

BC RECONCILIATION

BRITISH COLUMBIA SAMPLE

PUBLIC LAND USE SOCIETY

JULY 2026



Methodology

This research was conducted via online survey with 1,002 adults (age 18+) living in BC from July 9 to 15, 2026. A random sample of panelists were invited to complete the survey from a set of partner panels. These partners are typically double opt-in survey panels, blended to manage out potential skews in the data from a single source.

The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of the same size is +/- 3.09%, 19 times out of 20.

The data was weighted according to census data to ensure that the sample matched BC's population according to age, gender, educational attainment, and region. Totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



KEY INSIGHTS



KEY INSIGHTS

British Columbians favour equal legal rights for all Canadians. More than three-quarters (77%) believe all Canadians should have the same individual legal rights regardless of ancestry or background, compared with 23% who believe Indigenous groups should have distinct legal rights. Support for equal legal rights is strongest among those aged 60+ (85%) and CPC voters (88%), while younger adults (57%) and NDP voters (56%) are less likely to hold this view.

Most British Columbians believe public lands should be managed equally for all Canadians. Nearly three-quarters (73%) believe public lands and natural resources should be managed for the benefit of all Canadians equally, while 27% believe they should primarily recognize the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples. Younger adults (43%) and NDP voters (44%) are more likely to support the latter approach, although it remains the minority view overall.

British Columbians prefer elected governments to lead decisions on public lands and natural resources. Nearly two-thirds (64%) believe decisions about governing public lands and natural resources should be made by elected governments accountable to all citizens, while 36% favour shared decision-making with Indigenous governments. Support for shared decision-making is higher among younger adults (45%) and NDP voters (57%), while CPC voters are much more likely to support elected governments (82%).

There is overwhelming support for public oversight of governance decisions. Most British Columbians believe major governance changes should receive public approval before taking effect (86%), and nearly three-quarters (73%) believe the government's negotiating position should be made public before negotiations begin. Support for both measures is strong across demographic groups, although younger adults are somewhat more divided on making negotiations public (56% public vs. 44% confidential).

Democratic elections are the preferred source of political authority, but views on reconciliation are more divided. Seven in ten (71%) believe political authority over public lands should come exclusively through democratic elections, while 29% favour incorporating Indigenous traditional systems of governance. Similarly, 62% believe reconciliation should occur within Canada's existing democratic institutions, compared with 38% who support recognizing Indigenous governments as distinct authorities. Younger adults and NDP voters are consistently more likely to support Indigenous governance in both cases.

Most British Columbians support a defined end point for reconciliation. A majority (62%) believe reconciliation should have clear goals, measurable outcomes, and a point at which governments can say their obligations have been fulfilled, while 38% believe reconciliation should be an ongoing process without a fixed end point. Younger adults (60%) and NDP voters (52%) are more likely to favour an ongoing process, while older British Columbians (73%) and CPC voters (68%) are more likely to support a defined end point.

DETAILED FINDINGS





Which comes closer to your view?

More than three-quarters (77%) believe all Canadians should have the same legal rights regardless of ancestry or background, while 23% believe Indigenous groups should have distinct legal rights recognizing their ancestry and historical circumstances.

All Canadians should have the same individual legal rights regardless of their ancestry or background



Indigenous groups should have distinct legal rights that recognize their ancestry and historical circumstances



[BASE] n=1,002



Which comes closer to your view?

LEGAL RIGHTS

	TOT.	REGION				AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		Metro Van.	Van. Island	Interior	Northern	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	LPC	CPC	NDP
All Canadians should have the same individual legal rights regardless of their ancestry or background	77%	78%	66%	80%	81%	57%	82%	76%	85%	77%	76%	78%	88%	56%
Indigenous groups should have distinct legal rights that recognize their ancestry and historical circumstances	23%	22%	34%	20%	19%	43%	18%	24%	15%	23%	24%	22%	12%	44%

[BASE] n=1,002





Which comes closer to your view?

Nearly three-quarters (73%) believe public lands and natural resources should be managed equally for the benefit of all Canadians, while 27% prioritize recognizing the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples.

Public lands and natural resources
should be managed for the public
benefit of all Canadians equally



73%

Public lands and natural resources
should be managed to recognize
the rights and interests of
Indigenous peoples



27%

[BASE] n=1,002





Which comes closer to your view?

MANAGING PUBLIC LANDS AND RESOURCES

	TOT.	REGION				AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		Metro Van.	Van. Island	Interior	Northern	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	LPC	CPC	NDP
Public lands and natural resources should be managed for the public benefit of all Canadians equally	73%	74%	65%	76%	70%	57%	69%	73%	84%	70%	75%	70%	85%	56%
Public lands and natural resources should be managed to recognize the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples	27%	26%	35%	24%	30%	43%	31%	27%	16%	30%	25%	30%	15%	44%

[BASE] n=1,002





Which comes closer to your view?

Nearly two-thirds (64%) believe decisions about governing public lands and natural resources should be made by elected governments accountable to all citizens, while 36% support shared decision-making with Indigenous governments.

Decisions about governing land and natural resources should be made by elected governments that are accountable to all citizens



64%

Decisions about governing land and natural resources should be shared with Indigenous governments that represent their own communities



36%

[BASE] n=1,002





Which comes closer to your view?

DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY

	TOT.	REGION				AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		Metro Van.	Van. Island	Interior	Northern	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	LPC	CPC	NDP
Decisions about governing land and natural resources should be made by elected governments that are accountable to all citizens	64%	67%	54%	67%	55%	55%	64%	61%	73%	66%	63%	60%	82%	43%
Decisions about governing land and natural resources should be shared with Indigenous governments that represent their own communities	36%	33%	46%	33%	45%	45%	36%	39%	27%	34%	37%	40%	18%	57%

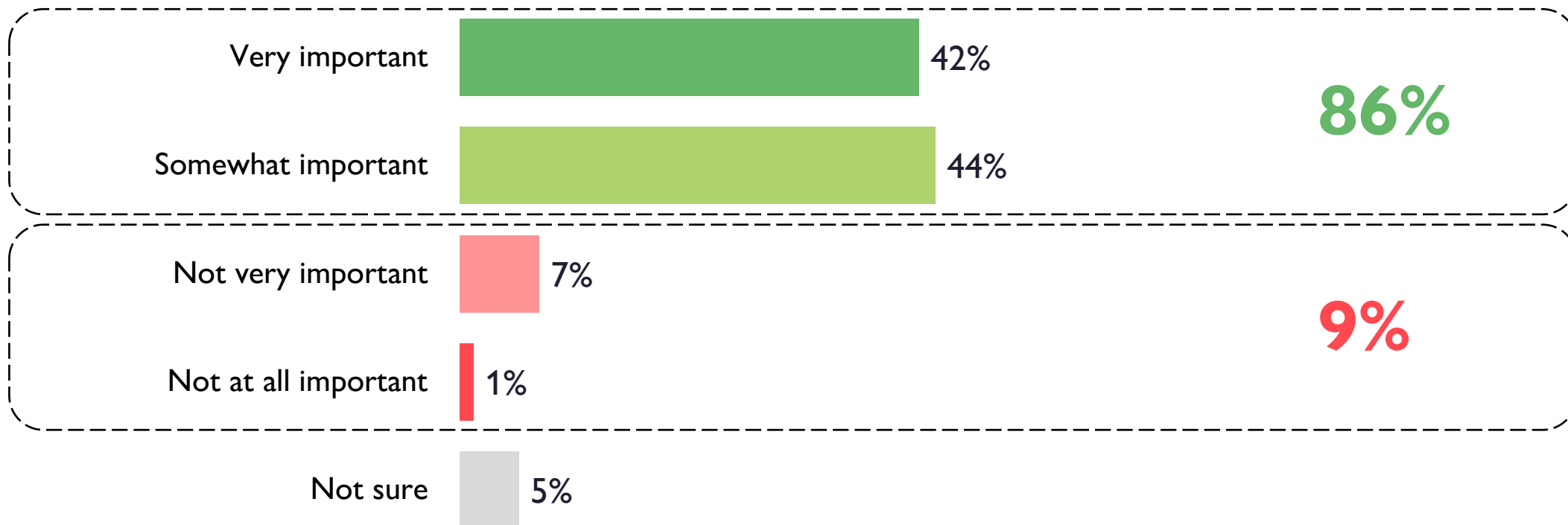
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How important is it to you that major changes to governing authority, including how decisions are made over public lands and natural resources, receive public approval before taking effect?

There is broad consensus that major governance changes should receive public approval before taking effect (86%), with just 9% saying this is not important.



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How important is it to you that major changes to governing authority, including how decisions are made over public lands and natural resources, receive public approval before taking effect?

PUBLIC APPROVAL FOR GOVERNANCE CHANGES

	TOT.	REGION				AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		Metro Van.	Van. Island	Interior	Northern	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	LPC	CPC	NDP
NET: Important	86%	85%	87%	87%	90%	90%	82%	84%	88%	87%	85%	89%	85%	87%
Very important	42%	41%	41%	41%	59%	38%	36%	43%	50%	46%	39%	42%	44%	39%
Somewhat important	44%	44%	46%	46%	31%	52%	46%	42%	39%	41%	46%	46%	42%	48%
NET: Not important	9%	9%	8%	9%	3%	8%	12%	10%	5%	10%	7%	7%	11%	10%
Not very important	7%	8%	7%	7%	3%	8%	10%	8%	4%	8%	6%	6%	9%	9%
Not at all important	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%
Not sure	5%	6%	5%	4%	7%	1%	7%	6%	7%	4%	7%	4%	4%	4%

[BASE] n=1,002





Which comes closer to your view?

Nearly three-quarters (73%) believe the government's negotiating position should be made public before negotiations begin, while 27% prefer it remain confidential before and during negotiations.

The government's negotiating position – including its proposed terms, conditions, and commitments – for agreements affecting public lands or natural resources should be made public before negotiations take place



73%

The government's negotiating position – including its proposed terms, conditions, and commitments – for agreements affecting public lands or natural resources should remain confidential before and during negotiations



27%

[BASE] n=1,002





Which comes closer to your view?

PUBLIC NEGOTIATIONS

	TOT.	REGION				AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		Metro Van.	Van. Island	Interior	Northern	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	LPC	CPC	NDP
The government's negotiating position – including its proposed terms, conditions, and commitments – for agreements affecting public lands or natural resources should be made public before negotiations take place	73%	72%	70%	81%	71%	56%	70%	76%	84%	68%	78%	70%	77%	67%
The government's negotiating position – including its proposed terms, conditions, and commitments – for agreements affecting public lands or natural resources should remain confidential before and during negotiations	27%	28%	30%	19%	29%	44%	30%	24%	16%	32%	22%	30%	23%	33%

[BASE] n=1,002





Which comes closer to your view?

7 in 10 (71%) believe political authority over public lands should come exclusively through democratic elections, while 29% believe it should also be based on Indigenous traditional systems of governance.

Political authority over public lands and natural resources should come exclusively from the choices of today's citizens through democratic elections



71%

Political authority over public lands and resources should also be based on Indigenous traditional systems of governance



29%

[BASE] n=1,002





Which comes closer to your view?

SOURCE OF POLITICAL AUTHORITY

	TOT.	REGION				AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		Metro Van.	Van. Island	Interior	Northern	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	LPC	CPC	NDP
Political authority over public lands and natural resources should come exclusively from the choices of today's citizens through democratic elections	71%	73%	62%	72%	68%	60%	69%	68%	81%	73%	69%	68%	82%	54%
Political authority over public lands and resources should also be based on Indigenous traditional systems of governance	29%	27%	38%	28%	32%	40%	31%	32%	19%	27%	31%	32%	18%	46%

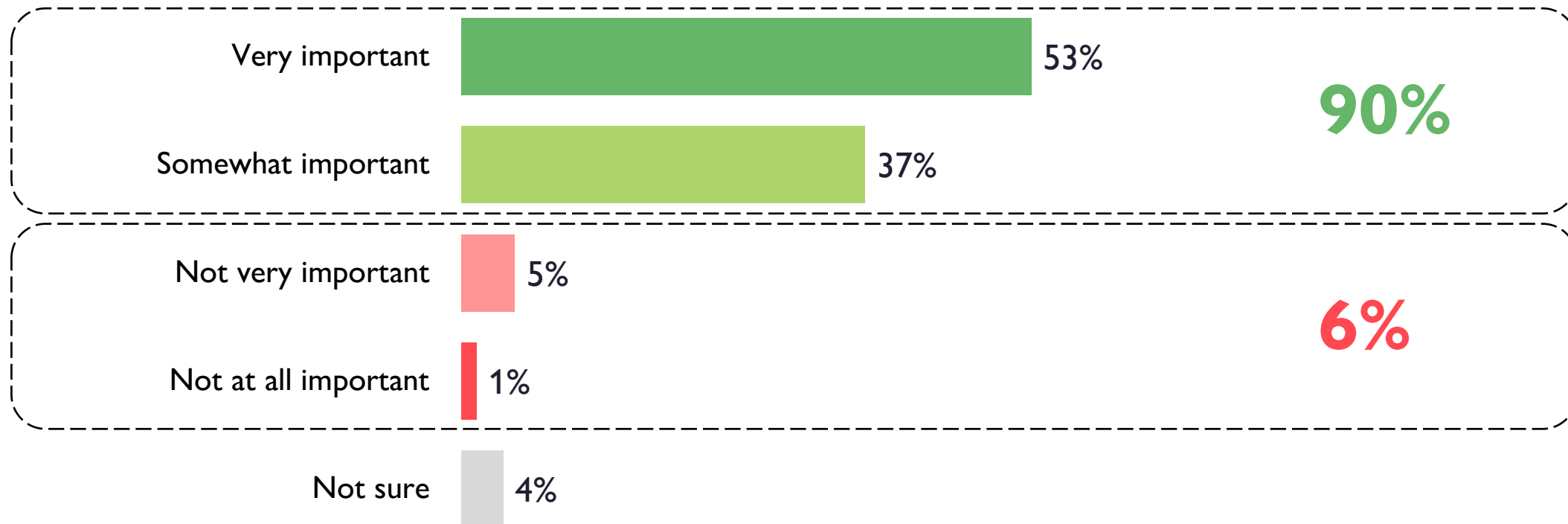
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How important is it to you that the source of decision making authority over public lands and natural resources is clearly disclosed and understood by the general public?

9 in 10 (90%) say it is important that the source of decision-making authority over public lands is clearly disclosed to the public, compared with just 6% who say it is not important.



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How important is it to you that the source of decision making authority over public lands and natural resources is clearly disclosed and understood by the general public?

IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPARENCY OF DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY

	TOT.	REGION				AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		Metro Van.	Van. Island	Interior	Northern	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	LPC	CPC	NDP
NET: Important	90%	89%	93%	88%	90%	89%	87%	91%	92%	89%	91%	92%	90%	89%
Very important	53%	50%	52%	60%	59%	36%	45%	54%	68%	51%	54%	53%	55%	45%
Somewhat important	37%	39%	41%	28%	31%	52%	42%	37%	25%	38%	37%	39%	35%	44%
NET: Not important	6%	6%	5%	8%	10%	7%	8%	8%	3%	9%	4%	6%	7%	7%
Not very important	5%	5%	4%	4%	8%	7%	6%	6%	2%	7%	3%	4%	5%	7%
Not at all important	1%	1%	1%	4%	2%	0%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	0%
Not sure	4%	5%	2%	4%	0%	4%	5%	2%	4%	3%	5%	3%	2%	4%

[BASE] n=1,002





Which comes closer to your view?

8 in 10 (81%) believe all Canadians should be subject to the same laws, while 19% believe different legal rules for different groups are appropriate in some circumstances.

All Canadians should be subject to
the same laws



81%

In some circumstances, having
different legal rules for different
groups is appropriate



19%

[BASE] n=1,002



Which comes closer to your view?

SAME LAWS

	TOT.	REGION				AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		Metro Van.	Van. Island	Interior	Northern	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	LPC	CPC	NDP
All Canadians should be subject to the same laws	81%	81%	73%	85%	89%	68%	76%	82%	92%	79%	82%	80%	86%	69%
In some circumstances, having different legal rules for different groups is appropriate	19%	19%	27%	15%	11%	32%	24%	18%	8%	21%	18%	20%	14%	31%

[BASE] n=1,002





Which comes closer to your view?

6 in 10 (62%) believe reconciliation should occur within Canada's existing democratic institutions, while 38% support recognizing Indigenous governments as distinct authorities alongside Canada's existing institutions.

Reconciliation should occur within
Canada's existing democratic
institutions



Reconciliation should include
recognizing Indigenous
governments as distinct
authorities alongside Canada's
existing democratic institutions



[BASE] n=1,002



Which comes closer to your view?

RECONCILIATION AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

	TOT.	REGION				AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		Metro Van.	Van. Island	Interior	Northern	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	LPC	CPC	NDP
Reconciliation should occur within Canada's existing democratic institutions	62%	63%	53%	65%	60%	38%	66%	61%	73%	64%	59%	61%	75%	40%
Reconciliation should include recognizing Indigenous governments as distinct authorities alongside Canada's existing democratic institutions	38%	37%	47%	35%	40%	62%	34%	39%	27%	36%	41%	39%	25%	60%

[BASE] n=1,002





Which comes closer to your view?

6 in 10 (62%) believe reconciliation should have clear goals, measurable outcomes, and a defined end point, while 38% view reconciliation as an ongoing process without a fixed end point.

Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples
should have clear goals, measurable
outcomes, and require a point at which
governments can say their obligations
have been fulfilled



62%

Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples
should be an ongoing process of
evolving relationships and negotiations,
and does not require a fixed end point
or final settlement



38%

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Which comes closer to your view?

END POINT FOR RECONCILIATION

	TOT.	REGION				AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		Metro Van.	Van. Island	Interior	Northern	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	LPC	CPC	NDP
Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples should have clear goals, measurable outcomes, and require a point at which governments can say their obligations have been fulfilled	62%	62%	54%	69%	58%	40%	65%	62%	73%	63%	61%	63%	68%	48%
Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples should be an ongoing process of evolving relationships and negotiations, and does not require a fixed end point or final settlement	38%	38%	46%	31%	42%	60%	35%	38%	27%	37%	39%	37%	32%	52%

[BASE] n=1,002



Thank You