



# Survey Results Summary

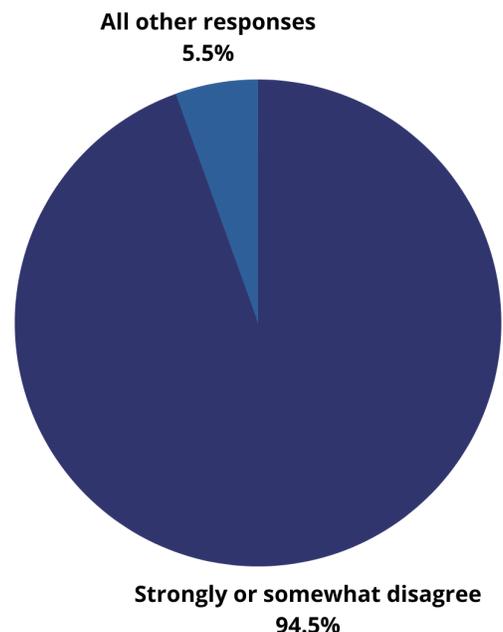
**February 2021**

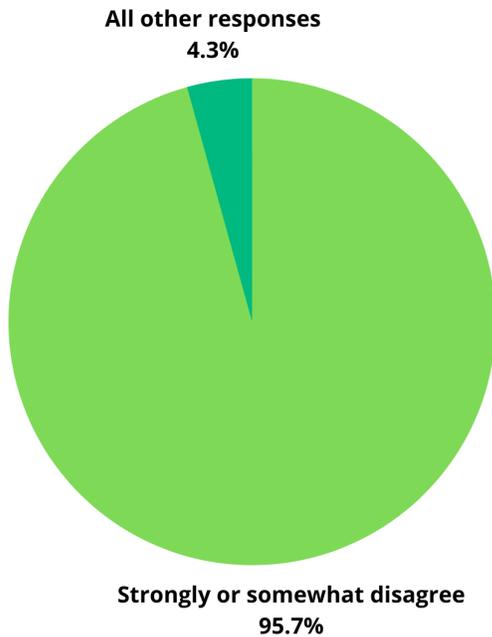
The coalition of organizations behind [StopPSEcuts.ca](http://StopPSEcuts.ca) undertook a survey in an effort to understand how the post-secondary education sector—including faculty, support staff, and students—and the general public feel about the provincial government's current approach to post-secondary education.

## **1. The survey respondents overwhelmingly do not trust the provincial government to look out for the best interests of post-secondary institutions.**

The survey respondents were asked to indicate their agreement with the following statement: "I trust the UCP government to look out for the best interests of our post-secondary education institutions."

86.1% of respondents indicated they strongly disagreed with the statement that they trusted the provincial government to look out for the best interest of post-secondary institutions, 8.4% of respondents indicated that they somewhat disagreed with the statement, 2.4% neither agreed nor disagreed, 1.9% somewhat agreed and 1.3% strongly agreed.



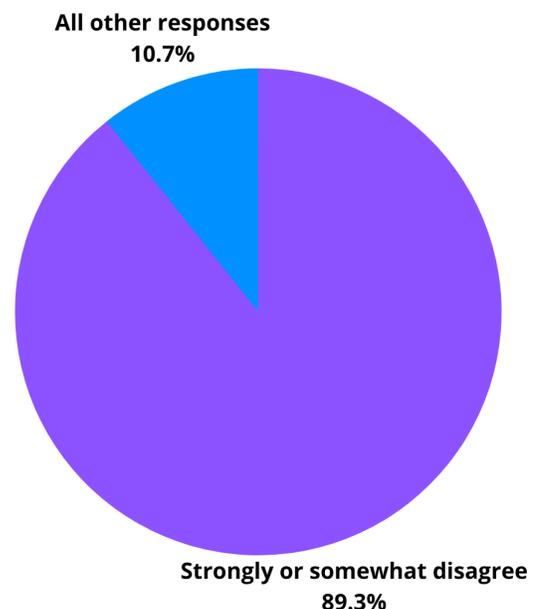


This overwhelming trend of distrust of the government to act in the best interest of post-secondary institutions is repeated for both universities and colleges.

Among the respondents who were staff, students, and faculty at Alberta's universities, 88.2% of respondents indicated strong disagreement with the statement that they trusted the provincial

government to look out for the best interest of post-secondary institutions, 7.5% somewhat disagreed, 1.8% neither agreed nor disagreed, 1.6% somewhat agreed, and 0.9% strongly agreed.

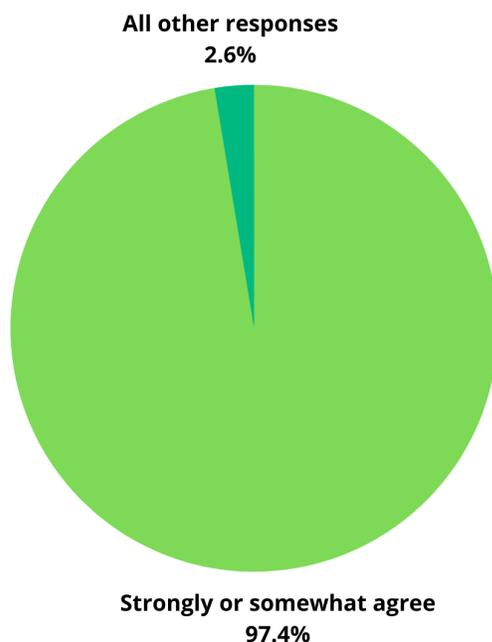
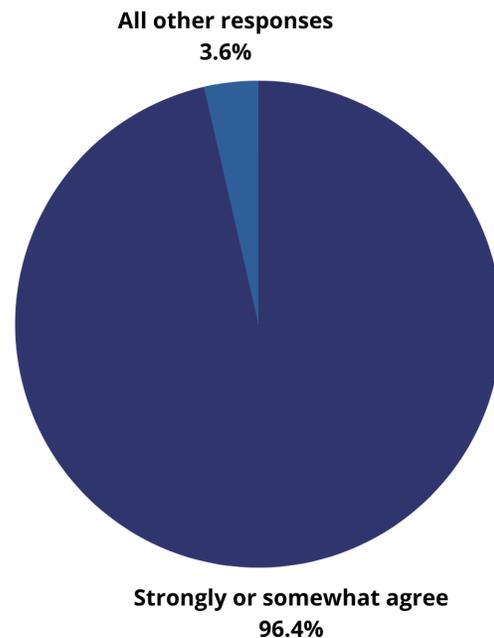
Among the respondents at Alberta's colleges, 76.5% of indicated they strongly disagreed with the statement that they trusted the provincial government to look out for the best interest of post-secondary institutions, 12.8% somewhat disagreed, 3.4% neither agreed nor disagreed, 4.7% somewhat agreed, and 2.7% strongly agreed.



## 2. The sector and the public overwhelmingly agreed that investment into post-secondary education is part of the solution for Alberta's current economic challenges.

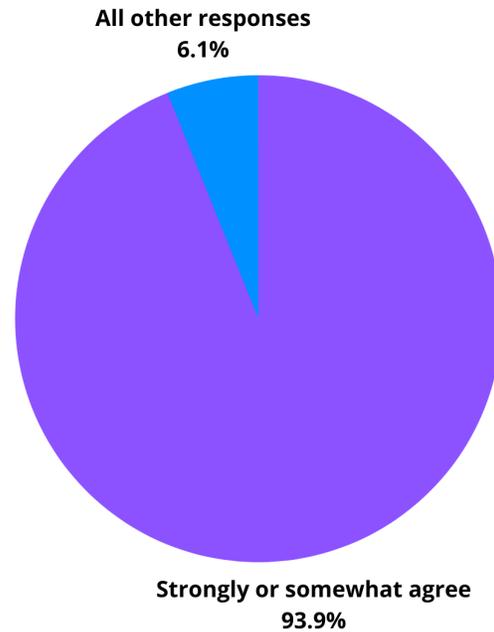
The survey asked the respondents to indicate their level of agreement with the following statement: "I believe that investing in PSI [post-secondary institutions] is part of the solution to Alberta's current challenges."

Across the sector and public, 84.8% of respondents strongly agreed with this statement in favour of post-secondary education investment, 11.6% somewhat agreed, 1.5% neither agreed nor disagreed, 0.6% somewhat disagreed, and 1.4% strongly disagreed.



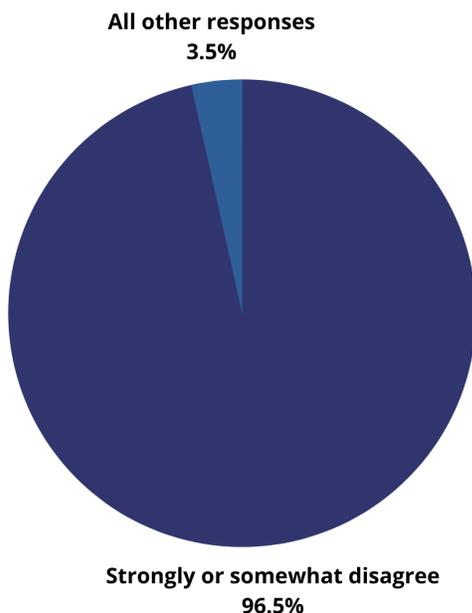
At Alberta's universities, 85.6% of the staff, students, and faculty strongly agreed with the statement in favour of post-secondary education investment, 11.8% somewhat agreed, 1.1% neither agreed nor disagreed, 0.4% somewhat disagreed, and 1.0% strongly disagreed.

At Alberta's colleges, 83.2% the staff, students, and faculty strongly agreed with the statement in favour of investment into post-secondary education. 10.7% somewhat agreed, 3.4% neither agreed nor disagreed, 0.7% somewhat disagreed, and 2.0% strongly disagreed.



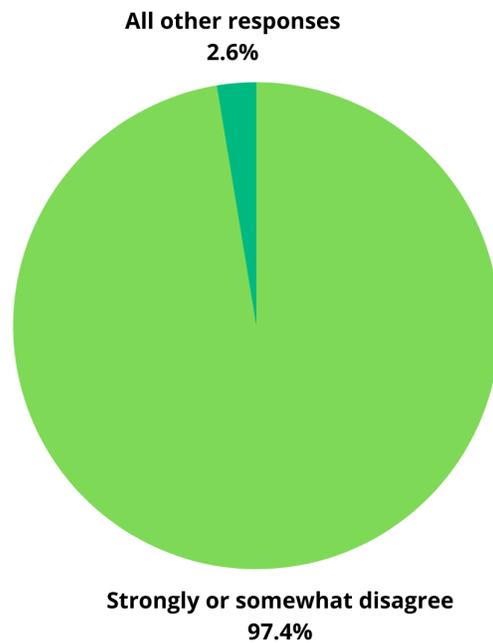
### **3. The post-secondary sector and the public strongly disagree with the provincial government's cuts to post-secondary education.**

The survey asked the respondents to indicate their level of agreement with the following statement: "I believe the United Conservative Party's strategy of making drastic cuts to PSI's' operating budgets is in the best interest of Albertans."

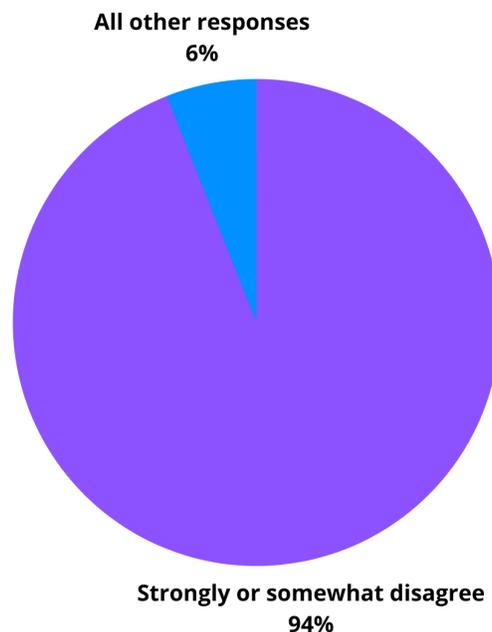


Across the sector and public, 91.6% of respondents indicated they strongly disagreed with the drastic cuts to post-secondary institutions was in the best interest of Albertans, 4.9% somewhat disagreed, 0.7% neither agreed nor disagreed, 0.8% somewhat agreed, and 2.0% strongly agreed.

At Alberta's universities, 92.9% of the students, faculty, and staff indicated they strongly disagreed with the statement that making drastic cuts to post-secondary institutions was in the best interest of Albertans, 4.5% somewhat disagreed, 0.6% neither agreed nor disagreed, 0.5% somewhat agreed, and 1.5% strongly agreed.



At Alberta's colleges, 86.6% of the students, faculty, and staff surveyed indicated they strongly disagreed with the statement that making drastic cuts to post-secondary institutions was in the best interest of Albertans, 7.4% somewhat disagreed, 1.3% neither agreed nor disagreed, 1.3% somewhat agreed, and 3.4% strongly agreed.



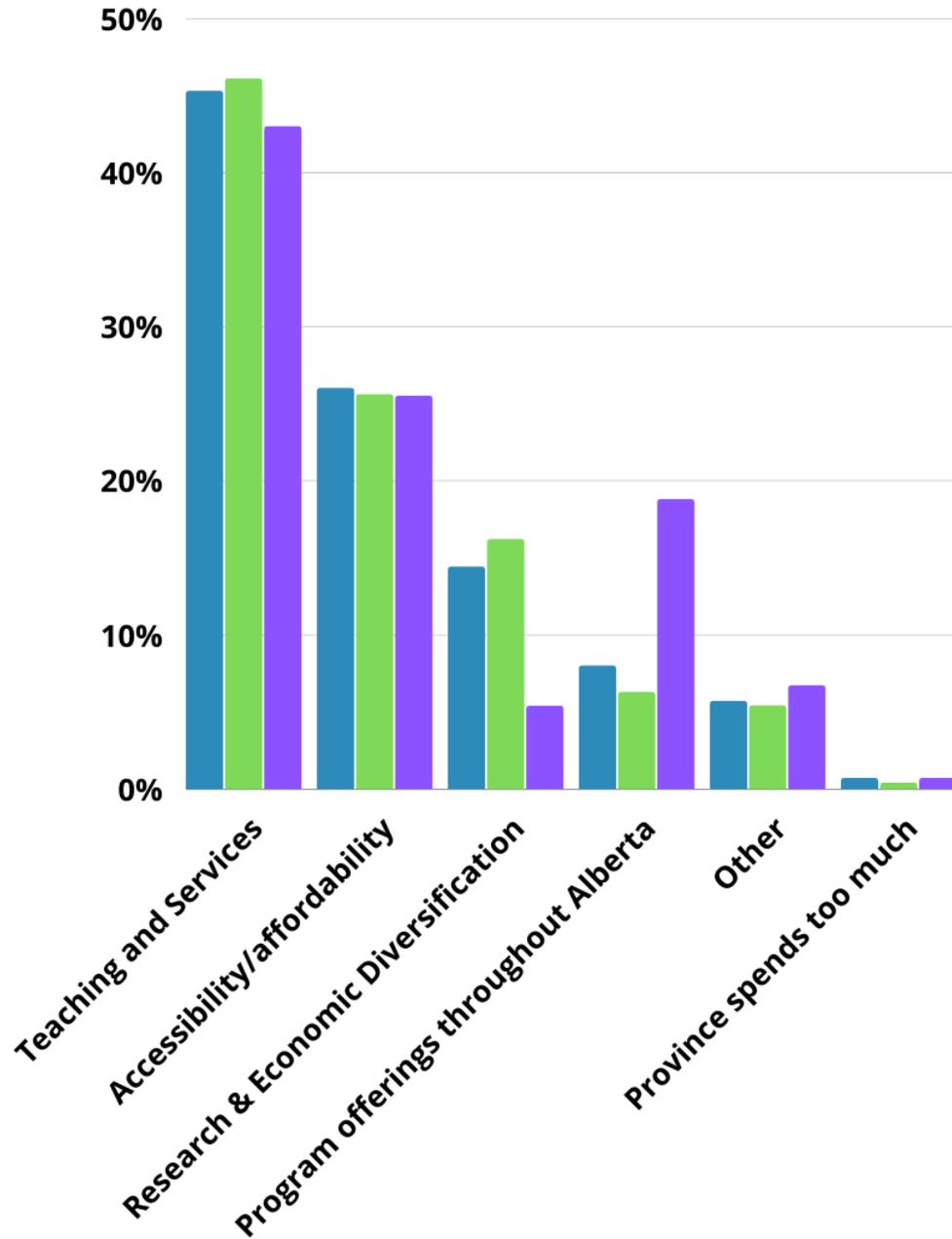
#### **4. The top concern for the future of the post-secondary education sector was maintaining high-quality teaching and services.**

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their biggest concern with the future direction of Alberta's post-secondary education system.

Of the entire sector and the public, 45.3% of respondents indicated their top concern was maintaining high quality teaching and services. 26% said increased accessibility and affordability was their top concern. 14.4% said increased research that drives economic diversification, 8.0% said that the maintenance of a variety of program offerings in all regions of Alberta was their top concern. 0.7% said their top concern was that the government spent too much on post-secondary education, and 5.7% indicated they had other top concerns, which included but were not limited to:

- Overreliance on international student tuition to fund post-secondary institutions
- The privatization of education
- Too much administration (executive, deans, managers)
- Direct provincial government interference in University governance
- Increased trades and practical skills training in rural Alberta

Colleges and universities largely responded in the same way to the questions with two notable distinctions: university respondents favoured research and economic development as one of their top priorities, while college respondents favoured maintaining a variety of program offerings across all regions of the province. We believe this is a reflection of the fact that many community colleges are located in rural areas of Alberta and have already seen program reductions and closures, while universities perform the vast majority of the discovery research that will drive our economic diversification forward.



## **Overview of Respondents**

- There were 1292 total respondents.
  - 81 were public
  - 56 were students
  - 624 were faculty or academic staff
  - 531 were support or non-academic staff
- The top 5 institutions the respondents came from were:
  - University of Calgary (447 respondents)
  - Mount Royal University (131 respondents)
  - University of Alberta (117 respondents)
  - MacEwan University (84 respondents)
  - University of Lethbridge (109 respondents)