

# **Post Secondary Education and Public Opinion in Nova Scotia Poll 2007**

Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers  
Canadian Federation of Students  
Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 3912  
Nova Scotia Government & General Employees Union

- Conducted by Decima Research
- Data collected week of August 13th, 2007
- 802 Nova Scotians aged 18 and over surveyed by telephone
- A sample size of 800 is accurate within +/- 3% 19 times out of 20

# Poll Results at a Glance

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89% of Nova Scotians support a tuition fee reduction

90% are concerned that young Nova Scotians will not be able to attend university

90% of Nova Scotians think that high tuition fees and inadequate financial aid are the primary barriers to college and university for students

81% think that Rodney MacDonald broke his promise to reduce tuition fees.

The majority of Nova Scotians think that out of province students should not pay more for post-secondary education.

85% think the provincial government should provide a scholarship program based on financial need.

73% would support additional funding to hire more support staff.

14% of respondents said that someone in their family had to drop out of college or university in the past two years because they couldn't afford tuition fees and other costs.

28% said that someone in their family decided not to attend college or university in the last two years because it would mean having to take on too much debt.

40% of respondents earning less than \$40K per year said someone in their family has not gone on to pursue a post-secondary education in the last two years because it would mean taking on too much debt.

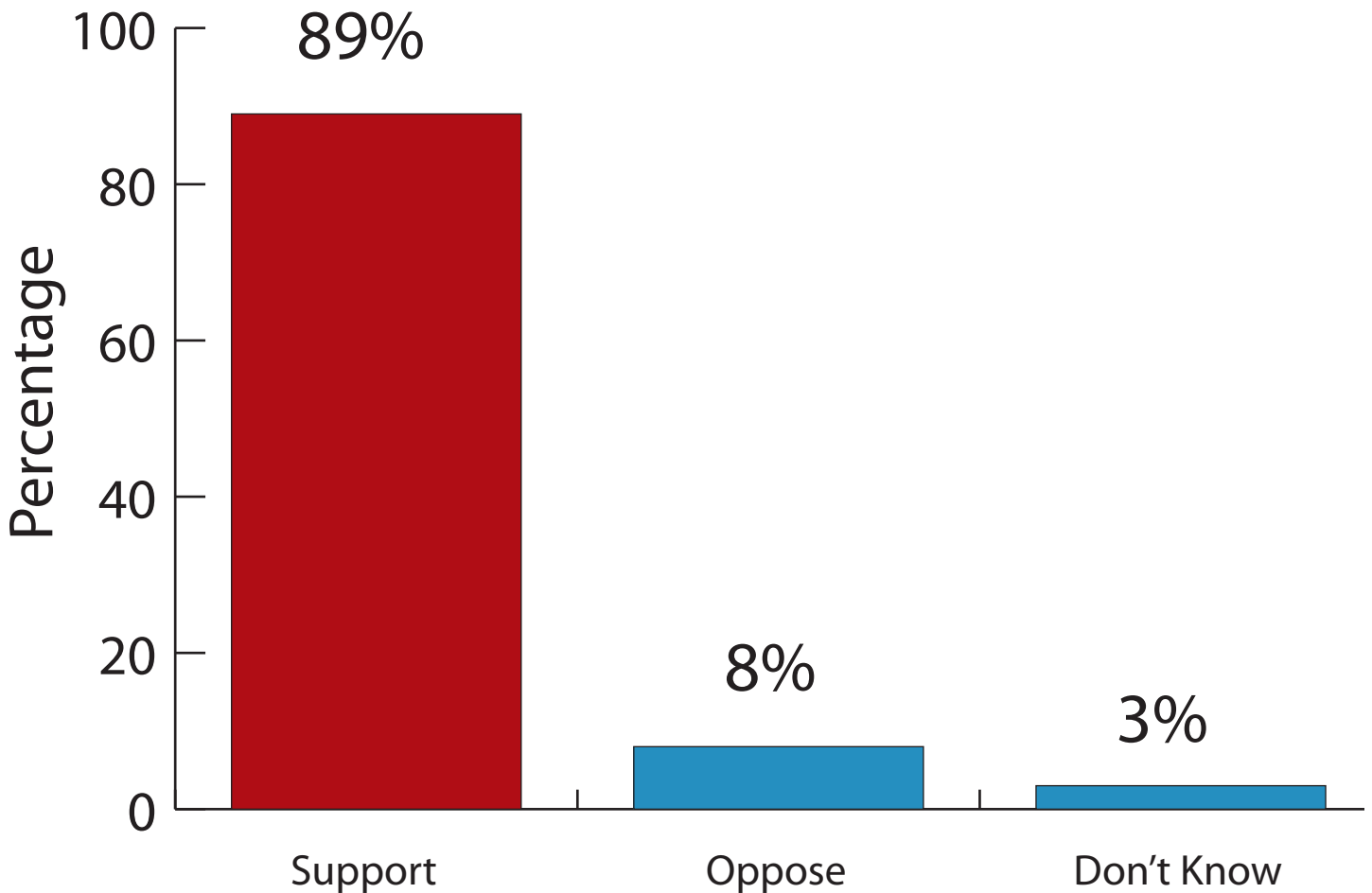
7% think the government is doing a good job making post-secondary education accessible.

66% think the government is doing a poor or very poor job of making college and university education affordable.

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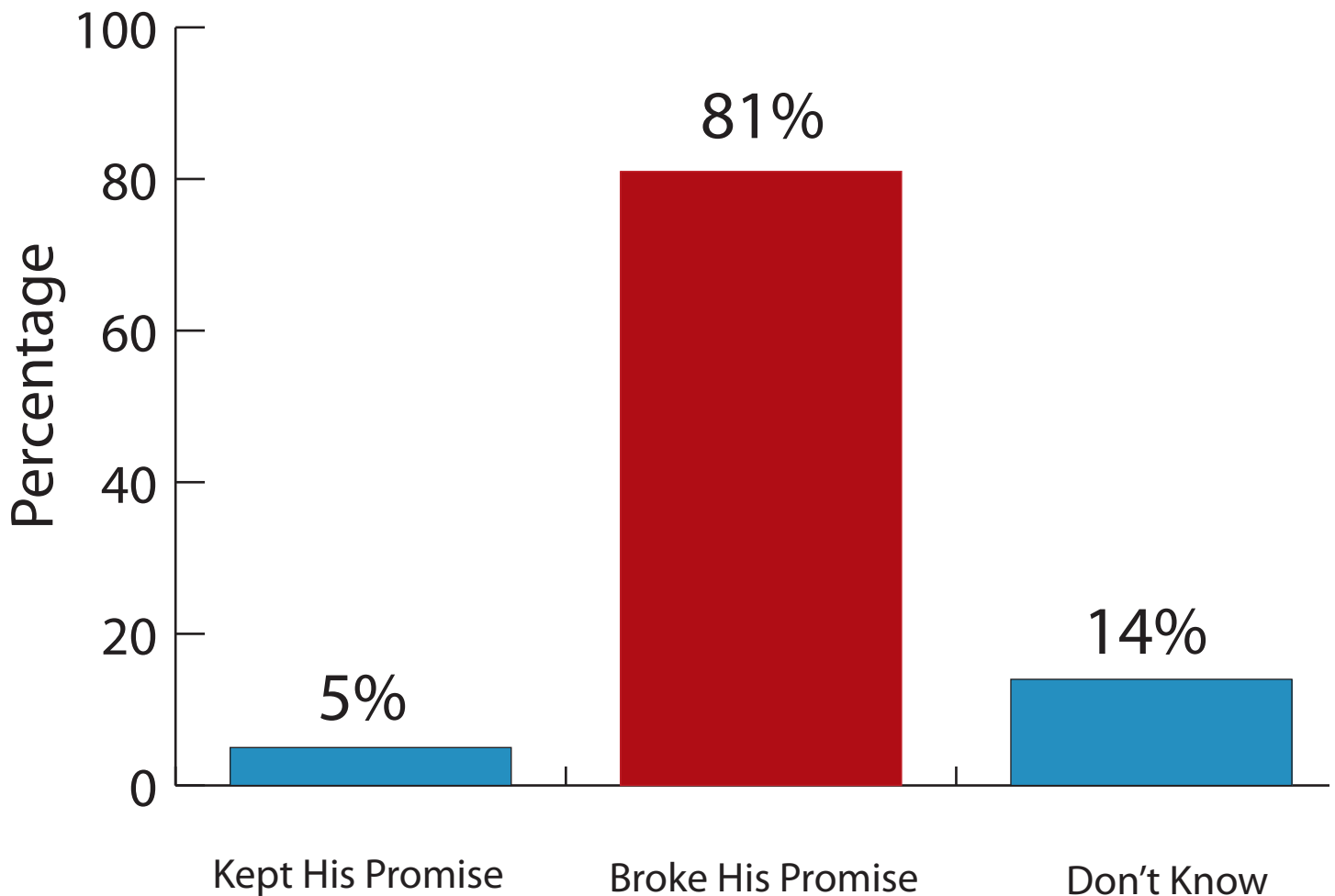
# Reduce Tuition Fees

*Q. Average university tuition fees in Nova Scotia are currently \$6,571, the highest in Canada. Given this situation do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose reducing tuition fees for students in Nova Scotia?*



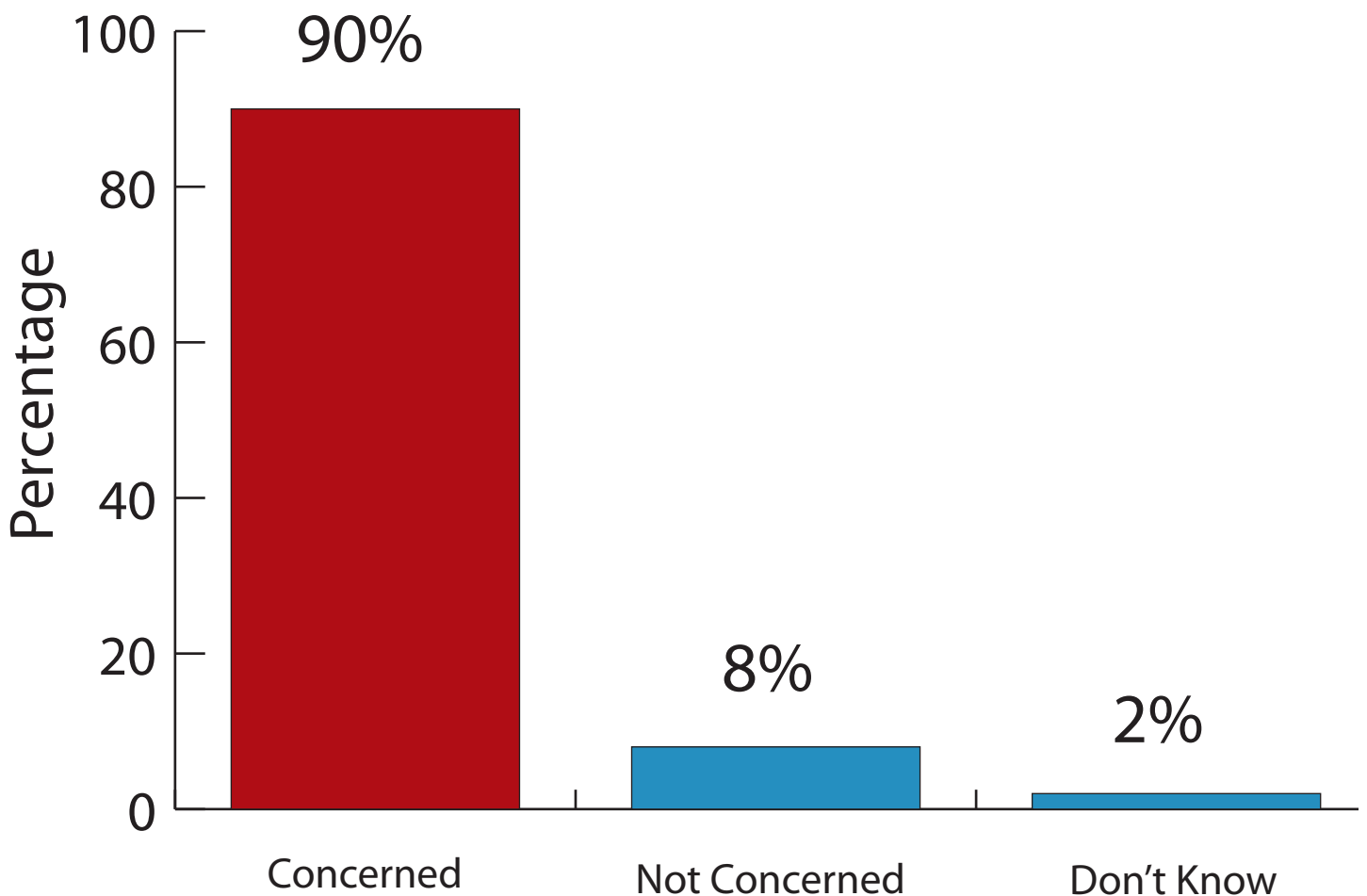
# Broken Promise

*Q. As you may remember, Rodney MacDonald promised during the last election to reduce tuition fees by \$1000 over 5 years. Rodney MacDonald allowed tuition fees to increase by 4% in his first term as Premier, and then froze tuition fees this September. Based on what you know, would you say that Rodney MacDonald kept his promise or do you think he broke this promise?*



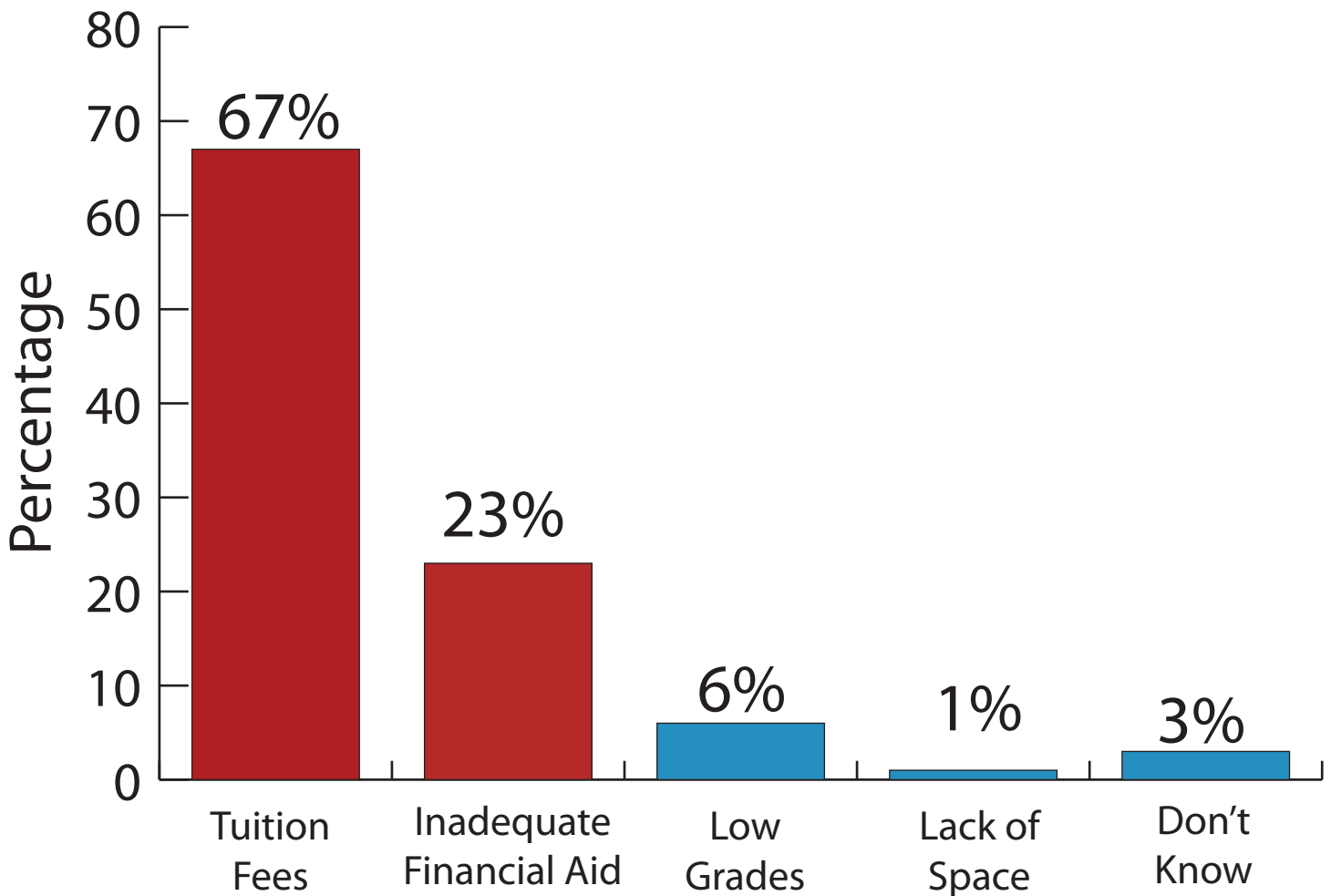
# Access to PSE

*Q. In general terms, would you say that you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned that young Nova Scotians will not be able to attend a publicly funded university or college in Nova Scotia, if they are qualified and choose to apply?*



# Issues of Concern

*Q. Which of the following four issues best reflects the reason you are concerned about young Nova Scotians not being able to attend a publicly funded university or college in Nova Scotia?*

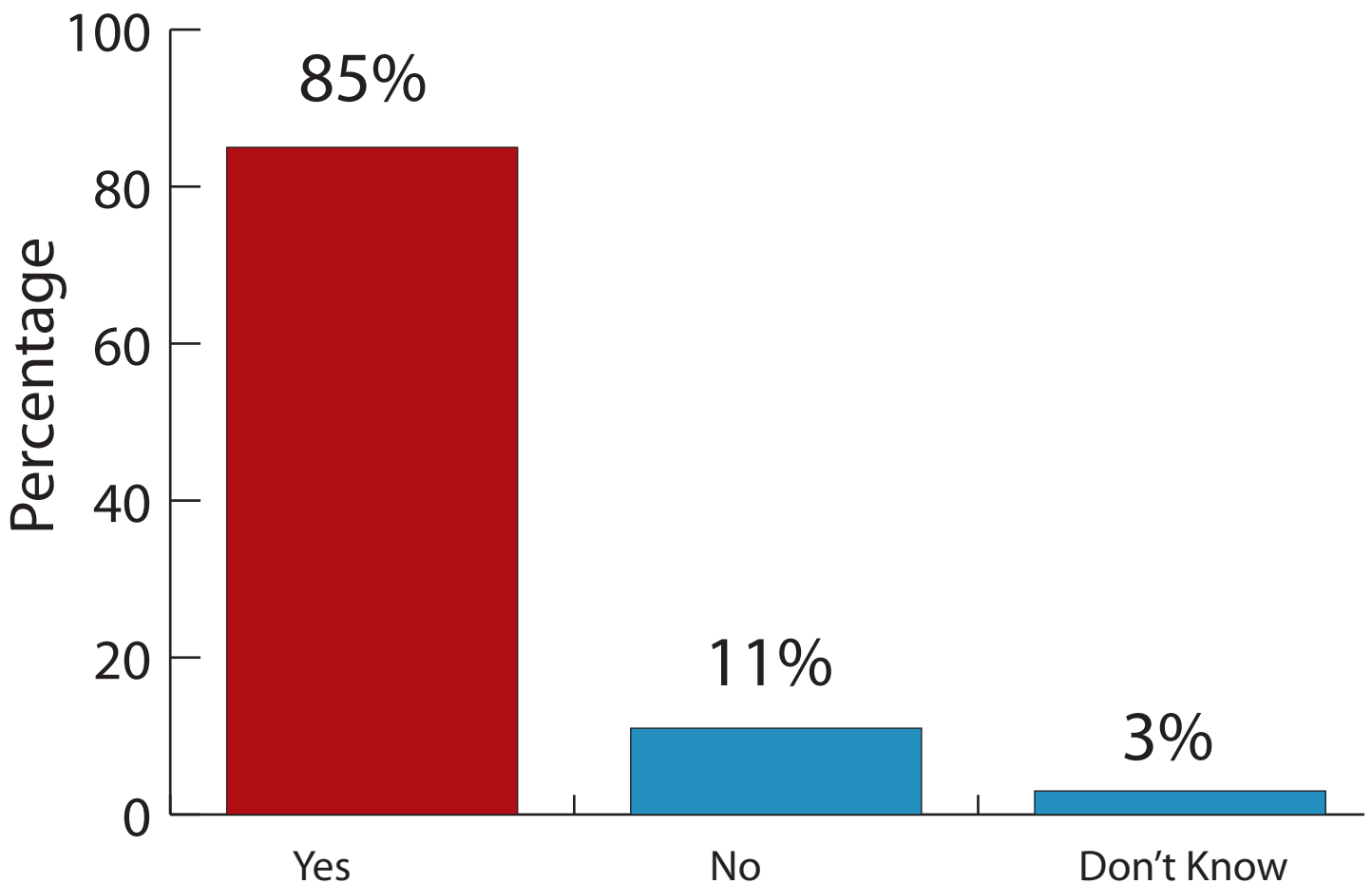


# Grants not Loans

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*Q. Do you think the provincial government should provide a grant or scholarship program based on financial need to help the neediest students afford college or university?*

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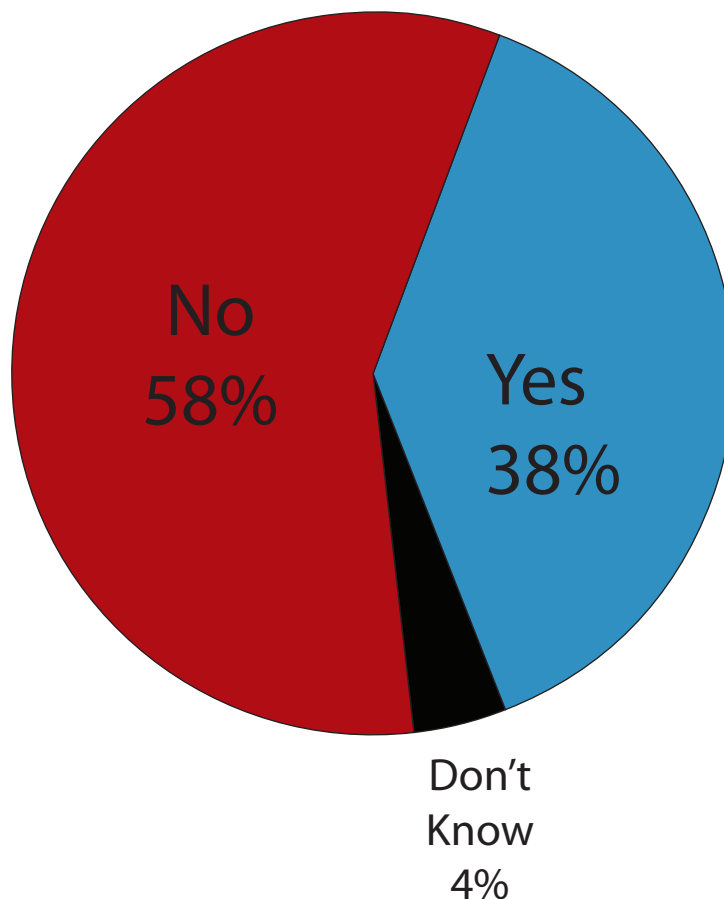


# Differential Fees

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*Q. Nova Scotia charges out-of-provinces students \$500 more for their university education than students from Nova Scotia. Only one other province has such a policy. Do you think that students from out-of-province should pay more for their university or college education than students from Nova Scotia?*

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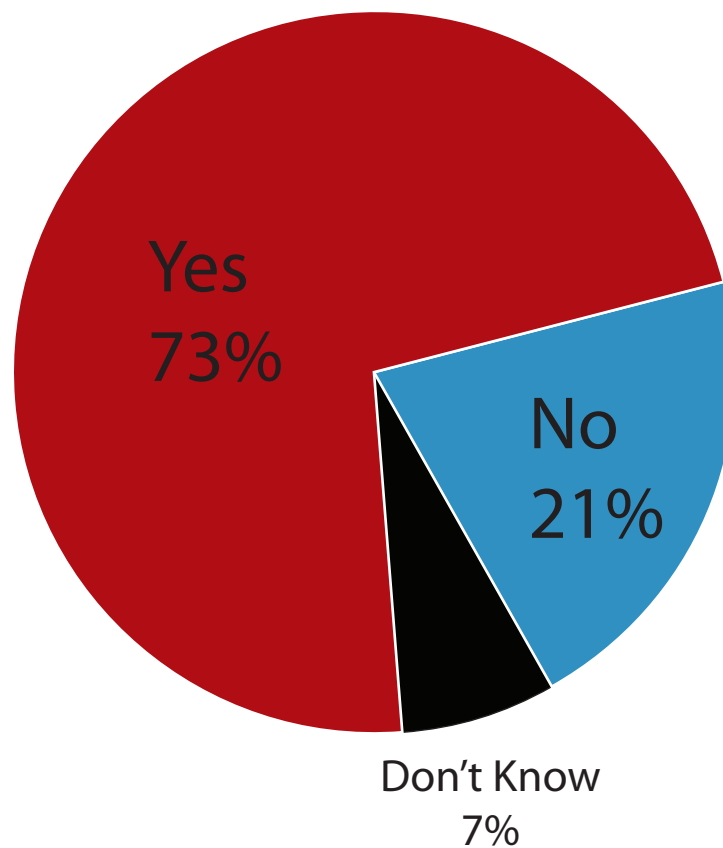


# More Staff

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*Q. Over the past decade, many universities have seen large increases of enrollments while maintaining the same level of support staff to provide essential services. Would you support additional funding to hire more support staff?*

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# Forced Out

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*Q. In the past two years, have there been times when you or someone in your family had to drop out of college or university because they couldn't afford tuition fees and other costs*

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Income	Yes (%)	No (%)	Don't Know (%)
<\$40,000	22	77	1
>\$40,000	9	91	0
Overall	14	86	1

# Debt Sentence

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*Q. In the past two years, have there been times when you or someone in your family decided not to attend college or university because it would mean having to take on too much debt?*

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Income	Yes	No	Don't Know
<\$40,000	40%	59%	1%
>\$40,000	23%	76%	1%
Overall	28%	71%	1%



# ...So how is the government doing?

*Q. Using a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means a poor job and 5 means an excellent job, how well do you think the provincial government is handling the issue of making college and university affordable?*

