



Canadian Youth Reconciliation Barometer 2019

August 13, 2019

**Environics
Institute**
For Survey Research



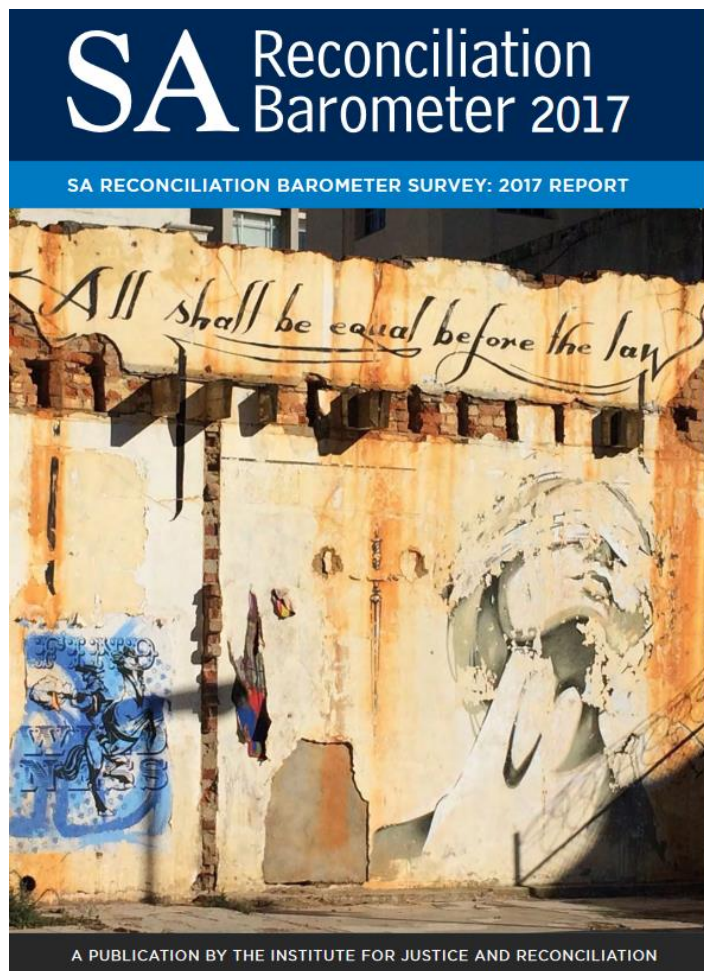
Background

- Despite progress, relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada remain unresolved and conflictual
- In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission issued 93 Calls to Action that spurred new initiatives for building trust and improving relations
- The results of this activity is unclear. Where do we stand today?
- What is the perspective of Canada's youth, in which the country's future rests?

Canadian Youth Reconciliation Barometer

- New social research study to document the state of reconciliation from the perspective of Canada's youth (ages 16 to 29)
- Provide credible empirical evidence to measure the current status and progress of reconciliation – measuring attitudes and experience
- Initial survey establishes a benchmark, with future waves to measure progress over time
- Provide a point of common ground to bring together stakeholders from all sectors

Inspiration from established work in other countries



Study partners



Non-profit research institute that conducts public opinion and social research to help Canada and Canadians understand themselves better.



National Indigenous-led organization developing innovative and impactful opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth to build a generation passionate about advancing reconciliation



One of the world's largest foundations, guided by its mission to advance learning and promote financial inclusion for people living in poverty.

Research methods

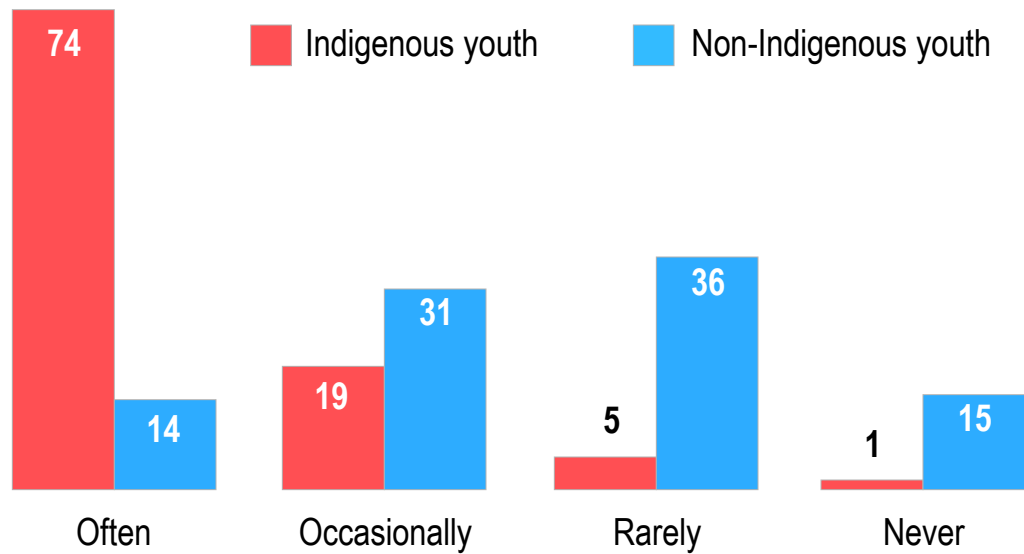
- Survey conducted online with 682 Indigenous and 695 non-Indigenous youth (March 22 – April 29, 2019)
- Sample stratified by province/territory, age sub-cohort, gender, and Indigenous group (First Nations, Métis, Inuit)
- Sample drawn from established panel (Maru/Blue)
- Video response option offered for selected open-ended questions

Topics covered

- Indigenous – non-Indigenous connections
- Perspectives on Indigenous – non-Indigenous relations
- Treatment of Indigenous Peoples
- Perspectives on reconciliation
- Personal involvement with reconciliation
- Life goals and aspirations

Indigenous – non-Indigenous connections

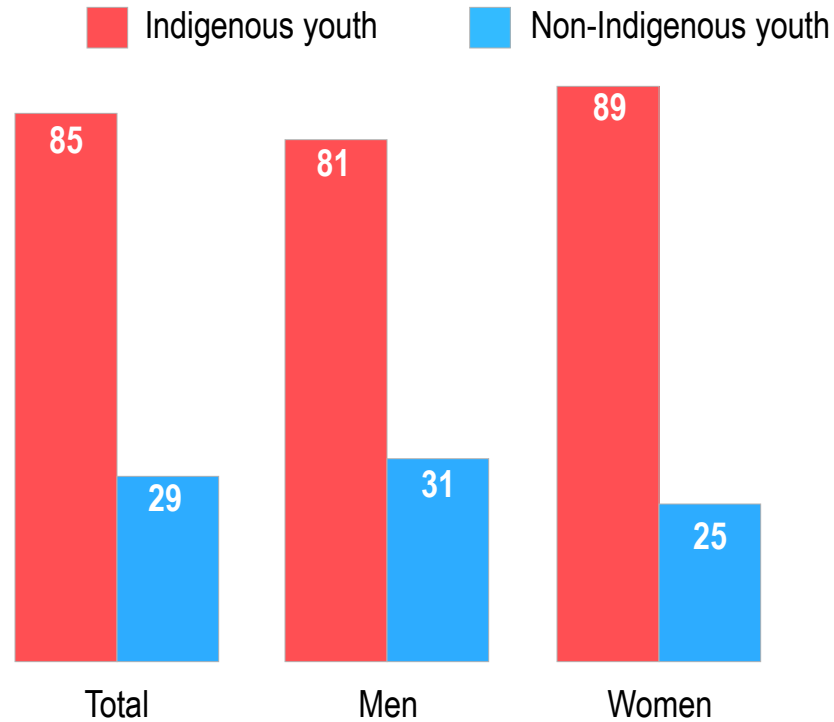
Frequency of contact with other population



Q.11. How frequently do you have contact with [Indigenous/non-Indigenous] people?

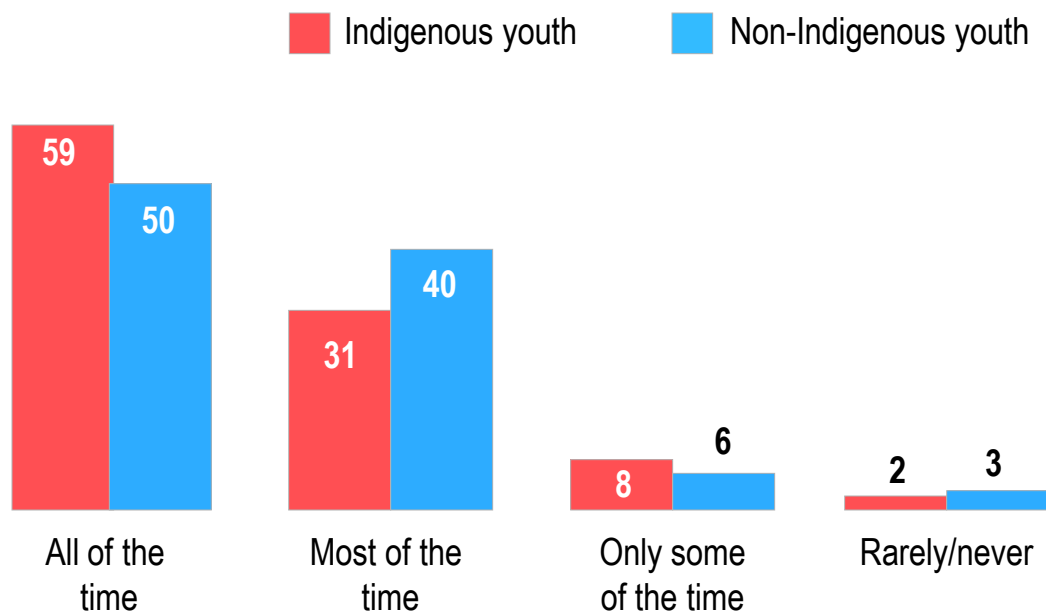
Have any close friends in other population

By gender



Q.13. [If have at least rare contact] Do you have any close friends who are [Indigenous/non-Indigenous]?

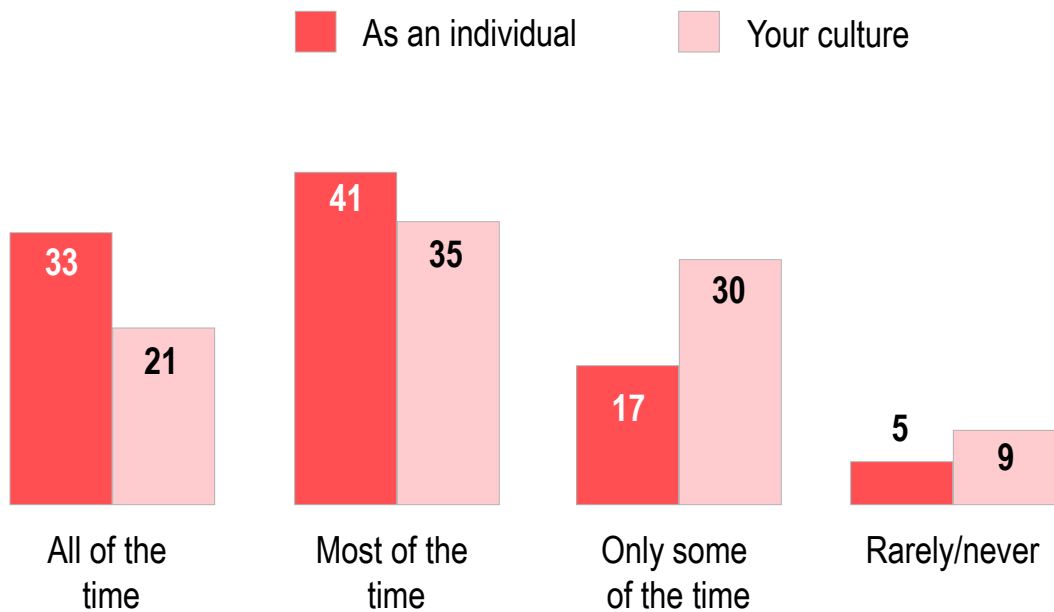
Feel comfortable interacting with other population



Q.16. In general, would you say you are comfortable interacting with [Indigenous/non-Indigenous] people . . . ?

Feel respected by non-Indigenous people

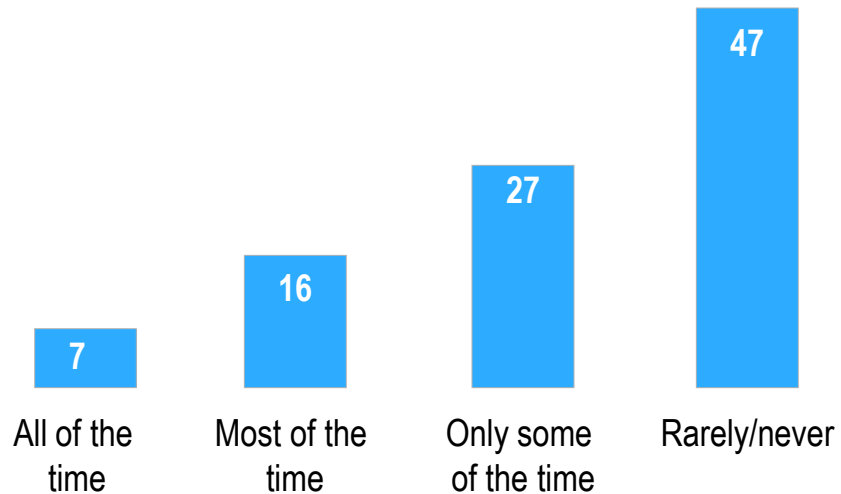
Indigenous youth



Q.17/18. When interacting with non-Indigenous people, how often would you say you feel respected for who you are as an individual/your culture is respected?

Feel self-conscious around Indigenous Peoples

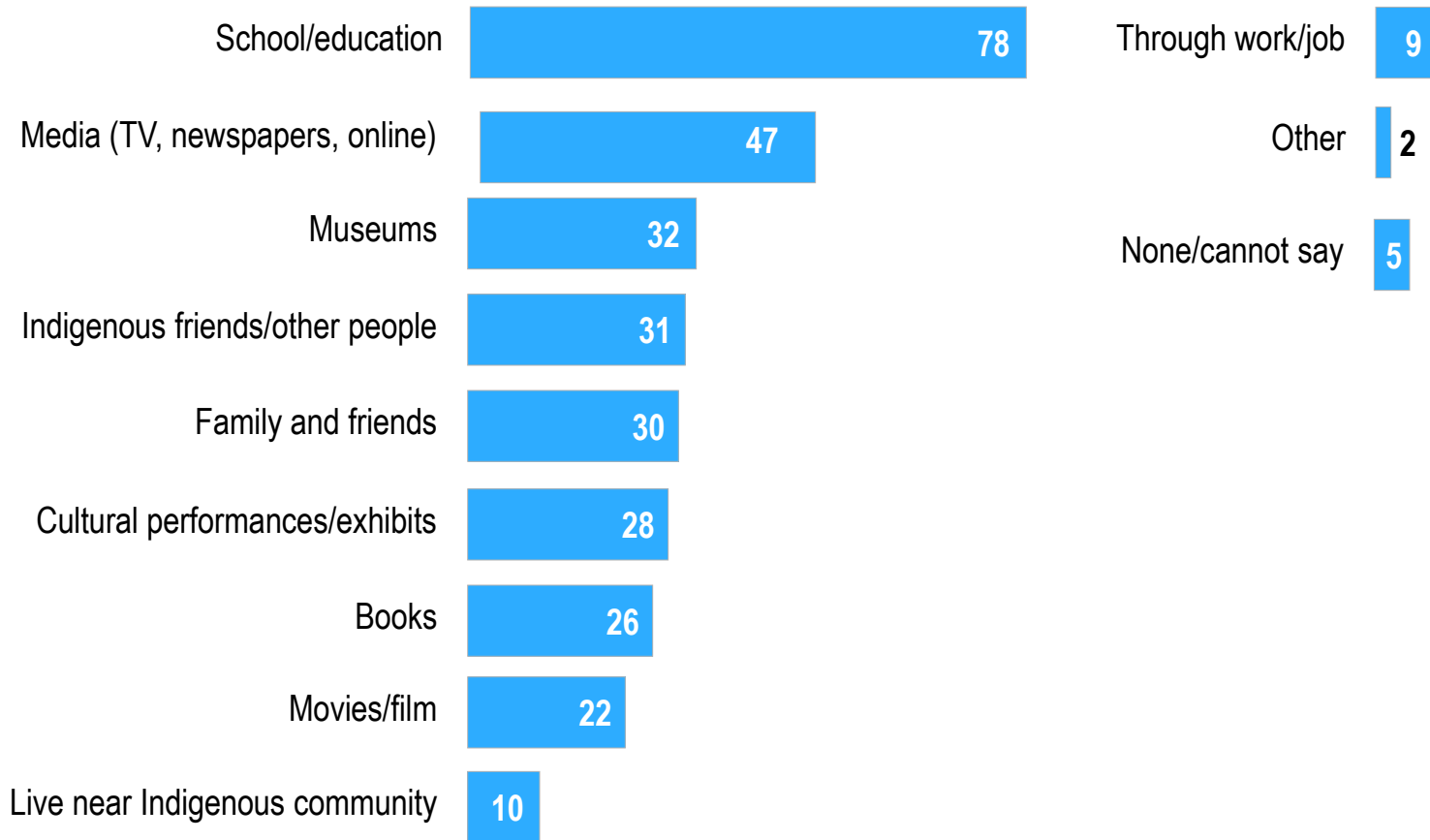
Non-Indigenous youth



Q.19. *When you interact with Indigenous people, how often do you feel conscious or concerned about unintentionally saying the wrong thing or causing offence?*

Sources of information about Indigenous Peoples

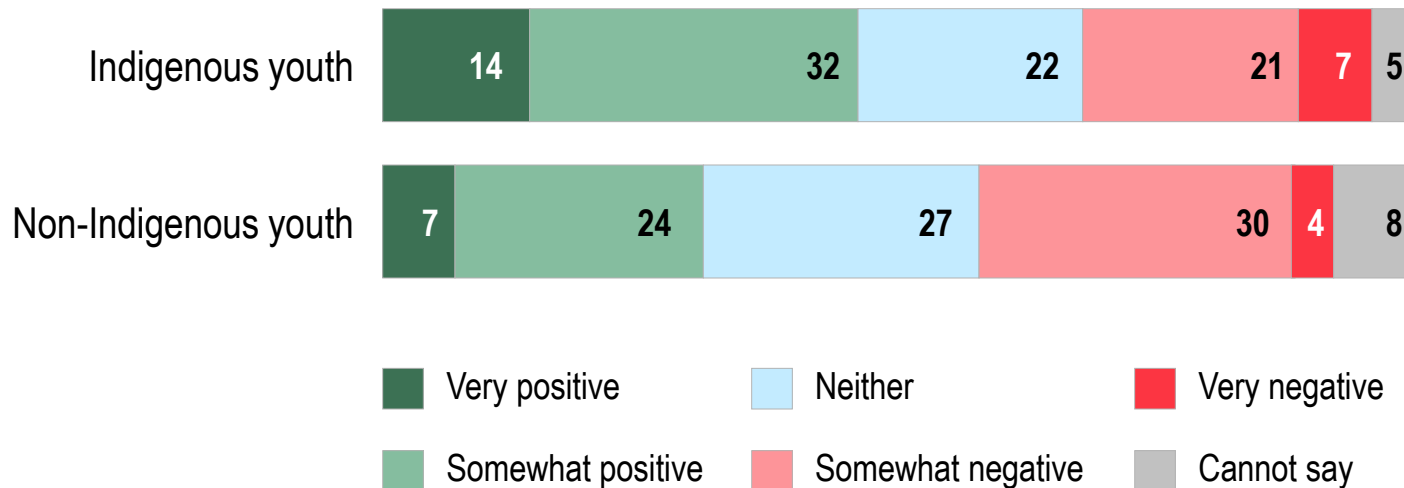
Non-Indigenous youth



Q.30. From where, or from whom, have you learned what you know about Indigenous Peoples and their culture?

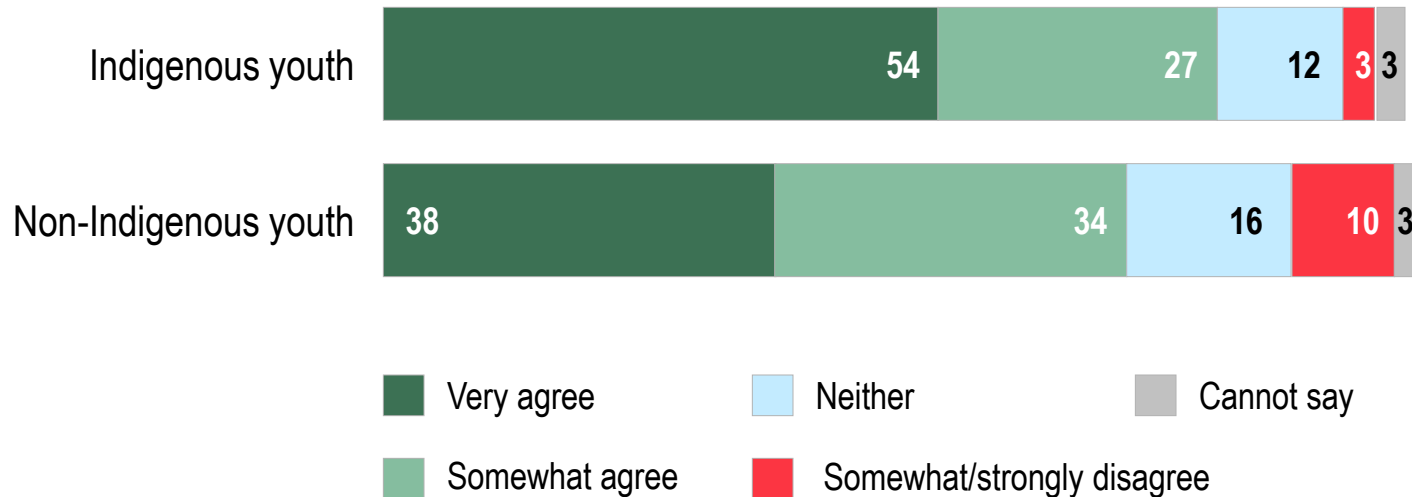
Indigenous – non-Indigenous relations

Overall state of relations between Indigenous & non-Indigenous peoples



Q.22. How would you describe the current relations between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous people in Canada today?

Agree – disagree: *Indigenous Peoples hold a unique place in Canada.*

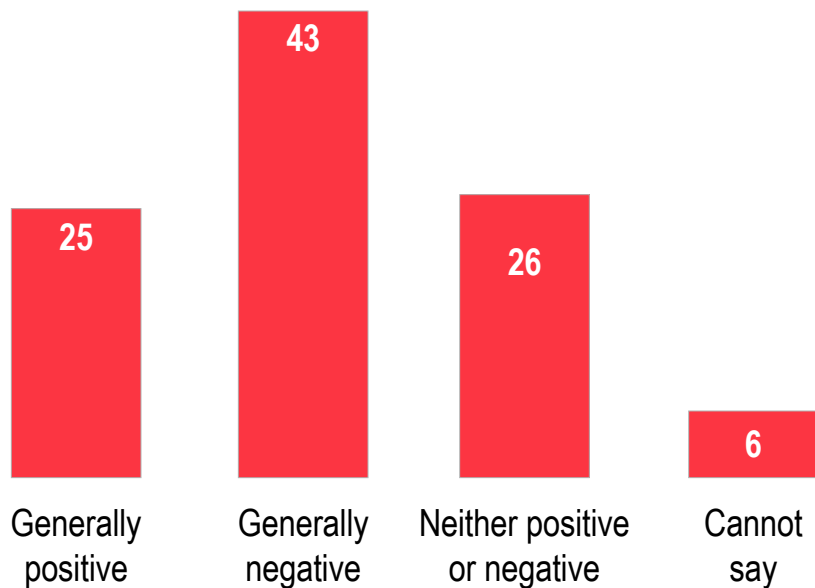


Q.29d. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada: “Indigenous Peoples hold a unique place in this country as the first inhabitants of the lands now called Canada.”

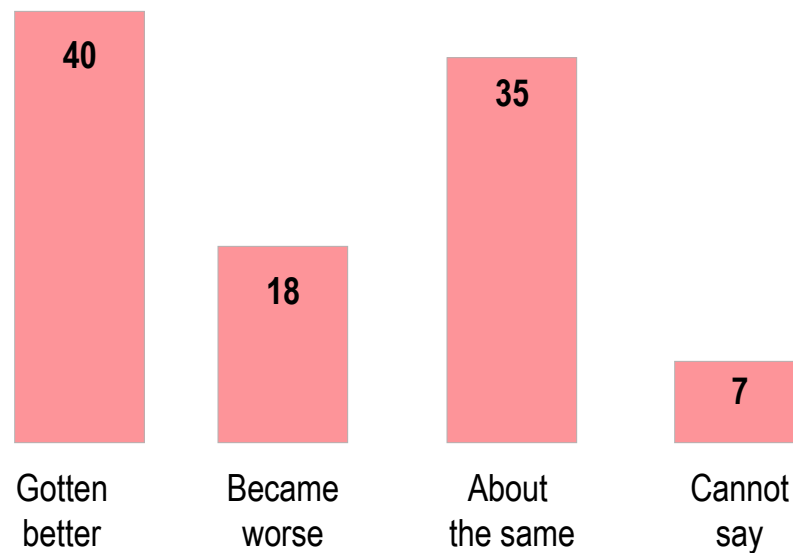
How Indigenous youth feel they are viewed by others

Indigenous youth

How Indigenous People are viewed today

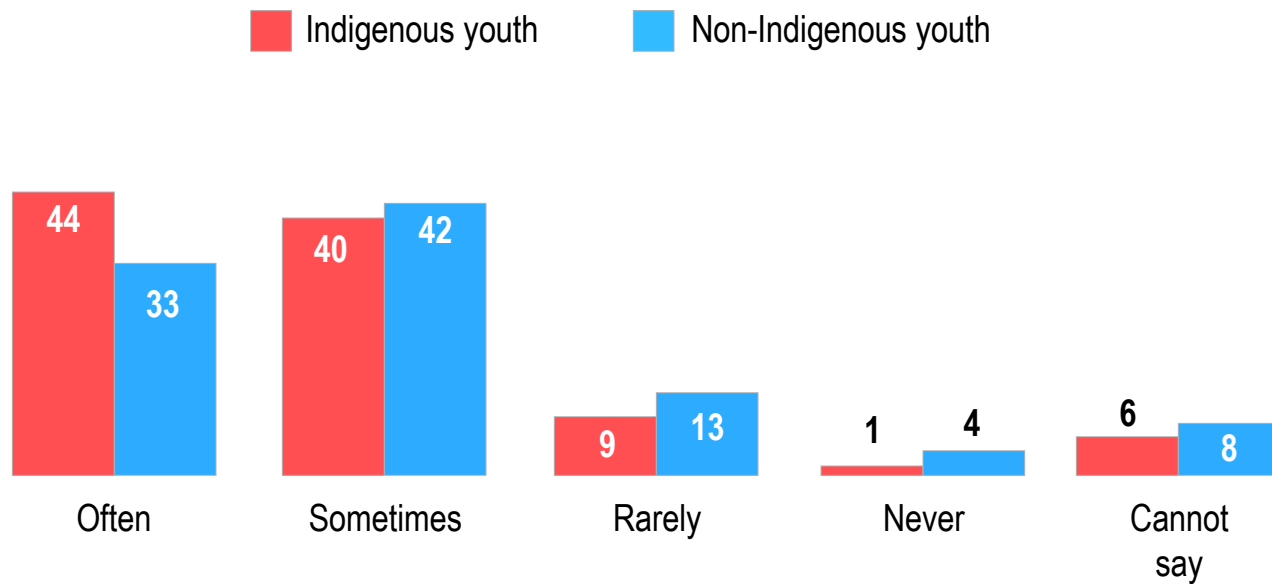


How impressions have changed in past few years



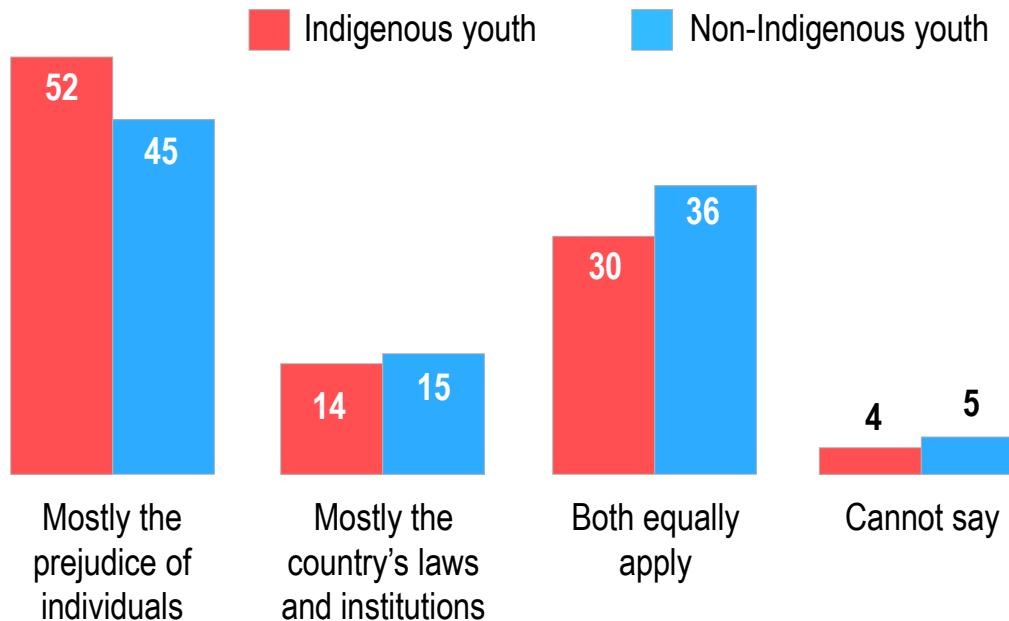
Q.20/21. Do you think that non-Indigenous people's impressions of Indigenous Peoples is generally positive or generally negative? Over the past few years, do you think such impressions have gotten better, become worse, or stayed about the same?

Frequency of discrimination against Indigenous Peoples today



Q.24. How frequently do you think Indigenous Peoples are subject to discrimination in Canadian society today?

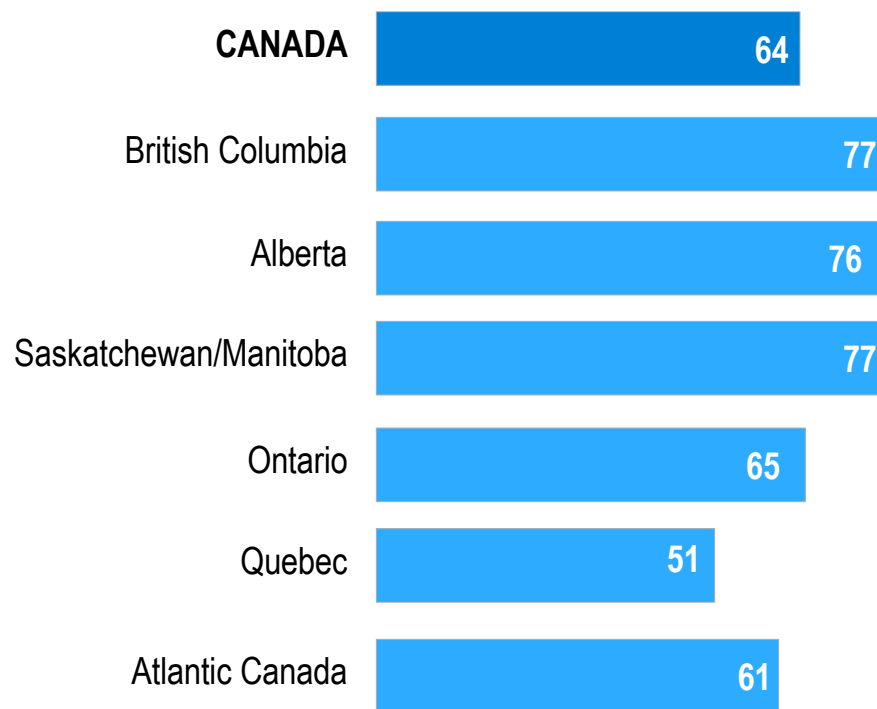
Basis of discrimination against Indigenous Peoples



Q.25. *When it comes to discrimination against Indigenous Peoples in Canada today, do you think it is based mostly on the country's laws and institutions, or based mostly on the prejudice of Canadians?*

Aware of Indian residential schools

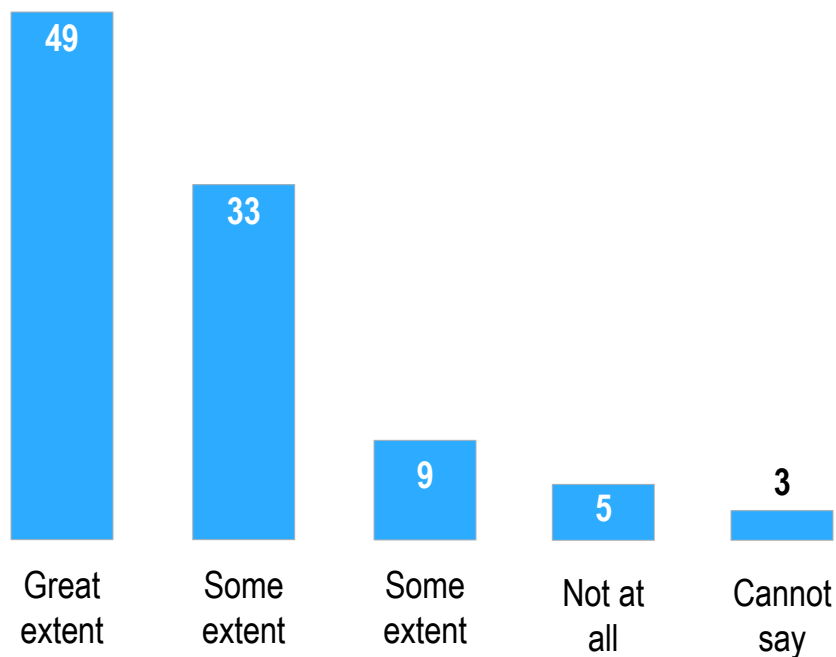
Non-Indigenous youth By region



Q.26. Have you read or heard anything about Indian residential schools, or other government policies of the past?

Extent of connection between residential schools and current challenges facing Indigenous communities

Non-Indigenous youth Aware or Indian residential schools

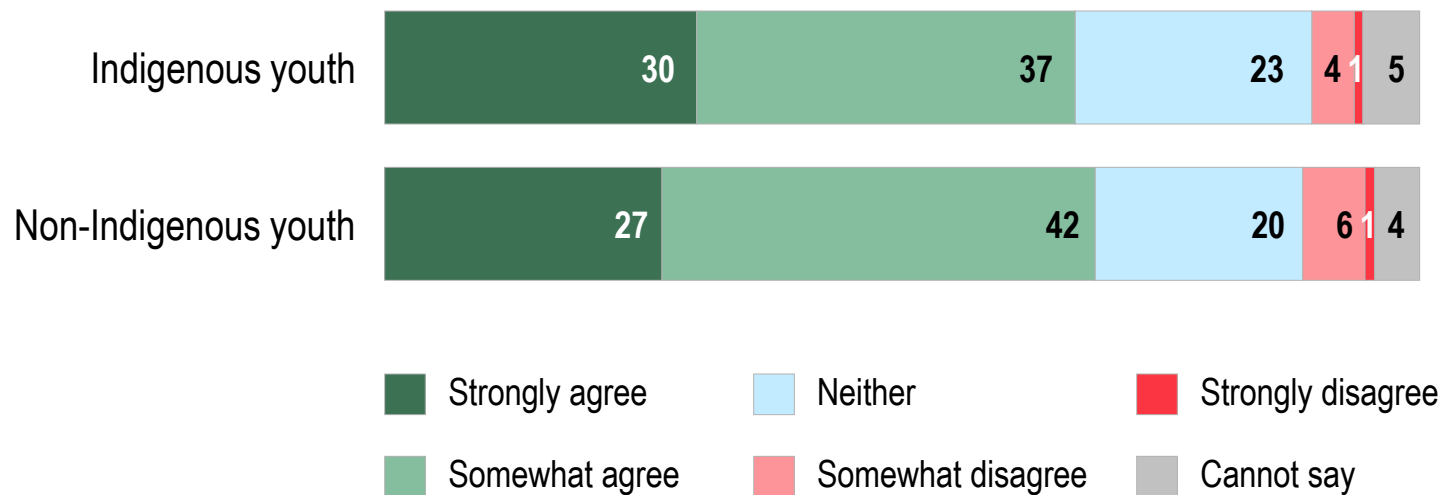


Q.27. *[If aware of Indian residential schools] To what extent do you think the challenges facing Indigenous communities today are a result of government policies such as residential schools?*



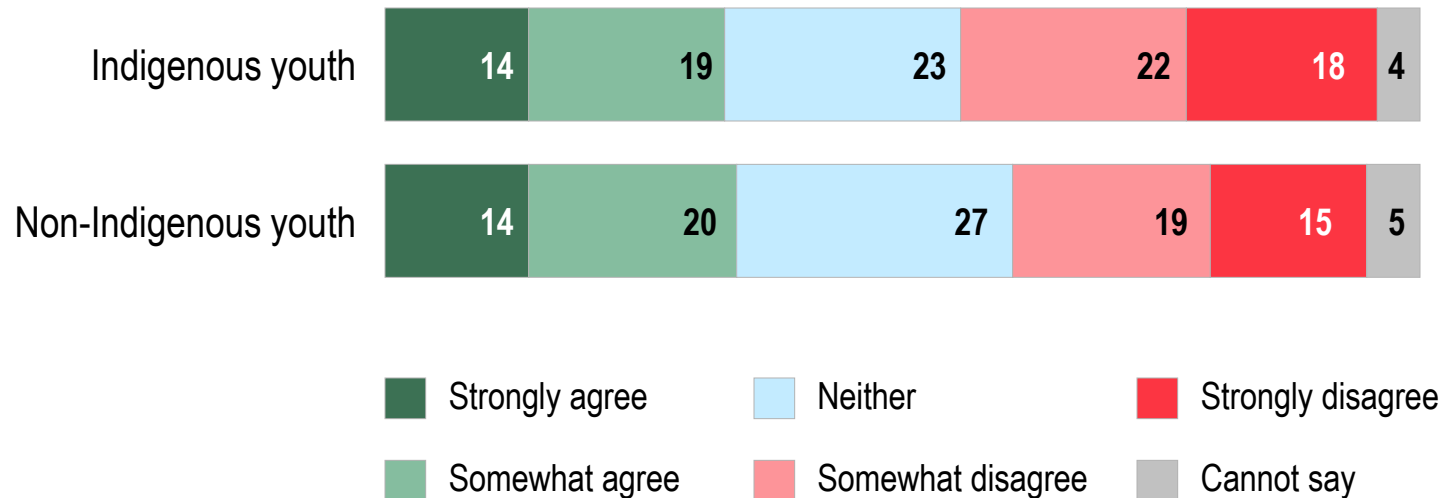
Non-Indigenous woman – 25 years of age – Ontario

Agree – disagree: *Relations between Indigenous & non-Indigenous Peoples will only improve if social and economic inequalities are reduced.*



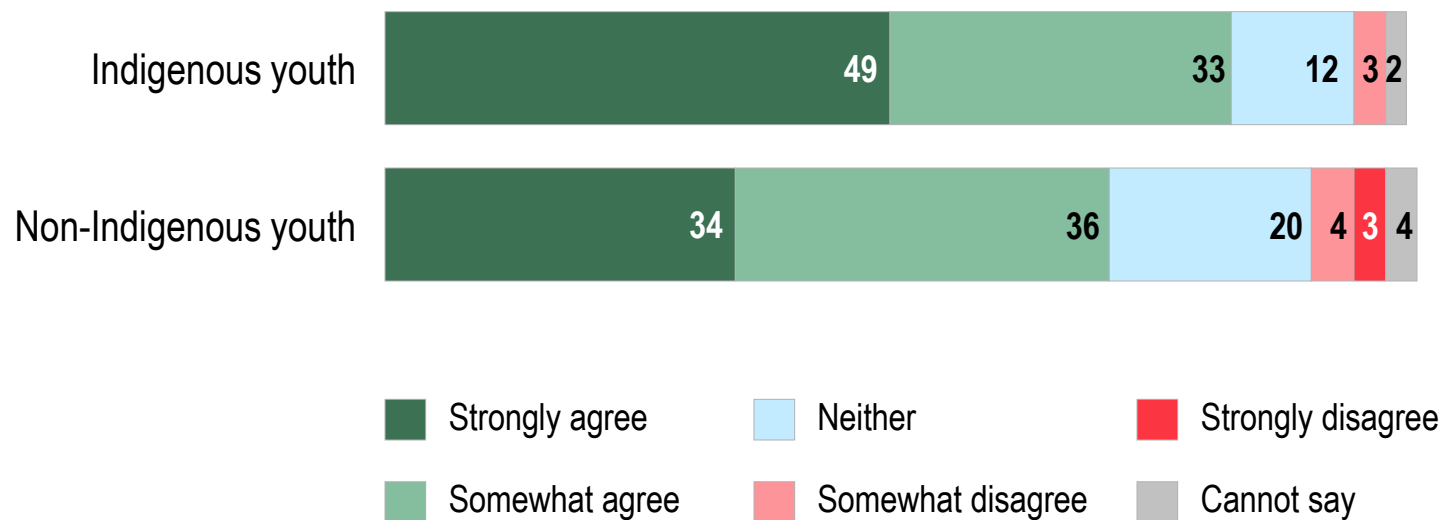
Q.29c. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples will only improve if social and economic inequalities between the two are reduced.”

Agree – disagree: *Indigenous Peoples expect too much when it comes to acknowledging the past.*



Q.29b. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Indigenous Peoples expect too much when it comes to acknowledging past wrongs."

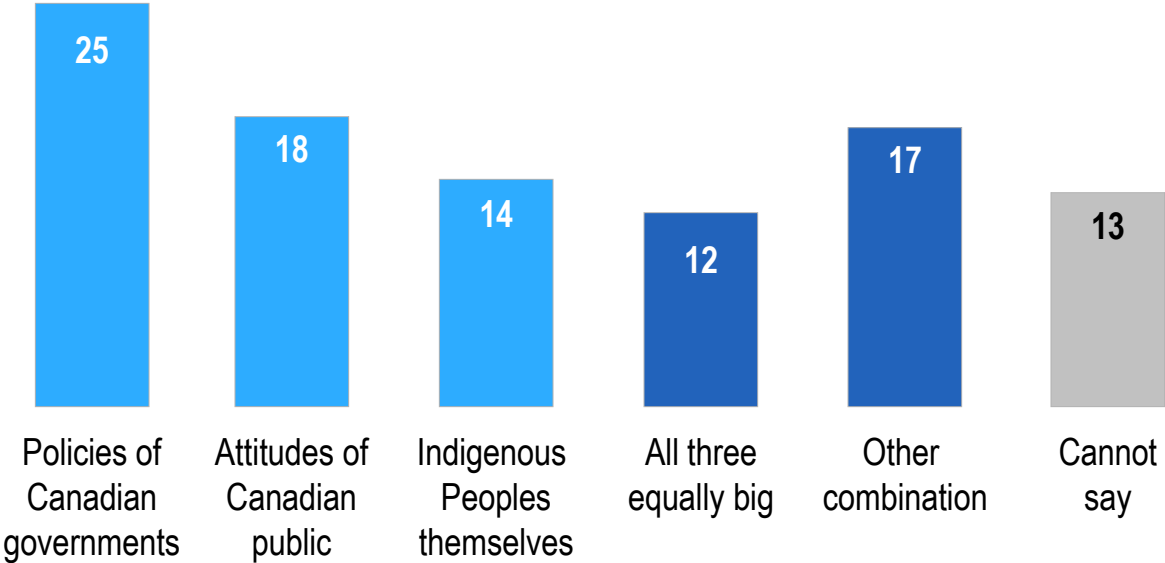
Agree – disagree: *Everyone will benefit from looking more closely at Indigenous perspectives on community, land and culture.*



Q.29a. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Everyone will benefit from looking more closely at Indigenous perspectives on community, land and culture.”

Biggest obstacle to achieving economic and social equality for Indigenous Peoples

Non-Indigenous youth



Q.28a/b. Which of the following would you say is the biggest obstacle to achieving economic and social equality for Indigenous Peoples in this country?

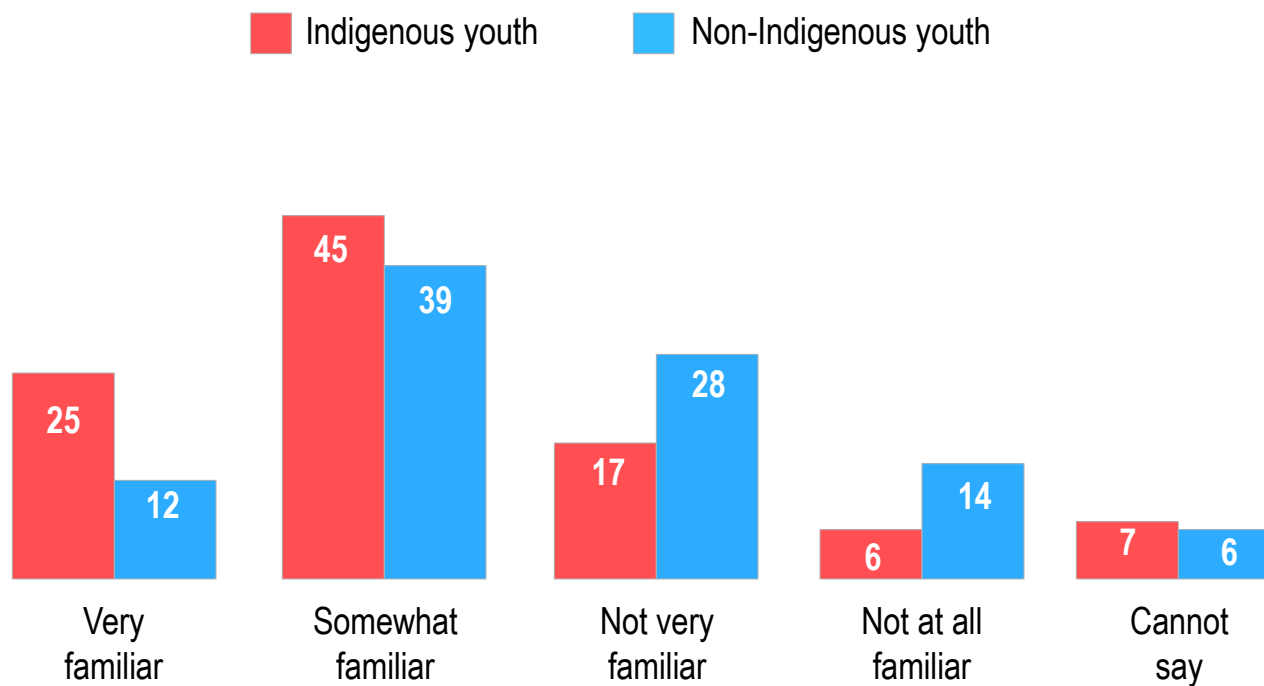
Importance for all non-Indigenous Canadians to understand the history of Indigenous Peoples



Q.31. *In your opinion, how important is it for all non-Indigenous Canadians to understand the true history of how Indigenous Peoples have been treated by governments and society in this country?*

Reconciliation – familiarity and involvement

Familiarity with concept of reconciliation



Q.33. *How familiar would you say you are with the concept of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples in Canada?*

What does reconciliation mean to you?

Unprompted responses

Main Themes	IDENTITY	
	Indigenous Youth %	Non-Indigenous Youth %
Rebuilding relationships/trust <i>(Getting along, rebuilding trust, bring together, working together)</i>	30	34
Apology/make amends <i>(Acknowledging past wrongs, forgiveness, apology)</i>	20	25
Repair/correct past wrongs <i>(Correcting the past, making things better)</i>	14	20
Moving forward	5	7
Money/reparations	2	3
Other	8	5
Cannot say	36	39

Q.34. What does the word “reconciliation” mean to you, when you think about relations between Indigenous Peoples and other people living in Canada?

Types of reconciliation activities in which you have been involved

Unprompted responses

Main themes	Indigenous Youth %	Non-Indigenous Youth %
Cultural events/activities	23	21
Classes/education/school	19	22
Training information sessions	13	16
Community learning/events	12	9
Activism/protests/marches	7	9
Helping children/families	4	2
Volunteering	3	2
Other activities	12	14
Cannot say	31	29

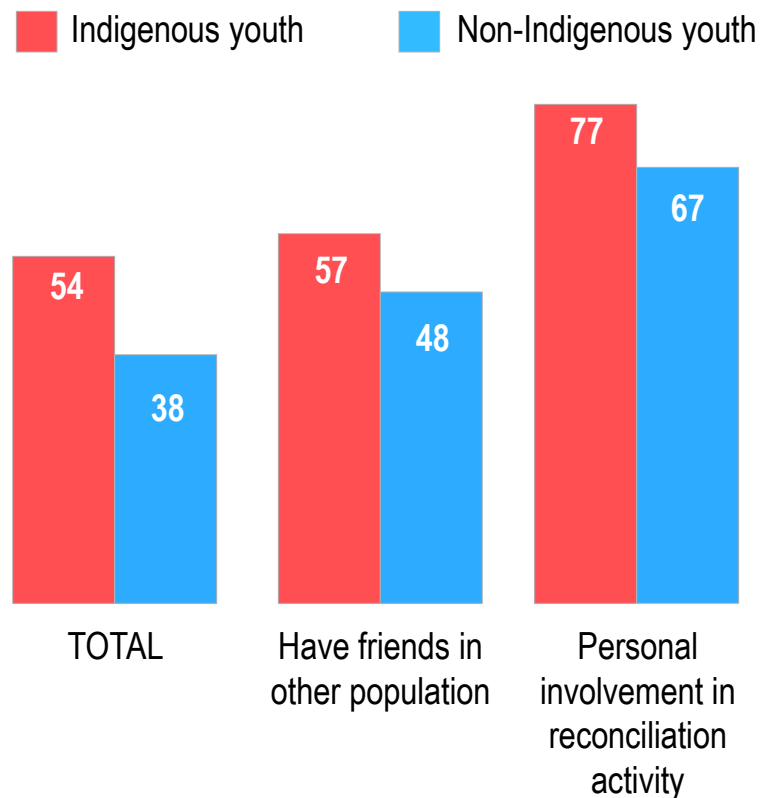
Q.42. What type of reconciliation activities have you been involved with?



Indigenous woman – 24 years of age – Ontario

Have seen specific examples of progress toward reconciliation

Familiar with concept of reconciliation



Q.35. *Have you seen or are aware of specific examples of progress toward reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples, where you live or elsewhere in the country?*

Have seen examples of progress toward reconciliation

Unprompted responses

Main themes	IDENTITY	
	Indigenous Youth %	Non-Indigenous Youth %
Apologies/acknowledgement of past wrongs	17	32
Government actions	10	9
Education/indigenous curriculum	10	7
Cultural programs/events	7	19
Compensation/cash payments	6	12
Local acknowledgements	5	10
Truth and Reconciliation Commission	4	6
Other	15	11
Cannot say	33	18

Q.36. What examples of progress toward reconciliation are you aware of?

Barriers to reconciliation

Barriers to Reconciliation	% who say major barrier	
	Indigenous Youth	Non-Indigenous Youth
Myths and stereotypes about what Indigenous Peoples receive from Canada (e.g., tax breaks, health services, education funding)	58	41
Lack of political leadership willing to implement real change	50	39
Non-Indigenous people's lack of knowledge about Indigenous culture and history	46	33
Inadequate Indigenous control over lands and resources	45	30
Socio-economic inequalities	44	43
Lack of willingness among both Peoples to accommodate the needs of the other	42	34
Different worldviews or values	36	27
Inadequate Indigenous control over the education of their children and youth	36	26

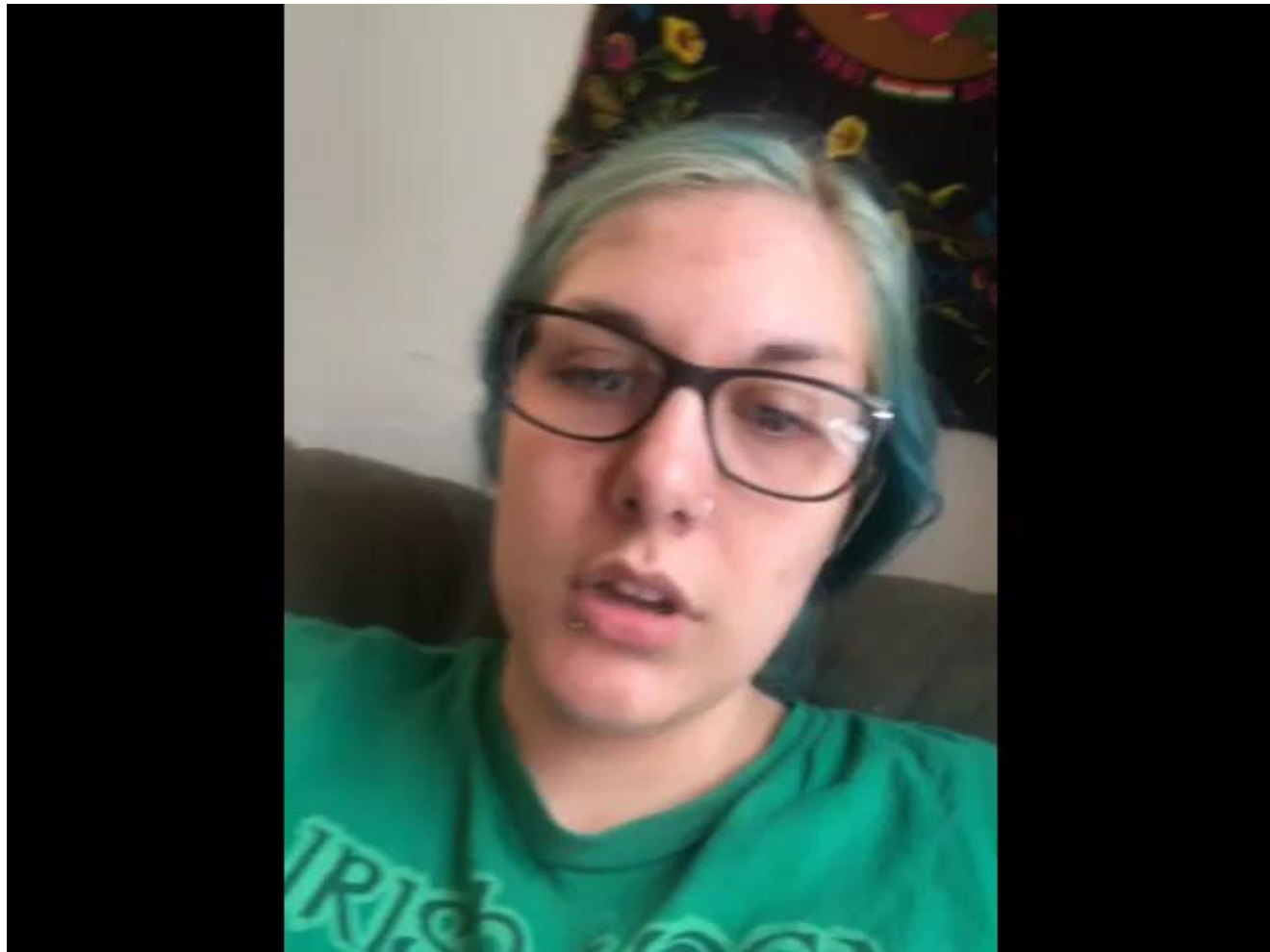
Q.37. To what extent do you think each of the following presents a major barrier, a minor barrier, a moderate barrier, or a minor barrier to achieving reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous People in Canada?

What would you most like non-Indigenous Canadians to understand?

Indigenous youth – unprompted responses

Main themes	%
We are equal/not so different	27
Our history/culture	23
Mistreatment/trauma	13
Government policies/residential schools	7
Other	7
Cannot say	39

Q.32a. Is there one thing you wish non-Indigenous Canadians understood about Indigenous Peoples?



Indigenous woman – 23 years of age – Manitoba

What would you most like to know about Indigenous Peoples?

Non-Indigenous youth – unprompted responses

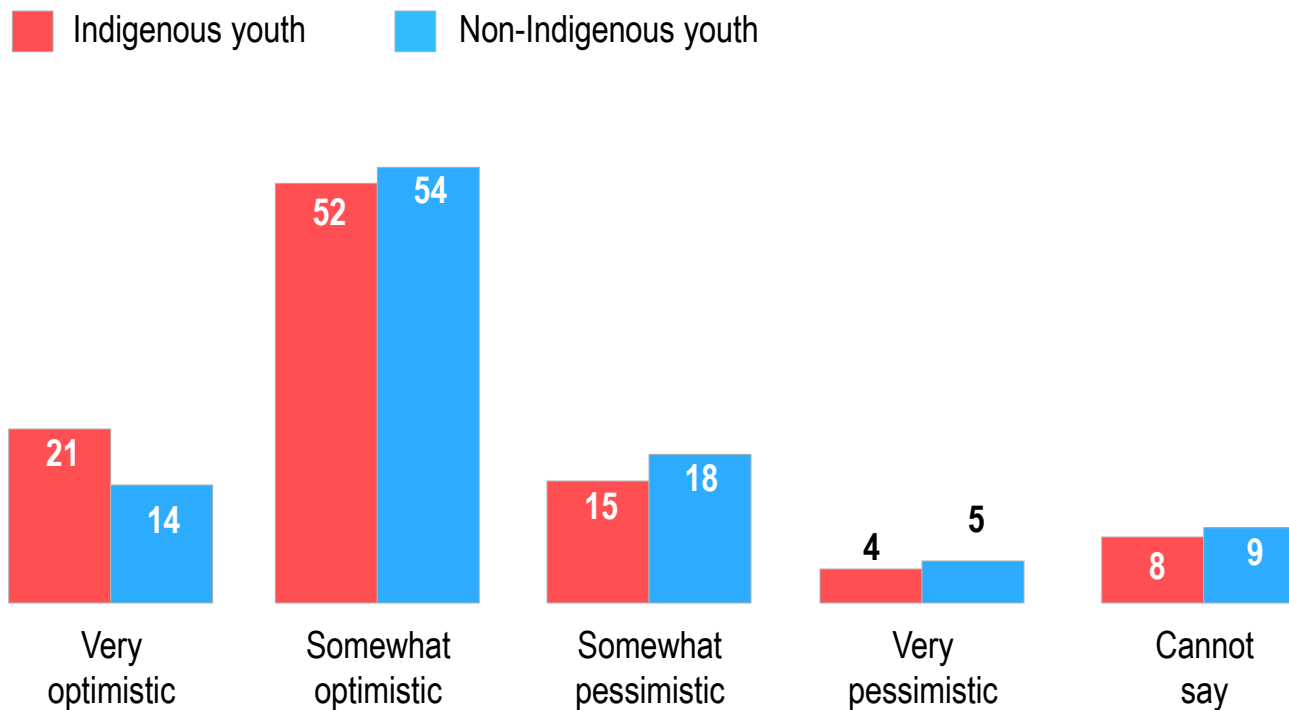
Theme	%
History/culture/tradition	10
How they live/conditions	8
How I can help	4
What the future holds for them	4
Residential schools/past mistreatment	3
What they want	3
Government policies	3
Other	7
Cannot say	63

Q.32b. *Is there one thing you would most like to know about Indigenous Peoples?*



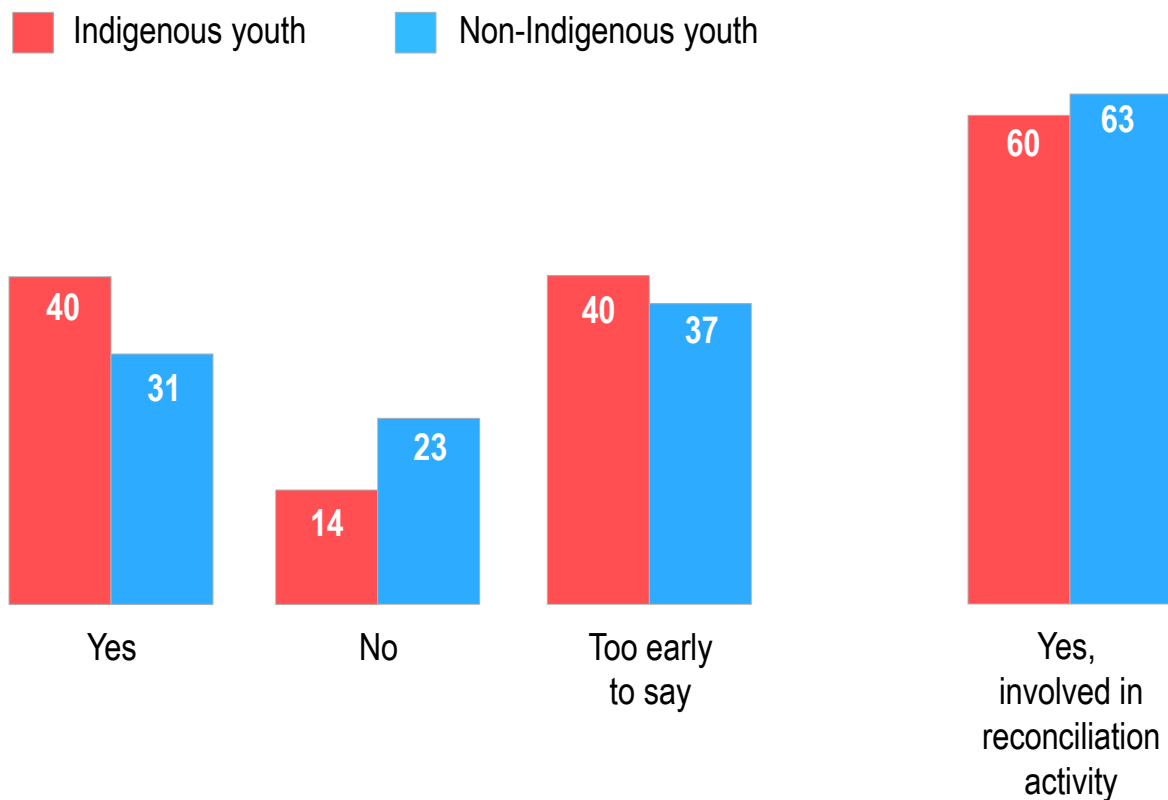
Non-Indigenous man – 21 years of age – British Columbia

Prospects for meaningful reconciliation in your lifetime



Q.38. *Thinking about the future, are you optimistic or pessimistic that there will be meaningful reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in your lifetime?*

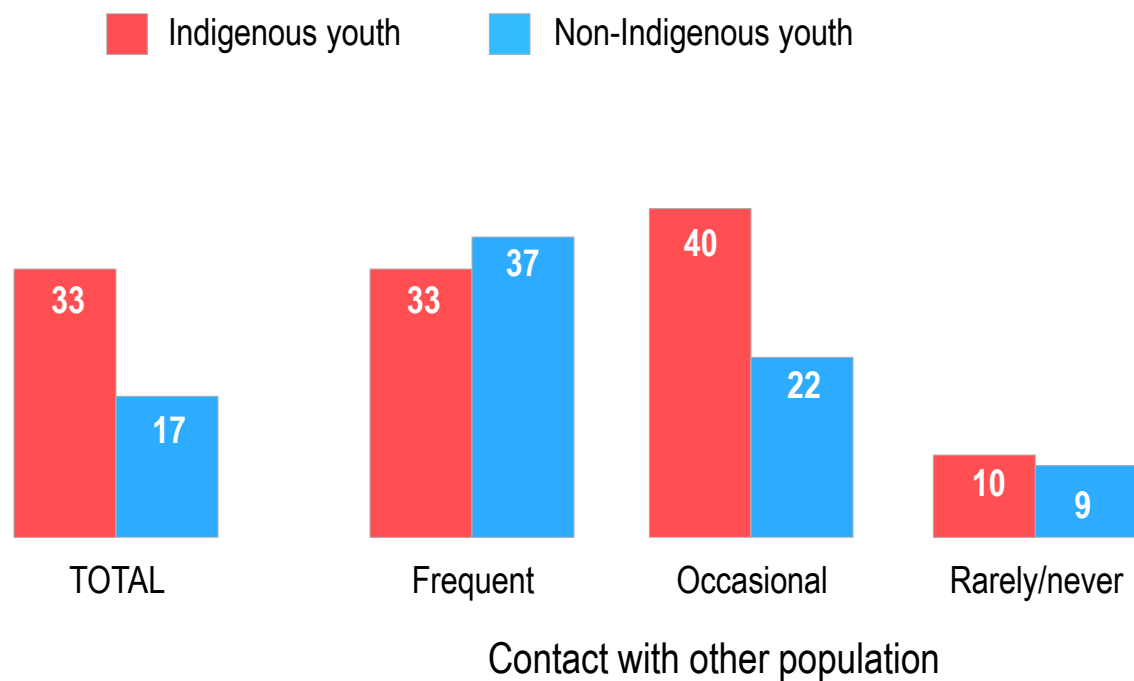
Can you make a meaningful difference in helping achieve reconciliation?



Q.39. *Do you believe that you as an individual can make a meaningful difference in helping to achieve reconciliation in Canada over your lifetime?*

Personal involvement in activities that promote reconciliation

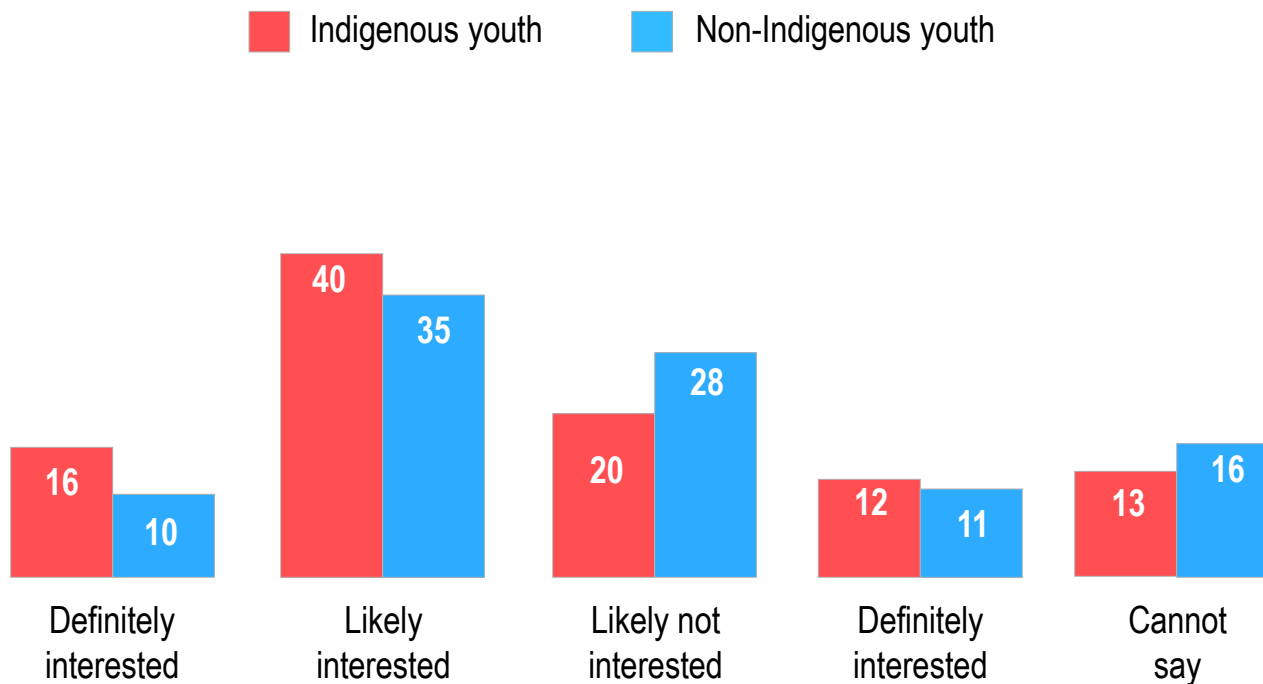
By frequency of contact with other population



Q.40. Have you personally been involved in any activities that promote reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples?

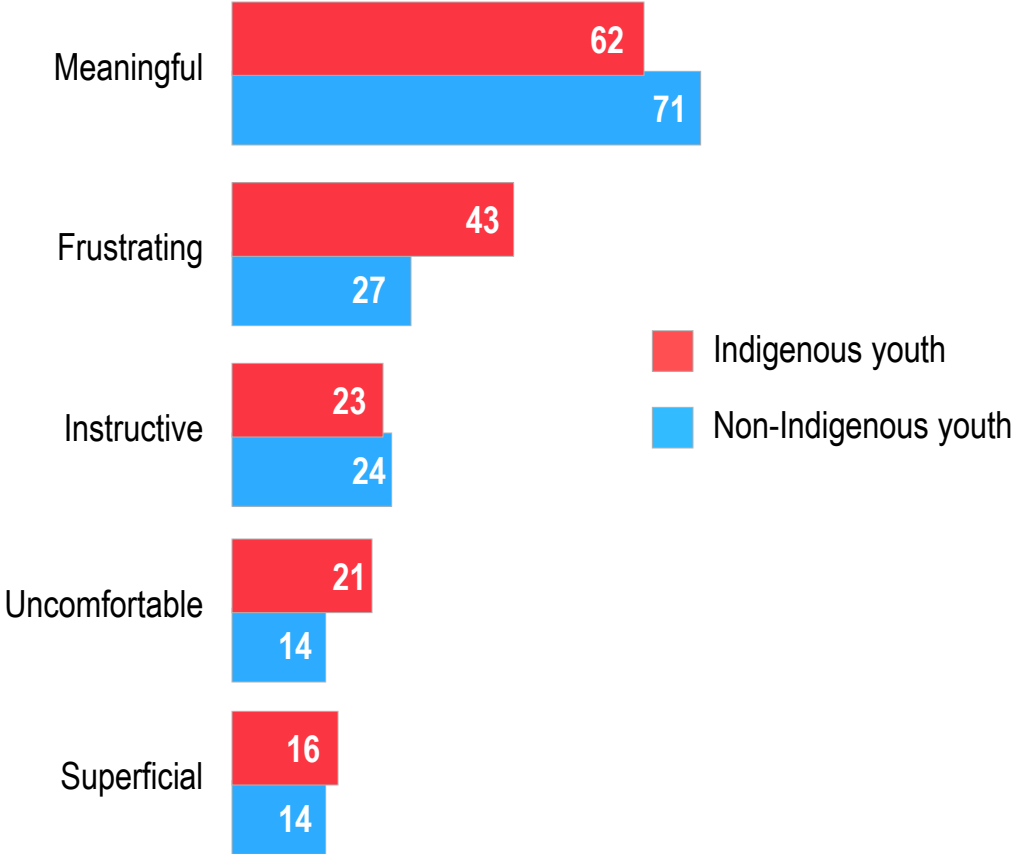
Interest in getting involved in reconciliation attempts

Those not already involved



Q.41. [IF NO TO Q.40] How interested are you in getting involved in activities that promote reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples, if there were opportunities to do so?

Words that best describe discussions about reconciliation



Q.44. Which of the following words best describes your feelings about these discussions about reconciliation?

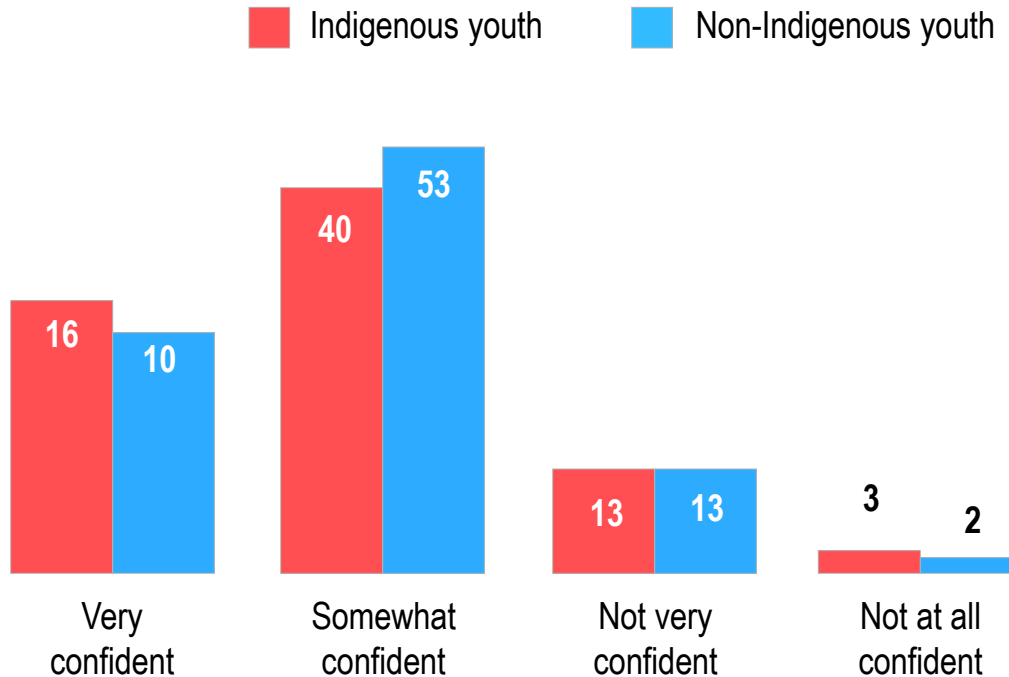
Life goals and aspirations

Top three lifetime goals

Main Themes	Indigenous Youth %	Non-Indigenous Youth %
Career/job/occupation (career, specific job, profession)	45	51
Family (children, marriage)	41	46
Property/possessions (home, car, land)	32	23
Education	30	15
Financial services (wealth, freedom, debt-free)	23	32
Travel	13	24
Happiness	9	14
Good health	12	14
Success/fame	6	6
Helping others	4	3
Friends/relationships	4	5
Other goals	22	27
None/cannot say	31	29

Q.2 Thinking long term, what are the three things you most want to achieve in your lifetime?

Confidence in achieving at least some life goals



Q.3. How confident are you feeling today about achieving at least some of what you hope to achieve in your lifetime?

Very important to defining a good life

	Indigenous Youth %	Non-Indigenous Youth %
Financial independence	74	73
Raising healthy/well-adapted children	74	62
Having a good job/successful career	74	59
Living a balanced life	74	74
Being connected to community/homeland	50	NA
Having access to traditional ceremonial practices	35	NA
Being able to speak ancestral language fluently	33	NA
Having a strong connection to ancestry/ethnic heritage	NA	19

Q.7. People define “the good life” in many different ways. Please tell me if the following are very important, somewhat important, or not so important to your idea of a good life.

Basis of confidence in achieving life goals

	Indigenous Youth %	Non-Indigenous Youth %
Personal desire <i>(determination, hard work, belief in self)</i>	27	37
Support from others <i>(family, friends, co-workers)</i>	27	19
Education	7	7
Success	4	4
Knowledge/skills	3	4
Other reasons	13	18
None/cannot say	36	30

Q.4. What gives you hope and confidence in being able to achieve these goals?

Biggest challenges to achieving life goals

Top themes	Indigenous Youth %	Non-Indigenous Youth %
Finances (<i>lack of money, debt, low wages</i>)	46	47
Emotions (<i>stress, fear, anxiety, depression, lack of motivation</i>)	25	25
Education (<i>finishing, poor grades</i>)	12	12
Lack of job opportunities	12	20
Family issues	9	10
Health issues	9	9
Lack of time	8	9
The economy	2	8
Society/other people	6	8
Who I am/discrimination/racism	5	2
Lack of knowledge/experience	5	2
Being Indigenous/aboriginal	2	NA

Q.5 *And what do you see as the biggest challenges facing you in achieving these goals?*

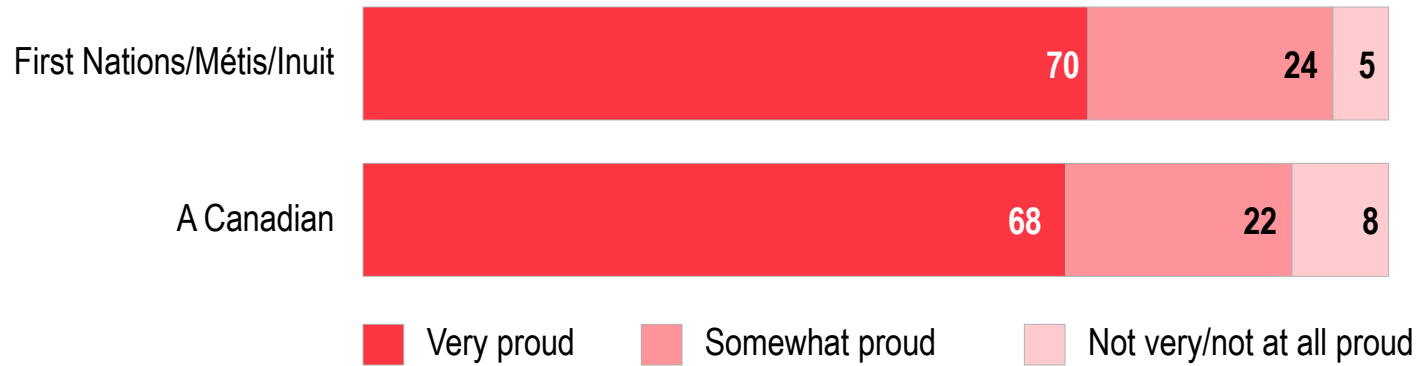
Teachers and guides in your life

Top themes	Indigenous Youth %	Non-Indigenous Youth %
Family member (net)	64	66
<i>Mother</i>	26	16
<i>Father</i>	15	10
<i>Both parents</i>	25	39
<i>Grandparents</i>	13	8
<i>Siblings</i>	9	7
<i>Other</i>	19	14
Teacher/instructor	24	21
Friends/peers	19	24
Elders/adults	3	1
Work managers/boss	3	4
God/Jesus/spiritual leaders	4	4
Me/myself	2	4
Other	23	25
None/cannot say	26	24

Q.6. Who do you consider to be your teachers or guides in life?

Pride in identity

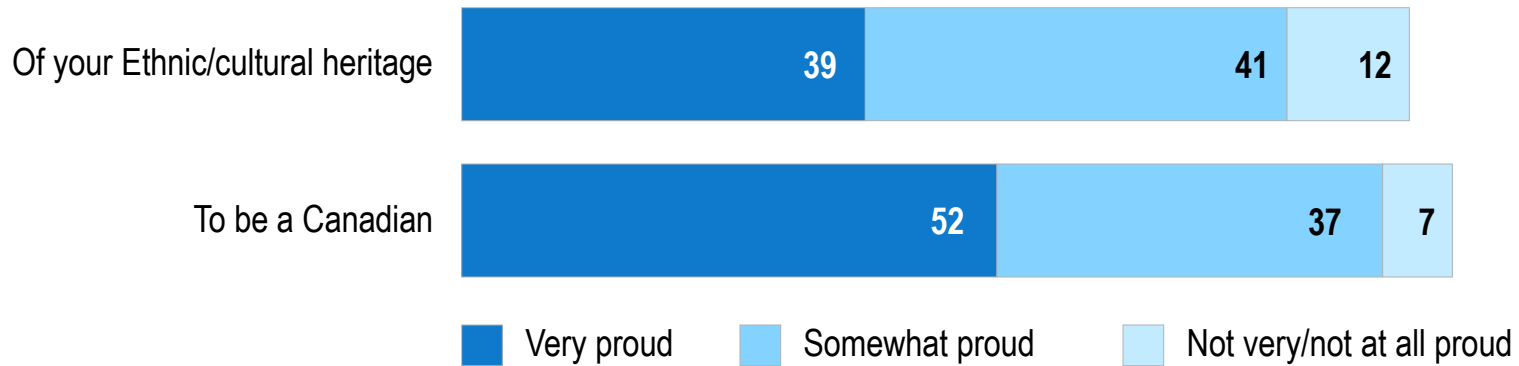
Indigenous youth



Q.8. How proud are you to be:

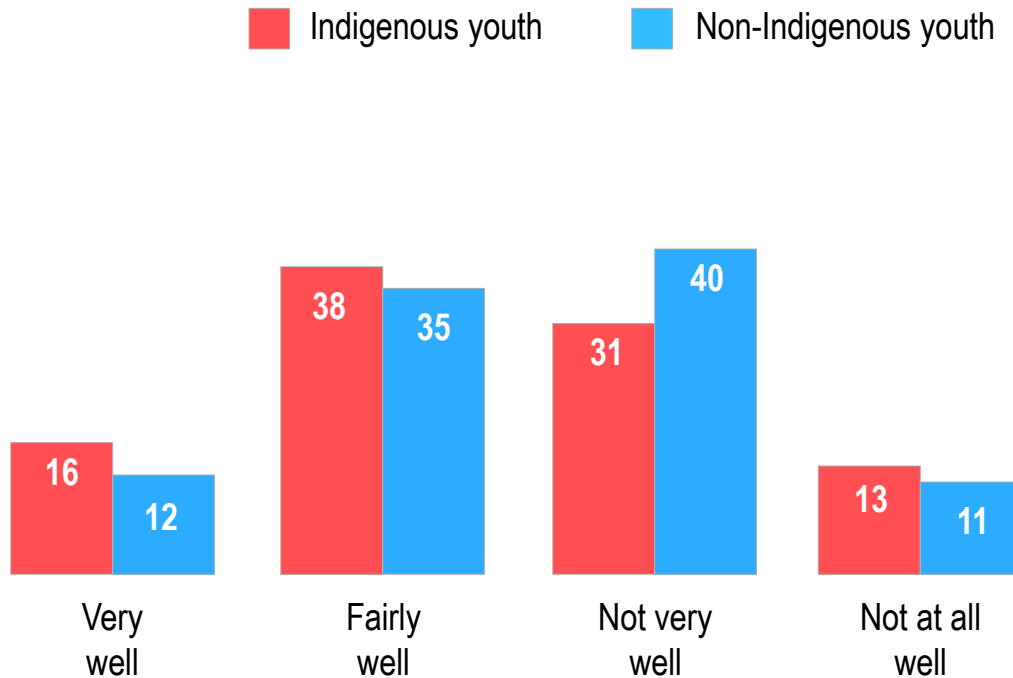
Pride in identity

Non-Indigenous youth



Q.8. How proud are you:

Knowledge of family tree/ancestors



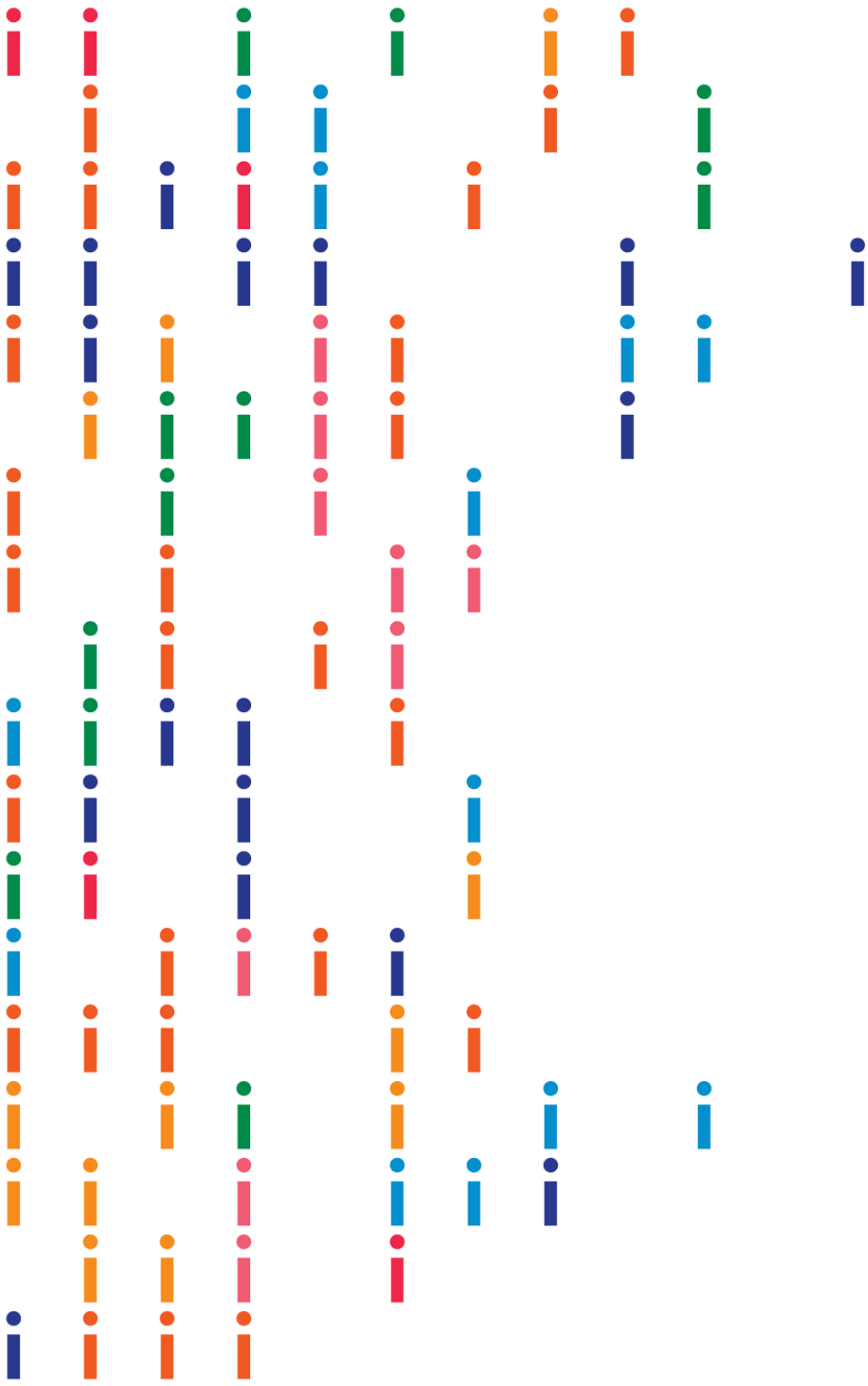
Q.10. How well do you feel you know your family tree? That is, who your ancestors are?

Conclusions

- Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth are aware of reconciliation and many have positive interactions with one another.
- Research provides solid evidence that progress is being made toward reconciliation among the country's youth.
- Demonstrates that youth are optimistic and committed to building a better future for the country.
- Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth share similar life goals, though Indigenous youth place greater emphasis on educational goals.

Public release and next steps

- Study publicly released July 9, 2019, in partnership with the CBC
- Full report and tables now available at www.environicsinstitute.org
- Further outreach and engagement initiatives in the works
- Additional presentations and briefings upon request
- Plan to conduct future waves of the research (every two to three years
- to be confirmed)



Environics Institute

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