

Degrees of Protest

General Population Tracker, Wave 1

October 2024

A module from our syndicated study providing research-based insights and guidance to subscribers interested in understanding campus protests in Canada, and how best to respond to them.

QUESTIONS OR SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES:

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Methodology

- **Field Window: September 30 to October 4, 2024**
- **Sampling:** Bilingual online survey of randomly-selected sample of **1,002 adult (18+) Canadians.**
- **Reliability*:** As a guideline, a probability sample of this size carries a margin of error of **± 3.1%**, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error is larger for sub-segments.
- **Weighting:** Data has been weighted using the most current language, gender, age, & region Census data, to ensure the sample reflects the actual population of adult Canadians.
- *This is Wave 1 of the Degrees of Protest Genpop Tracker. However, we herein reference a results from a Pollara poll conducted in June 2024, prior to the launch of the Degrees of Protest syndicated study.*

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

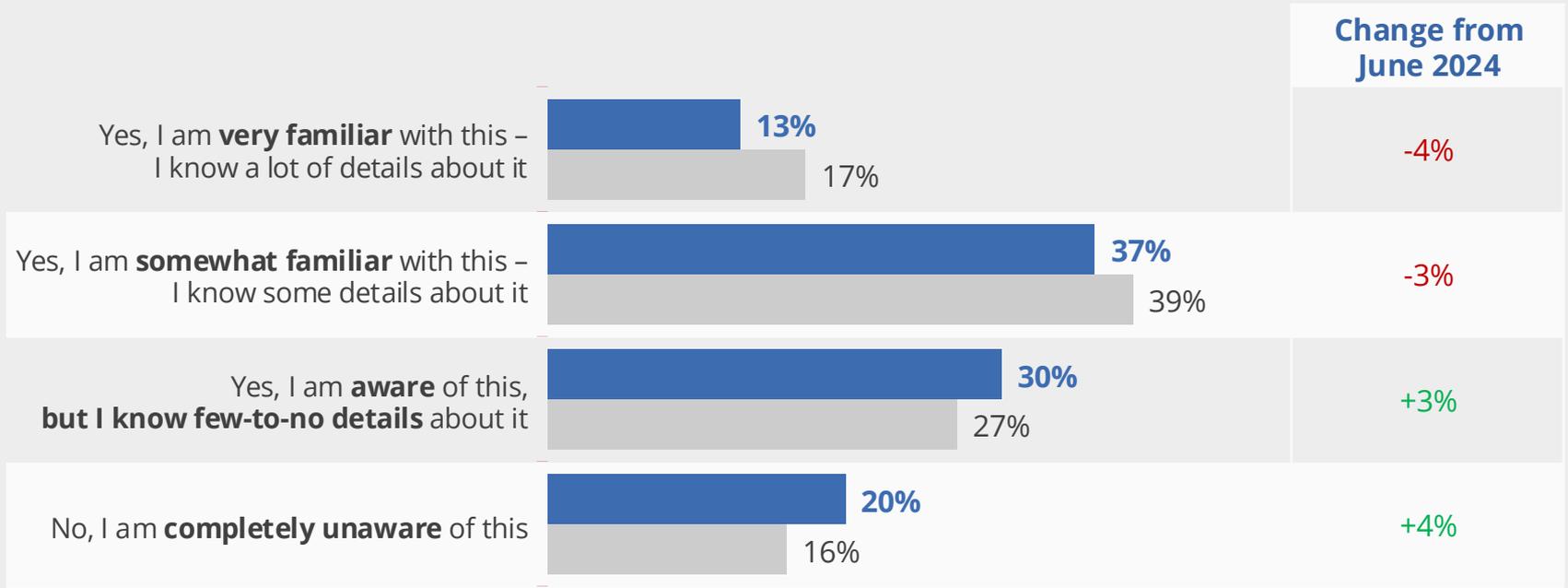
REGION	Unweighted sample counts
Atlantic	100
Quebec	201
Ontario	300
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	100
Alberta	151
British Columbia	150
TOTAL	1,002

Key Findings

- **Awareness of Campus Protests:** A majority of Canadians (80%) remain aware of the campus protests, although awareness (-4) and familiarity (-7) have dropped slightly since June – likely due to reduced and restricted protest activity.
- **Views on Protests (and responses to them):** Amongst Canadians aware of campus protests:
 - A majority (56%) oppose protests that are on campuses
 - About seven-in-ten support colleges/universities ejecting protesters and refusing to negotiate with them
 - There is high support (78-84%) for a range of restrictions on protesters
 - About half support allowing protests if there are no incidents of racism, property damage, class/event disruption, and threats to student safety.
 - However, 60-67% believe such incidents have occurred. Moreover, 32% believe that a majority of those protesting Israel's military actions have expressed antisemitic sentiment, and 17% believe a majority of pro-Israel protesters have expressed anti-Palestinian or anti-Muslim sentiment.

A majority of Canadians (80%) remain aware of the campus protests, although awareness (-4) and familiarity (-7) have dropped slightly since June – likely due to reduced and restricted protest activity

- Awareness appears to be lower among Alberta and Quebec respondents (76% and 77% are aware, respectively), while it is slightly higher in Ontario, Manitoba/Saskatchewan, and BC (81% - 83%).



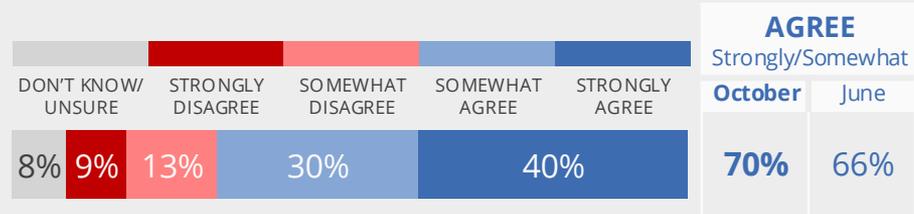
CP1E. Since October 2023, are you aware of protesters staging demonstrations and/or encampments at Canadian colleges or universities in order to express their opinions on the Israel-Hamas war, the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict, and/or to demand that post-secondary institutions sever ties with Israeli academic institutions as well as cancel any payments or investments going to businesses that may support the Israeli Government in some way? Base: Total. October 2024 (N=1,002), June 2024 (N=3,500)

Amongst Canadians aware of the campus protests, majority (56%) oppose protests that are on-campus, and about seven-in-ten support colleges/universities ejecting protesters and refusing to negotiate

Excerpt from report

I approve of colleges and universities...

...trying to **stop and move these protests/encampments** off school property, including asking for help from law enforcement to do so.



...**refusing to negotiate with, or give in to the demands**, of these protesters.

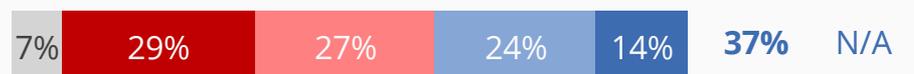


Regardless of my personal views on this issue...

...I generally believe that these protesters **should be allowed** to hold their protests and express their opinions.



...I generally believe that these protesters **should be allowed** to hold their protests and express their opinions **on the property of colleges and universities**.

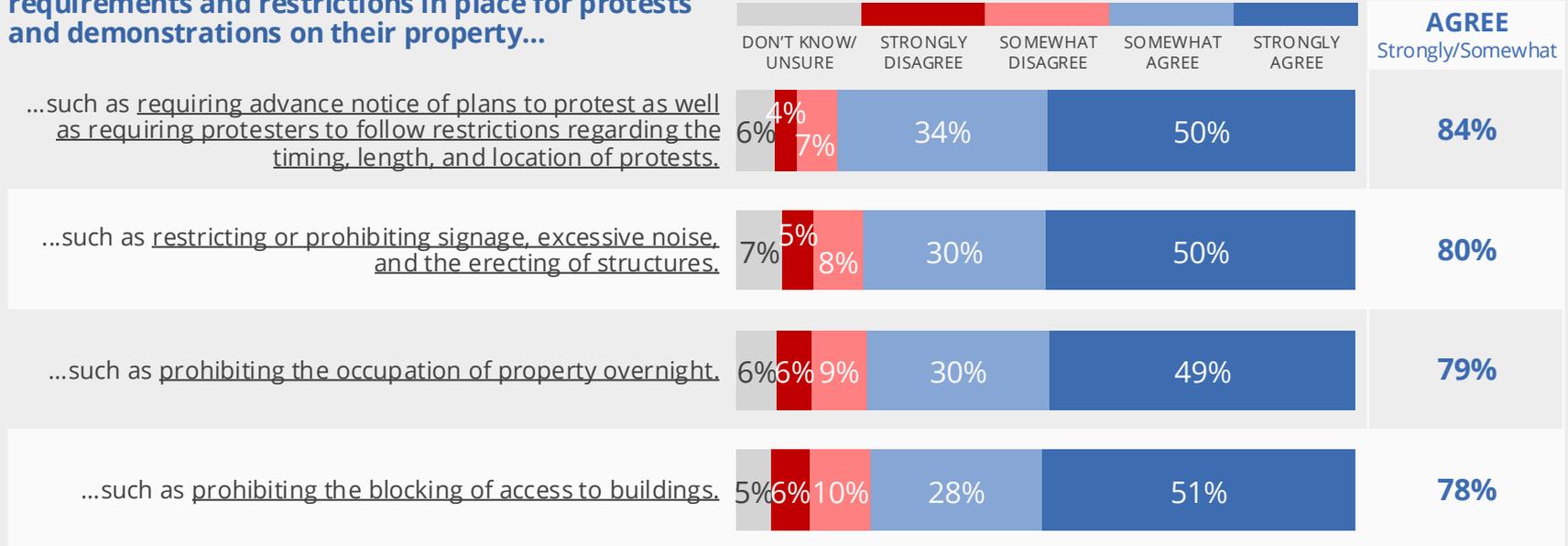


CP2. Thinking about these protests and encampments... please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

Base: October (Aware of Protests/Encampments: N=828), June (N=1,601)

Amongst Canadians aware of the campus protests, there is high support for a range of restrictions on protesters

I approve of colleges and universities having requirements and restrictions in place for protests and demonstrations on their property...



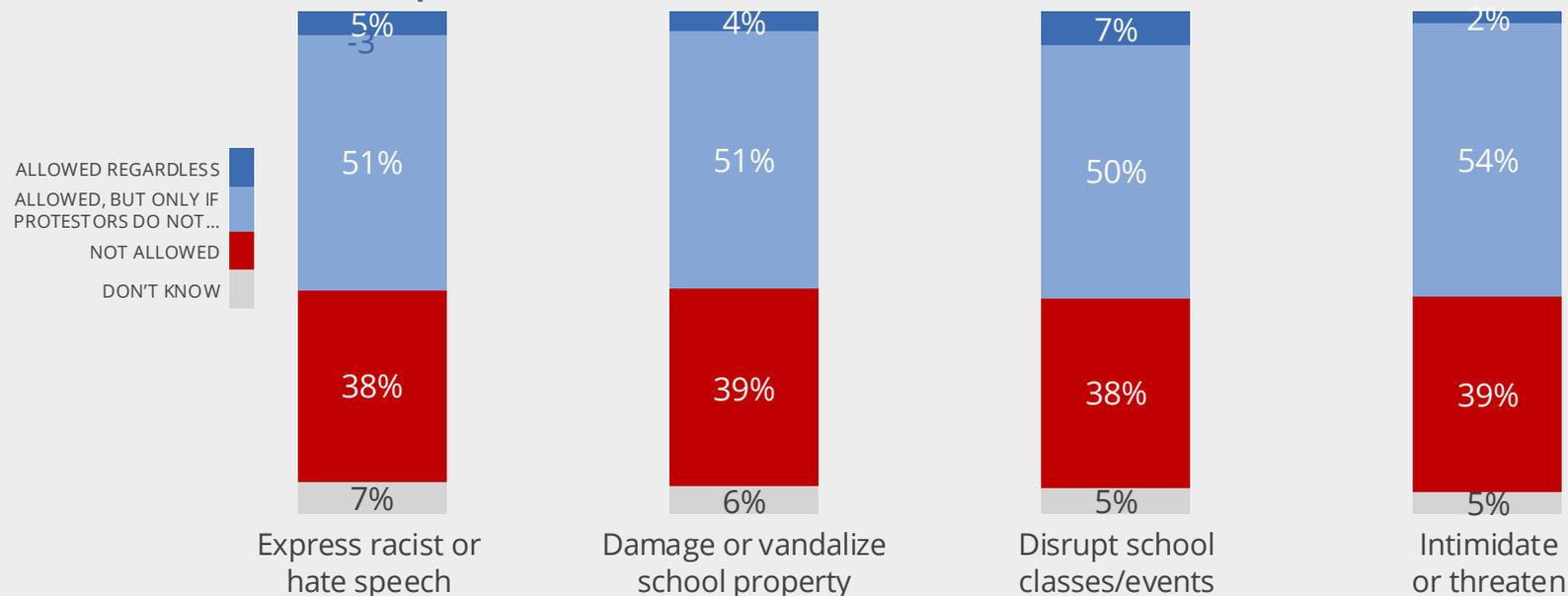
CP2. Thinking about these protests and encampments... please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

Base: October (Aware of Protests/Encampments: N=828), June (N=1,601)

Amongst Canadians aware of the campus protests, about half support allowing protests if no racism, property damage, class/event disruption, and threats to student safety occur

- Quebec residents are most likely to oppose the protests regardless of protestors' conduct, with 47%-51% saying they should not be allowed regardless of behaviour at protests (compared to 30% - 45% in other provinces saying they should not be allowed regardless of conduct).
- Compared to June, the proportion feeling that these protests should be not allowed regardless of conduct has increased between 2-5 points, dependent upon the conduct: racism (+2), property damage (+4), disruption (+5), and safety threats (+5).

These Protests and Encampments Should Be...



Express racist or
hate speech

Damage or vandalize
school property

Disrupt school
classes/events

Intimidate
or threaten



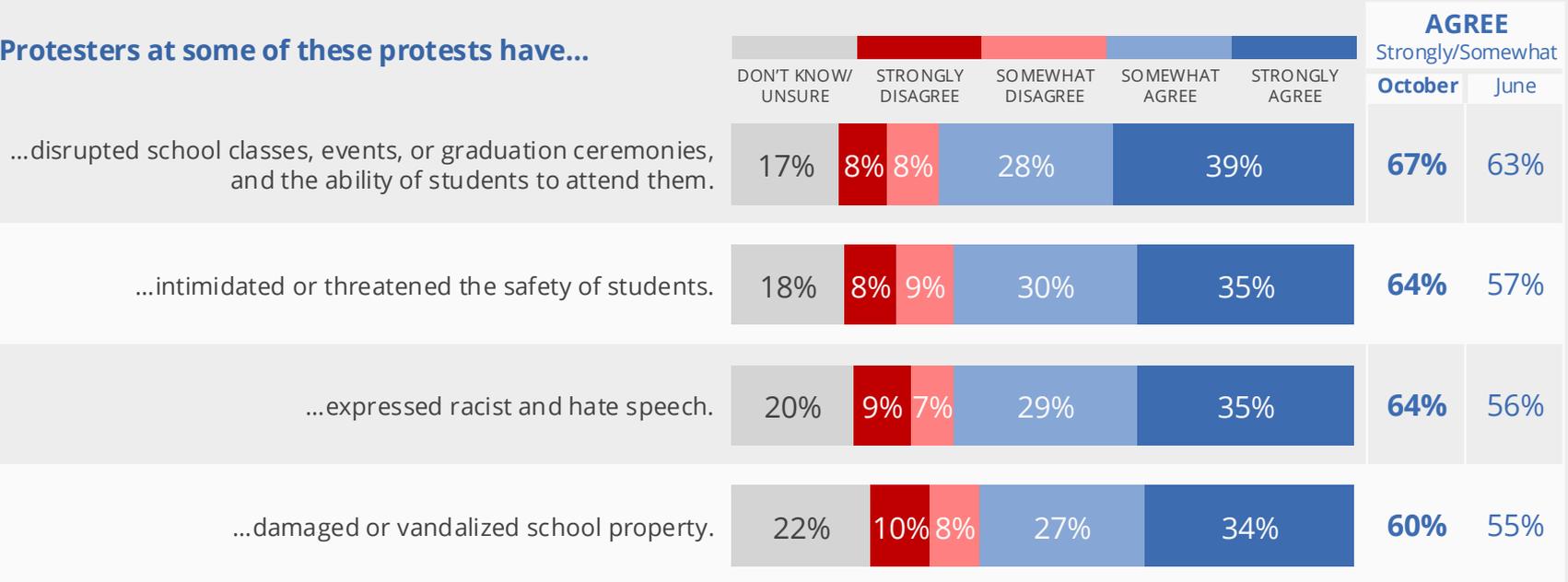
CP3A. Thinking about these protests and encampments... Overall, which 1 of the following 3 viewpoints is closest to your own?

Base: (Aware of Protests/Encampments: N=828)

However, 60-67% of Canadians aware of the campus protests believe such incidents have occurred – with notable increases in these perceptions since June 2024.

- Respondents in Quebec are least likely to agree that protestors have engaged in any of these disruptive/harmful activities, with 46% - 54% indicating agreement (compared to 61% - 77% in other regions).

Protesters at some of these protests have...

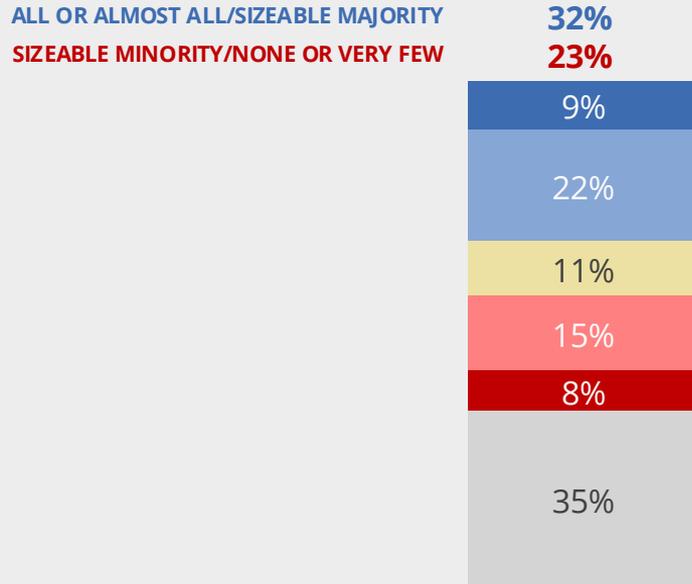


Excerpt from report

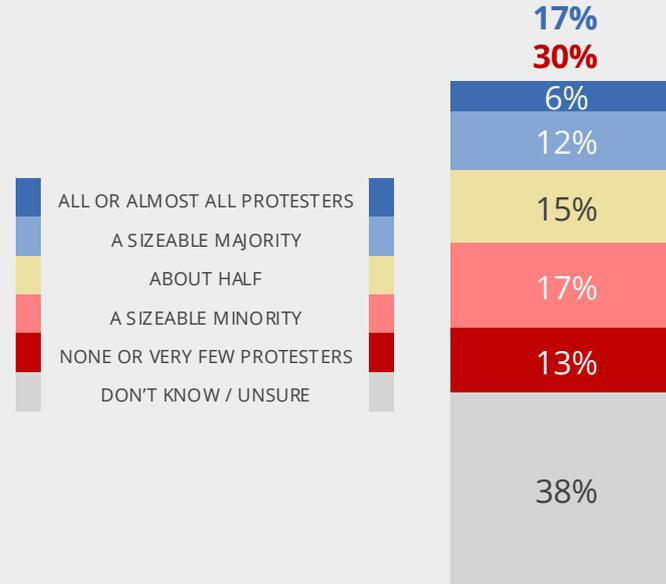


Three-in-ten (32%) Canadians aware of the campus protests believe that a majority of those protesting Israel's military actions have expressed antisemitic sentiment, and 17% believe a majority of pro-Israel protesters have expressed anti-Palestinian or anti-Muslim sentiment.

ANTISEMITIC SENTIMENT AT
Protests Against Israel's Military Actions



ANTI-PALESTINIAN AND/OR ANTI-MUSLIM SENTIMENT AT
Pro-Israel Counter-Protests



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