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THE PROVINCE**British Columbians report greatest concern over sale of Canadian utilities**

Eighty-three per cent of Canadians have concerns about the sale of Canadian utilities to foreign companies, says a new poll commissioned by the Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union (COPE 378). A Strategic Communications telephone poll involving 808 Canadians found that in B.C. the number was much higher, with 92 per cent of people saying they were either "somewhat" or "very" concerned.

Respondents in the poll were told the federal government "recently approved the \$6.9-billion dollar sale of Canadian-owned Terasen, the natural gas [distributor] in British Columbia," and that "this sale is the latest in a series of deals where major Canadian utilities have been taken over by foreign companies." They were then asked: "Are you concerned or unconcerned about the sale of Canadian utilities to foreign corporations?" The results of the national survey are considered accurate to within plus or minus 3.4 percentage points 19 times out of 20.

Jonathan Fowlie, Vancouver Sun