

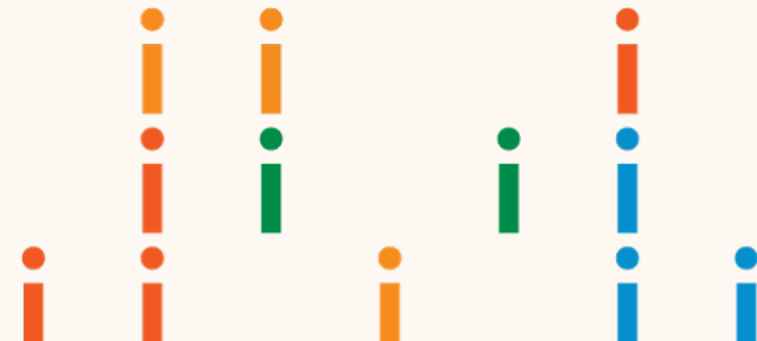
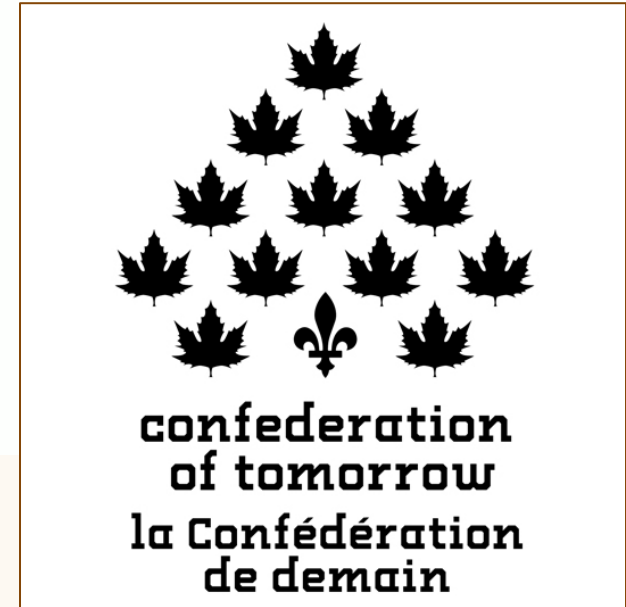
# Environics Institute

For Survey Research

## The Constitution

*Results from the Confederation of Tomorrow  
Survey of Canadians*

FEBURARY, 2022



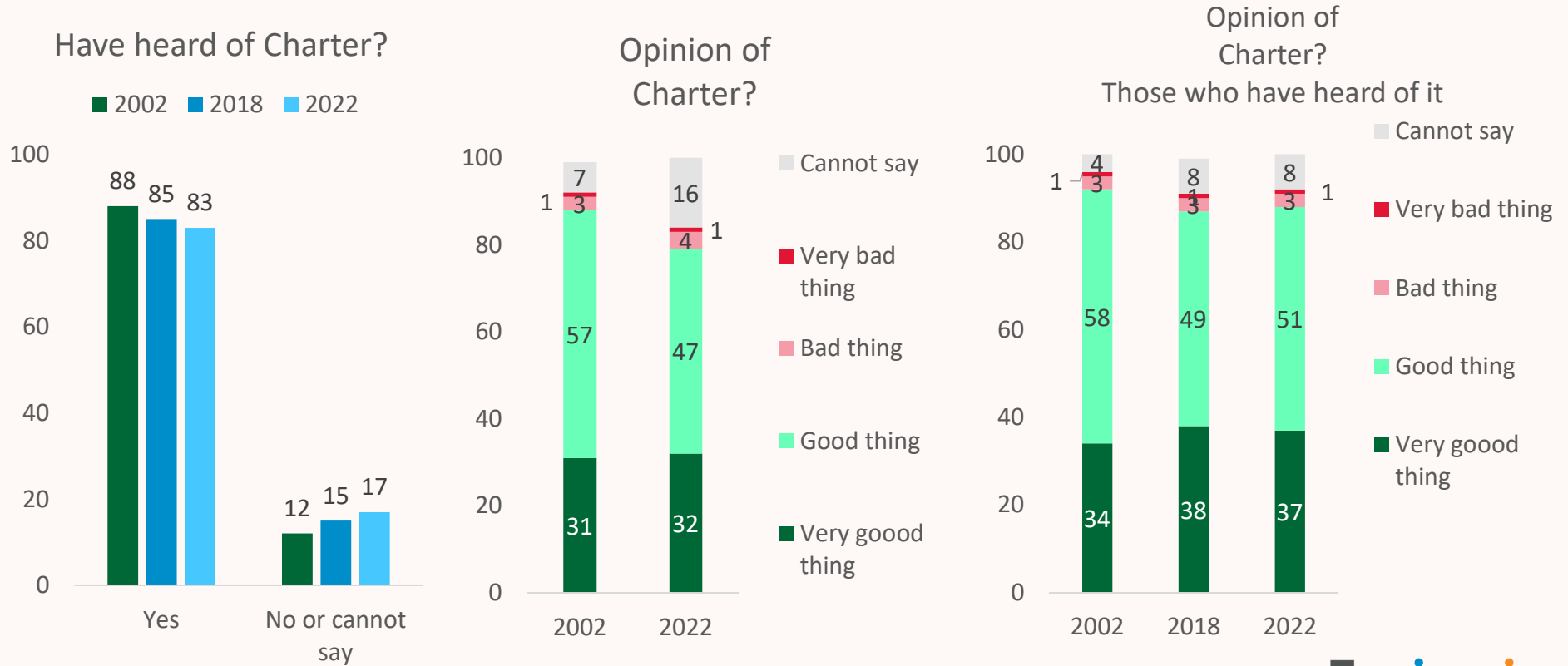
# Notes (1)

- 8 in 10 Canadians have heard of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Of those who have heard of the Charter, 9 in 10 say it has been a good thing for Canada
- Opinions are divided as to whether we should re-start constitutional talks to make major changes in how Canada is governed: about 1 in 3 favour re-starting talks, but slightly more favour improving things within the existing constitution, and slightly fewer do not express an opinion
- Across six areas, similar proportions favour re-starting constitutional talks, but the proportion favouring this option is slightly higher in the case of the monarchy
- Francophone Quebecers are most likely to favour re-starting constitutional talks in the case of the monarchy
- Albertans are most likely to favour re-starting constitutional talks in the case of equalization
- Indigenous Peoples are 15 points more likely than non-Indigenous peoples to favour re-starting constitutional talks in the case of the Indigenous rights
- Younger francophones in Quebec are less likely than their older counterparts to favour re-starting constitutional talks to address Quebec's place in the federation

# Notes (2)

- 1 in 2 Canadians place some importance, personally, on Quebec's signing the Constitution
- Francophone Quebecers are no more likely than are other Canadians to place some importance on Quebec's signing the Constitution
- Younger francophones in Quebec are less likely than their older counterparts to place some importance on Quebec's signing the Constitution
- Canadians are almost three times more likely to say the Supreme Court rather than Parliament should have the final say when a law contravenes the Charter
- Overall, views do not vary significantly when the question refers to a provincial legislature rather than Parliament; there is however some minor variation among Quebec francophones
- Francophone Quebecers remain more evenly divided than other Canadians on the question of whether a legislature should be allowed to override the Charter
- Views on these questions are not changed since 2020 (despite the evolving debate about Bill 21)

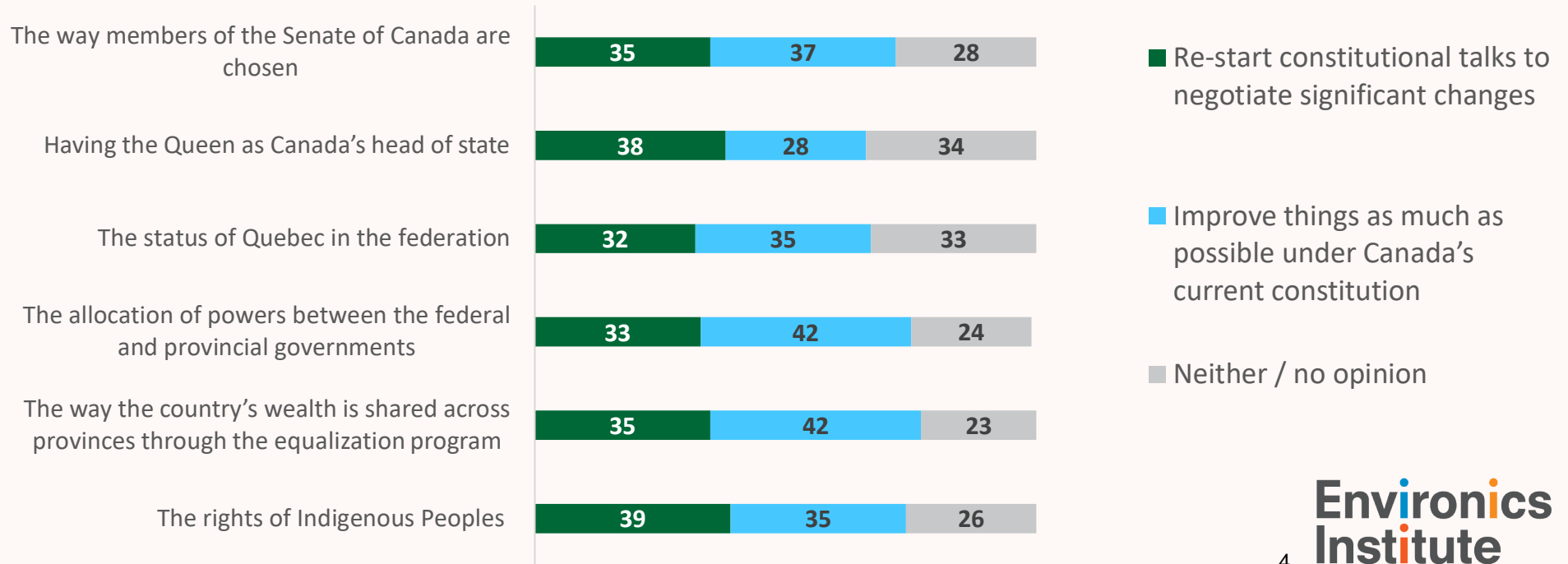
# The Charter of Rights and Freedoms



Now I would like to ask you whether or not you have heard of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms?  
 In general, do you think the Charter of Rights and Freedoms is a very good thing, a good thing, a bad thing or a very bad thing for Canada?

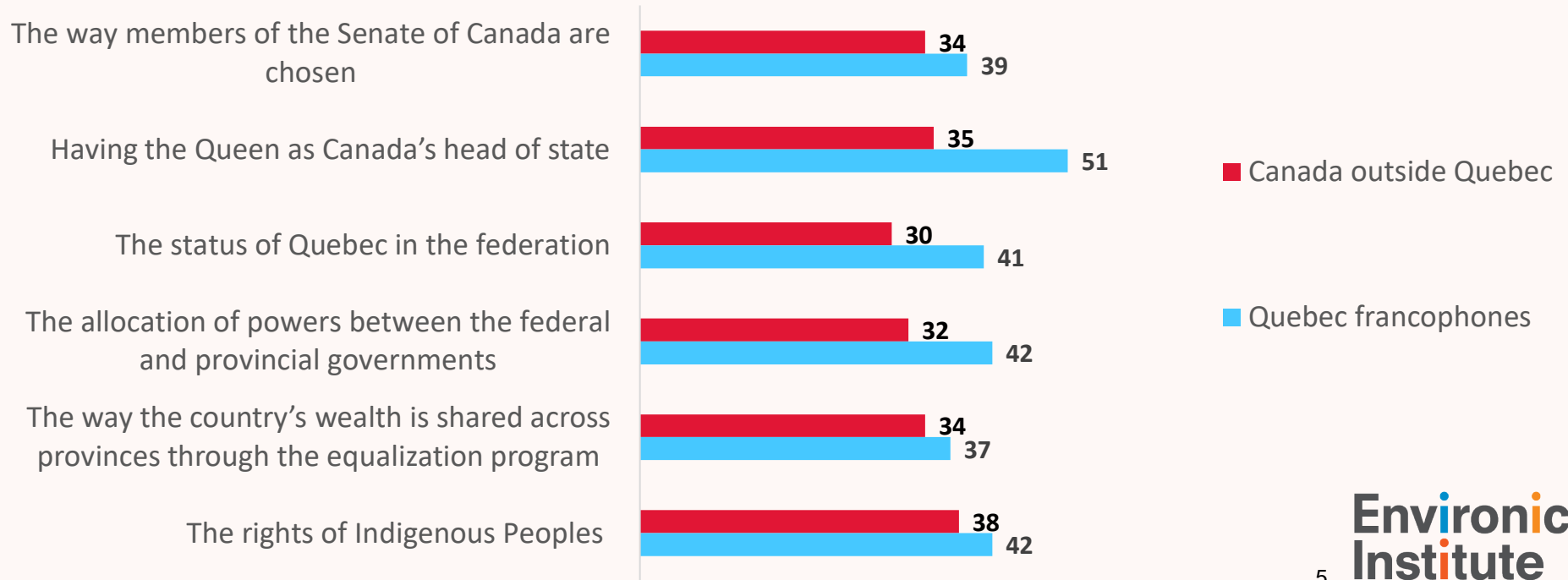
# Should we re-start constitutional talks to negotiate significant changes in the following areas?

## Canada



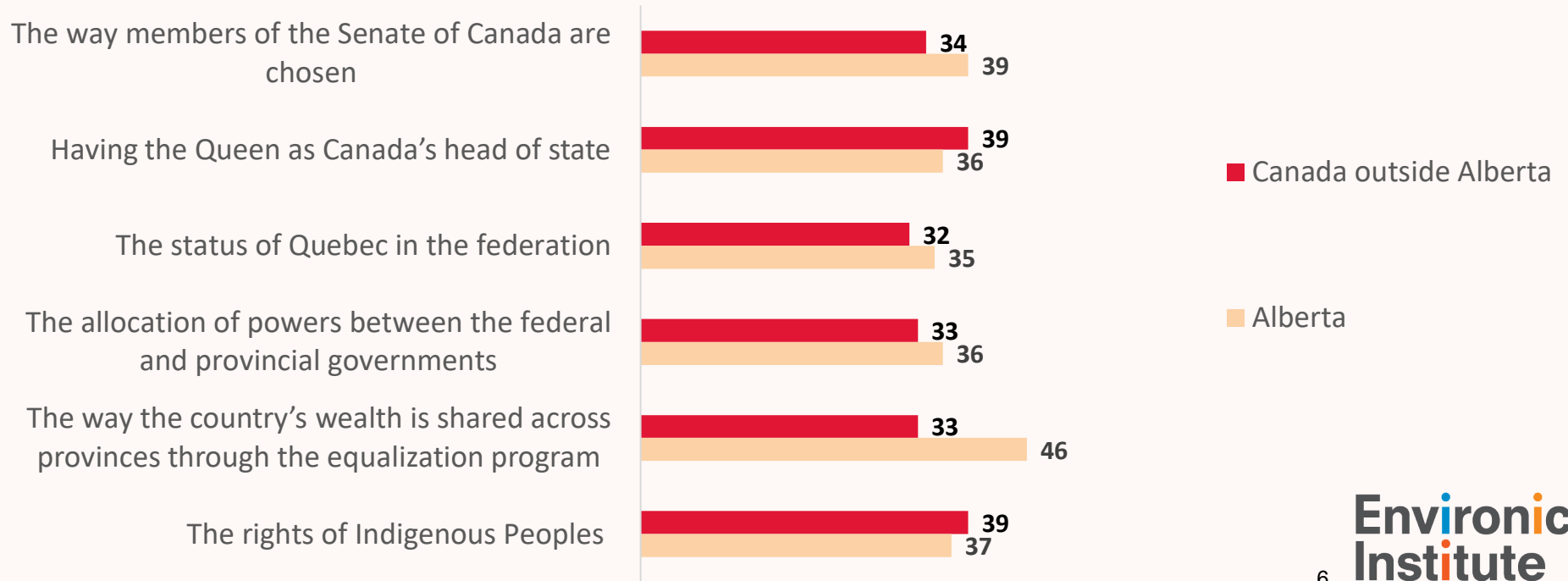
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## Re-start constitutional talks to negotiate significant changes



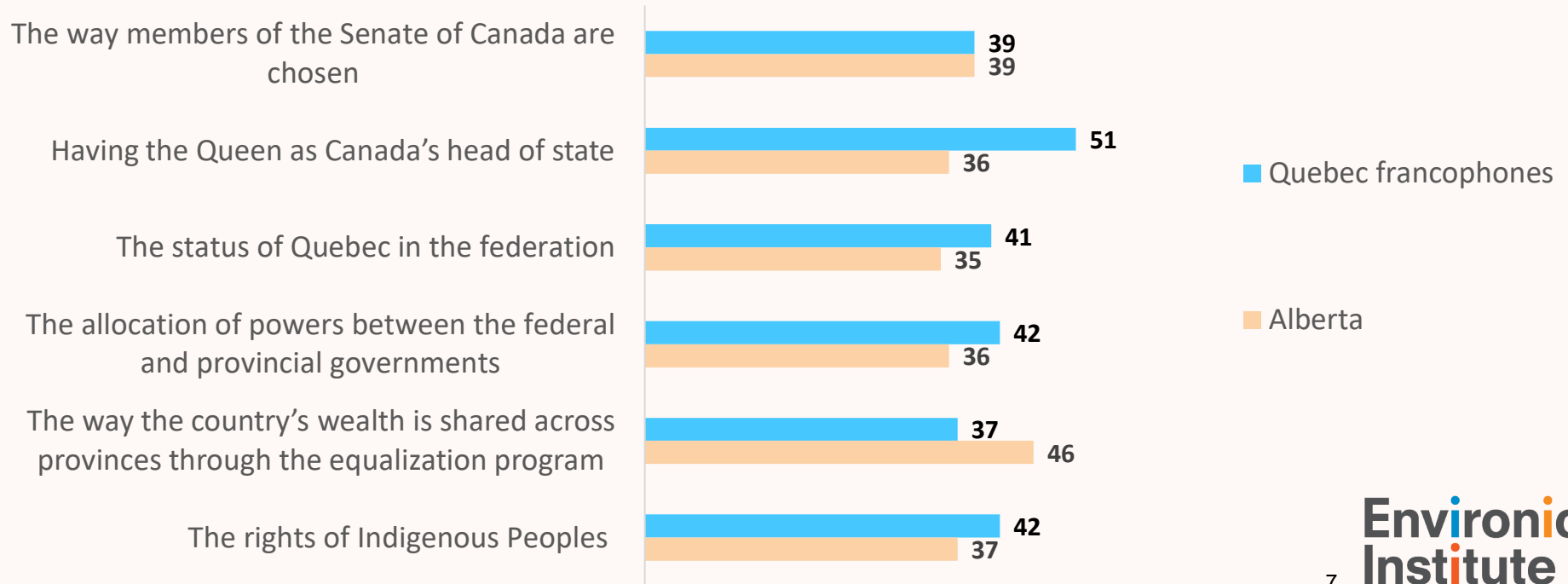
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## Re-start constitutional talks to negotiate significant changes



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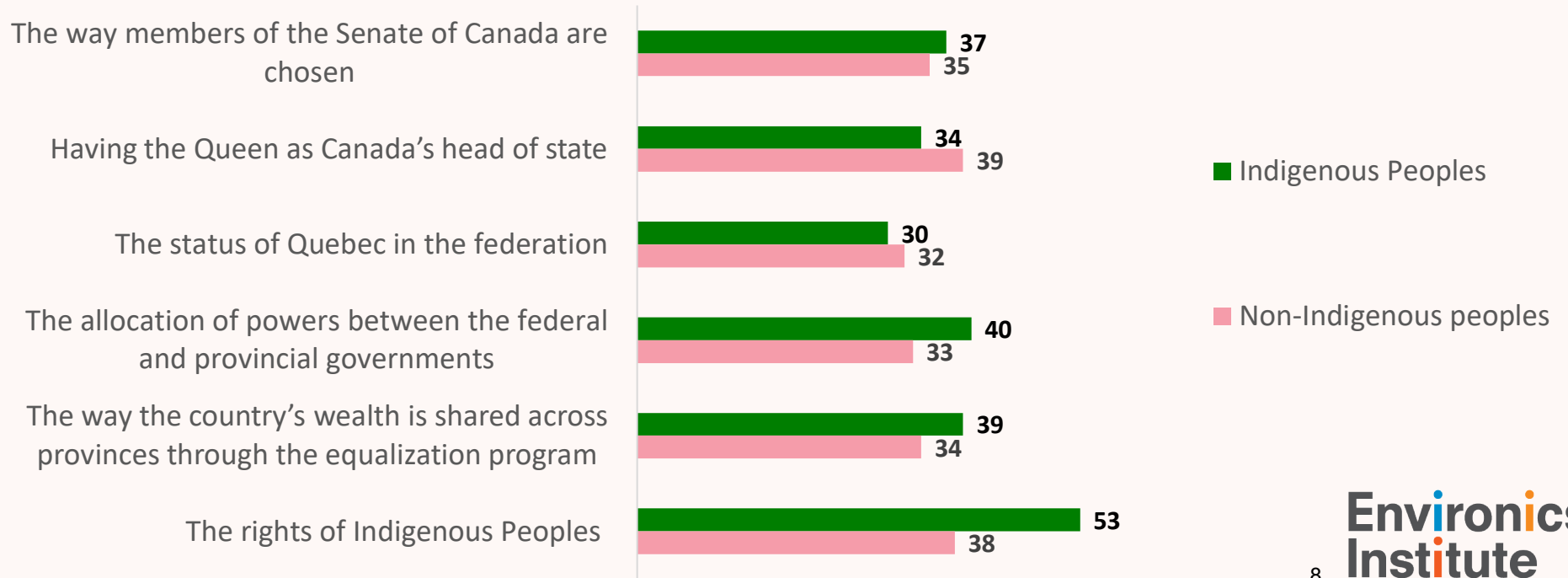
Re-start constitutional talks to negotiate significant changes





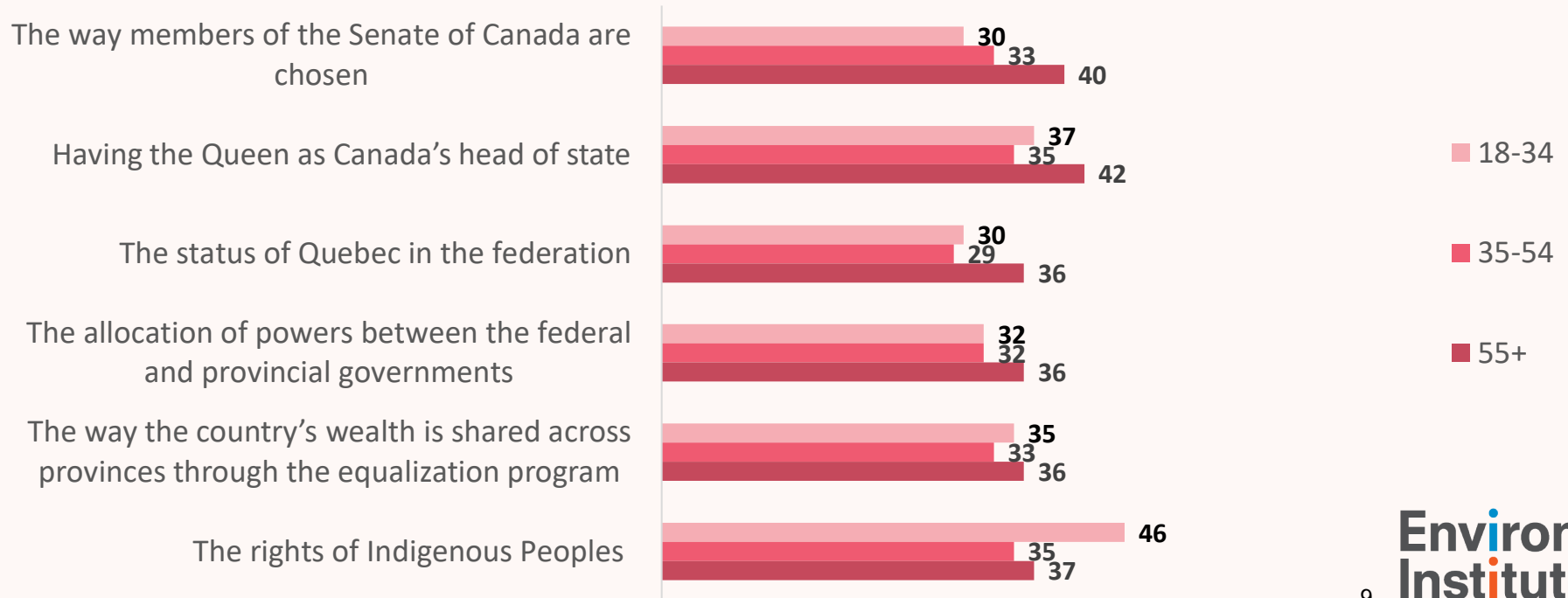
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## Re-start constitutional talks to negotiate significant changes



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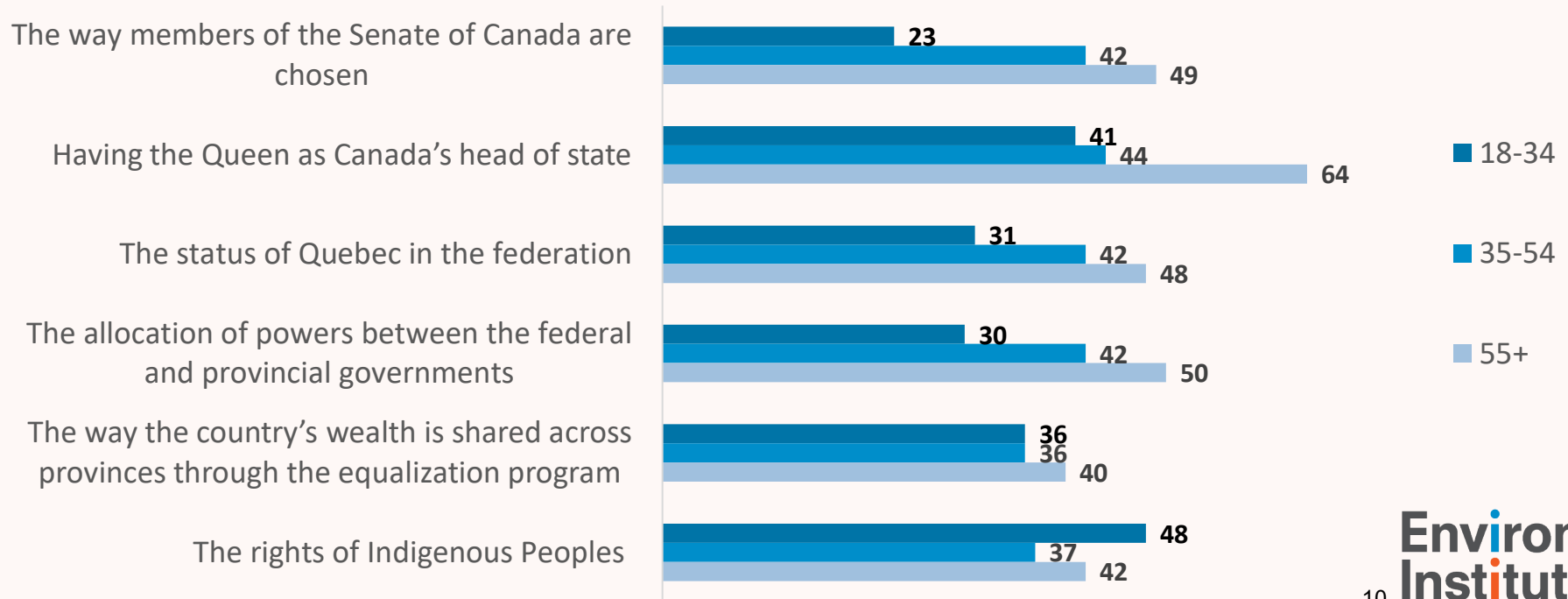
Re-start constitutional talks to negotiate significant changes



# Should we re-start constitutional talks to negotiate significant changes in the following areas?

*Quebec francophones only*

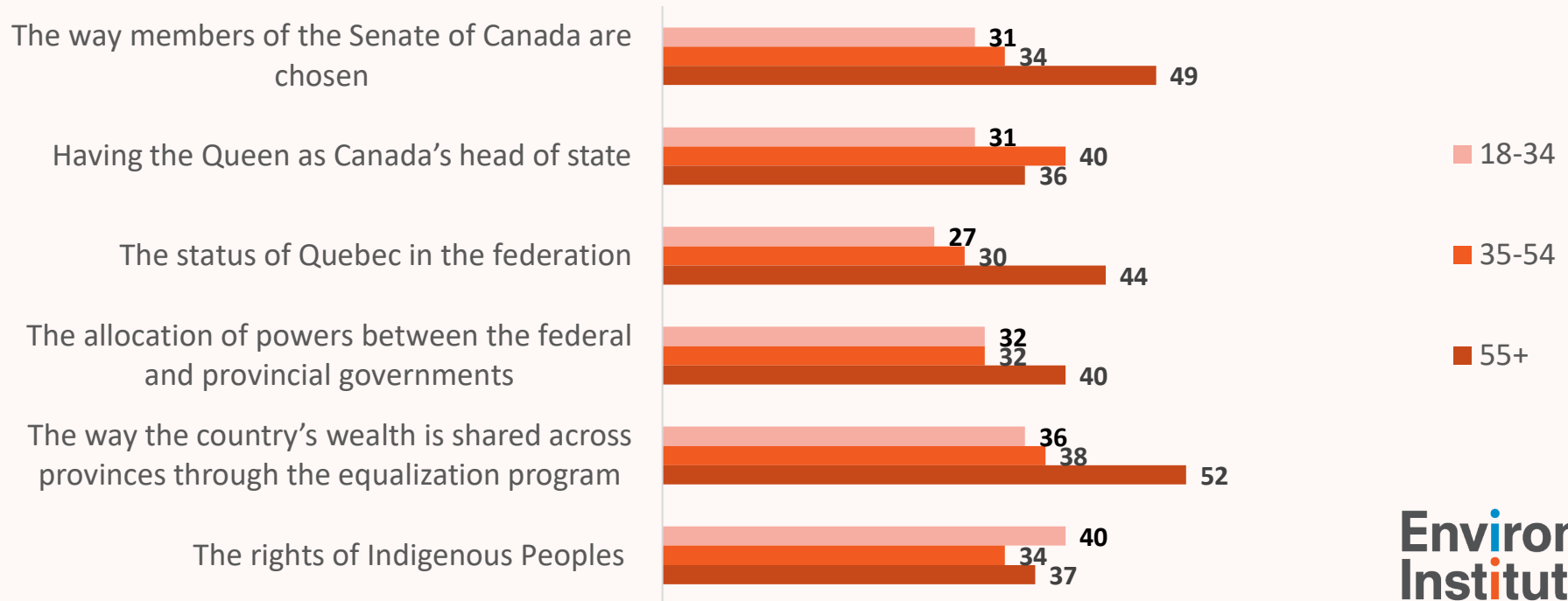
## Re-start constitutional talks to negotiate significant changes



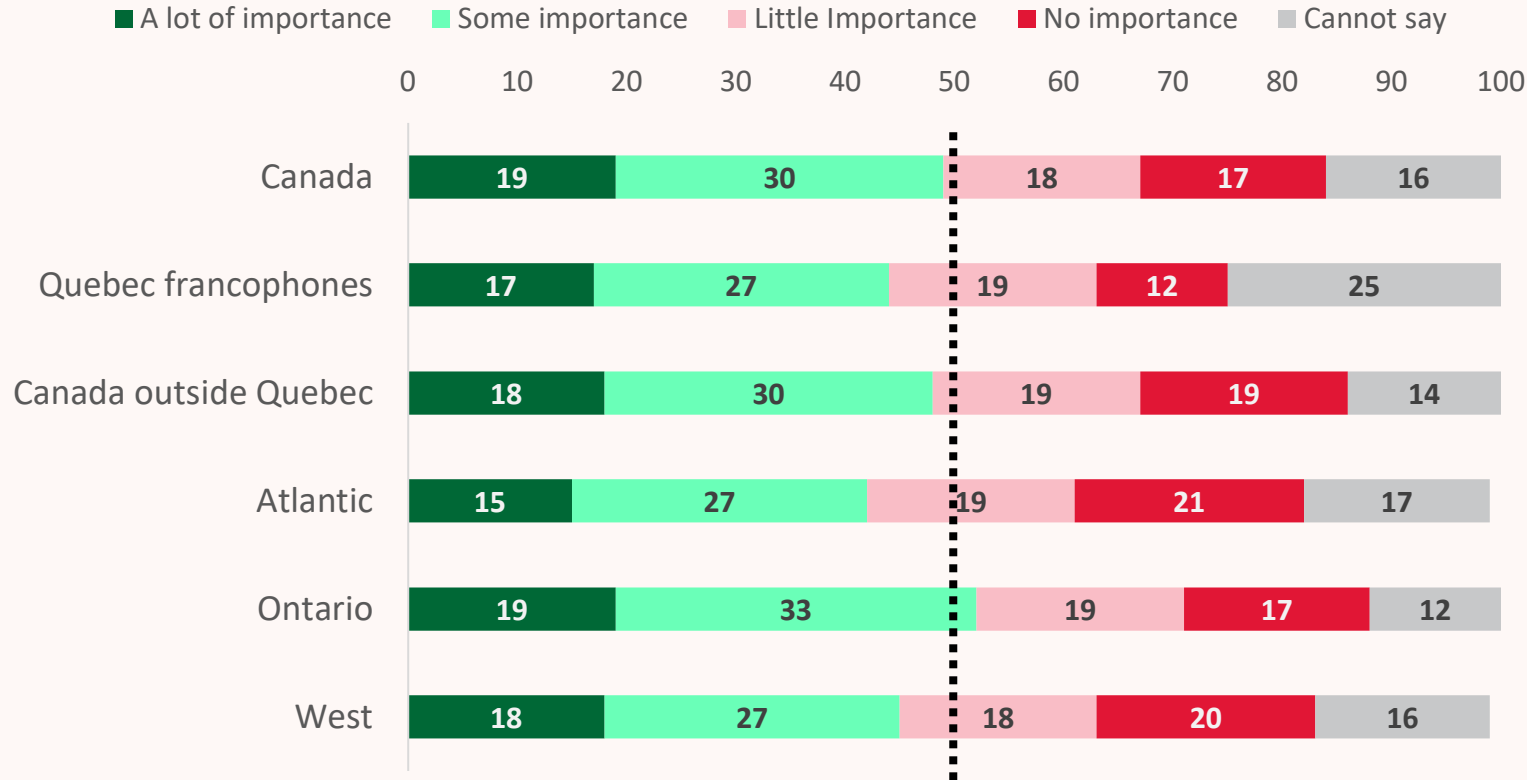
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*Prairie provinces only*

## Re-start constitutional talks to negotiate significant changes



# What importance do you, personally, place on Quebec's signing the Constitution?

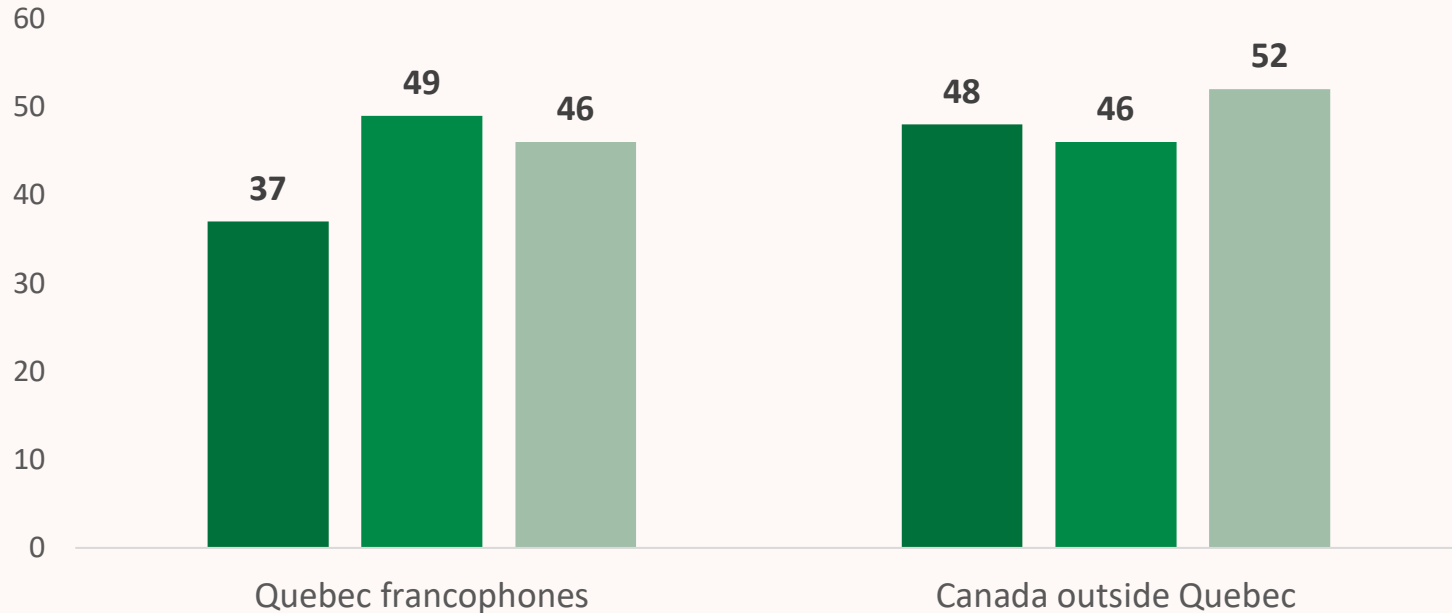


As you may know, Quebec is the only province that did not sign the new Constitution that Canada adopted in 1982. What importance do you, personally, place on Quebec's signing the Constitution?

# What importance do you, personally, place on Quebec's signing the Constitution?

A lot or some importance

■ 18-34 ■ 35-54 ■ 55+

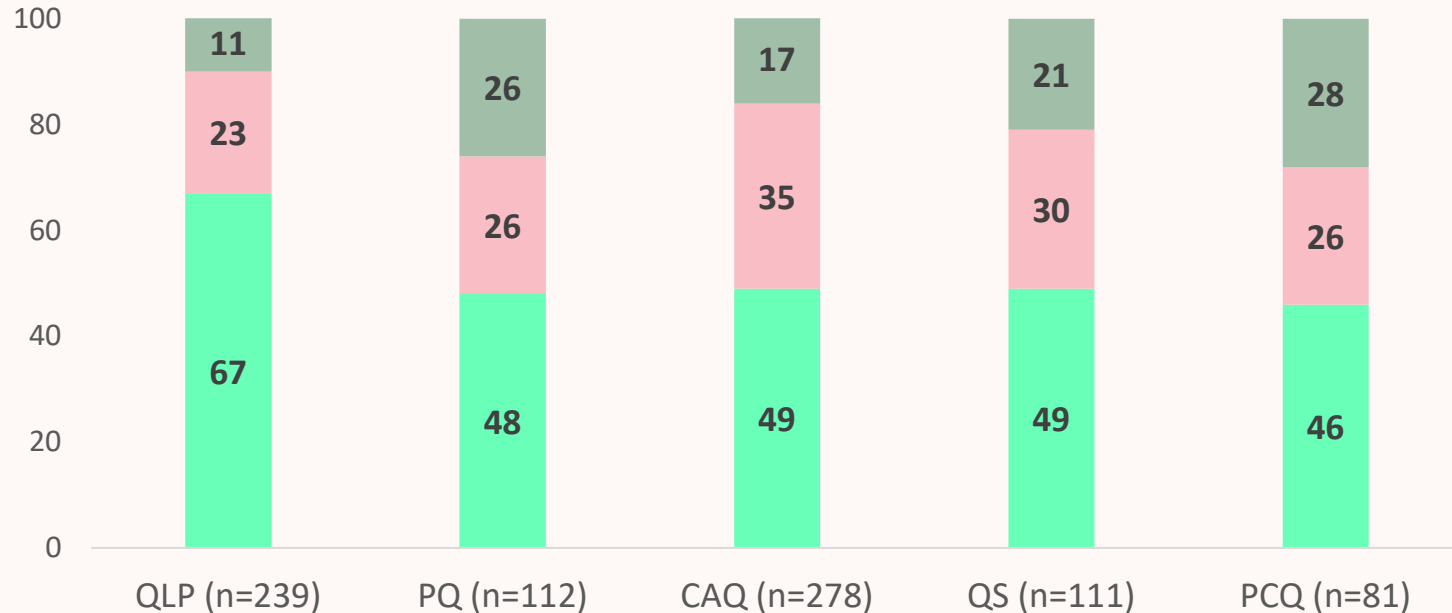


As you may know, Quebec is the only province that did not sign the new Constitution that Canada adopted in 1982. What importance do you, personally, place on Quebec's signing the Constitution?

# What importance do you, personally, place on Quebec's signing the Constitution? *Quebec only, by provincial vote intention*

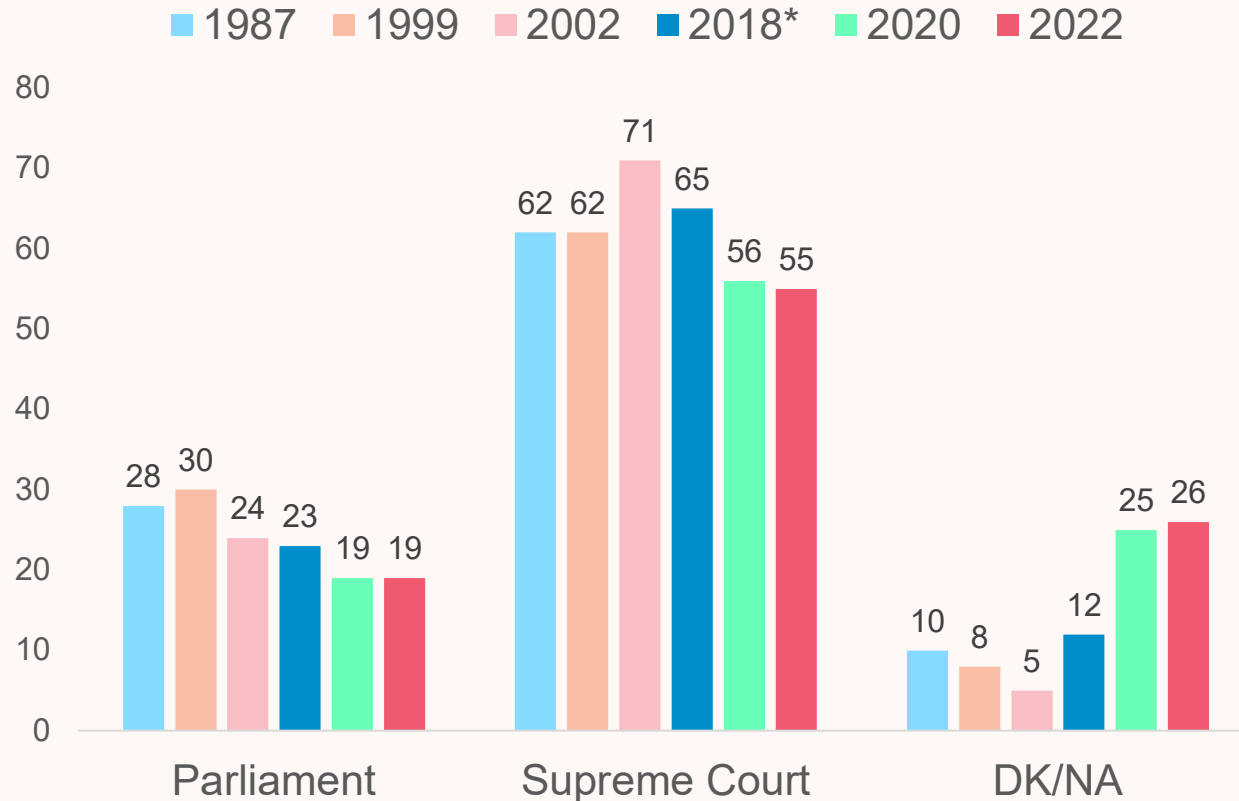
A lot or some importance

A lot / some Little / no Cannot say



As you may know, Quebec is the only province that did not sign the new Constitution that Canada adopted in 1982. What importance do you, personally, place on Quebec's signing the Constitution?

# Parliament, the Court and the Charter: who has the final say?



*[q44] When Parliament passes a law but the Supreme Court of Canada says it is unconstitutional on the grounds that it conflicts with the Charter of Rights, who should have the final say, Parliament or the Supreme Court?*

1987 – York University

1999 – IRPP

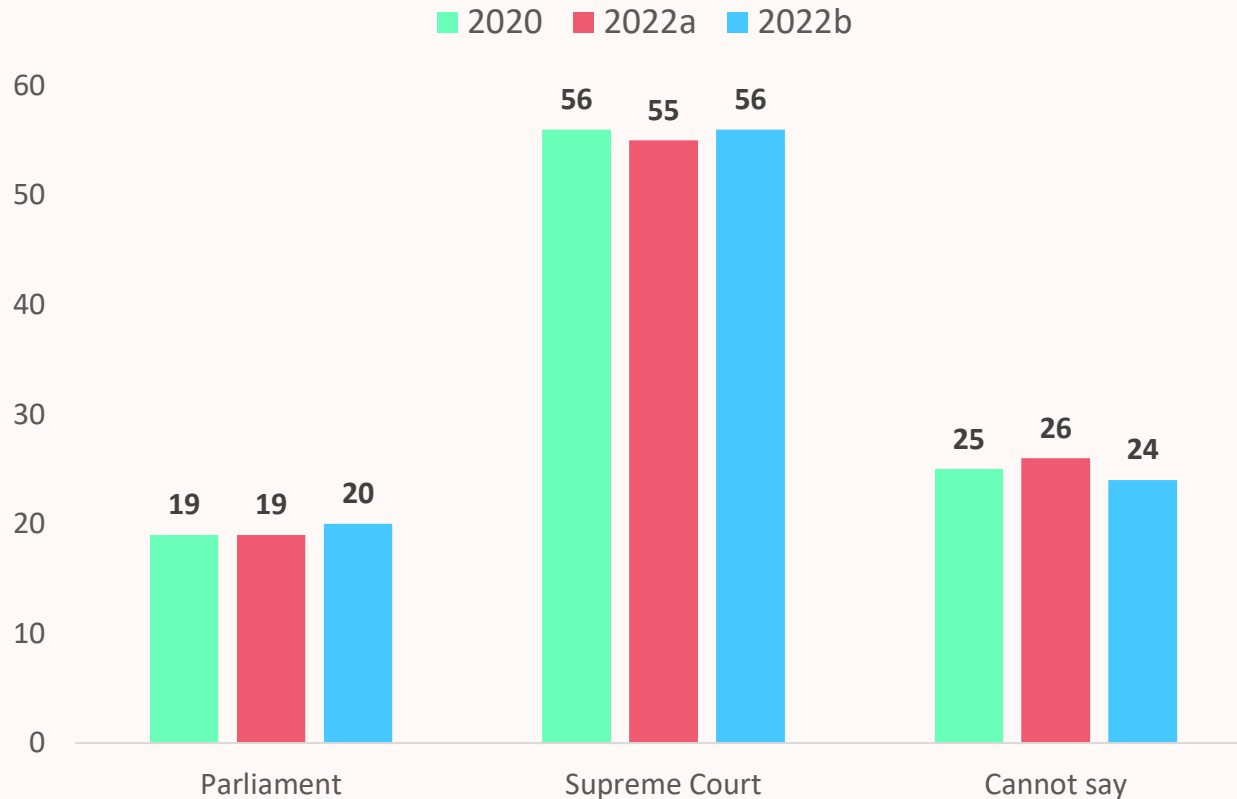
2002 – CRIC

2018 – Environics Institute (Focus Canada)

\* 2018: question asked only to those who had heard of the Charter (85% of total sample)



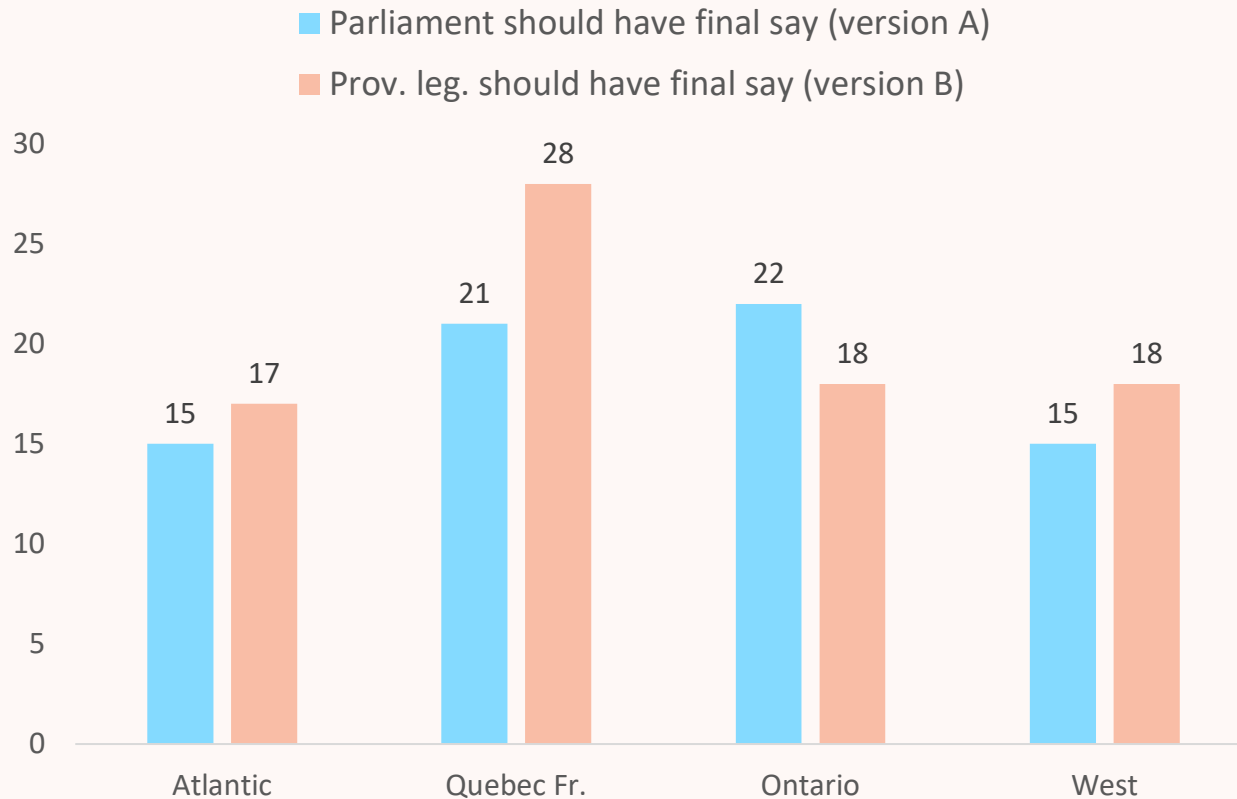
# Parliament, the Court and the Charter: who has the final say?



*2022 – Version A (50% of sample):  
When **Parliament** passes a law but the Supreme Court of Canada says it is unconstitutional on the grounds that it conflicts with the Charter of Rights, who should have the final say, Parliament or the Supreme Court?*

*2022 – Version B (50% of sample):  
When a provincial legislature [in Quebec: the National Assembly] passes a law but the Supreme Court of Canada says it is unconstitutional on the grounds that it conflicts with the Charter of Rights, who should have the final say, the provincial legislature or the Supreme Court?*

# Parliament, the Court and the Charter: who has the final say?

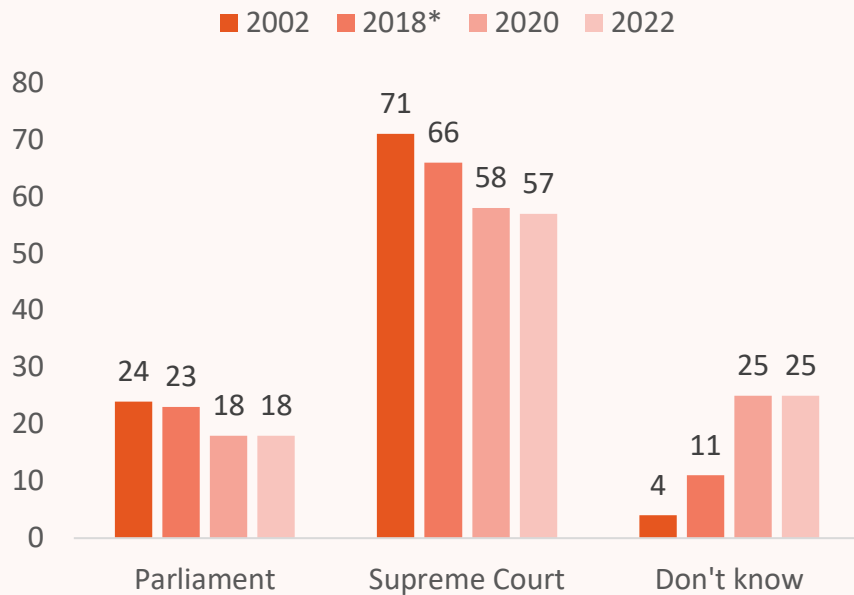


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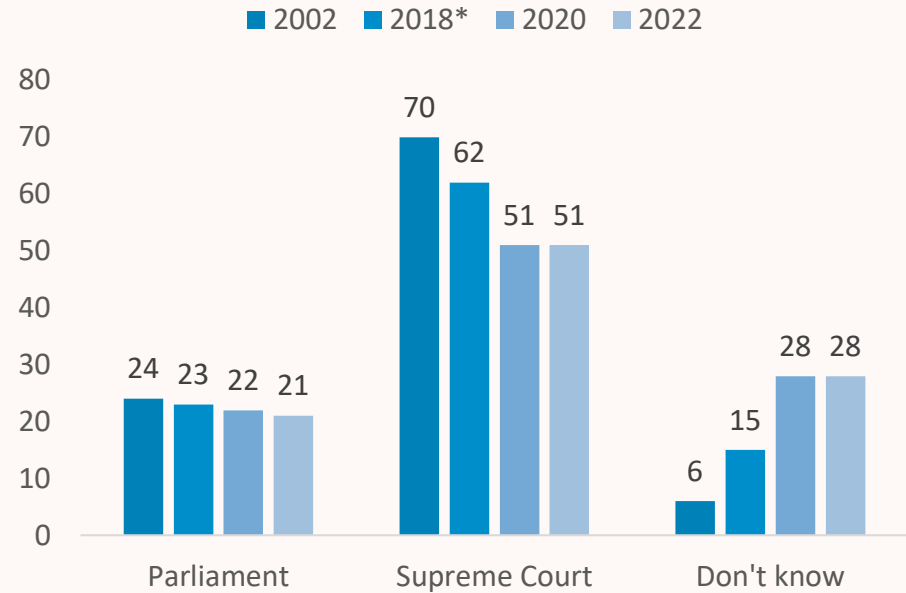
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# Parliament, the Court and the Charter: who has the final say?

## Canada Outside Quebec

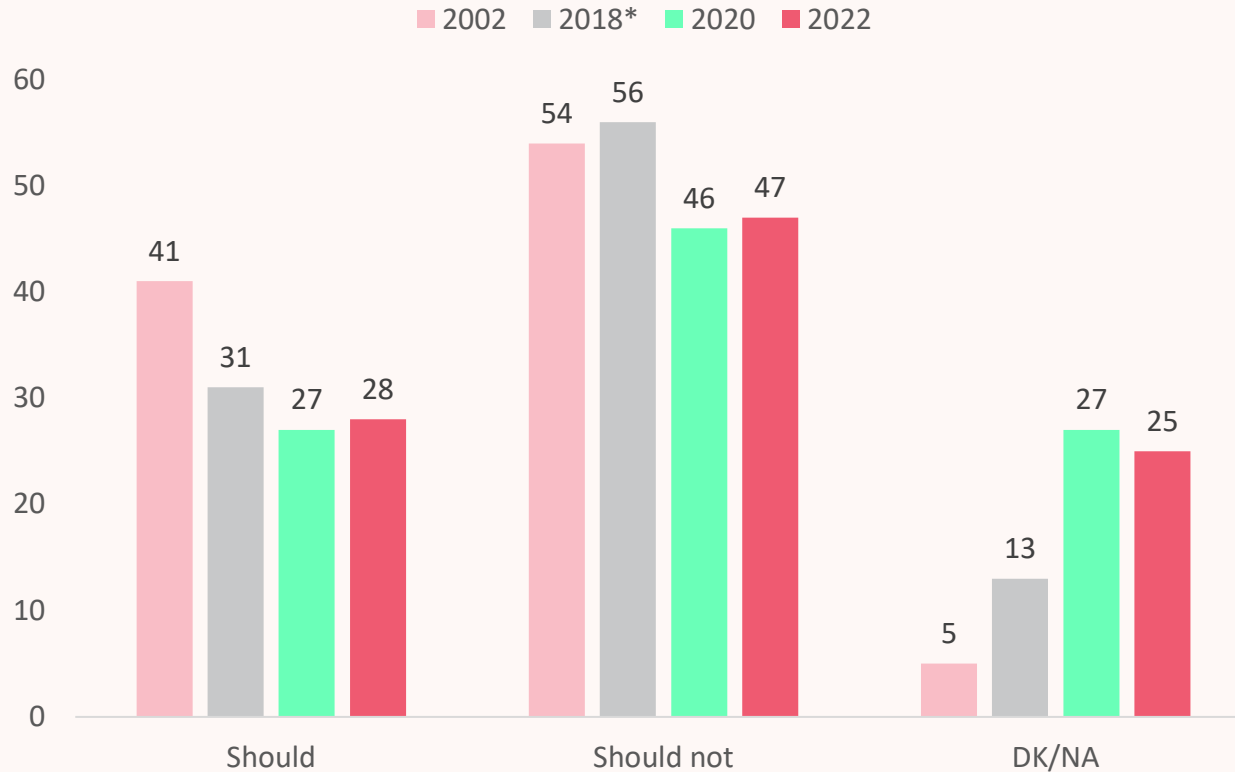


## Quebec Francophones



[q44] When Parliament passes a law but the Supreme Court of Canada says it is unconstitutional on the grounds that it conflicts with the Charter of Rights, who should have the final say, Parliament or the Supreme Court?

# Parliament, the Court and the Charter: should governments be allowed to override Charter?



[q45] As you may know, in certain cases, the Canadian constitution gives governments the power to overrule the courts by passing a law, even though the courts have declared it to be unconstitutional because it violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Do you think that governments should or should not have this power?

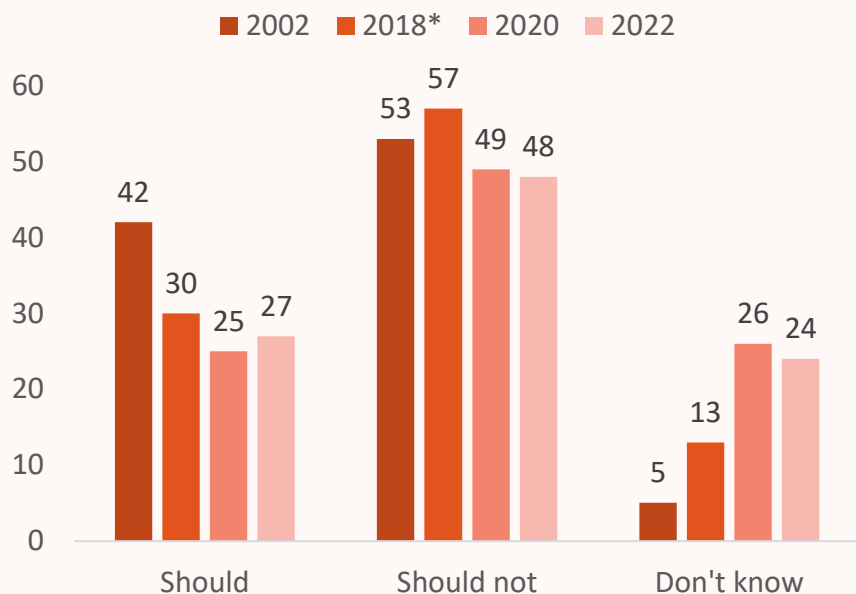
\* 2018: question asked only to those who had heard of the Charter (85% of total sample)

2002 – CRIC

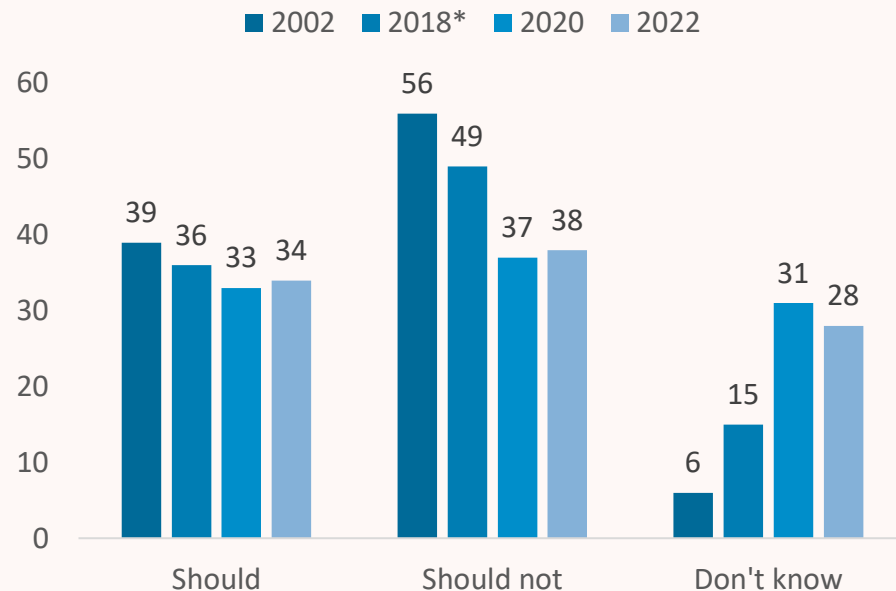
2018 – Environics Institute

# Parliament, the Court and the Charter: should governments be allowed to override Charter?

## Canada Outside Quebec



## Quebec Francophones



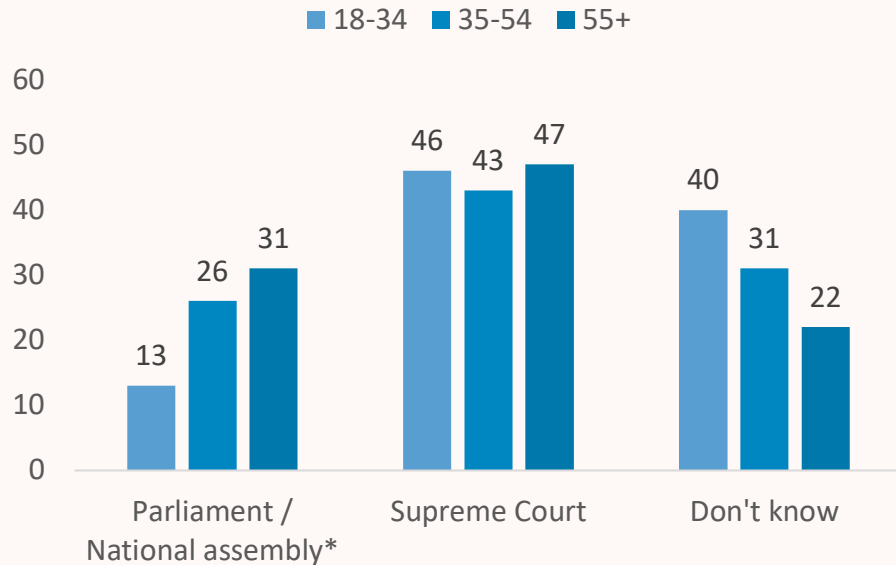
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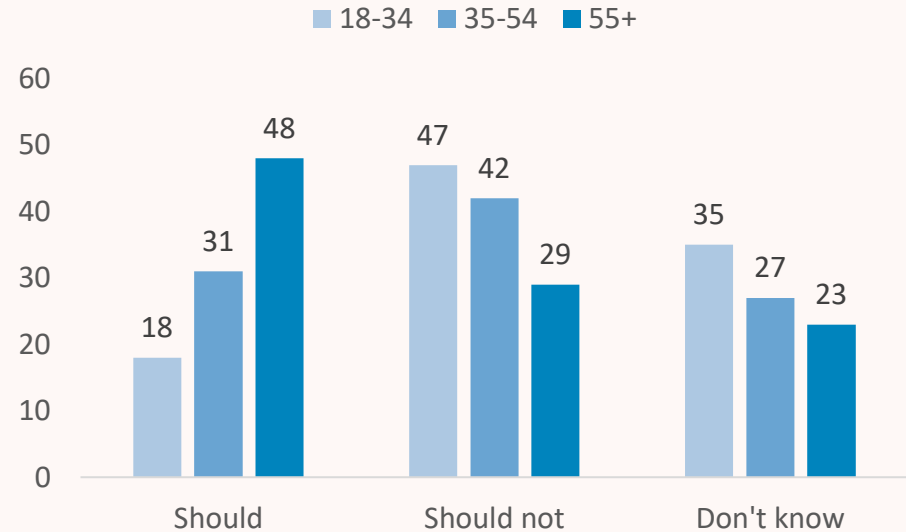
# Parliament, the Court and the Charter

## *Quebec francophones only*

Who should have final say?



Should governments have override power?



\* Figures in this chart combine both versions of this question, each asked to half of sample chosen at random.



# Environics Institute

For Survey Research

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**confederation  
of tomorrow  
la Confédération  
de demain**

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