

Majority of New Brunswick Citizens Oppose the New Crown Forest Strategy

Results from a survey conducted from
May 16 to May 23 by Oraclepoll on
behalf of Dr. Tom Beckley, Faculty of
Forestry and Environmental
Management, University of New
Brunswick.

Views on the new Crown Forest Strategy

The provincial government recently announced it signed long-term, binding agreements with forest industry that guarantees a 25% increase in their timber allocation from Crown land. The new forestry strategy requires a 20% decrease in Conservation Forest and an increase in clear-cut size to meet this growth target for timber allocation. The expected economic benefit comes from \$600-million in new investments in existing facilities (pending favourable market conditions). That investment is estimated to increase direct and indirect forestry jobs by about 2%. From what you know of this agreement between the Government and the forest industry, please indicate whether you support or oppose the new policy.

Strongly oppose and oppose	61%
Neither support nor oppose	15%
Strongly support and support	20%
Don't know	5%

On government's mandate to make and long term contracts, 2014

We elect the government and that allows it to enter into long-term contracts with industry on behalf of the public

Completely agree and agree	41%
Neither agree nor disagree	15%
Completely disagree and disagree	37%

It is okay for democratically elected governments to sign contracts or agreements with industry that bind future governments

Completely agree and agree	29%
Neither agree nor disagree	12%
Completely disagree and disagree	56%

On government's mandate to make and long term contracts, 2014

Citizens, experts, communities, and the legislature should be consulted before government enters into long-term, binding agreements with industry that involve substantial policy changes for Crown land (publically owned forest)

Completely agree and agree	87%
Neither agree nor disagree	6%
Completely disagree and agree	5%

Views on the relative importance between conservation and fiber management on Crown Forests

Which statement best describes your views on how Crown forest management should be done in New Brunswick

a. Government should manage Crown land so that conservation values and targets are met first, then timber allocations for industry should be set on the remaining land.

80%

b. Timber allocations should be made first to industry, then we should set conservation goals and targets on the remaining Crown land.

11%

c. Don't know

9%

Views on Forest Management

Agree

The amount of timber cut in New Brunswick's forest is too high

(strongly agree and agree) **2007** 58%

(completely agree and agree) **2014** 63%

The forest industry has too much control over forest management in New Brunswick*

(strongly agree and agree) **2007** 57%

(completely agree and agree) **2014** 62%

Views on Forest Management

Disagree

**The economic contribution of the forest industry
outweighs environmental impacts***

Strongly disagree and disagree - **2007** 56%

Completely disagree and disagree - **2014** 65%

Ranks for Specific Forest Values, 2014

	% of respondents				
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
As a place for protection of water, air, and soil	39	25	20	12	3
As a place for a variety of animal and plant life	26	40	20	8	5
As a place for recreation and relaxation	10	13	32	25	18
As a source of economic wealth and jobs	10	8	6	22	52
As a source of meat, firewood, berries and other non-timber products	13	13	19	31	22

Ranks for Specific Forest Values, 2007

	% of respondents				
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
As a place for protection of water, air, and soil	44	18	11	6	2
As a place for a variety of animal and plant life	12	38	18	11	2
As a source of economic wealth and jobs	18	12	17	14	21
As a place for recreation and relaxation	5	6	20	27	24
As a source of meat, firewood, berries and other non-timber products	3	7	16	24	32
