

**93% AWARE OF  
DISCOVERY OF REMAINS**

**A TURNING POINT IN  
PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR  
ACTION FOR INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLE?**

**BROAD SUPPORT FOR ACTION  
TO RECOGNIZE AND  
RECONCILE RESIDENTIAL  
SCHOOL IMPACTS**

**ABACUS DATA**

DETAILED RESULTS FOR Canadian Race Relations Foundation

# **CANADIANS REACT TO THE DISCOVERY OF REMAINS AT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL**

**RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS FROM CANADA'S LEADING PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS AND MARKET RESEARCH EXPERTS**

# **METHODOLOGY**

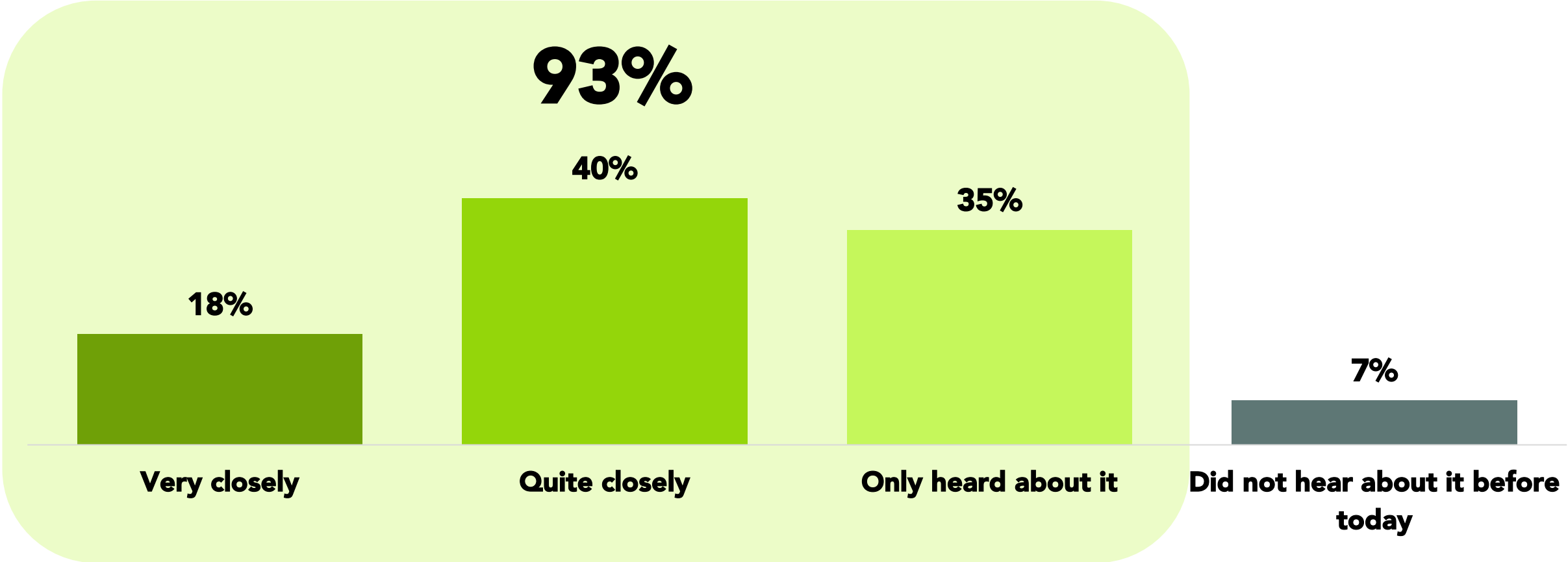
**The survey was conducted with 3,000 Canadian adults between the dates of June 4 to 8, 2021. A random sample of panelists were invited to complete the survey from a set of partner panels based on the Lucid exchange platform. These partners are typically double opt-in survey panels, blended to manage out potential skews in the data from a single source.**

**The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of the same size is +/- 1.76, 19 times out of 20.**

**The data were weighted according to census data to ensure that the sample matched Canada's population according to age, gender, educational attainment, and region. Totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding.**

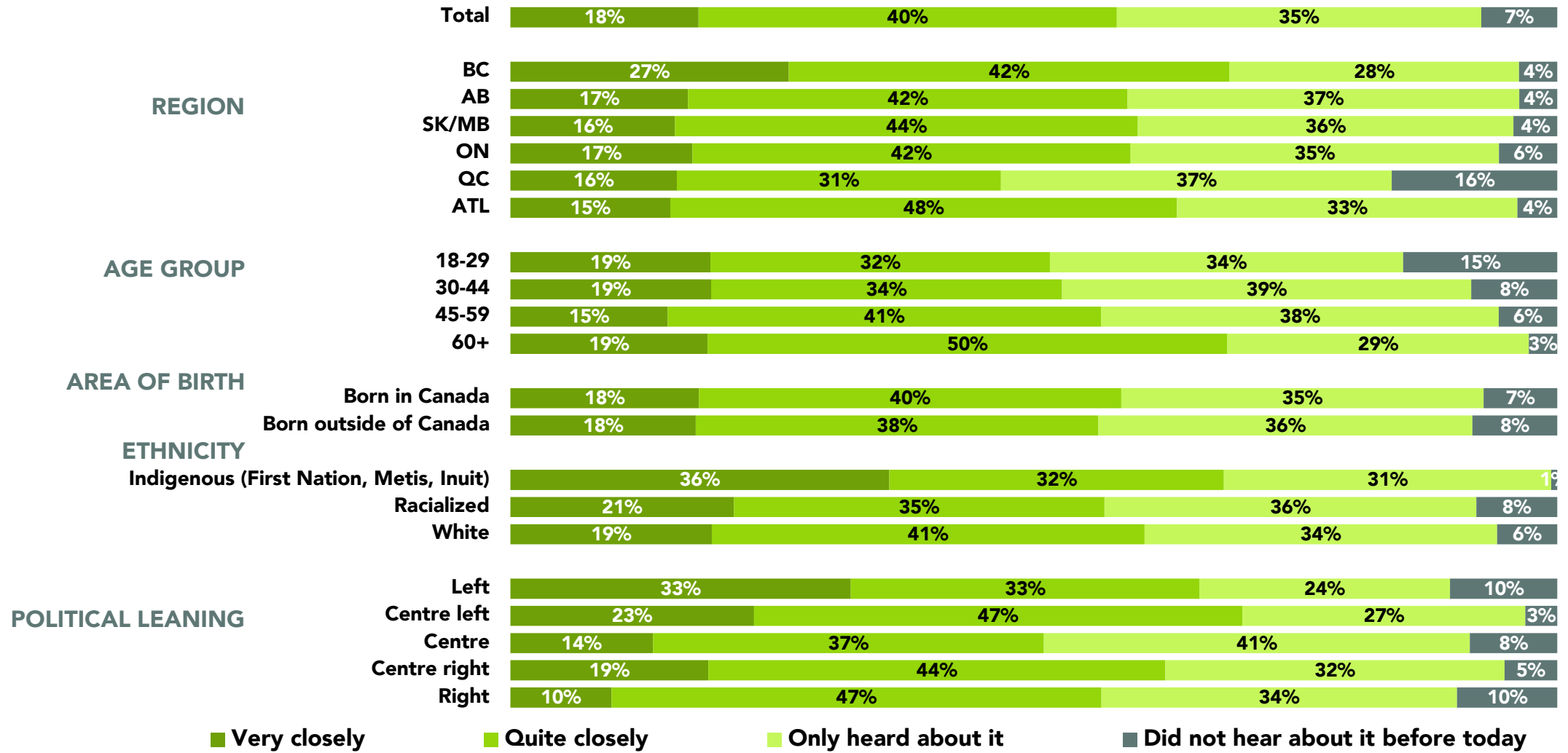
**The survey was commissioned by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and the Assembly of First Nations.**

# 4 IN 10 HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING NEWS OF THE DISCOVERY OF REMAINS AT THE KAMLOOPS RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL CLOSELY; 93% ARE AWARE OF IT.



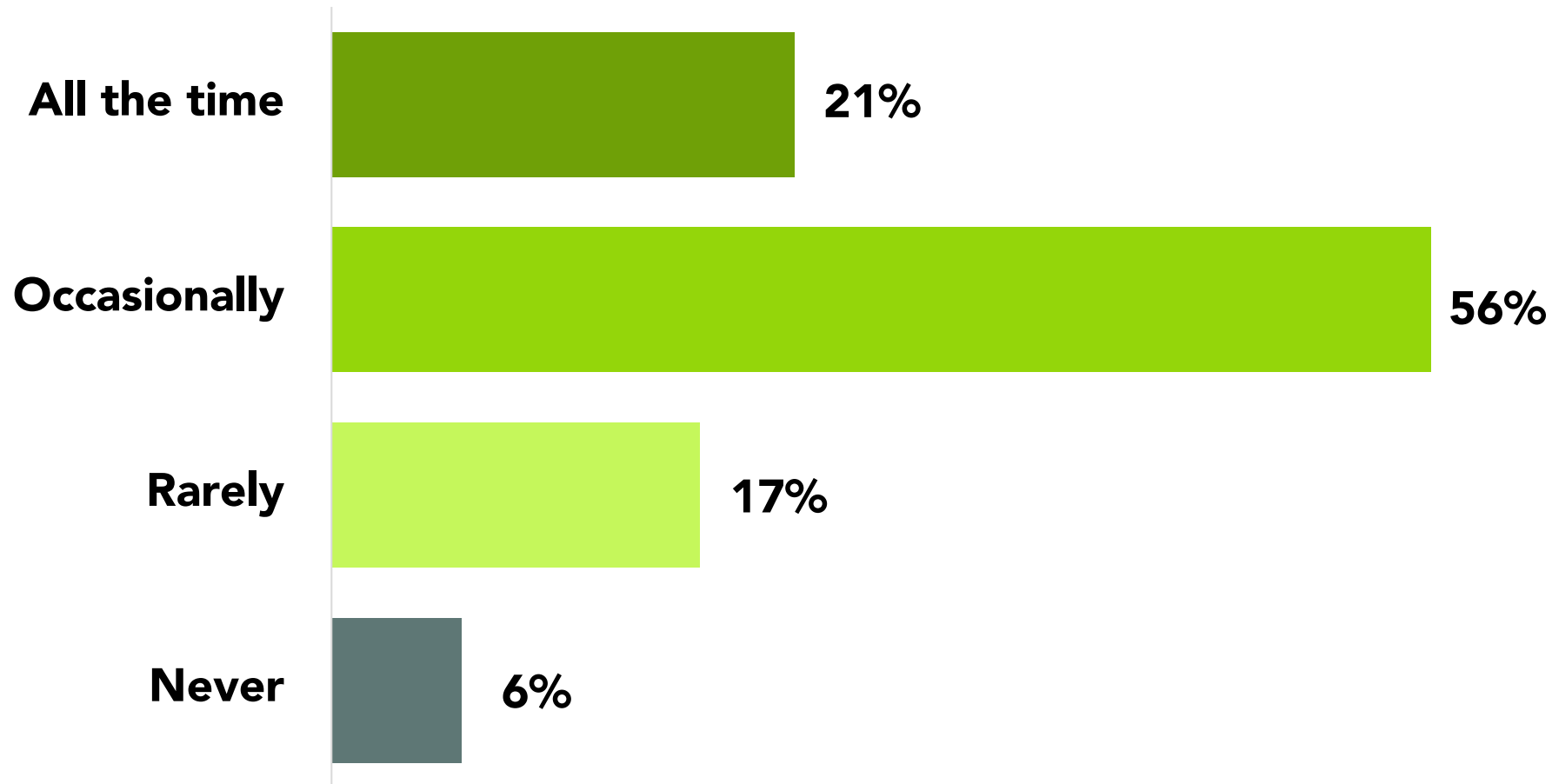
How closely, if at all, have you been following news about the recent discovery of the remains of 215 children at an Indigenous residential school in BC?

# ATTENTION TO NEWS ABOUT THE DISCOVERY OF THE REMAINS OF 215 INDIGENOUS CHILDREN



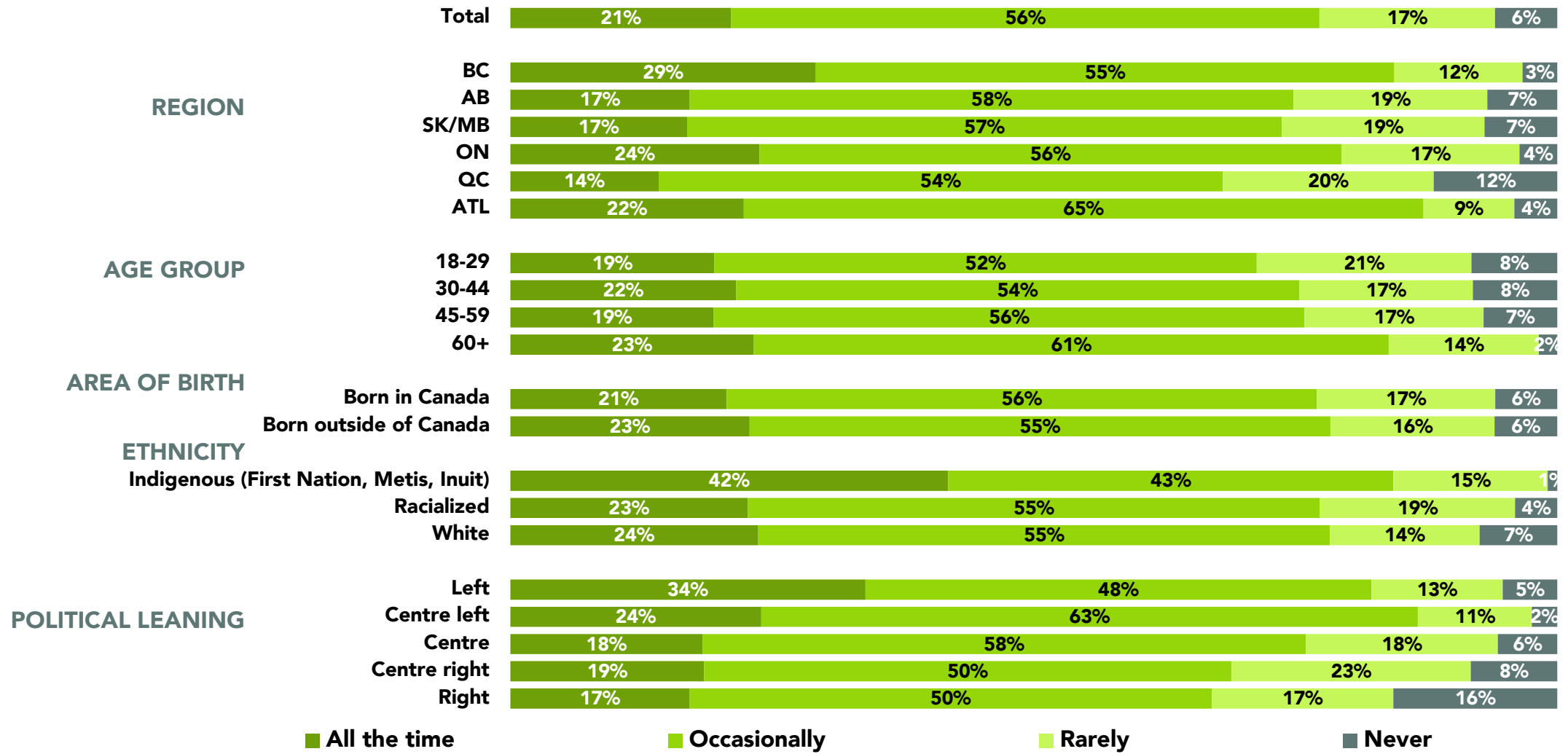
How closely, if at all, have you been following news about the recent discovery of the remains of 215 children at an Indigenous residential school in BC?

# HOW OFTEN ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT THE STORY AND HOW INDIGENOUS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TREATED?



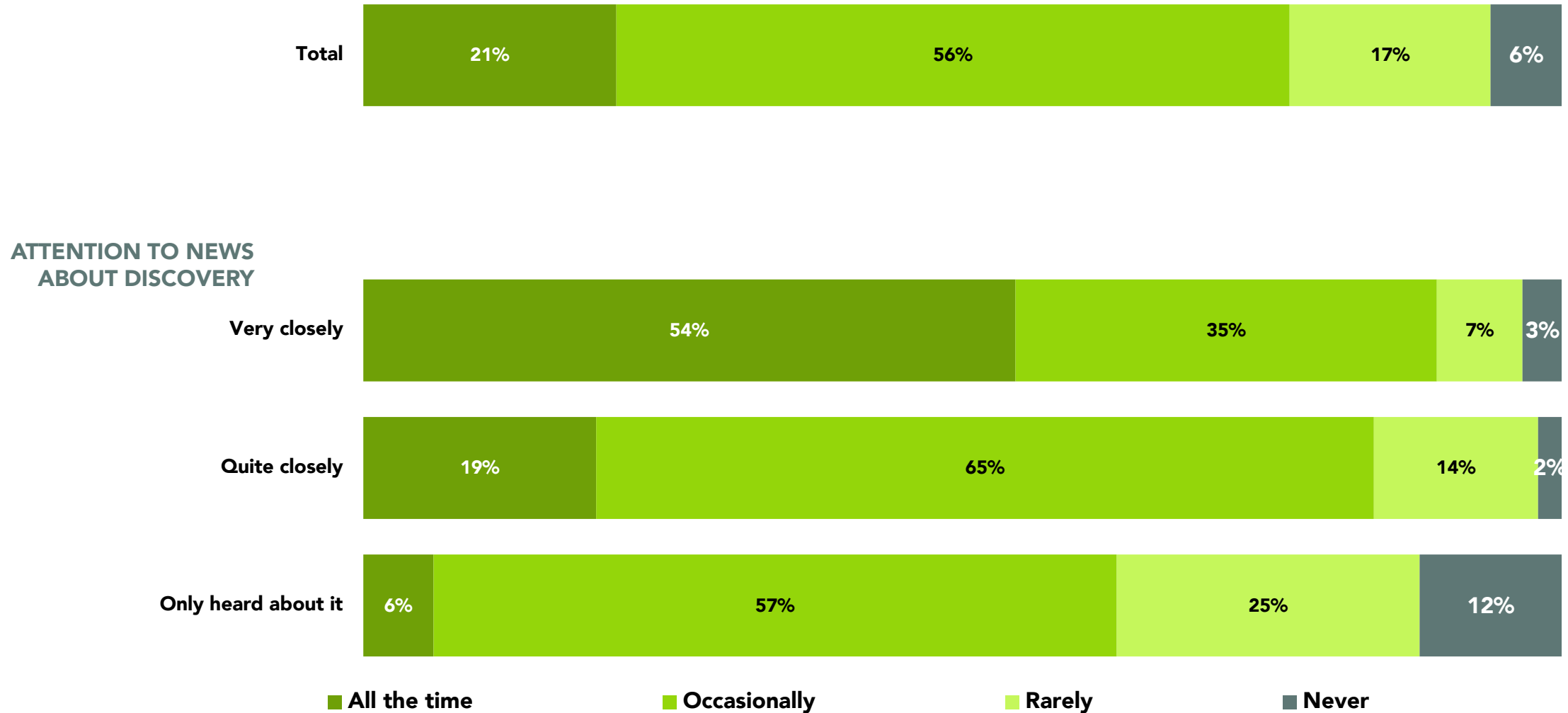
Since hearing about the discovered remains of children at the residential school, how often do you find yourself thinking about it and how Indigenous people have been treated?

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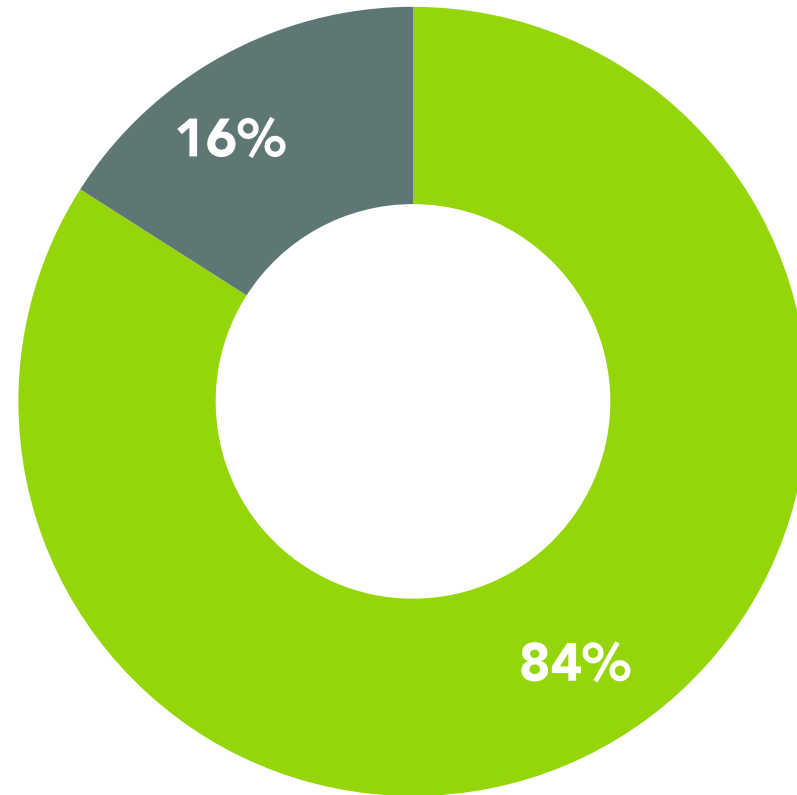
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# HOW OFTEN ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT THE STORY AND HOW INDIGENOUS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TREATED?



Since hearing about the discovered remains of children at the residential school, how often do you find yourself thinking about it and how Indigenous people have been treated?

# 4 IN 5 EXPECT THERE TO BE MORE GRAVESITES FOUND AT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS IN THE FUTURE



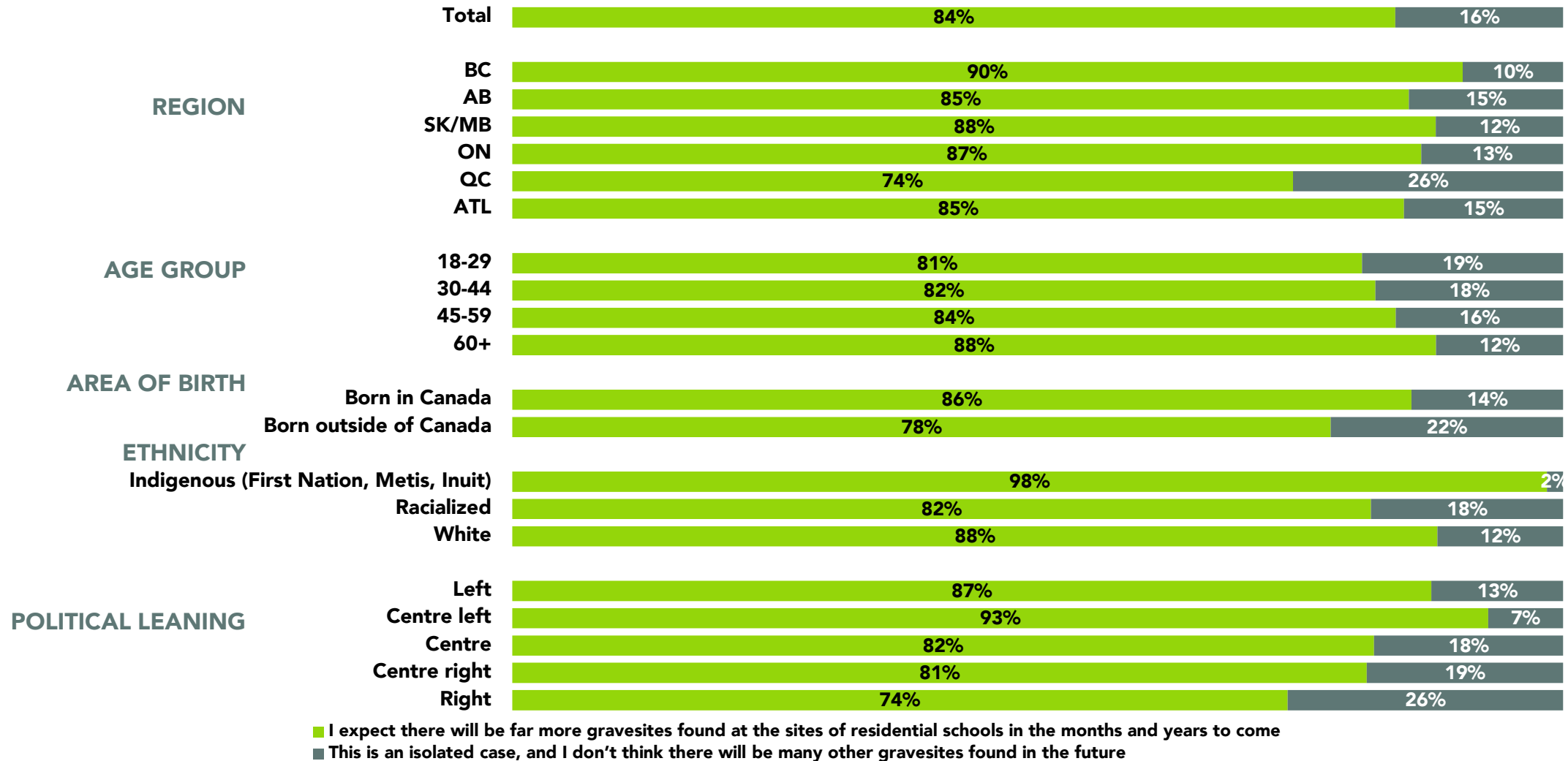
■ I expect there will be far more gravesites found at the sites of residential schools in the months and years to come

■ This is an isolated case, and I don't think there will be many other gravesites found in the future

Which of the following comes closest to your view?

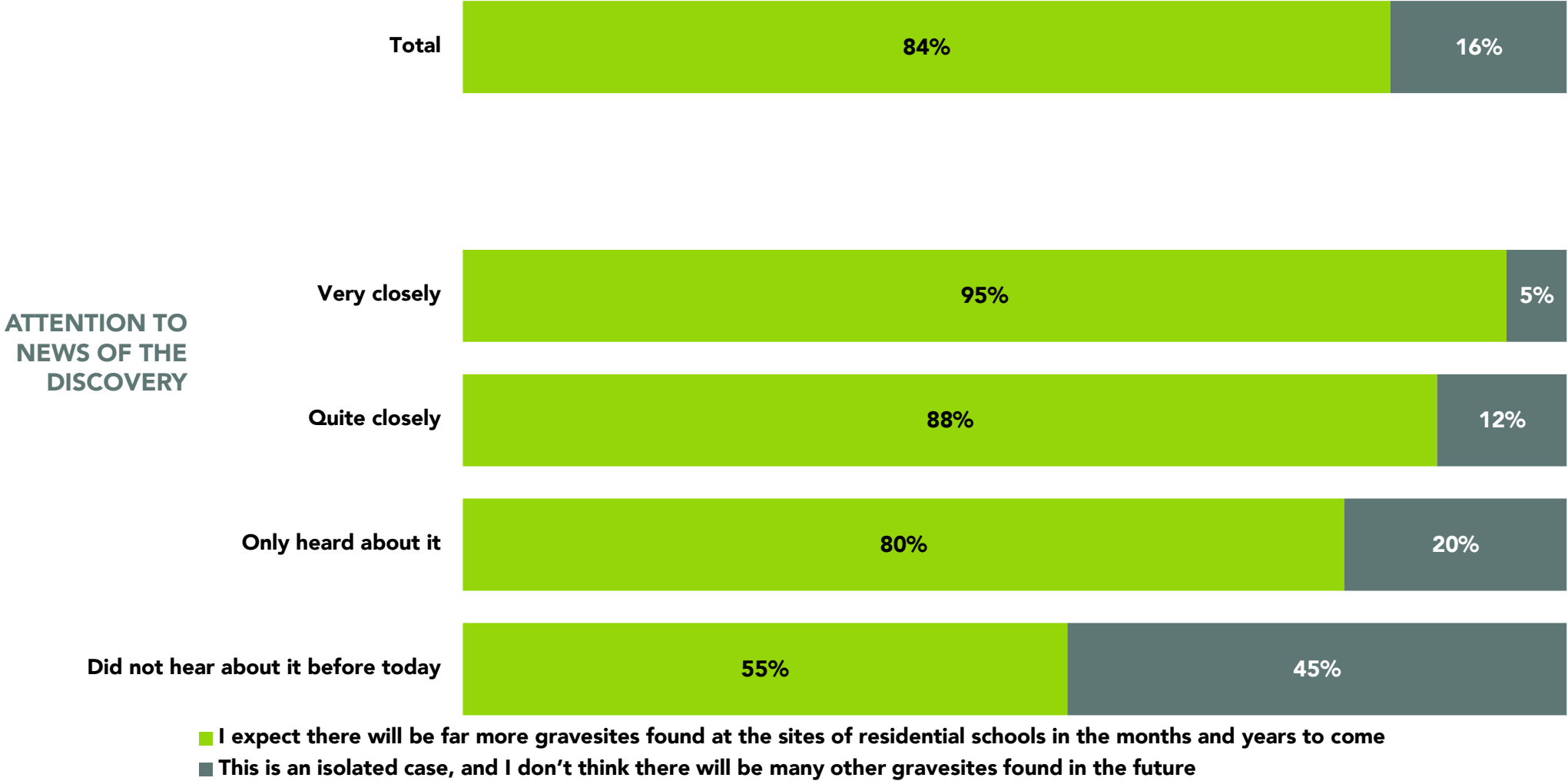


# 4 IN 5 EXPECT THERE TO BE MORE GRAVESITES FOUND AT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS IN THE FUTURE



Which of the following comes closest to your view?

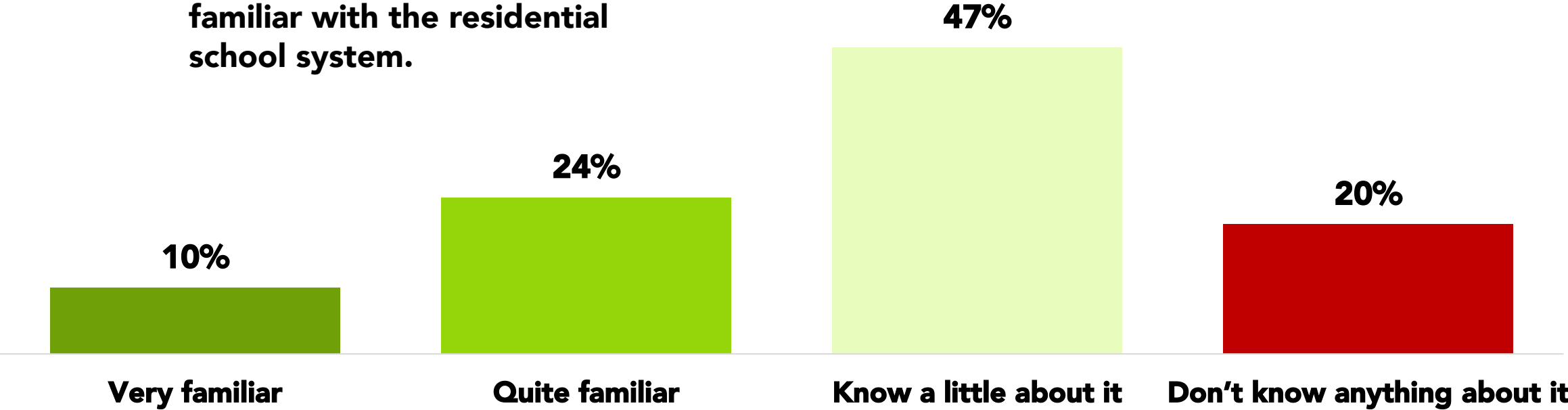
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Which of the following comes closest to your view?

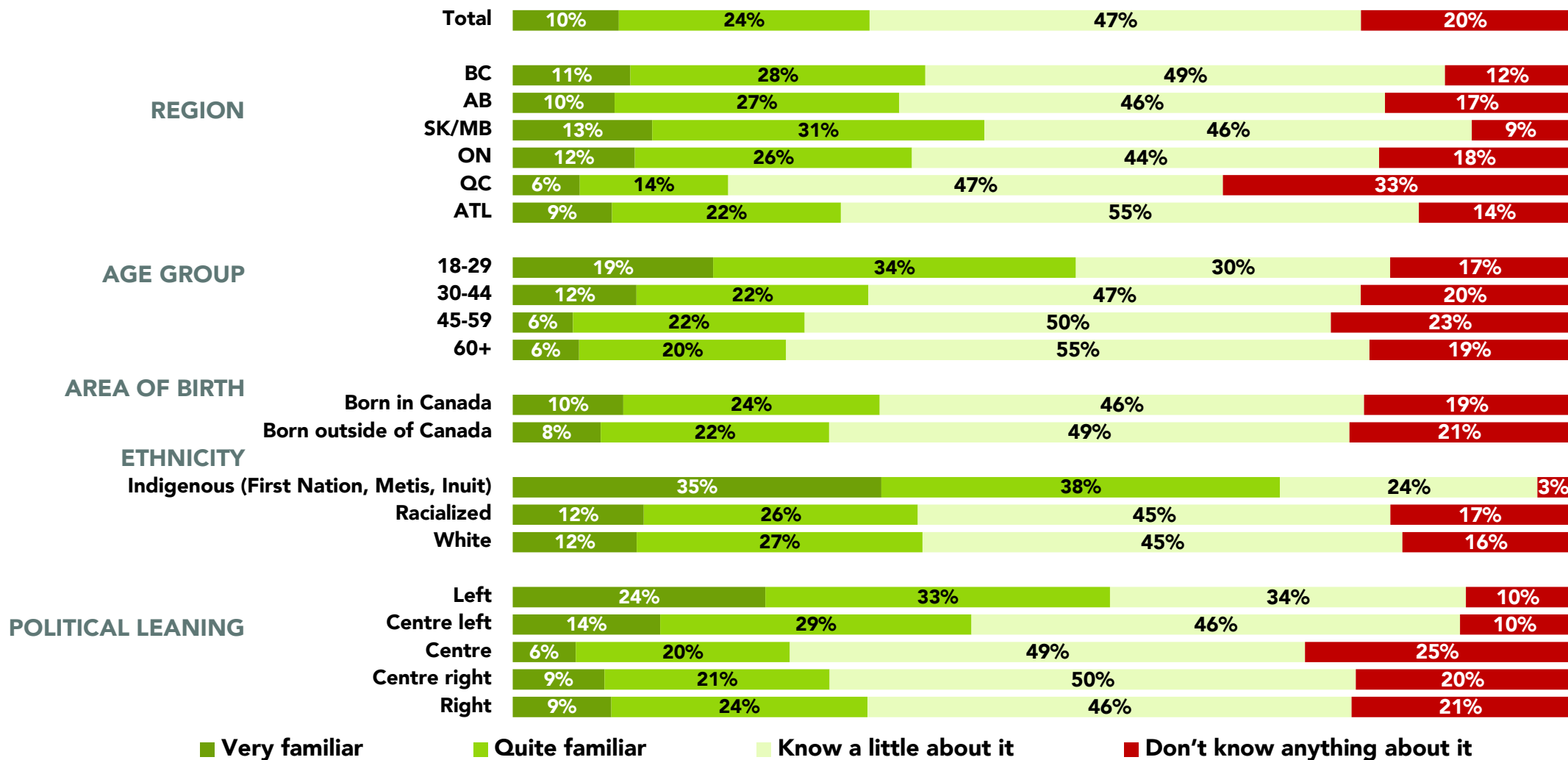
# FAMILIARITY WITH THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SYSTEM GENERALLY

Only 34% of Canadians say they are very or quite familiar with the residential school system.



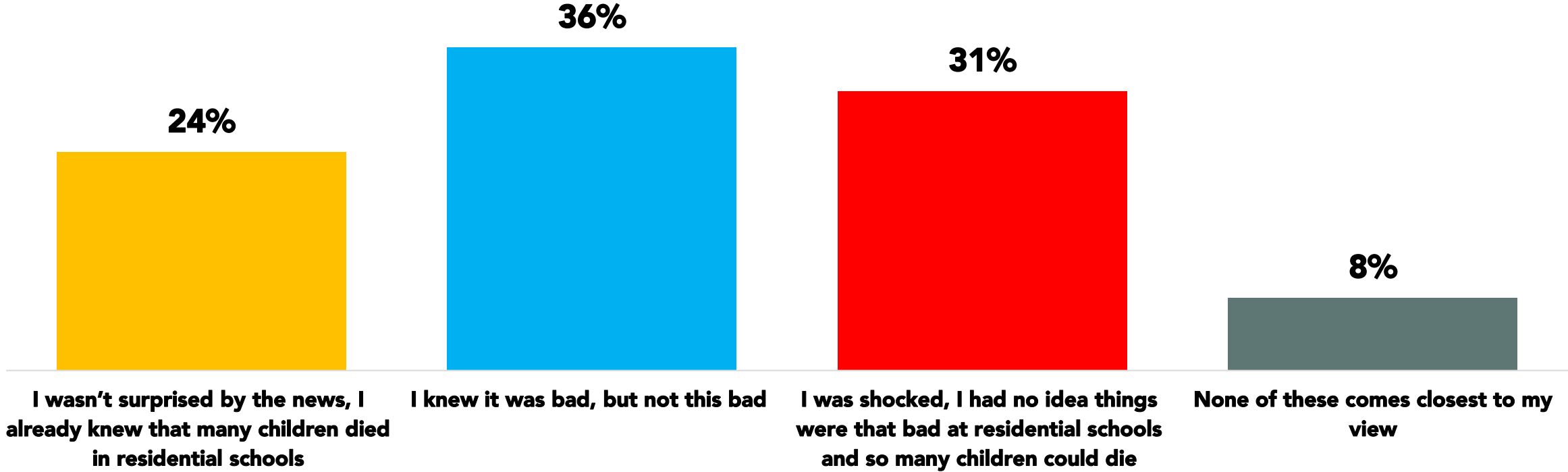
Before today, how familiar would you say you were with the residential school system?

# FAMILIARITY WITH THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SYSTEM GENERALLY



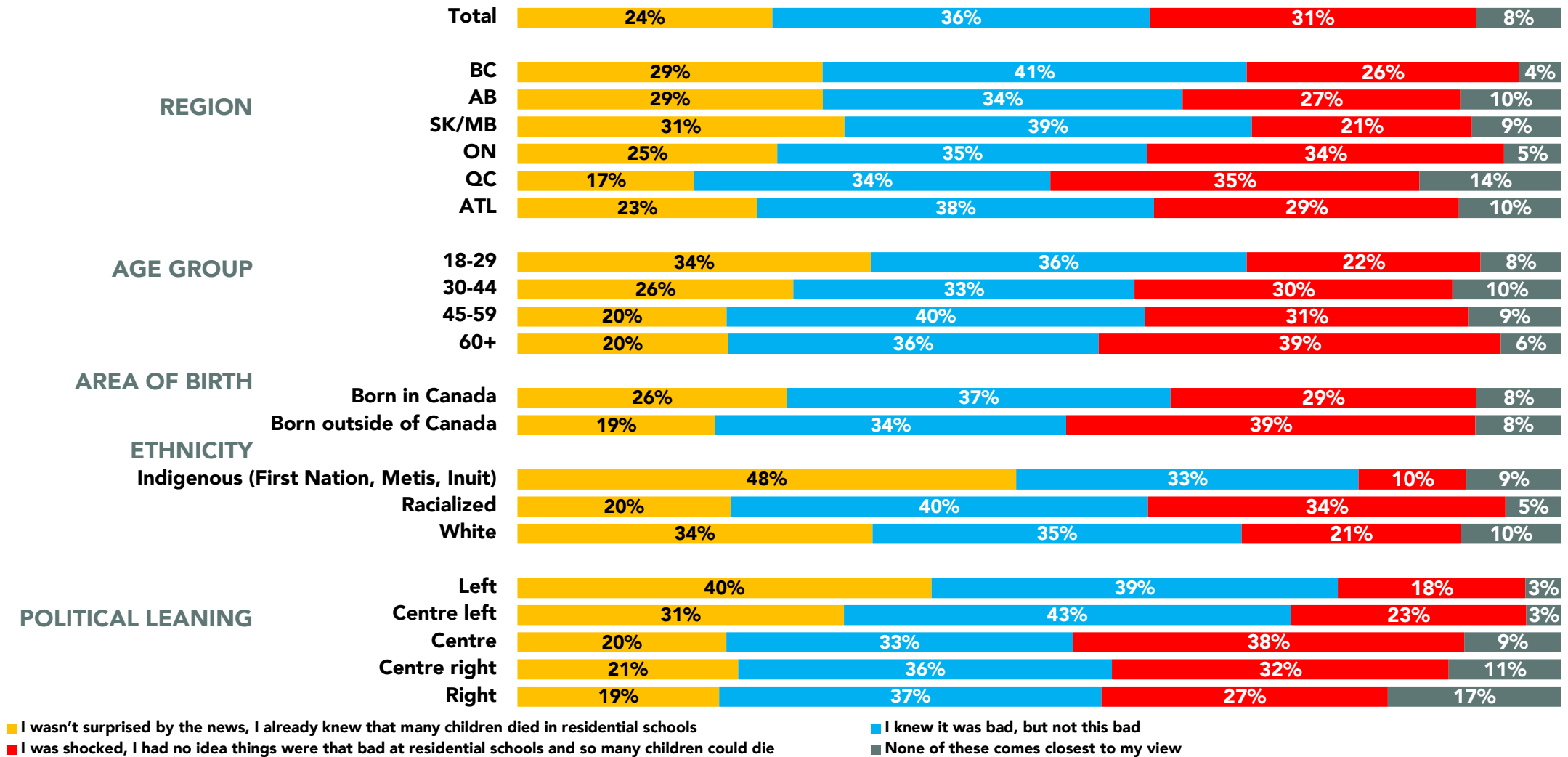
Before today, how familiar would you say you were with the residential school system?

# REACTION TO THE NEWS ABOUT THE DISCOVERY OF REMAINS AT THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL



Based on what you've learned about the residential school system in recent days, which best describes your view

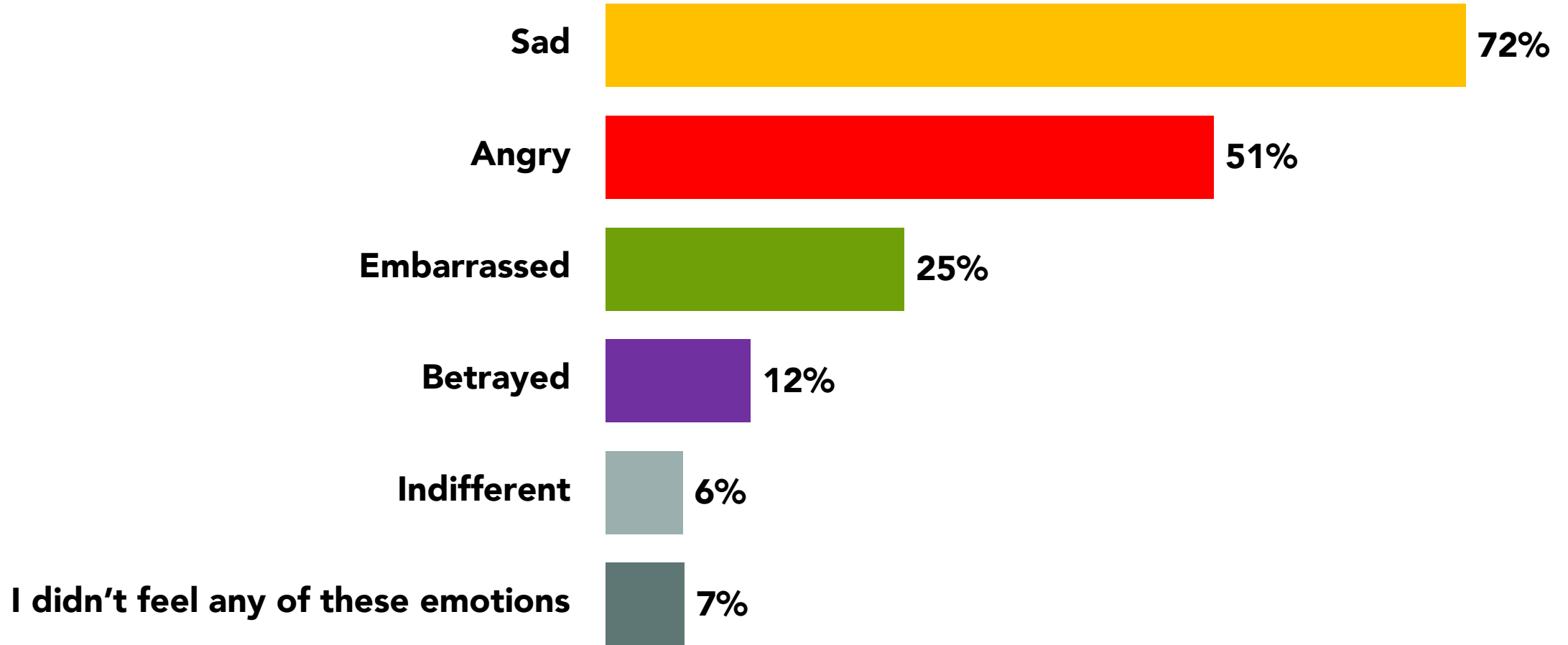
# BASED ON WHAT YOU KNOW...



■ I wasn't surprised by the news, I already knew that many children died in residential schools  
■ I was shocked, I had no idea things were that bad at residential schools and so many children could die

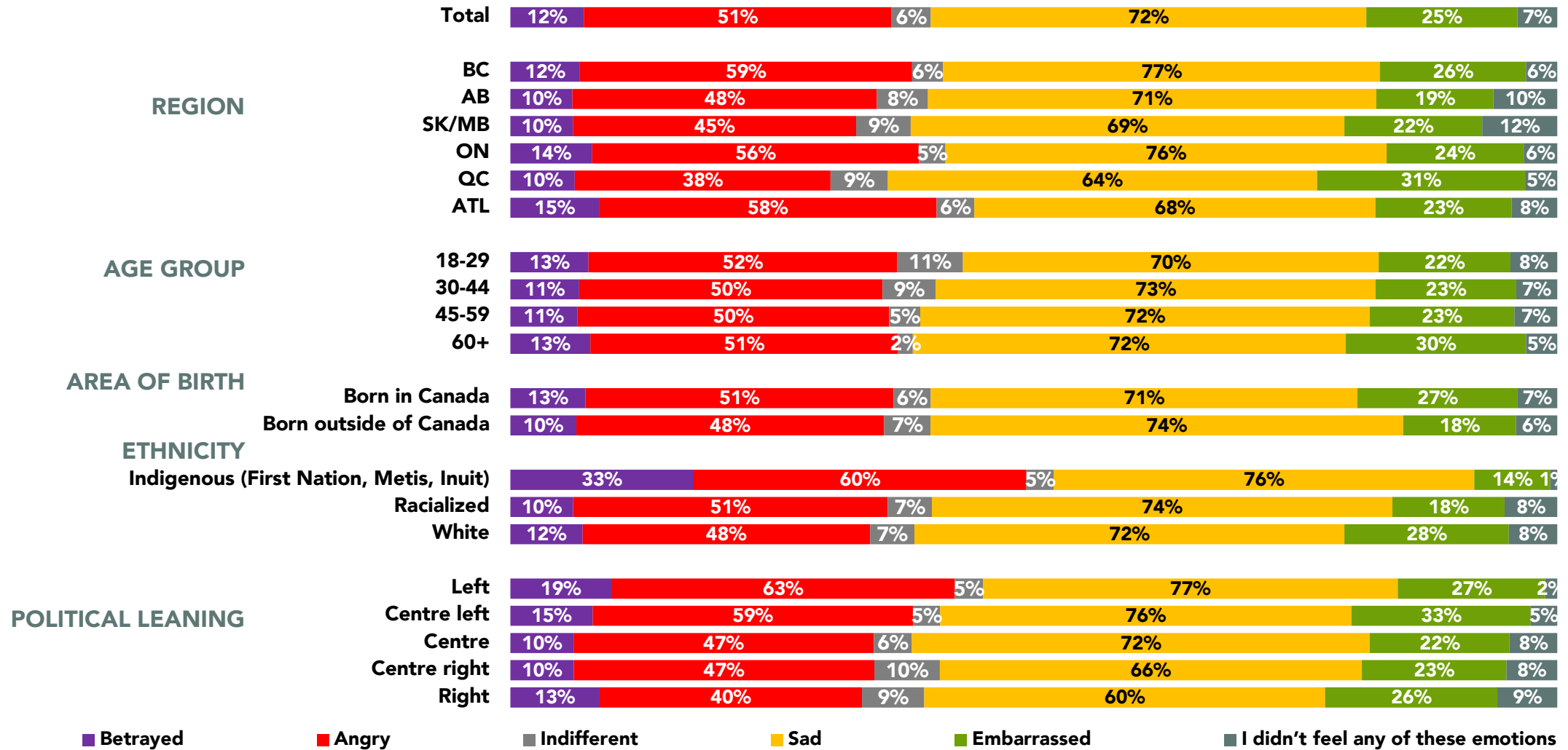
■ I knew it was bad, but not this bad  
■ None of these comes closest to my view

# HOW DID THE NEWS ABOUT THE REMAINS OF 215 INDIGENOUS CHILDREN MAKE YOU FEEL?



Which of the following describes how you felt when you learned about the remains of the 215 Indigenous children found in Kamloops? Please select all that apply to you

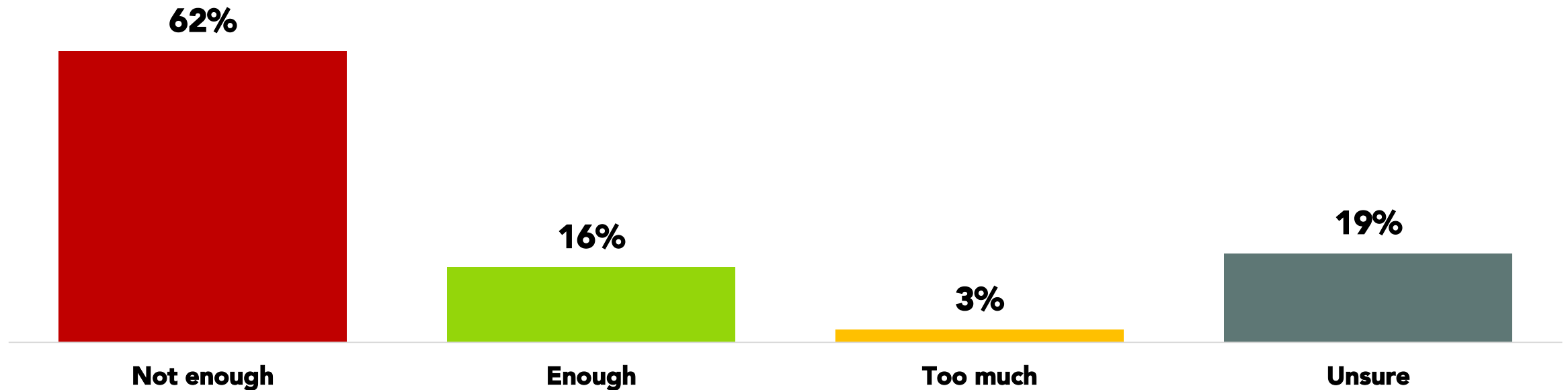
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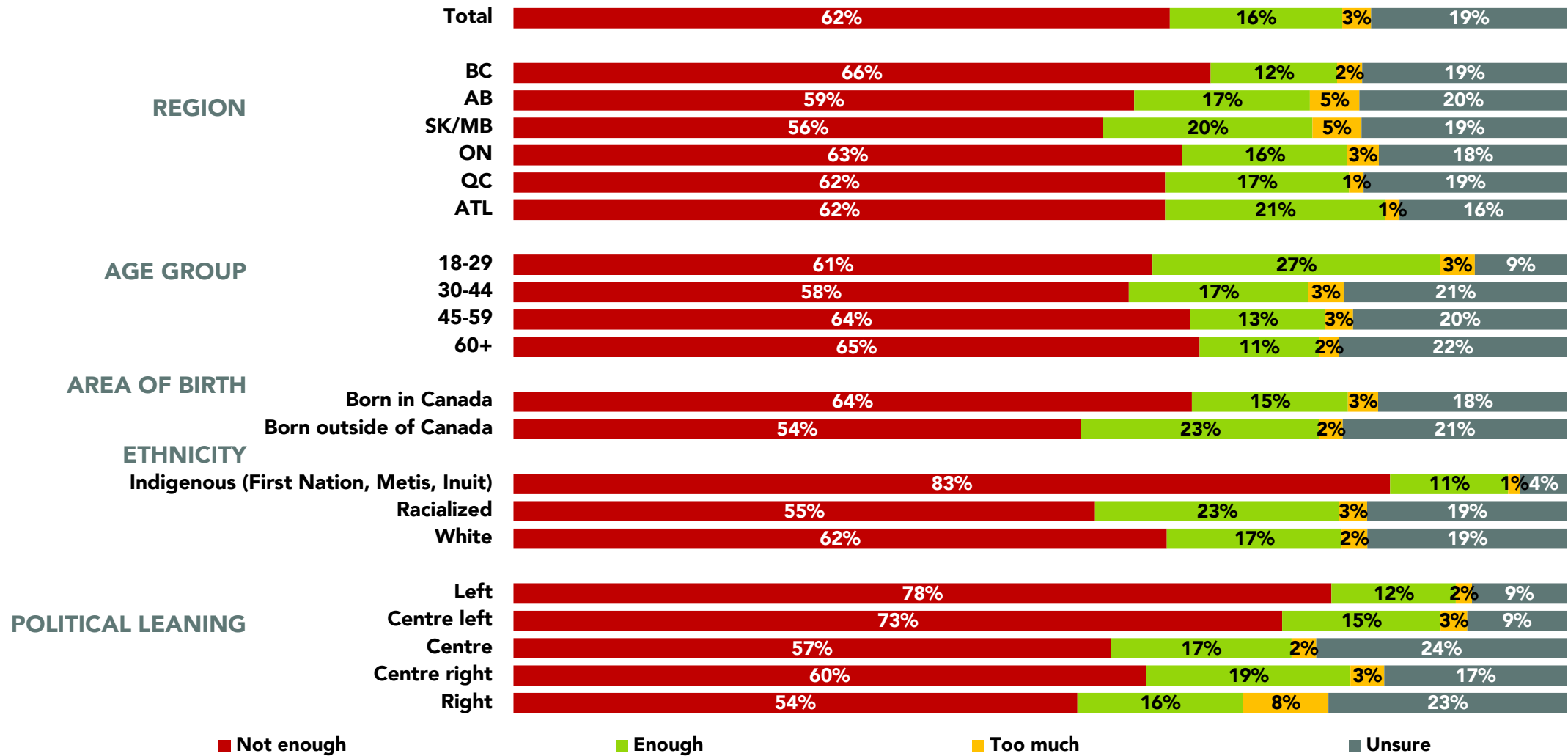


# DO STUDENTS IN YOUR PROVINCE LEARN ENOUGH OR NOT ENOUGH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS?



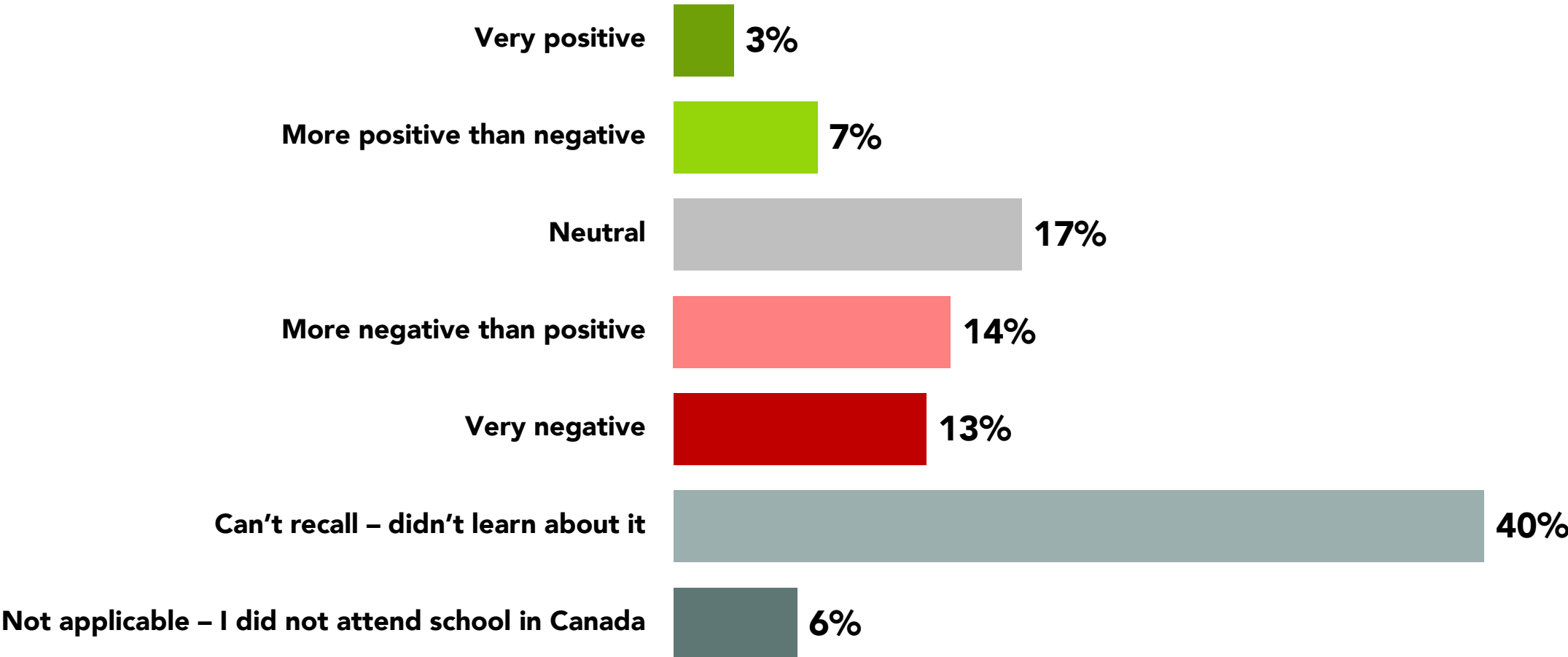
Thinking about schools and the education system in your province, do you think students learn enough, not enough, or too much about what happened at residential schools?

# DO STUDENTS IN YOUR PROVINCE LEARN ENOUGH OR NOT ENOUGH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS?



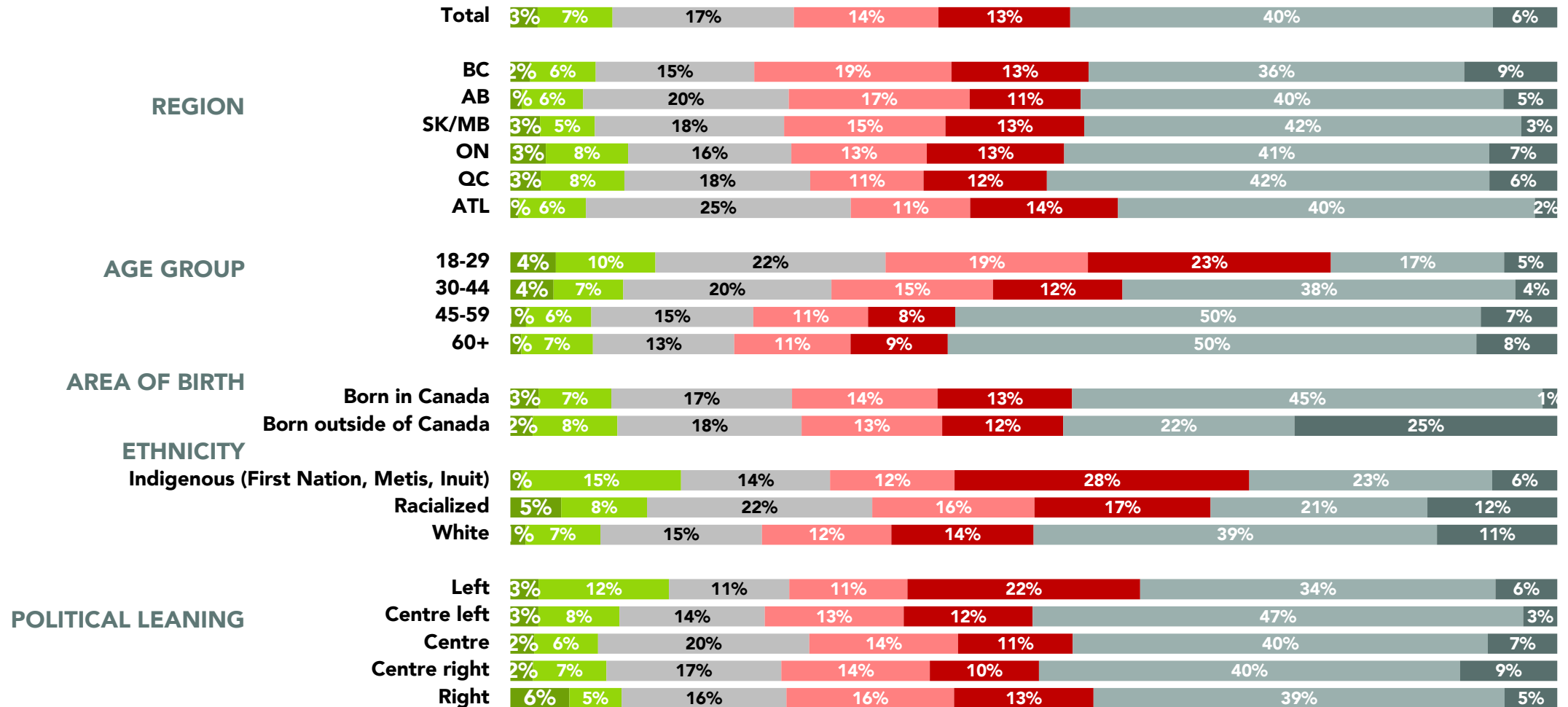
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# WHEN YOU WERE TAUGHT ABOUT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS, WAS IT FRAMED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY?



Thinking back to when you learned about residential schools as a child, would you say what you learned framed residential schools in a positive or negative light, or would you say it was neutral?

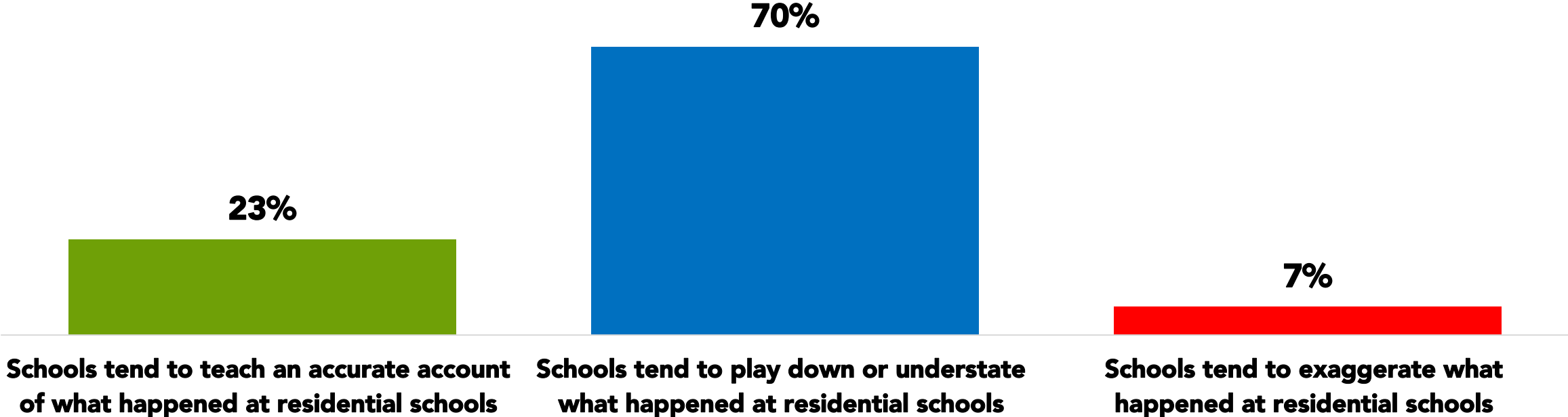
# WHEN YOU WERE TAUGHT ABOUT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS, WAS IT FRAMED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY?



■ Very positive  
 ■ More positive than negative  
 ■ Neutral  
 ■ More negative than positive  
 ■ Very negative  
 ■ Can't recall – didn't learn about it  
 ■ Not applicable – I did not attend school in Canada

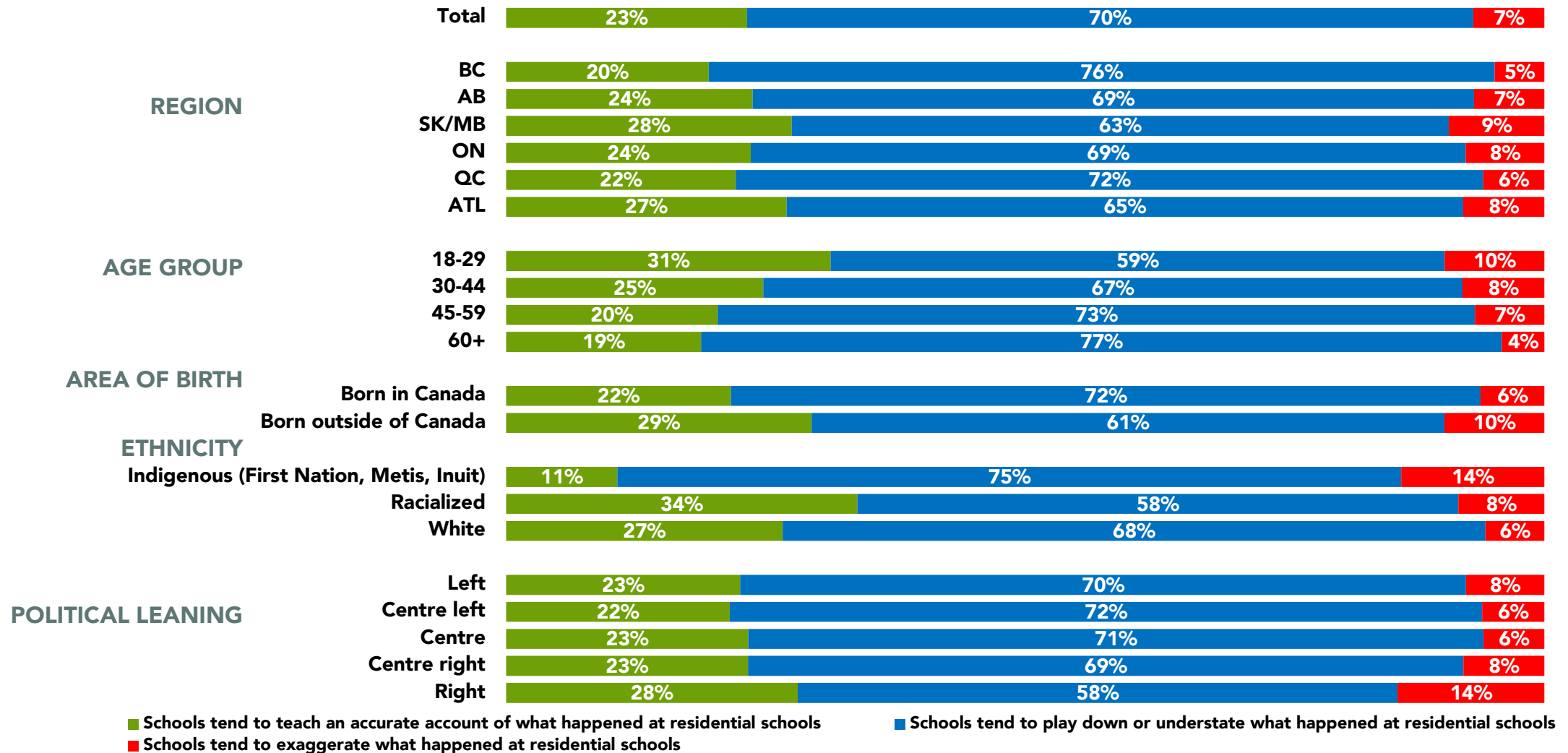
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# 70% BELIEVE SCHOOLS IN THEIR PROVINCE TEND TO PLAY DOWN OR UNDERSTATE WHAT HAPPENED AT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS



Which of the following best describes the approach you think schools in your province take, to teach the history of residential schools in Canada?

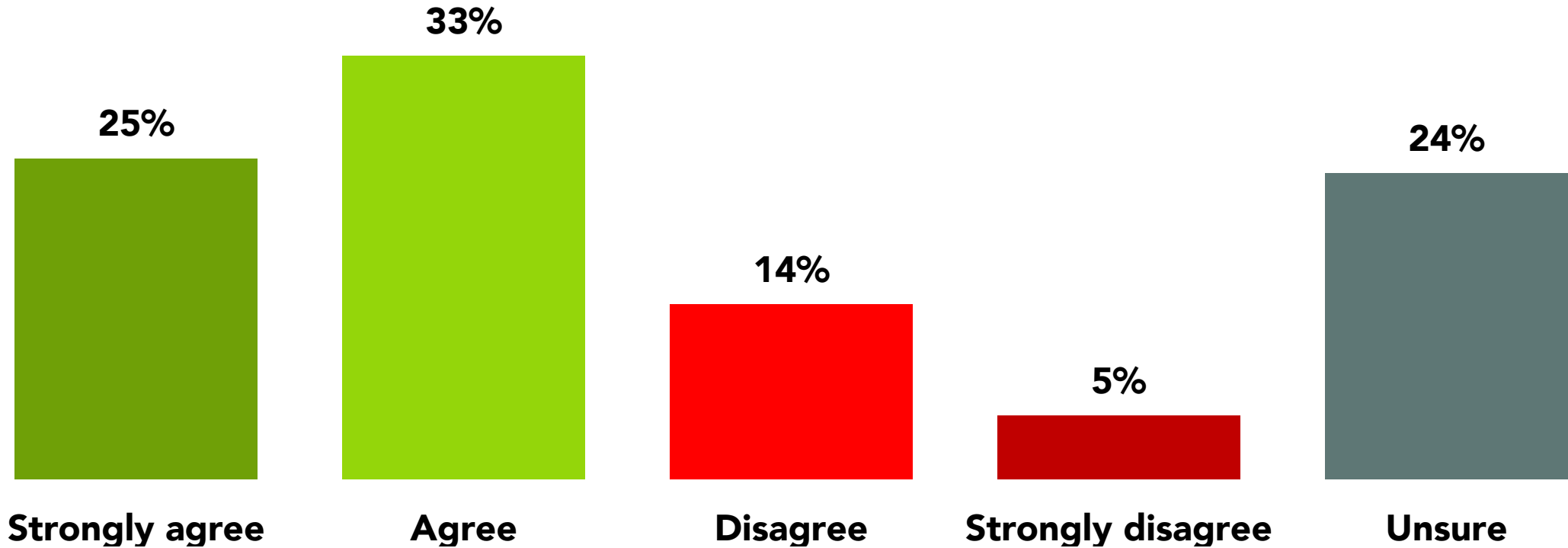
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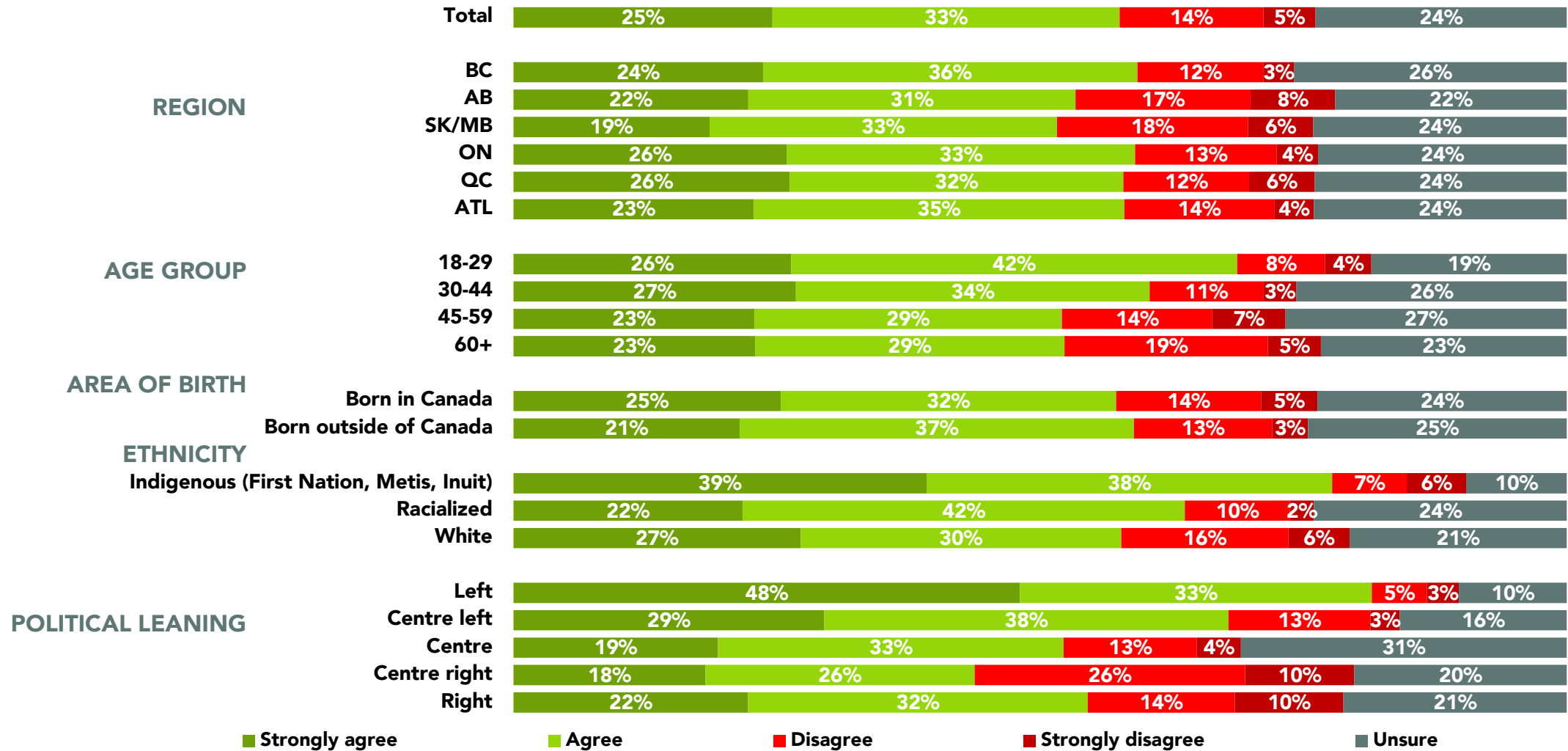
# WAS THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL POLICY "GENOCIDE"?

**58% agree that the residential school policy and the way it was carried out was "genocide".**



Some have described the residential school policy and the way it was carried out as "genocide" Do you agree or disagree with this view?

# WAS THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL POLICY "GENOCIDE"?

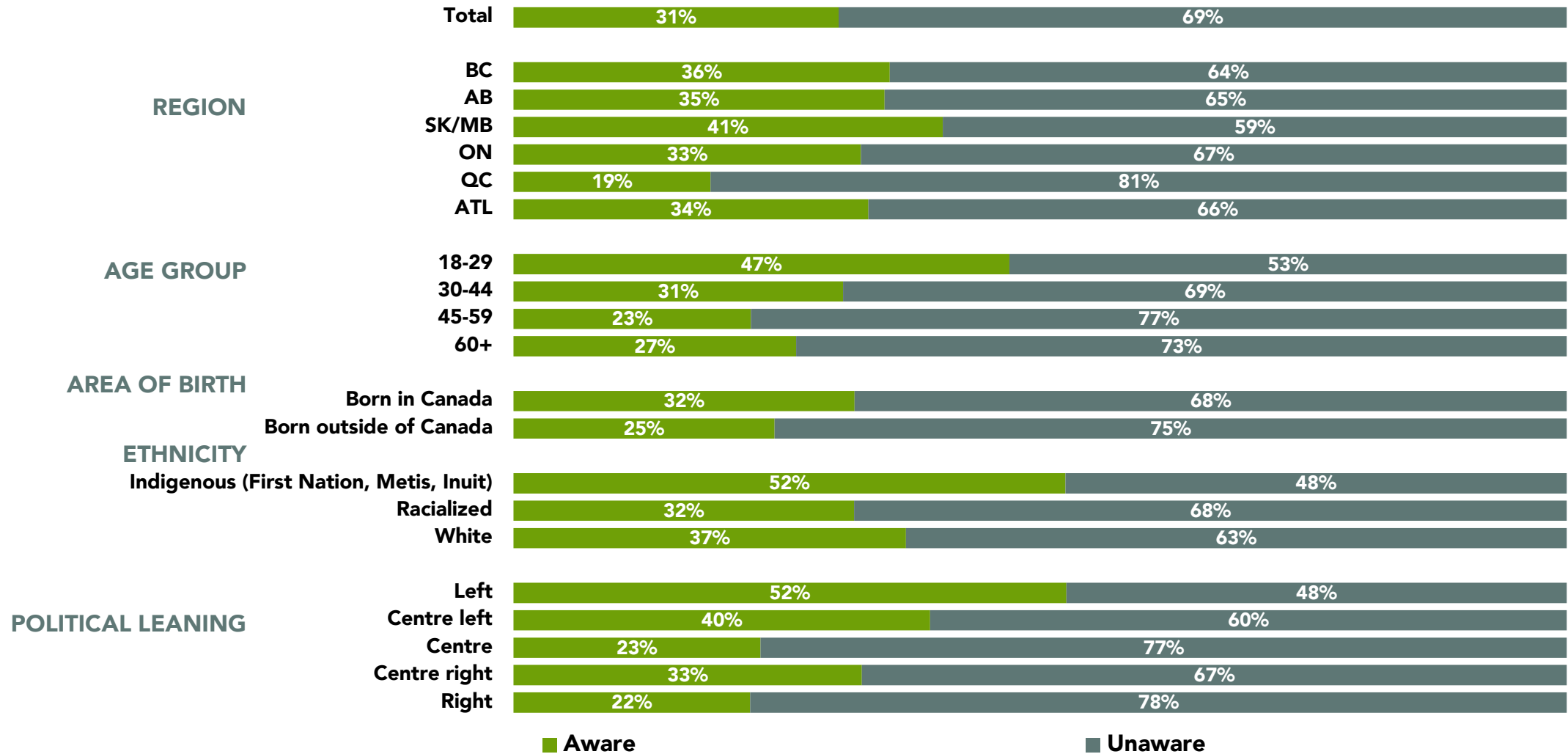


Some have described the residential school policy and the way it was carried out as "genocide" Do you agree or disagree with this view?



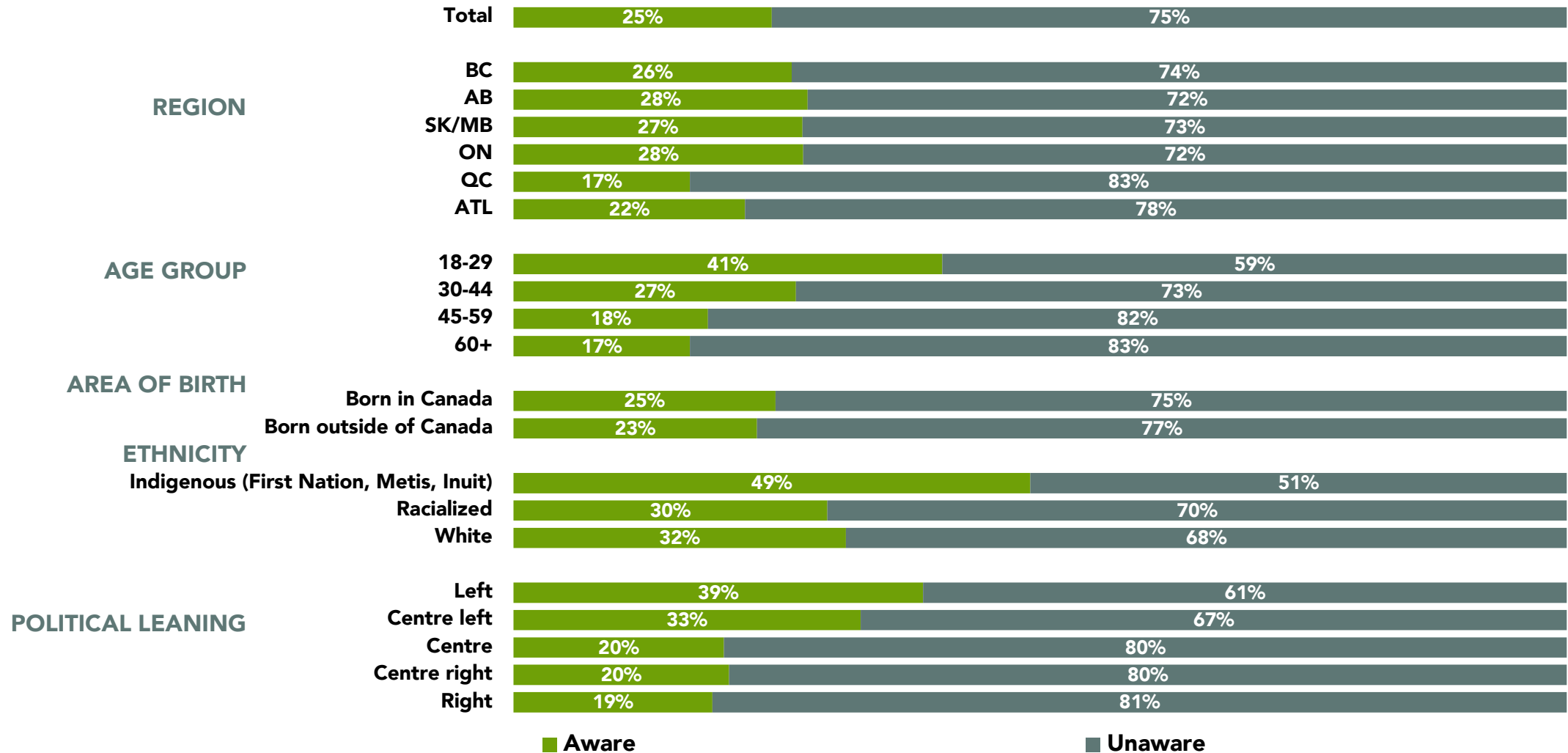


# THERE WERE 140 RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS ACROSS CANADA



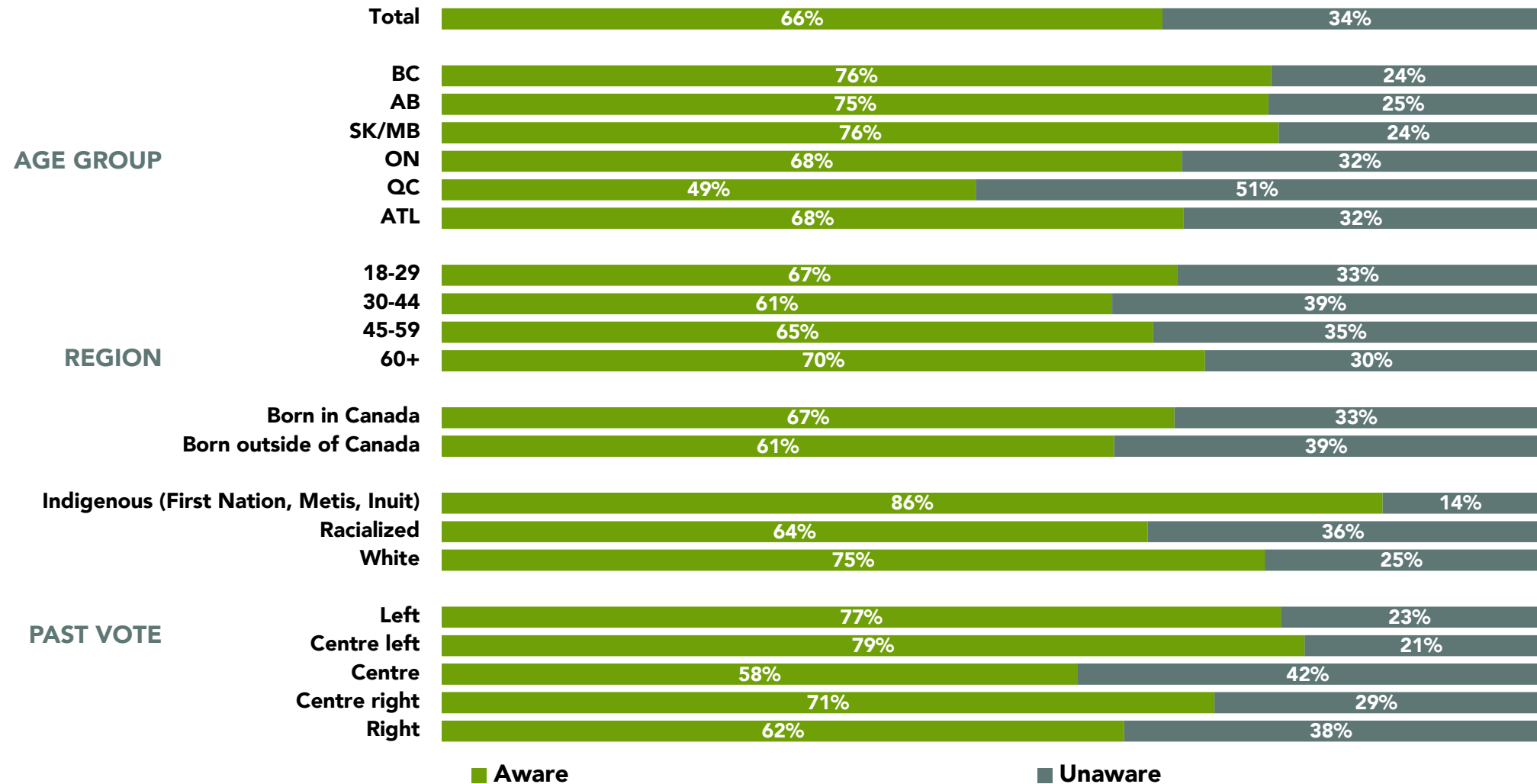
Before today, were you aware or unaware that...

# BETWEEN 3000 AND 6000 INDIGENOUS CHILDREN DIED AT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS



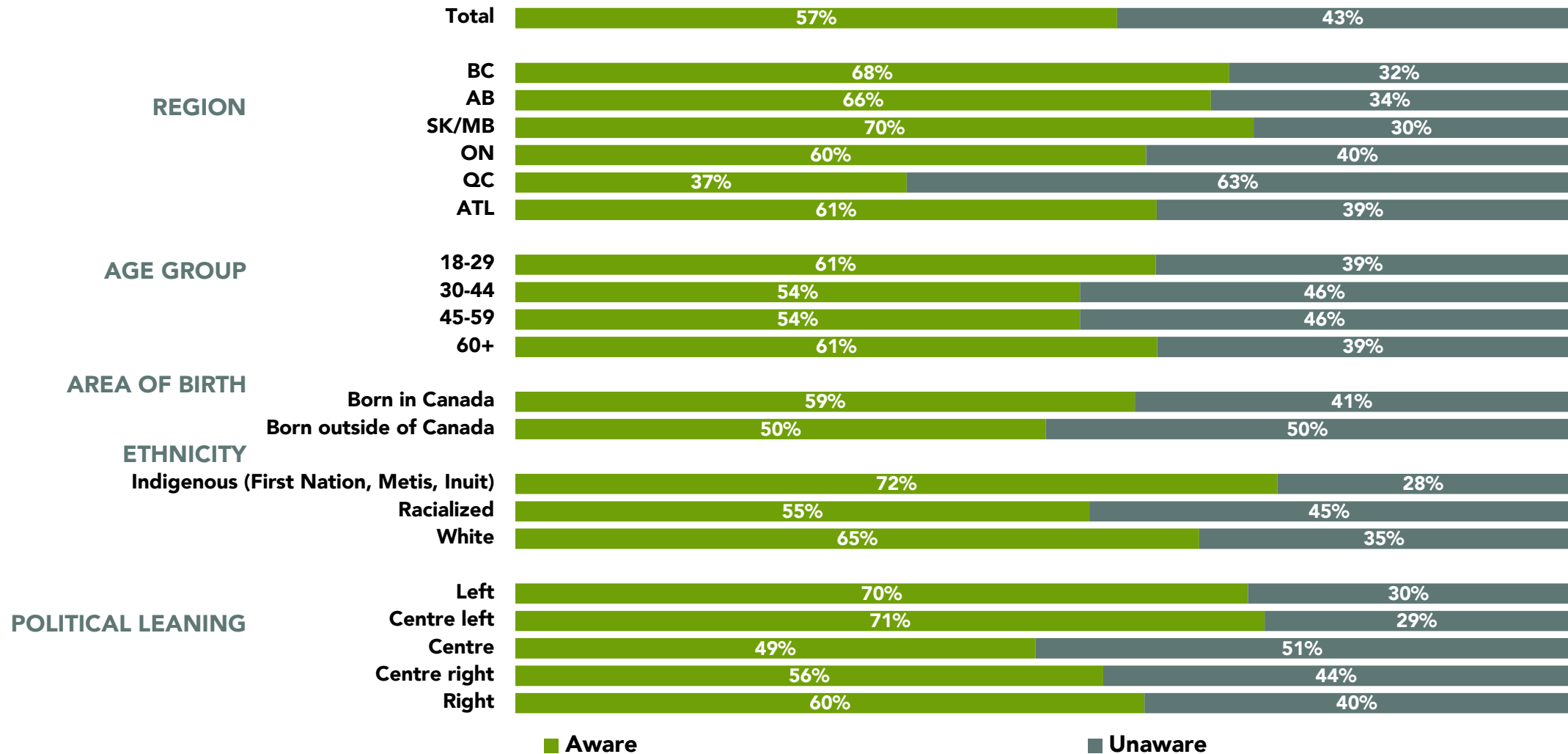
Before today, were you aware or unaware that...

# RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS WERE FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA



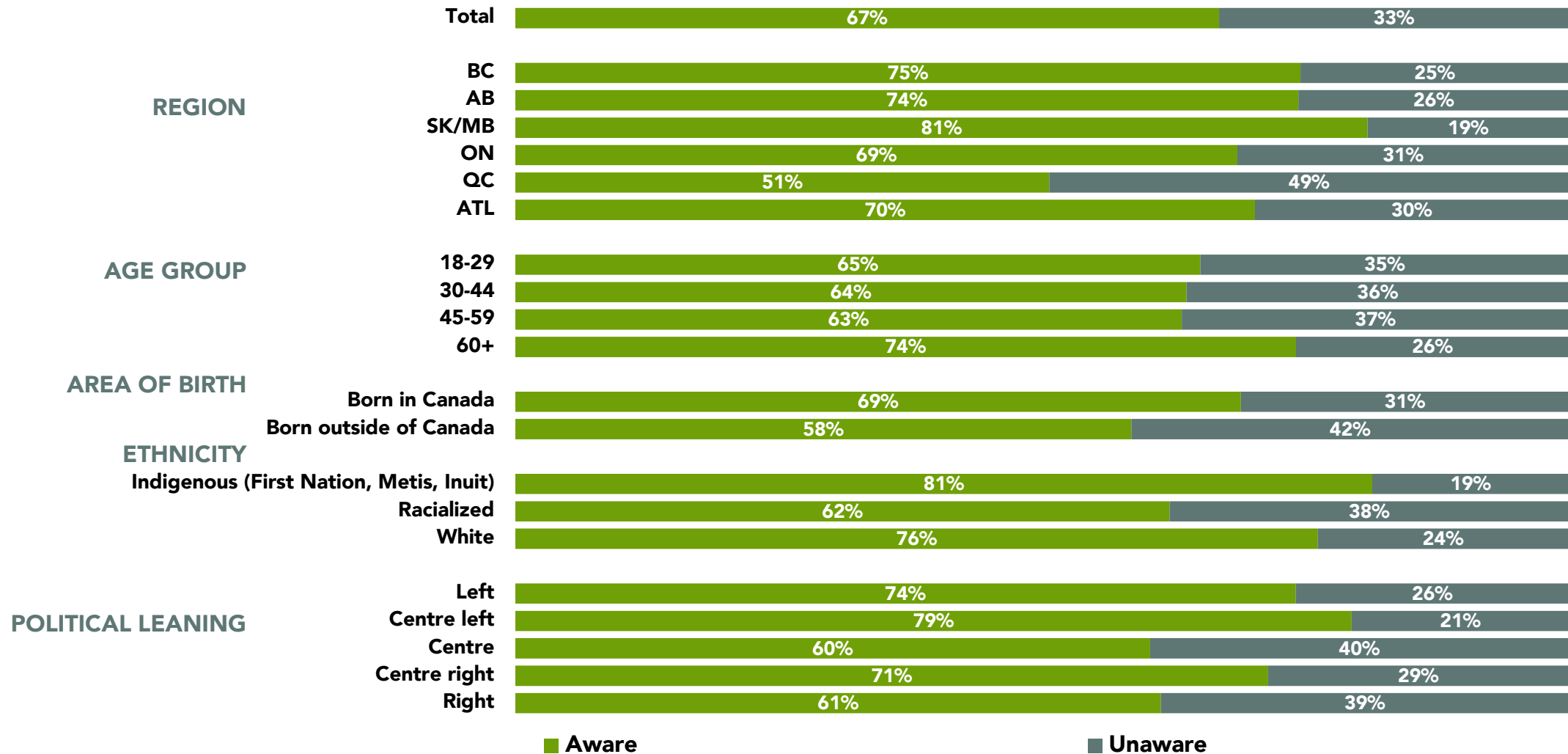
Before today, were you aware or unaware that...

# THE RCMP FORCIBLY REMOVED CHILDREN FROM THEIR FAMILIES AND PUT THEM IN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS



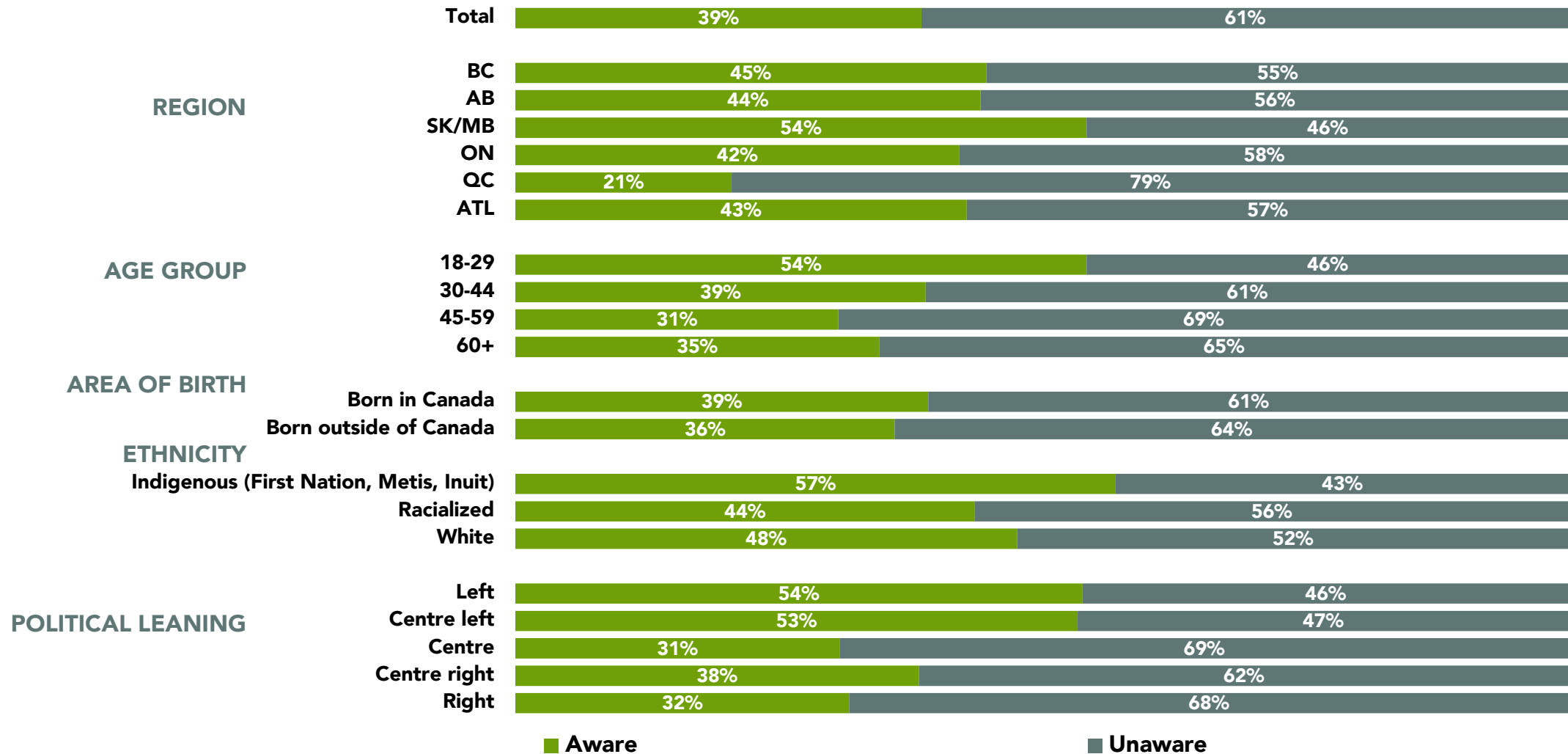
Before today, were you aware or unaware that...

# RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS WERE MOSTLY RUN BY CHRISTIAN CHURCHES



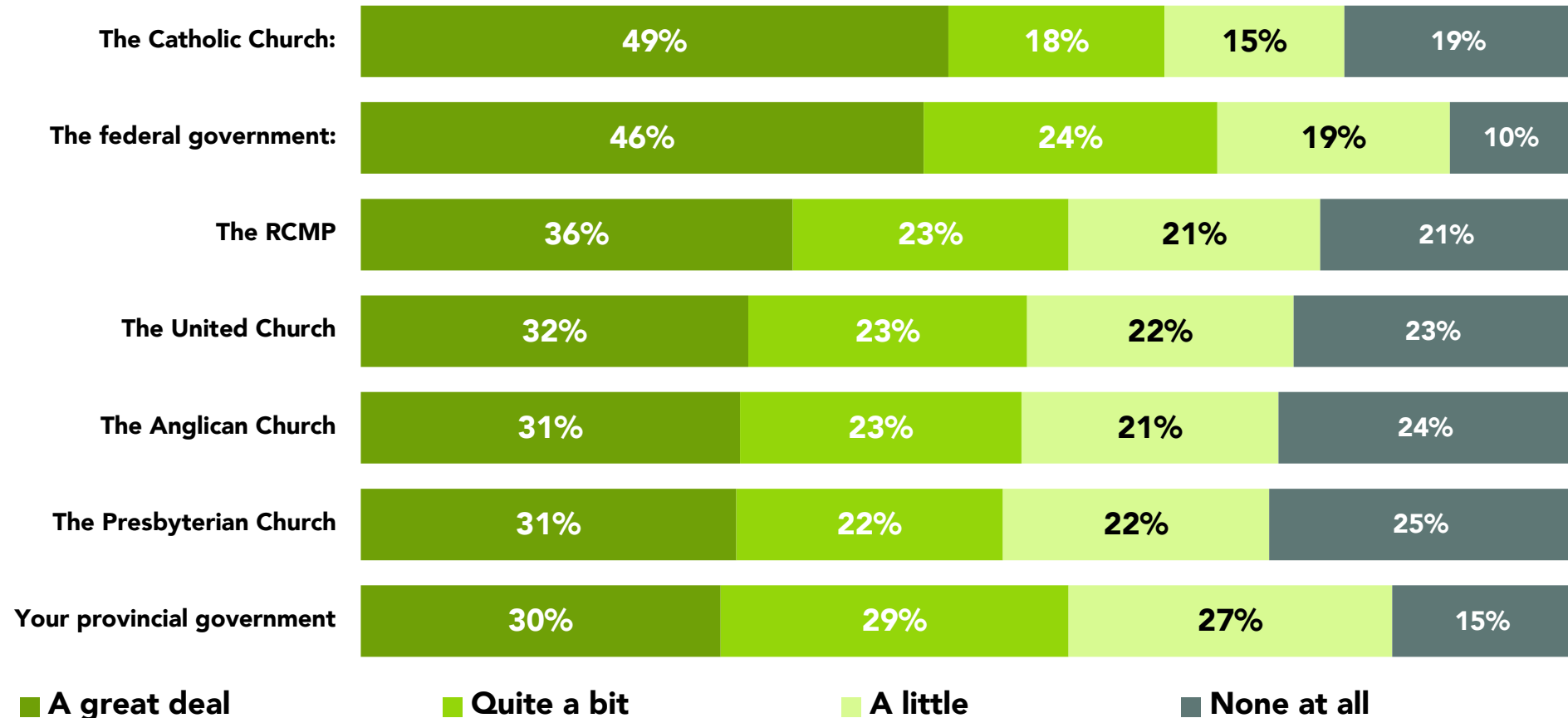
Before today, were you aware or unaware that...

# THE LAST RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL CLOSED IN 1996



Before today, were you aware or unaware that...

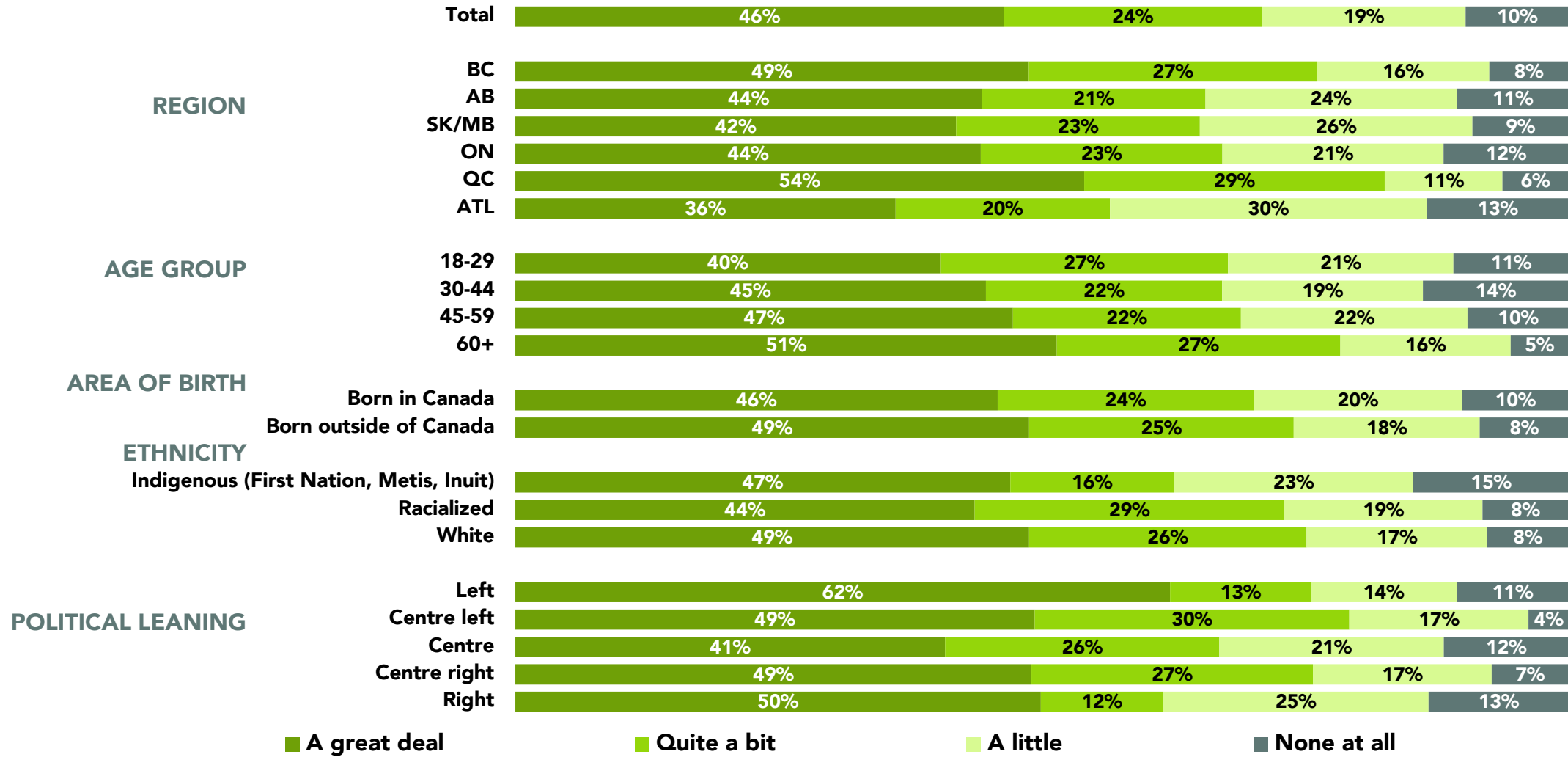
# HOW MUCH RESPONSIBILITY DO THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE IN ADDRESSING THE DAMAGE DONE BY RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS?



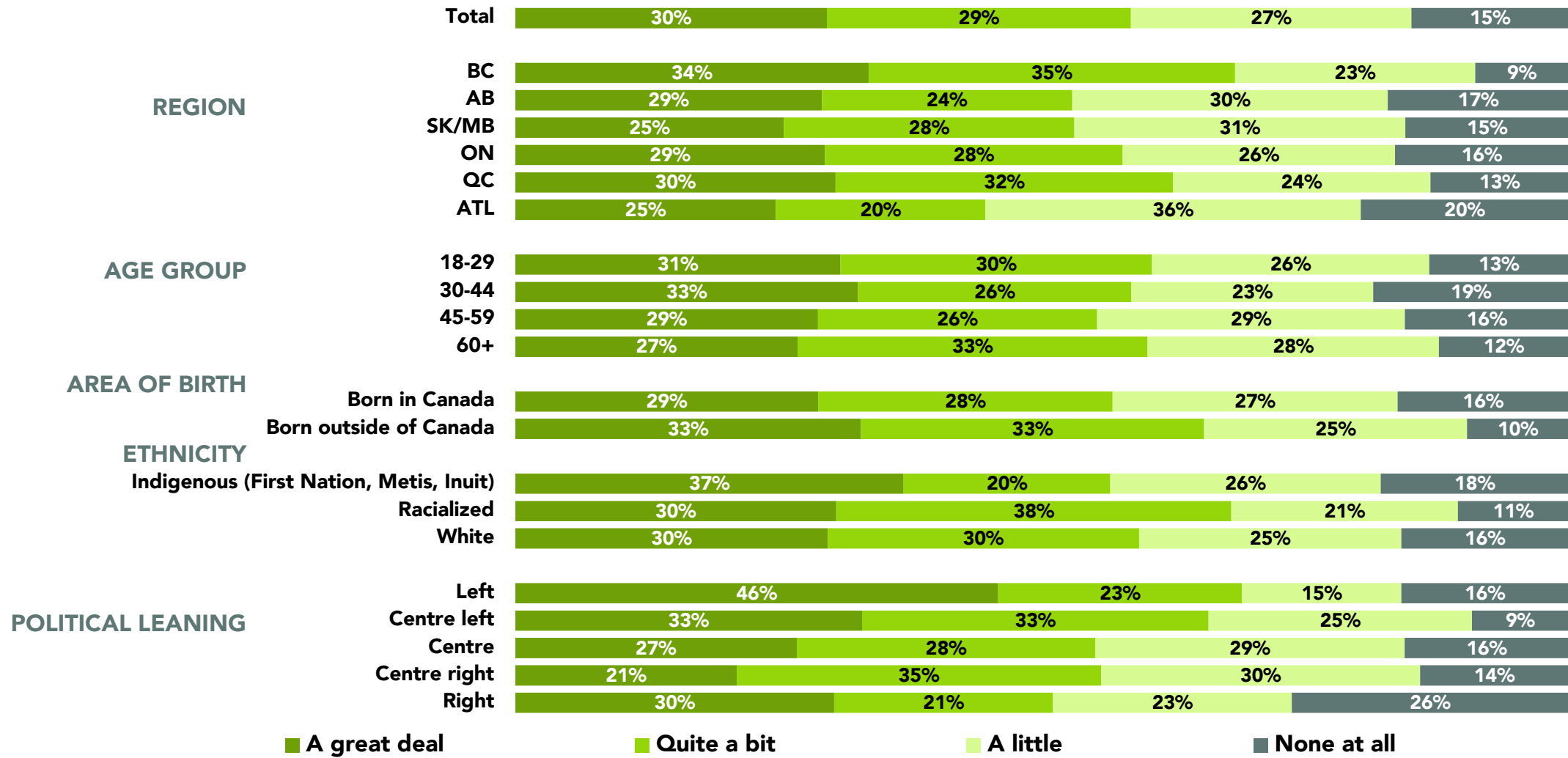
How much responsibility, if any, do you feel the following organizations have in addressing the damage done by residential schools?



# THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

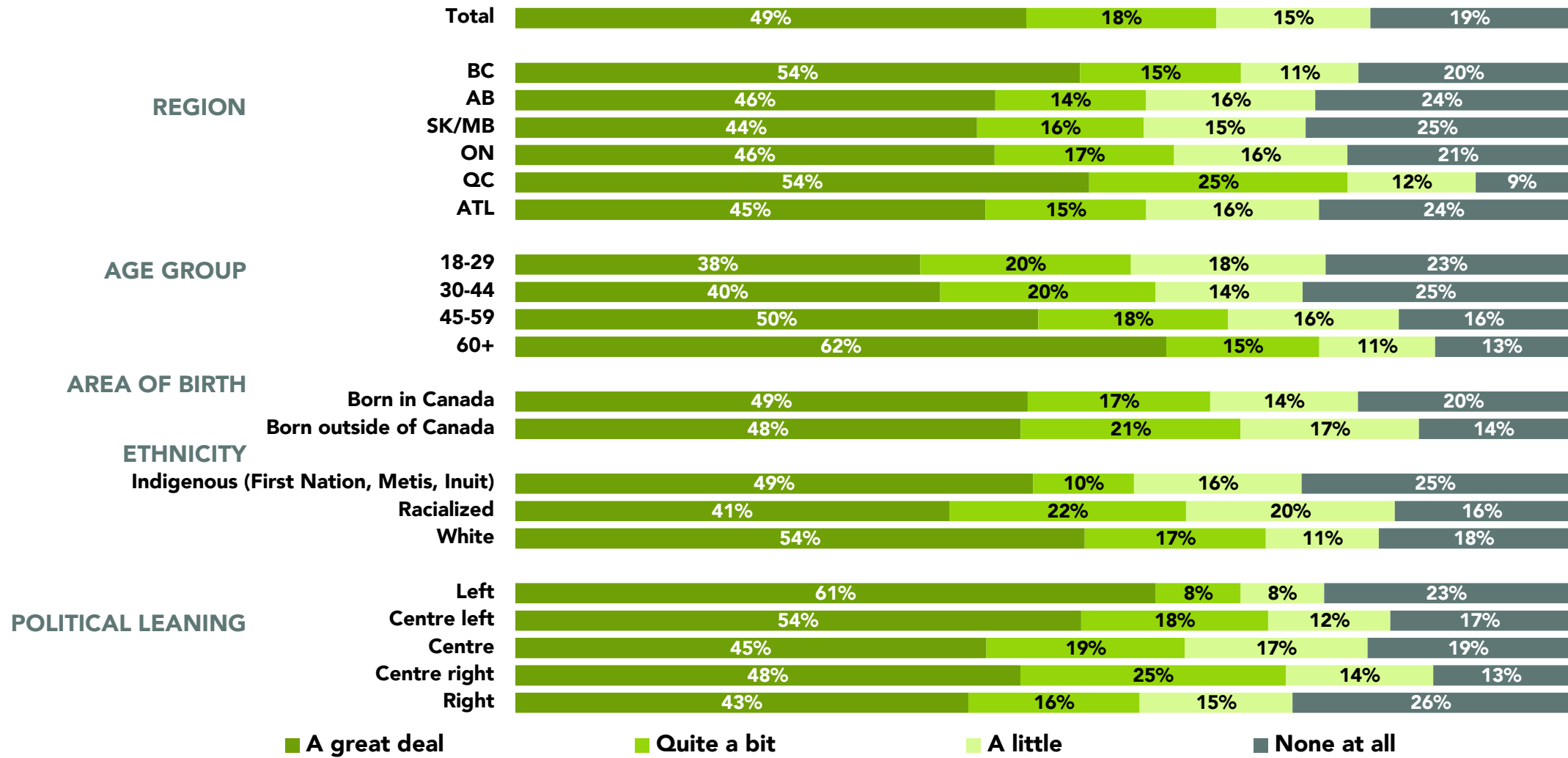


# YOUR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

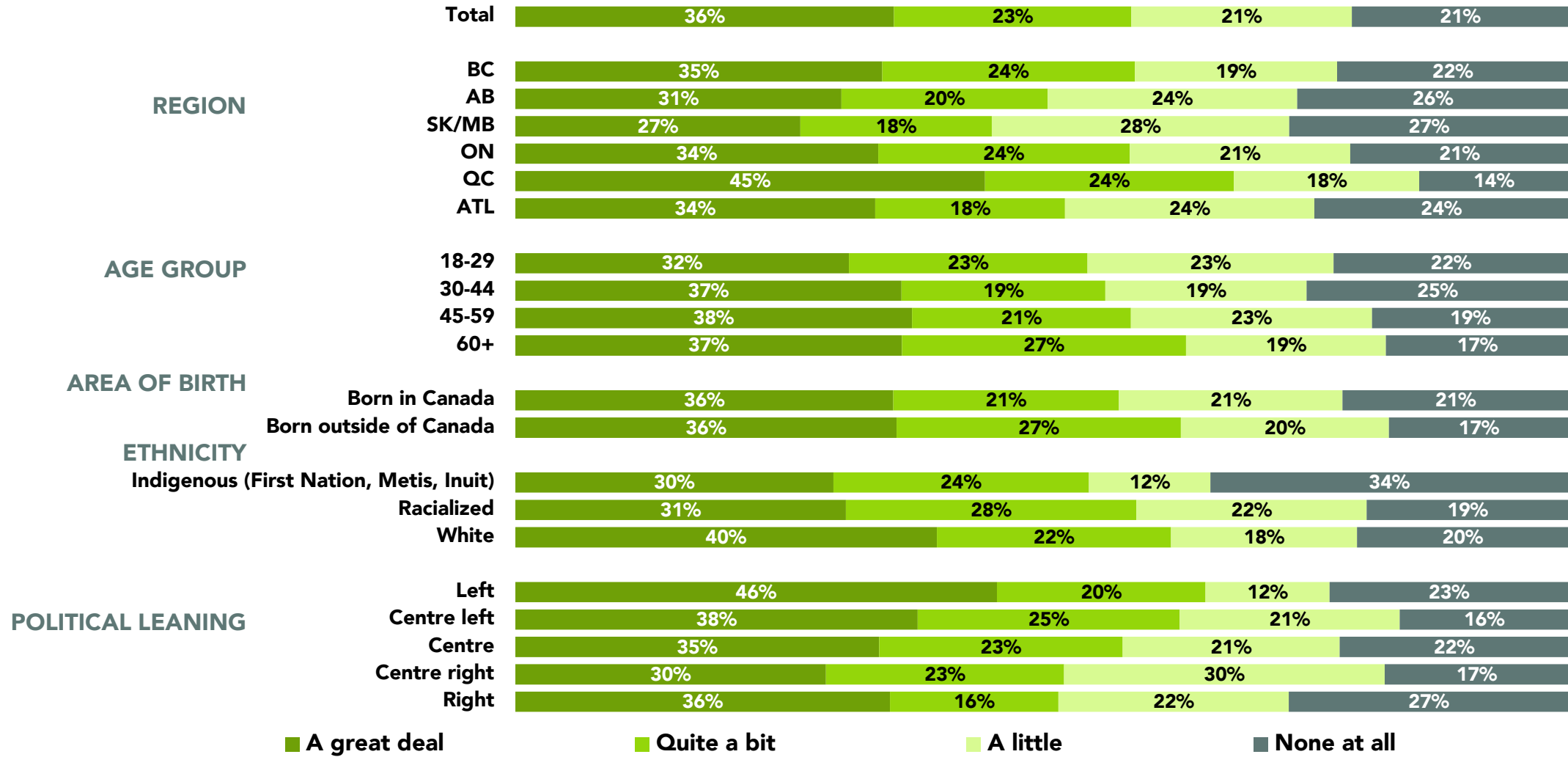


how much responsibility, if any, do you feel the following organizations have taken when it comes to what happened at residential schools?

# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

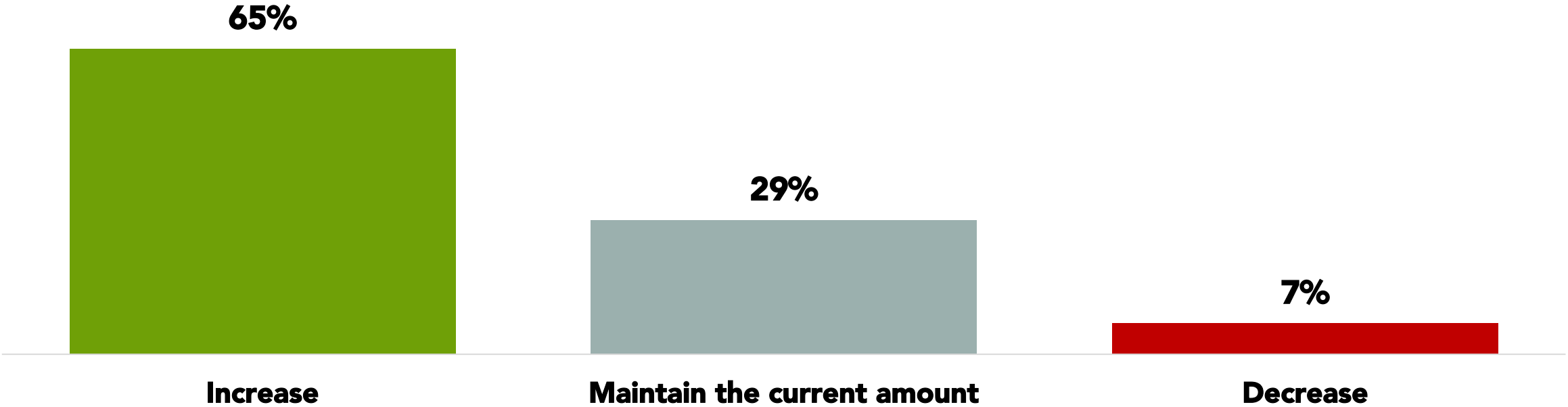


# THE RCMP



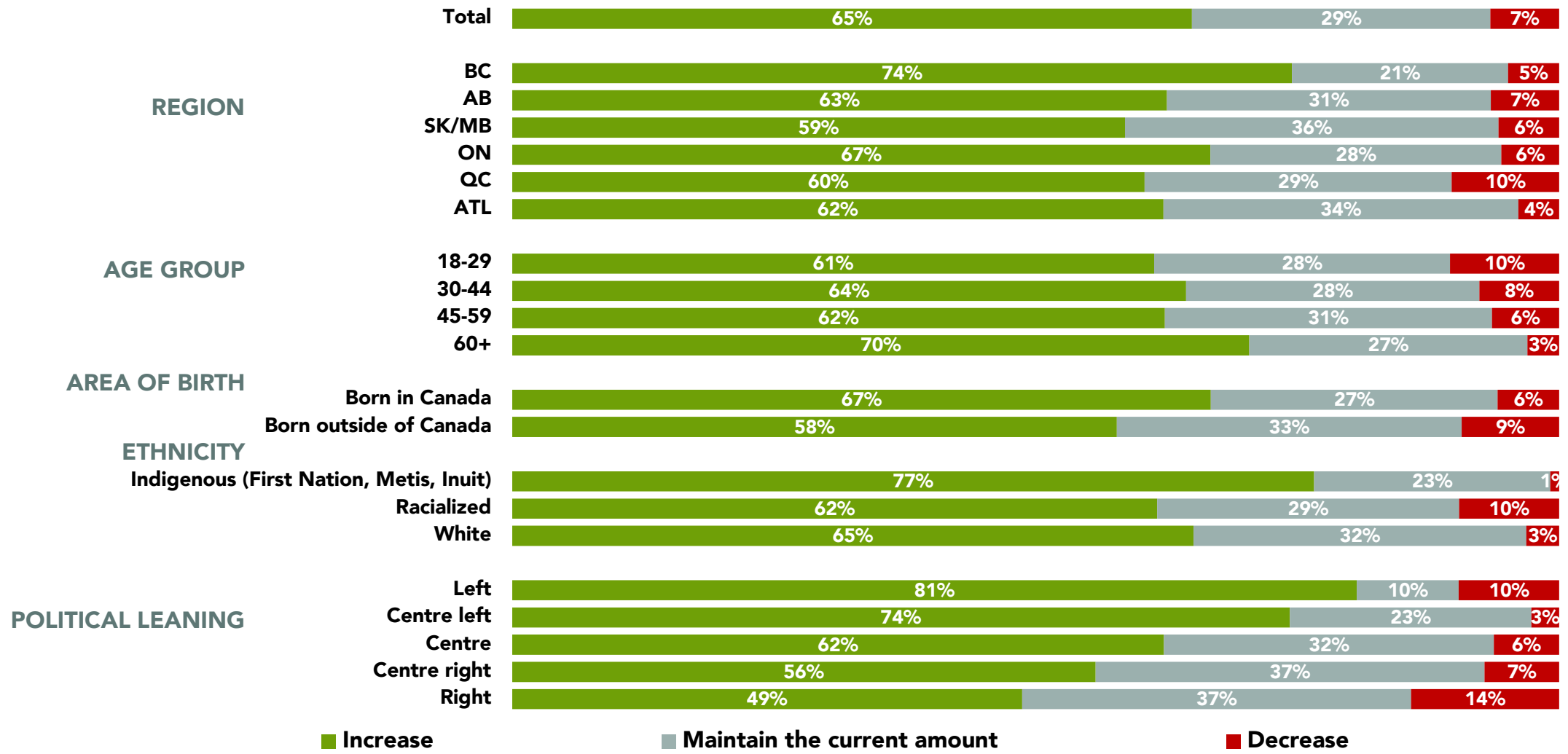
how much responsibility, if any, do you feel the following organizations have taken when it comes to what happened at residential schools?

# SHOULD PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS INCREASE, DECREASE, OR MAINTAIN THE AMOUNT STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS?

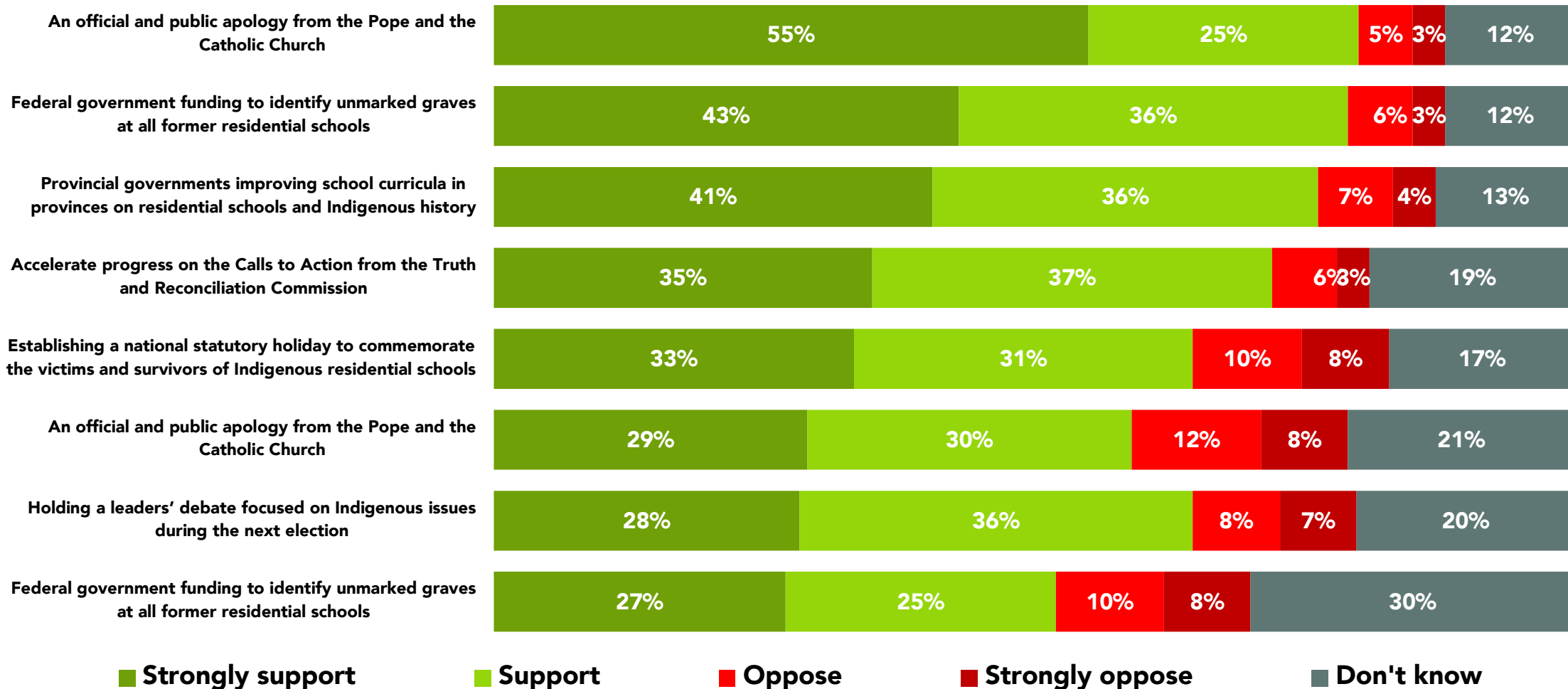


Do you think provincial governments should increase, decrease, or maintain the amount students learn about the history of residential schools?

# SHOULD PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS INCREASE, DECREASE, OR MAINTAIN THE AMOUNT STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS?

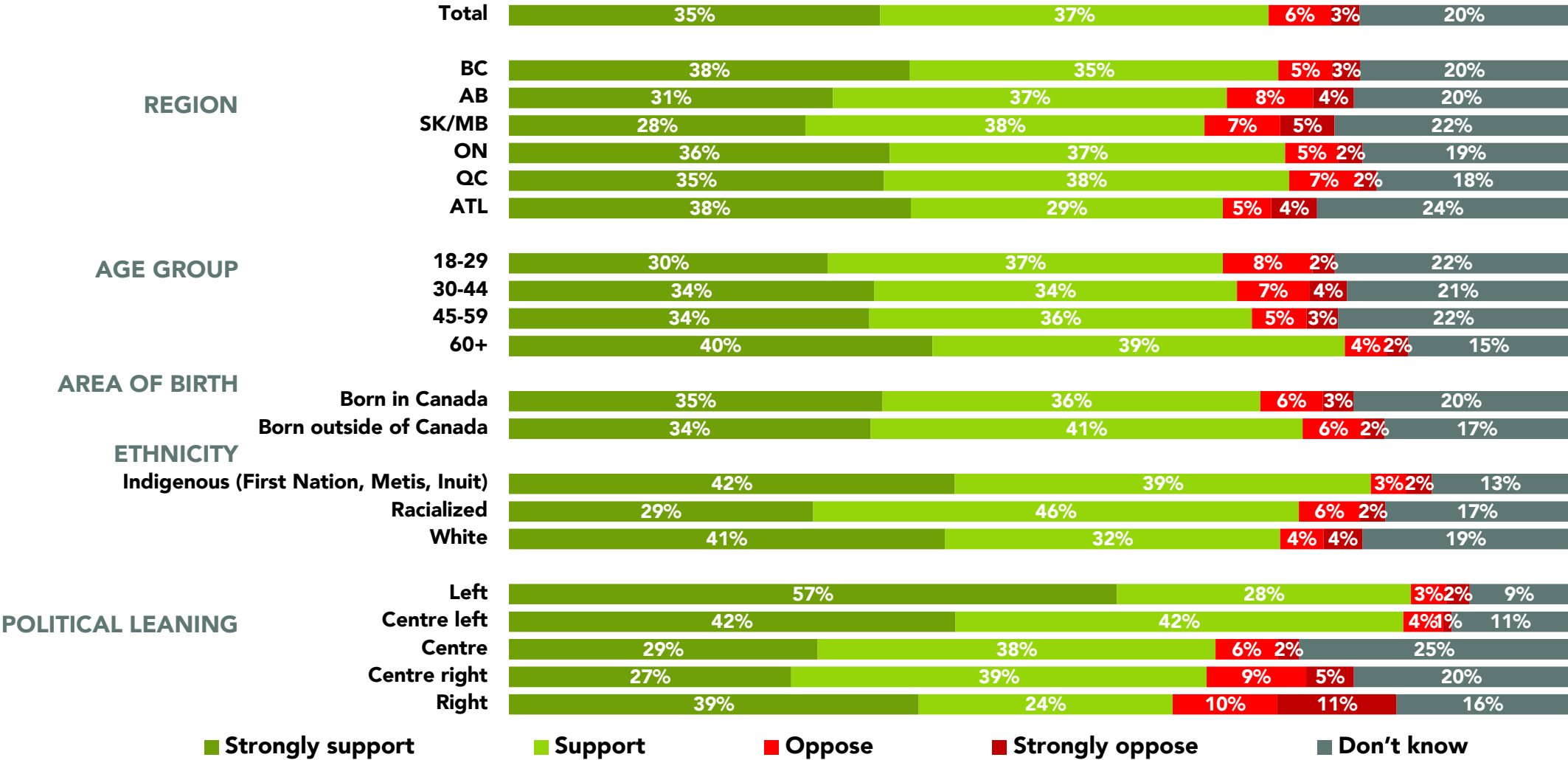


# POSITION ON ACTION ITEMS



Below are some actions that some believe should be taken to respond to those impacted by residential schools. Do you support or oppose the following?

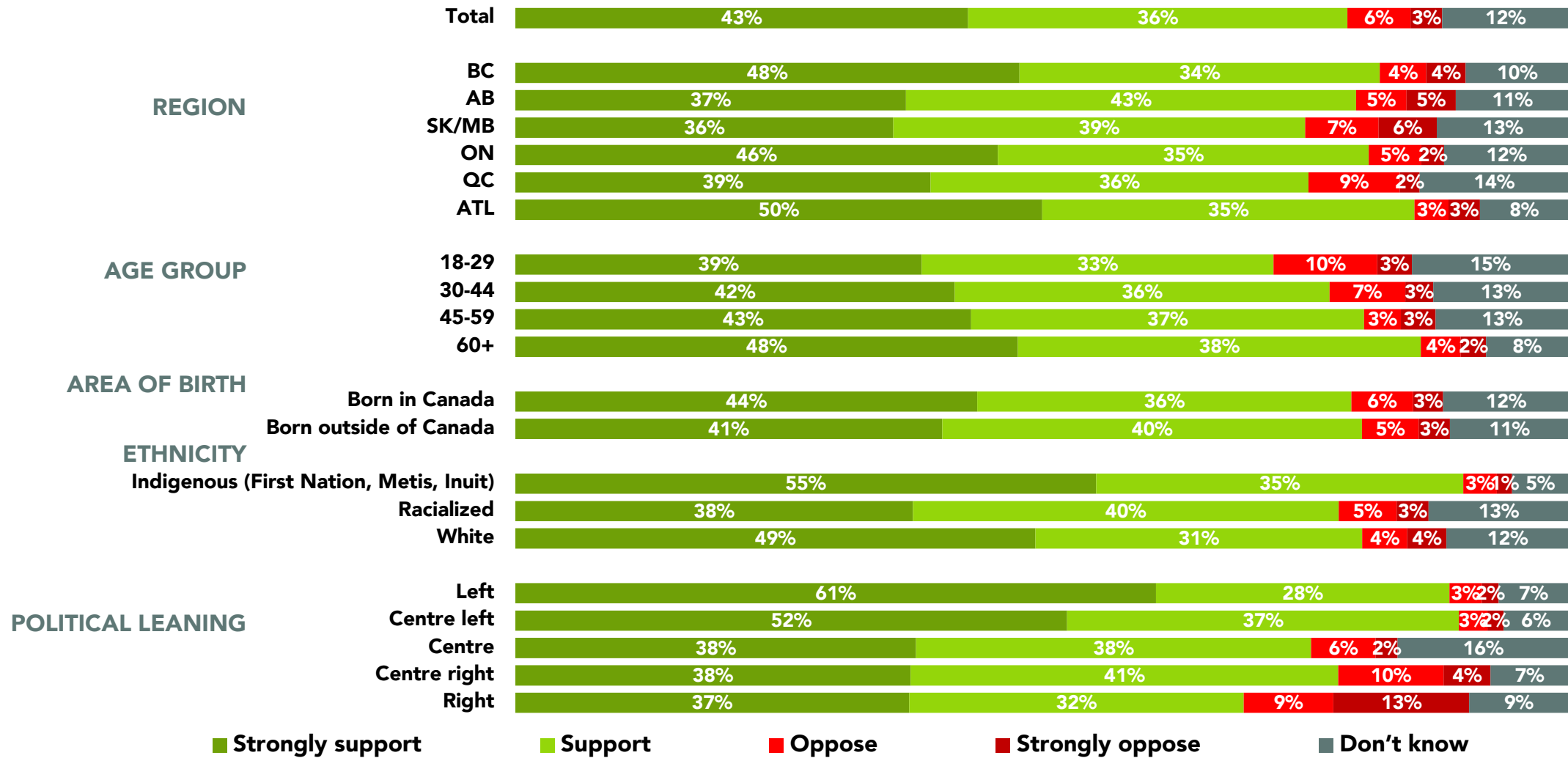
# ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON THE CALLS TO ACTION FROM THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION



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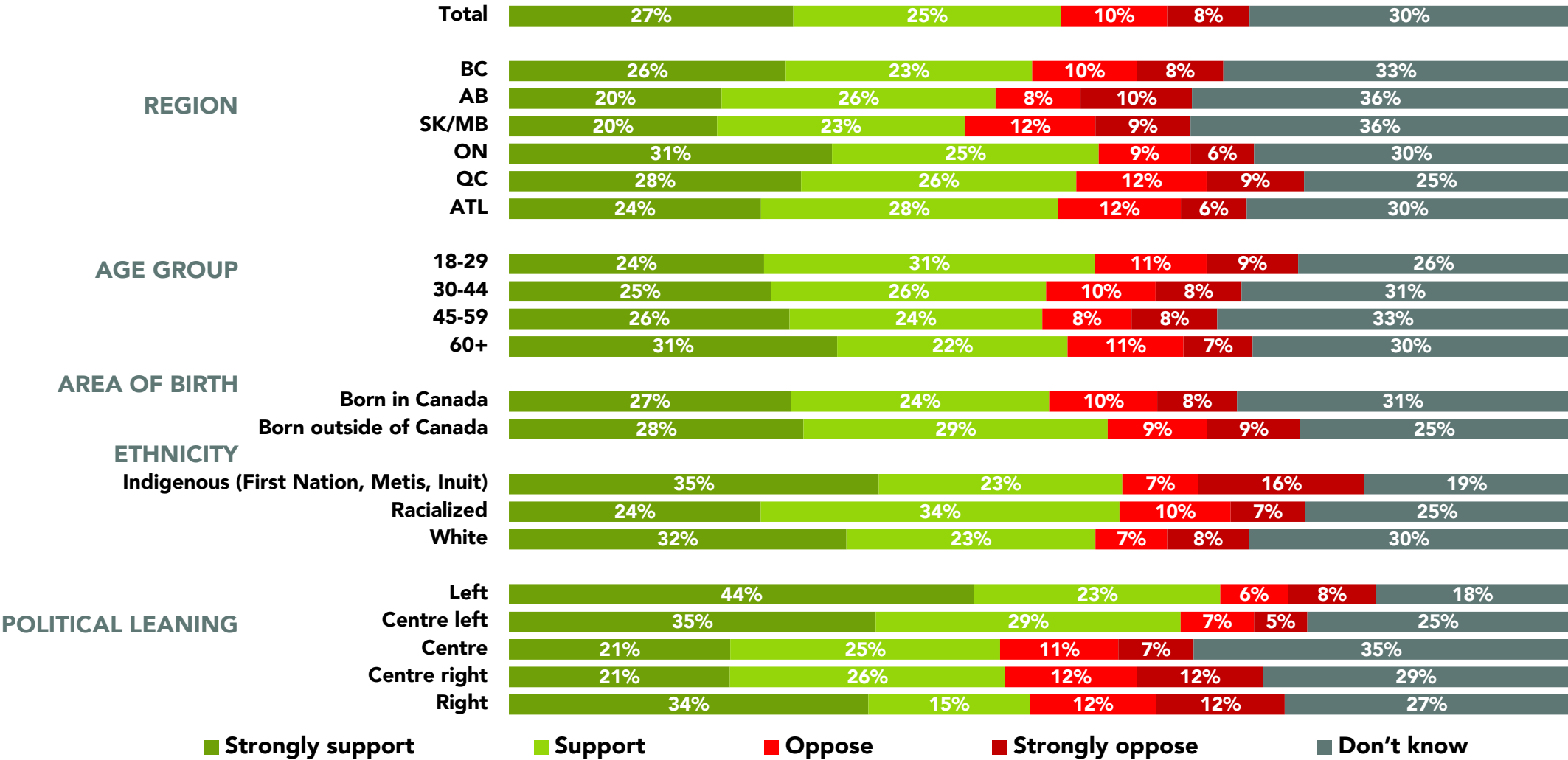


# FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO IDENTIFY UNMARKED GRAVES AT ALL FORMER RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS



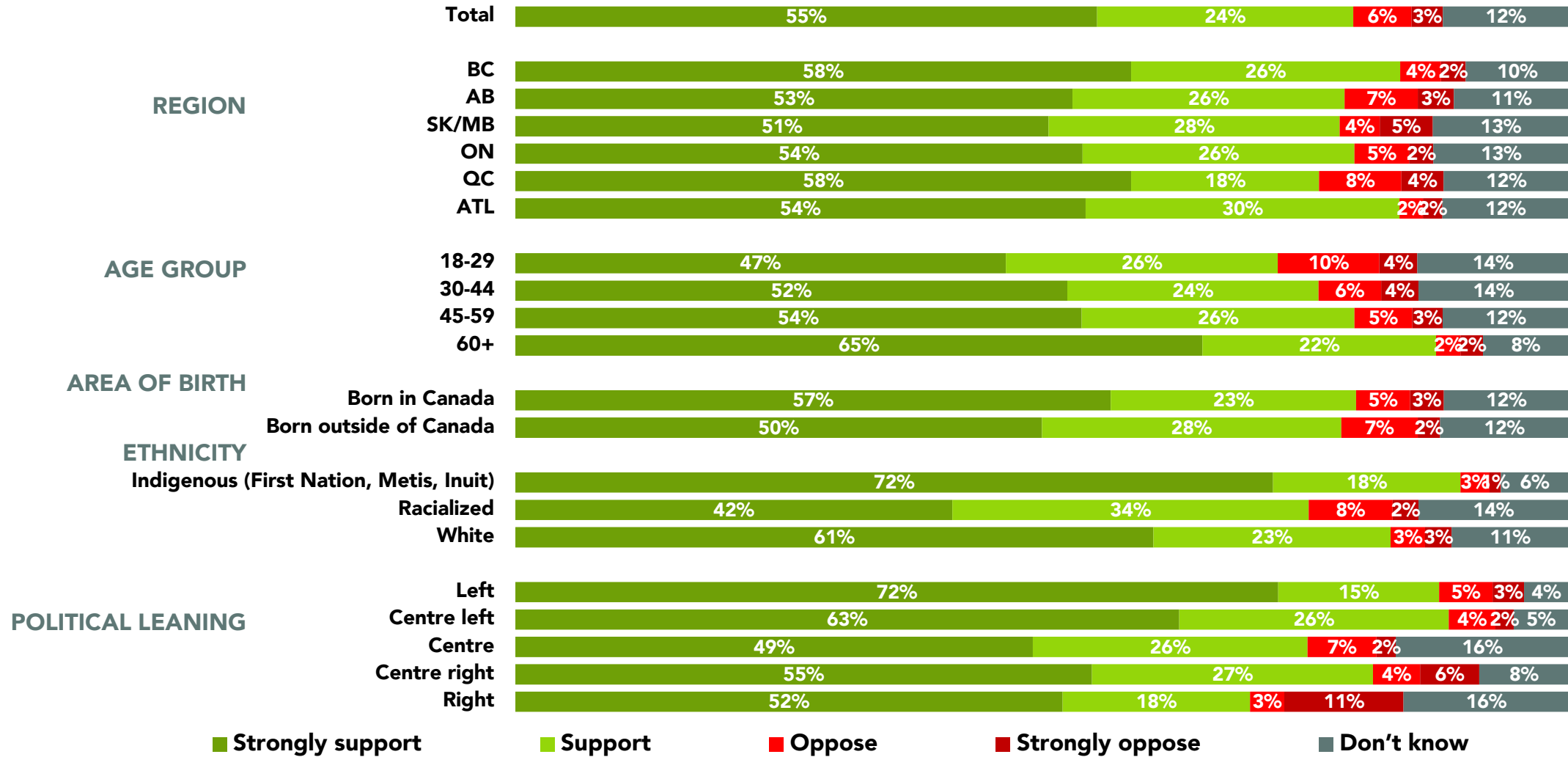
Below are some actions that some believe should be taken to respond to those impacted by residential schools. Do you support or oppose the following?

# ALL GOVERNMENTS CEASING COURT ACTIONS AGAINST RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS AND FIRST NATIONS CHILDREN



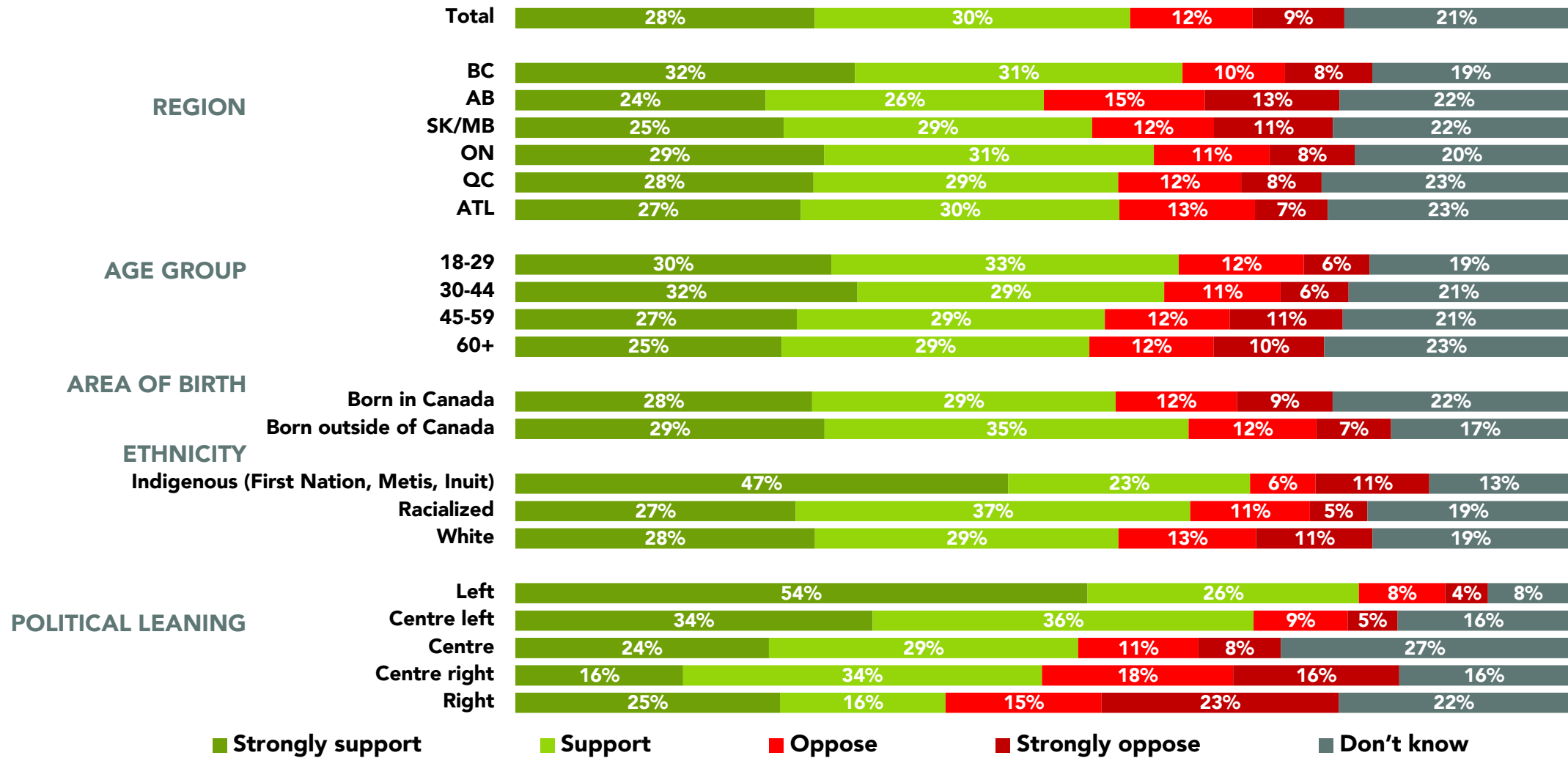
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# AN OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC APOLOGY FROM THE POPE AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH



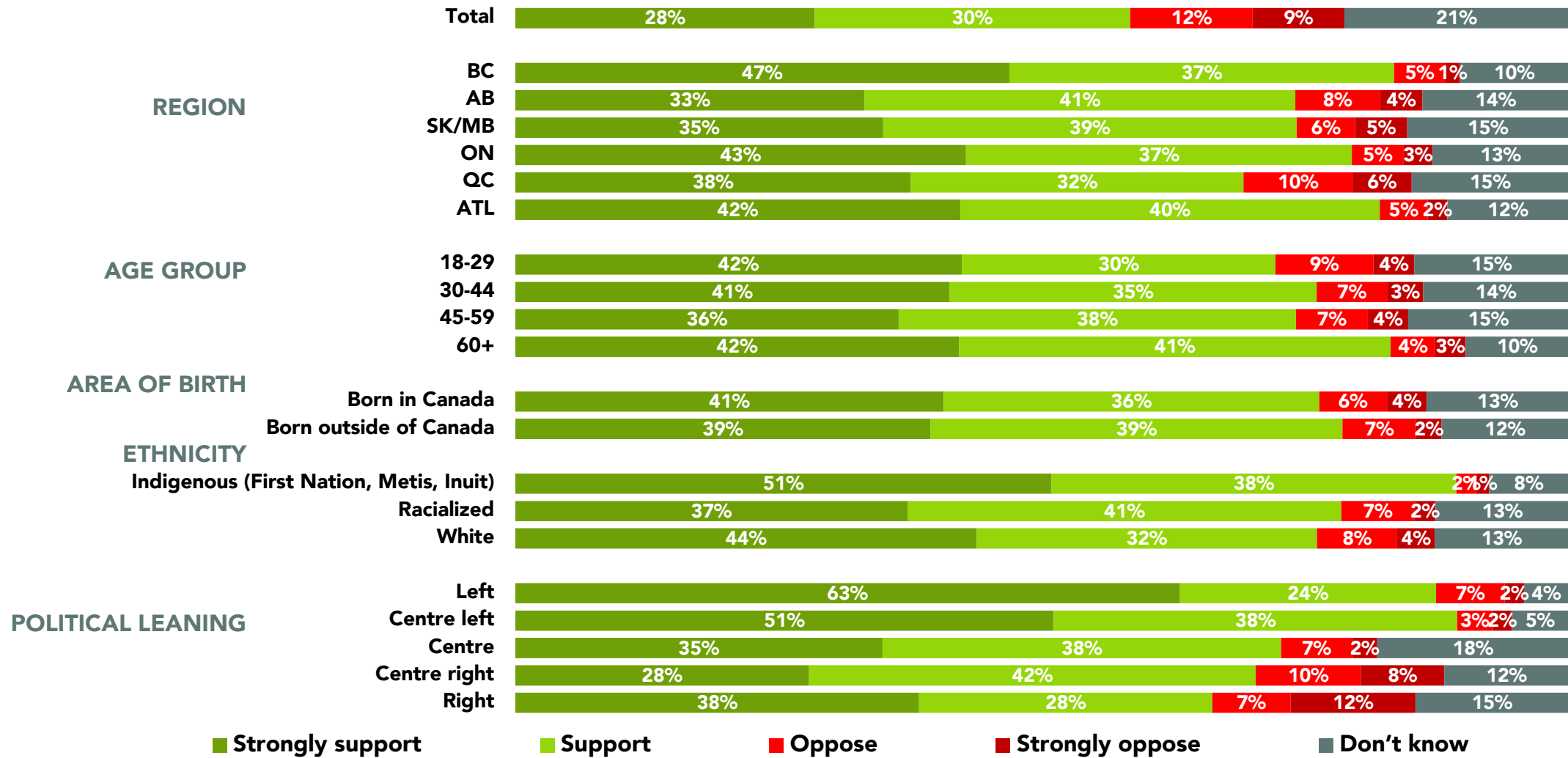
Below are some actions that some believe should be taken to respond to those impacted by residential schools. Do you support or oppose the following?

# RENAMING BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE NAMED FOR PEOPLE WHO BUILT OR RAN PARTS OF THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SYSTEM



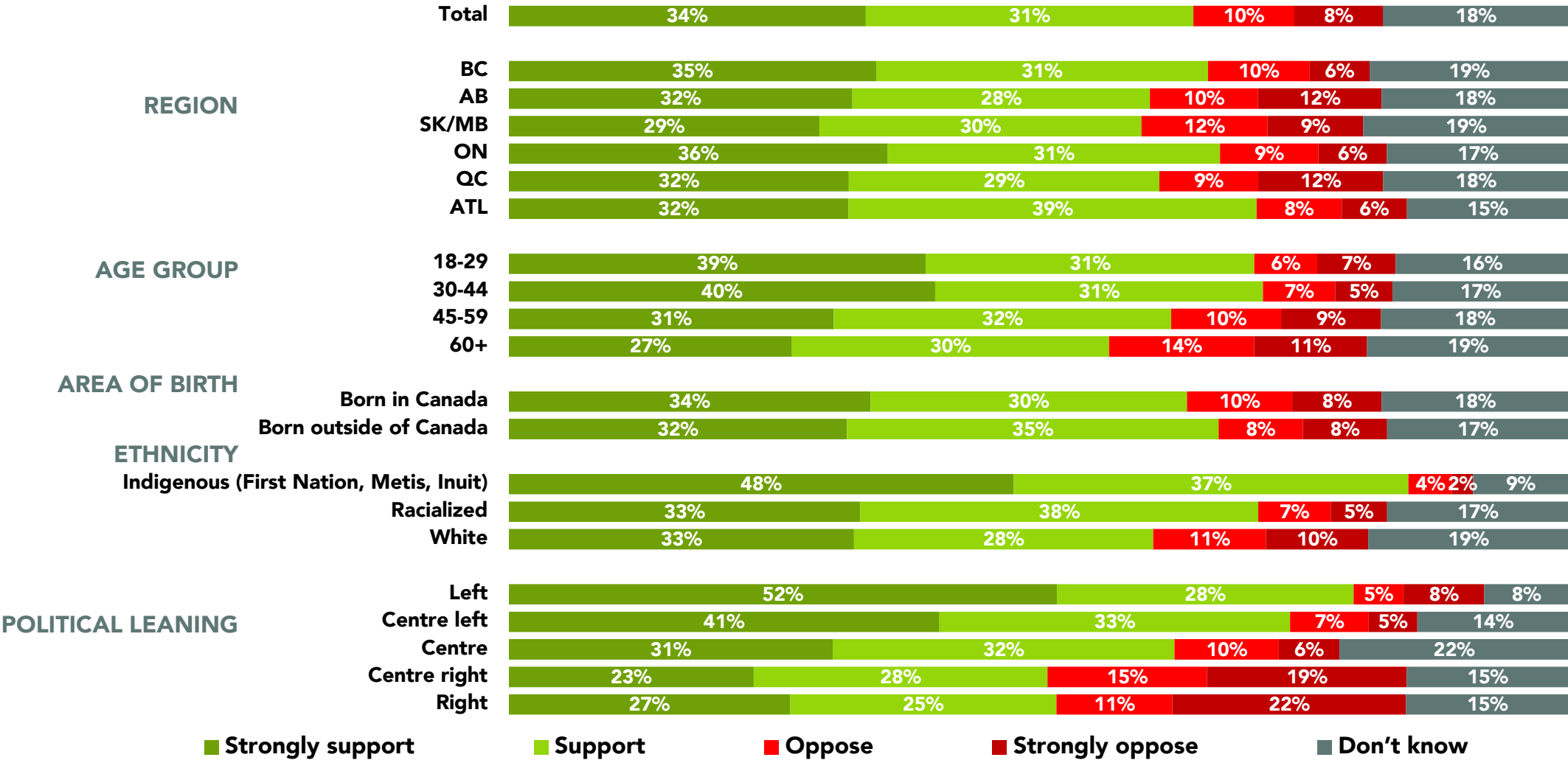
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# PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS IMPROVING SCHOOL CURRICULA IN PROVINCES ON RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS AND INDIGENOUS HISTORY



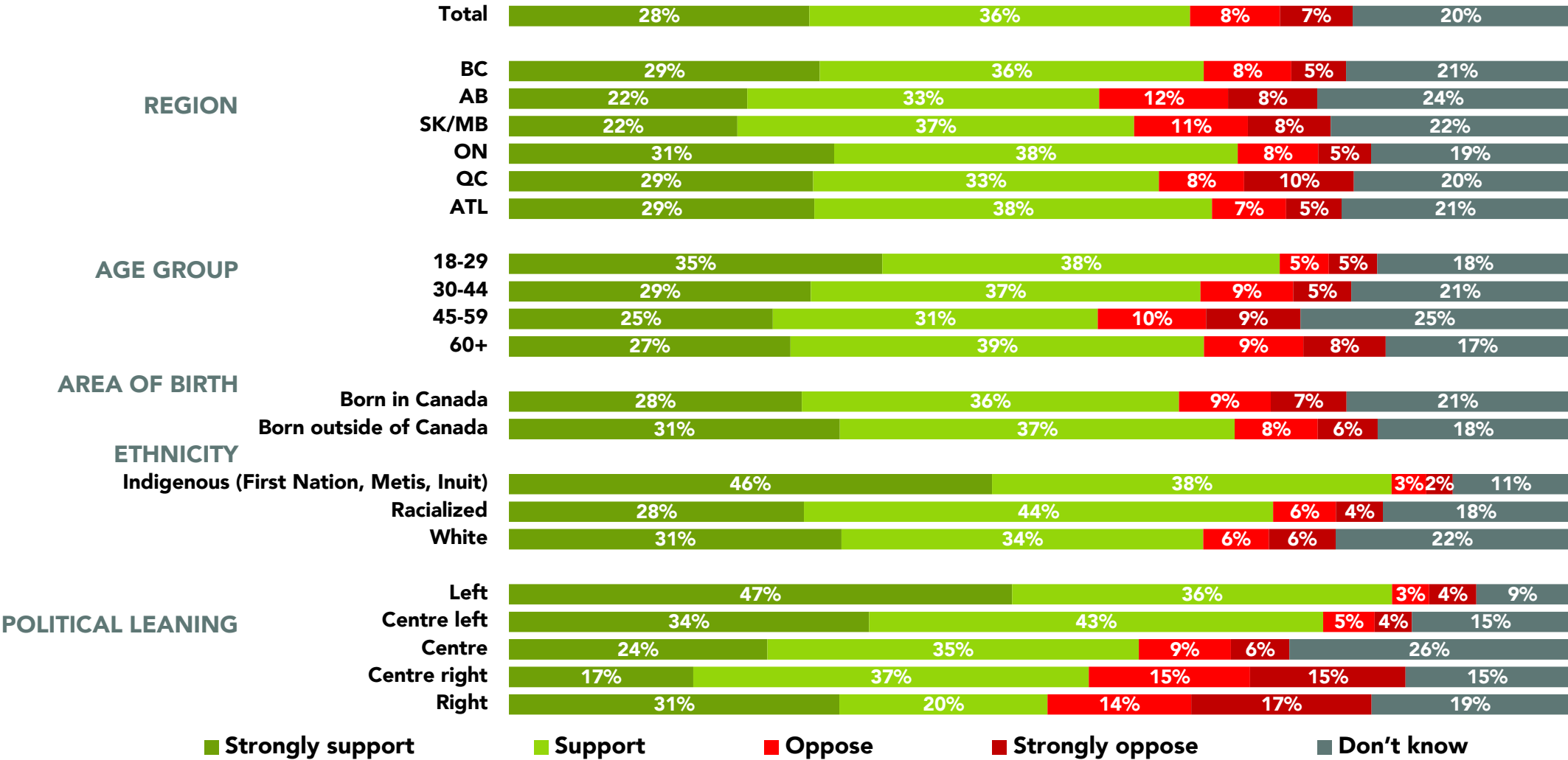
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# ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL STATUTORY HOLIDAY TO COMMEMORATE THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF INDIGENOUS RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS



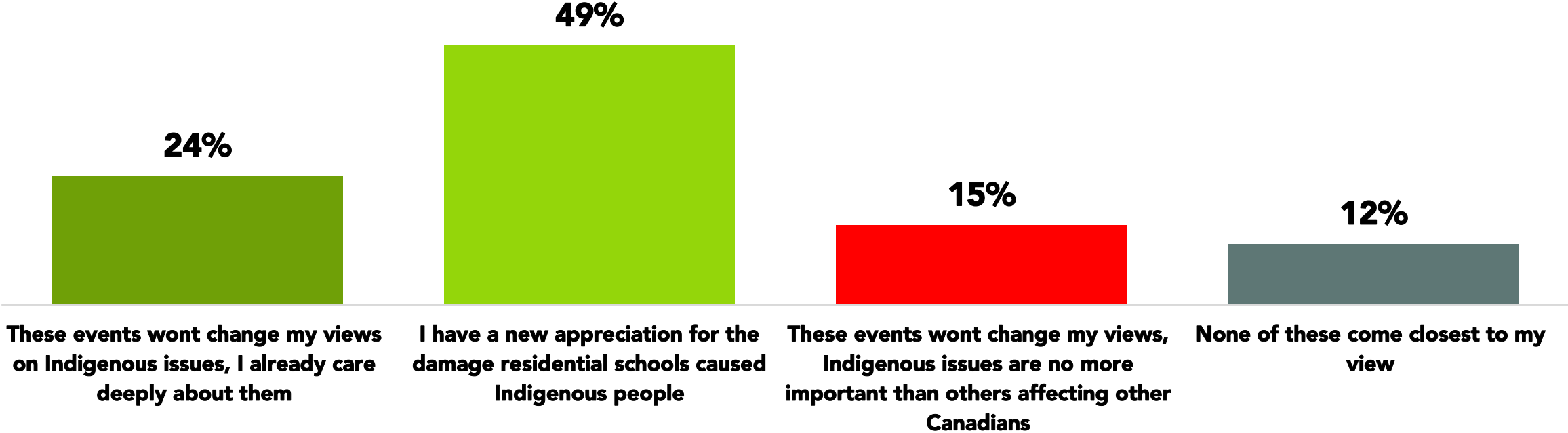
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# HOLDING A LEADERS' DEBATE FOCUSED ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES DURING THE NEXT ELECTION



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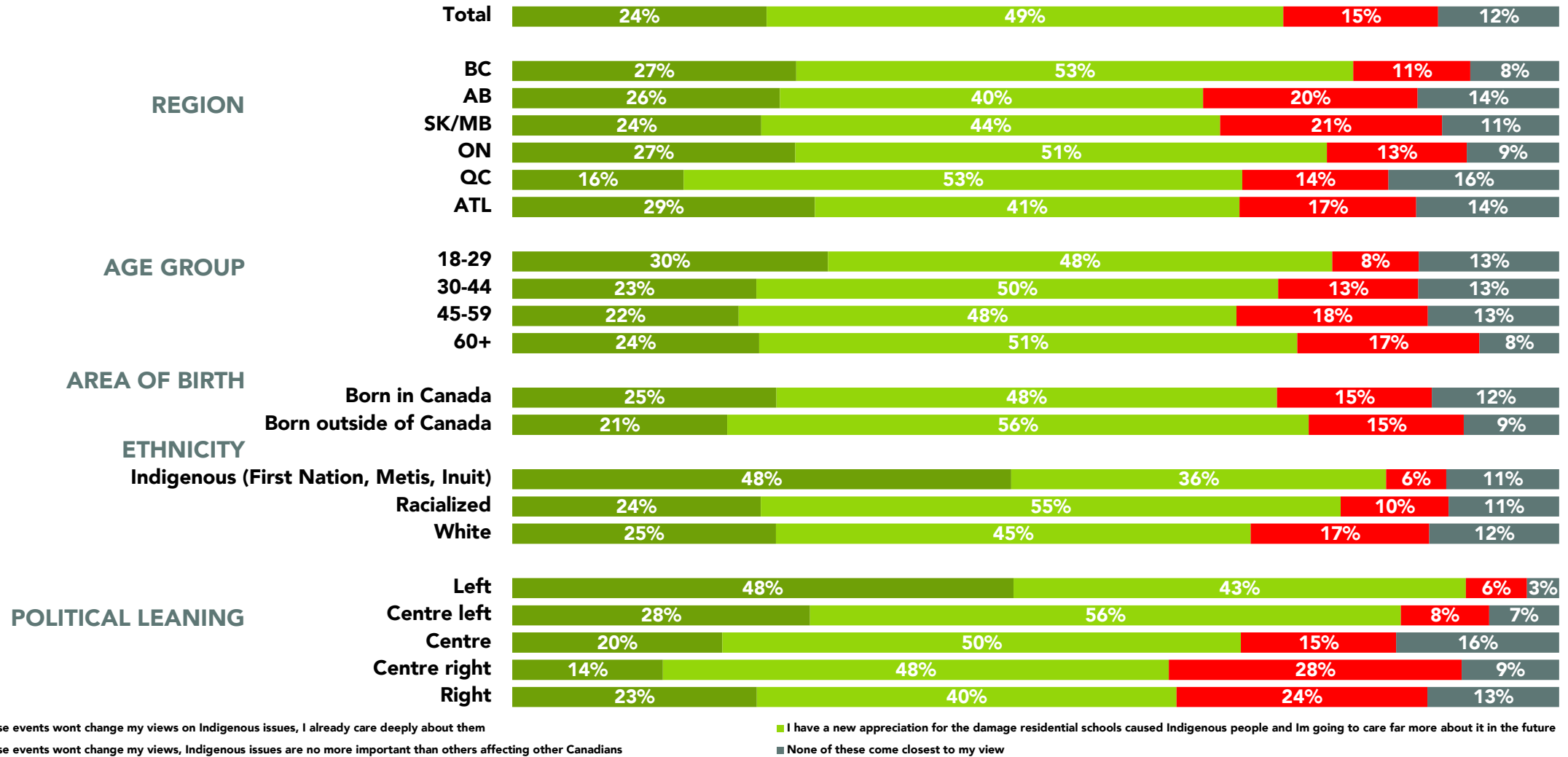
# THE IMPACT ON THE PAST WEEK ON VIEWS



As a result of what you've learned about residential schools and the discovery of the remains of Indigenous children, which of the following comes closest to your view?



# THE IMPACT ON THE PAST WEEK ON VIEWS

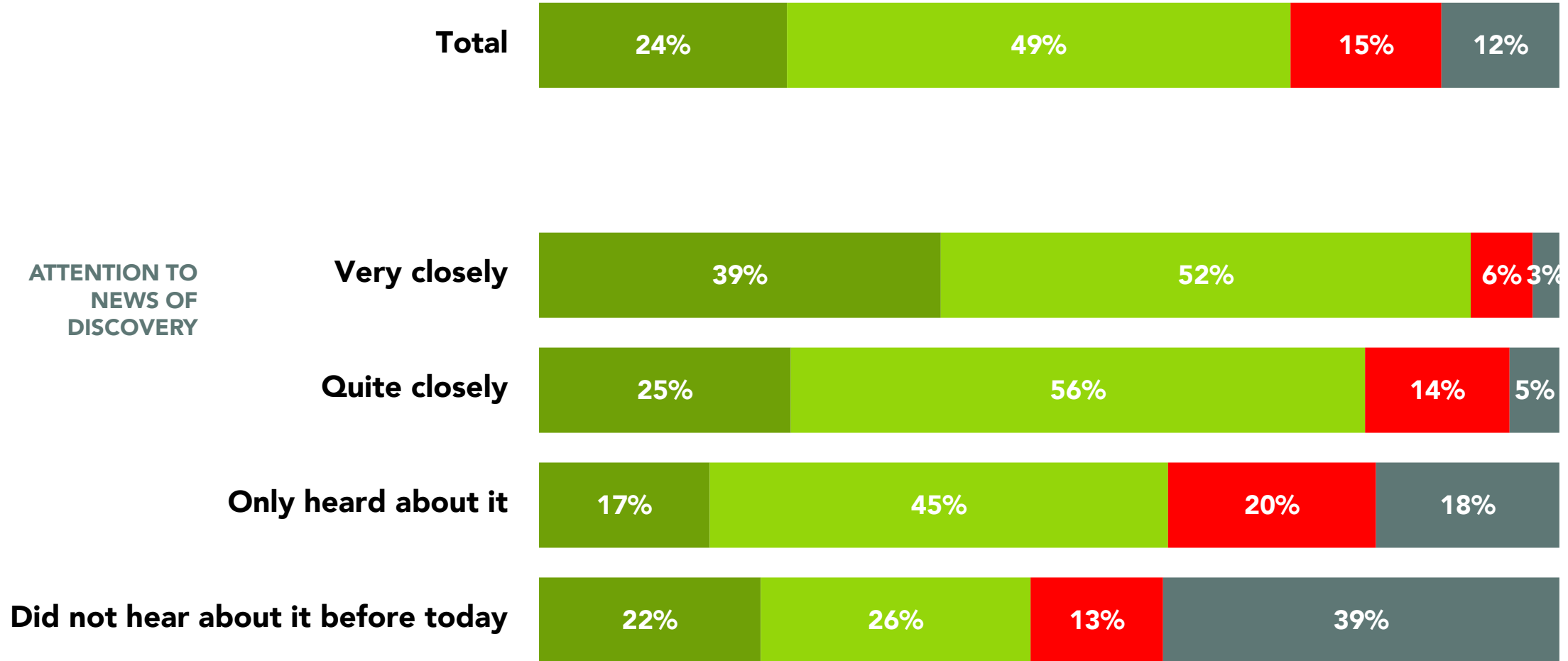


■ These events won't change my views on Indigenous issues, I already care deeply about them  
 ■ These events won't change my views, Indigenous issues are no more important than others affecting other Canadians

■ I have a new appreciation for the damage residential schools caused Indigenous people and I'm going to care far more about it in the future  
 ■ None of these come closest to my view

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