



# Canada This Month Civility in Politics

Public Opinion Research  
Release Date: February 11, 2026  
Field Dates: January 16 to February 2, 2026

# Key Findings

## **While just over half (56%) are familiar with “civility” in politics; 81% think civility is important in society**

**1**

Among those who are familiar with civility in political discussions, 20% say they are very familiar and could explain the details to someone else with another 36% being somewhat familiar. 81% think civility is important in society with nearly half (48%) reporting they think it is very important.

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## **Most Canadians agree with civility statements, ybut younger people tend to be more skeptical**

**2**

Total agreement is highest on the *importance of being respectful of other points of view* (82%) and that *compromise among politicians is necessary for democracy to work* (71%). This is particularly pronounced among older Canadians, with those 55+ more likely to agree than those who are 18-34, by 14 pts. and 17 pts, respectively. Net agreement with the necessity of compromise for democracy to work has increased by +18 points since '22.

**3**

## **Half (51%) think it is important for leaders to be respectful while 21% say it is important for leaders to advocate**

A slim majority of Canadians prioritize respect over advocacy from leaders. Those who value leaders being respectful of all points of view are more likely to be Liberal voters (42%). Conversely, those who value leaders to advocate for policies they believe in are more likely to be Conservative voters (42%).

**4**

## **Canadians view Carney as someone who emphasizes respect and Poilievre as someone who advocates for policies**

Nearly half (46%) of Canadians see Carney as a leader who emphasizes respect for all points of view, while over half (53%) view Poilievre as a leader who emphasizes advocating policies he believes in.

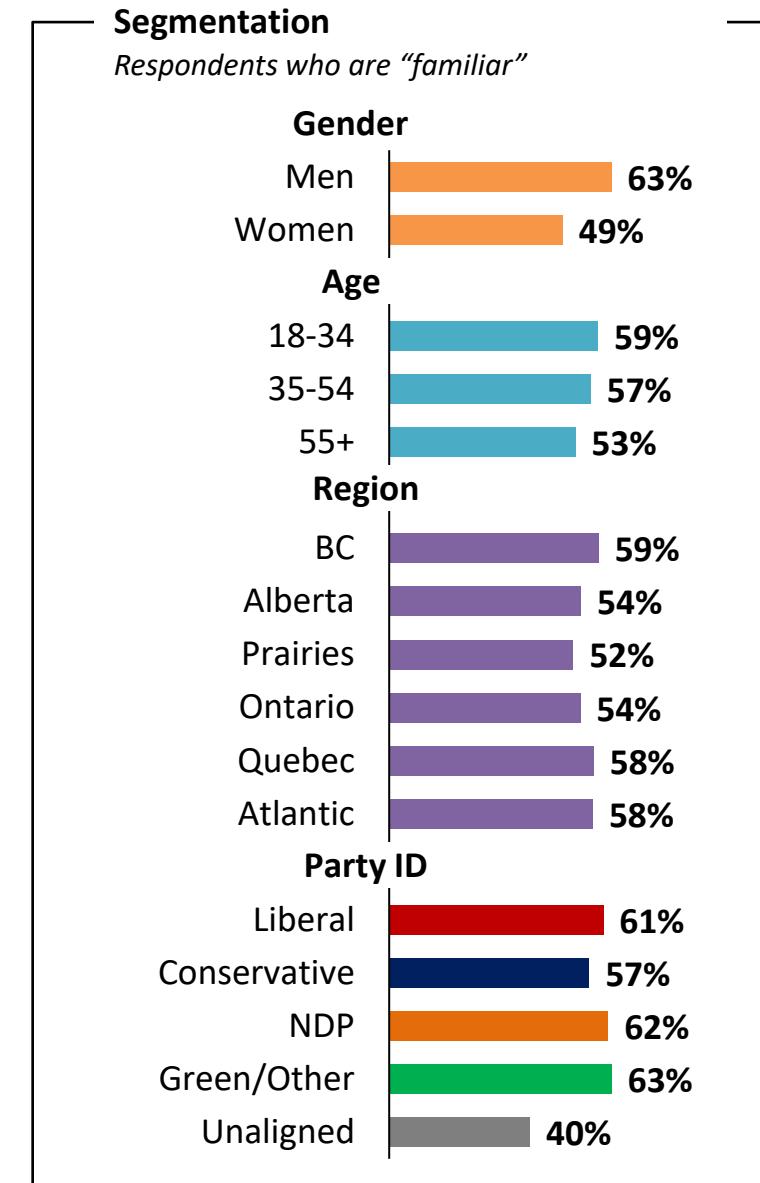
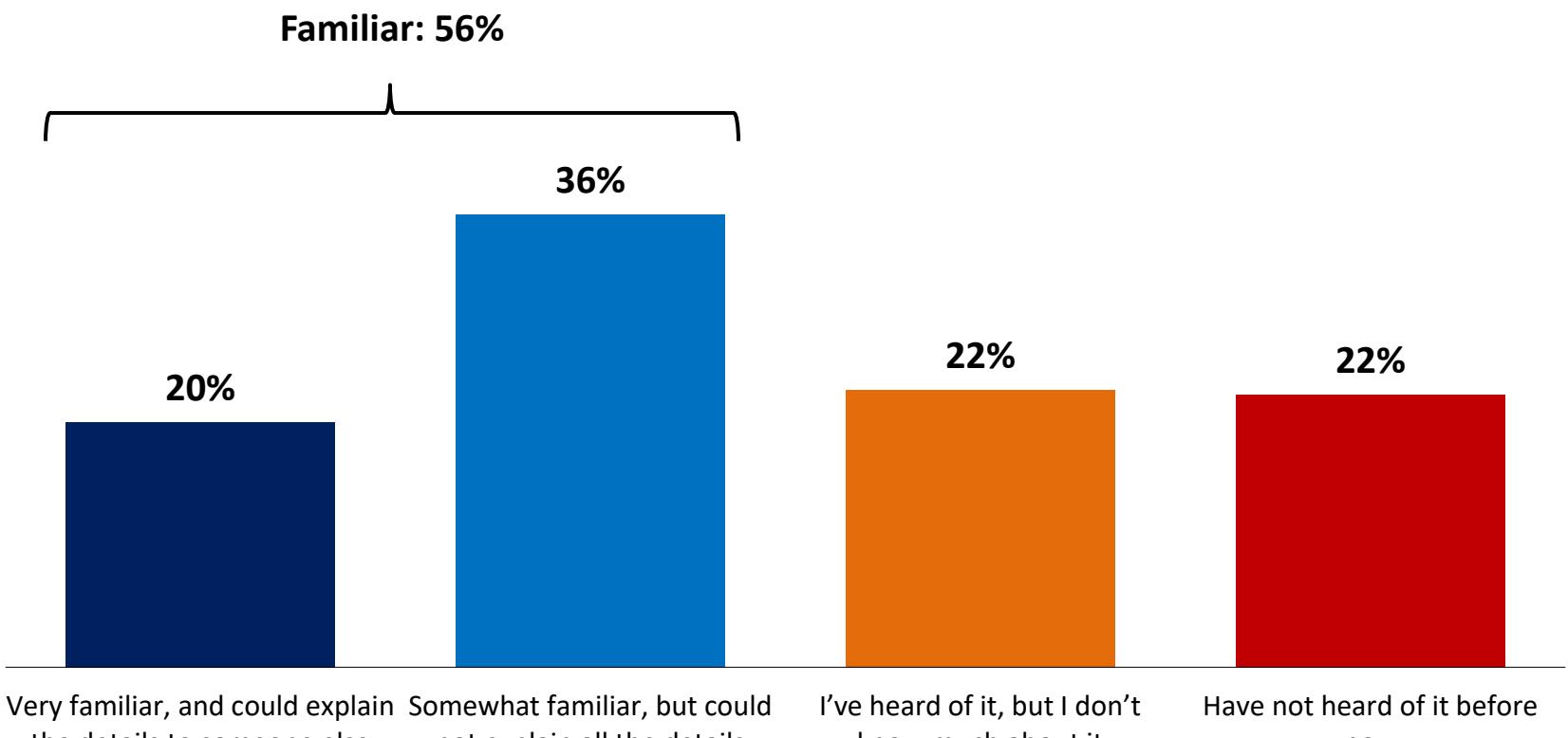
# Civility in Politics

# Familiarity with Civility in Politics: About half (56%) claim familiarity with the term “civility” in politics; men say more familiar than women



People sometimes talk about “civility” in politics. In general, civility refers to how people speak to and treat others when discussing political issues, especially when they disagree. The next set of questions are about this idea.

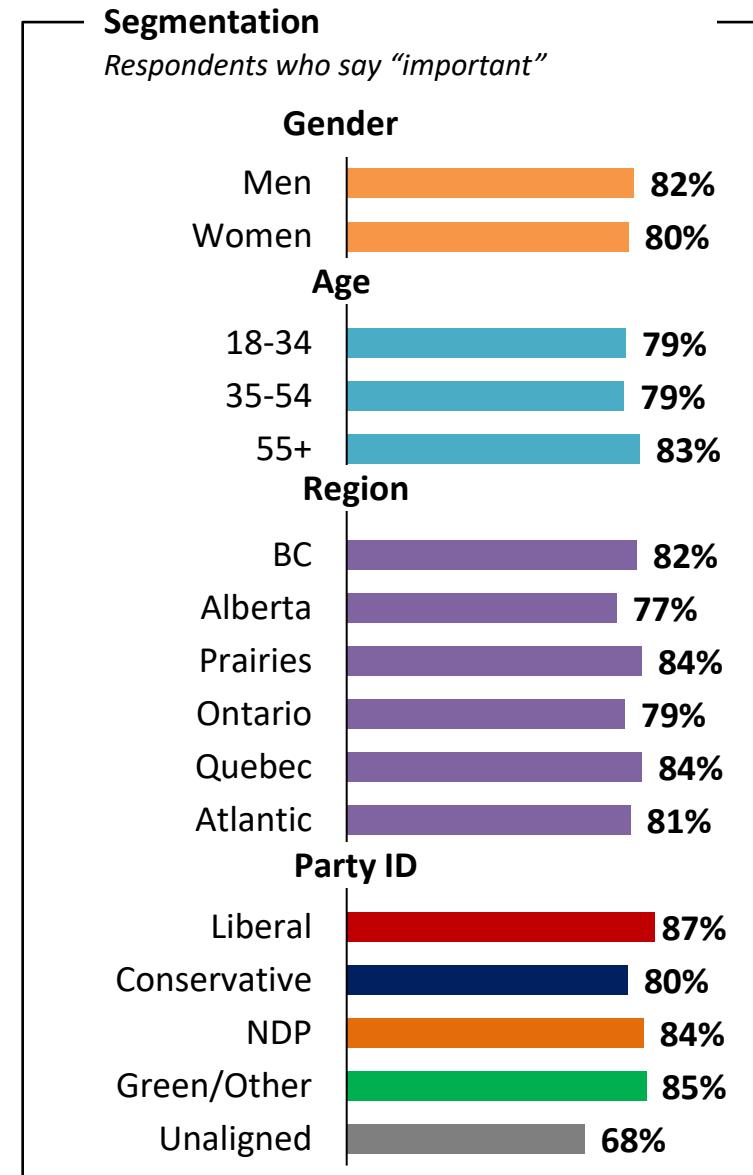
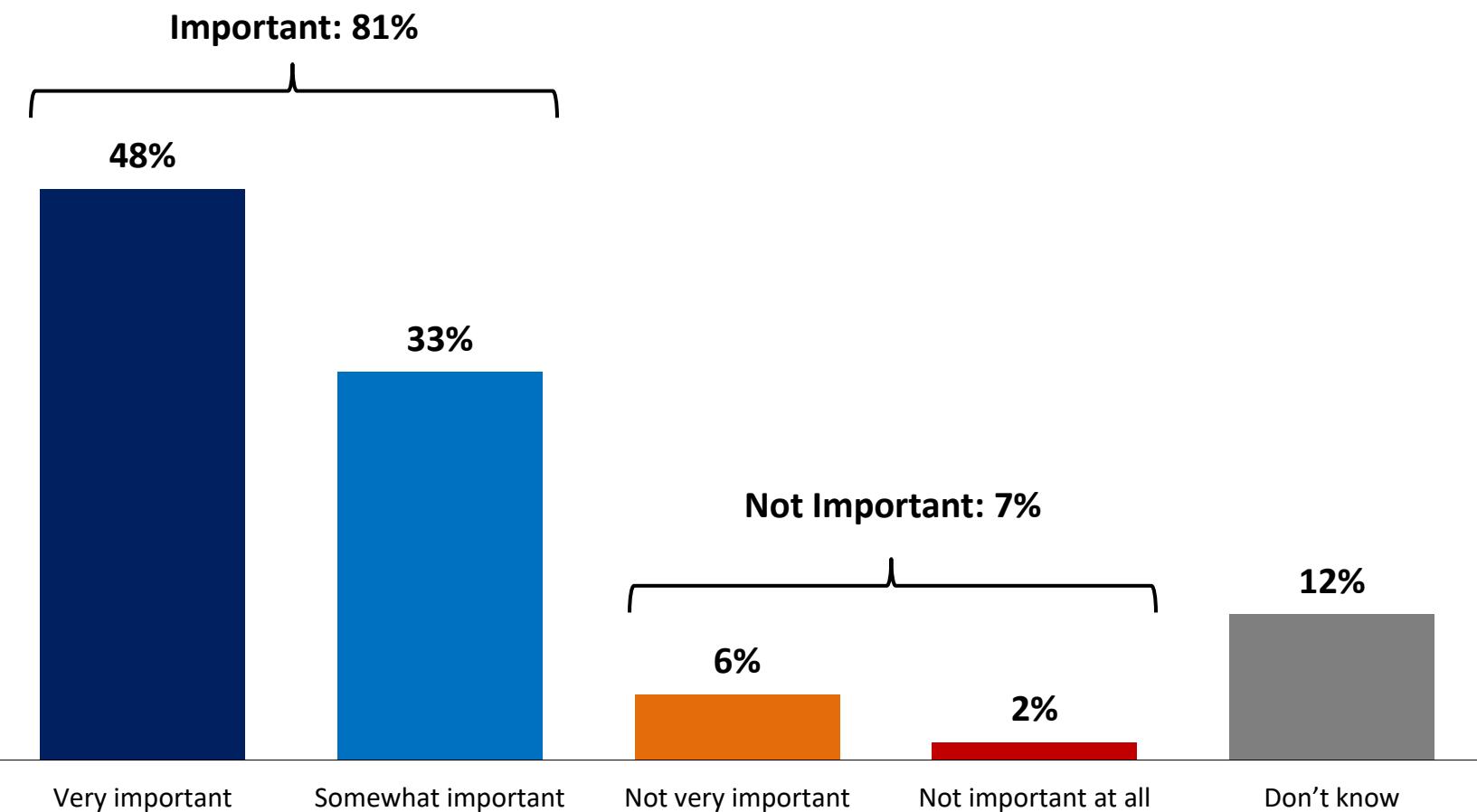
Prior to taking this survey, how familiar were you with the idea of “civility” in political discussions?  
[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]



# Importance of Civility: 4-in-5 (81%) think civility is important; highest among older respondents and Liberals



Thinking more broadly, how important do you think civility is in society today?  
[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]



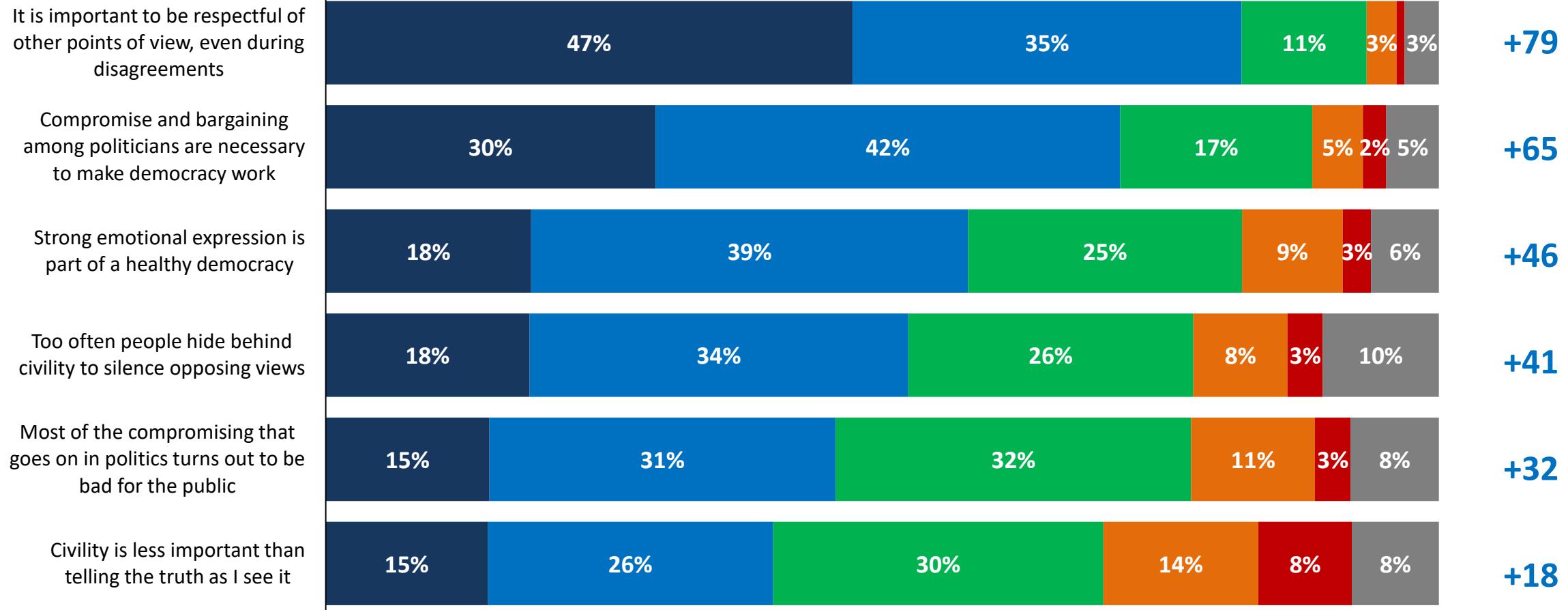
# Attitudes on Civility in Politics: Highest agreement on importance of maintaining respect, lowest on compromise is bad for the public



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]

**Net Agreement**



Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Neither disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

# Compromise in Politics Tracking: Net agreement with the necessity of compromise for democracy to work has increased by +18 points since '22

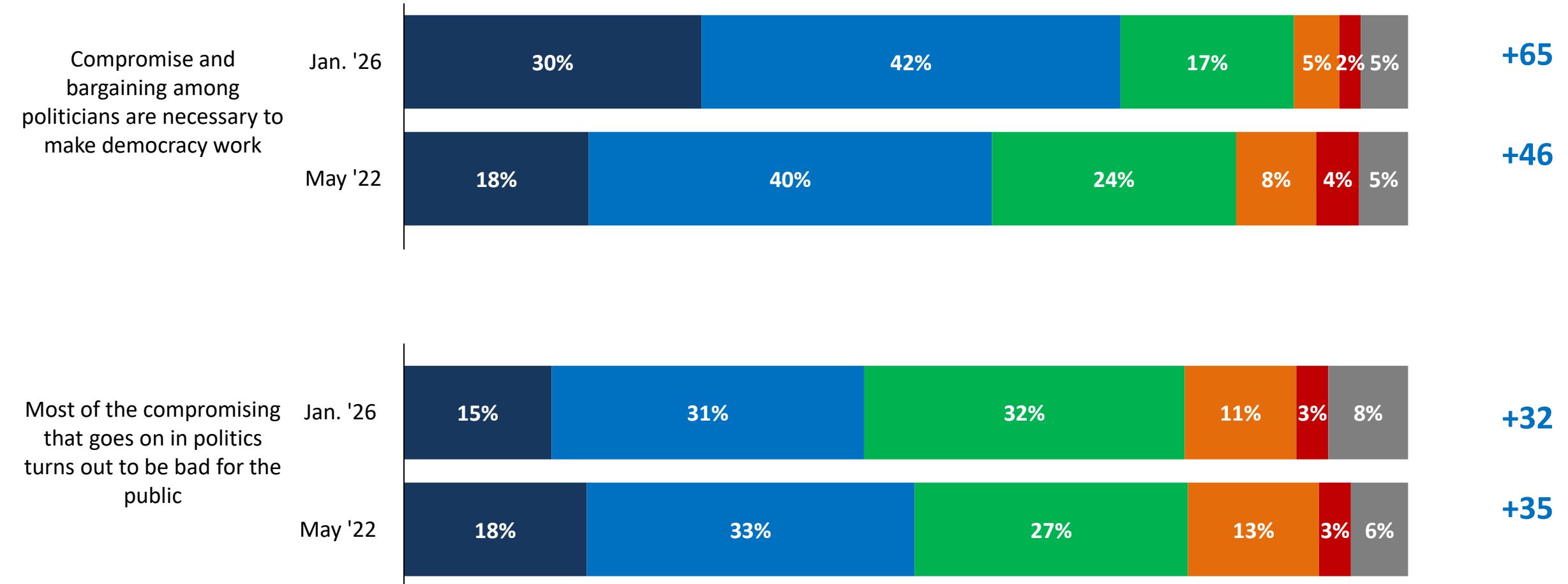
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To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

[asked of all respondents, Jan '26 n=1,500; May '22 n=1,200]

Net Agreement



■ Strongly agree

■ Somewhat agree

■ Neither agree nor disagree

■ Neither disagree

■ Strongly disagree

■ Don't know

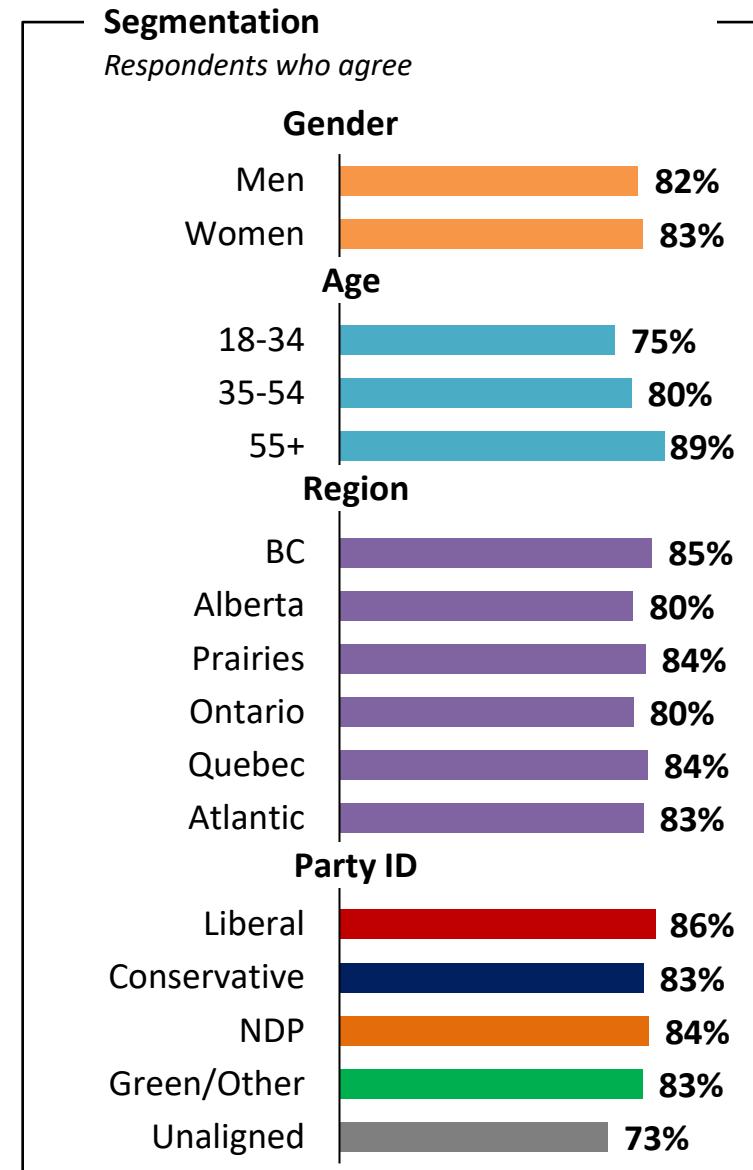
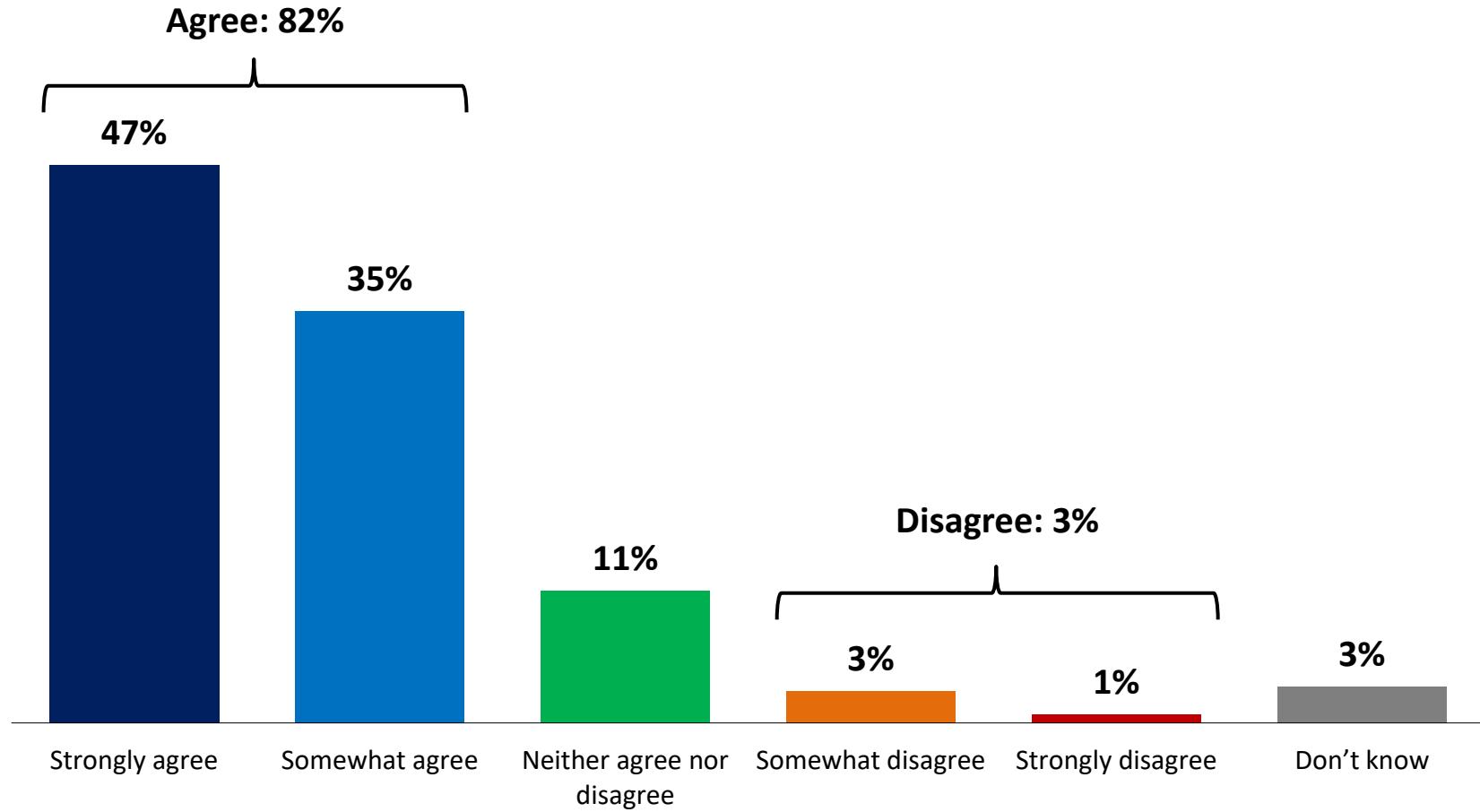
# Importance of Respect: A majority (82%) agree it is important to be respectful of other points of view, younger Canadians less likely



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**It is important to be respectful of other points of view, even during disagreements.**

[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]



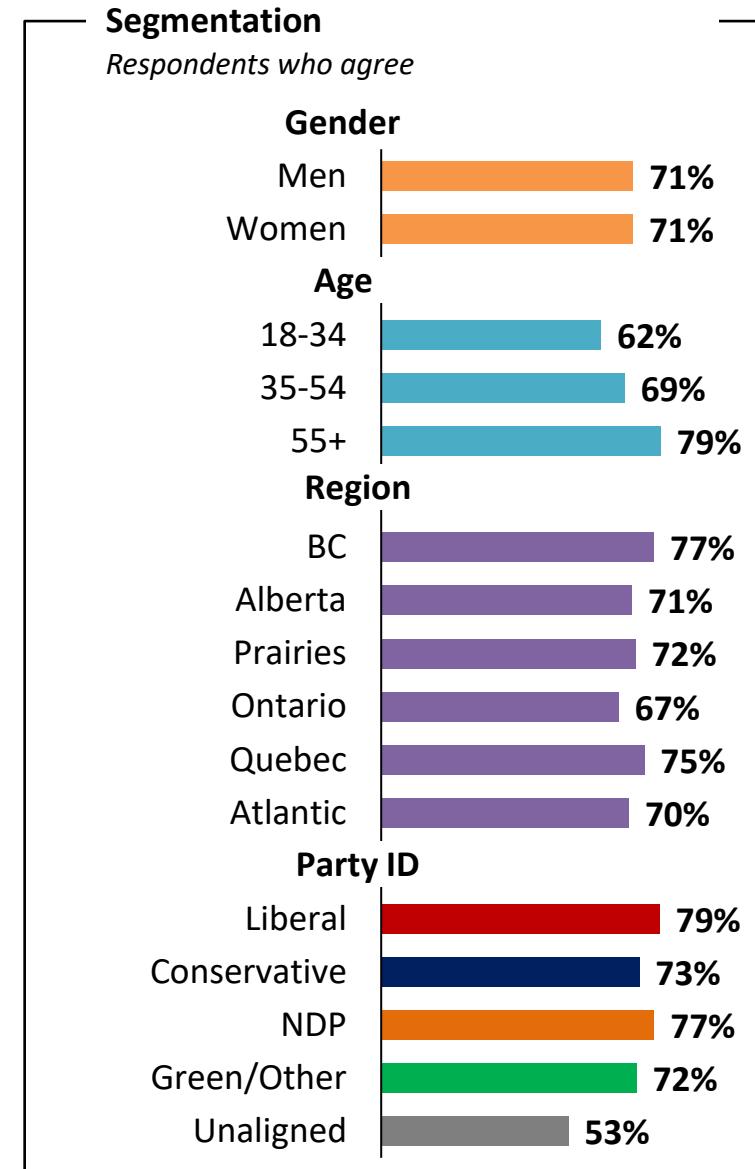
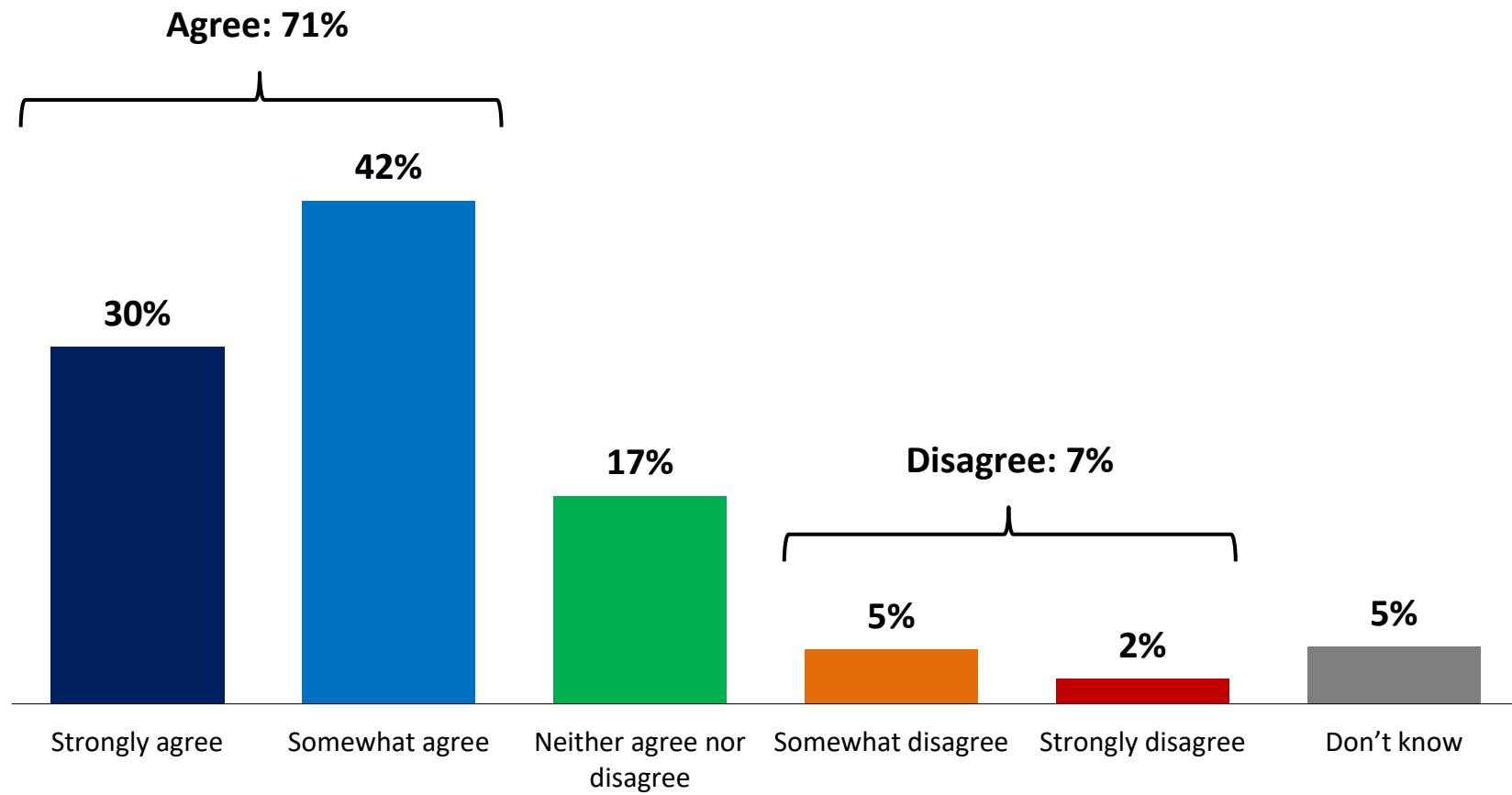
# Compromise is Necessary: Nearly 3-in-4 (71%) agree compromise is necessary for democracy; higher agreement among older respondents



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**Compromise and bargaining among politicians are necessary to make democracy work.**

[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]



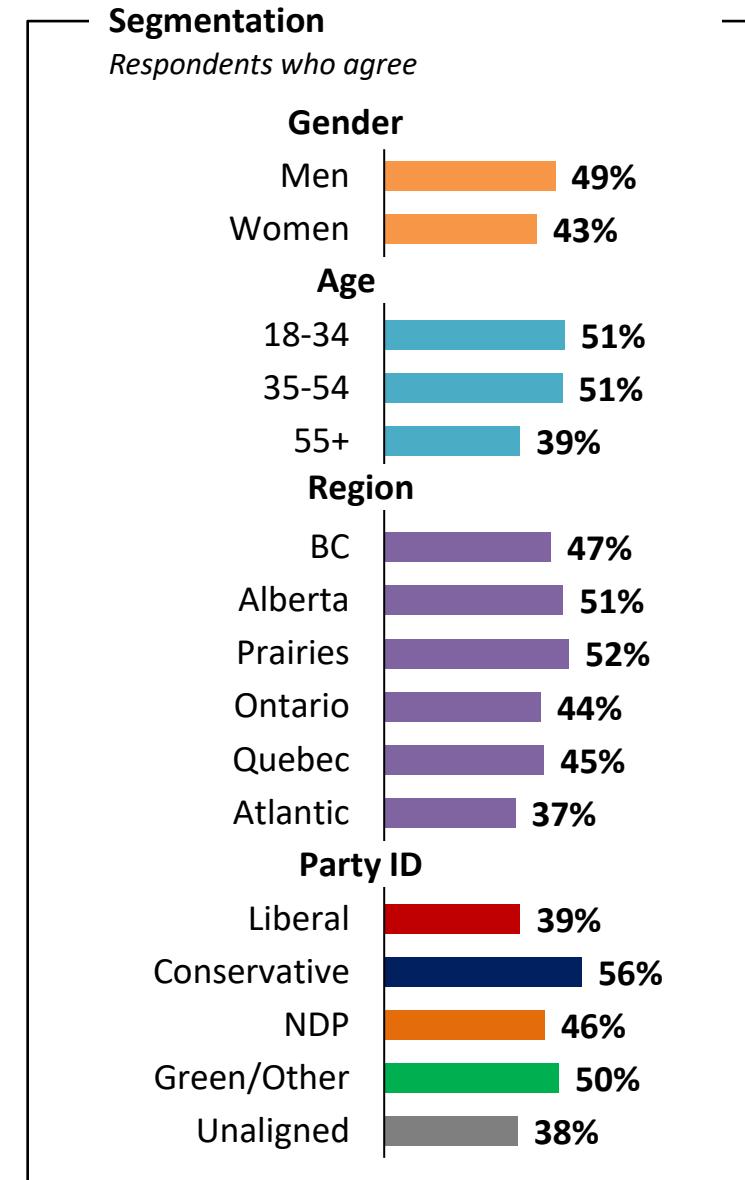
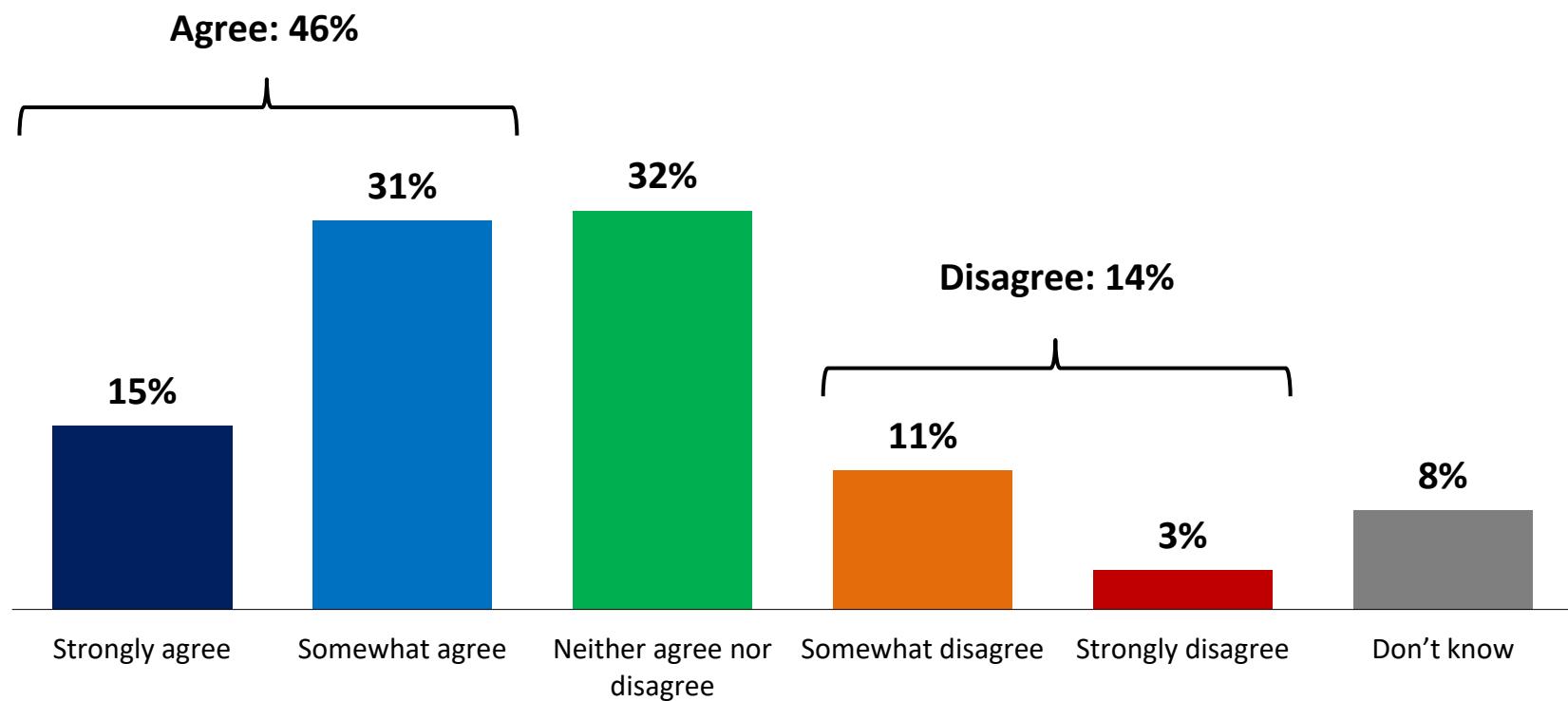
# Compromise in Politics: Nearly half (46%) agree that most political compromise is bad for the public; Conservatives most likely to agree



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**Most of the compromising that goes on in politics turns out to be bad for the public.**

[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]



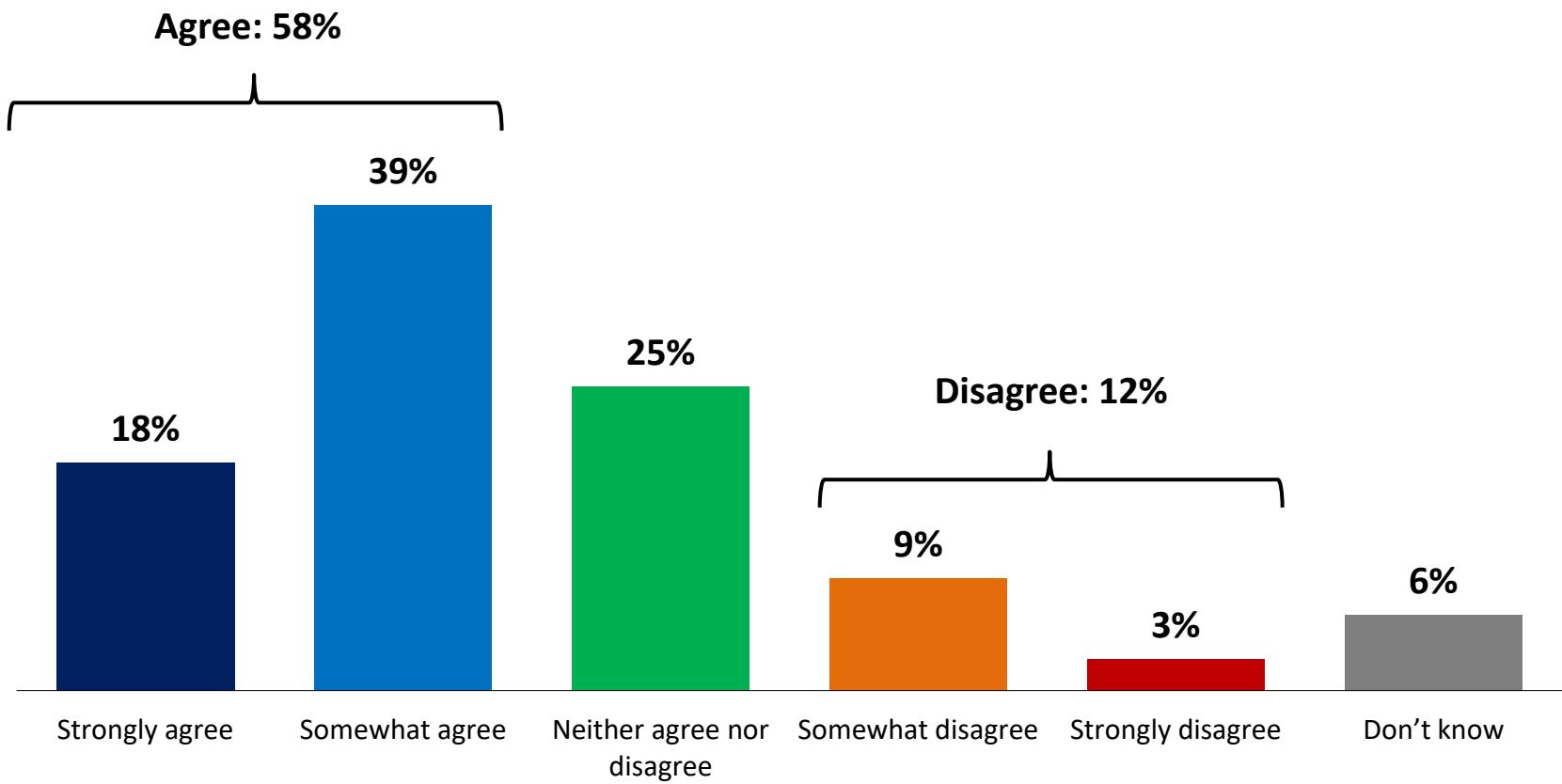
# Strong Emotions: Nearly 3-in-5 (58%) agree that strong emotional expression signals a healthy democracy



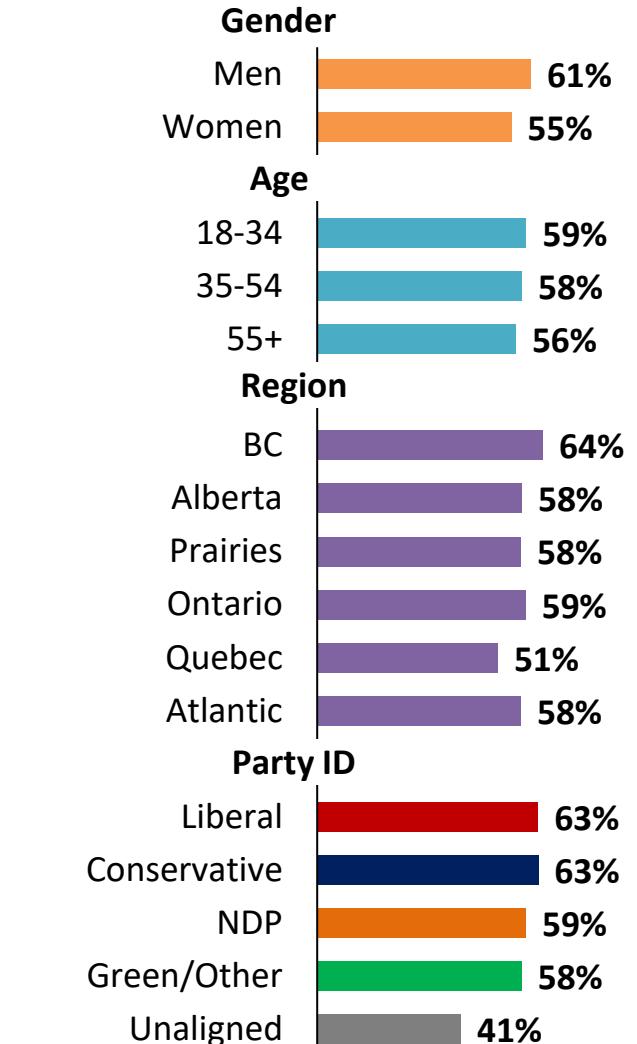
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**Strong emotional expression is part of a healthy democracy.**

[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]



## Segmentation Respondents who agree



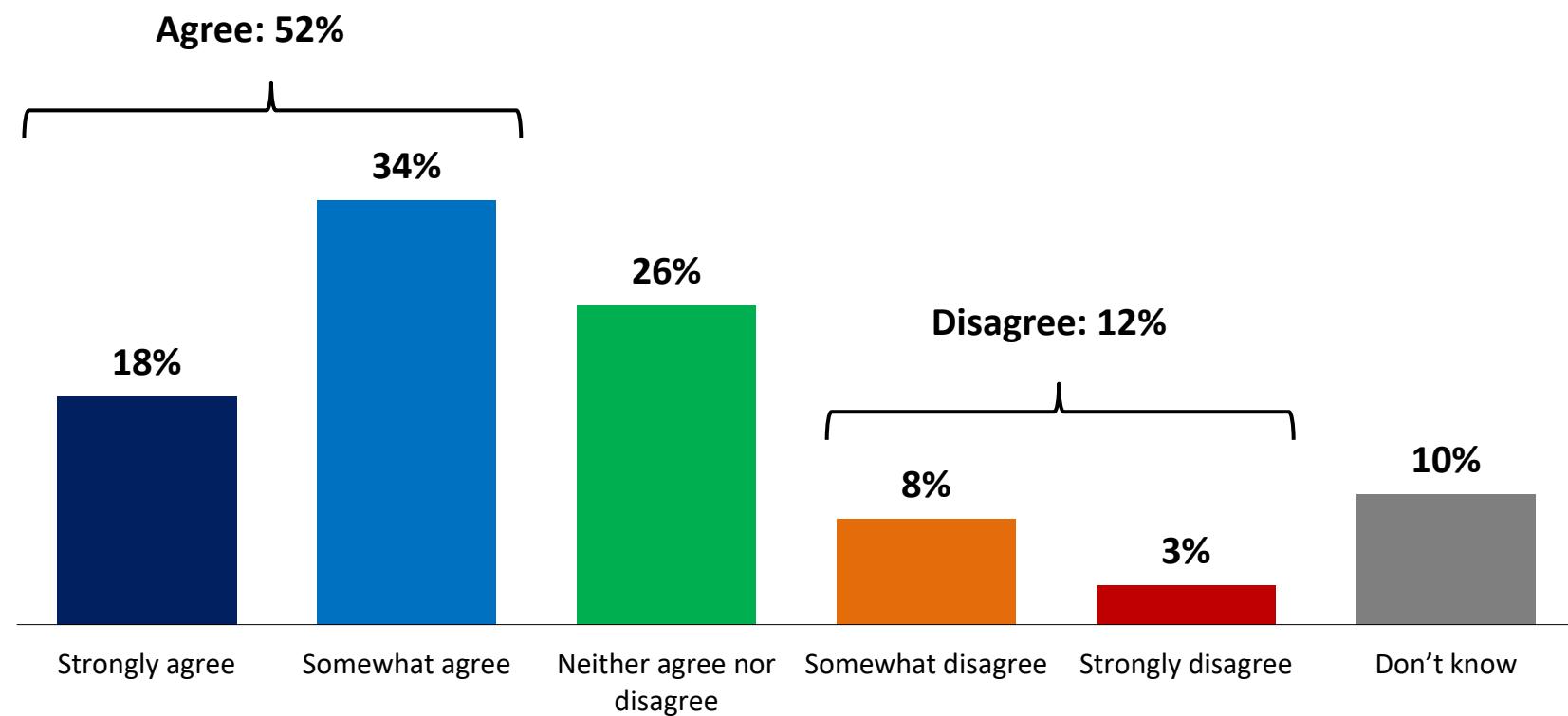
# Hiding Behind Civility: Half (52%) agree people hide behind civility to silence opposing views; highest agreement among Conservatives



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**Too often people hide behind civility to silence opposing views.**

[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]



## Segmentation Respondents who agree

### Gender

Men	55%
Women	50%

### Age

18-34	59%
35-54	54%
55+	46%

### Region

BC	51%
Alberta	49%
Prairies	53%
Ontario	54%
Quebec	50%
Atlantic	58%

### Party ID

Liberal	52%
Conservative	61%
NDP	51%
Green/Other	54%
Unaligned	38%

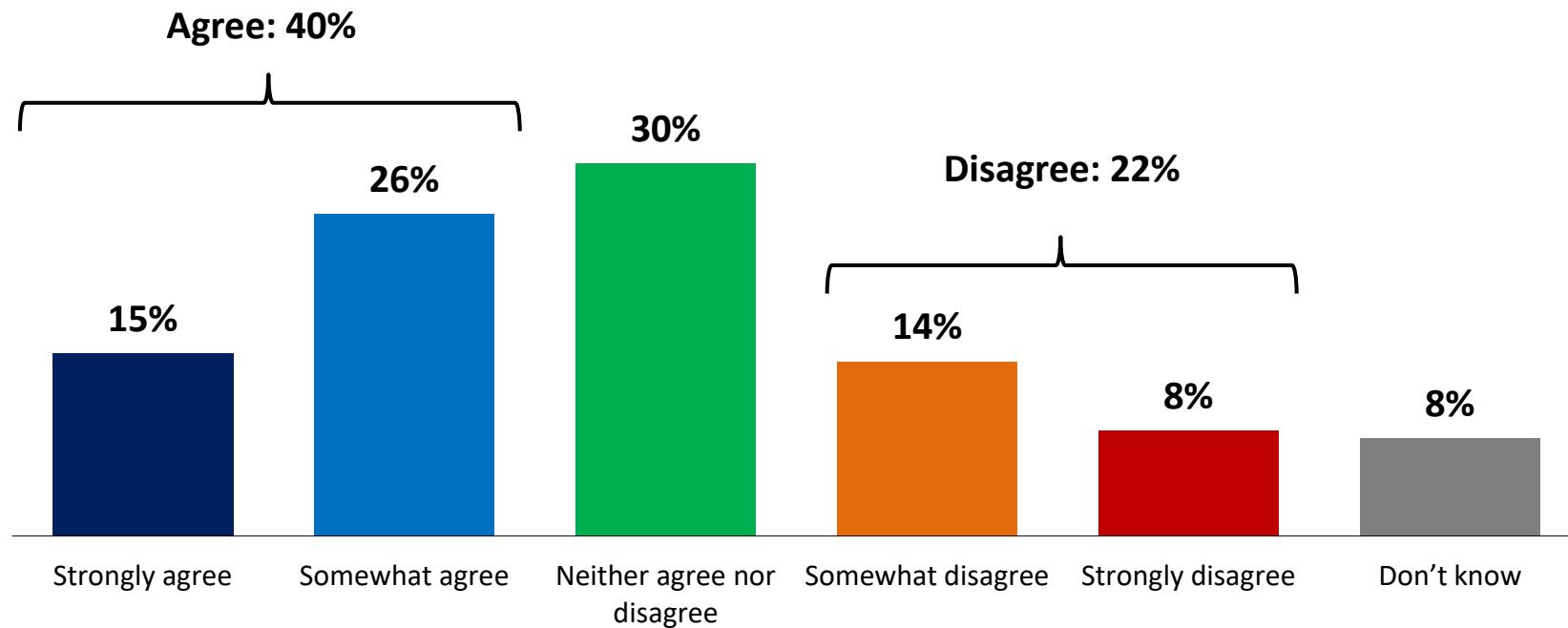
# Civility vs Truth: 2-in-5 (40%) agree civility is less important than the truth; Conservatives are most likely to agree



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**Civility is less important than telling the truth as I see it.**

[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]



## Segmentation Respondents who agree

### Gender

Men	43%
Women	37%

### Age

18-34	39%
35-54	44%
55+	38%

### Region

BC	40%
Alberta	41%
Prairies	41%
Ontario	41%
Quebec	38%
Atlantic	40%

### Party ID

Liberal	40%
Conservative	46%
NDP	38%
Green/Other	43%
Unaligned	29%

# Political Leaders

# Political Debates: Half say its more important for leaders to be respectful, while another 1-in-5 say it's important to advocate



Political leaders take different approach in political debates. Some focus on being respectful of all points of views, even when they disagree. Some focus on advocating policies they believe in and dismiss other points of views. When it comes to political leaders, which of the following is more important to you?

[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]

**Important for leaders to be respectful: 51%**

25%  
26%

21%

**Important for leaders to advocate: 21%**

13%

8%

7%

Much more important that a leader is respectful of all points of view, even when they disagree

Somewhat more important that a leader is respectful of all points of view, even when they disagree

Both are equally important

Somewhat more important that a leader advocate policies they believe in, even if they dismiss other points of views

Much more important that a leader advocate policies they believe in, even if they dismiss other points of views

Don't know

## Segmentation

Respondents who say "important to be respectful"

### Gender

Men 54%  
Women 49%

### Age

18-34 48%  
35-54 48%  
55+ 56%

### Region

BC 53%  
Alberta 50%  
Prairies 51%  
Ontario 52%  
Quebec 50%  
Atlantic 57%

### Party ID

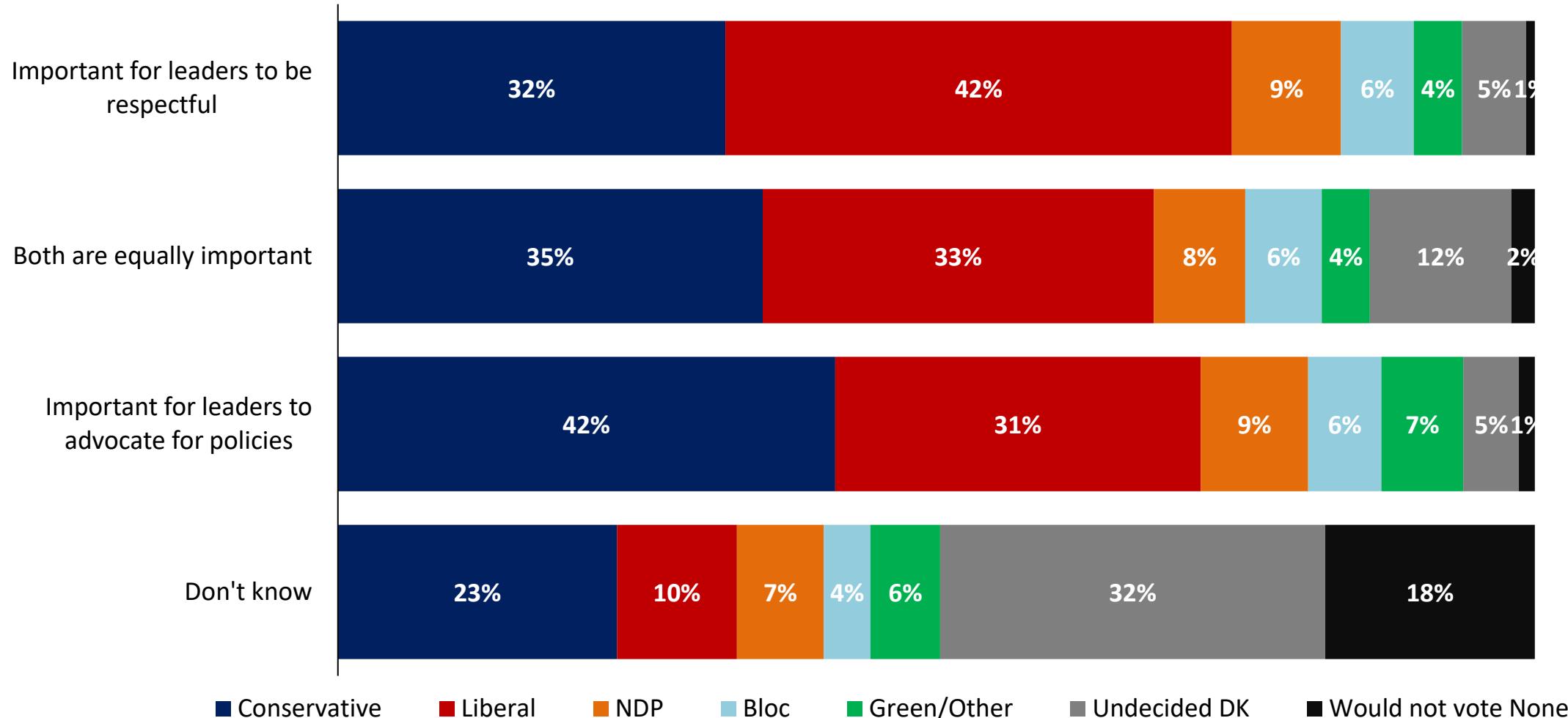
Liberal 60%  
Conservative 50%  
NDP 56%  
Green/Other 50%  
Unaligned 40%

# Leadership by Federal Vote: Those who favour advocacy are more likely<sup>16</sup> to vote Conservative while those who value respect are more Liberal



When it comes to political leaders, which of the following is more important to you? BY Federal Vote

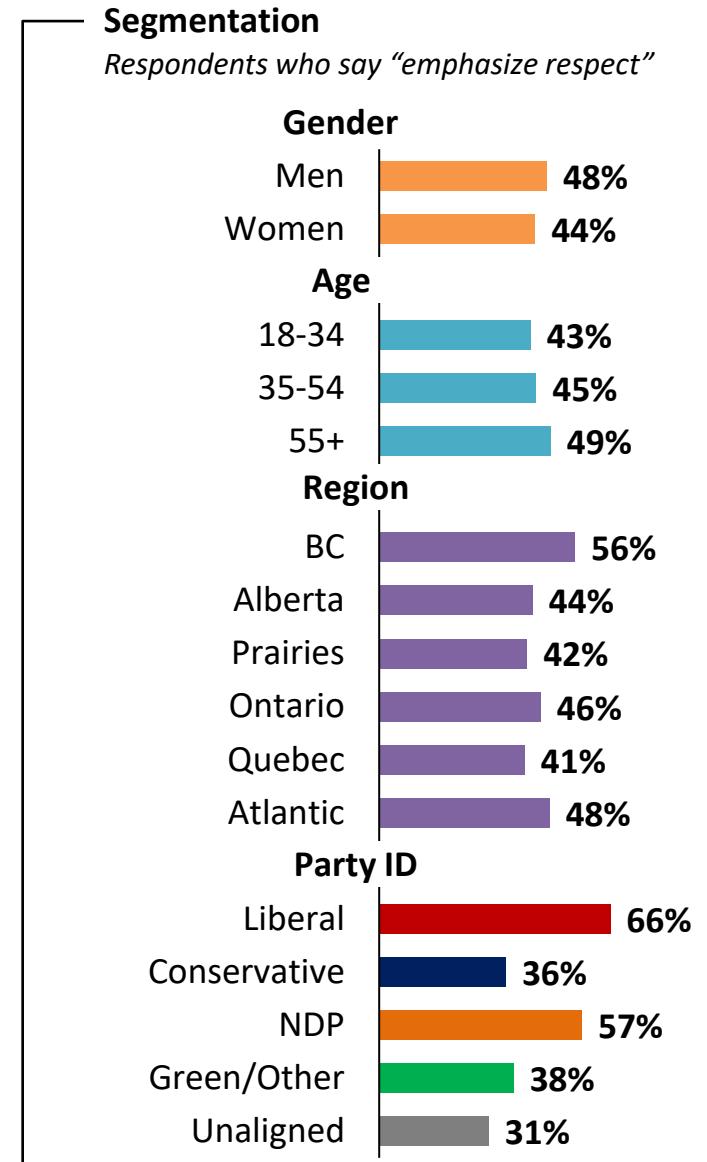
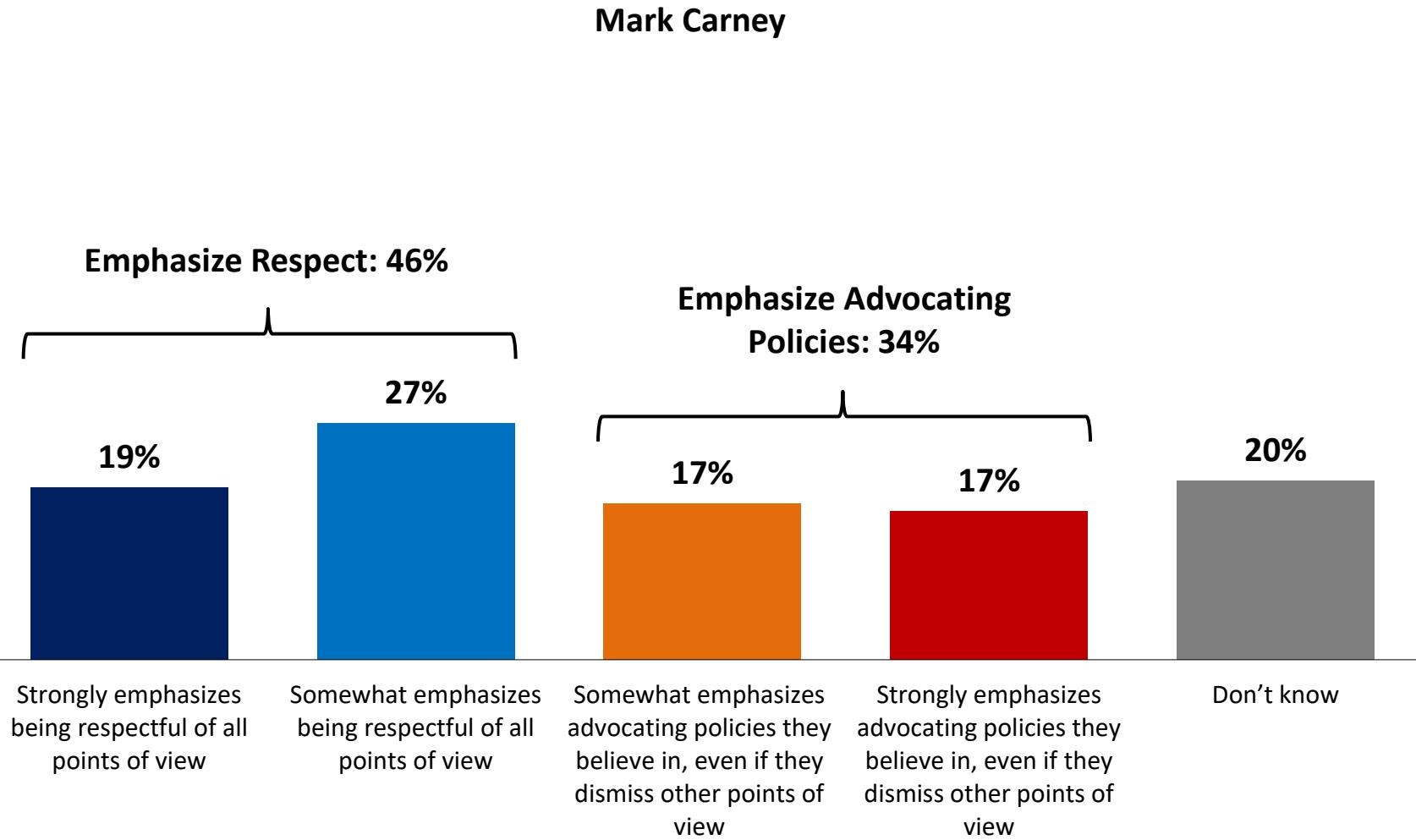
[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]



# Political Leaders - Carney: More see Carney as a leader that emphasizes<sup>17</sup> respect rather than advocating for policies



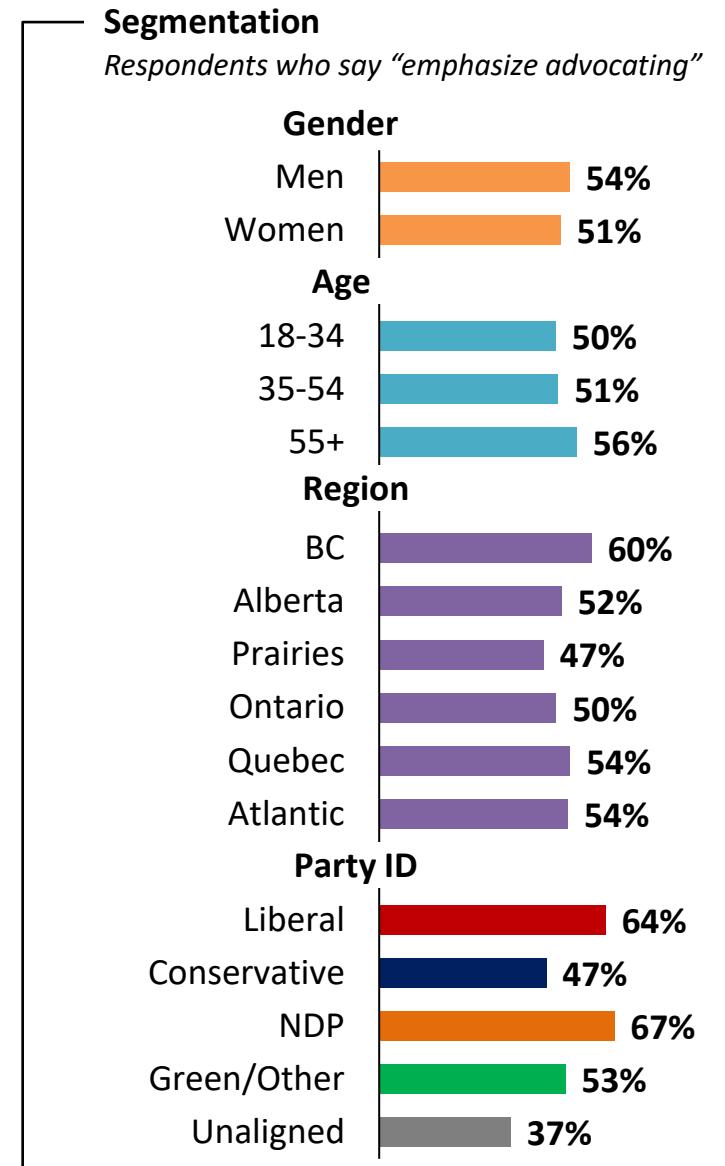
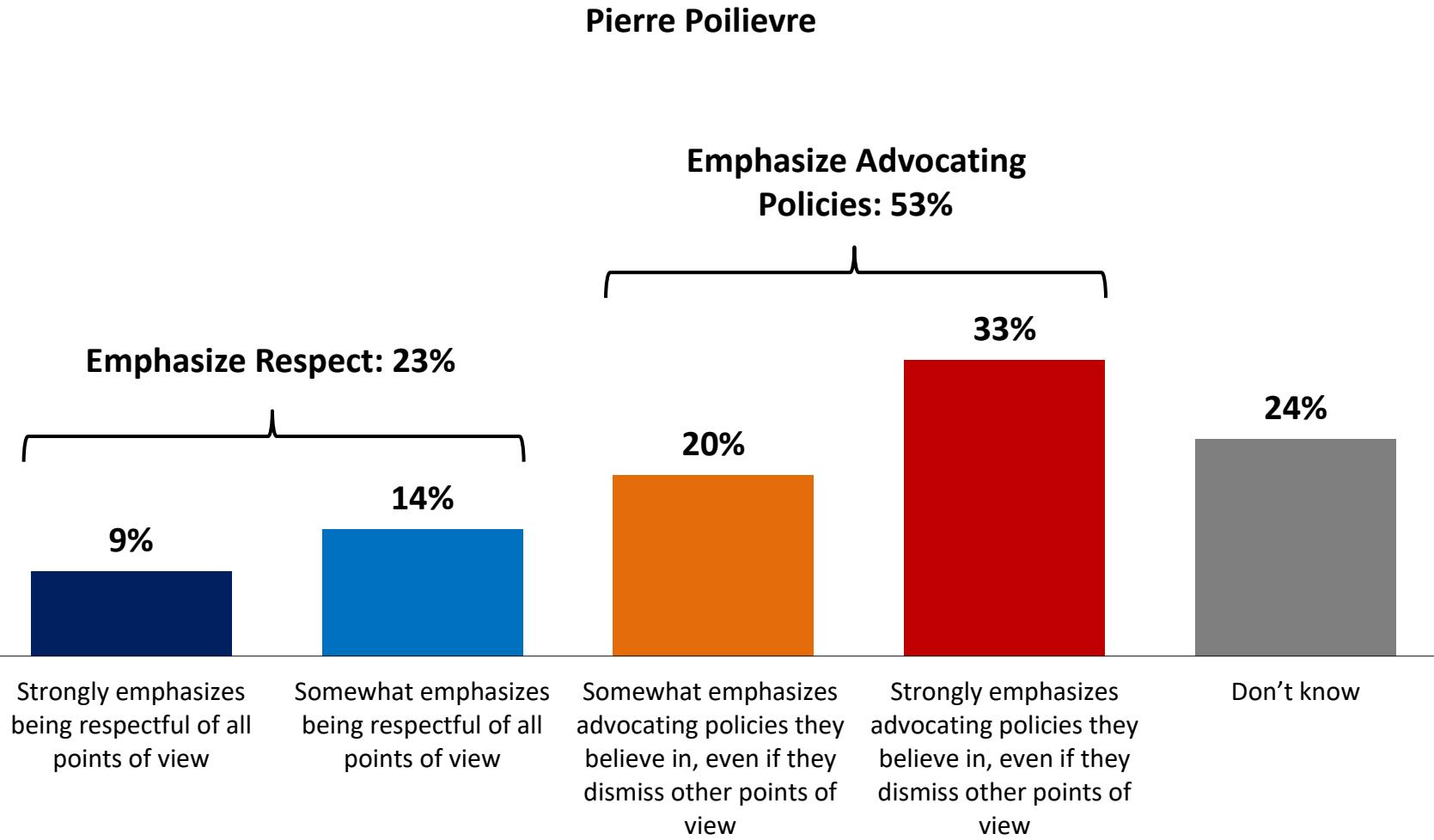
Thinking about the following political leaders, which approach do you think best describes that leader?  
[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]



# Political Leaders - Poilievre: Over half see Poilievre as a leader who emphasizes advocating for policies over respect



Thinking about the following political leaders, which approach do you think best describes that leader?  
 [asked of all respondents, n=1,500]



# Survey Methodology – National



**These are the results of an online survey conducted between January 16, 2026, and February 02, 2026.**

**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= 2,527 Canadian citizens, 18 years or older. The results are nationally weighted to n=1,500 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

**Field Dates:** January 16, 2026, to February 02, 2026

**Weighting:** Results for Canada are weighted by age, gender, region, education, and self-reported federal past vote 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 (%)
<b>Men 18-34</b>	265	10.5%	203	13.6%
<b>Men 35-54</b>	400	15.9%	238	15.9%
<b>Men 55+</b>	562	22.3%	290	19.3%
<b>Women 18-34</b>	293	11.6%	199	13.3%
<b>Women 35-54</b>	443	17.6%	250	16.7%
<b>Women 55+</b>	560	22.2%	318	21.3%
<b>British Columbia</b>	346	13.7%	210	14.0%
<b>Alberta</b>	305	12.1%	169	11.3%
<b>Prairies</b>	151	6.0%	96	6.4%
<b>Ontario</b>	879	34.8%	579	38.6%
<b>Québec</b>	651	25.8%	345	23.0%
<b>Atlantic</b>	195	7.7%	101	6.7%



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**Building Understanding.**