

Issue Scan: Skills Development Fund & Labour Minister David Piccini

*Public Opinion Research fielded for
CUPE Ontario*

October 2025



Methodology

The survey was conducted with 2,000 Canadians living in Ontario from October 24 to 29, 2025. A random sample of panelists were invited to complete the survey from a set of partner panels based on the Lucid exchange platform. These partners are typically double opt-in survey panels, blended to manage out potential skews in the data from a single source.

The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of the same size is +/- 2.19%, 19 times out of 20.

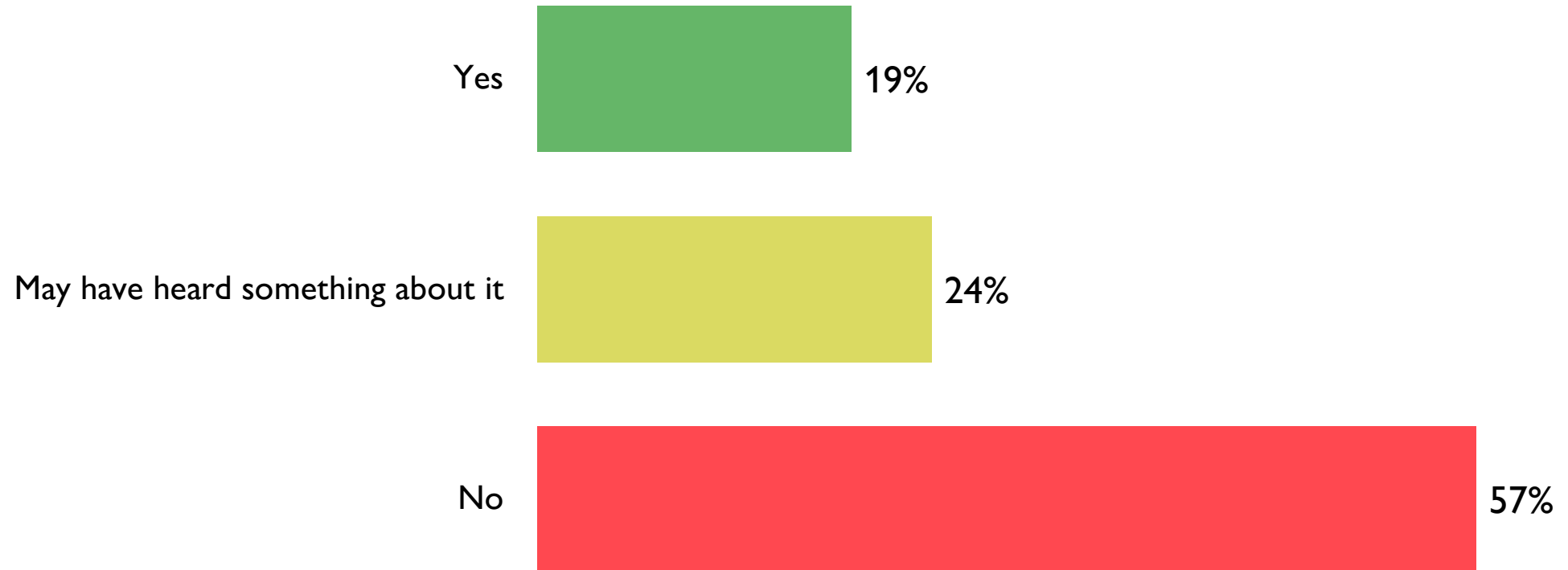
The data were weighted according to census data to ensure that the sample matched Ontario's population according to age, gender, and region. Totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding.





Before this survey, have you heard about the controversy involving the Ontario government's Skills Development Fund and Labour Minister David Piccini?

Issue Awareness: Skills Development Fund & Ford Labour Minister Controversy



[BASE] n=2,000





Before this survey, have you heard about the controversy involving the Ontario government's Skills Development Fund and Labour Minister David Piccini?

Issue Awareness: Skills Development Fund & Ford Labour Minister Controversy

	TOT.	AGE				GENDER		REGION				VOTE 2025			
		18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	Toronto	GTHA	Eastern	SW	PCP	ONDP	OLP	OGP
Yes	19%	22%	18%	17%	19%	25%	13%	23%	19%	16%	18%	17%	19%	26%	33%
May have heard something about it	24%	29%	29%	22%	18%	25%	23%	27%	22%	23%	26%	26%	22%	25%	20%
No	57%	49%	53%	61%	63%	50%	64%	50%	59%	61%	56%	57%	59%	49%	47%

[BASE] n=2,000





Based on what you've seen or heard, do you think Labour Minister David Piccini should resign or be removed from cabinet over how the fund was managed?

Ontarians' Views on Minister's Resignation

% THOSE AWARE

Yes, he should resign or be removed



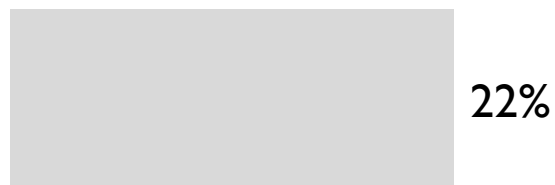
51%

No, he should continue in his role



28%

Not sure / need more information



22%

[THOSE PREVIOUSLY AWARE] n=815



Based on what you've seen or heard, do you think Labour Minister David Piccini should resign or be removed from cabinet over how the fund was managed?

Ontarians' Views on Minister's Resignation

% THOSE AWARE

	TOT.	AGE				GENDER		REGION				VOTE 2025			
		18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	Toronto	GTHA	Eastern	SW	PCP	ONDP	OLP	OGP
Yes, he should resign or be removed	51%	38%	47%	55%	61%	49%	53%	55%	48%	47%	54%	43%	64%	58%	41%
No, he should continue in his role	28%	48%	32%	23%	10%	31%	24%	30%	29%	24%	23%	30%	18%	26%	49%
Not sure / need more information	22%	14%	20%	22%	29%	20%	23%	16%	23%	28%	22%	26%	18%	16%	11%

[THOSE PREVIOUSLY AWARE] n=815





Which of the following comes closest to your view on how the Ford government should proceed?

Ontarians' Views on Minister's Resignation

As you may know, Ontario's Skills Development Fund provides billions of dollars in grants that are supposed to help workers get training and find jobs. The auditor general found that political staff in the labour minister's office overrode recommendations from non-partisan public servants which resulted in about \$750 million worth of lower-scoring projects being funded instead of higher-scoring applicants.

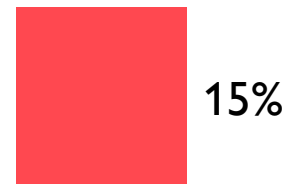
Media reports have also identified roughly \$100 million in grants that went to organizations with political or lobbying ties to the Ford government. Union leaders and opposition critics say these findings show a lack of transparency and accountability, and that Labour Minister David Piccini, who oversees the fund, should resign or be removed from cabinet.

Premier Doug Ford's office says it has full confidence in Minister Piccini, noting that the fund has supported thousands of workers and helped connect Ontarians to new training and job opportunities.

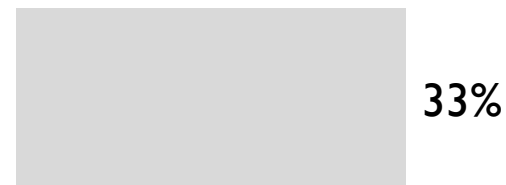
Labour Minister David Piccini
should resign or be removed from
cabinet



Labour Minister David Piccini
should not resign and should
continue in his role



Not sure



[BASE] n=2,000



Which of the following comes closest to your view on how the Ford government should proceed?

Ontarians' Views on Minister's Resignation

	TOT.	AGE				GENDER		REGION				VOTE 2025			
		18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	Toronto	GTHA	Eastern	SW	PCP	ONDP	OLP	OGP
Labour Minister David Piccini should resign or be removed from cabinet	52%	52%	52%	51%	52%	53%	51%	50%	52%	56%	56%	43%	71%	60%	74%
Labour Minister David Piccini should not resign and should continue in his role	15%	19%	16%	13%	12%	18%	12%	16%	16%	14%	11%	19%	6%	16%	10%
Not sure	33%	29%	31%	36%	36%	29%	37%	34%	32%	30%	33%	38%	22%	25%	16%

[BASE] n=2,000





Do you think this controversy reflects a broader problem with how the Ford government awards contracts and grants, or is it mainly about one cabinet minister's mismanagement?

Broader Ford Government vs. Minister's Mismanagement

There is a broader problem with the Ford government and how it awards contracts and grants



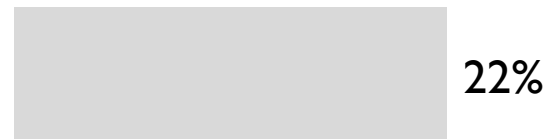
This is mainly about Minister Piccini



I don't believe anything is being mismanaged



Not sure



[BASE] n=2,000





Do you think this controversy reflects a broader problem with how the Ford government awards contracts and grants, or is it mainly about one cabinet minister's mismanagement?

Broader Ford Government vs. Minister's Mismanagement

	TOT.	AGE				GENDER		REGION				VOTE 2025			
		18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	Toronto	GTHA	Eastern	SW	PCP	ONDP	OLP	OGP
There is a broader problem with the Ford government and how it awards contracts and grants	46%	42%	43%	43%	54%	44%	49%	47%	48%	50%	46%	29%	76%	60%	71%
This is mainly about Minister Piccini	23%	32%	26%	23%	13%	26%	19%	24%	23%	22%	23%	32%	9%	20%	13%
I dont believe anything is being mismanaged	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	11%	7%	8%	10%	9%	8%	14%	2%	5%	6%
Not sure	22%	18%	21%	25%	23%	19%	25%	21%	20%	19%	23%	25%	14%	15%	10%

[BASE] n=2,000



**Good decisions
require good data.**

Good data drives success.