

# Public Opinion about Site C

ABACUS DATA

The logo graphic consists of a horizontal line with a single green dot on the left side and two green dots on the right side.

Prepared for BC Hydro  
SPRING 2016

# METHODOLOGY

Telephone Survey

1, 000 British Columbians 18 and over  
(Comparable Margin of Error  $\pm$  3.1%)

Field dates

April 15 to 24, 2016

Statistical Weighting

Data was weighted by age, gender,  
education and region.

# KEY FINDINGS

**A large majority of residents of British Columbia support or say they can accept BC Hydro's Site C Clean Energy Project, which began construction last year.**

Summary of Survey Results:

- Awareness of the Site C project has reached a new high of 77% across the province and is stable at 90% in the north/northeast region.
- Across the province, 73% either support Site C (49%) or can support it under certain circumstances (24%), while 25% oppose the project.
- In the north/northeast region of the province, 69% of those surveyed either support building Site C (47%) or can accept it under certain circumstances (22%), while 26% oppose the project.

# MEETING BC'S ENERGY NEEDS

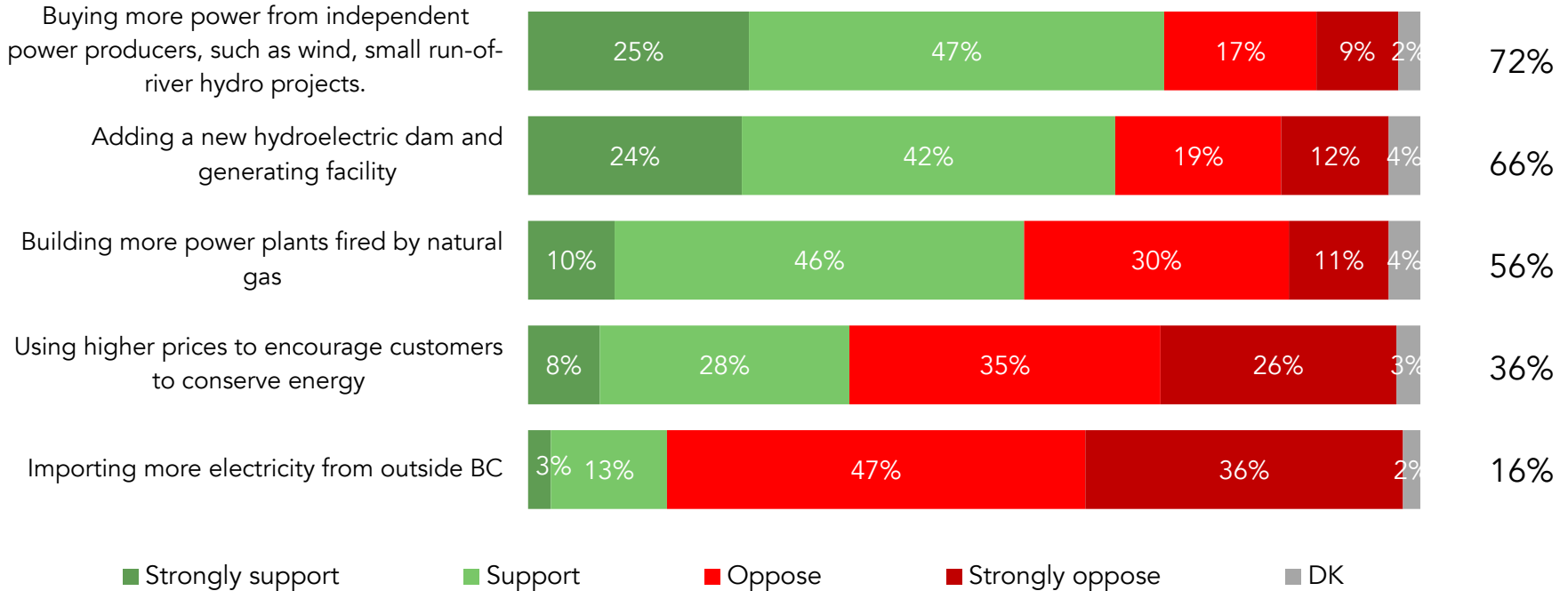
Adding a new hydroelectric dam continues to be one of the more supported approaches to meeting BC's growing electricity demand.

Approaches to meet electricity demand:

- Buying more power from independent small producers is most popular (72%)
- Two-thirds (66%) support adding a new hydroelectric dam
- A majority (56%) support building more natural gas plants
- Few support using higher prices to encourage conservation (36%) or importing more electricity from outside BC (16%)

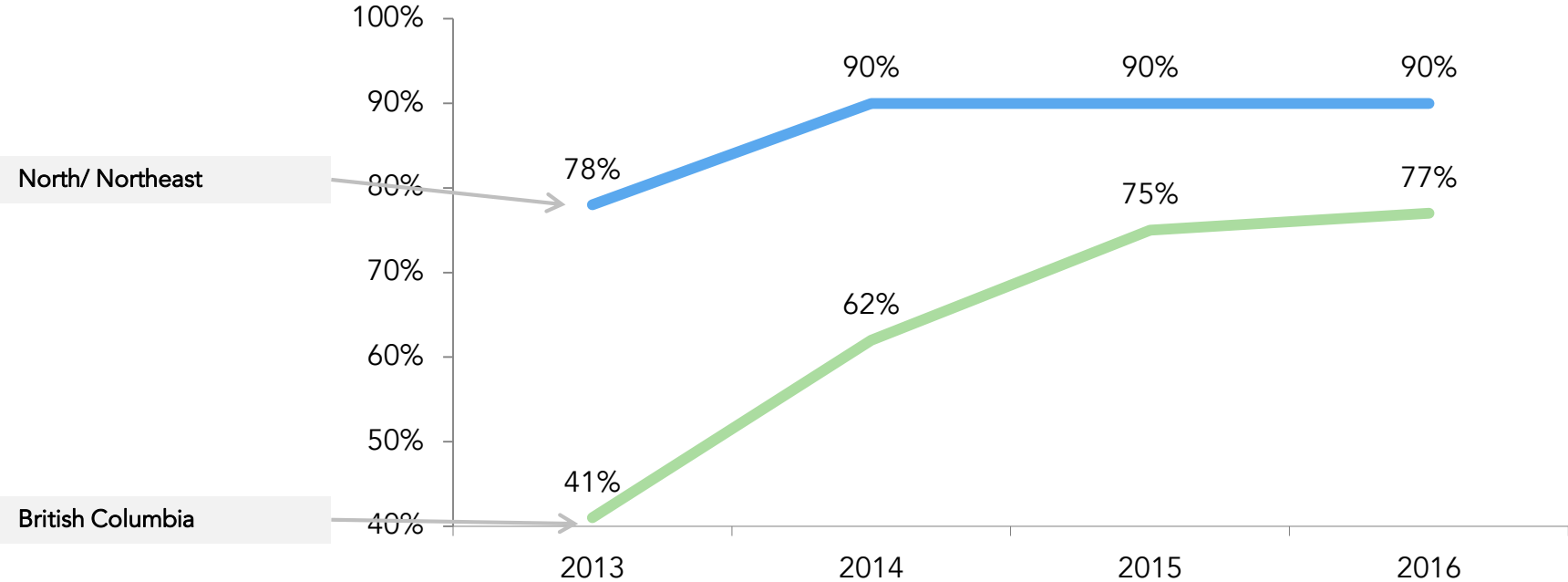
# MEETING BC ENERGY NEEDS

Top 2 Box



To meet this increase in electricity demand, a number of different approaches may be required. Do you strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose each of the following.

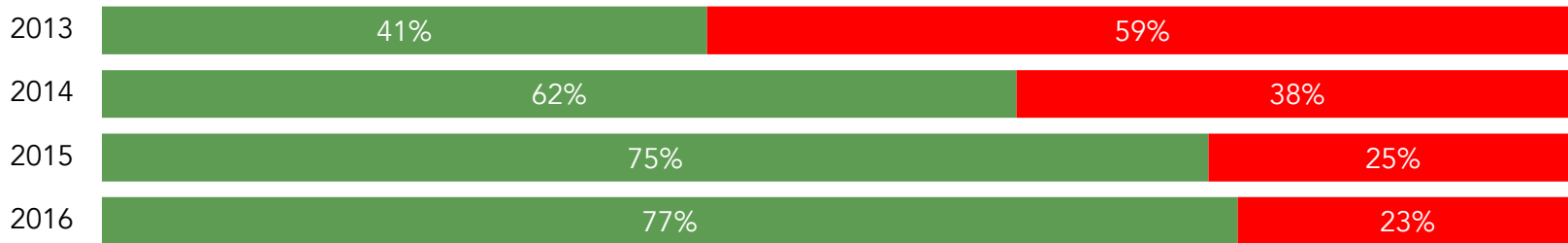
# AWARENESS OF SITE C PROJECT



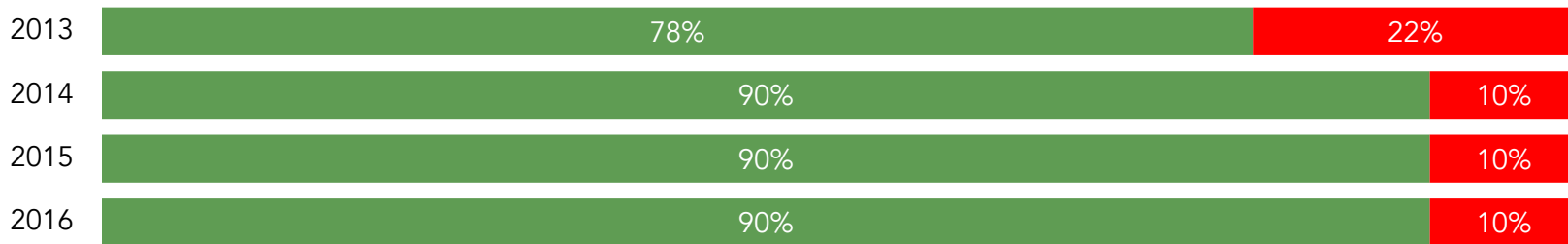
Have you seen, read or heard anything about BC Hydro’s proposed new dam, known as Site C, near Fort St. John? **\*Yes Only**

# AWARENESS OF SITE C PROJECT

## British Columbia



## North/Northeast

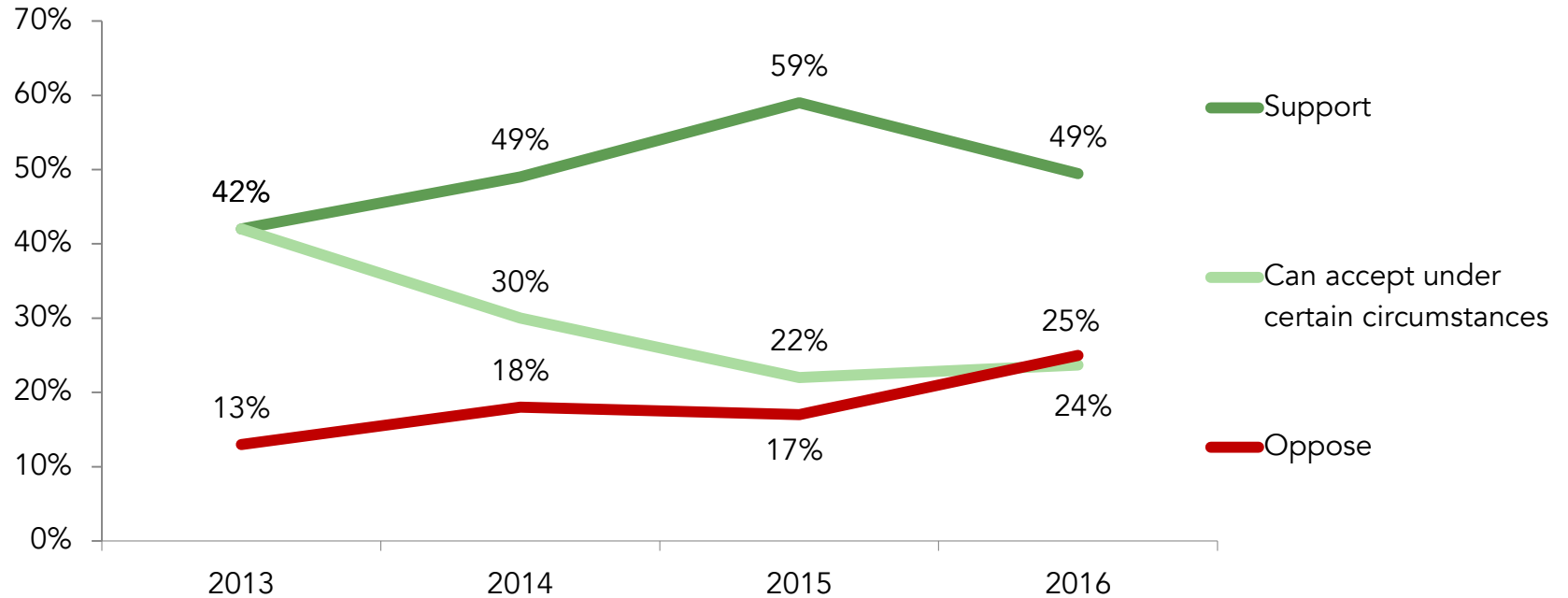


■ Yes

■ No

Have you seen, read or heard anything about BC Hydro's proposed new dam, known as Site C, near Fort St. John?

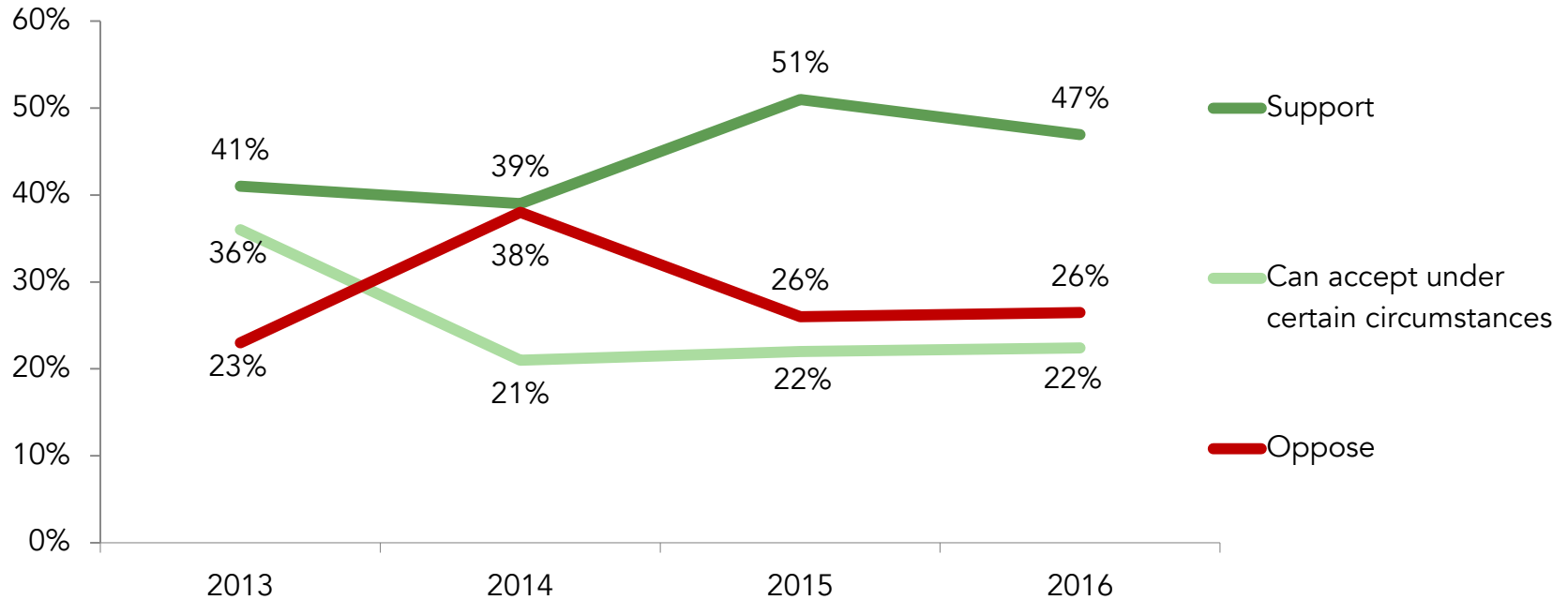
# SUPPORT FOR SITE C PROJECT - BC



Is the idea of building Site C, a new hydroelectric dam, to help meet the rising demand for electricity in BC, an idea you strongly support, support, can accept under certain circumstances, oppose, or strongly oppose?



# SUPPORT FOR SITE C PROJECT – NORTH/NE

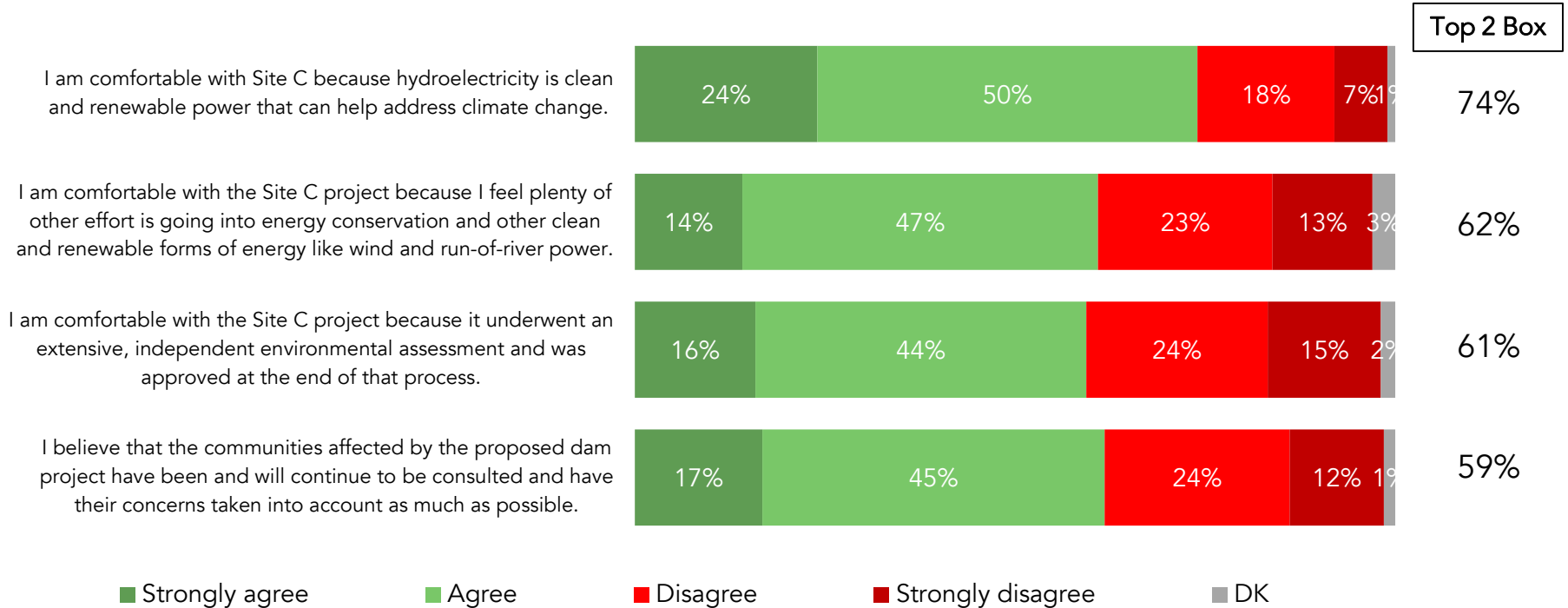


Is the idea of building Site C, a new hydroelectric dam, to help meet the rising demand for electricity in BC, an idea you strongly support, support, can accept under certain circumstances, oppose, or strongly oppose? **\*Strongly support, Support and Can accept under certain circumstances Combined**

# FACTORS INFLUENCING COMFORT WITH SITE C PROJECT

- A majority of British Columbians are comfortable and satisfied with the work that has been done to listen to communities affected by the project, with efforts to encourage conservation and the growth of other renewable energy options, and with the independent assessment the Site C project went through.
- There is a strong correlation between support for the project and agreement with statements about the project and the trends in agreement match trends in support for the project.

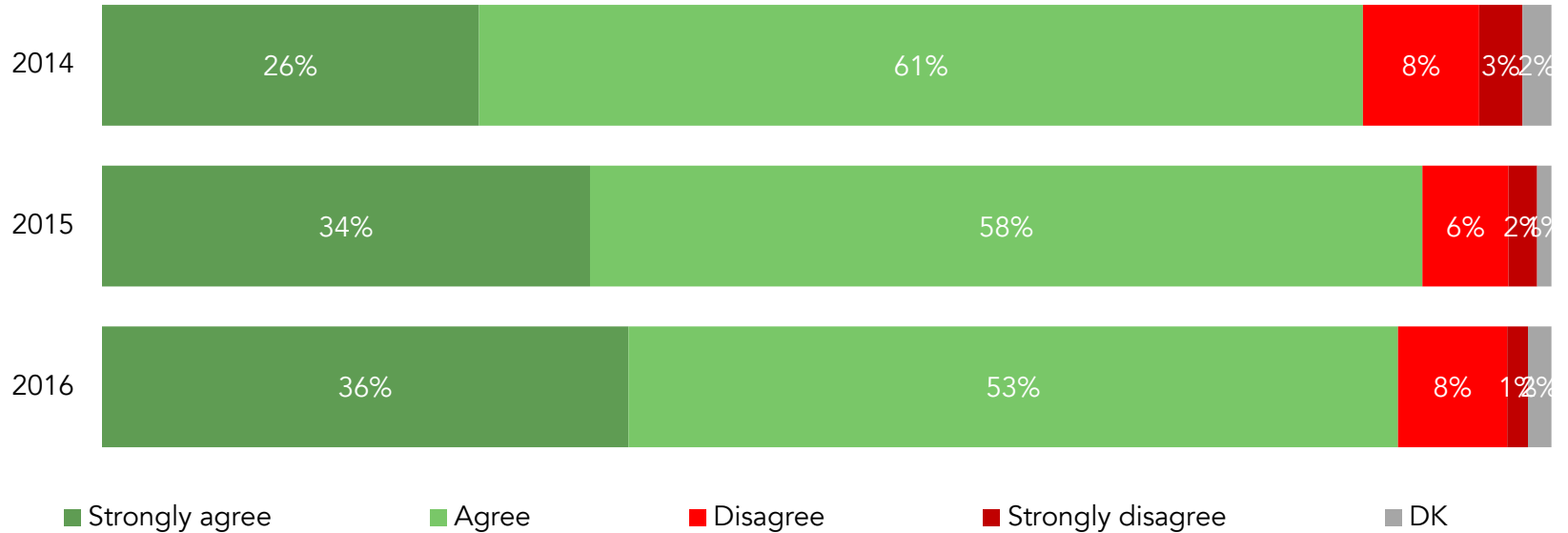
# FACTORS INFLUENCING COMFORT WITH SITE C PROJECT



Please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements.

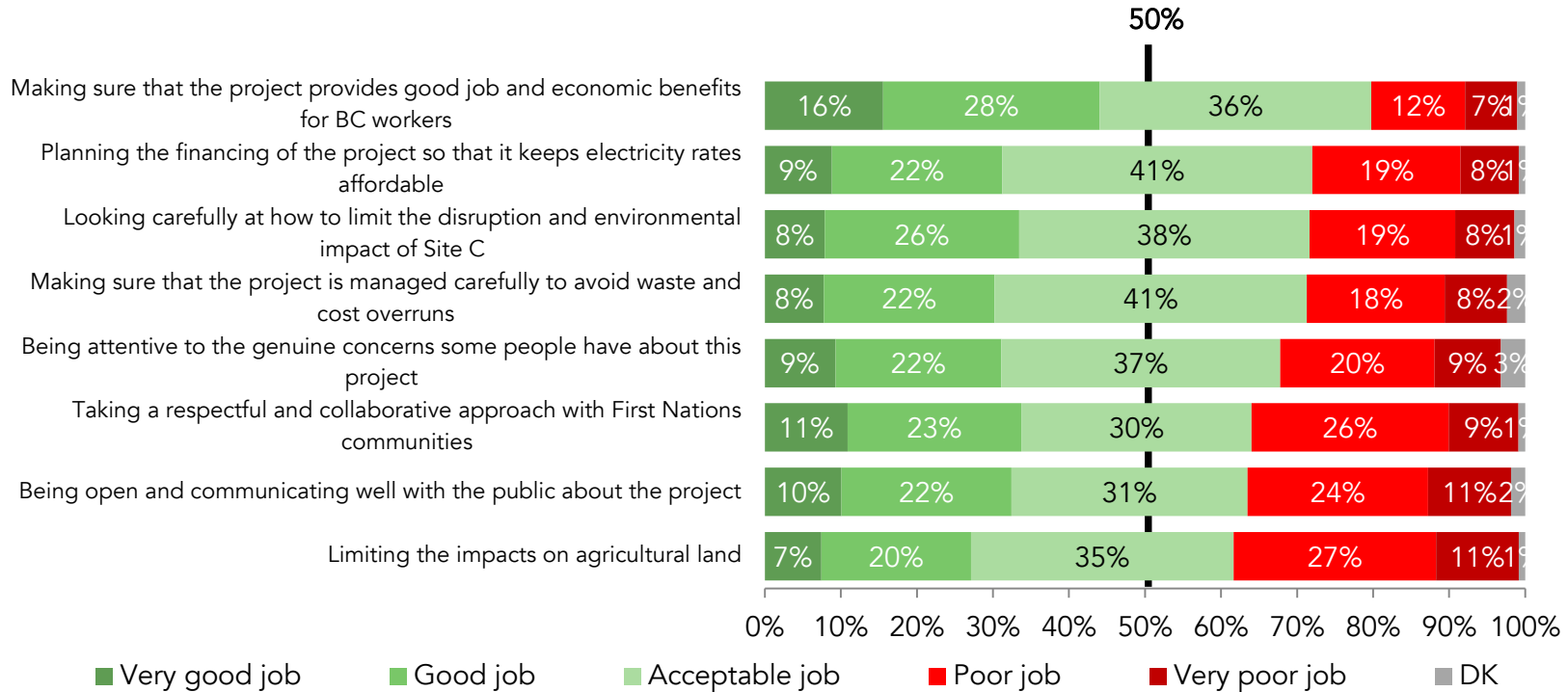
# BC'S ELECTRICITY DEMAND WILL CONTINUE TO GROW

I have no doubt that the demand for electricity in BC will continue to grow significantly in the years ahead.



Please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements.

# PERFORMANCE OF BC HYDRO ON SITE C



How do you rate the effort of BC Hydro on Site C, in each of the following respects (very good, good, acceptable, poor, very poor job)

# CONCLUSIONS

- Most people sense that more energy is needed (89%) and think the Site C project may be the best way to meet future electricity needs.
- With construction underway, the project has become real and public debate has escalated. Support for Site C has been quite resilient during this period, although there has been a drop in total support relative to the pre-construction period and more polarization has occurred.
  - Those strongly supporting the project has increased by 7 points to 24% (from 17%) while those strongly opposed has increased 6 points to 14% from 8% in 2015.
  - Opposition has increased by 8 points, from 17% in 2015 to 25% in 2016.
- Support for this project is also dependent on public confidence that parallel efforts are made to promote conservation, that the project goes through a thorough and independent environmental review, and that efforts are made to listen and respond to local impact concerns.
- Majorities of those surveyed continue to feel that these conditions are being met as this project has moved forward.