

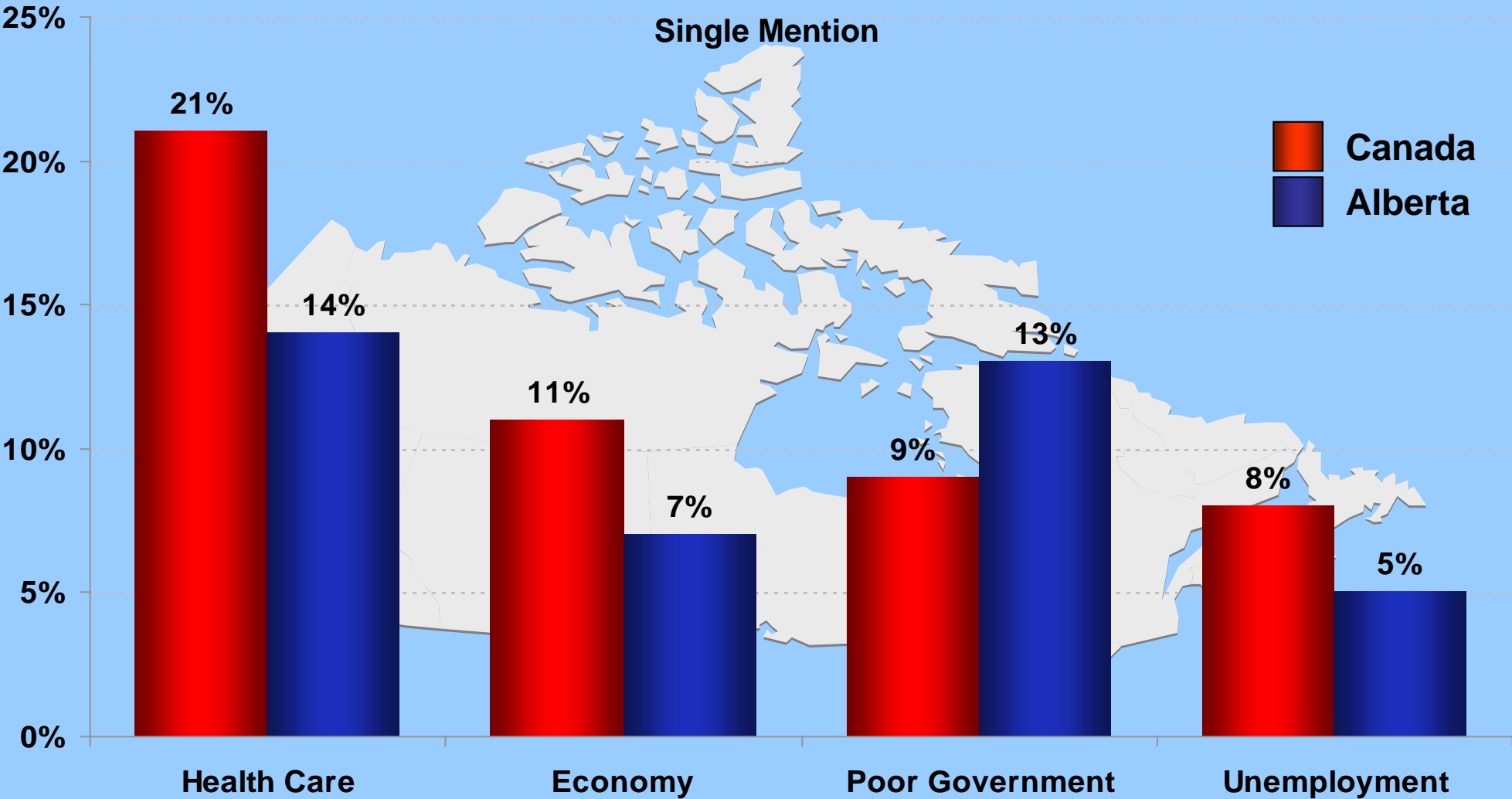


Focus Alberta

Research Findings August 2003

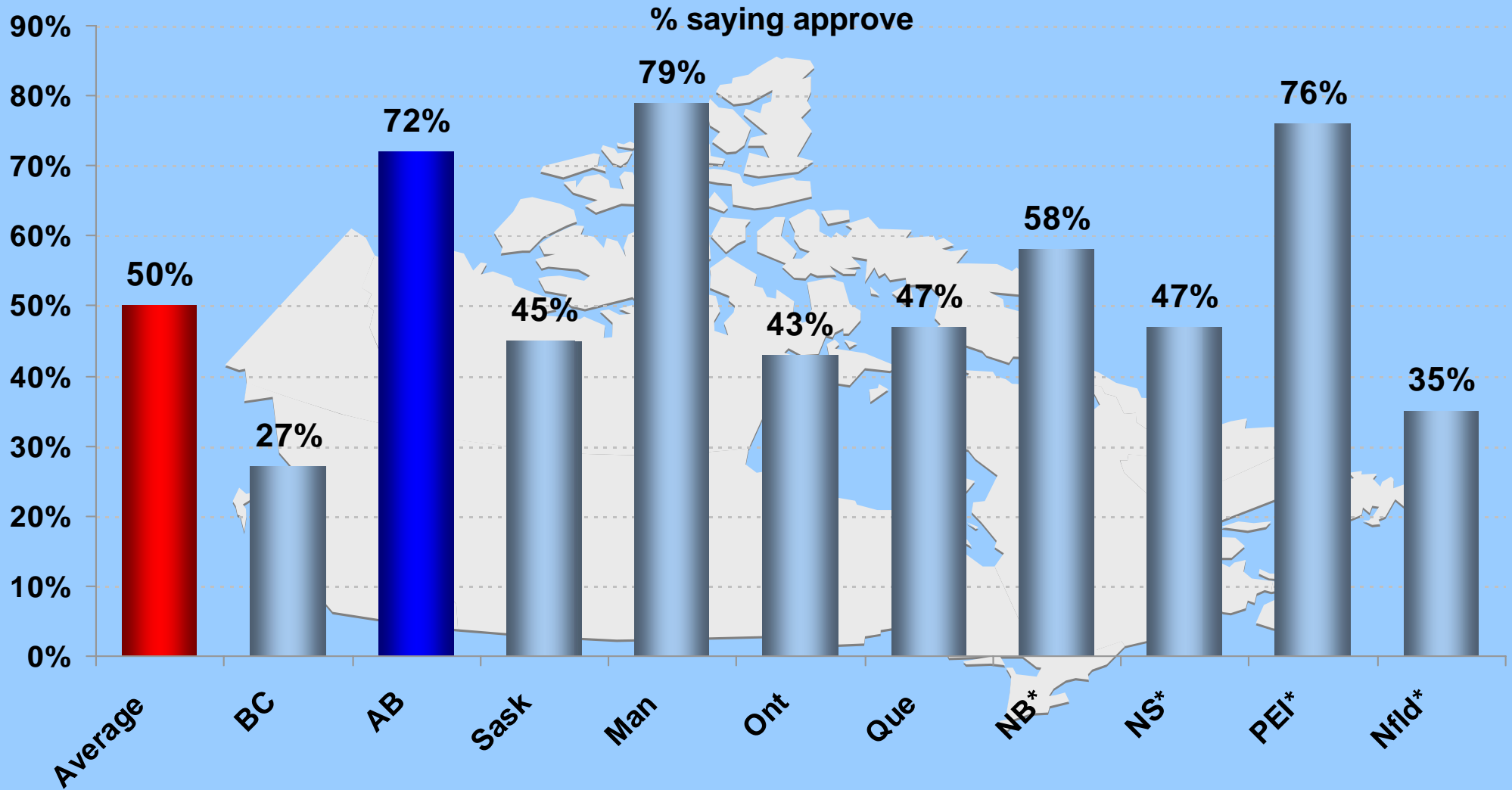
Important National Issues

What's the most important issue facing Canadians today?



Approval of Provincial Gov'ts

Do you approve or disapprove of your provincial government's performance?



*Caution: Small Sample

Important Alberta Issues

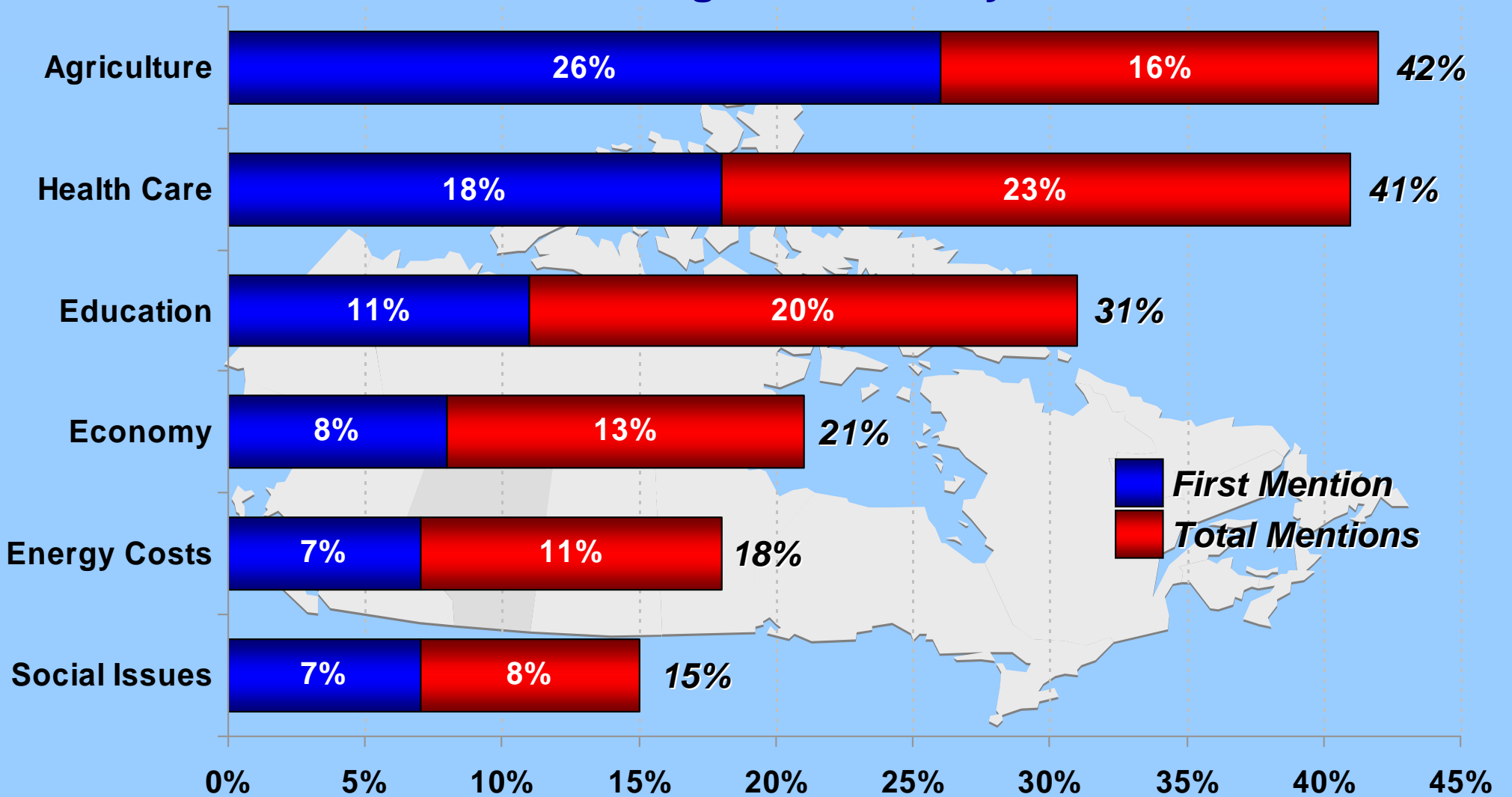
What's the most important issue facing Alberta today?

Single Mention

<i>Agriculture</i>	26%
<i>Health Care</i>	18%
<i>Education</i>	11%
<i>Economy</i>	8%
<i>Energy Costs</i>	7%
<i>Social Issues</i>	7%

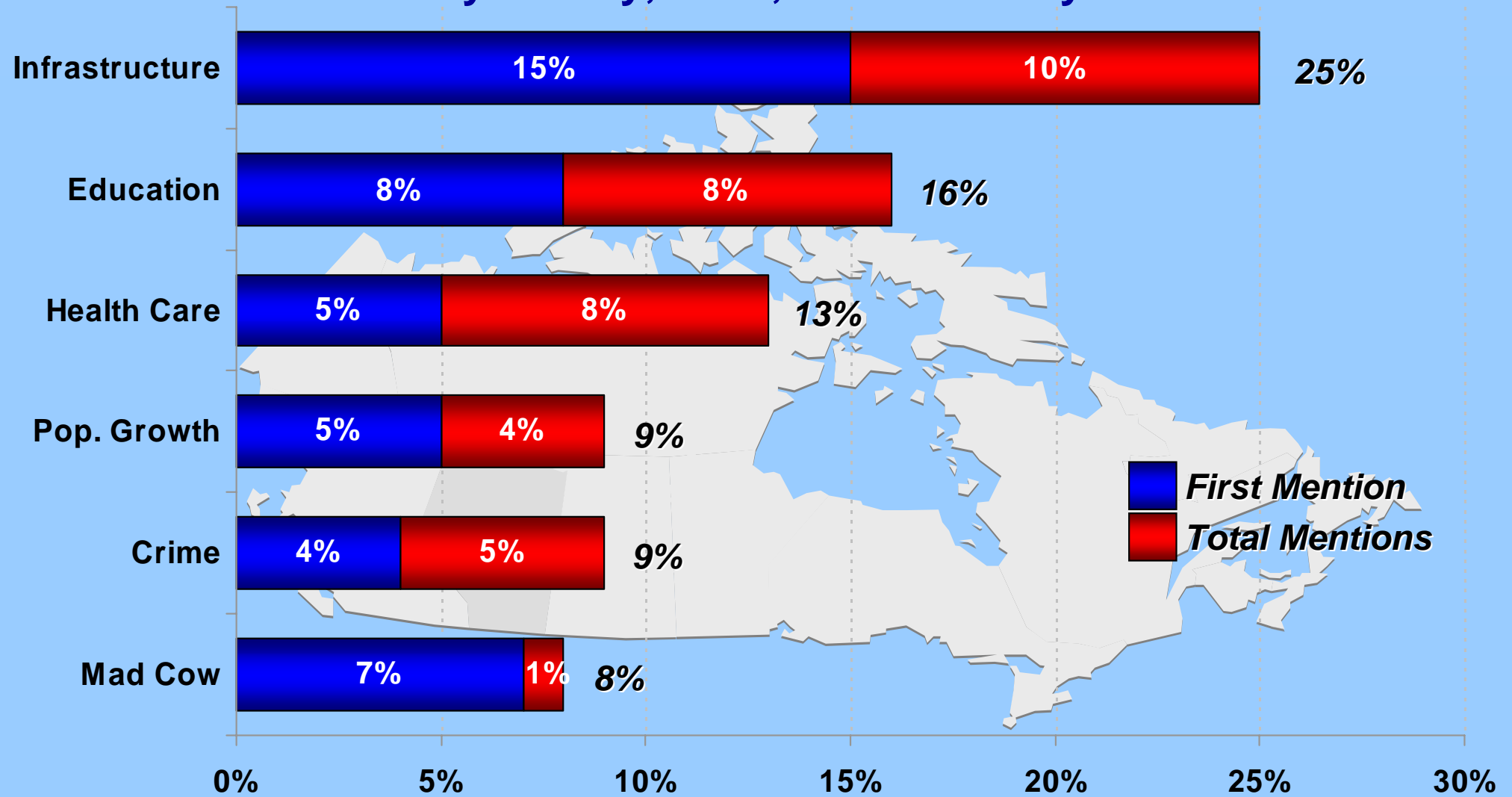
Important Alberta Issues

What other important issues are facing Alberta today?



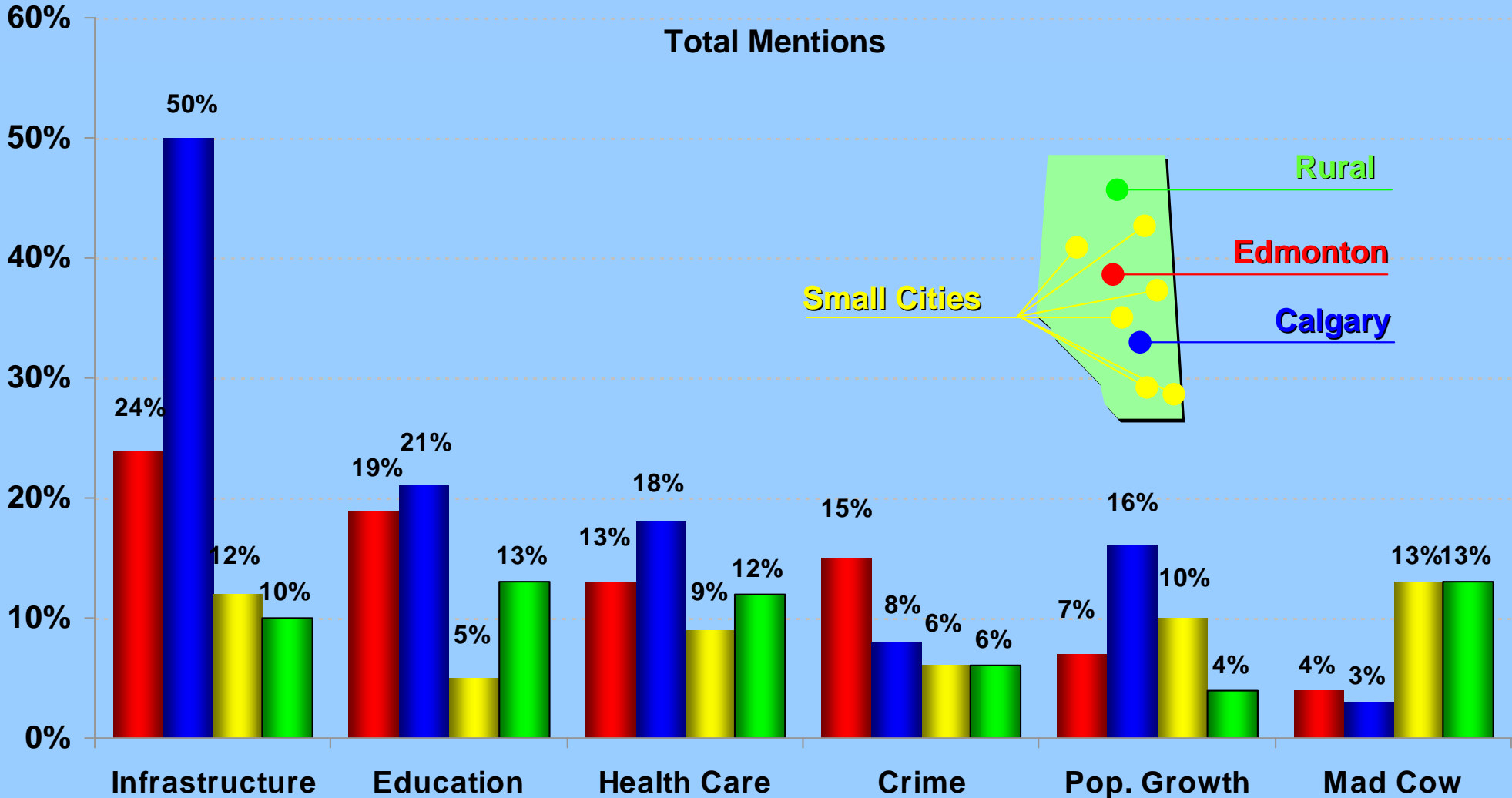
Important Community Issues

What's the most important issue facing your city, town, or community?



Important Community Issues

What's the most important issue facing your city, town, or community?



Quality of Life in Alberta



What do you value most about the quality of life in Alberta?

Total Mentions

<i>Freedoms</i>	22%
<i>Nature</i>	13%
<i>Available Jobs</i>	11%
<i>Clean Air</i>	11%
<i>Low Tax</i>	11%

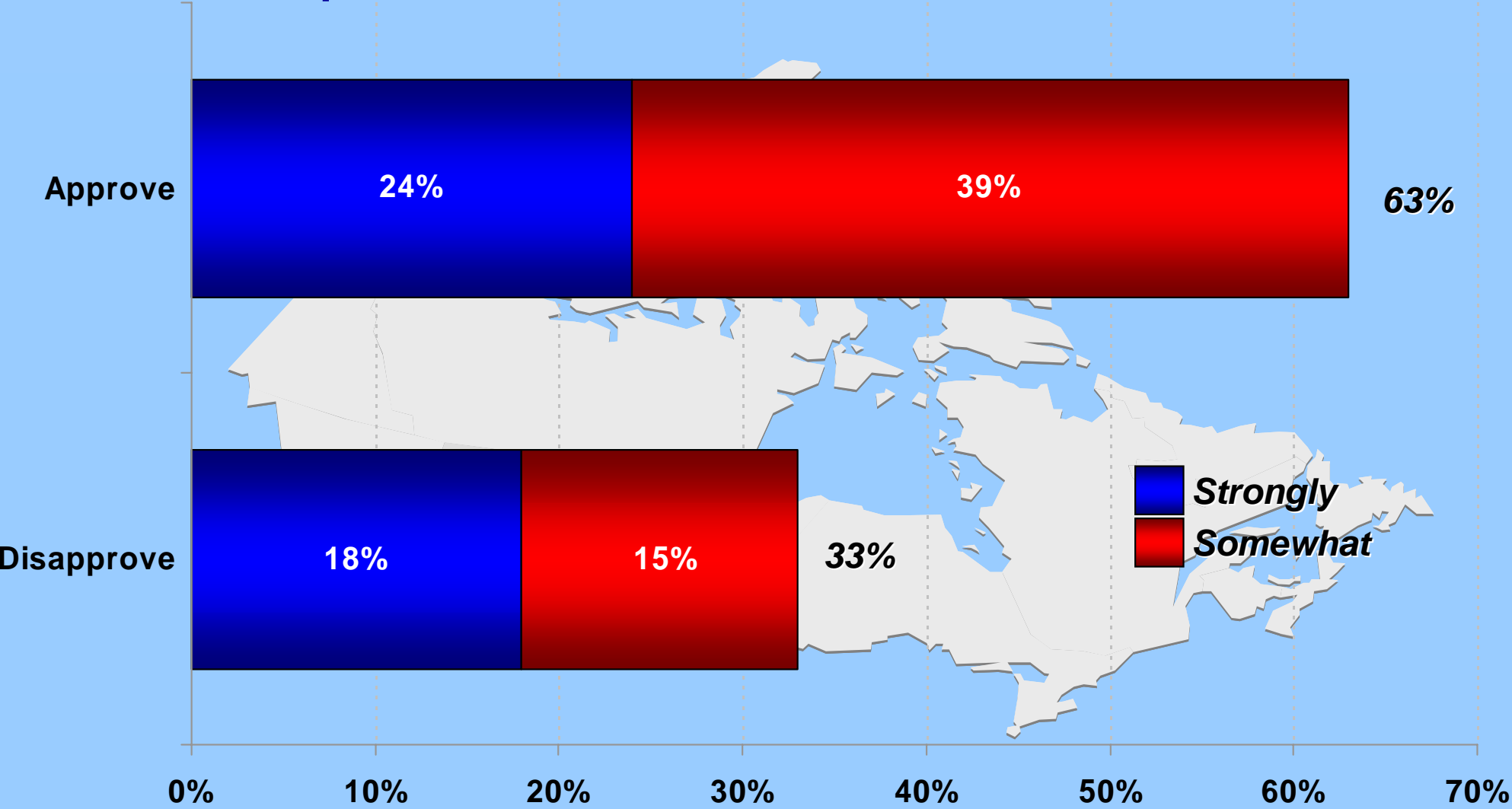
Performance of Government

Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of the Provincial Government?

<i>Approve</i>	63%
<i>Disapprove</i>	33%
<i>DK/NA</i>	4%

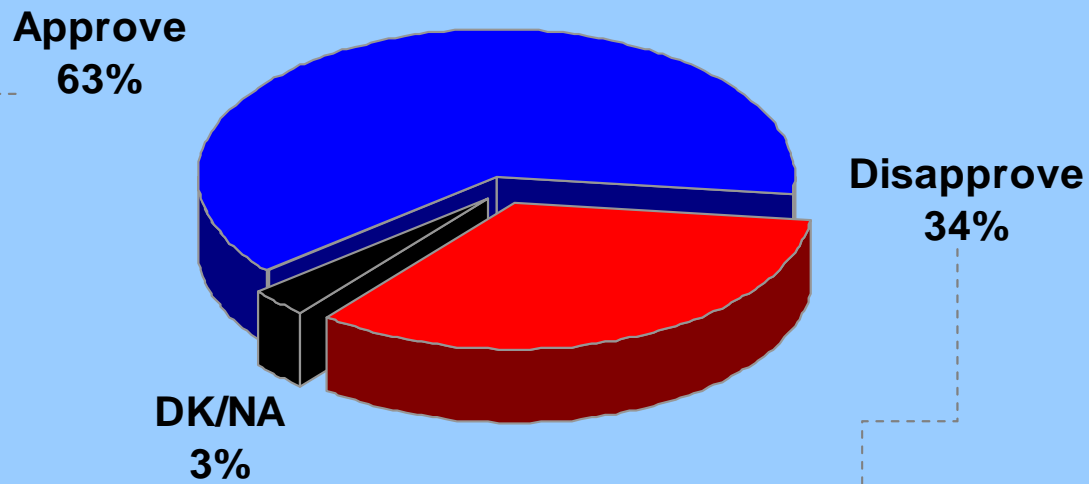
Performance of Government

Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of the Provincial Government?



Performance of Government

Why approve or disapprove of the performance of the Provincial Government?



Reasons for **APPROVAL**

- Doing a good job
- Reducing debt/balanced budget
- Listening to/caring for Albertans
- Good economy
- Good/honest leader
- Standing up to federal government

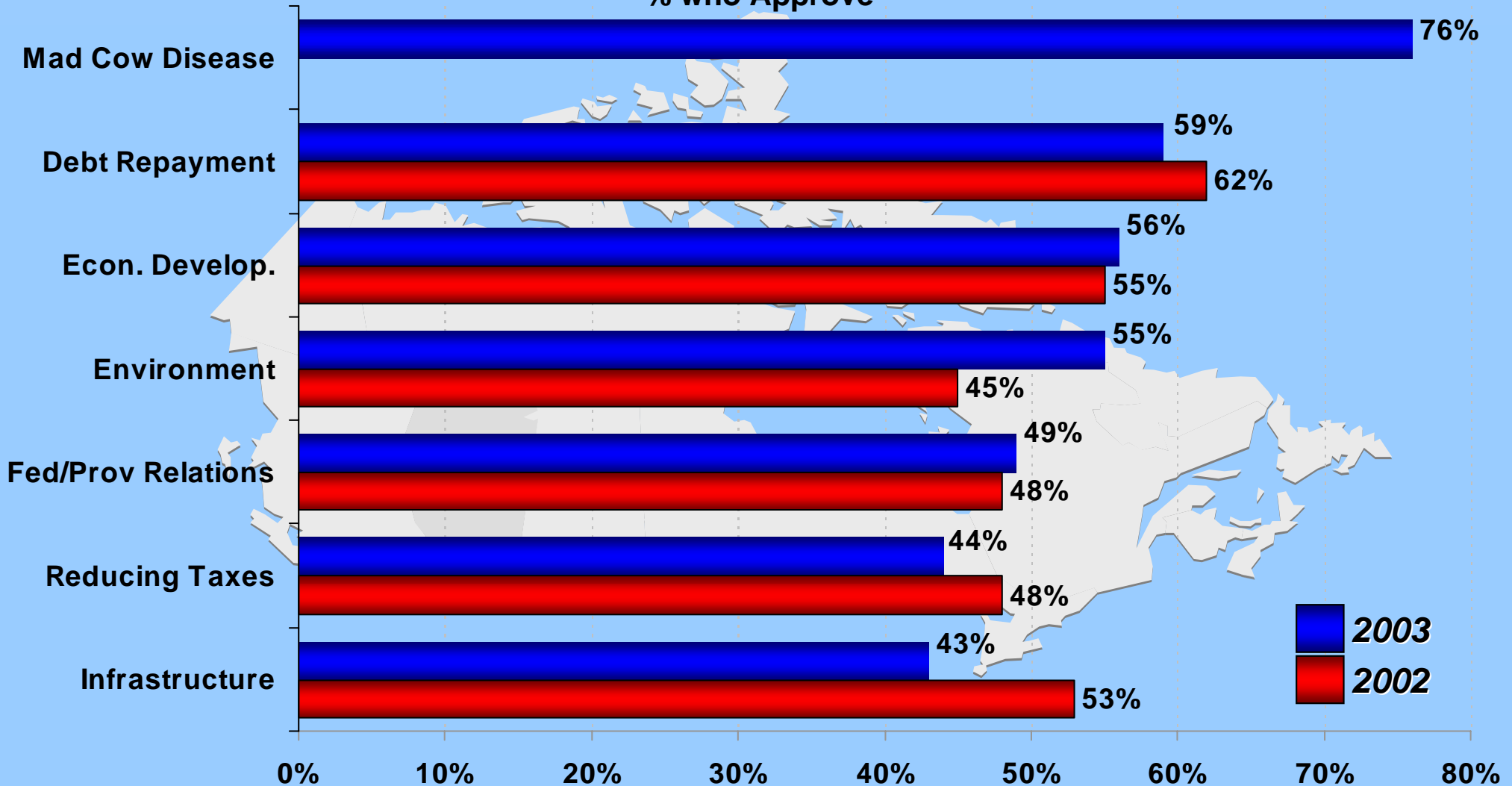
Reasons for **DISAPPROVAL**

- Wrong direction for education/under-funded
- Wrong direction on healthcare/under-funded
- Not listening to/caring for Albertans
- Spending money in wrong areas
- Poor/dishonest leader
- Should not deregulate utilities

Handling of Issues

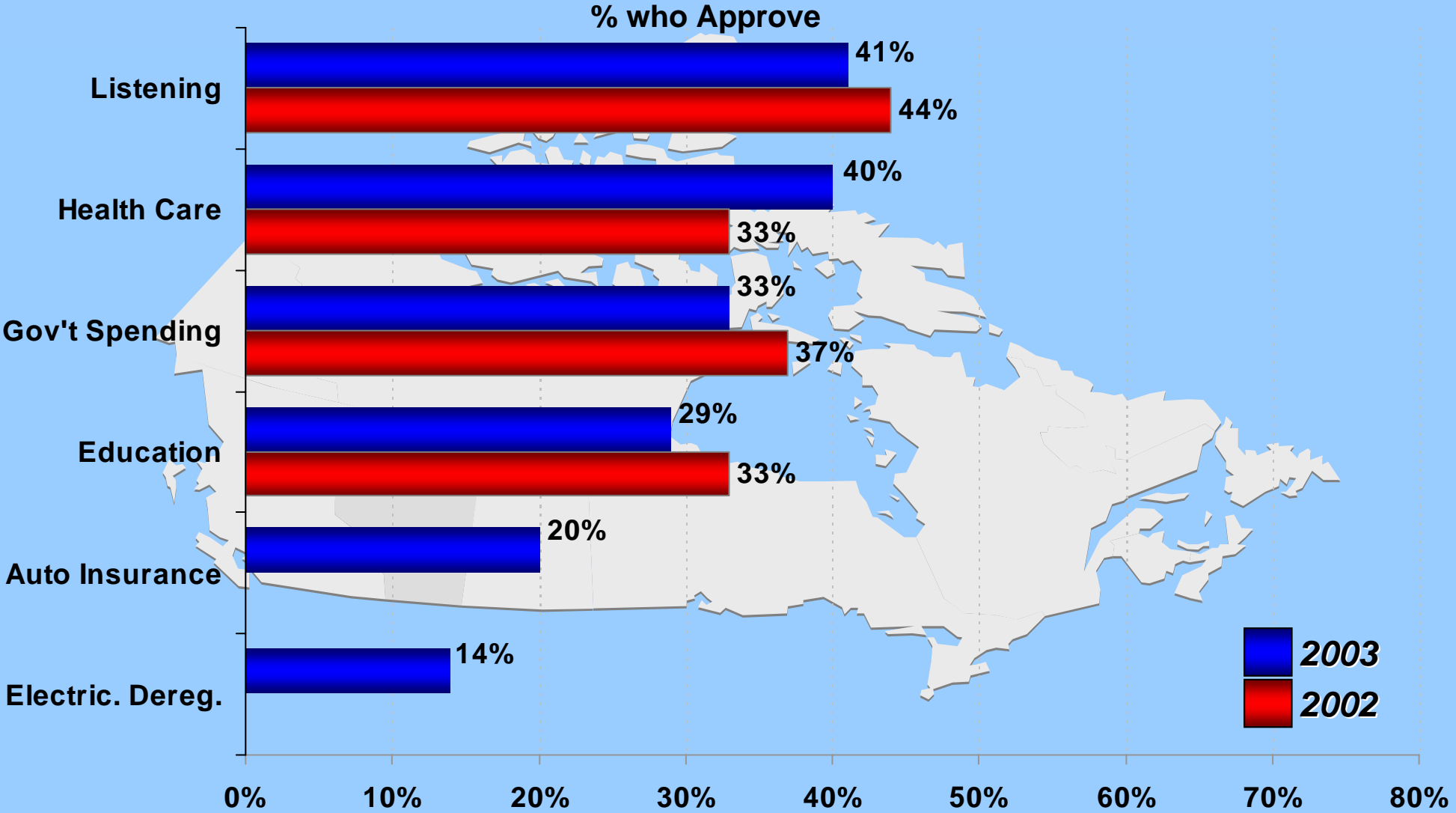
Do you approve of the way the Provincial Government is handling the issue of... ?

% who Approve



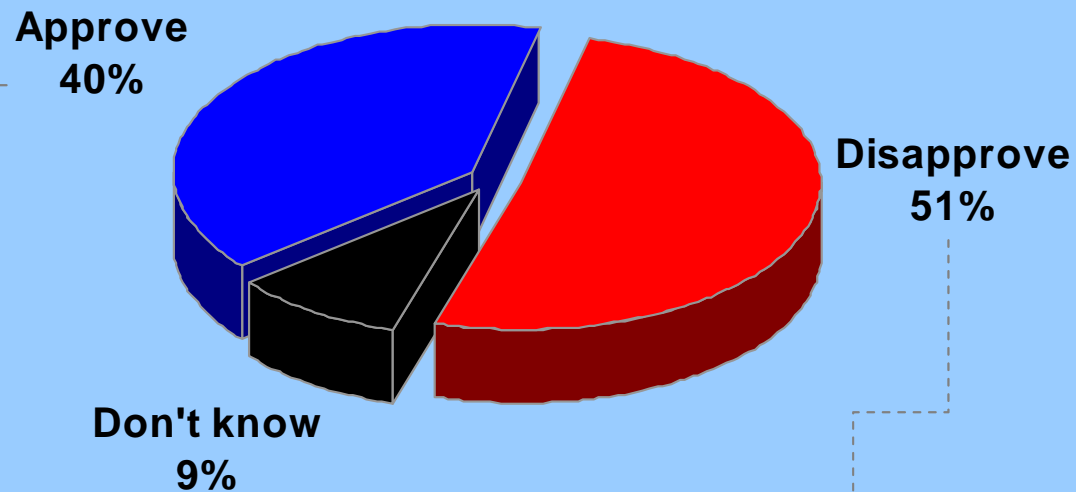
Handling of Issues

Do you approve of the way the Provincial Government is handling the issue of... ?



Handling of Health Care

Why approve or disapprove of handling of health care?



Reasons for **APPROVAL**

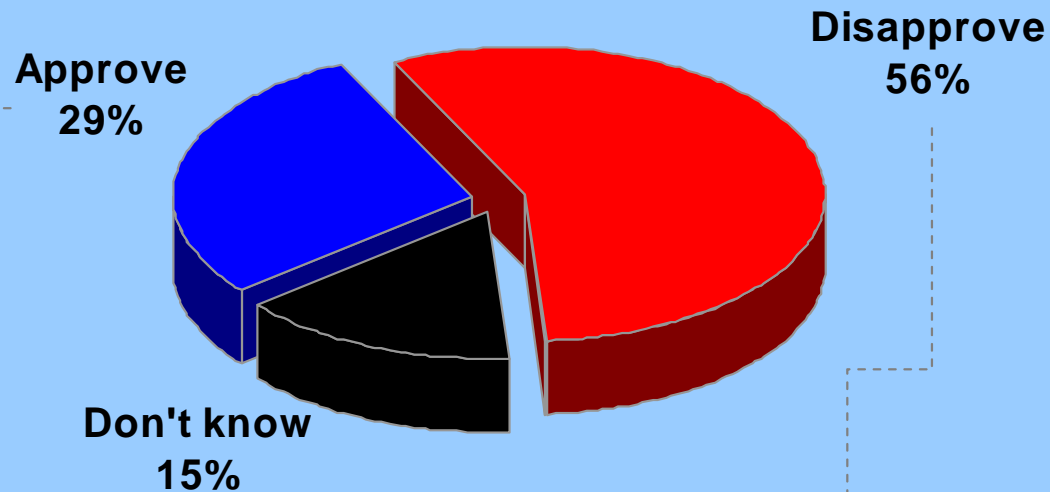
- Good healthcare services
- Trust the government/handling it well
- Health care is accessible
- Personal experiences
- It's better than in other provinces/countries

Reasons for **DISAPPROVAL**

- Lack of funding
- Waiting lists are too long
- Disagree with privatization
- Not enough doctors/ nurses/ overworked
- Too many cutbacks
- Need more beds/ hospitals

Handling of Education

Why approve or disapprove of handling of education?



Reasons for **APPROVAL**

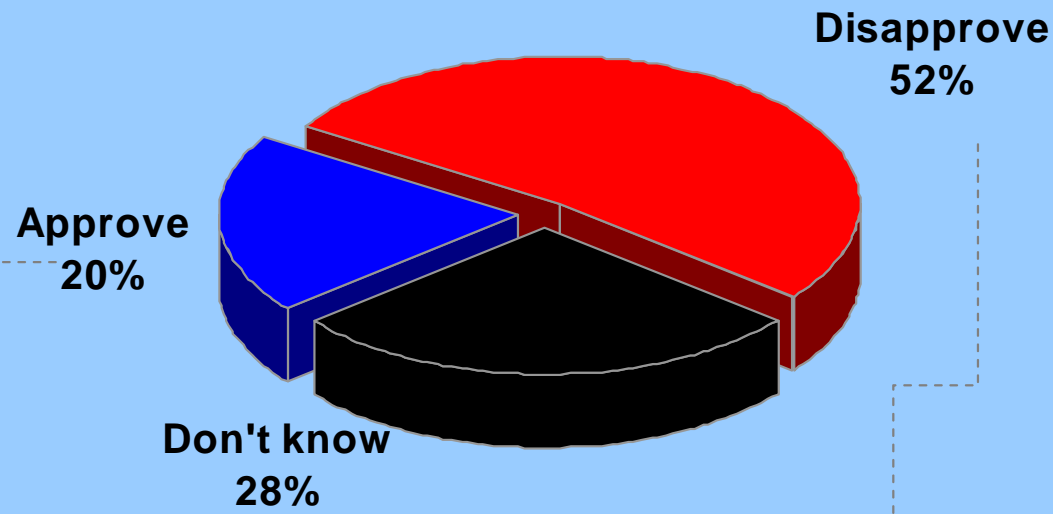
- They are doing a good job/ no problems
- Providing quality/ good education
- Teachers are receiving a wage increase
- They are trying to balance budget
- Quality of teaching is the problem
- Funding is adequate

Reasons for **DISAPPROVAL**

- Not enough funding/too many cutbacks
- High teacher-student ratio
- High tuition/ cost of education
- Need more teachers/ aids
- Education should be higher priority
- Teachers are not paid enough

Handling of Auto Insurance

Why approve or disapprove of handling of auto insurance?



Reasons for **APPROVAL**

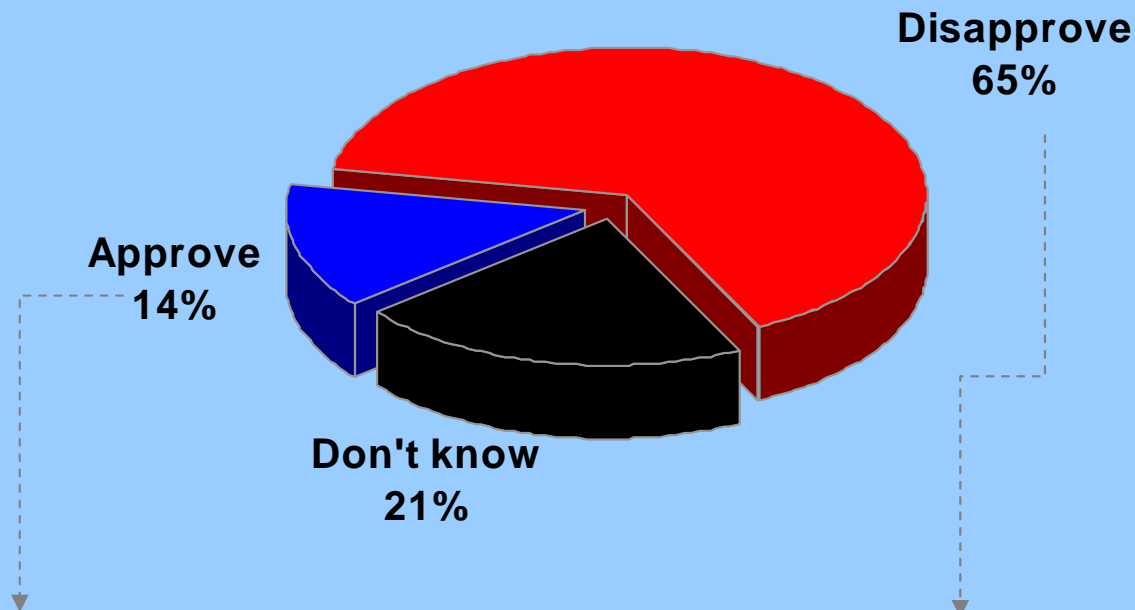
- They are doing something / taking action
- Trying to keep costs down
- Not interfering with free enterprise
- Initiating investigation
- Had no problems with my insurance

Reasons for **DISAPPROVAL**

- Rates too high
- Need more government regulation
- They are not doing anything
- High rates for good drivers
- Age / gender not treated equally

Handling of Electricity Dereg.

Why approve or disapprove of handling of electricity deregulation?



Reasons for **APPROVAL**

- Good for economy / free market
- Will bring down prices
- Will bring competition / choice
- See no problems
- Like the way it was implemented
- Got refund / rebate

Reasons for **DISAPPROVAL**

- Cost is going up / fluctuating
- Against deregulation
- Government needs to regulate
- It is not working / many problems
- Companies just concerned with profit
- There's no plan

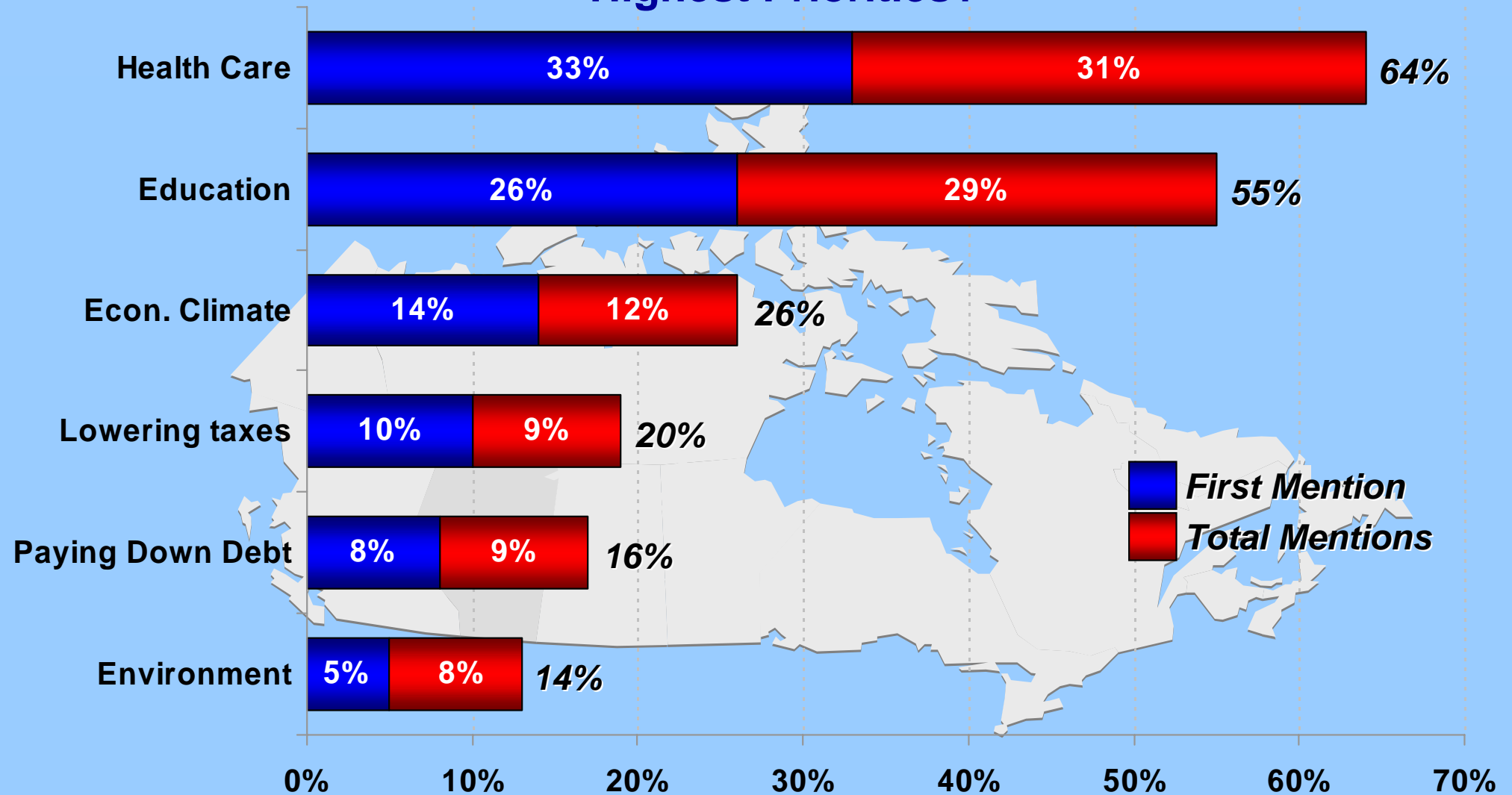
What Should Be Government's Highest Priority?

Single Mention

<i>Health Care</i>	33%
<i>Education</i>	26%
<i>Econ. Climate</i>	14%
<i>Lower Taxes</i>	10%
<i>Pay Debt</i>	8%
<i>Environment</i>	5%

Top Two Highest Priorities

What Should Be Government's Two Highest Priorities?



Perceived Government Priority

What IS Government's Highest Priority?

<i>Econ. Climate</i>	38%
<i>Pay Debt</i>	26%
<i>Health Care</i>	11%
<i>Lower Taxes</i>	5%
<i>Education</i>	5%
<i>Environment</i>	2%