

Ten charts about broad trends in Canadian public opinion | Policy Options Politiques

<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/fr/magazines/october-2019/ten-charts-about-broad-trends-in-canadian-public-opinion/>

A look at trends in public opinion on a range of subjects shows some divisions are overstated, while others are cause for concern.

During an election campaign, there is no shortage of polls: voters now have access to new numbers about the ups and downs in party fortunes on a more or less daily basis. Beneath the surface of this daily tracking, however, lie broader patterns and trends in Canadian public opinion that matter equally before, during and after the election. We offer a selection of these in the charts below. The survey results are drawn from three different surveys conducted by the Environics Institute – the Canadian portion of [AmericasBarometer](#) (2019); [Focus Canada](#) (2019); and [Confederation of Tomorrow](#) (2019) – as well as from the most recent [World Gallup Poll](#) (2018).

They do not lead to any one conclusion or support a particular argument. They do, however, inform a mix of reassuring and unsettling reflections.

For example, it is reassuring in an election year to see that trust in elections themselves and in the mass media that cover them is holding steady. It is less encouraging to see that men are twice as likely as women to have been encouraged to run for public office.

The charts suggest that some concerns about fissures in Canadian society may be overstated: acceptance of immigration, for instance, is not eroding. But other fissures, such as that between regions, are stark. The contrasting trends for the economic outlook in Alberta and Quebec will cast a shadow on any new government's efforts to find common ground on issues such as on energy, climate change, and equalization.

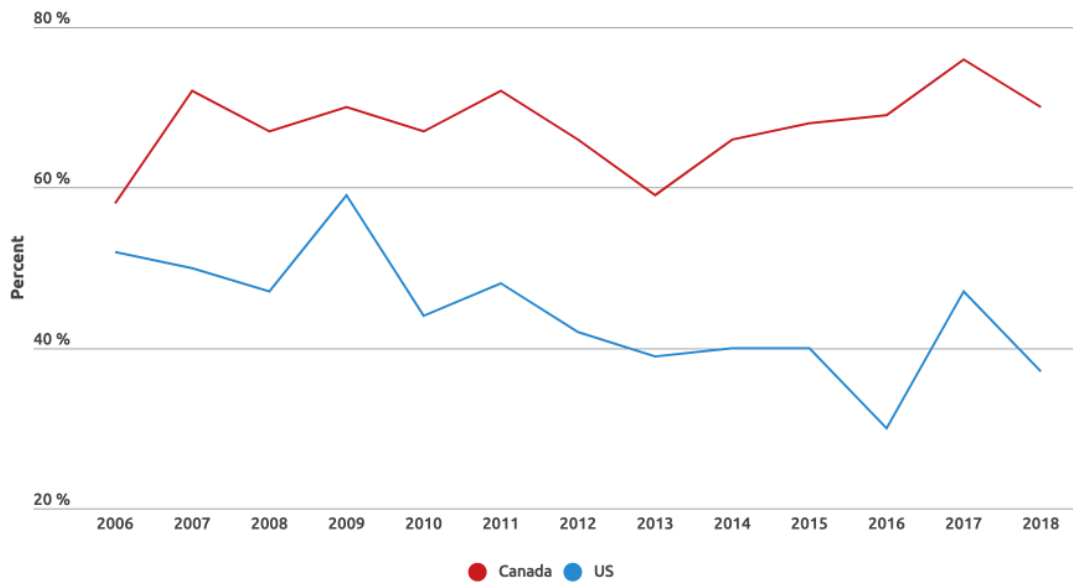
Yet signs of goodwill remain. Two-thirds say that individual Canadians have a role to play in bringing about reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, and a similar

proportion have either a great deal or some confidence in the ability of Canadians to resolve their internal differences. In the midst of a fractious election campaign, these are perhaps the most reassuring findings of all.

Figure 1

Unlike in the US, there has been no loss of confidence in Canada in the honesty of elections

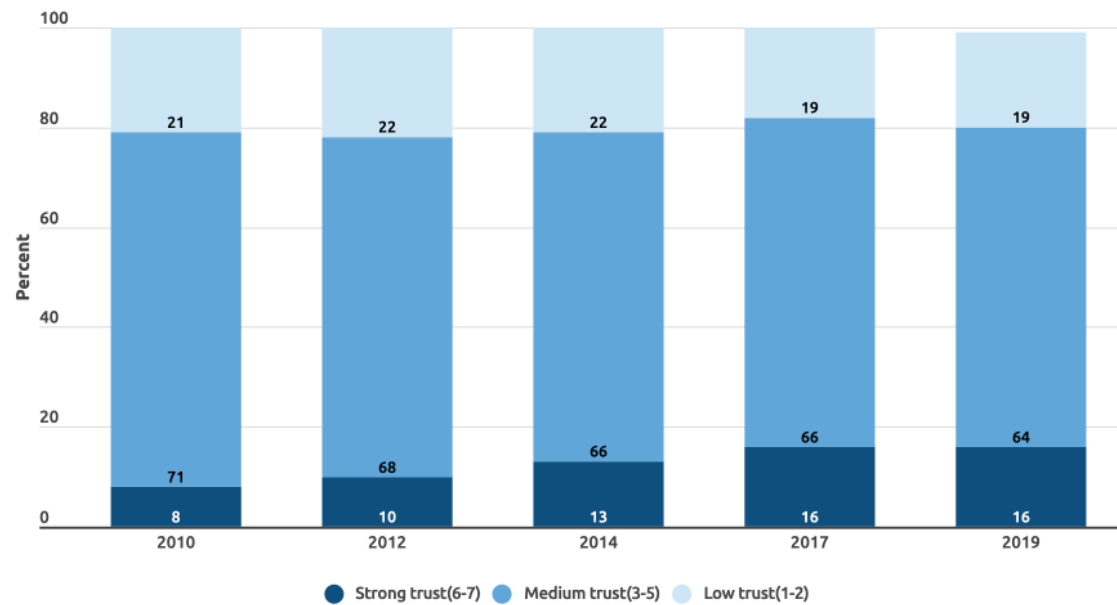
In this country, do you have confidence in each of the following, or not? How about honesty of elections?



Source: Gallup World Poll.

Figure 2

Trust in the mass media is holding steady (and strong trust is improving)¹

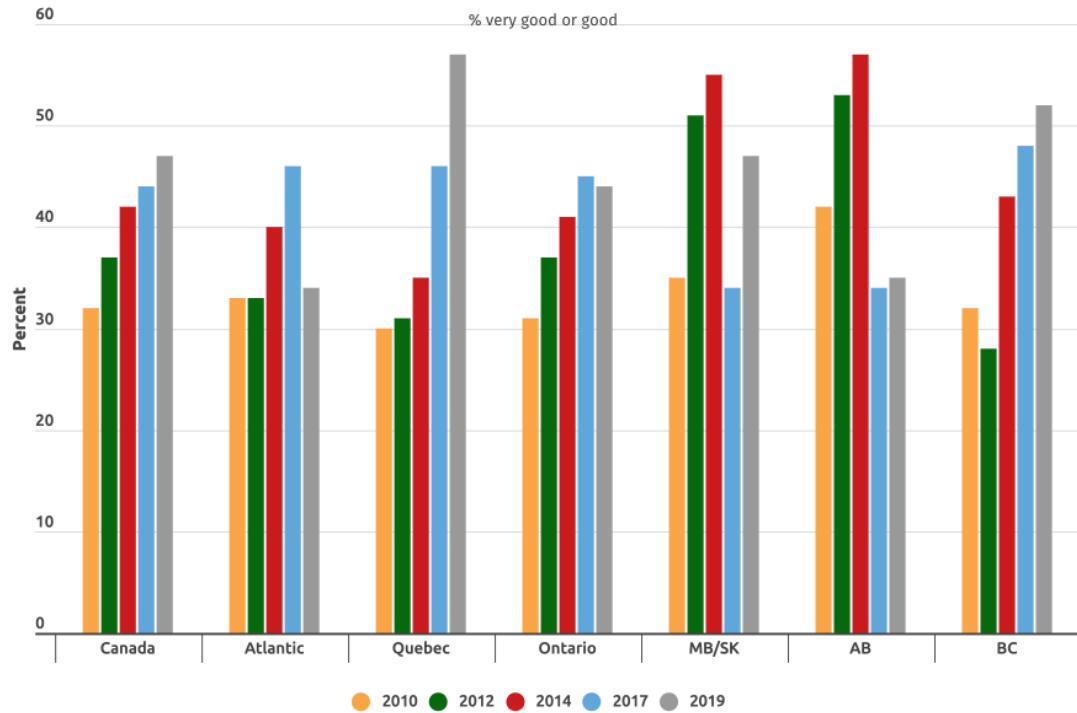


Source: Americas Barometer.
 1. 7-point scale (1=not at all, 7=a lot)

Figure 3

Quebec and Alberta present a mirror image in views on the country's economy

How would you describe the country's economic situation?

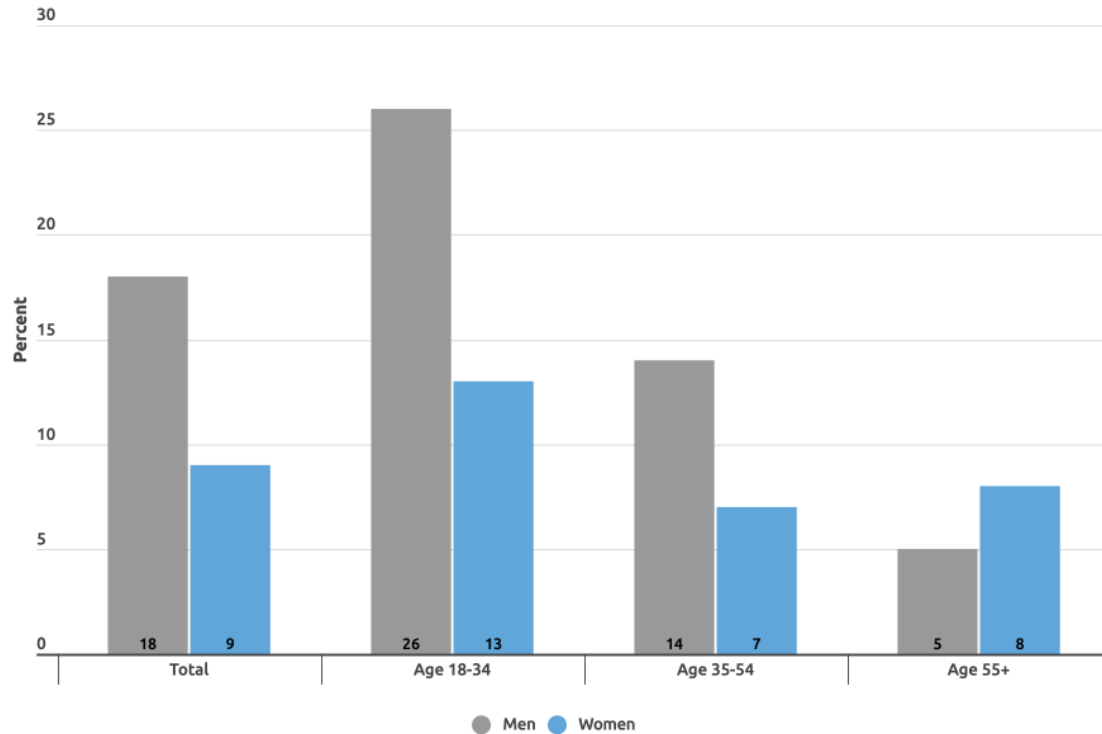


Source: Americas Barometer.

Figure 4

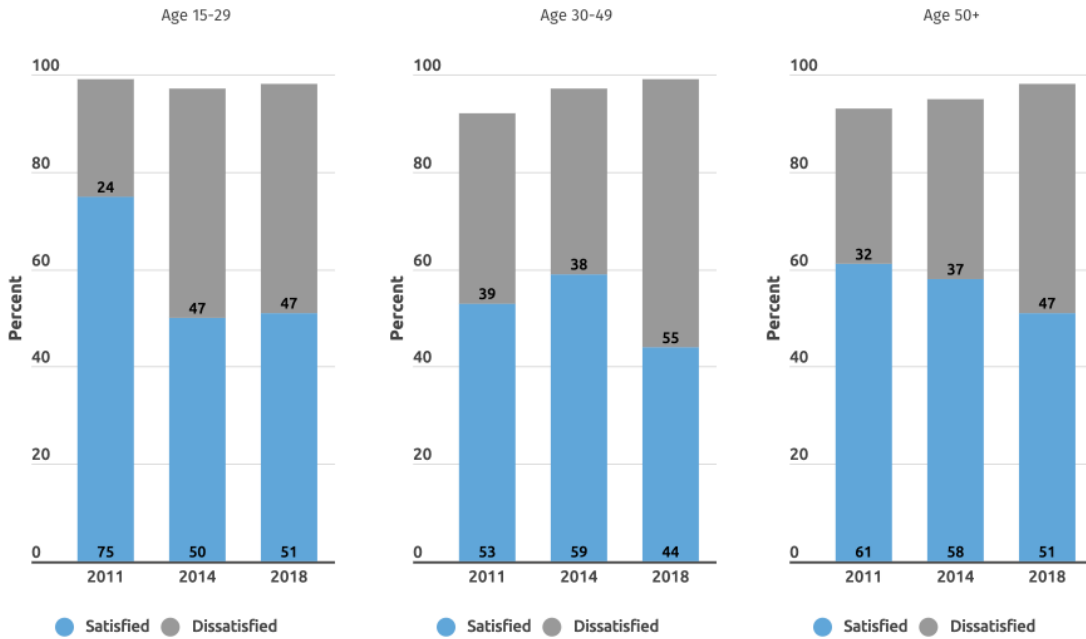
Men are more likely than women to have been personally encouraged to run for public office

Have you ever been personally encouraged to run for public office? (% "yes")



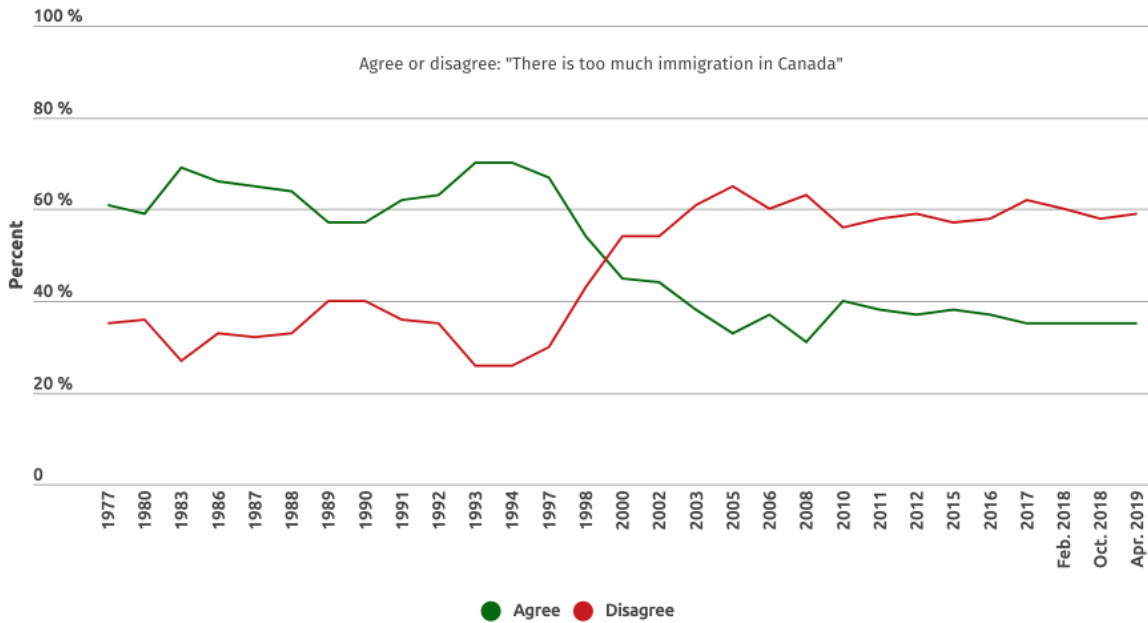
Source: Americas Barometer.

Figure 5
Dissatisfaction with the availability of good, affordable housing is growing, particularly among young adults



Source: Gallup World Poll.
 In the city or area where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the availability of good, affordable housing?

Figure 6
A majority disagree that there is too much immigration, reflecting a sea change in opinion since the early 1990s

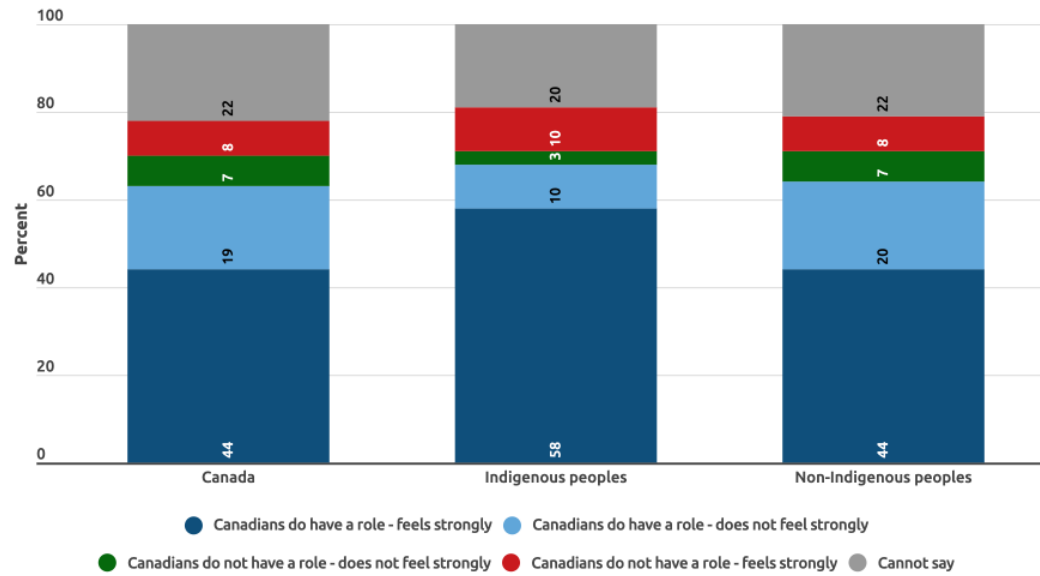


Source: Environics Institute: Focus Canada (April 2019).

Figure 7

A majority of Canadians say they have a role to play in bring about Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples

Now thinking about Canadians generally: Do you believe that individual Canadians do, or do not, have a role to play in efforts to bring about reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples? Do you feel strongly about this, or not?

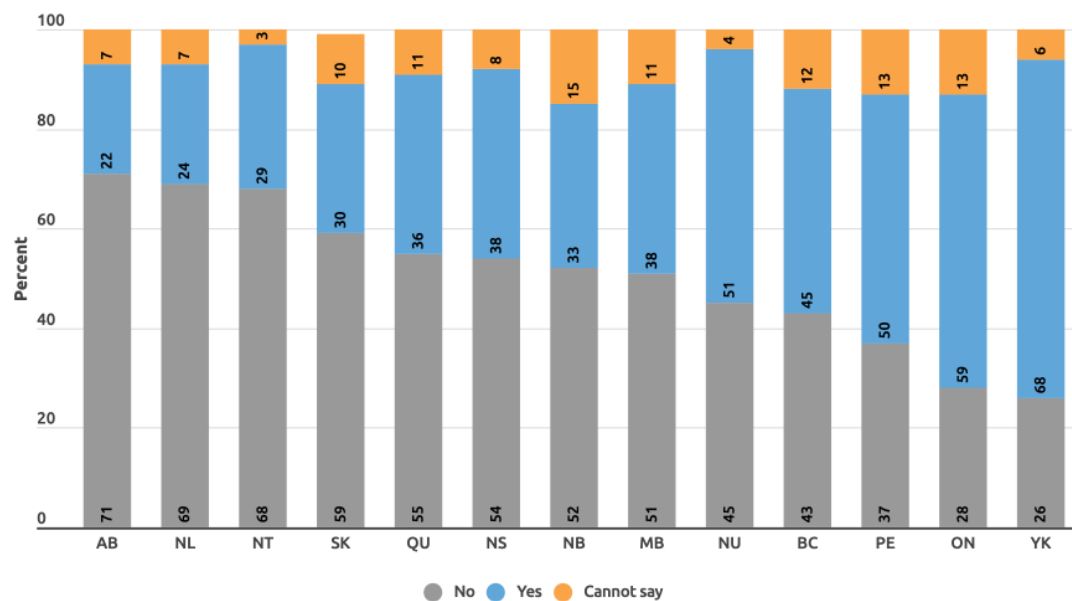


Source: Confederation of Tomorrow 2019.

Figure 8

Large majorities in Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador & the NWT say they do not get the respect they deserve

In your opinion, is [PROVINCE / TERRITORY] treated with the respect it deserves in Canada or not?

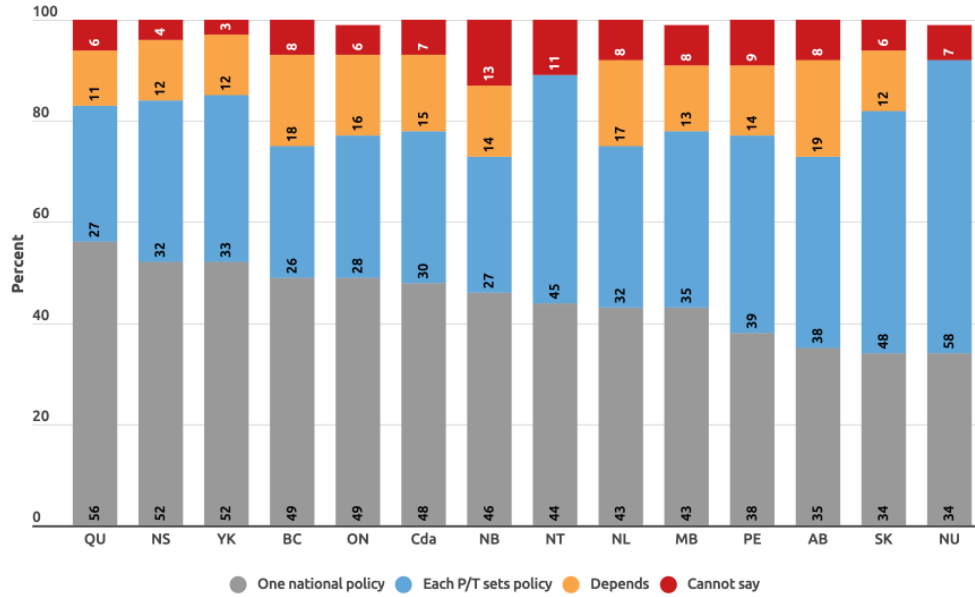


Source: Confederation of Tomorrow 2019.

Figure 9

In most jurisdictions, a plurality favours one national policy on climate change policy

For [climate change policy, such as choosing whether to place a tax on carbon emissions], please indicate whether you think the federal government should set one national policy for Canada that would be the same for every province and territory, or whether there should be no national policy and that each province and territory should be able to set its own policy.

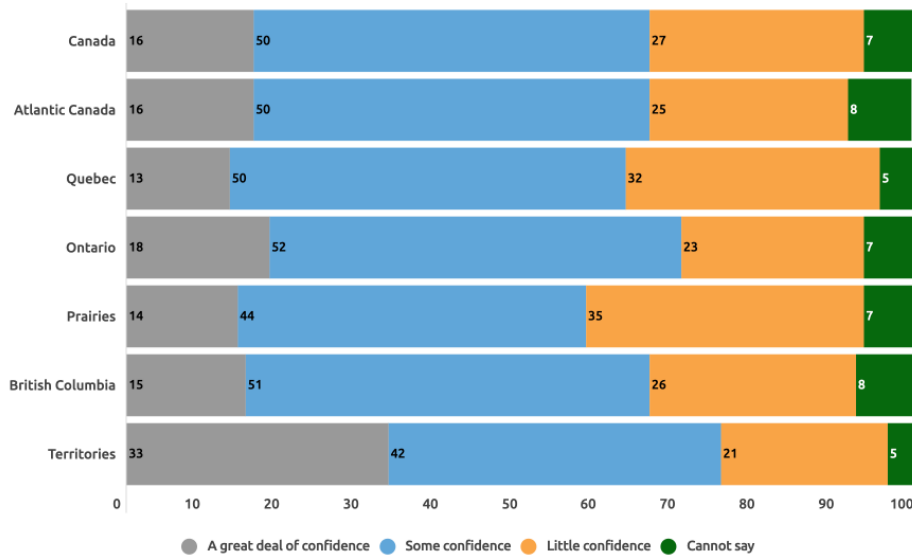


Source: Confederation of Tomorrow 2019.

Figure 10

Most Canadians remain confident in our ability to resolve our internal differences

Would you say you have a great deal of confidence, some confidence or little confidence in the capacity or ability of Canadians to resolve their internal differences?



Source: Confederation of Tomorrow 2019.

(Complete information on the surveys that these charts are drawn from is available at <https://www.enviroicsinstitute.org/>).

