



Framework for Recreation in Canada

Renewal Project | Phase 1 Consultations

What We Heard: Summary of
Consultation Findings

June 30, 2025

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Executive Summary

The Framework for Recreation in Canada, introduced in 2015 and with some aspects updated in 2024, has provided a shared foundation for advancing community wellbeing through recreation and parks. Yet despite its ongoing relevance, national engagement efforts have made it clear: the Framework must now evolve to meet the scale, complexity, and urgency of today's challenges that will continue.

This report presents findings from Phase 1 of the Framework renewal, led by the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA), under the guidance of the Framework Leadership Team (FLT) and in partnership with the Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council (SPARC). It reflects the voices of over 2,500 participants, representing each province and territory across Canada, gathered in a variety of formats between September 2024 and May 2025. These consultations were supported by a rapid literature review, the analysis of relevant population-level data, and alignment with broader frameworks and global priorities.

The information gained through Phase 1 has also been used to generate recommendations for the next phase of the renewal process.

Why Renew the Framework?

Sector-wide feedback revealed a strong desire for a Framework that:

- is practical and actionable
- includes shared national measurements
- strengthens multi-sector collaboration
- positions recreation as a vital public service
- addresses equity, belonging, and accessibility
- is adaptive and flexible
- addresses the cross-cutting issues of:
 - Mental wellness
 - Climate action
 - Workforce development
 - Access to quality spaces
 - Privatization and affordability, and
 - Social prescribing.

Participants in the consultations identified persistent barriers to applying the existing Framework, including a lack of implementation tools, limited promotion, and insufficient connection to the realities of local practitioners. About 50% of Framework survey respondents reported never using the current Framework in their work. This may be due to the number of new staff in the sector and/or the lack of on-going promotion of the Framework.

At the same time, consultations surfaced a clear readiness for transformation, a strong desire for a renewed national policy document and accompanying strategy, and a call for shared tools, stronger partnerships, and sector-wide coordination that addresses the critical issues facing the sector and into the future.

Land Acknowledgment

The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association acknowledges that our work, and the work of our members and partners, takes place on the unceded and traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples across this land.

Our national office is located on the unceded territories of the Algonquin and Mohawk First Nations. We honour the deep connection Indigenous communities have to the lands, waters, and skies, recognizing their role as responsible stewards of these lands for millennia.

We recognize the harms of colonization and the resilience of Indigenous Peoples, and we are committed to advancing reconciliation through action. We believe that the non-Indigenous community has much to learn from Indigenous knowledge systems, particularly on the existential challenges of climate change and environmental stewardship. By embracing this shared responsibility, we can work toward a more sustainable and just future.

Our approach is guided by the belief that our wellbeing and liberation are bound together with the wellbeing and liberation of our Indigenous neighbours. The work of reconciliation is not about offering help, but about walking together on a shared journey, building a future where all communities thrive in harmony with one another and the natural world.

Acknowledgments

We thank everyone who contributed to the success of Phase 1 of the renewal of the Framework for Recreation in Canada. This achievement was due to the commitment and collaboration of leaders, practitioners, and advocates nationwide. The funding support of the Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation Council (SPARC) was integral to the overall initiative.

Special thanks to the Framework Leadership Team (FLT) for their strategic guidance, and to the Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation Council (SPARC) for their partnership and support. Your leadership shaped an inclusive and forward-looking dialogue throughout this process. A list of FLT members can be found in Appendix A.

We also extend sincere thanks to Dr. Troy Glover and Christa Costas-Bradstreet for leading the rapid literature review. Their deep expertise, thoughtful analysis, and commitment to elevating evidence-based insights were instrumental in shaping the key themes and strategic direction of the Framework renewal. We further acknowledge the invaluable contribution of the National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH). Their dedicated literature review provided a vital lens into the priorities, strengths, and lived experiences of Indigenous communities, bringing depth, cultural relevance, and integrity to this work.

We are very appreciative of the work of Dr. Christine Cameron, President of the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute (CFLRI), in gathering a variety of population-level data from CFLRI's existing and extensive body of research. The list of CFLRI data tables accessed can be found in Appendix F. We are also grateful for the work done by Guelph Wellington Local Immigration Partnership (GWLIP) on Best Practices for Inclusion in Parks and Recreation.

This foundational work not only grounded the consultation findings in current research but also ensured that the renewed Framework reflects the most pressing trends, challenges, and opportunities facing the recreation and parks sector today.

We are especially grateful to Nancy Dubois of DU B FIT Consulting for her leadership in coordinating this complex, multi-layered project. Her clarity, care, and commitment to inclusive collaboration were instrumental in every stage of Phase 1.

Thank you to all who participated in consultations, focus groups, interviews, and surveys. Your insights drive this report.

1.0 Introduction

Context

The Framework for Recreation in Canada, introduced in 2015, was developed as a foundational guide to support strategic investments, enable collaborative policy development, and align efforts across the recreation and parks sector. It encompasses the full breadth of the sector, from community-based programs, trails, and sport facilities to neighborhood parks, green spaces, active transportation, and recreation centers. This also involves meaningful recreational activities rooted in the land and waters that shape our country. Here, “land” refers to both the ecological and cultural landscapes that support life as well as recreation practices outside of designated park and trail systems.

In 2024, the developments affecting the context of the Framework were updated by the sector to reflect its growing intersections with public health, those addressing equity, climate resilience/adaptation/mitigation, and other cross-cutting priorities. While the core direction of the Framework remained unchanged, several new elements were added: examples of how the Framework had been—and could be—used at both operational and strategic levels; a summary of the challenges and opportunities facing the sector since 2015; a compilation of key Canadian strategies, research, and policy documents released during that time; and an updated glossary of terms.

This Update underscored the need for a renewed Framework. Much has changed since 2015. The sector now faces mounting pressures, including aging and inadequate infrastructure, increasing expectations to address complex social challenges (often without appropriate training or compensation), and persistent workforce development issues affecting both volunteers and staff.

The current renewal process builds on both the 2015 Framework and the 2024 update. It responds to a pressing need for a more adaptive, responsive tool, one that reflects emerging realities such as mental wellness, climate change, workforce development, aging infrastructure, and rising demand for accessible, inclusive parks and recreation spaces in every community. These issues, and the ability to address them in interactive and evergreen ways, are different than in 2015.

To shape the next iteration, CPRA, under the direction of the Framework Leadership Team (FLT) (see Appendix A), and in partnership with the Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation Council (SPARC), launched a pan-Canadian consultation process using a variety of methods, supported by a rapid literature review and a scan of population-level data. This work aims to understand the most pressing and anticipated priorities and challenges, and what is required to ensure it remains relevant, actionable, and rooted in the communities it intends to serve.

1.1 Purpose of the Report

This report presents a summary of insights gathered during Phase 1 of the renewal of the Framework for Recreation in Canada. It reflects the diverse perspectives of over 2,500 participants, including front-line practitioners, policy leaders, Indigenous partners, youth advocates, researchers, and sectoral collaborators. The intent is to document what we heard during the consultations and describe an emerging direction for Phase 2 of the Framework renewal process.

1.2 The 2015 Framework and the 2024 Update: Progress and Gaps

The 2015 Framework for Recreation in Canada established five overarching goals to guide the sector (Appendix B):

- Active Living
- Inclusion and Access
- Connecting People and Nature
- Supportive Environments
- Recreation Capacity

These goals were built on a shared vision and helped shape national, provincial and territorial, and local priorities in government, indigenous focused initiatives, as well as those in organizations and institutions, reinforcing recreation's role in advancing community and individual wellbeing. See Appendix B for the one-page summary of the 2015 Framework.

While the Update added relevance and timeliness, Phase 1 consultations revealed that further changes were required to make the Framework truly actionable. Constituents expressed a strong desire for a version that is more practical, dynamic, and supported by tools that can be applied in real-world settings.

1.3 Why Renew the Framework

Originally launched in 2015 and updated in 2024, the Framework has guided strategic investments and planning across the recreation and parks sector in Canada. However, national engagement revealed a desire for a more practical, dynamic, and system-ready version that reflects today's challenges, including equity gaps, climate impacts, mental health needs, infrastructure strain, and workforce pressures.

The Framework must respond to urgent pressures such as mental wellness, climate change, workforce development, aging infrastructure, reconciliation, and the rising demand for accessible, inclusive parks and recreation spaces in every community.

Across the country, parks are increasingly relied upon as vital infrastructure for health, connection, and climate resilience, particularly for those without access to private outdoor space. In many communities, particularly in the north and in Indigenous communities, we heard about the importance of being purposefully active “on the land and water” in spaces that are not necessarily labelled as parks. This reflects a broader understanding that land-based living and recreation extends beyond the conventional definition of ‘parks’ and includes culturally rooted practices like hunting, gathering, and land stewardship.

1.4 Who This Report Is For

This report is intended for the Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation Council (SPARC) as a key Deliverable for the funding received to undertake this work. Pending further discussion, parts of the report may also be used by the Framework Leadership Team, national and provincial/territorial recreation and parks associations, and Framework contributors. It also serves as a resource for decision-makers seeking to understand the sector's current landscape and emerging opportunities. Moving into Phase 2, those in post-secondary institutions could also be a key audience due to their role in preparing emerging leaders in the sector and/or conducting related research.

1.5 How This Report Will Be Used

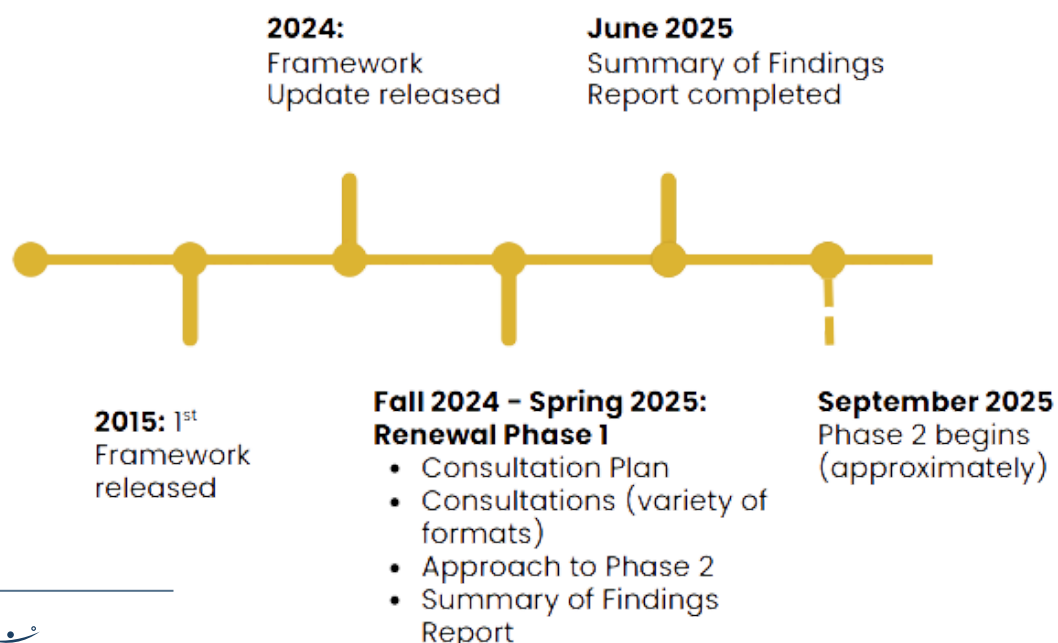
The findings will directly inform the design and delivery of Phase 2 of the Framework renewal, including development of new tools, measurement strategies, and collaborative implementation structures. The Rapid Review will be of high value to the broad sector as soon as it is released.

1.6 The Evolution of the Framework for Recreation in Canada

The renewal of the Framework for Recreation in Canada builds on two decades of vision and leadership in the sector (see Figure. 1). The original 2015 Framework laid the foundation for a shared national agenda, and the 2024 Update reflected the evolving intersections between recreation, health, equity, and climate resilience.

The current phase, Phase 1 of the renewal process, which began in September 2024 — has been critical in surfacing the sector's priorities, pressures, and aspirations through evidence gathering and meaningful engagement. This work has created a strong foundation.

As the project moves into Phase 2, continued momentum will be essential to co-develop a widely endorsed Common Agenda, deepen equity-focused engagement, and build sector-wide systems and infrastructure for collective impact. The desired outcomes include equipping the sector with shared tools, measurements, and partnerships that translate the renewed Framework into coordinated, transformative, and actionable change.



2.0 Methodology

2.1 Design and Process

The consultation process was co-designed by CPRA and the Framework Leadership Team (FLT) and refined through collaboration with the Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council (SPARC) and the Physical Activity and Recreation Committee (PARC), ensuring it benefited from methodological rigour and reflected sector realities. The goal was to gather broad, inclusive, and contextualized input from those within the recreation and parks sector—and beyond.

The design process was intentional, rooted in three key values:

1. **Inclusion:** Proactively engaging diverse voices from across geography, roles, and lived experience
2. **Evidence:** Creating an approach grounded in best practices, available data, and aligned with other key strategies and plans
3. **Adaptability:** Ensuring flexibility to respond to opportunities, challenges, and consultation fatigue

The approach was built collaboratively:

- The FLT helped shape the Consultation Plan (see Appendix C), consultation questions, and strategies for outreach
- Input was reviewed and endorsed by SPARC, reinforcing alignment with broader sector priorities
- The final design reflected a balance between reach, depth, and feasibility—using a multi-method strategy to allow for both breadth of engagement and contextual richness

The process included online surveys (long and short, in English and French), virtual and in-person consultations, targeted focus groups, and key informant interviews. The approach also left room to identify gaps as they emerged and adjust accordingly—a hallmark of a living, responsive engagement plan.

In keeping with the values of shared ownership and relationship-building, the consultation was framed not only as a data-gathering exercise, but as an opportunity to build momentum and alignment within the sector. This emphasis on co-creation will continue into Phase 2 as new voices are brought into the fold and early ideas are refined into concrete strategies.

2.2 Who Was Engaged and How

Participants included municipal recreation volunteers and staff, representatives from community-based organizations, academics, Indigenous representatives, researchers, cross-sector allies in health, education, and social justice, and representatives from federal, provincial/territorial, and local governments. Recruitment channels included the many and varied networks of the FLT members, SPARC/PARC networks, CPRA members and networks, CPRA member networks, partner referrals, and already planned sector gatherings. We also leveraged various social media platforms while deploying our consultation channels to reach a broader range of voices during our consultations.

Tailored approaches were developed for engaging several organizations and sectors with the express purpose of promoting the survey beyond the municipal recreation and parks sector.

- The Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada
- YMCA Canada
- The Jewish Community Centre network
- The Catholic Youth Organization network
- Nature Canada
- Health and Physical Education Canada
- Canadian Ecotourism Services
- United Way Canada
- Canadian Public Health Association
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Canadian Council of University Physical Education and Kinesiology Administrators

2.3 Data Sources

Four streams of evidence informed this report (see Figure 2):

1. CPRA-led Consultations (Surveys, Focus Groups, Interviews)
2. Rapid Literature Review and Indigenous Knowledge Resources
3. Population-Level Data (CFLRI and GWLIP)
4. Sector-Aligned Frameworks and Strategic Documents

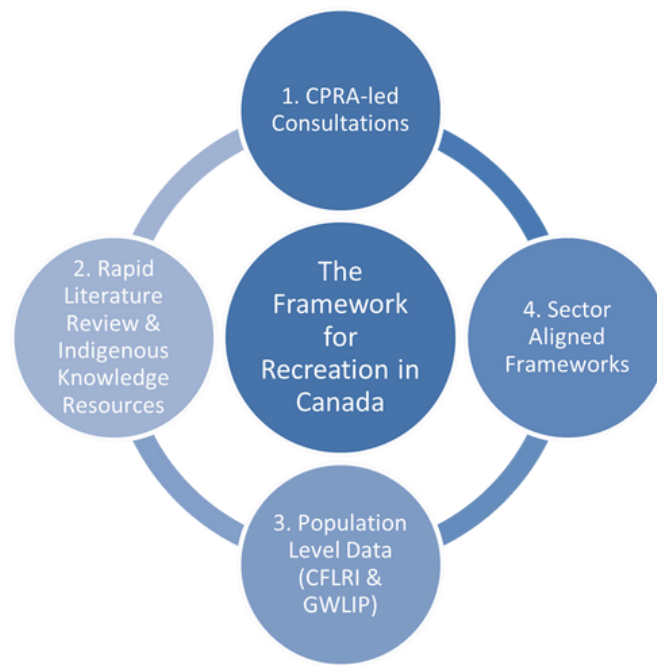
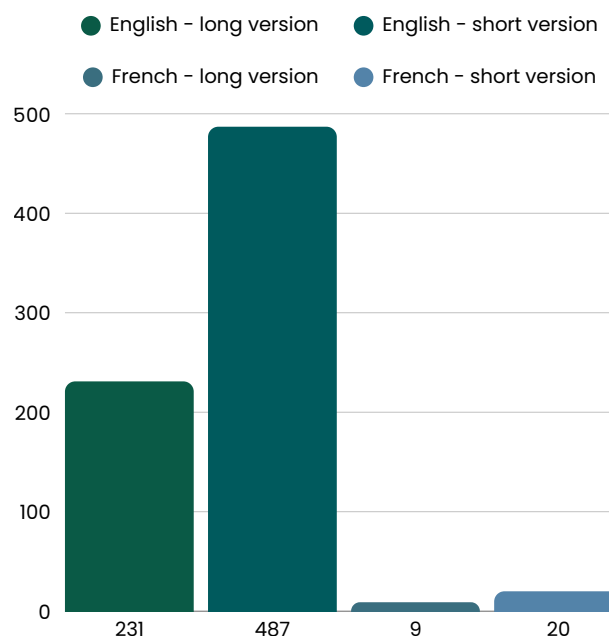


Figure 2: Data Sources leveraged to guide the renewal of the Framework for Recreation in Canada

1. CPRA-led Consultations (Surveys, Focus Groups, Interviews)

This primary data source gathered qualitative and quantitative insights directly from over 2,500 participants across all provinces and territories. The engagement methods included:

- Surveys (long and short, English and French): 747 responses (see Appendix I and J)



- **In-person consultations:** 925 participants
- **Key informant interviews:** 13 key informants across 11 interviews (see Appendix E)
- **Focus groups:** 11 sessions averaging 9 participants each
- **Conference engagements:** 12 events, averaging 100 attendees each

Individuals were engaged in every province and territory across Canada, ensuring a pan-Canadian perspective and capturing holistic insights across the nation. Consultations were conducted in English and French (see details in Appendix A). This broad reach reflects a sector that is both diverse and aligned in its call for a renewed Framework that is practical, inclusive, and ready to meet today's challenges.

These consultations captured diverse voices across demographics, geographies, sectors (health, education, climate, housing, and justice), and community types (rural, urban, northern, Indigenous). Appendix H provides the detailed respondent breakdown by jurisdiction and target group.

Importantly, the wealth of data generated through the surveys will continue to be leveraged throughout Phase 2 to deepen analysis, validate emerging directions, and inform the co-design of tools, measurement frameworks, and implementation strategies. This robust dataset offers a strong foundation for ongoing decision-making and alignment as the renewed Framework takes shape.

2. Rapid Literature Review and Indigenous Knowledge Resources

This included two key components:

- A **rapid review** of academic and grey literature published since 2015, led by Dr. Troy Glover and Christa Costas Bradstreet, covering topics identified in the 2024 Framework Update
- A targeted **review by the National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH)** titled *“Indigenous Sports and Recreation Programs and Partnerships across Canada”*. This offered culturally grounded insight into Indigenous models of recreation, traditional knowledge, and calls to action for reconciliation.

These reviews provided evidence-based validation of themes surfaced during engagement and ensured cultural and academic credibility in identifying priorities.



3. Population-Level Data (CFLRI, GWLIP)

This stream included national survey and demographic data, notably:

- **Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute (CFLRI):** Provided vital statistics on physical activity participation, affordability, perceptions of inclusion, and infrastructure needs.
- **Guelph Wellington Local Immigration Partnership (GWLIP) and Environics data:** Captured racialized newcomers' experience in public spaces, including parks.

These data helped to identify systemic inequities and reinforced the need for common measurements and shared language across jurisdictions.

4. Sector-Aligned Frameworks and Strategic Documents

The Framework was intentionally cross-referenced with key national and international strategies to ensure alignment and policy coherence. These included:

- A Common Vision for increasing physical activity and reducing sedentary living in Canada: Let's Get Moving
- Parks For All: An Action Plan for Canada's Parks Community
- The Canadian Sport Policy
- The emerging National Strategy for Indigenous Sport, Recreation, Physical Activity and Traditional Practice
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action
- The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals
- The WHO Age-friendly Cities Framework
- National Active Transportation Strategy 2021-2026

2.4 Methodological Limitations

While the engagement process was designed to be broad and inclusive—and indeed reached a wide and diverse range of voices across the country—several constraints shaped the scope and depth of participation.

One key methodological decision was to not engage the public directly. This was based on two main considerations:

1. **Consultation fatigue:** Many communities, especially those from equity-deserving groups, expressed reluctance to participate in yet another consultation process, having been extensively engaged through other initiatives. Participants recommended building existing insights gathered rather than duplicating efforts.
2. **Clarity of audience:** The Framework is primarily designed for sector leaders, policymakers, and cross-sector partners—not the general public. Accordingly, Phase 1 resources focused on these key audiences.

To ensure public perspectives were still reflected, existing data sources were integrated, particularly from the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute (CFLRI) and Guelph Wellington Local Immigration Partnership (GWLIP).

Another challenge was the cross-sectoral nature of the work. Reaching individuals and organizations outside the traditional recreation and parks sector, especially in health, education, climate, and social services—required developing new relationships and navigating unfamiliar networks. These efforts are ongoing and will deepen in Phase 2.

Engagement with Indigenous communities also requires further investment. While some Indigenous perspectives were included—particularly through provincial and territorial partners with strong existing relationships—dedicated, culturally grounded engagement will be essential moving forward. Not all planned Indigenous engagement activities were realized during this phase. To support the on-going understanding of how to effectively engage Indigenous communities, participation in learning events such as a three-part Ethical Spaces workshop, and attendance at the National Indigenous Physical Activity and Wellness Conference was key. At the latter event, a potentially relevant tool for use in Phase 2 was uncovered: “Indigenous Grounded Analysis” – a research approach that integrates Indigenous worldviews, values, and knowledge systems with the principles of grounded theory. It aims to develop theories that are both grounded in Indigenous realities and sensitive to the unique contexts and experiences of Indigenous peoples.

Finally, while every effort was made to ensure regional and demographic diversity, certain groups—including organizations and individuals representing and/or understanding Indigenous peoples, youth, and racialized newcomers—could be more engaged. Engagement with these communities is ongoing, and their voices will be more fully represented and prioritized in Phase 2 through targeted outreach and culturally appropriate engagement strategies.



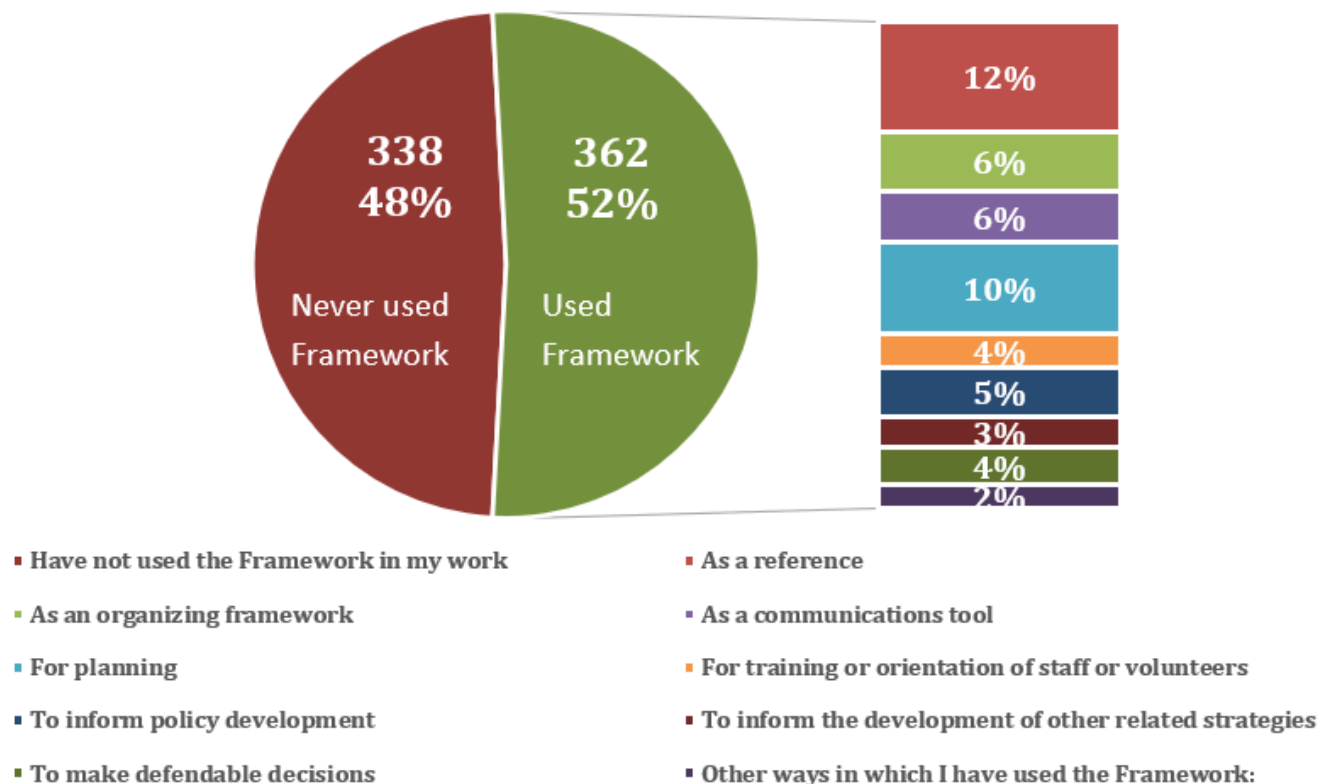
3.0 What We Heard: Emerging Themes

The renewal process surfaced a clear desire for the Framework to evolve from a high-level vision into a practical, actionable, and adaptive tool. While the engagement process brought together over 2,500 voices, the Rapid Literature Review further grounded those insights in evidence, trends, and global best practices. Together, these sources reveal a sector that is ready for transformation, and seeking the structure, support, and shared agenda to make it happen.

The survey data revealed a mixed picture. While many respondents valued the Framework’s high-level guidance, they struggled to apply it in their work. A significant proportion of participants had limited awareness of the Framework citing its static format and the lack of ongoing dissemination, promotion, and implementation supports as key barriers.

These findings were reinforced by the data generated through the Phase 1 national survey as shown in Figure 3. below:

of Respondents: 700



- 48% of respondents reported they had never used the Framework in their work. This percentage of individuals who have never used the Framework increases to 60% among Francophone respondents.
- Among those who had used the Framework, most referenced it sporadically—as a background document or strategic reference, not a day-to-day tool.
- Barriers included lack of training, limited time, and absence of easy-to-use tools or summaries.

“I’ve heard of the Framework, but I’ve never seen it used in any formal way at my workplace.” – Survey respondent (English)

“It’s useful for advocacy, but I don’t have time to pull from it when I’m writing grant proposals or program plans.” – Municipal staff member

This underscores the need for the renewed Framework to be not just a guiding vision, but part of a strategy that includes practical tools that are easy to apply, promote, and update.

1. Make the Framework Practical and Actionable

Participants across the country, both those working at strategic and operational levels, expressed a desire for a Framework that is more action-oriented. They want a resource that can be used in real time, by front-line practitioners, planners, educators, and decision-makers alike. Consultations emphasized the need for plain-language summaries, adaptable templates, real-world case examples, and interactive formats that make the Framework easier to apply in local contexts. This perspective was especially emphasized in the survey as seen in Figure 4 below:

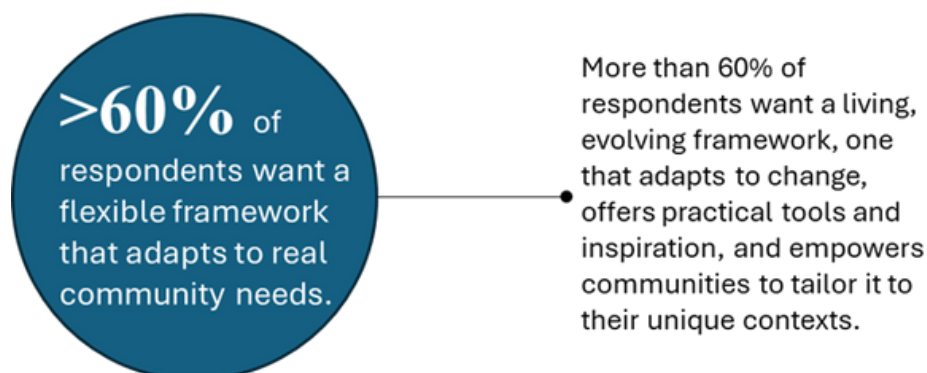


Figure 4: Survey insight on making the Framework Practical and Actionable
(Based on 240 2025 Recreation Framework Long Surveys; English and French)

2. Establish Shared National Measurements

Participants consistently expressed challenges in demonstrating the impact of parks and recreation services without a set of shared indicators and associated tools. They called for the development of a national dashboard, standardized measurement frameworks, and consistent language to support funding applications, policy decisions, and program evaluations.

At the same time, participants emphasized that data collection must be realistic and manageable for those contributing to it, particularly in resource-constrained settings. To support adoption, any shared measurement system will also require a user-friendly online platform that simplifies access, input, and reporting.

"We need a simple, manageable set of indicators that municipalities can report on. Shared measurement would allow for national progress tracking."
– Key Informant

"We need national indicators and dashboards to align our efforts and reporting." – Focus Group Participant

"There's tons of impact from recreation—but without shared metrics, we're always trying to reinvent the wheel." – Focus Group Participant

"Measuring what happens if facilities close is as important as showing what happens when they thrive." – Focus Group Participant

"Create a measurement tool to compare across jurisdictions and help us learn from each other." – Survey Respondent (English)

The literature review affirmed that shared measurement is foundational to systems change. Effective tracking enables communities to quantify recreation's impact, align with policy priorities, and guide strategic investments. Key recommendations include developing simple, outcome-based indicators, national dashboards, and cross-sector data alignment, especially with health and education. Participants also highlighted that data must be usable, not burdensome, suggesting tools that are both technically robust and easy to adopt across jurisdictions.

This direction closely aligns with the Common Vision for Increasing Physical Activity and Reducing Sedentary Living in Canada: Let's Get Moving, which emphasizes the need for consistent monitoring and evaluation systems to support active living policies and programs. The renewed Framework has the opportunity to build shared language and metrics that enable coordination between public health and recreation sectors, reduce duplication, and strengthen national reporting. The development of this shared measurement approach would be reflective of the Framework, and developed collaboratively with the sector.

3. Strengthen Multi-Sector Collaboration

A recurring insight from consultations was that recreation cannot, and should not, do it alone. The majority of survey participants urged the sector to work more deliberately across boundaries with education, health, housing, climate, justice, and community safety among others (see Figure 5). Tools like shared-use agreements, co-delivery models, and cross-sector logic models were specifically requested.

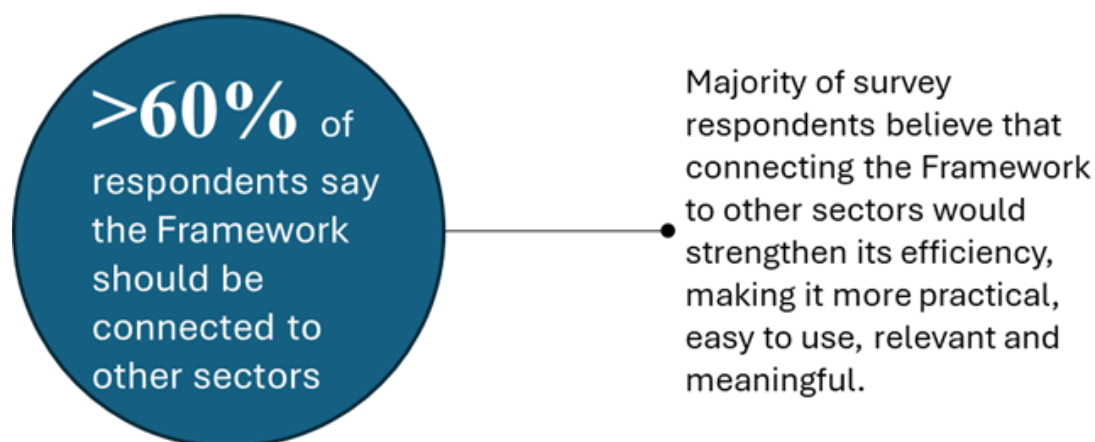


Figure 5: Survey Insight on strengthening multi-sector collaboration (Based on 240 2025 Recreation Framework Long Surveys; English and French)

"Recreation is becoming the space that fills gaps from other systems like schools and hospitals." – Key Informant

"We're now warming and cooling centres. Climate change has made rec infrastructure essential for survival." – Focus Group Participant

"We need intersectoral collaboration—recreation is part of the solution in poverty, mental health, and climate adaptation conversations." – Key Informant

"Guiding the collaborative efforts of recreation providers and organizations across Canada." – Survey Respondent (English)

"Take into account the diversity of users and the offers at the level of municipalities, boroughs, etc." – Survey Respondent (French)

The literature and consultations reinforce a central idea: recreation is more than a standalone sector, it is the social connective tissue that binds together health, education, housing, climate action, and community development. Participants described recreation as the connecting tissue that holds other systems together, often stepping in where other services fall short. To formalize these relationships, the renewed Framework must promote shared governance models, joint-service agreements, and cross-sector performance indicators. This could entail such things as the contribution of other sectors to the co-design of the renewed Framework, and the endorsement of the new Framework by leading national organizations from other sectors.

4. Position Recreation as a Vital Public Service

Throughout the consultations, participants shared a common sentiment: recreation is vital, but too often treated as an optional "soft service". Participants called for the renewed Framework to position recreation as a core public service at the local, provincial, territorial and national levels, on par with emergency preparedness, community safety, affordable housing, addressing climate change, homelessness, and infrastructure.

“Recreation must be positioned as essential infrastructure—like roads or schools—not just a nice-to-have program.” – Key Informant

“We’re expected to run rec like a business... but it’s a human right, not a for-profit service.” – Focus Group Participant

“Help people understand that recreation is an essential service just like education or health.” – Survey Respondent (French)

“When emergency strikes, our arenas and pools become response centers. We’re critical infrastructure now.” – Focus Group Participant

“Support advocacy for resources, particularly positioning recreation as essential, not optional.” – Survey Respondent (English)

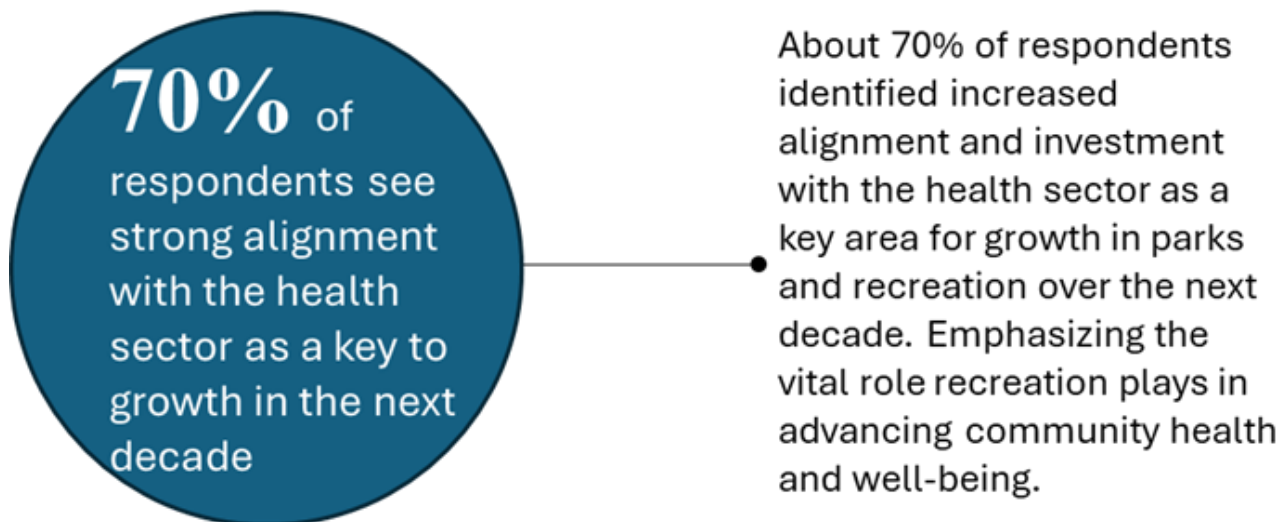


Figure 6: Survey Insight on positioning Recreation as a vital Public Service (Based on 240 2025 Recreation Framework Long Surveys; English and French)

5. Address Equity, Belonging, and Accessibility

Equity was a throughline in every consultation method. Participants pointed to persistent barriers related to affordability, cultural safety, geographic access, and the inclusivity of staffing, design, and communication. They were clear: equity must be built in, not built on (see Figure 7). The survey results showed nuances among different demographics about their desires for recreation and parks. The majority of younger individuals prefer unstructured activities and programs while the older population seeks more structured programs. These differences need to be built in.

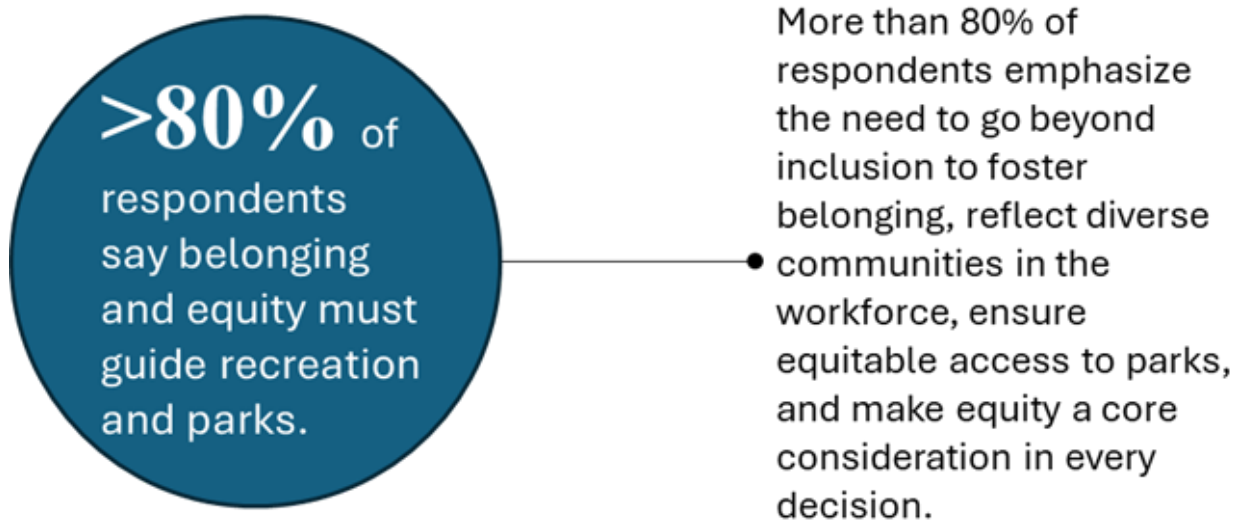


Figure 7: Survey Insight on addressing equity, belonging, and accessibility (Based on 747 2025 Recreation Framework Long and Short Surveys; English and French)

"The recreation workforce isn't reflective of our communities. If we want equity, we need to tool up staff and diversify who's in the room." – Key Informant

"Private sport academies are taking over public space—what about kids who just want to play without paying?" – Focus Group Participant

"We need inclusive recreation marketing, diverse staffing, and spaces that feel safe—our community is changing, and our programming must catch up." – Key Informant

"There's no public transit in most rural towns—access is a massive issue nobody is solving." – Focus Group Participant

"Working toward reconciliation and decolonizing recreation services to ensure inclusion and access." – Survey Respondent (English)

"Accessibility, multidisciplinary, physical literacy, mental and physiological health." – Survey Respondent (French)

These equity issues are reflected in national data. CFLRI findings from 2024 Leger reveal that only 34% of women and 44% of men consider recreation affordable, and fewer than two-thirds report feeling welcome in recreation environments. These statistics point to a widespread experience of exclusion and underscore the need for a Framework that embeds equity from design through implementation.

The literature review deepened this picture, highlighting systemic barriers and calling for EDI integration, reconciliation, and decolonization in both policy and practice. The Indigenous Sports and Recreation Programs and Partnerships in Canada elaborates on the importance of recreation in reconciliation citing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action (87–91). The Rapid Literature Review for Recreation also called attention to the need for inclusive pricing models, support for racialized and underserved communities, and attention to both visible and invisible disabilities. The Framework must embed equity throughout—from design to measurement to accountability.

6. Create a Framework that is Adaptive and Flexible

Participants want a Framework that can adapt to change—social, environmental, and technological. They asked for a “living document” model, with built-in opportunities for iteration, feedback, and integration of emerging trends like digital wellness, climate adaptation and mitigation, and adaptation based on emerging data. In the survey, when asked about their priorities for programming in the recreation and parks sector, most respondents emphasized the need for accessible and affordable programs (see Figure 8). This provokes a sense of urgency in ensuring the programs reflect the people’s evolving needs and desires.

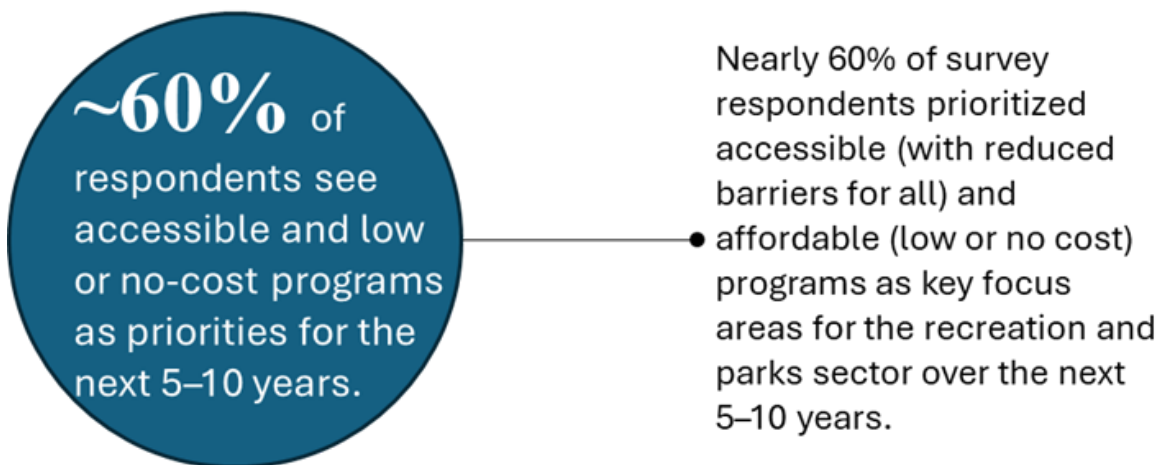


Figure 8: Survey Insight on showing the need to future-proof the Framework (Based on 747 2025 Recreation Framework Long and Short Surveys; English and French)

Importantly, participants stressed the need to think carefully not only about programs, but also physical spaces, particularly land, parks, trails and other natural environment, which are increasingly recognized as essential infrastructure for mental well-being, climate resilience, and social connection. Many advocated for policies and funding approaches that reflect the evolving role of green spaces as dynamic, inclusive, and ecologically resilient assets at the heart of community life.

“Let’s be bold. This should push us to address the challenges of the future, not just reflect today.” – Focus Group Participant

“Ensure the Framework is adaptable and reflects future trends and challenges.” – Survey Respondent (English)

“Shift the focus from fixing problems to growing good lives. Communities should determine what thriving looks like for them.” – Key Informant

“We need a living Framework, not just another thing sitting on a shelf.” – Key Informant

Participants called for a Framework that is not only responsive to change but designed to anticipate it. The literature emphasized the sector’s growing exposure to climate disruption, digital transformation, and shifting population needs. Emerging models like SMART parks[1], rewilding, placemaking, and digital service delivery require updated tools and funding models. To remain relevant, the renewed Framework must be iterative, tech-enabled, and responsive to emerging data, equipped with feedback loops, scheduled updates, and inclusive foresight mechanisms.

7. Cross-Cutting Issues

Beyond these six core themes, several cross-cutting issues emerged with striking consistency across all engagement methods and within the Rapid Review:

Mental wellness: Recreation is increasingly seen as frontline support for mental health and social connections. These functions require skills that typical recreation volunteers and staff do not possess. For example, showers in recreation centers and outdoor public washrooms are often accessed by the unhoused population in need of these amenities. At times, they present challenges related to mental illnesses and addictions that on-site volunteers and staff are ill-equipped to deal with.

“We’re seeing more people come to rec spaces for emotional support than for sport or fitness.” – Focus Group Participant

“Staff need training to support mental wellness—it’s not enough to just open the doors anymore.” – Focus Group Participant

These findings are echoed by the Rapid Literature Review where it highlights the vital role recreation plays in the journey to meet the ever-increasing need for mental wellness initiatives and programs in the health and wellness sector.

Climate action: The sector is both impacted by climate changes and essential to climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. Specific climate-related issues vary depending on location,, but all areas are impacted by issues such as air quality related to fires; degradation of recreation infrastructure such as pools and outdoor rinks due to changing climate ; challenges to programming outdoors such as on natural ice surfaces and at ski centers impacted by climate change; the increased focus on tree canopies as heat sinks to provide relief during heat waves, etc.

“Our ice rink foundation is sinking—we’re not climate resilient and it’s already costing us.” – Focus Group Participant

“Recreation is on the frontlines of heat waves and floods—we need to prepare for this reality now.” – Focus Group Participant

Workforce development: From recruitment to training to burnout, the sector faces significant challenges related to workforce development and retention. This impacts on volunteers as well as staff, as the volunteer sector, especially since the pandemic, has experienced significant changes and a general decline in numbers. To help prepare emerging leaders, the consultations revealed that the academic and training communities need to be a key audience for the renewed Framework to inform curriculum development for emerging leaders as well as to inform the research agenda for the sector.

It was also identified through the consultations that the field of recreation is not seen as a career by secondary school graduates, but rather as temporary or part-time (e.g., camp counsellors, lifeguards) while pursuing other career directions.

“We need to rethink the role of rec leaders—we’re doing wellness checks now, managing encampments.” – Focus Group Participant

“If we want future leaders to care, we need teaching tools and pathways into this work.” – Focus Group Participant

Participants flagged increasingly unsustainable working conditions as a major risk to the sector’s future. Many roles demand round-the-clock accessibility, high emotional labour, and under-resourced mandates, leading to burnout and mental illness. One participant noted that “top positions are expected to carry their phones 24/7,” contributing to staff attrition. The Framework must acknowledge the emotional, physical, and systemic toll on staff, and include clear recommendations for workforce well-being, capacity-building, and workload equity.

Access to quality spaces: Safe, welcoming places where people feel they belong, indoors and outdoors, are increasingly out of reach for many. The consultations emphasized the importance of public spaces, especially on the land, trails, and in parks—as inclusive, accessible, and culturally resonant places. Rising land and building costs, increased privatization of programs and services, and a lack of appropriate gathering spaces were all flagged as barriers to equity and connection. Respondents called for intentional and universal design that supports both structured and unstructured use, with attention to intergenerational and Indigenous uses of land.

In many Indigenous and rural contexts, access to land, not necessarily managed or municipalized as ‘parks’, is fundamental to recreation and wellness. These spaces include traditional territories, traplines, and foraging routes that are culturally significant but often invisible in mainstream planning.

“We need to rethink the role of rec leaders—we’re doing wellness checks now, managing encampments.” – Focus Group Participant

“If we want future leaders to care, we need teaching tools and pathways into this work.” – Focus Group Participant

Privatization and affordability: Concerns about growing commercialization and associated financial exclusion were raised frequently, especially related to youth and recreational/community sport. It was noted through the consultations that year-round training facilities for one sport (e.g., hockey, soccer) are much more in demand and that patrons are expecting amenities that often exceed the capabilities of the community recreation provider. Many consultation conversations described the pros and cons of working with the private sector in many different roles from sponsorship to facility ownership and programming.

Private sport academies are taking over public space—what about kids who just want to play without paying?” – Focus Group Participant

“Who are we building these facilities for—big events or the people who can’t afford them?” – Focus Group Participant

The literature review reinforced the urgency of these issues, noting recreation’s relevance to spiritual wellbeing, homelessness, biodiversity, and urban resilience. These themes cut across every dimension of the Framework, and must be reflected in its structure, tools, and implementation supports.

Social prescribing: Recreation is a key part of the healthcare continuum, requiring intentional partnerships and a readiness to support the health promotion agenda. This is now seen as a best practice and there are projects across Canada, and beyond, that should be shared as part of the supportive features surrounding the renewed Framework. This should also serve as a means of illustrating the significant impact of the parks and recreation sector on community and individual wellbeing.

“Doctors are now referring people to programs in our rec center—we’ve become part of the care team.” – Focus Group Participant

“If we get social prescribing right, we could prevent a whole range of chronic conditions and improve lives.” – Focus Group Participant

4.0 Population Data Trends

During the consultation, we ran a number of exercises that captured insights about the recreation and parks sector across different population groups. To support this, we also leveraged population data from the **Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute (CFLRI)** and **Guelph Wellington Local Immigration Partnership (GWLIP)**, which gave us a national and local perspective on how Canadians perceive recreation and physical activity.

The data reveals strong public demand for increased investment, inclusive access, and a deeper integration of recreation and parks into daily life to promote mental and physical wellbeing and build community. These insights affirm the central theme emerging from the consultations: recreation is both valued and under-leveraged. The data also provides a credible foundation to justify the Framework's renewal efforts, especially in positioning recreation as a vital public service. Some key insights into the population data are as follows:



💡 **63% of women and 59% of men** believe **federal/provincial governments** should increase **investment** in recreation and sport infrastructure. (CFLRI SHEE Survey)

→ *Aligns with calls for long-term, systems-level funding in the renewed Framework.*

💡 Only **34% of women and 44% of men** see recreation as **affordable**. (2024 Leger/CFLRI)

→ *Confirms the urgency of addressing cost barriers and equity-informed pricing models.*

💡 Just **58% of women and 64% of men** find sport and recreation environments **welcoming and inclusive**. (2024 Leger/CFLRI)

→ *Underscores the need for design practices and staff training that foster belonging.*

💡 **62% of women and 57% of men** say **municipal governments** should do more to support these [recreation and parks] spaces. (CFLRI SHEE Survey)

→ *Supports tools and templates for local government engagement and policy alignment.*

💡 **33% of racialized Canadians** reported **discrimination in public spaces including parks and recreation settings**. (National Environics Survey - GWLIP)

→ *Highlights the need for inclusive design and cultural competency in recreation environments.*

By embedding these findings into the strategic architecture of the renewed Framework, practitioners and policymakers gain credible evidence that is rooted in national population data. This evidence can be used to set clear priorities, strengthen the case for sustained public investment, and foster meaningful cross sector collaboration. The results show a public appetite for more inclusive and affordable recreation services, confirm persistent barriers related to cost and belonging, and highlight urgent expectations for municipalities and provinces to do more.

These insights also align with the consultation survey, in which respondents identified priority populations for the next five to ten years. They placed particular emphasis on older adults who face rising health and mobility challenges, and on children whose early experiences shape lifelong wellbeing. Taken together, the population data and survey feedback reinforce the need for shared measurement tools, a unified agenda, and coordinated action that can close equity gaps and unlock the full potential of recreation as vital community infrastructure.

5.0 Integration of the Literature Review

A holistic approach to the renewal of the Recreation Framework required us to capture perspectives from a wide range of population groups across Canada. To this end, we analyzed and synthesized two key literature reviews. Each source provided critical insights that validate and expand the findings from the national consultations. When combined, they outline a robust case for a renewed, inclusive, and responsive Framework that is aligned with community realities, emergent evidence, and policy imperatives.

1. Rapid Review for the National Framework for Recreation in Canada (2025)

This comprehensive review of English-language sources, grounded in academic and grey literature since 2015, identified six themes relevant to the renewal of the Framework:

a. Community Health and Wellbeing

The literature affirms that recreation is a multidimensional contributor to public health. In addition to physical activity, recreation spaces improve mental health, foster social connectedness, and support spiritual and holistic wellness. The evidence shows strong links between recreation and:

- Reducing sedentary lifestyles, which is critical, especially given that over 50 percent of Canadian adults do not meet recommended physical activity guidelines, according to the CFLRI and CPRA report “The Price of Inactivity: Measuring the Powerful Impact of Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation in Canada.”
- Improved mental health through nature-based and social activities
- Addressing the loneliness epidemic, with parks and recreation serving as “third places”, neutral, welcoming spaces outside of home and work where people can connect informally and build a sense of belonging.
- Spiritual rejuvenation through contemplative, land-based experiences

These findings directly support what we heard from participants who said that recreation is and should be positioned as a vital public service. Recreation should be thought of as an essential community health infrastructure and should be funded and supported accordingly.

b. Equity and Social Responsibility

This theme highlights barriers to participation experienced by marginalized populations, including racialized groups, newcomers, residents living in poverty, and people with disabilities. The situation today is very different than it was in 2015. Many of these systemic issues and elements were not addressed in the original Framework. Key recommendations include:

- Embed equity in policy and program design as a foundational principle
- Redesign systems to maximize including and belonging
- Use recreation to advance social justice, community development, and crime prevention

These themes directly support the consultation theme Address Equity, Belonging, and Accessibility, while extending its implications to policy accountability.

c. Operational Excellence and Safety

The literature calls for modernized infrastructure, better-trained staff, and updated safety standards. The renewed Framework must address aging assets, operational stress, and workforce burnout.

d. Resilience and Sustainability

Climate change, extreme weather, and emergencies are increasingly impacting the sector. The Framework should integrate climate resilience, sustainability goals, and green infrastructure which aligns with the theme of creating a Framework that is adaptive and flexible.

e. Social Infrastructure

Parks and recreation spaces are vital for fostering belonging, cohesion, and democratic participation, underscoring the importance of place-making and social architecture.

f. Economic and Tourism Impact

The recreation sector drives local economies, creates jobs, and boosts tourism—particularly through events, sport, and green economy initiatives. To maximise these benefits, they must be equitably shared and grounded in local context.

In summary, this literature review supports a Framework that is:

- Holistic in defining recreation's value
- Equity-focused and system-aware
- Adaptive to climate, demographic, and technological shifts
- Empowering for local communities and practitioners

2. Indigenous Sports and Recreation Programs and Partnerships across Canada (The National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health. 2021)

This review centres Indigenous voices and lived experiences within the recreation landscape, identifying barriers, best practices, and policy gaps across First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities.

a. Reconciliation Through Recreation

The report positions recreation as a powerful tool for reconciliation. It aligns with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action (87–91), calling for:

- Stable, culturally appropriate funding for Indigenous youth sports
- Inclusion of traditional games, land-based practices, and Indigenous knowledge systems
- Co-governance of recreation with Indigenous communities

These insights expand the consultation call to Address Equity, Belonging, and Accessibility by embedding reconciliation not just in language but in funding, leadership, and land stewardship.

b. Holistic Health and Youth Leadership

Indigenous conceptions of health are holistic, spanning physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. Recreation must honour this worldview by:

- Integrating cultural teachings into program design
- Using recreation as a tool to identity affirmation and resilience
- Supporting youth as leaders, not just participants

c. Structural Barriers and Access Gaps

The literature highlights critical issues such as:

- Inadequate or unsafe infrastructure on-reserve and in remote communities
- Limited access to culturally safe spaces
- Impact of intergenerational trauma and systemic racism in recreation policy and staffing

To meaningfully include Indigenous Peoples, the Framework must challenge and transform these structures.

d. Partnerships and Leadership

The report concludes that Indigenous-led organizations (e.g., Aboriginal Sport Circle, ISPARC) are important in Canada's recreation ecosystem and that partnerships must move beyond consultation and engagement to shared leadership, co-design, and equitable resourcing.

The literature suggests that reconciliation should be operationalized within recreation systems, not as a supplementary goal, but as central to the program design. c.

The literature reviews validate consultation findings and elevate expectations for the renewed Framework, emphasizing that partnerships with Indigenous communities must move beyond token engagement toward shared leadership, long-term investment, and co-governance rooted in trust, respect, and Indigenous sovereignty. The Rapid Review confirms that recreation should be recognized as a multidimensional contributor to health, equity, community resilience, and the economy. It calls for an expanded understanding of recreation as not just physical activity, but a means of supporting mental wellness, social cohesion, spiritual restoration, and climate adaptation. This positions the renewed Framework as an opportunity to develop holistic, systems-aligned strategies that reflect the actual value of the recreation and parks sector.








The Indigenous Sports and Recreation Programs and Partnerships review underscores that reconciliation should not be an add-on, rather it must be a core design principle. The review highlights the need for stable, culturally grounded funding, support for land-based and traditional practices, and shared leadership models with Indigenous communities. It challenges the sector to redefine access, equity, and inclusion through an Indigenous lens, while recognizing the role of recreation in cultural continuity, youth leadership, and healing from intergenerational trauma.

Together, these reviews suggest the renewed Framework should:

- Not be static policy, but rather a living, responsive strategy.
- Embed equity and reconciliation as core principles, not as symbolic afterthoughts.
- Equip communities with evidence-based tools and shared measurement systems; and
- Foster co-governance and co-design models reflect lived realities and redistribute power and responsibility.

If integrated, these insights can ensure the Framework is nationally significant in its ability to drive system-level transformation through recreation.

The following table identifies how the elements of the Rapid Literature Review connect with the Consultation findings.

Theme	Consultation Findings	Literature Review Findings
Make the Framework Practical and Actionable 	Participants want tools like plain-language summaries, templates, case studies, and interactive formats. Framework must support real-time planning and decision-making.	Need for inclusive, accessible indoor and outdoor infrastructure. Holistic design principles (universal design, biophilic design). Digital tools support usability.
Establish Shared National Measurements 	Participants desire shared metrics and dashboards to demonstrate sector-wide impact, support advocacy, and guide investments.	Strong alignment with equity-centred, outcome-based evaluation and shared indicators (e.g., CFLRI, Measuring Impact). Data gaps remain.
Strengthen Multi-Sector Collaboration 	Emphasis on formal partnerships with sectors like health, education, climate, and social services. Demand for co-delivery models and shared-use agreements.	Recreation supports community resilience through placemaking, partnerships, and intersectoral work. Emphasis on social infrastructure, collective governance, and equity.
Position Recreation as a Vital Public Service 	Desire for recreation to be framed as vital infrastructure tied to public health, climate resilience, and inclusion. 'Recreation is a right, not a privilege' resonated widely.	Recreation is linked to reduced healthcare costs, improved public health, and social cohesion. Contributions to SDGs, particularly health and sustainable cities.
Address Equity, Belonging, and Accessibility 	Equity must be embedded from design through addressing affordability, cultural safety, transportation, and disability access. Not an add-on.	Evidence of systemic barriers in recreation policy and practice. Call for EDI integration, reconciliation, inclusive policy and pricing models, and decolonization.
Create a Framework that is Adaptive and Flexible 	Participants want a dynamic, living Framework that evolves with trends and feedback. Emphasis on workforce development, aging infrastructure (both indoors and outdoors), youth leadership, tech, and climate preparedness.	Climate disruption, digital transformation, demographic change, and social isolation all call for adaptive planning. Trends in smart parks, rewilding, pop-ups, placemaking.
Cross-Cutting Issues 	Mental wellness, climate adaptation, social prescribing, workforce development, and infrastructure pressures are urgent priorities cutting across all consultations.	Recreations impact spans social connection, climate action, equity, health. Themes include mental wellness, biodiversity, spiritual wellbeing, workforce, and homelessness.

6.0 Strategic Alignment

The recreation and parks sector is not isolated. It is foundational, a key contributor to Canada's economy, public health, equity and belonging, reconciliation, social justice, education, and climate mitigation and resilience goals. Participants consistently emphasized the need for the renewed Framework to be aligned with major national and global strategies that position recreation as both a vital public service and a catalyst for systemic change. The renewal of the Framework offers an opportunity to drive alignment nationally and amplify recreation's role in broader societal goals.

Each of the following strategies offers both a rationale and a roadmap for embedding recreation more fully into Canada's broader social, health, and environmental fabric.

1. Canadian Sport Policy

The anticipated renewed [Canadian Sport Policy \(version 3.0\)](#) emphasizes access, inclusion, capacity-building, and the pursuit of excellence. Many of these themes are echoed in the needs for the renewed Recreation Framework, particularly the call for coordinated sector roles, measurement systems, and equitable participation.

Consultation participants emphasized that stronger alignment between the recreation and sport systems could help reinforce the full continuum of participation—from grassroots engagement to high-performance development. Greater collaboration would also enable both sectors to share tools, training resources, and access to community infrastructure. Concepts such as shared-use agreements, inclusive sport pathways, and cross-sector partnerships were identified as key strategies to support more unified and efficient delivery, while enhancing the overall public value of both recreation and sport.

The consultations, which included a dedicated focus group comprised of leaders in community sport, surfaced several challenges, particularly at the local level. A key concern raised during consultations was the prevalence of policies at various levels of government that are unsupported by funding or enforcement mechanisms, limiting their practical impact. For example, the Pan-Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines developed by the Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology, while widely promoted as a national standard, have not been accompanied by coordinated funding or policy levers to support their implementation within community recreation, education, or healthcare systems. The renewed Framework presents an opportunity to address these gaps by promoting stronger policy alignment, resource commitments, and accountability across jurisdictions.

The Canadian Sport Policy 3.0, still in development, is expected to strengthen the sport-recreation nexus by reinforcing inclusion, safety, and social impact alongside excellence. This reinforces the role of the renewed Framework in supporting lifelong participation and community-based recreation as essential elements of the broader sport ecosystem.

2. Common Vision for Increasing Physical Activity and Reducing Sedentary Living in Canada

The Common Vision for Increasing Physical Activity and Reducing Sedentary Living in Canada, an FPT collaboration, offers a whole-of-society approach to promoting movement through supportive environments, policy, and practice.

Most respondents were not aware of the Common Vision, and those that were aware, were not clear on how to integrate it into their recreation and parks planning efforts. For those that were aware, they saw strong alignment between the Framework and the Common Vision's five areas of focus, particularly as they relate to leadership and coordination, communication, spaces and places, training and capacity, and evidence-informed decision-making. They emphasized that aligning language and metrics across both initiatives would support stronger partnerships between public health and recreation and avoid fragmentation in planning and evaluation efforts.

The renewed Framework reinforces the Common Vision's focus on built environments, workforce development, and coordinated public messaging. The Framework is well positioned to help bridge recreation with public health through co-developed metrics, shared infrastructure goals, and integrated planning efforts that prioritize active living and equity.

3. Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action

Indigenous reconciliation emerged across consultations as both a moral and operational imperative. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, particularly those related to sport and recreation underscore the need for respectful engagement, co-development, and culturally grounded programming.

Participants called for the Framework to support Indigenous-led planning, Indigenous sport and recreation leadership, and recognition of land-based practices and traditional knowledge. Embedding these principles throughout the Framework will not only strengthen Indigenous inclusion but support broader commitments to equity, belonging, and cultural safety.

The renewed Framework acknowledges that Indigenous sovereignty, cultural continuity, and land stewardship must be central to how recreation systems are shaped, funded, and governed. This is aligned with national calls for reconciliation and international commitments such as United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

4. National Strategy for Indigenous Sport, Recreation, Physical Activity and Traditional Practices Strategy

The National Strategy for Indigenous Sport, Recreation, Physical Activity and Traditional Practices was flagged by participants as a critical document with which the renewed Framework should align. Participants emphasized that Indigenous-led visions, goals, and measurements should not be treated as peripheral to the Framework, but as essential and integrated components. Alignment with this emerging strategy, alongside partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations, will be vital for ensuring the Framework reflects the diverse realities and strengths of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities across Canada.

The anticipated Strategy is expected to promote culturally safe, intergenerational, land-based, and holistic approaches to physical activity. The renewed Framework must be responsive to these principles, creating room for co-design, localized delivery, and integration of Indigenous knowledge systems at all levels of recreation planning and practice.

5. United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Framework is also well-positioned to advance Canada's commitments under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in the areas of:

- Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being
- Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities
- Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Goal 13: Climate Action

The literature review highlights recreation’s direct contributions to these global priorities—through community health promotion, inclusive design, environmental stewardship, and social connection.

Public parks and green spaces in particular contribute to Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) by providing accessible, inclusive environments for physical activity, rest, and social interaction.

As climate resilience and urban sustainability become more urgent, the renewed Framework should recognize parks as critical civic infrastructure—helping to mitigate heat, reduce air pollution, support biodiversity, and promote social cohesion, especially in underserved communities. This alignment also positions recreation as a key enabler of Canada's global agenda, reinforcing its role in advancing sustainable development and supporting marginalized communities through systems-level planning and investment.

6. The WHO Age-Friendly Cities Framework

To further strengthen the Framework’s global alignment, recreation’s role should be clearly positioned within the principles of the WHO Age-friendly Cities Framework. This framework identifies eight interconnected domains essential for creating communities that support healthy and active aging. These domains have direct relevance to recreation and offer a lens through which the renewed Framework can better serve Canada’s aging population.

The eight WHO Age-friendly Cities domains are:

1. Outdoor spaces and buildings
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Social participation
5. Respect and social inclusion
6. Civic participation and employment
7. Communication and information
8. Community support and health services

Recreation is uniquely positioned to support many of these domains, particularly through its contributions to outdoor spaces, transportation access, social and civic participation, inclusion, and health promotion. Age-friendly recreation environments include accessible parks, trails, and facilities, as well as programs that foster connection, creativity, intergenerational exchange, and a sense of purpose.

Recreation also empowers older adults to maintain independence and autonomy through meaningful engagement, volunteerism, and personal choice in programming. Aligning the renewed Framework with the WHO Age-friendly Cities Framework reinforces the sector's role in advancing equity, belonging, health, and inclusion for all generations—particularly as Canada's population ages.

7. Parks for All: An Action Plan for Canada's Parks Community

The direction of the renewed Framework is strategically aligned with the priorities outlined in Parks for All, a joint initiative of the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association and the Canadian Parks Council. This plan advances a vision of healthy Nature and healthy people, supported by four strategic directions: Collaborate, Connect, Conserve, and Lead. These themes are echoed throughout the renewed Framework's emphasis on equity, collective impact, Indigenous inclusion, and sustainability.

The Parks for All strategy emphasizes the importance of cross-sector collaboration, the integration of Indigenous leadership and knowledge systems, and the need for park spaces to support well-being, biodiversity, and climate resilience. It calls for co-developed solutions that honour diverse relationships to land, the expansion of urban and community park systems, and the use of parks as platforms for reconciliation and innovation.

By reinforcing parks as critical infrastructure in community life, not only for recreation but for public health, ecological stewardship, and cultural vitality, the Parks for All vision strengthens the renewed Framework's call for system-wide coordination and local implementation grounded in shared goals. Together, they represent a unified national direction for advancing recreation and parks as drivers of equitable and sustainable futures.

8. National Active Transportation Strategy 2021–2036

This first national active transportation (AT) strategy is guided by the ACTIVE/ACTIF framework, which is adaptable to the varied and shifting needs of Canadians, while prioritizing key elements that will be crucial for the Strategy's success: awareness, coordination, targets, investments, value, and experience. These elements are extremely consistent with much of what was shared during the Phase 1 consultations for the Recreation Framework renewal. Also, just as the AT Strategy calls for coordination and collaboration with all orders of government, Indigenous communities, stakeholders and experts throughout the country, so does the renewal of the Recreation Framework, through the lens of a Collective Impact Model. Lastly, the infrastructure to support AT, such as bike lanes, pathways, widened sidewalks, and multi-use trails, is very often within the same environments as recreation services and green spaces.

7.0 Recommended Approach for Phase 2

Summary

The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA), on behalf of the Framework Leadership Team, presents this recommended approach for Phase 2 of the renewal of the Framework for Recreation in Canada—a initiative designed to unify and empower the sector, prepare it for the future, and generate lasting national impact through measurable, collaborative action.

Phase 1 revealed a clear and compelling insight: the recreation and parks sector is prepared to lead and eager to drive collective, system-level change. Over 2,500 voices contributed to a clear mandate—a need for a renewed Framework that is practical, inclusive, future-facing, and grounded in evidence. Sector leaders resoundingly supported a transition to a Collective Impact model, recognizing its potential to address the deep-rooted, systemic challenges communities face today.

It is anticipated that Phase 2 will begin to operationalize this vision. It includes conducting a sector-specific Scoping Review of the Collective Impact model, co-designing a national Common Agenda (which will include a clear and actionable Call to Action), building a bilingual Community of Practice with a central Resource Hub, and launching a national set of shared measurement tools. With CPRA as the backbone organization, Phase 2 would benefit from prioritized trust-based partnerships, regional capacity building, and inclusive engagement.

The work would be framed by two events: The first in November 2025 to start convening the Collective, build consensus, and co-design a shared agenda. The second, a larger, more formal event in Autumn 2026 to launch and endorse the renewed Framework and Collective Impact strategy.

Preliminary discussions with partners have been positive, confirming that the sector is ready to move in this direction.

Now is the moment to act. This is more than a policy refresh—it's an invitation to every sector actor to contribute to a Canada where all communities thrive through recreation and parks.



7.1 Background and Context

Since its launch in 2015, the Framework for Recreation in Canada has served as a foundational guide for policy, investment, and practice across the country. A 2024 update reaffirmed its value but stopped short of the transformation required to meet today's challenges. Through Phase 1 consultations, sector leaders, frontline practitioners, researchers, and cross-sector allies emphasized the need to go beyond principles—to build the infrastructure, tools, and relationships required for meaningful impact.

7.2 Key Findings from Phase 1:

The Framework needs to be practical and accessible, not just visionary.

While participants valued the aspirational goals of the original Framework, they consistently expressed the need for something more actionable. They called for tools, templates, and strategies that can be implemented in day-to-day practice—regardless of community size or resource level. People want to use the Framework, not just read it. It must serve as a functional guide for decision-making, program design, and sector-wide communication, empowering professionals at all levels to turn ideas into impact.

There is a strong desire for system-wide alignment across levels of government and sectors beyond the recreation and parks sector.

Respondents spoke of working in silos—within and across jurisdictions—and the need for greater coherence in funding, policy direction, and strategic planning. They emphasized the opportunity to align the renewed Framework with other critical domains such as public health, climate adaptation, housing, education, and emergency preparedness. A shared vision and common language across systems would reduce duplication, enhance outcomes, and position recreation and parks as an integral partner in solving Canada's most complex challenges.

Equity and cultural responsiveness must be embedded throughout.

Equity cannot be an add-on. It must shape the entire Framework—from its principles and goals to how it is governed, implemented, and evaluated. Participants highlighted the need to explicitly address systemic barriers faced by Indigenous Peoples, racialized communities, people with disabilities, newcomers, youth, and those living in rural or remote areas. A culturally responsive Framework honours different worldviews, acknowledges colonial legacies, and creates space for communities to shape their own pathways toward wellbeing and inclusion.

The sector is ready to embrace Collective Impact as a model for transformation

The consultations revealed a shared appetite for deeper collaboration, stronger coordination, and meaningful shared ownership of sector outcomes. Collective Impact was seen as a bold but realistic model—one that reflects the complexity of the sector's work and provides a structure to harness its collective strength. Participants viewed the shift to Collective Impact not as a top-down directive, but as a natural evolution of the sector's growing maturity, ambition, and commitment to systemic change.

Participants also emphasized the importance of relationships as a foundational element of successful implementation. Trust, co-creation, and long-term collaboration will be central to every phase of the work—from building shared measurement tools to sustaining mutually reinforcing activities.



The renewed Framework must reflect these realities and be grounded in five Guiding Principles:

1. Simplicity and Accessibility

The Framework must be easy to understand, navigate, and apply—regardless of the user's role, background, or location. It should use plain, inclusive language and avoid jargon, while offering practical tools and resources that enable action across the sector. Simplicity does not mean lack of depth; rather, it means clarity of intent and ease of engagement. Accessibility also includes ensuring bilingual delivery and formats that accommodate diverse learning styles and abilities.

2. Evidence-Based and Measurable

Every element of the Framework must be grounded in data, research, and/or lived and living experience. Clear indicators must be developed to track both process and outcomes, ensuring accountability and continuous learning. Measurement must occur at multiple levels—national, provincial/territorial, and local—and reflect both quantitative metrics and qualitative storytelling. The goal is not only to report on impact, but also to inform strategy and demonstrate the sector's contribution to broader societal goals.

3. Inclusive and Culturally Responsive

The Framework must intentionally reflect the diverse realities of people across Canada. This includes addressing the needs, perspectives, and strengths of Indigenous Peoples, racialized communities, newcomers, 2SLGBTQI+ individuals, persons with disabilities, and other groups historically excluded from recreation and parks. Inclusion must go beyond representation to embed equity and cultural responsiveness in design, governance, and delivery. The Framework should serve as a platform for amplifying diverse voices and advancing reconciliation, belonging, and justice

4. Systems-Oriented

The Framework must support cross-sector alignment, role clarity, and collaborative planning across disciplines such as health, education, housing, climate adaptation, emergency response, and infrastructure. It should encourage shared language, mutually reinforcing activities, and policy coherence. Systems thinking will help reduce fragmentation, enable coordinated investments, and maximize the sector's value across mandates. The Framework must also acknowledge the complexity of governance structures across Canada and accommodate regional and jurisdictional differences.

5. Forward-Looking

The Framework must help the sector anticipate and respond to emerging needs. This includes preparing for climate change, embracing digital innovation, responding to demographic shifts, and supporting the development of the next generation of recreation leaders. Being forward-looking means being adaptive and proactive—building a Framework that is not frozen in time but evolves with the realities of a rapidly changing world. It must also support long-term thinking, ensuring decisions made today are resilient and relevant tomorrow.



7.4 Objectives of Phase 2

Phase 2 is about moving from insight to implementation. The aim is to build the collective infrastructure that allows the sector to work in coordinated, measurable ways across jurisdictions and mandates. The objectives outlined below are not sequential; many activities could occur concurrently and inform one another throughout the process. Core Objectives:

1. Continue Consulting

There is a need to deepen and expand engagement with key constituencies who were underrepresented in Phase 1, including Indigenous communities, Francophones, racialized newcomers, youth, and the arts and culture sector as well as further engagement with academic institutions, grassroots organizations, and communities in rural and remote areas. This includes conducting a French-language literature review and incorporating data from recent events, such as the Canadian Inclusive Green Spaces Symposium. These consultations are essential for building trust, validating emerging design elements, and ensuring the renewed Framework reflects Canada's diverse realities.

2. Conduct a Scoping Review of the Collective Impact Model

To ensure the model is appropriately adapted to the recreation and parks sector, we will undertake a detailed Scoping Review would help to ensure the model is appropriately adapted. This would explore how Collective Impact has been applied in other sectors, identify success factors and pitfalls, assess current system readiness, and define the roles, capacities, and conditions needed for effective implementation. It would also help in identifying who should be "in the collective" and what gaps need to be addressed—whether in leadership, data, funding, or community engagement.

3. Co-Design a Common Agenda

A Common Agenda would articulate the shared vision, values, and goals of the sector. It would identify the outcomes we seek to achieve collectively—such as improving mental health, advancing equity, and increasing climate resilience—and provide a clear and compelling Call to Action for every actor in the system. This includes roles for all orders of government, researchers, service providers, and communities themselves. Co-designing the Common Agenda would be a highly participatory process that helps build alignment, ownership, and momentum.

Over 70 percent of survey respondents supported the inclusion of arts and culture in the Framework, reinforcing the broader role recreation plays in fostering expression, identity, and social connection across communities.

4. Develop Shared Measurement Indicators and Tools

The development of a suite of shared measurement tools that connect local action to national outcomes would support accountability and learning. These may include common indicators, a national dashboard, evaluation templates, and storytelling tools. These tools would be user-friendly and scalable, enabling organizations of all sizes to contribute data and insights while learning from others. They would also be aligned with related public policy frameworks to reduce duplication and promote policy coherence.

5. Design and Launch a Community of Practice (CoP)

The Community of Practice would be the social infrastructure that enables ongoing peer learning, innovation, and collaboration. It would consist of a bilingual digital platform that includes curated resources, training, success stories, and thematic sub-groups aligned with the goals of the Common Agenda. A central Resource Hub would support navigation and cross-sector alignment, while partnerships with organizations like the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute, the Canadian Parks Council, and the Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability would expand the reach and depth of the CoP.

6. Formalize Multi-Sector Partnerships

To realize the full value of recreation and parks, relationships could be strengthened with adjacent sectors such as public health, housing, climate resilience, education, and emergency preparedness. Phase 2 would benefit from an increased focus on formalizing these partnerships through memoranda of understanding (MOUs), collaborative planning sessions, and joint initiatives. These partnerships would reinforce the role of recreation and parks as a core contributor to complete communities and broader public policy goals.

7. Establish Governance and Backbone Supports

CPRA would be well-positioned to continue to act as the national backbone organization, coordinating and supporting implementation across the country. Phase 2 would work towards solidifying this role by defining governance structures, confirming staff roles (including at least one FTE dedicated to this initiative), and identifying regional leads or support hubs. Backbone functions would also include knowledge mobilization, crisis preparedness, advocacy, and strategic communications. These supports are essential for maintaining momentum, facilitating alignment, and ensuring that the renewed Framework remains dynamic, inclusive, and impact-driven.



8.0 The Collective Impact Model

The Collective Impact model offers a well-tested approach to address complex social challenges. Its five pillars—Common Agenda, Shared Measurement, Mutually Reinforcing Activities, Continuous Communication, and Backbone Support—map directly onto the needs and opportunities expressed in Phase 1. Participants saw the model not as abstract theory but as an actionable roadmap. CPRA’s readiness to act as backbone—supported by initiatives like the Policy and Research Collective, the Measuring Impact Project, and CPRA Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation Infrastructure database—position CPRA well as the backbone organization, which in turn positions the sector for success.

The model also reinforces a central insight from the CPRA Board who recently met in Saskatoon: relationships are the real infrastructure. From data sharing to policy alignment, and from advocacy to evaluation, success will depend on trust, dialogue, and long-term collaboration. These principles are woven into every element of the recommended approach.



Figure 9: The five pillars of Collect Impact Model (Eastside Pathways)

8.1 Governance and Backbone Functions

As the national backbone organization, CPRA would guide coordination, communication, and continuous improvement. Its responsibilities include:

- Convening and facilitation of key meetings and co-design workshops
- Measurement and evaluation leadership in partnership with the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute and in the context of the Measuring Impact Project
- Research and policy development through the newly formed Policy and Research Collaborative
- Community of Practice and Resource Hub coordination
- Crisis preparedness and emergency response leadership, per CPRA's proposal to the federal government
- Cross-sector and intergovernmental advocacy and education supported by data and sector insights

9.0 Conclusion – A Sector Ready to Deliver

Canada's recreation and parks sector is poised to help lead the next era of social infrastructure—advancing national priorities in health, housing, climate resilience, inclusion, and reconciliation. From coast to coast to coast, communities are calling for practical, people-centred solutions that strengthen wellbeing, foster connection, and build long-term resilience. The renewed Framework—developed and supported through a Collective Impact approach—offers a credible, sector-led path forward.

When fully realized, this approach will enable the sector to:

- Promote mental and physical health through inclusive, accessible spaces and programs
- Support newcomer integration and belonging by fostering participation and shared community identity
- Advance complete communities that integrate recreation and parks into housing, mobility, and urban design
- Enable climate adaptation and emergency response by leveraging local infrastructure and relationships
- Build a more cohesive, connected, and resilient Canada by aligning diverse efforts behind a common agenda
- Address the deficit for indoor and outdoor recreation and parks infrastructure

While this recommended approach provides a strong starting point, we acknowledge that important elements—including specific partnerships, scope, and level of effort—will evolve as we move into Phase 2. There are still unknowns to be worked through, and our ability to adapt will be key to success. We look forward to working closely with SPARC as a trusted partner throughout this next phase—co-creating solutions, sharing learnings, and ensuring alignment with broader public sector priorities.

The return on investment is significant. With clear direction, collaborative leadership, and sustained support, the sector is ready to turn shared vision into measurable impact.

The time is now. Let's move forward—together.

APPENDICES

A. Framework Leadership Team

This work would not have been possible without the dedication, insight, and generosity of the Framework Leadership Team (FLT). As thought leaders, FLT members guided every step of this renewal process—from shaping the consultation design to interpreting findings and identifying what comes next. Their leadership helped ensure that this work is grounded in the realities of the sector and reflective of the aspirations of communities across Canada.

Christine Cameron, Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute
Howie Dayton, (former) City of Toronto (CPRA Past President)
Mariele Depeuter, Government of Nunavut / PARC | Co-Chair
Chris Gallant, Recreation New Brunswick
Debra Gassewitz, Sport Information Resource Centre (SIRC)
Troy Glover, University of Waterloo
Robert Hanna, Government of Saskatchewan
Cheryl Henhawk, Six Nations of the Grand River
Marc-Andre Lavigne, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
Tara Leech, Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
Erica McDonald, City of Vancouver
Graham Mounsey, Recreation Nova Scotia
Doug Nutting, Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability (ALACD)
Mariane Parent, Recreation Acces Participation (RAP)
Aaron Robinson, Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut (RPAN)
Benjamin Robinson, Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (Observer)
Martin Sampson, Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) | Co-Chair
Joanne Schroeder, Vancouver Island University (VIU)
Caroline Sparks, Recreation North / Recreation & Parks Association of the Yukon (RPAY)
Marie-Christine Thibault, Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (Observer)

B. 2015 Framework Summary

Part II

A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015

Vision

Everyone engaged in meaningful, accessible recreation experiences, that foster:

Individual Wellbeing	Wellbeing of Natural & Built Environments	Community Wellbeing
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Values

Public Good	Inclusion & Equity	Sustainability	Lifelong Participation
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Principles of Operation

Outcome-Driven	Quality & Relevance	Evidence-Based	Partnerships	Innovation
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Goals



C. Consultation Plan and Tools

Consultation Plan

Long Form Survey – English

Short Form Survey – English

Long Form Survey – French

Short Form Survey – French

Sample Discussion Guide for Focus Groups

French Consultation Plan:

- **French-Language Consultation with Key Organizations:** CPRA organized a dedicated French-language consultation session in partnership with the Association québécoise du loisir municipal (AQLP), engaging key organizations across Quebec's recreation and parks sector.
- **Dissemination of Consultation Results:** The findings from the Quebec consultation were compiled and shared back with participants to ensure transparency, foster dialogue, and validate insights gathered from the session.
- **Promotion of the Online Survey:** The Framework renewal survey was widely promoted through CPRA's newsletters and social media platforms, with tailored messaging to ensure broad participation from Francophone communities.
- **Representation at RDV du loisir rural Conference:** CPRA presented updates and findings from the Framework renewal process at the RDV du loisir rural conference to further engage rural and Francophone stakeholders and strengthen regional awareness of the initiative.

D. Key informants

Name & Role	Affiliation / Focus of Conversation
Steve Allan (Executive Director)	Alberta Recreation & Parks Association <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collective Impact insights
Shauna Bookal (President & CEO)	Inclusion in Canadian Sports Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Racial equity in sport & recreation
Todd Brown, Anand Desai, Steve Langlois (Consultants)	Monteith Brown Planning Consultants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trends in recreation
Mary Chow (Architect)	City of Burnaby <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trends in recreation spaces and places
Alisoon Cristal	Jewish Community Centre (Vancouver)
Howie Dayton (Former director of community Recreation in Parks, Forestry and Recreation)	City of Toronto <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large municipality needs
Beth Devine (Executive Director)	Philadelphia Youth Sports Collaborative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collective Impact in a sport/recreation context
Waneek Horn-Miller	Mohawk activist and Olympian
Bryan Heale (Social Impact Lead) and Marika Warner (Director of Research and Evaluation)	Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth perspective, sector priorities, available research, collective impact insights
Kathie Lomas McGee	YMCA Canada

Name & Role	Affiliation / Focus of Conversation
Brett Martin (Executive Director)	Catholic Youth Organizations (Ontario)
Dr. Jackie Oncescu (Associate Professor)	Faculty of Kinesiology, University of New Brunswick <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design approach • Cross-sectoral partnerships with recreation providing leadership
Mike Roma (Consultant, Partner)	RC Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in Municipal Recreation Master Plans, infrastructure builds, programs & activities
Dr. Lisa Tink	University of Alberta <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The colonial roots of recreation & the need for associated changes to the Framework
Carrie Wagner Miller (VP of Mission and Membership)	Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada

E. Literature Review Results

Rapid Literature Review on the National Recreation Framework

- **Citation:** Glover, T., & Costas-Bradstreet, C. (2024). Rapid Literature Review to Inform the *Renewal of the Framework for Recreation in Canada*. Commissioned by the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA).

Indigenous Sports and Recreation Programs and Partnerships Across Canada: A Literature Review and Environmental Scan

- **Citation:** National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH). (2022). Promising Practices for *Indigenous Youth in Sport and Recreation Programs*. Prince George, BC: University of Northern British Columbia.

F. CFLRI Population-Level Data Tables Accessed

Those files for which hyperlinks have been provided are publicly available through CFLRI. Those without hyperlinks have not yet been published.

1. [Canadians' perceptions about investments in sport](#) (page 17)
2. [Government investment in infrastructure](#) (page 16)
3. [Municipalities having a formal plan for parks and recreation](#) (page 42)
4. Perceptions that SPAR is welcoming, inclusive
5. Perceptions that SPAR is affordable
6. Perceptions that SPAR is accessible
7. [Satisfaction with accessibility of parks, green spaces, natural environments, or waterways](#) (page 43-44)
8. [Satisfaction with accessibility of trails, walking or bicycling pathways](#) (page 43-44)
9. [Satisfaction with accessibility of indoor sport and rec facilities](#) (page 47)
10. [Satisfaction with accessibility of outdoor sport and rec facilities](#) (page 47)
11. [Usage of parks, green spaces, natural environments or waterways](#) (page 43-44)
12. [Usage of trails, walking or bicycling pathways](#) (page 43-44)
13. [Usage of indoor sport and rec facilities](#) (page 47)
14. [Usage of outdoor sport and rec facilities](#) (page 47)

G. Alignment Tables and Strategic References

Population Data

- CFLRI national data at the population level
- Guelph Wellington Local Immigration Partnership

Strategic References

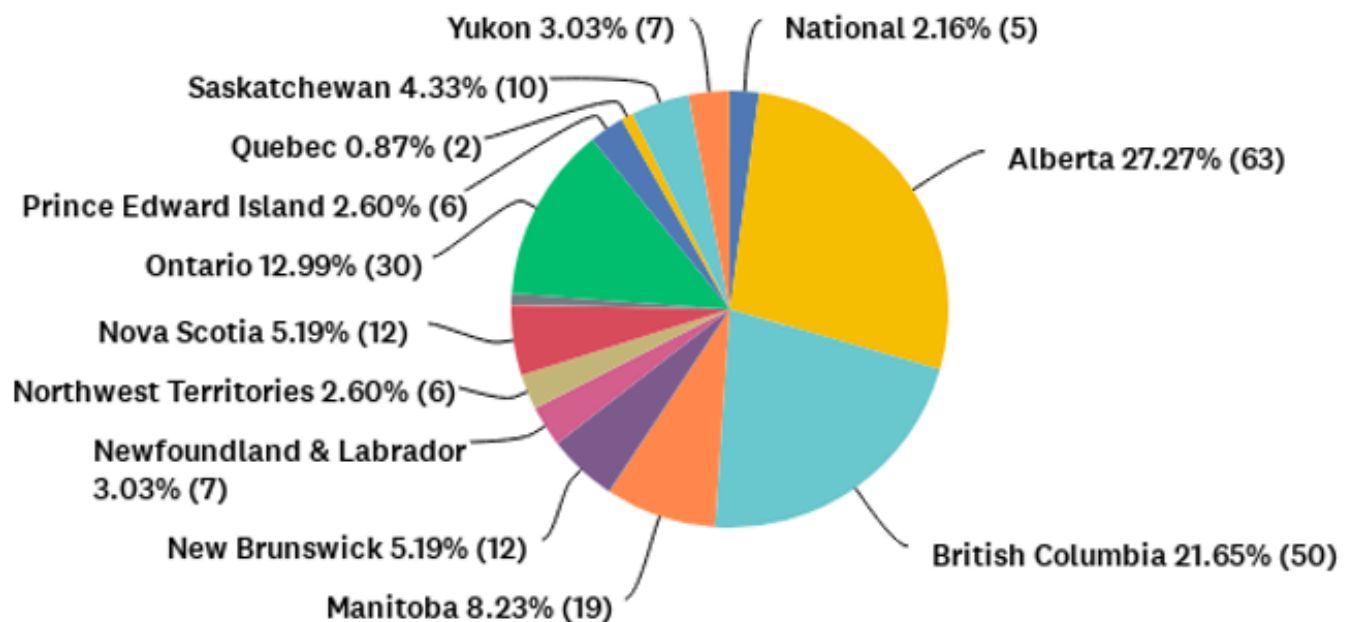
- A Common Vision for increasing physical activity and reducing sedentary living in Canada: Let's Get Moving
- The Canadian Sport Policy
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action
- The emerging National Strategy for Indigenous Sport, Recreation, Physical Activity and Traditional Practice
- The UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Parks for All: An Action Plan for Canada's Parks Community
- The World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Framework

H. Number of People Consulted, by Method & Jurisdiction

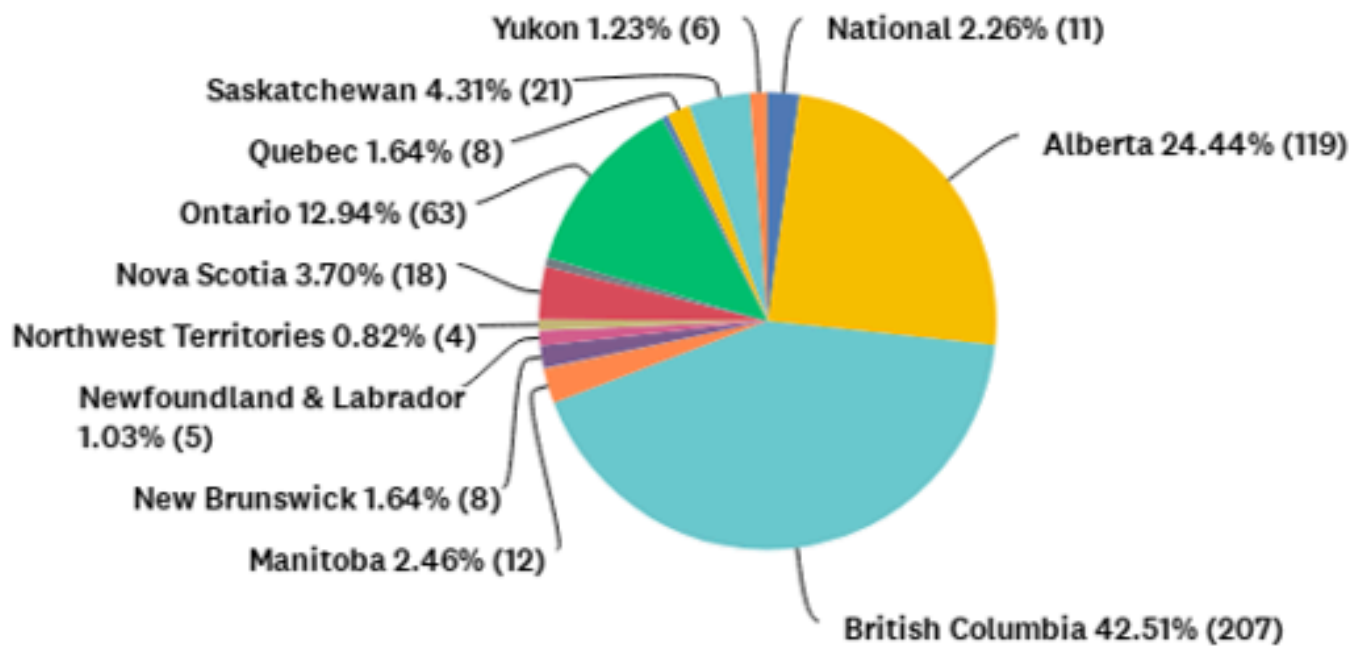
Consultation Method	Topic or Jurisdiction	# of Participants	Notes
Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pan-Canadian • Customized by Affiliated Sectors (e.g., Public Health, climate action) 	747	English short: 487 English long: 231 French short: 20 French long: 9
In-Person Consultations (Conferences & small groups)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEI-Recreation PEI-open • Quebec-open via AQLP/RAP • Manitoba-REC MB gathering • Yukon-Recreation Association Gathering • BC-Recreation Foundation BCRPA Leader's Summit Rural Recreation (University of Victoria Island) • Nova Scotia (CPRA Day) • Quebec-RDV du loisir rural Conference • ARPA Leader's Summit • Rec NB AGM • Pan-Canadian Parks Symposium (Saskatoon) • PEI (Charlottetown)-general consultation • University of Waterloo Recreation students 	925	
Key Informant Interviews (n=18)		18	Appendix D
Focus Groups (n=15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan-open • Saskatchewan-SPRA Board of Directors • Ontario-PRO Board of Directors • 2015 Group • Older Adults perspective • People with Disabilities perspective • Large Municipalities • CPRA Board of Directors • Framework Leadership Team • Government Reps • Community Sport • Parks • Territories • Arts & Culture • NB & NL 	160	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Reps including: PARC/SPARC/PHAC • Arts & Culture: No one registered

I. Provincial and Territorial Distribution of Respondents based on different Survey Types

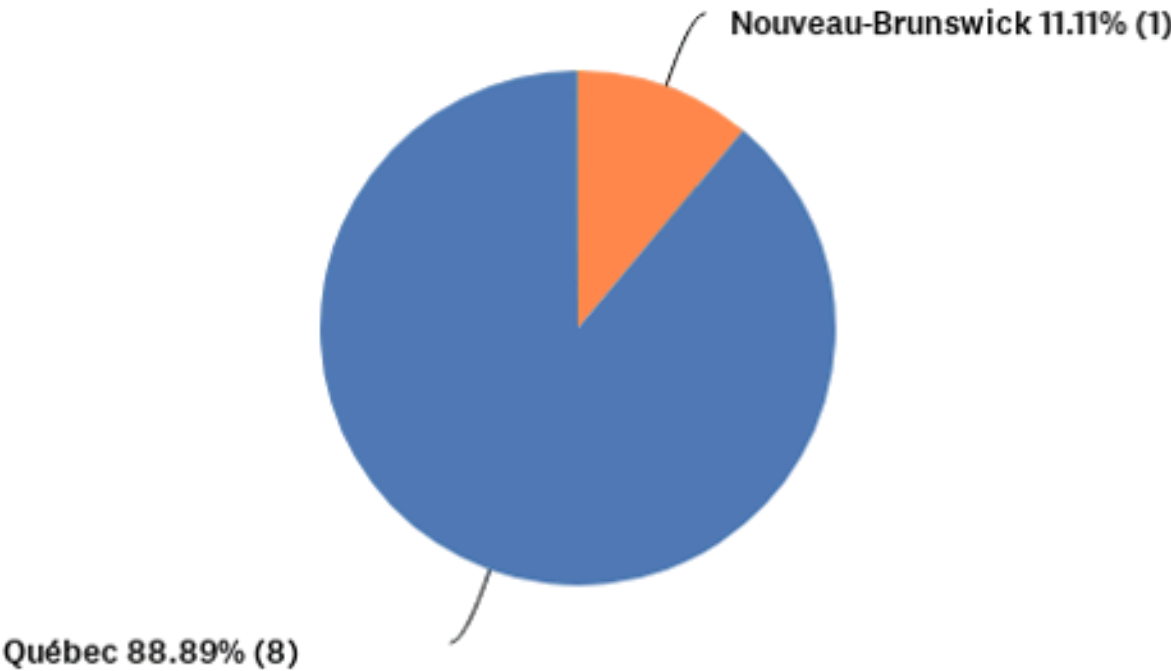
English (Long Version): 231 Respondents



English (Short Version): 487 Respondents

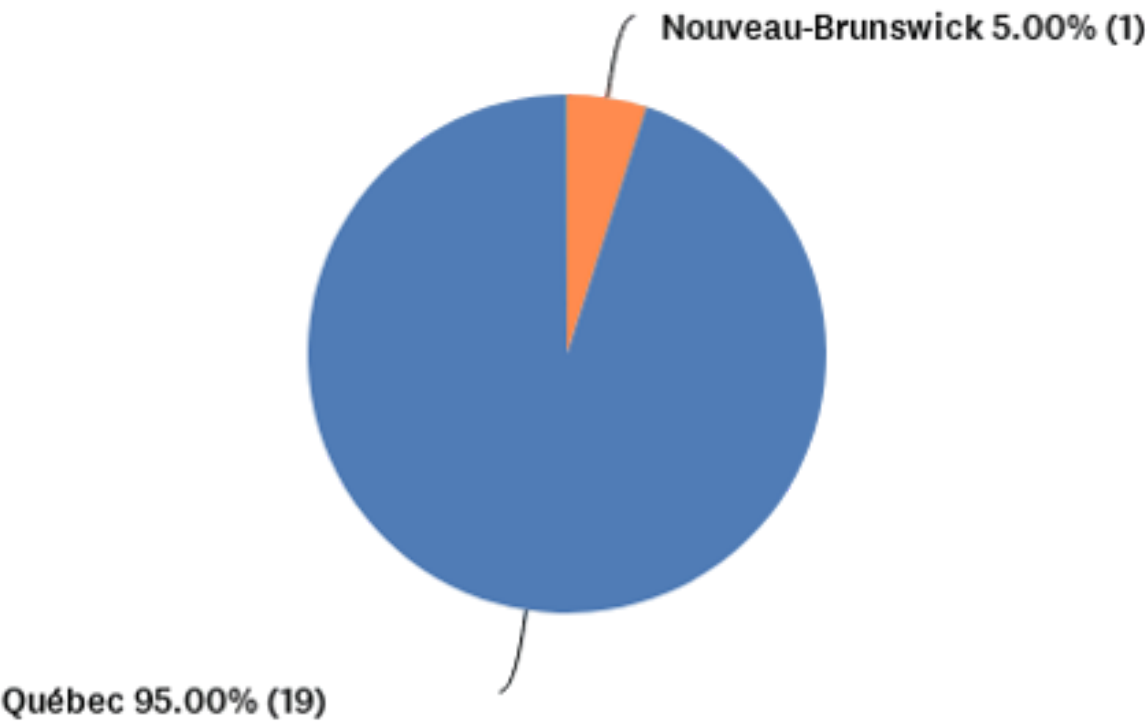


French (Long Version): 9 Respondents



Provinces & Territories	Percent	Respondents
New Brunswick	11.11%	1
Quebec	88.89%	8

French (Short Version): 20 Respondents



Provinces & Territories	Percent	Respondents
New Brunswick	5%	1
Quebec	95%	19

J. Provincial and Territorial Distribution of Respondents based on Organization Types

English (Long Version): 231 Respondents

Organization Type	Percent	Respondent
Municipal government / Parks & Recreation Department	41.99%	97
Boys & Girls Club	2.60%	6
Education / Academia	9.09%	21
Indigenous Community	6.06%	14
Indigenous organization (e.g., Native Friendship Centre, Aboriginal Sports Circle)	3.46%	8
Government (Band Council/Provincial/Territorial/District/Federal)	9.52%	22
Health organization (e.g., Public Health)	5.19%	12
Local Community Sport Organization	1.73%	4
Non-governmental / Not-for-profit / Social Profit organization	11.26%	26
Private sector	2.60%	6
Provincial / Territorial Parks & Recreation Association	1.73%	4
YM/YWCA	0.43%	1
Other (please specify):	4.33%	10

English (Short Version): 487 Respondents

Organization Type	Percent	Respondent
Municipal government / Parks & Recreation Department	62.22%	303
Boys & Girls Club	0.21%	1
Education / Academia	3.90%	19
Indigenous Community	1.03%	5
Indigenous organization (e.g., Native Friendship Centre, Aboriginal Sports Circle)	0.41%	2
Government (Band Council/Provincial/Territorial/District/Federal)	4.72%	23
Health organization (e.g., Public Health)	3.29%	16
Local Community Sport Organization	2.05%	10
Non-governmental / Not-for-profit / Social Profit organization	11.29%	55
Private sector	3.29%	16
Provincial / Territorial Parks & Recreation Association	0.41%	2
YM/YWCA	1.44%	7
Other (please specify):	5.75%	28

French (Long Version): 9 Respondents

Organization Type	Percent	Respondent
Municipal government / Parks & Recreation Department	22.22%	2
Education / Academia	11.11%	1
Local Community Sport Organization	11.11%	1
Non-governmental / Not-for-profit / Social Profit organization	44.44%	4
Other (please specify):	11.11%	1

French (Short Version): 20 Respondents

Organization Type	Percent	Respondent
Municipal government / Parks & Recreation Department	70.00%	14
Health organization (e.g., Public Health)	5.00%	1
Local Community Sport Organization	10.00%	2
Non-governmental / Not-for-profit / Social Profit organization	15.00%	3