



Reaction to “Trucker” Protests

Public Opinion Research
Release Date: February 15, 2022
Field Dates: February 10 to 14, 2022

“Trucker” Protests

Since January, INNOVATIVE has been tracking reaction to the protests held in Ottawa and across Canada to protest COVID-19 restrictions and vaccine requirements.

Today, INNOVATIVE is releasing the results from our February *Canada This Month* survey. This online survey was in field from February 10th to 14th, 2022 with a weighted sample size of 500 Canadian residents. Detailed methodology is provided in the appendix.

This report covers results of the latest wave of tracking in field from February 10th to 14th. The “Protest Action” section show pooled results for the February 4th to 9th wave and the February 10th to 14th wave to increase the sample size.

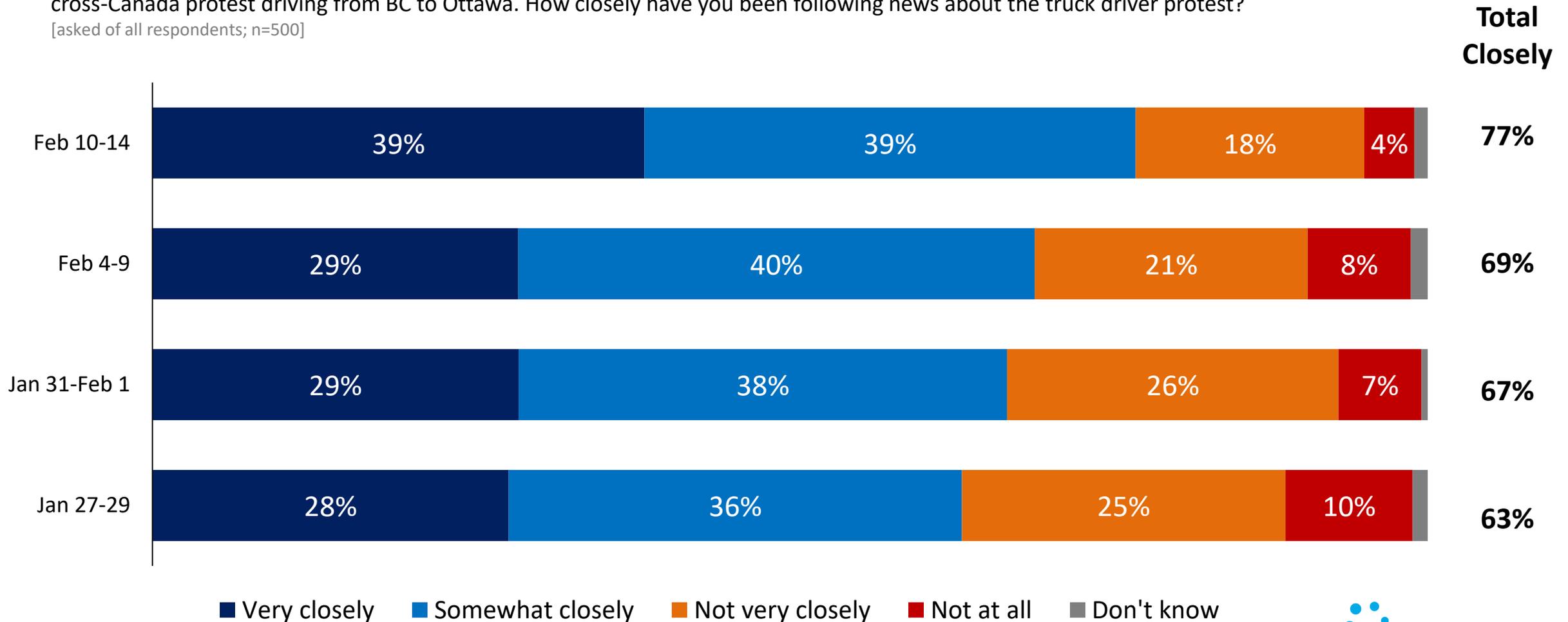
What Changed?

Following News: Attention to the protests is at an all time high with almost 4-in-5 Canadians now paying close attention



The federal government has generally been requiring that anybody entering Canada from the US must be vaccinated against COVID-19. There has been an exemption for truckers but the government recently ended that exemption and now requires truckers also be vaccinated. A group of truckers have started a cross-Canada protest driving from BC to Ottawa. How closely have you been following news about the truck driver protest?

[asked of all respondents; n=500]

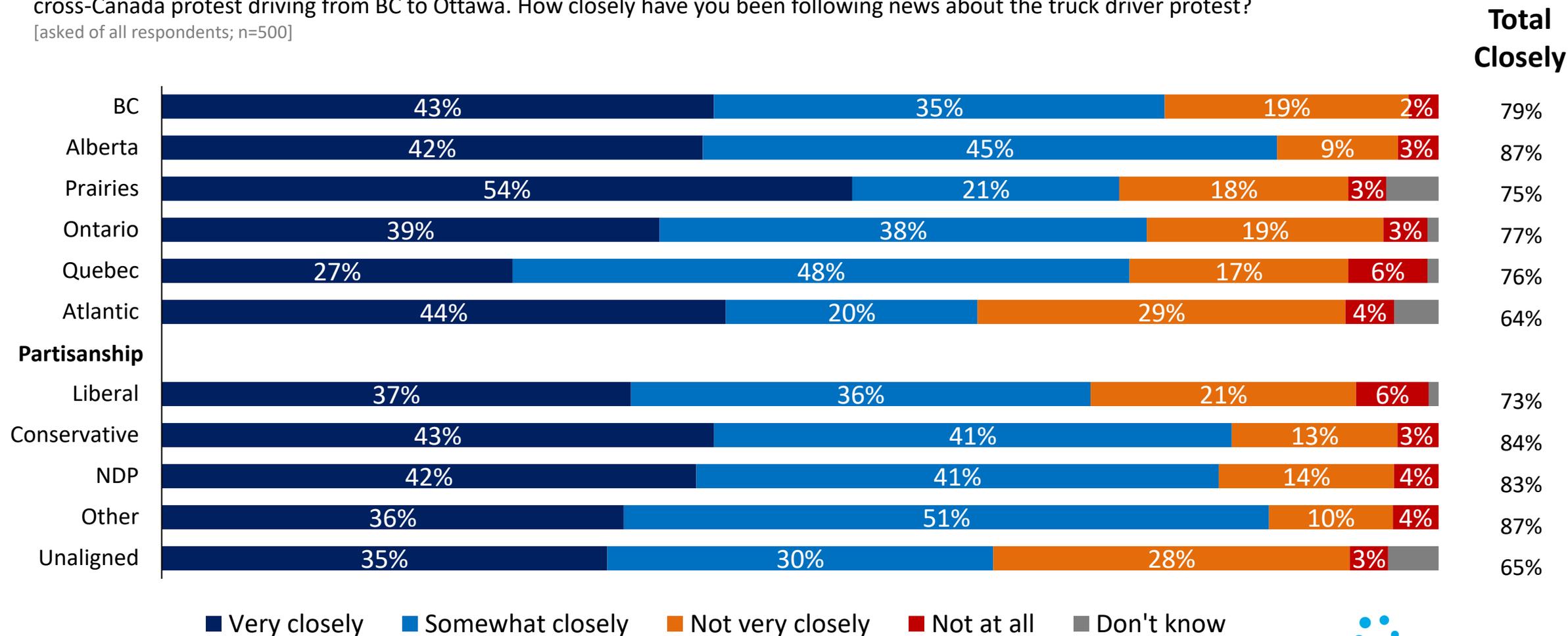


Following News: Residents of Alberta and Conservative supporters are following the protest closer than the other groups



The federal government has generally been requiring that anybody entering Canada from the US must be vaccinated against COVID-19. There has been an exemption for truckers but the government recently ended that exemption and now requires truckers also be vaccinated. A group of truckers have started a cross-Canada protest driving from BC to Ottawa. How closely have you been following news about the truck driver protest?

[asked of all respondents; n=500]

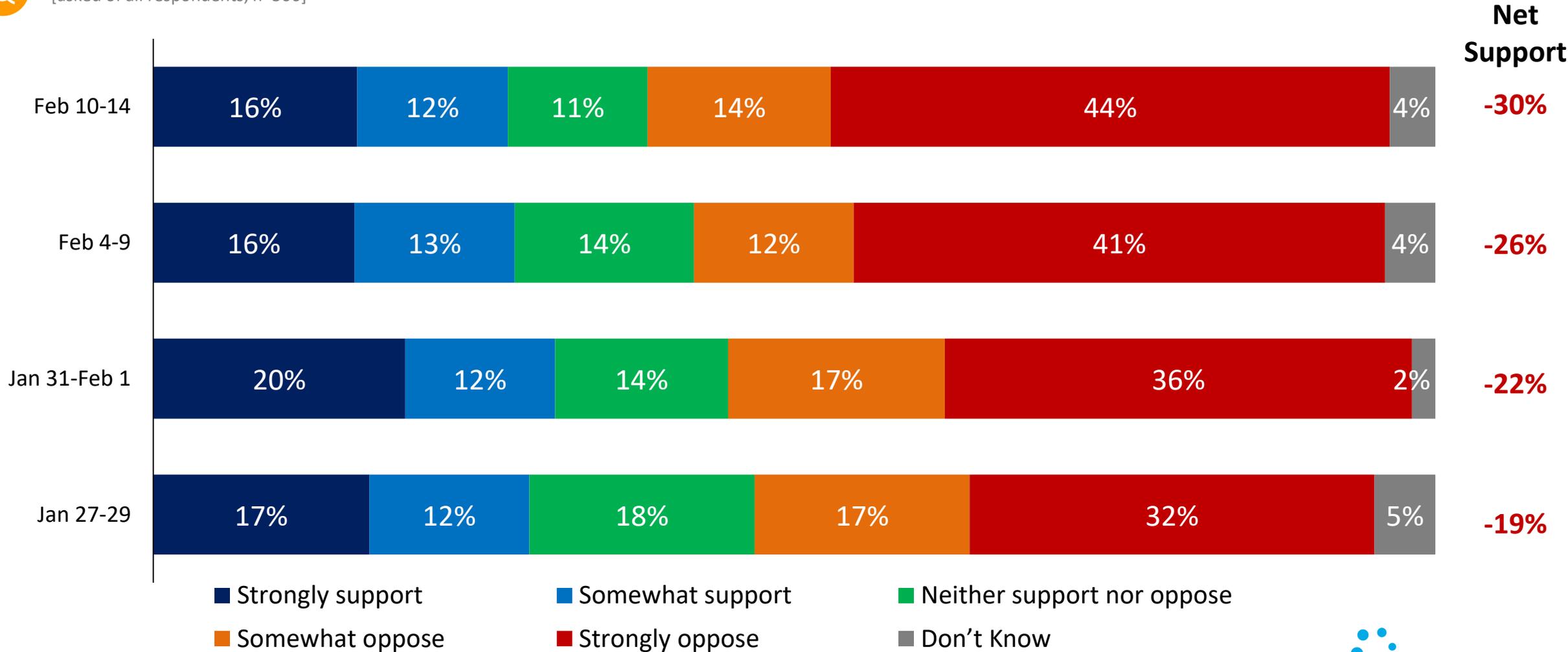


Protest Support: Opposition to the protest has continued to increase with almost 3-in-5 (58%) in opposition



From what you have read, seen, or heard, do you support or oppose the general idea of the truckers' protest?

[asked of all respondents; n=500]



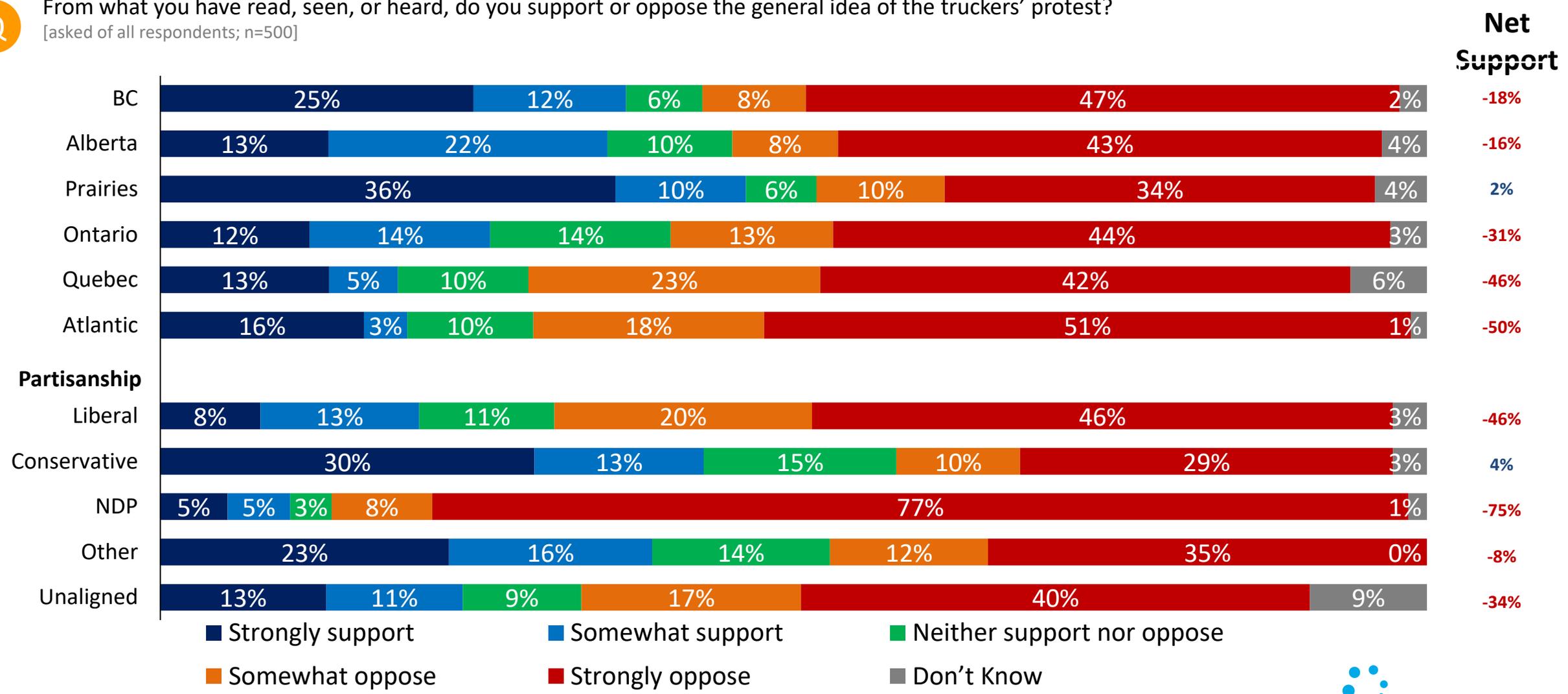
■ Strongly support ■ Somewhat support ■ Neither support nor oppose
■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose ■ Don't Know



Protest Support: Support is largely amongst the Prairies and the Conservatives with highest opposition from NDP and Atlantic Canada

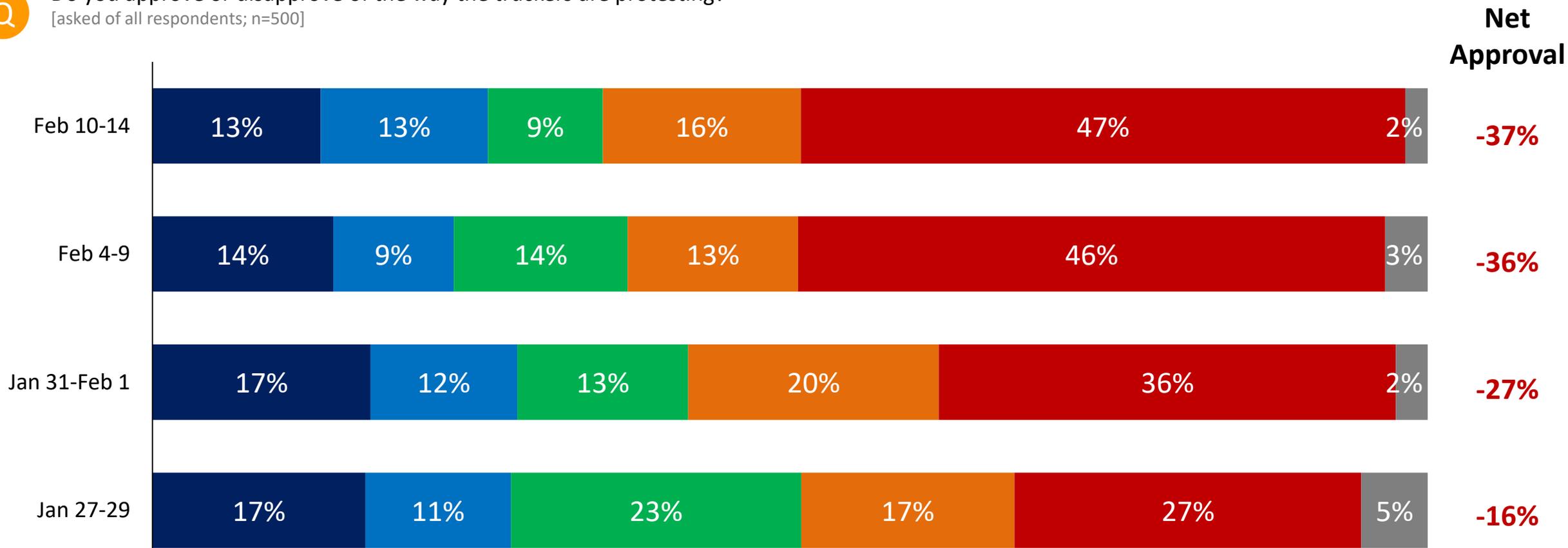


From what you have read, seen, or heard, do you support or oppose the general idea of the truckers' protest?
 [asked of all respondents; n=500]



Tactics: Approval is rather steady since last week, with a majority still disapproving of the way truckers are protesting

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the way the truckers are protesting?
[asked of all respondents; n=500]

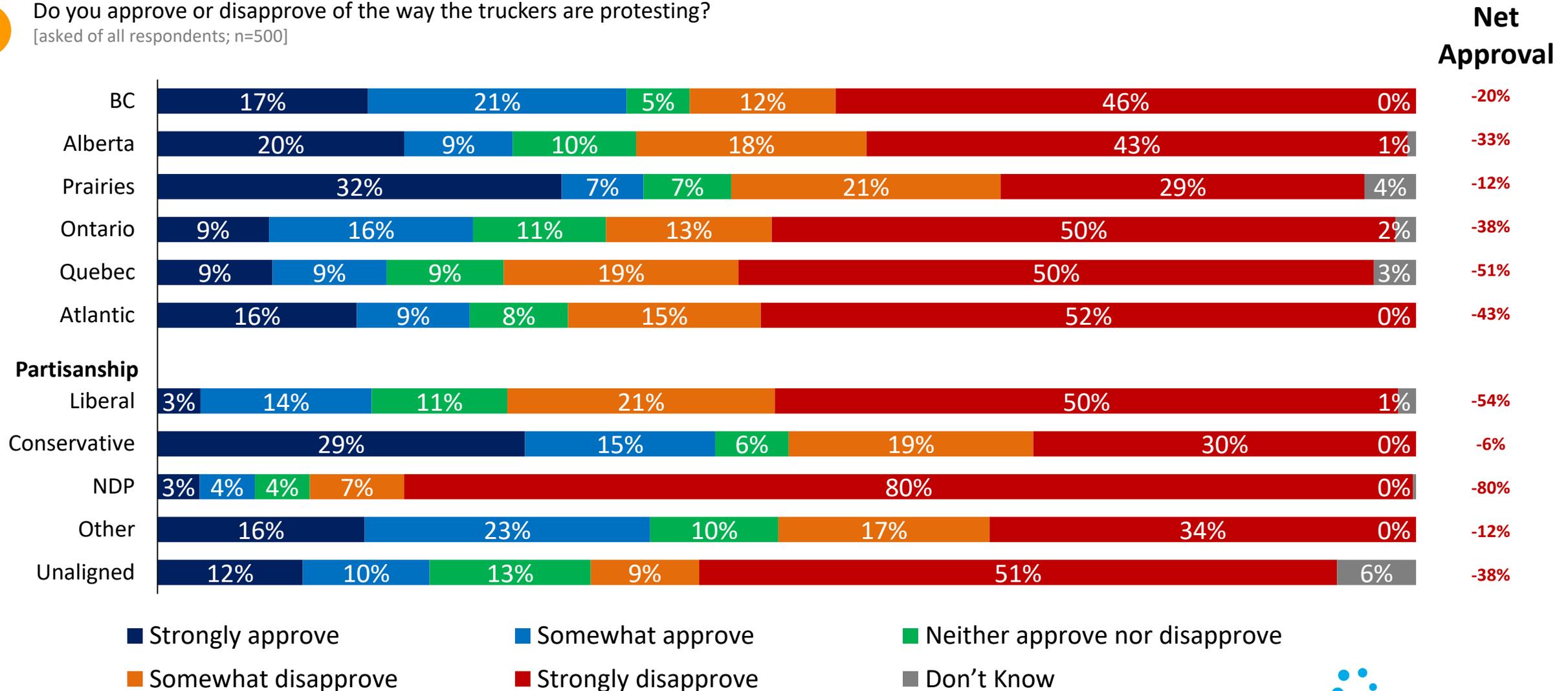


■ Strongly approve ■ Somewhat approve ■ Neither approve nor disapprove
■ Somewhat disapprove ■ Strongly disapprove ■ Don't Know



Tactics: Majority disapprove of the way truckers are protesting, highest approval rates among Conservative supporters

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the way the truckers are protesting?
[asked of all respondents; n=500]

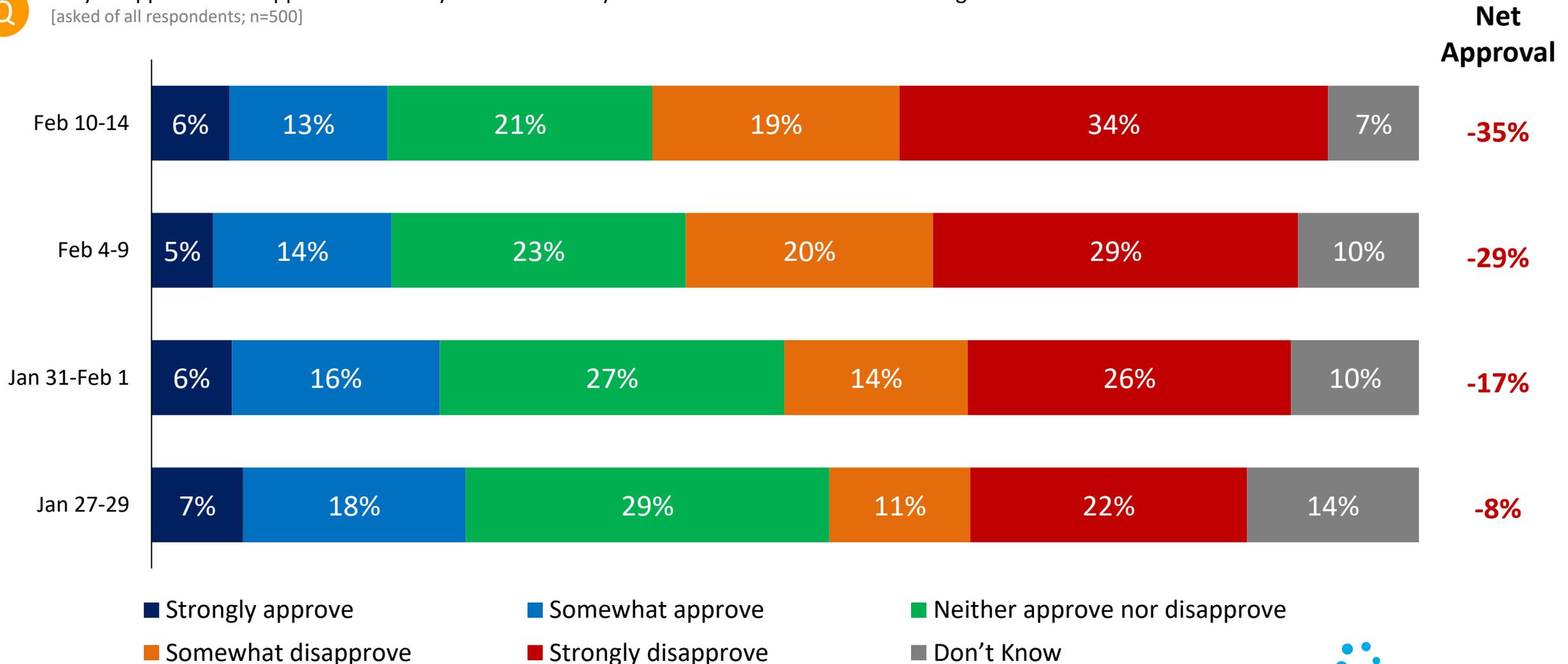


Liberal Response: The Liberal Party's disapproval rating continues to increase to an all time high since tracking began at the end of January



Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Liberal Party has handled the issue since it emerged?

[asked of all respondents; n=500]

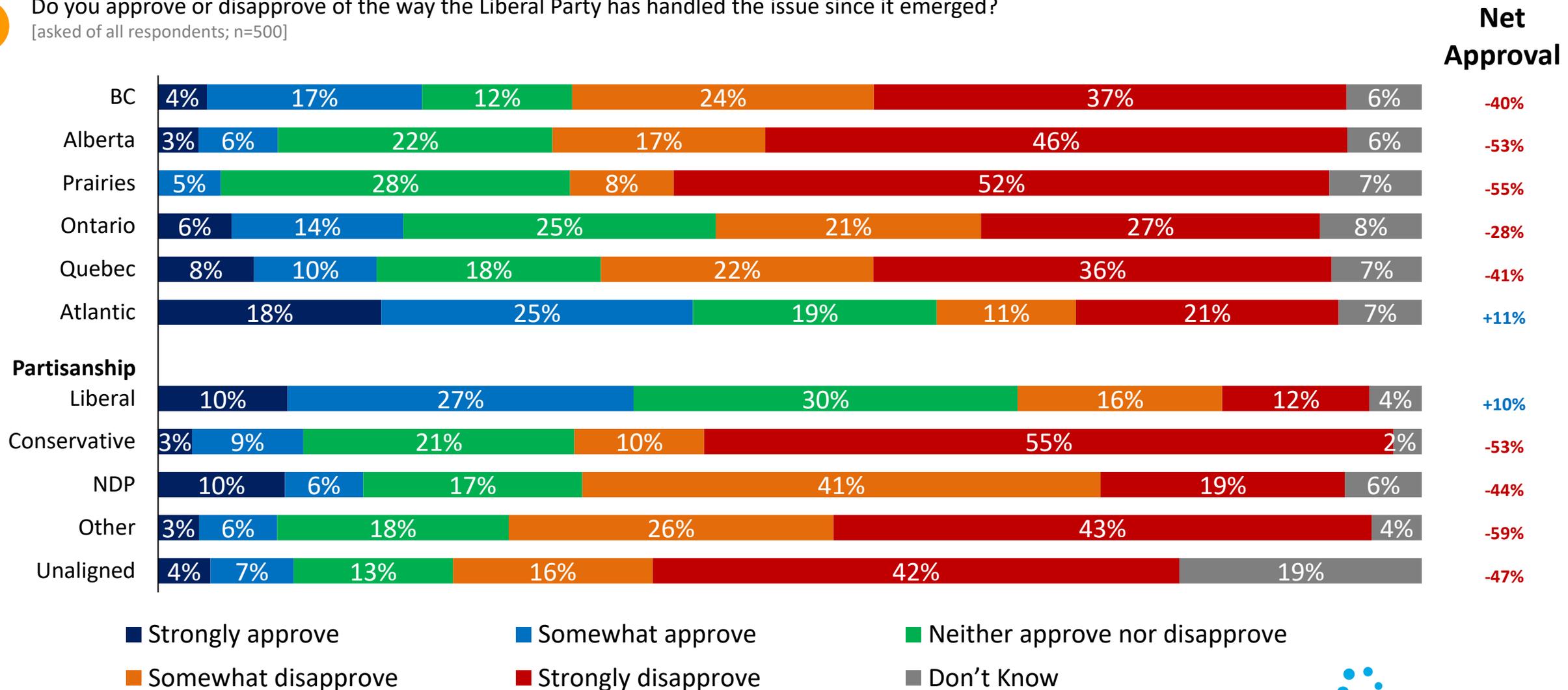


Liberal Response: Atlantic Canada is more likely to approve of the Liberals response, while highest disapproval is amongst UCP supporters



Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Liberal Party has handled the issue since it emerged?

[asked of all respondents; n=500]

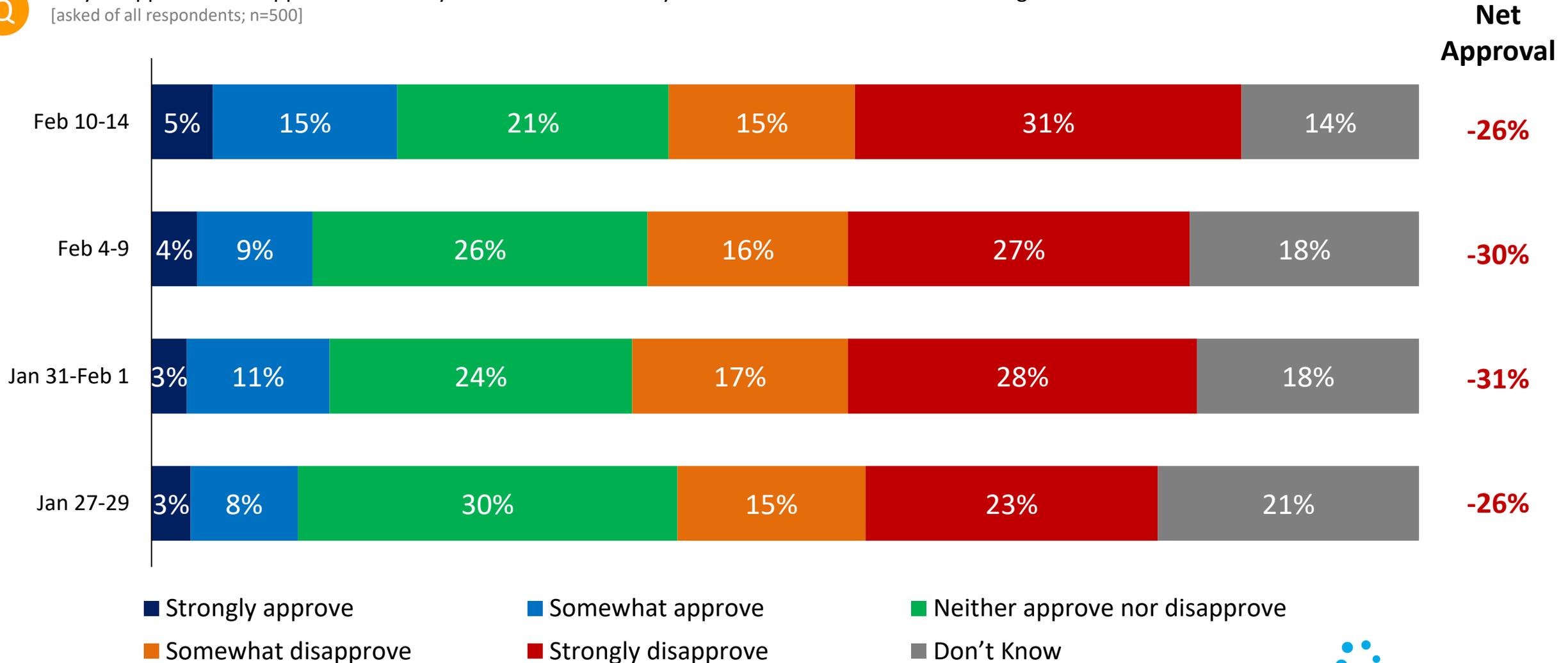


Conservative Response: Most respondents still disapprove of the Conservatives response, although approval is up by 4 pts



Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Conservative Party has handled the issue since it emerged?

[asked of all respondents; n=500]



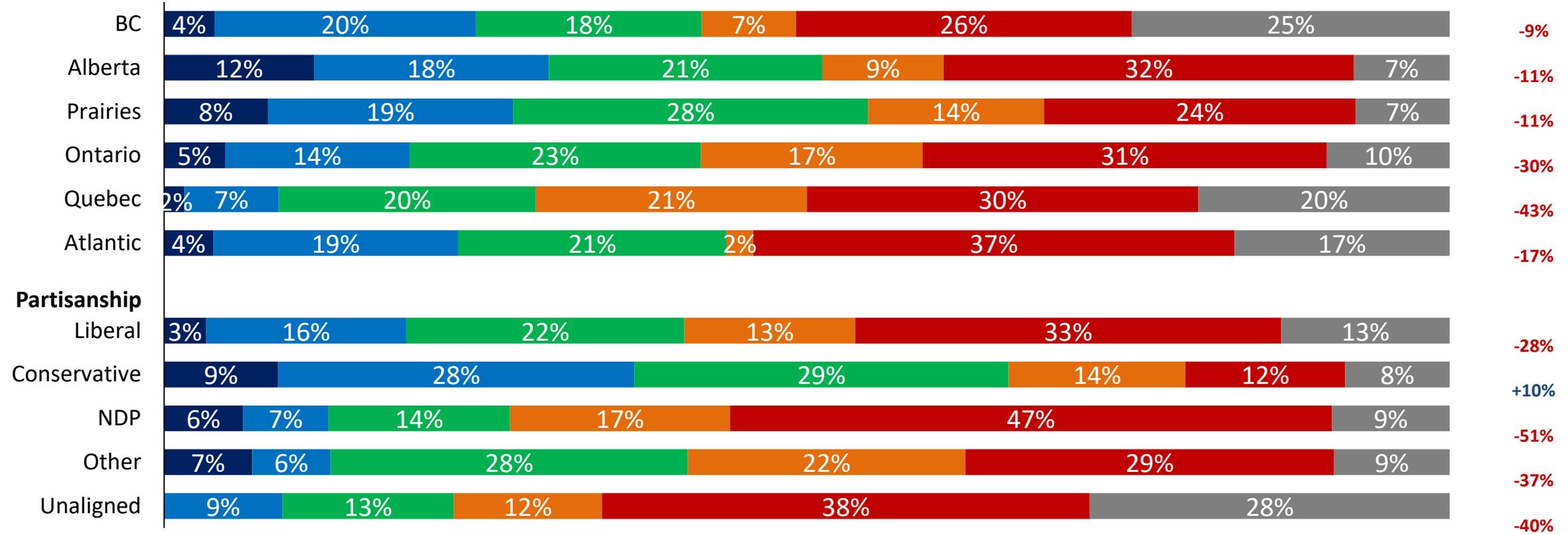
Conservative Response: Overall majority disapprove of the Conservative response, strongest amongst Quebecers & NDP supporters



Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Conservative Party has handled the issue since it emerged?

[asked of all respondents; n=500]

Net Approval



■ Strongly approve ■ Somewhat approve
■ Neither approve nor disapprove ■ Somewhat disapprove

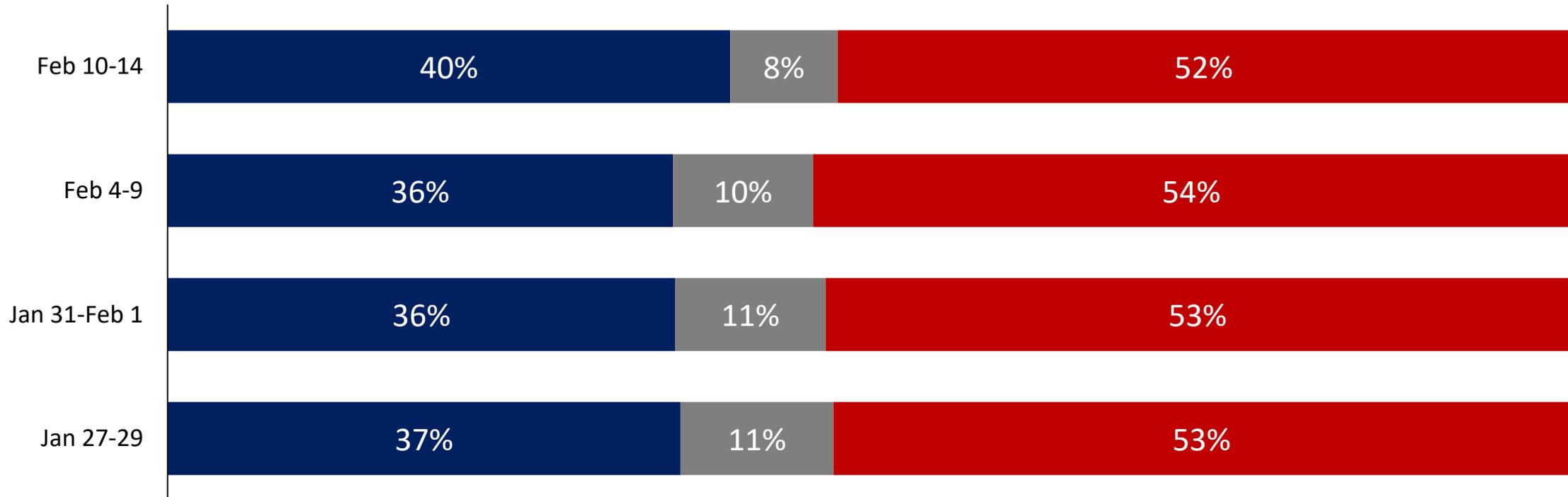


Trucker Exemptions: Support for bringing back the exemptions for unvaccinated truckers is up slightly but still views are split

Q

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

[asked of all respondents; n=500]



■ The federal government should bring back the exemption for unvaccinated truck drivers to protect supply chains and ensure Canada does not experience any shortages.

■ Don't know

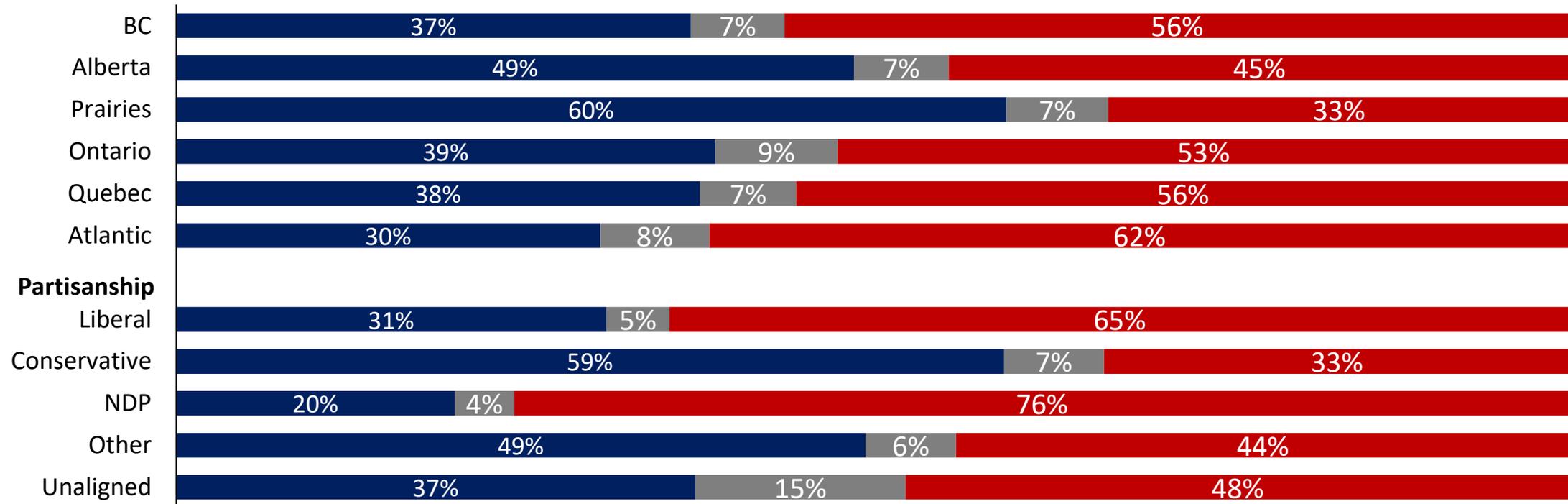
■ The federal government should continue to require that all truckers crossing the border should be vaccinated to reduce the spread of COVID-19 across the border and protect Canadians.

Trucker Exemptions: The share of those in favor of bringing back the vaccine exemptions for truckers is higher in the prairies & among UCP



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

[asked of all respondents; n=500]



■ The federal government should bring back the exemption for unvaccinated truck drivers to protect supply chains and ensure Canada does not experience any shortages.

■ Don't know

■ The federal government should continue to require that all truckers crossing the border should be vaccinated to reduce the spread of COVID-19 across the border and protect Canadians.

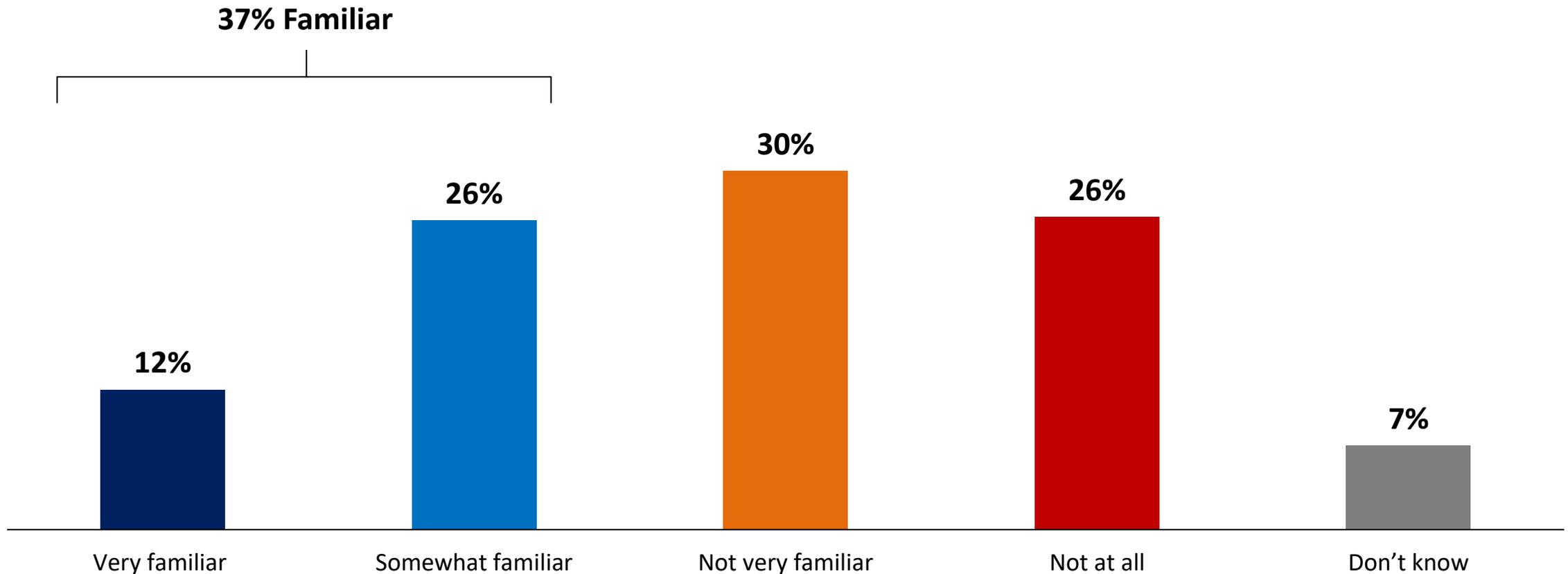
Memorandum of Understanding

Familiarity with the MoU: 4-in-10 (37%) are familiar with the MoU which asks the governor general and senate to overrule the government



At the beginning of the protest, some protest organizers presented a “memorandum of understanding” asking the Governor General and Senate to overrule Canada’s elected federal, provincial and municipal governments and remove all COVID health restrictions and vaccine mandates. How familiar are you with this memorandum of understanding?

[asked of all respondents; n=500]

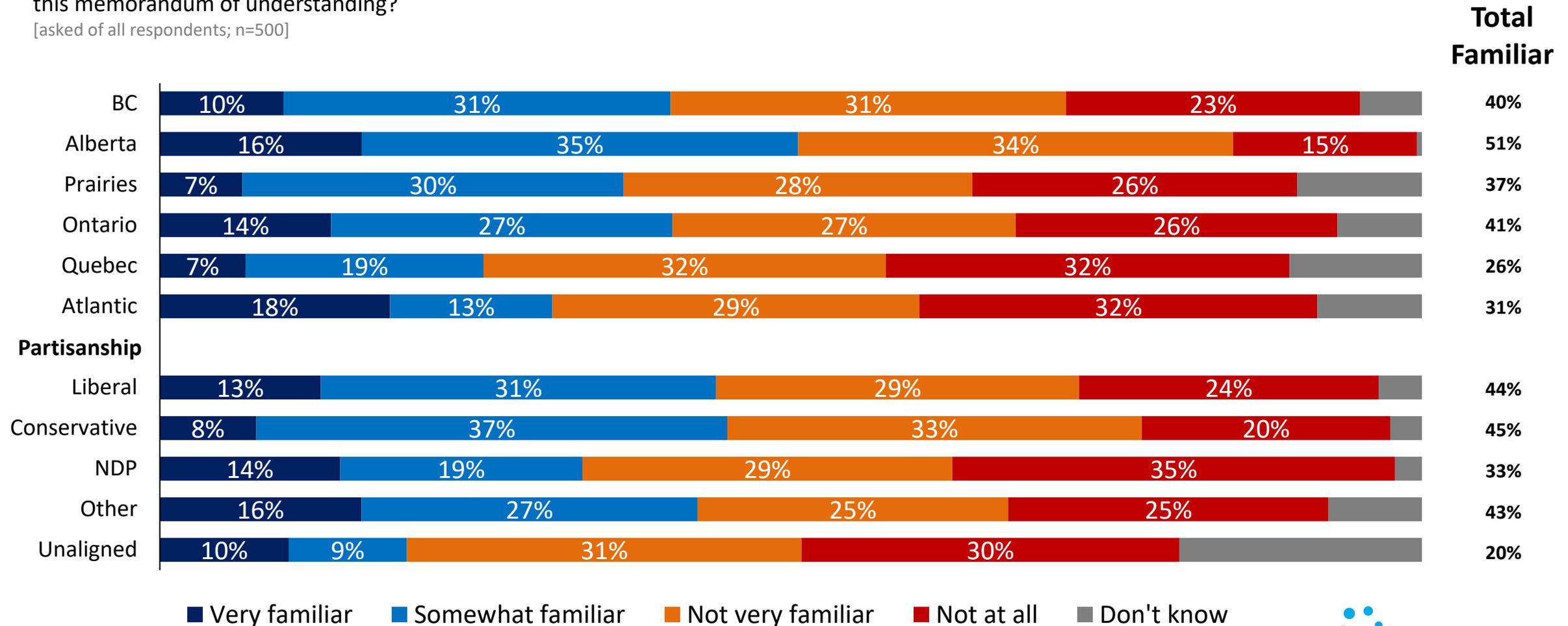


Familiarity with the MoU: Familiarity with the MoU is higher among the Alberta residents and lower among NDP supporters



At the beginning of the protest, some protest organizers presented a “memorandum of understanding” asking the Governor General and Senate to overrule Canada’s elected federal, provincial and municipal governments and remove all COVID health restrictions and vaccine mandates. How familiar are you with this memorandum of understanding?

[asked of all respondents; n=500]

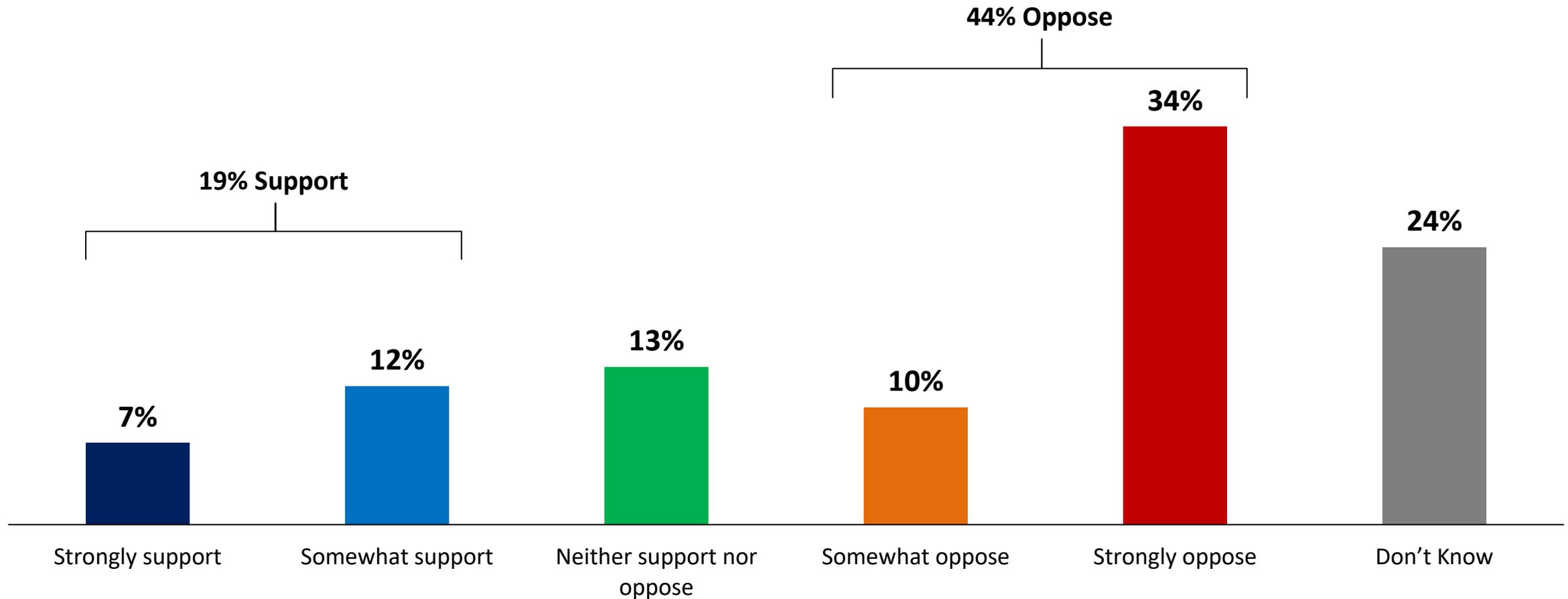


MoU Support: A plurality (44%) oppose the protestor's memorandum of understanding; only 19% support this MoU



Do you support or oppose the measures included in the protesters' memorandum of understanding?

[asked of all respondents; n=500]

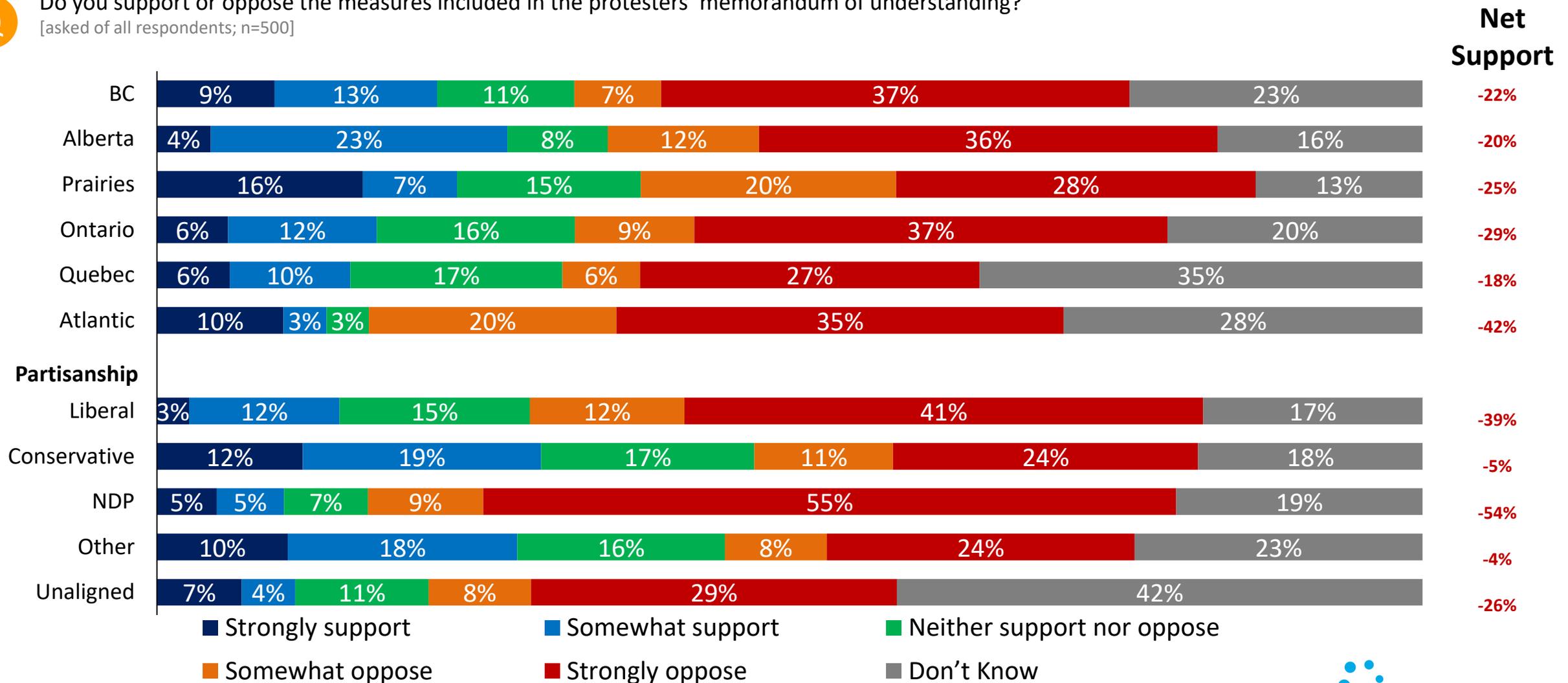


MoU Support: Support for the memorandum is higher among Quebec residents and the supporters of the Conservative Party



Do you support or oppose the measures included in the protesters' memorandum of understanding?

[asked of all respondents; n=500]



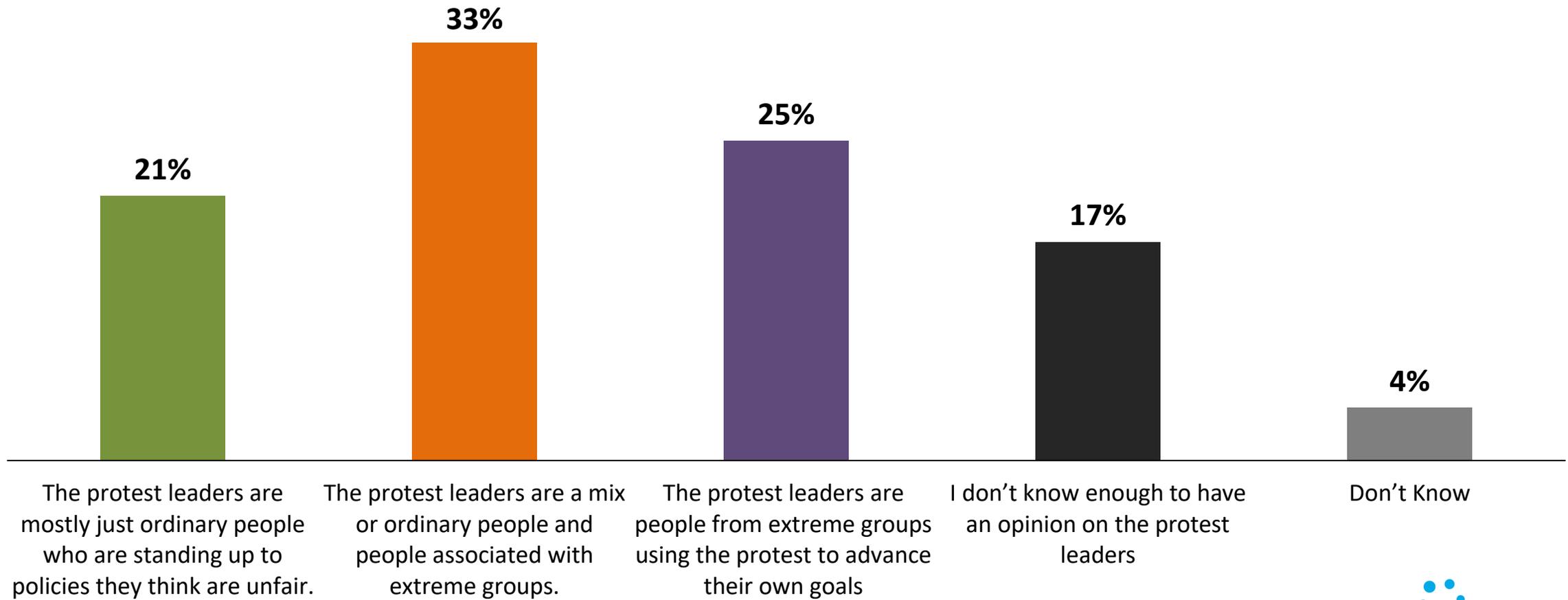
Protest Leadership

Protest Leadership: A plurality (33%) of people believe that the protest leaders a mix of ordinary people & those associated with extreme groups ²²



There have been questions about the people who have been leading the protests. Which of the following points of views is closest to your own?

[asked of all respondents; n=500]

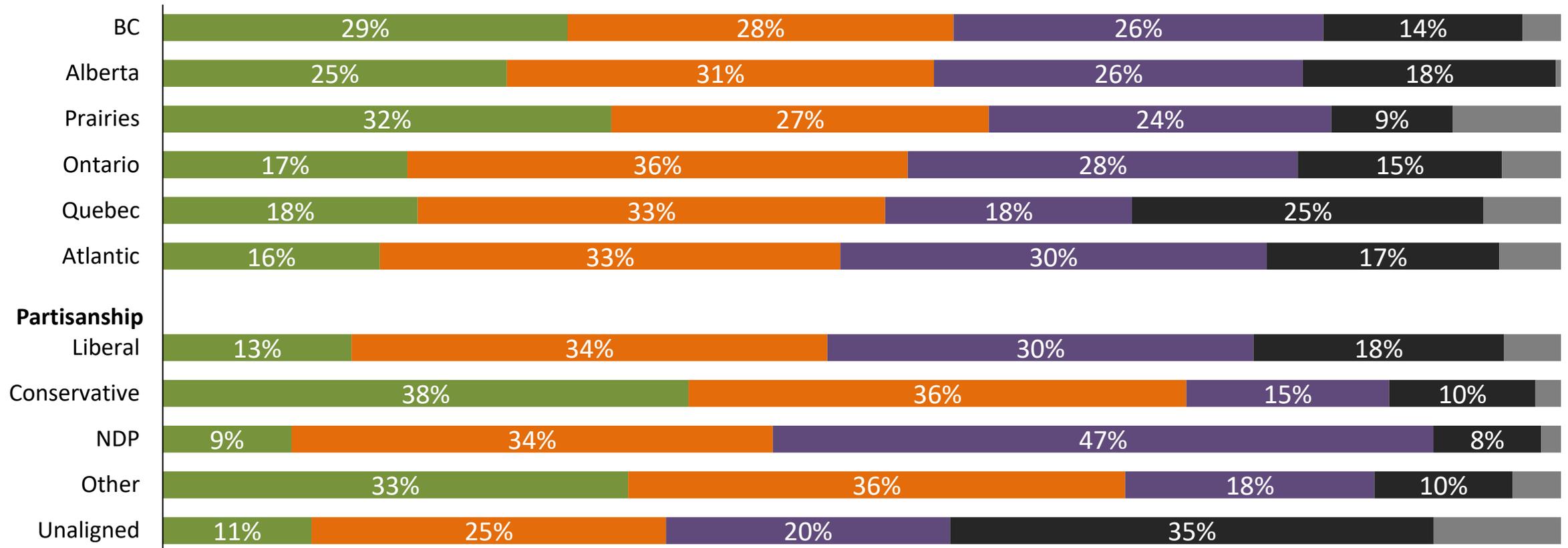


Protest Leadership: Conservative supporters and those in the prairies are more likely to say that the protesters are ordinary people



There have been questions about the people who have been leading the protests. Which of the following points of views is closest to your own?

[asked of all respondents; n=500]



- The protest leaders are mostly just ordinary people who are standing up to policies they think are unfair.
- The protest leaders are a mix or ordinary people and people associated with extreme groups.
- The protest leaders are people from extreme groups using the protest to advance their own goals
- I don't know enough to have an opinion on the protest leaders
- Don't Know

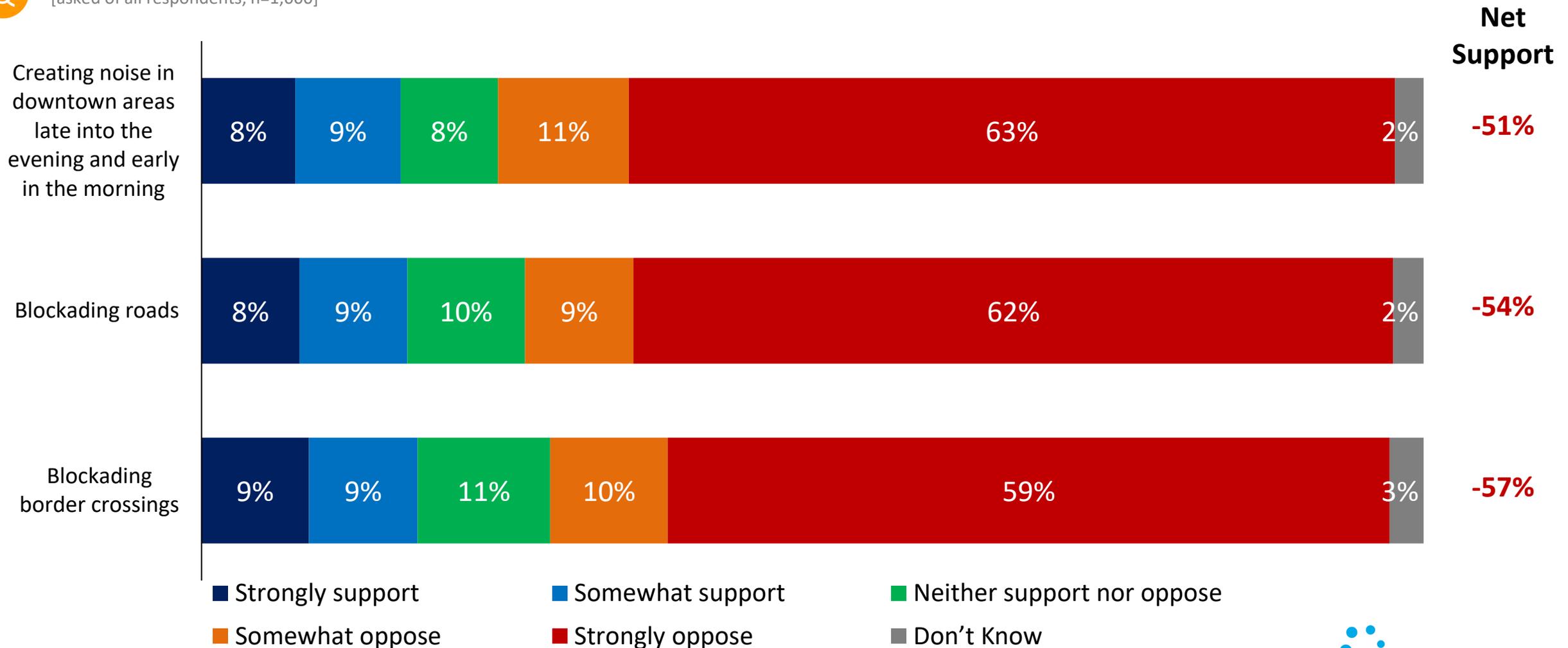
Protest Actions

Protest Actions: Around 7-in-10 respondents oppose creating noise in downtown areas, blocking roads and blocking border crossings



Do you support or oppose truck drivers who are opposed to vaccine mandates undertaking the following activities to advance their concerns:

[asked of all respondents; n=1,000]

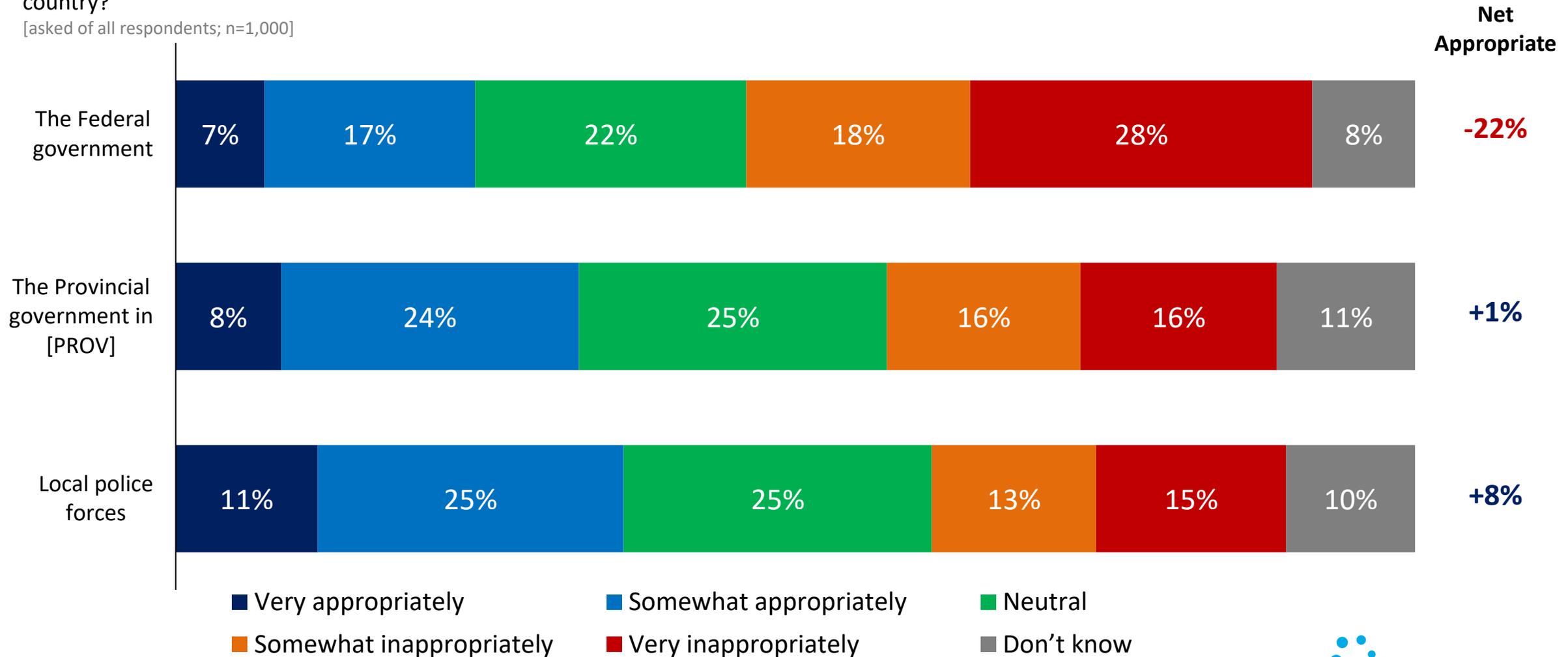


Response to the Protests: Around half (46%) believe that the federal government responded inappropriately to the trucker protests



To what degree do you think each of the following groups have responded appropriately or inappropriately to the trucker protests across the country?

[asked of all respondents; n=1,000]

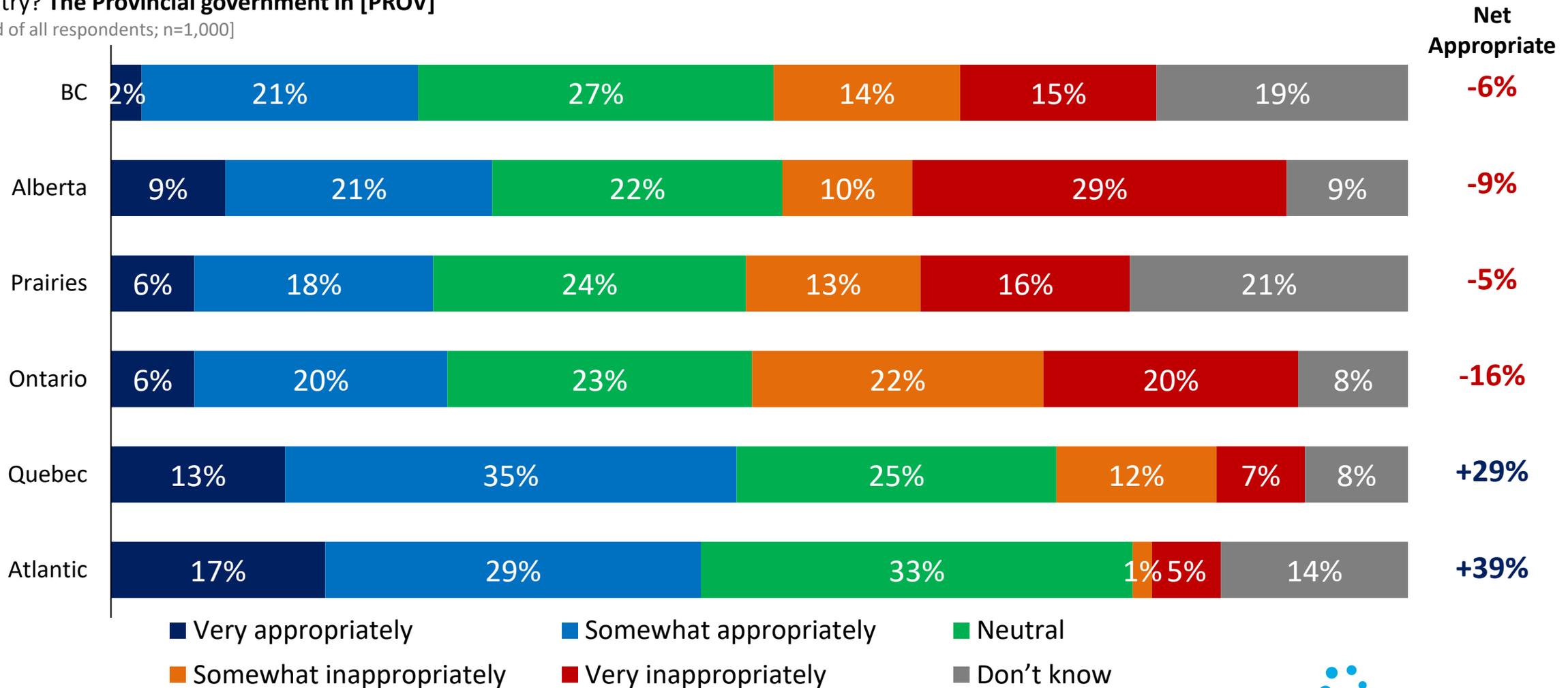


Note: Results from the first two waves of tracking in February are pooled to increase the sample size.

Provincial Response: Ontario's response is viewed most negatively with only 26% saying it was appropriate²⁷



To what degree do you think each of the following groups have responded appropriately or inappropriately to the trucker protests across the country? **The Provincial government in [PROV]**
 [asked of all respondents; n=1,000]



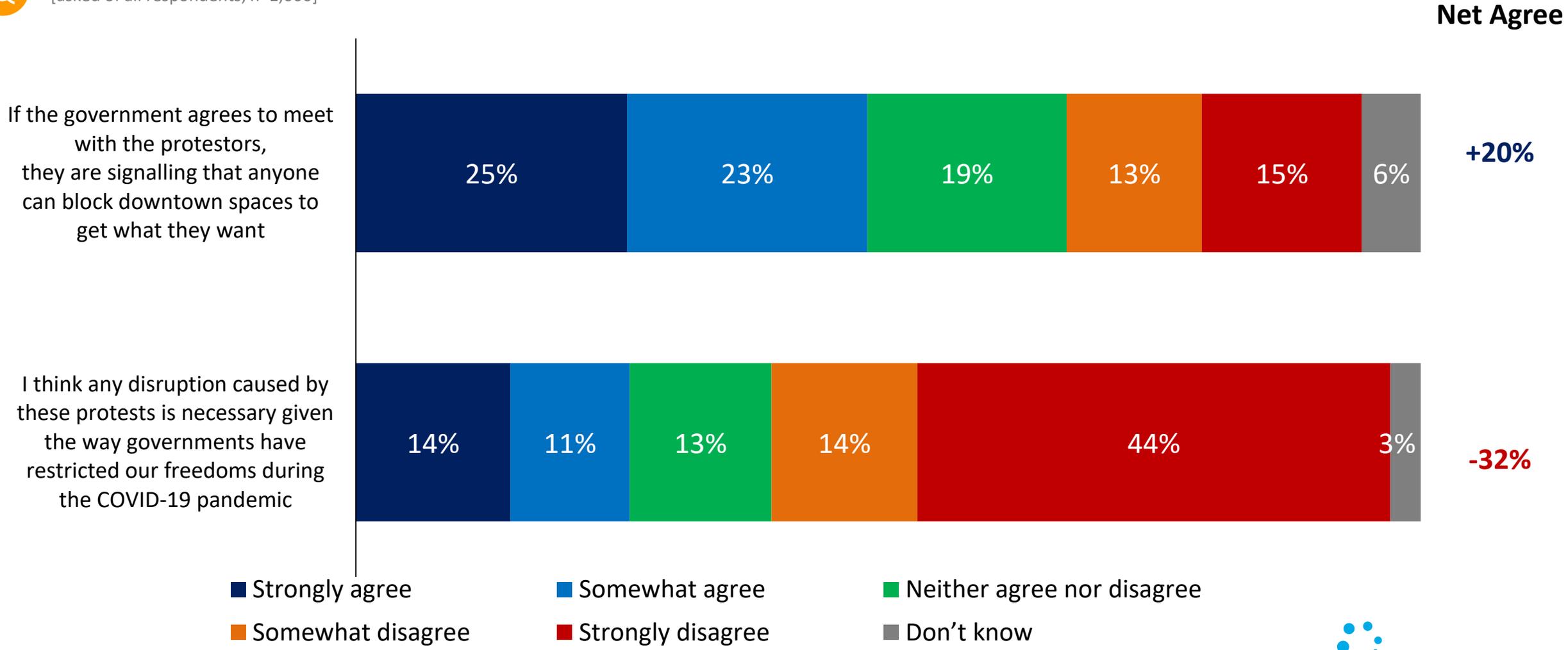
Note: Results from the first two waves of tracking in February are pooled to increase the sample size.

Attitudes: 6-in-10 (58%) oppose causing interruptions through protests²⁸ given the way government is restricting freedom during the pandemic



Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

[asked of all respondents; n=1,000]



Note: Results from the first two waves of tracking in February are pooled to increase the sample size.

Methodology

Survey Methodology

These are the results of an online survey conducted between February 10th and February 14th, 2022.

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 samples. 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=842 Canadian citizens, 18 years or older. The results are nationally weighted to n=500 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

Field Dates: February 10th and February 14th, 2022.

Weighting: Results for Canada are weighted by age, gender, region, and party identification 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	64	7.7%	68	13.8%
Men 35-54	122	14.6%	80	16.3%
Men 55+	197	23.6%	89	18.3%
Women 18-34	114	13.6%	68	14.0%
Women 35-54	157	18.8%	83	17.0%
Women 55+	182	21.8%	101	20.6%
Region				
BC	104	12.4%	66	13.1%
AB	80	9.5%	56	11.2%
Prairies	41	4.9%	33	6.6%
ON	432	51.3%	194	38.8%
QC	136	16.2%	117	23.4%
Atlantic	49	5.8%	34	6.9%



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