

**Canada This Month**  
Musqueam and Cowichan  
Agreements

Public Opinion Research  
Release Date: April 21  
Field Dates: March 06 to March 31, 2026.

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# Study Overview



Building on findings from previous waves, this report tracks March 2026 data about:

- **Indigenous Rights**
- **Musqueam Agreement**
- **Cowichan Decision**

# Survey Methodology – BC

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. The detailed methodology can be found in the appendix.

## WHO?



**Adults in British Columbia (18+).**

Online survey using INNOVATIVE's Canada 20/20 national research panel with additional respondents from Lucid

## HOW MANY?



**A survey of 406 adults in weeks 1 and 2, and 396 adults in weeks 3 and 4. The final samples are weighted to n=300 each.**

Weights are based on StatCan census data for age, gender, region, education, and self-reported federal past vote.

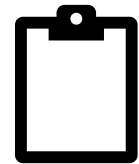
## WHEN?



**W1-2:** March 06th, to March 16th, 2026

**W3-4:** March 19th, to March 30th, 2026

## NOTES



Segments with a sample size <50 are noted with an asterisk on slides. In those instances, due to limited statistical power, results should be treated with caution.

# Key Findings

**1**

**A fundamental shift on Indigenous rights, the post-Kamloops consensus is disrupted.**

Nearly half of British Columbians (46%) are now equal-treatment supporters, up 13 points from 33% in 2025, while the Conflicted segment has shrunk from 38% to 27%. Even among NDP voters, a plurality are now equal-treatment supporters (39%).

**2**

**Familiarity increases concern and drives policy and political attitudes.**

While familiarity is limited (45% familiar with Cowichan; 41% familiar with Musqueam), net concern about the Cowichan decision among the familiar is +35 versus -4 among those not familiar. Similarly, those more familiar with the Musqueam Agreement are more negative (-12) than those with lower familiarity (+8) and feel more negative towards the federal government (-21) than those with lower awareness (-9).

**3**

**A majority see the Cowichan ruling as a threat to property rights.**

57% believe the Cowichan Decision creates serious uncertainty for property rights. There is a majority across gender, region and age. Even 43% of New Democrats view the decision as creating serious uncertainty.

**4**

**Much uncertainty on who to blame.**

A plurality of 39% are not sure whether the NDP or the courts are responsible for the Cowichan decision. Of those with a view, 34% blame the NDP government while 27% see it as driven by the legal system. One in five (21%) NDP supporters blame the NDP.

**5**

**A majority support legislation giving legal priority to fee simple title.**

52% support legislation protecting fee simple title. Support for fee simple legislation jumps from net +26 among the unfamiliar to +54 among those who are familiar with the decision.

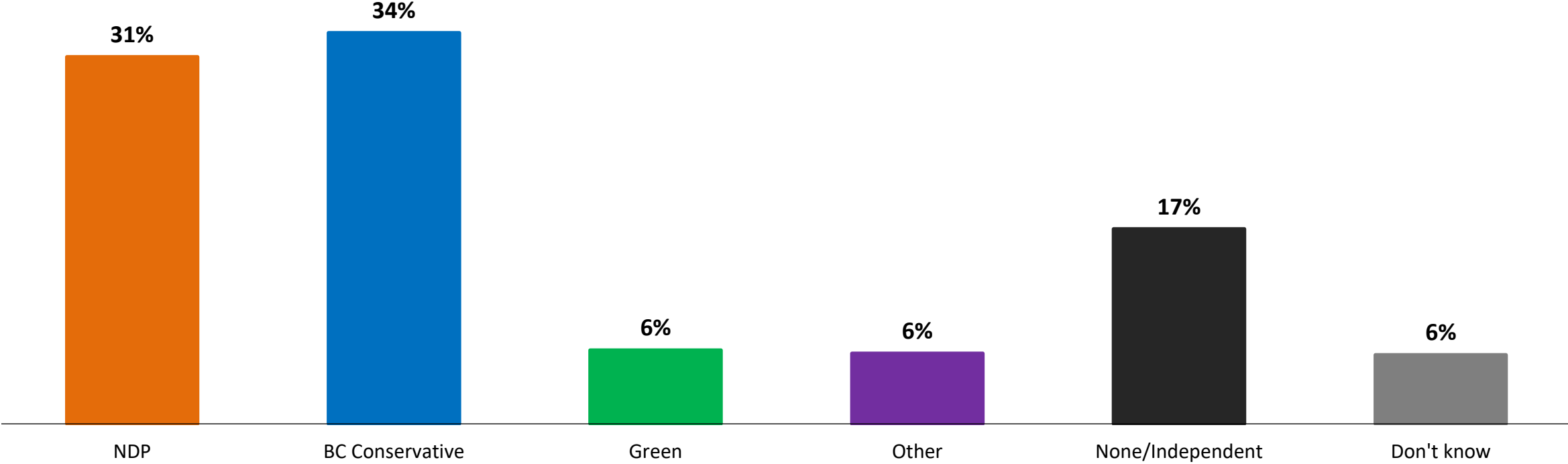
# Segmentations

# Party ID

# BC Provincial Party ID: Slight edge for BC Conservatives on party identification



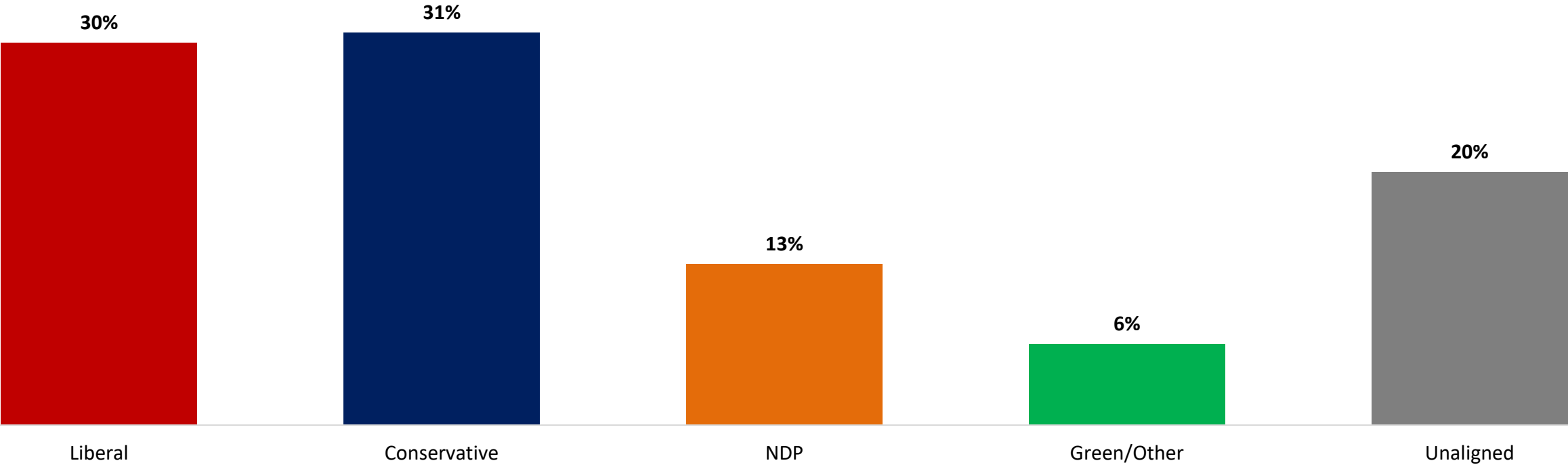
Thinking about politics in [PROV], generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a...  
[asked of all respondents in BC; n=600]



# Federal Party ID: Conservatives and Liberals tied in BC, 31% to 30%, with NDP at 13%



Thinking about politics in [PROV], generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a...  
[asked of all respondents in BC; n=300]



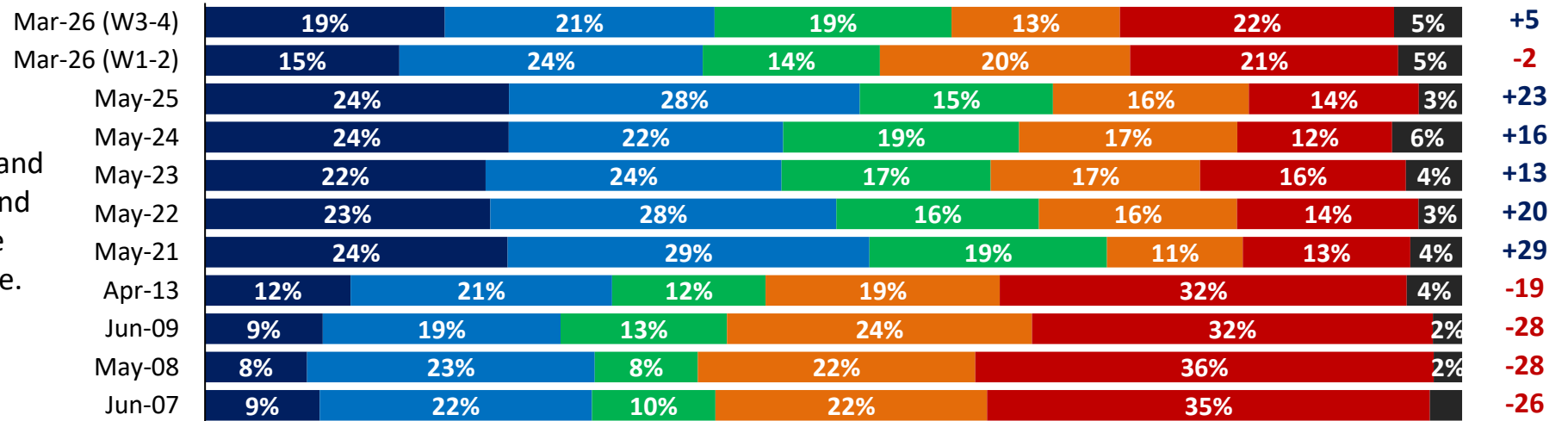
# Indigenous Rights

# Attitudes and Values – Indigenous Rights in BC: There has been a significant drop in support for unique Indigenous rights <sup>11</sup>

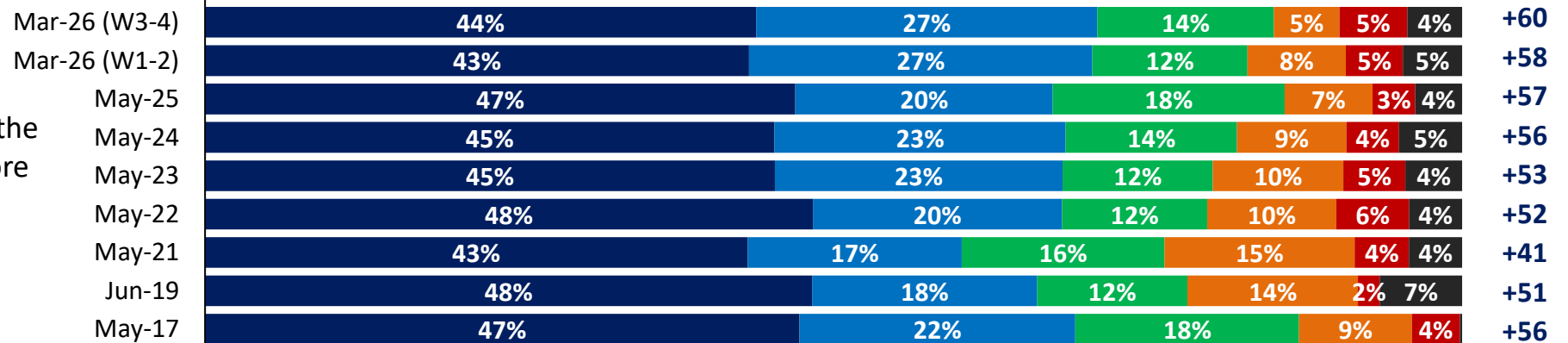
**Q** Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements:  
[asked of all respondents in BC]

Net Agree

Indigenous peoples should have the rights and status they need to protect their culture and heritage, even if it means they may have certain rights other Canadians do not have.



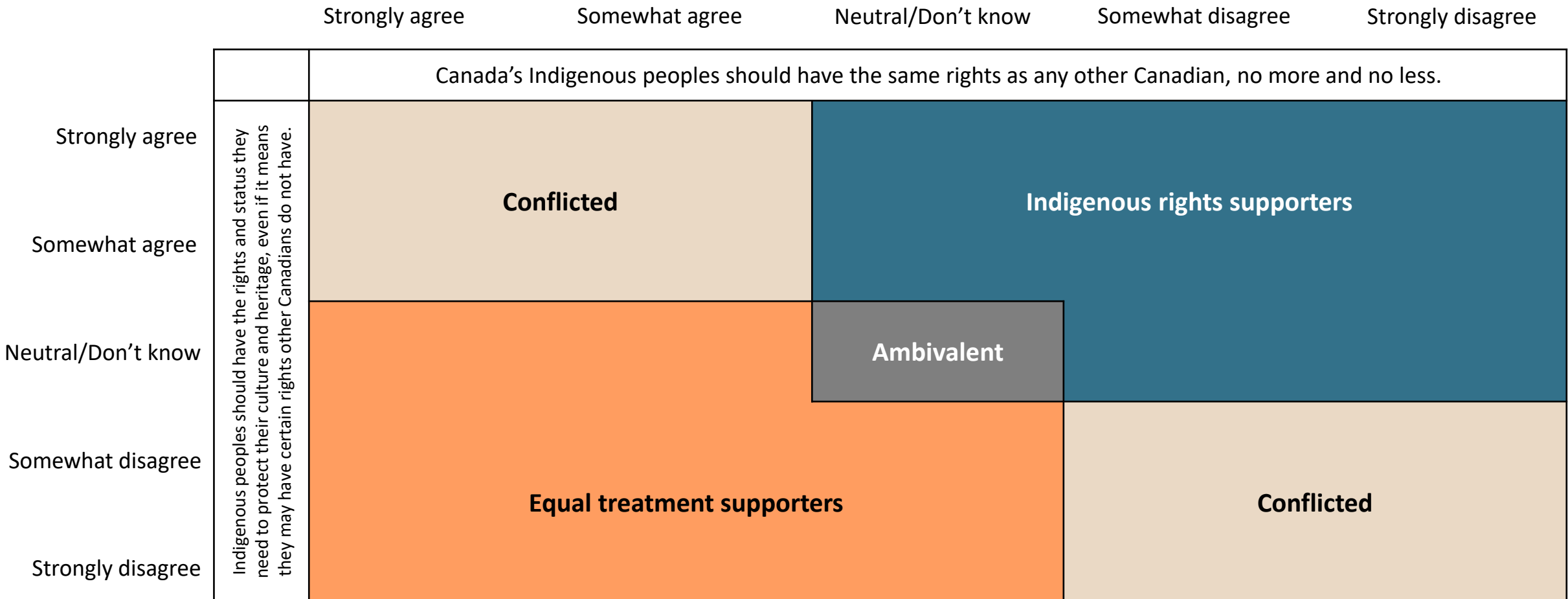
Canada's Indigenous peoples should have the same rights as any other Canadian, no more and no less.



■ Strongly agree     
 ■ Somewhat agree     
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
■ Somewhat disagree     
 ■ Strongly disagree     
 ■ Don't know

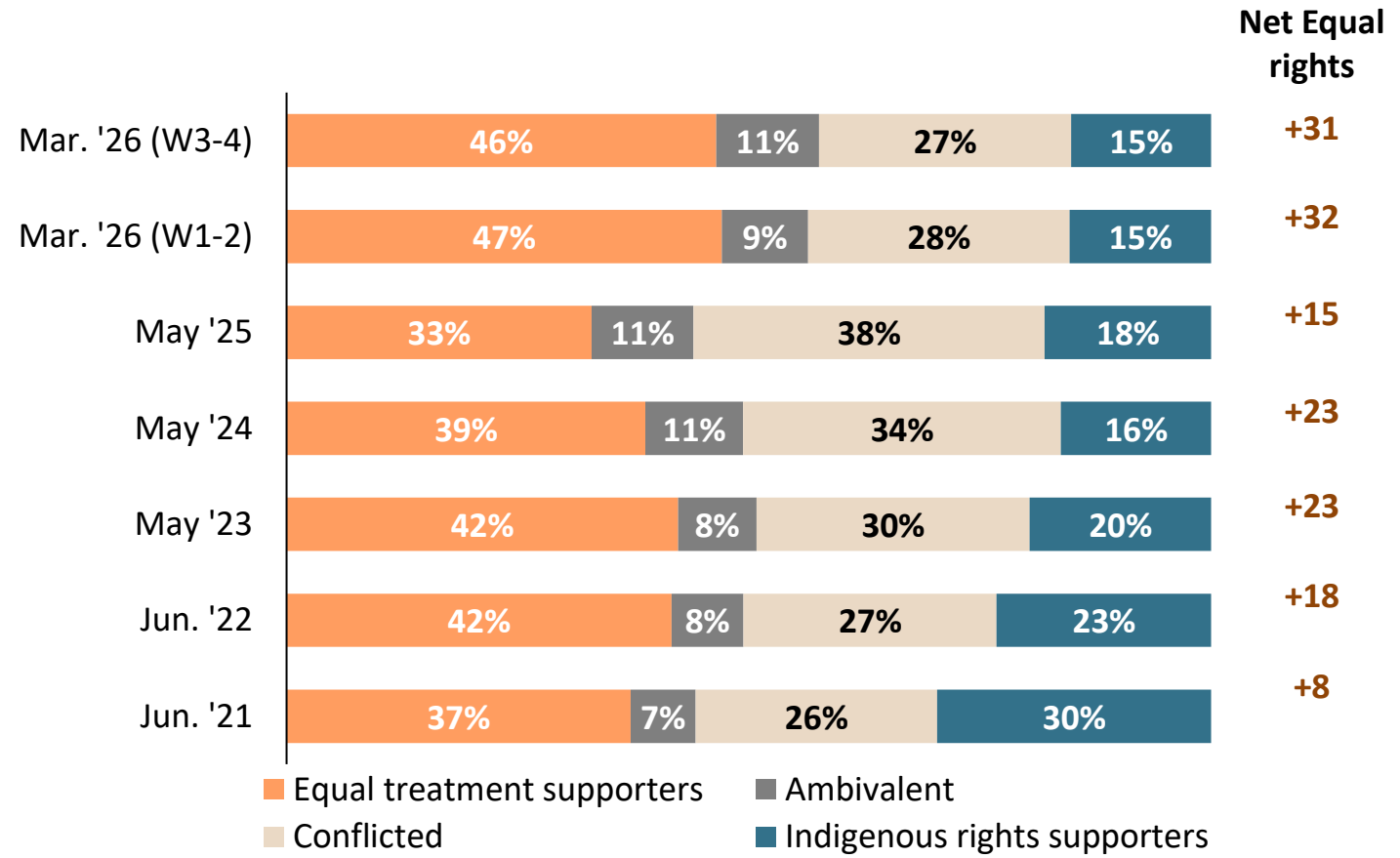
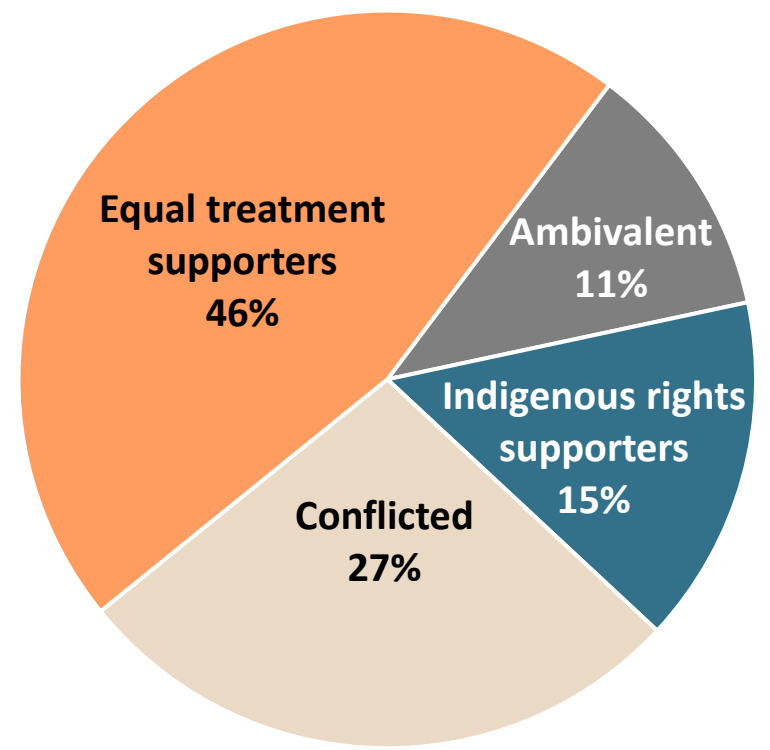
# Indigenous Rights Segmentation

Based on the two statements “Canada’s Indigenous peoples should have the same rights as any other Canadian, no more and no less” and “Indigenous peoples should have the rights and status they need to protect their culture and heritage, even if it means they may have certain rights other Canadians do not have,” we have segmented the population by their attitudes towards Indigenous rights.



# Indigenous Attitudes Segmentation: 13-point increase in Equal treatment compared to last year's support, granting distinct rights is dissipating <sup>13</sup>

Based on the two statements “Canada’s Indigenous peoples should have the same rights as any other Canadian, no more and no less” and “Indigenous peoples should have the rights and status they need to protect their culture and heritage, even if it means they may have certain rights other Canadians do not have,” we have segmented the population by their attitudes towards Indigenous rights.

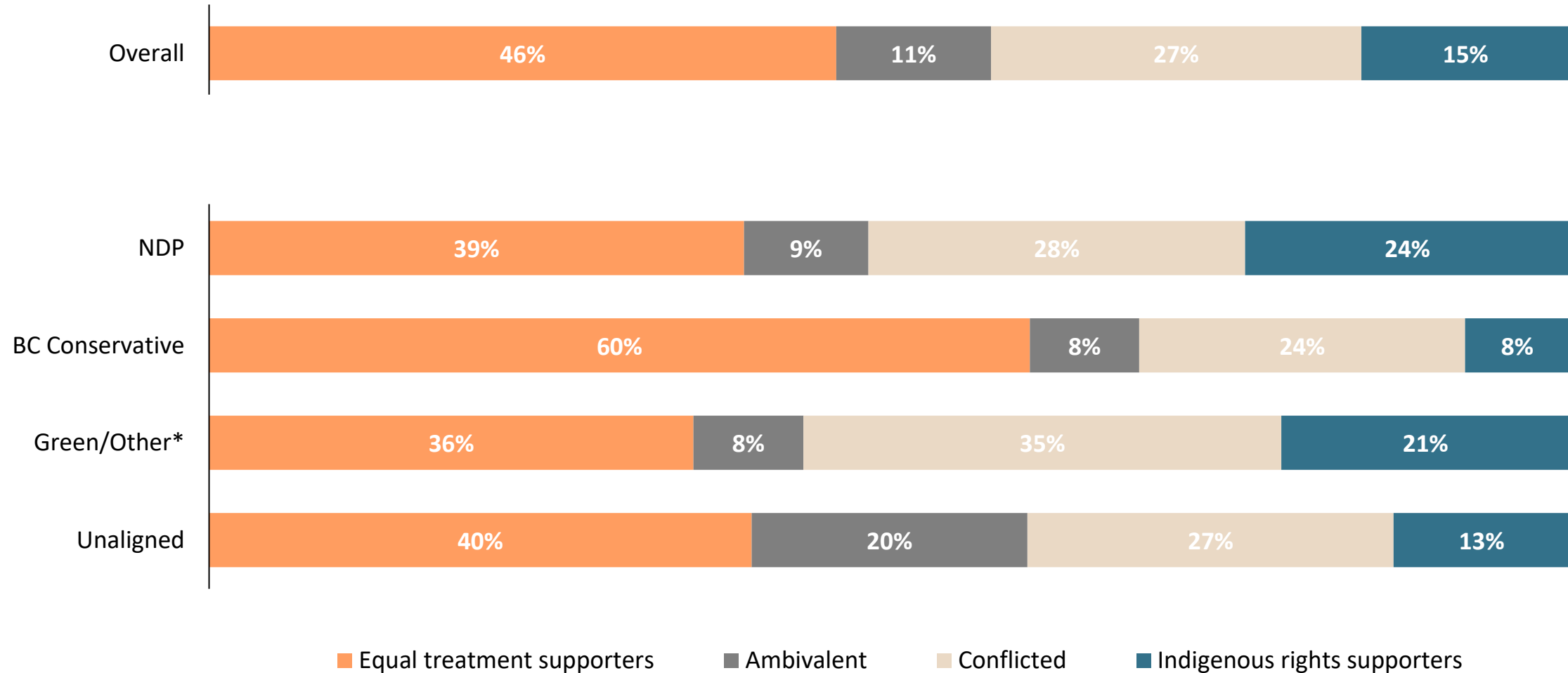


# Indigenous Attitudes Segmentation BY BC Party ID: Majority of Con's support equal treatment; plurality of NDPs also for equal treatment



## Indigenous Attitudes Segmentation BY Federal Party ID

[asked of all respondents in BC, n=300]



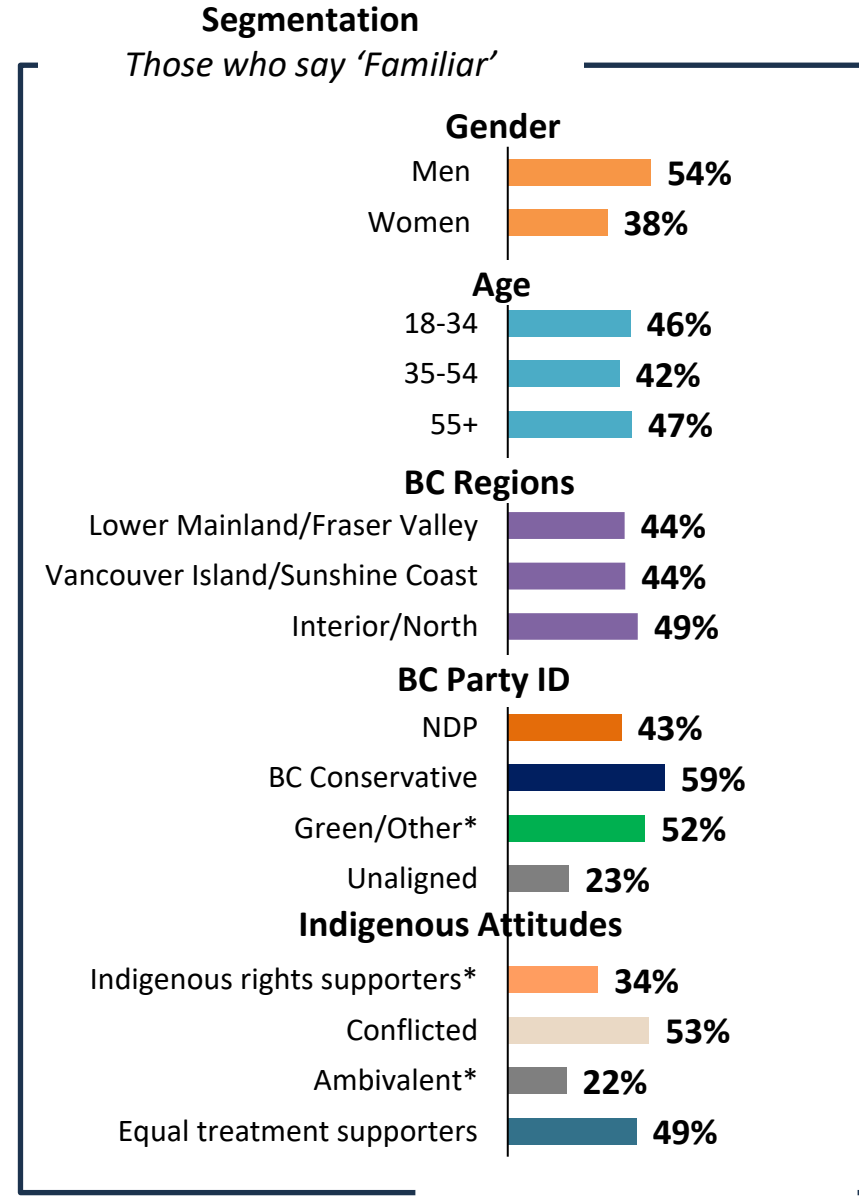
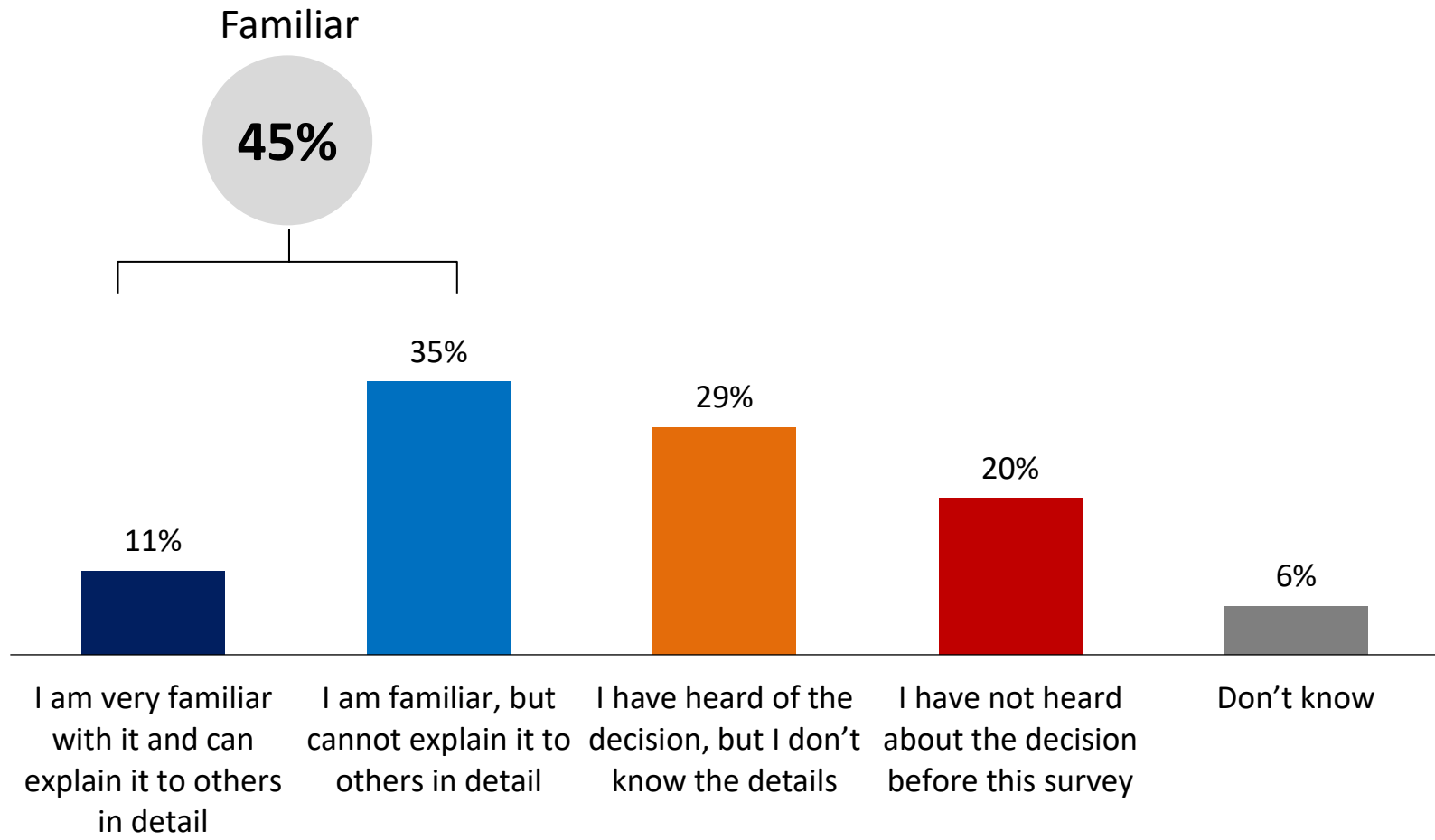
NOTE: \*Sample size <50

Current data: March 2026

# Familiarity With Cowichan Decision

# Attention to Cowichan Decision: 45% are familiar; least familiar among Unaligned (23%), BC Conservatives most aware (59%)

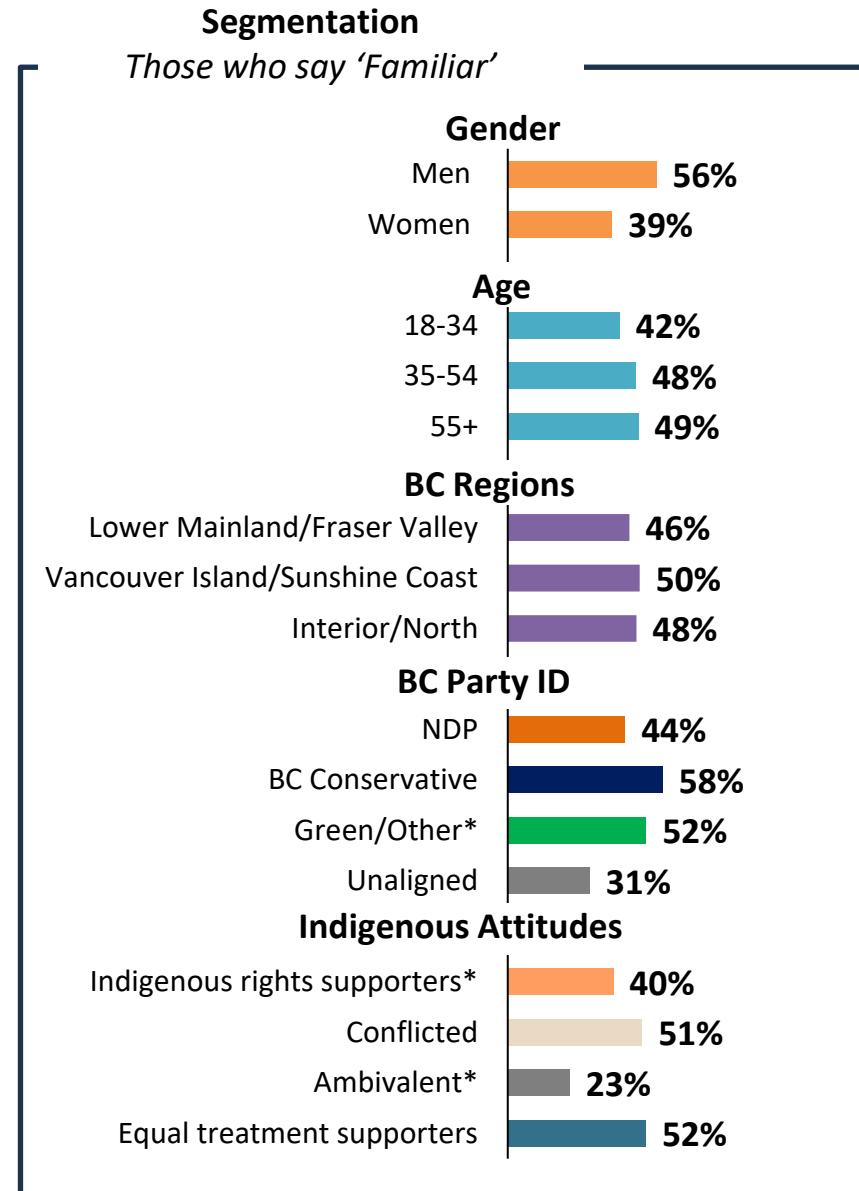
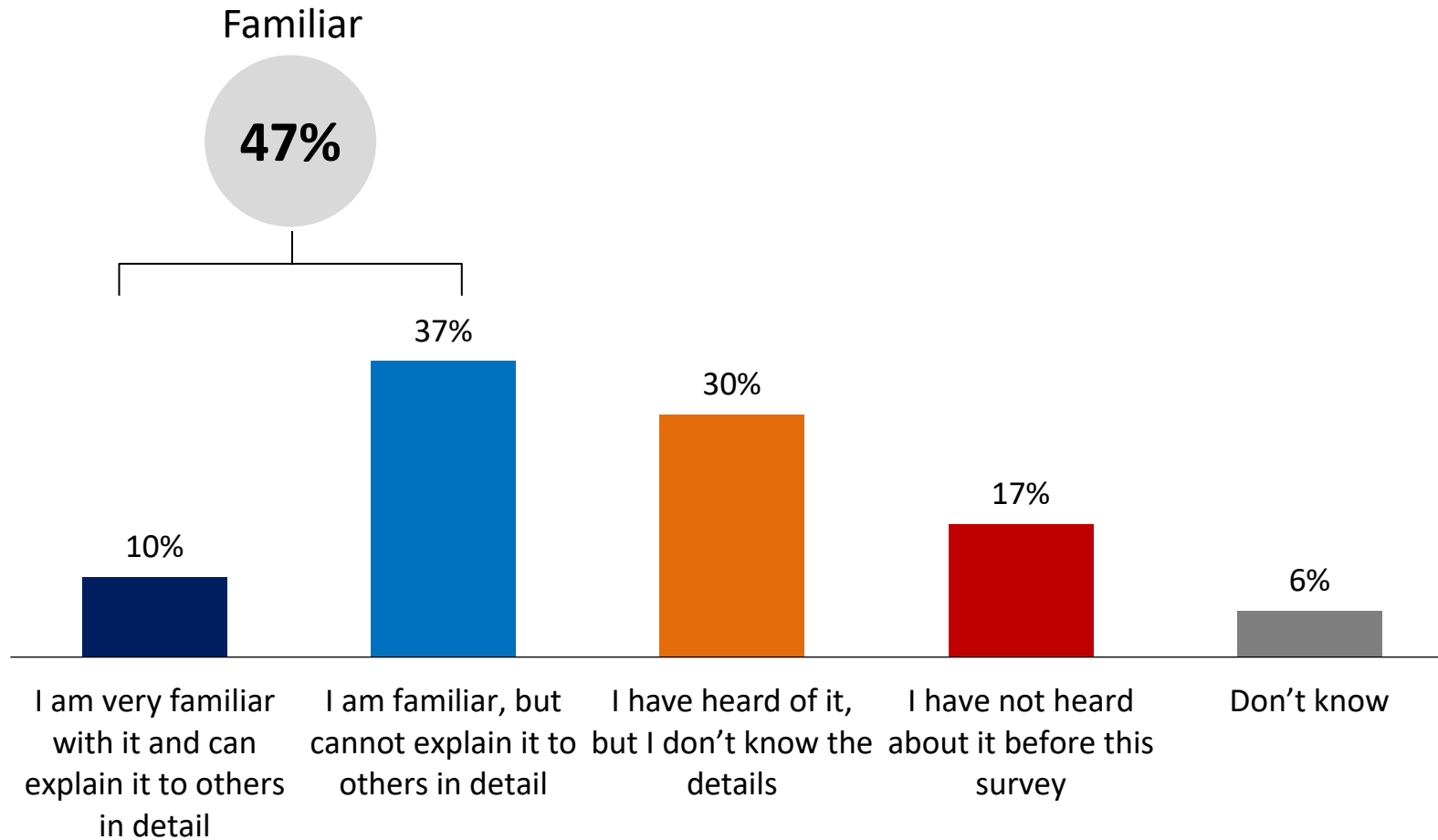
**Q** How familiar are you with the Cowichan decision of the Supreme Court of British Columbia on Aboriginal land rights and private property ownership, issued in January 2026?  
[asked of all respondents in BC; n=300]



NOTE: \*Sample size <50  
Current data: March 2026 W1 and W2

# Aided Recall: 47% are familiar; the majority of men (56%) and BC Conservatives (59%) are aware

**Q** As you may know, a recent B.C. Supreme Court decision involving the Cowichan Tribes addressed Indigenous land rights and how, in some situations, those rights may take priority over private property ownership (“fee simple” title). How familiar are you with this part of the decision?  
 [asked of all respondents in BC; n=300]



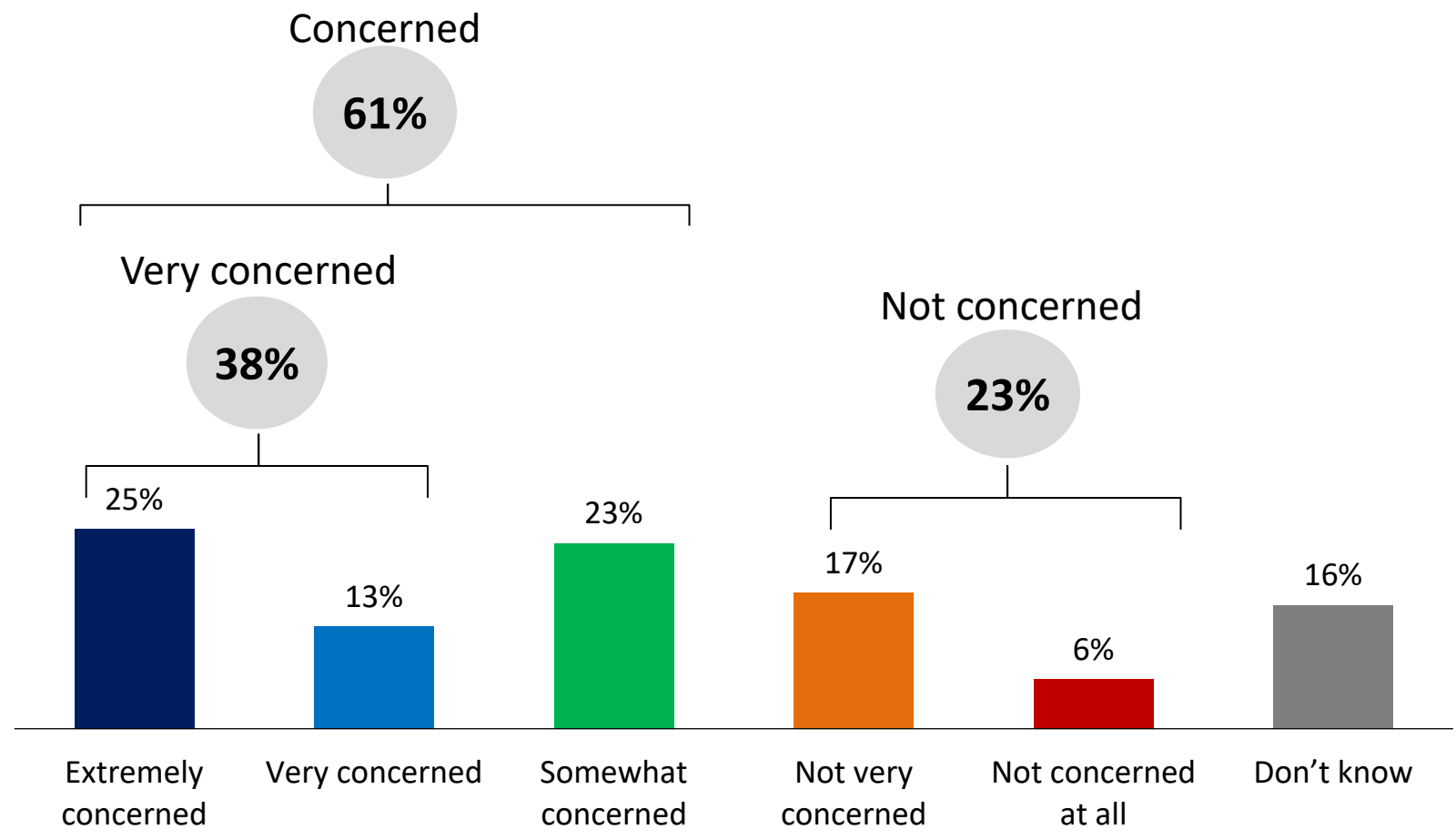
**NOTE:** \*Sample size <50  
**Current data:** March 2026 W1 and W2

# The Cowichan Decision

# Concern With Decision: Overall, 38% are at least very concerned; concern increases with age; the majority of BC Conservatives (56%) are concerned

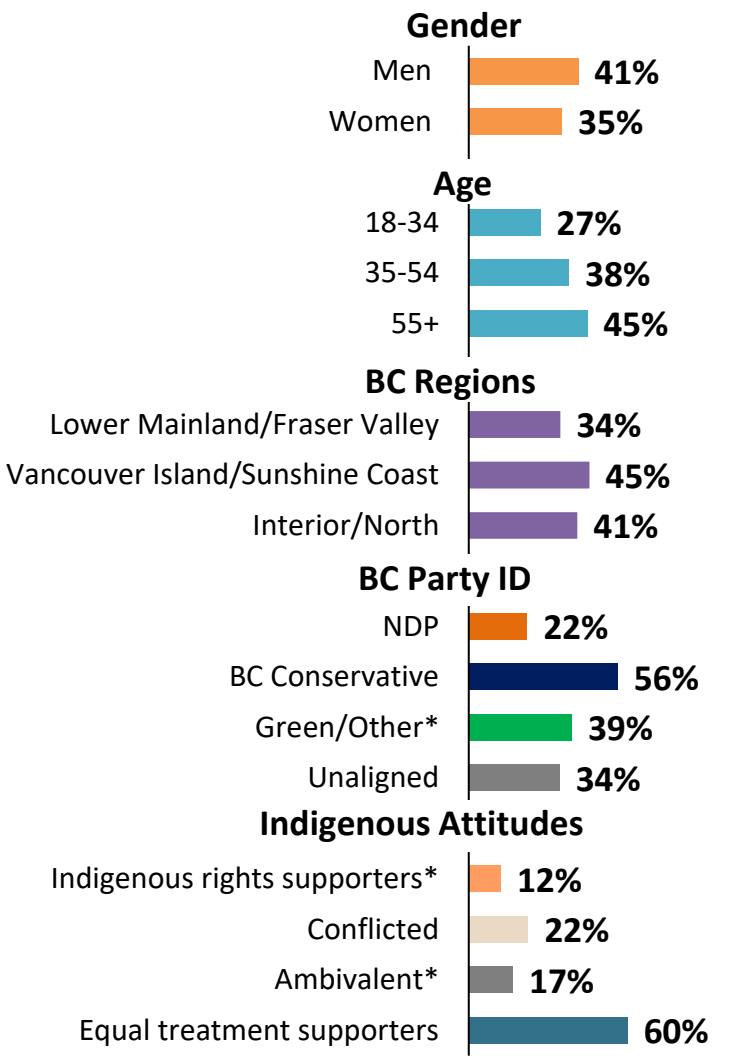


Overall, how concerned are you with the Cowichan decision?  
[asked of all respondents; n=300]



## Segmentation

Those who say 'Very Concerned.'



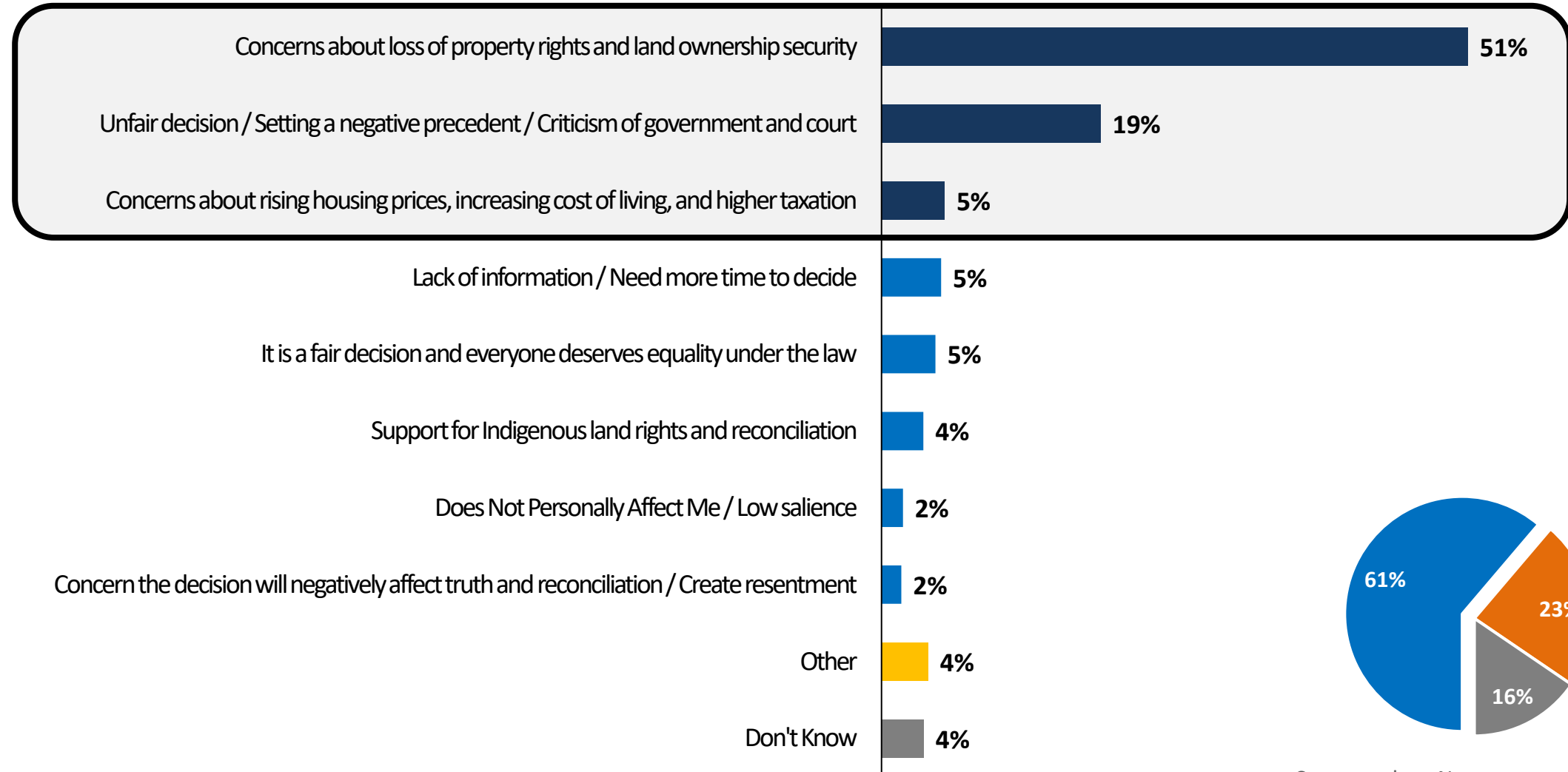
NOTE: \*Sample size <50  
Current data: March 2026 W1 and W2

# Concern With Decision - Concerned: Loss of property rights and land ownership security are the top concern at 51%



Why do you feel that way? Please be specific.

[asked of all respondents, shown of those who are concerned; n=184]



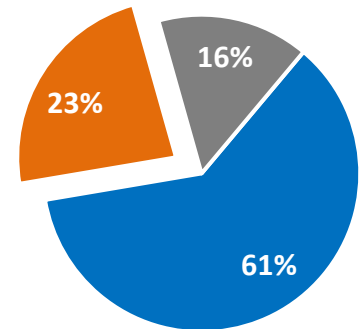
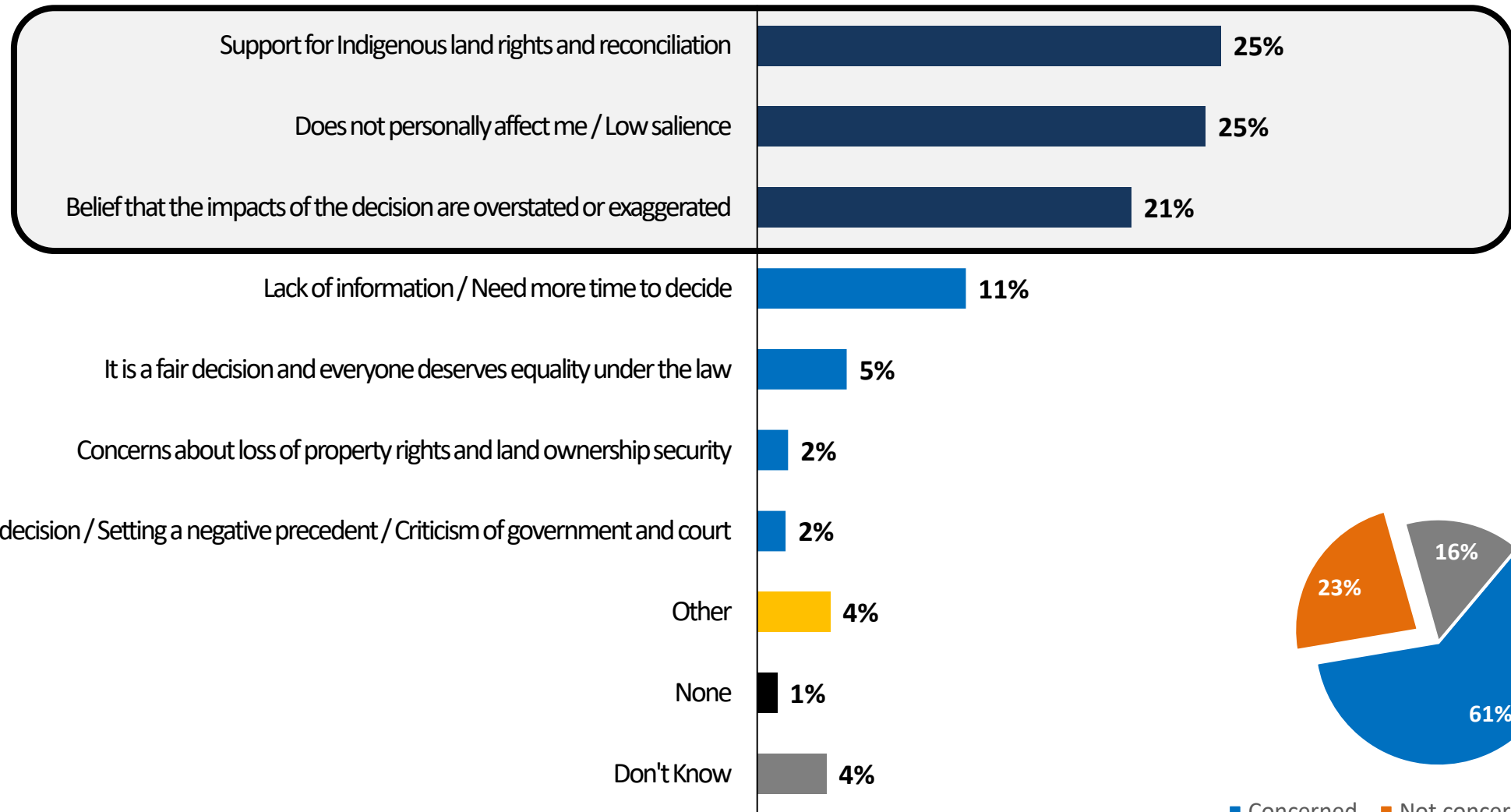
■ Concerned ■ Not concerned ■ Don't Know

# Concern With Decision – Not concerned: Support for Indigenous land rights and reconciliation & low salience are the top reasons



Why do you feel that way? Please be specific.

[asked of all respondents, shown of those who are not concerned; n=70]

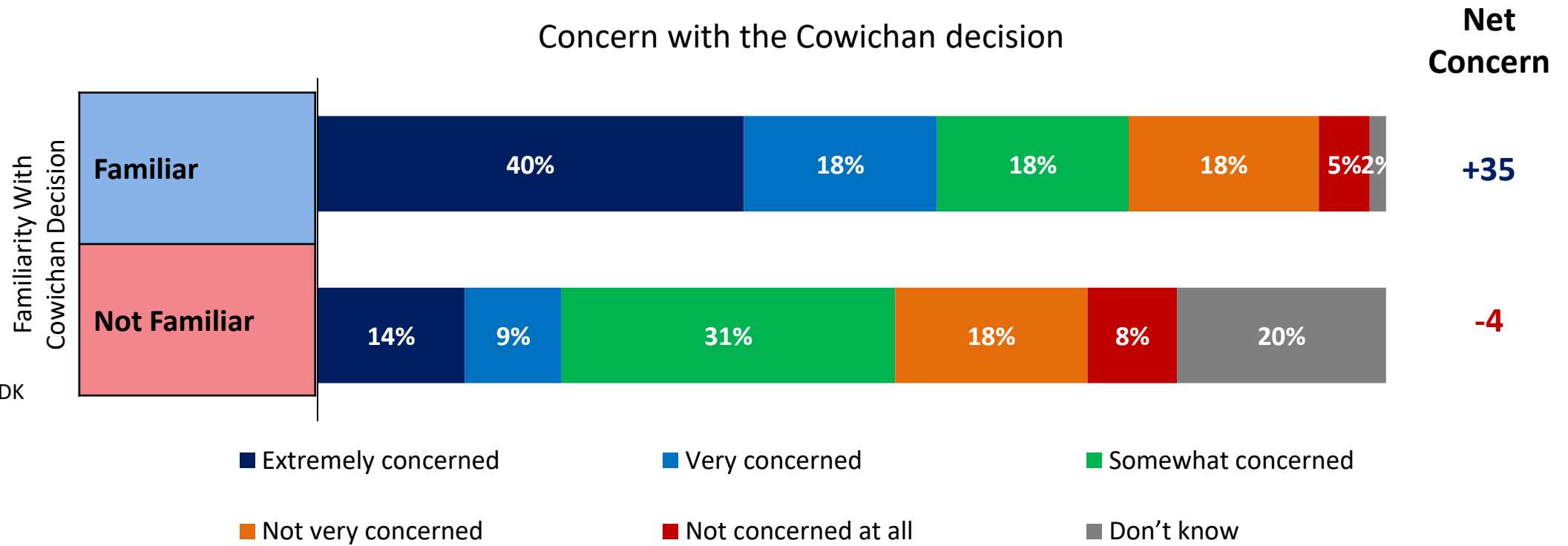
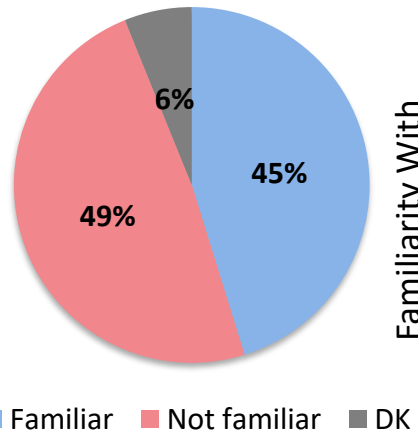


■ Concerned ■ Not concerned ■ Don't Know

Current data: March 2026 W1 and W2  
 Note: 'Bad respondent' (1%) not shown.

# Impact of Cowichan Decision: More familiar respondents have a high degree of intensity in their concern

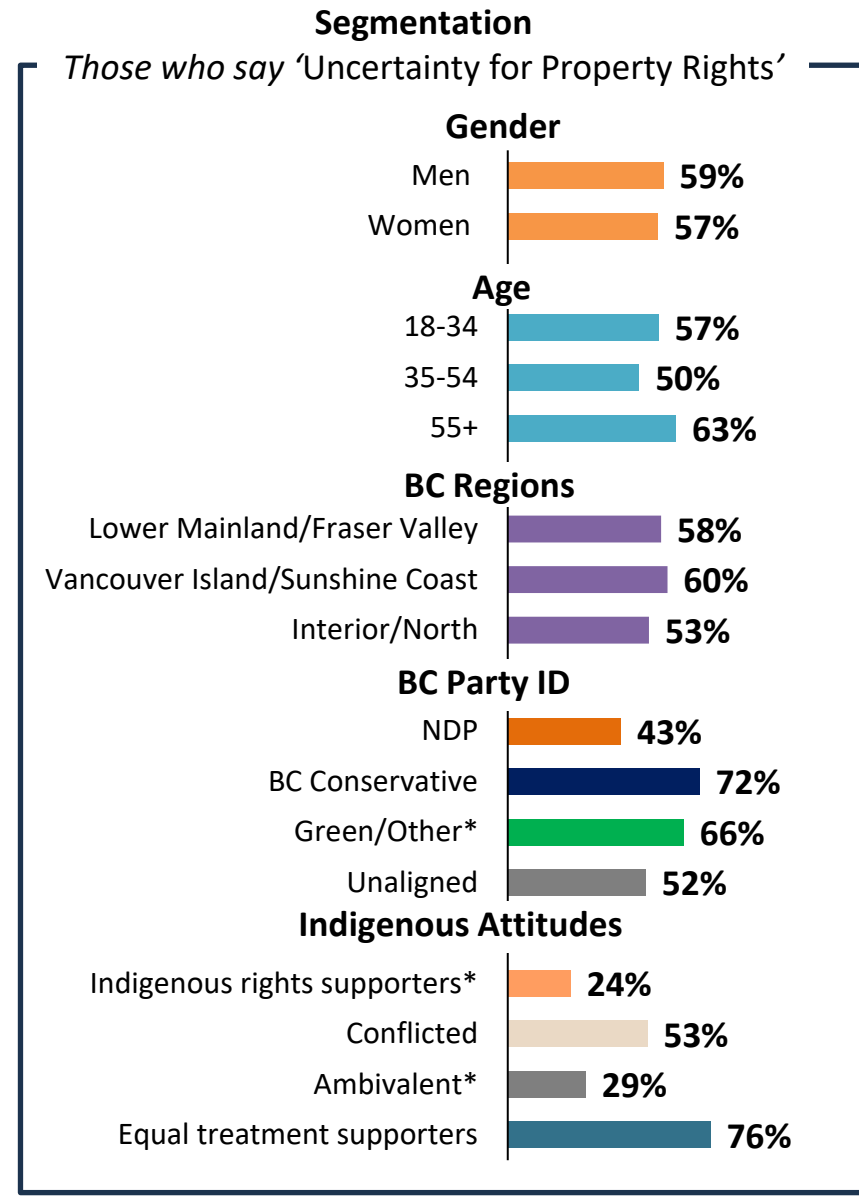
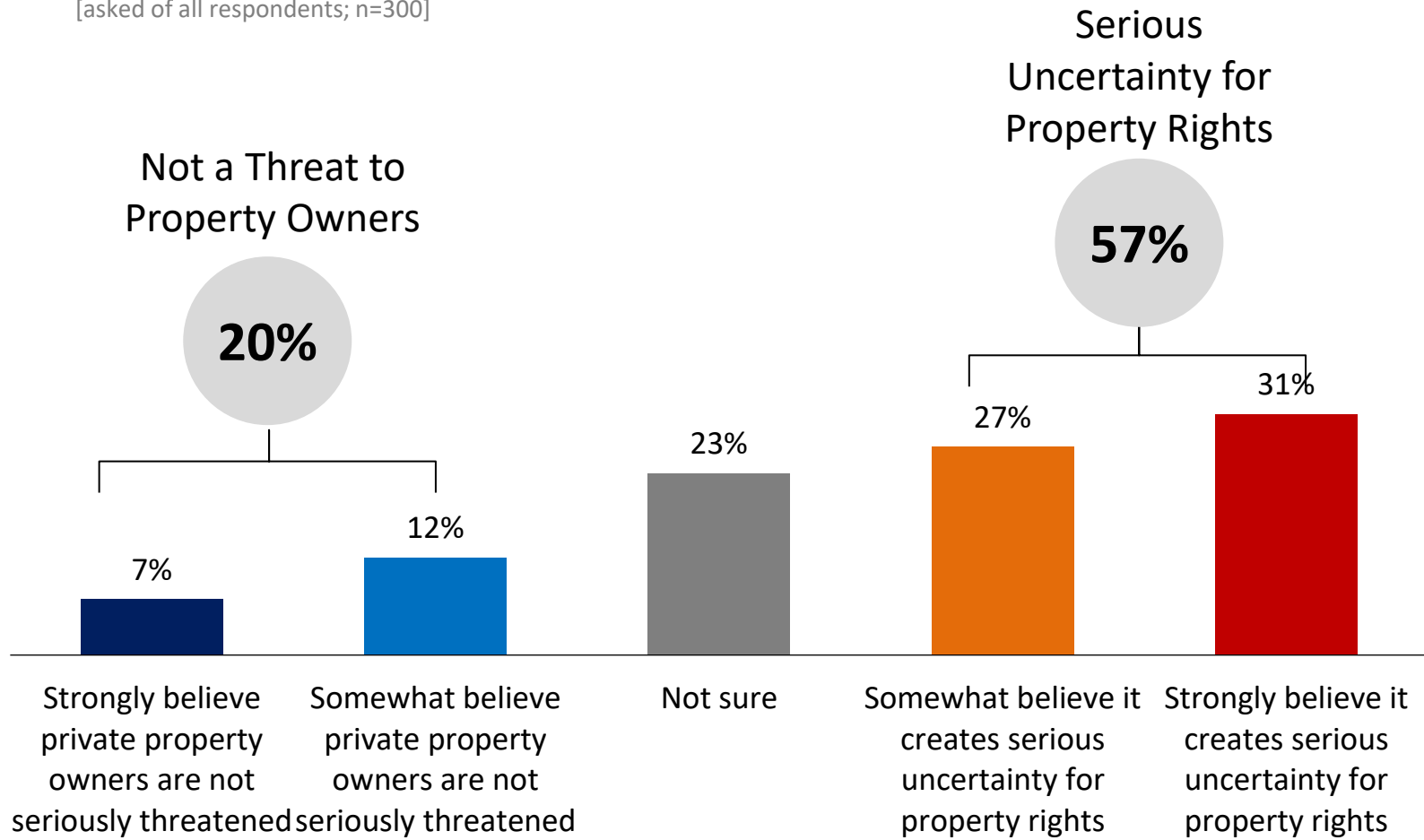
**Q** Overall, how concerned are you with the Cowichan decision? **BY** Familiarity With Cowichan Decision  
[asked of all respondents; n=300]



\*Don't know n=18  
Current data: March 2026 W1 and W2

# Uncertainty for Property Rights: 57% see this ruling as a serious threat to property rights; the majority across all segments agree, except the NDP

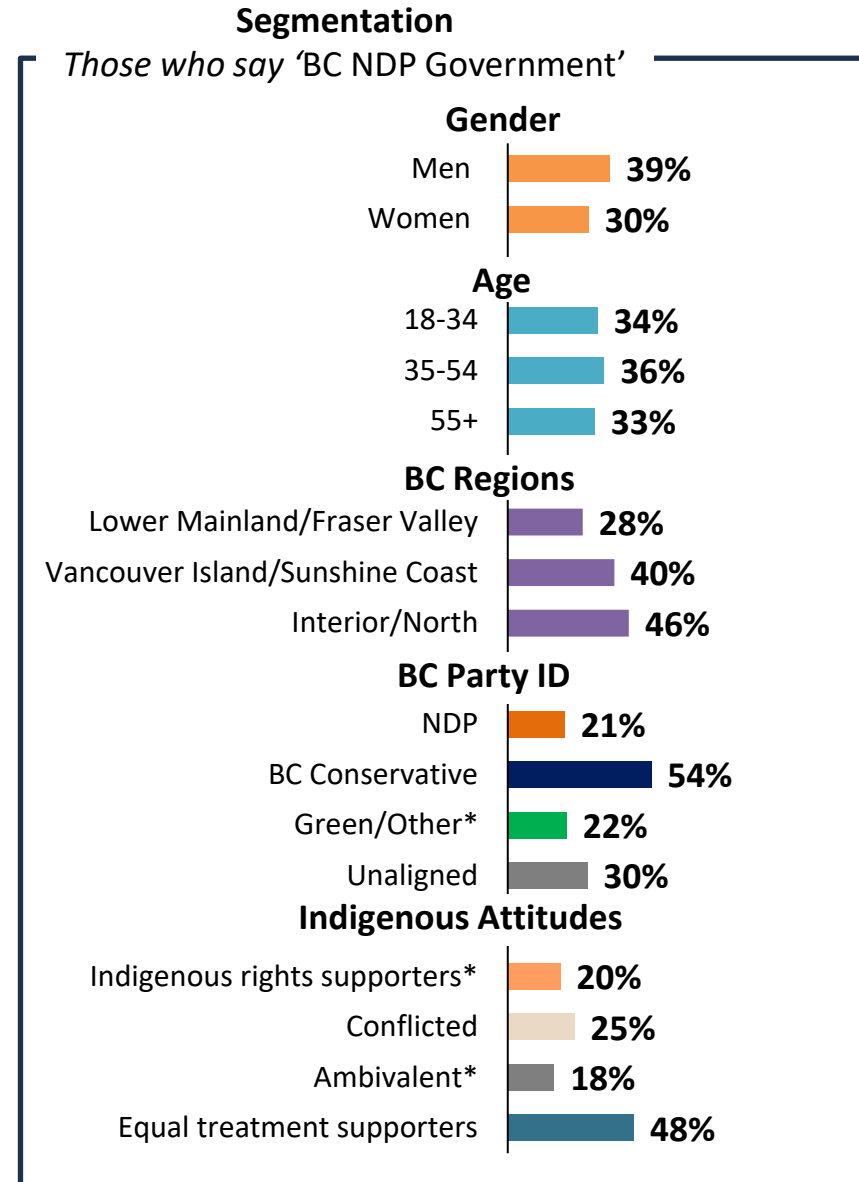
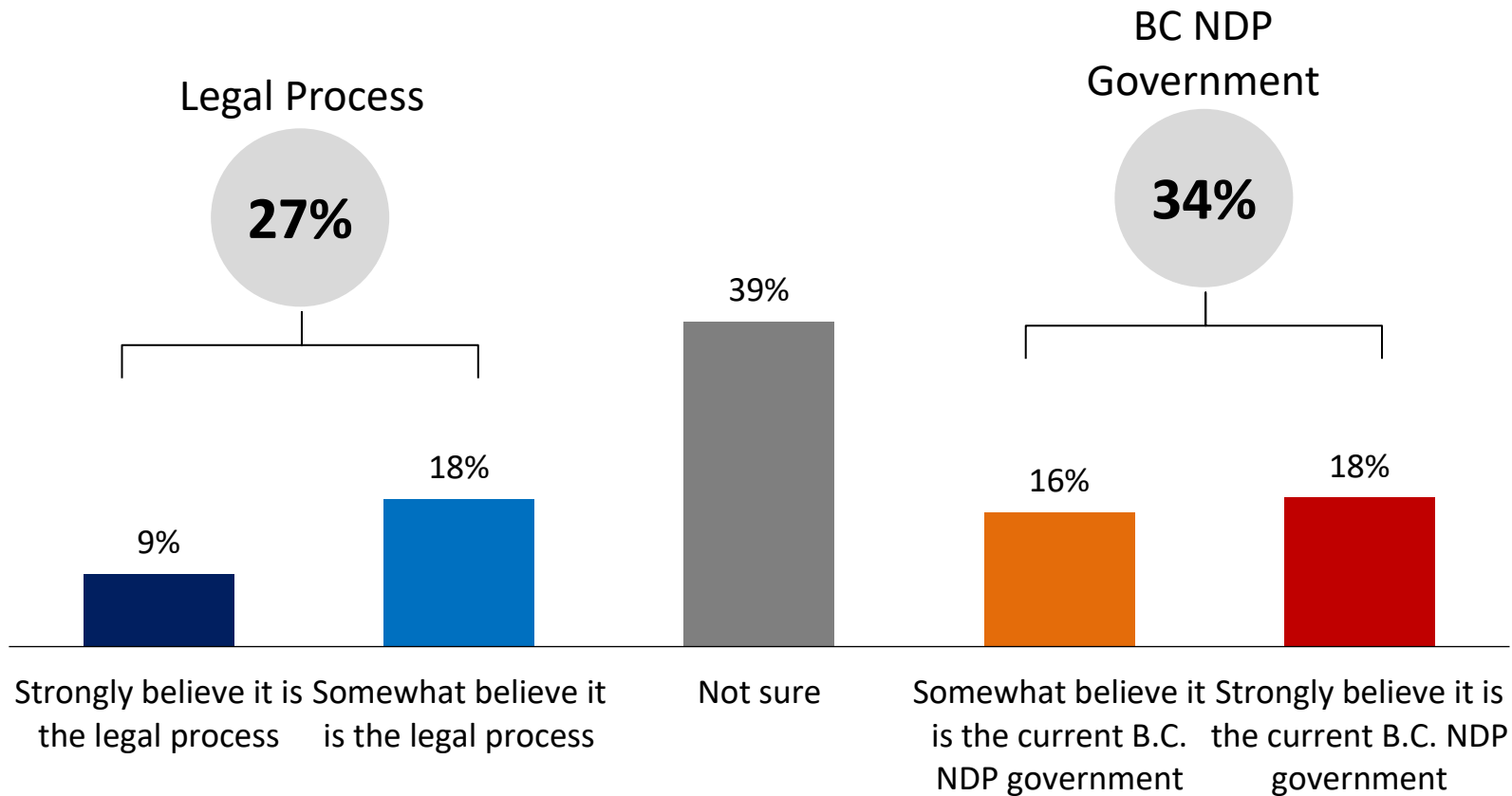
**Q** Some/other observers say the Cowichan ruling does not threaten private property owners and that governments will negotiate a resolution over time. Other/some observers say it is a landmark ruling that creates serious uncertainty for property rights across British Columbia. Which view is closer to your own?  
 [asked of all respondents; n=300]



NOTE: \*Sample size <50  
 Current data: March 2026 W1 and W2

# Main Drivers of The Ruling: Many (39%) are unsure who to blame, 1-in-3 think it is mainly influenced by BC NDP

**Q** Do you think decisions like the Cowichan ruling are mainly driven by how the legal system works, or mainly influenced by the policies of the current British Columbia NDP government [asked of all respondents; n=300]

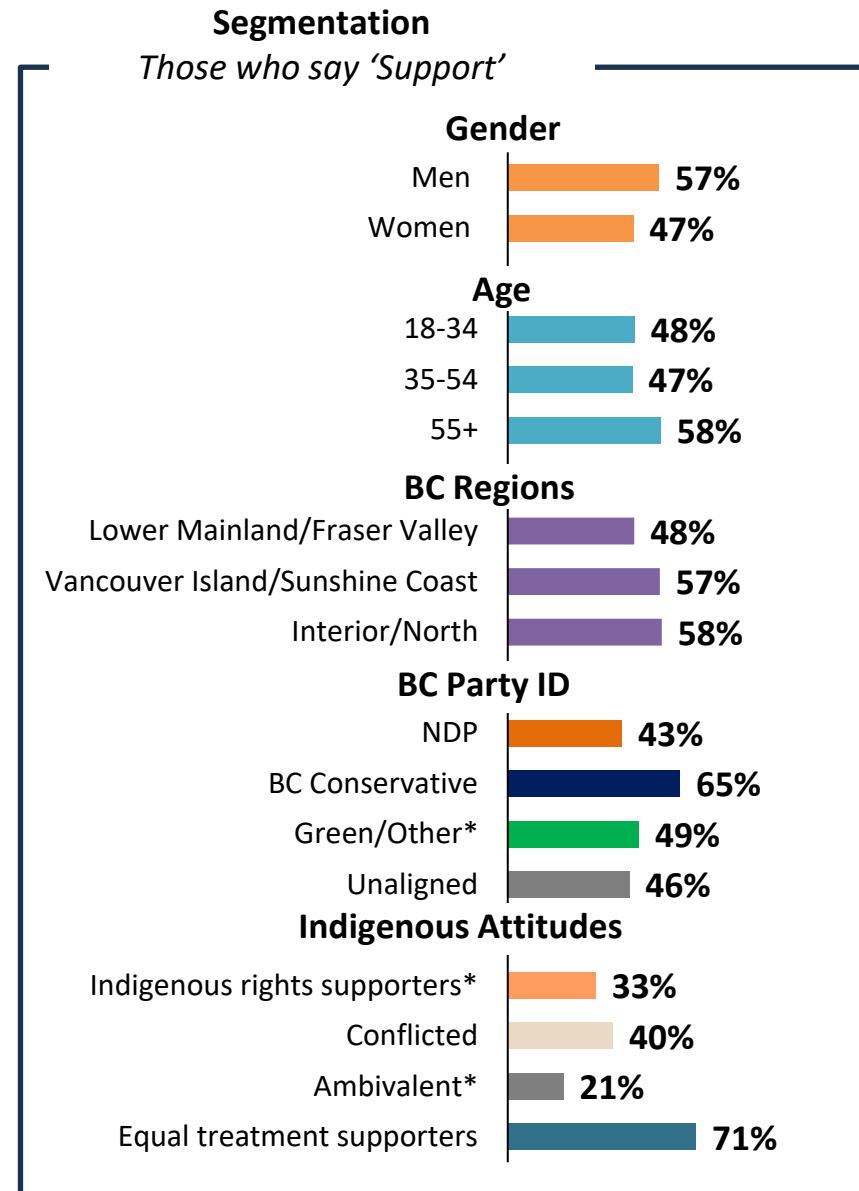
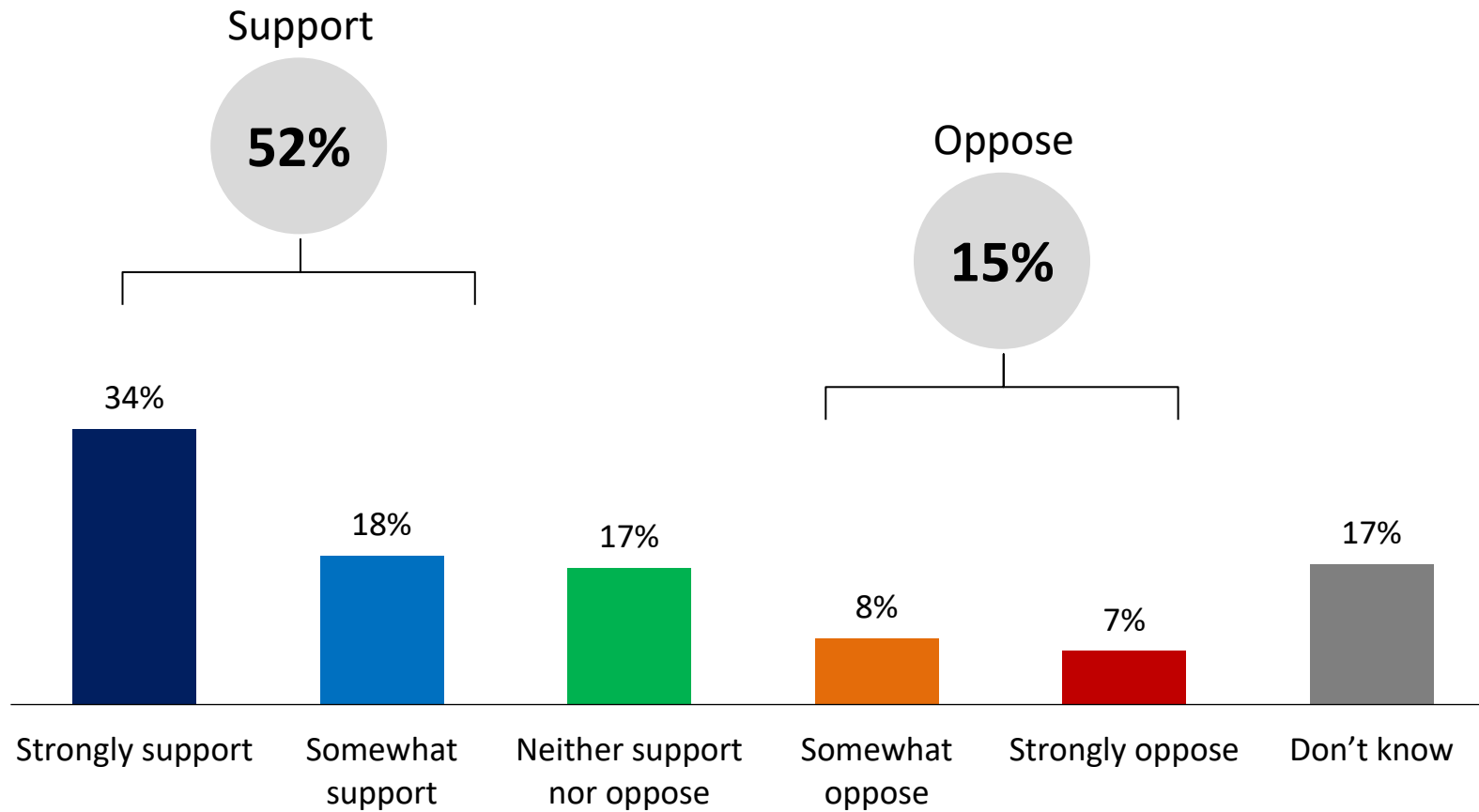


NOTE: \*Sample size <50  
Current data: March 2026 W1 and W2

# Fee Simple Legislation

# Support for Fee Simple Legislation: Plurality across all segments support gov't protecting fee simple, with one-third strongly supporting it <sup>26</sup>

**Q** Generally speaking, would you support or oppose the government introducing legislation that would establish fee simple title (private property ownership) as having legal priority over Aboriginal title in British Columbia?  
 [asked of all respondents; n=300]

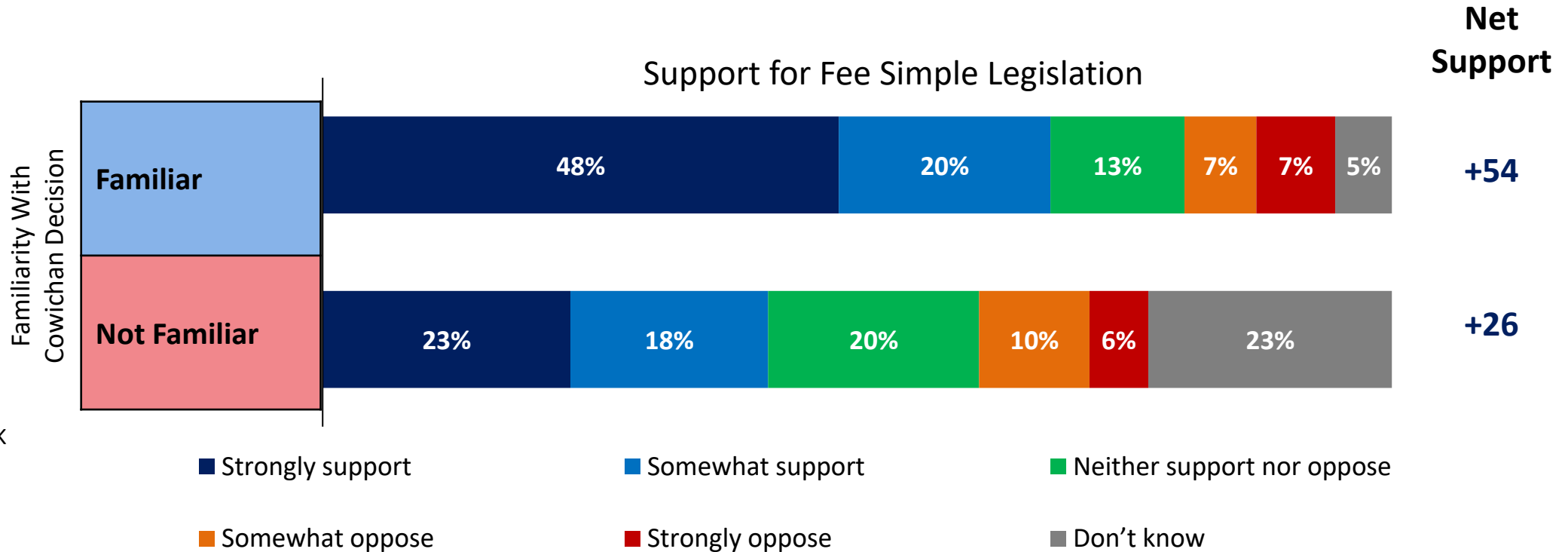
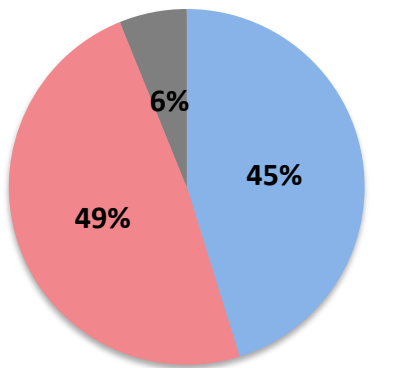


NOTE: \*Sample size <50  
 Current data: March 2026 W1 and W2

# Support for Fee Simple Legislation: 48% of those familiar feel strongly about the government introducing the fee simple legislation



Generally speaking, would you support or oppose the government introducing legislation that would establish fee simple title (private property ownership) as having legal priority over Aboriginal title in British Columbia? **BY** Familiarity With Cowichan Decision  
[asked of all respondents; n=300]

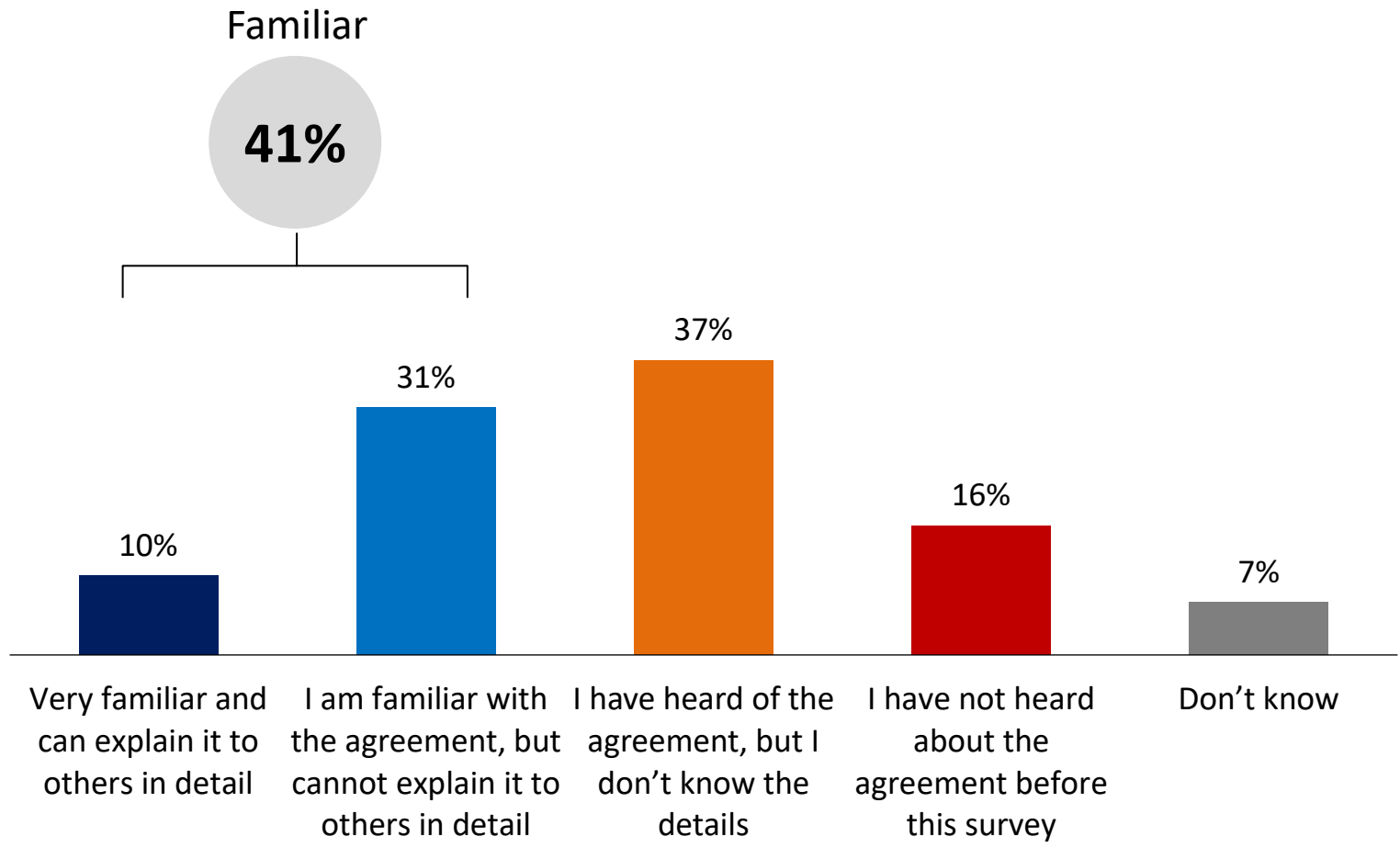


\*Don't know n=18  
Current data: March 2026 W1 and W2

# Musqueam Agreement

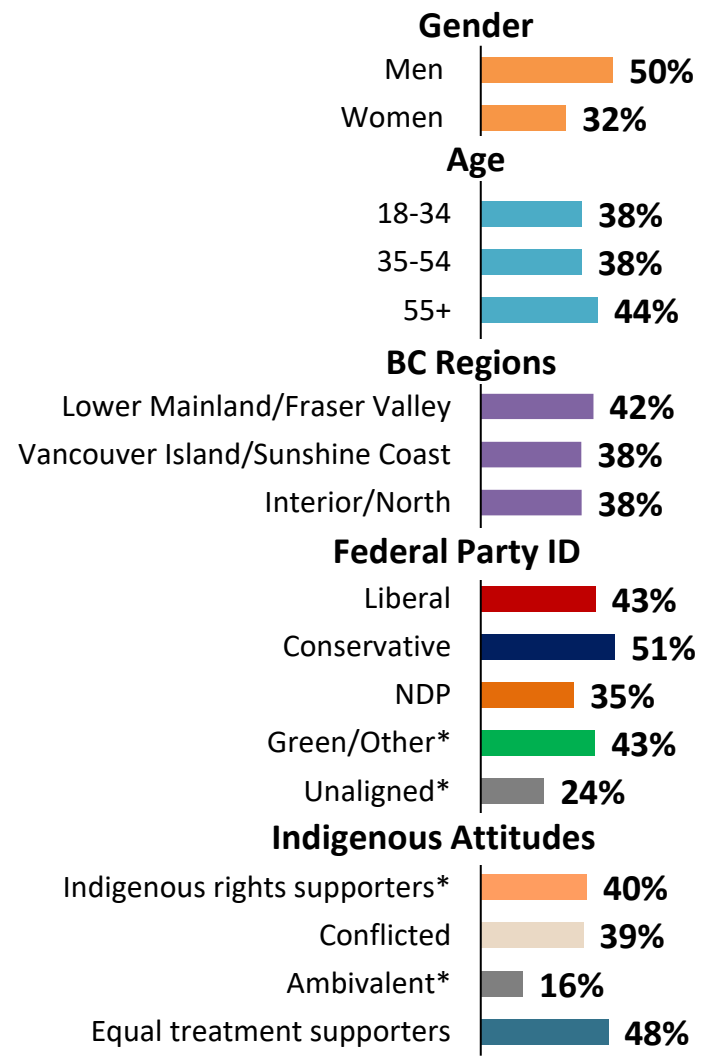
# Awareness of Musqueam Agreement: 41% are familiar; 1-in-2 of men and the majority of BC Conservatives (53%) are aware

**Q** Recently, the federal government signed agreements with the Musqueam First Nation in British Columbia, recognizing Indigenous rights and establishing a framework for implementing those rights in their traditional territory around Metro Vancouver. How familiar are you with this issue?  
 [asked of all respondents in BC; n=300]



### Segmentation

Those who say 'Familiar'



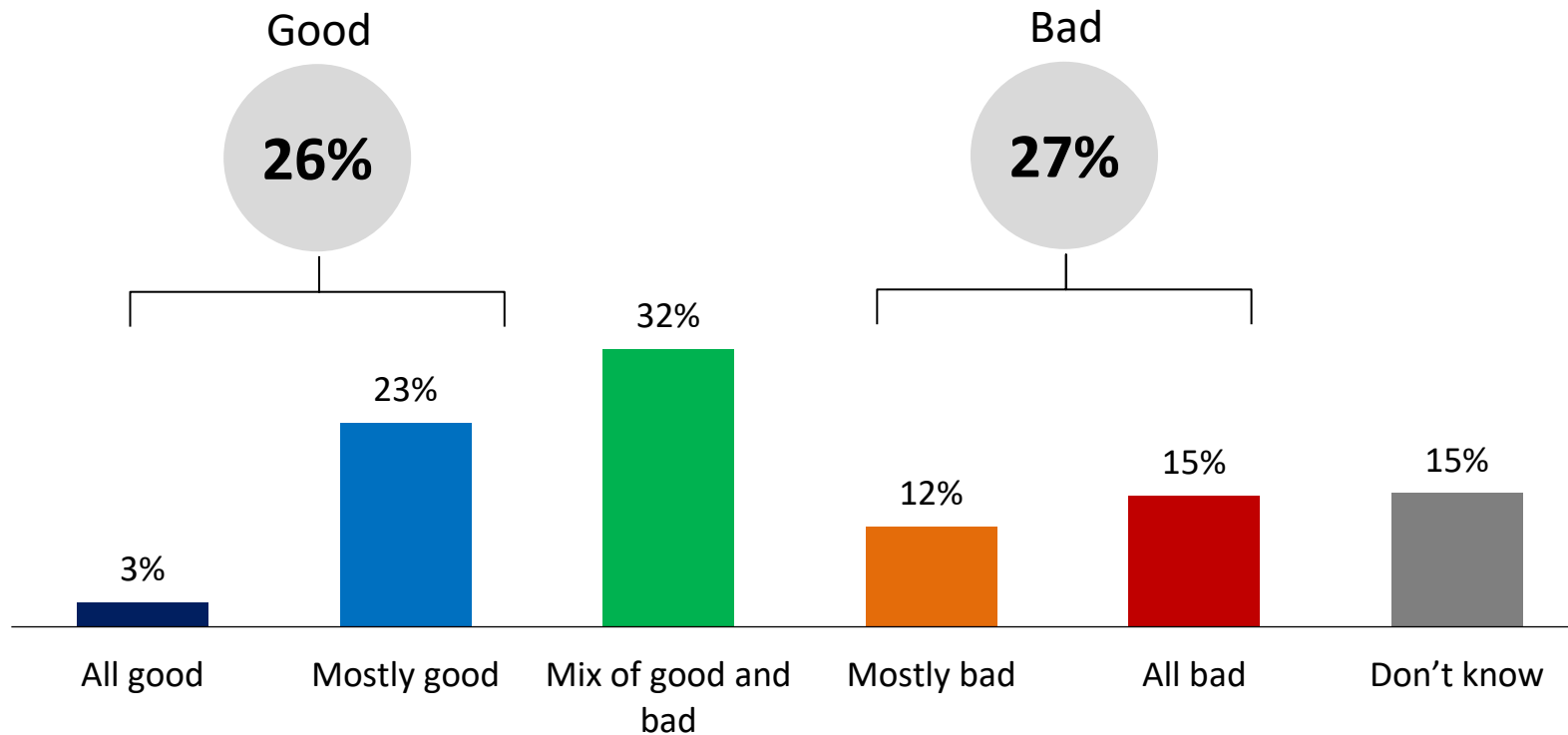
NOTE: \*Sample size <50  
 Current data: March 2026 W3 and W4

# Impressions of Agreement: Agreement seen it as a mix of good and bad; 26% see it as good and 27% as bad, concern increases with age



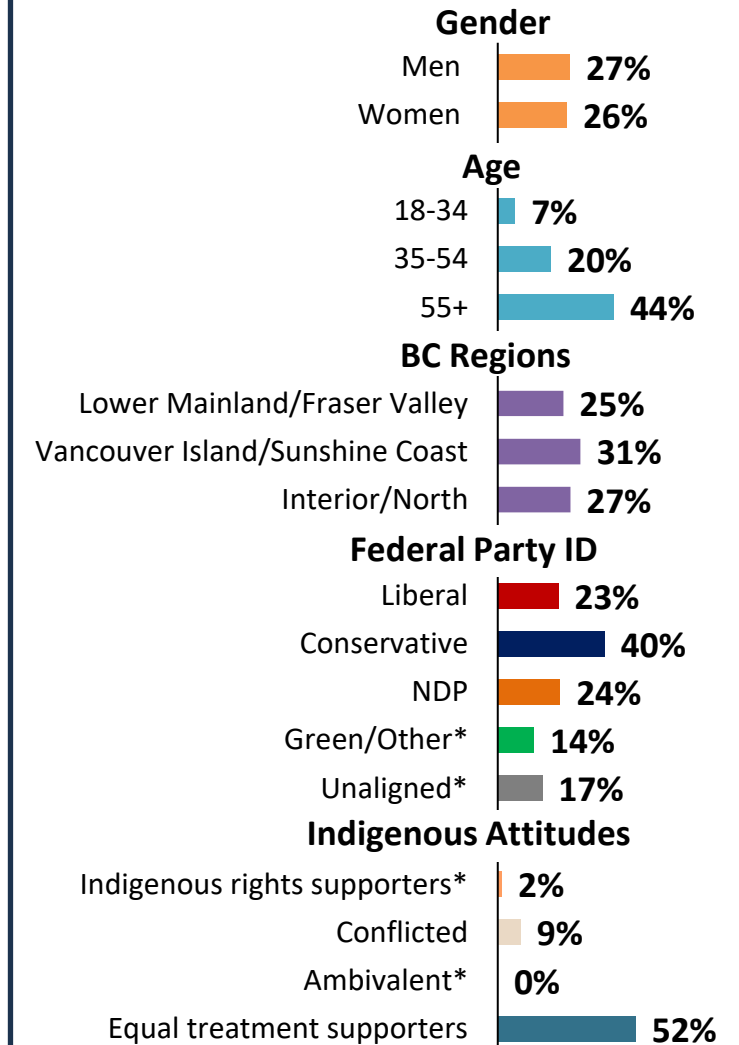
From what you know, do these agreements between the federal government and the Musqueam First Nation in British Columbia sound like a good thing or a bad thing?

[asked of all respondents in BC; n=300]



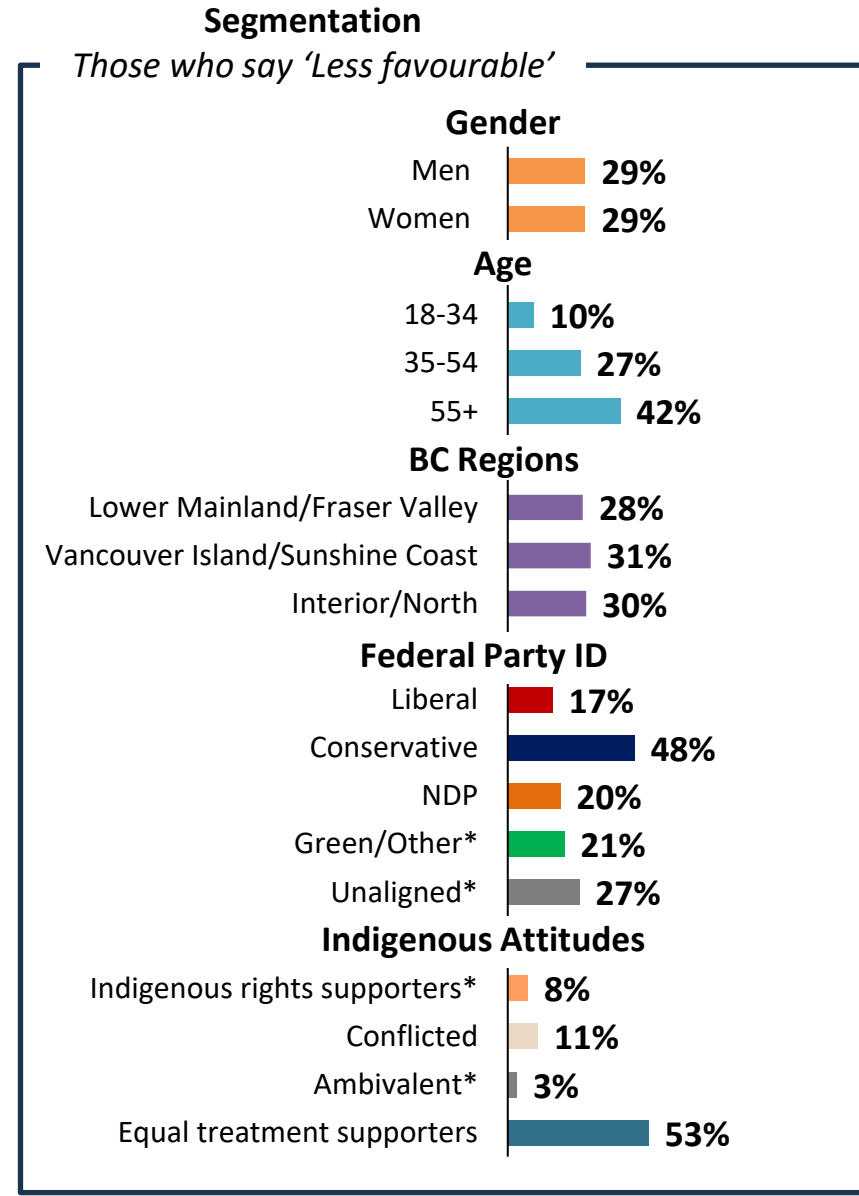
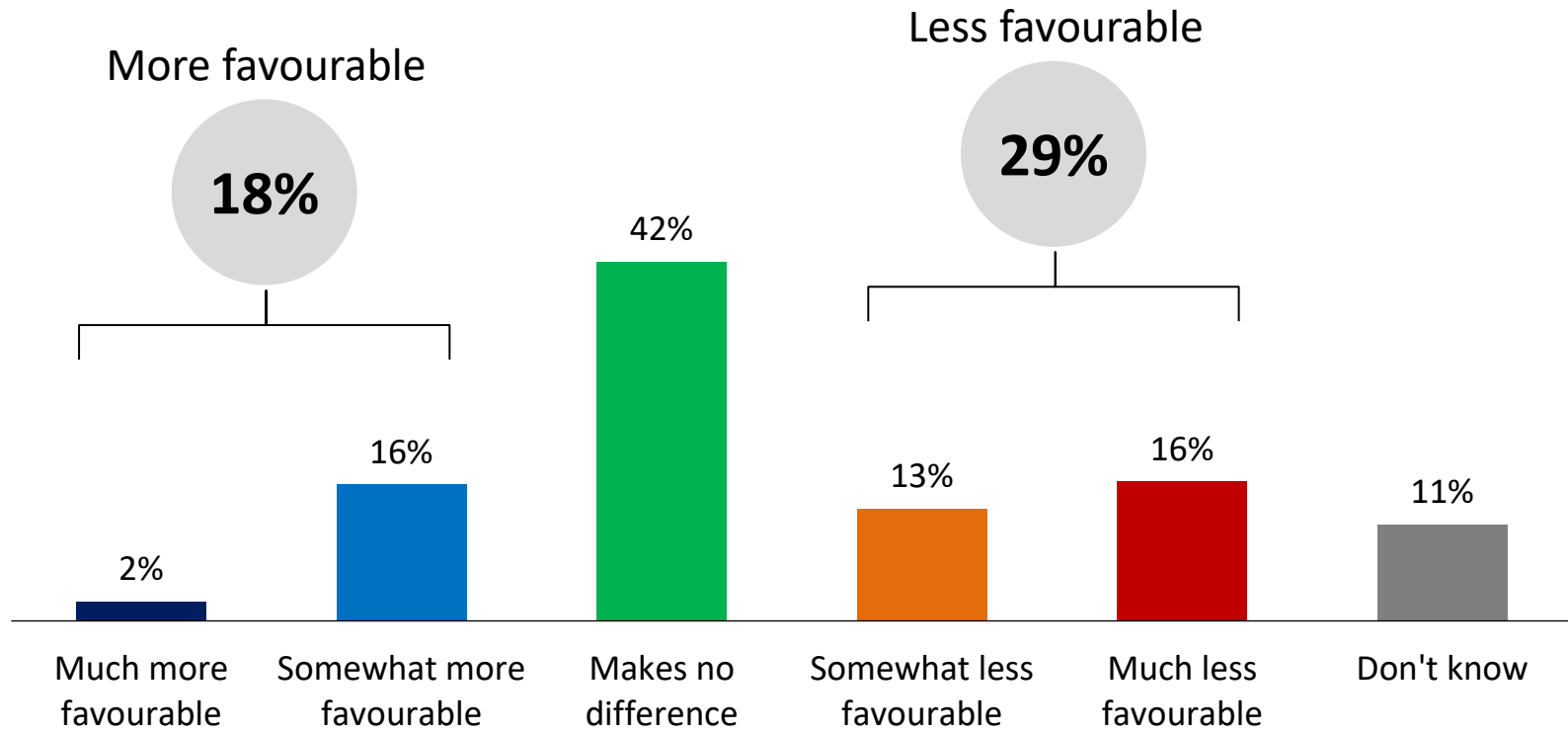
## Segmentation

Those who say 'Bad'



# Impact of Agreement on Fed Gov Fav: Overall, 42% see it as making no difference on their perception of feds; favourability decreases w/ age

**Q** Did these agreements leave you feeling a lot more favourable or less favourable toward the federal Liberal government, or do they make no difference?  
[asked of all respondents in BC; n=300]



NOTE: \*Sample size <50  
Current data: March 2026 W3 and W4

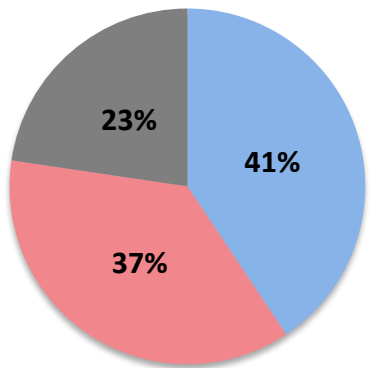
# Impressions BY Awareness: Plurality (43%) who are familiar agreement have bad impression of it, (41%) who have heard of it have mixed feelings



**Awareness:** ... How familiar are you with this issue?

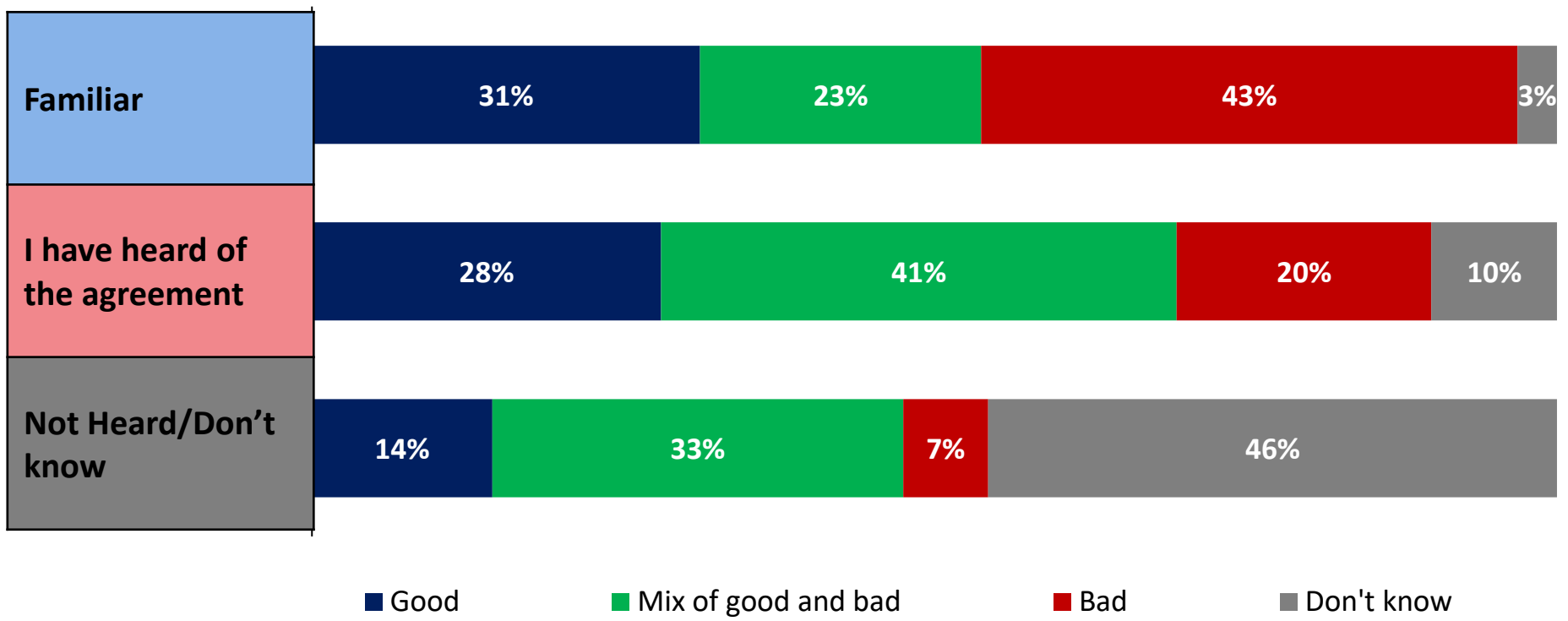
**Impressions:** From what you know, do these agreements between the federal government and the **Musqueam First Nation** in British Columbia sound like a good thing or a bad thing?

[asked of all respondents in BC; n=300]



Familiarity with the Musqueam agreements

Impressions of the Musqueam Agreements



**Net Good**

**-12**

**+8**

**+8**

■ Familiar ■ Not familiar ■ DK

■ Good ■ Mix of good and bad ■ Bad ■ Don't know

\*Don't know n=68  
 Current data: March 2026 W3 and W4

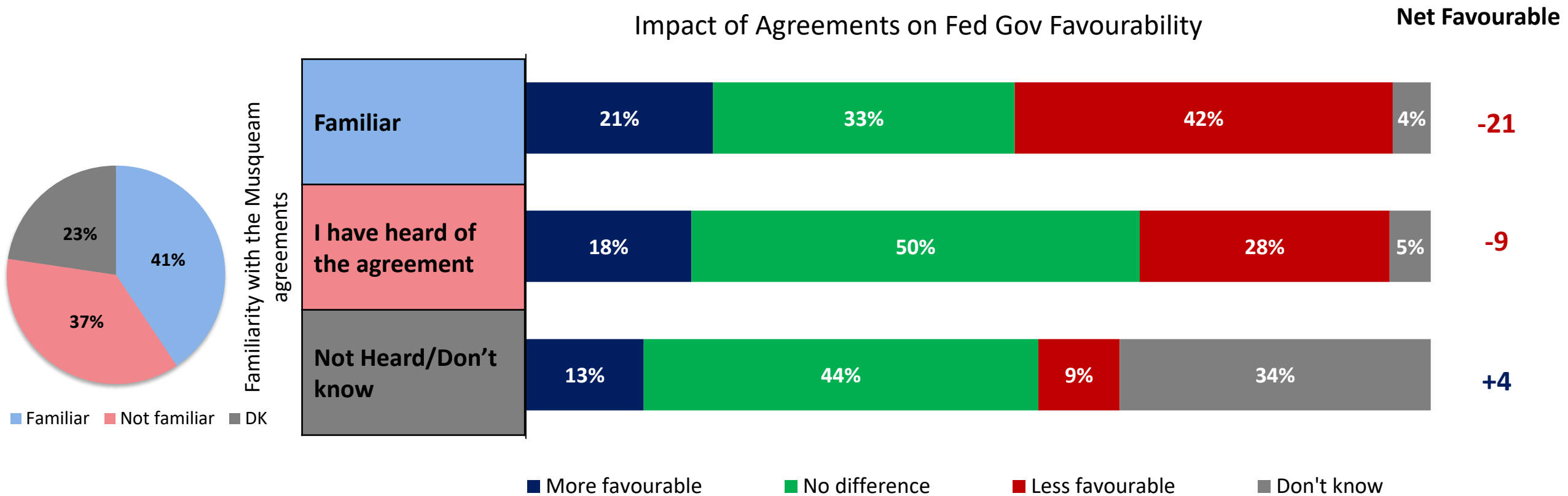
# Impact of Agreements on Fed Gov Favourability BY Awareness: Greater<sup>33</sup> awareness is associated with less favourability toward Fed Gov



**Awareness:** ... How familiar are you with this issue?

**Impact:** Did these agreements leave you feeling a lot more favourable or less favourable toward the federal Liberal government, or do they make no difference?

[asked of all respondents in BC; n=300]



\*Don't know n=68  
 Current data: March 2026 W3 and W4

# Methodology

# Survey Methodology – BC (W1-2)



**These are the results of an online survey conducted between March 06, 2026 and March 16, 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=406 British Columbians, 18 years or older. The results are provincially weighted to n=300 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

**Field Dates:** March 06, 2026 to March 16, 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 (%)
Men 18-34	33	8.1%	38	12.6%
Men 35-54	67	16.5%	47	15.8%
Men 55+	101	24.9%	60	20.2%
Women 18-34	35	8.6%	38	12.7%
Women 35-54	65	16.0%	49	16.6%
Women 55+	104	25.7%	66	22.1%
<b>Region</b>				
Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley	257	63.3%	180	60.0%
Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast	77	19.0%	56	18.8%
Interior and North	72	17.7%	64	21.2%

# Survey Methodology – BC (W3-4)



## These are the results of an online survey conducted between March 19, 2026 and March 30, 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=396 British Columbians, 18 years or older. The results are provincially weighted to n=300 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

**Field Dates:** March 19, 2026 to March 30, 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.

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**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	36	9.1%	39	13.0%
Men 35-54	60	15.2%	46	15.5%
Men 55+	103	26.1%	59	19.8%
Women 18-34	31	7.8%	39	13.0%
Women 35-54	60	15.2%	49	16.3%
Women 55+	105	26.6%	67	22.3%
<b>Region</b>				
Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley	231	58.3%	177	58.9%
Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast	81	20.5%	56	18.8%
Interior and North	84	21.2%	67	22.3%



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**Building Understanding.**

