



Modus
RESEARCH

Sample Matters



The Public Monitor

August 2026 - Standing up to Trump and Other Findings on the Carney Government

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Introduction

The findings presented in this report are from the most recent Public Monitor – a monthly public opinion omnibus survey. In addition to client questions, this edition of the Public Monitor featured questions around Canada’s economic sovereignty, foreign influence, and AI data centres.

The Public Monitor

The Public Monitor is a monthly omnibus survey ideally suited for discerning clients who need a cost-effective solution to their public opinion research needs without compromising quality.

The Monitor is powered by the Modalis Public Opinion Panel – one of Canada’s only *fully* probability-based research panels. There is no need to compromise data quality when using an omnibus.

Benefits

- › Known accuracy of a probability sample.
- › Proprietary research findings at a fraction of the cost of a custom survey.
- › Expert design advice for your proprietary questions.
- › Extensive demographic and other profile data.
- › Ongoing tracking for a range of important metrics – cost of living, housing, economic confidence.

Specifications

- › Nationally representative sample of 1,500+ Canadian adults.
- › Survey is conducted online and via mobile devices in French and English.
- › 100% of the sample is based on random probability sampling, all respondents vetted by live in-house interviewers. No bots or survey fraudsters.



For scheduling and pricing, please reach out to:

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- › [Webpage](#)

Methodology

The Public Monitor is powered by the Modalis Public Opinion Panel – one of Canada’s only *fully* probability-based research panels.

The survey was conducted online using both email and SMS invitations/reminders, and completed via desktops, laptops, tablets and mobile devices.

A total of 1,646 responses were gathered from Canadian adults. As Modalis is 100% recruited using RDD probability-based telephone sampling, it is statistically valid to calculate the margin of error – it is plus or minus 2.4% at a 95% confidence interval.

The survey was conducted from August 10 to 23, 2026. We run surveys at the optimal timeframe for online surveys (~two weeks) to mitigate the response bias of short and quick surveys.

The data have been weighted by age, gender, region and education using the latest Census population data from Statistics Canada.



Notes on Reporting

Numbers in charts and tables may not always add up to 100 per cent due to rounding or the exclusion of non-response at times when it is minimal.

Data tables are shaded to denote statistically significant differences – green means the result is significantly higher than that for others in group, grey means it is significantly lower.

Scale aggregates are presented in parentheses on charts and tables, and are based on either a 5- or 7-point scale.

On Standing up to Trump

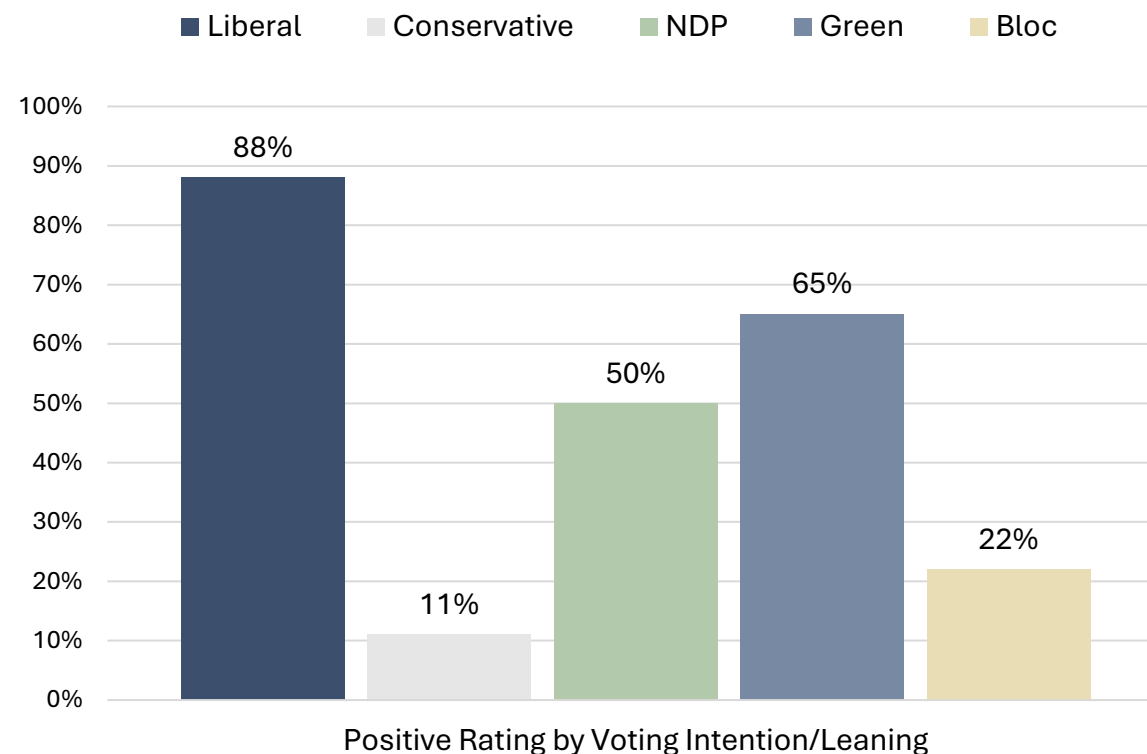
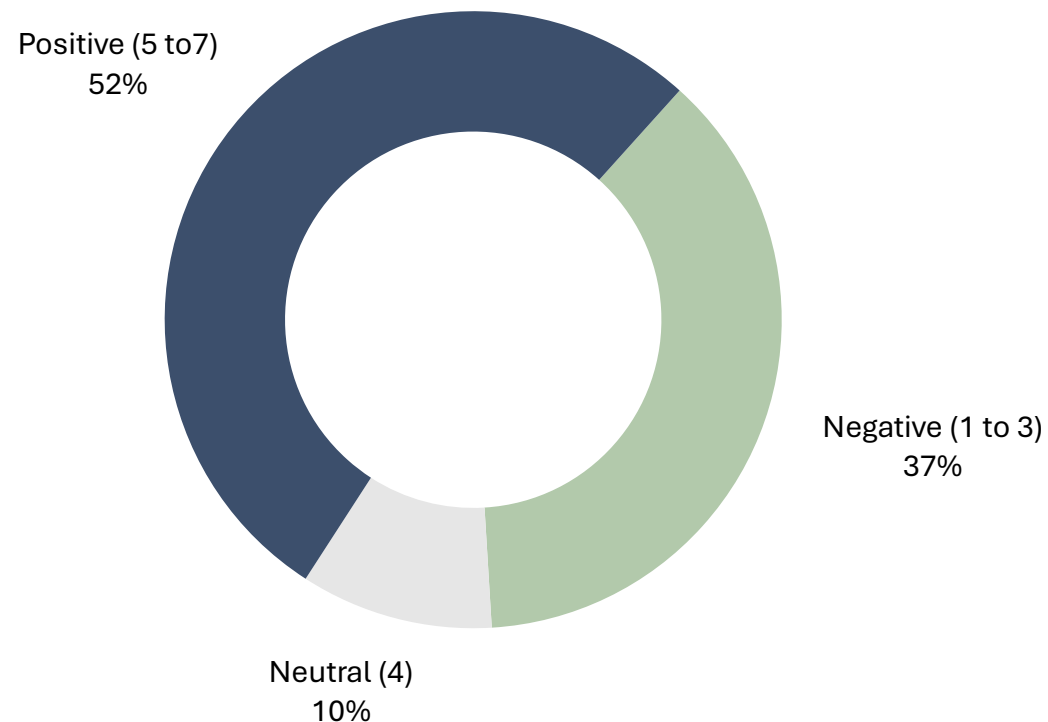
Canadians are somewhat divided on whether or not the Carney government is doing well at standing up to Trump's threats.

A majority rate the Carney government favourably but over a third are negative. There are few fence-sitters on this issue.

- Ratings vary immensely by voting intent.

Q Overall, how would you rate the Carney government in terms of standing up to Donald Trump and his threats against Canada?

Base: Canadian adults, n=1,646

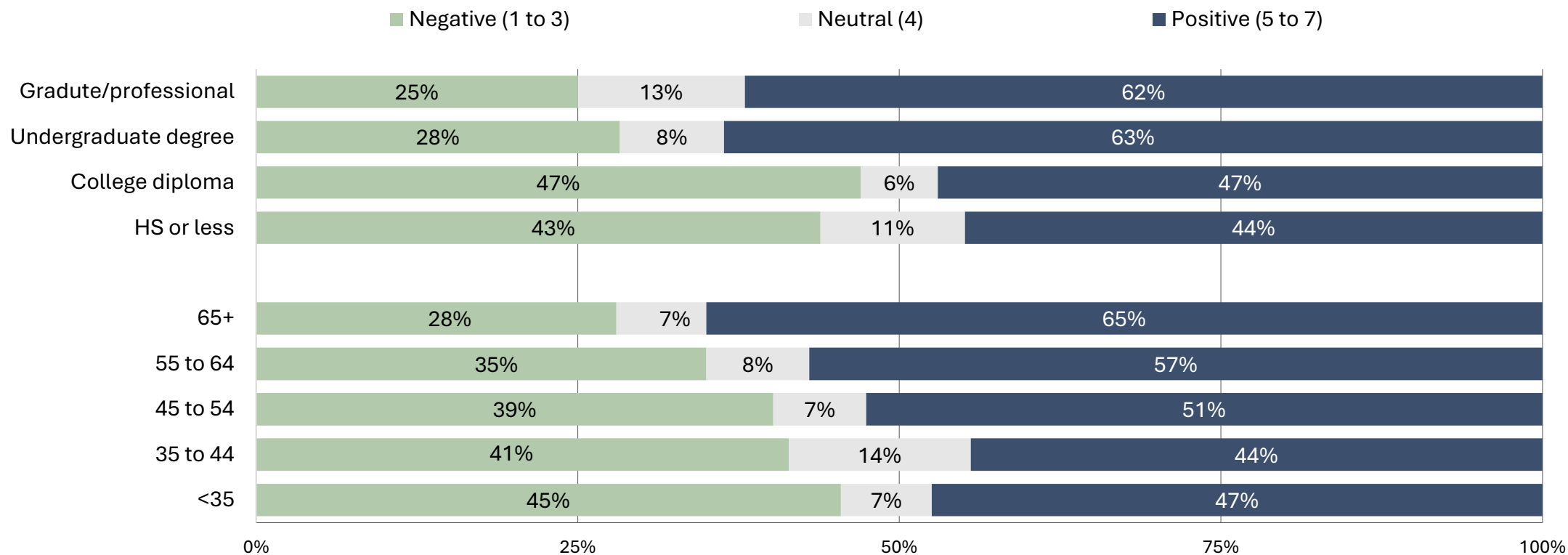


Across demographics, education and age show the strongest differences.

- There are strong differences in ratings between those having, and those who do not have university degrees, and positive ratings generally increase with age.

Q Overall, how would you rate the Carney government in terms of standing up to Donald Trump and his threats against Canada?

Base: Canadian adults, n=1,646



Discussion

As many observers noted after the 2025 election, Mark Carney and the Liberals ran on a campaign of standing up to Trump – elbows up, Canada strong. A little over a year into their mandate, Canadians are somewhat mixed in how they view the Carney government's performance on its core mandate.

As negotiations continue to hit rough seas, how long will Canadians extend their patience? The large minority that views the Liberals negatively on this important front may soon reach majority territory. We will continue to monitor this situation.



Data Tables

Ratings by Education and Voting Intention

Green shading = statistically above others in grouping; grey shading = statistically below others in grouping

Q Overall, how would you rate the Carney government in terms of standing up to Donald Trump and his threats against Canada?

Base: Canadian adults, n=1,646

		Highest Educational Attainment				Voting - Intended and Leaning				
		Total	No post-secondary	College diploma	Undergrad degree	Graduate/ Professional	NDP	Liberal	CPC	Green
Weighted Sample Size	1,646	704	261	376	305	273	650	460	41	41
Unweighted Sample Size	1,645	381	386	460	418	179	768	437	39	40
Negative ratings (1-3)	37%	43%	47%	28%	25%	35%	7%	79%	15%	56%
Neutral (4)	10%	11%	6%	8%	13%	15%	5%	7%	20%	21%
Positive ratings (5-7)	52%	44%	47%	63%	62%	50%	88%	11%	65%	22%
Unsure/no answer	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%

Ratings by Age, Gender and Region

Green shading = statistically above others in grouping; grey shading = statistically below others in grouping

Q Overall, how would you rate the Carney government in terms of standing up to Donald Trump and his threats against Canada?

Base: Canadian adults, n=1,646

		Age					Gender		Region					
	Total	< 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female	BC	Alberta	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Maritimes
Weighted Sample Size	1,646	222	501	195	313	360	804	842	223	190	114	634	379	107
Unweighted Sample Size	1,646	108	233	258	409	580	960	686	248	273	182	635	237	71
Negative ratings (1-3)	35%	45%	41%	39%	35%	28%	44%	30%	34%	38%	40%	37%	39%	33%
Neutral (4)	9%	9%	14%	6%	7%	7%	9%	10%	7%	8%	11%	11%	10%	6%
Positive ratings (5-7)	55%	47%	44%	51%	57%	65%	47%	57%	57%	55%	48%	51%	49%	60%
Unsure/no answer	1%	1%	1%	3%	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%

Ratings by Income, Home Ownership and Population Density

Green shading = statistically above others in grouping; grey shading = statistically below others in grouping

Q Overall, how would you rate the Carney government in terms of standing up to Donald Trump and his threats against Canada?

Base: Canadian adults, n=1,646

		Household Income						Home Ownership		Population Density		
	Total	<\$40K	\$40K-\$59K	\$60K-\$79K	\$80K-\$99K	\$100K-\$149K	\$150K+	Own	Rent	Rural (<30K)	Small Urban (30K to <100K)	Large Urban (100K+)
Weighted Sample Size	1,646	195	135	191	196	396	306	1,077	481	441	245	922
Unweighted Sample Size	1,645	168	130	196	198	384	375	1,232	360	425	255	946
Negative ratings (1-3)	37%	36%	33%	33%	34%	38%	39%	36%	38%	40%	36%	36%
Neutral (4)	10%	11%	6%	4%	11%	11%	8%	9%	12%	6%	10%	10%
Positive ratings (5-7)	52%	50%	61%	62%	51%	51%	53%	54%	50%	54%	54%	51%
Unsure/no answer	1%	3%	0%	1%	4%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%

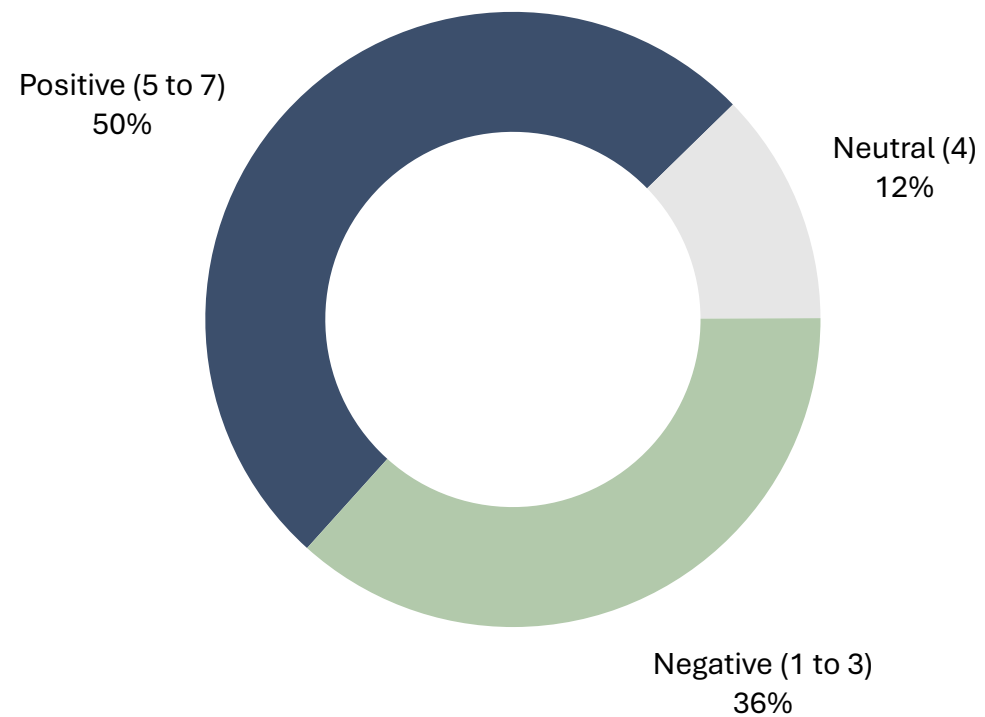
Other Findings on the Carney Government

- Ratings on keeping promises
- Governing from the left or right of campaign?
- Support for increased military expenditures

Half of Canadians rate the Liberals favourably on keeping their promises.

Q Overall, how would you rate the Carney government in terms of delivering on its promises?

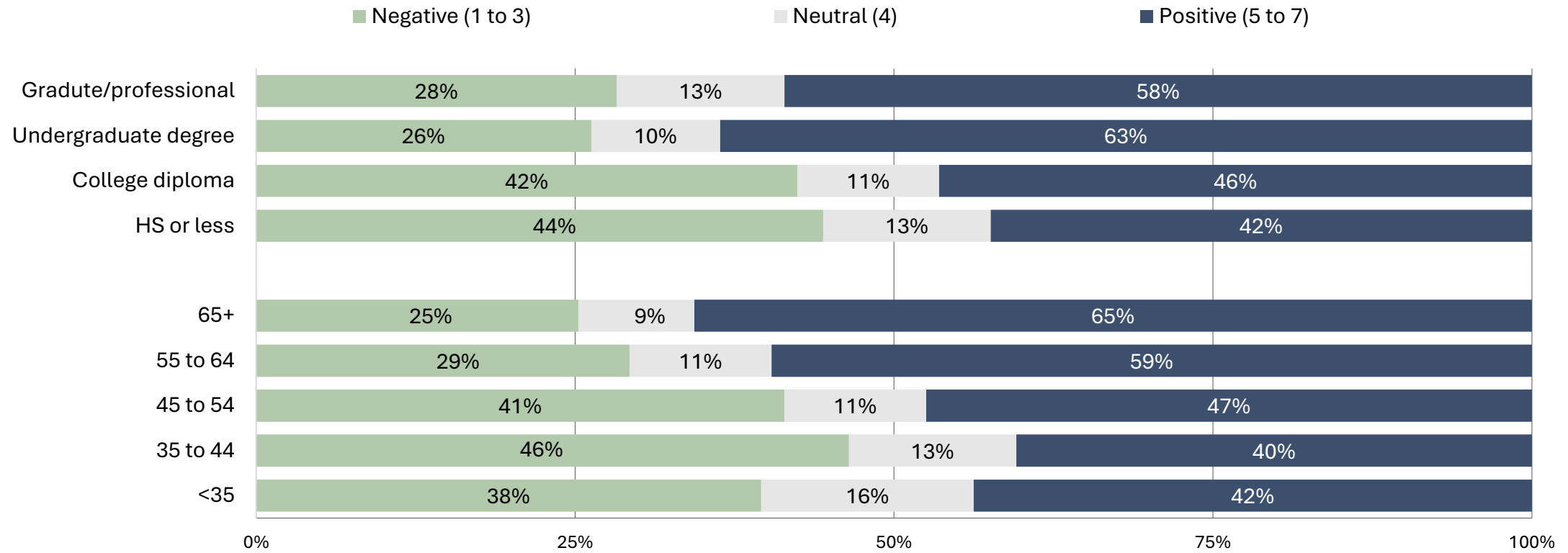
Base: Canadian adults, n=1,646



Older Canadians and those with university degrees are most favourable about the Liberals delivering on their promises.

Q Overall, how would you rate the Carney government in terms of delivering on its promises?

Base: Canadian adults, n=1,646



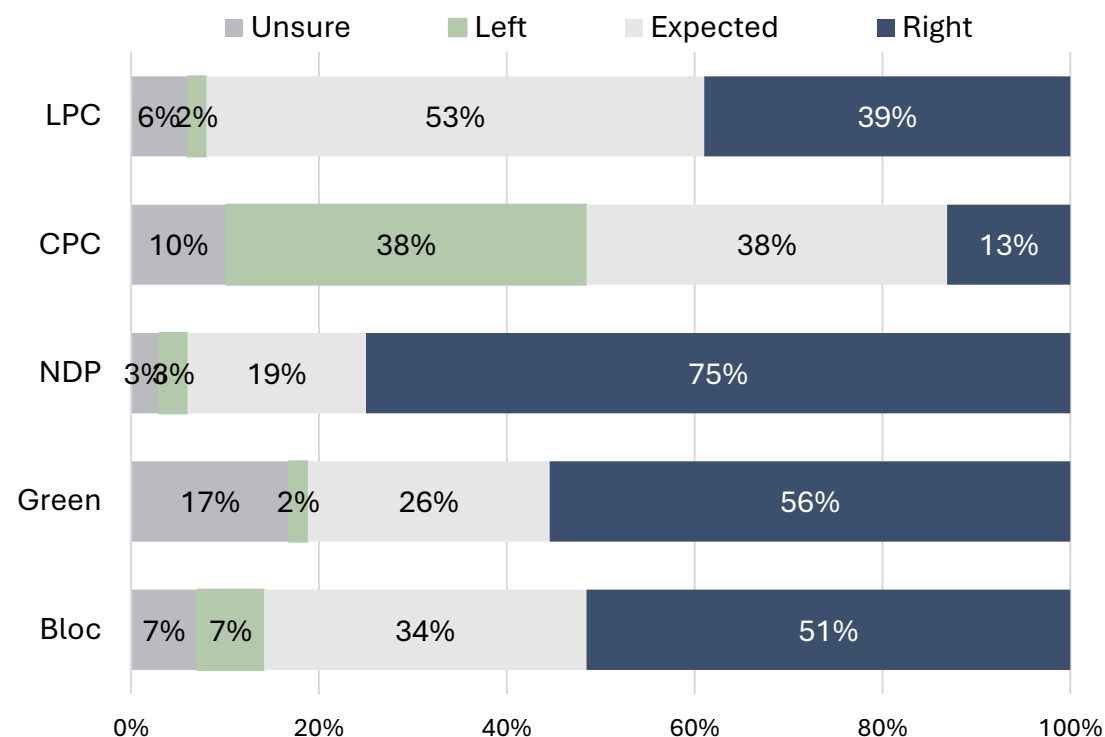
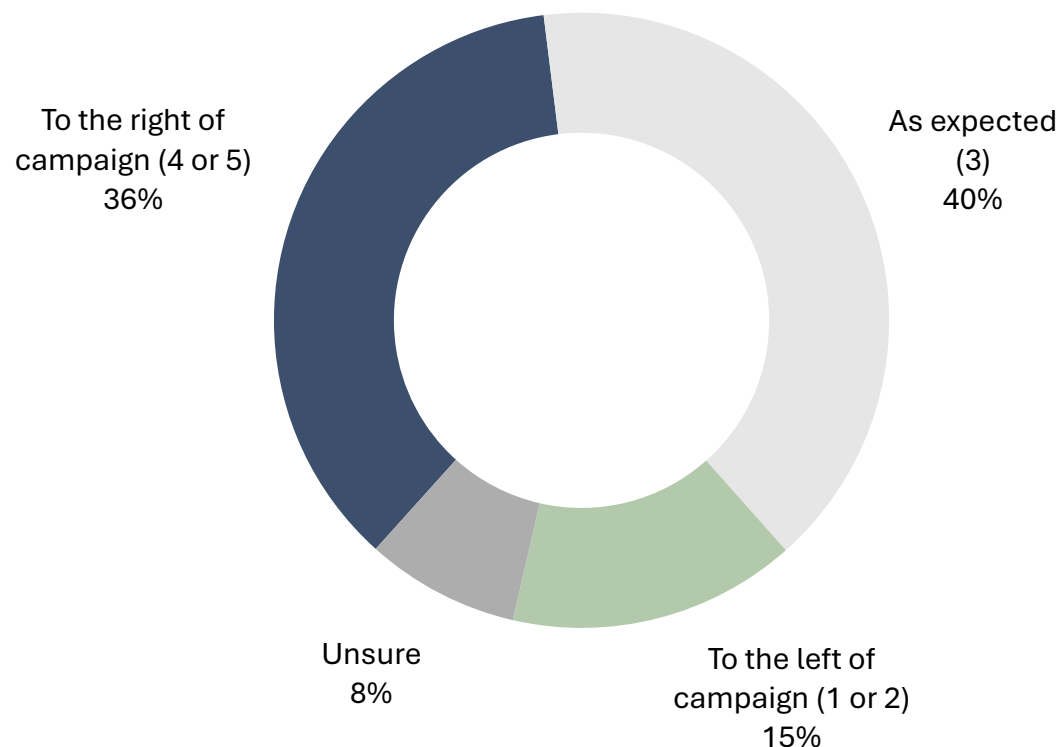
Many Canadians think the Carney government is governing to the right of where it campaigned.

Over a third say the federal government is governing to the right of where it campaigned – well over double of those who think it is to the left of its campaign.

- A significant number of Liberal supporters say likewise.
- Only Conservative supporters have a sizable number who think the Carney government is to the left of its campaign.

Q Relative to how Mark Carney and the Liberals campaigned during the 2025 federal election, would you say this government is more politically left or right than you expected?

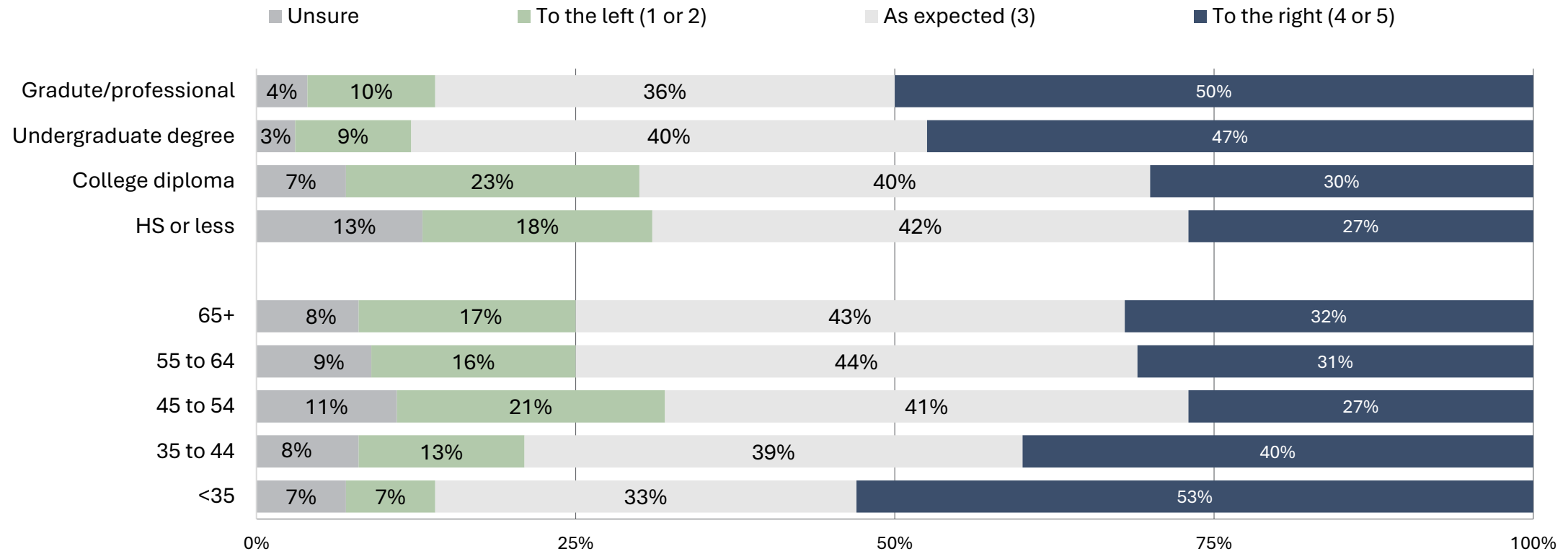
Base: Canadian adults, n=1,646



Those with university degrees and young Canadians are the most likely to say the Liberals are governing to the right of its campaign.

Q Relative to how Mark Carney and the Liberals campaigned during the 2025 federal election, would you say this government is more politically left or right than you expected?

Base: Canadian adults, n=1,646



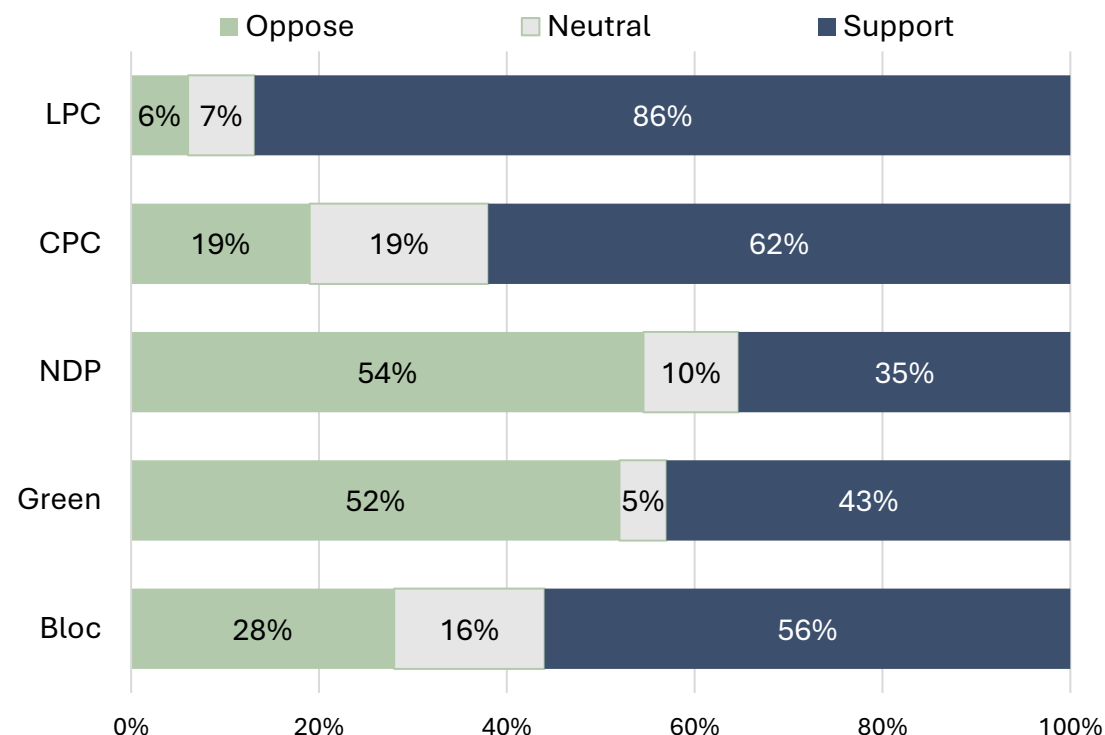
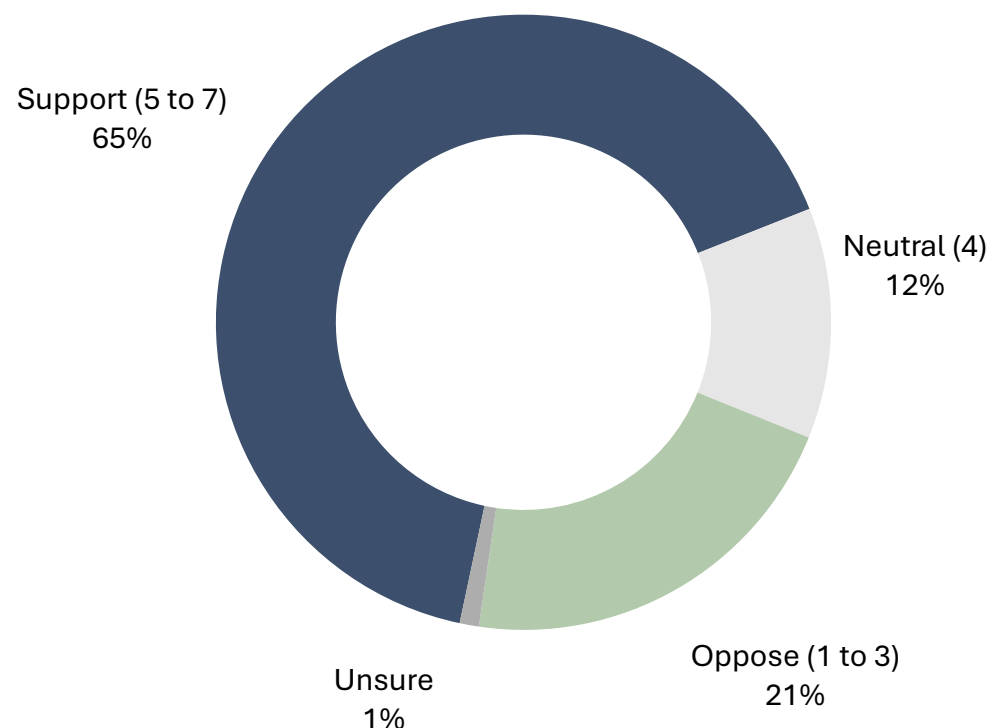
Almost two-thirds of Canadians support Carney's plan to greatly increase Canada's military expenditures.

Opposition to military expansion is quite small overall.

- While they make up only a minority of Canadians, a majority of both NDP and Green supporters oppose the plan.

Q The Carney government has announced plans to greatly increase Canada's military spending. In 2025, Canada spent approximately \$41 billion on the military. This increased to \$63 billion in the most recent federal budget with an additional \$82 billion committed over the next five years. Do you support or oppose this plan?

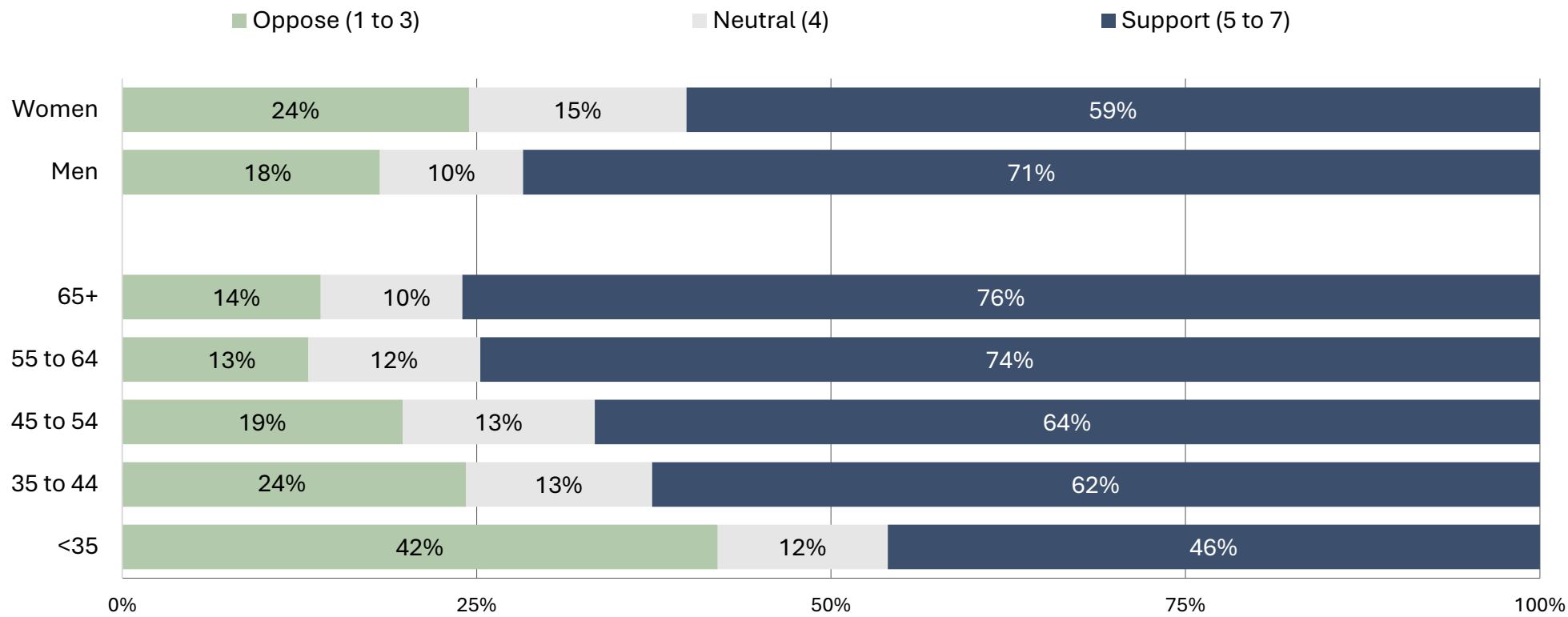
Base: Canadian adults, n=1,646



Demographically, support for increased militarization is strongest among older Canadians and men.

Q The Carney government has announced plans to greatly increase Canada's military spending. In 2025, Canada spent approximately \$41 billion on the military. This increased to \$63 billion in the most recent federal budget with an additional \$82 billion committed over the next five years. Do you support or oppose this plan?

Base: Canadian adults, n=1,646





- › Modus staff are members of AAPOR
- › We adhere to AAPOR's stringent Code of Professional Ethics and Practices
- › Globally, AAPOR is one of the rare survey research organizations that maintains strict standards on probability sampling, including explicit restrictions for reporting non-probability samples.



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