



Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute ▶▶

CDFAI 2009 Conference Poll



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The Canadian Defence and
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Methodology

- The online survey was conducted among current members of the INNOVATIVE's Canada 20/20 panel from October 20th to October 23rd, 2009.
- The Canada 20/20 Panel is recruited from a wide variety of sources to be representative of the known distribution of Canadians by age, gender, region and language.
- Each survey is administered to a series of randomly selected sub samples of the panel and weighted according to Census data to ensure that the sample is representative of the age, gender, region and language breakdown of the Canadian population to provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample.
- Each panellist is provided with a unique URL in their invitation so that only invited panel members are able to complete any specific survey. Each URL can only be used to complete one survey.
- The weighted total sample included 1,000 responses eligible for inclusion in our analysis. There were over samples in BC, Alberta and Ontario which bring the total sample of 1,224.
- An unweighted probability sample of 1,000 would have an estimated margin of error of $\pm 3,1$ percentage points, 19 times out of 20.
- The margin of error will be larger within each sub-grouping of the sample



With support for mission decreasing, Canadians are now split on Afghanistan

- Although support for the Afghan mission has dropped compared to June 2006, Canadians remain split on the deployment in Afghanistan.
 - Canadians are now hesitant about sending troops overseas when Canada has no direct interest at stake (45% support, vs. 67% in June 2006), only a minority of them still support the Afghan mission (45% vs. 59% in June 2006) or agree that the Afghan mission is creating a peaceful and democratic society (48% vs. 61% in June 2006). Note that Quebeckers are consistently more skeptical of the Afghan mission.
 - Support for troop deployment has also decreased, with a little less than half of Canadians (47% vs. 55% in October 2006) now saying that there are times when the military simply needs to be ready and intervene even if there is danger
- When it comes to the end of the mission, about half of Canadians (53%) say we should put an end to our military operations and focus on humanitarian work and reconstruction, while 15% would like to see an ongoing role for our military beyond 2011. Only 23% of Canadians (and 31% of Quebeckers) say we should put an end to our operations, military and non-military, after 2001.
 - Half of Canadians would oppose (50% oppose, 40% support) extending our military presence in Afghanistan after 2011 if President Barak Obama increased the US troop presence and asked Canada to stay as a part of a plan to provide military security to allow renewed international efforts to address Afghanistan's economic, political and social issues.



Canadians support NATO membership and see it as multilateral protection against new threats

- Canadians are familiar with NATO, with half of them saying (51%) they could explain to others what NATO is, and once reminded of some of NATO's activities, two thirds of Canadians say they could do it.
- Canadians strongly support Canada maintaining its membership in NATO (82% support, 47% strongly support).
 - Most Canadians agree being part of NATO means we are part of a larger alliance than the 'coalition of the willing' (83% agree)
 - Most also agree that western countries need to be part of a military alliance in case it is needed against new threats such as Al-Qaeda and rogue states (81% agree).
 - Only a third of Canadians (31%) believe that maintaining a military alliance outside of the UN is a threat to the effective functioning of the UN.

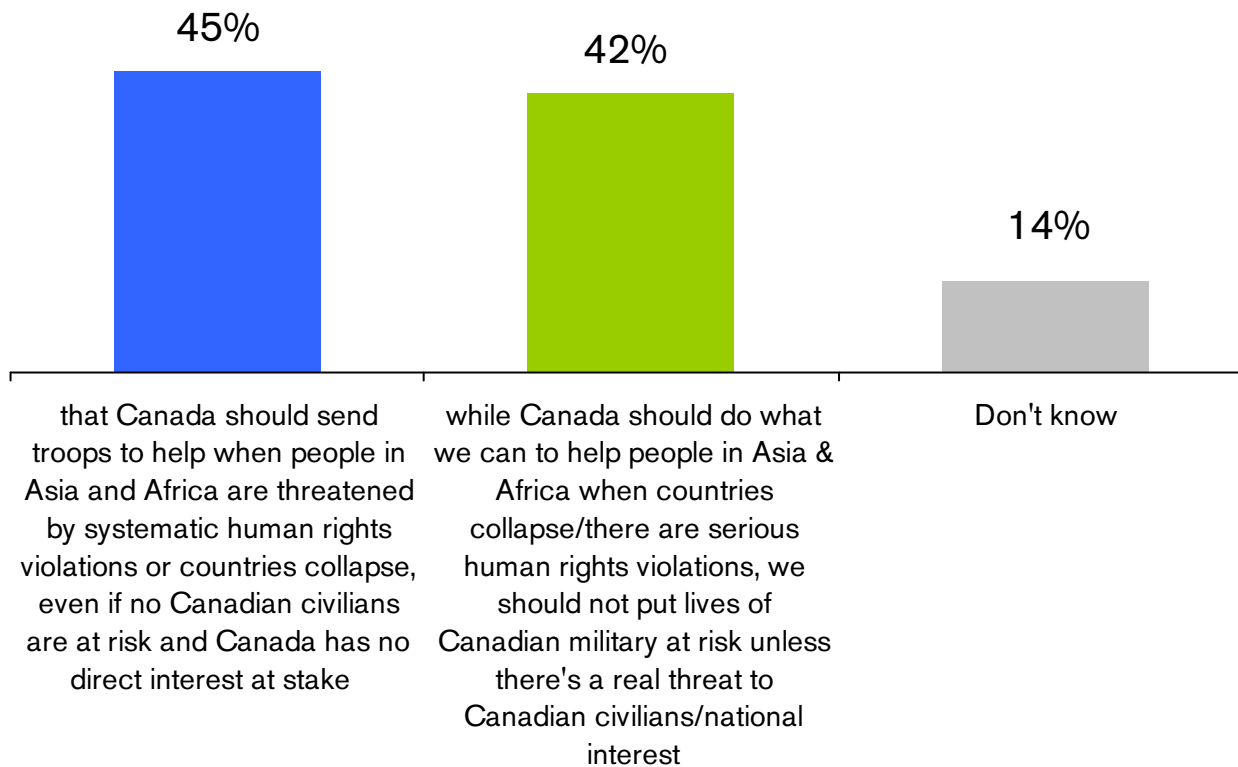


Detailed results



Canadians split on Canada sending troops if there are no threats to national interest

Q Whenever Canada sends our military into dangerous circumstances around the world, there is always a chance some members of our military may be injured or killed. Which of the following statements about the military is closest to your point of view? *Some people say...*



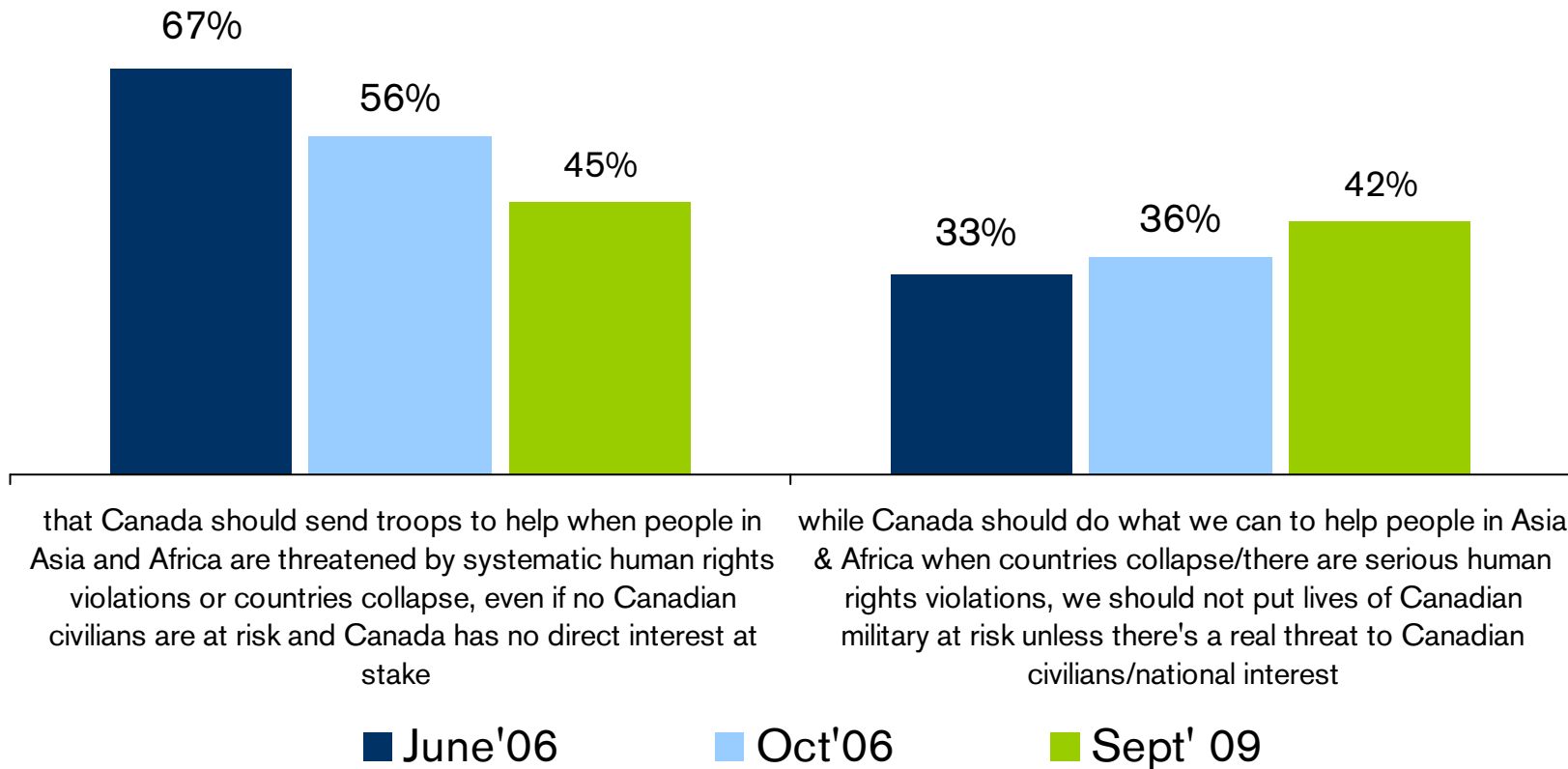
Those that responded 'Should not put lives of Canadian military at risk'

Region	Percentage
BC	37%
Alberta	37%
Prairies	29%
Ontario	41%
Quebec	48%
Atlantic	46%



'Canada should send troops' continues to decline in Sept 2009

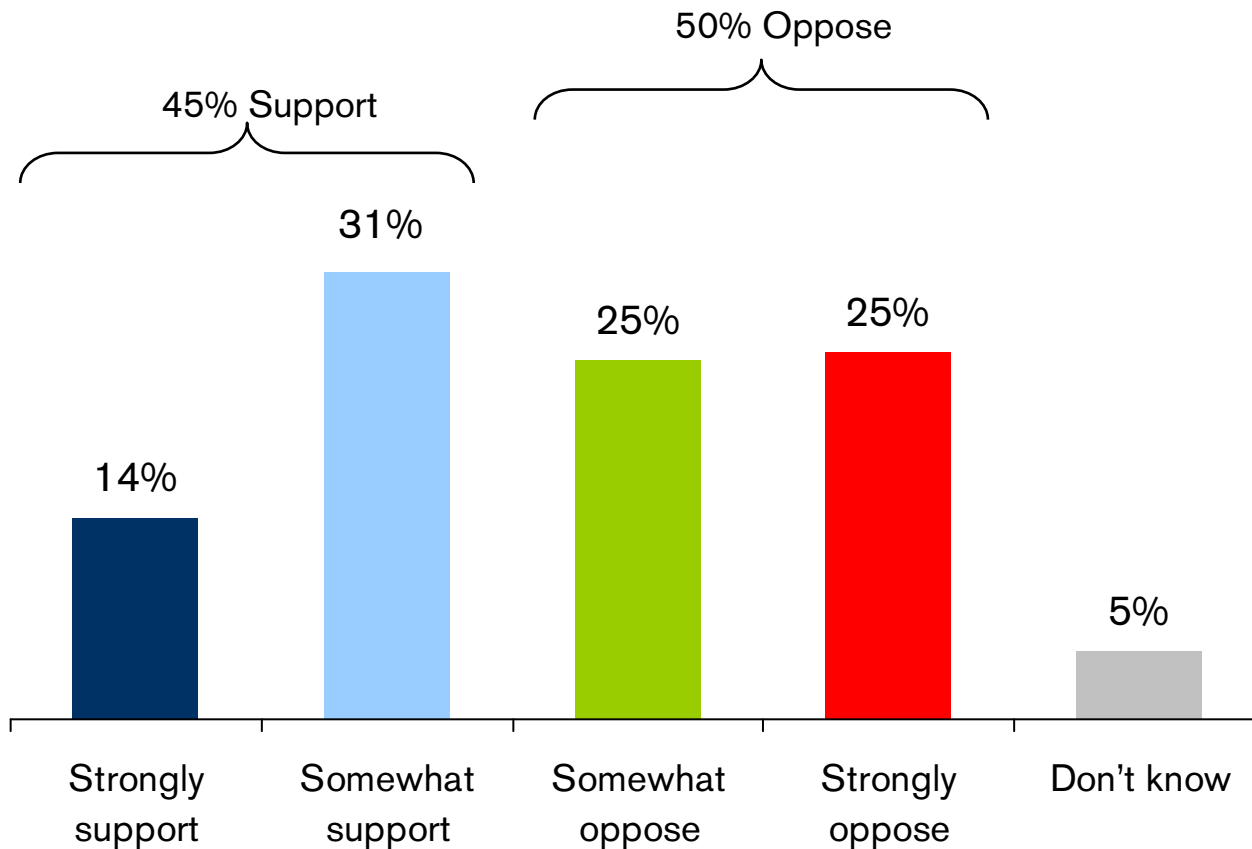
Q Whenever Canada sends our military into dangerous circumstances around the world, there is always a chance some members of our military may be injured or killed. Which of the following statements about the military is closest to your point of view? *Some people say...*



Note: Don't know not shown

Plurality oppose Canada sending troops to Afghanistan

Q Do you support or oppose Canada sending troops to Afghanistan?



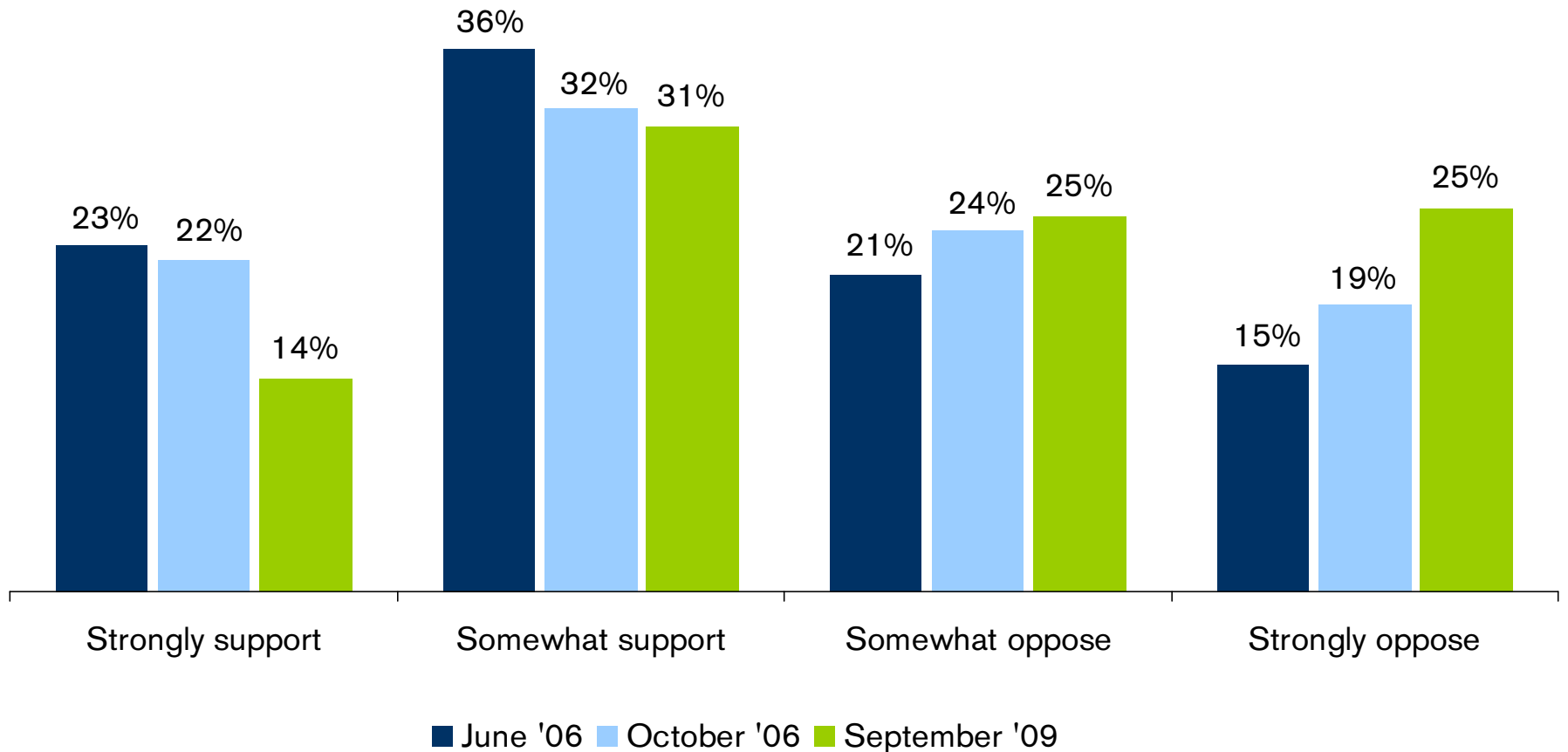
Those that responded 'Oppose'

Region	Percentage
BC	43%
Alberta	51%
Prairies	44%
Ontario	42%
Quebec	68%
Atlantic	51%



“Strongly Support sending troops” down 8 points since October 2006

Q Do you support or oppose Canada sending troops to Afghanistan?

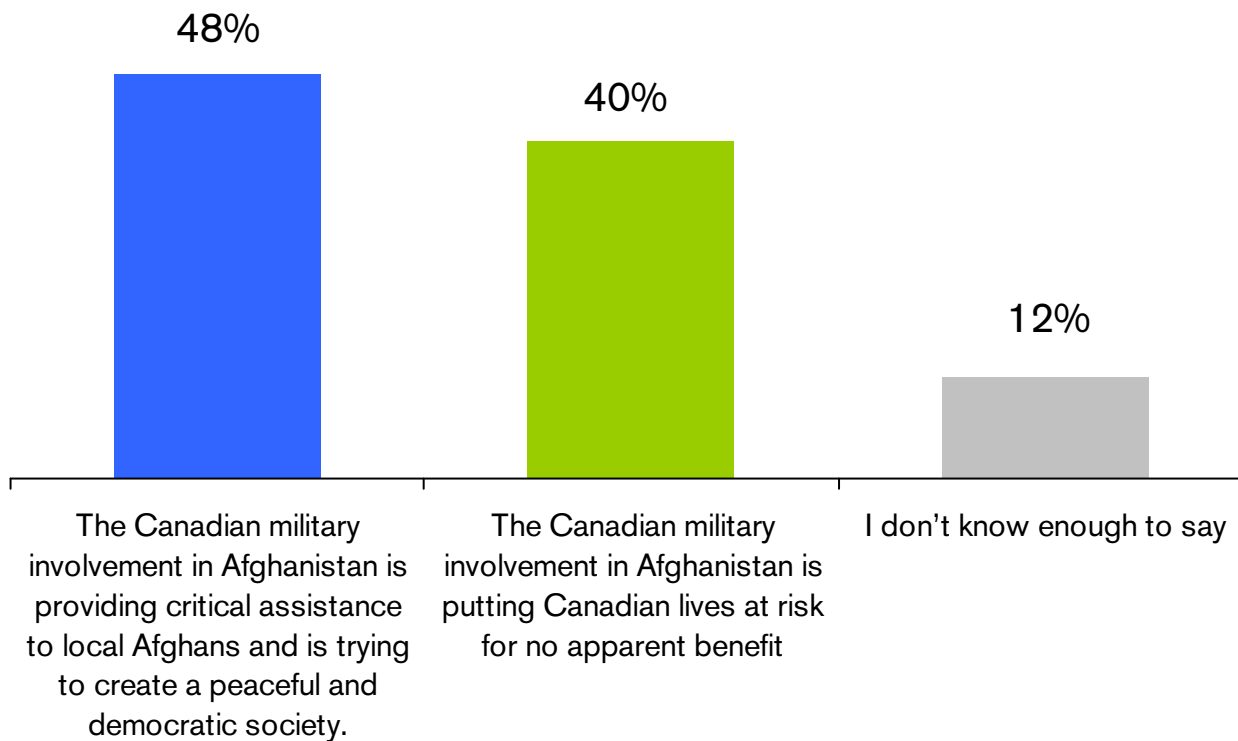


Note: 'Don't know' not shown

Canadians believe Afghan mission is creating a peaceful and democratic society ¹⁰



Currently about 2800 Canadian soldiers are serving in Afghanistan. Which of the following statements is closest to your view on the impact of those Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan?



Those that responded 'putting lives at risk for no apparent benefit'

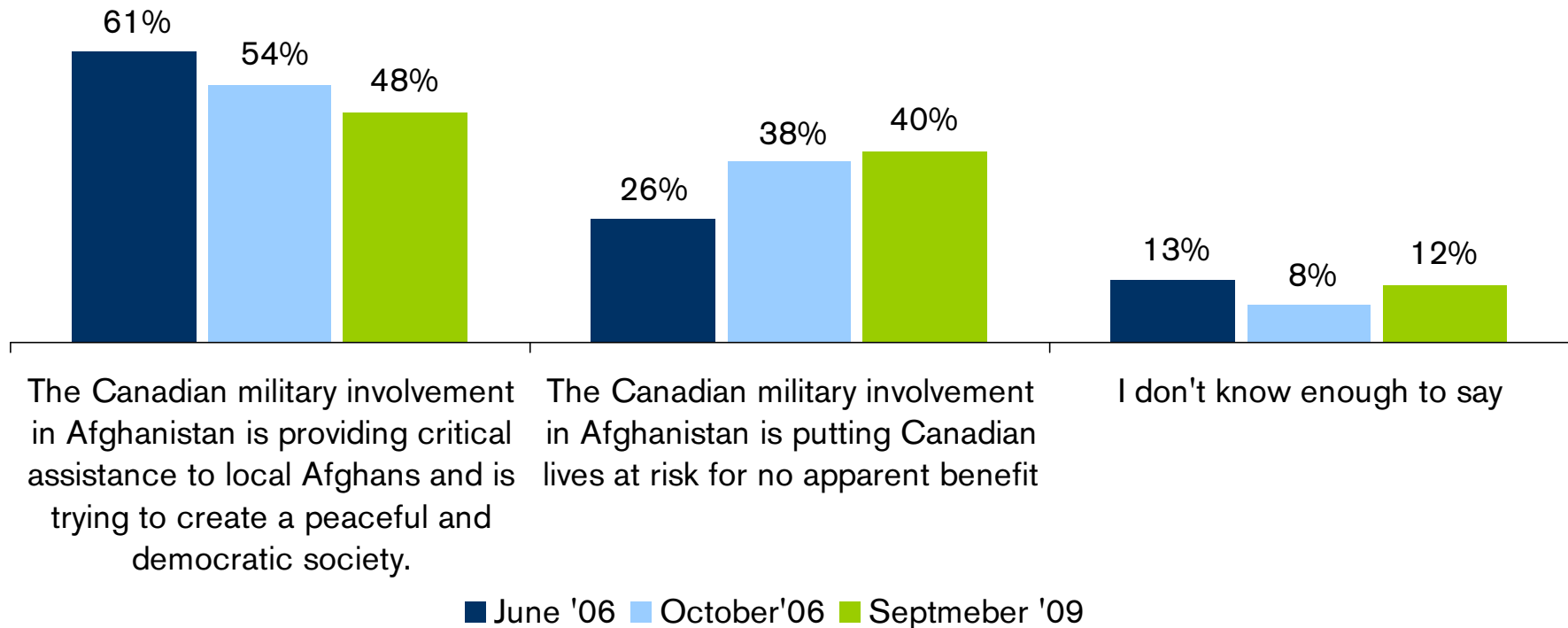
Region	Percentage
BC	33%
Alberta	34%
Prairies	22%
Ontario	34%
Quebec	60%
Atlantic	45%



Skepticism with mission's growing compared with June 2006 levels

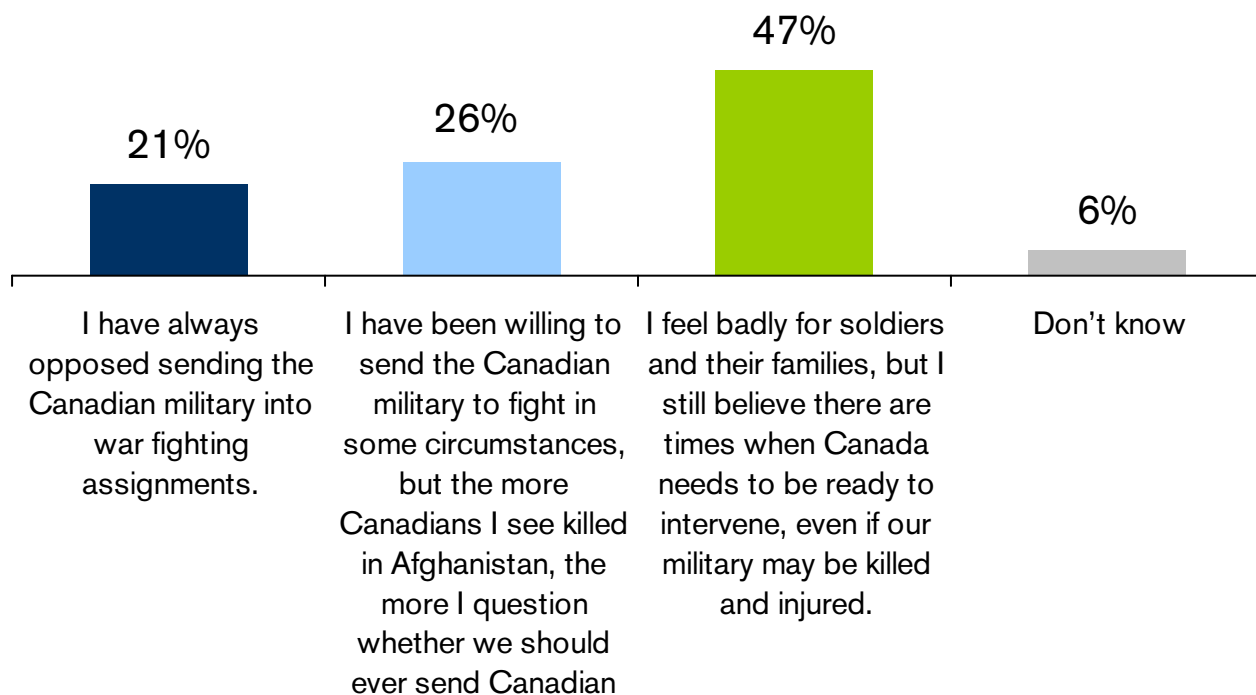


Currently about 2800 Canadian soldiers are serving in Afghanistan. Which of the following statements is closest to your view on the impact of those Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan?



About half feel Canada needs to be ready to intervene; Quebeckers disagree

Q Which of the following points of view best reflects your reaction to the number of Canadian soldiers who are being killed in Afghanistan?



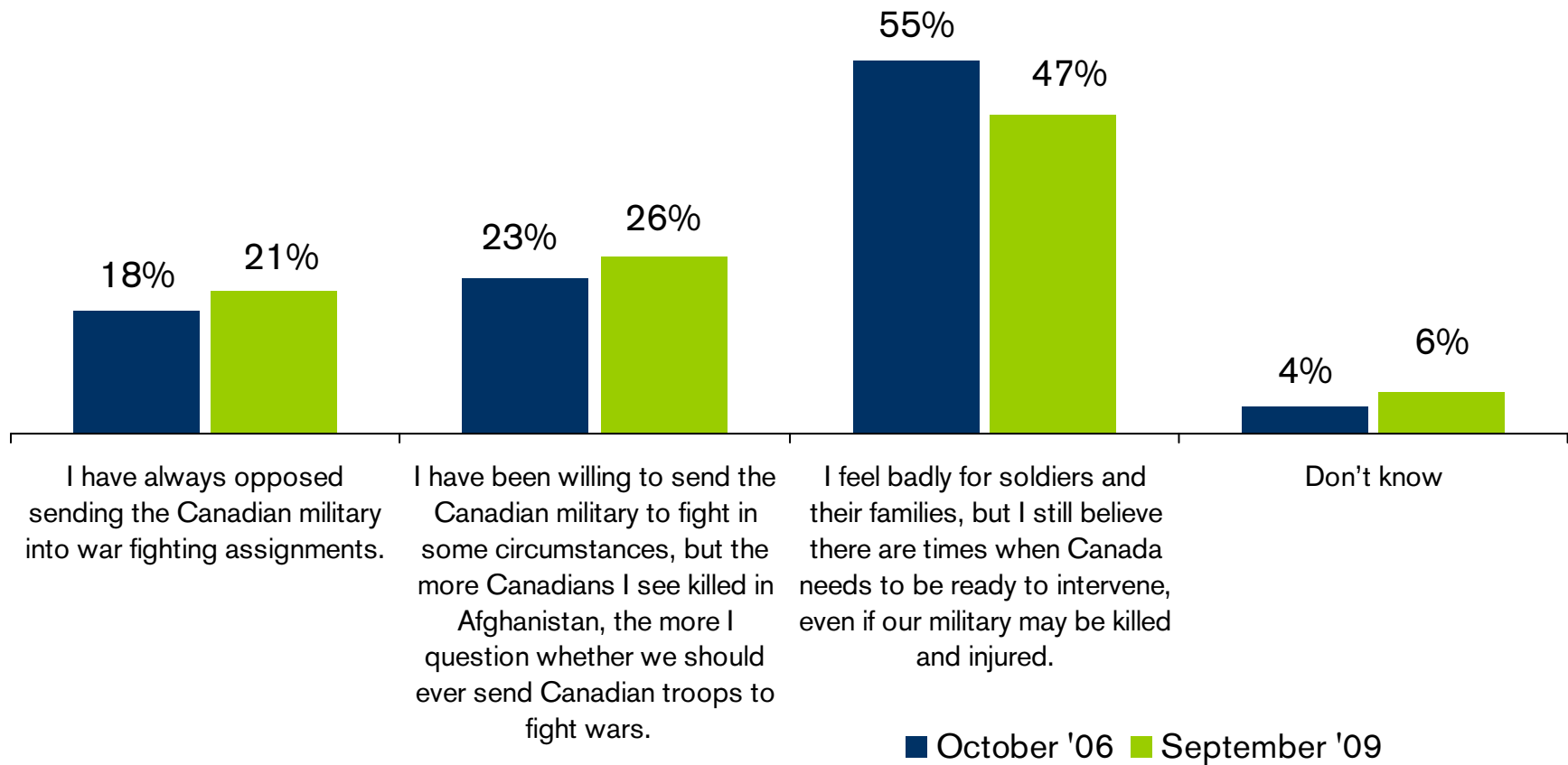
Those that responded 'always opposed sending military into war'

Region	Percentage
BC	14%
Alberta	18%
Prairies	11%
Ontario	15%
Quebec	41%
Atlantic	15%



Support for troop deployment down 8 points since October 2006

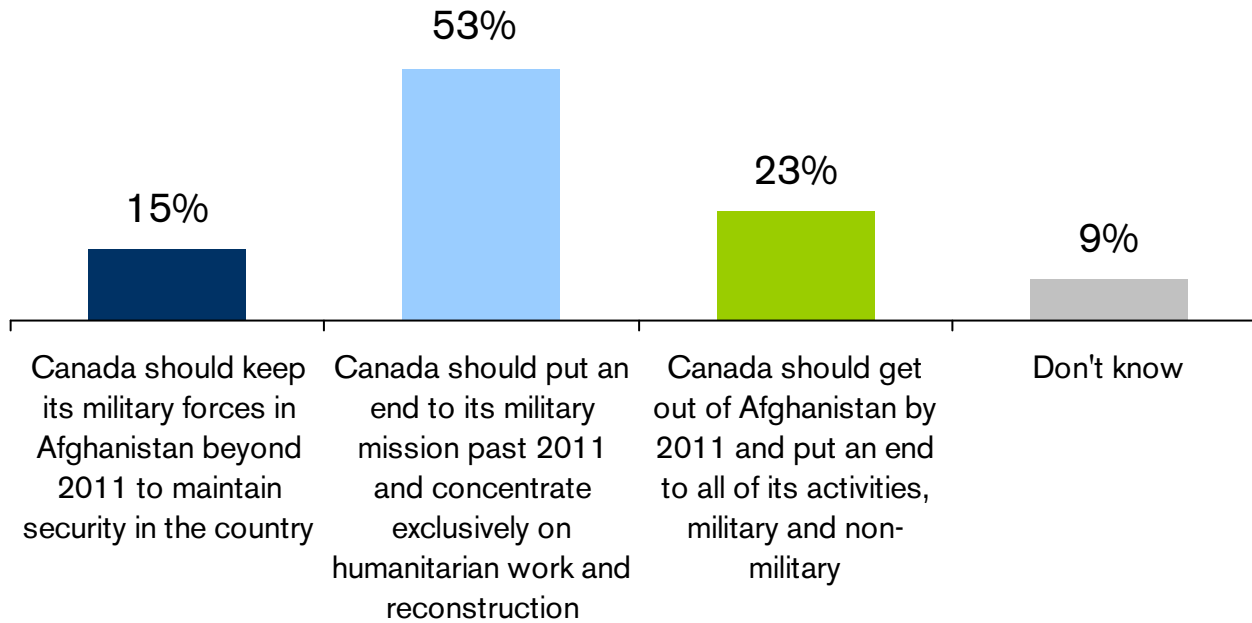
Q Which of the following points of view best reflects your reaction to the number of Canadian soldiers who are being killed in Afghanistan?



Majority say we should put an end to military mission and focus on humanitarian work



The current military mission of Canada in Afghanistan is set to end in 2011. When it comes to the Canadian presence in Afghanistan after 2011, which of the following view is closest to your own?



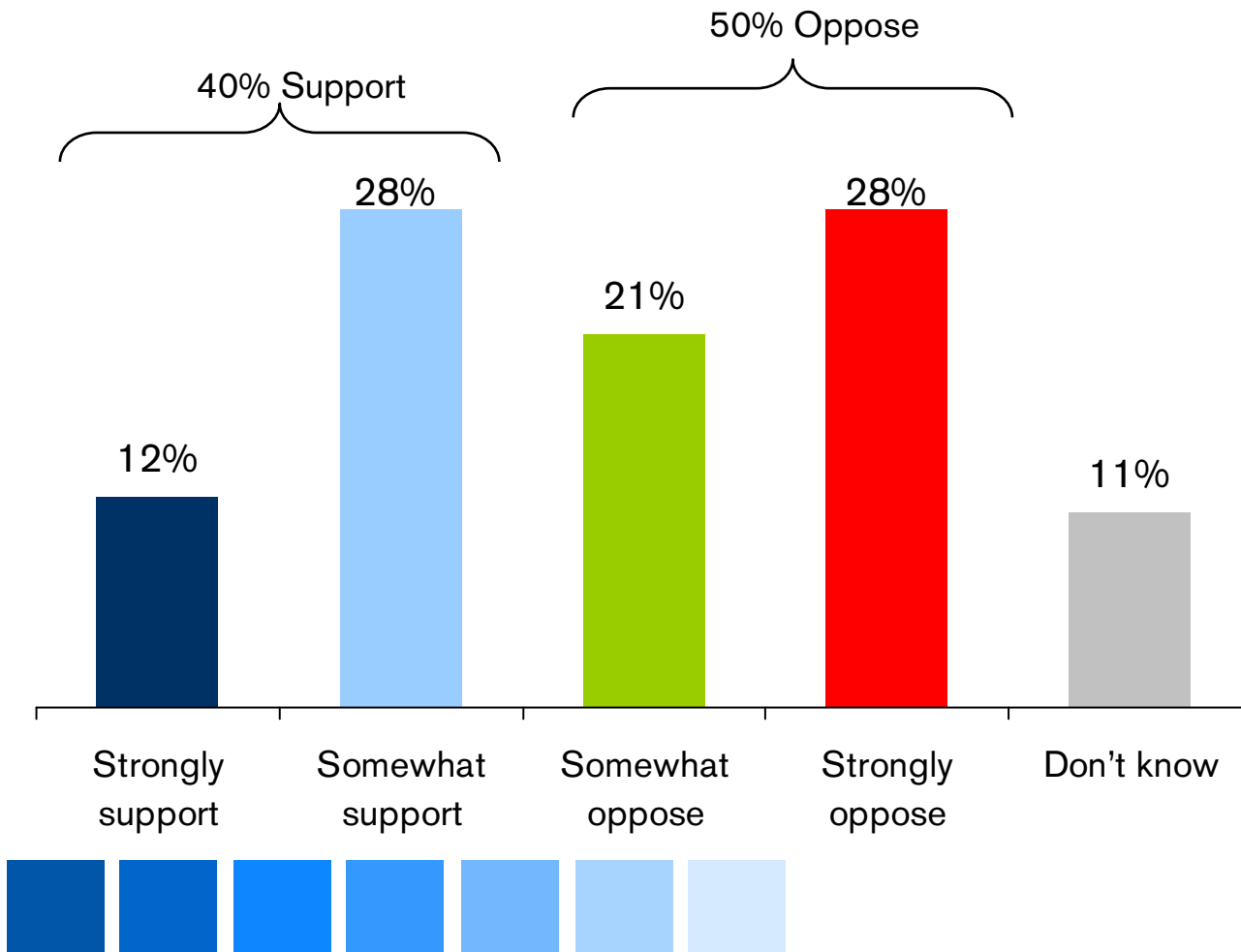
Those that responded 'Get out of Afghanistan by 2011'

Region	Percentage
BC	17%
Alberta	25%
Prairies	15%
Ontario	20%
Quebec	31%
Atlantic	22%



Half of respondents opposed to extending involvement past 2011; majority in Quebec

Q Would you support or oppose Canada extending its military presence in Afghanistan after 2011 if President Barak Obama increased the US troop presence and asked Canada to stay as a part of a plan to provide military security to allow renewed international efforts to address Afghanistan's economic, political and social issues.

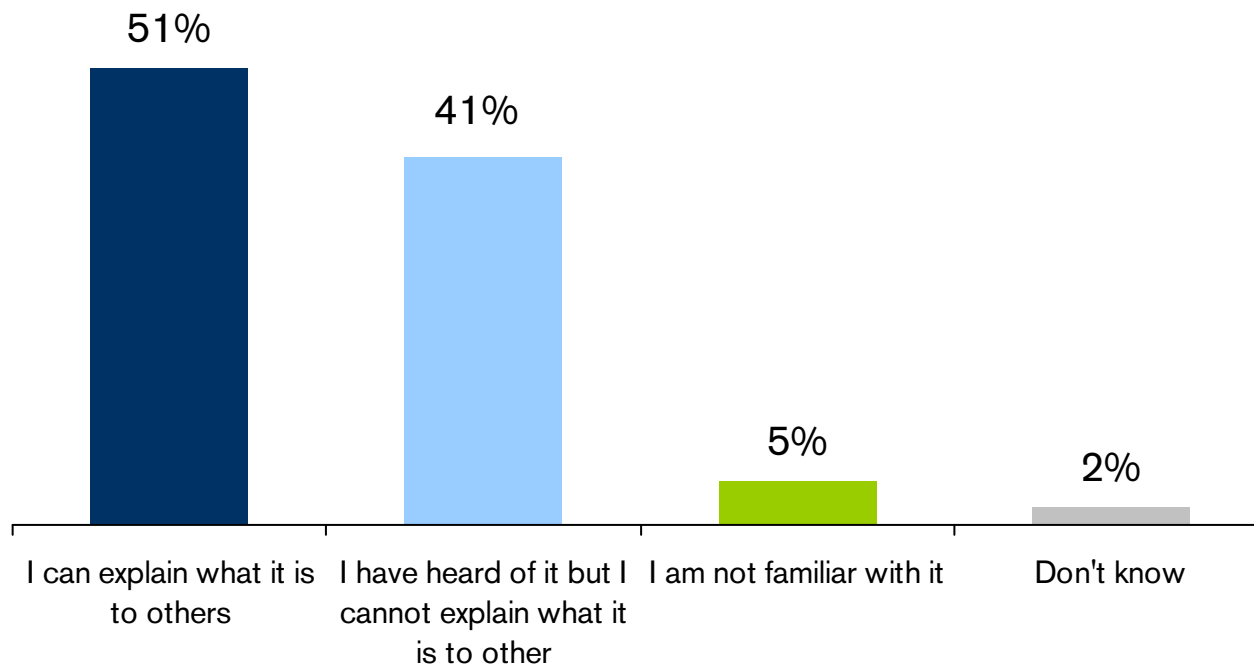


Those that responded 'Oppose'

Region	Percentage
BC	43%
Alberta	55%
Prairies	39%
Ontario	42%
Quebec	63%
Atlantic	51%

Just over half can explain NATO to others

Q One of the many international organizations Canada belongs to is NATO. How familiar are you with NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization?



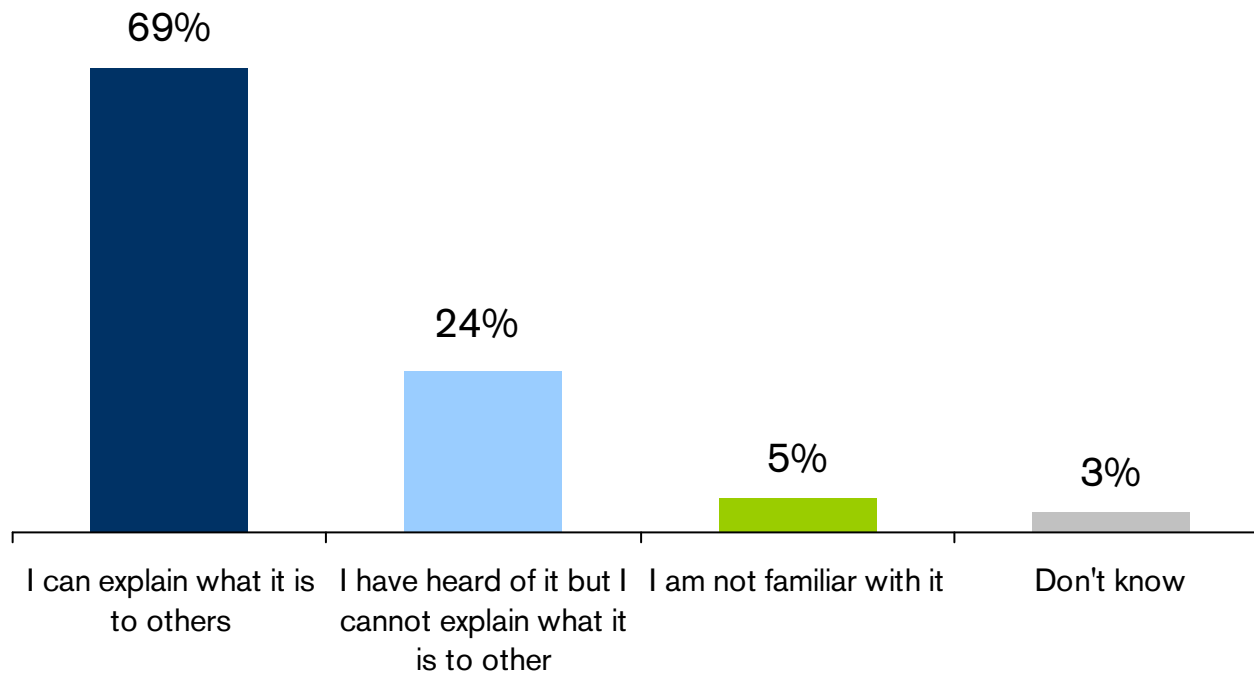
Those that responded 'Not familiar'

Region	Percentage
BC	1%
Alberta	2%
Prairies	3%
Ontario	3%
Quebec	14%
Atlantic	1%

After reminding, almost 7-in-10 can explain NATO to others



NATO is a military alliance of 28 European and North American countries. Originally formed for the defence of Western Europe during the Cold War with Russia, NATO continues as an alliance to safeguard the freedom and security of its member countries by political and military means. NATO has also been the organization tasked with running the UN-sanctioned military operation against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Now that you have been reminded of some of NATO's activities, how familiar are you with NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization?

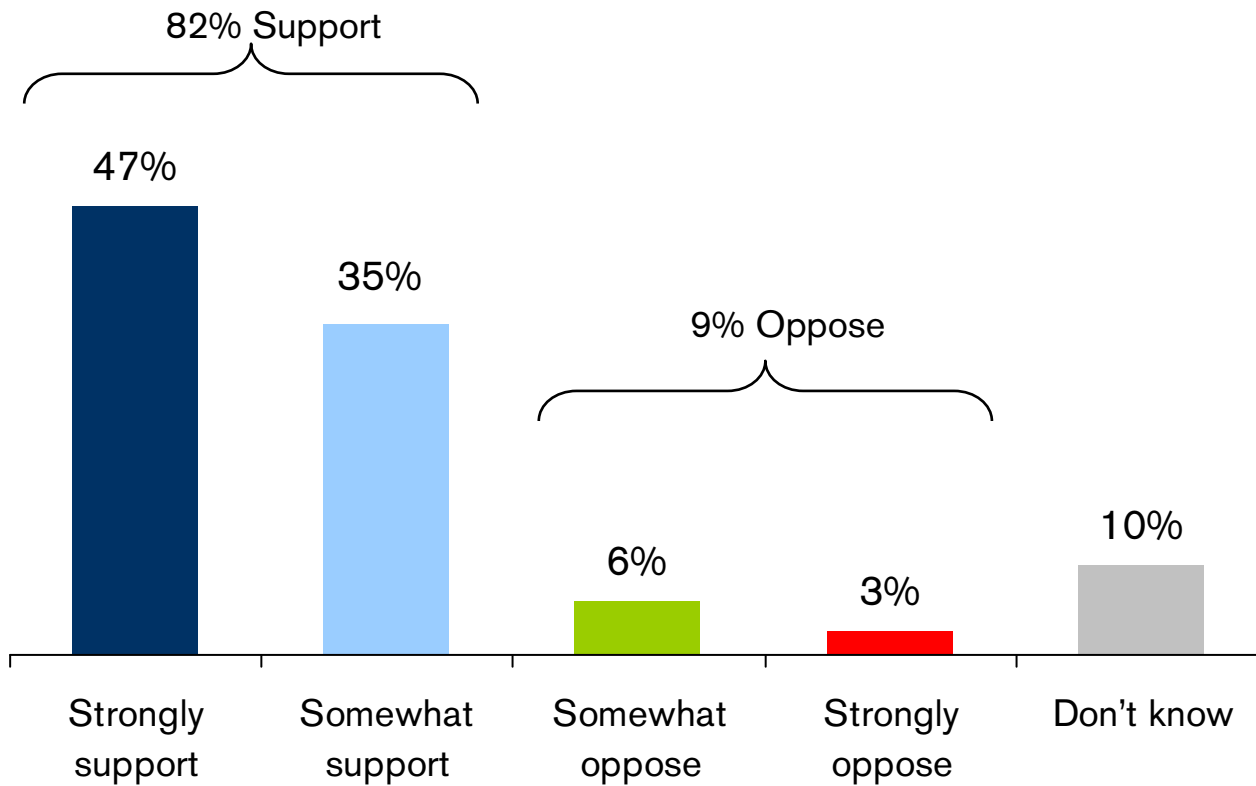


Those that responded 'Not familiar'

Region	Percentage
BC	4%
Alberta	2%
Prairies	3%
Ontario	2%
Quebec	12%
Atlantic	4%

Most Canadians support maintaining NATO membership

Q Do you support or oppose Canada maintaining its membership in NATO?

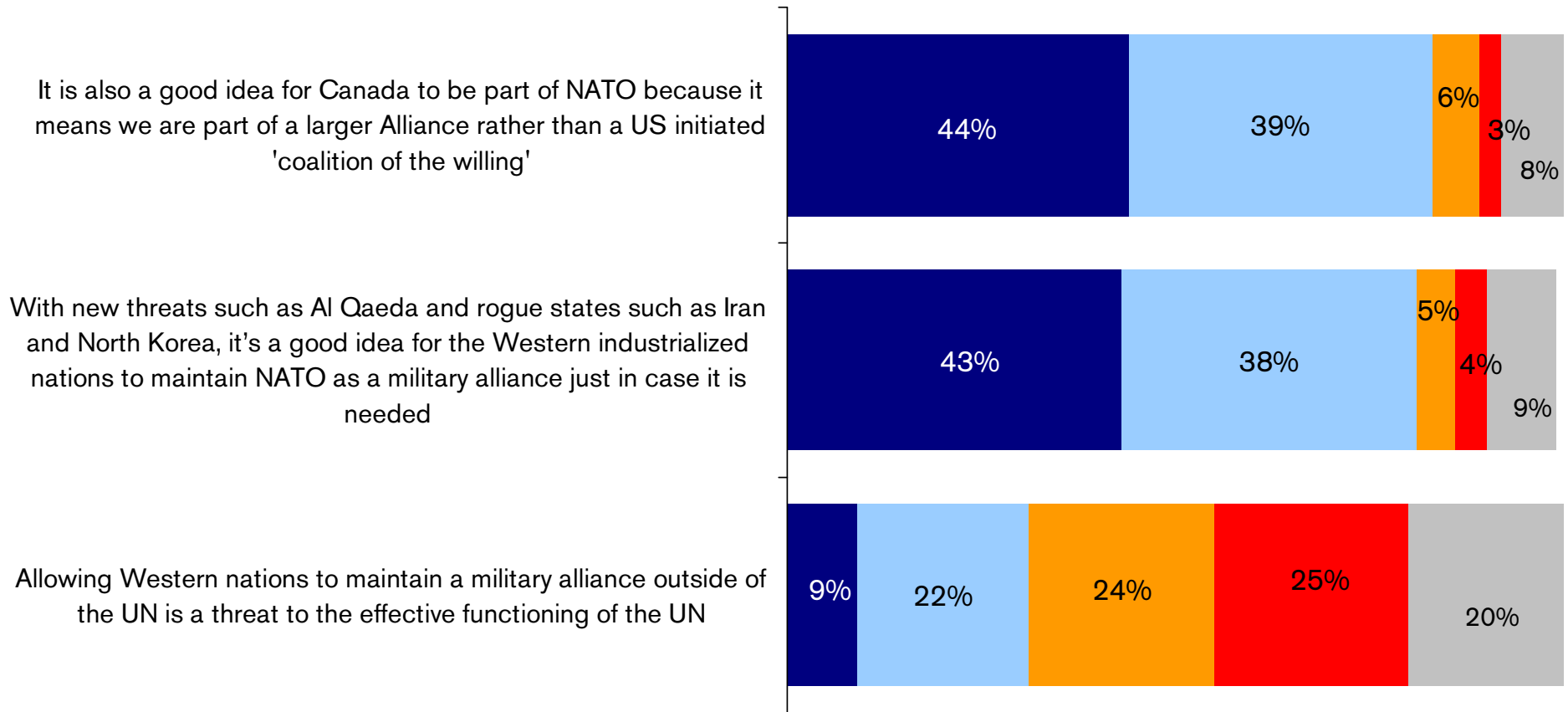


Those that responded 'Support'



Region	Percentage
BC	76%
Alberta	83%
Prairies	72%
Ontario	88%
Quebec	74%
Atlantic	92%

NATO not perceived as a threat to UN

Q Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



■ Strongly agree
 ■ Somewhat agree
 ■ Somewhat disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Don't know



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