

BC's Political Orphans: Unhappy with NDP, wary of alternatives, half say they have no party to gladly support

If they had to choose, voters give NDP four point lead in vote intent, 41% to 37% over BC Conservatives

September 17, 2026 – Premier David Eby kicked election speculation into overdrive this week when he stated that his party needed to be “[election ready](#)”. But would his constituents be ready?

New data from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute finds half (51%) of British Columbians saying they “feel like a political orphan” without a party to enthusiastically throw their support behind. That sentiment is shared by two-in-five (41%) past BC NDP voters and a majority of those who voted for the BC Conservatives (55%).

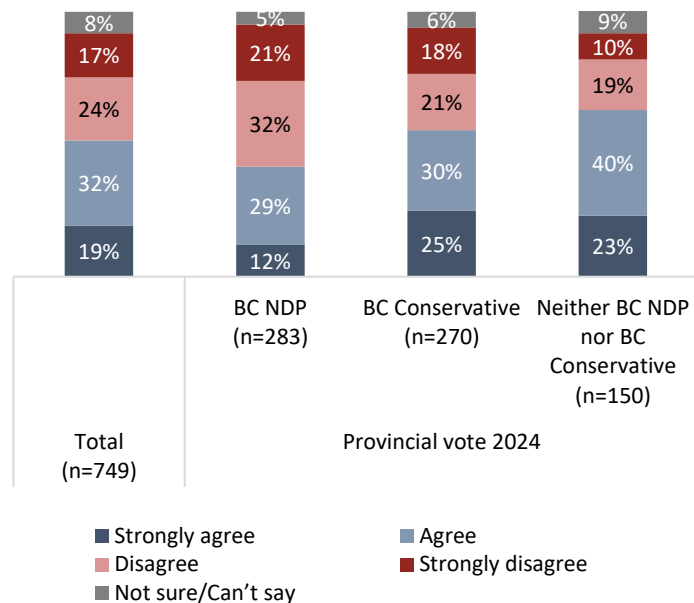
However, British Columbians are more split when it comes to whether another political party on the scene “is much needed” (42%) or “would create more uncertainty” (40%). Notably, more than two-in-five (46%) past BC NDP voters and 37 per cent of past BC Conservative voters believe there is a need for another political party to consider.

Approval of Premier Eby may have recovered from a nadir seen a quarter ago ([31% to 41%](#)), but more believe the BC NDP are doing a poor job (47%) running the province than a good one (39%). More believe the BC NDP are doing a poor job (47%) running the province than a good one (39%). The growing budgetary deficit perhaps looms large over assessments.

But despite the province's increasing debt, those who are pessimistic about the province's future (53%) outnumber those who are optimistic (47%) only by a hair.

These data take on greater import as Eby has begun to make overtures about the possibility of an early election, perhaps to take advantage of the opposition BC Conservatives, who have been beset by internal

Agree vs. disagree - "I feel like a political orphan – there is no party I could enthusiastically support today"



METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey from Sept 8-15, 2026, among a randomized sample of 749 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 provincewide 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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party strife since the 2024 contest. Only a handful (16%) believe it would be “best possible outcome” if the BC NDP were to win a majority government whenever the next election comes. There are a sizable number (29%) who believe instead that it’s better than the alternatives. Two-in-five (37%) describe a potential new BC NDP majority as a “bad outcome” (14%) or the “worst possible outcome” (23%).

More Key Findings:

- Two-in-five (39%) 2024 BC Conservative voters say leader Kerry-Lynne Findlay should resign. Three-in-ten (31%) want her to stay on. A similar number (29%) aren’t sure either way.
- Half (52%) of British Columbians describe the BC Conservatives as “too far to the right politically”. That includes one-in-five (19%) past BC Conservative voters and a majority (58%) of those who voted for neither the BC NDP or the BC Conservatives in the previous election.
- Half (50%) in the province believe it’s time for a change in government, one-third (34%) disagree. Among those who disagree, there is a near even split between believing it’s not time for a change because they support the BC NDP (42%) and those who say they don’t want the BC Conservatives to form government (46%).

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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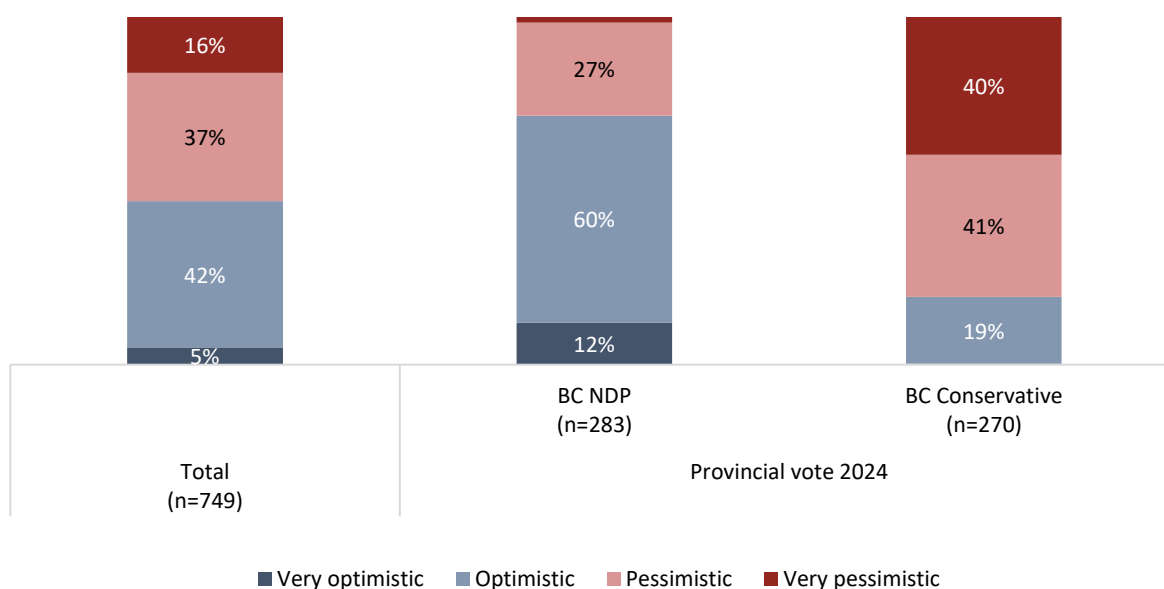
Part One: The state of B.C. politics

A tale of two provinces – optimism over B.C.'s future politically polarized

There is a lot of economic anxiety swirling around British Columbia these days. The U.S.-Canada trade war has cast a dark cloud over the country as the economic ripple effects of tariffs and counter tariffs are perhaps yet still over the horizon. The province is simultaneously dealing with a \$13.8-billion budget deficit. U.S. tariffs have played their part in the province's fiscal hole but so has a costly wildfire season and a budgeting error that overestimated natural gas royalties.

There are more British Columbians who are pessimistic (53%) about the future of the province than optimistic (47%), but that sentiment is heavily coloured by political lens. Approaching three-quarters (72%) of those who voted for the BC NDP in 2024 say they are "optimistic" about the province's future; four-in-five (81%) who voted for the BC Conservatives are "pessimistic":

Overall, are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of British Columbia?

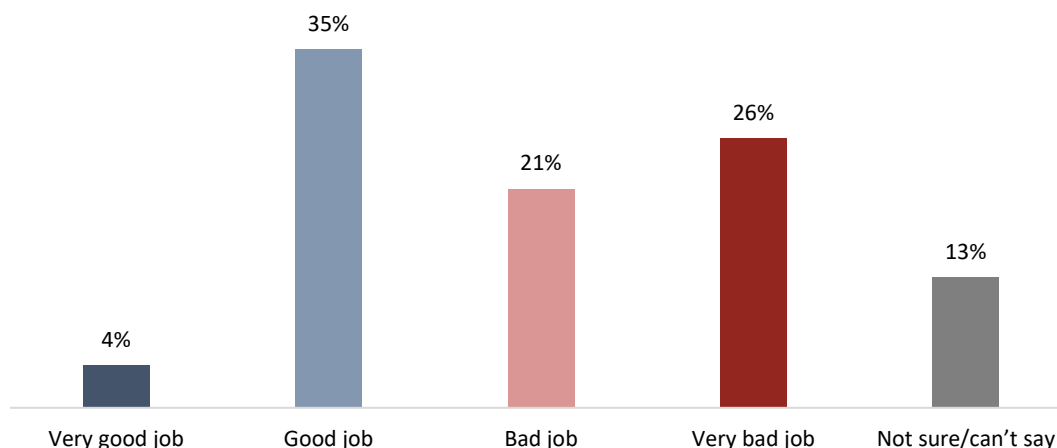


The pessimism may be, in some ways, rooted in dissatisfaction with government. Recent research has found British Columbians among the most negative about the performance of their government across a host of issues, and currently, more say that the BC NDP is doing a bad job (47%) than a good one (39%) in running the province:

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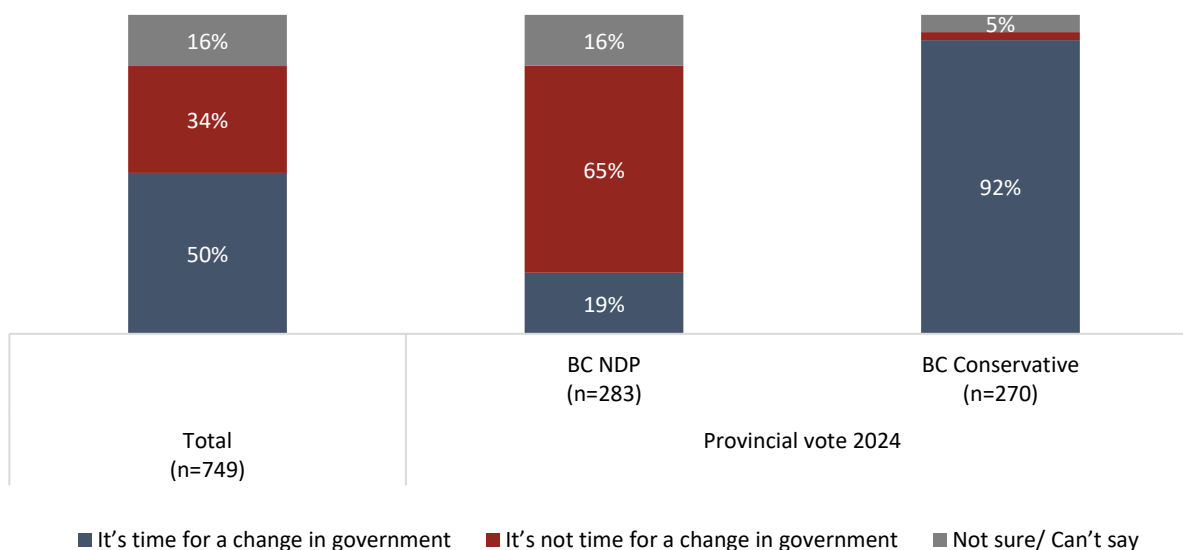
**Considering the government's overall performance managing and running the province, do you think it is doing a good job or a bad job?
(B.C., n=749)**



Is it time for a change in government? Half say yes, including one-in-five past NDP voters

The story in B.C. is a complicated one in that there appear to be a large number of residents who are ready for a change in government but not seeing any alternative that they would perceive as better than the current one. Overall, half (50%), and one-in-five BC NDP voters, say that it's "time for a change".

Which of the following two statements best reflects how you feel today when it comes to the provincial political picture?



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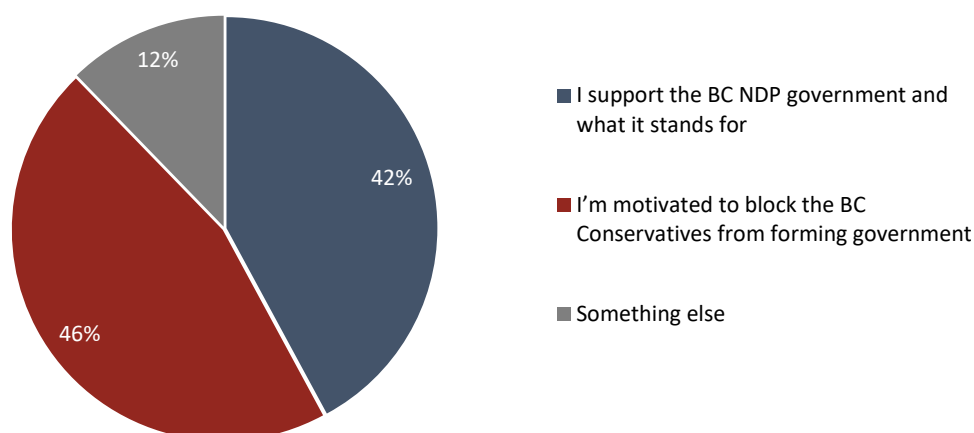
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Those who support status quo split between endorsing BC NDP, wanting to keep Cons out

Further to the dissatisfaction point, among the 34 per cent who say that it is not time for a change, approximately half say it's because they fear the alternative – the BC Conservatives (46%):

**You've said it's not time for a change in government. Here are some reasons you might feel that way, which one closest to your own point of view:
(n=251)**



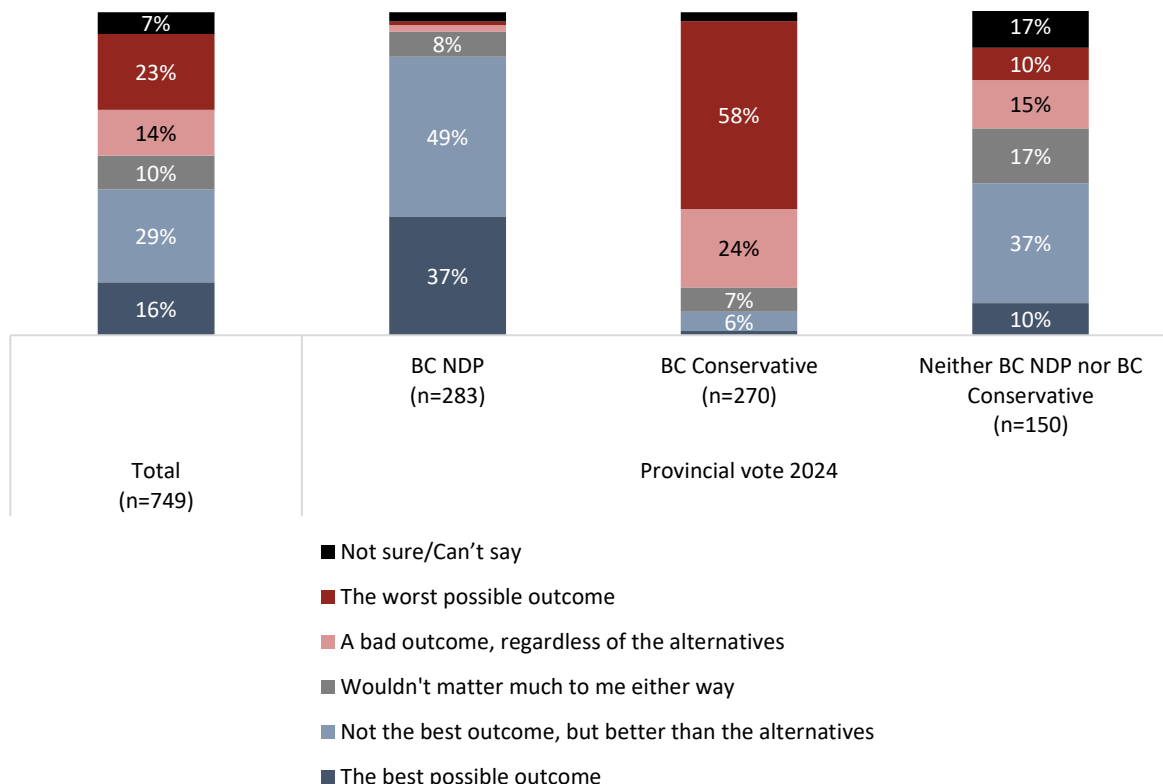
What if the BC NDP win the next election?

Given the current state of things, if an election were called and the BC NDP were to win a majority, 16 per cent say this is the best possible outcome, while 29 per cent say it would simply be better than the alternative:

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Let's think of this in a slightly different way. Suppose the BC NDP won the next election with a majority in the legislature. Would you describe this as...



Part Two: BC Conservatives and the alternatives

After a rapid rise from a fourth-party-afterthought to the opposition in the legislature, the road for the BC Conservatives has been rocky. John Rustad, who led the party to 44 seats in the 2024 election, was pushed out in late 2025 after a majority of his caucus lost confidence in his leadership. His successor, Kerry-Lynne Findlay, has faced even greater caucus turmoil since winning the leadership in May. Nine MLAs left the Conservative caucus in less than three weeks in August and early September, with departing members citing concerns ranging from the party's political direction to Findlay's leadership and the conduct of her senior staff. The defections have left a party that won 44 seats less than two years ago with just 30 MLAs.

One-in-five past Conservatives say party is "too far to the right politically"

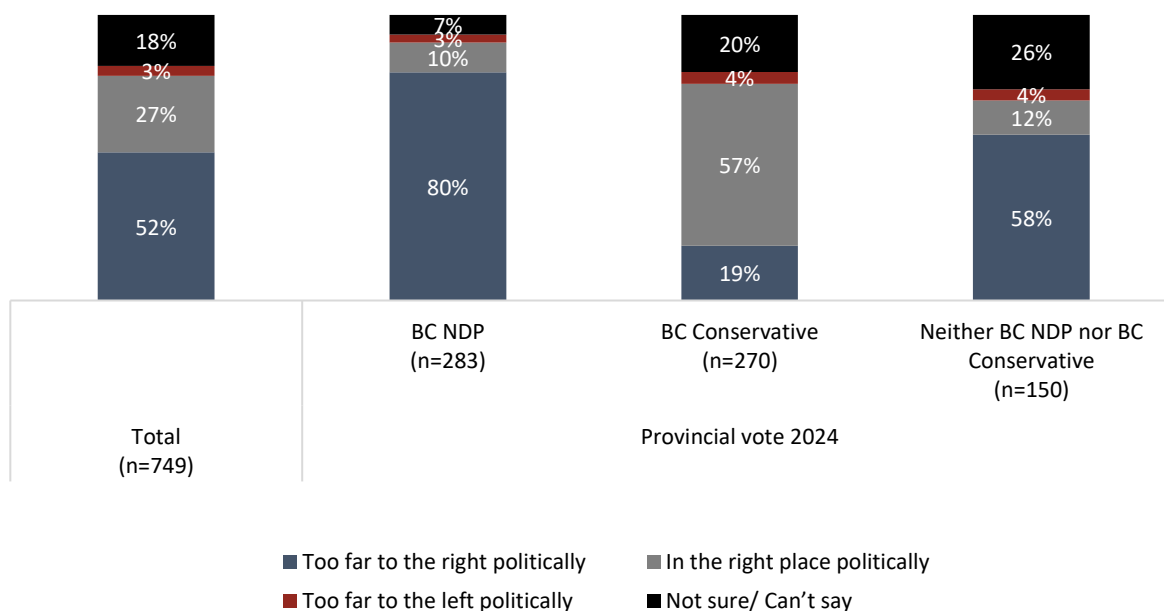
For British Columbians, half feel the BC Conservative Party is too far to the right politically for them, personally. Adding to this another one-in-five who are not sure (18%), the Conservatives are in a difficult position, as just one-quarter (27%) say they're in the right political place ideologically. Notably, one-in-five who supported the party in 2024 say that they're concerned about the part being too right wing:

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In your opinion, are the BC Conservative Party policies, politics and ideology...



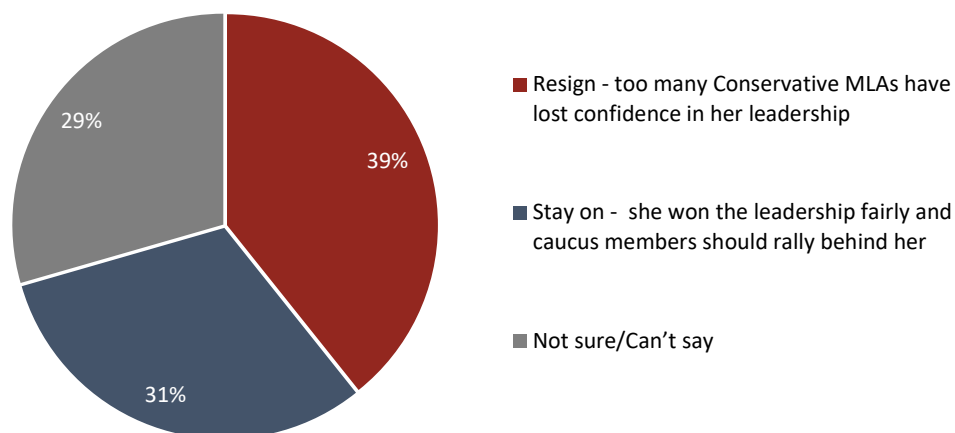
More past Conservative voters want Kerry-Lynne Findlay to resign than not

Findlay has faced a cascade of public expressions of lost confidence from current and former caucus members, though none of the departing MLAs has gone so far as to publicly call on her to resign as leader. Those who voted for the party in 2024 were asked about her leadership, and a plurality (39%) say they would prefer she step down. Three-in-10 say that she won the leadership fairly and should be given more of a chance, while others are unsure:

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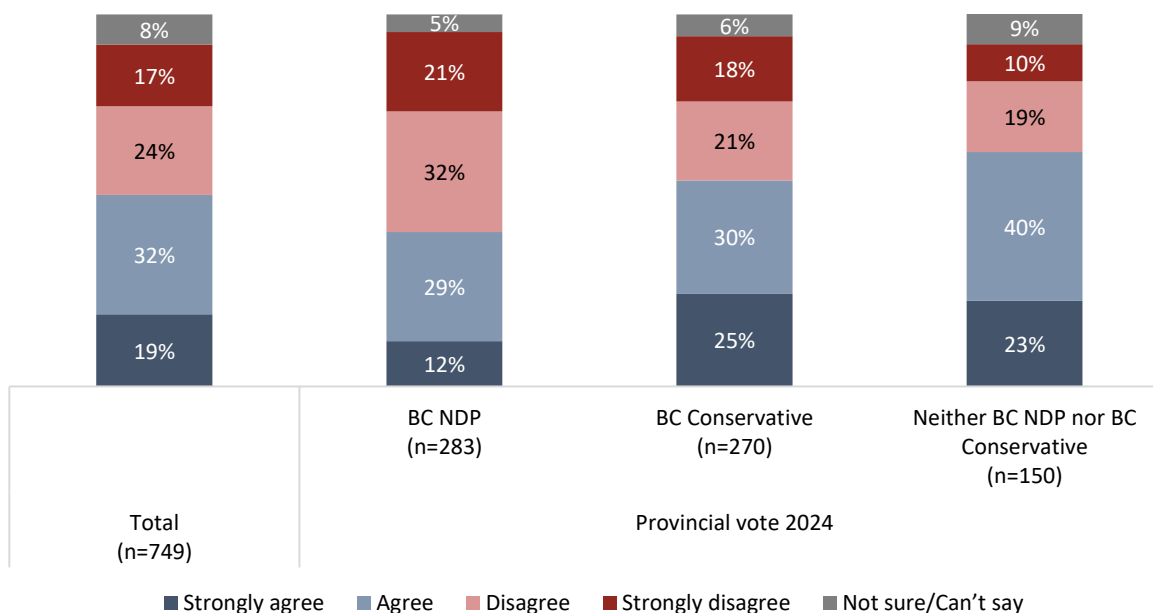
If you were advising Findlay, would you tell her to...
(Among 2024 BC Conservative voters, n=270)



Half of province, including a majority of Conservatives 'feel like political orphans'

The broader challenge for residents is evidently a feeling that there is no preferable option for their vote. Half, overall (51%), including two-in-five BC NDP voters and 55 per cent of BC Conservative voters, say that they don't see any option they could enthusiastically support:

Agree vs. disagree - "I feel like a political orphan – there is no party I could enthusiastically support today"



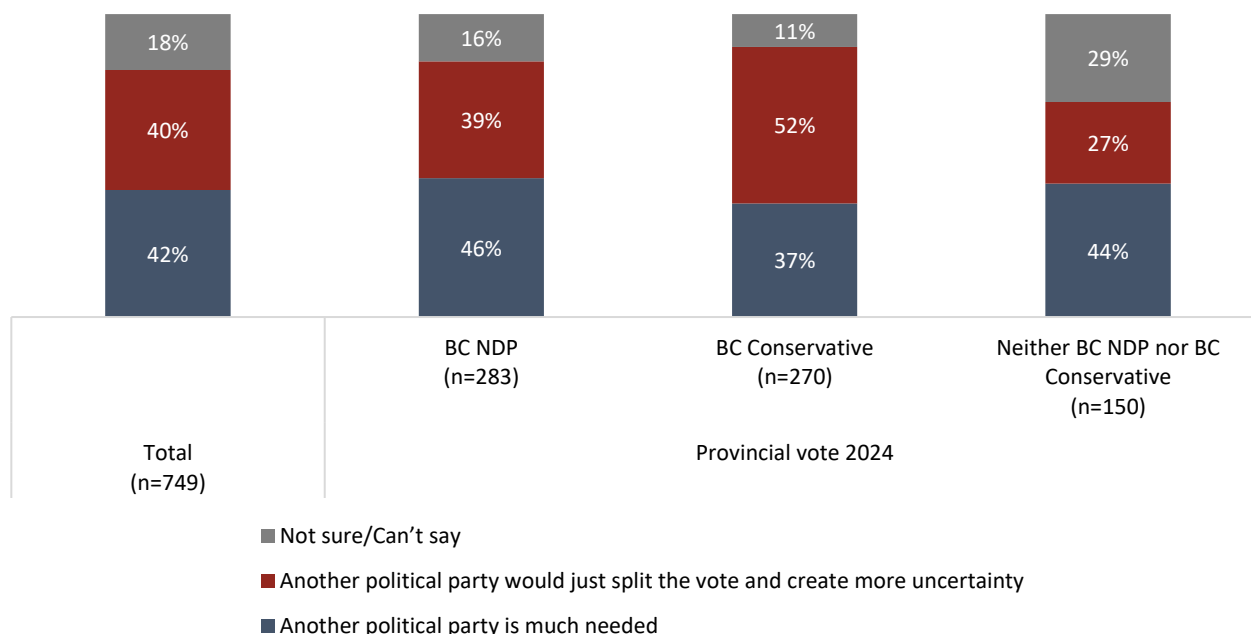
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Divide over whether another political party is needed or if it would just ‘split the vote’

Is another party the answer? British Columbians aren't entirely sold on the idea. The same number say that this would be a much needed help (42%) or that it would just split the vote further (40%). Evidently, better policies and leadership would be preferable to some than adding another variable to the equation:

Which is closest to your point of view?



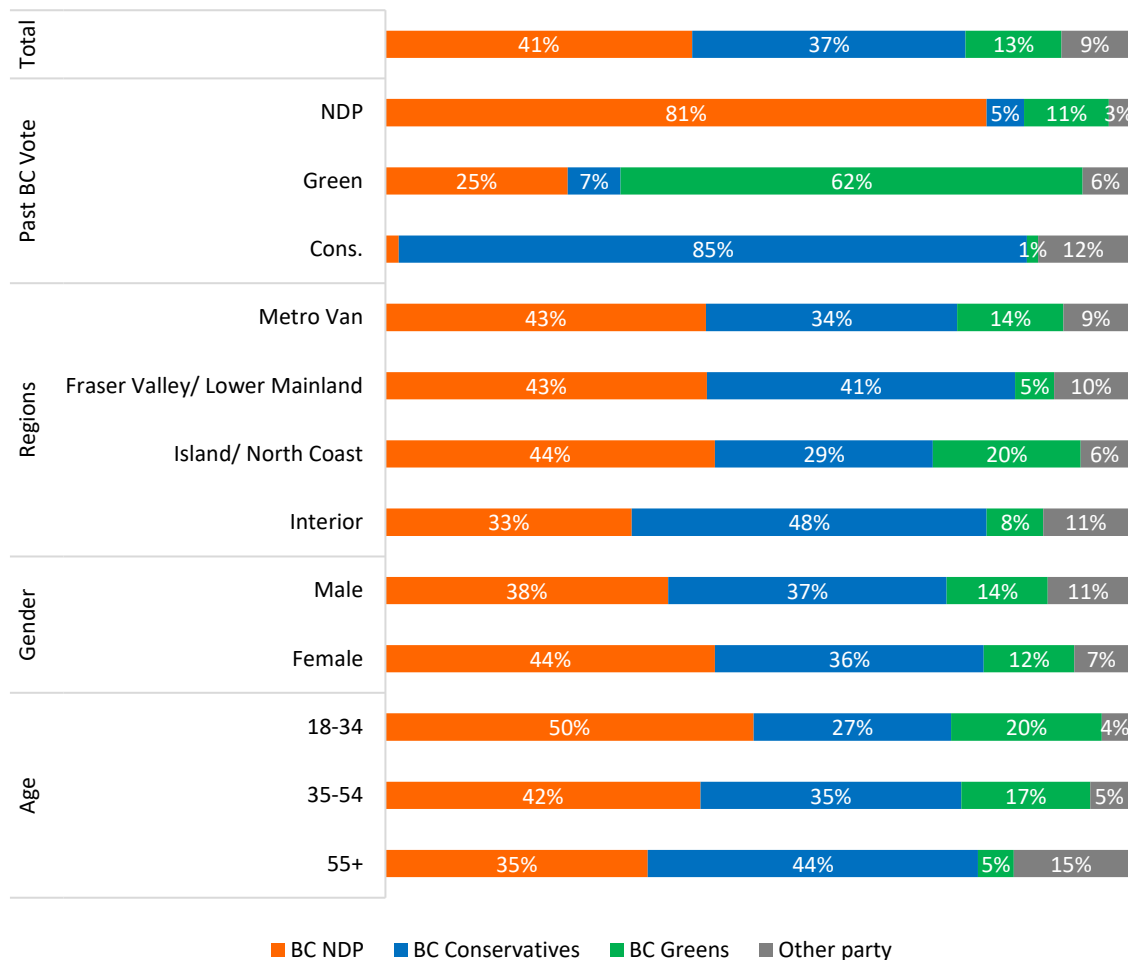
Part Three: BC NDP lead by four points in vote intent

Speculation of a forthcoming election will now be inevitable, after Premier David Eby reportedly told his party to be “[election ready](#)”. And while the current vote intention data look favourable to the BC NDP, the vote intention lead is a small one at four points. Importantly, the BC Conservatives lead by nine points among older voters who tend to be more reliable on Election Day, though the BC Conservative vote is concentrated heavily in the Interior, while the BC NDP are stronger in other regions of the province:

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**Provincial vote intention
(Decided and leaning voters, n=640)**



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

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