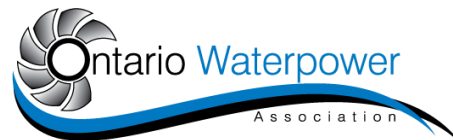


Public Opinion Polling Results

Attitudes Toward Waterpower



February 2022

Key Findings

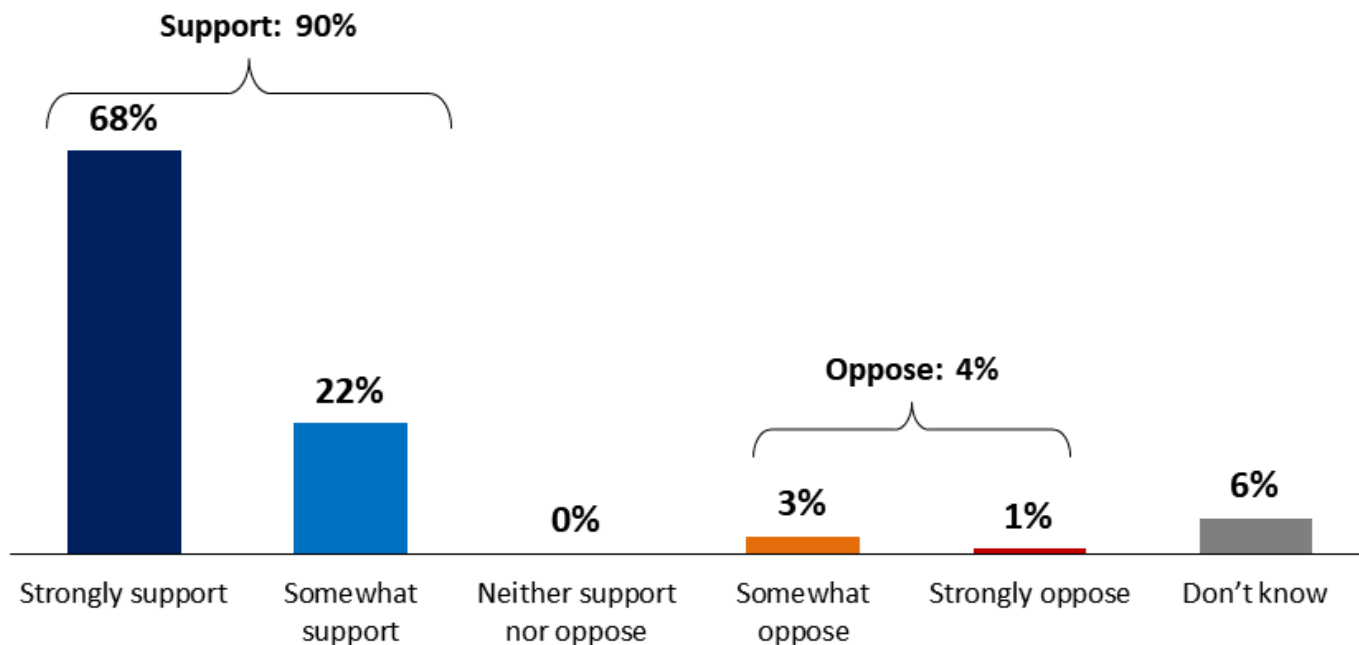
- 1** **Waterpower remains the most popular form of energy generation in Ontario with 90% saying they support it, while only 4% of Ontarians are opposed.** The intensity of support has increased with “strong support” increasing from 64% to 68% since 2018.
- 2** **Waterpower is the least politicized form of generation of the forms tested.** While other generation methods have large differences across partisan groups, particularly wind power and natural gas, there are no significant differences in support for waterpower.
- 3** **Attitudes surrounding waterpower remain consistently positive since 2018.** Across all measures, a majority have a positive opinion.
- 4** **Support for working with Indigenous communities to develop waterpower is high,** and those who want waterpower to be developed in cooperation with indigenous communities are also more likely to support waterpower generally.
- 5** **Support for re-contracting existing facilities is high across Ontario.** 81% support renewed long-term contracts for existing generating facilities.

Waterpower: 9-in-10 Ontarians support the use of waterpower in Ontario; high in every region and partisan group

Now I'd like to ask you some questions about different ways of generating electricity. Based on your general feeling considering value and cost, please tell me whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose each way of producing electricity in Ontario. How about

... Waterpower

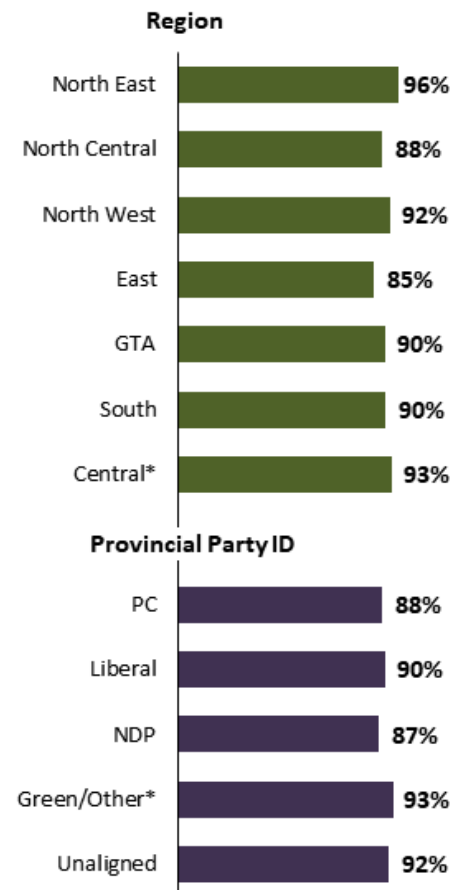
[asked of all respondents; n=600]



* Caution: small sample size (n=50 or less)

Segmentation

Respondents who say "Support"



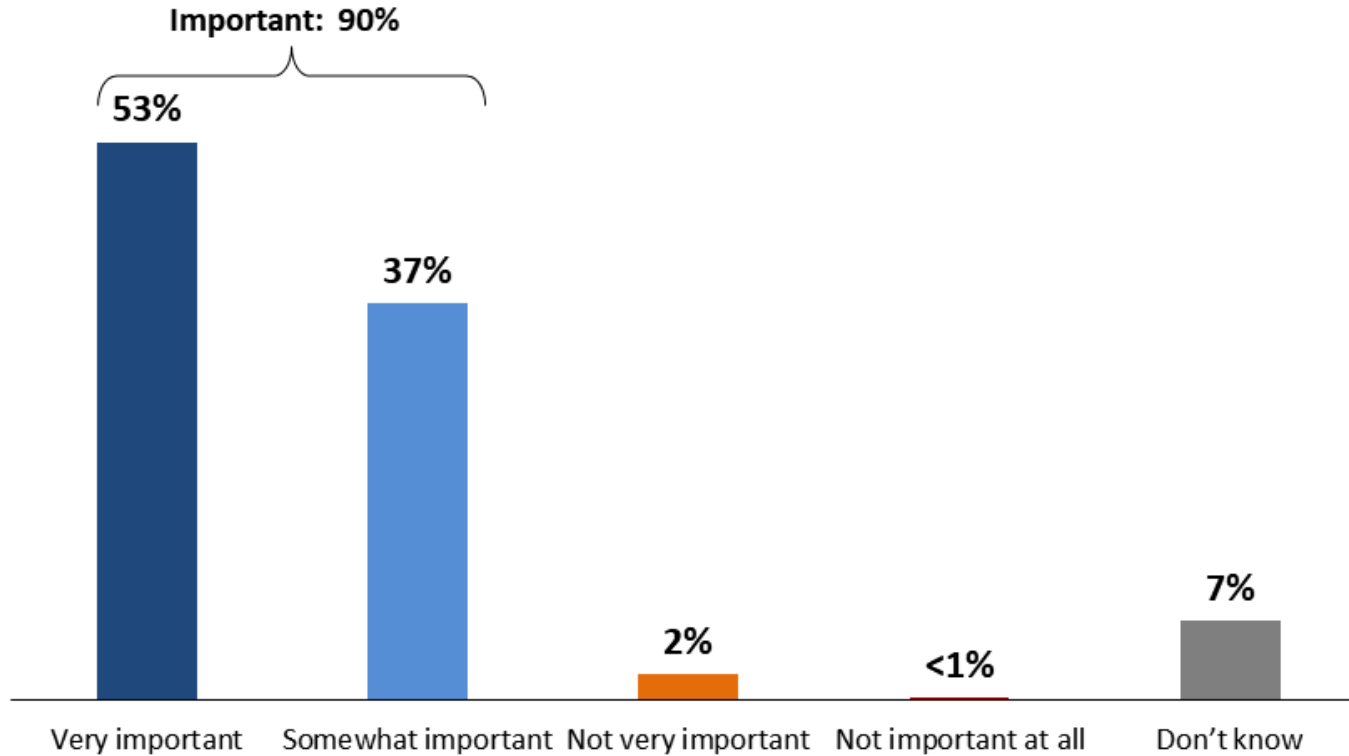
Perception of Importance: 90% of Ontarians say waterpower is important to maintaining a reliable electricity system



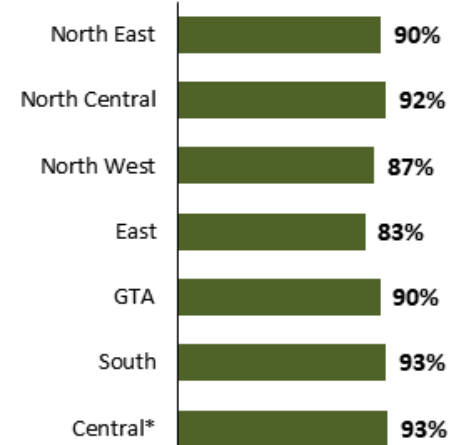
How important do you think waterpower is to maintaining a reliable electricity system? Would you say?
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

Segmentation

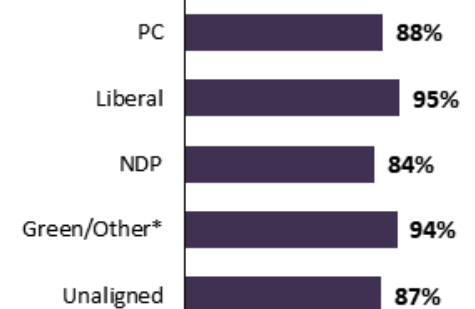
Respondents who say "Important"



Region



Provincial Party ID



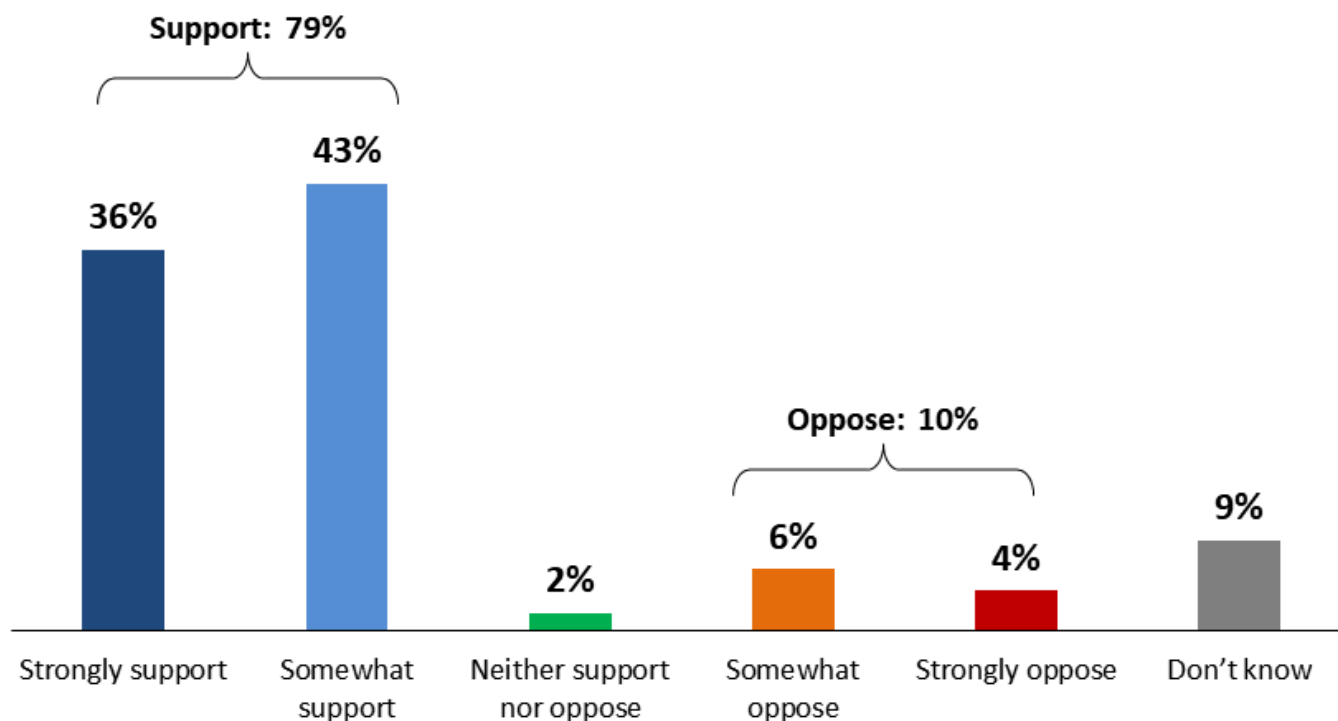
* Caution: small sample size (n=50 or less)

Support for Waterpower Development: Almost 4-in-5 (79%) Ontarians support the development of waterpower in their region ⁴



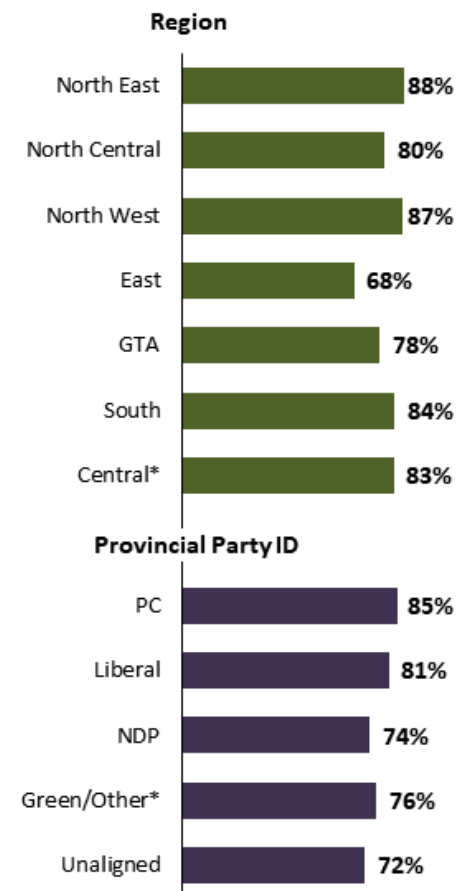
Would you support or oppose waterpower development in your region?

[asked of all respondents; n=600]



Segmentation

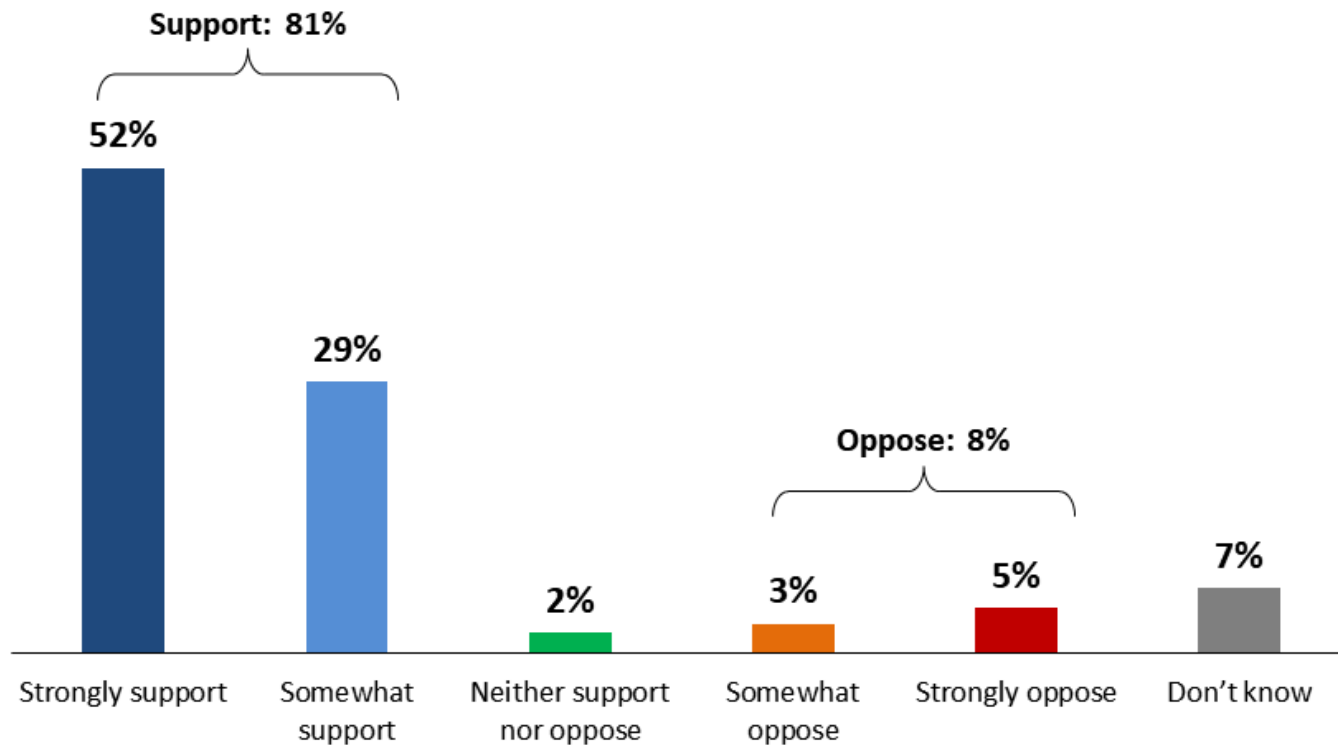
Respondents who say "Support"



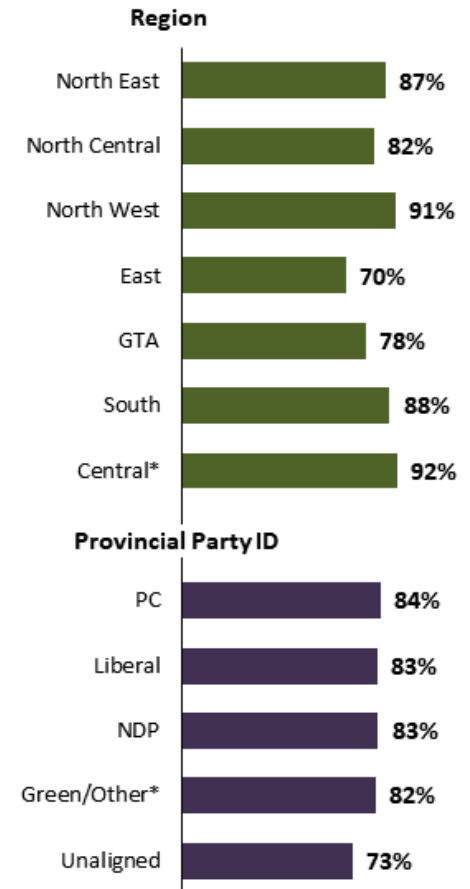
* Caution: small sample size (n=50 or less)

Indigenous Cooperation: A large majority (81%) support working with local indigenous communities, including 52% who strongly support it

Q Would you support or oppose developing waterpower projects in Northern Ontario in cooperation with local indigenous communities?
[asked of all respondents; n=600]



Segmentation
Respondents who say "Support"

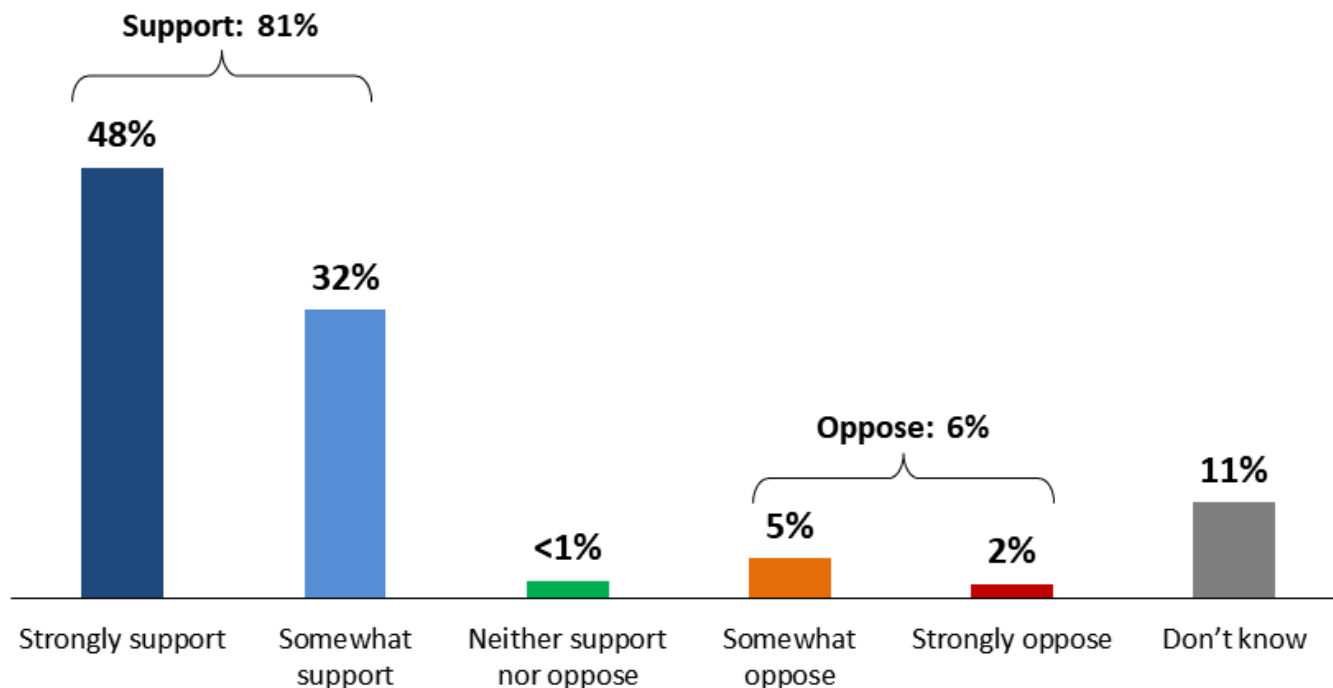


* Caution: small sample size (n=50 or less)

New Contracts: More than 4-in-5 support negotiating new contracts

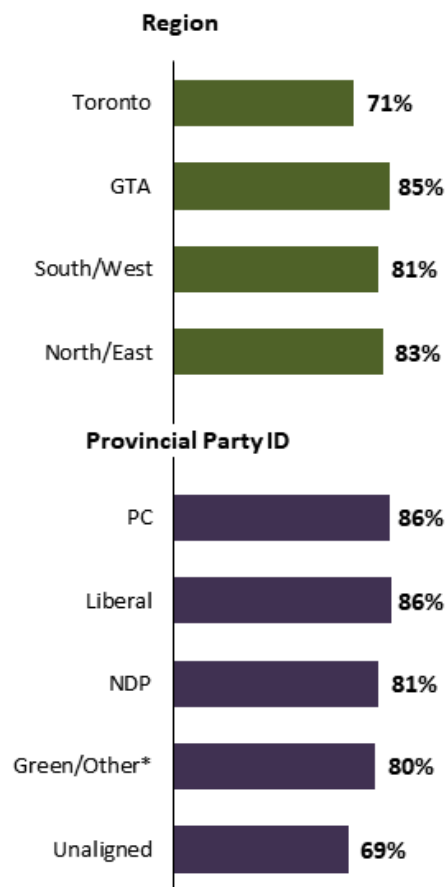
Q A number of waterpower facilities that have been in operation for decades currently have power purchase agreements which will expire in the coming years. Would you support or oppose negotiating new long-term contracts with these facilities to enable them to continue to contribute to the province's electricity and water management requirements?

[asked of all respondents; n=600]



Segmentation

Respondents who say "Support"



* Caution: small sample size (n=50 or less)

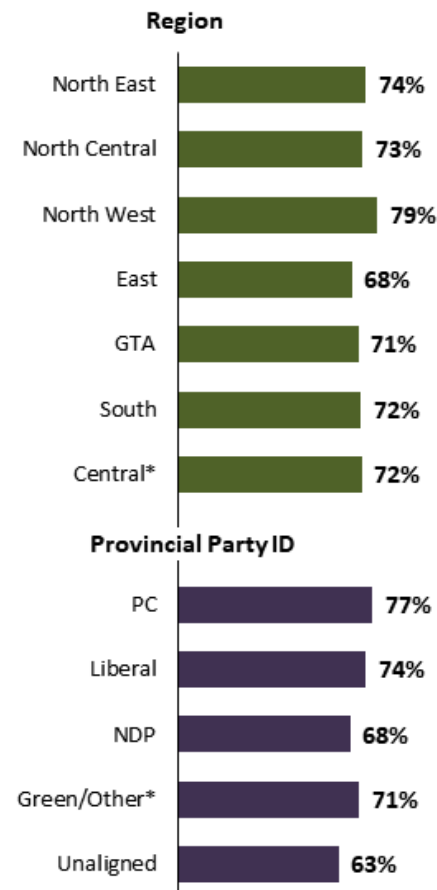
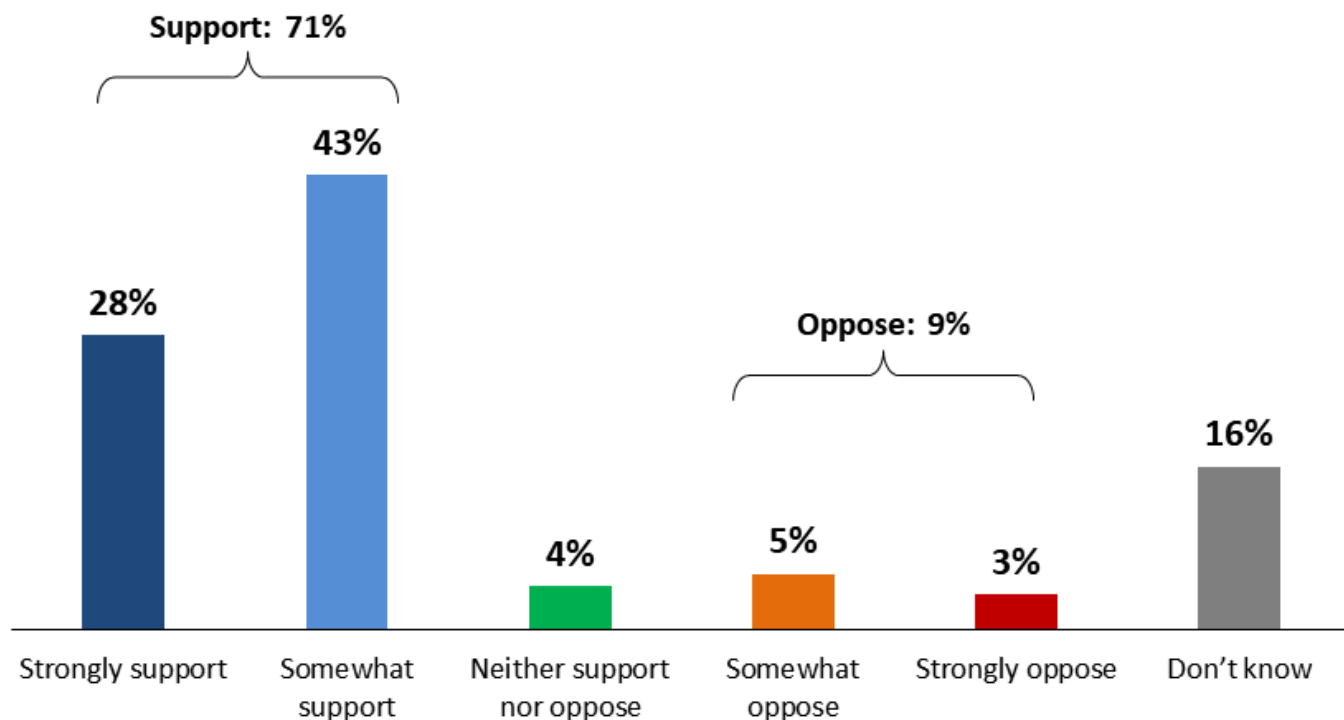
Pumped Storage: 71% support developing pumped storage in Ontario; highest among PCs and Liberals

One type of waterpower is a pumped storage system. It uses excess electricity to pump water up into a reservoir and then sends that water through a turbine to generate electricity when it is needed. Would you support or oppose developing pumped storage projects in Ontario?

[asked of all respondents; n=600]

Segmentation

Respondents who say "Support"



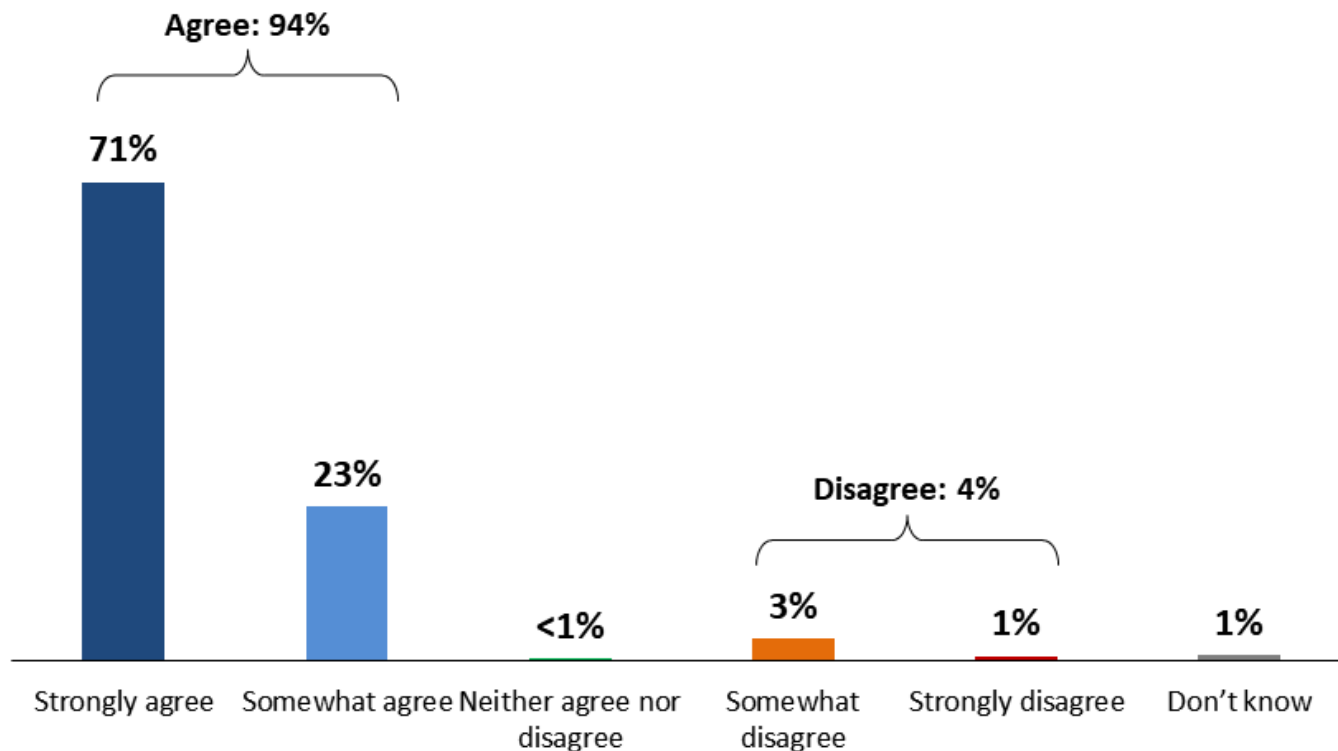
* Caution: small sample size (n=50 or less)

Self Sufficiency: Nearly 19-in-20 (94%) Ontarians agree that it is important for the province to be self-sufficient

Q I am going to read you some statements that have been made about waterpower, and I'd like you to tell me if you agree or disagree with each statement.

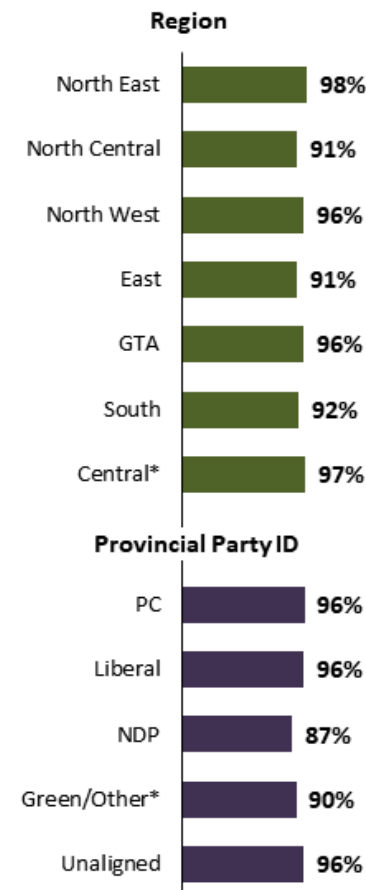
I think it's important for Ontario to generate its own power and not rely on importing electricity.

[asked of all respondents; n=600]



Segmentation

Respondents who say "Agree"



* Caution: small sample size (n=50 or less)



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