

Federal Politics: Canadians cooling on Carney as gap narrows between Liberals and CPC

More than two-in-five believe Canada is on the wrong track; three-in-ten disagree

June 12, 2026 – The summer is a pivotal season for Prime Minister Mark Carney as the U.S.-Canada trade relationship enters a forced inflexion point with the scheduled joint review of the U.S.-Canada-Mexico trade agreement, which U.S. President Donald Trump has once again threatened to blow up. Carney enters this period as grace benefitted to his renewed Liberal government from Canadians appears to be waning.

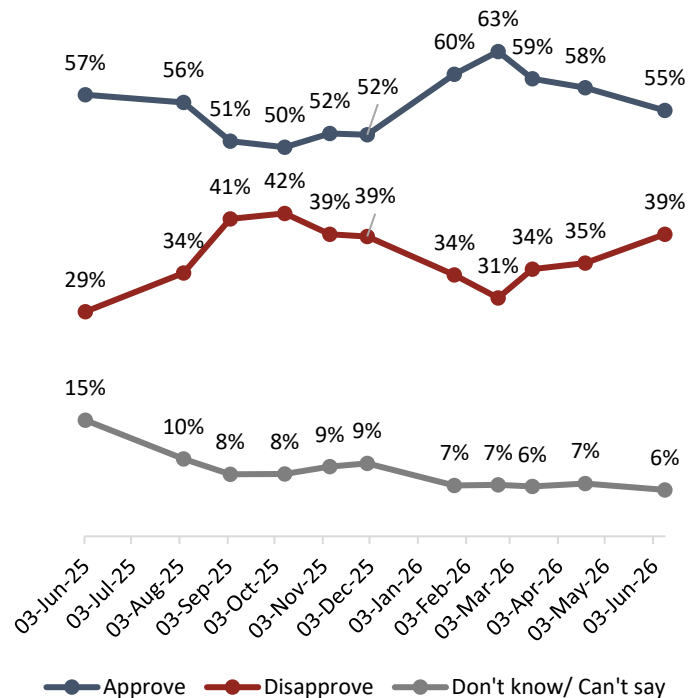
New data from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute finds approval of Carney dipping to 55 per cent, the third straight decline measured by ARI data since the peak of Carney's popularity in February.

The decline comes as persistent domestic concerns – cost of living (61% select it as a top issue), health care (39%) and housing affordability (25%) – dominate among Canadians' priorities which contrast to some of the main recent focal points of Carney's government, including [AI strategy](#) and [national unity](#).

Carney remains opposed by the unpopular Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, who has been viewed unfavourably by three-in-five Canadians consistently in 2026.

The Prime Minister, while facing declining popularity, still is viewed much more positively than Poilievre. But the gap in popularity is much wider than the electoral gap between the two parties, which has narrowed in recent months. Two-in-five (41%) say they would vote Liberal if the election were today, giving the incumbent party only a five-point

Approval of Prime Minister Mark Carney over time



METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey from June 4-10, 2026, among a randomized sample of 1,803 Canadian adults. 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 +/- 2 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](#).

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cushion over the Conservatives' 36 per cent portion of vote intention. One-in-eight (12%) would support the NDP under new leader Avi Lewis if the election were today. Higher NDP support than seen earlier in Carney's term is likely playing a factor in dampening Liberal vote intention, especially in the seat-rich provinces of B.C. and Ontario, where the Liberal lead the CPC by three and four points respectively.

Perhaps the gap that should be the most concerning for the Liberals is the difference between the percentage of Canadians who say they approve of the performance of the prime minister (55%) and the three-in-ten (31%) who believe the country is on the right track. This suggests that although there are many who like Carney and his policies, he has yet to convince most in the country that he is steering it in the right direction.

More Key Findings:

- With the USCMA joint review around the corner, just one-in-eight (13%) believe U.S. relations including Trump's tariffs are the top issue facing the country.
- Carney (55% approval, 15 months into his time as PM) is at a similar level of personal popularity as former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at a similar time (55%, 14 months into his time in office).

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.

INDEX

Part One: Top issues

Part Two: Leadership

- Carney approval
- Poilievre favourability
- Head-to-head
- Approaching half believe Canada is on the 'wrong track'

Part Three: Vote intention

- Liberals vote intention lead shrinks to five points
- The regional picture
- Age and gender

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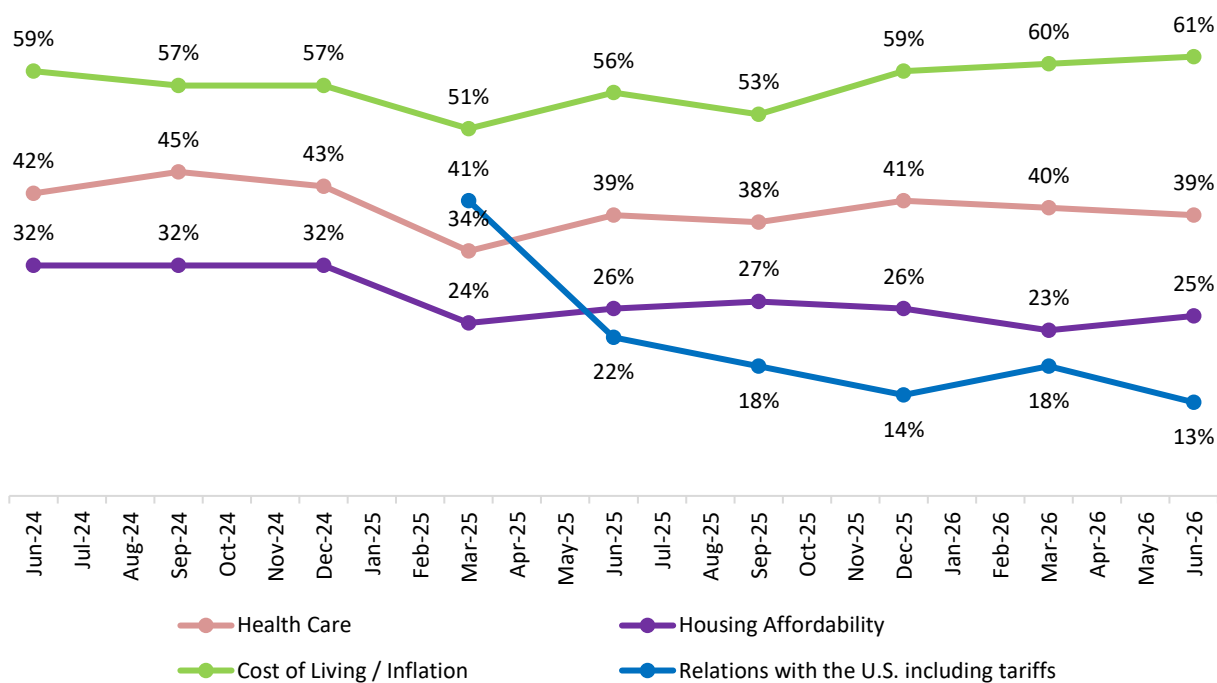
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Part One: Top issues

The scheduled joint review of the U.S.-Canada-Mexico trade agreement looms large over much of the work of Prime Minister Mark Carney and the federal Liberal government in 2026. But for most Canadians, trade and U.S. President Donald Trump’s tariffs are a secondary concern. The top three issues remain three items that have been front of mind for Canadians for longer than Carney’s 15 months in the prime minister’s office and longer than the 18 months since Trump’s return to the oval office: the high cost of living (chosen by 61%), health care (39%) and housing affordability (25%). One-in-eight (13%) choose relations with the U.S. as a top issue facing the country.

Carney’s government has made efforts to address affordability concerns. At a macro level, the government announced a [food security strategy this week](#) which is designed to alleviate food affordability concerns and boost domestic food supplies. On a micro level, grocery rebates for low-income households are rolling out this month.

Percentage who select 'health care', 'housing affordability', 'cost of living' and 'relations with the U.S.' as top issues over time



Across all ages of Canadians, the high cost of living is the number one concern. Older Canadians are more preoccupied with health care than younger ones, who worry much more over housing affordability. One-third (33%) of those aged 18- to 24-years-old say they worry over jobs and unemployment, as a challenging entry-level job market lingers with the summer job season on the near horizon.

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Related:

- [Economic Focus: Concern over jobs and unemployment skyrockets among young people](#)
- [Spring Economic Update: Job market woes test young workers as unemployment exposure tells a worrying story](#)

Canadians' top issues by age							
	Total (n=4,237)	Age					
		18-24 (n=254)	25-34 (n=908)	35-44 (n=647)	45-54 (n=779)	55-64 (n=717)	65+ (n=931)
Cost of Living / Inflation	61%	62%	65%	70%	64%	60%	50%
Health Care	39%	26%	30%	36%	41%	43%	48%
Housing affordability	25%	42%	33%	27%	21%	21%	18%
The Economy	24%	20%	23%	23%	24%	25%	26%
Crime / Public safety	17%	14%	11%	17%	18%	22%	21%
Environment / Climate Change	17%	19%	21%	21%	18%	12%	12%
Immigration / Refugees	17%	13%	16%	12%	22%	18%	16%
Income inequality / Poverty	15%	12%	20%	16%	15%	14%	11%
The Deficit / Government spending	15%	10%	8%	16%	17%	15%	20%
Relations with the U.S. including tariffs	14%	3%	8%	10%	12%	17%	24%
Taxes	13%	11%	13%	14%	13%	14%	12%
Jobs / Unemployment	11%	33%	16%	10%	11%	7%	6%
Energy / Natural Resources / Pipelines	6%	4%	6%	4%	4%	7%	9%
National Unity (Western Canada/Quebec)	6%	4%	5%	5%	4%	6%	10%
International Issues	6%	6%	7%	4%	3%	6%	7%
Indigenous issues / Reconciliation	3%	4%	4%	2%	3%	3%	2%

Part Two: Leadership

Carney approval

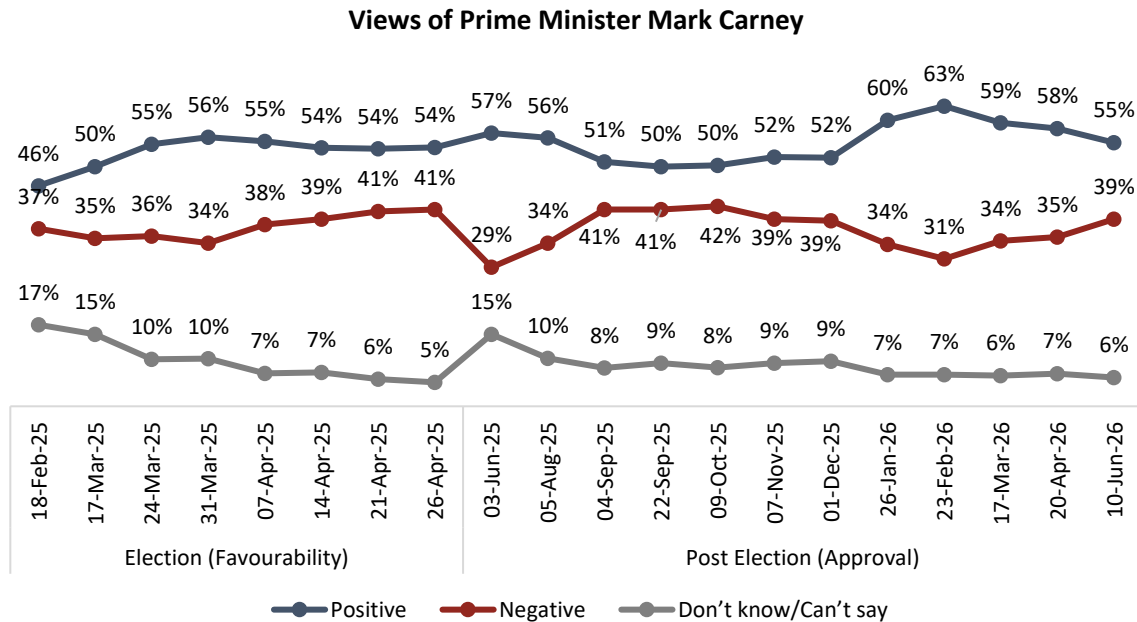
Canadians, on the balance, have given Carney a grace period to implement his party's plan to address the challenges facing the country, including an adversarial relationship with Canada's largest trading partner. But there are some early signs that Canadians are turning a more critical eye to Carney's regime.

Approval of Carney peaked in February, at 63 per cent, in the weeks following his internationally noted speech in Davos at the World Economic Forum. It's been on steady decline since then, falling to 55 per cent in these most recent data. That has been matched by an equal rise of eight points in his disapproval, now sitting at 39 per cent.

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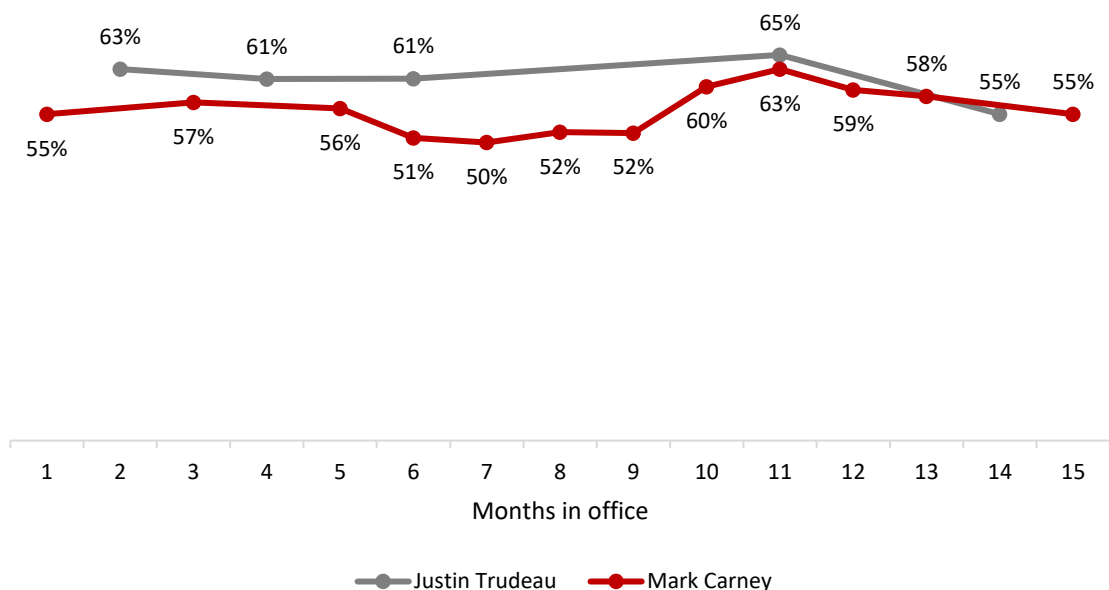
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His approval still sits above where it was last summer, but the trend is negative for the prime minister over the past four months:



Carney's approval is remarkably similar to that of his predecessor, former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, at similar points in their tenure. After 14 months in office, 55 per cent of Canadians approved of Trudeau; 55 per cent approve of Carney 15 months into his stint in the PMO:

Approval of Prime Ministers Justin Trudeau and Mark Carney vs. months in office



Poillievre favourability

The Alberta separation movement has presented a challenge for the leader of Carney’s opposition, Conservative leader Pierre Poillievre. This week, Poillievre visited Calgary to [launch the Conservative campaign to counter separation and promote Canadian unity](#). His [speech](#) acknowledged separatist grievances against the Liberal government track record and denounced demonizing those who would vote for Alberta to leave the country. Yet, according to recent data from the Angus Reid Institute, a majority (56%) who voted for the CPC in the last federal election would also vote this fall to proceed with a binding separation referendum. The separatist movement can also count on the support of four former Conservative MPs, including [a fellow cabinet minister from the government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper](#).

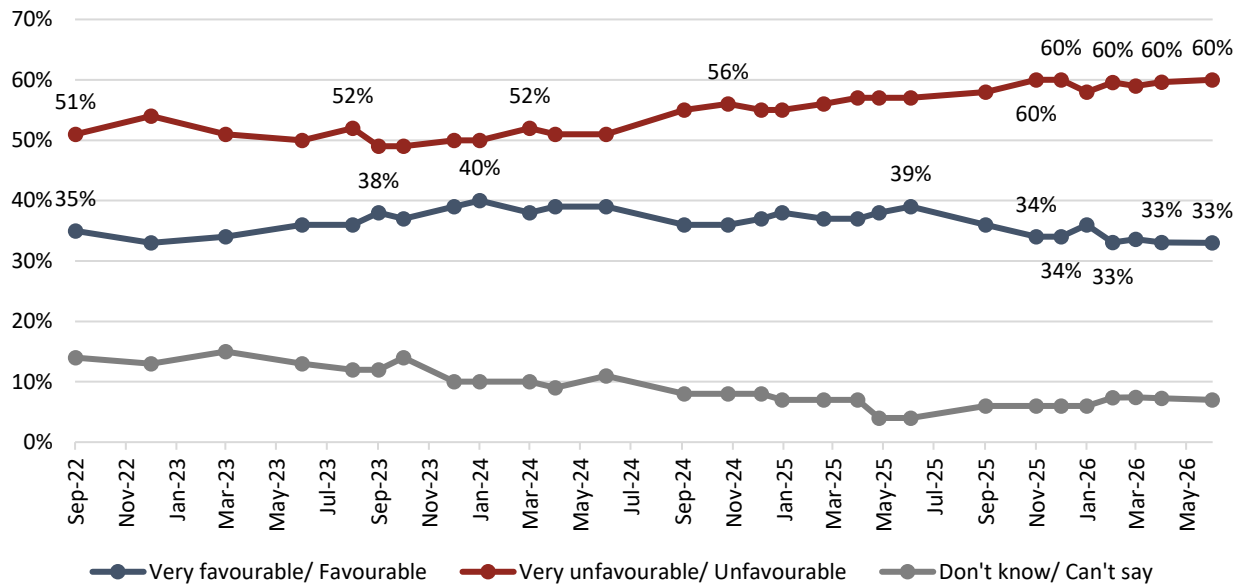
Related: Alberta Separation: Three-in-five say they’d vote in October to stay, but half say the question is “confusing”

The burgeoning separatist movement is just another challenge on the Conservative leader’s plate, who continues to grapple with persistent negative appraisal from Canadians. Three-in-five (60%) say they have an unfavourable view of Poillievre, more than the one-third (33%) who say they view him favourably. These negative views have shown themselves consistently in ARI data. In five of the past seven cycles, Poillievre has had 60 per cent view him unfavourably. Similarly, 33 per cent or 34 per cent have viewed him favourably five of the last seven times ARI has asked the question:

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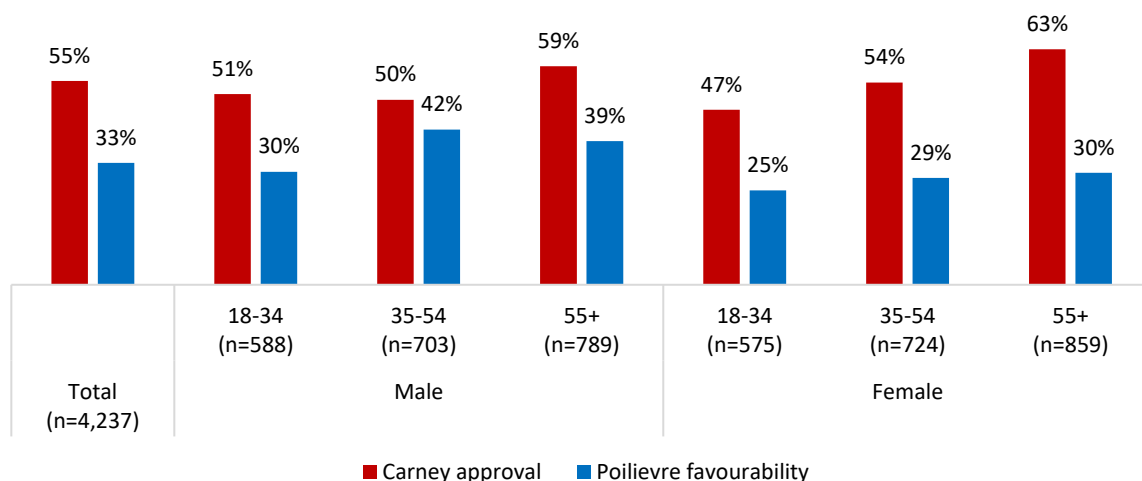
Favourability of CPC leader Pierre Poilievre over time



Head-to-head

Carney is viewed more positively than Poilievre among all demographics. Carney’s largest advantage is among those older than 54. Poilievre performs best among men aged 35 to 54, but still trails Carney’s approval in that group by eight points:

Carney approval vs. Poilievre favourability by age and gender



Carney also holds regional advantage over Poilievre in all provinces except Alberta and Saskatchewan, where Poilievre performs best. However, his best is only enough to push the two into statistical ties. Positive views of the prime minister in Alberta have persisted as Carney has continued to walk the path towards a new west coast pipeline for the province with Premier Danielle Smith, whose own personal

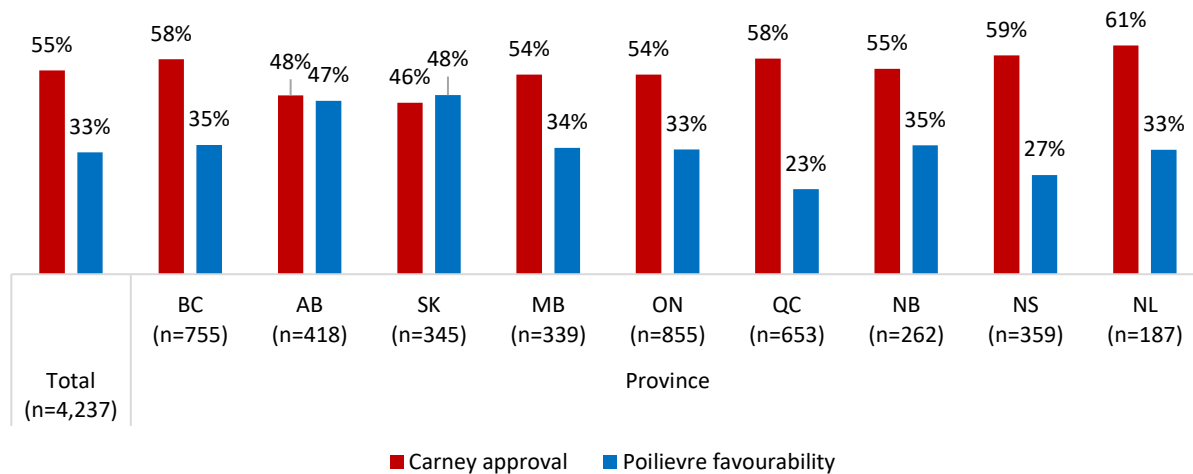
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approval has taken a significant hit as she attempts to balance a caucus with separatist sympathies with a general electorate strongly against separation.

Related: [Premiers' Performance: Eby, Smith, and Ford each tumble to new lows approval](#)

Carney approval vs. Poilievre favourability by province



Approaching half believe Canada is on the ‘wrong track’

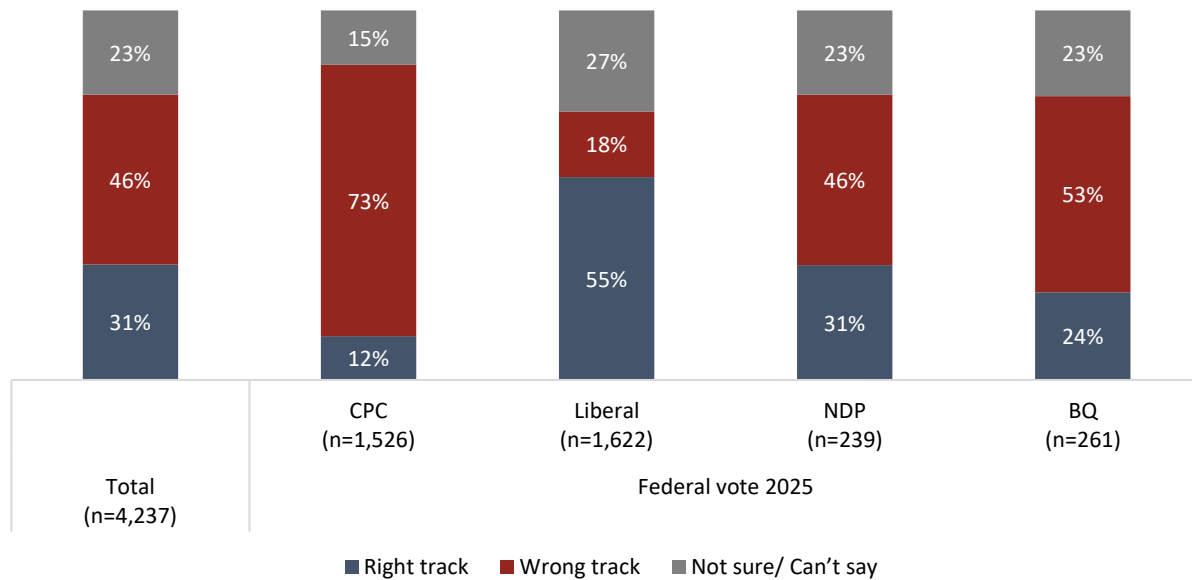
Still, for all of Carney’s personal popularity, there are more Canadians who say the country is on the wrong track (46%) than the right one (31%). There is, as one might expect, a political lens to this. Three-quarters (73%) of those who voted Conservative last year, approaching half (46%) of those who voted NDP and a majority (53%) of those who voted for the Bloc Québécois say the country is on the wrong path.

A majority (55%) of Liberal voters believe the country is trending positively; the remainder are more likely to say they are uncertain (27%) than to say the country is definitively on the wrong track.

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Overall, would you say that Canada is on the right track or the wrong track?



Part Three: Vote intention

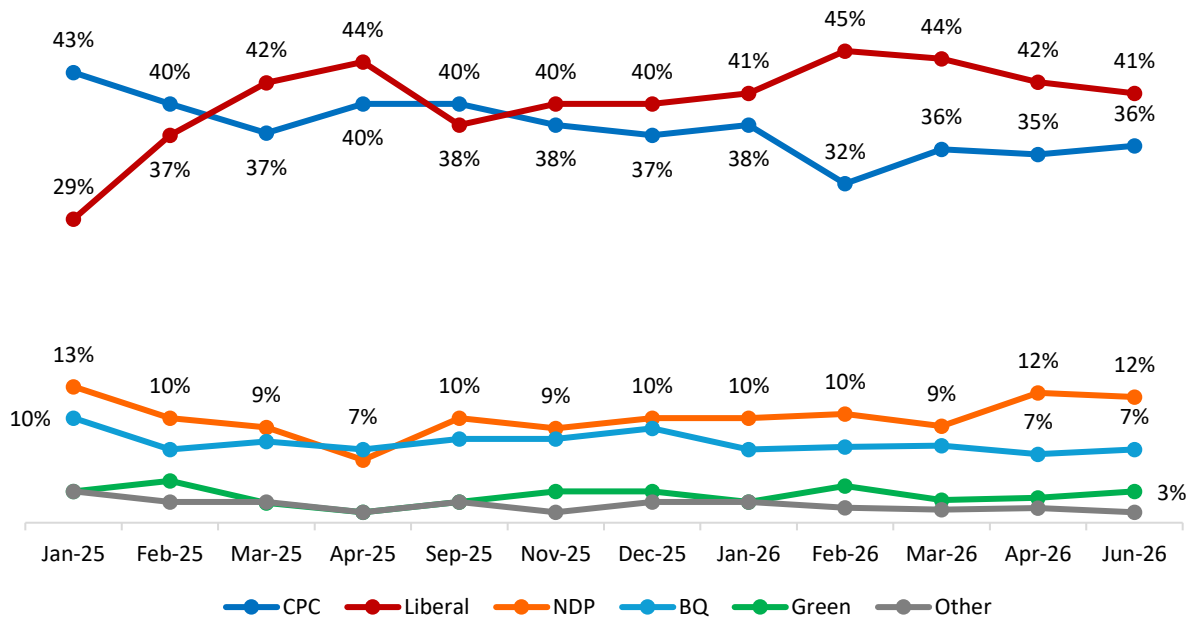
Liberals vote intention lead shrinks to five points

It is perhaps both the persistent issues already noted, and a plurality sense that the country is heading in the wrong direction, that are creating a closer political horse race than one might expect given the wide popularity gap between the two main party leaders. If an election were held today, two-in-five (41%) would vote Liberal; more than one-third (36%) would vote Conservative. The gap between the two parties is five points, similar to levels seen during the federal election campaign last year:

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Federal vote intention over time
(Decided and leaning voters)



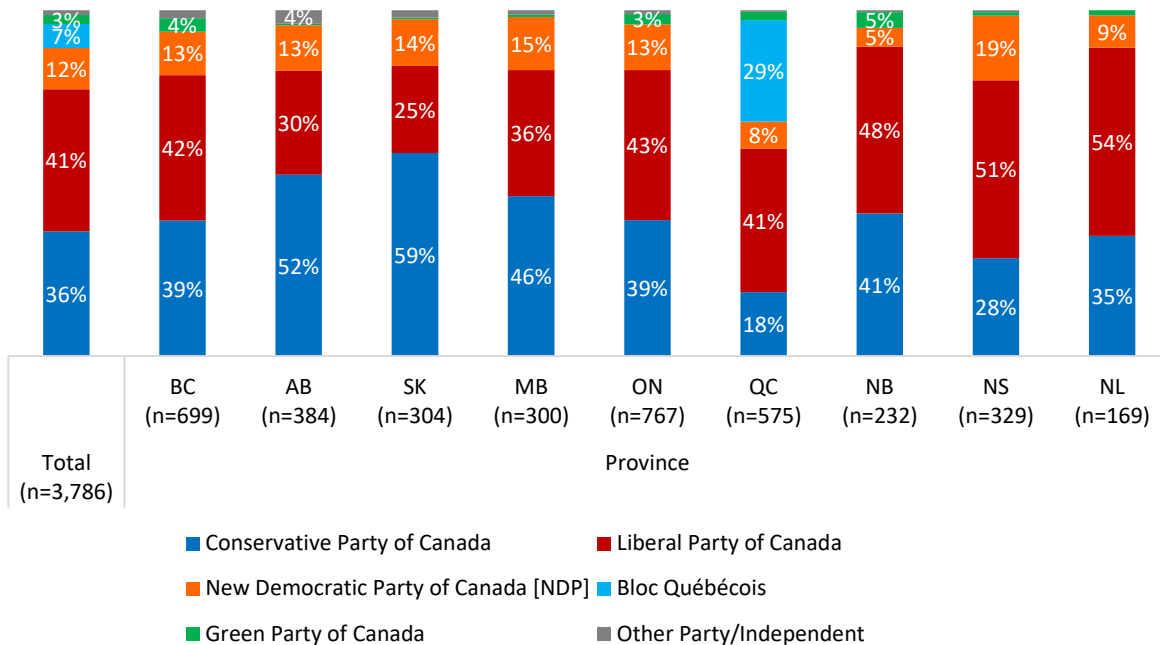
The regional picture

An election held today would feature a tight race in both British Columbia and Ontario, two regions where a NDP more competitive than it was during the federal election would certainly play a significant factor.

The Liberals hold a 12-point advantage over the Bloc Québécois in Quebec, and large leads in Atlantic Canada.

Despite relative positive appraisal of Carney in the prairies, the Conservatives are the choice of a majority in Alberta and Saskatchewan and a plurality in Manitoba:

**Federal vote intention by province
(Decided and leaning voters)**



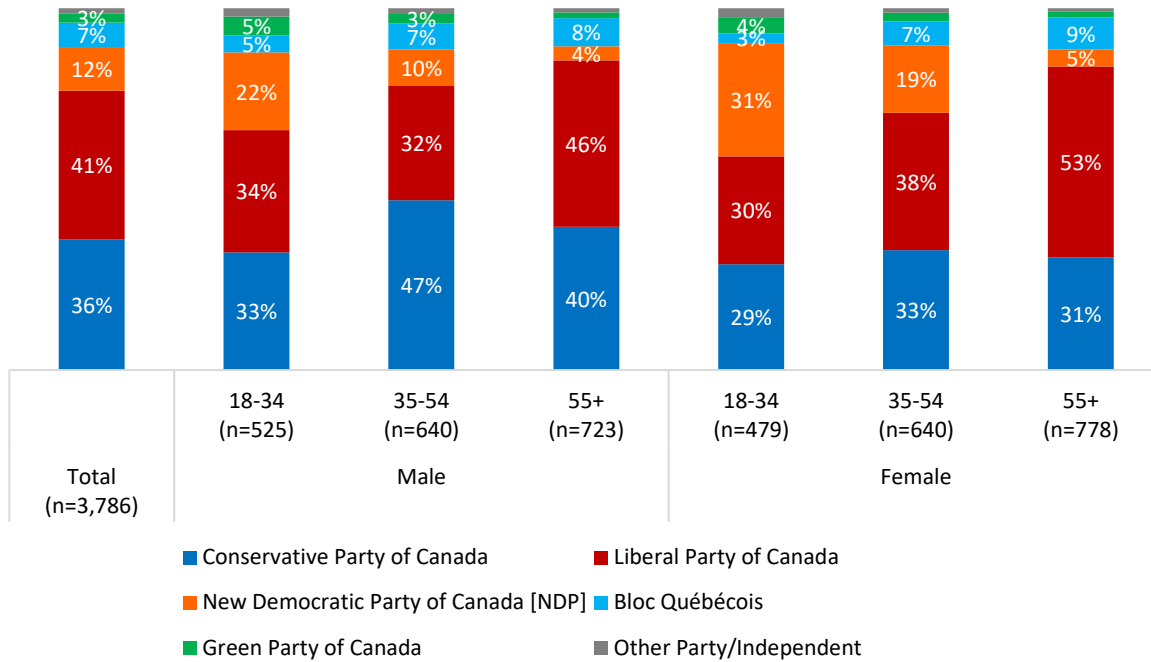
Age and gender

The Liberals' lead is built on the backs of support by those older than 54, while Poilievre and the Conservatives perform best among men older than 34:

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**Federal vote intention by age and gender
(Decided and leaning voters)**



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

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