

# CAUT Harris-Decima Public Opinion Poll

CAUT Council  
April 25, 2013

# Methodology

- Telephone interviews conducted with representative sample of 2,000 adult Canadians between April 11 and April 22, 2013
- Results considered accurate within +/- 2.2%, 19 times out of 20
- Wider margin of error for regional and sub-population groups

# The Canadian Political Environment

# Political Party Support

- Major political shifts since the last poll
- Liberals lead in Quebec
- Conservatives maintain slight lead in ROC but are at lowest level of support since before the 2006 election
- NDP has slipped to 3<sup>rd</sup> spot



# Where they stand



32.6%



29.6%



22.4%

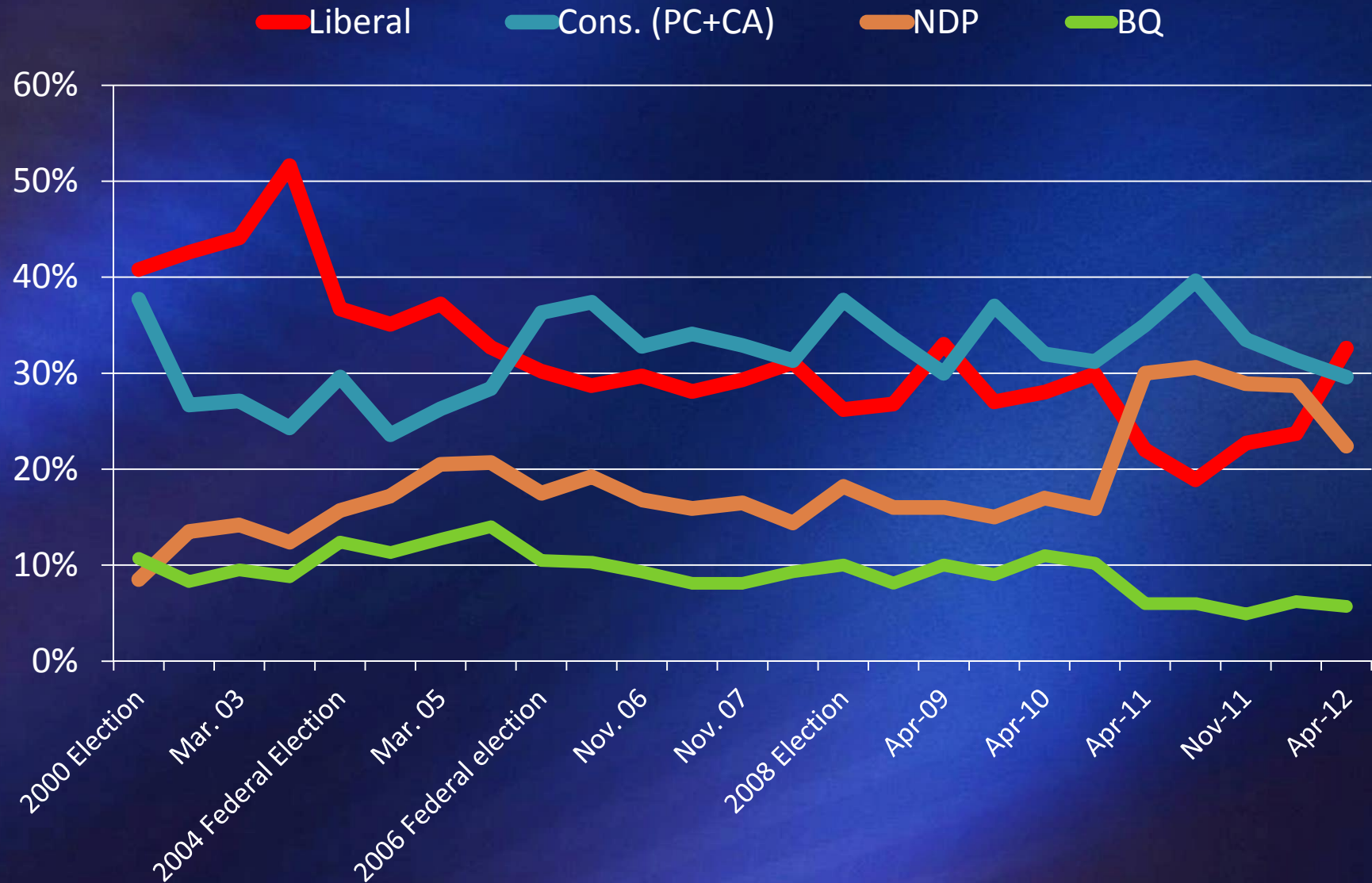


8.1%



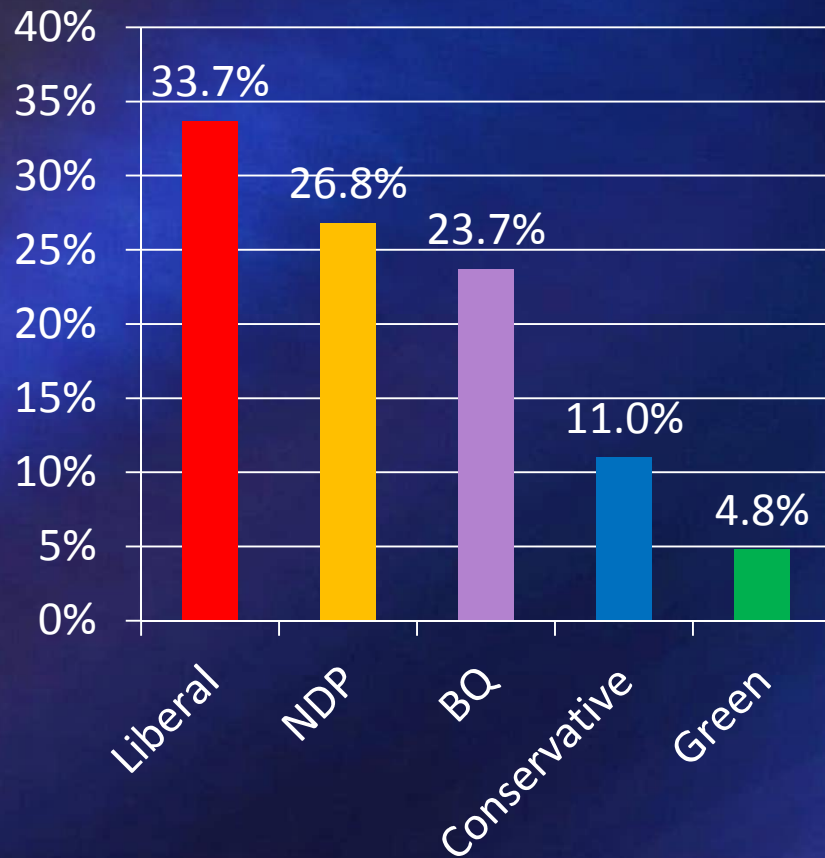
5.7%

# Political party support

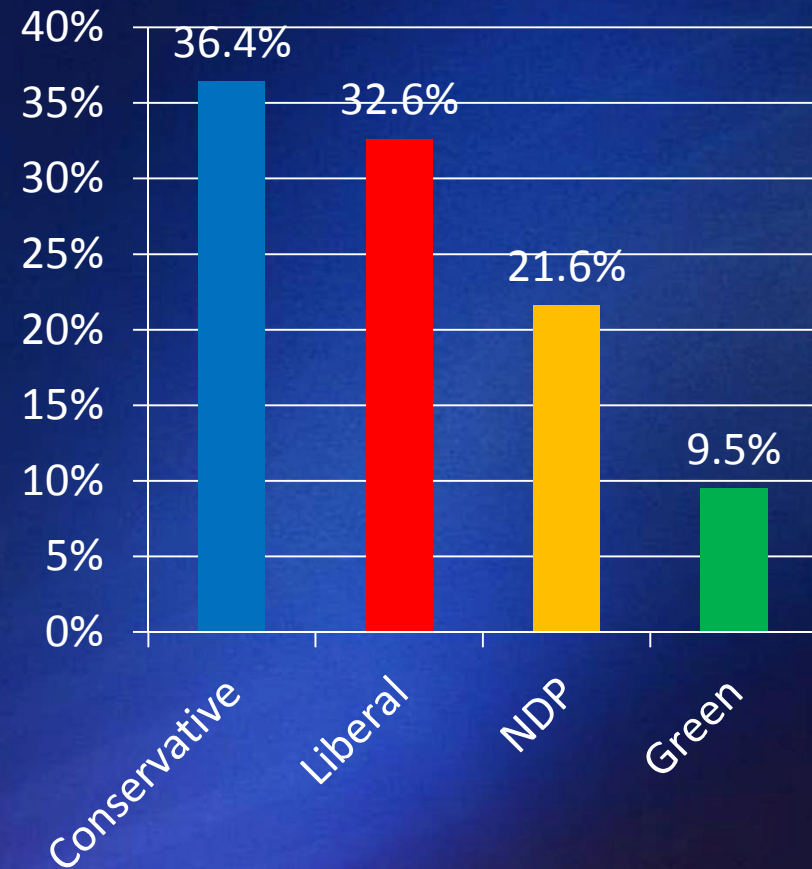


# Party support Quebec and ROC

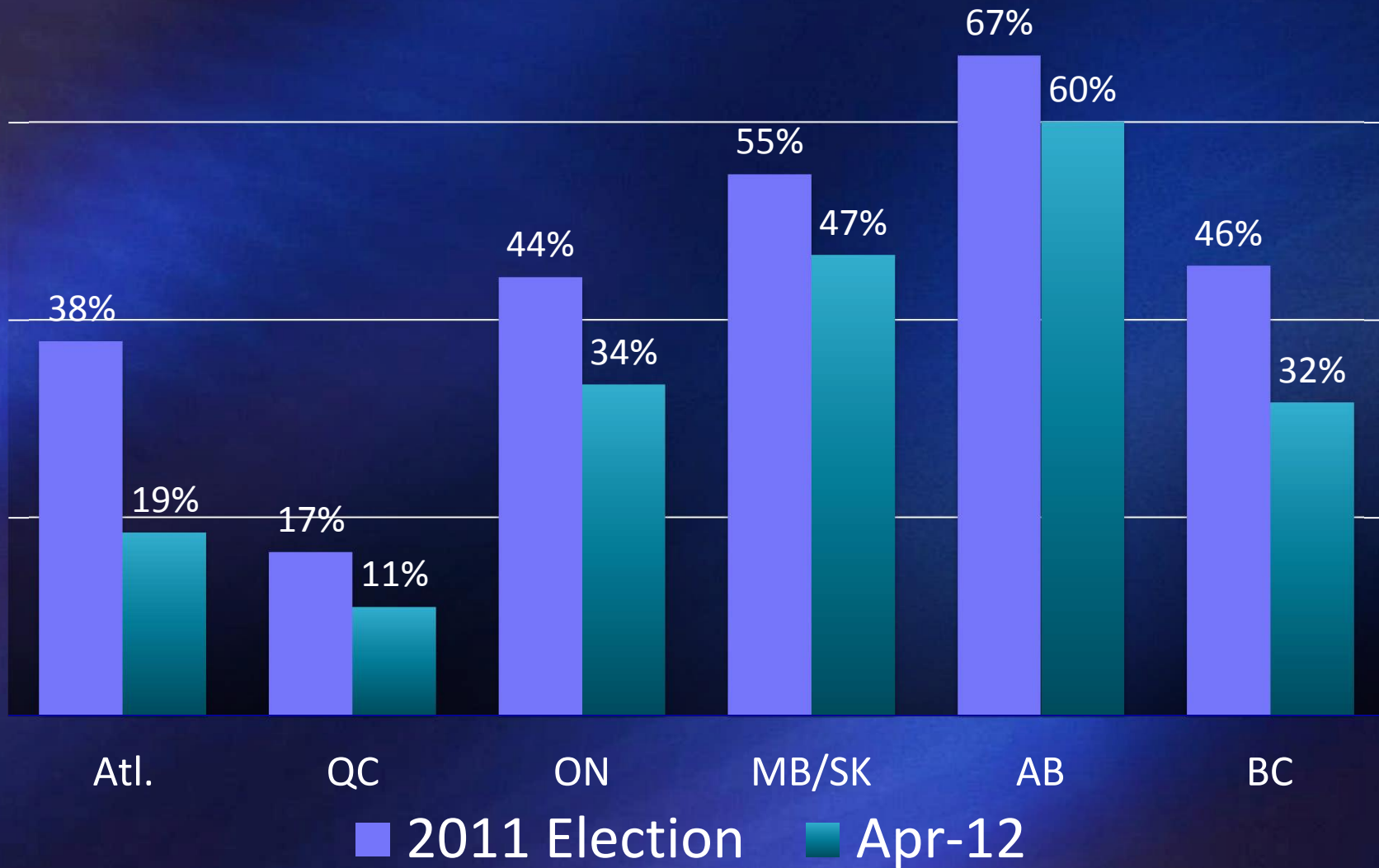
## Quebec



## Rest of Canada

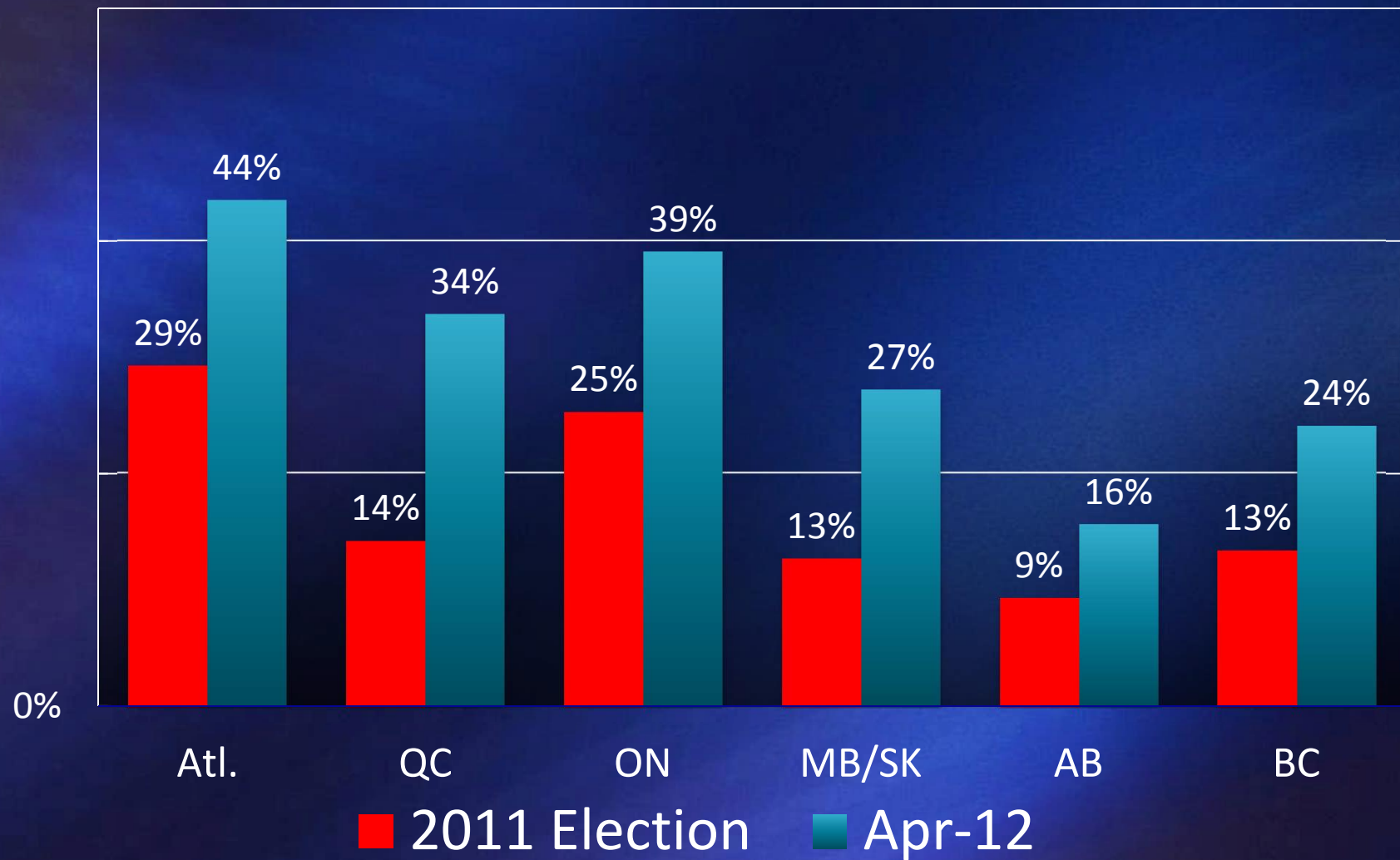


# CPC support by region

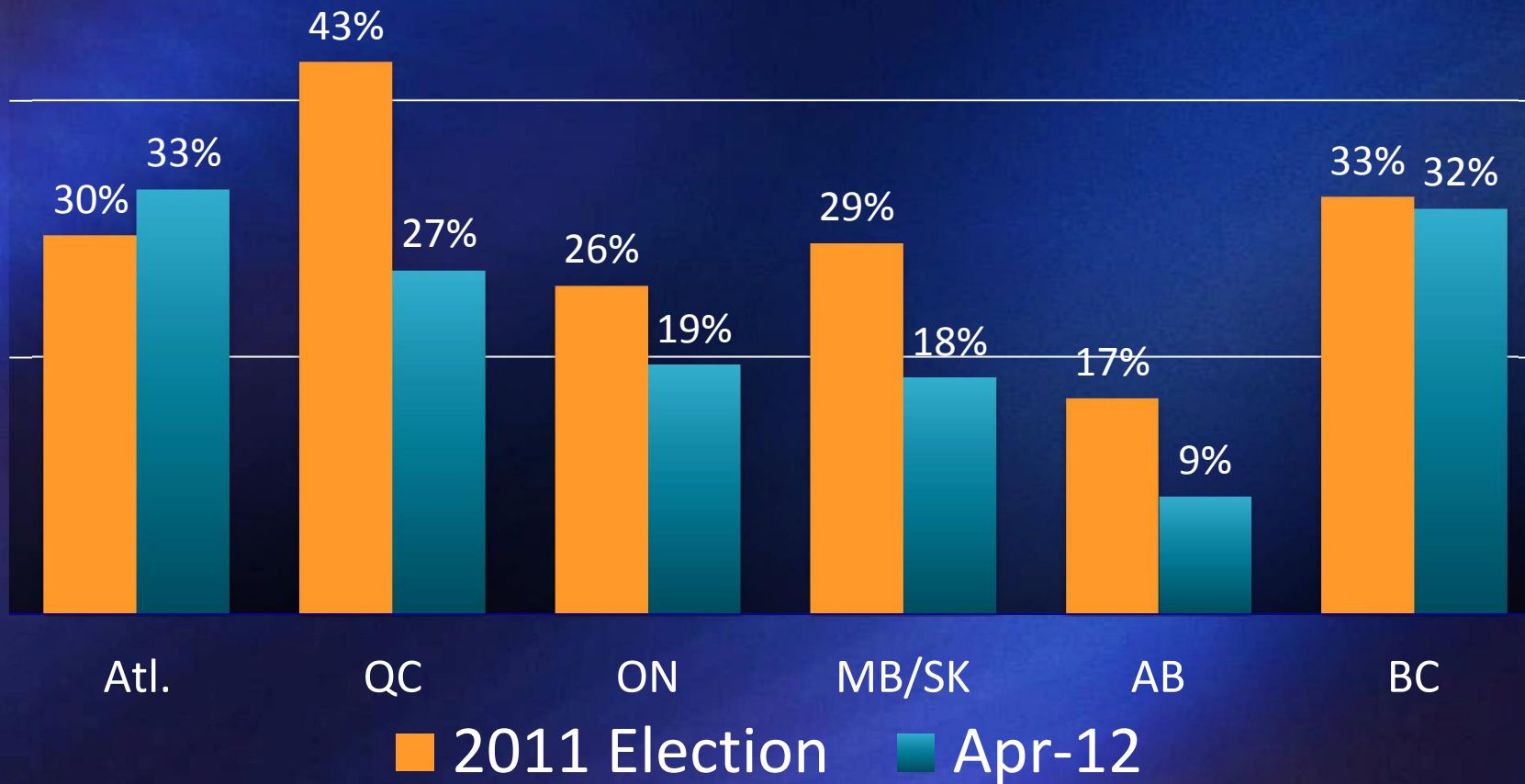




# Liberal support by region



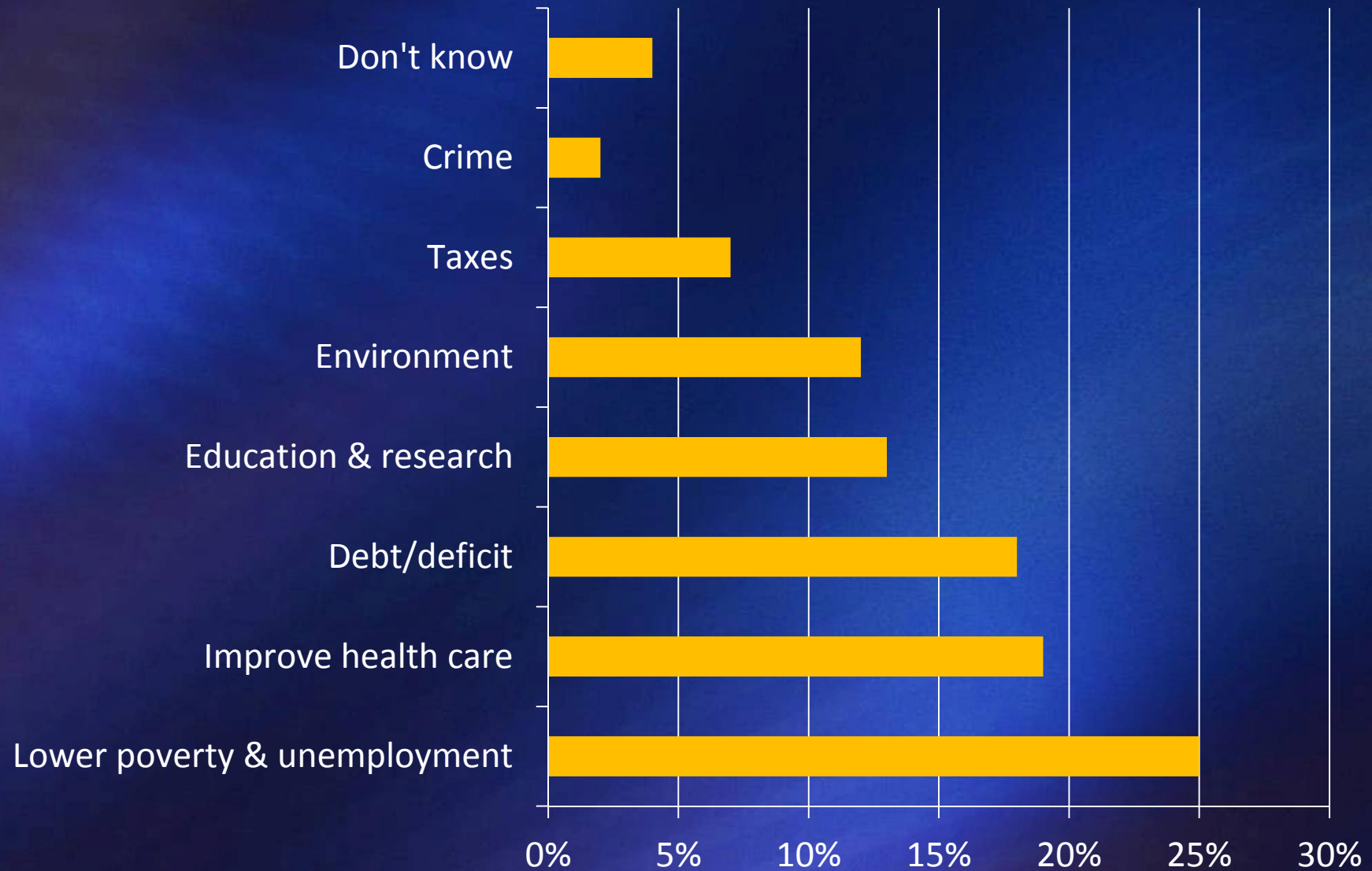
# NDP support by region



# Government priorities

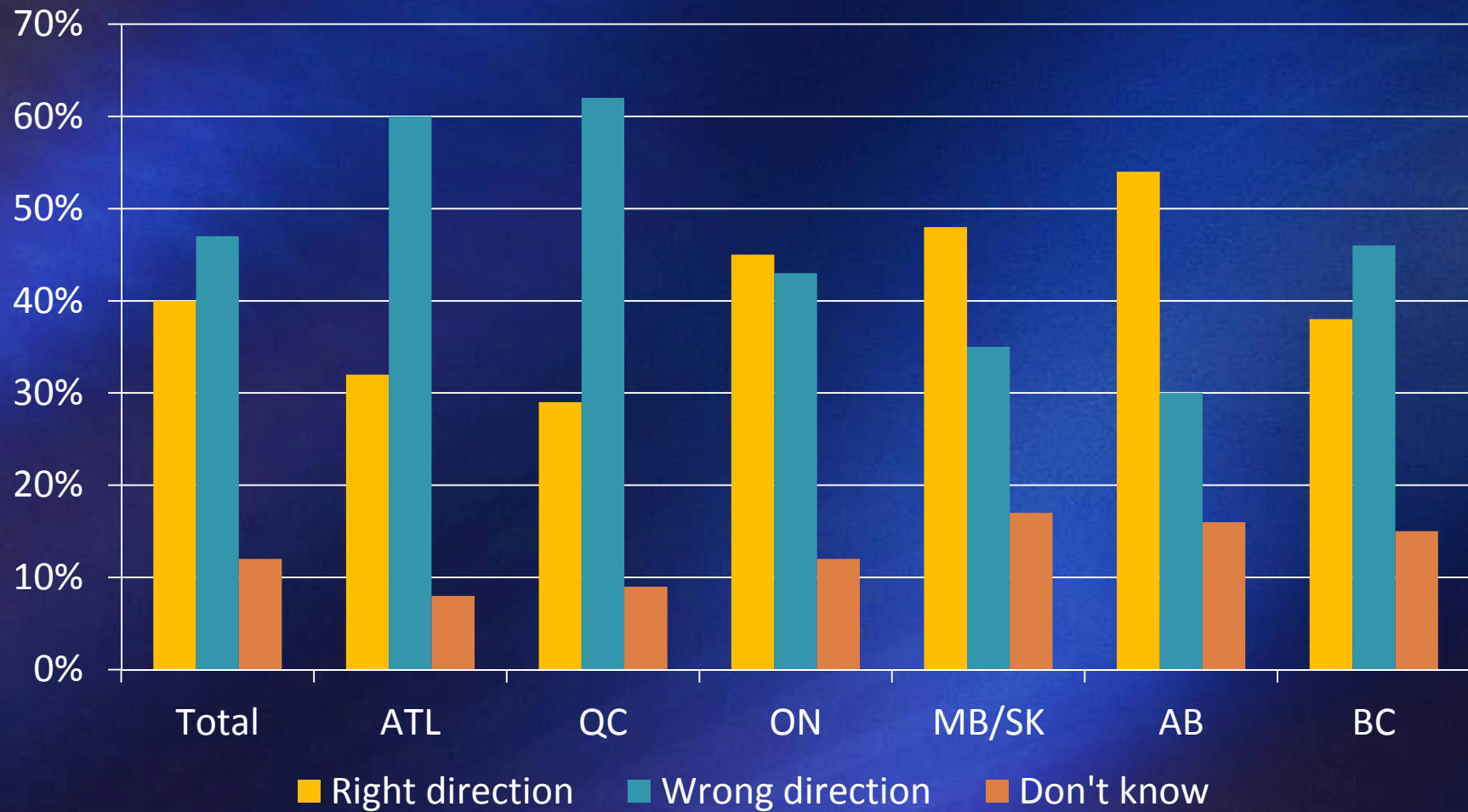
- Economic issues continue to be the top issue of concern to most Canadians
- Concerns about debt/deficit slip to 3<sup>rd</sup>, behind health care
- Less concern about taxes or crime
- Most Canadians polled think the federal government is taking the country in the wrong direction, but some significant regional differences

# Main priority for Gov't





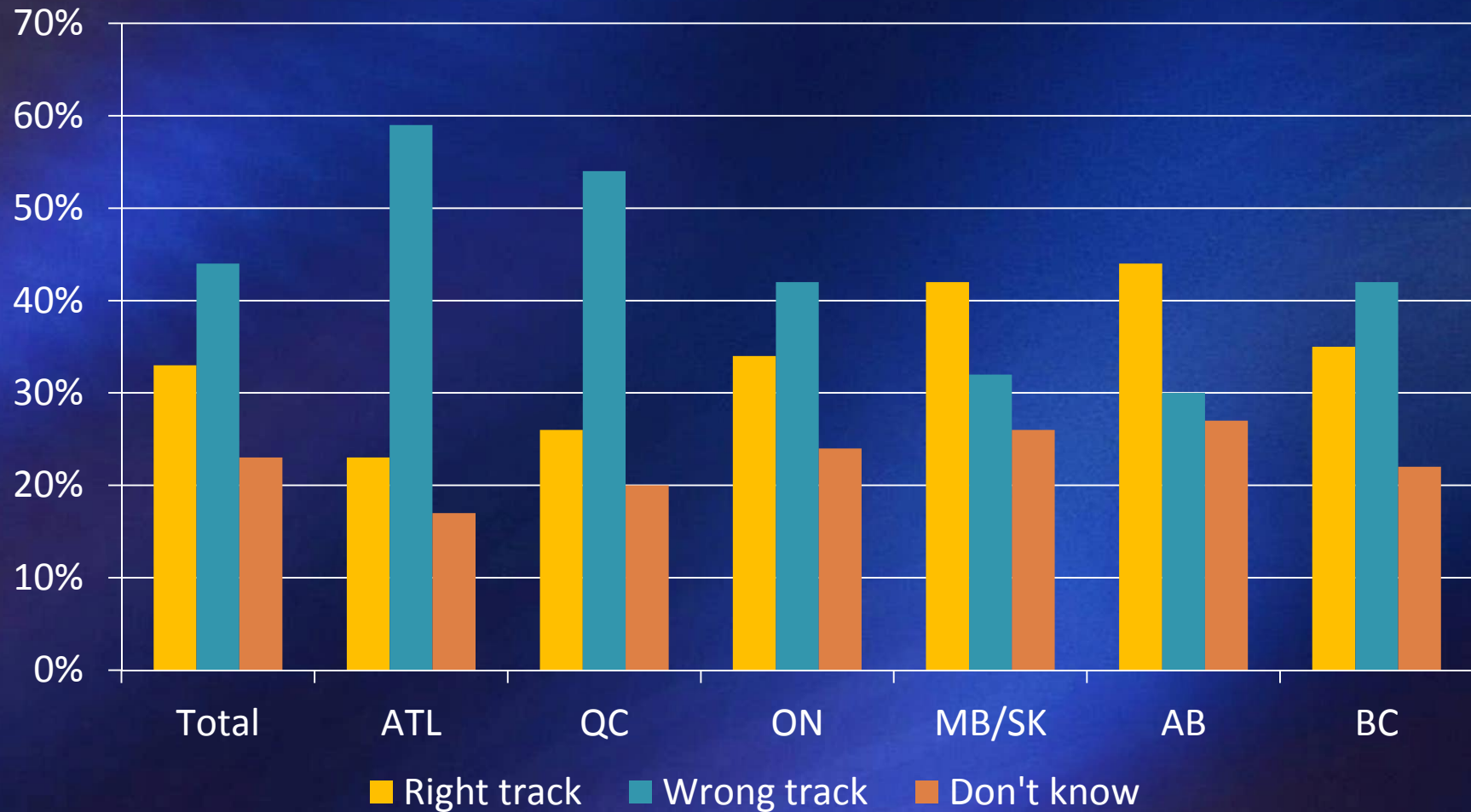
# Harper gov't: right or wrong direction?



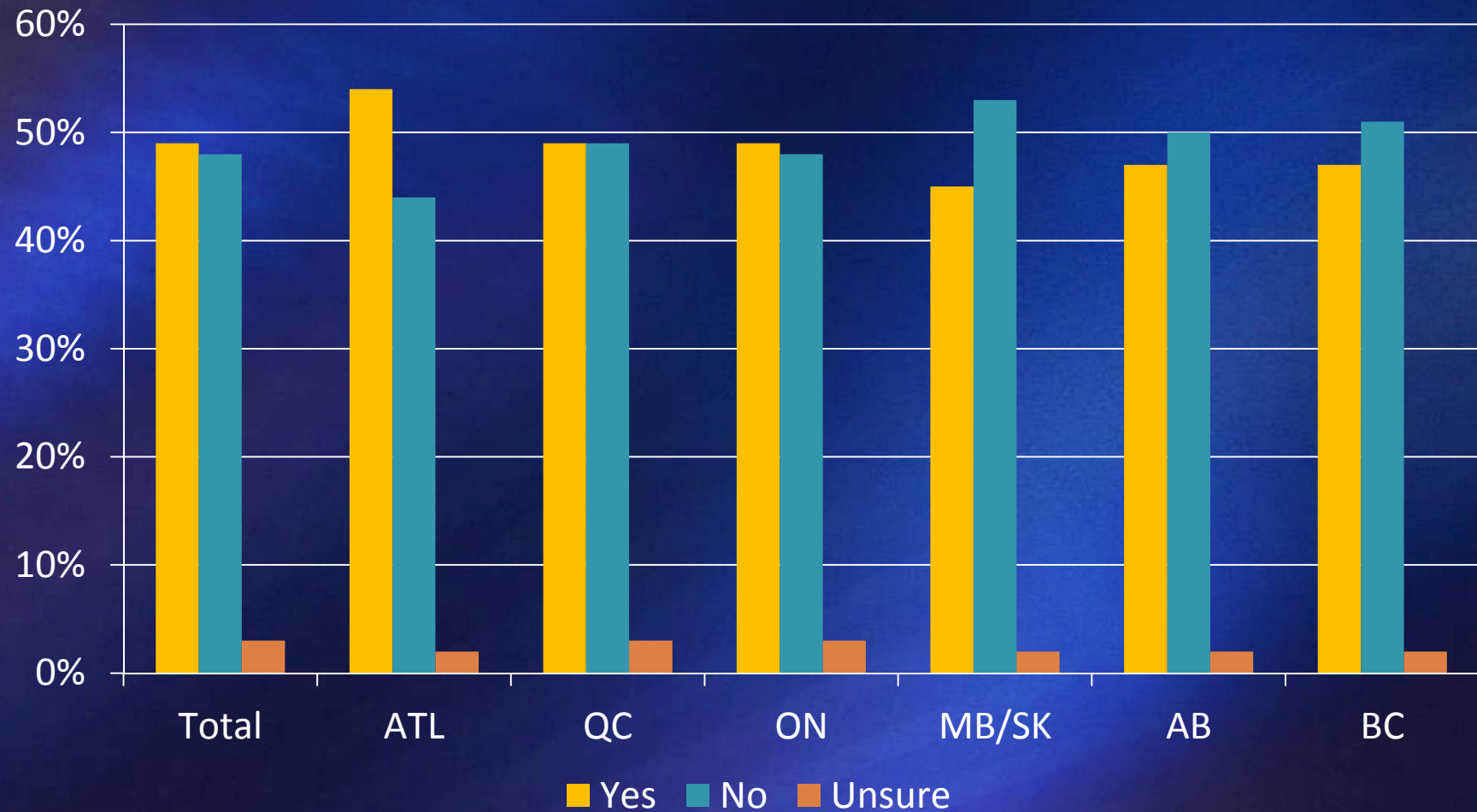
# Public opinion on science policy

- Most Canadians think the government is on the wrong track when it comes to science policy
- Some awareness of funding cuts and muzzling of scientists
- Most Canadians don't believe the government is "anti-science" even though a majority believe the Conservatives are trying to suppress research into climate change
- Very high level of trust for scientists and researchers
- Concerns about industry-funded research

# Science policy: right track or wrong track?



# Aware of funding cuts to science and research?

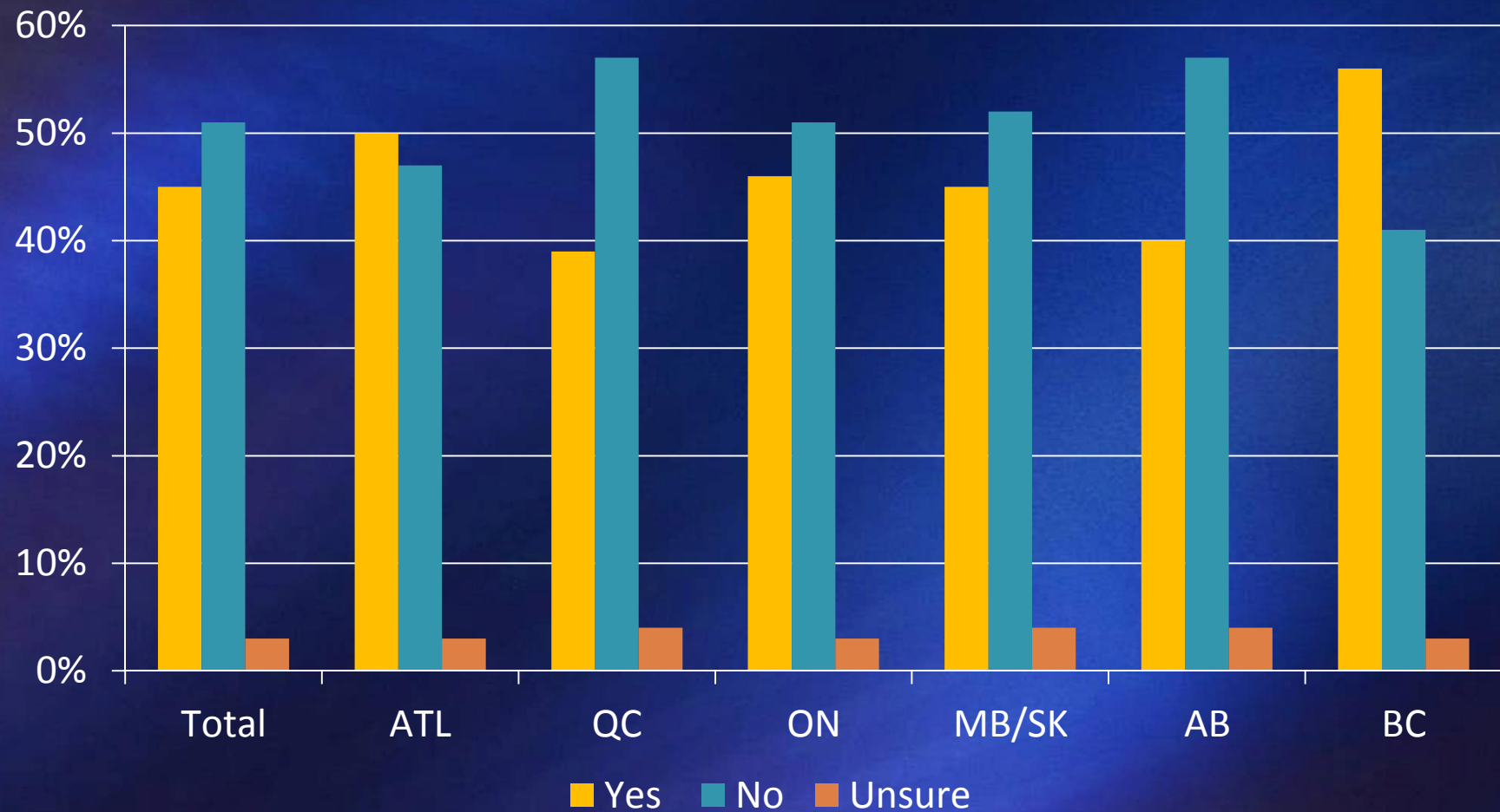




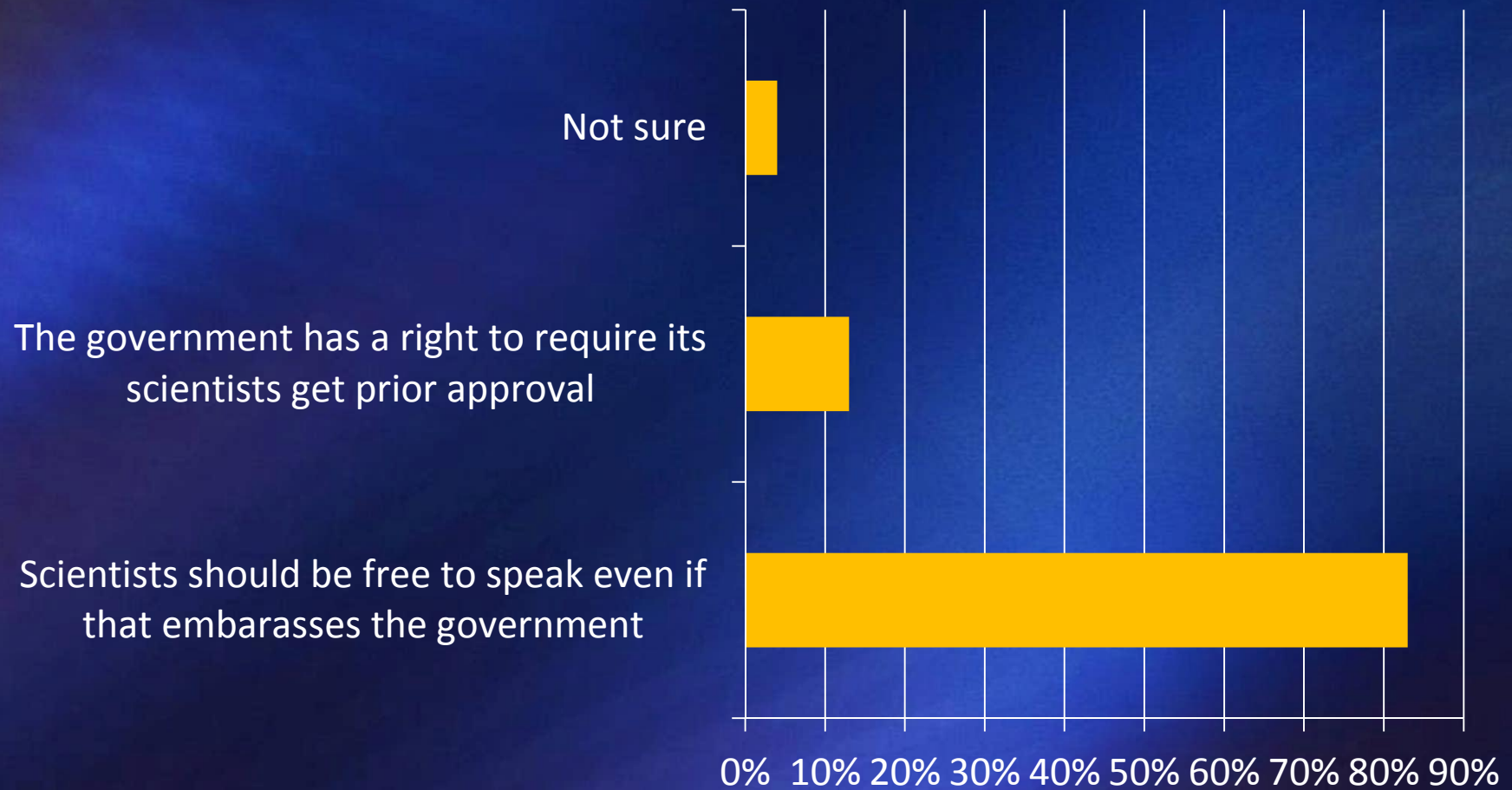
# If aware of cuts, what best describes your view?



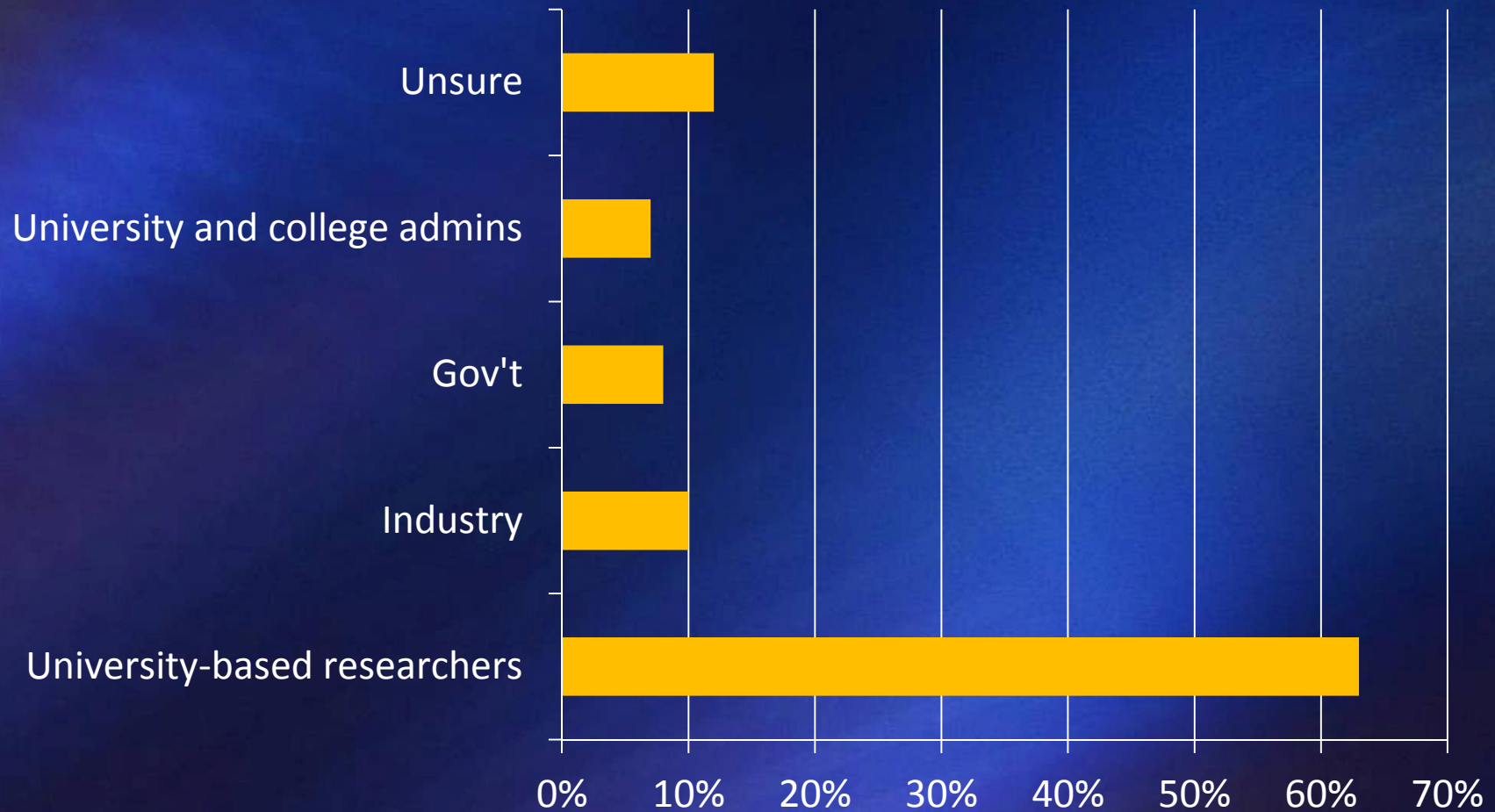
# Aware of muzzling of gov't scientists?



# If aware, what best reflects your views?

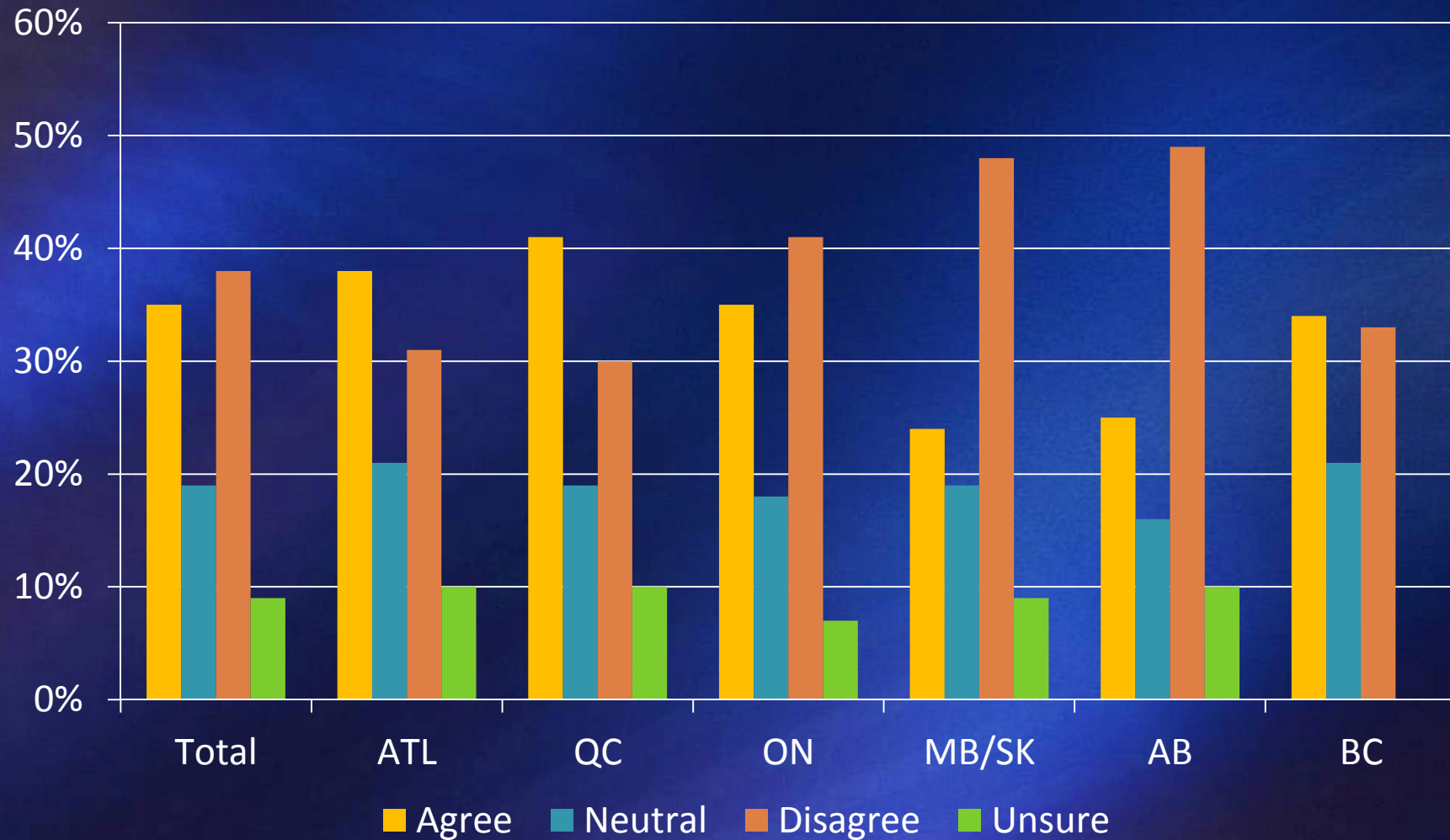


# Who is best placed to decide what research is most important to fund?

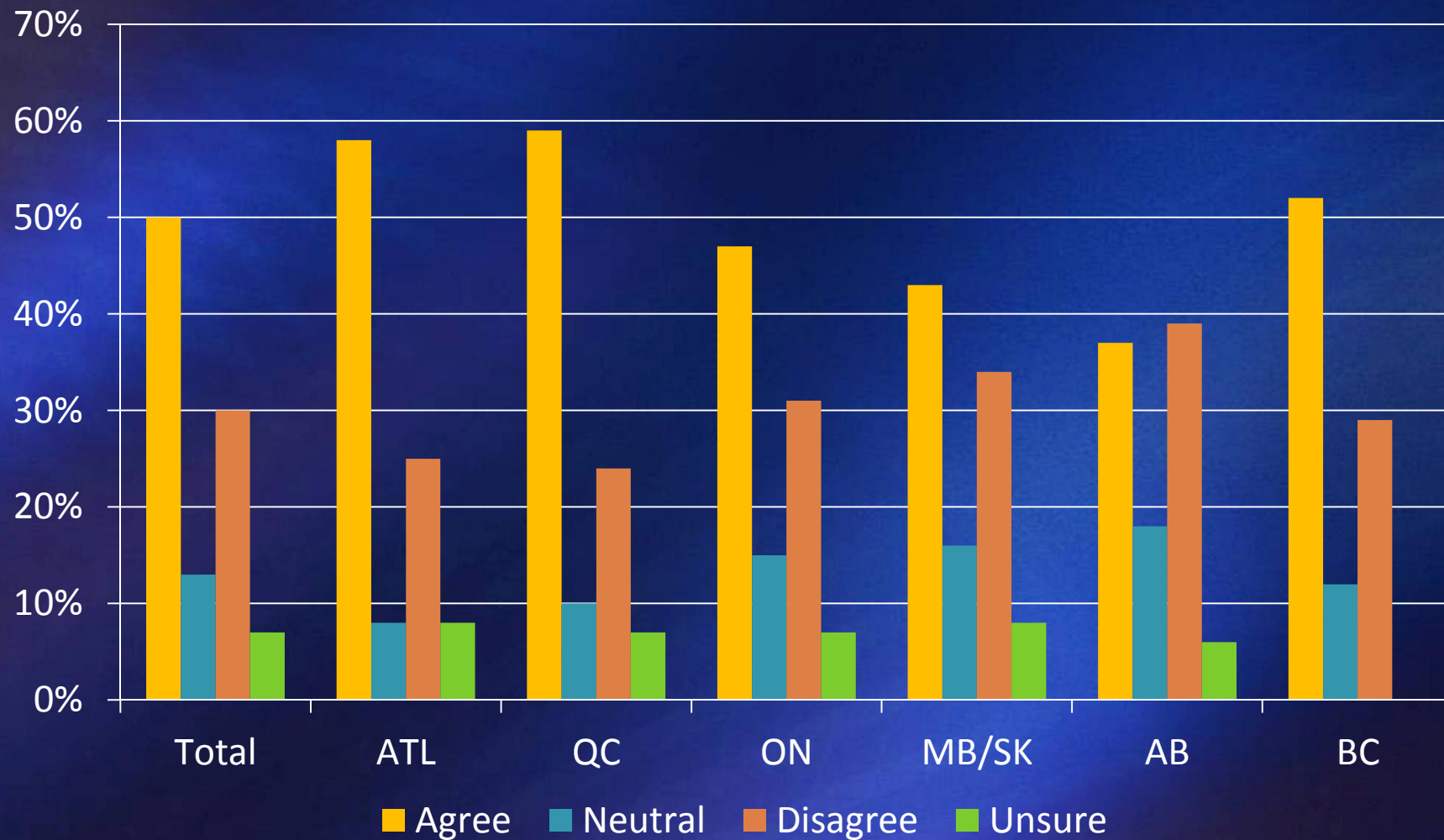




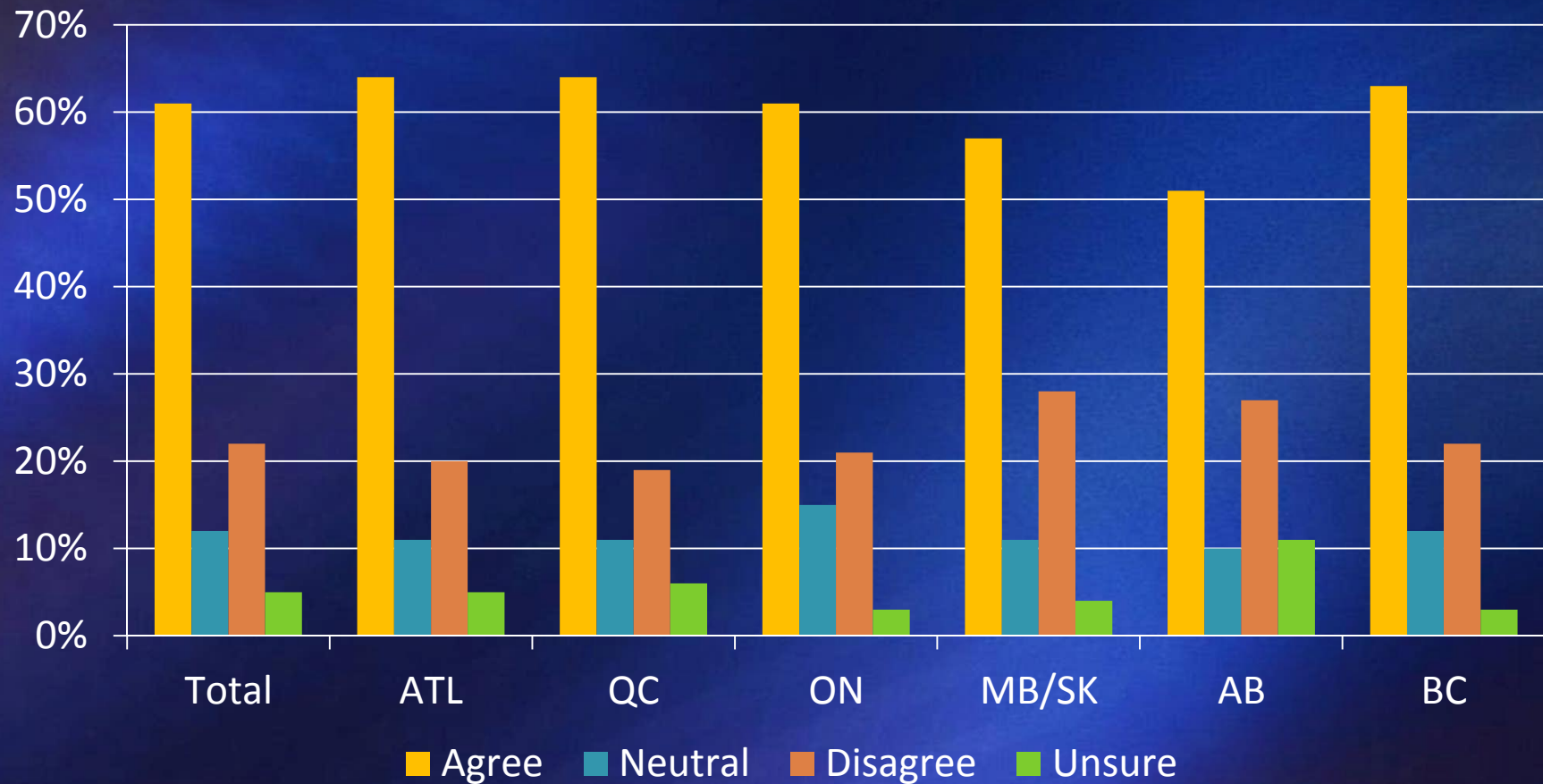
# The federal gov't is "anti-science"



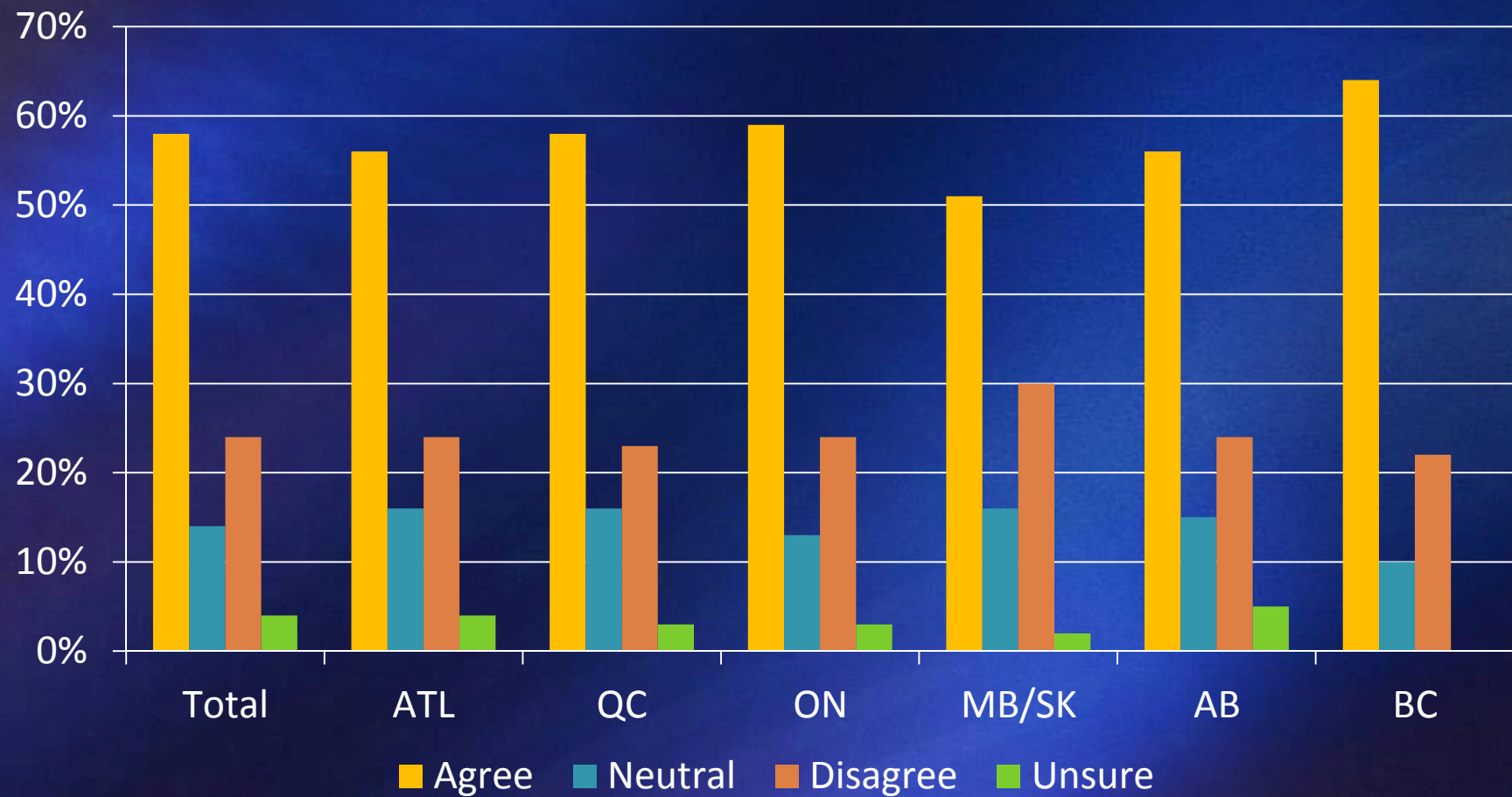
# The federal gov't is trying to suppress evidence of climate change



# Government's science policy puts business before the environment



# I am suspicious of scientific studies funded by companies





# Conclusions

- The Justin factor – a political “blip”, Harper fatigue, or something else?
- Social issues like unemployment and health care trump debt/deficit concerns
- Most Canadians suspicious of the government’s approach to science on specific matters like climate change...most wary of painting the Conservatives as “anti-science”