

As concern about climate change rebounds, one-in-six 2025 Liberal voters are migrating – for now – to the NDP

Climate as a top issue has risen from 14 per cent in March, to 17 per cent in June, to 21 per cent now

July 29, 2026 – Renewed concern about a changing climate is pushing environmental issues back onto Canadians' political radar and creating thorny challenges for Prime Minister Mark Carney and the governing Liberals.

New data from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute finds that, as wildfires burn across Canada, the U.S. and Europe, the proportion of Canadians choosing climate change as a top concern has risen from 14 to 21 per cent – a fifty per cent increase – in four months.

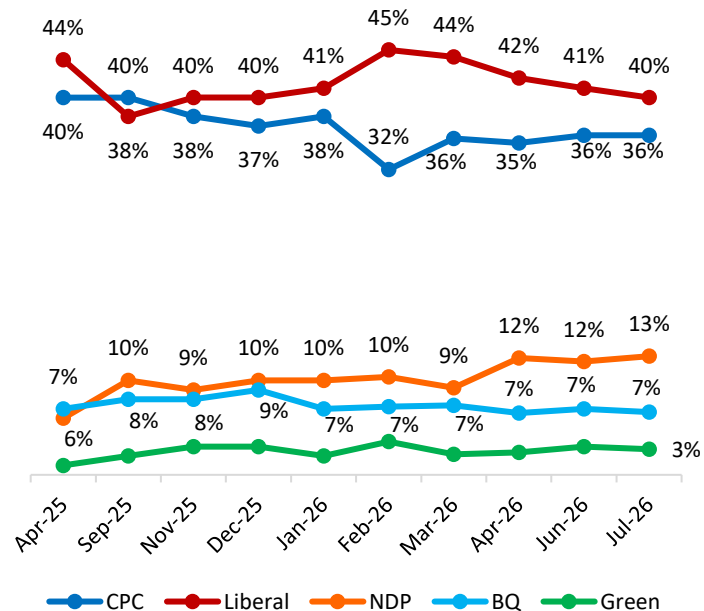
The political consequences of this are evident. While the Liberals continue to lead the Conservatives in federal vote intention, their advantage has narrowed to four points, as one-in-six of those who voted Liberal in 2025 now say they would support the NDP (15%). Among these Liberal-to-NDP switchers, climate change ranks as a top concern for half – twice the number among those who remain with Carney's party (50% to 27%, respectively).

Carney's personal disapproval rating among these past Liberals who now would cast a ballot for the NDP is 31 per cent, while it is just two per cent among those who voted Liberal last year and would do so again. Carney's overall approval sits at 51 per cent, down nine points from a sixty per cent high registered in February.

More Key Findings:

- The Liberals hold a three-point advantage over the Conservatives in Ontario (42% to 39%) and a comfortable lead in Quebec over the next closest party – the Bloc Quebecois (41% to 27%)

Federal vote intention over time



METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey from July 25 - 27, 2026, among a randomized sample of 1,770 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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- While the NDP has improved its vote intention outlook this year, few have yet to form a positive view of new leader Avi Lewis. Fewer than one-in-five say they view him favourably (17%), while 38 per cent view him unfavourably and 45 per cent have no opinion. Even among those who would vote NDP 29 per cent are not sure how they feel about Lewis.
- Conservative Party and opposition leader Pierre Poilievre is viewed favourably by one-in-three Canadians (33%) and unfavourably by three-in-five (60%), a data point that has not budged in eight months.

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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Part One: Climate change rebounds as a priority

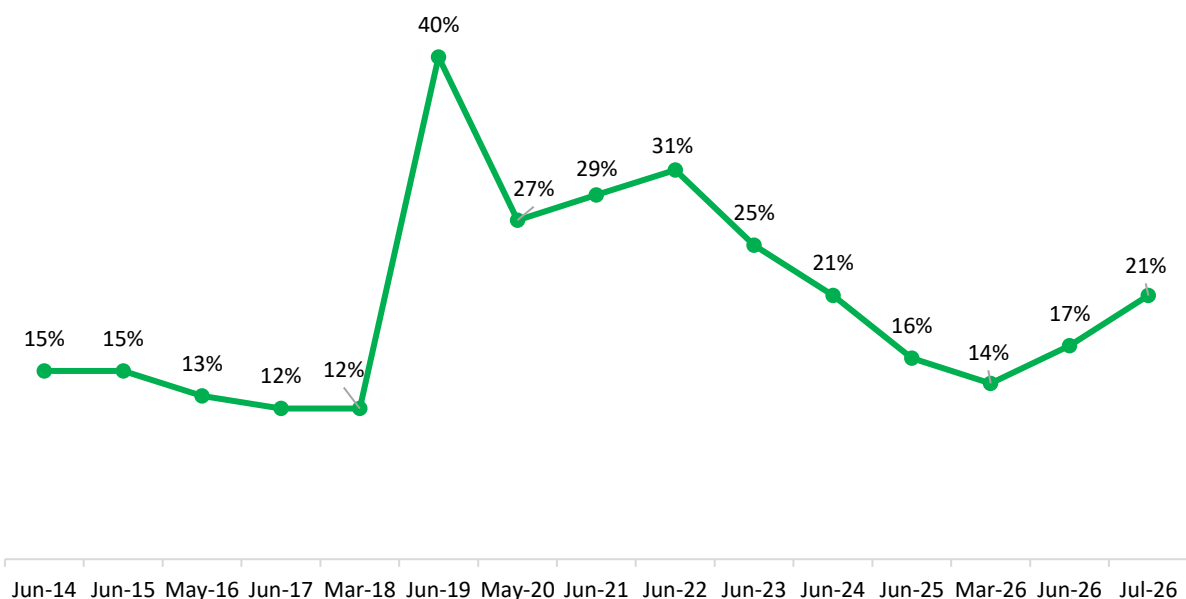
Wildfire season is a stark reminder of the evolving threat a changing climate poses, as experts believe “[earth’s warming climate is amplifying wildfire and fire activity](#)”, especially in Canada’s forests. Canadians have taken notice of the smoke affecting their summer activities.

Related: [Wildfire fears burn hot, even as belief in human-caused climate change continues to decline](#)

A generational split is clear

The proportion of Canadians who choose climate change and the environment as one of Canada’s top issues has risen steadily from the spring. However, this is less a return to concern levels from highs of almost ten years ago, and more of a climb out of a nadir of attention on the issue which had been pushed to the side by broader concerns over inflation and the cost of living (which persist) and a focus on relations with the United States.

Percentage choosing climate change/the environment as a top issue:

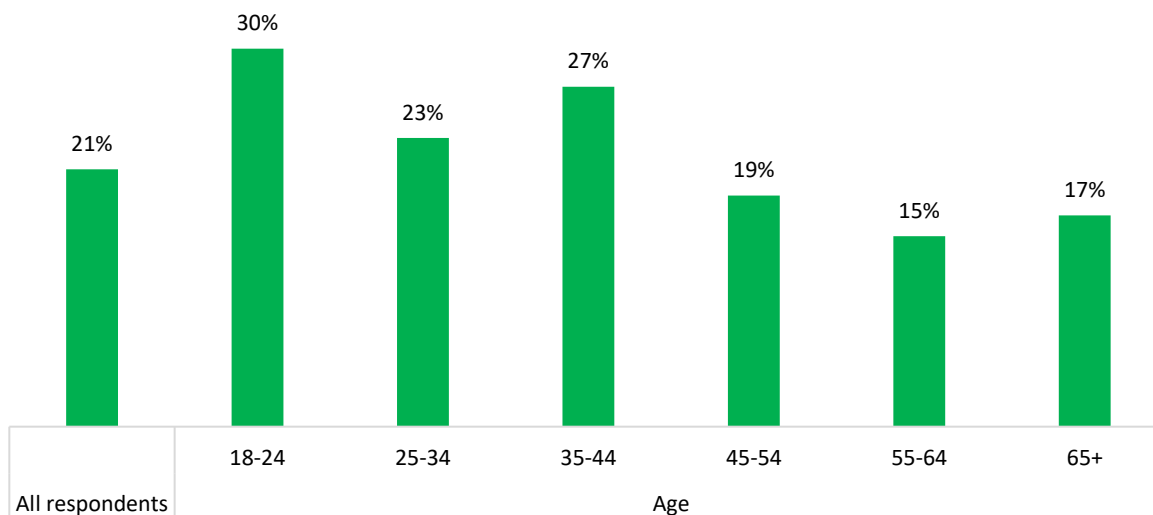


This surge of concern reveals a generational split between younger and older Canadians. The proportion choosing climate change as a top issue is near double among those younger than 45 compared to those older:

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Percentage choosing "Environment / Climate Change" as a top issue



That said, climate change has risen as an issue among all groups compared to prior to the election last year. And perhaps owing to the recent headlines and real world impacts of fires, has gotten a considerable bump even compared to ARI data taken last month:

Percentage of Canadians by age choosing "environment/ climate change" as a top issue over time						
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Mar-25	20%	22%	18%	12%	11%	10%
Jun-25	20%	21%	19%	12%	10%	16%
Sep-25	17%	23%	20%	16%	13%	16%
Dec-25	23%	22%	20%	12%	14%	16%
Mar-26	14%	16%	17%	11%	13%	14%
Jun-26	19%	21%	21%	18%	12%	12%
Jul-26	30%	23%	27%	19%	15%	17%

Part Two: Political implications

A renewed focus on the environment has political implications, especially for the governing Liberals under Prime Minister Mark Carney. The party's policies on the environment have shifted significantly compared to those under Carney's predecessor, Justin Trudeau, resulting in Trudeau's former environment minister [resigning from Carney's cabinet](#) and [eventually stepping down as an MP](#) saying the country is "backsliding" on climate action.

Climate does not rank among the top five issues for those who would vote for the Liberals if there were a federal election today. But it does for current NDP supporters (49% select it as top issue) and those who

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would vote for the Bloc Québécois (33%). In the 2025 federal election, there were seven formerly NDP seats and 12 formerly BQ seats that [went to the Liberals](#).

There are a different suite of issues driving those who would vote for the CPC if the election were today, including immigration (38%), the deficit (31%) and taxes (27%).

Top five issues by federal vote intention				
Total (n=1,769)	Federal vote intention			
	CPC	Liberal	NDP	BQ
Cost of Living/ Inflation 60%	Cost of Living/ Inflation 58%	Cost of Living/ Inflation 58%	Cost of Living/ Inflation 65%	Cost of Living/ Inflation 59%
Health Care 38%	Immigration/ Refugees 38%	Health Care 49%	Environment/ Climate Change 50%	Health Care 43%
Housing Affordability 25%	The Deficit 31%	Relations with the U.S. 31%	Health Care 35%	Environment/ Climate Change 33%
The Economy 23%	The Economy 28%	Housing affordability 27%	Income inequality 34%	Housing Affordability 25%
Environment/ Climate Change 21%	Taxes 27%	The Economy 26%	Housing affordability 30%	Immigration/ Refugees 22%

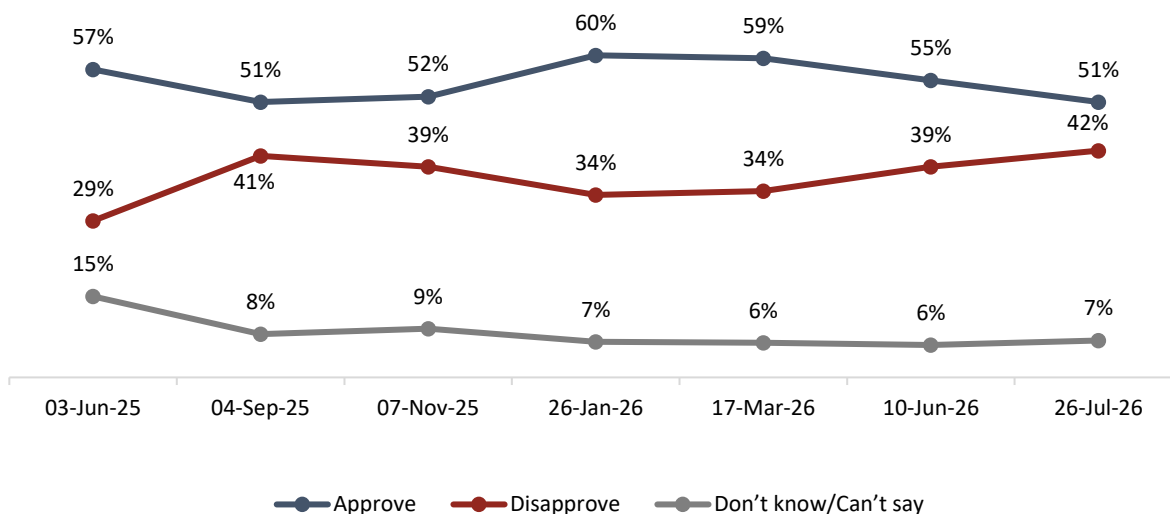
Carney holds approval of (just over) half

While he maintains approval from half of the country after 15 months in office, Prime Minister Carney's public opinion profile has worsened compared to where it was at the beginning of the year.

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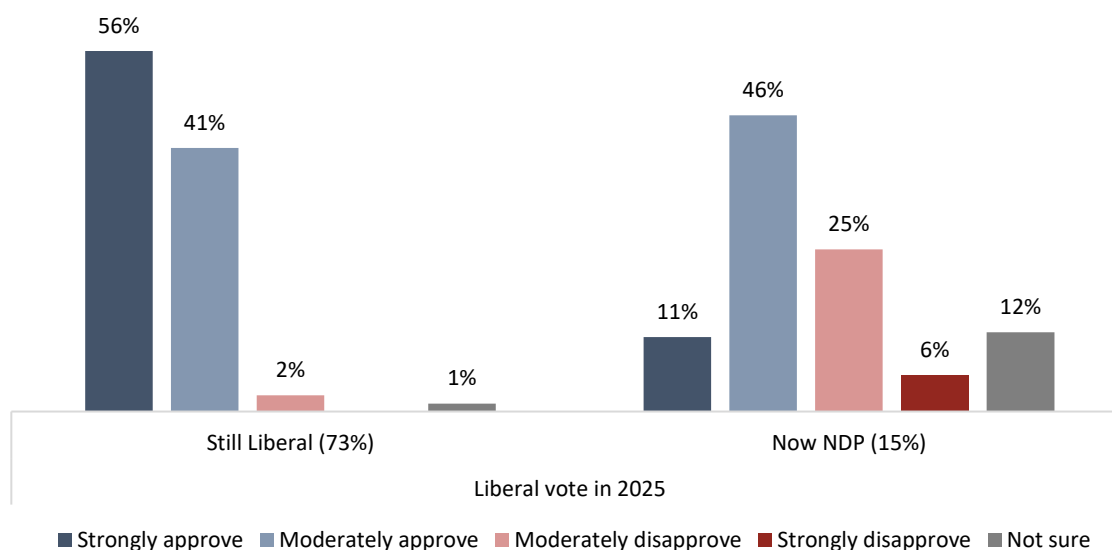
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Approval of Prime Minister Mark Carney over time



Nearly all (97%) of those who voted Liberal and say they would still support the Liberals if there were an election today approve of Carney's performance. A majority (57%) who say they now would vote for the NDP also approve of Carney, but there is much more disapproval (31%) among that group:

Approval of PM Carney among 2025 Liberal voters



Declining assessments of Carney are most notable among those aged 35 to 44 (-6 net approval currently) and aged 18 to 24 (+1 net approval). But Carney's approval has declined across all age groups since March, when he was still basking in the post-Davos approval bump.

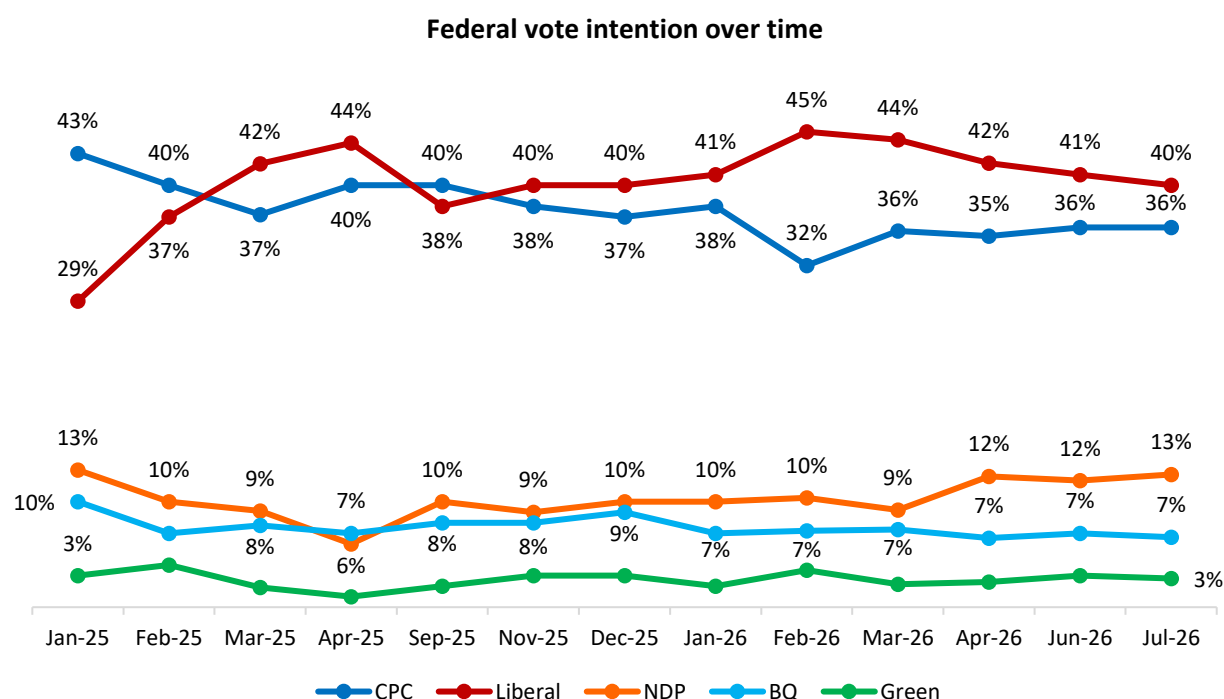
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Carney net approval by age over time						
	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Jul-26
Total	+25	+10	+13	+25	+16	+9
18-24	+20	+20	+14	+24	+30	+1
25-34	+26	+9	+13	+15	+7	+13
35-44	+10	-0	+4	+12	+9	-6
45-54	+11	+2	+6	+20	+10	+6
55-64	+26	+2	+5	+30	+19	+7
65+	+45	+26	+29	+39	+29	+22

Liberals lose ground in vote intention as NDP gains slightly

The Liberal Party continues to maintain an advantage in vote intention, but it is one that has diminished throughout 2026. Compared to data collected in February, the Liberals have dropped five points while the NDP has gained four. The proportion who say they would vote for the CPC has not changed: :



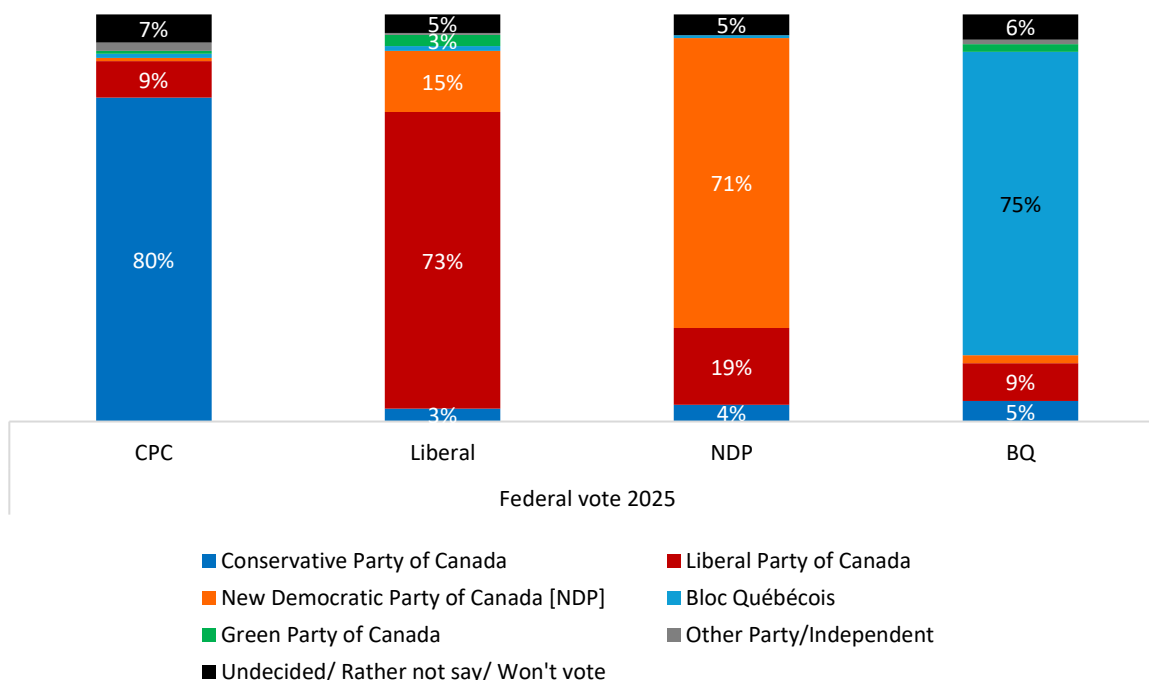
One-in-six 2025 Liberals now say they'd vote NDP

Some of the base of support that Mark Carney was able to rally in the spring of 2025 appears to have dissipated. Currently, three-quarters of his party's voters from last year would return in a future election, but 15 per cent have departed for the NDP and three per cent for the Green Party, suggesting approximately one-in-five 2025 Liberals are now supporting a more left-leaning option. This, while Carney faces accusations from some of [running more of a Progressive Conservative](#) government:

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Vote retention by 2025 federal vote



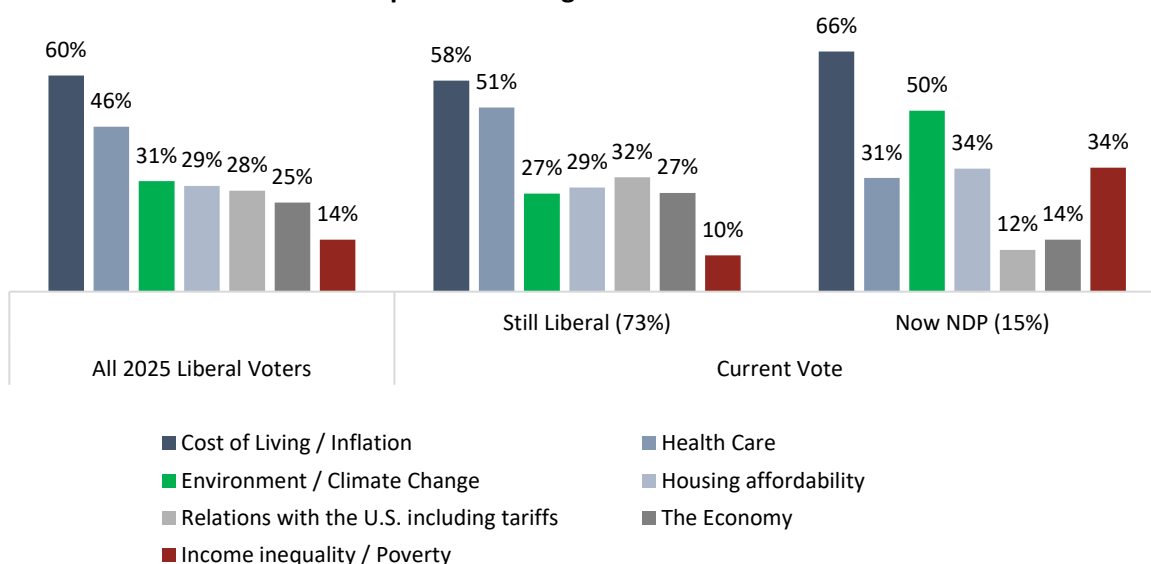
Past Liberals who now would vote NDP

While much of the 2025 federal election campaign centred on the response to President Donald Trump, other issues have now begun to crop up as that concern diminishes. What has emerged is a clear division of priorities between those who still support the Liberal Party and those who now say they would vote for the NDP. That latter group is twice as likely to say that climate change is a top concern (50% vs 27%) and more than three-times as likely to be concerned about inequality (34% vs 10%):

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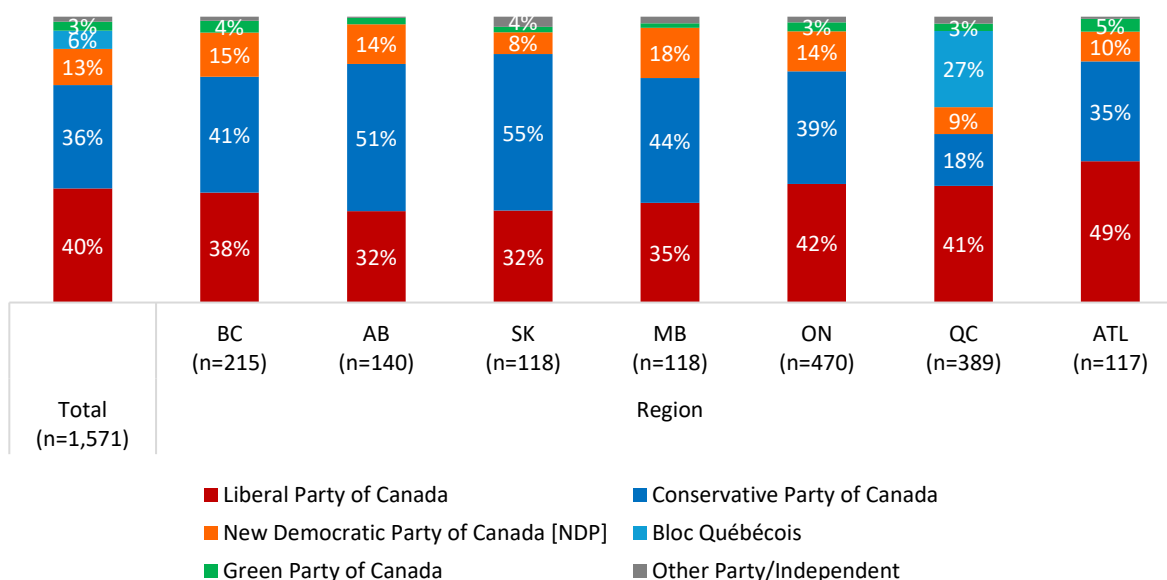
Top issues among 2025 Liberal voters



Vote by region

Regionally, the Liberals still hold onto two key factors in vote intention – leads in Ontario and Quebec. The overall picture in Ontario looks much like the national one, with the Liberals holding a small lead over the CPC. In Quebec, 41 per cent say they would vote Liberal while 27 per cent would support the Bloc Québécois.

Federal vote intention by province (Decided and leaning voters)



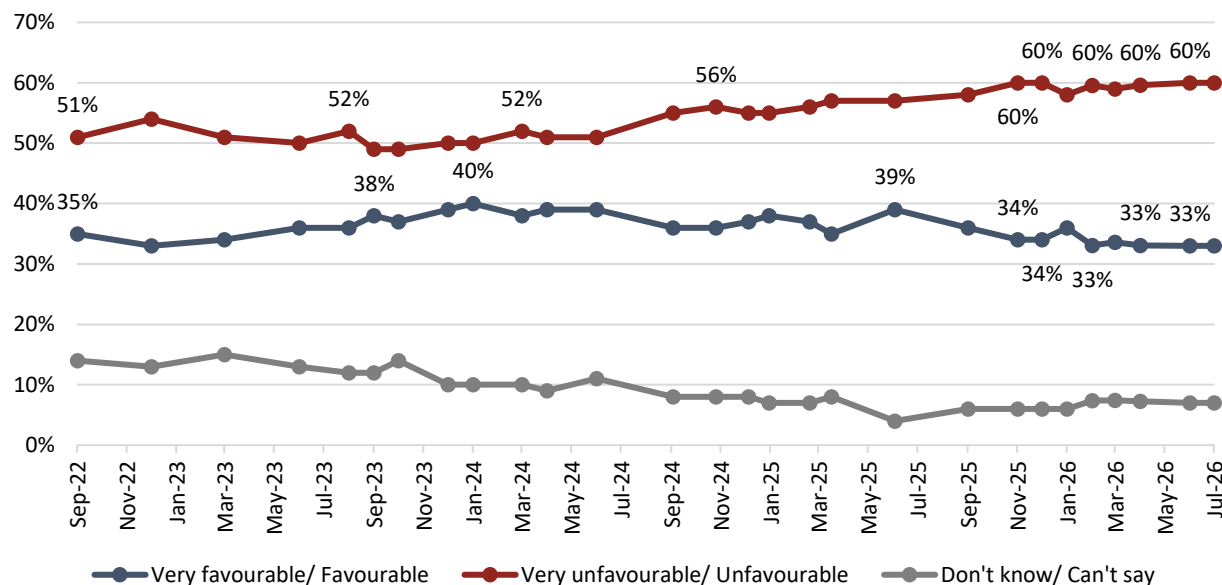
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Part Three: Views of the party leaders

The vote intention race may be tightening between the governing Liberals and opposition Conservatives, but the latter is still helmed by a leader who is struggling to gain personal popularity. A majority (60%) of Canadians say they have an unfavourable view of Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, which has been consistent since November last year. One-third (33%) view him favourably:

Favourability of CPC leader Pierre Poilievre over time

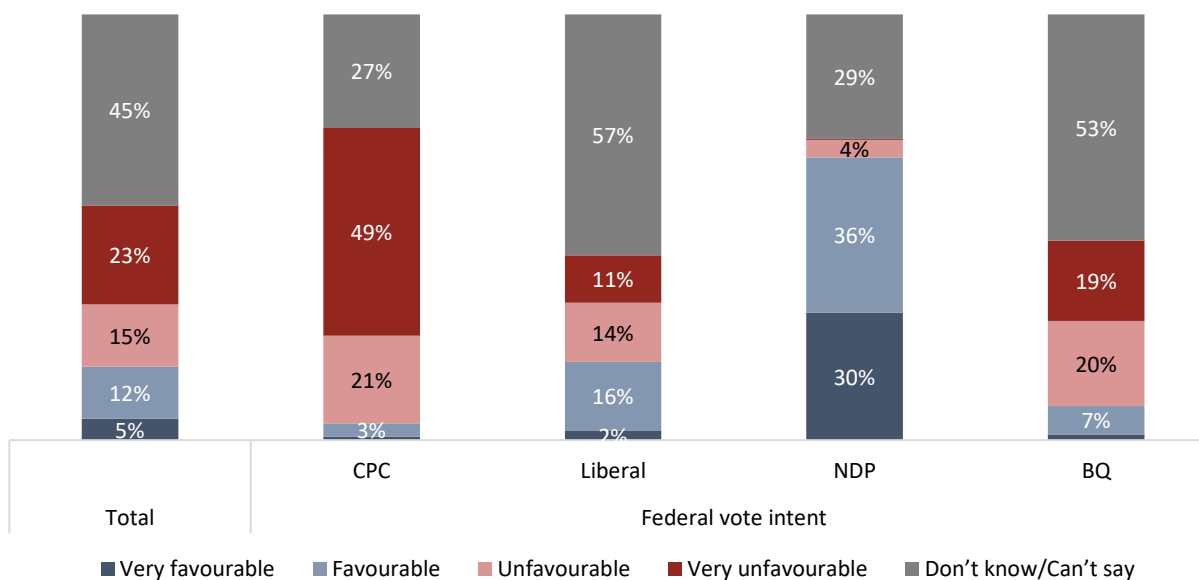


Meanwhile, NDP leader Avi Lewis, who won his role in March, remains relatively unknown compared to other major party leaders. But he has gained traction among the growing number who say they would vote for the NDP if there were an election today. More than two-thirds (66%) of current NDP supporters say they view Lewis favourably:

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Favourability of NDP leader Avi Lewis



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

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