



2020

STUDENT BUDGET CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Student Budget Consultation is a project of



This project is supported by **Canada**

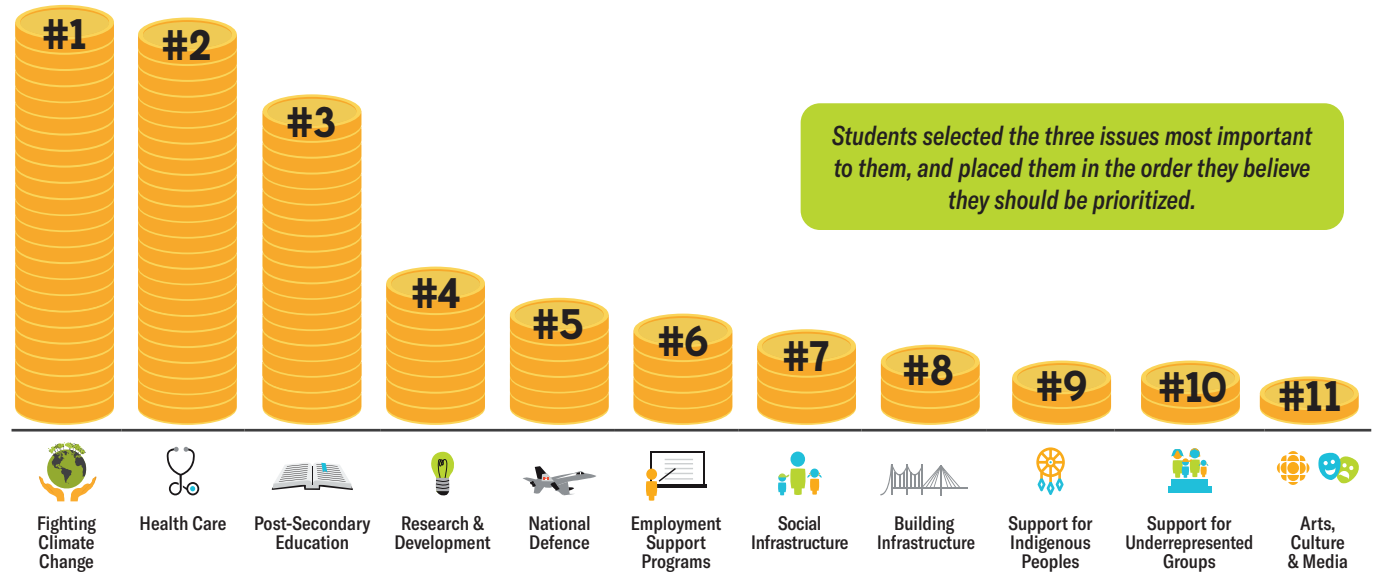
BUDGET PRIORITIES

WHAT SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT PRIORITIZE?

The top 5 issues, as ranked by students:

- 1 Climate change** 
- 2 Tax cuts for lower & middle-income Canadians** 
- 3 Unemployment** 
- 4 Access to post-secondary education** 
- 5 Mental health** 

Students want to see increased government investment in **climate change action**, **health care** and **post-secondary education**.



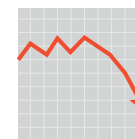
STUDENTS ARE CONFIDENT ABOUT THEIR JOB PROSPECTS...

88% of students are confident they will find jobs which interest them.

 Atlantic &  Saskatchewan students **most** confident.



...BUT ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT ECONOMIC GROWTH

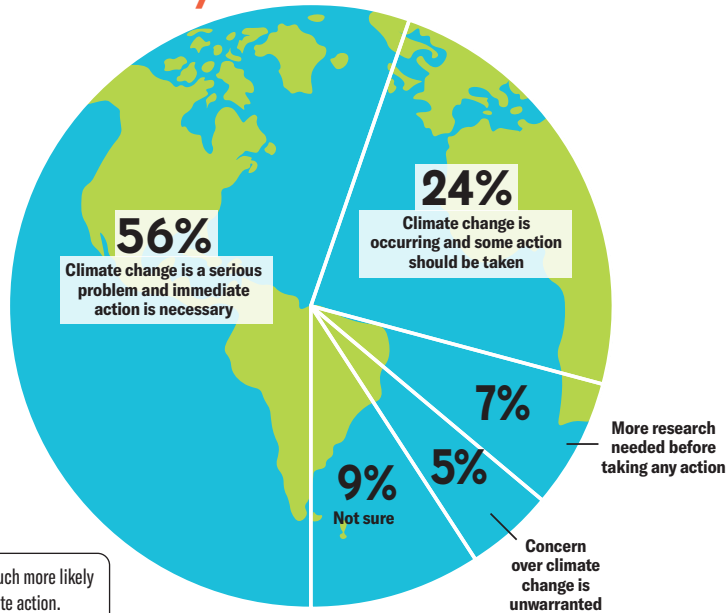


Students are twice more likely to believe that the economy will be **worse off (47%)** than **better off (22%)** in the next few years.

 Alberta students especially **worried**.

THE ENVIRONMENT

More than half of young Canadians believe that **climate change is occurring** and that **immediate action is necessary**.



Female students much more likely to support immediate action.

Q: Environmental protections should be stricter, even if it means consumers pay higher prices.



61%
Agree



23%
Neutral



16%
Disagree

16% increase in support since last year.

Q: How should Canadians respond to climate change?



41%

believe lifestyle changes are key to climate action.



30%

believe that technological coordination between the private and public sectors should play a role in combatting climate change.

STUDENTS' CLIMATE CONCERN DOES NOT MEAN OPPOSITION TO OIL AND GAS...

Q: How much should the federal government do to help the oil and gas industry?



50%
More



27%
Same



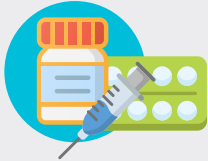
23%
Less

Half of young Canadians support **increasing government subsidies** to the oil and gas industry.

Alberta students especially **supportive**.

HEALTH CARE & EDUCATION

OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR PHARMACARE AND DENTAL CARE



77%

of students support **universal access to prescription drugs.**



73%

of students support **universal access to dental care.**



Female students more likely to support expanding universal pharmacare & dental care access.

OPIOID CRISIS

Q: How much should the Canadian government do to **address the opioid crisis?**



79%

More



16%

Same as now



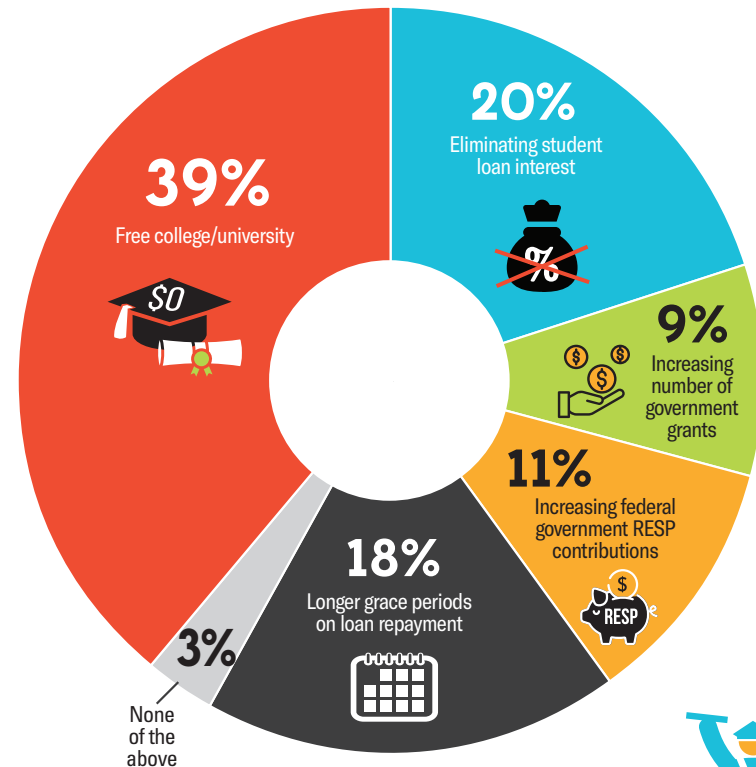
6%

Less

A large majority of students would like to see **more government action.**



What is the most important step the federal government can take to increase **educational affordability?**

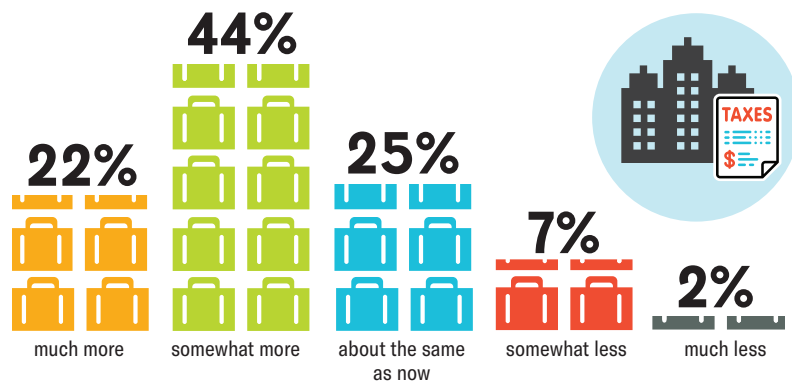


4 in 10 young Canadians believe that **university and college education should be free.**



TAXES & INEQUALITY

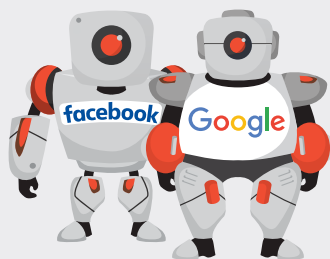
Q: How much taxes should corporations pay?



A **decisive majority** of young Canadians **support an increase** in the corporate tax rate.

 BC & Alberta students more likely to support an increase.

TAXING WEB GIANTS



68%

of students support a **corporate tax** on **tech companies**.

FIGHTING INCOME INEQUALITY

63%

believe that the gap between those with **high incomes** and those with **low incomes** is too large.



AGREE or DISAGREE?

Wealthy Canadians have a **greater financial obligation** than others to help those in need.



62%
Agree



21%
Neutral



18%
Disagree

9% increase in support since last year.

PAYING THEIR FAIR SHARE?

When asked to choose their preferred way to address wealth inequality in society, **more than a third of students** favoured a **wealth tax** on fortunes worth **\$20 million or more**.



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

CANADA'S BUDGET SHOULD BE BALANCED NO MATTER WHAT.



58%

Agree



25%

Neutral



16%

Disagree

5%

increase in student support for a balanced budget compared to the 2019 Student Budget Consultation.

75%

of students believe that the government should

prioritize **lowering the federal debt** as much as possible.



STUDENTS DIVIDED ON **SPENDING CUTS**

The federal deficit should be reduced, even if it leads to fewer public services.



36%

Agree



34%

Neutral

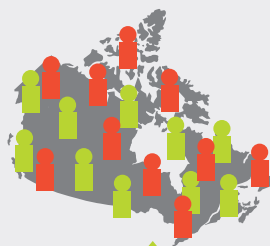


30%

Disagree

51%

prefer **lower taxes & fewer services**



49%

prefer **higher taxes & more services**

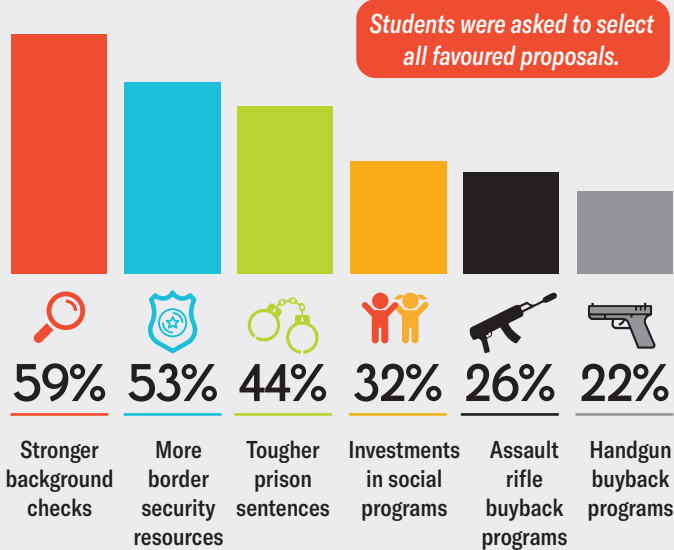


Female students favour higher taxes for more services.
Male students favour lower taxes for fewer services.



OTHER FINDINGS

Q: Which of the **gun control** policies proposed in the 2019 federal election should the Canadian government implement?



Students prefer **increased oversight** rather than gun buyback programs.

39%

of students **do not support** the Liberal campaign initiative to **subsidize camping** for low-income families.



32% of students support it, 29% are neutral

Q: How much should Canada spend on foreign aid?

40% **More**
39% **The same**
21% **Less**



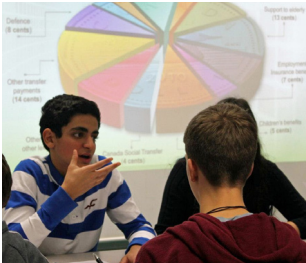
CLEAN WATER

84%

believe that the Canadian government should ensure that Indigenous Peoples have **full access to clean water**, regardless of taxpayer cost.

BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY

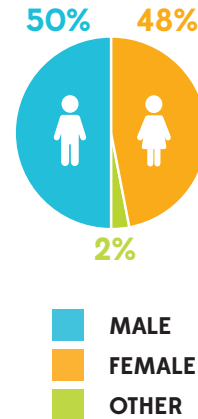
The **Student Budget Consultation** is a civic education and financial literacy initiative for high school students across Canada. The program gives young people an opportunity to learn about government revenues and expenditures, debate political issues and offer their own opinion on the priorities of the federal budget.



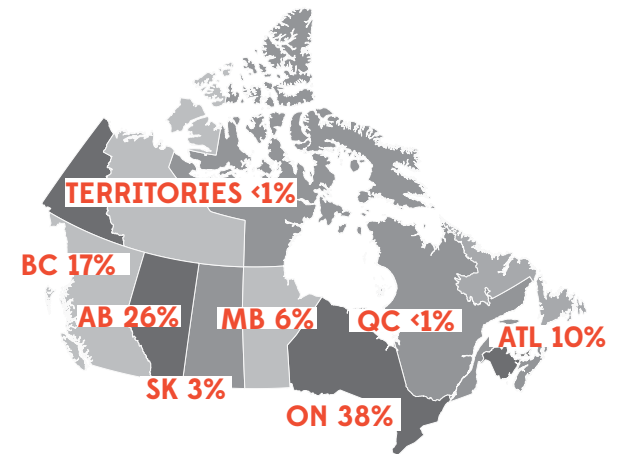
In conjunction with the 2020 federal budget, Canadian high school students were consulted on budget priorities using online and paper-based questionnaires. In total, more than 6,000 students from every province and territory in Canada participated between November 2019 and April 2020.

Canadian census data has been used to weight the findings to reflect the distribution of males and females, aged 12 to 18, in Canada. This report also includes incomplete responses, meaning that sample sizes will vary from question to question. Due to rounding, percentages presented throughout this document may not add up to 100 per cent or precisely reflect the absolute figures.

GENDER BREAKDOWN:



REGIONAL BREAKDOWN:



 More than 500 Quebec students participated in a separate provincial Student Budget Consultation run concurrently with this federal survey.

CIVIX is a national registered charity dedicated to building the habits of active and informed citizenship among young Canadians. CIVIX provides experiential learning opportunities to help young Canadians practice their rights and responsibilities as citizens and connect with their democratic institutions. www.civix.ca

STUDENT VOTE CIVIX's signature program is Student Vote, a parallel election for students under the voting age held in conjunction with general elections. During the 2019 federal election, 1.2 million students cast ballots for the local candidates running in their school's riding, as part of Student Vote Canada 2019. www.studentvote.ca

