



# Public Support for the Continuation of Uranium Mining in Saskatchewan

## SITUATION SUMMARY

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# Public Support for the Continuation of Uranium Mining in Saskatchewan

In November - December 2020, Fast Consulting conducted a public opinion survey for Cameco Corporation and Orano Canada to measure public support for the uranium mining industry in Saskatchewan. Our firm has been conducting annual public opinion surveys for Cameco since 1990 and for Cameco and Orano jointly since 1998.

The 2020 survey was conducted following the Saskatchewan provincial election, and during what was becoming increasingly apparent as the second surge of the COVID pandemic virus in Canada. The survey was conducted using landline and mobile telephone and web-based online modalities with a representative sample of 1,010 Saskatchewan residents. An additional 203 surveys were conducted with respondents from communities and reserves in Northern Saskatchewan (Northern Administration District).

This enables us to report on the perceptions of Northern residents and to draw more reliable conclusions for this cohort. The Northern oversample is not factored into the provincial estimates beyond its proportionate weight.

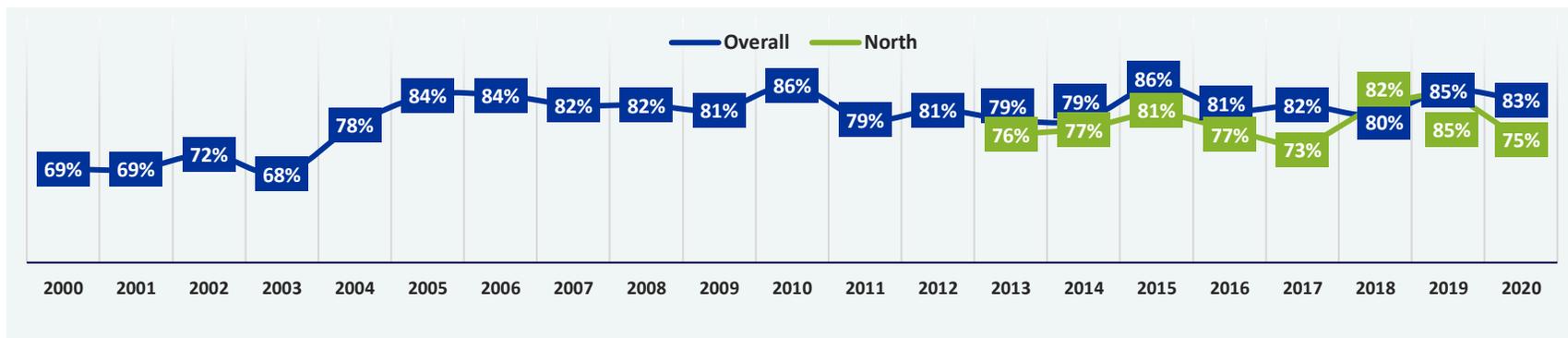
## Support Levels Remain High

2020 survey results continue to show high levels of support for the continuation of uranium mining in the province:

- 83% of respondents province-wide support uranium mining in Saskatchewan, including 43% who strongly support the industry, generally in alignment with the long term trend.
- 75% of Northern respondents support the industry (41% strongly support). While still a reflection of generally strong support in the North, it is a decrease from the historic high of 85% measured in 2019.

Although annual surveys show fluctuations in support, the rise and fall is within a relatively limited range. The current level of support is consistent with the long-term trend.

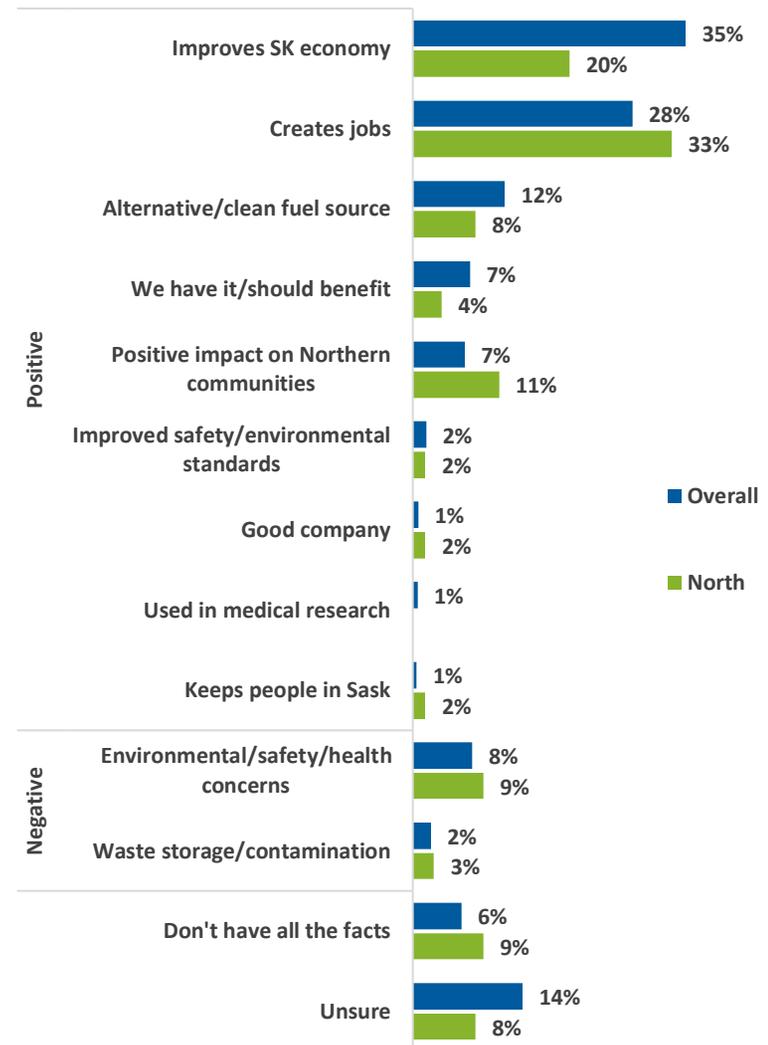
Support for the Uranium Mining Industry in Saskatchewan, 2000-2020



### Reasons Behind Support

- Province-wide, the reasons people support the continuation of uranium mining in northern Saskatchewan are consistent with previous surveys.
  - 35% think the industry improves the economy, 28% think it creates jobs, 12% think it offers an alternative/clean fuel source and 7% think the industry has a positive impact on northern communities.
- The reasons cited by Northern residents are also consistent with previous surveys.
  - Job creation is the main reason Northerners support the industry, at 33%, down from 51% in 2019. Approximately 20% think it improves the economy, 11% cite the positive impact on Northern communities and 8% because it offers an alternative/clean fuel source.
- The reasons people do not support the continuation of uranium mining in northern Saskatchewan are also consistent with previous surveys.
  - Environmental/safety/health concerns remain the most frequently cited reason, both province-wide (8%) and in the North (9%).
  - A few also cite waste storage/contamination (2% province-wide, 3% North).

### Economy, Jobs Top Reasons People Support Uranium Mining in SK



\*Multiple response allowed.

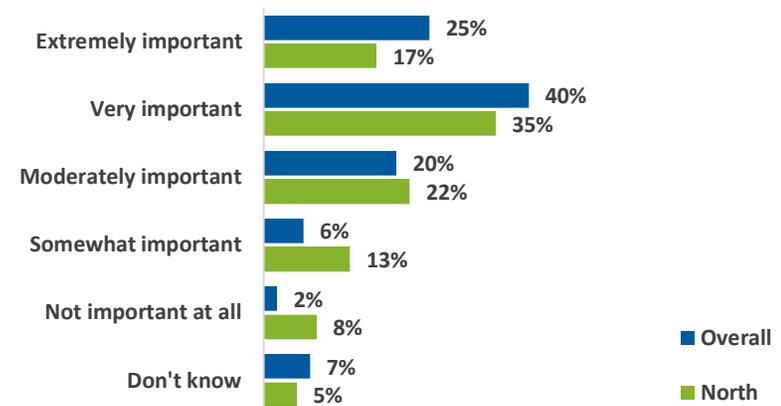
### Industry Is Important to Province

- Province-wide, 85% of respondents think the uranium mining industry is important to Saskatchewan’s economy, including 65% who think it is extremely/very important. This is similar to 86% in 2019 and 90% in 2018.
- In the North, 74% of respondents think the uranium mining industry is important to Saskatchewan’s economy, including 52% who think it is extremely/very important.

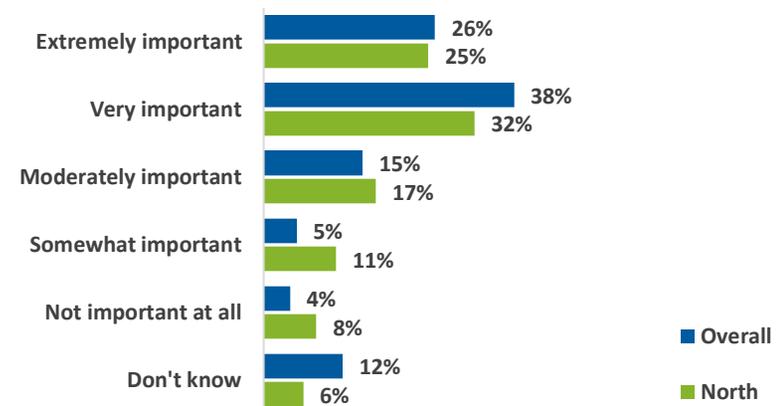
### Industry Is Important to the North

- Province-wide, 79% of respondents think the uranium mining industry is important to the economy and Indigenous communities of northern Saskatchewan, including 64% who think it is extremely/very important.
- In the North, 74% of respondents think the uranium mining industry is important to the economy and Indigenous communities of northern Saskatchewan, including 57% who think it is extremely/very important.

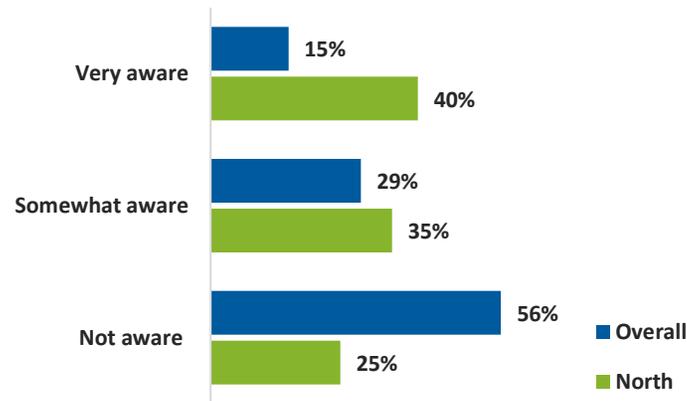
### Majority Think Industry Important to SK Economy



### Majority Think Industry Important to Northern Economy, Communities



### Awareness of Orano/AREVA



- Combined awareness of Orano/AREVA is 44% province-wide, in line with recent surveys. Combined awareness is much higher in the North at 75%.

*Note: respondents are first asked if they were aware of Orano before the survey. Those 'not aware' are then asked if they were aware of AREVA. To arrive at a combined awareness of Orano/AREVA, we add the number of respondents aware of Orano and the number of respondents aware of AREVA, and then divide by total respondents.*

### Conclusion

The 2020 provincial survey results indicate that the uranium mining industry continues to hold a place of importance in the minds of Saskatchewan residents. Support remains high among survey respondents both province-wide and in the North, despite significant challenges being faced by the industry due to persistent low uranium prices on the international market, and the impact of COVID-19.

These challenges have resulted in employment reductions and ongoing disruptions in both head offices in Saskatoon and mines in the North.

The continued high level of public support measured in the survey is the result of the perception among Saskatchewan residents that the primary companies operating in the industry (Cameco Corporation and Orano Canada) continue to operate safely and responsibly, while contributing positively to the province.

Perceptions regarding the importance of the uranium mining industry to Saskatchewan's economy also remain high—the majority of respondents both province-wide and in the North think the industry is extremely/very important to the provincial economy and the economy and Indigenous communities in northern Saskatchewan.