Canada This Month

National Political Overview

Public Opinion Research
Release Date: June 4, 2020
Field Dates: May 29, 2020 to June 1, 2020

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RESEARCH GROUP

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 eighth wave of COVID-19 tracking. This online survey was in field from May 29th to June 1st with a weighted sample size of 1,500 and oversamples in every province. Detailed methodology is provided in the appendix.
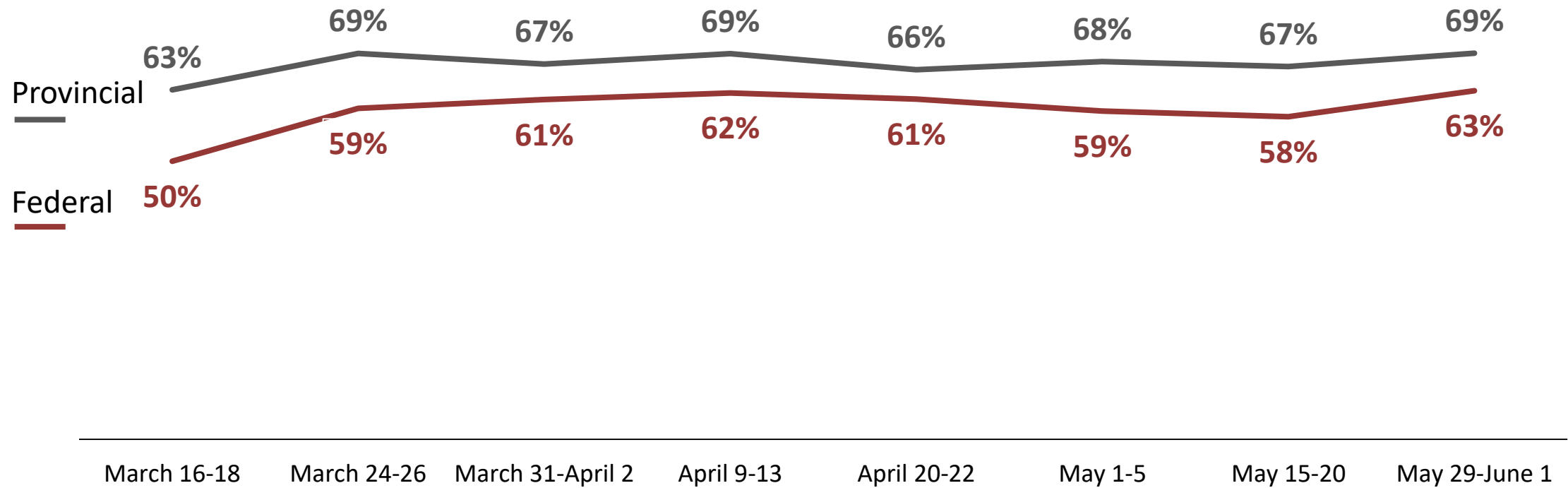
This report covers key results on how Canadians are rating their government's handling of COVID-19 and the impacts that it is having for government satisfaction and vote choice.

Both federal and provincial governments are continuing to receive high marks for their handling of COVID-19

COVID-19 Handling Tracking: Approval for both the federal (63%) and provincial (69%) governments handling of the outbreak remains high

% 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% — 67% — 69%

Federal: 50% — 59% — 61% — 62% — 61% — 59% — 58% — 63%

March 16-18 | March 24-26 | March 31-April 2 | April 9-13 | April 20-22 | May 1-5 | May 15-20 | May 29-June 1

Current data: June 2020
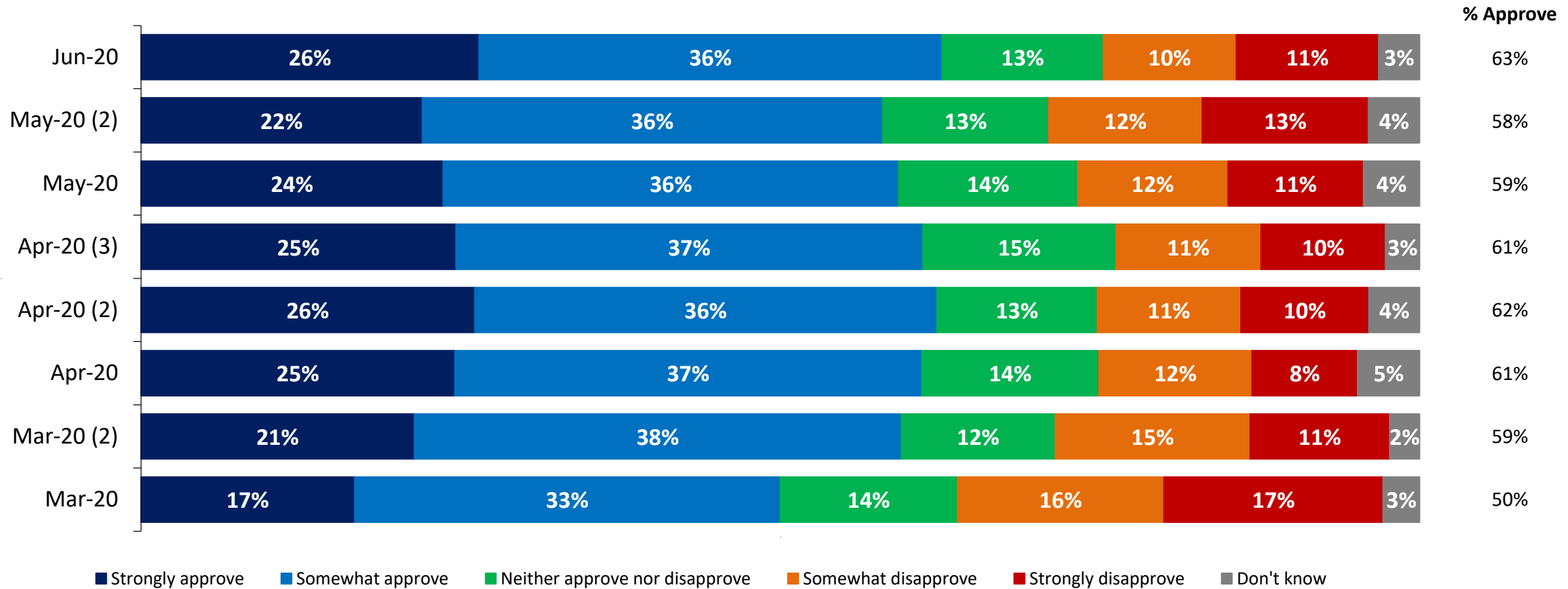
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COVID-19 Federal Tracking: Majority (63%) approve of federal handling since beginning of the outbreak; up 5 pts since last wave

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]

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither approve nor disapprove	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Don't know	% Approve
Jun-20	26%	36%	13%	10%	11%	3%	63%
May-20 (2)	22%	36%	13%	12%	13%	4%	58%
May-20	24%	36%	14%	12%	11%	4%	59%
Apr-20 (3)	25%	37%	15%	11%	10%	3%	61%
Apr-20 (2)	26%	36%	13%	11%	10%	4%	62%
Apr-20	25%	37%	14%	12%	8%	5%	61%
Mar-20 (2)	21%	38%	12%	15%	11%	2%	59%
Mar-20	17%	33%	14%	16%	17%	3%	50%

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

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Current data: June 2020

COVID-19 Federal Handling by Region: Approval is highest in Atlantic (67%) and Ontario (65%)

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?
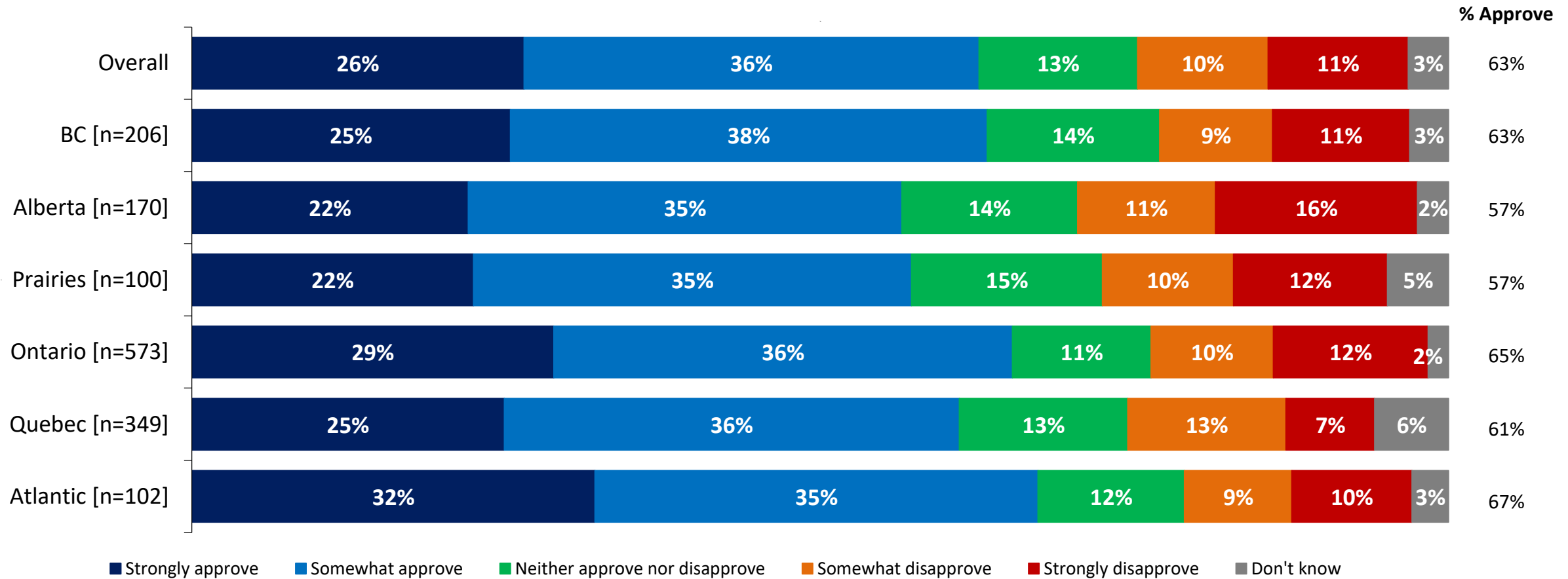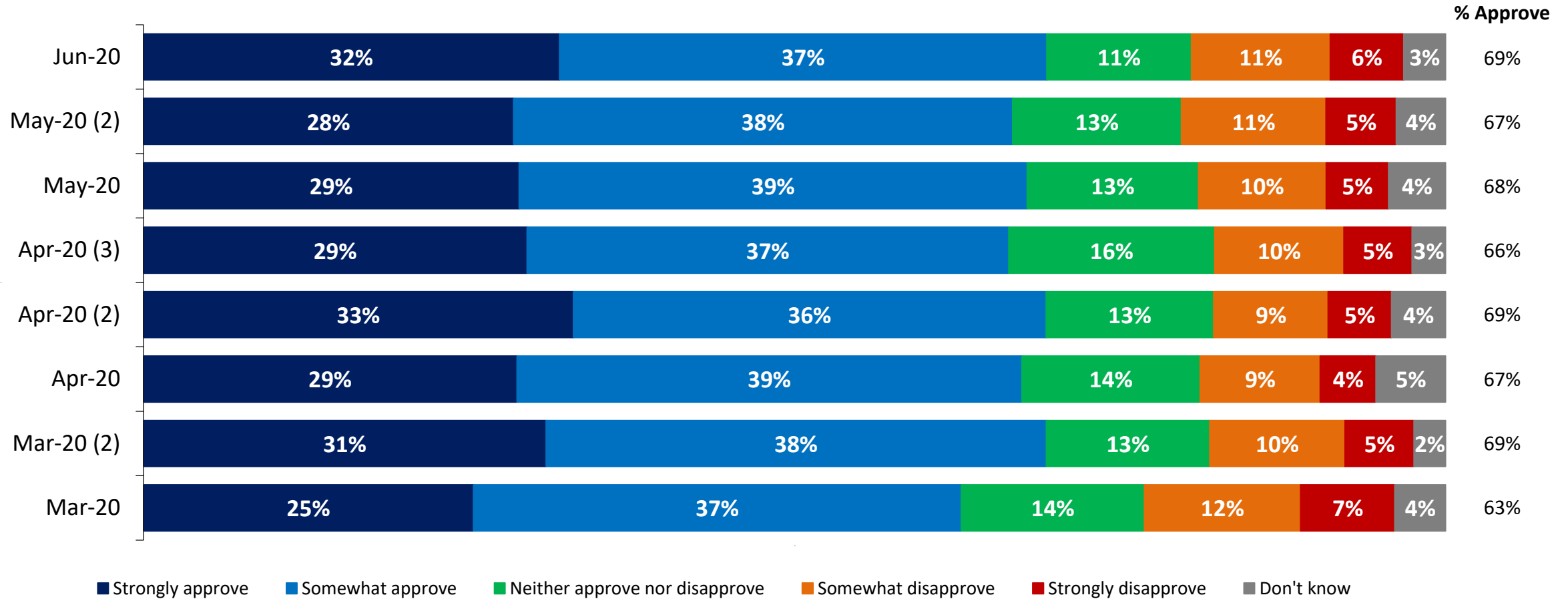[asked of all respondents; n=1500]

Region	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither approve nor disapprove	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Don't know	% Approve
Overall	26%	36%	13%	10%	11%	3%	63%
BC [n=206]	25%	38%	14%	9%	11%	3%	63%
Alberta [n=170]	22%	35%	14%	11%	16%	2%	57%
Prairies [n=100]	22%	35%	15%	10%	12%	5%	57%
Ontario [n=573]	29%	36%	11%	10%	12%	2%	65%
Quebec [n=349]	25%	36%	13%	13%	7%	6%	61%
Atlantic [n=102]	32%	35%	12%	9%	10%	3%	67%

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

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Current data: June 2020

COVID-19 Provincial Tracking: Majority (69%) approve of provincial handling since beginning of the outbreak; steady since last wave

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the way the [PROV] Government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19?
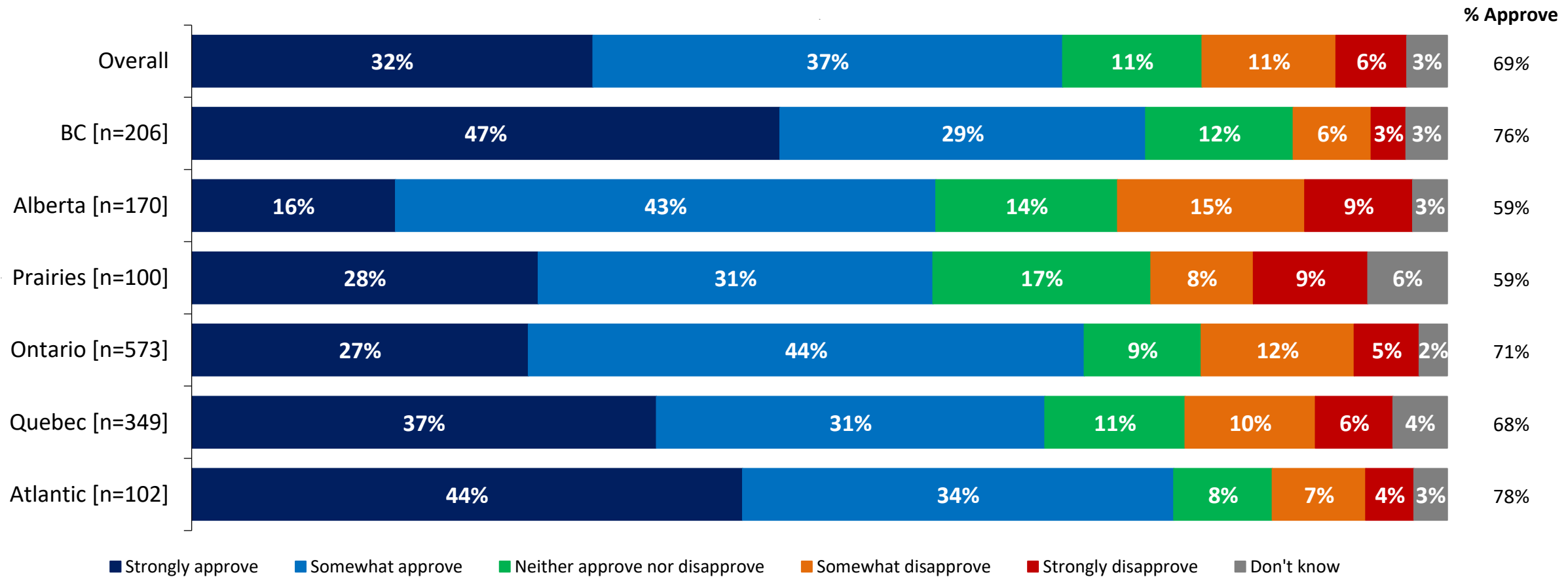[asked of all respondents; n=1500]

% Approve

Date	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither approve nor disapprove	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Don't know	% Approve
Jun-20	32%	37%	11%	11%	6%	3%	69%
May-20 (2)	28%	38%	13%	11%	5%	4%	67%
May-20	29%	39%	13%	10%	5%	4%	68%
Apr-20 (3)	29%	37%	16%	10%	5%	3%	66%
Apr-20 (2)	33%	36%	13%	9%	5%	4%	69%
Apr-20	29%	39%	14%	9%	4%	5%	67%
Mar-20 (2)	31%	38%	13%	10%	5%	2%	69%
Mar-20	25%	37%	14%	12%	7%	4%	63%

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

Current data: June 2020

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COVID-19 Provincial Handling by Region: Over 3-in-4 from the Atlantic (78%) and BC (76%) approve of their provincial gov'ts handling

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the way the [PROV] Government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19?
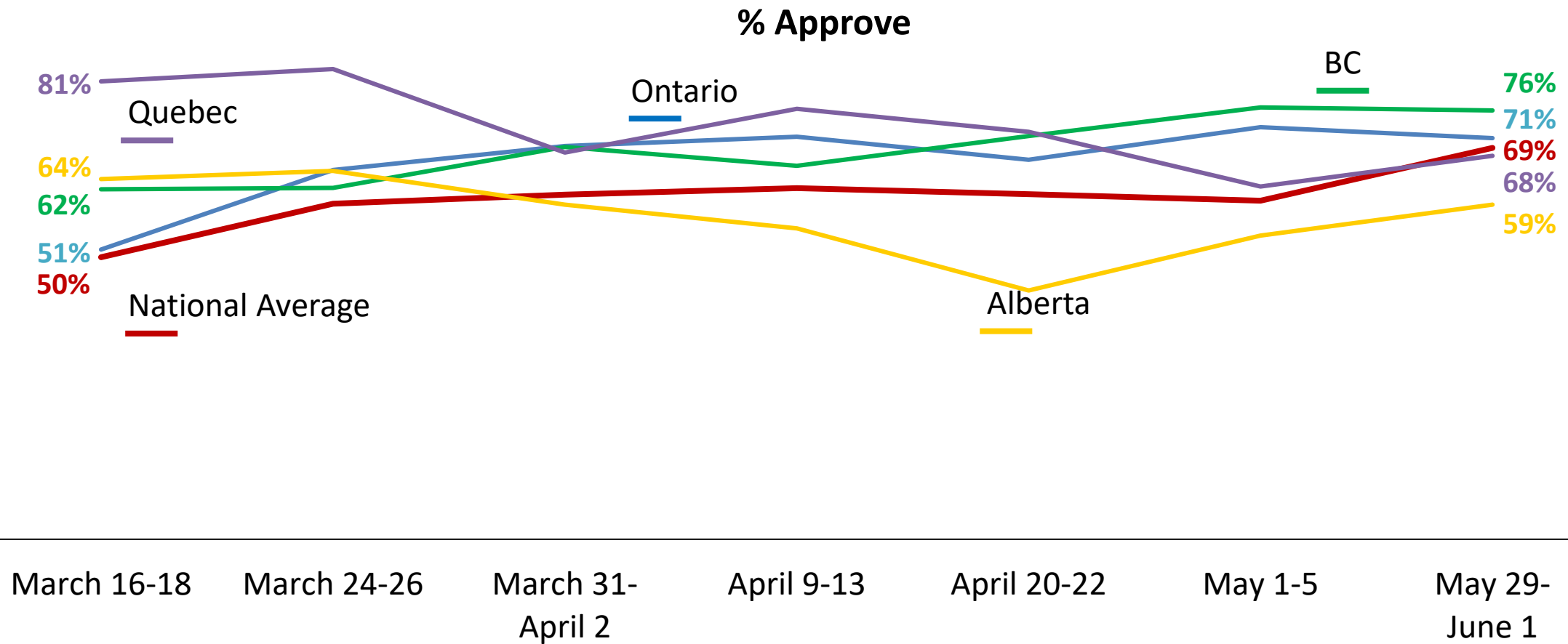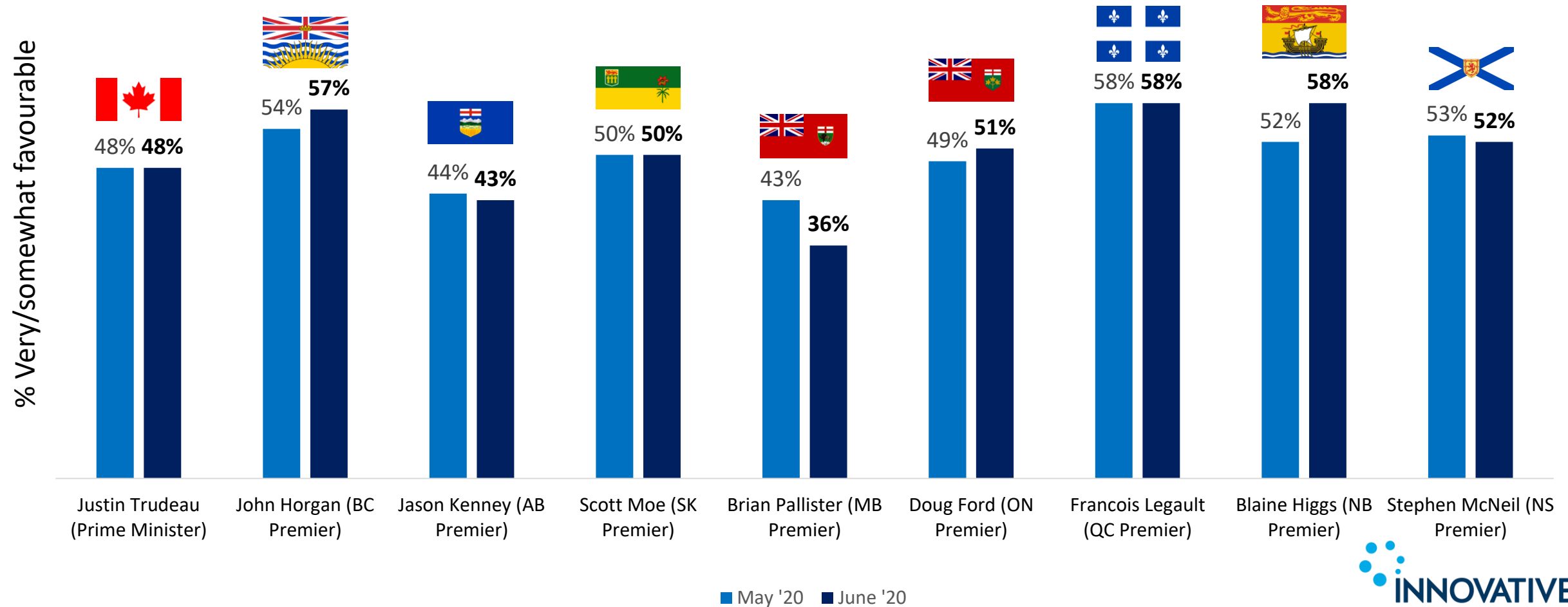[asked of all respondents; n=1500]

% Approve

Region	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither approve nor disapprove	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Don't know	% Approve
Overall	32%	37%	11%	11%	6%	3%	69%
BC [n=206]	47%	29%	12%	6%	3%	3%	76%
Alberta [n=170]	16%	43%	14%	15%	9%	3%	59%
Prairies [n=100]	28%	31%	17%	8%	9%	6%	59%
Ontario [n=573]	27%	44%	9%	12%	5%	2%	71%
Quebec [n=349]	37%	31%	11%	10%	6%	4%	68%
Atlantic [n=102]	44%	34%	8%	7%	4%	3%	78%

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

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Current data: June 2020

COVID-19 Provincial Handling Tracking: Approval of provincial handling is up in Alberta and Quebec while steady in BC and Ontario

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the way the [PROV] Government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19?
[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

% Approve

| March 16-18 | March 24-26 | March 31-April 2 | April 9-13 | April 20-22 | May 1-5 | May 29-June 1 |

Current data: June 2020

Leadership numbers are holding steady for many leaders

PM/Premier Favourables: Favourability of Premiers from all provinces except Kenney and Pallister surpass that of the Prime Minister

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.

[PM asked of all respondents; n=1500; Premier asked of all respondents in the province]

% Very/somewhat favourable

	Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister)	John Horgan (BC Premier)	Jason Kenney (AB Premier)	Scott Moe (SK Premier)	Brian Pallister (MB Premier)	Doug Ford (ON Premier)	Francois Legault (QC Premier)	Blaine Higgs (NB Premier)	Stephen McNeil (NS Premier)
May '20	48%	54%	44%	50%	43%	49%	58%	52%	53%
June '20	**48%**	**57%**	**43%**	**50%**	**36%**	**51%**	**58%**	**58%**	**52%**

■ May '20 ■ June '20

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

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Federal Party Leader NET Favourables Tracking: Net favourability of party leaders is steady with Trudeau seen most favourably (+13% net)

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.
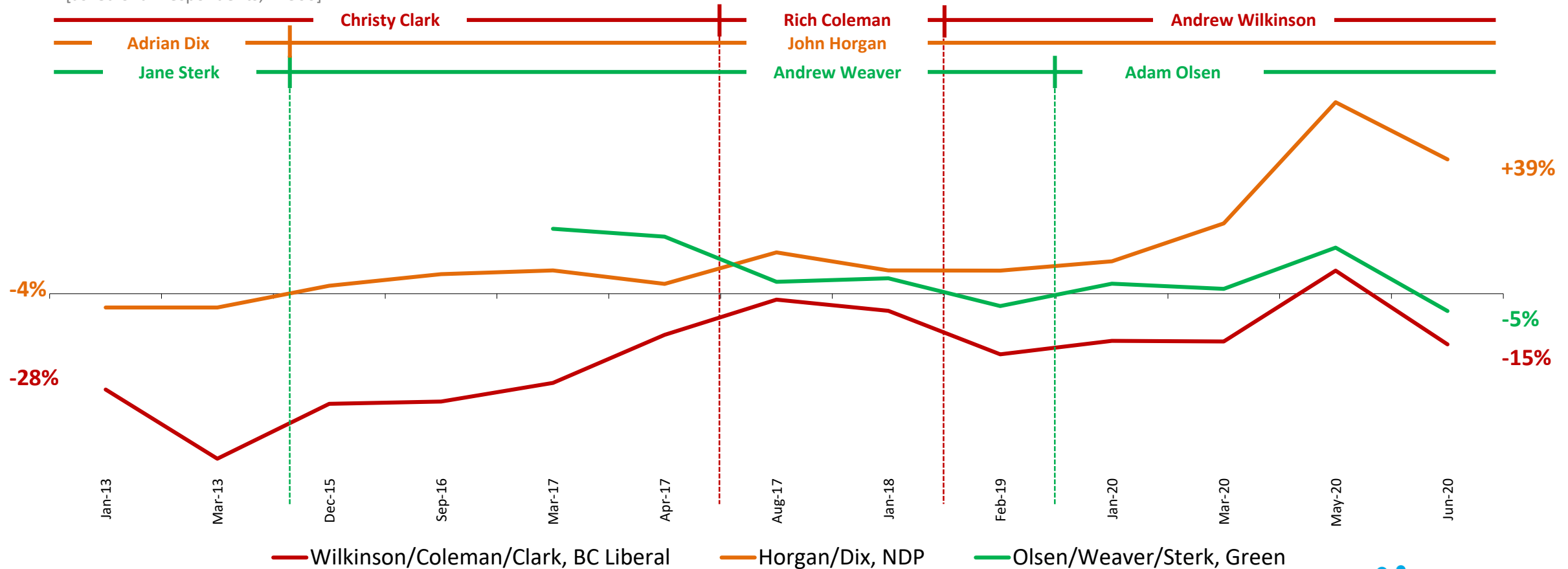[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

Stephen Harper — Andrew Scheer

Thomas Mulcair — Jagmeet Singh

Gilles Duceppe — Martine Ouellet — Mario Beaulieu — Yves-Francois Blanchet

+12% **+13%**
+11% **+11%**
+8%
-20%
-23%
-33%

Trudeau, Liberal ▬▬ Scheer/Harper, Conservative ▬▬ Singh/Mulcair, NDP ▬▬ Blanchet/Beaulieu/Ouellet/Duceppe, Bloc
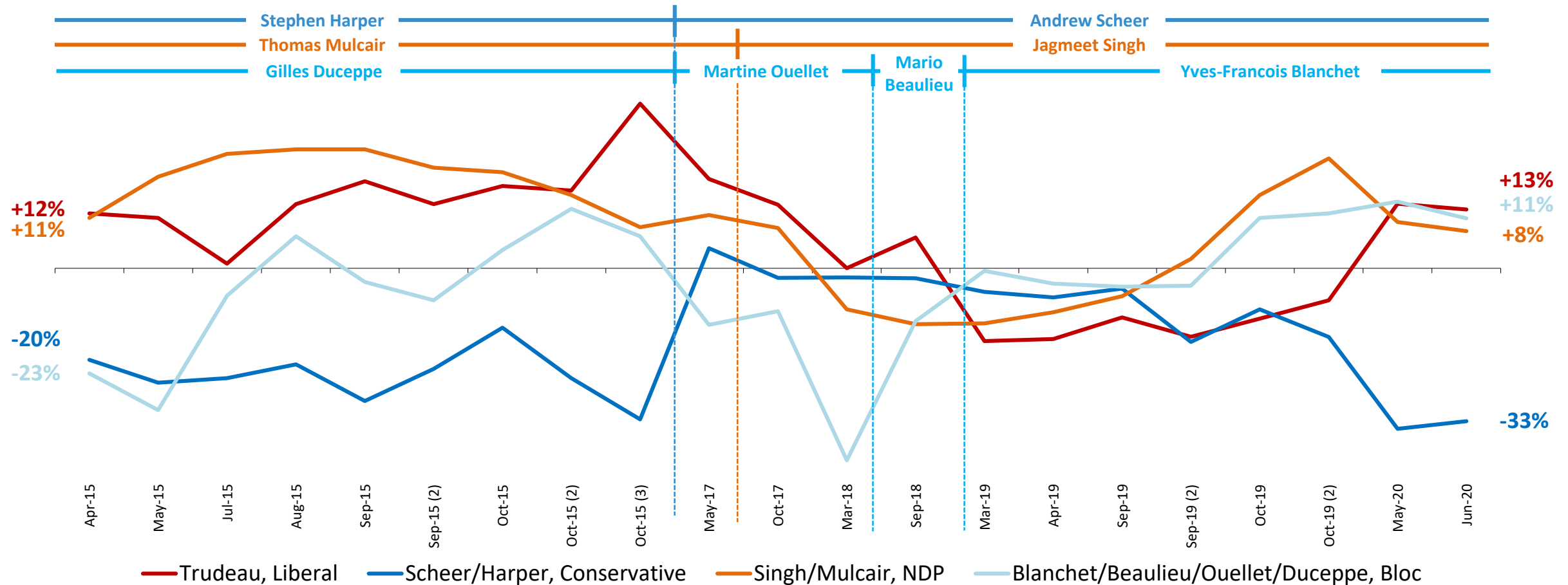
Note: Green Leader, People's Party Leader not shown.
Current data: June 2020
Note: Results for Yves-Francois Blanchet for Quebec respondents only

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Party Leader NET Favourables Tracking: Favourability of Conservative leaders is low but Erin O'Toole seen as most favourably among them

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=1,500]

NET favourability

Andrew Sheer
-35
-33

Peter McKay
-12
-12

Erin O'Toole
-8
-8

■ May '20 ■ June '20

Current data: June 2020

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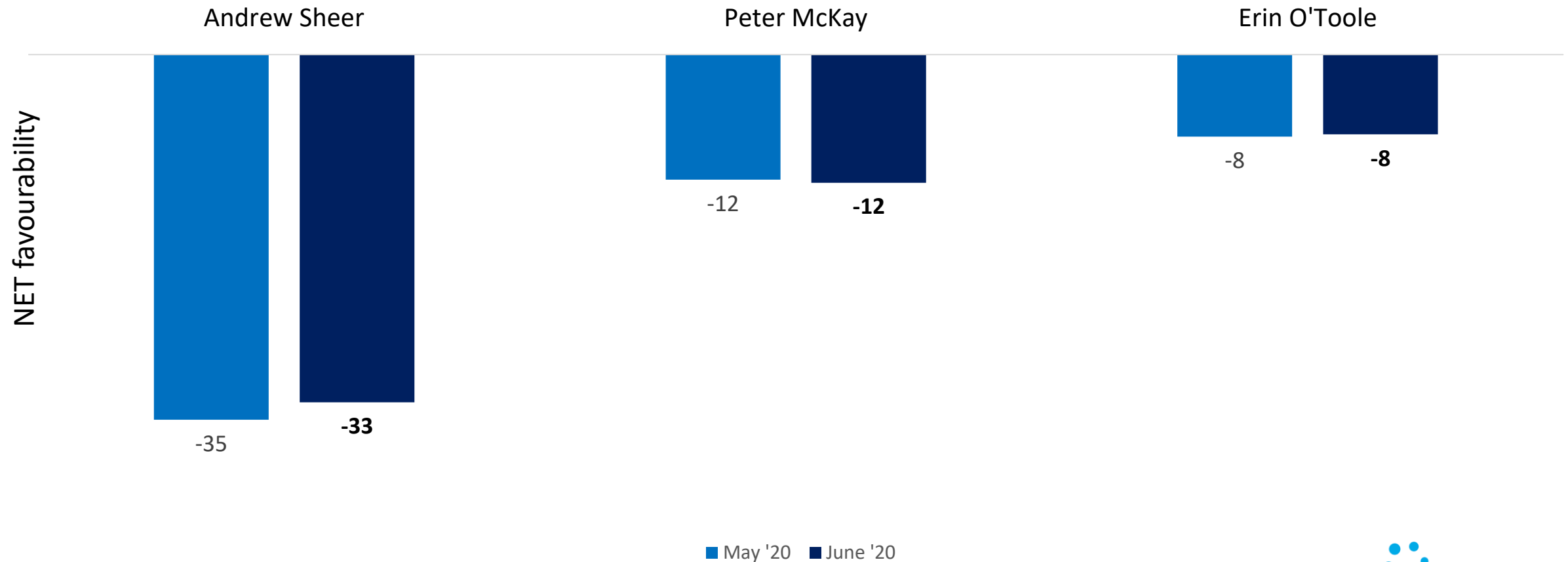
Alberta Party Leader NET Favourables Tracking: Net favourability of Khan up from March and May, though still negative

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.
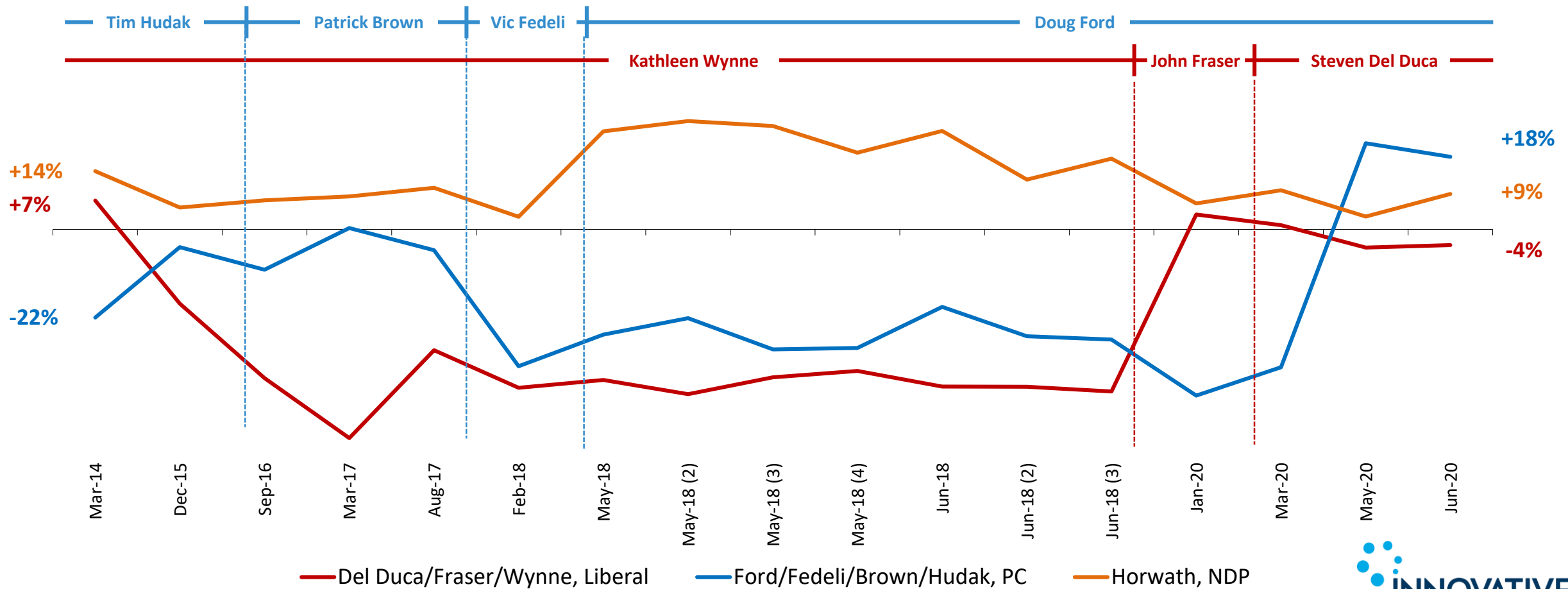
[asked of all respondents; n=300]

Current data: June 2020
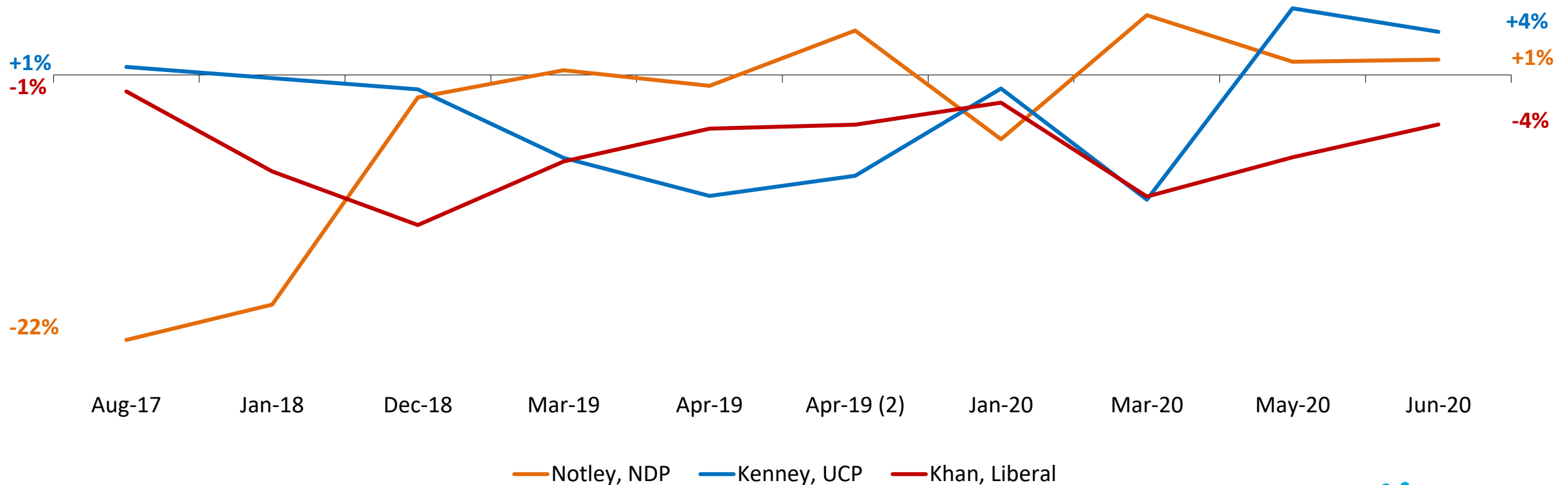
BC Party Leader NET Favourables Tracking: Net favourability has dropped for all three party leaders since May, Horgan remains far ahead

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.
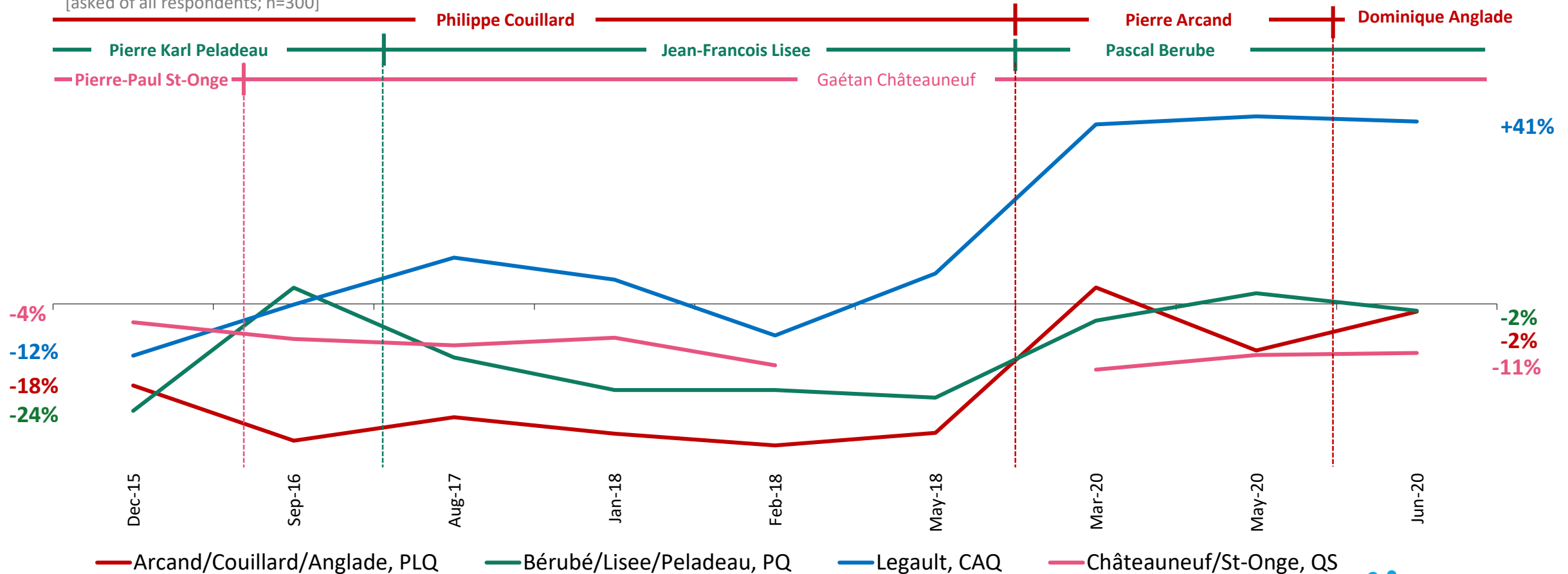
[asked of all respondents; n=300]

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

+39%

-4%

-28%   -5%   -15%

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

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

Current data: June 2020

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Ontario Party Leader NET Favourables Tracking: Ford holds highest net favourability among three party 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=600]

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

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Current data: June 2020

Quebec Party Leader NET Favourables Tracking: New party leader, Anglade, boosts net favourability by 8 points for the liberal party

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/Anglade, PLQ — Bérubé/Lisee/Peladeau, PQ — Legault, CAQ — Châteauneuf/St-Onge, QS

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

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Vote is on the move as well

Vote intention reporting:

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.

When we ask people to think about politics in Canada and identify which party ID they usually seen themselves as, we call those results **Federal Party ID.**

Federal Decided Vote Tracking: A plurality (42%) say they would vote Liberal, maintaining strong lead over Conservative party (28%)

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=1,305]

Conservative ——— Liberal ——— NDP ——— Bloc ——— Green ——— Other

Current data: June 2020

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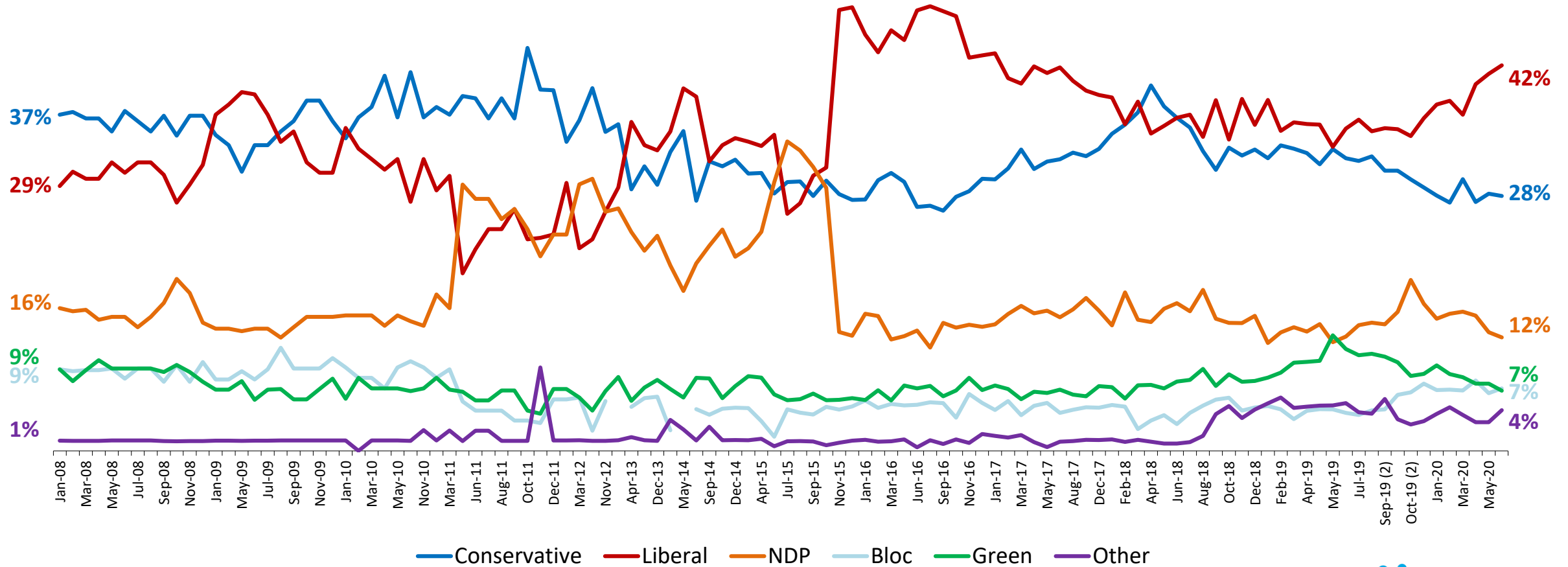
Decided Vote by Party ID: Liberals lead in vote choice from unaligned, most successful in poaching partisans from NDP and Green parties

Federal Party Identification

Federal Decided Vote	Conservative (N=312)	Liberal (N=439)	NDP (N=145)	Bloc (N=72)	Green (N=83)	Other (N=72)	Unaligned (N=181)
Conservative	87%	3%	5%	2%	13%	27%	21%
Liberal	5%	89%	19%	6%	17%	25%	42%
NDP	3%	3%	69%	1%	3%	9%	16%
Bloc	1%	1%	1%	87%	2%	1%	8%
Green	1%	2%	4%	0%	63%	8%	6%
Other	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	30%	8%

Note: Current data: June 2020

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BC Decided Vote Tracking: Close to half (43%) say they would vote NDP while 1-in-3 (34%) say they would vote Liberal

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]**
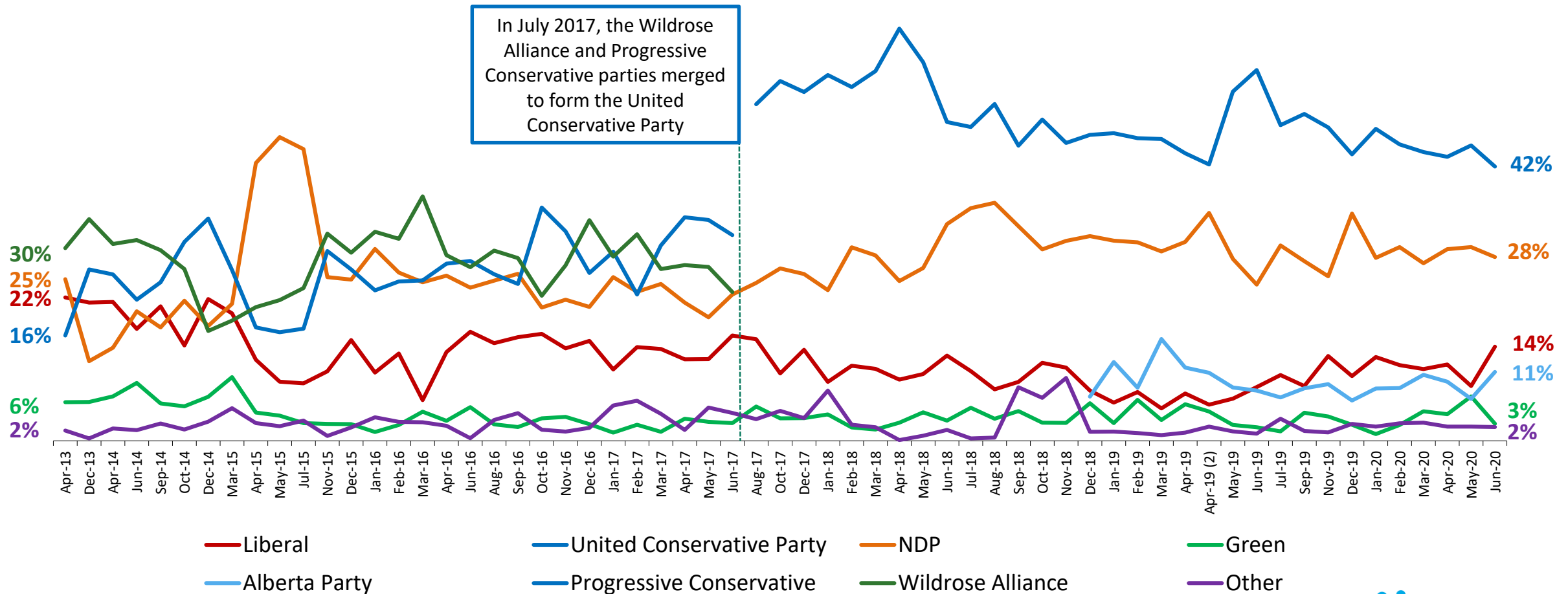[only decided voters; n=261]

Current data: June 2020
NOTE: 'Green Party' not given as an option in April 2014
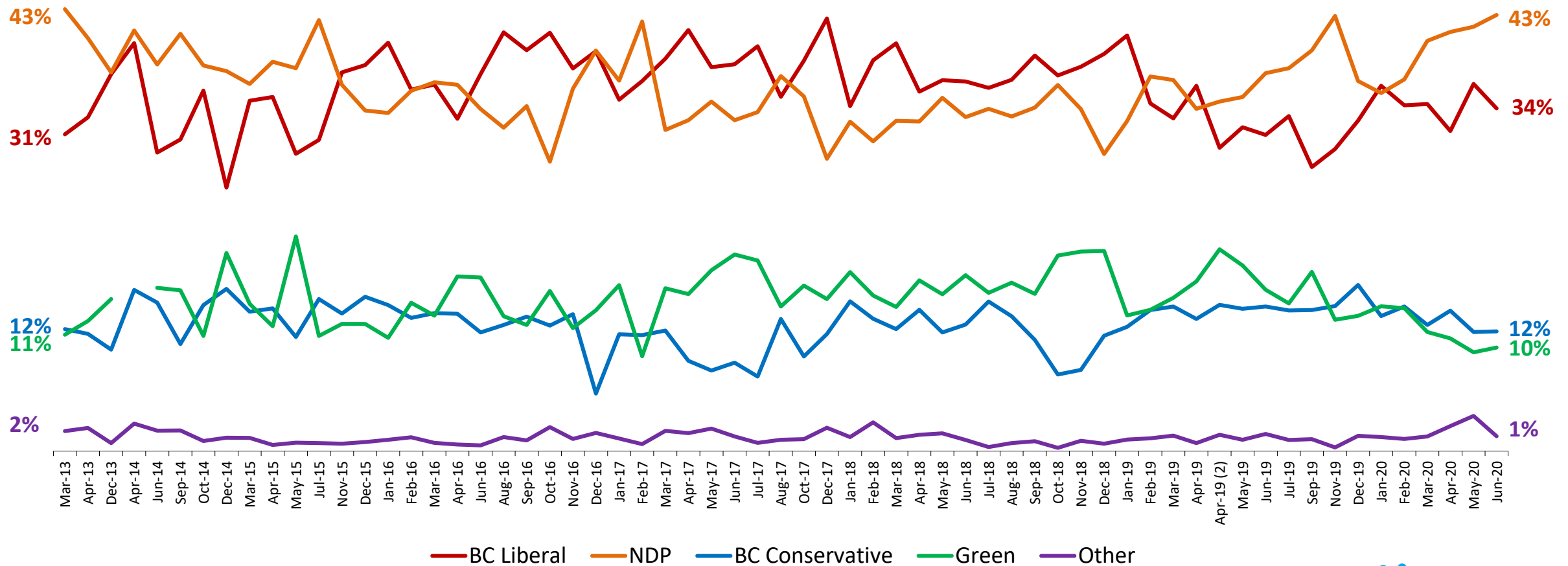
Alberta Decided Vote Tracking: The UCP (42%) maintains wide lead over the NDP (28%) in decided vote share

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=276]

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: June 2020

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Ontario Decided Vote Tracking: The Liberals (38%) narrowly lead over the Progressive Conservatives (33%) in decided vote

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=526]

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

Current data: June 2020

Quebec Decided Vote Tracking: The CAQ (38%) now has a 10-pt lead in decided vote over the Quebec Liberals (28%)

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=262]
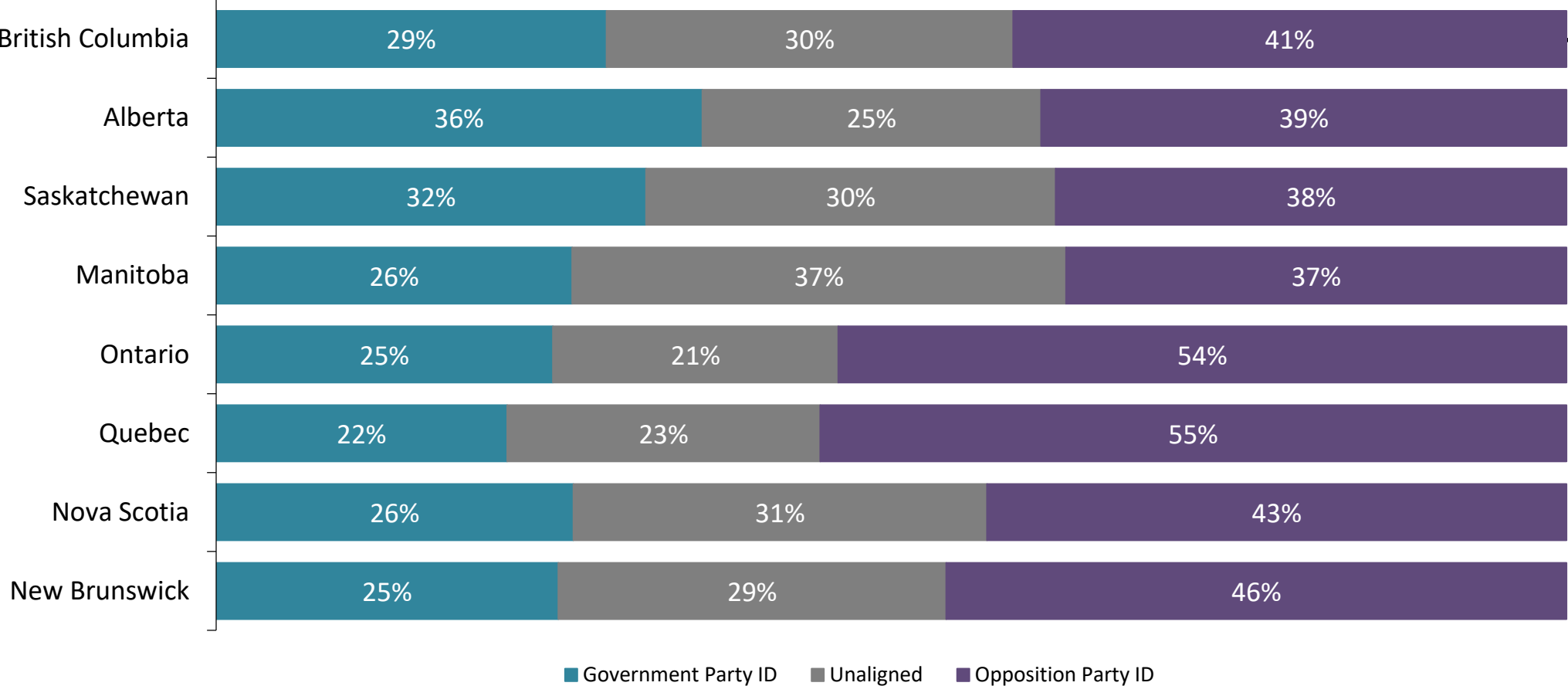

Current data: June 2020
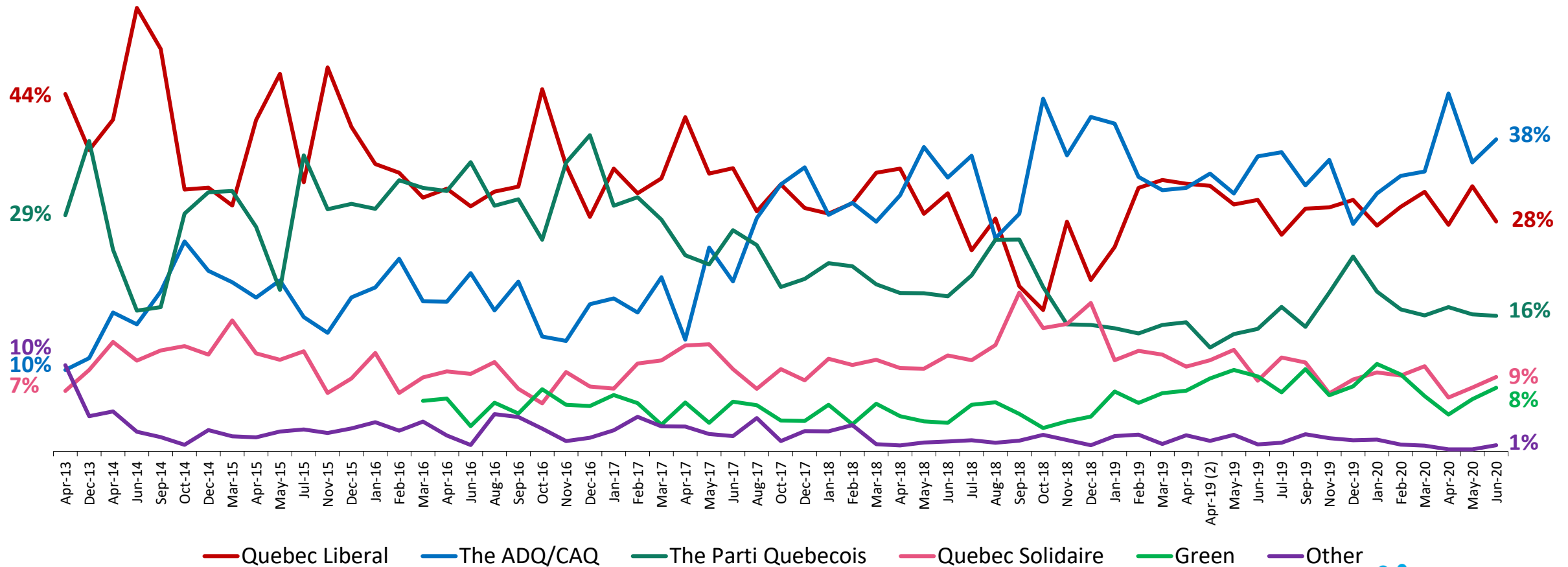
Provincial Party ID by Province: Over 1-in-3 (36%) Albertans identify as UCP partisans, the incumbent party, highest amongst all provinces

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

[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

Overall breakdown

Province	Government Party ID	Unaligned	Opposition Party ID
British Columbia	29%	30%	41%
Alberta	36%	25%	39%
Saskatchewan	32%	30%	38%
Manitoba	26%	37%	37%
Ontario	25%	21%	54%
Quebec	22%	23%	55%
Nova Scotia	26%	31%	43%
New Brunswick	25%	29%	46%

For example, in B.C. 29% identify with the B.C. NDP, 30% have no party ID, and 41% identify with another party.

■ Government Party ID ■ Unaligned ■ Opposition Party ID

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

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Incumbent Vote by Party ID Type: Support for Quebec's CAQ gov't is bolstered by opposition defectors more than any other provincial gov't

Voters are broken out in the table by whether they identify with the incumbent party, no party, or an opposition party. For each province we show the % of voters for the incumbent party within each group.

Party ID Type

Percentage of Incumbent VOTERS	Government Party ID	Unaligned	Opposition Party ID
British Columbia	83%	33%	9%
Alberta	88%	18%	7%
Saskatchewan	93%	13%	3%
Manitoba	82%	19%	8%
Ontario	85%	16%	8%
Quebec	87%	26%	16%
Nova Scotia	89%	28%	11%
New Brunswick	74%	19%	12%

For example, 16% of Quebecers who identify with an opposition party still intend to vote CAQ.

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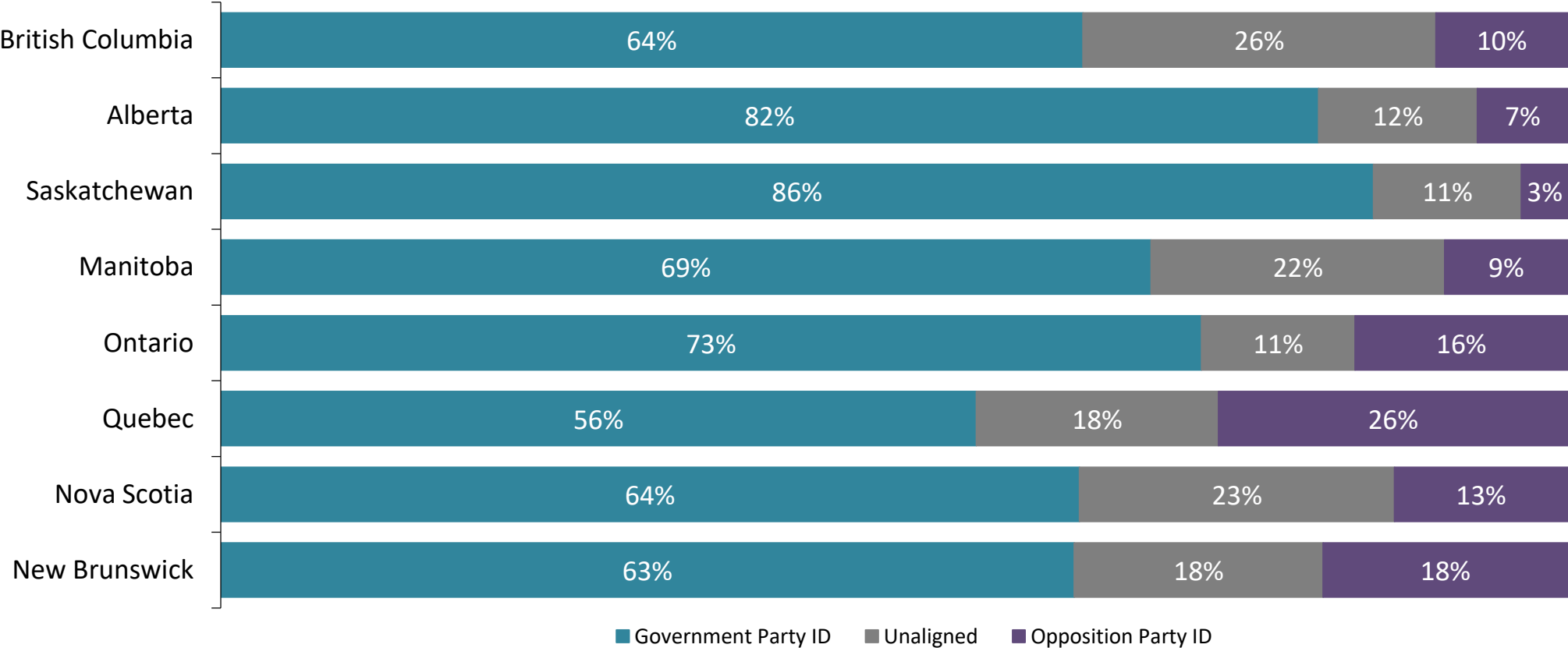Results for Newfoundland & Labrador and PEI not shown due to insufficient sample size.

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Provincial Coalitions by Region: The Sask Party boasts the highest incumbent party support by its own partisans out of all provinces

Q 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=491]

Breakdown of the governing party's coalition

Province	Government Party ID	Unaligned	Opposition Party ID
British Columbia	64%	26%	10%
Alberta	82%	12%	7%
Saskatchewan	86%	11%	3%
Manitoba	69%	22%	9%
Ontario	73%	11%	16%
Quebec	56%	18%	26%
Nova Scotia	64%	23%	13%
New Brunswick	63%	18%	18%

For example, in Saskatchewan, 86% of Saskatchewan Party support comes from Sask Party partisans, higher than any other provincial government.

■ Government Party ID   ■ Unaligned   ■ Opposition Party ID

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

Methodology

Survey Methodology

These are the results of an online survey conducted between May 29th and June 1st, 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=2,246 Canadian citizens, 18 years or older. Regional oversamples in Atlantic, Prairies, Alberta and BC were used in order to adequately capture perspective on provincial leaders. The results are nationally weighted to n=1,500 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

Field Dates: May 29th and June 1st, 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

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	249	11.1%	205	13.7%
Males 35-54	269	12.0%	250	16.7%
Males 55+	653	29.1%	271	18.1%
Females 18-34	263	11.7%	204	13.6%
Females 35-54	319	14.2%	261	17.4%
Females 55+	493	22.0%	308	20.5%
BC	375	16.7%	206	13.7%
AB	304	13.5%	170	11.4%
Prairies	241	10.7%	100	6.7%
ON	698	31.1%	573	38.2%
QC	359	16.0%	349	23.2%
Atlantic	269	12.0%	102	6.8%

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Building Understanding.

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