Chinese investment whereas residents in non-metropolitan area host the most favourable views of China as an export market for Alberta.

Over the past four years, the percentage of those who agree China's economic strength benefits Alberta shows a notable decreasing trend. The same holds for the importance of stronger ties with China as well as of support for investment from China. Yet, Albertans in all regions consistently maintained strong, and in some areas growing, support for building infrastructure to export energy to Asia and exporting Alberta's goods and services to China.

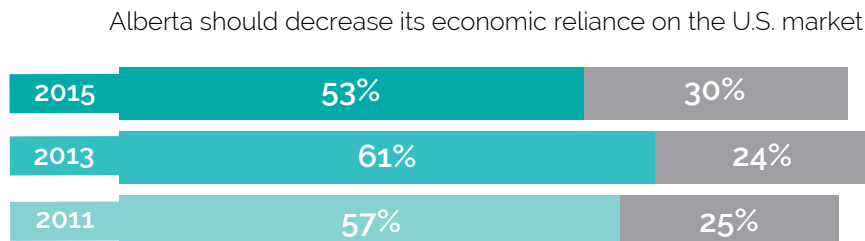
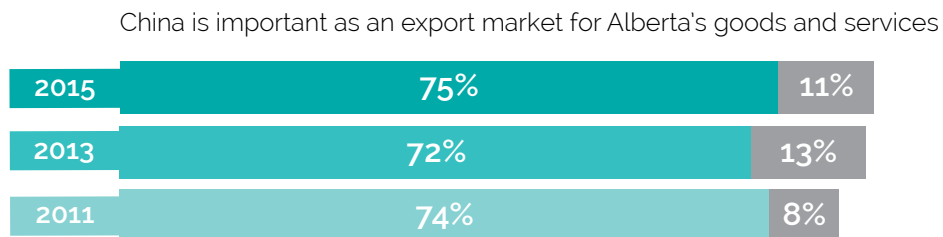
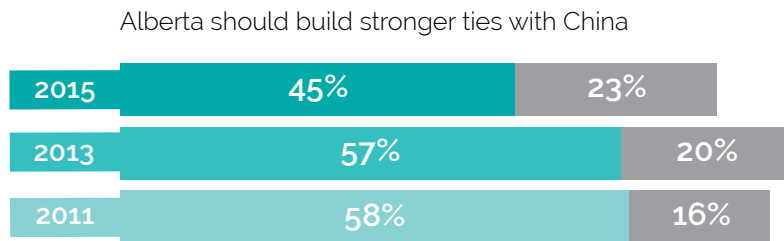
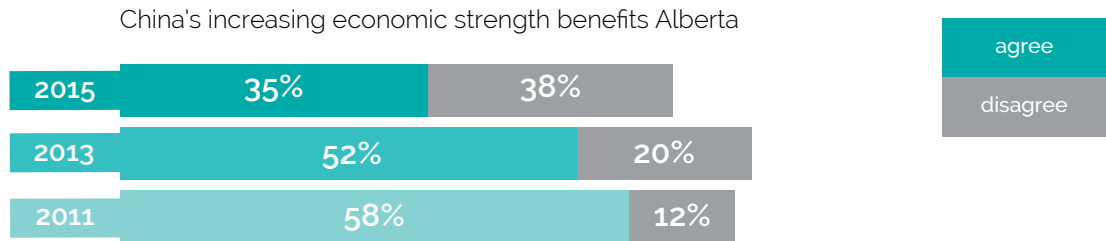
Statements	Edmonton	Calgary	Non-Metropolitan
China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta	3	3.28	3.23
Alberta should build stronger ties with China	3.22	3.24	3.27
China is important as an export market for Alberta's goods and services	3.78	3.8	3.9
Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market	3.35	3.53	3.27
Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia	3.7	3.82	3.62
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the west coast for export to Asia	3.56	3.65	3.67
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province	3.16	3.2	3.02
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province	3.03	3.09	3.07
China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans	3.31	3.32	3.25
Increased tourism from China is good for Alberta	3.87	3.98	3.81
International students from China contribute to Albertan society	3.65	3.68	3.65

Note: The average values, unlike the percentage value, are not affected by the exclusion of "Do not know".
5 Strongly Agree, 4 is Agree, 3 is Neutral, 2 Disagree, and 1 Strongly Disagree

Edmonton

Since 2011, the percentage of Edmontonian respondents who agree that China's economic strength benefits Alberta shows a decreasing trend, with the decline between 2011 and 2013 having been followed by a much larger drop in support by 2015. This 23% decline over four years is notable as this is the largest shift in agreement for any question and for all three regions, and because it indicates

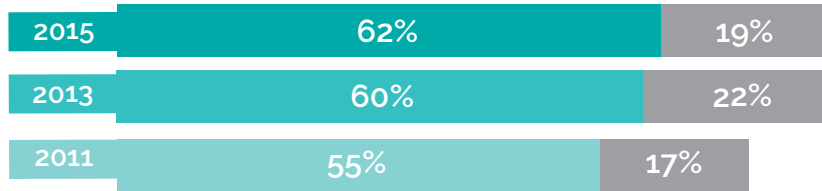
that Edmontonians are the least likely to associate China's economic growth with a positive outcome for Alberta. Edmontonians have decreased support for Chinese investment since 2011, becoming the region with the least share of support for investment in energy and resources from China.



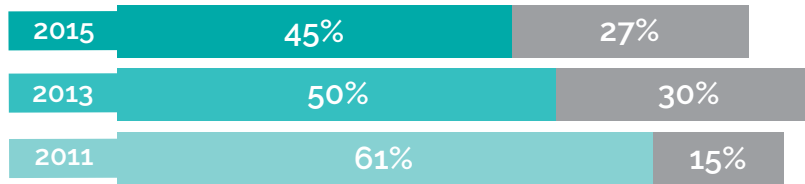
Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia



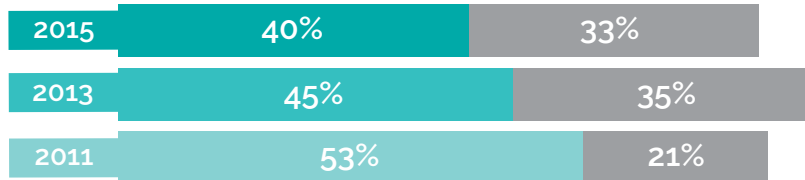
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the west coast for export to Asia



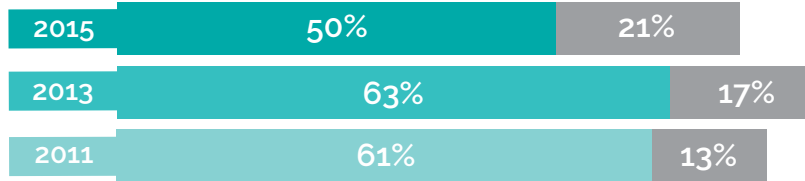
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province



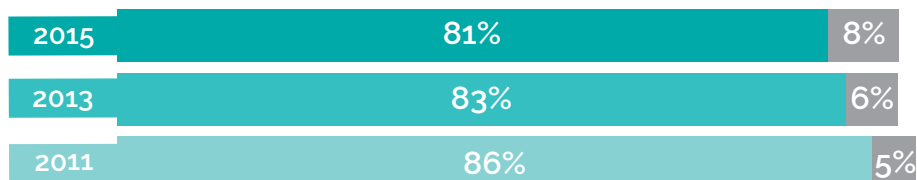
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province



China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans



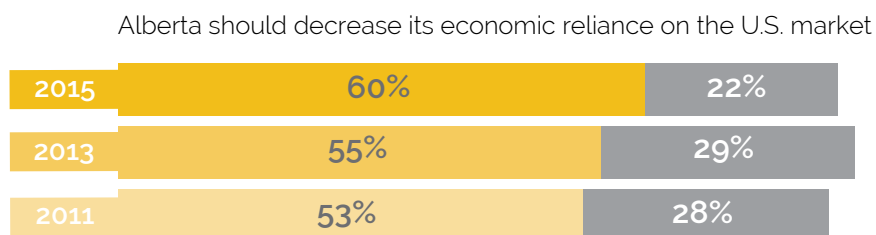
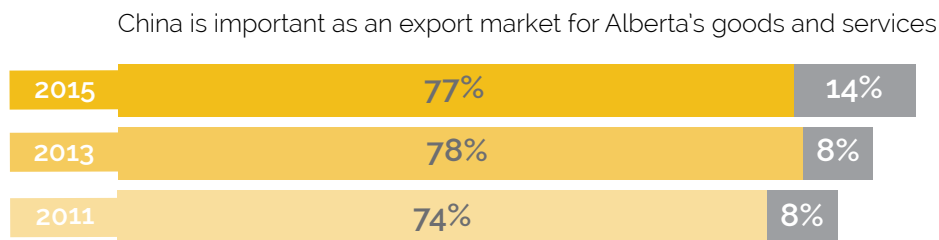
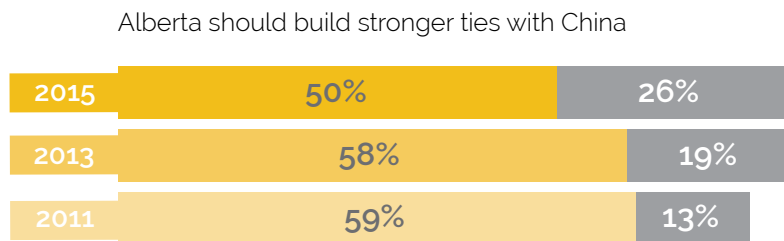
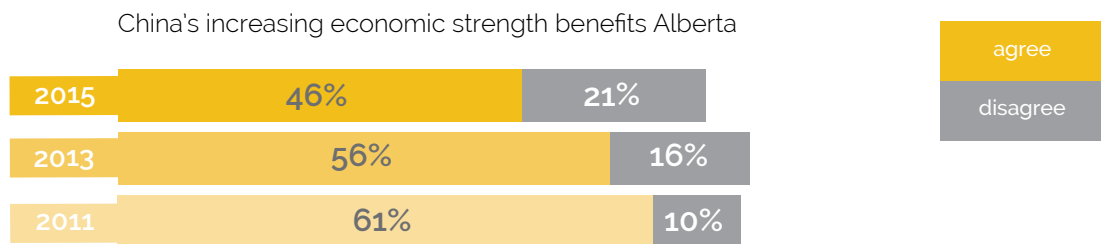
Increased tourism from China is good for Alberta



Calgary

In Calgary, as in Edmonton, the percentage of respondents who agree that China's economic strength benefits Alberta shows a decreasing trend, yet Calgarians are the most supportive of China having a favourable economic impact on Alberta. With regard to the building of infrastructure to facilitate energy exports to Asia, support has fluctuated since 2011: a substantial increase between 2011 and 2013 was partially offset by a decline in support between 2013 and 2015, although Calgarians remain the most

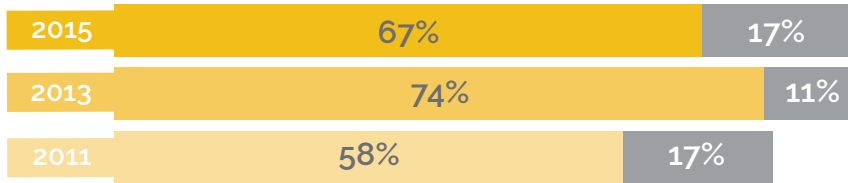
supportive of energy export infrastructure. Finally, and unlike Edmonton, Calgary's support for welcoming Chinese investment into Alberta has stayed relatively stable decreasing only slightly over the past four years. Calgary has thus undergone a notable decline in belief that China's economic strength benefits Alberta and a smaller decline in support for Chinese investment, while its support for energy export infrastructure rose sharply between 2011 and 2013, only to fall in 2015.



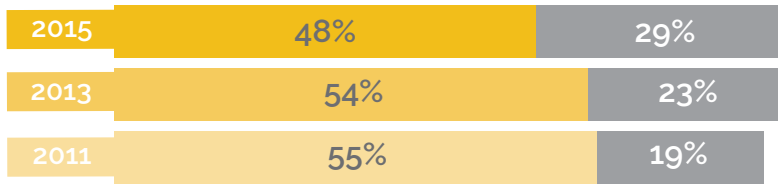
Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia



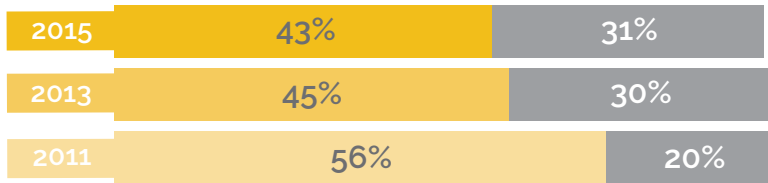
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the west coast for export to Asia



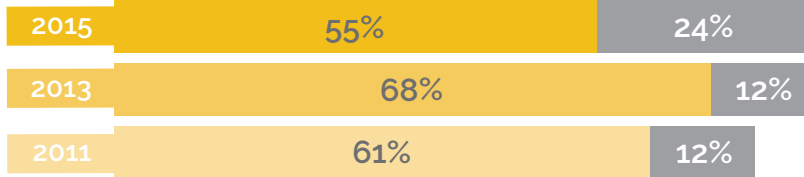
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province



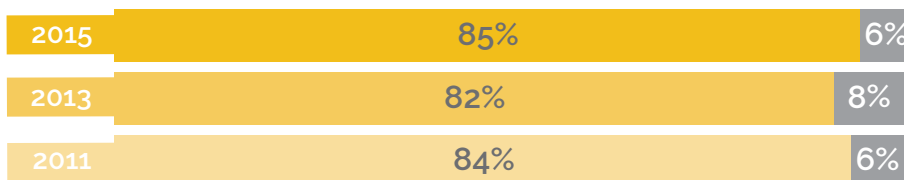
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province



China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans



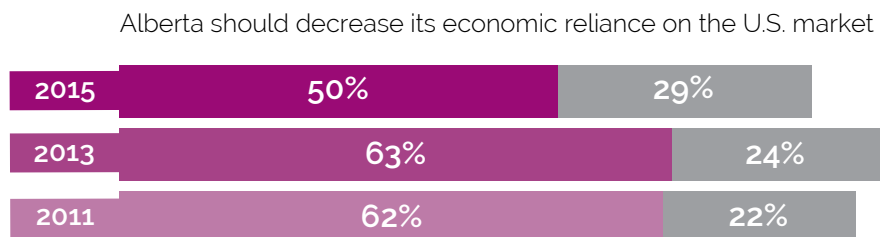
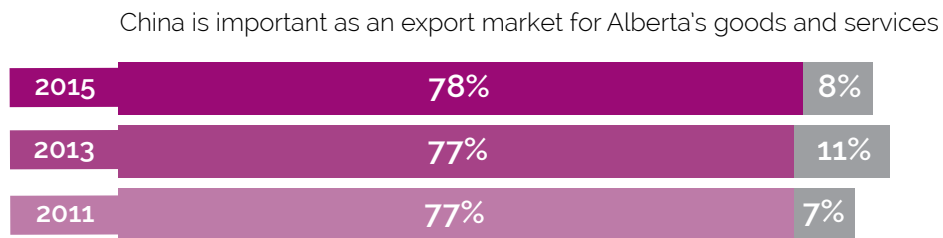
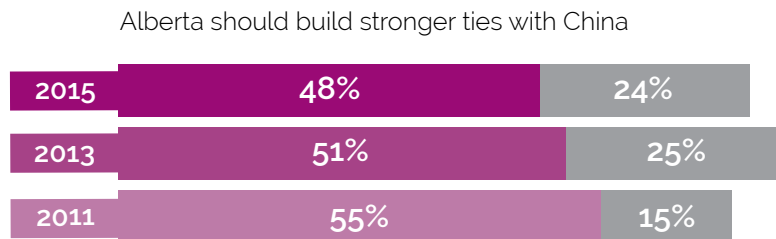
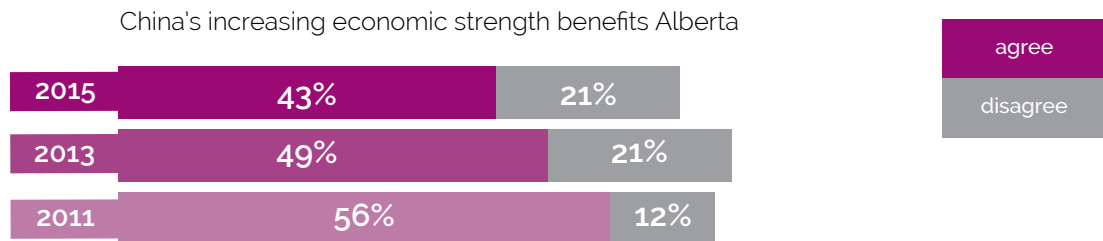
Increased tourism from China is good for Alberta



Non-Metropolitan Area

Outside of Edmonton and Calgary, the decline in the percentage of respondents who believe China's economic strength benefits Alberta was more muted than in the two cities, steadily decreasing between 2011 and 2015. This region's decline in support since 2011 for Chinese investment into Alberta's energy and other resource sectors was also less pronounced than that witnessed in Edmonton, and even saw a slight increase between 2013 and 2015. However, this region's willingness to welcome

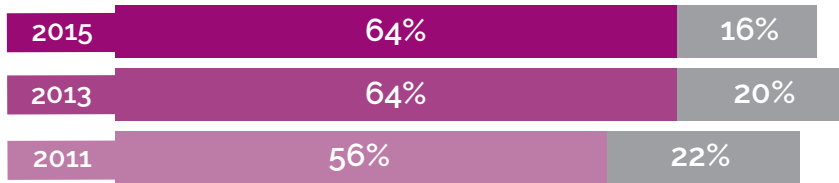
general Chinese investment into Alberta dropped far more than Calgary's between 2011 and 2013, and dropped again in 2015, with less support from either Edmonton or Calgary. Thus, the region has seen a decline in the share of respondents who believe China's strength benefits Alberta and the share of respondents who support Chinese investment into Alberta, both overall and in the energy and resource sectors specifically.



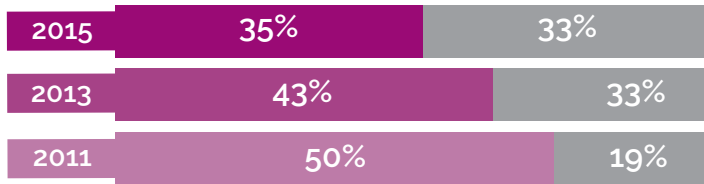
Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia



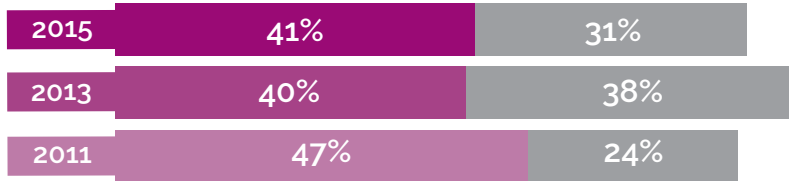
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the west coast for export to Asia



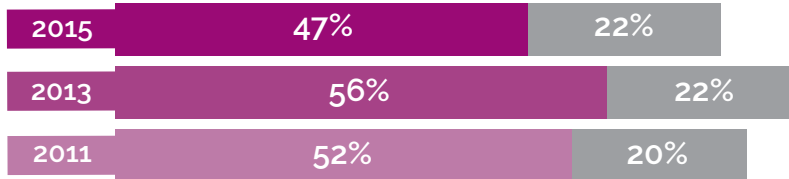
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province



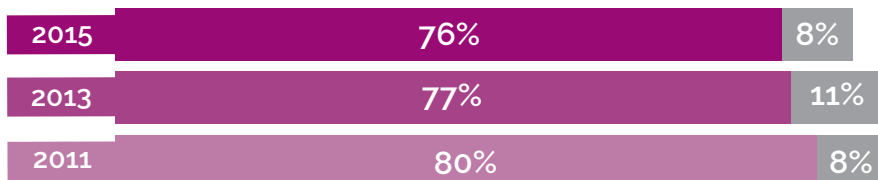
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province



China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans



Increased tourism from China is good for Alberta

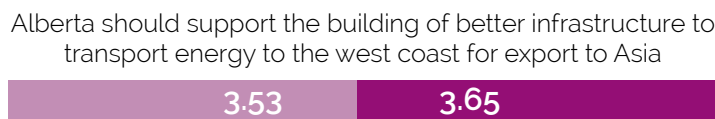
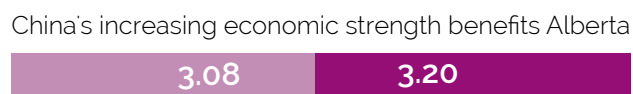


SECTION SEVEN

Differences Among Education Groups

The group of respondents who received post-secondary education tend to have more welcoming views with regard to China than the group with high school degrees or less. The results imply that those with higher levels of education are more welcoming to China.

Less than high school and high school complete Received post secondary education



Note the average values, unlike the percentage value, are not affected by the exclusion of "Do not know".
 5 Strongly Agree, 4 is Agree, 3 is Neutral, 2 Disagree, and 1 Strongly Disagree
 Education-group differences are statistically significant at 1% level of significance for questions 4, 5, 7, 10, and 11, and at 10% level of significance for question 1, 2, and 3.

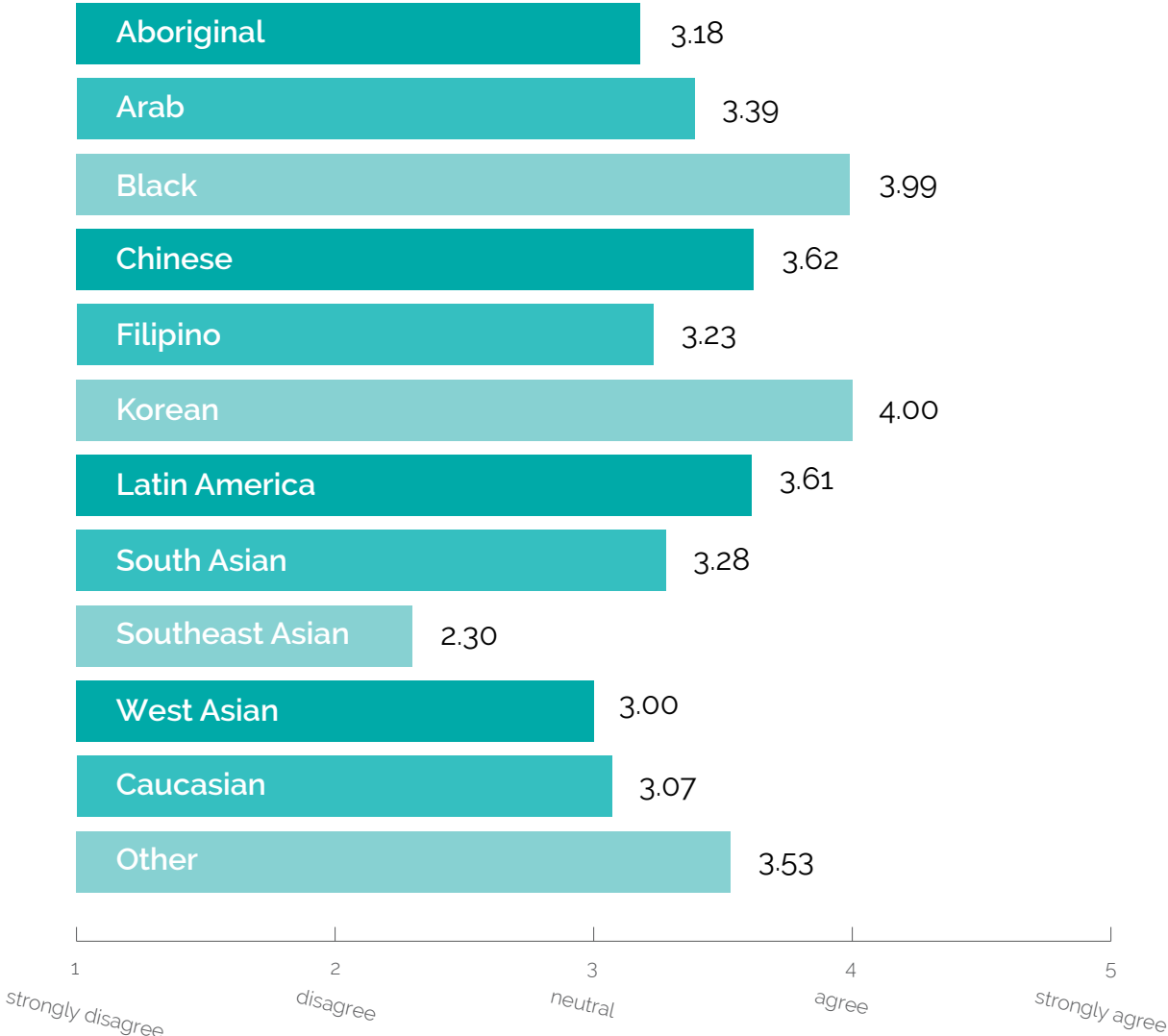
SECTION EIGHT

Ethnic Backgrounds Affect People's Views

When examining all questions, a general finding is that Albertans who self-identify their ethnic backgrounds as Chinese, Koreans and West Asians are the most open to China. Those of Korean, Black, Chinese, and Latin American backgrounds are the most supportive of

Chinese investment into Alberta, and those self-identifying as Southeast Asian and West Asian are the least supportive. Overall, most self-identified ethnicities are more supportive of Chinese investment than self-identified Caucasian Albertans.

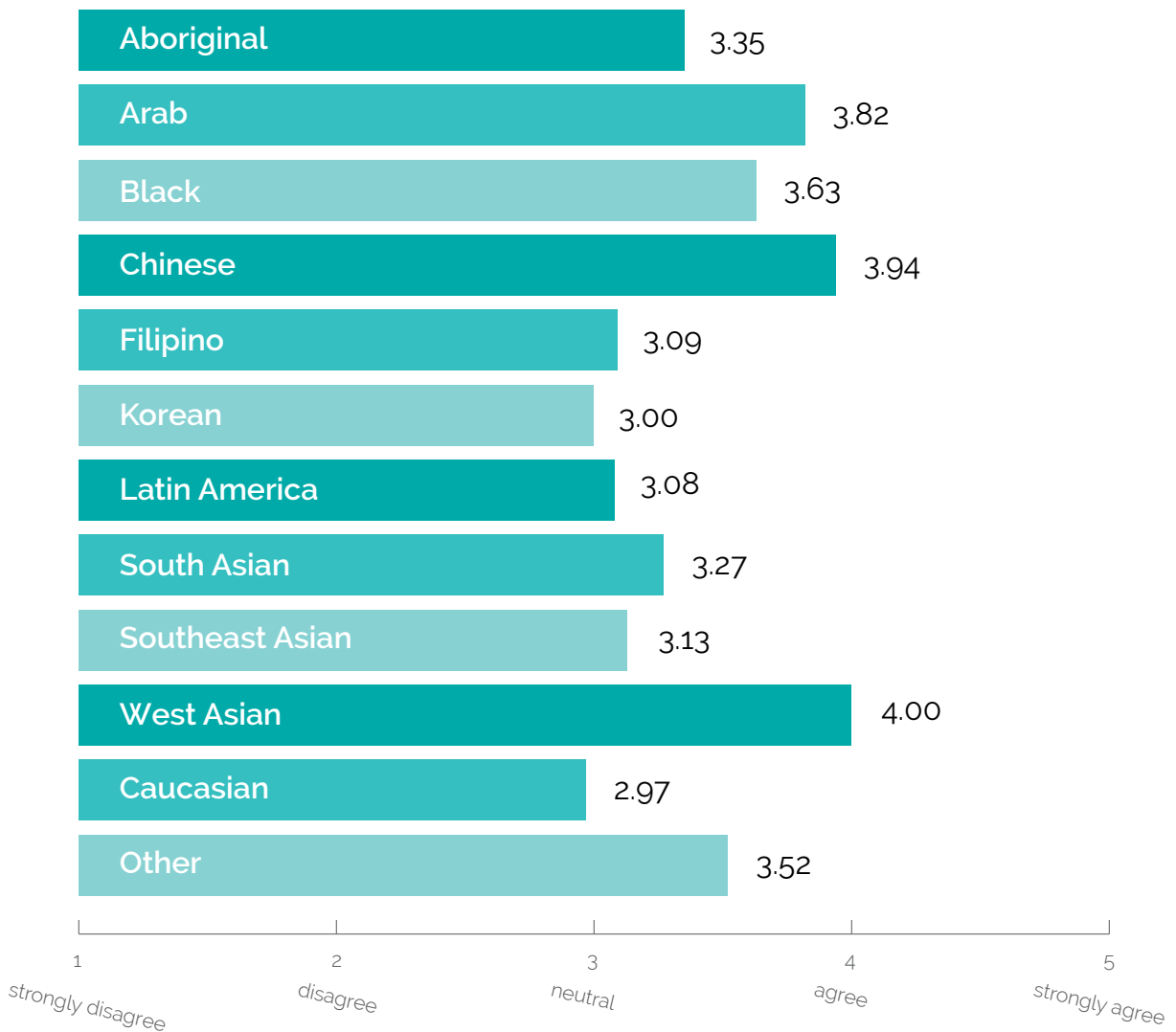
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province



In terms of Chinese investment in the province's energy and other resource sectors, Albertans self-identifying as West Asian, Chinese, Arab, and Black were the most supportive, with those self-identifying as Caucasian and Korean being the least supportive. All self-identified non-Caucasian respondents were more supportive of Chinese investment into Albertan energy and resources than self-

identified Caucasian Albertans. As well, Black and Chinese Albertans tend to support Chinese investment, both overall and into energy and resources, while Caucasian Albertans are neutral on both issues. This may reflect a greater comfort level with foreign investment by Albertans who are more recent immigrants to the province.

Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province



SECTION NINE

Reasons for Supporting or Opposing Chinese Investment in the Province

In this section of the Survey, the respondents were asked to provide specific reasons for their views regarding China. These have then been sorted and categorized. A portion of the responses have also been directly quoted in order to provide a granular feel to the survey.

In Support of Chinese Investment

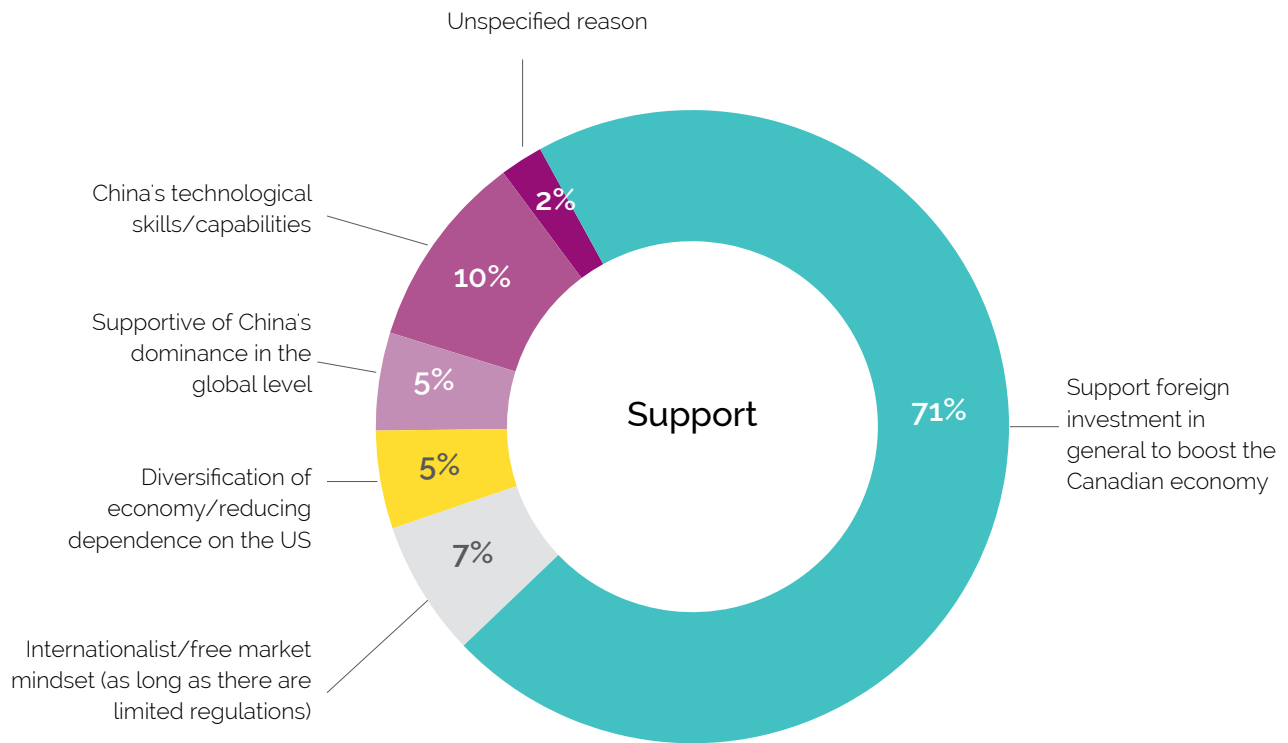
Nearly three-quarters (71%) of Albertans who agree with welcoming Chinese investment into their province do so out of a general support for foreign investment and a belief that it can boost the Canadian economy. This group includes respondents interested in developing the economy, expanding markets, reciprocating investment, and being open to investment regardless of cultural differences. The next largest set of respondents, at 10%, is comprised of those who welcome Chinese investment due to China's technological skills or capabilities, which

indicates that at least some Albertans have started to recognize China's growing importance as a source of innovation and advanced technology. Supporters with an internationalist or free market mindset, with the caveat that there should be regulations, comprised 7% of respondents, while 5% want to diversify the economy in order to reduce economic dependence on the US, and another 5% support Chinese investment because they are supportive of China's dominance on the global level.

Opposition to Chinese Investment

Of those Albertans who oppose welcoming Chinese investment into the province, just under half (46%) do so because they oppose Chinese investment specifically. This group includes respondents who worry about losing control over Canadian businesses and resources to Chinese investors, as well as those who have concerns over China's political ideology, human rights, labour, and

environmental standards. Another two in five respondents (38%) oppose foreign investment into Alberta in general, regardless of its source. Finally, 7% of respondents who oppose Chinese investment do not want any foreign investment in Alberta's natural resources.



The Reasons Behind Support

Support foreign investment in general to boost the Canadian economy

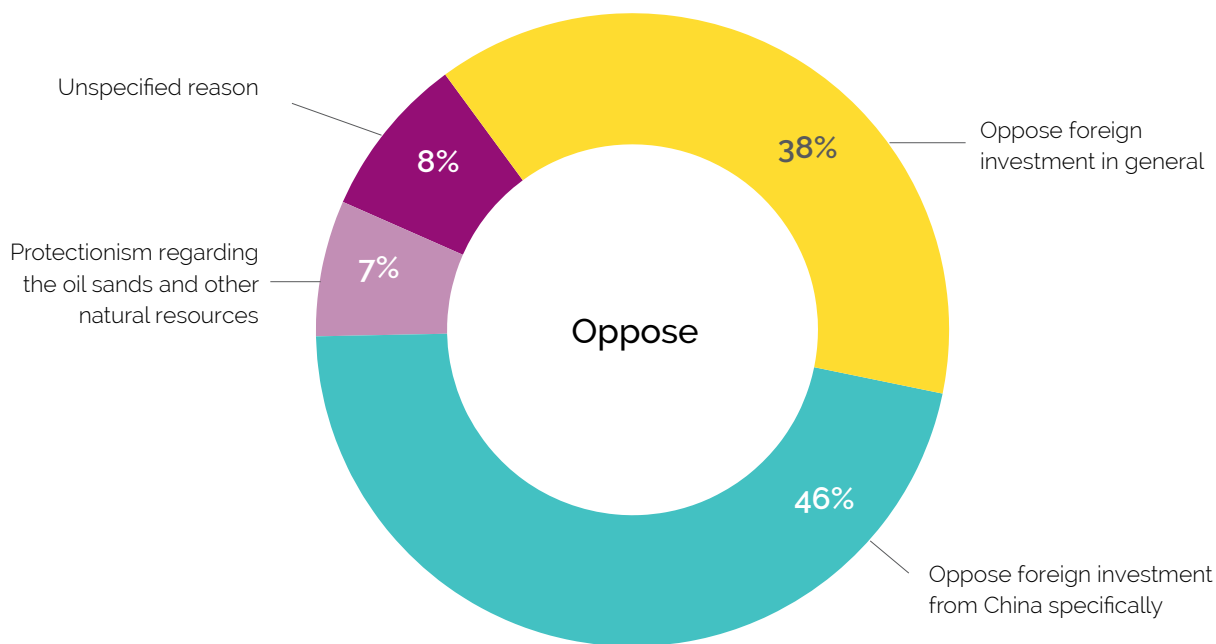
- "To create more jobs, besides that our country will benefit in their contribution in business ideas as a whole."
- "Any influx of capital would benefit Alberta in my opinion."
- "I don't think we should hinder any kind of investment in the province based on ideologies, religion, or culture."
- "I encourage investments from any country. They have the money and we have the resources."

China's technological skills/capabilities

- "Chinese can invest heavily and build large infrastructure."
- "Because Chinese investments promote lot of growth in the province. China has technology and intelligence to help us, which is beneficial for Alberta."

Diversification of economy/reducing dependence on the US

- "It is better for our economy - more capital coming into the province, more jobs. It also makes it easier for us to diversify our economy thus allowing us to become less reliant on the US."
- "In oil and gas industry, we need to diversify. We need to give chance to investors to invest in petro chemicals. There is also a need to build local economy, and not to rely on the US."



The Reasons Behind Opposition

Oppose foreign investment in general

"I would like to see more Canadian investment instead of foreign involvement."

"I think that slowly we're selling ourselves out to international markets and their products."

"It's about time Alberta get on its own feet instead of exporting everything out of the country."

"I promote more restrictions. I promote just beneficial investments. I promote fully manufactured products not raw material export."

Oppose foreign investment from China specifically

"What I would not like to see is a majority of ownership by China. No problem with minority share-holdings by Chinese private companies or Chinese government, but they should not be in a majority position in a company."

"There is already significant investment from China. We should be investing in our own country."

"If we don't have a safeguard or rules, or agreements. We have to have our own laws to protect our own energies and resources before we make arrangements, especially against China."

"I rather go with other Asian countries with better human rights."

Protectionism regarding the oil sands and other natural resources

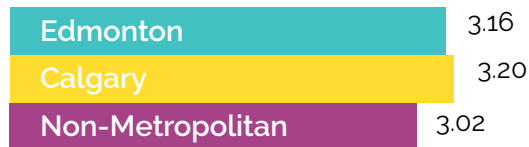
"I disagree with exporting raw materials. I disagree with sending them our raw materials for them to refine them and I think we should diversify and sell the finished product."

"Because I want to see Canada manufacturing its own products instead of relying on China.

I am against giving raw materials to other countries and getting nothing out of it."

Average Response Ratings Profile

Should Alberta welcome Chinese investment in the province?



Area of the Province

Residents of Calgary are more welcoming than those of Edmonton and the non-metropolitan area to Chinese investment in the province.



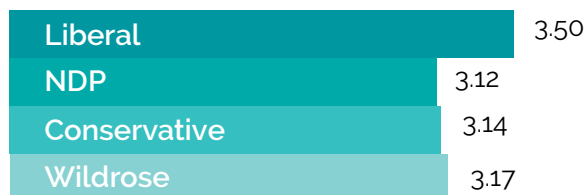
Birthplace

Those born outside Canada are more open to Chinese investment in Alberta than those born in Canada, but since 2013, support for Chinese investment has dropped the most for those born outside of Canada.



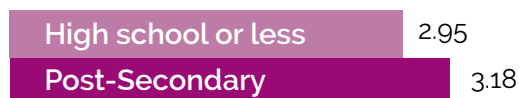
Federal Political Preferences

Respondents who prefer the federal Liberals are the most supportive of Chinese investment in Alberta, while those who prefer the federal NDP are the least supportive. Since 2013, those preferring the federal Liberals have seen the greatest increase in support for Chinese investment in Alberta, with those preferring the federal NDP seeing the greatest decrease in support.



Provincial Political Preferences

As with their federal counterparts, respondents who prefer the provincial Liberal party are the most supportive of Chinese investment in Alberta, while those who prefer the provincial NDP are the least. Since 2013, those preferring the provincial Liberals have seen the greatest increase in support for Chinese investment in Alberta, with those preferring the provincial PC/Tory party seeing the greatest decrease in support.



Education

Respondents who have a completed or partial post-secondary education are more favourable of Chinese investment in Alberta than the less than high school and high school completed group.

Note the average values, unlike the percentage value, are not affected by the exclusion of "Do not know".
5 Strongly Agree, 4 is Agree, 3 is Neutral, 2 Disagree, and 1 Strongly Disagree

Alberta in the National Context

The 2015 National Opinion Poll by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APFC) is of relevance to the CIUA Alberta Survey. Akin to the 2015 CIUA Alberta Survey, the 2015 National Opinion Poll by APFC examines the broader attitudes towards foreign investment and Canadians' views on countries investing in Canada; while the China Institute's survey focuses specifically on public sentiments towards China and Chinese investment. The APFC sample size, coverage, and timing; and set of questions are not similar to those used in the 2015 CIUA Alberta survey. In the APFC 2015 survey, the total number of respondents covering Canada as a whole is 1548. In the 2015 CIUA Alberta Survey, the total number of respondents covering Alberta specifically is 1216, ensuring an equal representation of all regions and age groups in Alberta.

The APFC survey indicates that Canadians are open to Asian investments but skeptical about Chinese investment, and that the more informed Canadians are supportive of Asian investment. However, Canadians tend to overestimate the amount of Chinese investment in Canada and their views on China are mixed, associating Chinese – as well as American – investments in Canada with loss of control over resources. The top reasons Canadians are wary of Chinese investment are loss of control over resources, poor labour standards, environmental damage, corruption, and security risks (APFC, 2015). Similarly, the 2015 CIUA Alberta Survey finds that Albertans are generally open to accessing Asian markets but skeptical about Chinese investment; particularly in Alberta's energy sector. The 2015 CIUA survey also shows that those opposing Chinese investment in Alberta are mainly concerned about foreign control over resources, ideological differences, as well as lower human rights and labour standards.

According to the APFC survey, approximately 42% of Canadians are in favour of Chinese investment and 49% expressed opposition. The APFC survey finds that Alberta, compared to Canada as a whole and to other provinces, is the least supportive of investments from China and the U.S. When asked "If a foreign company wanted to make an investment in Canada, would you favour or oppose the investment if the company were from Japan, United States, China, South Korea, and India?," 28% of Albertans were open to Chinese investment, 67% were open to American investments, 72% were open to Japanese investments, 58% were open to Korean investments, and 50% were open to Indian investments (APFC, 2015). In line with these findings, the 2015 CIUA Alberta Survey shows that approximately 43% of Albertans are open to Chinese investment in Alberta and approximately 42% are open to Chinese investment in Alberta's energy and resource sectors. According to the 2015 CIUA survey, a large majority of Albertans agree that Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia (70%) and that Alberta should build better infrastructure to export energy to Asia (65%). As well, the survey shows that 54% of Albertans agree that Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market.

The APFC survey shows that Albertans are aware that government approval is required for large foreign investments. 81% of Albertans agree that "large foreign investments must be approved by the federal government before going ahead" and 81% disagree that "foreign companies that invest in Canada are not subject to Canadian laws and regulations." The CIUA Survey also found that a considerable number of Albertans who support Chinese investment in the province noted effective regulation is needed.

The Alberta Survey Methodology

The Population Research Laboratory (PRL) administered the 2015 Alberta Survey. This survey of households across the province of Alberta continues to enable academic researchers, government departments, and non-profit organizations to explore a wide range of topics in a structured research framework and environment. Sponsors' research questions are asked together with demographic questions in a telephone interview of Alberta households. The data collection took place between June 29, 2015 and August 1, 2015.

The PRL used a Random-Digit Dialling (RDD) approach to ensure that respondents had an equal chance to be contacted whether or not their household was listed in a telephone directory or had a land or mobile phone. The PRL has developed a database of eight-digit telephone banks covering the Edmonton and Calgary metropolitan areas, as well as the remainder of the province.

A respondent within each household was selected on the basis of gender to ensure an equal selection of male and female participants. The final sample of 1,216 respondents consisted of 604 females and 612 males.

The estimated sampling error, at the 95% confidence level, for an area sample of 1,216 households assuming a 50/50 binomial percentage distribution is plus or minus 2.8 percentage points. Survey estimates for the subsample of 400 are estimated to be within plus or minus 5.0 percentage points, at the 95% confidence level.

The sample sizes of completed interviews obtained for Metropolitan Edmonton, Metropolitan Calgary, and Other Alberta are not always proportional to the current Alberta population they are meant to represent. Therefore, statistical weights were calculated for the Alberta Survey. A 2015 sample data using population estimates for 2014.

The basic weight that PRL has applied to Alberta Survey data sets since 1987 is based on age. Essentially, since the population 18 and over is not equally distributed among the three areas Edmonton, Calgary and Other Alberta PRL makes a small adjustment to each area but the overall sample size remains at 1,216. Since PRL changed the sample design around the year 2000 for City of Edmonton and City of Calgary to the metropolitan areas (CMA) and non-metropolitan area (Other Alberta), the weighting makes little difference. In other words, the weights are close to 1.00 and the adjusted sample sizes are close to the original 400 target.

The weight used in this report is constructed from age group (5) and gender by each area from Census estimates. Gender is usually very close to 50-50 in PRL quotas that PRL has setup but PRL has noticed an older population in the three areas in recent studies where PRL has collected data by phone. Once again PRL has redistributed the 1,216. Younger ages have more weight (over 1.00) while older ages typically are oversampled and the weights are less than 1.00. Where PRL does not have age recorded but the respondent has confirmed that they are over 18 - the weight is 1.00.

The PRL accumulated data on a regular basis using the features of the CATI system and then imported into the IBM SPSS Statistics (Version 22) in order to run frequency distributions and cross-tabulations. The data were checked regularly for missing values and inconsistencies. The data cleaning process included wild code, discrepant value, and consistency checks. Each variable was reviewed and evaluated. The data cleaning process included evaluating discrepant values, and conducting consistency checks. There are 1,216 cases in the final data set.

APPENDIX 1

2015 Questionnaire

INTRODUCTION 1

"Hello, my name is _____. I'm calling (long distance) from the Population Research Laboratory at the University of Alberta. Have I dialed XXX-XXXX? Your phone number was randomly selected."

"Hello, I am calling back from the Population Research Laboratory to continue an interview that we started previously."

INTRODUCTION 2

"The Population Research Laboratory is conducting a public opinion survey on behalf of university and policy researchers on various topics. The sections are: physical activity, China's role in Alberta's economy, public health and injuries, climate change, and family dynamics. Your opinions are very important and valuable to us and the information will be used to help with decision-making in developing public policies to improve programs and services in Alberta.

The study sponsors are the Population Research Laboratory, University of Alberta researchers, Alberta Centre for Active Living, China Institute, and Injury Prevention Centre.

Your information is confidential and only completed interview will be used for the indicated purposes in conformity with the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP)."

IF NEEDED: "Before we begin, I just want to reassure you that your participation is voluntary, so let me know if there are any questions or topic sections that you do not want to answer."

QUESTIONNAIRE

China's Role in Alberta's Economy

"In this section, we ask about your opinion related to culture, economy, investment, and international trade regarding China's role in Alberta's economy. Please indicate whether you 'strongly disagree', 'disagree', 'neither disagree nor agree', 'agree', or 'strongly agree' with each of the following statements."

1. China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- 0 No response (volunteered)

2. Alberta should build stronger ties with China.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- 0 No response (volunteered)

3. China is important as an export market for Alberta goods and services.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- 0 No response (volunteered)

4. Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- 0 No response (volunteered)

"Economic Reliance" – an example: the importance of the US as a trade partner (important market for Canada's exports), of US investors investing in Canada and carrying out projects in Canada, of US-Canadian economic projects to the Canadian economy versus diversifying Canada's export markets, encouraging (non-US) investors.

5. Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- 0 No response (volunteered)

6. Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the west coast for export to Asia.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- 0 No response (volunteered)

"Infrastructure" refers to transportation, such as train tracks, pipe lines, roads, etc. "Energy" means any kind of energy resources, such as coal, oil, gas, nuclear, and hydro.

7. Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- 0 No response (volunteered)

"Investment" – all types of investment in any sector of economy.

For respondents who selected 1, 2, 4 or 5 in Q.7

8. Why do you [strongly disagree, disagree, agree or strongly agree] that "Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province."

Open-Ended Question

Derived variable (Variable categorized and recoded)

- 1 Boost Canadian economy
- 2 Protectionism/nationalist mindset
- 3 Protectionism/nationalist mindset specifically against China
- 4 Internationalist/free market mindset
- 5 Internationalist/free market mindset (as long as there limited regulations)
- 6 Diversification of economy/reducing dependence on the US
- 7 Diversification of economy/business reciprocity/market expansion/economic development/multiculturalism
- 8 Afraid of China's policies
- 9 Afraid of China's dominance in the global level
- 10 Canada/Alberta not having enough economic resources to invest
- 11 Supportive of China's dominance in the global level
- 12 Political ideology-communism
- 13 Protectionism regarding the oil sands and other natural resources
- 14 China's technological skills/capabilities
- 15 China holds Canada debt
- 16 Unspecified reason
- 17 Not applicable - No response to B7
- 18 Not applicable - Don't know to B7
- 19 Not applicable - Neither disagree nor agree

9. Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- 0 No response (volunteered)

10. China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- 0 No response (volunteered)

11. Increased tourism from China is good for Alberta.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- 0 No response (volunteered)

"From China" – anywhere in China to Alberta Province (anywhere in Alberta)

12. International students from China contribute to Albertan society.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- 0 No response (volunteered)

APPENDIX 2

Sample of Reasons Alberta should (should not) welcome Chinese investment in the province

SUPPORT FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN GENERAL TO BOOST THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

To create more jobs, besides that our country will benefit in their contribution in business ideas as a whole.

Because we can broaden our culture. They can make what we can't. I think trade should open up. Good trade, good culture exchanges. I share the building with a lot of people coming from China. They are very gracious, very good personality.

More Chinese investment would mean more revenue into Alberta. It would give the Alberta government the money they need to support more programs in the province.

The Alberta economy is a wreck right now. People are getting laid off. If the Chinese did not come and invest, it would be worse.

I actually travel to Asia. Economic ties with other countries besides the US are more favourable. I enjoy other countries and their culture.

There is so much more that we can do when we allow foreign investments in our province. Since China is such a big country I strongly agree that we should welcome them to invest in the province as it will diversify our economy in general in our province.

Because Alberta is short of cash flow, and I think we need to welcome any possible foreign investment to create and increase cash flow to recuperate from economic distress that Alberta is facing at the moment.

I think it would encourage diversity. The more minds involved the better, and they certainly have smart people there. Chinese investment would encourage diversity in our economy. It would benefit Alberta, Canada

and China to communicate with each other and contribute to each others' economy.

I agree because we need their products as we don't have lot of industries and we are not manufacturing all items and on other side they need our oil so it will be a good collaboration.

Alberta should welcome any investment including Chinese investment because it would help our economy.

Chinese businesses, but not state owned ones. We need to diversify because we're a natural resource province, and we need to move away from one customer. That investment should require upgrading product here, not shipping raw materials like bitumen.

I believe that the Chinese are a very reputable people to deal with. And I used to sell computers and we always got what we bargain for. Or what we bargain for was what we get. Typically, there is no deviousness. Everybody who I've always known has been very honest in business dealings. And that's something I always appreciate. But of course like all societies, there is always that 1-2 % people who are not good people. But I think it's good to have Chinese investment in our province so we can diversify our economy. And if we stopped producing all that GMO (genetically modified) crap we'll be able to export more to the Chinese, the Japanese, and Asia in general.

Any influx of capital would benefit Alberta in my opinion.

Alberta should not depend only on oil and gas Industry. Alberta should welcome investment from China in all other areas of business. Alberta should open up a little bit not just depend on oil and gas all the time.

I don't think we should hinder any kind of investment in the province based on ideologies, religion, or culture.

Investment can grow our infrastructure and expand the economy. China is an up incoming market, so it could help us.

Any foreign investment is not a bad thing. It stimulates our domestic growth. It could increase employment, and any sort of job creation. Investment of any kind is good for domestic or foreign relations.

First of all, we should diversify and collaborate universally as much as we possibly can. Not to mention anytime you invest in technology. China has the ability to duplicate that technology cheaply. Good for travel as well.

If Alberta benefits then we should encourage investment. It does not matter where investment is coming, as long as its reciprocated. We should welcome any investments from any country to our province considering the present situation we are in now.

In general terms, free trade is a good thing. China is becoming more important as a trading partner for most of the world, so why not.

All global investment initiatives have some merit wherever they are from.

I just don't see a problem with it. We have had so many different entities investing in our province. China seems to be doing well. It used to be Japan and the United States.

Its not just about China but any foreign investment in Alberta is good.

I think the province has a shortage of capital in terms of what we could and should do. Soliciting international investors is a desirable feature.

Alberta cannot be self-sufficient, they need additional help from international sources.

If you have other countries investing in the province then that means more jobs and work. It means that your province is growing if other countries want to invest in it.

Infrastructure is bad and we need more investors in the province.

It is too expensive for Albertans to fund all the programs here in Alberta. Investing in Alberta can help.

I encourage investments from any country. They have the money and we have the resources.

OPPOSE FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN GENERAL

I somewhat disagree - you can't just answer yes or no, you have to have rules. I don't believe in giving Canada away to other countries, the majority should remain with Canadians - only certain percentages should be allowed and Canada should remain a stronghold in its own country. A lot has to do with human rights in other countries, there is no benefit to their people only the ones with money, it doesn't benefit the social people there.

I would like to see more Canadian investment instead of foreign involvement.

I think that slowly we're selling ourselves out to international markets and their products.

Because I don't think it's very reciprocal.

I don't think we have the kind of guidelines or policies in place to allow foreign investment. I don't think we should encourage too much foreign investment. Because most Albertans cannot see the entire scope of foreign investments.

I don't like to see our investment all comes from one place. I'd like to see some

diversification in number of countries.

It's about time Alberta get on its own feet instead of exporting everything out of the country.

I feel that because of money we have been exploited too much by different countries. Buying businesses is not good. We are selling ourselves away. We should build our own refinery and it will be good for Alberta.

We have to be cautious as far as how much investment we have in our province from other countries. We lose our identities and we lose control over what is going on in our province and how we want things to go.

Because we need to be more strong. We need to unite in order to build pipelines in order to have a stronger industry. Foreign investments will make Canadians lose their jobs. We as Canadians should not rely on foreign countries, we need to lead ourselves so we can become a world leader.

I promote more restrictions. I promote just beneficial investments. I promote fully manufactured products not raw material export.

I would say that right now a lot of the investments in Alberta would result in a lot of foreign ownership. Regardless of what country holds the foreign investments in our province, it leaves a smaller piece of the pie so to speak for the locals, and less ownership for us Albertans.

Because I think Canada itself should start investing in its own resources, manufacturing, and export to a variety of countries, other than just Asia. I think we should be in the world more and that includes Asia but we shouldn't confine ourselves to Asia. We're not diversified at all, we're like a third world country right now. We have all the resources right now, but we import our manufactured goods. I don't think that helps with our economy, our employment, and our ability to stand alone in cases of international financial crises. I think we should be stronger ourselves & stop relying on anyone else.

I don't think it is just China. If we allow a country or big corporations from any country to invest in our province, we are generally

going to be open to more corruption and monopoly. I don't believe they invest in our country for our benefits. It is usually for their own benefits. And especially with China the result could be a monopoly. I just don't believe in having big corporations having holdings in Alberta.

I think we need to develop it ourselves and not be welcoming investments from outside in general. And that means within Canada we should be doing our own processing of our raw materials with our own company, people, and our own investments not having increasing amounts of foreign investment on our land and then exporting our raw materials to other countries and then purchasing and importing goods manufactured by other countries (i.e. China).

Well I guess we should welcome some investments but the control (as in ownership and direction) needs to remain in Alberta and with Albertans.

Foreign investments simply are not good. It doesn't matter if it is coming from the United States or China. And in general, I think we should process the raw materials ourselves rather than letting somebody else do the manufacturing for us.

So many people in Canada are willing and training to be educated in the economy. Why are we bringing in other people to come a teach us about our economy. We should invest in our own youth. People that live here running our own country. I think we are smart enough.

OPPOSE FOREIGN INVESTMENT FROM CHINA SPECIFICALLY

Because they manufacture products with bad chemicals like lead or that are harmful. Political culture there is awful as well.

Because China already has businesses in the oil patch in Alberta and it does not benefit the Canadians. It only benefits the Chinese.

The Chinese want to bring in their own workers, especially in oil fields.

What I would not like to see is a majority of ownership by China. No problem with

minority share-holdings by Chinese private companies or Chinese government, but they should not be in a majority position in a company.

There is already significant investment from China. We should be investing in our own country.

Because I've seen what happens to a company after a Chinese company adopts it, it's disgraceful. We should also refine our own products here in Canada. No need to rely on other countries if we can do it ourselves.

I had a business in Toronto with the Chinese and their whole culture is based on distrust. We can't believe what they say, let alone what's written. I used to work with their materials, their products are not good in quality. There is lack of integrity, honesty and trust. We are giving away our jobs for their benefits not for Albertans'. China bypasses all safety protocols (e.g. in Fort McMurray and in BC) because they don't care about us.

Because it's the Chinese government. It's the government that's investing and not the private business that'll be investing.

If we don't have a safeguard or rules, or agreements. We have to have our own laws to protect our own energies and resources before we make arrangements, especially against China.

There should be regulations as to how much properties Chinese investors can buy and how many businesses they can own. Also environmental regulations.

The Chinese investment in our province is strictly to gain control. After they have gained control, it will all just be their call; and they will get all of the exports and all of the profits.

The Chinese workers working up at Fort McMurray area did not follow procedures well and did shabby work. They also owned a particular tract of land, and I wasn't sure whether they were held accountable. Their standards aren't as high as Alberta tradesmen.

Because Canada should make a better effort to produce our own things instead of

relying on having imported goods. I don't know what is wrong with Canada? We should manufacture it ourselves, and not looking to have it produced in China due to cheaper labor. We should become more self-sufficient. And I suspect that slowly but surely China is going to take control or take over what is important for Canada and we will lose out when they do that.

If it's private Chinese companies then I would say "yes" to their investment, but if it's the Chinese government then I would say "no" to their investment.

I think we can do it ourselves and export it to China instead of China taking over Alberta. We don't have to sell our good resources to China and they make the dollars off it. I think we better do it ourselves and sell it.

They are hurting the green land and contaminating the water bodies. Up North [a Chinese-owned company] contaminated the huge underground water reservoir. They are just destroying our land and making it worse, that is why I am not in favour of their investment.

The recent pipeline failure was operated by a Chinese company and evidently they are ignoring our safety requirements. I don't know why we can't finance ourselves with Canadian money instead of relying on foreign investors who may not obey our regulations.

Because we're giving all our goods to manufacture to other countries. We are giving livelihood to China instead of people in our province. We send raw materials to China, have them manufacture and bring finish products back with high price.

Once they get their foothold, they don't understand how to operate these companies, in oil and gas for example. They don't understand business, and are looking for cheap ways to run the companies without adhering to safety. They are not a good owner of companies.

Because it is an unequal trade situation - they are taking over business and economic prospects but they don't offer the same opportunities for us. It is also a matter of one being a democracy with human rights and the other one not. It is a very suspect state

and not one that I trust, we still consider them militarily suspect. Unless they are on equal terms with us, as far as being a democratic nation, then forget it.

I am worried about China's not good humanitarian record. Their investment might destroy our environment and people's health.

I would be concerned about the cultural influence. The difference is in its cultural values. I want to facilitate countries, I want to partner with countries that have a similar philosophy regarding human rights. I would rather go to a store that supports my world view than the one that doesn't.

I think China is a communist country, strong corporate mentality without considering their own people, that is their working conditions. World as a society cannot advance if we consider the poor working conditions of people in China.

Because it's becoming too much about the economy and not about the environment. Everything has become about money instead of our community and society. China does not seem to care about our environment.

They are pursuing espionage at the greatest level not only in Canada. So the less of the country they own the better off we are.

I think that Chinese foreign investments are bad for Canada. I believe the Chinese government has "interior" motives (to eventually take control of all of our resources like timber and the oil sands, etc. while they go about destroying their own). I think any Chinese involvement is bad.

I just think there's a bit of distrust on China's culture and if Alberta welcomes them to invest in the province it might create a certain impact since they will definitely enforce their culture as part of the deal.

Because historically, the Chinese investment in the province has been that of the Chinese state. Which is a repressive regime. Incompatible with the values of an open democratic society. Giving such a regime a powerful part to play in Alberta's economy is likely to compromise those values in effect.

I would rather see more investment from

Europe. China is a communist country.

I rather go with other Asian countries with better human rights.

Because they are a Communist country and the economic benefits do not fall to the population at large. It goes to the senior bureaucrats or persons in charge in the government i.e. the Communist Party. I don't believe the vast majority of the Chinese people are getting their share of the benefits. It would be better if they had more rights and freedoms and we use the financial tools at our disposal to try and encourage that and to try and encourage environmental protections in China that are basically non-existent, which is detrimental to the entire world.

INTERNATIONALIST/FREE MARKET MINDSET (AS LONG AS THERE LIMITED REGULATIONS)

In our current financial situation, we better reach out whenever we can within reason. We need all trading partners we can get. China has a lot to offer with money and finances, especially since our economy is going downhill. However, they're bringing in a lot of foreign workers which is taking away jobs from Albertans.

I agree that Alberta should welcome Chinese investment, providing it gives Albertans jobs.

Investments are okay, but Alberta still needs to maintain the majority of control- whether it be having China as a silent partner.

To help the economy, but I want the investment controlled by the Alberta government.

The province needs to advance its technology. China doesn't do anything unless it is going to gain an advantage for doing it, they only do something if they benefit. My only concerns are their human rights and environmental violations.

It depends to what extent, we went overboard with US investment. We should diversify. I would say to the extent that we ensure that it's still in our best interests. It should preferably be to the mutual benefit to both parties. If we do it intelligently, yes.

I think because we need the money. This has to be tied/linked to their human rights violations. Thus, so that investment should be contingent upon their improving their human rights situation (family planning/ stopping forced abortions/unfair jailing/ corrupt system).

I think any investment in the province is important as long as all aspects of the business have been looked into, and the protection of local businesses are covered. China should be transparent in their investments however, because as of now they are not.

I feel that international investment is good, for example, if another country can lease land but not buying it. Canada should retain ownership of land. The same way Canadian companies lease land for drilling well. Whether they lease public land or private land, ownership stays in democratic capitalist system. I don't like the idea that another countries government own our land.

Investment involve creation of jobs. I am concerned that we sell of those resources and end up giving up our ownership of our resources. All we get only jobs but profits leave the country. I want to see the positive impact.

We should have as much investors to increase economic opportunities, however not at the detriment of Canadian investors and workers.

I agree with China investing in our province but I think there should be a limit how much we depend on Chinese investment.

There is a huge population in China and that there is money in China (individual companies). I wouldn't want to see investment where the wealth all goes back to China - it needs to be monitored by the government to ensure that some of that wealth stays in Alberta to benefit our province.

I think there are certain infrastructure that needs high level investment, but we shouldn't be over reliant on Chinese investment.

I agree, with limits because it helps to bring money into the province. I think there should be some strong scrutiny with respect to how much investment China is able to make in Alberta. I am afraid China having too much control in Alberta resources. After all, China is a communist country.

Because China is a communist country and we are not sure of their human rights record. But I think that we should still welcome them to invest in the province but keeping in mind their human rights record.

DIVERSIFICATION OF ECONOMY/ REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON THE US

It would help to diversify Alberta. It would also make us less reliant on the US.

China is already a big power. We somewhat depend on China already. Earlier, everybody used to depend on the US.

I think it will create more opportunities, instead of us just relying on the US market (on the Americans).

It is better for our economy - more capital coming into the province, more jobs. It also makes it easier for us to diversify our economy thus allowing us to become less reliant on the US.

We rely on the States too much. If we have an objection to what the US wants to do, it becomes a problem. Take forestry for example, they keep saying our industry is subsidized and it isn't.

I think that we are too dependent on the United States. So if we allow for Asian and Chinese investments in our province, this will in turn diversify our economy. And when we sell our energy to the US, we don't get as high of a return as we do when say we sell it to the European and the Asian market. Therefore I think we should welcome Chinese investment in our province.

Any outside investment to decrease our reliance on one major trading partner would be better than what it is currently. So any outside investment, not just China, is good for Alberta.

The reason I agree is to build more markets instead of being that reliant on the US. They should put a pipeline through to the coast for all Pacific markets not just the Chinese market.

In oil and gas industry, we need to diversify. We need to give chance to investors to invest in petro chemicals. There is also a need to build local economy, and not to rely on the US.

SUPPORTIVE OF CHINA'S DOMINANCE IN THE GLOBAL LEVEL

The Chinese has a very healthy economy (there are certainly ups and downs as well) but if there are other people interested in investing in our oil sands, I think that'd be really good.

China is a strong country with the willingness to work more and more to improve the economy. Where we Canadians don't know what we are doing in order to build economy.

Because China is emerging power, and we can't just depend on the US.

They are the only country in the world that can invest anywhere in the world and Alberta is a land that has locked resources and we need help to use them. Canada also lacks funds to fully expand by itself.

PROTECTIONISM REGARDING THE OIL SANDS AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES

I disagree with exporting raw materials. I disagree with sending them our raw materials for them to refine them and I think we should diversify and sell the finished product.

I guess I am more of a patriot where I don't think any one country should become the major shareholder of our country's resources. We should protect our own resources.

Because I don't think our natural resources should be sent to other countries and I think that's what's happening here, if we welcome Chinese investment in the province.

I feel that we should not be selling our natural resources and royalties to foreign companies or foreign held companies.

Because I want to see Canada manufacturing its own products instead of relying on China. I am against giving raw materials to other countries and getting nothing out of it.

I think its wonderful to invite investment from all nations but what I do not want is to sell natural resources and unrefined resources to be shipped out. I want us to have the jobs here in Canada and then export the finished products.

It is time that we take over our resources ourselves.

Mostly it's because our energy sector is not Alberta local. It would be nice to see more Alberta companies become more international.

I don't want foreign ownership. Canada should continue to control its natural resources.

Not a big fan of international corporations taking over resource investments in any country.

Because we are losing control of our resources and because our government is negotiating away our right to govern ourselves without restriction by the interests of foreign corporations. The trade deal that Canada is currently negotiating with the US and Asia will seriously harm the interests of most Canadians, it will undermine employment rights, it will undermine environmental protections, and it will undermine our way of life.

CHINA'S TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS/ CAPABILITIES

The Chinese have a great work ethic and are family oriented.

Because they do have a lot of finance and they need the raw material, which we do have, which creates employments for Albertans and Canadians.

Because of the expertise already in the market, so why don't take advantage of it?

Chinese can invest heavily and build large infrastructure.

China has a large economy. US doesn't seem to take much of our oil. China wants to trade with us.

I believe China is the second largest economy in the world so it's to our benefit if you're trading with a large economy. It boosts our own economy.

Because Chinese investments promote lot of growth in the province. China has technology and intelligence to help us, which is beneficial for Alberta.

Because the Chinese have lots of money to invest, and we could benefit because they are always looking for new ways of developing cleaner energy, and they need our resources.

China is a huge country they have lots of way to invest in our province. It is a good thing and some sort of protection for us. We get more variety of businesses that we will be interested in. We have to compete with other nations regarding our business deals. We have to learn how to accept open economy not to China but to the whole world.

Because they're good investors, look at the news, they do a lot for the people.

They have a lot of products we need. Chinese investment will open the doors for better business opportunities for importing and exporting. We should promote our products in China and other countries to develop better business relationship with them.

ABOUT THE CHINA INSTITUTE

The China Institute at the University of Alberta (CIUA) was established in the fall of 2005 and is dedicated to the study of China and to enhancing understanding between Canada and China. The CIUA aims to foster China related initiatives and scholarship at the University of Alberta, and to enhance and support new teaching and research activities that are focused on China.

The Director of the CIUA is Professor Gordon Houlden, a specialist of Chinese and Asia Pacific affairs, and former Canadian diplomat with five postings in Greater China and 27 years of experience working on Canada-China issues.

The China Institute currently focuses its research on the growing economic linkages between Canada and China with particular emphasis on China's energy profile and its increasing investment in Canada and in Alberta. The China Institute has a growing interest in the future course of China and how changes in the People's Republic of China may affect Canada.

The CIUA decided to begin polling on the views of Albertans on China by joining the 2011 Alberta Survey and has continued in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015.

This year, the CIUA participated in the general Alberta Survey using 12 questions, 11 the same as same in 2013 with one additional question added this year, to assess Albertans' views on economic and cultural affairs involving China and Alberta. The 2015 survey is sought to establish a comparative ground with the previous editions, particularly with the 2013 and 2011 editions on Albertans' views.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The China Institute would like to thank the staff of the Population Research Laboratory at the University of Alberta for their support and professionalism in conducting the 2015 Alberta Survey. The China Institute is especially grateful to Rosanna Shih, Tracy Kennedy, Christopher Langlois, Dave Odynak, Donna Fong, Zoltan Berkes, Tim Das, Jacqueline Romero, and Herbert Northcott.

CIUA Team Responsible for This Report

Noha Abdel Razek, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Gordon Houlden, Director
Jia Wang, Deputy Director
Vivian Mak, Design and Communications Assistant
Kai Valdez Bettcher, Research Assistant

ABOUT THE POPULATION RESEARCH LABORATORY & THE ALBERTA SURVEY

The Population Research Laboratory (PRL) at the University of Alberta, a member of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO), seeks to advance the research, education and service goals of the University of Alberta by helping academic researchers and policy makers design and implement applied social science research projects. The PRL specializes in the gathering, analysis, and presentation of data about demographic, social and public issues. Several PRL staff are also members of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR).

The PRL research team provides expert consultation and implementation of quantitative and qualitative research methods, project design, sample design, web-based, paper-based and telephone surveys, field site testing, data analysis and report writing. The PRL follows scientifically rigorous and transparent methods in each phase of a research project, and uses best practices, including ethical research protocols and trained interviewers when conducting all types of research, which contribute to high quality data.

The PRL has particular expertise in conducting computer-assisted telephone interviews (referred to as CATI surveys). When conducting telephone surveys, all calls are displayed as being from the "U of A PRL," a procedure that assures recipients that the call is not from a telemarketer, and thus helps increase response rates. The PRL maintains a complement of highly skilled telephone interviewers and supervisors who are thoroughly trained in Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP) requirements, respondent selection procedures, questionnaire instructions, and neutral probing. PRL staff

monitors data collection on a daily basis to allow any necessary adjustments to the volume and timing of calls and respondent selection criteria.

The PRL has been administering the Alberta Survey since 1987. The Alberta Survey consists of a telephone survey of 1200 Alberta Adults administered on a computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system. Random-Digit Dialing (RDD) is employed to select households. Within a household, quota sampling by gender is used to ensure an equal proportion of male and female respondents. Every year the Population Research Laboratory at the University of Alberta considers sponsors (academics, institutions, government departments, etc) who are interested in using the Alberta Survey as vehicle for their research.

PRL Project Team Members

Rosanna Shih, MA, Research Coordinator
Tracy Kennedy, MA, Research Coordinator
Christopher Langlois, BA, Research Coordinator
Dave Odynak, MA, Research Analyst
Donna Fong, BA, Research Administrator
Zoltan Berkes, BA, CATI Assistant
Tim Das, BSc, CATI Assistant
Jacqueline Romero, MA, CATI Assistant
Interim Executive Director: Herbert Northcott, PhD



CHINA
INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA