

Constitution Day 2017

A SURVEY OF CANADIANS' KNOWLEDGE AND VIEWS OF OUR
CONSTITUTION ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY



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About this survey

- To mark the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution Act, 1867 (formerly, the British North America Act), and the 35th Anniversary of the signing of the Constitution Act, 1982, which were both signed on March 29th of their respective years, the Canadian Constitution Foundation commissioned a national survey to find out what Canadians know about our Constitution and what they think about it.
- These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between March 20 and March 23, 2017, on behalf of the Canadian Constitution Foundation. For this survey, a sample of 1,003 Canadians from Ipsos' online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. Exact questions and full data tables available at: <http://www.ipsos-na.com/news-polls/pressrelease.aspx?id=7616>
- The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within +/- 3.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Canadian adults been polled. The credibility interval will be wider among subsets of the population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.
- The Canadian Constitution Foundation (“Freedom’s Defence Team”) is a registered charity, independent and non-partisan, whose mission is to defend the constitutional freedoms of Canadians through education, communication and litigation.



Education and knowledge

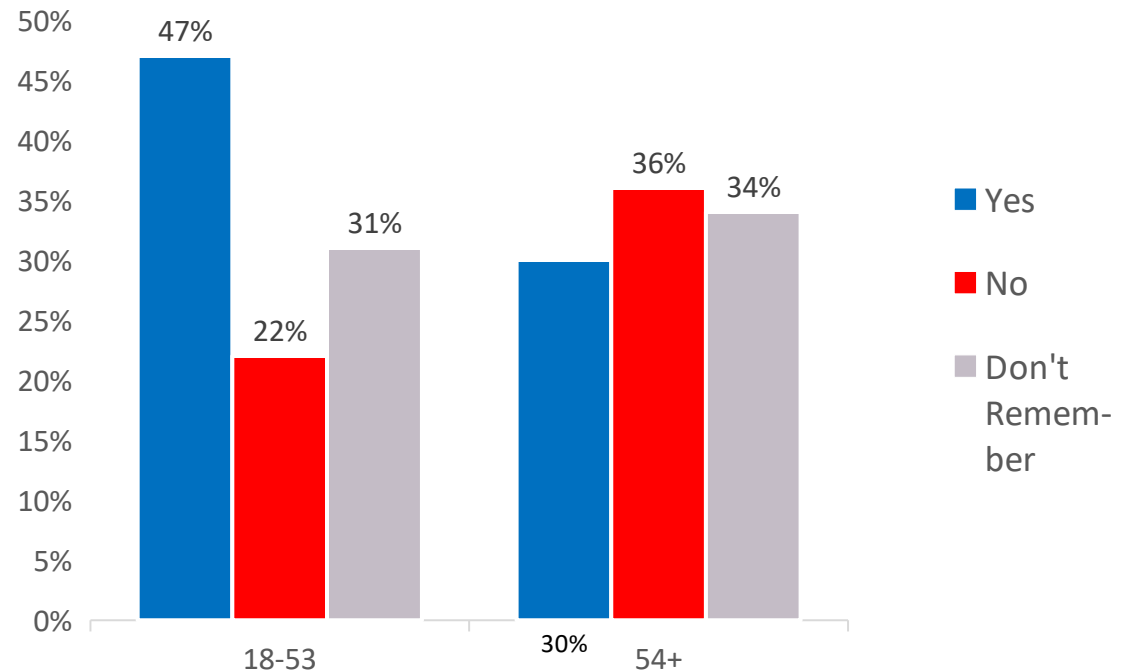
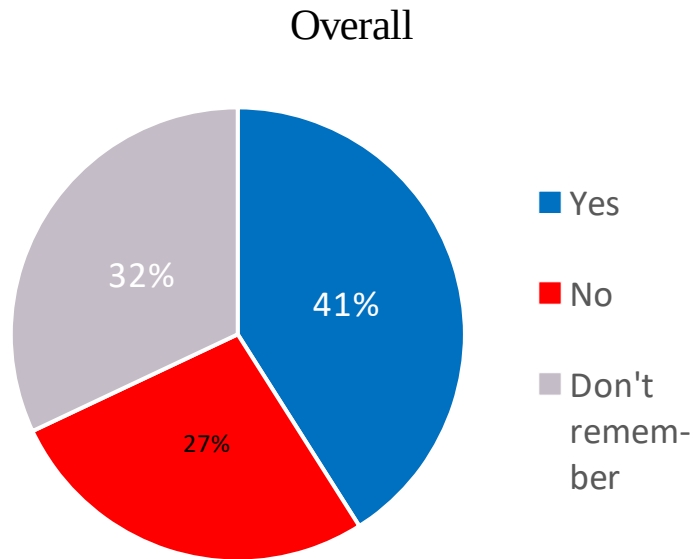
WE ASKED IF CANADIANS REMEMBER BEING TAUGHT ABOUT THE
CONSTITUTION, AND WHAT THEY THINK IS IN IT



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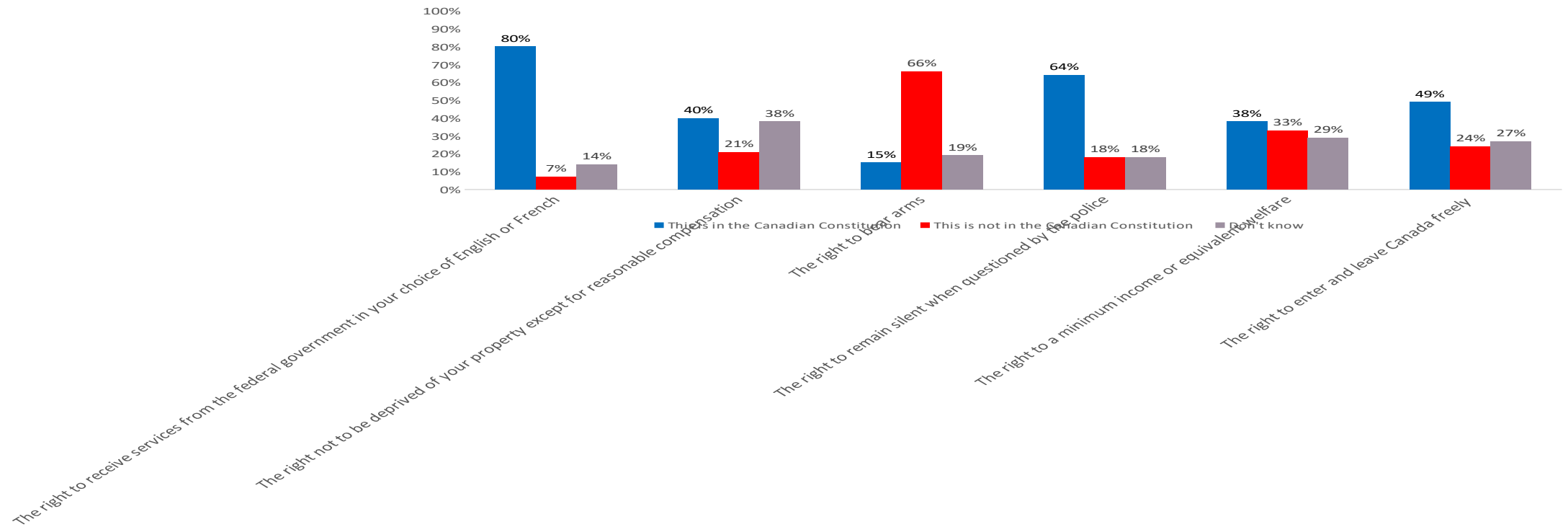
Are schools teaching about the Constitution?

Were you taught about the Canadian Constitution in elementary school or high school?



What is in our Constitution?

The following are descriptions of six potential legal rights. For each one, please tell us whether you think it is a right protected by the Canadian Constitution or not.



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Amending the Constitution

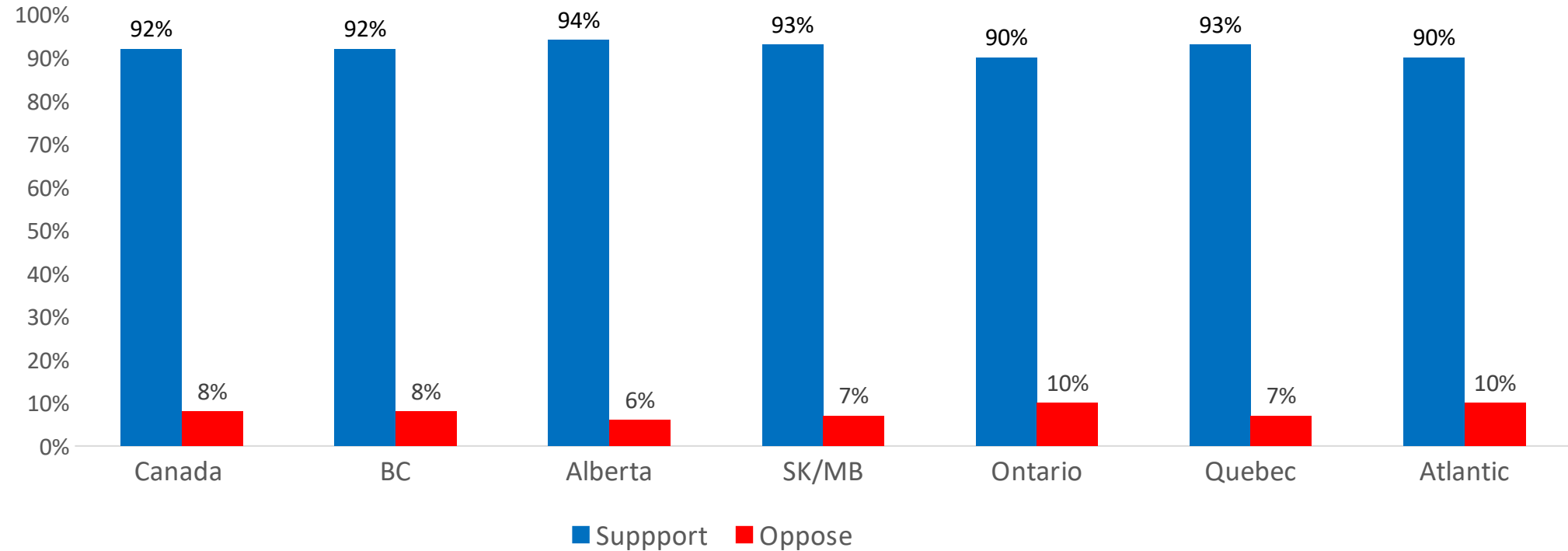
WE ASKED IF CANADIANS IF THEY WOULD SUPPORT OR OPPOSE SIX
HYPOTHETICAL PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION



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Property Rights

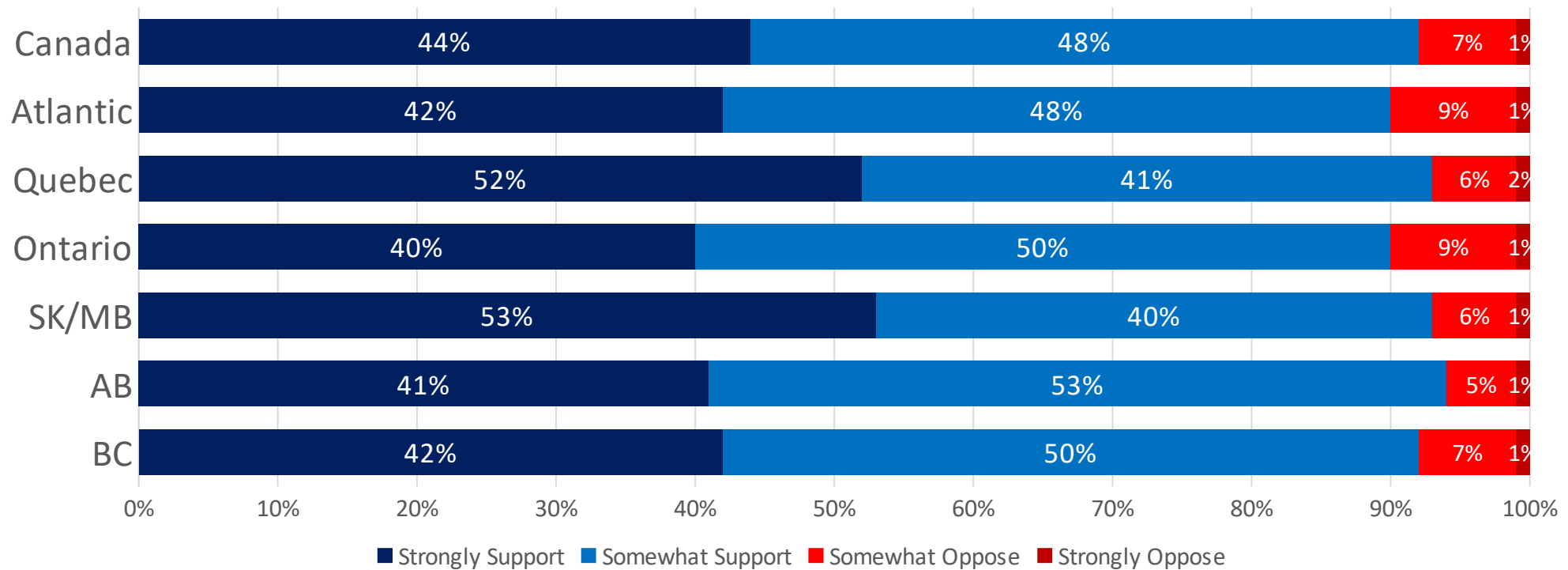
Adding the protection of property rights to the Charter?



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Property Rights

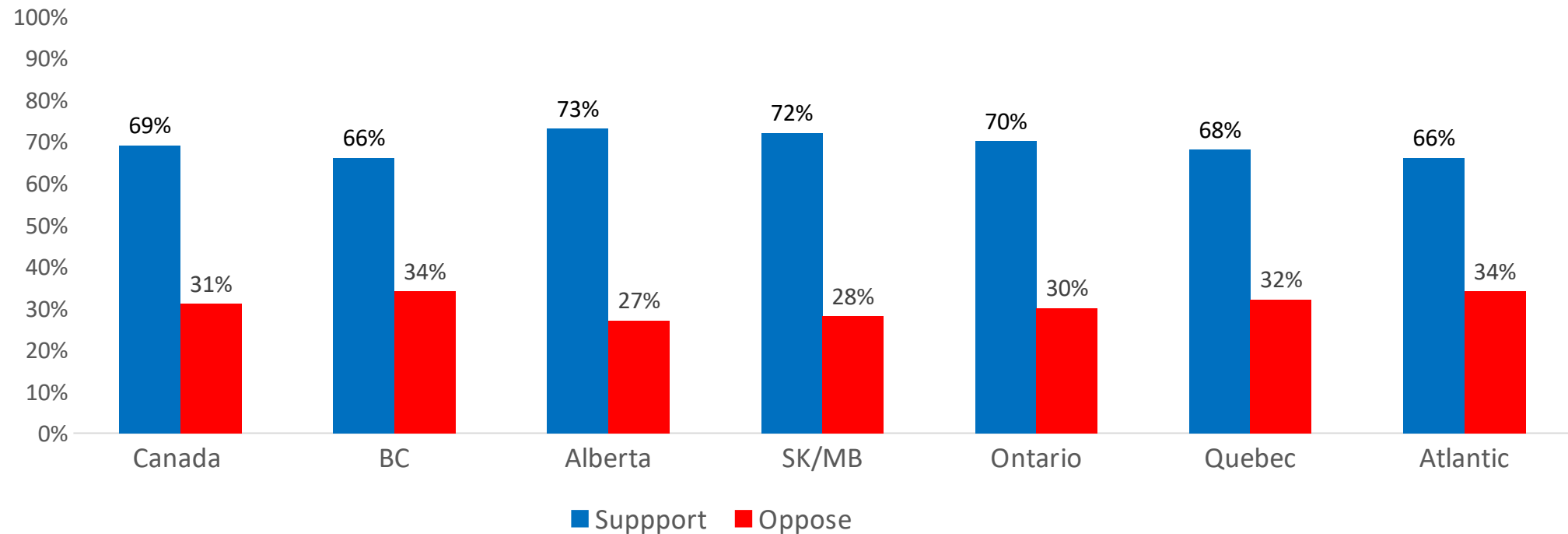
Adding the protection of property rights to the Charter?



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Affirmative Action

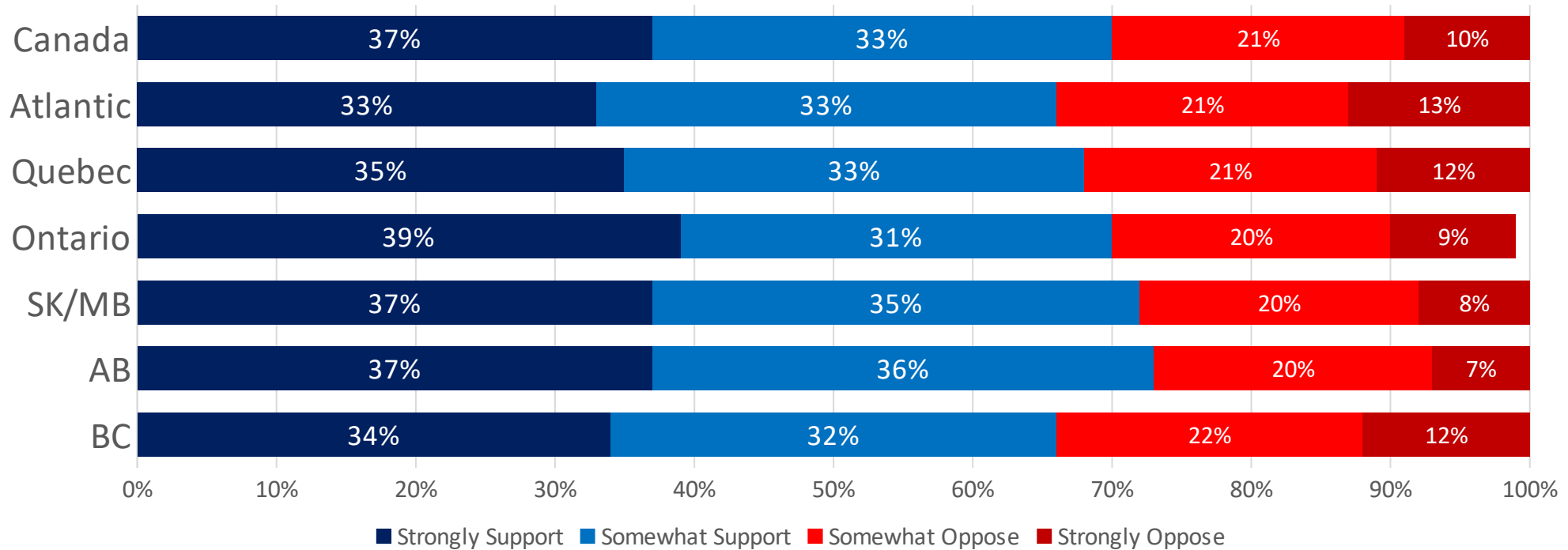
*Ending affirmative action programs
(providing preferential treatment for some groups over others, like when hiring for jobs)?*



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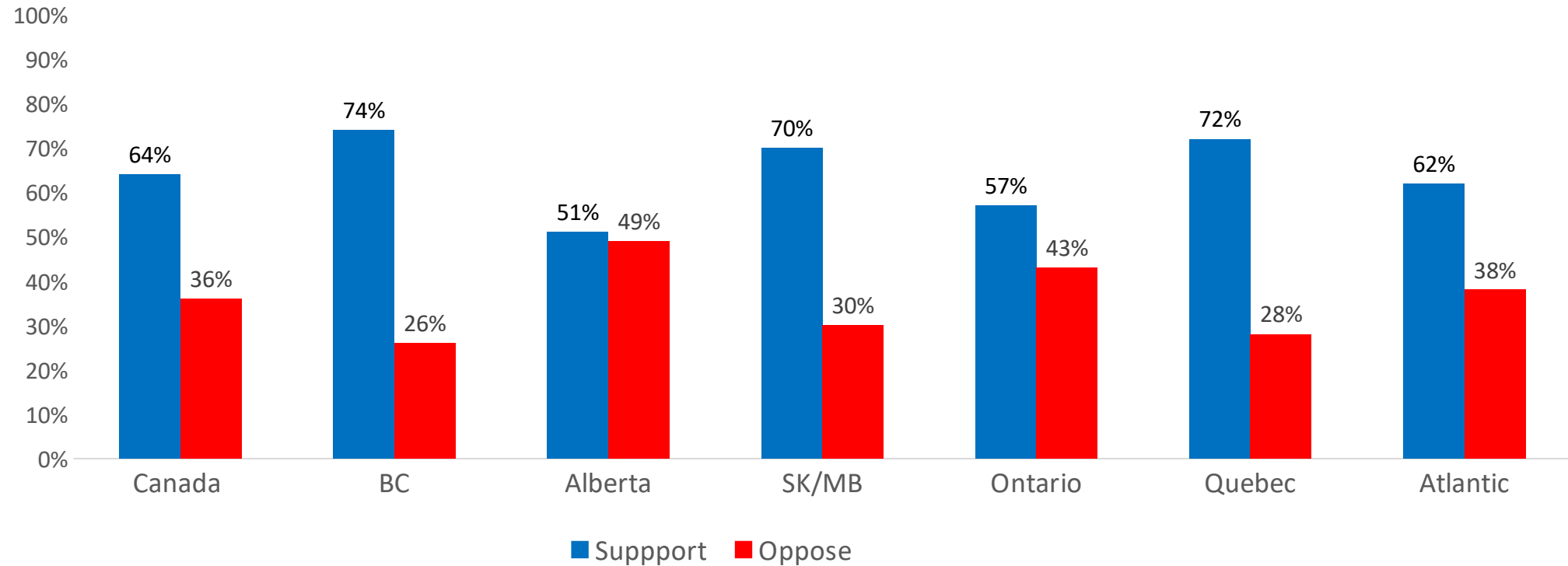
Affirmative Action

*Ending affirmative action programs
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Abolish the Senate

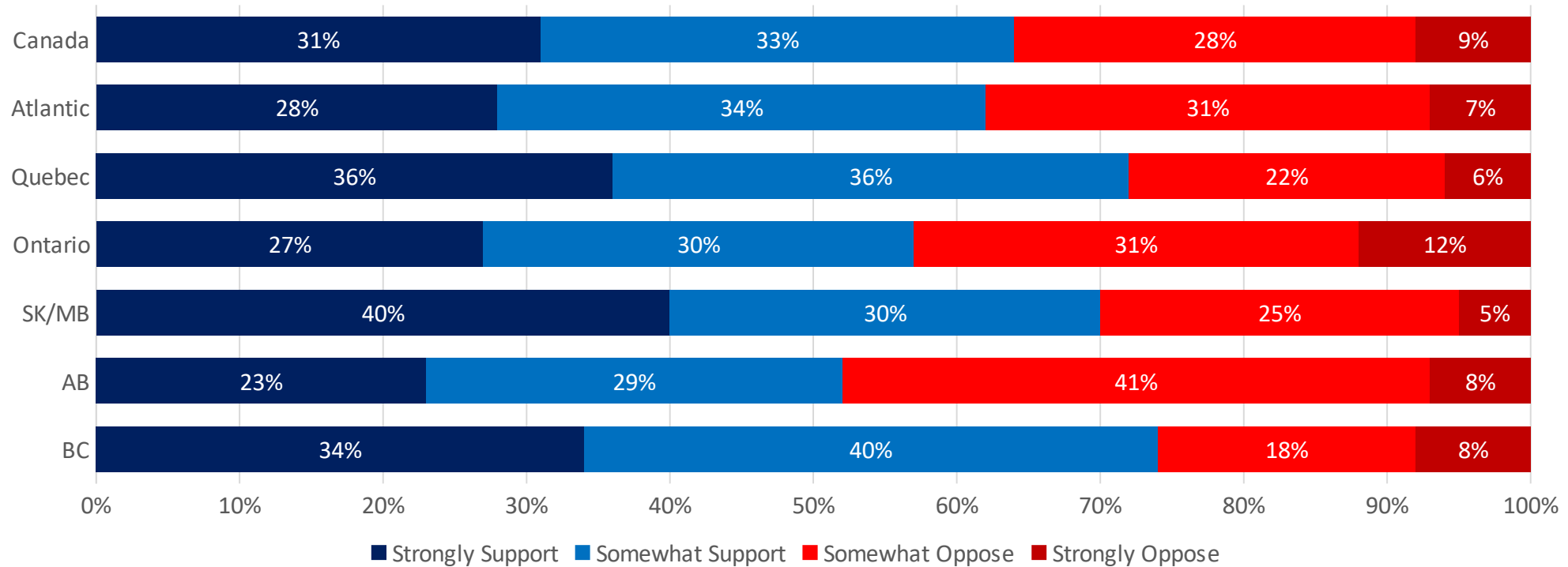
Abolishing the Senate?



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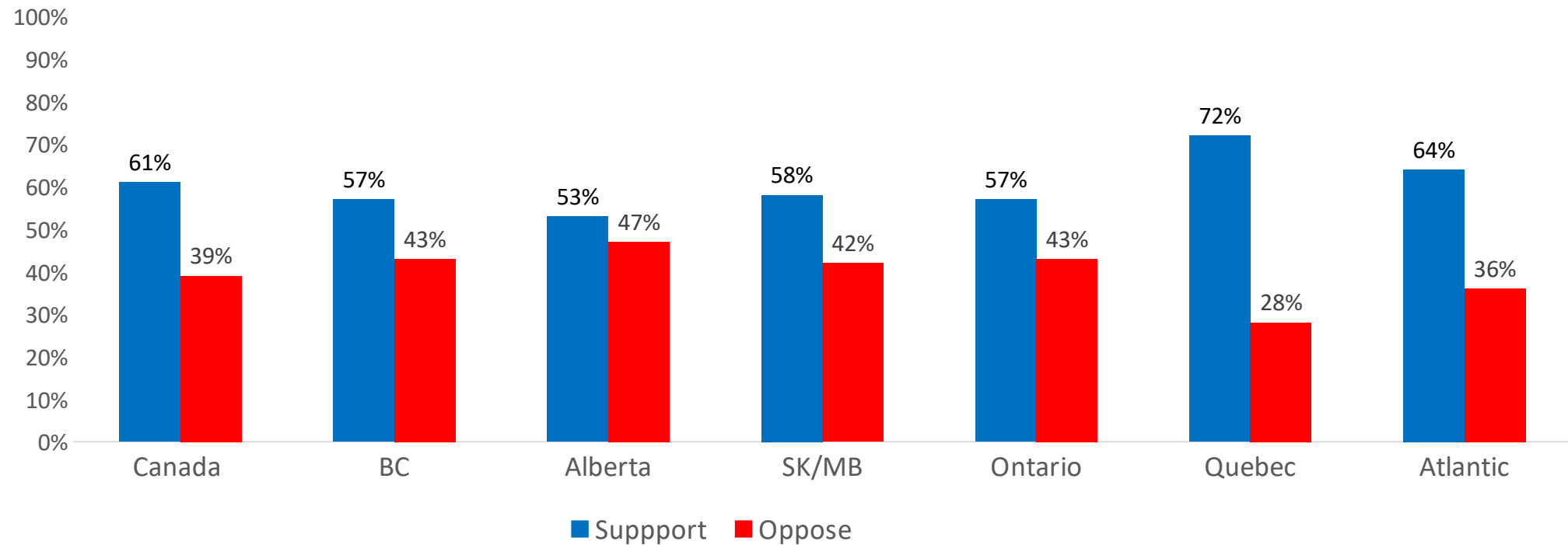
Abolish the Senate

Abolishing the Senate?



Rights for the unborn

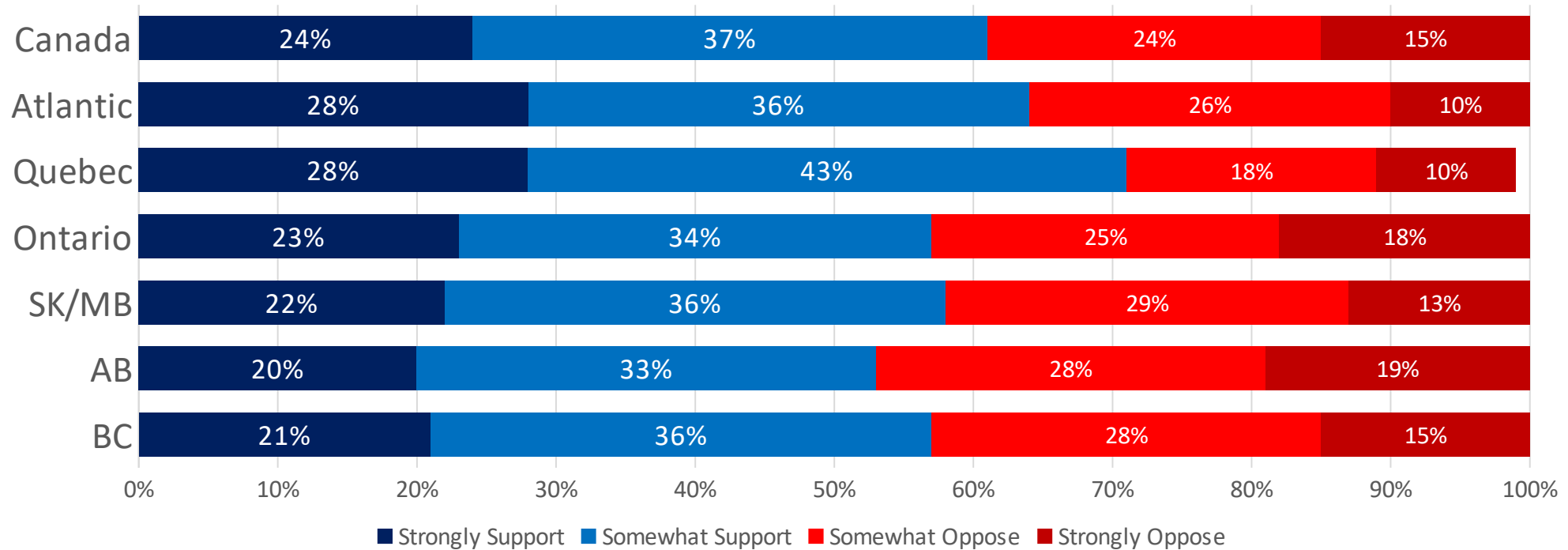
Giving some constitutional rights to the unborn, before birth?



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Rights for the unborn

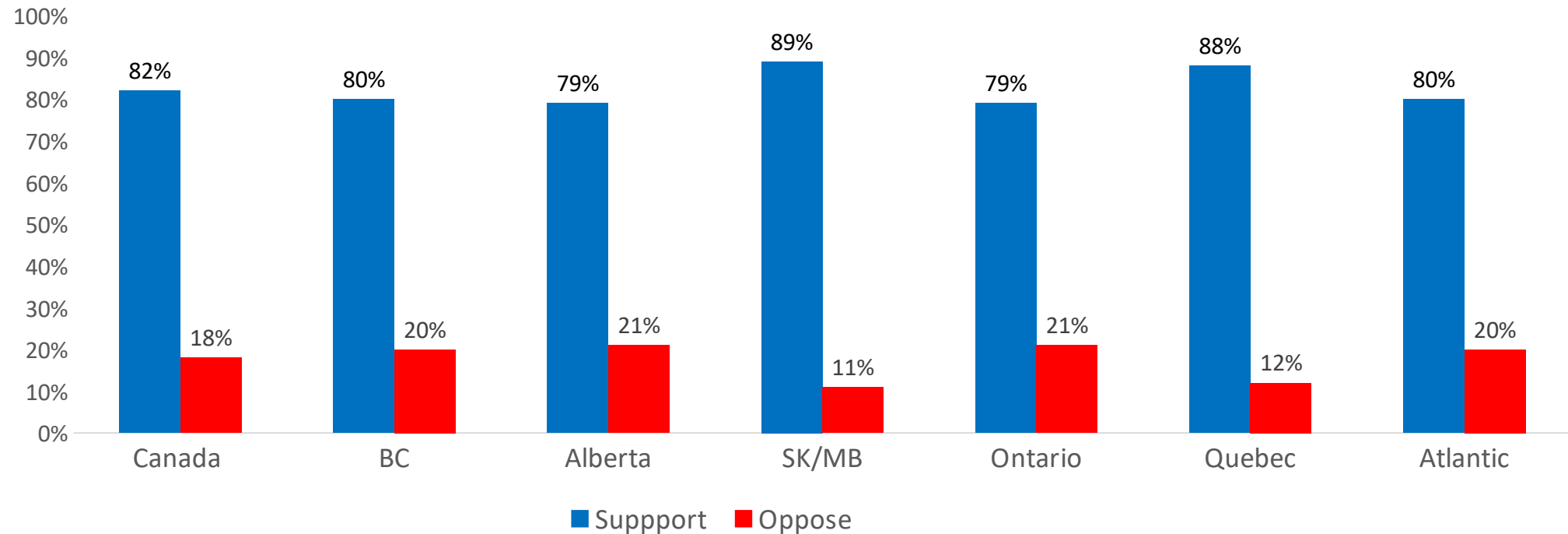
Giving some constitutional rights to the unborn, before birth?



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Face coverings when taking oath of citizenship

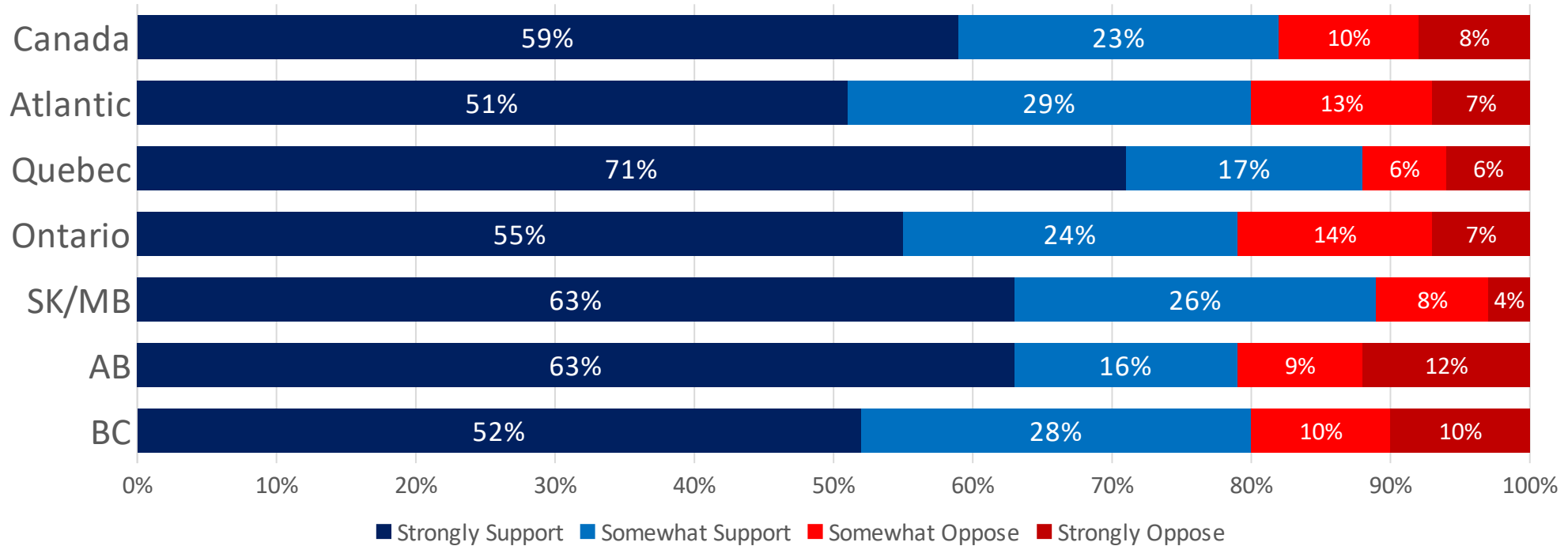
Requiring persons to uncover their face when taking the oath of citizenship?



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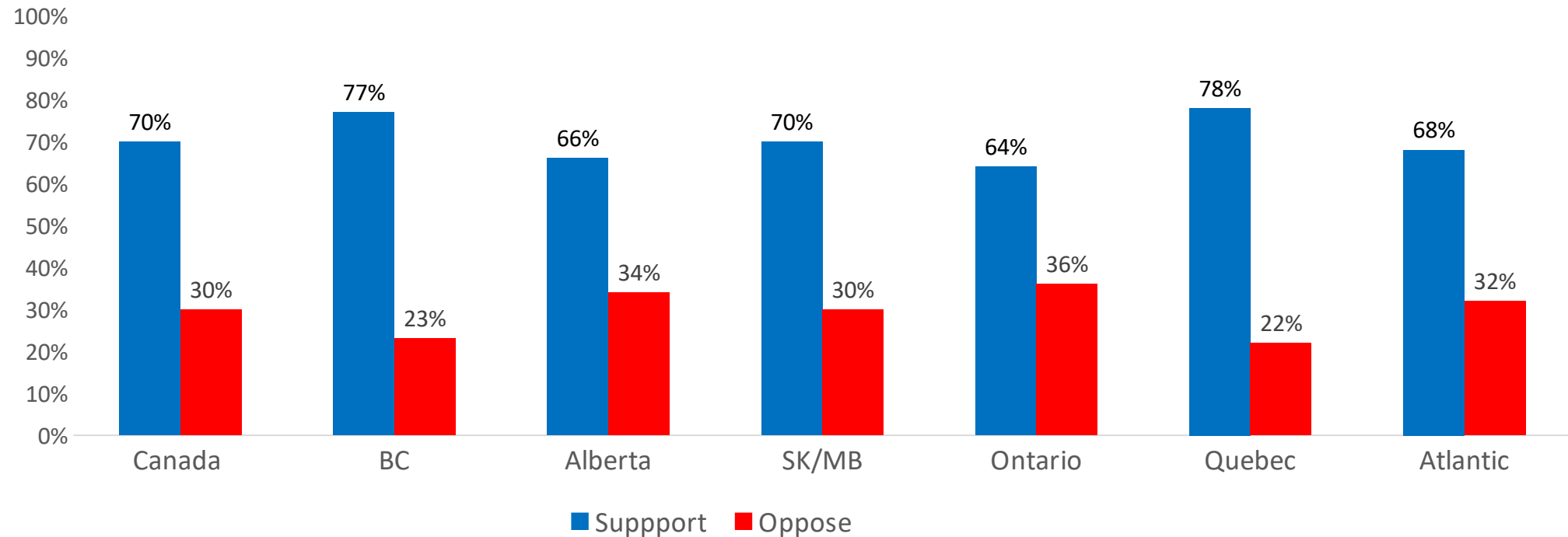
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Term limits for Prime Ministers

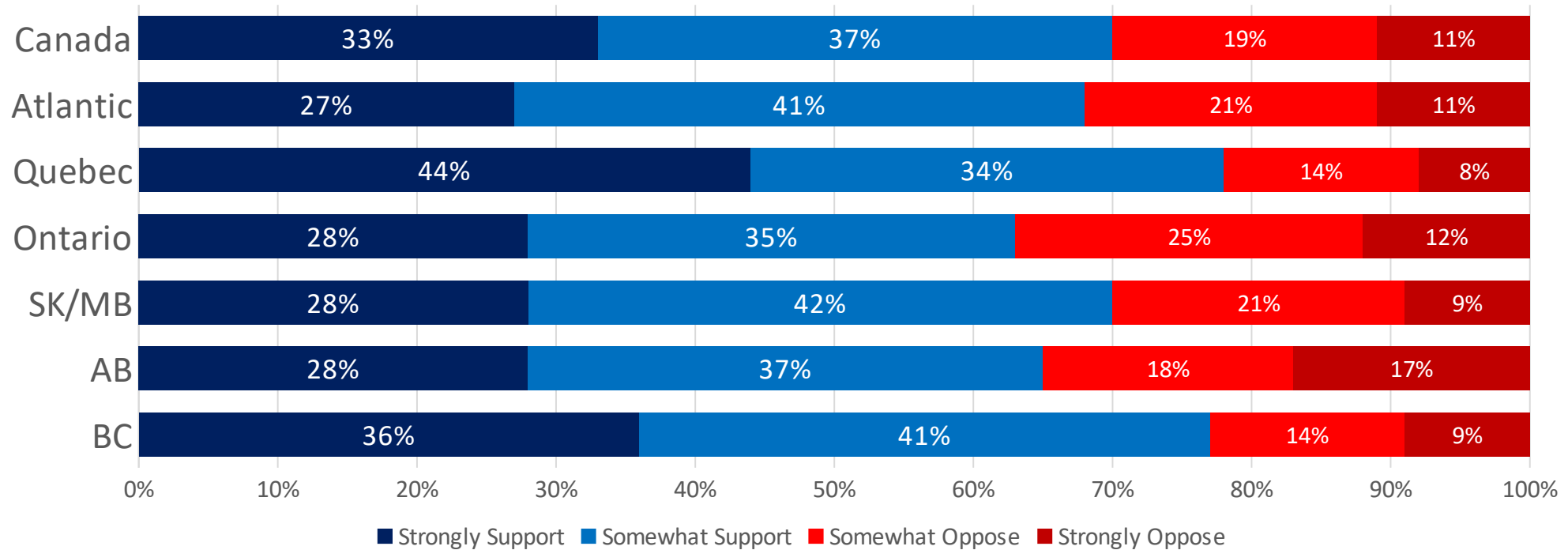
Limiting the time a person can serve as Prime Minister to eight years, as they do in the United States?



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Interpreting the Constitution

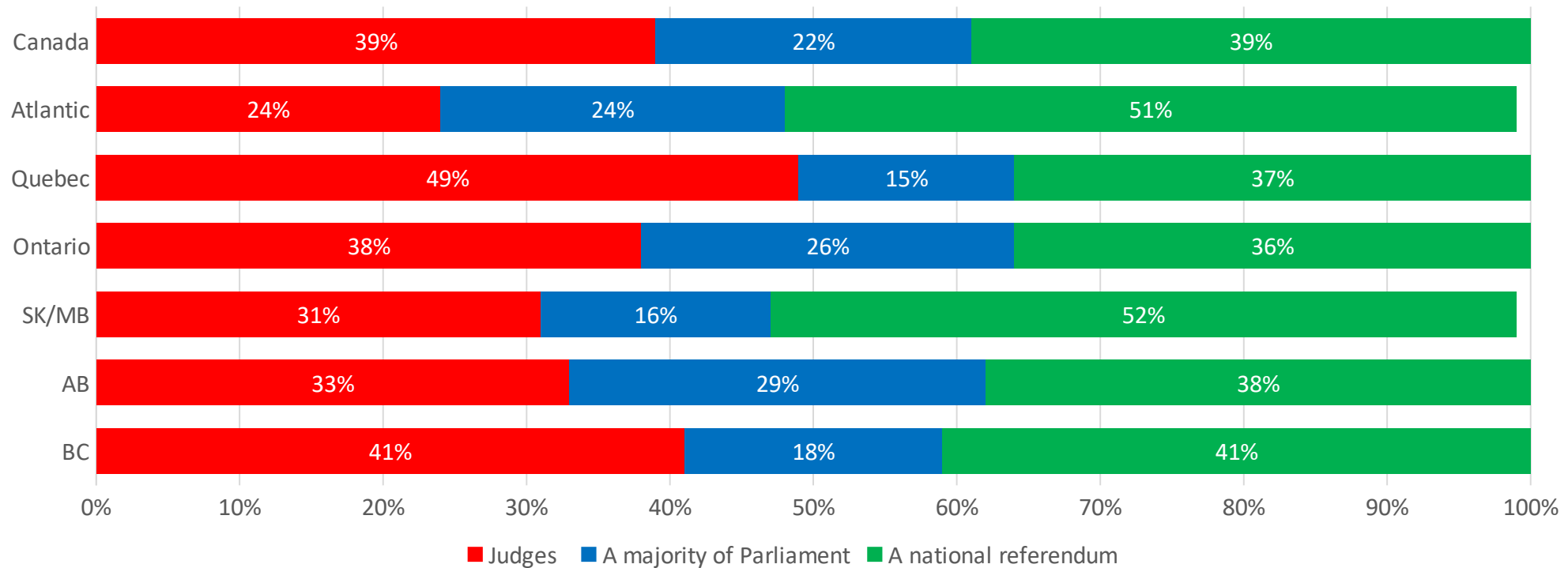
WE ASKED CANADIANS WHO SHOULD HAVE THE FINAL SAY ON INTERPRETING THE CHARTER, AND WHAT METHOD JUDGES SHOULD USE TO APPLY THE CONSTITUTION



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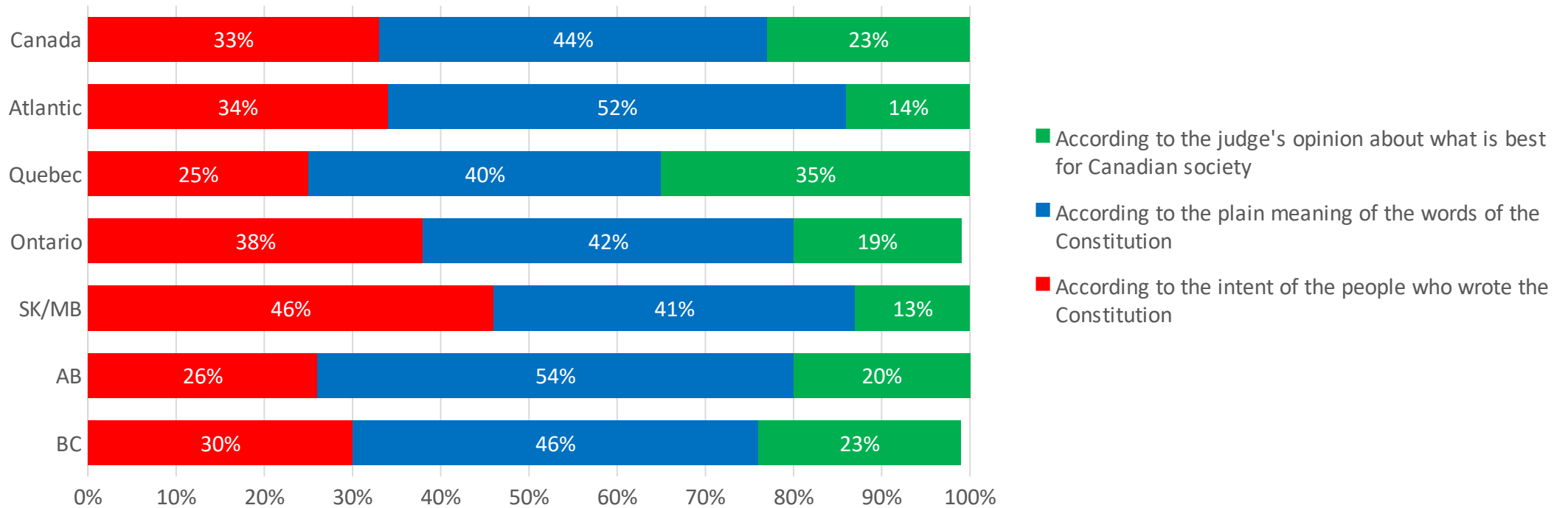
Resolving Charter disagreements

When there is a disagreement over how a Charter right should be interpreted, who should have the final say?



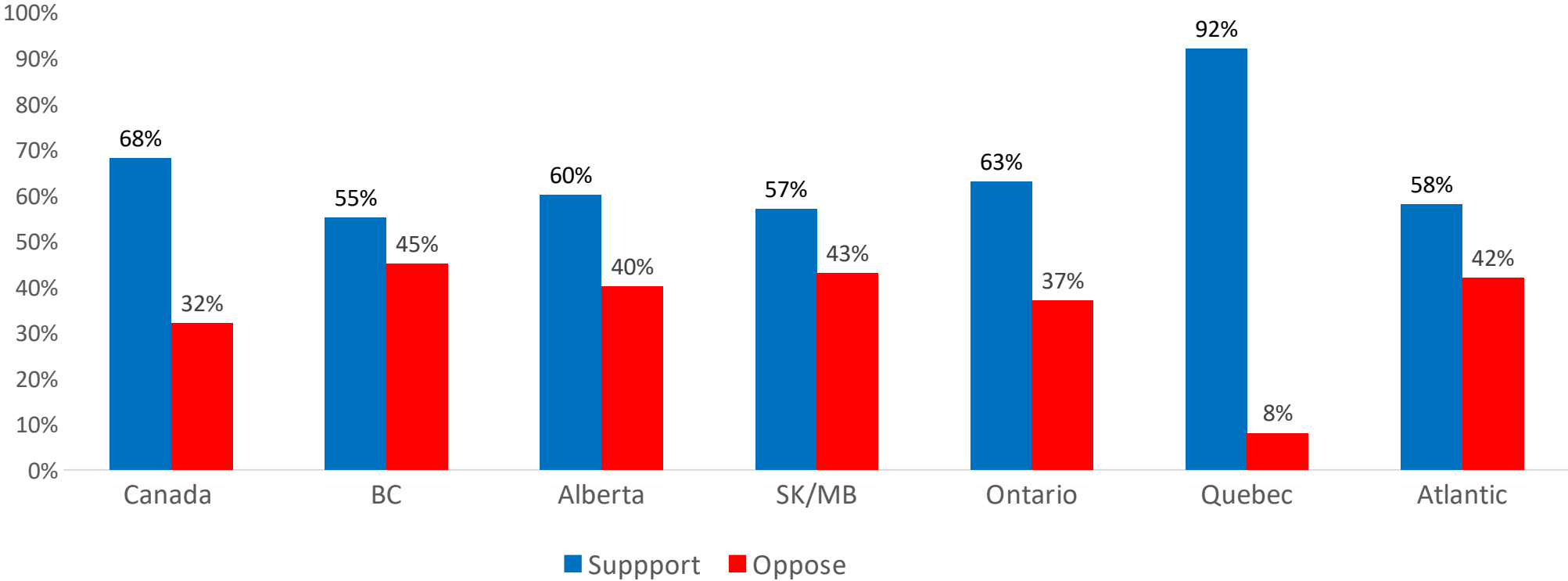
Interpreting the Charter

How should judges decide what the various provisions of the Constitution mean?



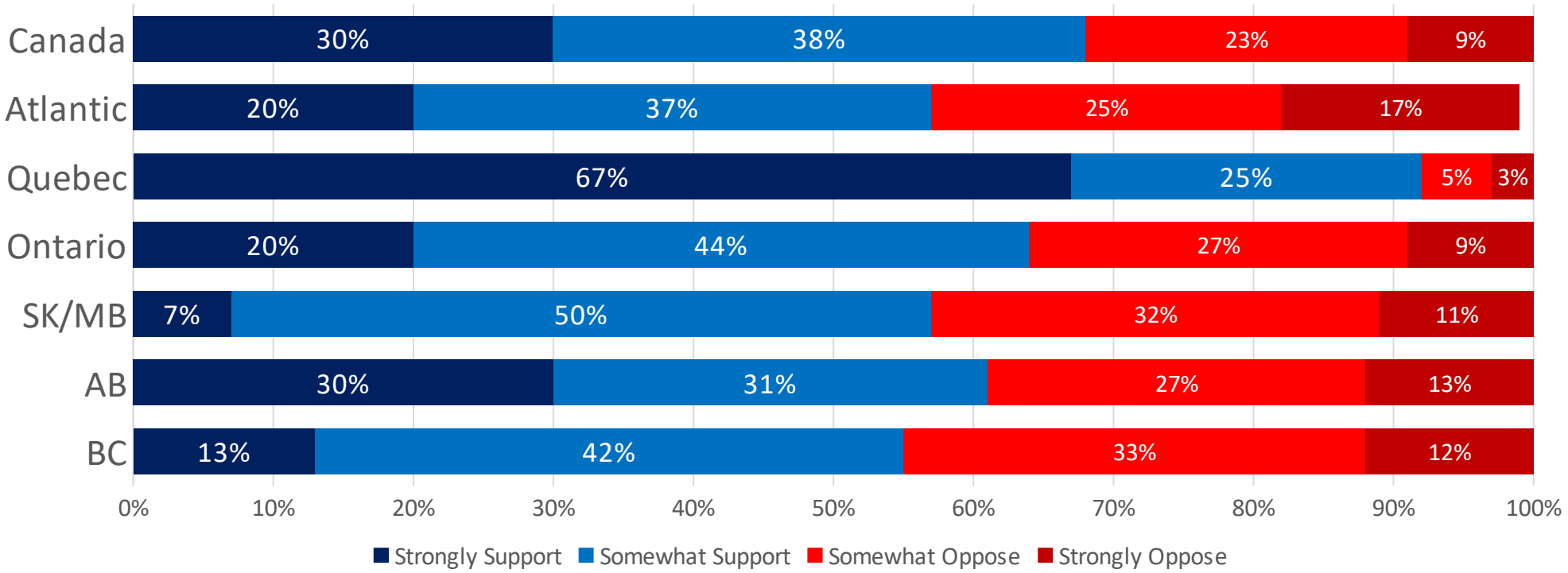
Bilingual judges

Would you support or oppose a law that requires all Supreme Court of Canada judges to be bilingual?



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The scope of our rights

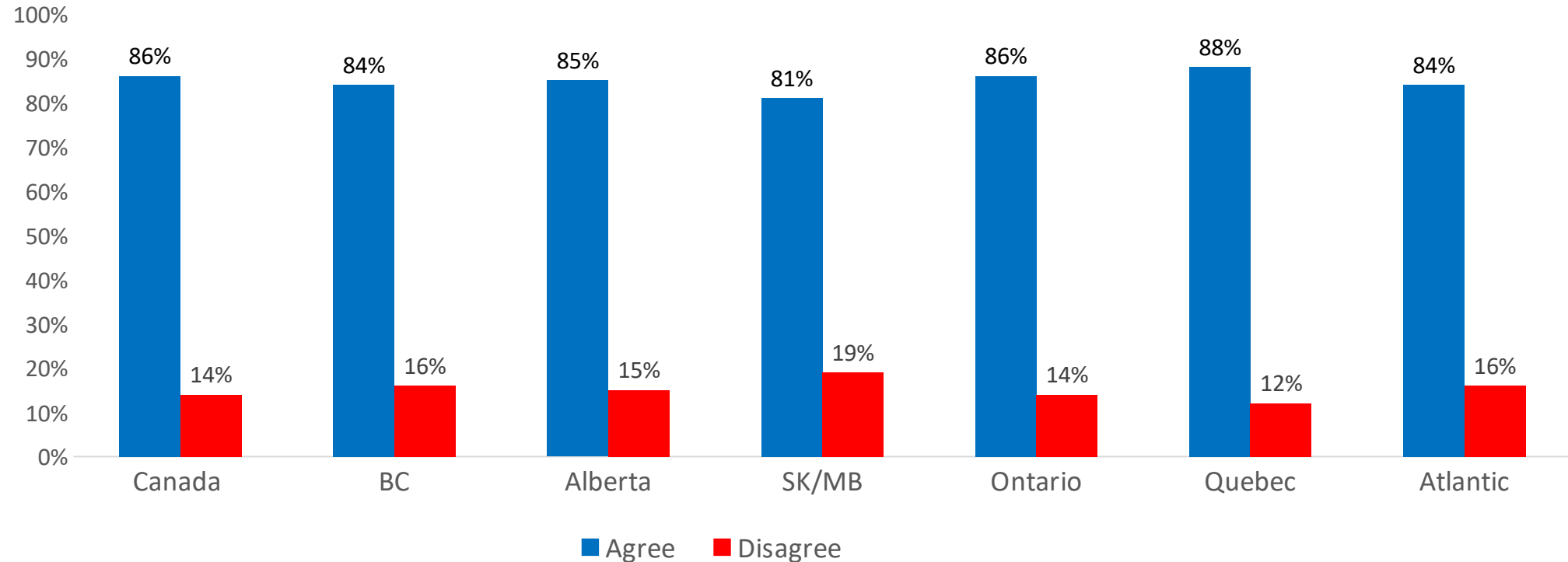
WE ASKED CANADIANS SIX QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW FAR OUR
CHARTER RIGHT AND FREEDOMS SHOULD EXTEND



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A Libertarian view of Rights

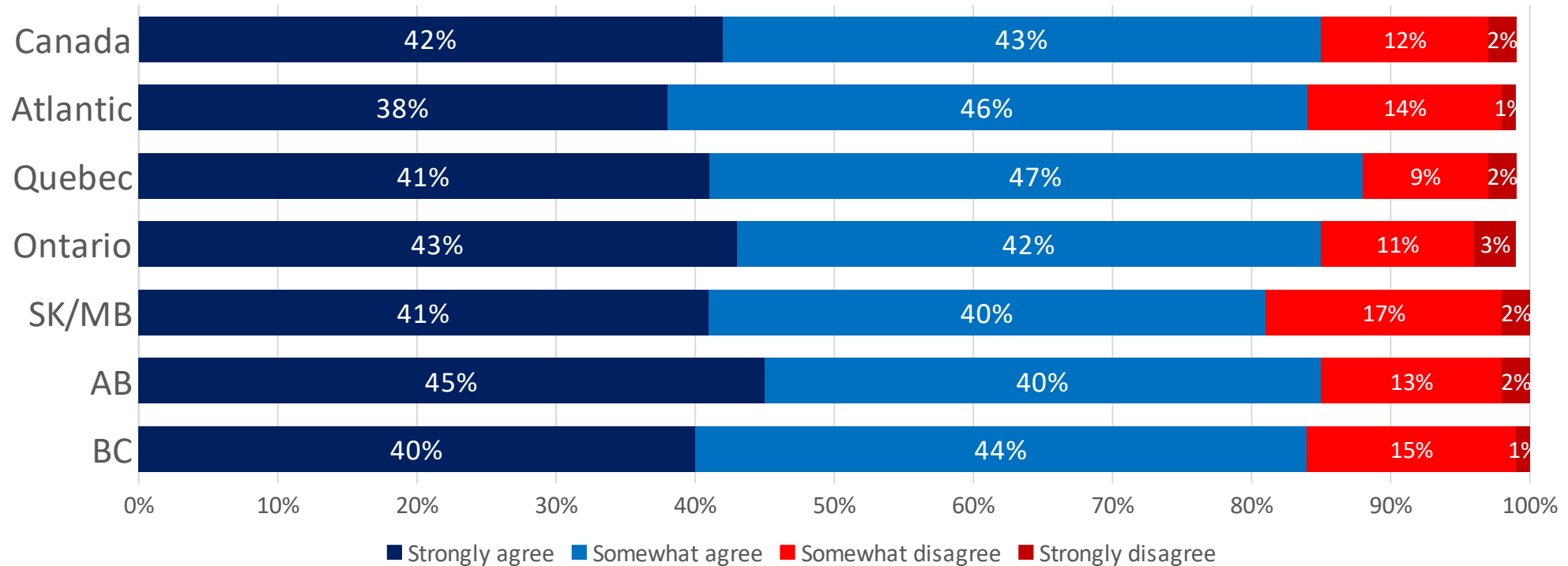
Agree or Disagree: *The Charter should protect all individual behaviour that does not harm other people.*



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A Libertarian view of rights

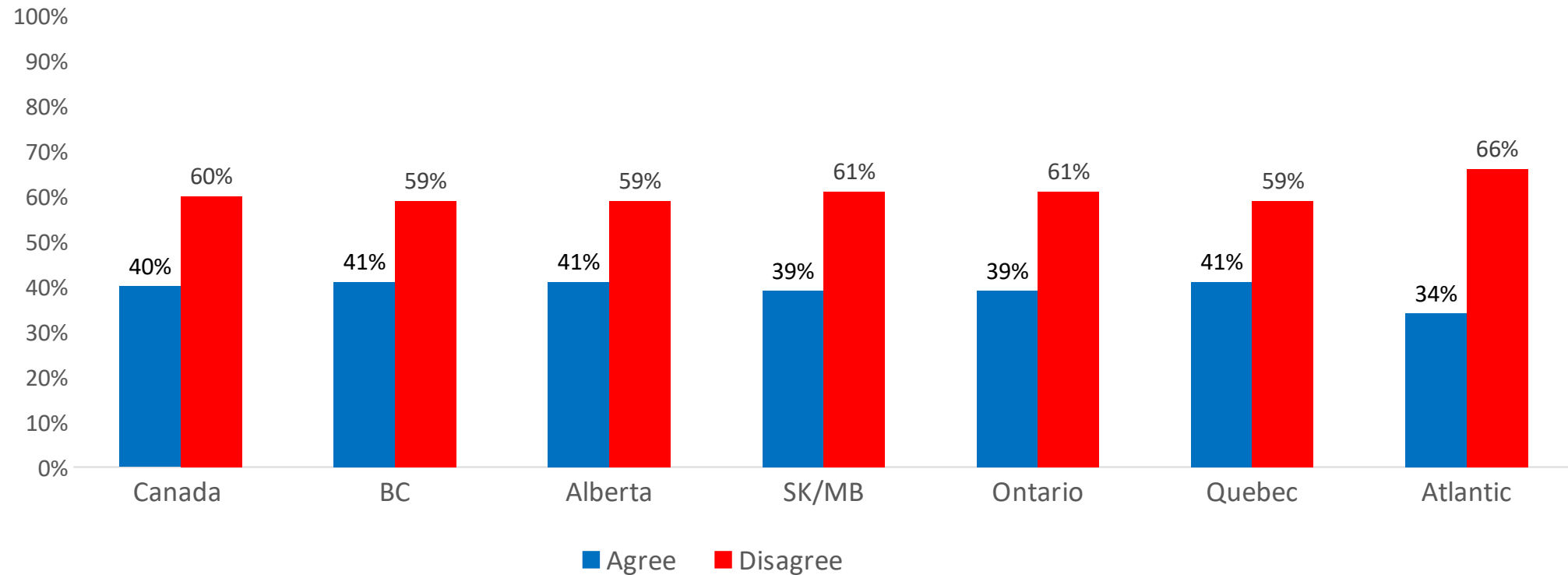
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Hate Speech

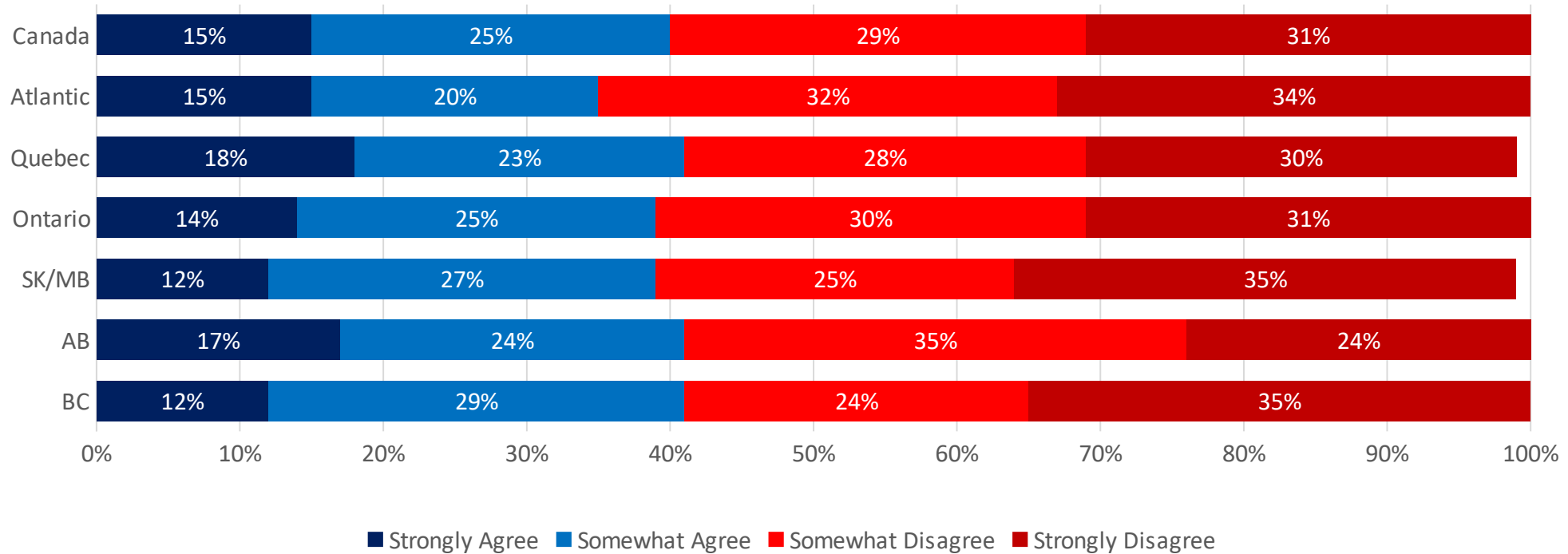
Agree or Disagree: The Charter right to free speech should protect even so-called hate speech



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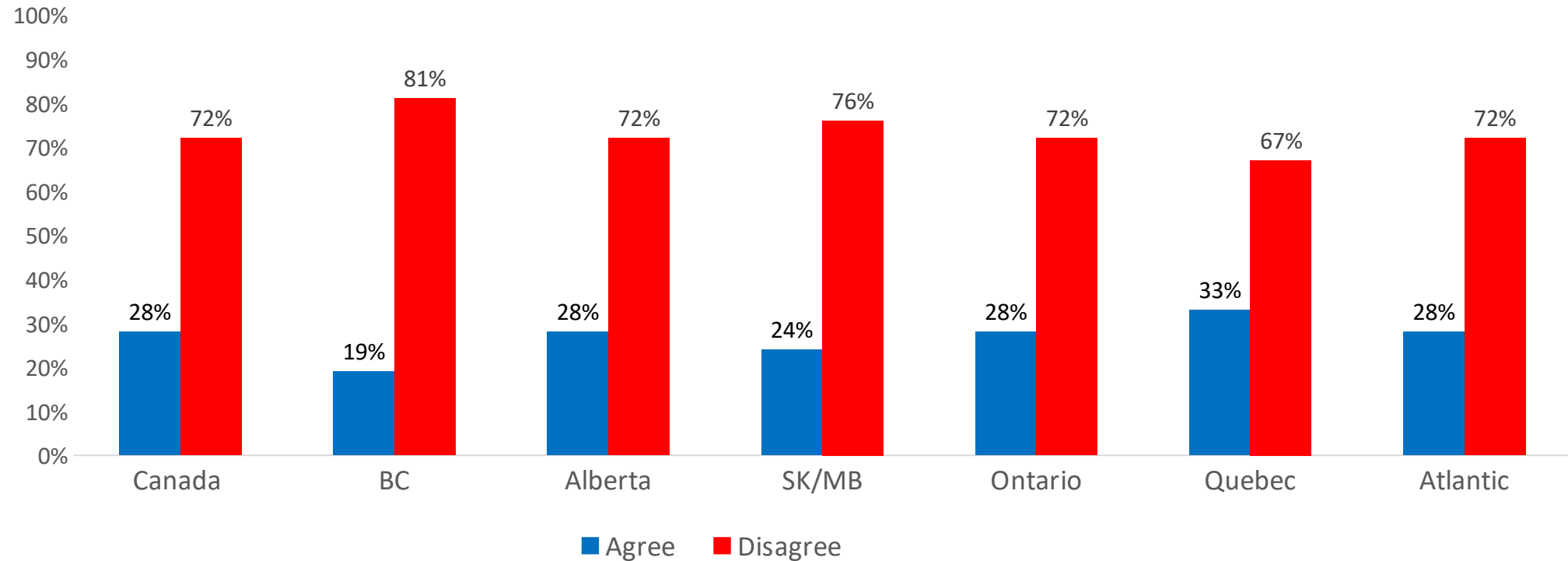
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Speech Praising Terrorism

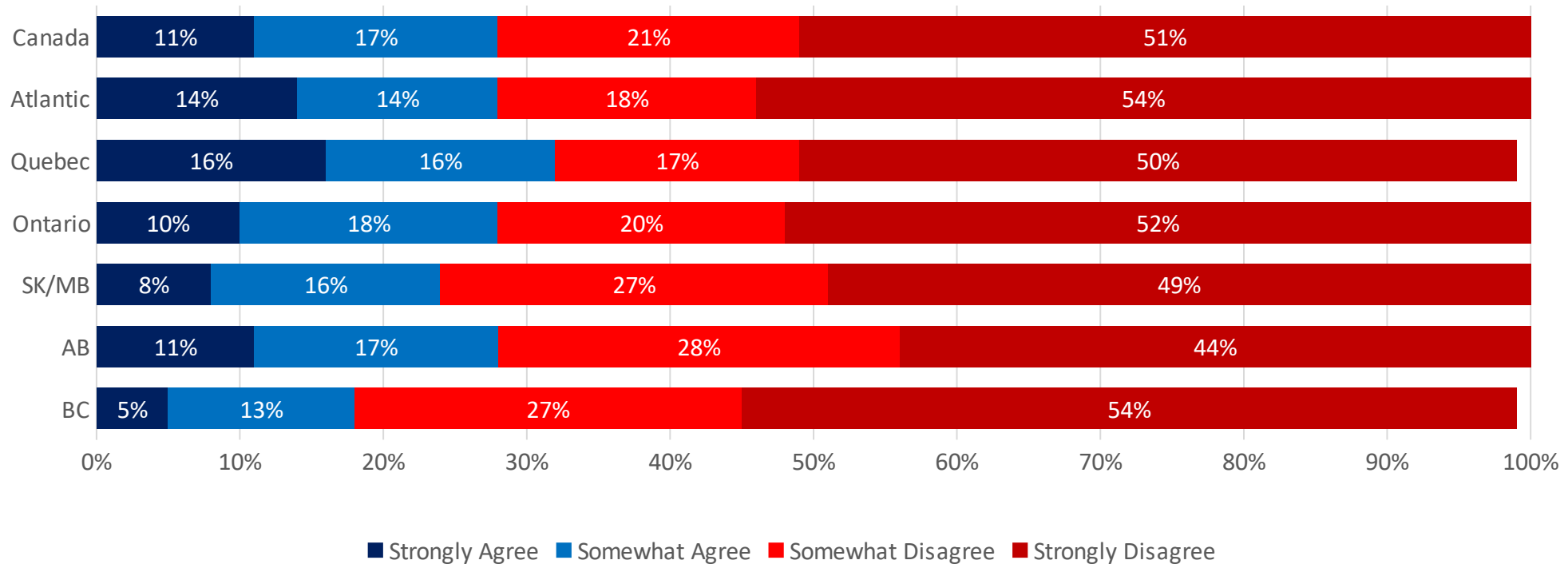
Agree or Disagree: The Charter right to free speech should protect speech that praises terrorists or acts of terrorism



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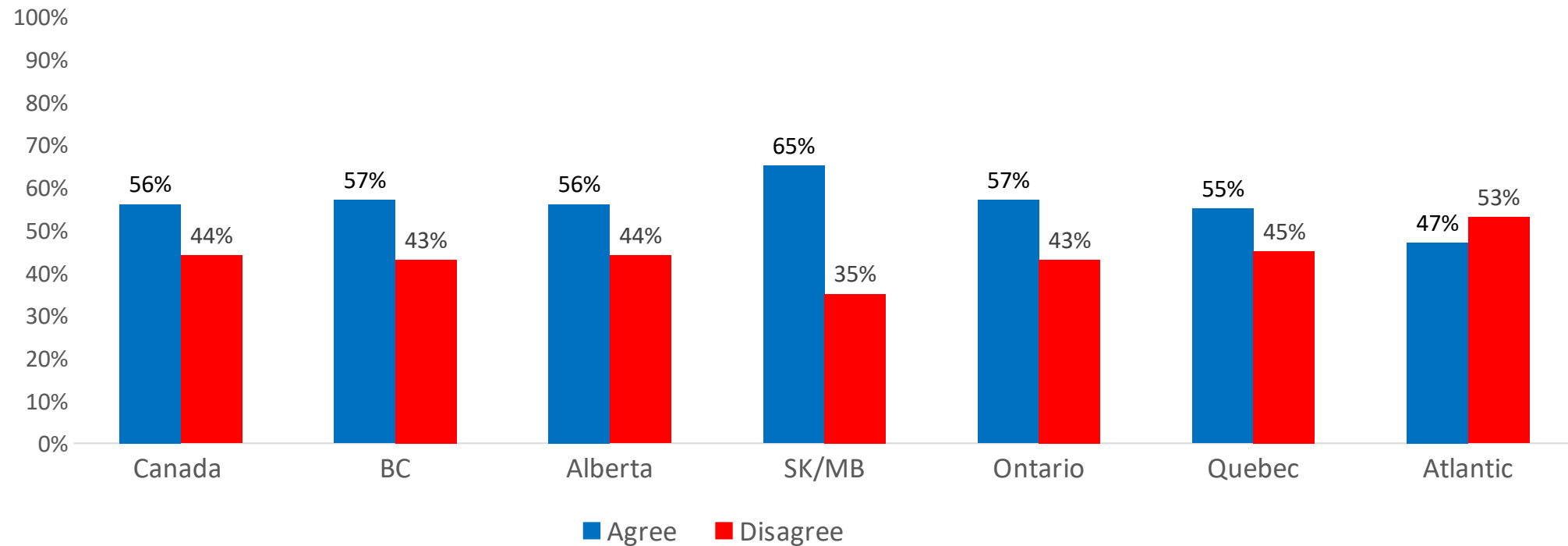
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Speech Criticizing Religion

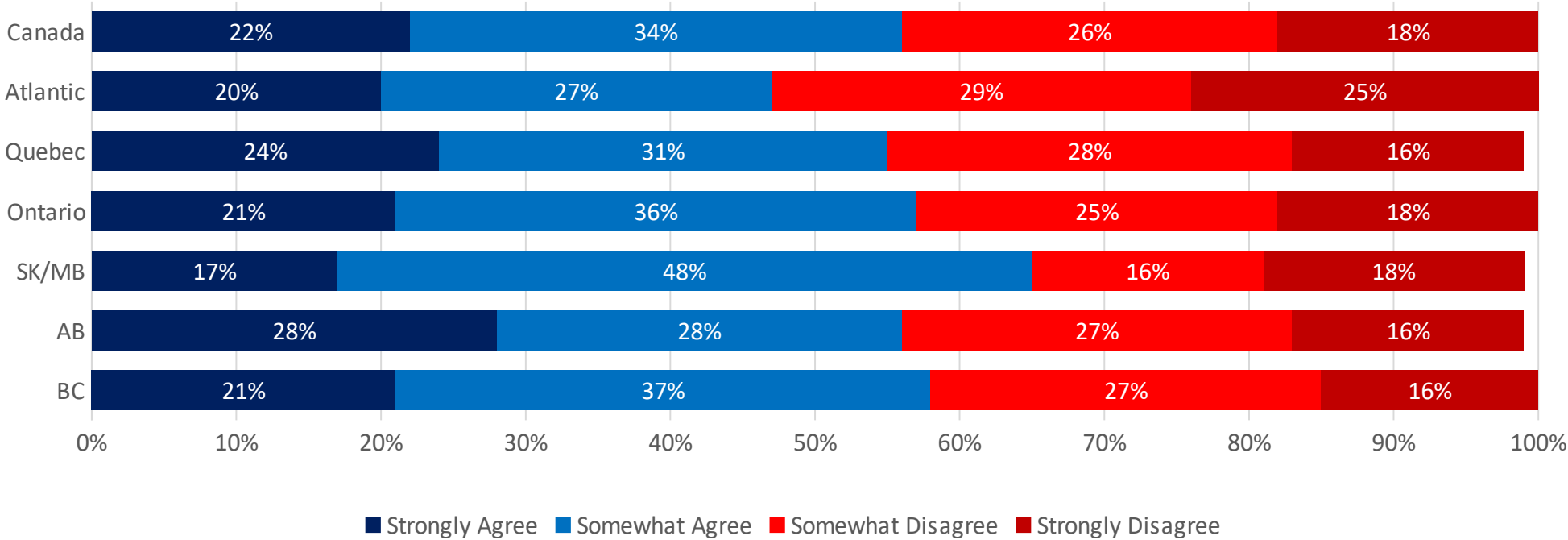
Agree or Disagree: The Charter right to free speech should protect speech that criticizes specific religions



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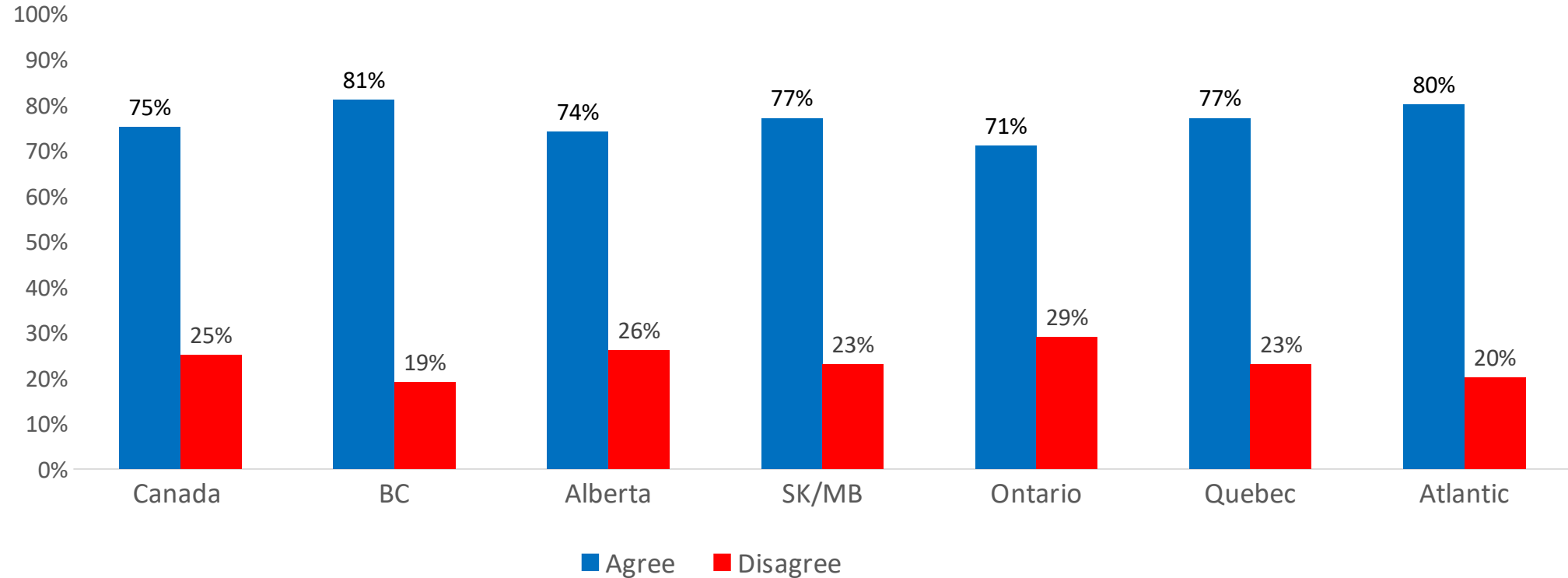
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Right to a minimum income

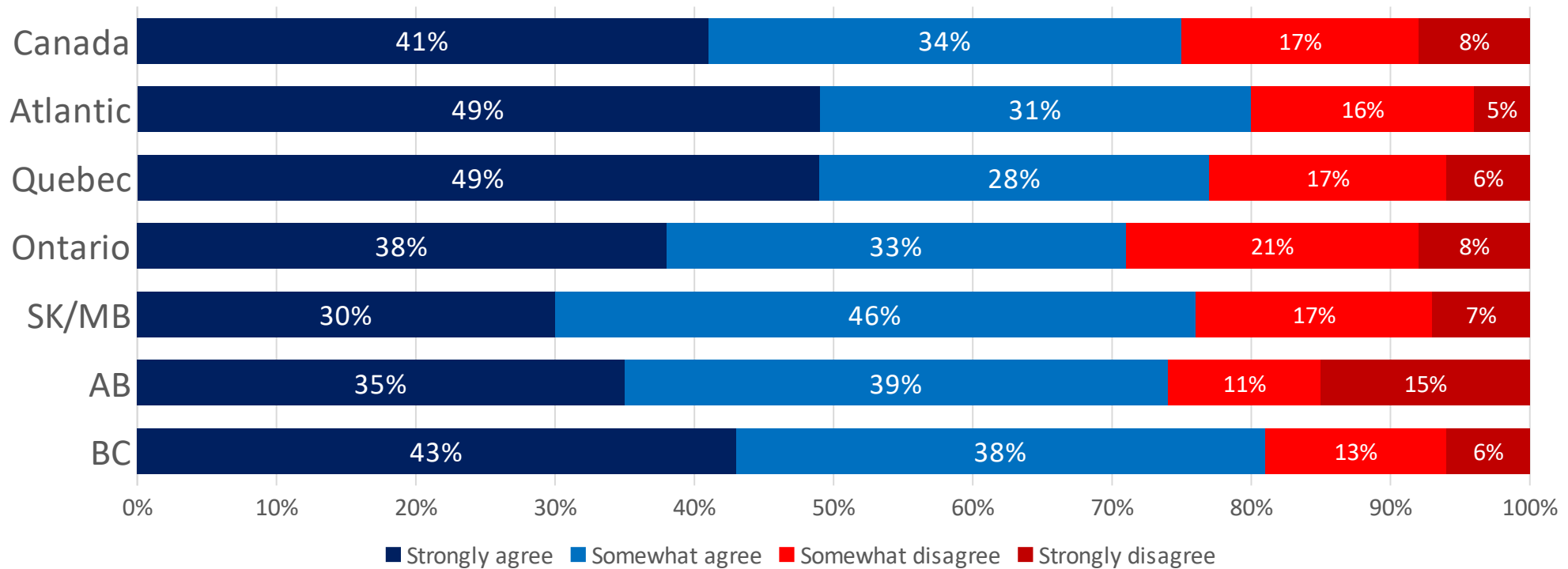
Agree or Disagree: *The Charter should guarantee a minimum income for all Canadians*



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Right to a minimum income

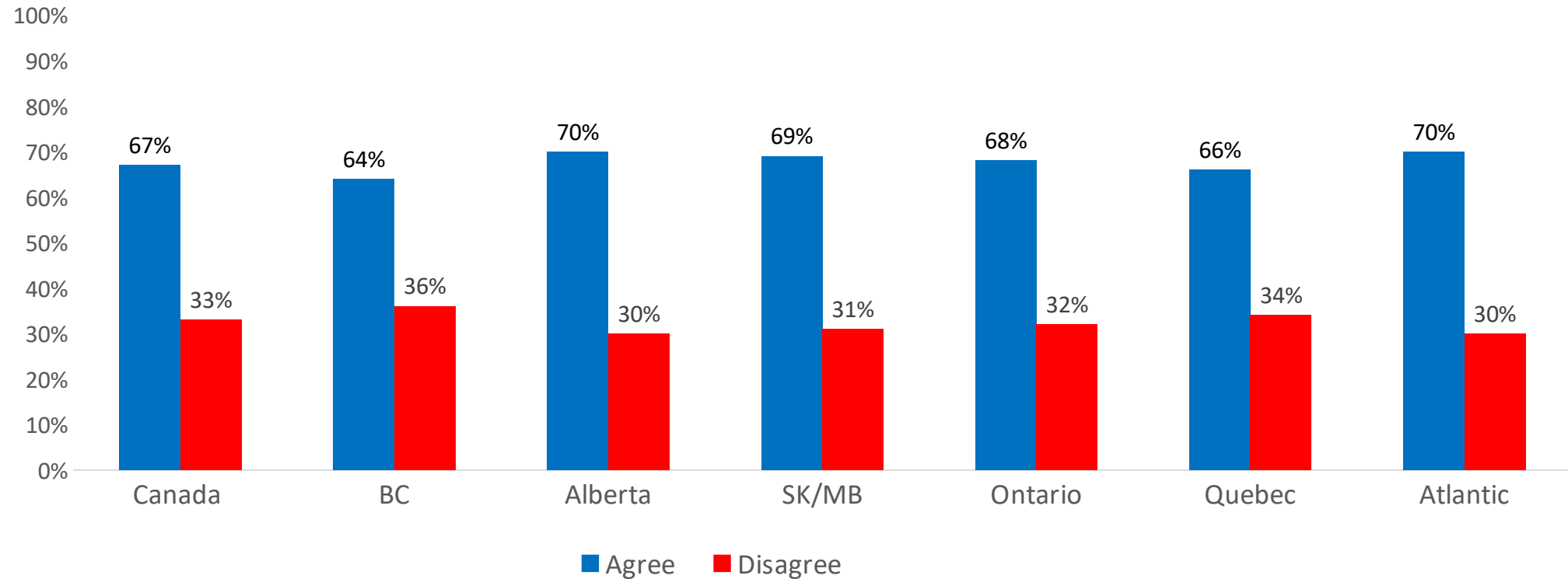
Agree or Disagree: *The Charter should guarantee a minimum income for all Canadians*



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Charter rights for illegal migrants

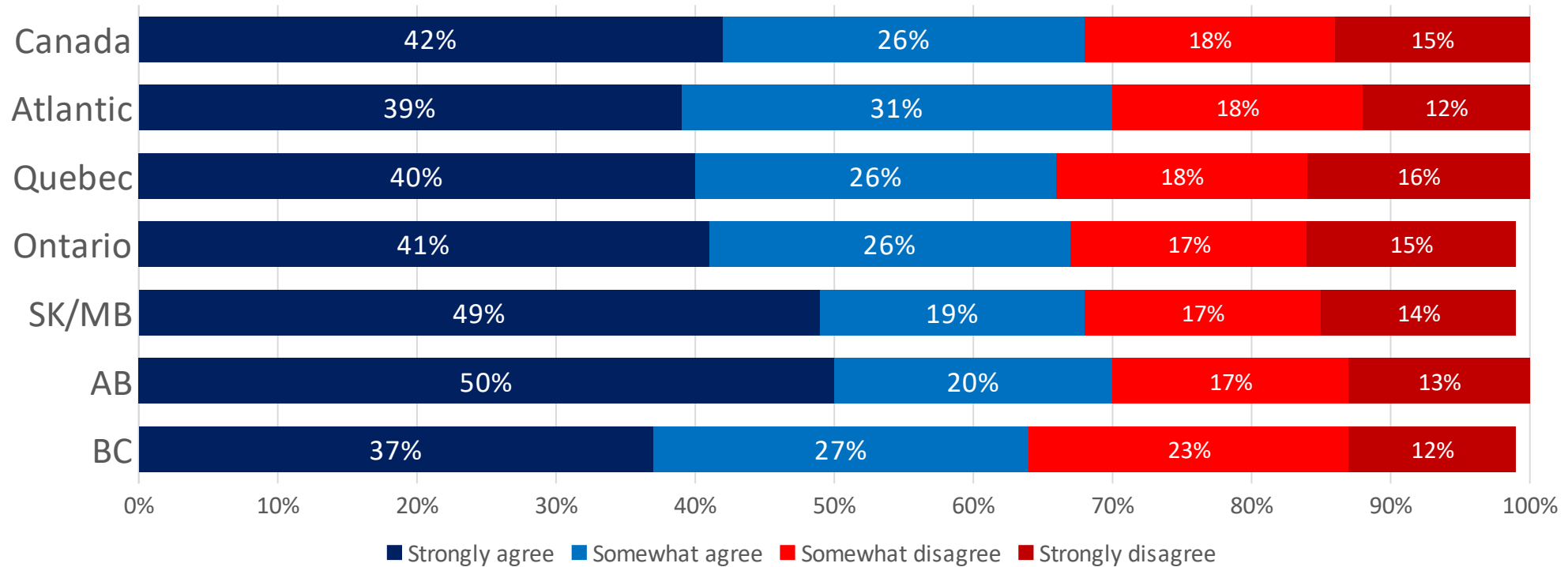
Agree or Disagree: *The Charter should not apply to persons who enter or remain in Canada illegally*



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