

Tracking Public Priorities



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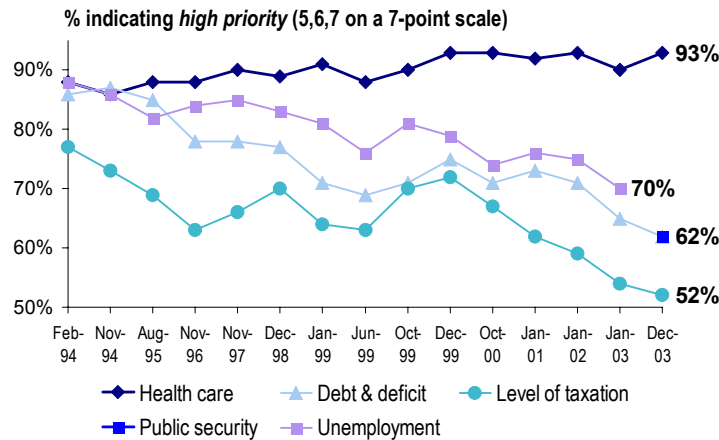
Overview of Recent Trends

- Everyone wants a tax cut but...
 - ❖ According to several different tests, taxes/tax cuts are a modest priority (at best)
 - ❖ Moreover, support for tax cuts (vs. Other priorities) has been declining steadily over the past decade
 - ❖ The broad preferences for human investment priorities vs. Fiscal priorities has tilted to the investment side
 - ✓ Regional, demographic and ideological fragmentation

- Data do not suggest that Canadians are looking for "big government" or an enlargement of the state but rather that the top priorities, notably human investment priorities, are being cited as much more important than the fiscal priorities, and by a widening margin in recent years.

Longer-Term Tracking of Specific Priorities

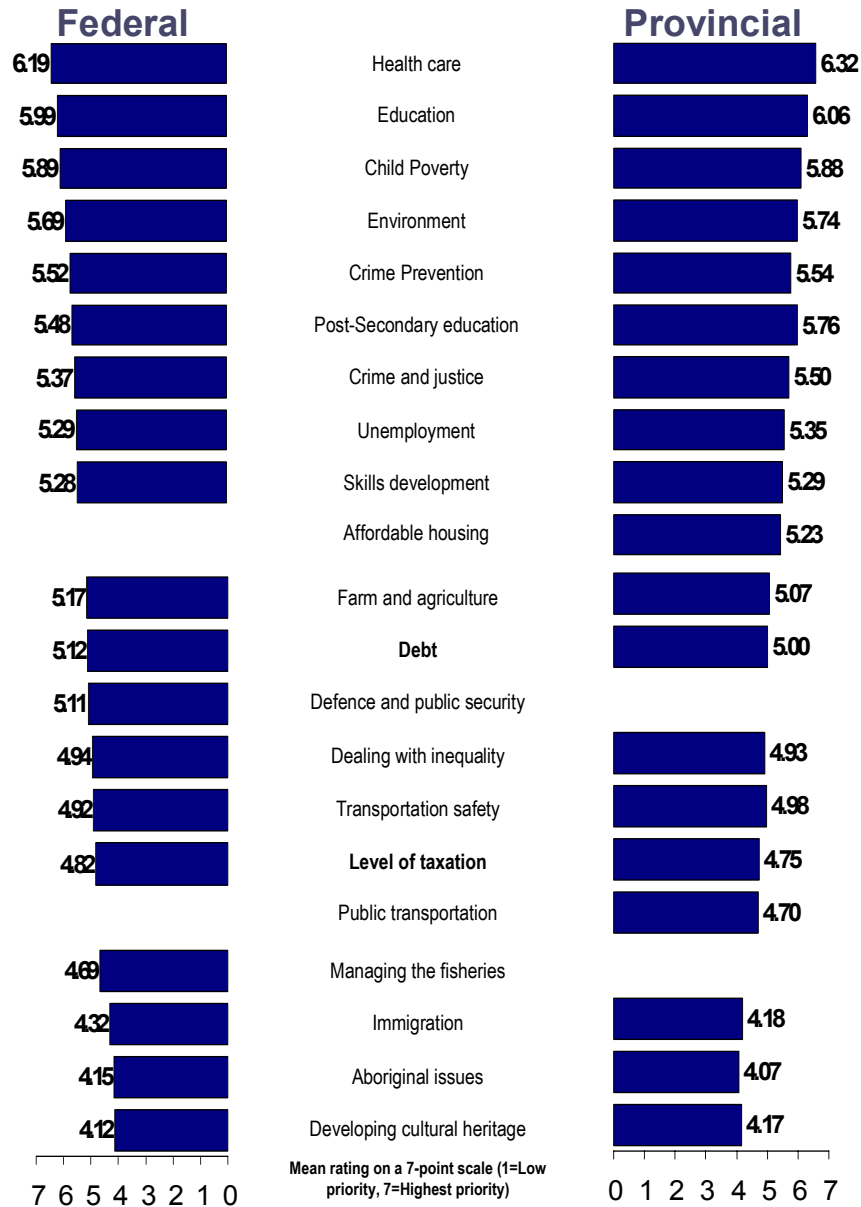
Thinking not just of today but over the **next five years**, what priority should the federal government place on each of the following areas?



Base: All Canadians

Government Priorities (2003)

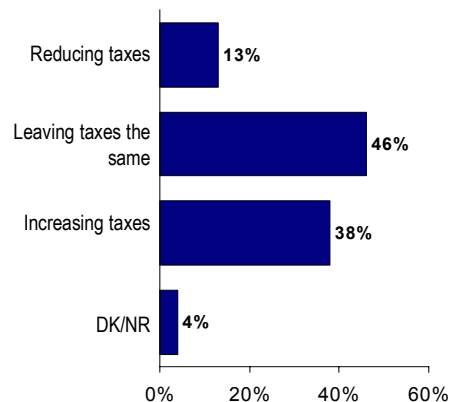
Over the next five years what priority should the **federal/your provincial** government place on...



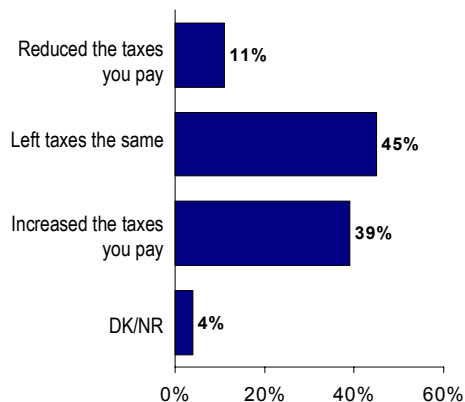
Base: All Canadians, Jan./Feb. 03, overall n=3000

Perceptions of Taxation Trends

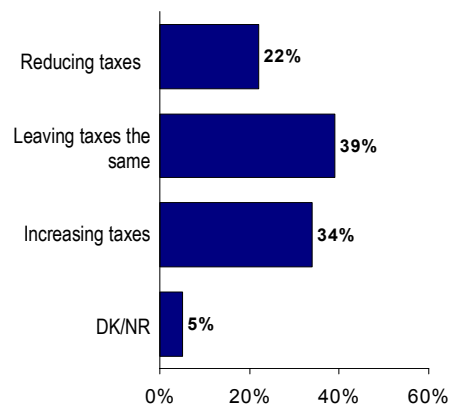
In the last couple of years, would you say that the FEDERAL government has been, in general...



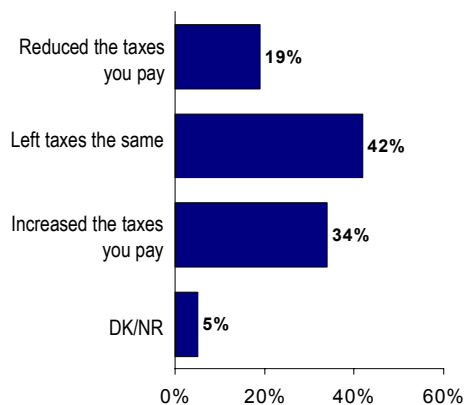
In the last couple of years, the FEDERAL government...



In the last couple of years, would you say that the PROVINCIAL government has been, in general...



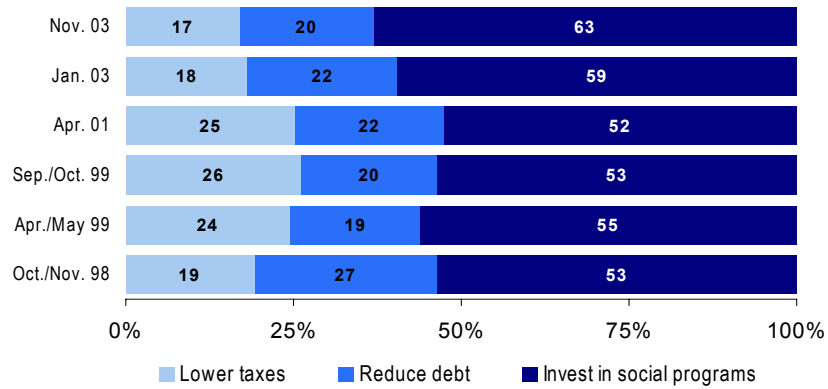
In the last couple of years, the PROVINCIAL government...



Base: All Canadians, Jan./Feb. 03, federal n=1534; provincial n=1051

Fiscal vs. Social – Tracking Priorities

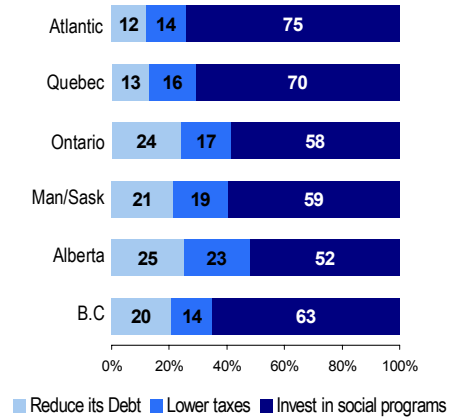
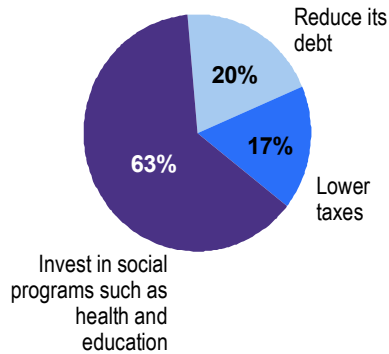
If the federal government has a budgetary surplus in the next few years, how would you prefer it to be used?



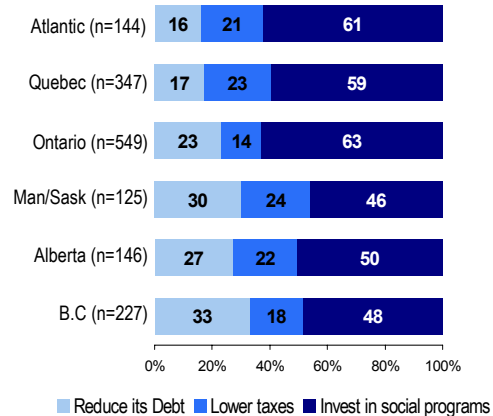
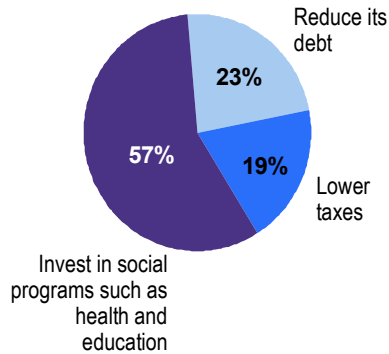
Base: All Canadians

Usage of Surplus

If the **federal government** has a budgetary surplus in the next few years, how would you prefer it to be used?



If your **provincial government** has a budgetary surplus in the next few years, how would you prefer it to be used?



Base: All Canadians; federal, Nov. 03, n=1208; provincial, Aug. 01, overall n=1542



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