

## B.C. Politics: New Conservative leader largely unknown, but her party leads in vote intention

*Three-in-five say province is on wrong track, while one-in-five say the opposite*

**June 17, 2026** – A new leader of the Conservative Party of B.C. may have changed the face of the opposition, but new data from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute finds the governing BC NDP's larger problem is not who sits across the aisle.

British Columbians are three times as likely to say the province is on the wrong track (60%) as the right track (19%), while the provincial government receives net negative assessments on every major issue measured.

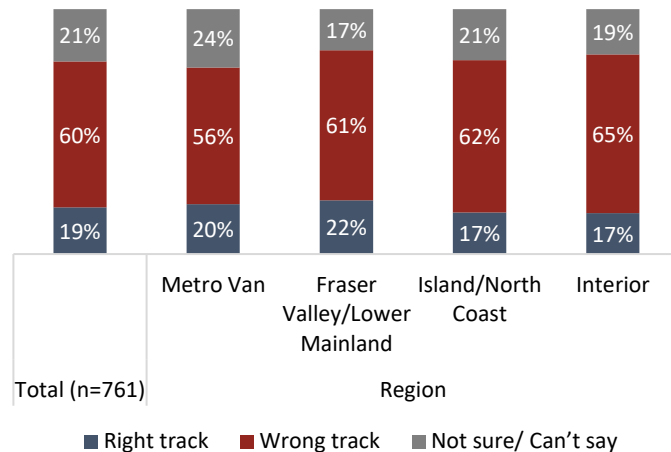
And while almost all residents say they know little or nothing (89%) about new BC Conservative leader Kerry-Lynne Findlay, her party nonetheless holds an advantage in vote intention. The Conservatives lead the NDP by 11 points among decided voters.

The BC NDP receives especially poor assessments on health care, cost of living, housing affordability, street crime, addictions, and homelessness.

### More Key Findings:

- While vote intention currently favours the BC Conservatives, the coming months will be important as residents learn more about the new Conservative Party leader. Asked which party they would “consider” in the next election, rather than who they would currently support, close to equal numbers choose the BC Conservatives (42%) and the BC NDP (38%), while one-quarter are open to the Greens (26%)
- One-in-10 residents say the government is doing a good job of handling poverty/homelessness and drug use/addictions/opioid crisis, while more than 80 per cent say each is being handled poorly

### Overall, do you feel British Columbia is on the right track or the wrong track?



### METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey from June 1 - 12, 2026, among a randomized sample of 755 British Columbia 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 +/- 4 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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- More than nine-in-10 past BC Conservative voters (94%) would vote for the party again if an election were held tomorrow. This falls to three-quarters among past BC NDP voters (76%)

### **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: Early views of new BC Conservative leader**

#### **Part Two: The BC NDP government's bigger problems**

- **Three-times as many say B.C. on wrong track vs right**
- **Government earns net-negative performance scores on key issues**

#### **Part Three: BC Conservatives lead as many voters remain undecided, open to multiple parties**

- **Equal numbers of British Columbians open to NDP, Conservatives**
- **Three-in-10 unsure how they would vote**
- **But one-quarter of 2024 NDP voters currently support another party**

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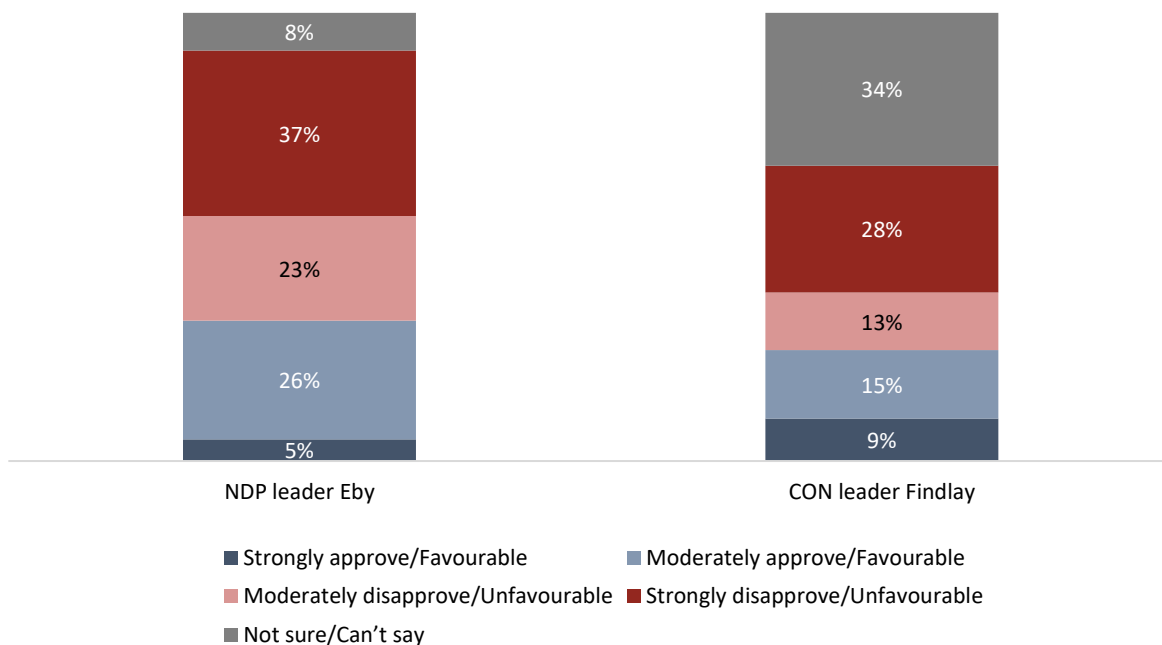
**Part One: Early views of new BC Conservative leader**

The election of new BC Conservative Party leader Kerry-Lynne Findlay, who won on the fourth ballot in a close contest over Caroline Elliot, has created new opportunities and challenges for both that party and the BC NDP. Findlay’s first task may be party unity. After John Rustad took the party from the political wilderness to Official Opposition status in 2024, his leadership ended amid internal division. Rustad resigned in December, leaving interim leader Trevor Halford to steer the party toward the future.

The BC Conservatives remain the NDP’s main threat, but the leadership race itself exposed different visions for the party’s future, from a more establishment conservative approach to a sharper populist edge. The near-term test will be whether Findlay can consolidate a 39-member caucus and resolve issues with five other past Conservative members who left the party under Rustad.

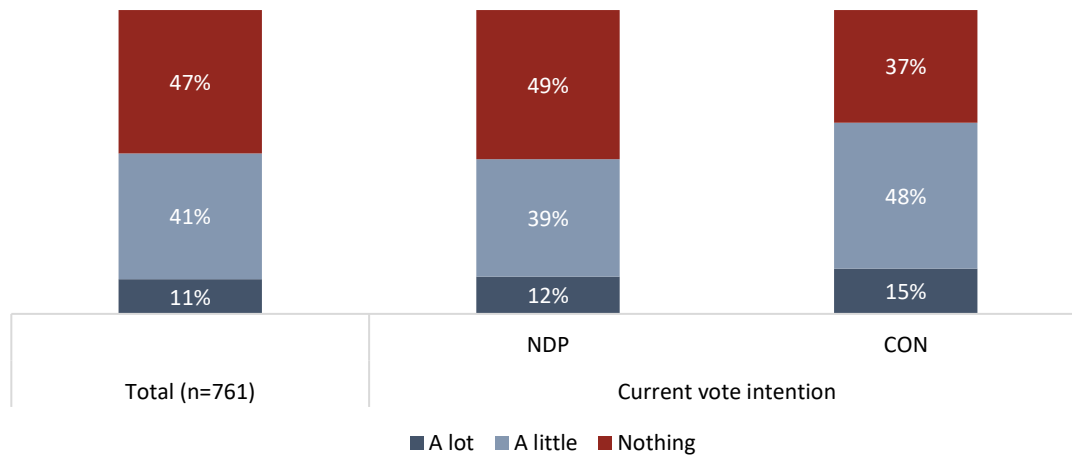
Fully one-third of British Columbians do not have a formed opinion of Findlay yet, while 41 per cent express an unfavourable view and 24 per cent a favourable one:

**Views of each leader - Approval for Premier, Favourability for BC Conservative leader**



To underscore this uncertainty, note that half of residents (47%) say they know nothing about Findlay to this point. Only 15 per cent of current BC Conservative Party voters say they know a lot about her:

**The Conservative Party of B.C. recently announced their new leader Kerry-Lynne Findlay. How much would you say you know about Kerry-Lynne Findlay?**



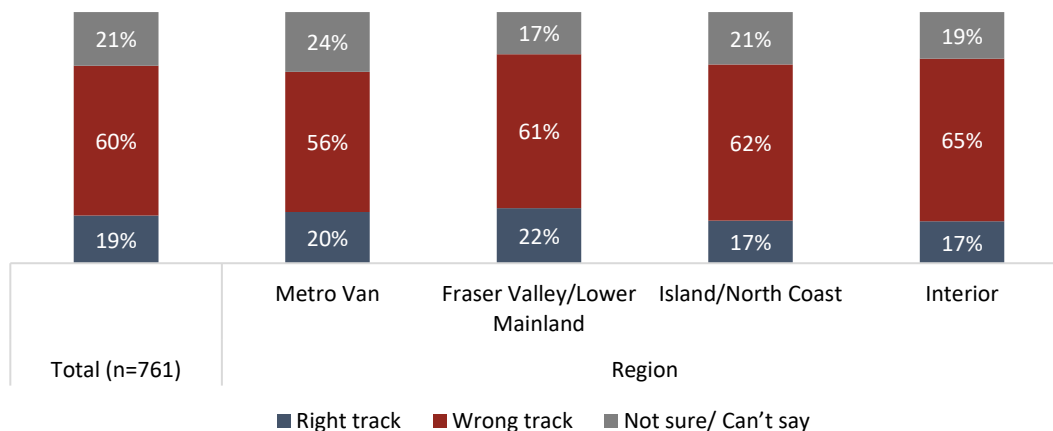
**Part Two: The BC NDP government's bigger problems**

While the new opposition leader may draw some of the focus, the underlying story appears to be the growing inability of the current government to convince residents that the province is going in the right direction or that they are capable of steering it that way.

**Three-times as many say B.C. on wrong track vs right**

Asked whether they feel the province is on the right track or wrong track, three-in-five British Columbians choose the latter. This includes at least 56 per cent in every region of the province. One-in-five (19%) say that B.C. is on the right track.

**Overall, do you feel British Columbia is on the right track or the wrong track?**



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**Government earns net-negative performance scores on key issues**

To understand why so many say the province is heading in the wrong direction, one need perhaps look no further than government performance. Angus Reid Institute asked British Columbians whether the government is doing a good or poor job across 15 issues. On each of these, more residents say the BC NDP is performing poorly than well.

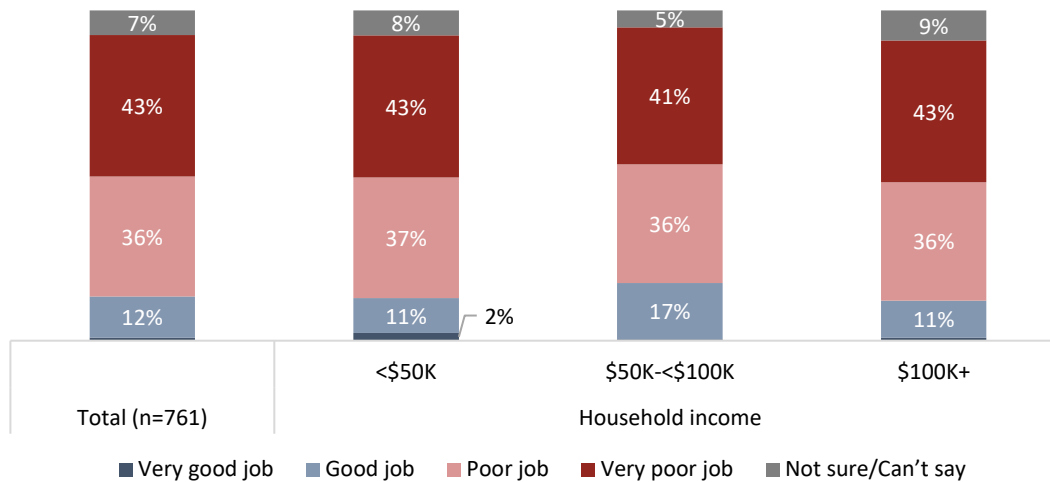
Do you think the current government of British Columbia is doing a good job or a poor job in each of the following areas? Top three issues in red.			
	Very good/Good job	Poor/Very poor job	Net
Relationship with the federal government	38%	43%	-4%
Highways/transportation/transit	38%	51%	-13%
Environment/Climate change	36%	43%	-7%
The U.S. tariff issue/Donald Trump	35%	45%	-10%
Education	33%	53%	-19%
First Nations/Indigenous issues	26%	55%	-29%
<b>Health Care</b>	26%	68%	-42%
Energy policy - Oil & Gas/Pipelines/Renewables etc.	26%	59%	-33%
The Economy/Jobs	20%	68%	-48%
Street crime/Public safety	17%	75%	-58%
The Deficit/Government spending	15%	70%	-55%
<b>Cost of living/Inflation</b>	13%	79%	-66%
<b>Housing Affordability</b>	13%	80%	-67%
Drug Use/addictions/opioid crisis	10%	83%	-73%
Poverty/homelessness	10%	84%	-74%

On the top two issues – health care and the cost of living, the scores are overwhelmingly poor. The BC NDP scores a -66 net approval on the cost of living. These scores are distributed near-evenly across different income levels, with very few residents offering praise. The province recently received a D- score on its [Poverty Report Card](#), citing “persistently weak performance across affordability, access, and income pressure indicators.” Further, the Chapman Center for Demographics and Policy and the New California Coalition released a report studying housing affordability in 96 markets across the globe and found Vancouver to be “[impossibly unaffordable](#)”:

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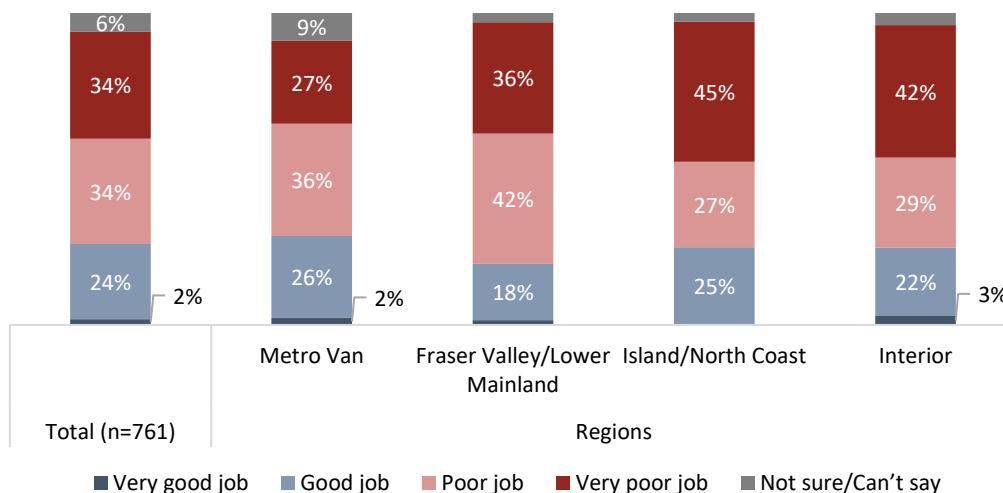
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**Government handling of the cost of living:**



Health care rates as the second most important issue in the province and remains one of the most difficult files for the Eby government, with measurable pressure across primary care, specialist access and emergency services. One-quarter say the province has done well, while seven-in-10 (68%) say it has done poorly. The province says 77 per cent of British Columbians are now attached to a family doctor or nurse practitioner, leaving roughly one-quarter still without an ongoing primary care provider. At the same time, Statistics Canada data show more than one-third of British Columbians who saw a specialist waited three months or longer for an initial consultation, while fewer than half were satisfied with the wait time. The province points to more than 15,000 physicians, 7,800 family doctors, a nursing workforce of 78,750, and a tripling of primary-care nurse practitioners since 2018, but access continues to be strained by wait lists, staffing shortages and temporary emergency-room service interruptions, particularly in smaller and rural communities.

**Government handling of health care:**



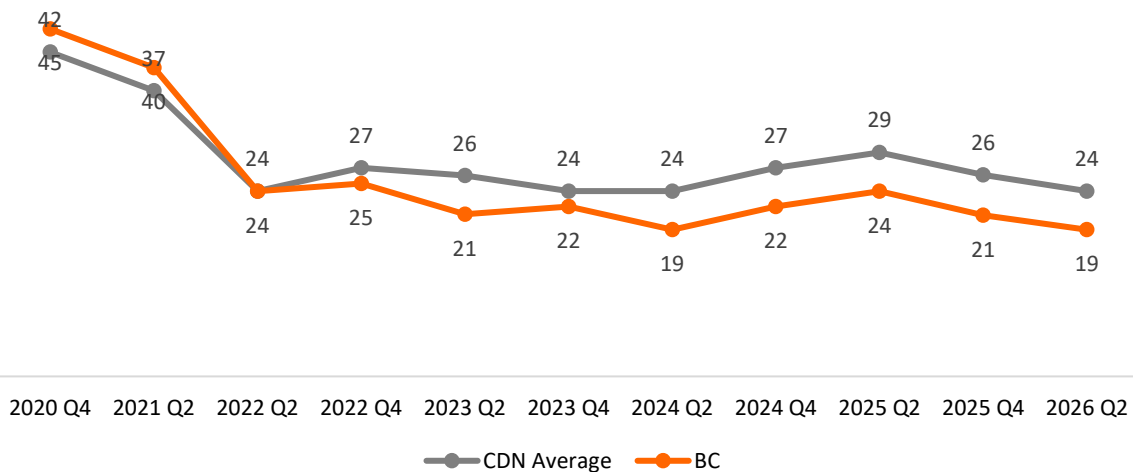
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**Government performance scores:**

The Angus Reid Institute’s Government Performance Index takes scores across 15 different provincial issues to create an estimate of how those populations feel about their current level of governance. More important issues are valued more highly, which points the totals toward both quality and priority. On this measure, the BC NDP has fallen to its worst point since 2020 (tied with Q2 2024):

**Angus Reid Institute Weighted Provincial Government Performance Index  
June 2026**



**Part Three: BC Conservatives lead as many voters remain undecided, open to multiple parties**

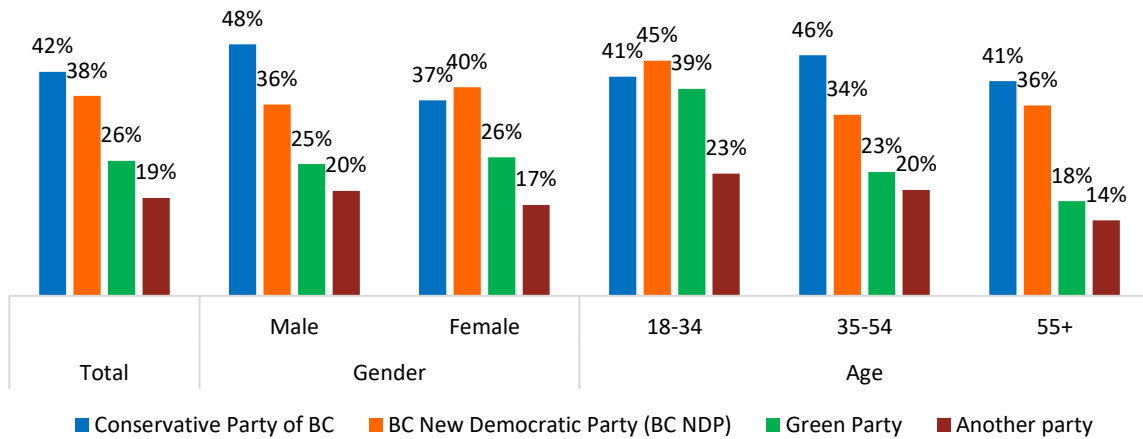
The last provincial election was held in October 2024, so British Columbians may not head back to the polls until 2028, but the political ground is shifting in the interim.

To understand the lay of the land, Angus Reid Institute asked British Columbians which provincial parties they would consider in a future election. Notably, near-equal numbers of residents say they’ll consider the Conservative Party (42%) and BC NDP (38%). One-quarter say they will consider Emily Loewen and the Green Party, which rises to 39 per cent among 18-to-34-year-olds:

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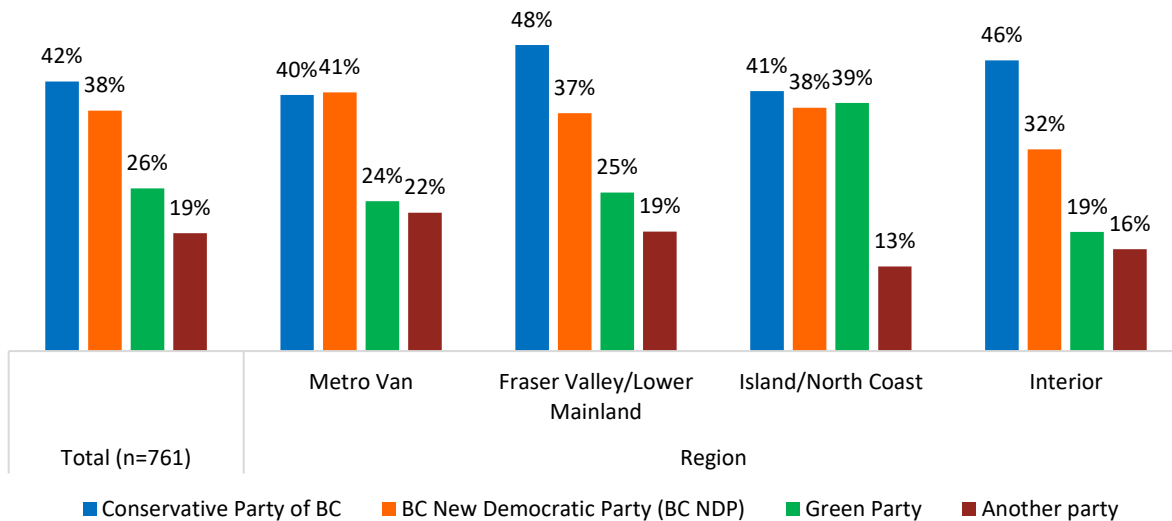
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**Regardless of your current vote intention choice, how likely are you to consider supporting the following in the next provincial election  
"Very likely/Likely" shown:**



Regionally, the competition is intense in Metro Vancouver and on Vancouver Island and the North Coast, where the NDP and Conservatives are equally viable. The Conservative Party has a much larger pool in the Fraser Valley/Lower Mainland region, and in the Interior.

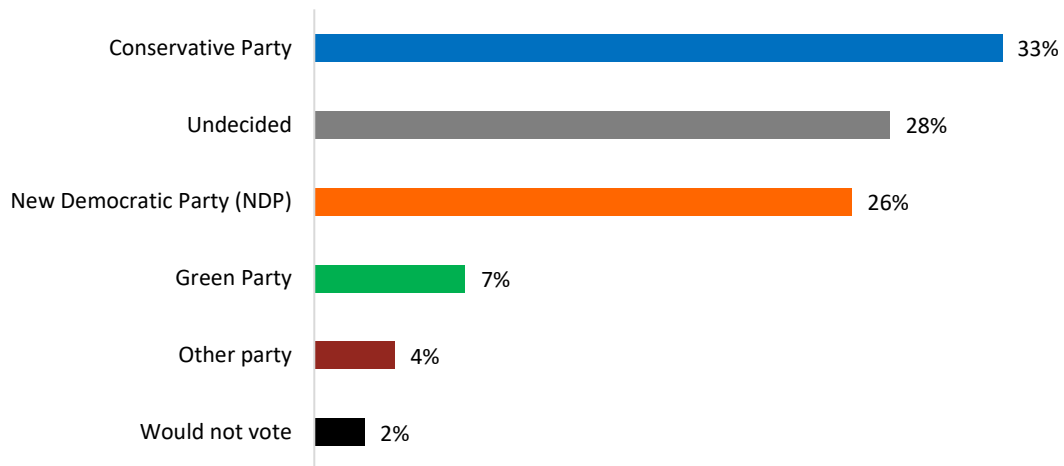
**Regardless of your current vote intention choice, how likely are you to consider supporting the following in the next provincial election  
"Very likely/Likely" shown:**



**Three-in-10 unsure how they would vote**

Dissatisfaction with government appears to be translating into a vote intention advantage for the BC Conservatives. Asked how they would vote in an election, one-in-three (33%) say they would support the Conservative Party, a seven-point edge over the BC NDP. Importantly, however, 28 per cent say they aren't sure how they would vote:

**If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?**



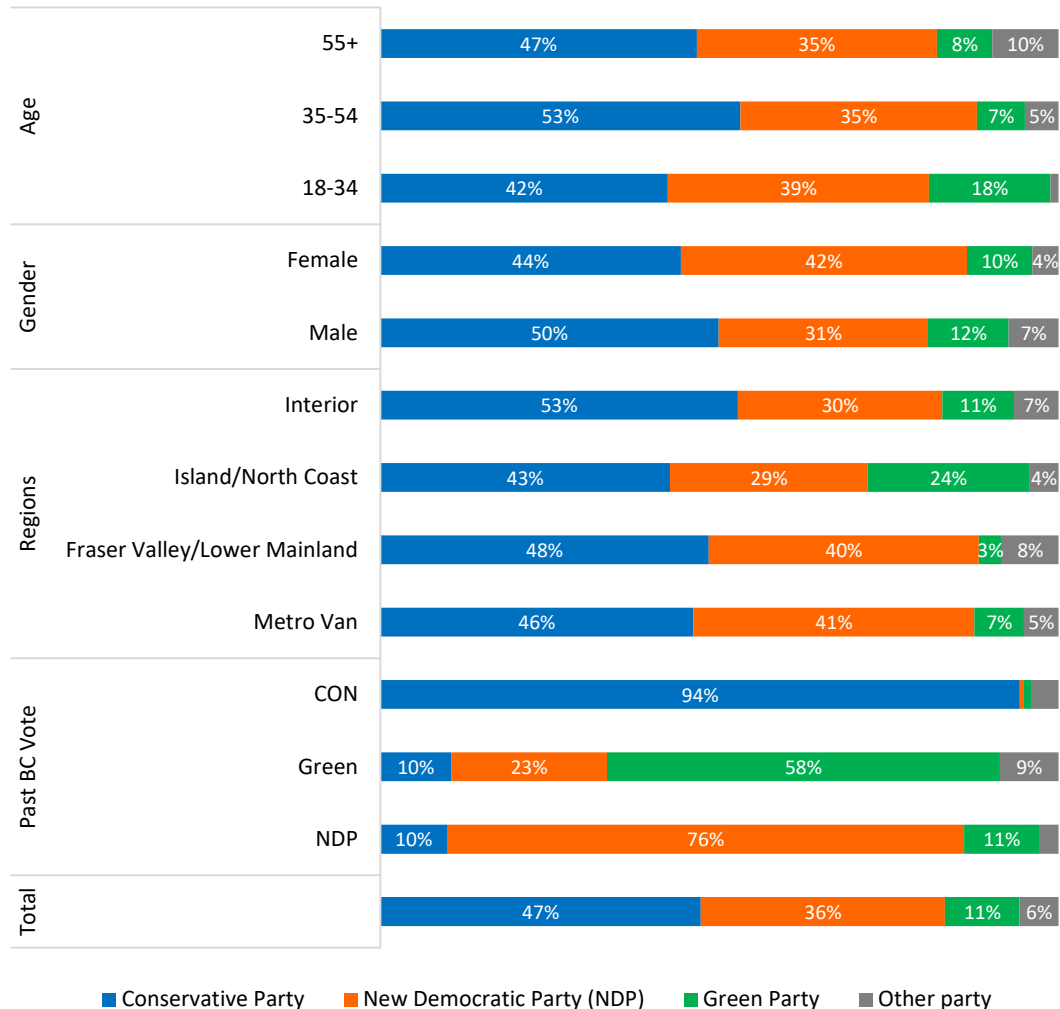
**One-quarter of 2024 NDP voters currently support another party**

Focusing in on decided voters, the current BC Conservative advantage becomes clear. The party holds an 11-point advantage over the governing New Democrats. The NDP's core challenge before the next election is held will be to regain some of its 2024 voters. While 94 per cent of BC Conservative voters would support the party again, this drops to 76 per cent among 2024 NDP voters:

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**Vote intention: Decided voters (n=607)**



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