



# STUDENT BUDGET CONSULTATION 2021

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## RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

**Giving youth a voice in the post-pandemic recovery**

The Student Budget Consultation is a project of



This project is supported by **Canada**

# POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY

## TOP 5 PRIORITIES FOR BUDGET 2021:

1 Reducing student debt



2 Ending systemic racism in Canada



3 Increasing access to affordable medications



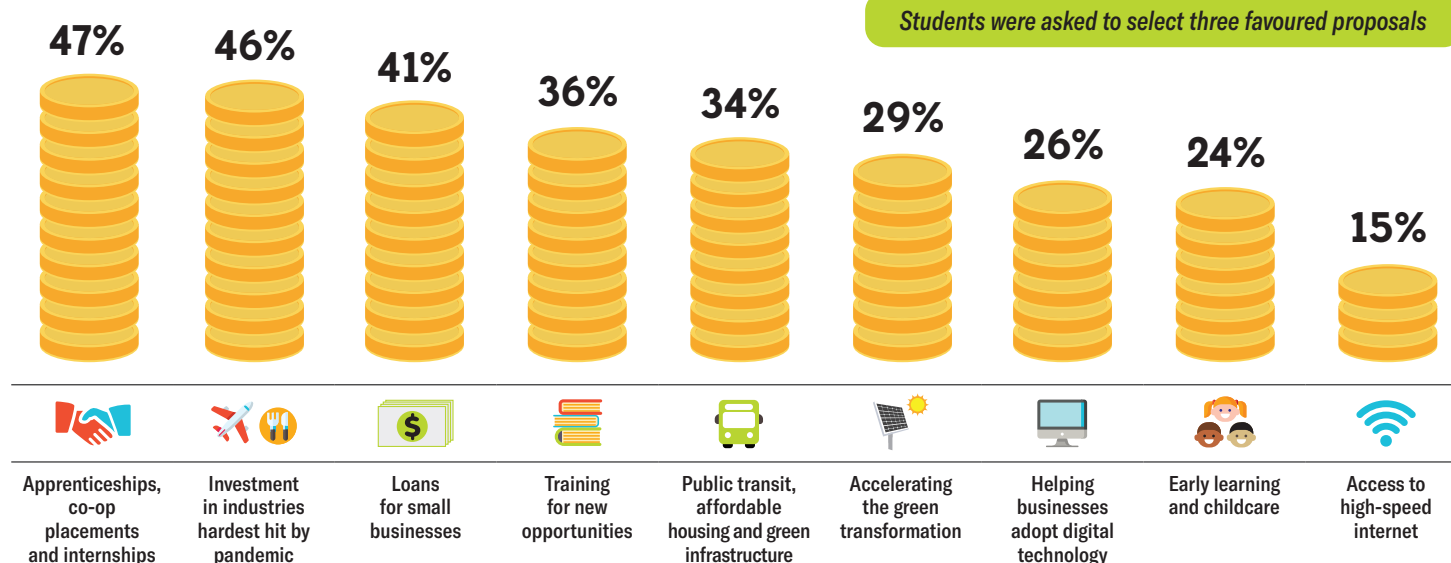
4 Investing in affordable housing



5 Making job-related training more accessible and affordable



How can the federal government create **more jobs** and **grow the economy**?



## FEMINIST ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

Students believe support for women should be prioritized in the federal governments' post-pandemic recovery plan.

63%  
Agree

23%  
Neutral

14%  
Disagree



Half of students support a **Universal Basic Income**



51%  
Agree

21%  
Neutral

28%  
Disagree

# HEALTH CARE & MENTAL HEALTH

## SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR PHARMACARE AND DENTAL CARE



74%

of students believe the Canadian government should cover the cost of common **prescription drugs**.



72%

of students believe that **dental care** should be covered for those who do not have insurance.



Female respondents more likely to support these proposals than male respondents.

## MORE THAN HALF REPORT A DECLINE IN THEIR MENTAL HEALTH OVER THE PAST YEAR.

**Q:** How is your **mental health** compared to year ago?



20%  
Better

27%  
The same

53%  
Worse

## 86% OF STUDENTS SUPPORT PAID SICK LEAVE

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



86%  
Agree

13%  
Neutral

5%  
Disagree

## STUDENTS WANT INCREASED HEALTH TRANSFERS

Students strongly support an **increase** to the amount of money provided by the federal government to the provinces and territories to pay for **health care**.



72%  
Agree

23%  
Neutral

6%  
Disagree

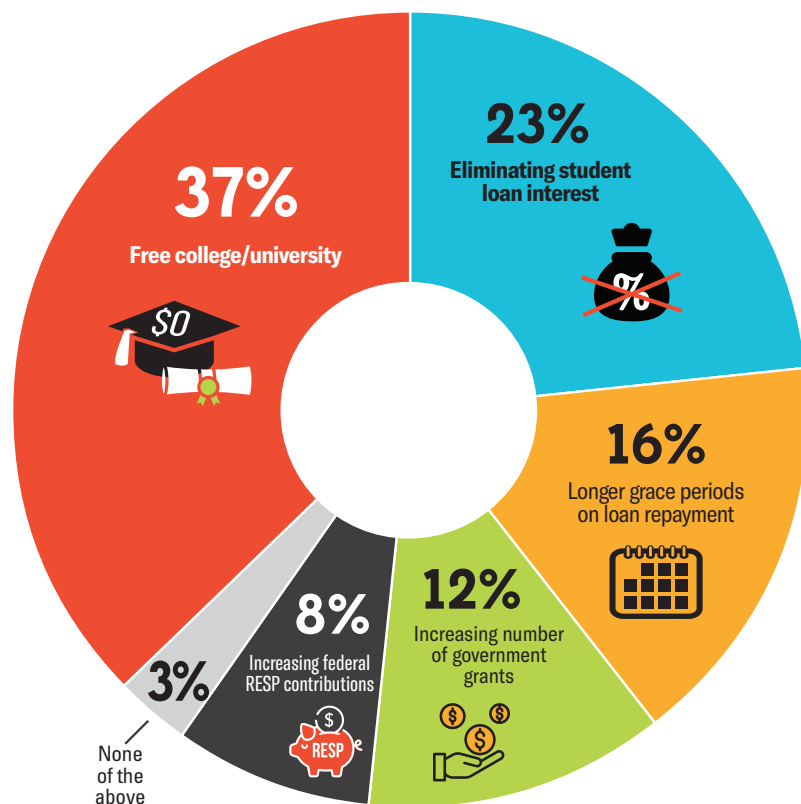


Students in **Atlantic Canada (76%)** and **Manitoba (76%)** are more likely to support increased federal health transfers.

# EDUCATION & YOUTH

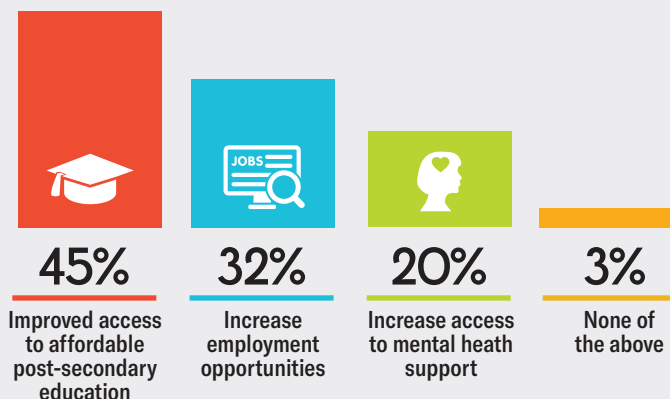
FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, STUDENTS FAVOUR  
**FREE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**Q:** What is the most important step the federal government can take to make **post-secondary education** more **affordable**?



Quebec students are **somewhat less convinced** that affordable post-secondary education is the most important step the government can take.

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



Increasing access to mental health supports is more popular among **female students (27%)** compared to **male students (13%)**.

**DESPITE ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY, STUDENTS ARE **CONFIDENT ABOUT THEIR JOB PROSPECTS...****

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



**Atlantic provinces (90%) and Quebec (90%)** are the most confident about their future job prospects.

# FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY & GOVERNMENT SPENDING

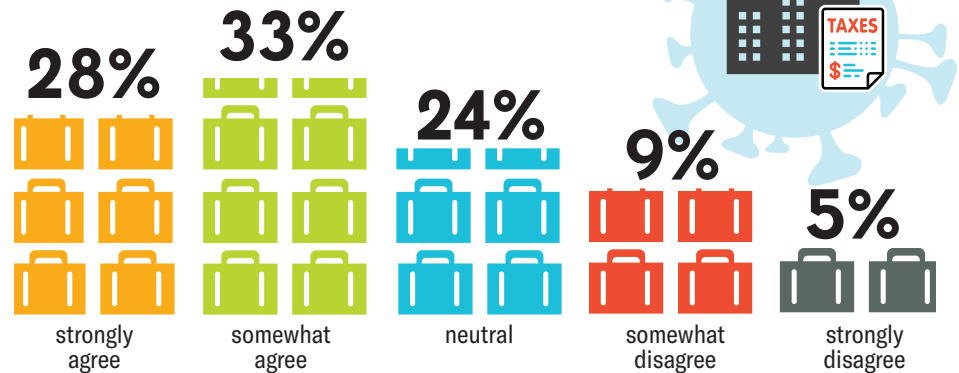
## STUDENTS SUPPORT INCREASED GOVERNMENT SPENDING

**63%** prefer higher taxes & more services



**37%** prefer lower taxes & less services

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



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



Half of students support **strict lockdowns** to combat COVID-19, even if doing so negatively impacts the economy.



**53%**  
Agree



**19%**  
Neutral



**28%**  
Disagree

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



Last year, **75%** of students supported the government prioritizing **lowering the federal debt** "as much as possible."

## MORE SUPPORT NEEDED FOR BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY THE PANDEMIC

**Q:** How much financial support should the federal government provide to business that have lost income due to COVID-19?



# OTHER FINDINGS

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



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



## STUDENTS SPLIT ON SUBSIDIZED CHILDCARE

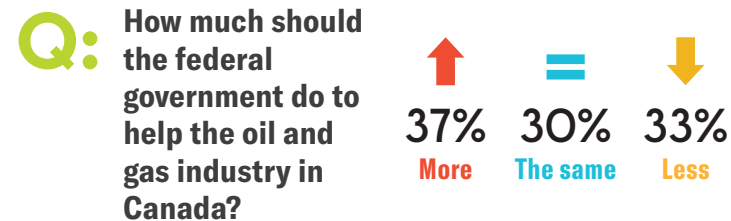
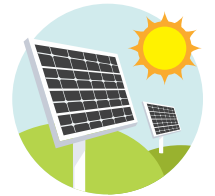
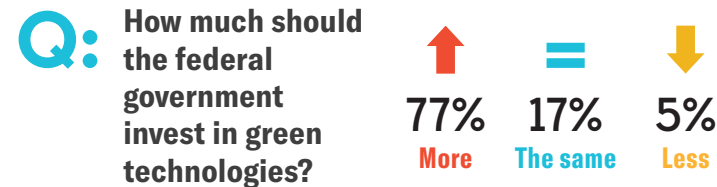
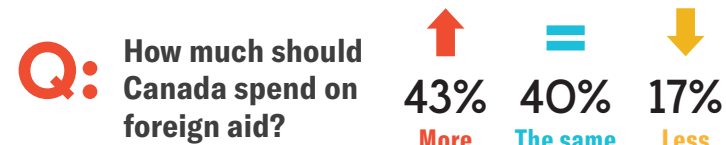
**39%** of students believe that **people who can afford childcare** should pay for it themselves rather than receive help from the government.



## CLIMATE CHANGE STILL A PRIORITY

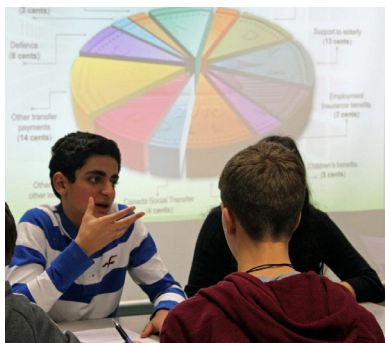
**52%**

of students say **serious action** on **climate change** cannot wait until the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.



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

# BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY

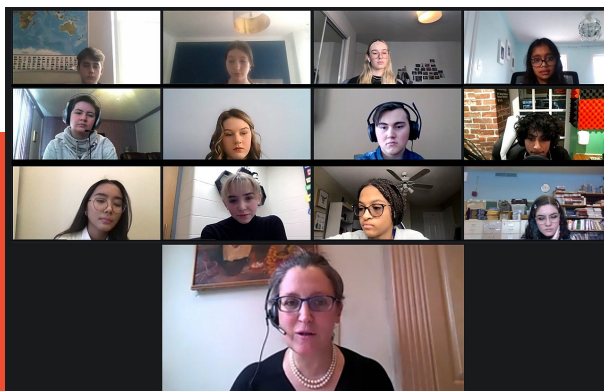


The **Student Budget Consultation** is a civic education and financial literacy initiative for high school students across Canada. The program gives young people an opportunity to learn about public finance and the economy, debate political issues and offer their own opinion on the priorities of the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

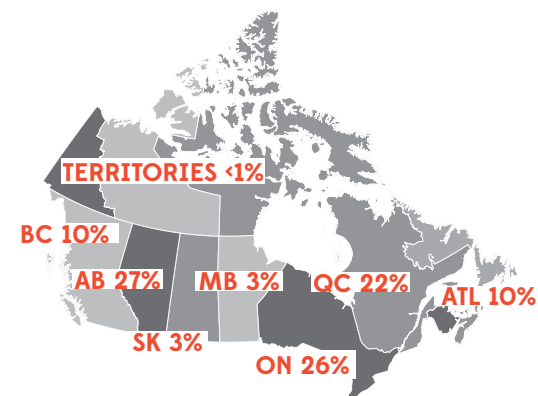
In conjunction with the 2021 federal budget, Canadian high school students were consulted on budget priorities using an online questionnaire. In total, more than 6,000 students from every province and territory in Canada participated between February and April 2021.

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.

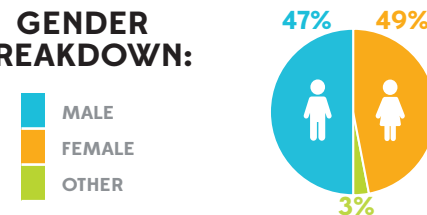
**Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland** met virtually with twelve Student Budget Consultation participants to discuss their priorities for the post-pandemic recovery. A preliminary report on the survey results was also shared with the Department of Finance during the pre-budget consultation period.



## REGIONAL BREAKDOWN:



## GENDER BREAKDOWN:



is a charitable organization

dedicated to strengthening democracy through civic education. CIVIX provides experiential learning opportunities to help young Canadians practice the habits of active and informed citizenship.

[www.civix.ca](http://www.civix.ca)



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 from coast to coast to coast.

[www.studentvote.ca](http://www.studentvote.ca)

