



Public Opinion on Indigenous Guardians

Conducted for The Indigenous Leadership
Initiative

October 2023

Methodology

- Sample size: 2,000 adult Canadians.
- Survey field dates: October 24 to 29, 2023.
- The data was weighted by age, gender, education and region.
- Totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



Key Findings – Indigenous Guardians

1. There is clear public support for Indigenous Guardians programs in Canada.
 - 75% of Canadians support Guardians programs after reading a description of it.
 - 73% of Canadians support the federal government investing in Guardians programs to fulfil its functions.
2. Most Canadians are acutely aware of climate change's impacts, from increased wildfires and flooding to landslides and destruction of animal habitats and communities. Most see Indigenous Guardians playing a helpful role in mitigating all these various impacts.
3. When Indigenous Guardians' functions are presented to Canadians, ~8 in 10 (78% - 84%) view the functions as important, from testing water quality (84%) and managing protected nature and wildlife areas (84%) to advising on emergency response tactics (81%).

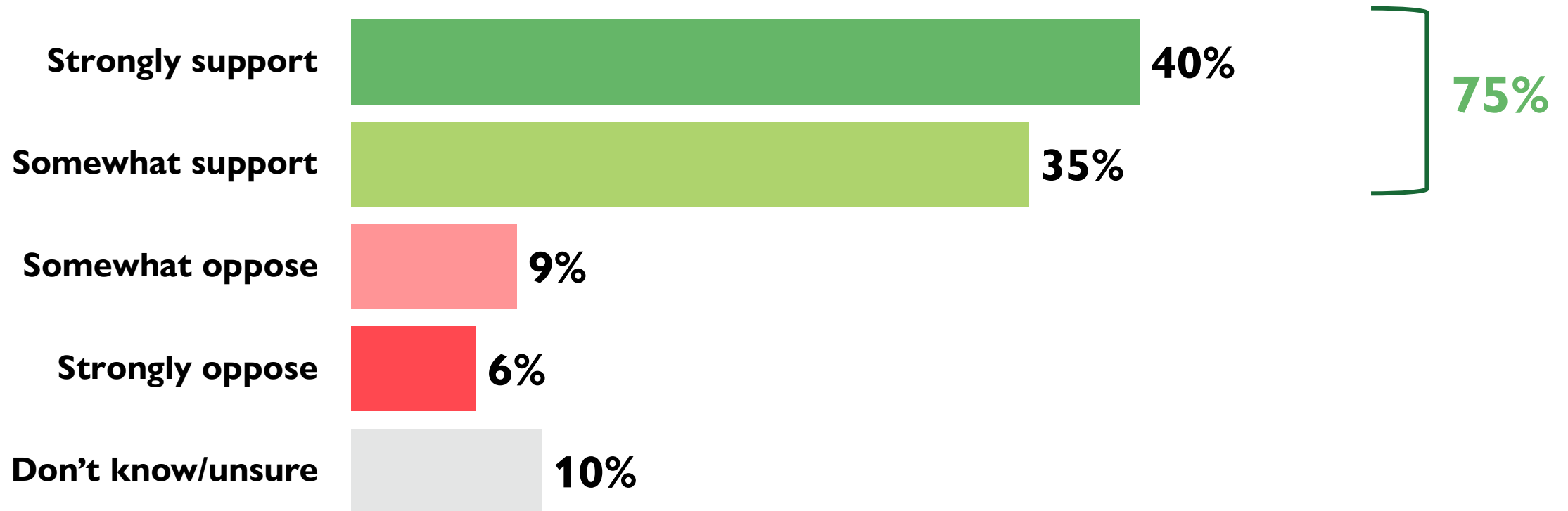
Indigenous Guardians Description

Indigenous Guardians help Indigenous Nations honour their responsibility to care for lands and waters. They serve as the “eyes and ears” on their territories. They are on the ground, helping provide solutions to the challenges of climate change, loss of biodiversity, and the impacts of colonialism. Guardians are trained experts who manage lands and waters on behalf of their Nations. They monitor animals and plants, manage protected areas, and support language and cultural programs. They are on the ground, offering concrete answers to the questions of how to manage wildfire, how to reduce the risk of flooding, and how to make communities more resilient. And because Guardians work is rooted in Indigenous knowledge and culture, they help communities heal from the trauma of colonialism, including residential schools.



Based on what's described above, to what extent do you support or oppose this program?

Support for Indigenous Guardians and the role they play...

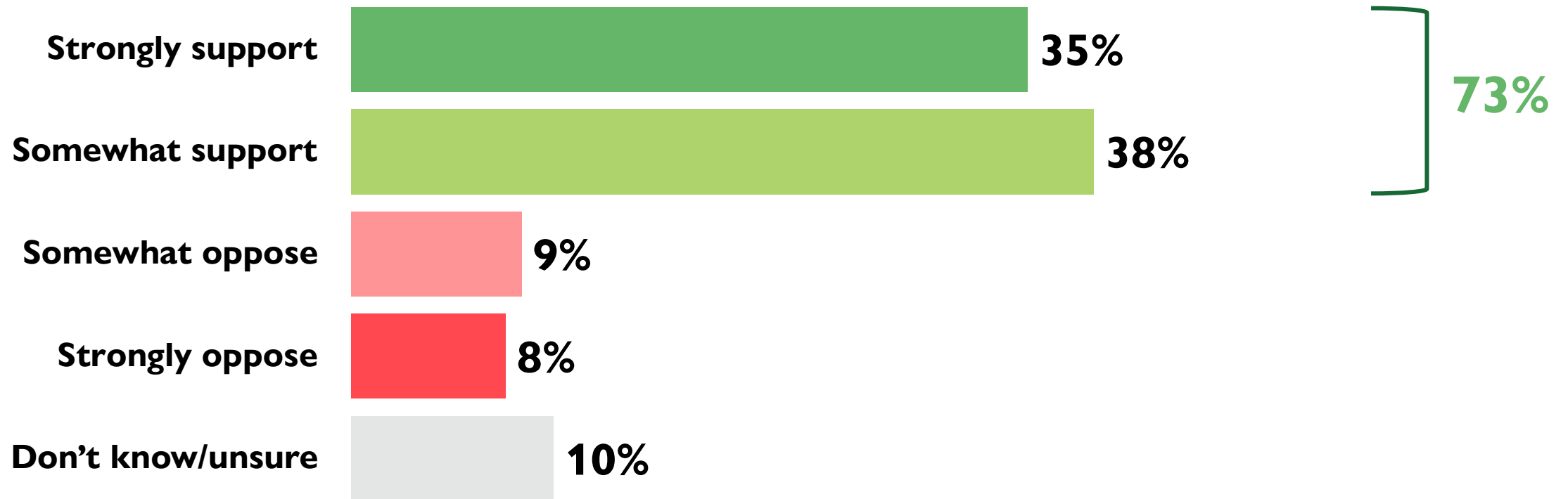


n = 2,000



And to what extent do you support or oppose the federal government investing in the Indigenous Guardians program to do the work described above?

Support for federal investment in Indigenous Guardians...



n = 2,000

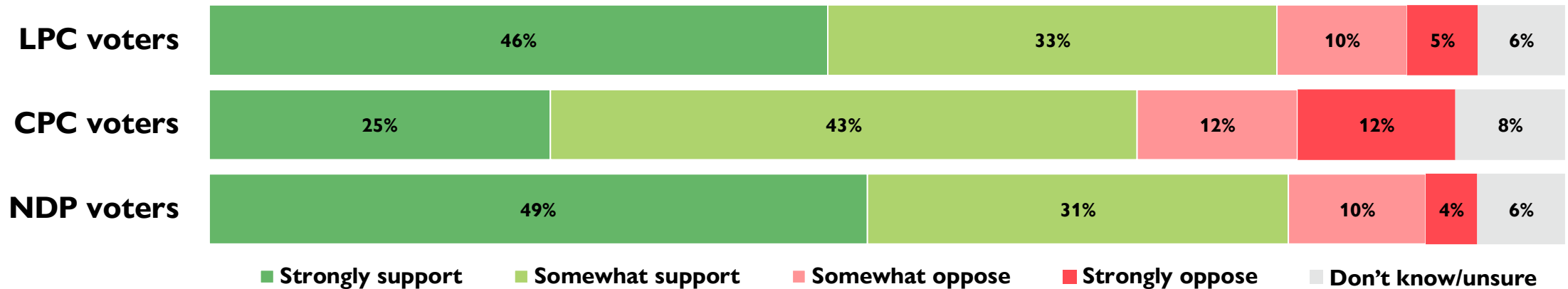


Based on what's described above, to what extent do you support or oppose [this program? / the federal government investing in the Indigenous Guardians program?]

Support for Indigenous Guardians



Support for federal government investing in Indigenous Guardians



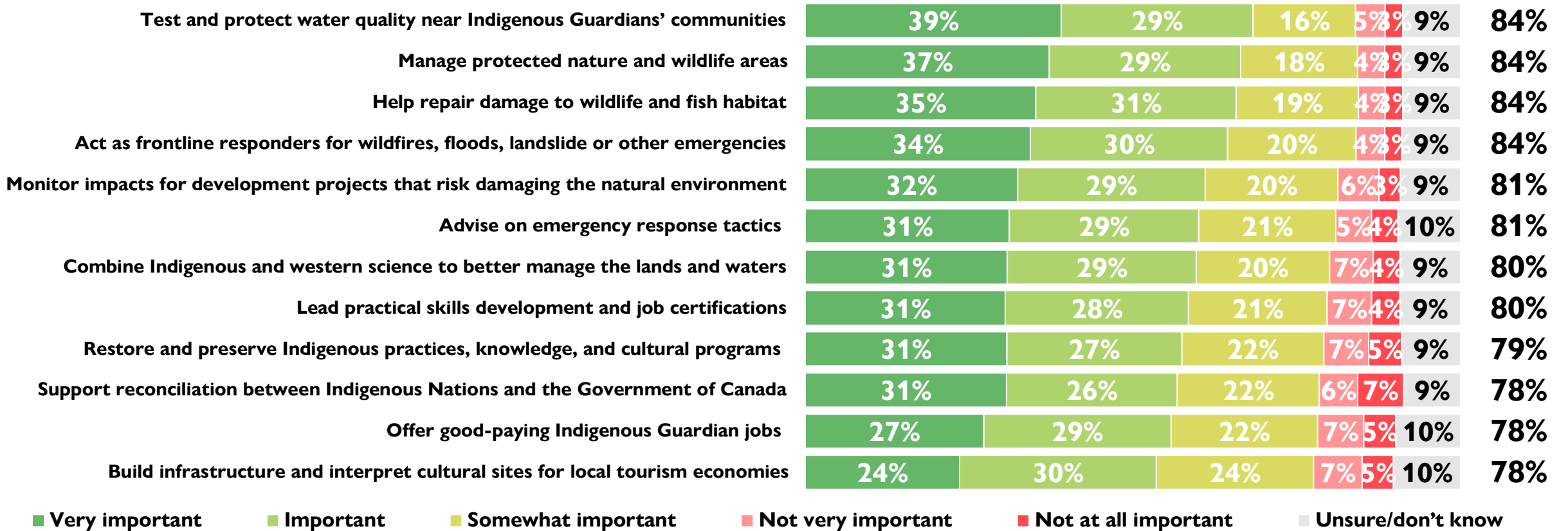
[All] Base n=2,000



What follows is a number of functions the First Nations Guardian Initiative actually perform in the present day. For each, please tell us how important you feel each is...

Importance of functions Indigenous Guardians perform...

% Important

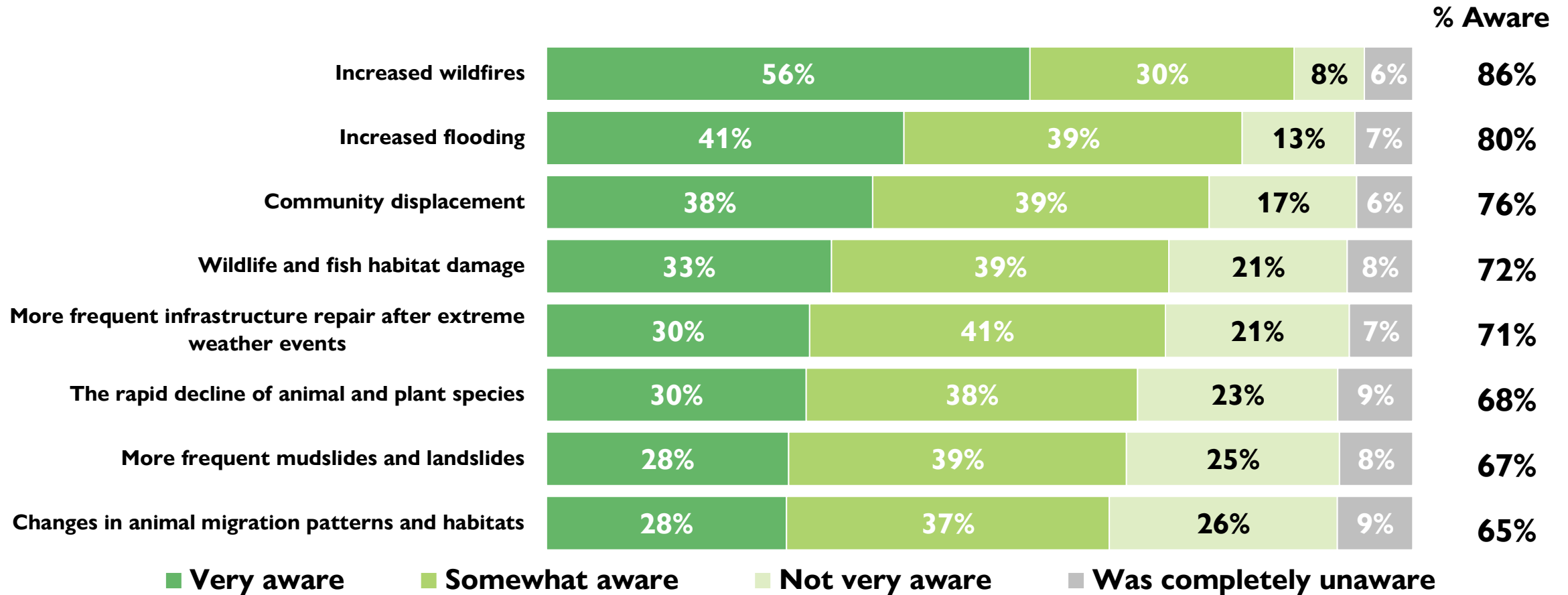


n = 2,000



Below are a number of climate change impacts that Canada has to mitigate or deal with. Before this survey, how aware were you of each of the following as an impact of climate change?

Awareness of impacts of climate change...

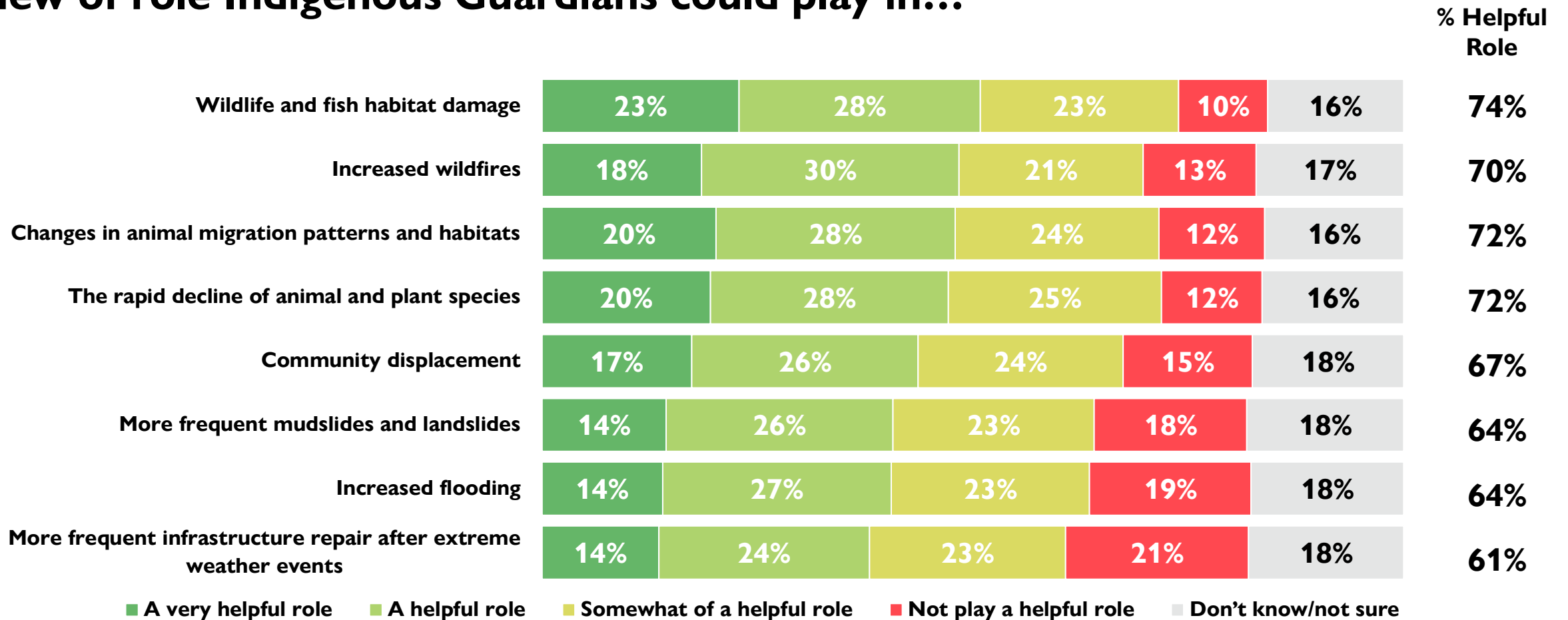


n = 2,000



And to the best of your knowledge, do you believe that a program like Indigenous Guardians could play a very helpful role, a helpful role, somewhat of a helpful role, or not play a helpful role in mitigating each of these impacts?

View of role Indigenous Guardians could play in...



n = 2,000

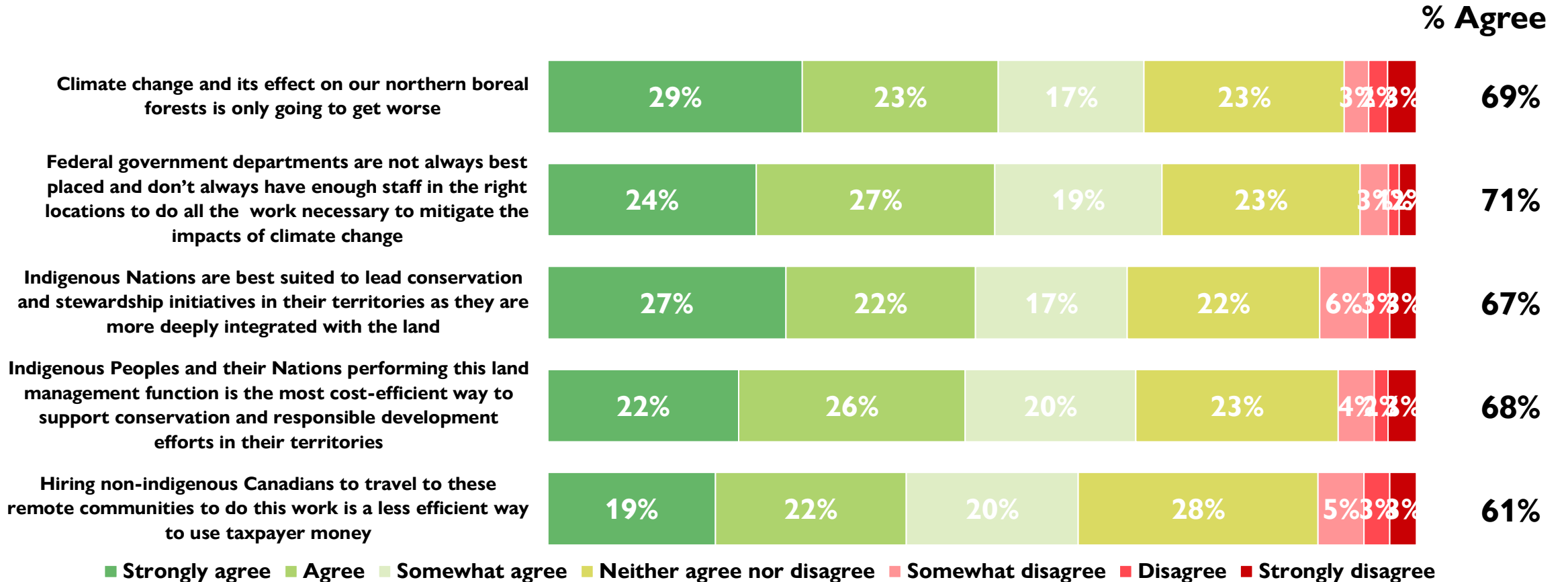
Key Findings – Indigenous Guardians

4. Canadians understand both the urgency and logic of investing in Indigenous Guardians. 7 in 10 agree:
 - Climate change and its effect on our northern boreal forests is only going to get worse (69%)
 - Federal government departments are not always best placed and nor do they have enough staff in locations to do this necessary climate mitigation work (71%)
 - Having Indigenous Peoples and their Nations performing these land management functions is most cost-effective approach (69%)
5. Most Canadians agree that Indigenous Nations are best suited to lead conservation and stewardship initiatives in their territories as they are more deeply integrated with the land (67%).
6. 7 in 10 Canadians prefer leveraging Indigenous Guardians programs to add more northern coverage, over having the federal government hire more conservation officers.



To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

To what extent do you agree with the following statements:



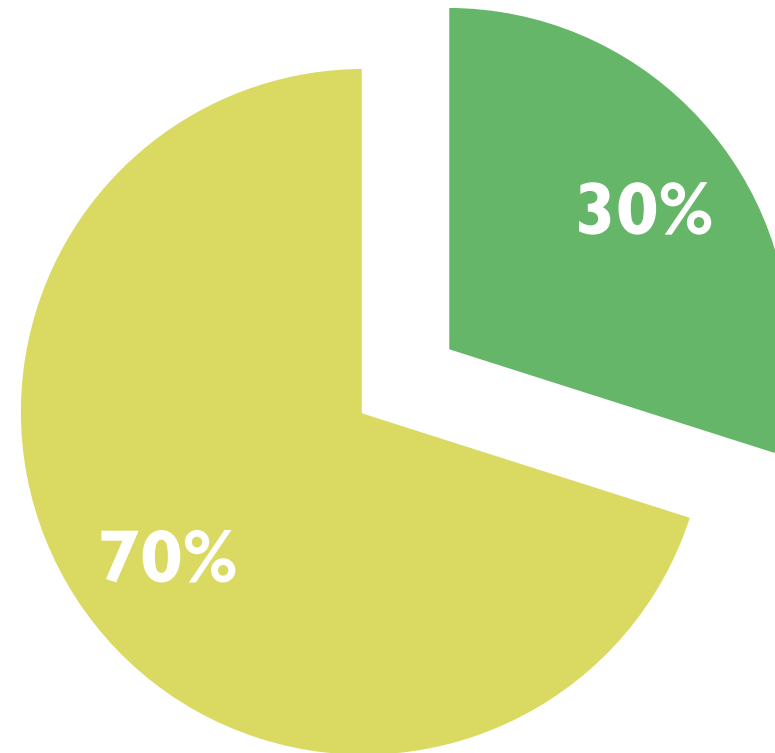
n = 2,000



Which comes closer to your view?

Which comes closer to your view...

- Some people say that federal government departments who are working on land management, should hire more conservation officers to add more coverage in the north
- Others say that instead of spending money on more conservation officers and travel, they should instead collaborate with the Indigenous Guardians program, and leverage these experts already on the ground to fill that gap



n = 2,000



abacus
data
abacusdata.ca

Thank You