

Relative Confidence in the Federal Government



POLI 521 Final Project
By: Christopher Yurris

Outline

1. Background and Hypotheses
2. Data and Methods
3. Descriptive Statistics
4. Regression Models
5. Conclusions and Next Steps

Introduction

- Re-occurring theme in this heterogeneity of attitudes across Canada's regions
 - Resentment (Breton, Jacques and Parkin 2022)
 - Identity (Mendelsohn 2002)
 - Decentralization (Medeiros and Gauvin 2021)
 - Political culture (Blanchard 2023)

Relative Confidence in Government

- ▶ “Relative Trust/Confidence”: the gap between confidence in two levels of government in a federal system (Leland et. al 2021).
- ▶ Has been studied comparing across Canada, the US, and Mexico (Kincaid and Cole 2011).

Hypotheses

- ❑ H1: Western Alienation is “sticky” and transcends partisanship – regardless of whether there is a Conservative or Liberal government in Ottawa, relative confidence in the federal government will be lower in Western Canada than the rest of Canada.
- ❑ H2: Partisanship is correlated with relative confidence in the federal government; when a Liberal government is in power, relative confidence will be higher in Liberals, and vice versa.
- ❑ H3: French Quebecers are more likely to have a lower relative confidence in the federal government than English Quebecers.

Data Sources

- 4 Surveys
 1. Canadian Election Study (1993-2021)
 2. C-Dem Democracy Checkup (2019-2021)
 3. Provincial Election Studies (2020 and 2021)
 4. Canadian Provincial Election Project (2011-2014)

Dependent Variable

- Survey Question:

"Please indicate how much confidence you have in the...
[Federal/Provincial Government]:

- ▶ A great deal (1)

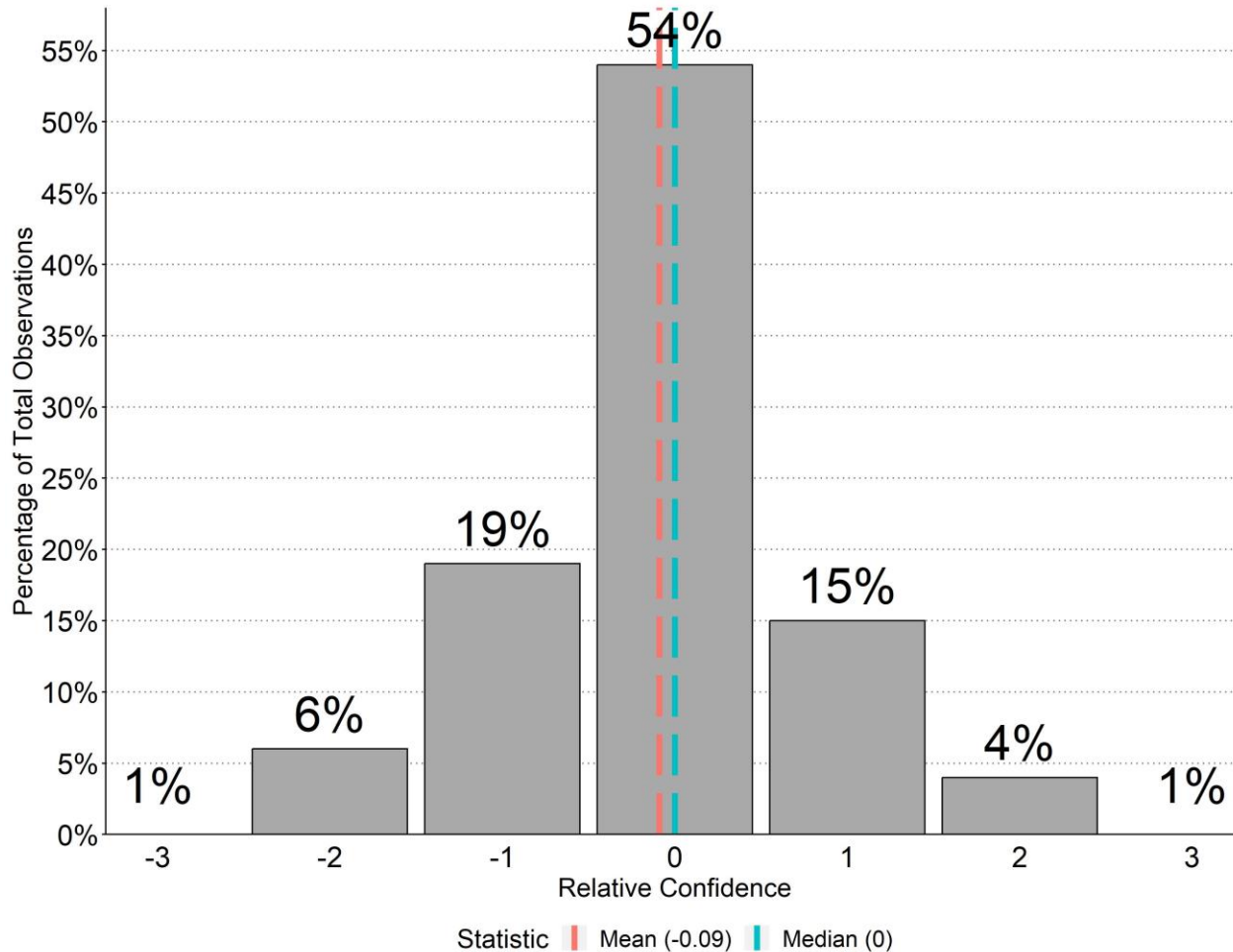
- ▶ Quite a lot (2)

- ▶ Not very much (3)

- ▶ None at all (4)

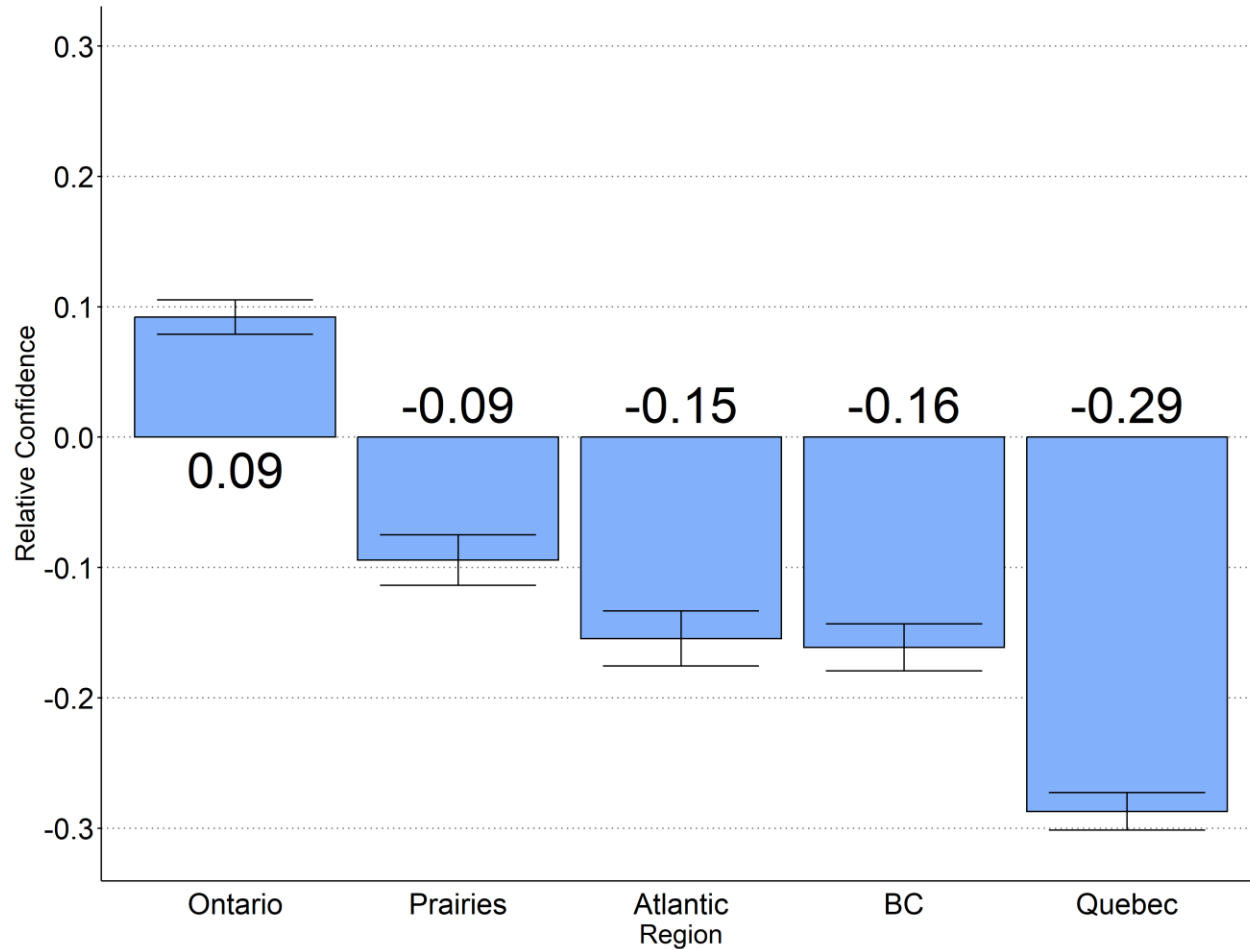
- Provincial confidence then subtracted from federal confidence for a relative confidence score ranging from -3 to 3.

Distribution of Relative Confidence Scores

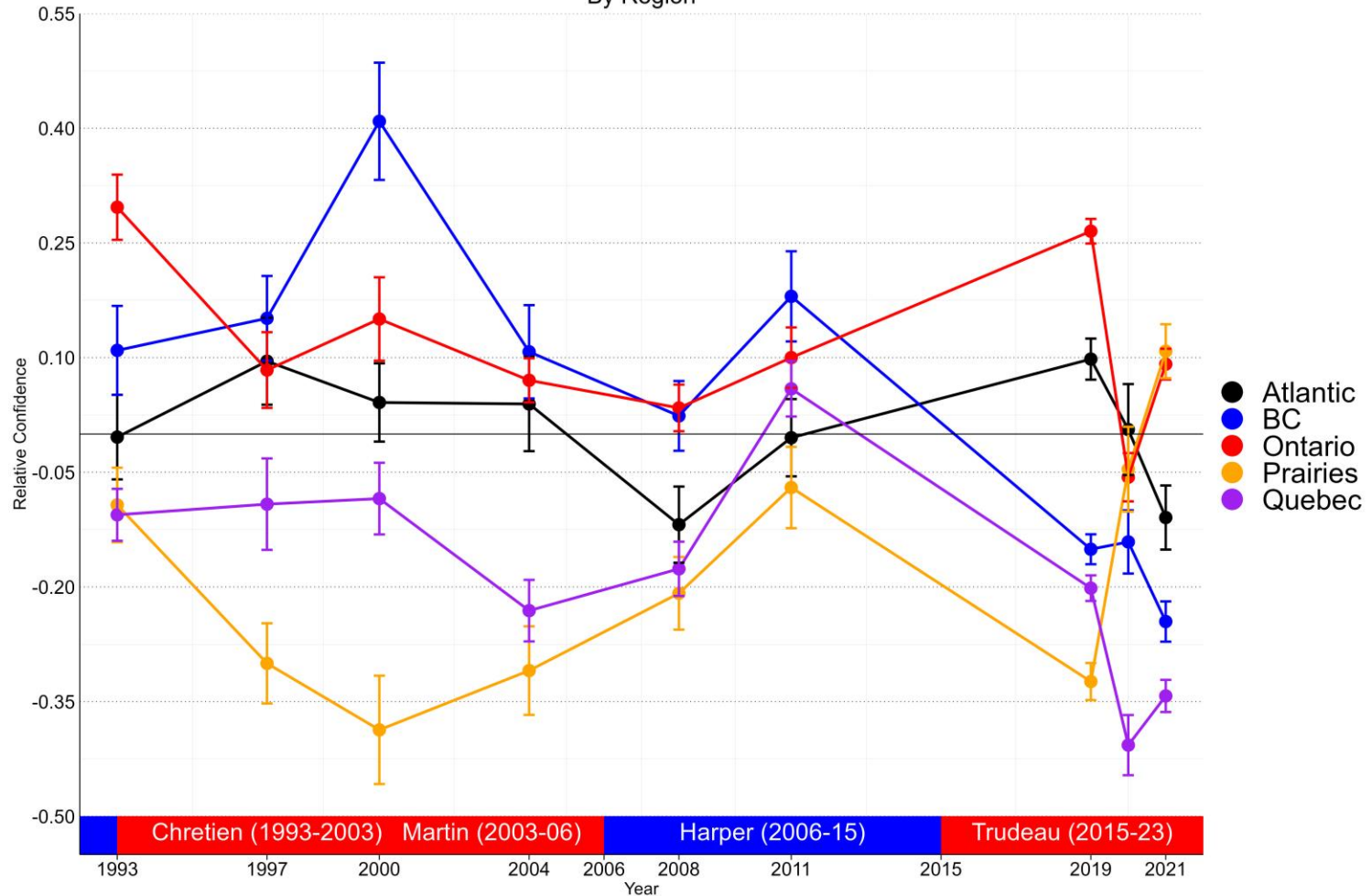


Note: Higher relative confidence means high confidence in federal government and low confidence in provincial government and vice versa.

Relative Confidence in the Federal Government By Region

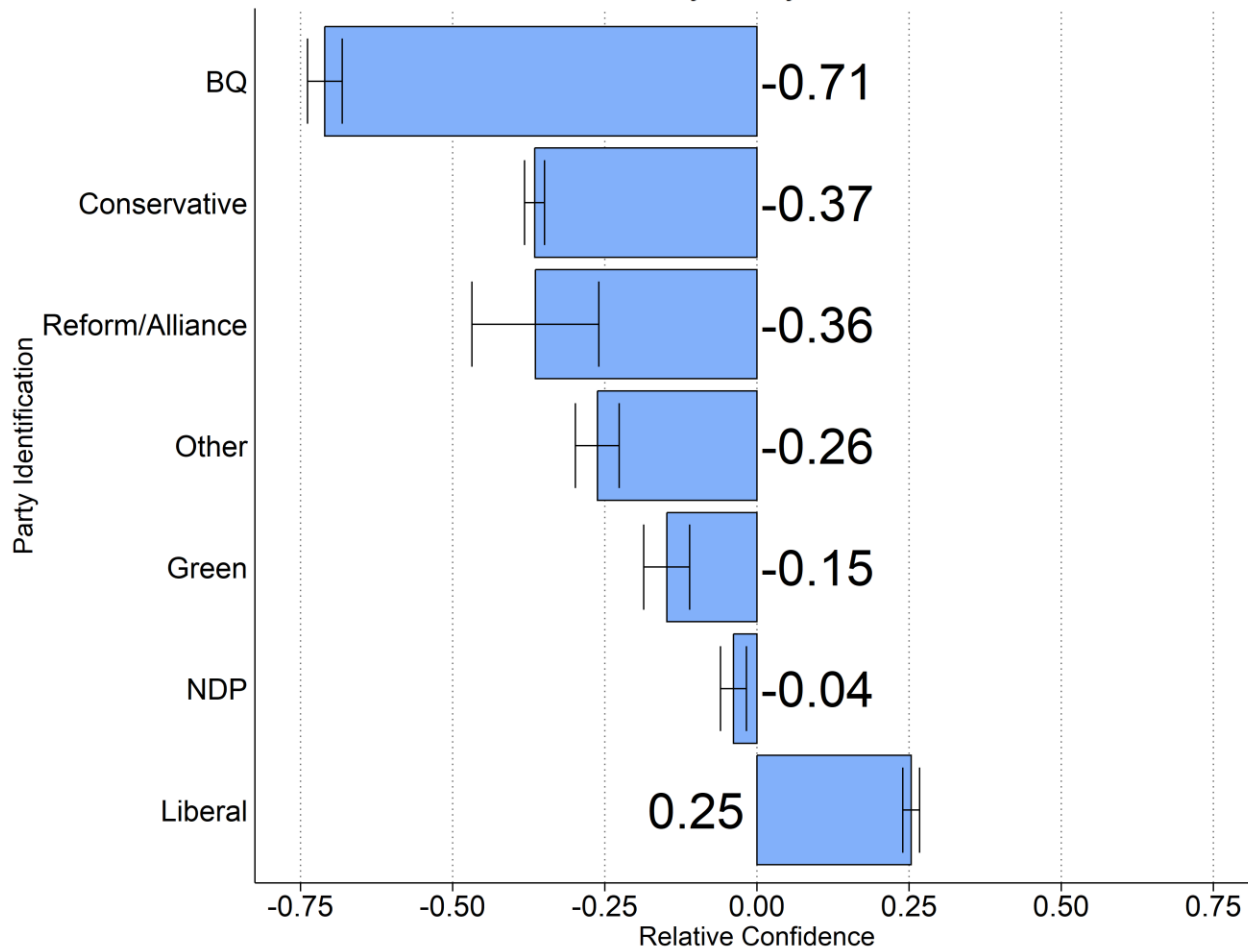


Relative Confidence in the Federal Government
By Region

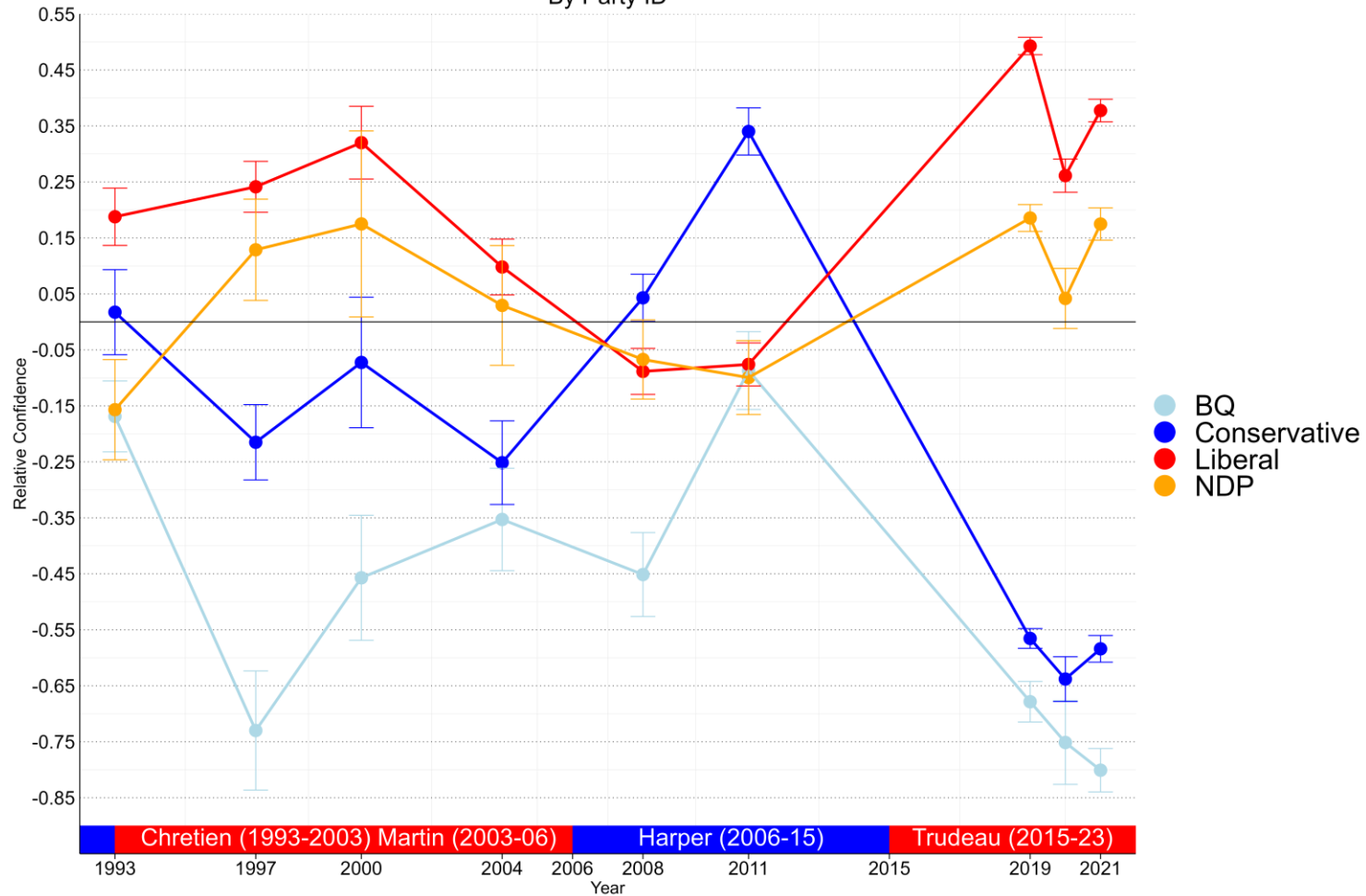


Relative Confidence in the Federal Government

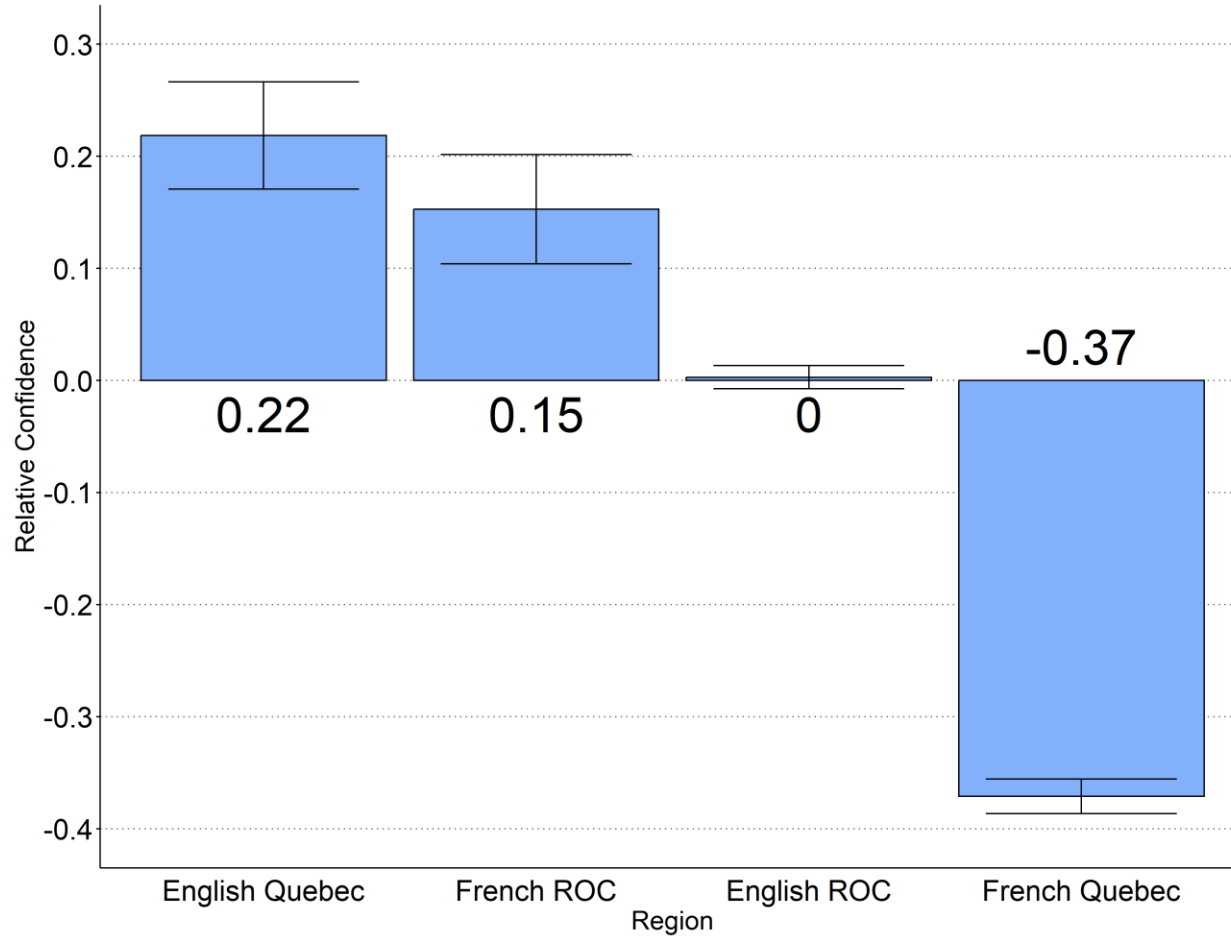
By Party ID



Relative Confidence in the Federal Government By Party ID



Relative Confidence in the Federal Government By Language Group



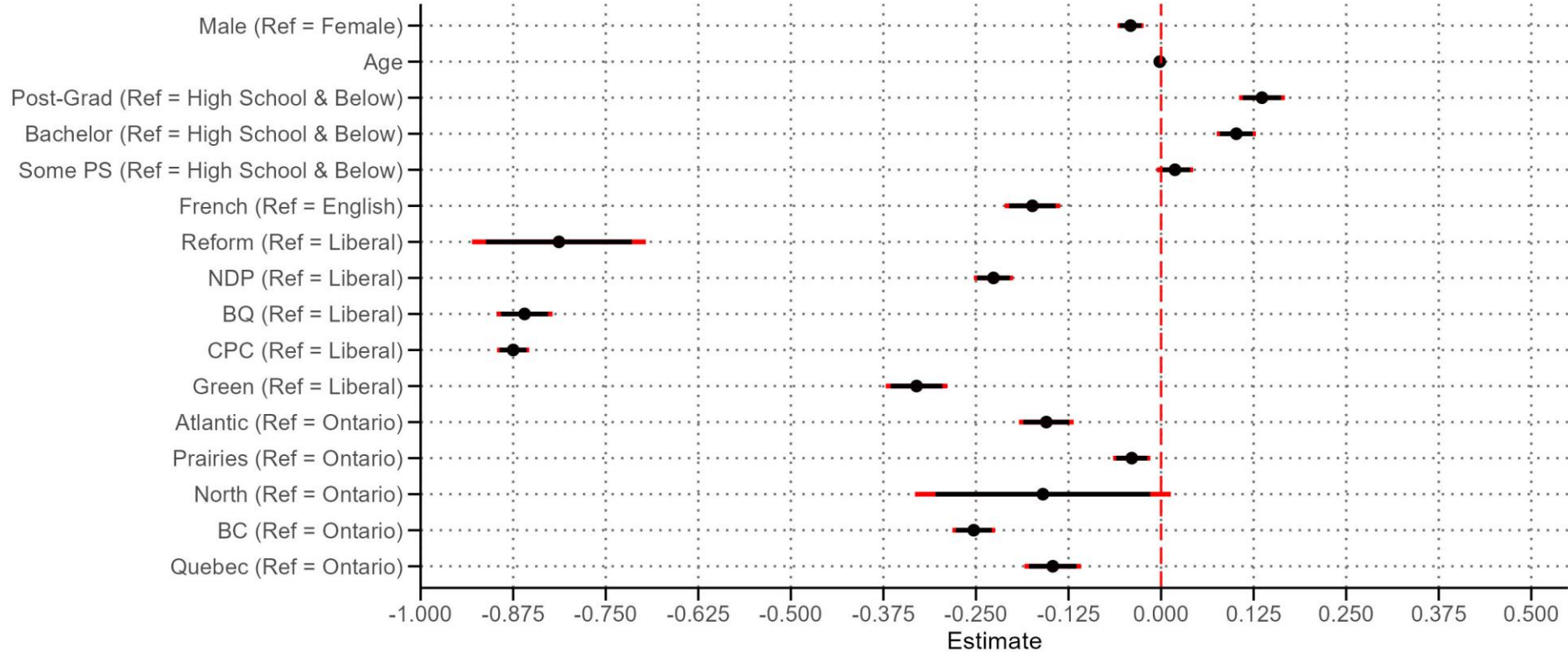
Regression Model

$$Y_i = \alpha + \beta_1 L + \beta_2 A + \beta_3 G + \chi_1 R + \chi_2 P + \chi_3 E + \gamma_i Y + \kappa_i S + \epsilon$$

- ▷ Y_i = Relative trust score
- ▷ α = Constant
- ▷ $\beta_1 L$ = Language
- ▷ $\beta_2 A$ = Age
- ▷ $\beta_3 G$ = Gender
- ▷ $\chi_1 R$ = Region dummies
- ▷ $\chi_2 P$ = Party-ID dummies
- ▷ $\chi_3 E$ = Education dummies
- ▷ $\gamma_i Y$ = Year fixed effects
- ▷ $\kappa_i S$ = Survey fixed effects
- ▷ ϵ = Error term

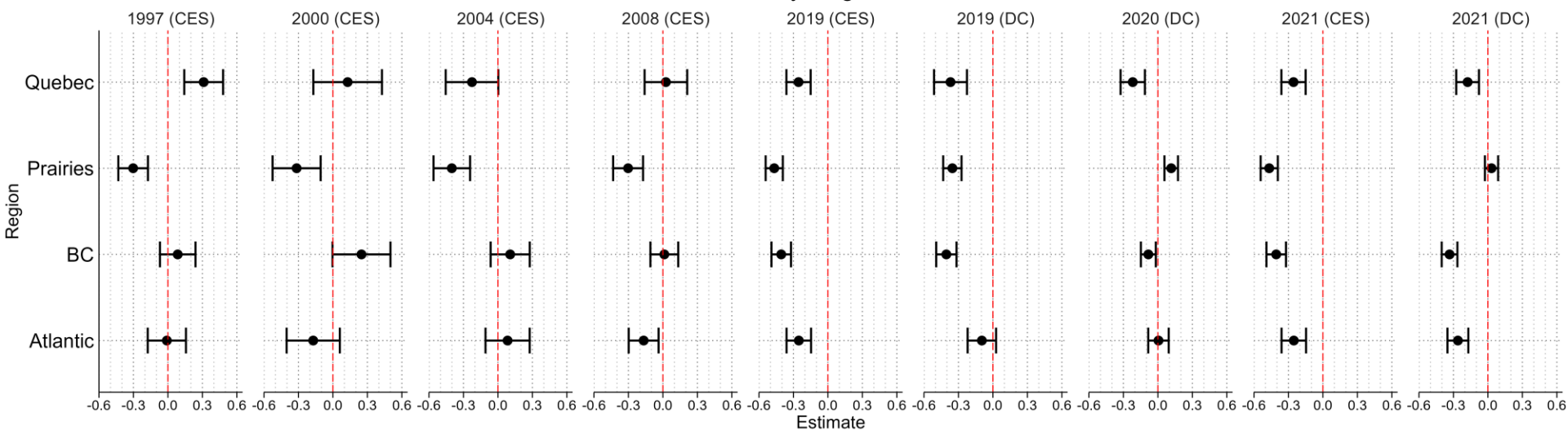
Relative Confidence in the Federal Government

Regression Model

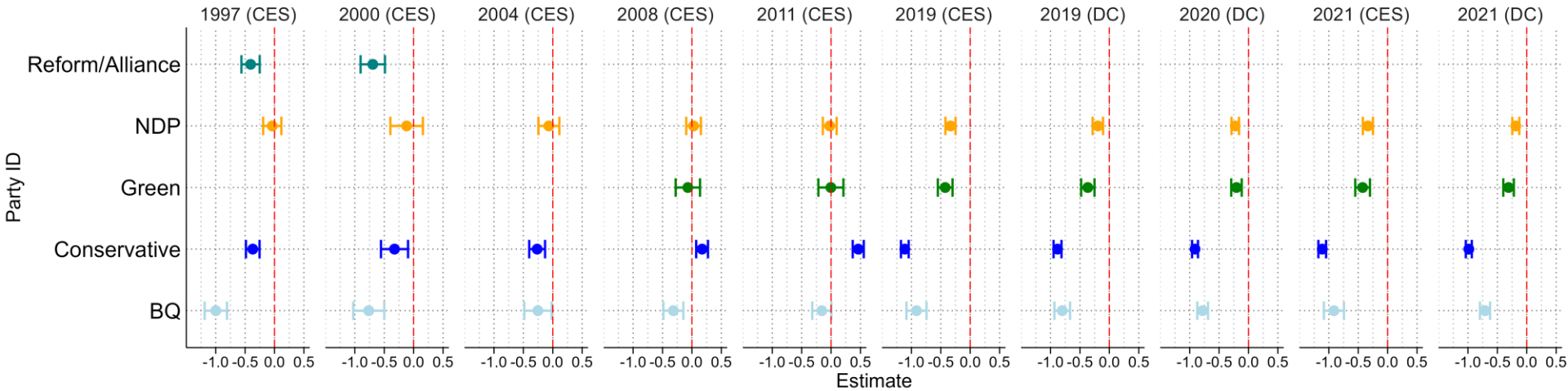


Note: Survey and Year fixed effects. 38838 Observations

Relative Confidence in the Federal Government By Region

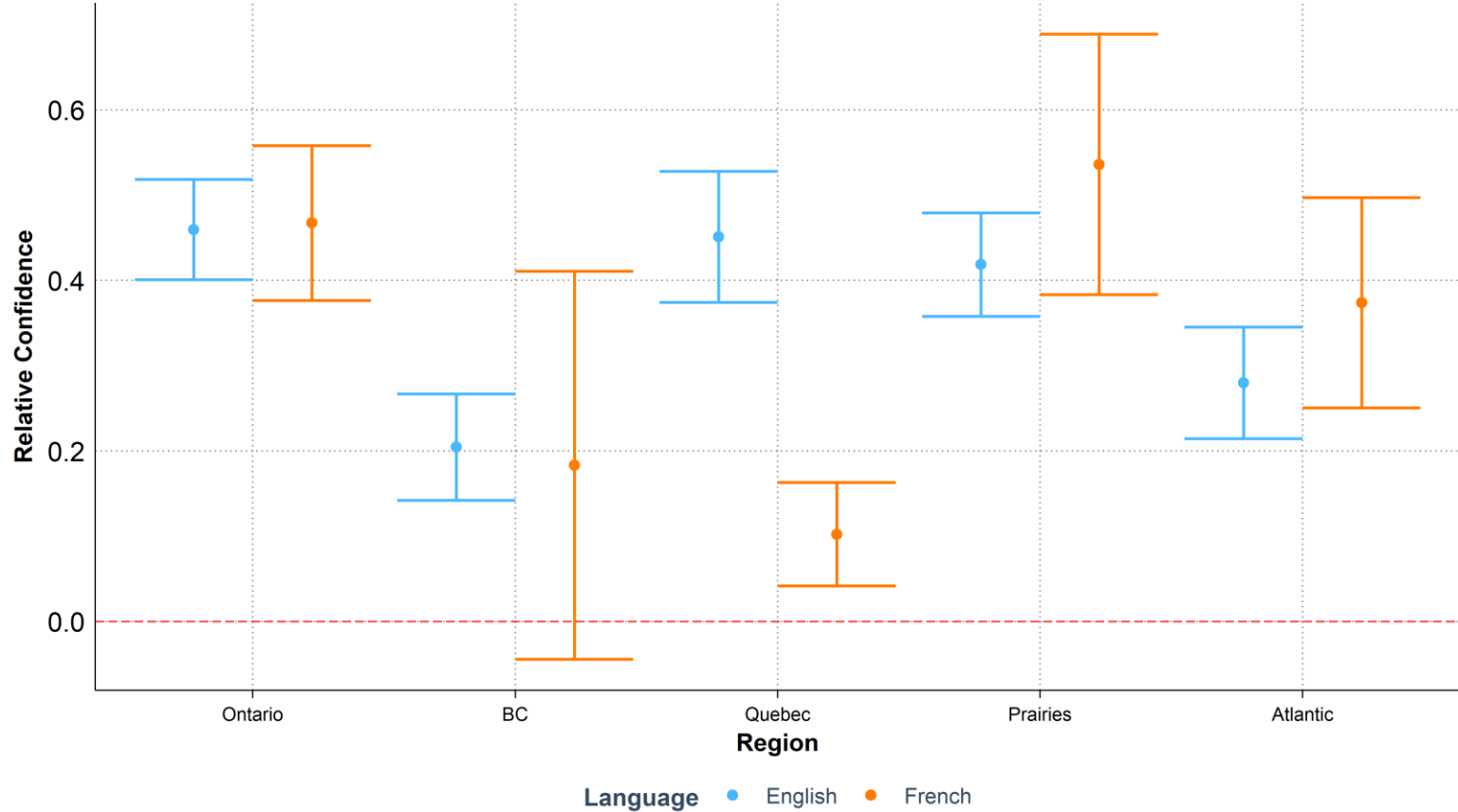


Relative Confidence in the Federal Government By Party ID



Relative Confidence in the Federal Government

By Language and Region



Note: 34914 Observations

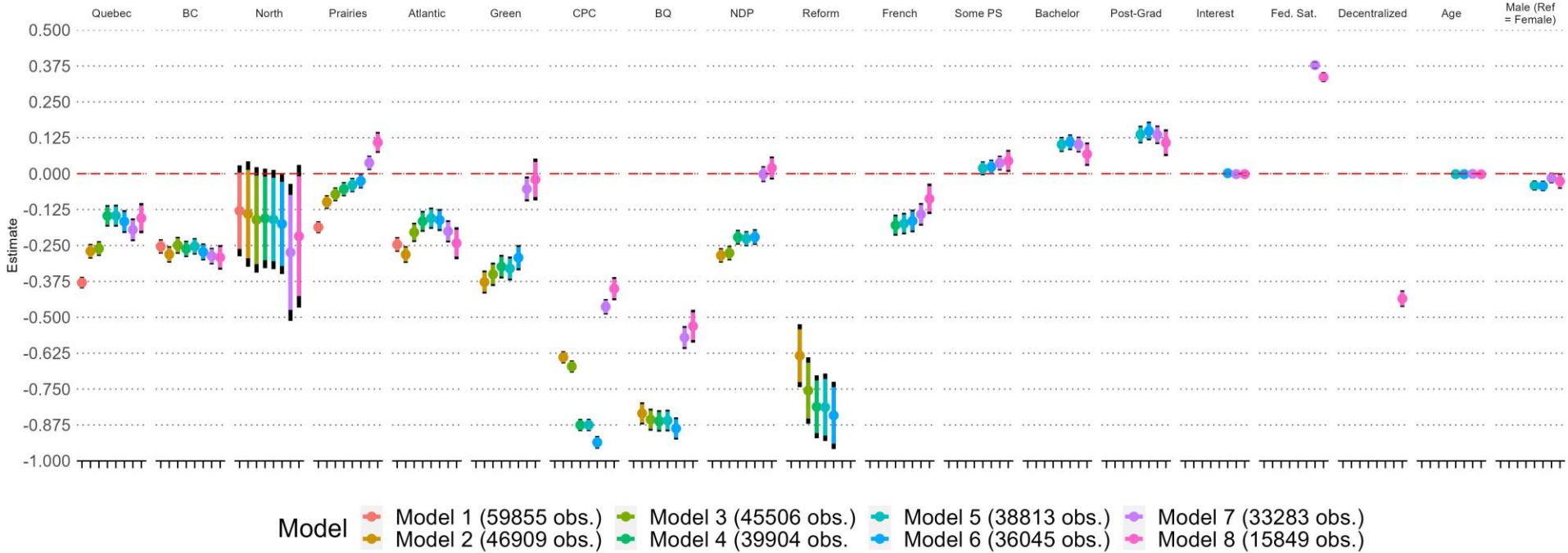
Hypotheses Revisited

- ✗ H1: Prairie provinces not significantly different in relative confidence than other regions.
- ✓ H2: Partisanship is a strong correlate with relative confidence in all models.
- ✓ H3: Major gap between English and French Quebecers in relative confidence, gap not present in other regions.

Limitations and Next Steps

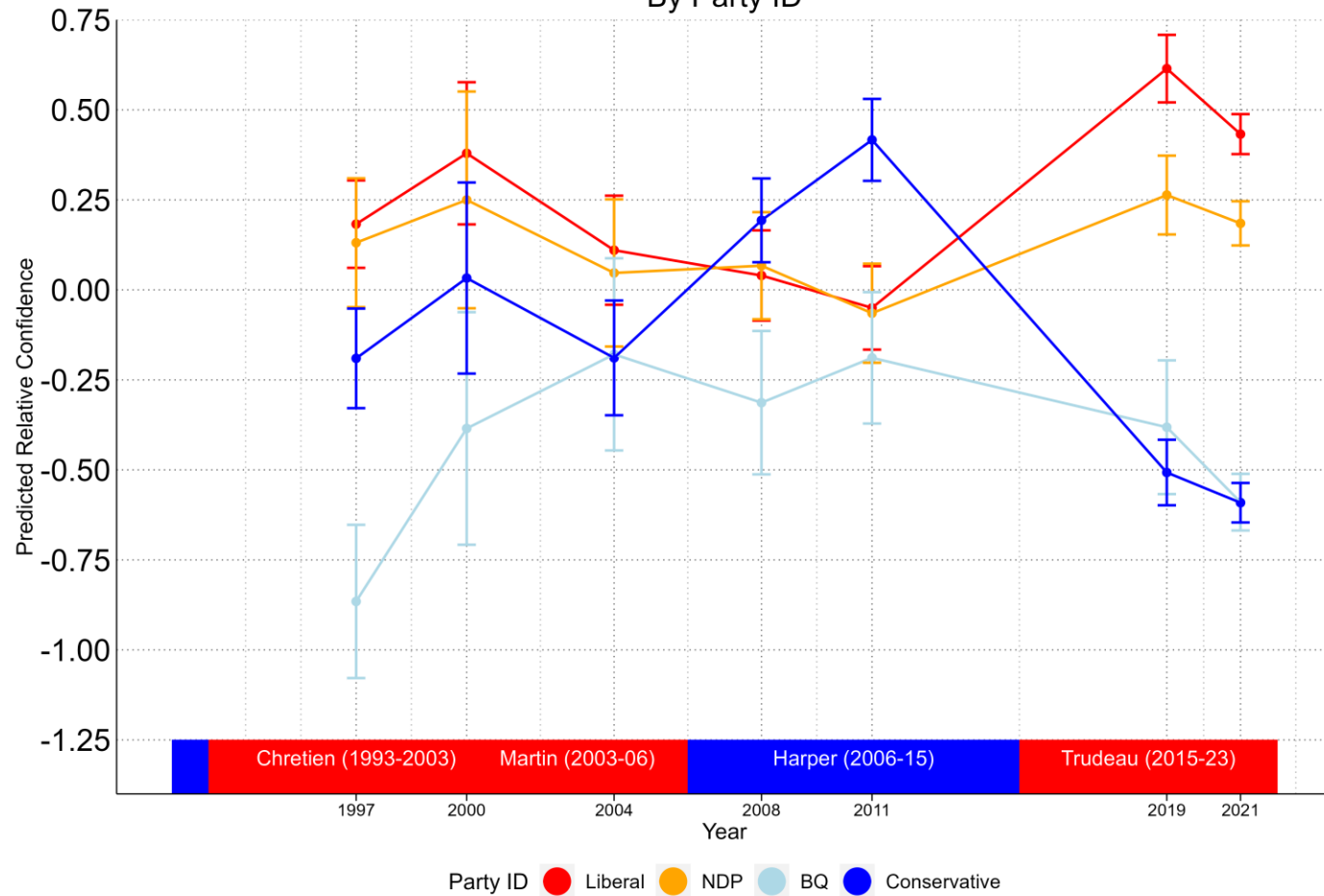
- Limitations
 - 2006 and 2015 Elections missing
 - Small sample sizes when dealing with year models
- Next Steps
 - Robustness tests
 - Expand literature review
 - Additional controls

Alternative Models for Robustness



Note:
 Model 1 = Region
 Model 2 = Model 1 + PartyID
 Model 3 = Model 2 + Year and Survey FE
 Model 4 = Model 3 + Language
 Model 5 = Model 4 + Demographics
 Model 6 = Model 5 + Interest
 Model 7 = Model 6 + Satisfaction
 Model 8 = Model 7 + Decentralization

Predicted Value of Relative Confidence By Party ID



Sources

Blanchard, “Reassessing Provincial Political Cultures: Evidence from Five Decades of Canadian Public Opinion Surveys (1974-2019),” working paper

Breton, Jacques and Parkin, “[Resentment in the Canadian Federation](#),” *IRPP Bulletin* (2022)

Kincaid, John and Richard L. Cole. “Citizens Attitudes Toward Issues of Federalism in Canada, Mexico, and the United States.” *Publius* 41:1 (2011)

Leland, Suzanne, Jacqueline Chattopadhyay, Cherie Maestas, and Jaclyn Piatak. “Policy venue preference and relative trust in government in federal systems.” *Governance* 34:2 (2021)

Medeiros and Gauvin, “[Two Regionalisms, One Mechanism: How Identity Shapes Support for Decentralisation](#),” *Comparative European Politics* 19:2 (2021)

Mendelsohn, “[Measuring National Identity and Patterns of Attachment in Quebec](#),” *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 8:3 (2002)