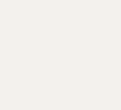




THE PANDEMIC'S IMPACT ON STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AND FUTURE EDUCATION PLANS

Students are embarking on another school year fraught with uncertainty due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Young Canadians were relegated to remote learning and social isolation for much of the past two years, having a significant impact on their mental health and future plans.

STUDENTS BELIEVE THE PANDEMIC'S LONG-TERM EFFECTS WILL BE A DETRIMENT TO THEIR OWN SUCCESS.



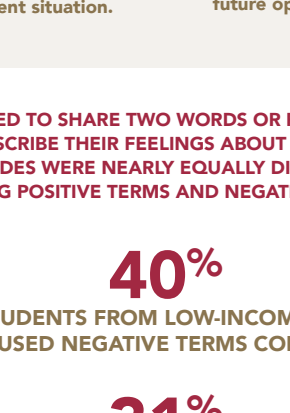
57%

felt that the pandemic has negatively impacted their confidence in starting post-secondary education, with 2 in 5 confirming it had already negatively impacted education plans.

STUDENTS EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING REMAINS A CONCERN

62%

worry about its impact on their future success in post secondary education



56%

worry about its impact on their current employment situation.

2/3

worry about its impact on their future opportunities.

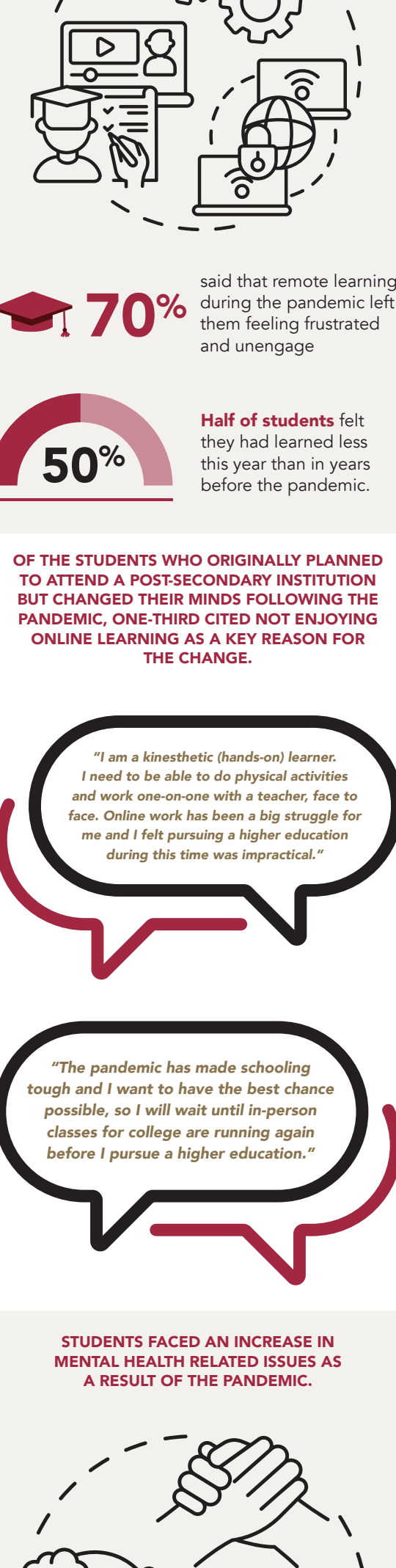
ASKED TO SHARE TWO WORDS OR PHRASES THAT DESCRIBE THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT THE FUTURE, ATTITUDES WERE NEARLY EQUALLY DISTRIBUTED AMONG POSITIVE TERMS AND NEGATIVE TERMS.

40%

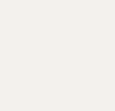
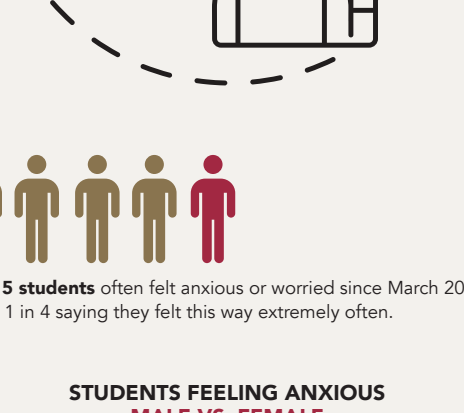
OF STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME HOUSE HOLDS USED NEGATIVE TERMS COMPARED TO

31%

OF MID-TO HIGH-INCOME STUDENTS.

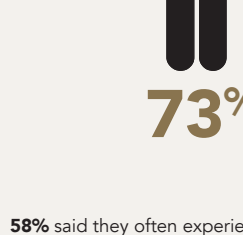


STUDENTS ON THE WHOLE DID NOT ENJOY THE PAST YEAR OF ONLINE LEARNING.



70%

said that remote learning during the pandemic left them feeling frustrated and unengaged



50%

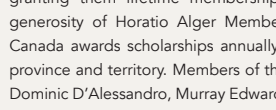
Half of students felt they had learned less this year than in years before the pandemic.

OF THE STUDENTS WHO ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO ATTEND A POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION BUT CHANGED THEIR MINDS FOLLOWING THE PANDEMIC, ONE-THIRD CITED NOT ENJOYING ONLINE LEARNING AS A KEY REASON FOR THE CHANGE.

"I am a kinesthetic (hands-on) learner. I need to be able to do physical activities and work one-on-one with a teacher, face to face. Online learning has been a big struggle for me and I felt pursuing a higher education during this time was impractical."

"The pandemic has made schooling tough and I want to have the best chance possible, so I will wait until in-person classes for college are running again before I pursue a higher education."

STUDENTS FACED AN INCREASE IN MENTAL HEALTH RELATED ISSUES AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC.



4 in 5 students often felt anxious or worried since March 2020, with 1 in 4 saying they felt this way extremely often.

STUDENTS FEELING ANXIOUS MALE VS. FEMALE



73% 88%

58% said they often experienced feelings of loneliness or lack of connection to others during the pandemic

28% said they experienced feelings of loneliness or lack of connection to others during the pandemic extremely often

"Covid made it extremely stressful to continue with my schooling"

The independent survey was commissioned by the Horatio Alger Association of Canada and conducted by Dynata, the world's largest first-party data and insights platform. The survey of 503 recent public high school graduates was conducted between June 21 – July 7, 2021 and has a margin of error of +/- 4.37 percent at the 95 percent level of confidence. Research participants in this study were balanced with Statistics Canada data on gender and geographic region.

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ABOUT THE HORATIO ALGER ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

The Horatio Alger Association of Canada, the Canadian affiliate of the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc., is a charitable organization dedicated to the simple but powerful belief that hard work, honesty and determination can conquer all obstacles. The Association honours the achievements of outstanding individuals who have succeeded in spite of adversity by bestowing to them the Horatio Alger Award and granting them lifetime membership into the Association. Through the generosity of Horatio Alger Members, the Horatio Alger Association of Canada awards scholarships annually to deserving young people in every province and territory. Members of the Association include Alain Bouchard, Dominic D'Alessandro, Murray Edwards, Serge Godin, Wayne Gretzky, Jay S. Hennick, the Right Honourable David Johnston, Rebecca MacDonald, the late G. Wallace F. McCain, the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, Jim Pattison, Walter Schroeder, Gerald W. Schwartz, Isadore Sharp, Prem Watsa and Rick Waugh.