

THE STUDENT VOTE



WHAT MOTIVATES 18-25 YEAR OLDS
LEADING UP TO THE FEDERAL ELECTION

ABACUS DATA



CASA | ACAE

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations
Alliance canadienne des associations étudiantes

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Executive Summary

This paper is a summary of public opinion research that surveyed students aged 18 to 25 across Canada in March of 2019. The results of the research take a political pulse on the electoral intentions of the student population, identifies student's top priorities and concerns, and provides insights into how students are feeling about issues impacting post-secondary in Canada.

This public opinion research was commissioned by the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations and conducted by Abacus Data.

Methodology

The survey was conducted online with 1,000 Canadian students aged 18 to 25 from March 21st to March 29th, 2019. A random sample of panelists were invited to complete the survey from a set of partner panels based on the Lucid exchange platform and Leger Panel. These partners are typically double opt-in survey panels, blended to manage out potential skews in the data from a single source. The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of the same size is 3.1%, 19 times out of 20. The data weighted according to census data to ensure that the sample matched Canada's population according to age, gender, educational attainment, and region. Totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Introduction

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit, advocacy organization representing 280,000 students at 23 student associations across the country. CASA advocates for accessible, affordable, innovative, and high quality post-secondary education in Canada. The organization has done so successfully over the past 24 years through policy and research development, awareness campaigns, government relations efforts, and partnerships with other stakeholders in the education sector.

In addition to CASA's regular advocacy work for students, the organization embraces the unique opportunity that a federal general election provides to advance student-centric post-secondary policies and create a better education system in Canada. This year, in anticipation of the upcoming federal election on October 21st, 2019, CASA will be running a national, non-partisan Get Out The Vote (GOTV) campaign, with the aim of conveying the importance of voting and mobilizing

students to the polls in the upcoming federal election. This campaign is being put together with the understanding that some students have been historically disadvantaged when it comes to accessing elections. This includes marginalized groups, such as Indigenous and racialized people, as well as those living in poverty. Using a targeted and inclusive approach, CASA seeks to increase student participation in democracy by collecting pledges from individual students on our member campuses and following those up with reminders to vote, while also working to demystify the voting process and relaying the importance of voting.

The following report serves as an important prelude to our Get Out The Vote campaign, as it demonstrates not only that students are politically engaged and planning to vote, but also that political parties still have the chance to sway the youth vote should they cater to student priorities.

Key Findings

The Federal Election and Political Opinions

- Contrary to common assumption, students aged 18 to 25 are not apathetic. Polling reveals that 58% report either being “extremely motivated” or “reasonably motivated” to vote compared with 12% reporting being “not that motivated” or “not motivated at all”. 96% of students surveyed report that it is important to vote, and 93% plan on voting in the 2019 federal election.
- If an election were at the time of the survey (in March), 27% of students aged 18 to 25 would vote for the Liberal Party, compared with 20% for the New Democratic Party and 19% for the Conservative Party. However, the 16% of student voters whose vote is still unsure could sway the results in another party’s favour.
- The Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party had the largest pools of accessible voters among students aged 18 to 25, with 64% and 61% reporting that they would consider voting for them respectively. Comparatively, only 19% of students in this age group reported that they would consider voting for the People’s Party of Canada.
- As the most well-known candidate, Justin Trudeau was the preferred Prime Minister of students aged 18 to 25, with 39% support. Andrew Scheer and Jagmeet Singh were virtually tied, with 21% and 20% of student respondents selecting them as their preferred Prime Minister respectively. That being said, 61% of students would prefer to see a change in government.

Top Concerns for Students

- Students’ top 5 priorities include:
 - » Creating good job opportunities for young Canadians
 - » Making college and university more affordable
 - » Dealing with climate change and the environment
 - » Making housing more affordable
 - » Improving Canada’s health care system
- Students are generally optimistic about the future. In fact, 83% of students reported their outlook on the future as “optimistic.” However, 65% of students report being “worried” about student debt, and 64% report being “worried” about the job market.

Other Findings

- 44% of students experiencing financial difficulty have had to miss some kind of payment while in study. Students report most commonly needing to miss credit card payments, cell phone bills, and even to skip out on groceries.
- Students are divided about whether automation will have an impact on their job prospects. 41% think it will reduce their opportunities, 28% think it will increase their opportunities, and 28% think it won't have an impact. That being said, 78% are concerned about it.
- With regards to sexual violence on post-secondary campuses, 66% of students report either being "very concerned" or "somewhat concerned" about this. 79% of students think the government needs to either be doing "much more than it is today" or "somewhat more than it is today".
- Students in Canada would also like to see more post-secondary access for Indigenous students. 74% of students report that government needs to do "much more than it is today" or "somewhat more than it is today" to increase Indigenous enrollment.

The Importance of the Student Vote

The 2019 election will be a monumental moment as it is the first election in a long time where the younger generations in Canada, the Millennials and Generation Z, will be the largest voting group in the electorate. Abacus Data CEO, David Coletto, reports that those born between 1980 and 2000 will make up 37% of the electorate¹, or roughly 8.5 million voters. This demographic has been accused of

There are 8.5 million Millennial and Gen Z voters



being apathetic in the past. In the 2011 federal election, the 18 to 24 age group and the 25 to 34 age group had low voter turnouts, 38.8% and 45.1% respectively. This represented an all-time low in a steady decline in youth voter turnout in Canada. However, the 2015 federal election sparked a glimmer of hope that youth voter engagement was beginning to take a turn for the better. Elections Canada reported large increases in voter turnout amongst younger people during the 2015 election. Turnout among 18 to 24 year-olds climbed to 57.1% and among 25 to 34 year-olds it climbed to 57%. In CASA's post-election report conducted with Abacus Data, it was suggested that the large youth voter turnout may have been the push that awarded the Liberal Party a majority government.²

The younger voting demographics that are now the largest electoral force in the country

have yet to prove that they can be reliable participants in democracy. Knowing the importance of the youth voter turnout in 2015, CASA ran a national Get Out The Vote campaign, and succeeded in mobilizing 42,000 post-secondary students to the polls. Seeing as voter turnout among young people in Canada rose so much that year, it seems evident that voter mobilization campaigns targeted at youth, such as CASA's, made an impact. Knowing this, CASA has committed to running another Get Out The Vote campaign leading up to the 2019 federal election.



Of the 8.5 million people born between 1980 and 2000, over 1.8 million are currently post-secondary students.³ Many more are either recent graduates, young professionals in various stages of repayment on their student loans, or professionals looking to advance or change their career through further education. The student vote matters in shaping the outcome of the 2019 election. The following provides an overview of what post-secondary students are feeling in terms of participating in democracy and their current political leanings.

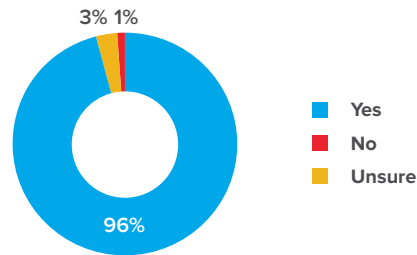
¹ Harris, Kathleen. Voter Turnout Spikes After Long, Unpredictable Campaign. (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, 2015). Accessed online: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-election-2015-voting-polls-turnout-1.3278838>
² Coletto, David. The Next Canada: Politics, Political Engagement, and Priorities of Canada's Next Electoral Powerhouse. (Abacus Data, 2016. Accessed online: https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/casaacae/pages/752/attachments/original/1463343956/CASA_Next-Canada_Report_by_Abacus-Data.pdf?1463343956
³ Post-secondary Enrolments, by program type, credential type, age group, registration status, and sex. (Statistics Canada, 2017). Accessed online: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl/en/cv.action?pid=3710001501#timeframe>

As youth voter turnout dropped in the 2000s, hitting near historic lows in 2008 and 2011⁴. Canada's younger generations earned themselves a reputation for being politically apathetic. This reputation did nothing to help young people push their priorities forward, since politicians could not count on them in elections.

For better or worse, the global political climate is not the same today as it was a decade ago. Has the younger generation begun to take a greater interest in the political affairs of Canada? Our polling results suggest this may be the case. 58% of post-secondary students in Canada report feeling either "extremely motivated" or "highly motivated" to vote, while a mere 12% reported feeling "not that motivated" or "not motivated at all". The overwhelming motivation that students report feeling to participate in the democratic process is consistent across all demographics and regions of Canada. Though motivation doesn't equal voter turnout, it is certainly a promising

sign. In addition to feeling motivated, 96% of post-secondary students believe that voting is important, and 93% plan on voting in the 2019 election.

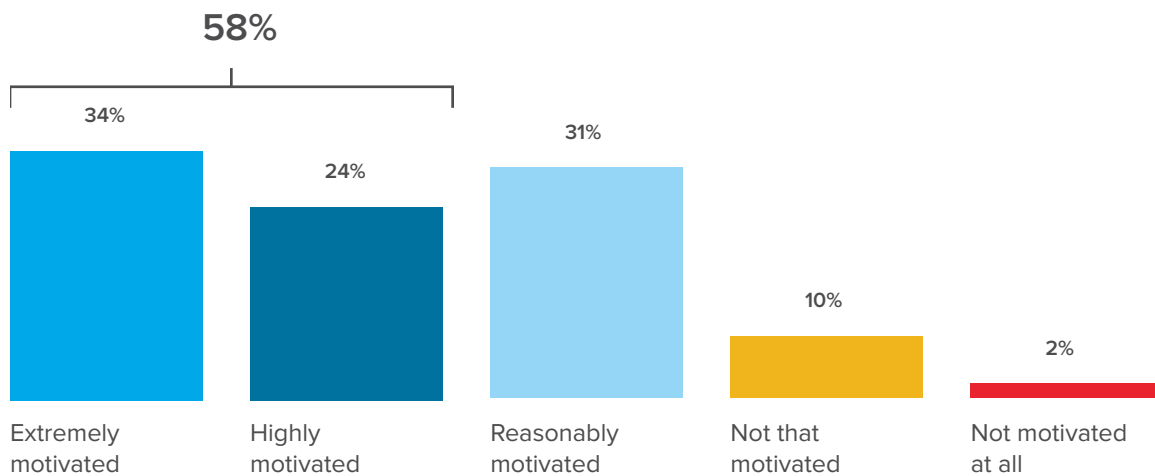
Importance of Voting



Do you think it's important to vote?

Given the sheer size of the younger generations in the current Canadian electorate, it is imperative to consider how to best engage this voting bloc. Parties will need to ensure that their platforms meet the needs and wants of this demographic, but also that they

Motivation to Vote



When you think about the next federal election, how motivated do you feel you are to vote in that election... would you say you are extremely motivated, highly motivated, reasonably motivated, not motivated at all?

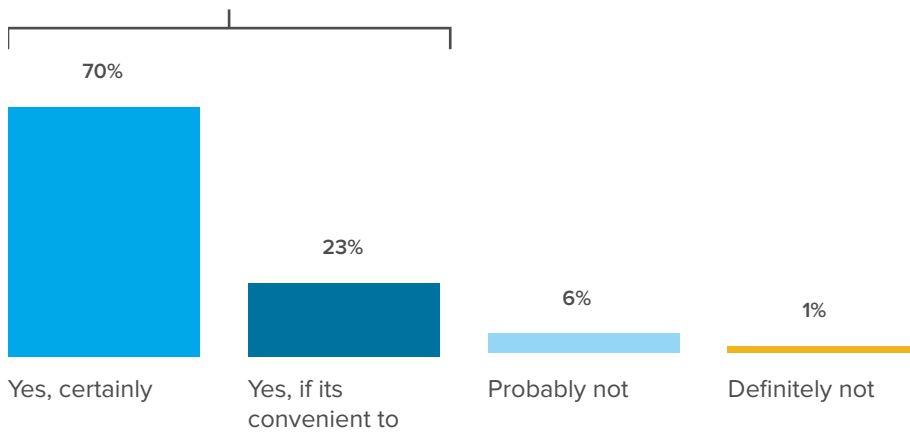
⁴ Youth Voter Turnout in Canada (Library of Parliament, Ottawa, 2016). Accessed online: https://bdp.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en_CA/ResearchPublications/2016104E

communicate their platforms to this group of voters effectively. It is widely assumed that the younger generation consume information in vastly different ways than generations before them, mainly due to the evolution of digital technology and social media. Surprisingly, when it comes to learning about election platforms, 41% of students report that traditional news outlets will remain their primary source to

learn about party platforms. Social media comes in second place, with 31% reporting it as their main source for election platform information. Party websites (27%), friends and family (26%), and televised debates (25%) remain important but slightly less popular sources for platform information. Only 3% of students report that they “don’t plan to seek out any information,” which further serves to debunk the myth that youth are apathetic.

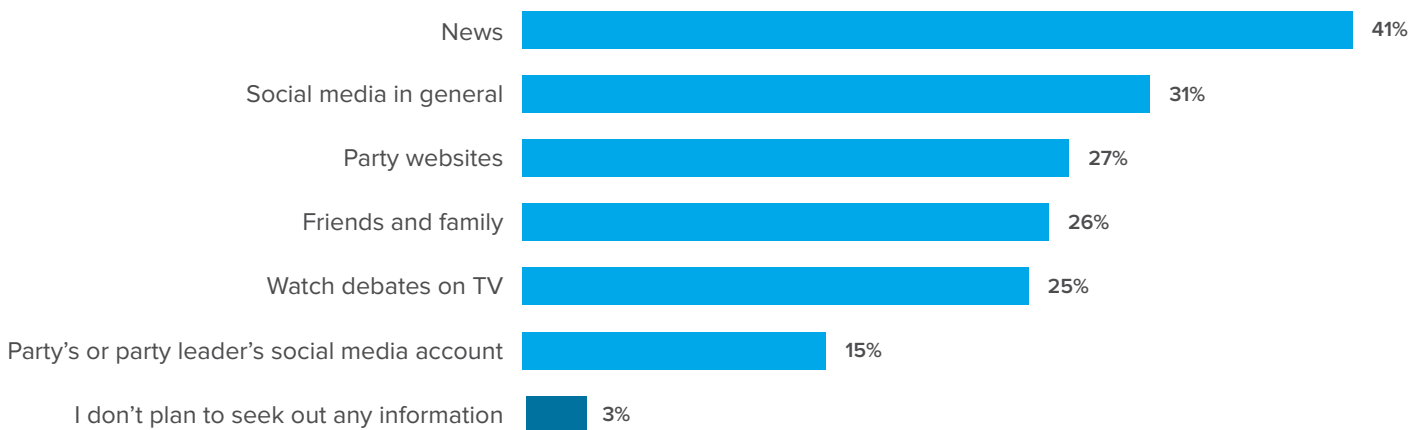
Planning on Voting

93% of students plan to vote



Are you planning to vote in the 2019 election?

Where Students Seek Information About Election Platforms



Where will you go to learn more about election platforms before voting?

A Snapshot of Canadian Students Today

Although post-secondary students have shown that they are politically engaged, they are divided on whether the country is moving in the right direction. 48% of students report that they feel Canada is heading in the right direction, while 29% think Canada is on the wrong track.

In 2015, CASA reported that students by and large voted in support of Justin Trudeau and the Liberal Party, which helped push them from third party status to a majority government.⁵

Will the students back Justin Trudeau and the Liberal Party again? If an election were at the time of the survey, the Liberal Party still led the way among the student vote, with 27% reporting that they would vote for the Liberal Party in their constituency. For the Liberal Party, that's down from the 45% of the youth vote they reportedly received in the 2015 federal election. When examining current vote share, both the NDP and Conservative Party are tied for support among students, with 20% and 19% support respectively. The largest jump in support when compared to the 2015 election appears to be for the Green Party. The Green Party, which

previously held 4% of the student vote, is now polling at 13% support among post-secondary students in Canada. Finally, the Bloc Québécois is standing with 3% and the People's Party of Canada with 1% of the student vote. With voting intention numbers this close among the student demographic, the 16% of undecided voters could make a significant difference in the outcome of the election. No single party has the student vote locked up as of yet.

One of the reasons that the Liberal Party remains on top in terms of voter support among post-secondary students is likely the personal popularity and celebrity of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. 39% of students report that they would prefer Justin Trudeau to remain the Prime Minister, more than double the number of students that said the same about Conservative Party leader Andrew Scheer and NDP leader Jagmeet Singh. It is important to consider that this is the first time Andrew Scheer and Jagmeet Singh are meeting young Canadians in an election campaign, and it is not unusual for new party leaders to need time to gain higher levels of recognition.

Direction of Canada



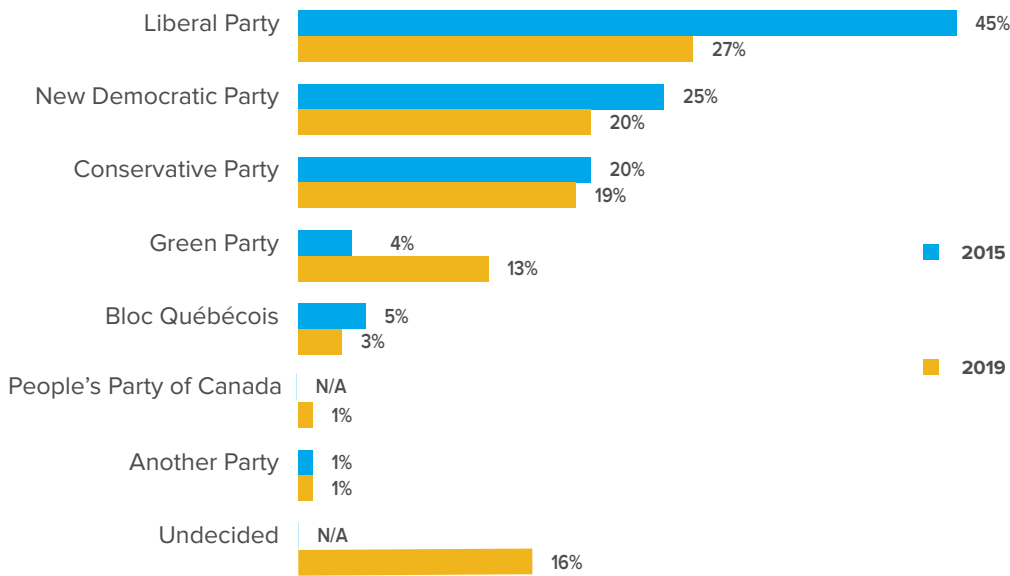
Generally speaking do you think things in Canada are headed in the right direction or are they off on the wrong track?

⁵ Ibid

For the four leading political parties in Canada, undecided student voters provide an opportunity to overtake the support of other parties, should the parties adequately address student priorities in their platforms. The Liberal Party, the New Democratic Party, the Green Party, and the Conservative Party all have a significant number of students across the country who would consider voting for

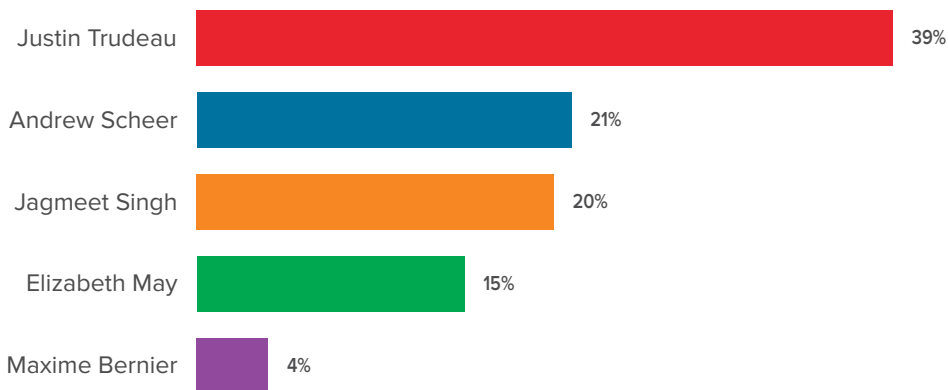
them. This gives parties ample opportunity to develop and promote policies that could be attractive to these voters. When considering that 61% of students would generally prefer to see a change in government, the fact that a significant portion of this demographic backed the Liberals in 2015 doesn't mean it will materialize again.

Youth Vote Choice



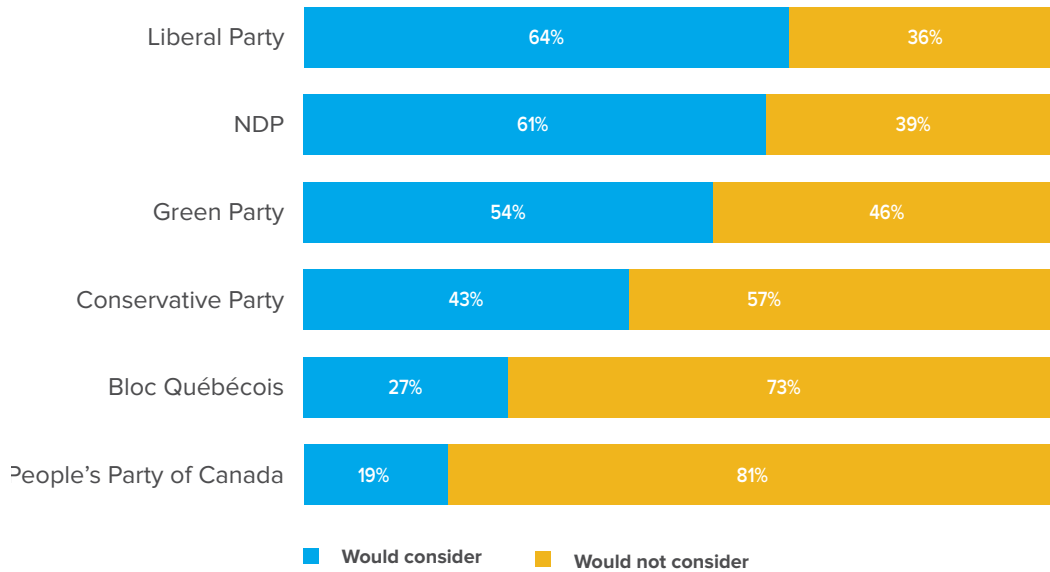
If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you vote for in your constituency?

Preferred Prime Minister



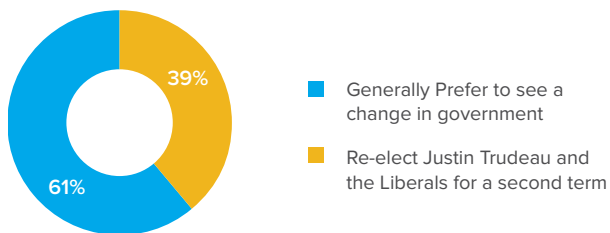
Which party leader would you prefer to be Prime Minister after the next election?

Vote Consideration



Would you consider or not consider voting for the following federal political parties?

Desired Election Outcome



When the next election happens, do you think you would prefer to see a change in government at the federal level, or to re-elect Justin Trudeau and the Liberals for a second term, to the extent that you can predict how you will feel?

Student Optimism, Top Issues, and Concerns

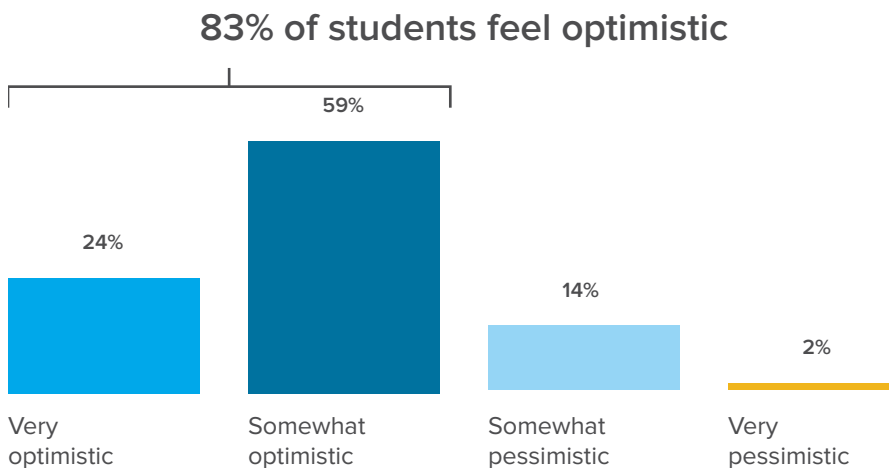
What are the priorities of students these days and what issues do they think government should be tackling during the 2019 election? First and foremost, it is worth noting that students across the country are largely optimistic about the future. 83% of surveyed students reported that they are either “very optimistic” or “somewhat optimistic” about the future, compared with only 16% reporting that they are either “somewhat pessimistic” or “very pessimistic”. Despite this optimism, students still have serious anxieties about the future, and have identified priorities that they believe government needs to address. When students were asked to identify their top five priorities, three issues stood out. These include: Creating good job opportunities for young Canadians (65%), making college and university more affordable (64%), and dealing with climate

change and the environment (63%). Making housing more affordable (56%) and improving Canada’s health care system (55%) were also top priorities for students, though ranked as slightly less important than the former.

One anxiety that many students share relates to their ability to transition to the workforce after completing their studies. According to the Millennial Social Values Study conducted by Environics Research, in the eyes of millennials, the top marker for adulthood is obtaining a full-time, steady job. Owning a home was also deemed to be important.⁶ There are evidence-backed reasons for students to be concerned about these transitions. Not all students take on debt to finance their education, but for those who do, they take on an average debt of \$26,000.⁷ It is therefore unsurprising that

65% of students reported feeling concerned about their level of student debt. Student concern over their financial situation doesn’t just apply to their debt post-graduation, many students also struggle to get by while in study. In fact, 44% of surveyed students reported that they have had to miss some kind of payment due to being short on finances while studying. Most commonly, students report missing payments on credit cards (21%), skipping

Optimism About the Future



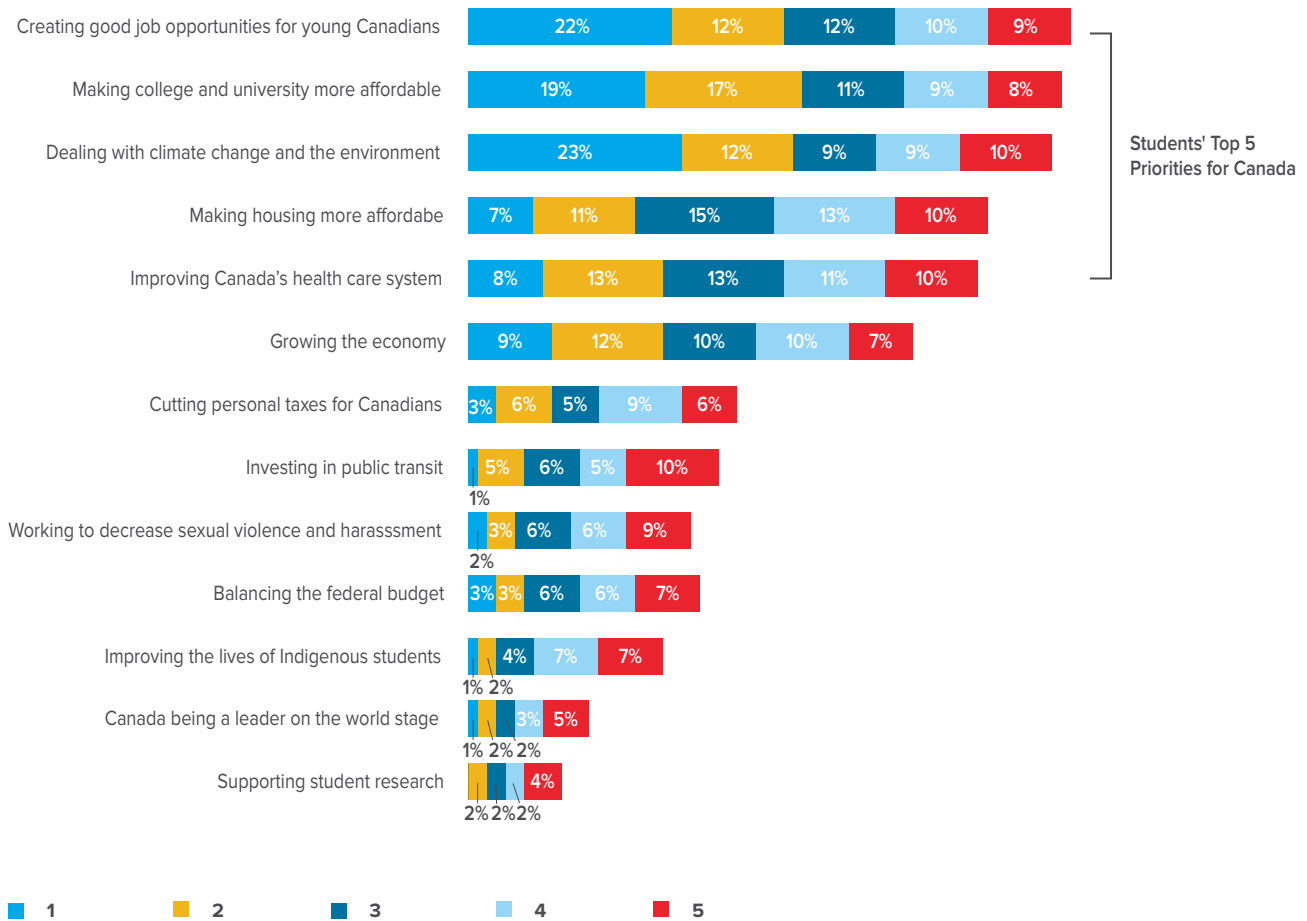
Do you feel optimistic or pessimistic about your personal future?

6 Canadian Millennials: Social Value Study - Final Report. (Toronto, The Environics Institute, 2017: Accessed online: https://www.environicsinstitute.org/docs/default-source/project-documents/canadian-millennial-social-values-study/final-report.pdf?sfvrsn=394cf27a_2

7 2018 Graduating Student Survey. (Canada University Survey Consortium, 2018). Accessed online: http://cusc-ccreu.ca/?page_id=32&lang=en

out on groceries (21%), missing phone bills, (18%) or opting not to buy a textbook required for class (18%). These tough choices come with serious long-term consequences. For instance, missing a credit card bill or phone payment can hurt a person’s credit rating, it is hard on one’s body when it is lacking nutrition, and it is difficult to succeed academically without the right textbook.

Students’ Top Priorities to Tackle in Canada Today

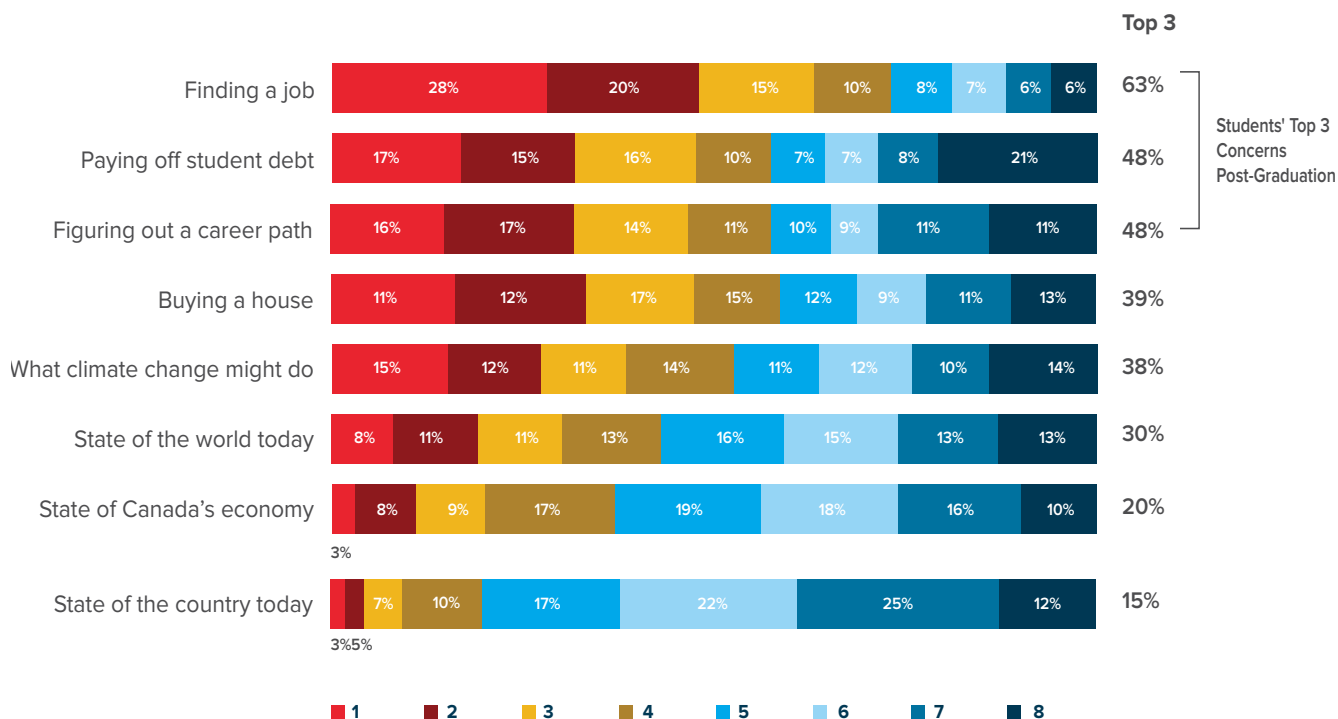


you were to identify 5 top priorities to tackle in Canada today, what are they and how would you rank them on a scale of one to five.

Furthermore, 64% of students report being concerned about the job market. This concern is further compounded by the looming reality that they must begin repaying their student loans in a short 6 months after graduation. These concerns are rooted in statistics, as youth underemployment remains a persistent problem. Statistics Canada has observed that 18.3% of women and 17.7% of men with a university level education are working in positions that require less than a high school diploma.⁸

Statistics Canada has also noted that there are more youth today working in part-time or temporary positions than their have been in previous decades.⁹ The issue of youth underemployment disproportionately affect certain minority groups and marginalized communities, including racialized youth, youth with a disability, Indigenous youth, and more.¹⁰ Progress has been made when it comes to addressing youth unemployment, with the current rate sitting at a near historic low of 10.7% (although still double the national rate of

Students' Top Concerns After Graduation



Please rank below based on what makes you the most worried to the least worried, when thinking of life after graduation:

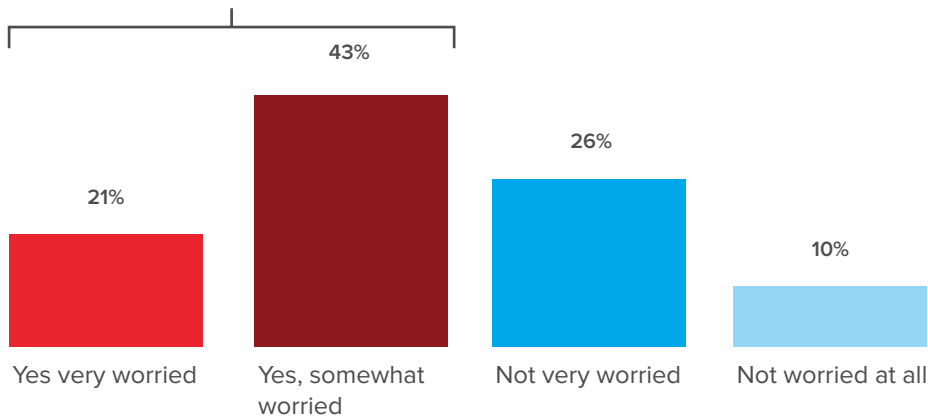
8 Sharanjit Uppal and Sébastien LaRochelle-Côté, Overqualification among recent university graduates in Canada (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2014). Accessed online: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-006-x/2014001/article/11916-eng.pdf>
 9 Morissette, Perspectives on the Youth Labour Market in Canada. Accessed online: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-631-x/11-631-x2016002-eng.htm>
 10 Uppal and LaRochelle-Côté, Overqualification among recent university graduates in Canada. Accessed online: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-006-x/2014001/article/11916-eng.pdf>

5.8%).¹¹ That being said, more needs to be done to close the unemployment gap between youth and the general population in Canada, and to reduce underemployment among highly skilled post-secondary graduates.

The concerns surrounding the affordability of education, finding a well-suited job, and buying a home are all interconnected; students are feeling a lot of pressure. This pressure and the associated stress that comes along with it may be a factor as to why students identified improving the health care system as a top concern.

Concerns About the Job Market

64% of students worry about finding a job



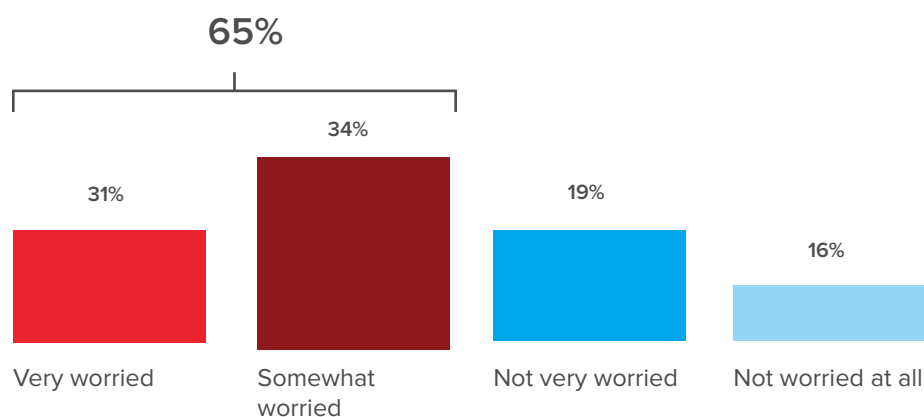
Are you worried about finding employment following graduation

¹¹ <https://tradingeconomics.com/canada/youth-unemployment-rate>

The rates of mental health concerns on Canadian post-secondary campuses have increased in recent years, leaving campus and local mental health services unable to keep up. In a 2016 survey of Canadian post-secondary students, 44% reported feeling “so depressed it was difficult to function” within the last 12 months. Furthermore, 13% had considered suicide, 2.1% had attempted suicide, and 18.4% reported that they have either “been diagnosed or treated by a professional for anxiety” in the past 12 months.¹²

This trend of declining youth and student mental health is not unique to Canada, with similar trends being observed internationally, including in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia and has been referred to as a “rising tide”.¹³

Concerns About Student Debt



Are you worried about the amount of student debt you will have after graduation?

12 American College Health Association. National College Health Assessment II: Canadian Reference Group Executive Summary (Hanover, MD: American College Health Association, 2016). Accessed online: <http://www.acha-ncha.org/docs/NCHA-II%20SPRING%202016%20CANADIAN%20REFERENCE%20GROUP%20EXECUTIVE%20SUMMARY.pdf>

13 M. Condra, M. Dineen, S. Gauthier, H. Gills, A Jack-Davies & E. Condra, “Academic Accommodations for postsecondary students with mental health disabilities in Ontario, Canada: A review of the literature and reflections on emerging issues,” 28 no. 3 (2015): 278.

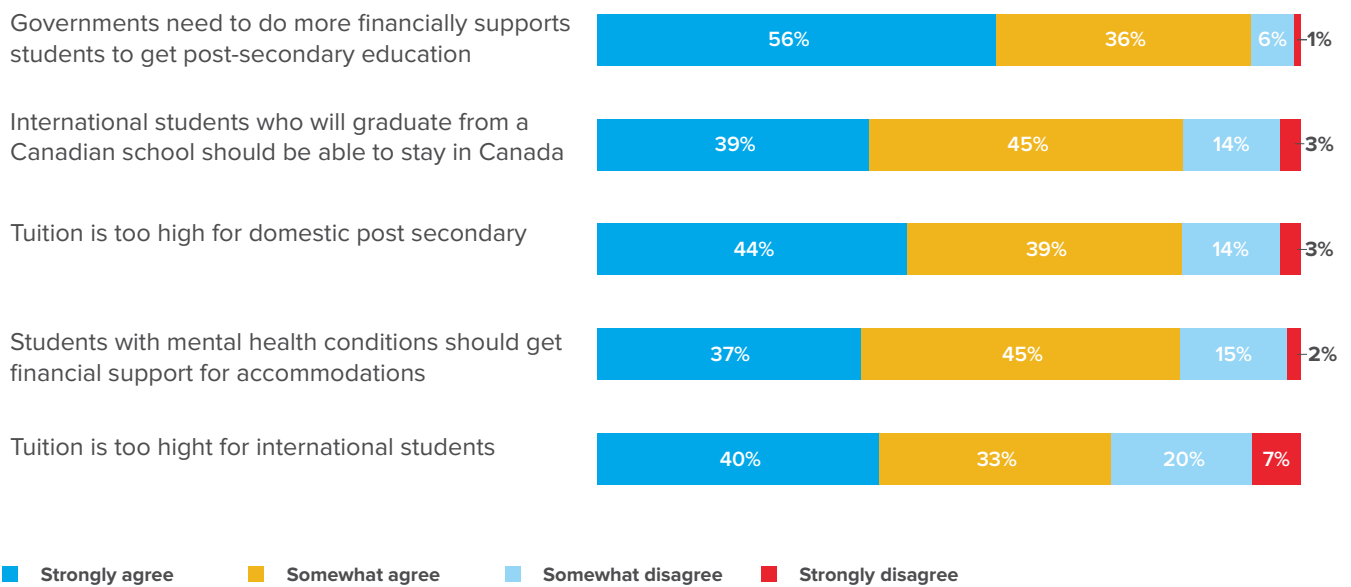
Specific Thoughts On Other Issues

Students' thoughts on post-secondary education go well beyond just concerns about student debt and the job market. Students overwhelmingly agree that tuition is too high for both domestic and international students, and that governments need to do more to financially support students pursuing a post-secondary education. Students recognize that some may need more support than others, and would like to see students with serious mental health conditions receive financial support for accommodations, similar to those offered to students with physical disabilities, to help them obtain their degree. Furthermore, Canada prides itself on being a welcoming and diverse country, and accepts a large number of international students from all over the world.

Students believe that international students who graduate from Canadian post-secondary institutions should have the opportunity to stay in Canada after graduation and continue to provide valuable contributions to Canadian society.

Discussions relating to youth employment in Canada tend to center around two main themes. Firstly, many of those dedicated to reducing youth unemployment rates highlight the need to provide students with work-integrated learning experiences (such as co-op, apprenticeships, or internships) during their studies. These practical experiences help students apply the knowledge learned in school, gives them the work experience

Policies Regarding Post-Secondary Education Funding



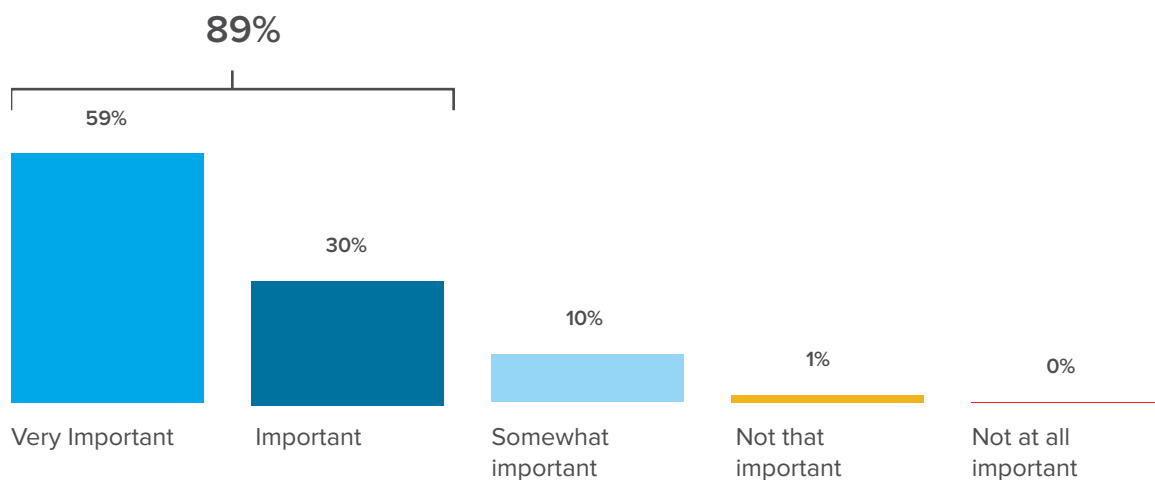
We have a number of policies regarding post-secondary education funding below. For each of the following, would you please tell us if you strongly, somewhat, agree or disagree that:

employers demand for even entry-level positions, and prepares them to enter the workforce. We know that students who expose themselves to work-integrated learning end up better off in many respects than those who don't, and part of the reason why is that employers highly value work-integrated learning experiences. A survey of private sector employers found that the employability of students who had participated in some form of work-integrated learning increased dramatically.¹⁴ Student participation in work-integrated learning also impacts salary. The Education Policy Research Initiative tax-linkage project connects student data to tax data, and reports that students who participated in co-op programs earn on average roughly \$60,000 after graduation, while those who did not participate in co-op were earning on average roughly \$40,000.

Wage disparities between those with co-op experience and those without continue to grow over time. Eight years after graduation, co-op graduates were making an average annual salary of \$100,000 compared to \$70,000 for those who did not take part in a co-op placement.¹⁵ Given this reality, 89% of students agree that every student should have the chance to participate in a work-integrated learning placement.

Secondly, concerns around automation and its impact on the “future of work” are commonly brought up in discussions around youth employment in Canada. Students (along with many experts) appear divided on the impact of technological innovation and automation on the future job opportunities of young people. 28% of students think automation will increase their working opportunities, 31%

Importance of Work-Integrated Learning According to Students



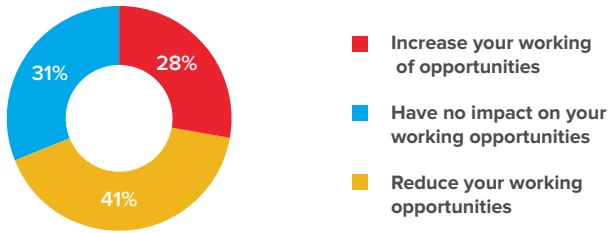
Work intergrated learning involves students accessing internships, co-op, field placements, or some form of experiential learning while they are completing their studies

¹⁴ Developing Canada's Future Workforce: A Survey of Large Private-Sector Employers (Business Council of Canada, March 2016), 6. Accessed online: <http://thebusinesscouncil.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Developing-Canadas-Future-Workforce.pdf>

¹⁵ Ross Finnie and Masashi Miyairi, "The Earnings Outcomes of Post-Secondary Co-op Graduates: Evidence From Tax-Linked Administrative Data". (Ottawa: Education Policy Research Initiative, 2017). Accessed online: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5557eaf0e4b0384b6c9b0172/t/59a8481f46c3c4cd021a224d/1504200738902/Earnings+of+Post-secondary+Co-op+Graduates+-+Final+Report.pdf>

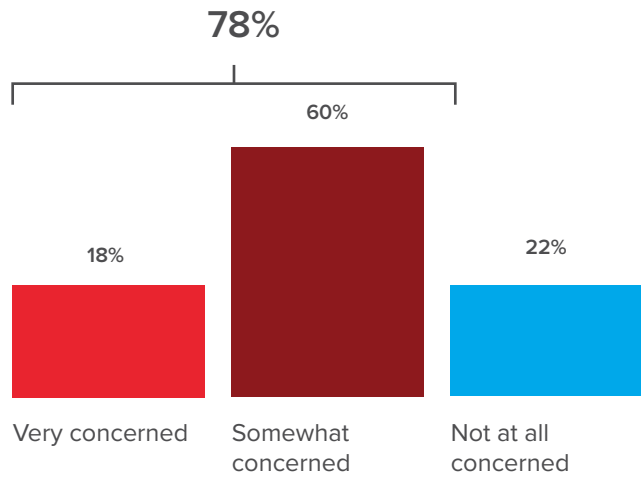
think it will have no impact, and 41% think it will reduce their working opportunities. This general uncertainty means that 78% of students report feeling concerned about the potential of disruption from automation technology.

Disruption Arising From Automation Technology - Working Opportunities



Do you feel like disruption arising from automation will have any of the following effects?

Concerns About Disruption

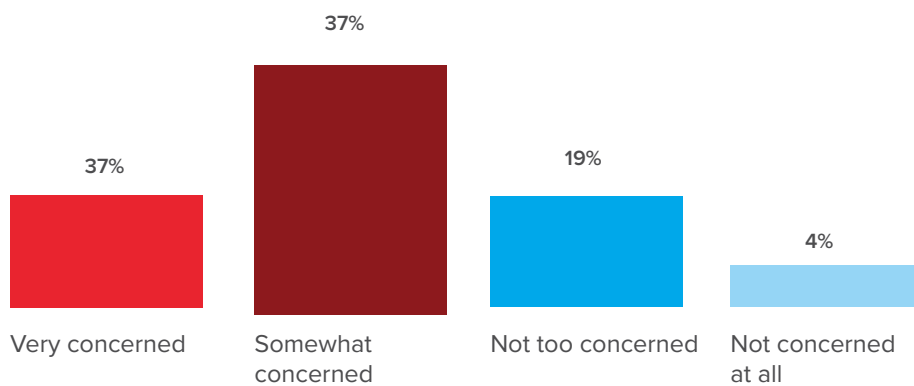


And would you say you are somewhat, very, or not at all concerned about this kind of disruption?

Another prominent issue on post-secondary campuses today is the unfortunate prevalence of sexual violence. The Government of Canada highlights that 47% of all sexual assault incidents reported in Canada were committed against women aged 15 to 24, and of that age group, 41% of reported assaults were against students.¹⁶ 66% of students in Canada report feeling either “very concerned” or “somewhat concerned” about sexual violence on campus.

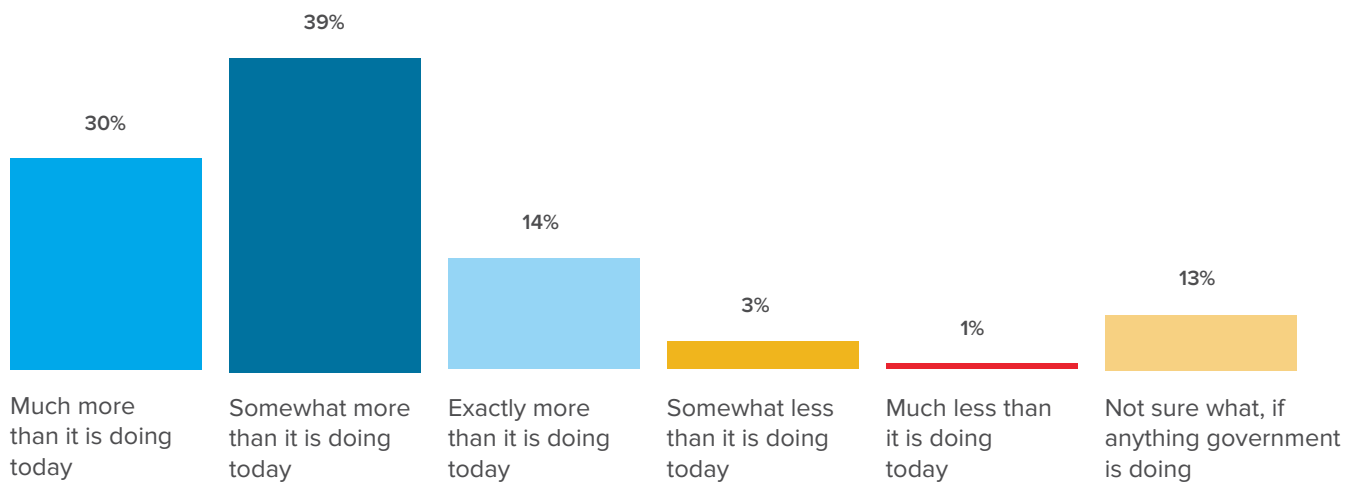
While discussions continue about how the government can play a role in reducing instances of sexual violence on campus, improving supports for survivors, and making campuses generally safer places. Whatever that role may be, students overwhelmingly agree that government needs to be doing more than it is doing today.

Concerns About Sexual Violence on Campus



Are you concerned about sexual violence at school?

Government Addressing Sexual Violence on Campus



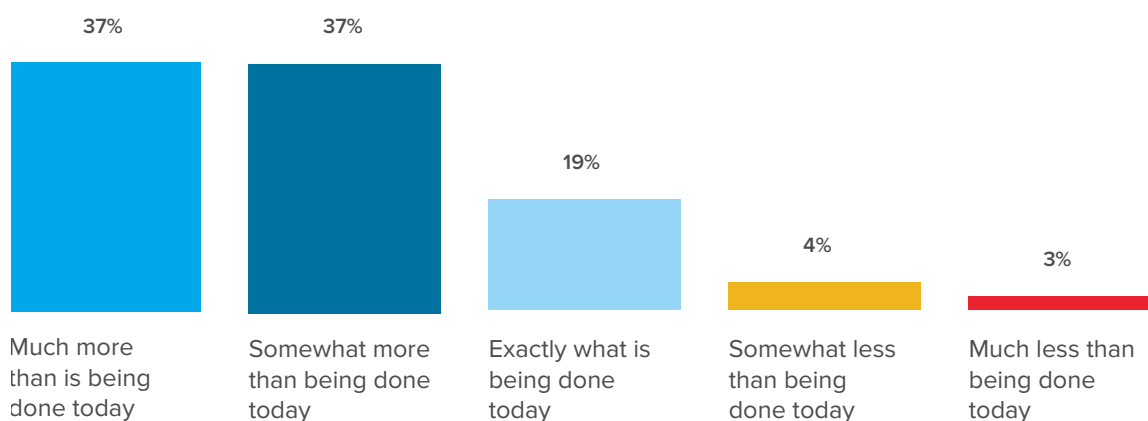
When it come to addressing sexual violence on campus, do you think the government needs to do...

¹⁶ “Equality Growth: A Strong Middle Class.” Government of Canada; 2018. Accessed online: <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2018/docs/plan/toc-tdm-en.html>

Another area that most students agree requires stronger government action is providing Canada's Indigenous population with better access to post-secondary education. In 2011, only 48.4% of Indigenous peoples in Canada had a post-secondary education credential, compared with 64.7% of Canada's non-Indigenous population.¹⁷

Reasons for this include intergenerational trauma stemming from past treatment of Indigenous peoples in Canada, as well as a long-standing lack of funding to support Indigenous individuals who want to and are eligible to attend post-secondary.

Government Addressing Indigenous Enrollment

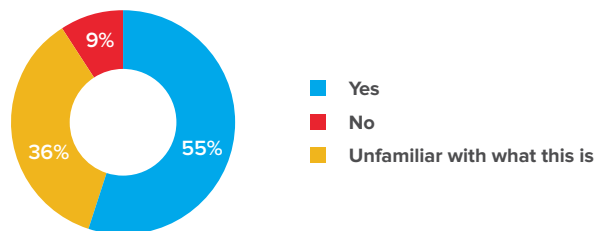


Do you think more needs to be done to make Indigenous people can go to college or university?

¹⁷ Fact Sheet: First Nations Post-Secondary Education (Assembly of First Nations). Accessed online: <https://www.afn.ca/uploads/files/pse-fact-sheet.pdf>

Currently, there is a backlog of over 36,000 eligible Indigenous individuals who wish to pursue a post-secondary education but cannot receive financial aid.¹⁸ Northern and rural populations face even greater challenges when it comes to getting a post-secondary education, given the high living and travel costs and the limitations to reliable internet access in some areas.¹⁹ Students overwhelmingly agree that more needs to be done to make sure that Indigenous peoples can obtain a post-secondary education should they have the desire to.

Attitudes Toward Implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action on Campus



Do you think colleges and/or universities should implement the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to action?

¹⁸ 2018 Pre-Budget Submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance (Assembly of First Nations, August 4, 2017). Accessed online: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/FINA/Brief/BR9081067/br-external/AssemblyOfFirstNations-e.pdf>

¹⁹ Policy Paper: Aboriginal Students (Toronto: Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, 2014), 33. Accessed online: https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/ousa/pages/83/attachments/original/1473369187/Aboriginal_Students_document.pdf?1473369187

Conclusion

The 2019 federal election is important, and for the first time in many years, young people have the chance to steer the direction of this country. The under 40 group, or millennials, are now the largest voting group in Canada, making up about 37% of the electorate representing 8.5 million people. 1.8 million²⁰ of these millennials are post-secondary students, and even more are recent graduates or Canadians who are still in the process of repaying their student loans. Despite popular belief, young people are not politically apathetic. Political parties with a keen interest in winning the election would be wise to commit to investing in the priorities of young people in Canada.

²⁰ Ibid

Our Members



About CASA

Established in 1995, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit, national student organization composed of 23 student associations representing 280,000 postsecondary students from coast to coast. With its partnership with the Quebec Student Union (QSU), CASA represents a total of 360,000 students across Canada and presents a national student voice to the federal government. CASA advocates for a Canadian post-secondary education system that is accessible, affordable, innovative, and of the highest quality.



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