Canada This Month
Federal Politics

Public Opinion Research
Release Date: September 22, 2020
Field Dates: September 03 to 15, 2020

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Federal Politics in the time of COVID-19

The COVID-19 outbreak has set off a series of changes in the Canadian political landscape. The Liberals have now ended the slide they have been experiencing on overall satisfaction and hold a solid lead over the Conservatives. While Erin O'Toole is far more popular as a leader than Andrew Scheer was, Justin Trudeau remains the top choice for Prime Minister by a wide margin.

Today, INNOVATIVE is releasing results from the first half of our September 2020 Canada This Month survey. This online survey was in field from September 3rd to September 15th 2020, with a weighted sample size of 1,000, and an oversample in Ontario. Detailed methodology is provided in the appendix.

This report covers key results on how Canadians are rating the Federal government's handling of COVID-19 and the impacts that is having for government satisfaction, leadership, and vote choice.
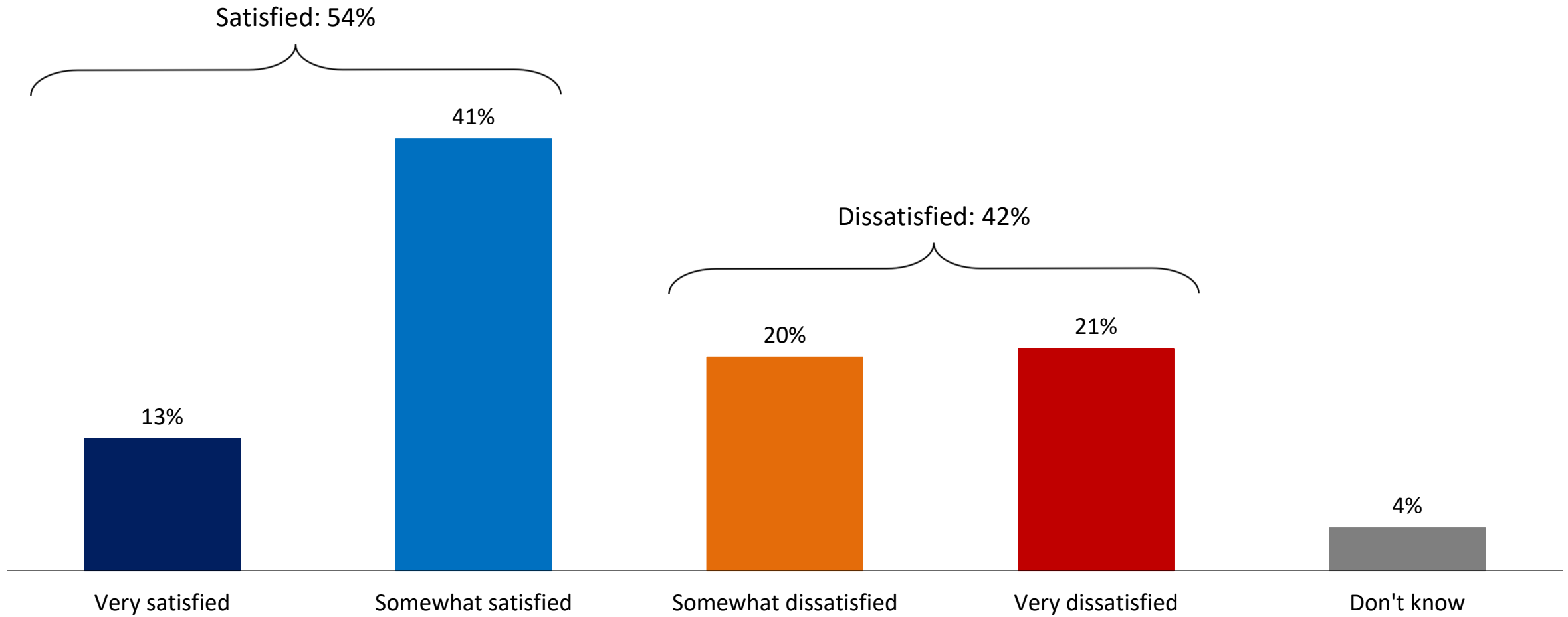
Government Approval

Satisfaction with the federal government has leveled off after declining between May and August, while approval of their handling of COVID-19 remains high.

Federal Satisfaction: A majority are satisfied with the federal government while 42% are dissatisfied

Q Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with the performance of the FEDERAL government in Canada? Would you say you are...?
[asked of all respondents; n=1000]

Satisfied: 54%

Dissatisfied: 42%

41%

21%

20%

13%

4%

| Very satisfied | Somewhat satisfied | Somewhat dissatisfied | Very dissatisfied | Don't know |

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Current data: September 2020

Federal Satisfaction Tracking: Satisfaction with the federal government is up directionally from August

Q Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with the performance of the FEDERAL government in Canada? Would you say you are...?
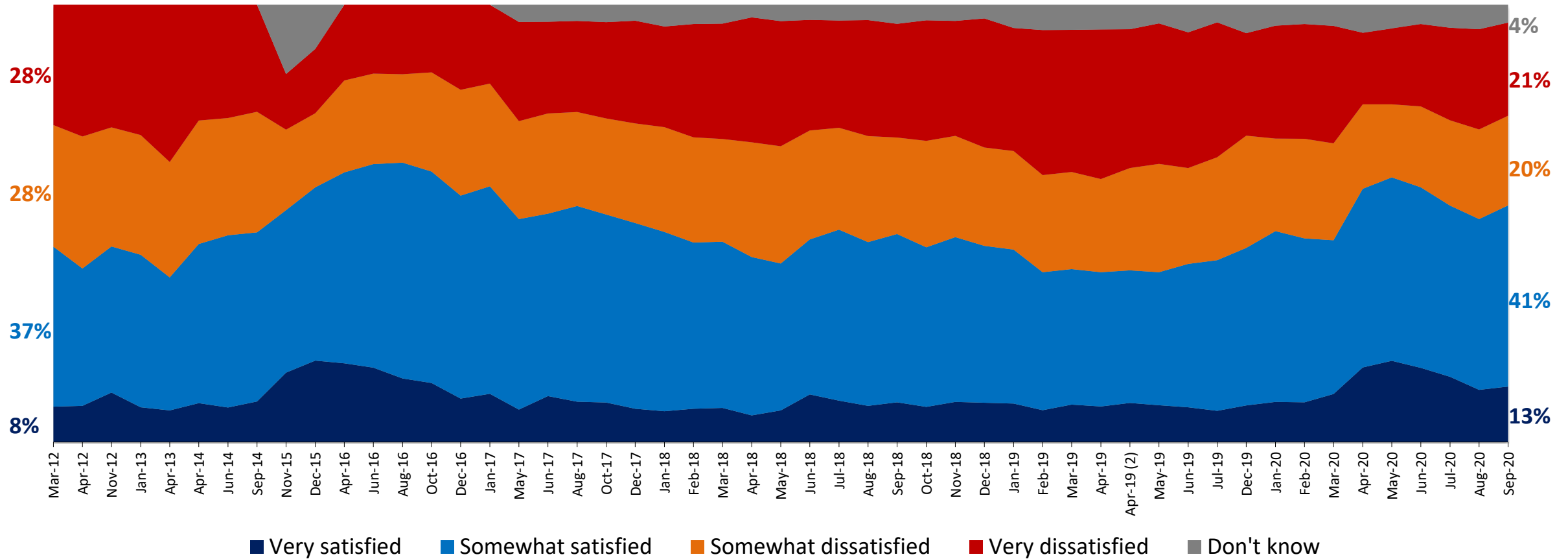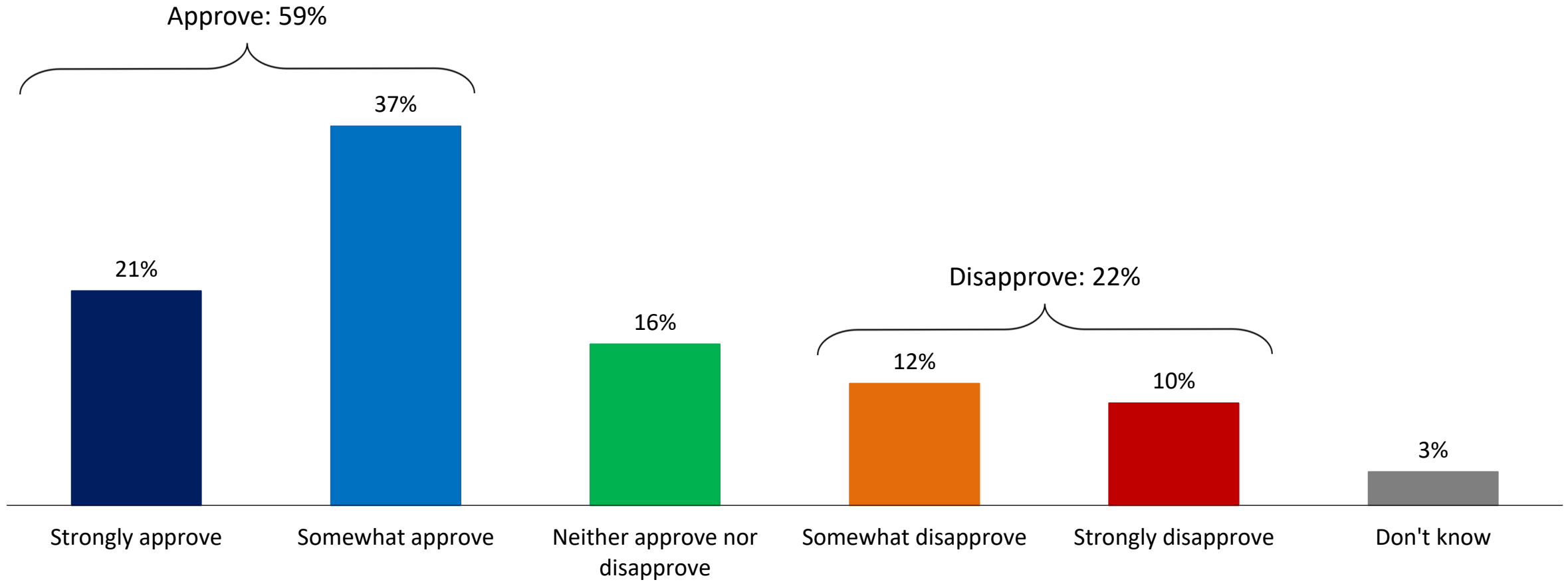[asked of all respondents; n=1000]

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

Current data: September 2020

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COVID-19 Handling: A majority of Canadians approve of the way the federal government is handling COVID-19

Q Now thinking about the federal government, do you approve or disapprove of the way the federal government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19?
[asked of all respondents; n=1000]

Approve: 59%

Disapprove: 22%

Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither approve nor disapprove	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Don't know
21%	37%	16%	12%	10%	3%

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Current data: September 2020

COVID-19 Handling Tracking: Approval remains high with 59% saying they approve, up directionally from 57% in August

Q Now thinking about the federal government, do you approve or disapprove of the way the federal government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19?
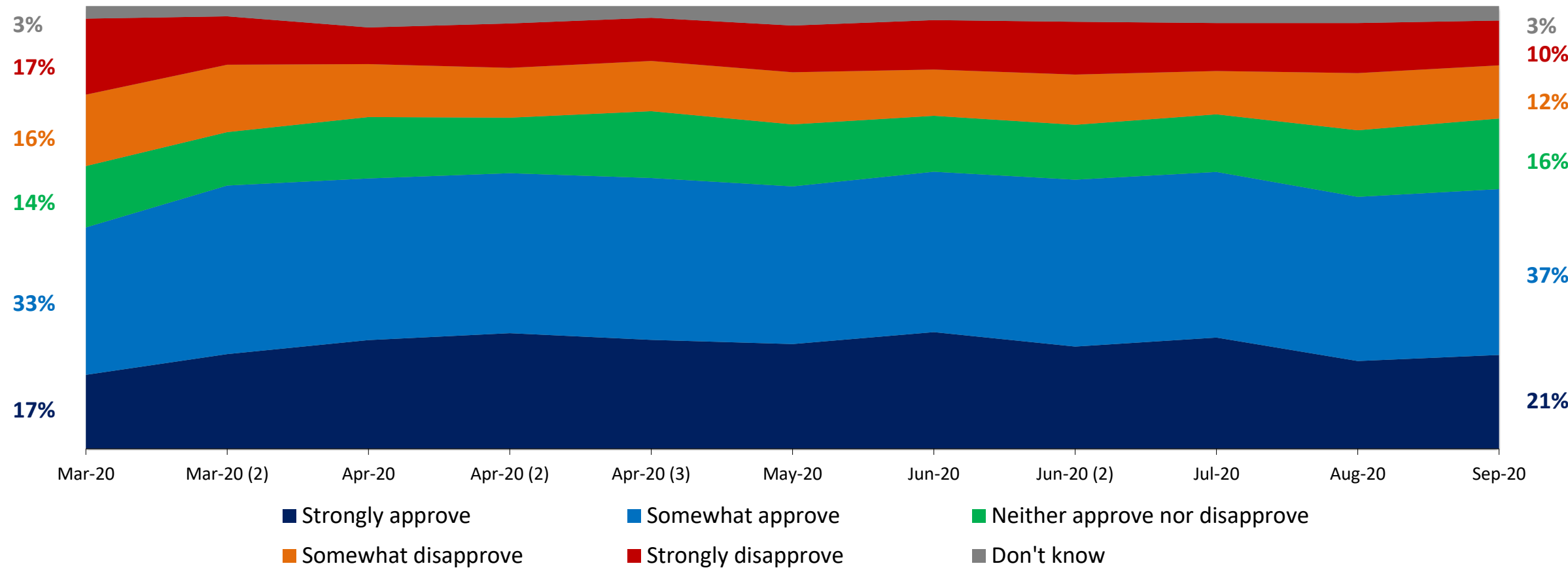[asked of all respondents; n=1000]

Mar-20 | Mar-20 (2) | Apr-20 | Apr-20 (2) | Apr-20 (3) | May-20 | Jun-20 | Jun-20 (2) | Jul-20 | Aug-20 | Sep-20

Left axis: 3%, 17%, 16%, 14%, 33%, 17%
Right axis: 3%, 10%, 12%, 16%, 37%, 21%

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

Current data: September 2020

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The Liberals continue to hold a 9-point lead over the Conservatives.

Vote intention reporting:

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

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

Federal Combined Vote: The Liberals (34%) lead the Conservatives (25%) by 9 points, while the NDP trail distantly at 15%

Q If a federal 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=1000]

Current data: September 2020

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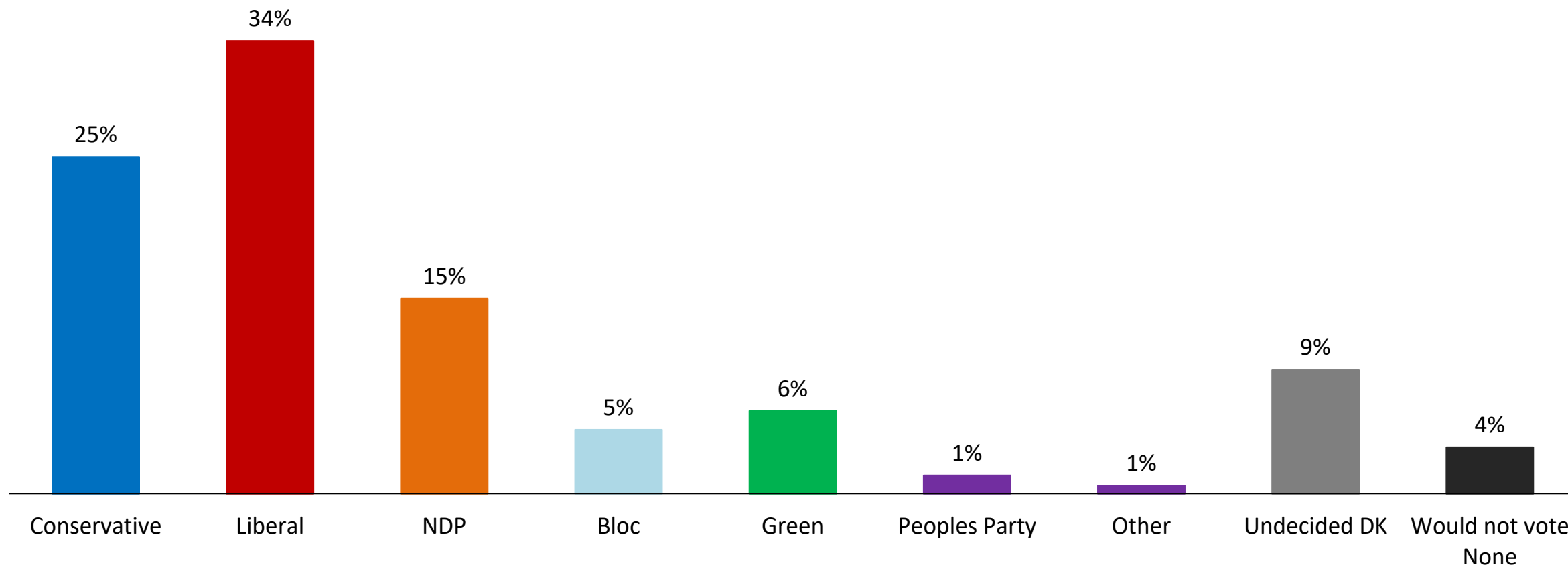
Federal Vote Tracking: The Liberals (34%) continue to hold a strong lead over the Conservatives (25%)

Q If a federal election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? **[Vote + Lean]**
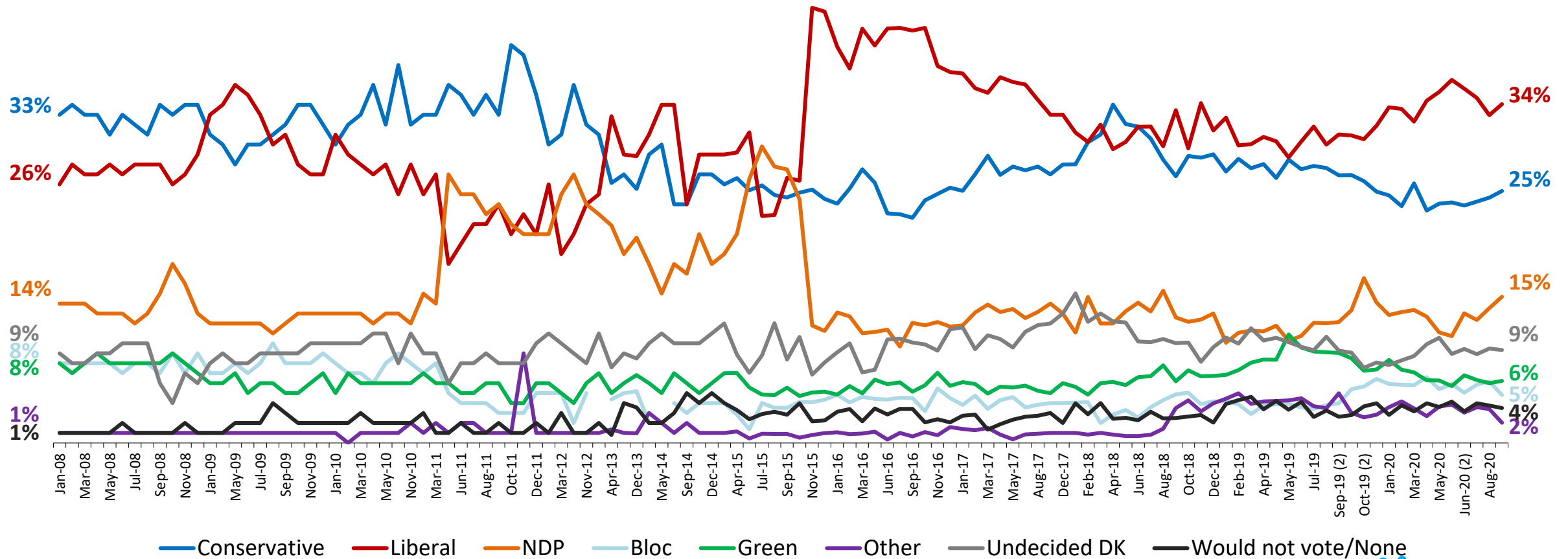[asked of all respondents; n=1000]

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

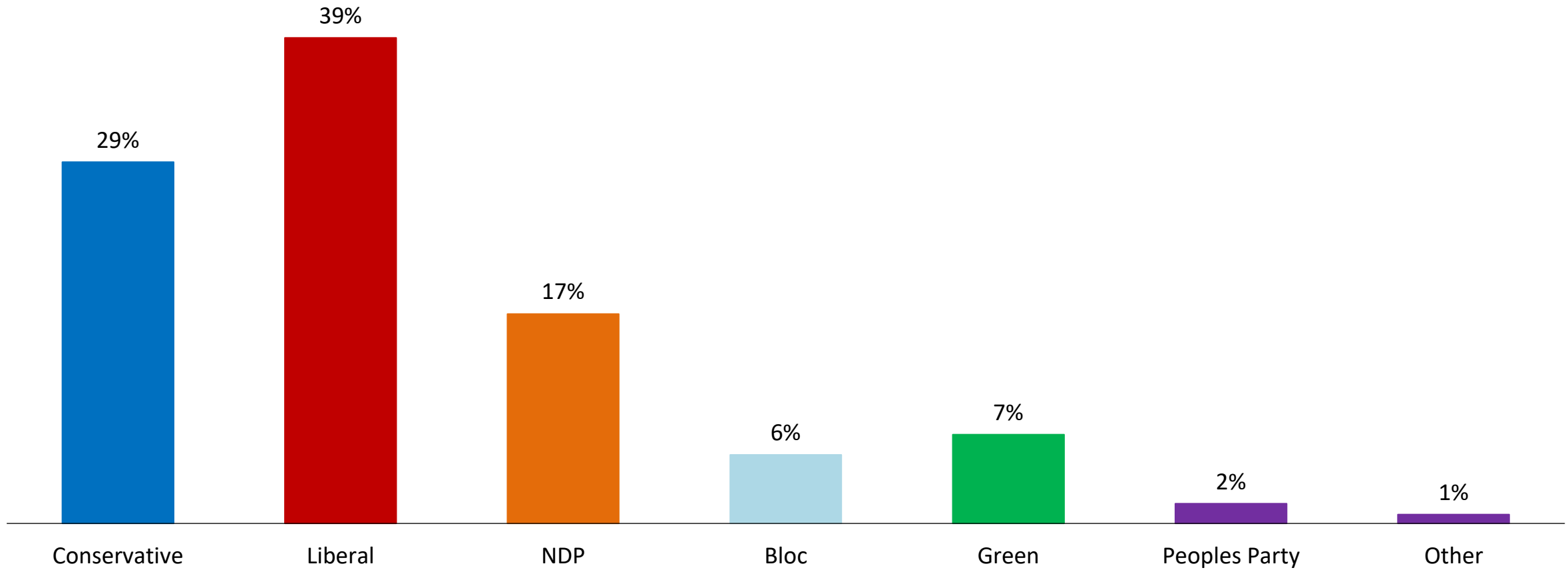Current data: September 2020

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Federal Decided Vote: Among decided voters, the Liberals (39%) lead the Conservatives (29%) by 10 points

Q If a federal election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? **[DECIDED]**
[decided voters only; n=871]

Current data: September 2020

Federal Decided Vote Tracking: The Liberals now lead the Conservatives by 10 points, while the NDP trail at 17%

Q If a federal election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? **[DECIDED]**
[only decided voters; n=871]

Conservative — Liberal — NDP — Bloc — Green — Other

Current data: September 2020

Decided Vote by Region: The Liberals (43%) have a 12-point lead over the Conservatives (31%) in Ontario

Decided vote by Region

	Region					
	BC	**AB**	**Prairies**	**ON**	**QC**	**Atlantic**
	(N=119)	(N=101)	(N=56)	(N=336)	(N=198)	(N=61)
Conservative	32%	43%	41%	31%	14%	30%
Liberal	40%	26%	30%	43%	41%	40%
NDP	21%	24%	13%	17%	10%	22%
Bloc					24%	
Green	5%	3%	13%	7%	9%	7%
Other	2%	5%	3%	2%	1%	1%

Decided Vote

Note: Current data: September 2020

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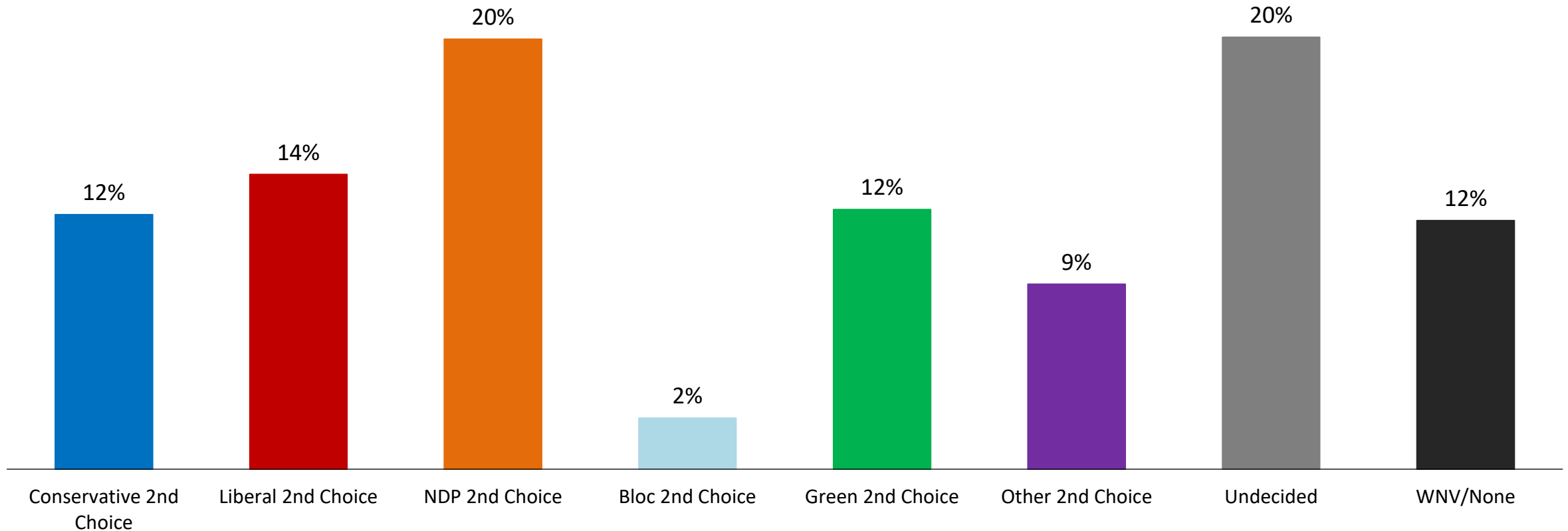
Federal 2nd Choice: The NDP are the top 2nd choice, with 20% of respondents picking them

Q And which party would be your second choice?
[only decided voters; n=871]

Current data: September 2020

Federal 2nd Choice: 4-in-10 NDP voters say the Liberals are their 2nd choice

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

	First Choice				
Second Choice	**Conservative 1st Choice** (N=253)	**Liberal 1st Choice** (N=340)	**NDP 1st Choice** (N=147)	**Bloc 1st Choice** (N=48)	**Green 1st Choice** (N=62)
Conservative 2nd Choice		19%	10%	21%	13%
Liberal 2nd Choice	15%		41%	16%	18%
NDP 2nd Choice	11%	36%		11%	23%
Bloc 2nd Choice	2%	3%	2%		3%
Green 2nd Choice	7%	11%	26%	18%	0%
Other 2nd Choice	17%	4%	2%	14%	12%
Undecided	27%	18%	14%	9%	24%
WNV/None	20%	8%	6%	12%	8%

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

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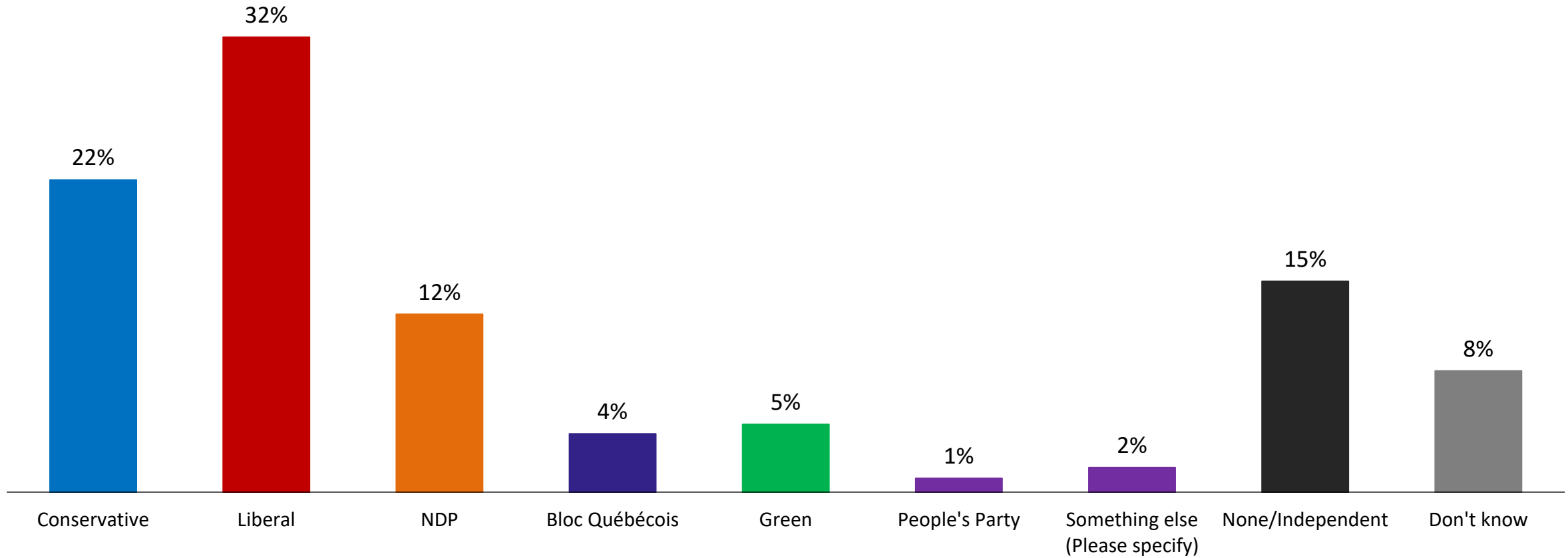
Federal Party ID: The Liberals (32%) have a 10-point lead over the Conservatives (22%) on partisanship

Q Now we have just a few last questions for statistical purposes. Thinking about politics in Canada, generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a...

[asked of all respondents; n=1000]

Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Bloc Québécois	Green	People's Party	Something else (Please specify)	None/Independent	Don't know
22%	32%	12%	4%	5%	1%	2%	15%	8%

Current data: September 2020

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Federal Party ID (Quebec vs. ROC): Both within and outside Quebec, the Liberals have a strong lead on partisanship

Party ID: Quebec

[Respondents in Quebec; n=236]

- Conservative: 11%
- Liberal: 33%
- NDP: 7%
- Bloc: 17%
- Other: 8%
- Unaligned: 24%

Party ID: Rest of Canada

[Respondents in the rest of Canada; n=763]
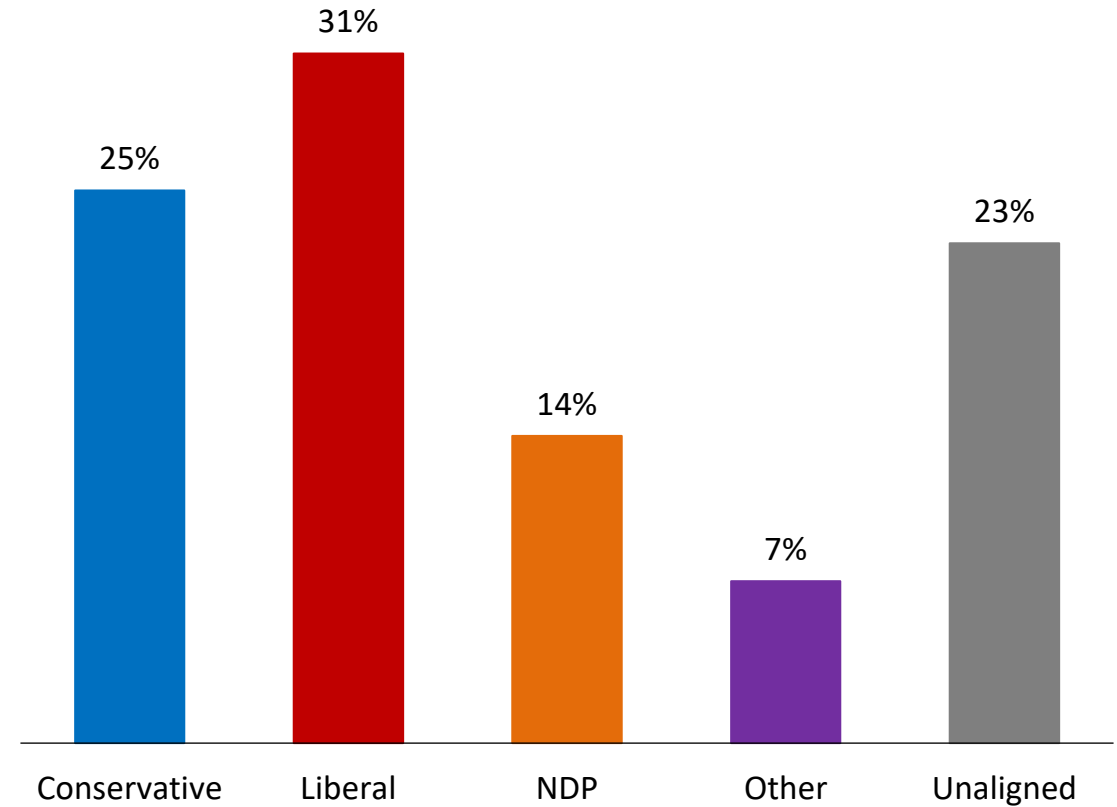
- Conservative: 25%
- Liberal: 31%
- NDP: 14%
- Other: 7%
- Unaligned: 23%

Current data: September 2020

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Federal Party ID Tracking: The Liberals (32%) continue to lead, while the Conservatives trail at 22% and 23% are unaligned

Q Now we have just a few last questions for statistical purposes.Thinking about politics in Canada, generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a…
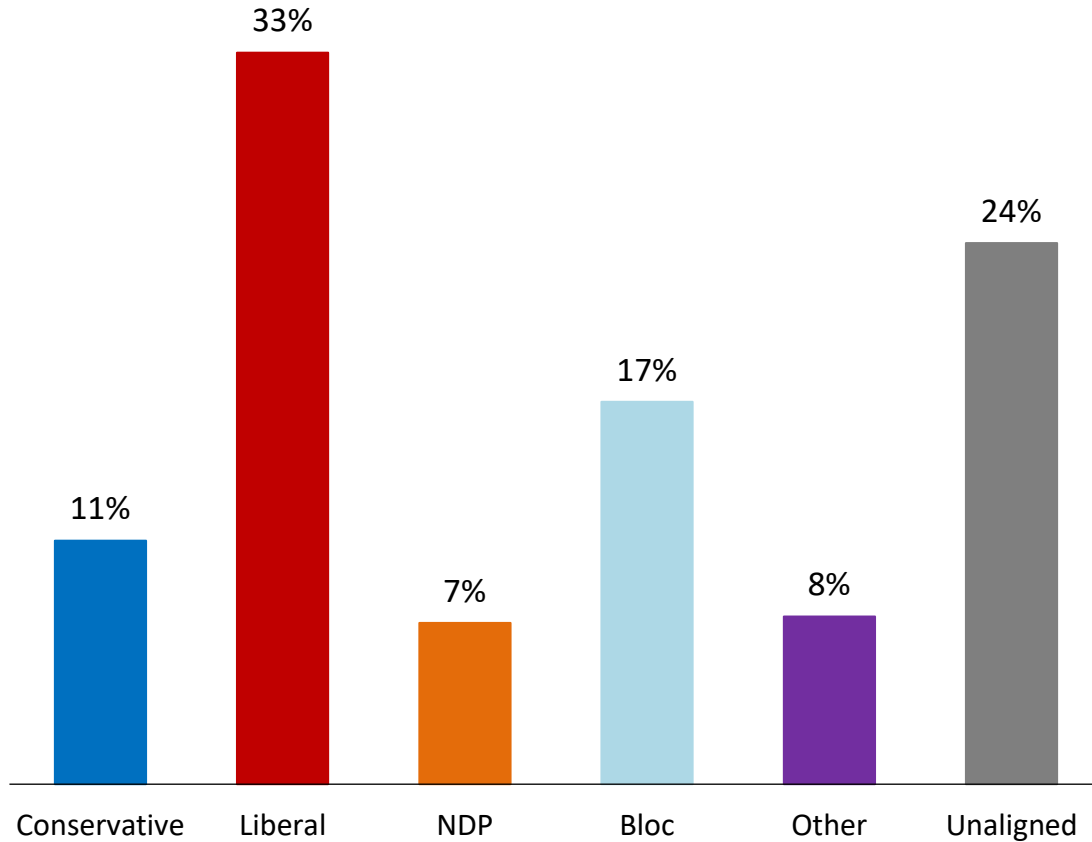[asked of all respondents; n=1000]

Current data: September 2020

Combined Vote by Party ID: Nearly 9-in-10 Conservative and Liberal partisans say they would vote for their party

Federal Party Identification

Decided Vote	Conservative (N=213)	Liberal (N=305)	NDP (N=121)	Other (N=110)	Unaligned (N=123)
Conservative	88%	5%	4%	12%	27%
Liberal	4%	87%	13%	9%	34%
NDP	4%	5%	76%	7%	18%
Bloc	3%	0%	0%	32%	4%
Green	1%	2%	4%	32%	13%
Other	1%	1%	3%	7%	4%

Note: Current data: September 2020
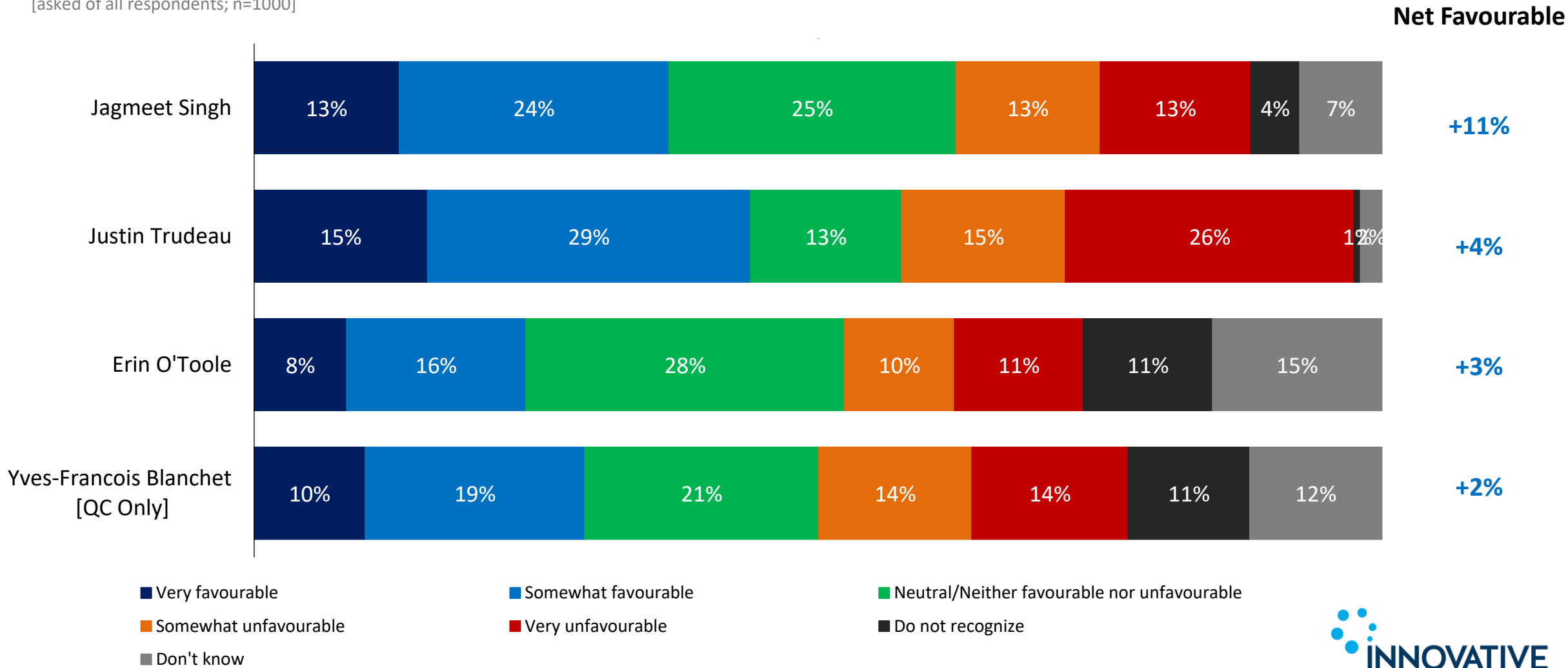
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Leadership

The new Conservative leader, Erin O'Toole, is now tied with Trudeau on net favourability, but trails distantly when asked who would make the best Prime Minister.

Leader Favourables: Singh has the strongest net favourables, while Trudeau, O'Toole, and Blanchet are all only slightly above neutral

Q Now we are going to provide you with several names of public figures. Please indicate whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a favourable or unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just indicate that.
[asked of all respondents; n=1000]

Net Favourable

Leader	Very favourable	Somewhat favourable	Neutral	Somewhat unfavourable	Very unfavourable	Do not recognize	Don't know	Net
Jagmeet Singh	13%	24%	25%	13%	13%	4%	7%	+11%
Justin Trudeau	15%	29%	13%	15%	26%	1%	2%	+4%
Erin O'Toole	8%	16%	28%	10%	11%	11%	15%	+3%
Yves-Francois Blanchet [QC Only]	10%	19%	21%	14%	14%	11%	12%	+2%

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

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Current data: September 2020

Party Leader NET Favourables Tracking: O'Toole has much stronger net favourables than Andrew Scheer had before leaving office
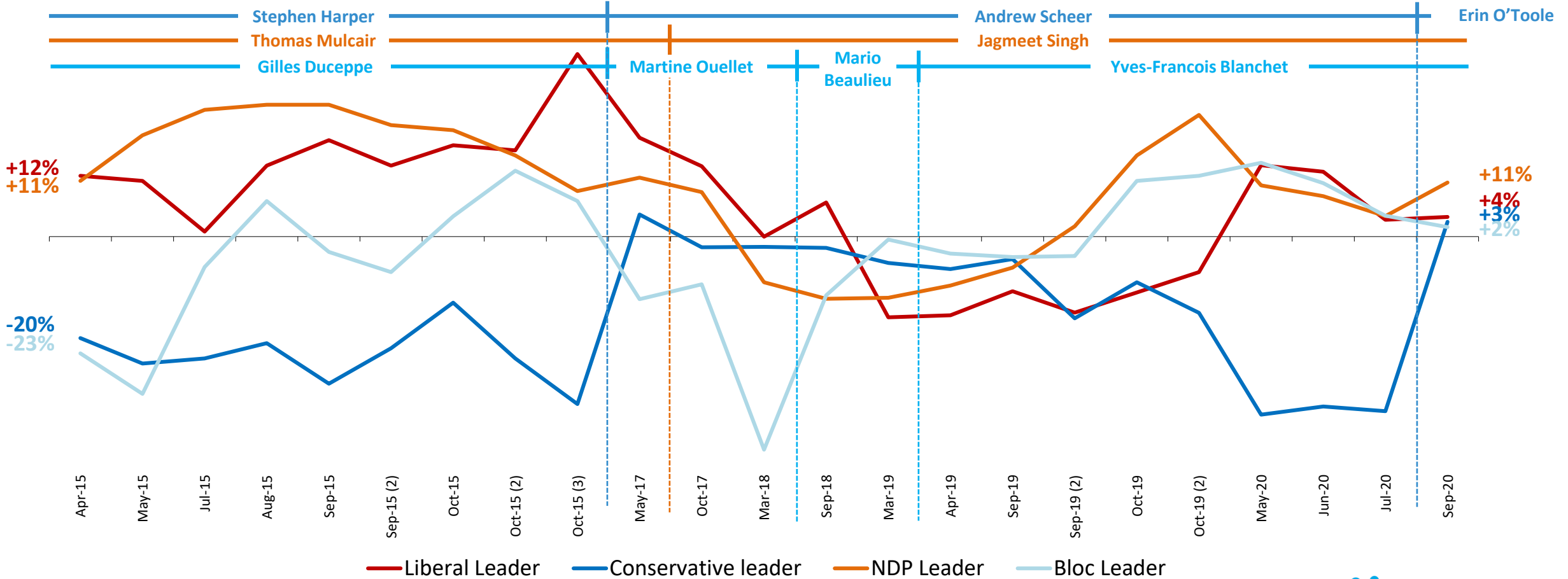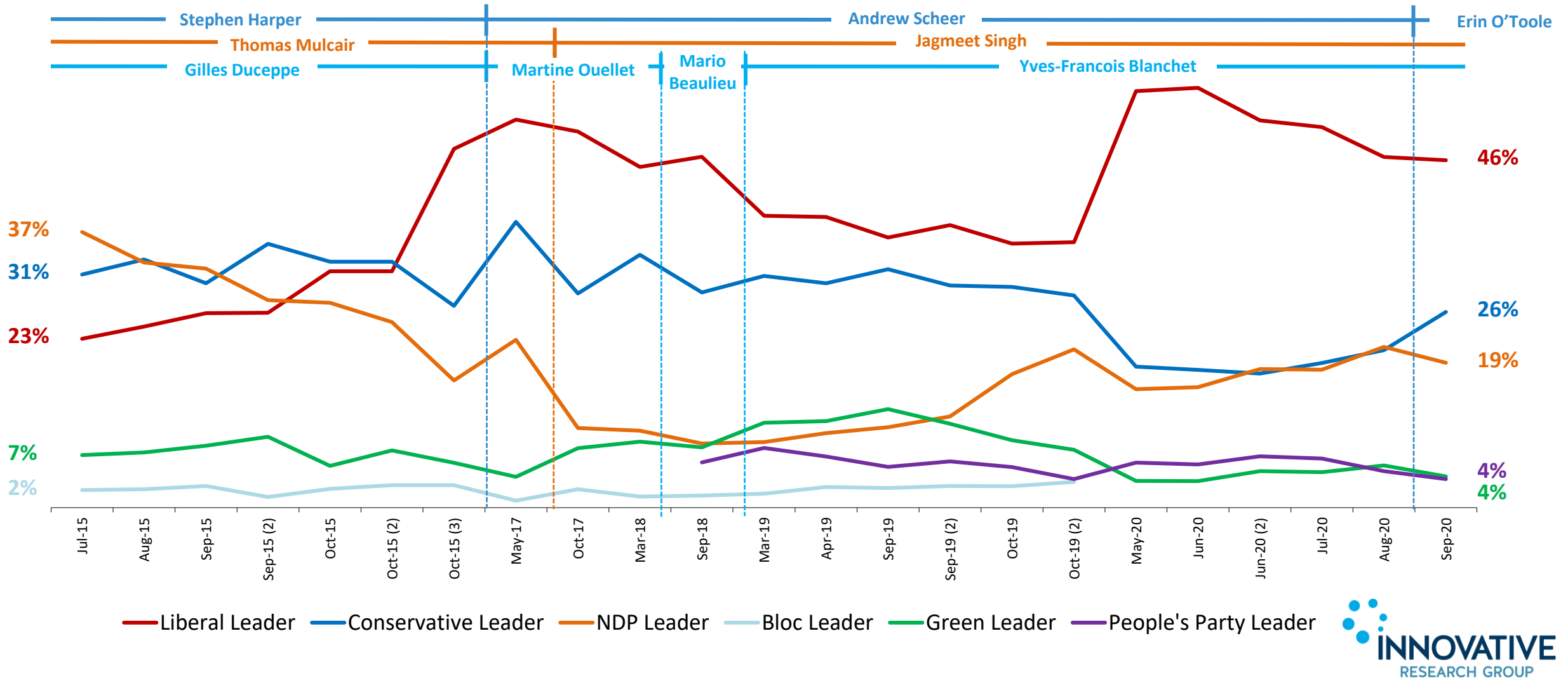
Q Now we are going to provide you with several names of public figures. Please indicate whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a favourable or unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just indicate that.

[asked of all respondents; n=1000]

Legend: Liberal Leader — Conservative leader — NDP Leader — Bloc Leader

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

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Best Prime Minister Tracking: A strong plurality continue to say Justin Trudeau would make the best Prime Minister

Q Which of the following party leaders would make the best Prime Minister of Canada?
[asked of all respondents; n=1000]

Stephen Harper — Andrew Scheer — Erin O'Toole

Thomas Mulcair — Jagmeet Singh

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

37%
31%
23%
7%
2%

46%
26%
19%
4%
4%

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

— Liberal Leader — Conservative Leader — NDP Leader — Bloc Leader — Green Leader — People's Party Leader

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Current data: September 2020

Methodology

Survey Methodology

These are the results of an online survey conducted between September 3rd, 2020 to September 15th, 2020.

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

Sample Size: n=2,374 Canadian citizens, 18 years or older. The results are nationally weighted to n=1,000 based on Census data from Statistics Canada, with oversample in Ontario.

Field Dates: September 3rd to September 15th, 2020.

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

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

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

	Unweighted (n)	Unweighted (%)	Weighted (n)	Weighted (%)
Men 18-34	213	9%	133	13.3%
Men 35-54	276	11.6%	168	16.8%
Men 55+	524	22.1%	182	18.2%
Women 18-34	439	18.5%	137	13.7%
Women 35-54	388	16.3%	174	17.5%
Women 55+	534	22.5%	205	20.5%
BC	250	10.5%	133	13.3%
AB	232	9.8%	110	11%
Prairies	99	4.2%	65	6.6%
ON	1346	56.8%	386	38.6%
QC	294	12.4%	236	23.6%
Atlantic	150	6.3%	69	6.9%

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