

#### Federal Politics in the time of COVID-19

The COVID-19 outbreak has set off a series of changes in the Canadian political landscape. Federally, approval of the government's handling of the pandemic has been slowly but steadily falling over the last several months. But, general satisfaction with the government has remained fairly steady since the summer of 2020. The Liberals have continued to maintain their lead in vote over the Conservatives. Satisfaction with the Federal budget is up to its highest point across our tracking since 2016.

Today, INNOVATIVE is releasing results from our April 2021 Canada This Month survey. This online survey was in field from April 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup> with a weighted sample size of 2,000. Detailed methodology is provided in the appendix.

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

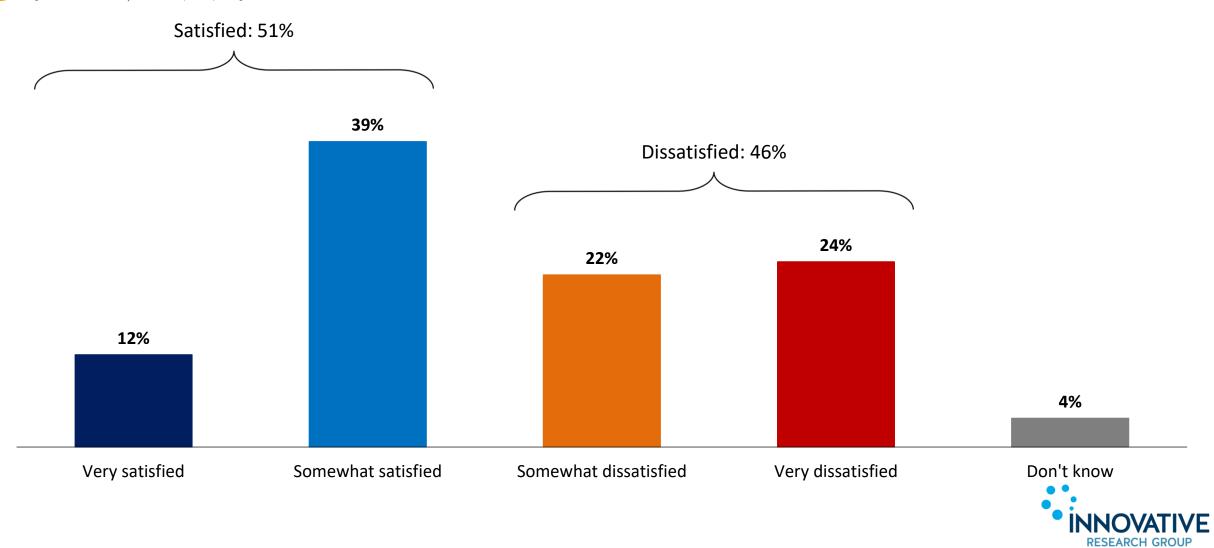
#### **Government Approval**

While general government approval remains quite high at 51%, approval of the federal government's job handling of COVID-19 has been trending downwards over the last several months.

# **Federal Satisfaction:** Half (51%) are satisfied with the performance of the federal government while another half (46%) are dissatisfied

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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=2,000]



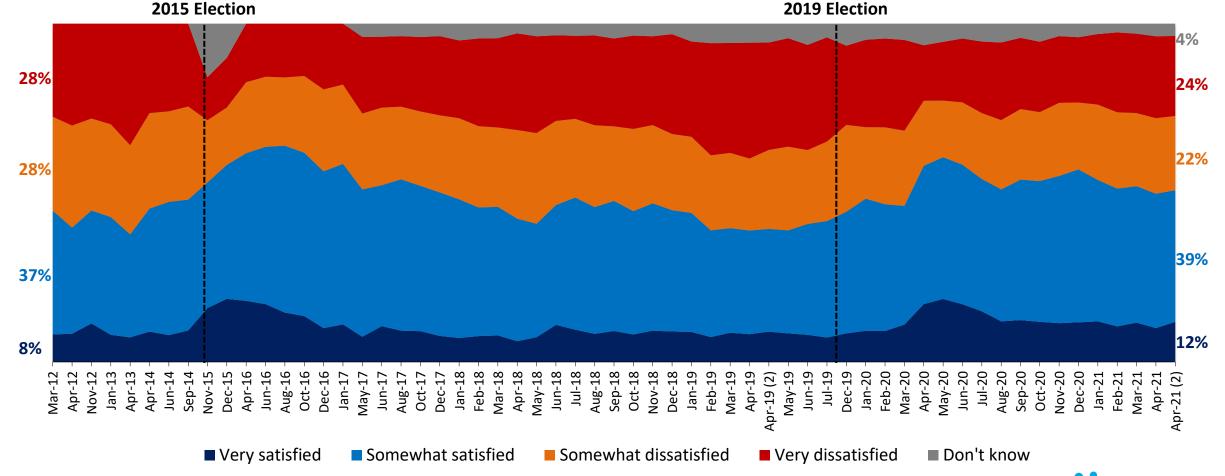
# **Federal Satisfaction Tracking:** Satisfaction with the federal government's performance is steady compared to most of 2021

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=2,000]

2015 Election

2019 Election

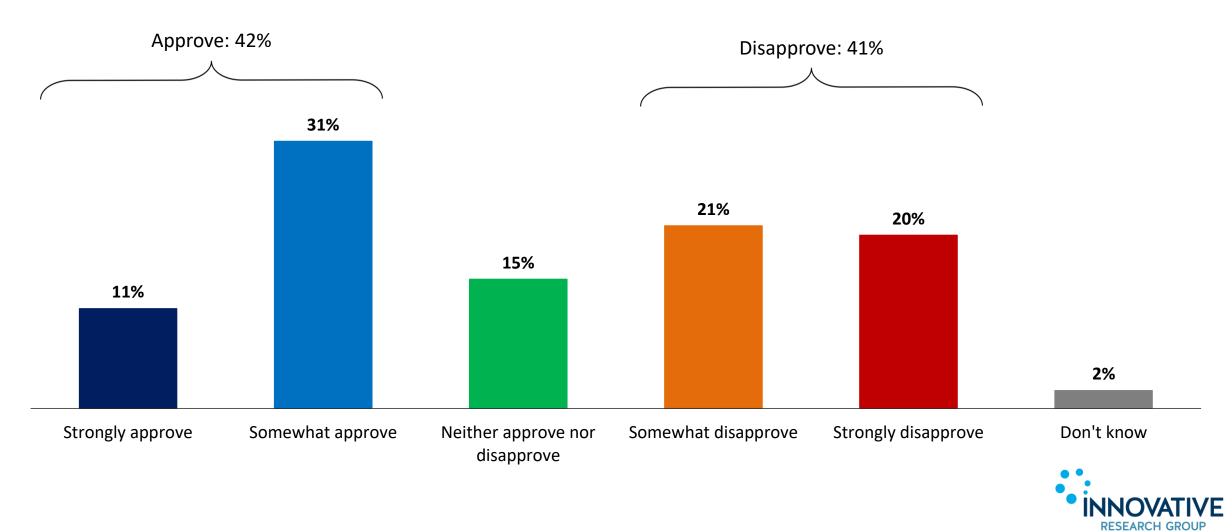




## **COVID-19 Handling:** Respondents are split on whether they approve (42%) or disapprove (41%) of the federal gov'ts handling of COVID-19



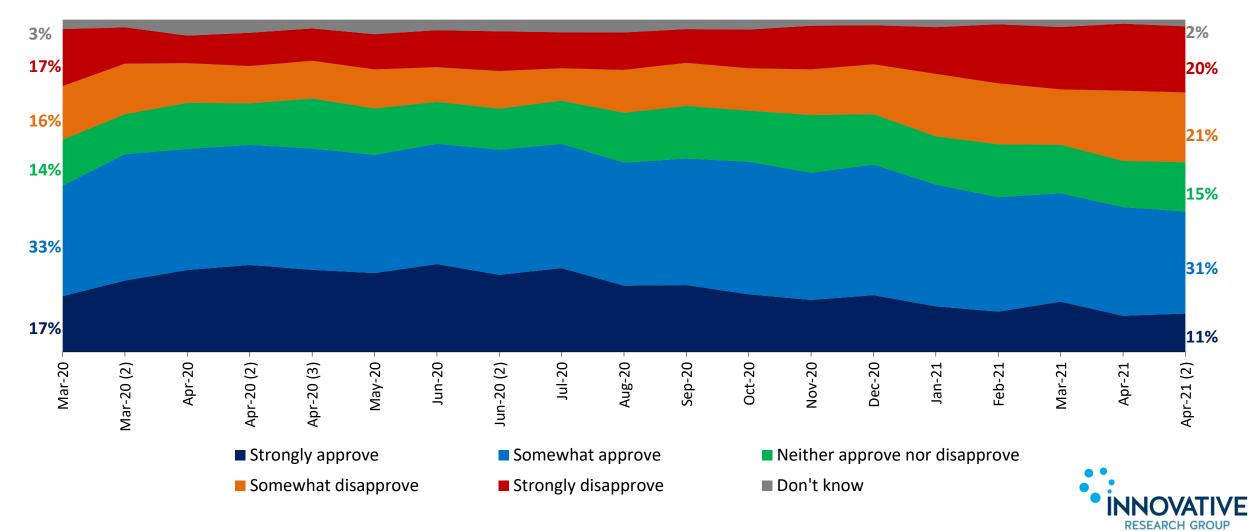
Now thinking about the federal government, do you approve or disapprove of the way the federal government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19? [asked of all respondents; n=2,000]



#### **COVID-19 Handling Tracking:** Approval of the federal gov'ts handling of COVID-19 has been declining since late last year – down 10 points.



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=2,000]



Current data: April 2021

#### Read, Seen, Heard

Half of Canadians have read, seen, or heard something about Trudeau in the last few days. Among those who have, impact is slightly more positive than it was in early April.

### **Federal Read, Seen, Heard:** Half (52%) have RSH something in the last few days; of those who have, 35% were left less favourable

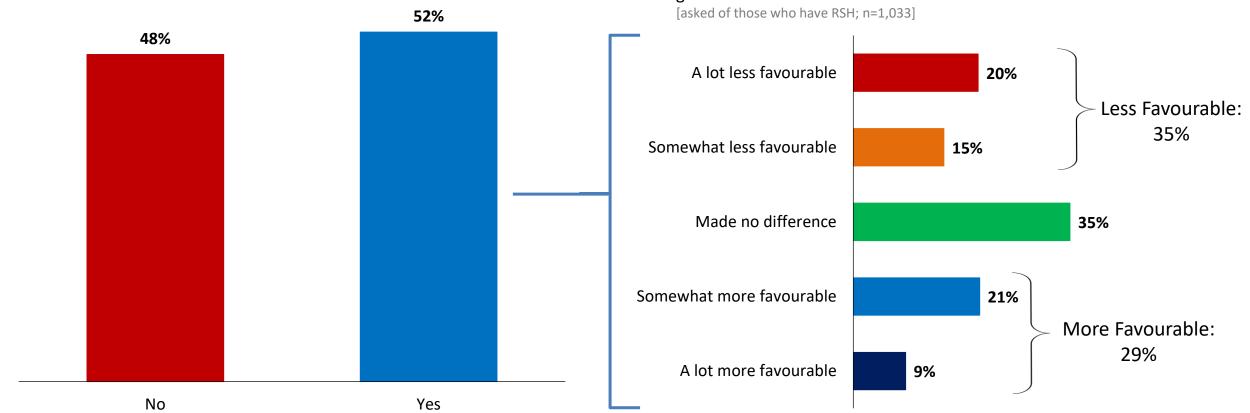


Have you read, seen or heard anything about Canada's Prime Minister and the Federal government in the last few days?

[asked of all respondents; n=2,000]



Did what you read, see or hear leave you feeling a lot more favourable, somewhat more favourable, somewhat less favourable or a lot less favourable towards Canada's Prime Minister and the Federal government?





Current data: April 2021

#### **Read, Seen, Heard Tracking:** Those saying they have RSH something in the last few days is up from 46% in early April to 52% now



Have you read, seen or heard anything about Canada's Prime Minister and the Federal government in the last few days? [asked of all respondents; n=2000]







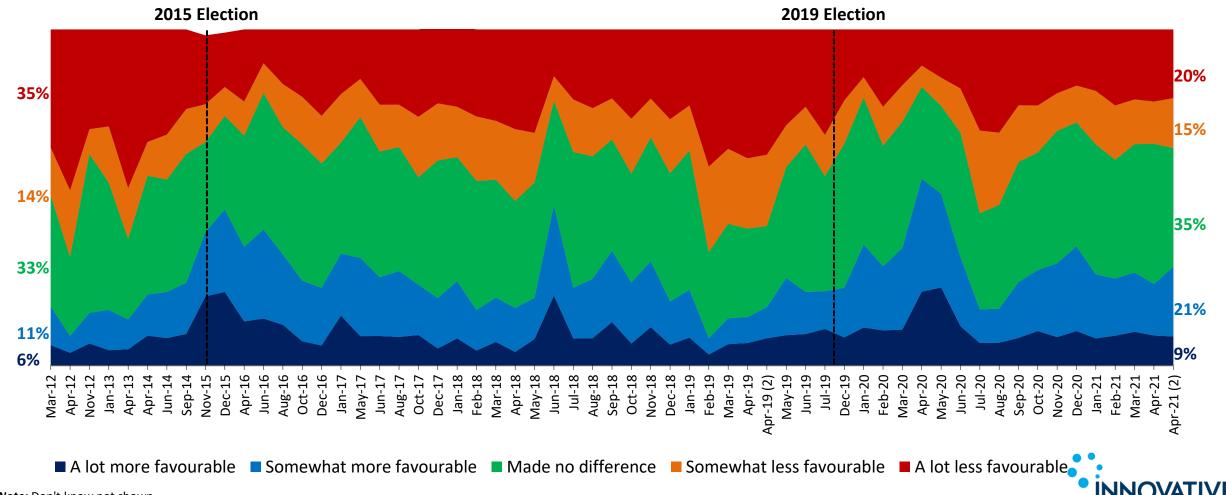
**Note:** Don't know not shown. Current data: April 2021

#### **Federal Read, Seen, Heard, Impact Tracking:** Winds of public debate a little more negative than positive, but better than earlier in April



Did what you read, see or hear leave you feeling a lot more favourable, somewhat more favourable, somewhat less favourable or a lot less favourable towards Canada's Prime Minister and the Federal government?

[asked of those who have RSH; n=1033]



**Note:** Don't know not shown. Current data: April 2021

Note: In May '18, this guestion is asked of all respondents except those in Ontario.

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

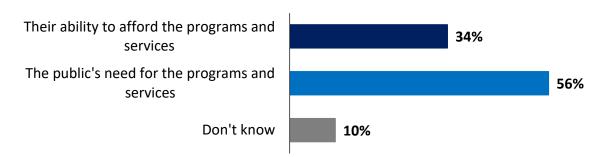
We use these segments throughout the remainder of the report to analyze vote leadership results.

# Core Political Values: Over half (56%) say governments should make spending decisions based on public need over ability to afford

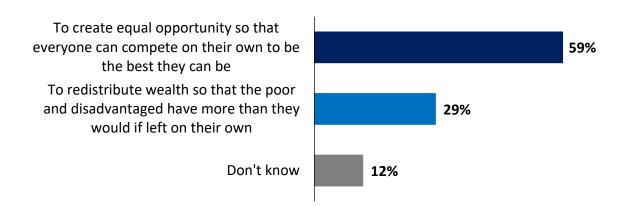


Now we would like to ask a few questions about basic values and society...When governments make major decisions concerning spending on programs and services, do you think they should be basing their decisions mainly on...?

[asked of all respondents; n=2,000]

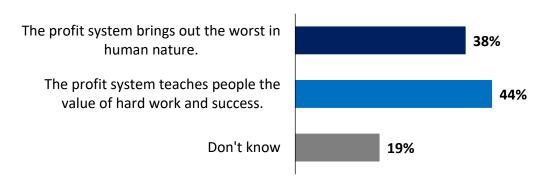








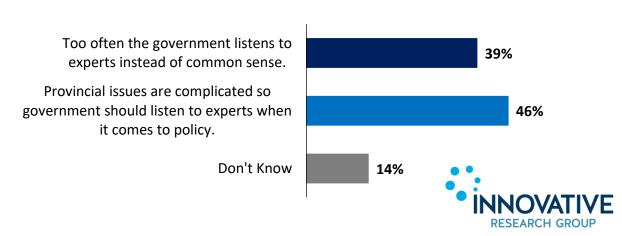
Which of the following statements comes closest to your view? [asked of all respondents; n=2,000]





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

[asked of all respondents; n=2,000]

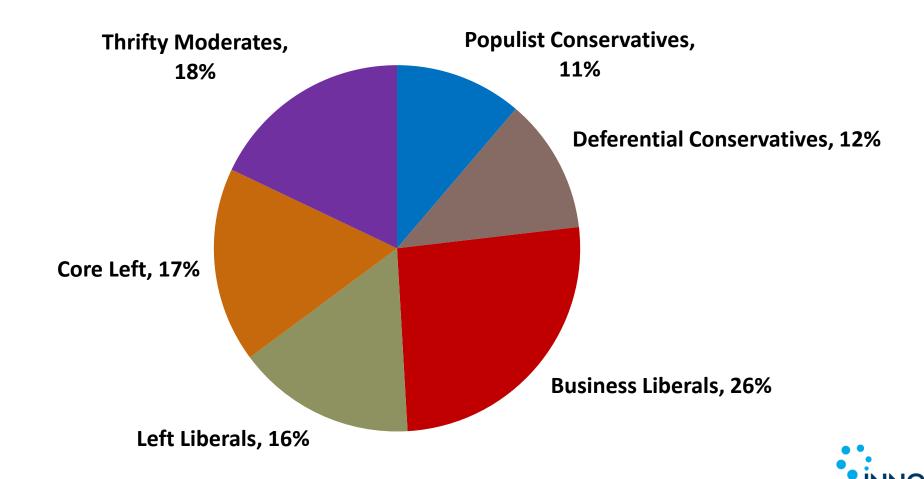


Current data: April 2021

## Value Clusters: 1-in-4 (26%) Canadians are Business Liberals followed by Thrifty Moderates (18%) and Core Left (17%)

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=2,000]





#### **Defining Value Clusters:** Conservative clusters are split based on whether they think gov'ts should listen to experts or common sense

Core Political Values by Value Clusters

Column %		Populist Conservatives	Deferential Conservatives	Business Liberals	Left Liberals	Core Left	Thrifty Moderates
Governments should base decisions on	Ability to afford	92%	89%	0%	0%	0%	73%
	Public Need	0%	0%	97%	94%	93%	0%
Is the main role of government to .?	Create equal Opportunity	100%	76%	70%	96%	0%	34%
	Redistribute wealth	0%	16%	18%	0%	95%	34%
When it comes to government decision making	Rely on common sense	100%	0%	34%	46%	26%	42%
	Listen to experts	0%	90%	55%	38%	62%	26%
The profit system	Brings out the worst in human nature	0%	0%	0%	79%	84%	61%
	Teaches value of hard work and success	91%	82%	85%	0%	0%	10%



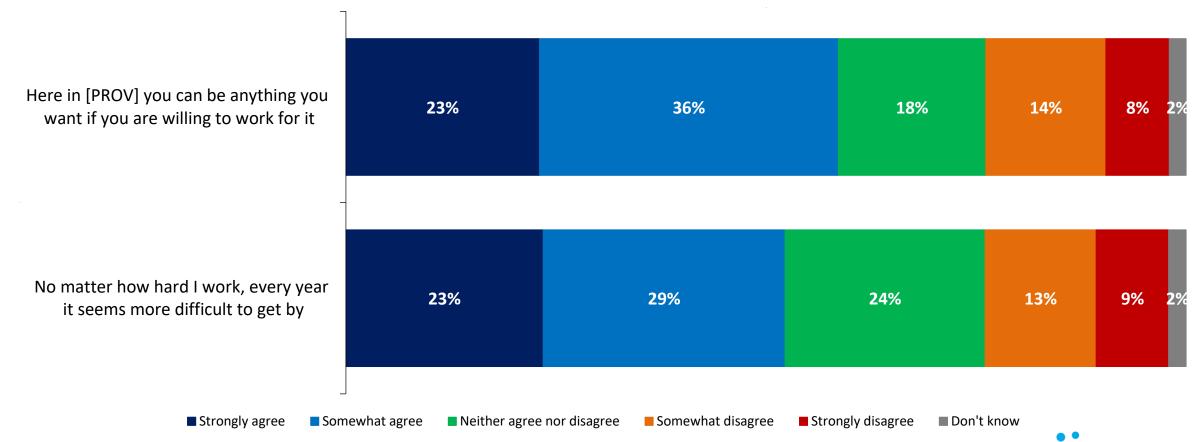
Note: Current data: April 2021

#### **Segmentation Attitudes:** A majority of Canadians believe that 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=2,000]

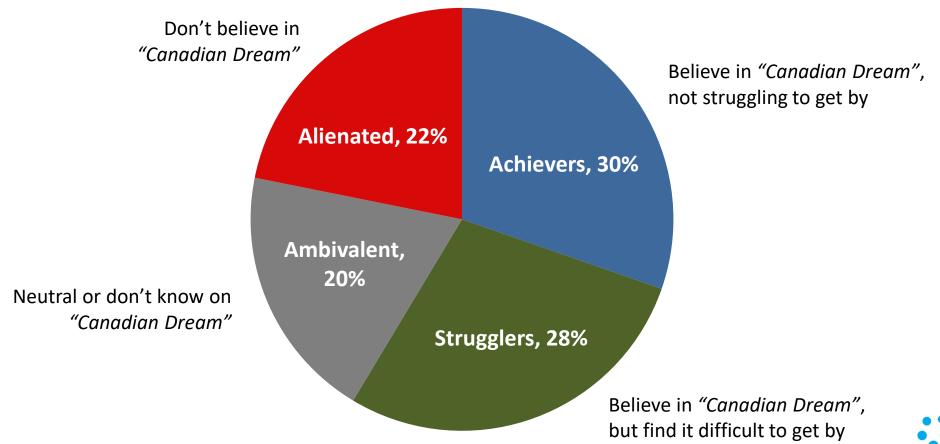




# **Economic Gap Segmentation:** Most Canadians are either Canadian Dream Achievers (30%) or Strugglers (28%)

**Gap segmentation**: Agree with 'Here in [PROVINCE] you can be anything you want if you are willing to work for it' BY Agree with 'No matter how hard I work, every year it seems more difficult to get by'.

[asked of all respondents; n=2,000]

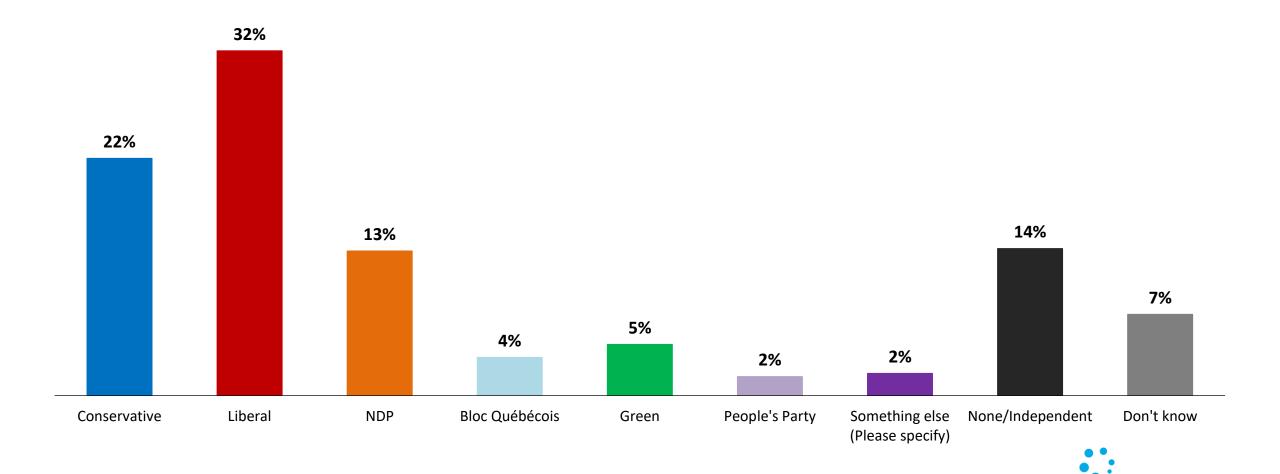




## Federal Party ID: 1-in-3 (32%) identify as Liberals followed by Conservatives (22%) while the NDP trails (13%)



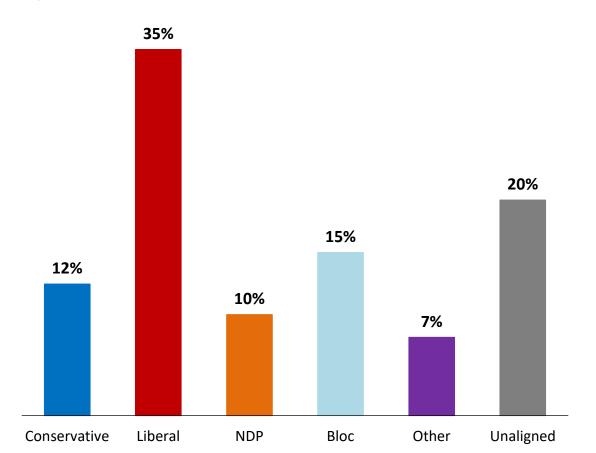
Now we have just a few last questions for statistical purposes. Thinking about politics in Canada, generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a... [asked of all respondents; n=2,000]



#### Federal Party ID (Quebec vs. ROC): The Liberals have the lead in party ID in both Quebec and the rest of Canada

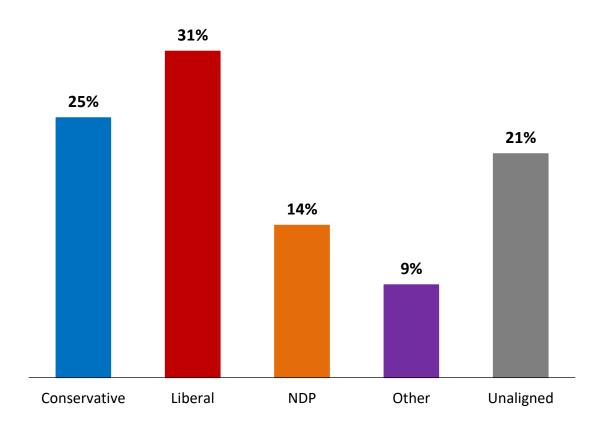
#### Party ID: Quebec

[Respondents in Quebec; n=455]



#### **Party ID: Rest of Canada**

[Respondents in the rest of Canada; n=1,545]



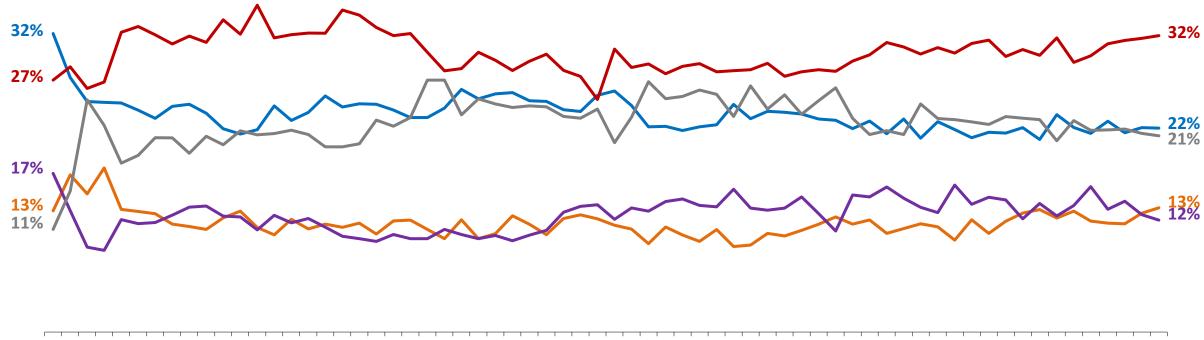


Current data: April 2021

#### **Federal Party ID Tracking:** Party ID is steady compared to early April for both the Liberals and Conservatives



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=2000]



Apr-11

Apr-15

May-15

May-15

May-15

May-15

May-19

Jun-19

Jun-10

Jun-20



#### Reaction to Federal Budget

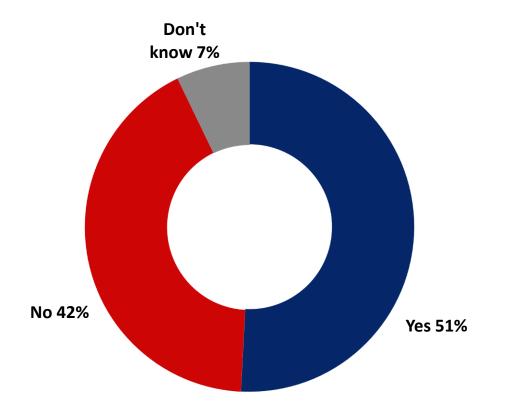
Half of Canadians recall reading, hearing, or seeing about the federal budget and among those who have, 1-in-4 say they are satisfied with it. Satisfaction with the budget is up to its highest point across our tracking since 2016.

#### **RSH Budget:** Half (51%) of Canadians recall hearing about the federal budget; highest among CPC partisans (58%)

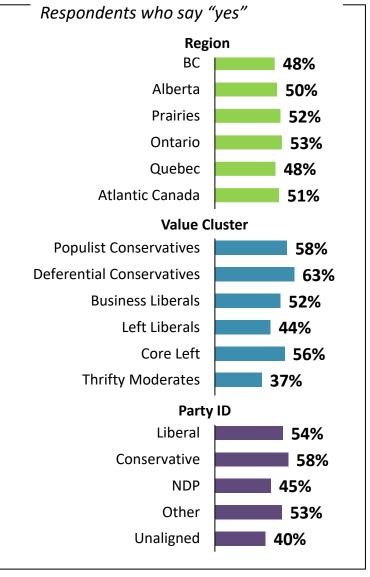
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Have you read, seen or heard anything about the recent federal budget that was presented in Parliament on Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021?

[asked of all respondents, n=2,000]



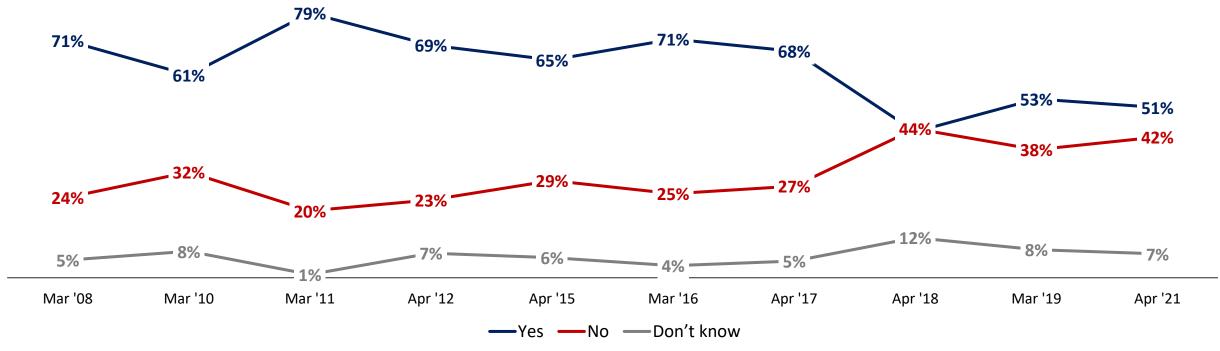




#### **RSH Budget**: Those saying they have RSH about the budget (51%) is consistent with the results from 2019 (53%)

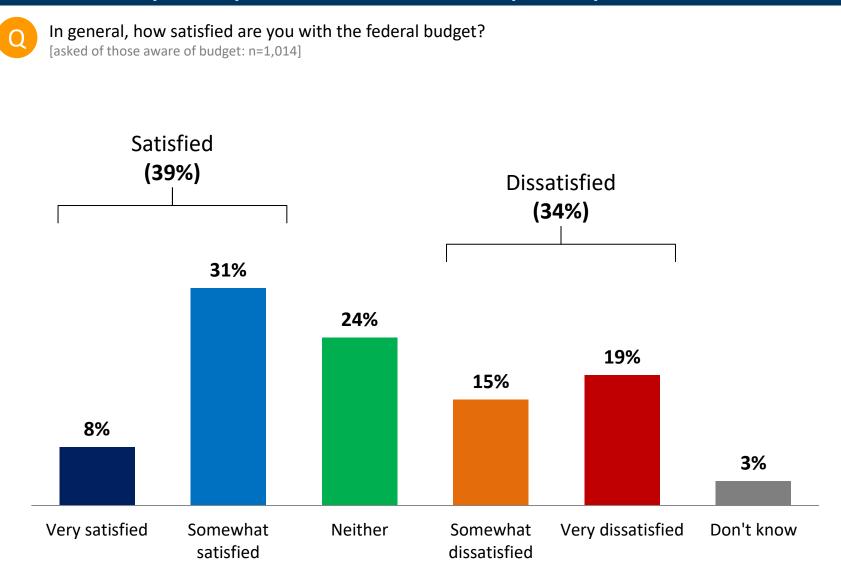


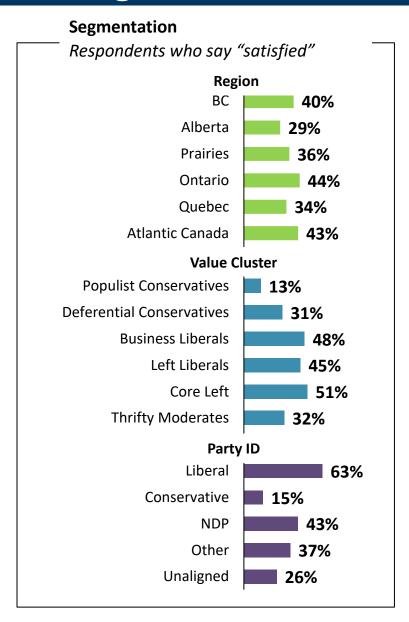
Have you read, seen or heard anything about the recent federal budget that was presented in Parliament on Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021? [asked of all respondents, n=2,000]





# **Satisfaction with Budget:** Canadians are split on whether they are satisfied (39%) or dissatisfied (34%) with the federal budget



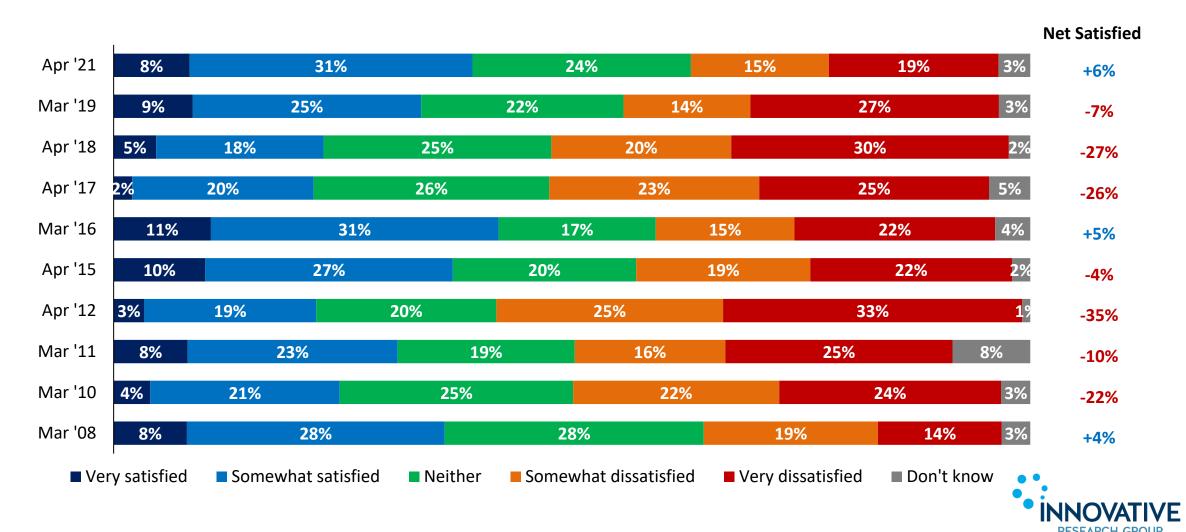


#### **Satisfaction with Budget:** Net satisfaction with the budget is up 13 points compared to 2019 and net positive for the first time since 2016



In general, how satisfied are you with the federal budget?

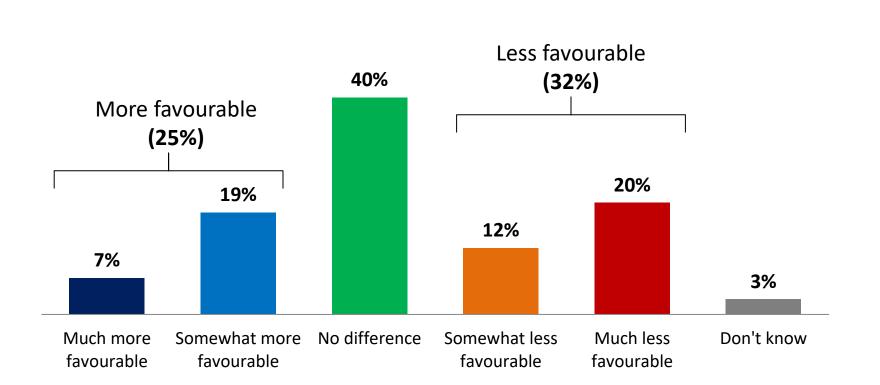
[asked of those aware of budget: n=1,014]

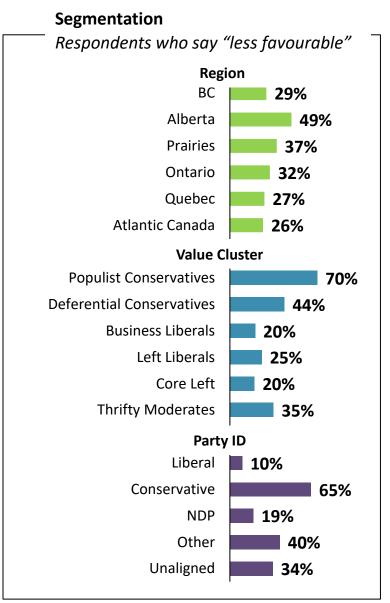


#### Impression of Budget: 1-in-3 (32%) Canadians say the budget left them less favourable towards the federal gov't; 49% of Albertans say the same

Did it leave you feeling a lot more favourable, somewhat more favourable, somewhat less favourable, a lot less favourable towards the federal government?

[asked of those aware of budget: n=1,014]

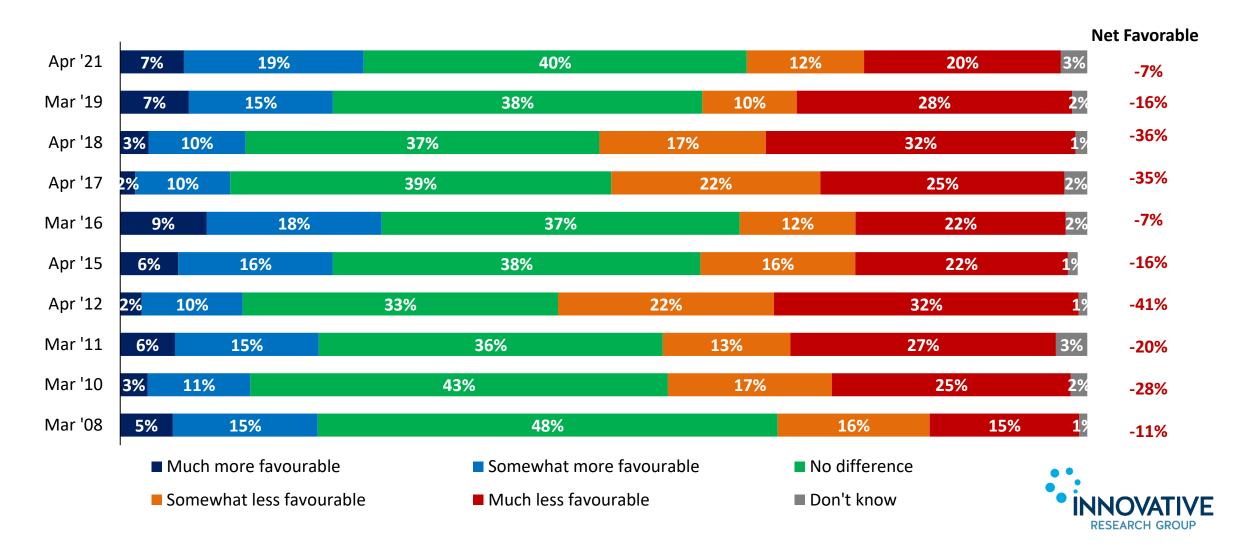




#### **Impression of Budget:** While still negative, net favourability is up 9 points from 2019 to -7%



Did it leave you feeling a lot more favourable, somewhat more favourable, somewhat less favourable, a lot less favourable towards the federal government? [asked of those aware of budget: n=1,014]



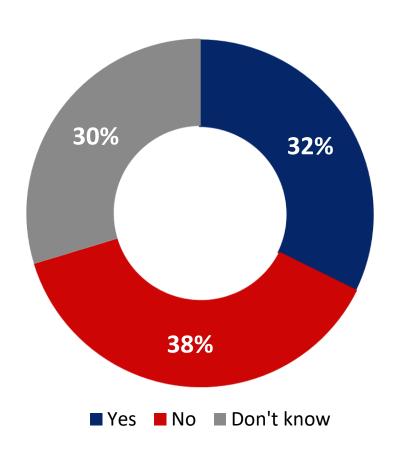
#### Impacts of the Federal Budget

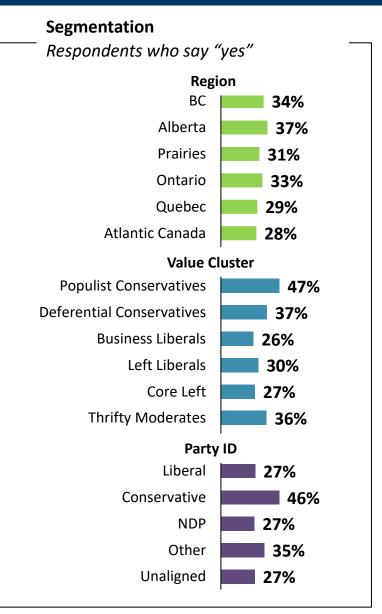
While satisfaction with the budget is up this year, most Canadians remain torn on the impacts that it will have on the economy, unemployment, economic growth, and the health care system. Around half believe it will result in more taxes and higher user fees.

#### **Personal Impact:** 1-in-3 (32%) think their own personal situation will be impacted by the new budget; highest for CPC partisans

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Do you think your own personal situation will be directly impacted by the new Liberal federal budget? [asked of all respondents, n=2,000]

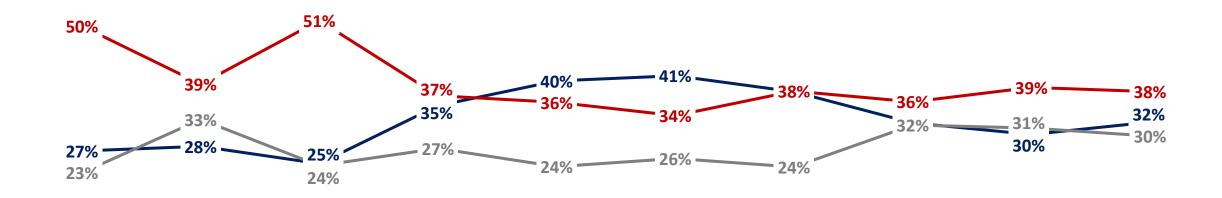


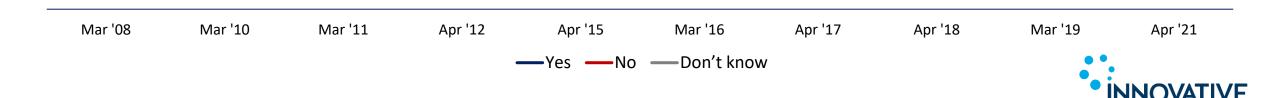


#### **Personal Impact:** The share saying their situation will be directly impacted by the new budget is consistent with the 2019 results

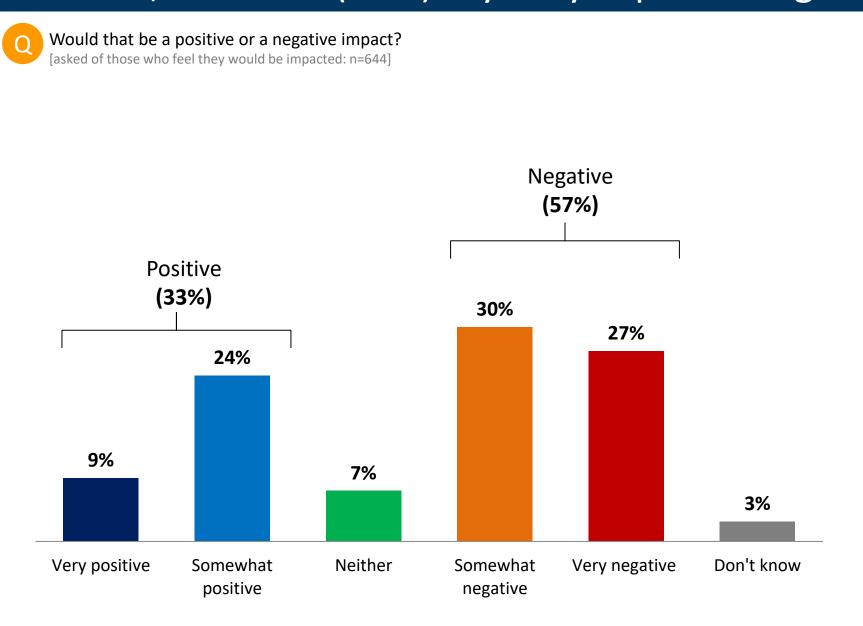


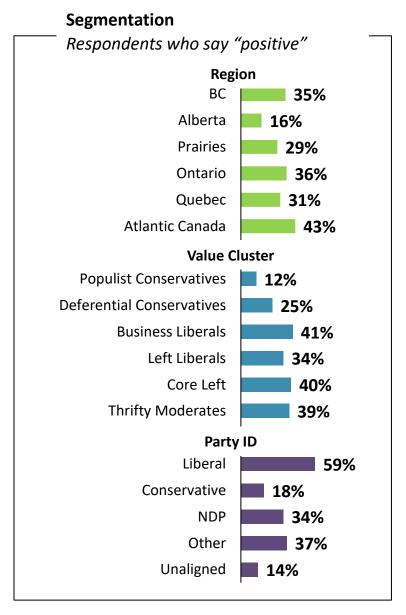
Do you think your own personal situation will be directly impacted by the new Liberal federal budget? [asked of all respondents, n=2,000]



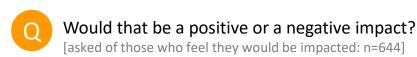


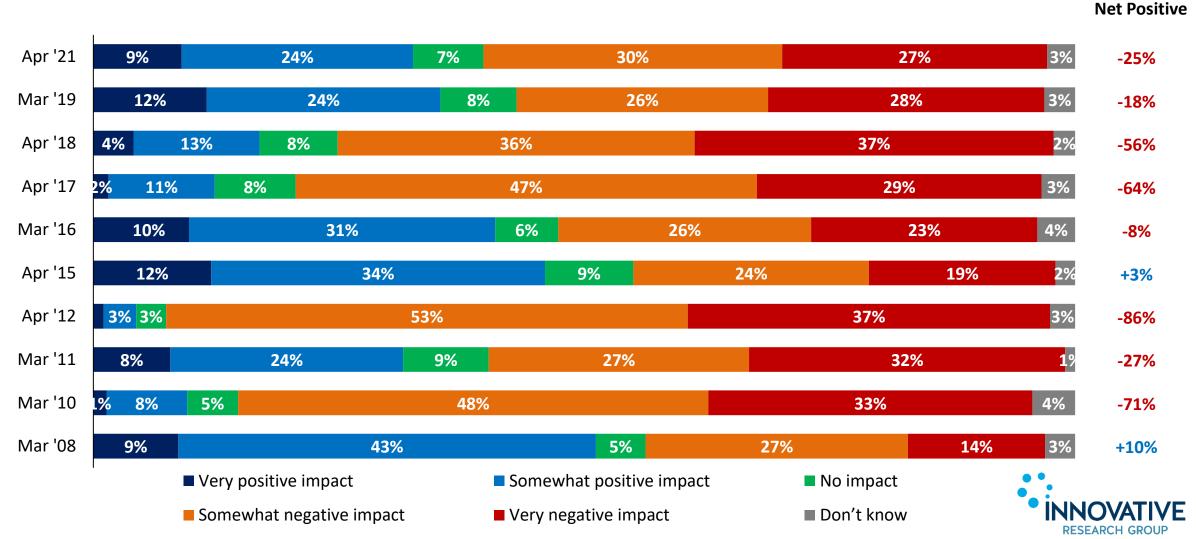
# **Type of Impact:** Of those who say the budget will impact their personal <sup>31</sup> situation, over half (57%) say they expect a negative impact



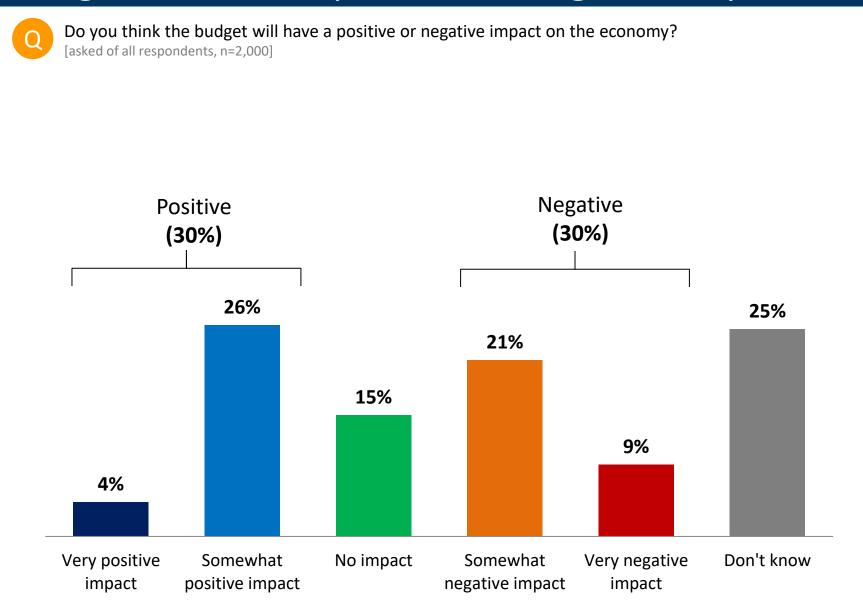


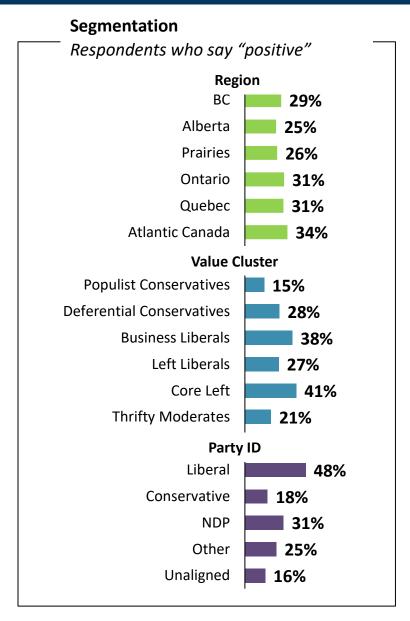
#### **Type of Impact:** Net positive impact is down 6 points compared to 2019<sup>32</sup> from -18% to -25%





## **Impact on Economy:** Canadians are split on whether they think the budget will have a positive or negative impact on the economy

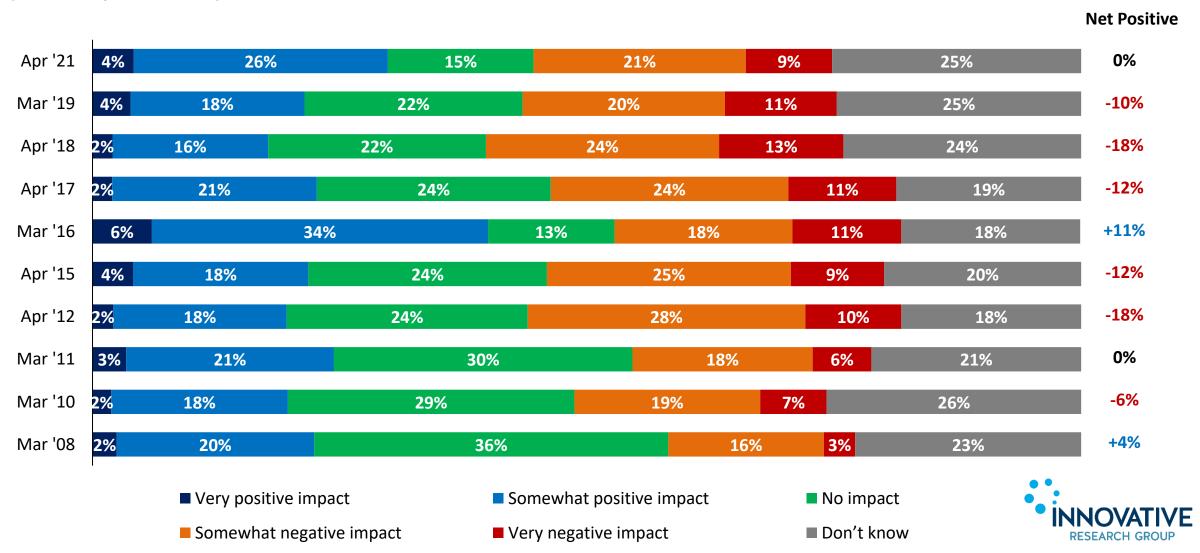




#### **Impact on Economy:** Net positive impact on the economy is up 10 points from 2019 to 0%



Do you think the budget will have a positive or negative impact on the economy? [asked of all respondents, n=2,000]

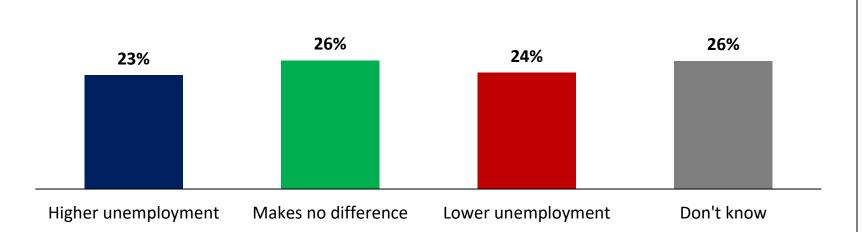


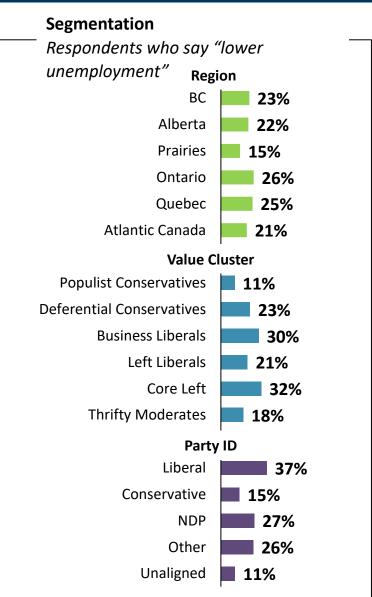
#### Impact on Unemployment: Canadians are split on whether they think the budget will results in higher (23%) or lower (24%) unemployment

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Do you think the budget will result higher levels of unemployment, lower levels of unemployment, or will it make no difference?

[asked of all respondents, n=2,000]

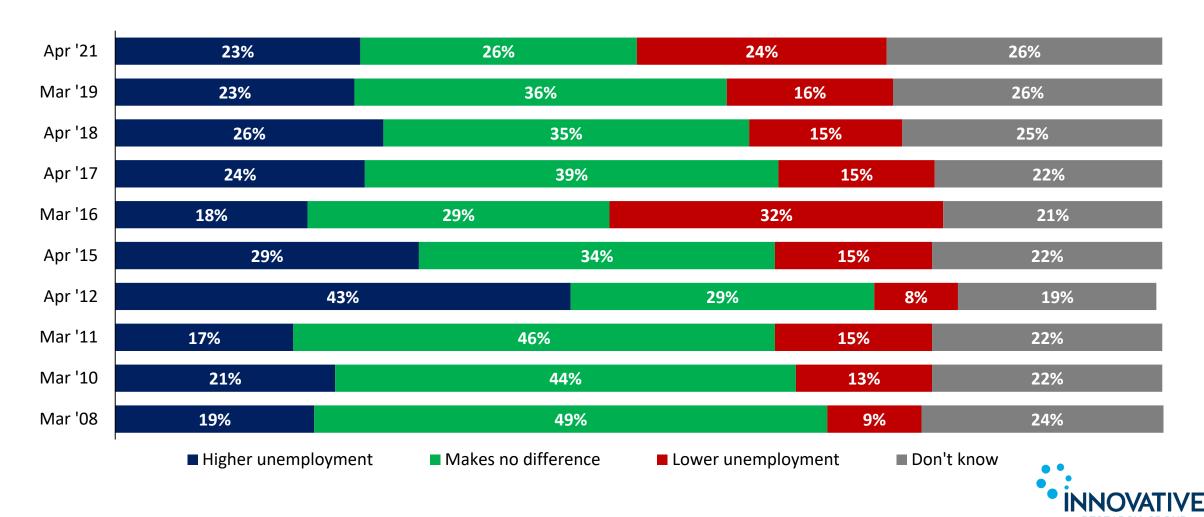




#### **Impact on Unemployment:** Perceptions that the budget will result in lower unemployment (24%) are up compared to 2019 (16%)



Do you think the budget will result higher levels of unemployment, lower levels of unemployment, or will it make no difference? [asked of all respondents, n=2,000]

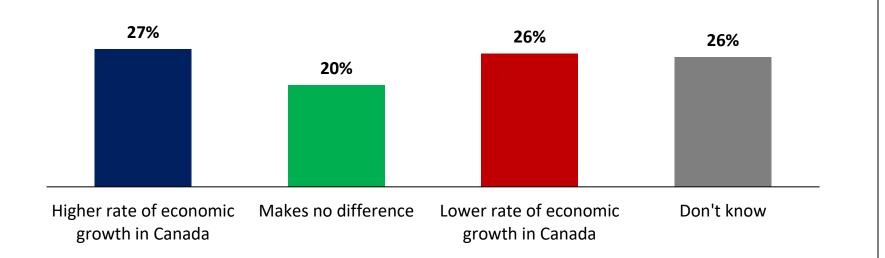


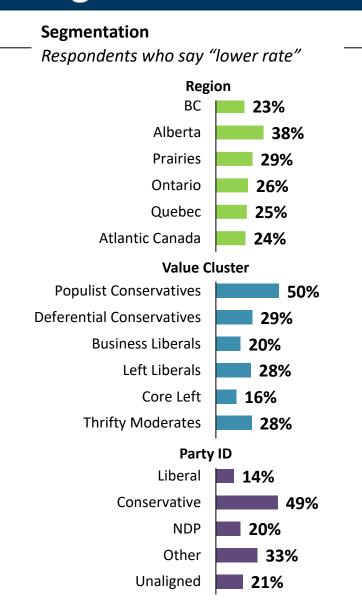
### Impact on Economic Growth: Canadians are split on whether the budget will result in a higher or lower rate of economic growth

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Do you think the budget will result a higher rate of economic growth in Canada, a lower rate of economic growth in Canada or will it make no difference?

[asked of all respondents, n=2,000]

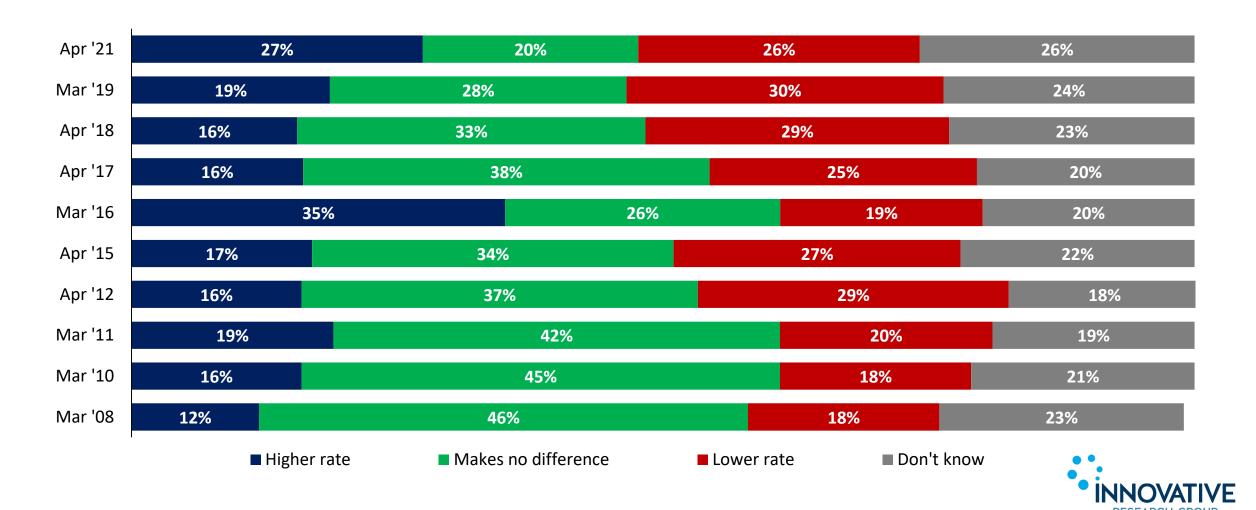




#### Impact on Economic Growth: The share saying the budget will result in 38 a higher rate of economic growth is up 9 points from 2019



Do you think the budget will result a higher rate of economic growth in Canada, a lower rate of economic growth in Canada or will it make no difference? [asked of all respondents, n=2,000]

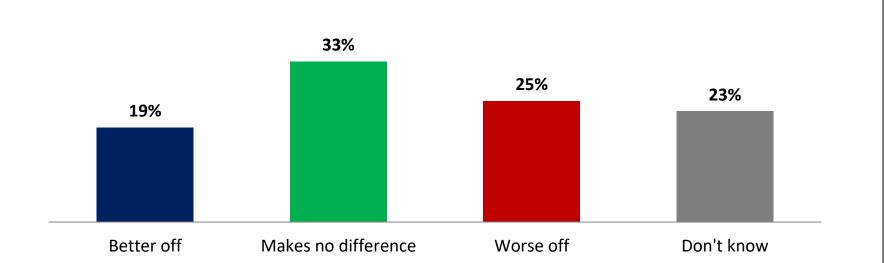


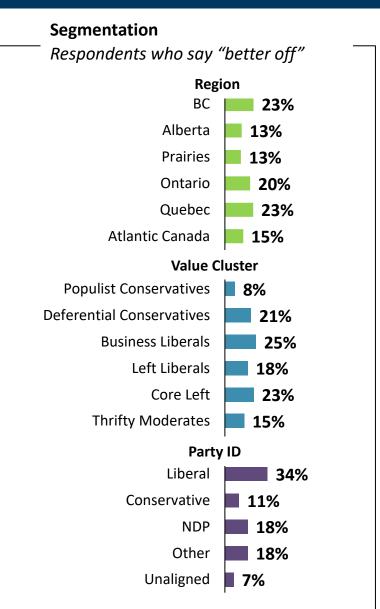
### **Impact on Health Care:** A plurality (33%) say the budget will make no difference to the health care system while 25% say 'worse off'

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Do you think the budget will leave the Canadian health care system better off, worse off or will it make no difference?

[asked of all respondents, n=2,000]

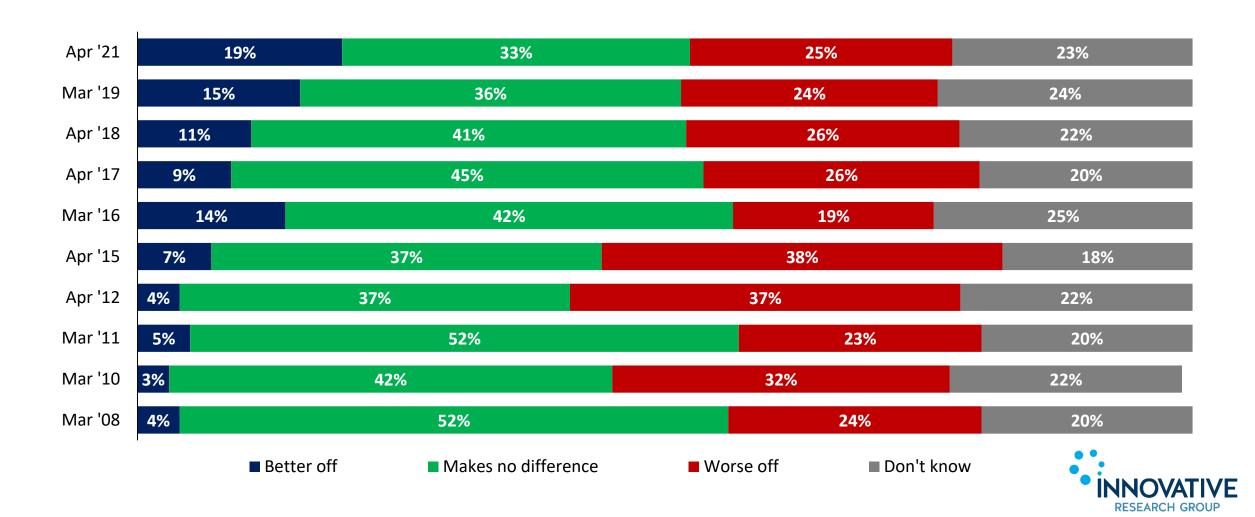




### **Impact on Health Care:** Those saying the budget will leave the health care system better off is up compared to 2019; still, more say 'worse off'



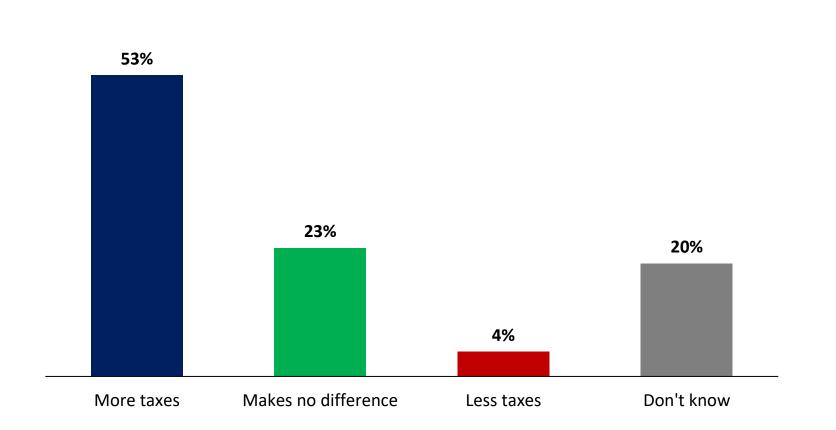
Do you think the budget will leave the Canadian health care system better off, worse off or will it make no difference? [asked of all respondents, n=2,000]

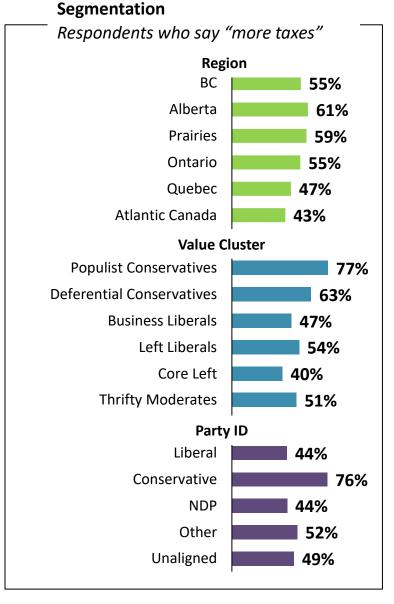


### **Impact on Taxes:** Just over half (53%) of Canadians think the budget will results in more taxes; highest among populist conservatives

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Do you think the budget will result in you paying more taxes, less taxes, or will it make no difference? [asked of all respondents, n=2,000]

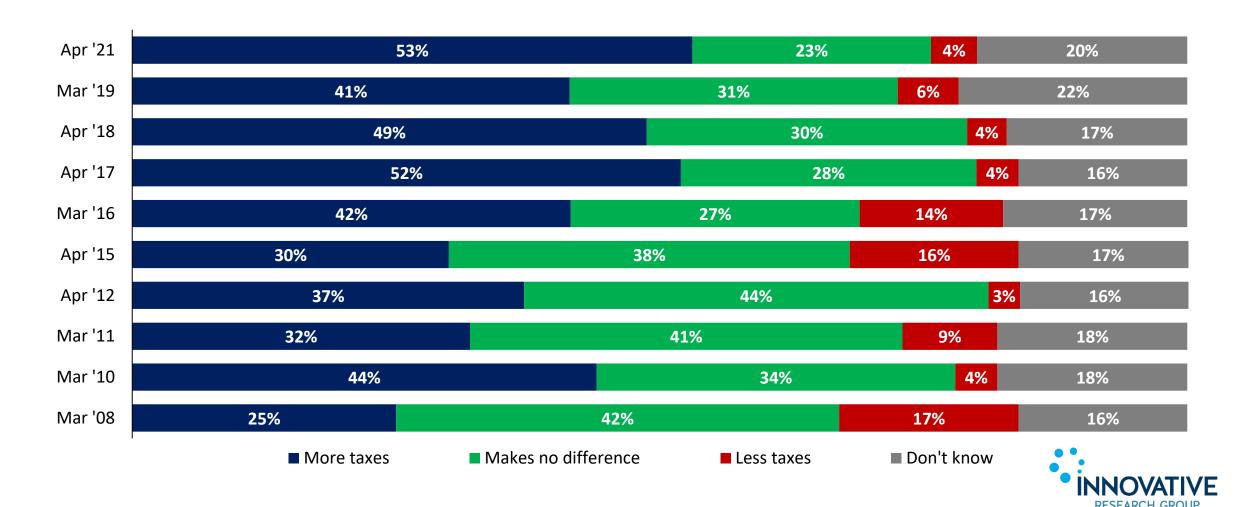




### **Impact on Taxes:** The share who think the budget will result in paying more taxes is up 12 points compared to 2019



Do you think the budget will result in you paying more taxes, less taxes, or will it make no difference? [asked of all respondents, n=2,000]

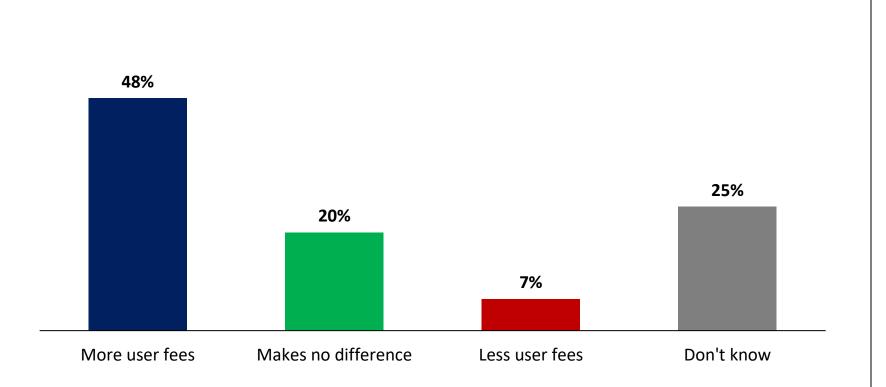


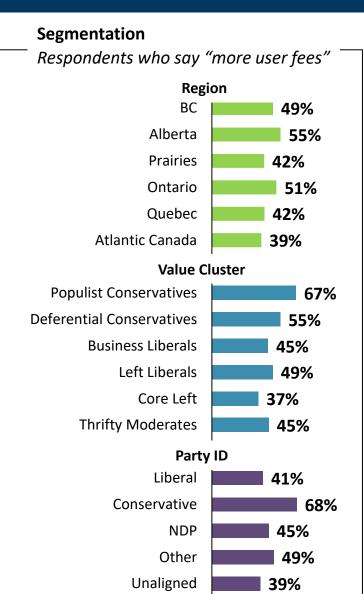
### Impact on User fees: Nearly half (48%) of Canadians think the budget will result in paying more user fees for government services



Do you think the budget will result in you paying more user fees for government services, less user fees for government services or will it make no difference?

[asked of all respondents, n=2,000]



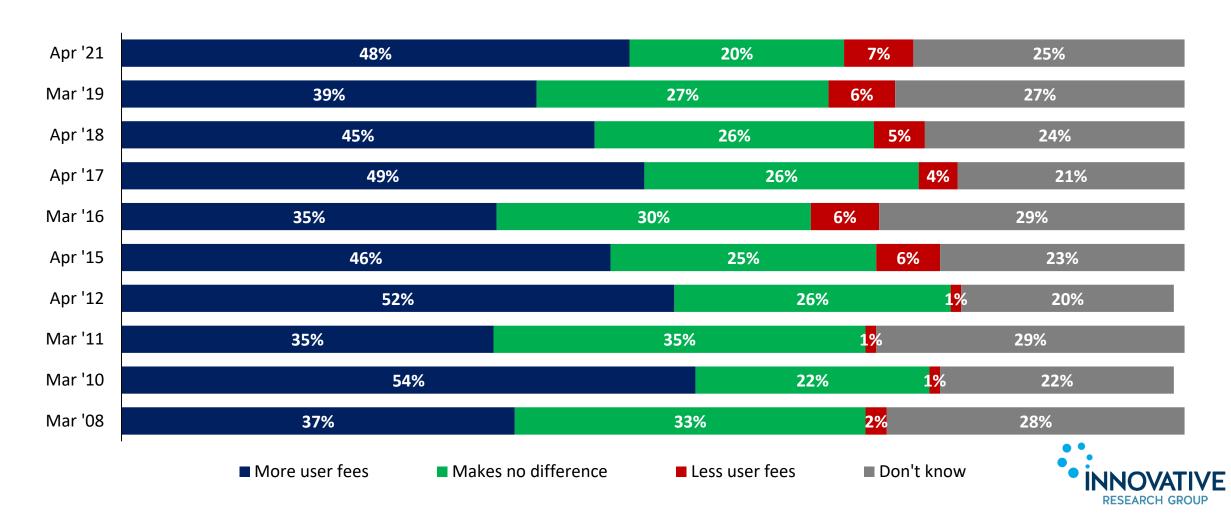


### Impact on User fees: The share saying the budget will result in more user fees is back up to 2017 levels after dropping to 39% in 2019



Do you think the budget will result in you paying more user fees for government services, less user fees for government services or will it make no difference?

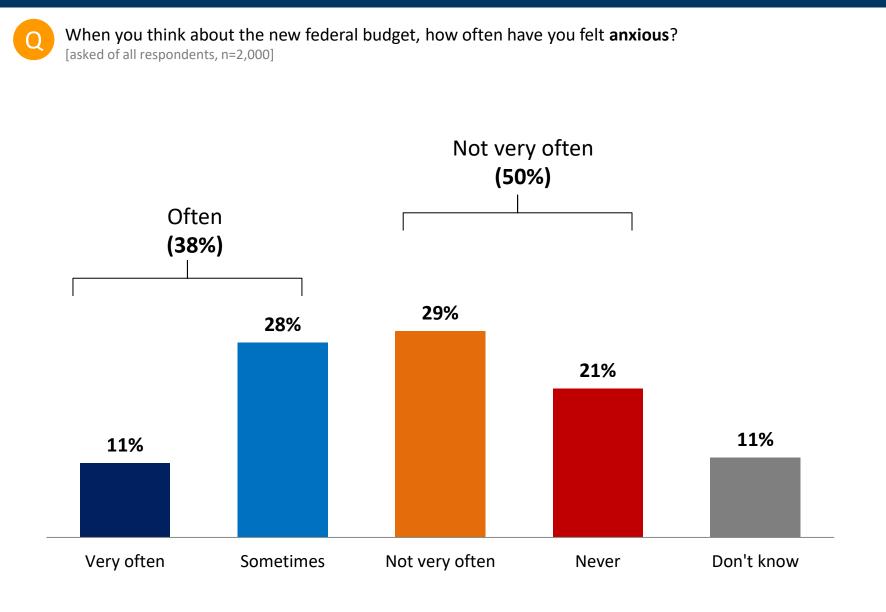
[asked of all respondents, n=2,000]

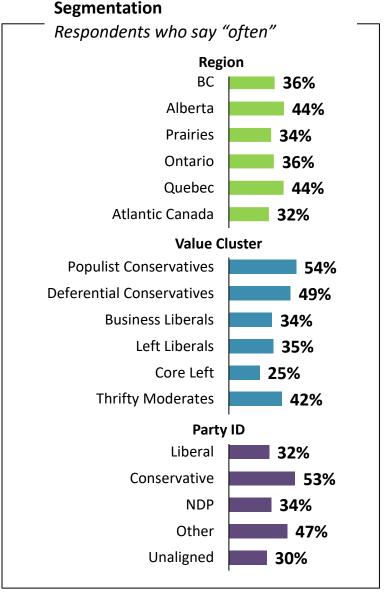


### **Emotions and the Federal Budget**

While 1-in-3 Canadians report feeling angry 'often' when thinking about the budget, anger is at its lowest point since our 2016 tracking.

#### **Anxiety:** Half (50%) report feeling anxious 'not very often' or 'never' when thinking about the budget while 38% say they've felt anxious often



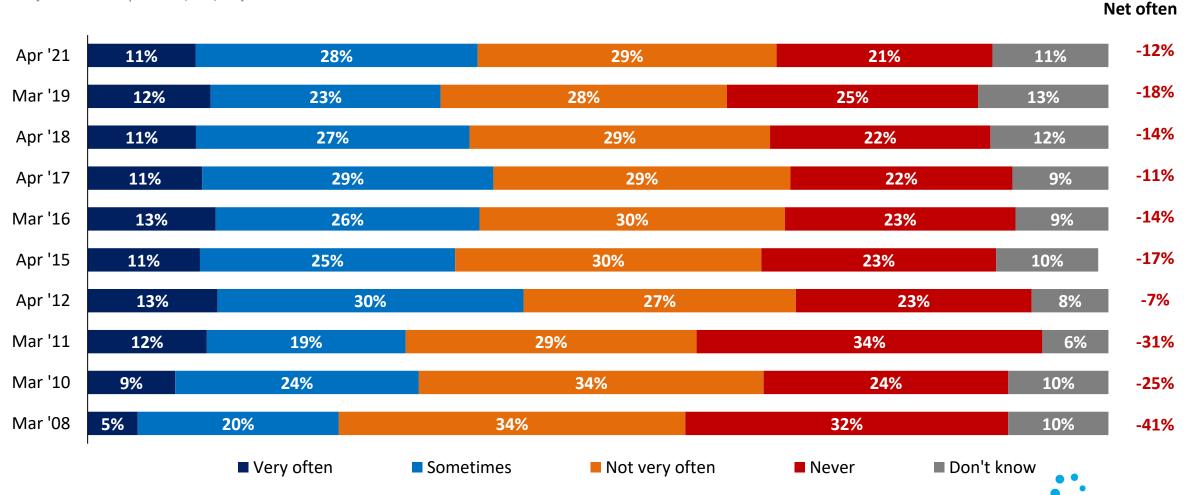


### **Anxiety:** 'Net often' on feeling anxious when thinking about the budget <sup>47</sup> is up 6 points compared to 2019

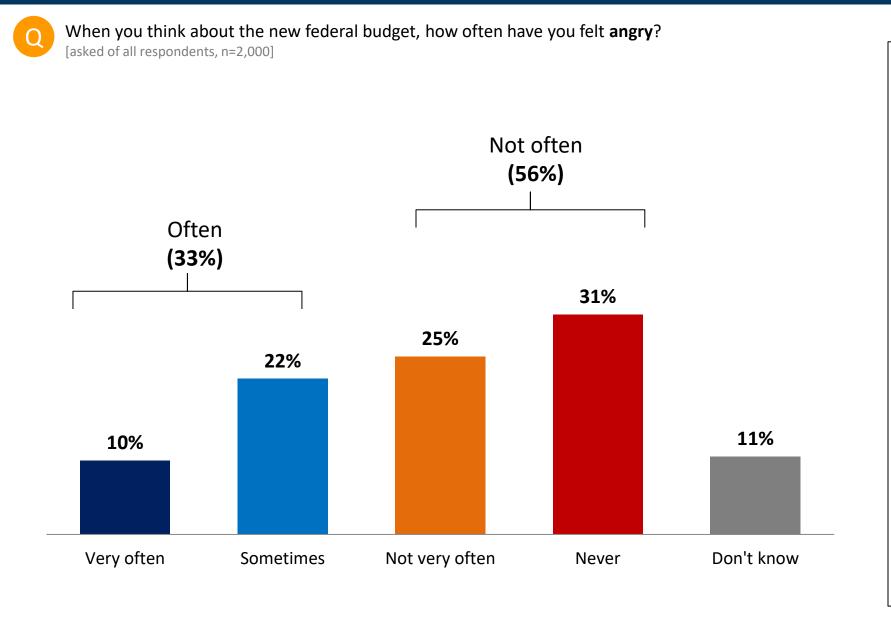


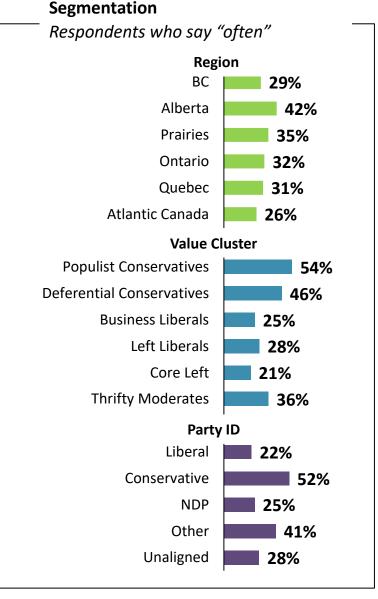
When you think about the new federal budget, how often have you felt anxious?

[asked of all respondents, n=2,000]



### **Anger:** 1-in-3 (33%) Canadians report feeling angry often when thinking <sup>48</sup> about the budget; highest regionally in Alberta (42%)

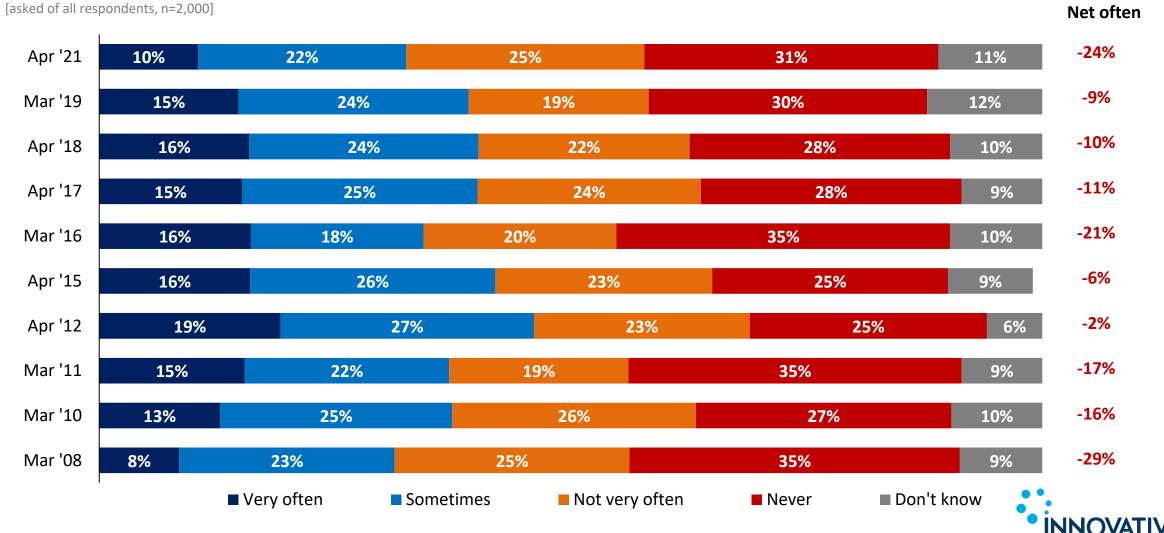




### **Anger:** Those saying they feel angry often when thinking about the budget is down 7 points compared to 2019 to lowest point since 2016



When you think about the new federal budget, how often have you felt **angry**?



### Leadership

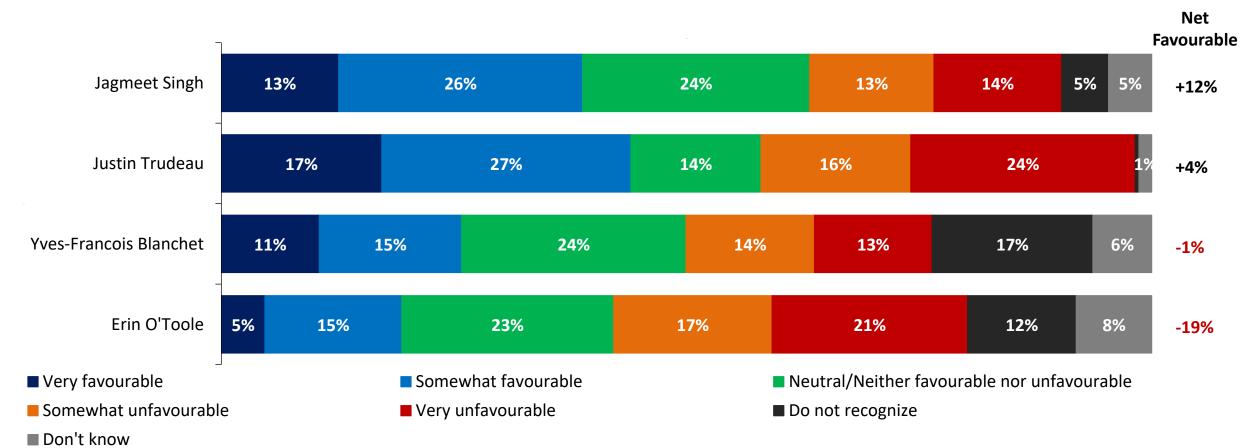
Singh has pulled into the lead in net favourability but Trudeau continues to be the clear top choice for Prime Minister.

### **Leader Favourables:** Net favourability is highest for Singh (+12%) and lowest for O'Toole (-19%)



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=2000]



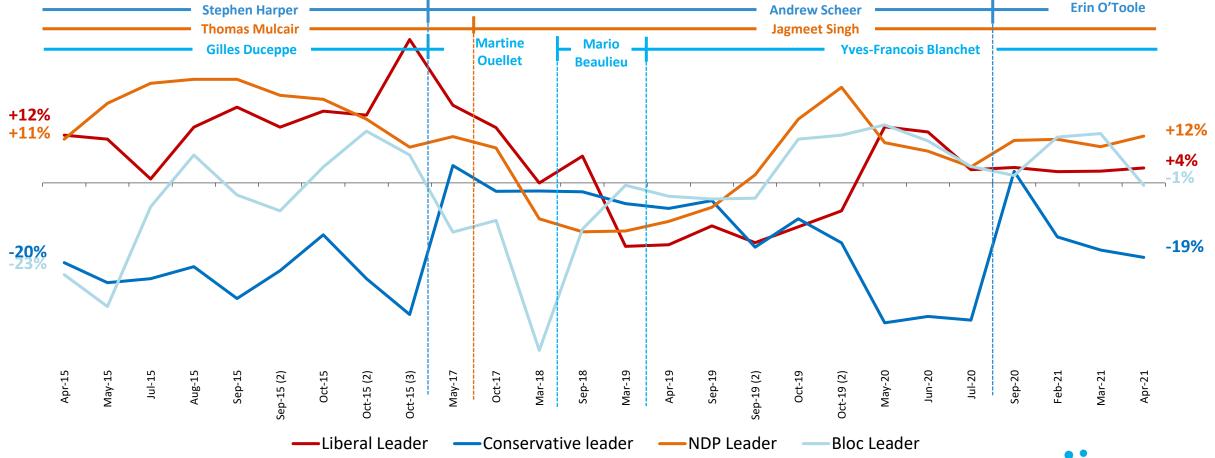


### **Party Leader NET Favourables Tracking:** O'Toole continues to trail with <sup>52</sup> the lowest net favourability

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.





*Note:* Green Leader, People's Party Leader not shown.

Current data: April 2021

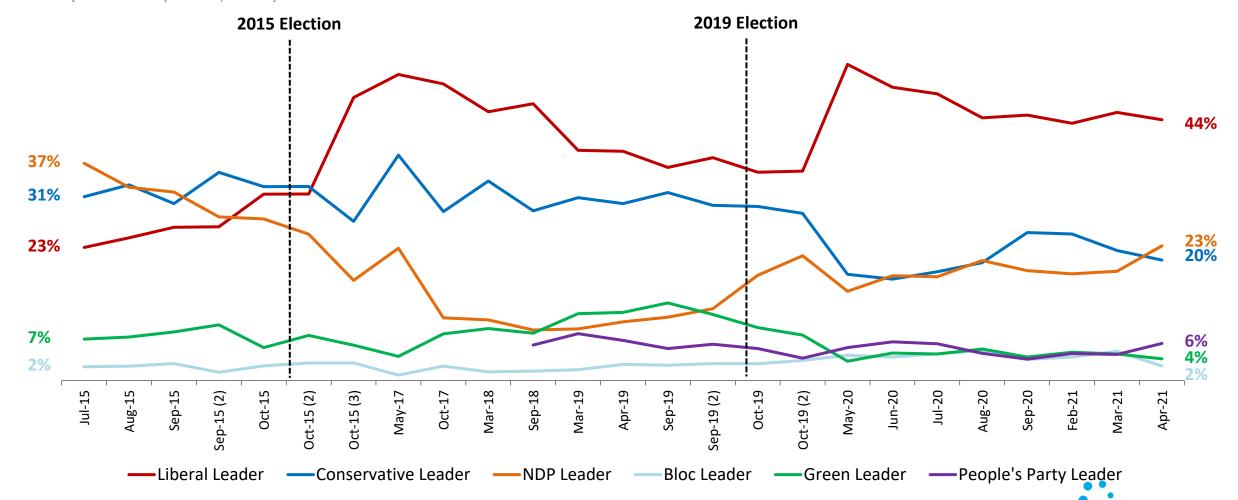
Note: Results for Yves-Francois Blanchet for Quebec respondents only



### **Best Prime Minister Tracking:** Trudeau continues to be the clear top choice for Prime Minister, Singh edges out O'Toole

Q

Which of the following party leaders would make the best Prime Minister of Canada? [asked of all respondents; n=2000]



### Vote is mostly steady this month.

Innovative reports on vote intention in two ways.

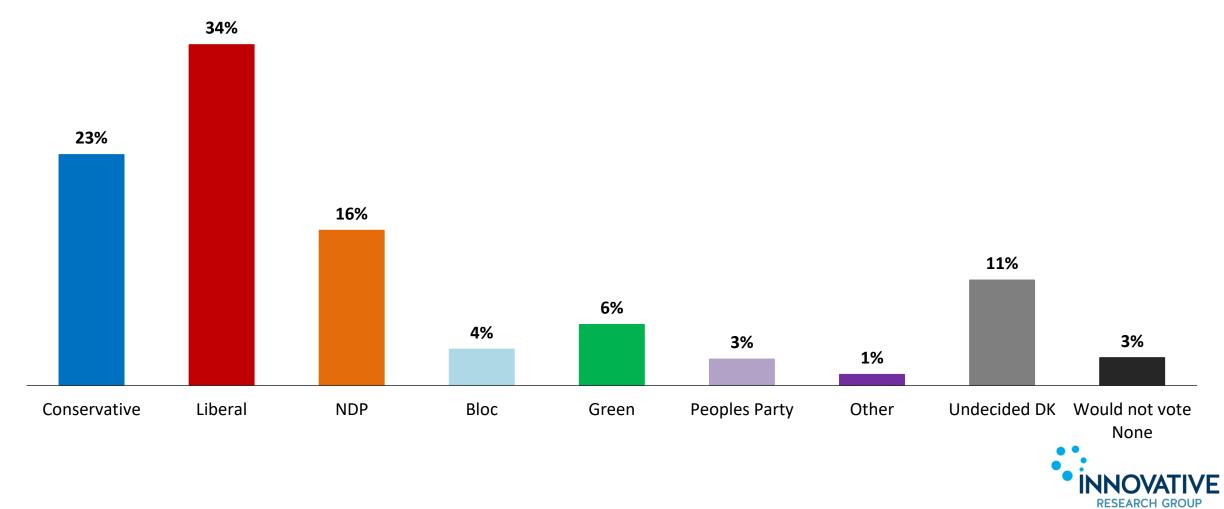
When we ask people who they would vote for if an election were held today, and who they lean towards if they are unsure, we call those results **Combined vote**. This accounts for the views of everyone in the population including decided voters, undecided voters, and non-voters.

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.

### **Federal Combined Vote:** The Liberals (34%) lead over the Conservatives (23%) when it comes to the federal vote



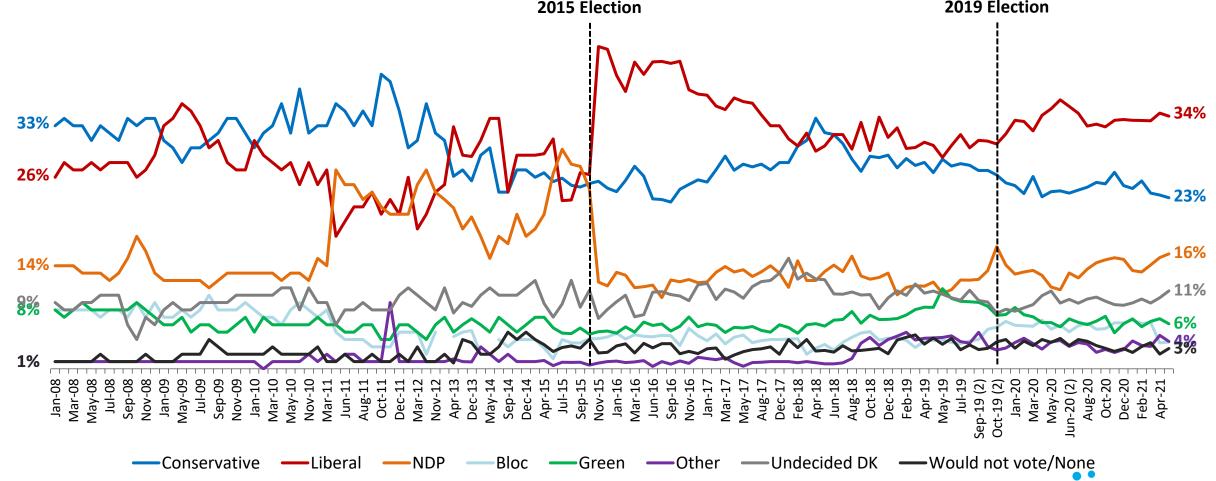
If a federal election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? [Vote + Lean] [asked of all respondents; n=2,000]



### **Federal Vote Tracking:** The Liberals continue their lead over the Conservatives while the NDP is up directionally this wave

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=2,000]

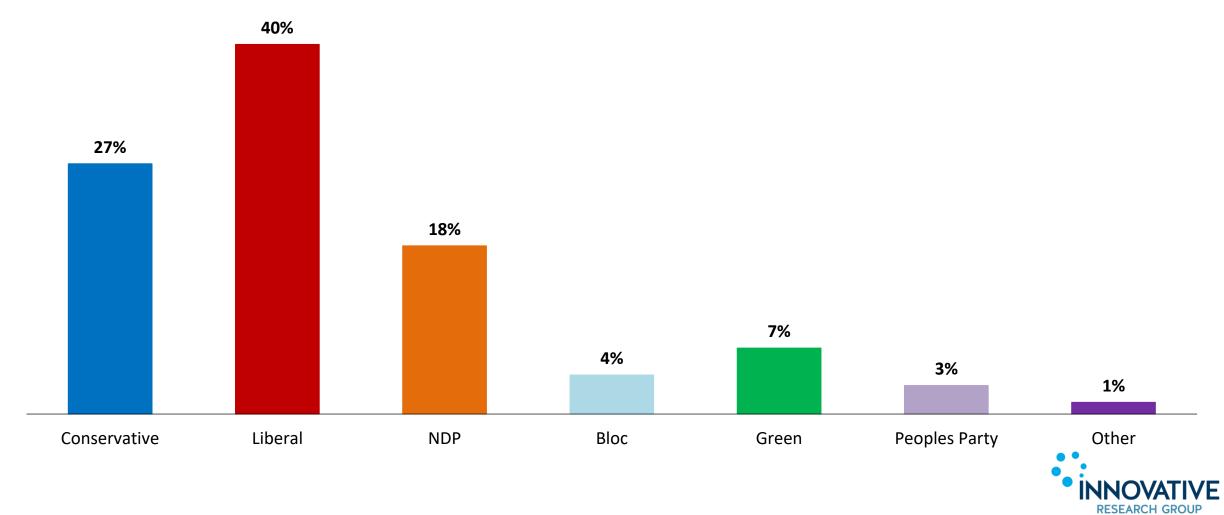
2015 Election
2019 Election



### **Federal Decided Vote:** Among decided voters, the Liberals (40%) hold a 13 point lead over the Conservatives (27%)



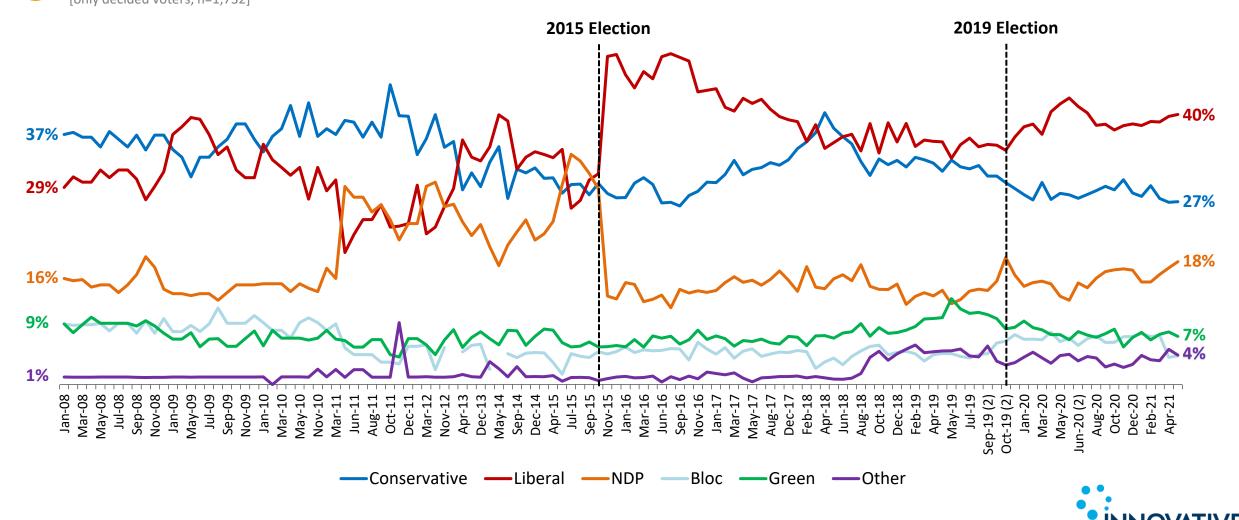
If a federal election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? **[DECIDED]** [decided voters only; n=1,732]



### **Federal Decided Vote Tracking:** While the Liberals maintain their lead, the NDP is up to its highest vote share since October 2019

Q

If a federal election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? [DECIDED] [only decided voters; n=1,732]



#### Decided Vote by Region: The Liberals now hold significant leads in all three of Canada's biggest provinces

Decided vote by REGION

#### REGION

	ВС	AB	Prairies	ON	QC	Atlantic
	(N=243)	(N=201)	(N=109)	(N=687)	(N=385)	(N=108)
Conservative	19%	42%	37%	30%	18%	17%
Liberal	37%	25%	34%	43%	42%	49%
NDP	28%	22%	23%	15%	13%	19%
Bloc	-	-	-	-	19%	-
Green	12%	4%	2%	7%	5%	13%
Other	4%	5%	4%	5%	4%	3%



**Decided Vote** 

### **Decided Vote by Value Cluster:** The Liberals and Conservatives are neck-and-neck among Deferential Conservatives

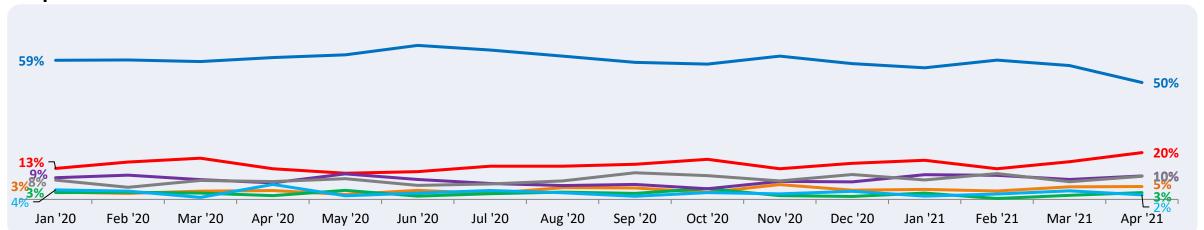
#### **Value Clusters**

	Populist Conservatives	Deferential Conservatives	Business Liberals	Left Liberals	Core Left	Thrifty Moderates
	(N=202)	(N=214)	(N=460)	(N=265)	(N=310)	(N=281)
Conservative	55%	39%	26%	18%	10%	26%
Liberal	22% 37%	49%	40%	43%	34%	
NDP	6% 9%	9%	14%	27%	30%	18%
Bloc	2%	2% 6%	4%	3%	3%	7%
Green	3%	3%	5%	7%	11%	11%
Other	11%	5%	2%	5%	3%	4%

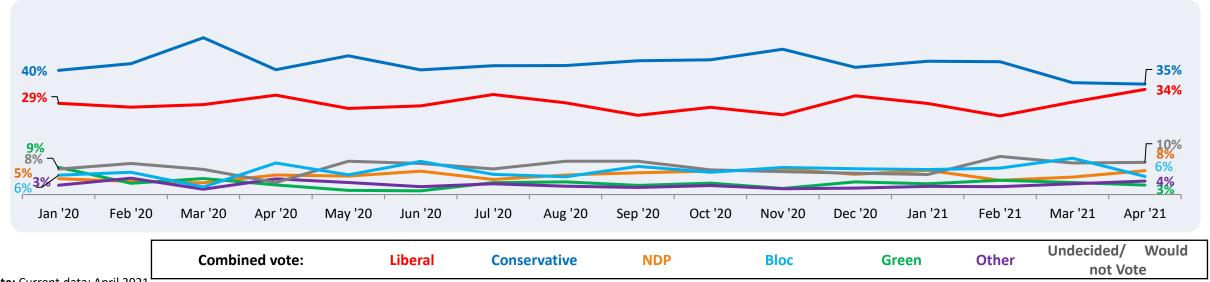


#### Combined Vote by Value Cluster: The Liberals now statistically tied with<sup>61</sup> Conservatives among Deferential Conservatives

#### **Populist Conservatives**



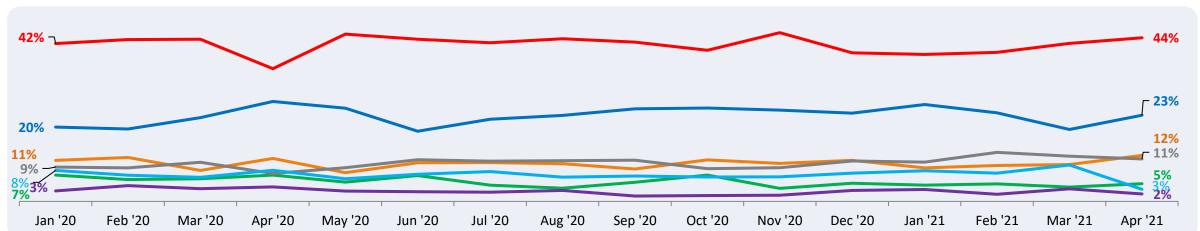
#### **Deferential Conservatives**



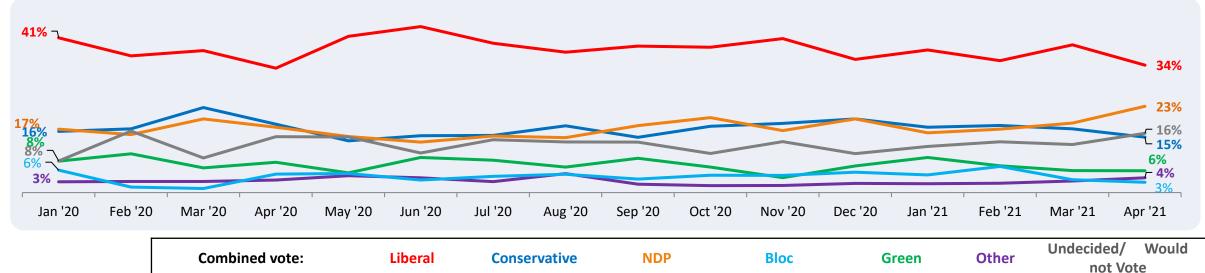
Note: Current data: April 2021

### **Combined Vote by Value Cluster:** Liberals lead among both business liberals and left liberals



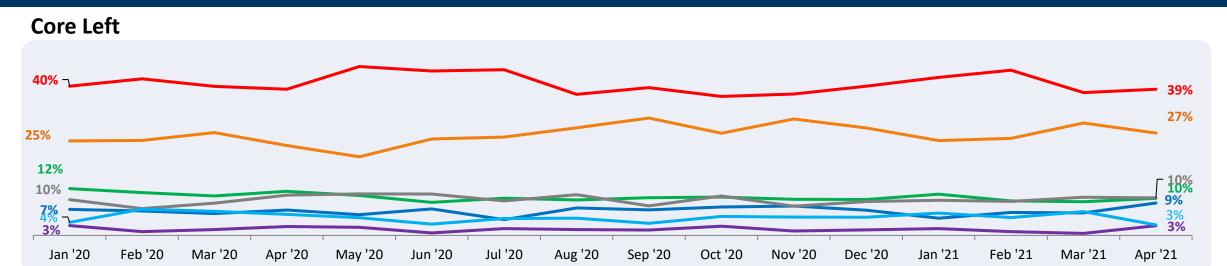


#### **Left Liberals**

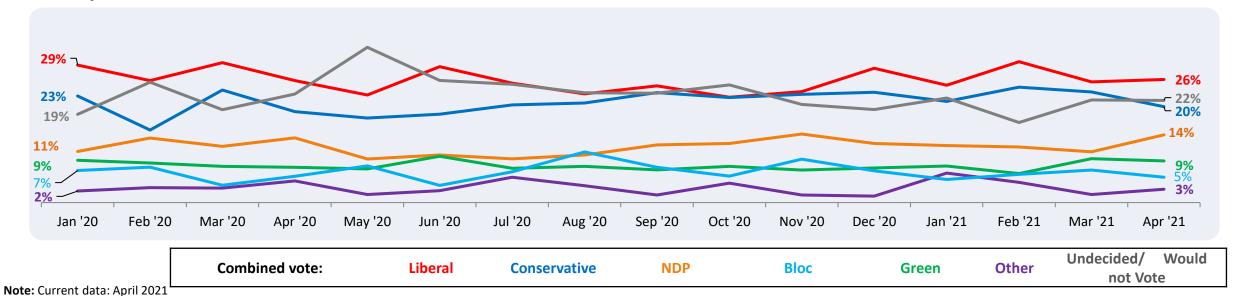


Note: Current data: April 2021

### **Combined Vote by Value Cluster:** The Liberals lead the NDP by 12 points among the core left



#### **Thrifty Moderates**



### **Decided Vote by Economic Gap:** The Liberals lead over the Conservatives in all four economic gap segments

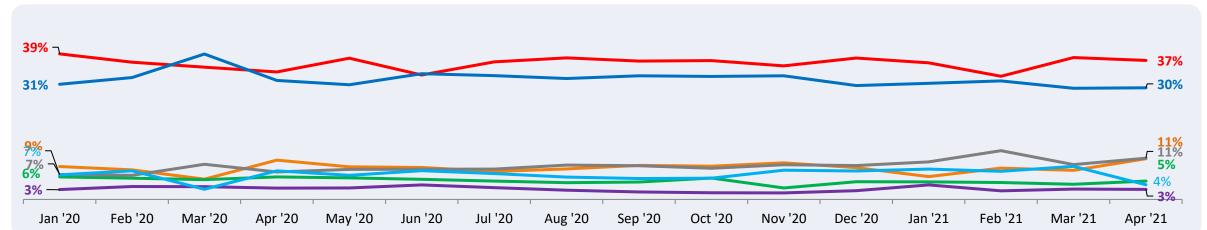
#### **Economic Gap**

	Achievers	Strugglers	Ambivalent	Alienated
	(N=540)	(N=496)	(N=313)	(N=383)
Conservative	33%	27%	24%	20%
Liberal	42%	36%	42%	40%
NDP	12%	17%	19%	26%
Bloc	4%	7%	2%	1%
Green	5% 7%		8%	8%
Other	3%	5%	5%	5%

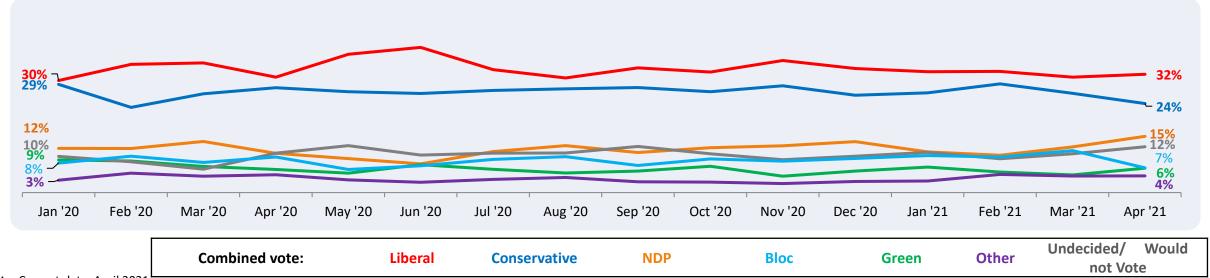


### **Combined Vote by Economic Gap:** The Liberals lead the Conservatives among both Dream Achievers and Strugglers

#### **Canadian Dream Achievers**



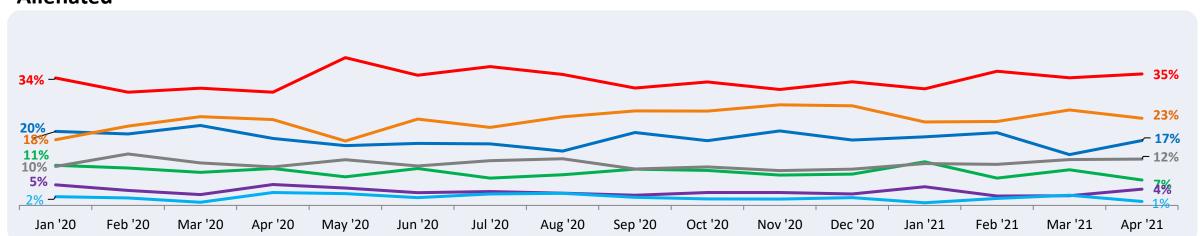
#### **Canadian Dream Strugglers**



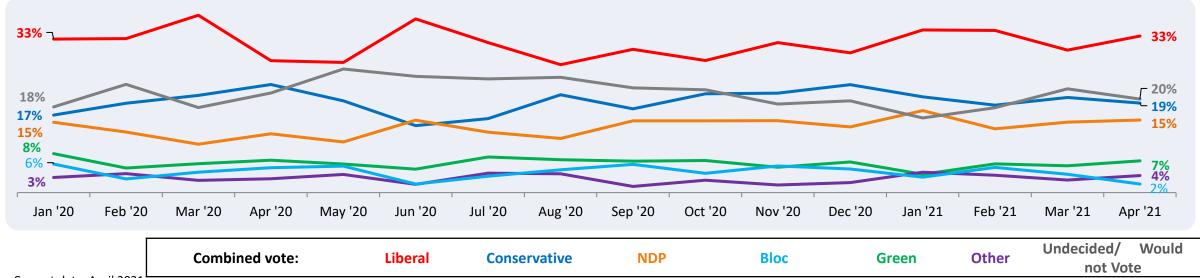
Note: Current data: April 2021

### Combined Vote by Economic Gap: The Liberals have consistently been in the lead among ambivalent and alienated voters





#### **Ambivalent**



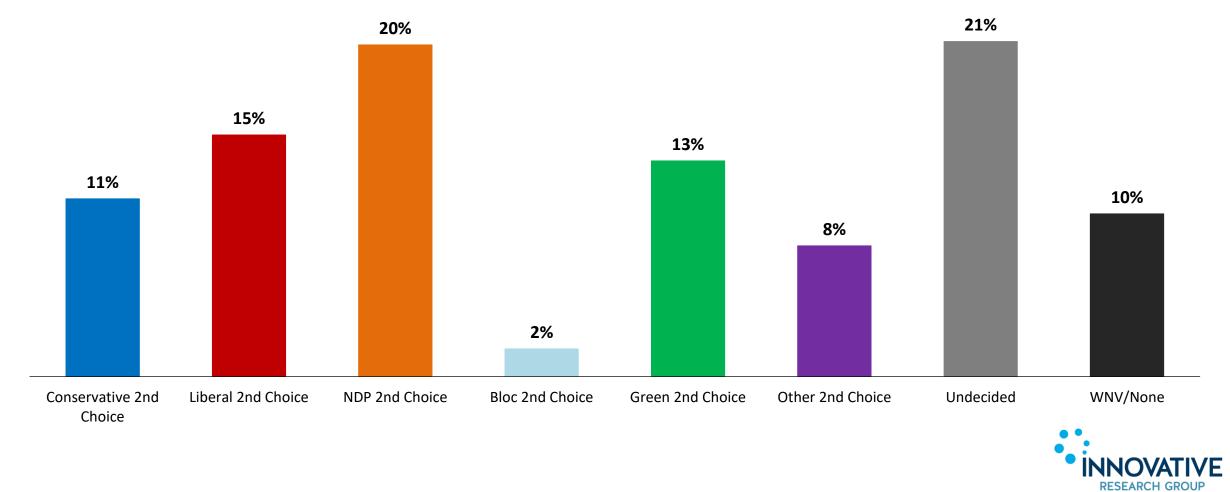
Note: Current data: April 2021

### **Federal 2nd Choice:** A plurality of decided voters either choose the NDP (20%) as their second choice or are undecided (21%)



And which party would be your second choice?

[only decided voters; n=1,732]



## Second Choice

### **Federal 2nd Choice:** The top 2<sup>nd</sup> choice of Liberal voters is the NDP and vice versa

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

#### First Choice

	Conservative 1st Choice	Liberal 1st Choice	NDP 1st Choice	Bloc 1st Choice	Green 1st Choice
	(N=464)	(N=686)	(N=312)	(N=73)	(N=122)
Conservative 2nd Choice		16%	12%	12%	12%
Liberal 2nd Choice	18%		40%	18%	27%
NDP 2nd Choice	13%	36%		10%	24%
Bloc 2nd Choice	2%	1%	1%		2%
<b>Green 2nd Choice</b>	8%	14%	24%	19%	0%
Other 2nd Choice	15%	4%	3%	6%	12%
Undecided	22%	22%	17%	19%	19%
WNV/None	22%	6%	3%	15%	4%



# Federal Combined Vote

### **Combined Vote by Party ID:** Liberal, CPC, and NDP partisans are about equally loyal with over 80% of their vote going towards their own party

#### Federal Party Identification

	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Other	Unaligned
	(N=423)	(N=610)	(N=256)	(N=230)	(N=214)
Conservative	85%	5%	2%	10%	24%
Liberal	7%	86%	12%	10%	35%
NDP	3%	6%	81%	8%	17%
Bloc	1%	1%	1%	25%	2%
Green	1%	2%	2%	34%	10%
Other	3%	1%	1%	12%	11%



### Methodology

#### **Survey Methodology**

These are the results of an online survey conducted between April 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Method:** This online survey was conducted using INNOVATIVE's Canada 20/20 national research panel with additional respondents from Dynata, 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=2,738 Canadian citizens, 18 years or older. Regional oversamples in Alberta and BC were used in order to adequately capture perspective on those provinces. The results are nationally weighted to n=2,000 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

Field Dates: April 22nd to May 5th, 2021.

**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	288	10.5%	270	13.5%
Men 35-54	347	12.7%	333	16.7%
Men 55+	573	21.0%	365	18.3%
Women 18-34	432	15.8%	275	13.8%
Women 35-54	444	16.3%	348	17.5%
Women 55+	647	23.7%	404	20.2%
ВС	543	19.8%	272	13.6%
АВ	540	19.7%	228	11.4%
Prairies	141	5.1%	132	6.6%
ON	900	32.9%	778	38.9%
QC	475	17.3%	455	22.8%
Atlantic	139	5.1%	135	6.7%

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#### **Building Understanding.**

