

WEBINAR

THE RISE OF LIGHT-DUTY TRUCKS:

REVERSING THE TREND

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Write your questions in the Q&A!

Agenda

Introduction

Understanding the transformation of the vehicle fleet

Polytechnique Montréal

Limitless: car advertising in Canada

Équiterre

Consumer motivations for purchasing light-duty trucks in Canada

CIRANO et HEC Montréal

Break

Understanding the impacts of the vehicle fleet transformation

Polytechnique Montréal

Addressing rising emission from the light-duty truck class

Équiterre

Q&A

Équiterre & sustainable mobility

REDUCTION AND MODAL TRANSFER

Vehicle fleet, distances to travel

Mobilization

Collaboration with different groups (Alliance TRANSIT, J'ai ma passe, etc.)

Awareness

Promotion of sustainable mobility, alternatives to solo driving (cocktail transport, e-bike, etc.)

Influence

Advocacy for public and active transportation at the federal and provincial levels, representation on the Politique de mobilité durable Advisory Committee

CAR FLEET IMPROVEMENT

Energy efficiency and decarbonization

Mobilization

Close collaboration with automotive and electrification stakeholders (Roulons électrique)

Awareness

Transportation electrification campaigns (individual electric vehicles, school buses, etc.)

Influence

Advocacy for stricter vehicle emission standards, representation on Québec's ZEV advisory committee

An extensive study to explore an alarming trend.



Causes of the phenomenon

- Socio-economic and historical factors
- The role of advertising
- Consumer portrait: survey, interviews and focus groups

Impacts

Solutions

Reducing social acceptability

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

TOPICS

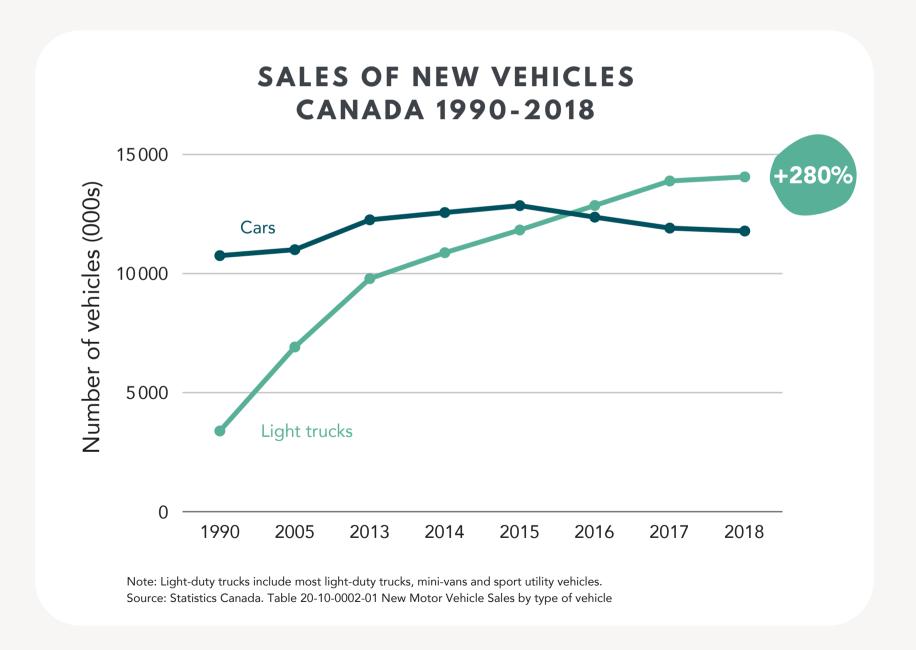
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

To carry out this research, Équiterre received funding under the Contributions Program for Non-Profit Consumer and Voluntary Organizations of Innovation, Science and of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. The opinions expressed in this document are not necessarily those of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada or the Government of Canada.

Context

Growing popularity of light-duty trucks in Canada

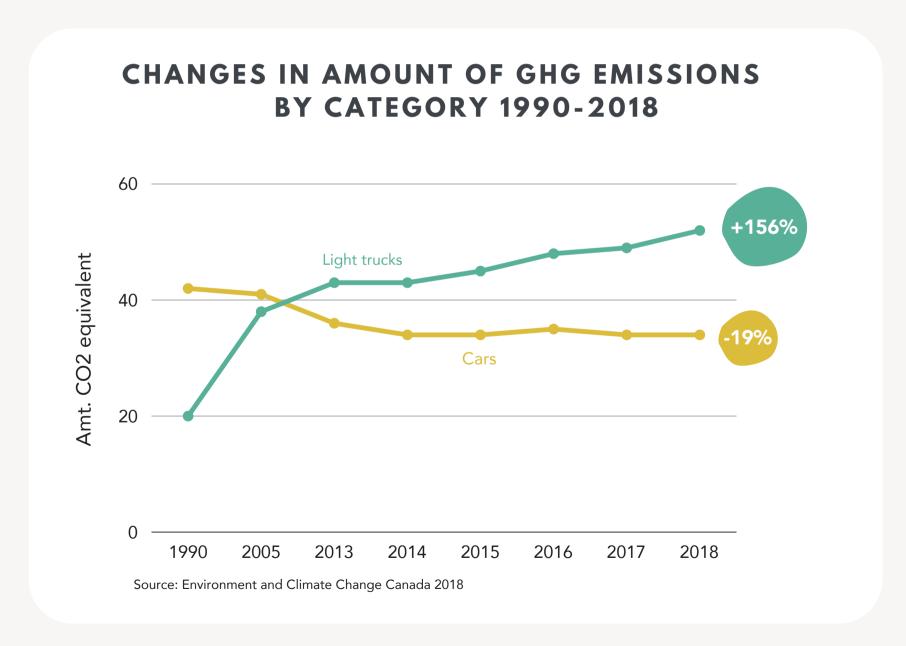
The number of light-duty trucks in the vehicle fleet increased by 280% between 1990 and 2018



Impacts on...

- Climate and environment
- Public safety
- Health

- Road infrastructure and congestion
- Canadian family finances



UNDERSTANDING THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE CANADIAN VEHICLE FLEET



Pre Catherine Morency, Ing., Ph.D.

Full professor

Polytechnique Montreal
Holder of the Mobility Chair
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Brigitte Milord, M.Sc. Écon.

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IN 2020, WHAT WAS THE MARKET SHARE OF LIGHT-DUTY TRUCKS AMONG NEW VEHICLES SOLD IN CANADA?

1. 30-45%

2. 45-60 %

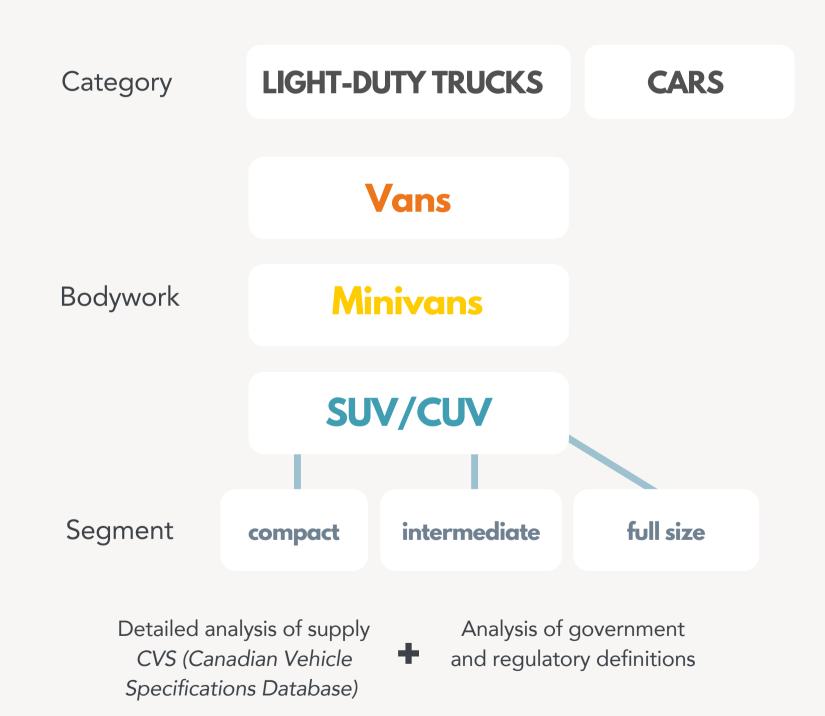
3. 60-75%

4. 75-90%

Methodology

DEFINING THE OBJECT OF STUDY

Evolutionary analysis of supply



UNDERSTANDING THE FLEET TRANSFORMATION

Evolutionary analysis of the demand



Analysis of trends: global (Google Trends) and provincial (Statistics Canada)



Detailed analysis of the demand (SAAQ + CVS + EPA)



Economic theory of consumption



Review of scientific and grey literature

History of light-duty trucks

Explanatory factors observed during each period accumulate over time.

Automobile democratization

Early forms of light-duty trucks, dominant commercial or institutional uses

1904-1939

First oil shocks

Japanese cars on the rise

Appearance of CUVs

(crossover utility vehicles)

1945-1972

1973-1983 1984-1996

1996-2008

2008-2021

Development of the car culture

"opularity of muscle cars and station wagons

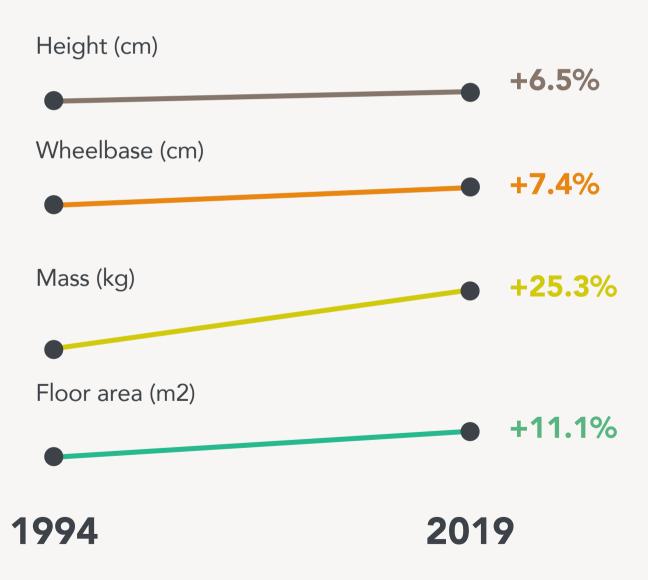
Energy rebound effect

Return of gas-guzzlers.
Introduction of the minivan,
SUV sales begin to rise.

Financialization of the car industry and diversification of SUV options

Evolutionary analysis of the supply side

Evolution of average vehicle properties marketed in Canada



Slight decrease

in the supply of sedans, hatchbacks and pickup trucks

Slightly greater decline

in the supply of family cars

Significant and steady increase

in the number of SUVs available



Inconsistent vehicle classification



Industry and government definitions are not helpful in understanding the market

Analysis of the demand



Traditional light-duty truck buyers

Literature 1984-2000

- Households with above-average income
- More likely to be male (primary owner)
- Families
- Outskirts of major centers or rural areas

POTENTIAL EXPLANATORY FACTORS

Economic fundamentals

Household income Interest rates Fuel prices

Psychological and sociological factors

Lifestyle
Perception of road safety
Rebound effect

Public Policy

GHG regulations Urban sprawl Trade agreements

Industry practices

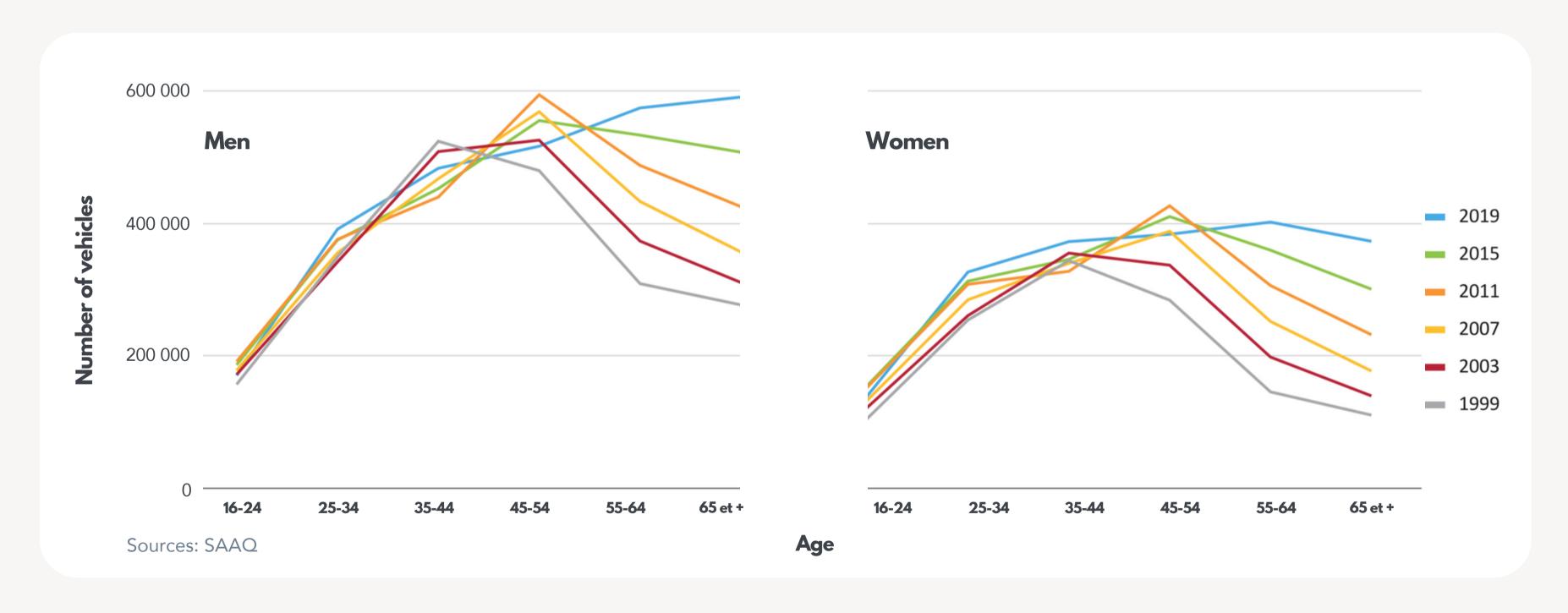
Vehicle supply (VUM)
Long-term financing
Marketing and advertising

Diversification of demand

- More female homeowners
- More urban households
- More young and especially older households
- More affluent and less affluent households

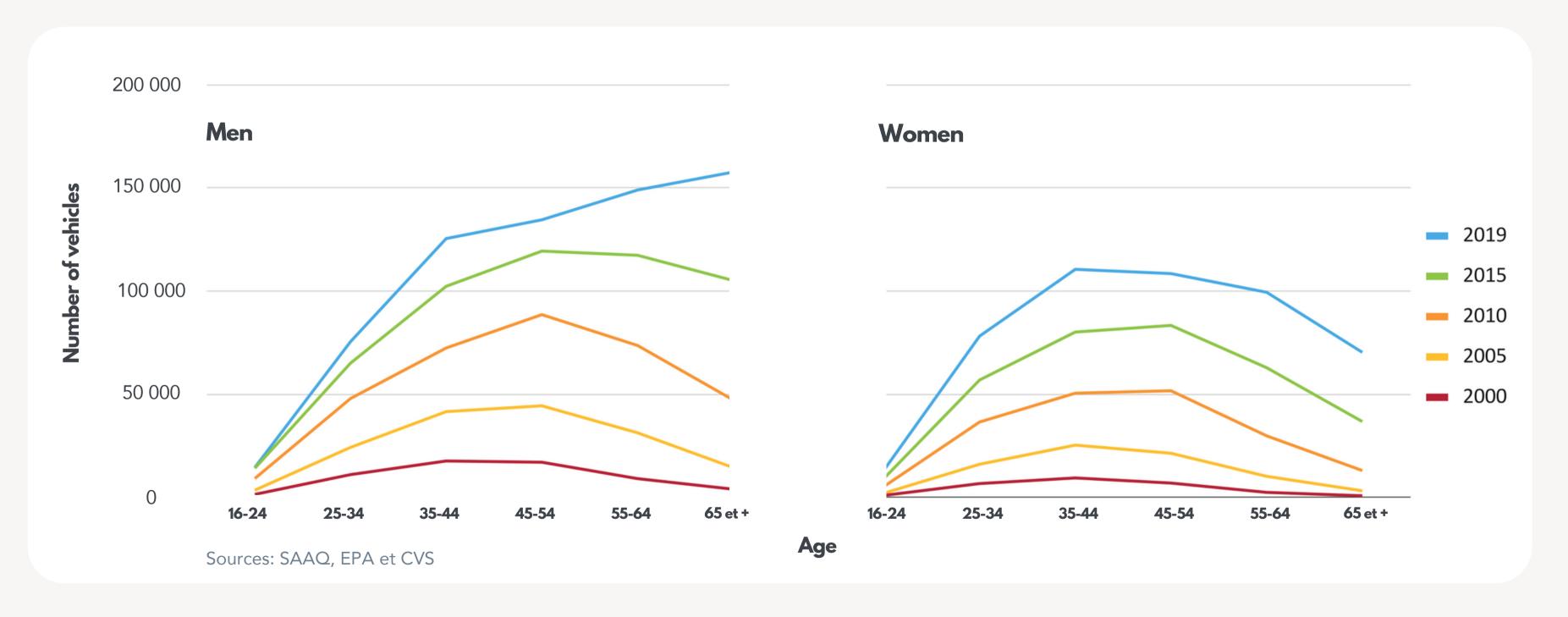
Fleet evolution in Quebec

Passenger vehicles of the SUV/CUV type by age and type of owner, Quebec, 2000-2019



Fleet transformation (demand)

Passenger vehicles of the SUV/CUV type by age and type of owner, Quebec, 2000-2019

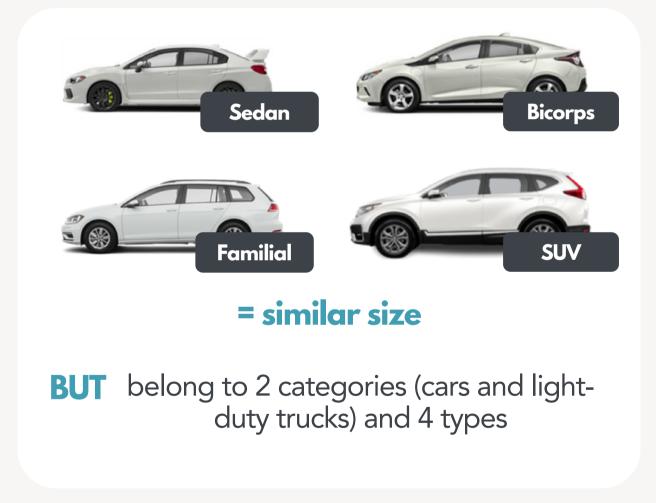


Key findings

Classification not anchored on clear metrics

= hinders a clear understanding of the market and its transformations for government, researchers and consumers





Strong transformation in the physical properties of the vehicles

IMPACTS

Security

GHG

Efficiency of road networks

Use of public

Household

financial health

rights-of-way



2 Important demographic effect of persistence of motorization

ACCORDING TO OUR STUDY, WHAT PERCENTAGE OF CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES AUTO ADS FEATURE LIGHT-DUTY TRUCKS?

a. 12 %

b. 34%

c. 56 %

d. 79%

LIMITLESS: CAR ADVERTISING IN CANADA



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Context

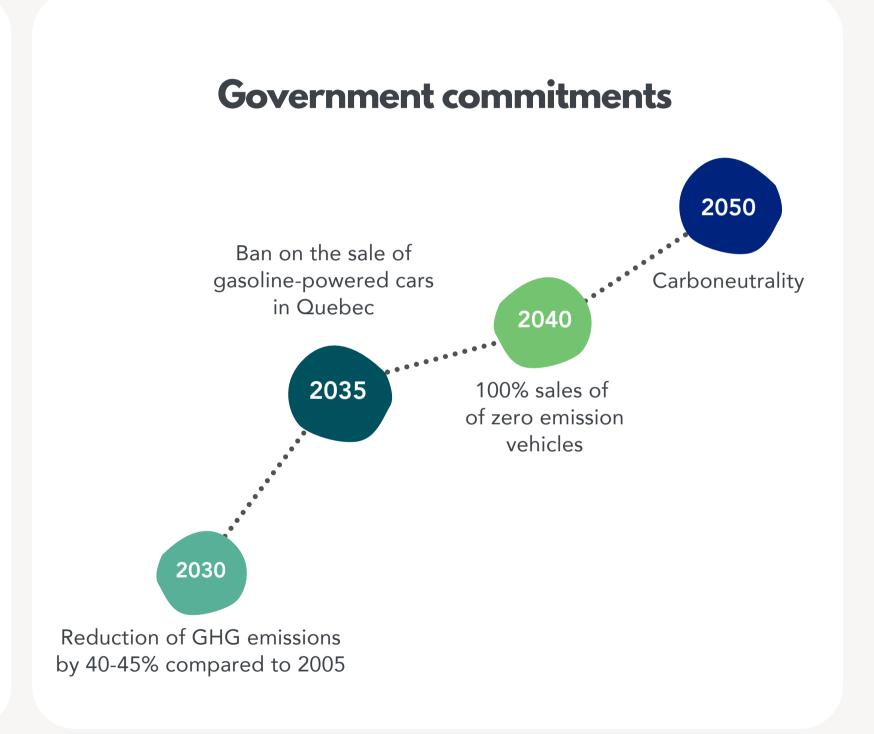
The importance and influence of car advertising in Canada

Investment in digital advertising



79%

Canadian newspapers and magazines car advertising promoting light-duty trucks



Methodology

CONTENT ANALYSIS



in 683 magazines and 446 newspapers between Jan. 1, 2019 and May 1, 2020



Analysis grid based on literature and interviews with experts

- Literature
- Interviews with experts
- Preliminary analysis of 20 ads

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK ANALYSIS



Analysis of legal documents and standards

LIMITLESS: CAR ADVERTISING IN CANADA

Car advertising

CONCERNS AROUND AD CONTENT

Nature

Car ads showcase natural environments to promote light-duty trucks

Attractive financing

Used to make these vehicles look more attractive and affordable, when they are in fact more expensive than standard cars

Security

A recurring sales pitch, when in fact light-duty trucks are more dangerous to motorists and pedestrians

Fuel and No ads display the vehicle's fuel consumption and/or CO2 emissions





Observations

FEW CONSTRAINTS IN TERMS OF ADVERTISING PRACTICES



Canada

There are no federal laws or regulations specific to car advertising.



Belgium

The Car Advertising Code includes restrictions on the use of off-road locations related to the use of non-highway locations and requires that messages do not mislead the public about the environmental effects of the product.



United Kingdom

Car advertisements must include the fuel consumption and and CO2 emissions of vehicles.



Australia

Standards exist to prohibit the depiction of environmental damage in advertising.



Sweden

Terms such as "environmentally friendly" can only be used in advertisements if, throughout its life cycle, the promoted product does not harm or improve the environment.



FINDINGS

THE ADVERTISING REGULATORY FRAMEWORK DOES NOT YET APPLY TO THE CAR INDUSTRY IN CANADA

CAR ADVERTISING, BOTH IN TERMS OF CONTENT AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK...



- ZEV SALES TARGETS
- GHG EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS



Recommendations

Recognizing the increase in light-duty trucks as a public health and safety issue

Forming an independent advisory committee

To provide advice and guidance to governments in the development and and implementation of public policies

Build on existing advertising restrictions

Promotion of tobacco products, unsafe driving messages, children's ads

Progressively tighten the regulatory framework for car advertising

Increase investments in the promotion of sustainable mobility

Create a code for car advertising

Requirement to display
CO2 emissions,
fuel consumption
and retail price

Restrictions on the representation and use of nature

- Establish a mechanism for the review and validation of car advertising content
- Support and carry out more campaigns to promote sustainable mobility

"The vehicles being sold are getting bigger and heavier. This alarming trend runs counter to the climate objectives of our governments. To reverse it, we need to better regulate advertising practices."

> **Andréanne Brazeau** Mobility Analyst at Équiterre

LIMITLESS: CAR ADVERTISING IN CANADA

CONSUMER MOTIVATIONS WHEN PURCHASING LIGHT-DUTY TRUCKS IN CANADA



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Methodology

SAMPLE



representative of the Canadian population

DATA COLLECTION

Online survey

from October 27 to November 30, 2020

administered by Qualtrics

AVERAGE SURVEY DURATION



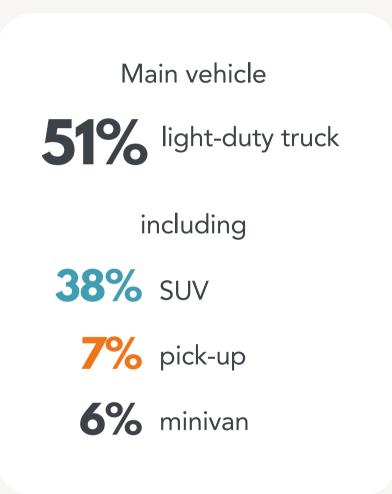
25.8 minutes

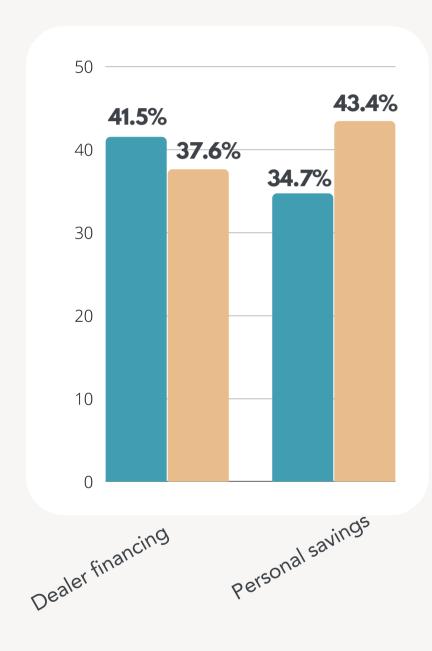
Key findings

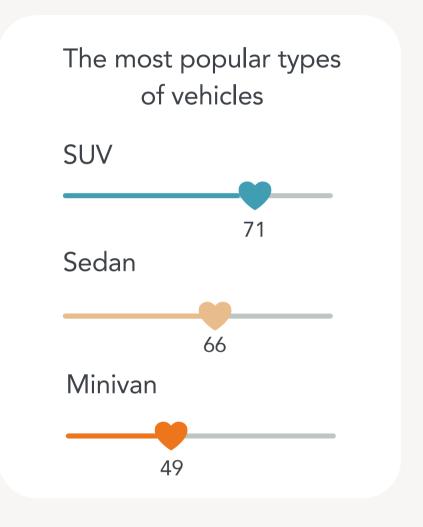
Canadians agree that their vehicle is indispensable

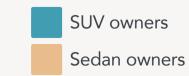


Sample average

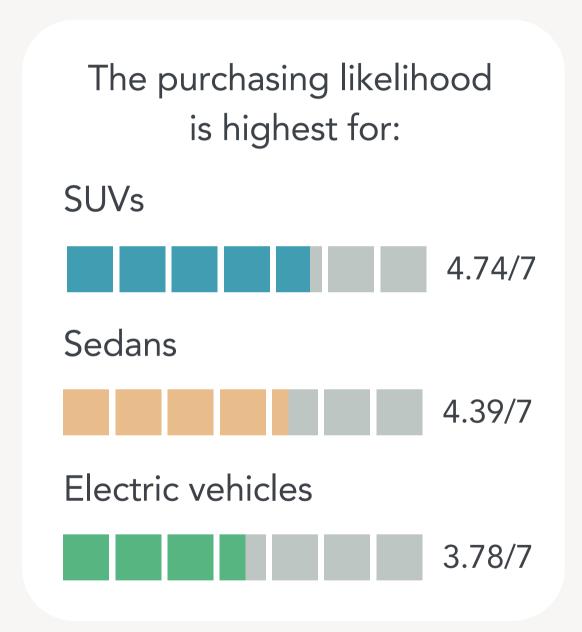








Purchase intention



Major factors influencing SUV preference

1

Personal and contextual factors

2

Aspects related to the external environment such as social norms or media influence

3

4

Product-related aspects

Individual psychological factors such as values and attitudes

1 Personal contextual aspects

Who is most likely to buy a light-duty truck?

People who use their vehicles to transport materials

pick-up truck

Households with higher income

SUV

Households with more members

SUV

People living in rural areas

pick-up truck

People who currently own an SUV

SUV

Women





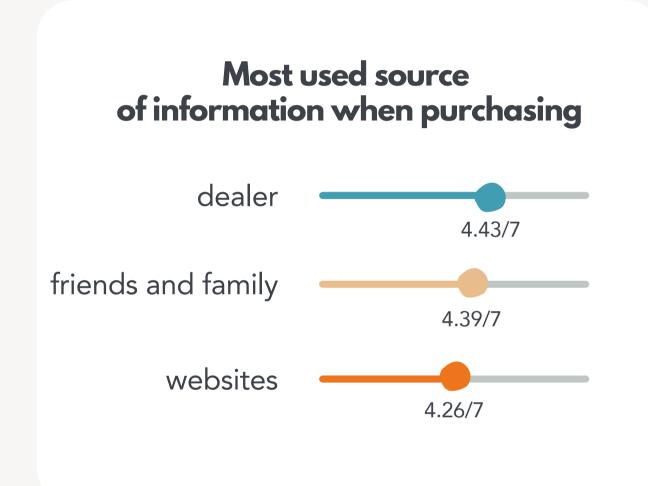
Provinces where SUVs are most popular



Saskatchewan (45.5%) New-Brunswick (46.9%) Newfoundland and Labrador (46.7%) Alberta (43.6%)



Aspects related to the external environment



Media influence on SUV purchase intention

Strong correlations with...

TV and radio ads (0.256)

and social media (0.250)

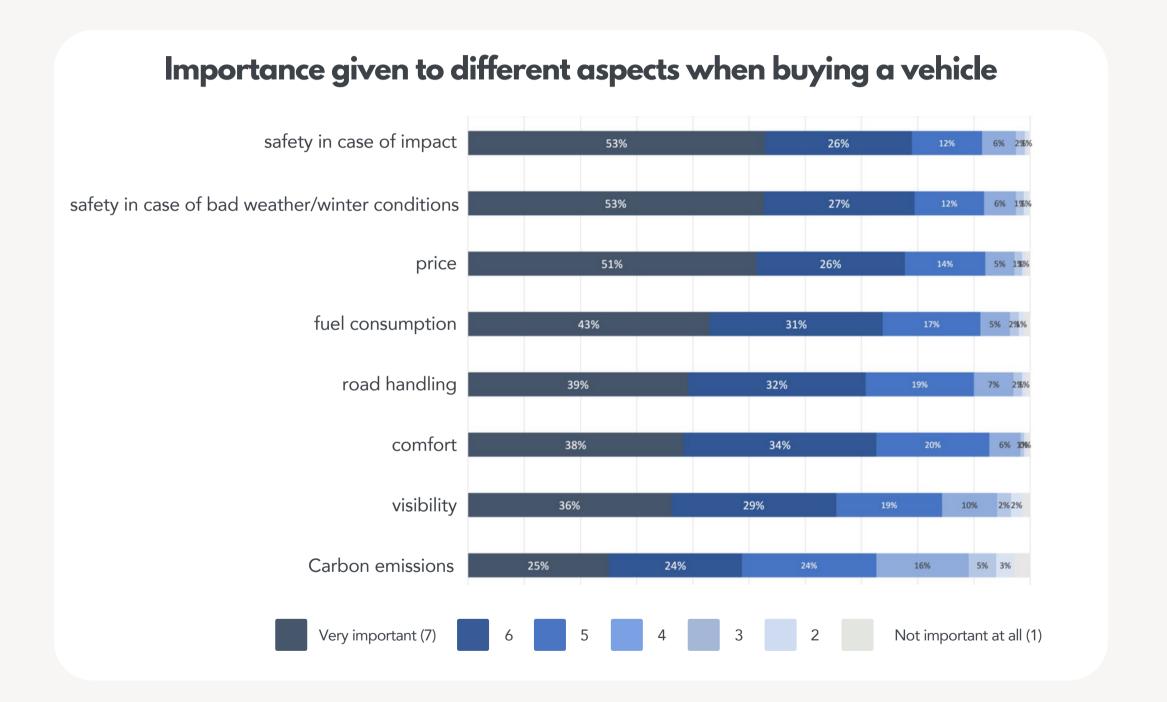
as sources of information

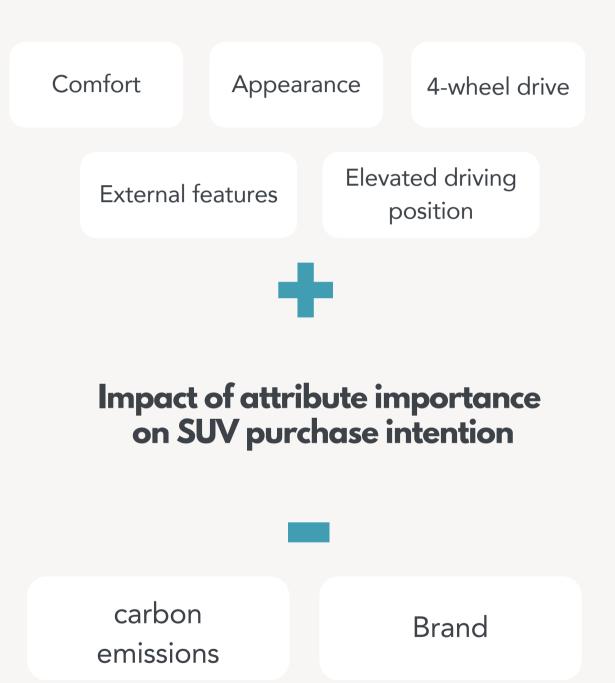
WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CANADIAN PUBLIC RESPONDED TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

"WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR WHEN BUYING A VEHICLE?"

- 1. Safety
- 2. Price
- 3. Fuel consumption
- 4. Comfort
- 5. Handling
- 6. Carbon emissions
- 7. Cargo capacity
- 8. Four wheel drive

3 Product-related aspects





4 Individual psychological factors

Dominant values and attitudes that guide a person's life

People who score high on affective motives, i.e. the pleasure of driving

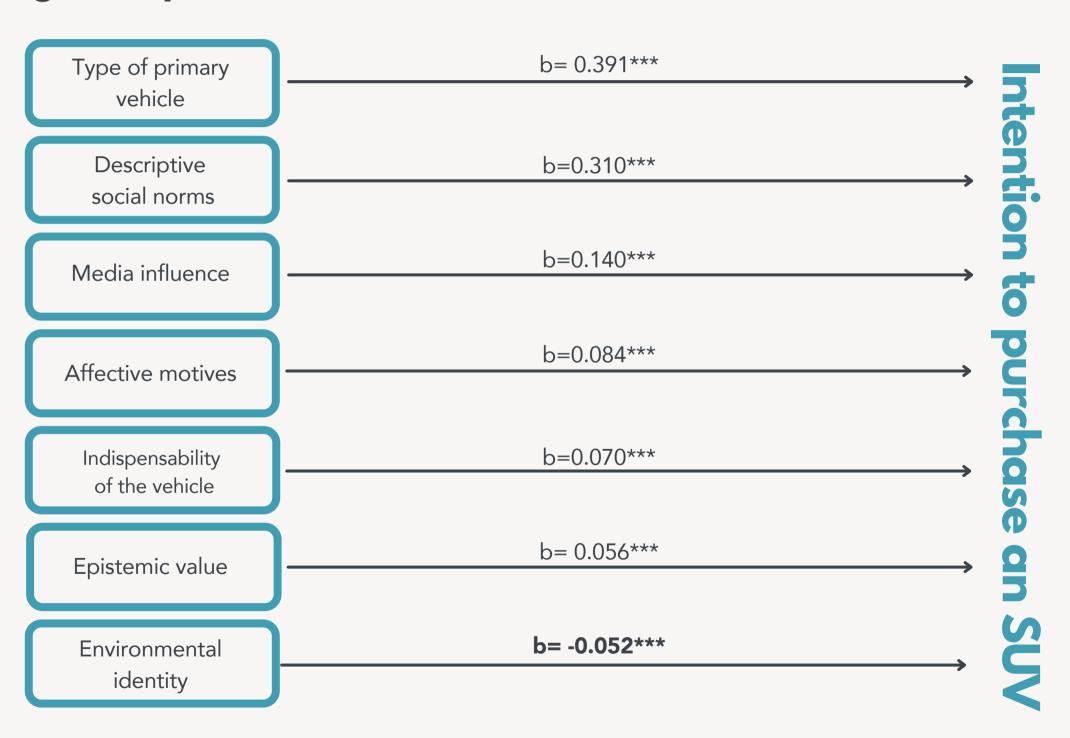
more

likely to buy an SUV

People who have a stronger environmental identity

ess

likely to buy an SUV



ANALYSIS OF MOTIVATIONS



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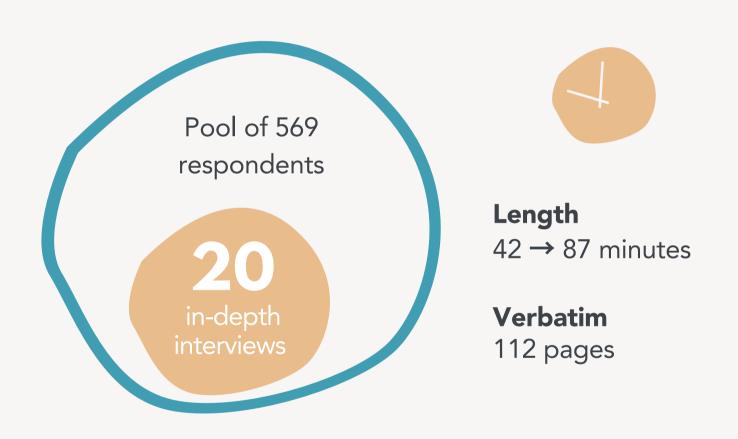
Master's student in marketing HEC Montréal

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Methodology

Interviews



Objective

Scrutinize the aspects that were found to be the most important ones

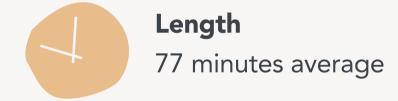
Selection

Individuals from diverse backgrounds based on demographics and vehicle ownership

Focus groups

Number : 5 2 or 3 participants per group





Objective Evaluate reactions to different types of ads

Selection People with oral fluency and varying opinions

Methodology Execution

Interviews

Semi-structured interview guide

- 1 Break the ice and learn about the interviewee
- Deepen our understanding of the of the participant's specific perspective Ex: SUV image, considerations, driving pleasure
- 3 Use of projective techniques to deepen certain potentially sensitive or delicate subjects

What features do you think are being promoted in SUV ads?

Our respondents who own SUVs often consider that their vehicles confer a certain social status and prestige. What do you think about this?

Focus groups

3 steps

Short-term" memories of existing SUV ads with visual support

- Long-term" memories of SUV ads
- Comparison of their responses with the results of Brazeau and Denoncourt (2021)

Participants' reactions to the presentation of existing SUV advertisements

Key findings Interviews

Quo vodis?

Reflection on electric vehicles

Understanding the SUV phenomenon

- SUV image
- Valued characteristics of SUVs

Omnipresence of vehicles and driving pleasure

Motivations and perceptions

Normative influences and vehicles as inspirational products

The decision-making process: from idea to reality

- First filter: sacrifices and influence of vehicle style
- Searching for information
- Understanding the financial aspects of buying a car
- Influence of government tax instruments

Driving in the Canadian climate

Understanding the SUV phenomenon

Interviews

Pro SUV



- It meets all their needs
- It couldn't be more perfect!

"I can't think of anything negative I could say about an SUV, really, I just can't come up with anything bad to say"

Lise

Anti SUV



- High fuel consumption
- Unnecessary size
- High cost
- They provide a false sense of security

"An image of excess. It is over the top.
(...) for the average motorists, who is probably just going to work, dropping kids off at school, when the roads are cleared, they don't need it"

Brigitte

Positive points made

The practical side of space

 Ex : storage space for Brigitte's walker

Safety

- Feelings of road presence, sturdiness and stability thanks to the larger size and heavier weight
- Feelings of increased protection in case of an accident
- Protection against the harsh
 Canadian climate

Comfort

 Height, space, technological elements

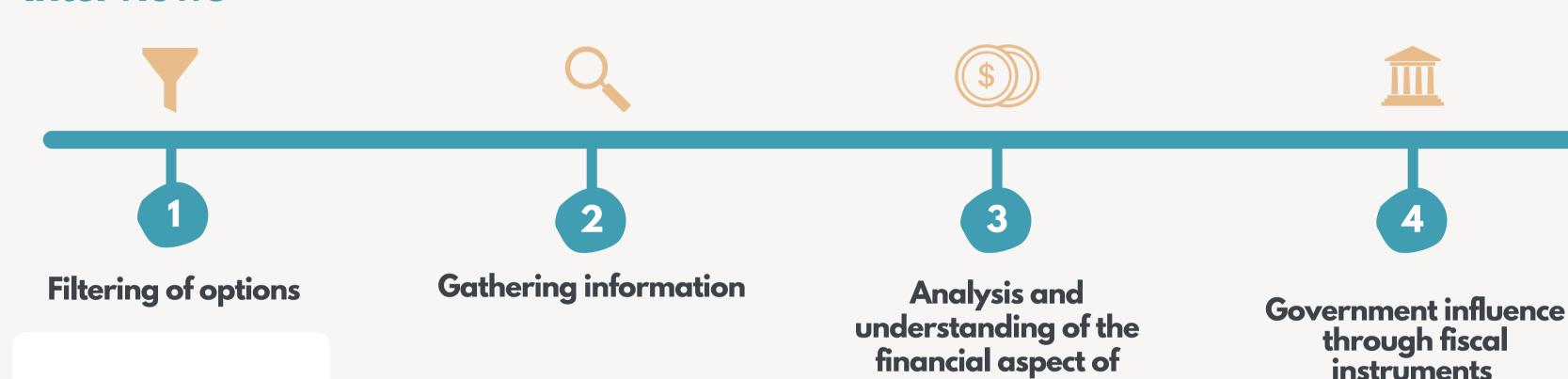


The phenomenon of control

The phenomenon of normality

Decision-making process

Interviews



- Sacrifice of certain elements in favor of what is really important to the person
- The majority value safety, comfort and physical appearance over fuel efficiency

Individuals consult with dealers, but do not necessarily trust them

Financing can induce immediate gratification

purchasing a vehicle

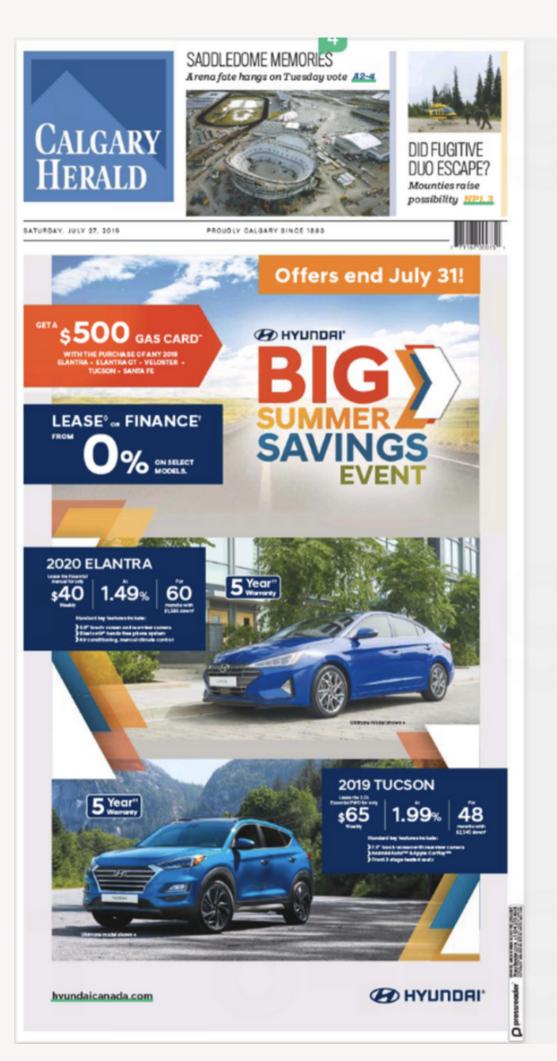
Taxes, incentives and infrastructure for electric

cars

THINK OF AN SUV AD.

WHAT IS THE FIRST THEME THAT COMES TO MIND?

- 1. Adventure and exploration
- 2. Safety
- 3. Emotional attachment
- 4. Family friendly





Focus groups

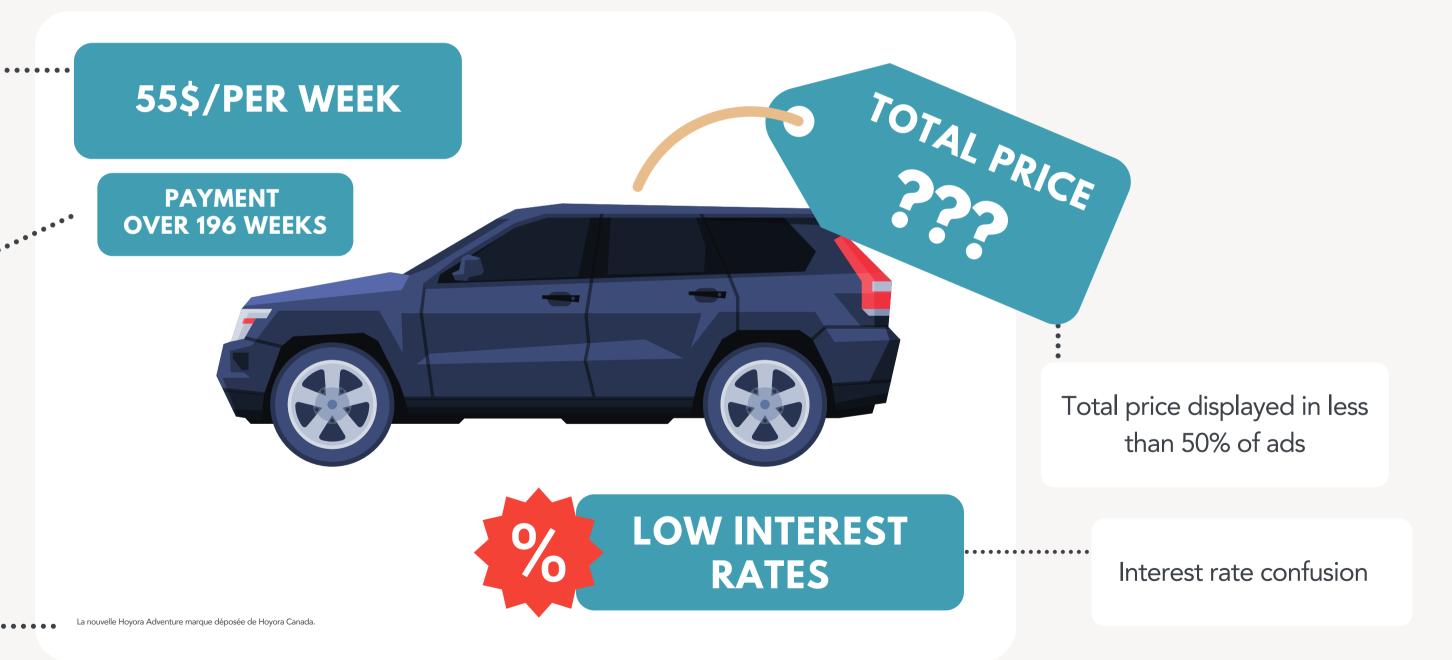
Total price
segmented into
smaller installments
to make the vehicle
price appear more
affordable

The problematic nature of spreading payments over long periods

Lack of transparency of small print

Main elements raised

- Lack of transparency
- The models in the ads are not "real" vehicles (base model without any options)



Perspectives

What do consumers want to see in ads?

Simon

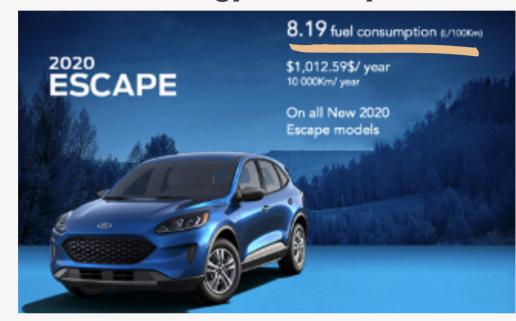
Operating costs



Financing arrangements



Energy efficiency



"I don't think it's the most important thing in consumers'

minds and if it's really important to them, let them buy an electric car"

However... Why?

many of our respondents do not find this relevant.

- Lack of trust in dealers, government and manufacturers regardless of information displayed
- Relevance would be less in the Canadian context
 - Difficult climate
 - Cheap gasoline in Canada
- Difference in driving style

What messages could help reverse the trend?

Driving skills

The decisions we make as consumers are determined by our personal identity.

SOLUTION

Questioning the identity of the driver (by talking about their skills) could make these vehicles less attractive

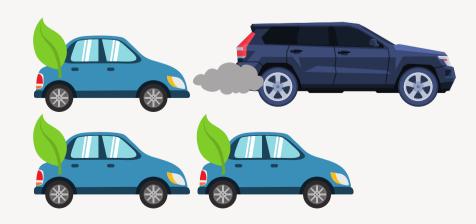


Social norms

As individuals, we care about what is considered the norm.

SOLUTION

Designating environmentally friendly vehicles as the norm may make large vehicles less attractive



Legacy to future generations

Our family predisposes us to have preferences for certain vehicles.

SOLUTION

Communicate that SUV drivers are not only destroying the environment today, but indirectly encouraging their children to do so in the future



BY WHAT PERCENTAGE COULD GHG EMISSIONS BE REDUCED IF THE CANADIAN VEHICLE FLEET WAS MADE UP OF THE 10 MOST FUELEFFICIENT MODELS SOLD ON THE MARKET?

a. 20%

b. 40%

c. 60%

d. 80%

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACTS OF THE VEHICLE FLEET TRANSFORMATION



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THERE IS A REFERENDUM TOMORROW MORNING.

WHICH OF THESE MEASURES AIMED AT REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS WOULD YOU VOTE FOR?

- 1.A higher carbon tax
- 2.A bonus-malus on personal vehicles
- 3.A reform of the car advertising regulatory framework
- 4. Information campaigns on the impact of large vehicles

ADDRESSING RISING EMISSIONS FROM THE LIGHT-DUTY TRUCK CLASS



Andréanne Brazeau, B.Sc.

Mobility analyst Équiterre Research team

Tevor Rous

Consultant

Horizon Advisors

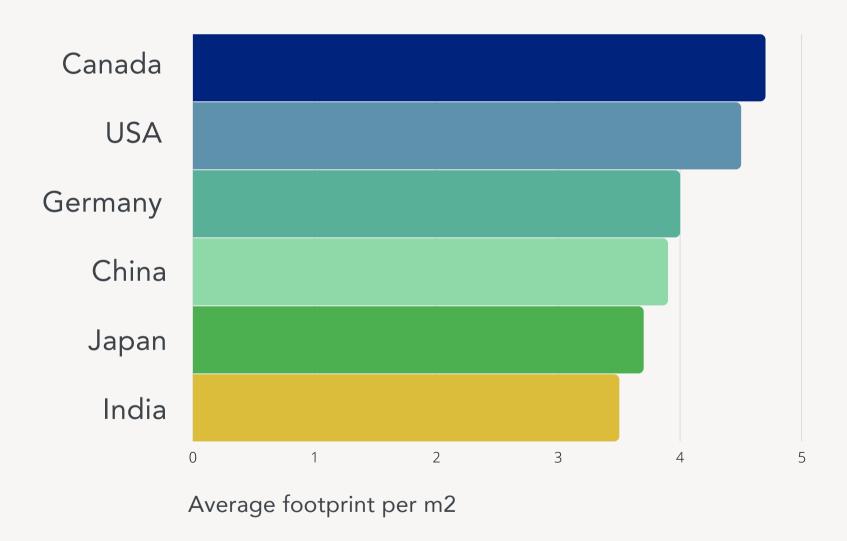
Jessie Pelchat, M.Sc.

Mobility analyst (until June 2020) Équiterre

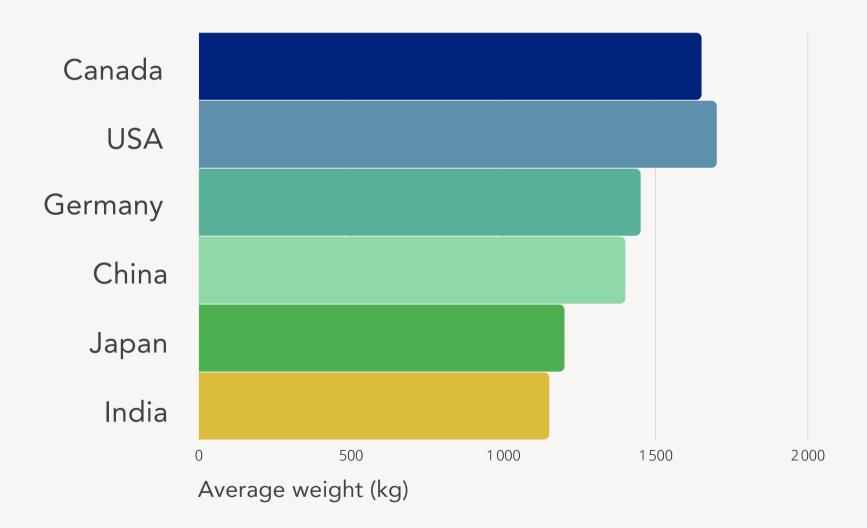


Context

Vehicle footprint per country



Vehicle weight per country



Context

1 Canada: champion of GHG emissions

Canada's light-duty vehicle fleet ranks among the top in the world in terms of :

- Fuel consumption
- CO2 emissions per km driven
- Size and weight
- Vehicle footprint

Average fuel consumption







5.8

8.9

8.6

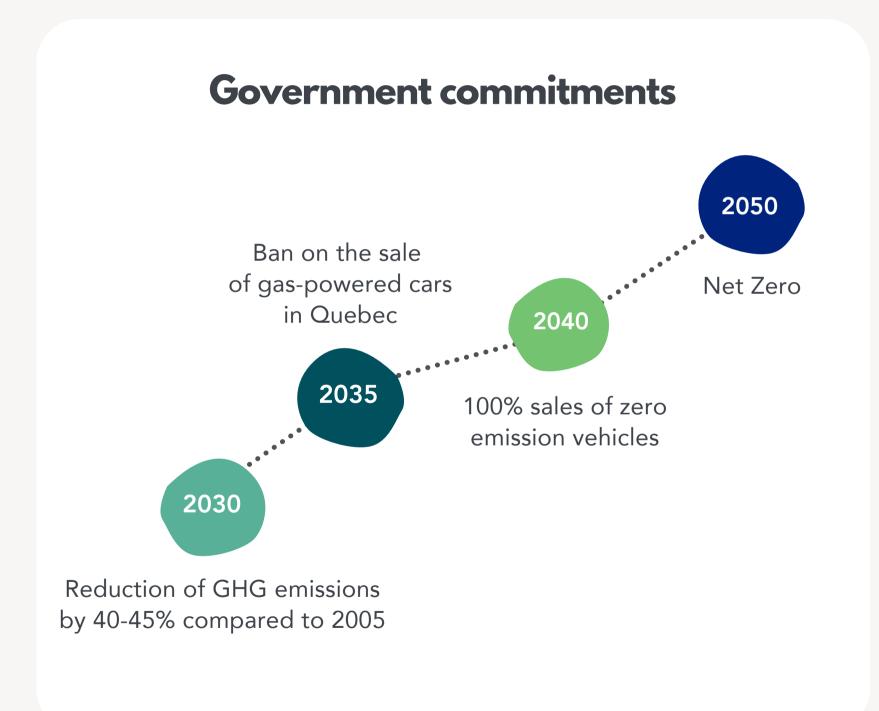
Liters/km

- 2 A fleet mostly made up of light-duty trucks
 - 2020: 79% of new vehicles sold = light-duty trucks
 - Market share growth maintained for a decade
- 3 What explains this craze?
 - Low gas prices
 - Attractive financing terms
 - Low public awareness relating to the costs associated with fuel-inefficient vehicles
 - Appeal of larger vehicle's characteristics
 - Effects of regulations on GHG emissions from light-duty vehicles

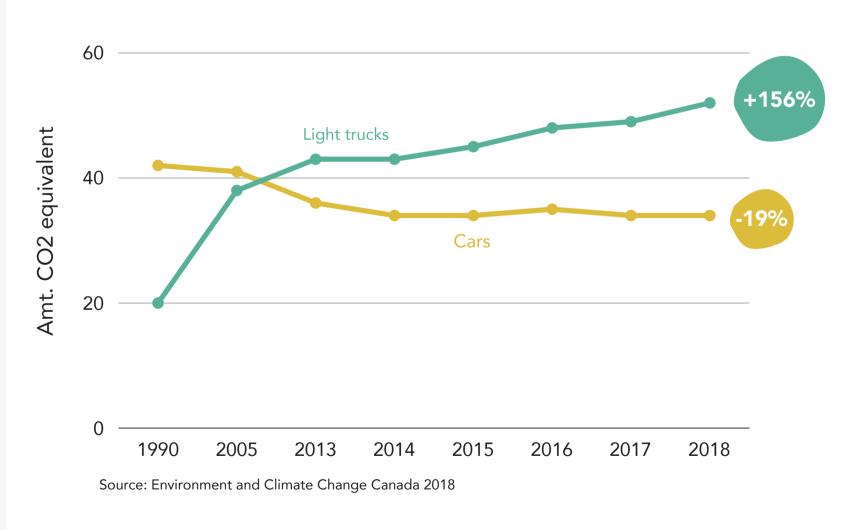
Focus on regulations

- Adopted in 2010
- Objectives:
 - Improve emissions monitoring
 - Encourage the use of cleaner and more efficient technologies
- Aligned to the US CAFE standards in 2012

Context



Changes in amount of GHG emission by category 1990-2018



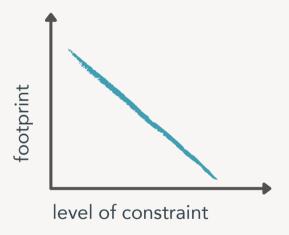
Current regulations

Obvious weaknesses

Light-duty truck standards allow about one-third more emissions:

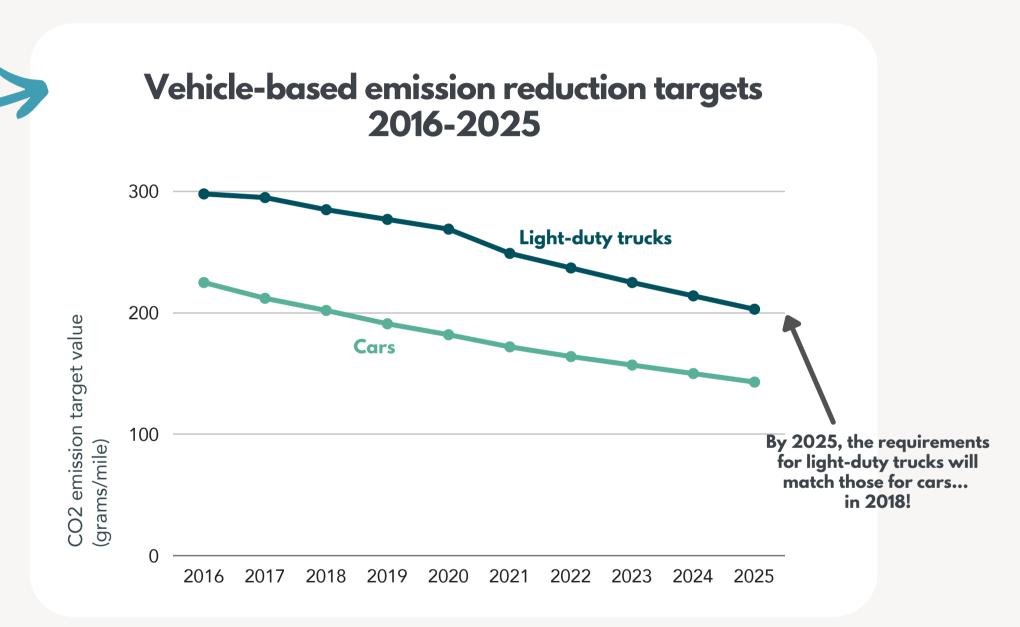
- Comparatively higher weight and fuel consumption
- Micro-adjustments on the most polluting vehicles are more profitable for automakers

Regulations are based on the average global footprint of vehicles.



BUT

- Should be based on the vehicle's weight
- Lower the potential for innovation and energy potential
- Lead to delay in reducing GHG emissions from road transport



Loopholes and solutions

Need to fix the regulation loopholes for the post-2025



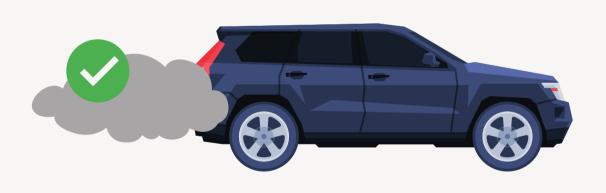
Innovation slowed down by weak emission standards



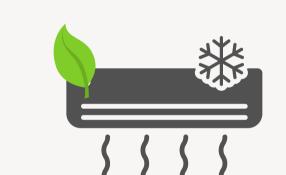
Compliance credits too easy to earn



Ease of compliance with "off-cycle" credits not acting on the core issue























Increasing the stringency of emission standards



Limiting the flexibility of compliance credits



Reforming the off-cycle credit system

Complementary Recommendations

Reversing the trend

Sustained and increasing carbon pricing

Implementation of a feebate system

Implementation of a scrappage program

Reforming the regulatory framework of car advertising

Awareness





Aligning advertising practices with climate and electrification targets

 Content and display of information

- Investments
- Share of large vehicles vs sustainable mobility

Deployment of awareness campaigns to inform the public about the collective and individual costs of owning a fuel-efficient vehicle

Adoption of best practices for transparency and informed decision-making at dealerships

Reforming iZEV and Green Levy programs

Tax credits or bonus through iZEV program

Include an active transportation aspect

QUESTIONS

