

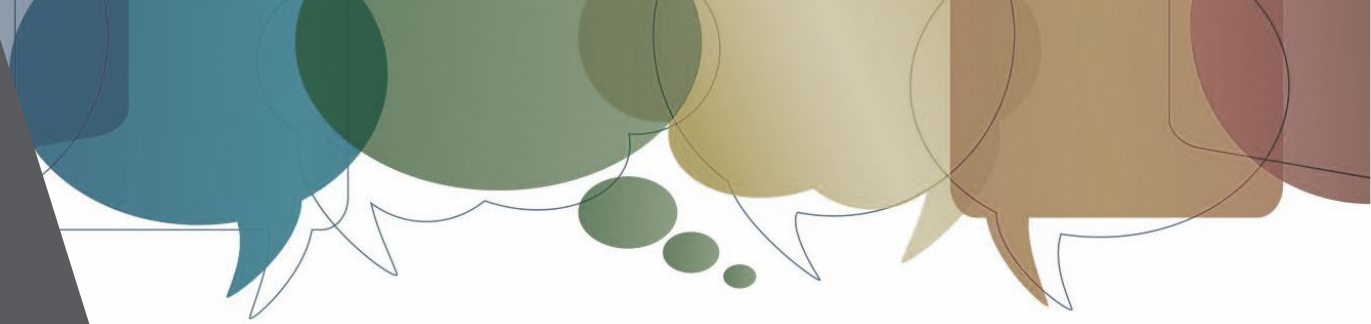


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MARCH 2020 RESEARCH

MONTHLY POLL -- DETAILED REPORT

CABINET OFFICE

March 2020



About the Research

Cabinet Office commissioned The Strategic Counsel to conduct a telephone monthly tracking survey of people of Ontario about their attitudes, opinions, and perceptions of the Government of Ontario and other topics.

Ontarians were **randomly** and **proportionately** selected from across Ontario using mobile (60%) and landline (40%) telephone.

- ▶ **n=1,200**
adult citizens of Ontario
- ▶ **March 3rd to March 19th, 2019**
- ▶ Accurate to **±2.7** percentage points,
19 times out of 20
- ▶ Weighted by region, age, and gender to
match census data

Region	Sample size #	Margin of error ± %
City of Toronto	211	6.7
Toronto Belt/905	250	6.2
Hamilton CMA	81	10.9
Central Ontario	158	7.8
South Western Ontario	249	6.2
Northern Ontario	91	10.3
Eastern Ontario	90	10.3
Ottawa	82	10.9
TOTAL	1200	2.7

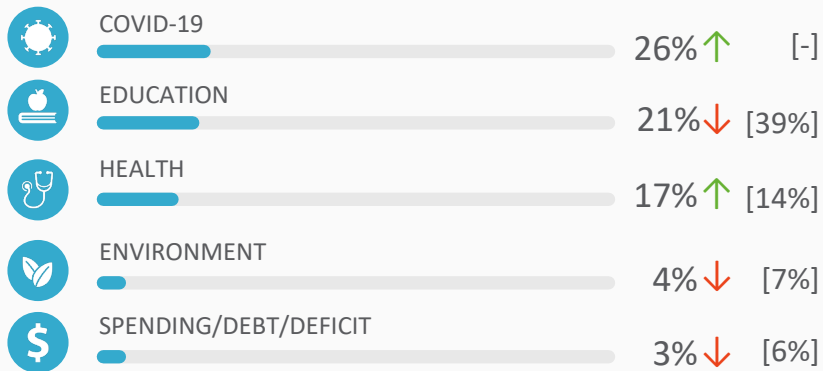
Important note regarding the analysis: Those who believe the government is on the ‘right track’ (**Right Track**) and those who believe the government is on the ‘wrong track’ (**Wrong Track**) are key analytical variables in this report.

ONTARIO MONTHLY DASHBOARD

CABINET OFFICE MONTHLY DASHBOARD • March 2020

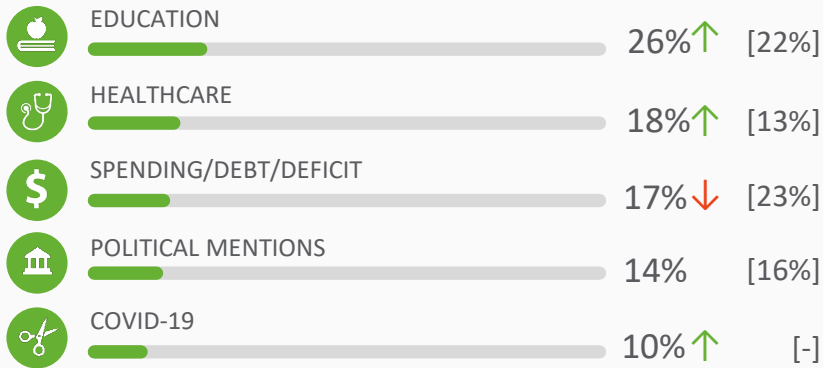
Top Issue

Q. Thinking about the issues presently facing Ontario, which ONE do you feel should receive the GREATEST attention from the Ontario provincial government? That is, what should be the top priority?



Top Priorities

Q. What do you think are the provincial government's top priorities?



Performance

Q. How would you rate the performance of the Ontario government at managing each of the following? Percentage providing a good rating (9, 8, or 7) vs. percentage providing a poor rating (3, 2, or 1) and the difference.

Based on Top 4 "excellent/good" ratings.

KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE DURING COVID-19	DELIVERING QUALITY HEALTHCARE TO ONTARIANS	PROTECTING CITIZENS FROM GUN AND GANG VIOLENCE	BUILDING PUBLIC TRANSIT	BUILDING THE PROVINCIAL ECONOMY
48% Good 19% Poor	31% Good 32% Poor	28% Good 33% Poor	26% Good 30% Poor	24% Good 25% Poor
+29	-1	-5	-4	-1

[xx%] Numbers in brackets are previous wave (February 2019)

↑↓ Indicates a significant change since previous wave

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Key Highlights

1 What are the 'right/wrong track' perceptions toward the government?

The government's 'right track' has increased significantly in March.

This trend started in early March, but it increased significantly in the Mar 12-19th period. There has been a 12-point boost in the government's 'right track' scores since Feb 6-20th.

Women drove this increase, with a sharp rise in the proportion who believe the government is on the 'right track', particularly over the Mar12-19th time period. A majority of women now believe the government is on the 'right track'.

2 What is the #1 issue that Ontarians want the government to pay attention to?

COVID-19 has soared to the top of Ontarians' priorities. During Mar 12-19, this issue was cited as the top priority by 46%.

Residents in all regions, except Ottawa, are positive about the Government's performance on managing COVID-19. Most positive evaluations are in Toronto and its suburbs.

Ontarians have yet to focus on the economic situation. One should anticipate that this will start to move upward sharply over the next month. Right now, they are focused on the COVID-19 and its consequences on people's health. Possibly for this reason, healthcare moved up slightly over the past month.

Concern about education has declined, but still remains a top issue.

The importance of the environment has declined significantly in March.

Key Highlights

3 How is the government performing on key performance metrics?

Early indications are the government is perceived to be performing strongly on the COVID-19 issue.

The March wave also reveals that the performance scores on a wide range of key metrics - including 'public education' - have improved.

In addition to 'public education', improvements have occurred in the following issue areas:

- Trust;
- Quality healthcare and hospital overcrowding;
- Environmental protection;
- Lowering electricity prices;
- Job creation;
- Protection from gun/gang violence;
- Making life affordable, insurance rates, strengthening their financial future; and
- Government works for average Ontarians.

4 Are Ontarians concerned about COVID-19 and its consequences?

The majority of Ontarians express concern about COVID-19, but are generally more concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on loved ones than on themselves.

Almost 8-in-10 report concern for the health of an immediate family member. They also report concern for the financial security of their households, and the employment of an immediate family member.

Concern for personal health and employment is also high, but falls below these other concerns.

Key Highlights

5 Where are Ontarians getting information about COVID-19?

While the news media is the primary source of information about COVID-19, about half have also been referring to federal/provincial governments and social media for information.

The Ontario public is more likely to report they are getting their information about COVID-19 from social media and friends/family/friends than from health professionals or their municipal governments.

Regardless of source, the vast majority have heard about the Ontario government's measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, and approve of them.

6 Do Ontarians support strong initiatives to stop the spread of COVID-19 and economic stimulus ?

Ontarians express strong support for the government's initiatives to stop spread of COVID-19.

There is also strong support for the government to increase the deficit to introduce measures designed to protect the economy during the COVID-19 situation.

Key Highlights

Are Ontarians following the education and the labour negotiation issues?

There has been relatively high awareness of education/labour negotiations beginning in Oct'19 and increasing in Mar'20.

Those who think the government is on the 'right track' are more aware of education/labour negotiations in March'20 compared to the fall.

Since the government's announcement, has there been a change in the public perceptions on the labour negotiations?

The government's education announcement has helped to bolster the positive perceptions that it is balancing the interests of teachers/taxpayers. Ontarians are less likely to think teachers are working to keep children in the classroom.

Overall, the government has helped to boost support levels of those who think the government is on the 'right track'. While those who see the government on the 'wrong track' are more aligned with the teachers, there has been some softening in this support.

Key Highlights

Do Ontarians think the teachers should accept the government's new approach?

A healthy majority (57%) believe if the government addresses most of the teachers' concerns, it would be wrong for them to reject it.

Moreover, almost 1-in-2 say that the government has made a reasonable effort to address the concerns of teachers.

The 'right/wrong' track analytic reveals that the government's new position on public education resonated among those who believe the government is on the 'right track'. But, even those who feel the government is on the 'wrong track' are receptive to the idea teachers would be wrong to reject the government's new approach.

What do Ontarians think of the licence plate issue?

While 80% are aware of the licence plate issue, about 51% think it is a minor problem while 38% think it is a major problem.

Importantly, those who see the government is on the 'right track' are much more likely to see it as a minor problem, while those who see the government on the 'wrong track' tend to see it as major problem.

Key Highlights

1 Has the licence plate issue been addressed appropriately?

Close to 1-in-2 do not think the government has taken the appropriate steps to resolve the problem.

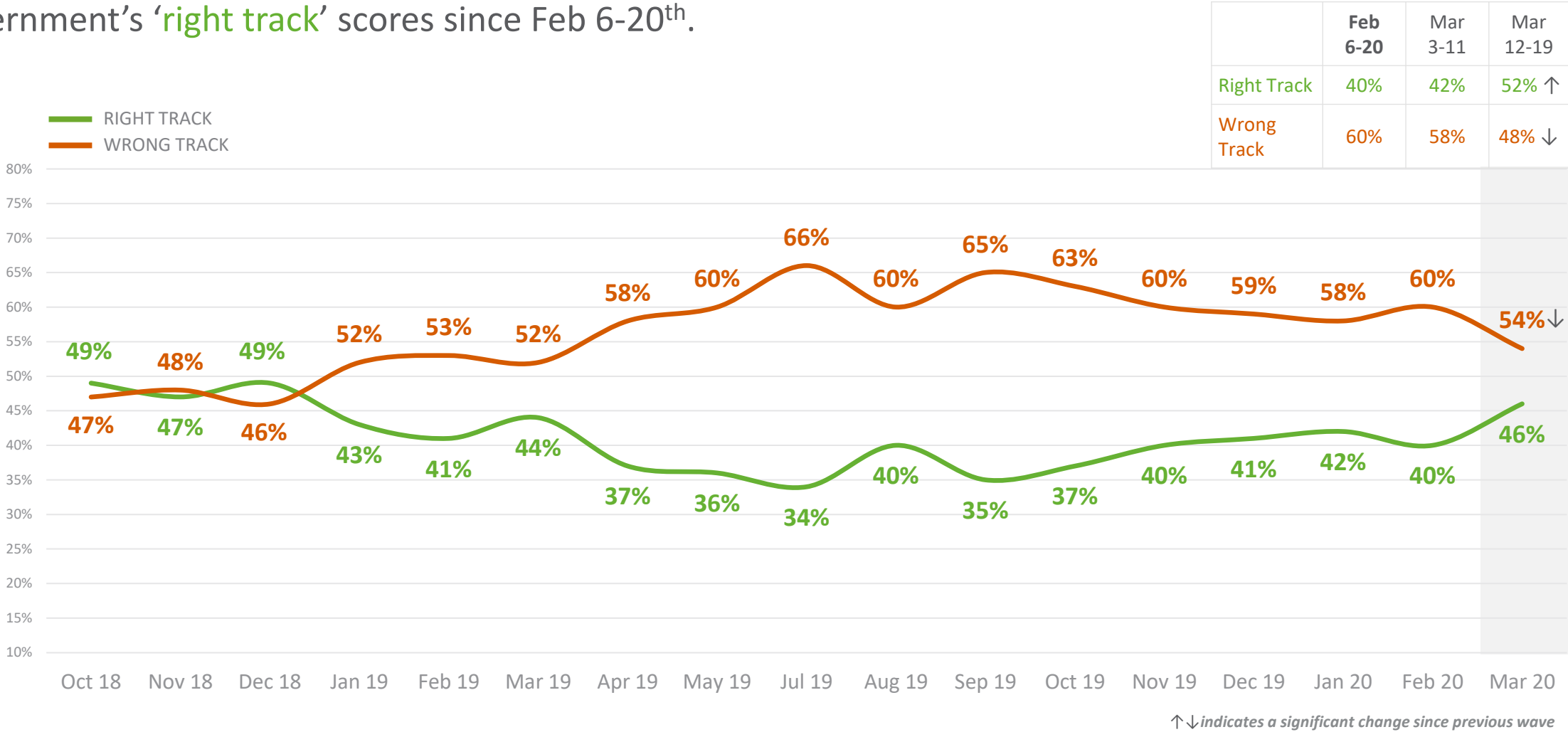
However, those who believe the government is on the 'right track' are much more likely to think that the government has taken the appropriate steps to address the issue compared to those think the government is on the 'wrong track'.

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RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK



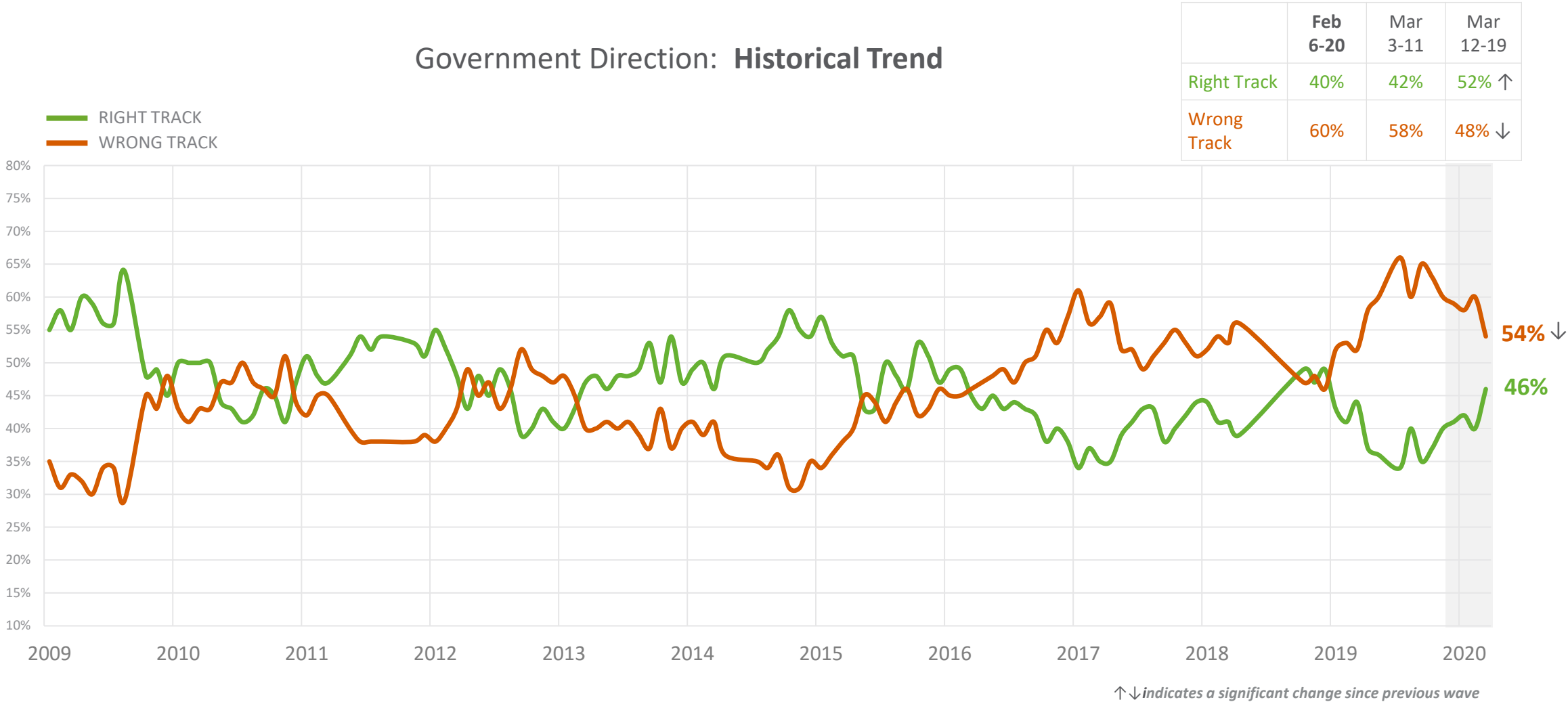
The March wave results reveals a sharp rise in government’s ‘right track’ scores. This trend started in early March, but it increased significantly from Mar 12-19th. There has been a 12 point boost in the government’s ‘right track’ scores since Feb 6-20th.



Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?

This sharp rise in ‘right track’ scores means that its gap with ‘wrong track’ has closed considerably. The Mar 12-19 ‘right track’ scores are almost on par with scores in 2011 and 2015.

Government Direction: **Historical Trend**

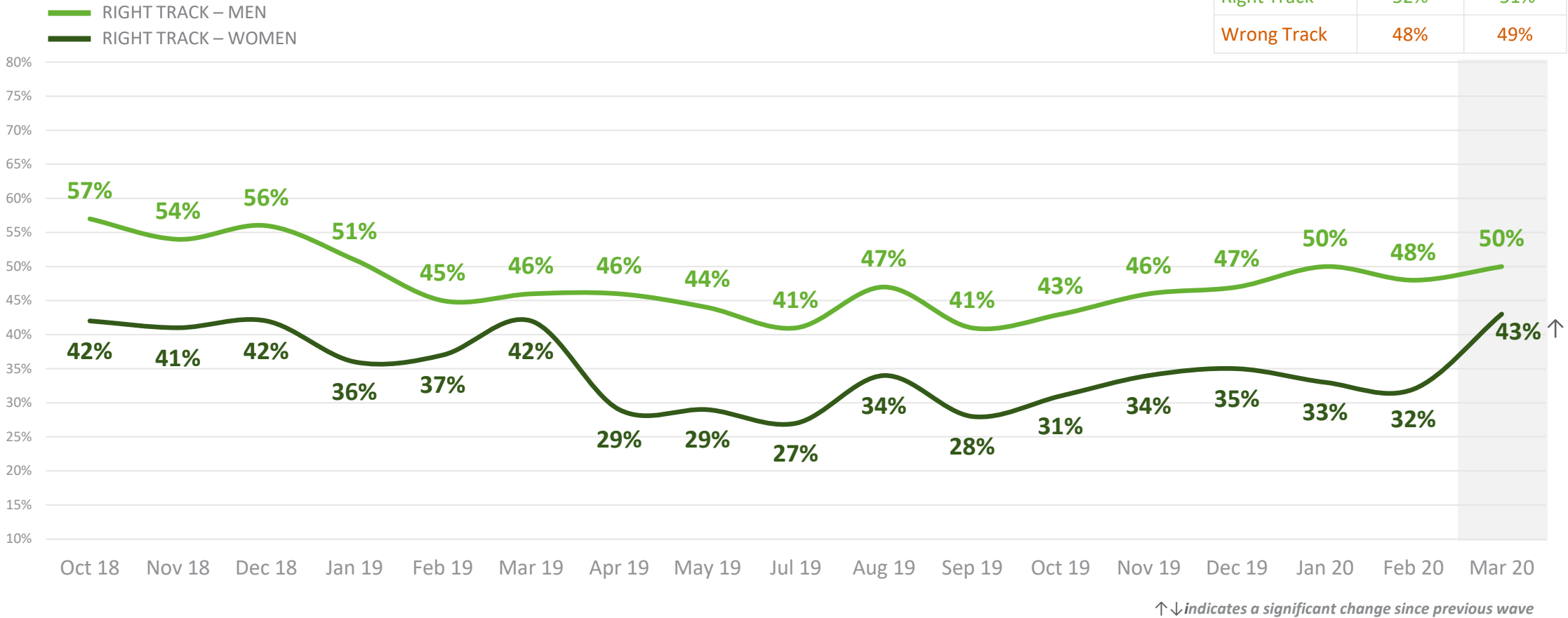


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?

There has been sharp increase in the proportion of **women** who believe the government is on the ‘**right track**’. The increase occurred over Mar 12-19th time period. Now, a majority of **women** believe the government is on the ‘**right track**’.

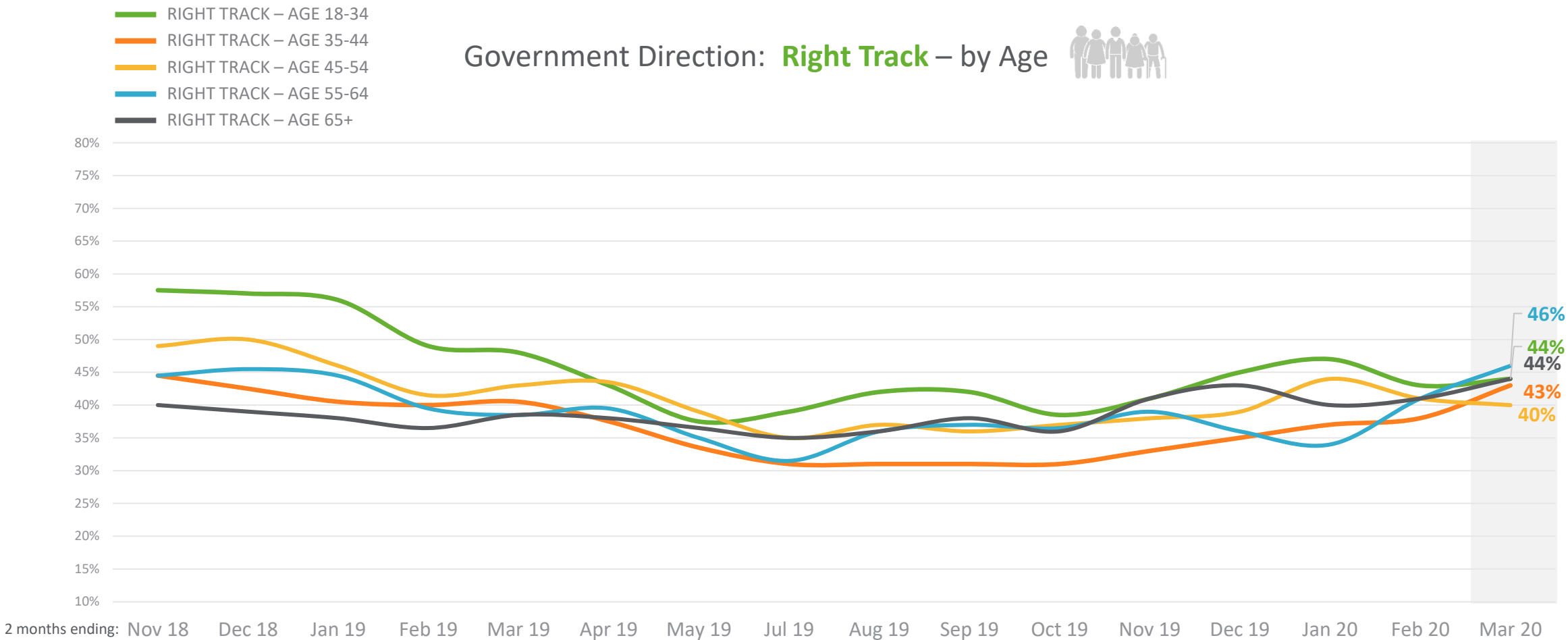
Government Direction: **Right Track** – by Gender 

	Mar 12-19	
	Men	Women
Right Track	52%	51%
Wrong Track	48%	49%



Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?

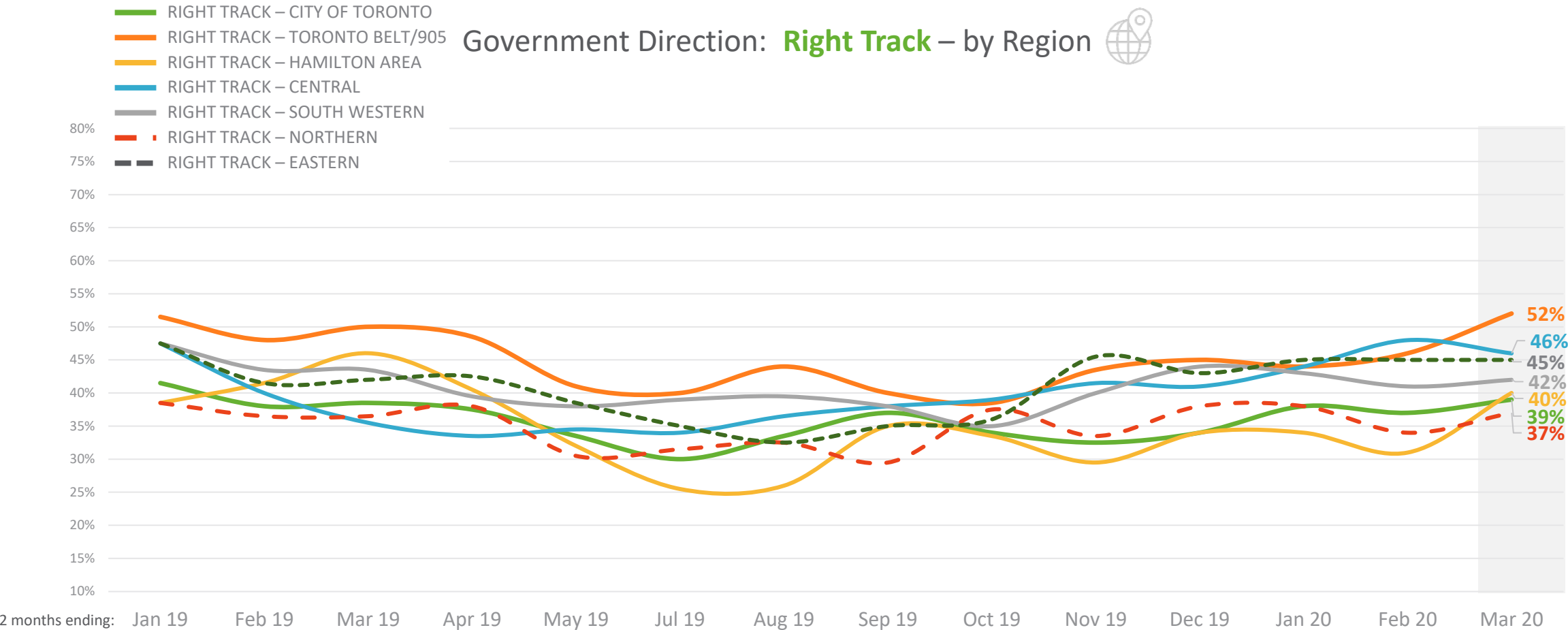
The 'right track' scores continue the upward trend in recent months among those aged 35-44 and 55-64.



Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?

Important Note: this data is being reported using two-month rolling in order to reduce sample error.

The ‘right track’ numbers edged upwards in the Toronto suburbs and Hamilton, while they are relatively stable elsewhere.



Important Note: this data is being reported using two-month rolling in order to reduce sample error.

Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?

March results indicate an uptick in ‘right track’ results among women of all ages, though it was particularly strong among those aged 18-24 and 55-64 .

Government Direction: **Right Track** – by Age and Gender

	Jul/Aug 2019	Aug/Sep 2019	Sep/Oct 2019	Oct/Nov 2019	Nov/Dec 2019	Dec'19/Jan'20	Jan/Feb'20	Feb/Mar'20
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men Age								
18-24	52	51	48	52	56	57	51	48
25-34	46	41	39	44	45	51	45	40
35-44	35	37	40	43	42	41	44	49
45-54	46	44	44	42	42	53	53	49
55-64	41	42	42	46	46	44	53	56
65+	44	48	41	45	49	46	49	51
Women Age								
18-24	48	50	38	36	42	41	46	58
25-34	28	34	32	33	40	41	33	37
35-44	27	25	21	21	25	33	31	35
45-54	28	28	29	35	37	34	29	32
55-64	30	31	30	32	27	24	27	35
65+	28	28	31	37	37	34	33	36

Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?

Important Note: this data is being reported using two-month rolling in order to reduce sample error.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



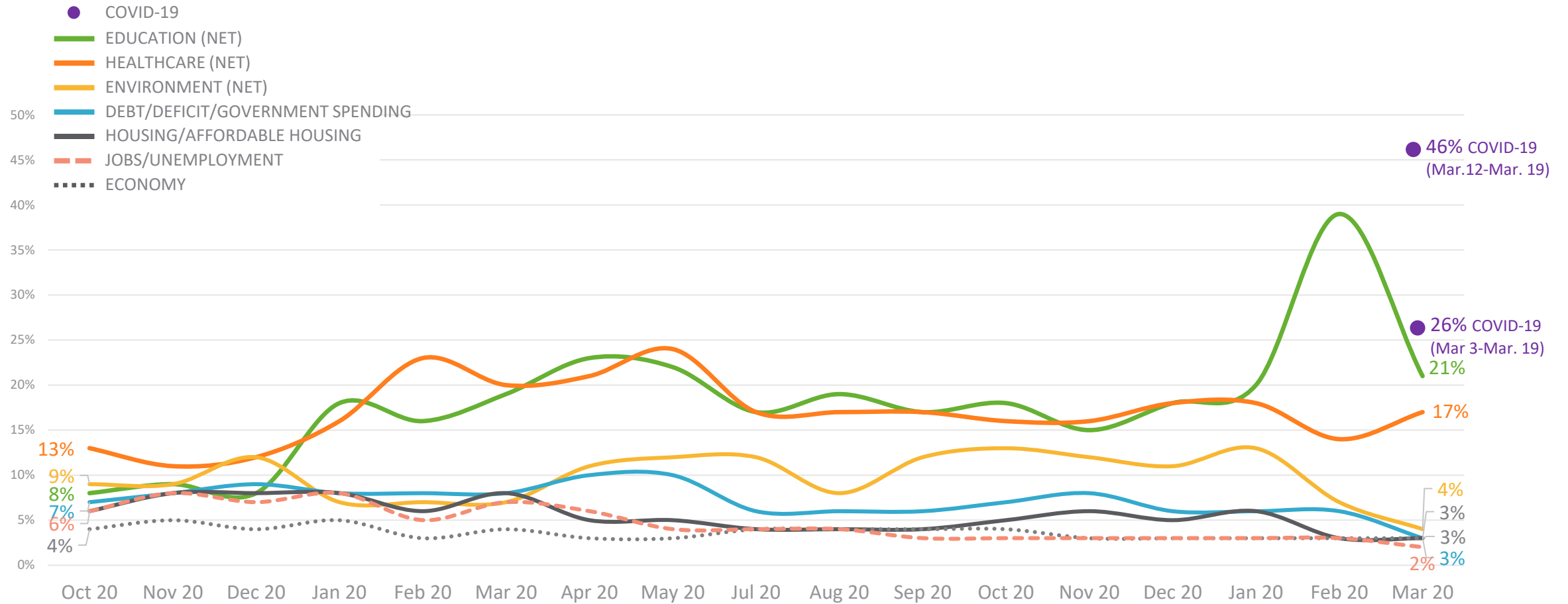
PERCEIVED GOVERNMENT’S TOP POLICY PRIORITIES

For March, about 10% thought COVID-19 was the top priority. **During Mar 12-19th, this score was 18%.** Education and health also received more mentions as priorities in March, while government spending/deficit received fewer mentions. Interestingly, political mentions have dropped off significantly since last year.

	MARCH 2020	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20
Education (NET)	26%	15%	12%	10%	20% ↑	19%	22%	19%	12% ↓	10%	13% ↑	13%	17% ↑	16%	13% ↓	22% ↑	26% ↑
Healthcare (NET)	18%	12%	10%	9%	14% ↑	23% ↑	19% ↓	16%	11% ↓	12%	12%	12%	17% ↑	15%	14%	13%	18% ↑
Government spending/debt/deficit/balance budget (NET)	17%	23%	27% ↑	26%	28%	35% ↑	28% ↓	34% ↑	21% ↓	19%	22%	22%	23%	25%	23%	23%	17% ↓
Political Mentions (NET)	14%	15%	17%	19%	18%	19%	23% ↑	27% ↑	18% ↓	16%	19%	17%	17%	16%	19%	16%	14%
COVID-19	10%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10%
Improve the economy	7%	8%	8%	7%	8%	6%	5%	3%	5% ↑	5%	6%	5%	4%	5%	5%	5%	7%
Cutbacks/cuts to services and programs	6%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11%	8%	7%	7%	9%	5% ↓	10% ↑	7% ↓	6%
Infrastructure (NET)	6%	8%	7%	8%	7%	8%	12% ↑	7% ↓	4% ↓	6%	4%	4%	6%	5%	6%	6%	6%
Create more jobs/ reduce unemployment	5%	9%	13% ↑	12%	11%	7% ↓	7%	5%	7%	7%	6%	5%	6%	5%	6%	5%	5%
Environmental (NET)	3%	6%	8%	12% ↑	8% ↓	6%	7%	10% ↑	5% ↓	4%	6%	7%	8%	7%	6%	6%	3%
Taxes	3%	18%	11% ↓	10%	8%	10%	6% ↓	8%	5% ↓	4%	4%	6%	5%	4%	5%	5%	3%
Crime/public safety	3%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1%	4%	3%	2%	3%	-	-	-	3%

↑↓ indicates a significant change since previous wave
* Responses with less than 3% are not shown

‘COVID-19’ is now the #1 issue that the public wants attention from the government. **In Mar12-19th, COVID-19 registered at 46% as the most important issue.** ‘Healthcare’ has increased slightly and ‘education’ and environment have dropped. As of yet, no movement on the economy is evident.



‘COVID-19’ is considered the most important issue to be addressed by government in all regions of the province, though this priority is shared with healthcare in Ottawa.

Perceptions of Top Issues Facing Ontario
that Should Receive Greatest Attention From the Ontario Government

MARCH 2020

	Total	City of Toronto	Toronto Belt/905	Hamilton Area	Central Ontario	South Western Ontario	Northern Ontario	Eastern Ontario	Ottawa CMA
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
COVID-19	26	27	27	36	20	25	23	32	17
Education (NET)	21	19	21	20	27	20	19	22	18
Healthcare (NET)	17	14	18	12	11	17	21	19	23
Environment (NET)	4	3	3	3	5	6	5	4	6
Debt/deficit/government spending	3	4	3	3	3	3	2	3	1
Housing/affordable housing	3	7	2	-	4	1	-	3	2
Economy	3	3	2	2	3	4	3	2	4

x=Top issue

CENTRAL ONTARIO	Mar 12-19	OTTAWA CMA	Mar 12-19
COVID-19	43%	COVID-19	26%
Education	12%	Healthcare	26%

Q1. Thinking about the issues presently facing Ontario, which ONE do you feel should receive the GREATEST attention from the Ontario provincial government? That is, what should be the top priority?

From Mar 12-19, the priority placed on COVID-19 as a top issue for the government of Ontario was high across all regions, with the exception of Ottawa.

Perceptions of Top Issues Facing Ontario
that Should Receive Greatest Attention From the Ontario Government

MARCH 12-19 2020

	Total	City of Toronto	Toronto Belt/905	Hamilton Area	Central Ontario	South Western Ontario	Northern Ontario	Eastern Ontario	Ottawa CMA
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
COVID-19	46	54	42	57	43	45	51	55	26

Q1. Thinking about the issues presently facing Ontario, which ONE do you feel should receive the GREATEST attention from the Ontario provincial government? That is, what should be the top priority?

Healthcare increased in importance as a top priority for government among those who feel the government is on the wrong track, while the importance of education and the environment fell.

What should be the top priority for Government?

	Right Track						Wrong Track					
	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20
COVID-19	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	32%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	21%
Education (NET)	9%	9%	12%	15%	27% ↑	13% ↓	24%	20%	23%	23%	47% ↑	28% ↓
Healthcare (NET)	11%	12%	14%	13%	13%	15%	18%	19%	20%	21%	14% ↓	18% ↑
Environment (NET)	5%	8%	7%	8%	3% ↓	2%	18%	15%	13%	17% ↑	9% ↓	6% ↓
Debt/deficit/government spending	14%	15%	12%	12%	11%	5% ↓	3%	4%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Housing/affordable housing	5%	5%	6%	6%	3%	3%	6%	7%	4% ↓	5%	4%	3%
Economy	5%	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%	3%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Jobs/unemployment	4%	5%	4%	4%	5%	2%	2%	1%	3%	3%	1%	2%

What is the perceived top priority for the government?

	Right Track						Wrong Track					
	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20
Education (NET)	15%	20% ↑	17%	16%	26% ↑	25%	12%	16% ↑	16%	11% ↓	20% ↑	27% ↑
Healthcare (NET)	16%	20%	15% ↓	19%	16%	20%	9%	15% ↑	15%	10% ↓	11%	16% ↑
Government spending/debt/deficit/balance budget (NET)	28%	29%	28%	29%	26%	18% ↓	18%	19%	23%	19%	22%	16% ↓
Political Mentions (NET)	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	23%	24%	23%	27%	23%	21%
COVID-19	-	-	-	-	-	15%	-	-	-	-	-	5%
Improve the economy	7%	5%	6%	6%	6%	9%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%
Cutbacks/cuts to services and programs	2%	3%	2%	4%	3%	2%	11%	12%	8% ↓	14% ↑	10% ↓	10%
Infrastructure (NET)	6%	6%	7%	9%	8%	8%	3%	5%	4%	5%	4%	4%
Create more jobs/ reduce unemployment	10%	9%	8%	11%	7%	7%	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%
Environmental (NET)	4%	8%	8%	6%	4%	3%	8%	8%	6%	6%	6%	2%
Taxes	5%	6%	3%	5%	5%	3%	6%	4%	4%	5%	5%	4%
Crime/public safety	2%	4%	-	-	-	4%	2%	2%	-	-	-	2%

↑↓ indicates a significant change since previous wave

- Q1. Thinking about the issues presently facing Ontario, which ONE do you feel should receive the GREATEST attention from the Ontario provincial government? That is, what should be the top priority?
- Q3. What do you think are the provincial government's top priorities?

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

The government is perceived to be performing strongly on the COVID-19 issue. The March wave also reveals an improvement in performance scores on many issue areas: ‘education’, ‘trust’, ‘quality healthcare’, ‘hospital overcrowding’, ‘environmental protection’, ‘lowering electricity prices’, ‘job creation’, ‘government works for people’, ‘protection from gun/gang violence’, ‘making life affordable’, ‘insurance rates, and ‘strengthening their financial future’.

NET SCORE (T3B-B3B)

	March 2020				Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20
Keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation	48	31	19	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+29
Delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians	31	36	32	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-7	-11	-1
Protecting citizens from gun and gang violence	28	37	33	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-10	-24	-22	-14	-17	-13	-5
Building public transit	26	39	30	5	+4	-6	-3	-1	3	-5	-11	-9	-3	-11	-4	-1	-11	-7	-4
Building the provincial economy	24	48	25	3	+7	+2	+5	+4	+3	0	-14	-11	-1	-9	-7	-1	-9	-2	-1
Creating and protecting jobs	23	44	31	2	-2	-6	-4	-1	-8	-13	-23	-20	-7	-17	-15	-5	-15	-12	-8
Ensuring that the Provincial Government works for people like you	22	38	40	1	-5	-10	-16	-7	-20	-20	-38	-30	-14	-35	-24	-21	-24	-24	-18
Cutting red-tape for business	21	46	18	15	+11	+5	+9	+3	+4	+7	-3	-2	+2	-4	0	+5	+2	0	+3
Ensuring excellent public education	21	30	48	1	-2	-13	-12	-11	-25	-28	-37	-33	-19	-36	-24	-30	-32	-36	-27
Reduce Ontario’s debt	21	42	30	7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-17	-18	-18	-12	-14	-12	-9
Improve Ontario’s finances	20	49	27	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-7	-12	-12	-8	-5	-8	-7
Creating opportunities for Ontarians to strengthen their financial future	20	41	36	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-15	-26	-29	-18	-25	-20	-16
Protecting the environment	20	37	42	2	-14	-17	-19	-11	-25	-28	-34	-29	-20	-37	-32	-28	-30	-32	-22
Building trust in the Provincial Government	17	36	45	2	-14	-22	-23	-22	-30	-31	-48	-41	-32	-42	-38	-30	-38	-37	-28
Lowering electricity prices	17	43	36	4	-7	-13	-14	-14	-20	-20	-33	-25	-19	-24	-25	-25	-23	-27	-19
Reducing overcrowding in hospitals	15	35	47	4	-17	-24	-25	-23	-29	-30	-44	-42	-25	-44	-41	-41	-37	-42	-32
Lowering taxes	14	45	37	3	-9	-13	-13	-11	-19	-19	-33	-30	-22	-32	-25	-24	-27	-24	-23
Making life more affordable	13	39	46	1	-11	-21	-21	-21	-25	-25	-46	-42	-24	-38	-31	-34	-35	-37	-33
Reducing auto insurance rates	9	36	45	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-43	-36
Good (7-9) Neutral (4-6) Poor (1-3) Don't Know AVERAGE:					-5	-12	-11	-10	-16	-18	-30	-26	-15	-26	-18	-20	-22	-14	

Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

The biggest gaps between those who see the government on the ‘right track’ and those who believe the government is on the ‘wrong track’ are: ‘education’, ‘trust’, ‘works for people like themselves’, ‘environment’ ‘quality healthcare delivery’, and ‘creating opportunities to strengthen financial future’.

NET SCORE (T3B-B3B)			
March 2020	Right Track	Wrong Track	Gap Size
	%	%	NET
Ensuring excellent public education	23	-68	91
Building trust in the Provincial Government	18	-64	82
Ensuring that the Provincial Government works for people like you	25	-53	78
Protecting the environment	20	-55	75
Delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians	37	-32	69
Creating opportunities for Ontarians to strengthen their financial future	22	-45	67
Building the provincial economy	33	-28	61
Creating and protecting jobs	25	-33	58
Keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation	51	-4	55
Making life more affordable	-2	-57	55
Improve Ontario’s finances	23	-30	53
Reducing overcrowding in hospitals	-2	-55	53
Building public transit	24	-27	51
Reduce Ontario’s debt	19	-32	51
Protecting citizens from gun and gang violence	23	-27	50
Lowering taxes	3	-44	47
Lowering electricity prices	4	-39	43
Reducing auto insurance rates	-17	-51	34
Cutting red-tape for business	17	-7	24
AVERAGE:	+18	-40	58 pts

Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

All regions, except Ottawa, have strong positive perceptions of the government’s handling of the COVID-19 situation. Residents living in City of Toronto and Toronto suburbs are the positive.

March 2020	NET SCORE (T3B-B3B)								
	Total	City of Toronto	Toronto Belt/905	Hamilton Area	Central Ontario	South Western Ontario	Northern Ontario	Eastern Ontario	Ottawa CMA
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation	+29	+36	+41	+12	+24	+30	+27	+23	-4
Delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians	-1	+3	+5	-10	-2	+1	-24	+5	-14
Protecting citizens from gun and gang violence	-5	-18	-10	-6	-5	+11	-6	+2	-5
Building public transit	-4	-4	+3	-8	0	-2	-17	-9	-28
Building the provincial economy	-1	0	0	+5	-1	+3	-8	-17	-3
Creating and protecting jobs	-8	-8	-2	-5	-13	+1	-27	-17	-6
Ensuring that the Provincial Government works for people like you	-18	-14	-16	-16	-24	-15	-28	-16	-26
Cutting red-tape for business	+3	+3	+4	+9	-2	+5	+3	+7	0
Ensuring excellent public education	-27	-23	-20	-32	-32	-23	-47	-23	-43
Reduce Ontario’s debt	-9	-6	-12	-11	-10	-5	-18	-15	-14
Improve Ontario’s finances	-7	-6	-2	-15	-4	-4	-15	-8	-11
Creating opportunities for Ontarians to strengthen their financial future	-16	-15	-15	-10	-17	-12	-27	-16	-21
Protecting the environment	-22	-28	-16	-25	-25	-14	-26	-22	-32
Building trust in the Provincial Government	-28	-26	-18	-28	-30	-26	-50	-30	-41
Lowering electricity prices	-19	-13	-16	-10	-28	-18	-41	-10	-31
Reducing overcrowding in hospitals	-32	-29	-29	-38	-30	-34	-44	-34	-32
Lowering taxes	-23	-16	-22	-21	-28	-23	-35	-16	-26
Making life more affordable	-33	-34	-33	-36	-35	-26	-42	-36	-31
Reducing auto insurance rates	-36	-32	-47	-44	-36	-33	-30	-30	-34
AVERAGE:	-14	-12	-11	-15	-16	-10	-24	-14	-21

Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

COVID-19



On the topic of COVID-19, there is a high level of concern regarding health, employment and financial security. People are generally more concerned about other members of their household vs themselves.

	March 16-19
% VERY/SOMEWHAT CONCERNED	%
The health of an immediate family member	78
The financial security of your household	67
Employment of an immediate family member	64
Your own health	61
Your employment	39

QCV-1. How concerned are you that the coronavirus or COVID-19 will affect you personally in each of the following ways?
Base: Total sample (n=317)

The news media is the primary information source. Almost 1-in-2 are paying attention to the federal and provincial governments.

- However, the Ontario public is more likely to report they are getting their information about COVID-19 from social media and friends/family/friends than from health professionals or their municipal government.

	March 16-19
ALL MENTIONS	%
News media	81
Social media	53
Federal Government	49
Provincial government	47
Friends, family, colleagues	38
Health professionals	35
Municipal government	32
Your employer	31
Other	18
None	1

Eight-in-ten (78%) report they have ‘definitely’ seen, read, or heard something from the Ontario government about measures they are taking to limit the spread of COVID-19. A further 13% say they may have.

	March 16-19
	%
Yes, definitely	78
Yes, maybe	13
No	9

Ontarians are expressing high levels of approval (84%) for the way the provincial government is handling the situation. These approval scores are having an impact on perceptions of the government being on the ‘right track’ and its performance in managing the issue.

	March 16-19
	%
STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT APPROVE	84
Strongly approve	38
Somewhat approve	46
Somewhat disapprove	9
Strongly disapprove	6
STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	14
Don't know/Refuse	2
Mean	3

QCV-5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you approve or disapprove of how the Government of Ontario is handling the situation?
Base: Total sample (n=317)

Three-quarters (75%) believe the provincial government is doing what is required to limit the spread of the virus. Almost one-in-five (17%) feel the government should be doing more.

	March 16-19
	%
Doing more than is necessary	8
Doing what is required	75
Not doing as much as they should	17

QCV-6. Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including advising the public and businesses about prevention measures and closing publicly funded schools, at this time would you say they are ...

Base: Total sample (n=317)

There is very strong support for the Ontario government to take variety of initiatives, including restricting large gatherings of people and requiring people to work from home.

	March 16-19
% YES	%
Restrict large gatherings of people	95
Require people who can work from home to do so	94
Ask the federal government to close Canada's border to non-essential visitors from overseas including tourists	94
Quarantine people who have traveled in areas severely impacted by coronavirus	94
Ask the federal government to close Canada's border to non-essential visitors from the United States and Mexico	88
Cancel all travel of Ontario residents to locations outside of Canada	81

There is strong support for protecting jobs of people who need to be isolated or need to be home to look after small children and providing financial assistance to part-time and contract workers.

	March 16-19
% YES	%
Protecting the jobs of those who need to be isolated or need to be home to look after small children	97
Providing financial assistance to part-time or contract workers who do not have access to paid sick days	96

There is also strong support for economic stimulus to protect the economy and increasing the deficit to introduce an economic stimulus package.

	March 16-19
% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	%
Providing an economic stimulus package to protect the economy during this COVID-19 situation	90
Increasing the deficit to introduce an economic stimulus package	79

QCV-10. Do you support or oppose the Ontario Government doing each of the following?
Base: Total sample (n=317)

Over 7-in-10 say they are aware of the COVID-19 assessment centres.

	March 16-19
	%
Yes	72
No	27
Don't know	1

QCV-12. Have you heard about the new COVID-19 assessment centres that have been set up at hospitals and health care facilities around the province?
Base: Total sample (n=317)

Almost two-thirds (64%) say they would go to an assessment centre if they exhibited symptoms of COVID-19. However, 27% indicated that they would go to hospital emergency department.

	March 16-19
	%
An assessment centre	64
Hospital emergency department	27
Don't know	9

QCV-13. If you were exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 which would you be more likely to go to ... an assessment centre or would you go to a hospital emergency department?
Base: Total sample (n=317)

PUBLIC EDUCATION



The March results indicate that the incidence of those having seen/heard/read something about education in Ontario is up significantly from December. Those who believe the government is on the ‘right track’ are more likely to be aware of education issues in March compared to a few months ago.

	March 2020	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19
Yes	88%↑	83%	79%	83%
No	12%	17%	21%	17%

	Read, seen or heard anything recently about education or schools in Ontario			
	% Yes			
	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Mar 20
Right Track	72	72	76	83 ↑
Wrong Track	89	84↓	88↑	91

QED-3. And now some questions about public education in Ontario. Have you read, seen, or heard anything recently about education or schools in Ontario?

↑↓ indicates significantly higher/lower than previous wave

There has been a significant shift in what education issues people have heard about over the past three months. The issue of the negotiations has shifted somewhat from education cuts to union labour action. This shift is evident among both those who see the government on the ‘right track’ and the ‘wrong track’.

	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	March 2020	Right Track				Wrong Track			
					Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Mar 20	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Mar 20
Union/CUPE labour action (e.g., new contracts)	23%	24%	33%	39% ↑	31%	32%	39% ↑	46% ↑	19%	20%	30% ↑	35% ↑
Class size	16%	18%	14%	16%	11%	15%	11%	13%	19%	21%	16% ↓	18%
Cuts to education/cuts in funding (e.g., laying off teachers)	32%	26%	23%	10% ↓	24%	17% ↓	17%	8% ↓	36%	31% ↓	27%	11% ↓
Teachers and government cannot reach an agreement	-	-	-	8%	-	-	-	4%	-	-	-	10%
Ongoing negotiations	<1%	3%	3%	3%	<1%	2%	2%	4%	1%	3%	4%	3%
Teacher's salary	-	-	2%	3%	-	-	4%	4%	-	-	1%	3%
Doug Ford/Ford government/breaking promises	2%	2%	-	3%	1%	1%	-	2%	2%	2%	-	4%
Online classes	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	2%
Closing schools	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	1%	-	-	-	2%

* Responses with less than 2% are not shown
↑↓ indicates a significant change since previous wave

AWARENESS OF TEACHER/STAFF NEGOTIATIONS

Awareness of the teacher/staff negotiations have increased significantly since Dec’19. Again, those who believe the government is on the ‘right track’ are much more likely to be aware of teacher negotiations in March compared to a few months ago.

	March 2020	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19
Yes		82% ↑ 74%	77%	76%
No	18%	26%	23%	24%

	Awareness of the negotiations with teachers and support staff			
	% Yes			
	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Mar 20
Right Track	67	73	71	79 ↑
Wrong Track	79	79	80	84

QED-5. Have you heard that there are negotiations with unions for a new agreement with teachers and support staff?

↑↓ indicates significantly higher/lower than previous wave

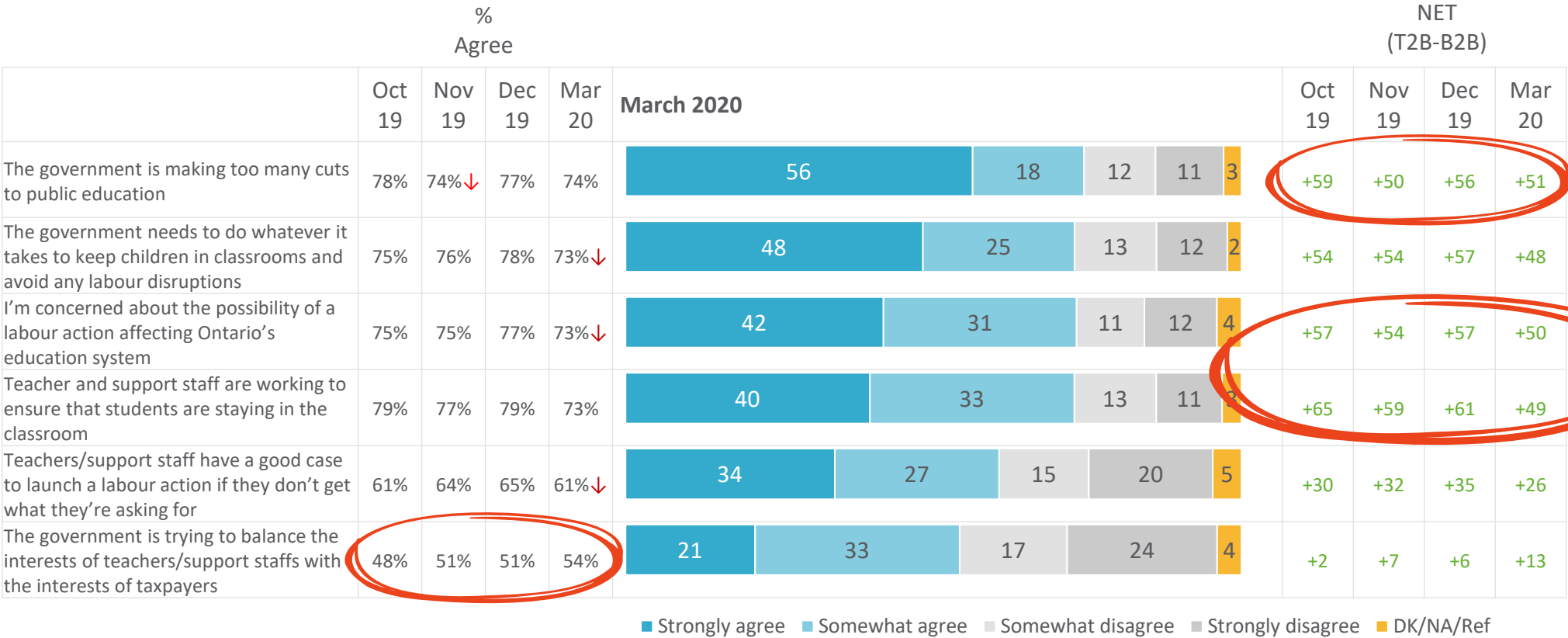
There has been a significant shift in the perceptions of the issue in the negotiations: there has been a shift toward class size from 23% in October to 52% in March. Again, this shift has occurred among both those that see the government on the ‘right track’ or ‘wrong track’.

	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	March 2020	Right Track				Wrong Track			
					Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Mar 20	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Mar 20
Class size	23%	30%	37%	52% ↑	19%	26% ↑	30%	44% ↑	24%	32% ↑	41% ↑	57% ↑
Compensation/pay/raise/salary/more money	21%	24%	23%	18% ↓	26%	29%	29%	27%	19%	20%	20%	12% ↓
Cut backs/cutting funds	6%	3%	3%	3%	5%	3%	3%	3%	6%	4%	3%	2%
E learning	-	-	-	3%	-	-	-	1%	-	-	-	4%
Government issues (e.g., not coming to the table, not listening)	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	1%	-	-	-	3%
Still in negotiations/discussions	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	3%	-	-	-	1%

↑↓ indicates a significant change since previous wave
* Responses with less than 2% are not shown

PERCEPTIONS ON KEY EDUCATION ISSUES

There was a substantial drop (16 points from October) in the proportion of Ontarians who think the teachers are working to ensure students are staying in the classroom. Fewer Ontarians believe the government is making too many cuts to public education and are worried about the possibility of labour disruption.

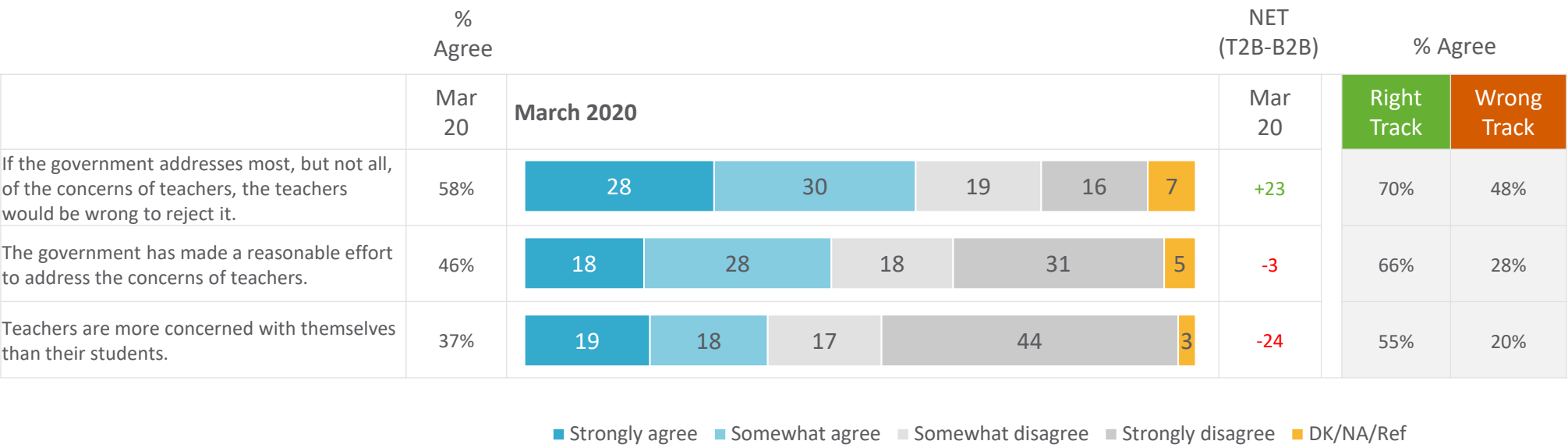


There have been some key shifts: those who see the government on the ‘**wrong track**’ are more likely to think that the government is trying to balance the interests of teachers/taxpayers. Both groups are less likely to believe teachers are working to ensure that students are staying in the classroom.

	% Agree							
	Right Track				Wrong Track			
	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Mar 20	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Mar 20
The government is making too many cuts to public education	54%	53%	56%	57%	93%	89%↓	91%	89%
The government needs to do whatever it takes to keep children in classrooms and avoid any labour disruptions	74%	75%	77%	73%	76%	77%	79%	73%↓
I’m concerned about the possibility of a labour action affecting Ontario’s education system	71%	70%	75%	71%	78%	78%	78%	75%
Teacher and support staff are working to ensure that students are staying in the classroom	69%	67%	71%	63%↓	85%	83%	85%	82%
Teachers/support staff have a good case to launch a labour action if they don’t get what they’re asking for	43%	49%	47%	47%	72%	74%	78%	73%↓
The government is trying to balance the interests of teachers/support staffs with the interests of taxpayers	77%	77%	73%	74%	31%	34%	36%	37%

↑↓ indicates significantly higher/lower than previous wave

A healthy majority (58%) believe if the government addresses most of the teachers’ concerns, it would be wrong for them to reject it. Almost 1-in-2 say that the government has made a reasonable effort to address the concerns of teachers.



The ‘right/wrong’ track analytic reveals that the government’s new position on public education resonated among those who believe the government is on the ‘right track’. But even those who feel the government is on the ‘wrong track’ are receptive to the idea teachers would be wrong to reject the government’s new approach.

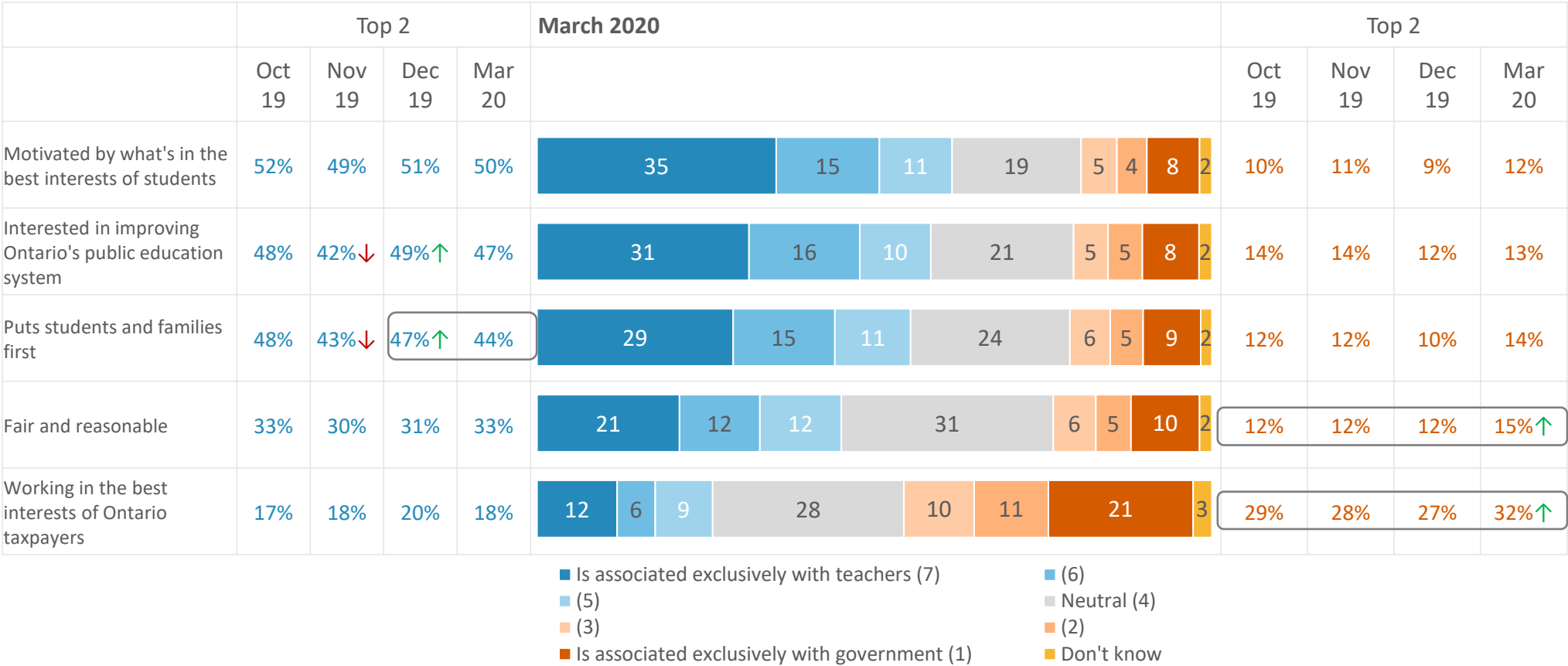
March results indicate that there has been a slight shift in views favouring the government on being ‘fair/reasonable’ and ‘working in the best interests of Ontario taxpayer’.



Associated with Teachers/Staff



Associated with Government



QED-8. Based on what you know about the negotiations between the teachers and the government, who do you most closely associate with the following characteristics? (PN: Scale of 1-7, 1 is associated exclusively with government, 7 is associated exclusively with teachers, 4 is neutral (not associated with either party)).

↑↓ indicates significantly higher/lower than previous wave

Not surprisingly, those who believe the government is on the ‘right track’ have become more critical of government, while becoming more positive about the teachers. Those who see the government is on the ‘wrong track’ have only inched in their positive perceptions of the government.



Associated Teachers/Staff

% Top 2



Associated with Government

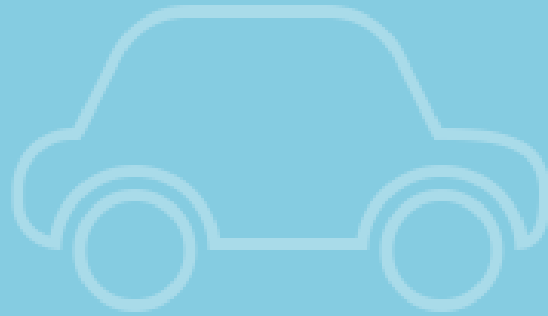
% Top 2

	Right Track				Wrong Track				Right Track				Wrong Track			
	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Mar 20	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Mar 20	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Mar 20	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Mar 20
Motivated by what's in the best interests of students	33%	31%	33%	31%	63%	61%	64%	65%	16%	18%	16%	21%↑	7%	6%	4%	6%
Interested in improving Ontario's public education system	27%	23%	30%↑	26%	60%	54%↓	62%↑	63%	26%	23%	22%	23%	8%	8%	6%	7%
Puts students and families first	28%	30%	30%	24%↓	60%	53%↓	59%↑	58%	22%	21%	17%	23%↑	7%	6%	5%	7%
Fair and reasonable	17%	16%	16%	15%	43%	39%	42%	45%	23%	23%	22%	26%	6%	6%	5%	8%
Working in the best interests of Ontario taxpayers	11%	14%	16%	9%↓	21%	20%	22%	24%	45%	42%	37%	48%↑	20%	18%	19%	21%

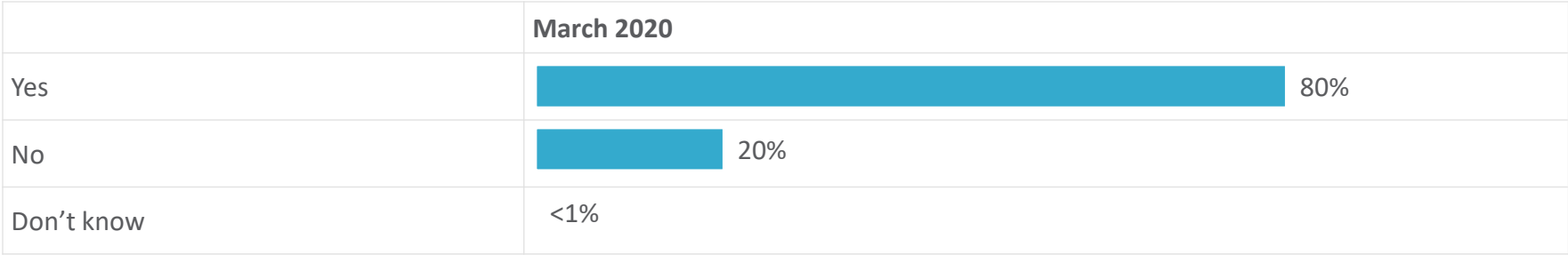
QED-8. Based on what you know about the negotiations between the teachers and the government, who do you most closely associate with the following characteristics? (PN: Scale of 1-7, 1 is associated exclusively with government, 7 is associated exclusively with teachers, 4 is neutral (not associated with either party)).

↑↓ indicates significantly higher/lower than previous wave
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VEHICLE PLATES



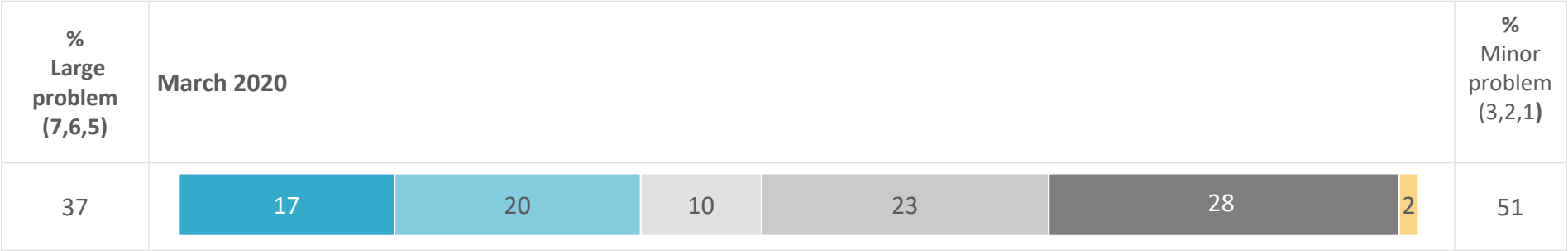
Eight-in-ten indicate an awareness of the recent issues with the design of Ontario’s new license plates.



	Awareness of any recent issues with the design of Ontario’s new license plates
	% Yes
Right Track	72
Wrong Track	85

QVP-1. Are you aware of any recent issues with the design of Ontario’s new license plates?

A slight majority (51%) see the new license plates as a minor problem, while just over one-third think it is a major problem. Those who see the government on the ‘right track’ are more likely to think this is a minor issue.



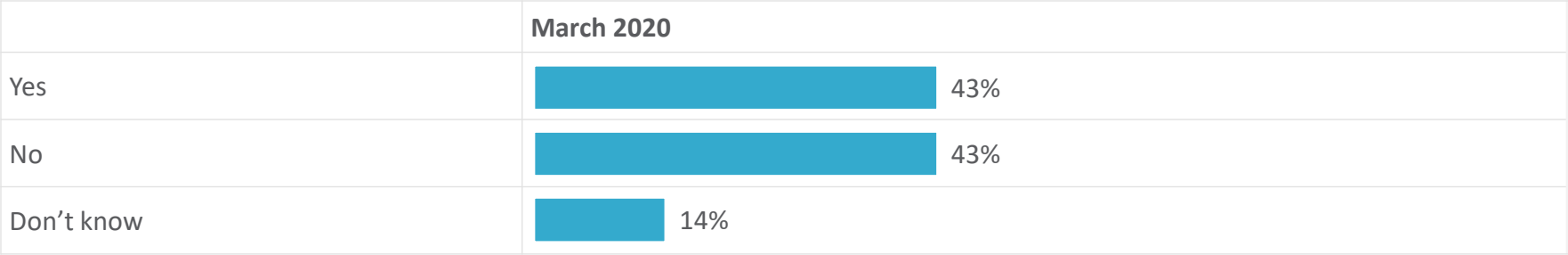
■ A very large problem (7) ■ (6/5) ■ (4) ■ (3/2) ■ A very minor problem (1) ■ Don't know

	% Who believe it is a Minor Problem
Right Track	61
Wrong Track	46

QVP-2. In your opinion, considering all of the issues the Government of Ontario is managing, how significant is this one? On a scale of 1 to 7, how significant is this issue if 1 mean a very minor problem and 7 means a very large problem?

LICENSE PLATES –APPROPRIATE STEPS TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM

Close to 1-in-2 do not think the government has taken the appropriate steps to resolve the problem. However, those who believe the government is on the ‘right track’ are much more likely to think that the government has taken the appropriate steps compared to those think the government is on the ‘wrong track’.



	% Yes
	Yes
Right Track	56
Wrong Track	37

ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS



About the Respondents

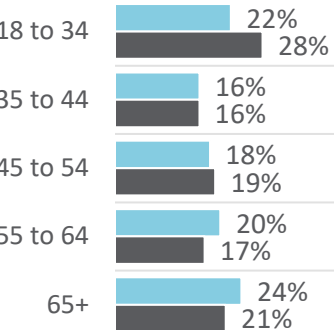
■ Unweighted
■ Weighted



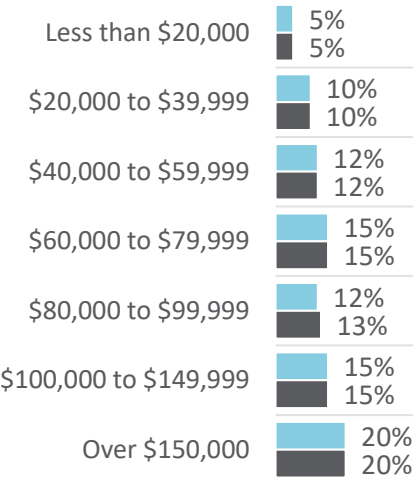
GENDER



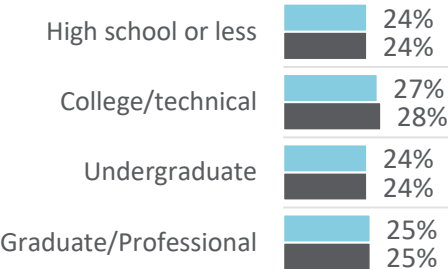
AGE



HOUSEHOLD INCOME



EDUCATION



EMPLOYMENT STATUS

