

## Review of Results

19 April 2021



## METHODOLOGY

Between 2 February and 7 April 2021, Vox Pop Labs and CIVIX engaged high school students and teachers from all across Canada for the 2021 Student Budget Consultation.

A total of 6,182 online responses were included in this report to provide a preliminary snapshot of the perceptions and priorities of the next generation of Canadians.

To ensure representative results, the 2016 Canadian census was used to weight the data to reflect the distribution of males and females, aged 12 to 18, in Canada.

This report includes incomplete responses, meaning that sample sizes will vary from question to question. Moreover, due to rounding, percentages presented throughout this document may not add up to 100% and precisely reflect the absolute figures.



# MAIN FINDINGS

#### **CURRENT AND FUTURE OUTLOOKS**

88% of students are somewhat or very confident that they will be able to find a job that interests them in Canada after they finish school, despite 60% being somewhat, very or extremely concerned about the Canadian economy.

#### WEALTH INEQUALITY AND TAXATION

The majority of young Canadians support increasing the amount of tax large corporations pay, and believe that wealthy people have a greater financial obligation than others to help those who are in need. Universal basic income is also popular among young Canadians.

#### **RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Most students believe that the government should provide more support for businesses that have lost income due to the pandemic; however, only a plurality (40%) believe that the government should incur more debt to address the pandemic overall. Students are also divided over whether the federal government has done enough to protect Canadians from the financial hardships caused by the pandemic.



# MAIN FINDINGS

#### **EDUCATION**

The majority of students support free post-secondary education even if it means higher taxes. In fact, 45% believe the best way the federal government can support young Canadians is by increasing access to affordable post-secondary education.

#### **HEALTH CARE**

Students overwhelmingly support expanding access to dental care, pharmacare and paid sick leave. They also believe the federal government should increase health care transfers to provinces and territories as a whole.

#### HIGH BUDGET PRIORITIES

Students believe the federal government should prioritize education, health care coverage, ending systemic racism and affordable housing in their post-pandemic recovery plan. Moreover, students believe that increasing employment opportunities is one of the most important steps the government can take to support young Canadians in the current economic climate.

C·I·V·I·X

# MAIN FINDINGS

#### **ADDITIONAL BUDGET PRIORITIES**

There is strong support among students for stricter environmental protections and increased government investments in green technology. 52% of students also do not support postponing government action on climate change until after the COVID-19 crisis is over. At the same time, 37% of students believe that Canada's oil and gas industry is in need of more government support. Another priority issue for students is mental health. More than half of students indicate their mental health has worsened over the past year.

#### **OTHER CONCERNS**

Students are generally divided on whether parents who can afford child care should pay for it themselves or receive help from the government. Moreover, almost half of students believe rural areas in Canada should have access to the same internet speeds as cities, if this leads to higher taxes for everyone. Finally, Canadian youth are divided on how much of the federal budget should be allocated to foreign aid.



## **Current and Future Outlooks**

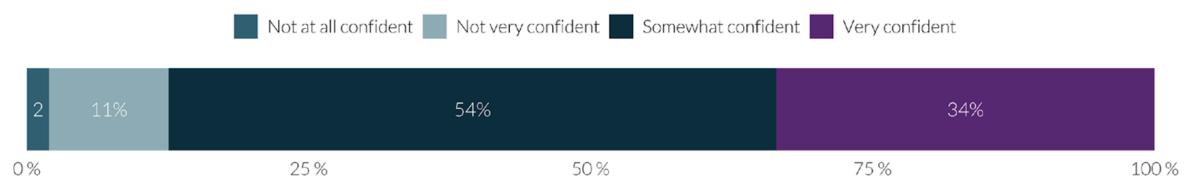
Although students are overwhelmingly confident about their own future job prospects, they remain concerned about the state of the economy, both at home and abroad.



#### Career prospects

The overwhelming majority of students (88%) are confident that they will find jobs that interest them in Canada after they finish their schooling.

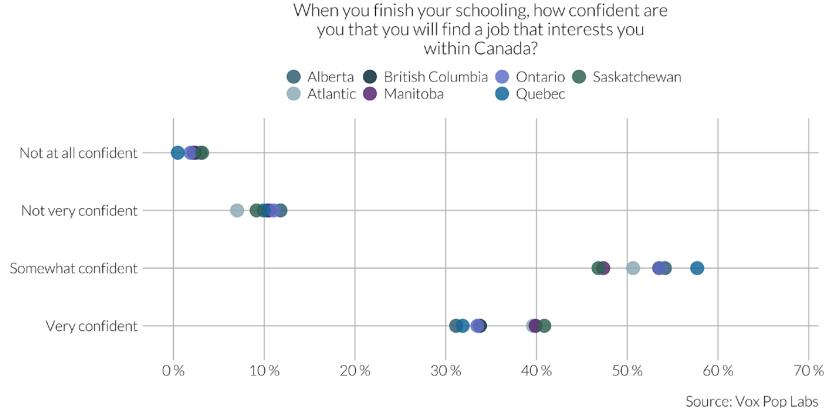
When you finish your schooling, how confident are you that you will find a job that interests you within Canada?





#### Career prospects: By province

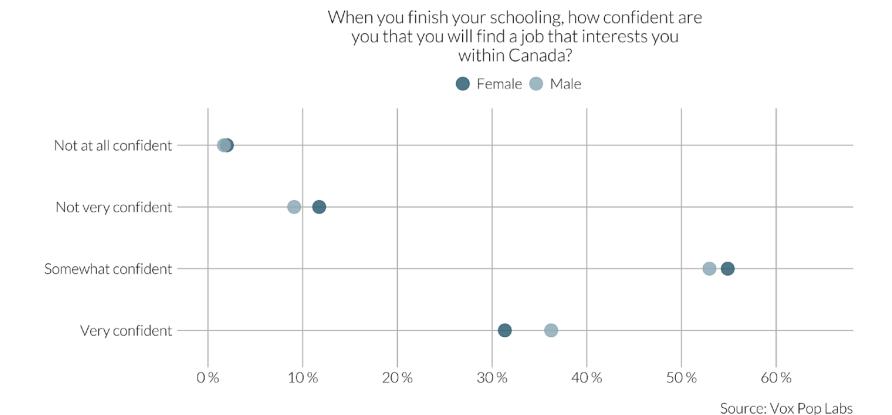
It should be noted that students in the Atlantic provinces (90%) and Quebec (90%) are the most confident about their future job prospects.





## Career prospects: By gender

There are no significant gender differences on this issue.

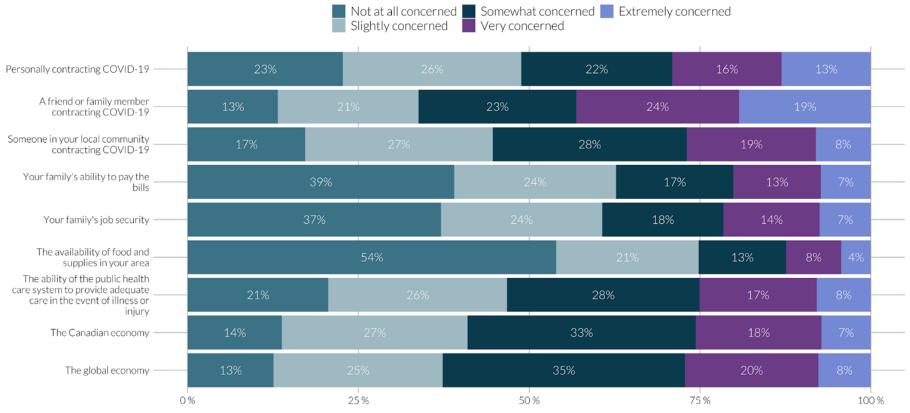


VOX POP

#### Canadian and Global Economy

Despite feeling confident in their individual job prospects, students remain skeptical about the current economic climate. 6 in 10 students are somewhat, very or extremely concerned about both the Canadian economy and the global economy.

How concerned would you say you are right now about each of the following?

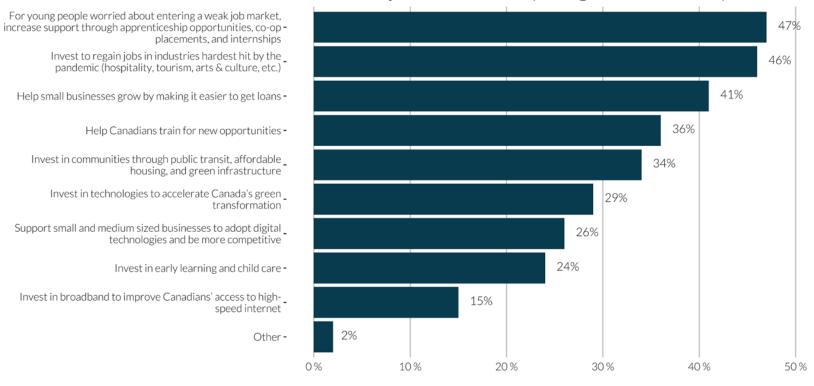




#### How to Increase Employment Opportunities

According to students, the three most important steps the government can take to create jobs and grow the economy are to increase work opportunities for students; boost employment in hard-hit industries; and make loans more accessible to small businesses.

What are the 3 most important steps the federal government can take to create more jobs in the country and grow the economy?





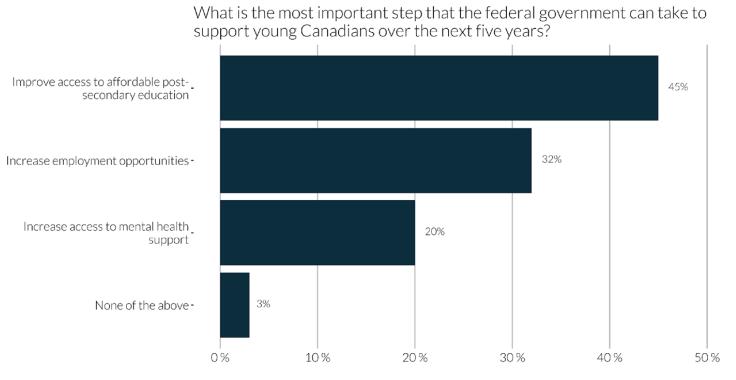
# WEALTHY INEQUALITY AND TAXATION

Most students support higher taxes for more government services. They also believe that wealthy Canadians have a greater financial obligation to help those in need. Finally, there is strong support for the introduction of a universal basic income.



## **Supporting Young Canadians**

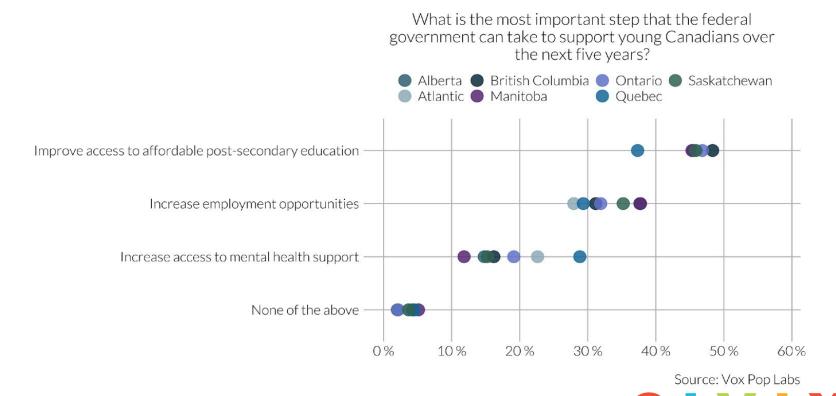
Almost half of students (45%) believe that the most important step the federal government can take to support youth over the next five years is to improve access to affordable post-secondary education.





## Supporting Young Canadians: By province

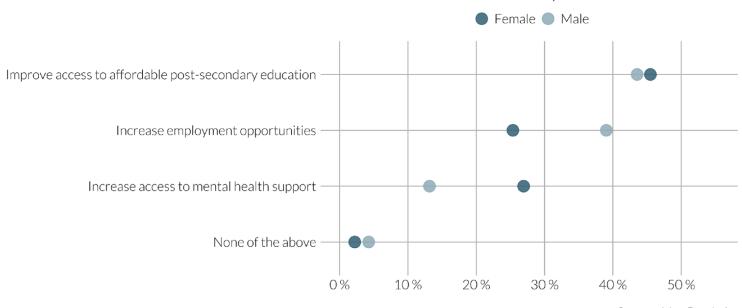
When compared with students from other provinces, Quebec students are somewhat less convinced that affordable post-secondary education is the most important step the government can take. Among those who selected mental health support, however, Quebec students make up the highest proportion.



## Supporting Young Canadians: By gender

Increasing employment opportunities is more popular among male students (39%) than among female students (25%). Meanwhile, increasing access to mental health supports is more popular among female students (27%) compared to male students (13%).

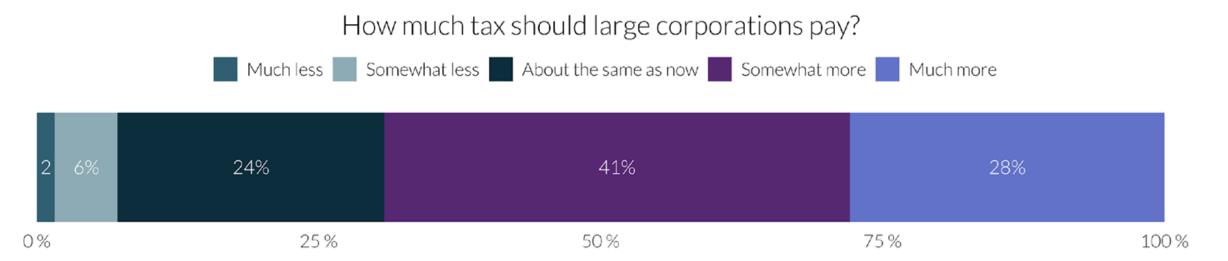
What is the most important step that the federal government can take to support young Canadians over the next five years?





#### Corporate Taxes

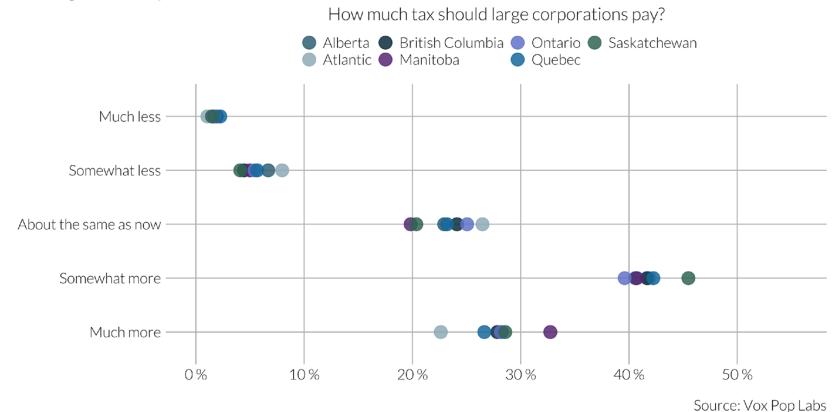
Two-thirds of students (69%) believe that large corporations should pay more in taxes.





#### Corporate Taxes: By province

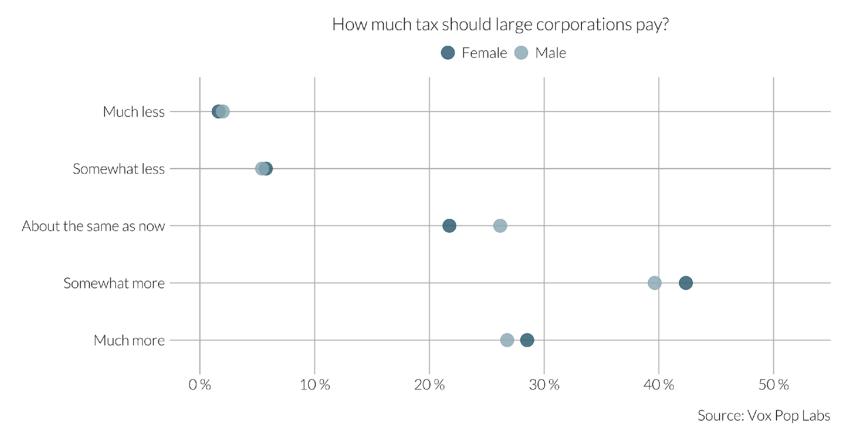
Manitoba (73%) and Saskatchewan (74%) students are somewhat more likely than any other group to support increasing the corporate tax rate.





#### Corporate Taxes: By gender

Female students (71%) are slightly more likely than male students (66%) to believe that large corporations should pay more in taxes.

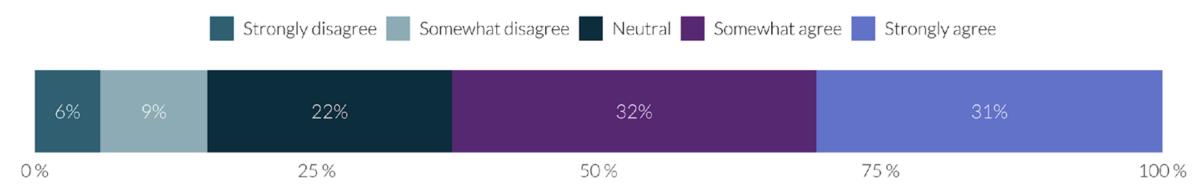


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#### Financial Obligation of the Wealthy

A large majority of students (63%) believe that the wealthy have a greater financial obligation to help those in need.

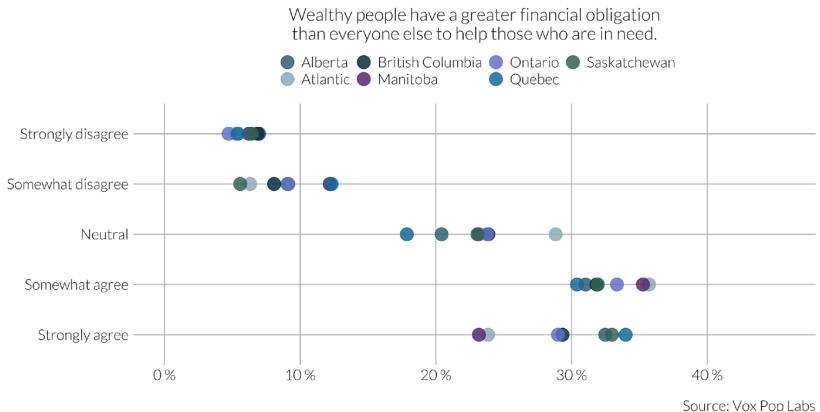
Wealthy people have a greater financial obligation than everyone else to help those who are in need.





## Financial Obligation of the Wealthy: By province

Students from Saskatchewan (65%) are the most likely to hold this view.

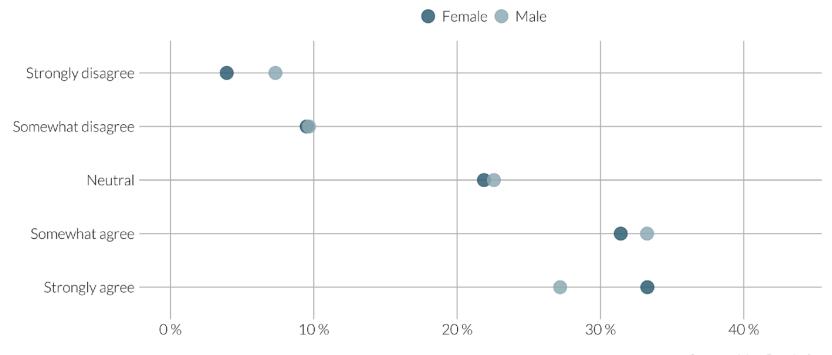




## Financial Obligation of the Wealthy: By gender

Female students (65%) are slightly more likely than male students (60%) to believe that wealthy people have a greater financial obligation to help those in need.

Wealthy people have a greater financial obligation than everyone else to help those who are in need.

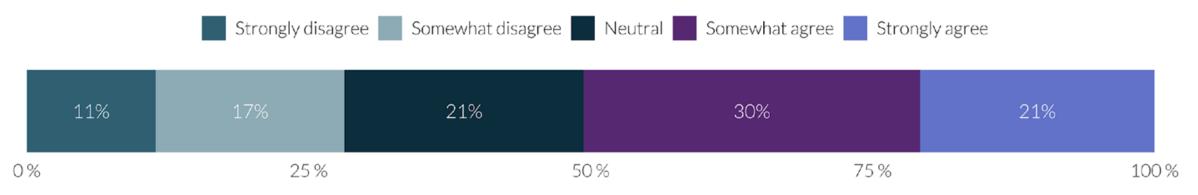




#### Universal Basic Income

A slight majority of students (51%) believe the government should guarantee a minimum income for all Canadians.

The government should guarantee a minimum income for all Canadians, regardless of whether or not they have a job.

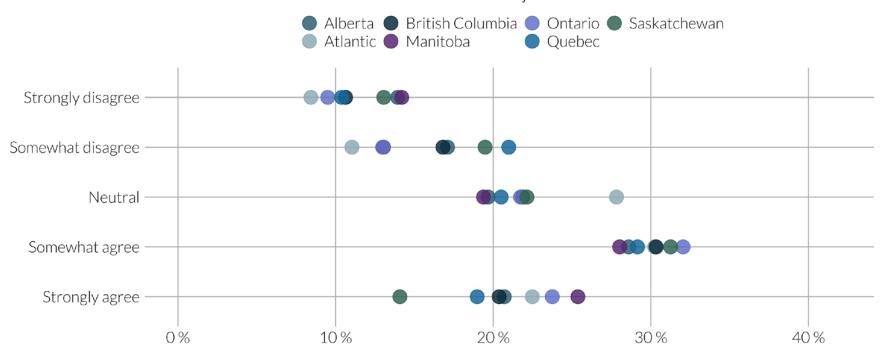




## Universal Basic Income: By province

Students in Ontario indicate the greatest support for a universal basic income (56%).

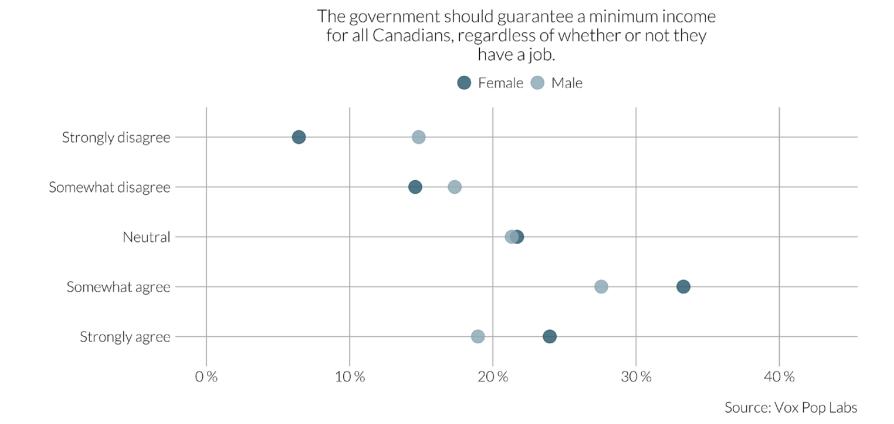
The government should guarantee a minimum income for all Canadians, regardless of whether or not they have a job.





## Universal Basic Income: By gender

Female students (57%) are more likely than male students (46%) to support a guaranteed minimum income for all Canadians.



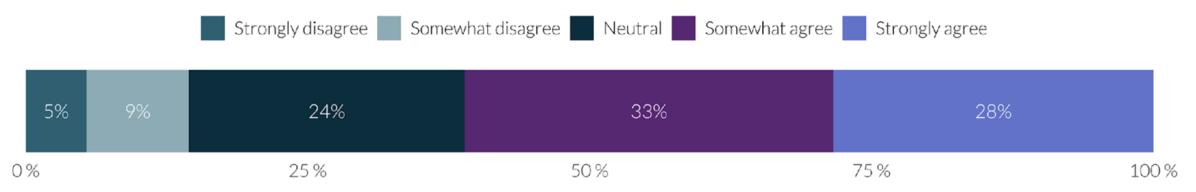
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#### **Excess Profit Tax**

A large majority of students (61%) believe Canada should introduce an excess profit tax on big companies that have profited from the COVID-19 pandemic.

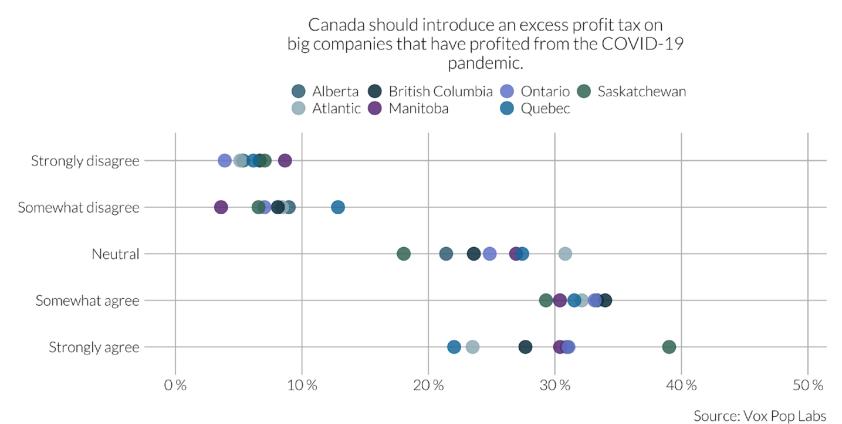
Canada should introduce an excess profit tax on big companies that have profited from the COVID-19 pandemic.





#### Excess Profit Tax: By province

Students in Saskatchewan (68%) and Alberta (64%) are the most likely to support an excess profit tax.

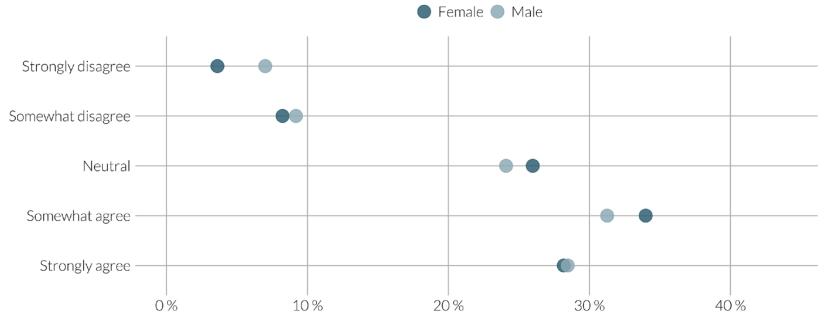




#### Excess Profit Tax: By gender

There are no significant gender differences on this issue.

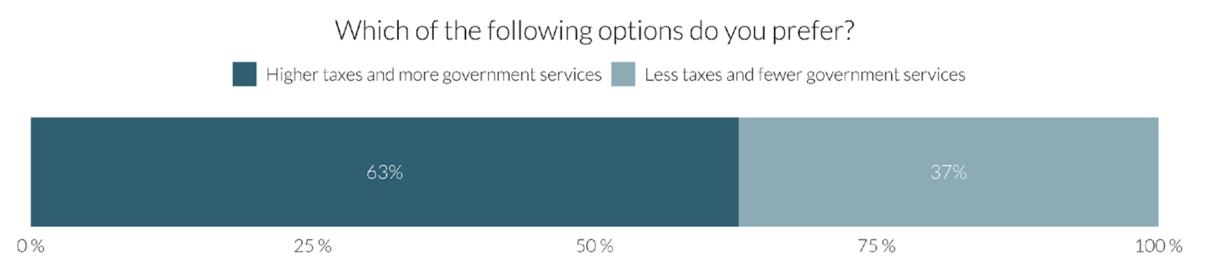
Canada should introduce an excess profit tax on big companies that have profited from the COVID-19 pandemic.





#### Taxes vs Social Services

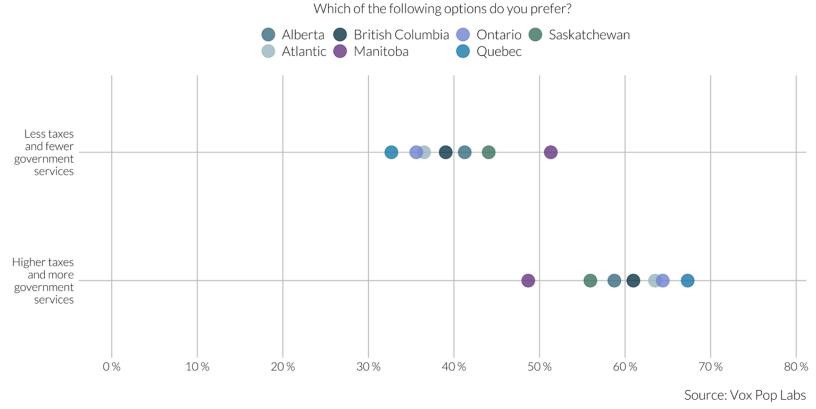
The large majority of students (63%) support having higher taxes and more government services.





#### Taxes vs. Social Services: By province

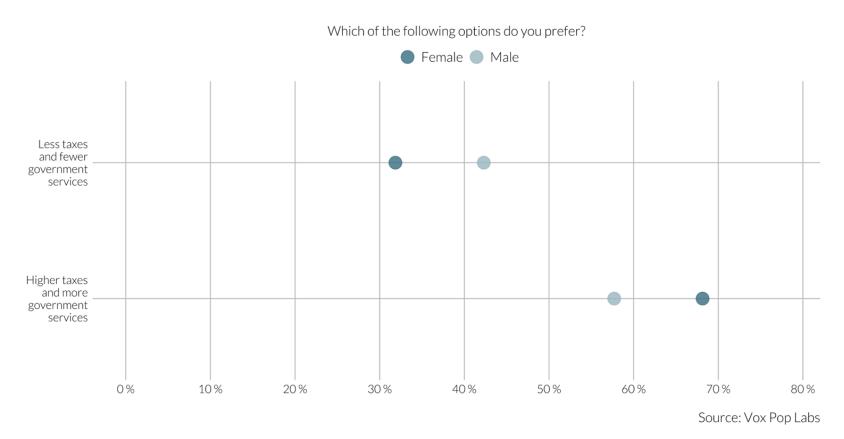
Students from Quebec (67%) and Ontario (64%) are especially supportive of higher taxes for more government services.





## Taxes vs. Social Services: By gender

Female students (68%) are more likely than male students (58%) to support higher taxes for more government services.



# Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

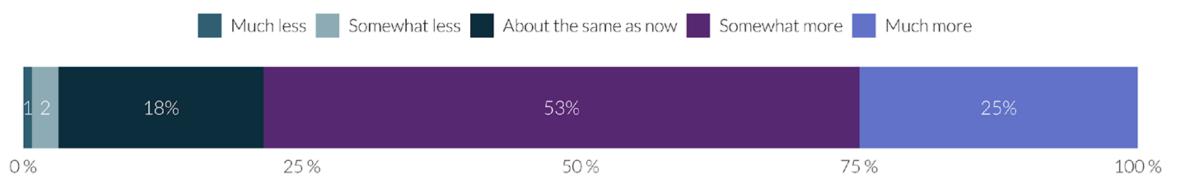
Students overwhelmingly believe that the government should provide more financial support for businesses that have been impacted by the pandemic. The majority of students are also supportive of strict lockdowns and are concerned about their family and friends contracting COVID-19.



#### Support for Struggling Businesses

Three-quarters of students (78%) believe that the government should provide more financial support to businesses that have lost income due to COVID-19.

How much financial support should the Canadian government provide to businesses that have lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic?





## Support for Struggling Businesses: By province

There are no major regional differences on this issue.

0%

10 %

How much financial support should the Canadian government provide to businesses that have lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Alberta British Columbia Ontario Saskatchewan Atlantic Manitoba Quebec

Much less

Somewhat less

About the same as now

Much more

30%

40 %

20%

Source: Vox Pop Labs

60%

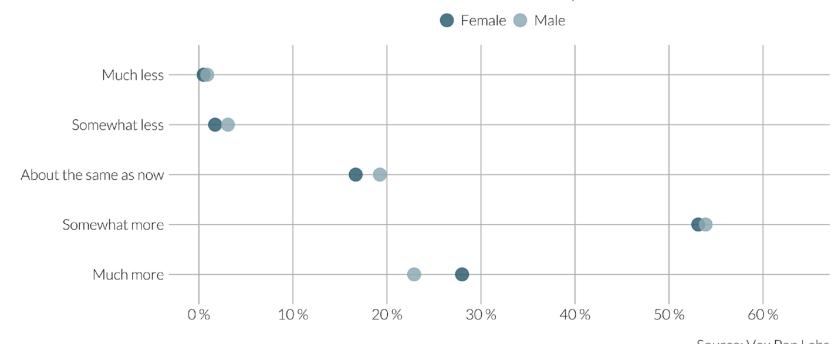
50%



## Support for Struggling Businesses: By gender

Female students (81%) are slightly more likely than male students (77%) to support an increase in financial support for struggling businesses.

How much financial support should the Canadian government provide to businesses that have lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

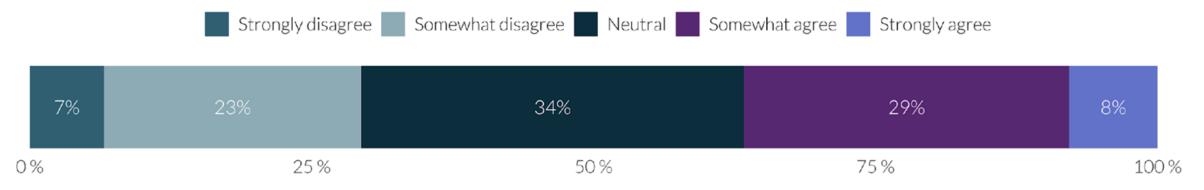




#### Protection from Financial Hardships

More than a third of students (37%) believe that the government is doing enough to protect Canadians from financial hardship; however, a similar proportion (34%) of students are neutral on the issue.

Do you agree or disagree that the federal government is doing enough to protect Canadians from the financial hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic?

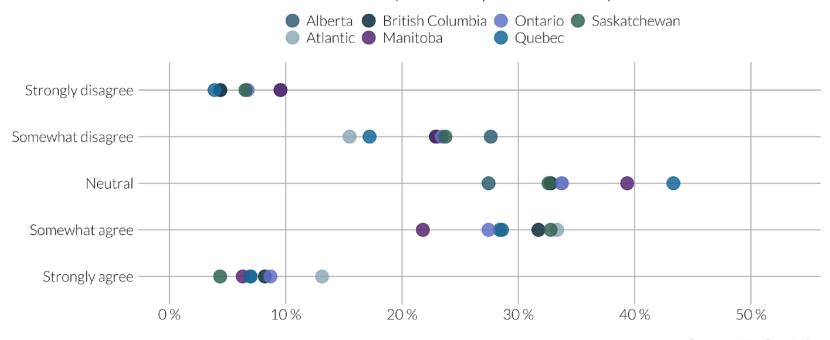




## Protection from Financial Hardships: By province

Quebec (43%) and Manitoba students (39%) are more likely to be neutral on this issue.

Do you agree or disagree that the federal government is doing enough to protect Canadians from the financial hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic?



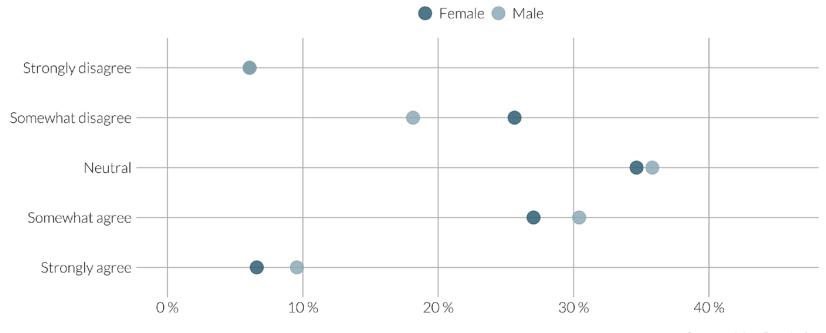




# Protection from Financial Hardships: By gender

Male students (40%) are somewhat more likely than female students (34%) to believe that the government is doing enough to protect Canadians from financial hardship caused by COVID-19.

Do you agree or disagree that the federal government is doing enough to protect Canadians from the financial hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic?

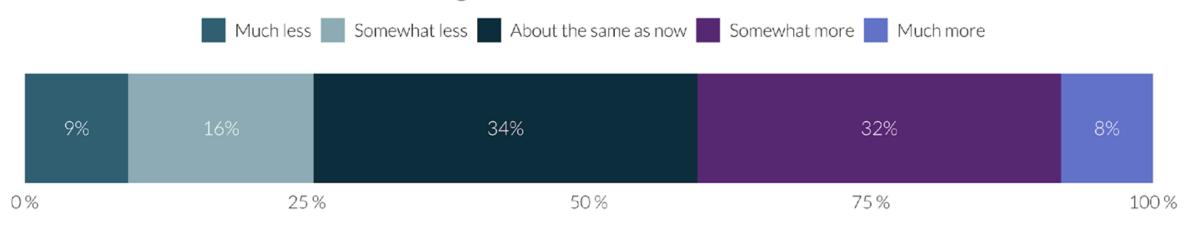




## Debt Incurred from Pandemic

A plurality of students (40%) believe that the government should incur more debt to address the COVID-19 crisis; however, a third (34%) believe government debt should be kept at the current level.

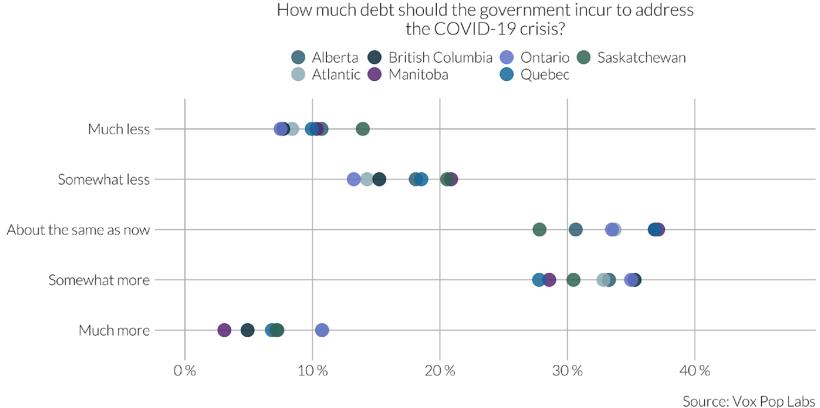
How much debt should the government incur to address the COVID-19 crisis?





# Debt Incurred from Pandemic: By province

Students from Ontario (46%) are the most likely to support the government incurring more debt to combat the pandemic.

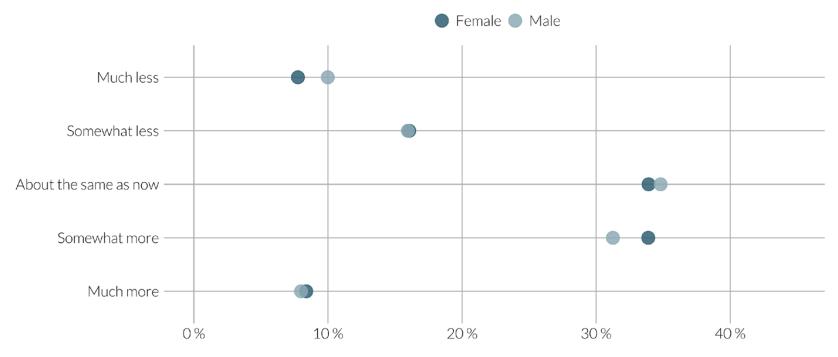




# Debt Incurred from Pandemic: By gender

There are no significant gender differences on this issue.

How much debt should the government incur to address the COVID-19 crisis?

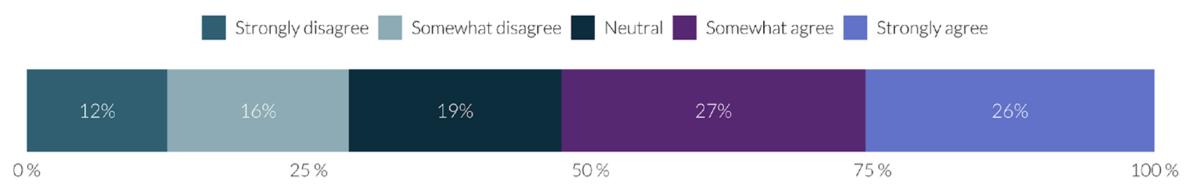




## **COVID-19 Lockdowns**

A slight majority of students (53%) believe the government should enforce strict lockdowns even if they negatively impact the economy.

Governments in Canada should enforce strict lockdowns to combat COVID-19, even if doing so negatively impacts the economy.

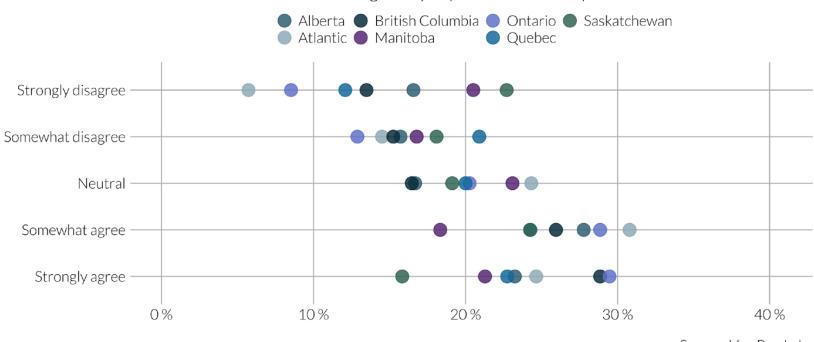




# COVID-19 Lockdown: By province

Students in Manitoba (40%) and Saskatchewan (40%) are less likely to support strict lockdowns.

Governments in Canada should enforce strict lockdowns to combat COVID-19, even if doing so negatively impacts the economy.



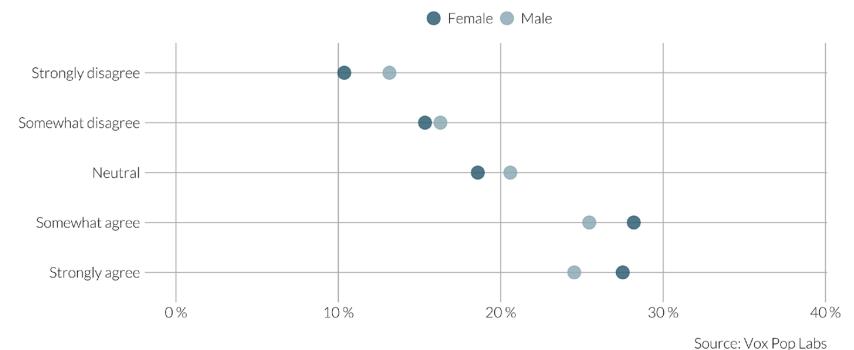




# COVID-19 Lockdown: By gender

Female students (56%) are somewhat more likely than male students (50%) to support strict lockdown measures.

Governments in Canada should enforce strict lockdowns to combat COVID-19, even if doing so negatively impacts the economy.

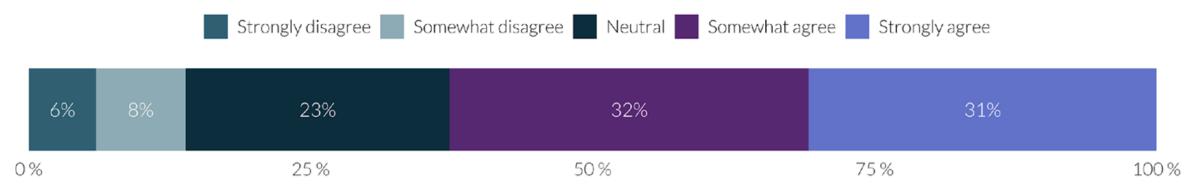




# Women and Pandemic Recovery

The large majority of students (63%) believe that support for women should be prioritized in the federal government's post-pandemic recovery plan.

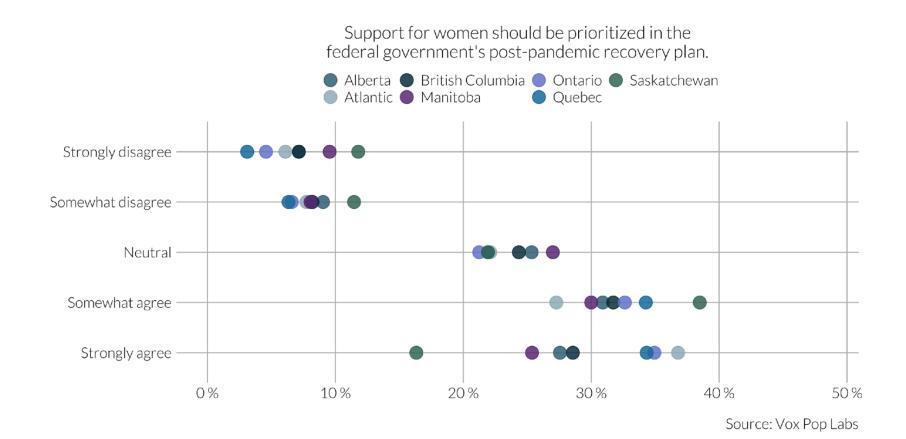
Support for women should be prioritized in the federal government's post-pandemic recovery plan.





# Women and Pandemic Recovery: By province

Students from Quebec (69%) and Ontario (68%) are the most likely to hold this view.



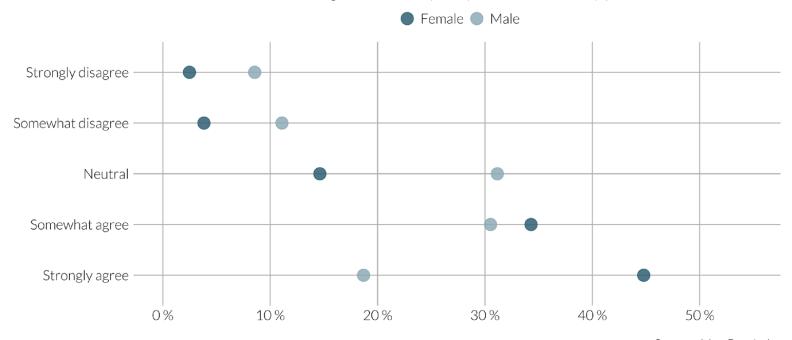
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# Women and Pandemic Recovery: By gender

Female students (79%) are much more likely than male students (49%) to believe that support for women should be prioritized in the federal government's post-pandemic recovery plan.

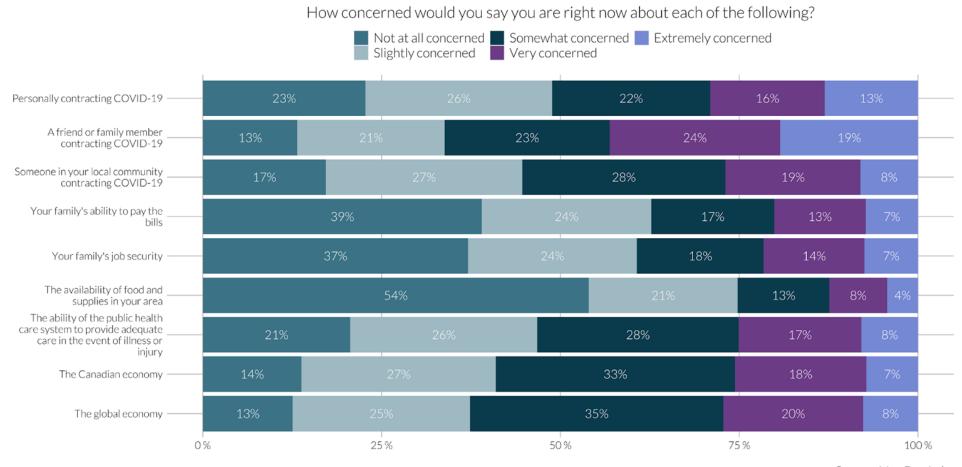
Support for women should be prioritized in the federal government's post-pandemic recovery plan.





#### Concern

Students are more concerned about a member of the community or a family or friend contracting COVID-19 than they are about personally contracting COVID-19.

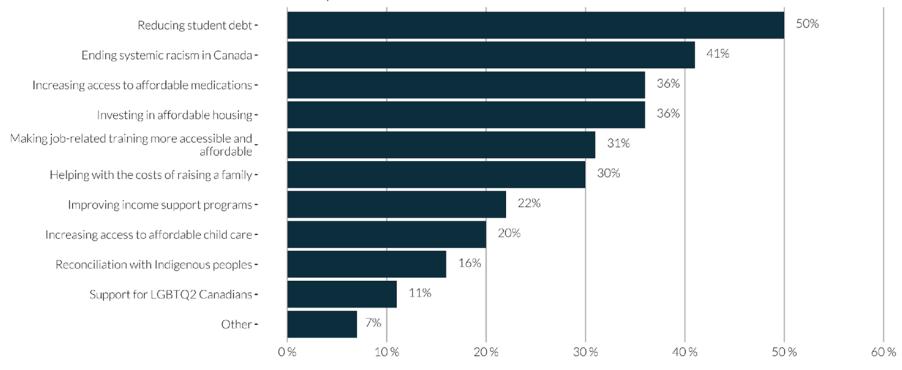




## **Post-Pandemic Recovery**

When asked about what the government's post-pandemic priorities should be, students most frequently selected reducing student debt (50%), ending systemic racism (41%), increasing access to affordable medications (36%) and investments in affordable housing (36%).

Which of the following should be the main priorities of the federal government's post-pandemic recovery plan? Please select 3 priorities.





# **EDUCATION**

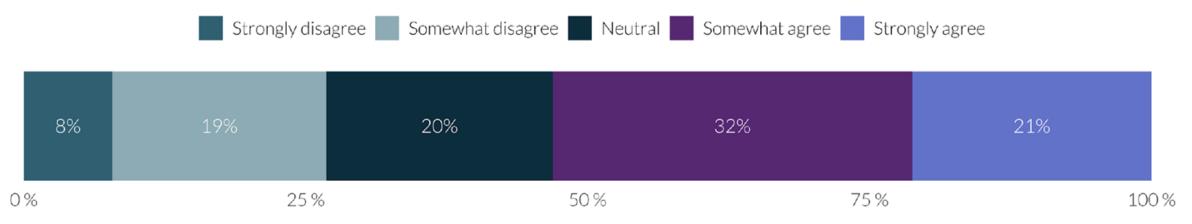
The majority of students support free post-secondary education even if it means higher taxes. A plurality of students believe the best way to achieve affordable post-secondary education is by making college and university education free.



# **Universal Post-Secondary Education**

A slight majority of students (53%) believe post-secondary education should be free even if it leads to higher taxes.

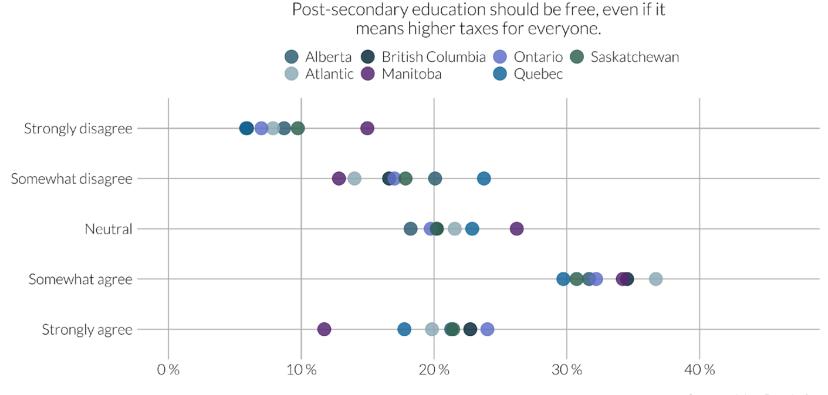
Post-secondary education should be free, even if it means higher taxes for everyone.





# Universal Post-Secondary Education: By Province

Students from British Columbia (57%), Atlantic Canada (57%), and Ontario (56%) are more likely than any other group to support universal access to post-secondary education.

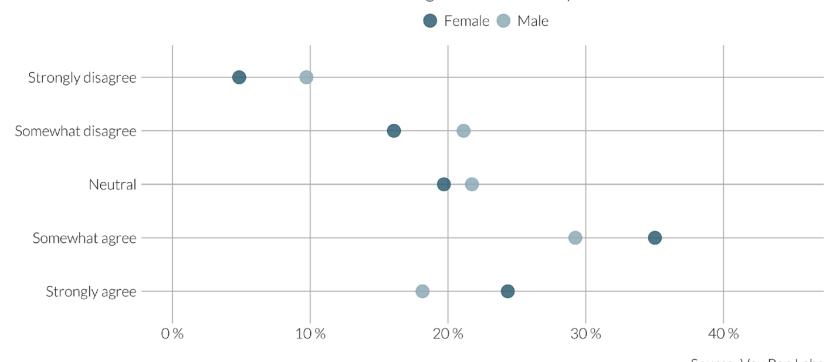




# Universal Post-Secondary Education: By gender

Female students (59%) are noticeably more likely than male students (47%) to support free post-secondary education.

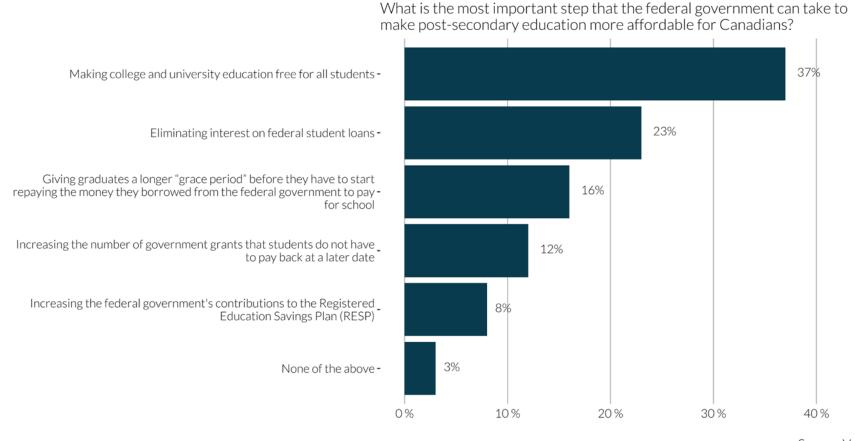
Post-secondary education should be free, even if it means higher taxes for everyone.





## Affordable Education

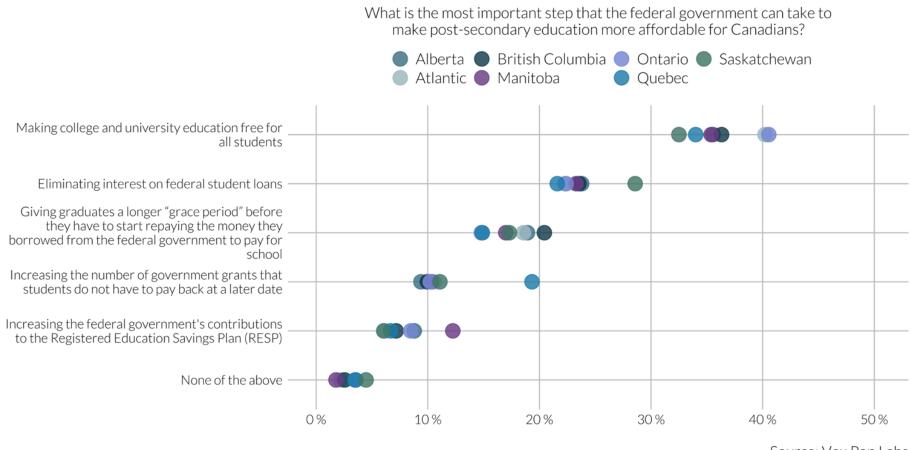
37% of students believe the most important step the government can take to make post-secondary education more affordable is to simply make college and university free for all students. Meanwhile, almost a quarter of students (23%) believe eliminating interest on federal student loans is the most effective method.





## Affordable Education: By province

Increasing the number of student grants that do not have to be repaid is more popular in Quebec than in other provinces, while eliminating interest on student loans is more popular in Saskatchewan than in other provinces.

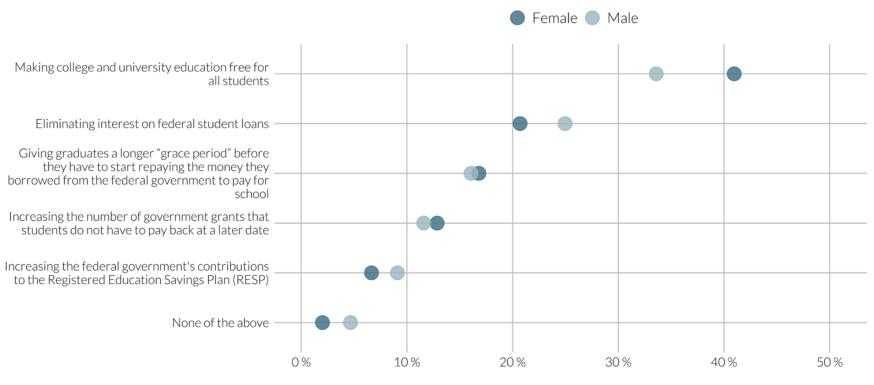




# Affordable Education: By gender

41% of female students compared to 34% of male students believe that making college and university free for all students is the most important step the government can take to increase educational affordability as a whole.

What is the most important step that the federal government can take to make post-secondary education more affordable for Canadians?





# **Health Care**

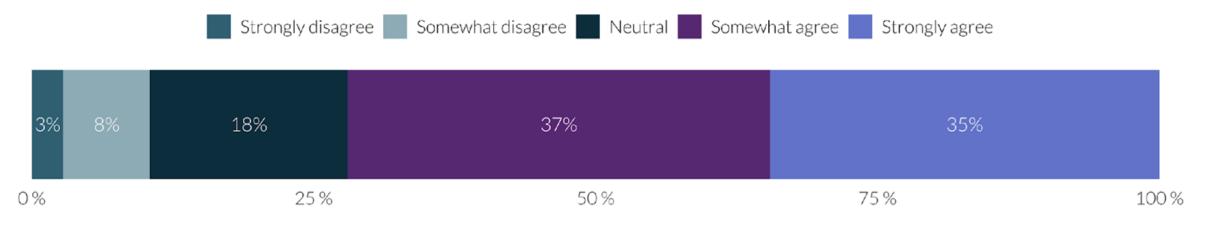
Students overwhelmingly support expanding access to dental care, pharmacare and paid sick leave. They also believe the federal government should increase health care transfers to provinces and territories as a whole.



## Dental Care

The overwhelming majority of students (72%) believe dental care should be covered for Canadians without insurance.

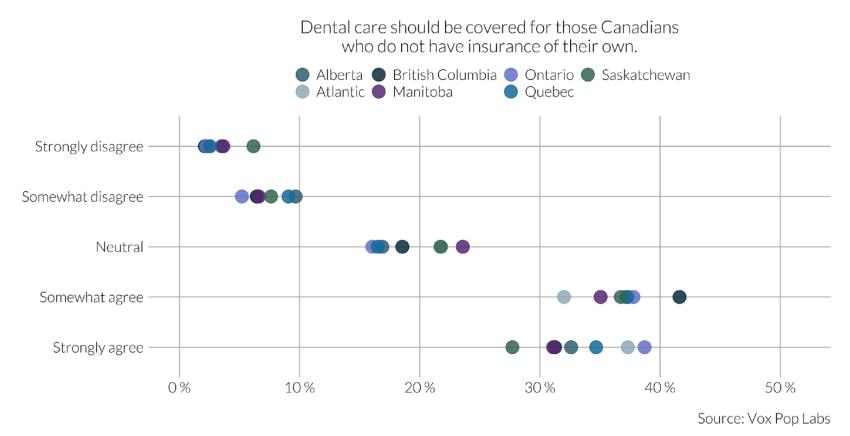
Dental care should be covered for those Canadians who do not have insurance of their own.





# Dental Care: By province

Dental care coverage is especially popular among Ontario students (76%).

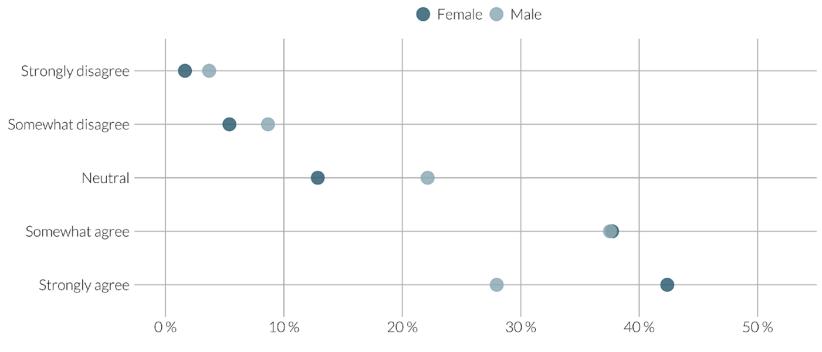


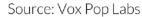


# Dental Care: By gender

Female students (89%) are much more likely than male students (65%) to support dental care coverage for uninsured Canadians.

Dental care should be covered for those Canadians who do not have insurance of their own.



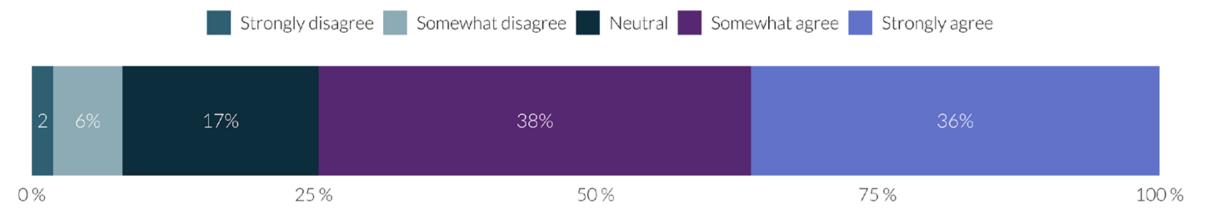




#### Pharmacare

The overwhelming majority of students (74%) believe the government should cover the cost of common prescription drugs.

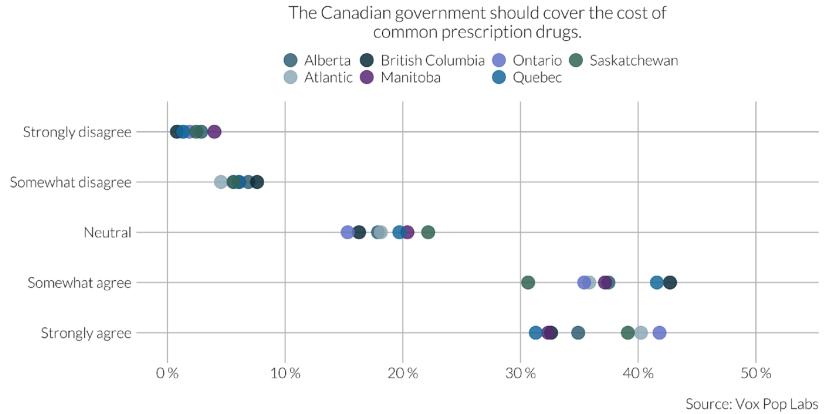
The Canadian government should cover the cost of common prescription drugs.





# Pharmacare: By province

Students from Ontario (77%) and Atlantic Canada (76%) are more likely to hold this view.

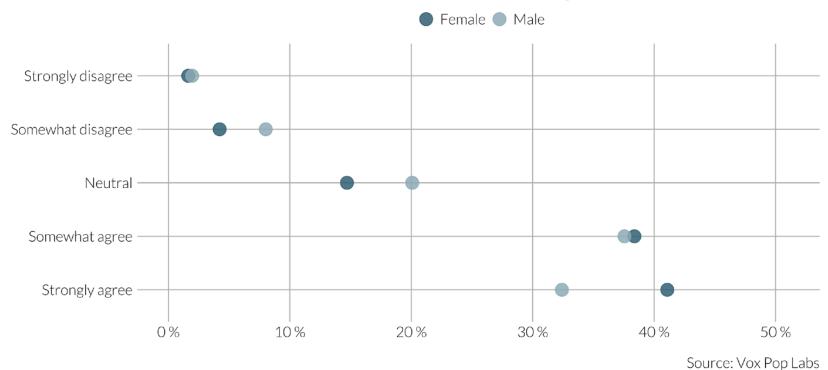




# Pharmacare: By gender

Female students (79%) are also more likely than male students (70%) to hold this view.

The Canadian government should cover the cost of common prescription drugs.

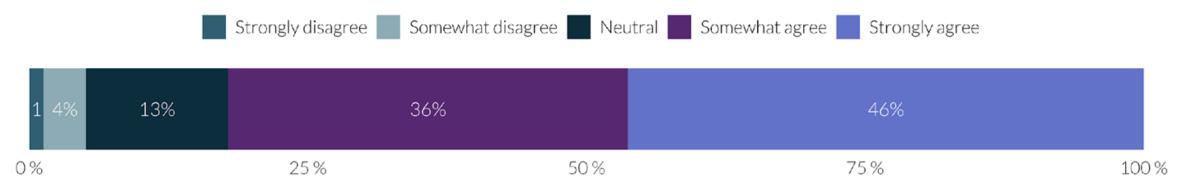




## Paid Sick Leave

The overwhelming majority of students (82%) support paid sick leave.

The federal government should guarantee that all working Canadians have access to paid sick leave.

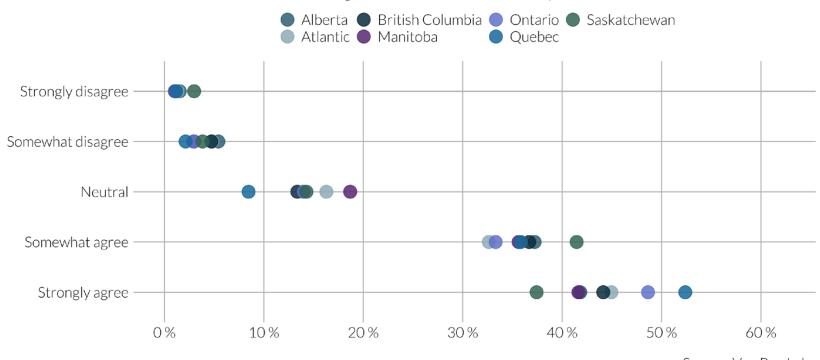




# Paid Sick Leave: By province

Paid sick leave is especially popular among Quebec students (88%).

The federal government should guarantee that all working Canadians have access to paid sick leave.

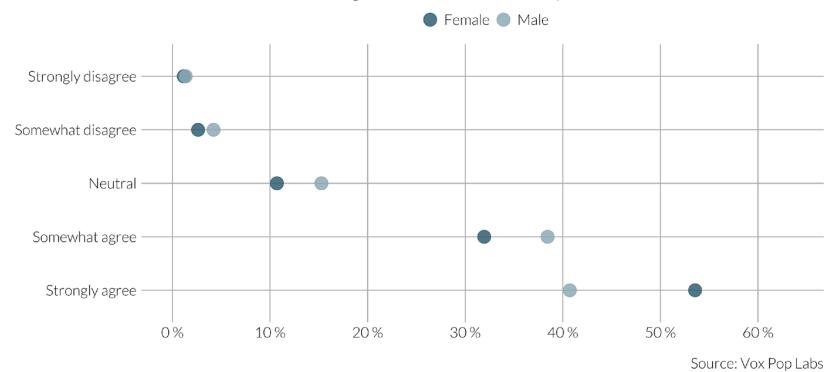




# Paid Sick Leave: By gender

Female students (85%) are somewhat more likely than male students (79%) to support paid sick leave.

The federal government should guarantee that all working Canadians have access to paid sick leave.

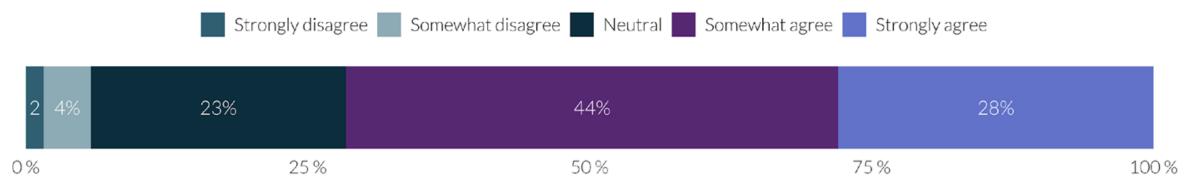




# Health Transfers

Most students (72%) believe the federal government should increase health transfers to provinces and territories.

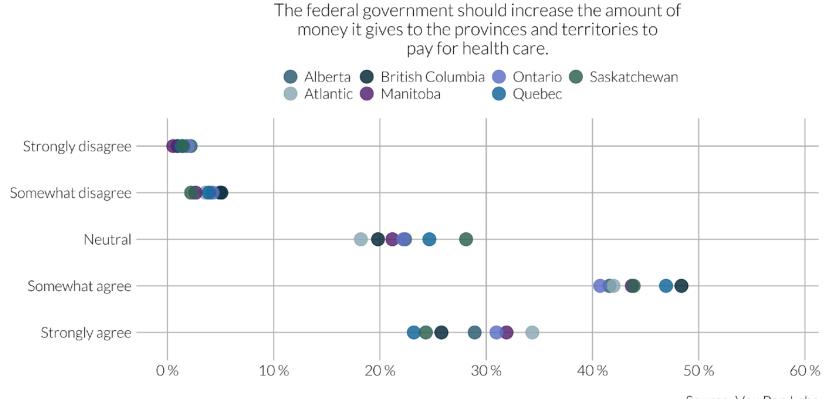
The federal government should increase the amount of money it gives to the provinces and territories to pay for health care.





# Health Transfers: By province

Students in Atlantic Canada (76%) and Manitoba (76%) are more likely to support increased federal health transfers.

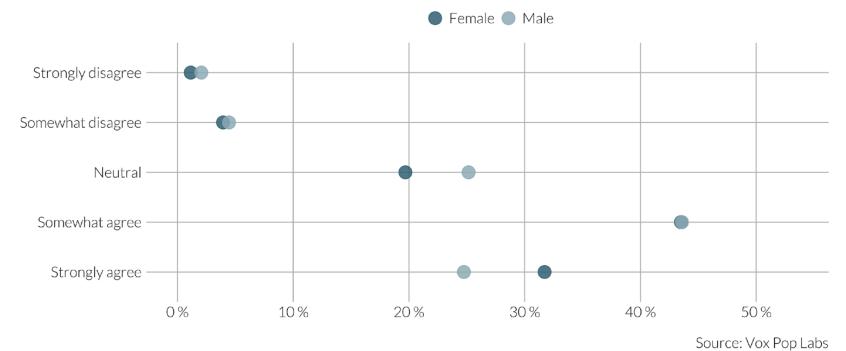




# Health Transfers: By gender

Female students (75%) are somewhat more likely than male students (68%) to support increasing the federal health transfer.

The federal government should increase the amount of money it gives to the provinces and territories to pay for health care.



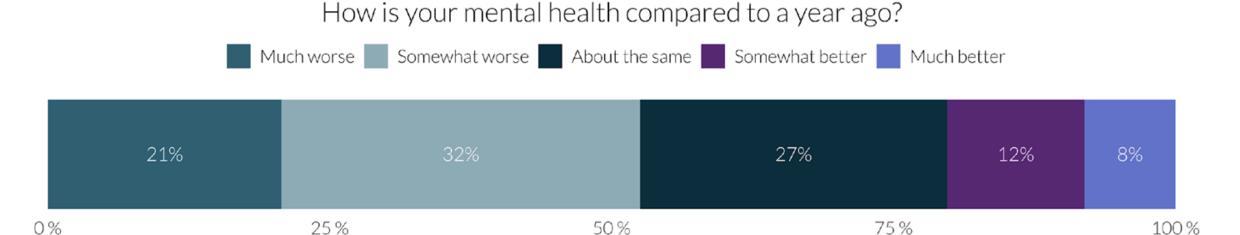


# Additional Budget Priority: Mental Health

Although the majority of students feel that their mental health is worse now compared to a year ago, they believe that mental health supports are available in their communities. Female students are more likely to feel their mental health is worse compared to a year ago and less likely to believe that mental health supports are available in their community.

## Student Mental Health

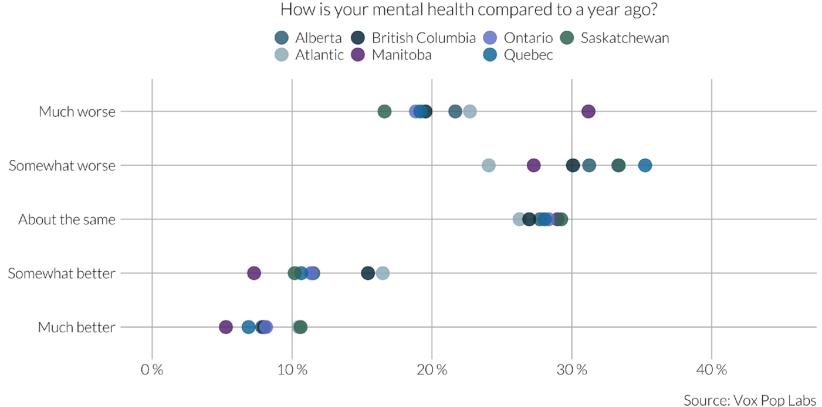
More than half of students (53%) feel their mental health is somewhat or much worse compared to a year ago.





# Student Mental Health: By province

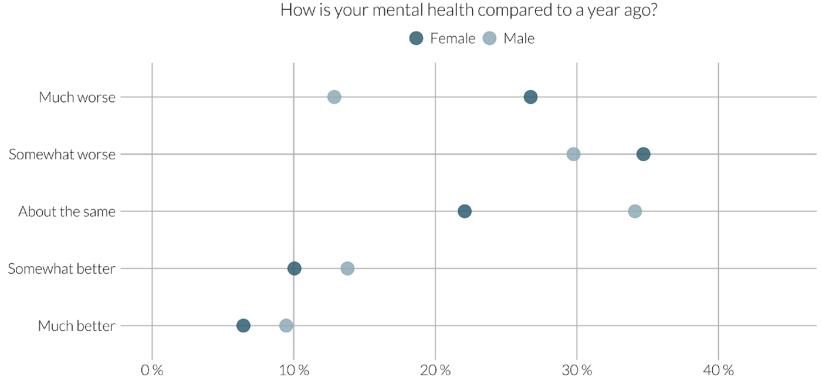
Students from Manitoba (58%) and Quebec (54%) are the most likely to feel that their mental health has worsened over the past year.





# Student Mental Health: By gender

Female students (61%) are much more likely than male students (43%) to report that their mental health is worse compared to a year ago.

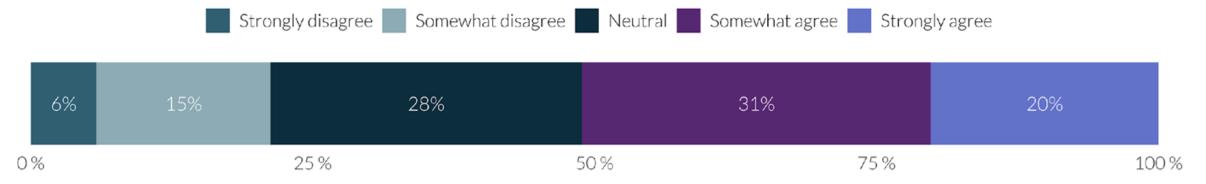




## Availability of Mental Health Supports

A slight majority of students (51%) believe that mental health supports are available in their community for those who need them.

Please indicate your views with regard to the proposition below: Mental health supports are available in my community for those who require them.



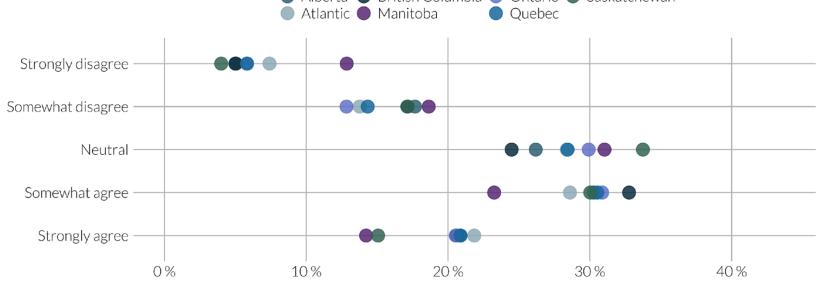


## Availability of Mental Health Supports: By province

Students in Manitoba (37%) and Saskatchewan (45%) are the least likely to believe that mental health supports are available in their communities.

Please indicate your views with regard to the proposition below: Mental health supports are available in my community for those who require them.

• Alberta • British Columbia • Ontario • Saskatchewan

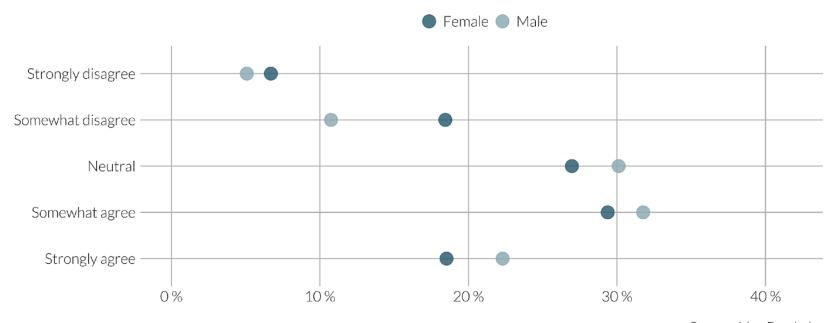




## Availability of Mental Health Supports: By gender

Male students (54%) are somewhat more likely than female students (50%) to believe that mental health supports are available in their community.

Please indicate your views with regard to the proposition below: Mental health supports are available in my community for those who require them.





# Additional Budget Priority: Climate Change

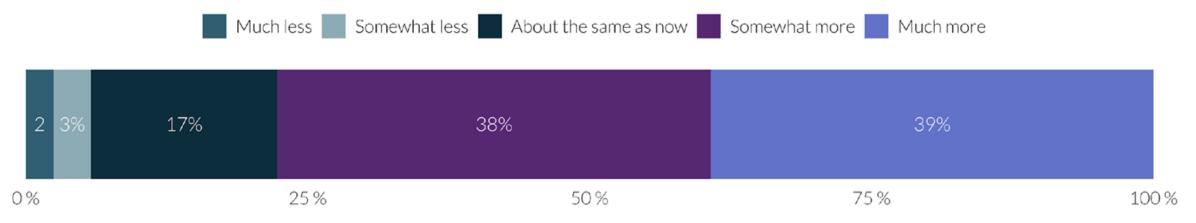
There is strong support among students for stricter environmental protections and increased government investments in green technology. Students from Alberta and Saskatchewan are more likely to favour additional supports for the oil and gas industry.



## Green Technology

Three-quarters (77%) of students believe the government should invest in green technology.

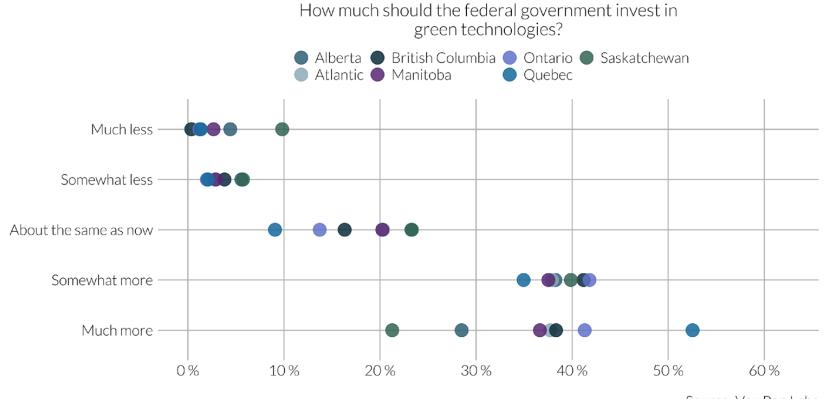
How much should the federal government invest in green technologies?





## Green Technology: By province

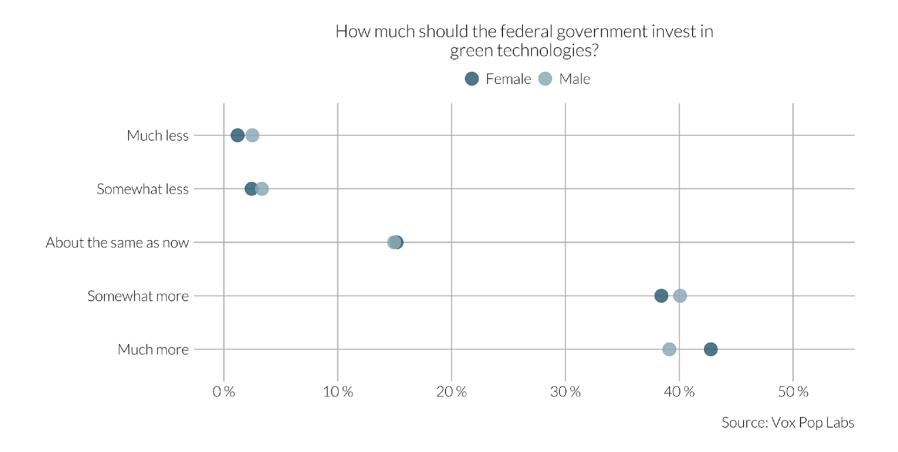
Students from Quebec (87%) and Ontario (83%) are especially inclined to support increased investments in green technologies.





## Investing in Green Technology: By gender

There is no significant gender difference on this issue.

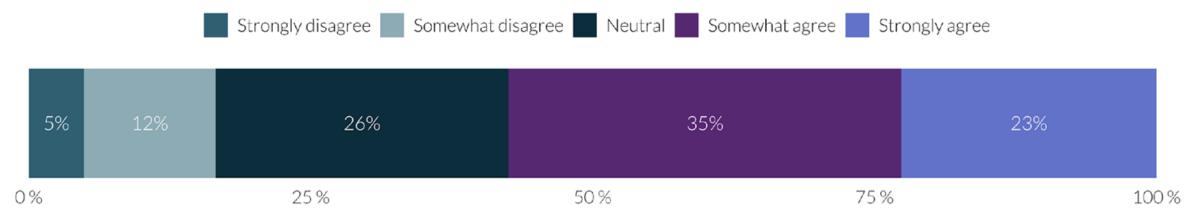


VOX POP

#### **Environmental Protections**

The majority of students (58%) believe environmental protections should be stricter, even if it means consumers pay higher prices.

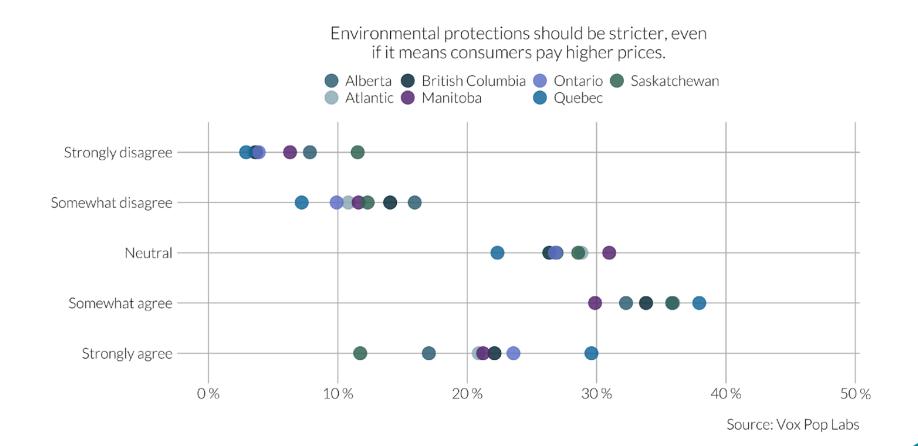
Environmental protections should be stricter, even if it means consumers pay higher prices.





## **Environmental Protections: By province**

Students in Quebec (67%) are more likely than any other group to hold this view.



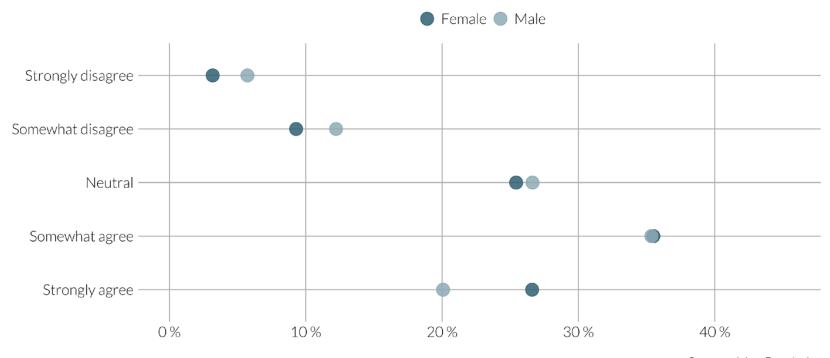
VOX POP

LABS

## Environmental Protections: By gender

Female students (62%) are also somewhat more likely than male students (55%) to support stricter environmental regulations.

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

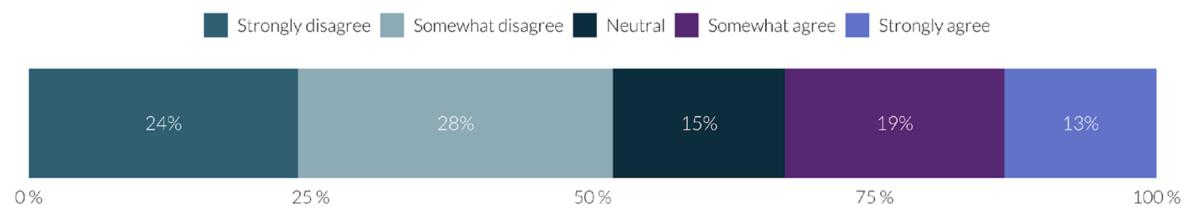




## Climate Action during COVID-19

Half of students (52%) do not believe climate action should be postponed until after the COVID-19 crisis.

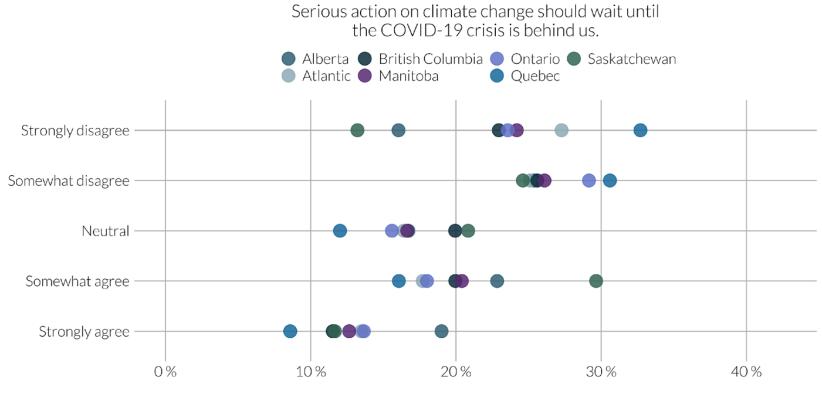
Serious action on climate change should wait until the COVID-19 crisis is behind us.





## Climate Action during COVID-19: By province

However, students from Alberta (41%) and Saskatchewan (41%) are the most likely to believe serious action on climate change should wait until after the COVID-19 crisis.

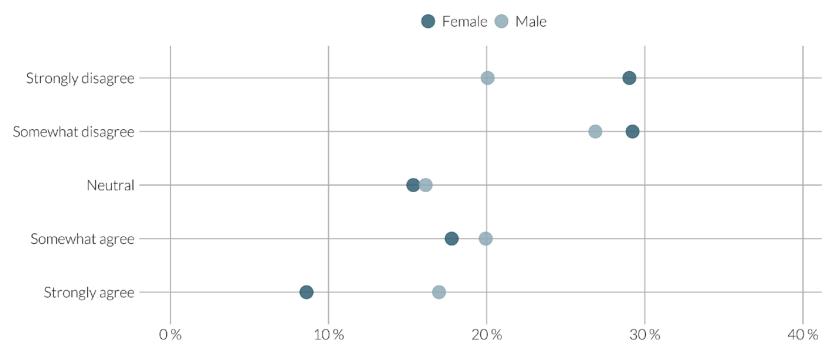




## Climate Action during COVID-19: By gender

Female students (58%) are more likely than male students (47%) to disagree that serious action on climate change should wait until after the COVID-19 crisis.

Serious action on climate change should wait until the COVID-19 crisis is behind us.

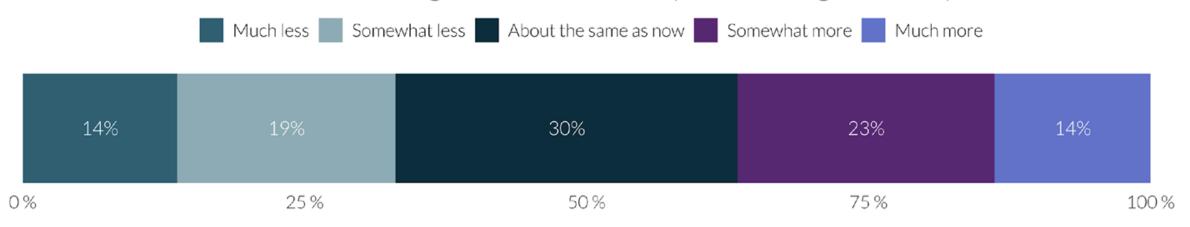




### Support for Oil & Gas Industry

Students are generally divided over how much the federal government should support the oil and gas industry in Canada.

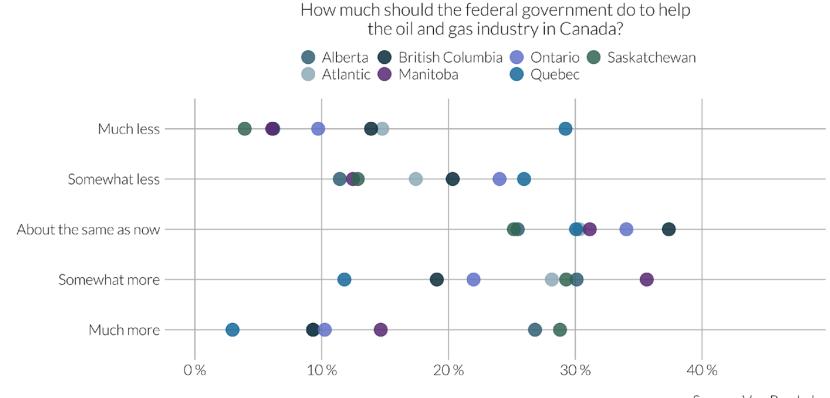
How much should the federal government do to help the oil and gas industry in Canada?





## Support for Oil & Gas Industry: By province

Students in Alberta (57%) and Saskatchewan (58%) in particular would like the government to provide more support to the the oil and gas industry.

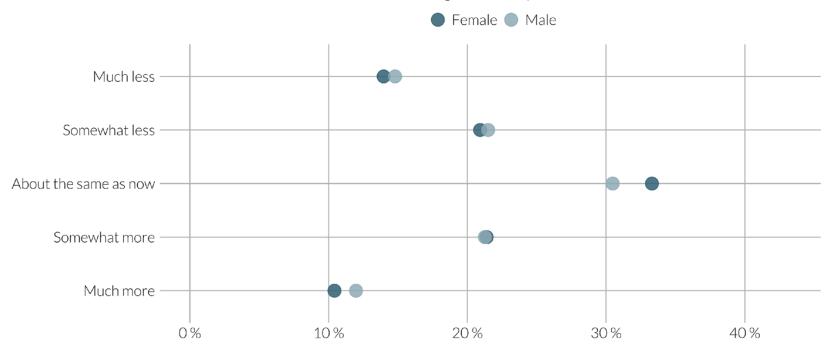




## Support for Oil & Gas Industry: By gender

There is no significant gender difference on this issue.

How much should the federal government do to help the oil and gas industry in Canada?







## Other Issues of Concern: Child Care

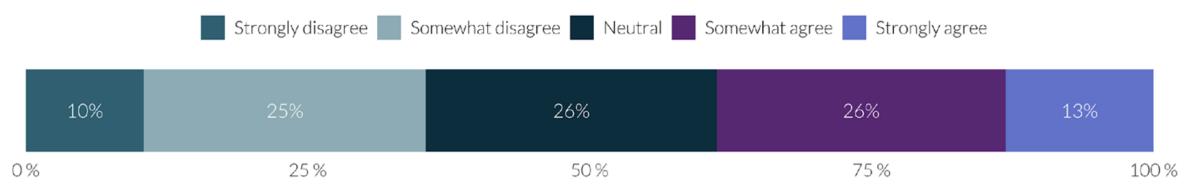
Students are generally divided over child care. Female students and students from Quebec are the most likely to disagree that people who can afford child care should pay for it themselves.



#### Child Care

Students are generally divided over whether people with means should pay for their own child care.

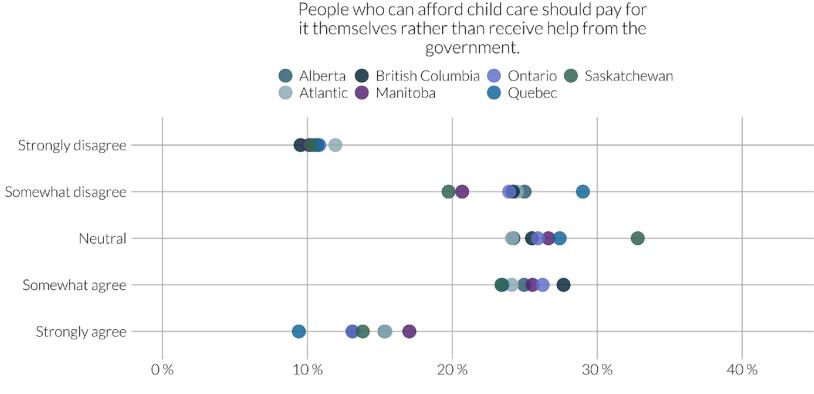
People who can afford child care should pay for it themselves rather than receive help from the government.





## Child Care: By province

Quebec students are more likely than any other group to disagree that those who can afford child care should pay for it themselves.

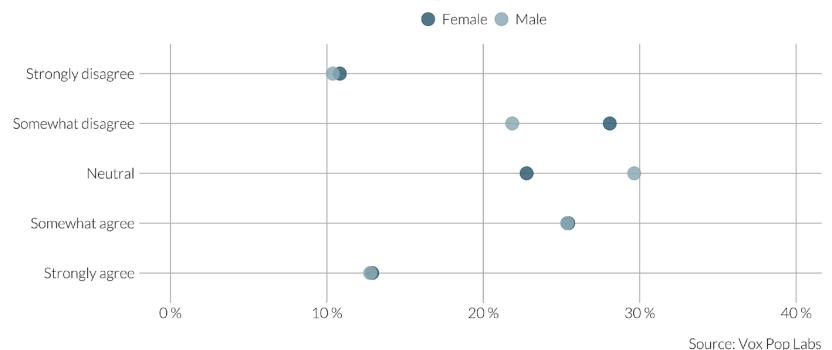




## Support for Child Care: By gender

Female students (39%) are somewhat more likely than male students (32%) to disagree with this proposition.

People who can afford child care should pay for it themselves rather than receive help from the government.





## Other Issues of Concern: Rural Internet

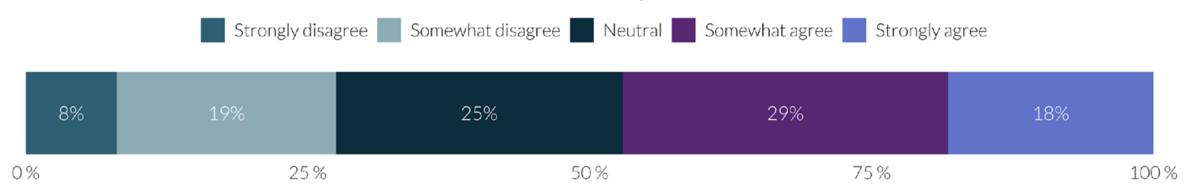
Almost half of students believe that rural areas should have access to the same internet speeds as cities, even if this means higher taxes for everyone. Students from Saskatchewan and Manitoba are especially supportive of this idea.



#### Rural Internet

Almost half of students (47%) believe that rural areas should have access to the same internet speeds as cities, even if it means higher taxes for everyone.

Rural areas should have access to the same Internet speeds as cities, even if it means higher taxes for everyone.

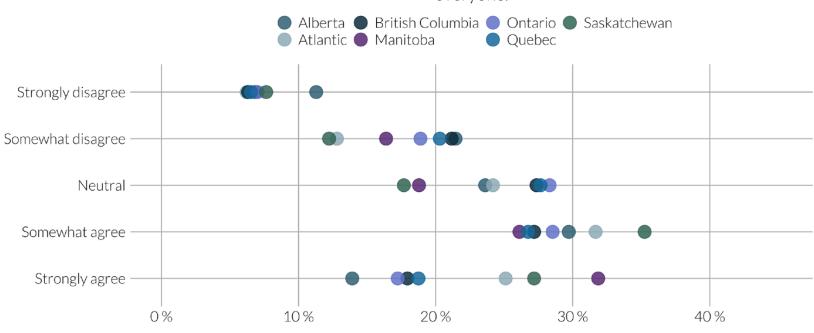




## Rural Internet: By province

Students from Saskatchewan (62%) and Manitoba (58%) are especially inclined to believe rural areas should have access to the same internet speeds as cities, even if this means higher taxes for everyone.

Rural areas should have access to the same Internet speeds as cities, even if it means higher taxes for everyone.

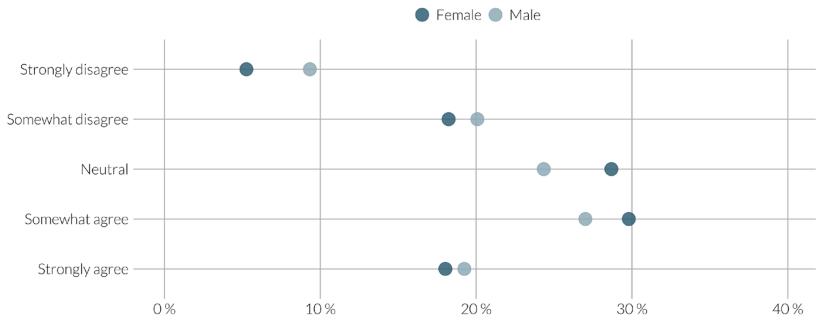




## Rural Internet: By gender

There is no significant gender difference on this issue.

Rural areas should have access to the same Internet speeds as cities, even if it means higher taxes for everyone.







## Other Issues of Concern: *Indigenous* Content

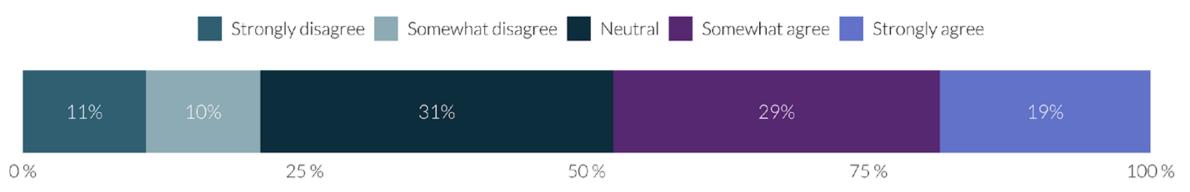
Nearly half of students believe online streaming services in Canada should be required to fund content produced by Indigenous peoples. Students from Quebec and Ontario are especially supportive of this idea.



## Indigenous Content

Nearly half of students (49%) believe online streaming services in Canada should be required to fund content produced by Indigenous peoples.

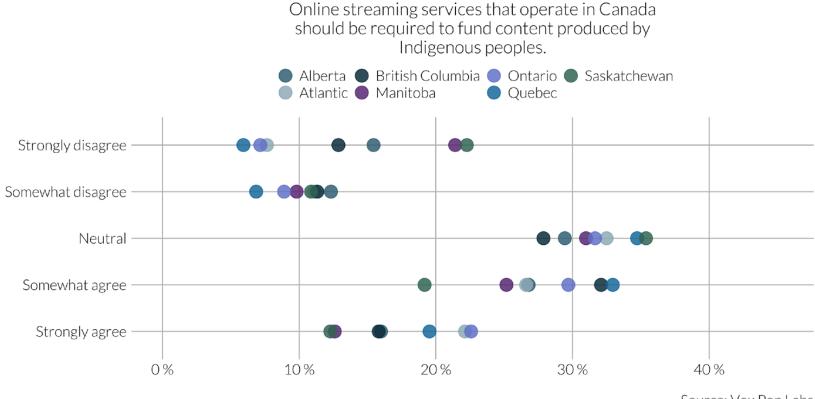
Online streaming services that operate in Canada should be required to fund content produced by Indigenous peoples.





## Indigenous Representation: By province

Students in Ontario (52%) and Quebec (52%) are more likely to hold this view compared to students in other provinces.

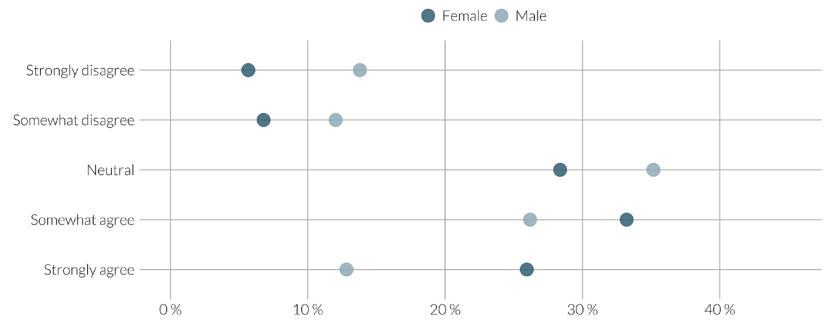




## Indigenous Content: By gender

Female students (59%) are much more likely than male students (40%) to believe that streaming services in Canada should be required to fund Indigenous content.

Online streaming services that operate in Canada should be required to fund content produced by Indigenous peoples.





## Other Issues of Concern: Foreign Aid

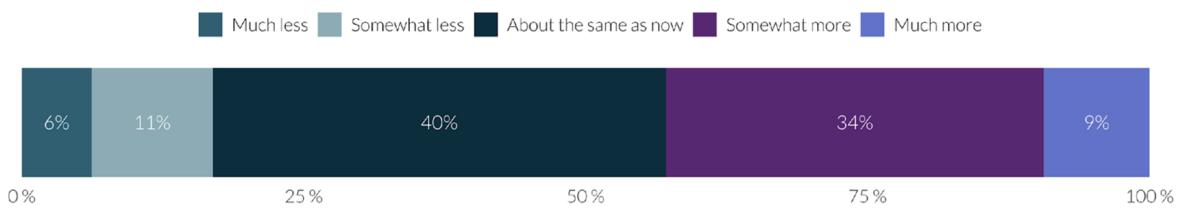
Students are generally divided over foreign aid. Students from Quebec and female students are the most likely to support increasing foreign aid spending.



## Funding for Foreign Aid

Students are generally divided over how much the government should allocate to foreign aid. 43% of students support increasing Canada's foreign aid commitments, while 40% are in favour of maintaining the current funding levels.

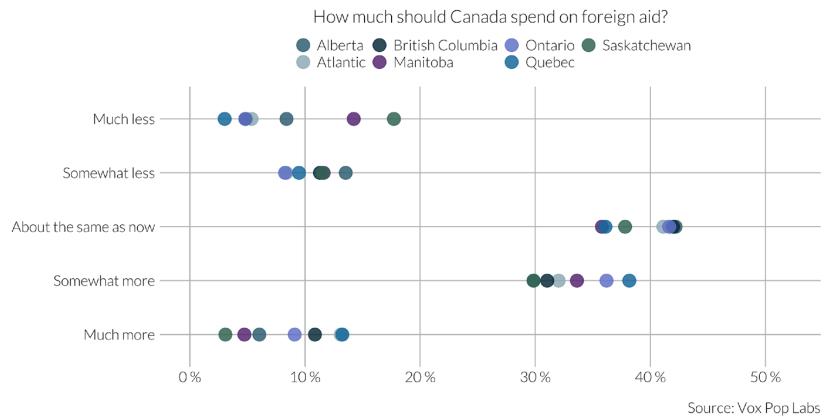






## Funding for Foreign Aid: By province

Quebec students (51%) are more likely than any other group to support increasing foreign aid.

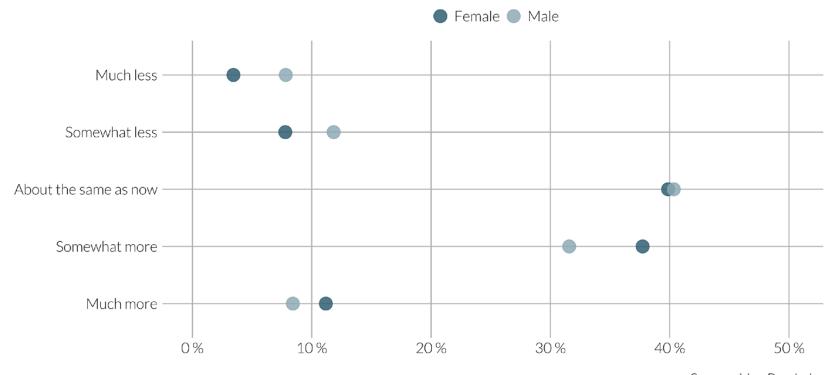




## Funding for Foreign Aid: By gender

Female students (49%) are somewhat more likely than male students (40%) to believe that foreign aid spending should be increased.

How much should Canada spend on foreign aid?



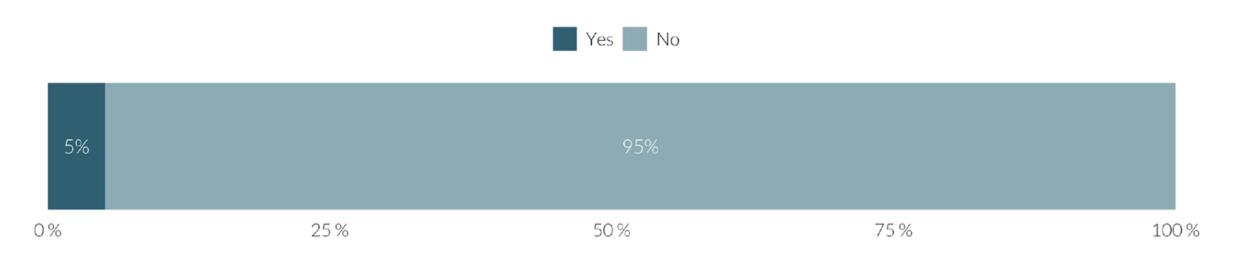


## Demographic Profile

Before Weighting

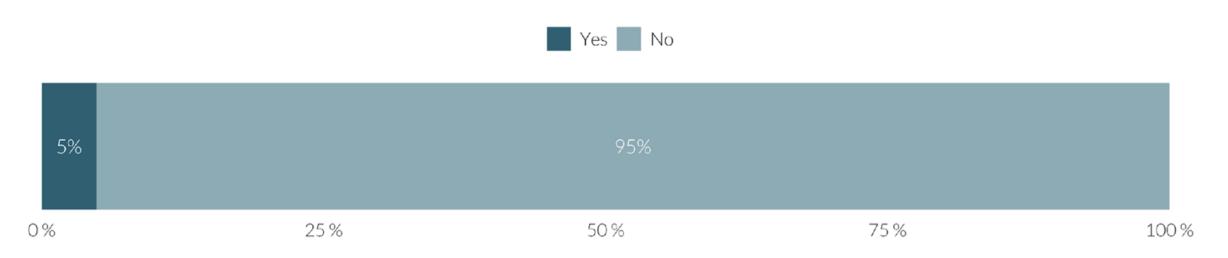


### Are you a person with a disability?



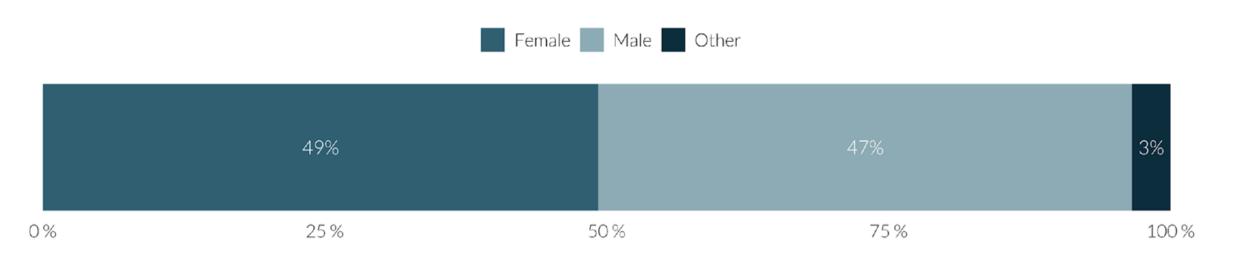


## Do you self-identify as Indigenous (First Nation, Métis or Inuit)?



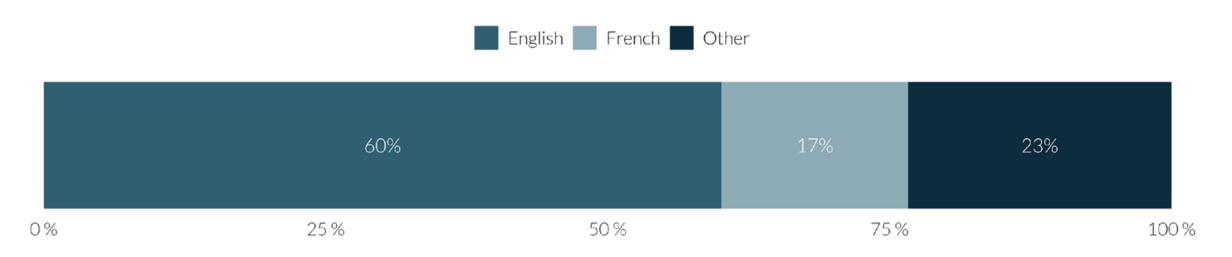


## What gender do you identify with?



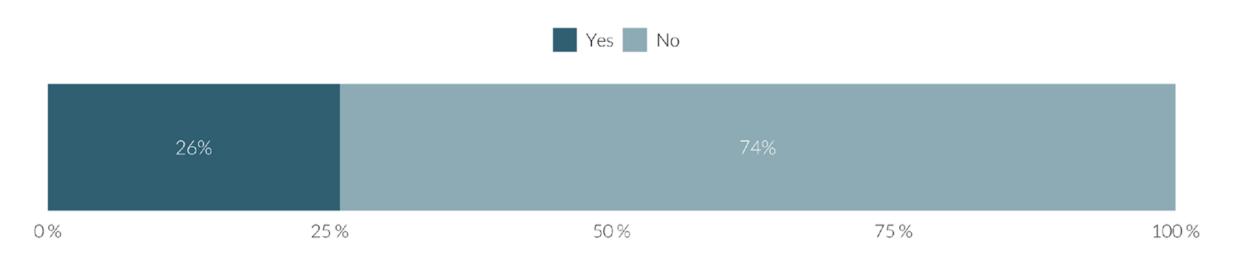


## What language do you speak most often at home?





## Are you a member of a visible minority group?





## Please select the province or territory in which you live?

