

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario

## INNOVATIVE RESEARCH GROUP

## Telephone Survey Attitudes Toward Changes at Ontario's Universities

STRICTLY PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL



## Methodology & Demographics



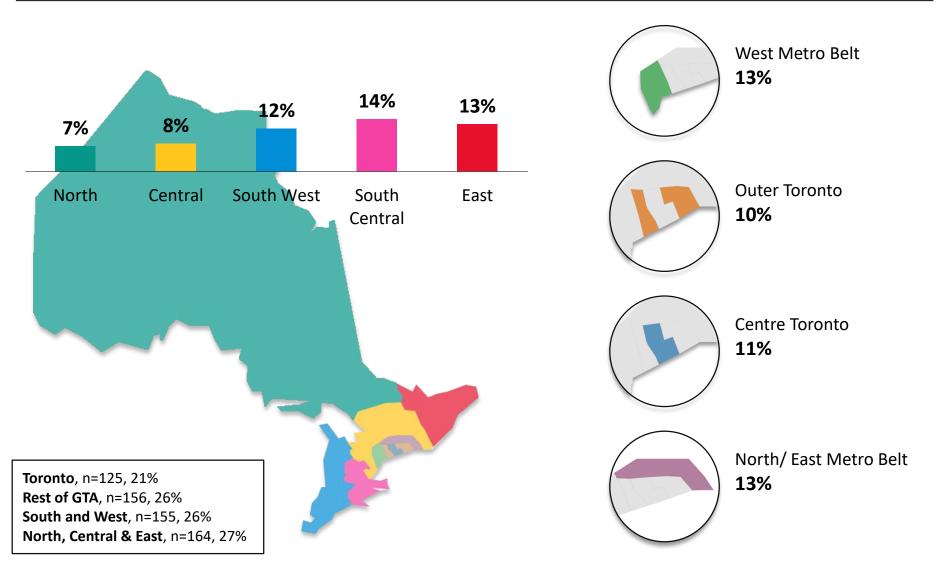
### Methodology

- These are the results of a telephone survey of 611 randomly-selected Ontario residents, 18 years or older, between May 23rd and May 29th, 2018.
- Only one respondent per household was eligible to complete this survey.
- The survey includes both landline and cellphone respondents in order to ensure representation of cellphone only households.
- The sample has been weighted by age, gender and region to n=600 using the latest available Statistics Canada Census data to reflect the actual demographic composition of the population.
- After weighting the data, the aggregated results are considered accurate to within ±4.0%, 19 times out of 20.
- The margin of error will be larger within each sub-grouping of the sample.

**Note**: Graphs and tables may not always total 100% due to rounding values rather than any error in data. Sums are added before rounding numbers.

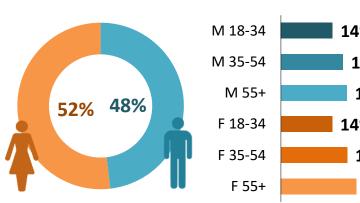


### **Regional Segmentation**

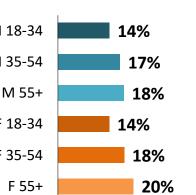


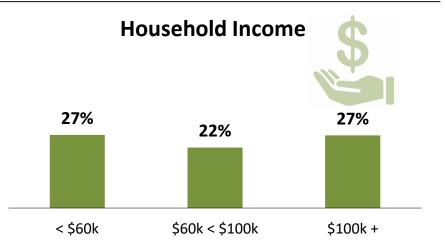
Respondents are first categorized into 9 Ontario regions based on their postal codes. To have a more meaningful analysis, the 9 regions are further combined into 4 regions: Toronto (Outer Toronto + Centre Toronto), Rest of GTA (the Metro Belts), South/West (South West + South Central), and North/East (East + Central + North).

### **Demographics:** *Respondent profile*

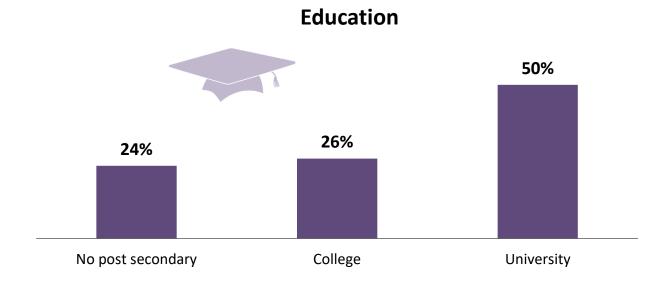


#### **Gender and Age**





Note: "Prefer not to say" (16%) and ">60k unspecified" (8%) not shown





## **Political Context**

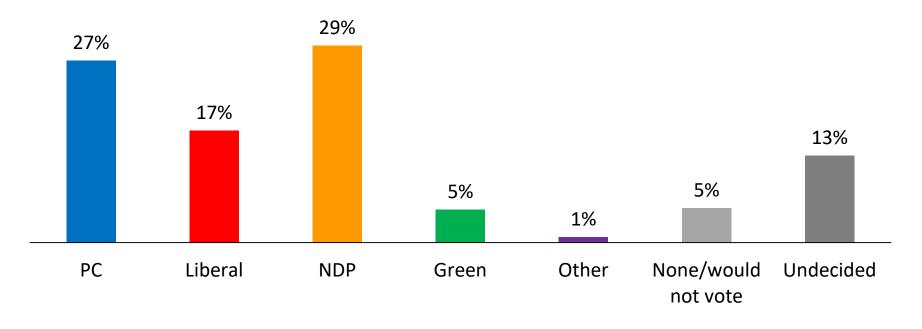


# **Combined Vote:** NDP (29%) and PC party (27%) are statistically tied; Liberals trail in third at 17%

If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for: the Progressive Conservative Party, the Liberal Party, the New Democratic Party, the Green Party or another party?

... In that case, which party's candidate do you lean toward slightly? [Vote + Lean]

[asked of all respondents; n=600]



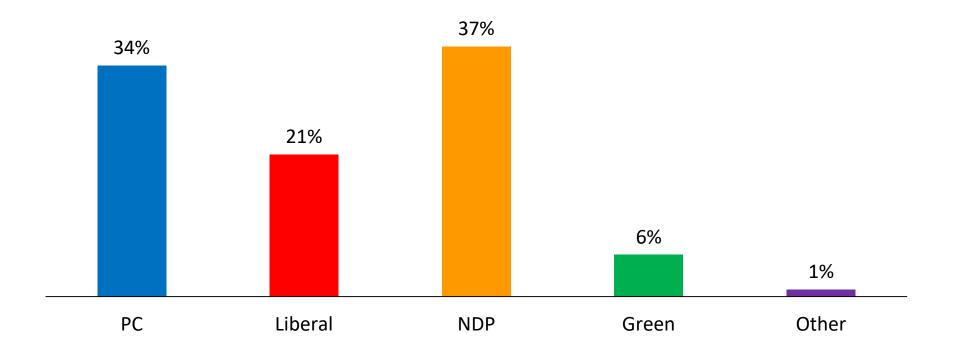


### **Decided Vote:** NDP (37%) and PC party (34%) are statistically<sup>9</sup> tied among decided voters with Liberals trailing at 21%

If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for: the Progressive Conservative Party, the Liberal Party, the New Democratic Party, the Green Party or another party?

... In that case, which party's candidate do you lean toward slightly? [Vote + Lean]

[asked of all respondents; n=600 – chart shows only those who specified which party they would vote for; n=473]

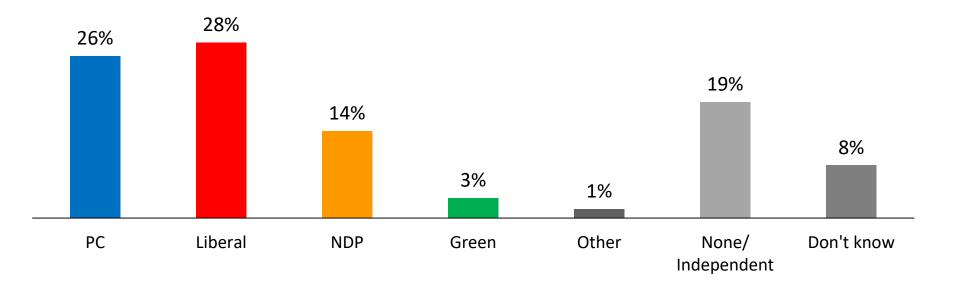




### **Provincial Party ID:** More than a quarter identify themselves<sup>10</sup> as Liberals (28%), another quarter identify as PCs (26%)

Q

Thinking about politics in Ontario, generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a....[PARTY ID] [asked of all respondents, n=600]







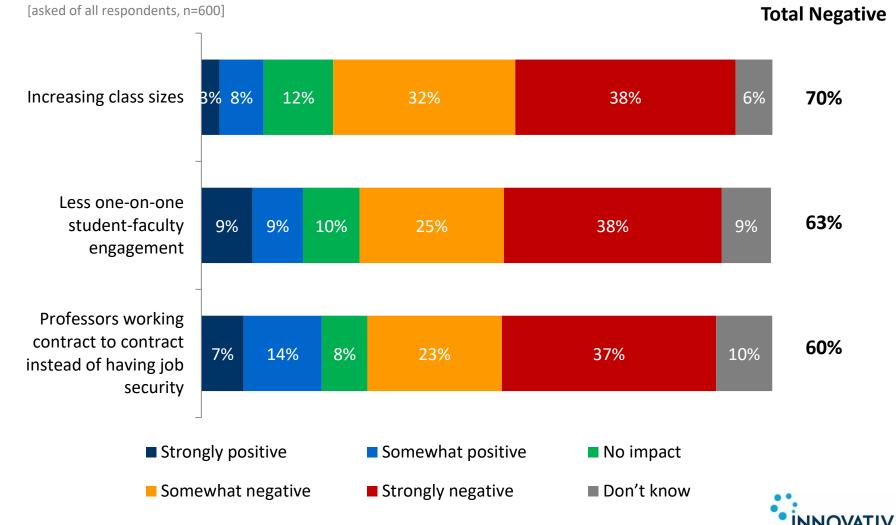
## **Research Results**



# Impact of Changes: Majority of respondents say each potential change would have a negative impact

12

Ontario's Universities are making changes at the administrative level. I am going to read you a list of changes, and I'd like you to tell me if they will have a positive or negative impact on the quality of university education. If you don't feel it will have any impact, please say so.



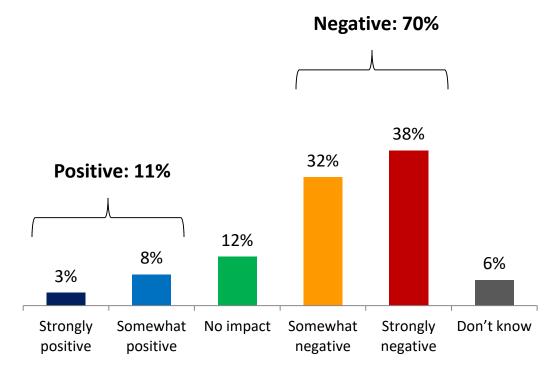
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### Increasing Class Sizes: Concern about increase in class size <sup>13</sup> strongest among university graduates

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#### Increasing class sizes

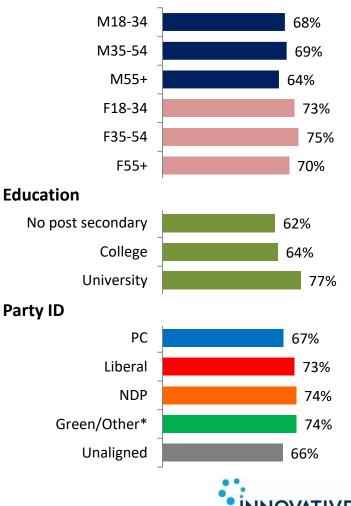
[asked of all respondents, n=600]



#### Sample Breakdown

Those who say "negative"

#### Gender/Age



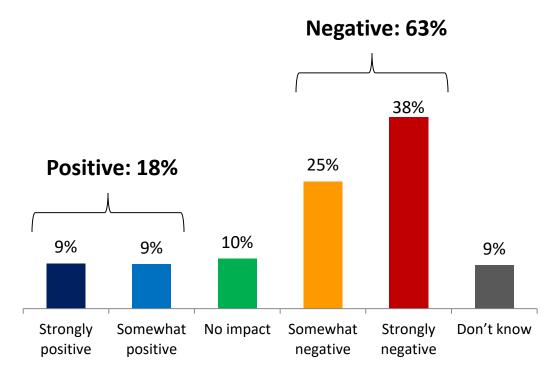
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**NOTE:** "Refused" (1%) not shown \*Due to small n size (n<30), results should be treated with caution.

# Less 1:1 Engagement: Younger respondents more concerned about less student-faculty engagement

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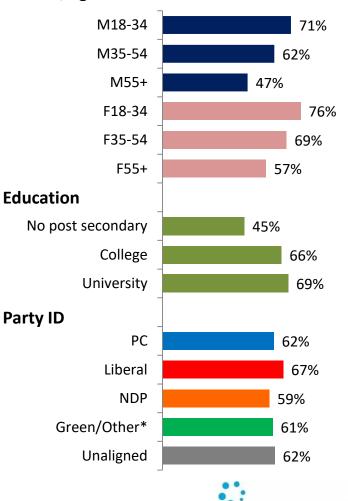
[asked of all respondents, n=600]



#### Sample Breakdown

Those who say "negative"

#### Gender/Age



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**NOTE:** "Refused" (1%) not shown \*Due to small n size (n<30), results should be treated with caution.

# More Contract Professors: 60% of respondents think professors working on contracts has negative impact

Negative: 60%

Ontario's Universities are making changes at the administrative level. I am going to read you a list of changes, and I'd like you to tell me if they will have a positive or negative impact on the quality of university education. If you don't feel it will have any impact, please say so. *Professors working contract to contract instead of having job security* 

[asked of all respondents, n=600]

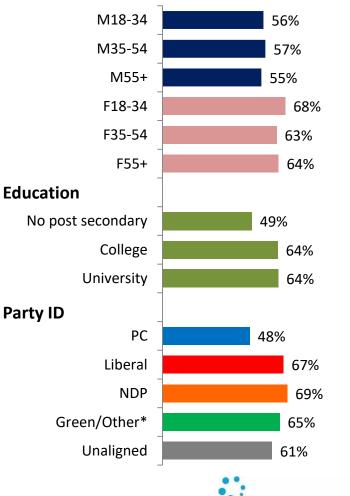
37% Positive: 21% 23% 14% 10% 8% 7% Somewhat No impact Somewhat Don't know Strongly Strongly positive positive negative negative

**NOTE:** "Refused" (1%) not shown \*Due to small n size (n<30), results should be treated with caution.

#### Sample Breakdown

Those who say "negative"

#### Gender/Age



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# **Contracting Professors to Save Money:** Opposition highest among young women and Liberal partisans

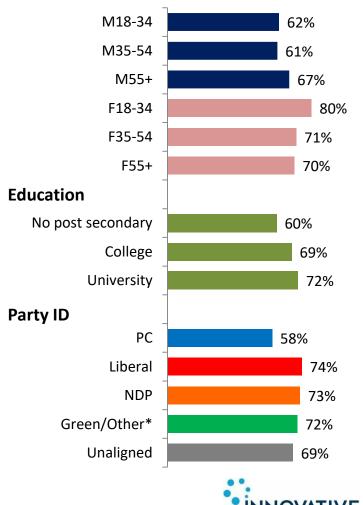
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As a strategy to save money, universities are hiring fewer fulltime professors and more on short-term contracts that often pay less and provide fewer or no benefits. Do you support or oppose universities using this approach? [asked of all respondents, n=600]

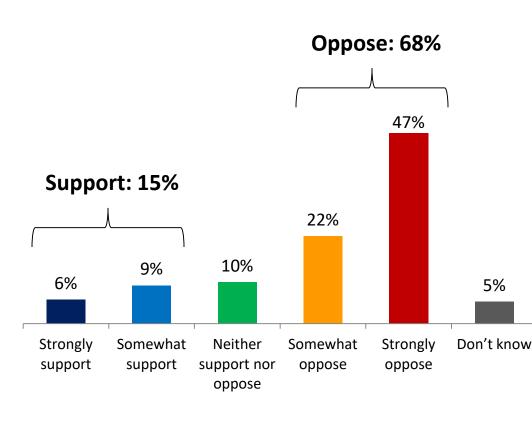
#### Sample Breakdown

Those who say "oppose"

#### Gender/Age



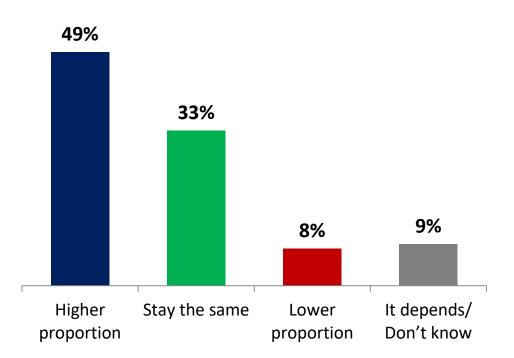
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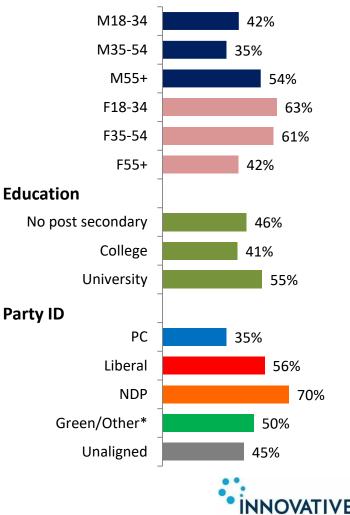
# **Government Funding:** Half of respondents say it should be higher; highest among NDP partisans

University revenue comes from several sources, including student fees, and donations from private individuals, corporations and government grants. For the past 60 years, more than 50% of the operating funding for Ontario's universities has come from government grants. But in recent provincial budgets, that funding has dropped to less than 50%. Do you think government funding should make up a higher proportion of university revenues, a lower proportion of university revenues, or stay the same? [asked of all respondents, n=600]



Sample Breakdown ►► Those who say "higher"

#### Gender/Age



#### NOTE: "Refused" (1%) not shown

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