



# Engaging Indigenous People in Climate Policy.


**National Survey | Summary Report | Final**  
**Conducted by the Native Women's Association of Canada, February 2023**

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada



The Native Women's Association of Canada conducted research among Indigenous women, gender-diverse, and Two-Spirit people to gauge their opinions on climate change, its impacts on Indigenous communities and on their role in addressing issues of climate change and environmental impact.

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey which launched at the beginning of December 2022 and closed on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. A total of 1,062 Indigenous people participated in the survey.

The survey comprised of the following five sections:

- A. Awareness of Climate Change and its impact
- B. Responses to climate and environmental impacts
- C. Impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss on food security
- D. Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge and climate change
- E. Governance

An aerial photograph of a forest with a path, overlaid with a dark semi-transparent layer. The text "Survey results at a glance" is centered in white. There are light green decorative shapes in the top right and bottom right corners.

# Survey results at a glance

# Executive summary – key survey results by themes A/B

## A Awareness of climate change and its impact on Indigenous women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people

When asked about the importance of the issue of climate change to their Community/Tribe/Nation/Peoples, the majority of respondents reported that the issue of climate change is very important ([36%](#)) or important ([33%](#)) to their Community/Tribe/Nation/Peoples, while one in five ([19%](#)) said they were neutral, [five per cent](#) said it is unimportant, and [seven per cent](#) said it is very unimportant.

Additionally, respondents were asked to select the most prevalent ecosystem around their community. Over one in three ([36%](#)) said the most prevalent ecosystem around their community was forest, followed by plains ([22%](#)), coastal/island ([20%](#)), desert ([9%](#)), mountain ([8%](#)) and arctic/subarctic. Over seven in ten respondents say that their ecosystems are important ([35%](#)) or very important ([37%](#)) to them, while [13 per cent](#) said they were neutral, [six per cent](#) said it was unimportant, and [seven per cent](#) said it was very unimportant.

## B

About four in ten selected forest fires ([41%](#)) and/or drought ([38%](#)), around one in three selected extreme heat ([32%](#)) and/or flooding ([31%](#)) when asked to select climate change impacts that affected their environment. This was followed by one in four that selected biodiversity loss ([26%](#)), [17 per cent](#) selected severe and/or frequent storms, [13 per cent](#) selected rising sea levels, and [six per cent](#) selected melting glaciers.

# Executive summary – key survey results by theme C



## Responses to climate and environmental impacts

Seven in ten respondents ([70%](#)) report that their Community/Tribe/Nation/Peoples had discussions about the impacts of climate change in their area, while [14 per cent](#) reported their Community/Tribe/Nation/Peoples did not have those discussions, and [15 per cent](#) were unsure. Younger respondents aged 20 to 30 ([76%](#)) and 31-40 ([79%](#)) are more likely to say their community had discussions about the impact of climate change in their area than older respondents aged 41 to 50 ([46%](#)) and 51 to 60 ([39%](#)).

Under two in three respondents ([64%](#)) say that their Community/Tribe/Nation/Peoples had discussions about possible solutions, responses or ways to adapt to climate change, [sixteen per cent](#) say their Community/Tribe/Nation/Peoples did not have such discussions, and [19 per cent](#) of respondents are unsure. Younger respondents aged 20 to 30 ([70%](#)) and 31 to 40 ([75%](#)) are once again more likely to say their Community/Tribe/Nation/Peoples did have these discussions than older respondents aged 41 to 50 ([42%](#)) and 51 to 60 ([29%](#)).

Furthermore, over six in ten ([63%](#)) respondents say there are plans/ongoing projects, including planning design and implementation to address climate change within their community, [15 per cent](#) said there are none, and [22 per cent](#) were unsure. Six in ten ([60%](#)) said that these projects involve Indigenous women, girls, gender-diverse and Two-Spirit people, [14 per cent](#) said they did not, and [23 per cent](#) were unsure.



# Executive summary – key survey results by theme C

## D

### Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge and climate change

The survey probed participants on Indigenous traditional knowledge and practices and if they think they can be useful in addressing or responding to the impacts of climate change, an overwhelming majority of respondents ([84%](#)) say yes, Indigenous traditional knowledge and practices can be useful. A majority also says that it is very important ([32%](#)) or important ([41%](#)) for Indigenous people to be involved in the management and decision-making process to address climate change, while [13 per cent](#) are neutral, [six per cent](#) say it is unimportant and [eight per cent](#) say it is very unimportant. Just under four in five ([78%](#)) say there are potentially negative impacts on their community from climate change, and seven in ten ([70%](#)) say they are aware of climate action taken by other Indigenous groups that might be useful to Indigenous women, girls, gender-diverse and Two-Spirit people.

In addition, participants were asked if funding and/or technical support was available, what kind of projects or programs would be most helpful to them in addressing the causes of climate change in their Community/Tribe/Nation/Peoples. Respondents most often selected programs to protect, preserve and transmit traditional seeds and other food sources, methods and practices ([56%](#)), education for community/tribal leaders and members about the causes and impacts of Climate Change, and the rights that are impacted ([54%](#)), access to and development of sustainable energy sources as an alternative to fossil fuels ([41%](#)), support for efforts which halt resources uses that contribute to climate change ([38%](#)), sustainable water use, such as, water collection and saving ([37%](#)), and Programs to prevent erosion, conserve and/or restore wetlands, rivers and waterways ([32%](#)).



# Executive summary – key survey results by theme E

## Governance

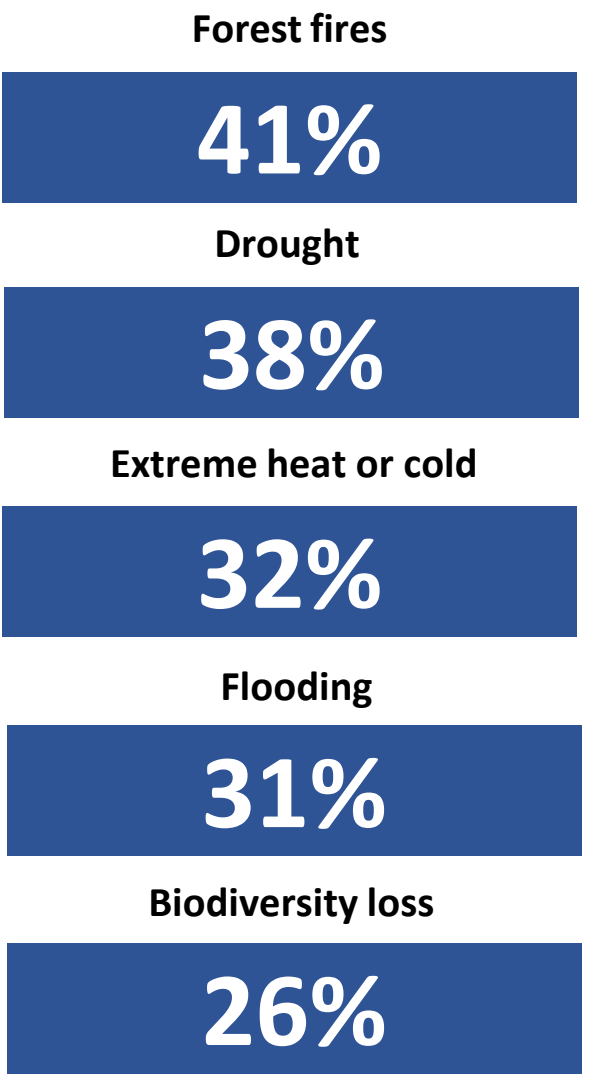
A majority of respondents ([60%](#)) say that their community members are involved in planning or coordinating with a provincial government on climate change issues, while one in four ([25%](#)) are unsure, and [14 per cent said no](#), their community members are not involved in planning or coordinating with a provincial government on climate change related issues. Younger respondents aged 20 to 30 ([67%](#)) and 31 to 40 ([72%](#)) are more likely to say this than older respondents aged 41 to 50 ([34%](#)) and 51 to 60 ([13%](#)), as older respondents aged 41 to 50 ([51%](#)) and 51 to 60 ([63%](#)) are more likely to say they are unsure compared to their younger counterparts aged 20 to 30 ([18%](#)) and 31 to 40 ([15%](#)).

Moreover, around six in ten respondents say that municipal governments ([59%](#)), provincial governments ([57%](#)), the federal government ([57%](#)) and Indigenous governments ([58%](#)) have been involved in projects to address climate change. In regard to access to resources and programs, [59 per cent](#) of respondents say that their community can access federal resources or programs for Climate Change mitigation, while [56 per cent](#) said their community could access provincial resources or programs, [53 per cent](#) said their community could access municipal resources, and [60 per cent](#) said their community could access Indigenous led resources.

# Effects of climate change on Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse people's environment



## MOST REPORTED EFFECTS ON ENVIRONMENTS:

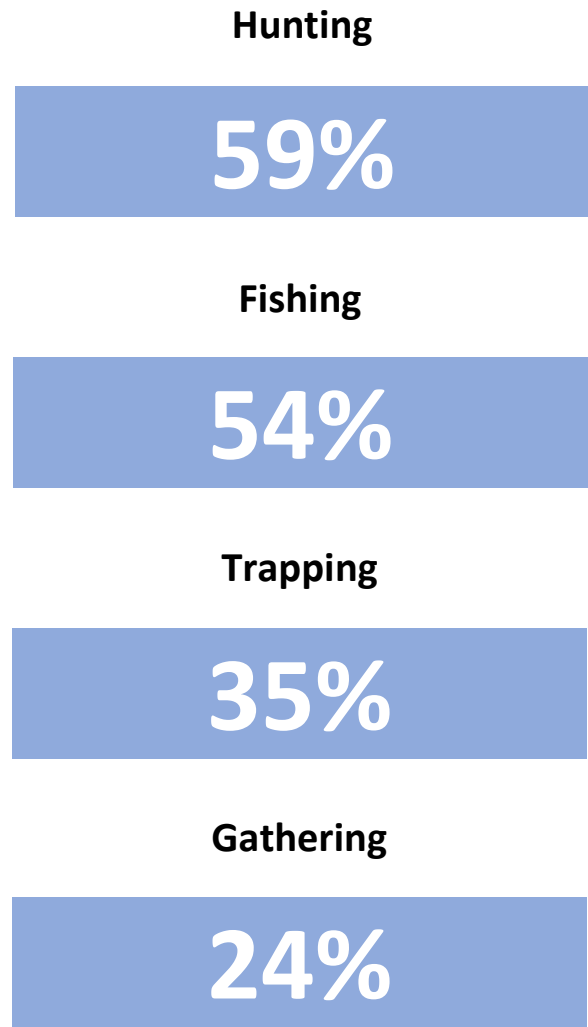


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# Traditional means of food support in Communities/Tribes/Nations/Peoples

## MOST FREQUENT MEANS OF FOOD SUPPORT:



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Native Women's  
Association of Canada  
L'Association des  
femmes autochtones  
du Canada

# Projects or programs most helpful in addressing the causes of Climate Change or to lessen the impacts

**56%**

Education for community/tribal leaders and members about the causes and impacts of Climate Change, and the rights that are impacted

**54%**

Programs to protect, preserve and transmit traditional seeds and other food sources, methods, and practices

**41%**

Access to and development of sustainable energy sources as an alternative to fossil fuels

**38%**

Support for efforts which halt resource uses that contributes to climate change

**37%**

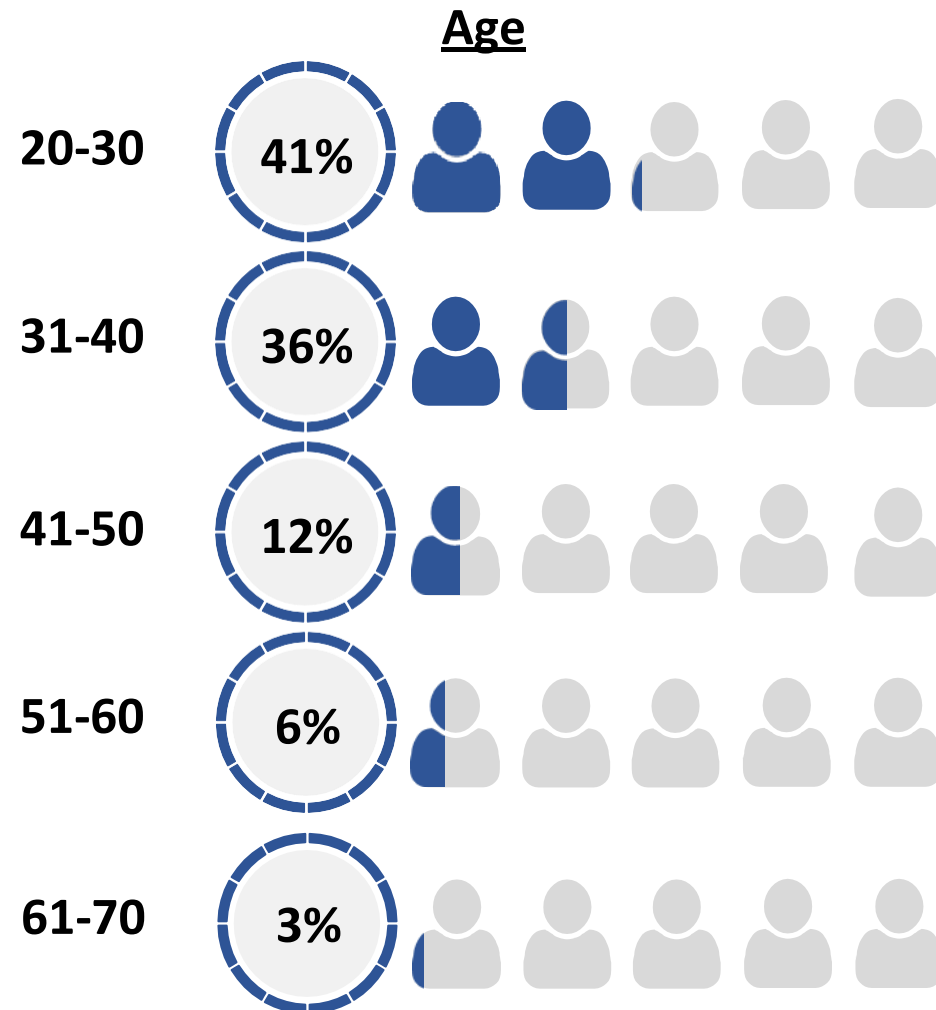
Sustainable water use, such as, water collection and saving



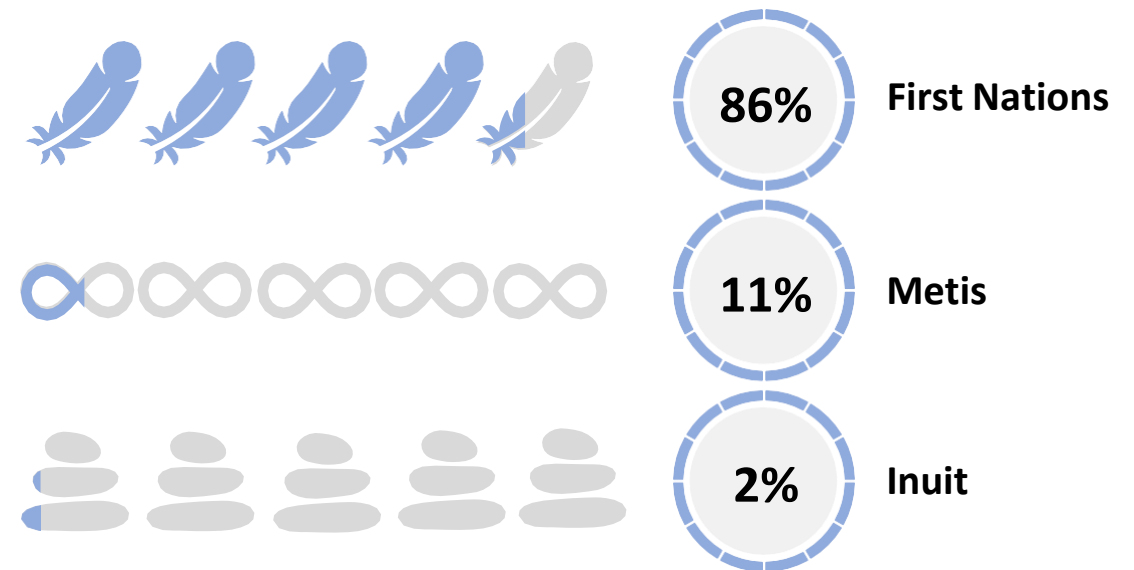
# Profile of participants – 1 of 2

## QUESTION

- A. Are you First Nations, Métis, or Inuk (Inuit) Select all that apply  
B. Which age group do you fit within?



## **Indigenous Identity**



The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey which launched at the beginning of December 2022 and closed on January 11th, 2023. A total of 1061 Indigenous people participated in the survey.

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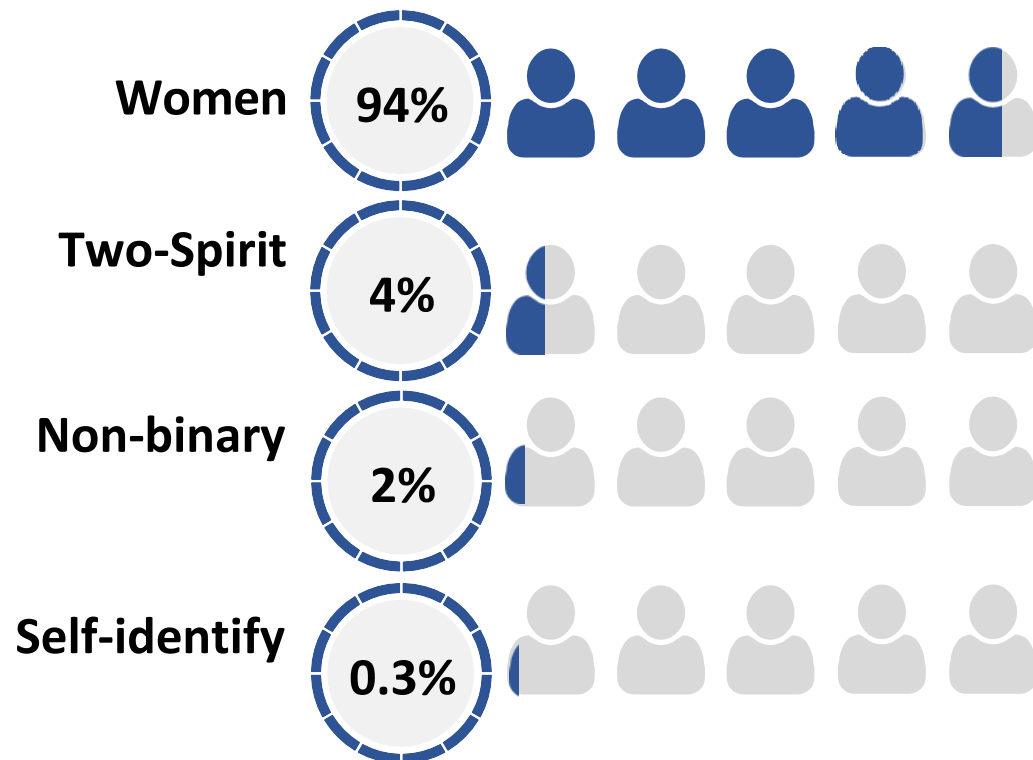
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# Profile of participants – 2 of 2

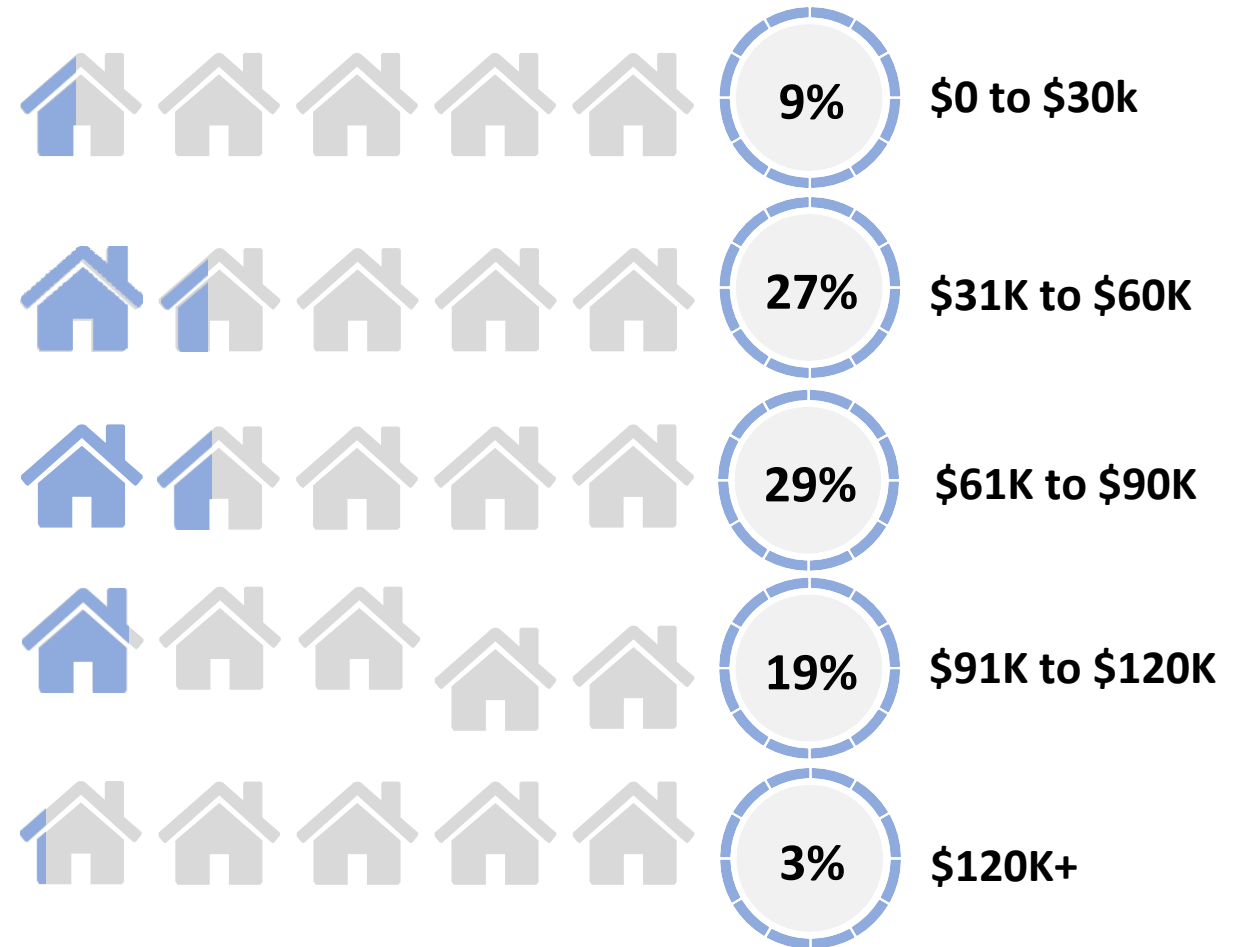
## QUESTION

- A. How do you identify? Select all that apply.  
B. What is your annual gross income?

### Gender



### Annual gross income



The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey which launched at the beginning of December 2022 and closed on January 11th, 2023. A total of 1061 Indigenous people participated in the survey.

# Awareness of climate change and its impact

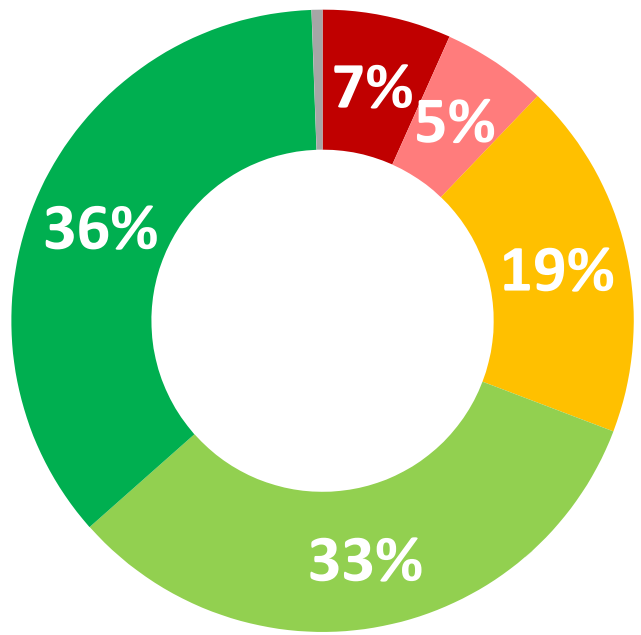
“

A majority of survey respondents reported that the issue of climate change is very important (36%) or important (33%) to their Community/Tribe/Nation/Peoples. Over seven in ten respondents say that the ecosystems prevalent in their community are

very important (37%) or important (35%) or to them.

”

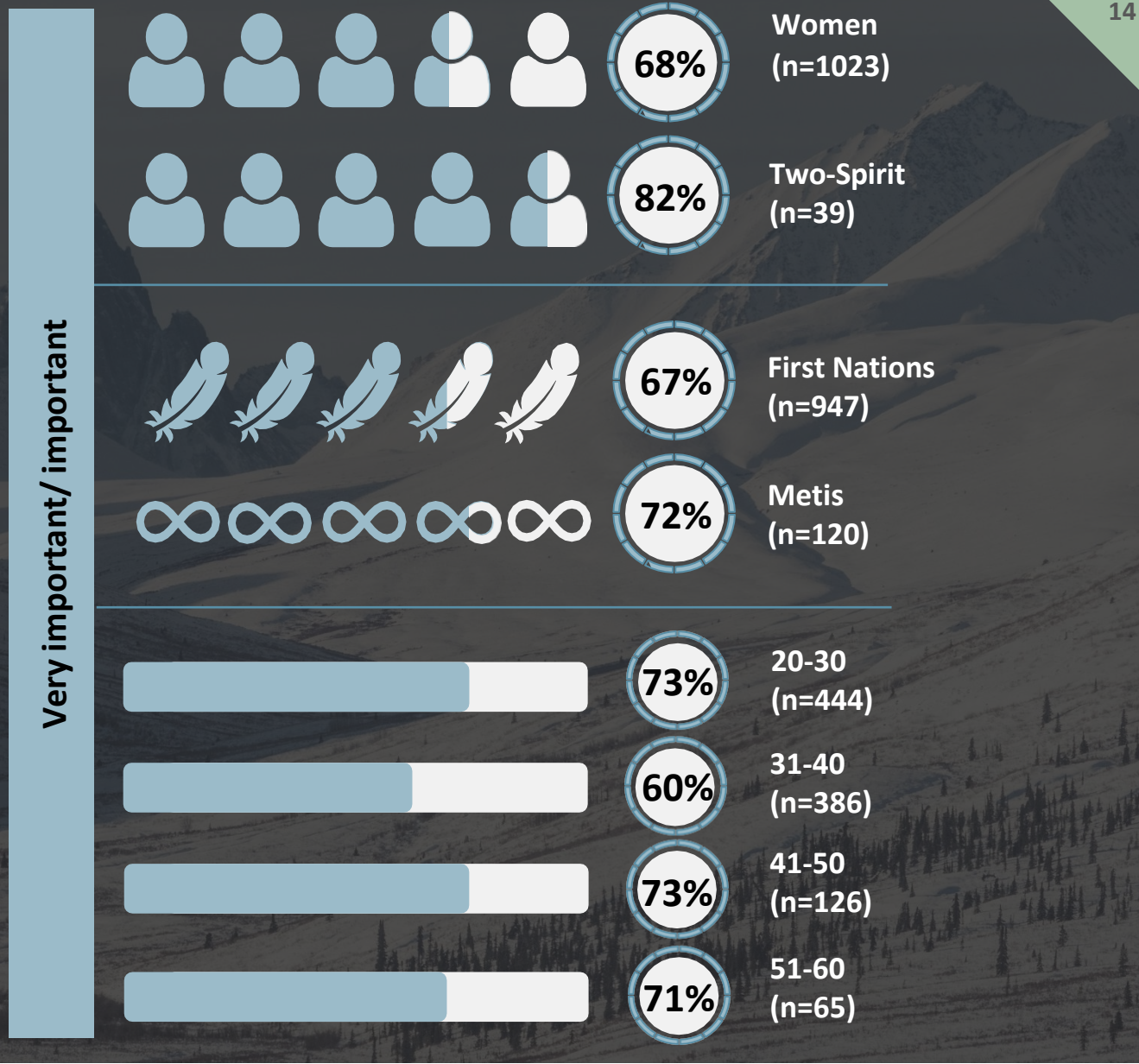
# Importance of climate change



■ Very Unimportant      ■ Unimportant  
■ Neutral                ■ Important  
■ Very Important        ■ I prefer not to answer

\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

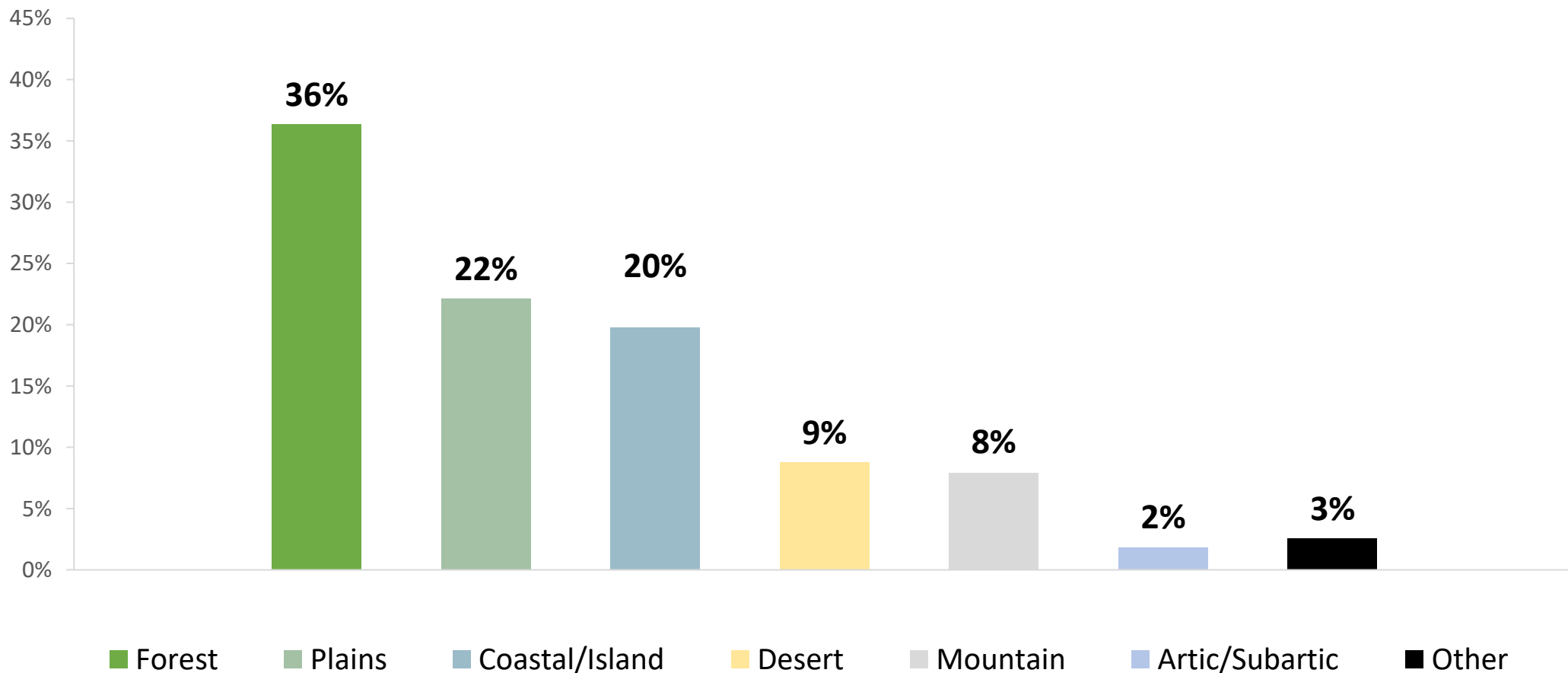
Q – How important is the issue of climate change to your Community/Tribe/Nation/Peoples?



Source: The Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1062 Indigenous people.

# Most prevalent ecosystems around communities

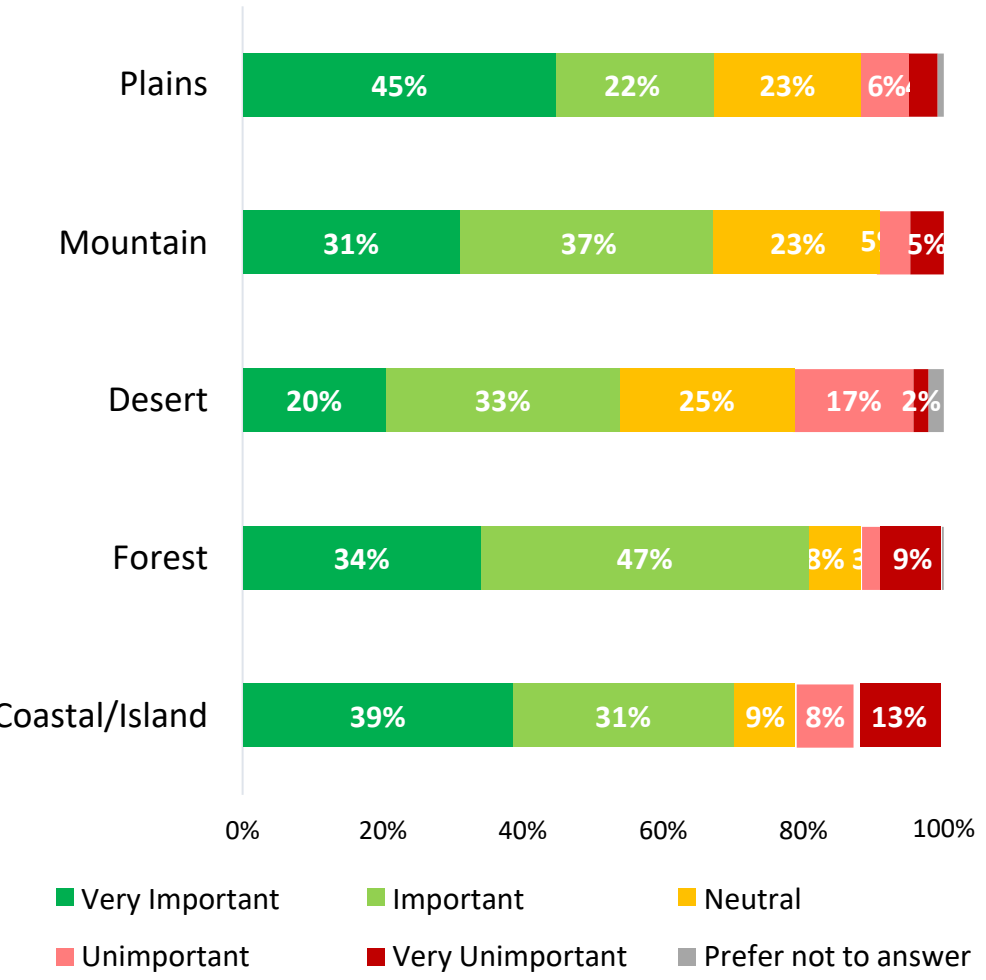
Q – Select the most prevalent ecosystem around your community



\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

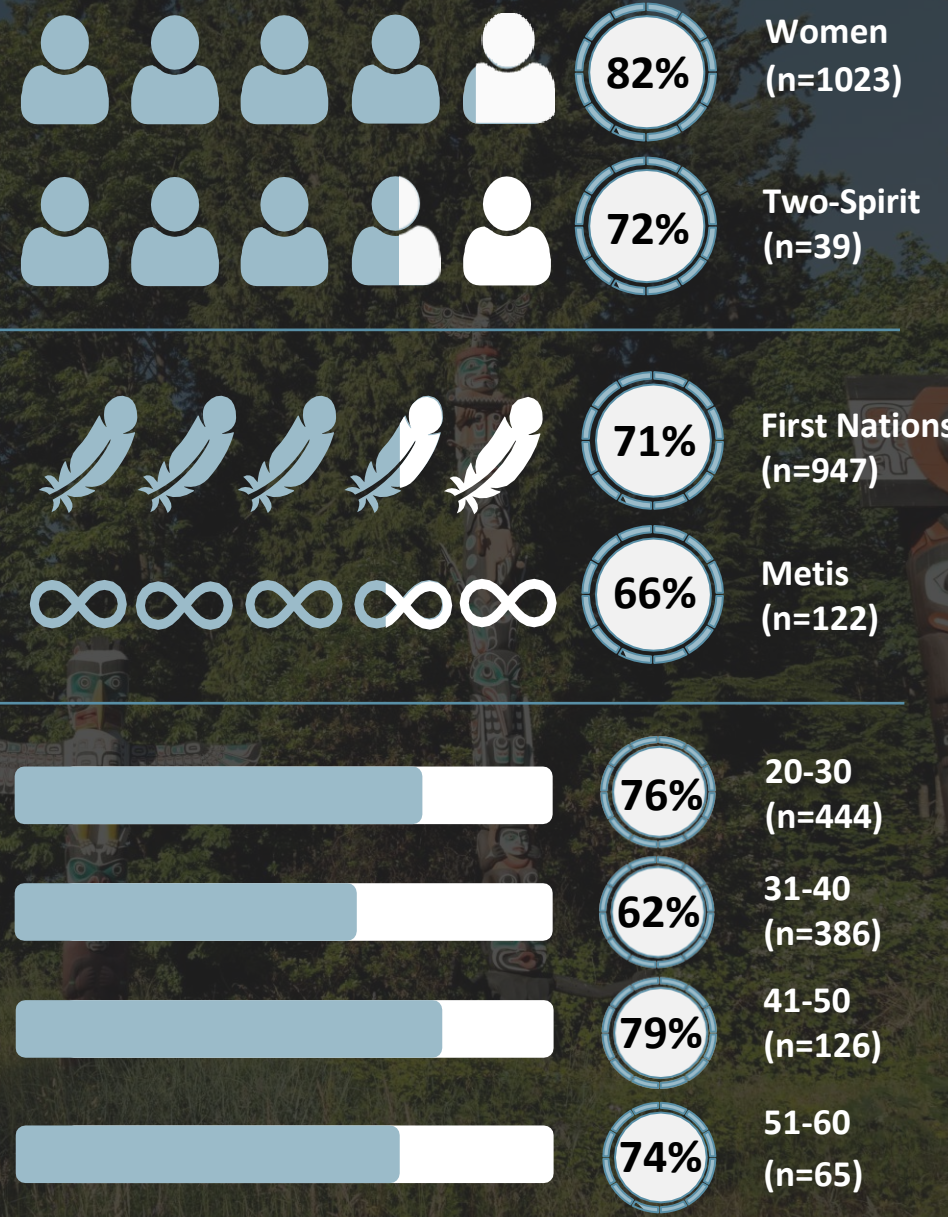
Source: The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1062 Indigenous people.

# Importance of prevalent ecosystems



\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

## Very important/important



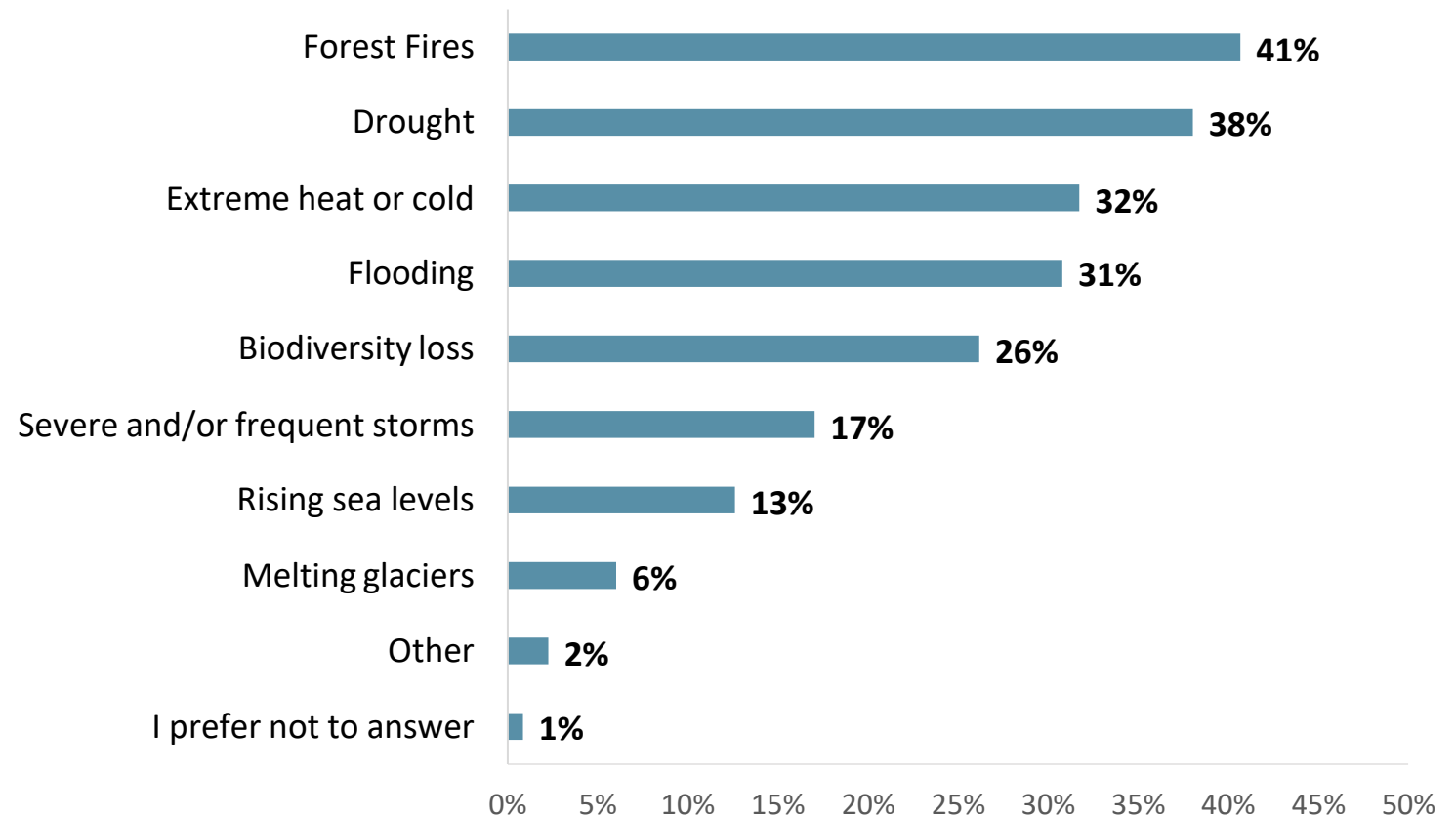
Q – How important are these ecosystems?

Source: The Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1062 Indigenous people.



# Climate change impact on environment

Q – Have any of the following climate change impacts affected your environment?  
(Select all that apply)

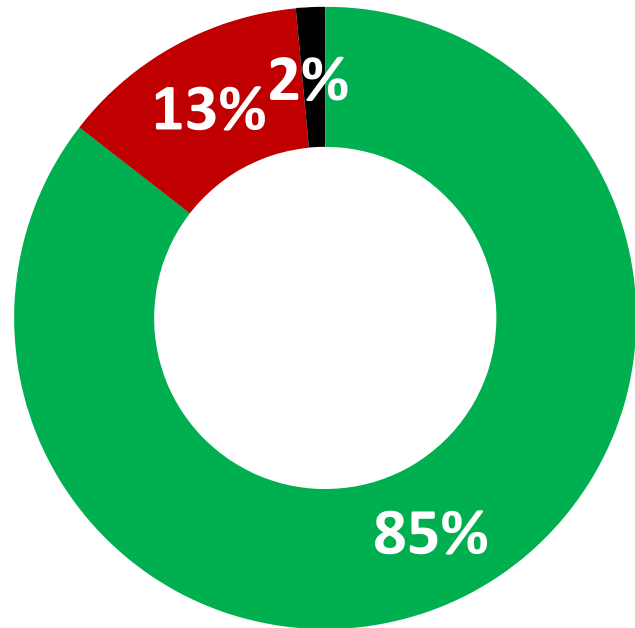


\*Frequency based on multiple responses

\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

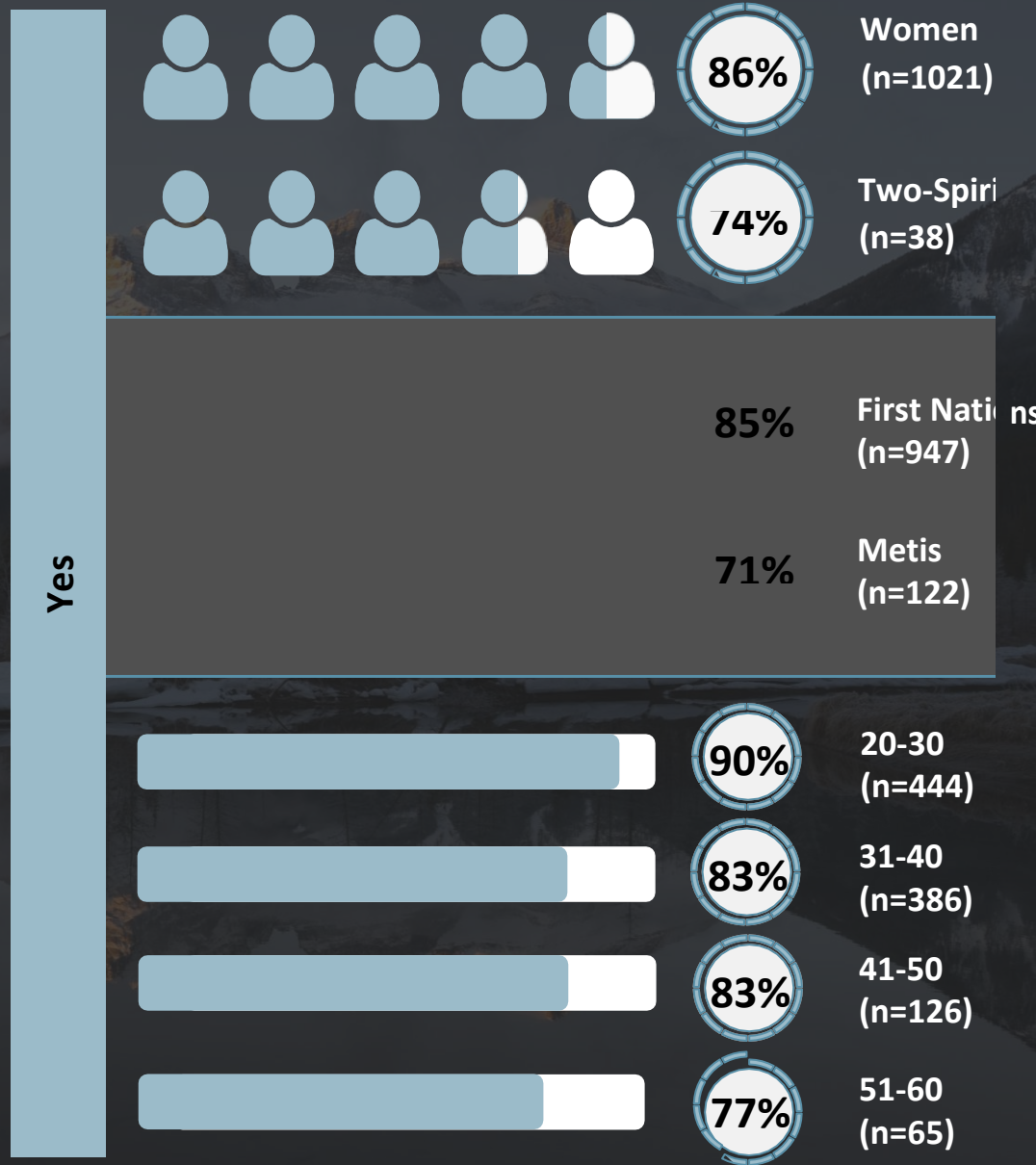
Source: The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1062 Indigenous people.

# Future impacts of climate change in other areas



■ Yes   
 ■ No   
 ■ Prefer not to answer

\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



Q – Do you foresee any other areas within your community being affected by climate change directly or indirectly?

Source: The Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1062 Indigenous people.



# Responses to climate and environmental impacts

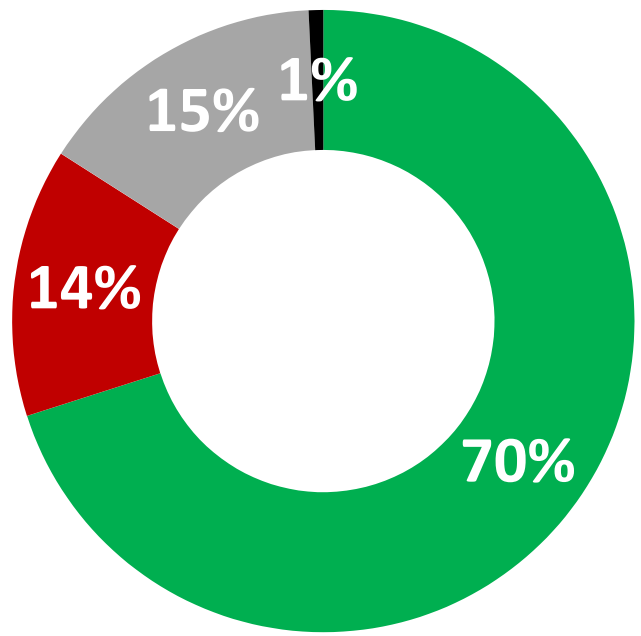
“

The majority of respondents (70%) report that their Community/ Tribe/ Nation/ Peoples had discussions about the impacts of climate change in their area. About two in three respondents (64%) say that their community Community/ Tribe/ Nation/ Peoples had

discussions about possible solutions, responses or ways to adapt to climate change.

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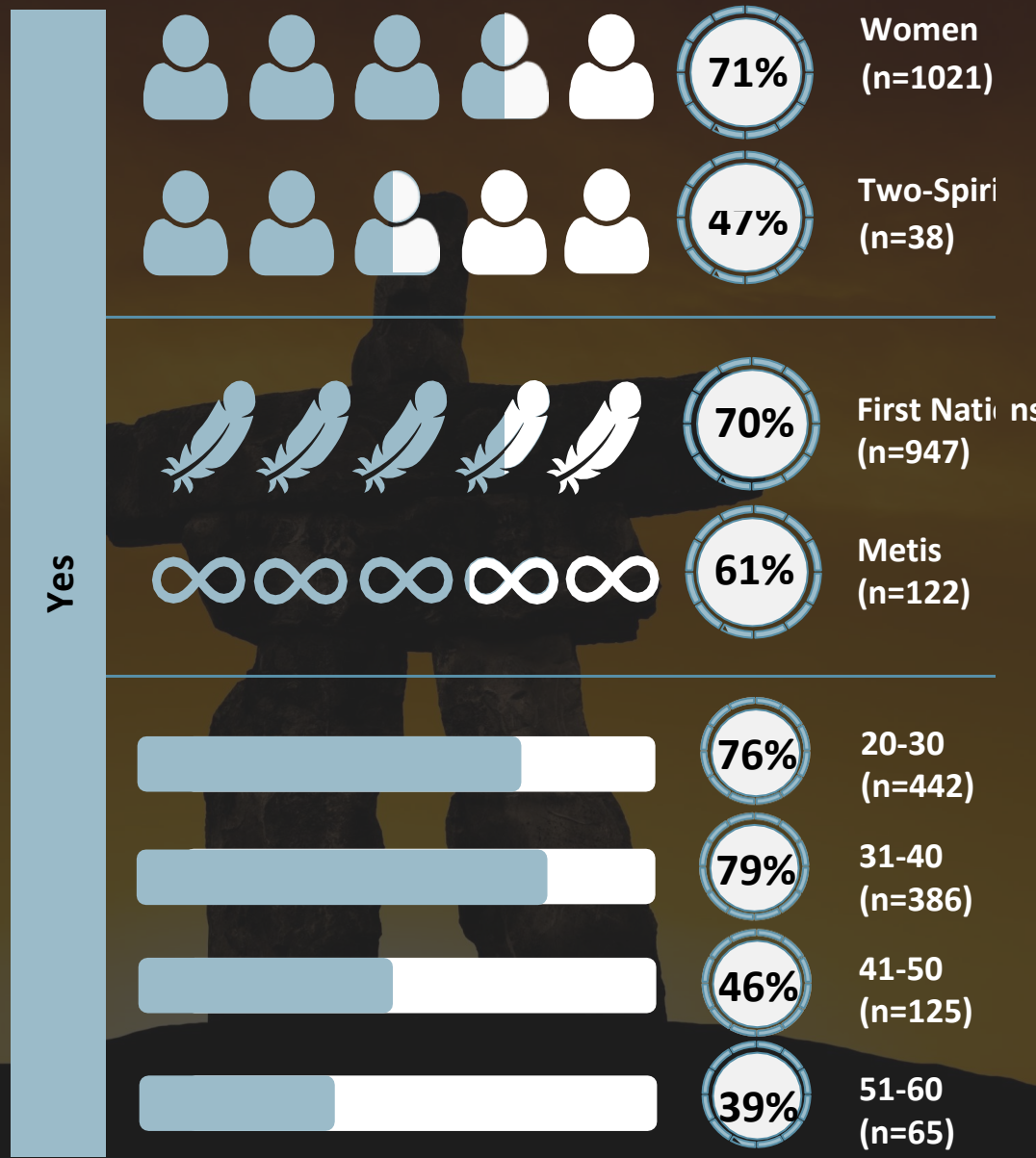
# Discussions about the impact of Climate change in communities



■ Yes   
 ■ No   
 ■ Unsure   
 ■ I prefer not to answer

\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

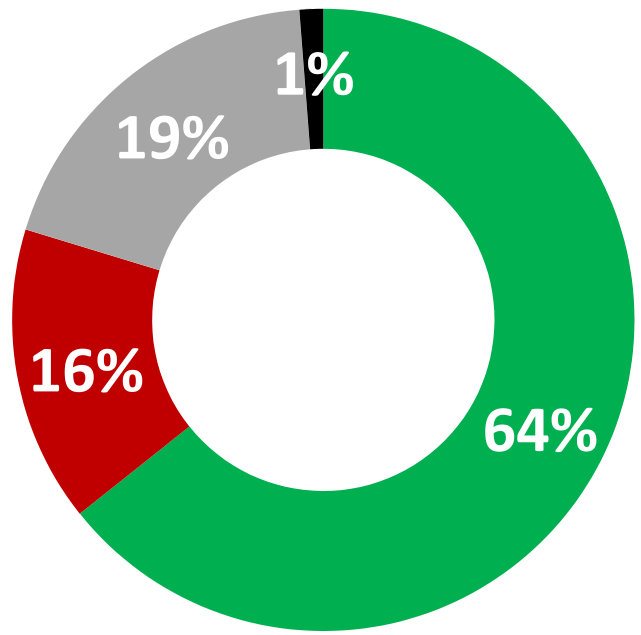
Q – Has your Community/Tribe/Nation/Peoples had discussions about the impacts of Climate Change in your area?



Source: The Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1059 Indigenous people.



# Discussion in community about solutions, responses or ways to adapt to climate change



■ Yes 
 ■ No 
 ■ Unsure 
 ■ I prefer not to answer

\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Q – Has your Community/Tribe/Nation/Peoples had discussions about possible solutions, responses, or ways to adapt to Climate Change?

Very important/Important



Women  
(n=1021)



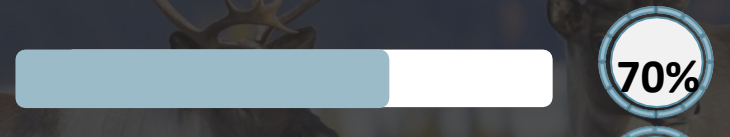
Two-Spiri  
(n=38)



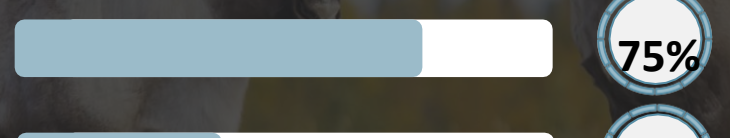
First Nations  
(n=945)



Metis  
(n=121)



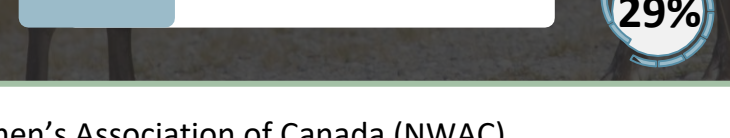
20-30  
(n=442)



31-40  
(n=386)



41-50  
(n=125)



51-60  
(n=65)

Source: The Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1059 Indigenous people.

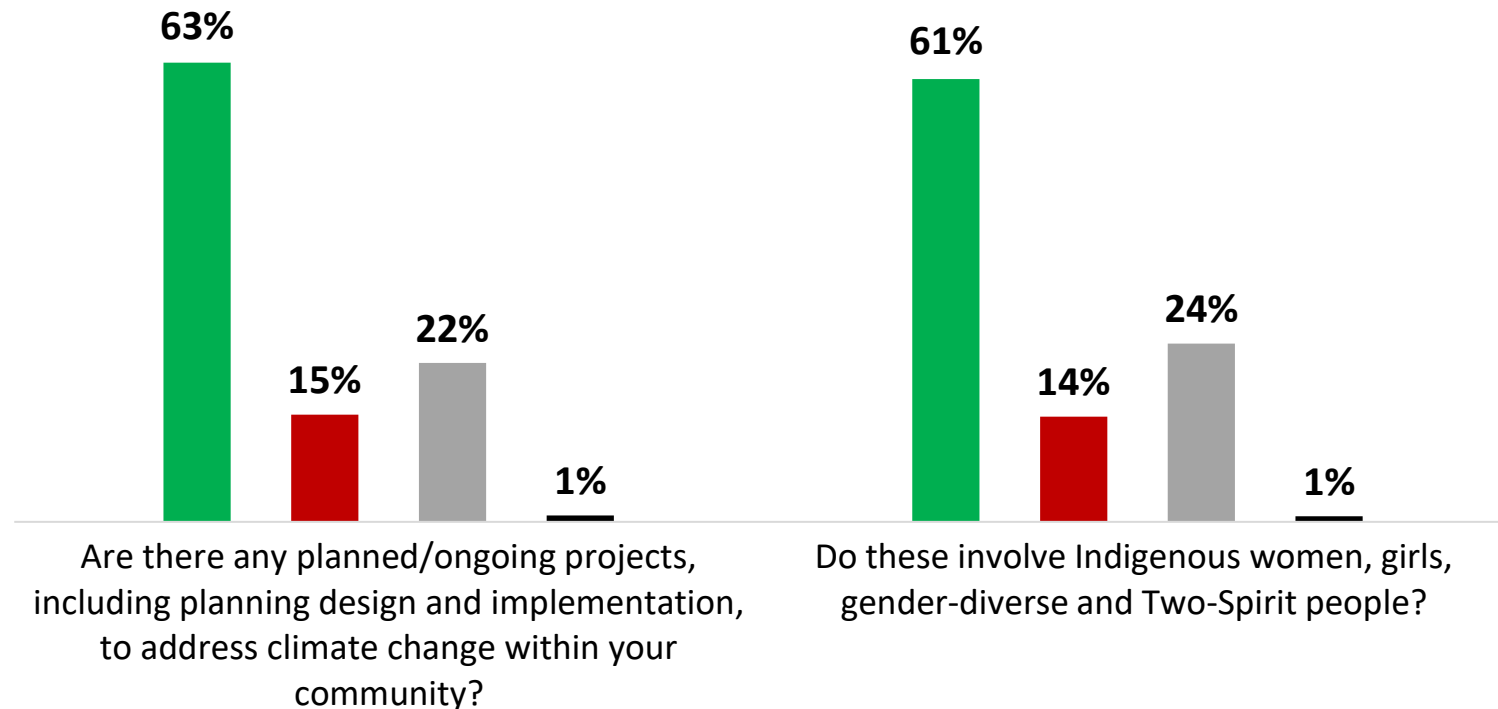
# Projects to address climate change

Over six in ten (63%) respondents say there are planned/ongoing projects, including planning design and implementation to address climate change within their community. Six in ten (60%) said that these projects involve Indigenous women, girls, gender-diverse and Two-Spirit people.

A – Are there any planned/ongoing projects, including planning design and implementation, to address climate change within your community?

B – Do these involve Indigenous women, girls, gender-diverse and Two-Spirit people?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure ■ I prefer not to answer



\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1059 Indigenous people.



# Impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss on food security

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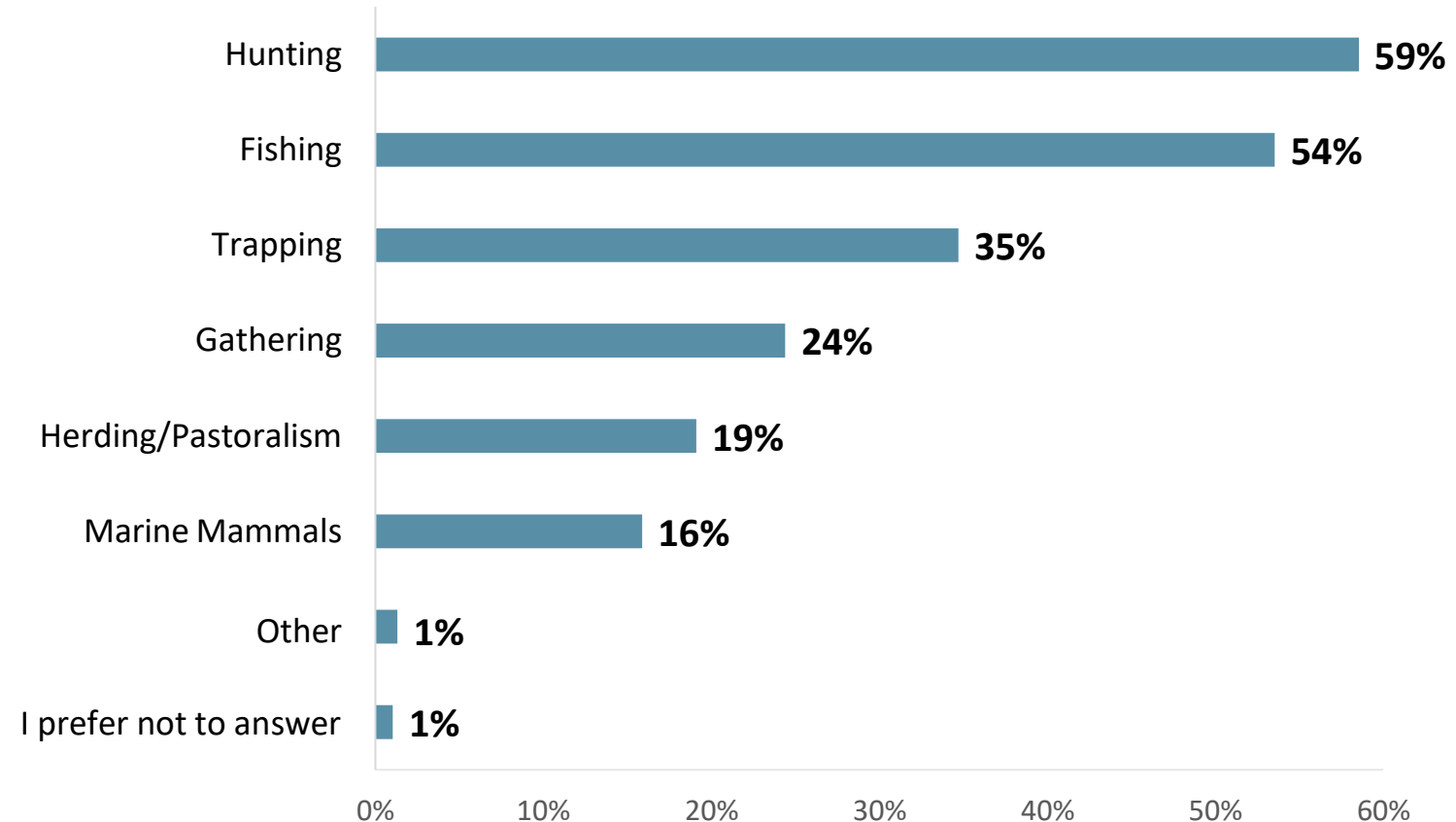
Respondents most often reported hunting (59%) followed by fishing (54%), trapping (45%), gathering (23%), herding/pastoralism (19%) and marine animals (16%) as the traditional means of food support

in their Community/Tribe/Nation/Peoples.

”

# Traditional means of food support

Q – What are the traditional means of food support in your Community/ Tribe/ Nation/ Peoples? (Select all that apply)



\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

\*Frequency based on multiple responses

Source: The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1059 Indigenous people.

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# Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Climate Change

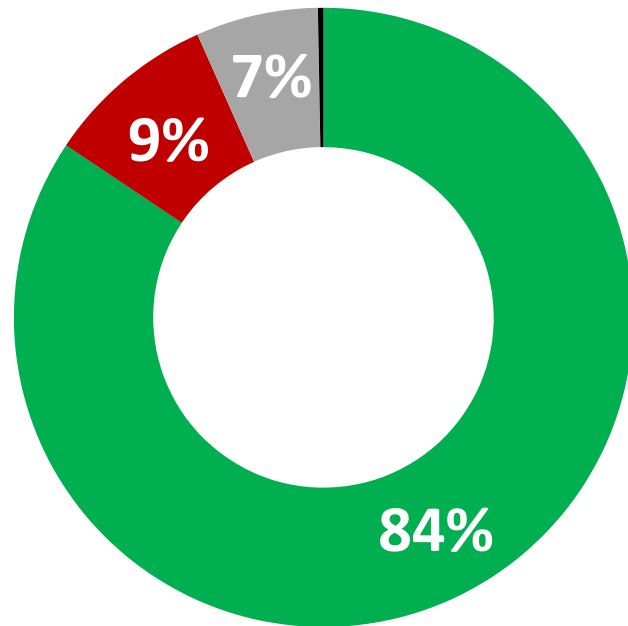
“

Over eight in ten respondents (84%) say that Indigenous traditional knowledge and practices can be useful in addressing or responding to the impacts of climate change. A majority also say that it is very important (41%) or important (32%) for Indigenous people to be involved in the

management and decision-making process to address climate change.

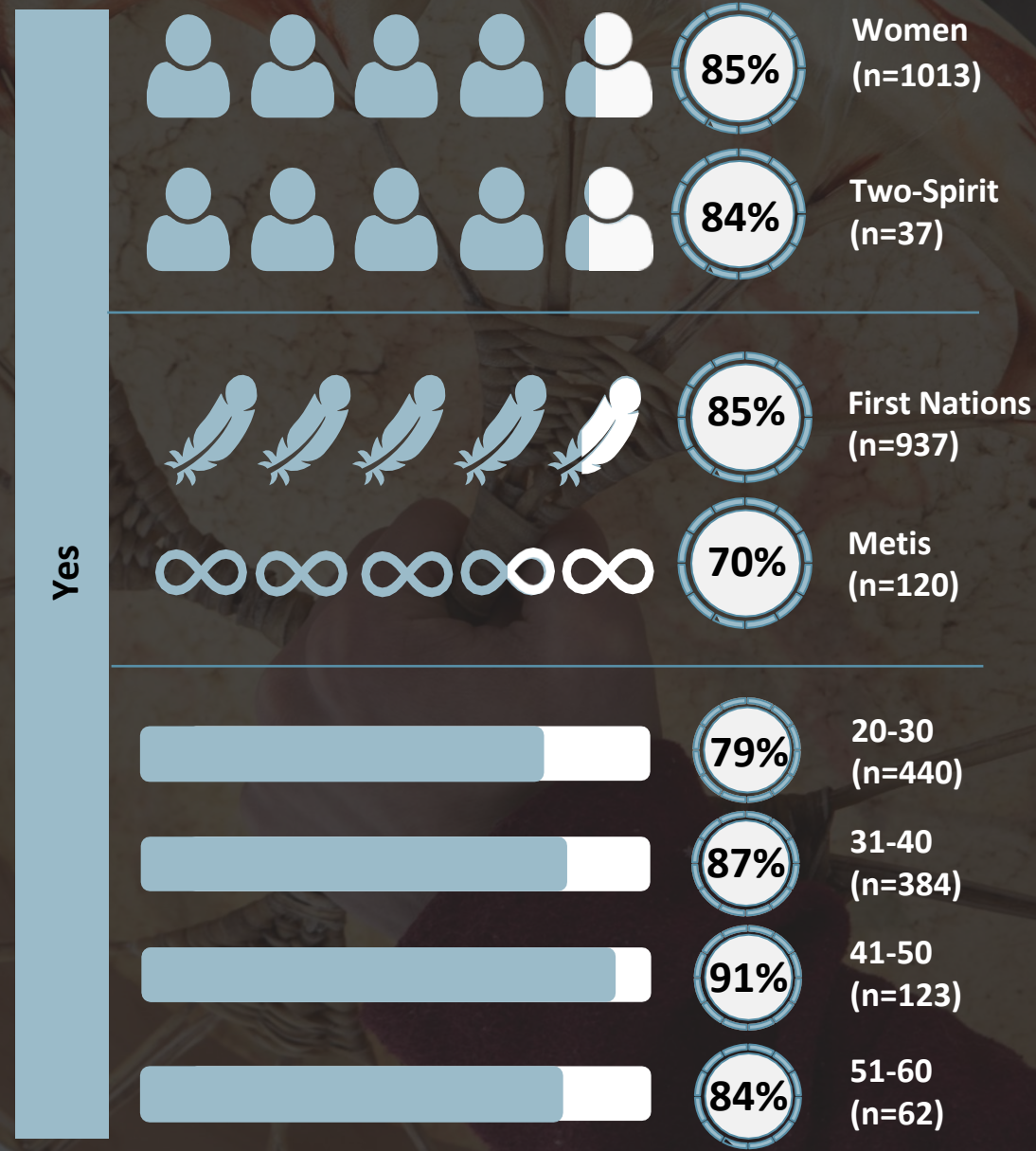
”

# Usefulness of traditional knowledge in addressing or responding to the impacts of climate change



■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure ■ I prefer not to answer

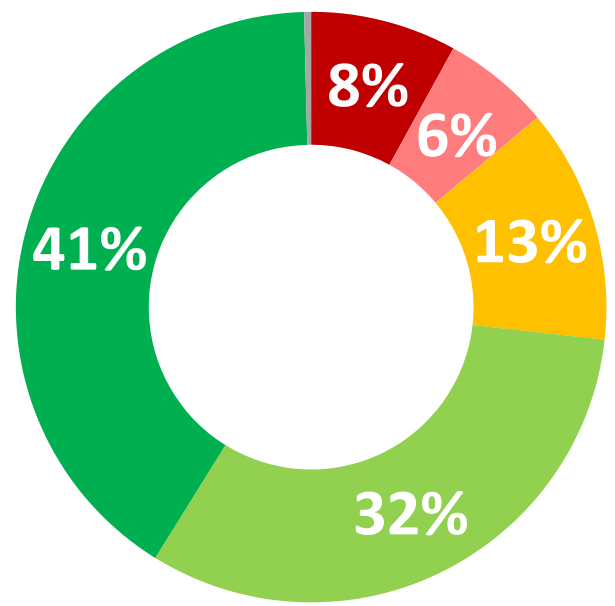
\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



Q – Do you think that Indigenous traditional knowledge and practices can be useful in addressing or responding to the impacts of Climate Change?

Source: The Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1050 Indigenous people.

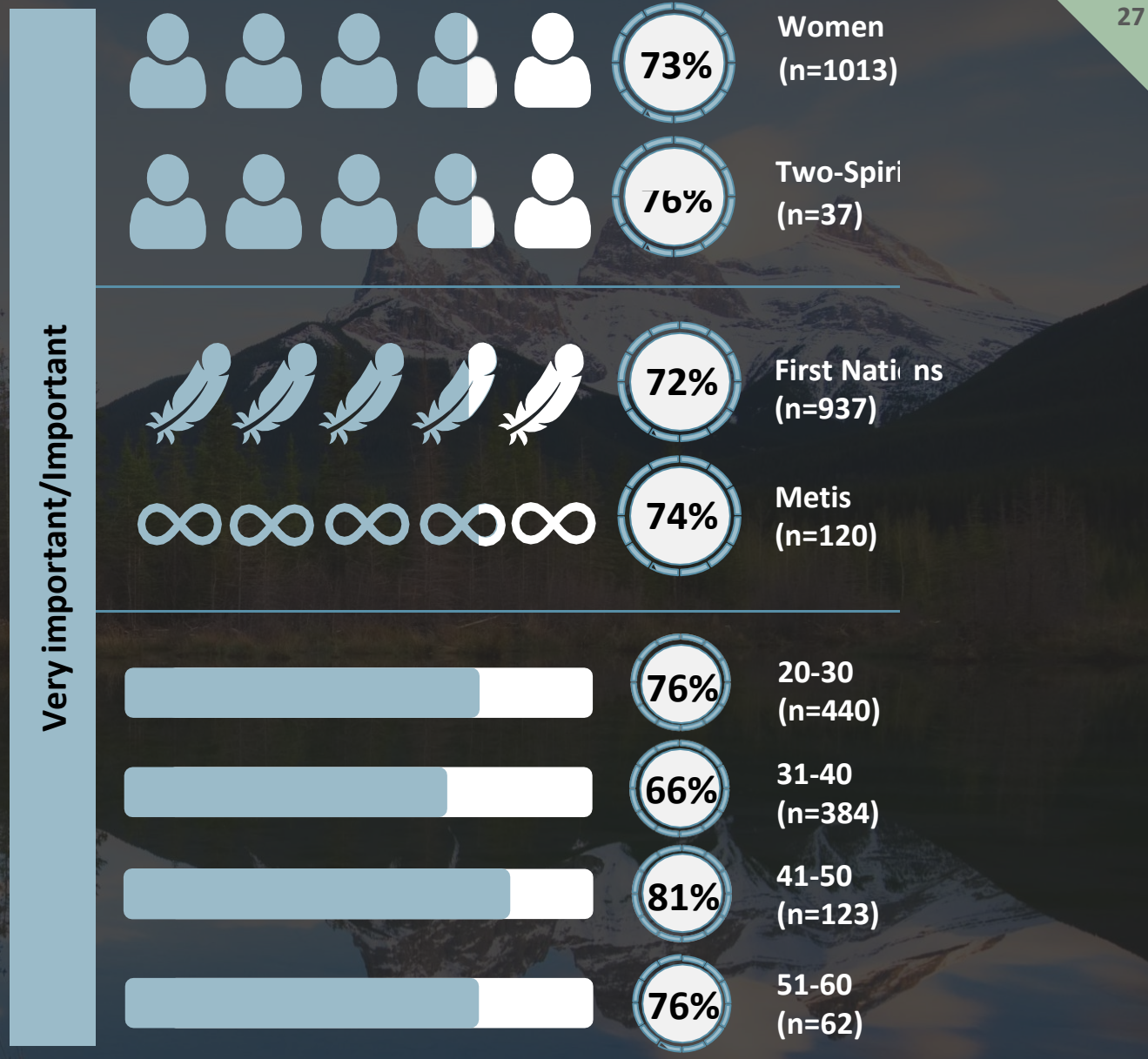
# Importance for Indigenous peoples to be involved in management/ decision-making process to address climate change



■ Very Unimportant      ■ Unimportant  
■ Neutral                      ■ Important  
■ Very Important                      ■ I prefer not to answer

\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

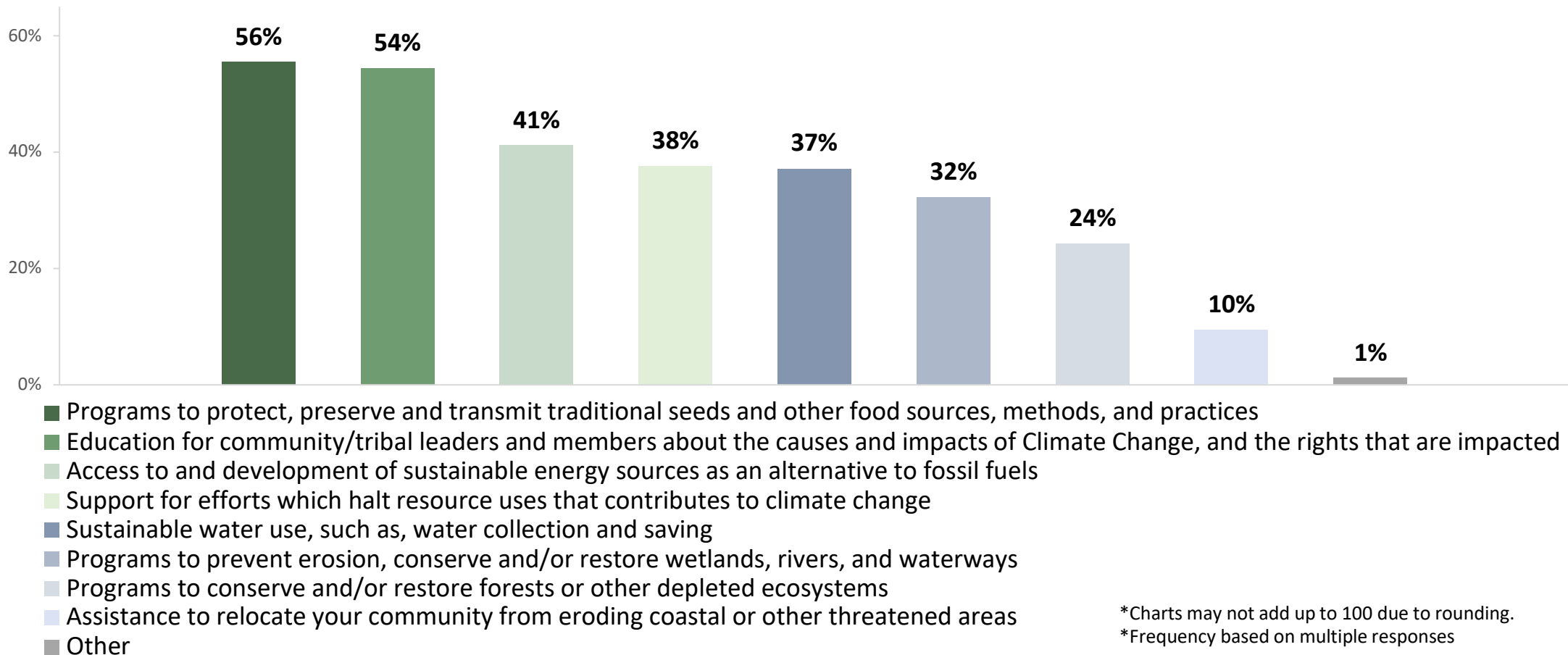
Q – How important is it for Indigenous Peoples to be involved in the management and decision-making process to address Climate Change impacts/causes and to support adaption?



Source: The Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1050 Indigenous people.

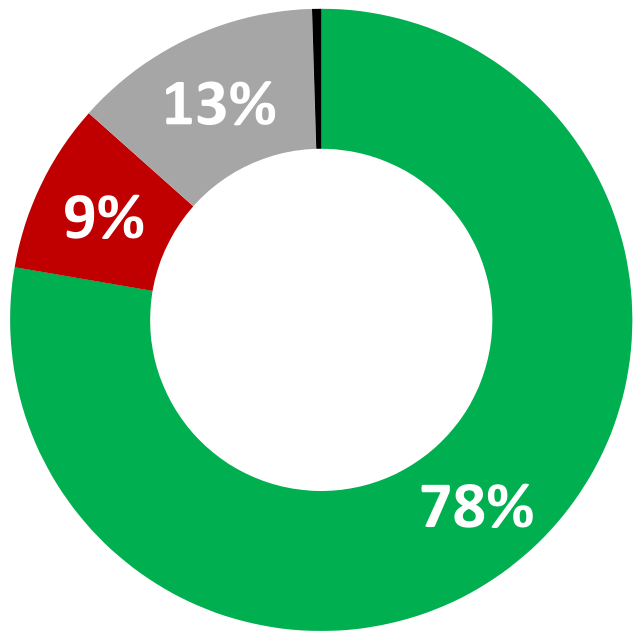
# Most helpful projects to fund in addressing the causes of climate change

Q – If funding and/or technical support was available, what kind of projects or programs would be most helpful to you in addressing the causes of Climate Change or to help your Community/Tribe/Nation/Peoples adapt or lessen the impacts?



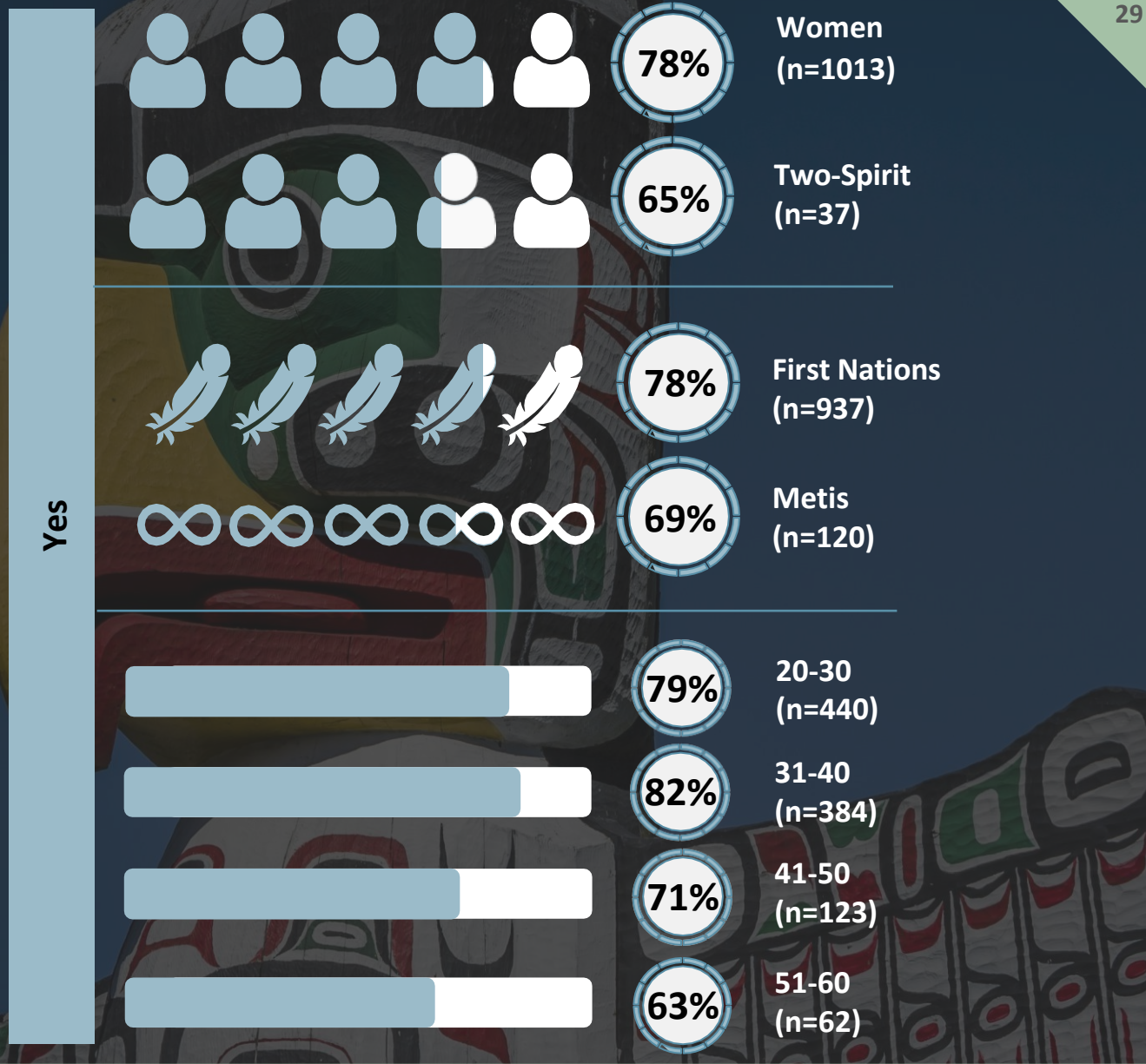
Source: The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1050 Indigenous people.

# Potential negative impacts of climate change on communities



■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure ■ I prefer not to answer

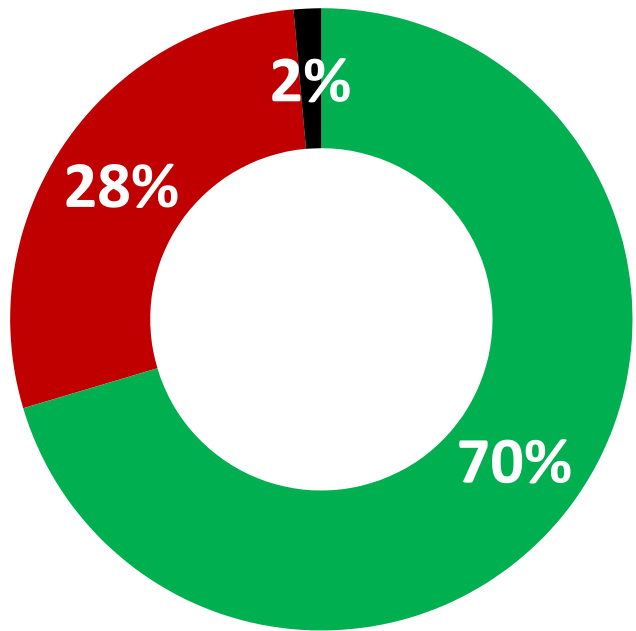
\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



Q – Are there potential negative impacts on your community from climate change?

Source: The Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1050 Indigenous people.

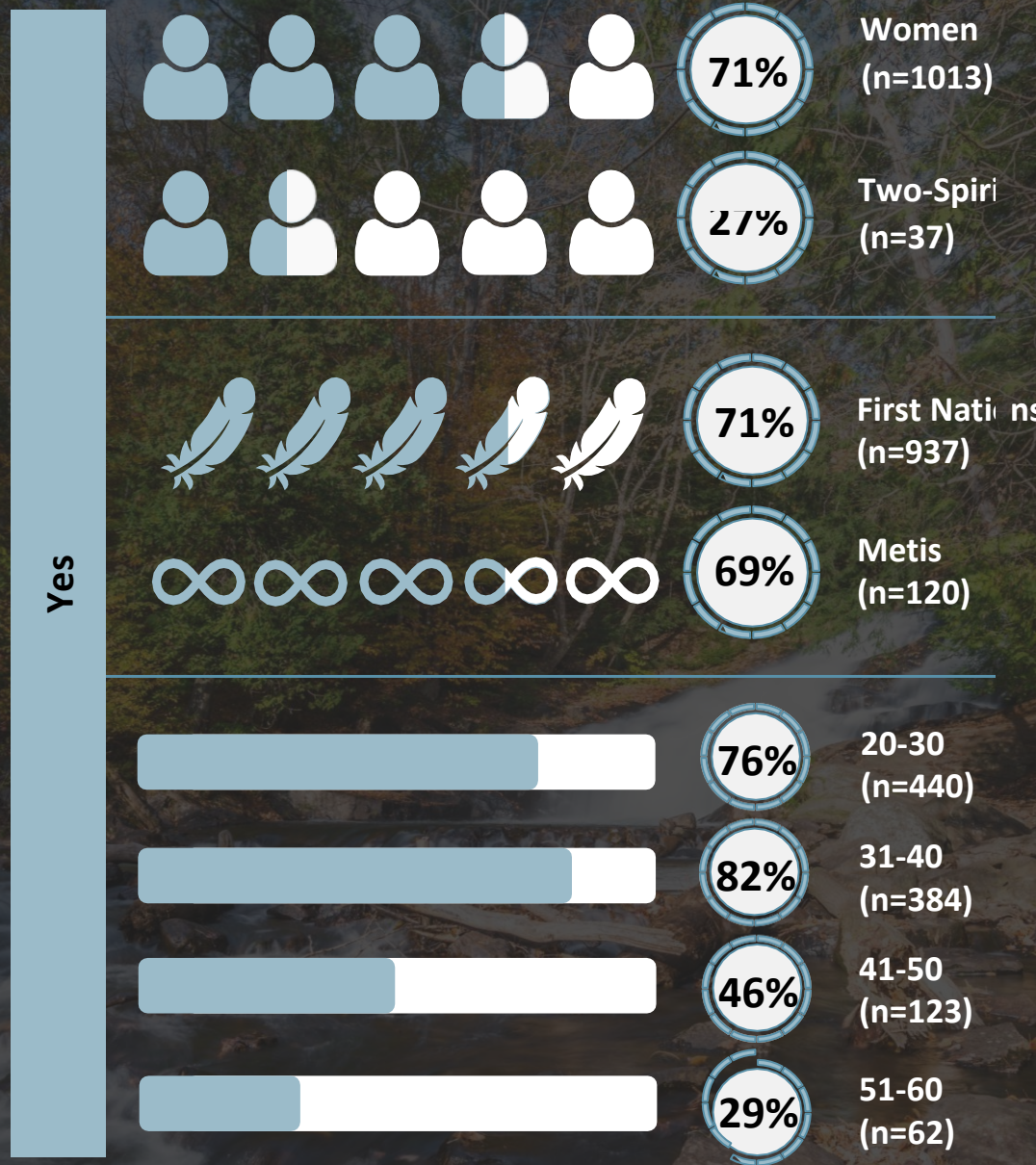
# Awareness of climate action taken by other Indigenous groups



■ Yes ■ No ■ I prefer not to answer

\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Q – Are you aware of any climate action (technical, policy, organizational) taken by other Indigenous groups that might be useful to Indigenous women, girls, gender-diverse and Two-Spirit people?



Source: The Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1050 Indigenous people.





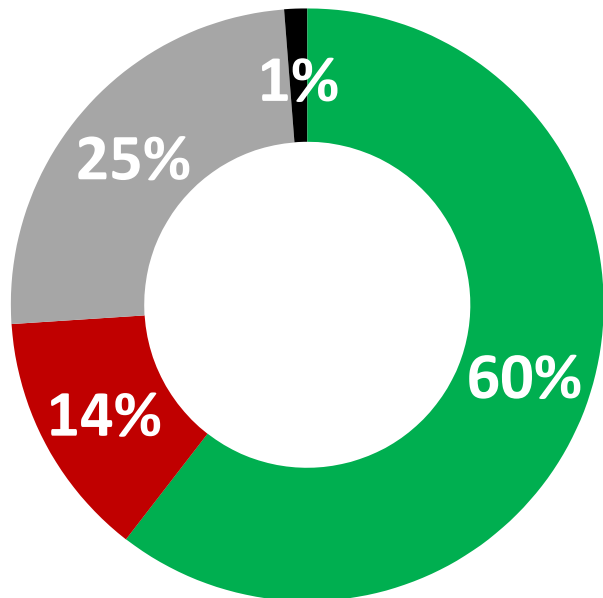
# Governance

“

Six in ten respondents (60%) say that their community members are involved in planning or coordinating with a provincial government on climate change issues. Younger respondents aged 20 to 30 (67%) and 31 to 40 (72%) are more likely to say this than older respondents aged 41 to 50 (34%) and 51 to 60 (13%). Older respondents aged 41 to 50 (51%) and 51 to 60 (63%) are more likely to say they are unsure.

”

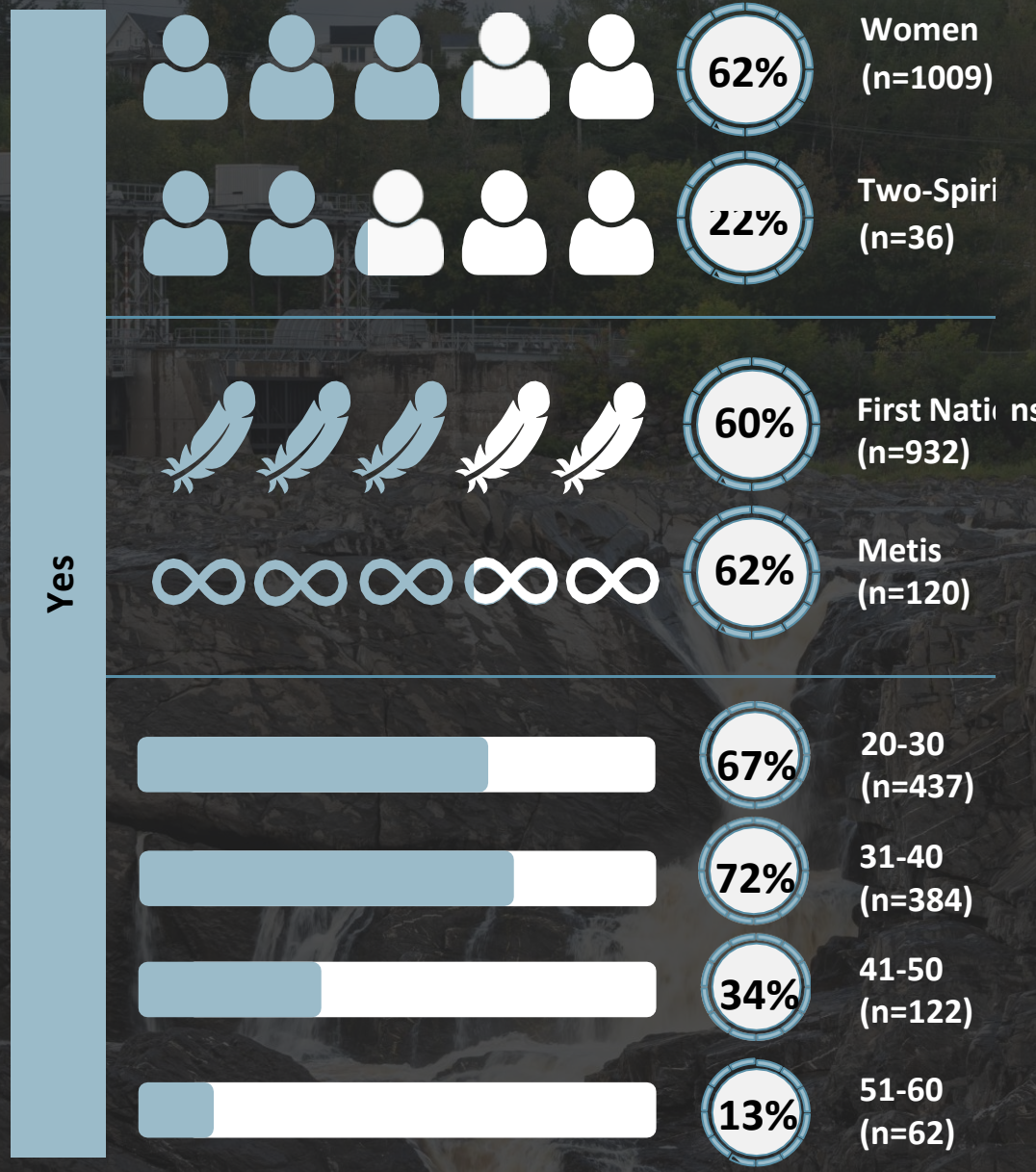
# Community involvement in coordinating with a provincial government on climate change related issues



■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure ■ I prefer not to answer

\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Q – Are your community members involved in planning or coordinating with a provincial government on climate change related issues?



Source: The Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1045 Indigenous people.



# Projects to address climate change

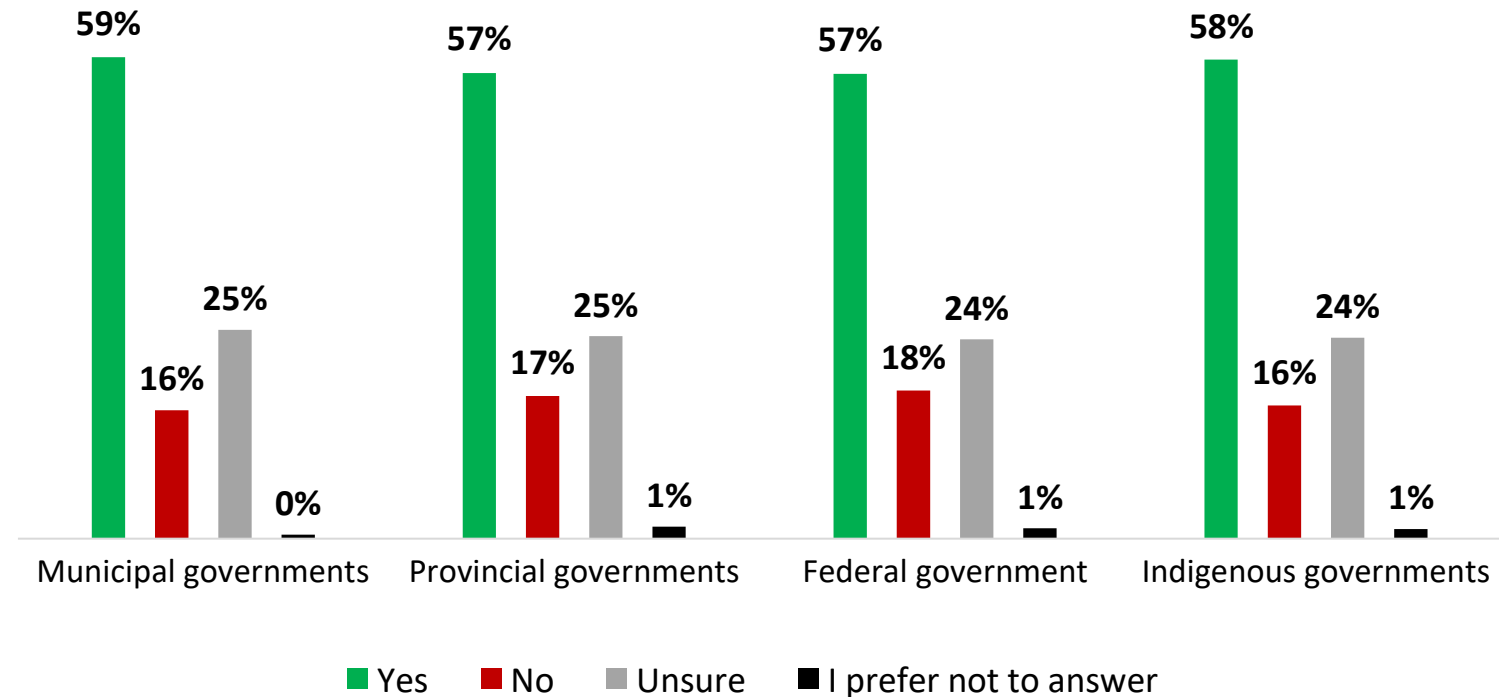
Approximately six in ten respondents say that municipal governments (59%), provincial governments (57%), the federal government (57%) and Indigenous governments (58%) have been involved in projects to address climate change in their community.

A – In the past year, have municipal governments been involved in any projects or activities related to reducing the impacts of climate change in your community?

B – In the past year, have provincial governments been involved in any projects or activities related to reducing the impacts of climate change in your community?

C – In the past year, has the federal government been involved in any projects or activities related to reducing the impacts of climate change in your community?

D – In the past year, have Indigenous governments been involved in any projects or activities related to reducing the impacts of climate change in your community?



\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1044 Indigenous people.

A majority of respondents (59%) say that their community can access federal resources or programs for Climate Change mitigation, while 56 per cent said their community could access provincial resources or programs, 53 per cent said their community could access municipal resources, and 60 per cent said their community could access Indigenous led resources.

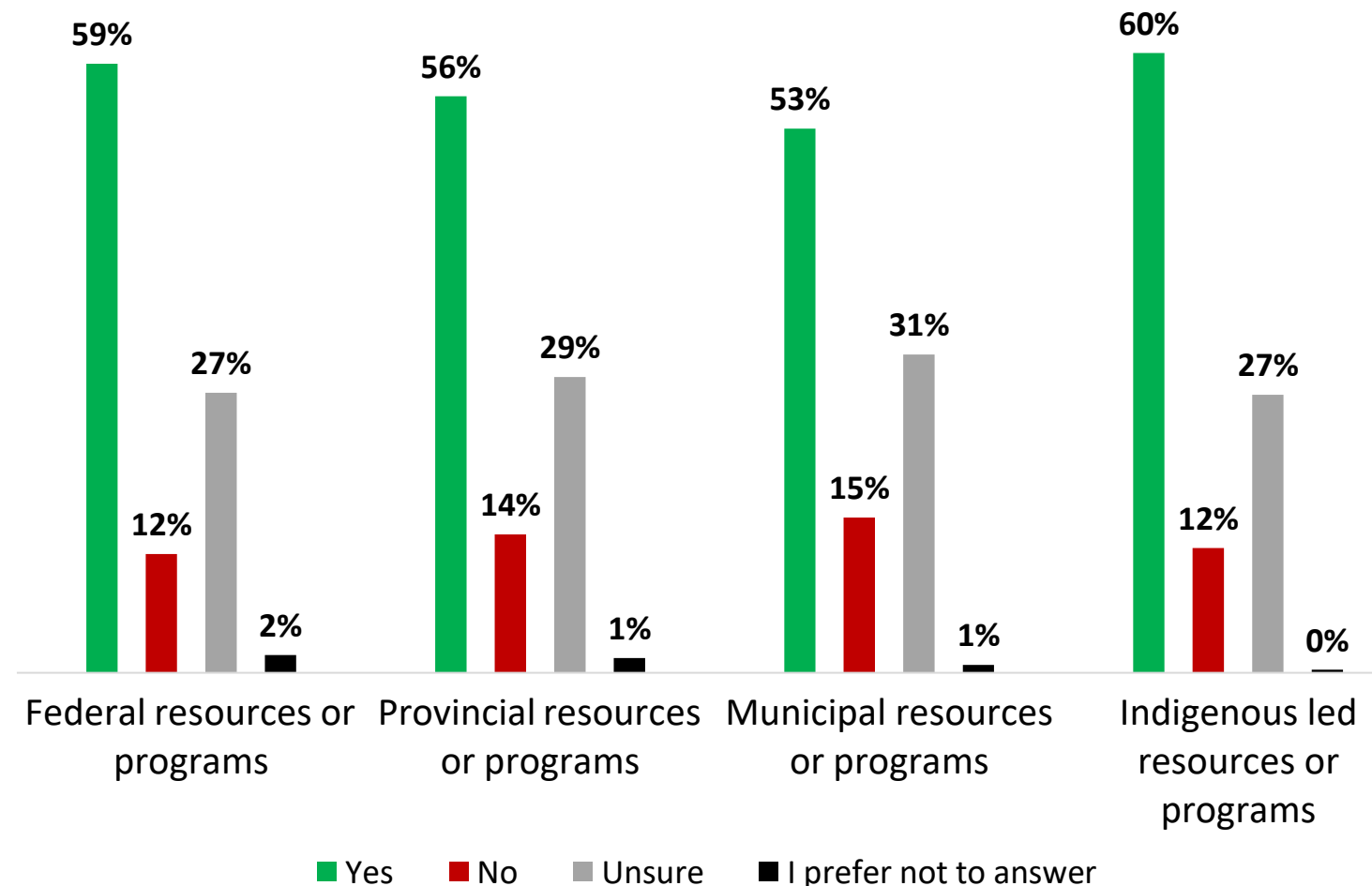
A – Can your community access federal resources or programs for climate change and/or mitigation?

B – Can your community access provincial resources or programs for climate change and/or mitigation?

C – Can your community access municipal resources or programs for climate change and/or mitigation?

D – Can your community access Indigenous led resources or programs for climate change and/or mitigation?

## Resources or programs for climate change and/or mitigation



\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1044 Indigenous people.

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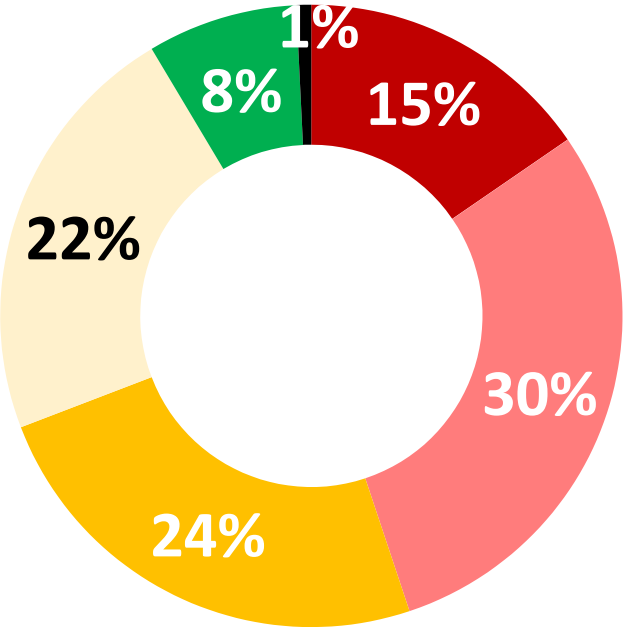
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# Wrap-up



# Concern with community adopting a climate change strategy



- Extremely concerned
- Very concerned
- Moderately concerned
- Slightly concerned
- Not at all concerned
- I prefer not to answer

\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Extremely concerned/Very concerned



Women  
(n=1002)



Two-Spirit  
(n=36)



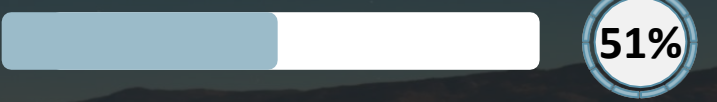
First Nations  
(n=925)



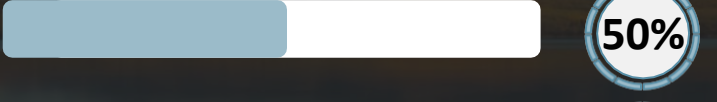
Metis  
(n=120)



20-30  
(n=433)



31-40  
(n=382)



41-50  
(n=122)



51-60  
(n=61)

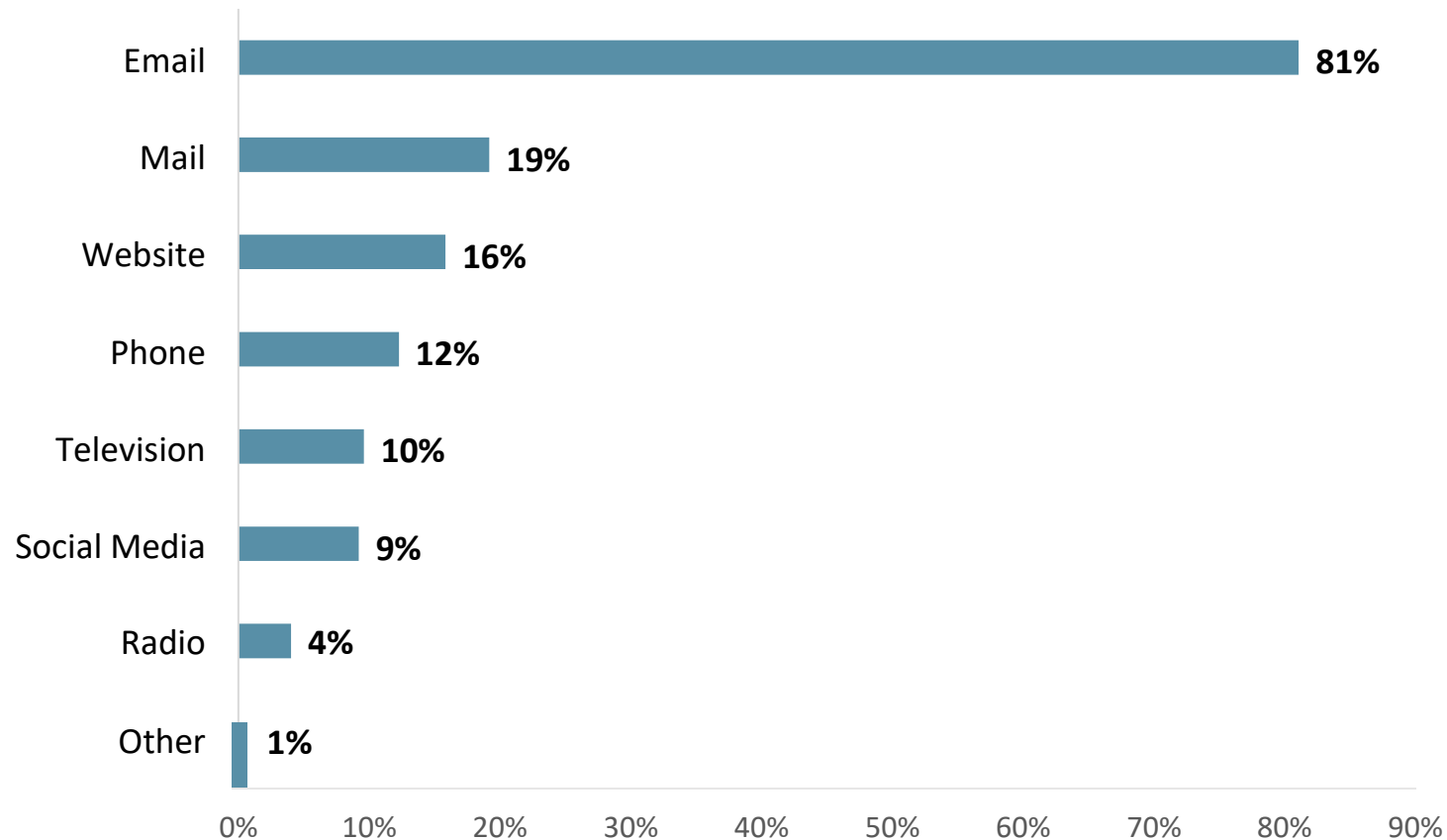
Q – How concerned are you with your community adopting/creating a climate change strategy?

Source: The Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1038 Indigenous people.



# Preferred mode of delivery for information

Q – What is your preferred mode of delivery when receiving information on climate change?



\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

\*Frequency based on multiple responses

Source: The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) conducted an online survey hosted on Simple Survey between December 2022 and January 11th, 2023, n=1042 Indigenous people.

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