

# Reconciliation and Relations with Indigenous Peoples

Results from the Confederation of Tomorrow  
Survey of Canadians 2026 Series



Confederation  
of Tomorrow



**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 survey sample includes 919 people who self-identify as Indigenous (First Nations, Métis or Inuk (Inuit)).



## Survey partners:



# Relations with Indigenous Peoples

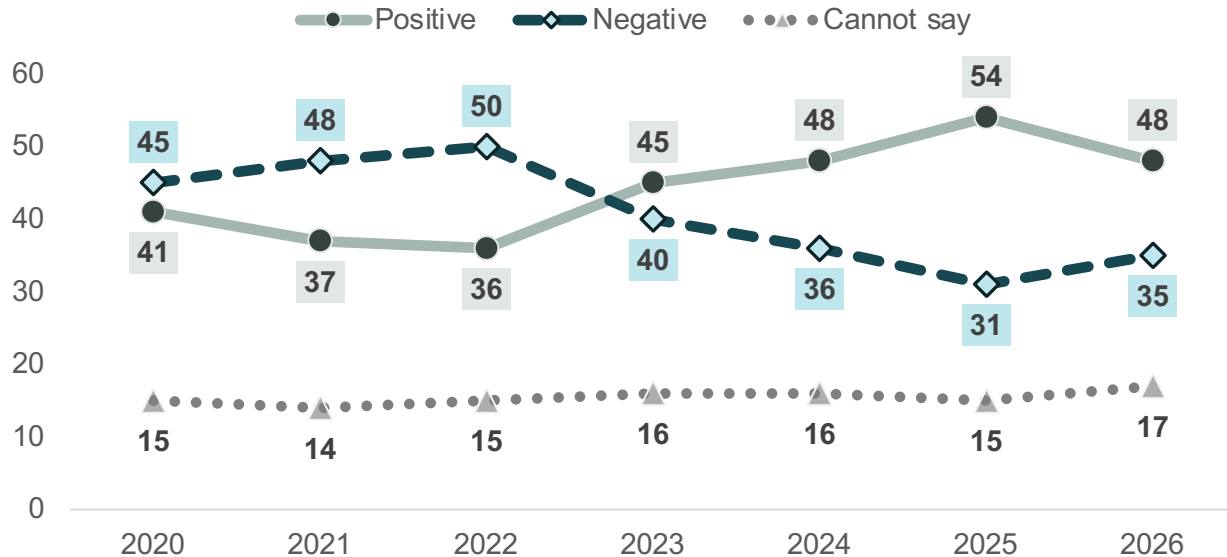
## Question:

Would you describe the current relations between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous people in Canada today as very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative?



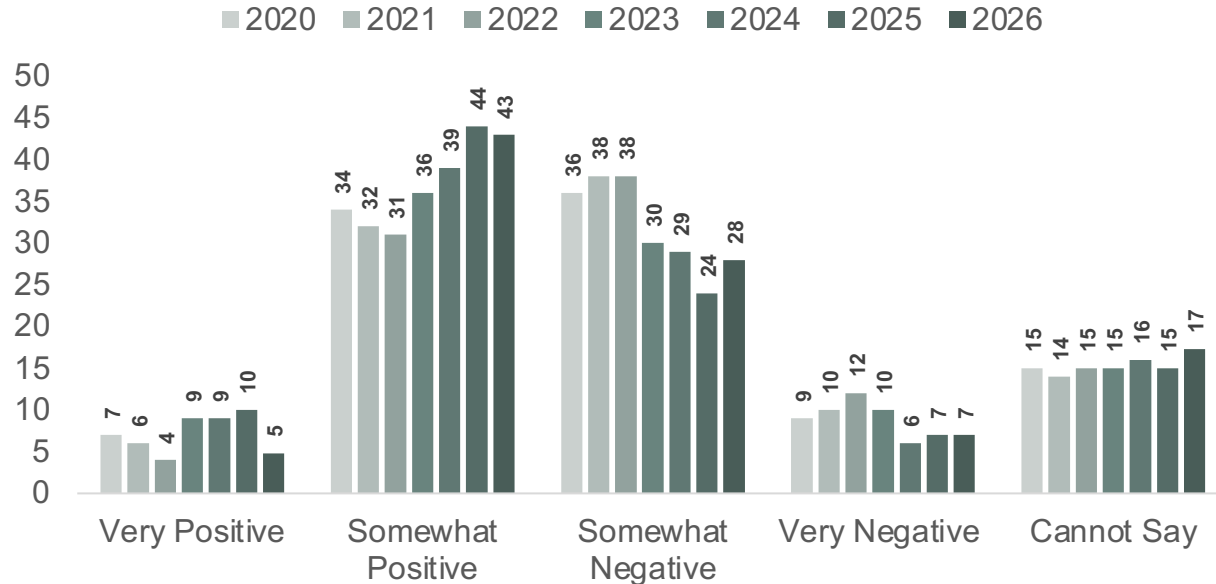
2020 - 2026

## Relations between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous people in Canada



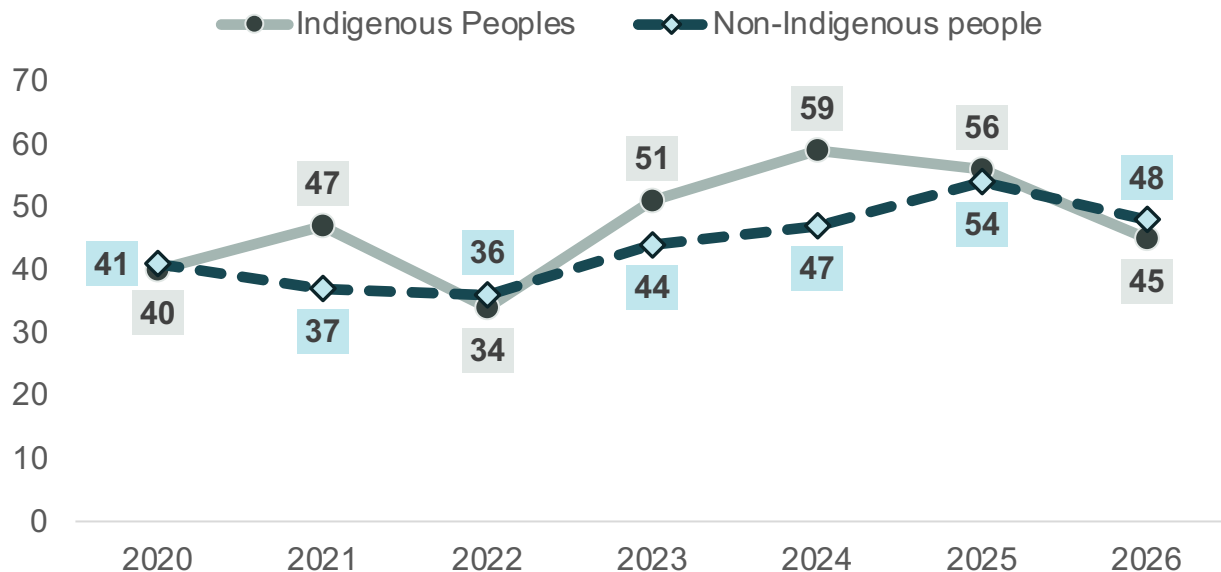
- The proportion of Canadians who see relations as positive declined by six points between 2025 and 2026.
- Nonetheless, Canadians continue to be more likely to see relations as positive than negative – a reversal of the situation that existed prior to 2023.

## Relations between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous people in Canada (detail)



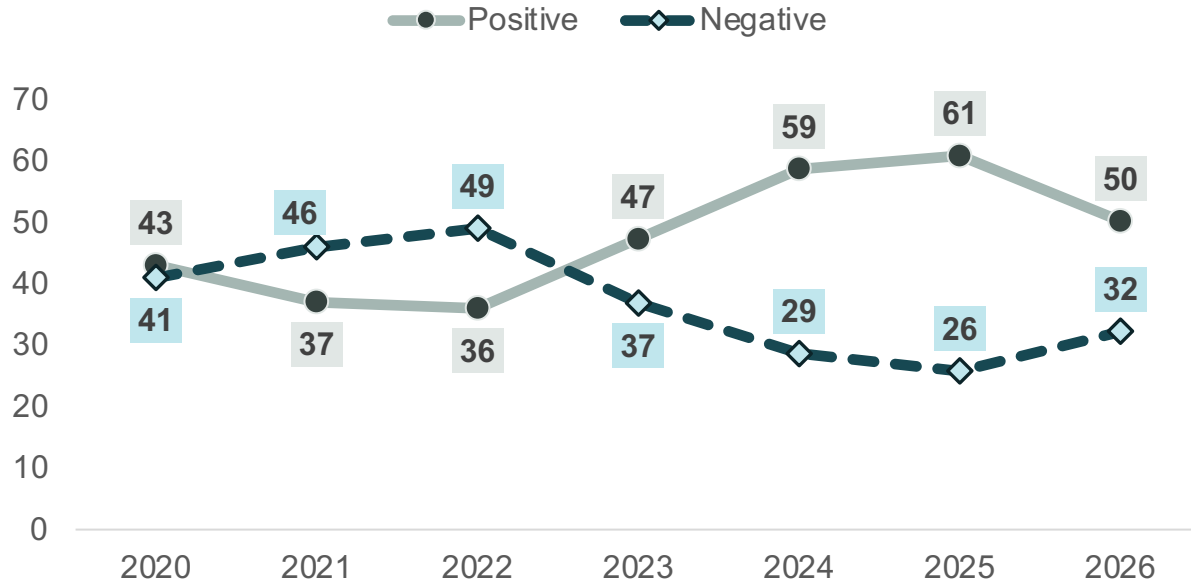
- The proportion of Canadians seeing relations as very positive declined by five points between 2025 and 2026, while the proportion seeing relations as somewhat negative increased by four points.
- The proportions seeing relations as somewhat positive or very negative remained stable between 2025 and 2026.

## Current relations between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous people in Canada are positive



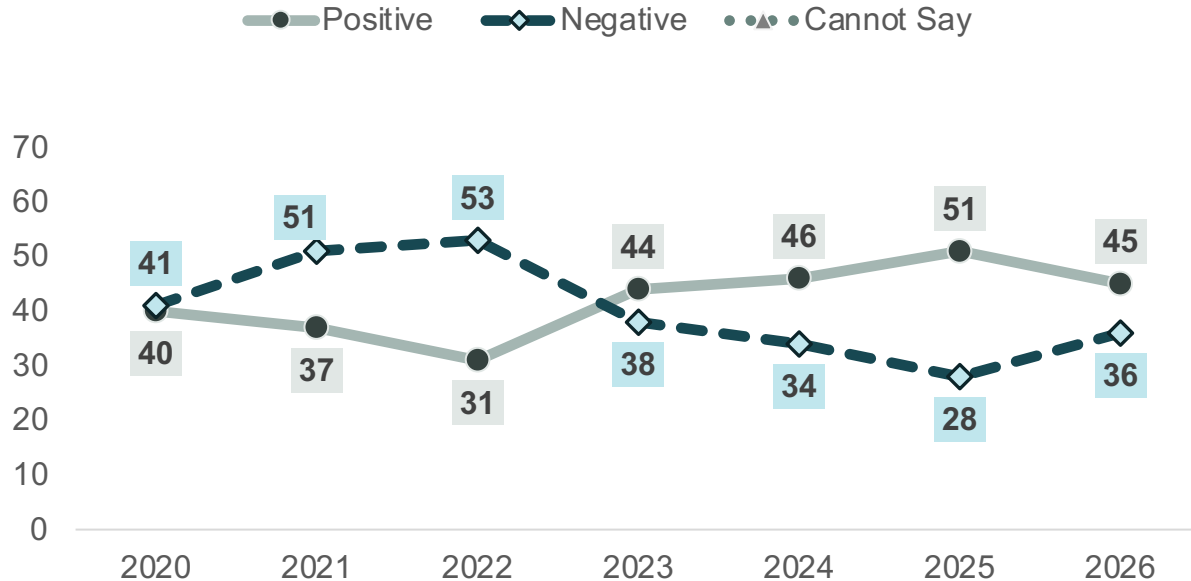
- The proportion seeing relations as positive declined between 2025 and 2026 among both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.
- The proportion of Indigenous Peoples seeing relations as positive has dropped 14 points since 2024 and is at its lowest point since 2022.

## Relations between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous people in Canada: *Atlantic provinces*



- The proportion of Atlantic Canadians seeing relations as positive declined by 11 points between 2025 and 2026.
- Despite this recent decline, positive perceptions remain 14 points higher than in 2022.

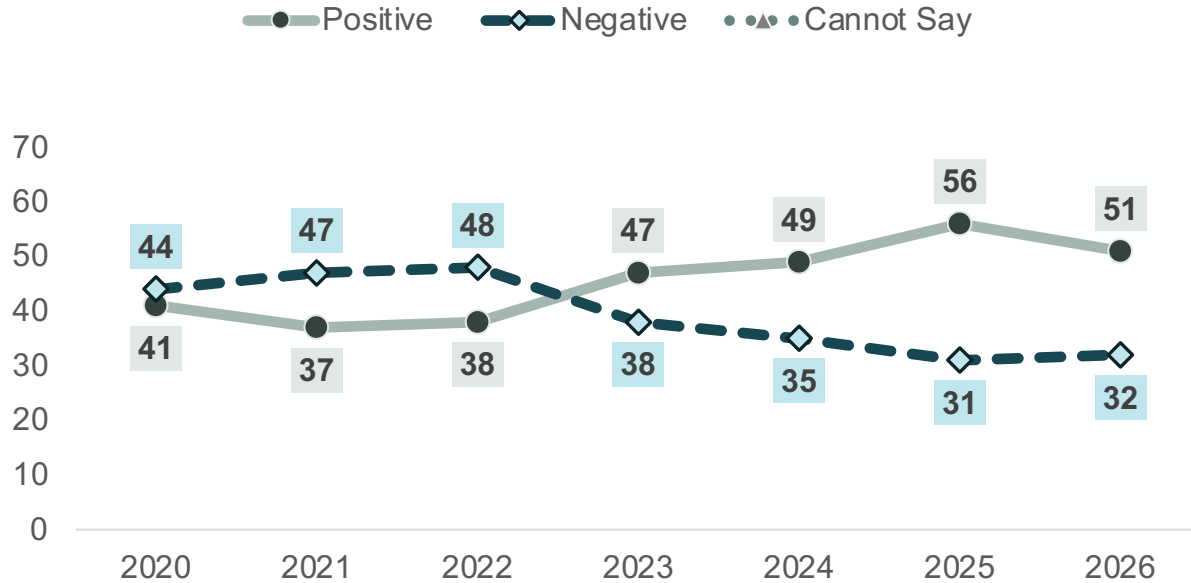
## Relations between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous people in Canada: Quebec



- In Quebec, the gap between positive and negative perceptions of relations widened between 2023 and 2025 but is beginning to narrow again.



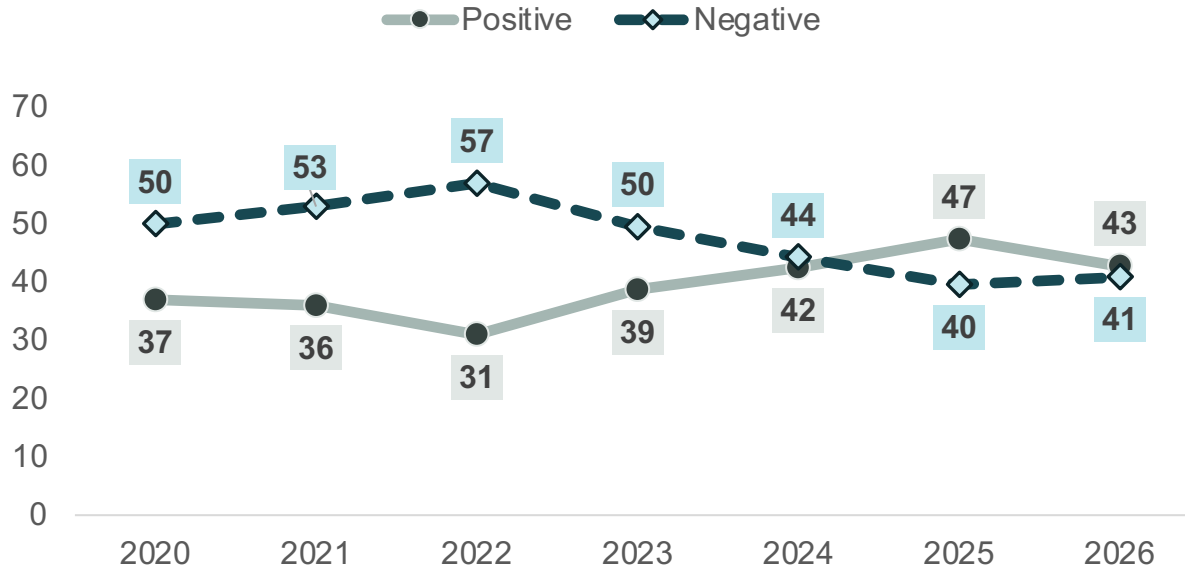
## Relations between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous people in Canada: Ontario



- In Ontario, the gap between positive and negative perceptions of relations widened between 2023 and 2025 and has since narrowed to 19 points.



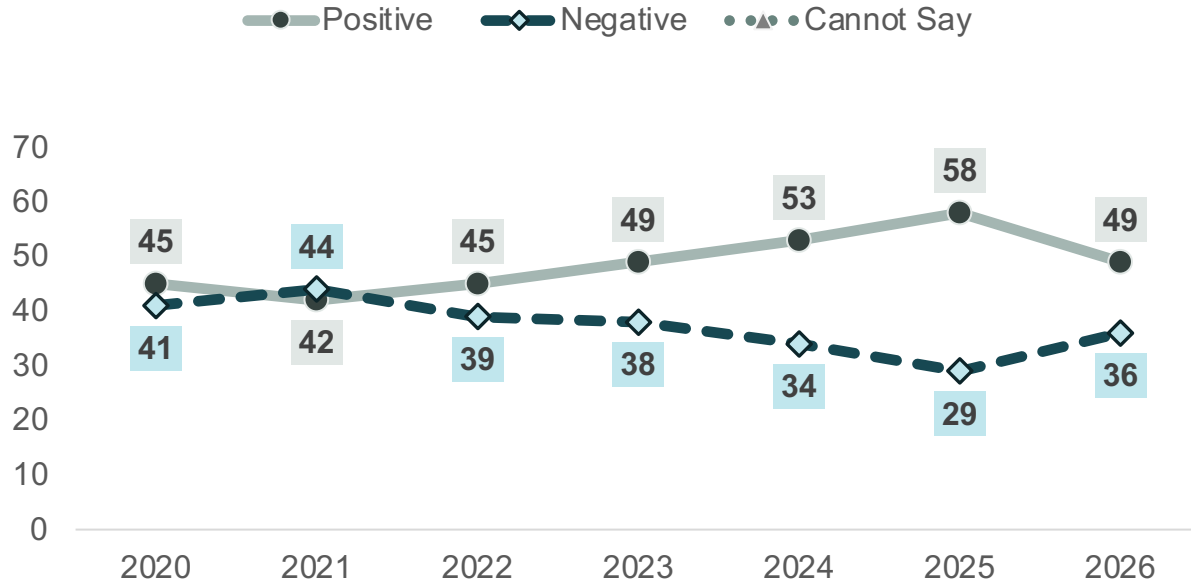
## Relations between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous people in Canada: *Prairie provinces*



- The proportion of Prairie residents seeing relations as positive declined slightly between 2025 and 2026.
- Despite this decline, positive perceptions remain 12 points higher than in 2022.



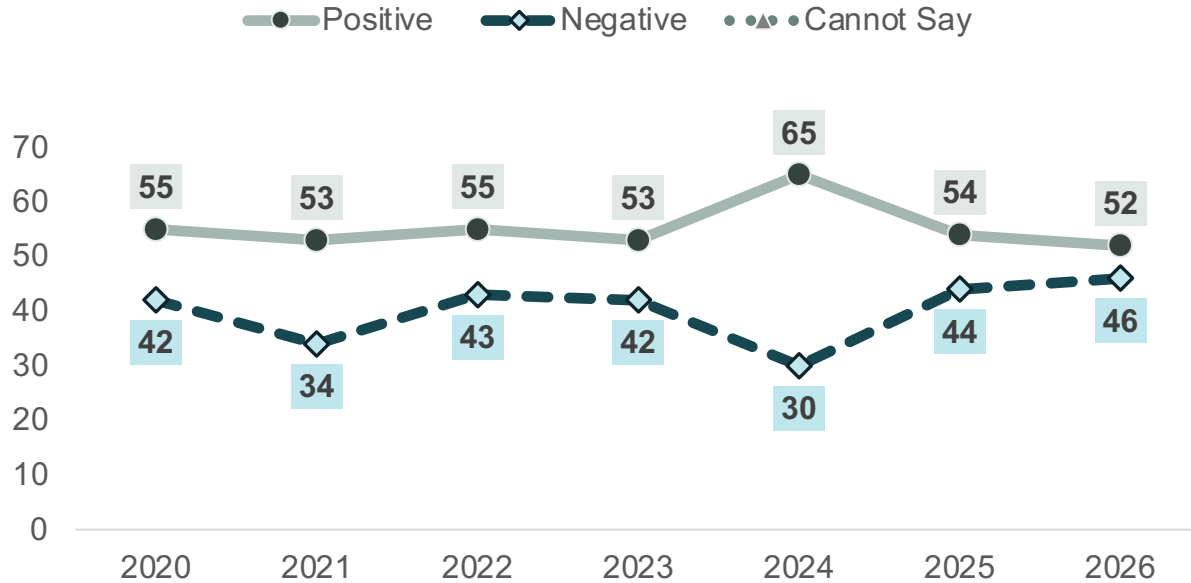
## Relations between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous people in Canada: *British Columbia*



- In British Columbia, the gap between the proportions seeing relations as positive and seeing them as negative narrowed in 2026, following a widening between 2021 and 2025.



## Relations between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous people in Canada: Territories



- In the Territories, the gap between the proportions seeing relations as positive and seeing them as negative has narrowed.



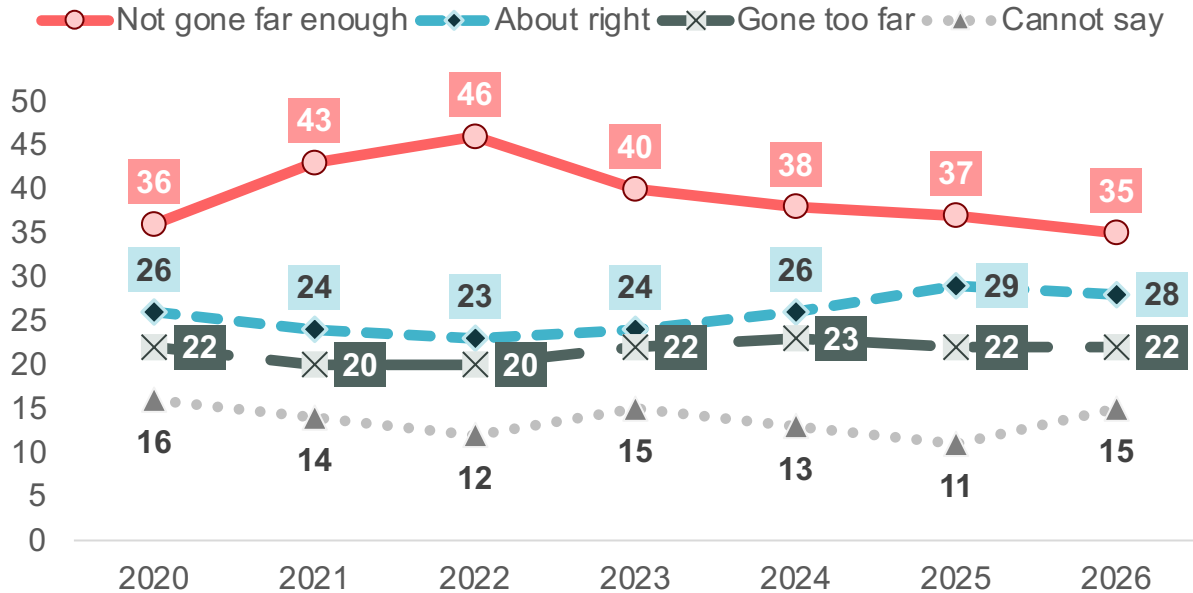
# Governments & Reconciliation

## Question:

In your opinion, have governments in Canada gone too far or have they not gone far enough in trying to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples?

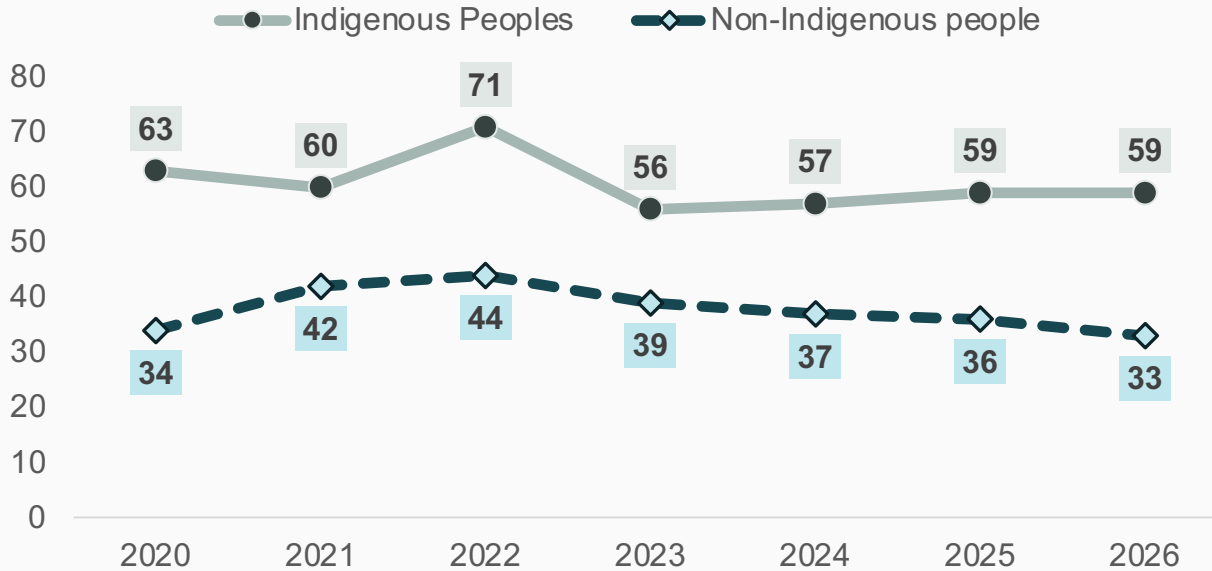


## Have governments gone too far or have they not gone far enough in trying to advance reconciliation?



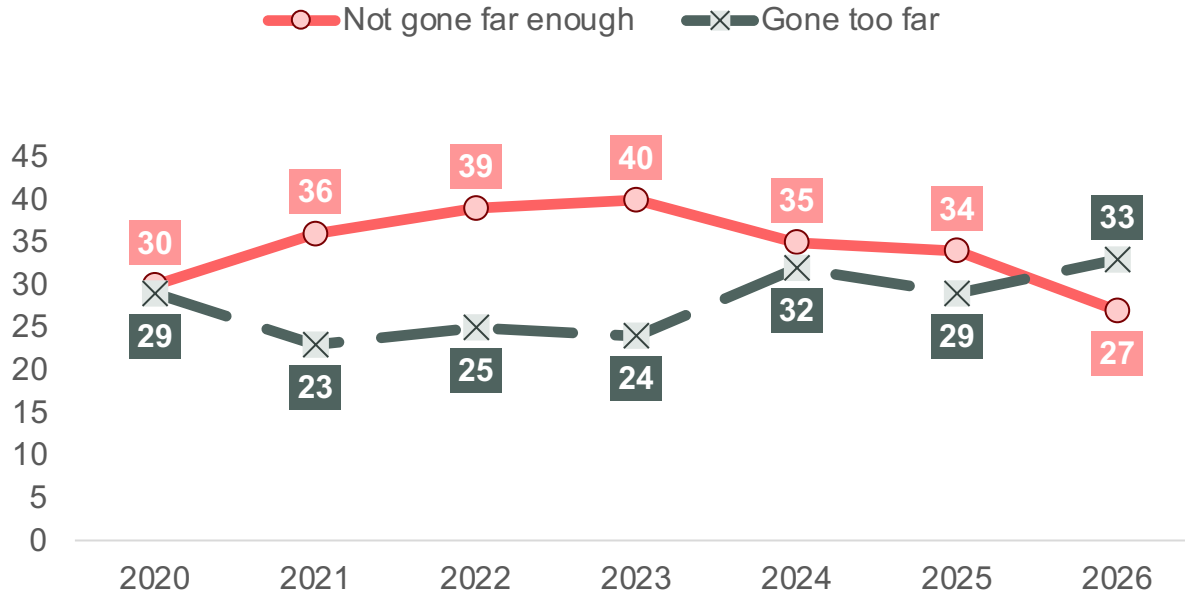
- The proportion of Canadians saying that governments have not gone far enough to advance reconciliation peaked in 2022 but has declined gradually since then.
- Despite the decline, a plurality of Canadians continue to say that governments have not gone far enough.

## Governments have not gone far enough to advance reconciliation 2020 - 2026, by Indigenous identity



- Indigenous Peoples are more likely than non-Indigenous people to say that governments have not gone far enough to advance reconciliation.
- The gap in opinions between the two groups has widened gradually since 2023.

## Have governments gone too far or have they not gone far enough in trying to advance reconciliation? *British Columbia*

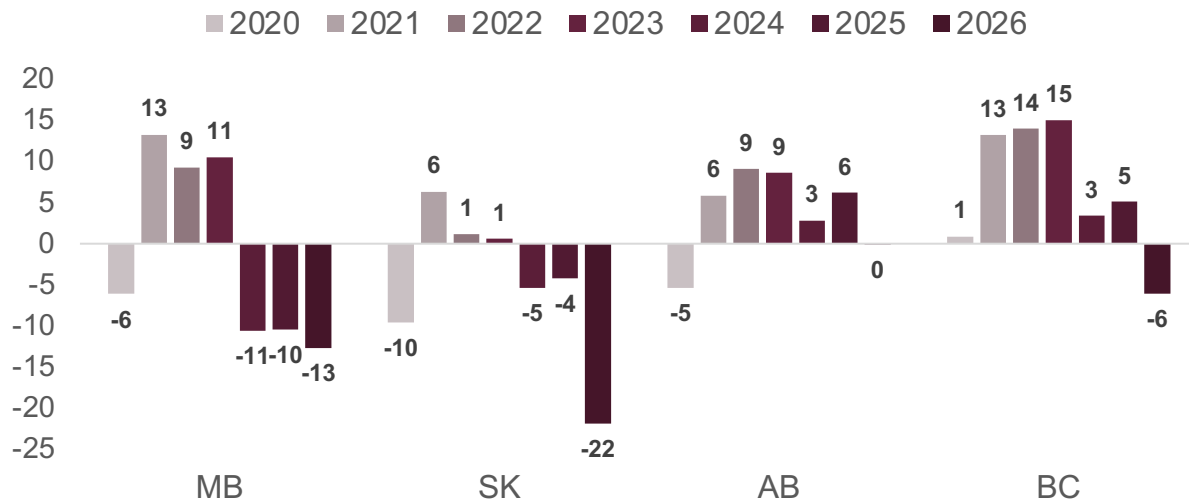


- For the first time, the proportion of B.C. residents who say that governments have gone too far to advance reconciliation exceeds the proportion who say governments have not gone far enough.

2020 - 2026

## Have governments gone too far or have they not gone far enough to advance reconciliation?

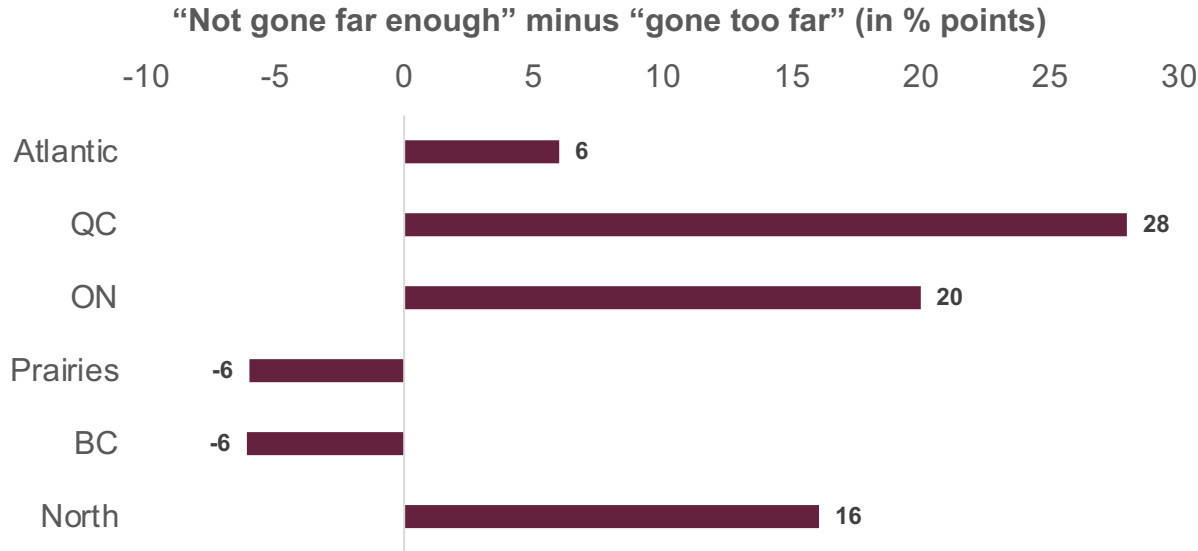
“Not gone far enough” minus “gone too far” (in % points)



- In Western Canada, the proportion saying that governments have gone too far to advance reconciliation increasingly outweighs the proportion that says government have not gone far enough.

2026

## Have governments gone too far or have they not gone far enough to advance reconciliation?



- In central Canada and the North, the proportion saying that governments have not gone far enough to advance reconciliation continues to outweigh the proportion that says government have gone too far.
- This is not currently the case in the Prairies or B.C.

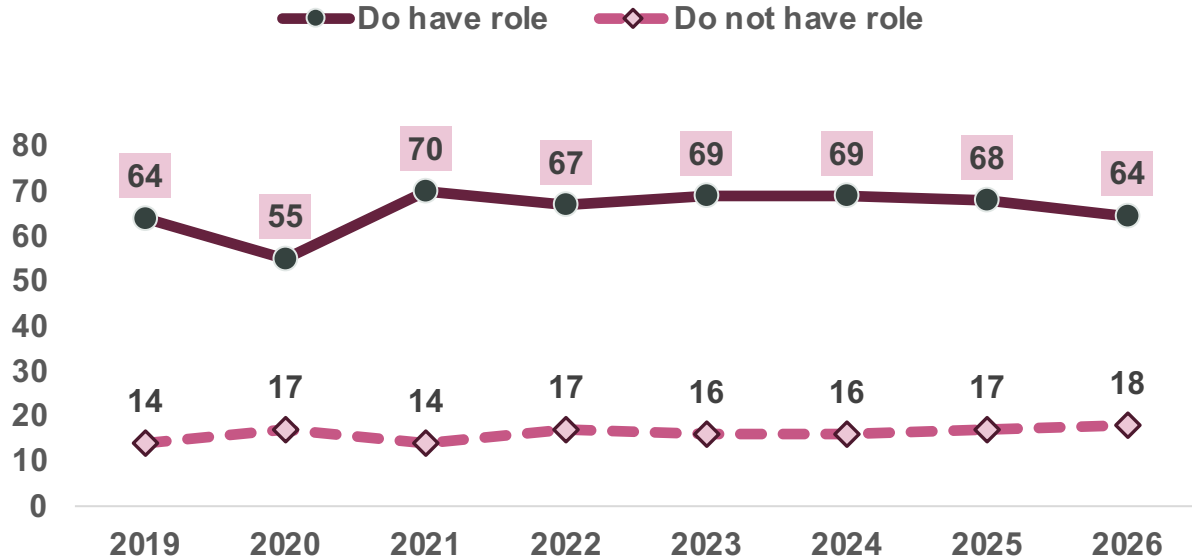
# Individual Canadians & Reconciliation

## Question:

Do you believe that individual Canadians do, or do not, have a role to play in efforts to bring about reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people?



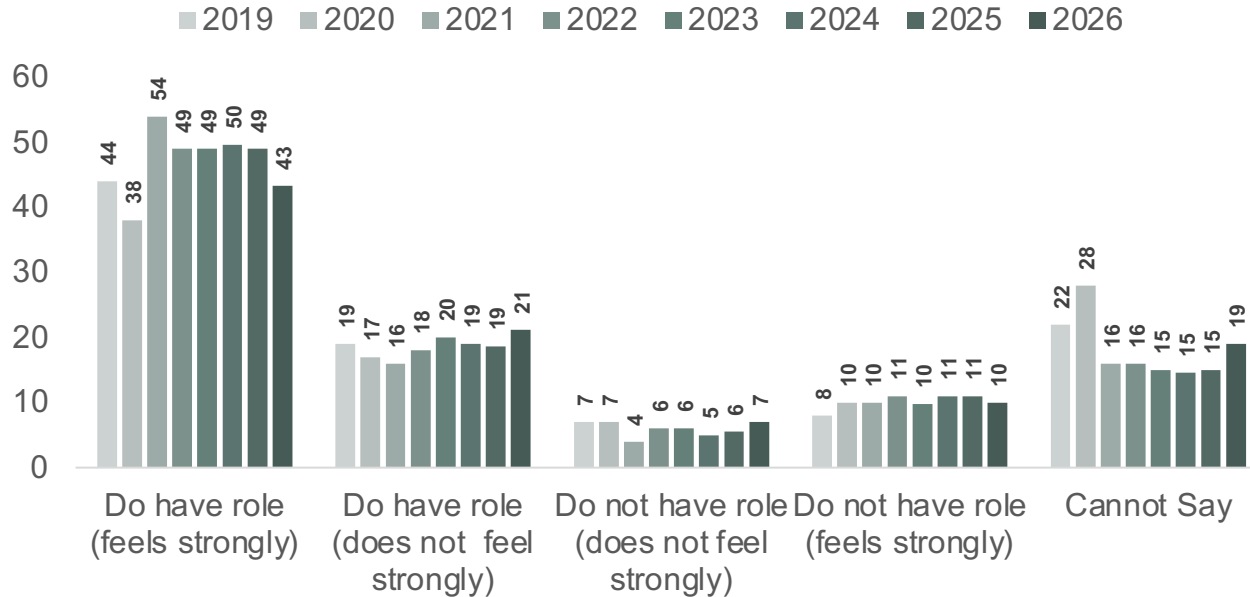
## Do individual Canadians have a role to play in efforts to bring about reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people?



- The proportion of Canadians who feel that individual Canadians have a role to play in reconciliation has declined by six percentage points since 2021, but remains as high as when the question was first asked in 2020.

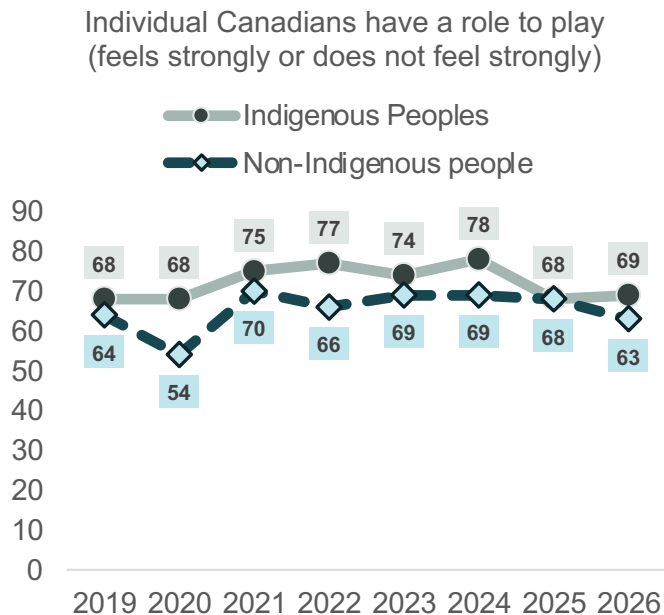
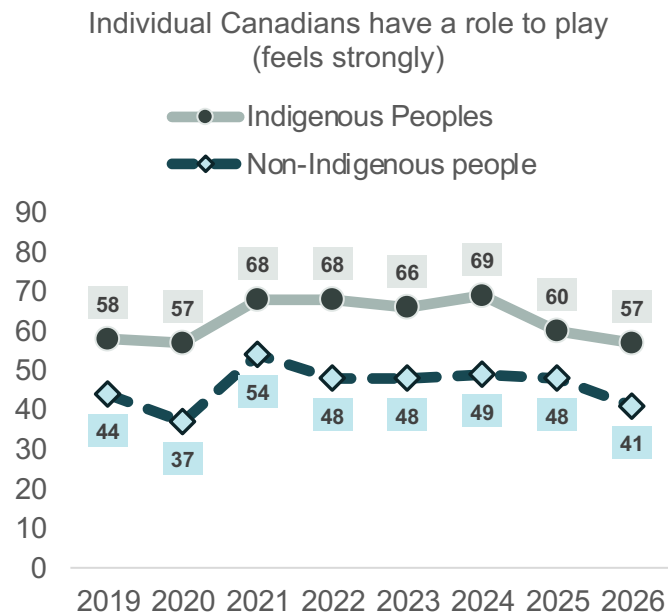


## Do individual Canadians have a role to play in efforts to bring about reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people? (Detail)



- The proportion of Canadians who feel strongly that individual Canadians have a role to play in reconciliation declined by six points between 2025 and 2026, and by 11 points since 2021.
- However, the proportion that strongly disagrees has not changed significantly.

## Do individual Canadians have a role to play in efforts to bring about reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people?



- Indigenous Peoples are more likely than non-Indigenous people to feel strongly that individual Canadians have a role to play.
- Taking into account all those who say individuals have a role to play, the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples is narrower.

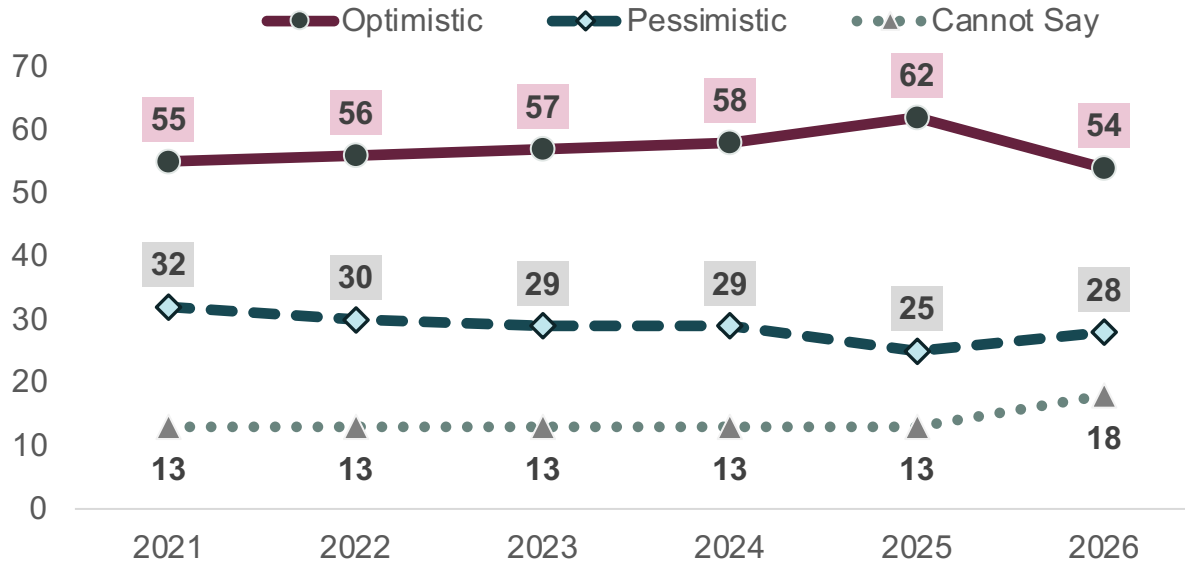
# Outlook on Reconciliation

## Question:

Thinking about Canada over the next decade, are you very optimistic, somewhat optimistic, somewhat pessimistic or very pessimistic that we will make meaningful progress toward reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people?

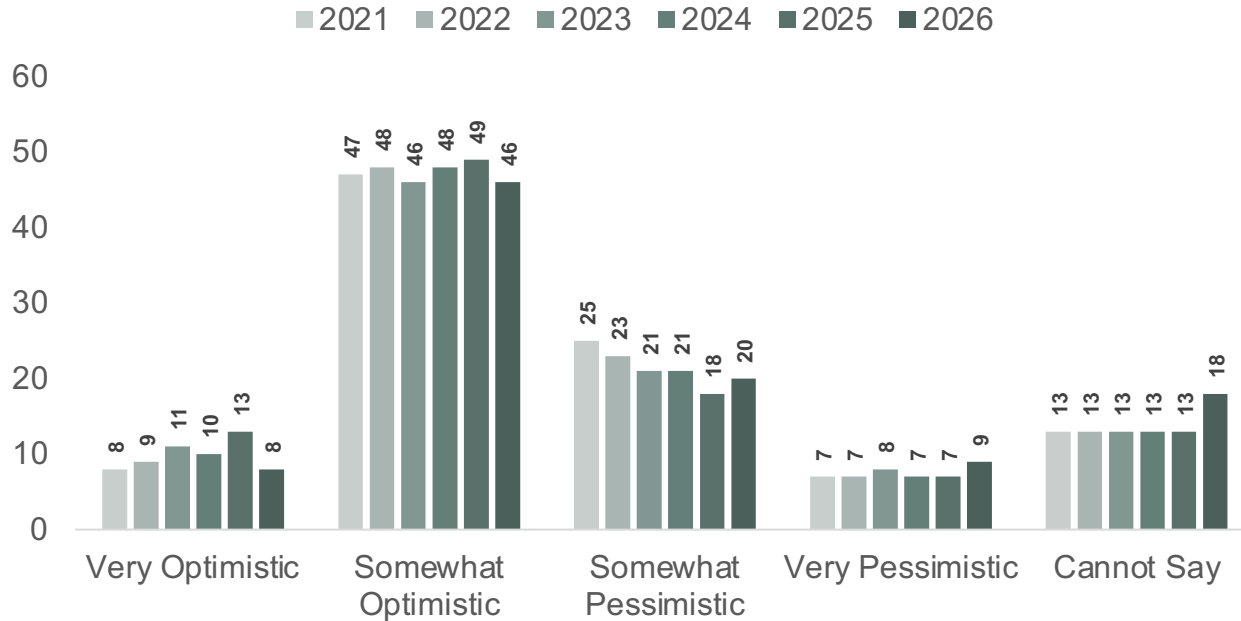


## Are you optimistic or pessimistic that we will make meaningful progress toward reconciliation over the next decade?



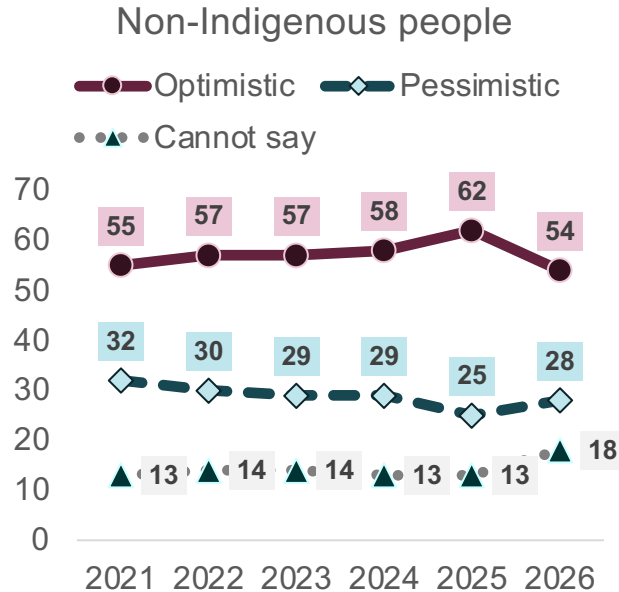
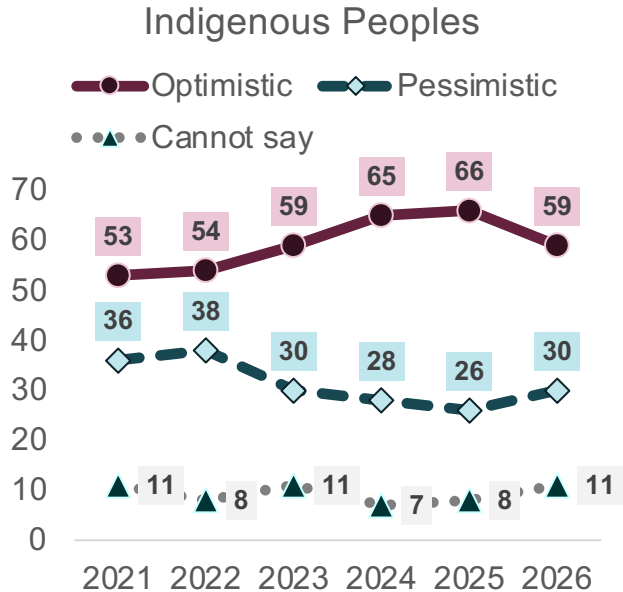
- The proportion of Canadians feeling very or somewhat optimistic about progress toward reconciliation declined by eight percentage points between 2025 and 2026.
- However, results are now similar to those observed earlier in the decade.

## Are you optimistic or pessimistic that we will make meaningful progress toward reconciliation over the next decade? (Detail)



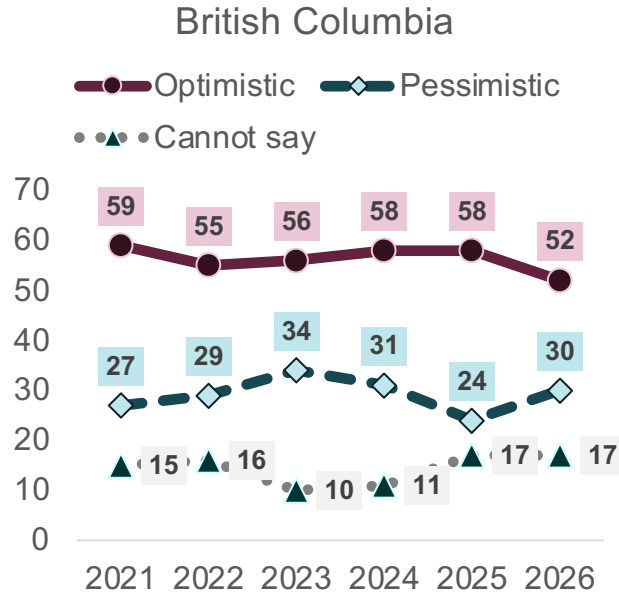
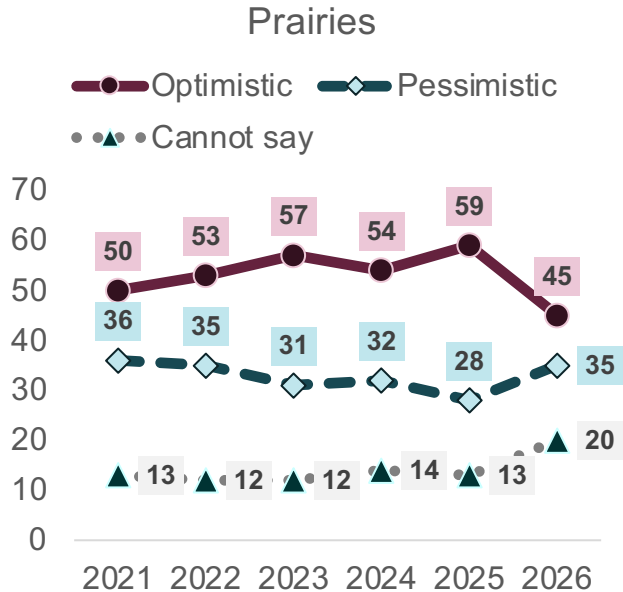
- The proportion of Canadians feeling very optimistic about progress toward reconciliation declined by five percentage points between 2025 and 2026.
- However, a majority remains either very or somewhat optimistic.

## Are you optimistic or pessimistic that we will make meaningful progress toward reconciliation over the next decade?



- Optimism about the prospects for reconciliation has fallen among both Indigenous Peoples (down 7 points) and non-Indigenous people (down 8 points).
- However, pessimism has increased to a lesser extent, as a greater proportion now declines to take a position either way.

## Are you optimistic or pessimistic that we will make meaningful progress toward reconciliation over the next decade?



- In the Prairies, the gap between the proportions feeling optimistic or pessimistic about progress toward reconciliation has narrowed significantly since 2025, with a steep decline in optimism.
- The gap has also narrowed in B.C., but to a lesser extent, due to a smaller decrease in optimism.



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