

Manitoba Politics in the Time of COVID-19: June 2020 Update

Public Opinion Research
Release Date: June 12, 2020
Field Dates: May 29, 2020 to June 03, 2020

Canadian Red Cross
1000 - 1000

Spotlight on Manitoba Politics

The COVID-19 outbreak has set off a series of changes in the Canadian political landscape. In Manitoba, a plurality rated Brian Pallister as the best Premier compared to other party leaders. Pallister's favourability is reflected in the vote intention of respondents with the Progressive Conservatives leading in combined vote by 10 points over both the Liberals and the NDP.

Today, INNOVATIVE is releasing a spotlight on Manitoba from wave 8 of our COVID-19 Tracking survey. This online survey was in field from May 29th to June 3rd with a weighted sample size of 200 Manitoba residents. Detailed methodology is provided in the appendix.

This report covers key results on how those from Manitoba 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

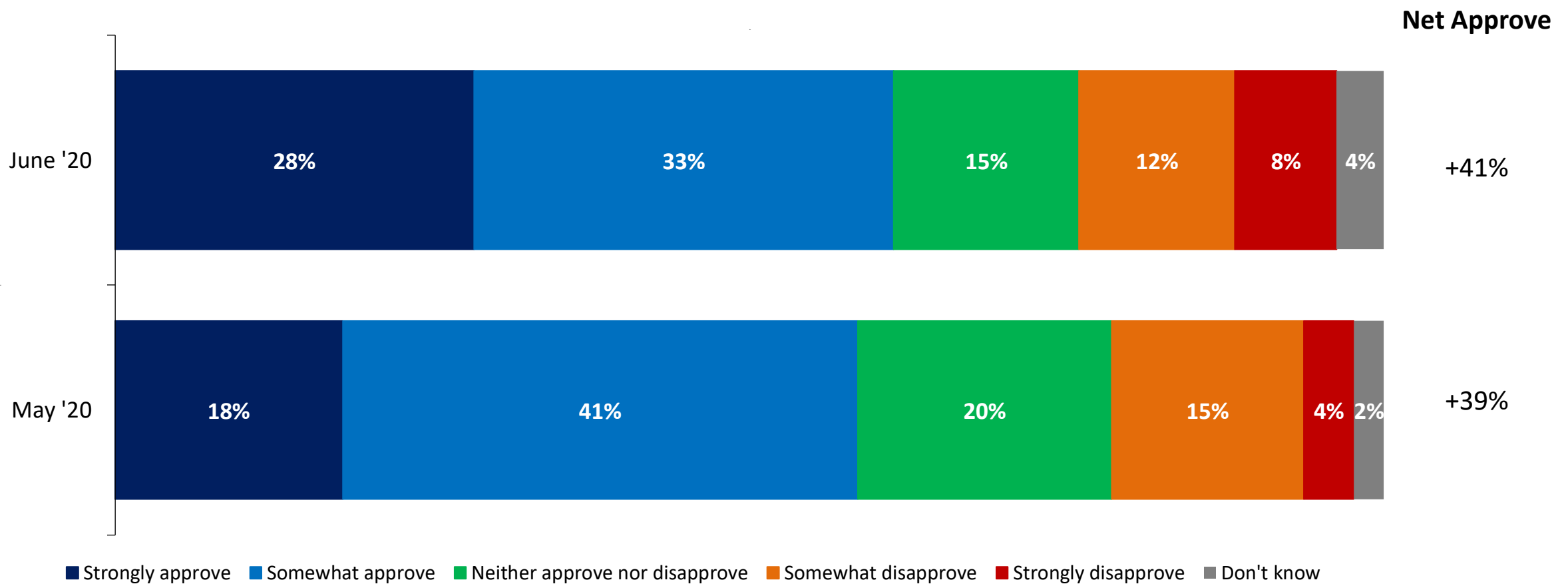
The Manitoba government continues to receive strong support on their response to the COVID-19 outbreak; with an increase in intensity of approval compared to May.

COVID-19 Handling Tracking: Shift in intensity of approval as 'strongly approve' is up 10 pts from May 2020 while net approval is stable



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

[asked of all respondents; n=200]



Leadership

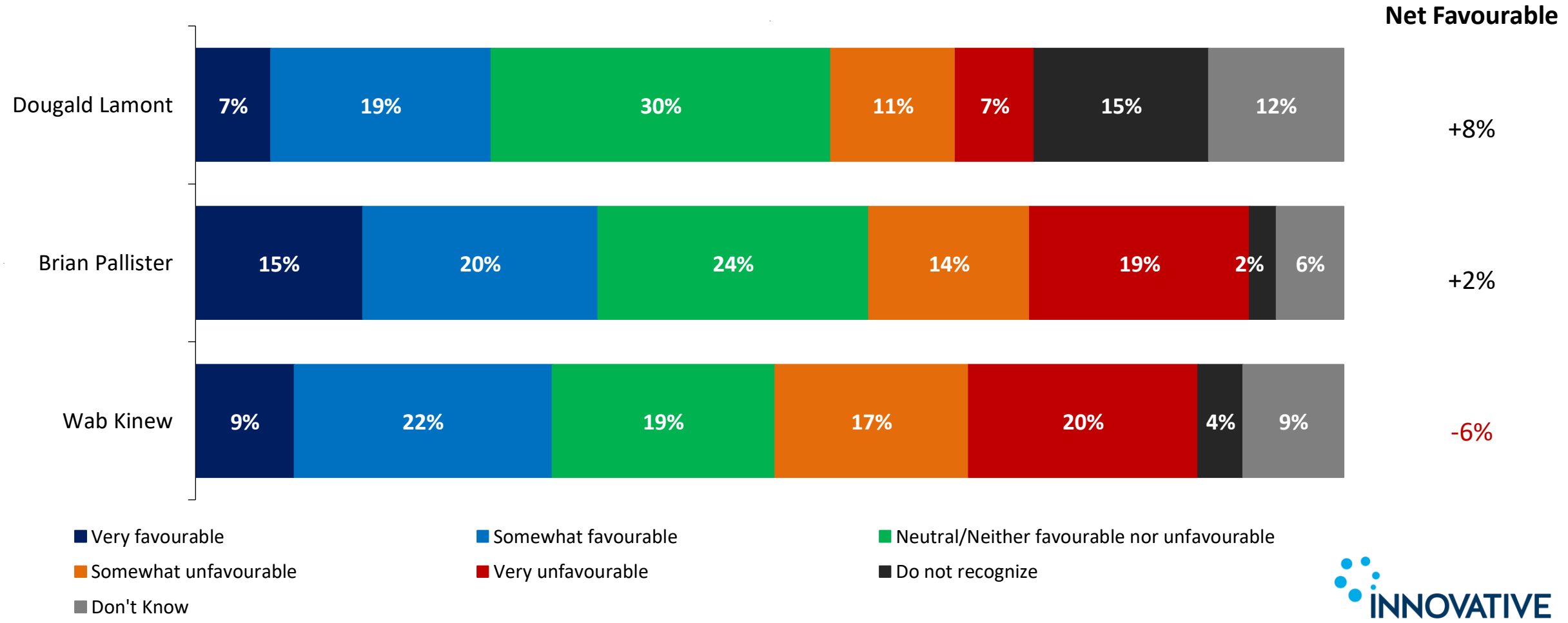
Pallister remains the top choice for Premier. However, Dougald Lamont has the highest net favourability compared to other party leaders in Manitoba though many do not recognize him or know whether they are favourable or not.

Leader Favourables: Brian Pallister has the strongest favourability ; though Dougald Lamont of the Liberal Party leads in net favourable



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=200]

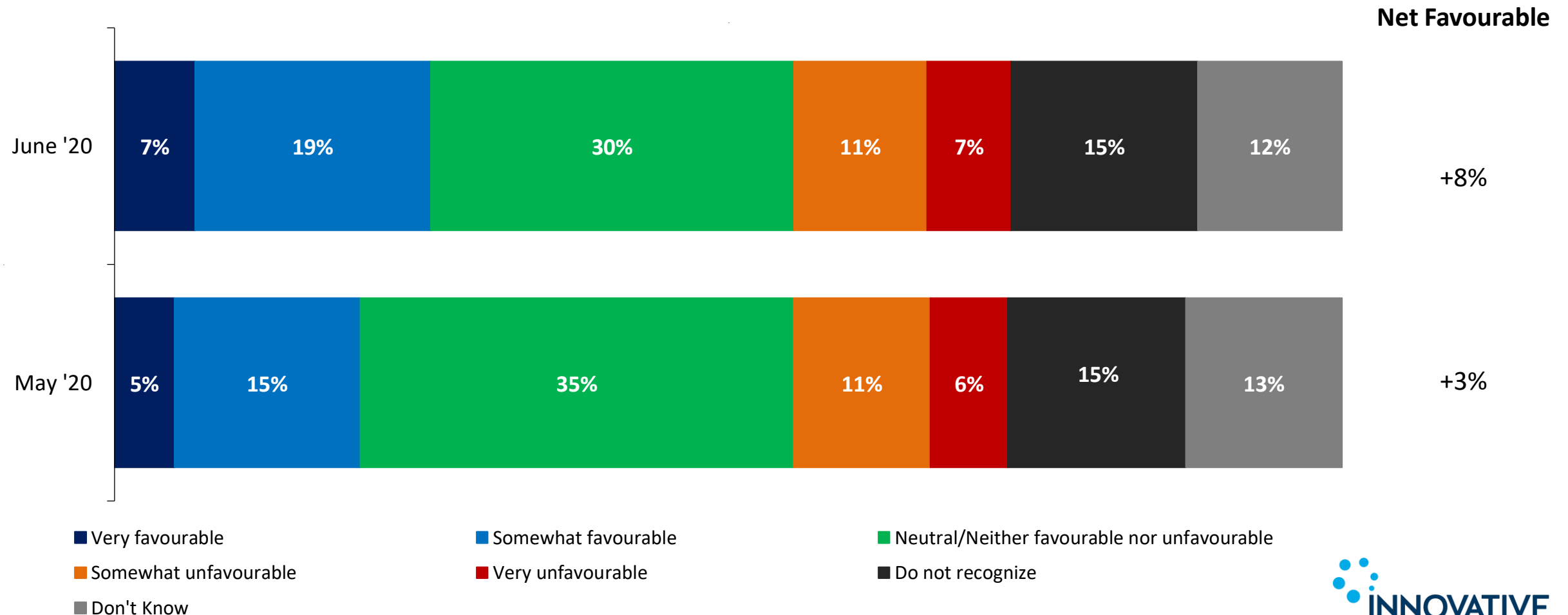


Dougald Lamont Favourability: Net favourable is up 5-points compared to previous month for Lamont, moving from +3% to +8%



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=200]

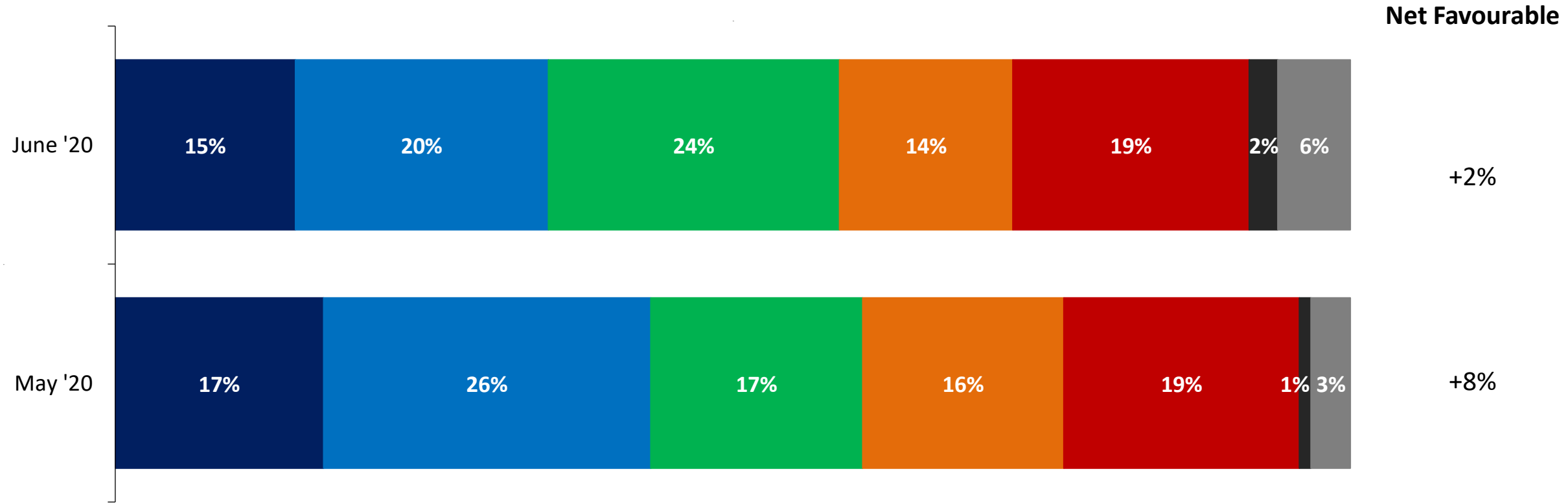


Brian Pallister Favourability: As respondents shift from a favourable impression to neutral, net favourability falls 6-points since May



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=200]

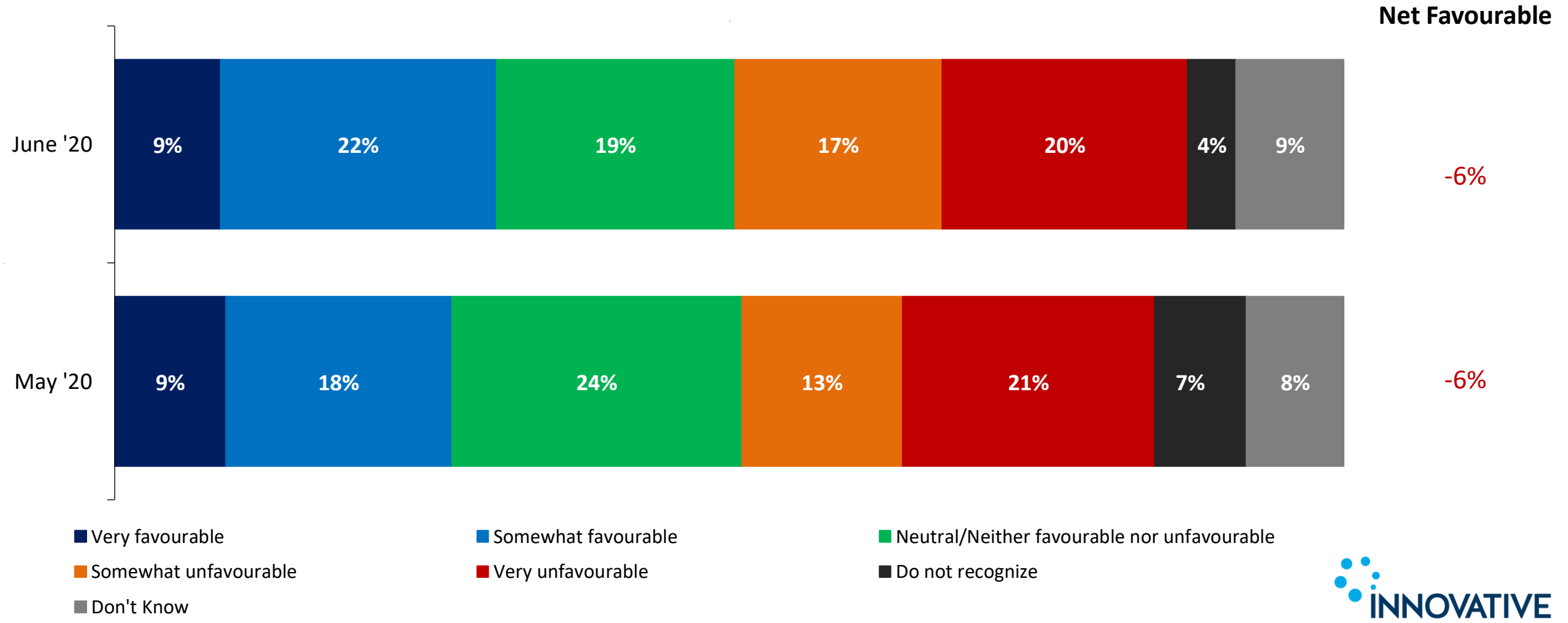


- Very favourable
- Somewhat favourable
- Neutral/Neither favourable nor unfavourable
- Somewhat unfavourable
- Very unfavourable
- Do not recognize
- Don't Know



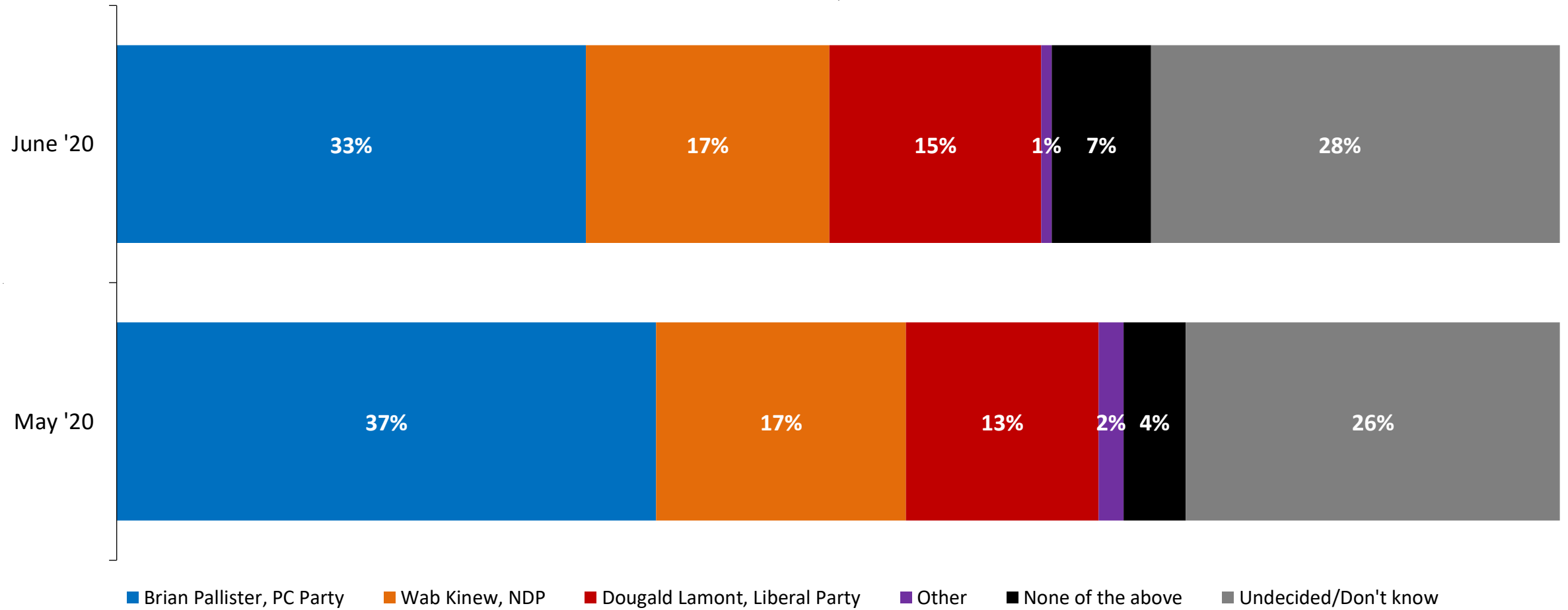
Web Kinew Favourability: As both favourable and unfavorable impression increases compared to May, net favourable remains stable

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=200]



Best Premier: 1-in-3 (33%) say Pallister would make best Premier, 4-pts down from May 2020, but remains the top among the three leaders

Q Which of the following leaders would make the best Premier of Manitoba?
[asked of all respondents; n=200]



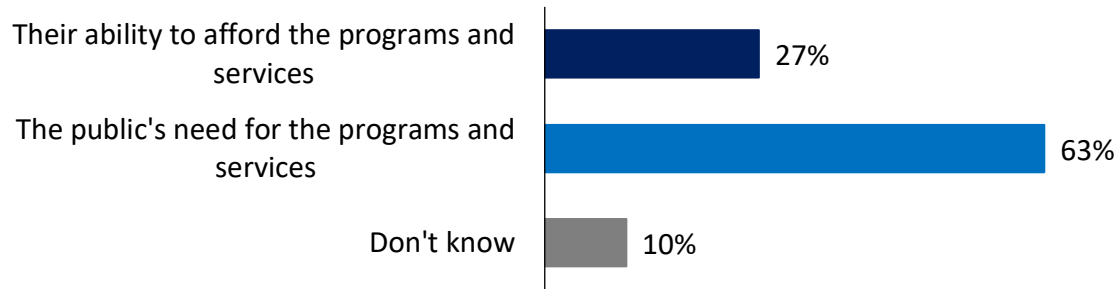
We group individuals into segments based on key political and economic values and attitudes

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

Core Political Values: Over 3-in-5 (63%) say governments should focus on needs rather than ability to afford programs

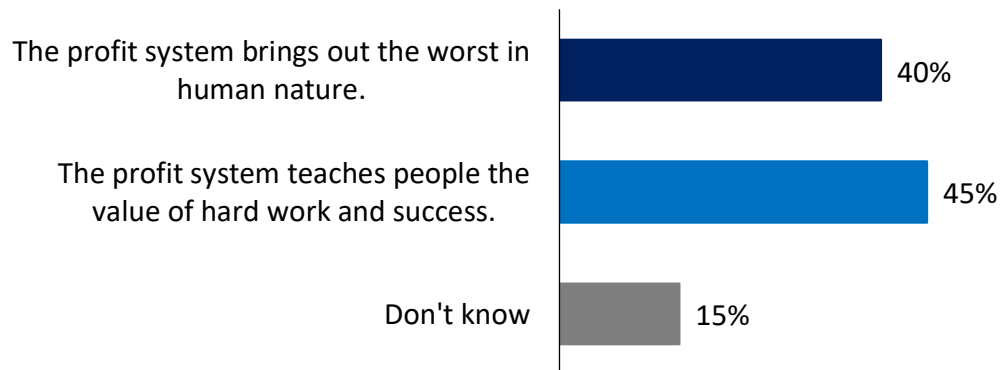
Q Now we would like to ask a few questions about basic values and society...When governments make major decisions concerning spending on programs and services, do you think they should be basing their decisions mainly on...?

[asked of all respondents; n=200]



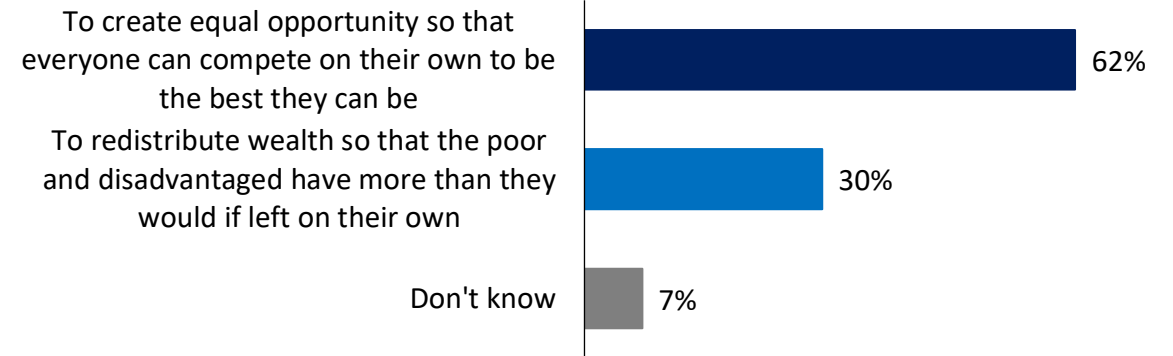
Q Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

[asked of all respondents; n=200]



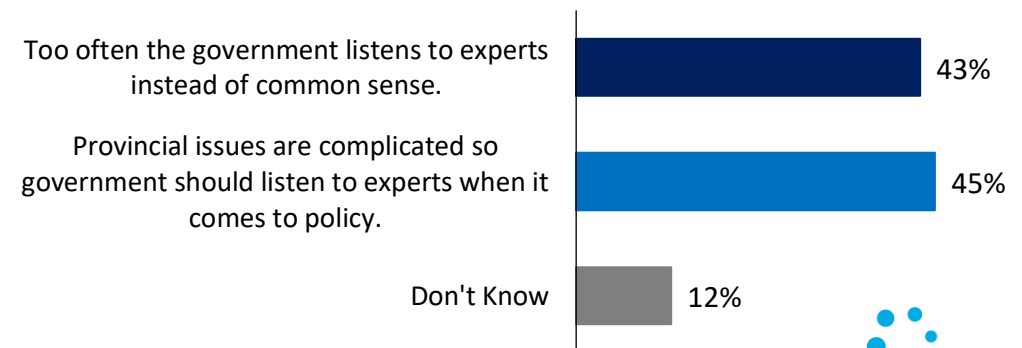
Q Is the main role of government to...?

[asked of all respondents; n=200]



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

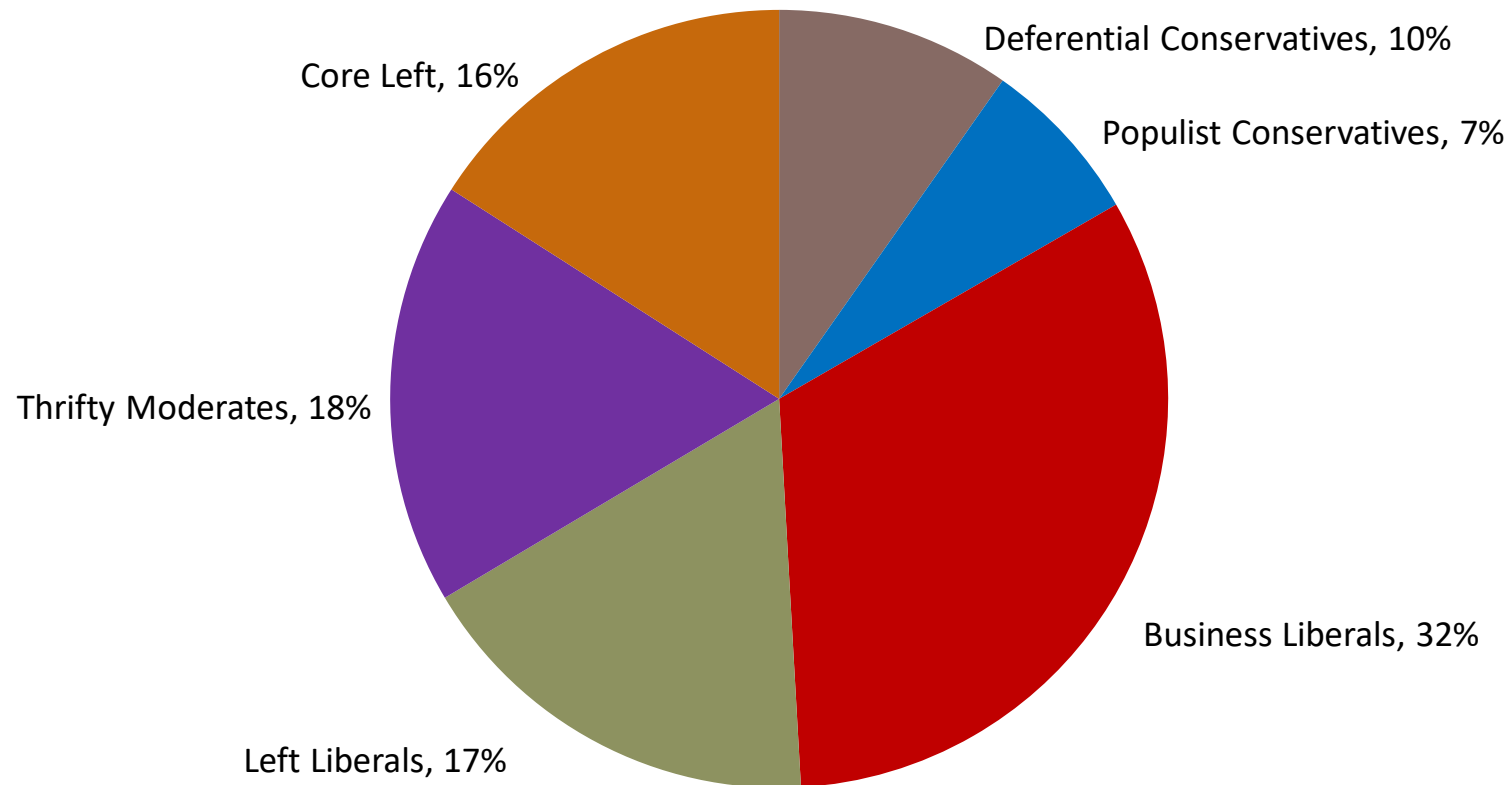
[asked of all respondents; n=200]



Value Clusters: Most (32%) are Business Liberals followed by Thrifty Moderates (18%), Left Liberals (17%) and Core Left (16%)

Value clusters: 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=200]



Defining Value Clusters: 6 value clusters are defined by 4 key political values

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	90%	62%	0%	0%	79%	0%
	Public Need	0%	0%	99%	97%	0%	86%
Is the main role of government to .?	Create equal Opportunity	75%	100%	77%	100%	33%	0%
	Redistribute wealth	21%	0%	19%	0%	37%	97%
When it comes to government decision making...	Rely on common sense	0%	100%	34%	46%	52%	51%
	Listen to experts	92%	0%	58%	36%	23%	42%
The profit system...	Brings out the worst in human nature	0%	0%	0%	90%	55%	91%
	Teaches value of hard work and success	90%	76%	90%	0%	12%	0%

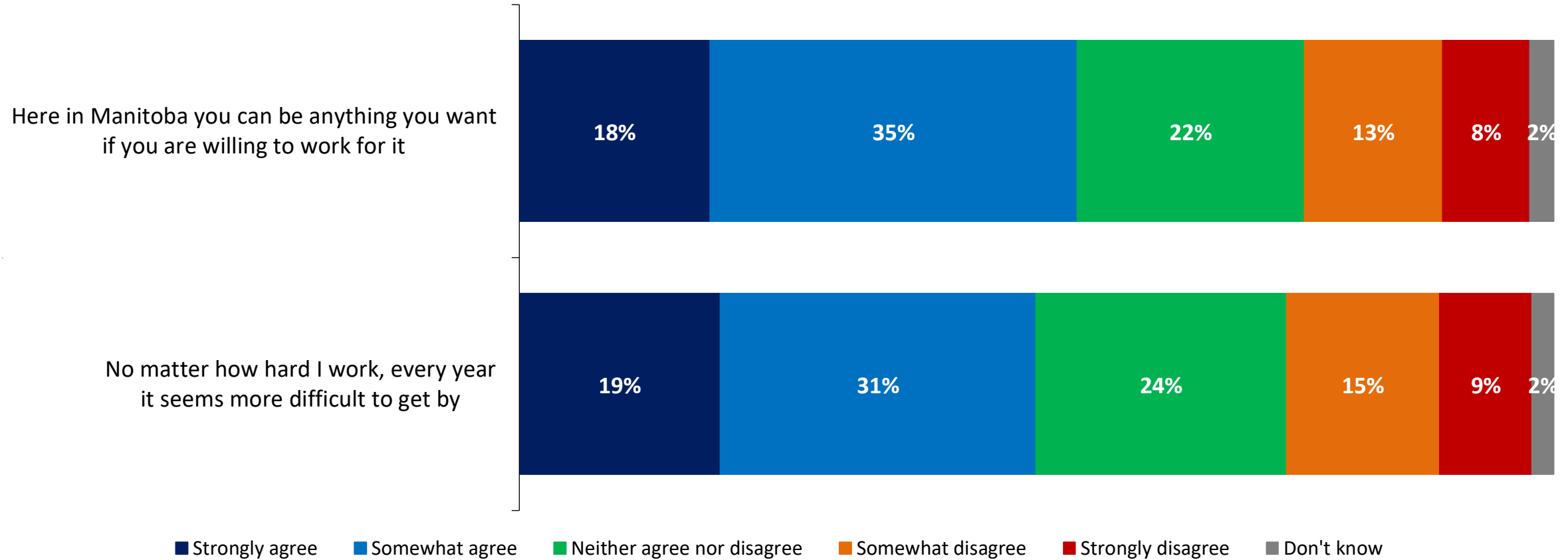
Note: Current data: June 2020

Segmentation Attitudes: More than half (54%) agree that in Manitoba you can be anything you want if you are willing to work for it



Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

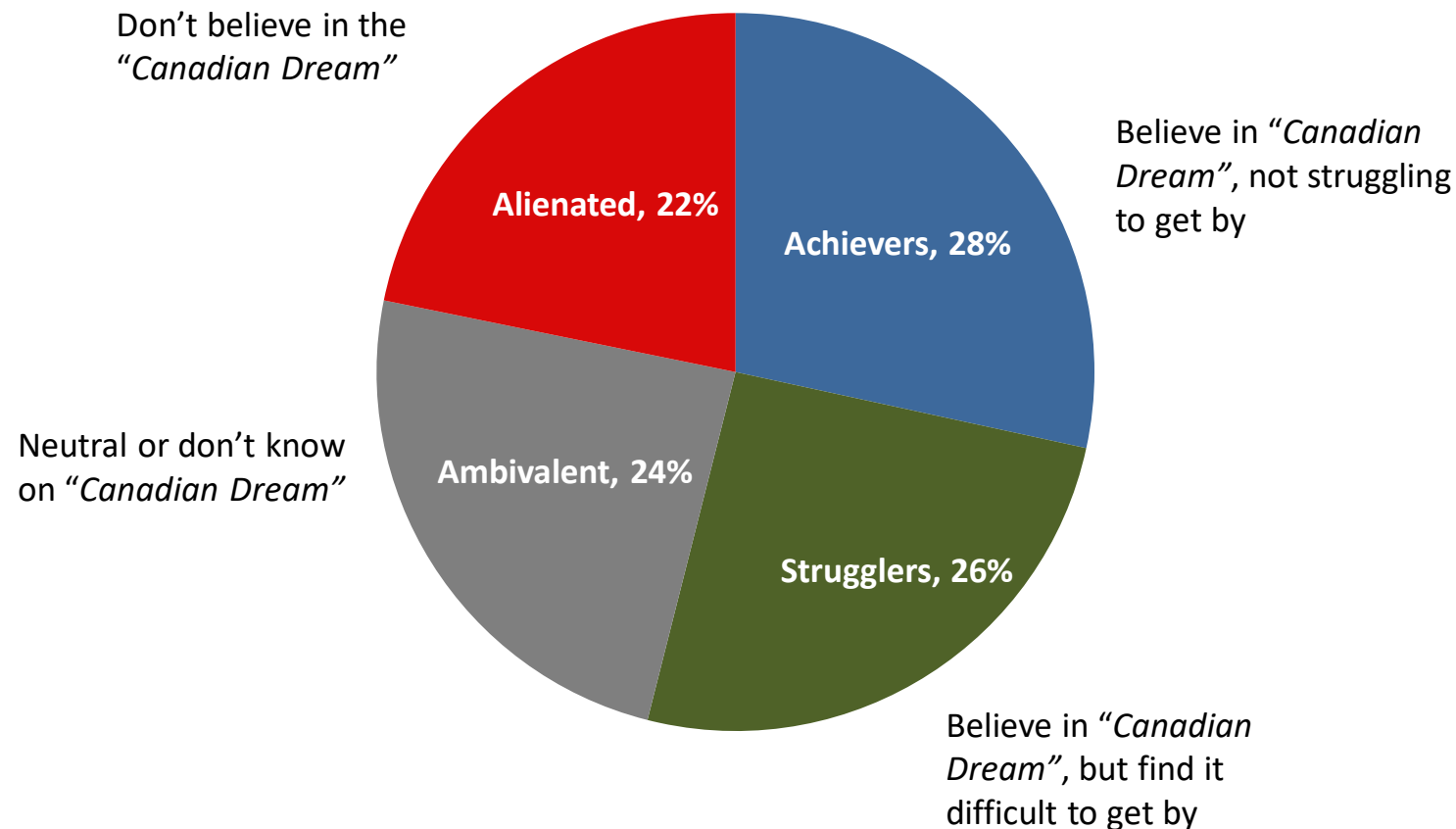
[asked of all respondents; n=200]



Economic Gap Segmentation: Almost 3-in-10 (28%) believe in the Canadian Dream and are not struggling to get by

Gap segmentation: Agree with 'Here in Manitoba 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=200]

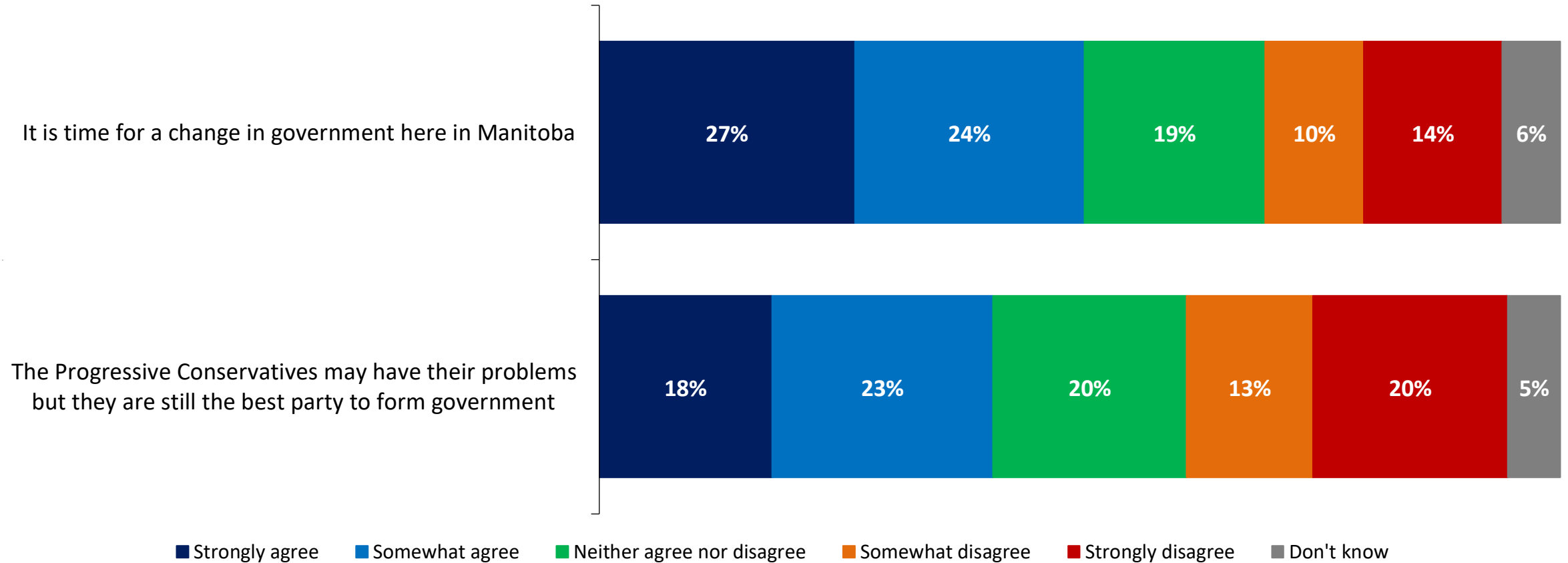


Time for Change Attitudes: Half (50%) of respondents agree that it is time for a change in government in Manitoba



Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

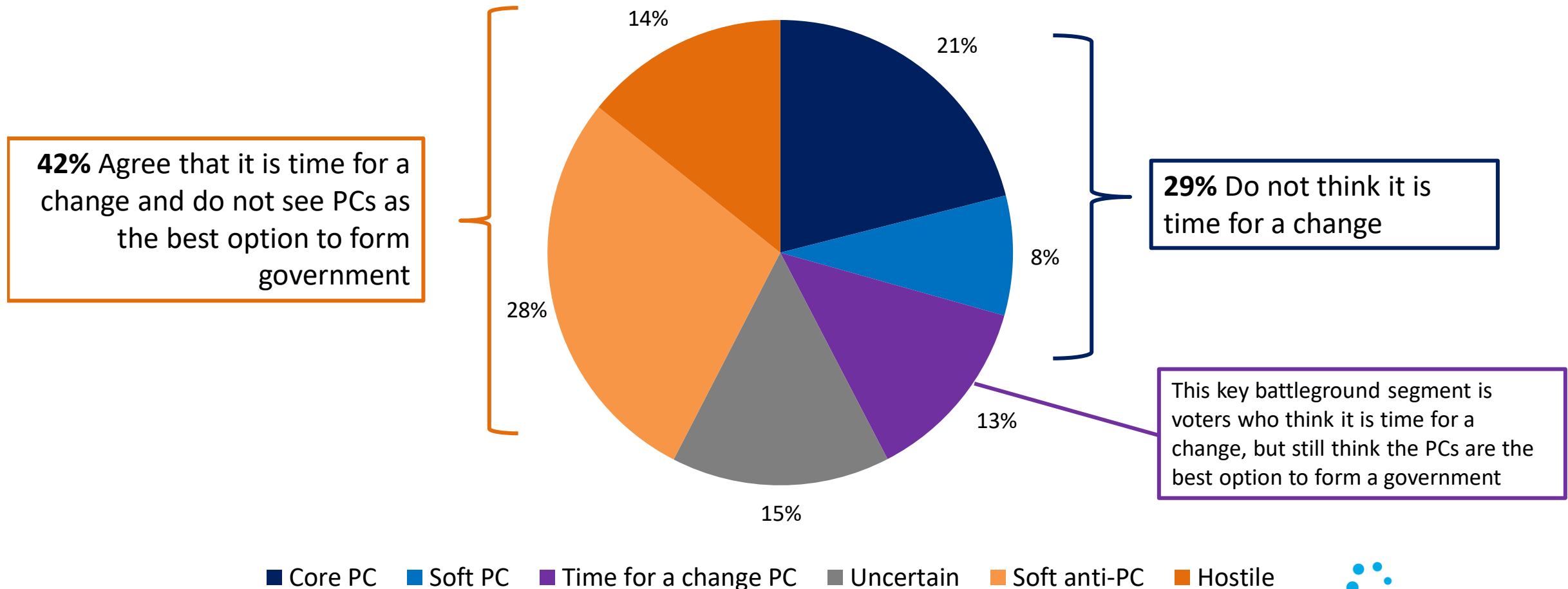
[asked of all respondents; n=200]



Time for Change Segmentation: 42% of respondents say it is time for a change and don't agree the PCs are the best party to form government ¹⁸

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 Manitoba'.

[asked of all respondents; n=200]



■ Core PC ■ Soft PC ■ Time for a change PC ■ Uncertain ■ Soft anti-PC ■ Hostile

The Progressive Conservatives are ahead in the horserace.

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.

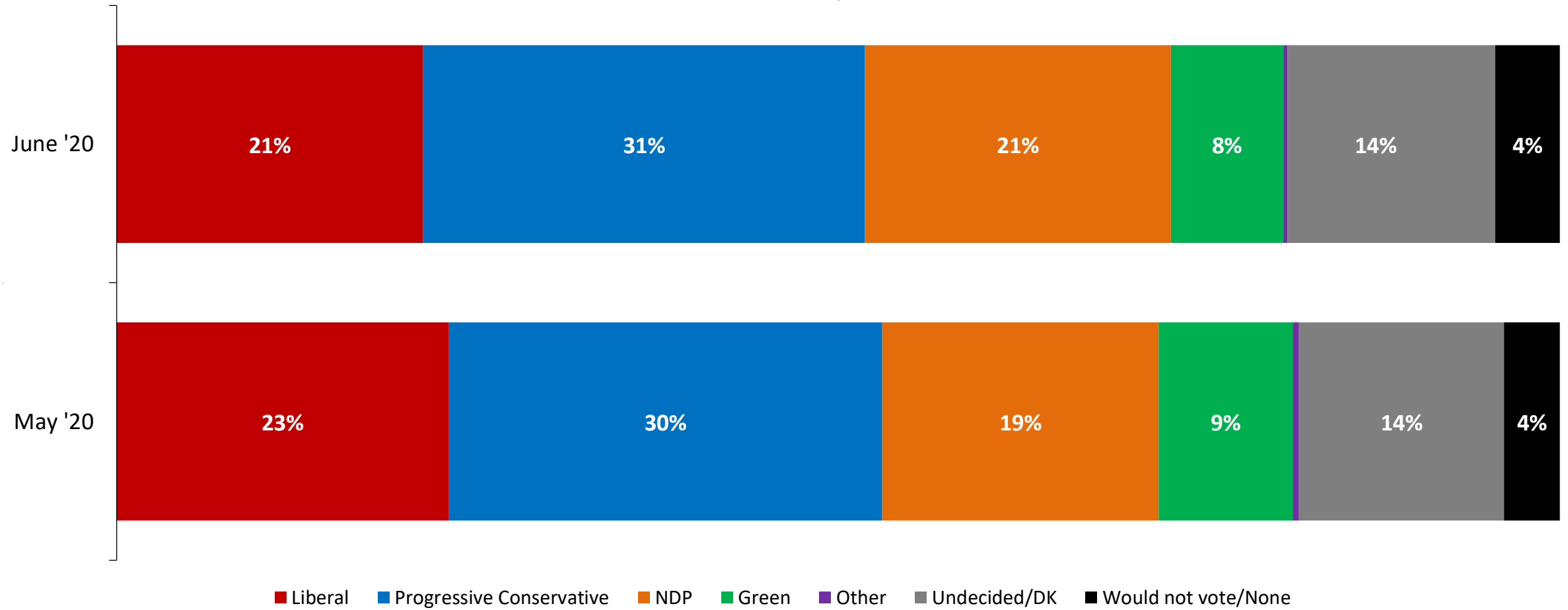
When we look at the results among *only* decided voters, we call that **Decided vote**. These results most tell us what the election results would be like if the survey results matched the election exactly.

Provincial Combined Vote: Political combined vote is on par with May 2020, with PCs leading at 31%



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=200]

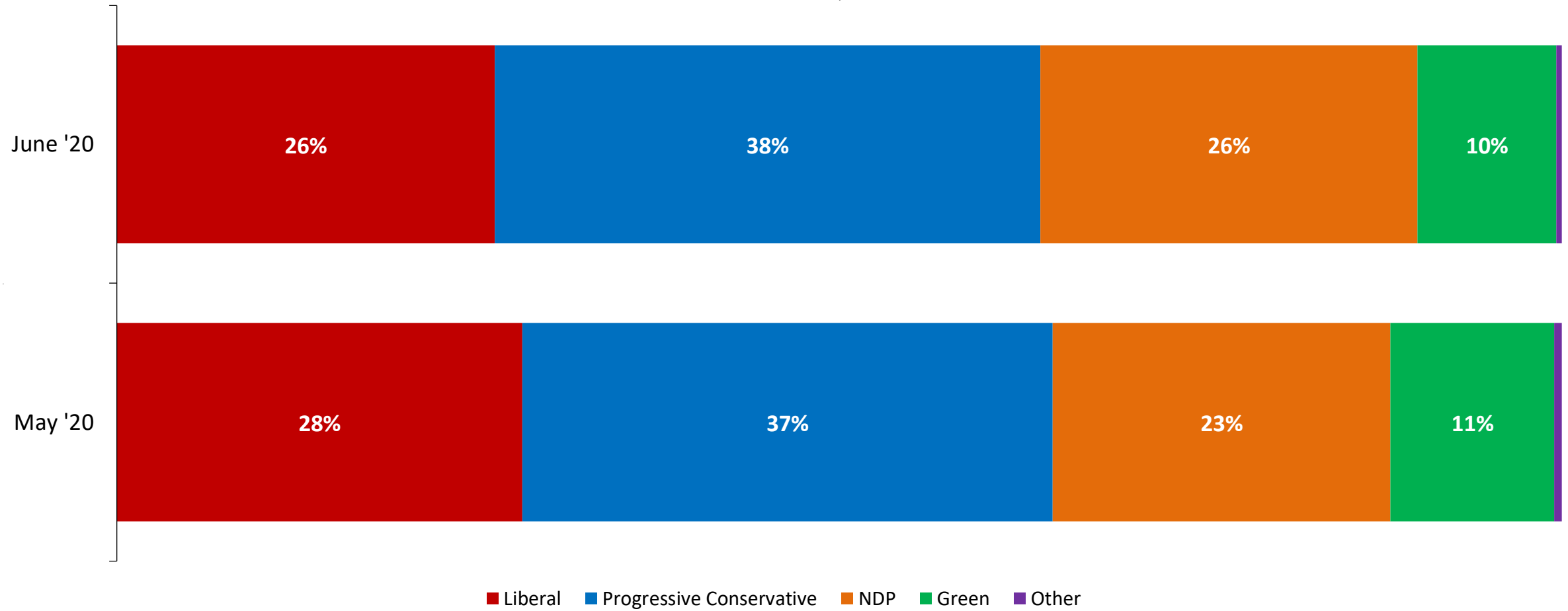


Provincial Decided Vote: Decided vote is also steady since May, with PCs (38%) in the lead and Liberals (26%) and NDP (26%) neck-in-neck



If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? **[DECIDED]**

[asked of all respondents; n=200]



Combined Vote by Value Cluster: The Progressive Conservatives lead among Deferential/Populist Conservatives and Business Liberals and Business Liberals

		Value Clusters				
		Deferential/Populist Conservatives (N=33)	Business Liberals (N=65)	Left Liberals (N=35)	Thrifty Moderates (N=35)	Core Left (N=32)
Provincial Decided Vote	Liberal	17%	29%	23%	22%	7%
	Progressive Conservative	42%	40%	21%	24%	18%
	NDP	21%	16%	16%	11%	49%
	Green	3%	2%	12%	16%	10%
	Other	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%
	Undecided/DK	9%	11%	18%	20%	16%
	Would not vote/None	7%	2%	10%	6%	0%

Combined Vote by Economic Gap: The PCs lead among all groups but are only marginally ahead of the Liberals among the Alienated group

		Economic Gap			
		Achievers	Strugglers	Ambivalent	Alienated
		(N=57)	(N=51)	(N=49)	(N=44)
Provincial Combined Vote	Liberal	19%	28%	21%	17%
	Progressive Conservative	32%	37%	32%	20%
	NDP	25%	18%	13%	28%
	Green	3%	9%	4%	16%
	Other	0%	0%	1%	0%
	Undecided/DK	17%	8%	19%	13%
	Would not vote/None	3%	0%	10%	5%

Note: Current data: June 2020

Combined Vote by Time for Change: 41% of Soft anti-PC/Hostile voters say they would vote for the NDP while 28% say Liberal

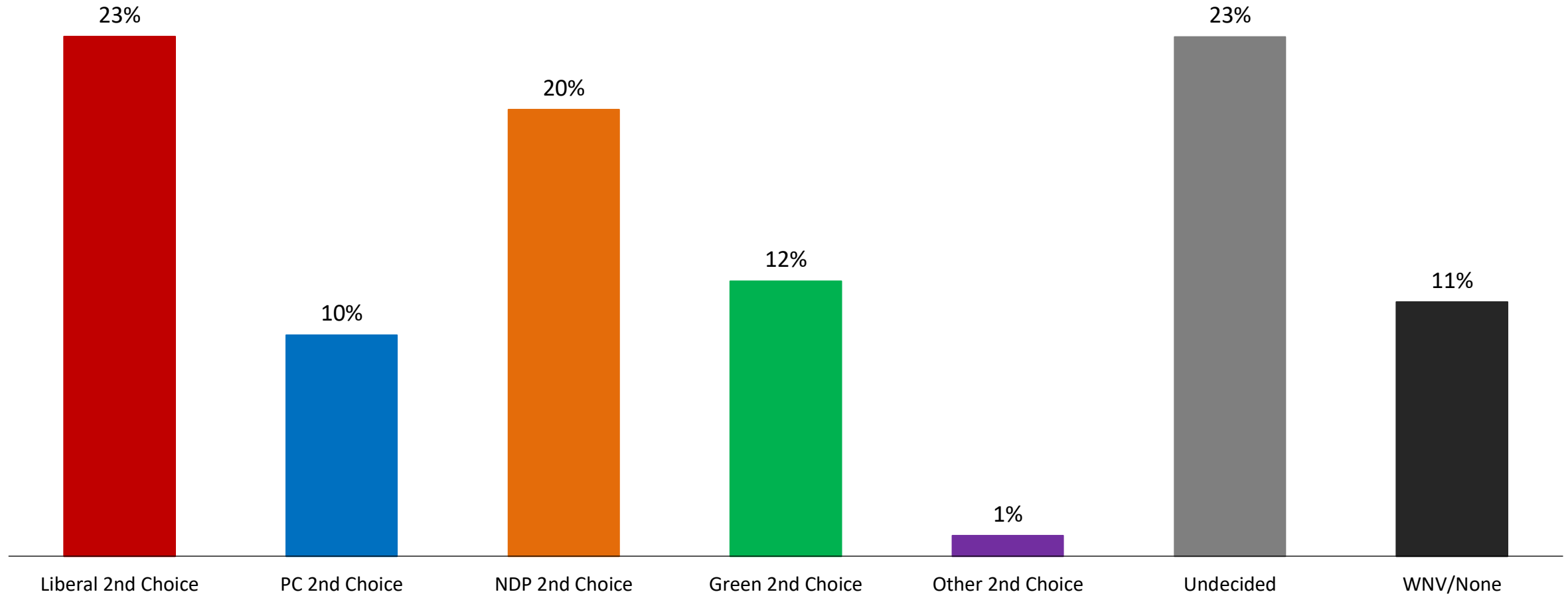
		Time for Change			
		Core/Soft PC (N=59)	Time for a change PC* (N=26)	Uncertain* (N=30)	Soft anti-PC/Hostile (N=85)
Provincial Combined Vote	Liberal	13%	28%	14%	28%
	Progressive Conservative	69%	43%	22%	3%
	NDP	7%	12%	3%	41%
	Green	3%	4%	0%	15%
	Other	0%	2%	0%	0%
	Undecided/DK	7%	4%	49%	11%
	Would not vote/None	2%	6%	13%	3%

Provincial 2nd Choice: Liberals lead the NDP by 3 pts as the most common second choice; 34% are either undecided or have no 2nd choice



And which party would be your second choice?

[only decided voters; n=162]



Provincial 2nd Choice: The top 2nd choice of NDP voters is the Liberal Party (39%), and the top 2nd choice of Liberal voters is the NDP (40%)

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

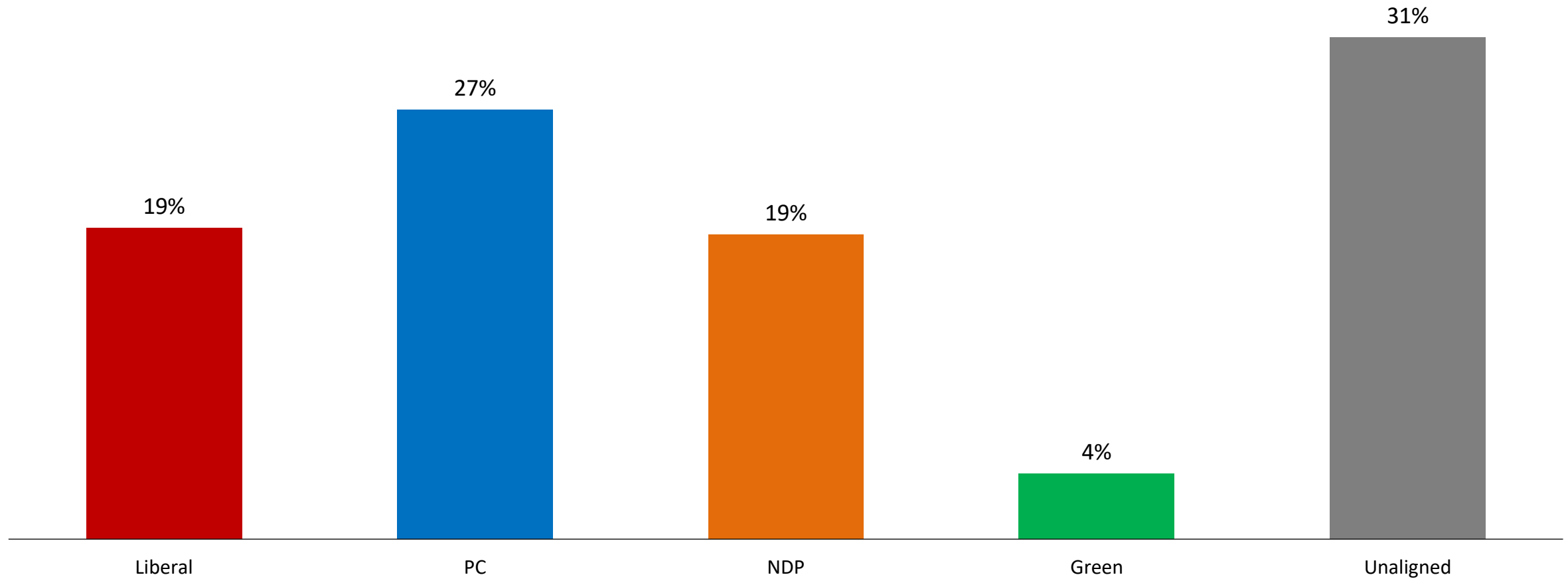
		First Choice		
		Liberal 1st Choice	PC 1st Choice	NDP 1st Choice
		(N=42)	(N=61)	(N=42)
Second Choice	Liberal 2nd Choice		28%	39%
	PC 2nd Choice	14%		21%
	NDP 2nd Choice	40%	14%	
	Green 2nd Choice	11%	13%	18%
	Other 2nd Choice	0%	0%	0%
	Undecided	24%	31%	13%
	WNV/None	11%	15%	10%

Provincial Party ID: Over 1-in-4 (27%) identify as Progressive Conservatives; 31% say they are unaligned



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

[asked of all respondents; n=200]



Combined Vote by Party ID: Progressive Conservative and NDP partisans are the most loyal to their party

Provincial Party Identification

		Liberal	Progressive Conservative	NDP	Unaligned
		(N=39)	(N=53)	(N=38)	(N=62)
Provincial Combined Vote	Liberal	68%	0%	14%	15%
	Progressive Conservative	6%	86%	2%	20%
	NDP	6%	6%	79%	7%
	Green	18%	6%	0%	5%
	Other	0%	0%	0%	1%
	Undecided/DK	3%	2%	0%	41%
	Would not vote/None	0%	0%	4%	12%

Note: Current data: June 2020. 'Green' in Party ID not shown due to insufficient sample size.

Preparing for the Future

Manitobans ranks managing transmission from international travellers as the top issue facing the federal government, for which they also give the Manitoba provincial government high marks on its management. The issue most at risk for becoming a critical weakness is making changes to long-term care to protect seniors.

Re-opening: A plurality (41%) believe there will be outbreaks until a vaccine becomes available



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

[asked of all respondents in MB; n=200]

19%



Once governments ease restrictions in the coming months, we will be able to return to a more regular way of living

29%



There will be a second wave in the fall before we can return to a more regular way of living

41%



COVID-19 outbreaks will continue for the foreseeable future until a vaccine becomes available, preventing any return to a more regular way of living

12%



Don't know

Shorthand for the Issues

Respondents are asked to rate the importance of various issues and how satisfied they are with the federal and provincial government 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.

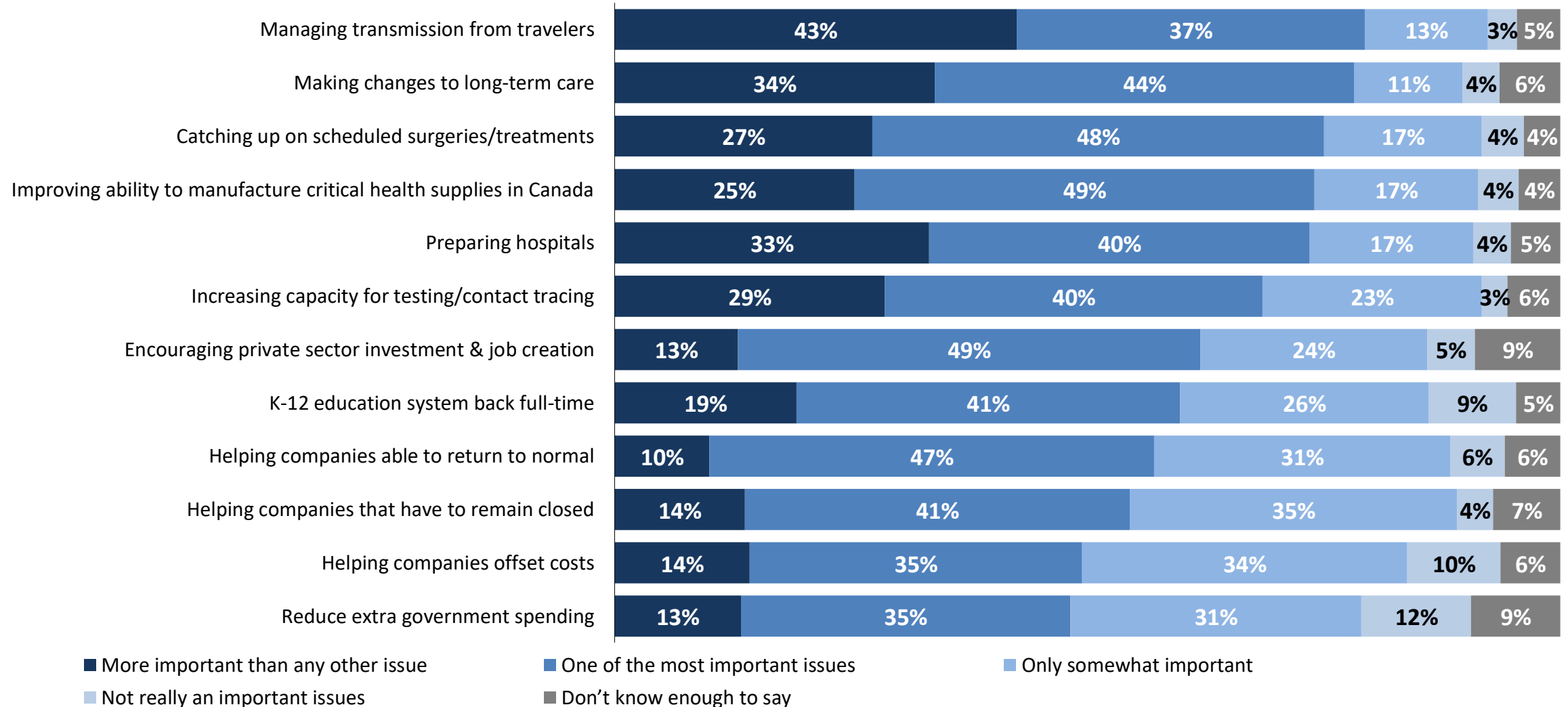
<i>Full Question Wording</i>	<i>Shorthand</i>
Helping companies that are able to return to normal operations to manage the damage from the “lockdown”	Helping companies able to return to normal
Helping companies offset the costs associated with new COVID-19 rules and restrictions	Helping companies offset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



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 MB; n=200]

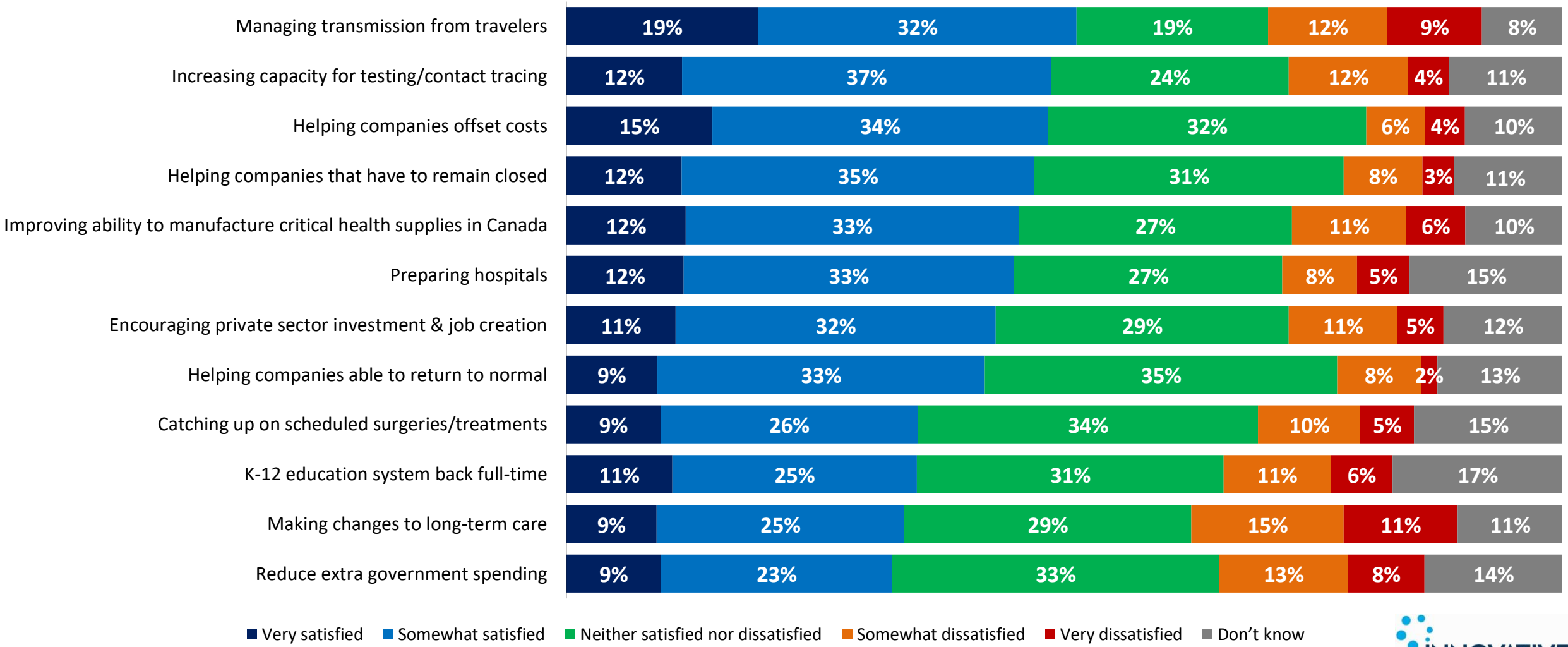


Federal Satisfaction: Top federal issues respondents are satisfied with are managing transmission from travelers and increasing testing capacity



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 MB; n=200]

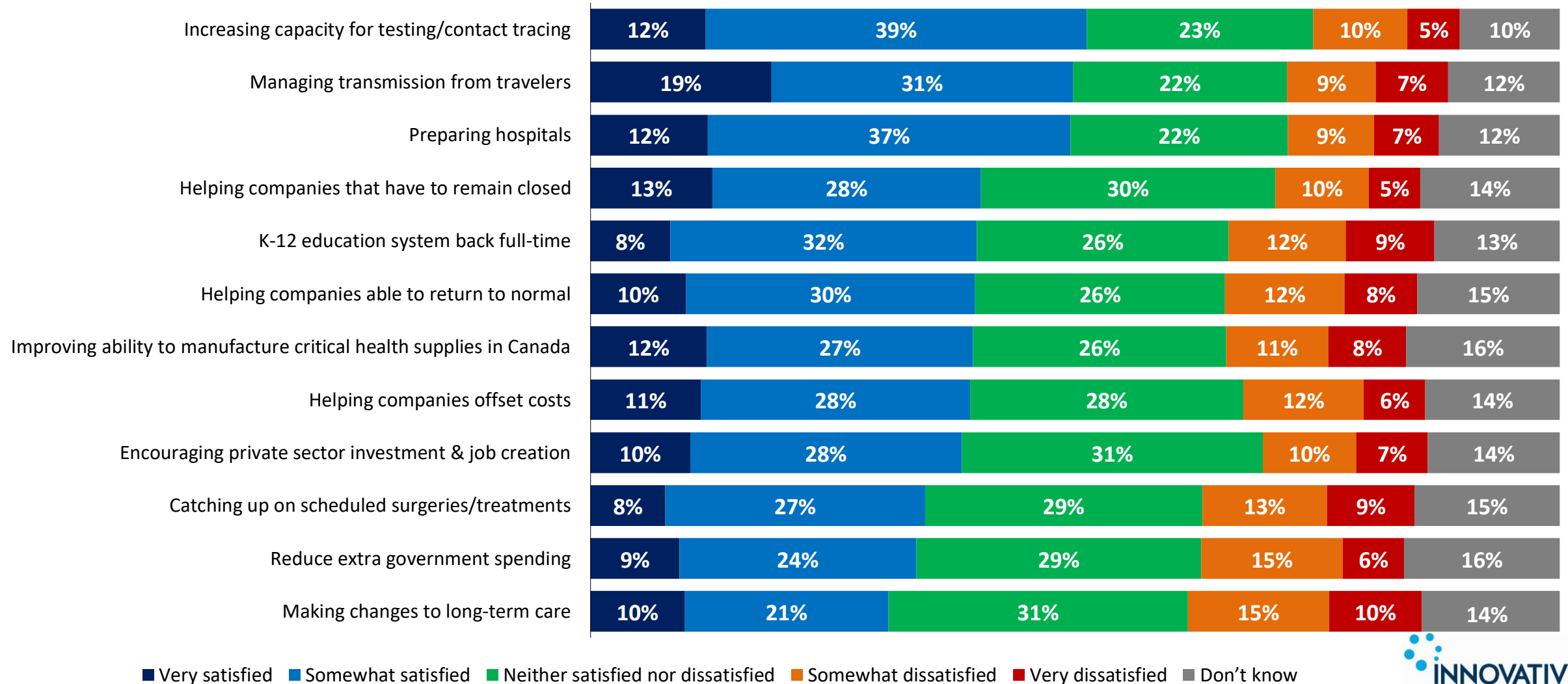


Provincial Satisfaction: Top issue respondents are satisfied with is increasing capacity for testing and contact tracing



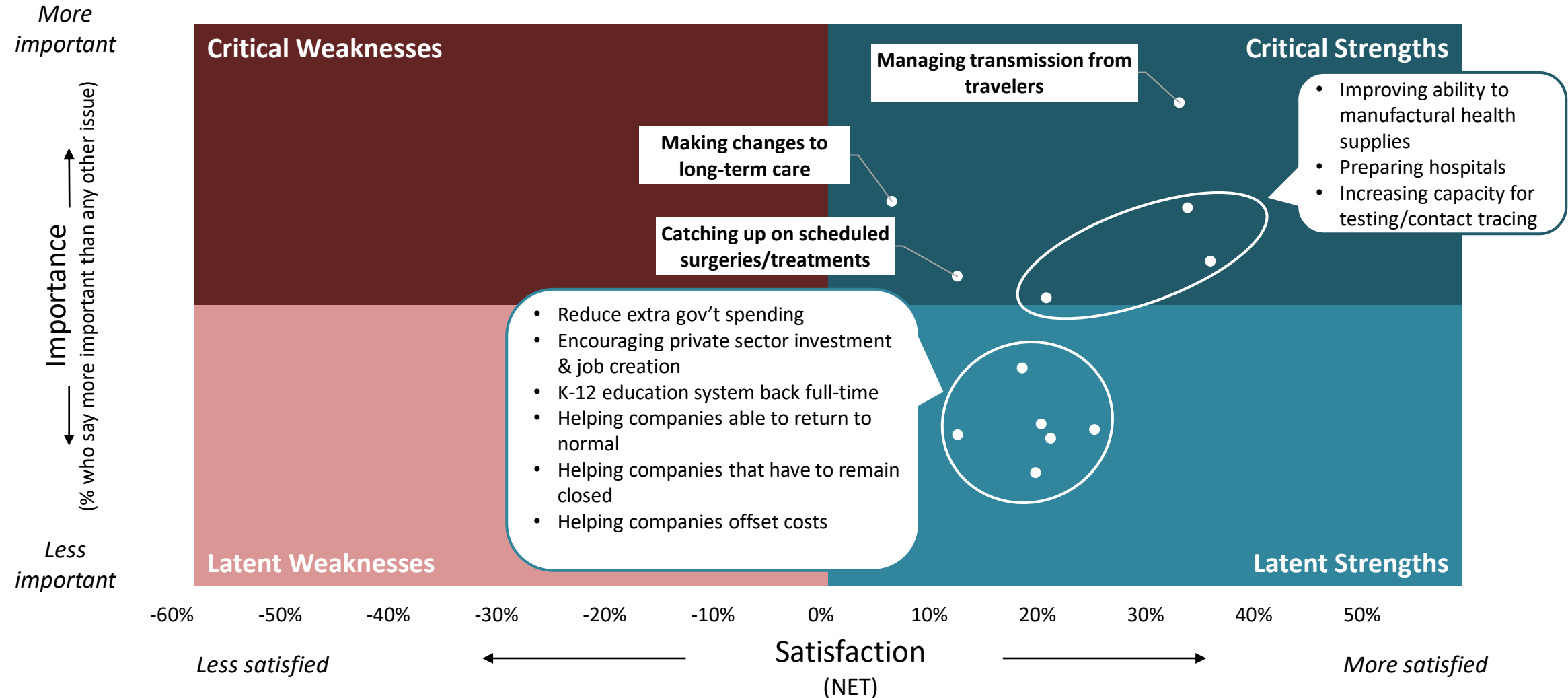
And how satisfied are you with the work done so far by the Manitoba Provincial Government on each of these issues?

[asked of all respondents in MB; n=200]



Importance by MB Provincial Satisfaction: The provincial government is receiving top marks on high-importance issues related to public health

The NB provincial government is receiving top marks on managing transmission from international travellers as well as several key public health indicators such as improving ability to manufacturing health supplies in Canada, preparing hospitals for a second wave, and increasing testing and contact tracing. Satisfaction is lowest for making changes to long-term care but is also one of the more important issues, putting it at risk for becoming a critical weakness.



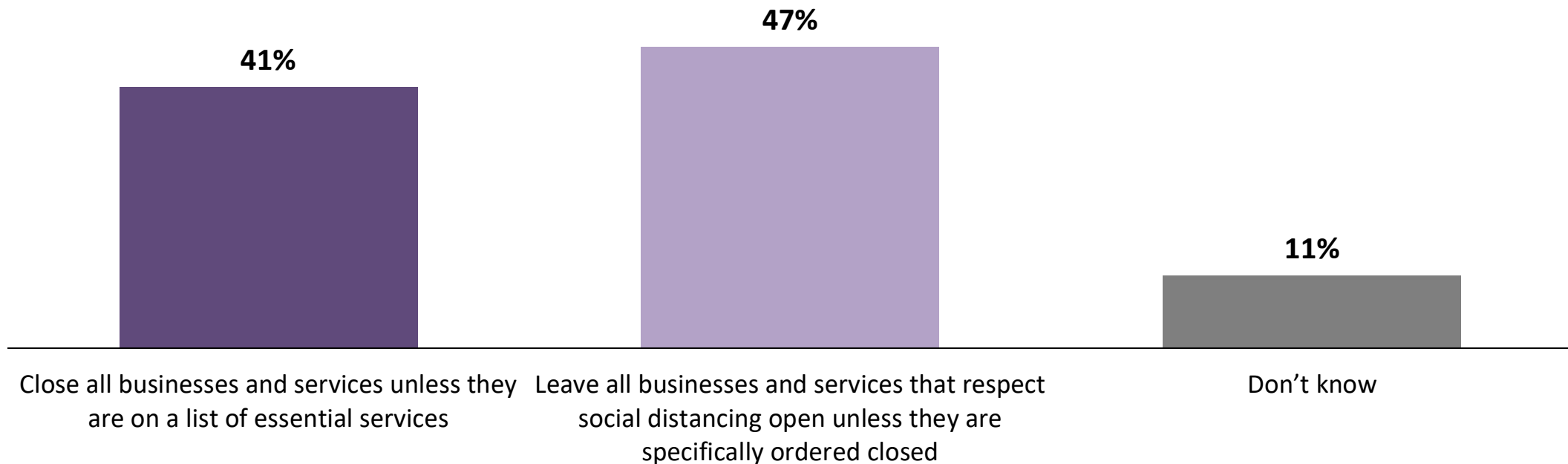
Second Lockdown: Nearly half (47%) say to leave all businesses open that respect social distancing rather than essential services only



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

[asked of all respondents in MB; n=200]

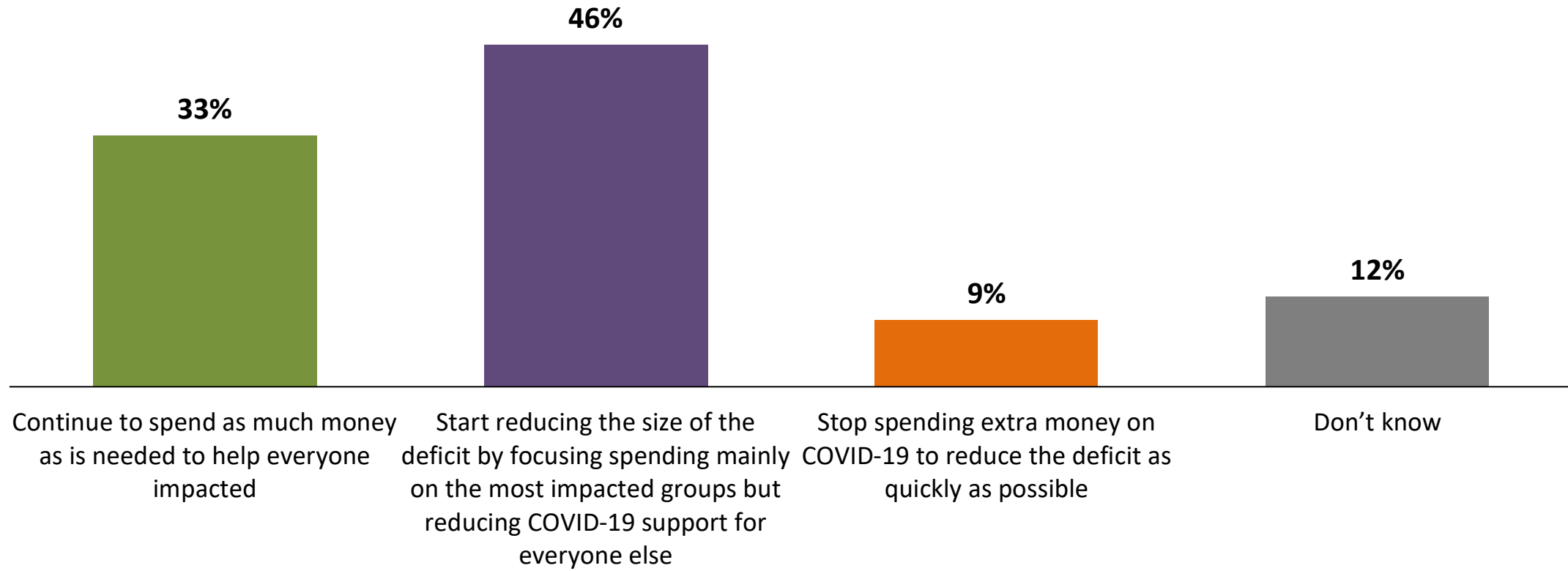


Government Spending Decisions: Close to half (46%) say we should start reducing the size of the deficit



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

[asked of all respondents in NB; n=200]



Methodology

Survey Methodology

These are the results of an online survey conducted between May 29th and June 3rd, 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=210 Manitoba residents, 18 years or older. The results are weighted to n=200 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

Field Dates: May 29th and June 3rd, 2020.

Weighting: Results for Manitoba are weighted by age and gender 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	27	12.9%	29	14.6%
Males 35-54	24	11.4%	36	17.9%
Males 55+	52	24.8%	32	16.0%
Females 18-34	28	13.3%	29	14.6%
Females 35-54	36	17.1%	36	18.2%
Females 55+	43	20.5%	37	18.7%

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Building Understanding.

