



2019

STUDENT BUDGET CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Student Budget Consultation is a project of **CIVIX**

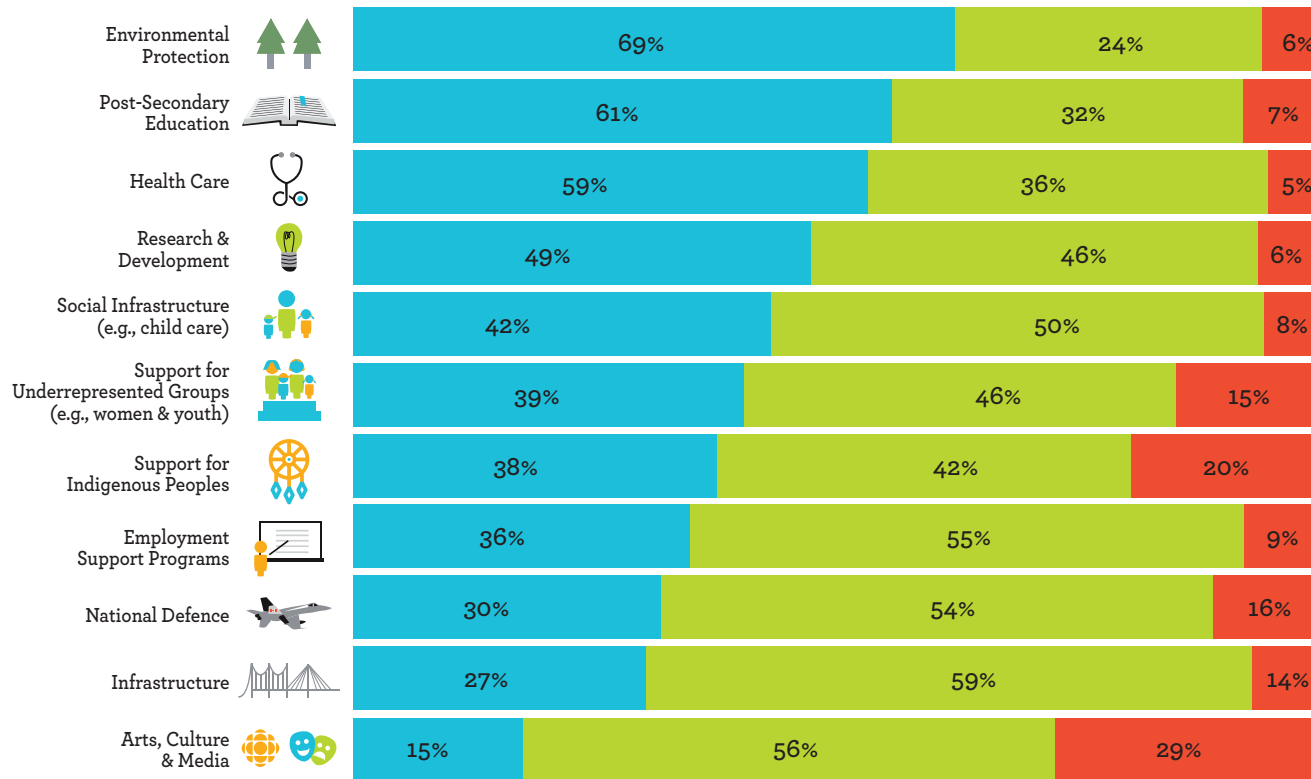
This project is supported by **Canada**

BUDGET PRIORITIES

WHAT ISSUES SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT FOCUS ON? The top 5, as ranked by students:

#1 Education  #2 Environmental concerns  #3 Poverty  #4 Crime & gun control  #5 Fiscal responsibility 

Students want to see more investment in **environmental protection**, **post-secondary education** and **health care**.



Arts, Culture & Media continues to be students' **lowest budget priority** for the third year in a row.

● Spending should be increased ● Spending should be the same ● Spending should be decreased

72% of students believe that the government should prioritize **lowering the federal debt** as much as possible.

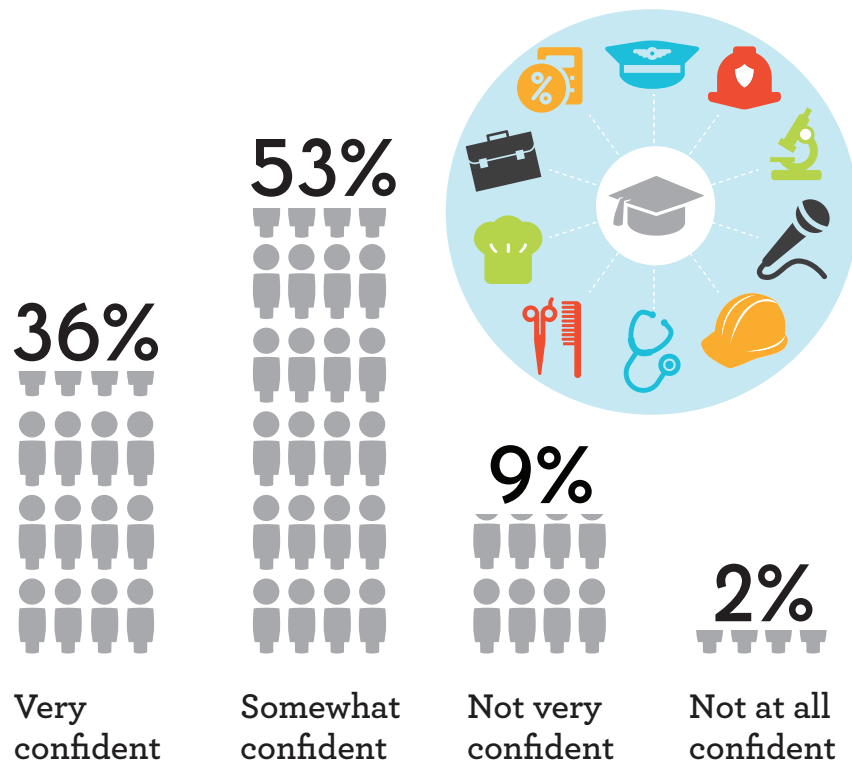


Male students are **more in favour** of balancing the budget than **female** students.

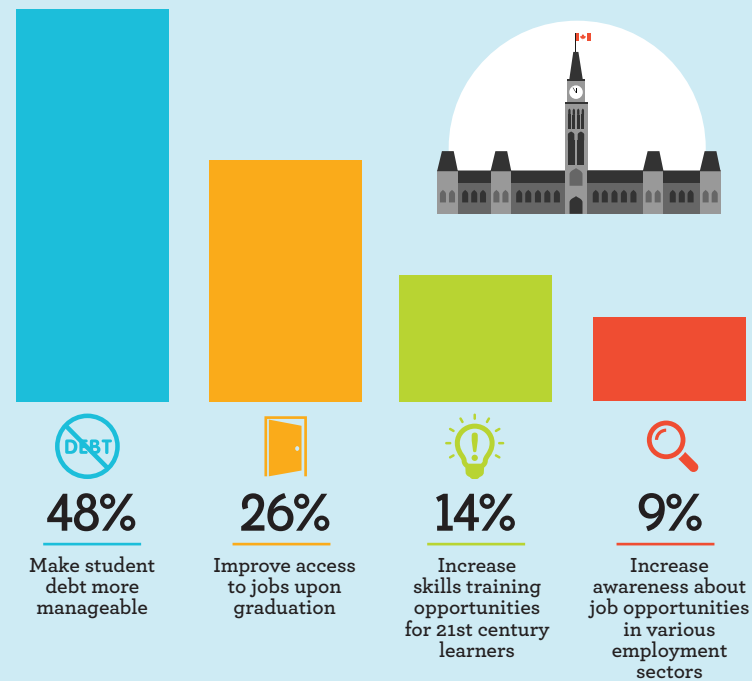
EMPLOYMENT

The majority of students remain **confident** about their future **job prospects**.

Q: When you finish school, how confident are you that you will find a job that interests you within Canada?



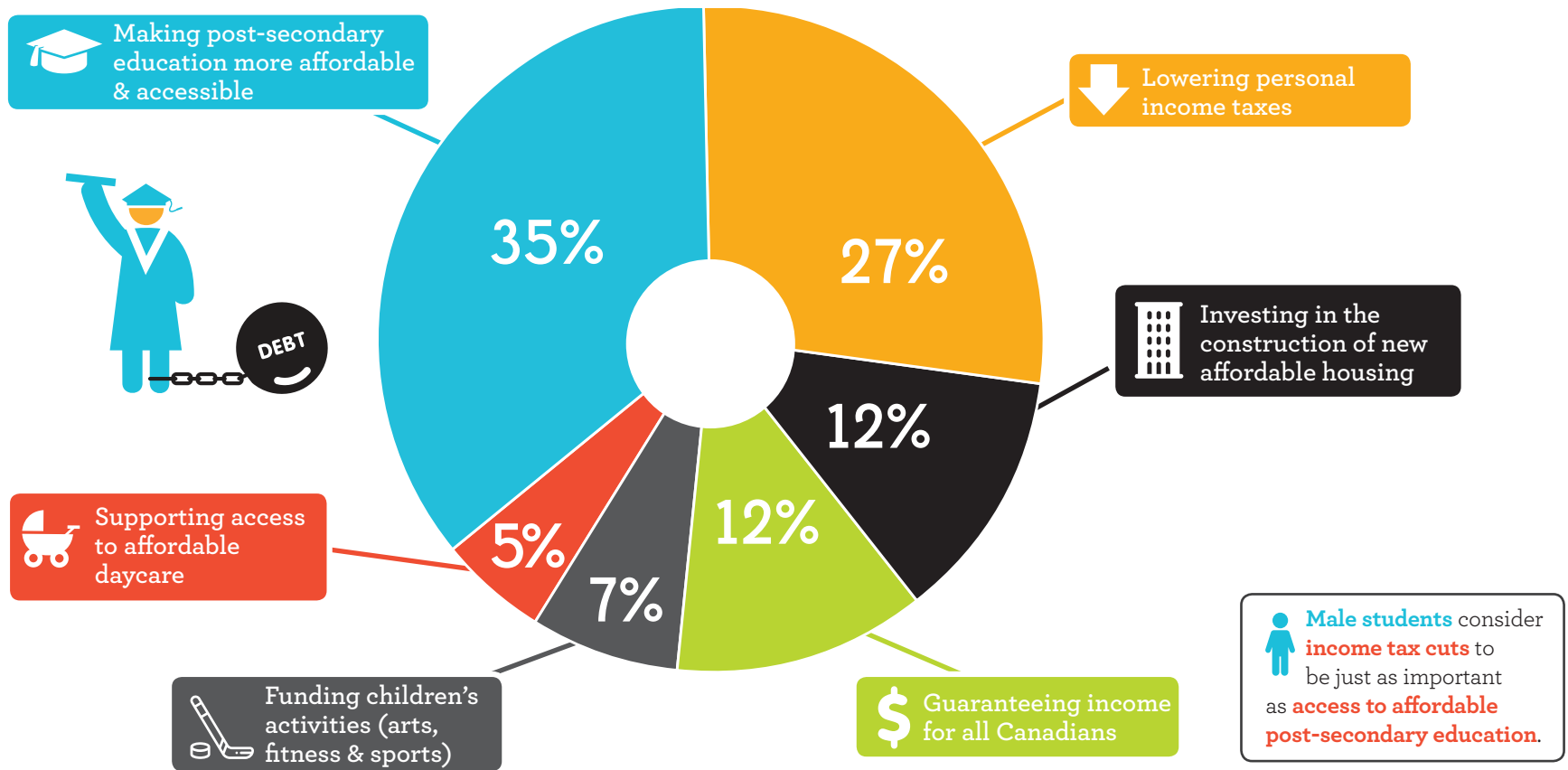
Q: What is the most important step the government could take to facilitate the workforce entry of young Canadians?



YOUTH & FAMILIES

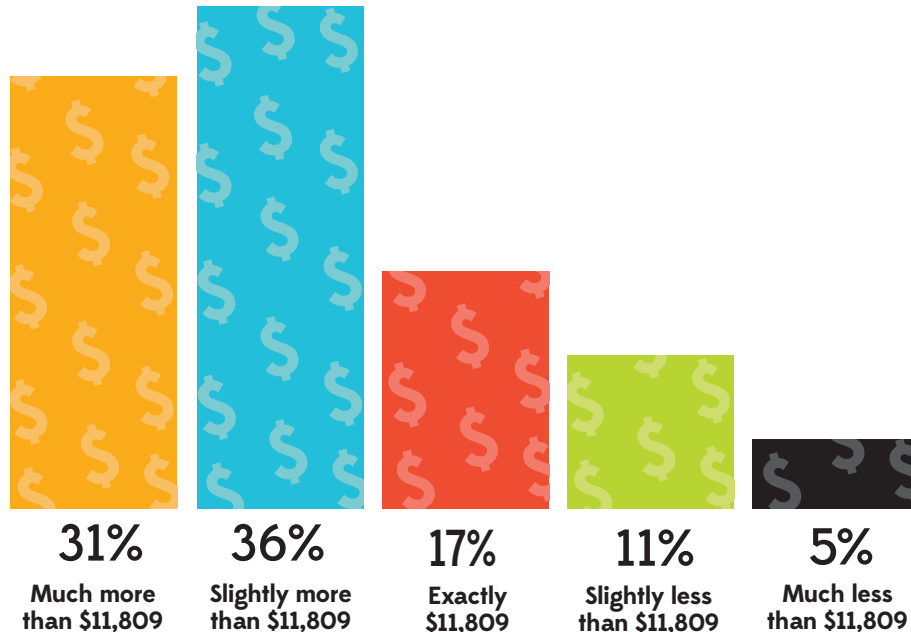
Q: What is the most important step the federal government could take to **assist families**?

More than a third of students want **post-secondary schooling** to be more **affordable & accessible**.



PERSONAL TAXES

Q: How much should a person earn before being required to pay income tax?



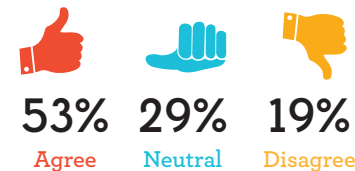
Minimum Earning for Income Tax

Two-thirds of students believe that the **income tax exemption limit** in Canada should be **raised**.

67%

AGREE or DISAGREE?

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



56% favour **less taxes & fewer government services**



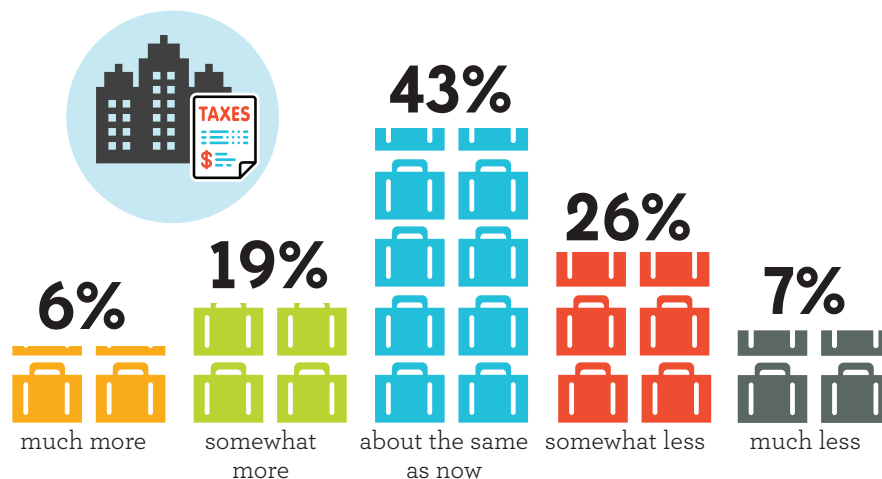
44% favour **higher taxes & more services**



This year's results show an increase in support for **less taxes & fewer government services**. Last year, student respondents were **split** on the issue.

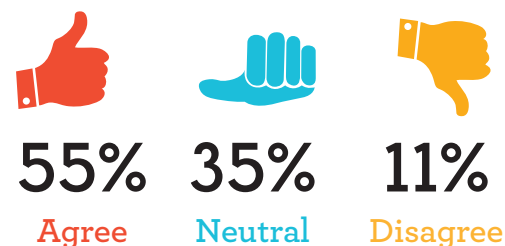
OTHER TAXES

Q: How much tax should corporations pay?



NEARLY HALF OF STUDENTS believe that the amount of taxes paid by corporations **should remain the same**.

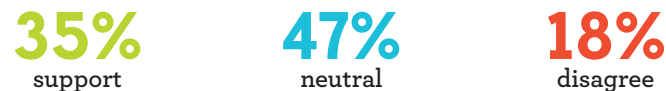
Q: Should the Government of Canada should invest more resources to stop people from **cheating the tax system?**



MORE THAN HALF OF STUDENTS support the government taking action against **tax evasion**.

CARBON PRICING?

ALMOST HALF OF STUDENTS ARE RELUCTANT to take a position on the issue of whether the federal government should impose a **carbon tax** on provinces with no systems of their own.



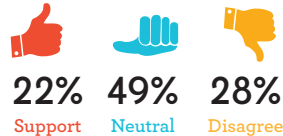
However, support for environmental protections has **increased** by 10 percentage points from last year (59% to 69%).

OTHER FINDINGS

Q: Should the government support struggling **private media** companies?



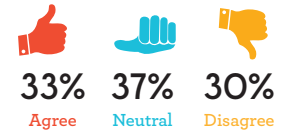
HALF OF STUDENTS are **neutral** towards government support for struggling private media companies.



Q: Does **social media** do more harm than good to Canadian democracy?

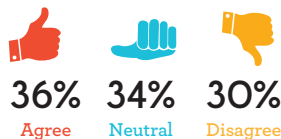


Students have **SPLIT OPINIONS** on social media and democracy.



DEFENCE SPENDING

Q: Does the **Canadian military** have all it needs to tackle present and future **security threats**?



Male students are more likely than **female** students to support military funding.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

51% favour the protection of Canadian producers and manufacturers



students from **BC** agree most strongly in relation to the other provinces



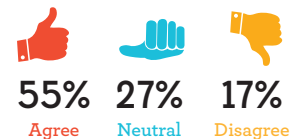
49% favour lower prices of goods for consumers



students from **Manitoba** express the most support for decreased prices



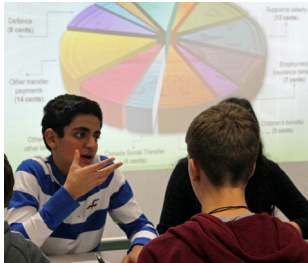
OVER HALF OF STUDENTS believe that the Canadian government should not trade with countries that have a record of **human rights abuses**.



61% of **female** students support this statement, while only 50% of **male** students hold this view

BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY

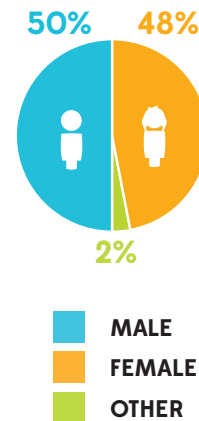
The **Student Budget Consultation** is a civic education and financial literacy program for high school students across Canada. The process gives young people an opportunity to learn about government revenues and expenditures, debate political issues and offer their own opinion on the priorities of the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



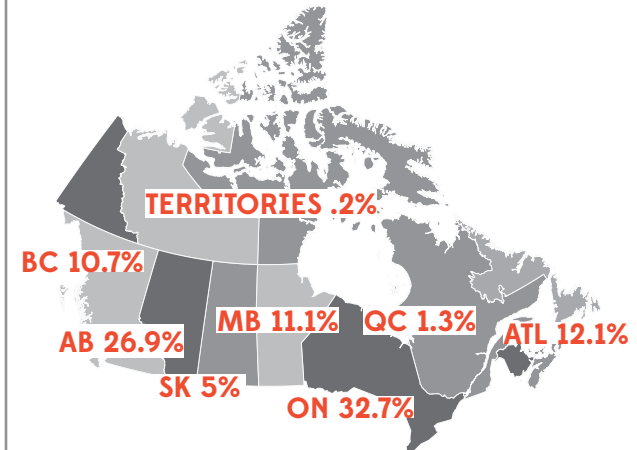
In conjunction with the 2019 federal budget, Canadian high school students were consulted on budget priorities using online and paper-based questionnaires. In total, more than 8,000 students from every province and territory in Canada participated between November 2018 and March 2019.

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. A subset of 2018 Student Budget Consultation data was used in this report, in order to maximize comparability with this year's sample of students. Due to rounding, percentages presented throughout this document may not add up to 100 per cent and precisely reflect the absolute figures.

GENDER BREAKDOWN:



REGIONAL BREAKDOWN:



CIVIX is a national registered charity dedicated to building the habits of active and engaged 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.

STUDENT VOTE is a parallel election for students under the voting age coinciding with official elections, and is the flagship program of CIVIX. In the 2015 federal election, 922,000 elementary and secondary students cast a Student Vote ballot from approximately half of all schools in Canada. CIVIX will conduct the Student Vote program for the 2019 federal election.

