

Quebec and the Canadian federation

Results from the Confederation of Tomorrow
Survey of Canadians 2026 Series



**Environics
Institute**
For Survey Research

June 2026

About the Survey



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 since 2019 by an association of the country's leading public policy and socio-economic research organizations.

The 2026 Study

The 2026 study consists of a survey of 5,696 adults, conducted between February 14 and March 28, 2026 (92% of the responses were collected between February 19 and March 7); 91 percent of the responses were collected online. The remaining responses were collected by telephone (both landline and cell phone) from respondents living in the North or on First Nations reserves, or from francophone respondents in New Brunswick. The sample includes 1,247 residents of Quebec, 1,034 of whom have French as their home language.



Survey partners:



Highlights



With the 8th annual survey, the 2026 edition confirms a paradox

- After some movement towards Canadian identity in 2025, no doubt linked to Trump and his tariffs, identification with Quebec is on the rise: 63% of francophones consider themselves to be Quebecers first or only, compared to 57% in 2025.
- The feeling that the French language is threatened is at an all-time high (76%), and the perception that English Canadians consider francophones as inferior remains high (69%).
- But this assertion of identity does not translate into momentum for sovereignty.
- Only 25% of francophone Quebecers say they are mainly sovereigntist. But this is not necessarily good news for federalists: 17% of francophones say they are mainly federalists — a low point in the series.
- The majority lies elsewhere: 58% of francophone Quebecers define themselves as "in between," "neither," or say they don't know.
- Half (50%) believe that sovereignty is an idea whose time has passed, but this is five points lower than in 2025. The proportion agreeing with this statement is lower among 18-34 year olds (43%).

A nuanced tale on the federation

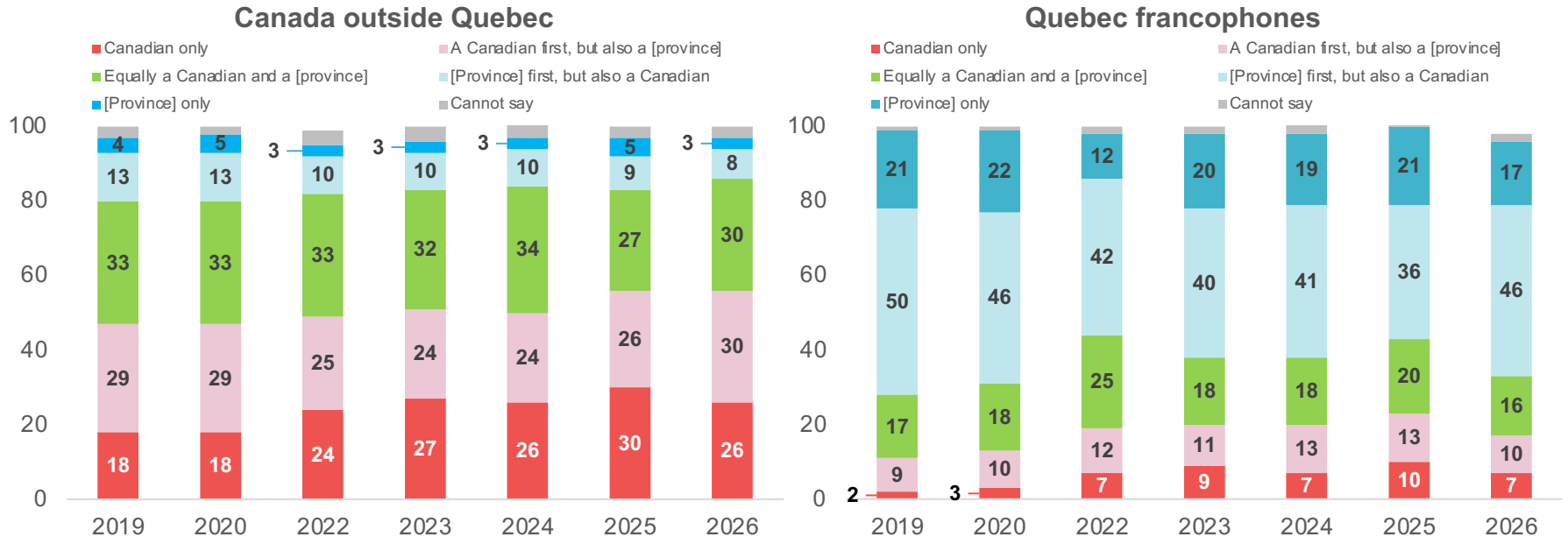
- The share of Quebecers who believe that federalism provides Quebec with more advantages than disadvantages sits at 44%, down slightly (47% in 2025)
- Only 31 per cent believe that the provincial government best represents their interests (down from 54 per cent in 2021), while "none of the above" rises to 26 per cent.
- The proportion of Quebecers who feel that Quebec is not receiving the respect it deserves (48%) exceeds those who disagree (36%), but these proportions have been fairly stable over seven years.
- On the notwithstanding clause, only 14% of francophone Quebecers would give the last word to Parliament compared to 59% to the Supreme Court, and support for the notwithstanding clause drops to 24%.

Identity



Identity: Canadian, provincial or both?

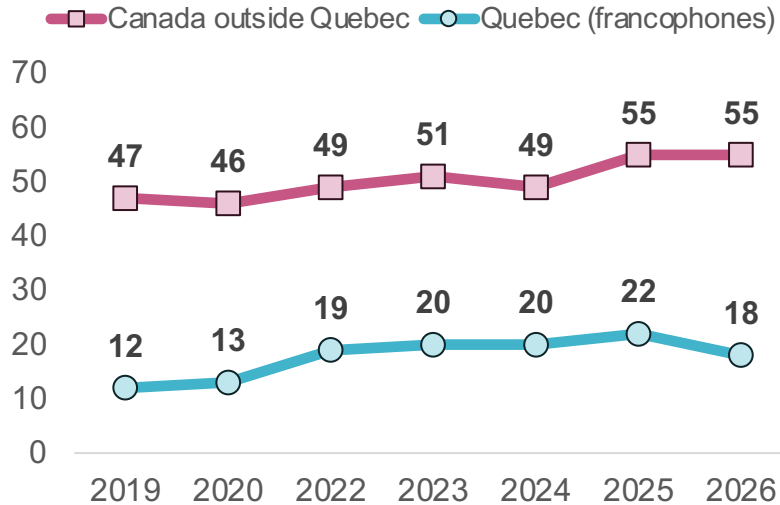
2019 – 2026, Quebec francophones & the rest of Canada



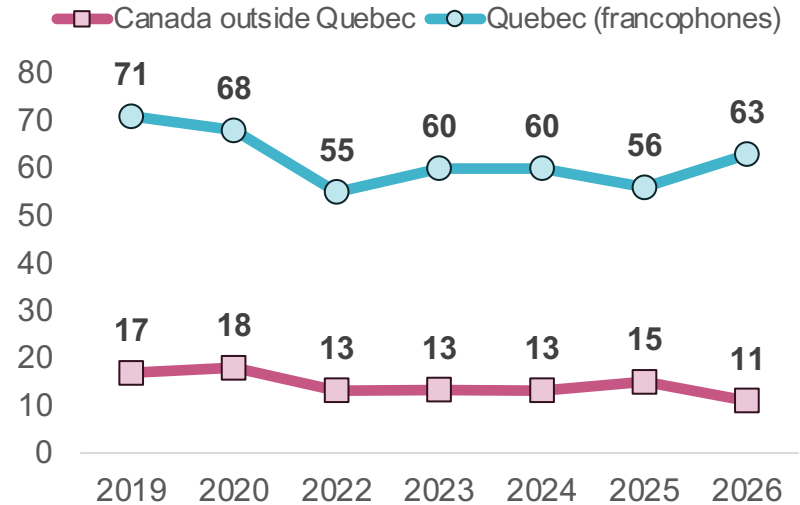
Identity: Canadian, provincial or both?

2019 – 2026, Quebec francophones & the rest of Canada

Canadian first or only



Province first or only

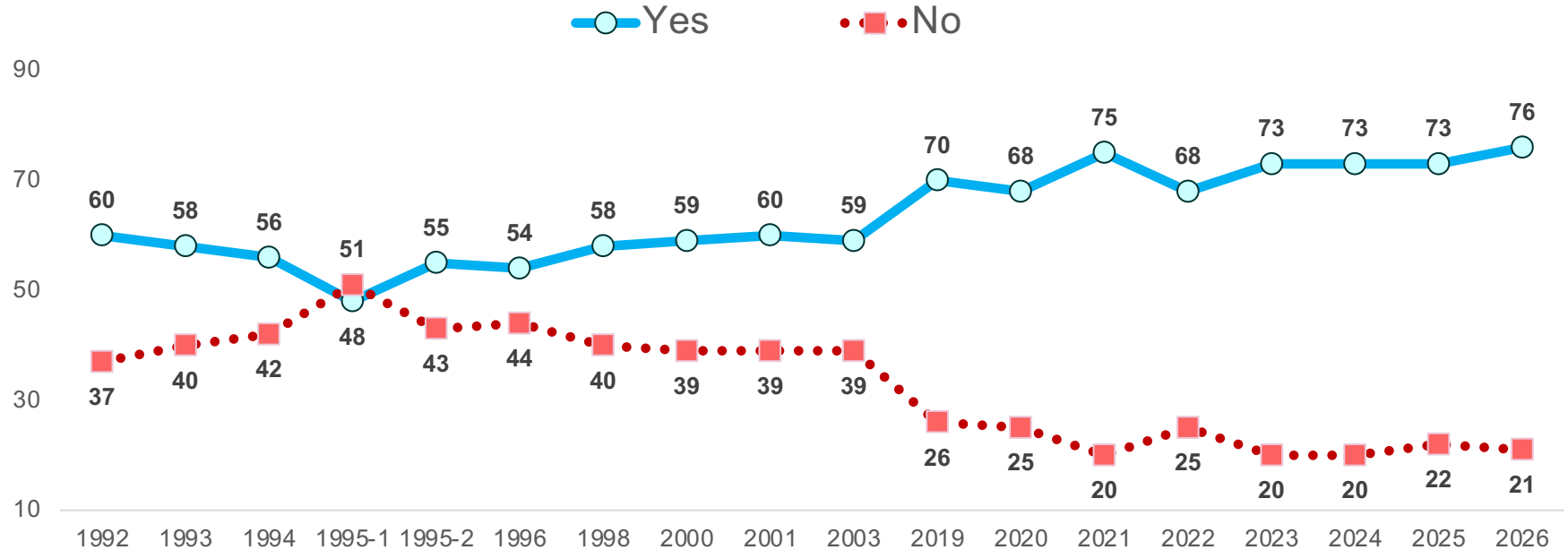


Language

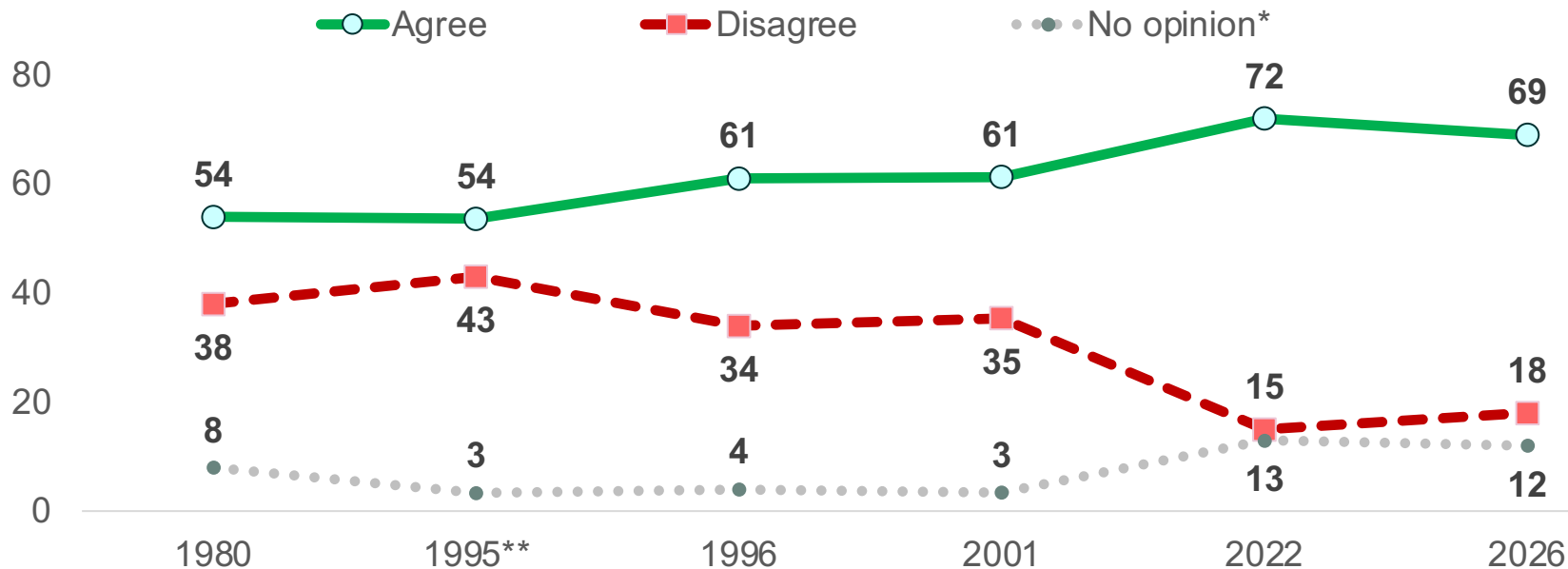


In your opinion, is the French language in Quebec threatened or not?

1992 – 2026, Quebec francophones only



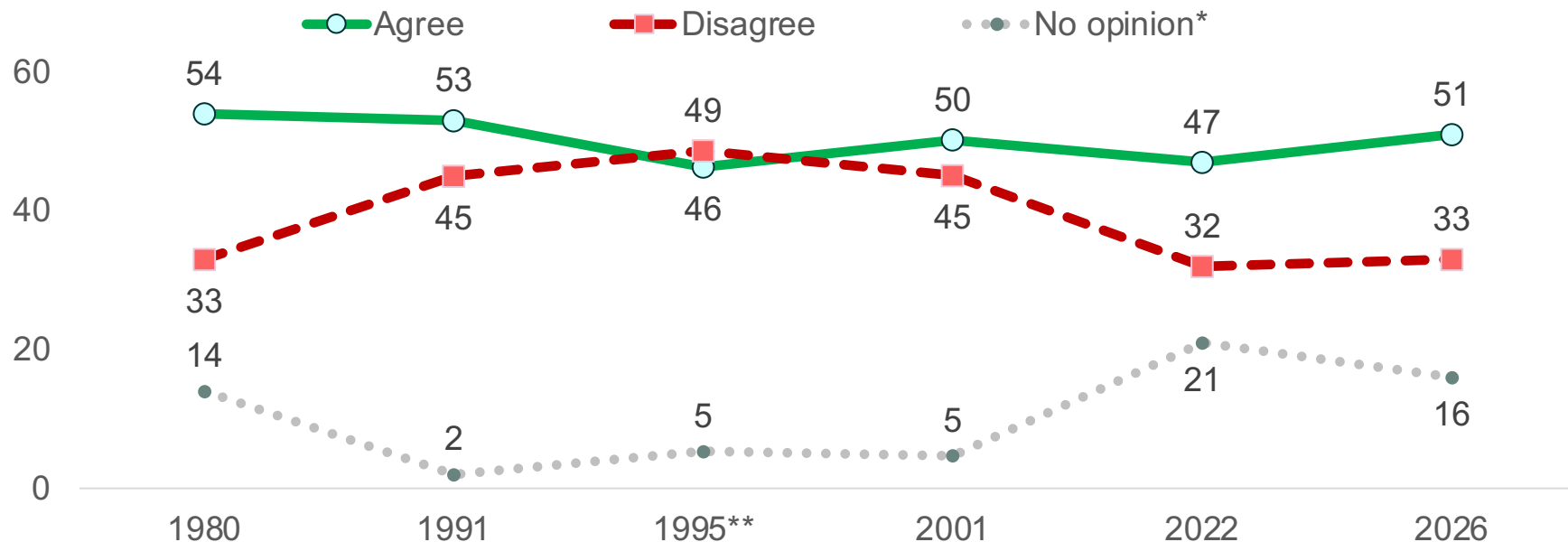
Do English Canadians think that French Canadians are inferior to them? 1980 – 2026, Quebec francophones only



How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: English Canadians often tend to think that French Canadians are inferior to them.

* No opinion = don't know or cannot say; ** 1995 = average of three surveys
Source for 1980 to 1995: Maurice Pinard; source for 2001: CRIC

In Quebec, are francophones economically dominated by anglophones? 1980 – 2026, Quebec francophones only



How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: In Quebec, francophones are economically dominated by anglophones.

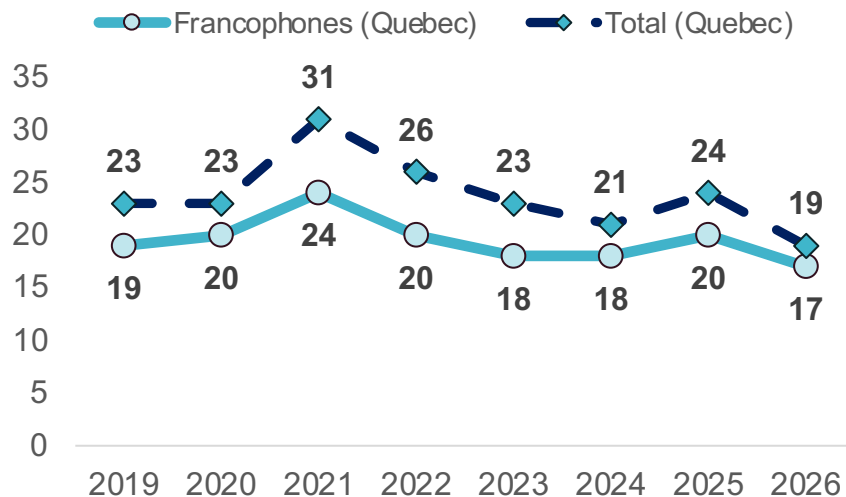
* No opinion = don't know or cannot say; ** 1995 = average of three surveys
Source for 1980 to 1995: Maurice Pinard; source for 2001: CRIC

Sovereignty

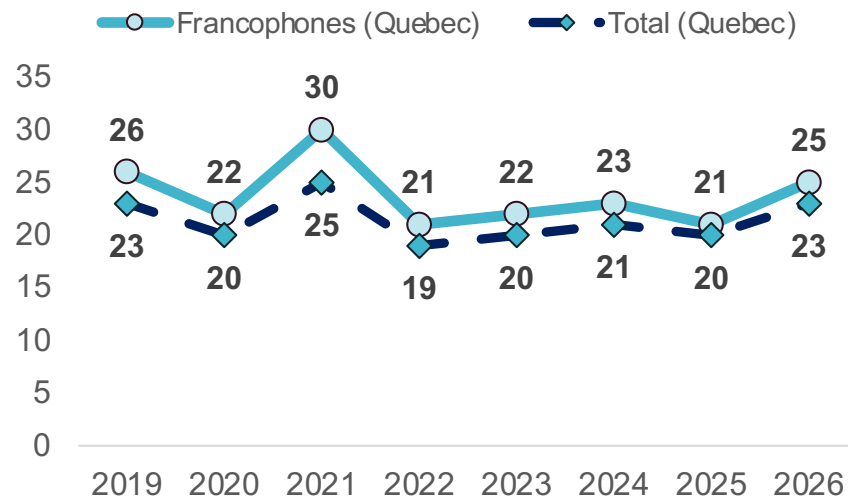


Quebecers: federalist or sovereigntist? 2019 – 2026

Mainly a federalist

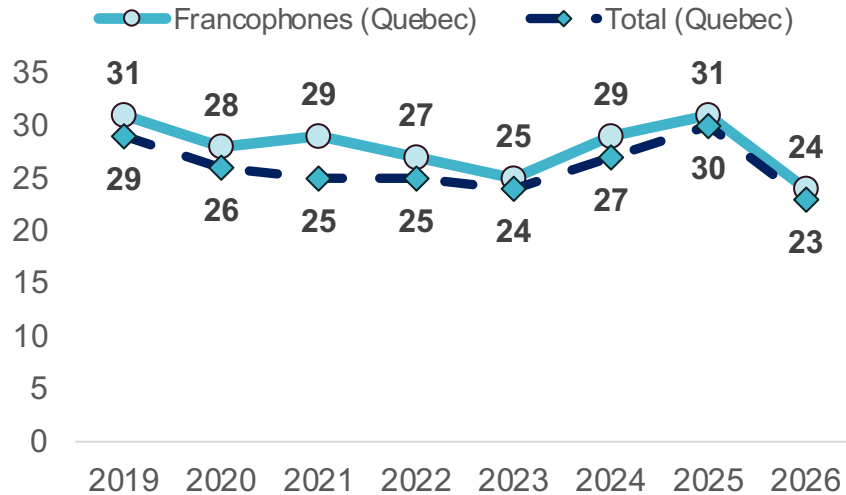


Mainly a sovereigntist

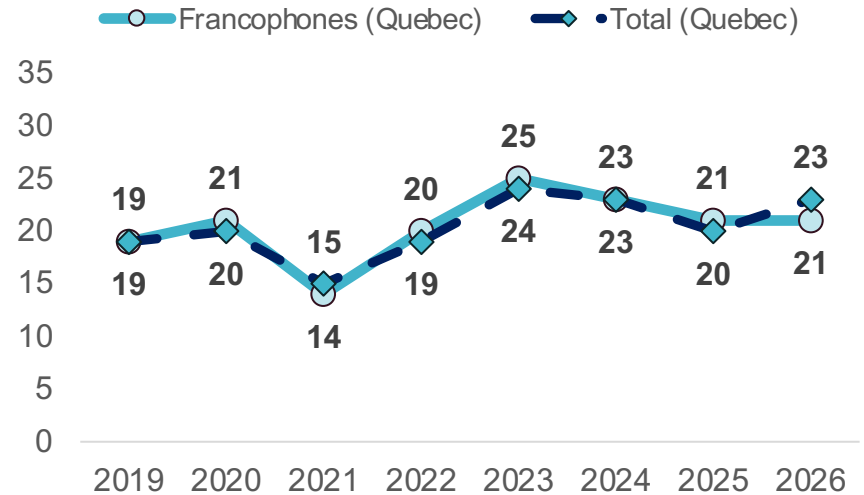


Quebecers: federalist or sovereigntist? 2019 – 2026

In between the two

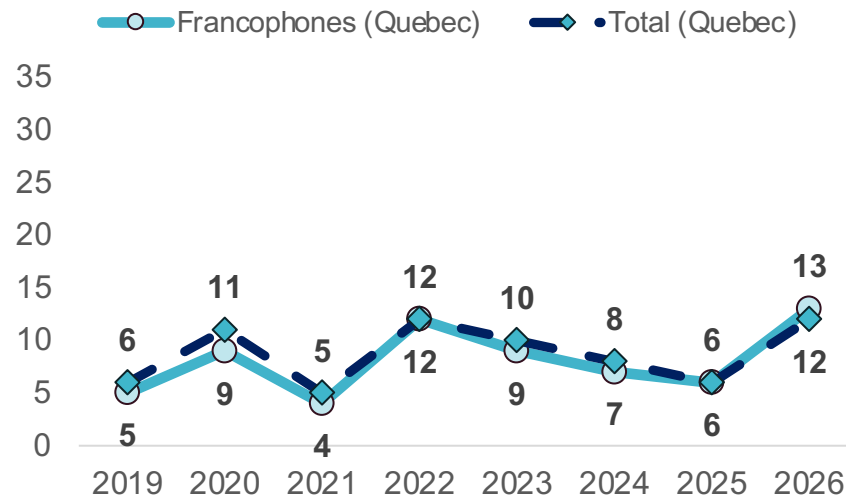


Neither



Quebecers: federalist or sovereigntist? 2019 – 2026

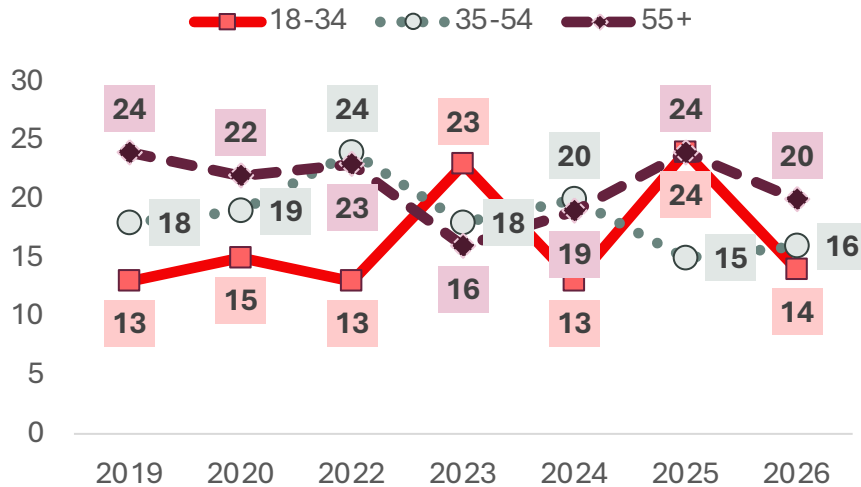
Cannot say



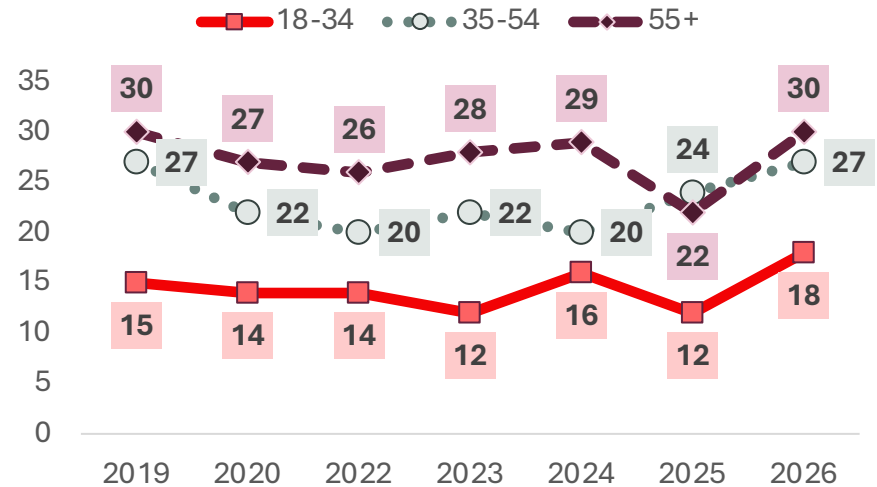
Quebecers: federalist or sovereigntist?

2024 – 2026, francophones only, by age group

Mainly a federalist

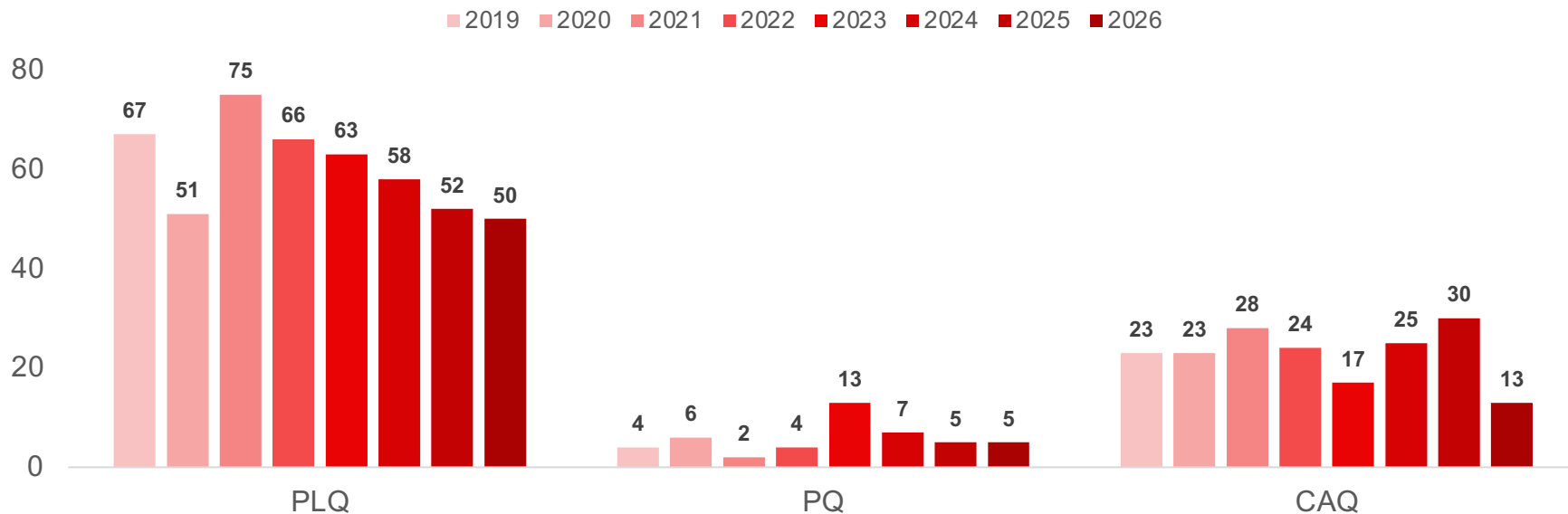


Mainly a sovereigntist



Quebecers: federalist or sovereigntist? 2019 – 2026, by provincial vote intention

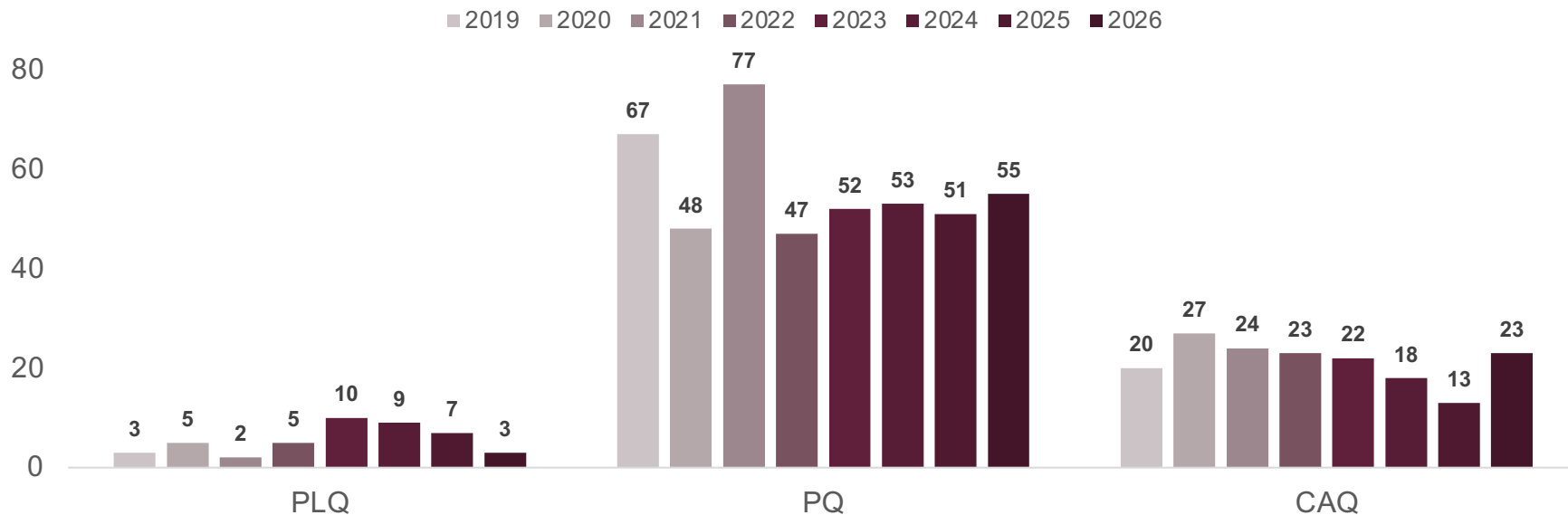
Mainly federalist



Quebecers: federalist or sovereigntist?

2019 – 2026, by provincial vote intention

Mainly sovereigntist

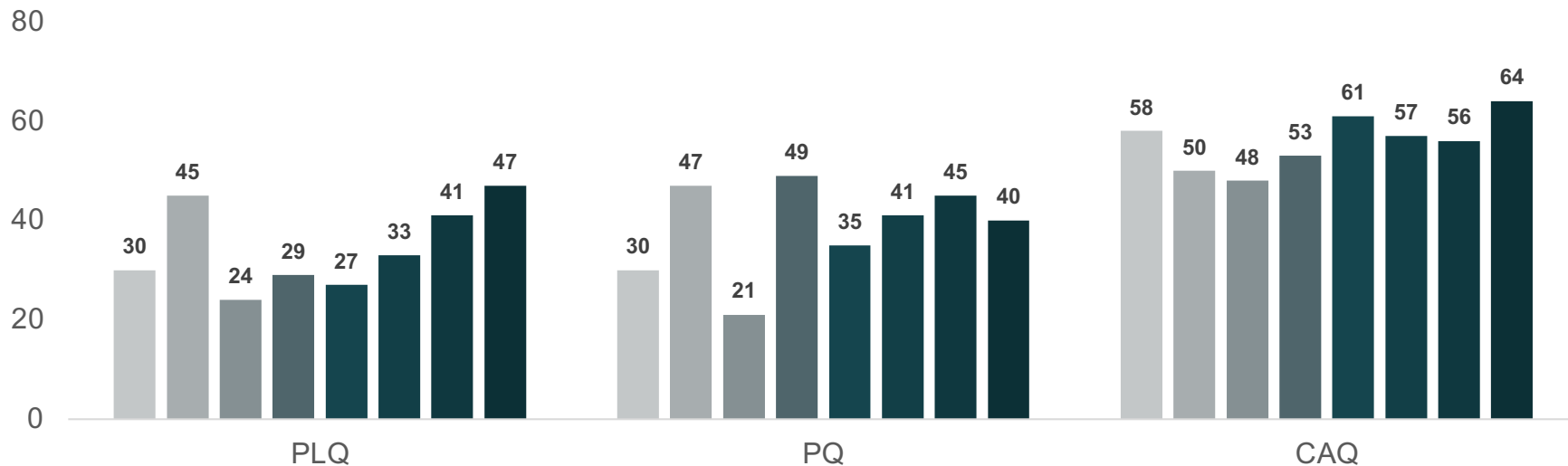


Quebecers: federalist or sovereigntist?

2019 – 2026, by provincial vote intention

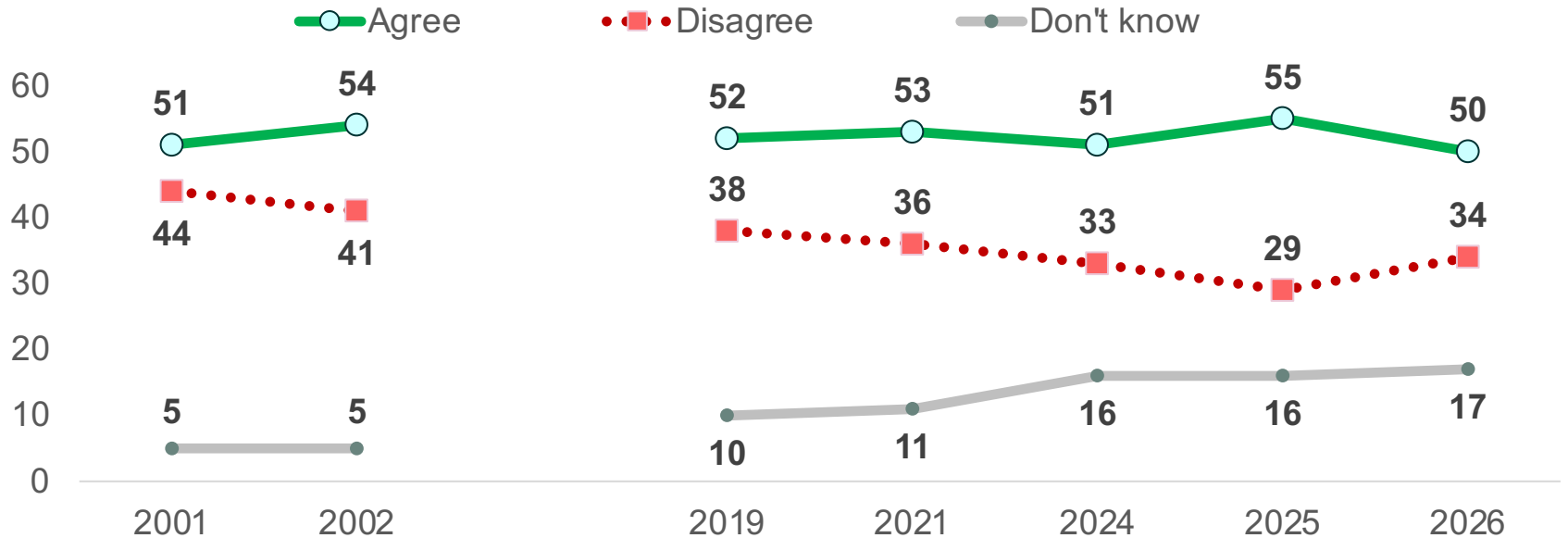
In between, neither or cannot say

■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023 ■ 2024 ■ 2025 ■ 2026



Is Quebec sovereignty an idea whose time has passed?

2001 – 2002 & 2019 – 2026, Quebec francophones only

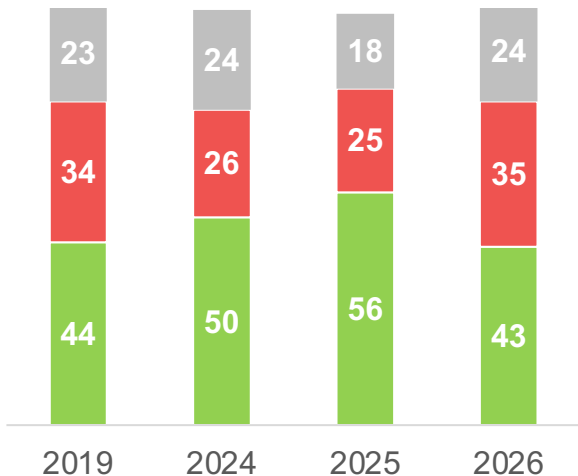


Is Quebec sovereignty an idea whose time has passed?

2024 – 2026, Quebec francophones only, by age group

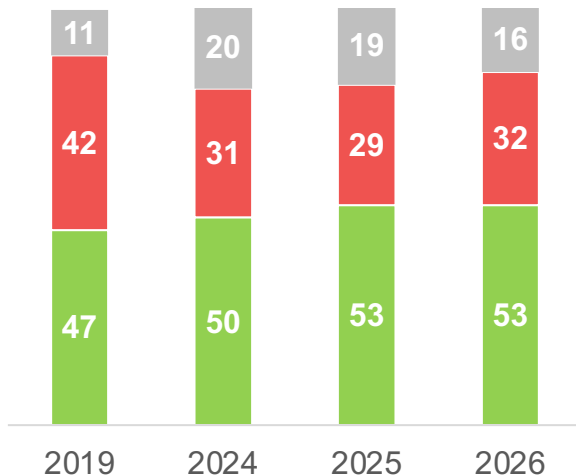
Age 18-34

■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Cannot say



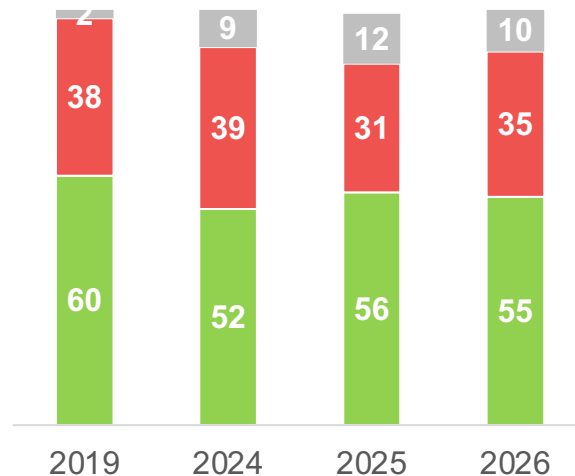
Age 35-54

■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Cannot say



Age 55+

■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Cannot say



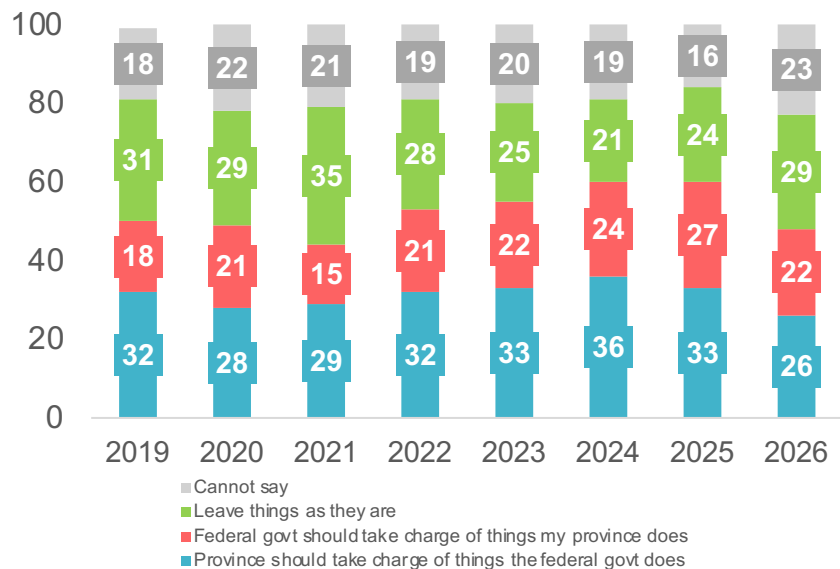
Federalism



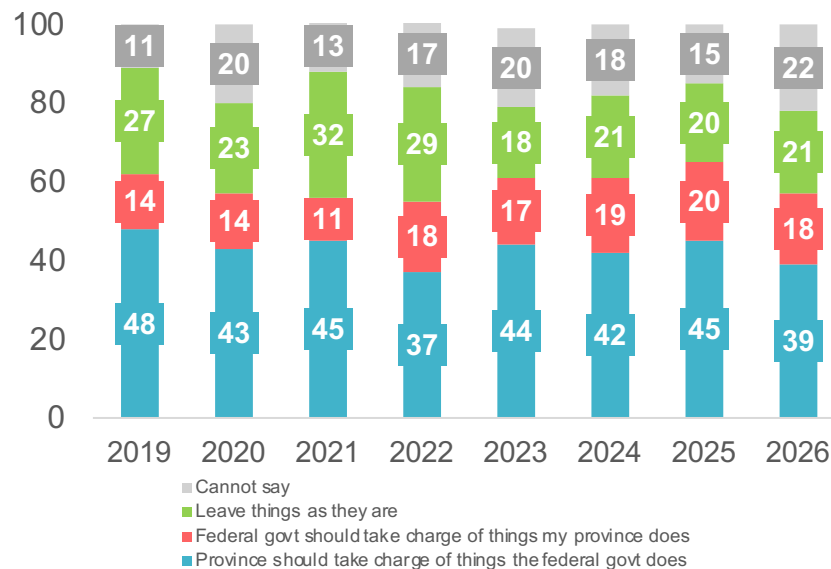
Decentralization or decentralization?

2019 – 2026, Quebec & the rest of Canada

Canada outside Quebec

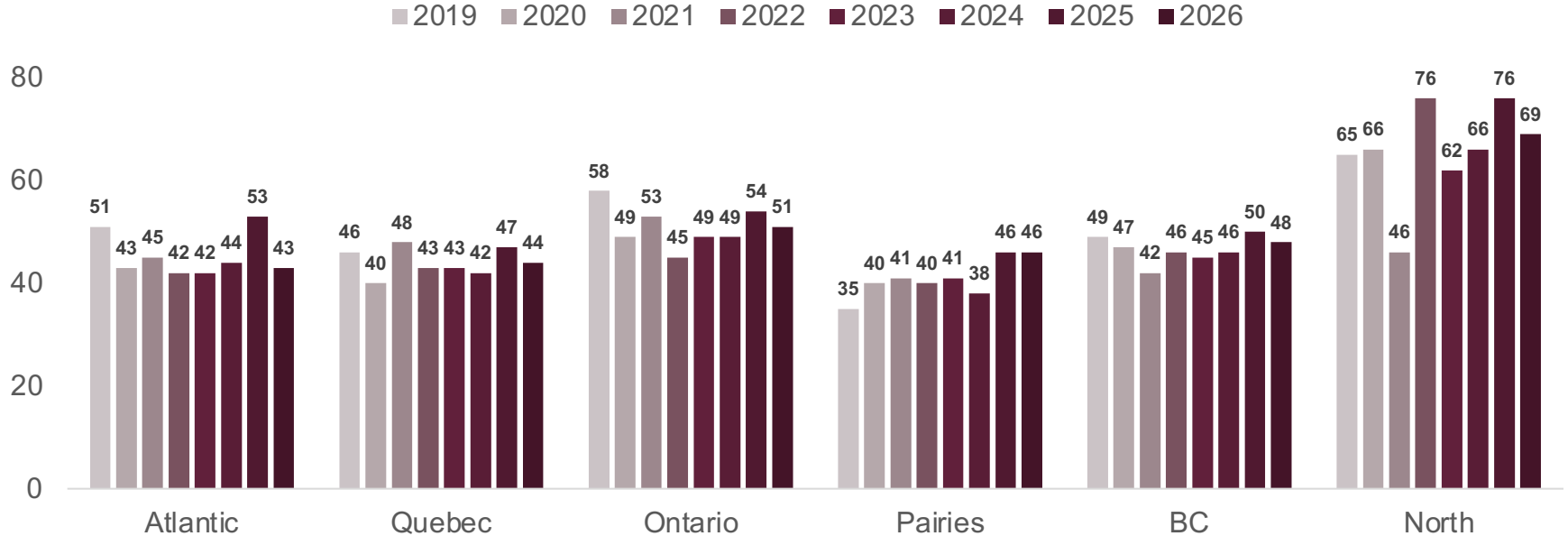


Quebec



Does Canadian federalism have more advantages than disadvantages for province / territory?

2019 – 2026, strongly or somewhat agree, by region



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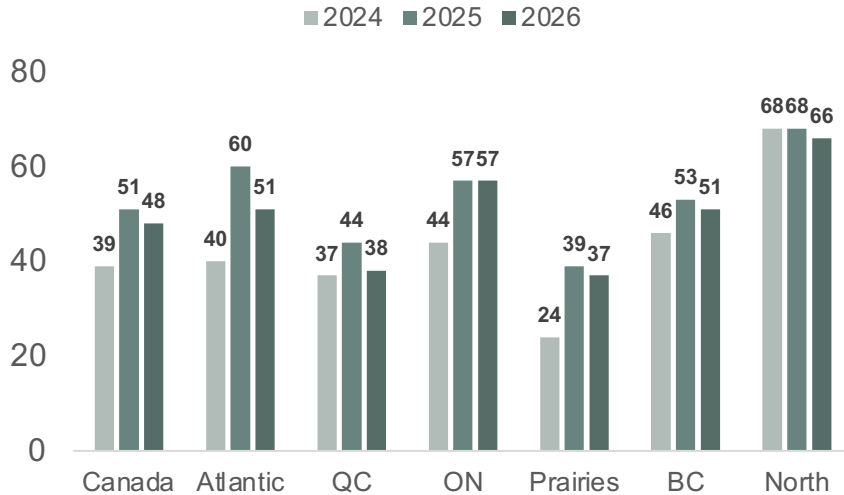
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Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements: Canadian federalism has more advantages than disadvantages for [name of province / territory]

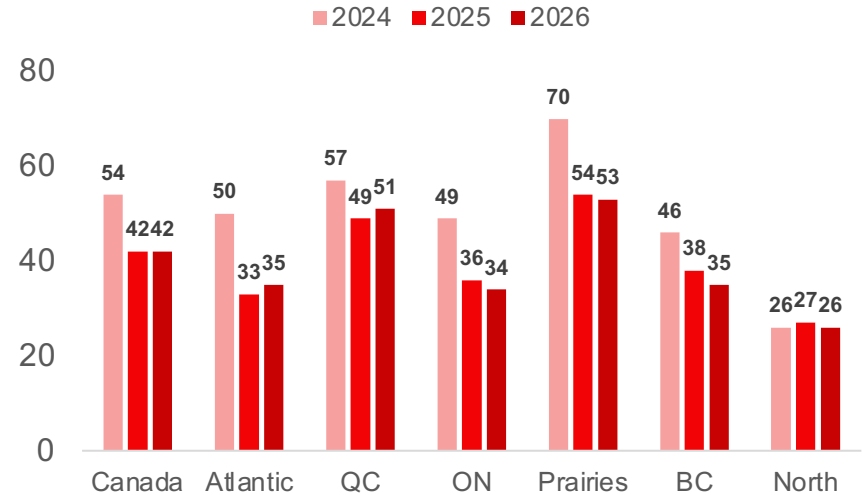
Are governments working well together?

2024 - 2026, by region

Working well together



Not working well together



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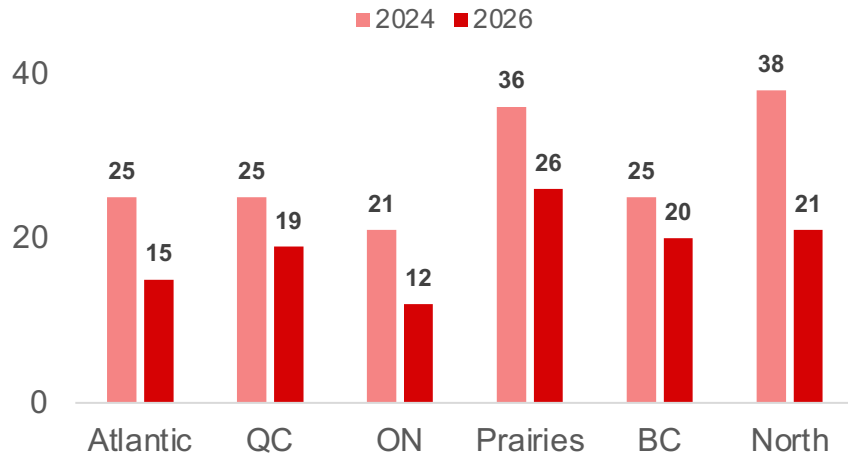


Confederation
of Tomorrow

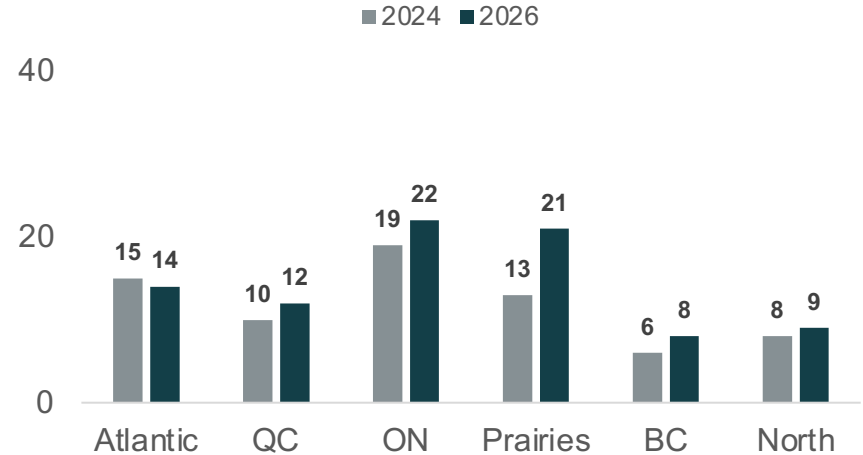
Do you think the federal and provincial governments are working very well together, somewhat well, not very well or are they not working at all well together?

Which government is to blame for conflict? 2024 & 2026, by region

Federal government to blame



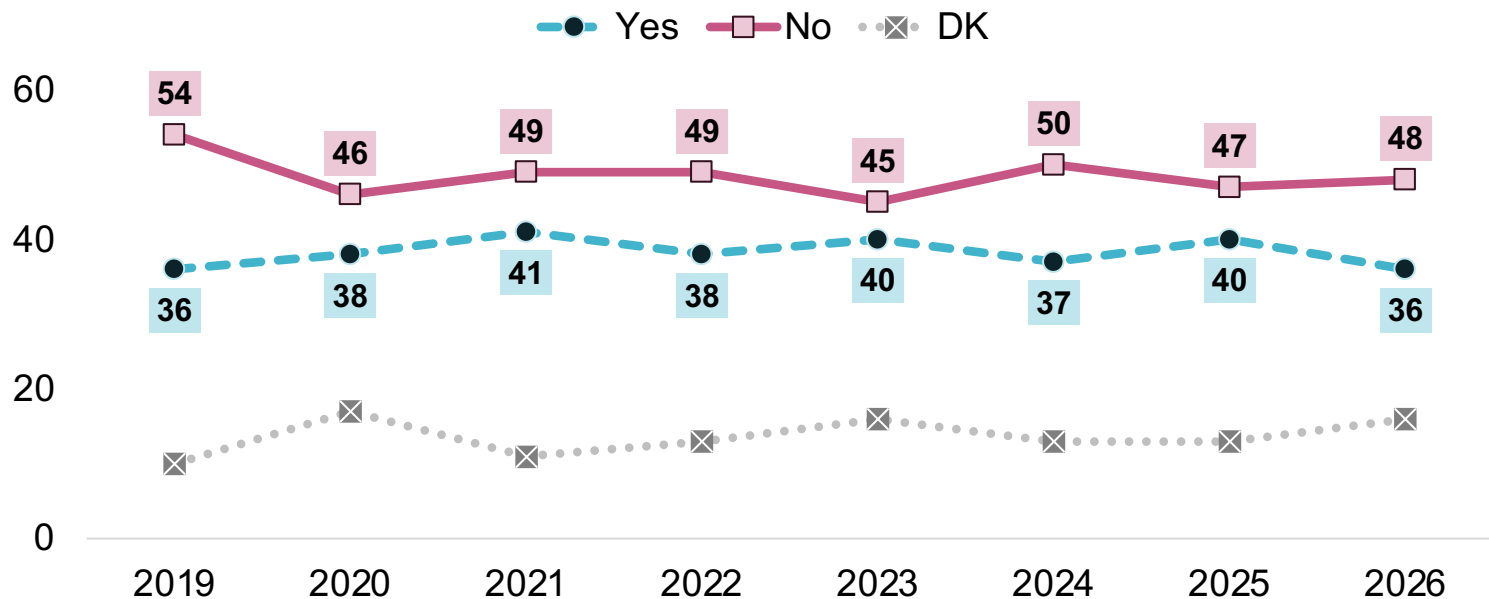
Provincial / territorial government to blame



Respect and influence

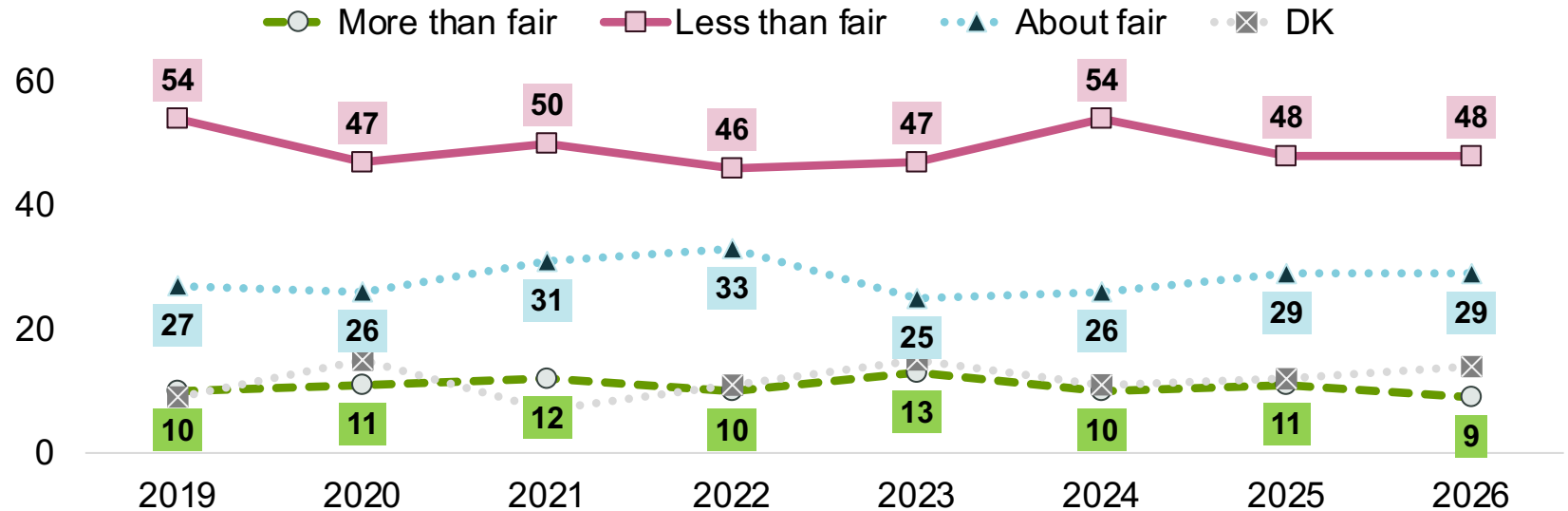


Is province / territory treated with the respect it deserves? 2019 – 2026, Quebec

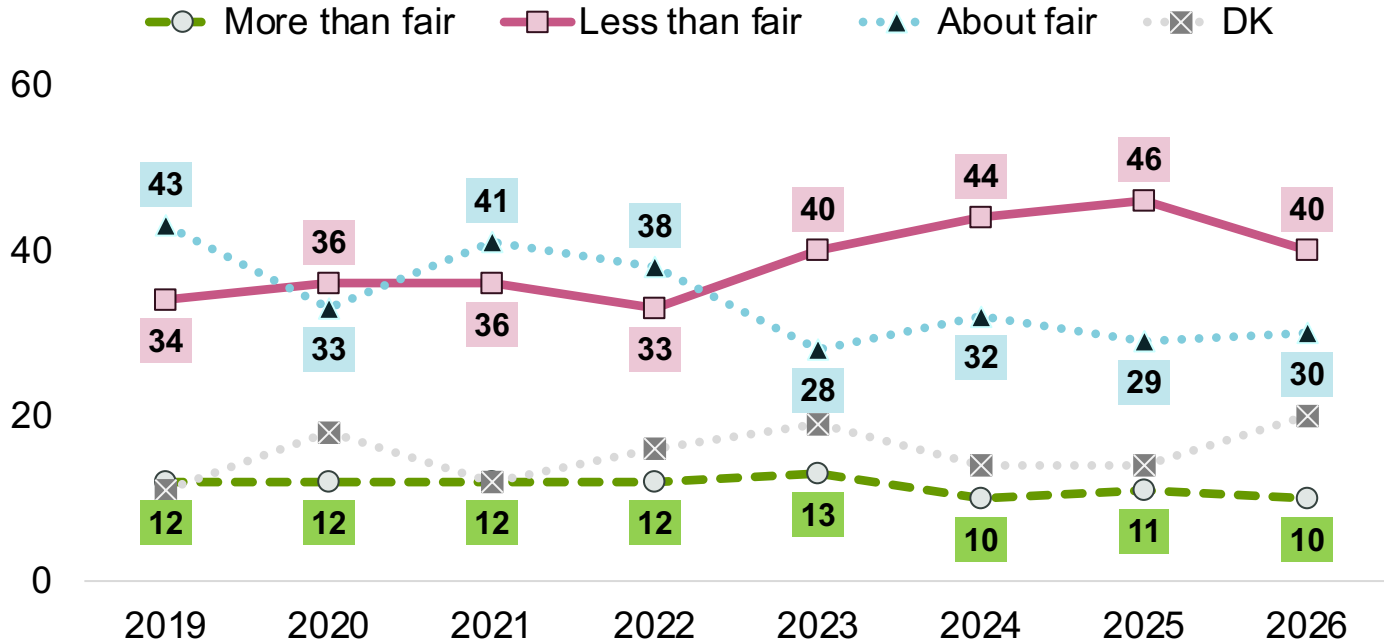


How much influence does province / territory have on important national decisions?

2019 – 2026, Quebec



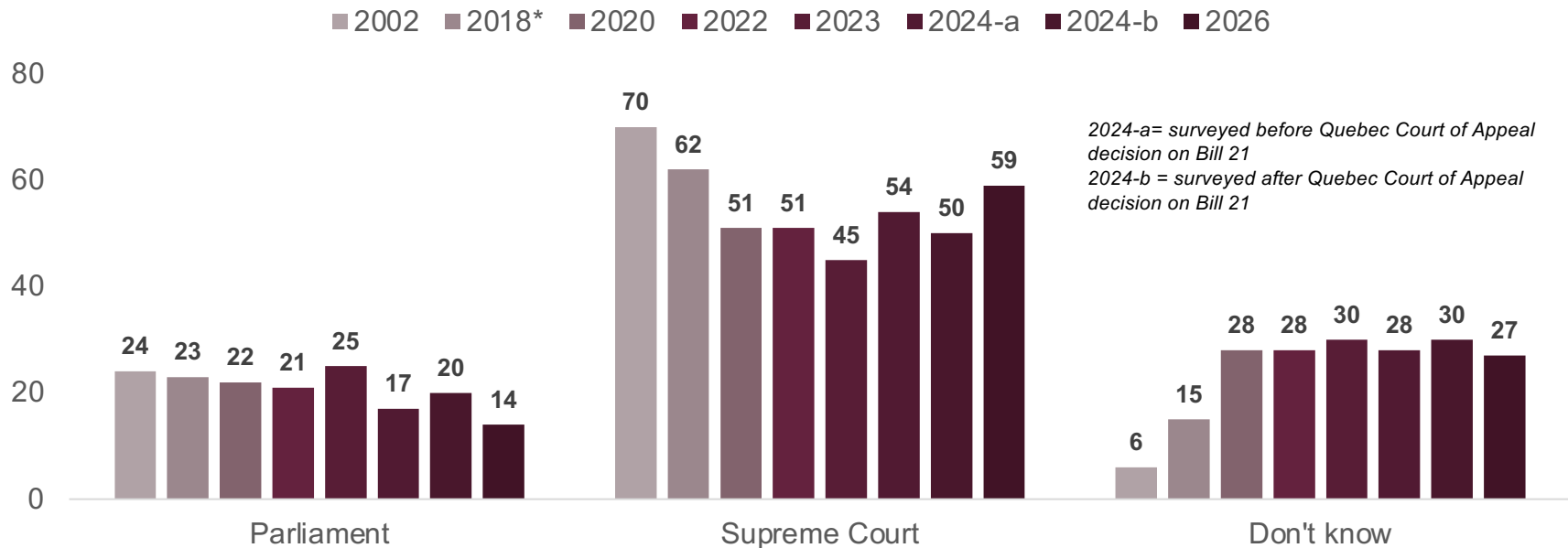
Does province / territory receive fair share of federal spending? 2019 – 2026, Quebec



Section 33



Parliament, the Court and the Charter: who has the final say? 2002 & 2018 – 2026, Quebec francophones only

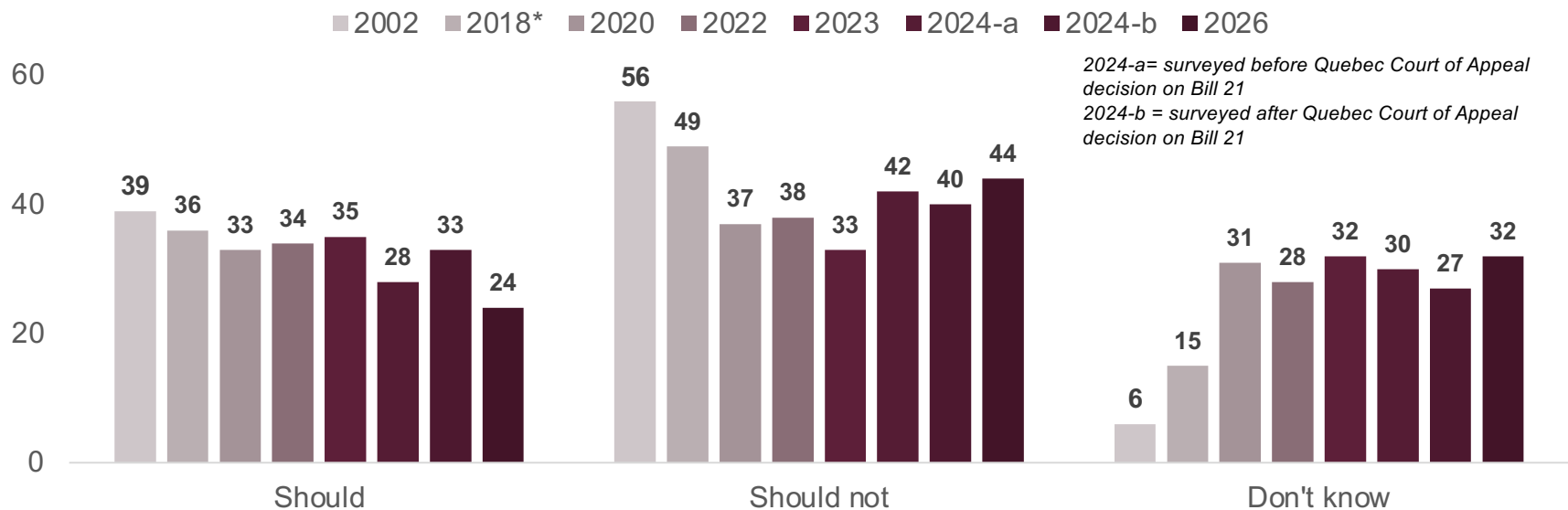


When Parliament passes a law but the Supreme Court of Canada says it is unconstitutional on the grounds that it conflicts with the Charter of Rights, who should have the final say, Parliament or the Supreme Court?

* 2018: question asked only to those who had heard of the Charter (85% of total sample) / language based on language of interview not home language.

Parliament, the Court and the Charter: should governments be allowed to override Charter?

2002 & 2018 – 2026, Quebec francophones only

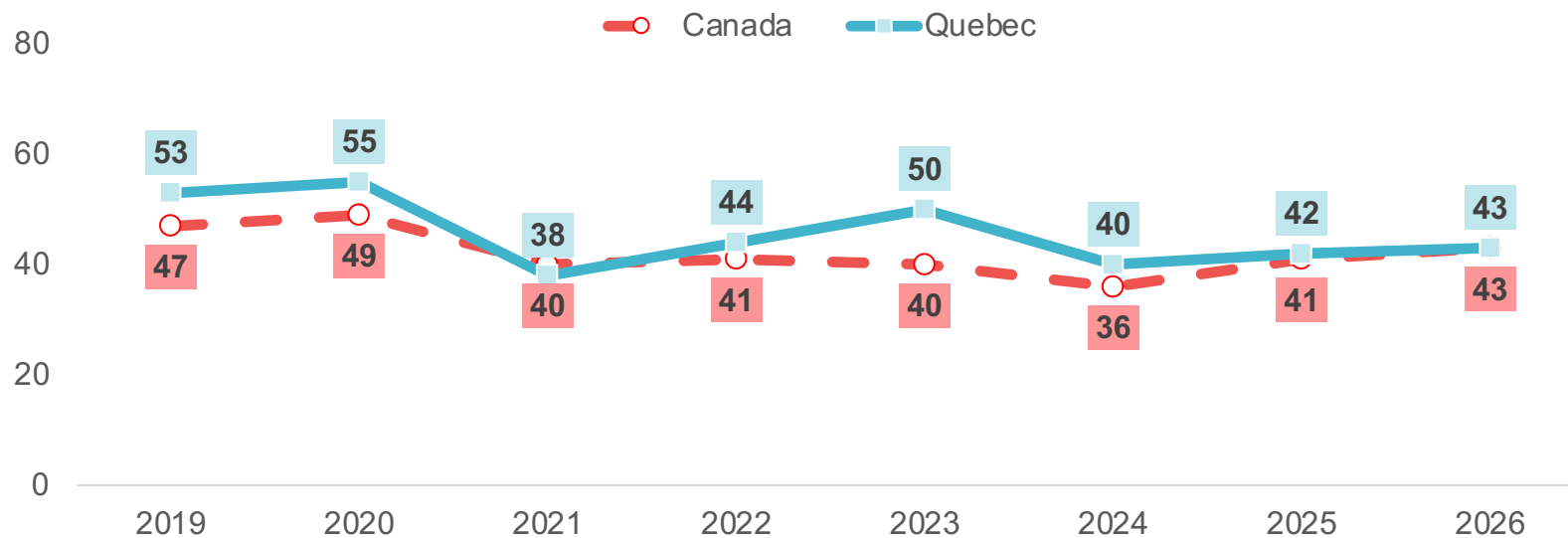


Additional questions



Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?

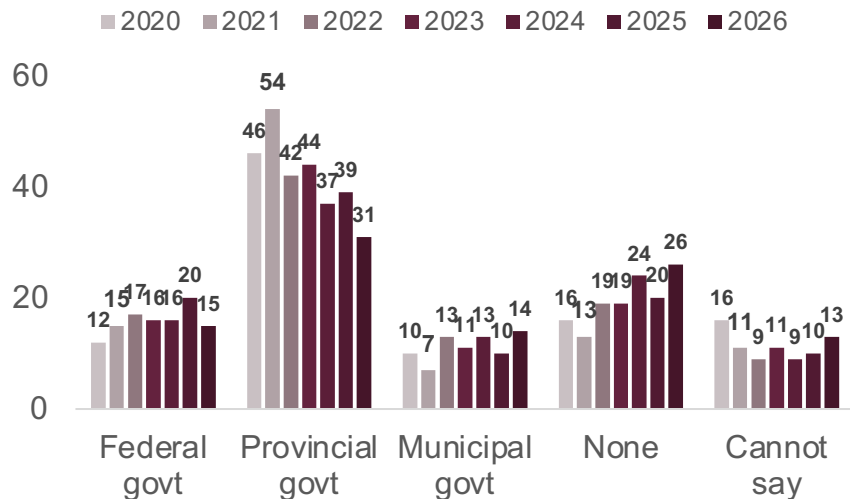
2019 – 2026, satisfied, Canada & Quebec



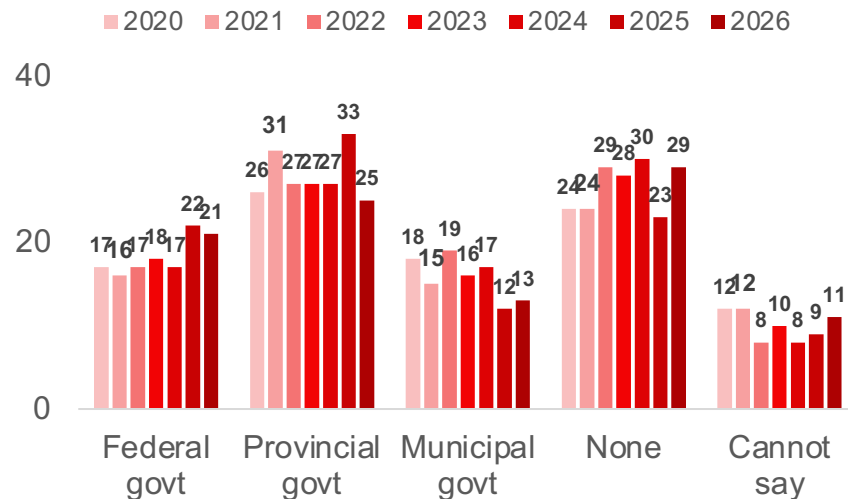
Which government do you believe best represents your interests?

2020 – 2026, Quebec & the rest of Canada

Quebec



Canada outside Quebec





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