

**CIER On-line Survey  
Environmental Monitoring Survey Results**

**Table of Contents**

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Survey Results</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Background Information on Respondents .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Survey Results .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Summary .....</b>	<b>12</b>

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

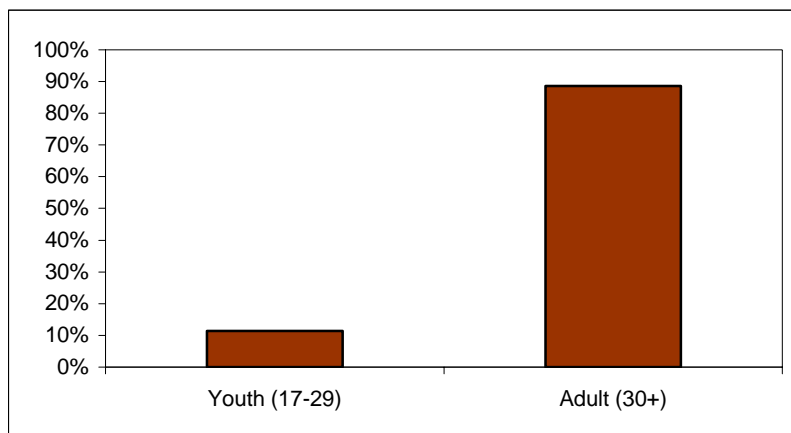
The purpose of the online survey was to identify priorities, needs and barriers to community-based environmental monitoring in Aboriginal communities. This data will help CIER refine the monitoring tools developed in the Environmental Monitoring Project and will guide Year Three planning activities in future years. The survey consisted of six questions focused on respondent background information and six targeted questions focused on environmental monitoring. CIER solicited the majority of information from First Nation members or those familiar with First Nations communities, however, some Inuit and Metis participants included their input.

## 2.0 SURVEY RESULTS

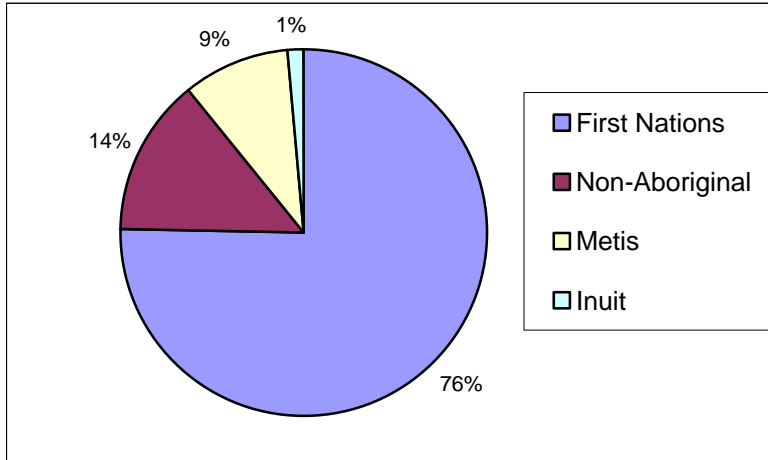
### 2.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON RESPONDENTS

A total of 93 people responded to the online survey on environmental monitoring from 93 people. While CIER directed the survey towards First Nations, there was small input from Inuit (1%) and Metis (9%) individuals. The majority of respondents were: First Nations, over 30 years of age, either in manager or supervisor roles, administrative/clerical or professionals, and worked for Aboriginal communities or governments. The graphs on the following two pages outline the demographics of the individuals who responded.

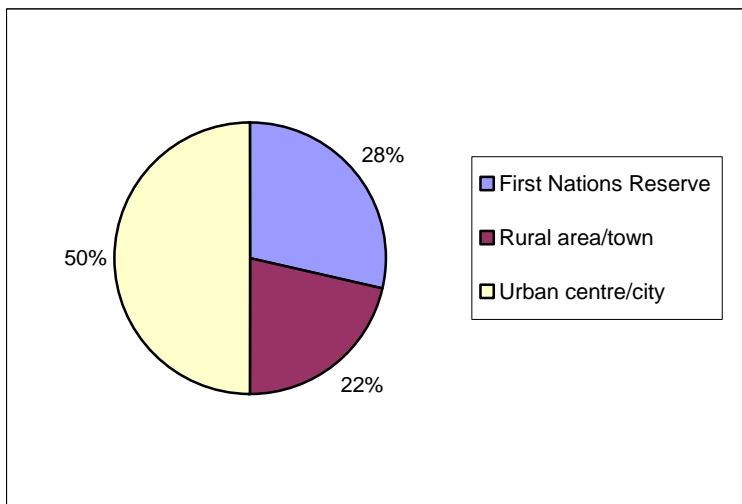
#### 1) Age and ethnic background:



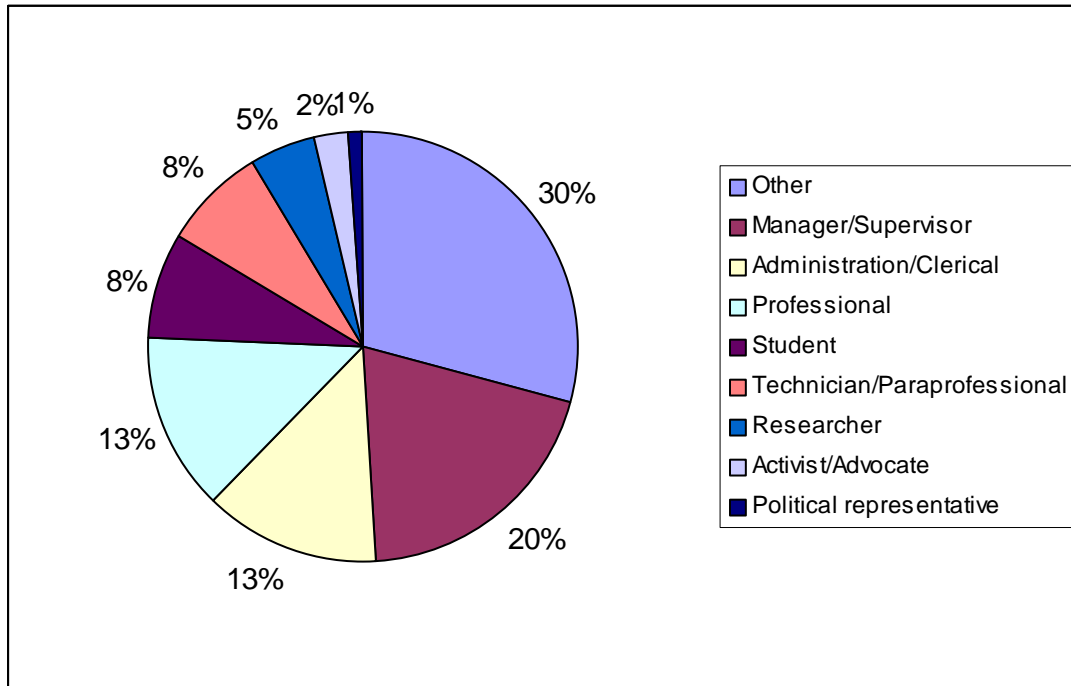
April 2008



2) Primary place of residence:



3) Type of work:



The following list summarizes all answers offered by survey participants under the answer 'other':

**Coordinator (8)**

- Research Coordinator
- Land Management Resource Coordinator
- AHRDA Employment & Training Coordinator
- Educator & Program Coordinator
- Marketing / Training Coordinator
- Employment coordinator
- Environment Coordinator

**Outreach (5)**

- Counsellor
- Social worker
- Outreach Worker
- Support worker for homeless women

**Education (6)**

- Instructor
- Cultural education
- Educational consultant
- Aboriginal education consultant

**Liaison (2)**

- Aboriginal Liaison Worker
- FN Program Liaison Officer

**Officer (2)**

- Chief Executive Officer
- Membership, Lands & Estates Officer

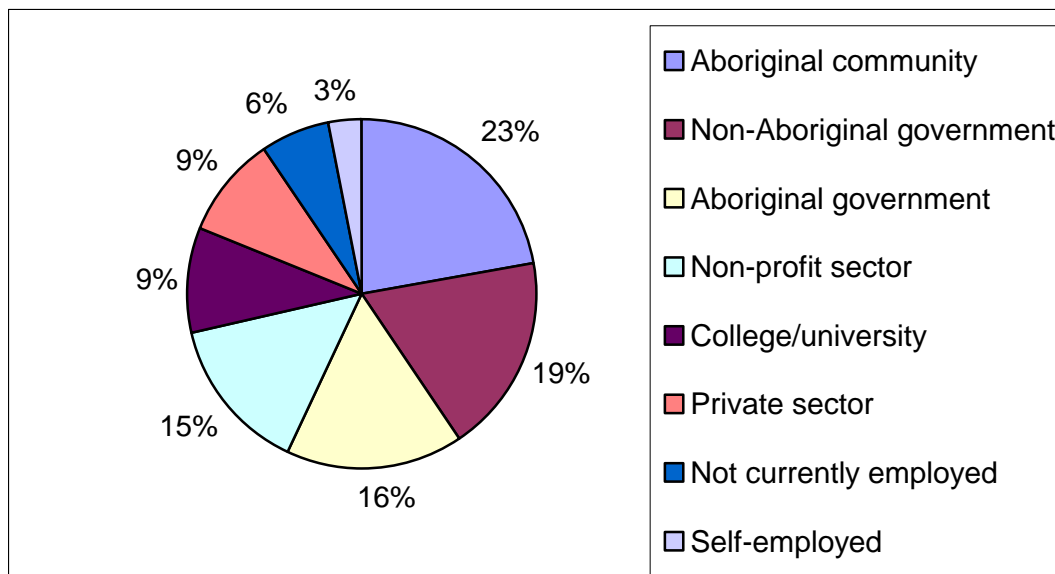
**Additional:**

**Contractor**

- Road builder
- Manufacturing
- Oil sands

- Human Services Worker
- Aboriginal Resource Worker
- Training and Employment assistance
- Student services
- Hunter/Trapper
- Daycare
- Economic development
- Museum Programmer
- Server, housekeeper

4) Organization currently working for:

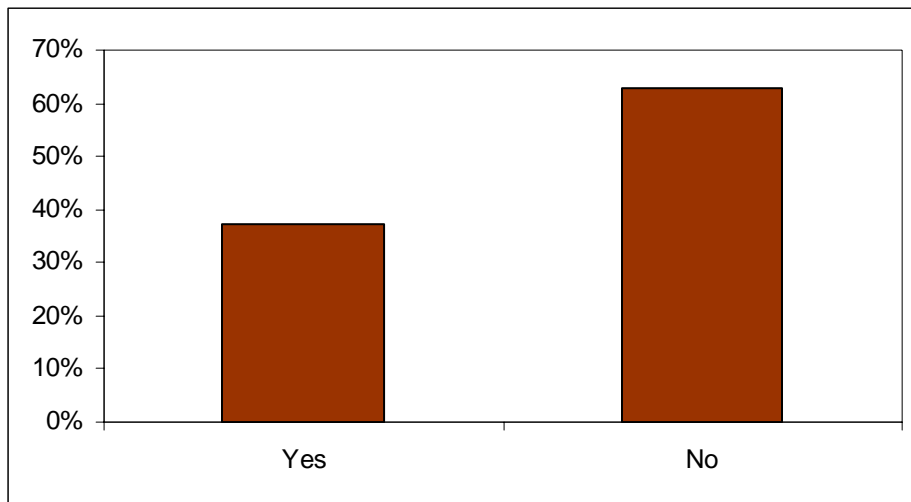


## 2.2 SURVEY RESULTS

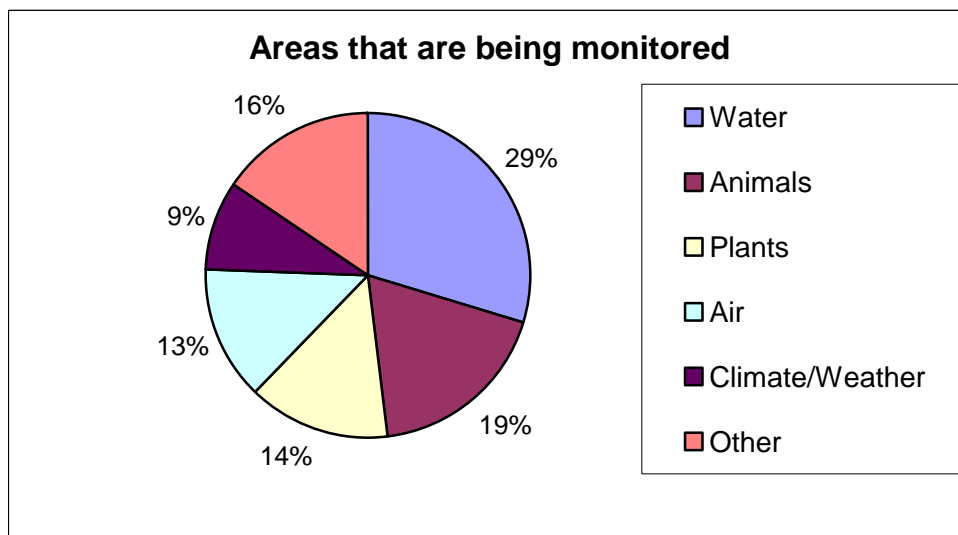
This section outlines the questions provided in the online survey and a summary of the responses.

### 1) Is your First Nation currently involved in community-based monitoring?

Thirty seven percent of respondents said their community (or communities they have worked with) is currently involved in community-based monitoring.



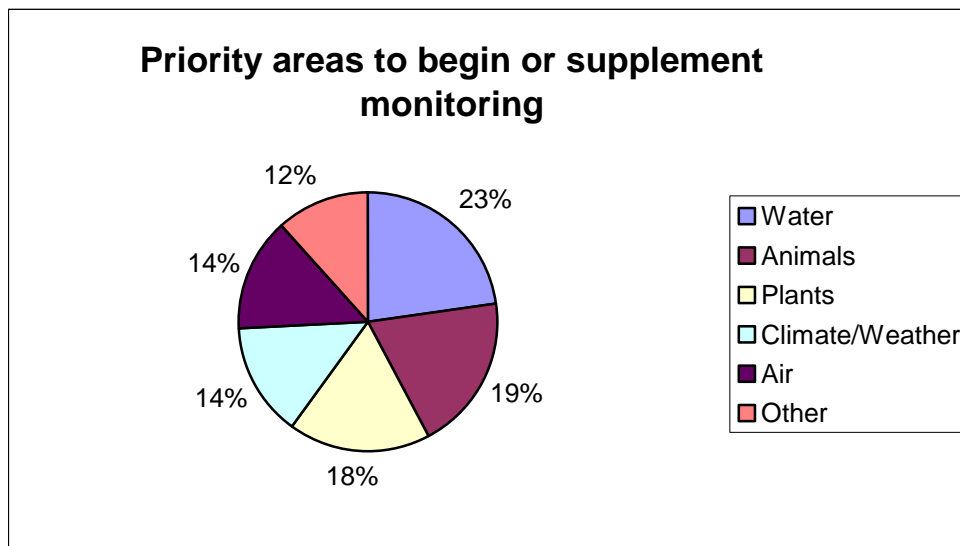
### 2) What is being monitored?



The following list summarizes all answers offered by survey participants under the answer 'other':

- Resource development
- Hydro development
- Forestry
- Mining
- Soils
- Education
- Archaeology
- Land use
- Law enforcement
- Traditional rights
- Waste disposal

3) What would your community like to monitor on your lands and waters (to add to existing monitoring efforts or to begin monitoring)? (e.g. water levels? Berry production? Elk populations?)



The following list summarizes all answers offered by survey participants under the answer 'other'.

- Contaminants/pollution (6) (Hazardous spills, Soil contamination/cleanup, Cumulative impacts, Acid rain, Power line contaminants)

- Human health (3) (Blood testing, Epidemiological testing)
- Impact of natural resource harvesting industry in traditional territories (3) (Mining, Hydro)
- Sensitive/ protected areas (2)
- Waste management (2) (Garbage disposal, Landfills)
- Land erosion,
- Infrastructures,
- Land use planning,
- GIS for traditional hunters/gatherers/trappers,
- Recycling programs.

4) Does your community have any concerns about your lands and waters? What are they?

All ninety-three respondents described concerns they had about their lands and waters. The majority of comments related to concerns about industry or contaminants, animals and plants and water.

#### Industry/Contaminants (10)

- Industry along the Great Lakes.
- Oil and Gas development
- Hydro development
- Placer mining, other mining,
- Nuclear waste
- Forestry
- Fish farming
- Farming
- Pesticide use, chemicals in our water and land
- Pollution from oil sands development

#### Animals and Plants / Traditional Foods (7)

- Species at risk
- Traditional medicines and food plants
- Fishing and fish habitat
- Sustainability of marine foods.
- Contaminants and health of traditional foods



April 2008

- Pollution affecting wildlife and human health (cancer)
- Impacts of open pit mining on wildlife, water and fish.

#### Water (5)

- Water, water levels, water tables, water contamination, drinking water, well water, flooding
- Drinking water in relation to Great Lakes water levels; adequate wastewater treatment; solid waste management
- Deteriorating well water quality, less and less water in sloughs and lakes
- Water levels
- Red River diversion project in North Dakota, USA

#### Aboriginal rights/cultural practises (3)

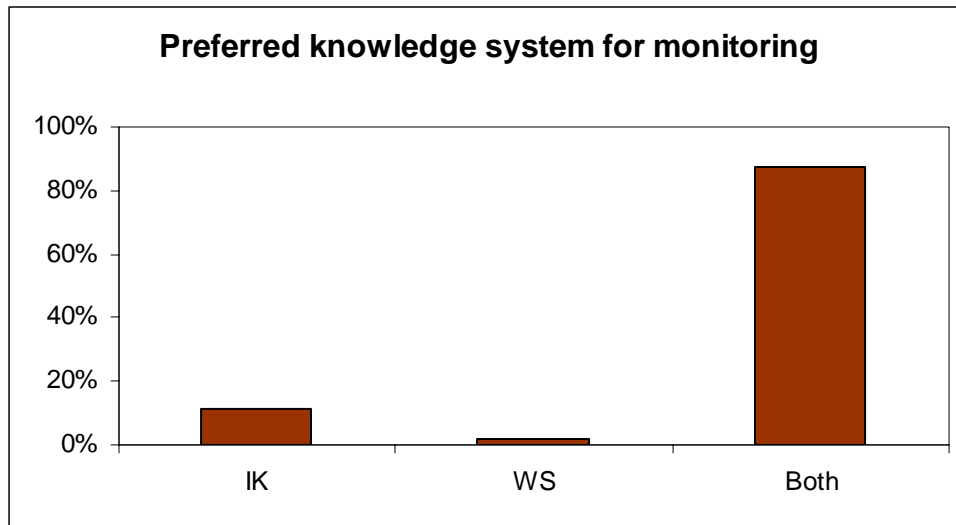
- Recreational versus traditional uses of the land and water.
- Treaty rights
- Loss of way of life

#### Other concerns:

- Non-renewable resources
- Access to natural resources;
- Climate change
- Waste disposal
- Air quality
- Erosion
- Land use
- Ice quantity and quality
- Tourism and garbage

5) What type of knowledge is your community using or would you like to use to monitor the environment? (Indigenous Knowledge (IK) or Traditional Knowledge from the community; Western Science (WS) methods, or Combination of both.

Eighty-seven percent of respondents said that they preferred that both Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science methods were used to monitor the environment. The majority of respondents that selected only one knowledge system chose Indigenous Knowledge.

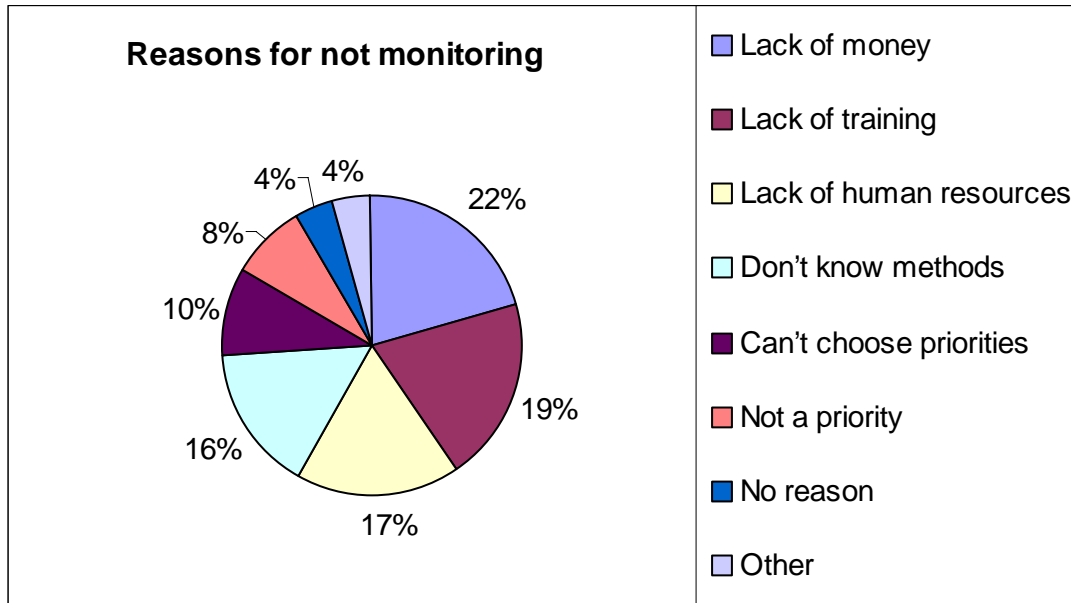


All answers provided by survey participants under the answer 'other' related to the importance of traditional knowledge.

- Listen to what our older people are saying about how the area (land, water, air) is changing
- Have our elders input incorporated to findings
- Help from other traditional people, communities
- Should bring in elders from each province to talk about the environment, set up terms of reference, natural law proposed guidelines in control and management of our world, traditional cultural concepts of dealing with world issue
- We need both but the scientific methods validate all other methods to the white world.

6) Are there any reasons your First Nation is not doing community-based monitoring?

The reasons selected most often by respondents for not monitoring were a lack of money, lack of training, lack of human resources and lack of knowledge of appropriate methods.



The following list summarizes all answers offered by survey participants under the answer 'other':

- Political Barriers (6)
  - Lack of government concern
  - Lack of federal and provincial support
  - Political interference
  - Political laziness
  - No public forums or consultation by the leadership
  - No leadership support
- All of the above
- Lack of communication
- Social and economical barriers.

7) Why does your community want to do community-based monitoring?

Reason for Monitoring	Percent
To have community-controlled information when dealing with industry/ government	76.3%
To protect important areas on traditional territory	73.1%
<b>To be alerted to potential negative changes in the environment</b>	68.8%
To get environmental baseline information	52.7%

<b>Other</b>	28.0%
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The following list summarizes all answers offered by survey participants under the answer 'other':

- Protect land for future generations (2)
- Maintain the health and safety of community members
- Keep the land and water healthy
- To educate grassroots people,
- All of the above,
- Concern with harvesting of game animals and fish,
- To become more involved in external initiatives,

### 2.3 SUMMARY

The majority of 93 respondents from the online survey were First Nations adults who work in Aboriginal communities, or for non-profits or governments. Only thirty-seven percent of respondent's communities were involved in monitoring; the majority of monitoring work focused on water and animals. The priority areas selected by respondents (either to begin monitoring or add to existing monitoring activities) were water, animals, and plants. All the respondents described concerns they had about their lands and water. The topic listed most often were the impacts of industry, such as oil and gas development, and contaminants. Other commonly raised concerns concerned animals and plants (e.g. species at risk) and water (e.g. water levels and deteriorating water quality). The majority (87%) of respondents preferred the use of both Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science methods for monitoring, but heavily emphasized the importance of Indigenous Knowledge in their comments. The most common reasons for not monitoring selected by respondents were lack of money, training, human resources and knowledge of methods. The two reasons for community-based monitoring selected most by respondents were to have community controlled information when dealing with industry/government and to protect important areas on traditional territory. In their comments respondents also described the need to keep the land healthy and protect it for future generations.