

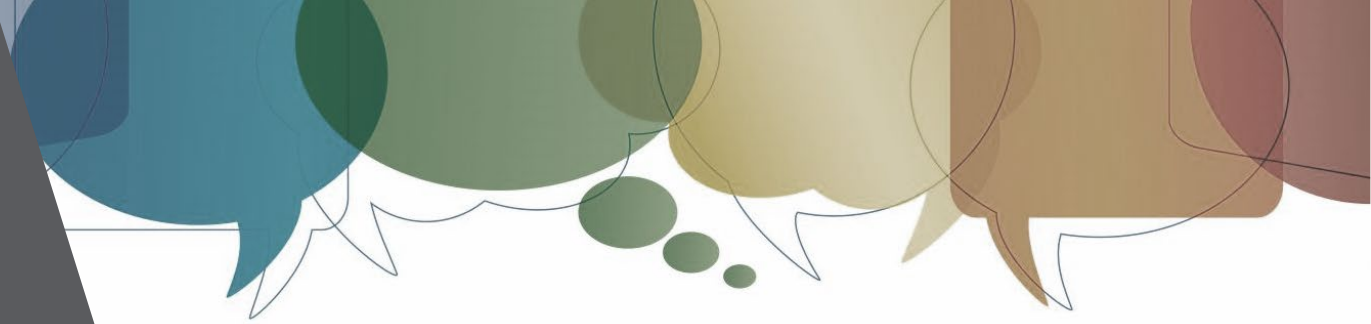


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MAY 2020 RESEARCH

PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #23

CABINET OFFICE

May 19th 2020



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 Government's 'right track' scores are stable at about 80% over the past four days.

The government's 'right track' scores are stronger (by 8-points) among women than men. This stands in sharp contrast to pre-COVID-19 when women consistently scored 'right track' much lower than men.

4 Ontarians' concern about COVID-19 remains strong: 7-in-10 want the government to continue to focus exclusively on COVID-19 and the economic impact.

However, a very slight majority (54%) thinks that the government could recall the legislature to sit during the summer to deal with other matters.

2 Over the long weekend, perceptions toward the government's performance on 'protecting/creating jobs' and 'building the provincial economy' improved after the announcement that the province will be entering phase 1 of the re-opening.

Perceptions toward government's performance on key health measures have reached their highest levels.

5 Today's announcement to delay the opening of public schools until the fall will likely strongly resonate among Ontarians given their increasing perceptions that schools should remain closed even if businesses are beginning to re-open.

3 As the government reopens the economy, there has been a steady increase (from 46% to 64%) in the awareness of the guidelines for the re-opening of Ontario businesses. At the same time, support for these guidelines to be legally enforceable has increased.

This reflects Ontarians' focus on health and safety as the government gradually re-opens the economy.

6 Ontario parents appear to be jittery about sending their children back to school in June, with about 6-in-10 saying they would not likely send their children back to school.

Indeed, a significant proportion feel strongly about this decision – 40% say they are 'not likely at all' to send their children back to school in June.

Key Findings

7 A large proportion (37%) of Ontarians think that none of the potential measures that were offered would have any impact on increasing their likelihood to send their children back to school.

The most frequently cited measure is requiring children to wash their hands regularly and offering hand sanitizers.

Ontario parents overwhelmingly believe that it is very difficult to enforce physical distancing in schools.

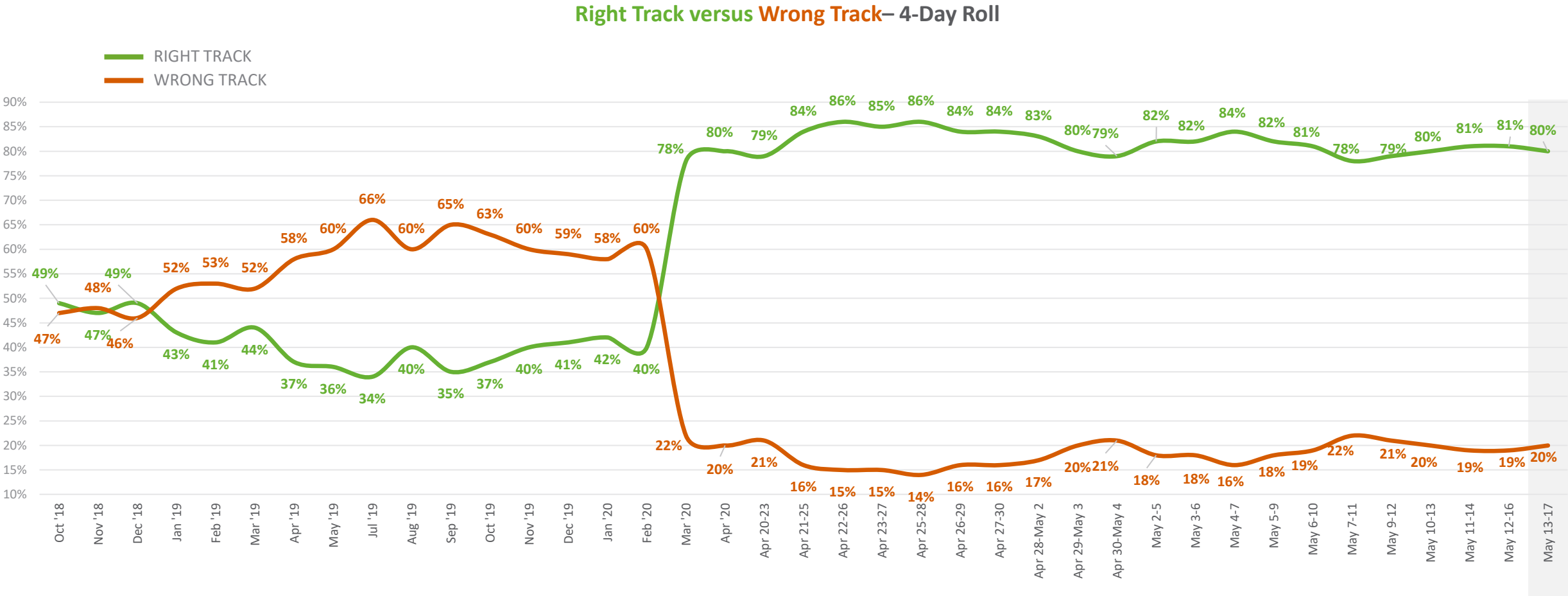
8 There is a lot of support for scheduling classes on alternating days as a way to enforce physical distancing.

There is tremendous resistance to the idea of having new teachers conduct instruction.

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK



The government’s ‘right track’ scores remained stable at 80% over the long weekend.

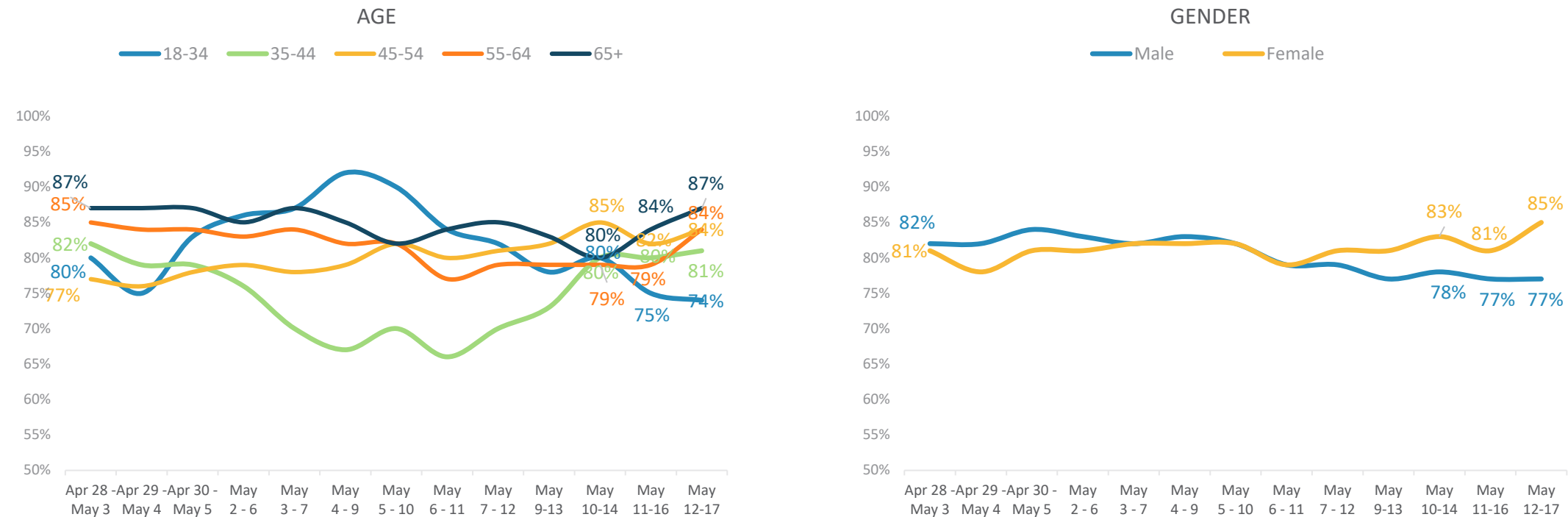


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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? Base: Total sample

The government’s ‘right track’ scores are stronger (by 8-points) among women than men. This stands in sharp contrast to pre-COVID-19 when women consistently scored ‘right track’ much lower than men.

Right Track Scores – 5-Day Roll

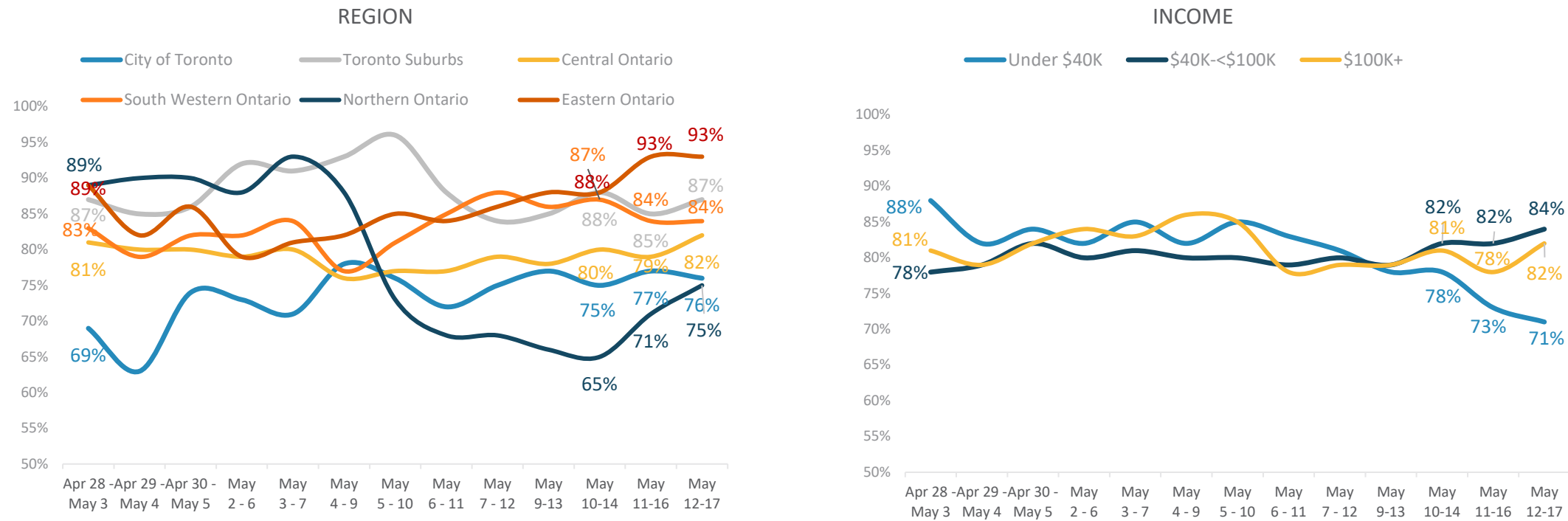


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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? Base: Total sample

After weeks of similar scores, a significant gap (34-points) has opened up between those earning \$40k-100k those earning less than \$40k with regard to ‘right track’.

Right Track Scores – 5-Day Roll

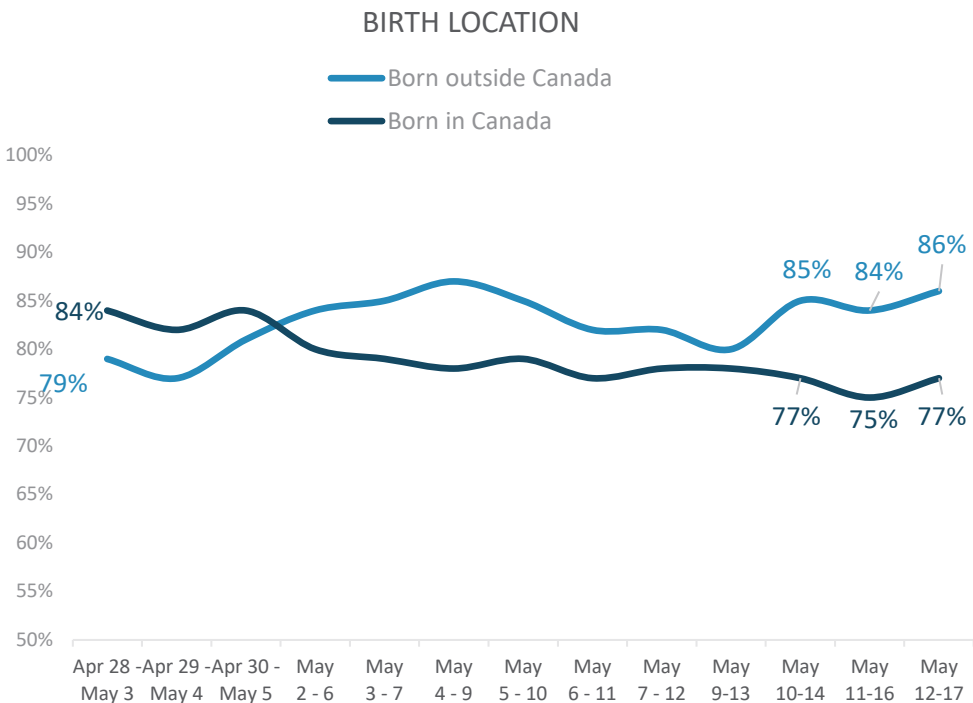
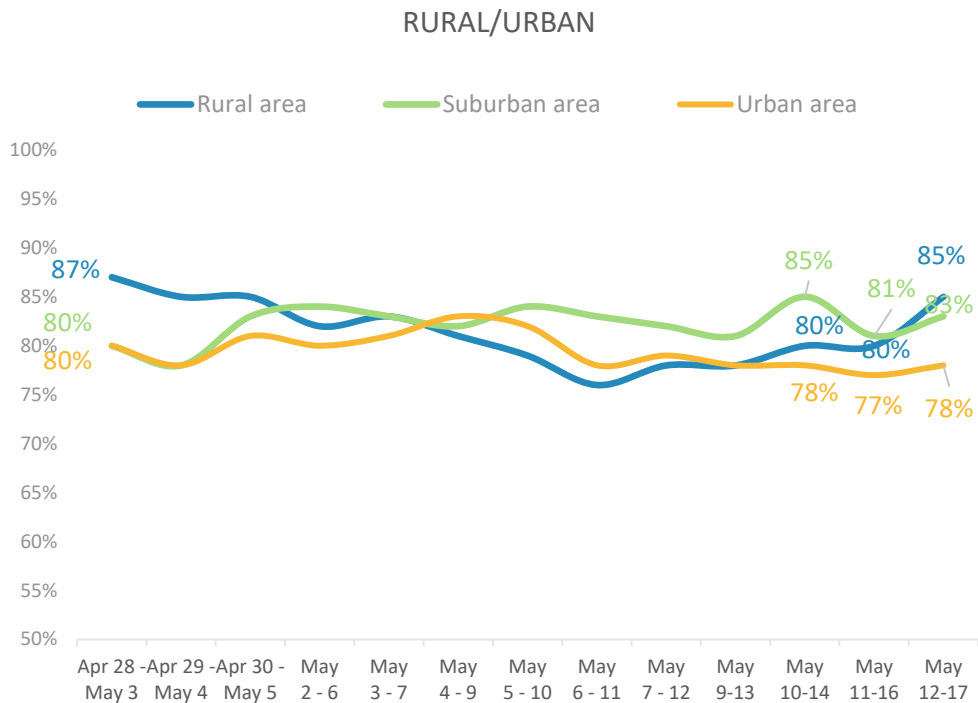


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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? Base: Total sample

Also, over the long weekend, the gap between those ‘born outside Canada’ and ‘born in Canada’ on ‘right track’ widened to 9-points.

Right Track Scores – 5-Day Roll



These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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? Base: Total sample

Over the long weekend, perceptions toward the government’s performance on ‘protecting/creating jobs’ and ‘building the provincial economy’ improved after the announcement that the province will be entering phase 1 of the re-opening.

- At the same time, the government’s performance on ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ is reaching its highest points -- +80. The government’s performance on ‘delivering quality healthcare in Ontario’ is very strong (+44).

NET SCORE: Good (7-9) – Poor (1-3)

	Mar '20	Apr '20	Apr 20-23	Apr 21-25	Apr 22-26	Apr 23-27	Apr 25-28	Apr 26-29	Apr 27-30	Apr 28-May 2	Apr 29-May 3	Apr 30-May 4	May 2-5	May 3-6	May 4-7	May 5-9	May 6-10	May 7-11	May 9-12	May 10-13	May 11-14	May 12-16	May 13-17
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
HEALTH METRICS																							
Delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians	-1	+32	+37	+36	+40	+33	+41	+43	+41	+47	+40	+36	+47	+40	+40	+31	+27	+32	+30	+35	+38	+41	+44
Reducing overcrowding in hospitals	-32	+3	+3	+2	+5	+4	+7	+10	+17	+19	+20	+22	+20	+13	+23	+20	+19	+19	+16	+14	+18	+22	+20
Keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation	+29	+67	+75	+74	+77	+77	+76	+73	+72	+71	+65	+65	+67	+70	+75	+75	+76	+68	+66	+68	+69	+74	+80
ECONOMIC/GOVERNMENT SPENDING METRICS																							
Building the provincial economy	-1	+30	+26	+34	+35	+33	+35	+33	+35	+31	+34	+41	+41	+38	+30	+22	+17	+16	+23	+25	+28	+34	+31
Creating and protecting jobs	-7	+27	+24	+30	+33	+27	+32	+25	+27	+28	+24	+32	+27	+27	+23	+24	+28	+20	+21	+18	+16	+24	+27
Improve Ontario’s finances	-6	+24	+23	+30	+31	+26	+29	+24	+23	+22	+17	+17	+17	+23	+27	+23	+27	+22	+16	+15	+16	+16	+18
Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+51	+55	+57	+55	+57	+52	+50	+50	+48	+50	+48	+51	+55
Managing the re-opening of the economy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+45	+40	+37	+39	+37	+38	+40	+41

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? Bases vary

COVID-19



Over the past week, the perception of Ontarians who think they would not catch COVID-19 has increased.

VIEWS ON THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE	Apr 4-6	Apr 5-7	Apr 6-8	Apr 7-11	Apr 8-13	Apr 9-14	Apr 11-15	Apr 13-16	Apr 14-18	Apr 15-19	Apr 16-20	Apr 18-21	Apr 19-22	Apr 20-23	Apr 21-25	Apr 22-26	Apr 23-27	Apr 25-28	Apr 26-29	Apr 27-30	Apr 28-May 2	Apr 29-May 3	Apr 30-May 4	May 2-5	May 3-6	May 4-7	May 5-9	May 6-10	May 7-11	May 9-12	May 10-13	May 11-14	May 12-16	May 13-17
n=	varies																																	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I don't think someone like me will get COVID-19	14	18	18	27 ↑	24	26	26	28	28	26	26	26	27	28	24	21	19	17	15	15	16	16	19	17	19	18	21	23	24	25	22	24	27	29

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about COVID-19:

Base: Total sample

Over the past several days, there has been a sharp increase in the proportion of Ontarians who are finding it very difficult not to socialize.

SOCIAL ISOLATION BEHAVIOUR

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE	Apr 4-6	Apr 5-7	Apr 6-8	Apr 7-11	Apr 8-13	Apr 9-14	Apr 11-15	Apr 13-16	Apr 14-18	Apr 15-19	Apr 16-20	Apr 18-21	Apr 19-22	Apr 20-23	Apr 21-25	Apr 22-26	Apr 23-27	Apr 25-28	Apr 26-29	Apr 27-30	Apr 28-May 2	Apr 29-May 3	Apr 30-May 4	May 2-5	May 3-6	May 4-7	May 5-9	May 6-10	May 7-11	May 9-12	May 10-13	May 11-14	May 12-16	May 13-17
n=	varies																																	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I find a lack of a social life extremely difficult	43	44	46	56	56	59	55	54	54	55	53	54	50	54	55	56	54	52	51	50	50	52	47	53	56	53	56	52	51	55	56	63	63	63

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about COVID-19:

Base: Total sample

About 4-in-10 of Ontarians continue to think that COVID-19 is getting under control in Ontario.

	Apr 25-28	Apr 26-29	Apr 27-30	Apr 28- May 2	Apr 29- May 3	Apr 30- May 4	May 2-5	May 3-6	May 4-7	May 5-9	May 6-10	May 7-11	May 9-12	May 10-13	May 11-14	May 12-16	May 13-17
n=	varies																
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I feel that COVID-19 is under control now in Ontario.	35	31	32	33	32	35	34	35	41	39	39	41	36	38	39	37	40
I feel that COVID-19 is under control now in most parts of the world.	20	16	19	20	21	26	31	31	34	29	29	23	18	19	21	24	26

QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...

Base: Total sample

Most Ontarians continue to express high levels of trust in the government’s communications about COVID-19 and the re-opening of the economy.

TRUST IN GOV’T COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19 AND OPENING THE ECONOMY

	May 6-10	May 7-11	May 9-12	May 10-13	May 11-14	May 12-16	May 13-17
n=	varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I trust what the Ontario government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation.	80	76	75	75	76	77	79
I trust what the Ontario government is saying about how they plan to re-open the provincial economy.	74	71	72	72	75	77	77

QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...

Base: Total sample

A significant proportion (46%) of Ontarians continue to think that not enough has been done to protect the residents of long-term care homes.

	Apr 9-14	Apr 11- 15	Apr 13- 16	Apr 14- 18	Apr 15- 19	Apr 16- 20	Apr 18- 21	Apr 19- 22	Apr 20- 23	Apr 21- 25	Apr 22- 26	Apr 23- 27	Apr 25- 28	Apr 26- 29	Apr 27- 30	Apr 28- May 2	Apr 29- May 3	Apr 30- May 4	May 2-5	May 3-6	May 4-7	May 5-9	May 6-10	May 7-11	May 9-12	May 10- 13	May 11- 14	May 12- 16	May 13- 17
n=	298	420	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	357	299	246	205	203	205
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Protecting residents of long-term care homes and retirement homes																													
Doing more than is necessary	4	5	6	5	4	3	2	3	3	4	5	5	5	4	4	2	2	3	2	3	4	3	4	3	3	5	5	5	5
Doing what is required	46	44	43	44	41	42	42	42	43	44	44	41	40	42	42	43	46	46	41	46	45	43	46	42	41	40	43	44	44
Not doing as much as they should	42	45	45	46	49	48	49	50	46	45	45	48	50	50	49	49	48	47	52	48	48	51	48	52	51	51	48	47	46
Don't know	7	7	6	5	5	6	6	6	8	7	6	6	5	4	5	5	4	4	5	3	3	3	3	3	5	5	4	5	6
Protecting front-line health care workers such as those working in hospitals, long term care homes and retirement homes																													
Doing more than is necessary	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	6	5	6	7	5	6	5	4	6	5	5	8
Doing what is required	52	51	48	49	49	47	48	42	46	49	49	48	49	46	48	50	51	56	55	56	57	55	57	53	49	52	54	58	58
Not doing as much as they should	38	40	43	43	44	44	44	50	47	44	44	45	43	46	44	41	40	35	37	35	33	36	34	38	43	37	37	34	30
Don't know	6	5	5	4	4	6	5	5	4	3	2	2	3	4	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	3	4	5	4	5	4	3	3

QCV-20. Thinking about the actions that the Government of Ontario has taken since the onset of COVID-19, at this time would you say they are doing more than is necessary, doing what is required or not doing as much as they should with respect to:

Base: Total sample

CONFIDENTIAL

MAKING THE WEARING OF A MASK A LEGAL REQUIREMENT

Over the weekend, there was slight swing (from 13% to 20%) toward the view that there should be an across the board law requiring people to wear masks outside their homes.

- Still, a significant minority (38%) thinks there should be a law requiring the wearing of a mask when people cannot engage in physical distancing, while a slight plurality believes that there should not be a law (40%).

	Apr 18-21	Apr 19-22	Apr 20-23	Apr 21-25	Apr 22-26	Apr 23-27	Apr 25-28	Apr 26-29	Apr 27-30	Apr 28- May 2	Apr 29- May 3	Apr 30- May 4	May 2-5	May 3-6	May 4-7	May 5-9	May 6-10	May 7-11	May 9-12	May 10-13	May 11-14	May 12-16	May 13-17
n=	Varies																						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
A law requiring everyone to wear a mask when they are outside their homes	23	25	22	22	21	22	21	21	20	19	16	13	14	14	16	16	15	14	13	13	14	18	20
A law requiring everyone to wear a mask when they are outside their homes and can't maintain physical distancing	34	31	32	32	34	36	38	39	40	41	41	47	45	45	44	44	44	44	43	42	40	38	38
I don't think there should be a law requiring masks to be worn.	41	41	44	45	44	42	40	40	39	39	41	38	38	39	39	39	41	42	44	44	44	42	40
Don't know	3	2	2	1	<1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	1	<1	<1	-	-	-	1	1	2

QCV-30. Which of these two approaches do you prefer:

Base: Total sample

CONFIDENTIAL

There continues to be very broad and deep support for the government's plan for a phased approach to re-opening the Ontario economy.

	Apr 29- May 3	Apr 30- May 4	May 2-5	May 3-6	May 4-7	May 5-9	May 6-10	May 7-11	May 9-12	May 10-13	May 11-14	May 12-16	May 13-17
n=	Varies												
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORT	91	90	91	90	88	88	84	84	86	87	88	86	86
Strongly support	42	43	45	47	46	43	38	34	33	34	40	45	44
Somewhat support	49	47	46	43	42	44	46	50	53	52	48	40	41
Somewhat oppose	5	5	4	5	6	5	7	6	5	6	4	5	4
Strongly oppose	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	3	5	4	5
TOTAL OPPOSE	8	8	7	8	9	9	11	11	9	9	9	10	9
Don't know	1	2	2	2	3	3	5	5	5	5	4	5	5

QCV-47. Ontario government is currently rolling out a three staged approach to open up the economy. (Previous phrasing) This plan involves a 3 stage approach, each lasting 2 to 4 weeks long and the length of each stage being determined by medical indicators of the incidence and severity of COVID 19 in the province. Overall do you support or oppose this overall approach?

Base: Total sample

Over the past week, there has been a steady increase (from 46% to 64%) in the awareness of the guidelines for the re-opening of Ontario businesses. This reflects Ontarians’ focus on health and safety.

	May 6-10	May 7-11	May 9-12	May 10-13	May 11-14	May 12-16	May 13-17
n=	Varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	46	49	52	55	62	63	64
No	54	50	48	45	38	36	35
Don't know	<1	<1	<1	-	-	1	1

Most Ontarians think that guidelines requiring physical distancing, frequent handwashing, sanitizing of services, staggered shifts, physical barriers, and contactless payment methods will help to stop the spread of the virus.

	May 6-10	May 7-11	May 9-12	May 10-13	May 11-14	May 12-16	May 13-17
n=	184	242	300	258	209	208	206
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL IMPACT	90	90	87	87	85	86	88
Strong impact	38	36	34	33	33	31	34
Somewhat strong impact	52	54	53	54	53	55	54
Very little impact	7	7	9	11	13	11	9
No impact at all	2	2	2	2	1	3	3
TOTAL LITTLE/NO IMPACT	9	9	12	12	14	14	12
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	1	-

QCV-53. The guidelines for re-opening include requirements for physical distancing, frequent handwashing and sanitizing of surfaces, staggered shifts, installing physical barriers, and contactless payment options. How much of an impact do you feel these guidelines will have on stopping the spread of COVID-19 infections?

Base: Total sample

Over the past week, there has been a steady increase (from 63% to 73%) in the support for provincial guidelines to be legally enforced.

	May 6-10	May 7-11	May 9-12	May 10-13	May 11-14	May 12-16	May 13-17
n=	184	242	300	258	209	208	206
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Voluntary	35	36	35	33	31	27	26
Legally enforced	63	61	63	65	67	71	73
Don't know	3	2	2	2	2	2	2

QCV-54. Do you believe that these guidelines should remain voluntary or should they be legally enforced?
Base: Total sample

RECALLING THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE DURING THE SUMMER

A slight majority (54%) thinks that the government should recall the legislature this summer to deal with other issues. A significant minority believe it is too early to recall the legislature and it should remain focused on matters related to COVID-19.

- Those people who are aged 45 to 64 are the most likely to think the legislature should be recalled this summer to deal with other pressing issues.

	May 13-17
n=	302
	%
The government should recall the Ontario legislature to deal with other pressing matters besides those related to COVID-19, even if it means sitting throughout the summer.	54
It is too soon to recall the Ontario legislature to consider other issues, as the Government should only be focused on dealing with matters related to COVID-19	40
Don't know	6

QCV-70. Thinking of these two points of view, which one best reflects your own?

Base: Total sample

Most Ontarians (71%) think the government should focus exclusively on stopping the spread of COVID-19 and its economic impact/reopening of the economy. There is little appetite for other pressing issues at this time.

- Those people who are aged 18-34, or are living in the GTA, are the most inclined to believe the government should focus exclusively on stopping the spread of COVID-19 and its economic impact/reopening of the economy.

	May 13-17
n=	302
	%
Focus exclusively on stopping the spread of COVID19 and its economic impact and reopening of the economy	71
Begin to focus on other pressing matters not related to COVID-19	25
Don't know	4

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about COVID-19:

↑↓ indicates a significant change since previous wave

Ontario parents appear to be jittery about sending their children back to school, with about 6-in-10 saying they would ‘not likely’ send their children back to school in June.

- A significant proportion feel strongly about this decision – 40% say it is ‘not likely at all’ they would send their children back to school in June.

	May 11-17
n=	159
	%
TOTAL LIKELY	36
Very likely	18
Somewhat likely	18
Not very likely	22
Not likely at all	40
TOTAL NOT LIKELY	61
Don’t know/not sure	3

POTENTIAL MEASURES TO INCREASE LIKELIHOOD TO RETURN CHILDREN TO SCHOOL

A large proportion (37%) of Ontarians think that none of these potential measures would have any impact on increasing their likelihood to send their children back to school.

- The most frequently cited measure is requiring children to wash their hands regularly and offering hand sanitizers.

	May 11-17
n=	159
	%
Staff and students are required to wear face masks at all times.	17
Physical distancing measures are enforced on school property.	18
The number of children in each class is limited and -students are seated 6 feet apart.	21
All children are required to wash hands regularly and hand sanitizers are available at the doors.	38
Classes and hallways are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected daily.	25
None of these measures would increase the likelihood my child/children would/will return	37

QCV-61. Which two of the following safety measures would increase the likelihood of having your child/children return to school?
Base: Parents with children in public schools

Most parents overwhelmingly believe it is ‘very’ difficult for schools to enforce physical distancing.

	May 11-17
n=	159
	%
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT EASY	8
Very easy	2
Somewhat easy	6
Somewhat difficult	18
Very difficult	75
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT	92
Don’t know/not sure	-

About 6-in-10 favour scheduling classes on alternating days so that fewer students are in school each day.

“Scheduling classes on alternating days so that fewer students are in school each day.”

	May 11-17
n=	159
	%
TOTAL FAVOUR	62
Strongly favour	30
Somewhat favour	32
Neither favour nor oppose	14
Somewhat oppose	9
Strongly oppose	15
TOTAL OPPOSE	24
Don't know	1

QCV-63A. To what extent do you favour or oppose each of the following as a way of ensuring physical distancing in schools?
Base: Parents with children in public schools

Most Ontario parents are not keen on the idea of reassigning some children to a new teacher – only 28% like this approach.

“Splitting up classes and reassigning some children to a new teacher,
which would mean some students would not have their current teacher.”

	May 11-17
n=	159
	%
TOTAL FAVOUR	28
Strongly favour	5
Somewhat favour	24
Neither favour nor oppose	20
Somewhat oppose	12
Strongly oppose	39
TOTAL OPPOSE	51
Don't know	1

QCV-63B. To what extent do you favour or oppose each of the following as a way of ensuring physical distancing in schools?
Base: Parents with children in public schools

Most Ontario parents prefer to have online instruction with their child’s current teacher versus having their child taught by a different teacher with instruction delivered in-person.

	May 11-17
n=	159
	%
Having your child/children continue online instruction, working with their current teacher(s)	66
Having your child/children return to in-class instruction, possibly working with a different teacher	31
Don't know	2

QCV-64. Which one of the following two options do you prefer?
Base: Parents with children in public schools

Not surprisingly, parents believe overwhelmingly that children have access to reliable internet and have a laptop, tablet or desktop computer. About 7% say they do not have these prerequisites for online instruction.

	May 11-17
n=	159
	%
Reliable internet	
Yes	93
No	7
A laptop, tablet or desktop computer	
Yes	92
No	7
Don't know	1

Ontario’s parents appear to be split on the idea of shifting missed parts of the current school year to next year.

	May 11-17
n=	159
	%
TOTAL STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE	42
Strongly agree	17
Somewhat agree	26
Neither agree nor disagree	13
Somewhat disagree	19
Strongly disagree	25
TOTAL STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	44
Don’t know/not sure	1

QCV-66. Because students missed part of their current school year as a result of COVID-19, additional time should be added to next year’s academic calendar.
Base: Parents with children in public schools