

“Trump Bump” lifts Liberals to 14-point vote intent lead over CPC; challenges for Poilievre continue

Most CPC voters say they would keep Poilievre, but half prefer ‘big changes’ to win next election

September 10, 2026 – As Canadians brace for the impact of the latest round of counter-tariffs put in place on Sept. 8, many are rallying around Prime Minister Mark Carney and the Liberal government sitting across the table from U.S. President Donald Trump. And while the Liberals gain, the Conservative Party and leader Pierre Poilievre are looking for the path back to competitiveness.

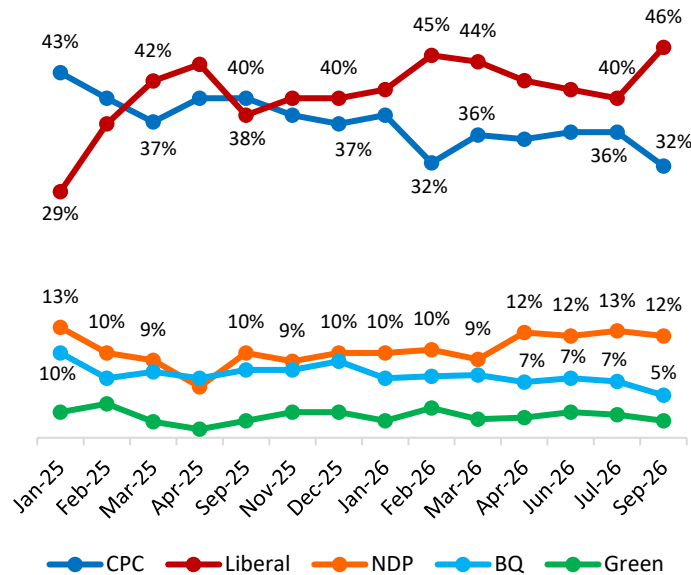
New data from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute finds the Liberal vote intention advantage over the CPC growing to 14 points (46% to 32%) from four points in July. This, as Carney's personal appeal nearly doubles Poilievre's (61% approval vs 32% favourability).

For the CPC, the strategy of the past year and a half has not yielded the desired results. Still, two-thirds of Conservative Party voters say they're satisfied with Poilievre's performance since the election (67%). For another three-in-10 (28%), however, expectations have not been met.

Past Conservative voters are of two minds about what should come next. A majority say the party should maintain its current ideological approach (58%). At the same time, half say they would accept “big changes” to the party if doing so meant winning the next election.

Whatever those changes, one of Poilievre's core challenges continues to be finding resonance with women. His favourability sits at 27 per cent with this group and has yet to exceed 31 per cent in four years of polling.

Federal vote intention over time



METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey from Sept. 2-7, 2026, among a randomized sample of 1,811 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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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: Liberals widen vote intent lead

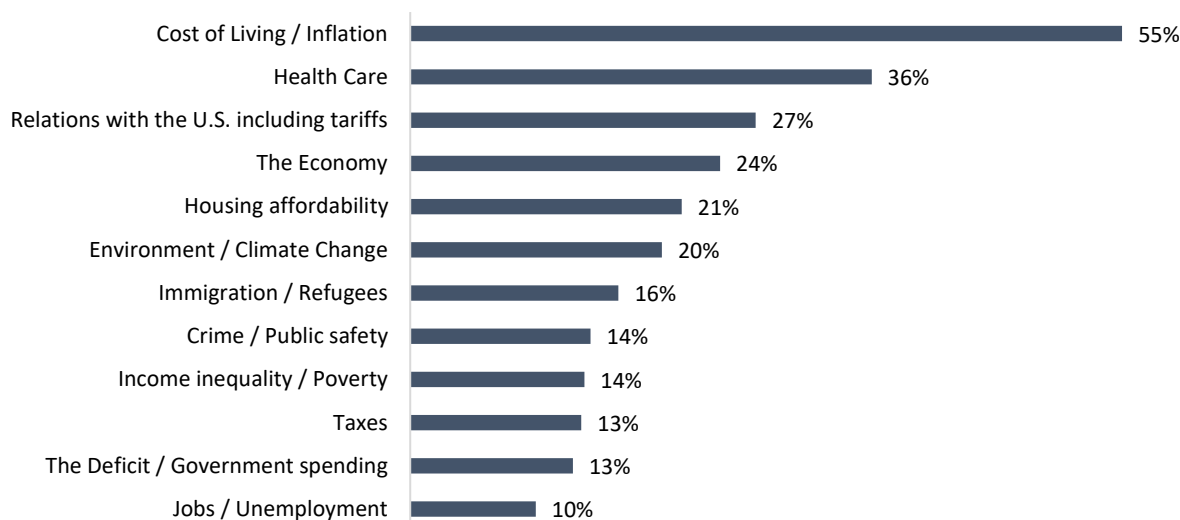
Top issues

With the announcement of tariffs, counter-tariffs, and counter-counter-tariffs over recent weeks between Canada and the United States, one thing is certain if this persists: prices are going to rise for Canadians and Americans alike. The top issue in this environment continues to be unchanged, as the cost of living and inflation dominate the concerns of residents. Other core economic issues also take priority, including the tariff issue itself (27%), the economy broadly (24%), and housing affordability (21%). This, alongside health care, make up the top give areas of focus for Canadians:

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**Thinking of the various issues and challenges facing Canada, which ones do you personally care about the most?
(All respondents, n=1,811)**



Past voters of the four major political parties select inflation as a top issue, but priorities differ from there. Those who voted Liberal (44%), NDP (41%) and Bloc Québécois (37%) in 2025 are more likely to select health care than past CPC voters (27%), whose concerns are more spread between the economy (32%), immigration (27%), taxes (25%) and government spending (25%).

U.S. relations is a higher concern for past Liberal (39%) and BQ (32%) voters than others. Past NDP voters are the most concerned with climate change (41%).

Canadians' age also appears to play a role in what issues they find more pressing. Younger Canadians are more concerned with jobs and unemployment, while older Canadians are much more likely to select health care and relations with the U.S. ([see detailed tables](#)).

With a provincial election around the corner, Quebecers are the most likely to worry over American tariffs (32%); Albertans, with referendums nearing, are most likely to select immigration (24%) as a top issue ([see detailed tables](#)).

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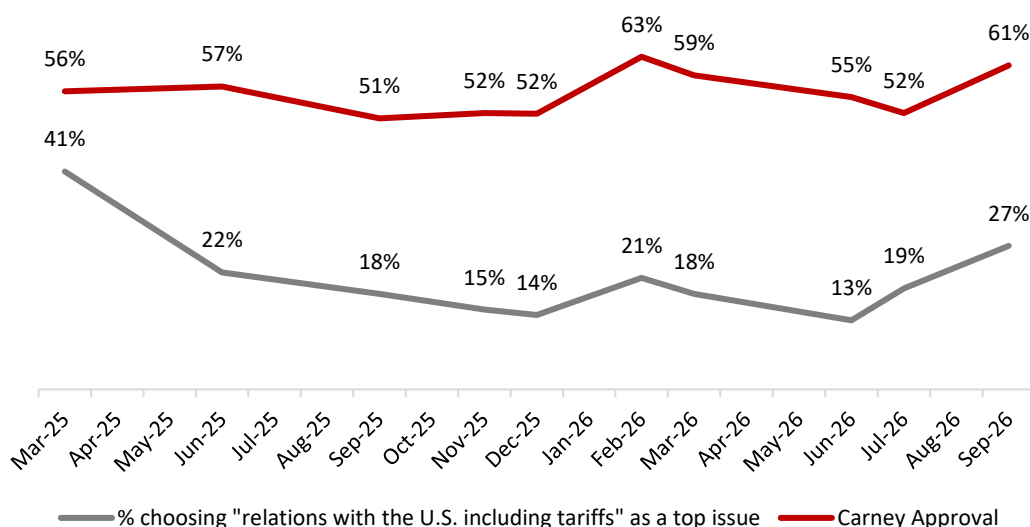
Canadians' top issues by federal vote 2025				
	Federal vote 2025			
	CPC	Liberal	NDP	BQ
Cost of Living / Inflation	57%	51%	55%	60%
Health Care	27%	44%	41%	37%
Relations with the U.S. including tariffs	17%	39%	16%	32%
The Economy	32%	23%	11%	11%
Housing affordability	15%	22%	29%	26%
Environment / Climate Change	3%	27%	41%	34%
Immigration / Refugees	27%	8%	4%	21%
Crime / Public safety	21%	9%	7%	9%
Income inequality / Poverty	4%	17%	37%	14%
Taxes	25%	6%	6%	6%
The Deficit / Government spending	25%	5%	1%	20%
Jobs / Unemployment	7%	10%	11%	6%

Politically, the relationship between the tariff issue and Prime Minister Carney's personal approval is noticeable. He was elected largely on the sales pitch of being the best leader to deal with President Trump, and it appears that as that issue rises in prominence, so to does Carney's own appeal with Canadians.

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Tariffs and Carney approval relationship



Liberals expand vote lead

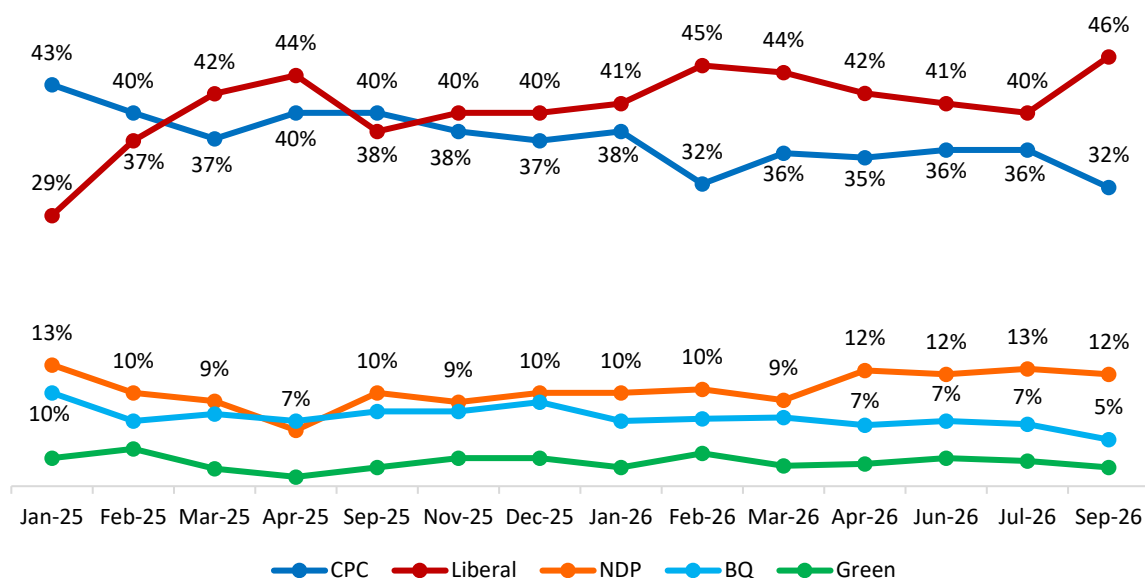
A late-summer [sweep of three by-elections](#) and another “[Trump Bump](#)” for the Prime Minister has the Liberal Party riding high heading into the fall parliamentary session, set to begin on September 21. Public opinion is one thing, however, while an ongoing trade war with the United States is guaranteed to test Canadians’ resolve, as prices begin to rise and businesses begin to adjust to the new environment, which for some [poses an existential threat](#).

The latest round of conflict with President Trump and U.S. trade negotiators appears to have boosted the Liberals vote intention profile. Currently, 46 per cent say they would vote for that party if an election were held, while the Conservatives have dropped to 32 per cent:

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Federal vote intention over time



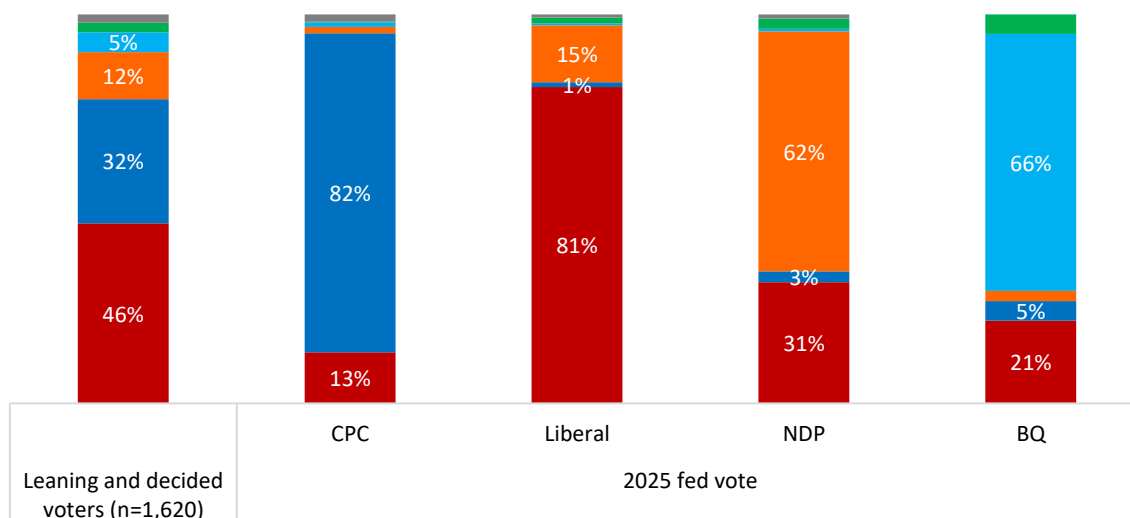
Vote retention

Both the Liberal Party and Conservative Party maintain the support of four-in-five voters who cast a ballot for them in 2025, but the Liberal advantage is further built on siphoning past voters from both the New Democrats (31%) and Bloc Quebecois (21%). Few of either group would support the CPC at this time:

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Vote retention vs 2025 vote



- Liberal Party of Canada
- Conservative Party of Canada
- New Democratic Party of Canada [NDP]
- Bloc Québécois
- Green Party of Canada
- Other Party/Independent

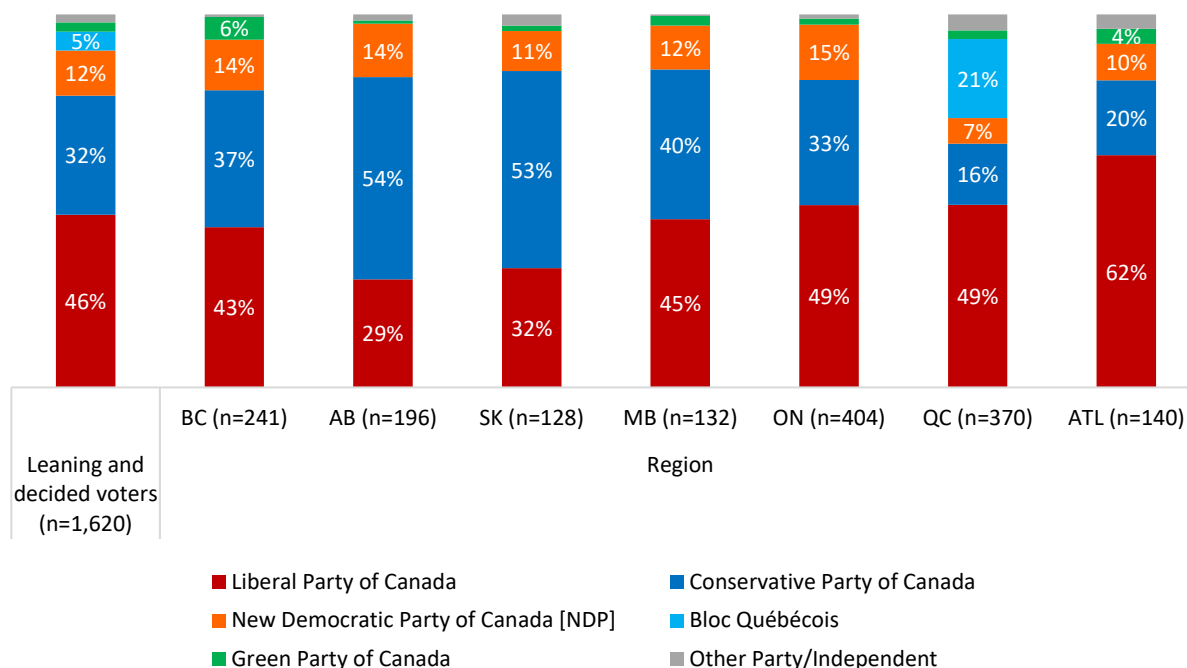
Vote by region

The Liberal Party now holds an advantage across most of the country, including key, substantial leads in Ontario (+16 over CPC) and Quebec (+28 over BQ) over its next closest rival. In Alberta and Saskatchewan, the CPC maintains majority support:

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Federal vote intent, leaning and decided voters



Part Two: The future of Pierre Poilievre

Majority view Poilievre unfavourably

It has been a challenge for the Conservatives and leader Pierre Poilievre to navigate the ebbs and flows of the U.S.-Canada trade war. During the election, the party had to pivot from its “Canada is broken messaging” at a time of a renewed sense of patriotism from Canadians in the face of American threats. Although the 2025 election saw the CPC win the highest popular vote percentage it had since the 1980s, it finished behind the “Elbows Up” nationalist Liberals and Carney.

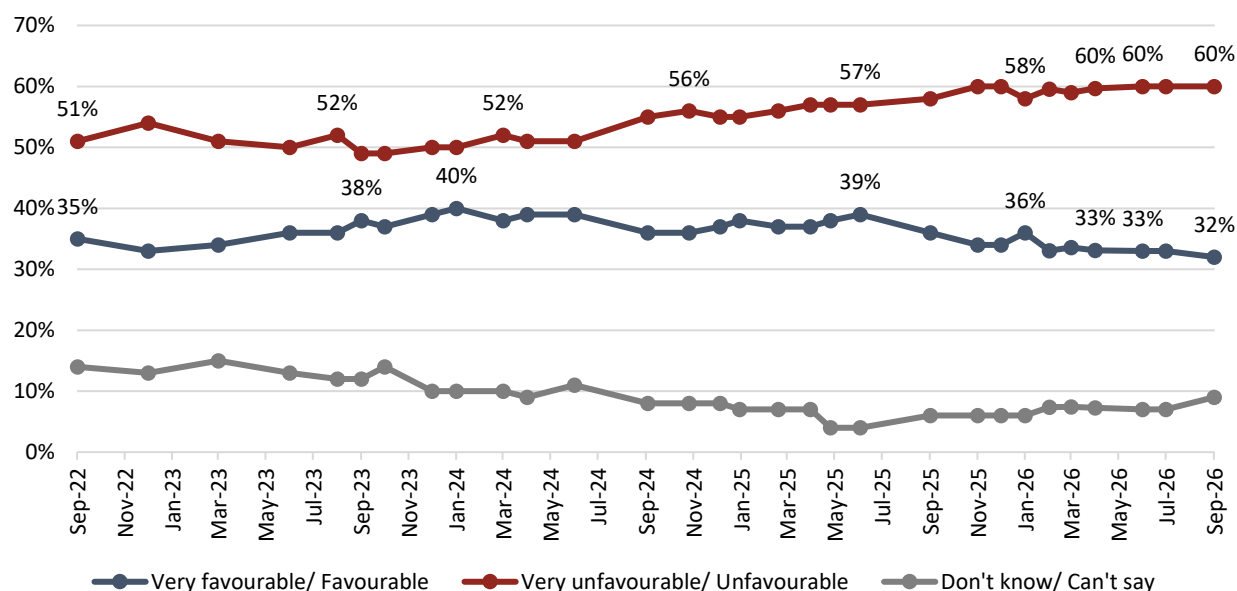
Since then, every time the trade conflict has intensified has been a boon to Carney’s personal popularity as well as support for the governing Liberals, pushing the CPC further into second place.

So far, Poilievre has not found messaging to breakthrough his own personal unpopularity. Throughout 2026, a consistent three-in-five Canadians say they view Poilievre unfavourably. The 32 per cent who instead view him positively represents a new low:

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Favourability of CPC leader Pierre Poilievre over time



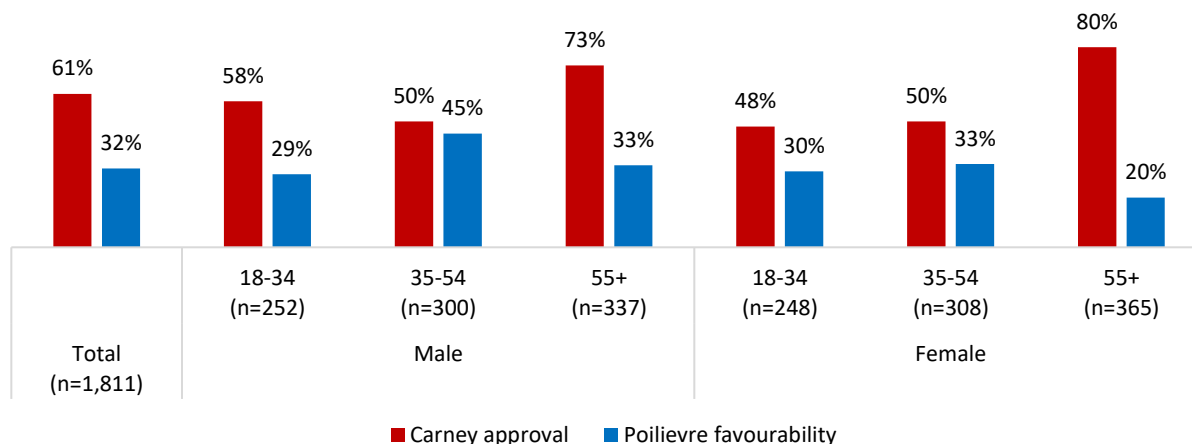
Big demographic gap between Carney and Poilievre

The gap in opinion of the opposition leader and the prime minister is evident across all demographics and especially eye-opening among those older than 54. Three-quarters (73%) of men older than 54 and four-in-five (80%) women say they approve of Carney's performance as PM. Those figures in those cohorts more than double and quadruple, respectively, the proportion who have a positive view of Poilievre. Note that the performance on U.S. relations is especially key for older Canadians, who are twice as likely (40%) to select it as a top issue as those aged 54 and younger ([see detailed tables](#)).

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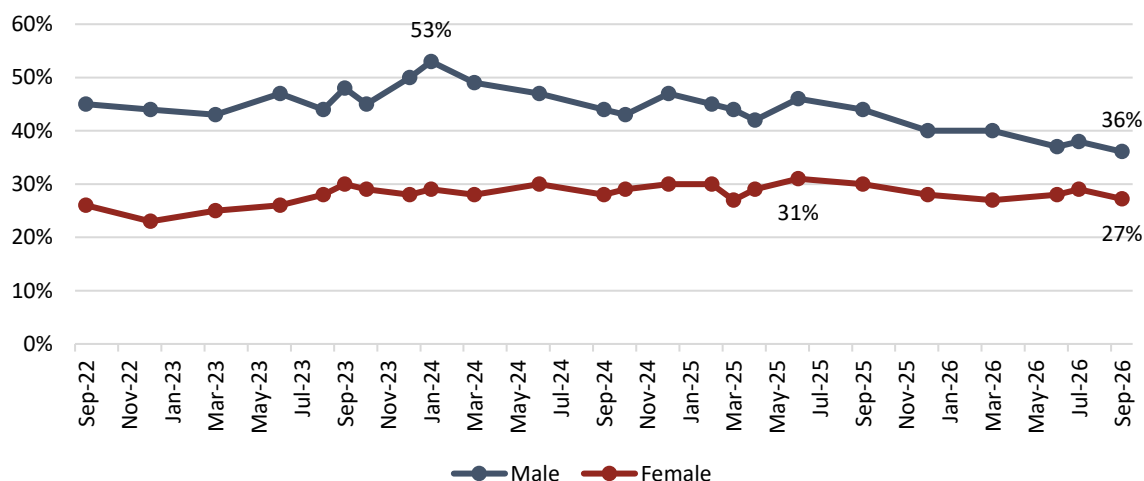
Approval of Prime Minister Mark Carney vs. favourability of CPC leader Pierre Poilievre



The gap between Carney and Poilievre among women older than 54 further highlights Poilievre's persistent weakness in perception among women voters. During his time as leader of the CPC, at most 31 per cent of Canadian women said they had a favourable view of Poilievre. For a while, this negativity among women was offset by more popularity among men. Over time, men's opinions have fallen closer to women's.

In [August 2025](#), a majority (53%) of women told ARI that they believed the Conservative Party “does not represent people like me”. This was also the case in December 2019 (54%), suggesting this is not a new problem for the Conservatives, but one that Poilievre has not been able to solve.

Favourability of CPC leader Pierre Poilievre among men and women over time

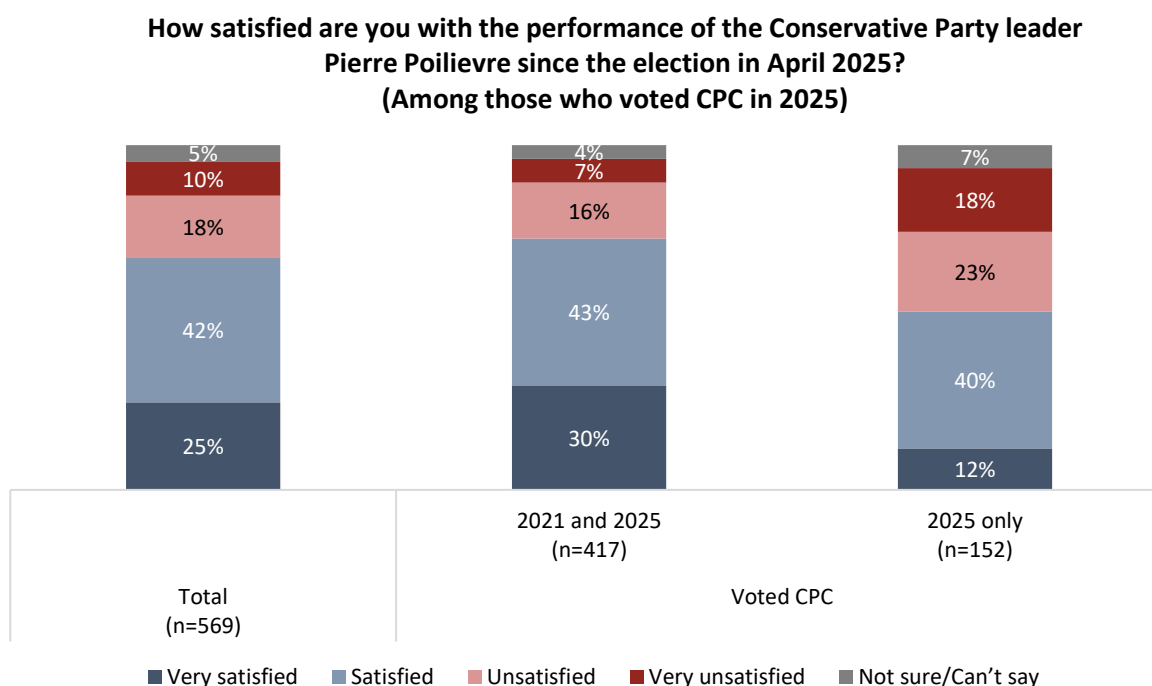


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Two-thirds of 2025 CPC voters 'satisfied' with Poilievre's performance

Still, despite Poilievre's relative unpopularity with the general populace, those who voted for him and his party in 2025 are more satisfied (67%) than not (28%) with his performance since the election. However those who only voted for the party in 2025 and not in the 2021 election express more dissatisfaction (41%) than those who voted CPC in the two most recent federal elections (23%):



Most 2025 CPC voters want party to 'stay the course ideologically'

One of the post-2025 election challenges for the Conservatives is positioning themselves along the political spectrum as [Carney has shifted the Liberals to the right](#). Carney has [reversed many key Trudeau-era policies](#) which had been targeted by the Conservative party.

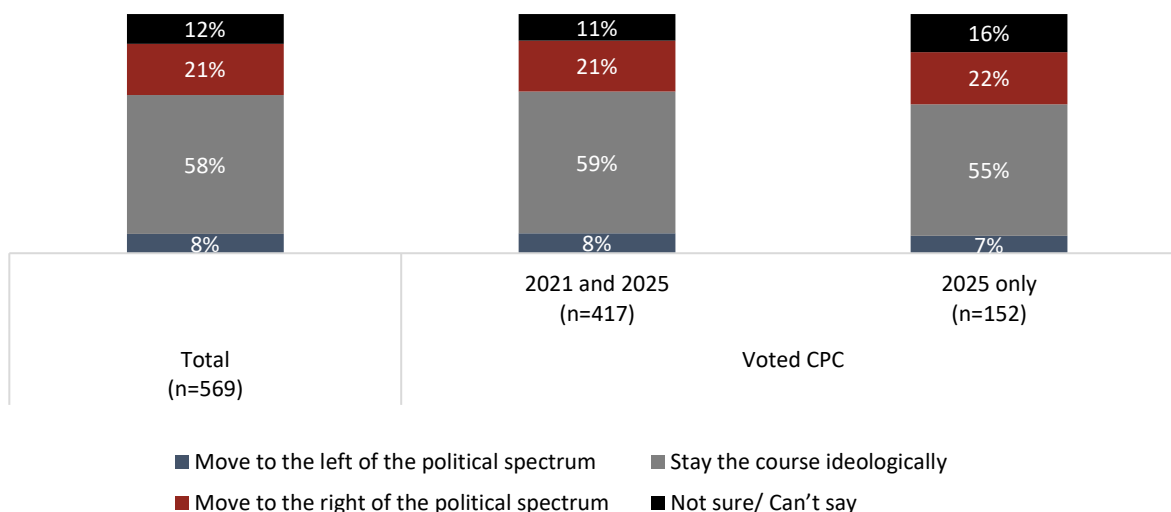
Still, most (58%) 2025 CPC voters want their party to stay the course ideologically. A minority of one-in-five (21%) would prefer if the party moved more to the right, while a handful of one-in-12 (8%) believe the party should move more to the left on the political spectrum:

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In your opinion, how should the Conservative Party of Canada approach the future?

(Among those who voted CPC in 2025)



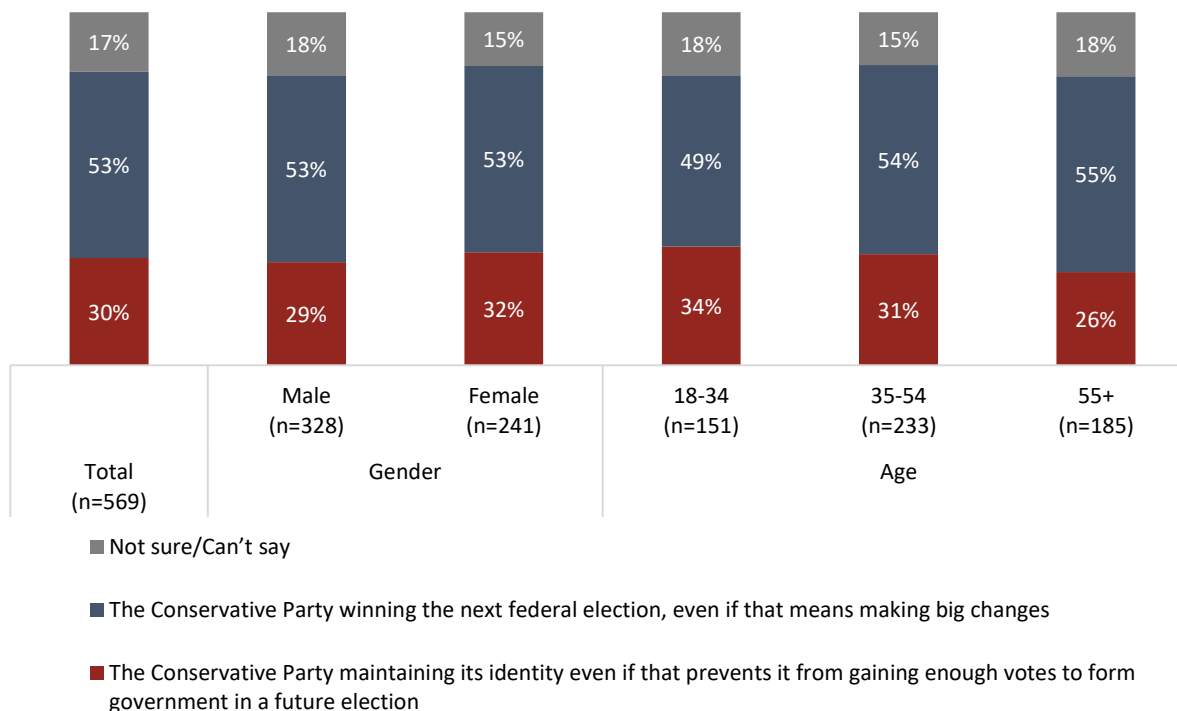
But half prefer 'big changes' if it puts them on the path to government

However, when the question is phrased as a trade-off between the party changing to gain votes to form government after the next election, or staying the course and potentially not winning again, there is more desire for changing the party's identity (53%) than there is to stand pat (30%):

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**Putting this another way, what would you say is more important to you?
(Among those who voted CPC in 2025)**



57% of 2025 CPC voters want Poilievre to stay on as leader

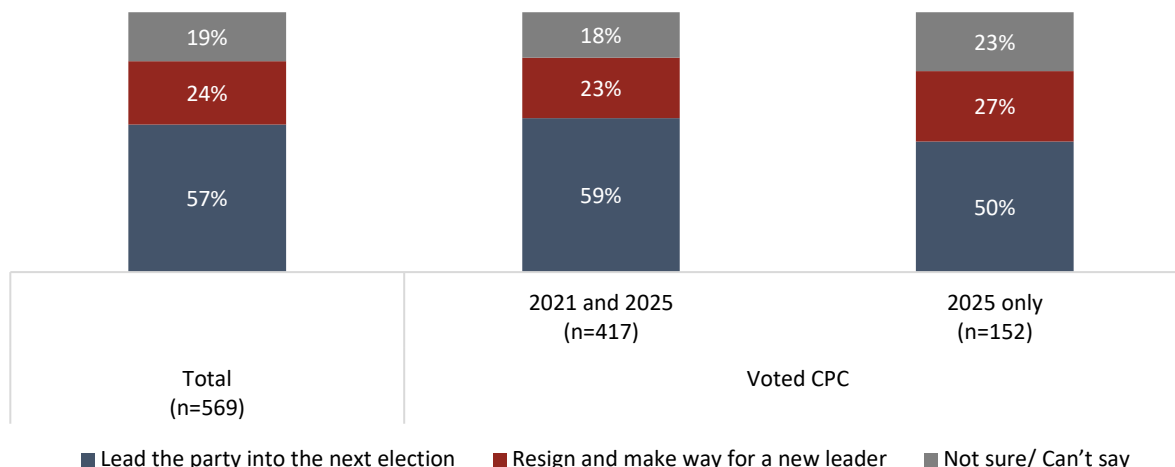
For a majority of 2025 CPC, the “big change” voters want is not jettisoning Poilievre at the moment. 57 per cent of those who voted for the party last year believe he should lead the party into the next election; one-quarter (24%) want him replaced. There is also one-in-five (20%) who are uncertain.

Those who voted CPC in 2025, but not 2021, are less likely to want Poilievre to continue as leader into the next election:

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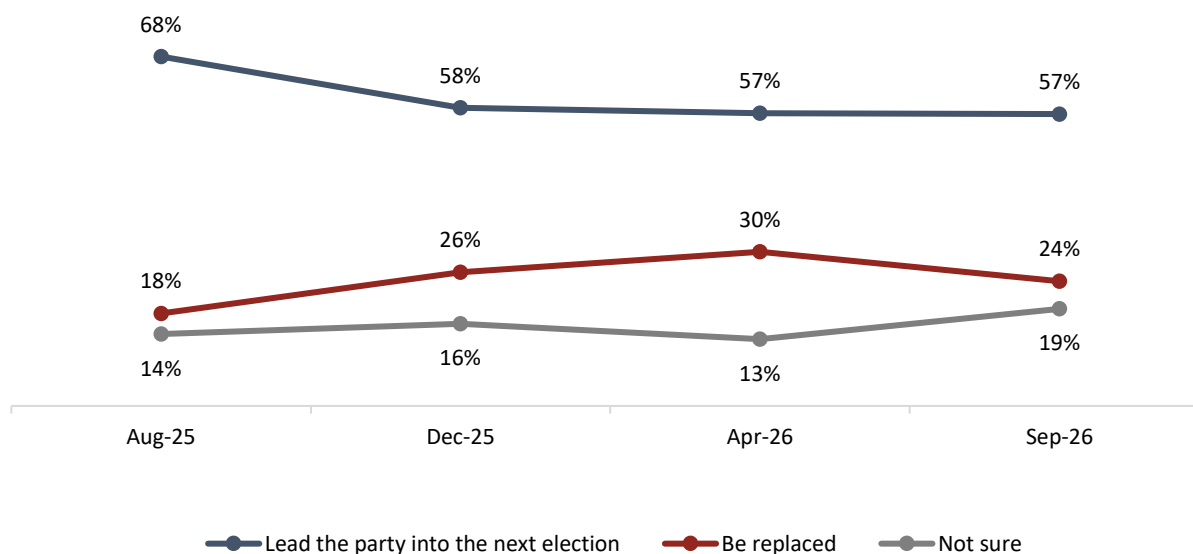
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**Thinking about Pierre Poilievre's future as leader of the CPC, should he...
(Among those who voted CPC in 2025)**



In January, Poilievre secured 87.4 per cent approval from delegates at the Conservative national convention in Calgary. Past party voters have been less enthusiastic in their endorsement of the CPC leader since the last election. But the proportion who believes Poilievre should helm the party whenever the next election comes has remained consistent since December:

**Should Pierre Polievre lead the CPC into the next election or should he be replaced?
(Among 2025 CPC voters)**



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

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