

Survey on Work Ethic and Perceptions of Social Policies

Prepared for:
Senate of Canada

March 2022



| Methodology



Study:

This survey, commissioned by the Office of the Honourable Senator Diane Bellemare and conducted among members of the online Angus Reid Forum, aims to understand Canadians' opinions about a proposed guaranteed basic income program as well as a job path program for unemployed Canadians.

The study was fielded in both English and French.



Sample:

N=1,509 Canadians

The sample frame consisted of a representative composition of Canadian adults (18+ years) balanced on weighted on age, gender, region and education according to the latest census Canada data. The data was then weighted by the same criteria.

There was an additional oversample of:

N=100 New Canadians

N=100 Indigenous Canadians

For comparison purposes only, a sample of this size would yield a margin of error of +/- 2.4 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.



Field Window:

March 25-30, 2022



Methodological Notes:

New Canadians are defined as those who have lived in the country less than 10 years.

HHI is referred to throughout this report – short for household income

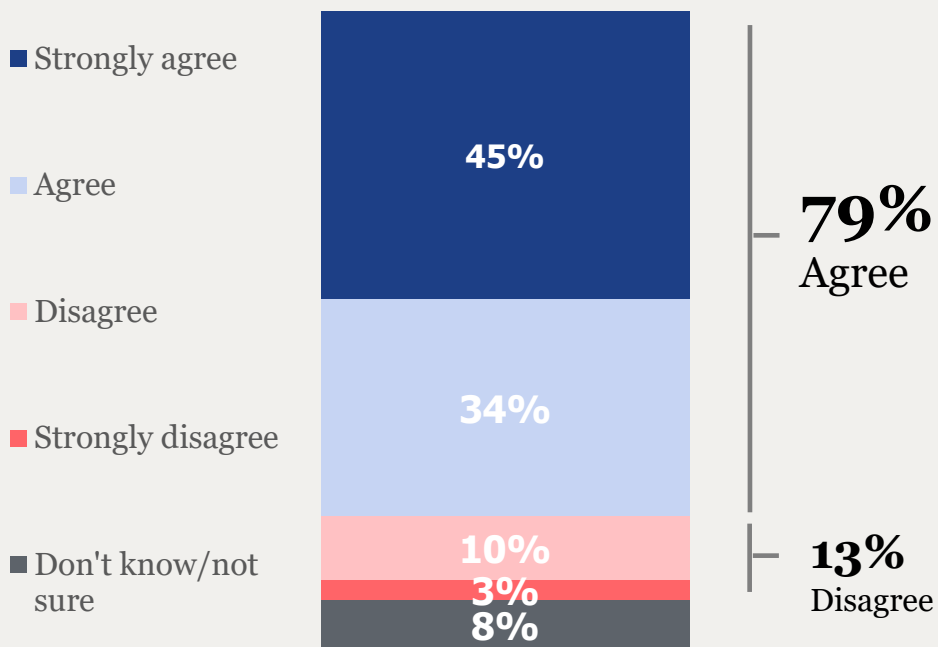
Key Findings

| Sentiments on Work

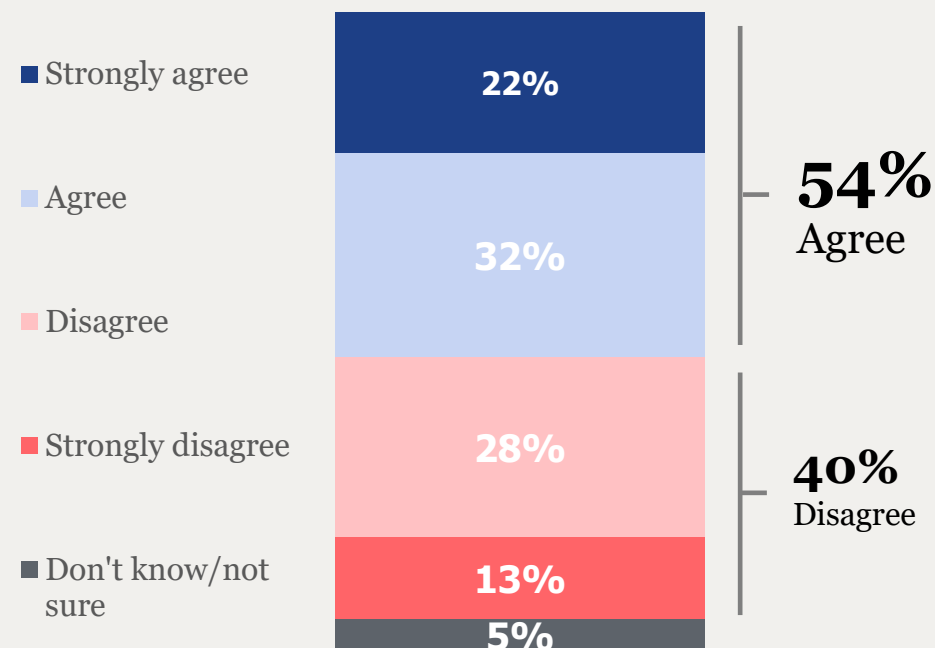
Roughly four-in-five (79%) Canadians say they believe all working adults should work to earn a living, while just over one-half (54%) say they would like to be able to live without having to work.

Q: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

I believe that all working adults should work to earn a living.







I would like to be able to live without having to work.



| Sentiments on Work

Of all provinces, Quebec is most likely to agree that all adults should work to earn a living (86%), though this proportion is at least three-quarters in every province. Only two-in-five (42%) older Canadians (55+) say they would like to be able to live without having to work, compared to three-in-five (62%) under the age of 55.


Q: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

| NET: Agree | Total (n=1,726) | BC (n=249) | AB (n=192) | SK/MB (n=136) | ON (n=647) | QC (n=383) | ATL (n=119) | Men (n=833) | Women (n=893) | 18-34 (n=476) | 35-54 (n=610) | 55+ (n=640) |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| <i>I believe that all adults should work to earn a living</i> | 79% | 74% | 81% | 80% | 77% | 86%  | 78% | 84%  | 75% | 74%  | 80% | 82% |
| <i>I would like to be able to live without having to work</i> | 54% | 59% | 57% | 49% | 55% | 51% | 53% | 53% | 56% | 64% | 60% | 42%  |

| Sentiments on Work

Although there are few differences between Indigenous Canadians and the rest of Canada in their overall perceptions of work, New Canadians are significantly more likely than those who were born in Canada or have lived here 10+ years to say they would like to live without having to work.

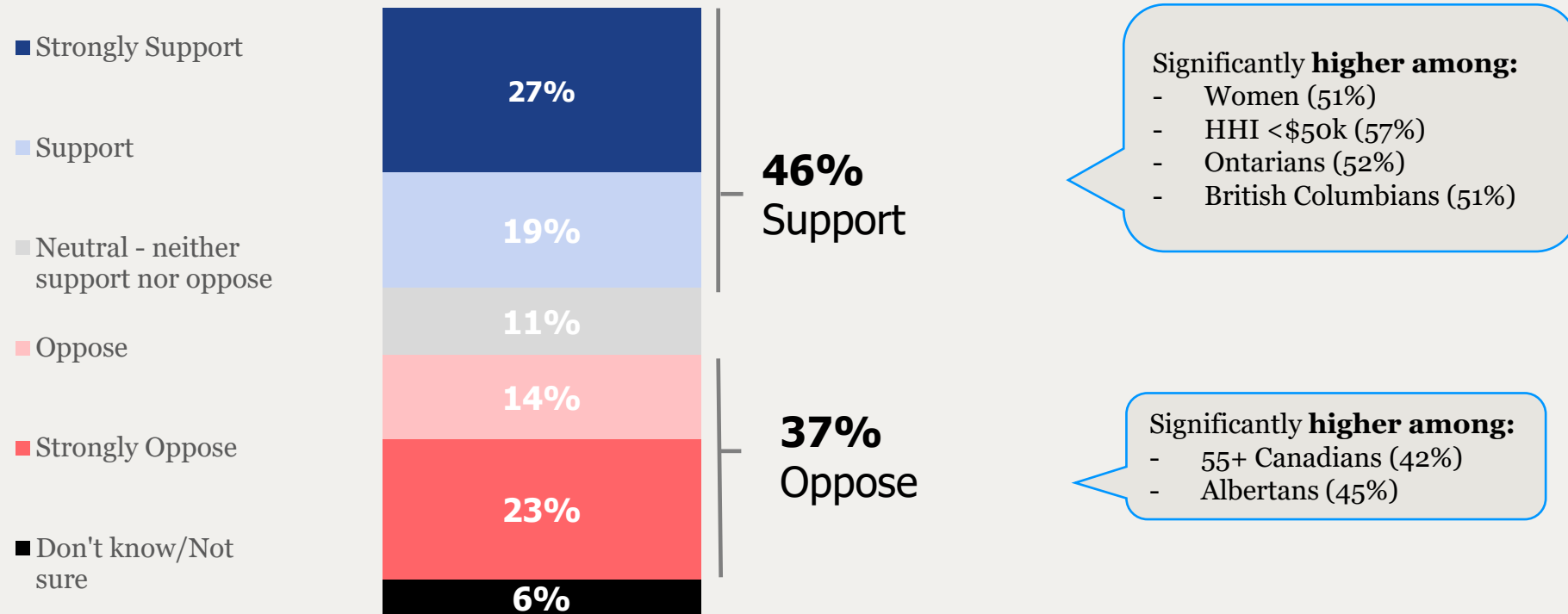
Q: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

| NET: Agree | Total (n=1,726) | Indigenous Canadians (n=165) | Rest of Canada (n=1561) | New Canadians (n=146) | Born in Canada/Lived in Canada 10+ years (n=1580) |
|---|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| <i>I believe that all adults should work to earn a living</i> | 79% | 74% | 80% | 79% | 79% |
| <i>I would like to be able to live without having to work</i> | 54% | 47% | 55% | 64%  | 54% |

| Overall Opinion of Guaranteed Basic Income Program

Nearly one-half (46%) of Canadians support a guaranteed annual basic income of approximately \$20,000.

Q: Would you support or oppose a federal government program that guarantees every Canadian citizen 18 years of age or older a basic income of approximately \$20,000 a year?



| Overall Opinion of Guaranteed Basic Income Program

Support for this proposed program is significantly higher among women and younger Canadians (18-54), but lowest among men, older Canadians (55+) and residents of Quebec or the Prairies. Across the country, there is a group of roughly one-in-six Canadians who are either neutral about the proposition or remain unsure.




Q: Would you support or oppose a federal government program that guarantees every Canadian citizen 18 years of age or older a basic income of approximately \$20,000 a year?

| | Total (n=1,726) | BC (n=249) | AB (n=192) | SK/MB (n=136) | ON (n=647) | QC (n=383) | ATL (n=119) | Men (n=833) | Women (n=893) | 18-34 (n=476) | 35-54 (n=610) | 55+ (n=640) |
|----------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Support | 46% | 51% | 43% | 37% ↓ | 52% | 38% ↓ | 49% | 41% | 51% ↑ | 53% | 49% | 38% ↓ |
| Neutral | 11% | 13% | 10% | 14% | 10% | 12% | 14% | 11% | 12% | 10% | 9% | 14% |
| Oppose | 37% | 33% | 45% | 40% | 33% | 41% | 31% | 43% ↑ | 31% | 33% | 34% | 42% |
| Not sure | 6% | 3% | 3% | 9% | 5% | 9% | 6% | 5% | 7% | 4% | 7% | 6% |

| Overall Opinion of Guaranteed Basic Income Program

Three-in-five New Canadians support the proposed guaranteed basic income program, substantially higher than the national average.

Q: Would you support or oppose a federal government program that guarantees every Canadian citizen 18 years of age or older a basic income of approximately \$20,000 a year?

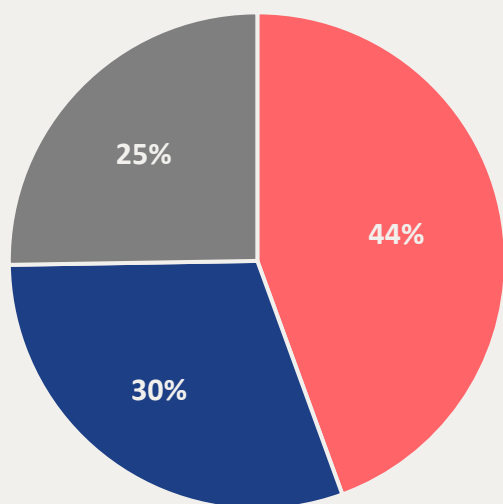
| NET: Agree | Total (n=1,726) | Indigenous Canadians (n=165) | Rest of Canada (n=1561) | | New Canadians (n=146) | Born in Canada/Lived in Canada 10+ years (n=1580) | |
|------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | Support | 46% | 42% | | 47% | 62%  | 45% |
| | Neutral | 11% | 11% | | 11% | 13% | 11% |
| | Oppose | 37% | 40% | | 36% | 22% | 38%  |
| | Not sure | 6% | 8% | | 6% | 3% | 6%  |

Ability to Adopt Guaranteed Basic Income Program

Almost one-third (30%) of Canadians say that the federal government does not have the constitutional authority to adopt this program, while one-half (53%) say the government does not have the financial ability.

Q: Regardless of whether you support or oppose a guaranteed basic income program, do you think the federal government has...

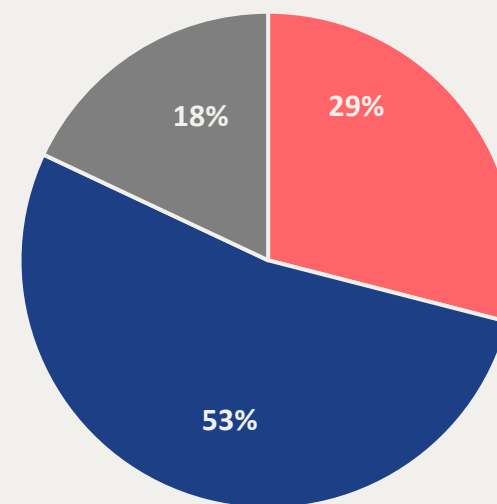
*...the **constitutional authority** to adopt a program like this?*



■ Yes ■ No ■ Not sure

New Canadians* (61%) significantly **more likely** to say 'Yes' than other Canadians (43%)

*...the **financial ability** to adopt a program like this?*



■ Yes ■ No ■ Not sure

New Canadians* (38%) significantly **more likely** to say 'Yes' than other Canadians (28%)

| Ability to Adopt Guaranteed Basic Income Program

*Q: Regardless of whether you support or oppose a guaranteed basic income program, do you think the federal government has the **constitutional authority** to adopt a program like this?*



| | Total (n=1,726) | BC (n=249) | AB (n=192) | SK/MB (n=136) | ON (n=647) | QC (n=383) | ATL (n=119) | Men (n=833) | Women (n=893) | 18-34 (n=476) | 35-54 (n=610) | 55+ (n=640) |
|----------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes | 44% | 44% | 46% | 36% | 50% | 38% | 44% | 45% | 44% | 52% | 46% | 37% |
| No | 30% | 31% | 37% | 42% | 25% | 33% | 27% | 34% | 26% | 25% | 29% | 36% |
| Not sure | 25% | 25% | 18% | 22% | 26% | 29% | 28% | 21% | 30% | 22% | 26% | 28% |

*Q: Regardless of whether you support or oppose a guaranteed basic income program, do you think the federal government has the **financial authority** to adopt a program like this?*



| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Yes | 29% | 30% | 30% | 25% | 30% | 25% | 34% | 28% | 30% | 33% | 28% | 26% |
| No | 53% | 48% | 56% | 58% | 51% | 56% | 51% | 59% | 47% | 49% | 53% | 56% |
| Not sure | 18% | 22% | 14% | 17% | 19% | 19% | 15% | 13% | 23% | 17% | 19% | 18% |

| Ability to Adopt Guaranteed Basic Income Program

Q: Regardless of whether you support or oppose a guaranteed basic income program, do you think the federal government has the **constitutional authority** to adopt a program like this?

| | Total (n=1,726) | Indigenous Canadians (n=165) | Rest of Canada (n=1561) | New Canadians (n=146) | Born in Canada/Lived in Canada 10+ years (n=1580) |
|----------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| Yes | 44% | 41% | 45% | 61%  | 43% |
| No | 30% | 36% | 30% | 18% | 31%  |
| Not sure | 25% | 23% | 26% | 21% | 26% |

Q: Regardless of whether you support or oppose a guaranteed basic income program, do you think the federal government has the **financial authority** to adopt a program like this?

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|--|---|
| Yes | 29% | 31% | 29% | 38%  | 28% |
| No | 53% | 56% | 53% | 39% | 54%  |
| Not sure | 18% | 13% | 19% | 23% | 18% |

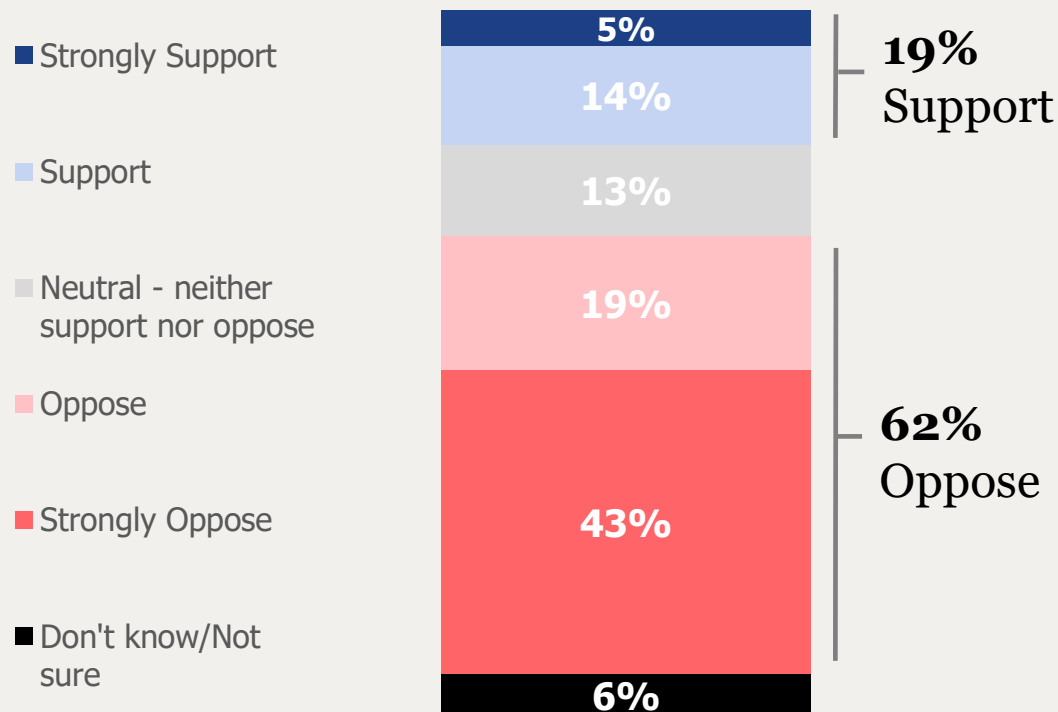
Opinion of Financing Basic Income Program

When presented with the budget implications of financing this proposed program, three-in-five (62%) Canadians oppose it.

Q: Canada's Parliamentary Budget Officer has estimated that a guaranteed basic income guarantee program of about \$20,000 per year would cost more than \$90 billion per year.

In order to have the ability to finance this program, would you support or oppose the following measures?

- *Raising of income taxes*
- *Raising of sales taxes*
- *Abolishment of many current tax credit & exemptions*
- *Abolishment of some public and social services programs*



Men tend to hold stronger opinions than women on this issue. They are both more likely to **strongly support** (7%, vs 4% of women) **and strongly oppose** the proposed program (48%, vs. 38%)

| Opinion of Financing Basic Income Program

A majority of Canadians across demographic groups oppose raising sales/income taxes and abolishing many existing social service programs to finance a basic income guarantee, although Ontarians and young Canadians (18-34) are somewhat less likely to do so. Women are twice as likely as men (8% vs. 4%, respectively) to be unsure about the implications of these measures.

In order to have the ability to finance this program, would you support or oppose the following measures?

- *Raising of income taxes*
- *Raising of sales taxes*
- *Abolishment of many current tax credit & exemptions*
- *Abolishment of some public and social services programs*


| | Total (n=1,726) | BC (n=249) | AB (n=192) | SK/MB (n=136) | ON (n=647) | QC (n=383) | ATL (n=119) | Men (n=833) | Women (n=893) | 18-34 (n=476) | 35-54 (n=610) | 55+ (n=640) |
|----------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Support | 19% | 21% | 17% | 18% | 22% | 12% ↓ | 21% | 21% ↑ | 17% | 19% | 20% | 17% |
| Neutral | 13% | 11% | 14% | 10% | 14% | 13% | 9% | 11% | 14% | 16% ↑ | 11% | 13% |
| Oppose | 62% | 64% | 65% | 68% | 57% ↓ | 66% | 67% | 64% | 61% | 58% ↓ | 63% | 65% |
| Not sure | 6% | 4% | 5% | 4% | 7% | 8% | 3% | 4% | 8% ↑ | 7% | 7% | 5% |

| Opinion of Financing Basic Income Program

Support and opposition levels for financing a basic income program through sales/income tax increases do not vary significantly between Indigenous Canadians and the rest of Canada, nor between New Canadians and those who were born in Canada or have lived here for 10+ years. That being said, one-in-five (21%) New Canadians express a neutral opinion on this question, substantially higher than the national average.

In order to have the ability to finance this program, would you support or oppose the following measures?

- *Raising of income taxes*
- *Raising of sales taxes*
- *Abolishment of many current tax credit & exemptions*
- *Abolishment of some public and social services programs*

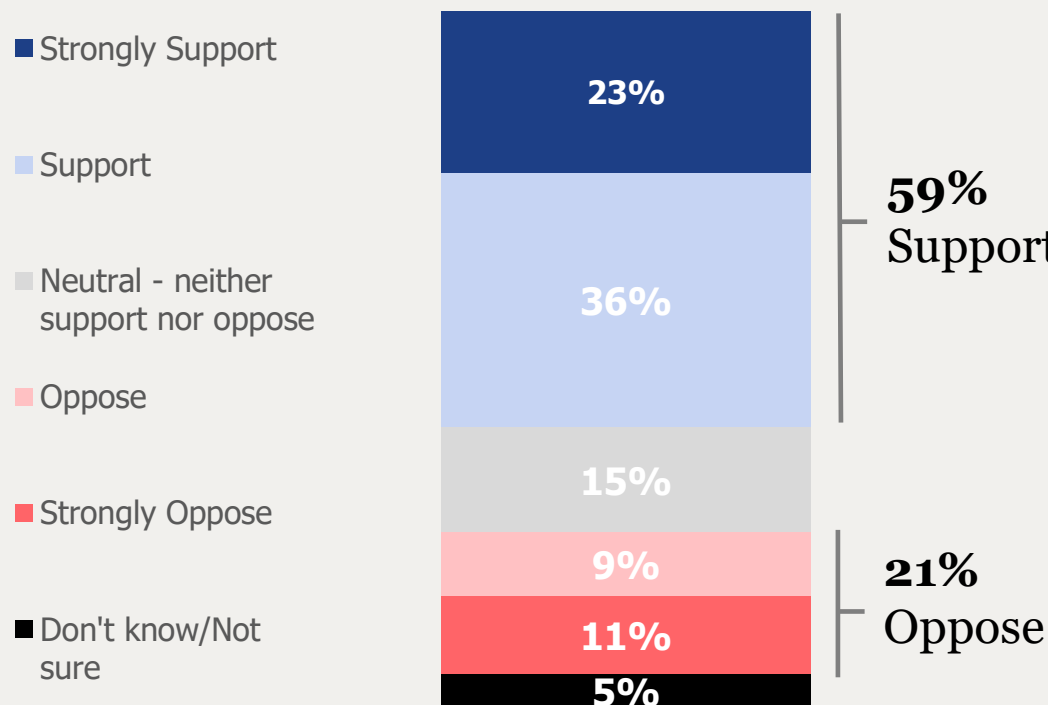
| | Total (n=1,726) | Indigenous Canadians (n=165) | Rest of Canada (n=1561) | New Canadians (n=146) | Born in Canada/Lived in Canada 10+ years (n=1580) |
|----------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| Support | 19% | 17% | 19% | 20% | 19% |
| Neutral | 13% | 12% | 13% | 21%  | 12% |
| Oppose | 62% | 66% | 62% | 56% | 63% |
| Not sure | 6% | 5% | 6% | 3% | 6% |

| Opinion of Youth Guarantee Program

Three-in-five (59%) Canadians support a job pathway program for unemployed citizens under 30. Young Canadians (18-34) are significantly more likely to “strongly support” this idea (30%).

*Q: More than 5 million unemployed young Europeans participate each year in a program called the **European Youth Guarantee**, which offers every young person under 30 who has been unemployed for more than 4 months and is not in education or training a pathway to employment tailored to their needs (employment, further training, apprenticeship or internship). The program is funded by the European Union and administered by the Member States.*

If a similar youth guarantee program were federally funded and administered on a provincial basis, would you support or oppose a program like this in Canada?



| Opinion of Youth Guarantee Program

Support for a job pathway program for unemployed Canadians under 30 is highest in the Atlantic provinces (69%) and lowest in Alberta and Quebec (52%, respectively). Albertans are also most likely to actively oppose it, with nearly three-in-ten in this province doing so. Finally, support has a moderate negative correlation with age, as Canadians under 35 are most likely to do so, while Canadians 55+ are least likely.


If a similar youth guarantee program were federally funded and administered on a provincial basis, would you support or oppose a program like this in Canada?

| | Total (n=1,726) | BC (n=249) | AB (n=192) | SK/MB (n=136) | ON (n=647) | QC (n=383) | ATL (n=119) | Men (n=833) | Women (n=893) | 18-34 (n=476) | 35-54 (n=610) | 55+ (n=640) |
|----------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Support | 59% | 62% | 52% ↓ | 55% | 63% | 52% ↓ | 69% ↑ | 58% | 60% | 64% ↑ | 59% | 56% |
| Neutral | 15% | 19% | 15% | 17% | 13% | 17% | 11% | 15% | 15% | 15% | 15% | 16% |
| Oppose | 21% | 18% | 28% ↑ | 24% | 18% | 24% | 15% ↓ | 23% | 19% | 18% | 20% | 24% |
| Not sure | 5% | 1% ↓ | 4% | 4% | 5% | 7% | 5% | 4% | 6% | 4% | 6% | 4% |

| Opinion of Youth Guarantee Program

As with the guaranteed basic income program, support for a job pathway program for unemployed Canadians under 30 is significantly higher among New Canadians.

If a similar youth guarantee program were federally funded and administered on a provincial basis, would you support or oppose a program like this in Canada?

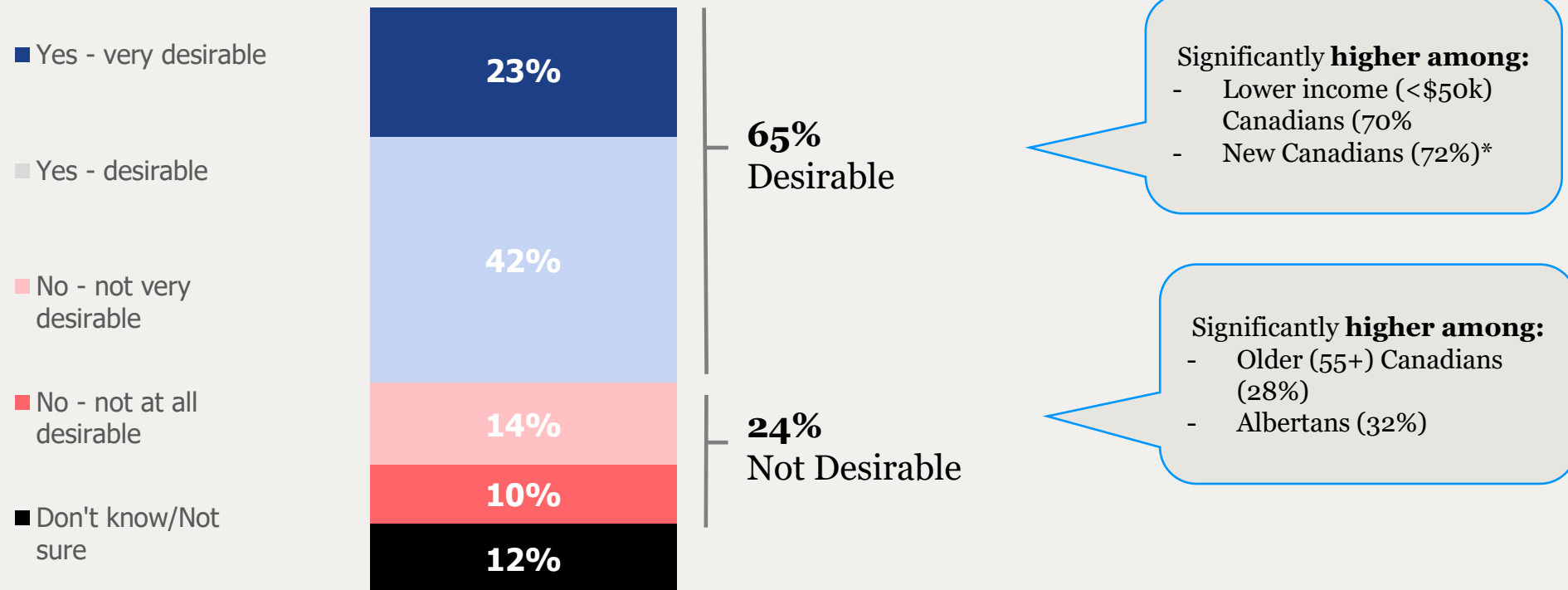
| | Total (n=1,726) | Indigenous Canadians (n=165) | Rest of Canada (n=1561) | New Canadians (n=146) | Born in Canada/Lived in Canada 10+ years (n=1580) |
|----------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| Support | 59% | 61% | 59% | 68%  | 58% |
| Neutral | 15% | 13% | 16% | 14% | 15% |
| Oppose | 21% | 22% | 21% | 16% | 21% |
| Not sure | 5% | 5% | 5% | 2% | 5% |



| Opinion of Job Path Program for All Unemployed Canadians

Two-thirds (65%) of Canadians would like to see a similar job path program to the European Youth Guarantee enacted in Canada for *all adults* who have been unemployed for longer than four months

Q: Do you think that a similar job path program is desirable for all adults who have been unemployed for more than 4 months, regardless of their age?








Base: All Respondents (n=1,726)

* New Canadians are defined as those who have lived in the country less than 10 years

Opinion of Job Path Program for All Unemployed Canadians

About three-in-ten in Alberta (32%) and Quebec (28%) say a job path program for all unemployed Canadians would *not* be desirable, significantly higher than other regions of the country. At the same time, at least three-in-five across regions and demographic groups say such a program *would* be desirable.

Q: Do you think that a similar job path program is desirable for all adults who have been unemployed for more than 4 months, regardless of their age?

| | Total (n=1,726) | BC (n=249) | AB (n=192) | SK/MB (n=136) | ON (n=647) | QC (n=383) | ATL (n=119) | Men (n=833) | Women (n=893) | 18-34 (n=476) | 35-54 (n=610) | 55+ (n=640) |
|---------------|--------------------|---|---|------------------|---|---|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| Desirable | 65% | 69%  | 59% | 63% | 67%  | 60% | 67% | 63% | 66% | 68% | 66% | 61% |
| Not Desirable | 24% | 19% | 32%  | 21% | 21% | 28%  | 22% | 25% | 22% | 20% | 22% | 28%  |
| Not sure | 12% | 11% | 9% | 16% | 12% | 11% | 11% | 11% | 12% | 12% | 12% | 11% |

Base: All Respondents (n=1,726)

* New Canadians are defined as those who have lived in the country less than 10 years




Higher/lower than other groups at 95% confidence level

| Opinion of Job Path Program for All Unemployed Canadians

Almost three-quarters (72%) of New Canadians say it would be desirable for the proposed job pathway program to be expanded to include all unemployed Canadians, rather than just those under 30.

Q: Do you think that a similar job path program is desirable for all adults who have been unemployed for more than 4 months, regardless of their age?

| | Total (n=1,726) | Indigenous Canadians (n=165) | Rest of Canada (n=1561) | New Canadians (n=146) | Born in Canada/Lived in Canada 10+ years (n=1580) |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| Desirable | 65% | 67% | 64% | 72%  | 64% |
| Not Desirable | 24% | 23% | 24% | 20% | 24% |
| Not sure | 12% | 10% | 12% | 8% | 12% |

Base: All Respondents (n=1,726)

* New Canadians are defined as those who have lived in the country less than 10 years

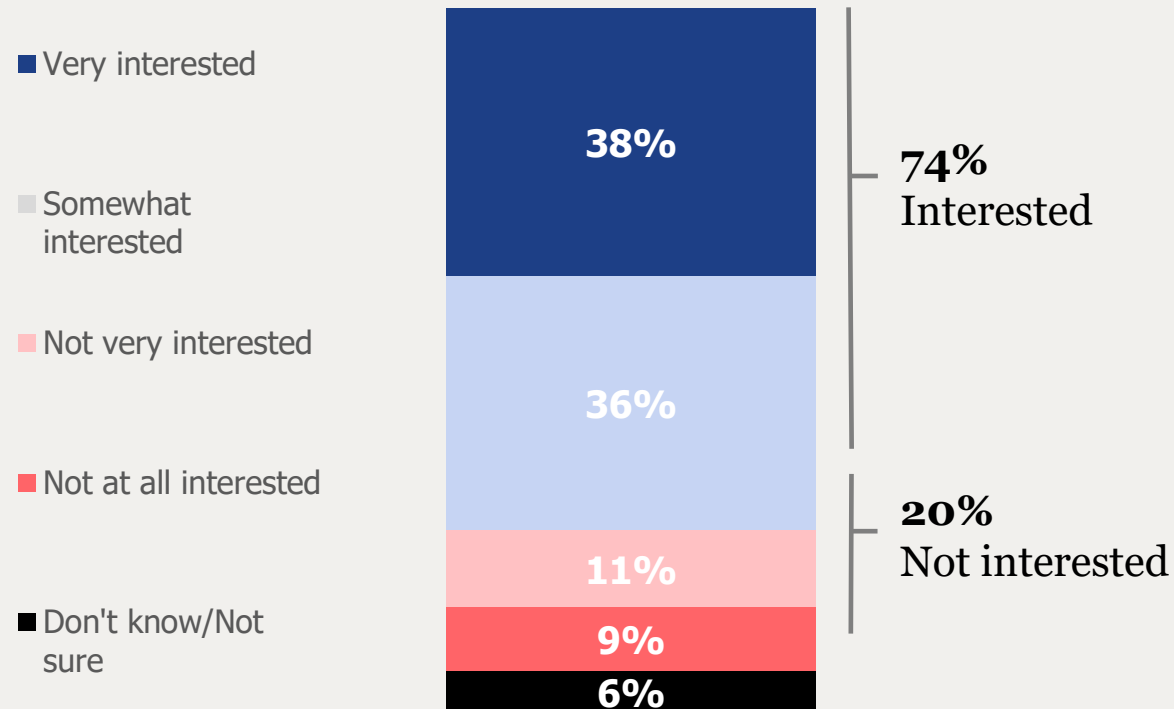


Higher/lower than other
groups at 95% confidence level

| Interest in Professional Training Program

Three-quarters (74%) of working Canadians indicate their interest in a professional training program.

Q: Would you be interested in following a professional training program to develop skills related to your job/area of expertise if it were financed by the employment insurance (EI) program?





Significantly **higher** among:

- Older (55+) Canadians (29%)
- \$100K+ HHI (26%)

| Interest in Professional Training Program

While there are no significant differences in interest between regions, or between men and women, older Canadians (55+) are significantly less likely to be interested in this professional training program than younger Canadians (18-54)

Q: Would you be interested in following a professional training program to develop skills related to your job/area of expertise if it were financed by the employment insurance (EI) program?

| | Total (n=1,726) | BC (n=249) | AB (n=192) | SK/MB (n=136) | ON (n=647) | QC (n=383) | ATL (n=119) | Men (n=833) | Women (n=893) | 18-34 (n=476) | 35-54 (n=610) | 55+ (n=640) |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| Interested | 74% | 75% | 70% | 72% | 75% | 74% | 75% | 73% | 75% | 77% | 75% | 65%  |
| Not Interested | 20% | 23% | 23% | 24% | 18% | 20% | 20% | 23% | 18% | 17% | 20% | 29%  |
| Not sure | 6% | 3% | 7% | 3% | 7% | 6% | 4% | 4% | 7% | 6% | 6% | 6% |

| Interest in Professional Training Program

Though a large majority of working Canadians across all demographic groups express interest in a professional training program, those who were born in Canada or have lived here for 10+ years are most likely to be uninterested (21%).

Q: Would you be interested in following a professional training program to develop skills related to your job/area of expertise if it were financed by the employment insurance (EI) program?

| | Total (n=1,726) | Indigenous Canadians (n=165) | Rest of Canada (n=1561) | New Canadians (n=146) | Born in Canada/Lived in Canada 10+ years (n=1580) |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Interested | 74% | 80% | 73% | 80% | 73% |
| Not Interested | 20% | 15% | 21% | 13% | 21% |
| Not sure | 6% | 5% | 6% | 7% | 6% |

