



Canada's most sought-after and influential polling firm.

Founded in 2010

Team of 14 researchers

Ottawa, Toronto, London, Hamilton, & **Edmonton** 

**Full service** public opinion & market research firm



#### Official Pollster

### TORONTO STAR (

#### Some of the Brands and **Organizations who Trust Us**



















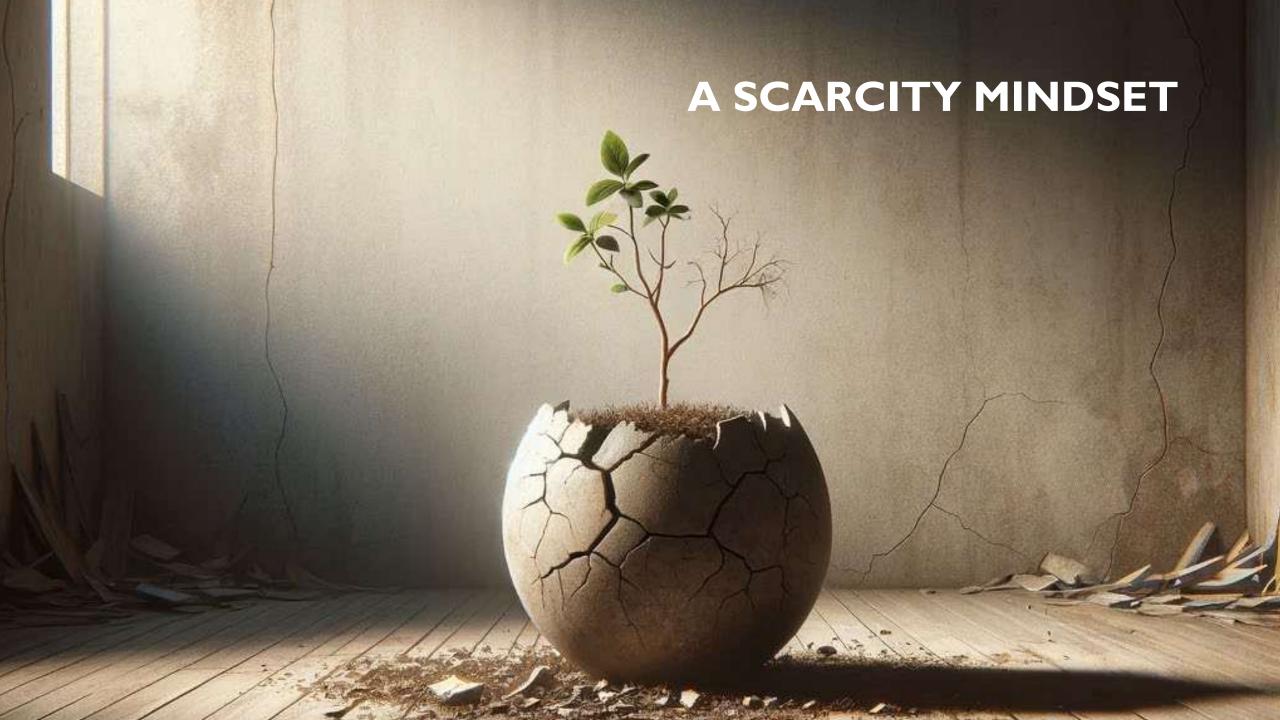








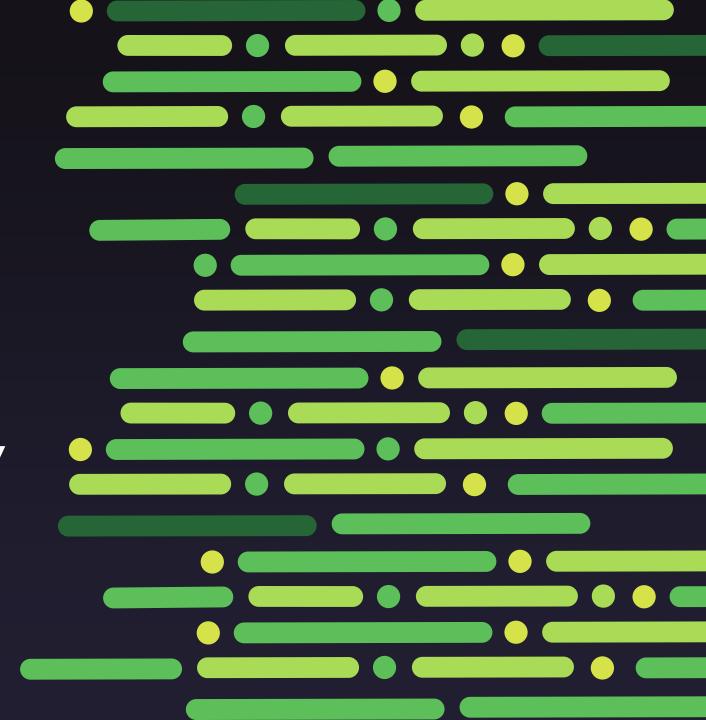






# From Crisis to Consensus: How Wildfires are Changing the Public Conversation on Forestry

David Coletto Founder, Chair, & CEO April 2024



### abacus THETHREE STREAMS



The public needs to recognize a problem exists.





The public has to believe there are viable solutions.



The public needs to be willing to act to cause change.

When the three streams come together

### Methodology

**Sample size:** 1500 residents from British Columbia aged 18 and older

Survey field dates: March 15 to March 19, 2024

Totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding



### THE BIG THREE TAKEAWAYS



BRITISH COLUMBIANS ARE FOCUSED ON WILDFIRES AND THINK THEY ARE GOING TO GET WORSE.

Public recognizes there's a problem.



ALMOST EVERYONE BELIEVES PROPER FOREST MANAGEMENT CAN MITIGATE THE RISK.

There's a solution.



**INDUSTRY + GOVERNMENT** 

There's broad, cross-partisan support for government action to manage forests to prevent and mitigate wildfires.





### THE PROBLEM





FEEL THE PROVINCE IS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

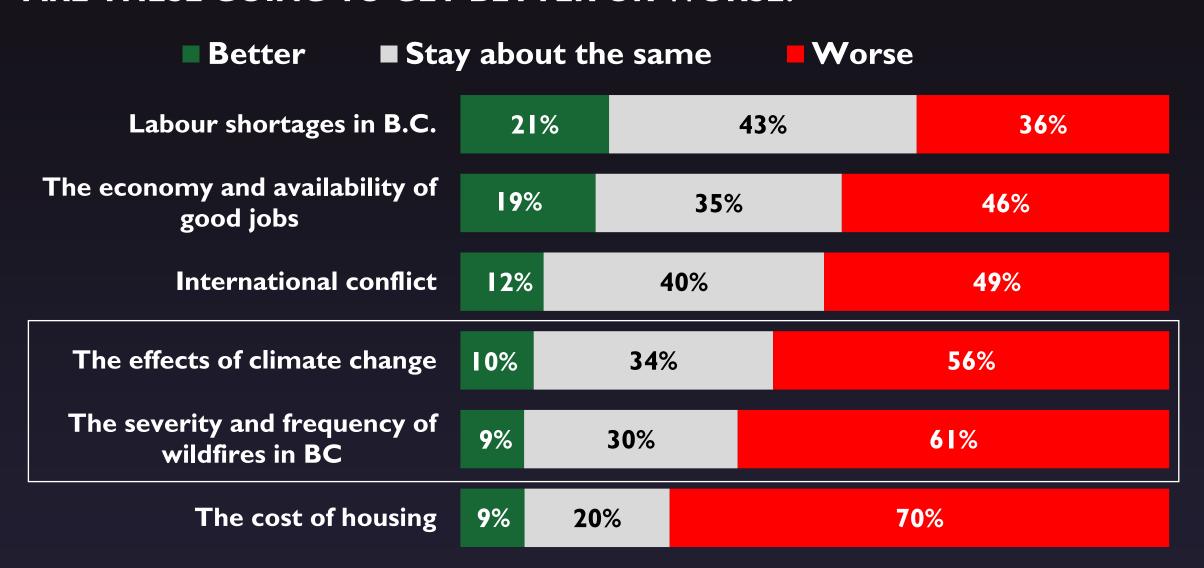
28%

FEEL CANADA IS HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

#### TOP 3 ISSUES FACING BC TODAY...

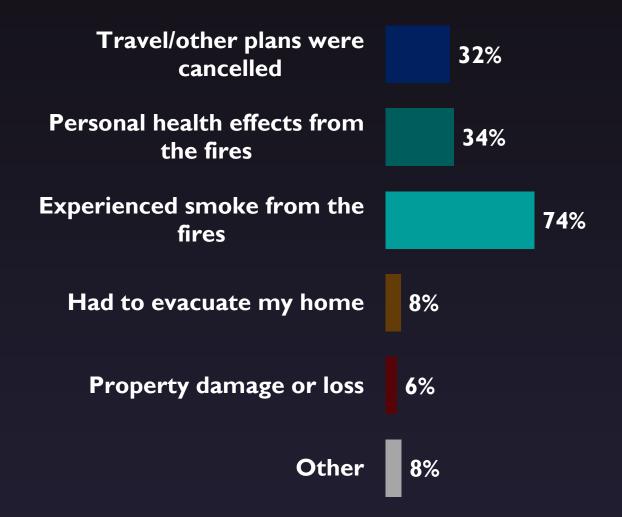


### ARE THESE GOING TO GET BETTER OR WORSE?



## ARE FOLLOWING NEWS ABOUT WILDFIRES CLOSELY.

# SAY THE WILDFIRES HAD A LARGE IMPACT ON THEIR LIVES



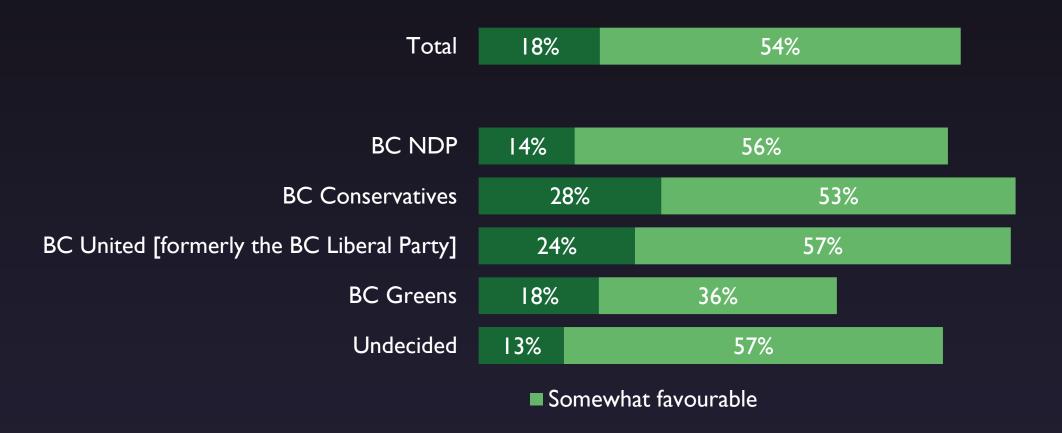
### CLIMATE CHANGE & FOREST FIRES ARE NOT THE MOST SALIENT ISSUE IN BC AT THE MOMENT BUT PEOPLE ARE PAYING ATTENTION.

AND EXPECTS BOTH TO GET WORSE OVER TIME.

### THE PUBLIC RECOGNIZES THERE'S A PROBLEM.

## HAVE A POSITIVE IMPRESSION OF THE FORESTRY SECTOR.

## FORESTRY IS NOT A BAD WORD IN BC.



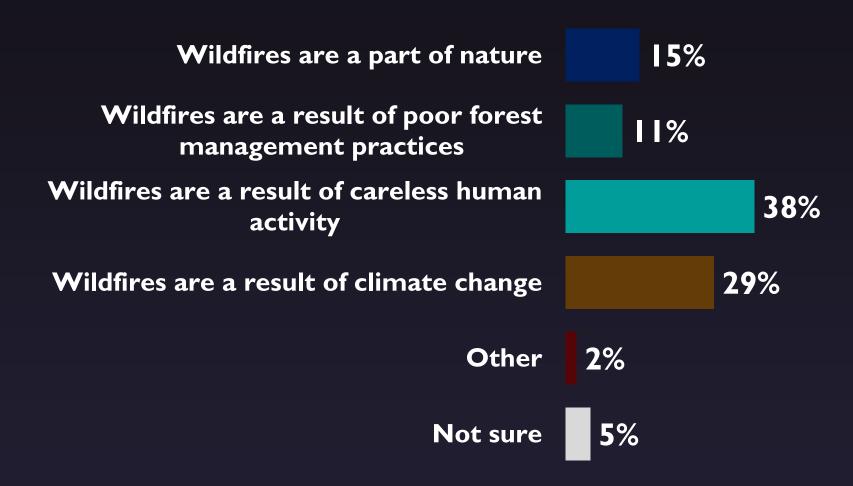
BELIEVE A STRONG FORESTRY SECTOR IS VITAL FOR BC'S ECONOMY

**78%** 

BELIEVE BC IS AMONG THE WORLD'S LEADERS IN USING SUSTAINABLE & RESPONSIBLE FOREST PRACTICES.

## BUT DO PEOPLE UNDERSTAND WHAT IS CAUSING THE WILDFIRES AND THE SEVERITY OF THE RISK?

### WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DO YOU THINK IS THE <u>BIGGEST CAUSE</u> OF THE FOREST FIRES IN B.C. LAST YEAR?



## WHEN ASKED TO ESTIMATE THE % OF BC'S FORESTS ON PUBLIC LAND ARE AT AN EXTREME OR HIGH RISK FOR WILDFIRES...

ONLY 26%

**ESTIMATE 60% OR MORE** 



### THE SOLUTION





AGREE

"IT IS POSSIBLE TO REDUCE THE RISK OF EXTREME FOREST FIRES IN OUR FORESTS."

### DO YOU THINK THE FOLLOWING ARE BELIEVABLE OR NOT BELIEVABLE WHEN IT COMES TO FORESTS IN B.C.?

Forests are more vulnerable to fire because there is a lot of flammable material on the forest floor

80%
THINK THIS IS
BELIEVABLE

Science shows that fire, as long as it is under control, can have a beneficial impact on the health of a forest

**73%** 

Forests are more vulnerable to fire because trees have grown very close together in our forests

61%

"One prescription for managing forests sustainably is to thin out our forests so there is more space between trees and remove fallen branches and other debris from the forest floor that could act as fuel.

The result would be a healthier forest."

## 84% THINK THIS IS A GOOD IDEA

## ARE MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT THE IDEA IF THEY KNEW IT HELPED REDUCE THE RISK OF EXTREME FIRES.



ALMOST EVERYONE THINKS FOREST FIRES SEVERITY CAN BE REDUCED.



AND ALMOST EVERYONE THINKS PROPER FOREST MANAGEMENT IS A GOOD IDEA.



THERE IS AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION AVAILABLE.



## POLITICS + POLICY





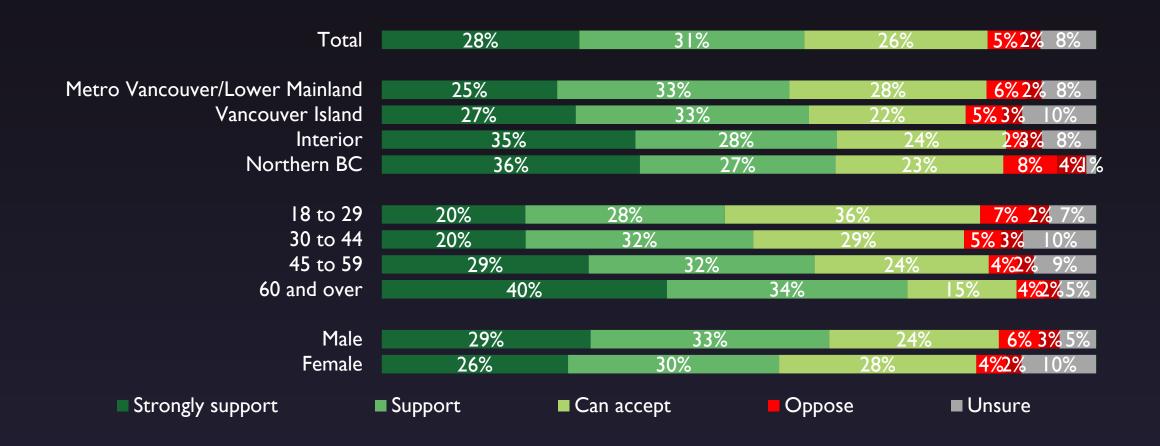
### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

✓ INDUSTRY

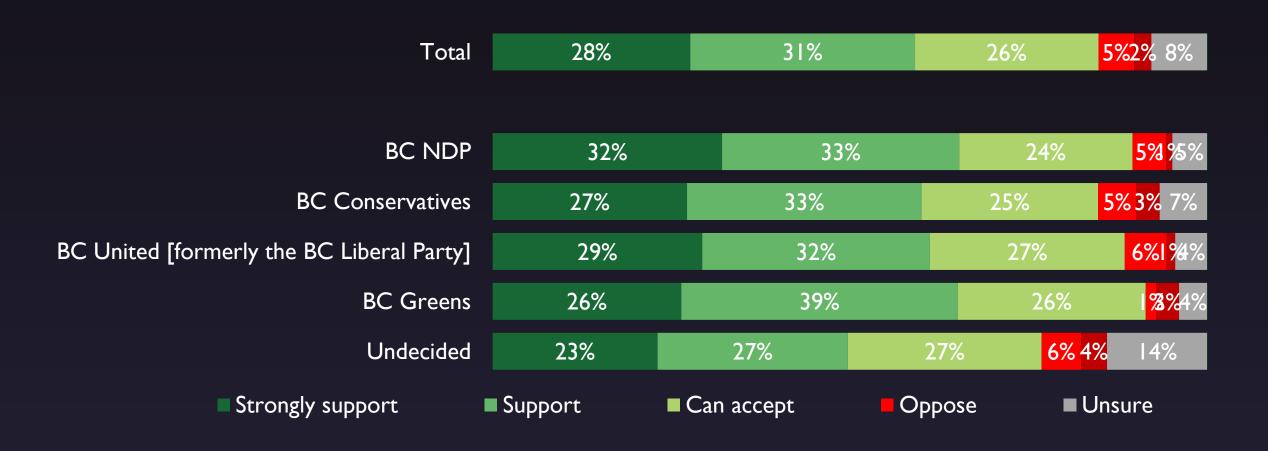
GOVERNMENT

**LANDOWNERS** 

### SUPPORT FOR BC GOVERNMENT ADOPTING THIS PRACTICE...



### SUPPORT FOR BC GOVERNMENT ADOPTING THIS PRACTICE...



### abacus THETHREE STREAMS



The public needs to recognize a problem exists.

POLICY CHANGE



The public has to believe there are viable solutions.



The public needs to be willing to act to cause change.

When the three streams come together



THERE IS BROAD, CROSS-PARTISAN SUPPORT FOR ACTION.



AND PEOPLE THINK INDUSTRY & GOVERNMENT SHOULD WORK TOGETHER.

## FORESTRY IS PART OF THE SOLUTION.

## BRING STAKEHOLDERS WITH YOU.

### Thank You

Stay in Touch
DAVID COLETTO
info@abacusdata.ca

