

Election Interference

Follow-Up Study



Public Opinion Research

Release Date: June 8, 2023

Field Dates: June 1 to 5, 2023



Key Findings

1

Public engagement in the alleged election interference controversy has not grown since March.

43% of respondents have been closely following the controversy regarding China's alleged interference in Canada's 2019 and 2021 elections, representing a slight increase of 3 points since March.

2

Public reaction to the controversy has remained largely unchanged.

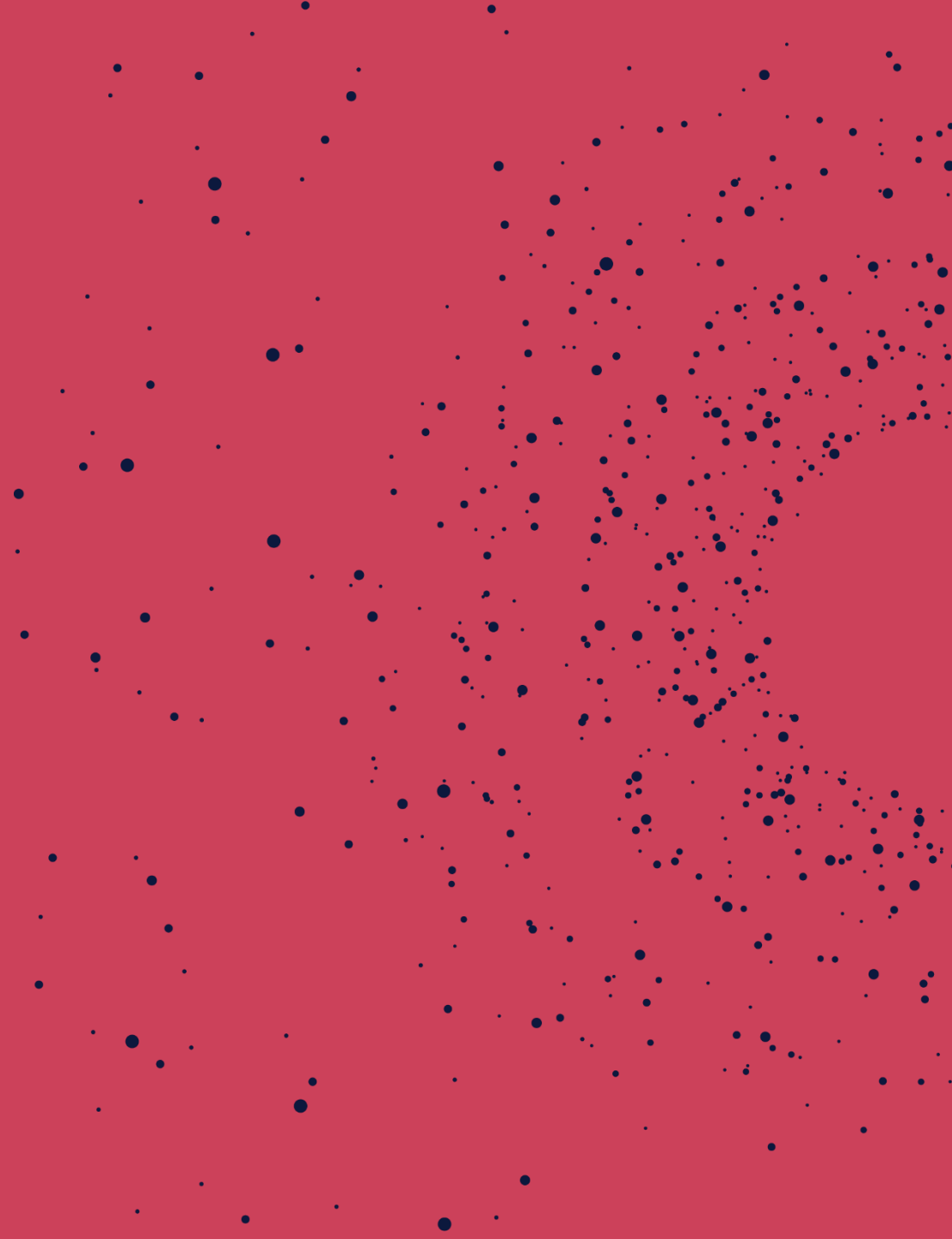
63% report being angry when they first heard about the allegation that China has been interfering in Canada's elections, down 1 point since March. 54% believe that China's alleged interference had at least some impact on which party formed the government, down 4 points since March.

3

Respondents are split on their agreement with David Johnston's report.

3-in-5 have not been following the release of the foreign interference report closely. There does not seem to be a consensus on the special rapporteur's recommendation – 27% agree, 32% disagree, and 41% are either neutral or don't know.

Election Interference



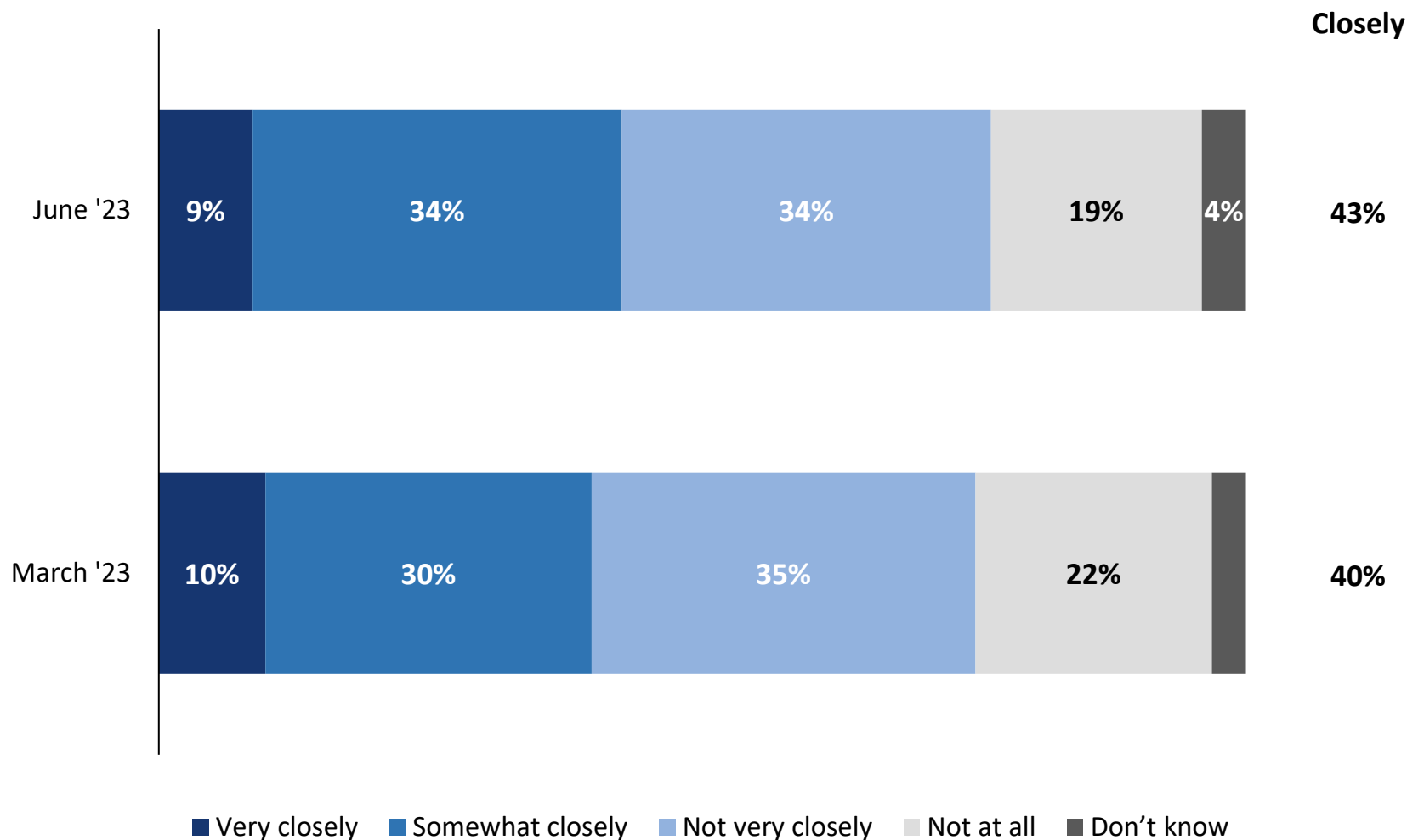
Awareness:

Awareness of China's alleged election interference up marginally by 3 points since March, now at 43%



How closely have you been following the controversy about China's alleged interference in Canada's 2019 and 2021 elections?

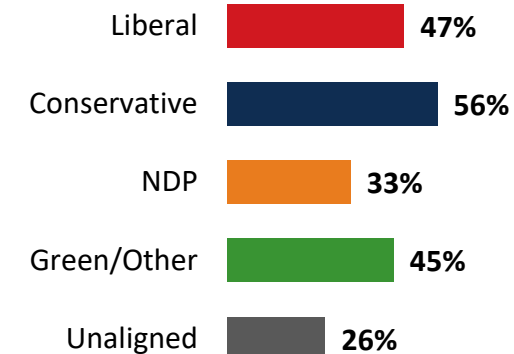
[asked of all respondents, n=1,000]



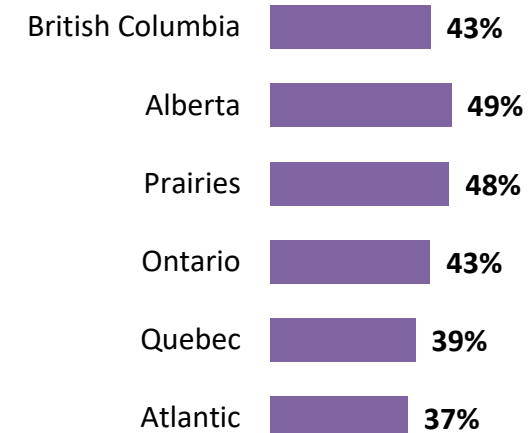
Segmentation

Respondents who say at least 'Somewhat closely'

Federal Party ID



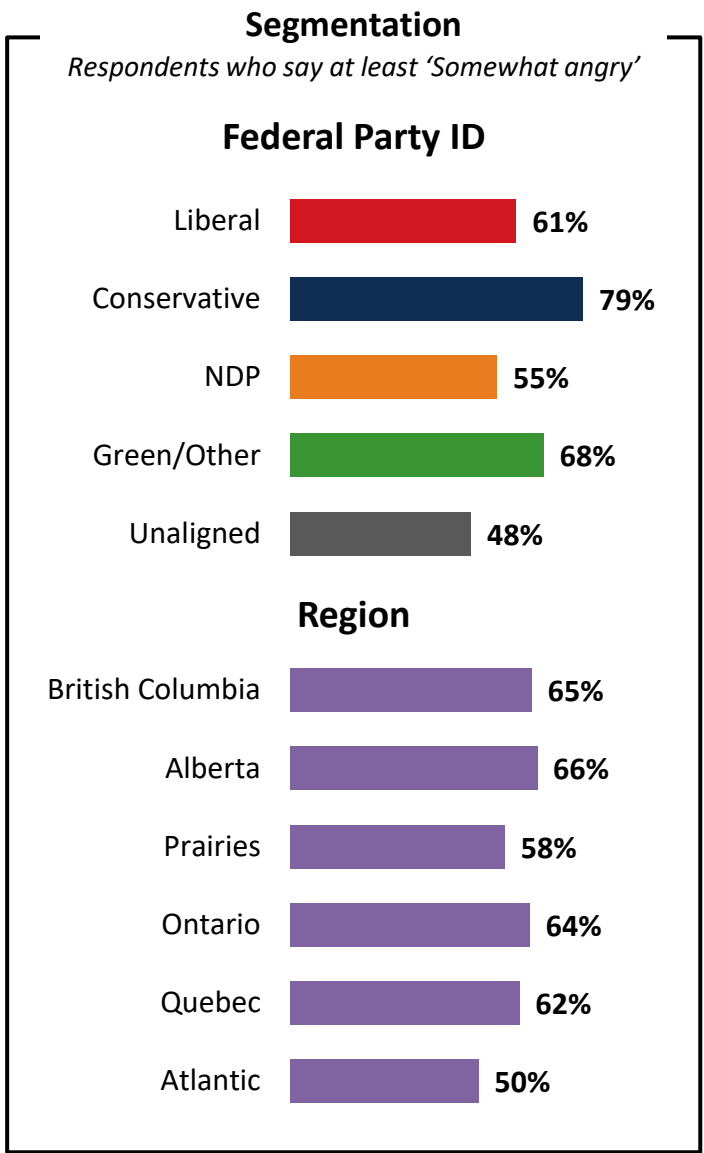
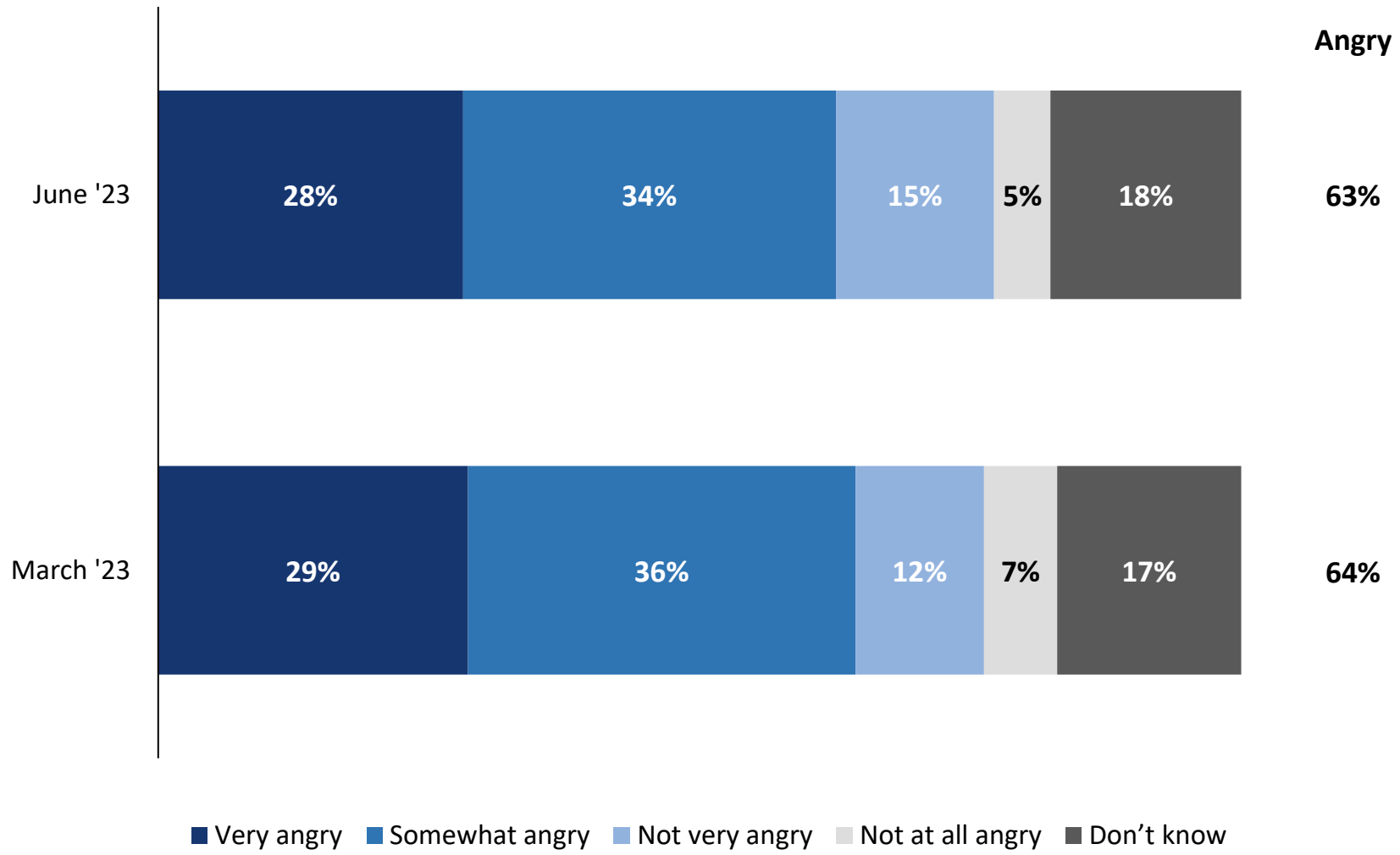
Region



Initial Reaction:

Feeling of anger steady since March, now at 63%; 3-in-5 Liberals report being angry

Q How did you feel when you heard the allegation that China has been interfering in Canada's 2019 and 2021 elections?
[asked of all respondents, n=1,000]

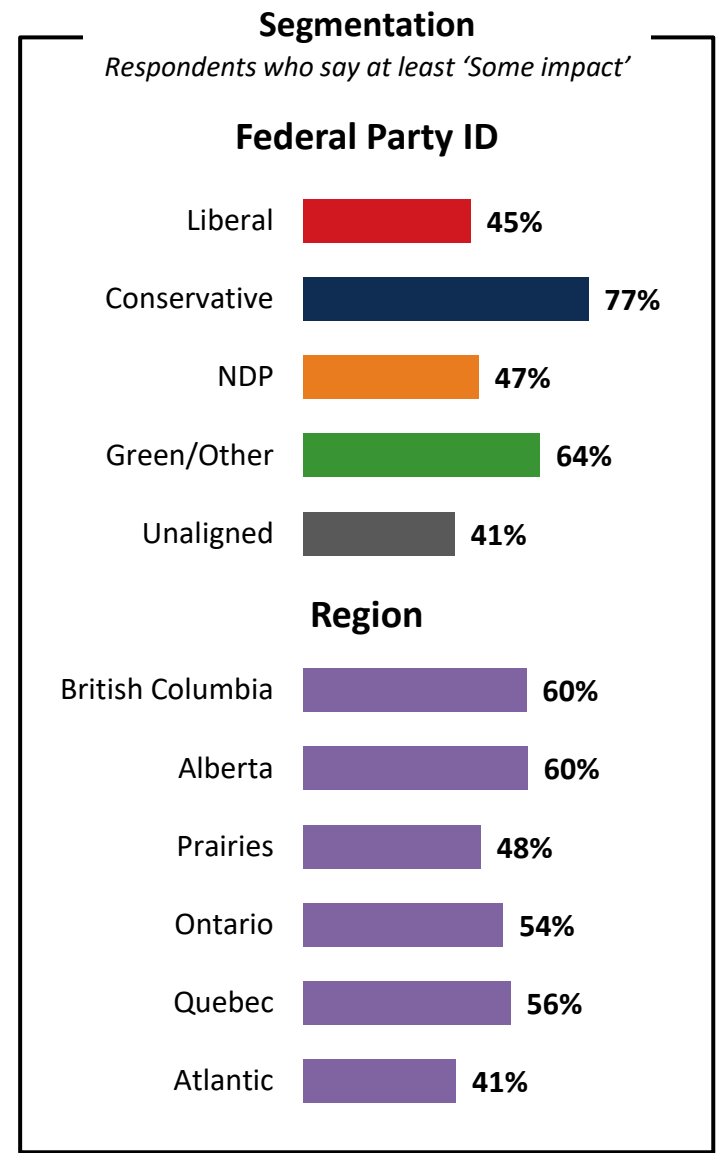
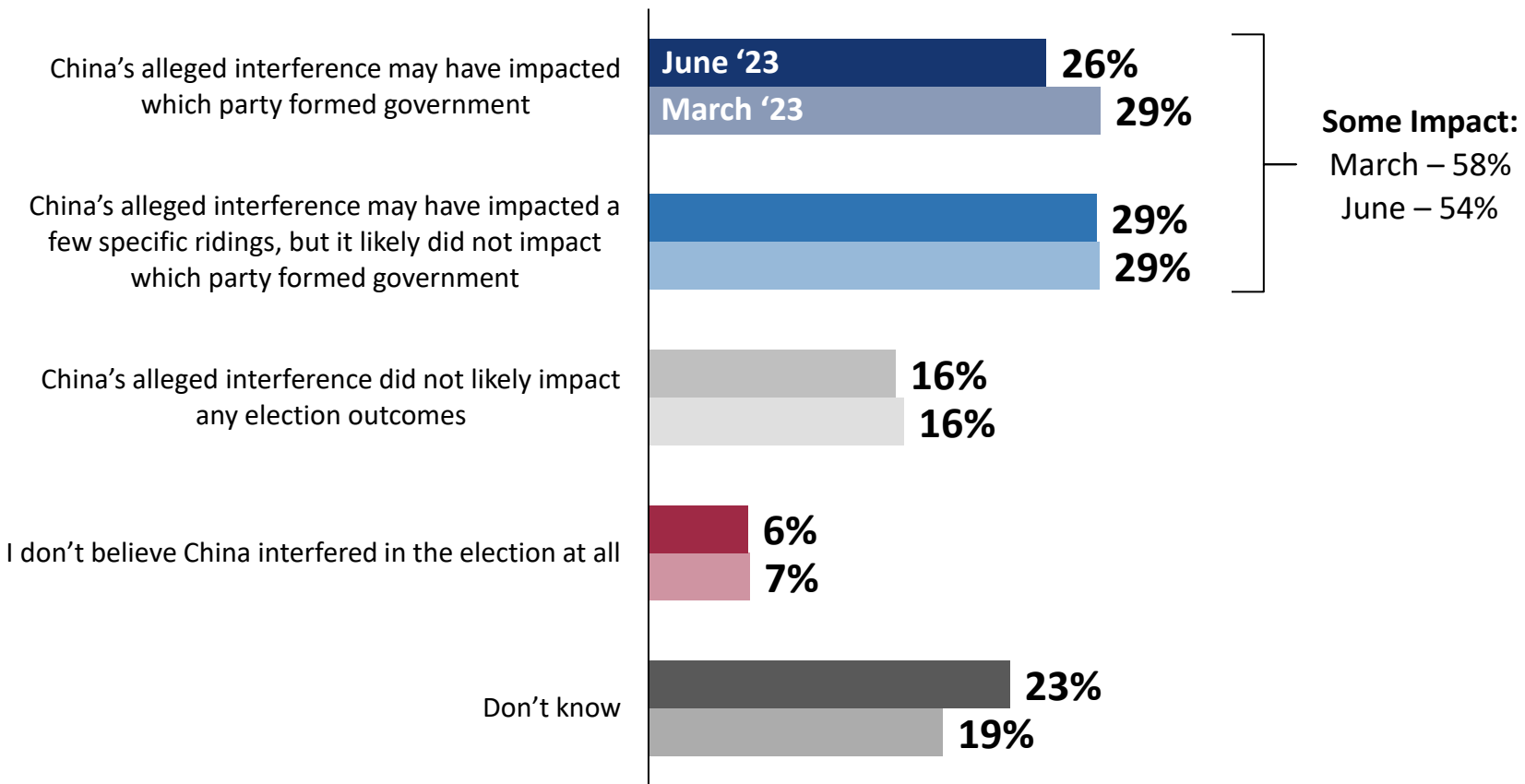


Impact on Elections:

Agreement that China's alleged interference had at least some impact up marginally



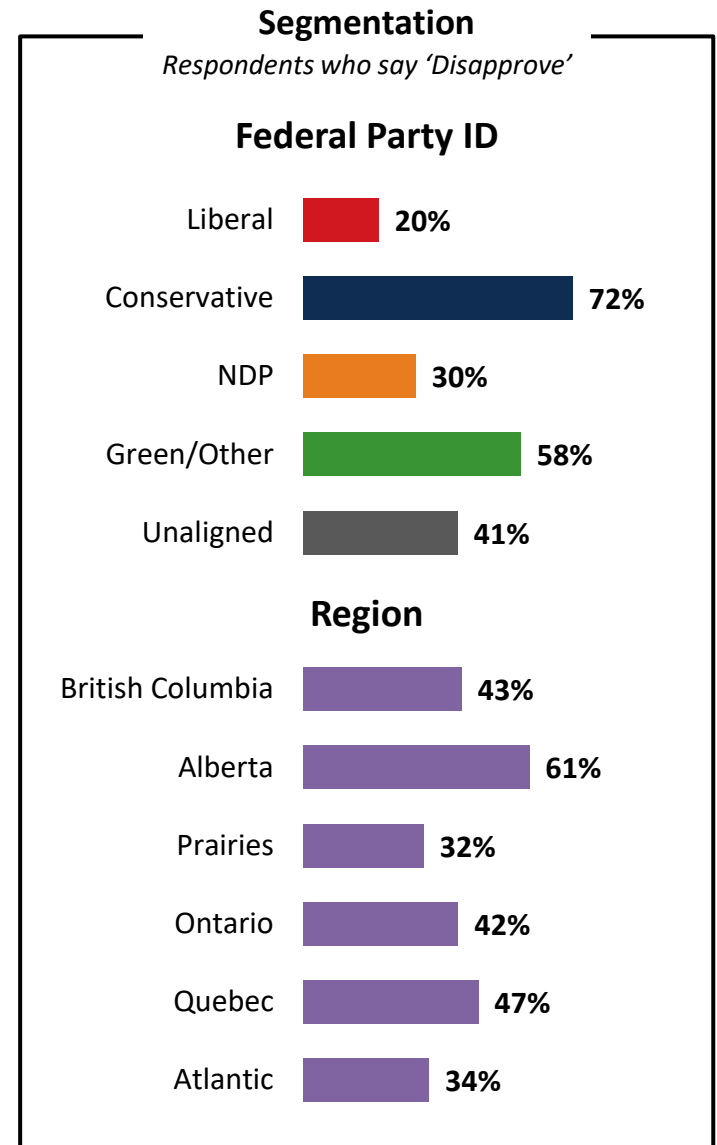
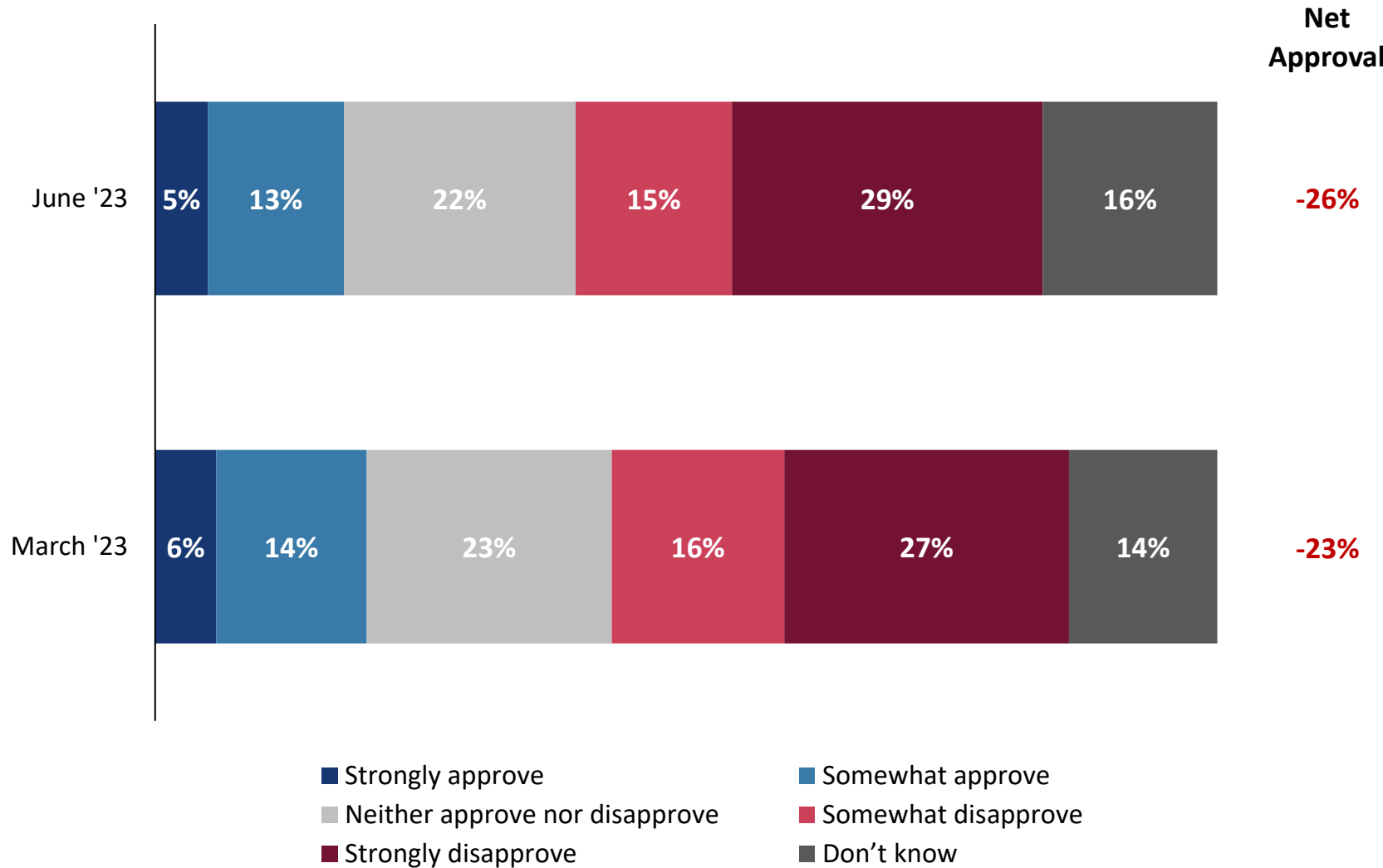
Which of the following statements best reflects your view of the impact of China's alleged interference in the 2019 and 2021 elections?
[asked of all respondents, n=1,000]



Government Reaction:

Government approval steady since March, now at 18%; 3-in-4 Conservatives and 1-in-5 Liberals disapprove

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the way Justin Trudeau has handled the issue since it emerged?
[asked of all respondents, n=1,000]



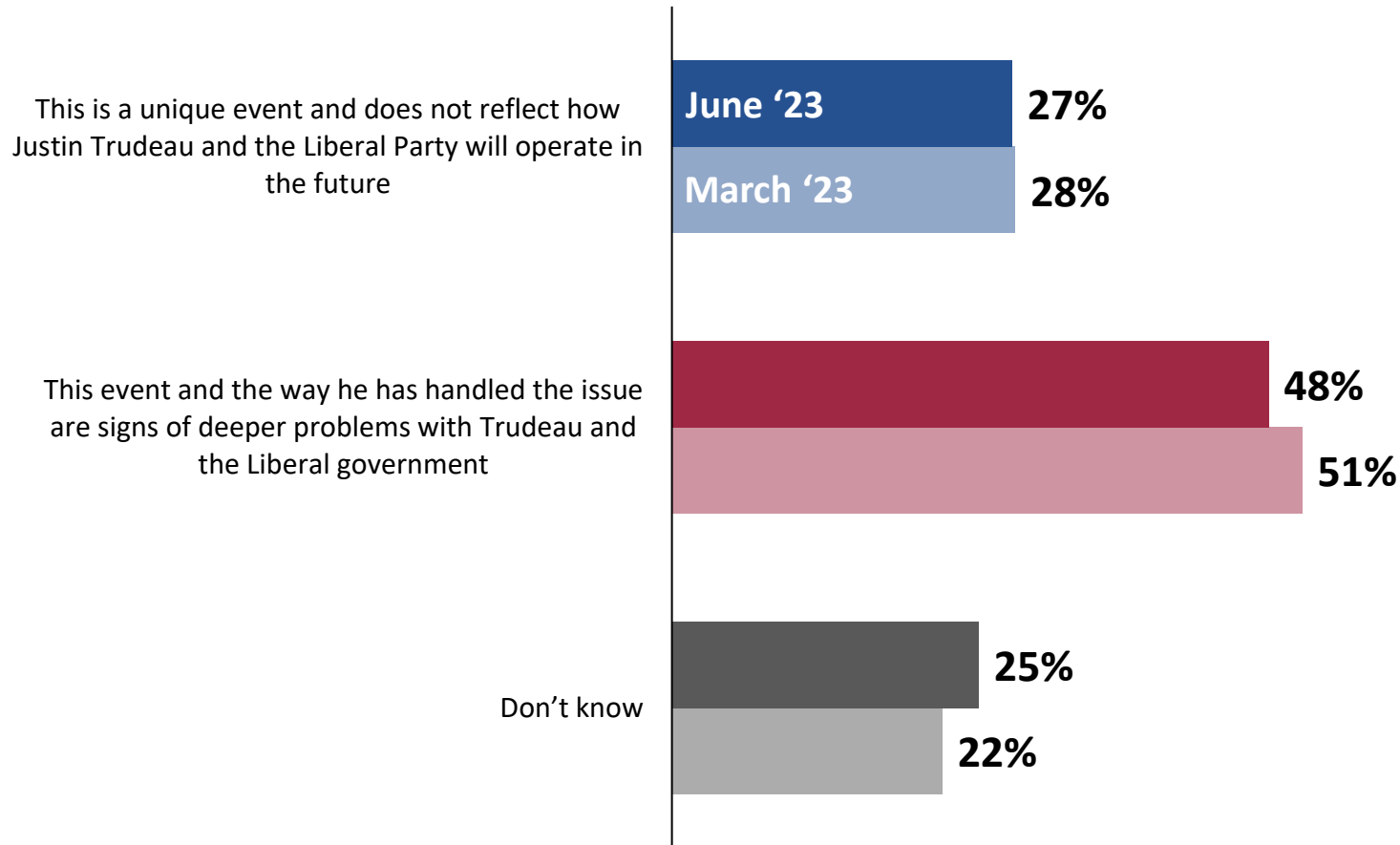
Systemic or Episodic:

Over half think that this is a systemic issue and a sign of deeper problems, up a marginal 3 points since March



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

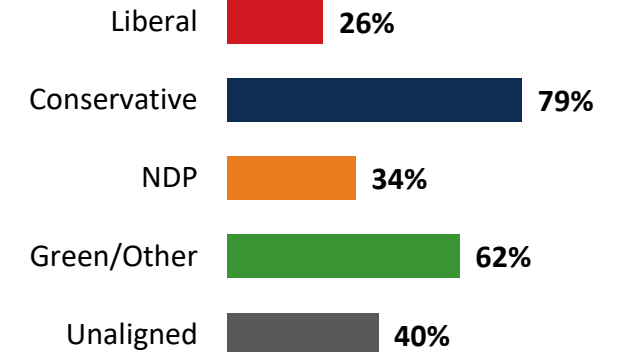
[asked of all respondents, n=1,000]



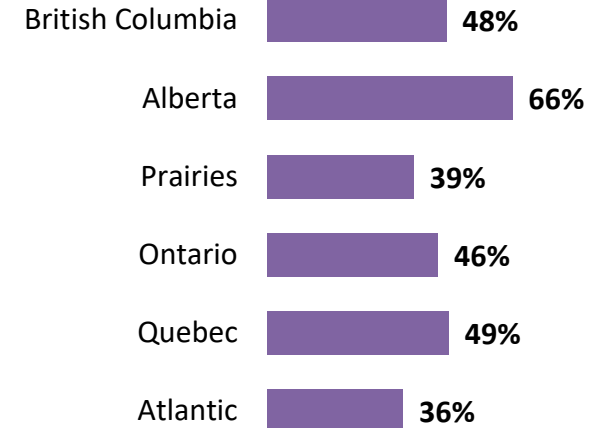
Segmentation

Respondents who say 'Signs of deeper problems'

Federal Party ID



Region



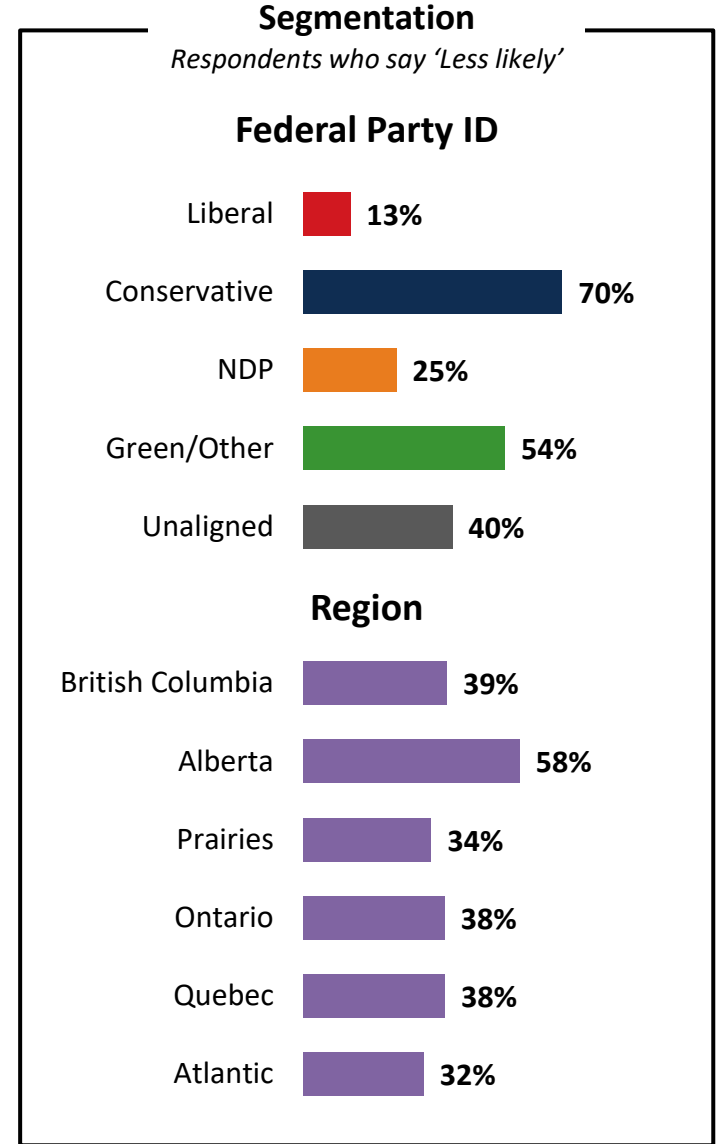
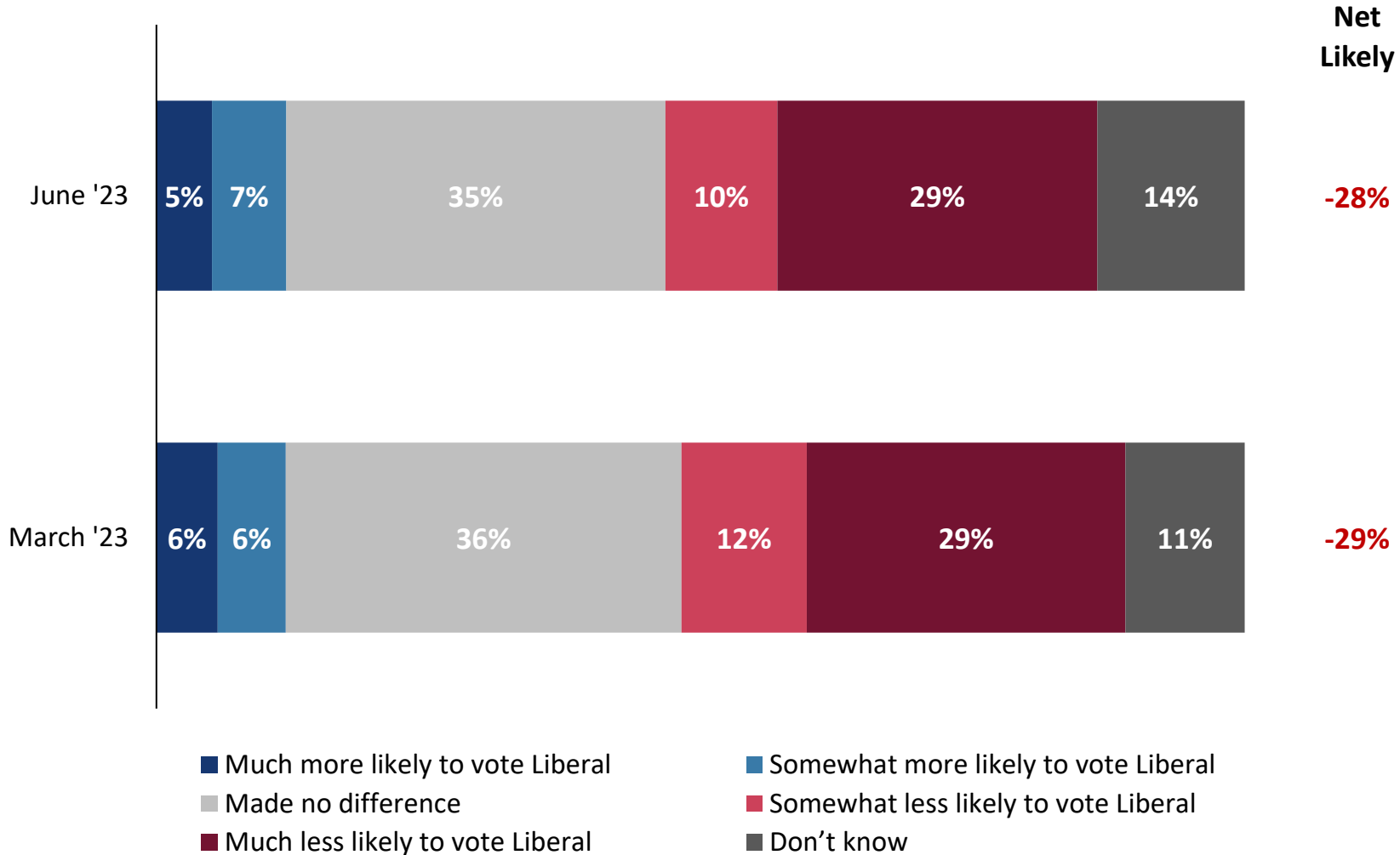
Impact on Vote:

There is no significant change in impact on vote since March



Did the initial actions and Trudeau's response leave you feeling more or less likely to vote for Justin Trudeau and the Liberal Party?

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



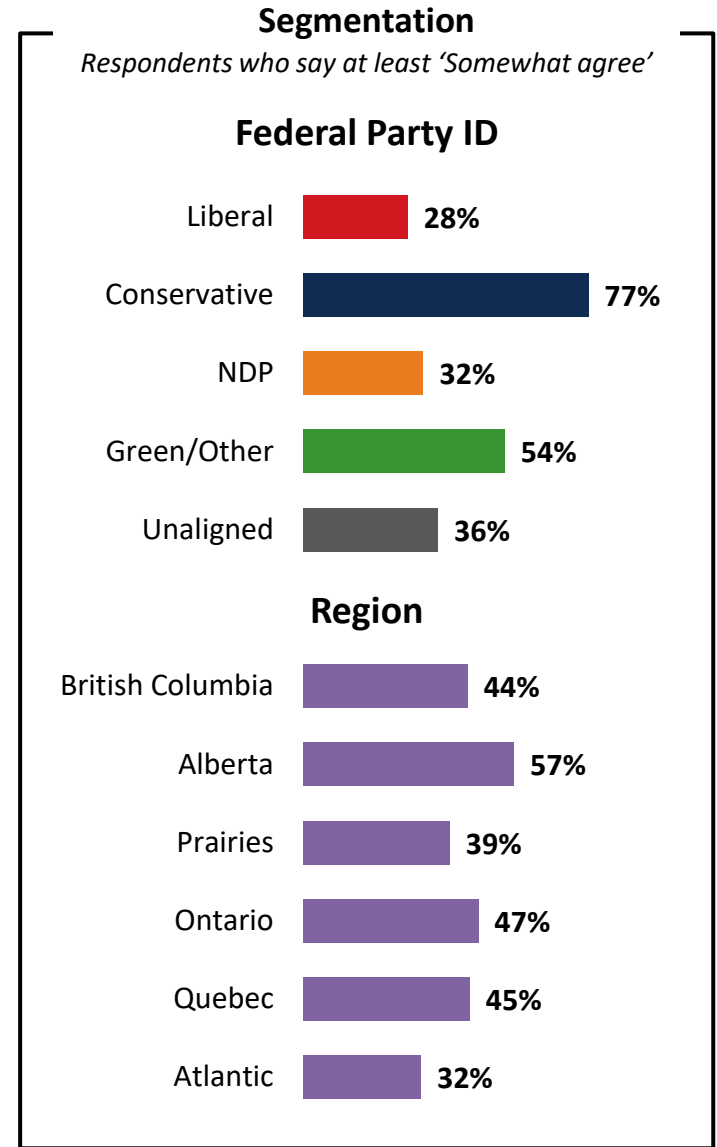
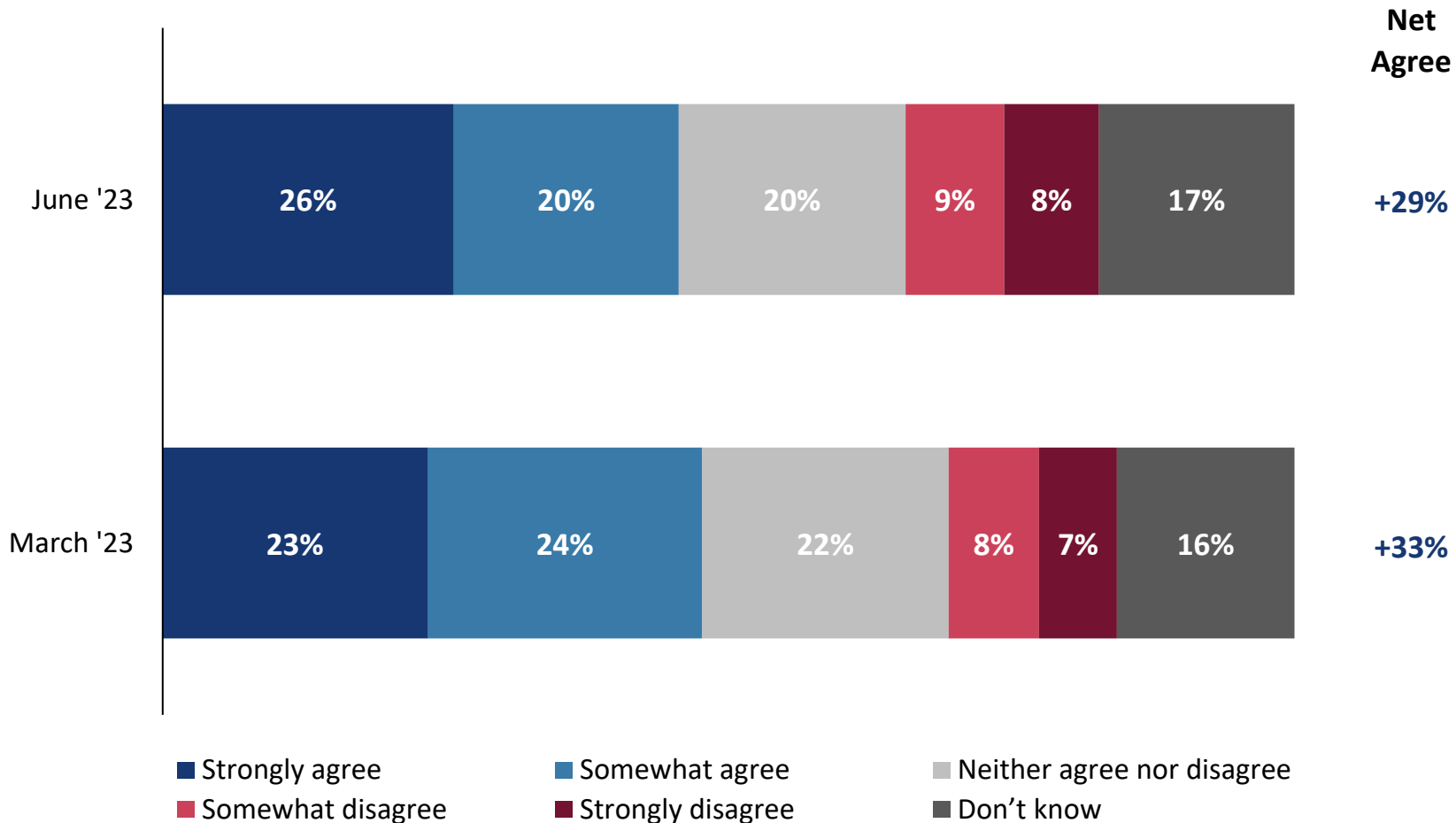
Agreement with Opposition message:

Agreement with the opposition statement steady since March; 1-in-4 Liberals also agree with the opposition

Q Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements:

The Prime Minister has been aware of China's election interference for some time but chose not to take action because his party benefited from that interference.

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



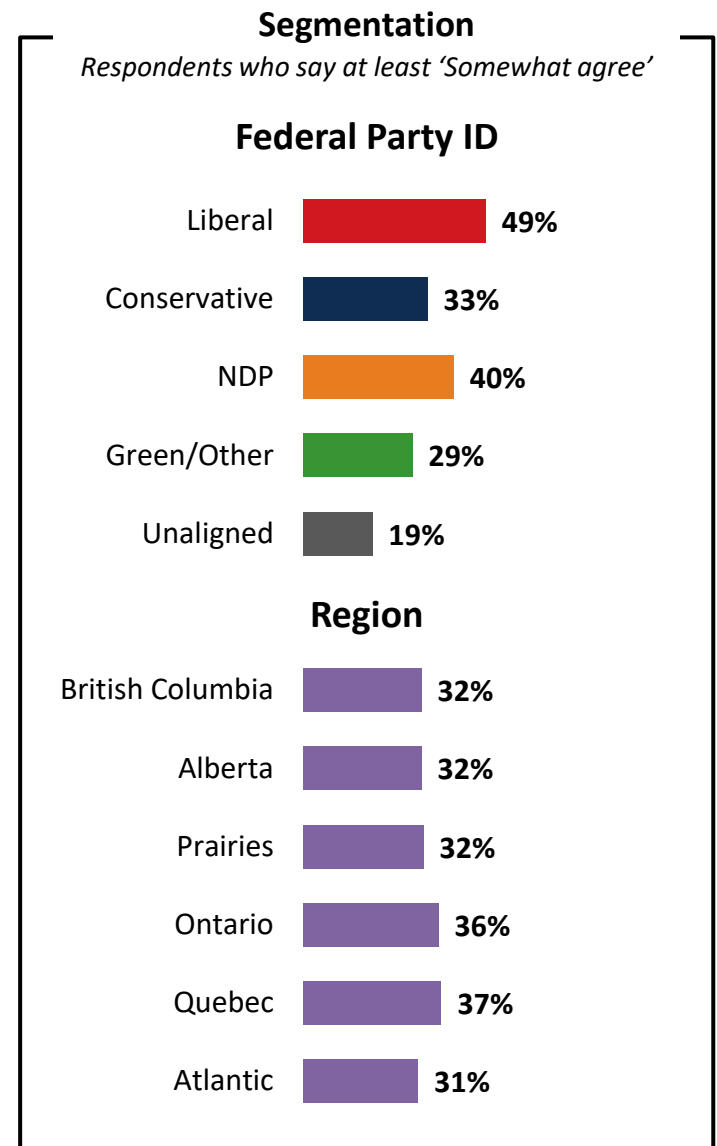
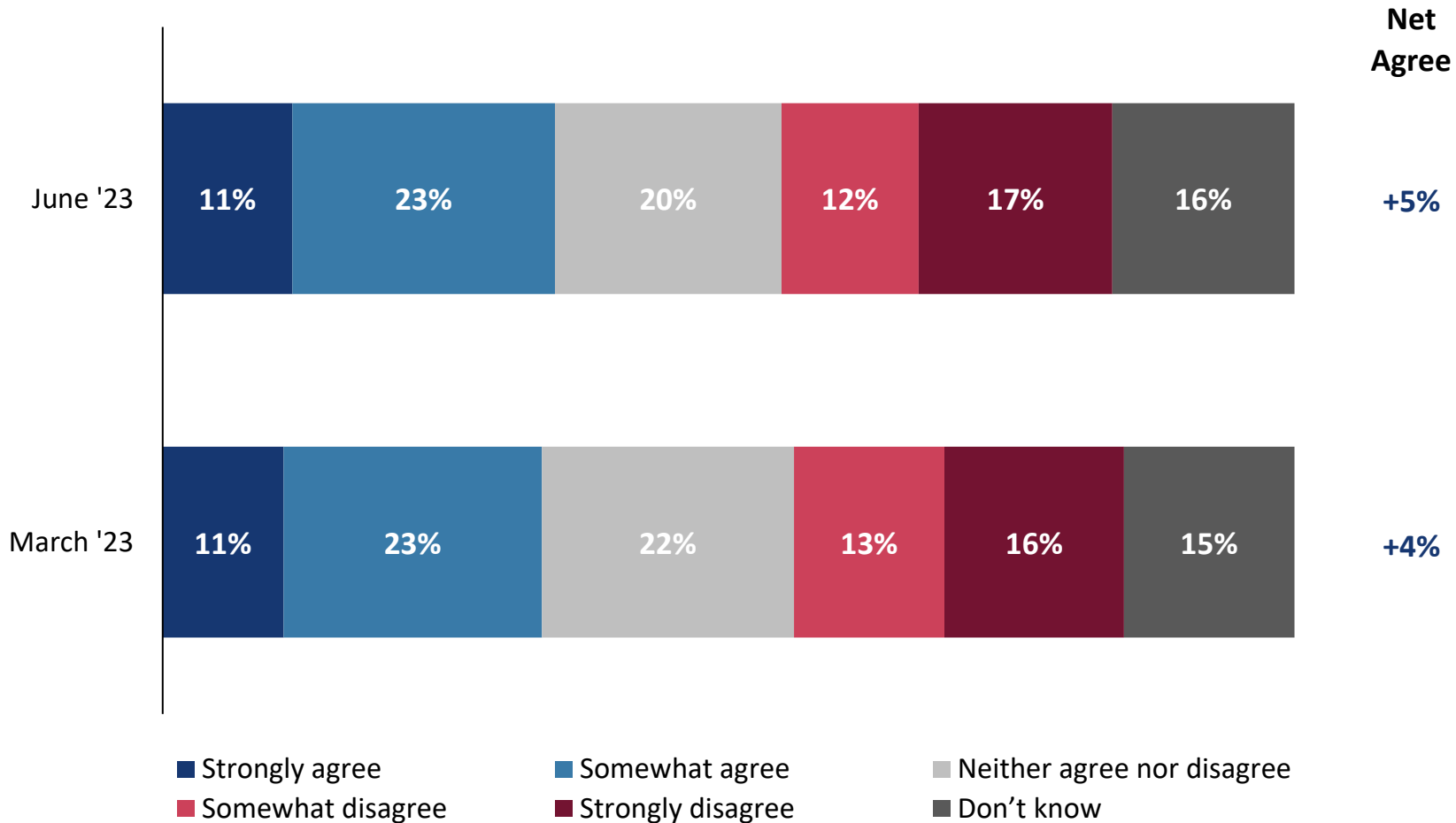
Agreement with Government message:

Agreement with the government statement steady since March

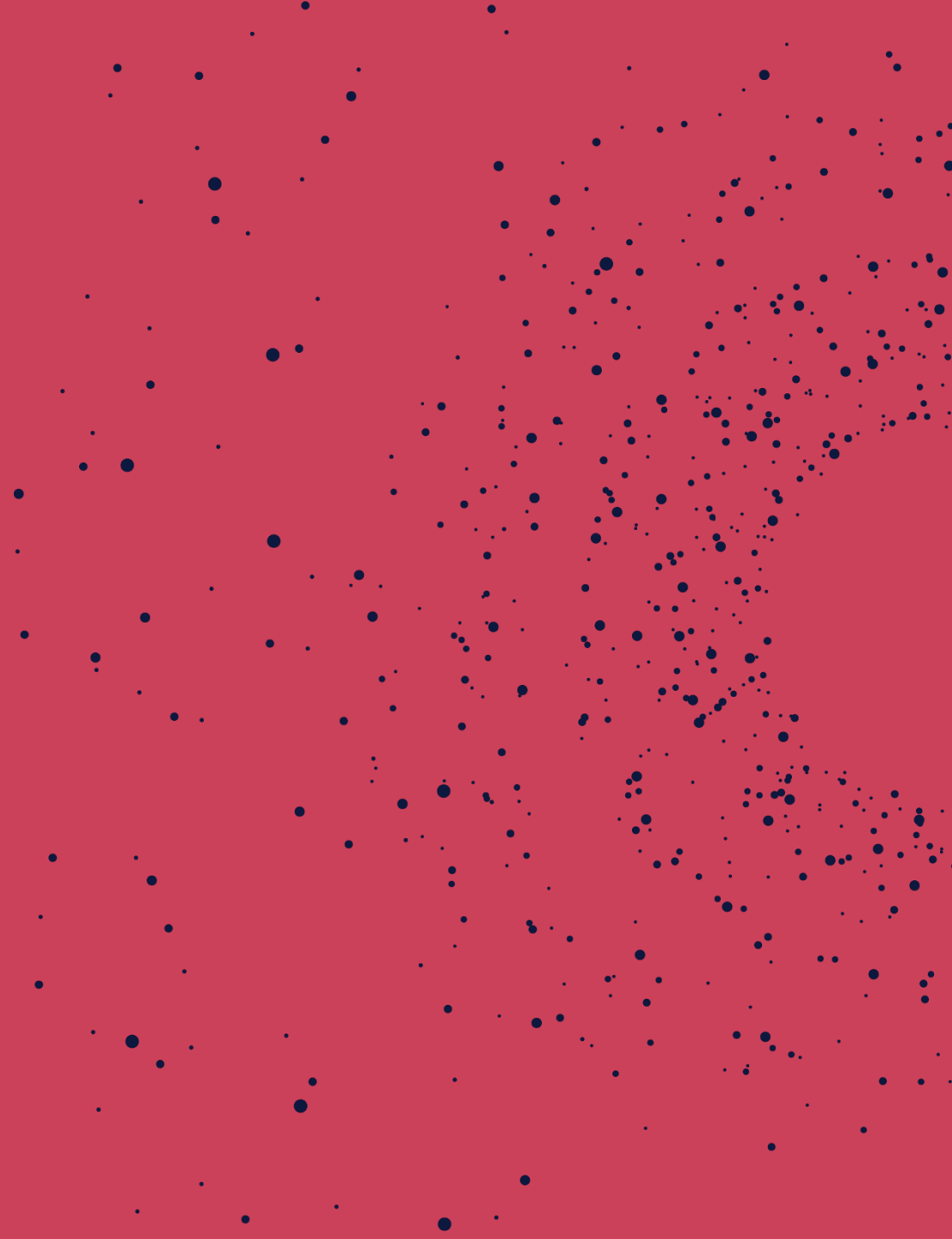
Q Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements:

The impact of China's election interference is insignificant and focusing on it only assists foreign entities seeking to destabilize Canadian politics.

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



Johnston's Report

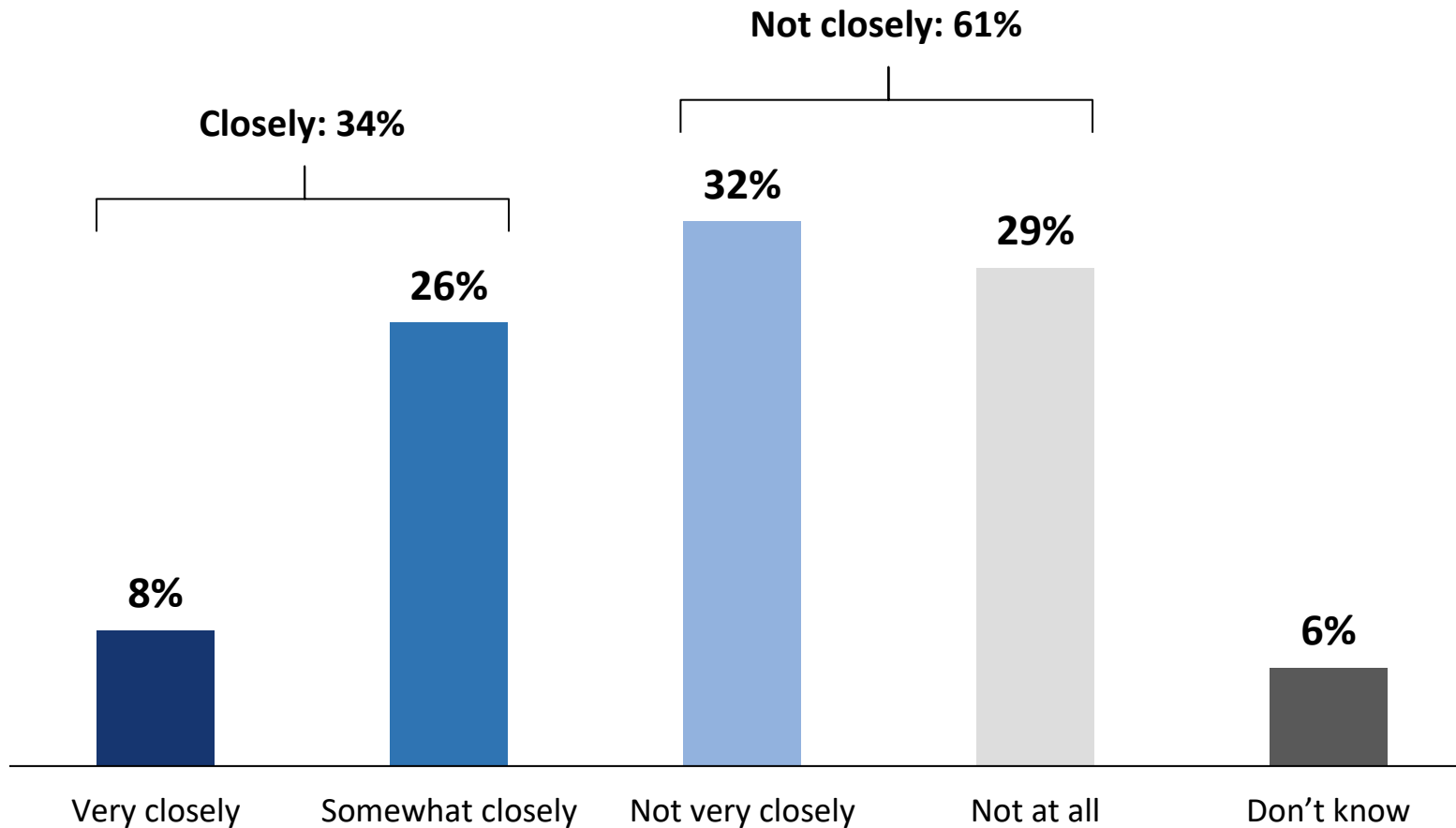


Awareness of the Report:

34% have been following the release of the report closely, 61% not closely

On May 23rd, special rapporteur David Johnston released a report recommending against calling a public inquiry into foreign interference in Canadian politics.

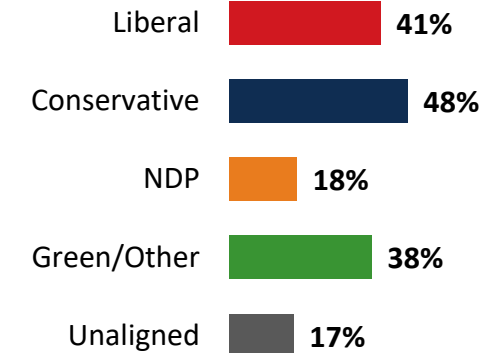
How closely have you been following the release of the foreign interference report by a special rapporteur?
[asked of all respondents, n=1,000]



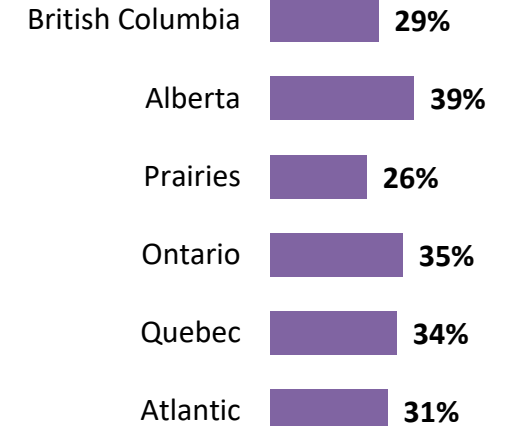
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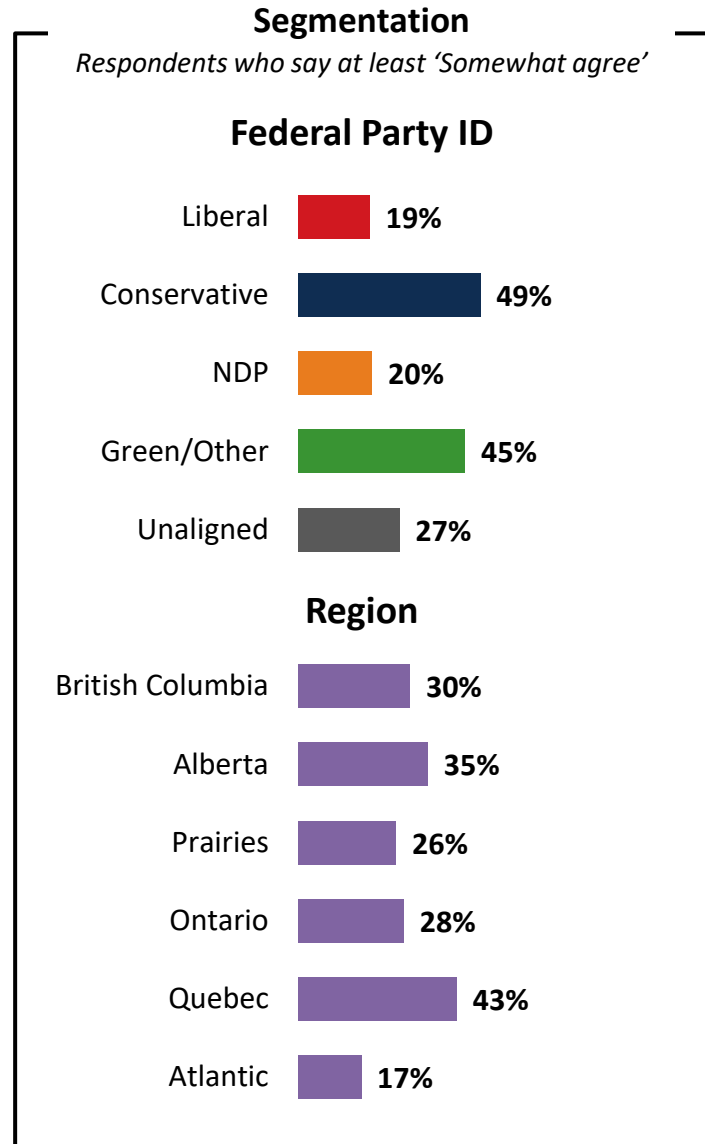
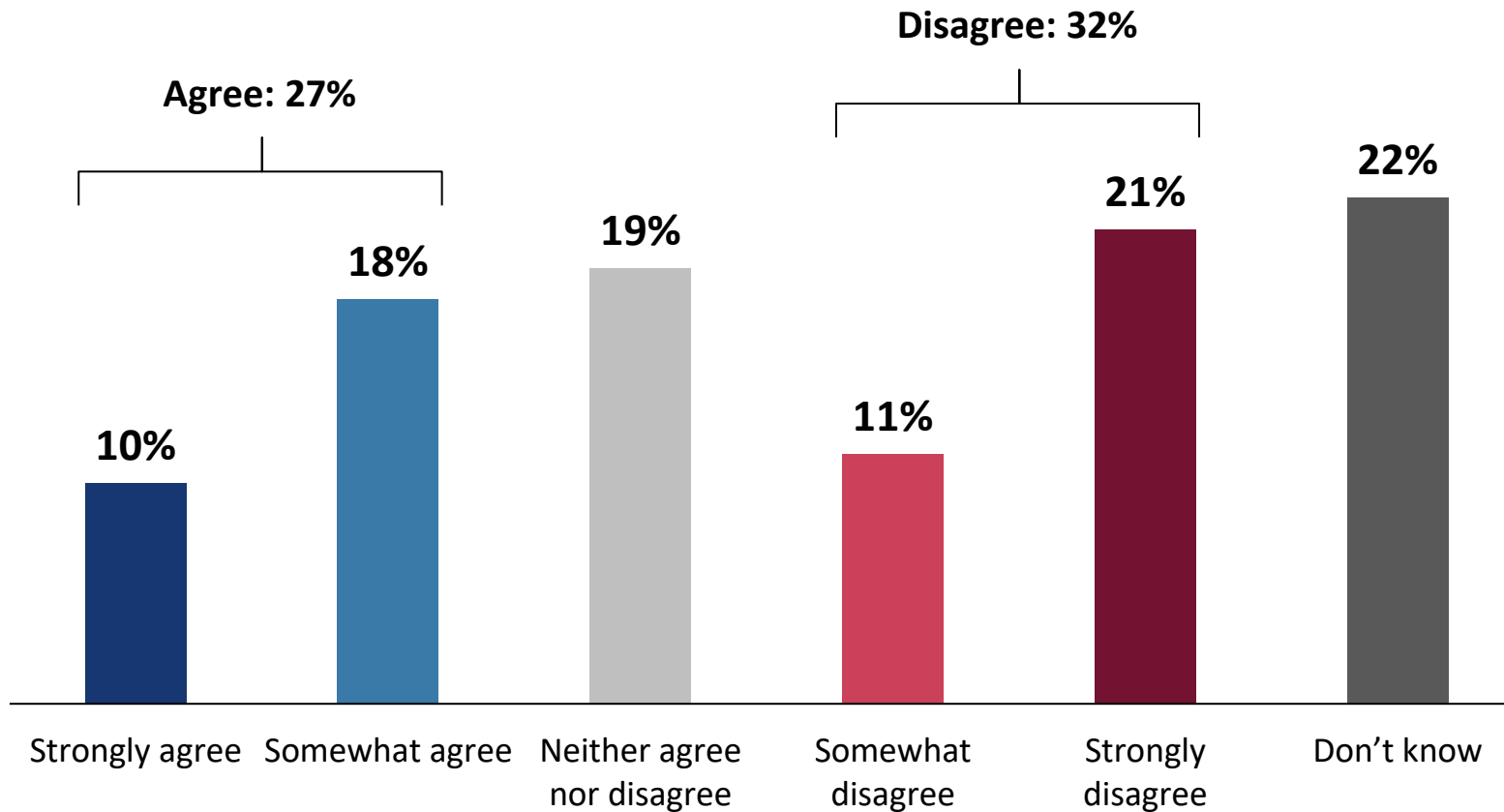
Region



Agreement with the Report:

Respondents are split on their agreement with the report; 27% agree, while 32% disagree

Q Do you agree or disagree with the special rapporteur's recommendation against calling a public inquiry into foreign interference in Canadian politics?
[asked of all respondents, n=1,000]



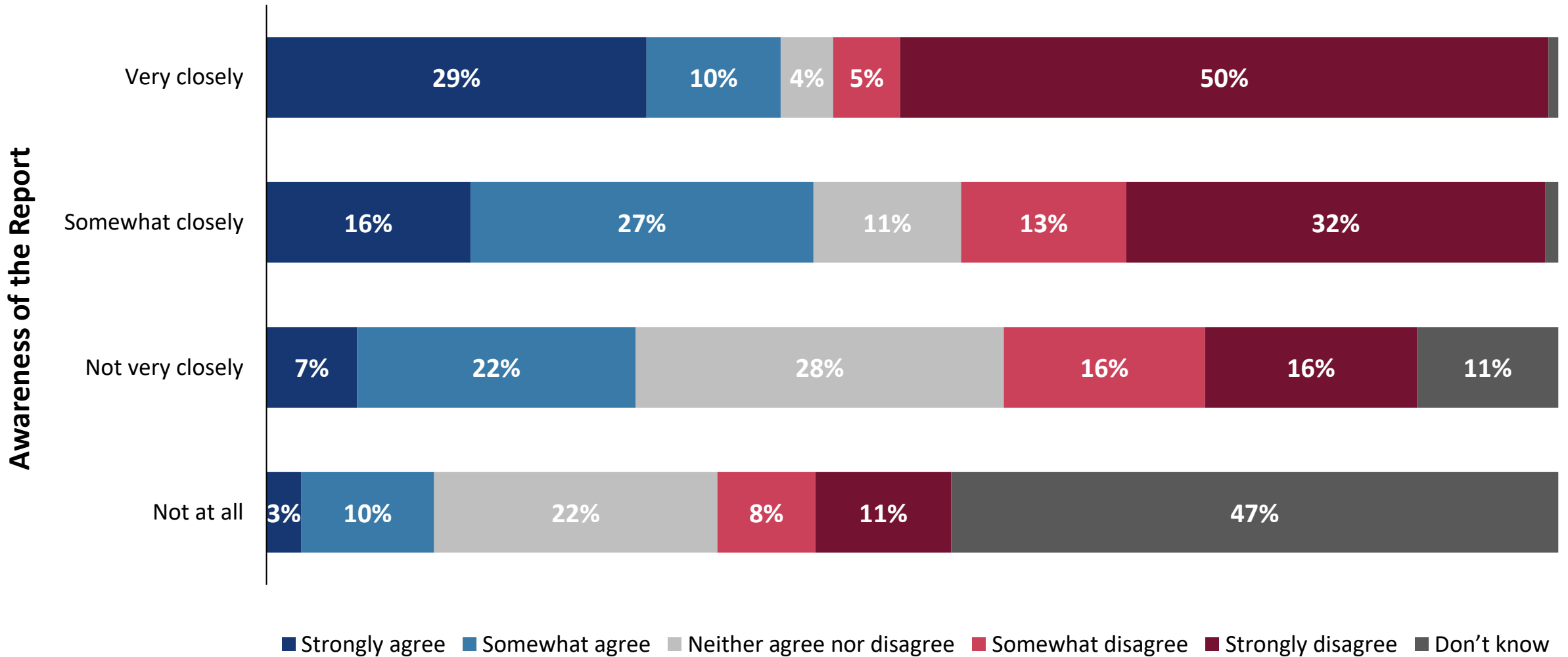
Agreement with the Report by Awareness:

Awareness positively correlated with agreement to the report

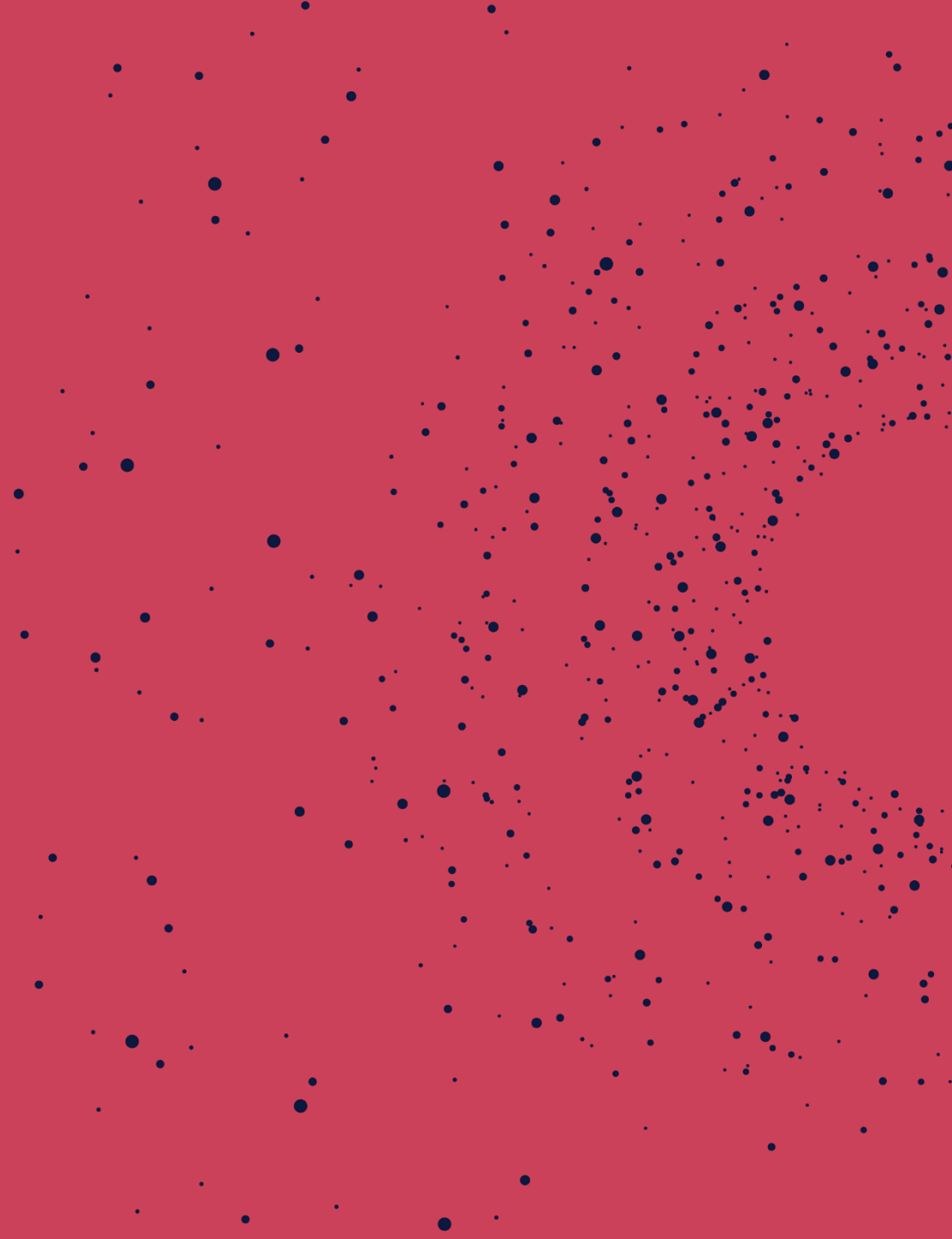


Do you agree or disagree with the special rapporteur's recommendation against calling a public inquiry into foreign interference in Canadian politics?

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



Methodology



Survey Methodology



These are the results of an online survey conducted between June 1st and June 5th, 2023.

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 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=1,203 Canadian citizens, 18 years or older. The results are nationally weighted to n=1,000 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

Field Dates: June 1st and June 5th, 2023.

Weighting: Results for Canada are weighted by age, gender, region, education, 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	111	9.3%	138	13.9%
Men 35-54	171	14.3%	157	15.8%
Men 55+	272	22.7%	189	19.0%
Women 18-34	176	14.7%	134	13.5%
Women 35-54	195	16.3%	163	16.4%
Women 55+	271	22.7%	211	21.3%
Region				
BC	171	14.2%	140	14.0%
AB	148	12.3%	112	11.2%
Prairies	79	6.6%	63	6.3%
ON	469	39.0%	389	38.9%
QC	251	20.9%	228	22.8%
Atlantic	85	7.1%	67	6.7%



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