

CanadaLeft's

State of the Left Survey 2019



Alexis Isabel 
@lexi4prez

so much depression, anxiety, stress & suicidality is caused by capitalism. we really really need to talk about how not being able to meet our basic needs and how giving away 80% of our days to jobs that drain & exploit us leads to serious mental health issues for a lot of people

12:18 AM · 06 Oct 19 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

Survey Respondents : **113**

Survey Month: **November 2019**

Pictured: **Top CanadaLeft post of 2019**,
Twitter post by [@lexi4prez](#) | “so much depression, anxiety, stress & suicidality is caused by capitalism. We really really need to talk about how not being able to meet our basic needs and how giving away 8-% of our days to jobs that drain & exploit us leads to serious mental health issues for a lot of people”

Report by Matthew Daniels | [@mattjdan](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1. CLIMATE IS OUR RALLYING CRY.**
In nearly every question, Canadians said climate was a top issue of concern, the field where activism was inspiring them, and where we must focus further effort to build momentum and draw others into the left by examining root cause.
- 2. WE MUST FOCUS ON CLASS.**
Respondents cautioned against identity politics and using complex language or theory which gatekeep the movement under a perception of liberal elitism. A democratic movement requires wholly democratic language, and we must be clear it's the working class we champion. Simply, we need fun, simple outreach showing how capitalism robs workers of the value they create AND who profits from our declining quality of life.
- 3. CELEBRATE LEFT CULTURE.**
Social media and podcasts were repeatedly applauded for having positive impact in otherwise bleak times, and the impact of Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) in the States have benefitted Canada by affecting the conversation here ([see: Singh's response to AOC](#)) or demonstrating how we can mainstream egalitarian ideals.
- 4. IT'S TIME TO ORGANIZE OUR ORGANIZATIONS.** The final common thread was confusion on how to access progressive groups with little awareness of local action. An effort to organize organizations may not only improve promotion, but present opportunity to centralize common elements of operation and procurement, cutting cost.

Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	0
ABOUT THE SURVEY	3
INTRODUCTION	3
SURVEY PARTICIPATION BY PROVINCE	3
STATE OF CANADA'S COMMUNITY CAPITAL	4
<u>MOST STANDOUT PROGRESSIVE INDIVIDUAL OF 2019</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>MOST STANDOUT PROGRESSIVE ORGANIZATION OF 2019</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>THE LEFT'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT OF 2019</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>THE LEFT'S GREATEST FAILURE OF 2019</u>	<u>7</u>
MOST IMPORTANT LESSON OF CANADA'S 2019 ELECTION	8
COMMENTS THAT REPRESENT POPULAR SENTIMENT	8
MOST IMPORTANT PROGRESSIVE ISSUE IN CANADA RIGHT NOW	9
MOST IMPORTANT PROVINCIAL ISSUE RIGHT NOW	9
WHAT IS THE LEFT DOING WELL RIGHT NOW?	10
KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE LEFT RIGHT NOW	10
HOPEFULNESS TODAY VS 2018	11
CAUSE FOR LESS HOPE IN 2019	11
CAUSE FOR MORE HOPE IN 2019	11
HOW DO YOU CONSUME NEWS AND POLITICS?	12
# OF MEDIA PLATFORMS USED PER PERSON	12
<u>2019 RECOMMENDED MEDIA SOURCES FOR CANADIANS</u>	<u>13</u>
ADVICE TO CANADIAN MEDIA	14
WHAT TOOLS SHOULD THE LEFT BE BETTER USING	14
WHAT TOPICS DO YOU WANT MORE INSTRUCTION ON?	15
WHAT ARE YOU MOST HOPEFUL FOR IN 2020?	16
WHAT ARE YOU MOST CONCERNED FOR IN 2020?	16

WHAT WOULD GET YOU MORE INVOLVED IN THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT IN 2020?	17
IN WHAT AREAS (GEOGRAPHIC, DEMOGRAPHIC, OR POLICY-WIDE) DO YOU SEE A NEED FOR MORE ACTIVISM?	18
WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD THE LEFT BE ASKING?	18
Would you be interested in a 2-3 day online conference to network and strategize with Canadian progressives on an annual basis?	19
Would you be interested in a skill share network to build capacity with progressive allies?	19
Would you be interested in an annual award ceremony to celebrate and publicize people and achievements from the left?	19
Would you support a "progressive primary" between the NDP and Greens to ensure a single mainstream candidate for progressive voters?	19
HOW INVOLVED ARE YOU IN THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT?	20
HOW LIKELY HOW ARE YOU TO ATTEND...	20

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Tools Used

- [Google Forms](#) for Polling
- [Google Sheets](#) for Compiling
- [Google Docs](#) for Reporting
- [Contact Us](#) for questions or support with running your own survey

About CanadaLeft

- [Reddit.com/r/CanadaLeft](https://www.reddit.com/r/CanadaLeft)
- Launched March 31, 2019
- 18k+ monthly readers
- 5k+ members

INTRODUCTION

All good organizing is a process. Ongoing, reflective, and improving. While the results herein may paint a grim picture of a fractured leftist movement, the majority of respondents said they were more hopeful now than in 2018, and while “Nothing” was the majority response to “**What is the Left Doing Well Right Now?**” (even after troll responses were filtered out), respondents clearly expressed where improvement was necessary and an appetite to further engage with the process in good faith.

We hope the ideas herein will inspire your imagination to action. Amid the climate crisis and political cowardice we face, it’s never been more important to raise your voice in support of a better future with the specific appreciation that this is a process. You will not always say or do all the right things, and the organizations you support will not always reciprocate as well as you deserve, but if we acknowledge that this is a process, that we can always do better tomorrow, and that reaching out to build collective momentum will help us learn those lessons quicker, then we have a real chance at turning things around.

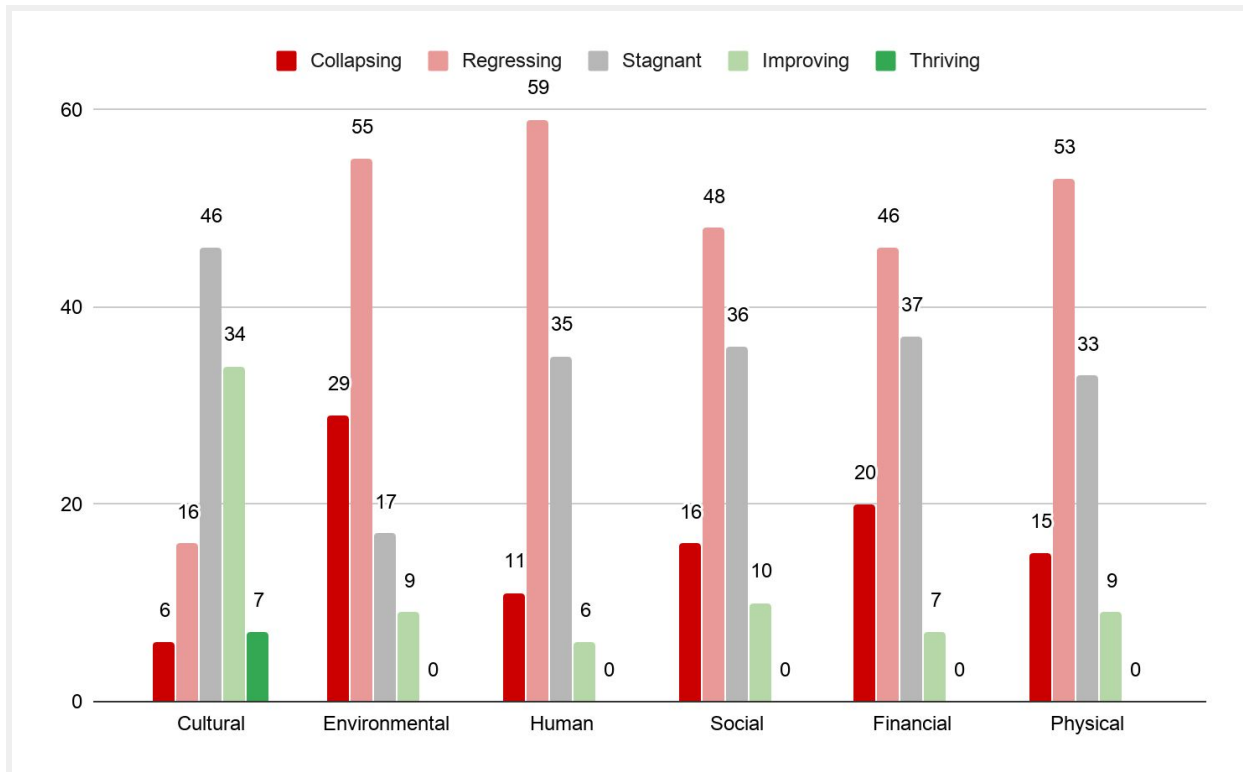
Thank you for your time.

Wherever you go from here, please consider CanadaLeft an ally in your endeavours and [be in touch](#) for any little thing.

****This survey is a live document and will continue to be edited for several weeks before being more broadly shared.***

***We will soon be specifically addressing action items herein - particularly in regard to the positive reception of an annual online conference and a centralized skill share network.*

STATE OF CANADA'S COMMUNITY CAPITAL



About

Cultural Capital = media, food, music, etc.

Environmental Capital = natural resources, climate, etc.

Human Capital = health, education, etc.

Social Capital = connectedness, services, etc.

Financial Capital = economy, stability, etc.

Physical Capital = infrastructure, utilities, etc.

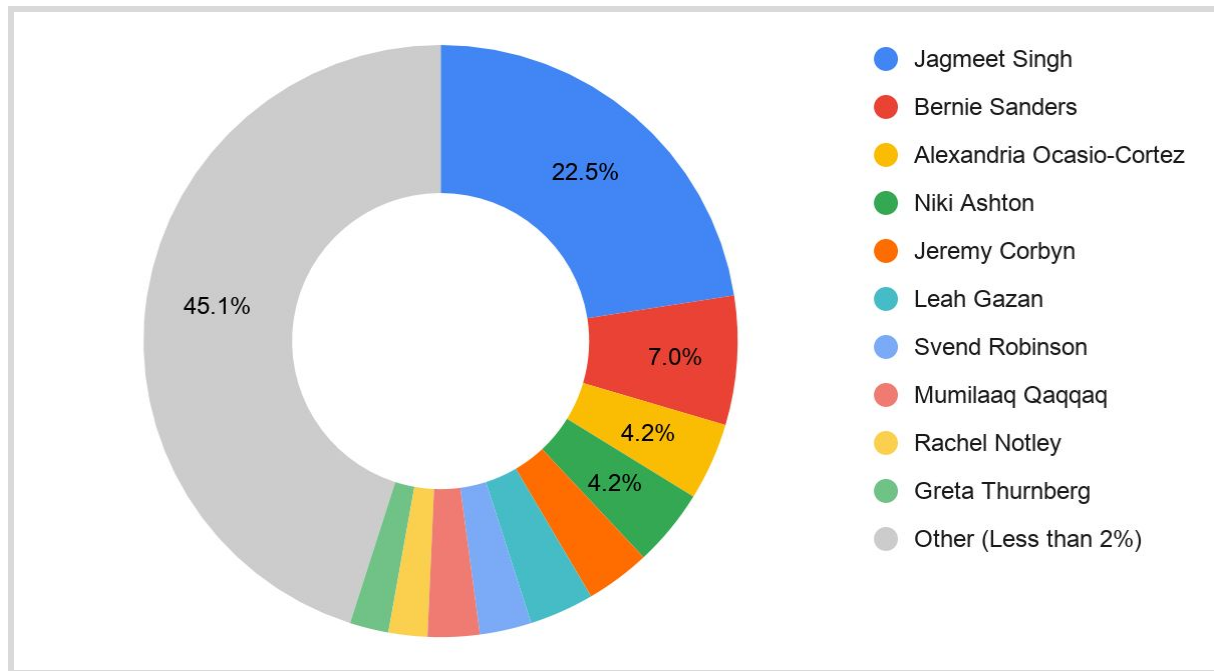
Cultural capital is the only category with a positive score, with later comments revealing strength is perceived due to increasing leftist media sources (podcasts, online groups, social media) and not the current mainstream media landscape.

The severely negative environmental score reflects the urgency Canadians repeatedly put on climate action throughout this survey.

Analysis

With only one category receiving more than 10 positive votes, Canadian leftists are clear that this is a pivotal time.

MOST STANDOUT PROGRESSIVE INDIVIDUAL OF 2019



Analysis

Jagmeet Singh was by far the most celebrated Canadian, broadly applauded for advancing working class interests (tax the rich, dental/pharmacare) and championing equality in the media spotlight. Support for him and the NDP is not blind though, many expressed hesitancy throughout the survey over the NDP watering down leftist policy (interest free student loans VS free education) and failing to mobilize between elections.

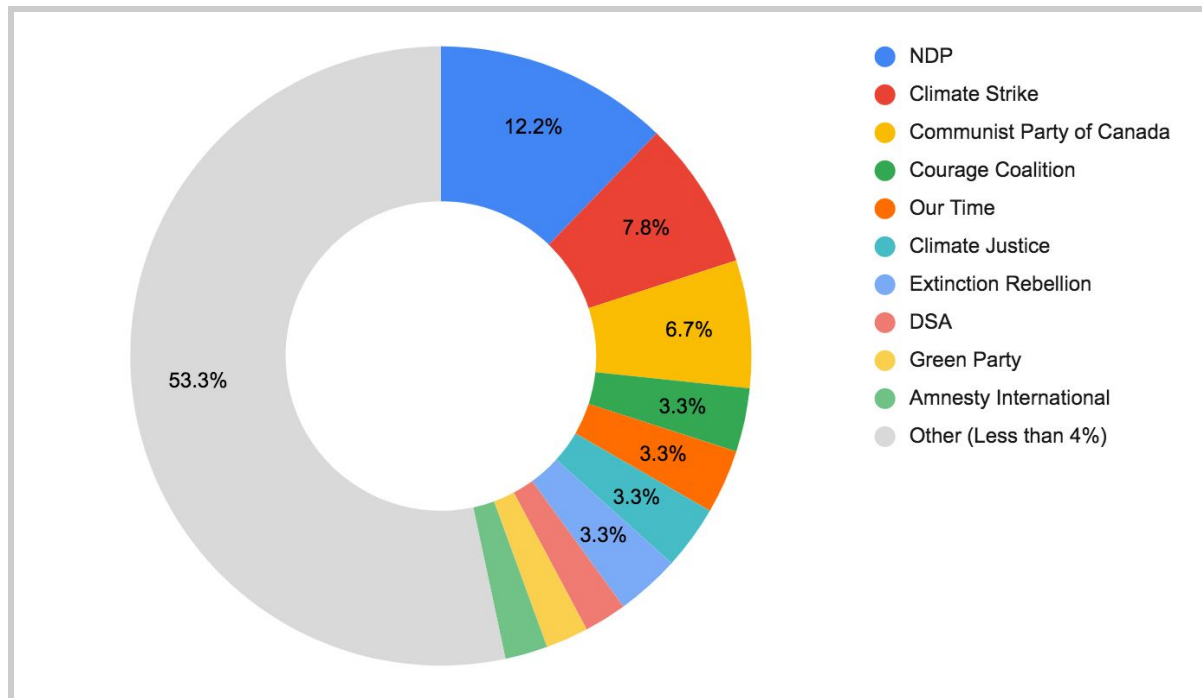
The most common factors in Other nominees were NDP membership, climate activism, or being an active voice on social media.

Full List of Nominees

Jagmeet Singh, Bernie Sanders, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Niki Ashton, Jeremy Corbyn, Leah

Gazan, Svend Robinson, Mumilaaq Qaqqaq, Rachel Notley, Greta Thurnberg, Matthew Green, James Wilt, Tulsi Gabbard, Christo Aivalis, Ilhan Omar, Kalden Dhatsenpa, Diana Yoon, J. Moufawad-Paul, Andrew Yang, Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, Autumn Peltier, Sandy Hudson, Mexie, Charlie Angus, Nima Machouf, Yves Engler, Desmond Cole, Clara Sorrenti, David Suzuki, Andray Domise, Peter Bevan-baker, Max Blumenthal, Emma Jackson, Emily Leedham, Kanahus Manuel, Amita Kuttner, Liz Rowley Manon Masse, Nora Loreto, Elizabeth May, Thought Slime, Clement Badra, John Horgan, Ajamu Baraka, Alex Tyrell, Maude Barlow, Laurel Collins, Khelsilem, Paul Falvo, Alexandre Boulerville, Don Davies, Peter Julian, Jenny Kwan, Daniel Blaikie, Sophie Thiebaut, Paul Taylor, Christine Saulnier, Min Sook Lee, Yvonne Hanson, John McDonnell, Joel Harden, Elizabeth Warren, Alykhan Pabani, Justin Trudeau, Cindy Blackstock, Noah Shebib

MOST STANDOUT PROGRESSIVE ORGANIZATION OF 2019



Analysis

The NDP won the vote count, but climate groups had the larger vote share overall.

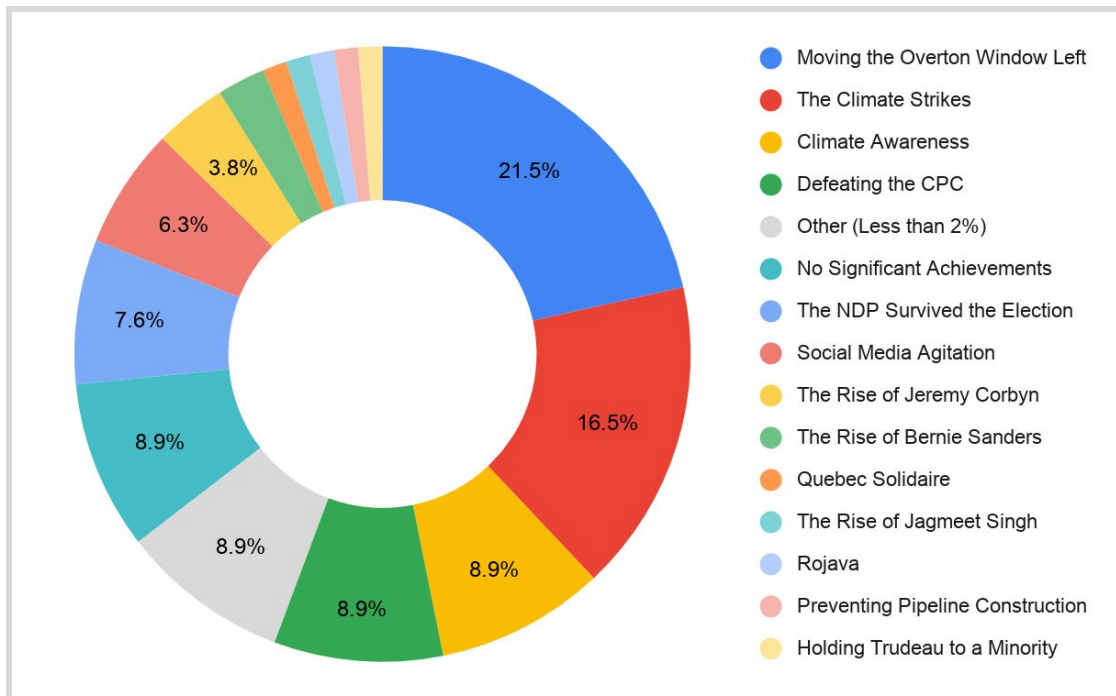
Also of note, many respondents chose to skip this question, or specifically state no group was worth mentioning. This may indicate potential for progressive groups to be more vocal in celebrating their achievements across social media to ensure the value they contribute remains top of mind.

Full List of Nominees

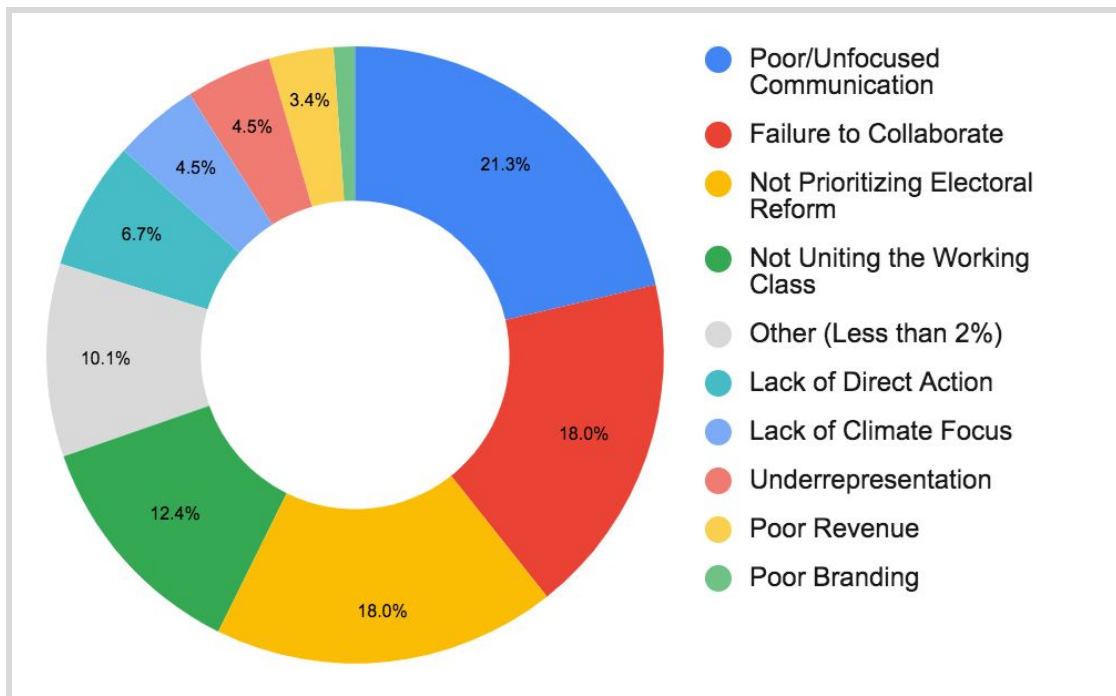
NDP, Climate Strike, Communist Party of Canada, Courage Coalition, Our Time, Climate Justice, Extinction Rebellion, DSA, Green Party, Amnesty International, Fridays For Futures, Unions, the IWW, Alberta

Advantage, PCR-RCP, Labour Party, Saskatchewan Crown Corps, CUPW, Foodsters United, LPC, Vox, R/LateStageCapitalism, Kurdistan Workers Party, Syrian Democratic Forces, Sex Workers Union, Indigenous Activists, Free Grassy, North 99, UNYA, BC Eco-socialist Party, Beaver Hills Warriors, Quebec Solidaire, Confucius Institute, Earth Strike UAW, York U BDS, Independent Jewish Voices For Peace, Parkdale Tenants Association, Vancouver Tenants Union, CCPA, Suzuki Foundation, Progress Alberta, Students For Direct Action, 350 Canada, Ricochet Media, Tapiriit Kanatami, Canadian Association For The Deaf, Majority Report, CUPE, Anti-Racist Canada, Bell Let's Talk, Trans Lifeline, Repair Café, Sunrise Movement, FairVote

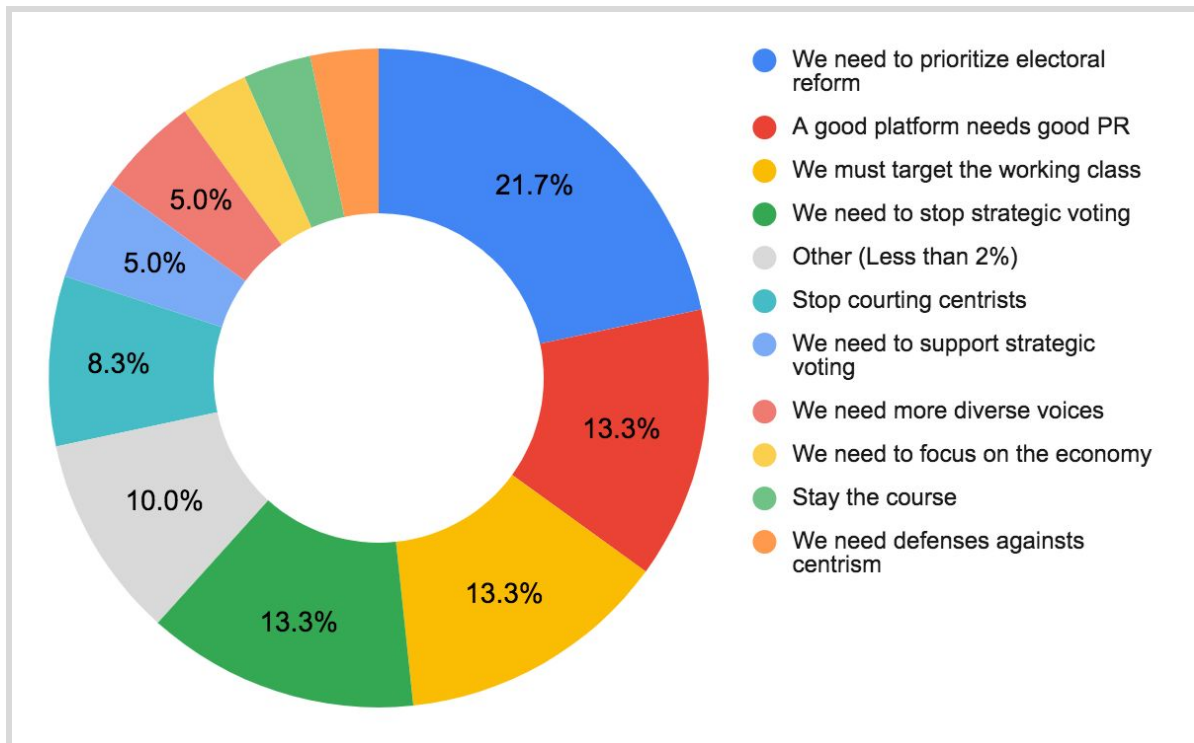
THE LEFT'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT OF 2019



THE LEFT'S GREATEST FAILURE OF 2019



MOST IMPORTANT LESSON OF CANADA'S 2019 ELECTION



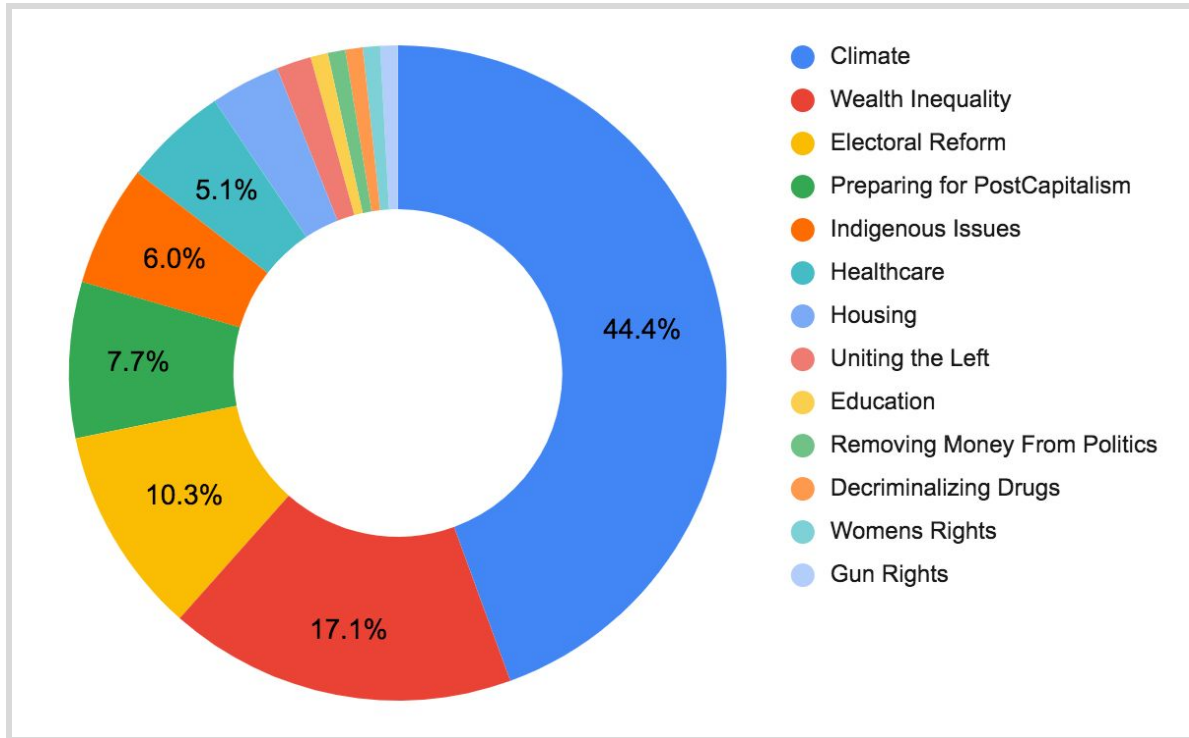
COMMENTS THAT REPRESENT POPULAR SENTIMENT

be bold. get people angry. clearly Bernie's success is across all types of constituencies. He's not only winning in cities like the NDP does. We need to eat into the conservatives base. Appeal to working class people directly. Make the new dynamic the wealthy elite vs the common person.

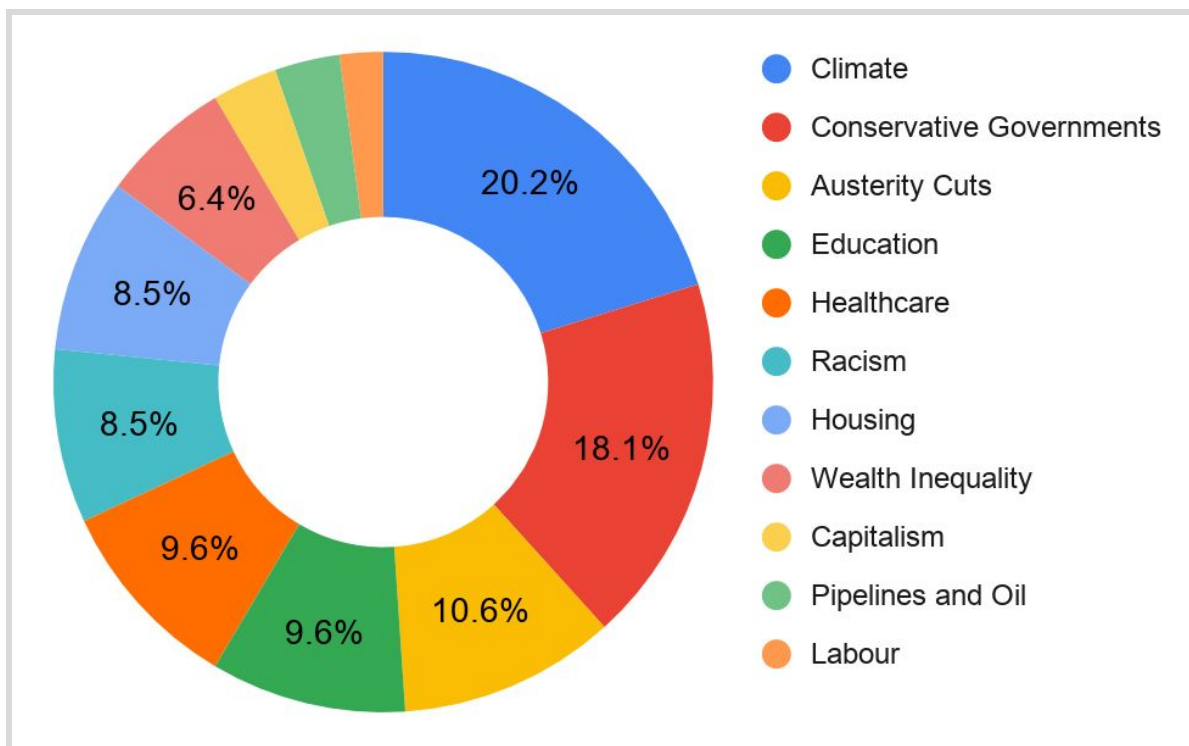
'Strategic voting' means 'vote Liberal.' If we are looking to remedy this, we need to mobilize and create media (videos, infographics, billboards, etc.) that express our foundational beliefs. Talking with progressive MPs (maybe asking them to tweet their support) and aligning our interests with organizations that we may have things in common with will strengthen our ability to find helpful resources to grow the movement & reach new people.

Change the electoral system because the current one is biased against progressive parties. Find better ways to engage people OUTSIDE of electoral campaigns. Create momentum, and include people for actual change, not just a vote.

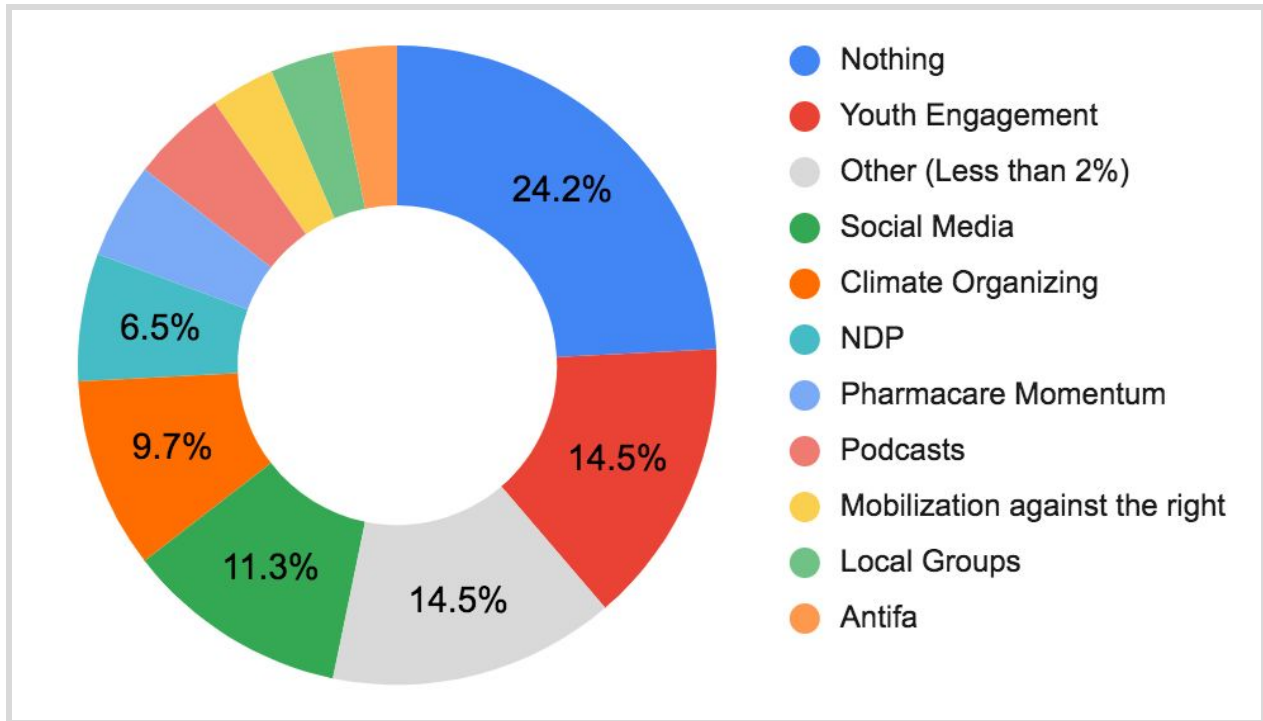
MOST IMPORTANT PROGRESSIVE ISSUE IN CANADA RIGHT NOW



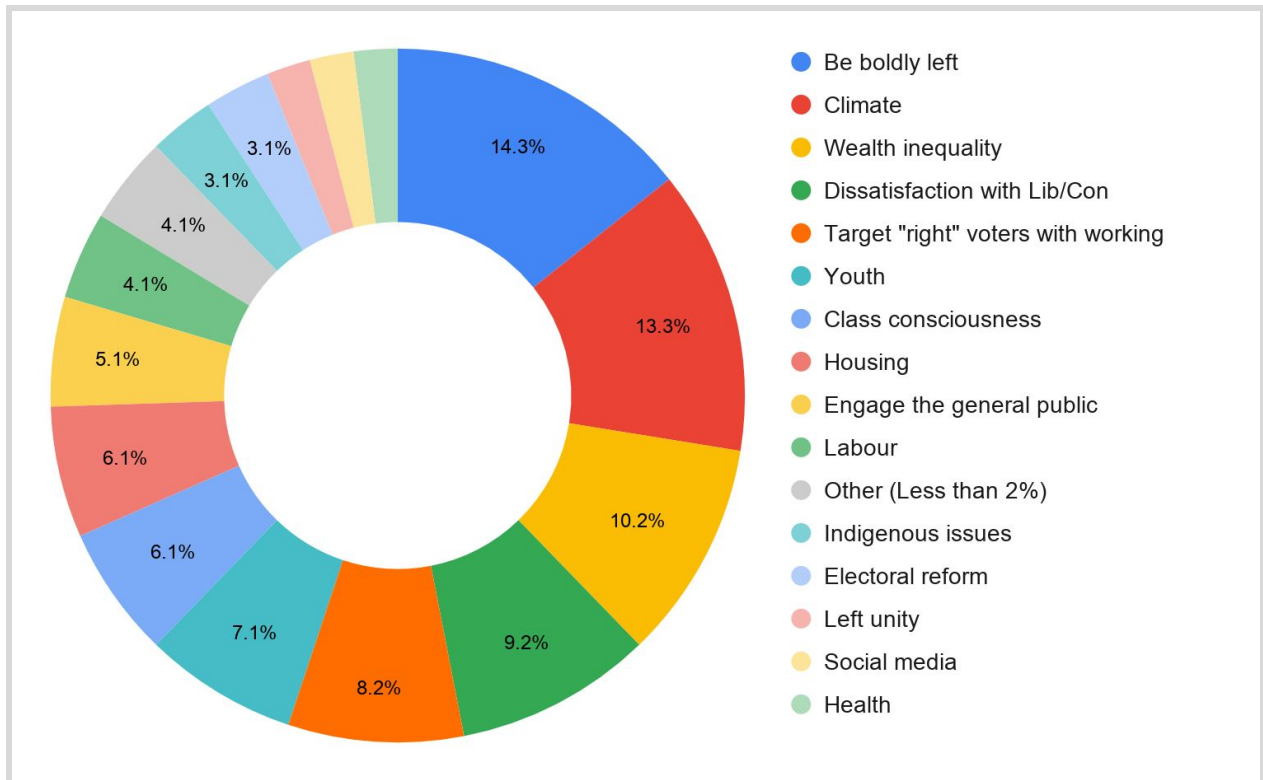
MOST IMPORTANT PROVINCIAL ISSUE RIGHT NOW



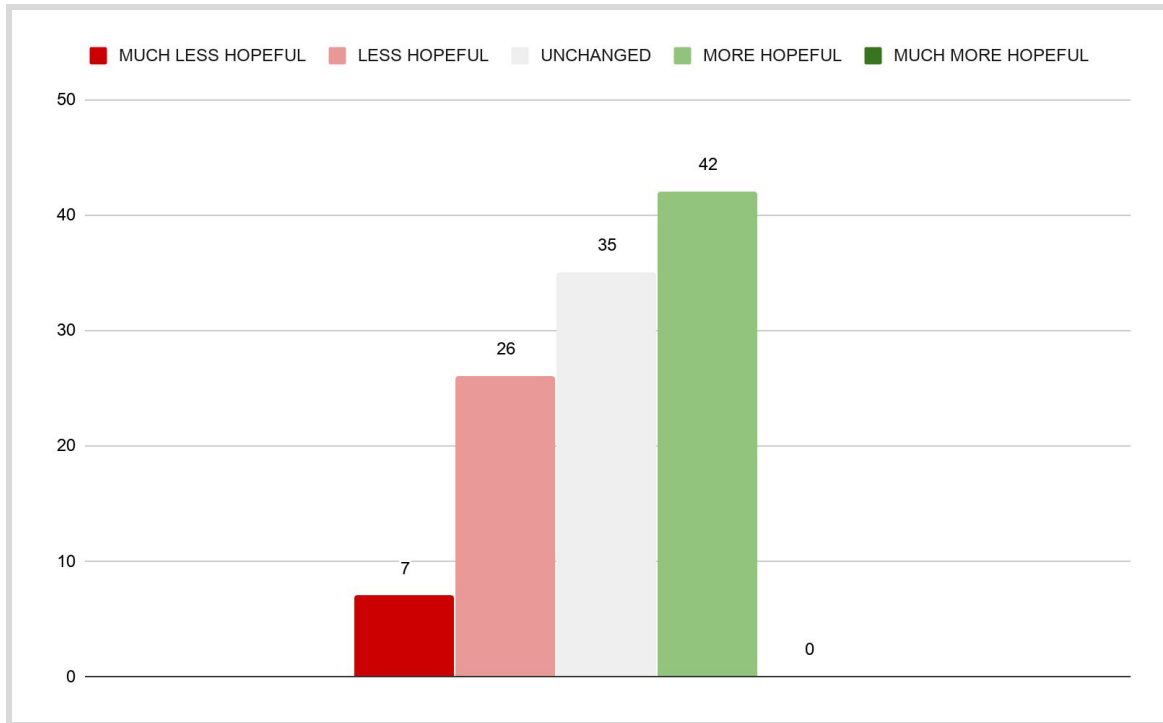
WHAT IS THE LEFT DOING WELL RIGHT NOW?



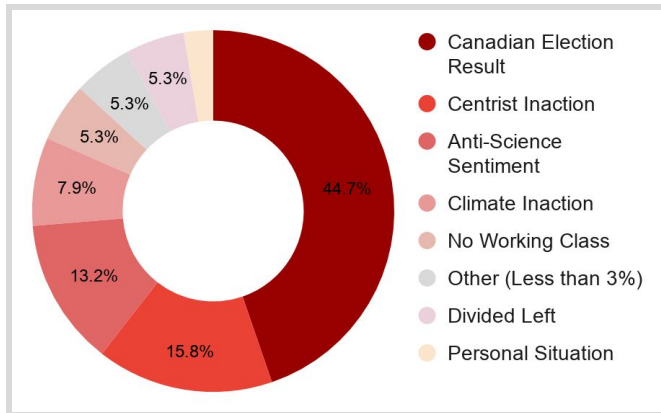
KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE LEFT RIGHT NOW



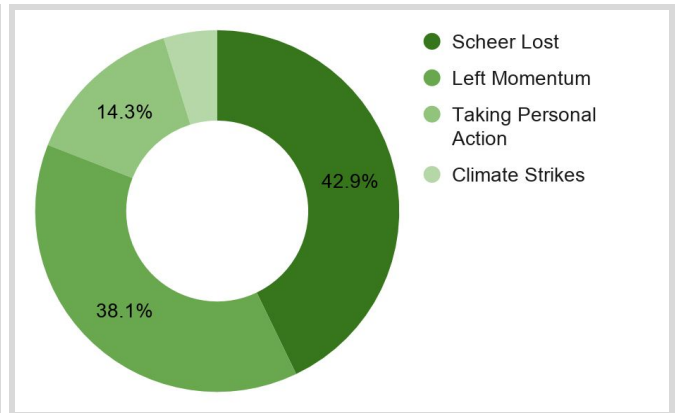
HOPEFULNESS TODAY VS 2018



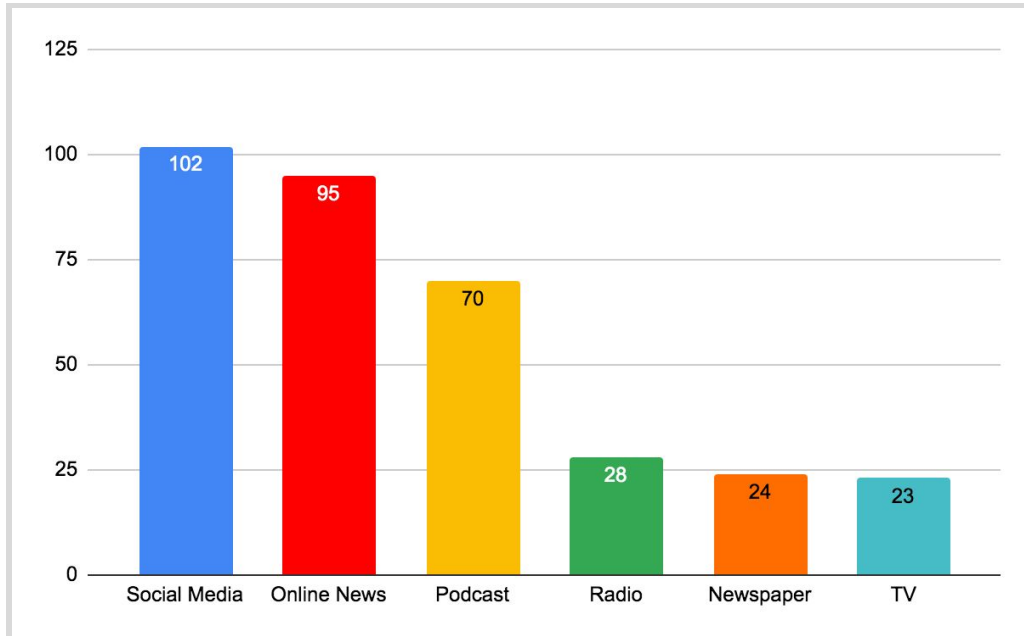
CAUSE FOR LESS HOPE IN 2019



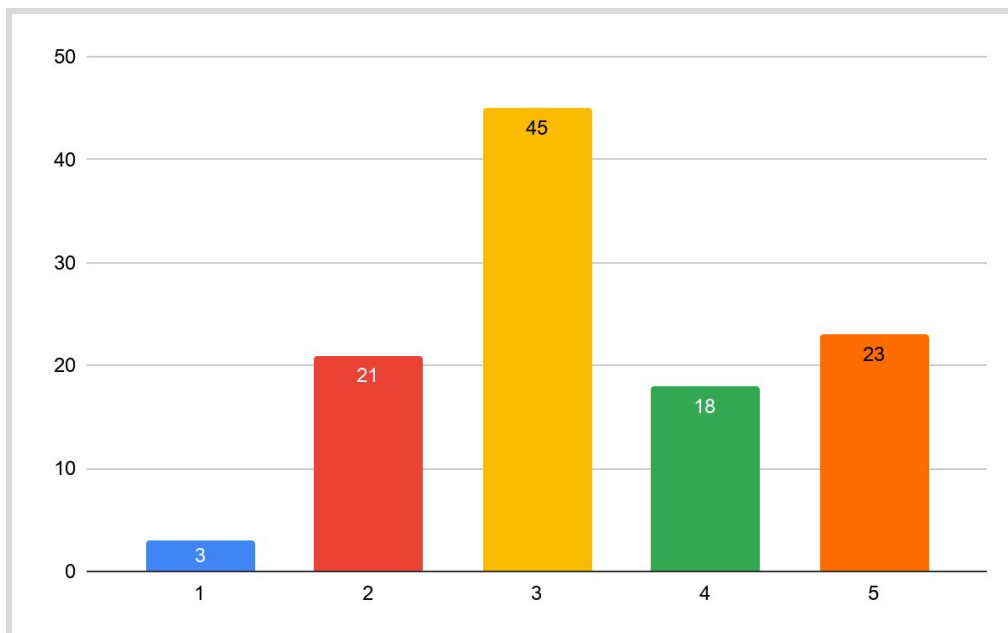
CAUSE FOR MORE HOPE IN 2019



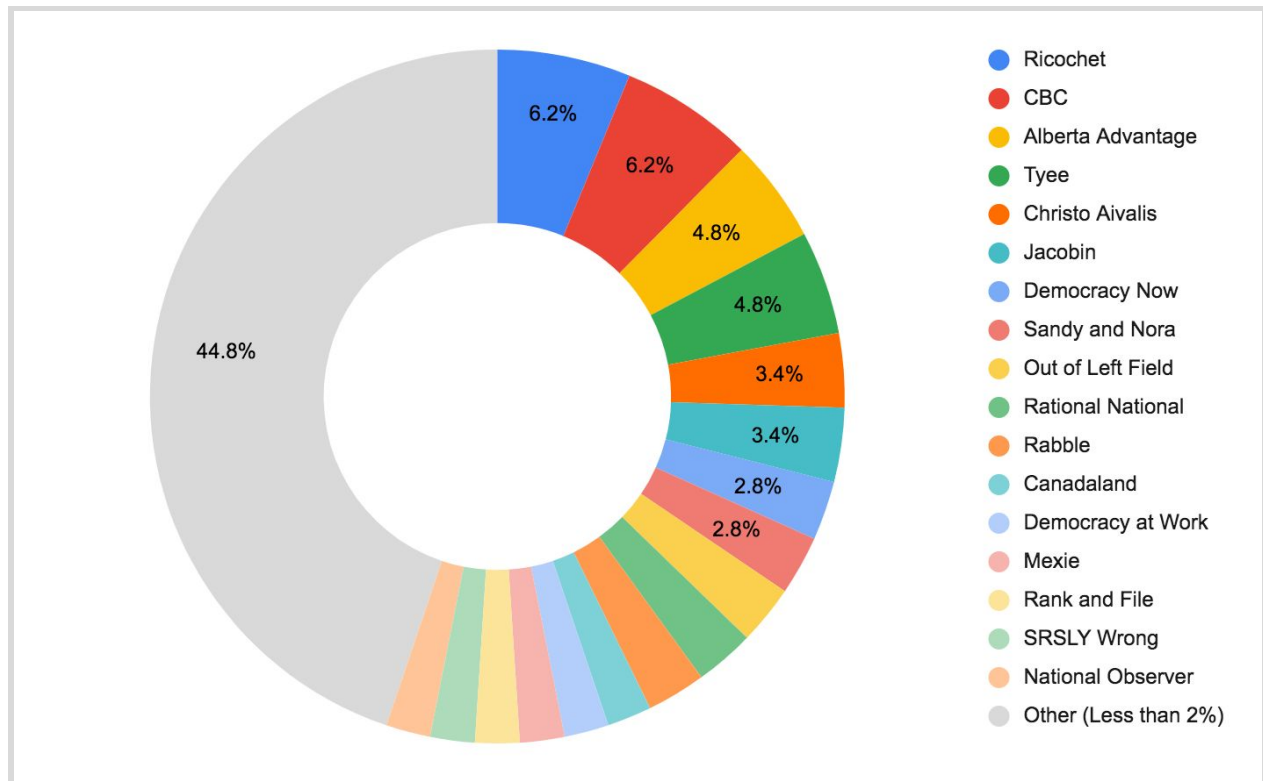
HOW DO YOU CONSUME NEWS AND POLITICS?



OF MEDIA PLATFORMS USED PER PERSON



2019 RECOMMENDED MEDIA SOURCES FOR CANADIANS



Analysis

Ricochet and **CBC** were the most recommended sources for media, with specific praise given to Ricochet for organizing a podcast network (courtesy of André Goulet) and seemingly being the only organization seeking to network and centralize any leftist activity.

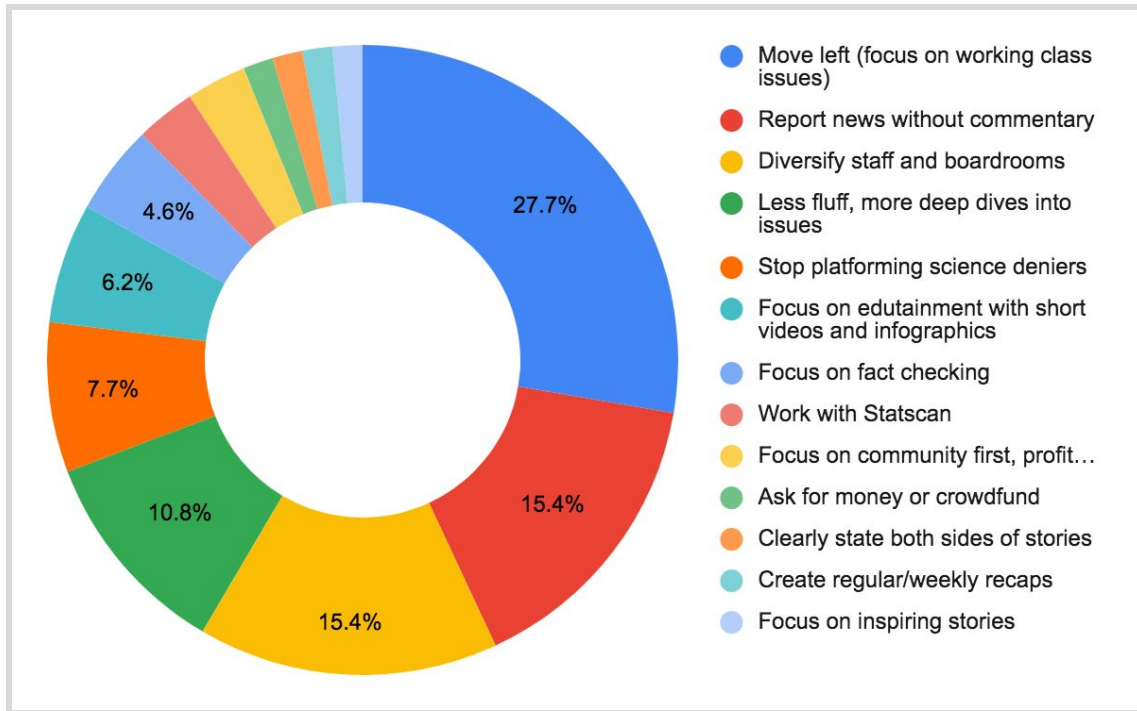
Ricochet's podcast network includes: 49th Parahell, Alberta Advantage, Christo Aivalis, Kino Lefter, Progress Report, Unpacking the News, and others.

Full List of Nominees

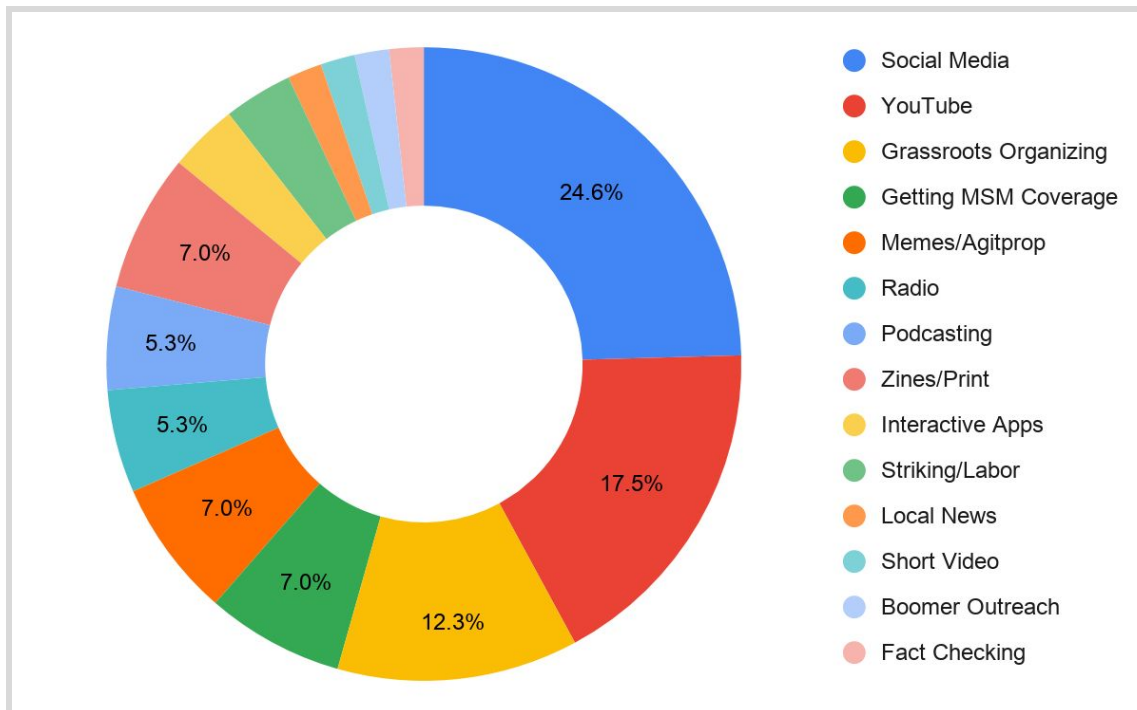
Ricochet, CBC, Alberta Advantage, The Tye, Christo Aivalis, Jacobin, Democracy Now, Sandy

and Nora, Out of Left Field, Rational National, Rabble, Canadaland, Democracy at Work, Mexie, Rank and File, SRSLY Wrong, National Observer, TeleSur, Rob Rousseau, Thought Slime, Press Progress, r/BreadTube, Pitchfork, Chapo Trap House, Current Affairs, Canadian Dimension, Grayzone, The Guardian, Talk Politics, Statscan, Vaush, Pigpuncher, Shaun, Three Arrows, r/OnGuardForThee, r/LateStageCapitalism, r/FuckTheAltRight, r/Socialism, The Serfs, Macleans, AntiFada, CTV, Tapestry, Luke Savage, Andray Domise, Nora Loreto, Baffler Discourse, CCRA, The Economist, Briarpatch, Loud and Clear, Commons, Oppo, Frontburner, Heated, Xinhua, Global Times, Dog Island, Crackdown, RT, TorStar, Walrus, BBC, Financial Times, Joe Rogan, Secular Talk, The Hill, Friends Like These, Power and Politics, Montreal Antifa

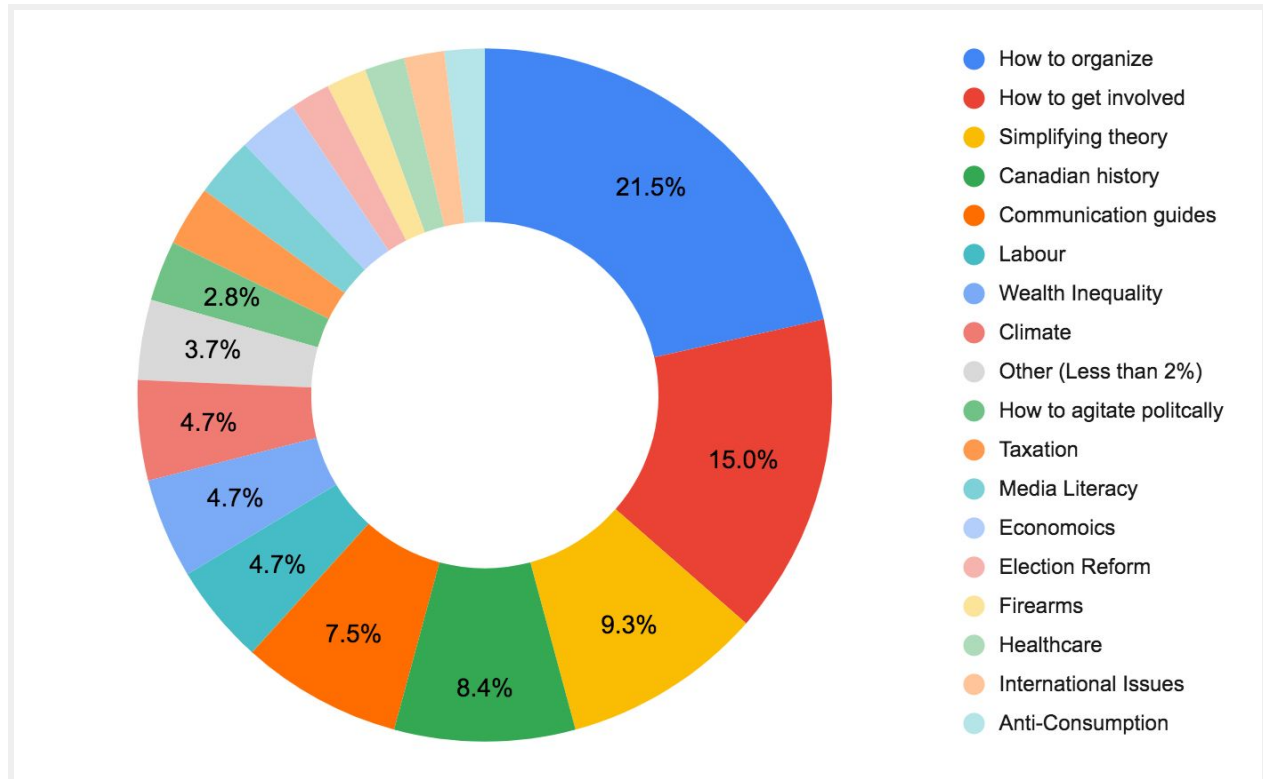
ADVICE TO CANADIAN MEDIA



WHAT TOOLS SHOULD THE LEFT BE BETTER USING



WHAT TOPICS DO YOU WANT MORE INSTRUCTION ON?



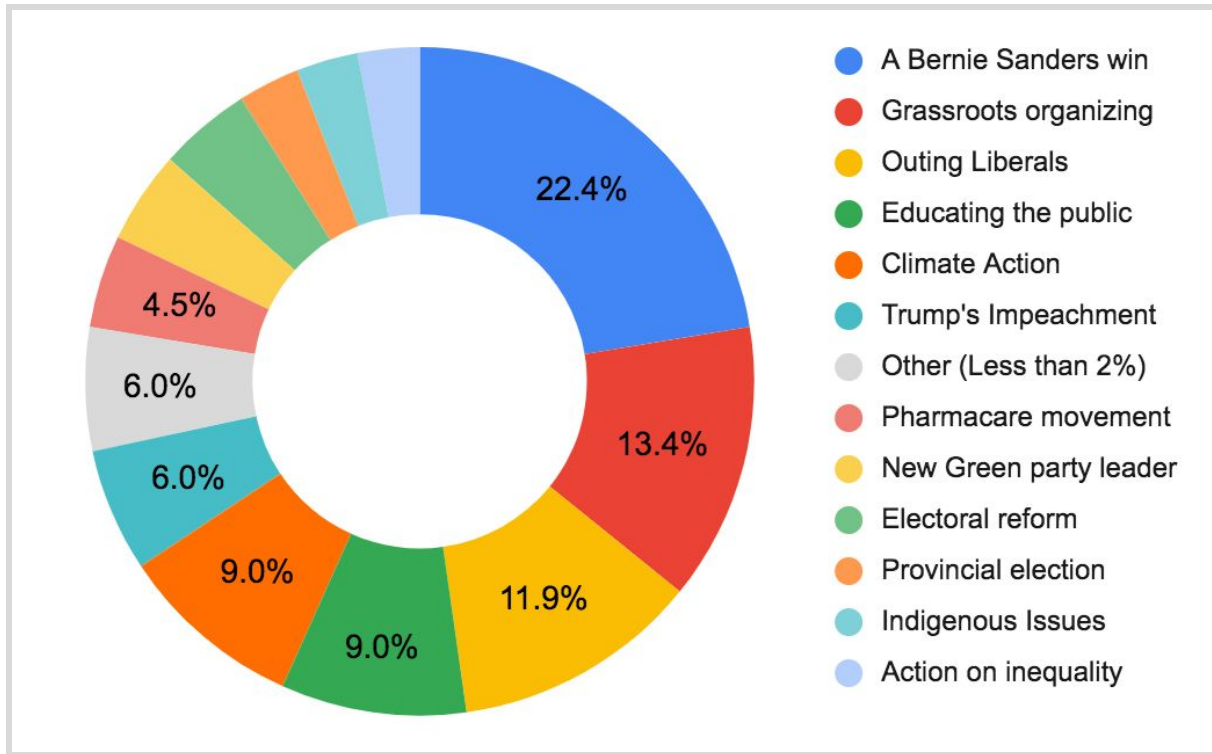
COMMENTS THAT REPRESENT POPULAR SENTIMENT

I want a video that explains the basics of socialism and how one would go about establishing socialism should a revolution be successful. I think that many leftists lack the practical knowledge of socialist thought, myself included.

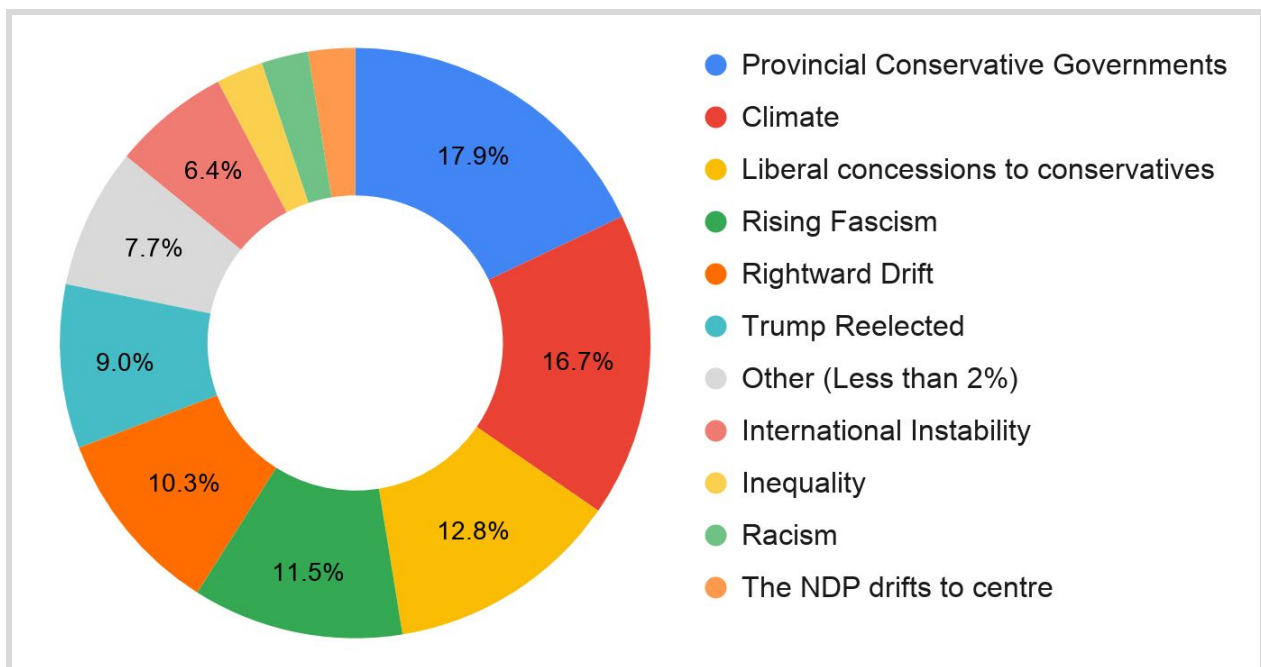
I think I'd like to see more historical content based on the Canadian left, how to form Unions in your province, how to navigate Canadian media, how to create your own Canadian news brand or platform, how and where to learn about the basics of Canadian politics on a local level, how to get more involved in Canadian politics, and how to express your voice loaded to Canadian politicians

Basic marxist theory, foundational content with regards to imperialism and the peace movement, how to find and join organizations.

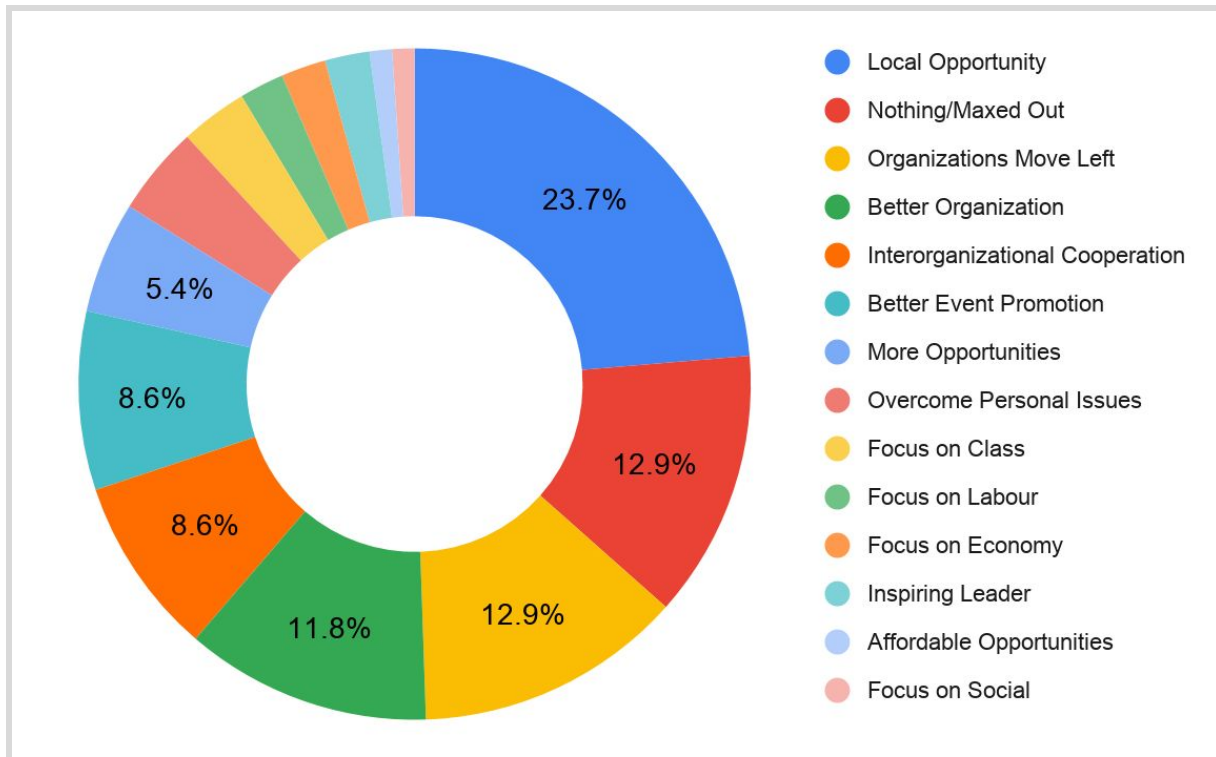
WHAT ARE YOU MOST HOPEFUL FOR IN 2020?



WHAT ARE YOU MOST CONCERNED FOR IN 2020?



WHAT WOULD GET YOU MORE INVOLVED IN THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT IN 2020?



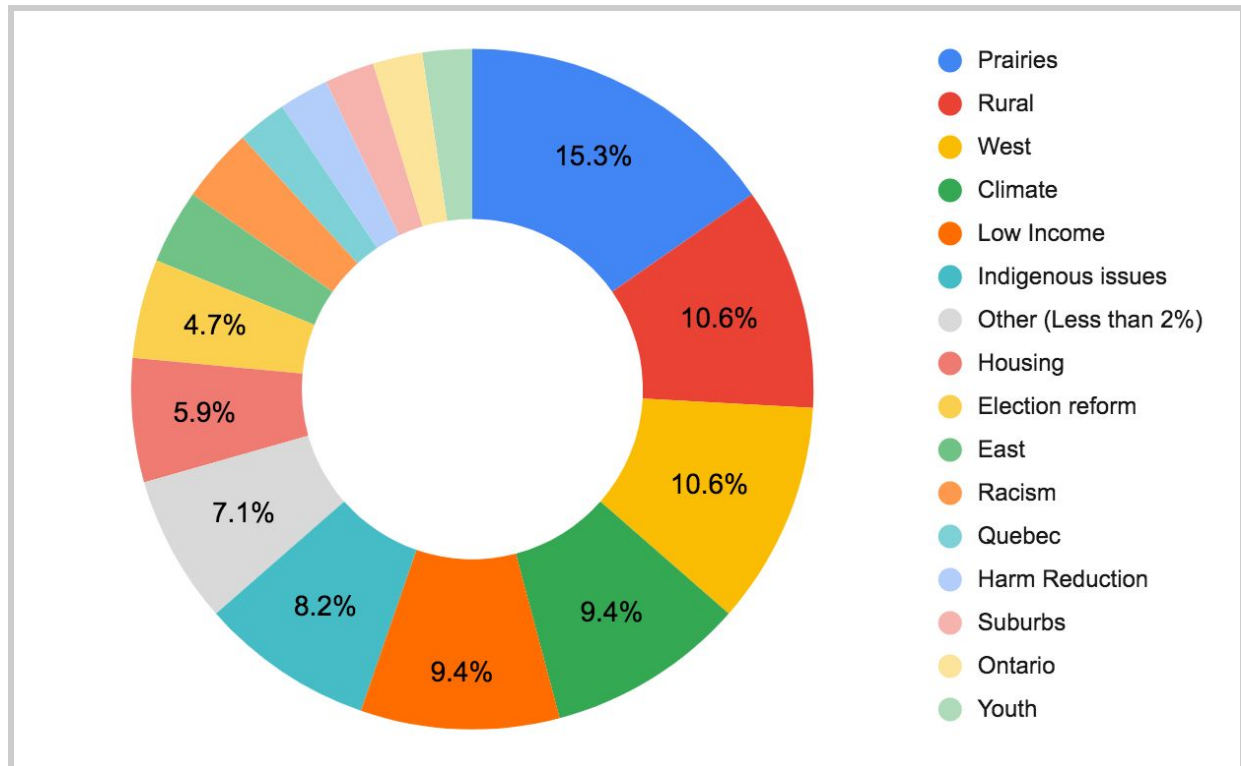
COMMENTS THAT REPRESENT POPULAR SENTIMENT

More local organization. I live in KW and I feel like I'm always the last to know about things happening in my community, especially when it comes to political events. I have no issue with a national movement and would gladly donate \$10 or so but I am much more inclined to help my own community and learn more about how to organize effectively in a hands-on environment.

Actual leftist movements. Neo-liberal movements like Extinction Rebellion only go so far, refusing to fight the dual oppressions of state and capital, and have a strong eurocentric/colonial bias.

I'd be more involved if I could afford to be. I have to work a side hustle on top of my two main gigs just to survive, and I have no time or money leftover to do activist activities.

IN WHAT AREAS (GEOGRAPHIC, DEMOGRAPHIC, OR POLICY-WIDE) DO YOU SEE A NEED FOR MORE ACTIVISM?



WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD THE LEFT BE ASKING?

COMMENTS THAT REPRESENT POPULAR SENTIMENT

What is the name of the Indigenous country/ies I am in, what are the nations of this/these country/ies and what is the history and systems in place?

How do we look to non-lefties?

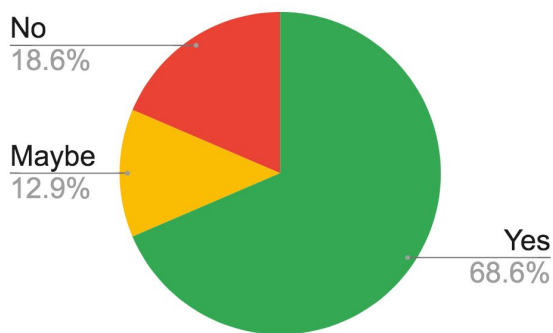
What social media platforms do we need to target? Facebook (to capture centrists, and the right), YouTube (whole spectrum), Twitter (leftists + far-leftists), Instagram (whole spectrum) and Reddit (leftists + far-leftists).

How can we engage the youth? Easy and quick to consume media that is easy to share, and has a polished aesthetic

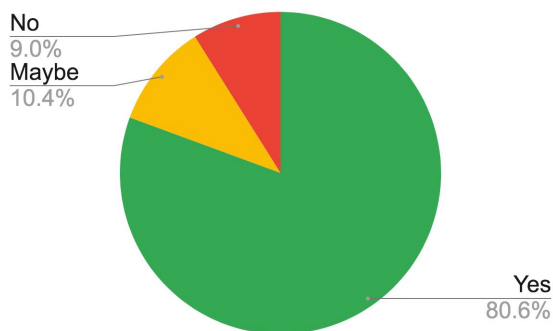
How can we sell the Canadian public on unions/Labour Party? This is one of the most important ones. I feel like Canadians don't understand how important unions are, how they shaped some of the most important parts of Canadian politics, how they work/benefit other countries (Germany is a great example). I think creating more labour/union centric memes would be super helpful.

NEW IDEAS FOR 2020:

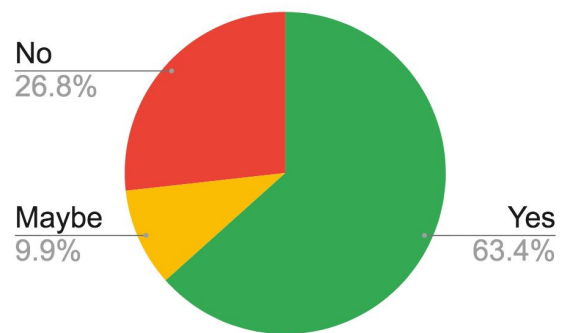
Would you be interested in a 2-3 day online conference to network and strategize with Canadian progressives on an annual basis?



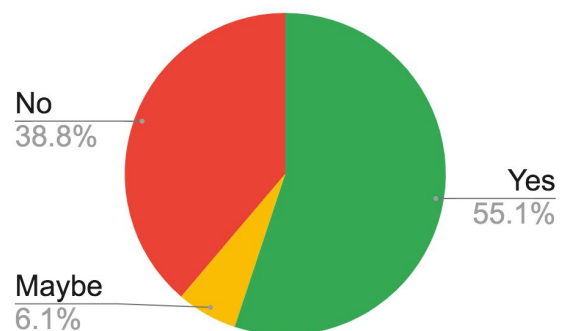
Would you be interested in a skill share network to build capacity with progressive allies?



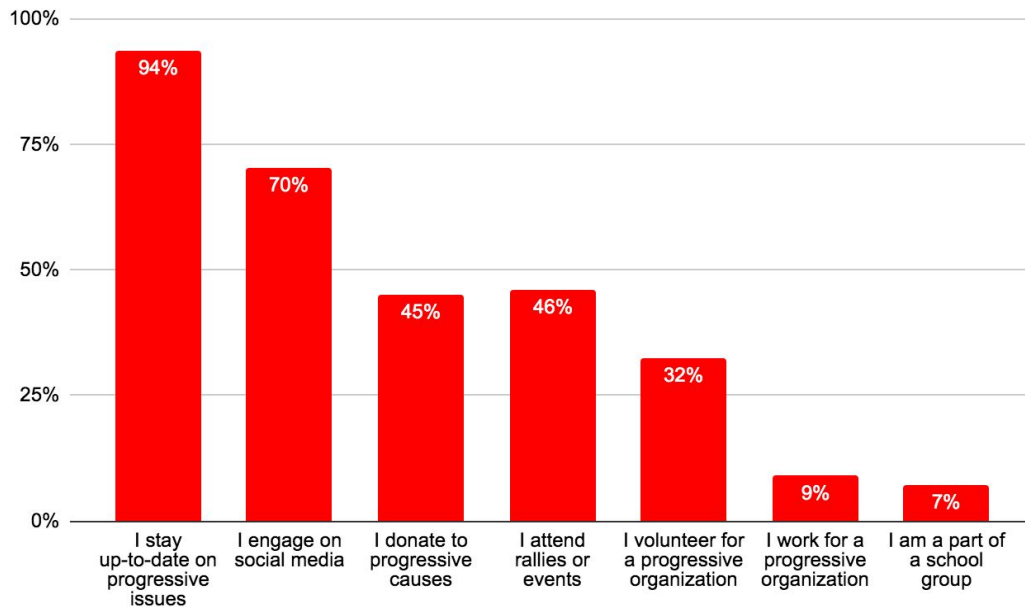
Would you be interested in an annual award ceremony to celebrate and publicize people and achievements from the left?



Would you support a "progressive primary" between the NDP and Greens to ensure a single mainstream candidate for progressive voters?



HOW INVOLVED ARE YOU IN THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT?



HOW LIKELY HOW ARE YOU TO ATTEND...

