

A person with long blonde hair, wearing a red baseball cap and a red and black plaid shirt, is seen from behind. They are holding a large Canadian flag that partially obscures their body. The background features a calm lake reflecting the surrounding snow-capped mountains and a clear sky. The entire image is overlaid with a blue-to-red gradient and semi-transparent geometric shapes, including a large circle and various L-shaped brackets.

# Divided or United?

## Western Public Opinion on Separatism and Federal Fairness

JANUARY 2026

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# Methodology

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- Pollara conducted an online survey of 3,800 adults in Canada's four western provinces.
- The survey was in the field from December 5<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Data has been weighted to reflect the age and gender composition of each province, based on the most recent census figures.
- In some instances, results have been tracked against previous surveys fielded using the same question wording and same methodology.
- Pollara Strategic Insights is a member of the Canadian Research Insights Council (CRIC), and this research was conducted in compliance with CRIC standards.

Region	Number of Interviews <i>unweighted</i>	Margin of error*
British Columbia	1,000	± 3.1%
Alberta	1,000	± 3.1%
Saskatchewan	800	± 3.5%
Manitoba	1,000	± 3.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>± 1.6%</b>

*\* While online surveys cannot be assigned a margin of error, the numbers in this column represent the margin of error for a probability sample of this size, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error will be larger when looking at sub-populations.*



# 14%

of Western Canadians  
would vote for their  
province to separate

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## Key Findings: Western Alienation

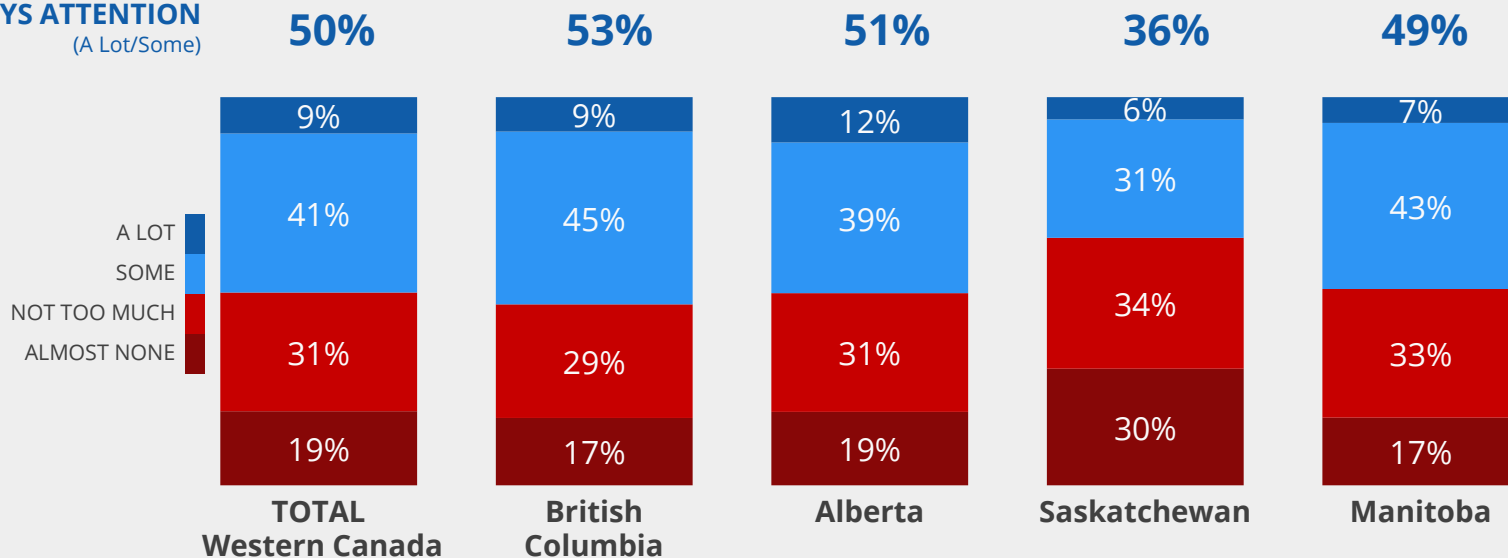
- **Separatism remains fringe.** Just **14%** of Western Canadians would vote to separate, while **80% would stay in Canada**—confirming alienation functions as a pressure signal, not an exit demand.
- **Federal attention perceptions are improving.** About **half now feel Ottawa pays attention**, highest level since tracking began, with gains in **BC, Alberta, and Manitoba**.
- **Unfair-treatment sentiment is stable, not escalating.** Roughly **half still feel their province is treated unfairly**, but levels are **not rising**, indicating persistent frustration without momentum.
- **Separatism is highly partisan and geographically contained.** Support is concentrated among **provincial conservative voters**—peaking at **40% among Alberta UCP supporters**—while remaining minimal among Liberals, NDP voters, women, and seniors.

# Half of Western Canadians feel federal government pays attention

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- Across the West younger men are the ones feeling most seen by the federal government with 15% of men under 50 feeling a lot of federal government attention, 44% feeling some attention, 24% not too much, and 17% almost none.

**TOTAL PAYS ATTENTION**  
(A Lot/Some)



A14. How much attention does the Government of Canada pay to the people in your province when making policy decisions?

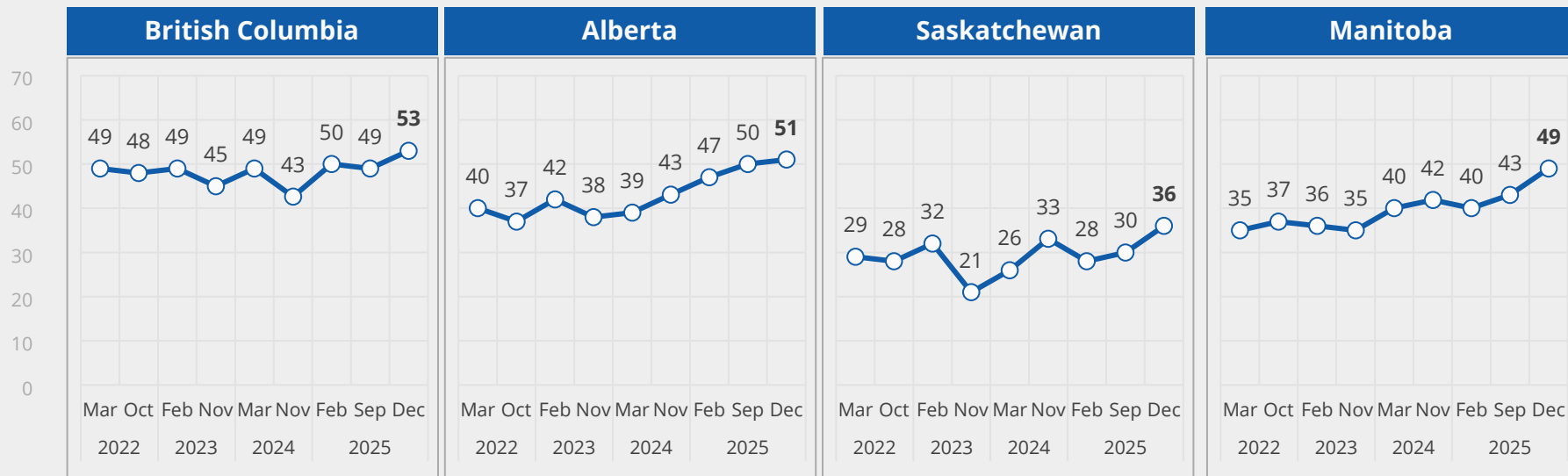
Base: Total Dec 2025 (n=3,800); Sept 2025 (n=2,001)

# Steady increase over time in the share feeling paid attention to

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- In all four Western provinces the current share feeling the federal government pays attention to their province is at a four year high.
- Half of residents in BC, Alberta, and Manitoba feel paid attention to. Saskatchewan is outlier at only 36% feeling seen.

## PAYS ATTENTION % NET (A Lot/Some)



# Increases in Westerners feeling supported by Federal government

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- Gains are broader in urban centres than rural areas: representation in urban 44% vs rural 32%; energy support 53% vs 43%; business support 56% vs 41%.
- Immigrants and racialized respondents are more likely to agree on representation/business than Caucasian respondents (e.g., representation ~47-50% vs ~40%).

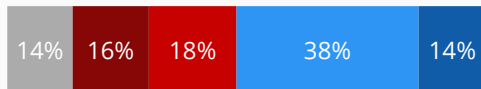
## Agreement with Statements



My province's interests are well represented in the federal government's decision-making



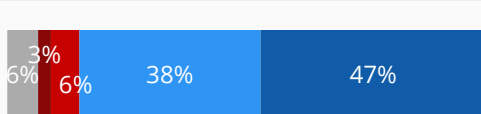
The Government of Canada supports my province's energy sector



The Government of Canada supports businesses in my province



Alberta can play a leading role in Canada's energy sector, while also contributing to national efforts towards a low-carbon economy\*



## AGREE (Strongly/Somewhat)

TOTAL		PROVINCE							
DEC'25	SEP'25	BC Dec	BC Sept	AB Dec	AB Sept	SK Dec	SK Sept	MB Dec	MB Sept
43%	36%	44%	40%	43%	37%	33%	21%	46%	34%
52%	47%	55%	53%	50%	44%	42%	30%	55%	46%
54%	48%	57%	50%	53%	48%	44%	38%	56%	50%
85%	81%	n/a	n/a	85%	81%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

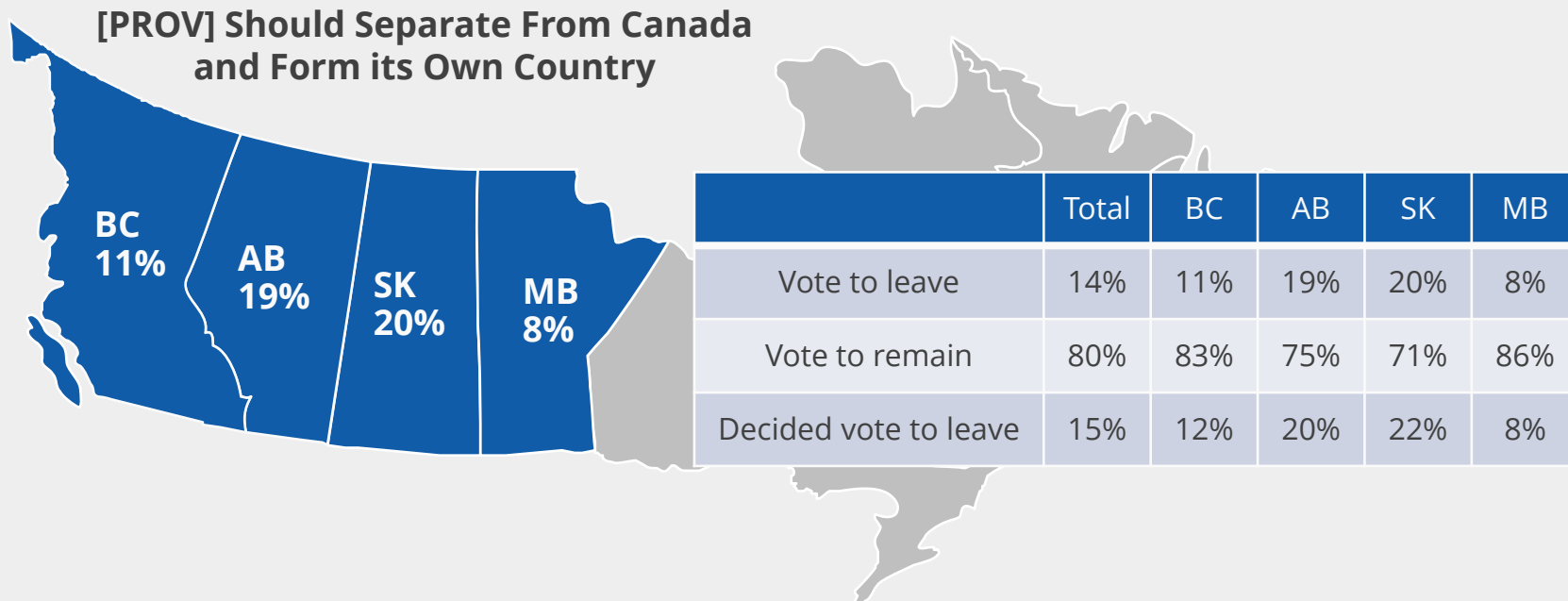


C8. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?  
Base: All Respondents Dec 2025 (n=3,800) \*(n=1,000); Sept 2025 (n=2,001).

# Support for separatism: still a minority across the West

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- Across Western Canada, only 14% say they would vote to separate, while a supermajority (80%) would vote to stay in Canada.



C2A/B: If a provincial referendum were held tomorrow on whether [PROV] should separate from Canada to form its own country... how would you most likely vote? Is there a choice that you are leaning towards? Base: Total Dec 2025 (n=3,800).

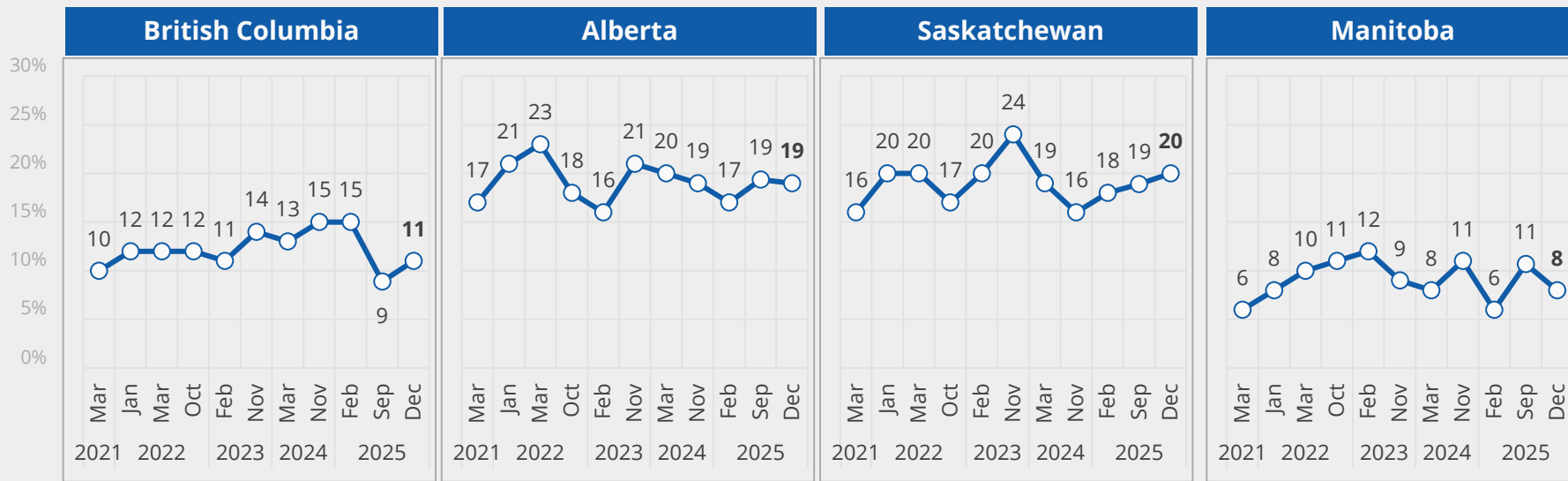
# Tracking support for separatism

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- Urban-rural intensity: Rural areas show 26% separatist, double urban's 13%.
- Women are slightly more "stay" at 88% compared to men at 81%.
- Westerners over 65 years of age are the strongest "stay" at 91%.

## Provincial Referendum on Separation from Canada %

Would vote/lean towards 'Should separate from Canada and form its own country'



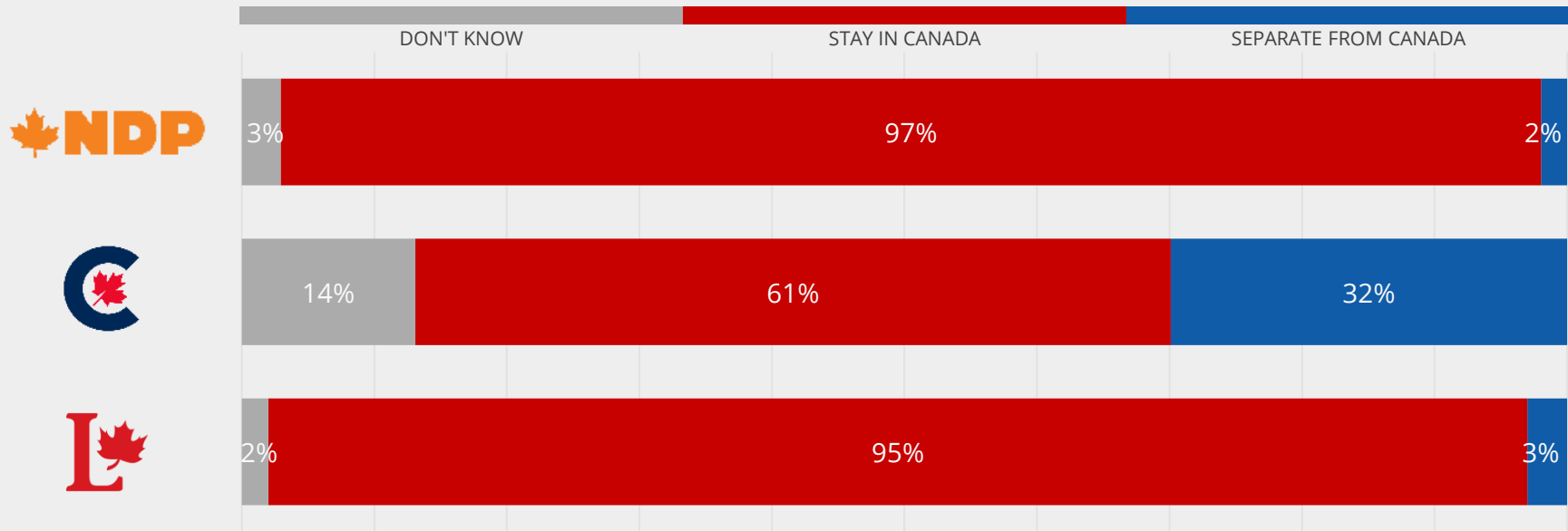
C2A/B: If a provincial referendum were held tomorrow on whether [PROV] should separate from Canada to form its own country... how would you most likely vote? Is there a choice that you are leaning towards? Base: Total Dec 2025 (n=3,800); Sept 2025 (n=2,001).



# Separatism is concentrated among conservative voters and remains marginal elsewhere

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- Separatism is overwhelmingly a Conservative-only phenomenon. Federally, 32% of Conservative voters would vote to separate, compared with 3% of Liberals and 2% of NDP voters — underscoring that separatist sentiment is highly partisan, not broad-based.

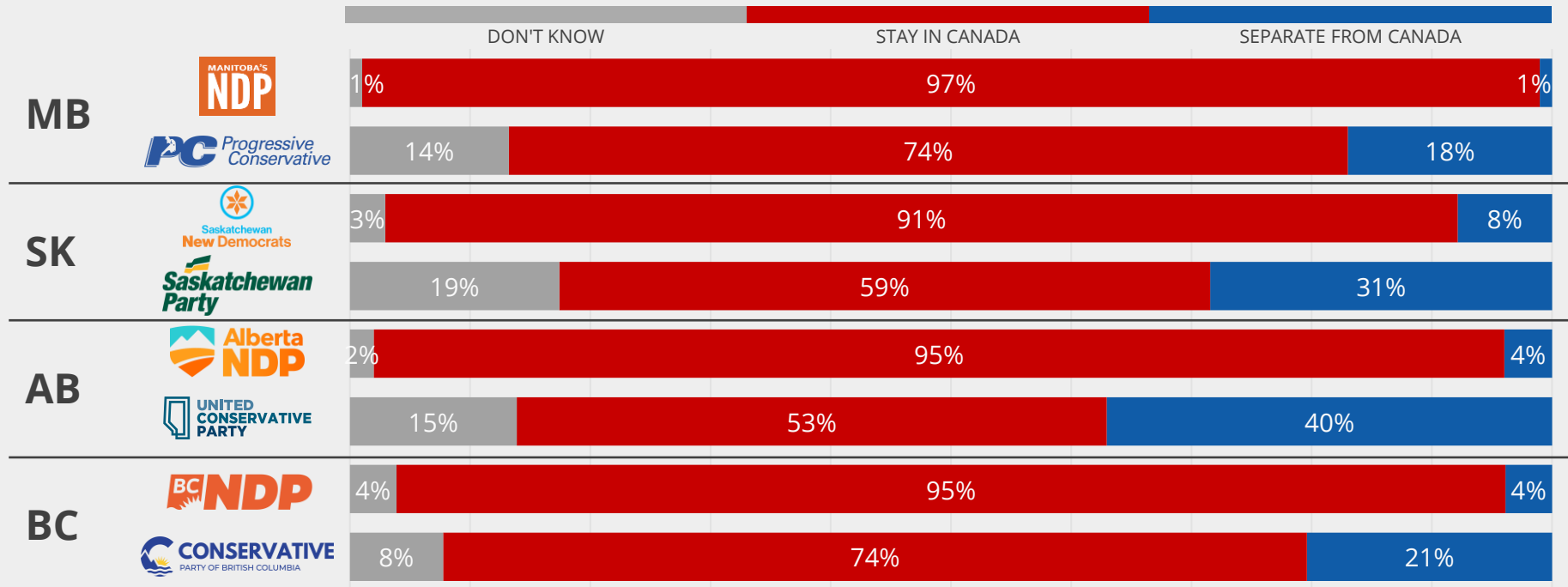


QC2A: If a provincial referendum were held tomorrow on whether [Province] should separate from Canada to form its own country...how would you most likely vote? / Leaning Towards?

# Separatist sentiment is limited to provincial conservative voters

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- Provincial conservative voters are the core locus of separatist sentiment. Support peaks among Alberta UCP voters (40%) and Sask Party voters in Saskatchewan (31%).
- NDP voters across all provinces are firmly federalist. Support for separation among provincial NDP voters sits at 1–8%.



QC2A: If a provincial referendum were held tomorrow on whether [Province] should separate from Canada to form its own country...how would you most likely vote? / Leaning Towards?

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