













# What Millennials want out of life and career: A portrait of six tribes

Cannexus 17 January 25, 2017





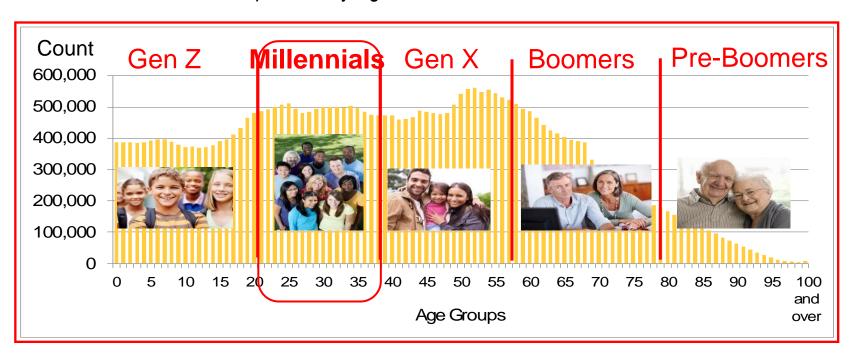




# Who are Millennials?

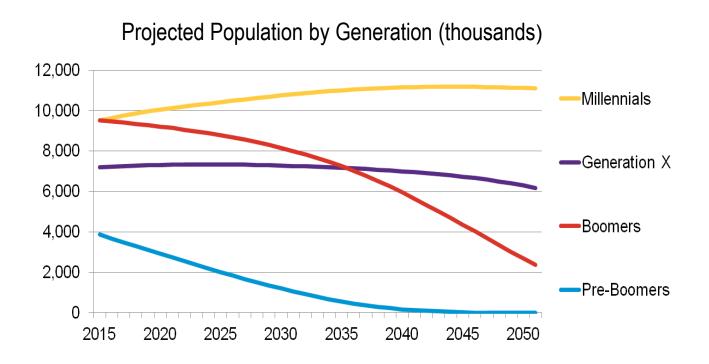
# Canada's five generations

Population by Age, Canada, 2015



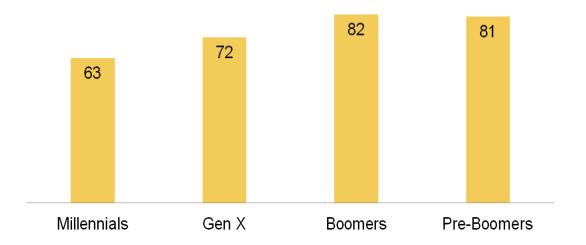
Source: Statistics Canada Demographic Estimates

# Millennial generation will grow as Boomers decline in numbers



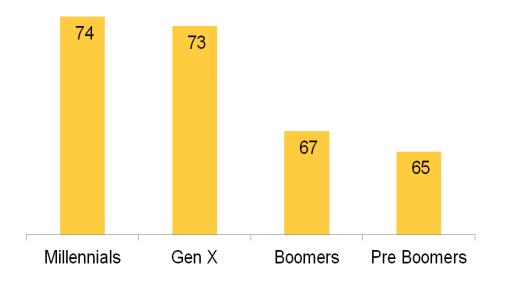
### Most likely to grow up in one parent households

Percentage lived with both birth parents until age 15



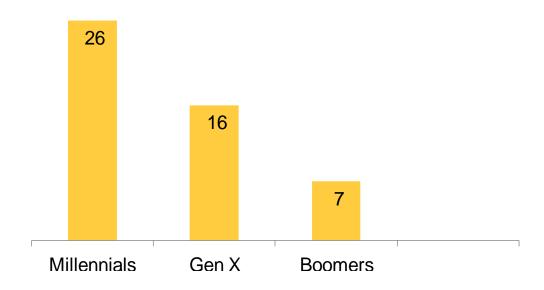
# Most likely to live in urban areas

Percent of population living in large urban areas (100,000+), 2015

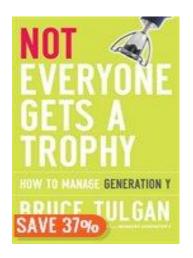


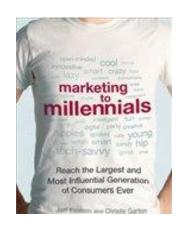
## Most ethnically diverse generation of Canadians

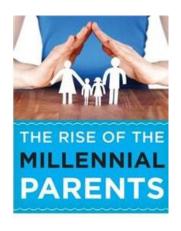
% Visible minority population (when cohort was 15 – 34 years of age)

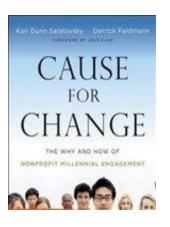


# Millennials - what people are talking about









#### It's been said that Millennials are ...



Entitled

Tech-savvy

**Narcissists** 

Connected

Entrepreneurial

Lazy

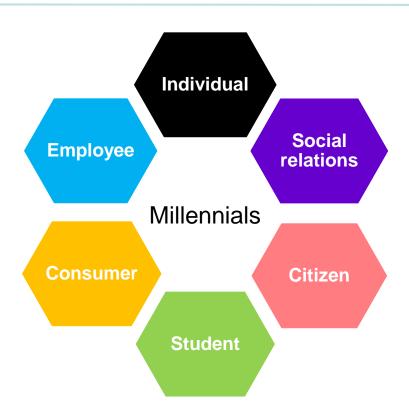
**Impatient** 

**Ambitious** 

Collaborators

Socially-conscious/liberal

# No group, no individual, is just one thing



#### What we need to understand about Millennials

Consumer needs and wants – already well researched

Supporting their goals and aspirations - what's needed to help them succeed

Public policy implications – education, employment, housing, health

How we understand our society – the stories we tell ourselves

# Canadian Millennials social values study

Comprehensive look at Millennials – how this generation is taking its place in society:

- Life goals and markers of adulthood
- Career aspirations and work experience
- Political and civic engagement

What is common across this generation, and how it varies

- Demographics (socio-economic status, gender, ethnic background)
- Social values deeper world views and mental postures

In the past you could understand person by their demographics and social class . . .



# ... but today demographics are no longer destiny



Social values are the emerging paradigm

## Introduction to social values

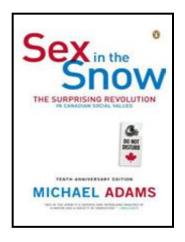


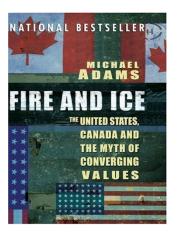
#### What are social values?

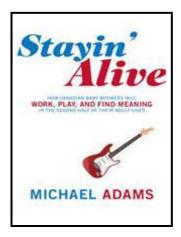
- Underlying mental postures and worldviews by which one navigates life, and interacts with oneself and with others
- Deeper and more stable than attitudes and beliefs

- Formed early in life, usually set by mid-teen years; evolve over time through education and experience
- Shaped by upbringing, family life, schooling, community and culture; impacted by major societal trends

### As popularized in books by Michael Adams







#### Social value: Religiosity

Placing great importance on religion as a construct which guides one's life.

Also, placing great significance on having an affiliation with an organized religious faith.

Tendency to consider that religion represents the essential values.



#### Agree with the following:

- My religious beliefs are important to me.
- I consider myself to be a member of a religious faith.
- I would like to have a religious service at my funeral.
- It is important for children to receive a religious upbringing.

#### Social value: Personal challenge

Setting difficult goals, even just to prove to themselves that they can do it. People strong on this trend finish what they start, persevering until their self-assigned task is completed to their satisfaction.



#### Agree with the following:

- I often do something simply to prove to myself that I am able.
- When I really want to do something, I almost always do it.
- Once I start something, I stick with it until I am satisfied with the results.

#### Social value: Acceptance of violence

People highest on this trend believe that violence is an inevitable fact of life that must be accepted with a certain degree of indifference. Belief that violence can be both cathartic and persuasive.





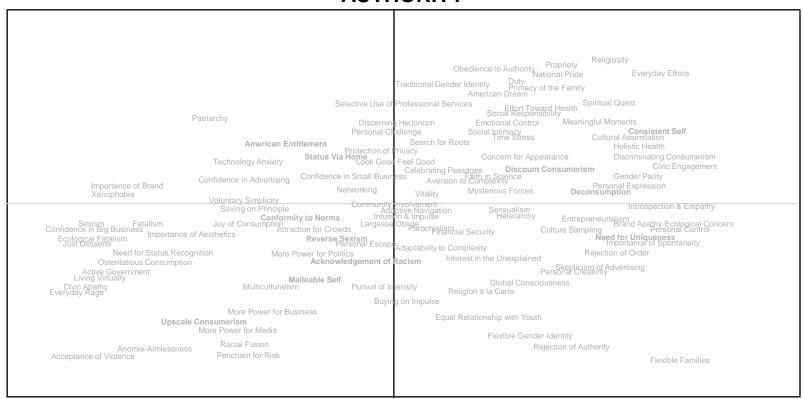
#### Agree with the following:

- Violence can sometimes be exciting.
- When a person can't take it anymore and feels like he/she is about to explode, a little violent behavior can relieve the tension.
- Violence is a part of life. It's no big deal.
- It's acceptable to use physical force to get something you really want. The important thing is to get what
  you want.

# Social values map

SURVIVAL

#### **AUTHORITY**



#### INDIVIDUALITY

# FULFILMENT

# Social values map – Four quadrants

**AUTHORITY** 

**Status & Security** 

Obedience to Traditional Structures and Norms

SURVIVAL

**Authenticity & Responsibility** 

Well-being, Harmony and Responsibility

**Exclusion & Intensity** 

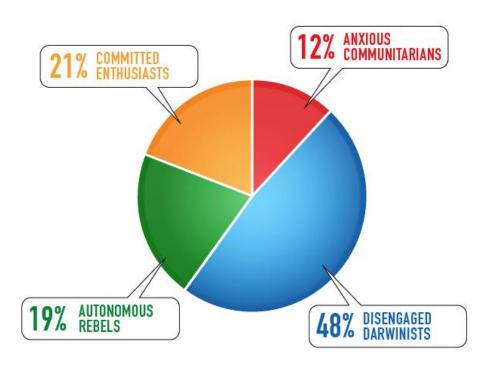
**Seeking Stimulus and Attention** 

Idealism & Autonomy

**Exploration and Flexibility** 

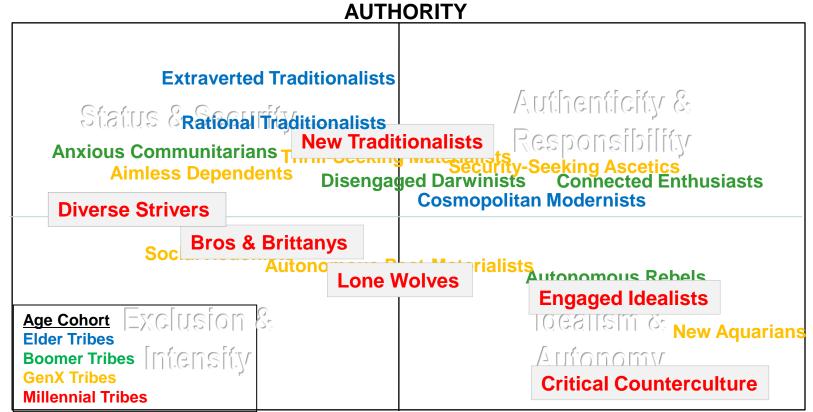
**INDIVIDUALITY** 

### Canadian Baby Boomers – social values tribes



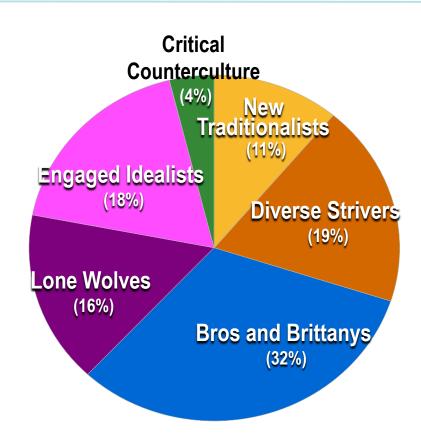
# Social values map – Social values tribes by generation

SURVIVAL



INDIVIDUALITY

#### Canadian Millennials - social values tribes





# **Bros & Brittanys**

Largest group that defines the "mainstream." Avid risk takers but not looking to change the world. They start their day with a cup of Tim's and end it with a beer. They are enthusiastic users of technology.

<u>Demographics</u>: Male, older, native born and white but also Chinese; average income and slightly less education



<u>Key values</u>: clear gender roles, being respected, looking good, taking some risks, blowing off steam, getting paid



#### **Diverse Strivers**

Making it in life and doing things that bring new and intense experiences are top priorities. They crave success and pursue personal challenges. Diverse Strivers work to inspire respect, to look good and push forward in their goals.

<u>Demographics</u>: Most multicultural of all groups, born in another country, more male, younger and live in GTA, average employment and income

<u>Key values</u>: Connection to community, thrills and excitement, buying things, status & respect, duty to others, pushing yourself





#### **New Traditionalists**

Most religious and spiritual, believe in staying true to the values with which they were brought up. Respect uthority figures more so than their peers, report a stronger sense of duty, and a greater sense of identification with their family roots and ancestors.

<u>Demographics</u>: oldest and most settled, more likely female and married with children, High proportion of immigrants and broad ethnic mix. Highest income group, but also more apt to be out of workforce (stay at home moms)

Key values: religion & spirituality, family, doing your duty, legacy

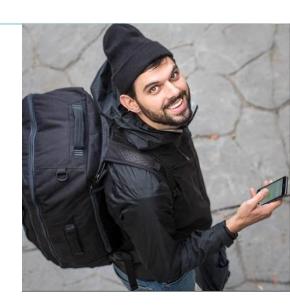


## Engaged Idealists

Millennials on steroids: sociable, energetic, focused on personal growth. Believe in contributing to relationships, careers and community, that their actions matter and they can make a difference. Want meaningful life and careers, and express creativity.

<u>Demographics</u>: mostly Canadian-born and white, most female of groups, younger, Ontario and west. High education and income

<u>Key values</u>: being in control of destiny, learning from others, being openminded, meaningful career, creativity, spontaneity





#### **Critical Counterculturists**

Share progressive values with Engaged Idealists, but reject status and authority they see as illegitimate or superficial. More clear-eyed rationalists, they will lead when they can add value, but would hate to be judged by their jeans or smartphone.

<u>Demographics</u>: Smallest group, middle age range, B.C., least family-oriented; by far the most educated, but incomes below average, high proportion of immigrants but white.

<u>Key values</u>: political & social engagement, learning from others, control of destiny, autonomous action & thought, practicality versus impulse, authentic understatement





Deeply skeptical of authority. Resemble stereotypic Gen-Xer: cool and standoffish. Like to keep life simple and avoid connections to community and society, but not angry or hostile.

<u>Demographics</u>: Equally male & female, older, Quebec, native-born and white. Lowest interest in family and children, least apt to be employed or in school; lowest education and income

<u>Key values</u>: Doing their own thing, cynicism, keeping things simple, buying things on a whim, laying low



# The research

#### Research methods

 Survey conducted online with representative sample of 3,072 Millennials across Canada (born 1980 – 1995)

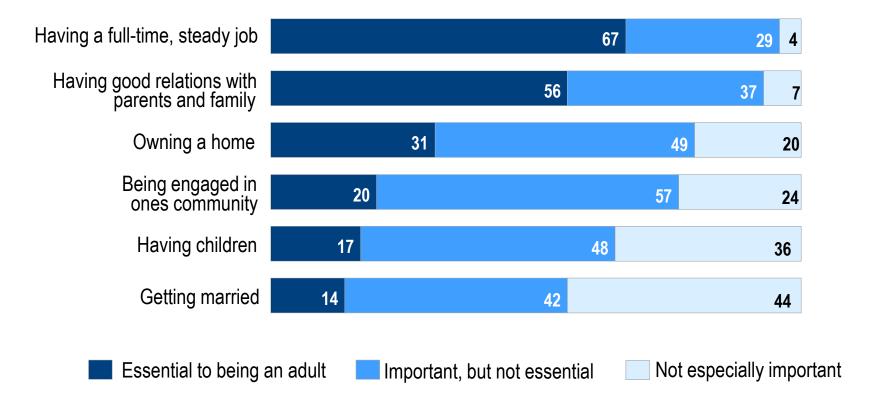
Sample stratified by age, gender and region

Survey conducted July 6 – August 31, 2016

 Additional qualitative content from selected participants - via video response to follow-up questions

# Defining the generation

#### Markers of adulthood



#### Essential markers of adulthood

#### By social values tribe

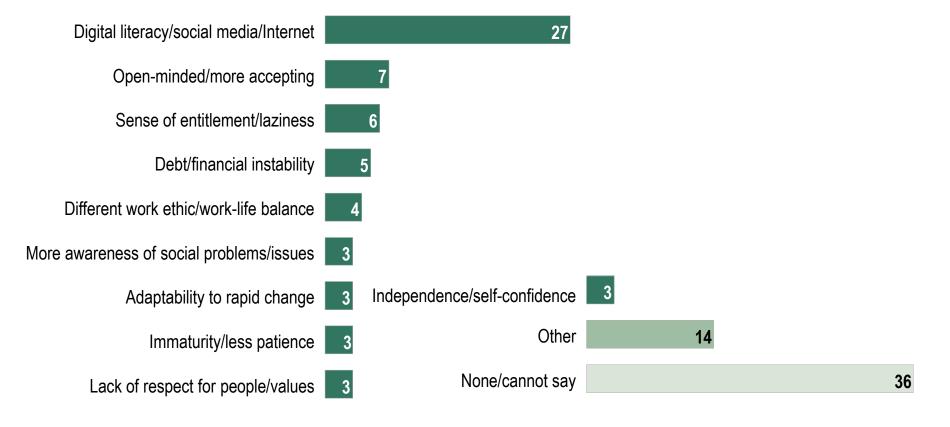
	Bros and Brittanys	Lone Wolves	Engaged Idealists	Diverse Strivers	New Traditionalists	Critical Counterculture
Having a full-time, steady job	75	61	51	78	65	47
Having good relations with parents and family	56	42	53	67	70	36
Owning a home	35	22	19	47	30	15
Being engaged in ones community	10	5	29	35	30	27
Having children	18	10	7	30	20	5
Getting married	13	8	5	26	21	3



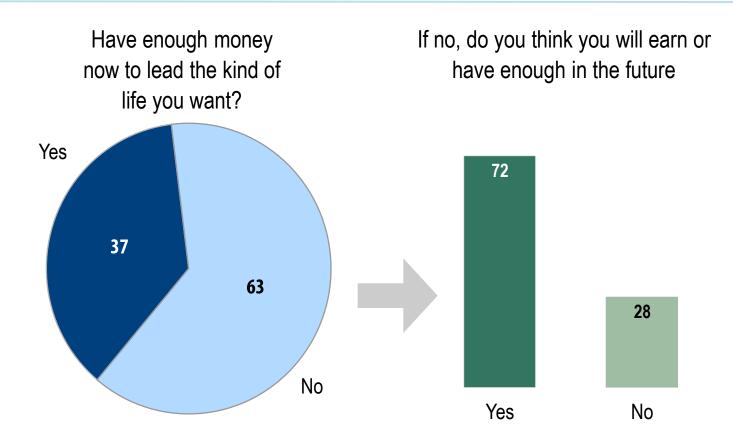




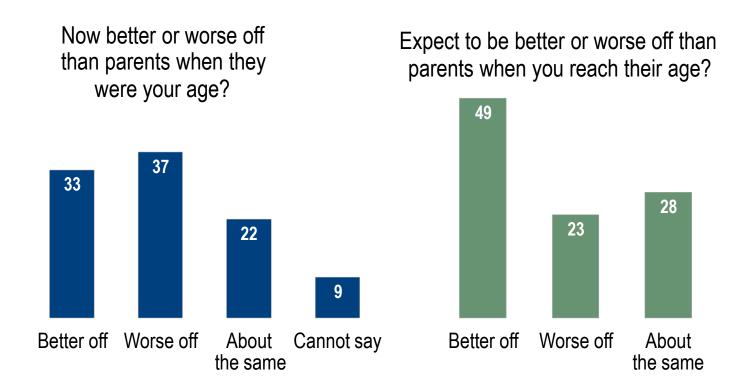
## What makes the millennial generation unique?



#### Have enough money to live as you would like

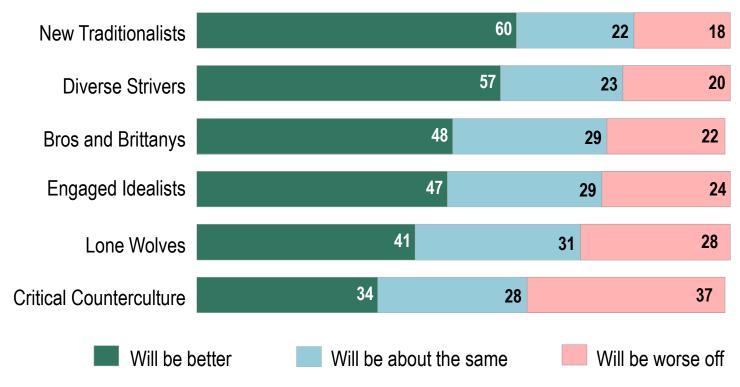


#### Financial prospects compared with parents



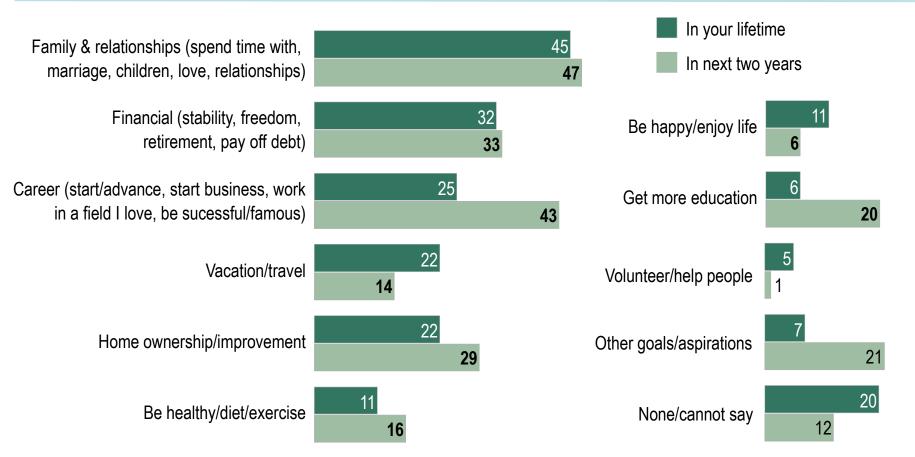
#### Future financial prospects compared with parents

By social values tribe



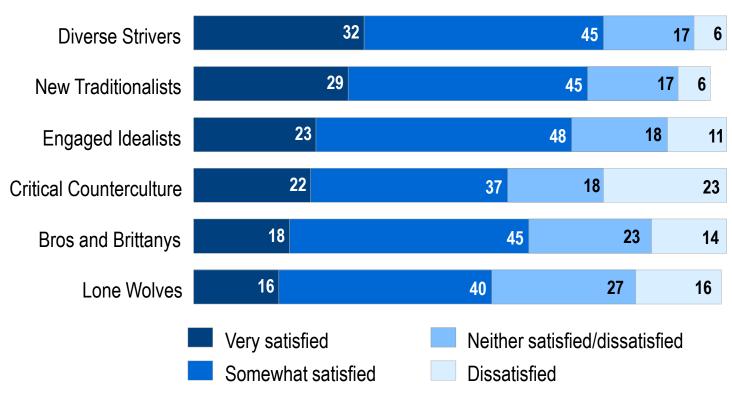
## Work/career experience and aspirations

## Life goals and aspirations



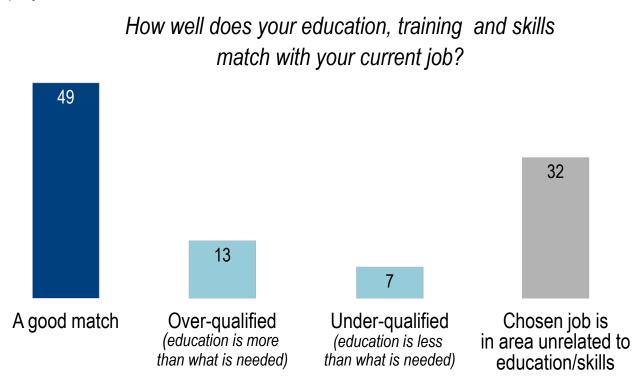
#### Current job satisfaction

By social values tribe



#### Matching education with/skills with current job

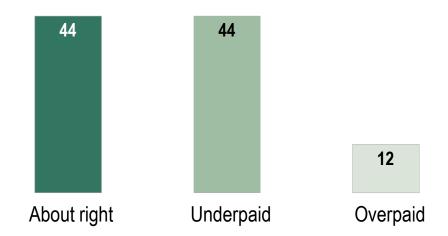
Those currently employed



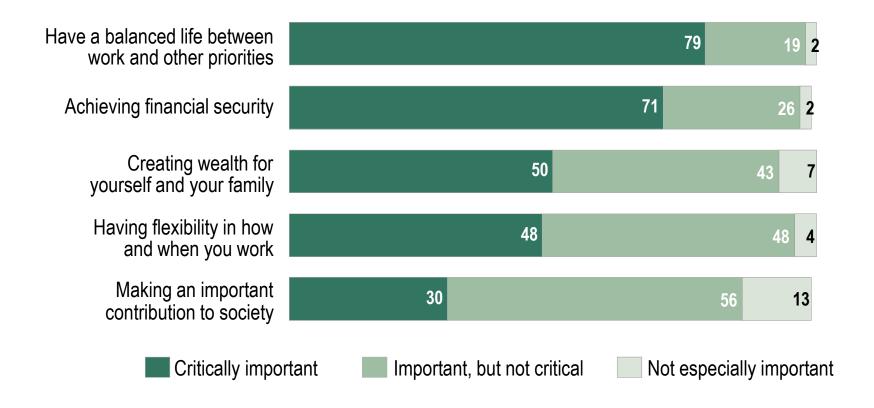
### Matching income with current job

Those currently employed

How well does your current income match with education, training and skills?

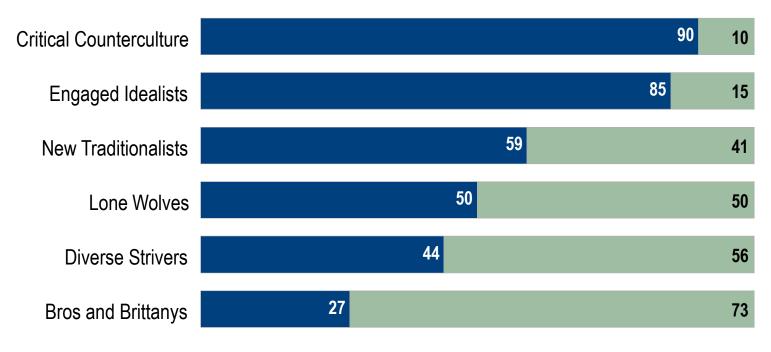


#### Important work and career goals



#### Preferred type of work

By social values tribe



Prefer to make a lot of money in business

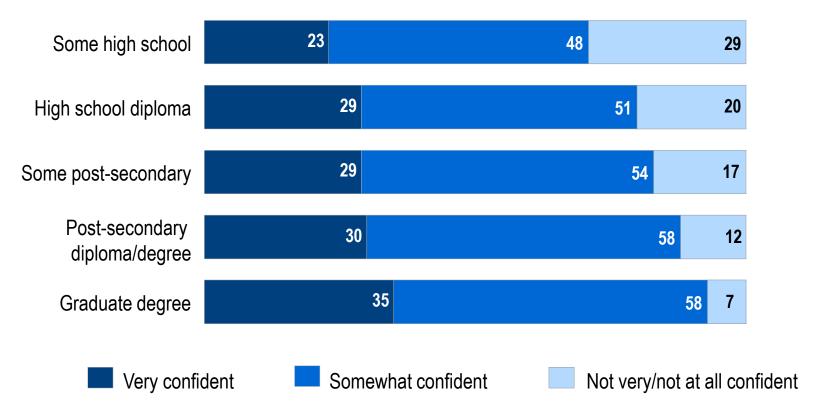
Prefer work that is in the public interest



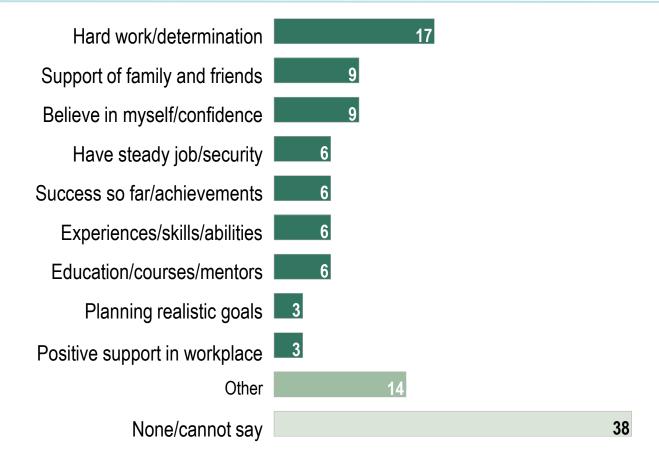


#### Confidence in attaining career goals

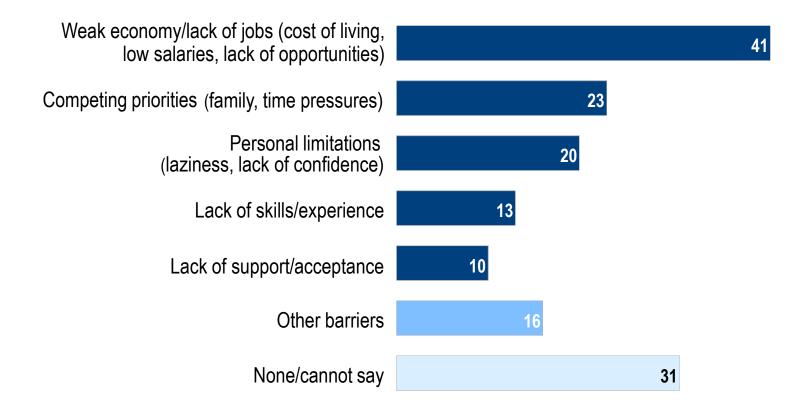
By educational attainment



### What gives you confidence in attaining career goals?

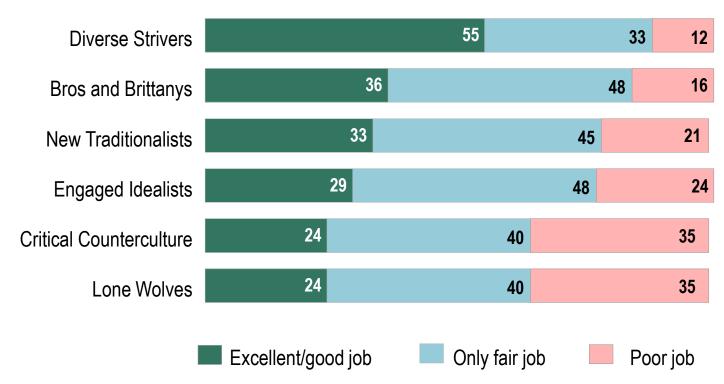


#### Biggest challenges facing work/career goals



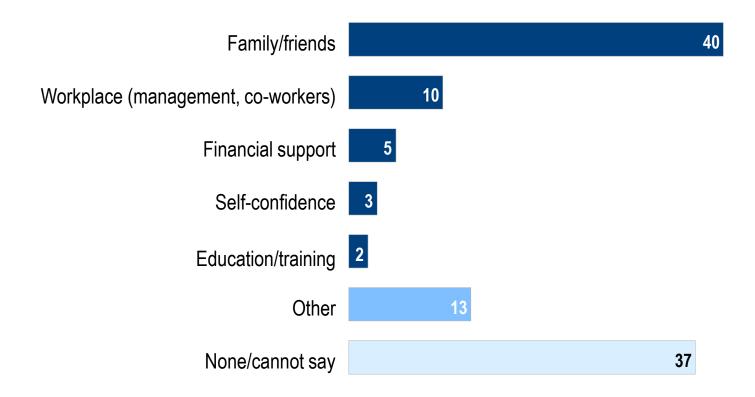
#### How well are major institutions supporting millennials?

By social values tribe

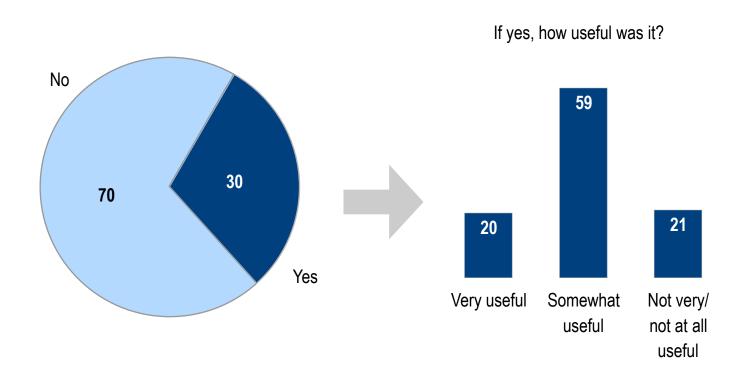




#### Most important support in work/career



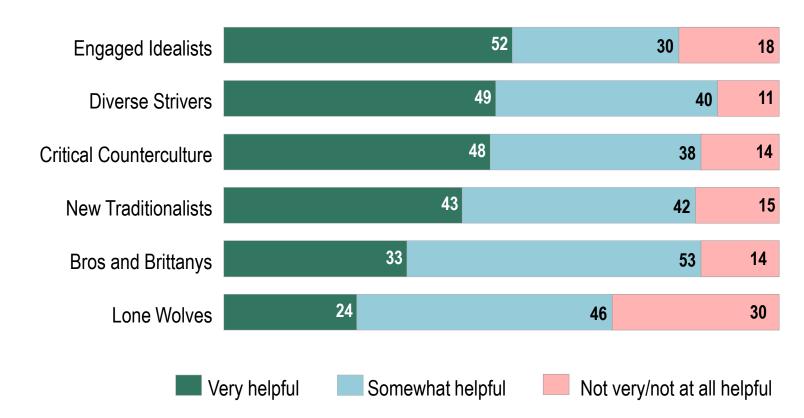
#### Use of occupational trends/labour market data



## Value of post-secondary education

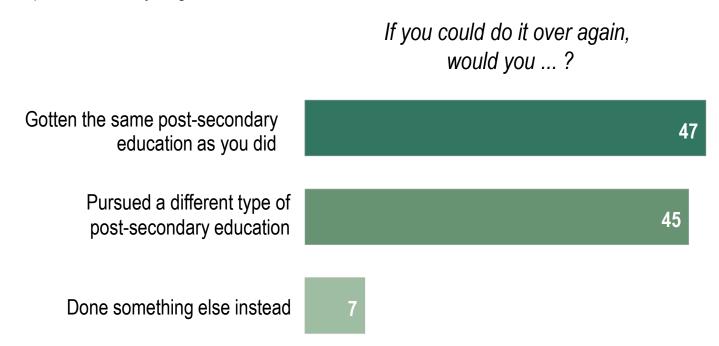
#### How helpful has your post-secondary degree been?

Those with post-secondary degree - by social values tribe



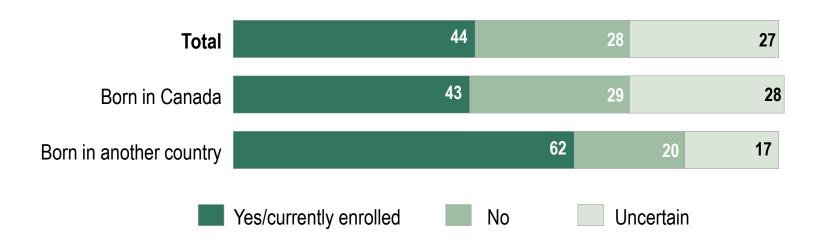
#### Was your post-secondary degree the right choice?

Those with a post-secondary degree



#### Plan to pursue further post-secondary education?

Those without post-secondary degree – by place of birth



# What this means for career development



#### **Bros & Brittanys**

Largest group, making it an important target audience

Already motivated to find a well-paying job, but will need guidance in figuring out how to make it happen



#### **Diverse Strivers**

Highly motivated, so its about supporting their drive to succeed

Immigrants may need more supports in terms of language, culture and networking



#### **New Traditionalists**

Oldest and most established group – so many already have careers or are at home with children

May be the group least in need of guidance and support



## **Engaged Idealists**

These are likely to be your stars

Won't need a lot of support, but will most appreciate encouragement and recognition



#### **Critical Counterculturists**

Already the most highly educated and well-skilled

Low confidence suggests they may need help aligning their social and ethical norms with the realities of the job market



#### **Lone Wolves**

By far the most challenging group to reach and help

Key may be to find that one thing that will capture their interest

#### A defining value for all Millennials . . .













#### Adaptability to complexity:

Tendency to adapt easily to the uncertainties of modern life, and not to feel threatened by the changes and complexities of society today. A desire to explore this complexity as a learning experience and a source of opportunity



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