

# Community-Based Water Monitoring

National Survey Highlights, February 2018

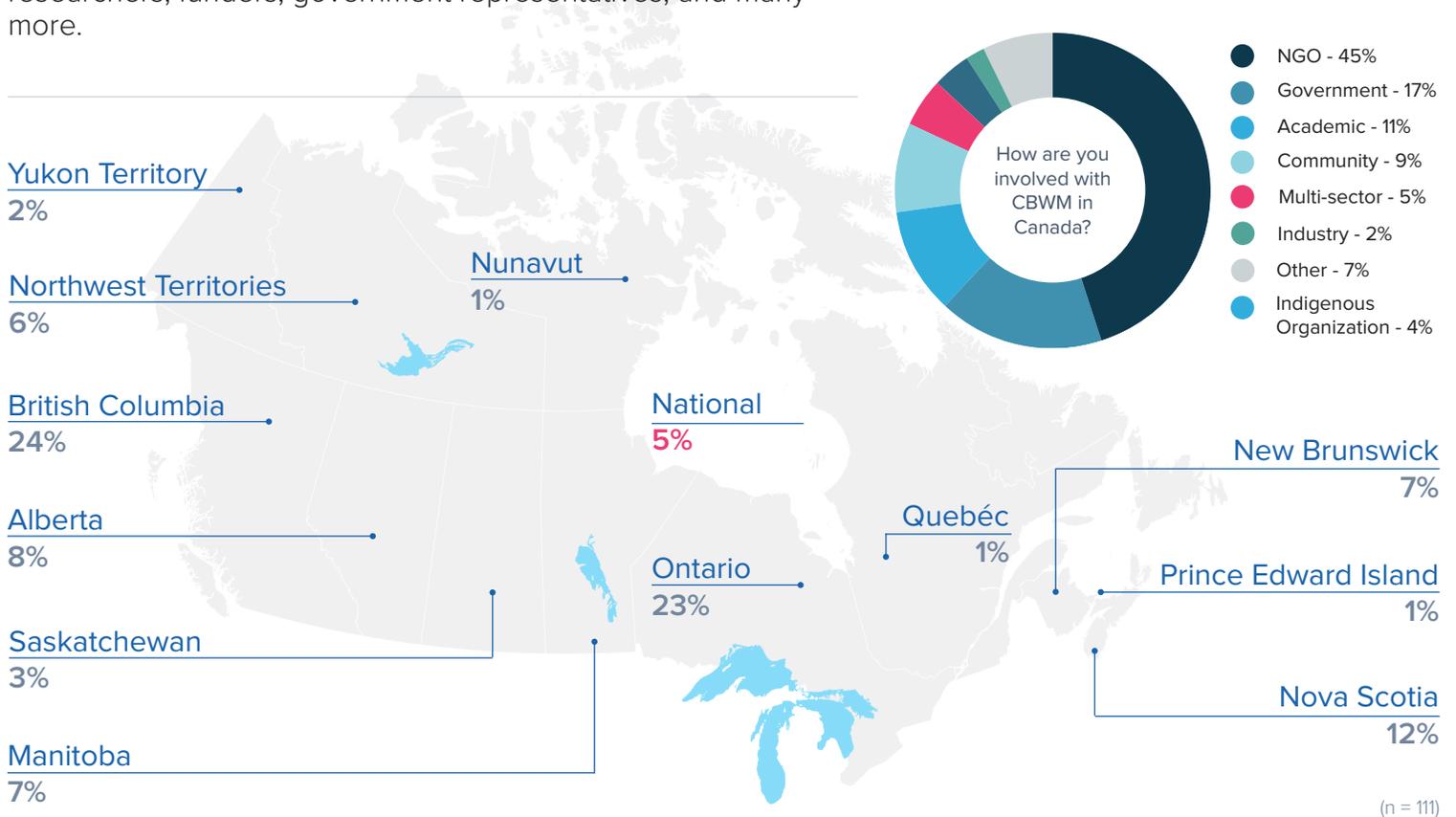
## ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Survey respondents agree that the federal government can play an important role in advancing community-based water monitoring (CBWM) and that a collaborative, national discussion is needed to identify and explore these opportunities. The survey was created to set priorities for the discussion and gauge stakeholder interest in participating in a national gathering.

This is a collaborative initiative being led by Living Lakes Canada, The Gordon Foundation and WWF-Canada. For more information on the survey results and to get involved please contact [kat@livinglakescanada.ca](mailto:kat@livinglakescanada.ca) and [aislin@gordonfn.org](mailto:aislin@gordonfn.org).

## WHO WE HEARD FROM

A total of 146 people responded to the survey. A broad geography was reached with responses concentrated in **British Columbia** and **Ontario**. We heard from technical leads, project coordinators, executive directors, volunteers, policy analysts, researchers, funders, government representatives, and many more.



## Key Findings

Efforts are needed to:

- ▶ Build CBWM capacity
- ▶ Ensure high quality monitoring
- ▶ Facilitate regional collaboration
- ▶ Streamline data management
- ▶ Strengthen knowledge transfer

146 total participants

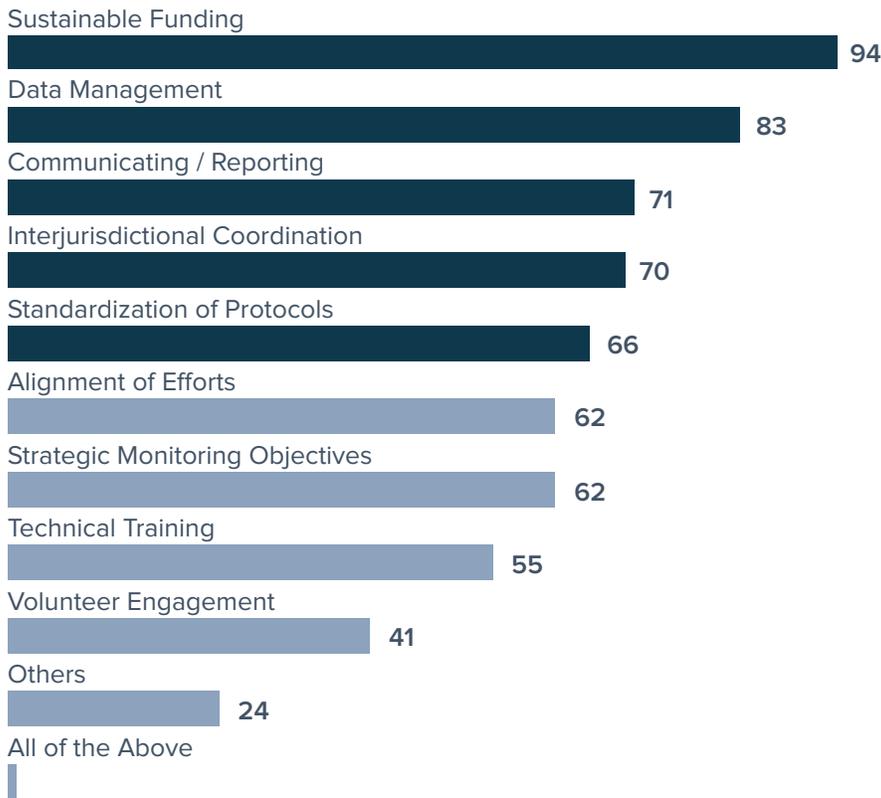
Most respondents represented non-governmental organizations (45%) and government departments at different levels (17%).

\*From approximately 500 people contacted, the total sample was 146 with a completion rate of 73%. Response rates will vary for each question.

## WHAT WE HEARD

### What are the top concerns / issues / priorities for CBWM in Canada?

Respondents were asked to select multiple priorities from a pre-identified, unranked list:



(n = 111)

Other priorities identified by respondents were related to: data access (5); data use in decision-making (4); policy (3); monitoring objectives (3); Indigenous monitoring indicators (2); data ownership (2); networks (1); trust in CBM data (1); unspecified (6).

## EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

### Are there opportunities to increase support for CBWM at the federal level?



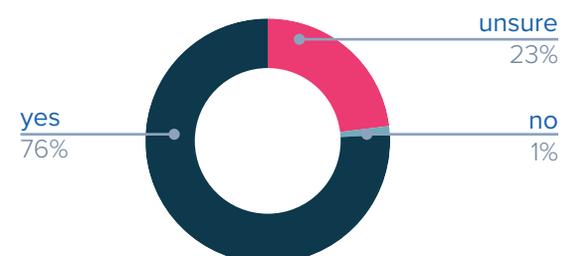
When asked to rank their concerns, respondents indicated the following:

### TOP 5 PRIORITIES



“Support is required for CBWM at the federal level if the practice is going to be sustainable and effective in the long-term. Provision of reliable funding for practitioners should be a first priority, followed by oversight, and possibly support through technical training.”

-Levi Cliche,  
Clean Annapolis River Project



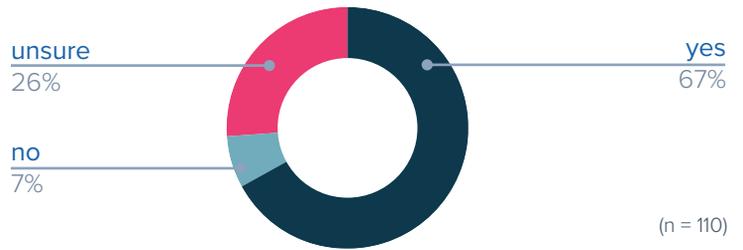
(n = 111)

## COLLECTIVE ACTION IS NEEDED

Are you interested in participating in a national-scale, discussion about CBWM?

YES - 67%

Most respondents (67%) agreed that a national conversation on CBWM is timely and worthwhile. Respondents who disagreed (7%) or were unsure (26%) commented on issues of organizational capacity (time, travel funding) to attend an event. Relevance to the group's work was also a factor in willingness to attend.



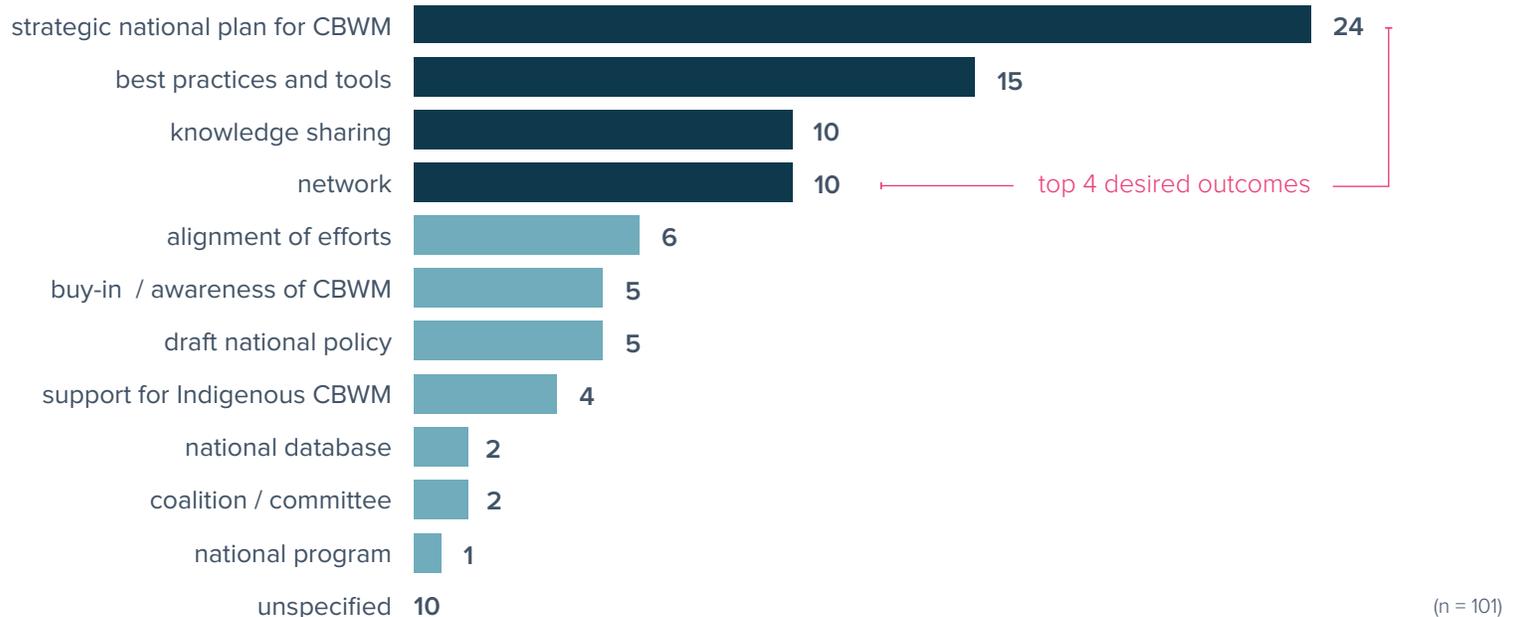
“Such a meeting could be an opportunity to define the role of CBM in Canadian water monitoring.”

- Julian Kanigan, Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program  
Government of the Northwest Territories

It would be great to have a national-scale debate to bring forward various perspectives and identify specific actions to address challenges. It would be appropriate to situate this conversation in the context of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Canada.

- Zafar Adeel, Pacific Water Research Centre  
Simon Fraser University

What would you like to see as outcomes of the gathering?



“We would like to see (1) a framework and tools to support CBM as a legitimate approach to producing unbiased, rigorous data and information, (2) standards and protocols to include Indigenous and local knowledge in monitoring efforts, and (3) a community of practice to advance the field of CBM.”

- Marley Kozak, Ministry of Environment and Parks, Government of Alberta

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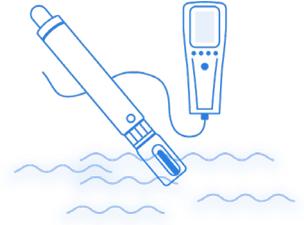
# KEY CONDITIONS FOR AN EFFECTIVE GATHERING

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## How can we ensure that a national-level discussion about CBWM is fruitful?

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- ▶ People should have baseline knowledge of CBWM to participate
  - ▶ Government needs to be in the room to increase buy-in
  - ▶ Indigenous perspectives must be represented
  - ▶ Regional nuances should be addressed
  - ▶ To be effective, there must be follow-through after the event
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67 respondents recommended that a solutions-oriented model be adopted for the gathering. Respondents who did not like the proposition (11), or were unsure (12), stressed the importance of a **focused agenda** that is relevant to all participants, a **sound process** that fully engages Indigenous organizations, and careful attention to producing useful and **actionable outcomes**.

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## In your opinion, who should attend the gathering?

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Respondents recommended using a multi-stakeholder approach with structured invitations according to participant expertise, including:

- ▶ Technical leads
- ▶ CBWM program coordinators
- ▶ Policy experts
- ▶ Data managers
- ▶ Water resource and conservation managers
- ▶ Scientists and researchers
- ▶ Ministerial departmental leads and staff at all levels (municipal, provincial, territorial and federal)
- ▶ Indigenous-led CBWM organizations and networks

“There is broad interest so there should be representation from various stakeholder groups. To get everyone involved would be complicated but a tiered approach where a steering committee comes together to focus efforts would be a feasible starting place.”

- Kelly Munkittrick,  
Cold Regions and Water Science  
Wilfrid Laurier University

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## WHAT'S NEXT?



Information gathered in this survey will be shared widely with government departments, non-governmental organizations, Indigenous organizations, academic institutions and others actively engaged in CBWM.

Key findings will be used to:

- **Frame a discussion paper with strategic recommendations to advance CBWM in priority areas**
  - **Leverage momentum from regional dialogues to inform ongoing planning for a national discussion**
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**Thank you for your participation!!**