Canada This Month

Federal Politics

INNOVATIVE
RESEARCH GROUP

Public Opinion Research
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Field Dates: May 01, 2020 to May 05, 2020

Canadian Politics in the time of COVID-19

The COVID-19 outbreak has set off a series of changes in the Canadian political landscape. Federally and provincially, governments are receiving high marks for their handling of the crisis, and this translates to changes for electoral politics going forward.

Today, INNOVATIVE is releasing results from our May 2020 Canada This Month survey. This online survey was in field from May 1st to May 5th with a weighted sample size of 1,500 and oversamples in every province. Detailed methodology is provided in the appendix.
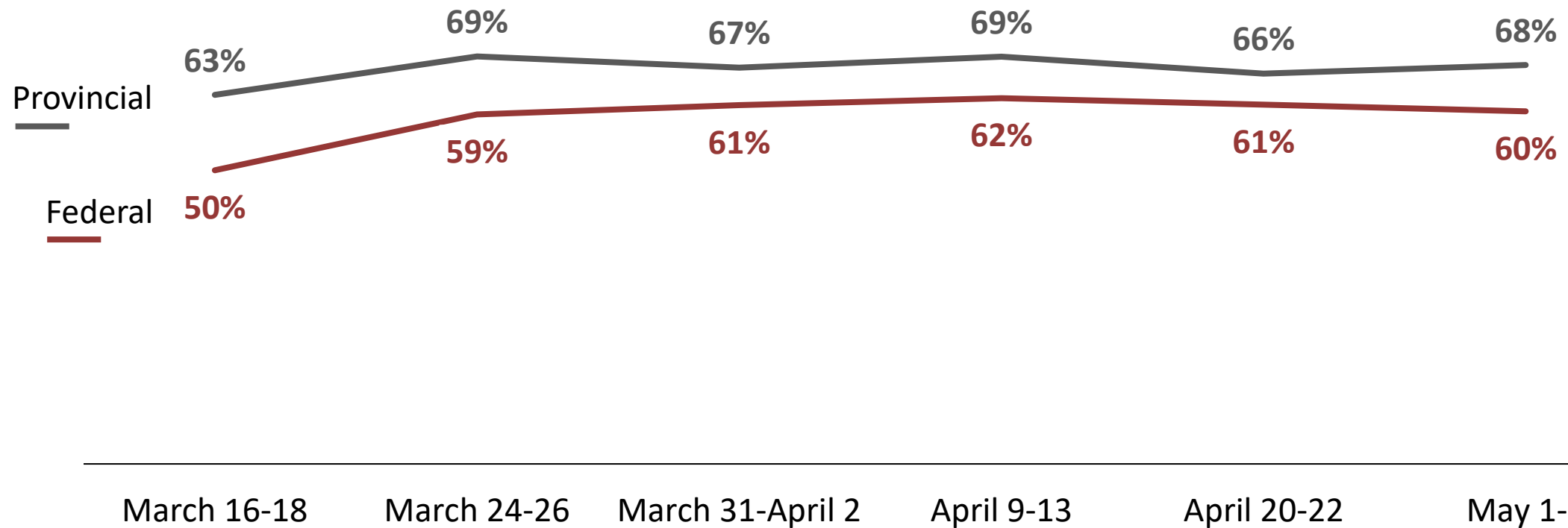
This report covers key results on how Canadians are rating their government's handling of COVID-19 and the impacts that is having for government satisfaction and vote choice.

Most governments are receiving high marks for their handling of COVID-19

COVID-19 Handling Tracking: Approval of federal government's handling of the outbreak steady month-to-month

% who approve of government's handling of COVID-19 outbreak: Federal Vs. Provincial
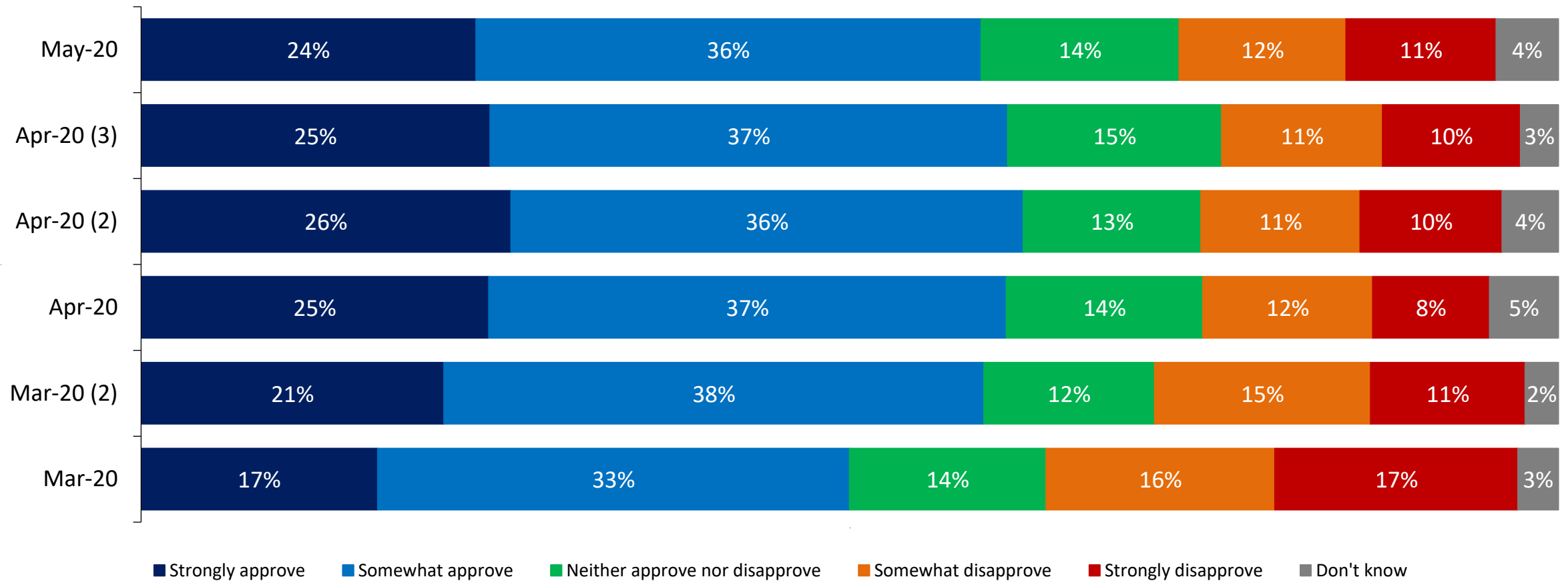
[asked of all respondents; n=1500]

Provincial

63% 69% 67% 69% 66% 68%

Federal

50% 59% 61% 62% 61% 60%

March 16-18   March 24-26   March 31-April 2   April 9-13   April 20-22   May 1-5

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Current data: May 2020

COVID-19 National Tracking: Approval of federal government's handling of the outbreak steady month-to-month
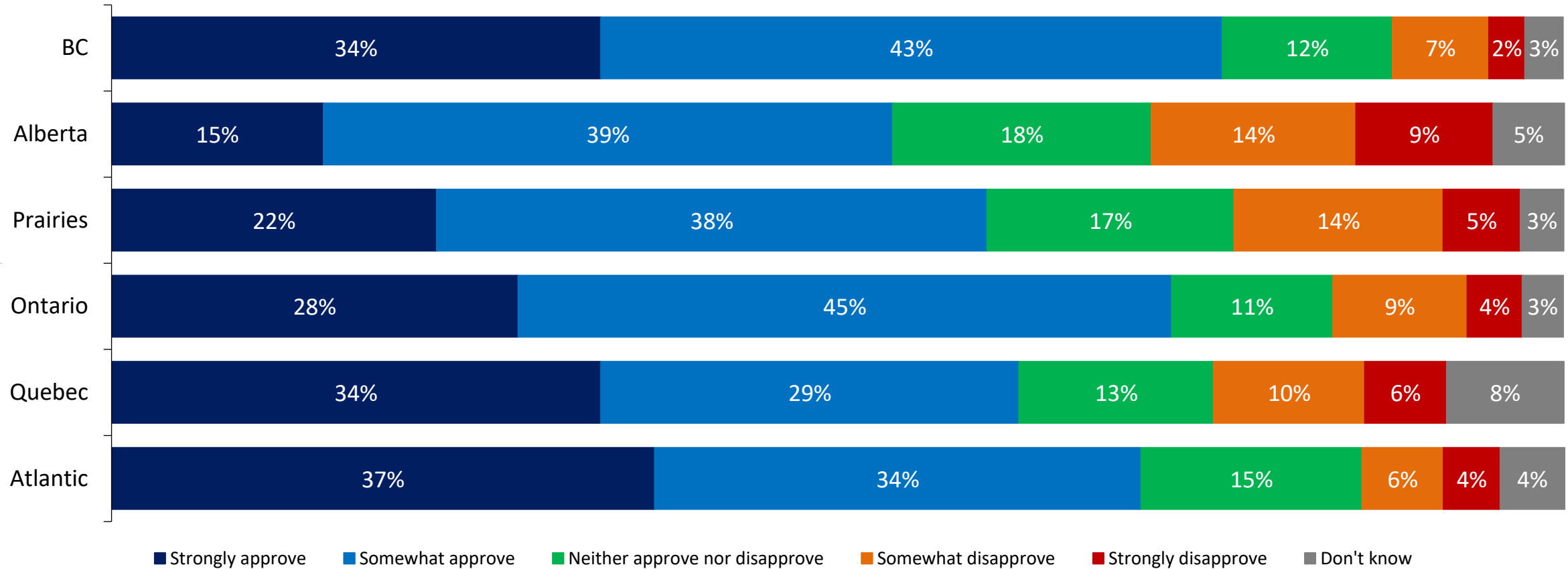
Q Now thinking about the federal government, do you approve or disapprove of the way the federal government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19?
[asked of all respondents; n=1500]

Month	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither approve nor disapprove	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Don't know
May-20	24%	36%	14%	12%	11%	4%
Apr-20 (3)	25%	37%	15%	11%	10%	3%
Apr-20 (2)	26%	36%	13%	11%	10%	4%
Apr-20	25%	37%	14%	12%	8%	5%
Mar-20 (2)	21%	38%	12%	15%	11%	2%
Mar-20	17%	33%	14%	16%	17%	3%

■ Strongly approve ■ Somewhat approve ■ Neither approve nor disapprove ■ Somewhat disapprove ■ Strongly disapprove ■ Don't know

Current data: May 2020

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COVID-19 Provincial Handling: Regionally, provincial governments are also receiving high marks, though Alberta's numbers are weakest

Q Now thinking about the federal government, do you approve or disapprove of the way the federal government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19?
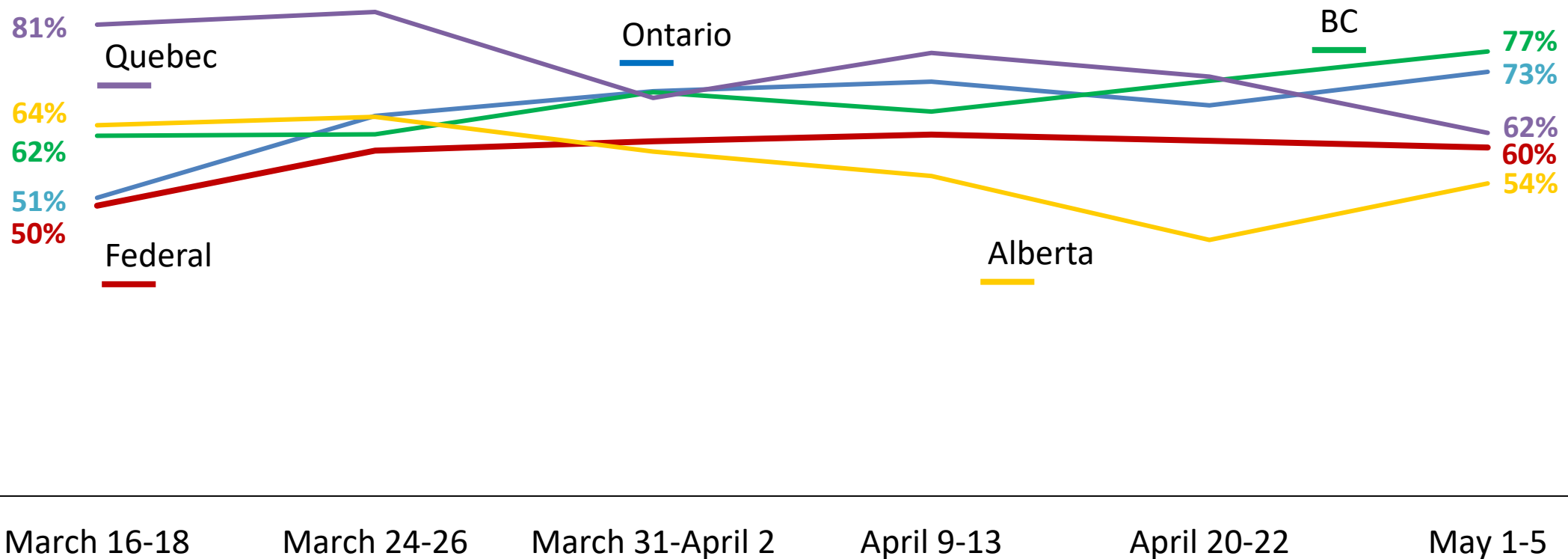[asked of all respondents; n=1500]

Region	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither approve nor disapprove	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Don't know
BC	34%	43%	12%	7%	2%	3%
Alberta	15%	39%	18%	14%	9%	5%
Prairies	22%	38%	17%	14%	5%	3%
Ontario	28%	45%	11%	9%	4%	3%
Quebec	34%	29%	13%	10%	6%	8%
Atlantic	37%	34%	15%	6%	4%	4%

■ Strongly approve ■ Somewhat approve ■ Neither approve nor disapprove ■ Somewhat disapprove ■ Strongly disapprove ■ Don't know

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Current data: May 2020

COVID-19 Handling Tracking: Approval is up in BC, Ontario, and Alberta, down in Quebec and flat federally

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the way the [PROV] Government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19?
[asked of all respondents; n=300]

81%   Quebec

64%
62%
62%

51%
50%   Federal

Ontario   BC   77%
                         73%

                         62%
                         60%

Alberta   54%

March 16-18   March 24-26   March 31-April 2   April 9-13   April 20-22   May 1-5

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Current data: May 2020

Strong performances handling COVID-19 are pulling up overall government approval

The federal government and four largest provinces all have seen jumps in satisfaction since January, though Quebec is down from March

% satisfied with government performance: Federal, Ontario, Quebec, BC, and Alberta

[asked of all respondents; n=1500]

Current data: May 2020

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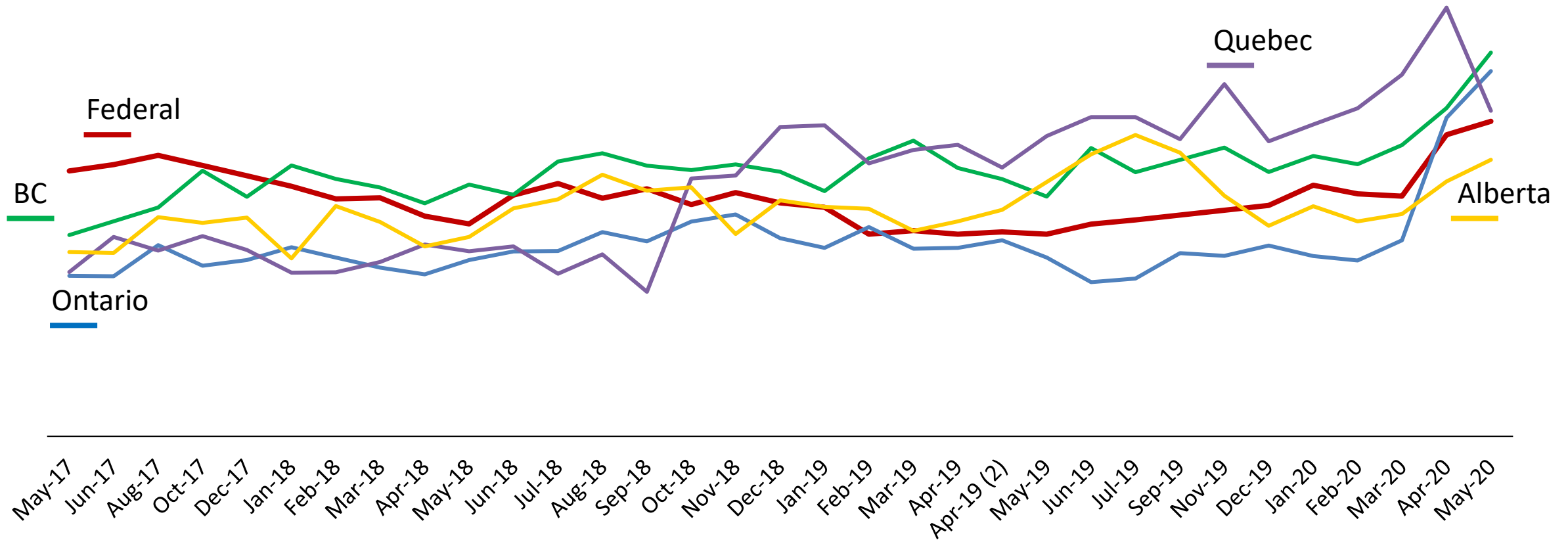
Federal Satisfaction: 6-in-10 (60%) are satisfied with the federal government performance, only 1-in-3 (34%) say they are dissatisfied

Q Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with the performance of the FEDERAL government in Canada? Would you say you are...?
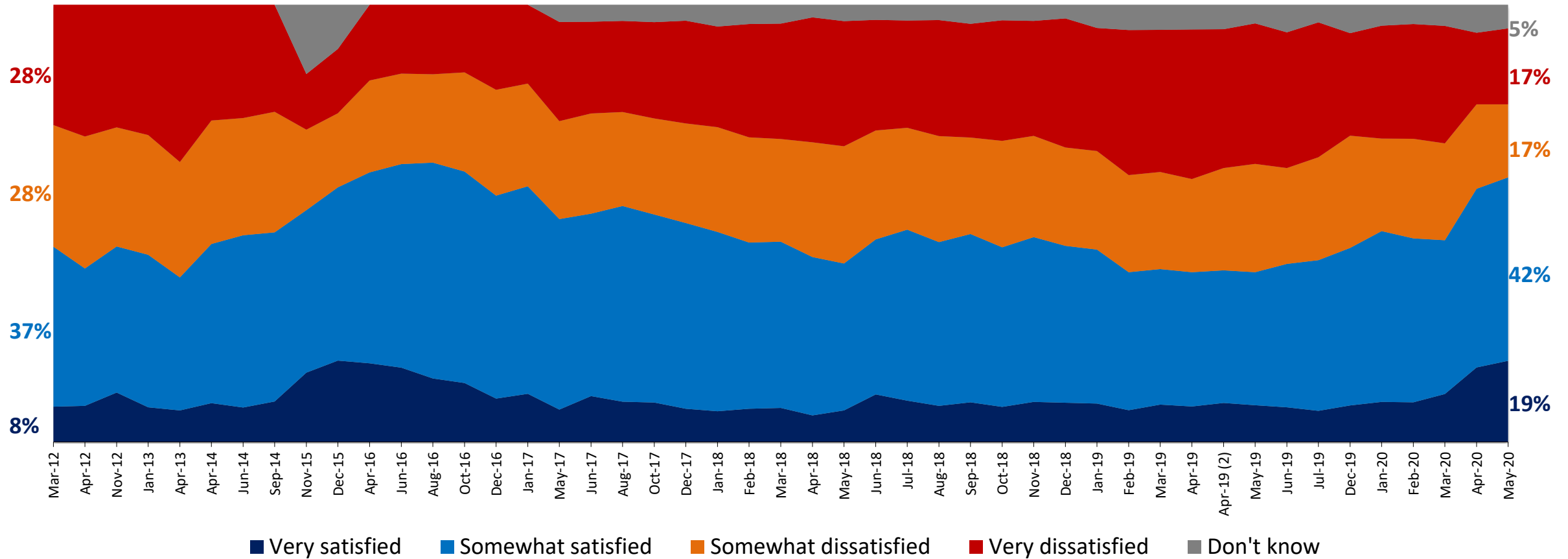[asked of all respondents; n=1500]

Current data: May 2020
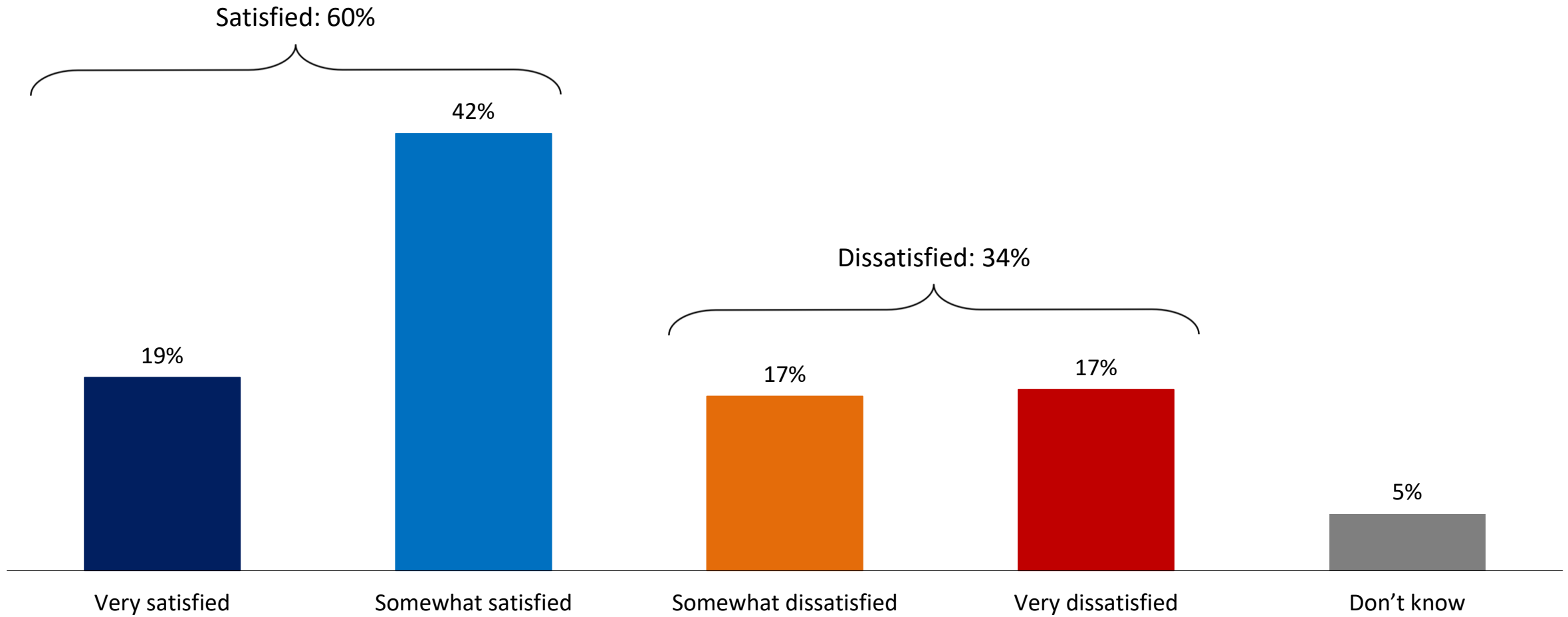
Federal Satisfaction Tracking: Satisfaction has increased 14-points since March (from 46% to 60%), now at highest point since Oct. 2016

Q Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with the performance of the FEDERAL government in Canada? Would you say you are...?
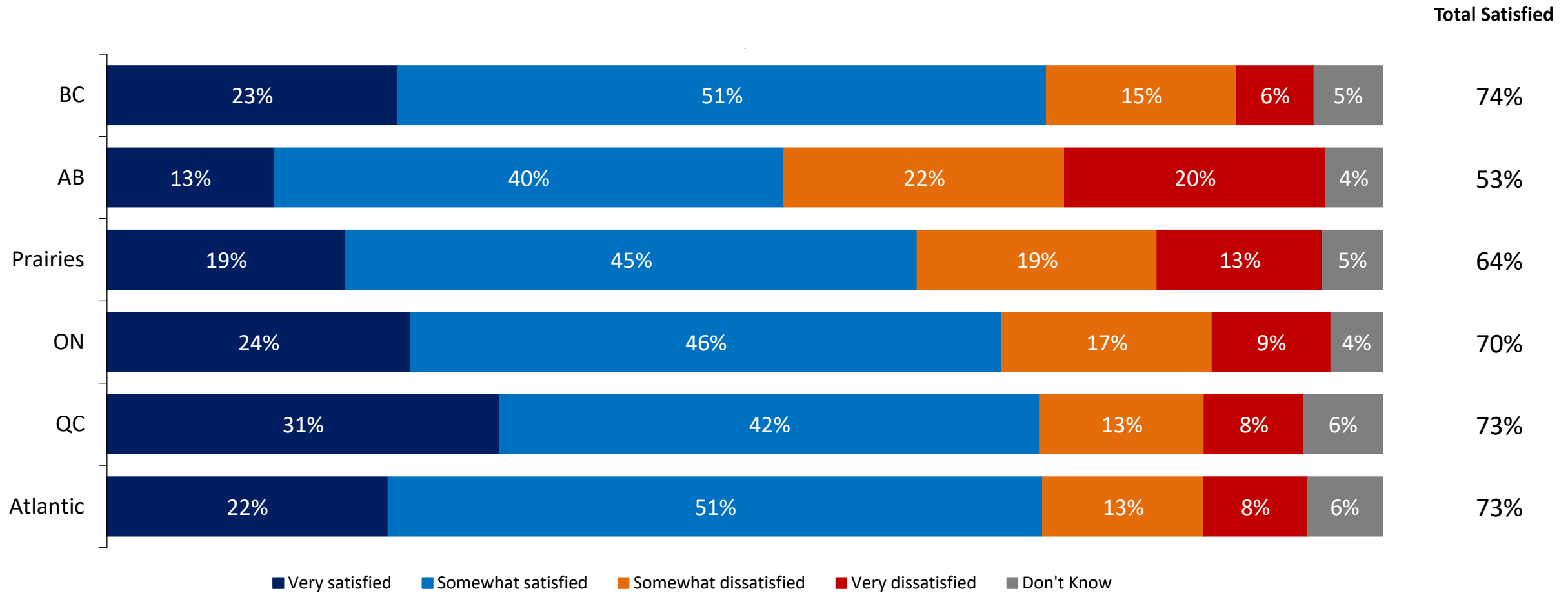[asked of all respondents; n=1500]

Legend: Very satisfied · Somewhat satisfied · Somewhat dissatisfied · Very dissatisfied · Don't know

Current data: May 2020

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Provincial Approval by Region: Regionally, approval is highest for Quebec's CAQ government and lowest for Alberta's UCP

Q Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with the performance of the PROVINCIAL government in [PROV]? Would you say you are...?
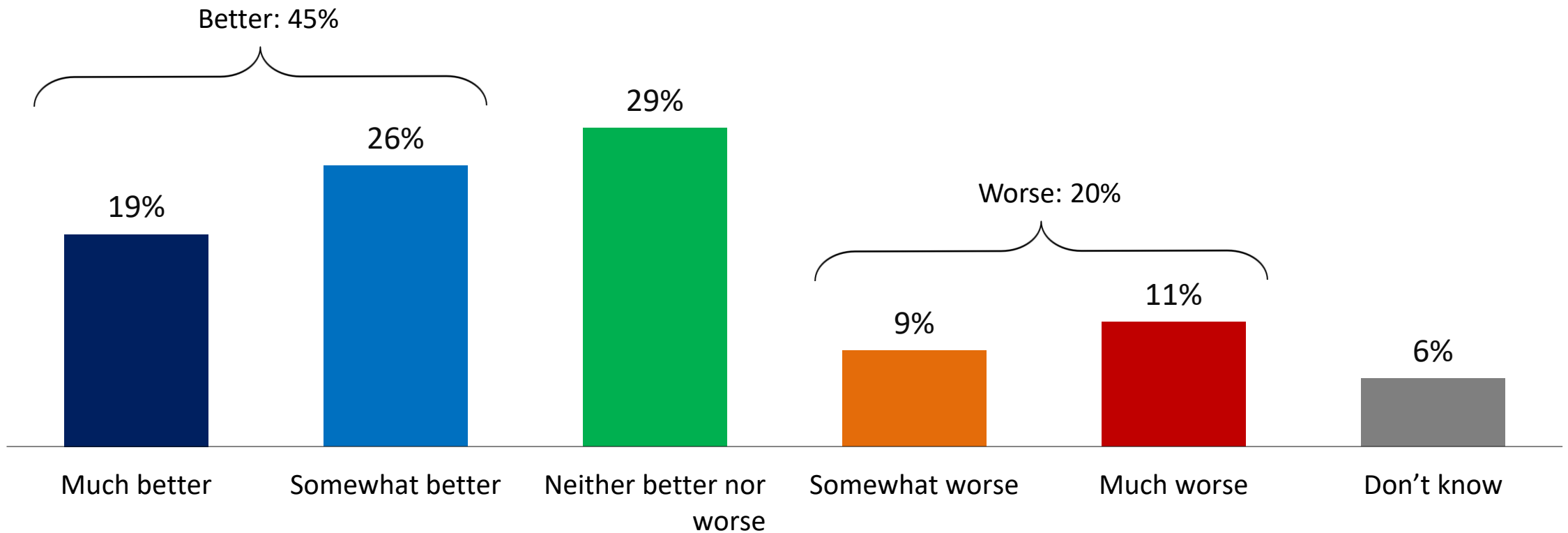[asked of all respondents; n=1500]

Total Satisfied

Region	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't Know	Total Satisfied
BC	23%	51%	15%	6%	5%	74%
AB	13%	40%	22%	20%	4%	53%
Prairies	19%	45%	19%	13%	5%	64%
ON	24%	46%	17%	9%	4%	70%
QC	31%	42%	13%	8%	6%	73%
Atlantic	22%	51%	13%	8%	6%	73%

■ Very satisfied　■ Somewhat satisfied　■ Somewhat dissatisfied　■ Very dissatisfied　■ Don't Know

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Current data: May 2020

Leadership numbers are also moving for many leaders

Impact on Justin Trudeau: Nearly half (45%) say that Trudeau's response has left them with a better impression of him
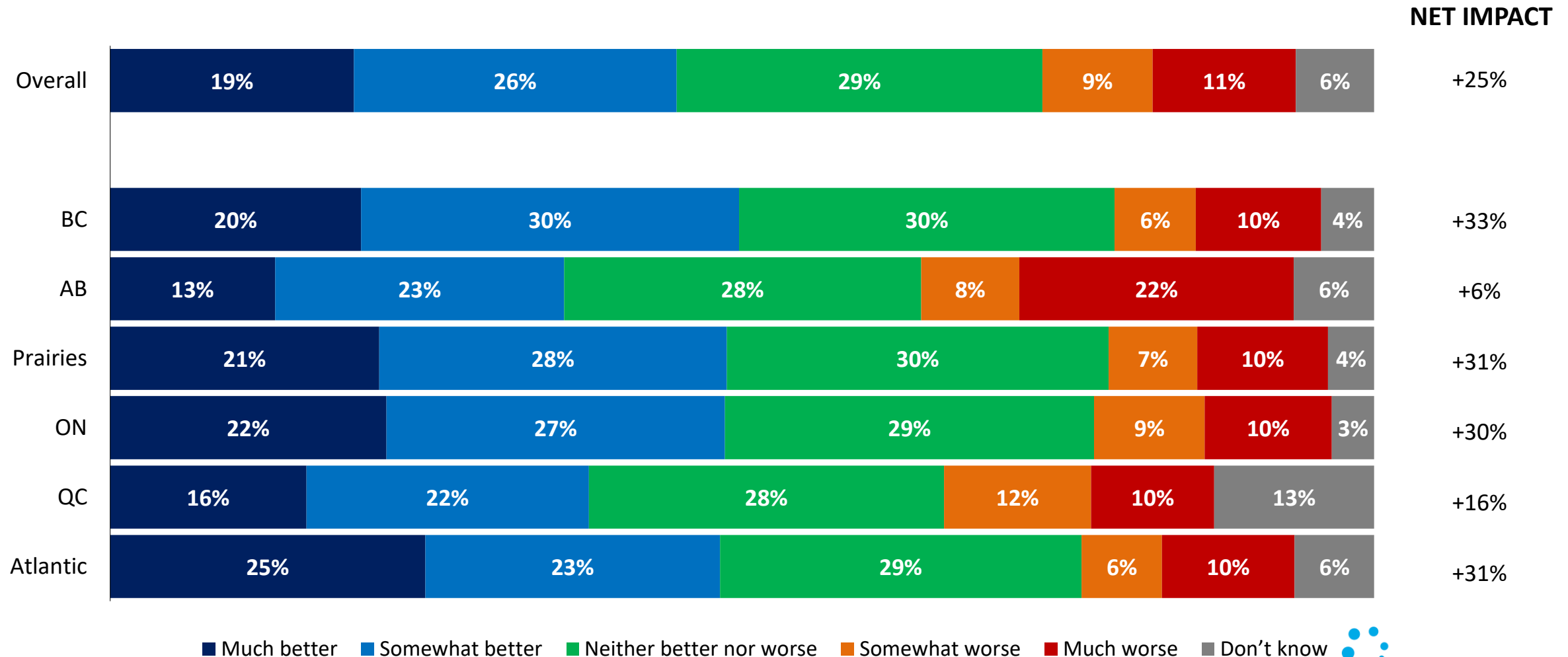
Q Has the way Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has responded to the COVID-19 outbreak left you with a better or worse impression of him?
[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]

Better: 45%

19% — Much better
26% — Somewhat better
29% — Neither better nor worse

Worse: 20%

9% — Somewhat worse
11% — Much worse
6% — Don't know

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Impact on Trudeau by Region: The impact on impressions of Trudeau is most positive in BC, the Prairies, the Atlantic and Ontario

Q Has the way Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has responded to the COVID-19 outbreak left you with a better or worse impression of him?
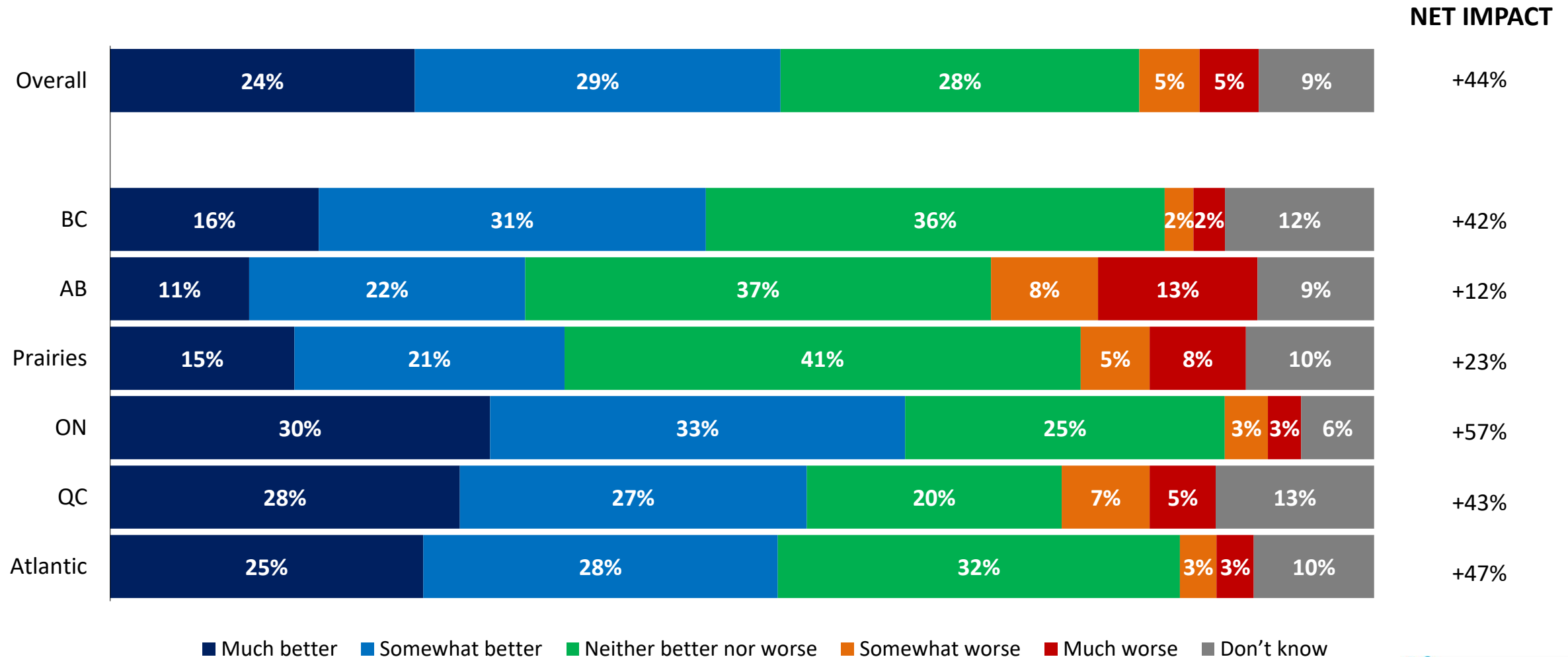[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

NET IMPACT

Region	Much better	Somewhat better	Neither better nor worse	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Don't know	Net Impact
Overall	19%	26%	29%	9%	11%	6%	+25%
BC	20%	30%	30%	6%	10%	4%	+33%
AB	13%	23%	28%	8%	22%	6%	+6%
Prairies	21%	28%	30%	7%	10%	4%	+31%
ON	22%	27%	29%	9%	10%	3%	+30%
QC	16%	22%	28%	12%	10%	13%	+16%
Atlantic	25%	23%	29%	6%	10%	6%	+31%

■ Much better ■ Somewhat better ■ Neither better nor worse ■ Somewhat worse ■ Much worse ■ Don't know

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Impact on Premiers: More than 6-in-10 (63%) say Doug Ford's handling of the outbreak has left them with a better impression of him

Q Has the way [PREMIER] has responded to the COVID-19 outbreak left you with a better or worse impression of him?
[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

NET IMPACT

Region	Much better	Somewhat better	Neither better nor worse	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Don't know	Net Impact
Overall	24%	29%	28%	5%	5%	9%	+44%
BC	16%	31%	36%	2%	2%	12%	+42%
AB	11%	22%	37%	8%	13%	9%	+12%
Prairies	15%	21%	41%	5%	8%	10%	+23%
ON	30%	33%	25%	3%	3%	6%	+57%
QC	28%	27%	20%	7%	5%	13%	+43%
Atlantic	25%	28%	32%	3%	3%	10%	+47%

■ Much better ■ Somewhat better ■ Neither better nor worse ■ Somewhat worse ■ Much worse ■ Don't know

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Impression of PM and Premiers by Region: Impressions of Doug Ford have improved the most of all leaders (net +57%)

Q Has the way Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has responded to the COVID-19 outbreak left you with a better or worse impression of him? AND
Has the way [PREMIER] has responded to the COVID-19 outbreak left you with a better or worse impression of him?
[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

NET IMPACT

Region	Much better	Somewhat better	Neither better nor worse	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Don't know	Net Impact
National - Prime Minister	19%	26%	29%	9%	11%	6%	+25%
BC - Premier	16%	31%	36%	2%	2%	12%	+42%
AB - Premier	11%	22%	37%	8%	13%	9%	+12%
Prairies - Premier	15%	21%	41%	5%	8%	10%	+23%
ON - Premier	30%	33%	25%	3%	3%	6%	+57%
QC - Premier	28%	27%	20%	7%	5%	13%	+43%
Atlantic - Premier	25%	28%	32%	3%	3%	10%	+47%

■ Much better   ■ Somewhat better   ■ Neither better nor worse
■ Somewhat worse   ■ Much worse   ■ Don't know

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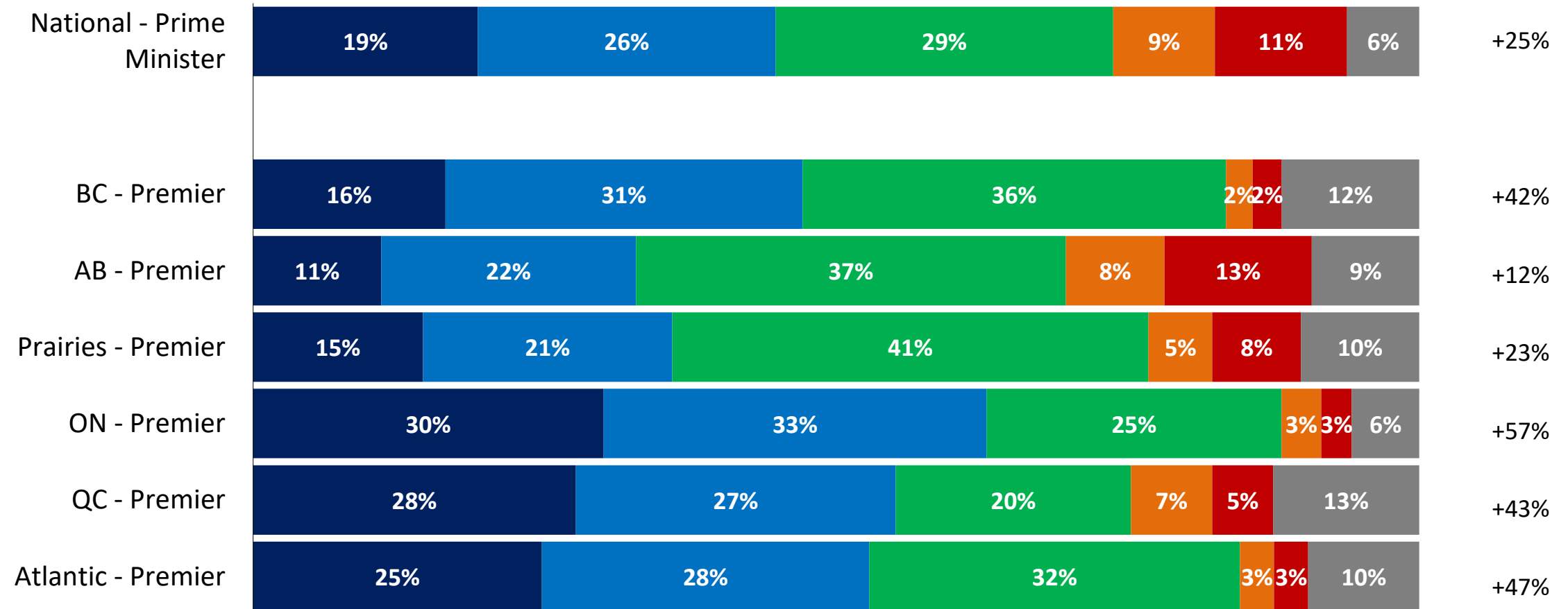
PM/Premier Favourables: Francois Legault stands out as having the highest favourable and lowest negatives

Q Below are the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please indicate whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, neither favourable or unfavourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just indicate.
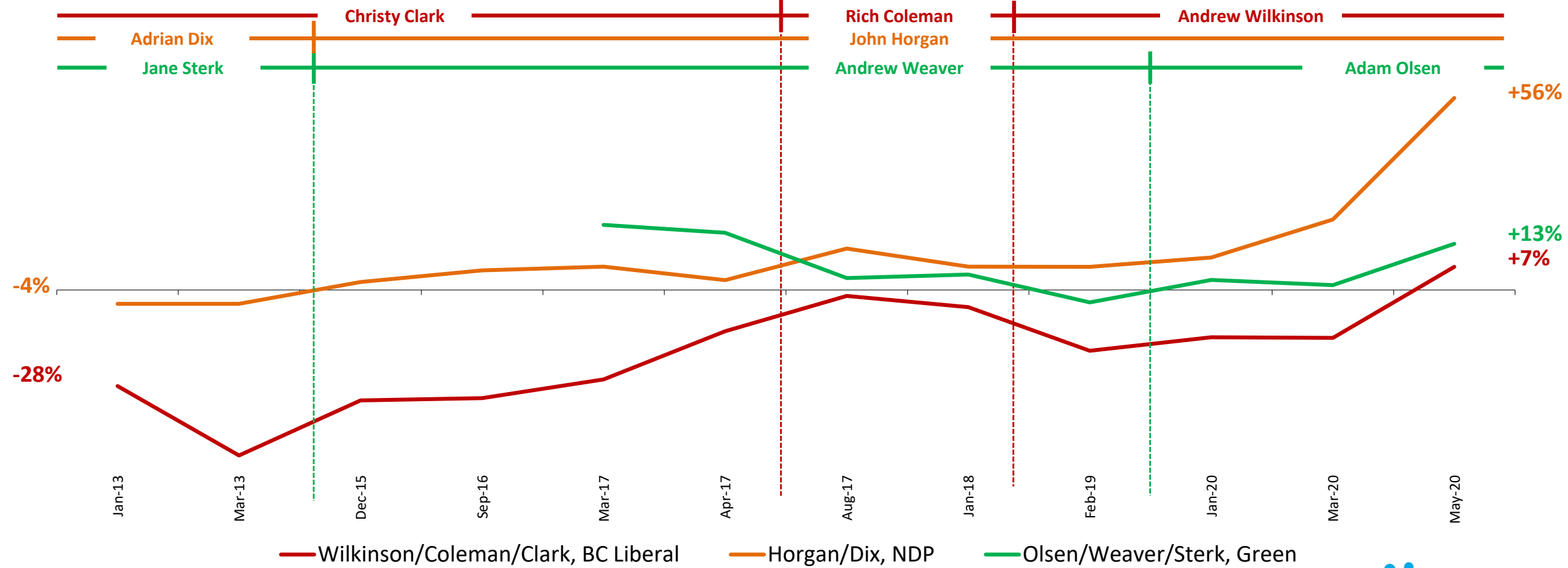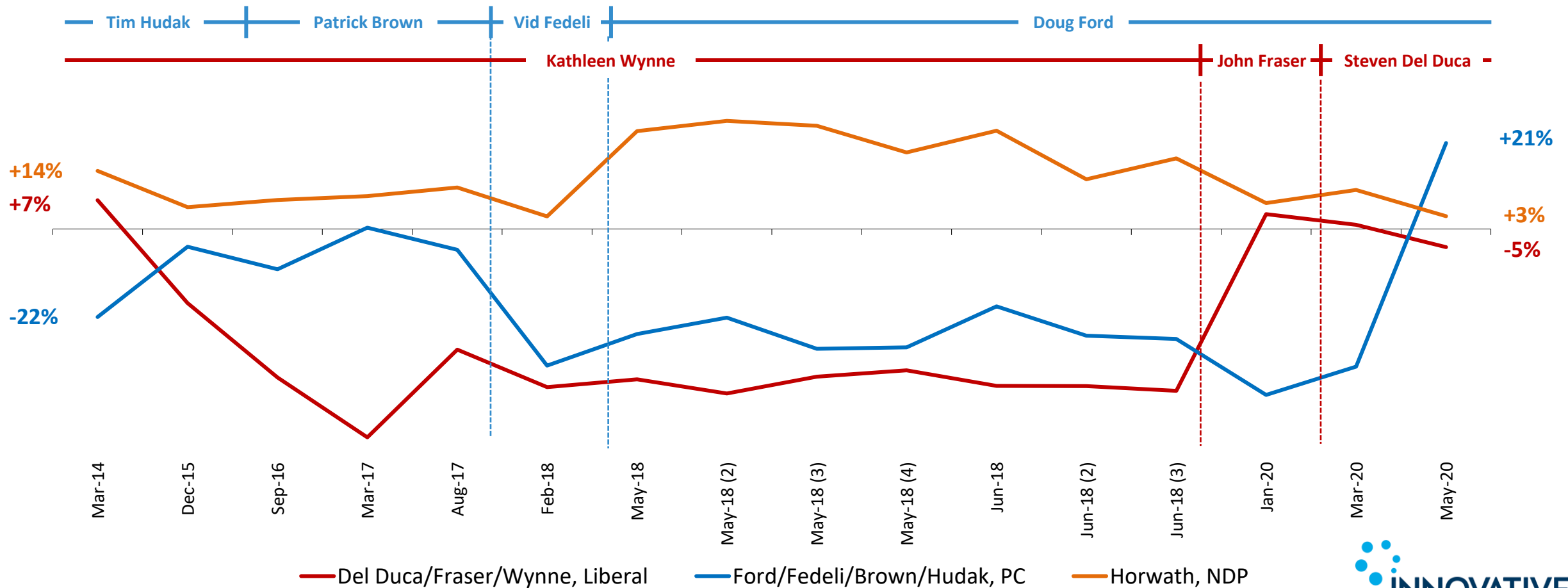
[asked of all respondents; n=1500]

Total Favourable

Name	Very favourable	Somewhat favourable	Neither favourable nor unfavourable	Somewhat unfavourable	Very unfavourable	Don't know + don't recognize	Total Favourable
Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister)	22%	26%	15%	12%	22%	3%	48%
John Horgan (BC Premier)	22%	32%	21%	10%	7%	8%	54%
Jason Kenney (AB Premier)	17%	28%	13%	14%	25%	4%	44%
Scott Moe (SK Premier)	25%	25%	23%	9%	14%	4%	50%
Brian Pallister (MB Premier)	17%	26%	18%	17%	19%	4%	43%
Doug Ford (ON Premier)	21%	28%	20%	16%	12%	2%	49%
Francois Legault (QC Premier)	32%	26%	15%	8%	8%	12%	58%
Blaine Higgs (NB Premier)	23%	29%	18%	13%	5%	11%	52%
Stephen McNeil (NS Premier)	21%	32%	20%	12%	11%	4%	53%

■ Very favourable　　■ Somewhat favourable　　■ Neither favourable nor unfavourable
■ Somewhat unfavourable　　■ Very unfavourable　　■ Don't know + don't recognize

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Current data: May 2020
Results for Newfoundland & Labrador and PEI not shown due to insufficient sample size

Federal Party Leader NET Favourables Tracking: 21-point net gain for Trudeau, 20-point drop for Scheer on favourables since October

Q Now we are going to provide you with several names of public figures. Please indicate whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a favourable or unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just indicate that.
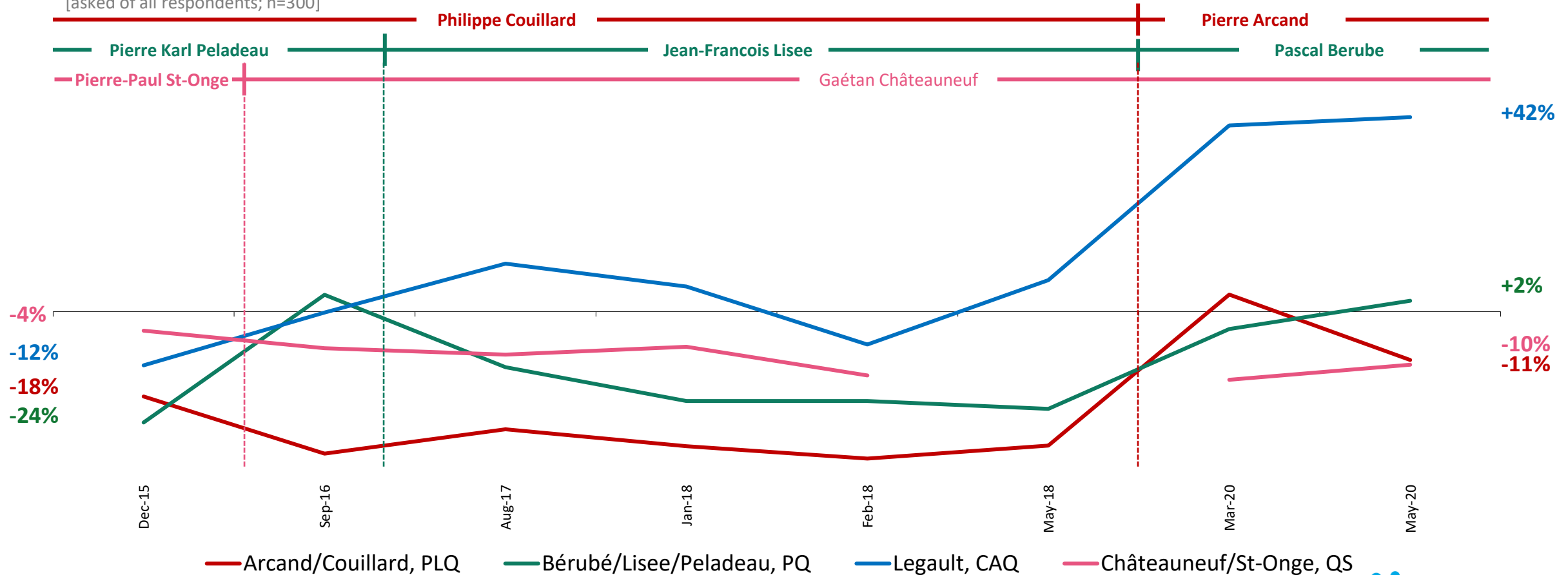
[asked of all respondents; n=1500]

Stephen Harper ———————————— Andrew Scheer
Thomas Mulcair ———————————— Jagmeet Singh
Gilles Duceppe ——— Martine Ouellet — Mario Beaulieu — Yves-Francois Blanchet

+12%
+11%

-20%

-23%

+15%
+14%
+10%

-35%

Apr-15 · May-15 · Jul-15 · Aug-15 · Sep-15 · Sep-15 (2) · Oct-15 · Oct-15 (2) · Oct-15 (3) · May-17 · Oct-17 · Mar-18 · Sep-18 · Mar-19 · Apr-19 · Sep-19 · Sep-19 (2) · Oct-19 · Oct-19 (2) · May-20

—— Trudeau, Liberal   —— Scheer/Harper, Conservative   —— Singh/Mulcair, NDP   —— Blanchet/Beaulieu/Ouellet/Duceppe, Bloc

Note: Green Leader, People's Party Leader not shown.
Current data: May 2020
Note: Results for Yves-Francois Blanchet for Quebec respondents only

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Alberta Party Leader NET Favourables Tracking: Kenney's net favourability is up 17 points since March 2020

Q Below are the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please indicate whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, neither favourable or unfavourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just indicate.

[asked of all respondents; n=300]

Legend: Notley, NDP — Kenney, UCP — Khan, Liberal

X-axis: Aug-17, Jan-18, Dec-18, Mar-19, Apr-19, Apr-19 (2), Jan-20, Mar-20, May-20

Data labels: Kenney +1% (start), +6% (end); Notley -22% (start), +1% (end); Khan -1% (start), -7% (end)

Current data: May 2020
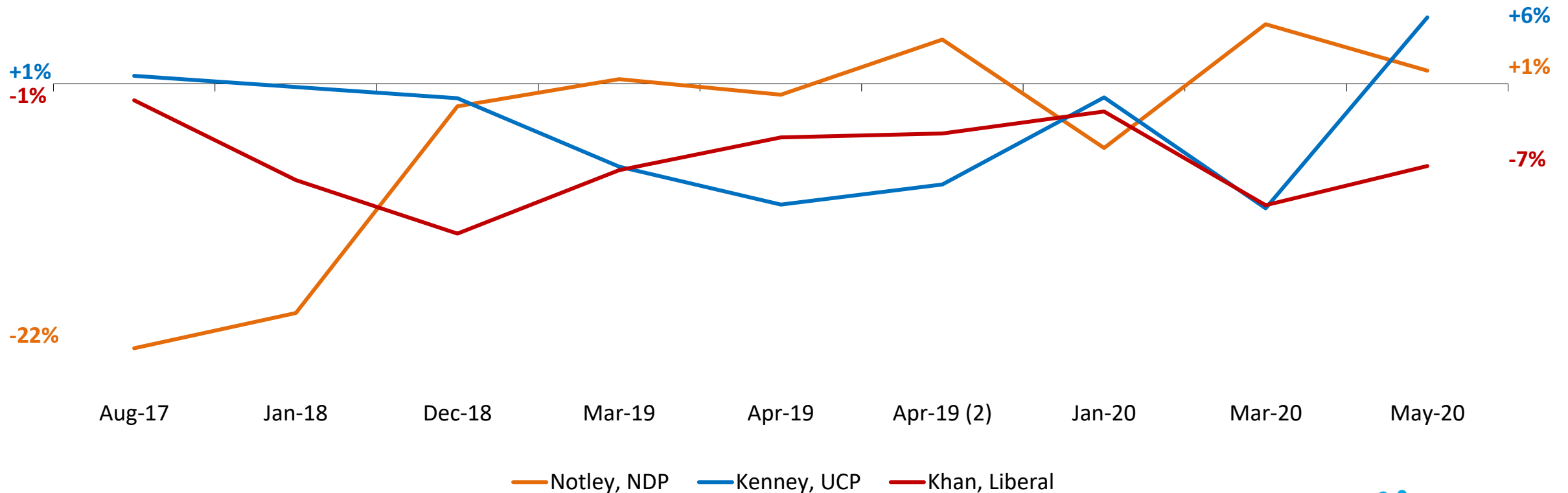
BC Party Leader NET Favourables Tracking: Horgan's net favourability is up to it's highest point since tracking began

Q Below are the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please indicate whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, neither favourable or unfavourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just indicate.

[asked of all respondents; n=300]

Christy Clark — **Rich Coleman** — **Andrew Wilkinson**
Adrian Dix — **John Horgan**
Jane Sterk — **Andrew Weaver** — **Adam Olsen**

+56%
+13%
+7%
-4%
-28%

Jan-13 · Mar-13 · Dec-15 · Sep-16 · Mar-17 · Apr-17 · Aug-17 · Jan-18 · Feb-19 · Jan-20 · Mar-20 · May-20

—— Wilkinson/Coleman/Clark, BC Liberal   —— Horgan/Dix, NDP   —— Olsen/Weaver/Sterk, Green

Current data: May 2020

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Ontario Party Leader NET Favourables Tracking: Ford's net favourability has jumped 56 points since March

Q Below are the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please indicate whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, neither favourable or unfavourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just indicate.
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

Tim Hudak · Patrick Brown · Vid Fedeli · Doug Ford

Kathleen Wynne · John Fraser · Steven Del Duca

+14%
+7%
-22%

+21%
+3%
-5%

Mar-14 · Dec-15 · Sep-16 · Mar-17 · Aug-17 · Feb-18 · May-18 · May-18 (2) · May-18 (3) · May-18 (4) · Jun-18 · Jun-18 (2) · Jun-18 (3) · Jan-20 · Mar-20 · May-20

—— Del Duca/Fraser/Wynne, Liberal   —— Ford/Fedeli/Brown/Hudak, PC   —— Horwath, NDP

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Current data: May 2020

Quebec Party Leader NET Favourables Tracking: Legault's net favourability remains high after a jump in March 2020

Q Below are the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please indicate whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, neither favourable or unfavourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just indicate.

[asked of all respondents; n=300]

Arcand/Couillard, PLQ — **Bérubé/Lisée/Peladeau, PQ** — **Legault, CAQ** — **Châteauneuf/St-Onge, QS**

Current data: May 2020
Note: Quebec Solidaire leader not asked in May 2018

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Vote is on the move as well

Innovative reports on vote intention in two ways.

When we ask people who they would vote for if an election were held today, and who they lean towards if they are unsure, we call those results **Combined vote.** This accounts for the views of everyone in the population including decided voters, undecided voters, and non-voters.

When we look at the results among *only* decided voters, we call that **Decided vote.** These results most tell us what the election results would be like if the survey results matched the election exactly.

Federal Decided Vote Tracking: Liberals (41%) hold wide lead over CPCs (28%) among decided voters

Q If a federal election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? **[DECIDED]**
[only decided voters; n=1287]

Current data: May 2020
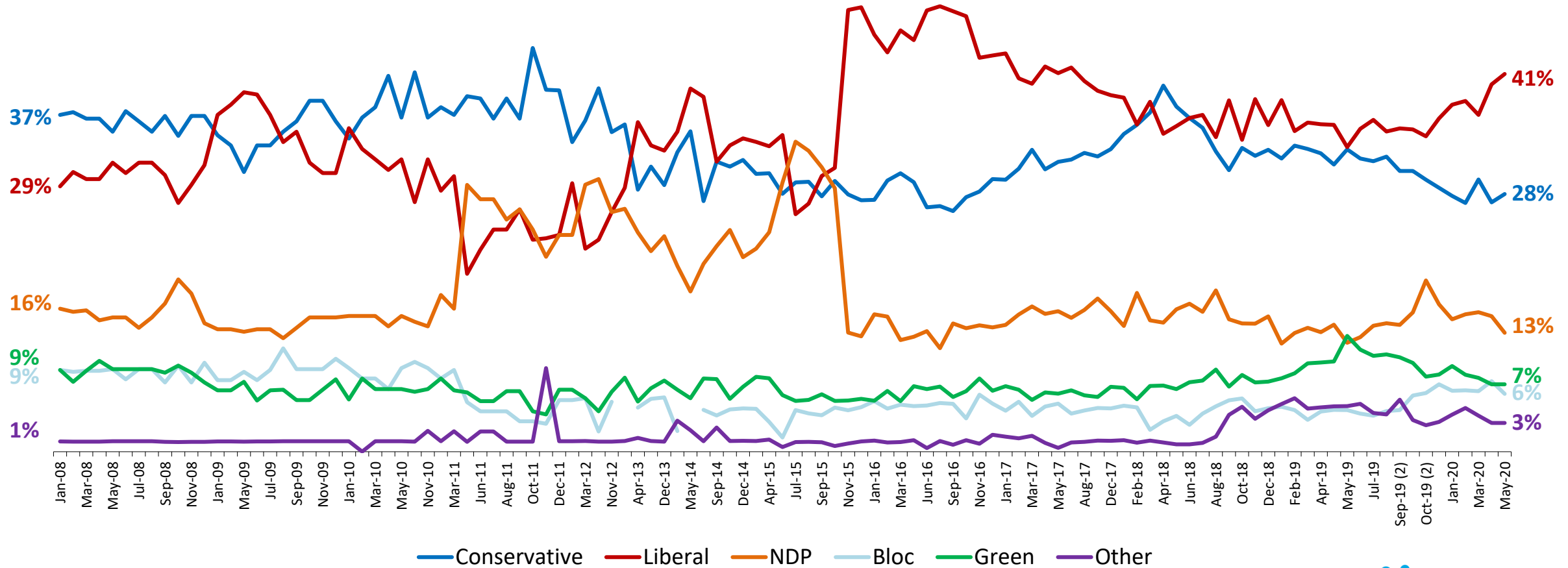
Decided Vote by Party ID: Strong majorities of Liberal (91%), CPC (81%), and NDP (78%) identifiers would vote for their party

Federal Party Identification

Federal Decided Vote	Conservative (N=330)	Liberal (N=445)	NDP (N=163)	Other (N=185)	Unaligned (N=165)
Conservative	87%	3%	3%	9%	24%
Liberal	7%	91%	15%	8%	40%
NDP	1%	1%	78%	3%	14%
Bloc	0%	1%	0%	38%	4%
Green	1%	3%	3%	30%	11%
Other	3%	1%	2%	14%	7%

Note: Current data: May 2020

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BC Decided Vote Tracking: The NDP (42%) remain ahead of the BC Liberals (36%)

Q If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? **[DECIDED]**
[only decided voters; n=261]

Legend: BC Liberal — NDP — BC Conservative — Green — Other

Current data: May 2020
NOTE: 'Green Party' not given as an option in April 2014

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Alberta Decided Vote Tracking: UCP and NDP decided vote are steady since last month's tracking

Q If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? **[DECIDED]**
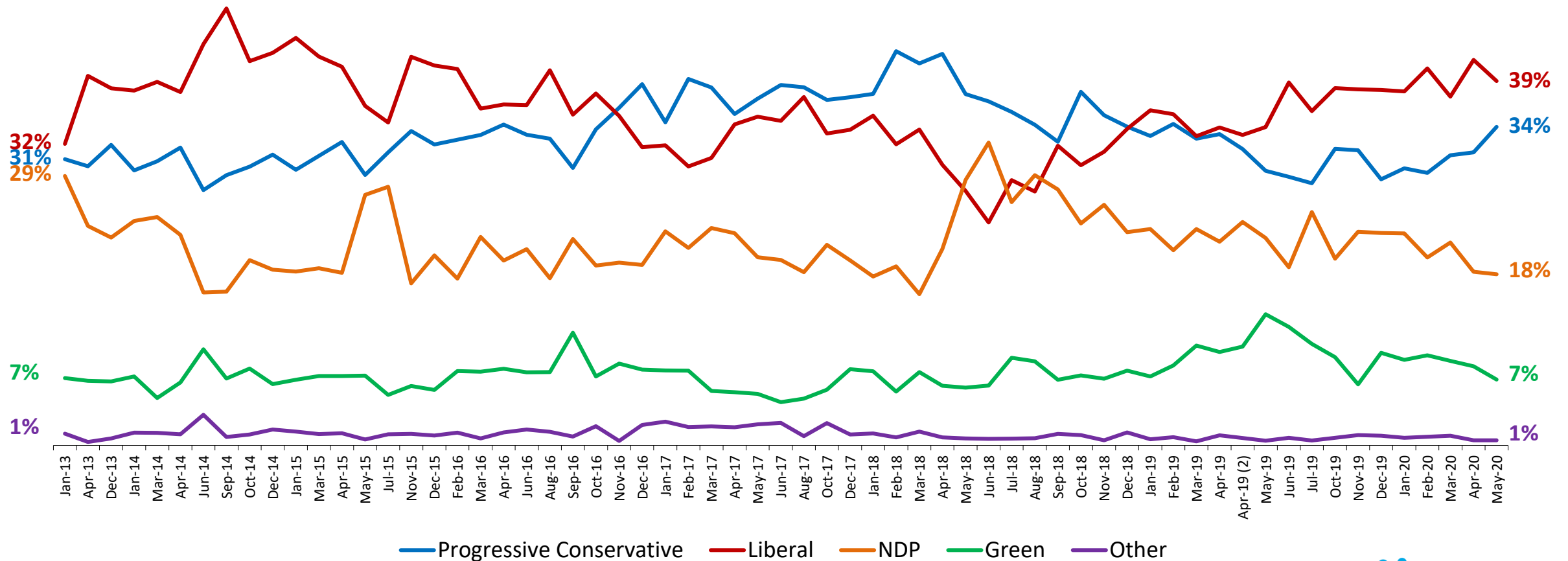[only decided voters; n=264]

In July 2017, the Wildrose Alliance and Progressive Conservative parties merged to form the United Conservative Party

Legend:
— Liberal
— United Conservative Party
— NDP
— Green
— Alberta Party
— Progressive Conservative
— Wildrose Alliance
— Other

Current data: May 2020

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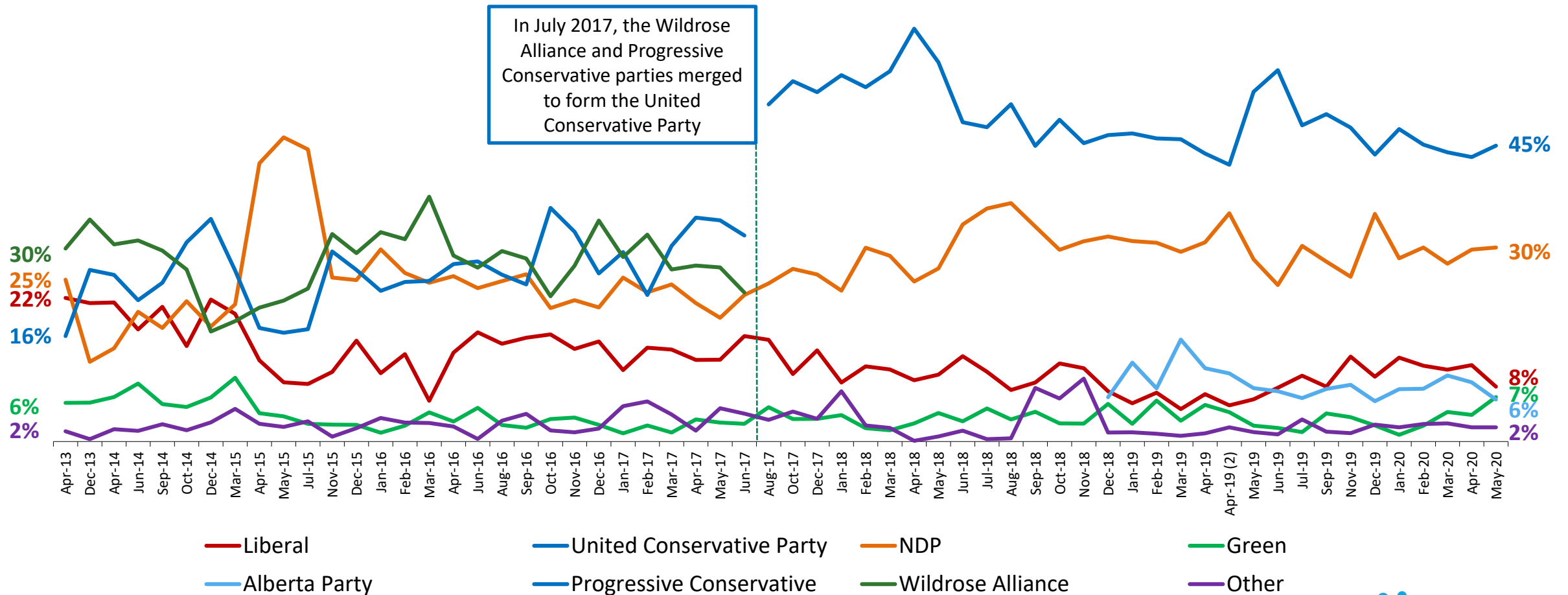
Ontario Decided Vote Tracking: Small gain (34%) for PCs on decided vote, now within five points of Liberals (39%)

Q If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? **[DECIDED]**
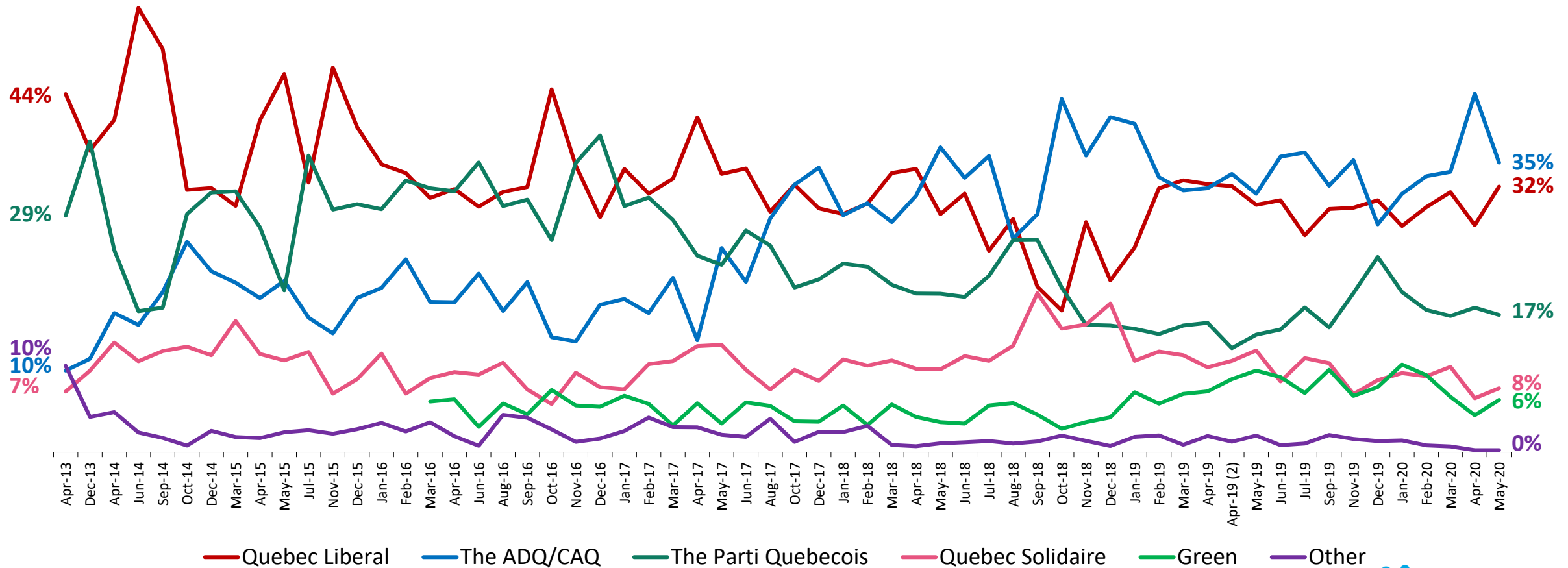[only decided voters; n=521]

Progressive Conservative — Liberal — NDP — Green — Other

Current data: May 2020

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Quebec Decided Vote Tracking: The CAQ (35%) holds a directional lead over the Quebec Liberal party (32%)

Q If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? **[DECIDED]**
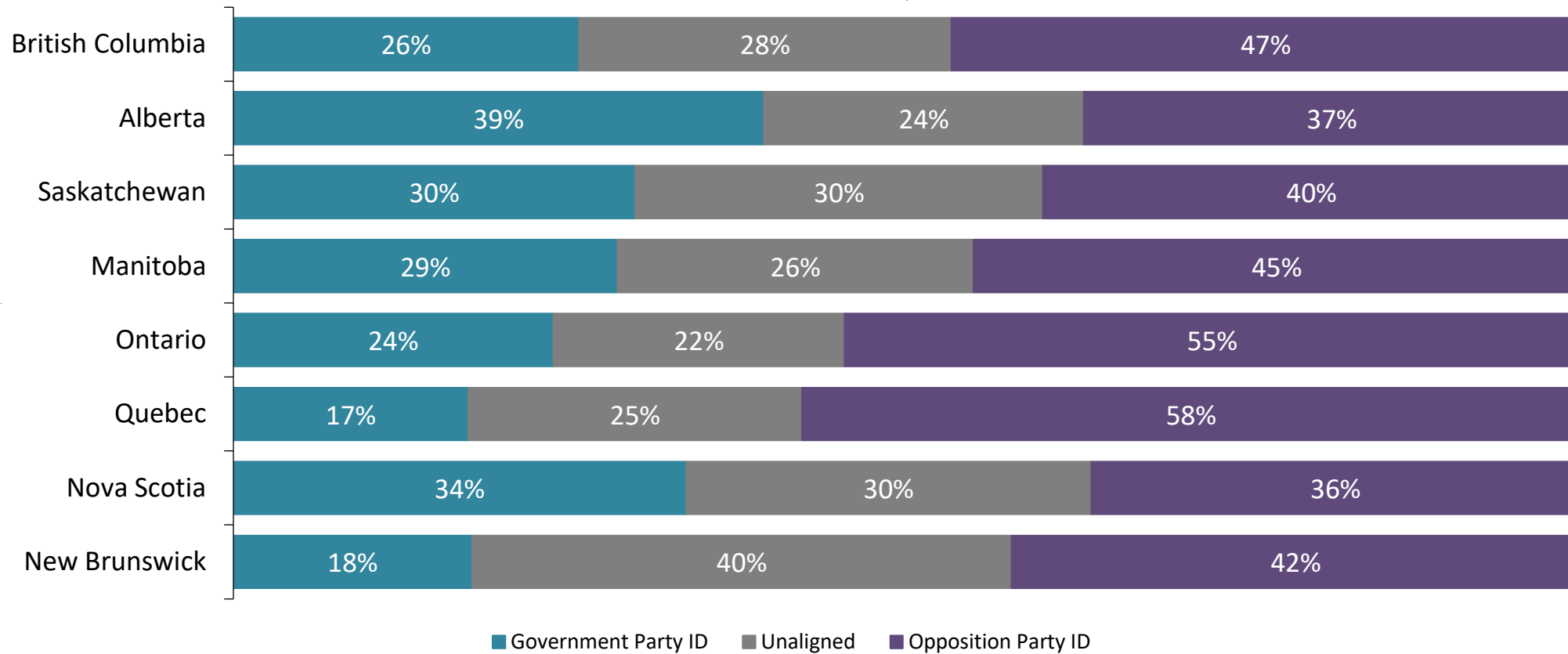[only decided voters; n=257]

Legend: Quebec Liberal — The ADQ/CAQ — The Parti Quebecois — Quebec Solidaire — Green — Other

Current data: May 2020

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Party ID by Province: Alberta has the largest pool of voters who identify with the government party (UCP), Quebec and NB have the fewest

Percentage of each party ID type by province. Voters are broken down by whether they identify with the government party, no party, or an opposition party

[asked of all respondents; n=1500]

Overall breakdown

Province	Government Party ID	Unaligned	Opposition Party ID
British Columbia	26%	28%	47%
Alberta	39%	24%	37%
Saskatchewan	30%	30%	40%
Manitoba	29%	26%	45%
Ontario	24%	22%	55%
Quebec	17%	25%	58%
Nova Scotia	34%	30%	36%
New Brunswick	18%	40%	42%

For example, in B.C. 26% identify with the B.C. NDP, 28% have no party ID, and 47% identify with another party.

■ Government Party ID   ■ Unaligned   ■ Opposition Party ID

Note: Current data: May 2020
Results for Newfoundland & Labrador and PEI not shown due to insufficient sample size.

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Support for Quebec's CAQ government is bolstered by opposition defectors more than any other provincial government

Voters are broken out in the table by whether they identify with the governing party, no party, or an opposition party. For each province we show the % who intend to vote for the governing party within each group.

Party ID Categories

	Government Party ID	Unaligned	Opposition Party ID
British Columbia	88%	30%	12%
Alberta	87%	16%	4%
Saskatchewan	92%	25%	10%
Manitoba	82%	12%	7%
Ontario	91%	16%	8%
Quebec	82%	17%	20%
Nova Scotia	81%	27%	11%
New Brunswick	81%	31%	8%

Percentage voting for government party

For example, 20% of Quebecers who identify with an opposition party still intend to vote CAQ. Nearly double any other province.
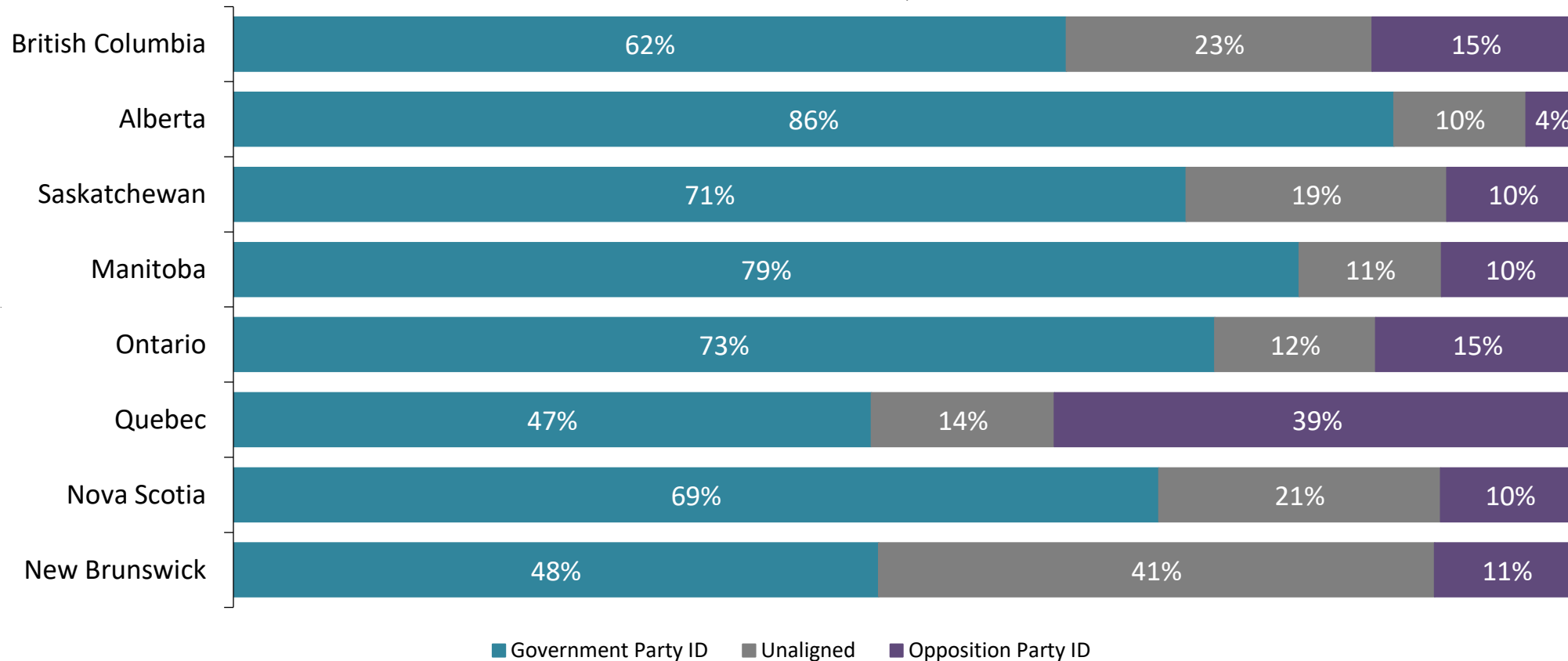
Note: Current data: May 2020
Results for Newfoundland & Labrador and PEI not shown due to insufficient sample size.

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Provincial Coalitions by Region: the UCP's support is made up almost entirely of UCP partisan's (86% of their coalition)

Percentage of each party ID type among voters for the incumbent party. This measure shows the extent to which each incumbent's coalition is based on each type of voter.

[results among incumbent party voters in each province; n=470]

Breakdown of the governing party's coalition

For example, in Alberta, 86% of UCP support comes from UCP partisans, higher than any other provincial government.

Government Party ID   Unaligned   Opposition Party ID

Note: Current data: May 2020
Results for Newfoundland & Labrador and PEI not shown due to insufficient sample size.

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Methodology

Survey Methodology

These are the results of an online survey conducted between May 1st and May 5th, 2020.

Method: This online survey was conducted using INNOVATIVE's Canada 20/20 national research panel with additional respondents from Lucid, a leading provider of online sample. Each survey is administered to a series of randomly selected samples from the panel and weighted to ensure that the overall sample's composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to Census data to provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample.

Sample Size: n=2,699 Canadian citizens, 18 years or older. The results are weighted to n=1,500 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

Field Dates: May 1st and May 5th, 2020.

Weighting: Results for Canada are weighted by age, gender, and region to ensure that the overall sample's composition reflects that of the actual population according to Census data; in order to provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample. Weighted and unweighted frequencies are reported in the table.

Margin of Error: This is a representative sample. However, since the online survey was not a random probability based sample, a margin of error cannot be calculated. Statements about margins of sampling error or population estimates do not apply to most online panels.

Note: Graphs may not always total 100% due to rounding values rather than any error in data. Sums are added before rounding numbers.

	Unweighted (n)	Unweighted (%)	Weighted (n)	Weighted (%)
Males 18-34	266	9.9%	206	13.8%
Males 35-54	336	12.4%	251	16.7%
Males 55+	773	28.6%	272	18.1%
Females 18-34	320	11.9%	204	13.6%
Females 35-54	389	14.4%	260	17.4%
Females 55+	615	22.8%	307	20.4%
BC	384	14.2%	204	13.6%
AB	314	11.6%	170	11.3%
Prairies	368	13.6%	100	6.7%
ON	791	29.3%	573	38.2%
QC	433	16.1%	350	23.3%
Atlantic	406	15.1%	102	6.8%

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