



# Canada This Month

## 2026 British Columbia Budget

**Public Opinion Research**

**Release Date:** March 09, 2026

**Field Dates:** February 06, 2026 to March 03, 2026

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# Study Overview



This report presents findings from a survey on British Columbians' reactions to the 2026 provincial budget, using February data about public approval of the BC government, party preferences, Time-for-Change attitudes, and expectations across key policy areas including taxes, jobs, healthcare, education, and user fees.

Vote intention tracking was conducted through the full month of February among n=700 BC residents. With the mid-month release of the BC budget. Additional sample was added to provide a sample of n=500 BC residents for budget questions.

# Key Findings

- 1 New NDP Budget Most Unpopular Since Campbell's HST Budget.**  
Net satisfaction drops 45 points from Mar '25 (-14) and the worst recorded under any government since 2011 (similar to Premier Campbell's 2010 HST budget). **Only 40% of those that identify as government supporters are satisfied.**
- 2 The Feb '26 budget is the most damaging to NDP government favourability under Premier Eby.**  
Among 41% of those who read, saw, or heard (RSH) about the budget, 67% report that it left them less favourable towards the provincial BC NDP government, with net favourability collapsing to -61, a 43-point drop from Mar '25 (-18). Only 7% feel more favourable.
- 3 Across every impact measure, such as taxes, employment, and healthcare, the budget drives deeply negative expectations.**  
72% expect higher taxes (up 17 points from Mar '25), 54% say healthcare will be worse off, 52% expect higher unemployment, 42% say education will suffer, and 70% anticipate higher user fees. Even mixed/ambivalent voters have majority negative views across most measures.
- 4 The budget has overtaken all other news about Premier Eby and leaving people feeling worse about him and government.**  
Prior to the budget, Eby's Tumbler Ridge visit after the mass shooting drove strongly positive coverage (net favourability impact of +48). Post-budget, deficits, tax increases, and social program cuts now dominate mentions at 26%, with a net favourability impact of -82.
- 5 Conservatives have opened a clear lead in BC vote intention.**  
BC Conservatives lead with 40% combined support (47% decided), ahead of the NDP at 34% (39% decided), widening the gap since November 2025. A majority (52%) are dissatisfied with the provincial government, and 60% say it is time for a change. Eby holds the highest favourable rating at 35%, but also the highest unfavourable at 36%.

# Key Voter Segments

# Key Segmentations: We use attitudinal clusters to explore opinions within groups that share common motivations

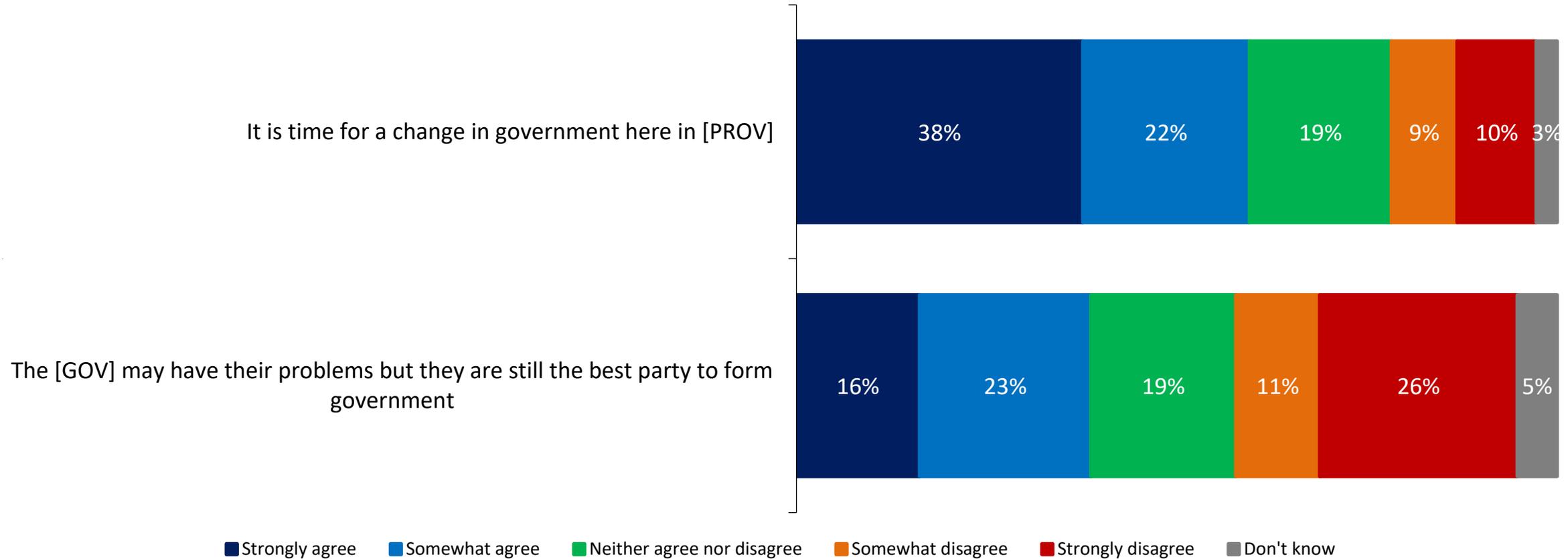
## Time For Change

This segmentation separates Canadians by their views on the incumbent government. Is it time for a change, and is there a better alternative than the current government? This creates six groups:

1. **Core NDP (18%)** - Strongly support the NDP and don't want change.
2. **Soft NDP (10%)** - Lean toward NDPs but aren't firmly committed.
3. **Time for Change NDP (12%)** - Want change but still see NDPs as the best option to govern.
4. **Uncertain (10%)** - Conflicted about whether it's time for a change at all
5. **Soft anti-NDP (27%)** - Want change and don't see NDPs as the best government option
6. **Hostile (24%)** - Strongly oppose NDPs and are eager for change

# Time for Change Attitudes: 3-in-5 British Columbians agree it's time for a change in government

Q Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? -  
[asked of all respondents; n=700]

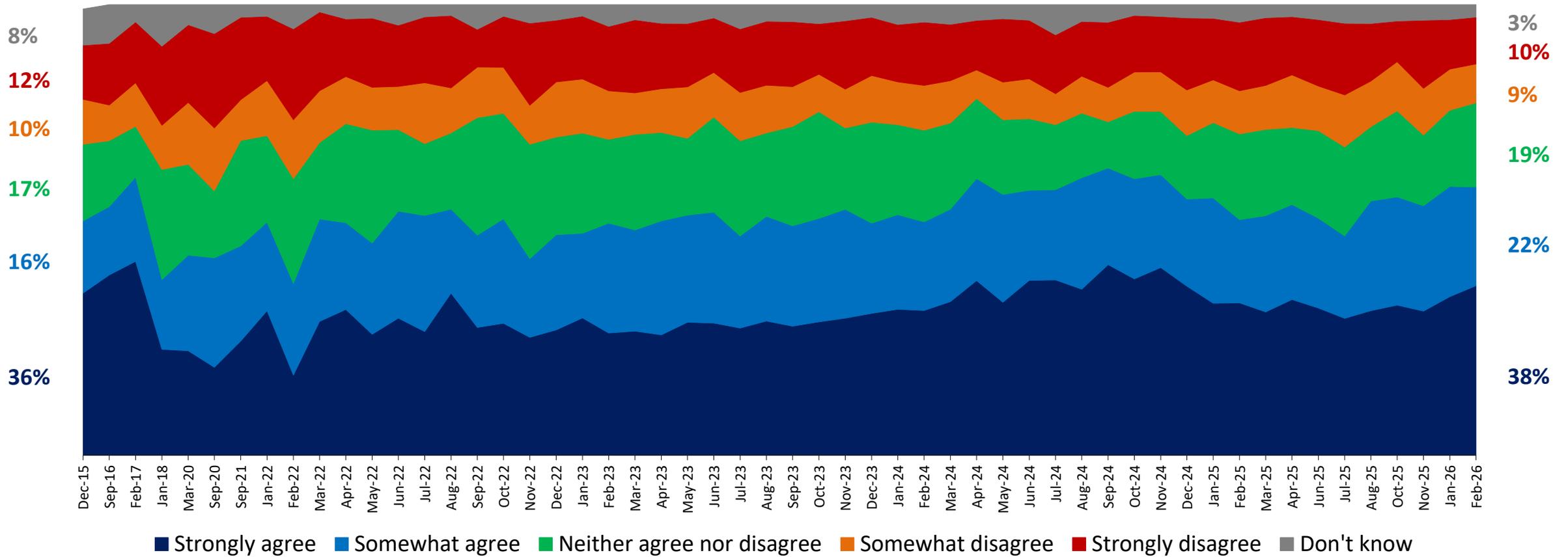


# BC Time for Change Tracking: Trending upward steadily since November 2025



Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - It is time for a change in government here in [PROV]

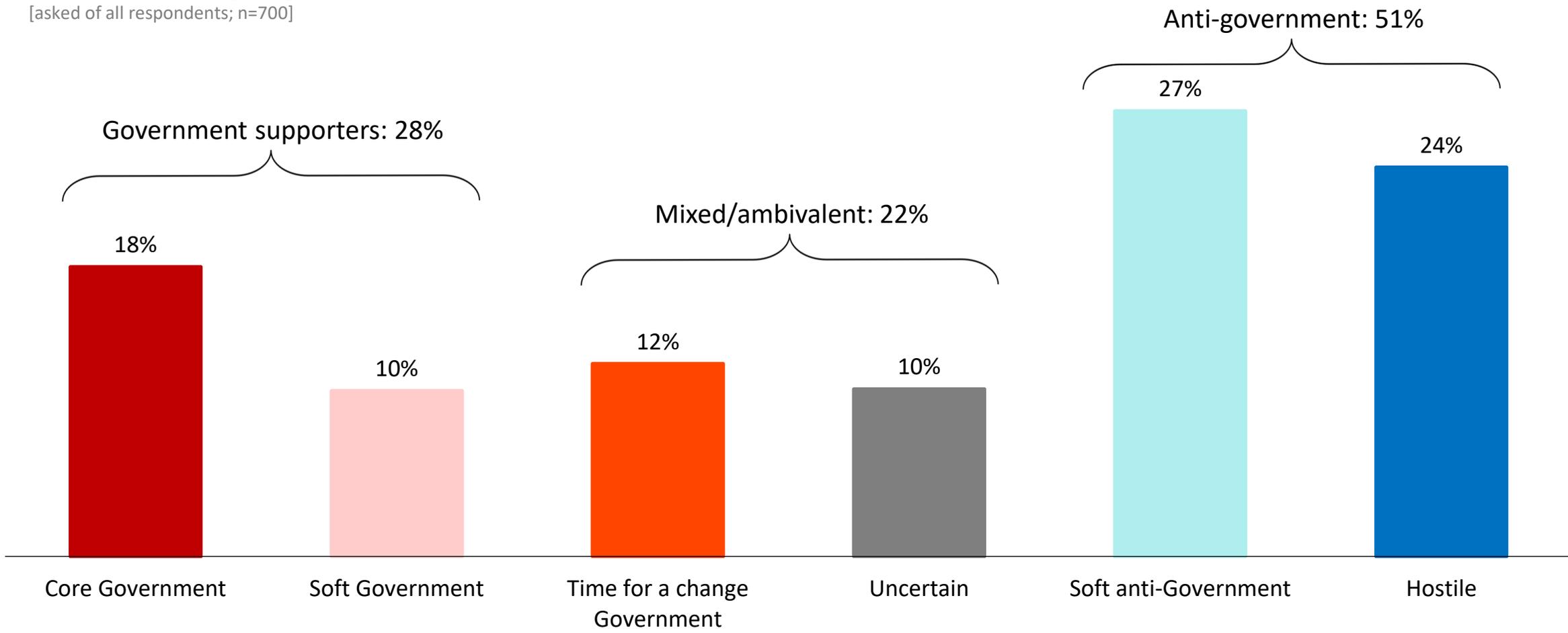
[asked of all respondents; n=700]



# Time for Change Segmentation: 27% identify as Soft anti-Government, followed by 24% who identify as Hostile

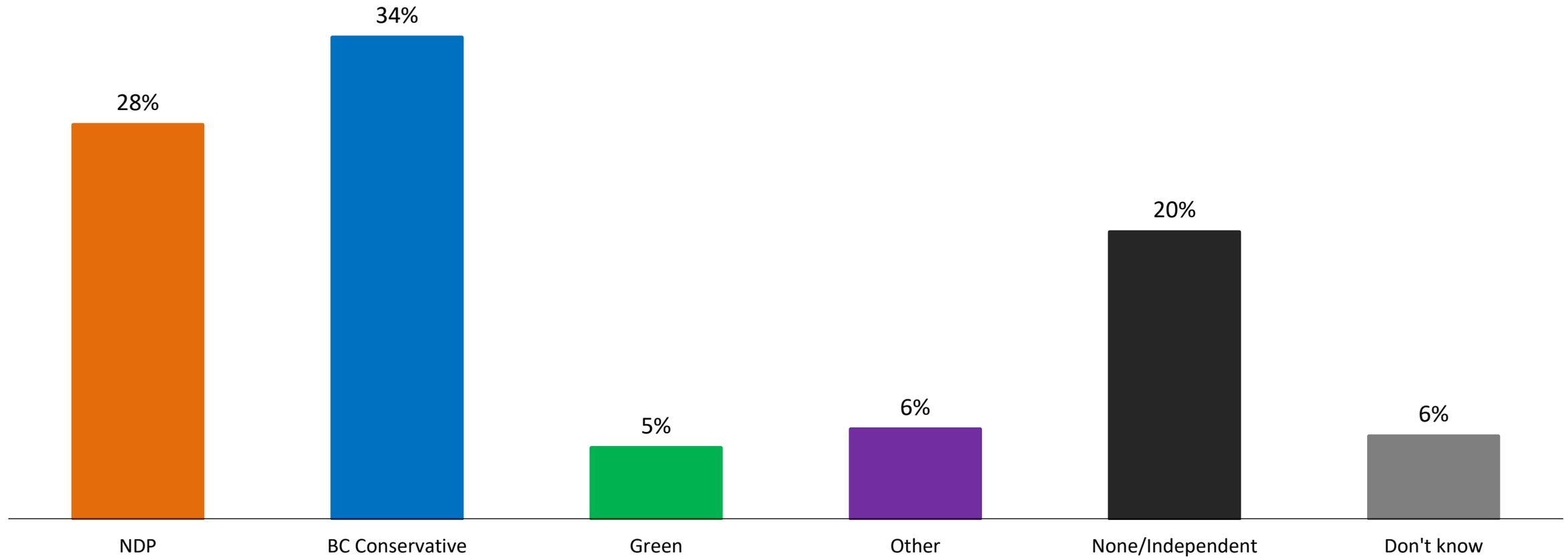


Time for Change segmentation: Agree with 'The BC NDP may have their problems but they are still the best party to form government' BY Agree with 'It is time for a change in government here in BC'.  
[asked of all respondents; n=700]



# Provincial Party ID: 34% identify as Conservative, followed by 28% who identify as NDP

Q Thinking about politics in [PROV], generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a...  
[asked of all respondents; n=700]



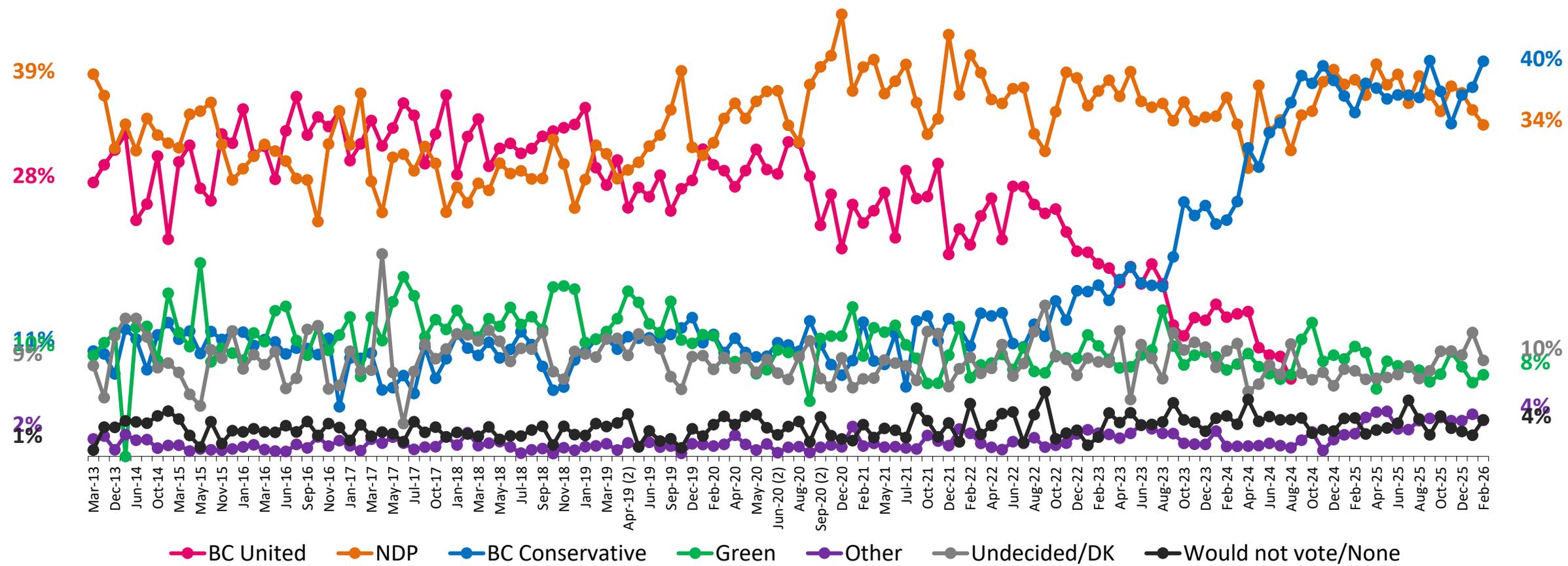
**Vote**

The background of the image is a solid dark blue color. It features several light blue circles of varying sizes scattered across the space. The circles are thin-lined and do not have a fill. They are positioned in the upper right, center, and lower right areas of the frame.

# Provincial Vote Tracking: Conservative support has risen to 40% since Nov '25, while NDP support has declined to 34%



If a provincial 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=700]

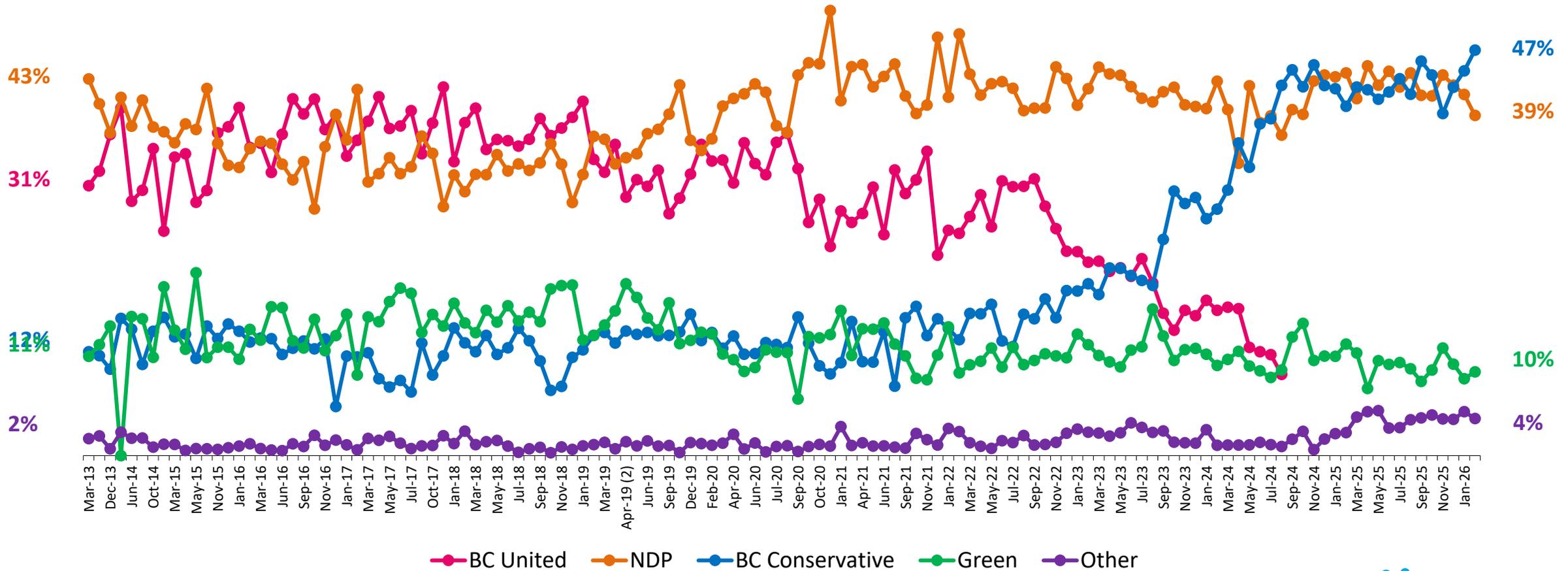


# Provincial Decided Vote Tracking: Conservatives and NDP have moved in opposite directions, with Conservatives at 47% and NDP at 39%



If a provincial 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=605]

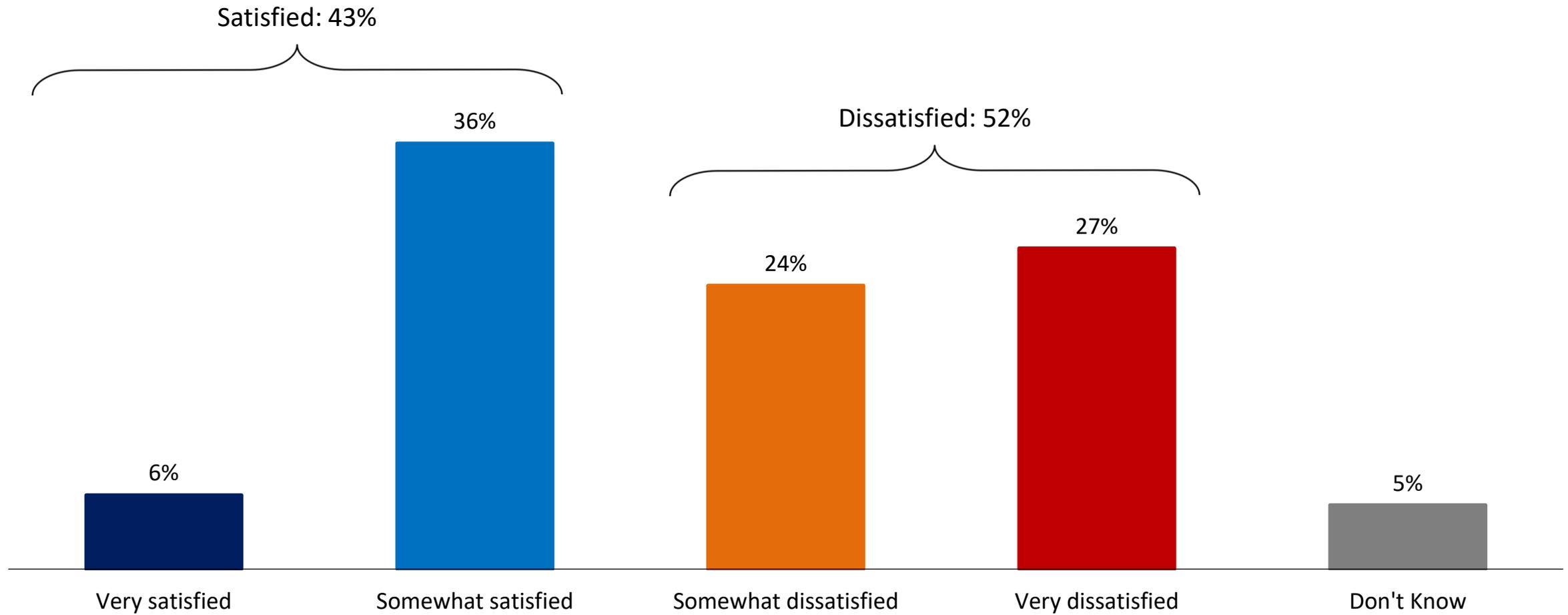


# **BC Government Approval**

# BC Government Approval: Over half (52%) are dissatisfied with the provincial government while 43% are satisfied; 5% don't know



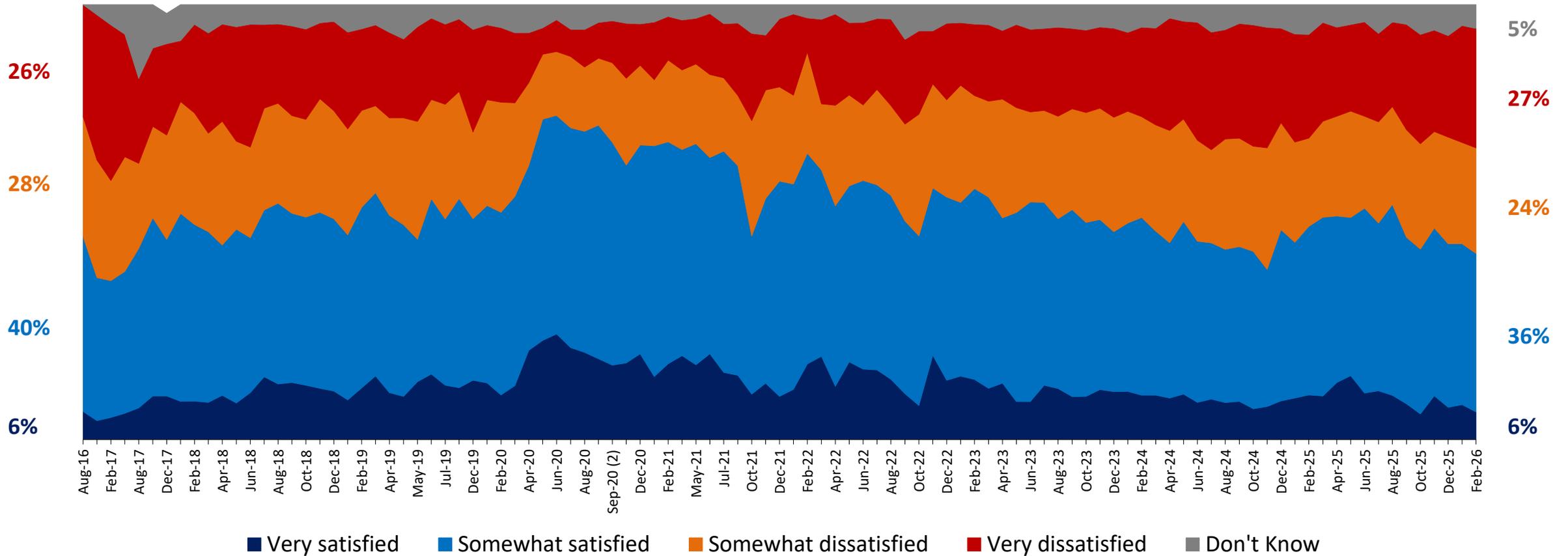
Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with the performance of the PROVINCIAL government in British Columbia? Would you say you are...?  
[asked of all respondents; n=700]



# BC Government Approval Tracking: Satisfaction with the BC government has declined from 49% to 43% since Nov. '25



Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with the performance of the PROVINCIAL government in British Columbia? Would you say you are...?  
[asked of all respondents; n=700]



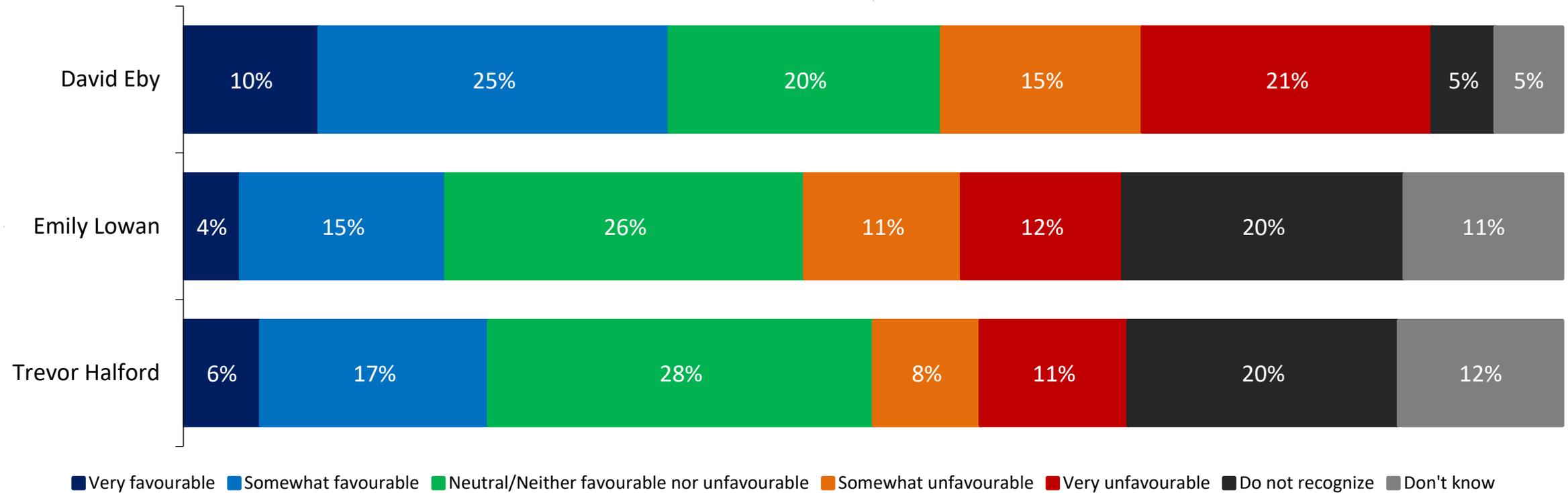
# Leader Favourability

# Leader Favourables: Eby leads in favourable views at 35%, while also recording the highest unfavourable rating at 36%



Below are the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please indicate whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, neither favourable or unfavourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just indicate.

[asked of all respondents; n=700]

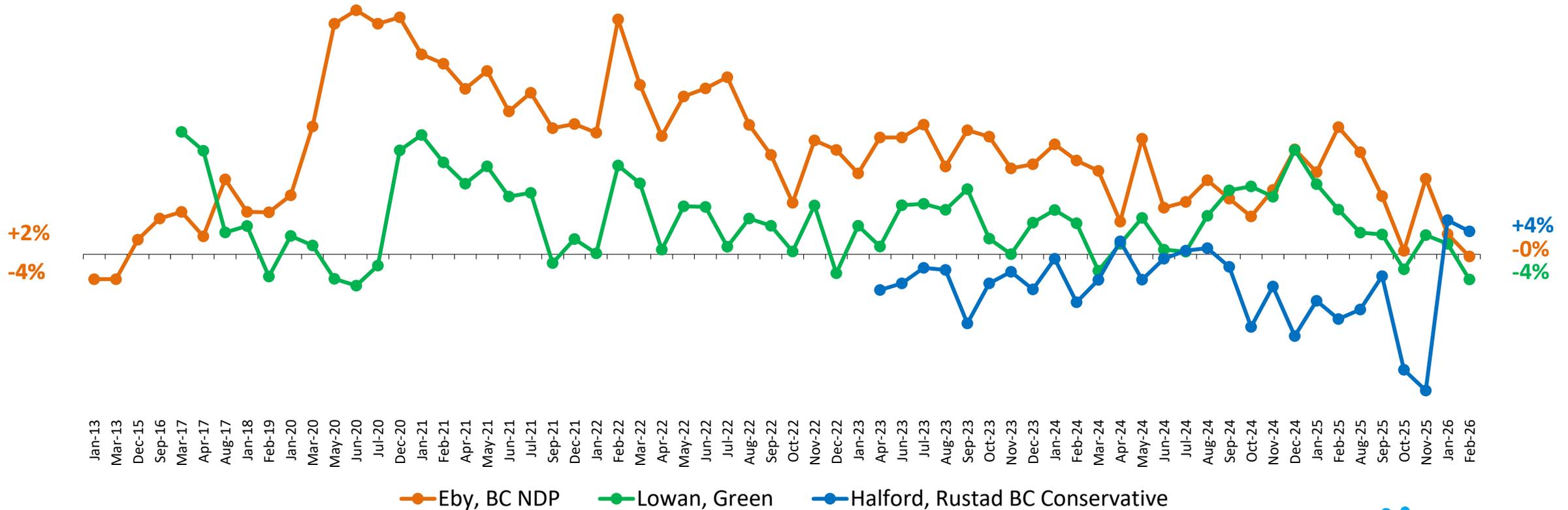


# BC Party Leader NET Favourables Tracking: Halford holds small lead in net favourability at +4, marking a significant turnaround since Nov '25



Below are the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please indicate whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, neither favourable or unfavourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just indicate.

[asked of all respondents; n=700]



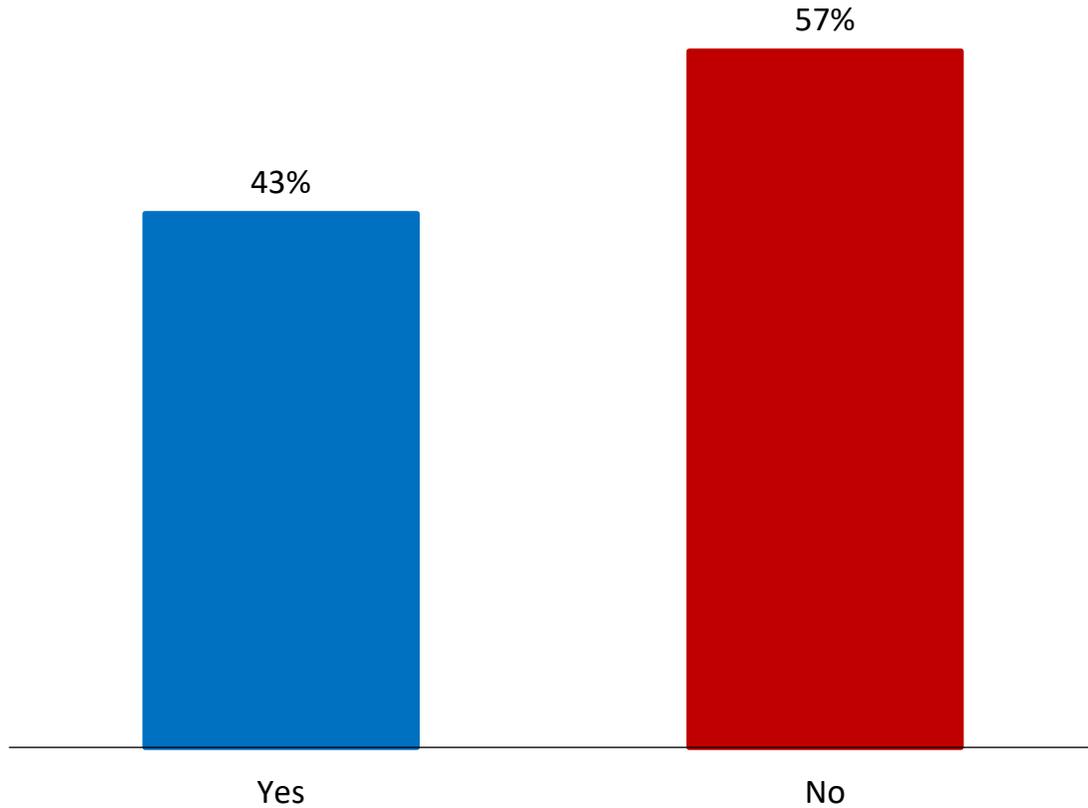
**Read, Seen,  
Heard**

The background is a solid dark blue color. It features several faint, white, thin-lined circles of varying sizes scattered across the space. The circles are positioned in the upper right, middle, and lower right areas, creating a subtle pattern.

# BC Read, Seen, Heard: Among the 43% that have RSH, 42% felt less favourable, 31% made no difference, and 27% felt more favourable

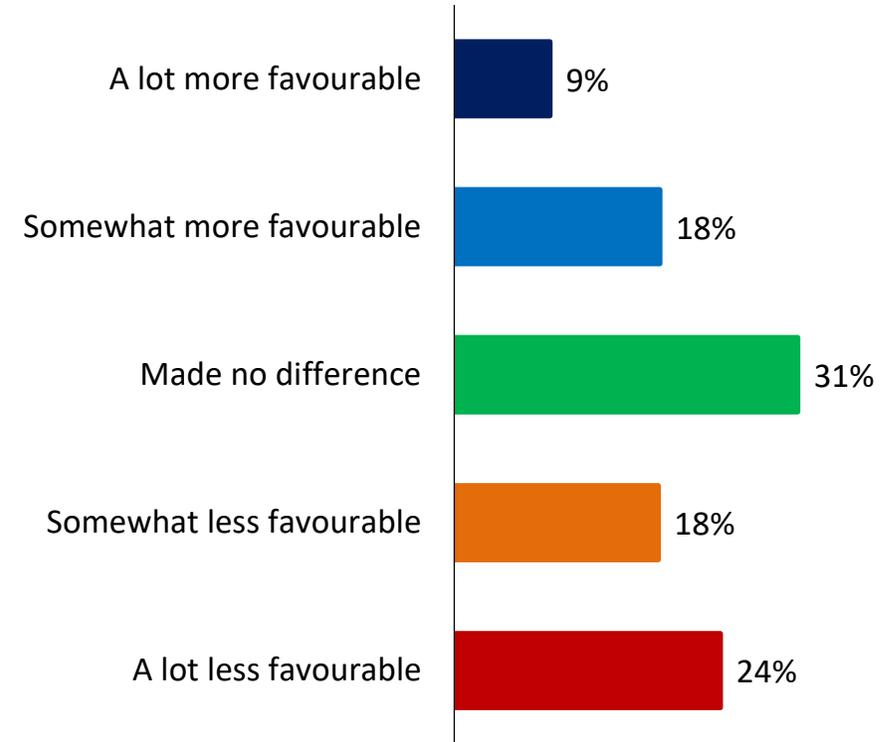
**Q** Have you read, seen or heard anything about Premier David Eby in the last few days?

[asked of all respondents; n=700]



**Q** 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 Premier David Eby, or did it make no difference?

[asked of all respondents; n=304]

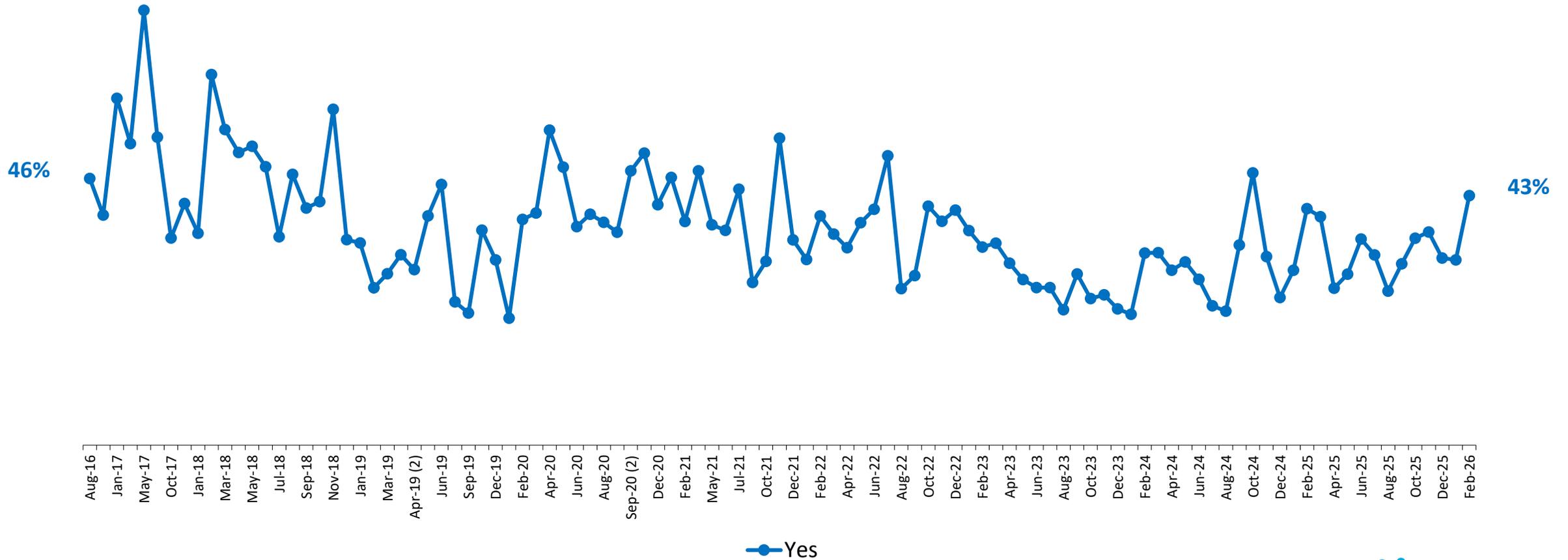


# Read, Seen, Heard Tracking: 43% have RSH something, an 11-point increase from Jan '26



Have you read, seen or heard anything about Premier David Eby in the last few days?

[asked of all respondents; n=700]



Note: Don't know not shown.

Current data: February 2026

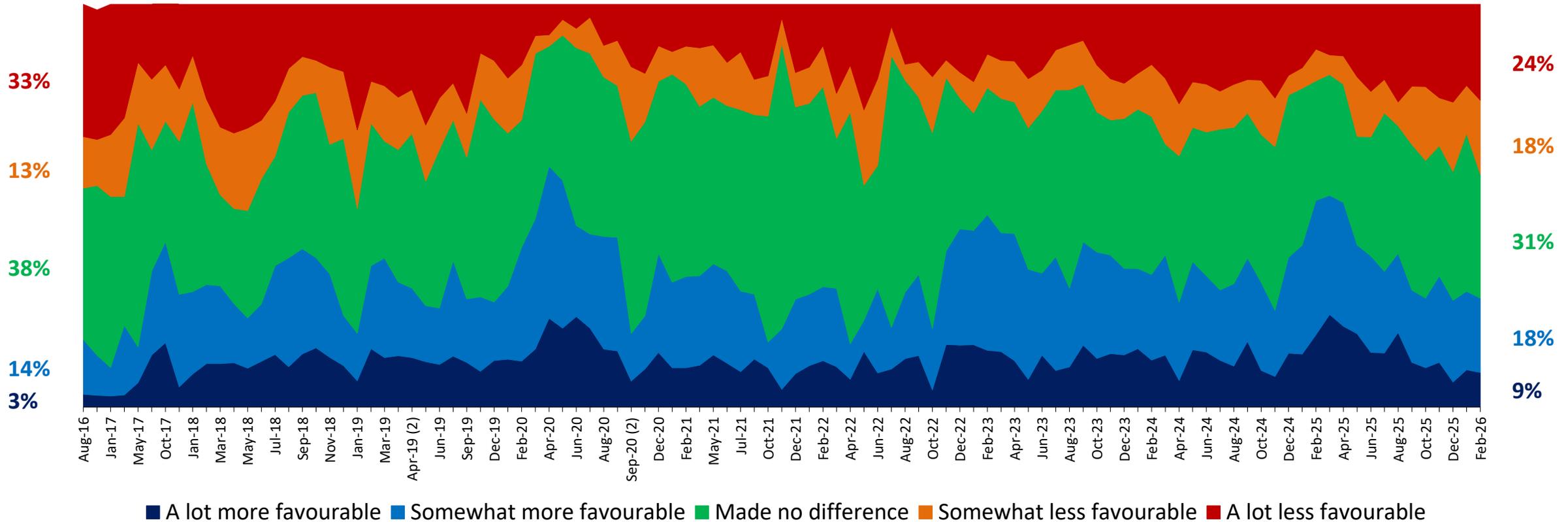


# BC Read, Seen, Heard, Impact Tracking: Eby's favourability has declined six points since Nov. '25, falling to 27%



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 Premier David Eby, or did it make no difference?

[asked of those who have RSH; n=304]



**Note:** Don't know not shown.  
Current data: February 2026



# Impact of RSH on Premier/BC Gov't: The 2026 budget dominated recent mentions and negatively impacted favourability in late February

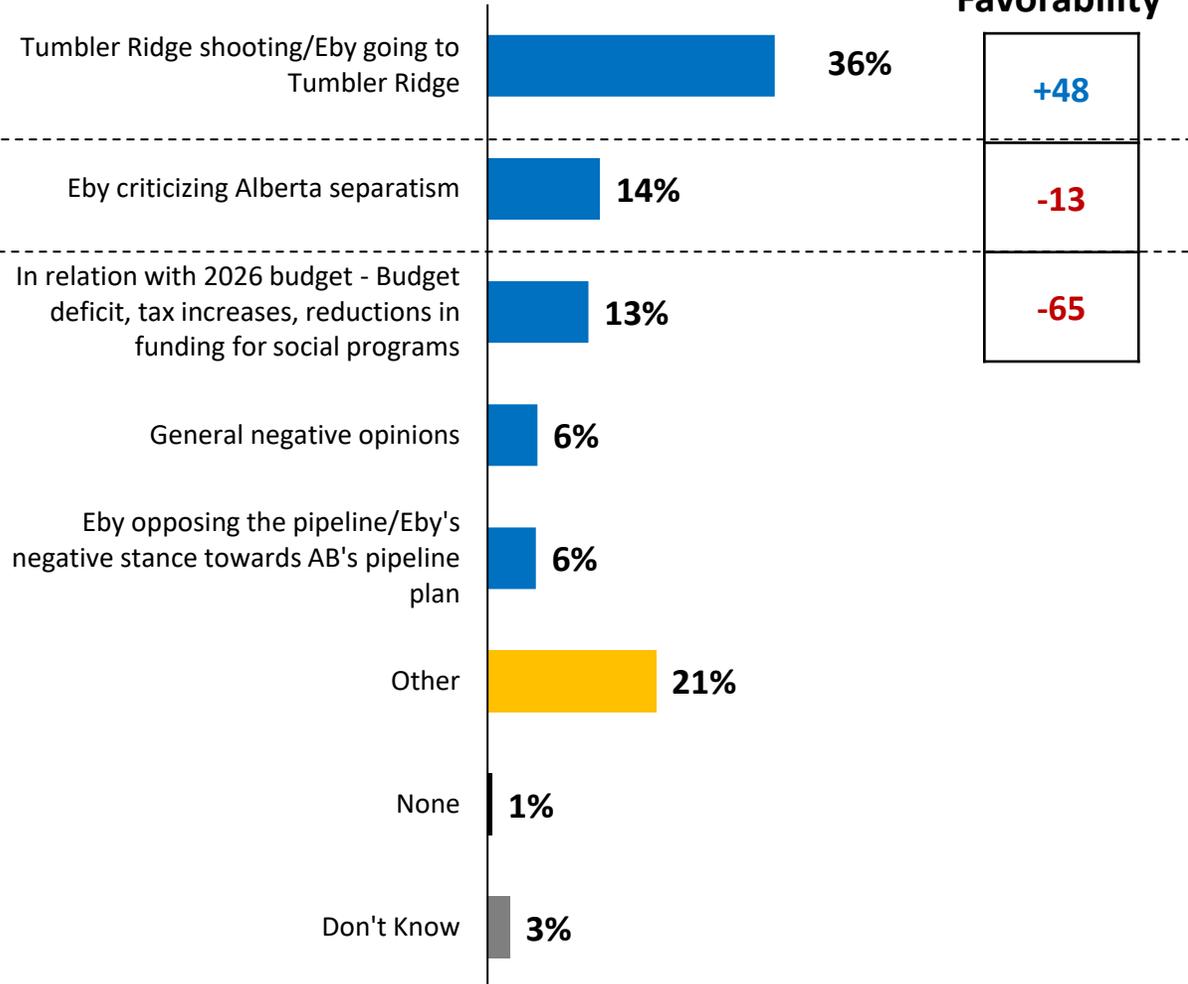


And what have you read, seen or heard about BC's Premier David Eby and the provincial government in the last few days? [OPEN ENDED]

[Asked of those who RSH about David Eby and Gov't]

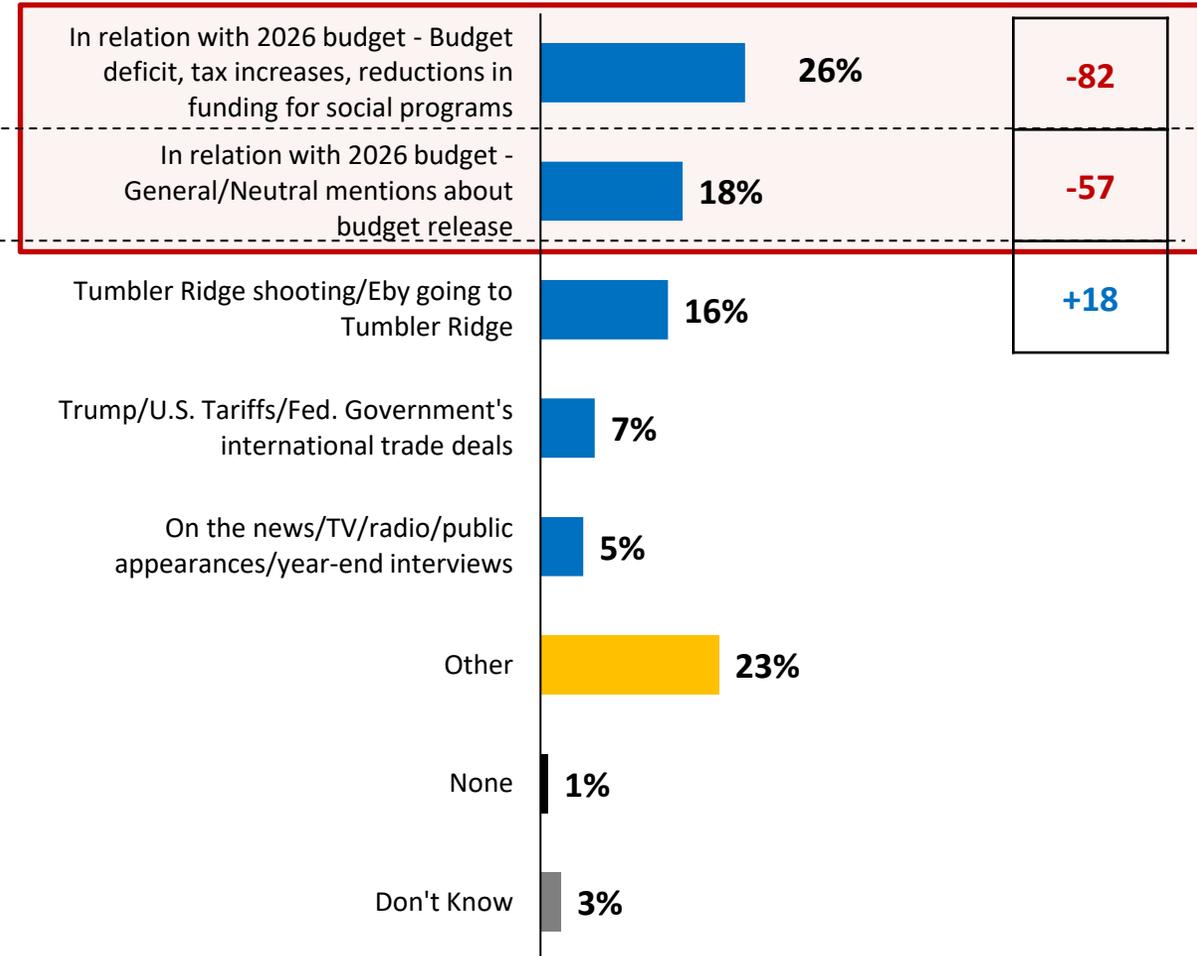
## Pre-Budget Release - Top 5

[Feb. '26 (W1+W2), n=58]



## Post-Budget Release - Top 5

[Feb. '26 (W3+W4), n=210]



Note: 'Refused' (<1%) and 'Bad respondent' (1%) not shown.

# RSH on Premier/BC Gov't – Verbatims: Pre-budget release, February opened with positive sentiment around Eby's Tumbler Ridge visit



And what have you read, seen or heard about BC's Premier David Eby and the provincial government in the last few days? [OPEN ENDED]

[Asked of those who RSH about David Eby and Gov't]

## Pre-Budget Release

[Feb. '26 (W1+W2), n=58]

### Tumbler Ridge shooting/Eby going to Tumbler Ridge

*"David Eby went to Tumbler Ridge to offer support to the families, after the shooting at the school."*

*"I've mainly heard about his role in supporting the people and community of Tumbler Ridge following the mass shooting."*

### Eby criticizing Alberta separatism

*"He [Eby] called Alberta separatists traitors."*

*"Premier David Eby indicated he thought the Alberta separatists that went to Washington, D.C. to seek support for Alberta leaving Canada were guilty of treason..."*

*"He [Eby] said bad things about Alberta."*

## Post-Budget Release

[Feb. '26 (W3+W4), n=210]

### In relation with 2026 budget - Budget deficit, tax increases, reductions in funding for social programs

*"Eby has said the deficit is high and to help it out he is increasing property taxes and income tax."*

*"I heard about the whopping deficit in the provincial budget on the news, and how the Province is going deeper into debt."*

### In relation with 2026 budget - General/Neutral mentions about budget release

*"He and his government presented a new budget."*

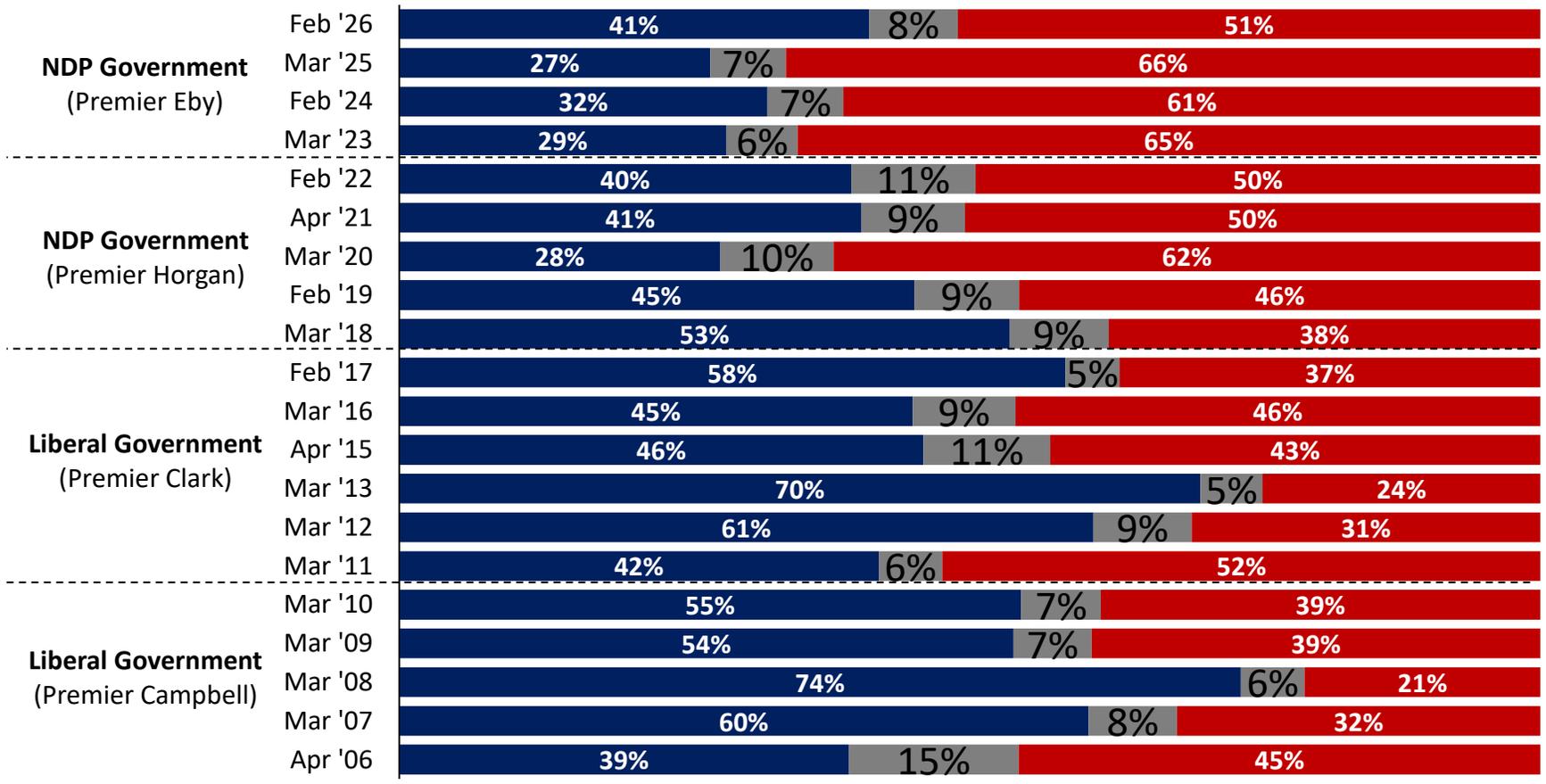
*"I've read, seen, and heard all about the budget proposals for the upcoming year."*

*"Release of new budget."*

# Reaction to the 2026 Budget

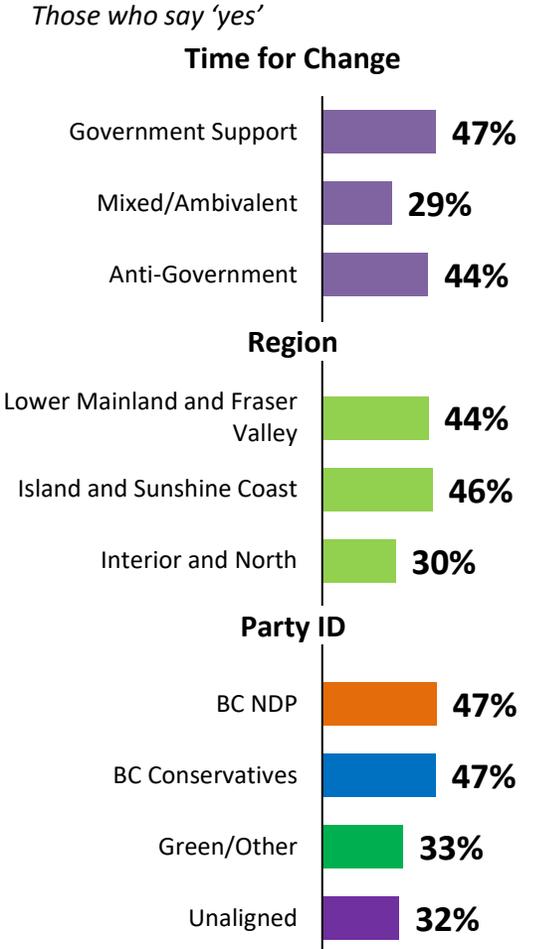
# RSH Budget: RSH about the '26 budget are up 14 points vs. the Mar '25 budget; NDP and Conservatives mostly like to have RSH (47%)

**Q** Have you read, seen or heard anything about the recent provincial budget that was presented in the Legislature on February 17th, 2026?  
 [asked of all respondents, n=500]



■ Yes ■ Don't know ■ No

### Segmentation



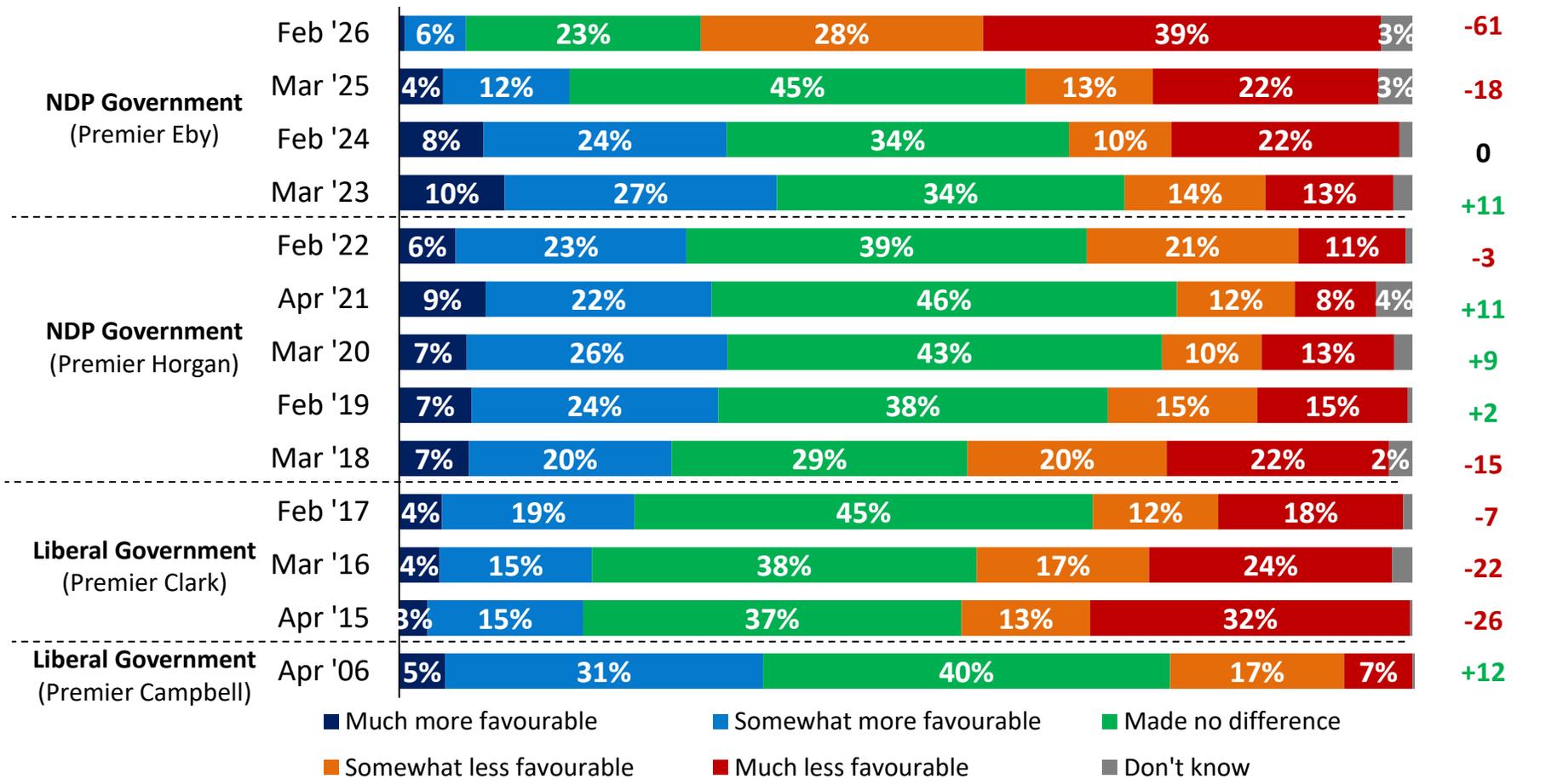
Note: \*n-size of less than 54. Please treat results with caution.

# Impact of Budget's RSH on Gov Favourability: Net favourability of govt after RSH about budget has fallen 43 points since Mar '25 (-18)



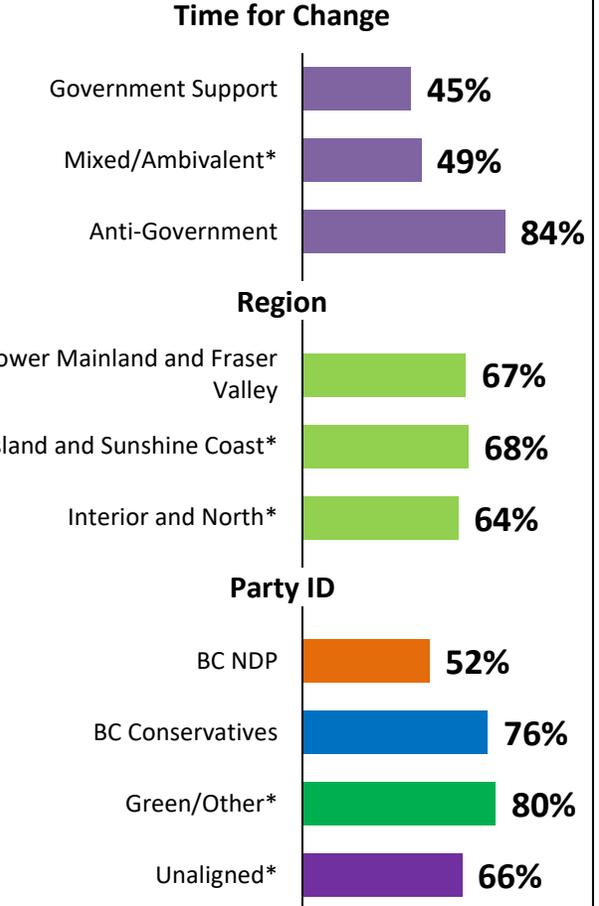
Did it leave you feeling a lot more favourable, somewhat more favourable, somewhat less favourable, a lot less favourable towards the provincial BC NDP government?

[asked of respondents who have RSH about budget, n=206]



### Segmentation

Those who say "Less favourable"

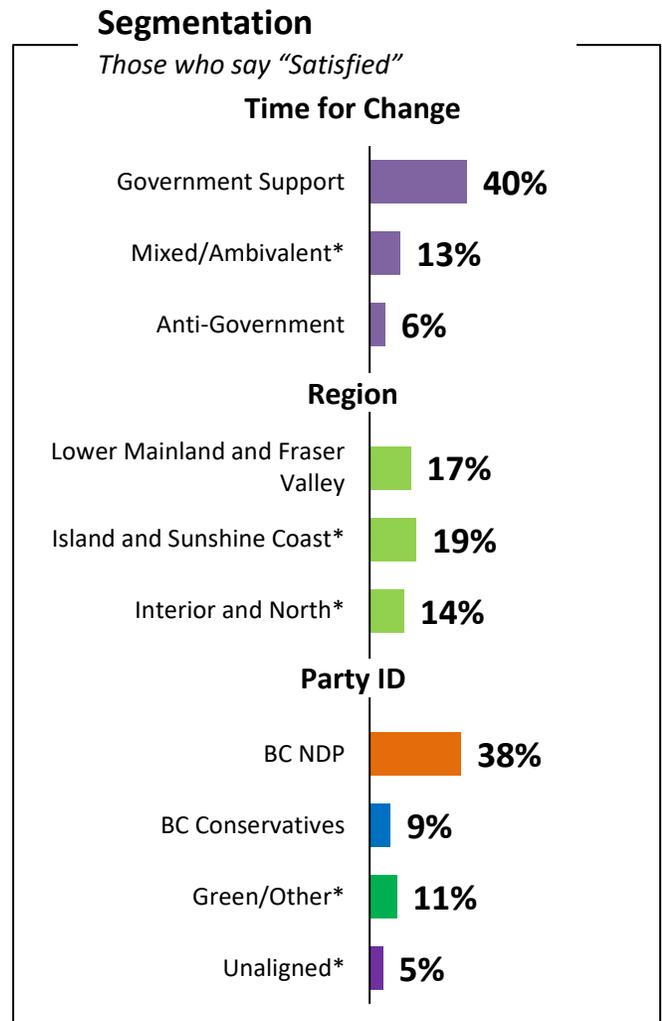
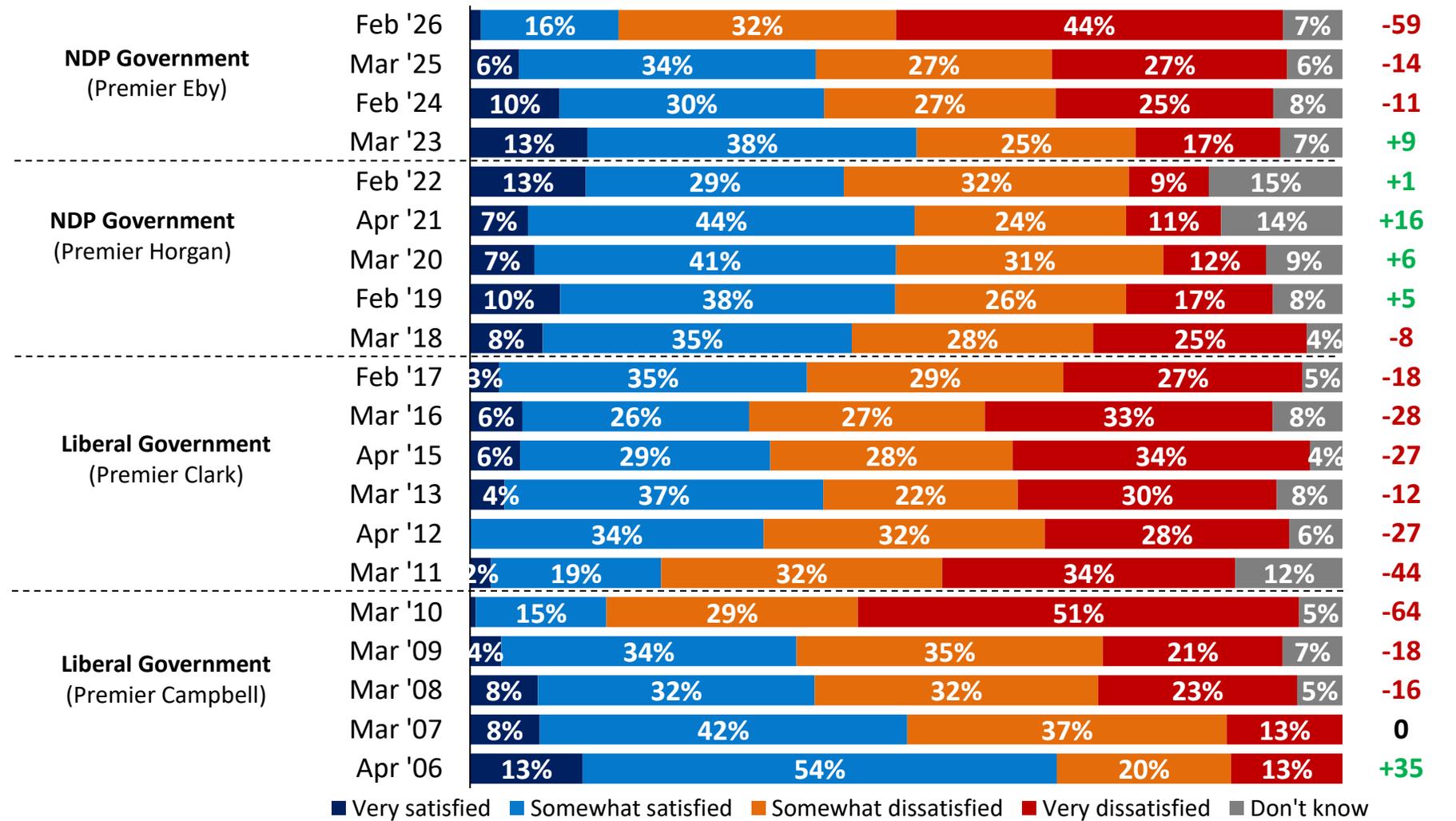


Note: \*n-size of less than 54. Please treat results with caution.

Note: Starting in 2018, the question is asked about Apr '06 NDP government. Prior to that, the question was asked about the BC Liberal government; 'Don't know' not given as an option in Apr '06.

# Satisfaction With The Budget: 45-point drop in net satisfaction with the budget compared to Mar '25; 38% of BC NDP are satisfied with it

**Q** In general, how satisfied are you with the provincial budget?  
[asked of respondents who have RSH about budget, n=206]



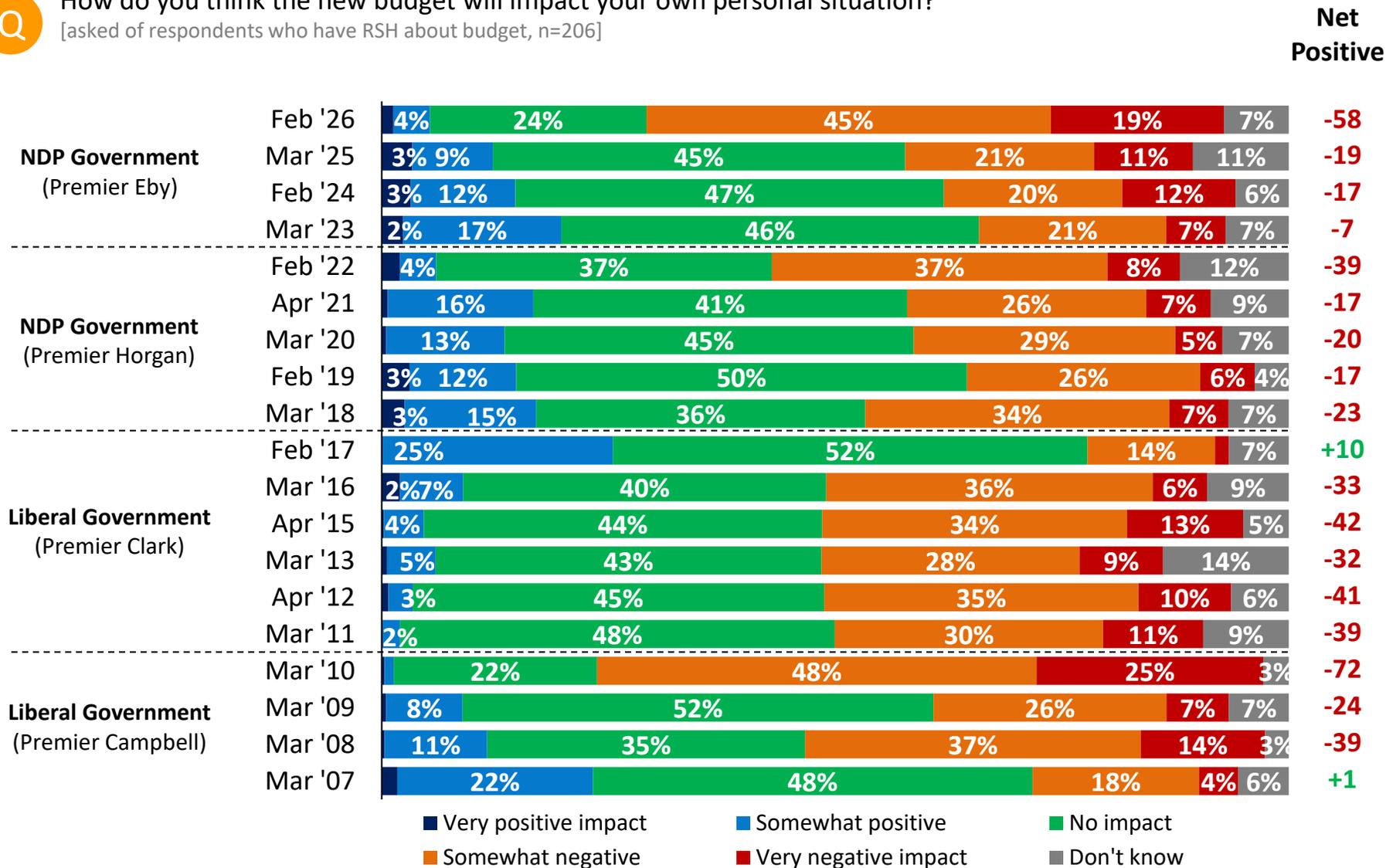
Legend: Very satisfied (dark blue), Somewhat satisfied (light blue), Somewhat dissatisfied (orange), Very dissatisfied (red), Don't know (grey)



Note: \*n-size of less than 54. Please treat results with caution.  
Note: "Don't know" is not provided as an option in Apr '06 and May '07.

# Personal Impact: The majority (64%) expect that budget will have negative impact on personal situation; net positive impact score is -58

**Q** How do you think the new budget will impact your own personal situation?  
 [asked of respondents who have RSH about budget, n=206]



## Segmentation

Those who say "Negative"

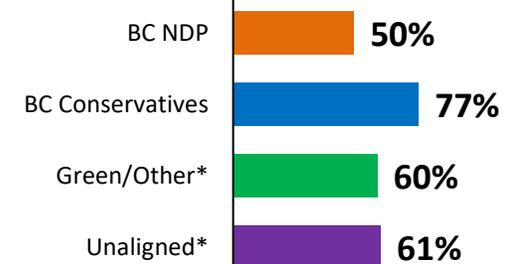
### Time for Change



### Region



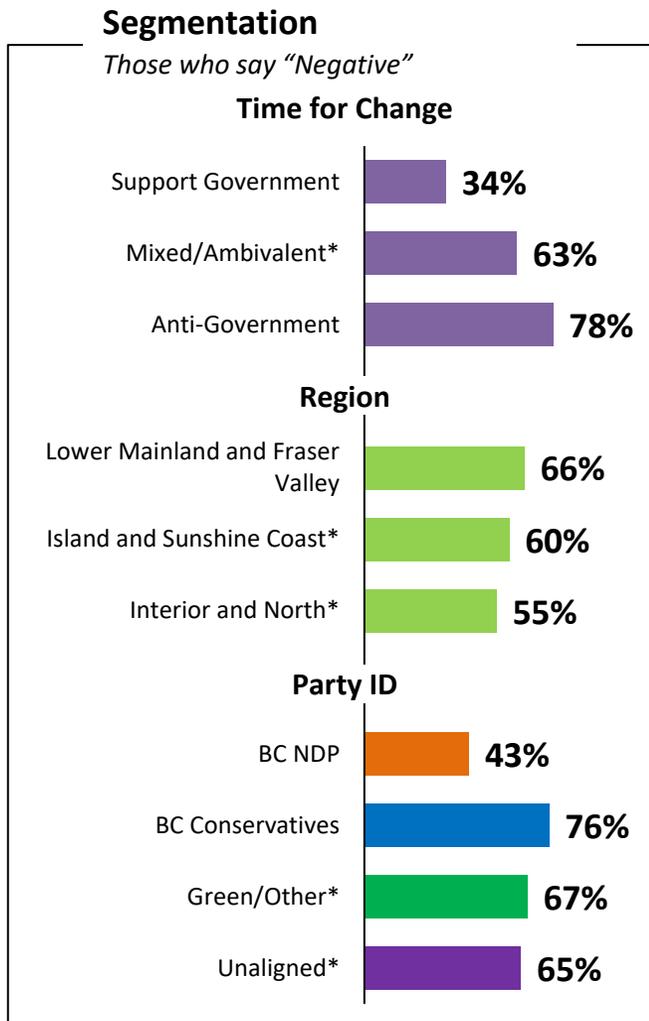
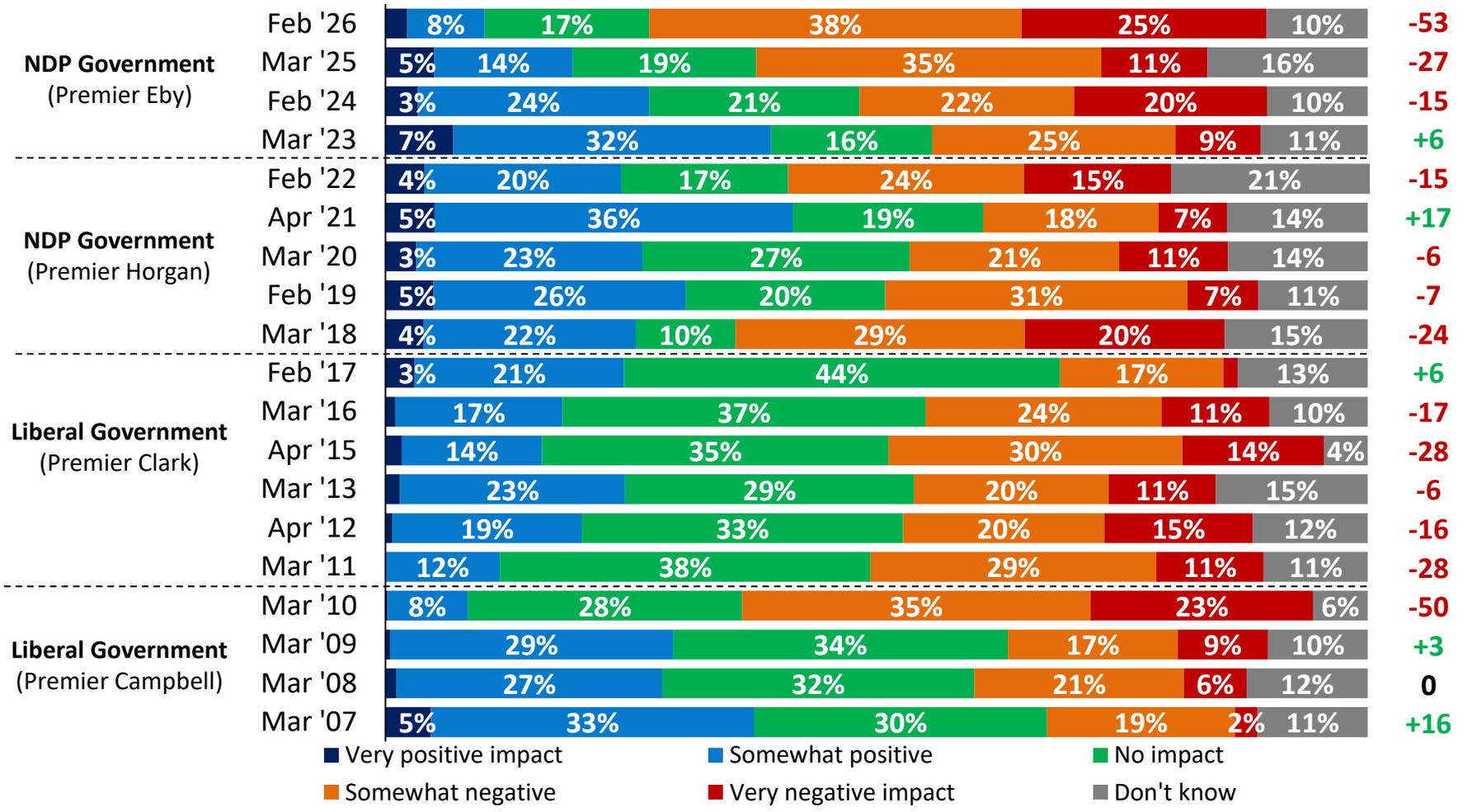
### Party ID



Note: \*n-size of less than 54. Please treat results with caution.

# Economic Impact: Negative perceptions of the budget's economic impact continue to rise, with only 10% viewing it positively

**Q** Do you think the budget will have a positive or negative impact on the economy?  
 [asked of respondents who have RSH about budget, n=206]



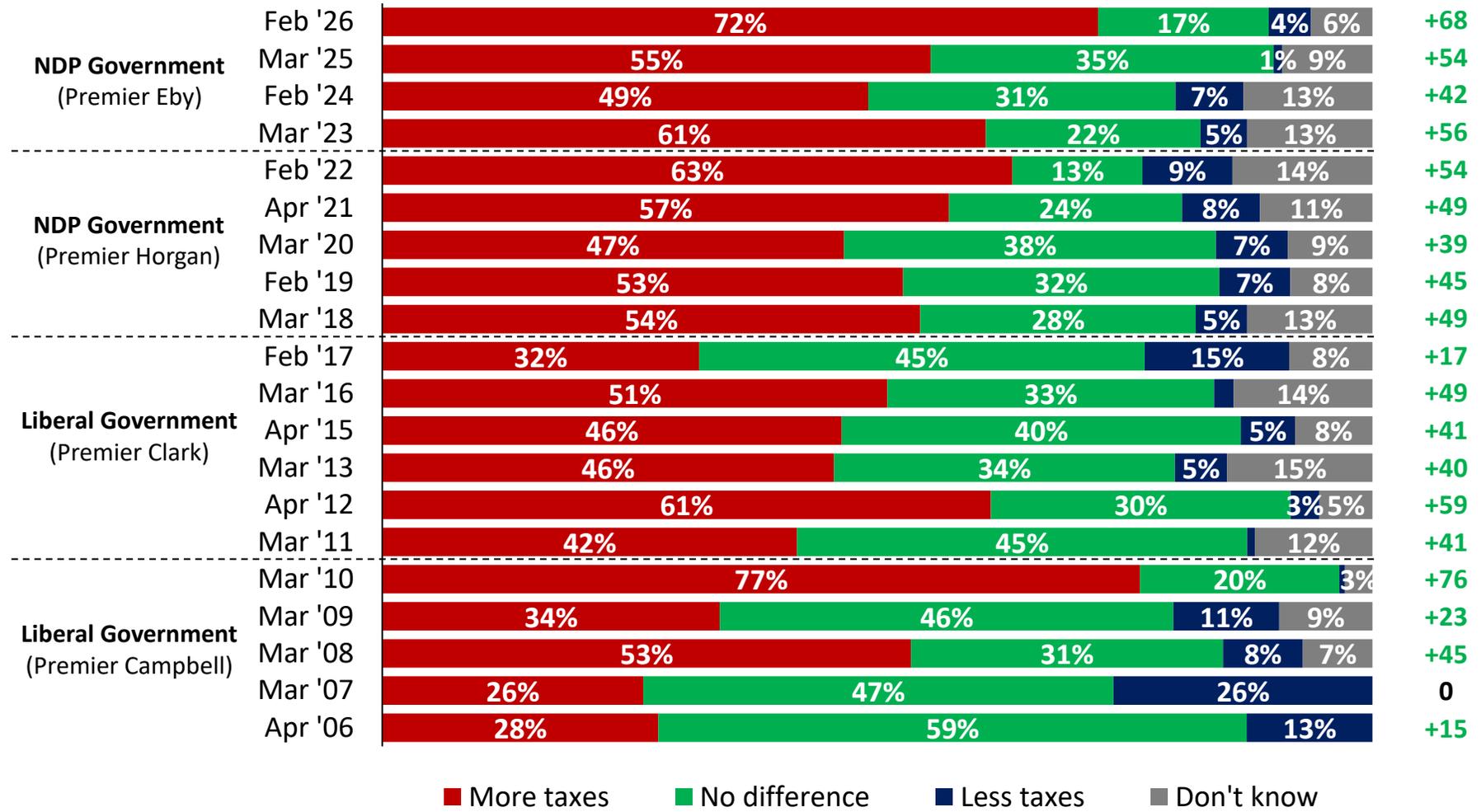
Note: \*n-size of less than 54. Please treat results with caution.

# Tax Impact: Nearly 3-in-4 say the budget will result in more taxes; over half (55%) of those who identify with NDP agree



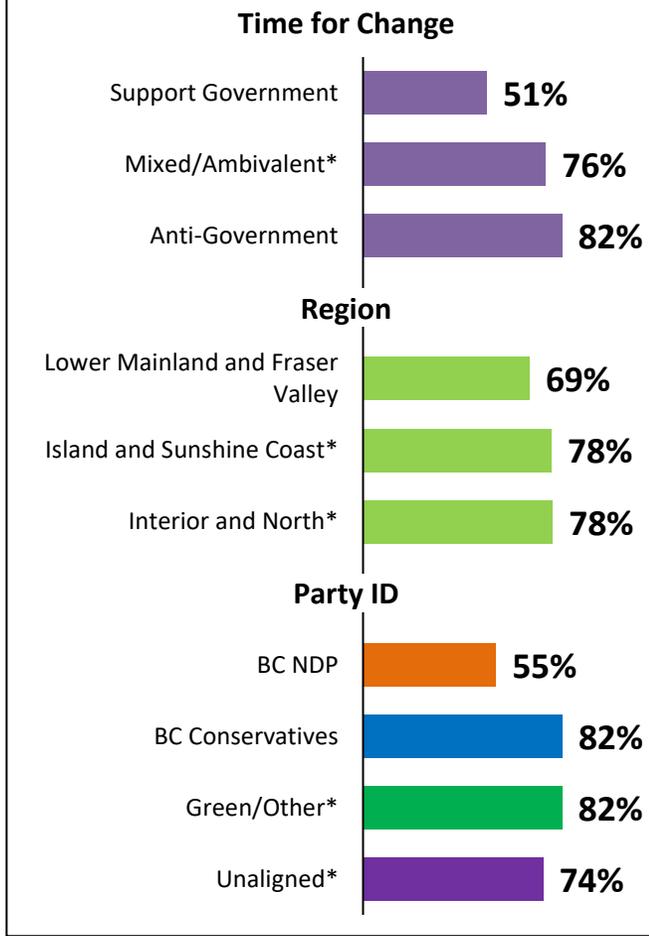
Do you think the budget will result in your paying more taxes, less taxes, or will it make no difference?

[asked of respondents who have RSH about budget, n=206]



## Segmentation

Those who say "More Taxes"



More taxes (red) No difference (green) Less taxes (blue) Don't know (grey)



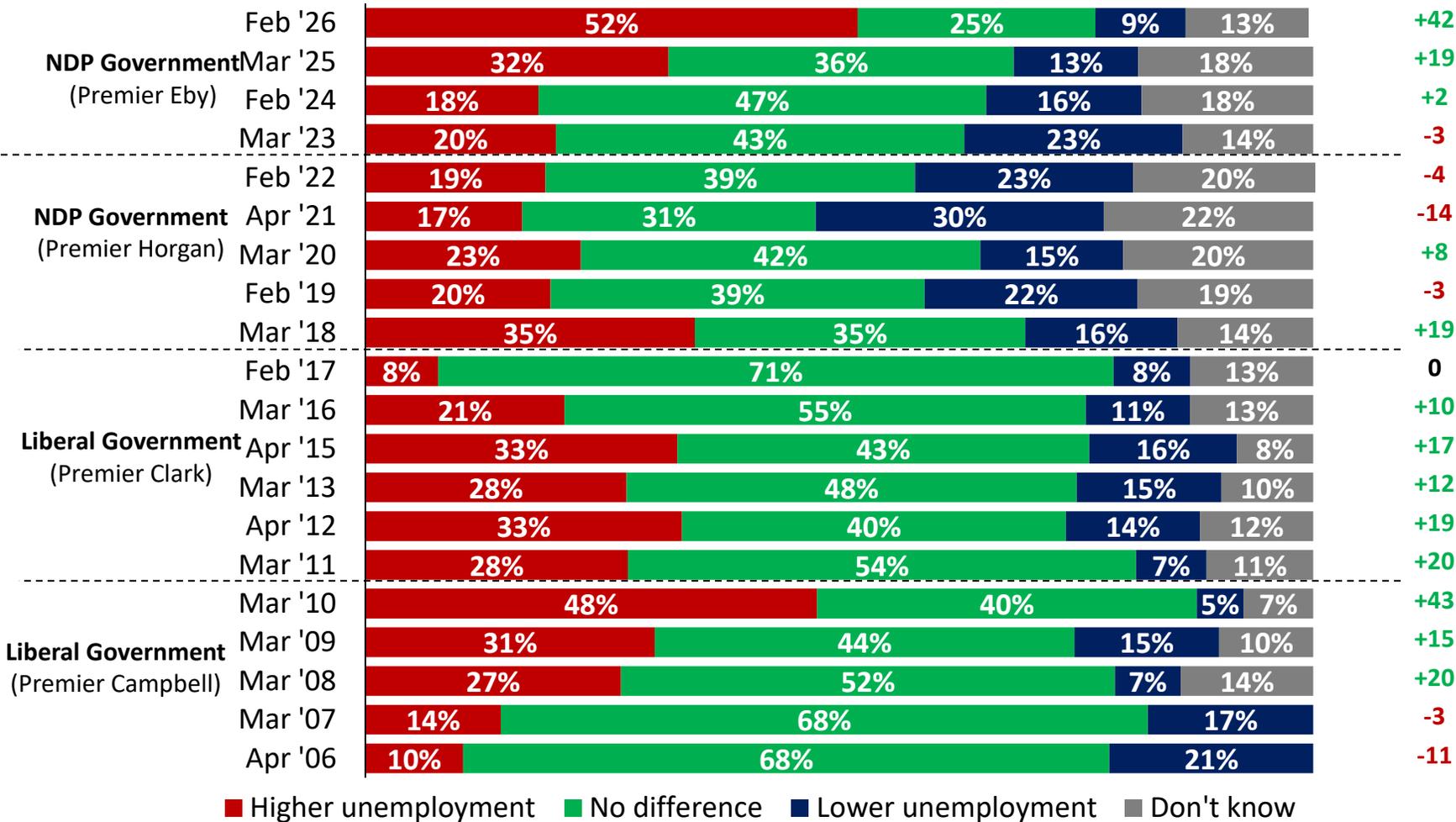
Note: \*n-size of less than 54. Please treat results with caution.  
 Note: "Don't know" is not provided as an option in Apr '06 and May '07.

# Jobs Impact: Over half (52%) say the budget will result in higher unemployment; those unaligned and ambivalent more likely to say so



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

[asked of respondents who have RSH about budget, n=206]

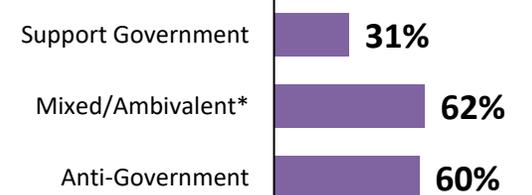


■ Higher unemployment ■ No difference ■ Lower unemployment ■ Don't know

## Segmentation

Those who say "Higher unemployment"

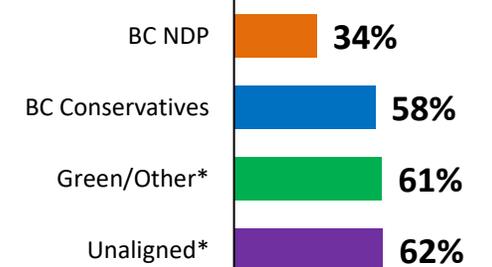
### Time for Change



### Region



### Party ID



Note: \*n-size of less than 54. Please treat results with caution.

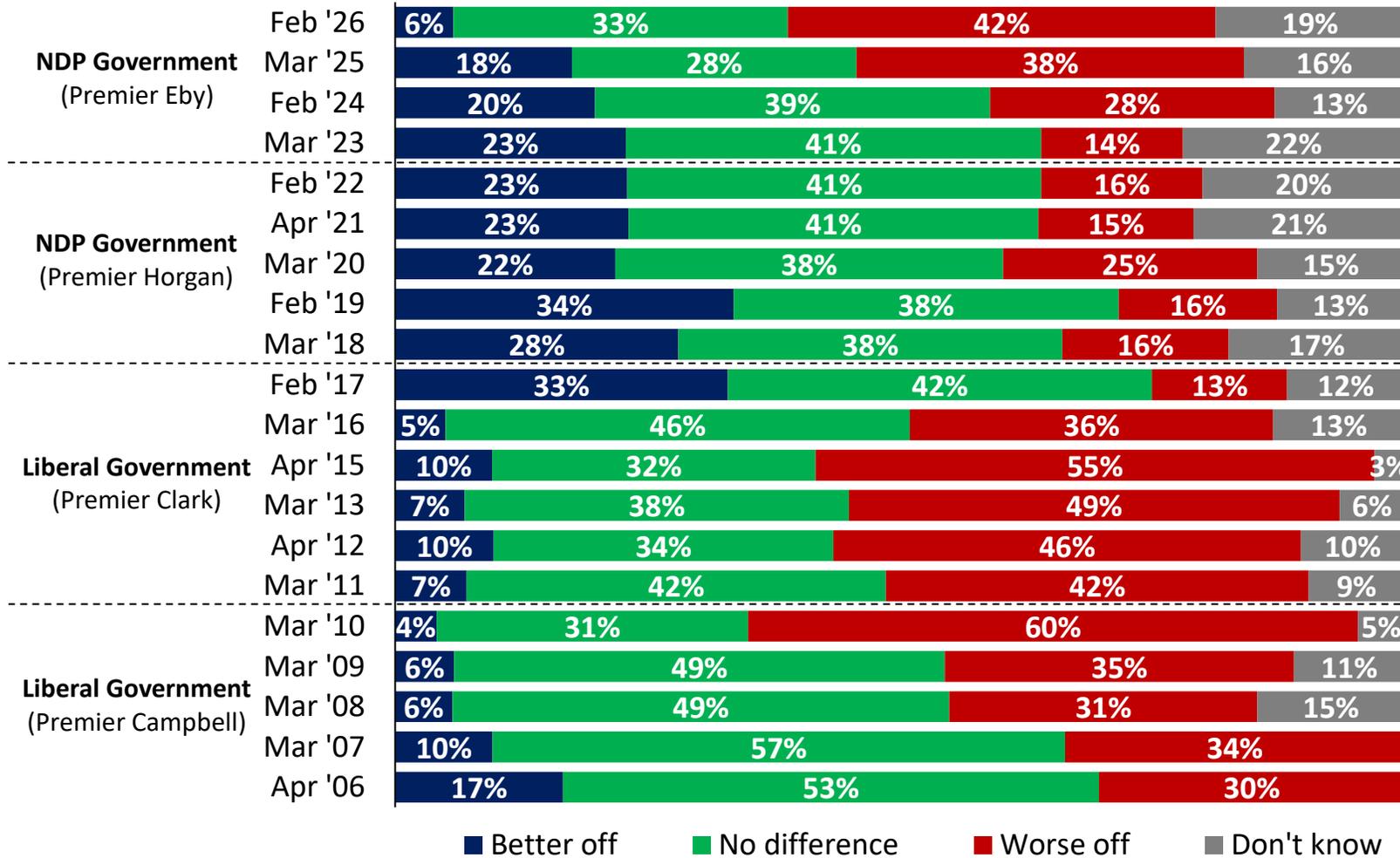
Note: "Don't know" is not provided as an option in Apr '06 and May '07.

# Education Impact: 2-in-5 (42%) believe the education system will be worse off, while only 6% say it will be better off



Do you think the budget will leave your province's education system better off, worse off or will it make no difference?

[asked of respondents who have RSH about budget, n=206]



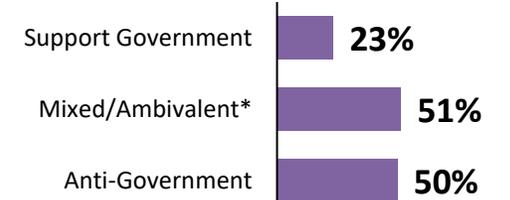
Net Better Off

- 37
- 21
- 8
- +9
- +7
- +8
- 3
- +18
- +12
- +20
- 31
- 46
- 42
- 37
- 35
- 56
- 29
- 25
- 24
- 14

## Segmentation

Those who say "Worse off"

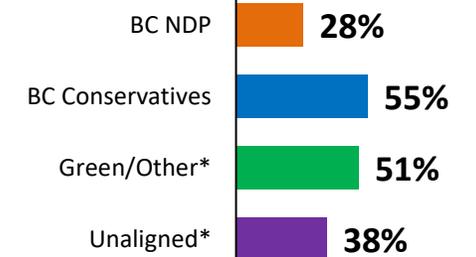
### Time for Change



### Region



### Party ID

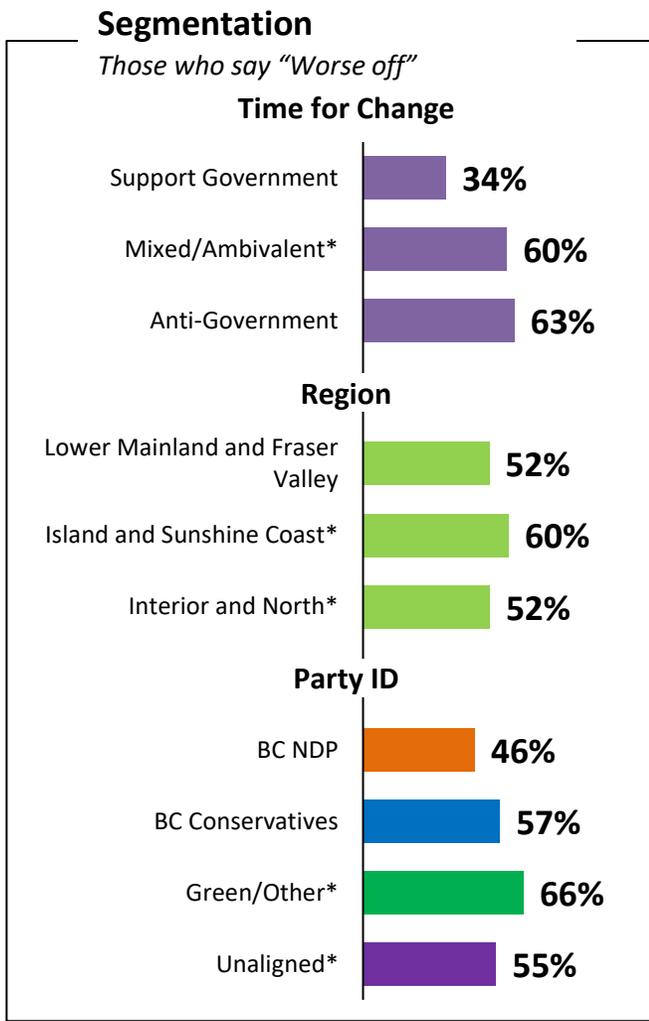
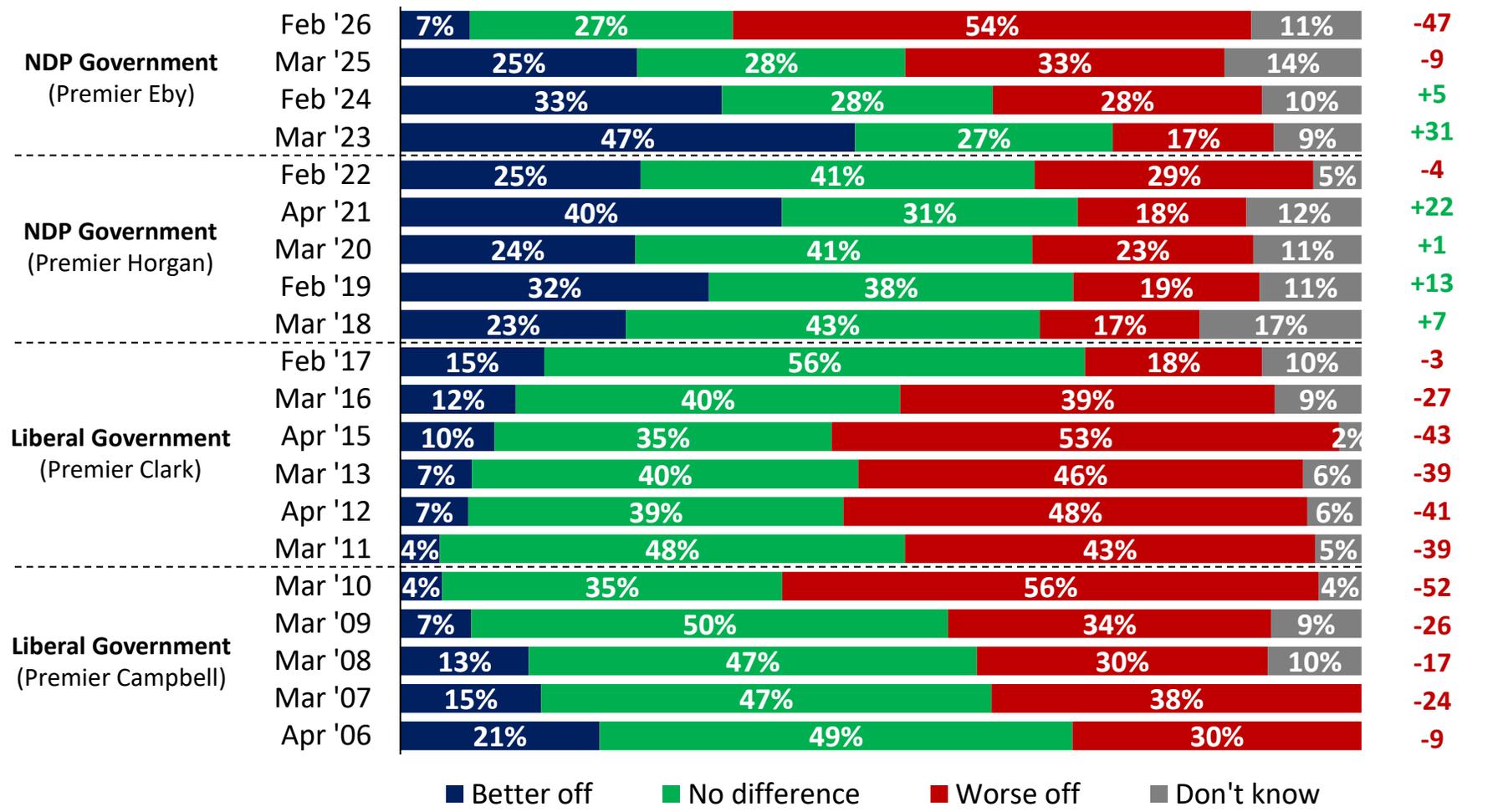


Note: \*n-size of less than 54. Please treat results with caution.

Note: "Don't know" is not provided as an option in Apr '06 and May '07.

# Healthcare Impact: Over half (54%) say “worse off” for the healthcare system, steadily increasing since Eby became premier

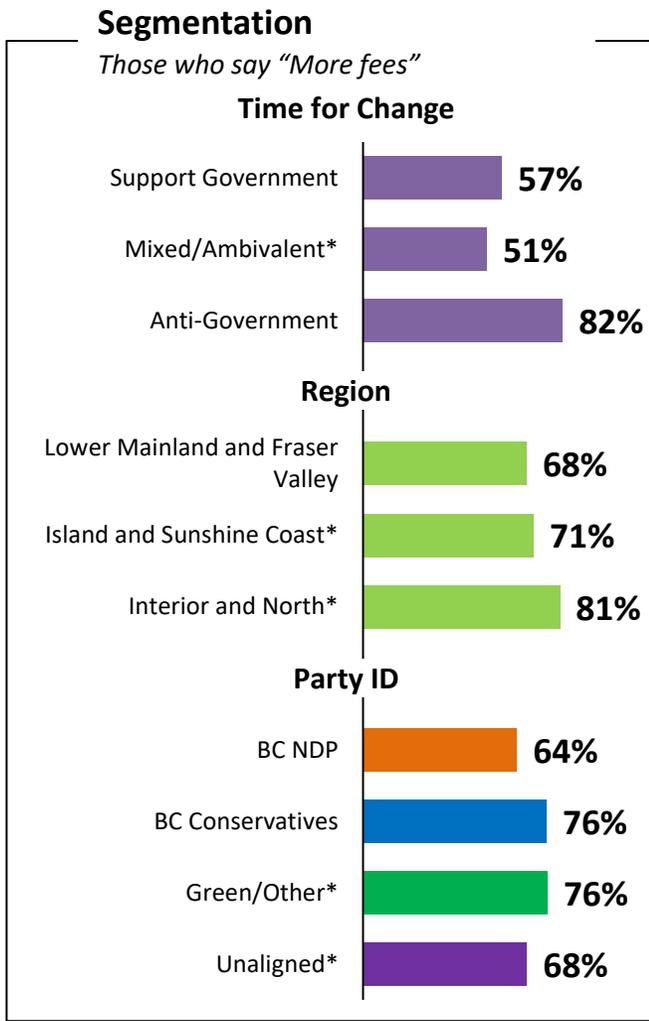
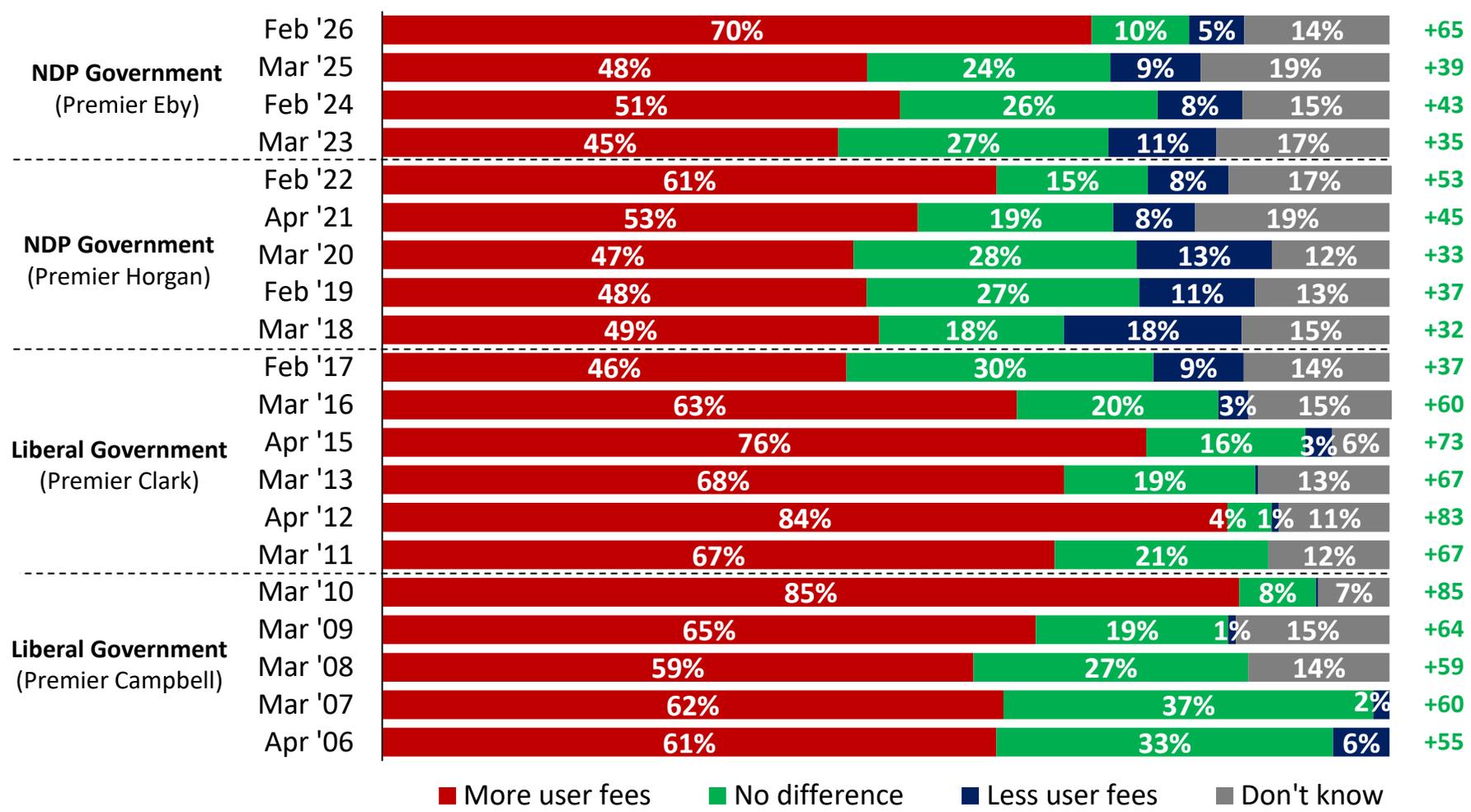
**Q** Do you think the budget will leave your province’s health care system better off, worse off or will it make no difference?  
 [asked of respondents who have RSH about budget, n=206]



**Note:** \*n-size of less than 54. Please treat results with caution.  
**Note:** “Don’t know” is not provided as an option in Apr '06 and May '07.

# User Fees Impact: Those who say “more fees” have increased by 22 pts since Mar '25; Interior and North regions more likely to say so (at 81%)

Q 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 respondents who have RSH about budget, n=206]

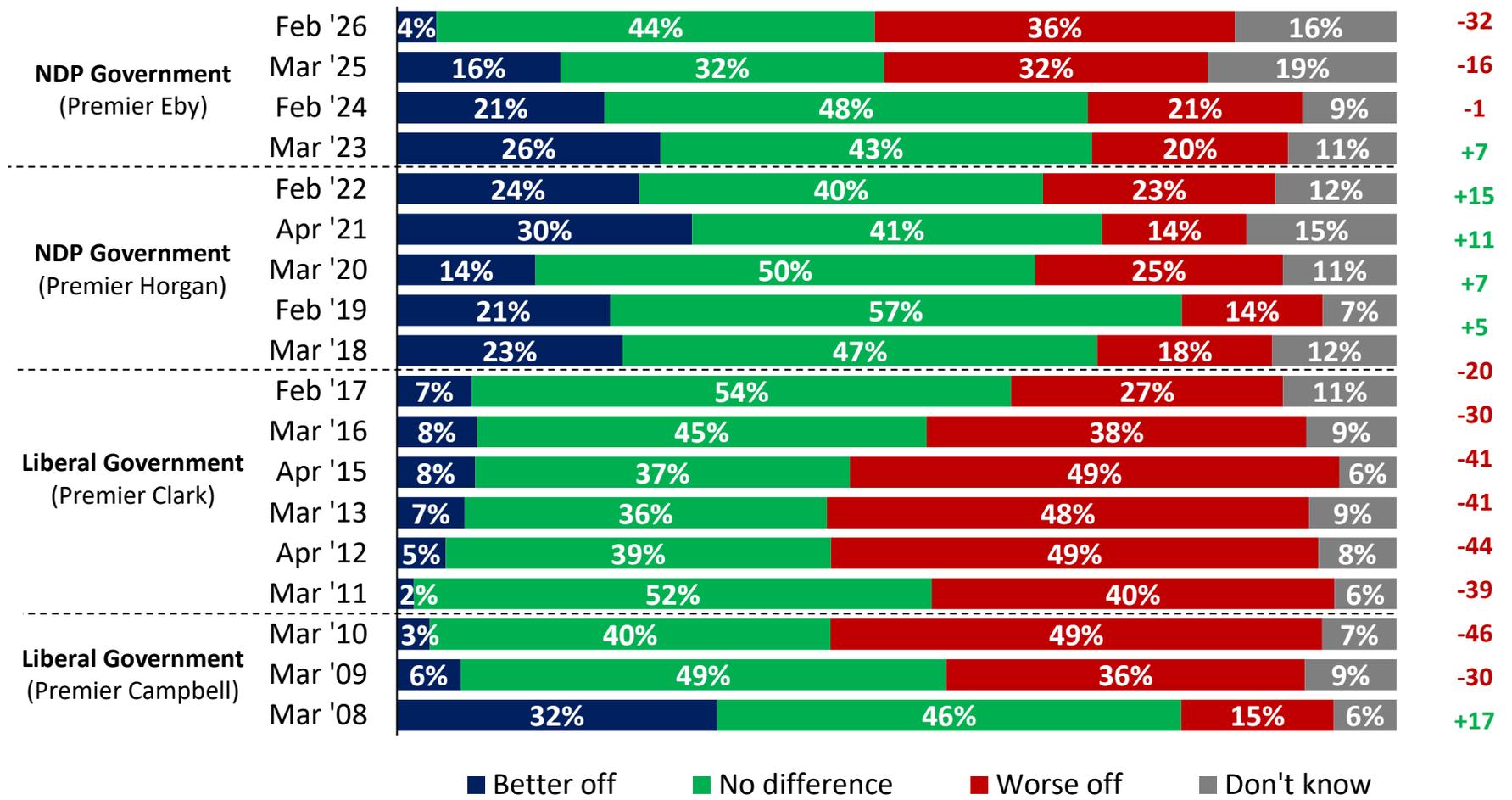


Note: \*n-size of less than 54. Please treat results with caution.  
 Note: “Don’t know” is not provided as an option in Apr '06 and May '07.

# Environment Impact: Net better off has decreased 16 points since Mar '25; those who say worse off has been increasing since Mar '23

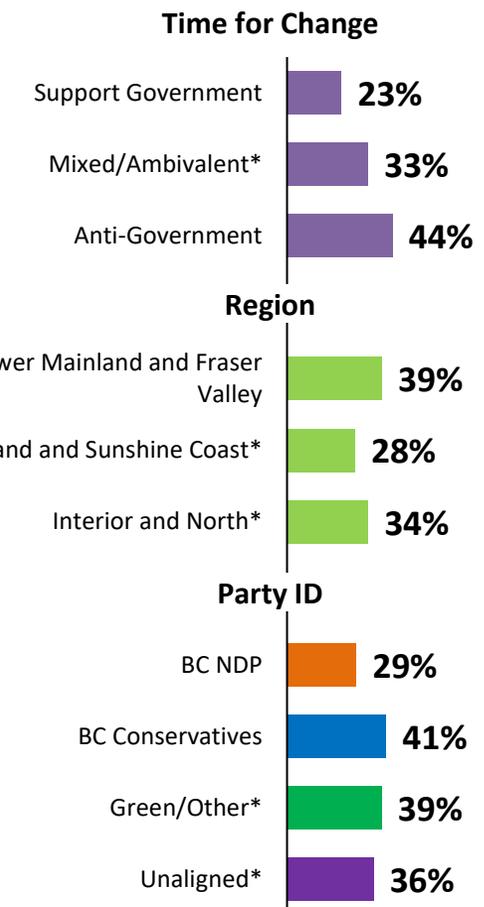


Do you think the budget will leave the environment in your province better off, worse off, or will it make no difference?  
 [asked of respondents who have RSH about budget, n=206]



### Segmentation

Those who say "Worse off"



Note: \*n-size of less than 54. Please treat results with caution.

# Methodology

The background of the slide is a solid dark blue color. It features several faint, light blue circles of varying sizes scattered across the surface, creating a subtle pattern.

# Survey Methodology – National



**These are the results of an online survey conducted between February 06, 2026 and March 03, 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=991 BC citizens, 18 years or older. The results are nationally weighted to n=700 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

**Field Dates:** February 06, 2026 to March 03, 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.

**For budget:** While vote intention tracking was conducted through the full month of February among n=700 BC residents, budget-related questions were only asked in the second half of the month (February 20 to March 3, 2026). Those results are weighted to n= 500

	Unweighted (n)	Unweighted (%)	Weighted (n)	Weighted (%)
<b>Men 18-34</b>	110	11.1%	92	13.1%
<b>Men 35-54</b>	168	17%	108	15.4%
<b>Men 55+</b>	212	21.5%	140	20.1%
<b>Women 18-34</b>	123	12.5%	89	12.8%
<b>Women 35-54</b>	149	15.1%	114	16.4%
<b>Women 55+</b>	225	22.8%	154	22.1%
<b>Region</b>				
<b>Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley</b>	632	63.8%	412	58.8%
<b>Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast</b>	174	17.6%	134	19.2%
<b>Interior and North</b>	185	18.7%	154	22%

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



# Building Understanding.

For more information, please contact:

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