

# Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society

Education Committee Survey Results

September 2019

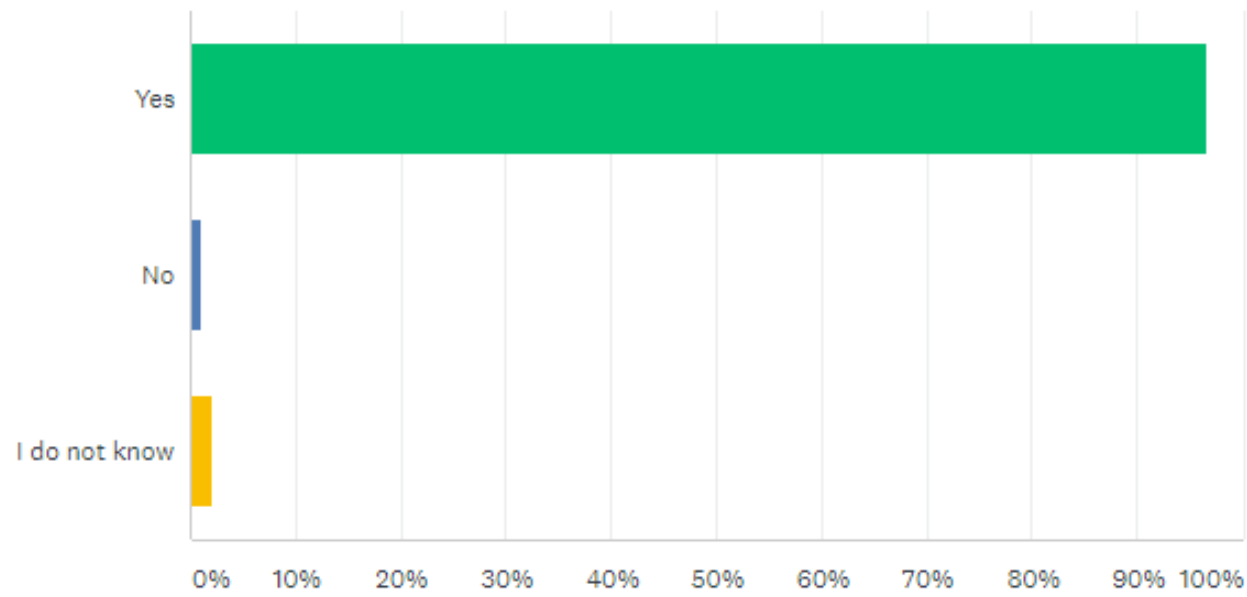
# Response rate

- Email invitation sent on August 26, 2019
- Reminder e-mail sent to non-responders on September 02, 2019
- Average time to complete: 2 minutes, 46 seconds
- 107 responses from 294 invitations
- 39.5% response rate
- Only the 100 first responses received have been analyzed

# Q1

Are you a current member of the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society?

Answered: 92    Skipped: 8

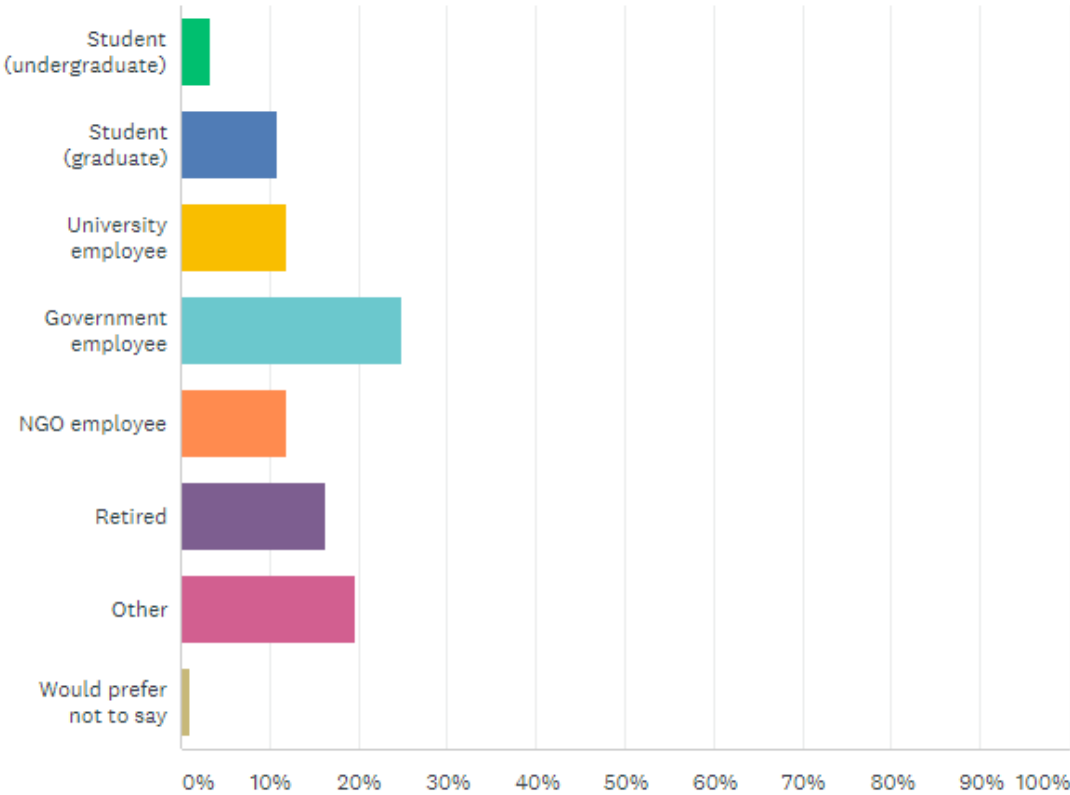


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	96.74%	89
No	1.09%	1
I do not know	2.17%	2
TOTAL		92

# How would you describe yourself?

Answered: 92    Skipped: 8

Q2

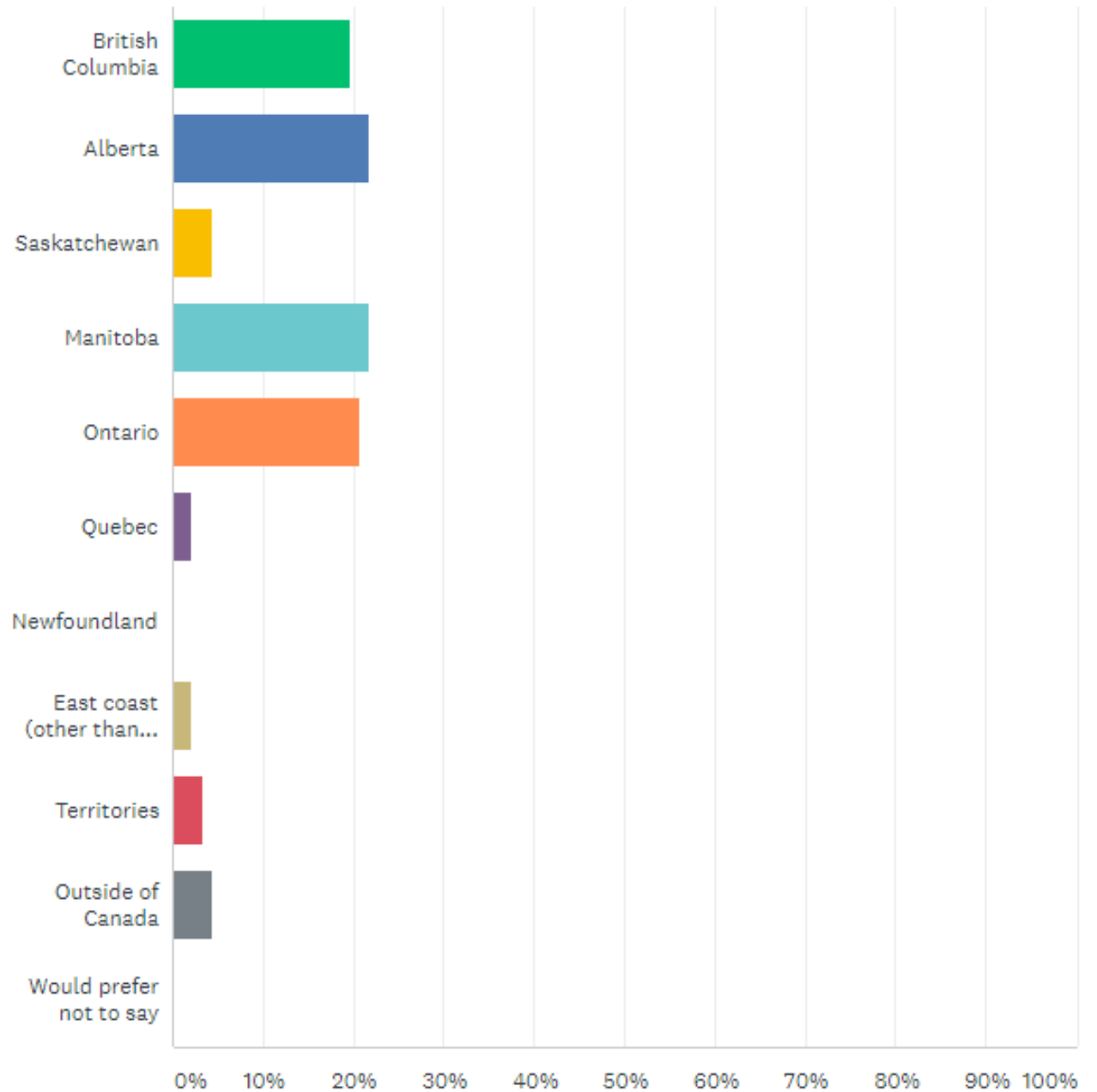


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Student (undergraduate)	3.26%	3
Student (graduate)	10.87%	10
University employee	11.96%	11
Government employee	25.00%	23
NGO employee	11.96%	11
Retired	16.30%	15
Other	19.57%	18
Would prefer not to say	1.09%	1
TOTAL		92

# Q3

## Where are you located for most of the year?

Answered: 92 Skipped: 8



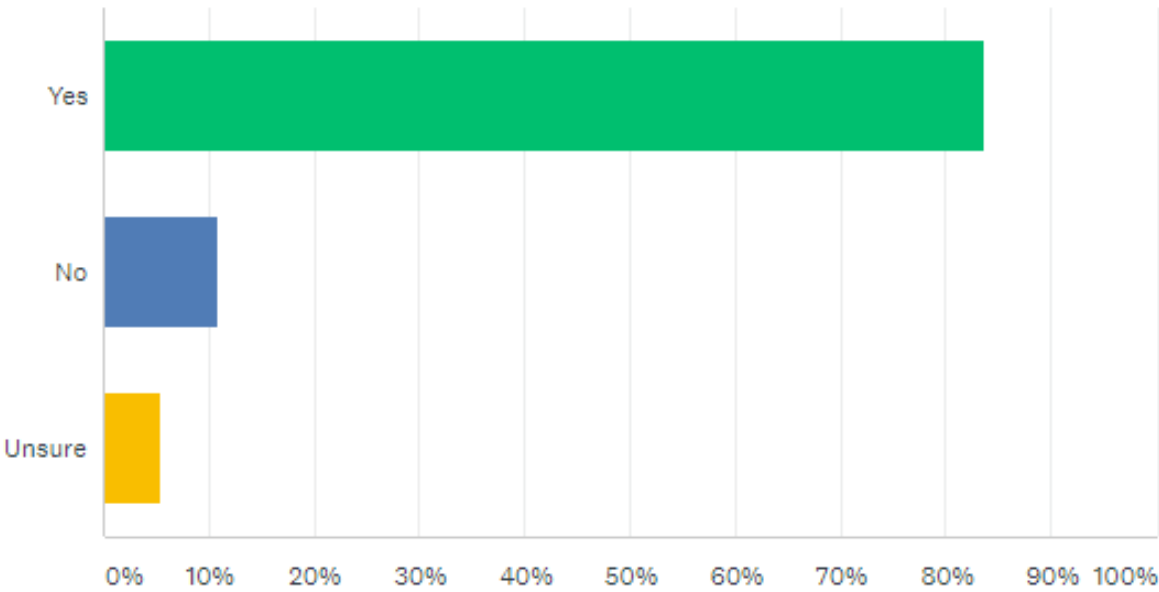
# Q3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ British Columbia	19.57% 18
▼ Alberta	21.74% 20
▼ Saskatchewan	4.35% 4
▼ Manitoba	21.74% 20
▼ Ontario	20.65% 19
▼ Quebec	2.17% 2
▼ Newfoundland	0.00% 0
▼ East coast (other than Newfoundland)	2.17% 2
▼ Territories	3.26% 3
▼ Outside of Canada	4.35% 4
▼ Would prefer not to say	0.00% 0
TOTAL	92

# Q4

Have you heard of the educational webinars hosted by the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society?

Answered: 92    Skipped: 8

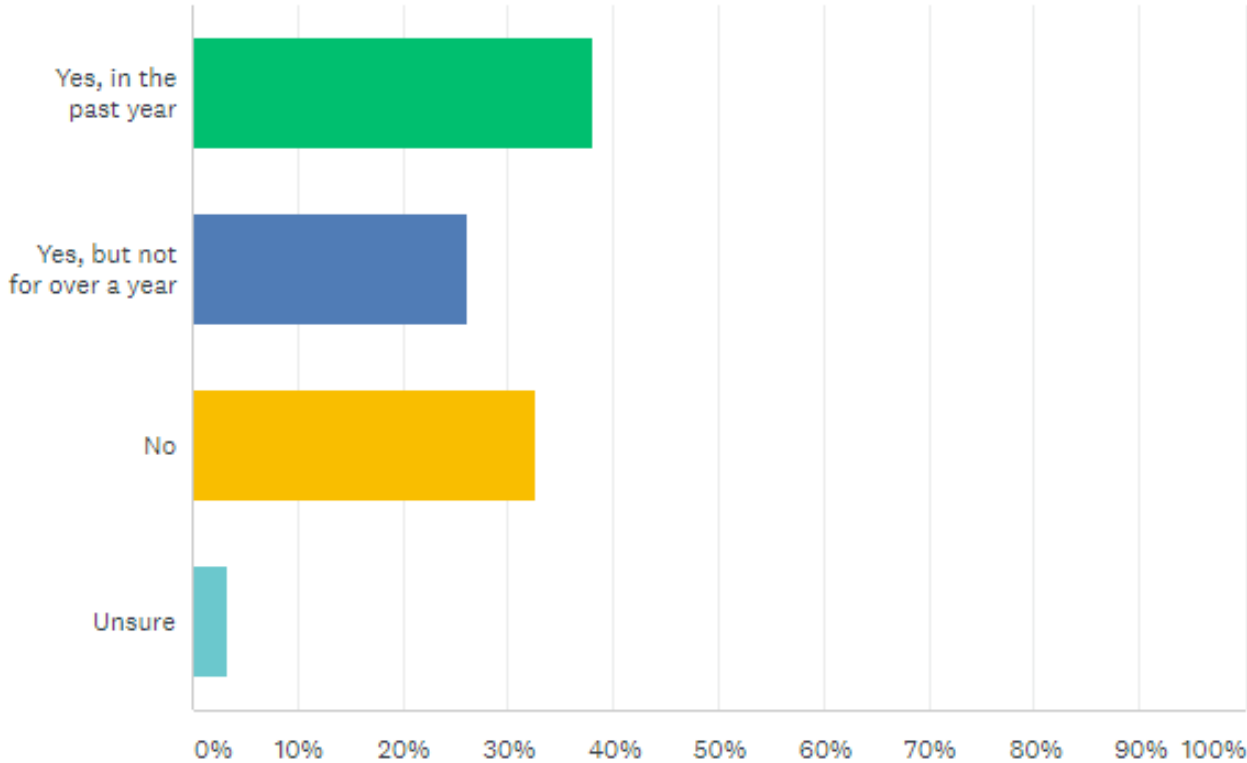


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	83.70%	77
No	10.87%	10
Unsure	5.43%	5
TOTAL	92	

# Q5

## Have you ever attended one of these webinars?

Answered: 92    Skipped: 8



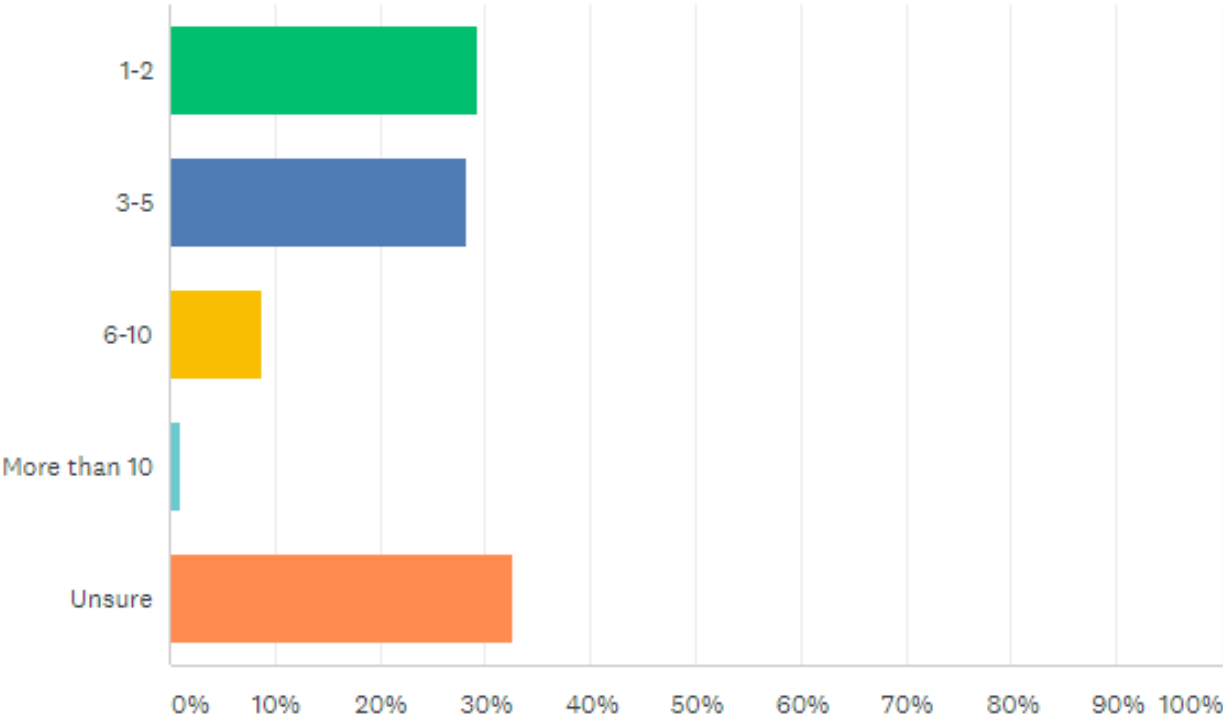
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, in the past year	38.04%	35
Yes, but not for over a year	26.09%	24
No	32.61%	30
Unsure	3.26%	3
TOTAL		92



Q6

How many educational webinars hosted by the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society have you attended?

Answered: 92    Skipped: 8

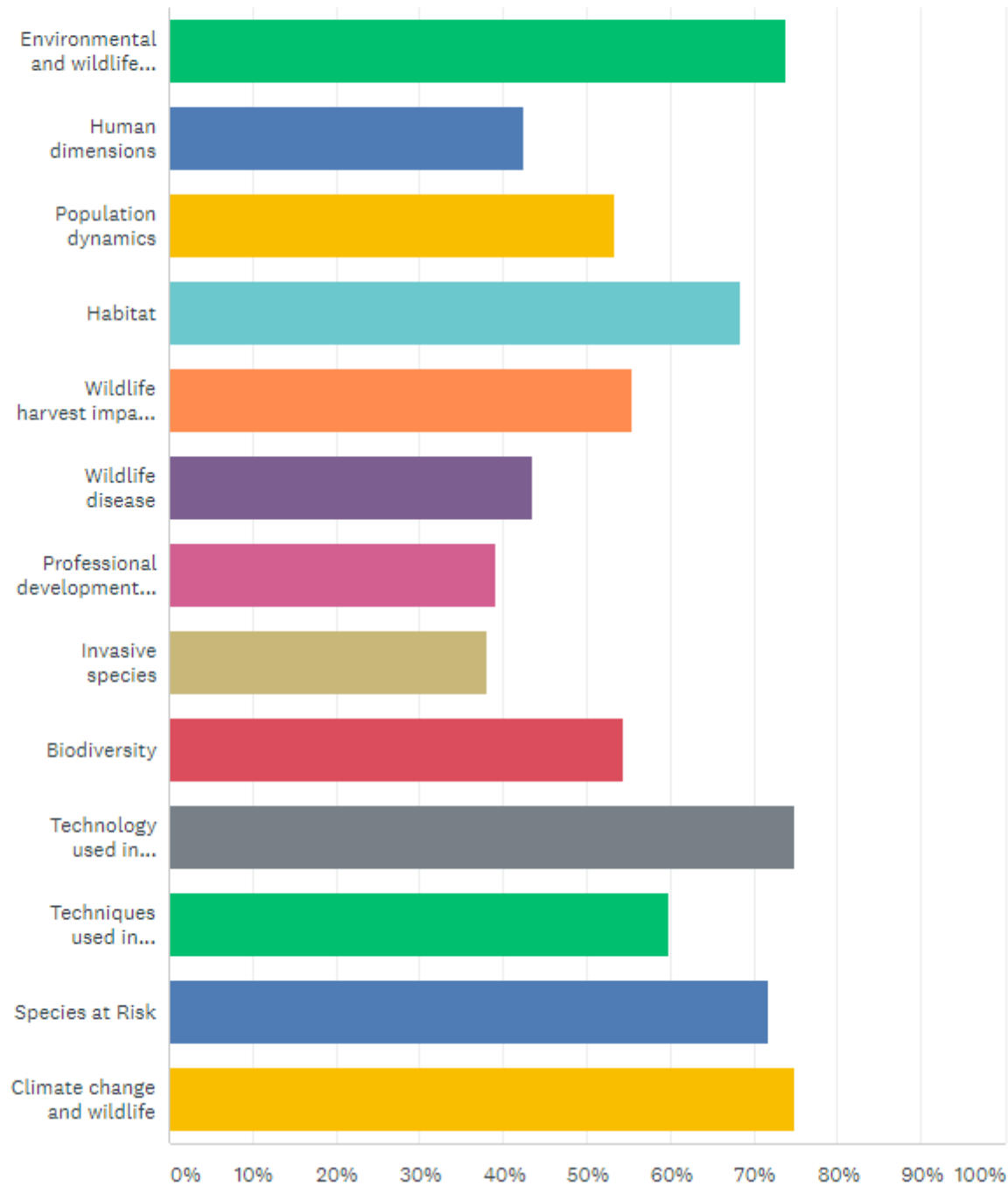


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1-2	29.35%	27
3-5	28.26%	26
6-10	8.70%	8
More than 10	1.09%	1
Unsure	32.61%	30
TOTAL		92

Q7

I have an interest in attending Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society webinars on the following topics (select all that apply).

Answered: 92    Skipped: 8



# Q7

ANSWER CHOICES ▼	RESPONSES ▼	
▼ Environmental and wildlife policy	73.91%	68
▼ Human dimensions	42.39%	39
▼ Population dynamics	53.26%	49
▼ Habitat	68.48%	63
▼ Wildlife harvest impacts and strategies	55.43%	51
▼ Wildlife disease	43.48%	40
▼ Professional development (e.g., diversity in the workforce, Women of Wildlife, wildlife certification programs, etc.)	39.13%	36
▼ Invasive species	38.04%	35
▼ Biodiversity	54.35%	50
▼ Technology used in wildlife and environmental research (e.g., drones, remote cameras, etc.)	75.00%	69
▼ Techniques used in wildlife and environmental research (e.g., GIS, statistics, R, census, etc.)	59.78%	55
▼ Species at Risk	71.74%	66
▼ Climate change and wildlife	75.00%	69
Total Respondents: 92		

Q8

Are there any specific topics or presenters that you would like us to consider for our upcoming 2019-2020 Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society educational webinar series?

- Collaborative governance models big data methods shifting societal values and connecting people to nature
- Research and statistics workshops
- Future funding, changing values in society, attracting new Canadians
- Wildlife co-management with indigenous partners
- Solutions for the protection of Lake Winnipeg from phosphate/algal blooms, invasive species
- World leaders e.g., Charlie Krebs, Robert Moss, David Suzuki
- The research team currently working on the range expansion of grizzly bears within close proximity to the Ontario border
- Emerging and dynamic issues such as invasive species, co-management with indigenous communities and Nations, and policy trade offs
- Updates on policy changes
- Human dimensions of wildlife management
- Implementation of the new federal EA legislation
- Wildlife capture and handling equipment and techniques
- How to talk to media
- Diverse climate warming effects on both boreal and arctic wildlife
- Refreshed on developments in statistical methods
- Hosting indigenous scholars – towards more exposure towards methods for decolonizing research
- Remote cameras, Wildlife Corridors and human development, Beaver management

Q8

Are there any specific topics or presenters that you would like us to consider for our upcoming 2019-2020 Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society educational webinar series?

- Reconciliation and wildlife
- Social media do's and don'ts (but differentiate between Twitter vs. Facebook vs. Instagram and ideally taught by someone who does work this professionally re: wildlife, e.g., for an NGO or university account) - Science communication (intro and advanced topics) - Policy cycles - The role of science (and scientists) in environment-related law (ask Martin Olszynski at UCalgary) - What does it mean to "inform/influence policy" - From a retired government scientist or manager who will talk about how external scientists/wildlife professionals can work effectively with government (both behind the scenes and openly) - How NGO conservation campaigns work, and when/where/what/how can CSTWS members get involved?
- Communicating science
- GIS in R tutorial
- Wildlife connectivity planning for climate change
- the Amazon fires are going to not only be a major issue in terms of carbon stocks, but also biodiversity. If anyone is doing work on that, I think that would be informative. We have a quite a few migratory species that go there, so it is also an issue for North American birds.
- Habitat suitability mapping
- wildlife/conservation enforcement biodiversity technology and conservation management
- In the topics above I see representation of government policy/management and research but how about some discussion on applied wildlife biology/management in practice (I.e. how do consulting biologists take research and apply to specific situations where they are trying to solve resource management problems in the framework of government policy, legislation, and regulations
- Hessberg or others of similar experience on mega fires and resulting wildlife impacts. Management of habitats to replicate historic disturbance patterns. Bioenergetics and relation to habitat changes and population declines of any endangered or rare population.

Q8

Are there any specific topics or presenters that you would like us to consider for our upcoming 2019-2020 Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society educational webinar series?

- Mark Elbroch
- Can we use trapline management as a way to monitor and gather ecological data on furbearers?
- interface between agriculture and wildlife
- Evie Merrill
- Economic transitions of resource based communities to adapt to SAR conservation measures.
- use of citizen science data in research and mgmnt
- Mammal / carnivore research and field techniques
- Caribou, predator control (need for it, ethics of it), wildlife restoration techniques, sampling methods.
- ungulate - carnivore dynamics, i.e. managing wildlife populations with fully recovered carnivore populations (grizzly bear, wolves, cougar)
- Technology advances in wildlife surveys
- The lead researcher with ABMI for remote camera analysis, Corrine Copp
- Wini Kessler Jane Goodall
- Indigenous wildlife management, traditional and local ecological knowledge, fisheries Brian McLaren as a presenter
- Wildlife damage topics



Are there any specific topics or presenters that you would like us to consider for our upcoming 2019-2020 Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society educational webinar series?



# Q8 – Common themes

Are there any specific topics or presenters that you would like us to consider for our upcoming 2019-2020 Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society educational webinar series?

- Indigenous relationships and co-management
- Communications in science
- Technology
- Techniques
- Statistics
- Policy/legislation
- Climate
- Biodiversity
- Invasive species
- Fires
- Carnivores/ Grizzly bears



## Q9 Is there a topic that you would be interested in presenting yourself as part of the webinar series?

- eDNA
  - Cayla Naumann, Dillon Consulting Ltd.
  - cayla.naumann@gmail.com
- Research at the interface of ecology and Indigenous knowledge (from the perspective of a settler scholar)
  - Lauren Eckert, Geography Department, University of Victoria
  - eckertleckert@gmail.com
- No, but colleagues might be willing to (e.g., social media do's/don'ts and how NGO campaigns work)
  - Aerin Jacob, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative
  - aerin@y2y.net
- Technology wildlife enforcement and illegal wildlife trade
  - Joshua Barath
  - jdrbarath21@gmail.com
- Impacts of understanding natural animal behavior
  - Elise Couillard, Graduate Student, University of Manitoba
  - elisecouillardprimary@gmail.com
- How can we get more Canadian biologists interested in becoming certified as AWBs or CWBs?
  - Don Barnes
  - don.barnes@lakeheadu.ca
- Maybe - Sage-Grouse genetics
  - Krissy Bush, Avian Genetics
  - kbush@aviangenetics.com

## Q10 Do you have any suggestions for improving attendance to these webinars?

- Not sure! Seems like it's well publicized. Timing (time of day) is also challenging with such a wide country and 4-5 hrs time zone difference. Maybe try to reach out to local/regional relevant organizations in each province to distribute webinar announcements.
- Have them during the noon hour on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. Advertise them with a different subject in the email. I feel like I miss the emails advertising these webinars.
- not yet sure of the issues/impediments to attendance, other than the obvious that everyone is over-committed!
- Ensure adequate advance notification
- Having experience with implementation of a webinar series, I recognize the challenge this presents. What might be considered a very topical topic draws a small audience and others are much more successful. Your audience is a mixture of academics, students, government/private ecologists, policy professionals, managers and interested retirees - hard to find a topic that resonates with all. An observation that is not particularly helpful, but of importance, is that there are lots of webinars/webinar series, and building/maintaining an audience is often difficult. Best of luck.
- ADVERTISE, GIVE PICTURES AND SUMMARIES, GOOD REVIEWS, LIST GOOD REFERENCES, ADVICE, PEOPLE TO CONSULT.
- Use of social media! Perhaps a reminder email or some sort of calendar subscription.
- Give ample notice and continue to ensure getting in line is straight forward
- wider advertising

## Q10 Do you have any suggestions for improving attendance to these webinars?

- A semester schedule would help me plan to attend.
- Continuing promoting them. Send google calendar invite. I'm not sure if there's a charge for them or not?
- I've yet to participate in one myself so unable to say. I am interested but have had scheduling conflicts in the past.
- Timing - sometimes I have had trouble participating because of time zones or work conflicts. It would be great if they were available as recordings.
- Try and advertise through the provincial chapters more and increase exposure outside regular member lists. For example, advertise on twitter to try and expose the seminars to non-members that might sign up to become members for the webinars.
- I think the current level of advertisement is sufficient, whether I can attend usually depends on what else is in the diary on the day
- I need to attend a few more prior to making suggestions. So far so good.
- Attendance depends on subject matter as well as timing of meeting, so it is hard to predict. As done in the past, a schedule in advance and diversity of topics are useful. Variability in date and time might be helpful for those who cannot attend the same days and times.
- N/a. Thanks for these great programs!
- I haven't attended one for a bit.. but the timing was always off for me. I can't remember now, but what technology do you use for your webinars? and do the webinars count as PD credits?

## Q10 Do you have any suggestions for improving attendance to these webinars?

- I didn't participate in the previous webinars because I wasn't able to connect voice part of the webinars. It should be sued platforms that is reliable and relatively easy to use for all interested participants. Just to mentioned that I'm not totally techno challenged, but still wasn't able to solve the audio problem for the webinars.
- thank you for having them. I truly appreciate the opportunity to attend them.
- Not exactly... But if people aren't attending then that tells us something. Is the information truly wanted/needed? Is there a better way to deliver that wanted/needed information? e.g., short 5-10 minute recordings put in bite-sized amounts online and accompanied by one-page tip sheet
- If not being done already, perhaps broaden the email blitz to include non-members
- Make them more interactive or more workshop like
- A few times I have forgotten to sign up for the webinar ahead of time and wish there was an email that came out after that allowed me to sign up for accessing the video. I know this wouldn't help attendance at the live webinar, but would make it easier for more people to watch it. I often don't have a flexible enough schedule to watch it live thanks to my work commitments.
- I tend to pass the announcement onto farmer colleagues who may/ may not be CSTWS members
- more than 1 email and a calendar invite
- maybe try surveys of members to determine time slots that work for more people (once annually or quarterly?).

# Q10 Do you have any suggestions for improving attendance to these webinars?

- Better advertising and awareness to members that the webinars exist.
- promotion certification
- Not at this time. They are great, but not well attended.
- Survey for best time to hold them.
- Good topics draw crowds.
- Verifying access and recording to make available
- perhaps more advanced notice so that calendars can be kept clear when a topic of interest arises. And varying the day/time of presentations
- Work on a more user-friendly approach to signing on for these webinars; I have always found the process very daunting.
- vary timing so not always offered on the same day and time
- Make it available and those interested will show up
- I have difficulty accessing because of company firewall, would be easier to access if done by SKYPE
- Time is always a challenge- noon Central probably would catch most people
- More advertising
- Evenings
- I've just been too busy at work to attend. I'd like to see more!
- Email reminders. Not over lunch

## Q10 Do you have any suggestions for improving attendance to these webinars?

- Media Advertising
- More advertisement about the webinars and the benefits of them. Get people excited and inspired to be apart of this initiative. Advertise via social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and twitter but also use emails, maybe a few posters if you have some volunteers.
- Record it and allow watching at a later time



# Q10



# Q10 – Common themes

Do you have any suggestions for improving attendance to these webinars?

- Have Chapters distribute advertising as well
- More advertising
- Vary the day of week and time of day of webinars (scheduling conflicts)
- Change email subjects
- Adequate advance notifications
- Reminder e-mail
- Calendar subscription/ google calendar invite
- Interested, but not enough time to attend
- Social media advertising
- Include webinars as part of professional development credits
- Issues with technology attending
- Include non-members
- Make recordings available



# Summary- respondent demographics

- Almost all survey respondents were members, with only a small percentage not having current membership or being unaware of their membership status.
- Most respondents were government employees. There were a large number of “other” respondents and retirees as well. Undergraduate students comprised the smallest number of respondents.
- Alberta and Manitoba were tied for the most respondents, followed by Ontario and British Columbia. Some individuals responded from Saskatchewan, outside of Canada, the territories, Quebec, and the east coast, but were few in number. There were no respondents from Newfoundland.

# Summary – knowledge of webinars

- Almost all respondents had heard of the webinar series.
- Most respondents indicated that they had attended a webinar in the past year. It was more common that individuals had not attended any webinars than attending webinars in the past, but not in the past year.
- Most individuals were unsure how many webinars they had attended in total. Of those who did indicate a value, most had attended 1-2 webinars or 3-5 webinars. Attending 6-10 or more than 10 was uncommon

# Summary – webinar topics

- Technology used in wildlife research and climate change were tied for the most popular topics, followed by environmental and wildlife policy, species at risk, habitat, and techniques used in environmental research.
- The least popular topics were professional development and invasive species. However, in our next question about specific topic suggestions, invasive species was one of the most commonly suggested themes.