



# ELECTORAL REFORM



# MAINSTREET



November 15, 2016 (Charlottetown, P.E.I.) - A strong majority of Prince Edward Island voters want Premier Wade MacLauchlan to honour the results of the province's November 7 plebiscite on electoral reform.

In a poll conducted for the PEI Coalition for Proportional Representation by Mainstreet Research, 56% of respondents said that the Liberal government should respect the results of the plebiscite and move to a new voting system. 30% of Islanders believe the government should ignore the plebiscite results, while 14% do not know.

"Recent elections around the western world have taught us there is a huge discontent with what is being called the 'political elite'," said Quito Maggi, President and CEO of Mainstreet Research.

Islanders who support or are leaning towards the Liberal Party are split on the question with 40% wanting the Premier to respect the results of the plebiscite with 42% wanting government to ignore the plebiscite results, while 18% do not know. A majority of all supporters of other Island political parties - as well as undecided voters - believe the government should respect the plebiscite results.

"We applaud the PEI government for launching the electoral reform discussion and providing Islanders a historic opportunity to vote securely online. It seems that ignoring these results could lead to an erosion in Islanders' support for their democratic institutions," added Maggi. "How PEI residents will react at the ballot box to the dismissal of these results is too early to say, but perhaps there are hints to be seen in Europe and America."

Mark Greenan, Campaign Manager for the Coalition for Proportional Representation, said that the poll results reflect what proportional representation advocates have heard since the results were released on Monday.

"Islanders care deeply about fairness and democracy so I'm not surprised this poll reflects those values," added Greenan. "Premier MacLauchlan won election in 2015 on a platform that spoke of increasing public support for our democratic institutions, so I am confident he will honour the plebiscite results in the Fall legislative session by allowing Liberal MLAs a free vote on the issue."

This poll of 1,772 Islanders was conducted on November 10, 12 and 13 and has a margin of error of 2.33%.

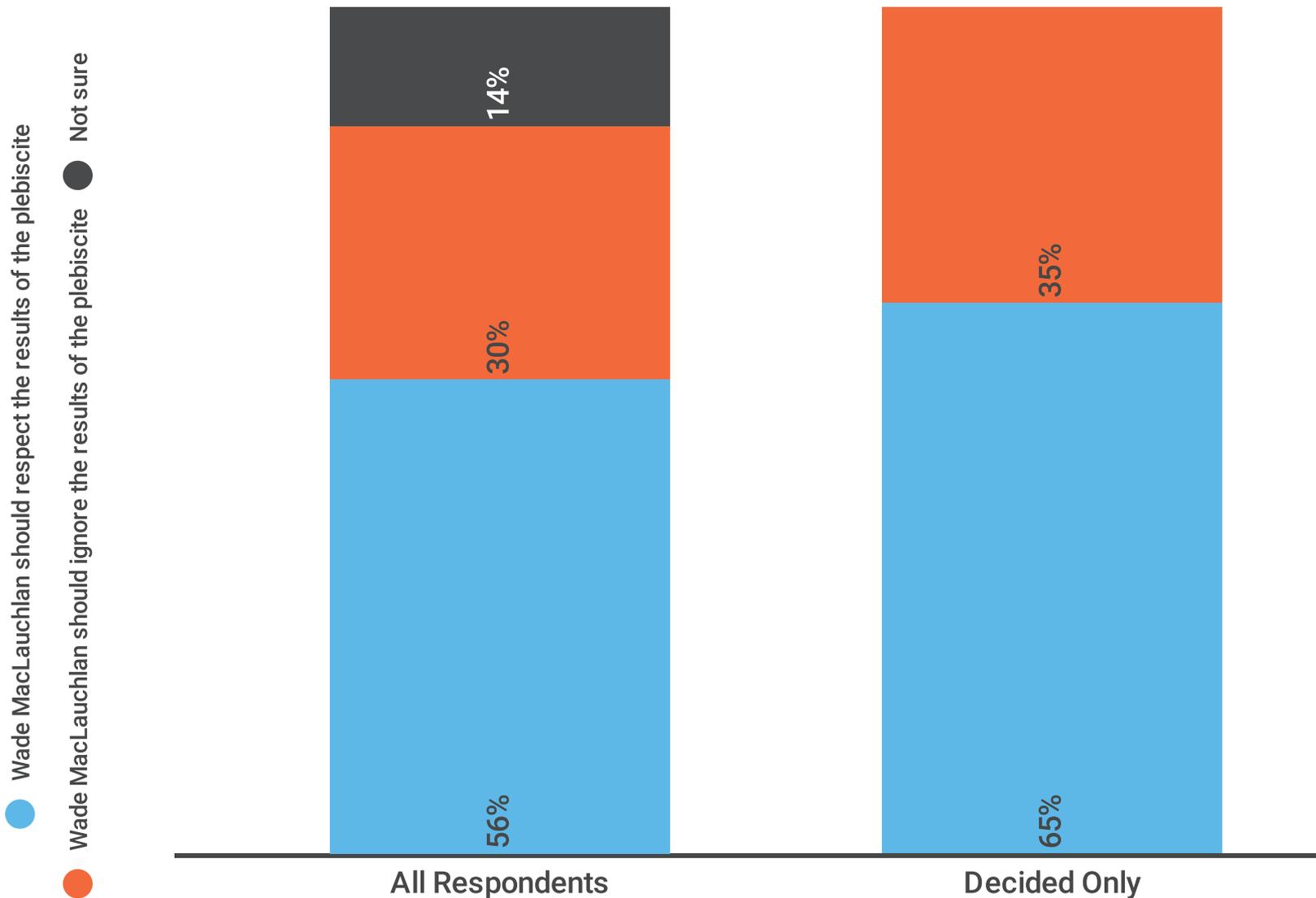
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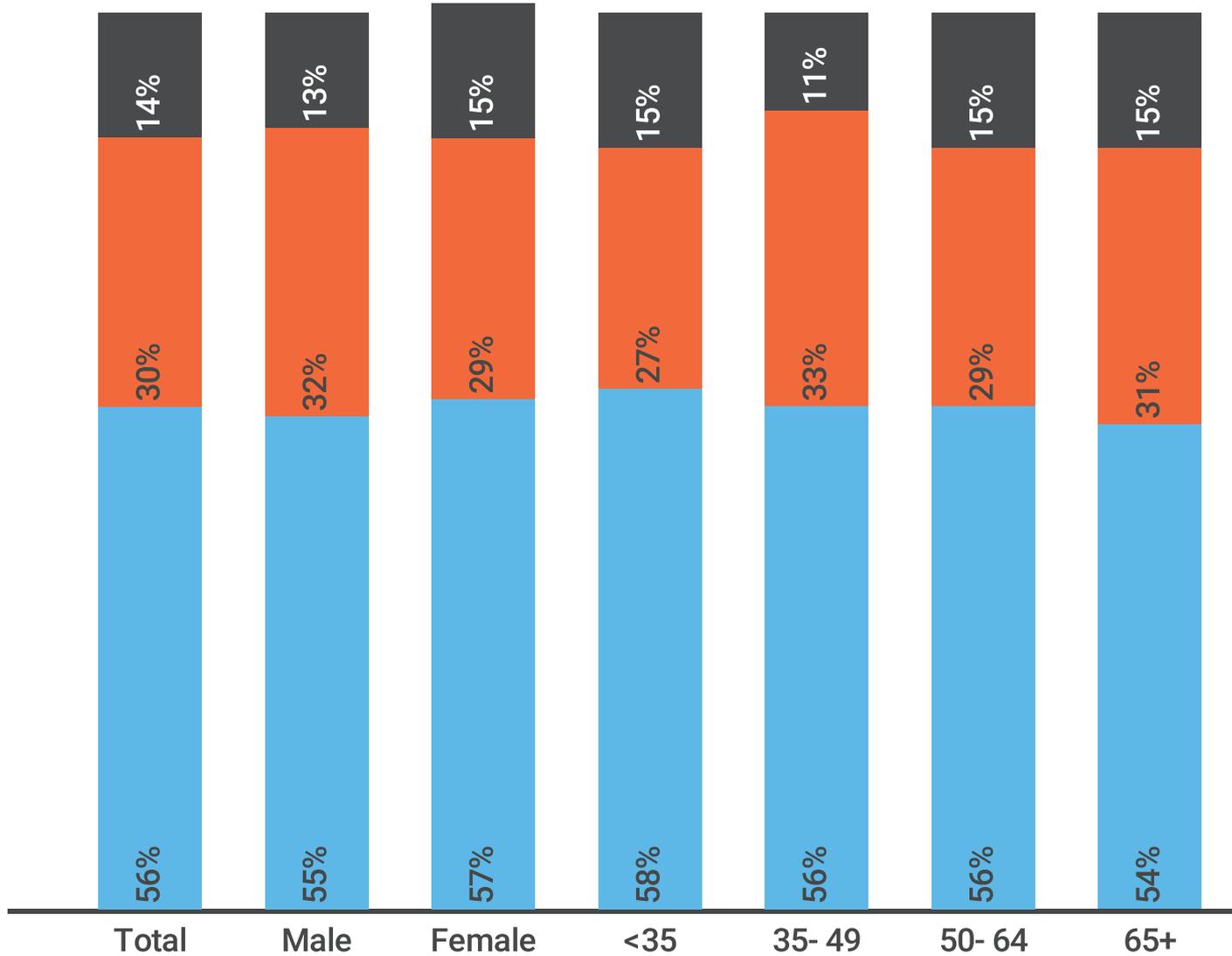
## **METHODOLOGY**

Mainstreet surveyed a random sample of 1,772 Prince Edward Island Residents by Chimera IVR™ on November 10th, 12th and 13th, 2016. A mixture of landlines and cell phones were surveyed. Margin of error: +/- 2.33%, 19 times out of 20. The poll was commissioned by the Prince Edward Island Coalition for Proportional Representation.

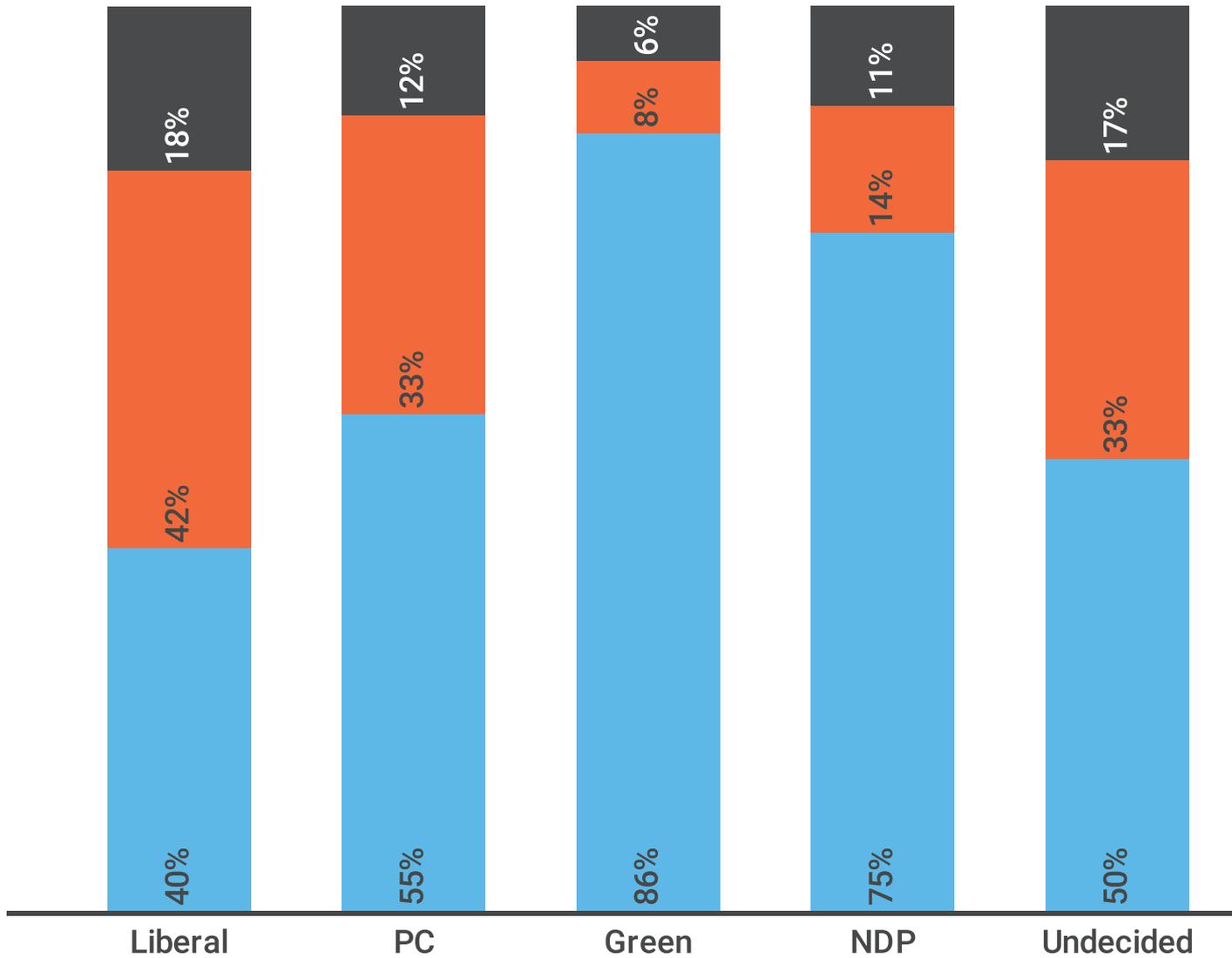
**Q: Recently a plebiscite was held on electoral reform and a majority of voters supported changing PEI's electoral system to Mixed Member Proportional Representation. Critics are saying the results are not a clear expression of Islanders' wishes because voter turnout was 36% while supporters of the plebiscite are saying it would be wrong to ignore the result of the vote. In your opinion, should Premier Wade MacLauchlan's government respect the results of the recent plebiscite and move to a new voting system or ignore the plebiscite results and maintain the current system?**



# DEMOGRAPHICS



## BY PARTY AFFILIATION



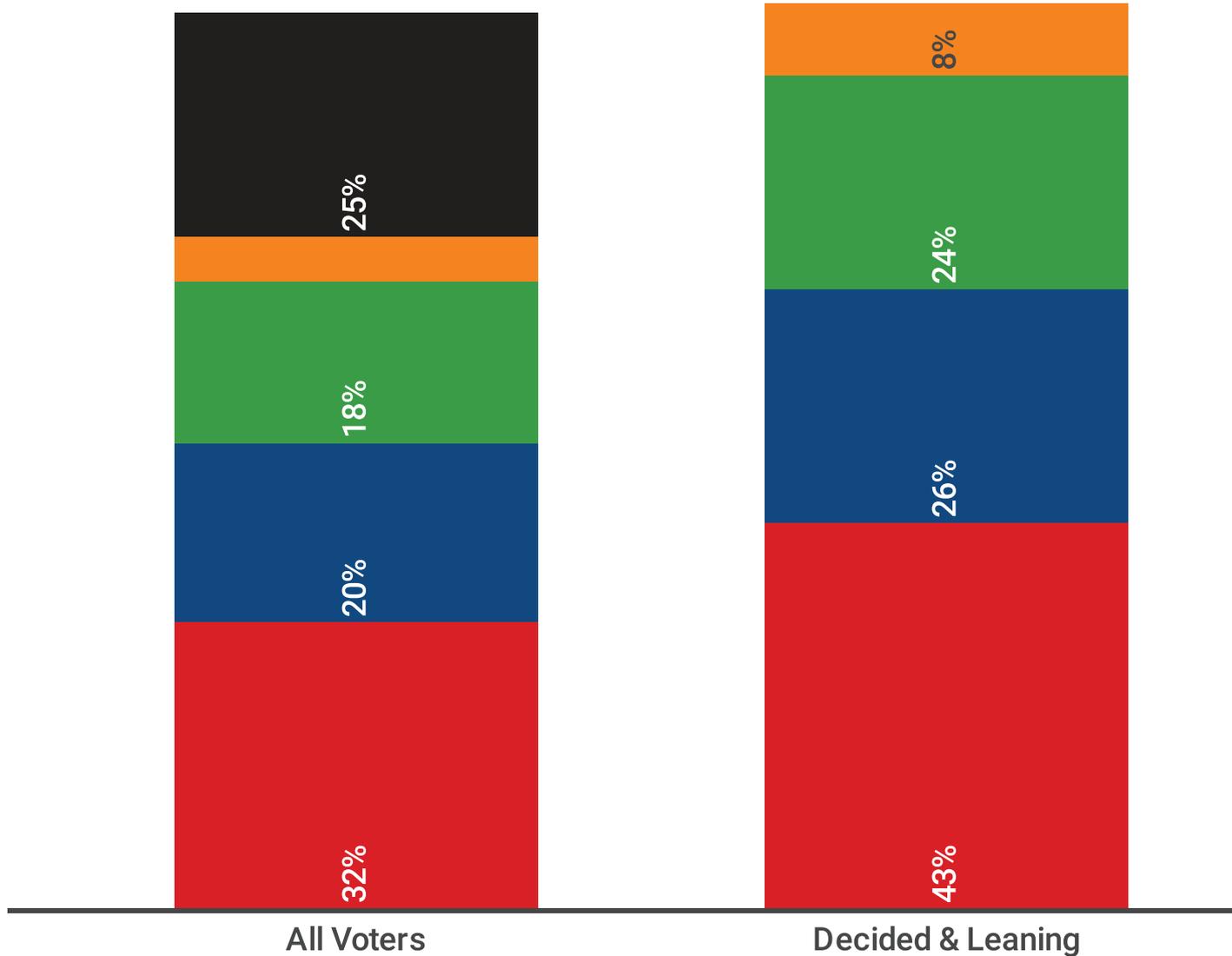
## TABLES

	Total	Male	Female	<35	35-49	50-64	65+
Wade MacLauchlan should respect the results of the plebiscite	56%	55%	57%	58%	56%	56%	54%
Wade MacLauchlan should ignore the results of the plebiscite	30%	32%	29%	27%	33%	29%	31%
Not sure	14%	13%	15%	15%	11%	15%	15%
Sample	1772	822	950	81	363	459	869

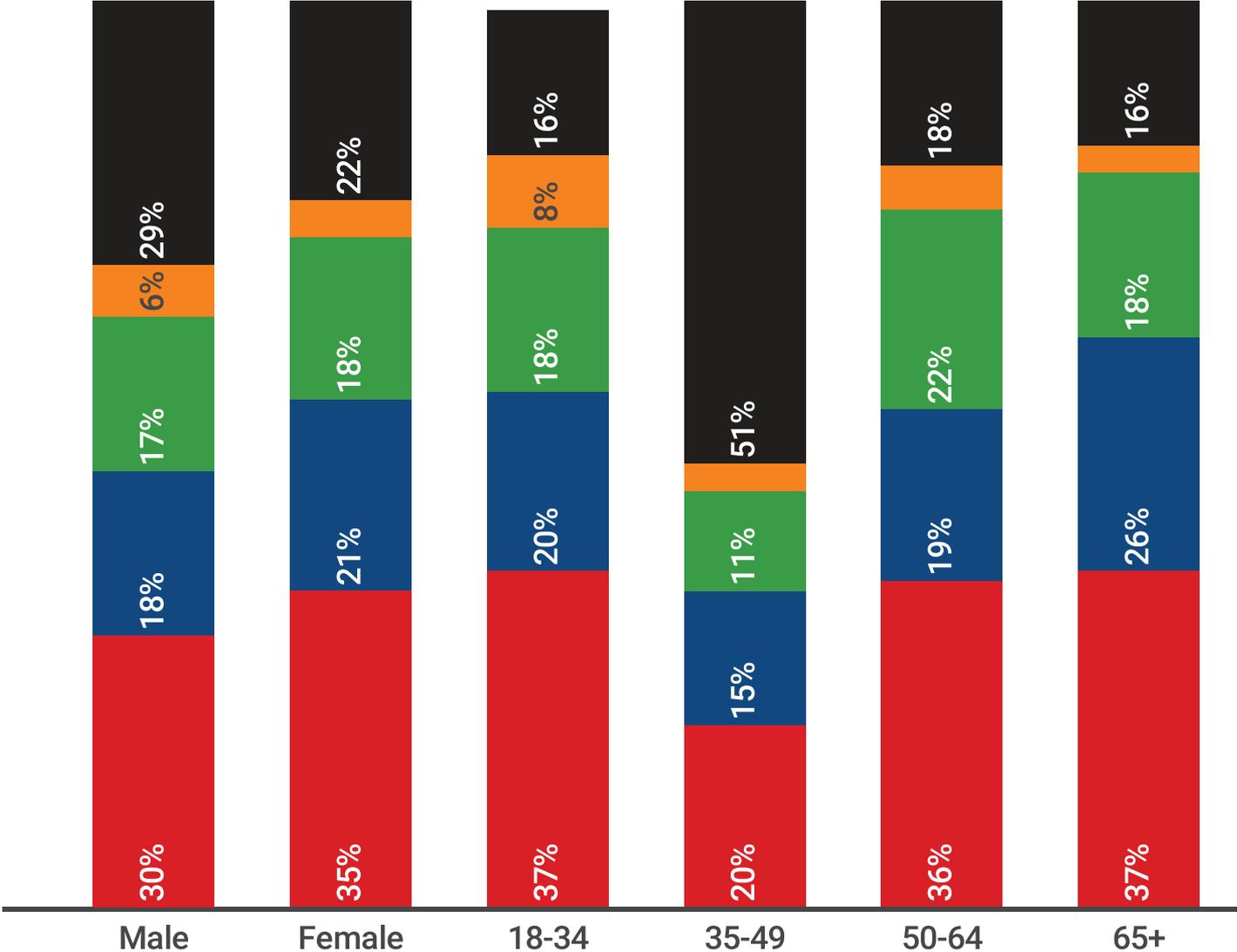
	Liberal	PC	Green	NDP	Undecided
Wade MacLauchlan should respect the results of the plebiscite	40%	55%	86%	75%	50%
Wade MacLauchlan should ignore the results of the plebiscite	42%	33%	8%	14%	33%
Not sure	18%	12%	6%	11%	17%

# Q: If a provincial election were held today, which party would you support?

- Liberal
- PC
- Green
- NDP
- Undecided

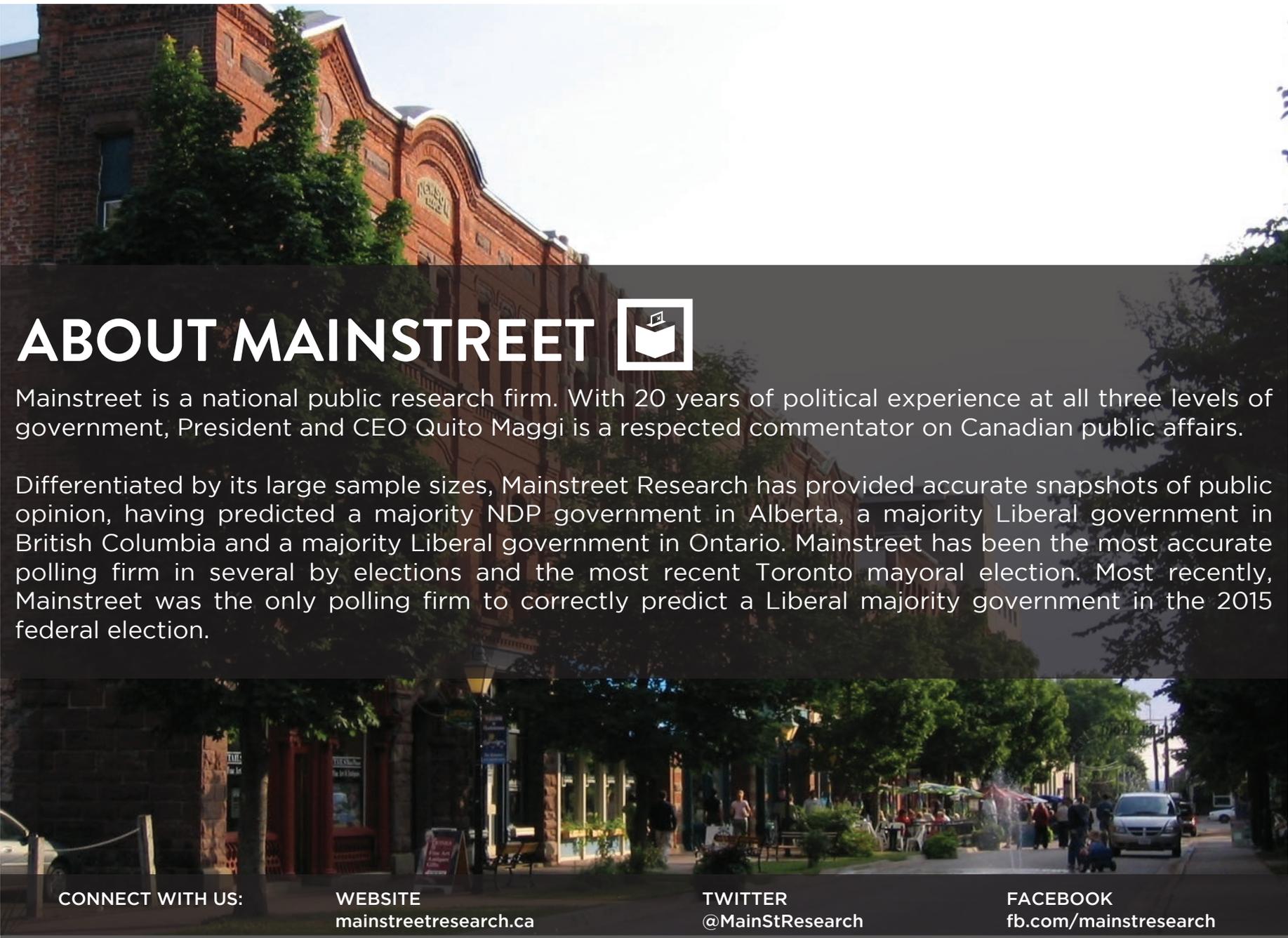


# DEMOGRAPHICS



## TABLES

	P.E.I.	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Liberal	32%	30%	35%	37%	20%	36%	37%
PC	20%	18%	21%	20%	15%	19%	26%
Green	18%	17%	18%	18%	11%	22%	18%
NDP	5%	6%	4%	8%	3%	5%	3%
Undecided	25%	29%	22%	16%	51%	18%	16%



# ABOUT MAINSTREET



Mainstreet is a national public research firm. With 20 years of political experience at all three levels of government, President and CEO Quito Maggi is a respected commentator on Canadian public affairs.

Differentiated by its large sample sizes, Mainstreet Research has provided accurate snapshots of public opinion, having predicted a majority NDP government in Alberta, a majority Liberal government in British Columbia and a majority Liberal government in Ontario. Mainstreet has been the most accurate polling firm in several by elections and the most recent Toronto mayoral election. Most recently, Mainstreet was the only polling firm to correctly predict a Liberal majority government in the 2015 federal election.

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