

CIVIX

STUDENT BUDGET CONSULTATION

March 2025



Methodology

Between December 2024 and March 2025 students from across Canada participated in the Student Budget Consultation program and responded to this survey to indicate their priorities and preferences for focus in the federal landscape.

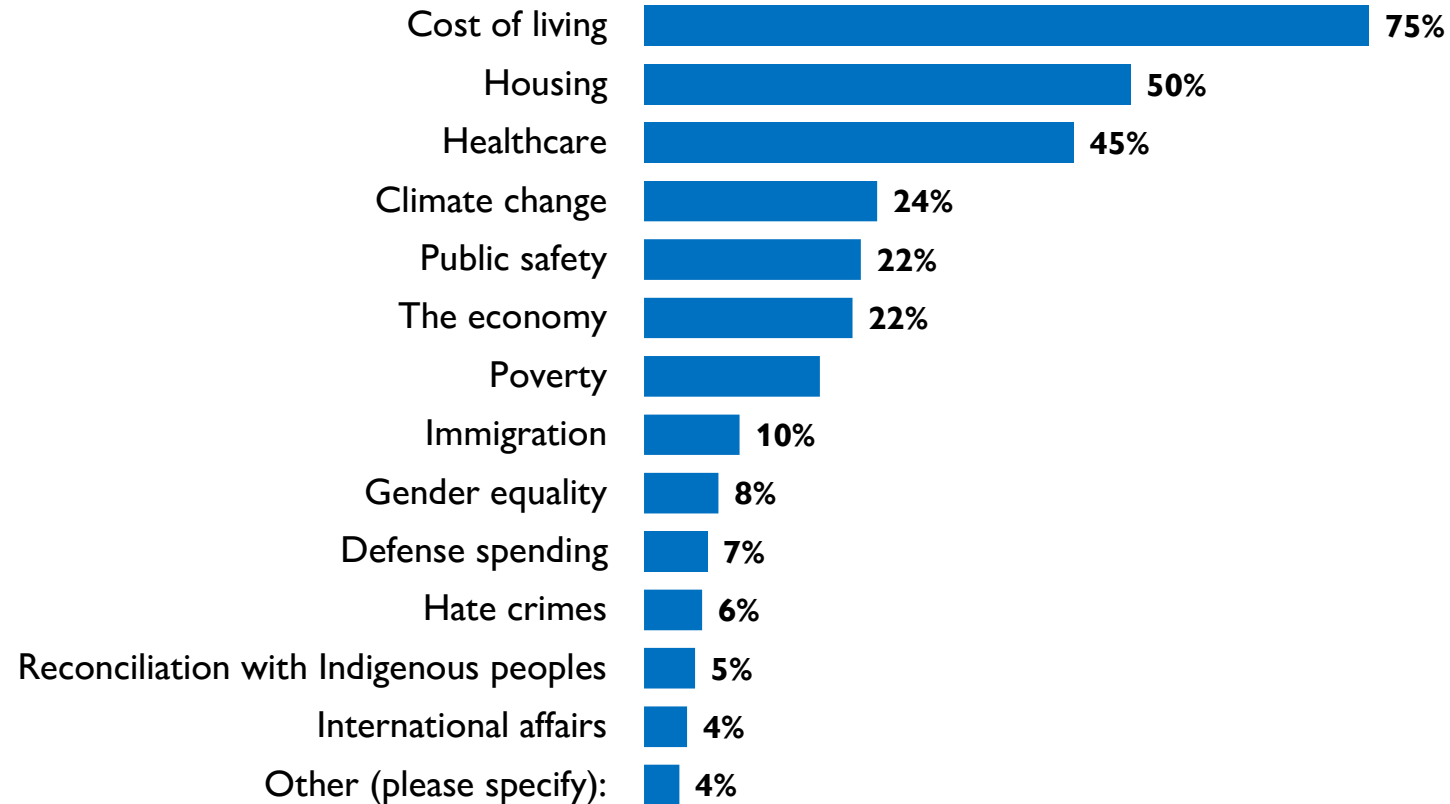
Though the landscape has changed, this memo shares the priorities of young Canadians whether these are announced in election platforms, or the budget of a new Prime Minister.

In total 1,478 students participated via their classrooms and an additional 558 responses were collected via an open link on the CIVIX website. The results below are taken from the classroom submissions. Responses were collected from all provinces and territories across Canada.



X: Which of the following should be the main priorities of Budget 2025? Please select 3 priorities

Youth in Canada want the next budget to focus on the cost of living, housing and healthcare.

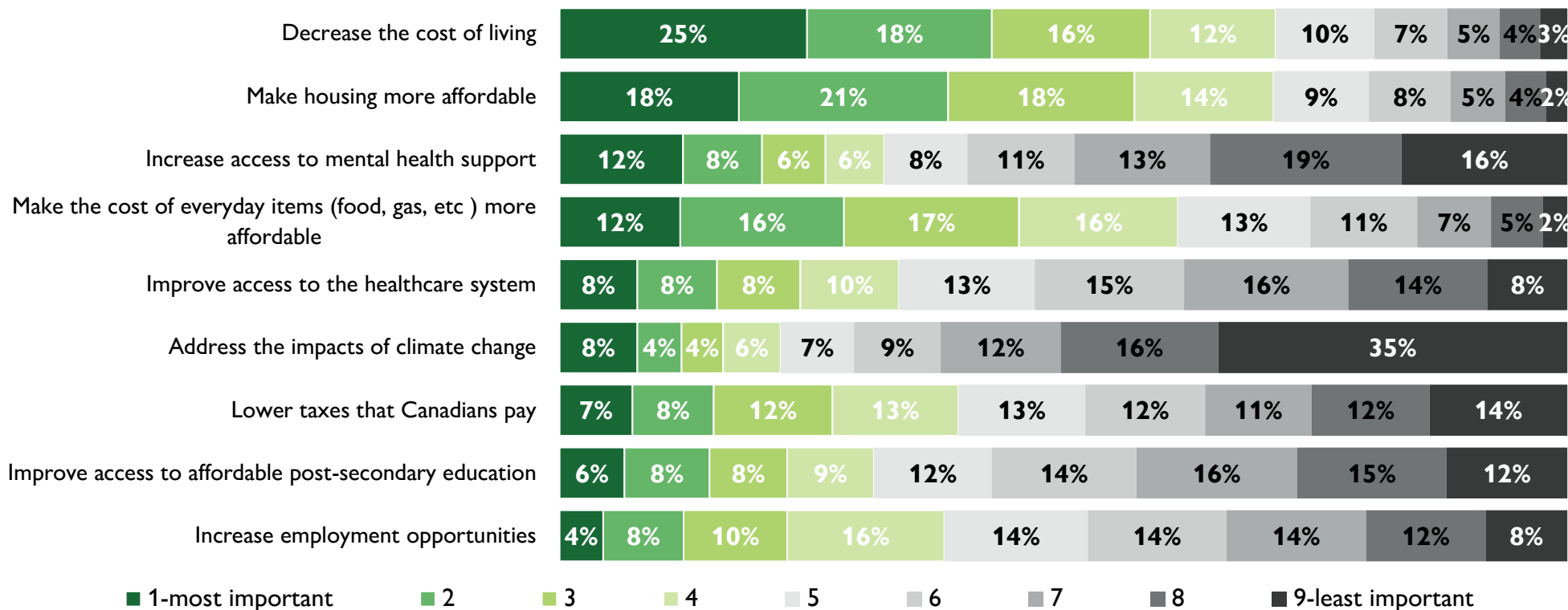


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'X:What is the most important step that the federal government can take to support young Canadians over the next five years? Please rank from most to least important

They say these are also the most important steps the federal government could take to support young Canadians. The the top federal priorities that would best support Canadian youth look similar to those we see elsewhere: decreasing the cost of living and everyday essentials, increasing housing affordability and improving access to mental health supports.



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The Cost of Living & The Economy

Young people believe things are going to get worse in Canada before they get better. 56% expect Canada's economy to be worse off in the next few years, 18% say better off. 20% say it will be about the same as now, and 7% don't know. To address these concerns:

- 62% want the federal government to do more to distribute wealth between those with higher and lower incomes.
- 52% agree the best way to tackle the cost of living crisis is by cutting taxes.
- 49% say businesses should pay more taxes, 21% say they should pay less.
- 46% support a guaranteed minimum income, 20% are neutral and 27% oppose.
- 42% agree those who are wealthy should pay tax on their overall wealth, not just their annual income, 22% are neutral and 28% disagree.
- 35% blame federal government policies for the rising cost of living rather than excessive pricing by large corporations, 28% are neutral and 14% disagree.
- 22% agree 'the federal budget deficit should be reduced, even if it leads to fewer public services', 35% are neutral and 25% disagree.

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On Canada-US relations

One of the issues that has emerged among adults in Canada during this election cycle is the relationship between Canada and the United States. Young people are eager to see a positive relationship between the two countries. 70% say it is important for Canada's economy to have a positive relationship between Canada and the United States- including 44% who strongly agree with this statement.

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Speaking to Federal Leaders

If they were given the opportunity to speak to the finance minister, the most common messages are around lower taxes and affordable housing.

“I think housing should be more affordable because so many people do not have a house and the prices are just going up.”

“I think less tax, less cost on items would make the economy better.”

For those who participated in March 2025 and onward, they want the next Prime Minister to focus on a lower cost of living, and relations with the United States. These are also the two key issues for Canadians overall.

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**Good decisions
require good data.**

Good data drives success.

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