

## BC Politics: Still-leaderless BC Conservatives open 10-point lead over NDP amid DRIPA uncertainty

47% of British Columbians, including 26% NDP voters, say they back Conservative call to repeal DRIPA

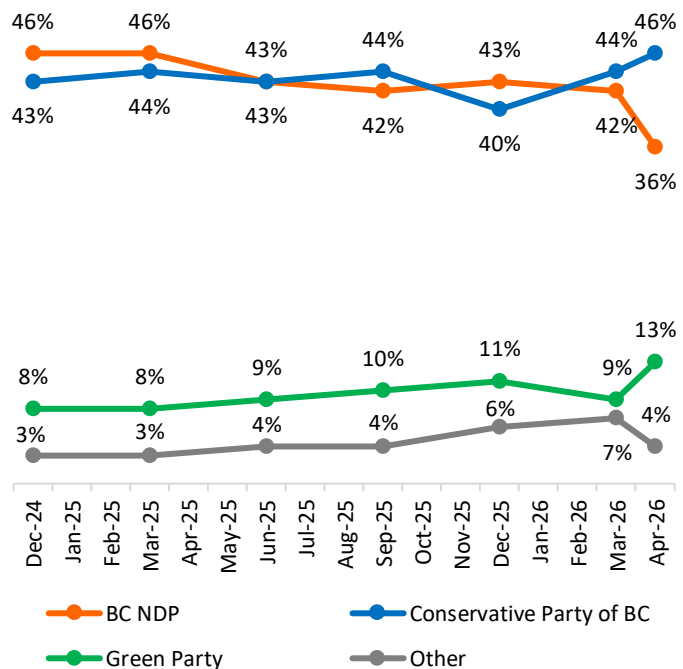
**May 5, 2026** – It's been a rough 2026 for the governing BC NDP and new data from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute finds it falling further behind the opposition in vote intent. The BC Conservatives, weeks away from deciding who will lead the party, lead the BC NDP by 10 points in vote intention. Meanwhile, Premier David Eby's approval has fallen from a majority level seen in March 2025 (53%) to 33 per cent now.

The flight of support from the BC NDP comes as the future of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) remains ambiguous after Eby and the BC NDP decided not to pursue suspending the legislation this spring after the suggestion was met with anger from the province's First Nations.

The five remaining BC Conservative leadership candidates have been unanimous in their call to repeal DRIPA. Half (47%) in the province support such a move, including a sizable minority (26%) of those who voted for the BC NDP in the 2024 provincial election.

There are also evidently many questions about the government's efforts on reconciliation as the province sorts through the fallout of recent agreements and court decisions on Aboriginal title. Two-in-five (41%) believe enough work has been done on reconciliation and no more is needed; half (51%) disagree, including one-third (34%) who perceive there is still "a lot" of work to be done.

**British Columbia provincial vote intent over time  
(Decided and leaning voters)**



### **METHODOLOGY:**

The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey from April 24-28, 2026, among a randomized sample of 804 Canadian adults who are residents of British Columbia. Respondents are drawn from the [Angus Reid Forum](#), a large-scale online panel developed to include Canadian residents in each of the 343 federal ridings in Canada and representative of the Canadian population by age, gender, family income, ethnic status and education. The sample was weighted to be representative of adults nationwide according to region, gender, age, household income, and education, based on the Canadian census. For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The survey was self-commissioned and paid for by ARI. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

For more information on our polling methods, [click here](#).

### **CONTACT:**

Shachi Kurl, President: 604.908.1693 [shachi.kurl@angusreid.org](mailto:shachi.kurl@angusreid.org) @shachikurl  
Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 [dave.korzinski@angusreid.org](mailto:dave.korzinski@angusreid.org)  
Jon Roe, Senior Research Associate: 825.437.1147 [jon.roe@angusreid.org](mailto:jon.roe@angusreid.org)

### More Key Findings:

- A majority (55%) in the province are of the view that Eby has done a “bad job” balancing Aboriginal title with private property rights in the province. Those who voted BC NDP in 2024 are less critical but offer mixed reviews at best (41% good job, 34% bad job).
- More in the province believe DRIPA gives First Nations veto rights on land development on their claimed territory (39%) than not (26%).
- Half (51%) believe the province’s economy will be “worse off” under DRIPA in the future.

### About ARI

*The **Angus Reid Institute (ARI)** was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. ARI is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research foundation established to advance education by commissioning, conducting and disseminating to the public accessible and impartial statistical data, research and policy analysis on economics, political science, philanthropy, public administration, domestic and international affairs and other socio-economic issues of importance to Canada and its world.*

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### Vote intention – BC NDP trails leaderless BC Conservatives by 10 points

The issue of the increasing recognition of Aboriginal title in British Columbia has been a challenging one for Premier David Eby and the BC NDP government. In February, the federal government signed a landmark agreement with the [Musqueam Indian Band](#) which recognized the band’s Aboriginal rights, including title, across their traditional territory in B.C. Eby said he was kept in the dark about the agreement until the announcement but was contradicted by members of the federal government leading to criticism of his handling of the deal.

The Musqueam agreement has added to uncertainty among B.C. private property owners in the wake of last year’s B.C. Supreme Court decision in favour of the Cowichan Tribe, which recognized their title on land on the Fraser River in Richmond. Both the [Musqueam](#) and [Cowichan](#) First Nations have assured British Columbians they aren’t looking to come after private property, but that has done little to [assuage fears among the public](#).

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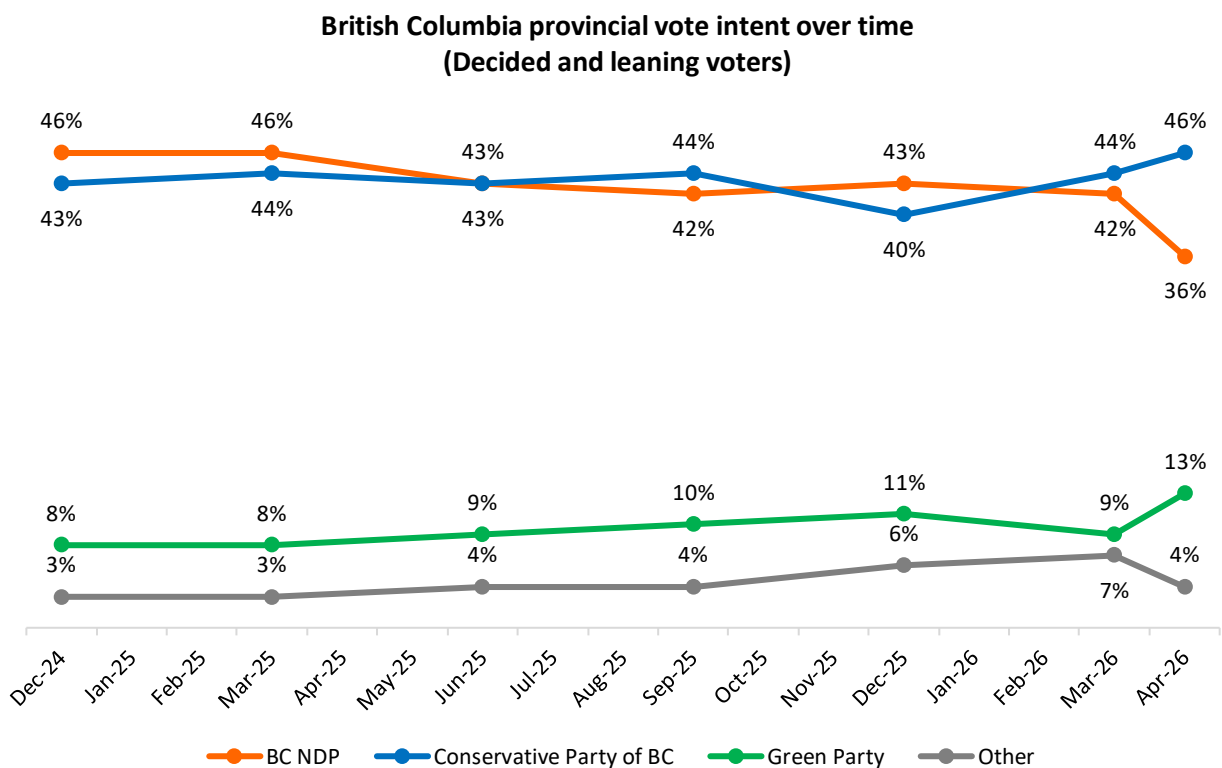
### CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, President: 604.908.1693 [shachi.kurl@angusreid.org](mailto:shachi.kurl@angusreid.org) @shachikurl  
Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 [dave.korzinski@angusreid.org](mailto:dave.korzinski@angusreid.org)  
Jon Roe, Senior Research Associate: 825.437.1147 [jon.roe@angusreid.org](mailto:jon.roe@angusreid.org)

**Related:**

- [B.C. divided about UNDRIP: Equal numbers say it's a necessary step, goes too far to limit provincial authority](#)
- [Cowichan Ruling: Most in B.C. believe court decision on Aboriginal title has potential to damage reconciliation](#)
- [B.C. Spotlight: Land rights saga boosts leaderless Conservatives as more now say DRIPA goes too far](#)

The events of the past few months have evidently had a negative effect on the electoral fortunes of the BC NDP. The BC Conservatives lead by 10 points as they search for a replacement for former leader John Rustad. At 36 per cent, this is the lowest vote intention has been for the BC NDP since the election of 2024 and the lowest point recorded in ARI polling [since March 2020](#). The BC Greens appear to be benefitting slightly from the BC NDP exodus:

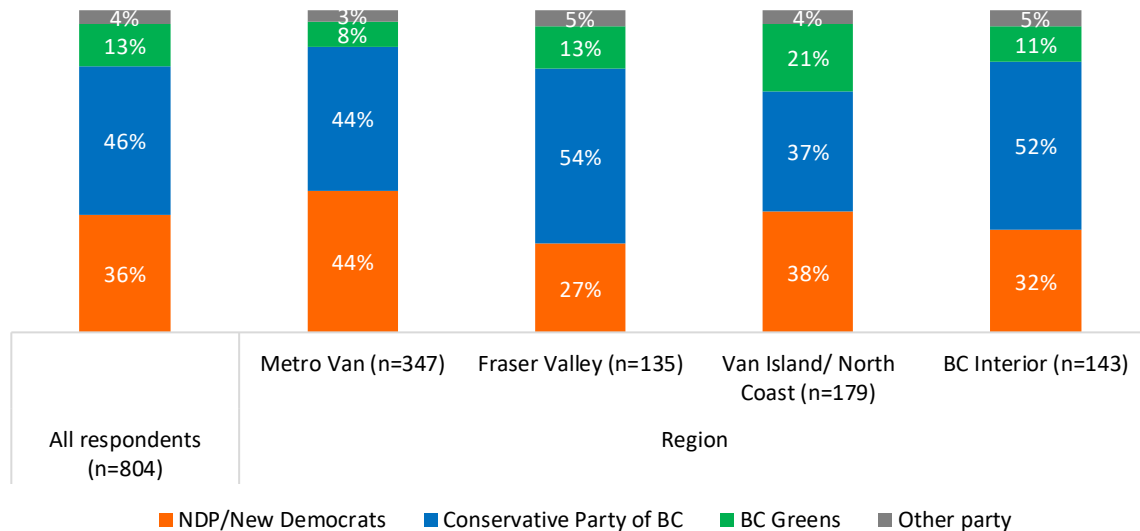


The BC NDP perform best in Metro Vancouver, where they are in a tie with the BC Conservatives. The two parties are also tied in vote intention on the Island and North Coast, where a sizable contingent would support the Greens if an election were today. The BC Conservatives garner a majority of support in the Fraser Valley (54%) and Interior (52%):

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**Provincial vote intention by region  
(Decided and leaning voters)**



**Government handling and Eby approval**

The challenges for the BC NDP have continue to pile up. In February, the embattled governing party passed its budget that was described as “all pain, no gain” and managing “to alienate everybody”. It cut public sector jobs and services, to the chagrin of left-leaning British Columbians, while maintaining a significant deficit, irking those on the right. Last month, three-in-five (57%) said the province is on the wrong track as majorities were critical of the Eby government’s handling of the top issues of the high cost of living, health care and housing affordability.

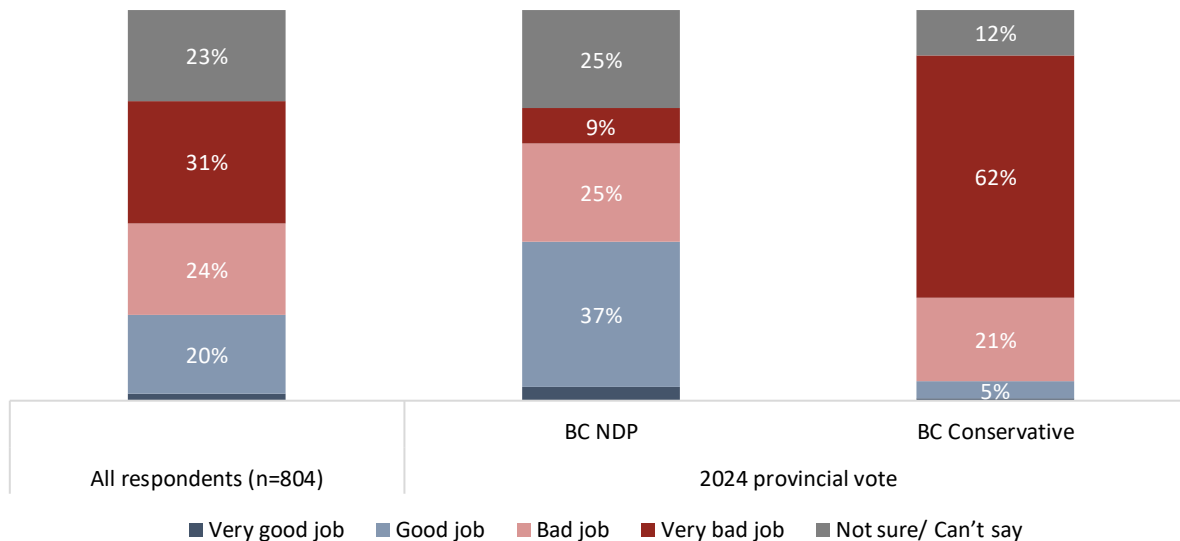
**Related: B.C. Spotlight: Land rights saga boosts leaderless Conservatives as more now say DRIPA goes too far**

There is also mounting criticism from British Columbians on Eby’s handling of the land rights issue. A majority (55%) say he has done a “bad job” balancing Indigenous land rights with private property rights in the province. Much of that criticism is coming from those who voted Conservative in the 2024 provincial election, but even past BC NDP voters do not offer a ringing endorsement. Those who voted for Eby’s party are split between saying he’s handled the file well (41%) as poorly (34%) with many uncertain (25%):

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 Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 [dave.korzinski@angusreid.org](mailto:dave.korzinski@angusreid.org)  
 Jon Roe, Senior Research Associate: 825.437.1147 [jon.roe@angusreid.org](mailto:jon.roe@angusreid.org)

**Would you say Premier David Eby has done a good job or bad job of balancing the land rights of Indigenous peoples with private property rights in British Columbia?**



In 2019, B.C. unanimously passed the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (DRIPA), which required the province to align its laws with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission said UNDRIP “[is at the center of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s vision for reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous people](#)”.

DRIPA set the province on the path of reconciliation, but also the current collision course between Aboriginal title rights and the interests of private property owners. There’s been increasing friction over time: in August last year, British Columbians were split between believing DRIPA “was a necessary step towards reconciliation” (39%) and believing it went too far “in limiting provincial authority over land and resources” (44%). Now, it’s more likely constituents are in the latter camp (55%) than the former (32%, [see detailed tables](#)).

Eby had told First Nations leaders in April that he planned to suspend DRIPA for up to three years. After that plan was met with [much anger](#), [Eby backed down](#), and the [BC NDP](#) are now planning to work with First Nations leaders between now and the fall session in Victoria.

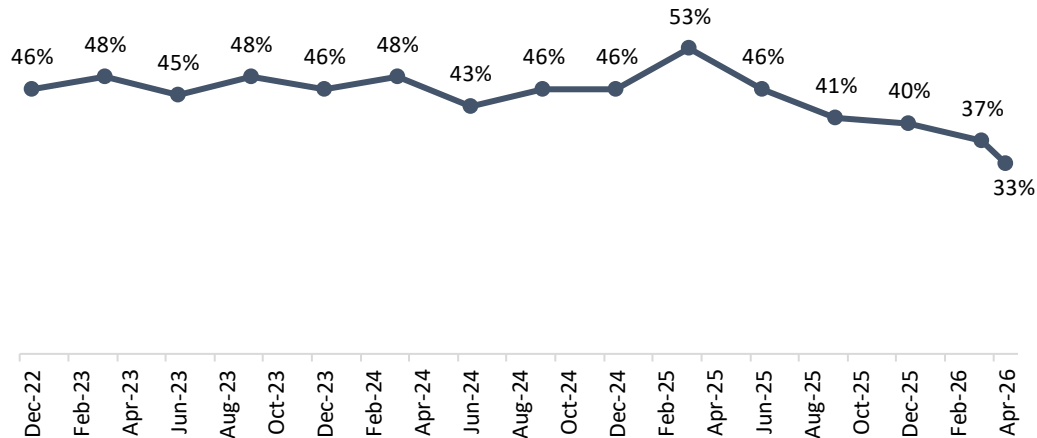
"This has been, if I can speak frankly, probably the most challenging issue I've worked on in government," Eby said after abandoning plans to address DRIPA this spring. "It is absolutely possible, as a leader, to move off confidently in the wrong direction."

The ever-shifting approach to the Aboriginal title issue and DRIPA comes as assessments of Eby decline. Since March of last year, approval of Eby has dropped by 20 points. Now one-third (33%) of British Columbians say he is doing a good job as premier; a majority (58%) disapprove of his performance, including three-in-ten (31%) of those who voted for the BC NDP in 2024 election ([see detailed tables](#)).

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### Approval of B.C. Premier David Eby over time



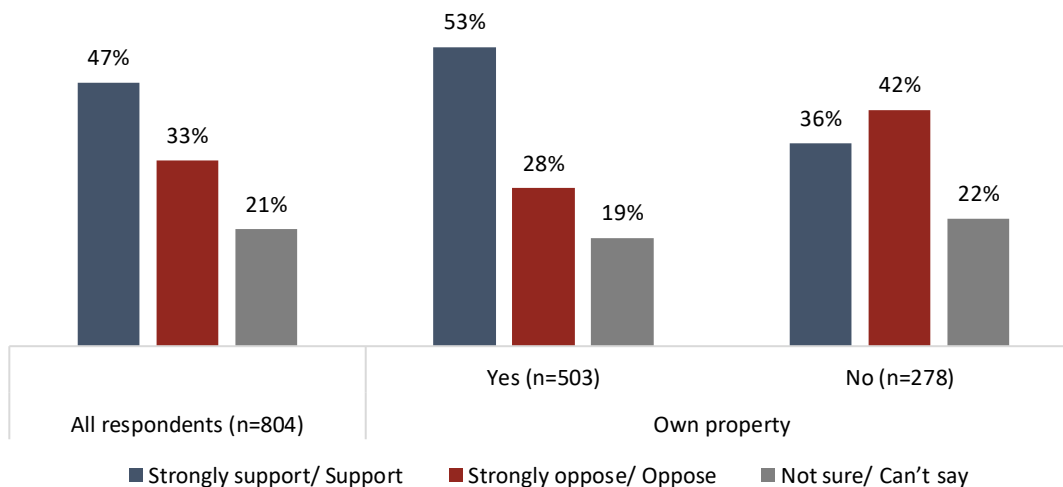
### Support outpaces opposition for repeal

As the BC NDP and Eby decide its next move to address concerns from British Columbians on DRIPA, while maintaining the support of First Nations, the opposition BC Conservatives are in the midst of a leadership race. All five of the remaining candidates say, if they were leading the party in government, [they would repeal DRIPA](#).

Half (47%) of British Columbians say they support that plan, while one-third (33%) are opposed. There is also one-in-five (21%) who are uncertain.

There is a notable gap in support of scrapping DRIPA between those who own property in B.C. (53% support) and those who do not (36%), who lean towards opposition of repeal:

### Support vs. oppose BC Conservative plan to repeal DRIPA:

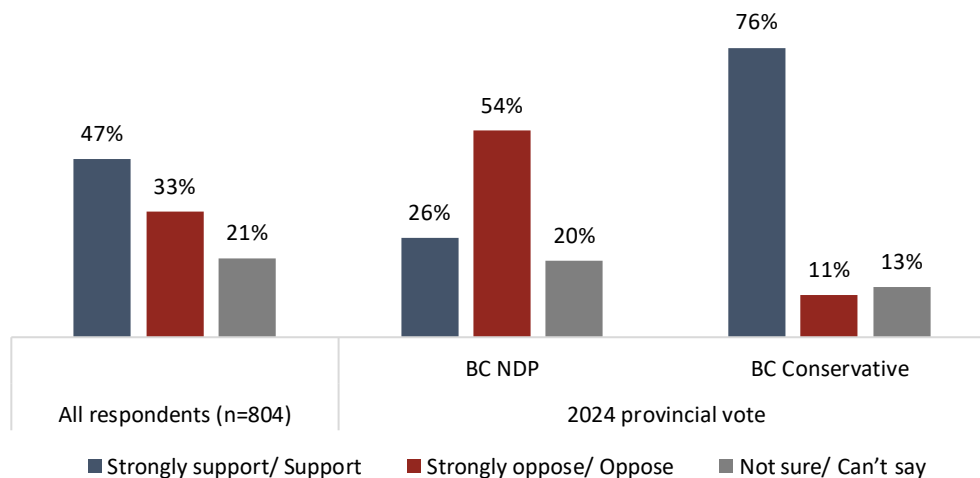


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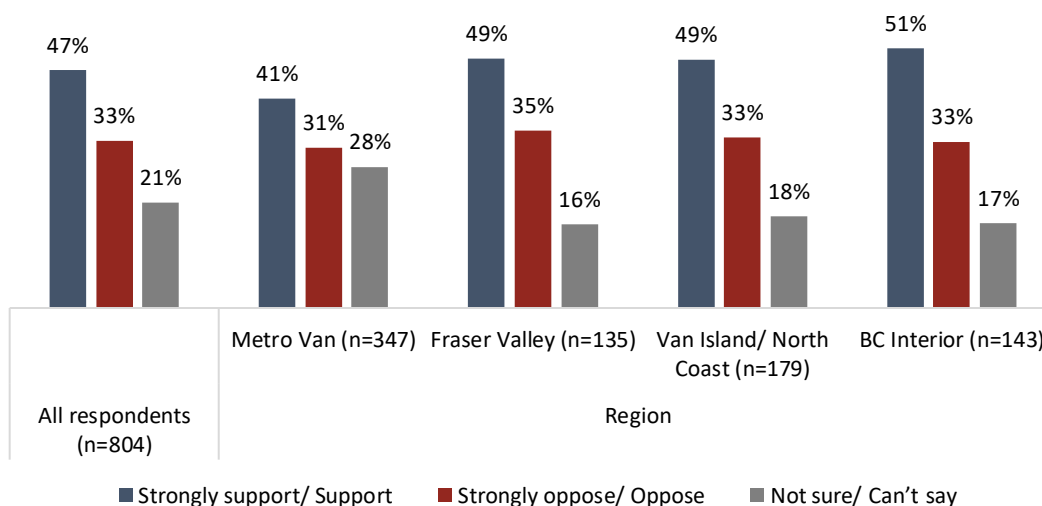
Those who voted for the BC Conservatives in the 2024 provincial election are three-times as likely to support repealing DRIPA (76%) as those who voted for the BC NDP (26%). Twice as many (54% vs. 27%) of past BC NDP voters oppose scrapping DRIPA, suggesting majority support among his base for Eby’s plan to consult with First Nations on a path forward:

**Support vs. oppose BC Conservative plan to repeal DRIPA:**



In Metro Vancouver, more lean towards supporting repealing DRIPA (41%) than not (31%). Outside of Vancouver, at least half in every region say they support the repeal of the law:

**Support vs. oppose BC Conservative plan to repeal DRIPA:**



**British Columbians divided over progress of reconciliation**

Aligning federal and provincial laws with UNDRIP was viewed as a key part of reconciliation by the TRC. In 2015, when ARI polled on the TRC, half (50%) in B.C. believed it was a “worthwhile” exercise for

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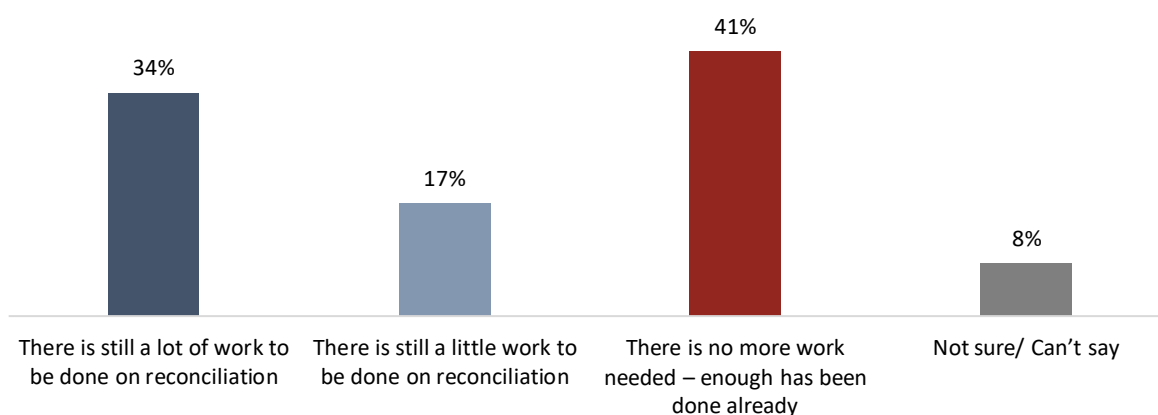
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Canada as a whole and two-thirds (66%) believed the federal government should implement the main recommendations of the commission.

**Related: [Truth and Reconciliation: Canadians see value in process, skeptical about government action](#)**

But now there are many – two-in-five (41%) – in British Columbia who believe that there is no work left to be done on reconciliation. Half (51%) of British Columbians disagree, including one-third (34%) who say there is still “a lot of work” left to be done:

**Overall, when it comes to the reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and British Columbia, would you say there is a lot of work to be done, a little work or has enough been done already?  
(All respondents, n=804)**



**Two-in-five believe DRIPA gives First Nations veto rights on land development**

One of the central debates surrounding DRIPA is whether it gives the province’s First Nations a “veto” over land and mineral development. A [December decision](#) by the B.C. Court of Appeal in favour of the Gitxaala First Nation found that the province’s Mineral Tenure Act was inconsistent with UNDRIP and called for the province to incorporate UNDRIP immediately into its laws.

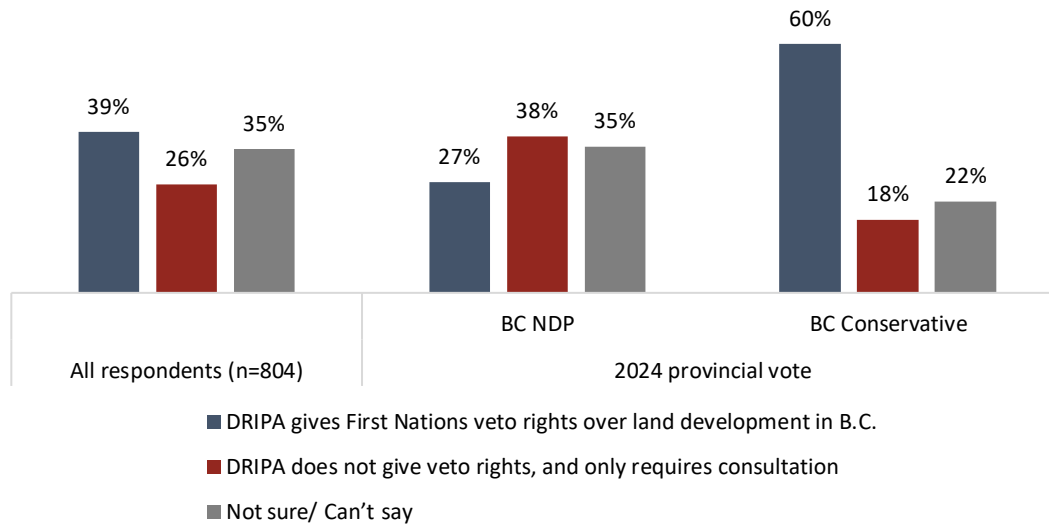
This has led to some claiming DRIPA gives First Nations a “[veto](#)” over development on their claimed territory. [Others](#) have argued that the language included in UNDRIP requiring “free, prior and informed consent” is about “robust” consultation, not a full veto.

Two-in-five (39%) British Columbians believe DRIPA does give a “veto” to First Nations over land development in the province; one-quarter (26%) disagree. The view that DRIPA gives “veto” power to First Nations over potential development is more likely to be held by those who voted for the BC Conservatives in 2024 (60%) than those who voted for the BC NDP (27%):

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Shachi Kurl, President: 604.908.1693 [shachi.kurl@angusreid.org](mailto:shachi.kurl@angusreid.org) @shachikurl  
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**Based on what you've read, seen or heard, what do you think?**



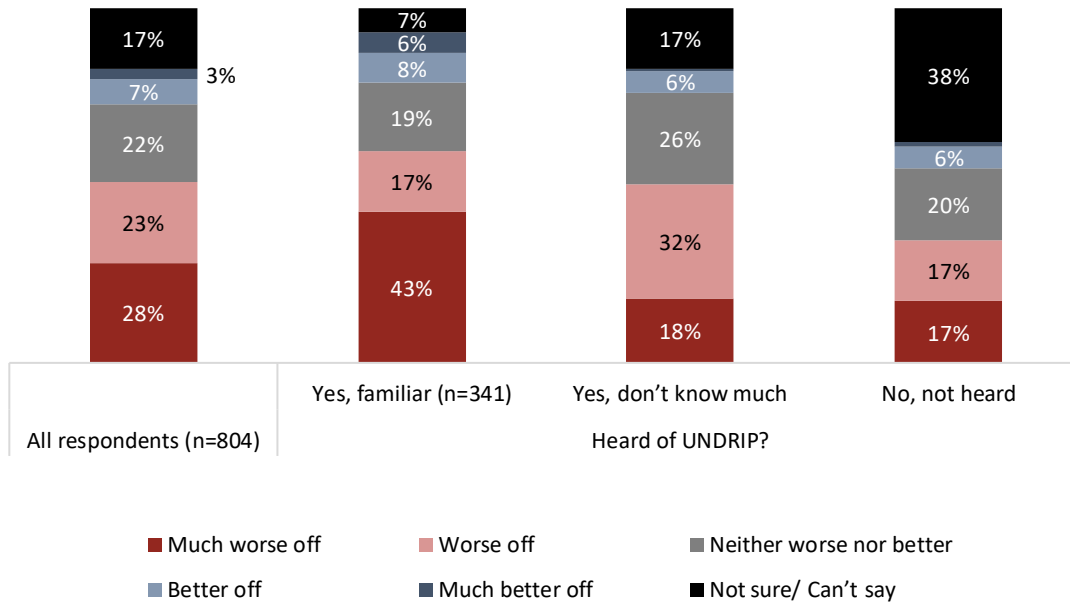
**Economic impact of DRIPA viewed as negative by half**

There is also evidently significant concern from those in the province on the effect of DRIPA on B.C.'s economy. Half (51%) believe the province's future economy is worse off with DRIPA in effect, while only one-in-ten (10%) say the economy will be better because of DRIPA. Those who say they are familiar with UNDRIP are more likely to believe the province's economy will suffer because of DRIPA:

**CONTACT:**

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Looking to the future, do you believe the provincial economy will be worse off, better off, or neither under DRIPA?



For detailed results by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, [click here](#).

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