



NLTA Membership Survey 2016 Budget Reaction

June 6th 2016

Research Objectives

- ❑ The purpose of this research was to gain insight into the perceptions and opinions of NLTA members on the 2016 budget and its impact on the quality of education in Newfoundland and Labrador.

- ❑ Specific objective included:
 - ❑ Gauge member's overall perception of the Budget;
 - ❑ Identify issues impacting teachers' daily work;
 - ❑ Determine top areas of concern; and
 - ❑ Measure perceptions of NLTA's communications approach.

Methodology

- ❑ An online survey of 811 NLTA members
 - ❑ Conducted between May 12th and May 22nd, 2016.
 - ❑ Overall margin of error is ± 3.23 percentage points, 19 out of 20 times, or at the 95% confidence level.

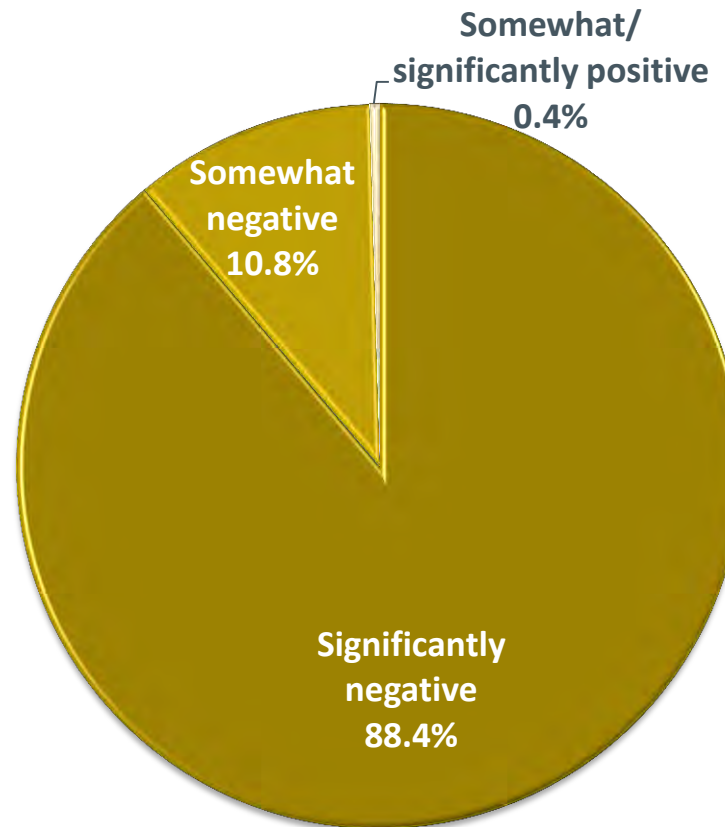
- ❑ A profile of the survey respondents by district is provided in the table below.

Region	Percentage (n=811)
Labrador Region	6%
Western Region	19%
Central Region	20%
Eastern Region	54%
Other (please specify)	1%

Question: Please indicate in which of the following districts you are currently working.

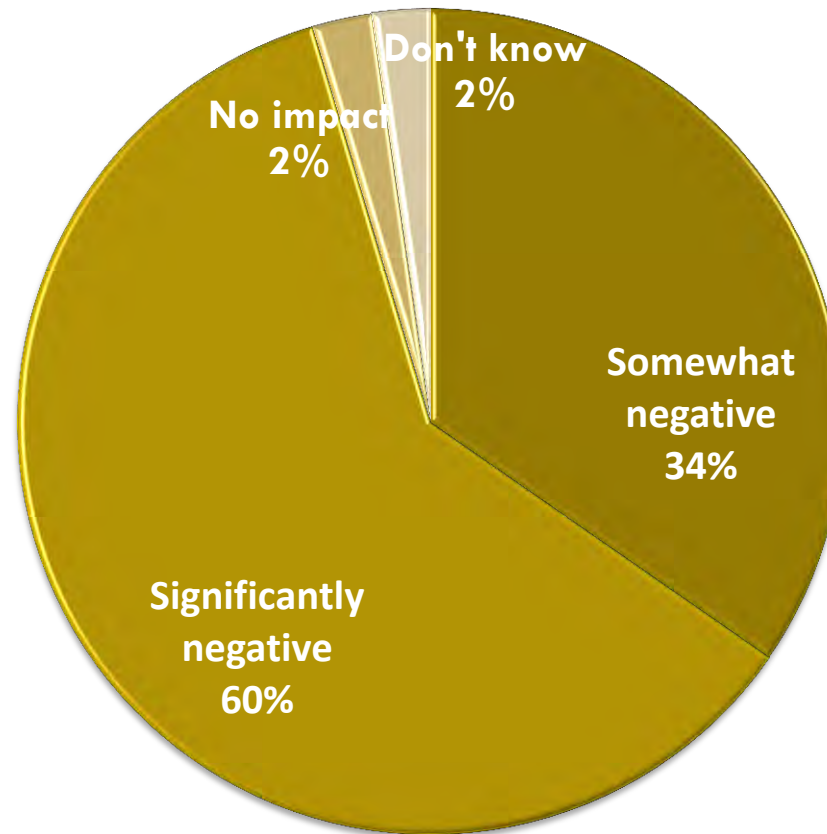
Section 1: Overall Perceptions of the Budget

In your view, what impact will the recent provincial budget have on the overall quality of education delivered in the province?



Almost all members feel the budget will have a negative impact on their day-to-day work

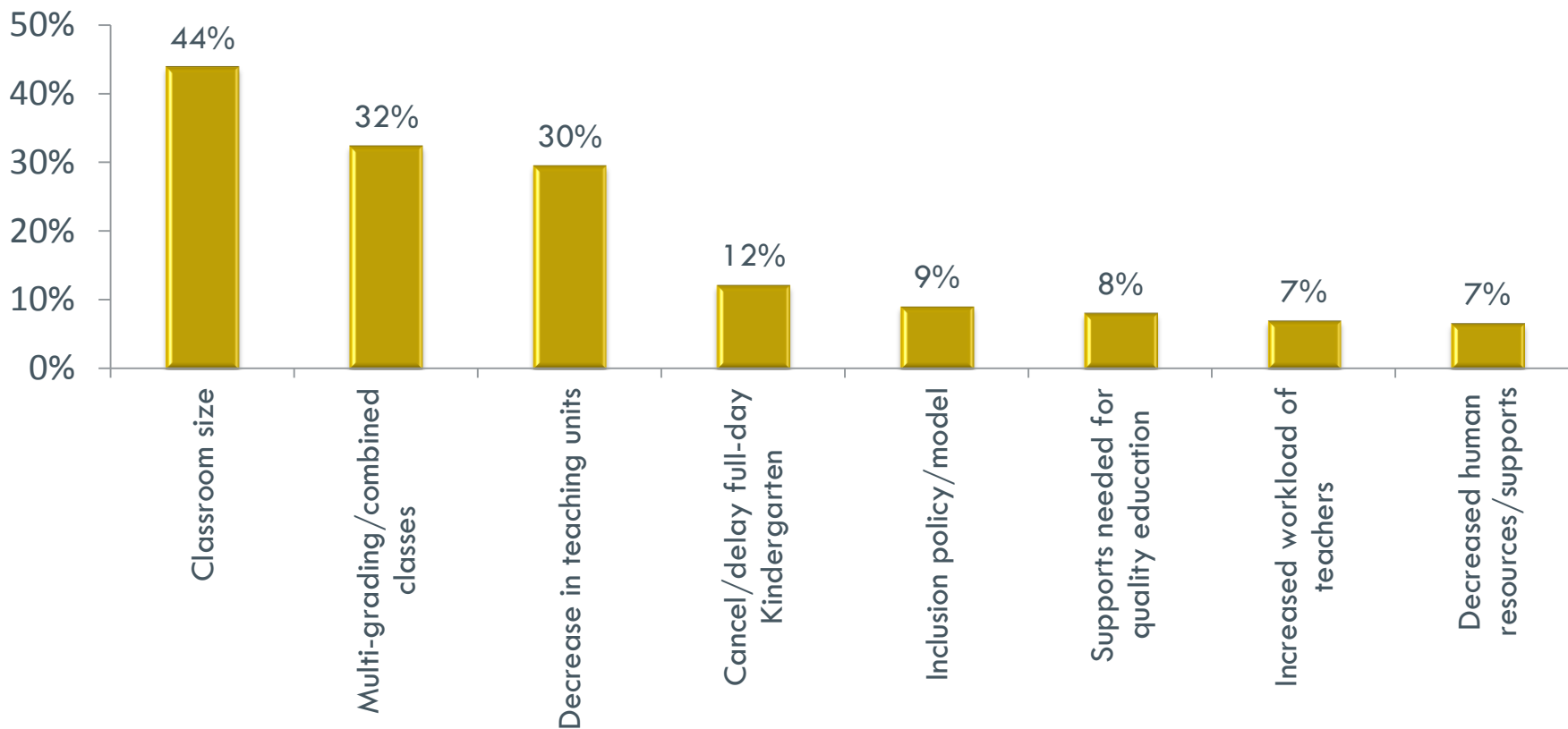
In your view, what impact will the recent provincial budget have on your day-to-day work?



Section 2: Understanding the Issues

What do you think is the single most important issue to be addressed by the NLTA in response to the provincial government's recently released budget?

Unaided Responses



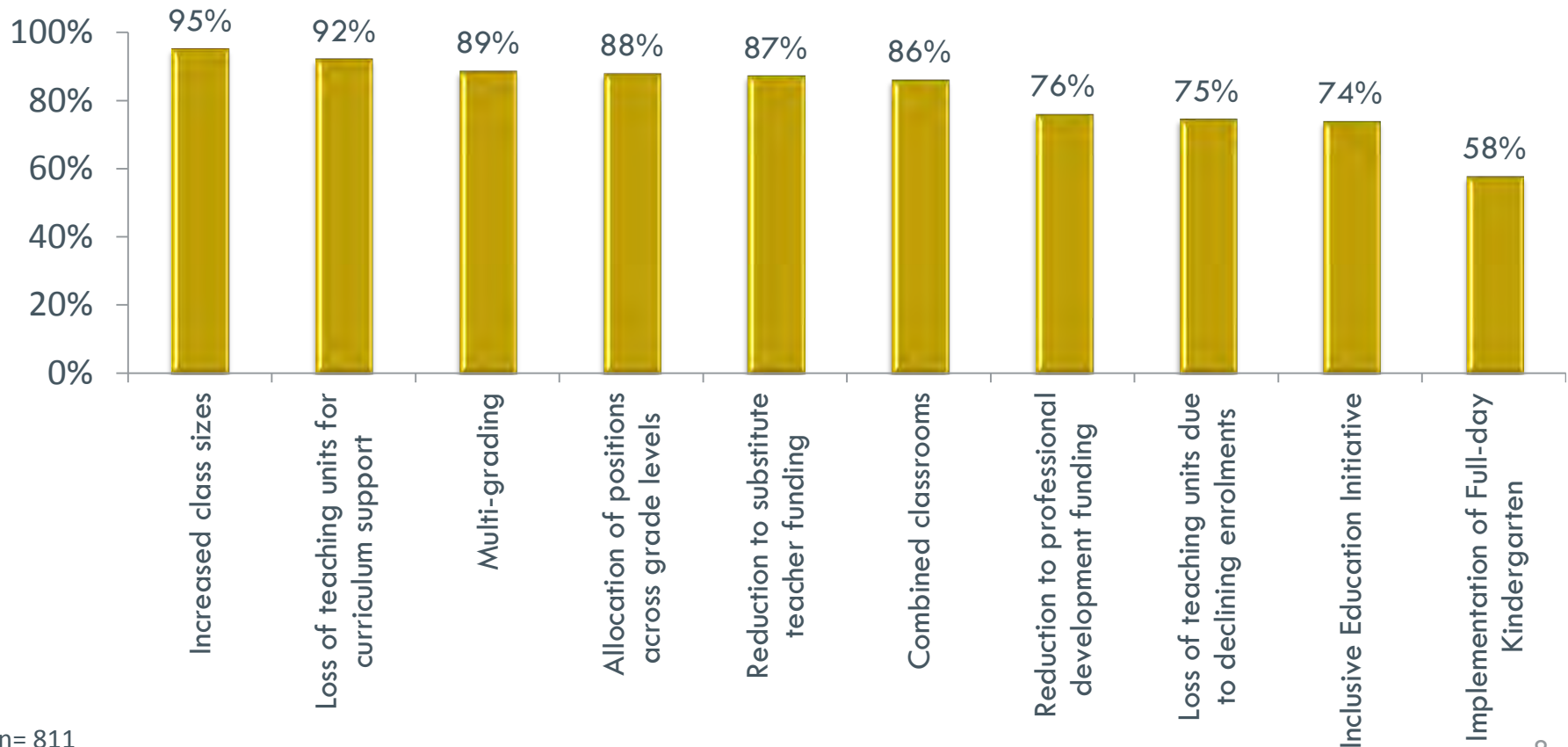
n= 811

*Top issues mentioned

The majority of members felt all budget issues listed would have a negative impact on the quality education in the province

In your view what will be the impact of each of the following items on the quality of education in the province?

% Negative Impact (1-3 out of 10 – DK's have been excluded)



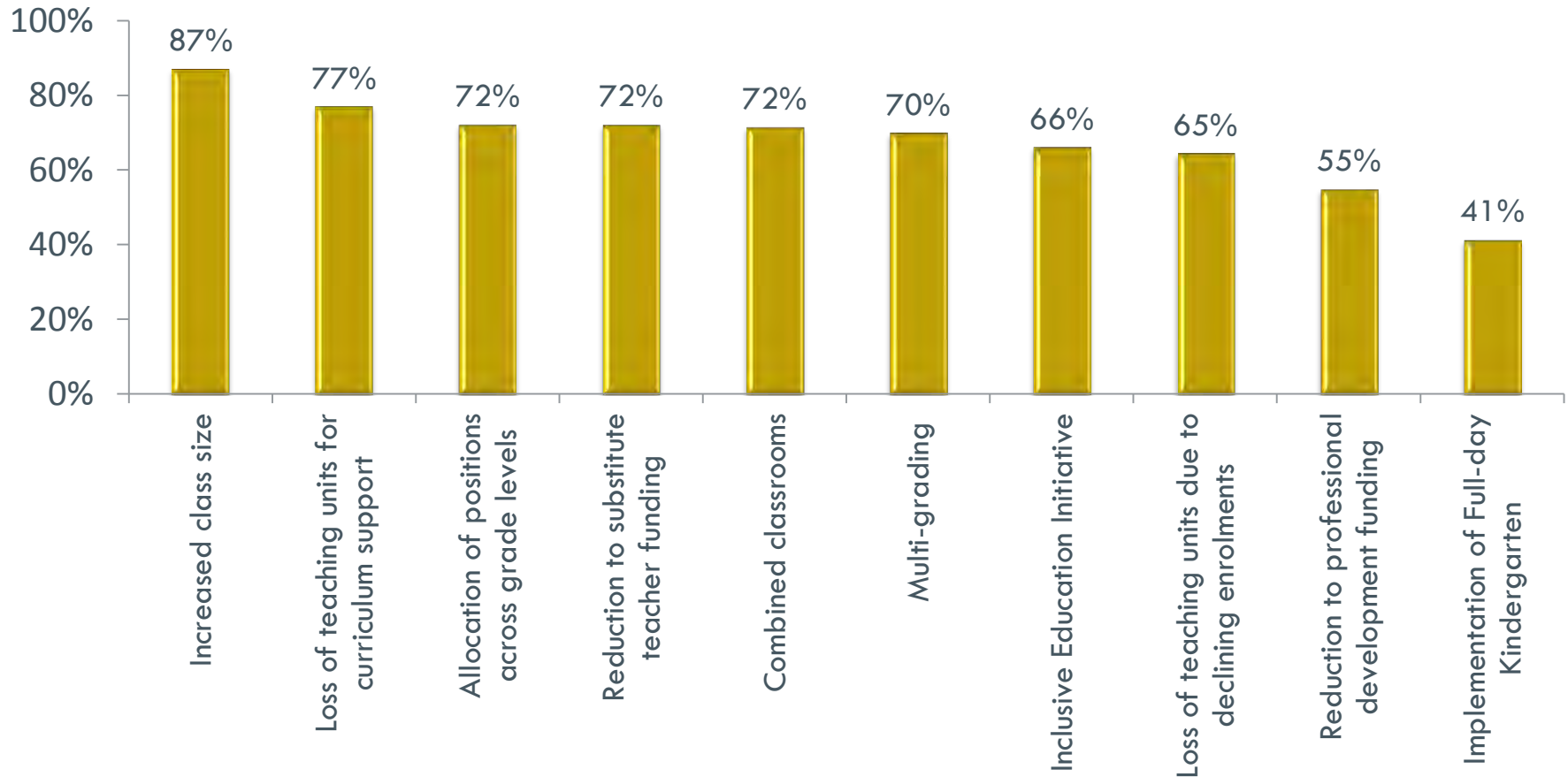
n= 811

Scale: 1 = very negative 10= very positive

While members were worried about all budget issues as it relates to their jobs, members were most worried about increased class sizes

To what extent you are concerned about each of the following as it relates to your ability to do your job?

% Concerned (8 or higher - DK's have been excluded)

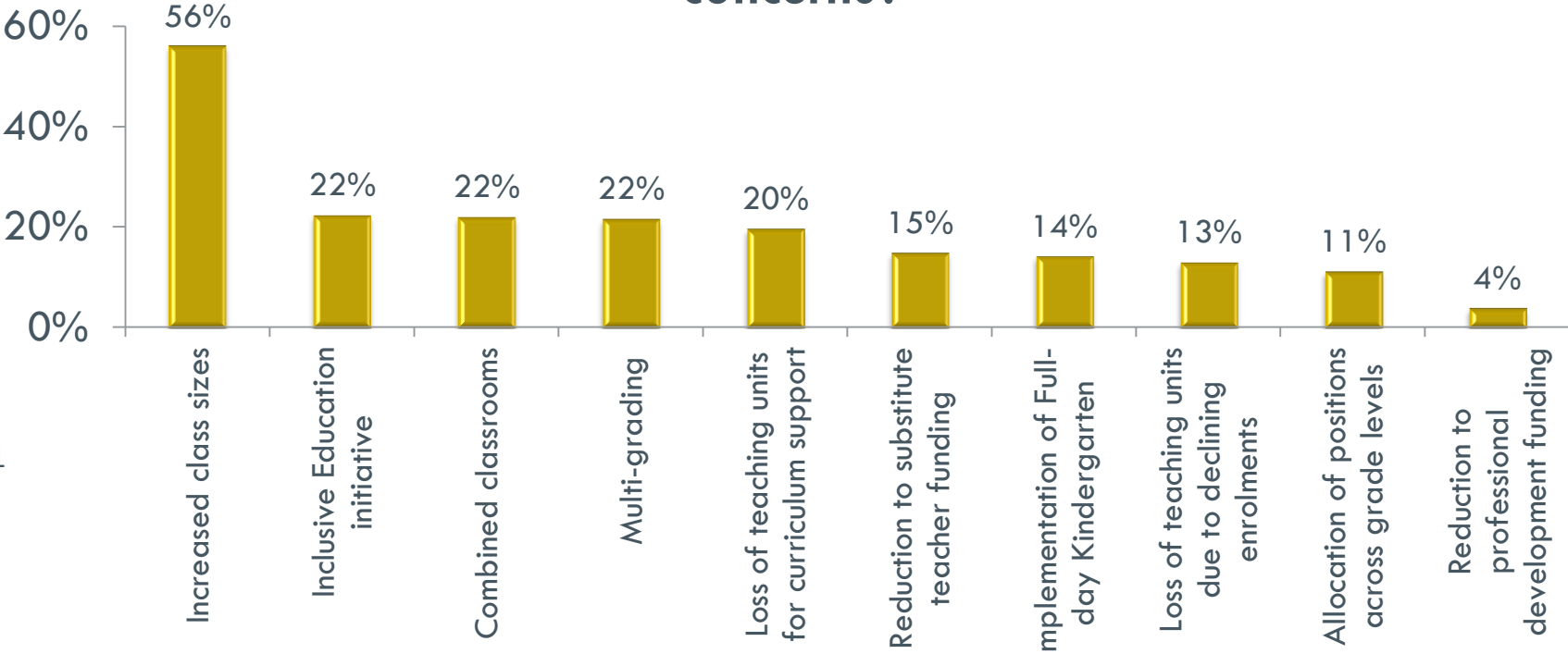


n= 811

Scale: 1 = not at all concerned 10= very concerned

Even when unaided, members primary noted increased class sizes as their main concern

Of the concerns identified, what are your top two concerns?



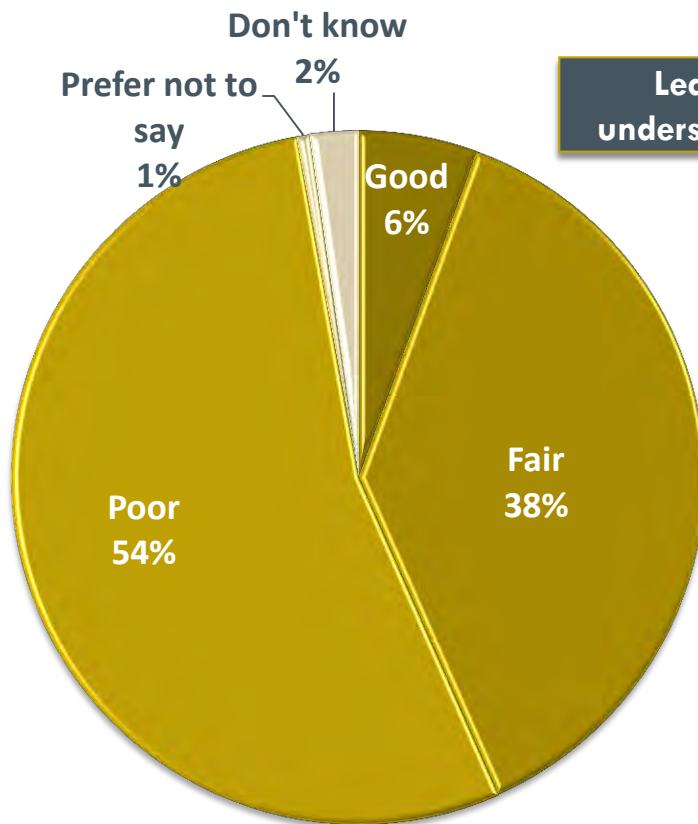
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Other concerns

- Reduced funding
- Program cuts (e.g., Intensive Core French)
- Tax increases – financial hardship on families
- Increased teacher workload/responsibilities

Most member feel the public has a poor or fair understanding of the budget impacts on education.

Do you feel that the general public has a good, fair or poor understanding of the impact of the budget announcements on education?

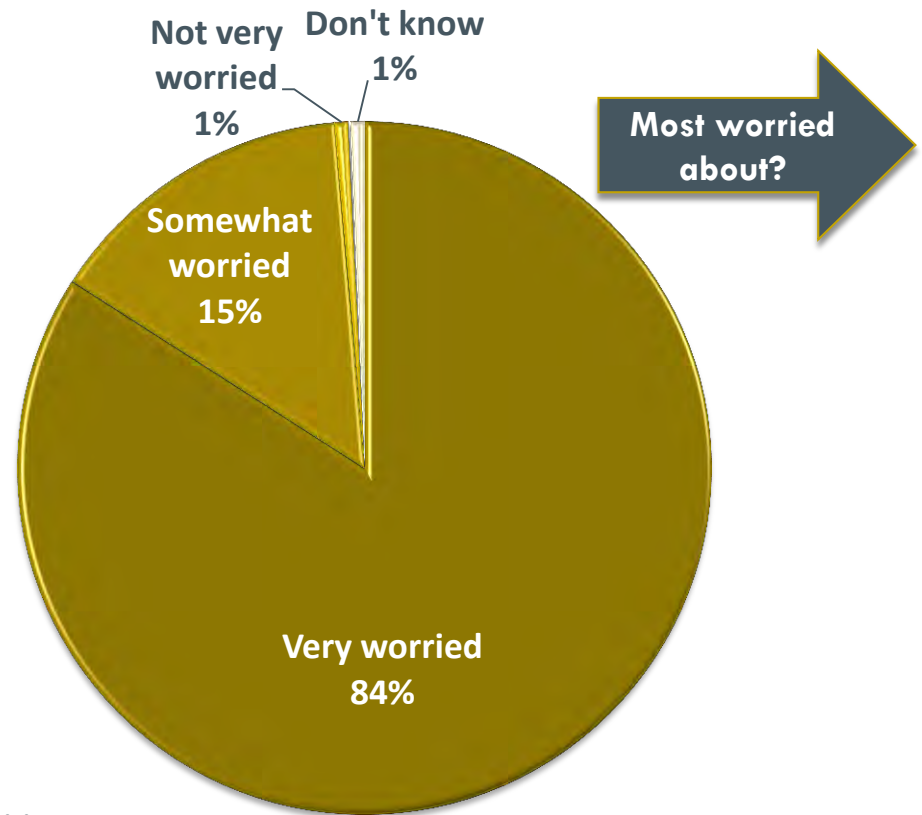


Least understood?

Issues (top mentions)	Percentage
Inclusive Education Initiative	59%
Combined classrooms	51%
Increased class sizes	51%
Multi-grading	49%
Loss of teaching units for curriculum support	48%
Allocation of positions across grade levels	38%
Implementation of Full-day Kindergarten	37%
Reduction to substitute teacher funding	36%
Reduction to professional development funding	28%
Loss of teaching units due to declining enrolments	25%

Almost all members were worried that the Fall Budget will contain additional changes that will impact the education system

To what extent are you worried that the Fall Budget will contain additional changes that will impact the education system?

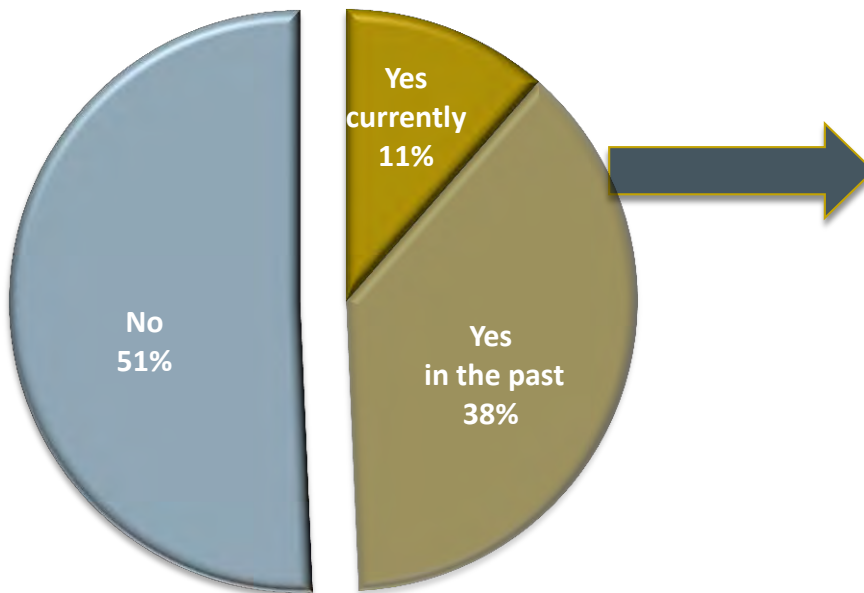


Most worried about?

Issue (top mentions)	Percentage
Wage/Salary cuts	29%
Teacher allocation cuts	27%
Loss of benefits (i.e., pension, severance, etc.)	12%
Program cuts/cuts to (i.e., French programming (ICF), extra curricular)	9%

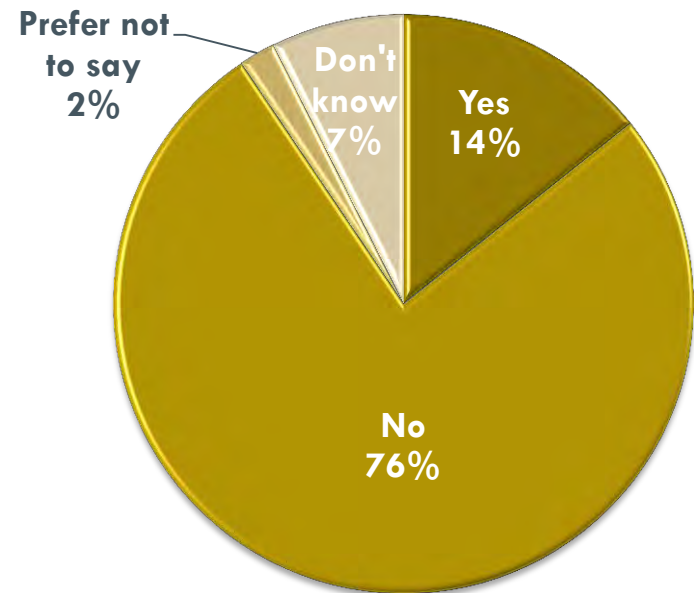
Only 14% of teachers who have worked in multi-graded schools felt there were enough teachers allocated to teach the required curriculum.

Are you currently or have you ever taught in a multi-graded school?



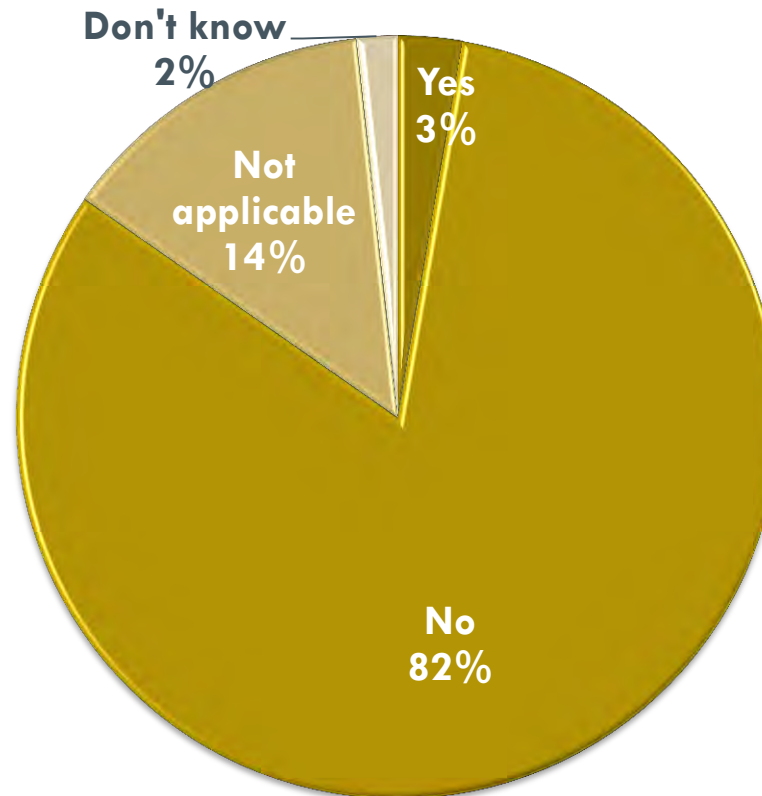
n= 811

Are/were enough teachers allocated to the curriculum to teach the required curriculum



n= 392

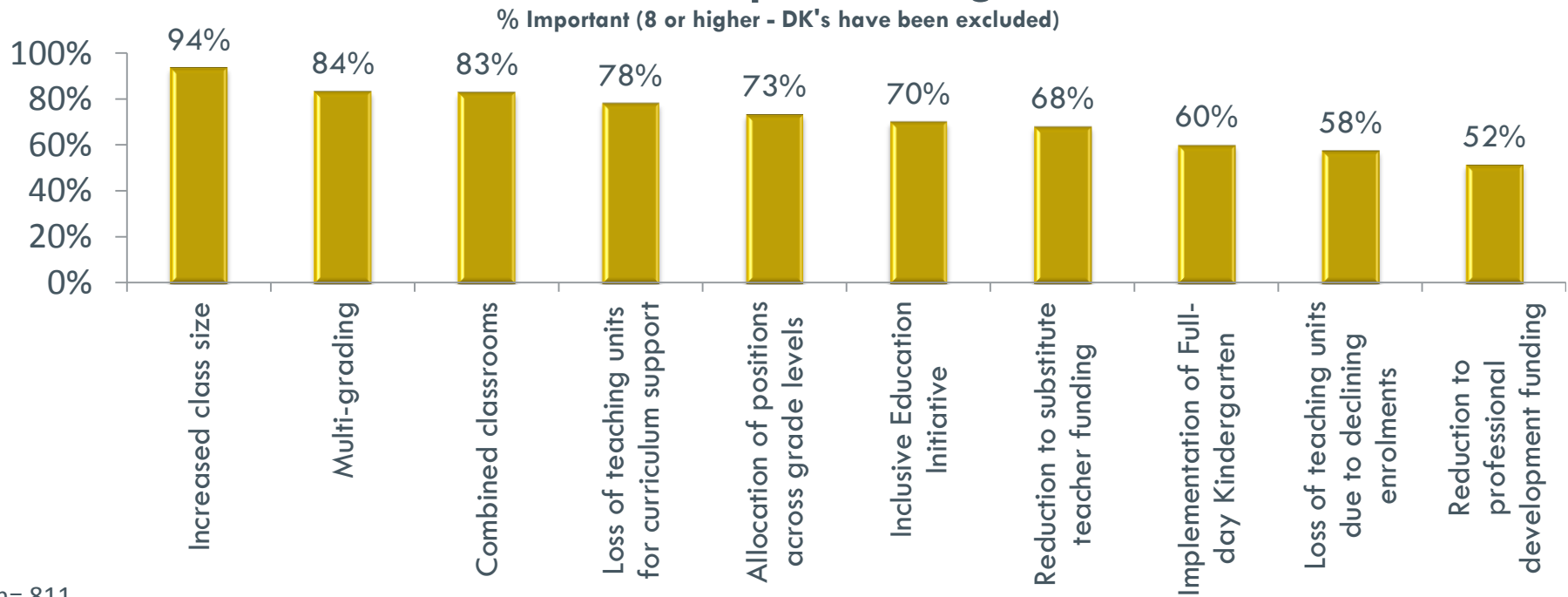
Do you feel you have received sufficient in-service or professional development to prepare you to teach a multi-grade class?



Section 3: NLTA's Communication Approach

Members feel that the NLTA should focus on class size, multi-grading and combined classrooms in communications and discussions with the province.

Which of the following items are the most important for the NLTA to focus on in communications and discussions with the provincial government?



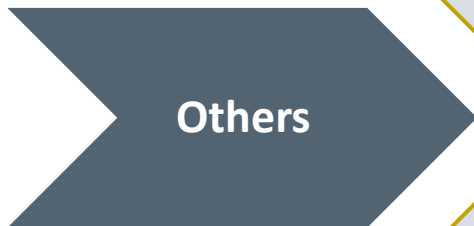
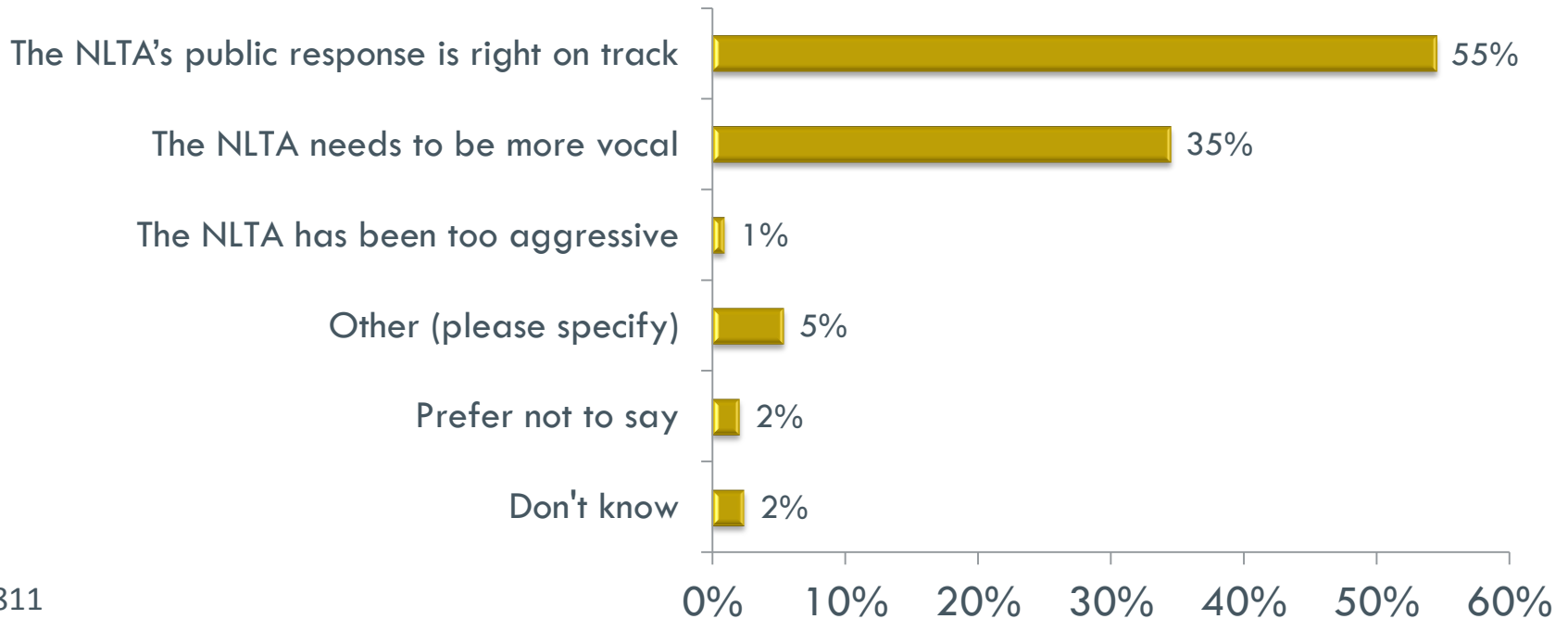
n= 811

Scale: 1 = not important 10= very important

Other topic areas

- Lack of resources/funding
- Program cuts (e.g., Intensive Core French)
- Increased teacher workload/responsibilities

To date, how do you feel about the NLTA's public response to the current budget?

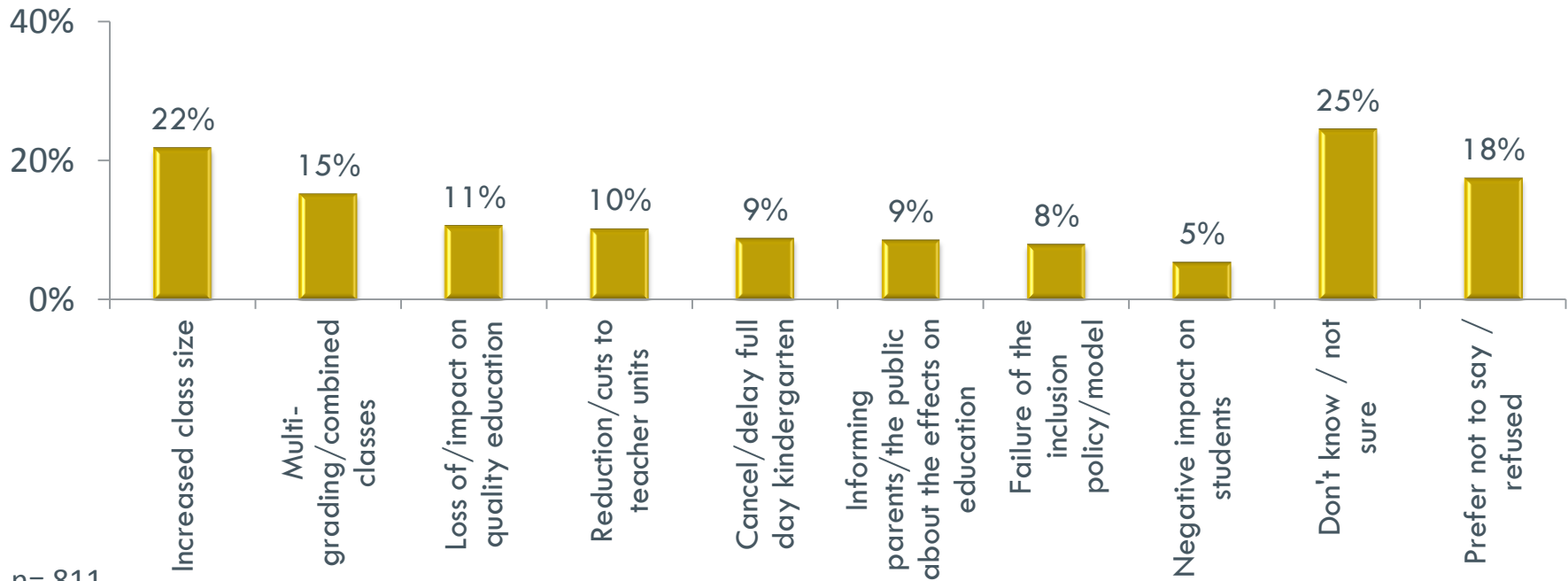


- Need to take more action
- Should be more focused in messaging
- Educate the public and parents on the impacts of the budget
- Need more parental support

Members provided a variety of areas that NLTA should focus on, including increased class sizes, multi-grading, and the negative impact on education quality

What specific concerns do you think should be the focus of the NLTA's public response?

Unaided responses



n= 811



- Getting parents, students, teachers, and the public involved
- Lack of resources/funding
- Lack of IRT support
- Lack of support for students with special needs
- Added workload for teachers
- Program cuts (e.g., Core French)

Key Findings

- 1. Members agree that the budget will have a negative impact on:**
 - the quality of education in the province
 - their day-to-day work

- 2. Impact of the 2016 Budget on Education**
 - Key budget issues for membership include: increased classroom size, multi-grading/combined classrooms, loss of teaching units
 - Teachers do not feel prepared to teach in multi-grade classrooms
 - Members are worried about additional impacts in the fall budget
 - Members feel that the public has a mediocre understanding of budget implications on education

- 3. NLTA's Response to the 2016 Budget**
 - Members feel the NLTA's public response to the budget is on track or could be more vocal

Conclusions

- **The *NLTA is on the right track* and in discussions with the government they should continue to emphasize the key impacts of the 2016 Budget:**
 - **increased classroom size;**
 - **multi-grading/combined classrooms; and**
 - **loss of teaching units.**
- **Teachers feel that the public does not have a good understanding of the 2016 Budget implications. In order to ensure public support, the NLTA should focus their messaging to the public on the key issues and their impact on the quality of education in the province.**