



Confederation  
of Tomorrow

# Affordable housing

Approval of federal,  
provincial and local  
governments

**Environics  
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For Survey Research

2024 SERIES



# Environics Institute

For Survey Research

The Environics Institute for Survey Research was established by Michael Adams in 2006 with a mandate to conduct in-depth public opinion and social research on the issues shaping Canada's future. It is through such research that Canadians can better understand themselves and their changing society.

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The Confederation of Tomorrow surveys give voice to Canadians about the major issues shaping the future of the federation and their political communities. They are conducted annually by an association of the country's leading public policy and socio-economic research organizations.

The 2024 study consists of a survey of 6,036 adults, conducted between January 13 and April 13, 2024 (82% of the responses were collected between January 17 and February 1); 94% of the responses were collected online. The remaining responses were collected by telephone from respondents living in the North or on First Nations reserves.

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# Introduction

The availability and affordability of housing has emerged as a top public policy issue. And it is one in which all governments - federal, provincial and territorial, and local - have a role to play. The 2024 Confederation of Tomorrow Survey of Canadians set out to measure the extent to which Canadians approve or disapprove of the actions of each of their three governments in this area.

The survey finds that Canadians are more likely to disapprove than approve of how each of their governments (federal, provincial and municipal) is managing the supply of affordable housing. In no province do more than one in three approve of the federal, their provincial or their municipal government's management of this issue.



## Key Findings

- One in two Canadians disapprove of how both the federal government and their provincial or territorial government are managing the supply of affordable housing.
- Almost as many disapprove of their municipal governments' management of this issue.
- In every province, disapproval of how both the federal and the provincial government are managing the supply of affordable housing outweighs approval by a significant margin.

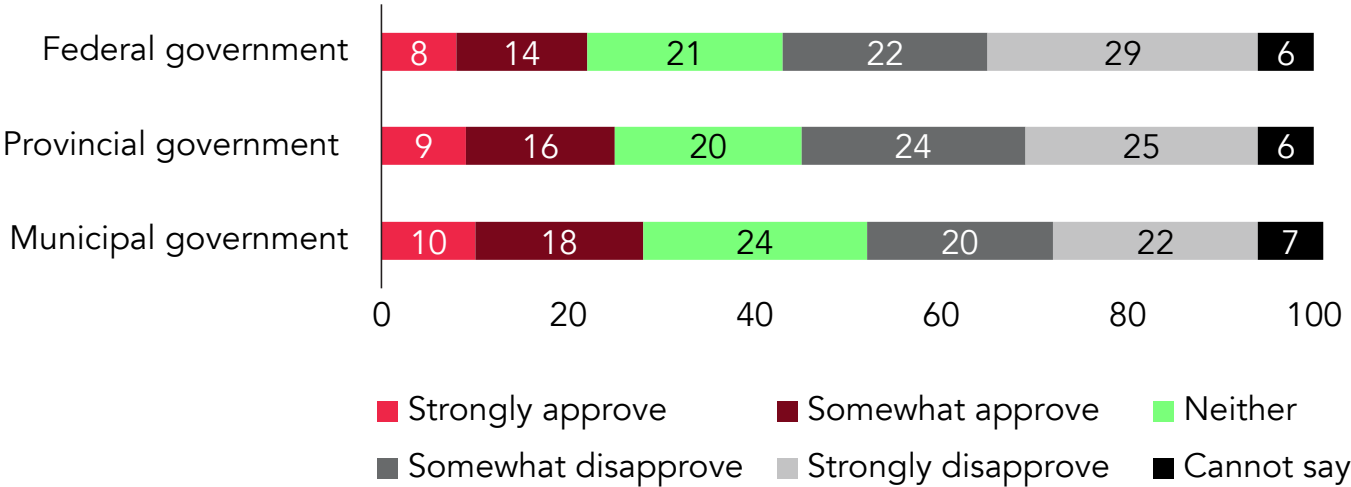
# Affordable housing: approval of federal, provincial and local governments

Canadians are much more likely to disapprove than approve of how all levels of government are managing the supply of affordable housing.

One in two Canadians disapprove of how both the federal government (51%) and their provincial or territorial government (49%) are managing the supply of affordable housing. Almost as many (42%) disapprove of their municipal governments' management of this issue.

**FIGURE 1**

Affordable housing: approval of governments



Q.81: To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the federal government's / your provincial/territorial government's / your municipal or local government's management of the supply of affordable housing?



About one in five (22%) approve of the federal government's management of the supply of affordable housing. When asked about provincial or territorial governments, the level of approval is only slightly higher (26%). It is only slightly higher again in the case of municipal or local governments (28%).

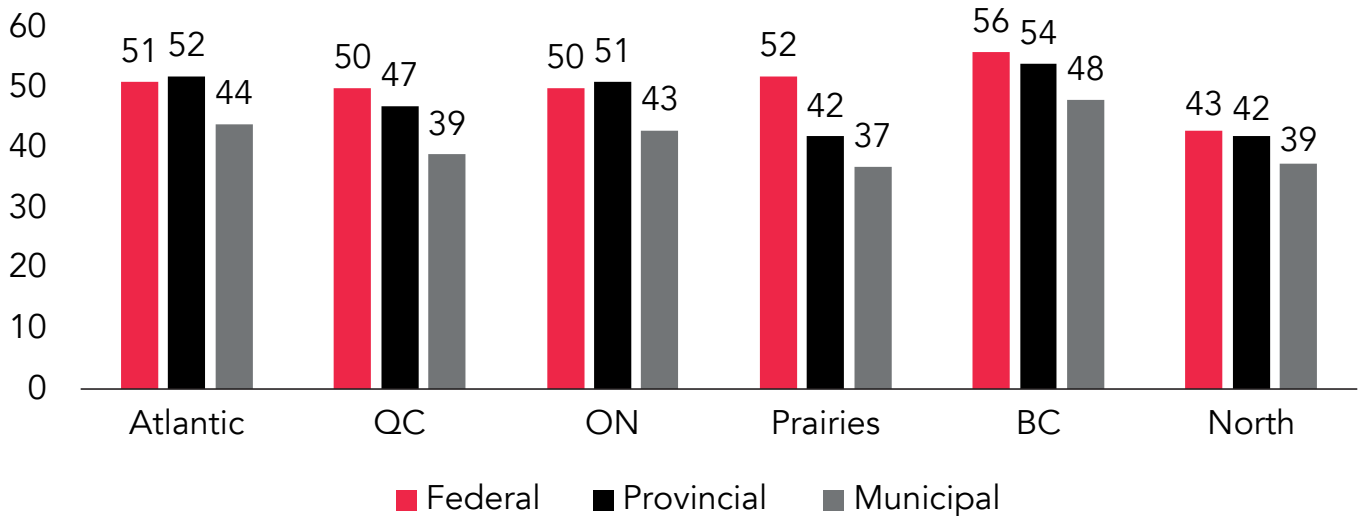
In every province, disapproval of how both the federal and the provincial government are managing the supply of affordable housing outweighs approval by a significant margin. Disapproval of municipal governments' management of this issue also outweighs approval in every province, but by a somewhat narrower margin (particularly in the three Prairie provinces).

In the North, however, residents are slightly more likely to approve (44%) than disapprove (42%) of how territorial governments are managing this issue.

In the three largest provinces - Ontario, Quebec, and BC - as well as in Atlantic Canada federal and provincial governments attract very similar levels of disapproval when it comes to managing the supply of affordable housing. Only in the Prairies is disapproval of the federal government (52%) significantly higher than that for provincial governments (42%). That said, only 28 percent of Prairie province residents approve of their provincial government's management of the supply of affordable housing.

**FIGURE 2**

Affordable housing: disapproval of governments, by region:  
Somewhat or strongly disapprove

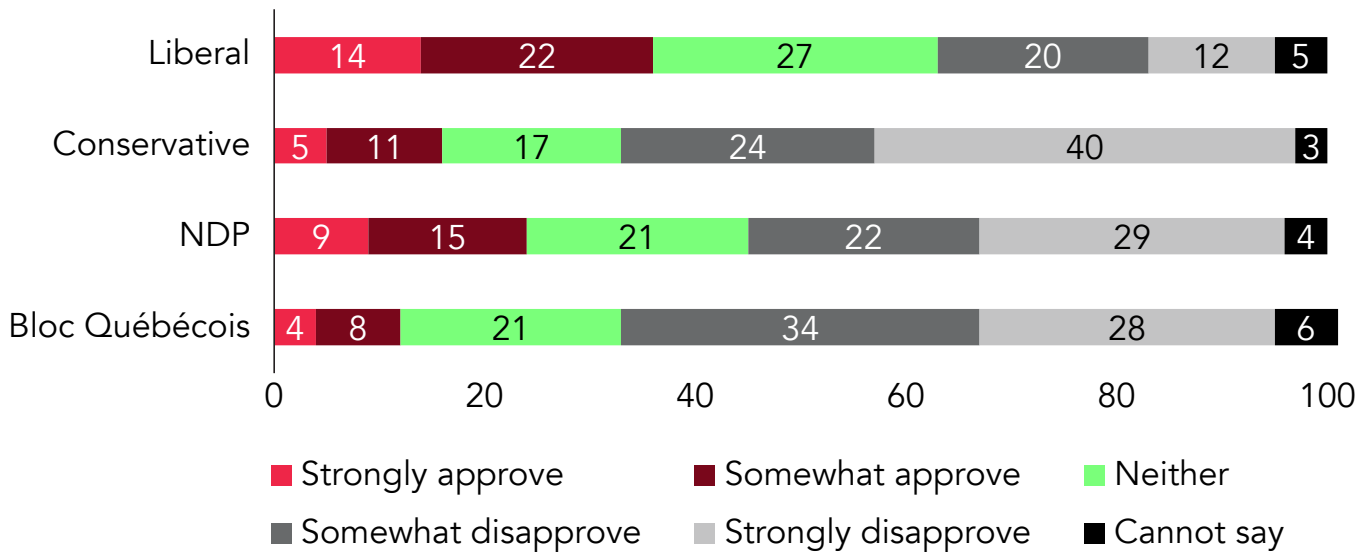


Q.81: To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the federal government's / your provincial/territorial government's / your municipal or local government's management of the supply of affordable housing?

Not surprisingly, supporters of the opposition parties at the federal level are more likely than supporters of the government to disapprove of the how the federal government is managing the supply of affordable housing. Disapproval reaches 64 percent among Conservative Party supporters, 61 percent among Bloc Québécois supporters, 58 percent among Green Party supporters, and 51 percent among NDP supporters - compared to 31 percent of Liberal Party supporters. However, only 36 percent of Liberal Party supporters approve of how the federal government is managing this issue.

**FIGURE 3**

**Affordable housing: approval of federal government, by federal vote intention**



Q.81: To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the federal government's management of the supply of affordable housing?

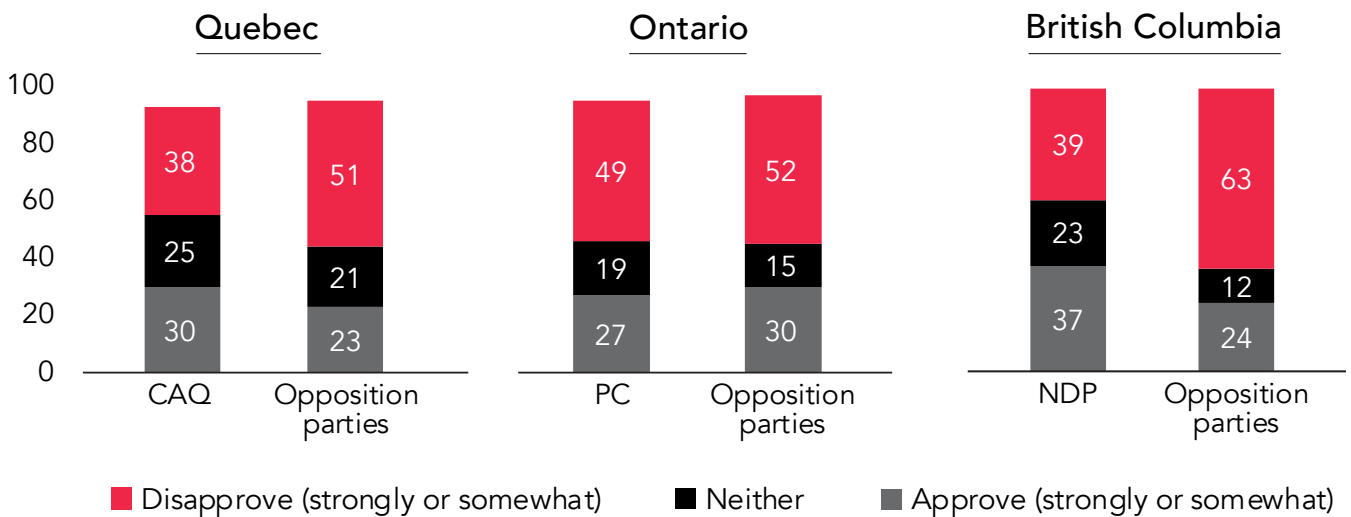
Approval of how provincial governments are managing the supply of affordable housing is, not surprisingly, lower among those who support provincial opposition parties compared to those who support the government. But it is also relatively low even among many of those governments' supporters. For instance:

- Among those who would vote for the governing Progressive Conservative Party in Ontario, only 27 percent approve of how the provincial government is managing the supply of affordable housing, compared to 49 percent who disapprove.
- Among those who would vote for the governing CAQ in Quebec, only 30 percent approve of how the provincial government is managing the supply of affordable housing, compared to 38 percent who disapprove.

- Among those who would vote for the governing NDP in B.C., only 37 percent approve of how the provincial government is managing the supply of affordable housing, compared to 39 percent who disapprove.

**FIGURE 4**

Affordable housing: approval of provincial government, by provincial vote intention

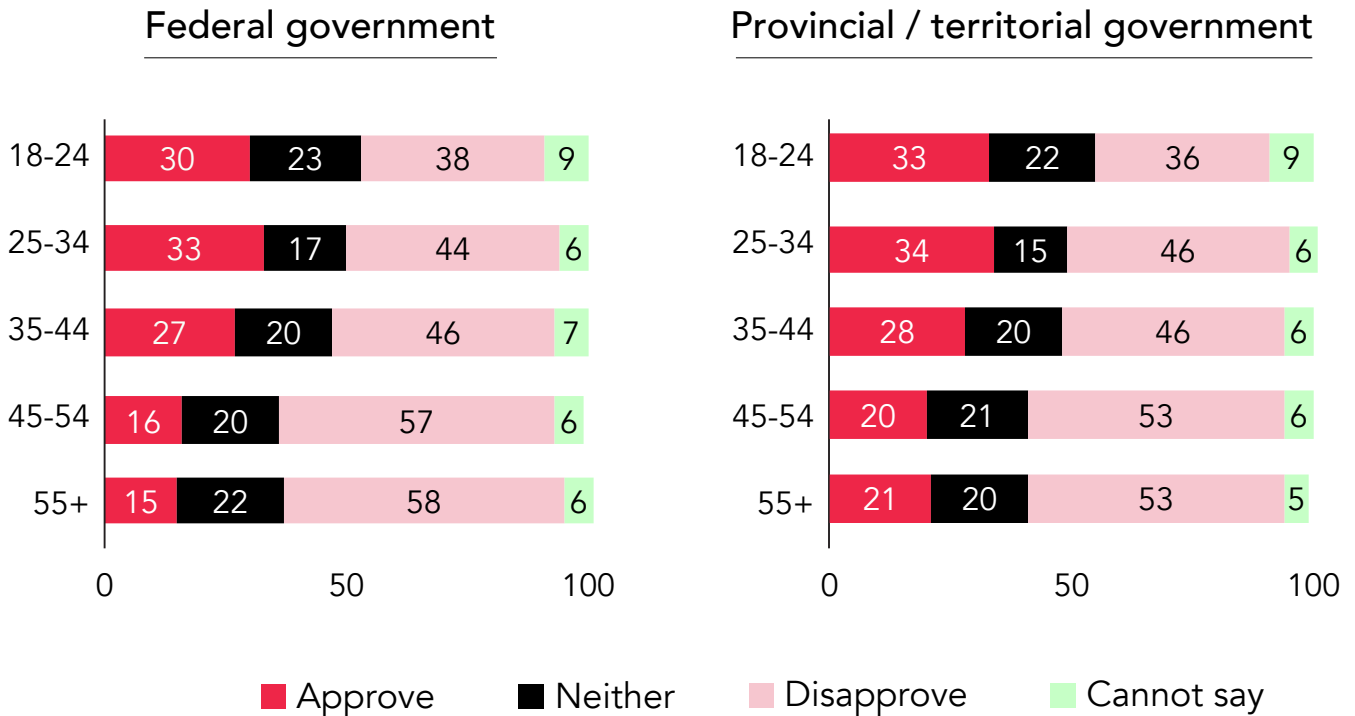


Q.81: To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the federal government’s management of the supply of affordable housing?

Disapproval of how both the federal and the provincial government are managing the supply of affordable housing also outweighs approval among those in every age group. However, levels of disapproval of all three governments in this regard is lowest for those in the youngest age group (age 18 to 24) and increases with age. Disapproval is highest among those age 45 and older.

**FIGURE 5**

Affordable housing: approval of federal and provincial governments, by age group



Q.81: To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the federal government's / your provincial/territorial government's / your municipal or local government's management of the supply of affordable housing?

## Implications

Canadians need their governments to work together to make housing more affordable. But at the moment, neither the federal government, nor any of the 10 provincial governments, nor municipal governments are seen to be performing well on this issue. None of these governments gains the approval of more than one in three people, regardless of which province they live in. The absence of apparent solutions being offered from any level of government is likely contributing to Canadians' overall dissatisfaction with the direction of the country.



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