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**student society**

# TMX SURVEY REPORT

**Assessment of the Perspectives of the SFU  
Community on the Burnaby Mountain Tank Farm**





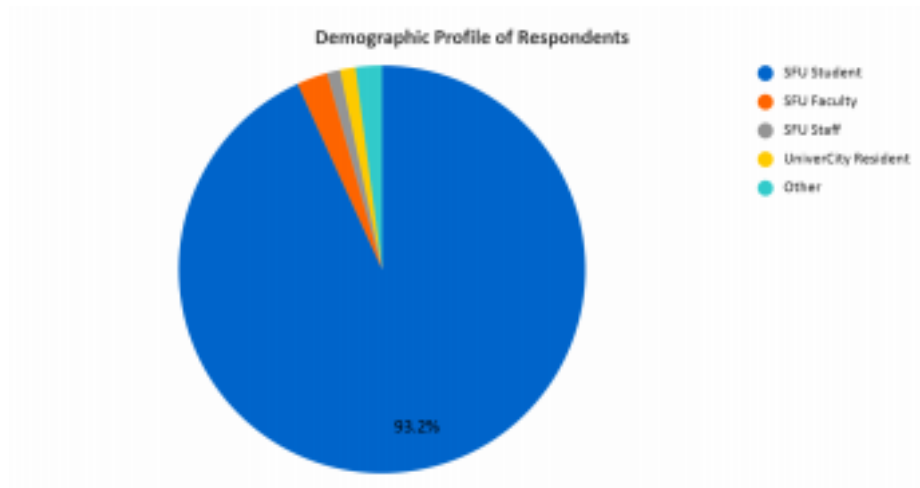
# INTRODUCTION

At a Board meeting in fall 2019, the Directors officially recognized a state of climate emergency and called on SFU, other public institutions and government bodies at all levels to take more immediate and impactful actions to address the ongoing climate crisis. Along those lines, the SFSS Board of Directors has been taking public action and advocating against the [Trans Mountain Expansion \(TMX\) project](#) due to its environmental impacts and safety risk to the SFU Community since June of 2020 (as can be seen in this [statement](#)).

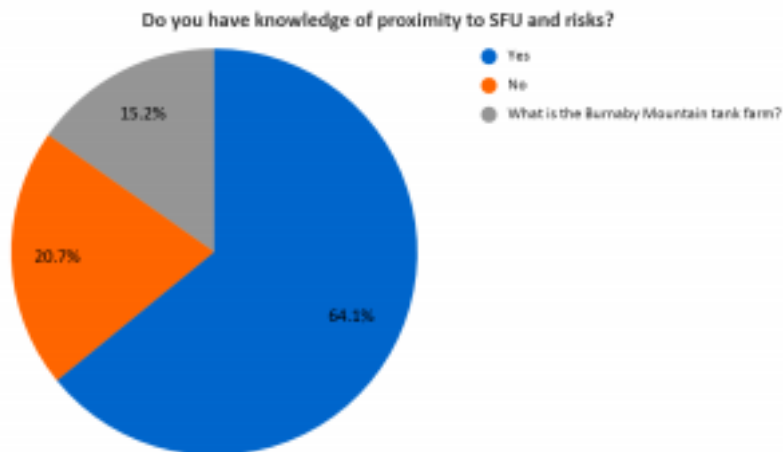
To continuously move forward with the advocacy campaign, the 2020-2021 Board of Directors conducted a survey with 571 students, from April 12 to April 29, 2021, to assess the SFU community's knowledge of the expansion and its possible threats to safety.

# SURVEY RESULTS

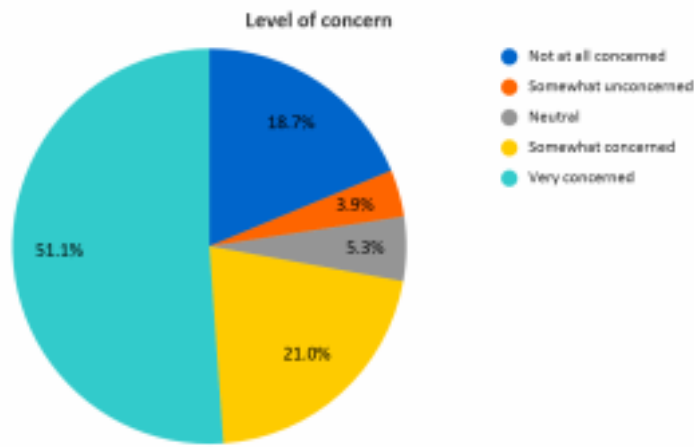
The demographic profile of the TMX Survey respondents consisted of mainly (93.2%) SFU Students but also included a small portion of faculty, staff, alumni, UniverCity Residents and others.



According to the proposal, the transported oil will be stored in a terminal near the Gagliardi Intersection. The proximity of the Burnaby Terminal Tank Farm facility to SFU has raised safety concerns, a matter that more than half (64.1%) of the survey's sample has proved to be aware.



As for the level of concern for the possible risks associated with the TMX, 72.1% of respondents are concerned to some extent, whereas only 18.7% are not at all concerned.

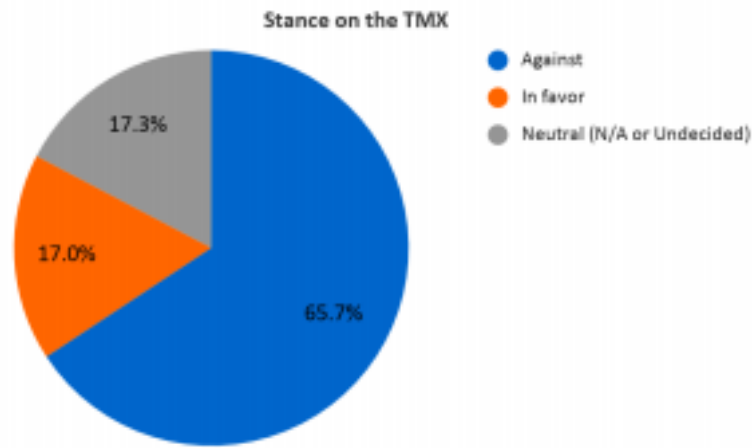


In the same line as the level of concern, there are more people against (65.7%) the TMX project than in favour (17.0%). The most common three justifications for those that are unfavourable to the Trans Mountain Expansion, are:

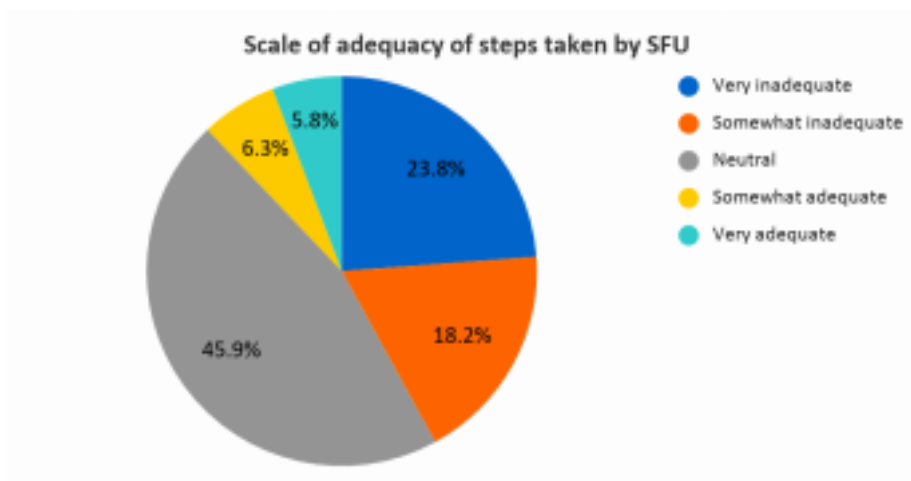
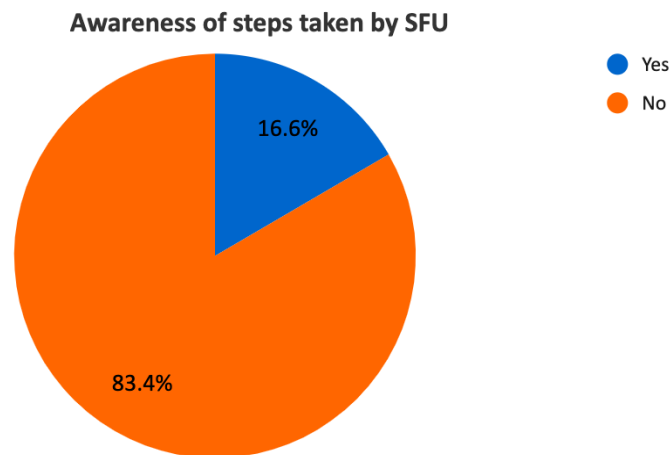
1. **The violation of Indigenous rights and sovereignty** - Many respondents mentioned that the "indigenous communities have not consented to the use of their land." Some students have also pointed out that there hasn't been a "meaningful consultation with the indigenous peoples whose traditional land will be negatively impacted by the project." One student went as far as saying that "if there was to be a spill it would be detrimental to the soil, rendering these traditional lands useless, starving these people."

2. **Risks to the environment** - Most students are not only worried about the effects of the project on the land, but also on the lives of animal species in the area. According to one of the respondents, for example, "it would disrupt wildlife" whereas another mentioned that "the increased tanker traffic poses risks to vulnerable marine ecosystems." Someone also called out that, instead, the investment should be used towards clean energy sources "that have fewer effects on the environment, the animal, plant and human populations."

3. **Endangering the local community** - The risks the project poses to residents of Burnaby Mountain and SFU students have also been pointed out as one of the main justifications for respondents not agreeing with the implementation of the Trans Mountain Expansion. According to one student, for example, "there can be serious consequences if it leaks in/around where people frequent." One other student also points out the lack of communication with the local community on the matter: "Are they talking about this with the community? The people who live near the pipelines? No." Lastly, one student mentions that the Tank Farm is next to the only exit route of the mountain. "In the event of any emergency, not only are people not able to get off the mountain, emergency services will not be able to get to us."



As for what SFU is doing regarding the TMX, 83.4% of students are not aware of any University plans and strategies, and only 12.1% believe the actions are adequate. In reality, a larger group of people (45.9%) is neutral on the adequacy of the steps that SFU has taken to address the concerns around TMX while 42% stated that SFU steps taken are inadequate.



Regarding any more steps that the Simon Fraser University should be doing about the TMX, most respondents (84.1%) believe that SFU should be educating students about the Tank Farm. However, 51.8% of students are unwilling to email their representatives and support the [Students Against TMX campaign](#).