

BC Survey for ICBA

February 2026

ONE PERSUASION

Methodology

- 1,005 British Columbian adults were surveyed online using a national representative panel in English.
- The survey was conducted from February 21 to 24, 2026
- The margin of error is +/- 3.1%, nineteen times out of twenty
 - Subgroups have larger margins of error
- The results have been weighted for accuracy by age, gender, region, language and past provincial vote using the most recent census data from Statistics Canada.

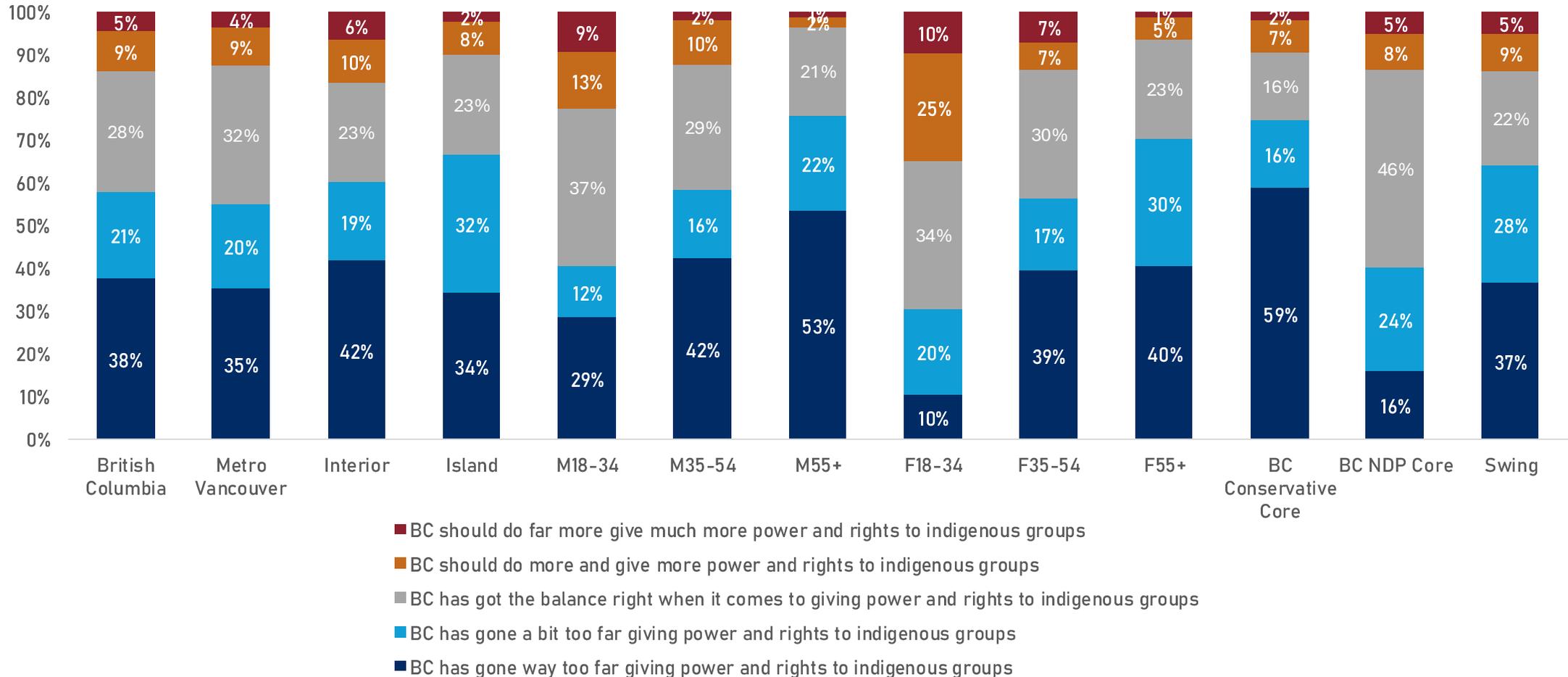
Views on Indigenous Relations

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- 78% do not think Indigenous groups should be given vetoes over development projects in their traditional territories.
 - 69% of NDP core and 82% of swing voters agree.
- 59% of people think that BC has gone too far in giving power and rights to Indigenous groups. Only 14% think more power and rights should be given to Indigenous groups.
 - Even among NDP core voters 40% think too much power has been given, and this rises to 65% with swing voters.
 - The belief that too much power has been given is highest on Vancouver Island.

Right balance of powers and rights to Indigenous groups

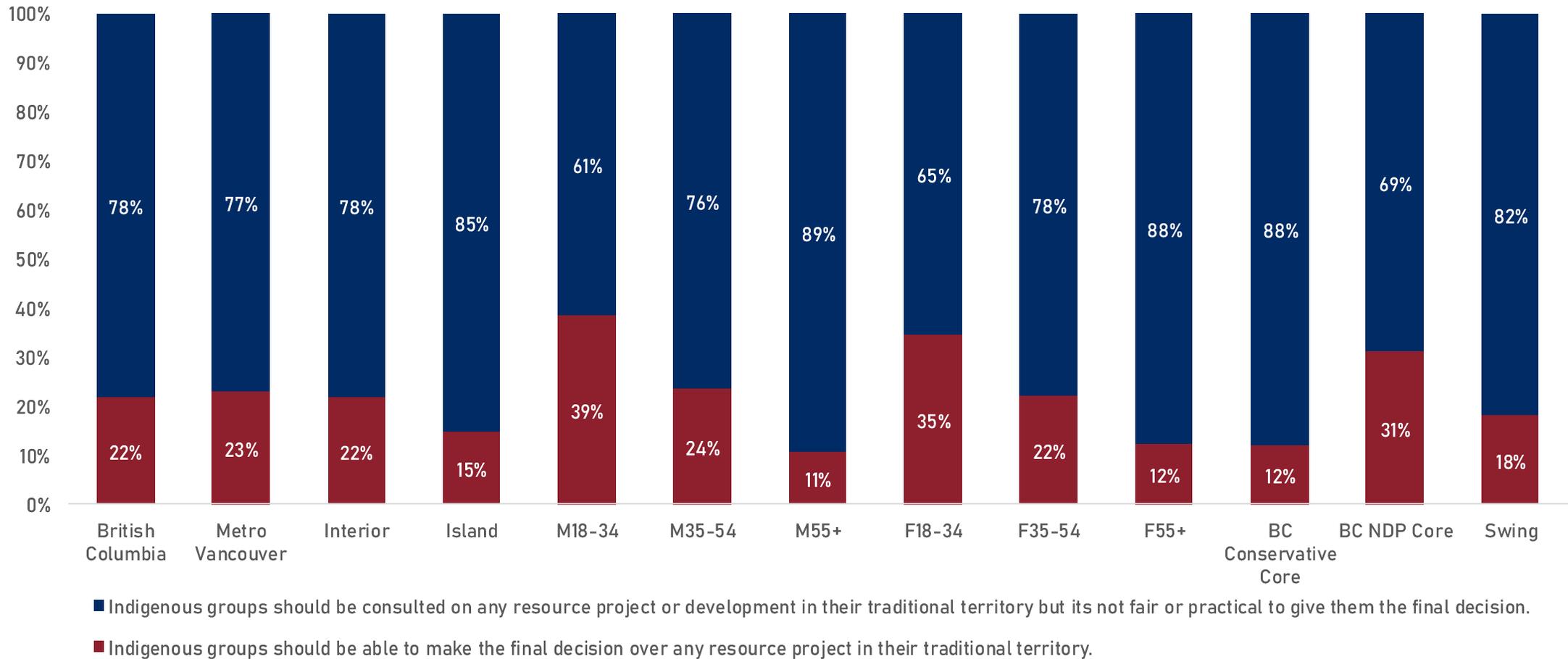
By region, age, gender and voter type



Some people say that to achieve reconciliation with Indigenous peoples BC has gone too far giving Indigenous groups too much power over resources and rights other British Columbians don't have. Other people say that we must go farther to achieve reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and atone for historical wrongs and injustice. Which of the following is closest to your own point of view?

Should Indigenous groups have resource development vetoes

By region, age, gender and voter type



Some Indigenous groups want to be able to make the final decision over any resource project or development taking place in their historical traditional territory, which is a much larger area than where their local community is currently located. Canadian law says they have to be consulted but they do not have the final decision over such projects. Which of the following is closest to your own point of view?

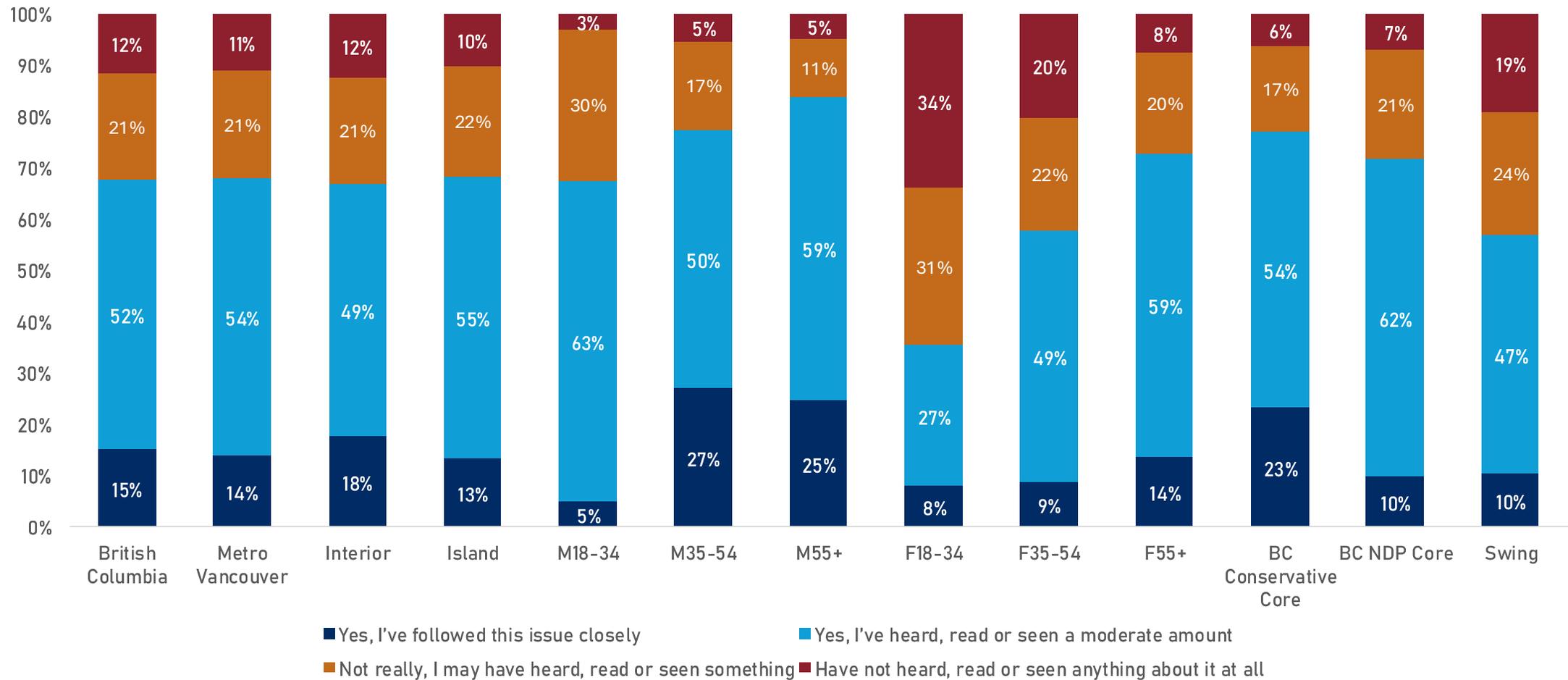
Cowichan Decision

Cowichan Decision

- 68% oppose the court's decision (51% strongly and another 17% moderately).
 - Opposition is greatest on Vancouver Island, with men and women over 55, homeowners and with both BC Conservative core and swing voters.
 - It should be noted that even 56% of BC NDP core voters oppose it to some extent.
- Opposition rises with awareness.
- Only 15% of British Columbians have followed the Cowichan decision closely. Another 52% say they have heard, read or seen a moderate amount.
 - Men 35 and older, and BC Conservative core voters are more likely to be more aware of the decision.

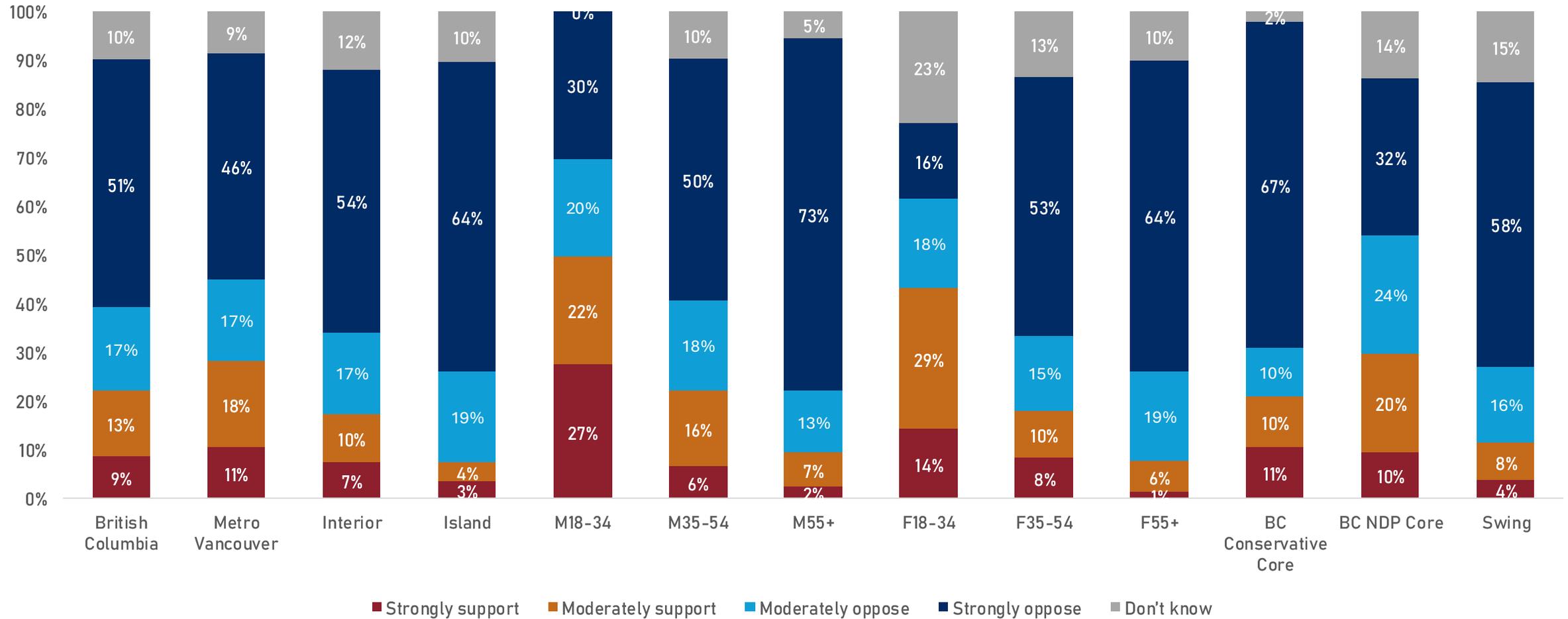
Awareness of Cowichan decision

By region, age, gender and voter type



Support or oppose Cowichan decision

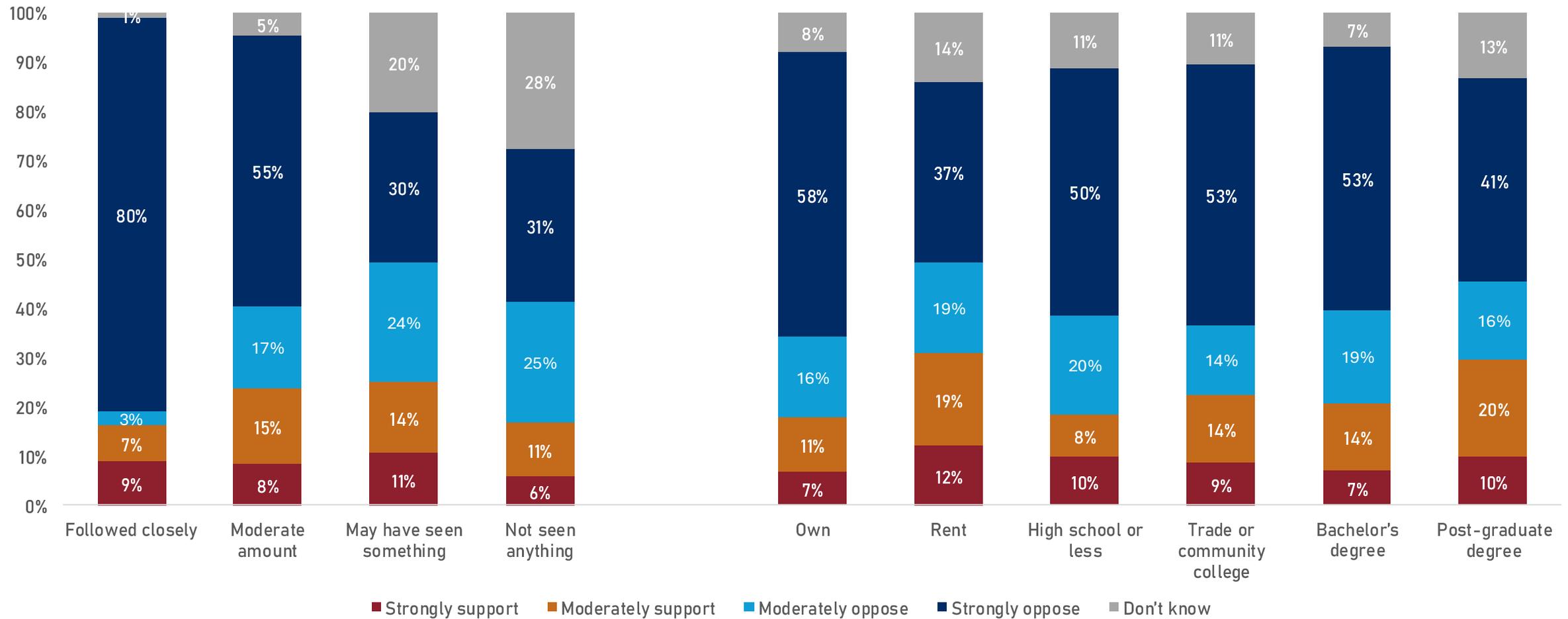
By region, age, gender and voter type



In August 2025 the BC Supreme Court decided that the Cowichan Tribes on Vancouver Island had Aboriginal title over 800 acres of land in Richmond. Some of the land is owned by the government and some owned by farmers, small businesses and individual homeowners. Until now Indigenous land claims have been limited to land owned by the government with private property left out. The Judge decided that rights to private property can be taken away as part of First Nations land claims process. Do you support or oppose this decision?

Support or oppose Cowichan decision

By awareness, homeownership and education



In August 2025 the BC Supreme Court decided that the Cowichan Tribes on Vancouver Island had Aboriginal title over 800 acres of land in Richmond. Some of the land is owned by the government and some owned by farmers, small businesses and individual homeowners.

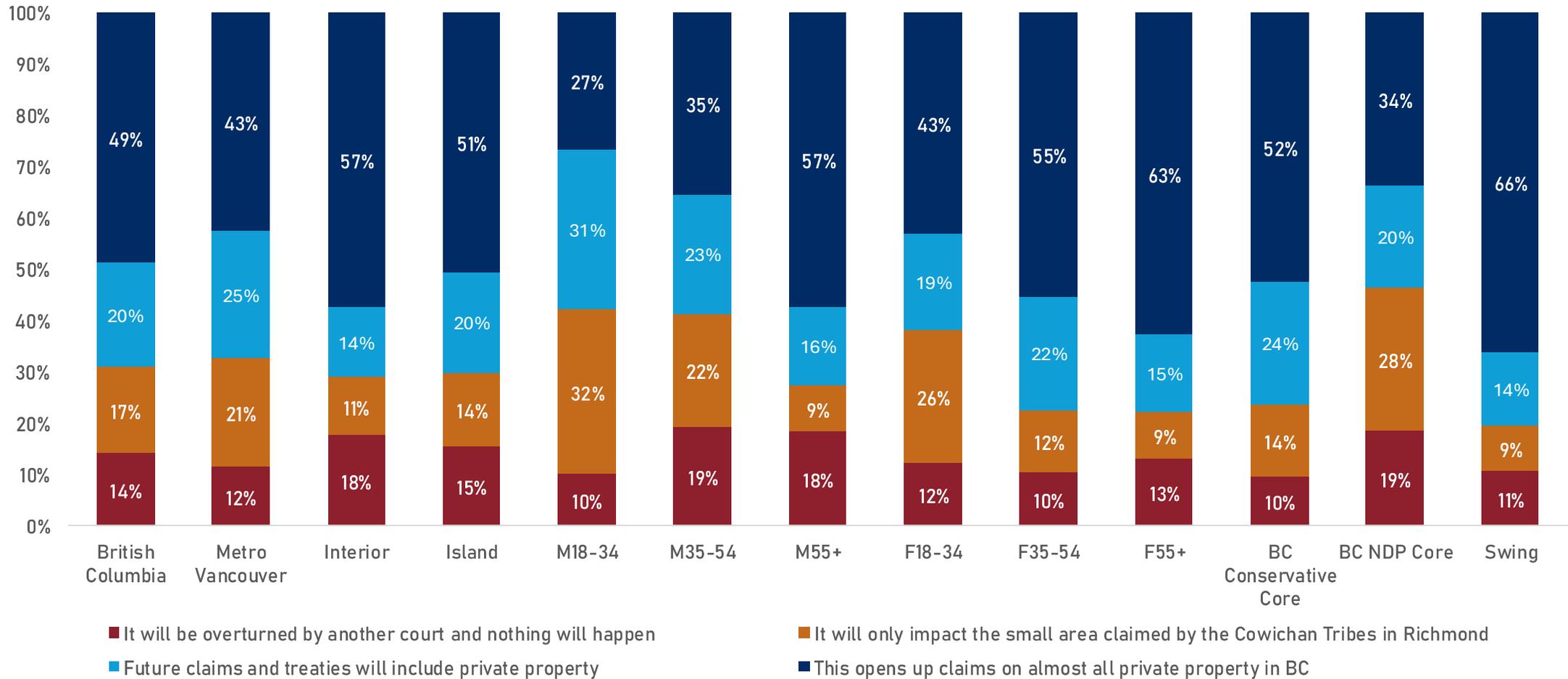
Until now Indigenous land claims have been limited to land owned by the government with private property left out. The Judge decided that rights to private property can be taken away as part of First Nations land claims process. Do you support or oppose this decision?

Consequences of the decision

- Half (49%) of people believe that the consequence of this decision will be to open up claims on almost all private property in BC.
 - Another 20% think that future treaties and claims will now include private property.
 - Young people and BC NDP core voters are the most likely to believe the consequences will be limited or non-existent.
- 24% of swing voters are very worried about the decision impacting private property owned by them or their family in BC. Another 25% are moderately worried.
- 78% think the decision will have a negative impact on BC's economy by introducing uncertainty into property rights.
 - There is near universal agreement with this among BC Conservative core and swing voters.

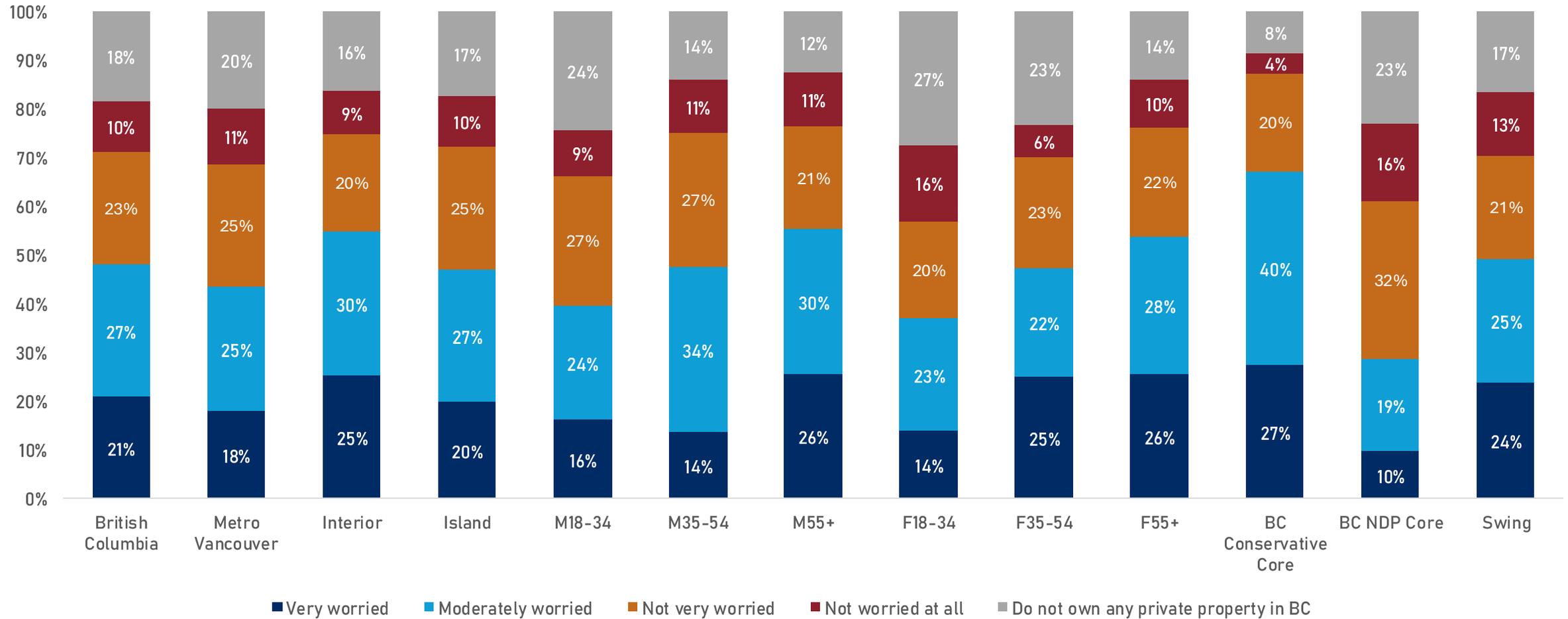
Consequences of the decision

By region, age, gender and voter type



Worried about personal impact

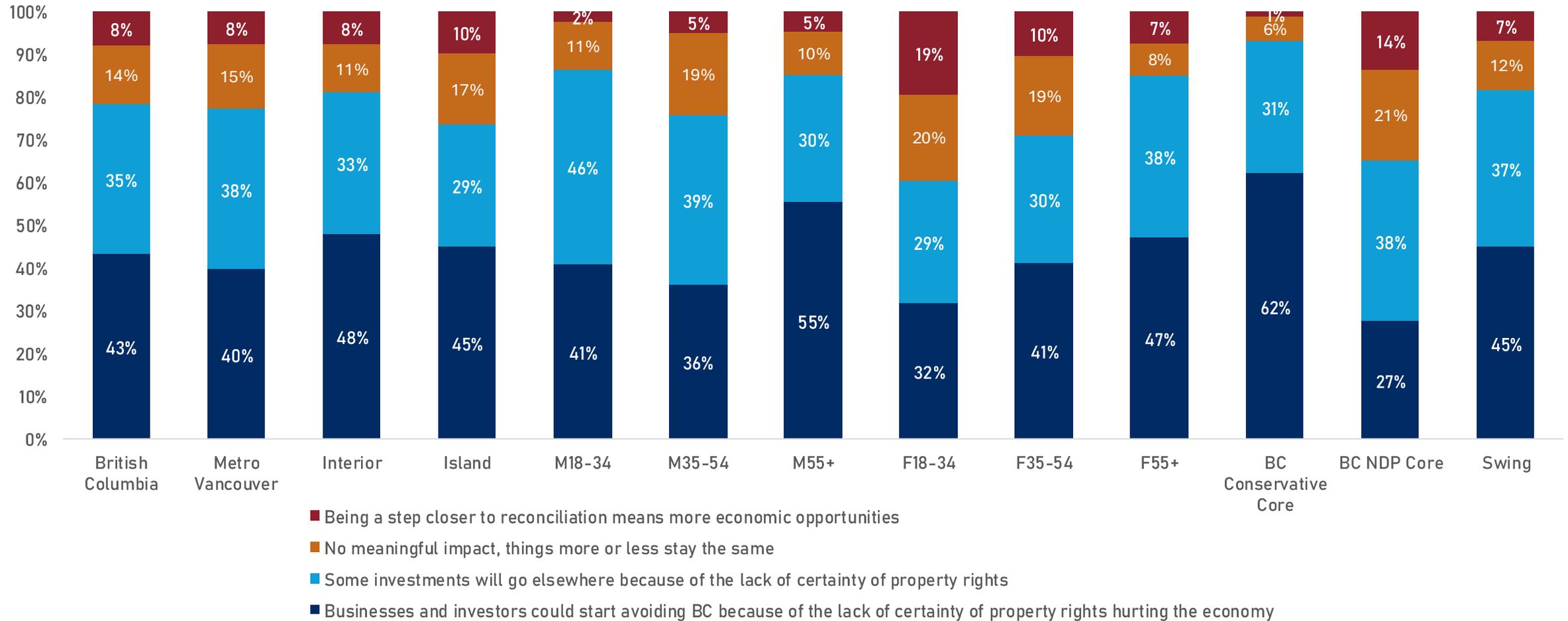
By region, age, gender and voter type



How worried are you about the decision impacting private property owned by you or your family in BC?

Impact on BC's economy

By region, age, gender and voter type



What impact do you think the decision will have on BC's economy going forward?

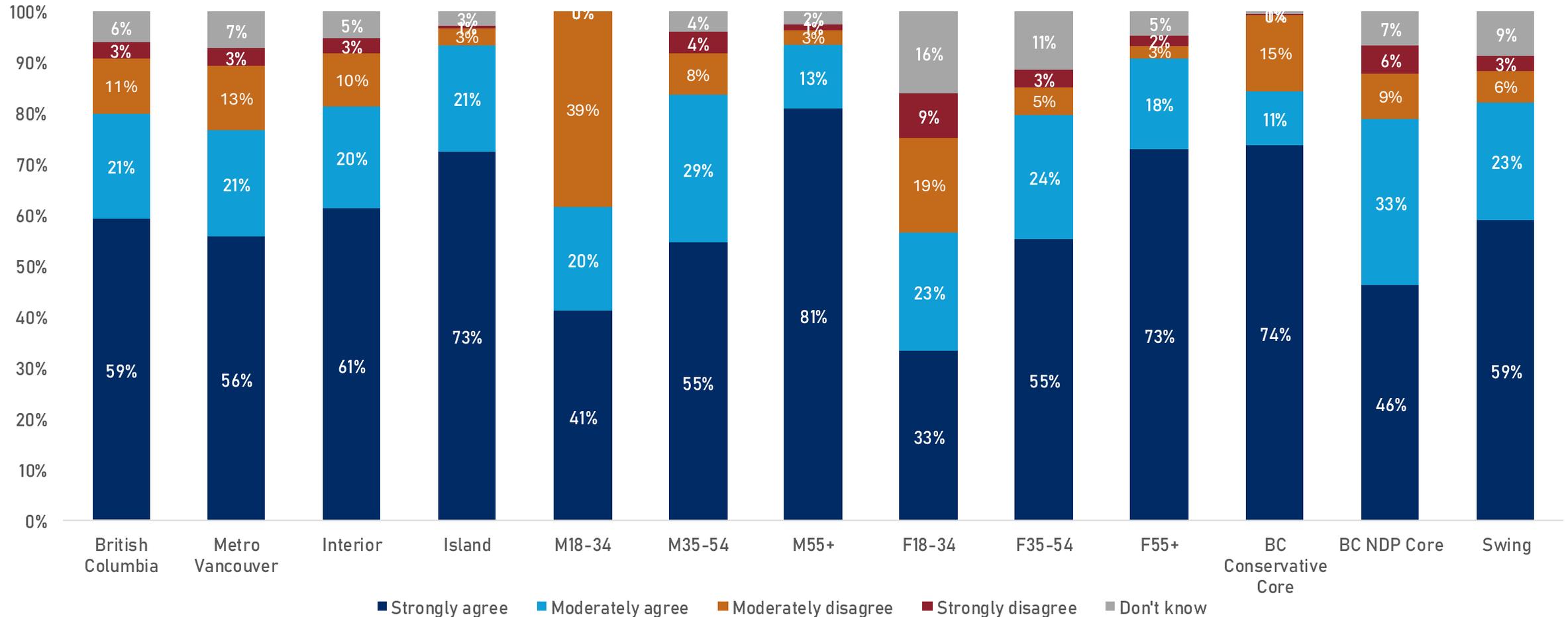
Views of the Decision

Views of the Decision

- There was broad agreements on statements about the decision
 - The government must protect private property – it's not fair to homeowners, farmers, and small businesses who have worked hard to now face the possibility of losing their home or land (82% of swing voters agree)
 - It is unfair for the courts or government to change the rules around property ownership (76% of swing voters agree)
 - Private property ownership is now uncertain in BC (75% of swing voters agree)
- Only 8% think that opposition to the decision is racist. Thought almost half of those who support it believe that opponents are motivated by racism, so this argument will be deployed.
- A majority (52%) of British Columbians and swing voters (53%) believe that the laws the decision is based on should be repealed and private property rights protected by law.
 - This view is most popular with older men and BC Conservative core voters, though a third of BC NDP core voters agree as well.

Agree that the government must protect private property – its not fair to homeowners, farmers, and small businesses who have worked hard to now face the possibility of losing their home or land

By region, age, gender and voter type

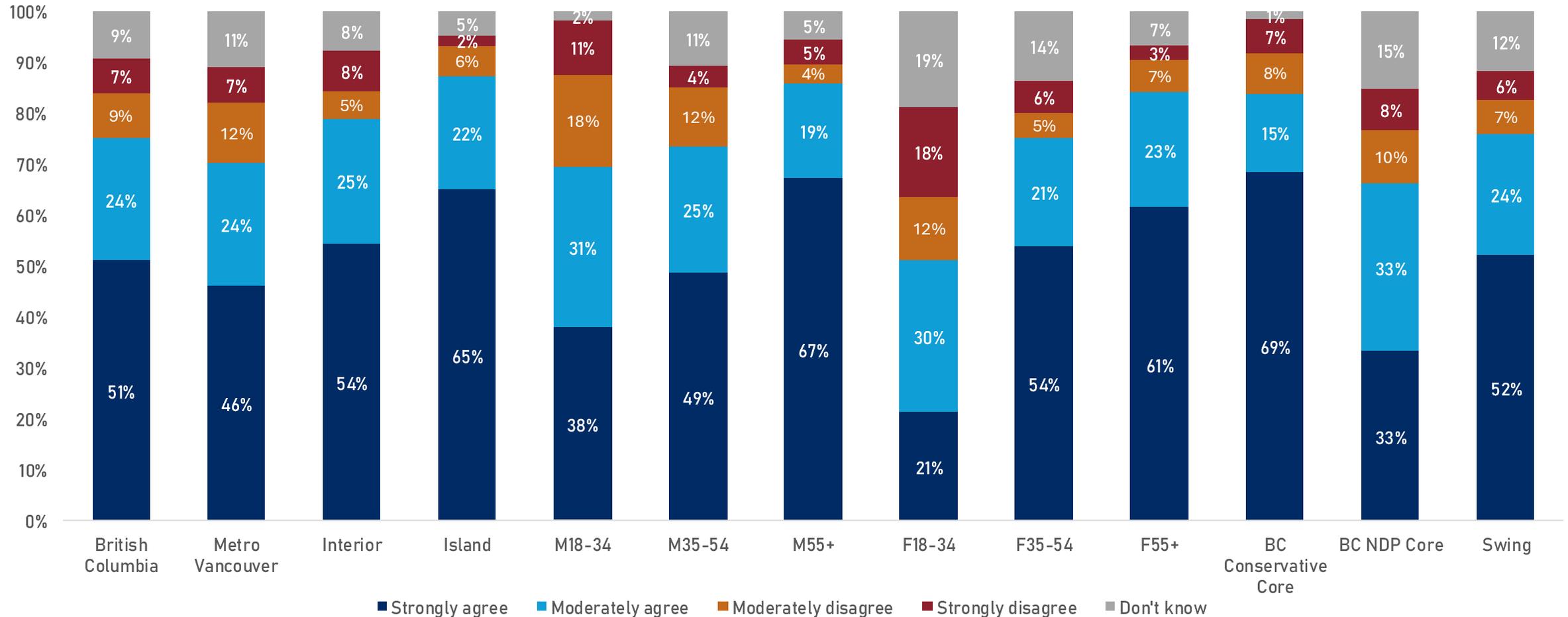


Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

The government must protect private property – its not fair to homeowners, farmers, and small businesses who have worked hard to now face the possibility of losing their home or land

Agree that it is unfair for the courts or government to change the rules around property ownership

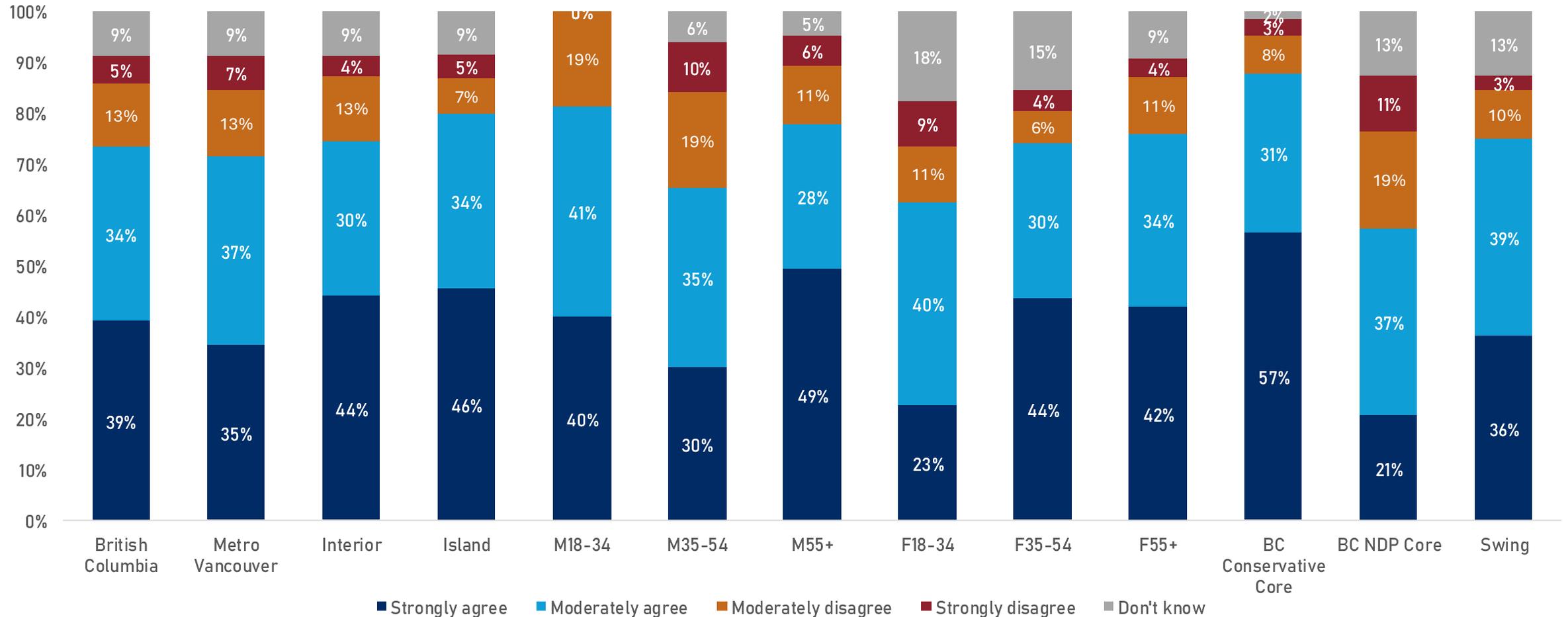
By region, age, gender and voter type



Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
It is unfair for the courts or government to change the rules around property ownership

Agree that private property ownership is now uncertain in BC

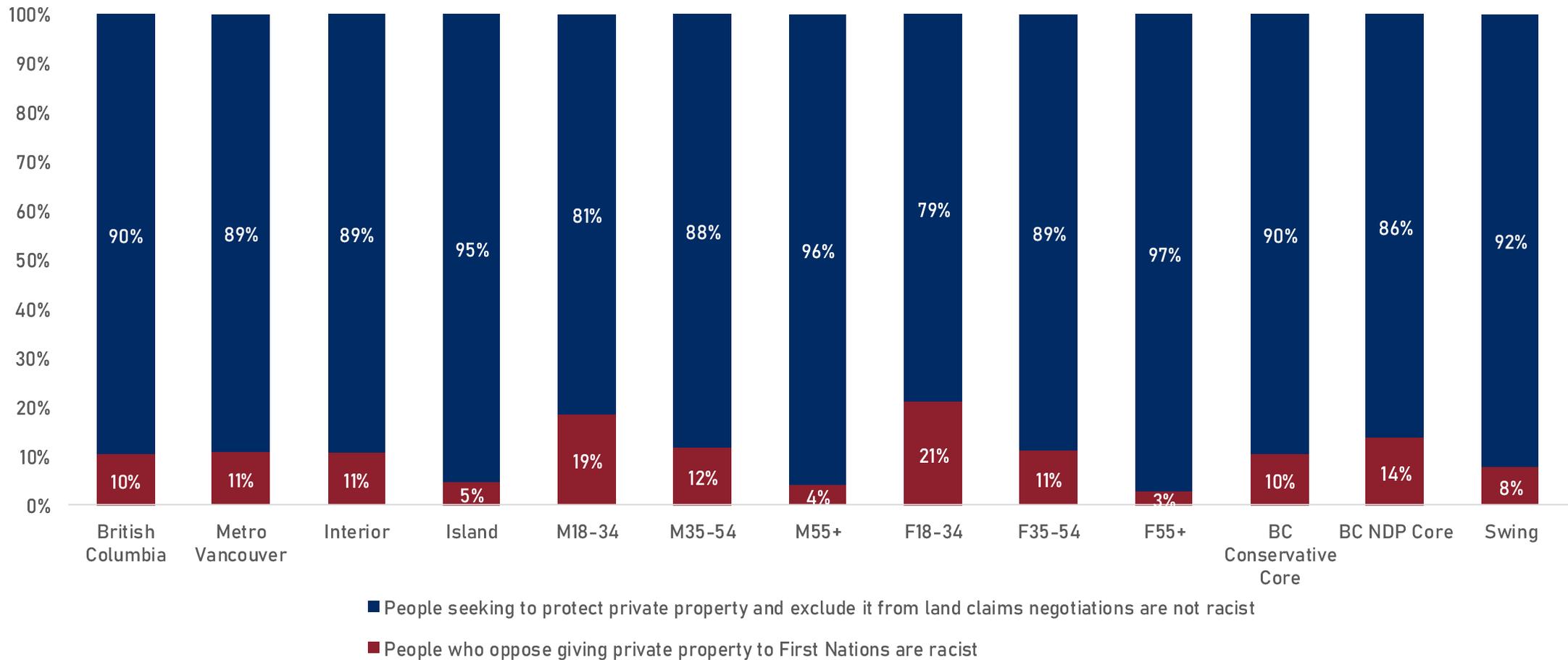
By region, age, gender and voter type



Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Private property ownership is now uncertain in BC

Opposition to the decision is racist?

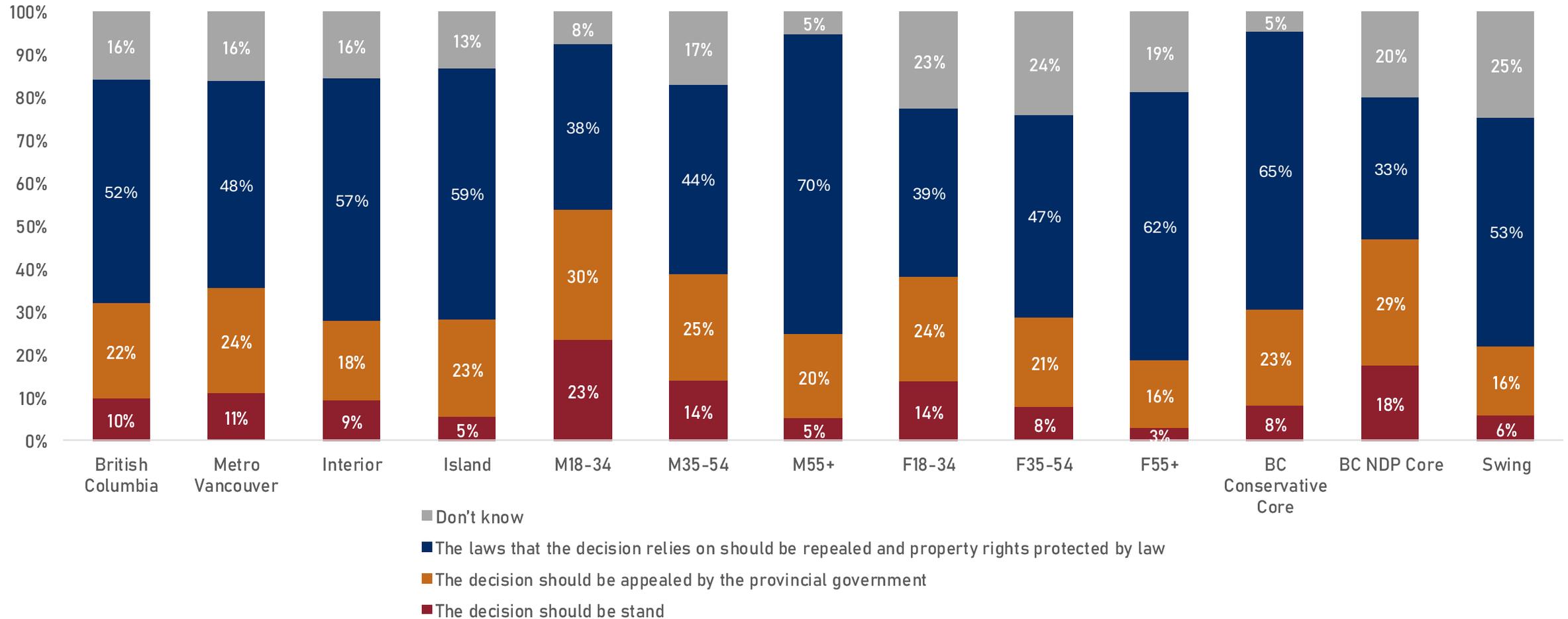
By region, age, gender and voter type



Some people say that people who oppose the Cowichan Tribes decision are motivated by racism against First Nations and do not believe in reconciliation, while others say that having respectful conversations with First Nations and differences of opinion does not mean people are racist. Which is closest to your view:

What should be done?

By region, age, gender and voter type



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