

Report

Postmedia Study – April 2021

Opinions on the reveal of the provincial and federal budget



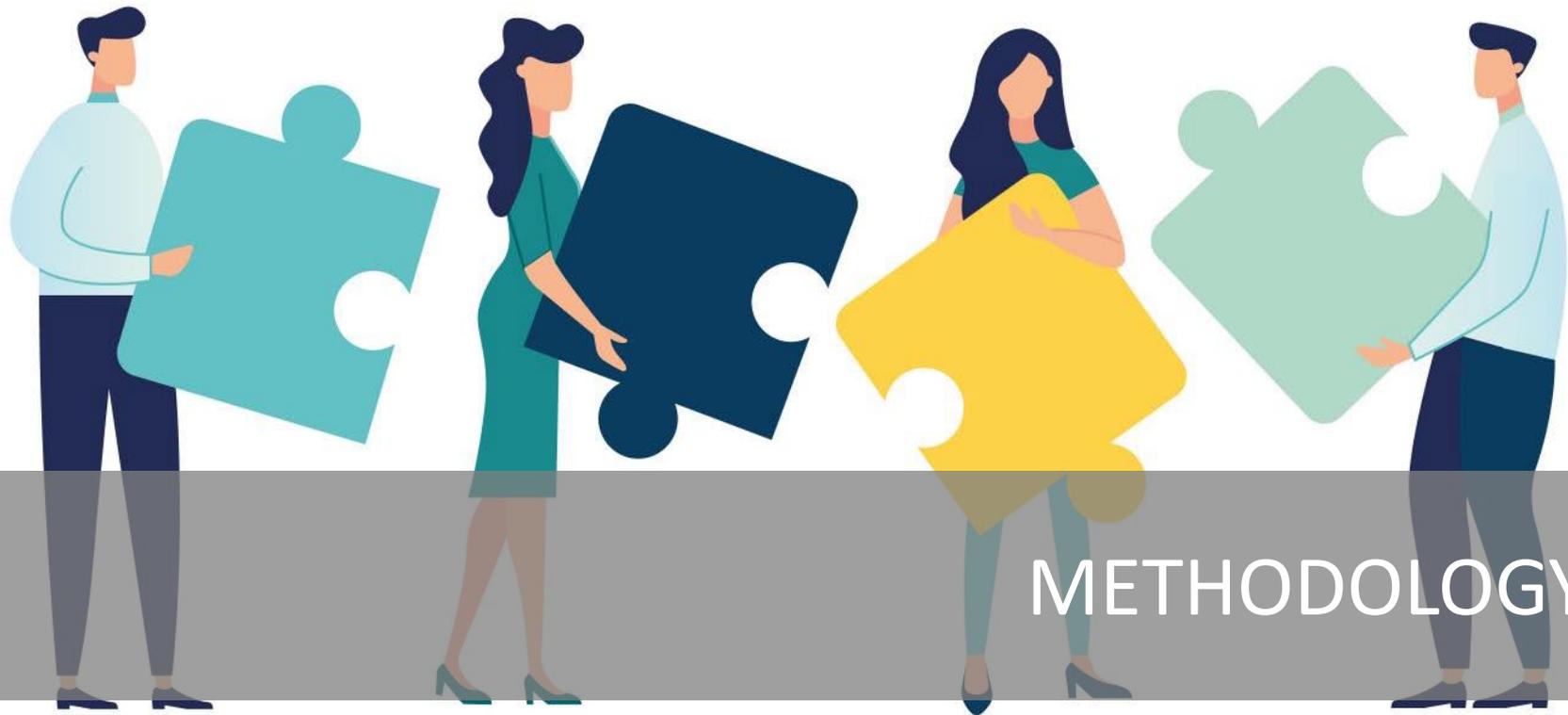
DATE April 2021

Leger

We know Canadians

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METHODOLOGY

Methodology



Online surveys with British Columbia residents were conducted via Leger's online panel, LEO.



From April 2 to 4, 2021



1004 residents of BC that are 18 years of age or older



Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to, age, gender, and region in order to ensure a representative sample of the population in British Columbia.



No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample. However, for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1004 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 3.1\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Note: Since data presented in this report is rounded, the sums in graphs and tables (based on actual figures before rounding) may not match the manual addition of rounded numbers.



Key Findings

Key findings



Long-term tax increases as a result of the pandemic are concerning for British Columbians, but they would rather have a smaller increase in taxes for a longer period of time

Seven in ten (70%) are concerned about the possibility of long-term tax increases, as a result of government spending to support individuals and businesses during the pandemic.

Residents would rather pay a smaller increase in taxes for a longer period of time (69%), than a larger increase for a shorter period (8%).



Not all British Columbians are confident that John Horgan and the NDP party will deliver a budget that helps British Columbia and its residents

Four in ten British Columbians are confident that John Horgan and the NDP party will be able to deliver a budget that will help British Columbia recover from the COVID-19 pandemic (44%), and slightly less think it will be in the best interest of British Columbians (40%).



Residents think economic recovery and pandemic response should be the top priorities for federal and provincial government budgets

Economic recovery (48% provincial, 54% federal) and pandemic response (46% provincial, 49% federal) are top of mind for British Columbians.



Residents would prefer to see increases on customs duties or tariffs on certain imported and exported products to balance the deficit

If taxes must be increased in BC, residents would rather see it be on customs duties or tariffs on certain imported and exported products (52% selecting as their first choice or other).



British Columbians are slightly more aware of the reveal of the federal budget than the provincial budget

Three in ten (30%) residents are aware of the reveal of John Horgan's British Columbian budget on April 20th, 2021, and slightly more (37%) are aware of the reveal of the federal budget on April 19th, 2021.



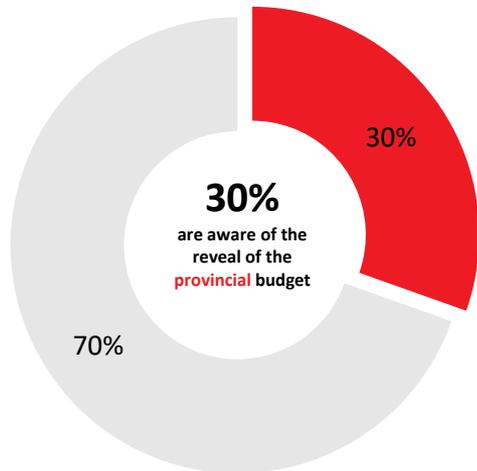
Detailed Results

Opinions on the reveal of the budget

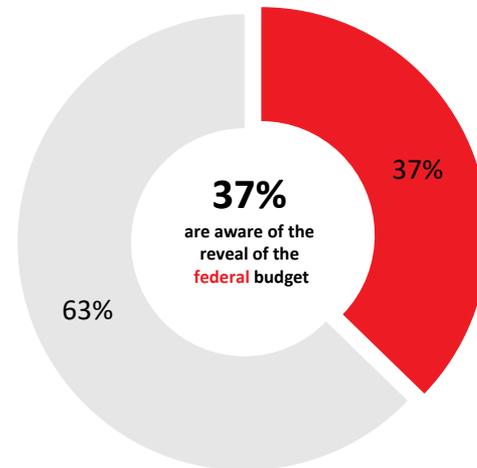
Three in ten British Columbians are aware of the reveal of John Horgan's British Columbian budget, and slightly more (37%) are aware of the reveal of the federal budget.



The reveal of **John Horgan's British Columbian budget** on April 20th, 2021



The reveal of the **federal budget** on April 19th, 2021



British Columbians think both the federal and provincial governments need to take action on important issues, as half rate economic recovery and pandemic response as a priority for both budgets.

**Priorities for John Horgan’s British Columbian budget and the Liberal government’s federal budget
(Average of 3 ranked priorities)**

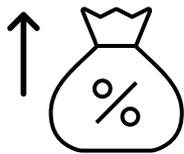
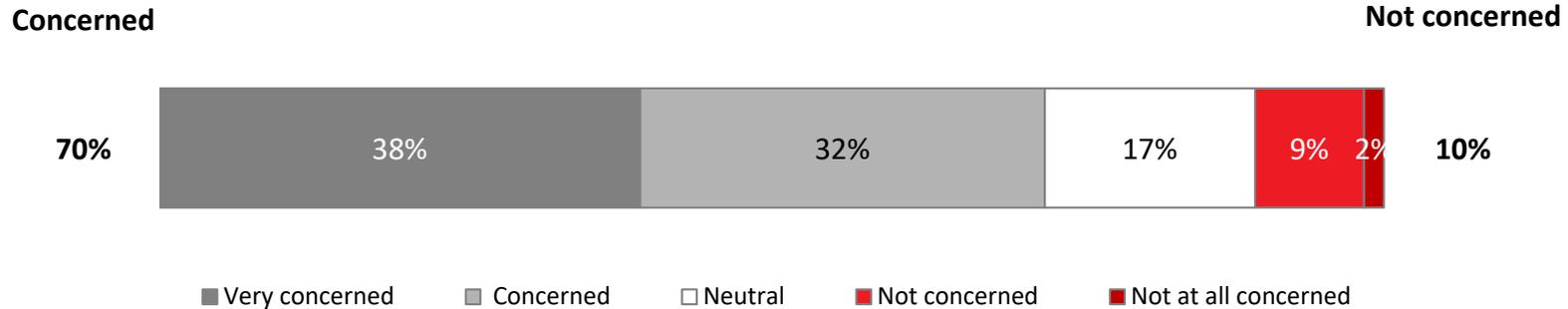
	PROVINCIAL	FEDERAL
ANY	97%	96%
Economic recovery	48%	54%
Pandemic response	46%	49%
Housing affordability	38%	31%
Investing in the Healthcare system	35%	34%
Recovery plan for small and medium businesses	31%	29%
Climate change	19%	24%
Financial support to assist families	17%	18%
Opioid crisis	16%	10%
Investing in the Education system	11%	8%
Investing in public infrastructure projects	10%	14%
Crime in my community	10%	8%
Indigenous reconciliation	5%	7%
Site C	4%	2%
None of these	<1%	1%
Don't know	3%	3%

Q1. Considering the reveal of John Horgan’s British Columbian budget on April 20th, 2021, which items would you rank as your first, second, and third priorities for British Columbia’s NDP government to focus spending on?

Q2. Considering the reveal of the Liberal government’s federal budget on April 19th, 2021, which items would you rank as your first, second, and third priorities for the Liberal government to focus spending on?

Base: British Columbians (n=1004)

Seven in ten are concerned about the possibility of long-term tax increases, as a result of government spending to support individuals and businesses during the pandemic.



Those who are concerned about the possibility of long term tax increases, are more likely to think the election result and strong NDP majority was a vote for a **continuation of the steady, moderate approach to governing with no big surprises or significant new policies** which the NDP was doing during its time in a minority government situation

Q3. How concerned are you about the possibility of long-term tax increases as a result of the government spending to support individuals and businesses during the pandemic?

Note: Don't know is not displayed

Base: British Columbians (n=1004)

Considering BC's COVID-19 deficit, seven in ten residents would rather pay a smaller increase in taxes, for a longer period.

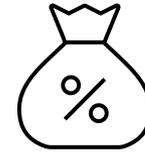
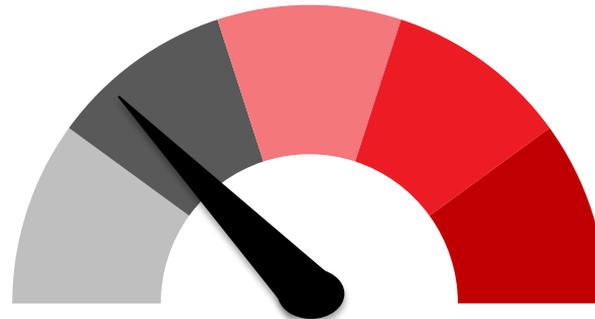


69%

I would rather pay a **smaller increase in taxes, for a longer period of time**

3 - Neutral

23%



8%

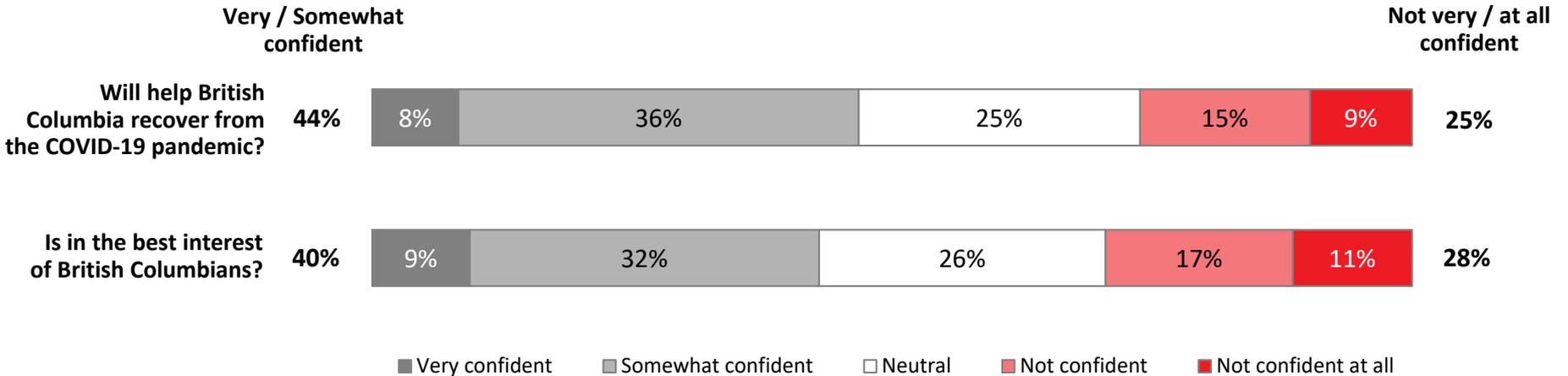
I would rather pay a **larger increase in taxes, for a shorter period of time**

Those who would rather pay a smaller increase in taxes, for a longer period of time are more likely to be aged 55+

Younger British Columbians (18-34) are more likely to sit in the middle of these two statements, compared to those who are 55+.

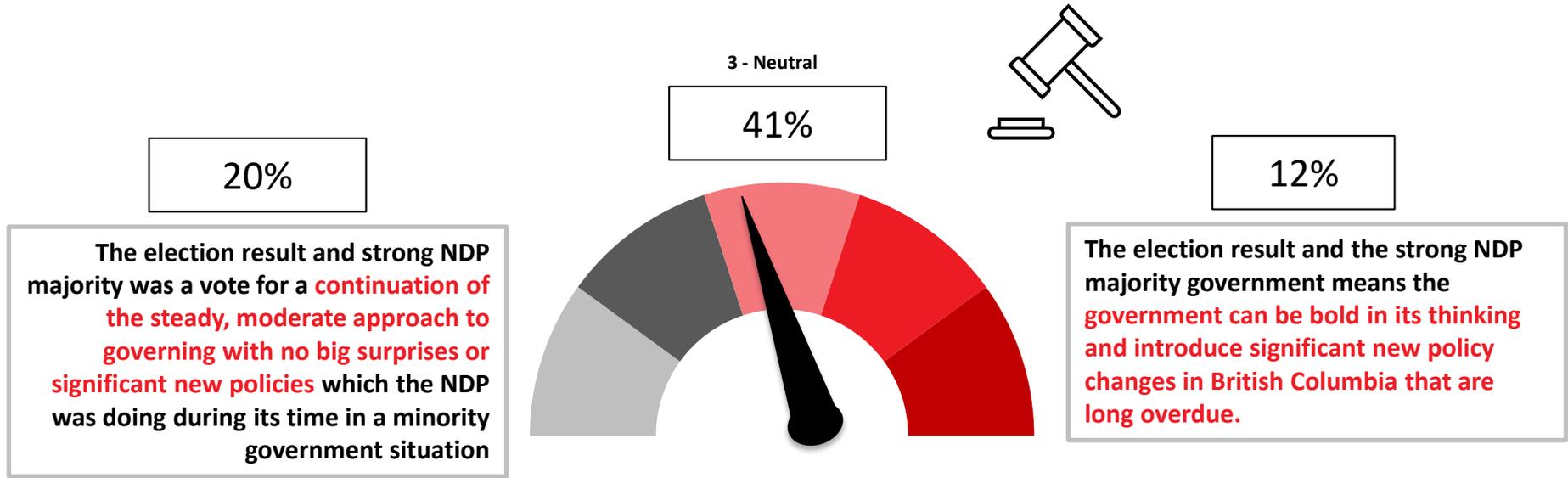
Four in ten British Columbians are confident that John Horgan and the NDP party will be able to deliver a budget that will help British Columbia recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and will be in the best interest of British Columbians.

Confidence that John Horgan and the NDP party will be able to deliver a budget that....

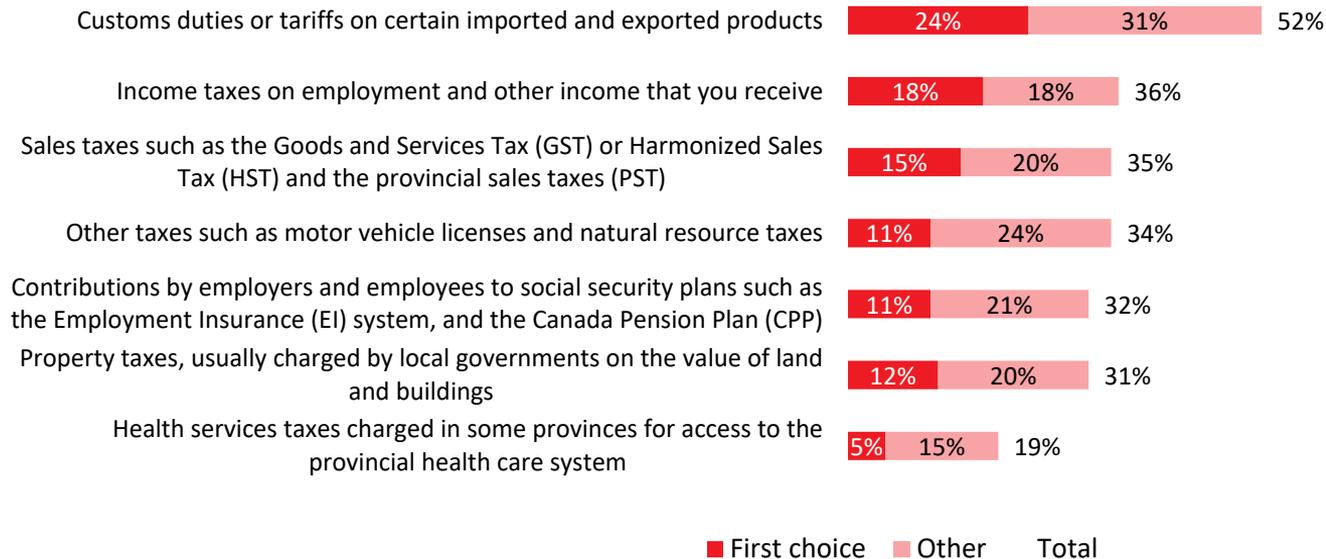


Q4. How confident are you that John Horgan and the NDP party will be able to deliver a budget that
 Note: Don't know is not displayed
 Base: British Columbians (n=1004)

Four in ten British Columbians sit in the middle when it comes to their opinions on how the NDP should handle policy.



If taxes must be increased, half of British Columbians would prefer an increase on duties or tariffs, with one quarter selecting it as their first choice. Conversely, residents are less accepting of an increase on health services taxes.





RESPONDENT PROFILE

RESPONDENT PROFILE

	Weighted
n=	1004
Gender	(%)
Male	48
Female	52
Age	
18 to 34	27
35 to 54	33
55 years of age or older	40
Region	
Greater Vancouver (Metro)	53
Greater Victoria	8
Rest of BC	39
Home	
Own	65
Rent	33
Prefer not to answer	2

	Weighted
n=	1004
Household Income	(%)
Less than \$40K	18
\$40K to less than \$80K	30
\$80K and over	42
Prefer not to answer	10
Area	
Urban	43
Suburban	41
Rural	14
Prefer not to answer / Don't know	1
Education	
High school or less	22
College	27
University	50
Prefer not to answer	1
Kids in Household	
Yes	26
No	73
Prefer not to answer	<1

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Online community management
- **Leger Digital**
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- **International Research**
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8
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