

BC RECONCILIATION

NATIONAL SAMPLE

PUBLIC LAND USE SOCIETY

JULY 2026



Methodology

This research was conducted via online survey with 2,705 adults (age 18+) living in Canada 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 +/- 1.88%, 19 times out of 20.

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



KEY INSIGHTS



KEY INSIGHTS

Canadians favour equal legal rights for all. More than three-quarters (77%) believe all Canadians should have the same individual legal rights regardless of ancestry or background, while 23% believe Indigenous groups should have distinct legal rights recognizing their ancestry and historical circumstances. Support for equal legal rights is strongest among older Canadians (83%) and CPC voters (87%).

Canadians generally favour equal management of public lands, but there is meaningful support for prioritizing Indigenous interests. Nearly two-thirds (65%) believe public lands and natural resources should be managed equally for the benefit of all Canadians, while 35% believe management should prioritize recognizing the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples. Younger Canadians (52%) and NDP voters (52%) are comparatively more likely to support the latter view.

Most Canadians prefer elected governments to remain the primary decision-makers. A majority (58%) believe decisions about public lands and natural resources should be made by elected governments accountable to citizens, compared with 42% who support shared decision-making with Indigenous governments. Similarly, 63% believe political authority should come exclusively through democratic elections, while 37% support also recognizing Indigenous traditional systems of governance.

Canadians place a strong emphasis on transparency and public accountability. More than 8 in 10 (83%) believe major changes to governing authority should require public approval before taking effect, while 89% say it is important that the source of decision-making authority over public lands and natural resources is clearly disclosed and understood by the public.

Most Canadians believe reconciliation should occur within Canada's existing democratic framework. A majority (57%) believe reconciliation should occur within Canada's existing democratic institutions, compared with 43% who support recognizing Indigenous governments as distinct authorities alongside existing institutions. Older Canadians (64%) are more likely to favour the existing democratic framework, while younger Canadians are more divided.

Canadians are more likely to favour a defined end point for reconciliation. Six in 10 (60%) believe reconciliation should have clear goals, measurable outcomes, and a defined end point, while 40% believe it should be an ongoing process without a fixed end point. Older Canadians (66%) are more likely to favour a defined endpoint, while younger Canadians are more evenly divided.

DETAILED FINDINGS





Which comes closer to your view?

77% say all Canadians should have the same individual 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



77%

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



23%

[BASE] n=2,705





Which comes closer to your view?

LEGAL RIGHTS

	TOT.	REGION						AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	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%	77%	84%	86%	75%	76%	74%	68%	76%	78%	83%	80%	75%	75%	87%	58%
Indigenous groups should have distinct legal rights that recognize their ancestry and historical circumstances	23%	23%	16%	14%	25%	24%	26%	32%	24%	22%	17%	20%	25%	25%	13%	42%

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Which comes closer to your view?

Nearly two-thirds (65%) believe public lands and natural resources should be managed equally for the benefit of all Canadians, while 35% 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



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



[BASE] n=2,705



Which comes closer to your view?

MANAGING PUBLIC LANDS AND RESOURCES

	TOT.	REGION						AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	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	65%	73%	73%	74%	64%	56%	69%	48%	63%	69%	75%	69%	62%	60%	76%	48%
Public lands and natural resources should be managed to recognize the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples	35%	27%	27%	26%	36%	44%	31%	52%	37%	31%	25%	31%	38%	40%	24%	52%

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Which comes closer to your view?

A majority (58%) believe elected governments should make decisions about land and natural resources, while 42% support sharing those decisions with Indigenous governments.

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



58%

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



42%

[BASE] n=2,705





Which comes closer to your view?

DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY

	TOT.	REGION						AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	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	58%	64%	61%	68%	56%	53%	60%	51%	60%	62%	58%	63%	54%	54%	71%	42%
Decisions about governing land and natural resources should be shared with Indigenous governments that represent their own communities	42%	36%	39%	32%	44%	47%	40%	49%	40%	38%	42%	37%	46%	46%	29%	58%

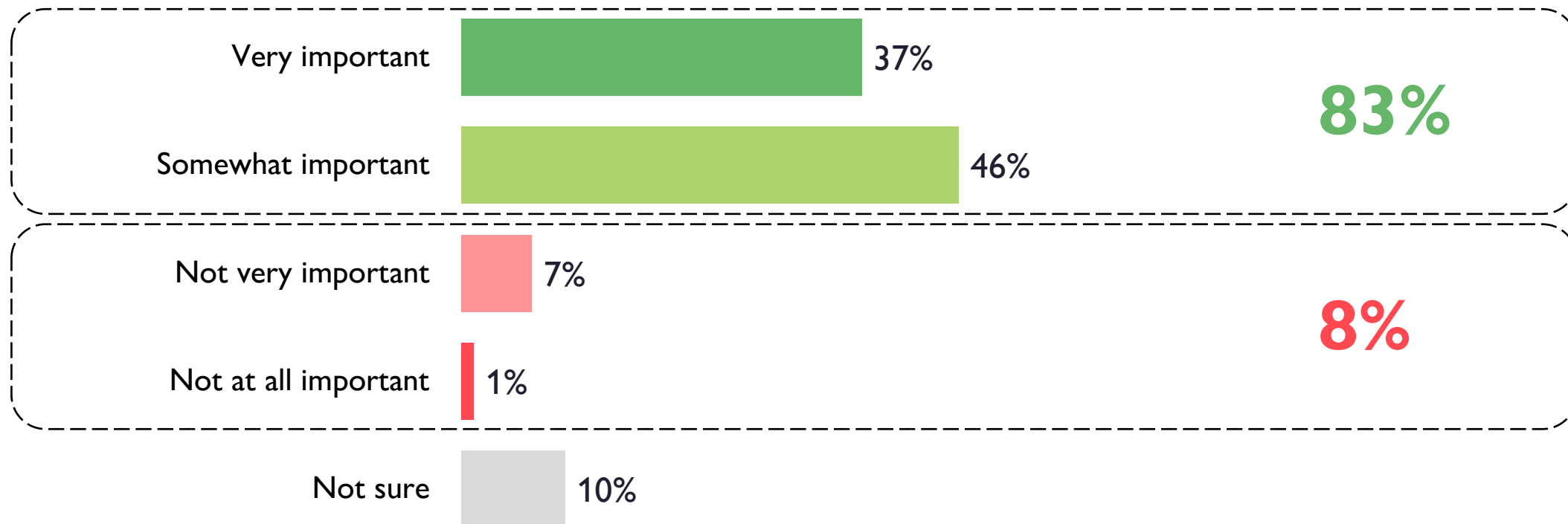
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How important is it to you that major changes to governing authority, including how decisions are made over public lands and natural resources, receive public approval before taking effect?

8 in 10 (83%) say it is important that major changes to governing authority receive public approval before taking effect, including decisions about public lands and natural resources.



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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		
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	LPC	CPC	NDP
NET: Important	83%	86%	85%	81%	81%	85%	78%	84%	79%	80%	87%	85%	81%	87%	82%	87%
Very important	37%	42%	44%	37%	38%	30%	32%	32%	34%	35%	44%	36%	38%	36%	37%	46%
Somewhat important	46%	44%	42%	44%	43%	55%	46%	52%	44%	45%	44%	49%	43%	51%	45%	41%
NET: Not important	8%	9%	6%	4%	9%	7%	7%	9%	10%	10%	4%	9%	6%	6%	9%	4%
Not very important	7%	7%	4%	3%	8%	6%	7%	8%	8%	8%	3%	8%	5%	5%	8%	3%
Not at all important	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Not sure	10%	5%	9%	16%	10%	7%	15%	7%	12%	10%	9%	7%	13%	7%	9%	9%

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Which comes closer to your view?

7 in 10 (71%) believe the government should make its negotiating positions public before negotiations begin on agreements affecting public lands and natural resources.

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



71%

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



29%

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Which comes closer to your view?

PUBLIC NEGOTIATIONS

	TOT.	REGION						AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	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	71%	73%	74%	75%	72%	65%	72%	60%	63%	77%	78%	67%	75%	68%	71%	74%
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	29%	27%	26%	25%	28%	35%	28%	40%	37%	23%	22%	33%	25%	32%	29%	26%

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Which comes closer to your view?

Nearly two-thirds (63%) believe political authority over public lands and natural resources should come exclusively through democratic elections, while 37% support also recognizing 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



63%

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



37%

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Which comes closer to your view?

SOURCE OF POLITICAL AUTHORITY

	TOT.	REGION						AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	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	63%	71%	73%	67%	62%	51%	68%	56%	62%	66%	65%	66%	59%	58%	73%	49%
Political authority over public lands and resources should also be based on Indigenous traditional systems of governance	37%	29%	27%	33%	38%	49%	32%	44%	38%	34%	35%	34%	41%	42%	27%	51%

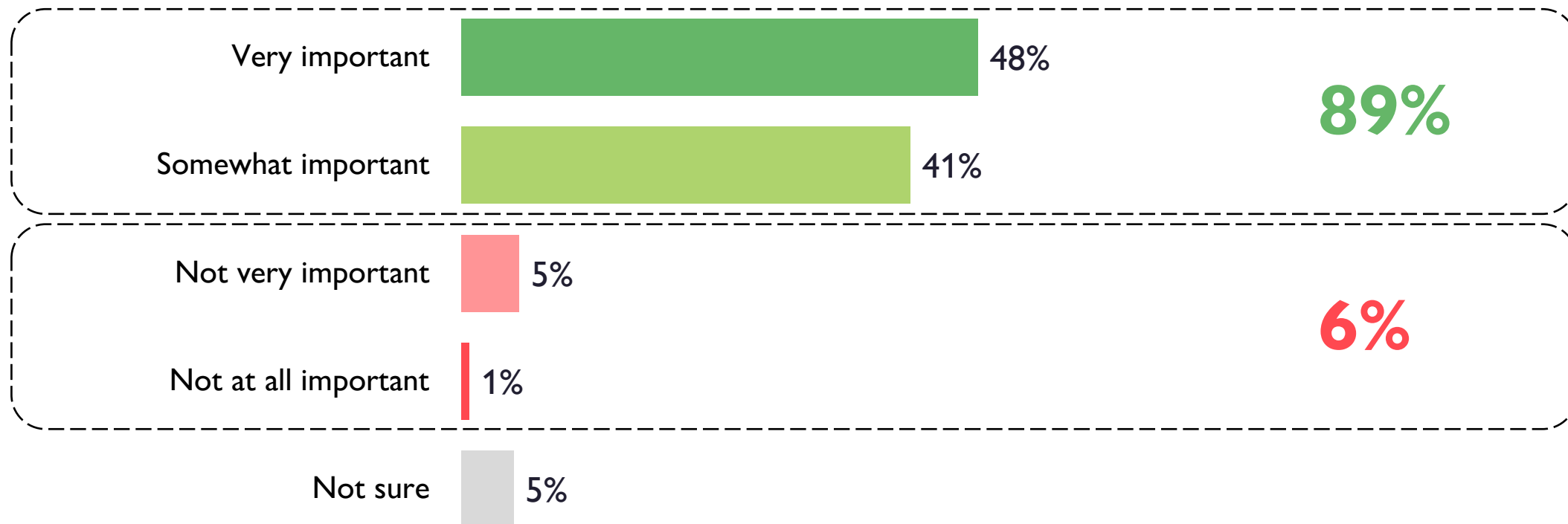
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How important is it to you that the source of decision making authority over public lands and natural resources is clearly disclosed and understood by the general public?

9 in 10 (89%) say it is important that the source of decision-making authority over public lands and natural resources is clearly disclosed and understood by the public.



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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		
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	LPC	CPC	NDP
NET: Important	89%	90%	93%	91%	89%	88%	86%	88%	85%	89%	93%	91%	87%	90%	90%	88%
Very important	48%	53%	51%	51%	51%	35%	51%	35%	41%	46%	62%	49%	46%	45%	49%	51%
Somewhat important	41%	37%	42%	40%	38%	53%	35%	52%	44%	43%	31%	42%	41%	45%	41%	36%
NET: Not important	6%	6%	4%	4%	7%	8%	2%	8%	7%	7%	4%	6%	6%	6%	6%	4%
Not very important	5%	5%	4%	3%	6%	7%	2%	7%	6%	6%	4%	5%	6%	6%	5%	4%
Not at all important	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Not sure	5%	4%	4%	6%	5%	4%	12%	5%	8%	4%	3%	3%	7%	3%	4%	8%

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Which comes closer to your view?

8 in 10 (82%) believe all Canadians should be subject to the same laws, while 18% say different legal rules for different groups are appropriate in some circumstances.

All Canadians should be subject to
the same laws



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



[BASE] n=2,705



Which comes closer to your view?

SAME LAWS

	TOT.	REGION						AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	LPC	CPC	NDP
All Canadians should be subject to the same laws	82%	81%	87%	87%	81%	80%	77%	66%	80%	84%	91%	81%	82%	82%	83%	69%
In some circumstances, having different legal rules for different groups is appropriate	18%	19%	13%	13%	19%	20%	23%	34%	20%	16%	9%	19%	18%	18%	17%	31%

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Which comes closer to your view?

A majority (57%) believe reconciliation should occur within Canada's existing democratic institutions, while 43% support recognizing Indigenous governments as distinct authorities alongside them.

Reconciliation should occur within
Canada's existing democratic
institutions



57%

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



43%

[BASE] n=2,705





Which comes closer to your view?

RECONCILIATION AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

	TOT.	REGION						AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	LPC	CPC	NDP
Reconciliation should occur within Canadas existing democratic institutions	57%	62%	60%	62%	53%	55%	65%	47%	53%	60%	64%	62%	52%	53%	68%	36%
Reconciliation should include recognizing Indigenous governments as distinct authorities alongside Canadas existing democratic institutions	43%	38%	40%	38%	47%	45%	35%	53%	47%	40%	36%	38%	48%	47%	32%	64%

[BASE] n=2,705





Which comes closer to your view?

6 in 10 (60%) believe reconciliation should have clear goals, measurable outcomes, and a defined end point, while 40% see it 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



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



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Which comes closer to your view?

END POINT FOR RECONCILIATION

	TOT.	REGION						AGE				GENDER		VOTE		
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	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	60%	62%	64%	66%	56%	61%	60%	52%	57%	60%	66%	61%	59%	58%	64%	44%
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	40%	38%	36%	34%	44%	39%	40%	48%	43%	40%	34%	39%	41%	42%	36%	56%

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Thank You