

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

Public Opinion Research  
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Field Dates: May 29, 2020 to June 01, 2020



# Quebec Politics in the time of COVID-19

The COVID-19 outbreak has set off a series of changes in the Canadian political landscape. In Quebec, Legault still sees a very high approval on his handling of the outbreak that translated into a increase in his personal favourables, which has remained stable since March 2020.

Today, INNOVATIVE is releasing results from wave 8 of our COVID-19 Tracking survey. This online survey was in field from May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Quebec 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.

# COVID-19 Handling

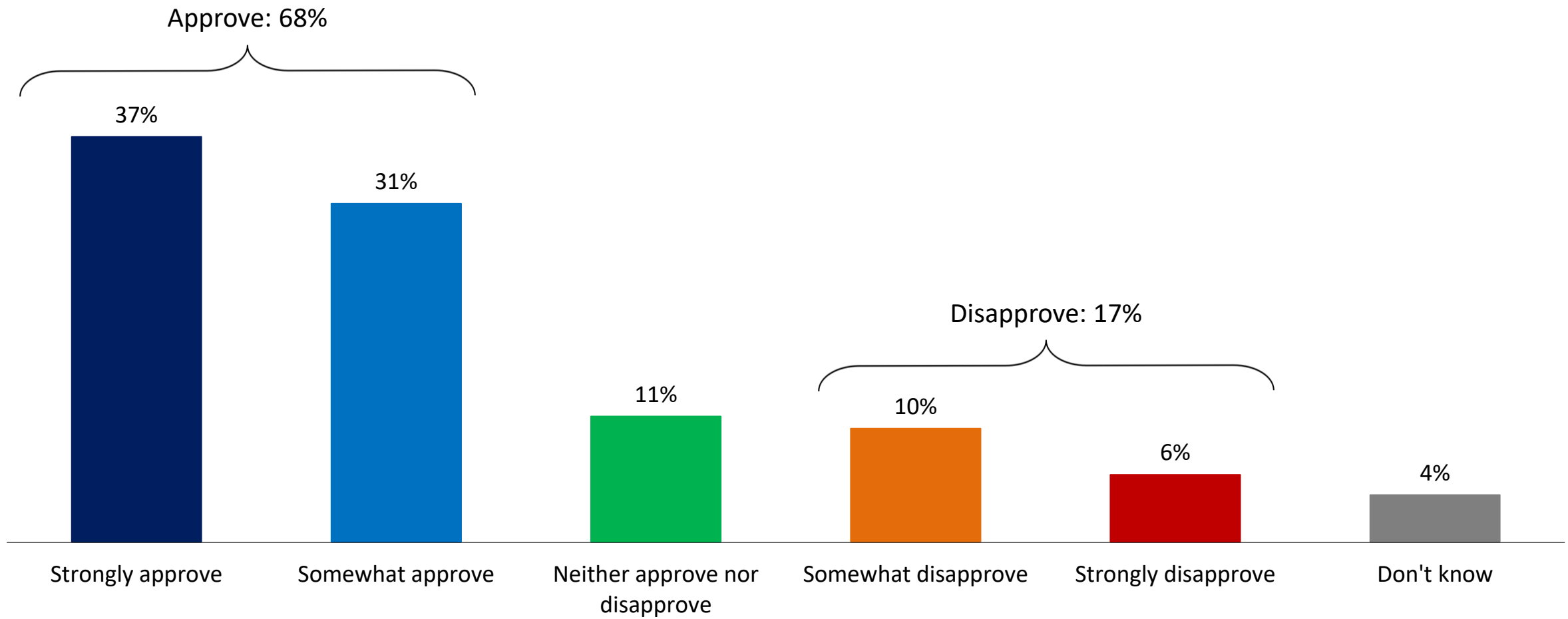
The Quebec government continues to receive high approval on handling of COVID-19, in line with the average of all provincial governments.

# COVID-19 Handling: Over 2-in-3 (68%) say they are generally satisfied with performance of the Quebec gov't while 1-in-5 (17%) say dissatisfied



Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Quebec Government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19?

[asked of all respondents; n=300]

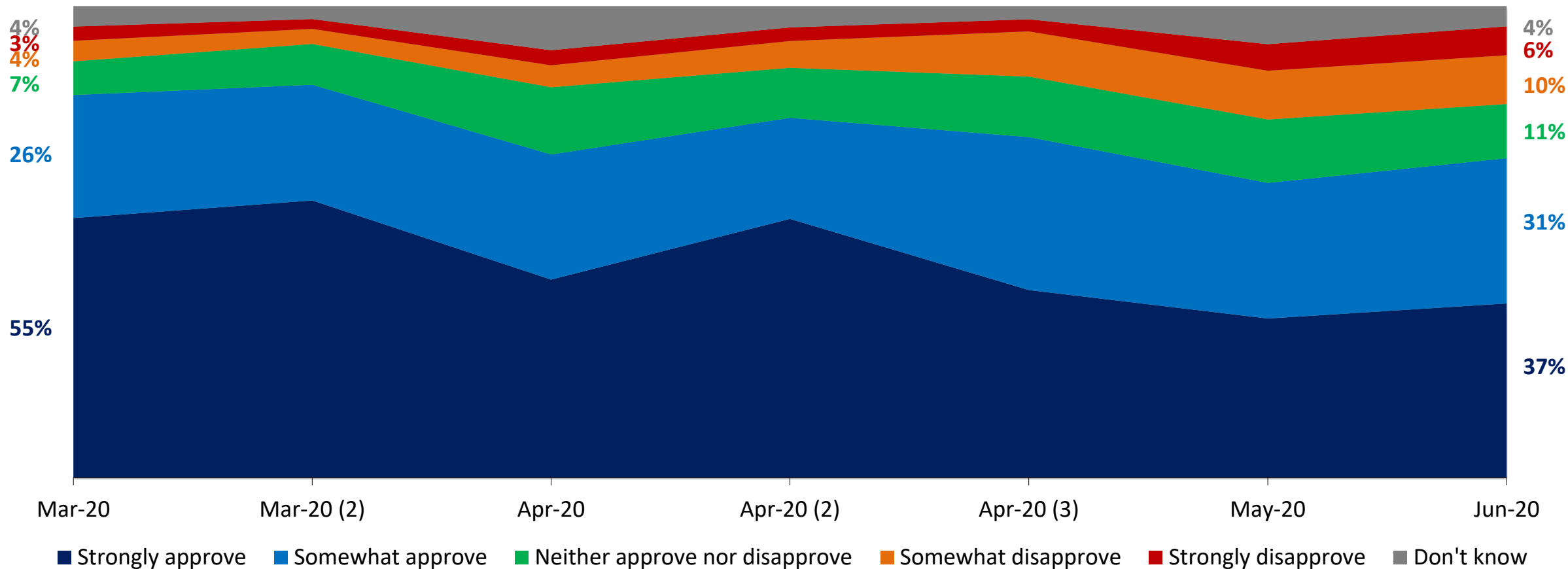


# COVID-19 Handling Tracking: Those who say they 'approve' of the gov't handling is up 6-pts month-to-month from 62% to 68%



Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Quebec Government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19?

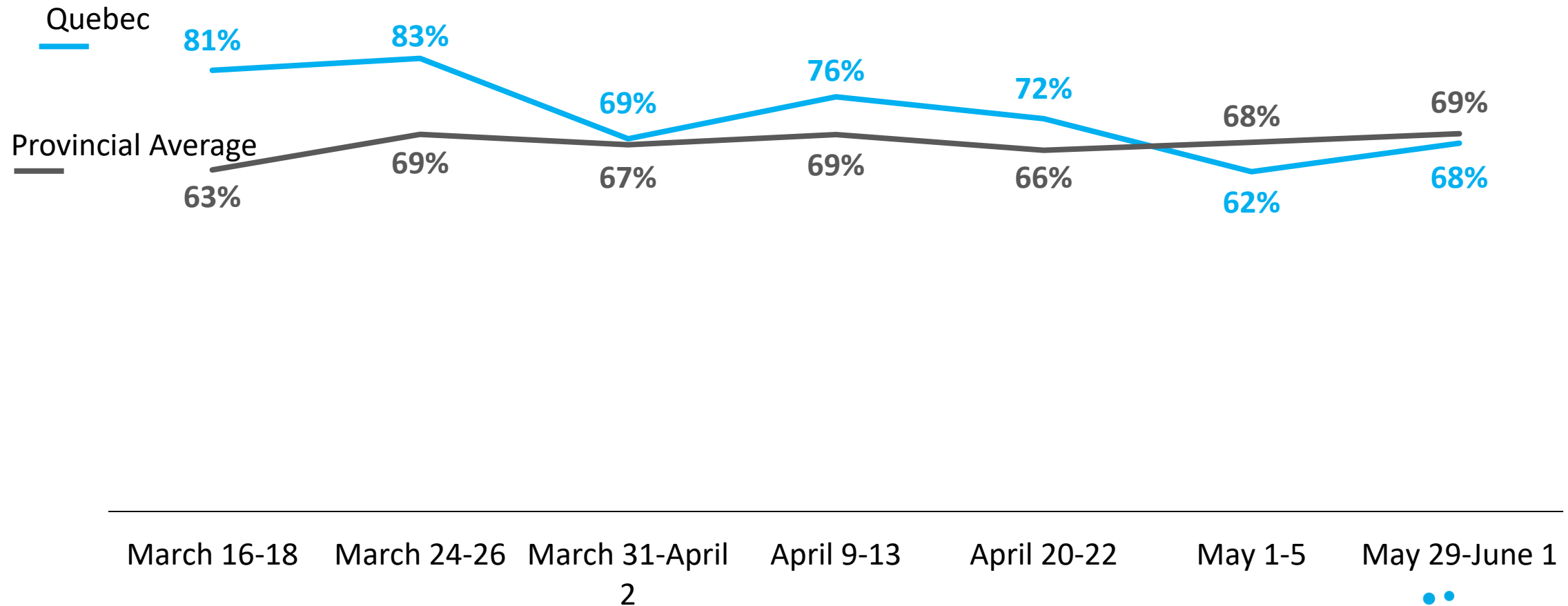
[asked of all respondents; n=300]



# COVID-19 Handling Tracking: The Quebec government is now in line with the provincial average approval

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

[asked of all respondents; n=300]



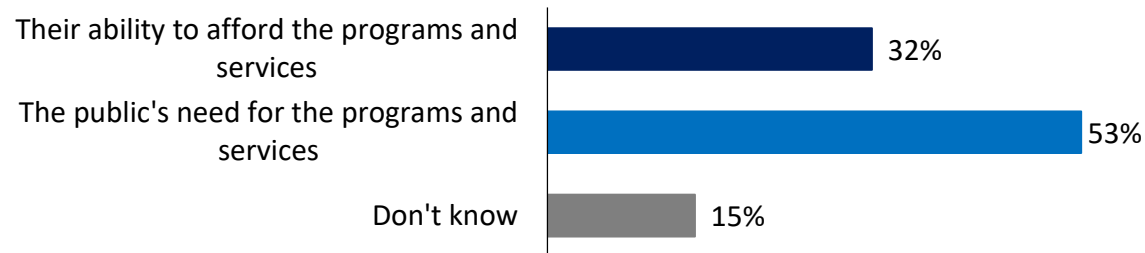
# **We group individuals into segments based on key political and economic values and attitudes**

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

# Core Political Values: Over half (54%) say the government should listen to experts when it comes to policy

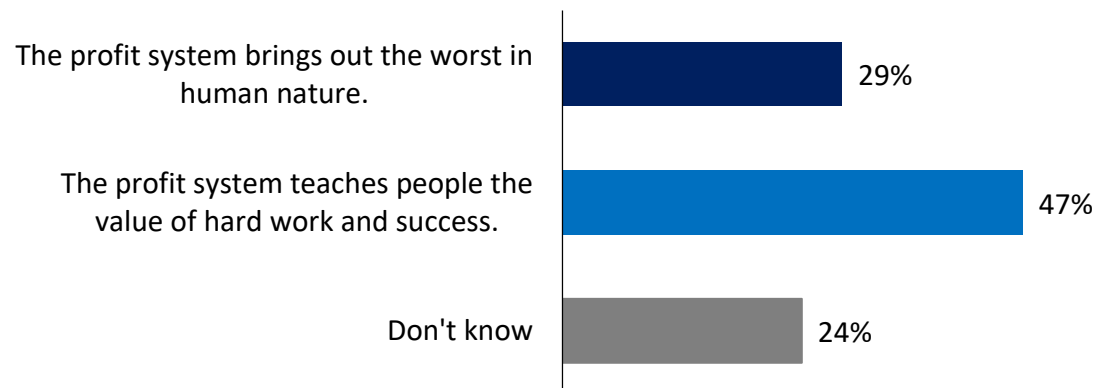
**Q** Now we would like to ask a few questions about basic values and society...When governments make major decisions concerning spending on programs and services, do you think they should be basing their decisions mainly on...?

[asked of all respondents; n=300]



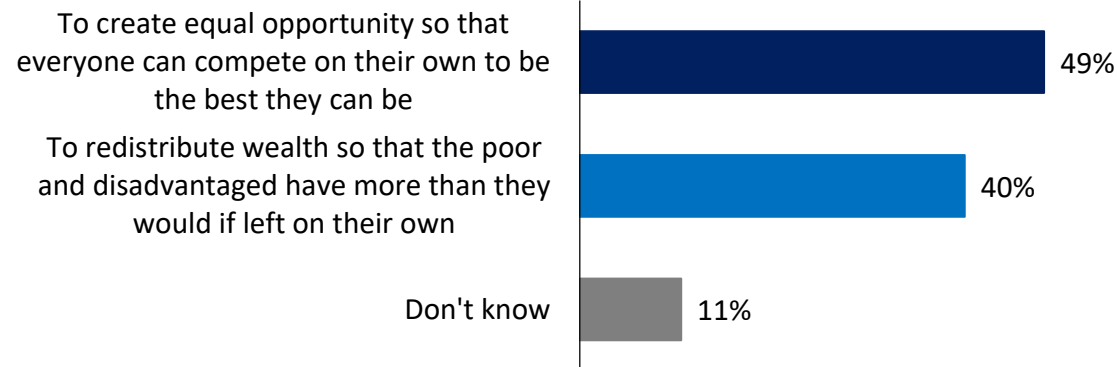
**Q** Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

[asked of all respondents; n=300]



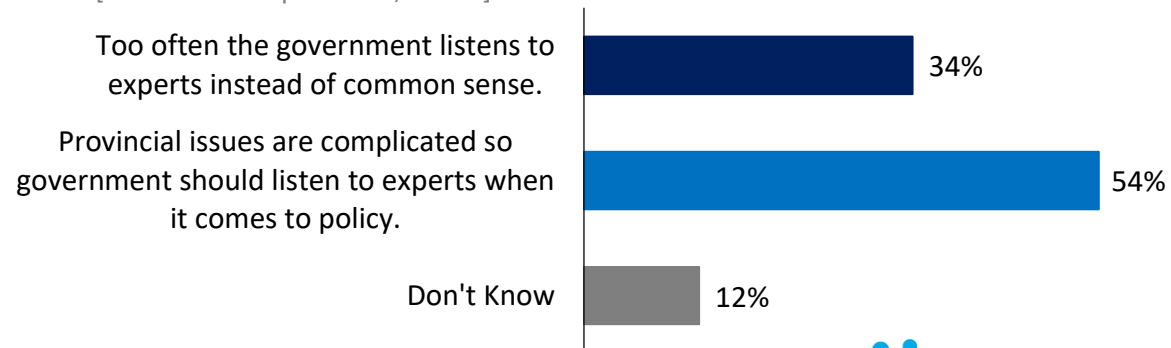
**Q** Is the main role of government to...?

[asked of all respondents; n=300]



**Q** When it comes to government decision making, which of the following statements is closest to your view?

[asked of all respondents; n=300]



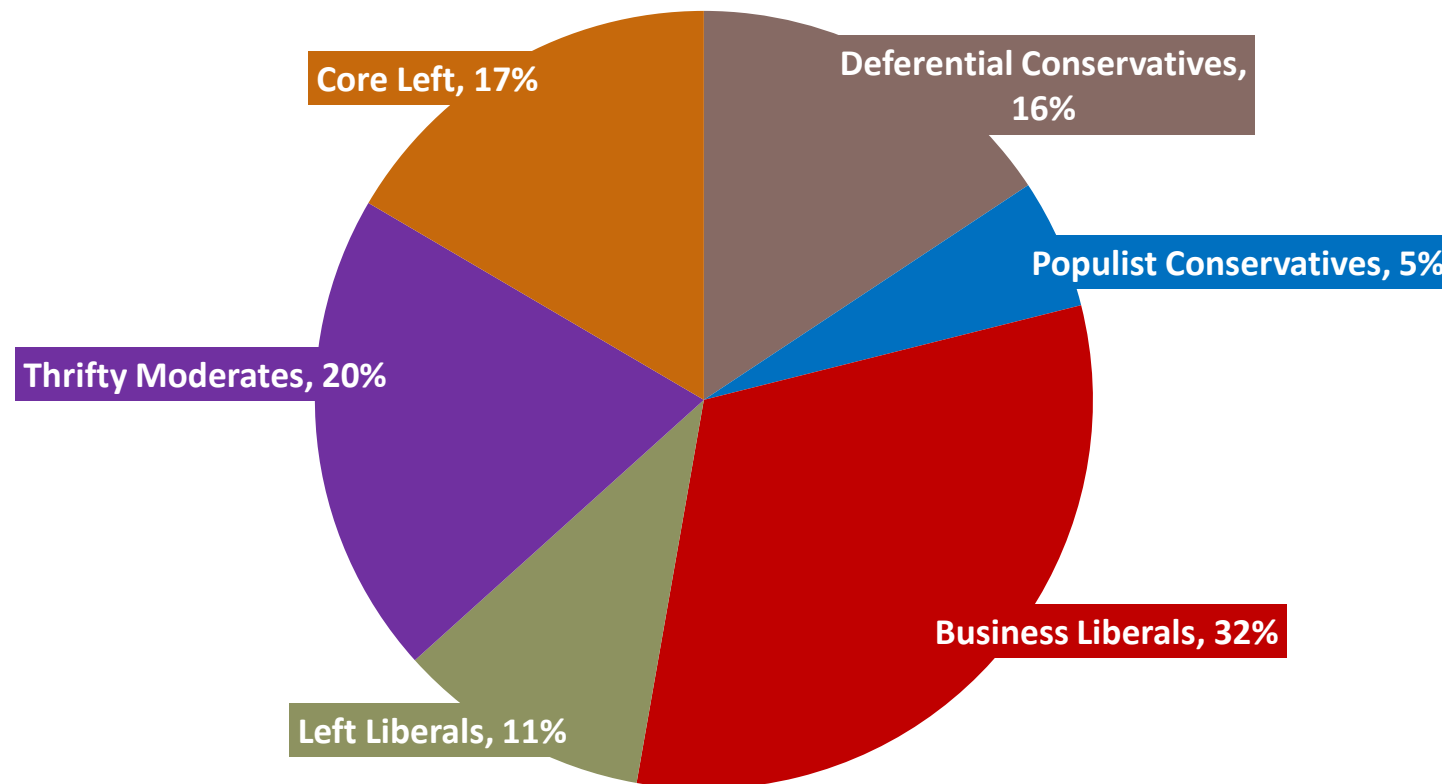


# Value Clusters: 1-in-3 (32%) are Business Liberals followed by 20% for Thrifty Moderates are the largest clusters in Quebec



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=300]



# Defining Value Clusters: Liberal clusters split on the role of the profit system, Conservative clusters split on deference towards authority

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	83%	82%	0%	0%	73%	0%
	Public Need	0%	0%	95%	84%	0%	84%
Is the main role of government to...?	Create equal Opportunity	68%	90%	55%	98%	27%	0%
	Redistribute wealth	27%	0%	36%	0%	45%	95%
When it comes to government decision making...	Rely on common sense	0%	100%	31%	41%	45%	35%
	Listen to experts	94%	0%	59%	49%	29%	55%
The profit system...	Brings out the worst in human nature	0%	0%	0%	64%	56%	64%
	Teaches value of hard work and success	85%	79%	86%	0%	11%	0%

Note: Current data: June 2020

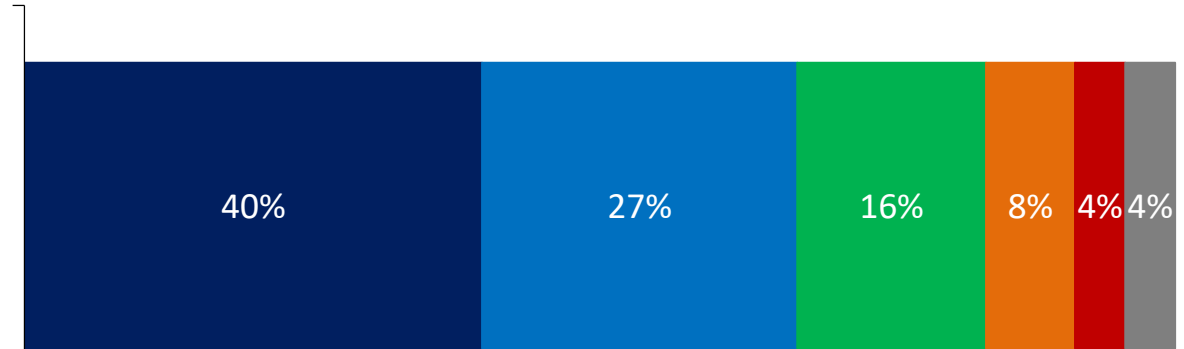
# Segmentation Attitudes: 2-in-3 (67%) believe that in Quebec, you can be anything you want if you're willing to work for it



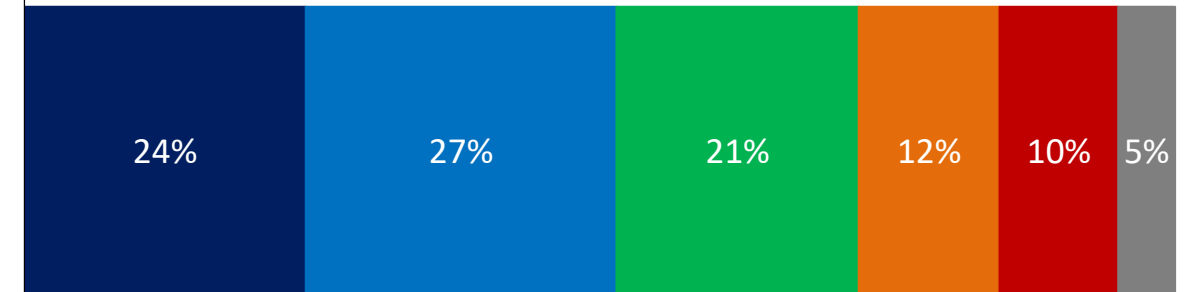
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

[asked of all respondents; n=300]

Here in Quebec you can be anything you want if you are willing to work for it



No matter how hard I work, every year it seems more difficult to get by

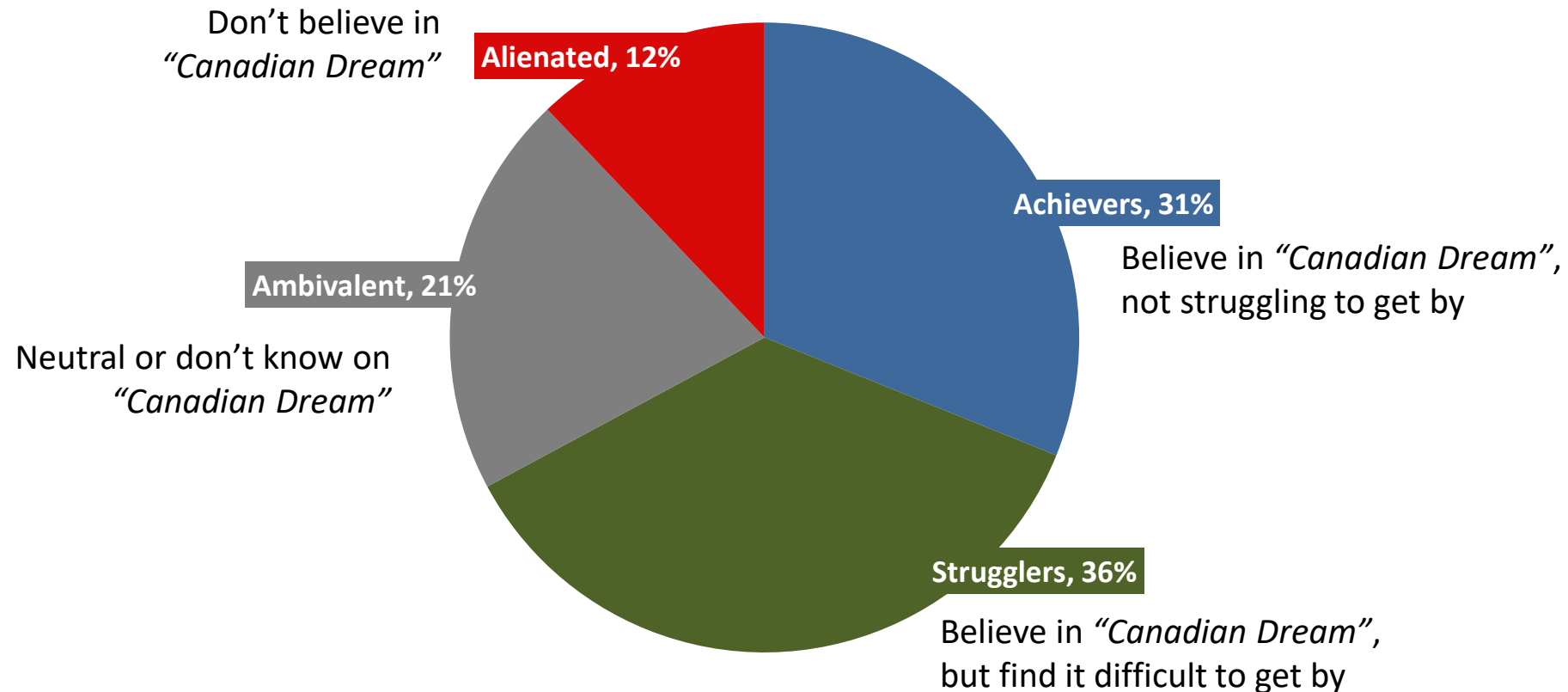


■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Don't know

# Economic Gap Segmentation: A plurality (36%) are Dream Strugglers while 31% are Dream Achievers

**Gap segmentation:** Agree with 'Here in Quebec 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=300]



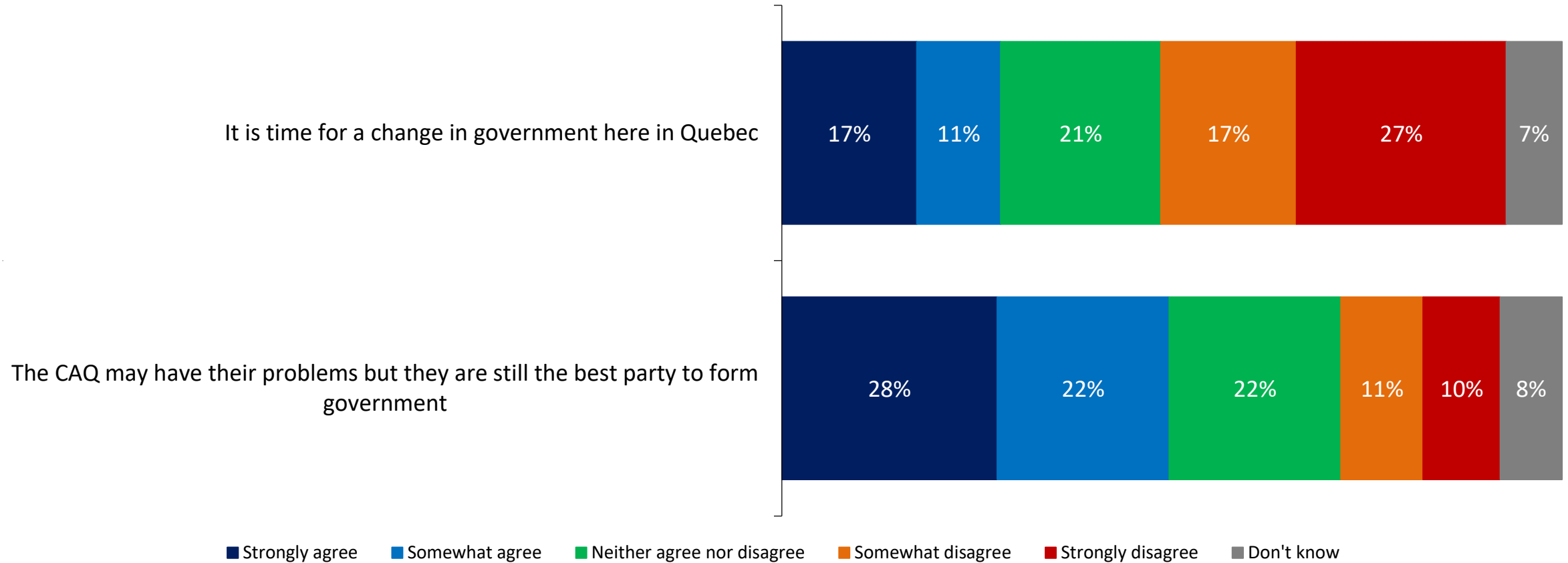


# Time for Change Attitudes: Two-in-five (44%) disagree that it is time for a change in government



Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

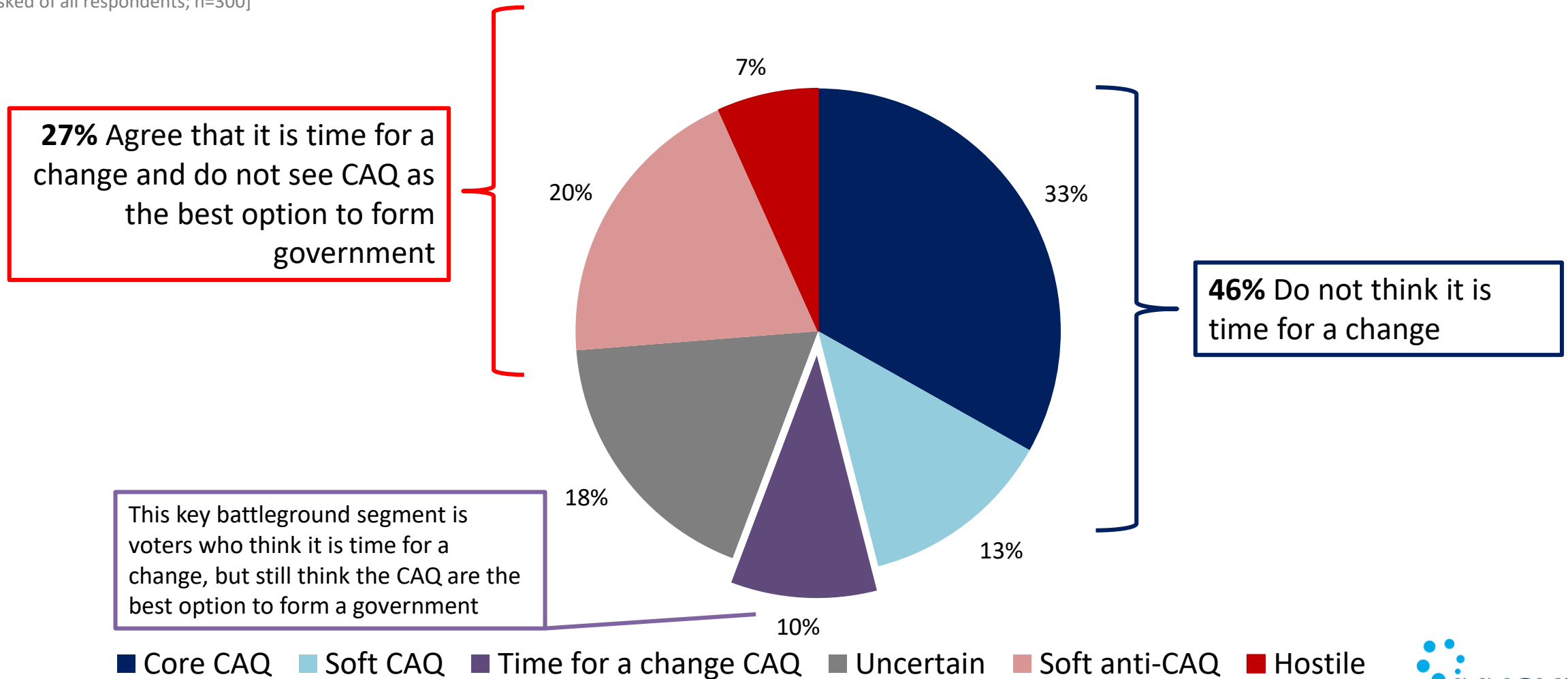
[asked of all respondents; n=300]



# Time for Change Segmentation: 1-in-3 (33%) are Core CAQ supporters;<sup>14</sup> only 7% are hostile

Time for Change segmentation: Agree with 'The CAQ 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 Quebec'.

[asked of all respondents; n=300]



# Leadership

Francois Legault remains by far the most popular party leader in Quebec, the only one with a positive net approval rating. Nearly half (46%) of respondents say that he is the best choice for Premier of Quebec.

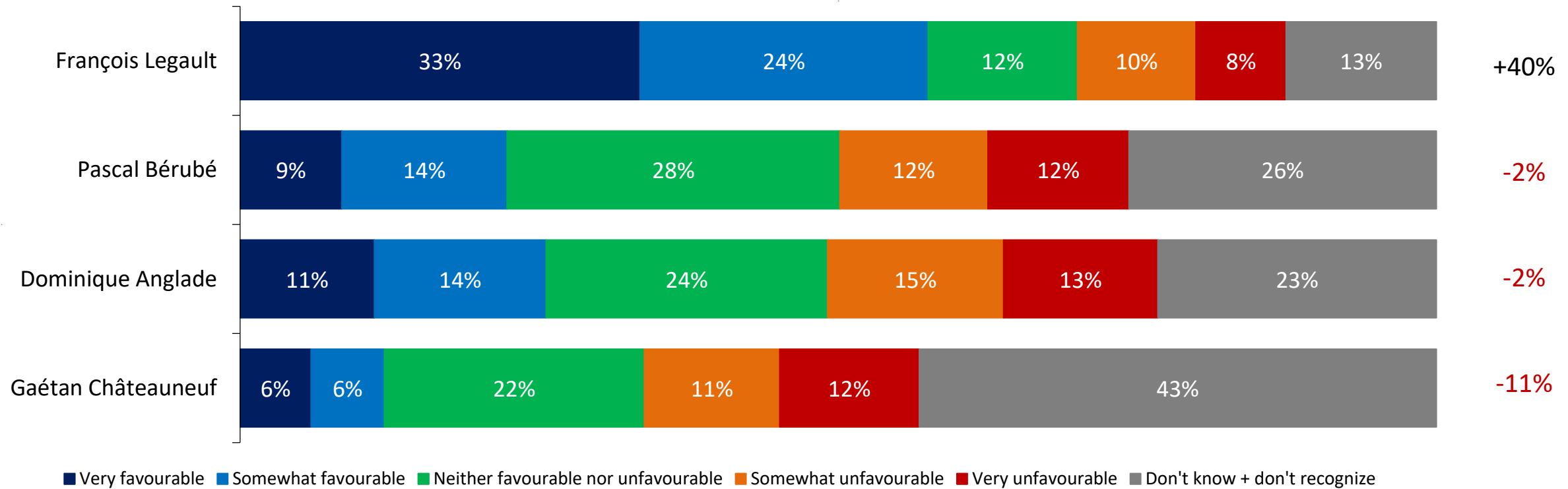
# Leader Favourables: Of the party leaders, Legault has the highest net favourability at +40% while Châteauneuf has the lowest (-11%)



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]

## Net Favourable



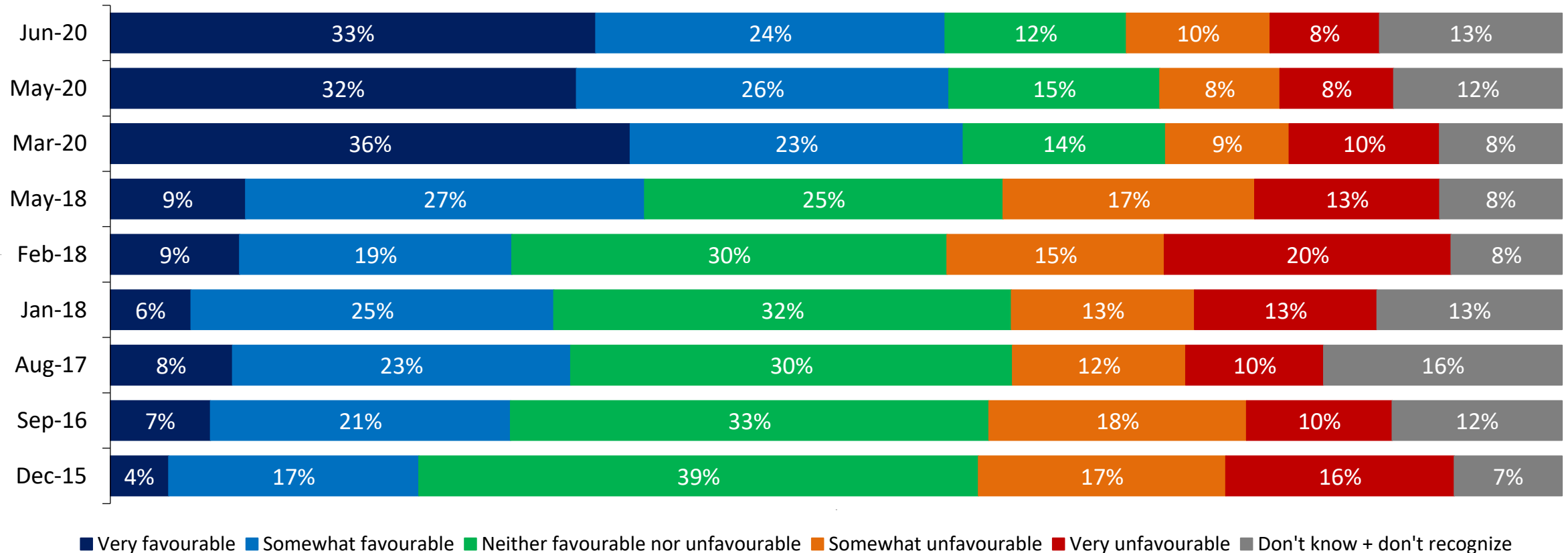


# François Legault Favourability: Those who say they are favourable towards Legault (58%) steady since March



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]

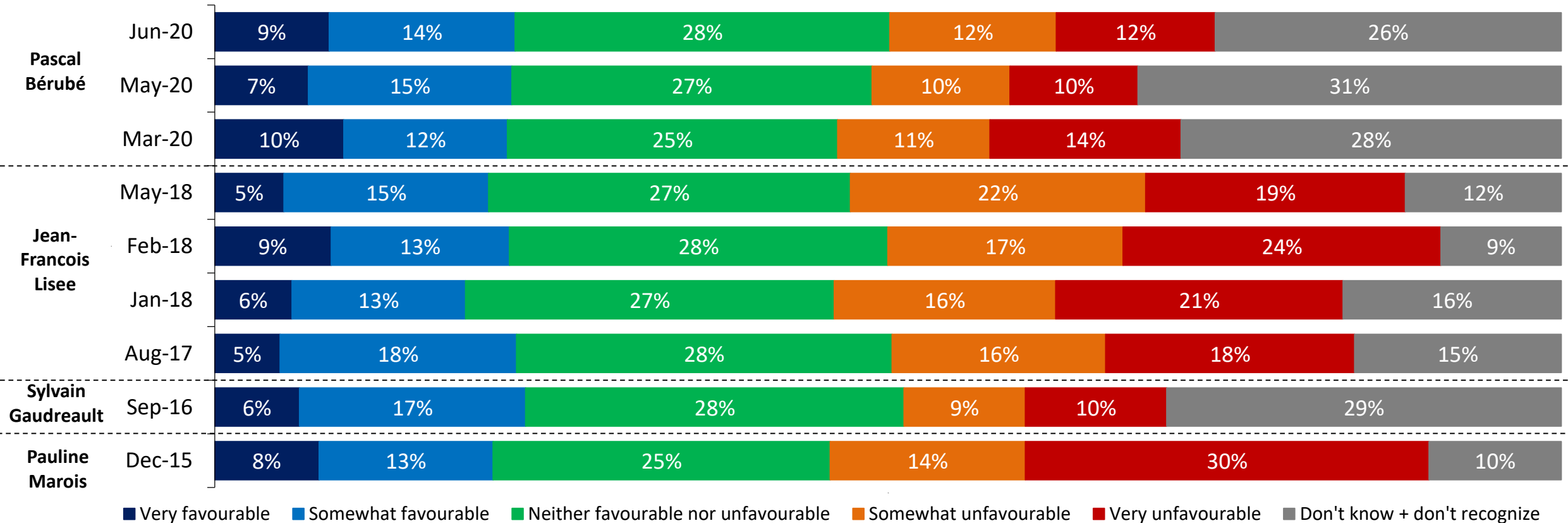


# Pascal Bérubé Favourability: Favourability of Bérubé is steady since March at 22%



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]

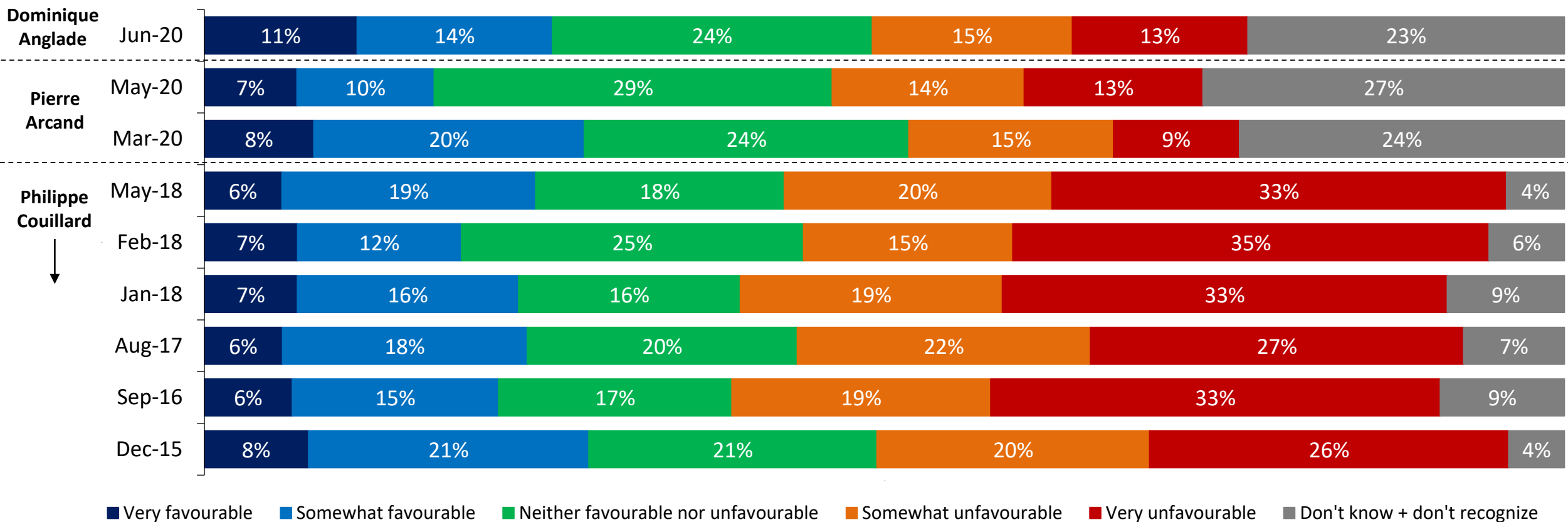


# Dominique Anglade Favourability: Anglade is up 9-pts month-to-month over the former interim leader Arcand



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]

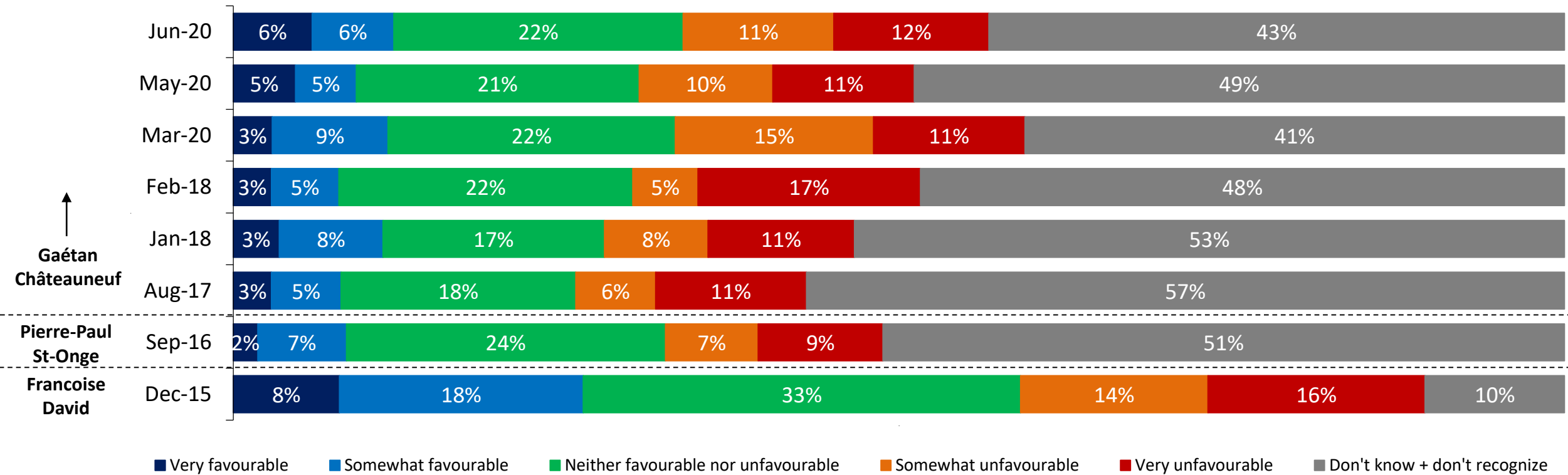


# Gaétan Châteauneuf Favourability: A plurality (43%) are don't recognize Châteauneuf, 6-pts lower than in May



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]



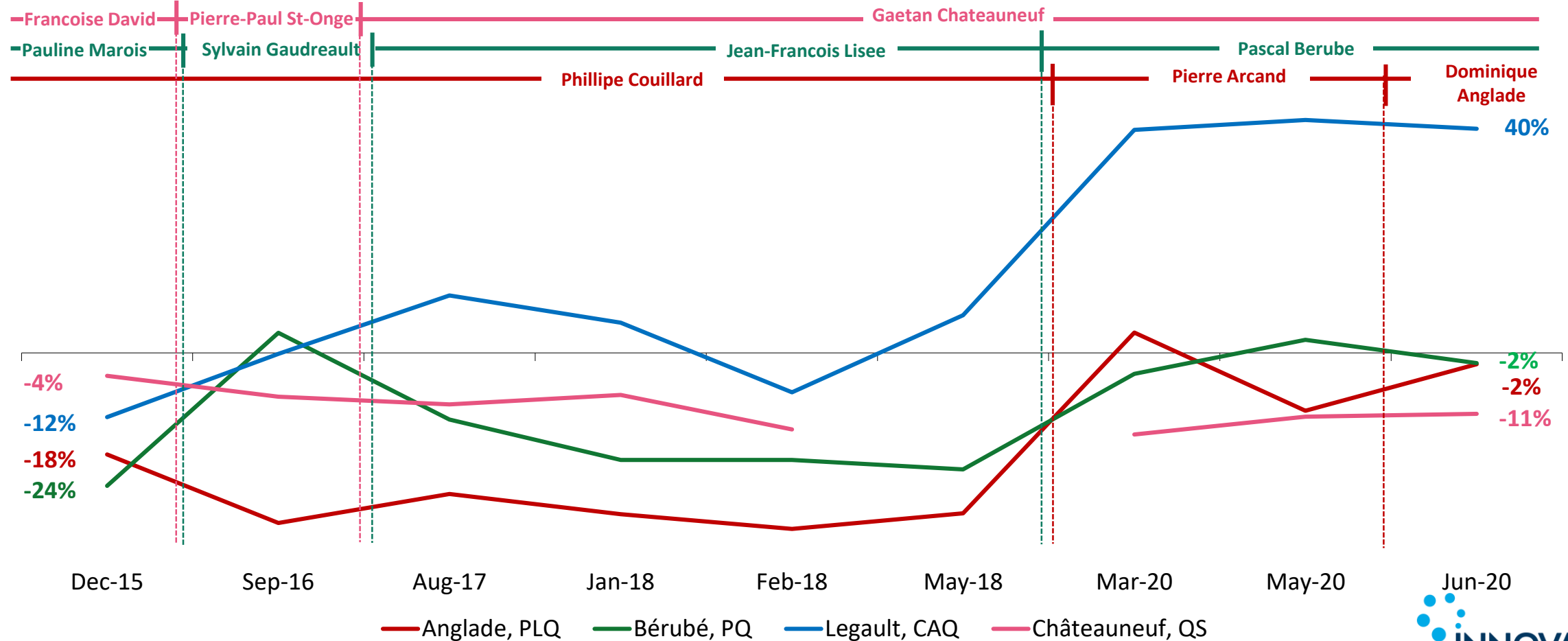


# Quebec Party Leader NET Favourables Tracking: Legault remains far ahead of others leaders on net favourability (+40%)

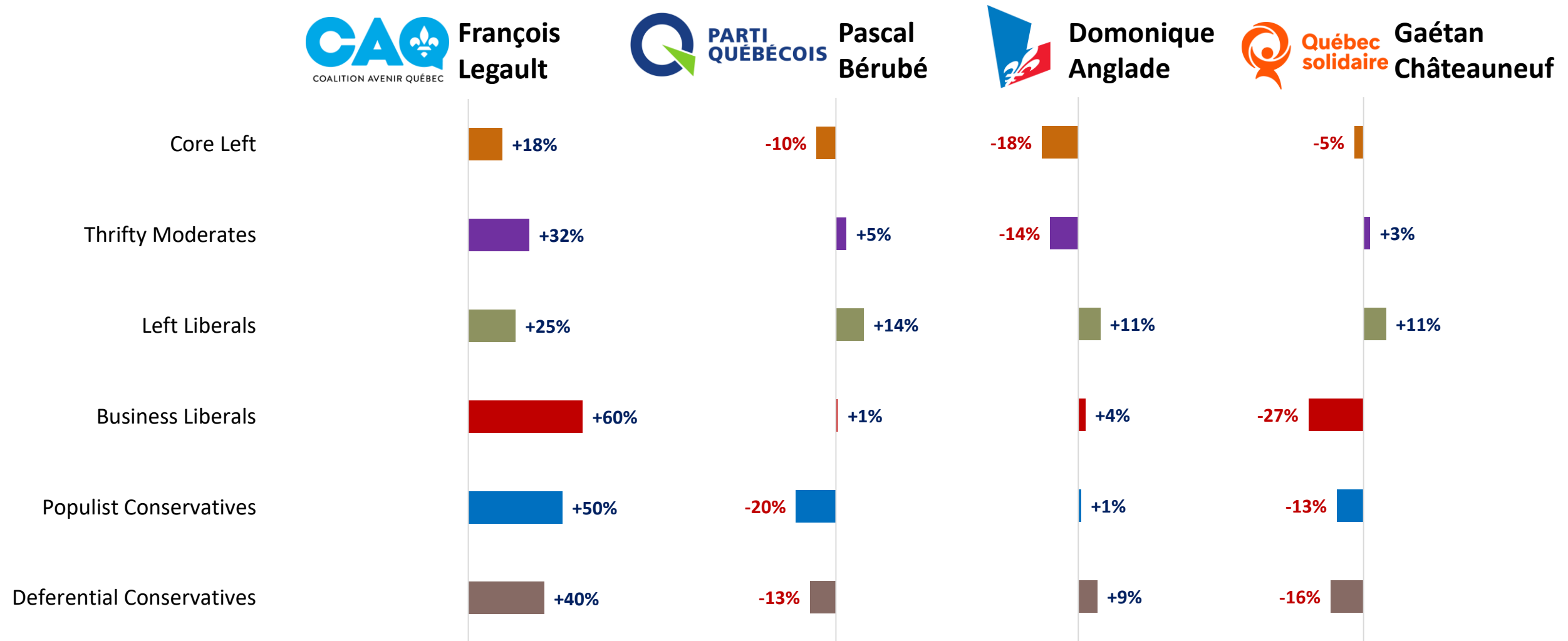


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[asked of all respondents; n=300]



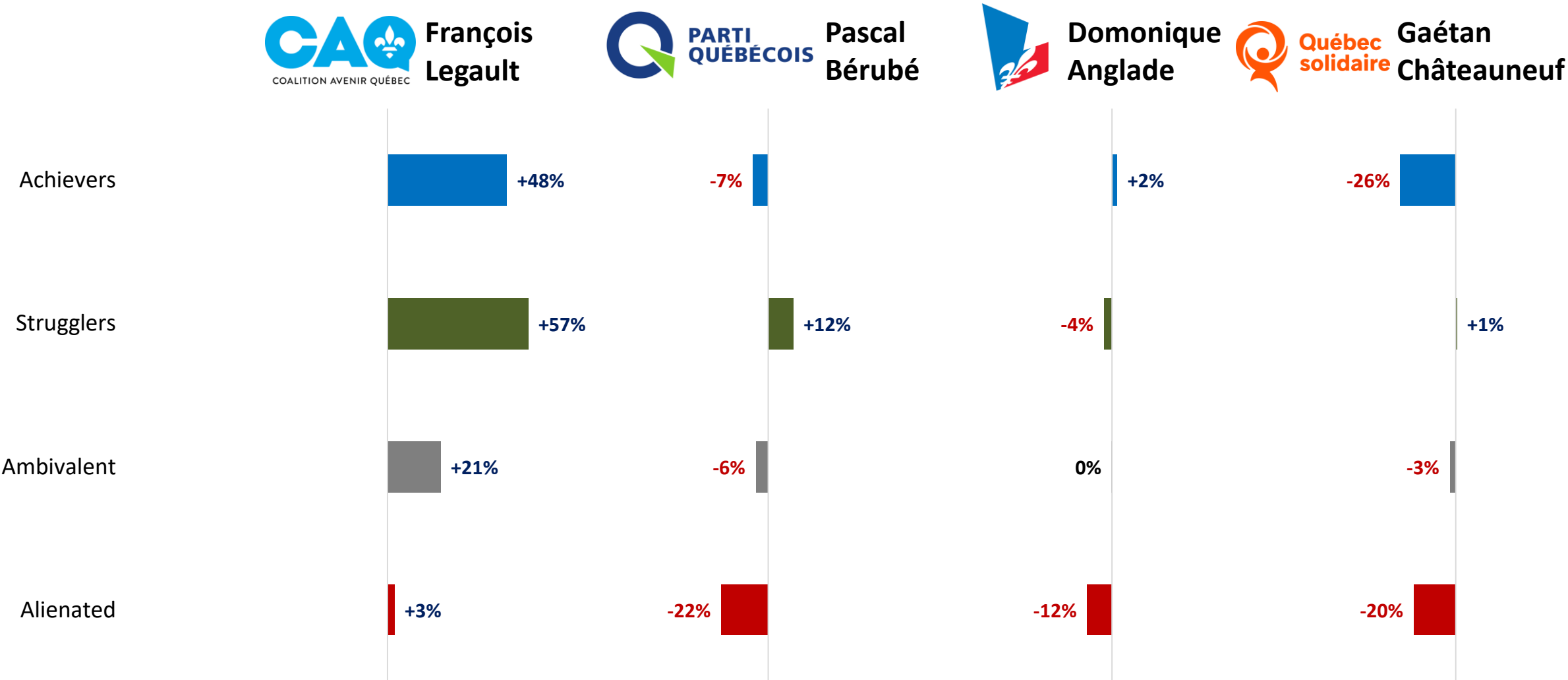
# Leader favourability by Value Clusters: Legault has a net positive impression among every value cluster



## NET Favourability by Value Clusters:

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

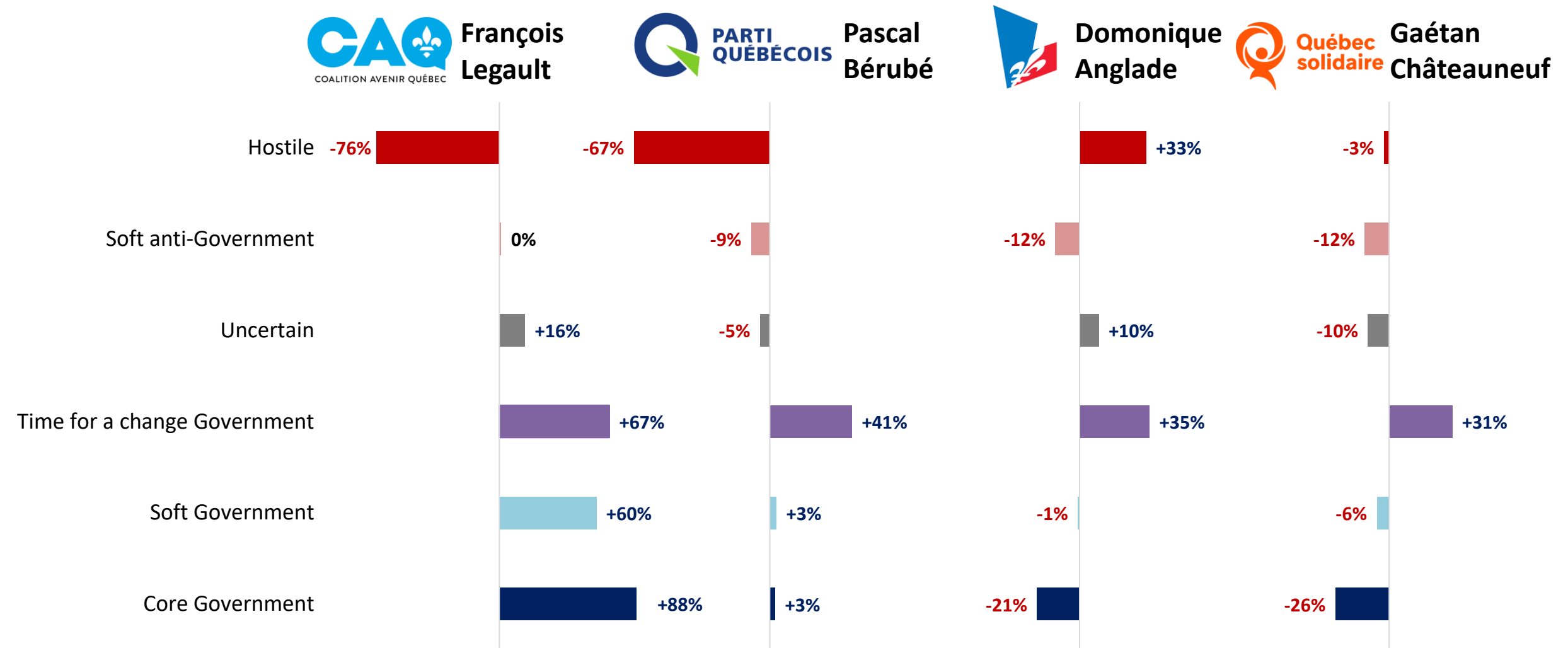
# Leader favourability by Economic Gap: The only leader with net positive favourability among the alienated group is Legault



## 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 who are hostile towards the gov't are most favourable toward Anglade



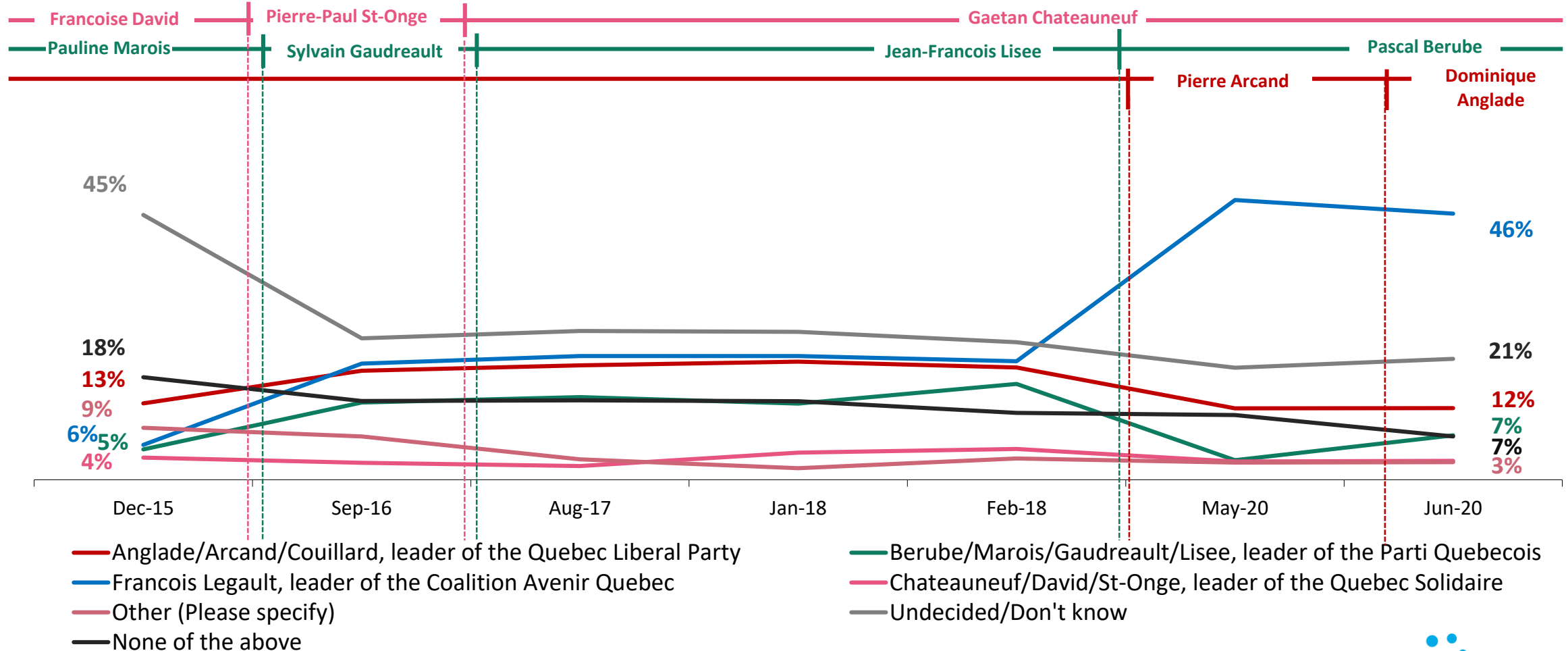
## NET Favourability by Time for a Change:

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



# Best Premier Tracking: Legault holds his strong lead on best Premier, followed distantly by Anglade

Q Which of the following leaders would make the best Premier of Quebec?  
[asked of all respondents; n=300]



# Provincial 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.

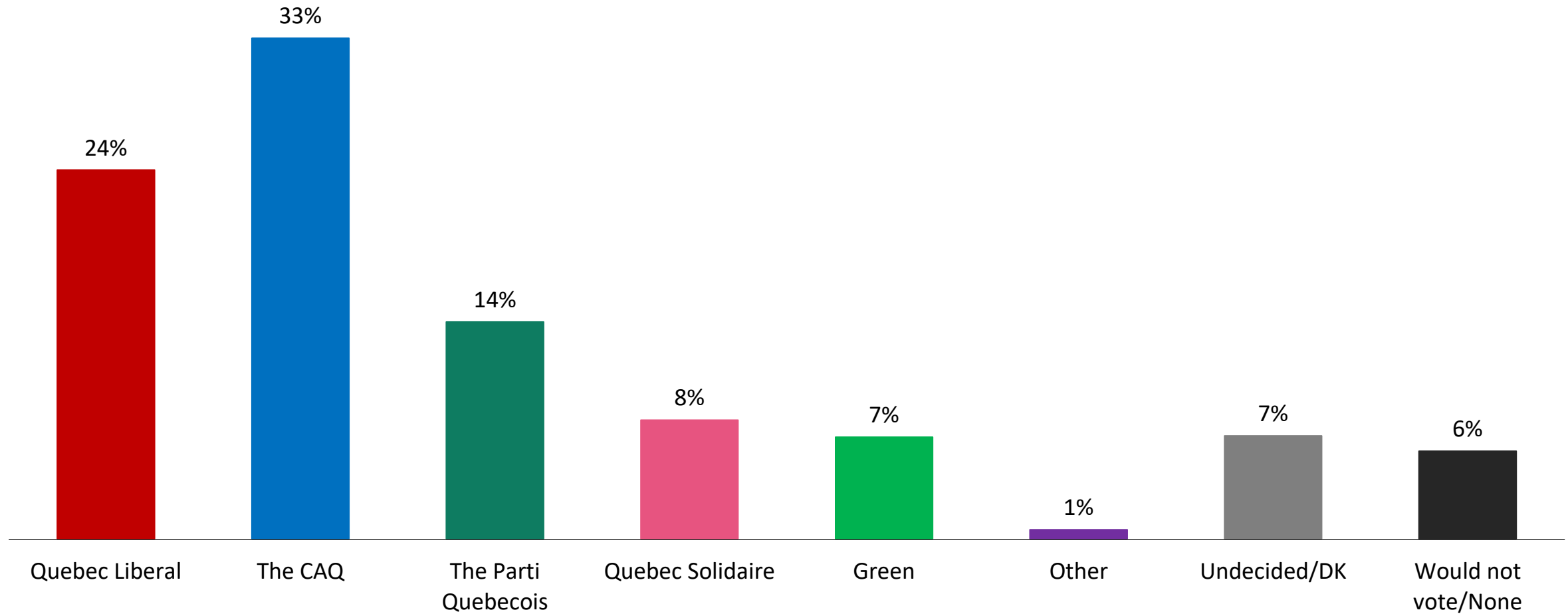
When we look at the results among *only* decided voters, we call that **Decided vote**. These results most tell us what the election results would be like if the survey results matched the election exactly.

# Provincial Combined Vote: 1-in-3 (33%) say they would vote for the CAQ followed by 24% for the Quebec Liberals



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=300]



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]**

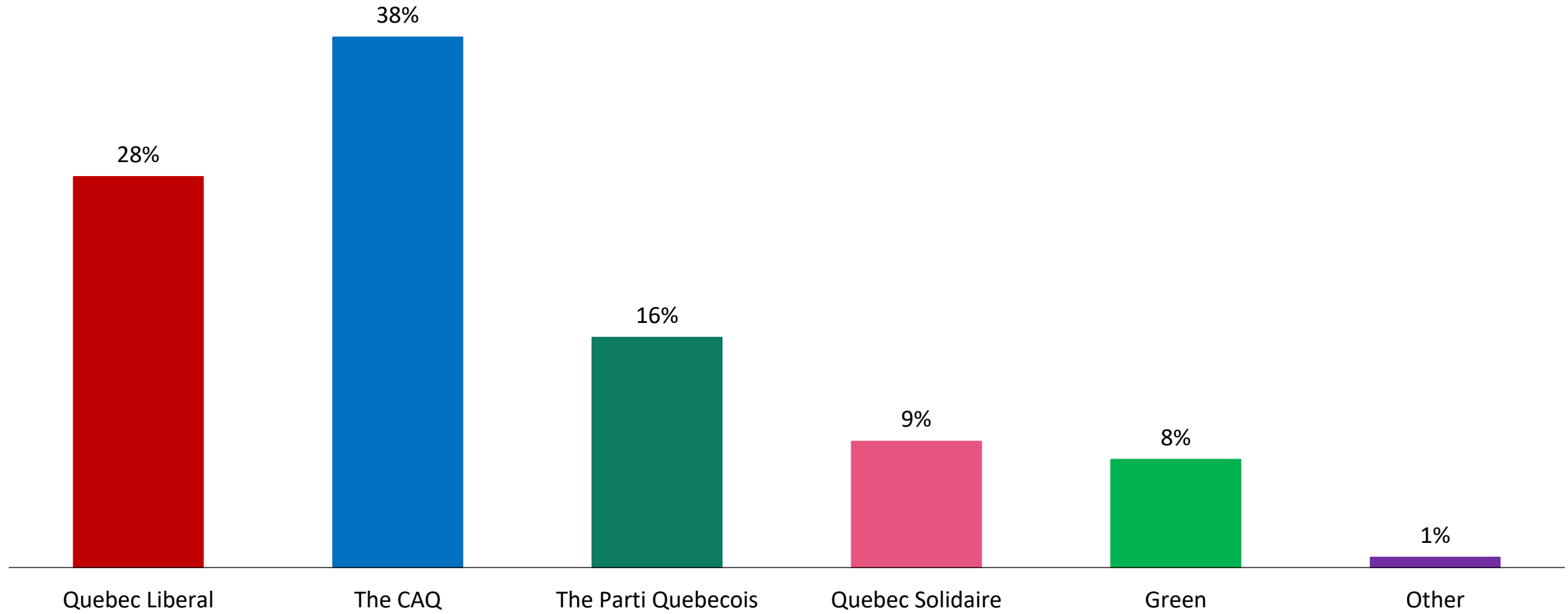
[illegible]

# Provincial Decided Vote: The CAQ has 38% of the decided vote, 10-pts above the Quebec Liberals (28%), while the PQ (16%) trails



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=262]

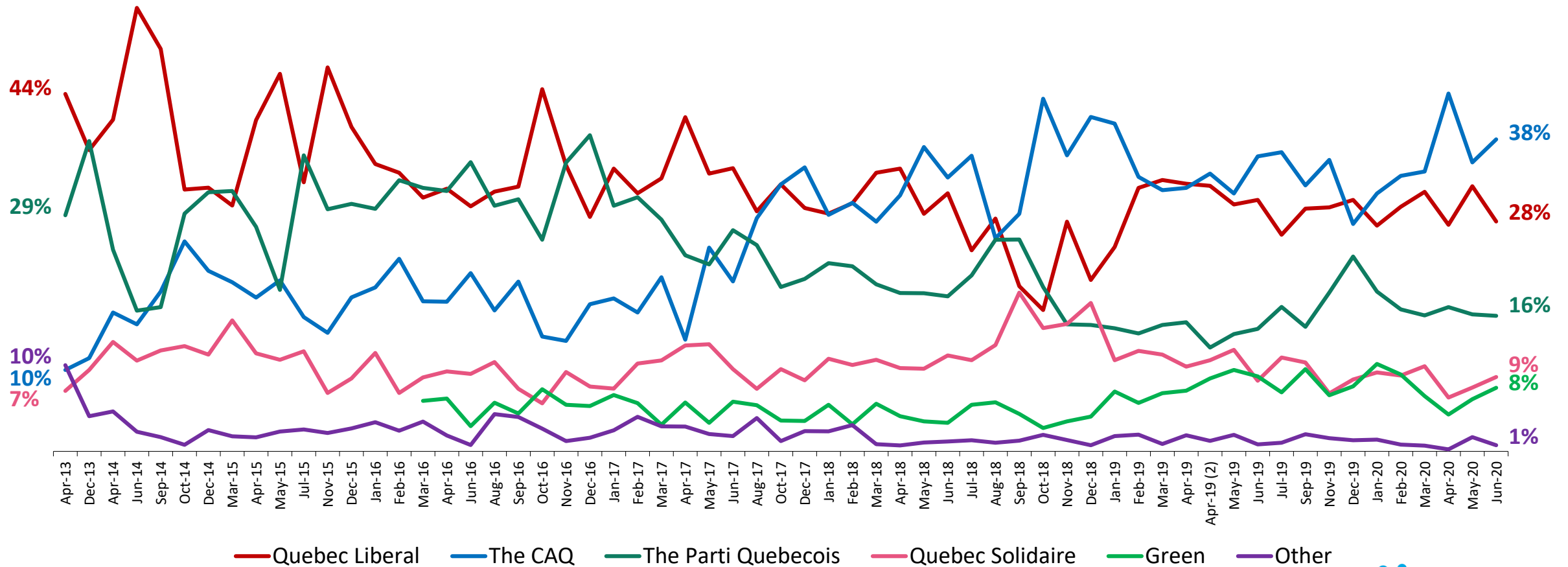


# Provincial Decided Vote Tracking: The CAQ's decided vote share is up 3-pts month-to-month (38%) while the Liberals are down directionally



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]





# Decided Vote by Region: Quebec Liberals lead in Anglophone Montreal (61%) while the CAQ leads in 'Rest of QC' (45%)

Decided vote by Region

		Region		
		Anglophone and Allophone Montreal	Francophone Montreal	Rest of QC
		(N=42)	(N=38)	(N=182)
Decided Vote	Quebec Liberal	61%	26%	21%
	The CAQ	14%	30%	45%
	The Parti Quebecois	9%	19%	18%
	Quebec Solidaire	5%	15%	9%
	Green	8%	10%	7%
	Other	2%	0%	1%

**Note:** 'Quebec City' and 'Beauce' regions combined with "Rest of Quebec" due to small sample size.

Current data: June 2020

# Combined Vote by Value Cluster: Business Liberals (39%) and Differential Conservatives (37%) are most likely to vote for the CAQ

Combined Vote	Value Clusters					
	Deferential Conservatives	Populist Conservatives*	Business Liberals	Left Liberals	Thrifty Moderates	Core Left
	(N=47)	(N=16)	(N=95)	(N=32)	(N=60)	(N=50)
Quebec Liberal	26%	33%	28%	30%	19%	17%
The CAQ	37%	50%	39%	23%	28%	26%
The Parti Quebecois	12%	0%	19%	16%	11%	17%
Quebec Solidaire	1%	4%	4%	15%	7%	19%
Green	11%	8%	4%	4%	10%	6%
Other	0%	0%	1%	4%	0%	0%
Undecided/DK	8%	5%	3%	2%	13%	9%
Would not vote/None	6%	0%	3%	7%	12%	5%

\*Take caution in interpreting results of Populist Conservatives as n<30.  
Current data: June 2020

# Combined Vote by Economic Gap: Achievers (43%) and Strugglers (35%) alike are most likely to vote for the CAQ

Combined Vote	Economic Gap			
	Achievers	Strugglers	Ambivalent	Alienated
	(N=93)	(N=108)	(N=62)	(N=36)
Quebec Liberal	26%	22%	20%	35%
The CAQ	43%	35%	21%	23%
The Parti Quebecois	12%	15%	17%	12%
Quebec Solidaire	6%	9%	9%	6%
Green	6%	7%	6%	11%
Other	0%	0%	2%	2%
Undecided/DK	4%	6%	12%	7%
Would not vote/None	2%	6%	12%	4%

Note: Current data: June 2020

# Combined Vote by Time for Change: The CAQ lead among their core and soft voters but trail in all other groups

Combined Vote	Time for Change					
	Core CAQ	Soft CAQ	Time for a change CAQ*	Uncertain	Soft anti-CAQ	Hostile*
	(N=99)	(N=39)	(N=29)	(N=54)	(N=59)	(N=20)
Quebec Liberal	5%	21%	30%	29%	40%	60%
The CAQ	75%	32%	15%	8%	7%	0%
The Parti Quebecois	7%	17%	17%	15%	25%	9%
Quebec Solidaire	6%	4%	14%	4%	12%	15%
Green	4%	6%	11%	7%	10%	7%
Other	0%	0%	2%	2%	0%	0%
Undecided/DK	2%	11%	0%	19%	5%	3%
Would not vote/None	0%	9%	11%	16%	1%	7%

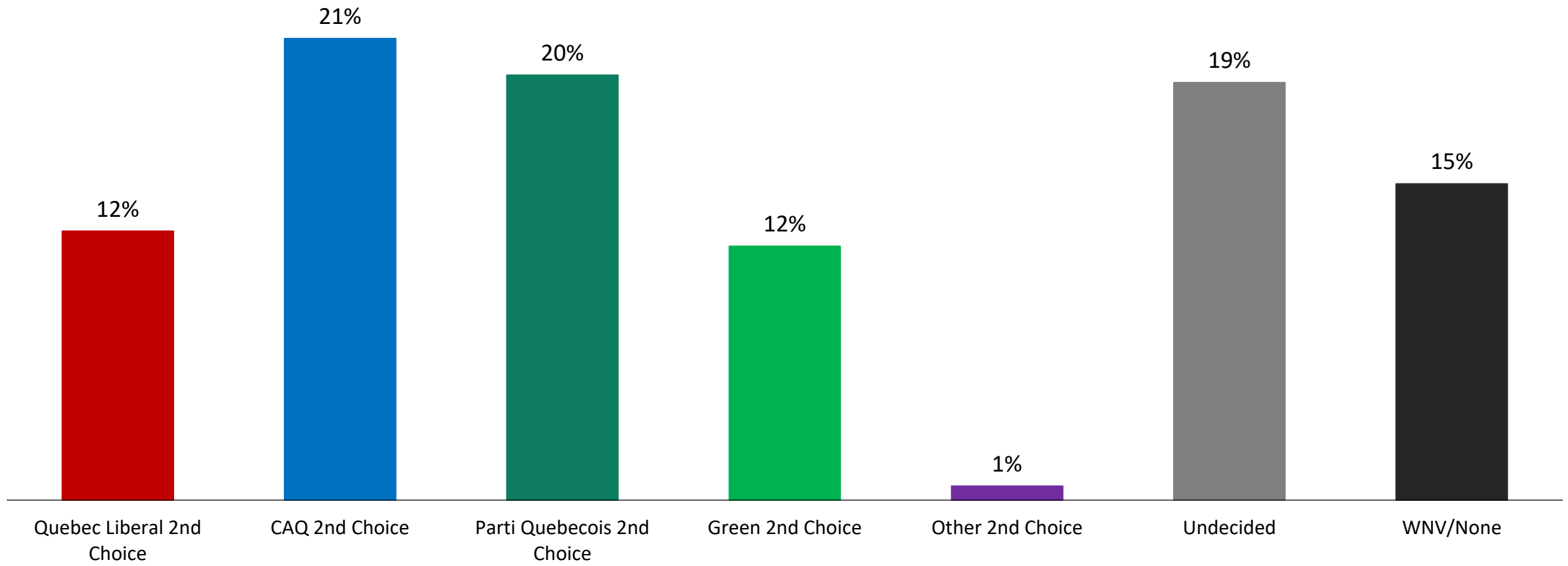
**Note:** \*Take caution in interpreting results of Time for a change CAQ and Hostile as n<30.  
Current data: June 2020

# Provincial 2nd Choice: The CAQ and Parti Quebecois are the top 2<sup>nd</sup> choice among decided voters



And which party would be your second choice?

[only decided voters; n=262]



# Provincial 2nd Choice: The Parti Quebecois is the top 2<sup>nd</sup> choice for the CAQ voters

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

Second Choice	First Choice				
	Liberal 1st Choice	CAQ 1st Choice	Parti Quebecois 1st Choice	Quebec Solidaire 1st Choice	Green 1st Choice
	(N=73)	(N=100)	(N=43)	(N=24)	(N=20)
	Quebec Liberal 2nd Choice	23%	7%	14%	17%
	CAQ 2nd Choice	25%	37%	15%	53%
	Parti Quebecois 2nd Choice	18%	32%	26%	4%
	Green 2nd Choice	23%	4%	11%	0%
	Other 2nd Choice	0%	2%	0%	4%
	Undecided	26%	16%	11%	16%
	WNV/None	9%	18%	11%	7%

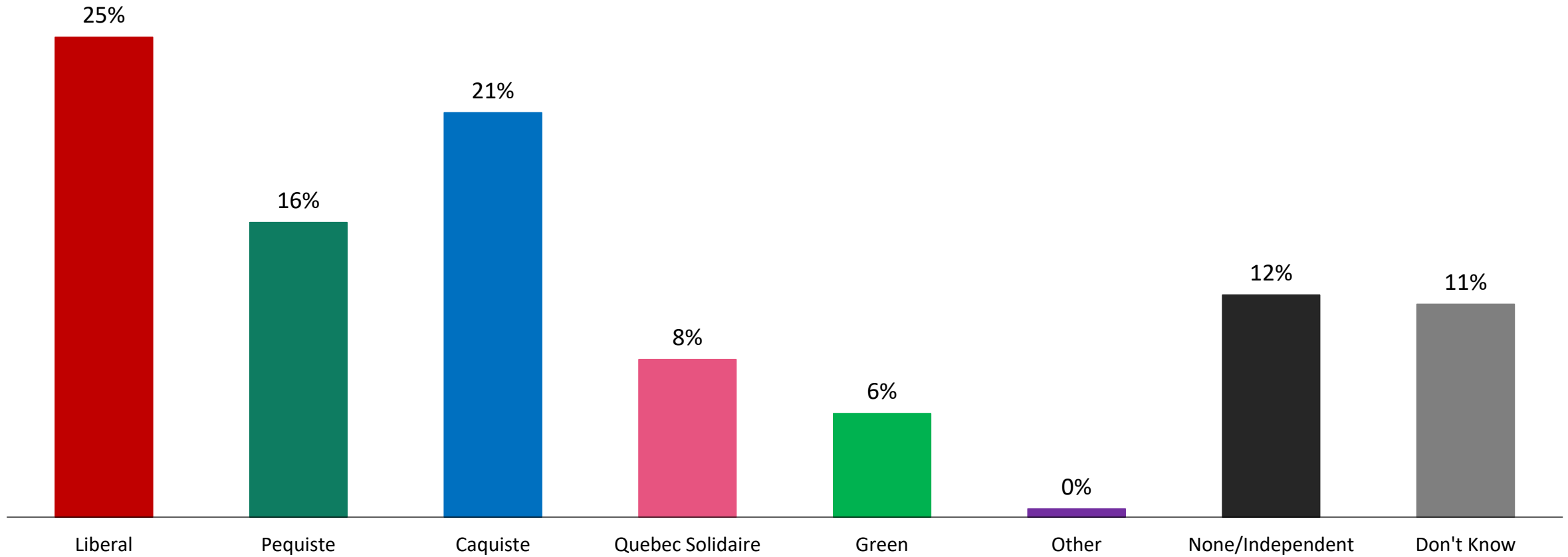
**Note:** 'Other' in Combined Vote not shown due to insufficient sample size.  
Current data: June 2020

# Provincial Party ID: 1-in-4 (25%) identify as Liberals while CAQ (21%) follow and Pequise (16%) trail behind



Thinking about politics in Quebec, generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a...

[asked of all respondents; n=300]

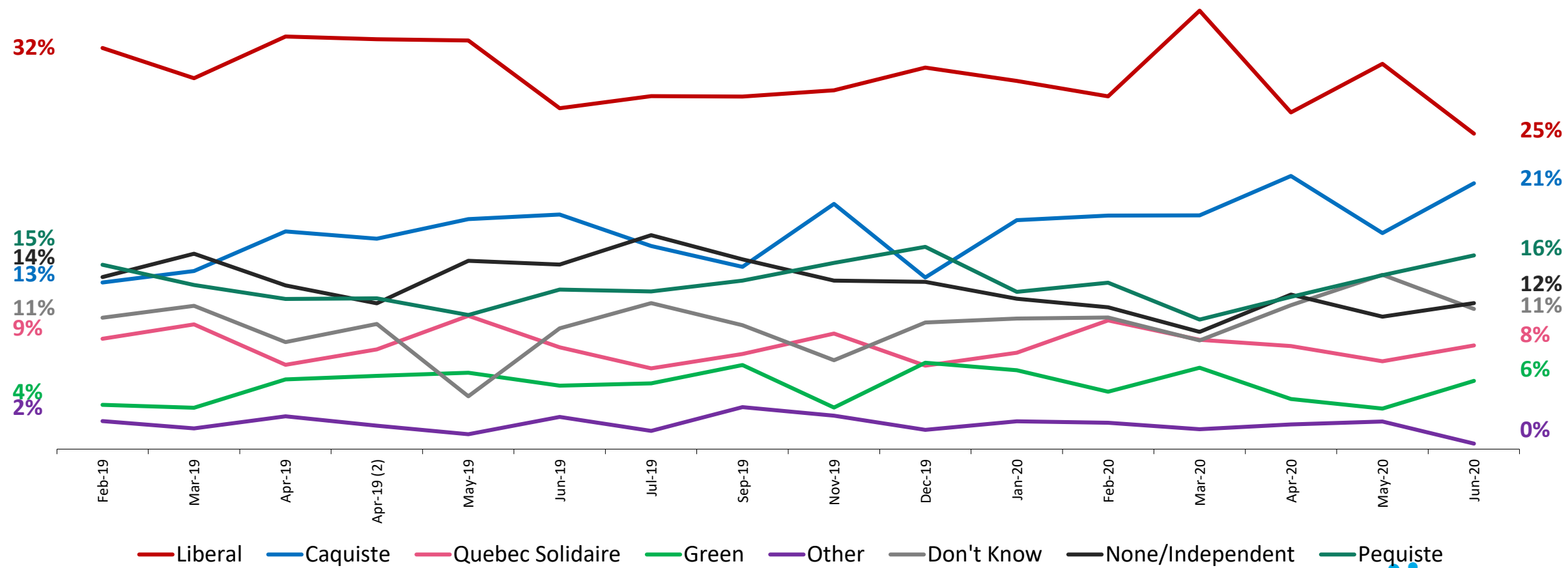




# Provincial Party ID Tracking: Liberal party identification (25%) is down 6-pts directionally month-to-month while the CAQ is up 4-pts directionally



Thinking about politics in Quebec, generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a...  
[asked of all respondents; n=300]



# Combined Vote by Party ID: CAQ partisans are the most loyal with 87% of their vote share going to the CAQ

		Provincial Party Identification				
		Liberal	Caquiste	Pequiste	Quebec Solidaire	Unaligned
		(N=76)	(N=64)	(N=47)	(N=25)*	(N=69)
Provincial Combined Vote	Quebec Liberal	76%	2%	8%	9%	9%
	The CAQ	14%	87%	25%	10%	26%
	The Parti Quebecois	3%	3%	55%	15%	9%
	Quebec Solidaire	2%	5%	10%	48%	1%
	Green	1%	3%	0%	15%	7%
	Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
	Undecided/DK	0%	0%	3%	3%	26%
	Would not vote/None	5%	0%	0%	0%	19%

**Note: Note:** 'Green' and 'Other' in Provincial party ID not shown due to small sample size.

\*Take caution in interpreting results of Quebec Solidaire as n<30.

Current data: June 2020

# Preparing for the Future

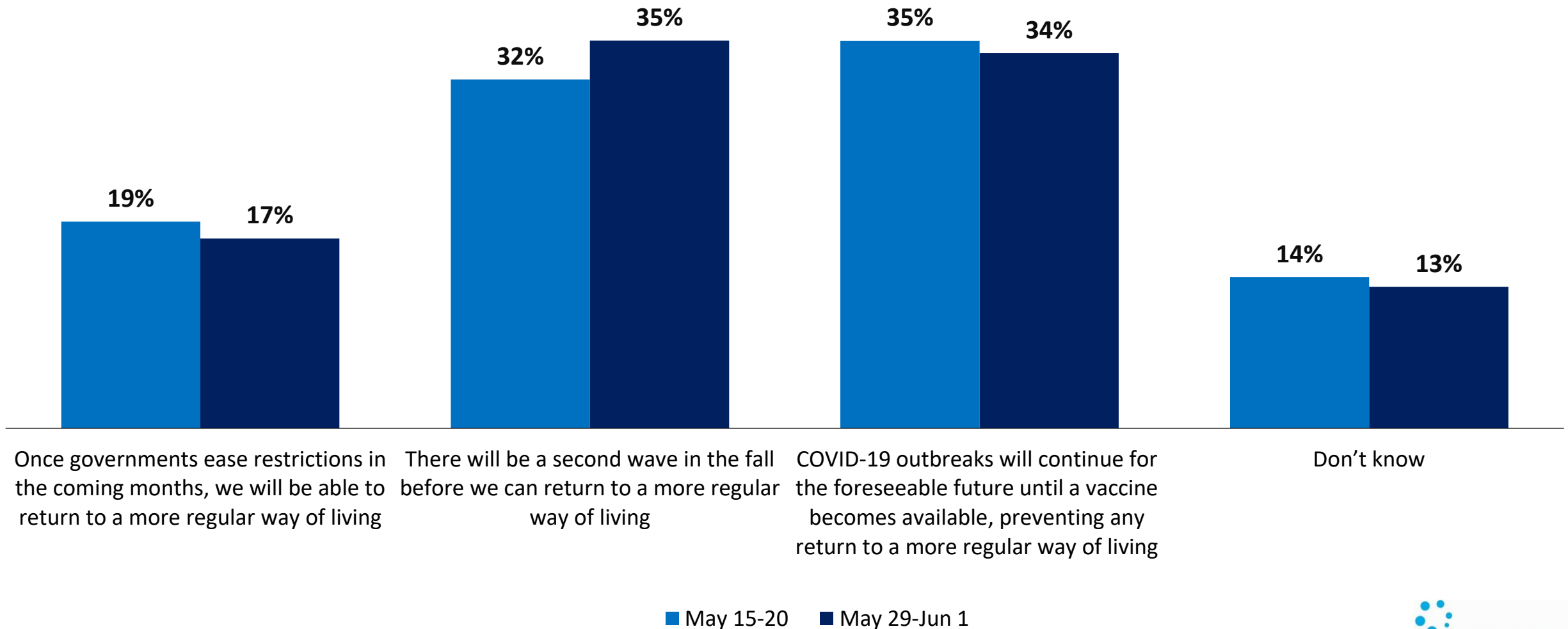
When thinking about a future outbreak of COVID-19, respondents say preparing hospitals and making changes to long-term care are the most important issues for governments to address. Across the board, respondents are satisfied with the work the Quebec government has done so far to prepare.

# Re-opening: Quebec respondents are split on whether there will be ongoing waves or just a second wave in the fall



Which of the following comes closest to your point of view?

[asked of all respondents in Quebec; n=300]



# 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.

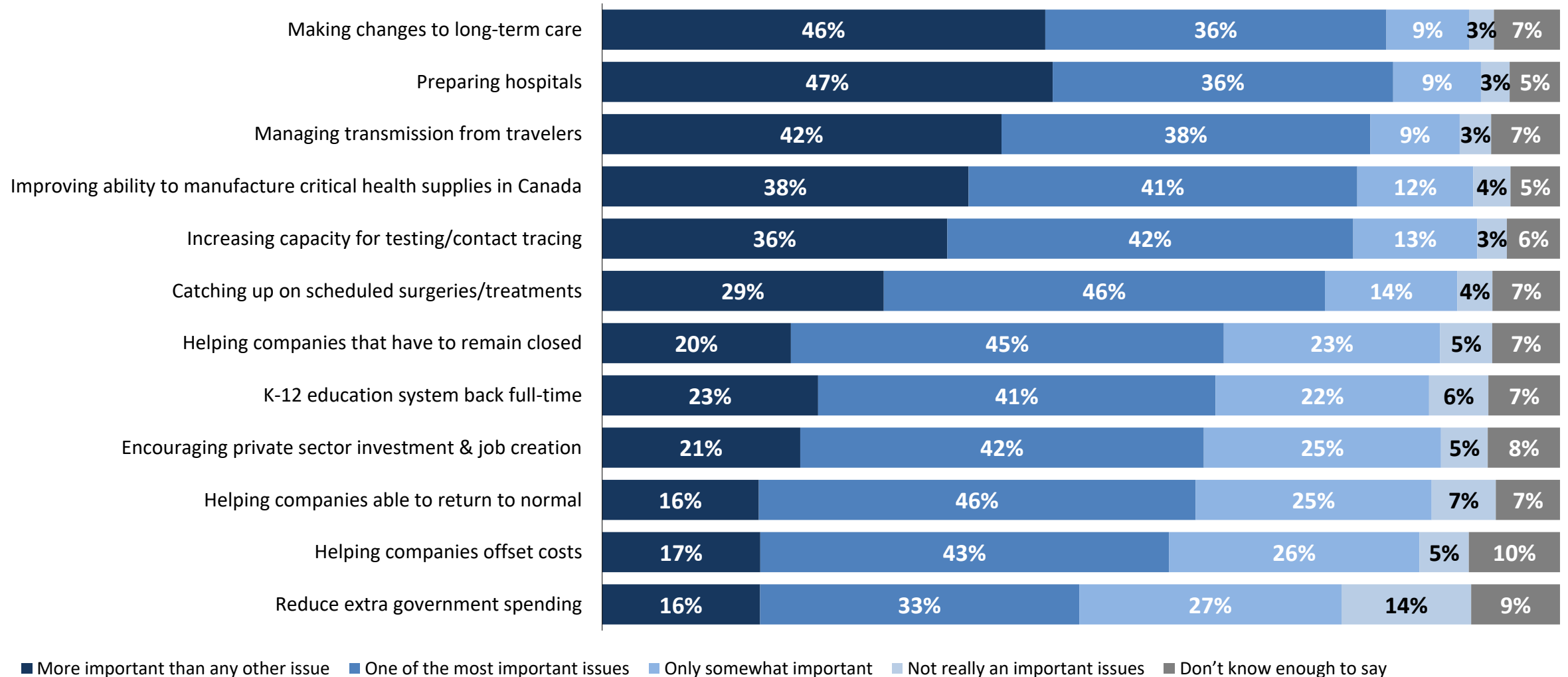
<i><b>Full Question Wording</b></i>	<i><b>Shorthand</b></i>
Helping companies that are able to return to normal operations to manage the damage from the “lockdown”	Helping companies able to return to normal
Helping companies offset the costs associated with new COVID-19 rules and restrictions	Helping 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 protecting seniors, preparing hospitals and managing transmission from travelers



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 QC; n=300]

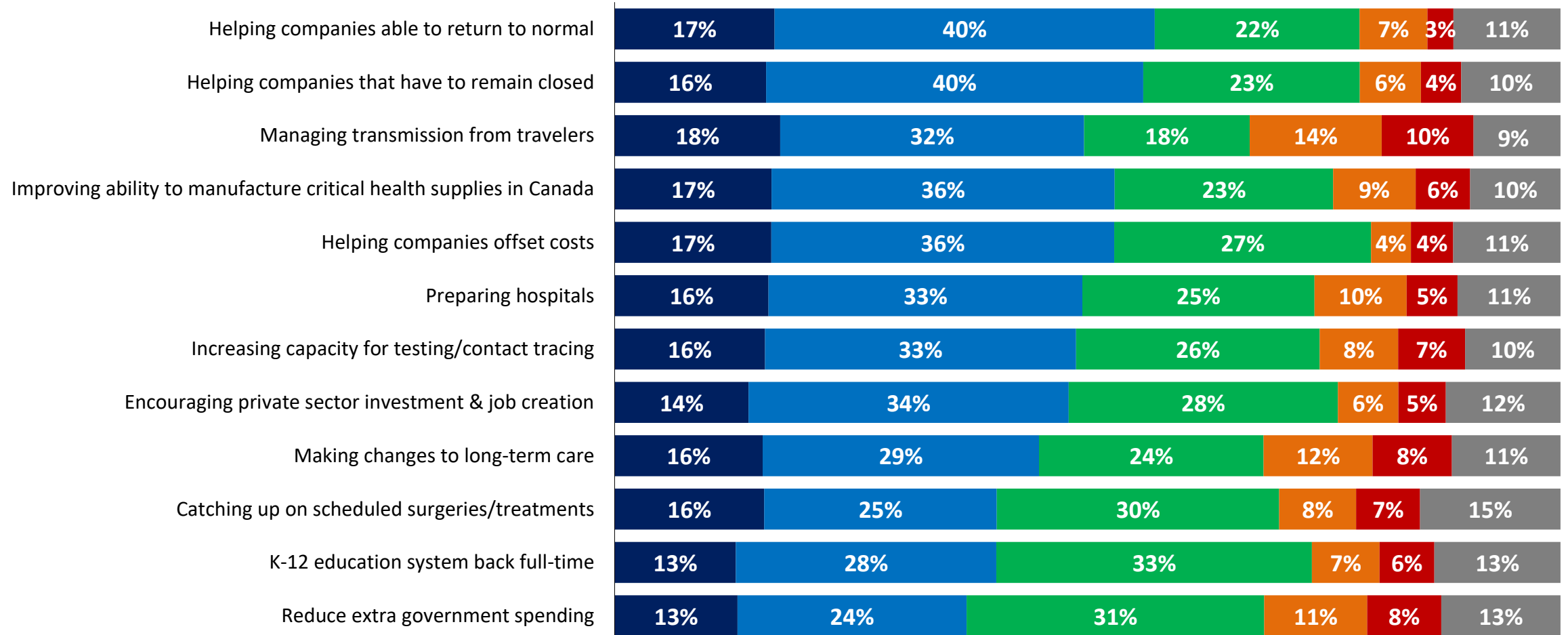


# Federal Satisfaction: Top federal issue respondents are satisfied with is helping companies that are able to return to normal



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 QC; n=300]



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

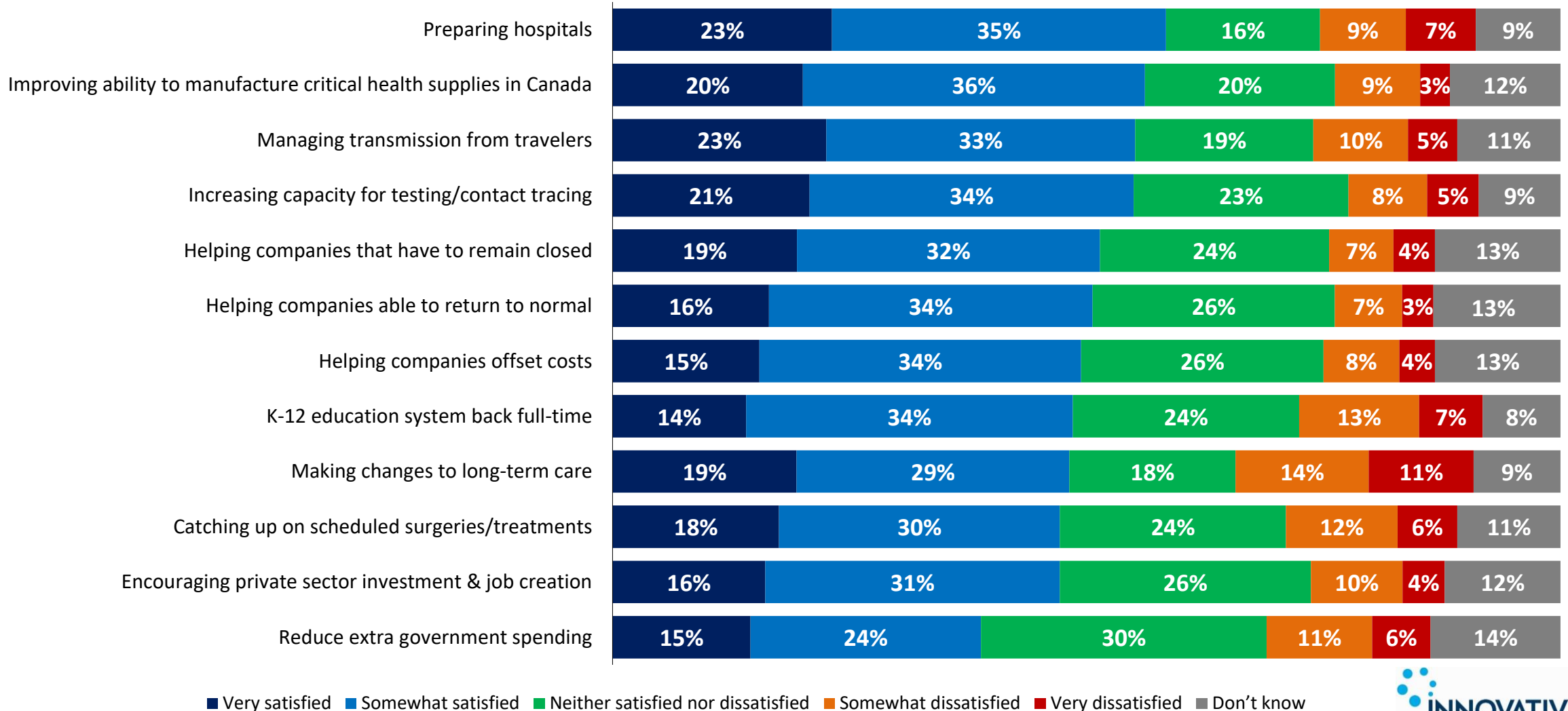


# Provincial Satisfaction: Top issues respondents are satisfied with include preparing hospitals for future spikes and improving manufacturing<sup>45</sup>



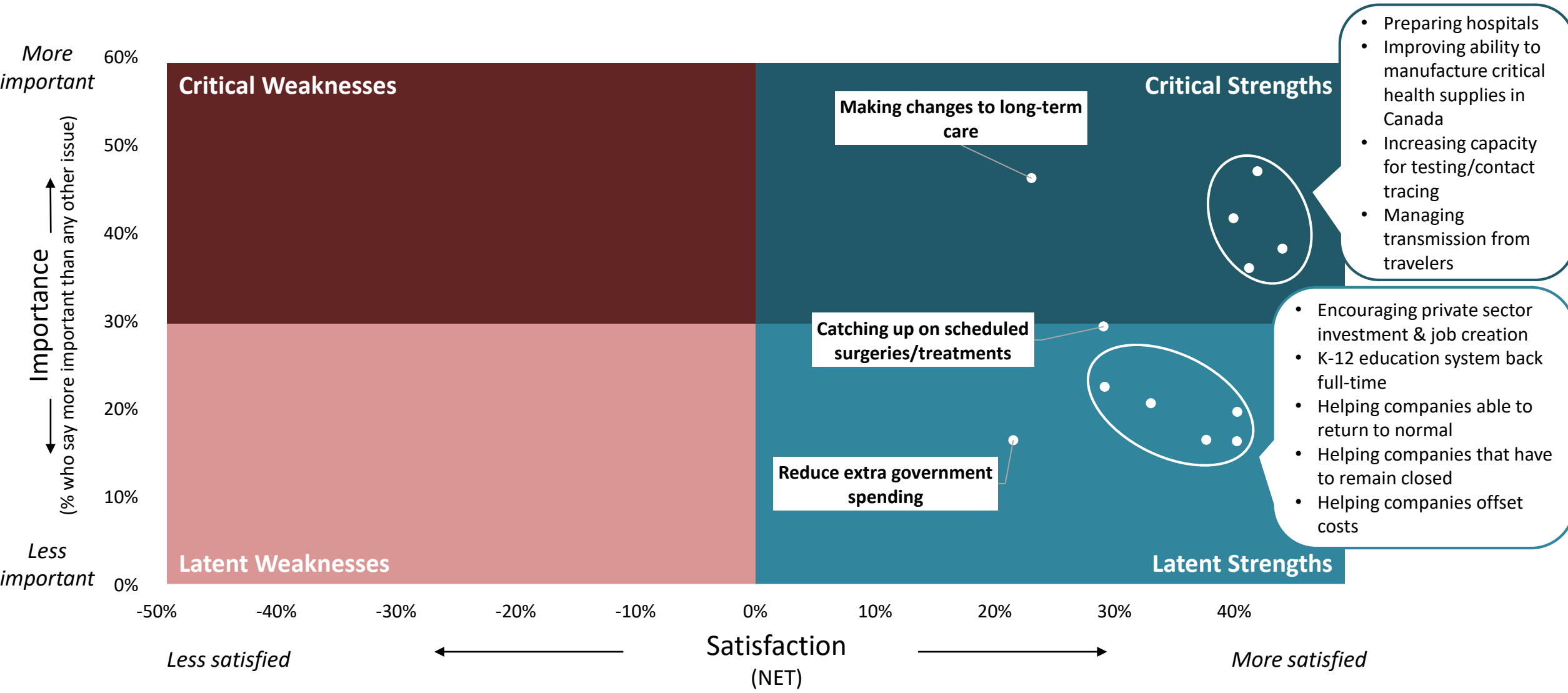
And how satisfied are you with the work done so far by the Quebec Provincial Government on each of these issues?

[asked of all respondents in QC; n=300]



# Importance by Quebec Provincial Satisfaction: Most health care related issues are seen as critical strengths

The provincial government is receiving positive net satisfaction on all areas and is receiving the highest marks on various issues related to public health. There is a lower risk for making changes to the long-term care system to better protect seniors to become a critical weakness provincially compared to other provinces as net satisfaction is +23%



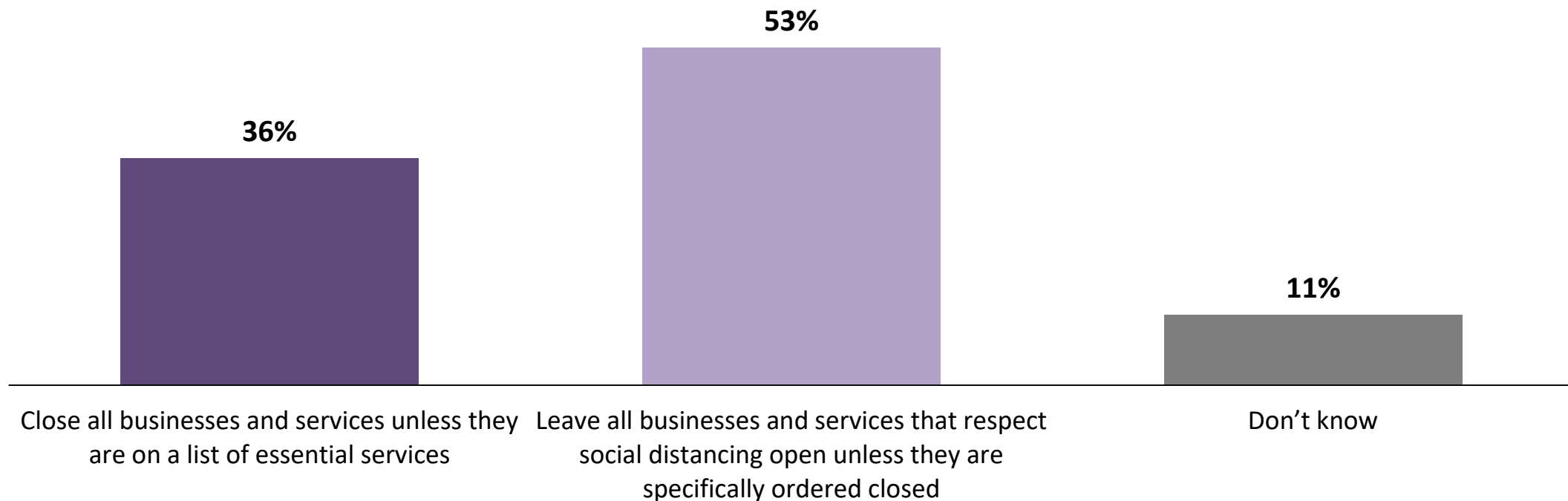
# Second Lockdown: A majority (53%) of Quebec residents would leave non-essential businesses open, not close them (36%)



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 Quebec, which approach would you prefer the Provincial Government take?

[asked of all respondents in QC n=300]

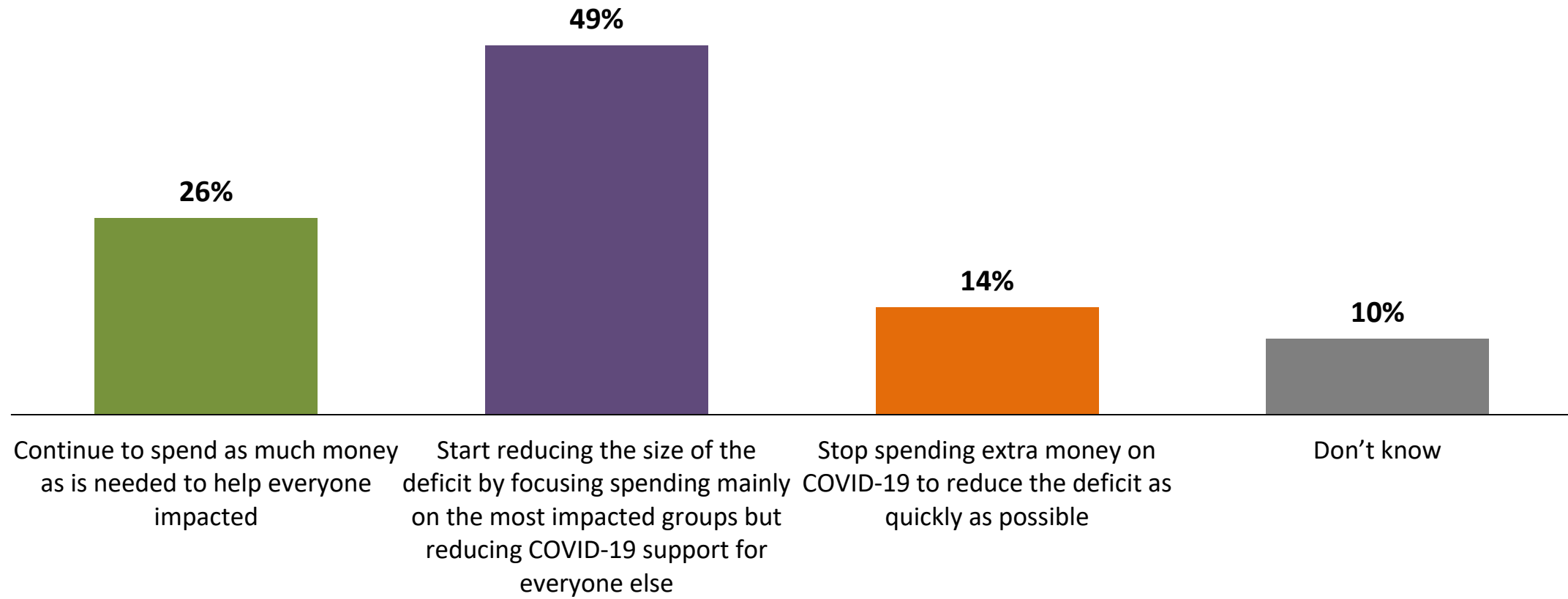


# Government Spending Decisions: Almost half (49%) would reduce the size of the deficit by focusing only on the most impacted groups



When governments make major decisions concerning spending on COVID-19 relief programs, do you think they should...

[asked of all respondents in QC; n=300]



# Methodology



# Methodology

**These are the results of an online survey conducted between May 29<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>, 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= 359 Quebec residents, 18 years or older. The results are weighted to n=300 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

**Field Dates:** May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 (%)
<b>Males 18-34</b>	54	15%	39	12.9%
<b>Males 35-54</b>	55	15.3%	50	16.7%
<b>Males 55+</b>	71	19.8%	57	19.1%
<b>Females 18-34</b>	54	15%	38	12.8%
<b>Females 35-54</b>	69	19.2%	50	16.7%
<b>Females 55+</b>	56	15.6%	65	21.8%
<b>Anglophone and Anglophone Montreal</b>	63	17.5%	47	15.7%
<b>Francophone Montreal</b>	50	13.9%	41	13.7%
<b>Quebec City</b>	27	7.5%	23	7.6%
<b>Beauce</b>	15	4.2%	17	5.6%
<b>Rest of QC</b>	204	56.8%	172	57.4%

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