

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

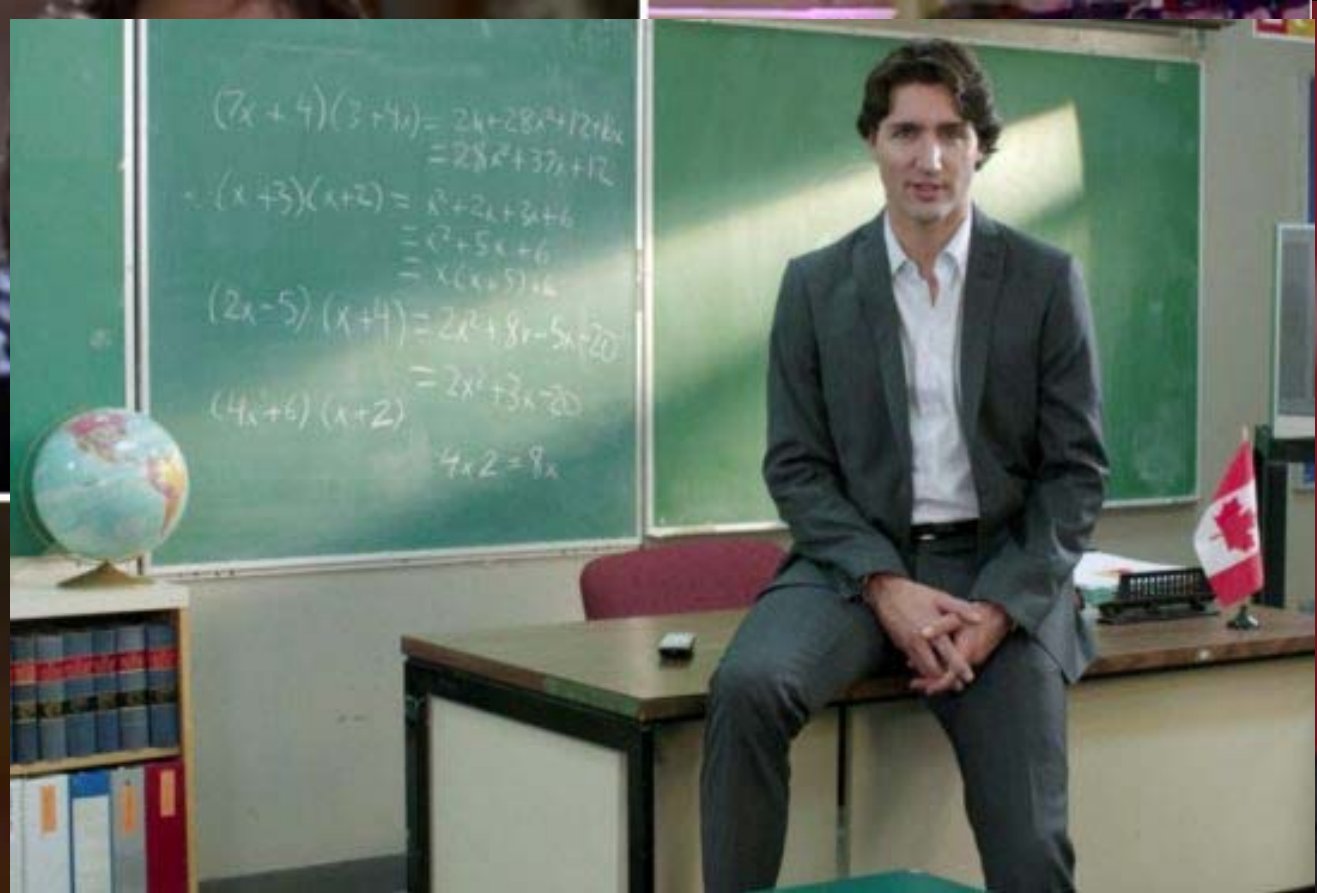
The Canadian Political Environment





WELFARE

TO END
ATOMIC WAR



JUSTIN TRUDEAU

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 3rd spot

Where they stand



32.6%



29.6%



22.4%

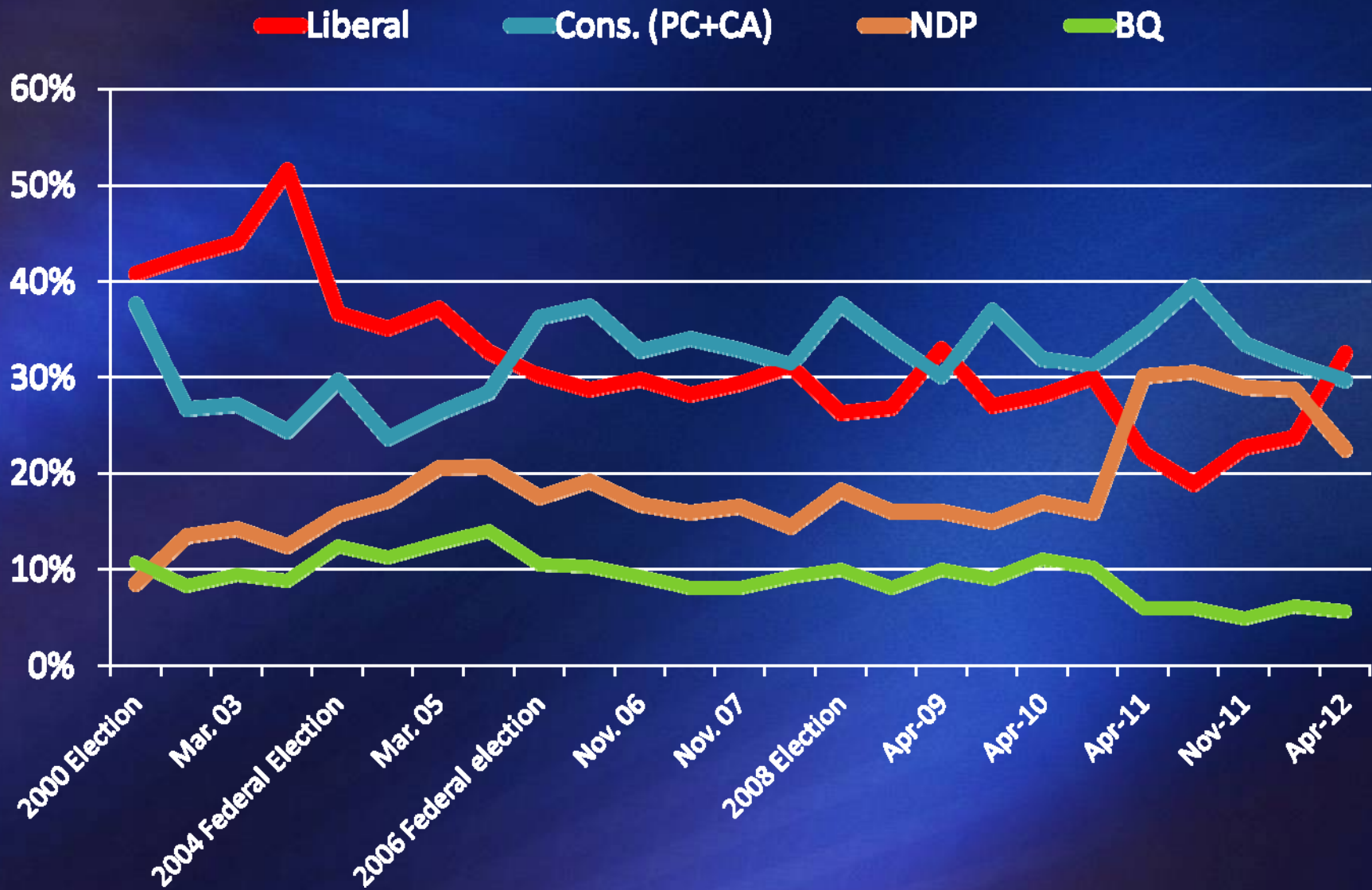


8.1%



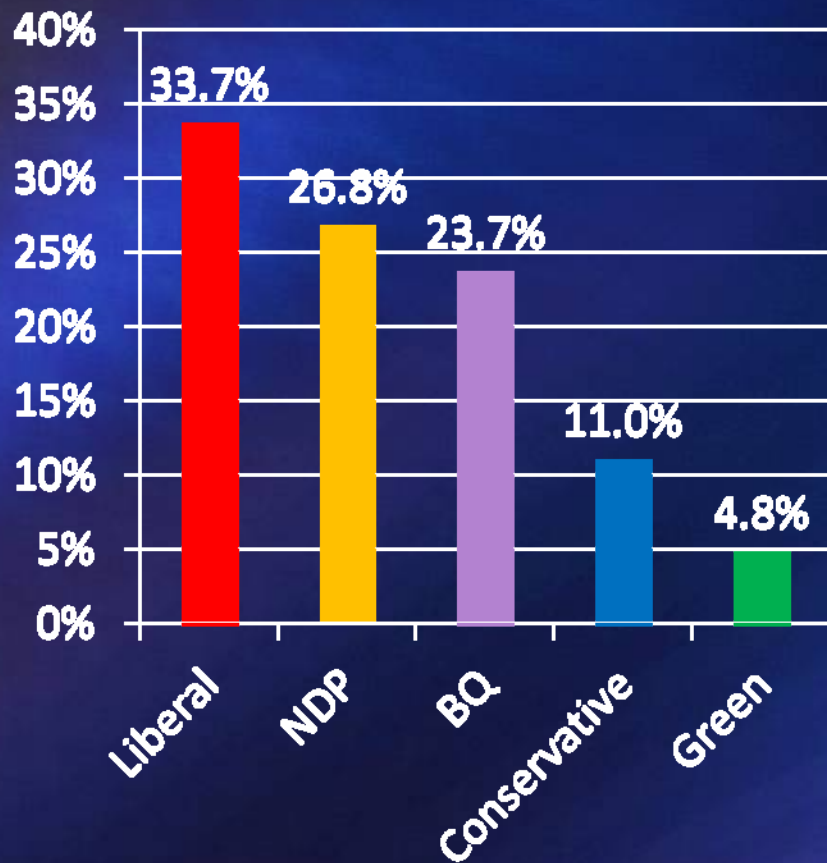
5.7%

Political party support

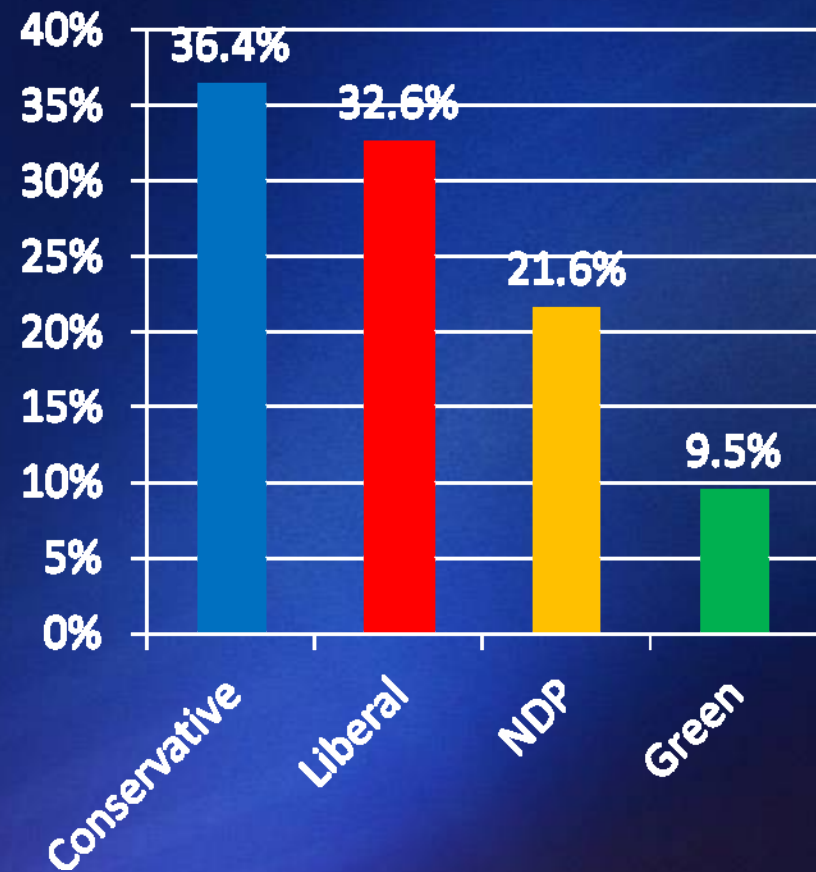


Party support Quebec and ROC

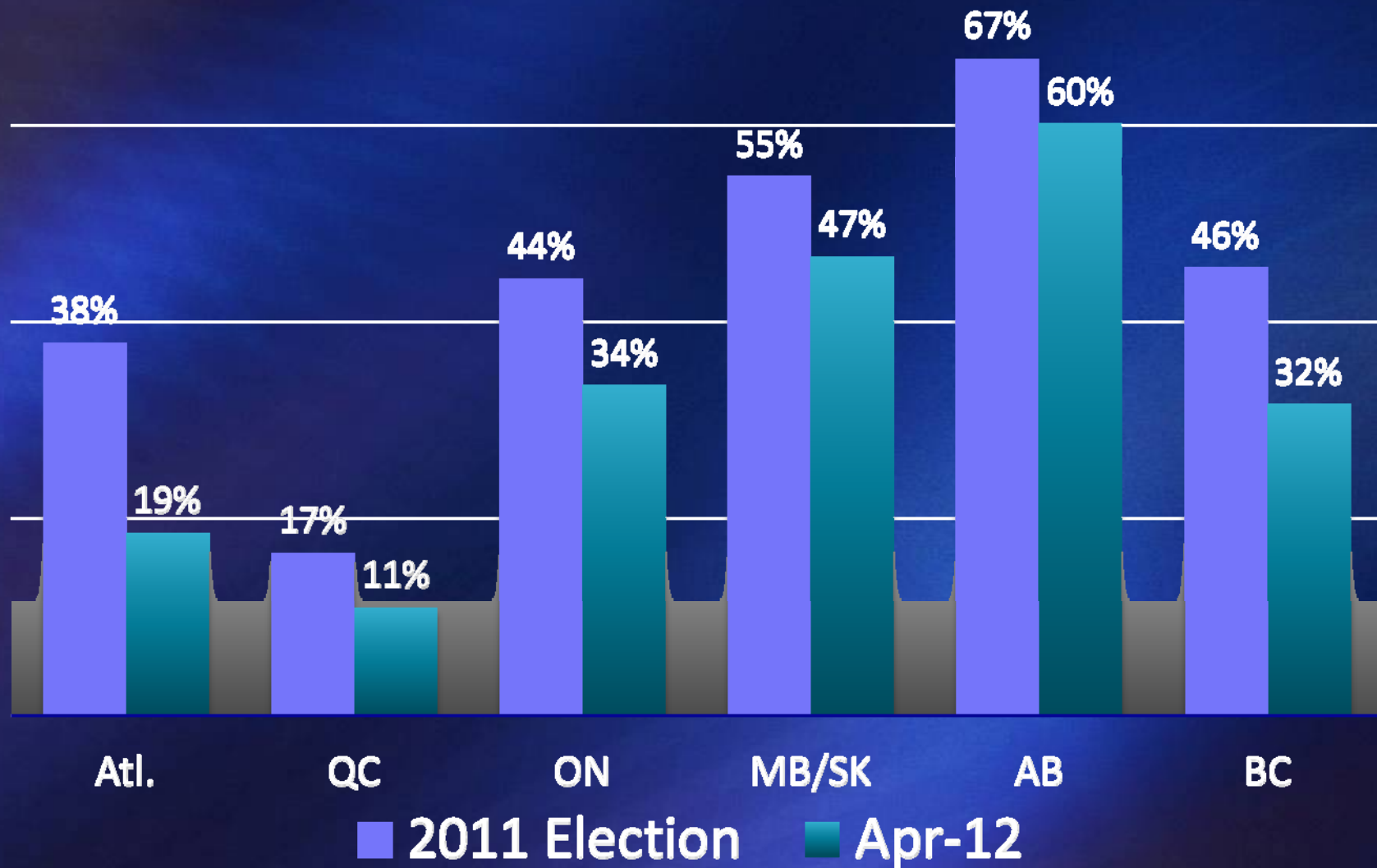
Quebec



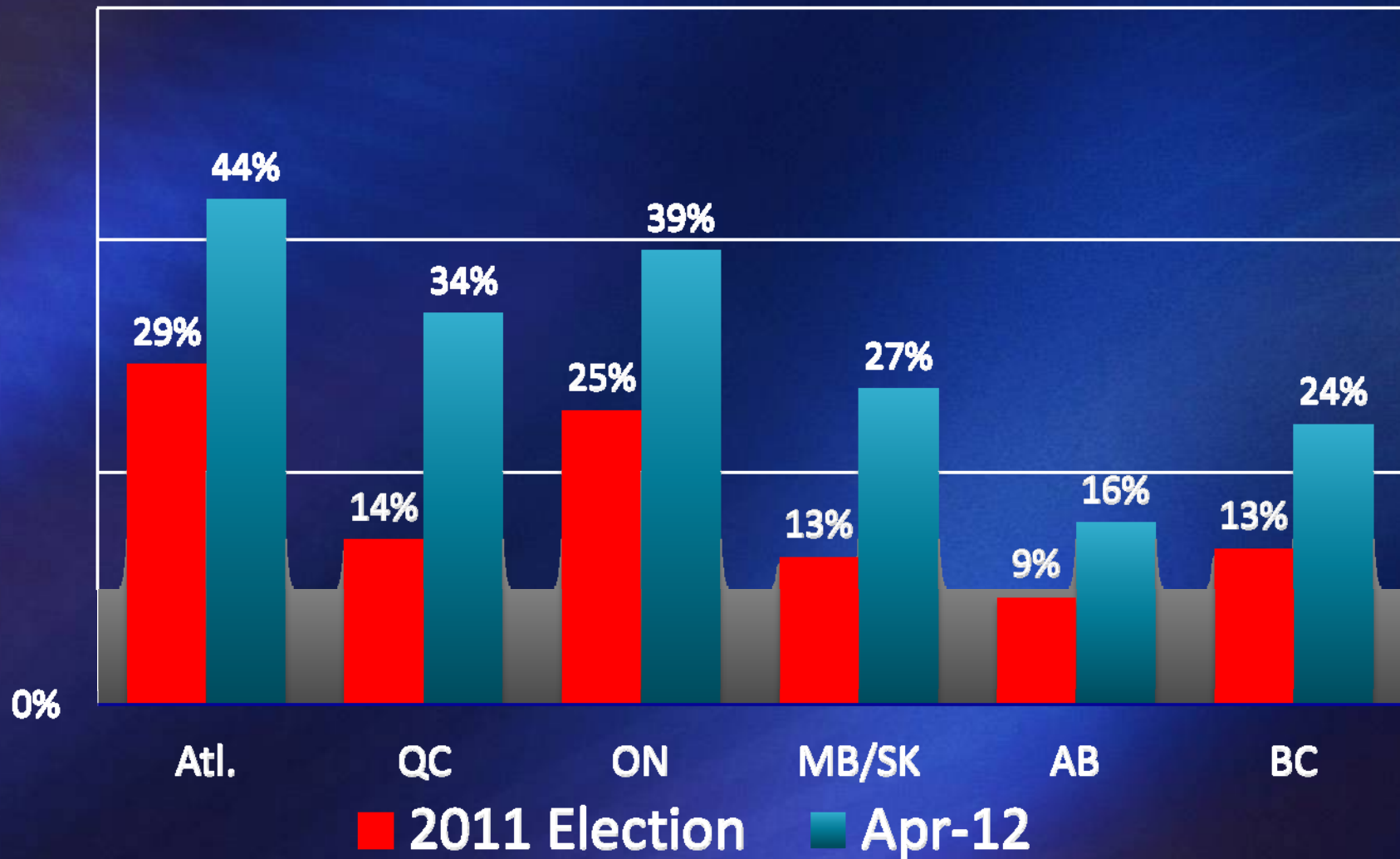
Rest of Canada



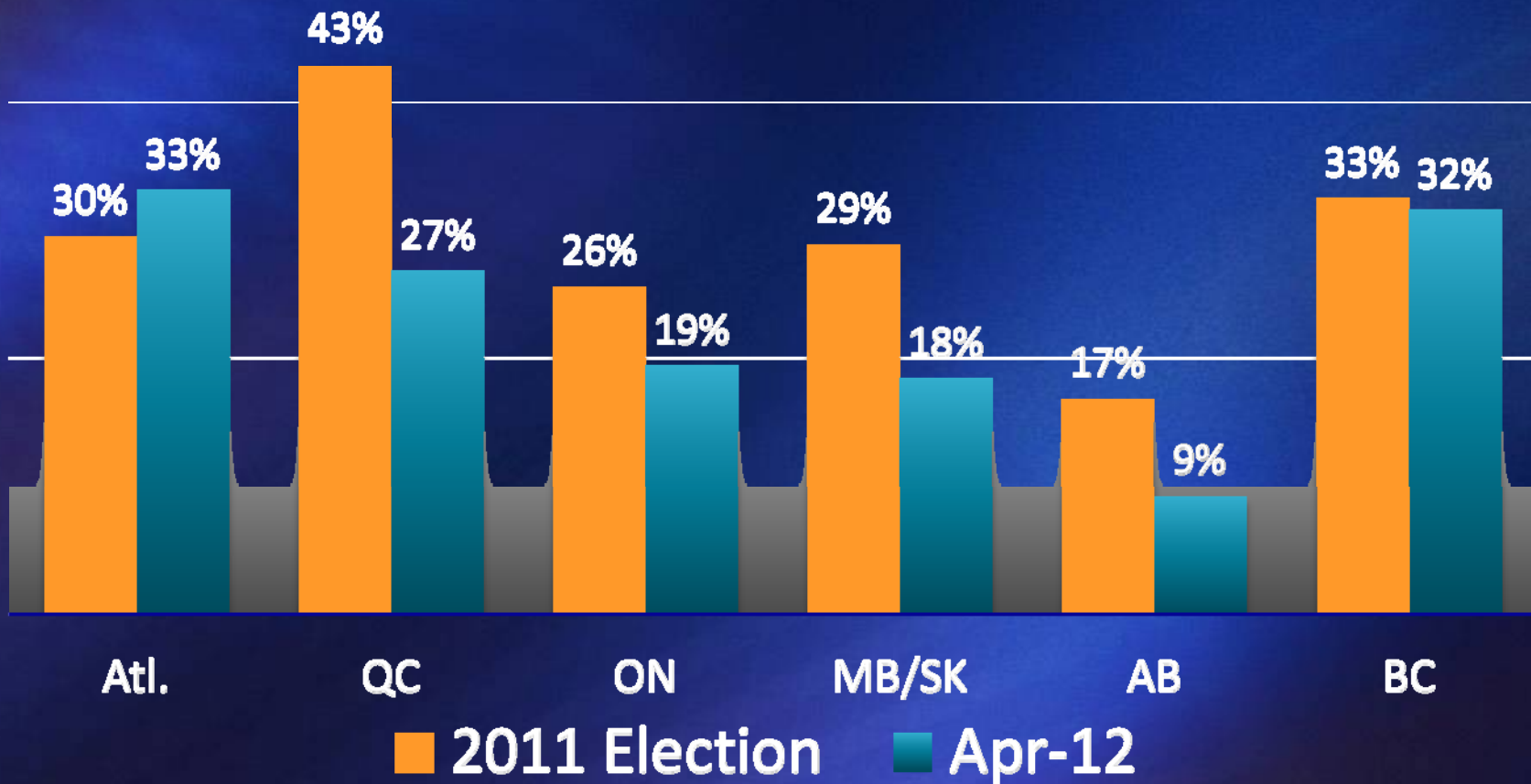
CPC support by region



Liberal support by region



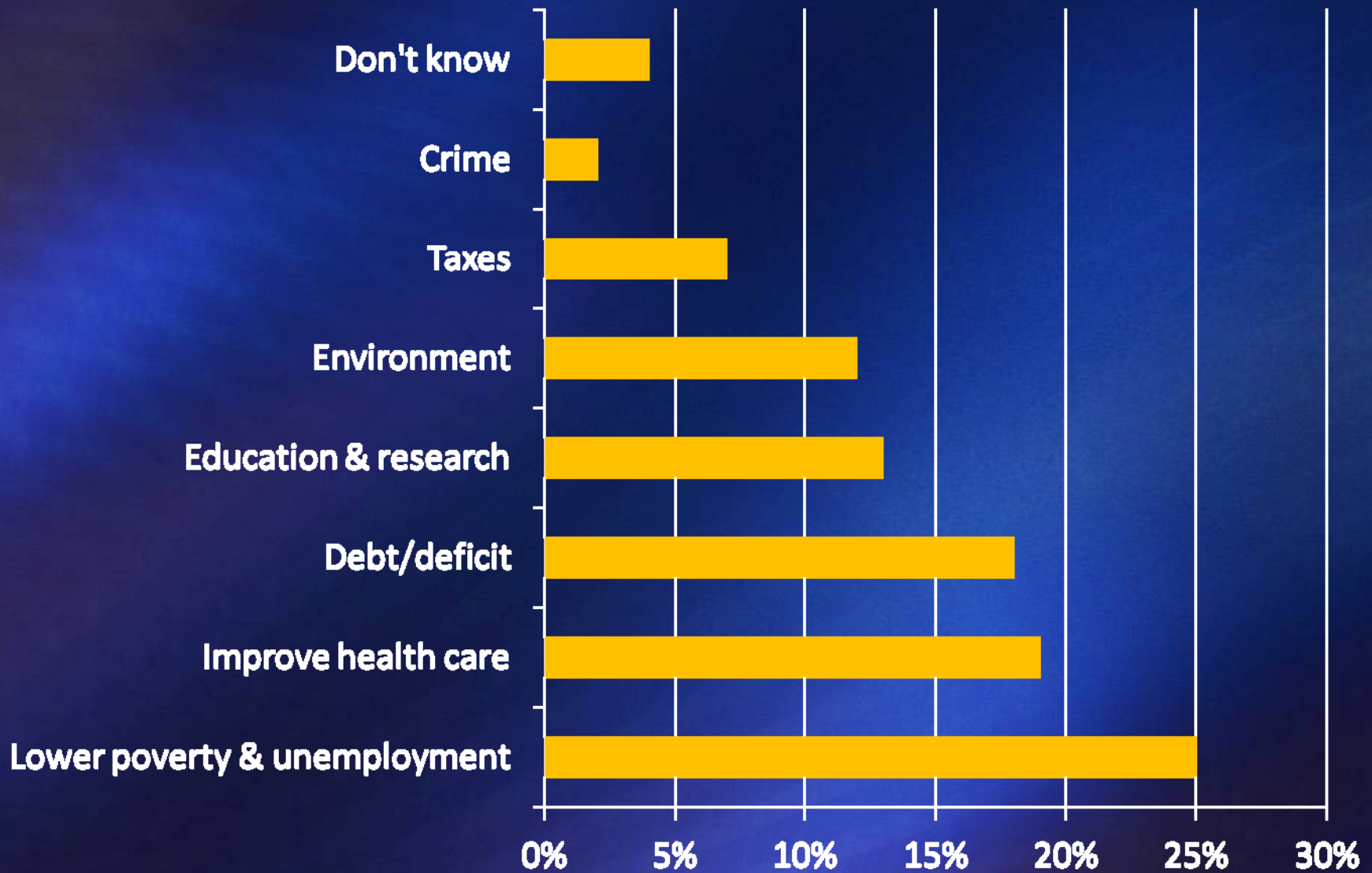
NDP support by region



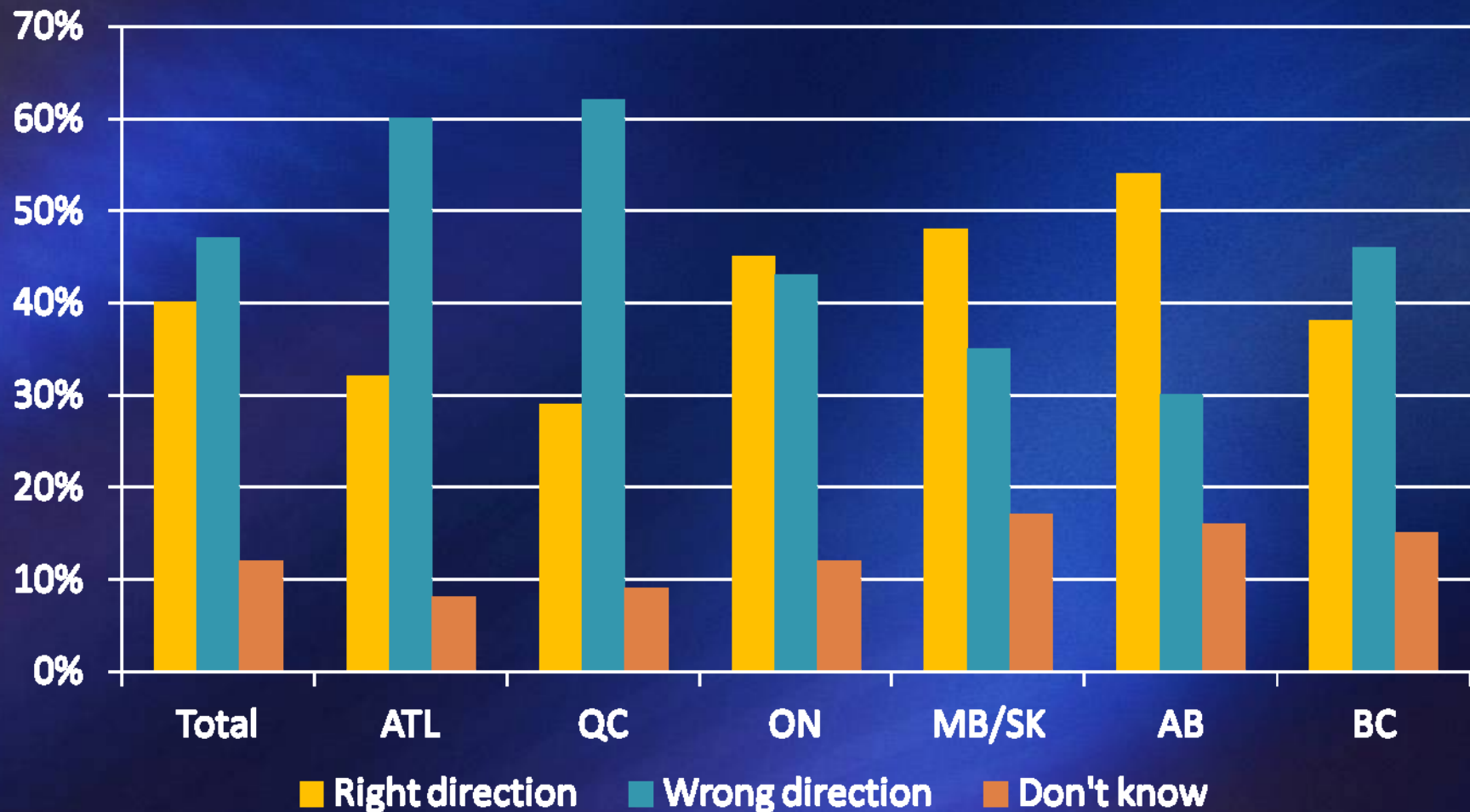
Government priorities

- Economic issues continue to be the top issue of concern to most Canadians
- Concerns about debt/deficit slip to 3rd, 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



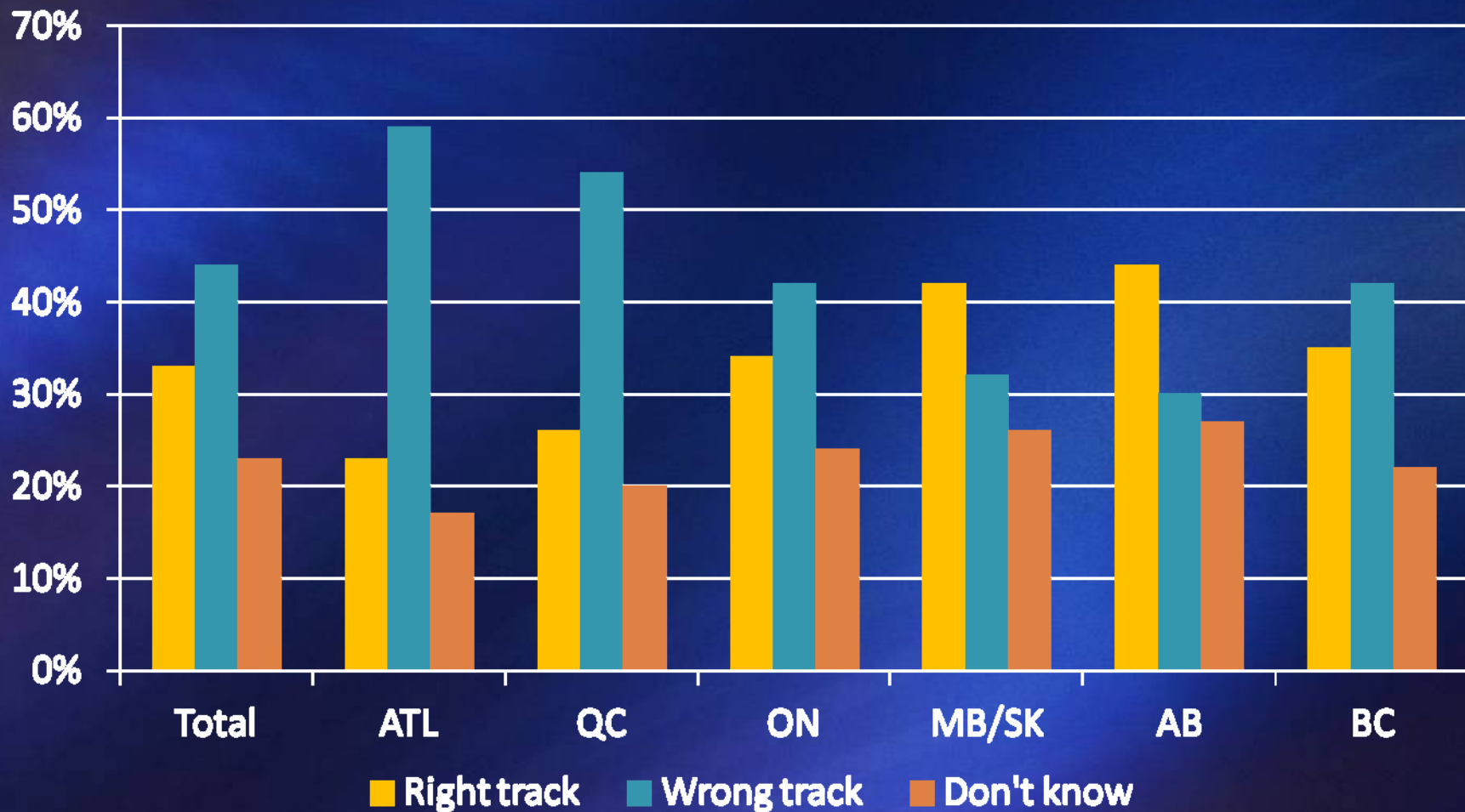
Harper gov't: right or wrong direction?



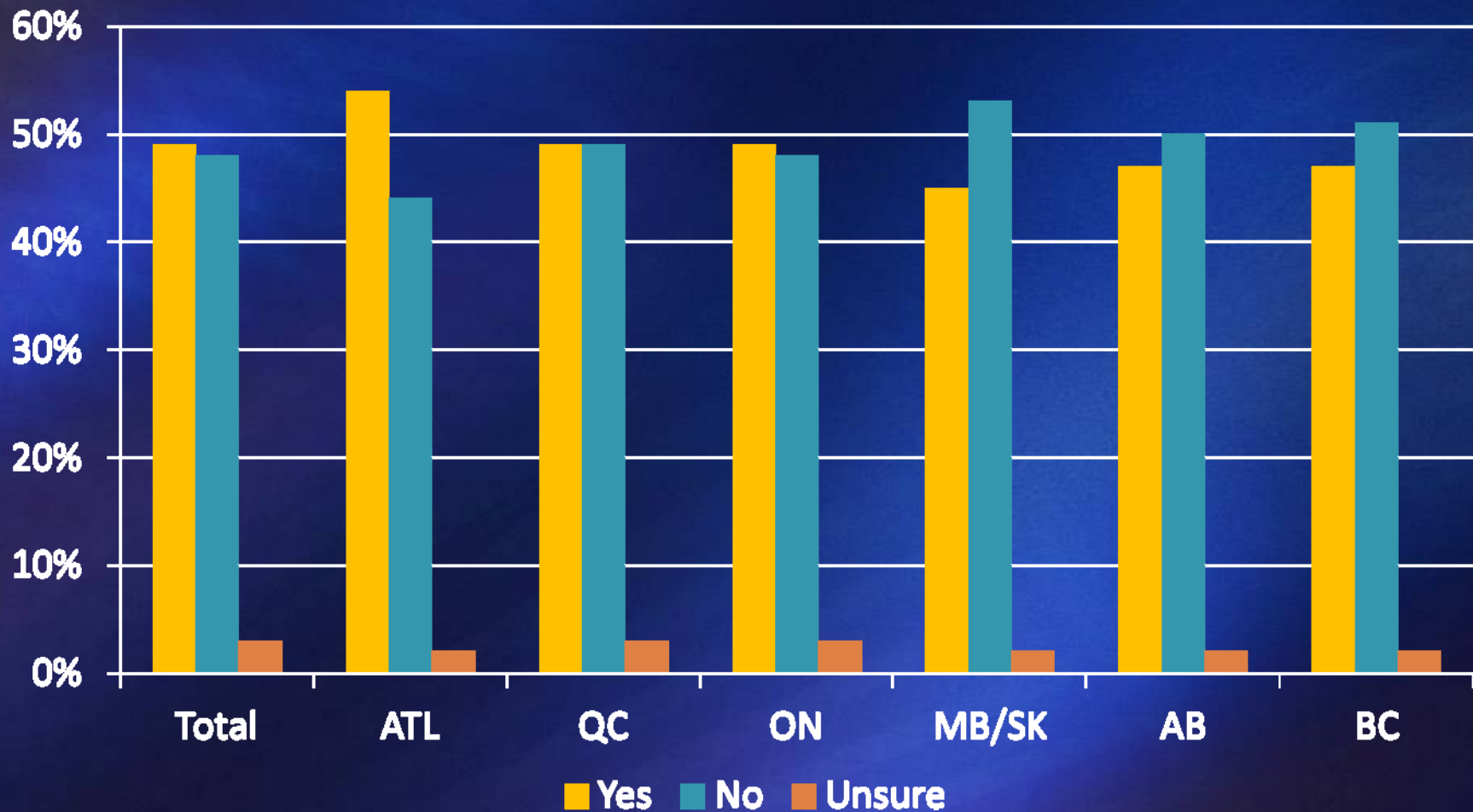
Public opinion on science policy

- 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?



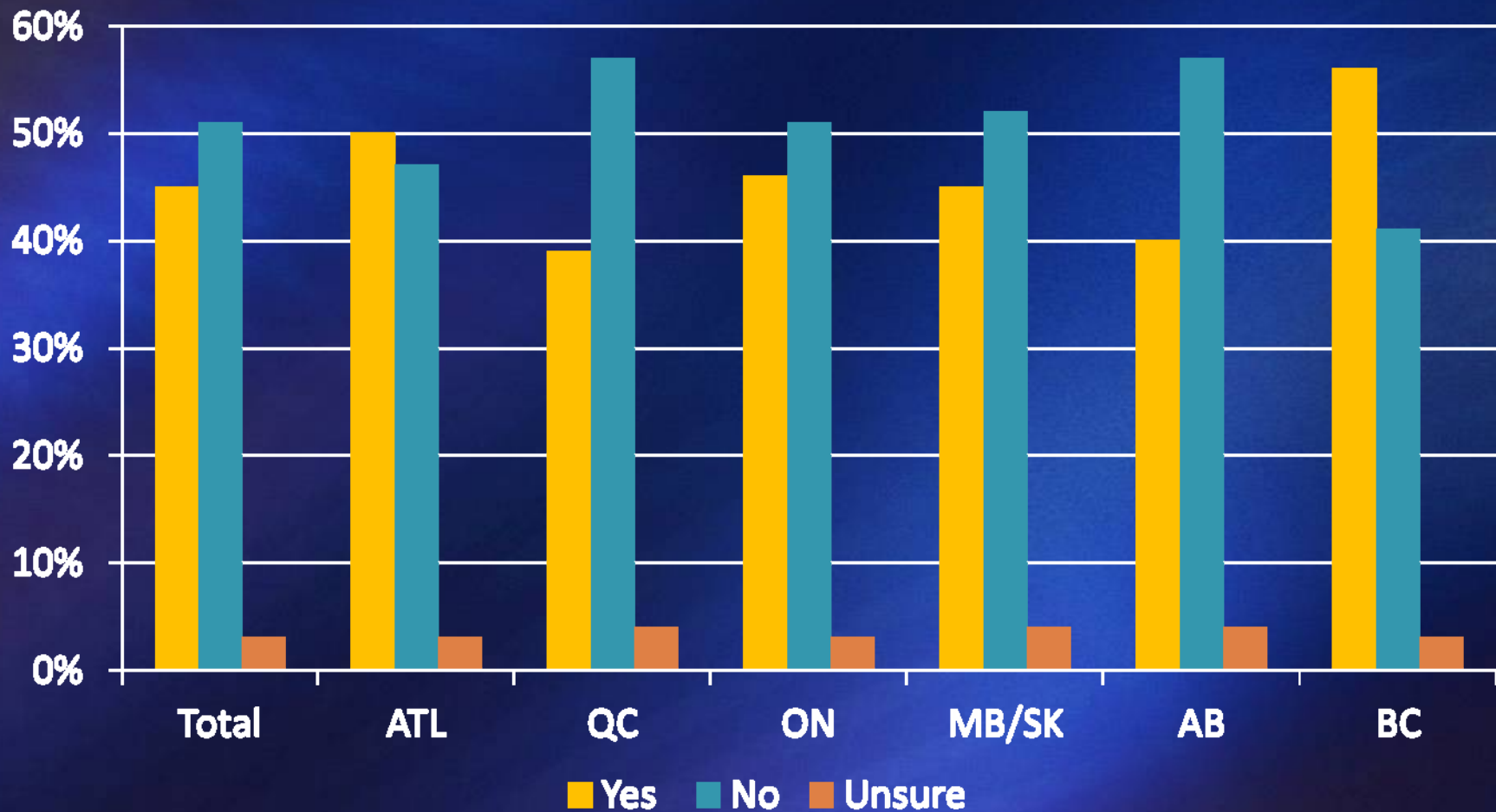
Aware of funding cuts to science and research?



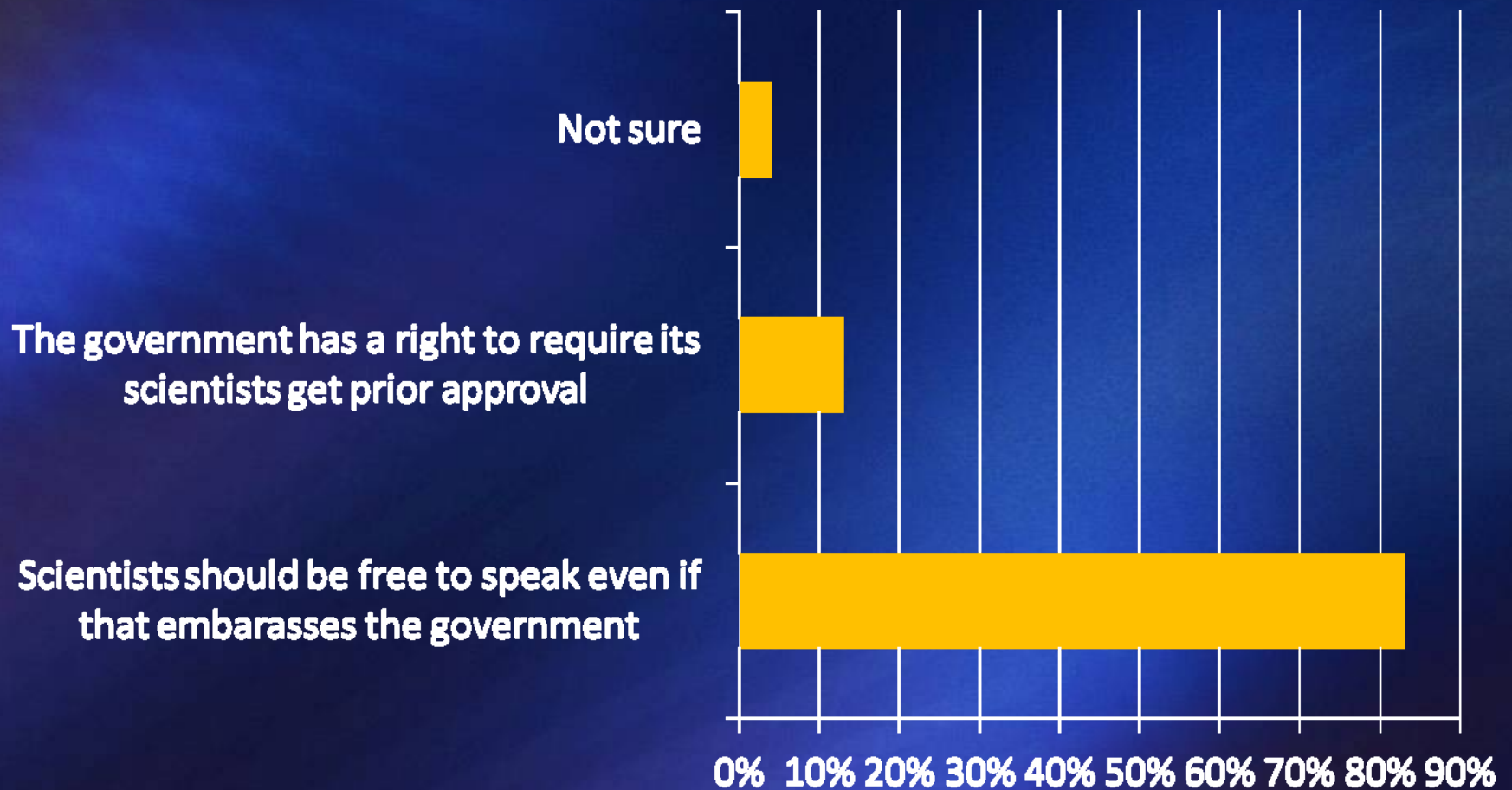
If aware of cuts, what best describes your view?



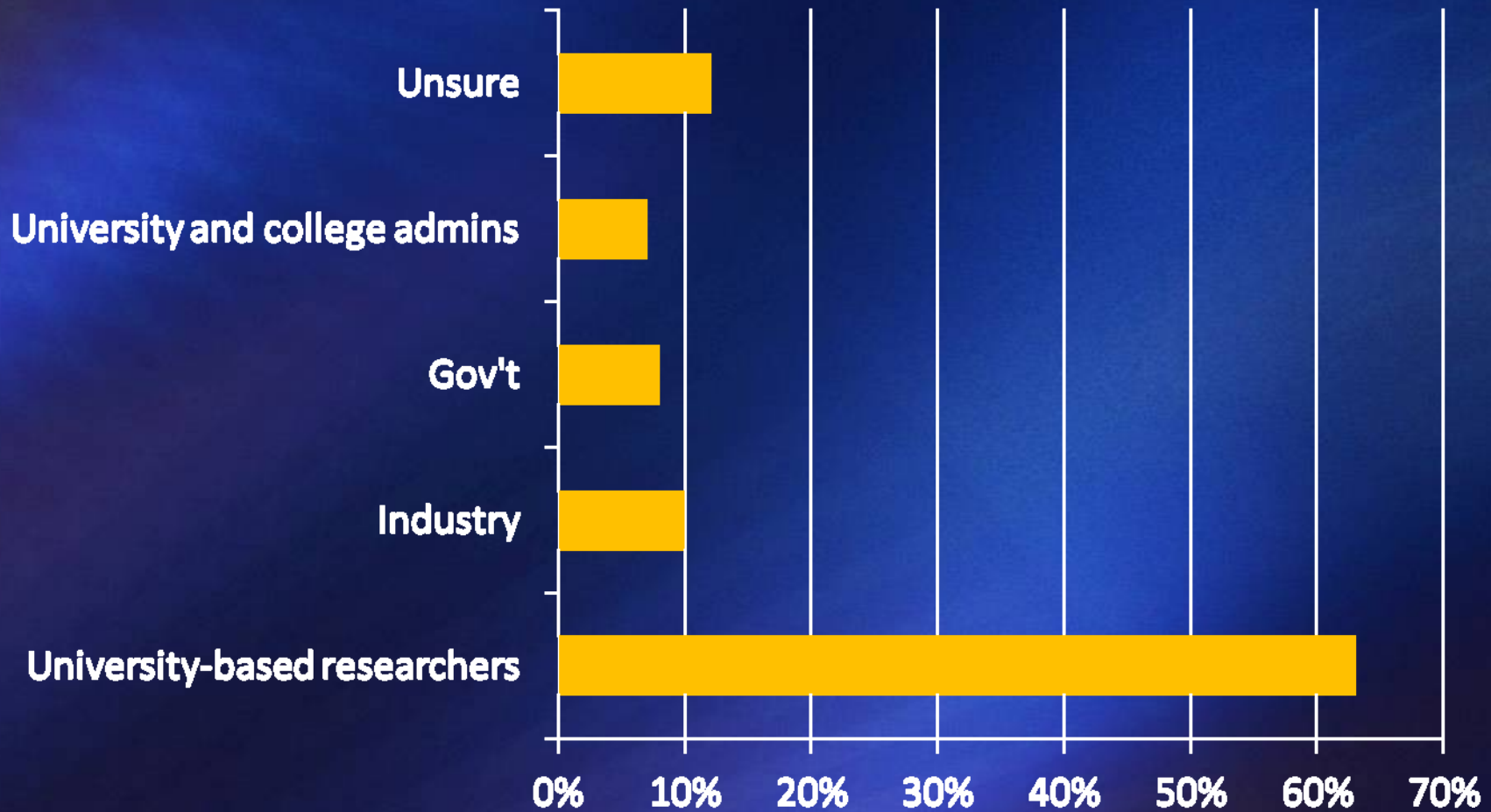
Aware of muzzling of gov't scientists?



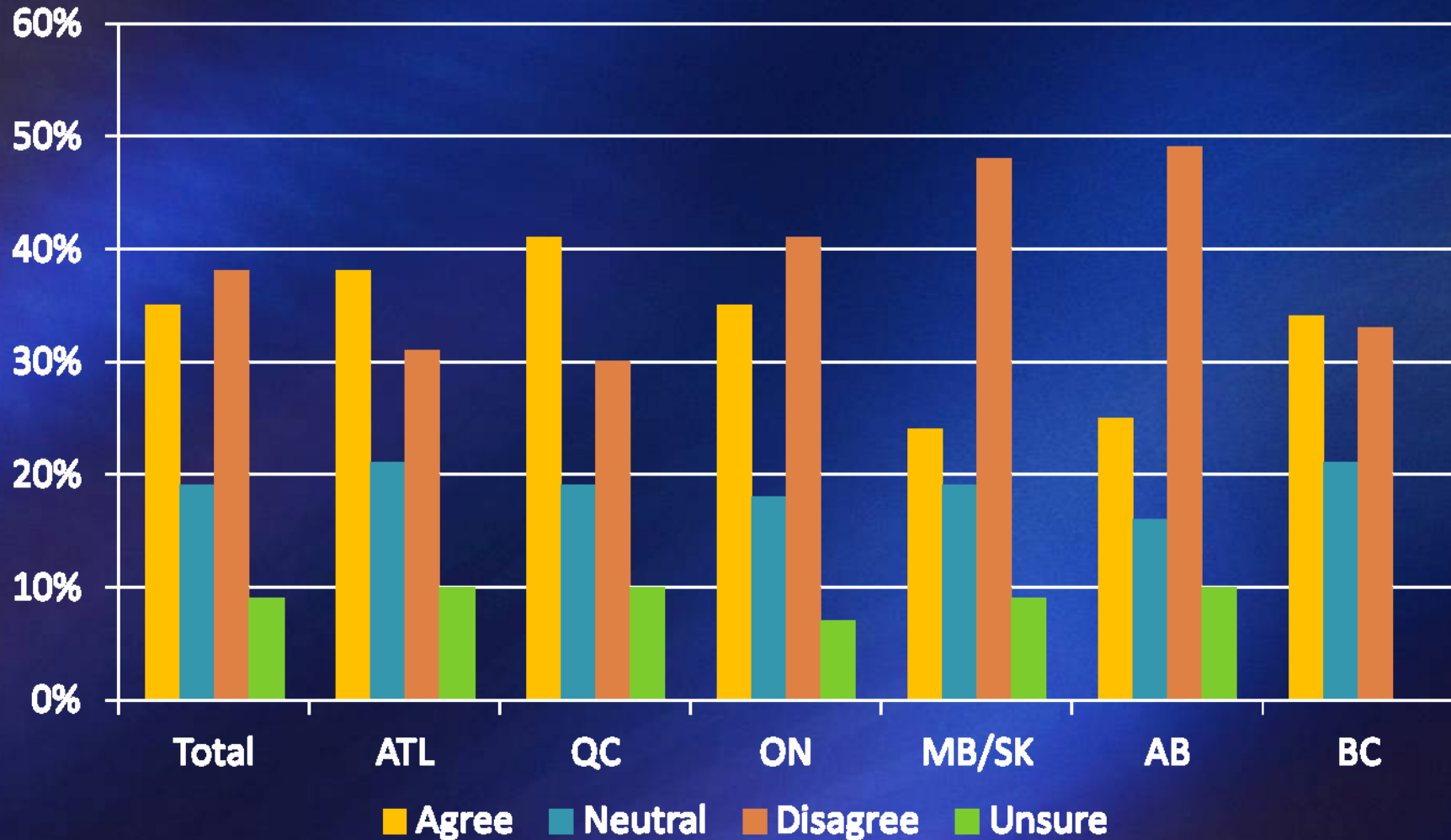
If aware, what best reflects your views?



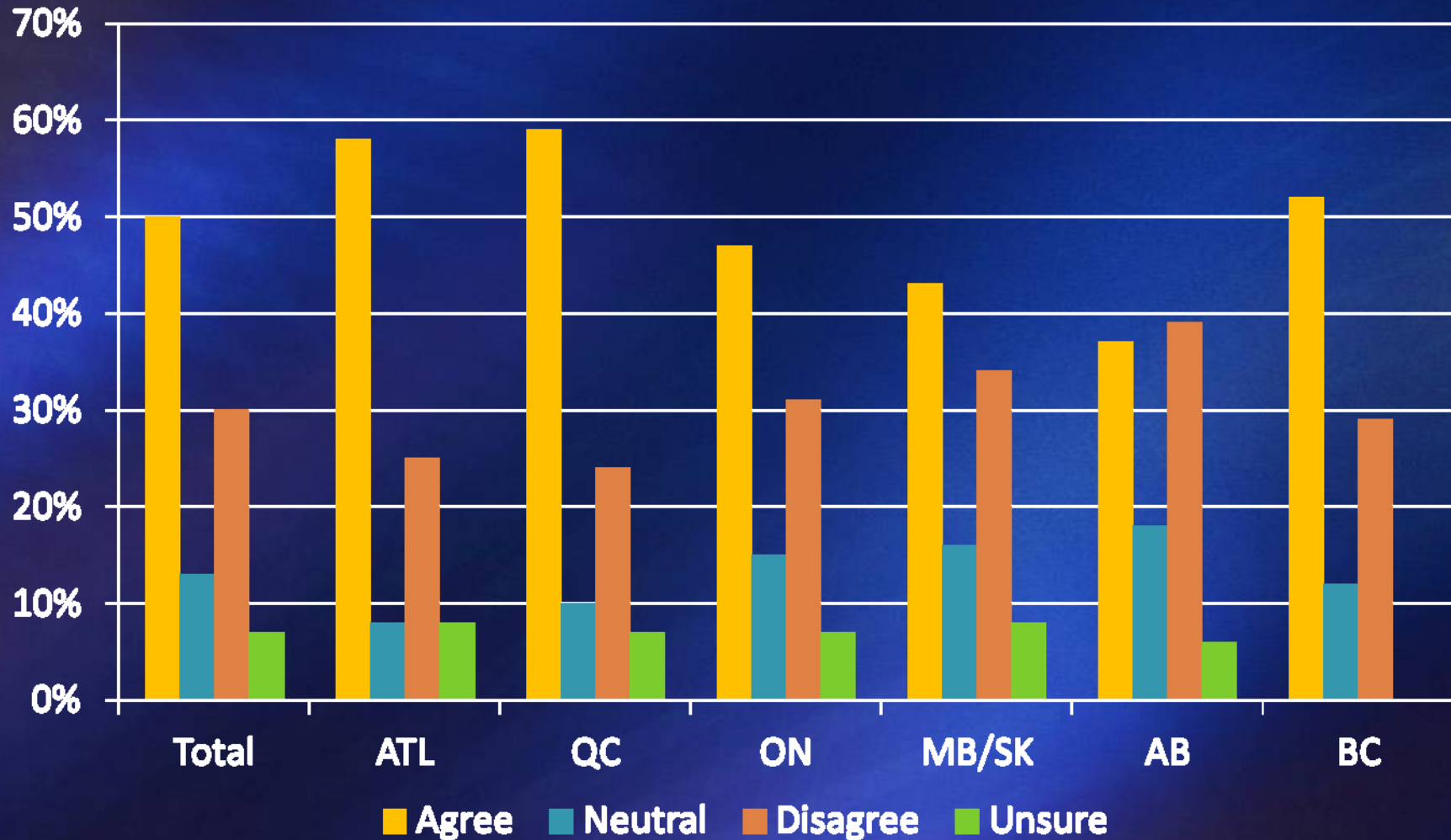
Who is best placed to decide what research is most important to fund?



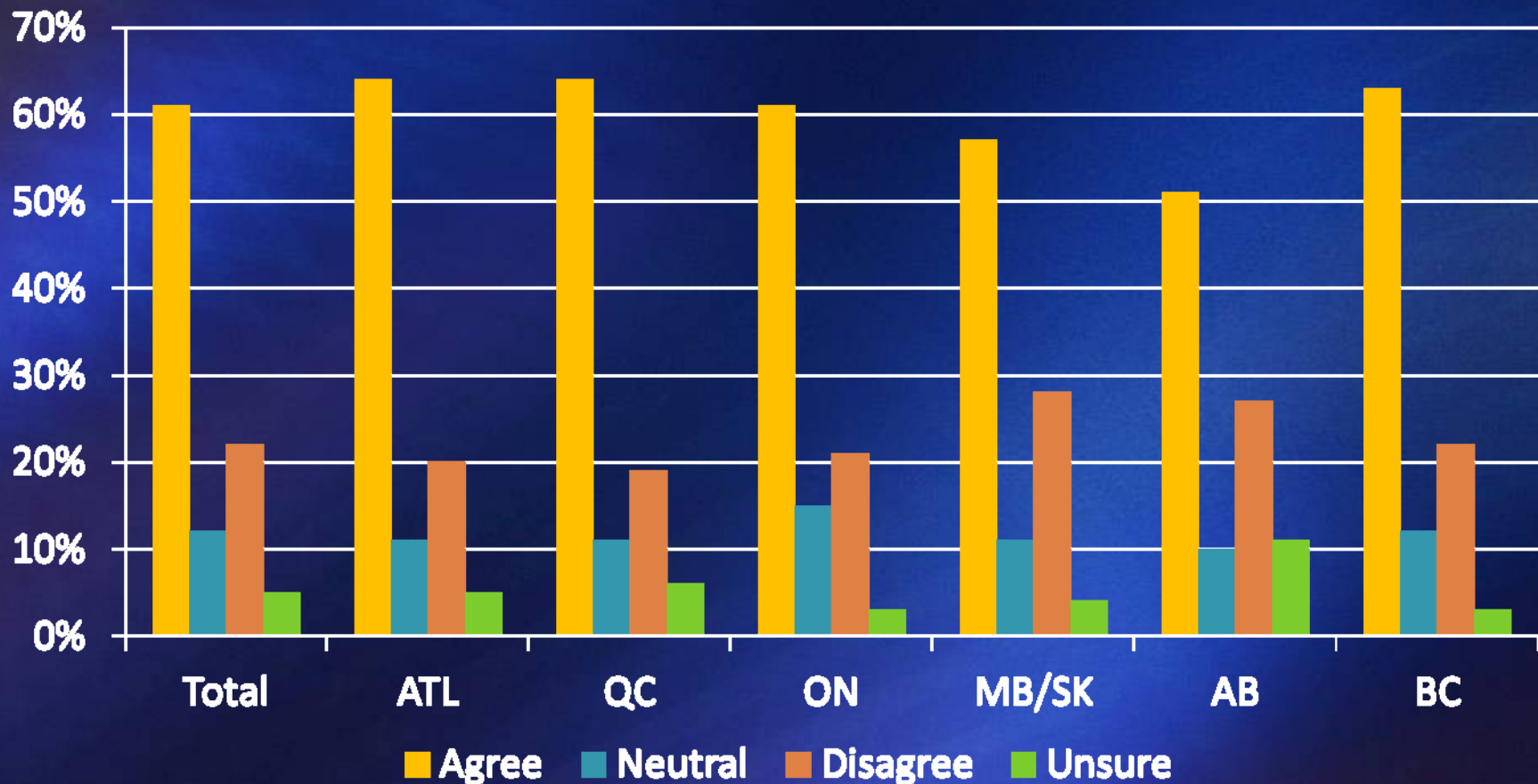
The federal gov't is "anti-science"



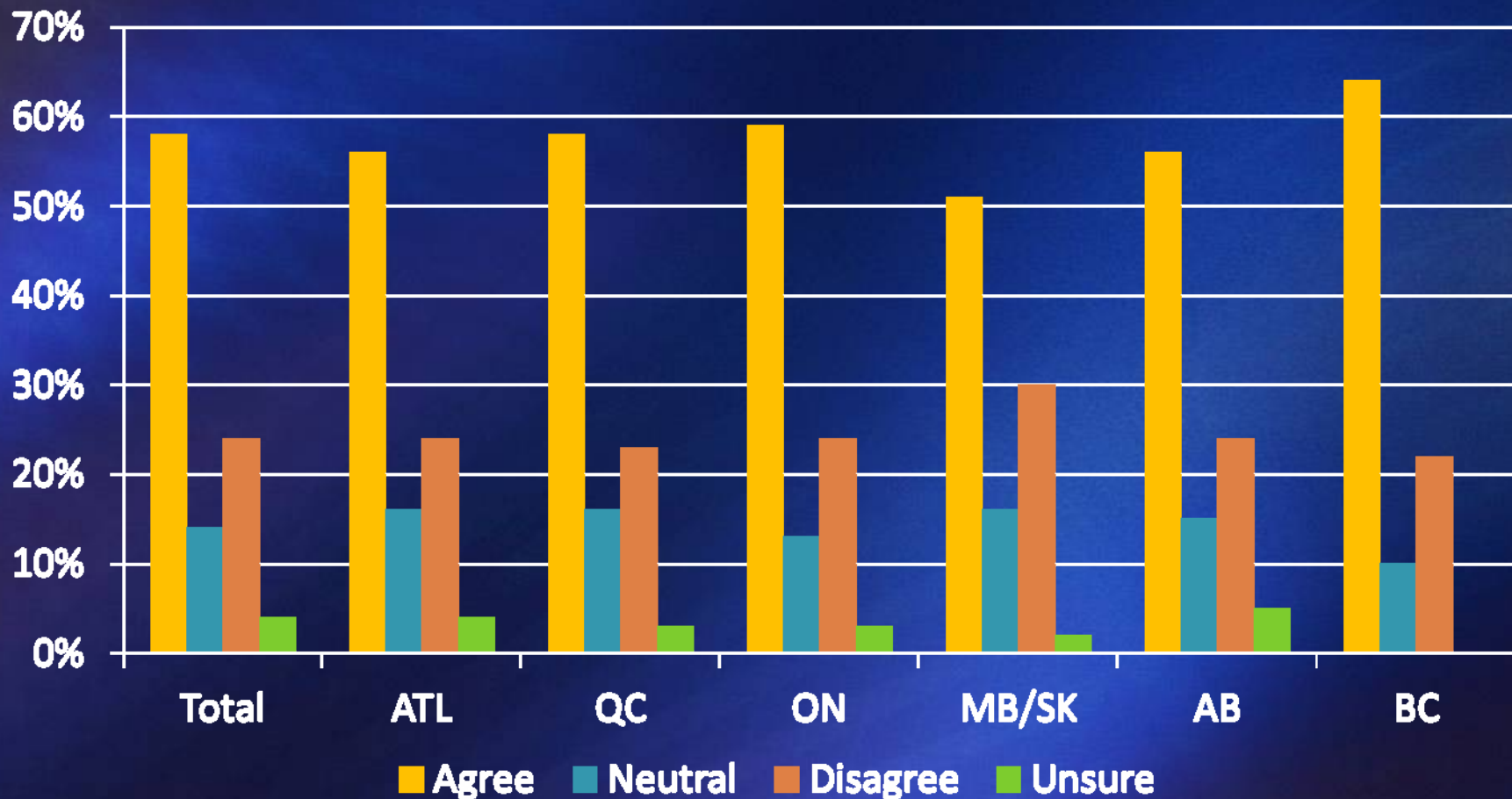
The federal gov't is trying to suppress evidence of climate change



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”