Ontario Politics in the time of COVID-19: June 2020 Update

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Ontario Politics in the time of COVID-19

The COVID-19 outbreak has set off a series of changes in the Canadian political landscape. In Ontario, Doug Ford still sees a very high approval on his handling of the outbreak, which has translated into a massive turnaround in his personal favourables. Approval of how the Ontario government has handled the outbreak is trending alongside that of the provincial average.

Today, INNOVATIVE is releasing results from wave 8 of our COVID-19 Tracking survey. This online survey was in field from May 29th to June 1st with a weighted sample size of 600 Ontario residents. Detailed methodology is provided in the appendix.

This report covers key results on how those from Ontario are rating their government's handling of the COVID-19 outbreak, their vote choice, and satisfaction with government handling of several issues related to the outbreak.
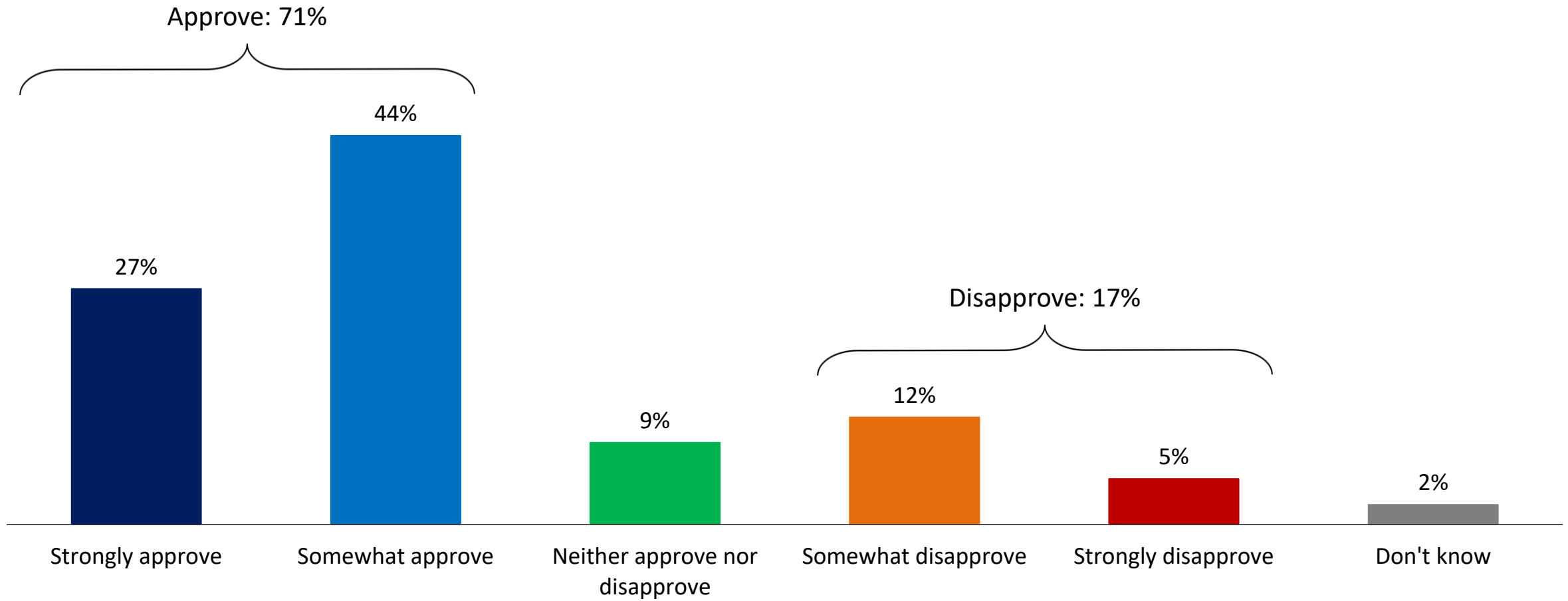
Government Approval

The Ontario government continues to receive high approval on handling of COVID-19.

COVID-19 Handling Tracking: Approval of the Ontario government's handling of COVID-19 has steadied, ratings still trending high

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Ontario Government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19?
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

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

Current data: June 2020

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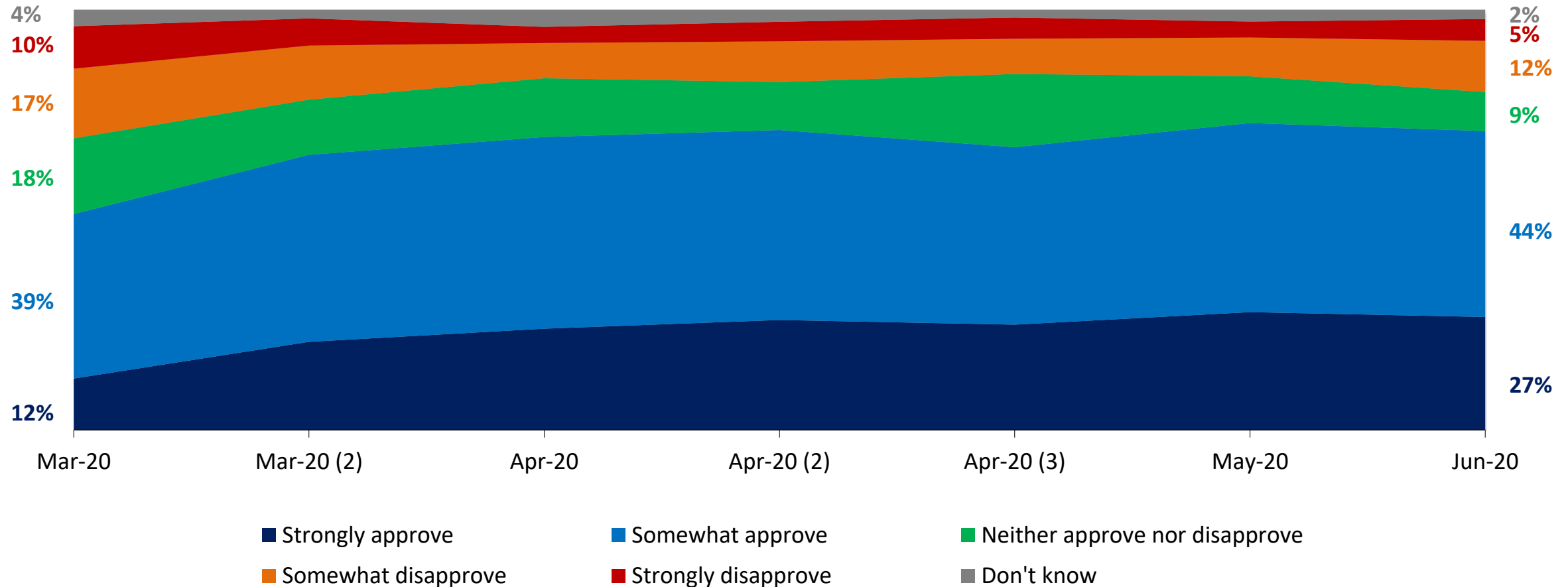
COVID-19 Handling Tracking: Ontario has gone from 8 points below in March to trending alongside the provincial average

% who approve of government's handling of COVID-19 outbreak: Ontario Vs. Provincial Average

[asked of all respondents; Ontario n=600]

Current data: June 2020
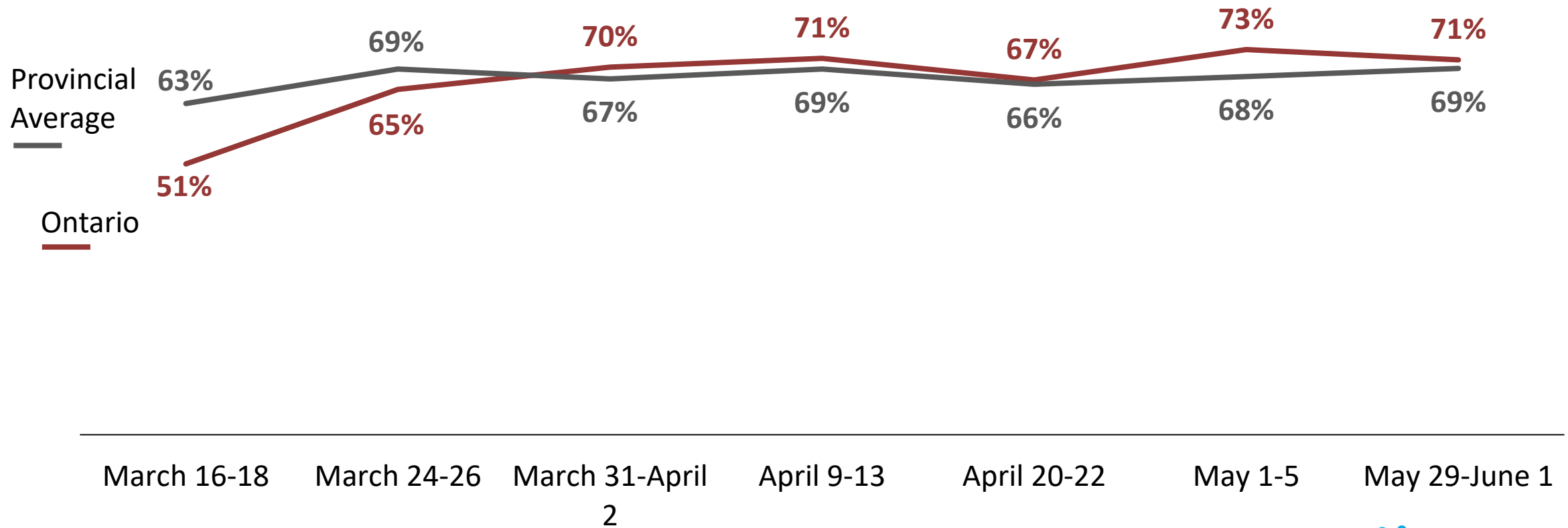
We group individuals into segments based on key political and economic values and attitudes

We use these segments throughout the remainder of the report to analyze vote leadership results.

Core Political Values: Respondents split between wanting government to listen to experts and wanting government to use common sense

Q Now we would like to ask a few questions about basic values and society...When governments make major decisions concerning spending on programs and services, do you think they should be basing their decisions mainly on...?
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

- Their ability to afford the programs and services — 34%
- The public's need for the programs and services — 57%
- Don't know — 9%

Q Is the main role of government to...?
[asked of all respondents; n=600]
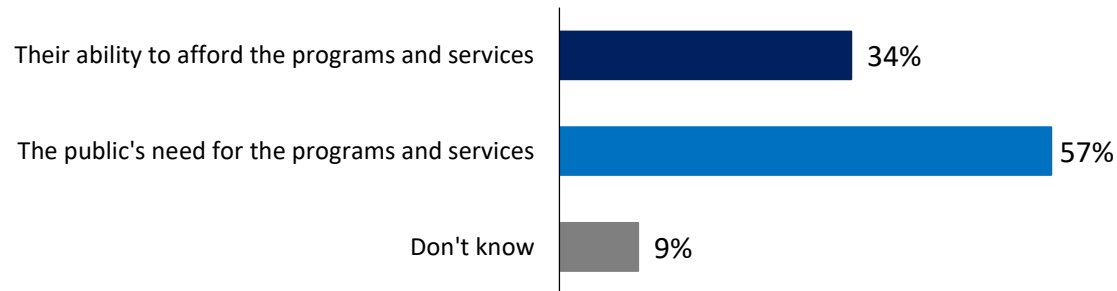
- To create equal opportunity so that everyone can compete on their own to be the best they can be — 57%
- To redistribute wealth so that the poor and disadvantaged have more than they would if left on their own — 35%
- Don't know — 9%

Q Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

- The profit system brings out the worst in human nature. — 43%
- The profit system teaches people the value of hard work and success. — 45%
- Don't know — 12%

Q When it comes to government decision making, which of the following statements is closest to your view?
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

- Too often the government listens to experts instead of common sense. — 43%
- Provincial issues are complicated so government should listen to experts when it comes to policy. — 44%
- Don't know — 13%

Current data: June 2020

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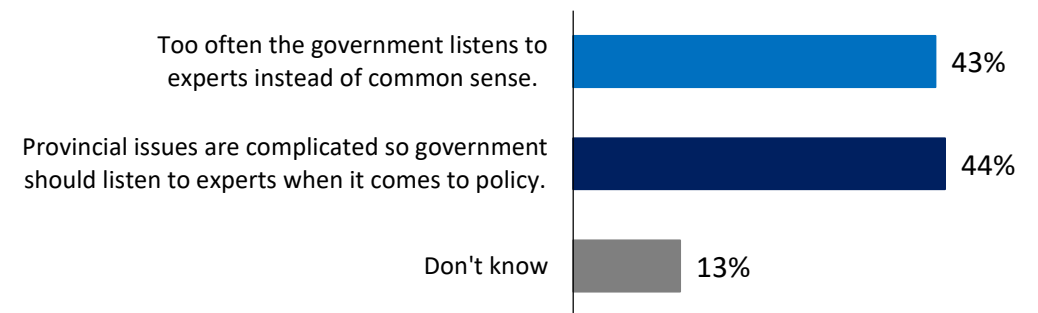
Value Clusters: Core Left and Business Liberals are the largest clusters in Ontario, both at 23%; Deferential Conservatives make up only 9%

Clusters are based on 4 basic values: equal opportunity versus redistribution; trust in the profit system; whether spending should be based on ability to afford or public need; and whether government should listen to experts or common sense.

[asked of all respondents; n=600]

Current data: June 2020
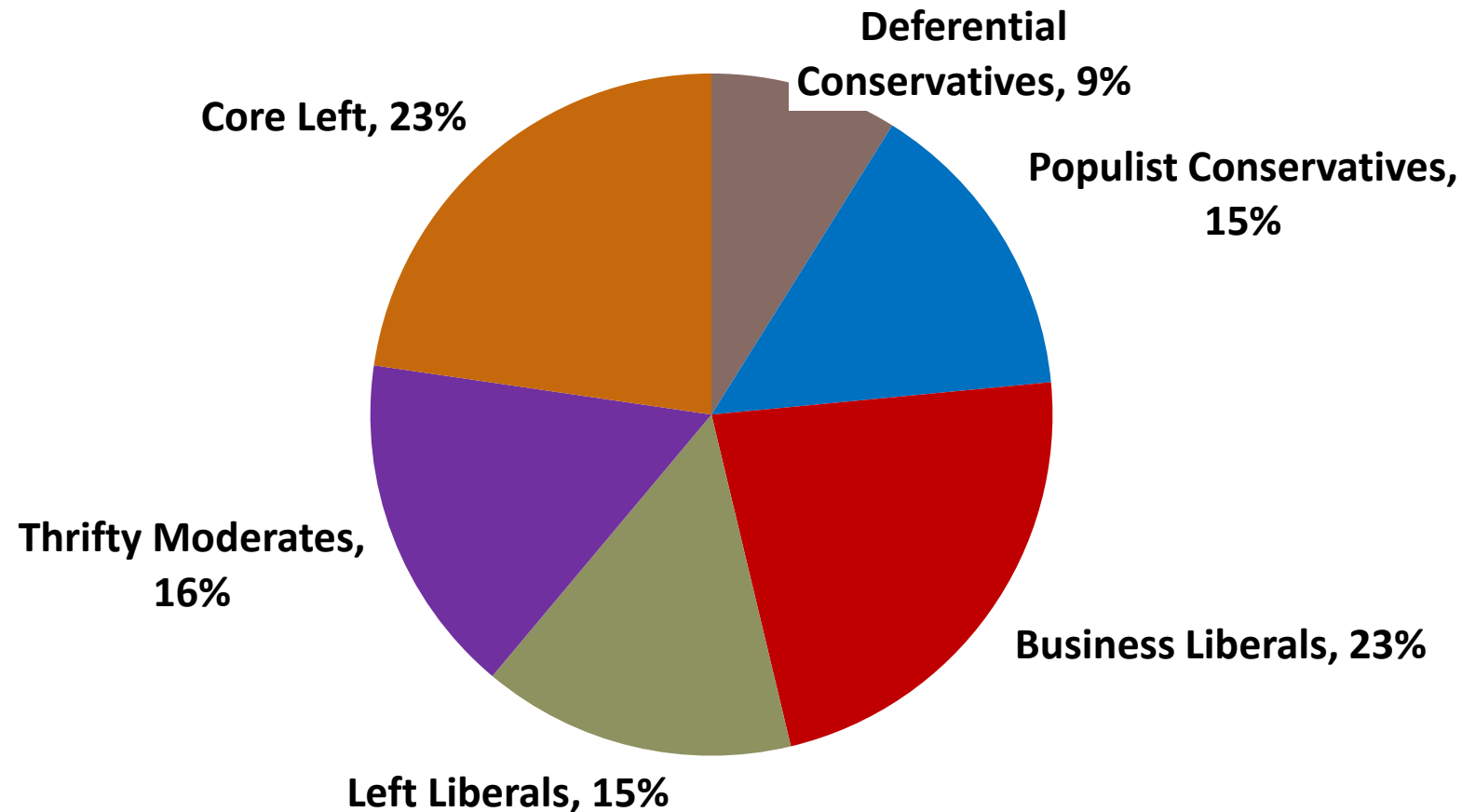
Defining Value Clusters

Core Political Values by Value Clusters

Column %		Deferential Conservatives	Populist Conservatives	Business Liberals	Left Liberals	Thrifty Moderates	Core Left
Governments should base decisions on...	Ability to afford	98%	94%	0%	0%	70%	0%
	Public Need	0%	0%	97%	86%	0%	97%
Is the main role of government to .?	Create equal Opportunity	76%	98%	71%	98%	29%	0%
	Redistribute wealth	19%	0%	22%	0%	38%	96%
When it comes to government decision making...	Rely on common sense	0%	100%	29%	43%	51%	32%
	Listen to experts	86%	0%	61%	40%	17%	62%
The profit system...	Brings out the worst in human nature	0%	0%	0%	86%	55%	92%
	Teaches value of hard work and success	97%	98%	92%	0%	9%	0%

Note: Current data: June 2020

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Segmentation Attitudes: The majority (57%) say you can be anything in Ontario if you are willing to work for it

Q Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

Statement	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Here in Ontario you can be anything you want if you are willing to work for it	21%	36%	14%	15%	11%	2%
No matter how hard I work, every year it seems more difficult to get by	17%	30%	24%	14%	12%	3%

■ Strongly agree　■ Somewhat agree　■ Neither agree nor disagree　■ Somewhat disagree　■ Strongly disagree　■ Don't know

Current data: June 2020

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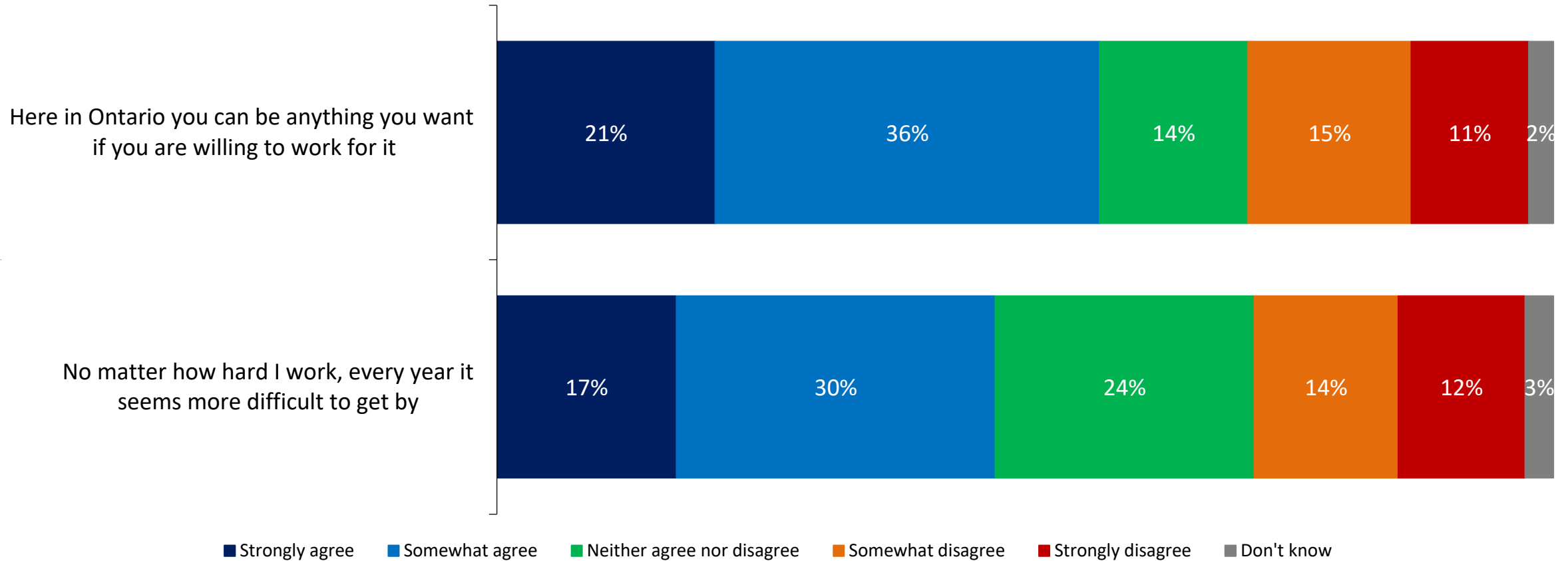
Economic Gap Segmentation: Achievers (32%) are largest economic segment, followed by Alienated (27%)

Gap segmentation: Agree with 'Here in Ontario you can be anything you want if you are willing to work for it' ("*the Canadian Dream*") BY Agree with 'No matter how hard I work, every year it seems more difficult to get by'.

[asked of all respondents; n=600]

Don't believe in *"Canadian Dream"*

Neutral or don't know on *"Canadian Dream"*

Alienated, 27%

Ambivalent, 16%

Achievers, 32%

Strugglers, 25%

Believe in *"Canadian Dream"*, not struggling to get by

Believe in *"Canadian Dream"*, but find it difficult to get by

Current data: May 2020

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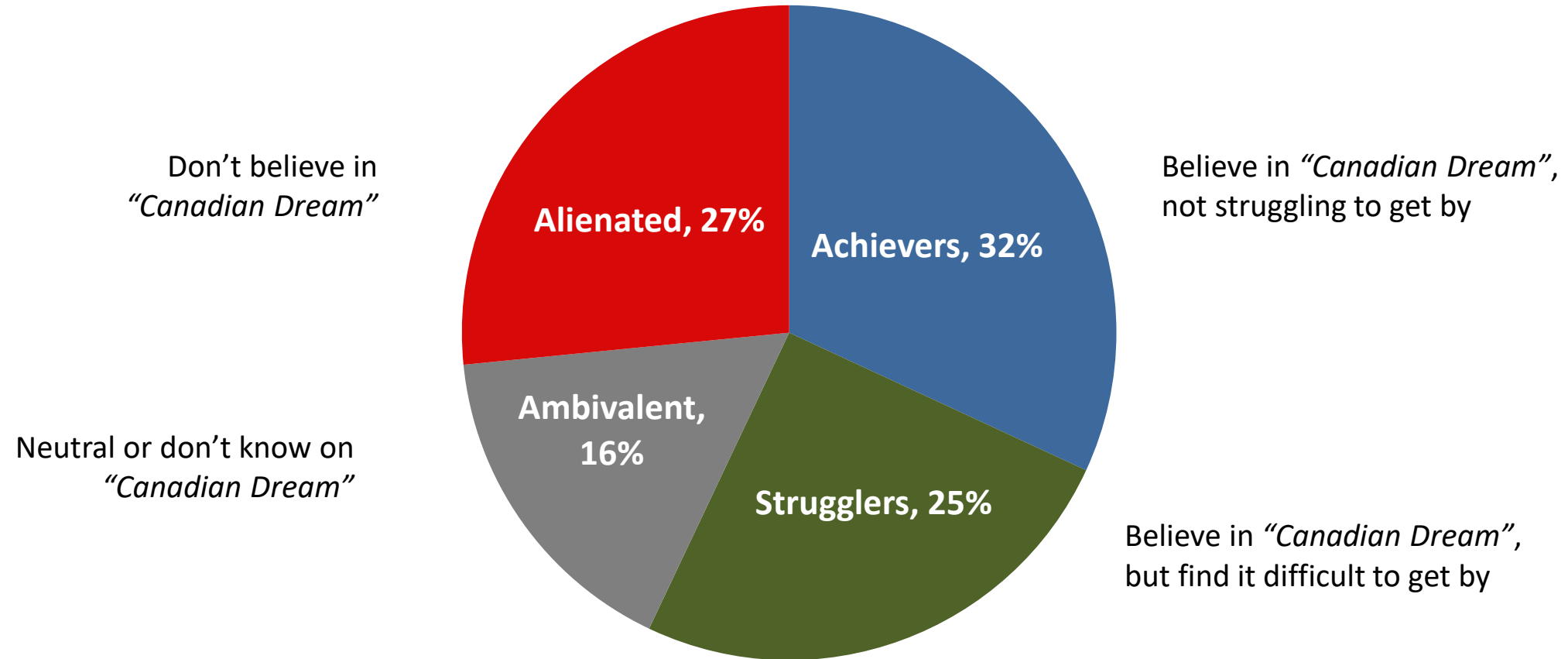
Time for Change Attitudes: Ontarians are slightly more likely to agree it is time for a change in government, rather than no change

Q Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

It is time for a change in government here in Ontario

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
25%	19%	21%	11%	22%	4%

The Ontario Progressive Conservative Party may have their problems but they are still the best party to form government

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
21%	19%	17%	14%	24%	5%

■ Strongly agree   ■ Somewhat agree   ■ Neither agree nor disagree   ■ Somewhat disagree   ■ Strongly disagree   ■ Don't know

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Current data: June 2020

Time for Change Segmentation: 43% of respondents are either Soft anti-PC or Hostile

Time for Change segmentation: Agree with 'The PCs may have their problems but they are still the best party to form government' BY Agree with 'It is time for a change in government here in Ontario'.

[asked of all respondents; n=600]

43% Agree that it is time for a change and do not see PCs as the best option to form government

33% Do not think it is time for a change

This key battleground segment is voters who think it is time for a change, but still think the PCs are the best option to form a government

17% 25% 8% 10% 14% 26%
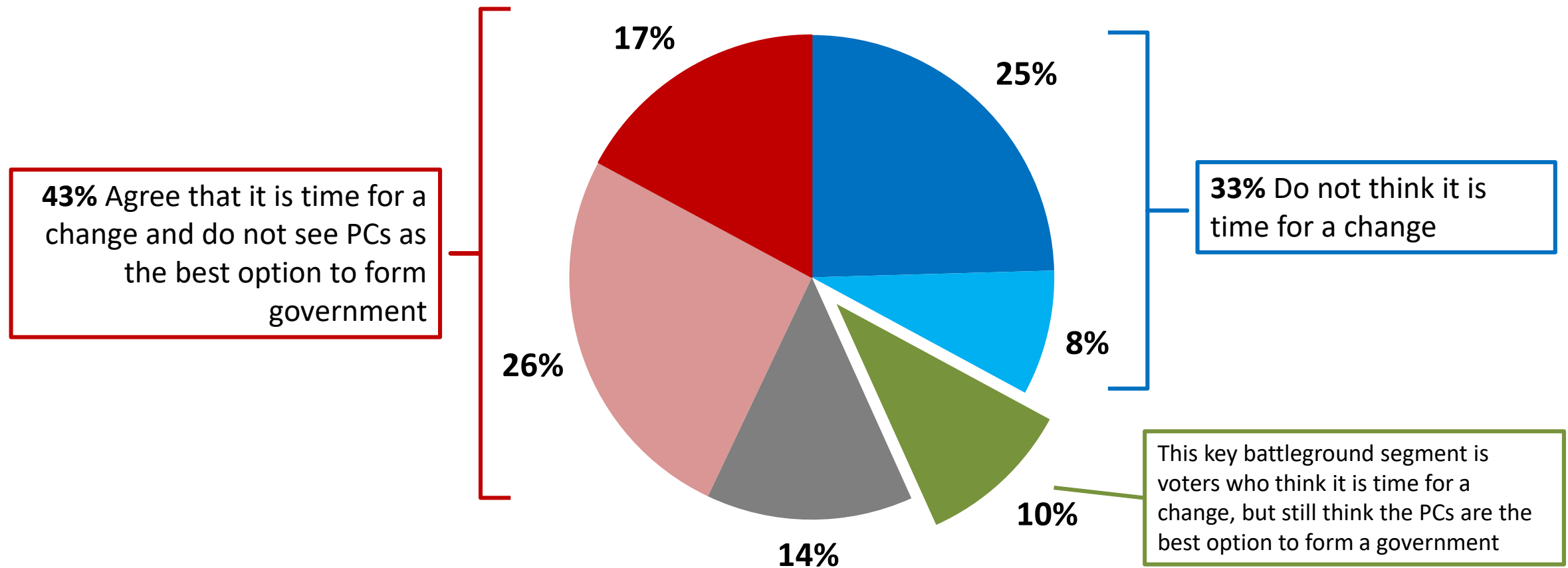
■ Core PC ■ Soft PC ■ Time for a change PC ■ Uncertain ■ Soft anti-PC ■ Hostile

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Current data: May 2020

Leadership

Ford continues to see a remarkable turnaround in his personal favourability during the outbreak. He is now the most popular leader ahead of Horwath and Del Duca.

Leader Favourables: Doug Ford continues to rank highest, with 51% of respondents saying they have a favourable impression of the Premier

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]

Net Favourable

	Very favourable	Somewhat favourable	Neutral	Somewhat unfavourable	Very unfavourable	Do not recognize	Don't know	Net Favourable
Doug Ford	21%	29%	14%	16%	16%	1%	3%	+18%
Andrea Horwath	11%	27%	21%	13%	16%	5%	6%	+9%
Steven Del Duca	7%	13%	28%	11%	13%	16%	12%	-4%

■ Very favourable
■ Somewhat favourable
■ Neutral/Neither favourable nor unfavourable
■ Somewhat unfavourable
■ Very unfavourable
■ Do not recognize
■ Don't know

Current data: June 2020

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH GROUP
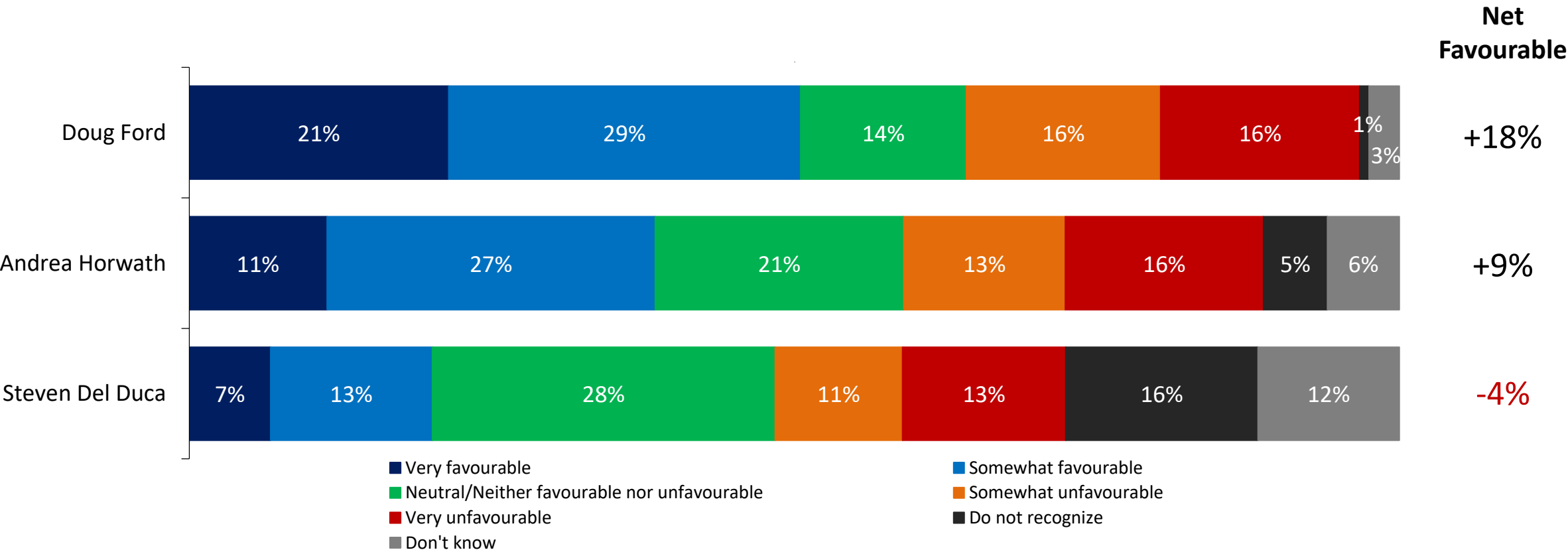
Doug Ford Favourability: Half (51%) say they have a somewhat or very favourable impression of Ford; highest levels since he took office

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.
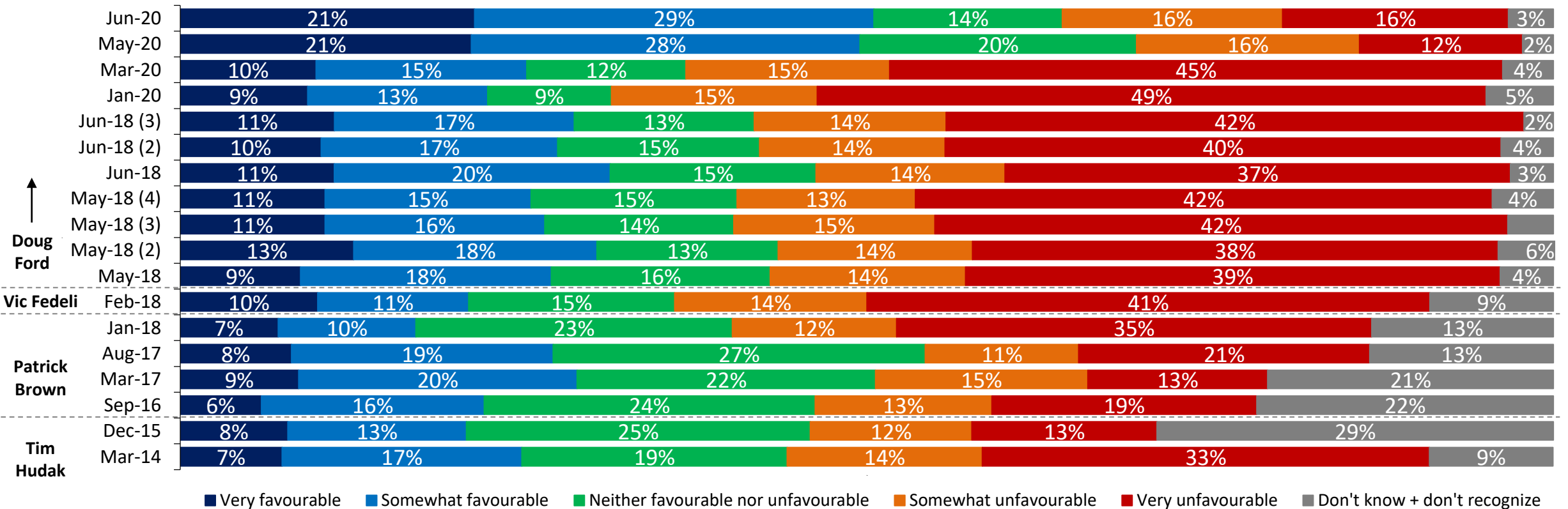
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

	Date	Very favourable	Somewhat favourable	Neither favourable nor unfavourable	Somewhat unfavourable	Very unfavourable	Don't know + don't recognize
Doug Ford	Jun-20	21%	29%	14%	16%	16%	3%
	May-20	21%	28%	20%	16%	12%	2%
	Mar-20	10%	15%	12%	15%	45%	4%
	Jan-20	9%	13%	9%	15%	49%	5%
	Jun-18 (3)	11%	17%	13%	14%	42%	2%
	Jun-18 (2)	10%	17%	15%	14%	40%	4%
	Jun-18	11%	20%	15%	14%	37%	3%
	May-18 (4)	11%	15%	15%	13%	42%	4%
	May-18 (3)	11%	16%	14%	15%	42%	
	May-18 (2)	13%	18%	13%	14%	38%	6%
	May-18	9%	18%	16%	14%	39%	4%
Vic Fedeli	Feb-18	10%	11%	15%	14%	41%	9%
Patrick Brown	Jan-18	7%	10%	23%	12%	35%	13%
	Aug-17	8%	19%	27%	11%	21%	13%
	Mar-17	9%	20%	22%	15%	13%	21%
	Sep-16	6%	16%	24%	13%	19%	22%
Tim Hudak	Dec-15	8%	13%	25%	12%	13%	29%
	Mar-14	7%	17%	19%	14%	33%	9%

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

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Andrea Horwath Favourability: Horwath's favourability reaches its highest levels since the beginning of 2020; unfavourable % is steady

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.
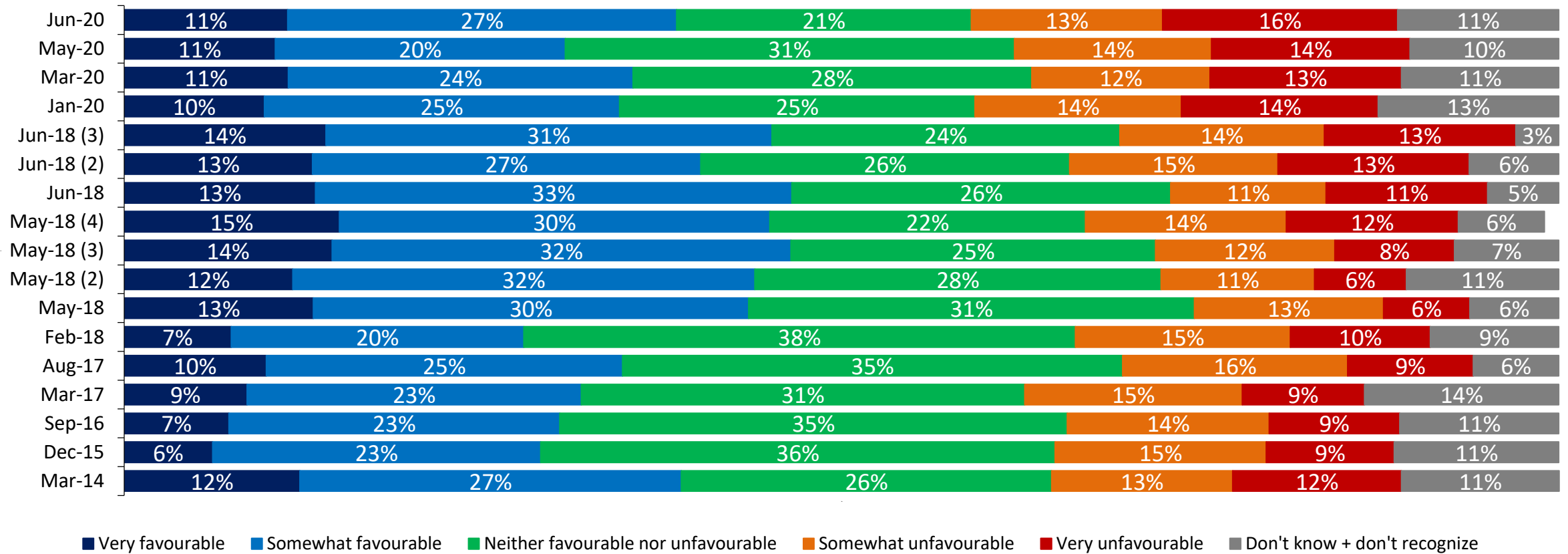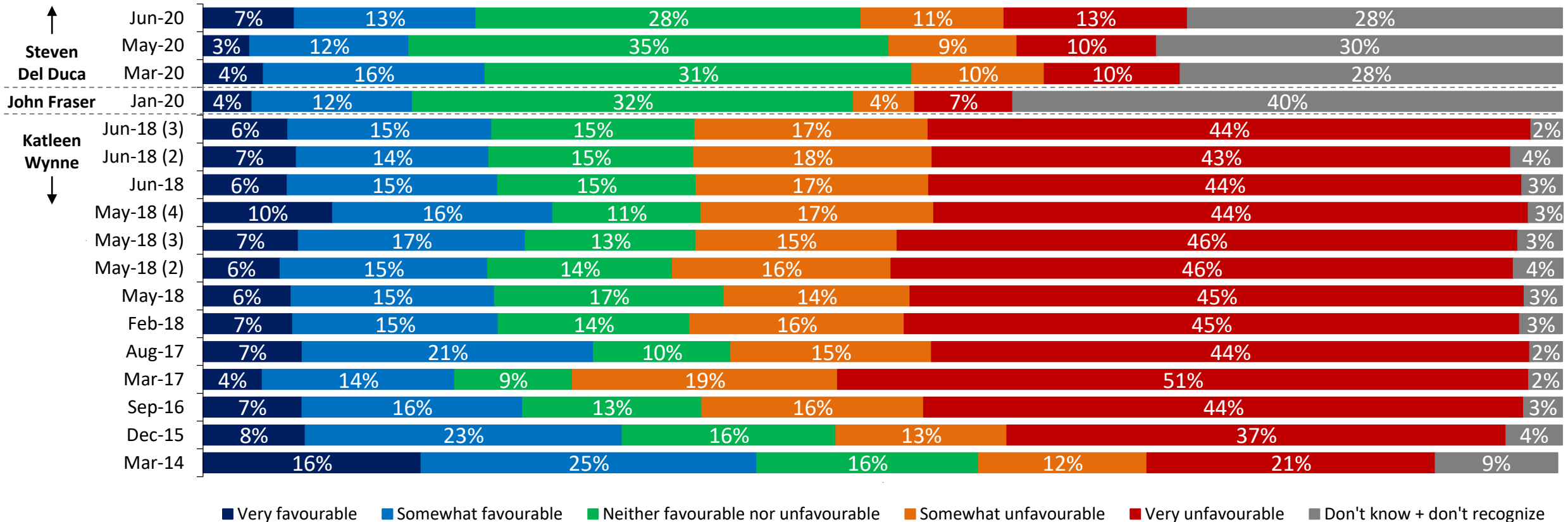
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

	Very favourable	Somewhat favourable	Neither favourable nor unfavourable	Somewhat unfavourable	Very unfavourable	Don't know + don't recognize
Jun-20	11%	27%	21%	13%	16%	11%
May-20	11%	20%	31%	14%	14%	10%
Mar-20	11%	24%	28%	12%	13%	11%
Jan-20	10%	25%	25%	14%	14%	13%
Jun-18 (3)	14%	31%	24%	14%	13%	3%
Jun-18 (2)	13%	27%	26%	15%	13%	6%
Jun-18	13%	33%	26%	11%	11%	5%
May-18 (4)	15%	30%	22%	14%	12%	6%
May-18 (3)	14%	32%	25%	12%	8%	7%
May-18 (2)	12%	32%	28%	11%	6%	11%
May-18	13%	30%	31%	13%	6%	6%
Feb-18	7%	20%	38%	15%	10%	9%
Aug-17	10%	25%	35%	16%	9%	6%
Mar-17	9%	23%	31%	15%	9%	14%
Sep-16	7%	23%	35%	14%	9%	11%
Dec-15	6%	23%	36%	15%	9%	11%
Mar-14	12%	27%	26%	13%	12%	11%

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

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Steven Del Duca Favourability: Many respondents don't have a firm opinion of Del Duca; 28% say neither favourable nor unfavourable

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]

Steven Del Duca

	Very favourable	Somewhat favourable	Neither favourable nor unfavourable	Somewhat unfavourable	Very unfavourable	Don't know + don't recognize
Jun-20	7%	13%	28%	11%	13%	28%
May-20	3%	12%	35%	9%	10%	30%
Mar-20	4%	16%	31%	10%	10%	28%

John Fraser

Jan-20	4%	12%	32%	4%	7%	40%

Katleen Wynne

Jun-18 (3)	6%	15%	15%	17%	44%	2%
Jun-18 (2)	7%	14%	15%	18%	43%	4%
Jun-18	6%	15%	15%	17%	44%	3%
May-18 (4)	10%	16%	11%	17%	44%	3%
May-18 (3)	7%	17%	13%	15%	46%	3%
May-18 (2)	6%	15%	14%	16%	46%	4%
May-18	6%	15%	17%	14%	45%	3%
Feb-18	7%	15%	14%	16%	45%	3%
Aug-17	7%	21%	10%	15%	44%	2%
Mar-17	4%	14%	9%	19%	51%	2%
Sep-16	7%	16%	13%	16%	44%	3%
Dec-15	8%	23%	16%	13%	37%	4%
Mar-14	16%	25%	16%	12%	21%	9%

■ Very favourable ■ Somewhat favourable ■ Neither favourable nor unfavourable ■ Somewhat unfavourable ■ Very unfavourable ■ Don't know + don't recognize
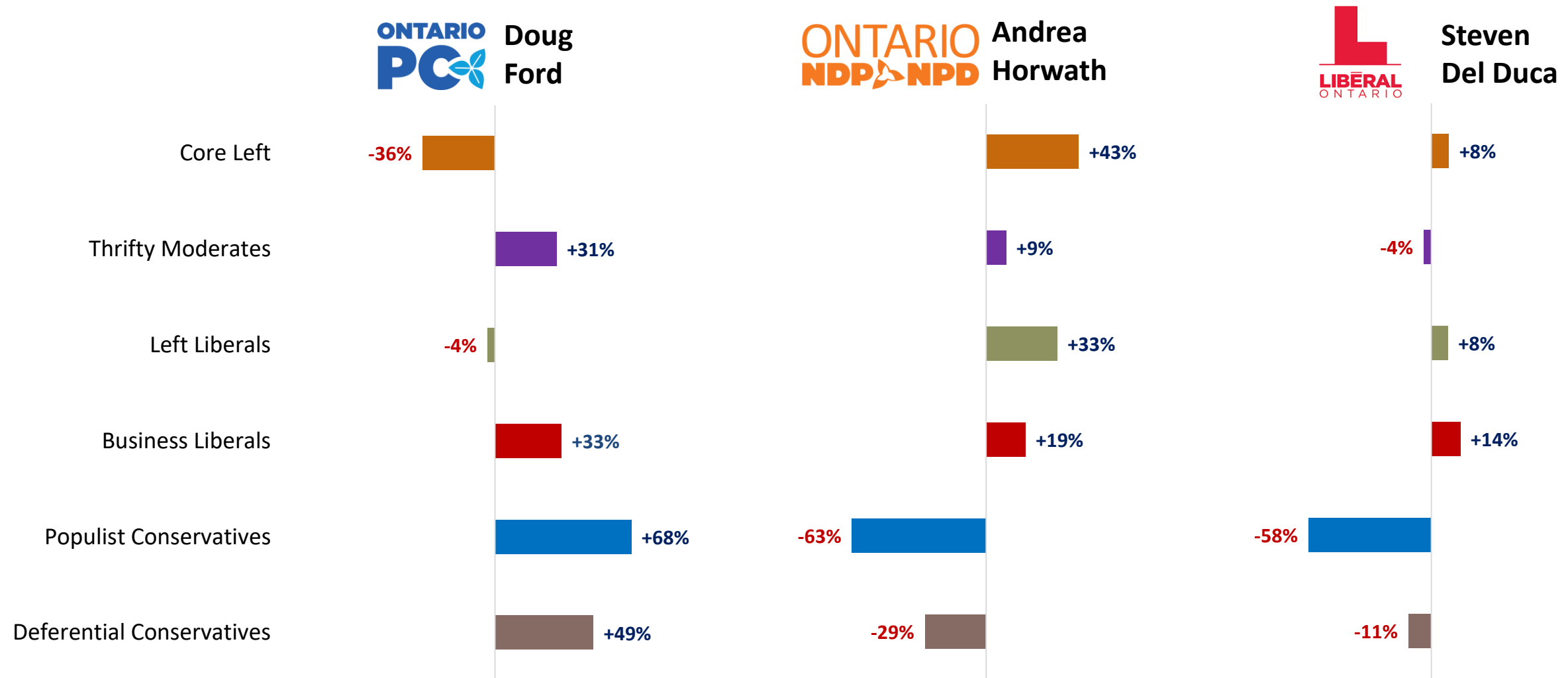
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Ontario Party Leader NET Favourables Tracking: Ford's favourability has steadied since its 56-point spike in March

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]

Current data: June 2020
Note: Premier tracking shows the leaders named in the survey wave
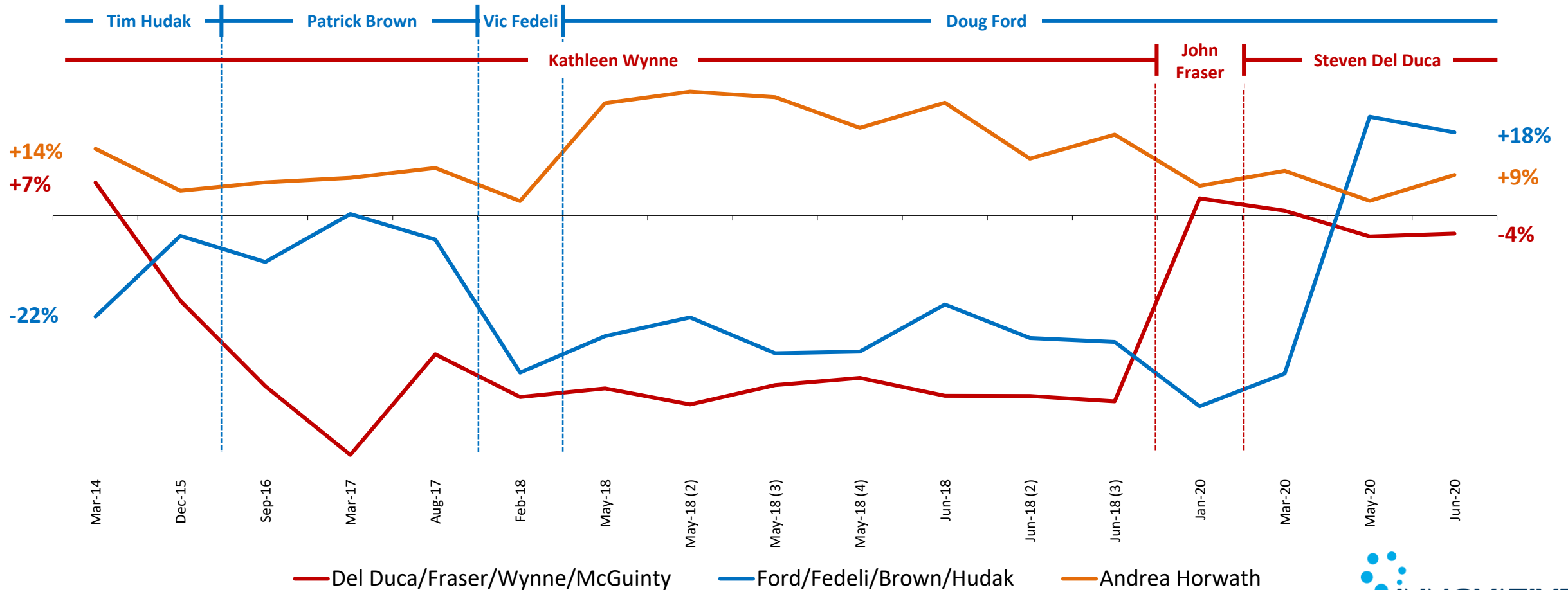
Leader favourability by Value Clusters: More see Horwath favourably than unfavourably among all groups except the Conservative clusters
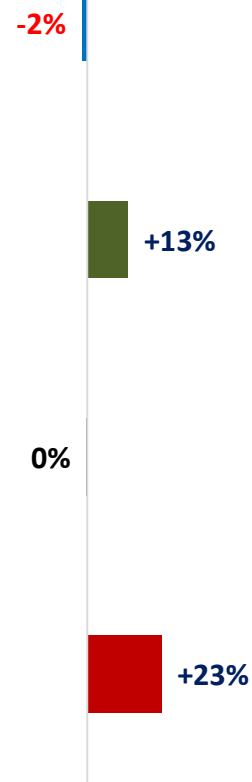
Doug Ford (ONTARIO PC)

Andrea Horwath (ONTARIO NDP/NPD)

Steven Del Duca (LIBERAL ONTARIO)

Value Cluster	Doug Ford	Andrea Horwath	Steven Del Duca
Core Left	-36%	+43%	+8%
Thrifty Moderates	+31%	+9%	-4%
Left Liberals	-4%	+33%	+8%
Business Liberals	+33%	+19%	+14%
Populist Conservatives	+68%	-63%	-58%
Deferential Conservatives	+49%	-29%	-11%

NET Favourability by Value Clusters:

Each chart shows the net favourability (% favourable minus % unfavourable) for each leader within INNOVATIVE's 6 value cluster segments.

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Leader favourability by Economic Gap: Ford receives the highest net favourability from Strugglers (+56%) and lowest from Alienated (-32%)
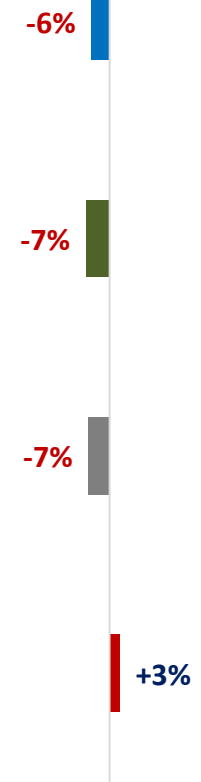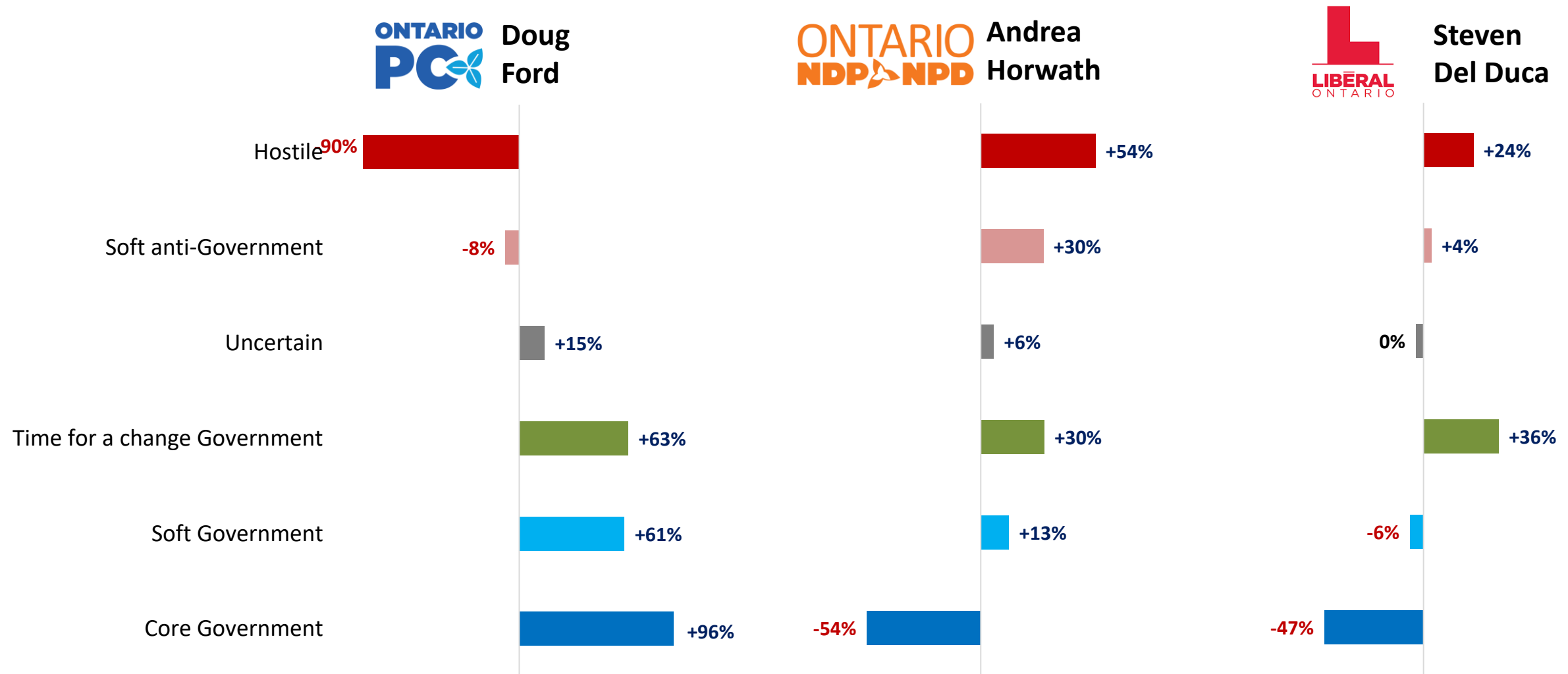

	ONTARIO PC Doug Ford	ONTARIO NDP NPD Andrea Horwath	LIBERAL ONTARIO Steven Del Duca
Achievers	+28%	-2%	-6%
Strugglers	+56%	+13%	-7%
Ambivalent	+21%	0%	-7%
Alienated	-32%	+23%	+3%
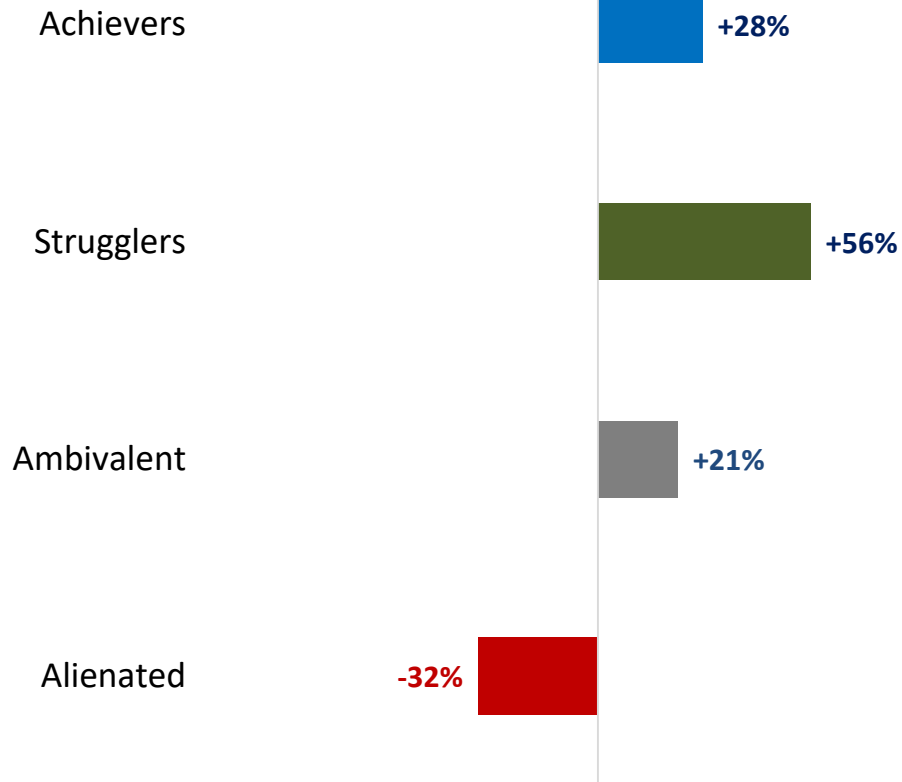
NET Favourability by Economic Gap:
Each chart shows the net favourability (% favourable minus % unfavourable) for each leader within INNOVATIVE's 4 economic gap segments.

Leader favourability by Time for a Change: Those hostile towards the government show lowest favourability to Ford (net -90%)
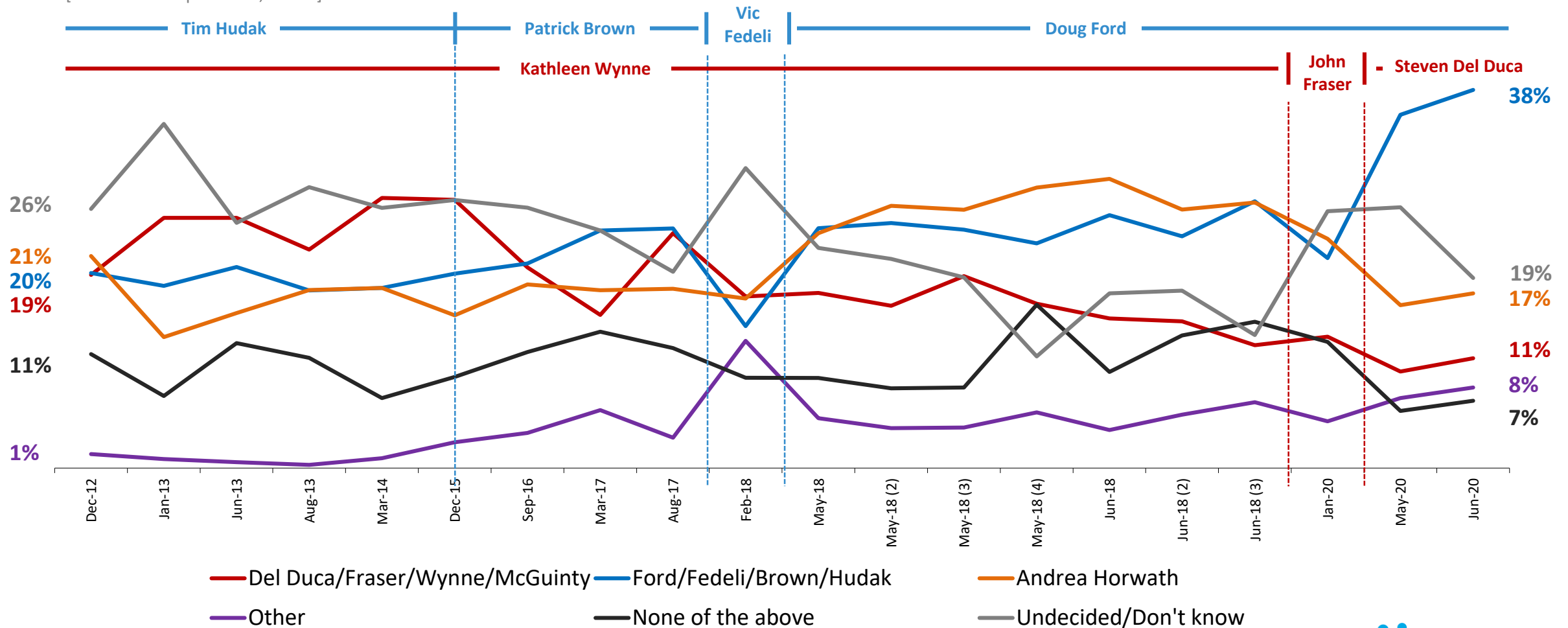
Doug Ford (ONTARIO PC)

Andrea Horwath (ONTARIO NDP·NPD)

Steven Del Duca (LIBERAL ONTARIO)

	Doug Ford	Andrea Horwath	Steven Del Duca
Hostile	90%	+54%	+24%
Soft anti-Government	-8%	+30%	+4%
Uncertain	+15%	+6%	0%
Time for a change Government	+63%	+30%	+36%
Soft Government	+61%	+13%	-6%
Core Government	+96%	-54%	-47%

NET Favourability by Time for a Change:

Each chart shows the net favourability (% favourable minus % unfavourable) for each leader within INNOVATIVE's 6 time for a change segments.

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Best Premier Tracking: Doug Ford continues to lead the pack with an increase in favourability for 'best Premier', now at 38%

Q **Which of the following leaders would make the best Premier of Ontario?**
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

Tim Hudak — Patrick Brown — Vic Fedeli — Doug Ford

Kathleen Wynne — John Fraser — Steven Del Duca

Legend:
- Del Duca/Fraser/Wynne/McGuinty
- Ford/Fedeli/Brown/Hudak
- Andrea Horwath
- Other
- None of the above
- Undecided/Don't know

Values shown: 38%, 21%, 20%, 19%, 19%, 17%, 11%, 11%, 8%, 7%, 1%, 26%

Current data: June 2020
Note: Premier tracking shows the leaders named in the survey wave

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Ontario PC lagging behind Ontario Liberals in vote

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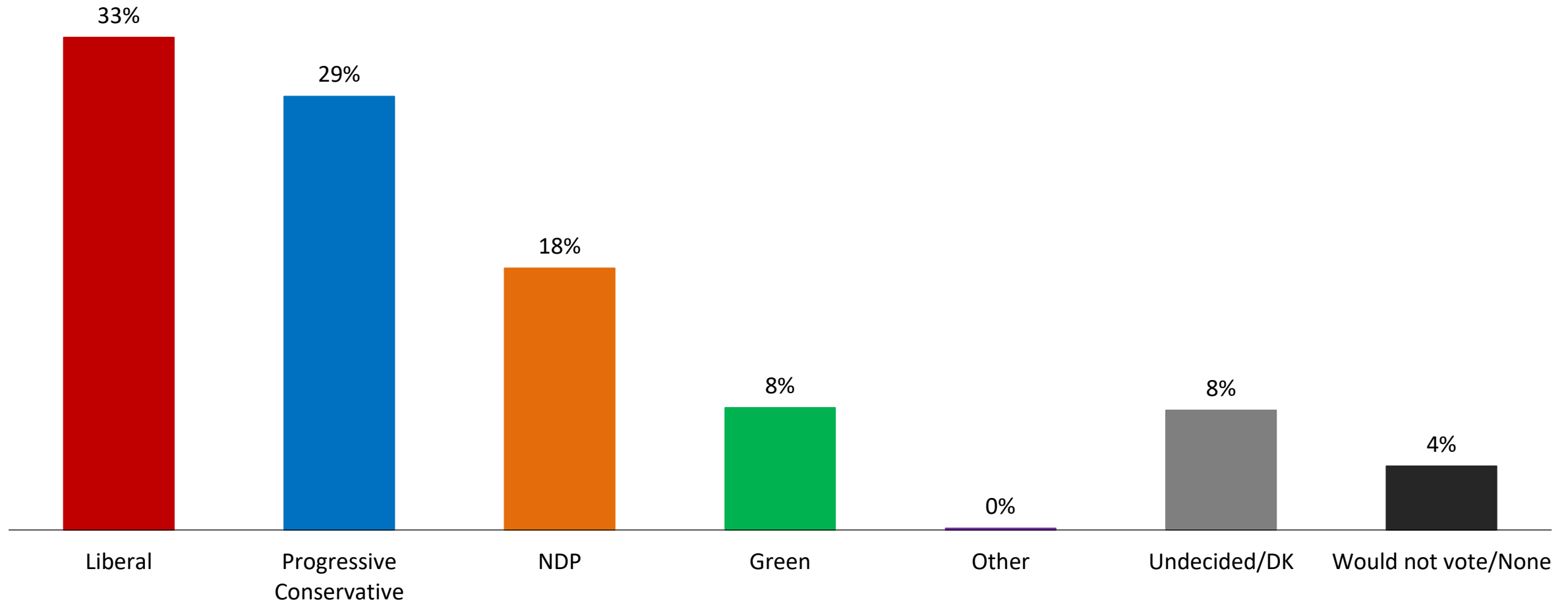
When we look at the results among *only* decided voters, we call that **Decided vote.** These results most tell us what the election results would be like if the survey results matched the election exactly.

Provincial Combined Vote: 1-in-3 (33%) say they would vote Liberal, 29% would vote PC, and 18% would vote NDP

Q If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? **[Vote + Lean]**
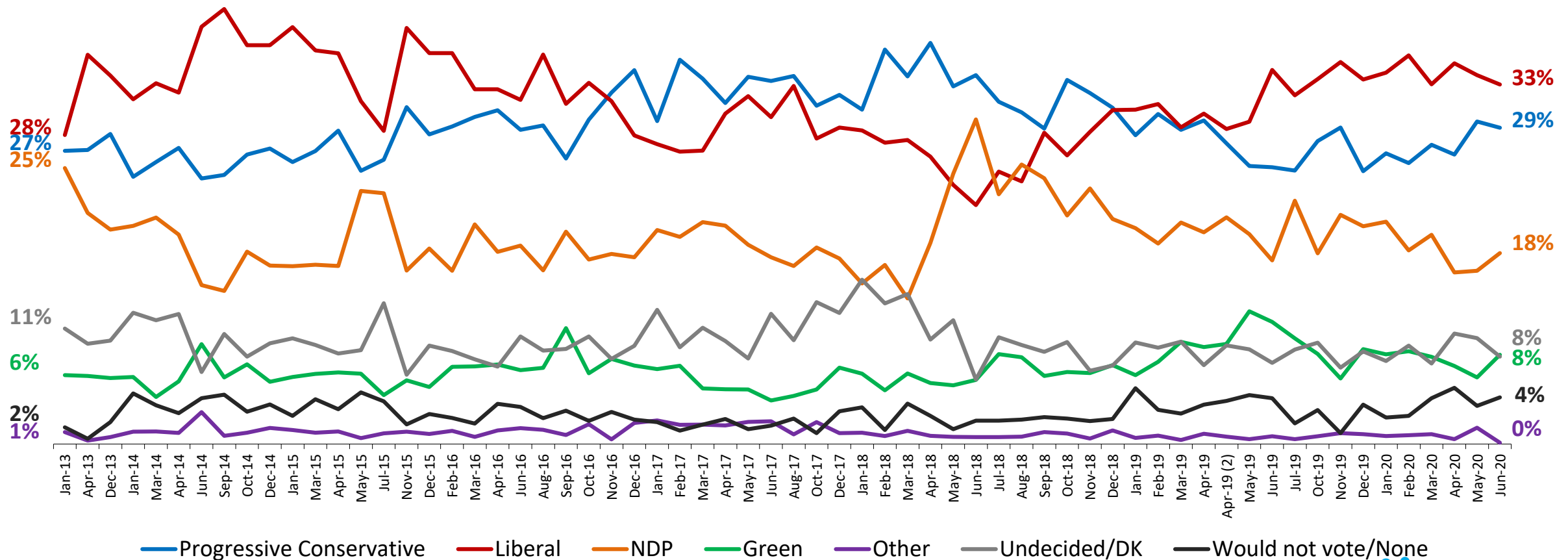[asked of all respondents; n=600]

Liberal	Progressive Conservative	NDP	Green	Other	Undecided/DK	Would not vote/None
33%	29%	18%	8%	0%	8%	4%

Current data: June 2020

Provincial Vote Tracking: Provincial vote steady month-to-month, with Liberals and PCs maintaining only a 4-point difference

Q If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? **[Vote + Lean]**
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

Progressive Conservative — Liberal — NDP — Green — Other — Undecided/DK — Would not vote/None

Current data: June 2020

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Provincial Decided Vote: Of those decided, 38% would vote Liberal, a third (33%) for Progressive Conservative, and a fifth (20%) for NDP

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]**
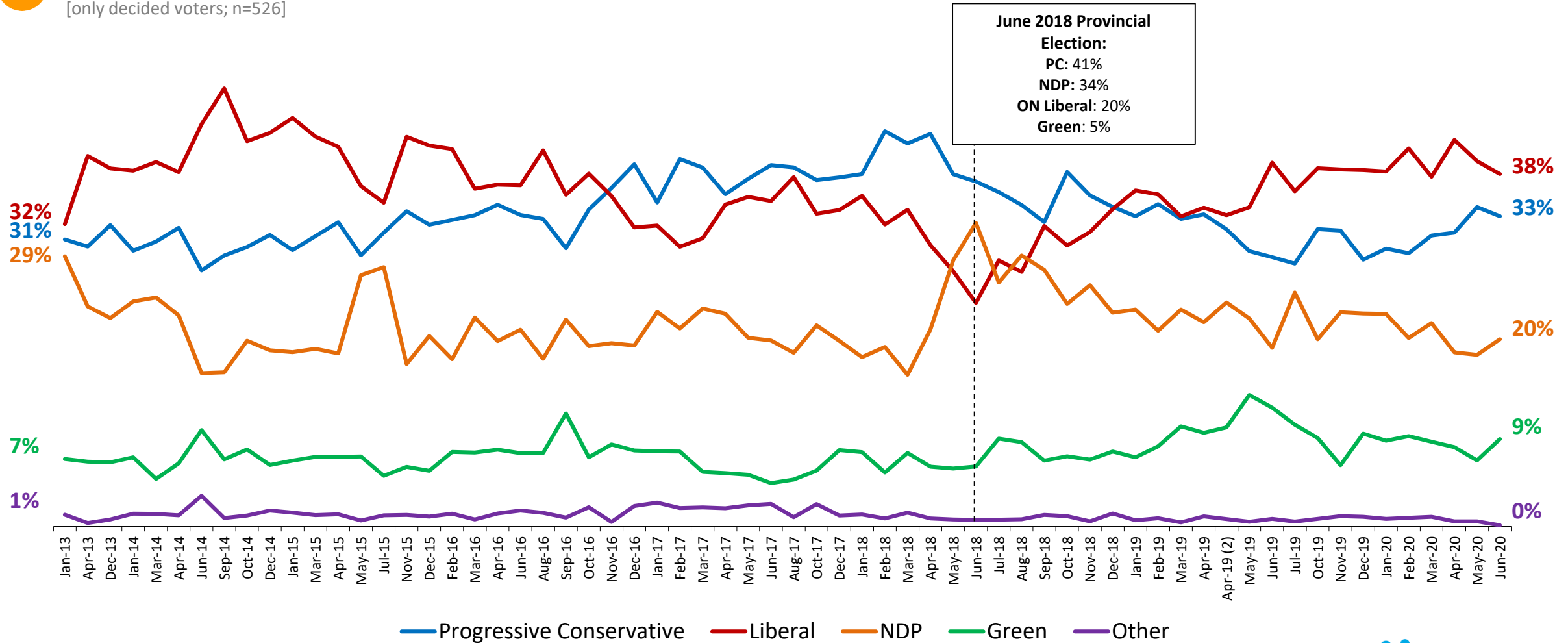[decided voters only; n=526]

Liberal	Progressive Conservative	NDP	Green	Other
38%	33%	20%	9%	0%

Current data: June 2020
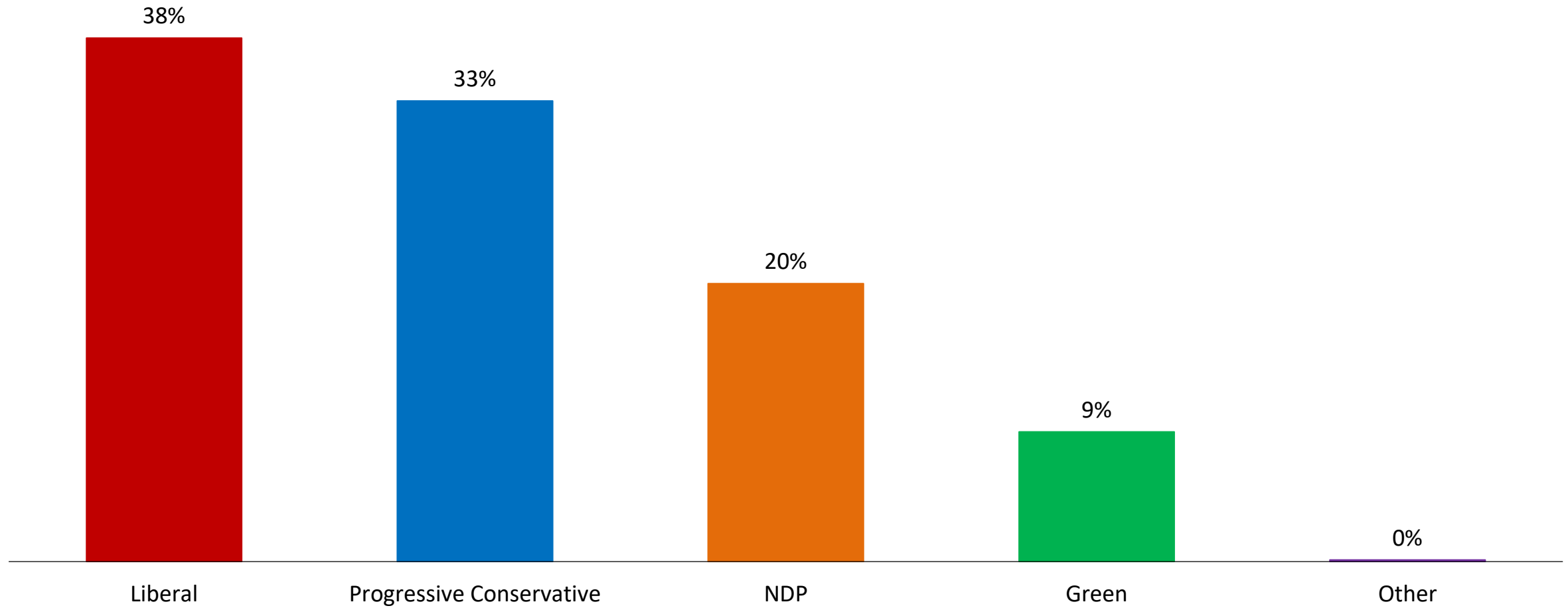
Provincial Decided Vote Tracking: Ontario decided vote steady month-to-month with Liberals maintaining a 5-point lead on PCs

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]

June 2018 Provincial
Election:
PC: 41%
NDP: 34%
ON Liberal: 20%
Green: 5%

Progressive Conservative — Liberal — NDP — Green — Other

Current data: June 2020

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Decided Vote by Region: Strong lead for Liberals in Toronto; other regions mainly split between Liberal and Progressive Conservative

Decided vote by Region

		Region			
		Toronto	**Rest of GTA**	**South/West**	**North/East**
		(N=115)	(N=140)	(N=133)	(N=138)
	Liberal	40%	37%	38%	35%
	Progressive Conservative	23%	36%	35%	37%
Decided Vote	**NDP**	27%	19%	17%	18%
	Green	9%	8%	11%	9%
	Other	1%	0%	0%	0%

Note: Current data: June 2020

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Combined Vote by Value Cluster: Liberals are competitive with PCs amongst Thrifty Moderates

Value Clusters

Combined Vote	Deferential Conservatives (N=53)	Populist Conservatives (N=88)	Business Liberals (N=137)	Left Liberals (N=89)	Thrifty Moderates (N=97)	Core Left (N=136)
Liberal	28%	13%	48%	33%	23%	40%
Progressive Conservative	48%	76%	24%	22%	24%	5%
NDP	11%	2%	16%	13%	18%	34%
Green	0%	3%	2%	18%	11%	13%
Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Undecided/DK	6%	3%	10%	8%	14%	6%
Would not vote/None	6%	3%	0%	5%	11%	3%

Note: Current data: June 2020

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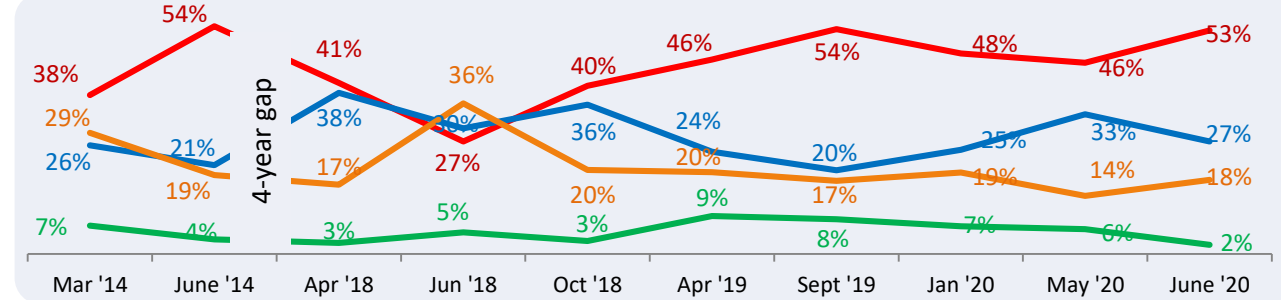
Tracking Decided Vote by Cluster: The PCs are up among Left Liberals, while the Liberals are up among Business Liberals
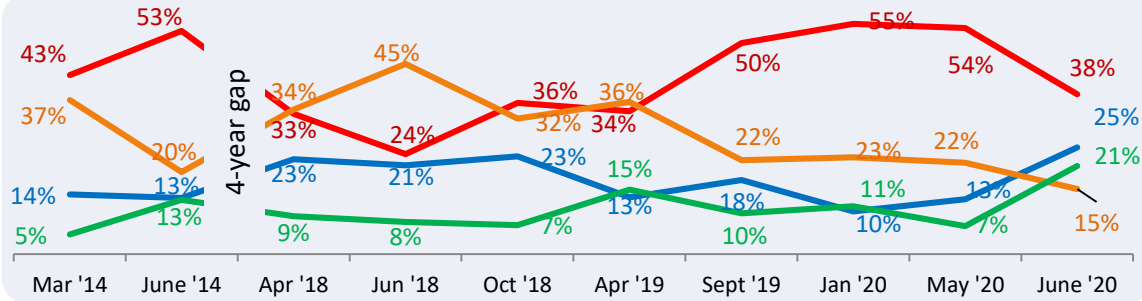
Left Liberals

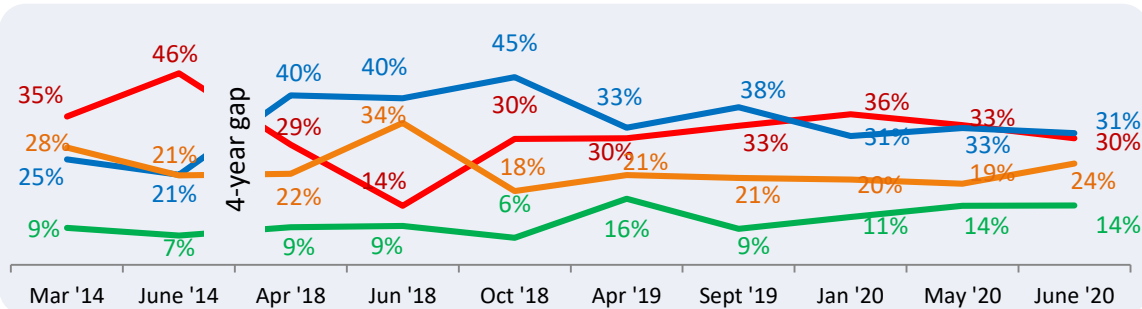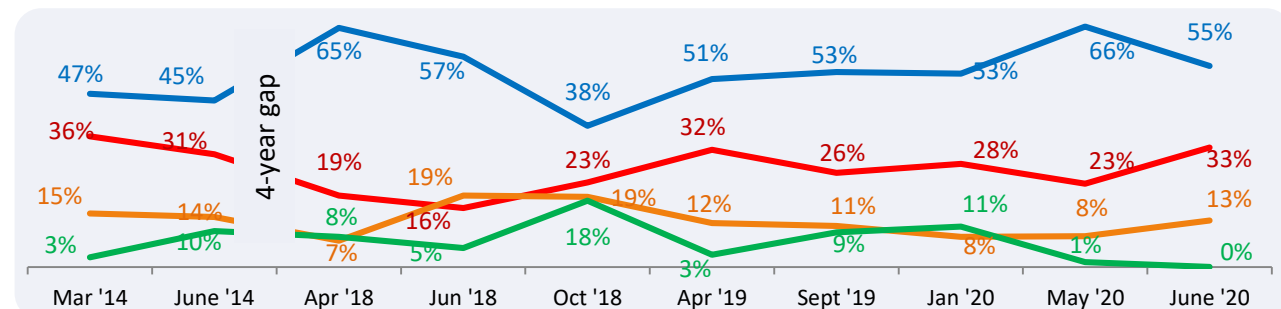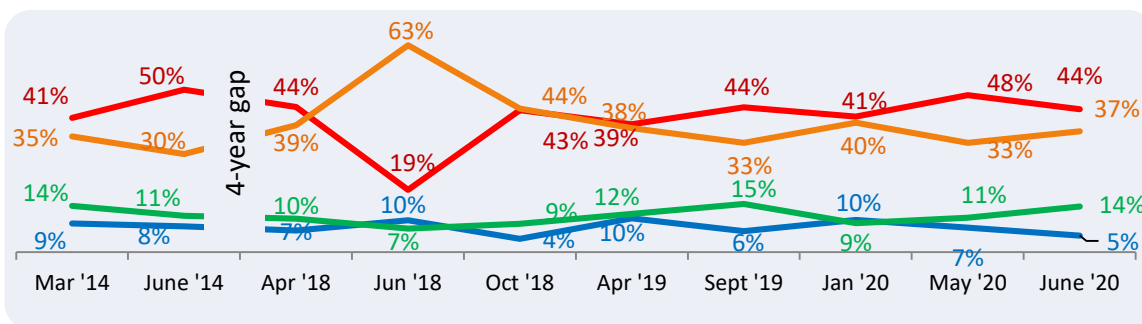## Business Liberals

Thrifty Moderates

Deferential Conservatives

Core Left

Populist Conservatives
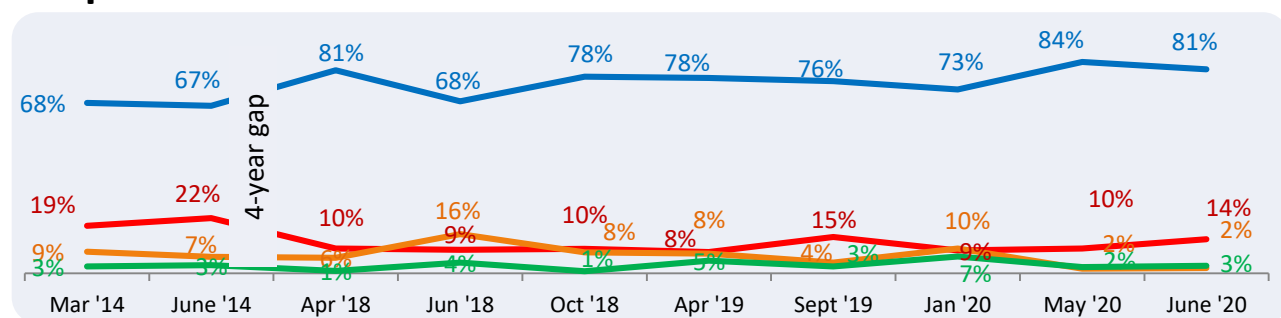
Decided vote: **Liberal**   **PC**   **NDP**   **Green**

Combined Vote by Economic Gap: Liberals are most likely to be considered alienated, other segments are split between PC and Liberals

	Economic Gap			
Combined Vote	**Achievers** (N=191)	**Strugglers** (N=151)	**Ambivalent** (N=98)	**Alienated** (N=159)
Liberal	34%	33%	27%	35%
Progressive Conservative	38%	32%	28%	16%
NDP	14%	17%	11%	26%
Green	6%	8%	9%	11%
Other	0%	0%	0%	0%
Undecided/DK	7%	5%	19%	5%
Would not vote/None	1%	5%	6%	6%

Note: Current data: June 2020

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Tracking Decided Vote by Alienation Segmentation: Liberals and PCs are close in all groups except Alienated voters

Canadian Dream Achievers
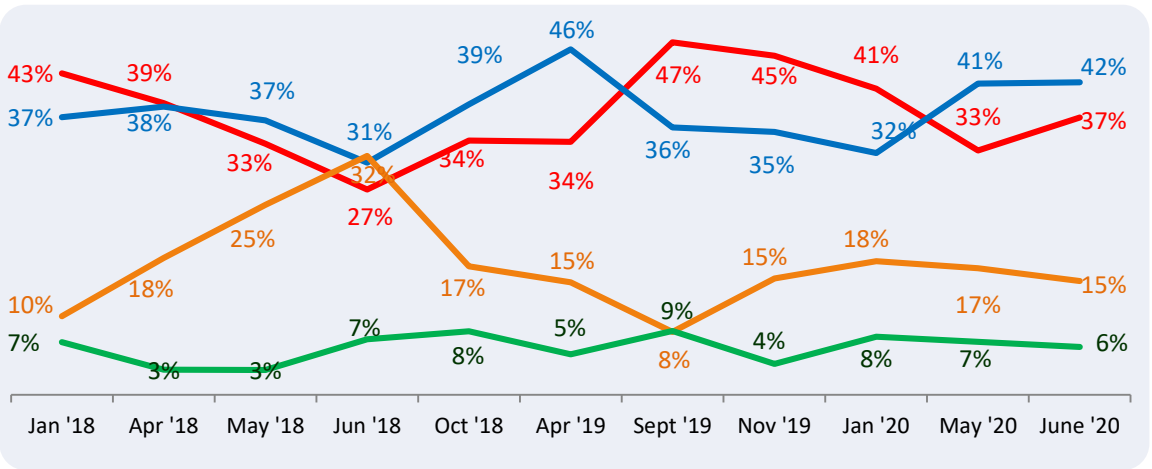
Canadian Dream Strugglers
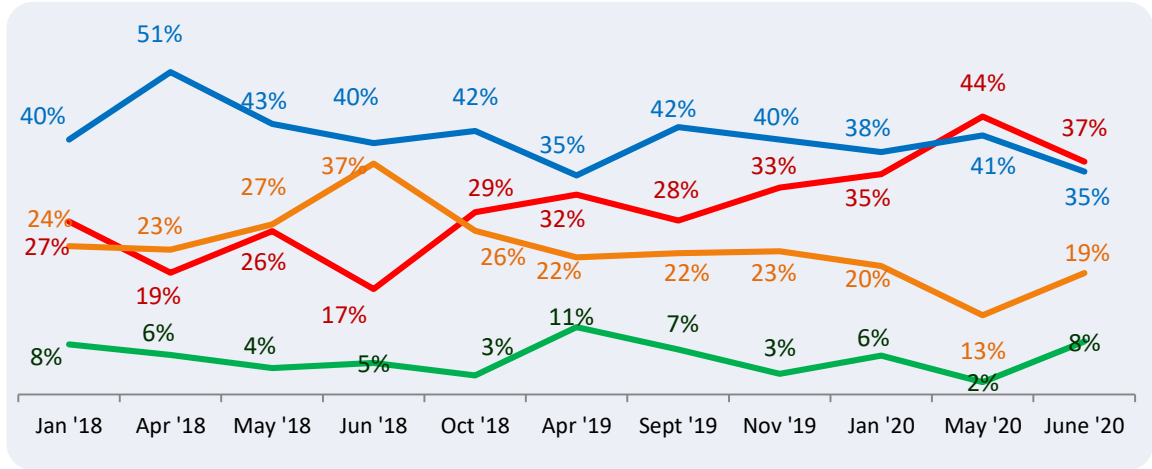
Ambivalent
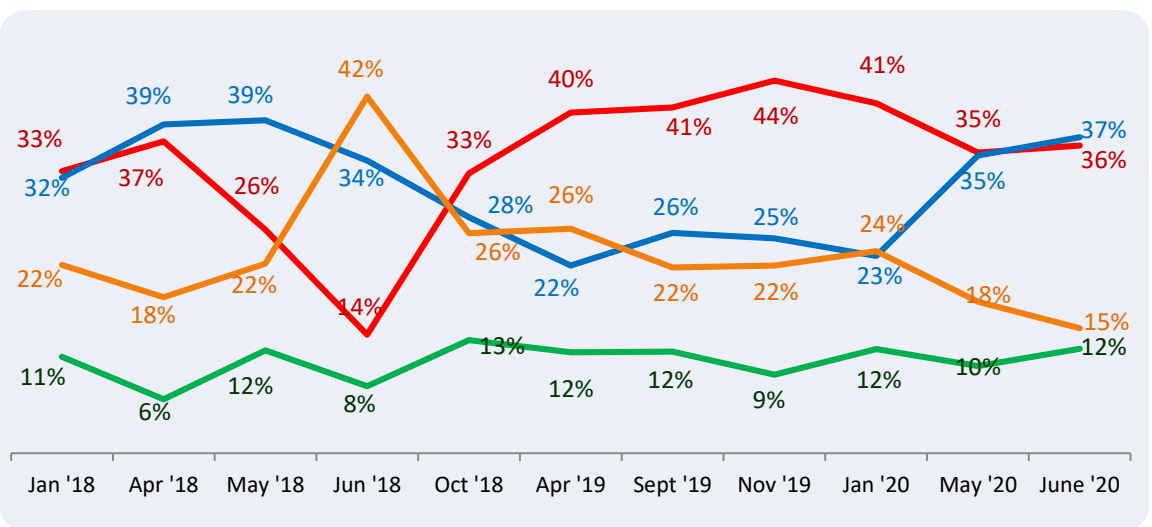
Alienated
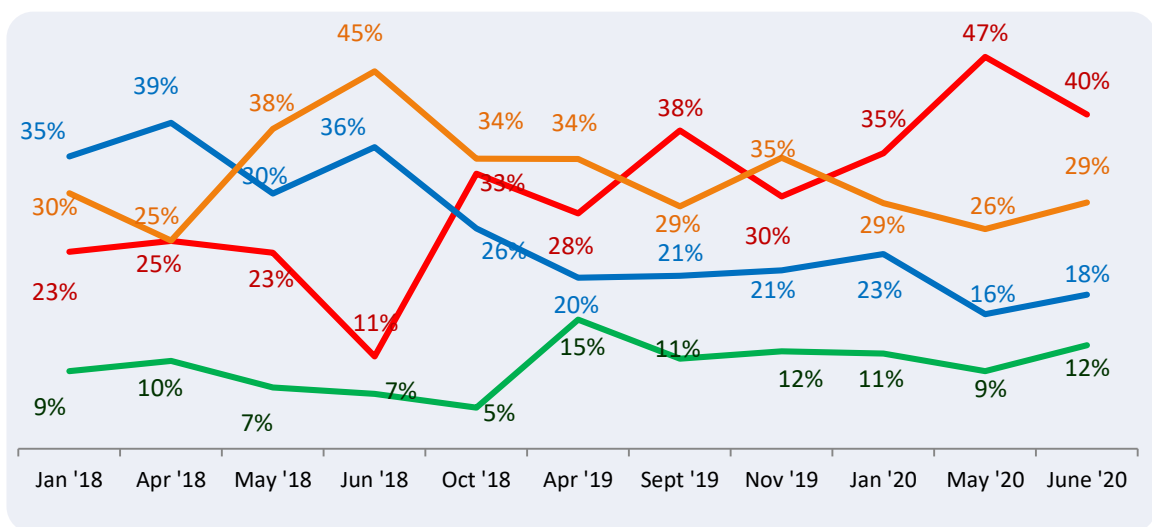
Decided vote: **Liberal**   **PC**   **NDP**   **Green**

Combined Vote by Time for Change: PCs (26%) trail behind Liberals (41%) amongst 'time for a change'

Time for Change

Combined Vote	Core Government (N=147)	Soft Government (N=50)	Time for a change Government (N=62)	Uncertain (N=83)	Soft anti-Government (N=155)	Hostile (N=103)
Liberal	7%	30%	41%	26%	51%	45%
Progressive Conservative	86%	28%	26%	8%	7%	0%
NDP	1%	15%	16%	16%	19%	41%
Green	2%	14%	15%	6%	10%	9%
Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Undecided/DK	2%	11%	0%	29%	8%	3%
Would not vote/None	2%	3%	2%	14%	4%	3%

Note: Current data: June 2020

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Provincial 2nd Choice: 22% of decided voters say the NDP would be their second choice; 37% would not vote or be undecided

Q And which party would be your second choice?
[only decided voters; n=526]

Liberal 2nd Choice	PC 2nd Choice	NDP 2nd Choice	Green 2nd Choice	Other 2nd Choice	Undecided	WNV/None
17%	8%	22%	14%	2%	21%	16%

Current data: June 2020

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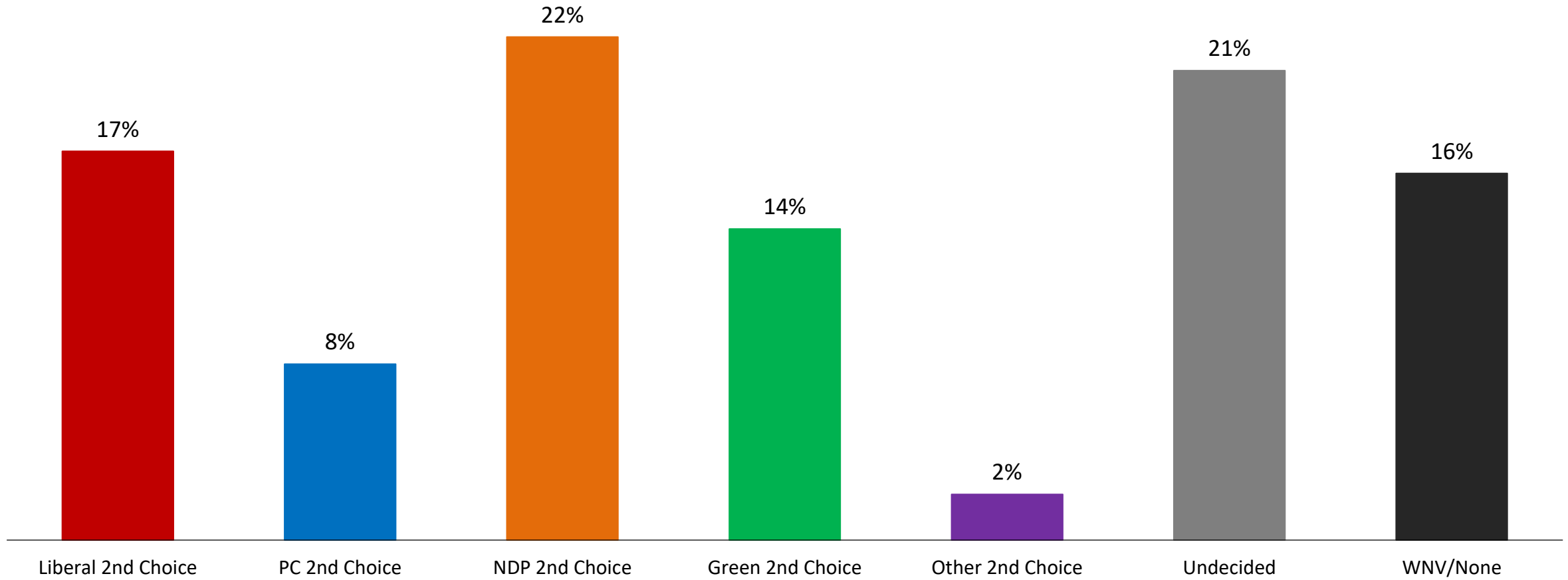
Provincial 2nd Choice: Half of those whose 1st choice would be NDP say their second pick would be the Liberal Party

And which party would be your second choice? BY [Vote+Lean]

	First Choice			
Second Choice	**Liberal 1st Choice** (N=198)	**PC 1st Choice** (N=174)	**NDP 1st Choice** (N=105)	**Green 1st Choice** (N=49)
Liberal 2nd Choice		16%	50%	21%
PC 2nd Choice	13%		11%	7%
NDP 2nd Choice	43%	7%		39%
Green 2nd Choice	19%	7%	21%	
Other 2nd Choice	0%	6%	0%	0%
Undecided	15%	31%	14%	23%
WNV/None	9%	33%	4%	11%

Note: 'Other' in Combined Vote not shown due to insufficient sample size.
Current data: June 2020

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Provincial Party ID: Nearly a third (31%) identify as Liberal, followed by PC (25%), and NDP (13%); 15% identify as Independent

Q Thinking about politics in Ontario, generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a…
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

31%	25%	13%	7%	2%	15%	7%
Liberal	Progressive Conservative	NDP	Green	Other	None/Independent	Don't know

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Current data: June 2020
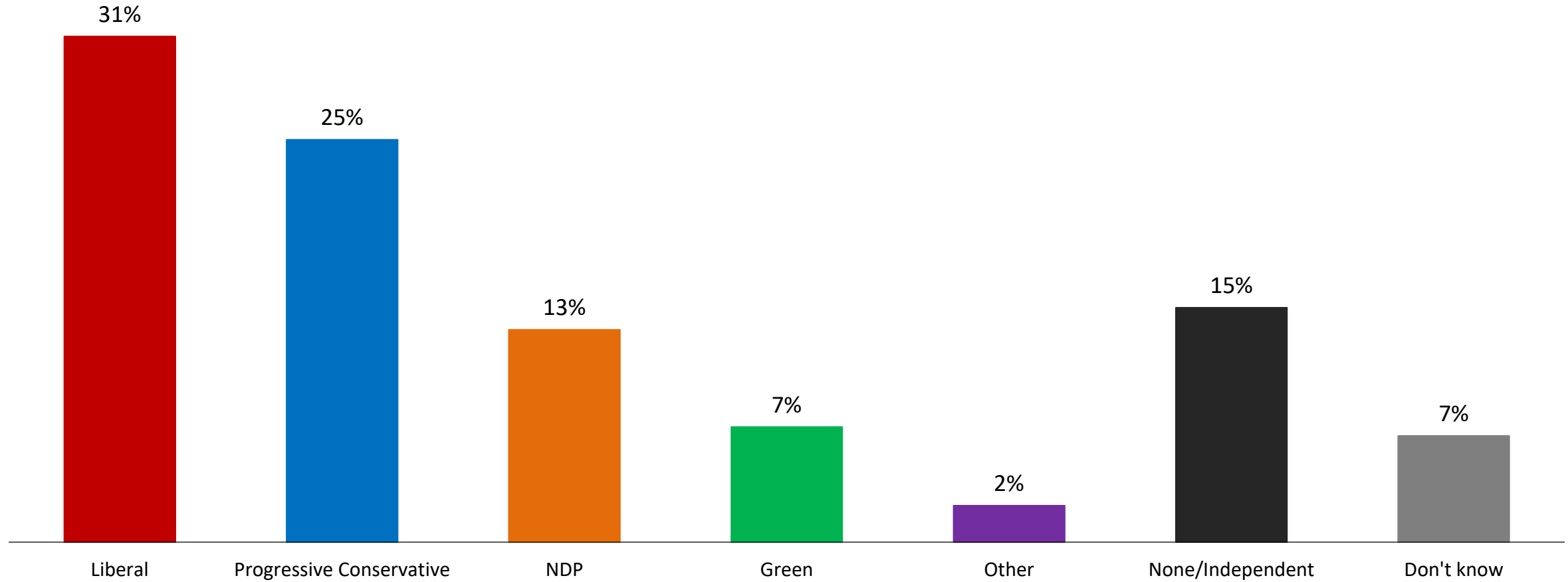
Provincial Party ID Tracking: Slight decrease in Liberal identification (31%) month-to-month, still trending ahead of PC identifiers

Q Thinking about politics in Ontario, generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a...
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

Liberal — Progressive Conservative — NDP — Green — Other — None/Independent — Don't know

Current data: June 2020
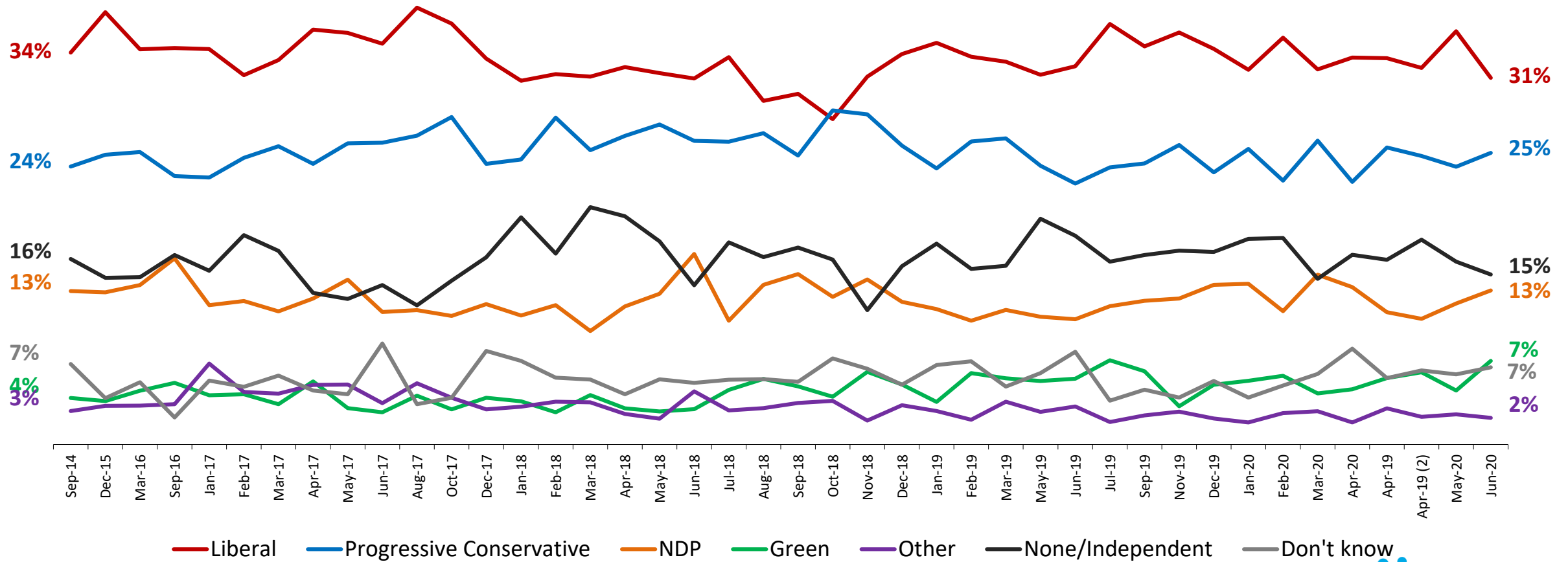
Combined Vote by Party ID: Liberal, PC, and NDP see similar levels of loyalty regarding partisans voting for the same party they identify as

Provincial Party Identification

	Liberal	Progressive Conservative	NDP	Green/Other	Other	Unaligned
	(N=188)	(N=150)	(N=79)	(N=43)	(N=14)	(N=127)
Liberal	82%	7%	10%	9%	13%	15%
Progressive Conservative	5%	85%	5%	15%	52%	16%
NDP	6%	4%	84%	19%	3%	10%
Green	3%	2%	1%	58%	27%	8%
Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%
Undecided/DK	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	32%
Would not vote/None	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	20%

Provincial Combined Vote

Note: Current data: June 2020

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Preparing for the Future

Most believe outbreaks will continue, preventing things from returning to normal until vaccine available. Making changes to the long term care system to better protect seniors is identified as a critical weakness for Ontario's provincial government.

Re-opening: Beliefs around when things will return to normal are steady; most (46%) say outbreaks will continue until vaccine available

Q Thinking about the role of the provincial government when it comes to the economy, which statement is closest to your point of view?
[asked of all respondents in ON; n=600]

	May 15-20	May 29-Jun 1
Once governments ease restrictions in the coming months, we will be able to return to a more regular way of living	17%	16%
There will be a second wave in the fall before we can return to a more regular way of living	24%	27%
COVID-19 outbreaks will continue for the foreseeable future until a vaccine becomes available, preventing any return to a more regular way of living	49%	46%
Don't know	10%	11%

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Shorthand for the Issues

Respondents are asked to rate the importance of various issues and how satisfied they are with the federal and provincial governments on those issues in preparation for the near future. The table below shows the shorthand which is used in the report and the corresponding full wording shown on the survey.

Full Question Wording	*Shorthand*
Helping companies that are able to return to normal operations to manage the damage from the "lockdown"	Helping companies able to return to normal
Helping companies offset the costs associated with new COVID-19 rules and restrictions	Helping companies offset costs
Helping companies that have to remain closed for now to survive	Helping companies that have to remain closed
Catching up on scheduled surgeries and other healthcare treatments that have been delayed	Catching up on scheduled surgeries/treatments
Making changes to the long-term care system to better protect seniors	Making changes to long-term care
Preparing hospitals in case there is a future spike in new cases	Preparing hospitals
Increasing public health agencies' capacity to conduct testing and contact tracing	Increasing capacity for testing/contact tracing
Beginning to reduce the amount of extra government spending on COVID-19 measures	Reduce extra government spending
Transitioning the K-12 education system back to full time instruction, either in person or online	K-12 education system back full-time
Managing COVID-19 transmission from international travelers coming to Canada	Managing transmission from travelers
Improving Canada's ability to manufacture more of our critical health supplies here in Canada (e.g. personal protective equipment)	Improving ability to manufacture critical health supplies in Canada
Encouraging private sector investment and job creation	Encouraging private sector investment & job creation

Important Issues: Top issues include changing the long-term care system, increasing testing capacities, and managing transmission from travelers

Q Currently, experts expect that COVID-19 outbreaks will continue in Canada for the next year or more. As governments address these ongoing impacts from COVID-19, there are a number of issues they may consider. On the list below, please indicate how important each issue is to you personally?
[asked of all respondents in ON; n=600]

Issue	More important than any other issue	One of the most important issues	Only somewhat important	Not really an important issues	Don't know enough to say
Making changes to long-term care	47%	35%	12%	3%	4%
Increasing capacity for testing/contact tracing	35%	43%	12%	5%	5%
Improving ability to manufacture critical health supplies in Canada	35%	43%	14%	4%	4%
Managing transmission from travelers	37%	40%	16%	3%	4%
Preparing hospitals	34%	42%	17%	4%	4%
Catching up on scheduled surgeries/treatments	27%	48%	17%	4%	5%
Helping companies that have to remain closed	13%	47%	29%	5%	6%
K-12 education system back full-time	15%	45%	25%	9%	7%
Encouraging private sector investment & job creation	19%	40%	26%	8%	7%
Helping companies able to return to normal	14%	43%	29%	8%	4%
Reduce extra government spending	16%	29%	30%	18%	8%
Helping companies offset costs	11%	34%	39%	11%	5%

■ More important than any other issue ■ One of the most important issues ■ Only somewhat important ■ Not really an important issues ■ Don't know enough to say

Federal Satisfaction: The top federal issue respondents are satisfied with is managing transmission from international travellers

Q And how satisfied are you with the work done so far by the Federal Government on each of these issues?
[asked of all respondents in ON; n=600]

Issue	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know
Managing transmission from travelers	18%	31%	16%	14%	14%	7%
Helping companies that have to remain closed	14%	35%	25%	10%	6%	10%
Improving ability to manufacture critical health supplies in Canada	14%	31%	23%	14%	9%	10%
Helping companies offset costs	11%	34%	27%	10%	5%	12%
Helping companies able to return to normal	12%	32%	28%	11%	5%	12%
Preparing hospitals	11%	30%	29%	10%	7%	14%
Increasing capacity for testing/contact tracing	13%	28%	27%	14%	7%	11%
Encouraging private sector investment & job creation	9%	25%	30%	10%	9%	16%
Making changes to long-term care	9%	23%	24%	17%	14%	13%
Reduce extra government spending	8%	22%	33%	11%	11%	14%
Catching up on scheduled surgeries/treatments	9%	20%	34%	11%	7%	19%
K-12 education system back full-time	9%	19%	37%	9%	5%	21%

■ Very satisfied ■ Somewhat satisfied ■ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
■ Somewhat dissatisfied ■ Very dissatisfied ■ Don't know

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Provincial Satisfaction: Top issues respondents are satisfied with include increasing testing/contact tracing and domestic PPE manufacturing

Q And how satisfied are you with the work done so far by the Ontario Provincial Government on each of these issues?
[asked of all respondents in ON; n=600]

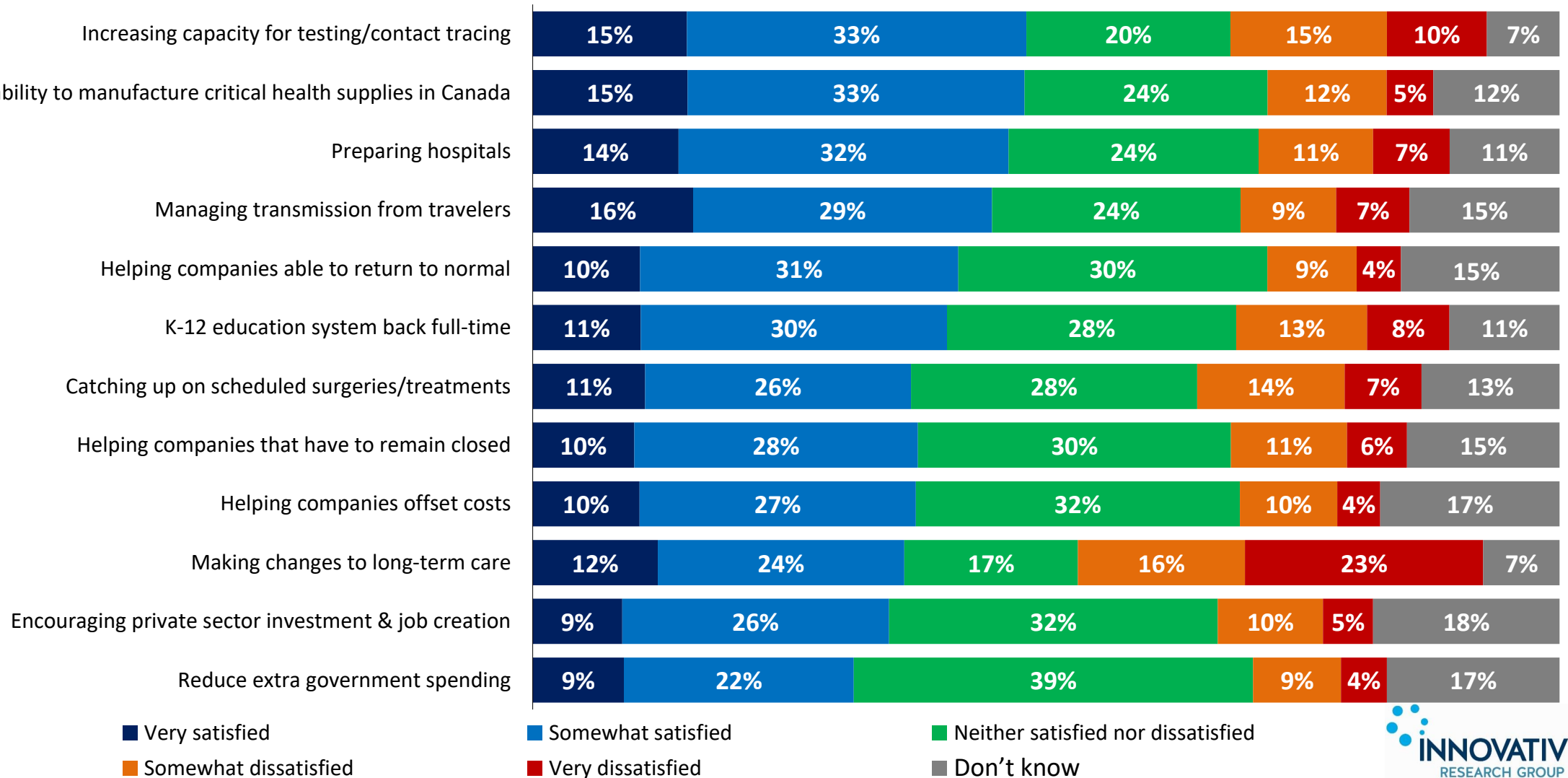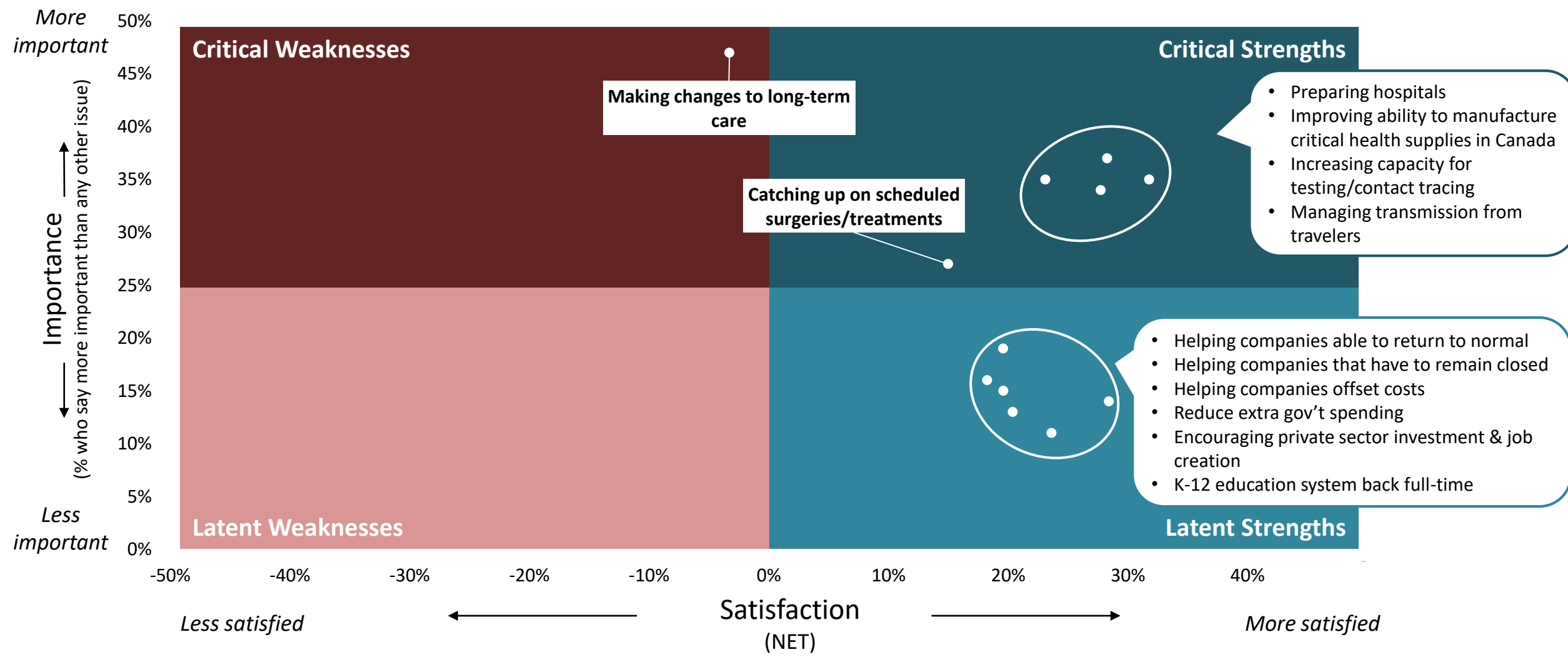| Issue	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know
Increasing capacity for testing/contact tracing	15%	33%	20%	15%	10%	7%
Improving ability to manufacture critical health supplies in Canada	15%	33%	24%	12%	5%	12%
Preparing hospitals	14%	32%	24%	11%	7%	11%
Managing transmission from travelers	16%	29%	24%	9%	7%	15%
Helping companies able to return to normal	10%	31%	30%	9%	4%	15%
K-12 education system back full-time	11%	30%	28%	13%	8%	11%
Catching up on scheduled surgeries/treatments	11%	26%	28%	14%	7%	13%
Helping companies that have to remain closed	10%	28%	30%	11%	6%	15%
Helping companies offset costs	10%	27%	32%	10%	4%	17%
Making changes to long-term care	12%	24%	17%	16%	23%	7%
Encouraging private sector investment & job creation	9%	26%	32%	10%	5%	18%
Reduce extra government spending	9%	22%	39%	9%	4%	17%

Legend:
■ Very satisfied ■ Somewhat satisfied ■ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
■ Somewhat dissatisfied ■ Very dissatisfied ■ Don't know

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Importance by Ontario Provincial Satisfaction: Making changes to long-term care homes is identified as a critical provincial weakness

Unlike the federal government, the provincial government is not receiving positive net satisfaction on all areas, as making changes to the long-term care system to better protect seniors is identified as a critical weakness.


More important

Critical Weaknesses

Critical Strengths

Importance
(% who say more important than any other issue)

Making changes to long-term care

Catching up on scheduled surgeries/treatments

- Preparing hospitals
- Improving ability to manufacture critical health supplies in Canada
- Increasing capacity for testing/contact tracing
- Managing transmission from travelers

- Helping companies able to return to normal
- Helping companies that have to remain closed
- Helping companies offset costs
- Reduce extra gov't spending
- Encouraging private sector investment & job creation
- K-12 education system back full-time

Less important

Latent Weaknesses

Latent Strengths

Satisfaction
(NET)

Less satisfied

More satisfied

Second Lockdown: Ontarians divided on whether or not to close non-essential businesses (45%) or to leave them open (46%) in a 2nd wave

Q During the recent "lockdown" phase of COVID-19, provincial and territorial governments across Canada took two different approaches. Some governments said all business and services must close unless they are on a list of essential services. Other governments said business and services that respect social distancing measures can remain open unless the top public health official specifically ordered them closed.

If there is a second wave of COVID-19 cases in Ontario, which approach would you prefer the Provincial Government take?
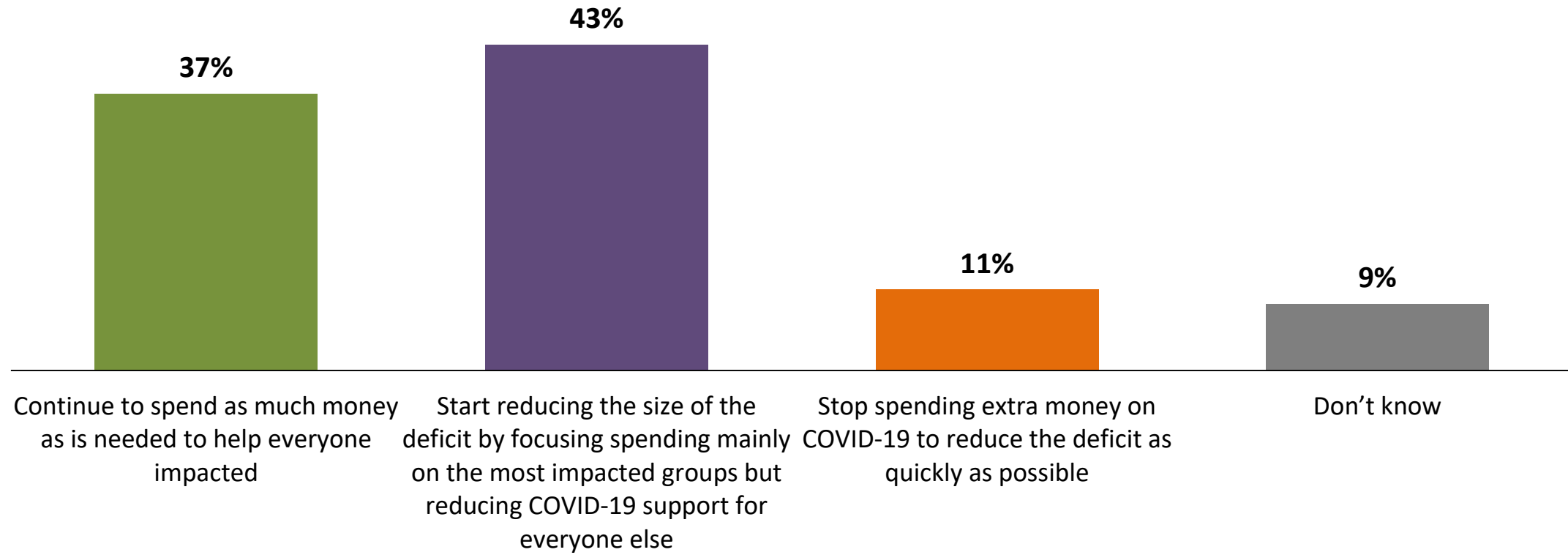[asked of all respondents in ON n=600]

45%

46%

9%

Close all businesses and services unless they are on a list of essential services

Leave all businesses and services that respect social distancing open unless they are specifically ordered closed

Don't know

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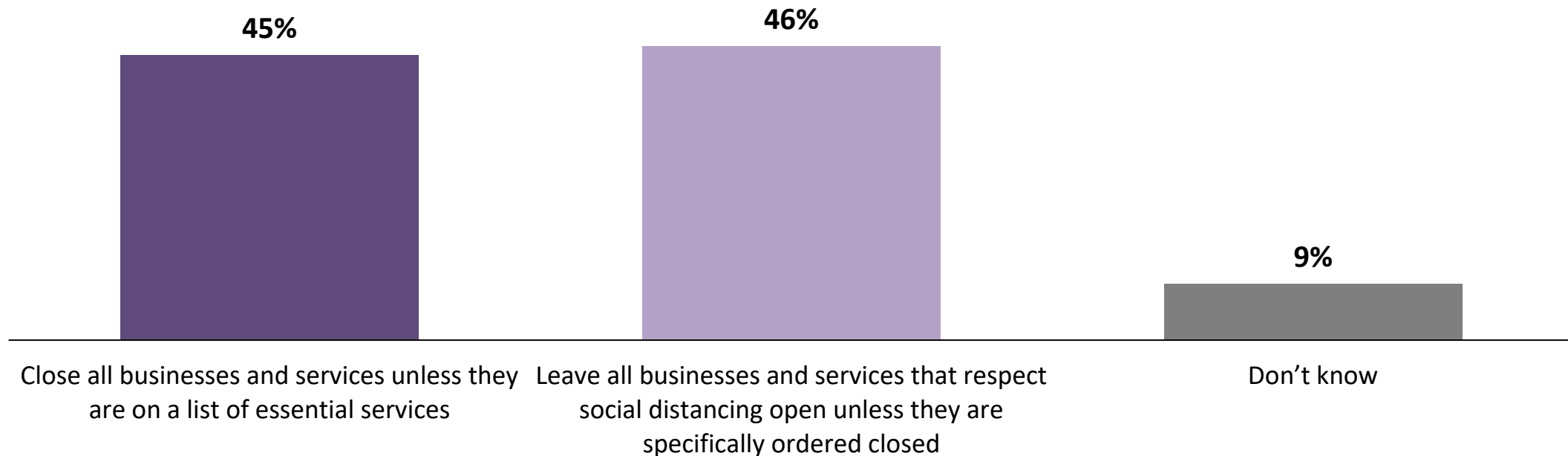
Government Spending Decisions: Roughly 4-in-10 say either to focus spending on most impacted (43%) or spend to help everyone (37%)

Q When governments make major decisions concerning spending on COVID-19 relief programs, do you think they should...
[asked of all respondents in ON; n=600]

37%	43%	11%	9%
Continue to spend as much money as is needed to help everyone impacted	Start reducing the size of the deficit by focusing spending mainly on the most impacted groups but reducing COVID-19 support for everyone else	Stop spending extra money on COVID-19 to reduce the deficit as quickly as possible	Don't know

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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=698 Ontario residents, 18 years or older. The results are weighted to n=600 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

Field Dates: May 29th to June 1st, 2020.

Weighting: Results for Ontario 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	58	8.3%	83	13.8%
Males 35-54	76	10.9%	100	16.6%
Males 55+	236	33.8%	106	17.7%
Females 18-34	82	11.7%	83	13.8%
Females 35-54	86	12.3%	107	17.8%
Females 55+	160	22.9%	122	20.3%
Toronto	162	23.2%	125	20.9%
Rest of GTA	167	23.9%	156	26%
South/West	175	25.1%	155	25.8%
North/East	194	27.8%	164	27.3%

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