



# Saskatchewan College of Physical Therapists 2022 Membership Survey Results

March 2022



# Introduction

In 2019, at the request of the Saskatchewan College of Physical Therapists (SCPT) membership, the SCPT Council created an Ad Hoc Working Group to review the Clinical Component of the Physiotherapy Competency Examination (PCE CC) in relation to licensure in Saskatchewan. The Working Group completed its report in May 2021, which was presented to membership in the following months. The report made several recommendations for possible changes to Physical Therapy licensure requirements in Saskatchewan.

At the SCPT AGM in October 2021, the SCPT Council agreed that as a next step to the May 2021 report, the SCPT Council would seek input and feedback from members on their views and opinions of the report's recommendations. The feedback received would then inform Council's decisions whether any changes to licensure should be pursued and implemented.

To this end, the SCPT engaged the services of Praxis Consulting as an independent third party to develop and analyze an online survey to the SCPT membership.

SCPT members were informed of the survey by email. In total, 151 survey responses were collected between February 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, which represents a 17.2% response rate.

The following report summarizes the main findings from the survey.

Significant differences noted between the demographics tested are displayed in green tables where applicable.

The survey instrument included many open-ended questions. Responses for these are reported separately due to volume.



# Executive Summary

## ***SURVEY FINDINGS***

- Half of the SCPT membership who took part in the survey is opposed to having a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure requirements for graduates from a Canadian Physiotherapy program.
  - Those most likely to be opposed are current restricted licensees and those who did not have a post graduate clinical assessment as part of their licensure exam.
- Members are more likely to agree than disagree that having a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure requirements for Canadian graduates will:
  - Strengthen the reputation of the Canadian Physiotherapy profession internationally;
  - Strengthen the reputation of the Physiotherapy profession in Canada; and,
  - Serve the public interest.
- By comparison, members are more likely to disagree than agree that a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure requirements for Canadian grads is necessary to ensure Canadian PTs are competent and qualified.
- There is strong support to having a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure requirements for Internationally Educated Physical Therapists (IEPTs), with 46% strongly supporting and another 33% providing support ratings between 7 and 9 on an 11-point scale.
  - Those most likely to be supportive of the clinical assessment for IEPTs are graduates from Canadian PT programs.
- Members agree strongly with a post graduate clinical assessment for IEPTs being necessary to ensure IEPTs are competent and qualified. A majority also strongly agrees with a clinical assessment for IEPTs improving the safety of practice for clients/patients and serving the public interest.



# Executive Summary

- There is strong support among members for the May 2021 PCE report recommendations to alter the post graduate clinical assessment requirement for graduates from a Canadian Physiotherapy program, with 39% of the membership strongly supporting and another 35% providing support ratings between 7 and 9.
  - Those more likely to support these recommendations include those who have been practicing for at least 15 years, those who did not have a post graduate clinical assessment as part of their licensure exam, and graduates from a Canadian PT program.
- Suggested Changes to Licensure Requirements for Graduates of the Canadian MPT Program:
  - There is agreement among members to no longer have a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure requirements for graduates of fully accredited Canadian PT programs, with 58% at least somewhat agreeing to the suggested change.
  - 68% of members agree with having a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure for Canadian graduates if Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada (PEAC) standards #4 and #6 are not fully met in a partially accredited Canadian physiotherapy program. By comparison, the membership is split for a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure not being required if accreditation standards #4 & #6 are fully met.
  - 57% of members agree to the suggestion of replacing the post graduate clinical assessment with a 3-month post graduate internship requirement that includes evaluation by supervisor(s) for licensure of all Canadian educated candidates
  - 52% of the membership agrees to the suggestion of replacing the post graduate clinical assessment with a requirement to provide proof of clinical skills through a comprehensive review within the Canadian physiotherapy program.
  - When asked which would be their preference, 32% opt for implementing a 3-month post graduate internship requirement and 25% prefer implementing a requirement to provide proof of clinical skills, while 27% prefer implementing both options paired together.
  - Among the four suggested changes, a post graduate clinical assessment no longer being a licensure requirement of fully accredited Canadian PT programs is the top preference for 41% of the membership. However, this is also the most polarizing option, with 35% of the membership saying it is their least preferred option.

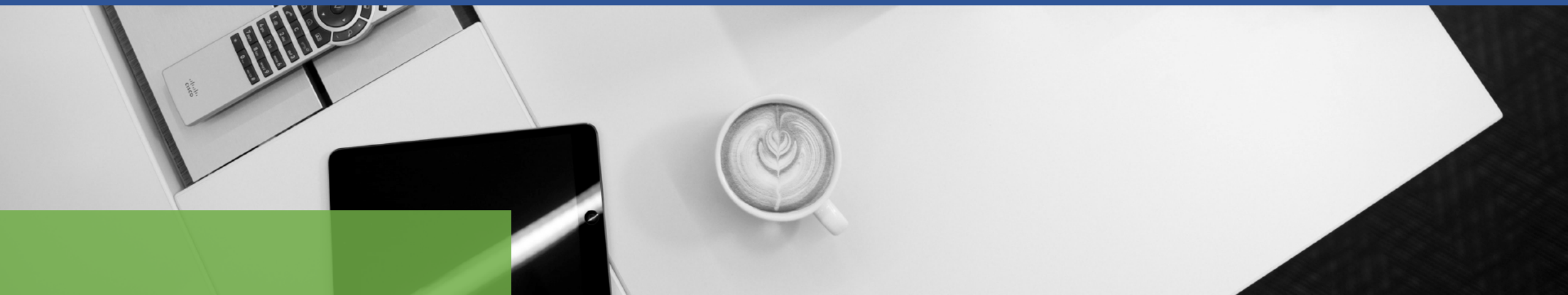


# Executive Summary

- Support is strong among the membership for the report's recommendations for the post graduate clinical assessment for Saskatchewan licensure of Internationally Educated Physical Therapists. In total, 40% strongly support the report's recommendations, with another 32% providing ratings between 7 and 9.
  - Those most likely to support the report's recommendations are graduates from Canadian PT programs.
- Approximately three-quarters of the membership agrees with the following suggested changes for IEPTs applying for full licensure:
  - 78% agree with a post graduate clinical assessment remaining a licensure requirement for all internationally educated candidates.
  - 73% agree with, in addition to a post graduate clinical assessment, having a 3-month post grad internship requirement that includes evaluation by supervisor(s) for licensure of all internationally educated candidates providing the same change is implemented for Canadian graduates.



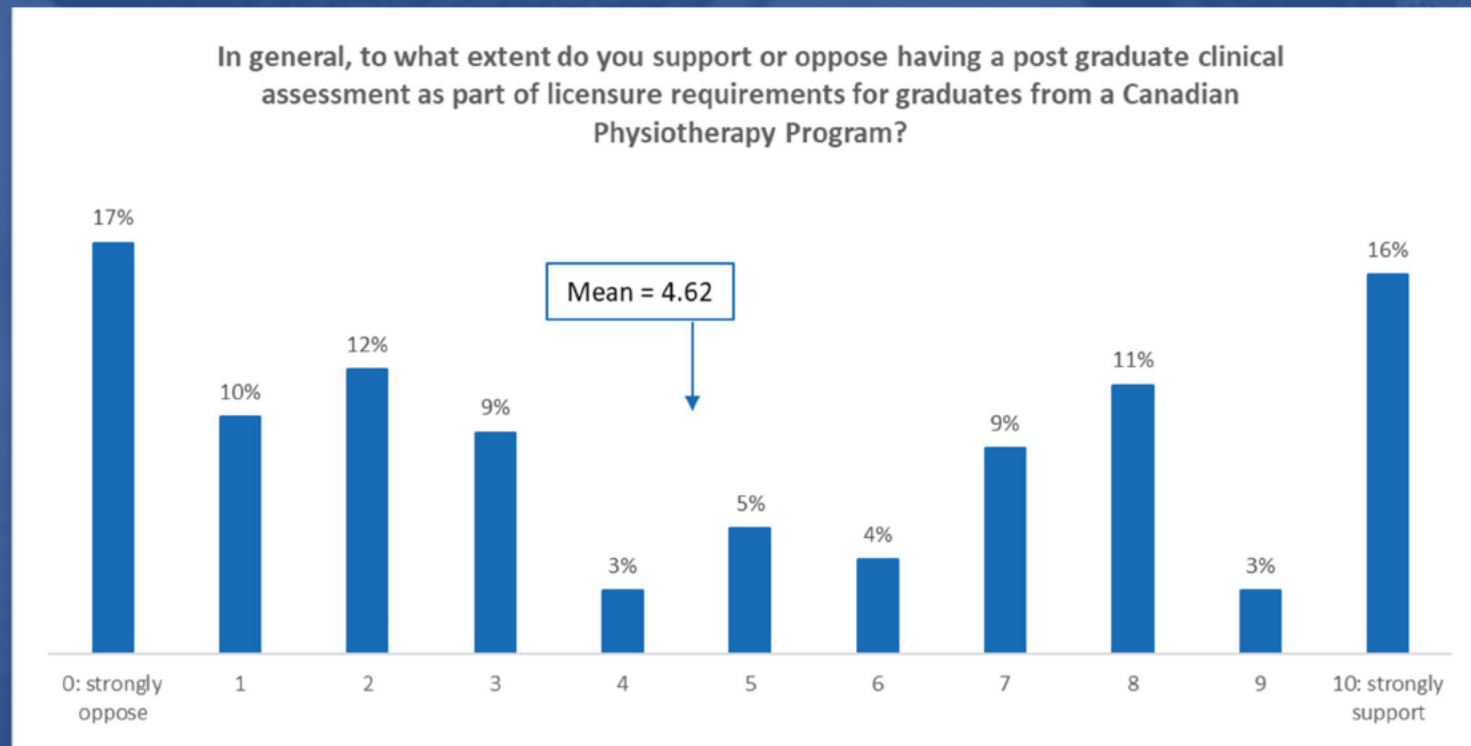
# SURVEY RESULTS: General Perceptions of a Clinical Assessment as Part of Licensure





# General Perceptions of a Clinical Assessment as Part of Licensure for Canadian Graduates

Strong support is commensurate with strong opposition, with 16% indicating being strongly in favour of having a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure requirements for Canadian graduates and another 17% being strongly opposed. The balance tips to opposition when taking into account those who are somewhat supportive or opposed (48% of membership assign ratings of 0 to 4 on an 11-point scale compared to 39% who assign ratings of 7 to 10), resulting in an overall mean just below the neutral mark at 4.62 out of 10.



Current restricted licensees and those who did not have a post graduate clinical assessment requirement as part of their licensure exam are among the most likely to oppose a clinical assessment as part of licensure for Canadian graduates.

Which of the following applies to you?	
Graduate from a Canadian PT Program	4.73
Internationally Educated PT*	6.11
Current Restricted Licensee*	2.82

Was there a post graduate clinical assessment requirement as part of your licensure exam?	
Yes	5.34
No	3.07

\* Small sample size. Use caution when interpreting results.

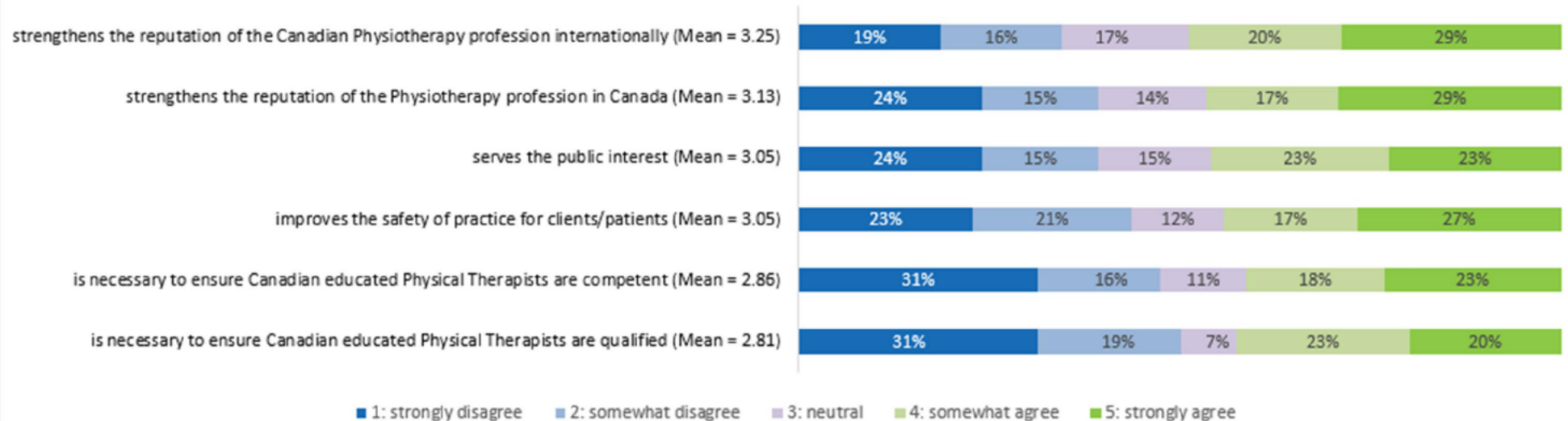
# General Perceptions of a Clinical Assessment as Part of Licensure for Canadian Graduates

More members agree than disagree that having a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure requirements for graduates from a Canadian PT program strengthens the reputation of the Canadian PT profession internationally (49% agree vs. 35% disagree), strengthens the reputation of the PT profession in Canada (46% agree vs. 39% disagree), and serves the public interest (46% agree vs. 39% disagree).

By comparison, the membership is split when asked whether having a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure for Canadian grads improves the safety of practice for clients/patients (44% agree vs. 44% disagree), while more disagree than agree with it being necessary to ensure Canadian PTs are competent (47% disagree vs. 41% agree) or qualified (50% disagree vs. 43% agree).

When thinking about the role a post graduate clinical assessment serves as part of licensure requirements for graduates from a Canadian Physiotherapy Program, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Having a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure requirements for graduates from a Canadian Physiotherapy Program...





# Agreement with Clinical Assessment as Part of Licensure for Canadian Grads: Significant Differences

Any significant differences noted between demographic groups have been reported below. The statements in the red boxes are those which a regression analysis determined to be drivers of overall support for having a clinical assessment as part of licensure for Canadian graduates.

*Having a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure requirements for graduates from a Canadian Physiotherapy Program...*

*strengthens the reputation of the Canadian PT profession internationally*  
(Mean = 3.25)

- Agreement declines with experience, with those practicing for more than 30 years being least likely to agree (2.40).
- Members who had a post graduate clinical assessment requirement as part of their licensure exam are more likely to agree (3.49).

*strengthens the reputation of the PT profession in Canada*  
(Mean = 3.13)

- Agreement declines with experience, with those practicing for more than 30 years being least likely to agree (2.24).
- Members who had a post graduate clinical assessment requirement as part of their licensure exam are more likely to agree (3.43).

*serves the public interest*  
(Mean = 3.05)

- Members who had a post graduate clinical assessment requirement as part of their licensure exam are more likely to agree (3.39).

*improves the safety of practice for clients/patients*  
(Mean = 3.05)

- Agreement declines with experience, with those practicing for more than 30 years being least likely to agree (2.05).
- Members who had a post graduate clinical assessment requirement as part of their licensure exam are more likely to agree (3.38).

*is necessary to ensure Canadian educated PTs are competent*  
(Mean = 2.86)

- Members who had a post graduate clinical assessment requirement as part of their licensure exam are more likely to agree (3.17).
- IEPTs are among the most likely to agree (3.89).

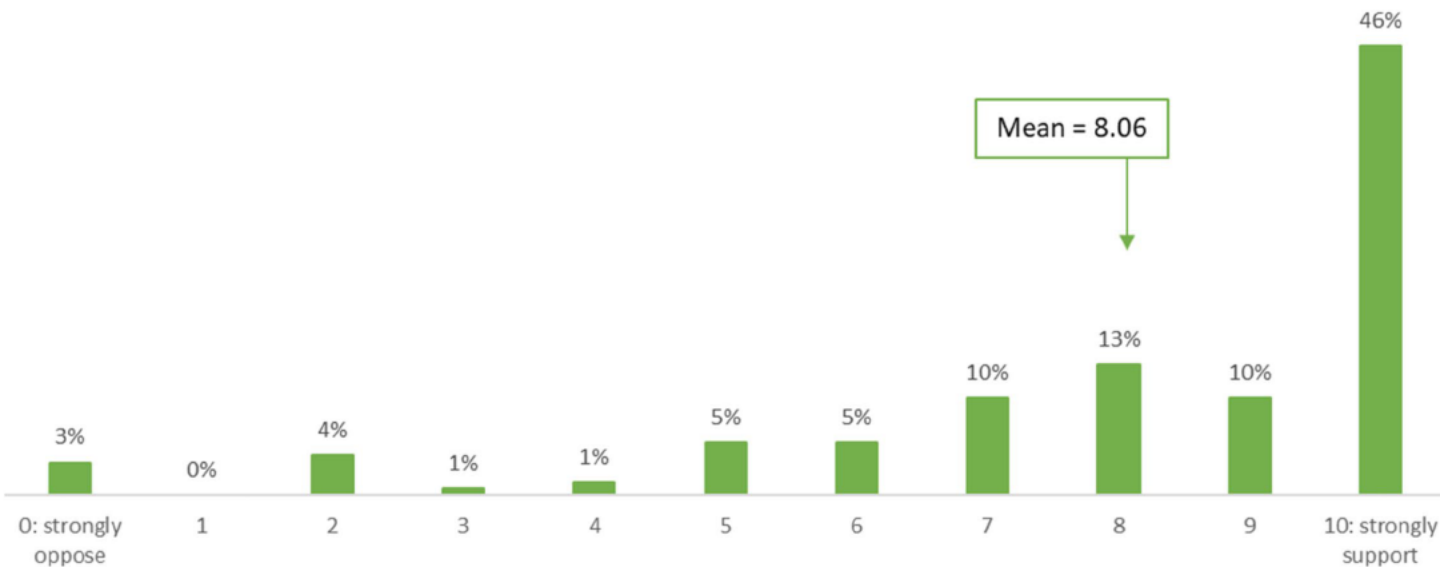
*is necessary to ensure Canadian educated PTs are qualified*  
(Mean = 2.81)

- Agreement declines with age, with those 55+ least likely to agree (1.88).
- Similarly, agreement declines with experience, with those practicing for more than 30 years being least likely to agree (1.77).
- Members who had a post graduate clinical assessment requirement as part of their licensure exam are more likely to agree (3.13).
- IEPTs are among the most likely to agree (3.89).

# General Perceptions of a Clinical Assessment as Part of Licensure for IEPTs

Support among the membership is significantly stronger for a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure requirements for Internationally Educated Physical Therapists (IEPTs). Almost half (46%) are strongly supportive, with a combined 79% assigning ratings of 7 to 10 on an 11-point scale, resulting in an overall mean of 8.06 out of 10.

In general, to what extent do you support or oppose having a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure requirements for Internationally Educated Physical Therapists?



Graduates from a Canadian PT program are among the most likely to support having a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure requirements for IEPTs.

Which of the following applies to you?

Graduate from a Canadian PT Program	8.46
Internationally Educated PT*	6.89
Current Restricted Licensee*	6.28

\* Small sample size. Use caution when interpreting results.



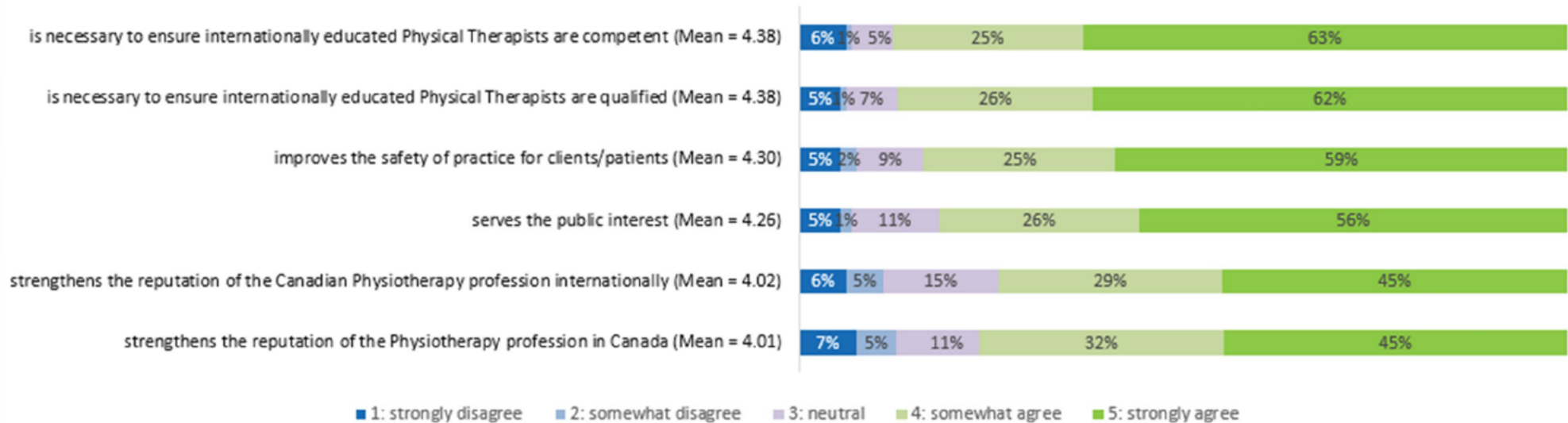
# General Perceptions of a Clinical Assessment as Part of Licensure for IEPTs

More than three-quarters of members at least somewhat agree with every statement tested around having a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure requirements for internationally educated PTs. Agreement is strongest for a post graduate clinical assessment being necessary to ensure IEPTs are competent (63% strongly agree) and qualified (62% strongly agree).

The majority of the membership also strongly agrees with the clinical assessment improving the safety of practice for clients/patients (59%) and serves the public interest (56%). Just under half strongly agrees that it strengthens the reputation of the Canadian PT profession internationally (45%) and in Canada (45%).

When thinking about the role a post graduate clinical assessment serves as part of licensure requirements for internationally educated Physical Therapists, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Having a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure requirements for internationally educated Physical Therapists...



# Agreement with Clinical Assessment as Part of Licensure for IEPTs: Significant Differences

Any significant differences noted between demographic groups have been reported below. Only one statement (in the red box) was determined by a regression analysis to be a driver of overall support for having a clinical assessment as part of licensure for internationally educated Physical Therapists.

## *Having a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure requirements for Internationally Educated Physical Therapists...*

*is necessary to ensure IEPTs are competent*  
(Mean = 4.38)

- No significant differences among the demographics tested.

*is necessary to ensure IEPTs are qualified*  
(Mean = 4.38)

- Canadian grads (4.47) are more likely than IEPTs (4.11) to agree.

*improves the safety of practice for clients/patients*  
(Mean = 4.30)

- Female members (4.40) are more likely than male members (3.96) to agree.
- Canadian grads (4.40) are more likely than IEPTs (4.00) to agree.

*serves the public interest*  
(Mean = 4.26)

- Canadian grads (4.39) are more likely than IEPTs (4.11) to agree.

*strengthens the reputation of the Canadian PT profession internationally*  
(Mean = 4.02)

- No significant differences among the demographics tested.

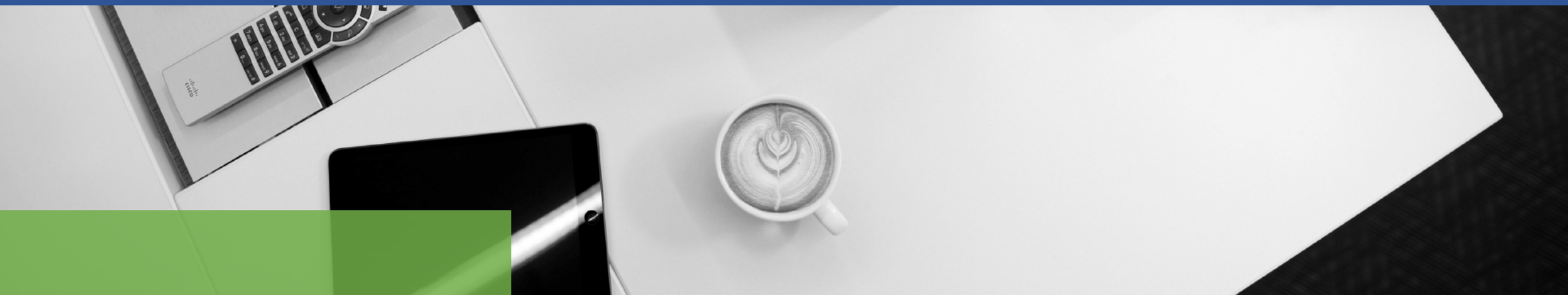
*strengthens the reputation of the PT profession in Canada*  
(Mean = 4.01)

- No significant differences among the demographics tested.





# **SURVEY RESULTS: Recommendations Around Suggested Changes to Licensure for Canadian Grads**



# Summary of May 2021 PCE Report Recommendations

The May 2021 report's recommendations are organized by suggested licensure requirements for graduates of a Canadian physical therapy education program and suggested licensure changes for international educated physical therapists (IEPTs). In all instances, the PCE Written Component would remain a requirement.

The recommendations for Canadian educated graduates are summarized as follows:

## Canadian Educated Graduates

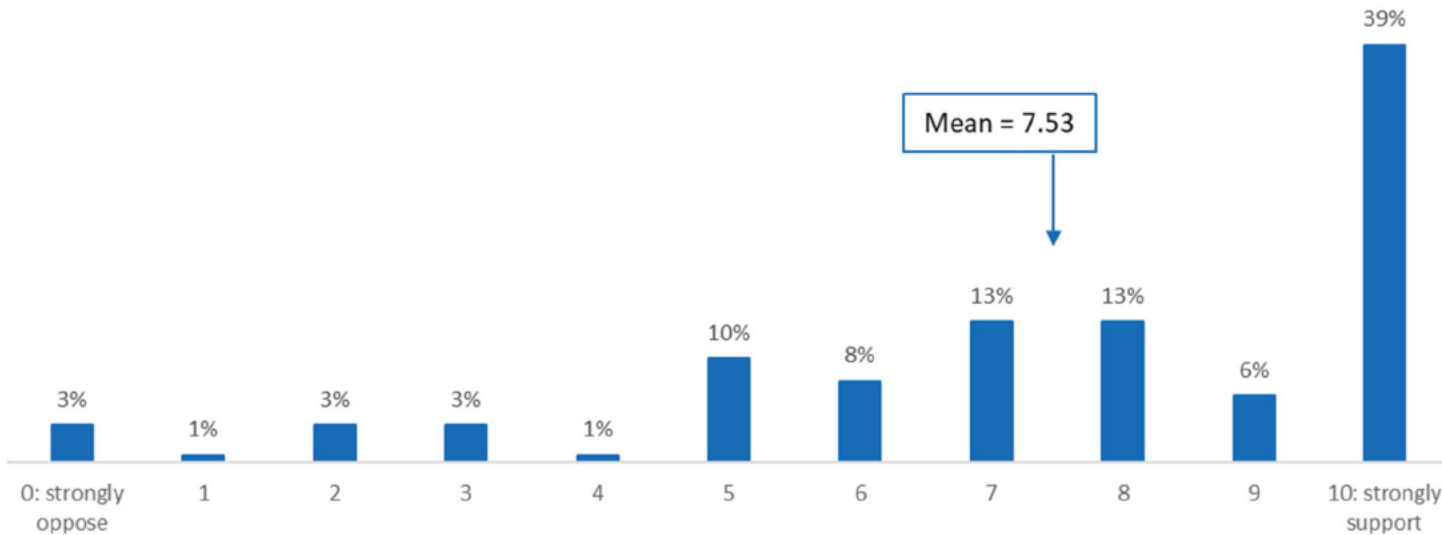
1. A post graduate clinical assessment is not required for licensure if the candidate graduated from a Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada (PEAC) fully accredited Canadian physical therapy education program.  
OR
2. Replacing the post graduate clinical assessment with a 3-month post-graduate internship is required for licensure.  
OR
3. Replacing the post graduate clinical assessment with proof of completion of a comprehensive review of all clinical skills be required before licensure. This could include:
  - a. Passing a final, comprehensive Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE), or
  - b. Via the successful completion of a summative, program-end practical course as part of their Canadian MPT program, or
  - c. A post graduate clinical assessment.



# Recommendations Around Changes to Licensure Requirements for Canadian Graduates

Support is strong among the membership for the report's recommendations to alter the post graduate clinical assessment requirement for graduates from a Canadian PT program. In total, 39% strongly support the report's recommendations, with another 35% providing ratings between 7 and 9. On average, support sits at 7.53 out of 10.

In general, to what extent do you support or oppose the report's recommendations to alter the post graduate clinical assessment requirement for graduates from a Canadian Physiotherapy Program?



Support increases with experience, with those practicing for at least 15 years being significantly more likely to support the report's recommendations to alter the clinical assessment requirement compared to those practicing for less than 15 years. Support is also higher among those who did not have a post graduate clinical assessment as part of their licensure exam and graduates from a Canadian PT program.

## Which of the following applies to you?

Graduate from a Canadian PT Program	7.89
Internationally Educated PT*	3.11
Current Restricted Licensee*	7.53

## Was there a post graduate clinical assessment requirement as part of your licensure exam?

Yes	7.10
No	8.52

## How long have you been practicing as a PT?

15 years or less	6.74
15 years +	8.73

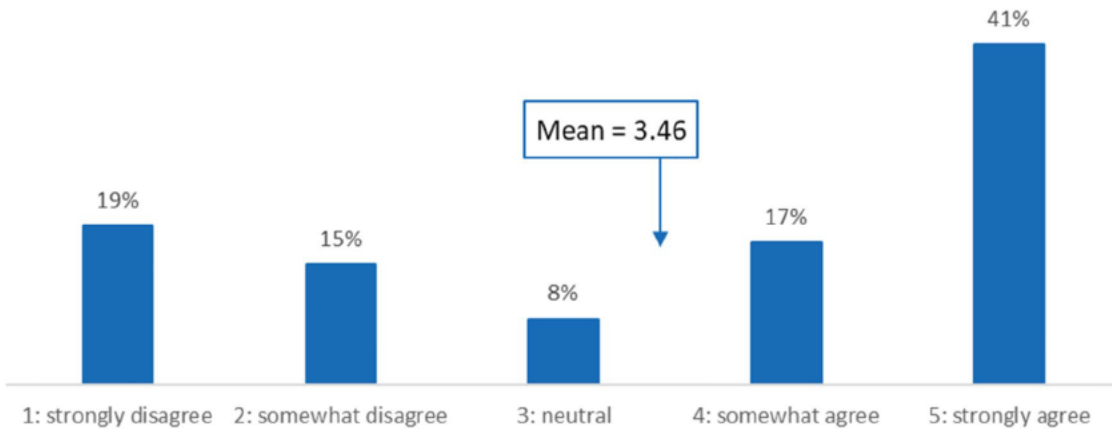
\* Small sample size. Use caution when interpreting results.

# Recommendations Around Changes to Licensure Requirements for Canadian Graduates

Almost three-fifths of the membership (58%) at least somewhat agrees with the suggested change of a post graduate clinical assessment no longer being a licensure requirement for graduates of fully accredited Canadian PT programs. One-in-three disagrees (34%), while 8% are neutral.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following suggested change for graduates of a Canadian PT program:

A post graduate clinical assessment no longer being a licensure requirement for graduates of fully accredited Canadian PT programs.



Agreement increases with experience, with those practicing for at least 20 years being significantly more likely to agree with the suggested change compared to those practicing for less than 20 years. Agreement is also higher among those who did not have a post graduate clinical assessment as part of their licensure exam.

Was there a post graduate clinical assessment requirement as part of your licensure exam?

Yes	3.15
No	4.22

How long have you been practicing as a PT?

20 years or less	3.22
20 years +	4.23



# PEAC Standards 4 & 6 Information

The report indicated that in a scenario in which the Canadian physiotherapy program is partially accredited, consideration of key relevant accreditation standards (i.e., Standards 4 & 6) should be considered in relation to licensure.

Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada (PEAC) Standards 4 & 6 most relate to student education, evaluation, and clinical practice.

**Standard 4:** The program supports, involves, prepares and assesses the students throughout their studies to ensure the program meets their needs and they achieve the expected learning outcomes.

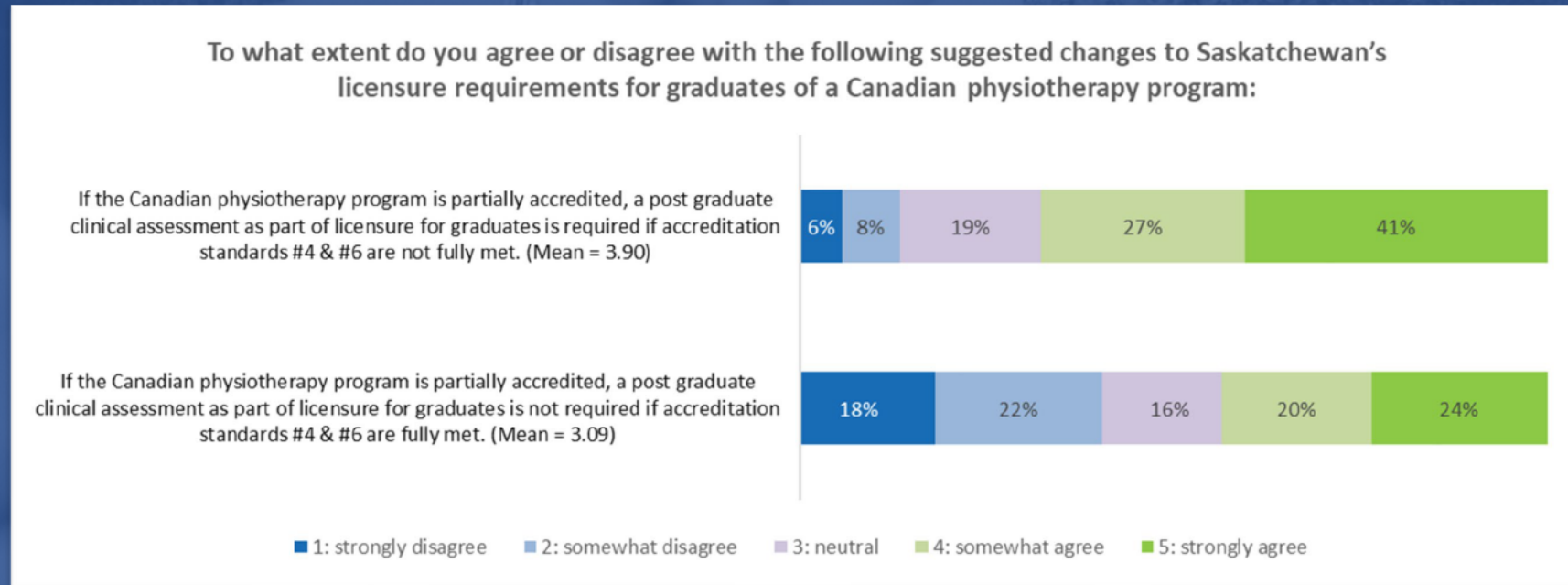
**Standard 6:** The program facilitates student achievement of physiotherapy competencies and entry-to-practice milestones in preparation for application and integration during clinical practice experiences.

# Recommendations Around Changes to Licensure Requirements for Canadian Graduates

Two-thirds of the membership (68%) agree that in the case of the Canadian PT program being partially accredited, a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure should be required if accreditation standards #4 & #6 are not fully met.

By comparison, the membership is split (44% agree vs. 40% disagree) in the case of the Canadian PT program being partially accredited, a post graduate clinical assessment as part of licensure not being required if accreditation standards #4 & #6 are fully met.

There are no significant differences among the demographics tested for either statement.

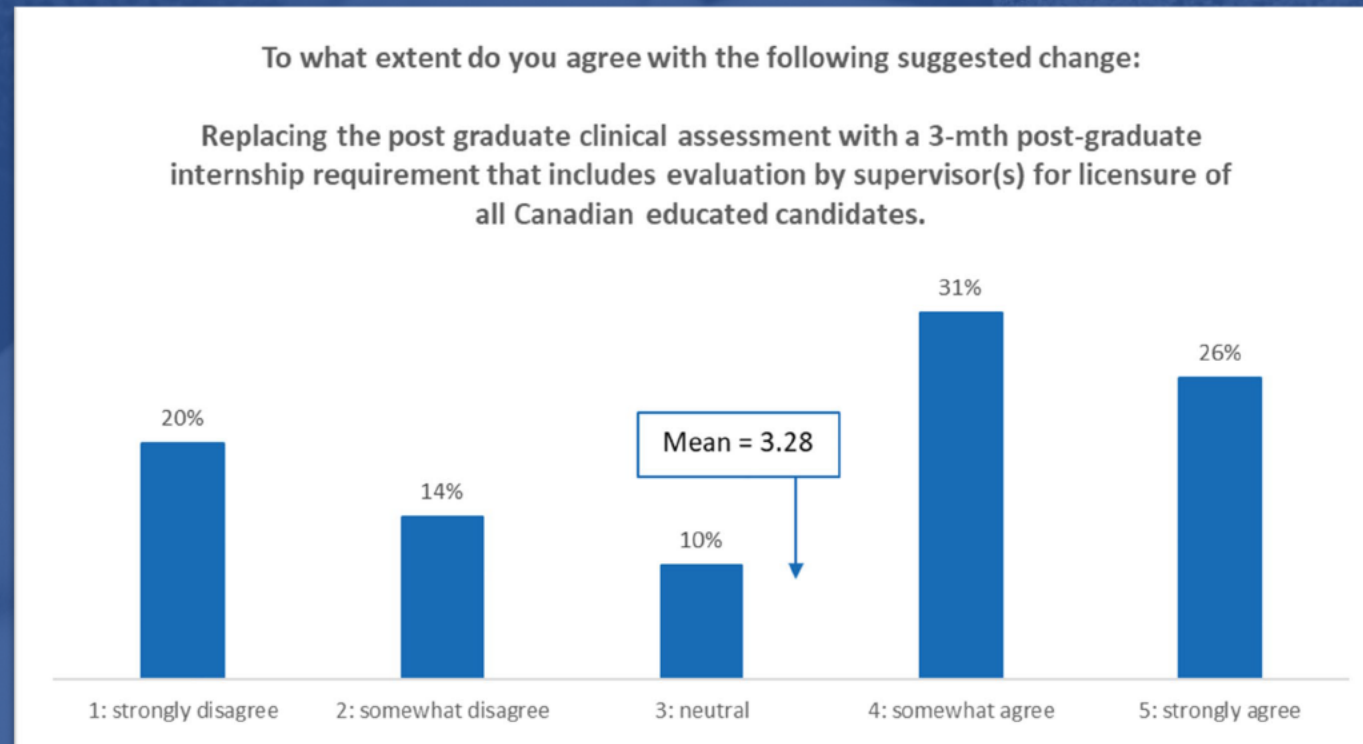




# Recommendations Around Changes to Licensure Requirements for Canadian Graduates

Over half of the membership (57%) at least somewhat agrees with the suggested change of replacing the post graduate clinical assessment with a 3-month post-graduate internship requirement that includes evaluation by supervisor(s) for licensure of all Canadian educated candidates. One-in-three disagrees (34%), while 10% are neutral.

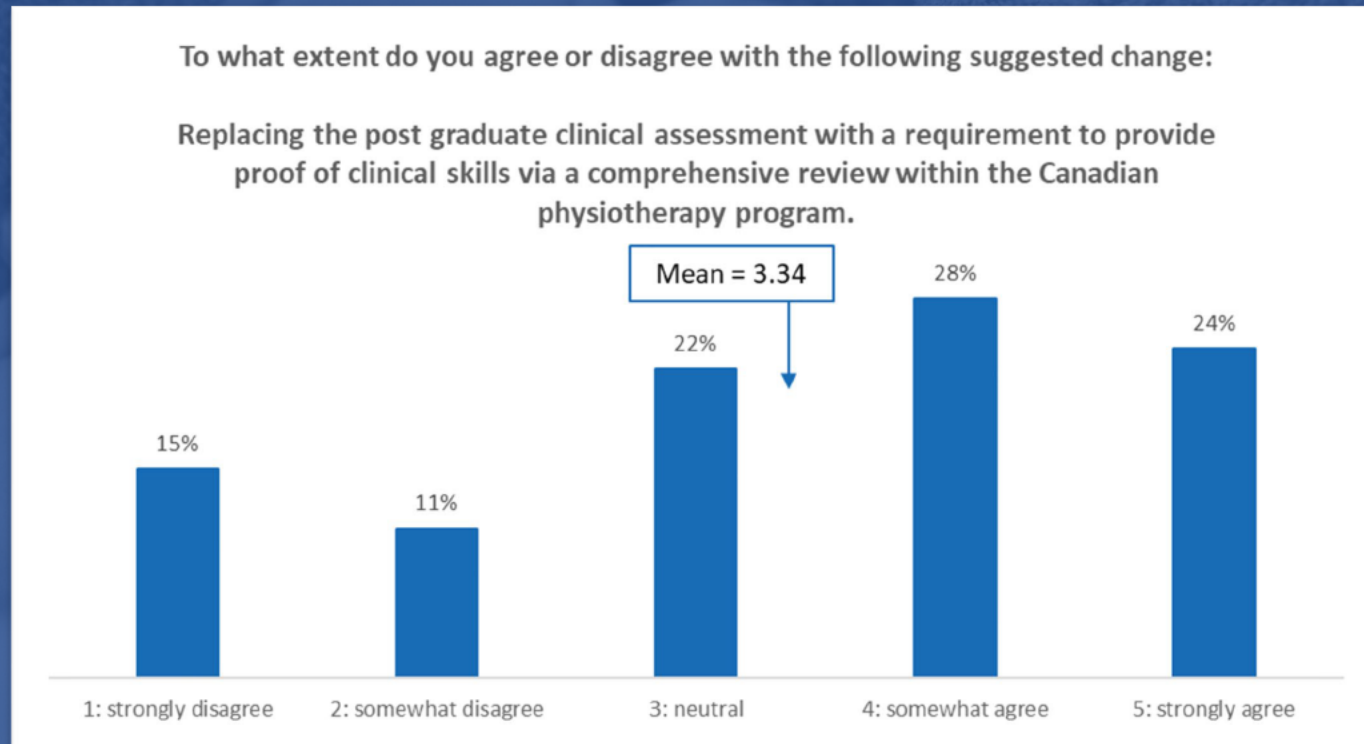
There are no significant differences among the demographics tested.



# Recommendations Around Changes to Licensure Requirements for Canadian Graduates

One-in-two members (52%) at least somewhat agrees with the suggested change of replacing the post graduate clinical assessment with a requirement to provide proof of clinical skills via a comprehensive review within the Canadian physiotherapy program. One-quarter disagrees (26%), while 22% are neutral.

There are no significant differences among the demographics tested.





# Recommendations Around Changes to Licensure Requirements for Canadian Graduates

Members were asked to consider these two suggested changes:

1. A 3-month post graduate internship requirement that includes evaluation by supervisor(s) for licensure of all Canadian educated candidates.
2. A requirement to provide proof of clinical skills via a comprehensive review within the Canadian physiotherapy program.

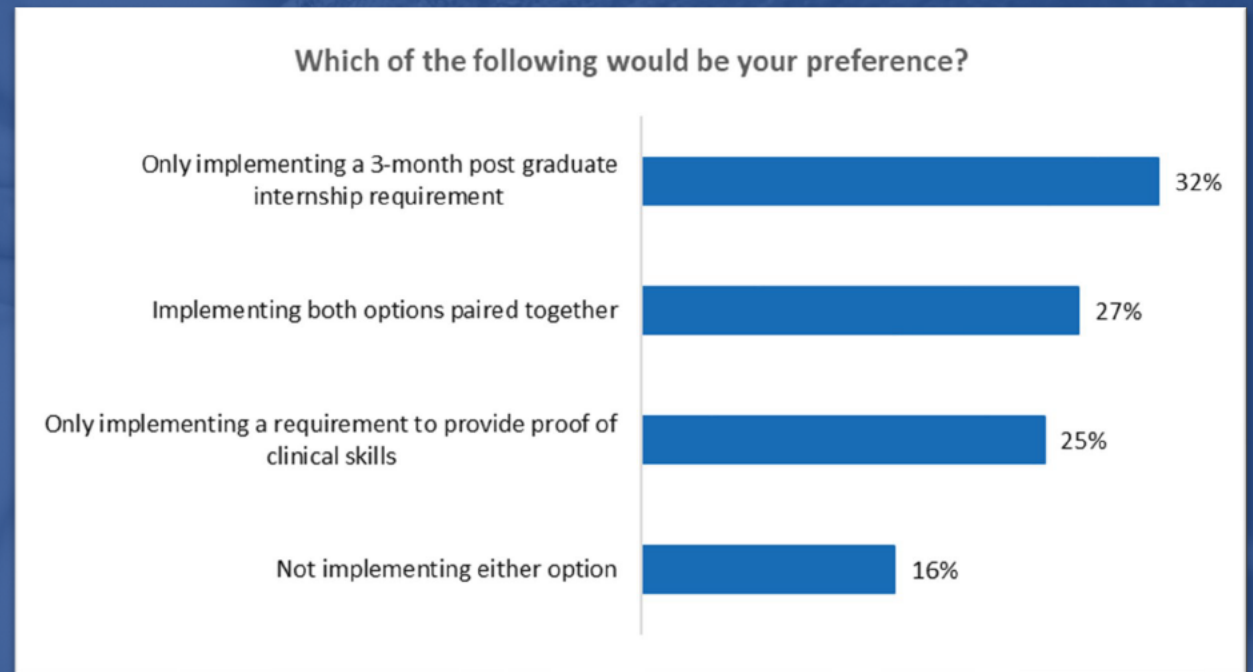
When asked which would be their preference, 32% opt for implementing a 3-month post graduate internship requirement.

While 25% prefer implementing a requirement to provide proof of clinical skills, an equal proportion (27%) prefer implementing both options paired together.

Only 16% would opt to not implement either option.

Those who have been practicing more than 20 years are among the most likely to prefer not implementing either option.

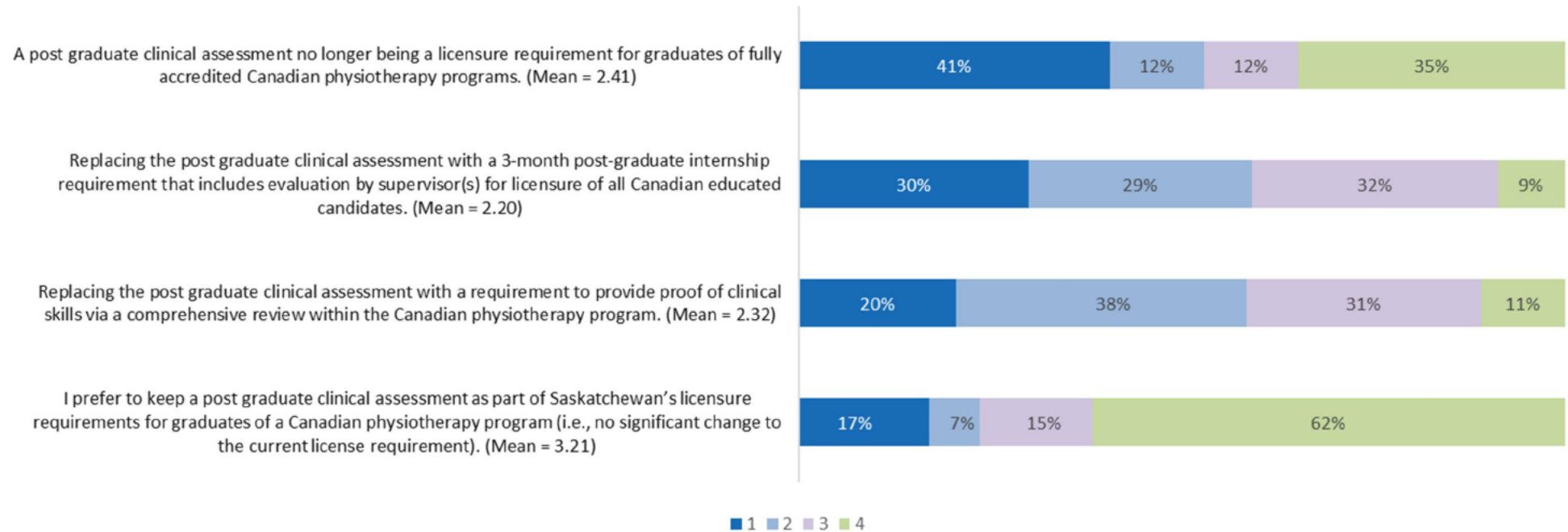
How long have you been practicing as a PT?	Only a 3-month post grad internship	Both options paired together	Only providing proof of clinical skills	Neither option
20 years or less	35%	33%	25%	8%
20 years +	25%	16%	27%	32%



# Preferences for Changes to Licensure Requirements for Canadian Graduates

Considering the four suggested changes to Saskatchewan's licensure requirements for graduates of a Canadian physiotherapy program, a post graduate clinical assessment no longer being a licensure requirement of fully accredited Canadian PT programs is the top preference for 41% of the membership. However, this is also the most polarizing option, with 35% of the membership saying it is their least preferred option.

Which of the suggested changes to Saskatchewan's licensure requirements for graduates of a Canadian physiotherapy program do you prefer? Please assign ratings of 1 to 4 below, where 1 indicates your top preference.





# Preferences for Changes to Licensure Requirements for Canadian Graduates: Significant Differences

Any significant differences noted between demographic groups have been reported below.

*A post graduate clinical assessment no longer being a licensure requirement for graduates of fully accredited Canadian physiotherapy programs.*

(Mean = 2.41)

- More likely to be preferred by those who did not have a post graduate clinical assessment requirement as part of their licensure exam (1.76) compared to those who did (2.78).
- More likely to be preferred by Current Restricted Licensees in SK (1.65) than among either IEPTs (2.44) or graduates from a Canadian PT Program (2.51).
- More likely to be preferred by those who have been practicing over 20 years (1.77) than those with 20 years or less experience (2.69).

*Replacing the post graduate clinical assessment with a 3-month post-graduate internship requirement that includes evaluation by supervisor(s) for licensure of all Canadian educated candidates.*

(Mean = 2.20)

- More likely to be preferred by those who had a post graduate clinical assessment requirement as part of their licensure exam (2.07) compared to those who did not (2.47).
- More likely to be preferred by those who have been practicing for 20 years or less (2.08) than those with over 20 years experience (2.44).

*Replacing the post graduate clinical assessment with a requirement to provide proof of clinical skills via a comprehensive review within the Canadian physiotherapy program.*

(Mean = 2.32)

- No significant differences among the demographics tested.

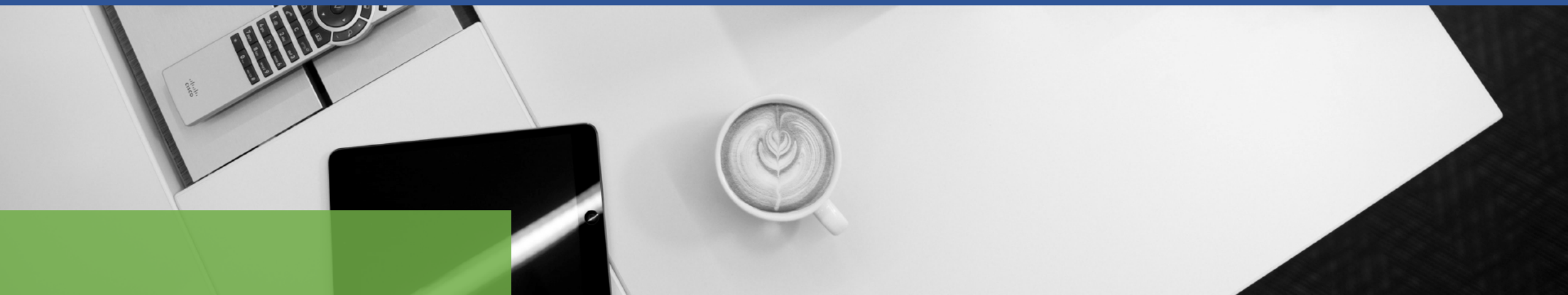
*I prefer to keep a post graduate clinical assessment as part of Saskatchewan's licensure requirements for graduates of a Canadian physiotherapy program (i.e., no significant change to the current license requirement).*

(Mean = 3.21)

- More likely to be preferred by those who had a post graduate clinical assessment requirement as part of their licensure exam (2.95) compared to those who did not (3.73).
- More likely to be preferred by those who have been practicing for 20 years or less (2.99) than those with over 20 years experience (3.74).



# SURVEY RESULTS: Recommendations Around Changes to IEPTs Applying for Full Licensure





# Summary of May 2021 PCE Report Recommendations

The May 2021 report's recommendations are organized by suggested licensure requirements for graduates of a Canadian physical therapy education program and suggested licensure changes for international educated physical therapist (IEPTs). In all instances, the PCE Written Component would remain a requirement.

The recommendations for internationally educated graduates are summarized as follows:

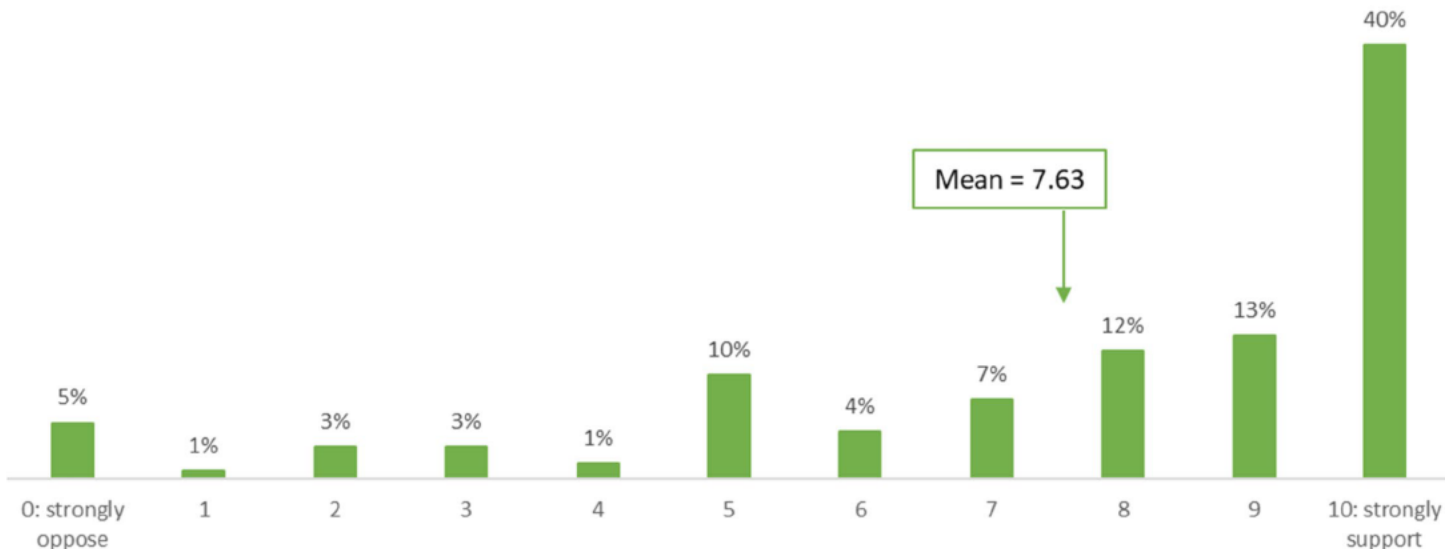
## IEPTs

1. The post graduate clinical component assessment remains a licensure requirement for IEPTs.
2. If a 3-month post graduate internship is required for licensure for Canadian Graduates, the internship would also be a requirement for IEPTs in addition to the clinical component assessment.

# Recommendations Around Changes to IEPTs Applying for Full Licensure

Support is strong among the membership for the report's recommendations for the post graduate clinical assessment for Saskatchewan licensure of Internationally Educated Physical Therapists. In total, 40% strongly support the report's recommendations, with another 32% providing ratings between 7 and 9. On average, support sits at 7.63 out of 10.

In general, to what extent do you support or oppose the report's recommendations for the post graduate clinical assessment for Saskatchewan licensure of internationally educated Physical Therapists?



Graduates from a Canadian PT program (7.99) and females (7.90) are among the most likely to support the report's recommendations for IEPTs.

## Which of the following applies to you?

Graduate from a Canadian PT Program	7.99
Internationally Educated PT*	5.40
Current Restricted Licensee*	6.56

## What is your gender?

Male	6.26
Female	7.90

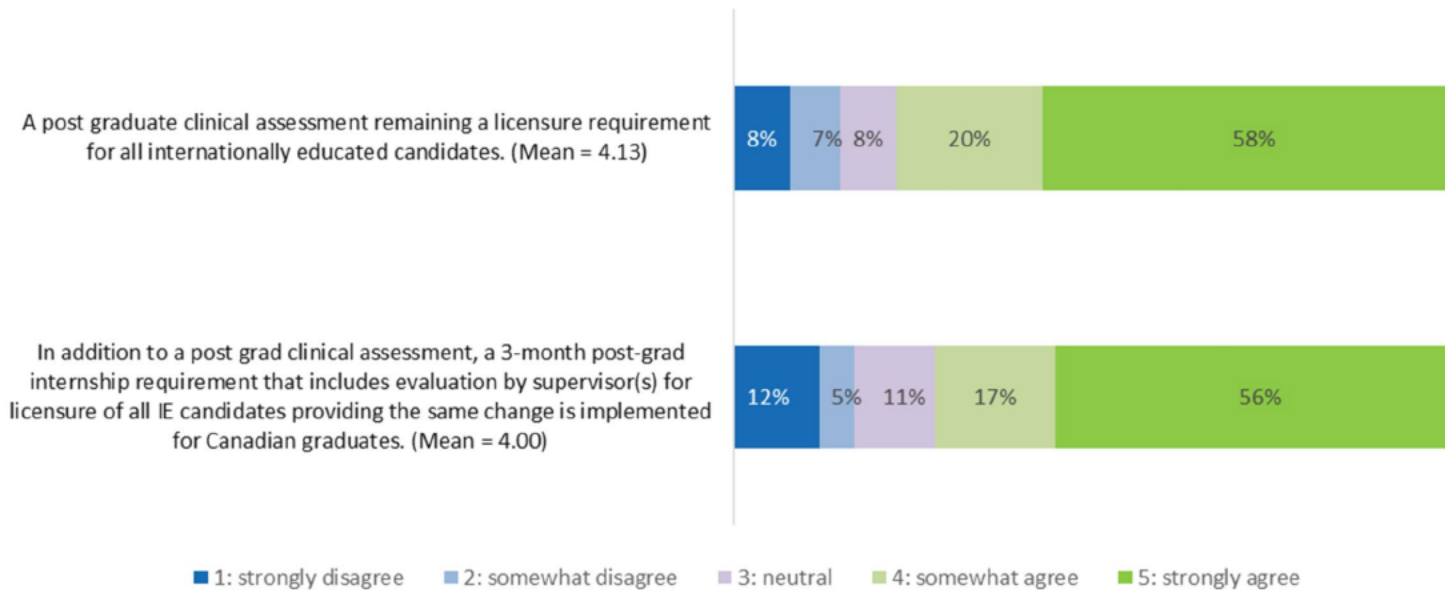
\* Small sample size. Use caution when interpreting results.



# Recommendations Around Changes to IEPTs Applying for Full Licensure

Approximately three-quarters of the membership agrees with both a post graduate clinical assessment remaining a licensure requirement for all internationally educated candidates (78%) and, in addition to a post graduate clinical assessment, having a 3-month post grad internship requirement that includes evaluation by supervisor(s) for licensure of all internationally educated candidates providing the same change is implemented for Canadian graduates (73%).

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following for Saskatchewan licensure of internationally educated Physical Therapists?



Graduates from a Canadian PT program and those with 20+ years experience are the most likely to agree with a post graduate clinical assessment remaining a requirement for all IE candidates. There are no significant differences among the demographics tested for a 3-month post graduate internship requirement.

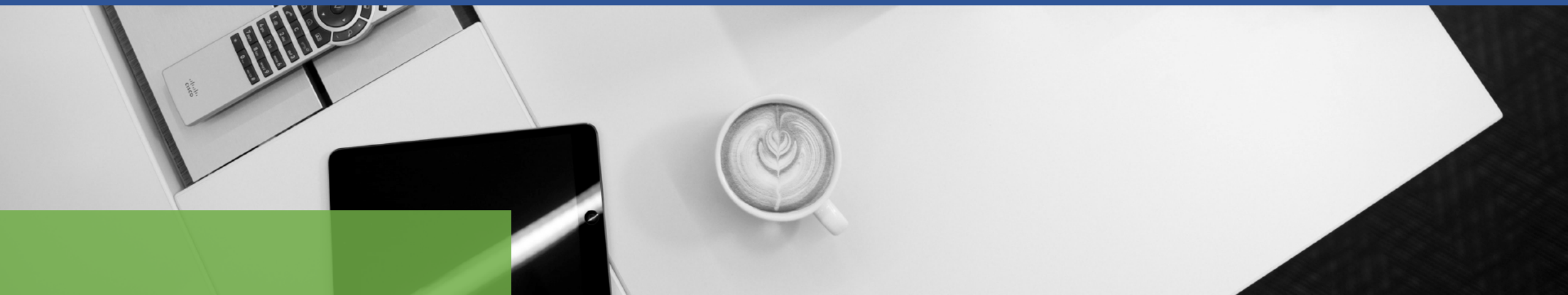
Which of the following applies to you?	A post grad clinical assessment remaining for all IE candidates
Graduate from a Canadian PT Program	4.38
IEPT*	3.11
Current Restricted Licensee*	3.29

How long have you been practicing as a PT?	A post grad clinical assessment remaining for all IE candidates
20 years or less	3.99
20 years +	4.43

\* Small sample size. Use caution when interpreting results.



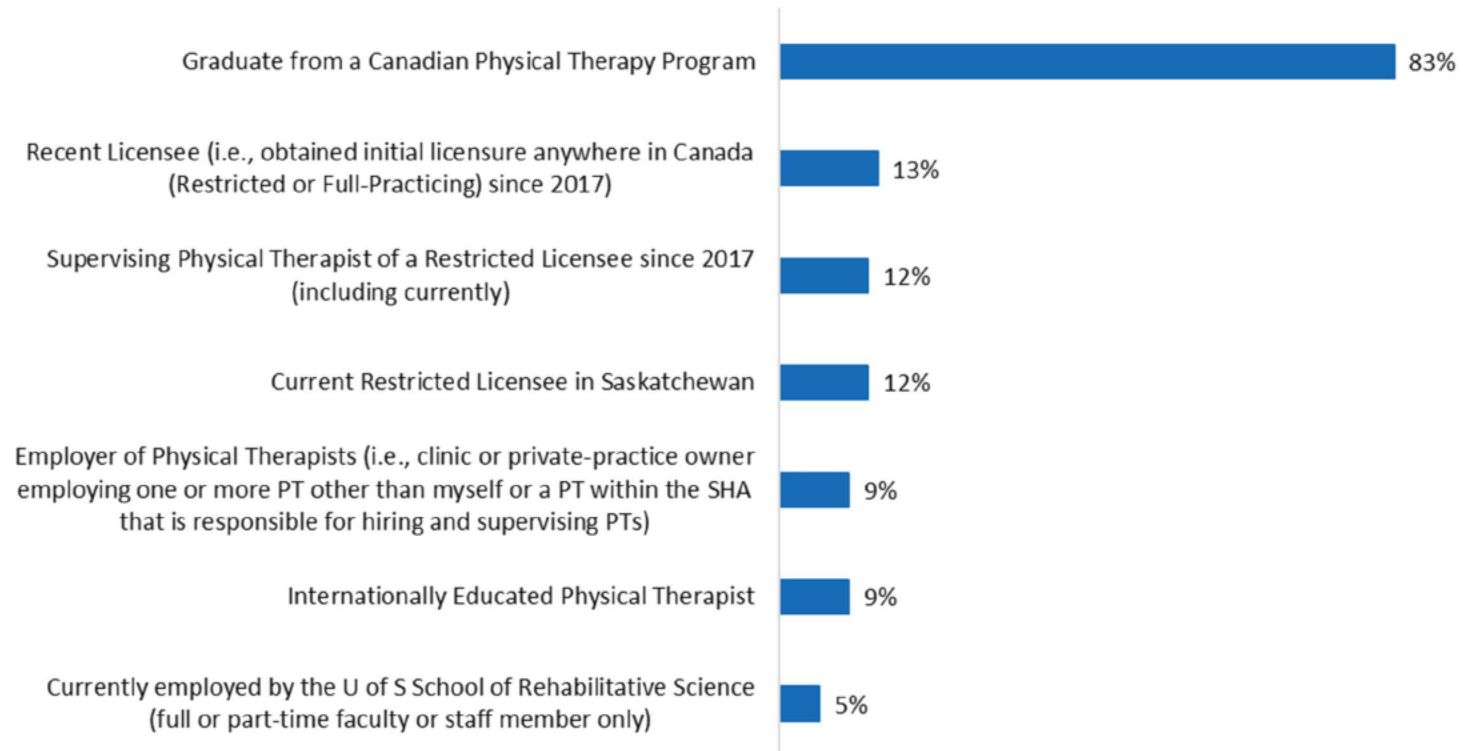
# DEMOGRAPHICS



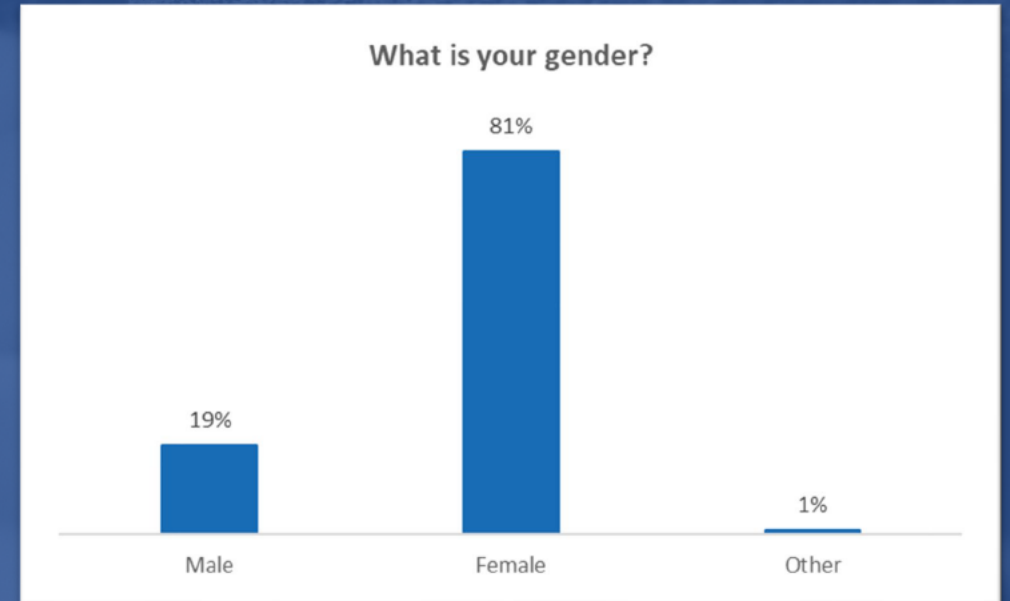
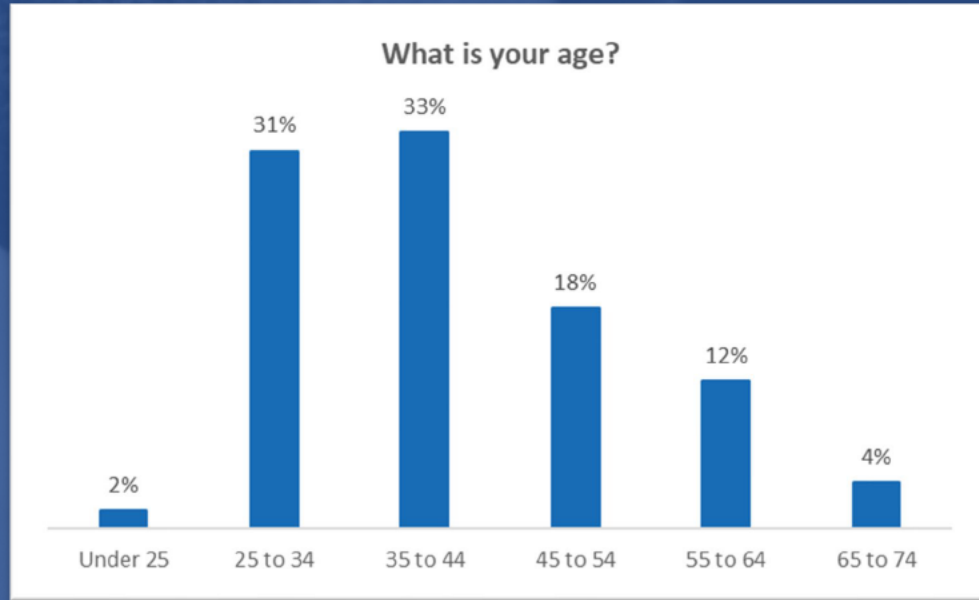


# Demographics

Which of the following applies to you? Please select all that apply.



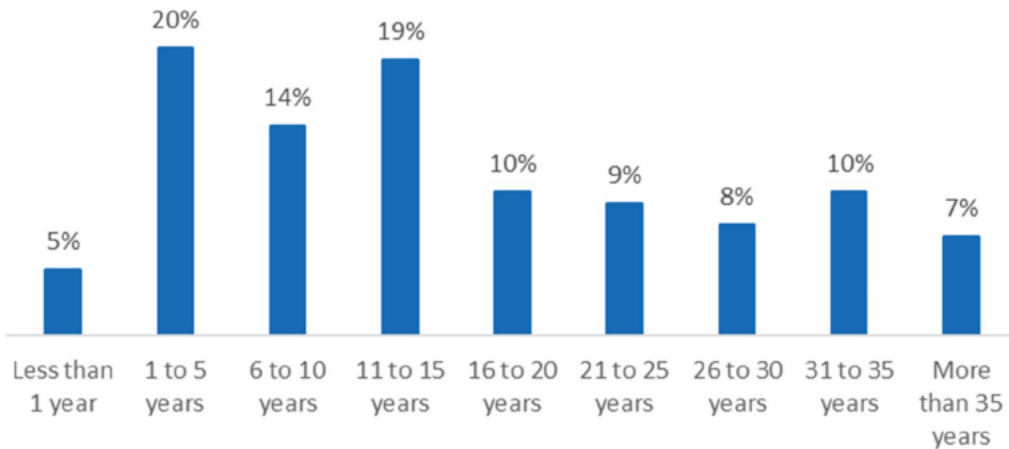
# Demographics



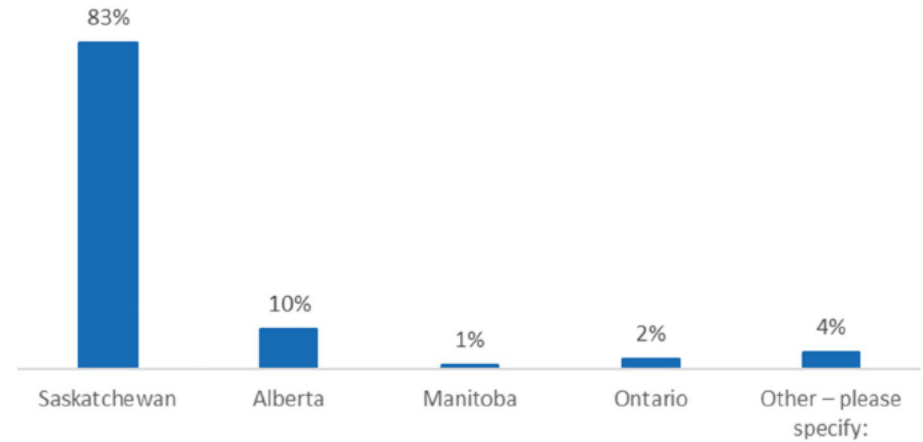


# Demographics

How long have you been practicing as a Physical Therapist?



Where did you complete your Physical Therapist accreditation?



Was there a post graduate clinical assessment requirement as part of your licensure exam?

