
Carney's First Year

Polling on how Canadians
feel about Carney's first year
as Prime Minister

A portrait of Justin Carney, the Prime Minister of Canada, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He is looking slightly to the right with a serious expression. The background is a blurred red and white pattern. The image is overlaid with a blue semi-transparent filter.

pollara
strategic insights

Methodology

Field Window	February 19 to 24, 2026
Sampling	Online survey of randomly-selected sample of 2,410 Adult (18+) Canadian residents . Respondents were recruited from the Canadian Viewpoints online research panel.
Reliability*	Online surveys cannot be assigned a margin of error. As a guideline, a probability sample of this size carries a margin of error of $\pm 2.0\%$, 19 times out of 20.
Weighting	Data has been weighted using the most current age, gender, region, and education Census data to ensure the sample reflects the actual population of adult Canadians.

SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION COUNTS			
REGION	Weighted	Unweighted	Margin of Error*
British Columbia [BC]	354	251	$\pm 6.2\%$
Alberta [AB]	277	600	$\pm 4.0\%$
Saskatchewan/Manitoba [SK/MB]	160	202	$\pm 6.9\%$
Ontario [ON]	964	352	$\pm 5.2\%$
Quebec [QC]	488	805	$\pm 3.5\%$
Atlantic [ATL]	168	200	$\pm 6.9\%$
TOTAL	2,410	2,410	$\pm 2.0\%$

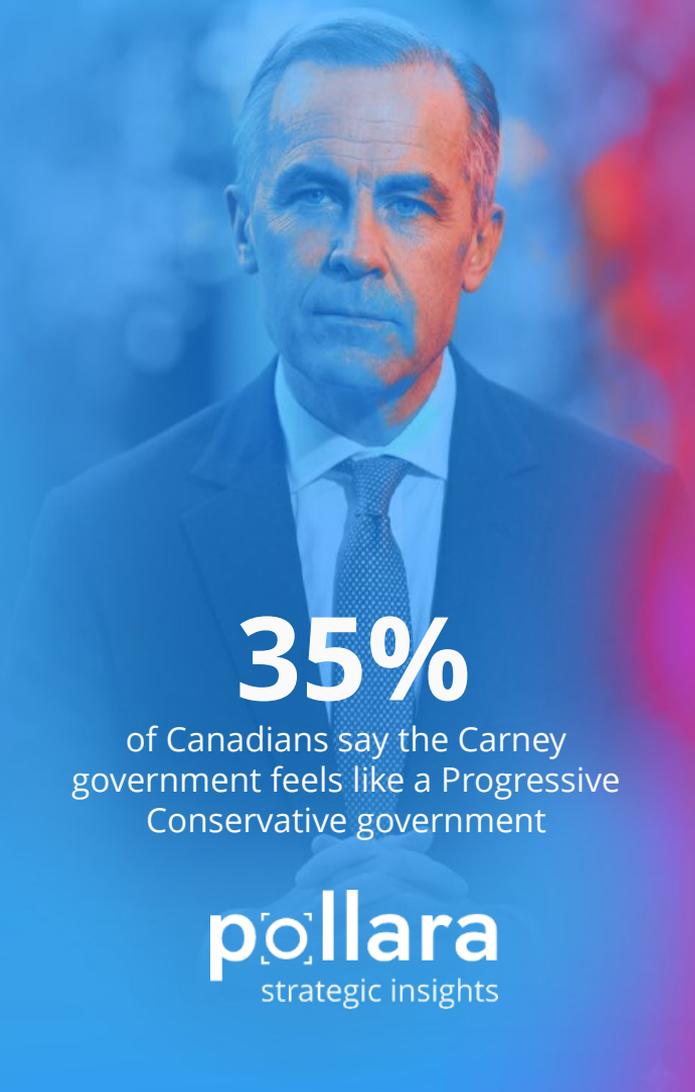


POLLARA STRATEGIC INSIGHTS IS A MEMBER OF THE **CANADIAN RESEARCH INSIGHTS COUNCIL (CRIC)**, AND THIS RESEARCH WAS CONDUCTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH CRIC STANDARDS.



Key Findings

- The Mark Carney government is seen to have brought change from the Trudeau years by three-in-four (75%) people who voted for Carney.
- The majority of Carney's 2025 voters also say this feels more like the first term of a new government (56%) than the fourth term of a Liberal government (26%).
- In terms of *approach*, voters like the change Carney has brought. This is especially true when it comes to Canada-US relations, international relations, the economy, and his tone and approach to governing.
- While Carney gets good marks on approach, reviews skew more negative in terms of outcomes. Across most areas, voters are more inclined to say things have worsened rather than improved since Carney became Prime Minister.
 - 55% feel Canada-US relations have worsened, though voters are positive towards Carney's approach.
 - 55% feel the cost of living has worsened and here, voters are less convinced Carney's approach is better.

A portrait of Mark Carney, the former Governor of the Bank of Canada and current Prime Minister of Canada, is shown in the background of the left side of the slide. He is wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a patterned tie. The image is overlaid with a blue and purple gradient.

35%

of Canadians say the Carney government feels like a Progressive Conservative government

pollara
strategic insights



Detailed Findings

What did voters ask for last election?

(From Pollara's May 2025 post-election study)

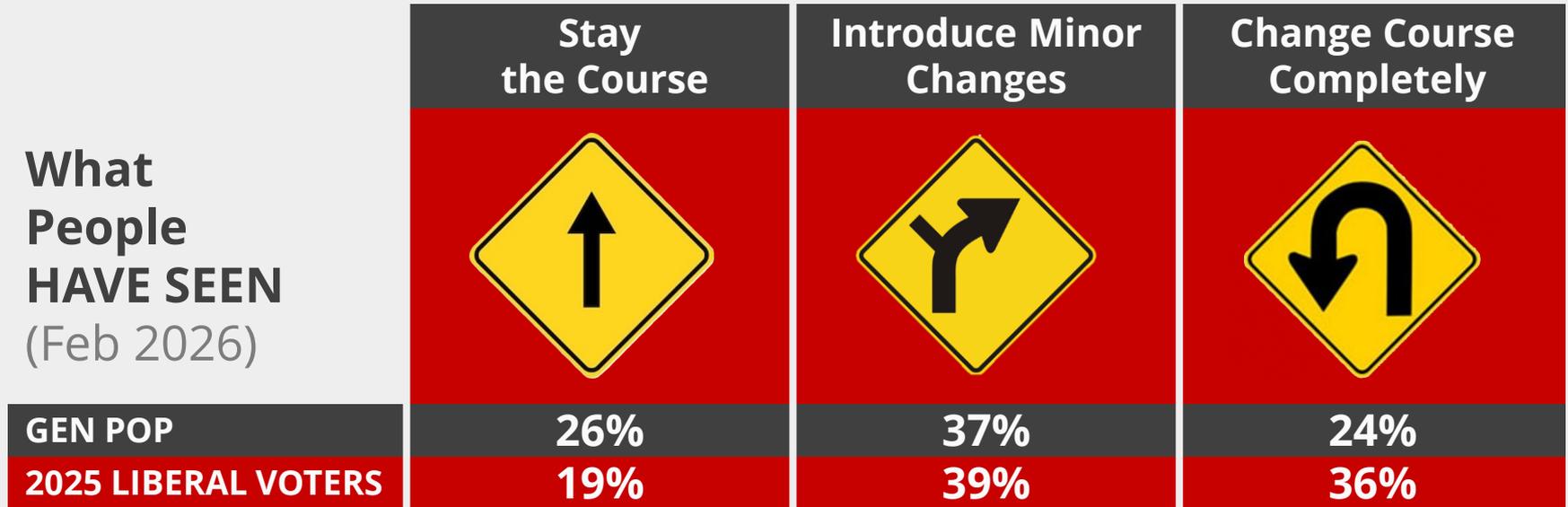
- On Pollara's post-election survey, eight-in-ten (80%) Liberal voters wanted some degree of change from the Trudeau government, including three-in-ten (30%) who wanted to see a complete course change.



Q Compared to the past few years, which of the following approaches do you want to see from the newly elected Mark Carney government? Base: All respondents (n=3,400)
Source: Pollara post-election survey (May 2025)

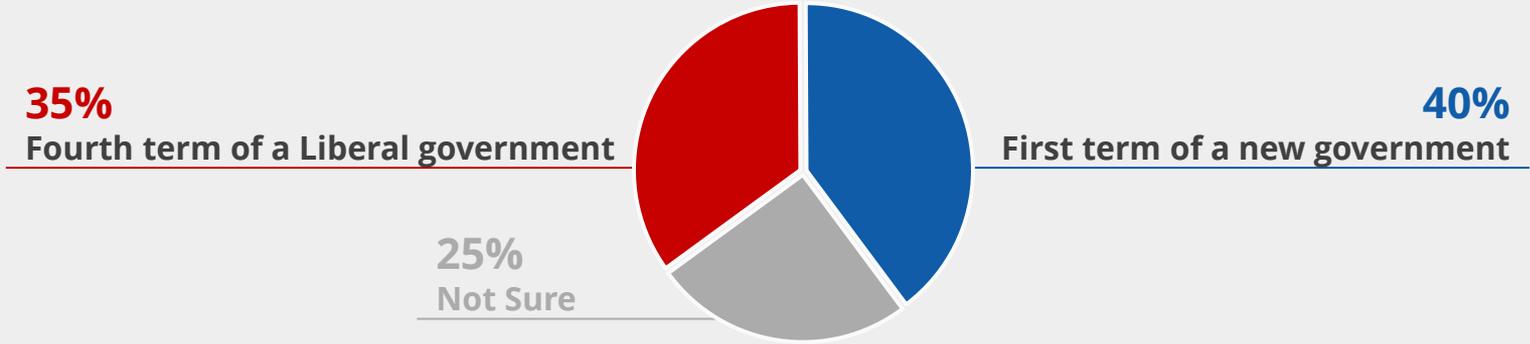
What have voters seen over Carney's first year?

- Three-in-four (75%) people who voted Liberal in 2025 have seen change from the Carney government, including 36% who say it feels like a complete course change. These figures are similar to the desired level of change shown on the previous slide.
- Older voters are more likely to have seen change: 37% of seniors feel Carney has brought in a complete course change, compared to only 14% of 18-to-34 year olds.



Q Compared to the Trudeau government, would you say the Carney government has...
Base: All Respondents - Total (n=2,410).

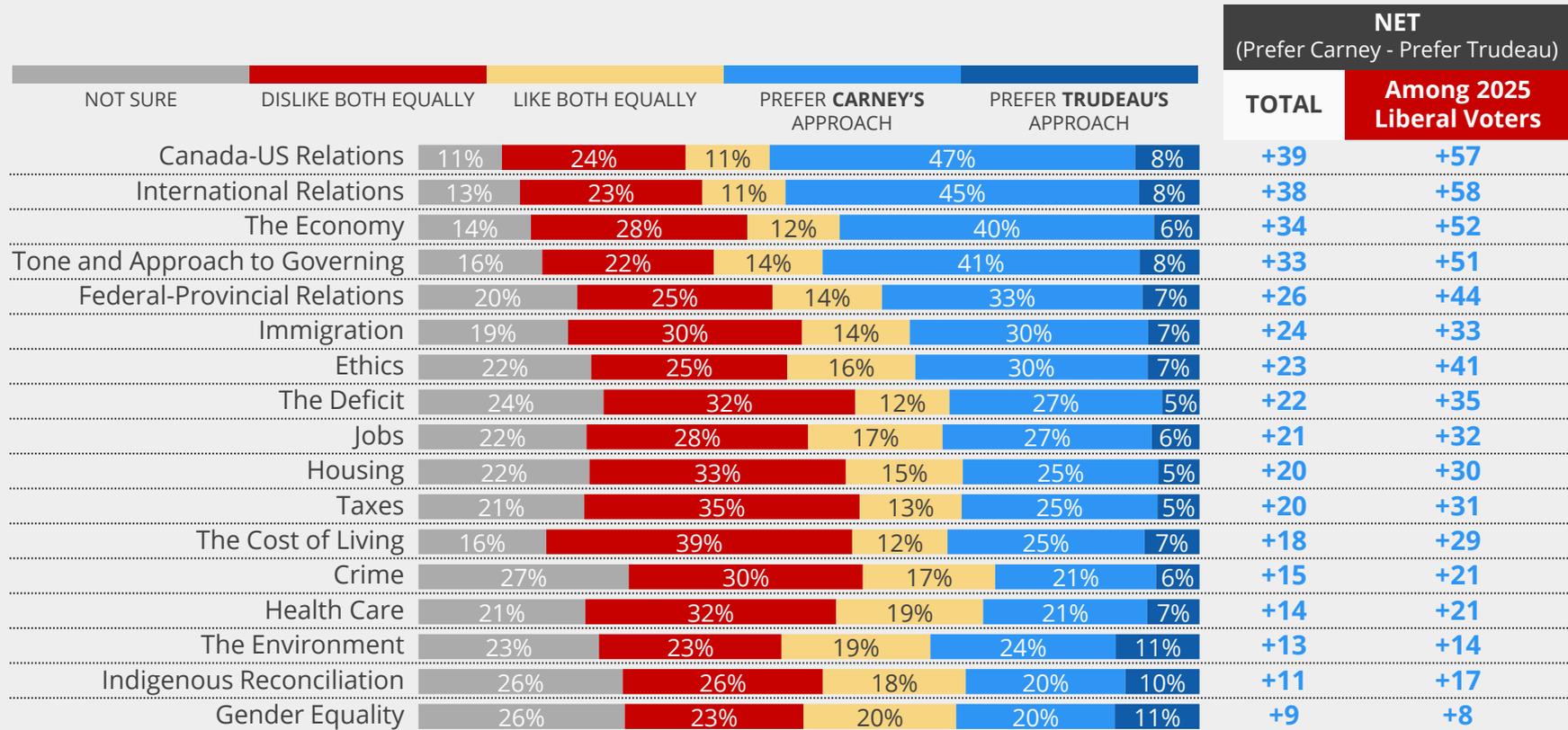
Perceptions of the Carney Government: More say this feels like a “new government” than the “fourth term of a Liberal government”



	TOTAL	2025 VOTE				
		Liberal	Conservative	NDP	BLOC Québécois	Did not vote
Fourth term of a Liberal government	35%	26%	58%	33%	31%	25%
First term of a new government	40%	56%	26%	48%	46%	26%
Not sure	25%	18%	16%	19%	22%	48%

Q Does the Mark Carney government feel more like the fourth term of a Liberal government or the first term of a new government?
 Base: All Respondents - Total (n=2,410).

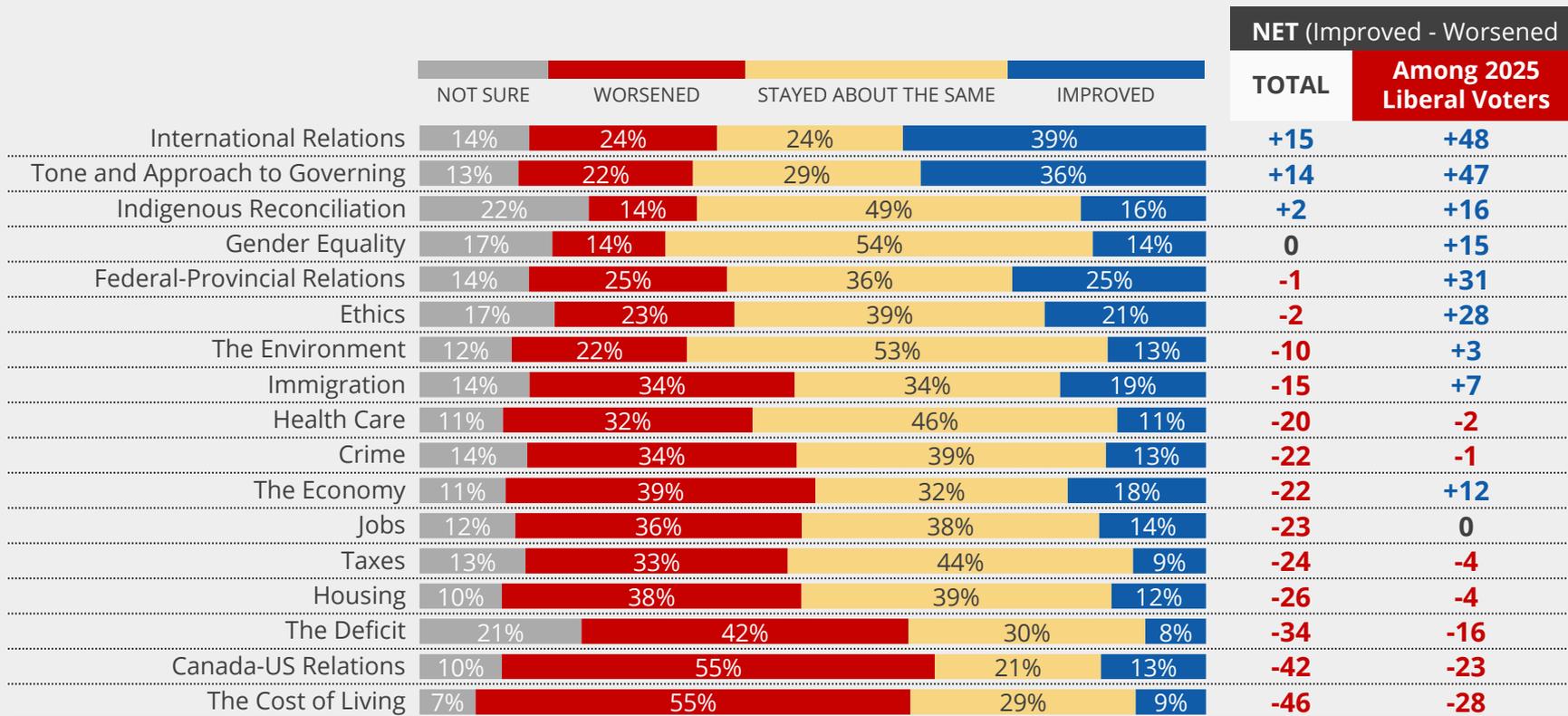
Preferred Approach: Voters prefer Carney's approach over Trudeau's across the board, especially on international issues, the economy, and tone



For each of the following, do you prefer the approach Justin Trudeau took or the approach Mark Carney is taking?
 Base: All Respondents - Total - Split Sample (n=1,203).

Perceived changes since Carney became PM:

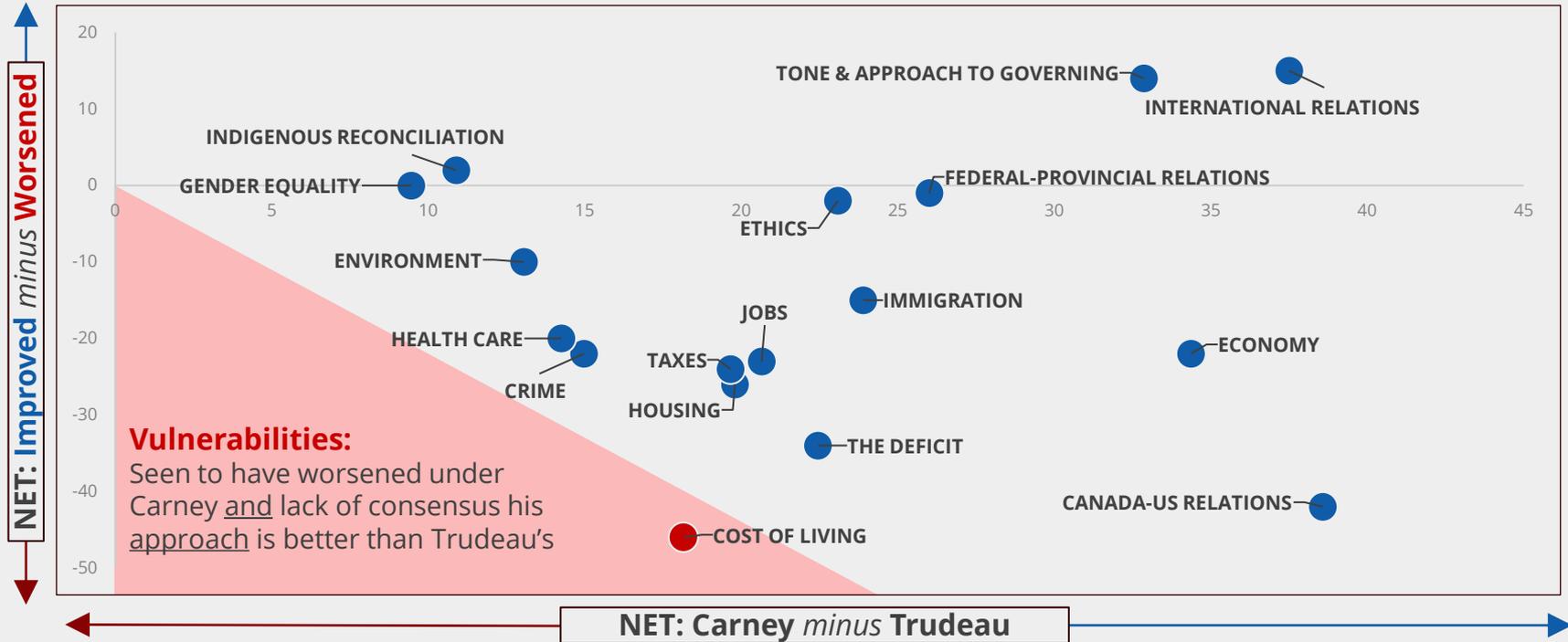
More feel like things have worsened than improved in Canada



Q Since Mark Carney has become Prime Minister, do you feel like each of the following things have improved, worsened, or stayed about the same in Canada?
 Base: All Respondents - Total - Split Sample (n=1,207).

Pressure Grid: Cost of living looms as potential risk for Carney government

- Cost of living looms as an area where the majority feel things have worsened, but where there is far from consensus that Carney's approach is better than Trudeau's (unlike with Canada-US relations).

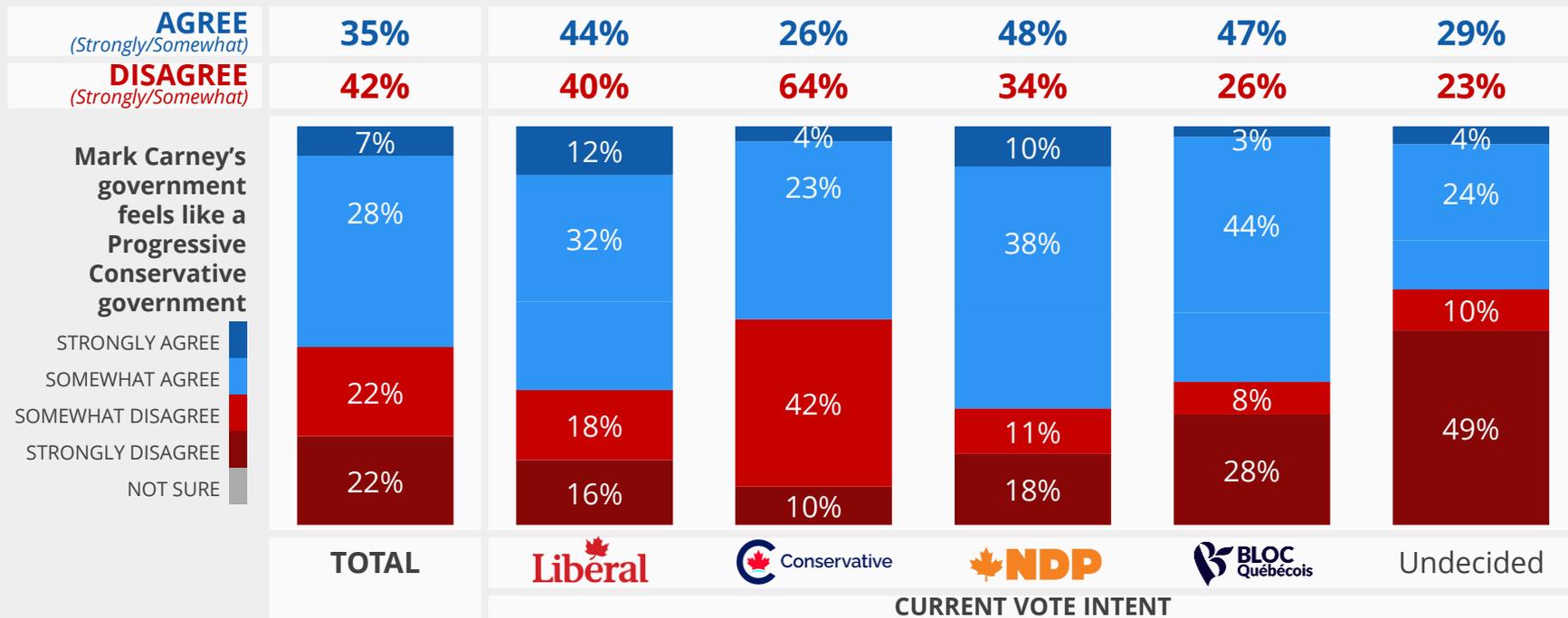


Q Since Mark Carney has become Prime Minister, do you feel like each of the following things have improved, worsened, or stayed about the same in Canada? For each of the following, do you prefer the approach Justin Trudeau took or the approach Mark Carney is taking?

Does this feel like a Progressive Conservative government?

Over one-in-three (35%) say it does

- Though they would be the least likely to remember federal PC governments, voters 18-to-34 are the most likely to say the Carney government feels like a Progressive Conservative government (48%).



Q Do you agree or disagree that Mark Carney's government feels like a Progressive Conservative government to you? Base: All Respondents - Total (n=2,410).

Who has Carney governed like? Largely fits his own mould, though reminds many Conservatives of Trudeau

Which Past Prime Minister Mark Carney Governs Most Like



HIGHEST IN COLUMN
 2ND HIGHEST
 3RD HIGHEST

	TOTAL	CURRENT VOTE INTENT				
		 Liberal	 Conservative	 NDP	 BLOC Québécois	Undecided
Justin Trudeau	23%	15%	44%	16%	14%	15%
Stephen Harper	9%	10%	10%	8%	12%	6%
Jean Chretien	7%	12%	4%	4%	7%	3%
Paul Martin	5%	6%	3%	6%	8%	3%
Brian Mulroney	4%	5%	1%	3%	14%	2%
Kim Campbell	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%
None of them	20%	25%	14%	18%	20%	19%
Not sure	31%	26%	20%	43%	24%	51%



In your opinion, which of these past Prime Ministers has Mark Carney governed most like? Base: All Respondents – Total (n=2,410).

Carney's First Year

For media inquiries, contact:

Dan Arnold, *Chief Strategy Officer*
danarnold@pollara.com

pollara
strategic insights