



BC HYDRO
PEACE RIVER SITE C HYDRO PROJECT

PROJECT DEFINITION CONSULTATION
ROUND 1 SUMMARY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

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About Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd. and Synovate Ltd.

Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd. is recognized as an industry leader in designing and implementing comprehensive public and stakeholder consultation programs. Utilizing generally accepted best practices in consultation, the firm designs consultation programs to maximize opportunities for input. Kirk & Co. works with polling firms to professionally manage, analyze and report on large volumes of public and stakeholder input.

Synovate Ltd. is an internationally recognized market research firm. All consultation input received by feedback form and written submission was independently verified and analyzed by Synovate.

Cover image: Bear Flat, Peace River, B.C.

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Executive Summary

Background

Site C, a potential dam located on the Peace River about seven kilometres southwest of Fort St. John, is one of several options being considered to help meet B.C.'s future electricity needs. It would provide about 900 megawatts of capacity, and produce approximately 4,600 gigawatt hours of electricity each year – enough to power about 460,000 homes.

BC Hydro is taking a stage-by-stage approach to the evaluation of Site C. At the end of each stage of review, BC Hydro will make a recommendation to government for a decision on whether to proceed to the next stage of project planning and development. BC Hydro is currently in Stage 2, Project Definition and Consultation.

Because Site C was examined as a resource option more than 25 years ago, and again from 1989–1991, significant engineering design and environmental studies have been done. Today's approach to Site C will consider environmental concerns, impacts to land, and opportunities for community benefits, and will update design, financial and technical work. The work during Stage 2 will determine what new or updated information is required, update decades-old studies, and begin some new environmental studies and technical work. The project as originally conceived must be updated to reflect current standards and to incorporate new ideas brought forward by communities, First Nations, regulatory agencies and stakeholders.

Project Definition Consultation, Round 1, incorporating stakeholder input received in Pre-Consultation held from December 2007–February 2008, was designed to consult the public and local, regional and provincial stakeholders on **key impacts, benefits and features** of the potential Site C project. The consultation sought feedback on elements of **project design, recreation, infrastructure, local impacts, land uses and community benefits**.

Project Definition Consultation, Round 2, will take place October 1 to November 30, 2008. Round 2, which builds on stakeholder input from Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 and Pre-Consultation, is designed to consult the public and local, regional and provincial stakeholders, on the following topics: **Site C as an energy option, powerhouse access bridge and associated access roads, provincial and community benefits, reservoir preparation considerations, sourcing dam construction materials, and relocation and reclamation of excavated soil and rock, and environment**.

As with Project Definition Consultation Round 1, there will be multiple ways for the public to participate in Round 2 Consultation; these will include stakeholder meetings, open houses, an online feedback form, written submissions, the Site C Information line and in-person at the Fort St. John Consultation Office.

The input from Project Definition Consultation will be considered along with information relating to technical, financial and environmental studies as BC Hydro makes a recommendation to government for a decision on whether to proceed to Stage 3 of project planning and development.

A parallel consultation with First Nations is underway and will seek input from First Nations on issues and concerns that may need to be addressed through the evaluation of Site C.

Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 – May 1–June 30, 2008

Input from Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 was collected from a variety of sources:

- Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 Discussion Guide and Feedback Form
- 29 Stakeholder Meetings
- 10 Open Houses
- Online Feedback Form
- Submissions (fax, email, phone and mail)
- Toll-free Site C information line
- Fort St. John Community Consultation Office

Approximately 1,000 local, regional and provincial stakeholders were notified of stakeholder meetings by letter, email, fax and telephone. Newspaper advertisements were placed in regional and community papers to advise residents of opportunities to participate in both stakeholder meetings and open houses. In addition, radio advertisements were run for several weeks on local stations advising residents of the open house schedule available on the project's website (www.bchydro.com/sitec).

Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 – Participation

- 936 total participants
- 284 people attended 29 stakeholder meetings
- 380 people attended 10 open houses
- 22 submissions (fax, email, phone and mail)
- 250 people visited the Fort St. John Community Consultation Office between May 1, 2008 and June 30, 2008
- 224 feedback forms were returned at stakeholder meetings, open houses, through the Fort St. John Community Consultation Office, and by web, email, fax and mail

Synovate, a professional market research firm, was commissioned by Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd. and BC Hydro to help develop the consultation feedback form, host the online feedback form, and tabulate and analyze all feedback forms and written submissions received from Project Definition Consultation, Round 1.

The following are the consultation topics discussed in the Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 Discussion Guide and Feedback Form. These topics were selected due to their importance to communities and stakeholders as indicated during Pre-Consultation from December 2007–February 2008.

- **Site C as an energy option**
- **Community and provincial benefits**
- **Project design elements**
 - Reservoir impact lines
 - Water management

- **Recreation**
 - River-based opportunities
 - Reservoir-based opportunities
- **Infrastructure**
 - Relocation of segments of Highway 29
 - Worker housing
- **Environment**
 - Potential increase of fog
 - Impacts on fish
- **Land uses**
 - Heritage resources, such as impacts on archaeological sites

Methodology

A total of 224 completed feedback forms were received and tabulated between May 1, 2008 and June 30, 2008; 76 were received online and 148 in hard copy. In addition, 22 submissions were received through mail, fax, phone and email, and those responses were coded and analyzed in conjunction with the tabulated feedback forms. A detailed summary of feedback is provided in the full report.

284 people attended 29 stakeholder meetings held in 12 communities around the province: Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Greater Vancouver, Hudson's Hope, Mackenzie, Pouce Coupe, Nanaimo, Prince George, Taylor and Tumbler Ridge.

380 people attended 10 open houses held in Chetwynd/Tumbler Ridge, Dawson Creek/Pouce Coupe, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Hudson's Hope, Mackenzie, Prince George and Taylor with approximately 200 participating in question and answer sessions¹.

The online feedback form went "live" on May 1, 2008 and all feedback forms received up to and including the feedback deadline of June 30, 2008 have been included in this report.

The input from Project Definition Consultation will be considered along with information relating to technical, financial and environmental studies as BC Hydro makes a recommendation to government for a decision on whether to proceed to Stage 3 of project planning and development.

The views represented in this report reflect the priorities and concerns of consultation participants. They may not be representative of the views of all British Columbians because participants self-selected into Project Definition Consultation, Round 1. Although results are presented in the form of percentages, there are no margins of error for this data because there is no probability sample. The sample in question is based on self-selection, for which a sampling error cannot be measured.

1. Open houses held in Fort Nelson and Mackenzie did not have question and answer sessions due to low attendance and the ability of the project team to answer individual's questions on a one-on-one basis.

Key Results

Key Results from Feedback Forms

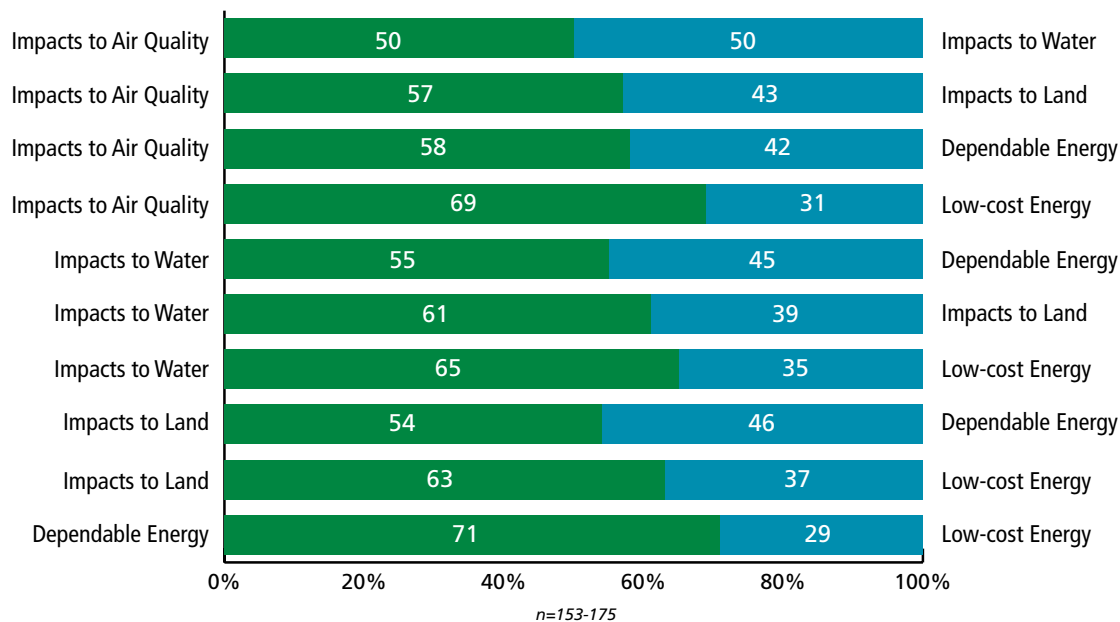
IMPORTANCE OF CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING SITE C

In a paired trade-off exercise, participants were asked which of two evaluation criteria is most important when making assessments about Site C. The following five criteria were paired against each other and are listed in order of relative importance:

1. Impacts to air quality
2. Impacts to water
3. Impacts to land
4. Dependable energy
5. Low-cost energy

Total – Summary

1. The assessment of Site C as an energy option requires trading off a number of criteria. So too does the development of an operating regime for Site C. For each of the selections below, please choose which is more important to you.

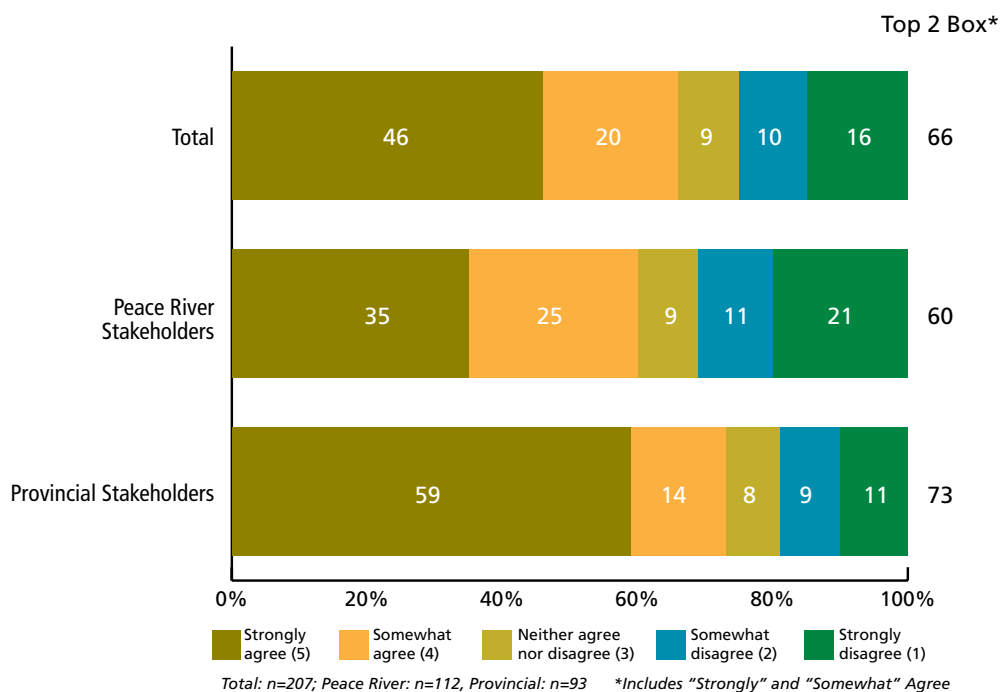


- Based on the balance of opinion in favour of one criterion over the other, **environmental impacts** were judged by participants to be more important than both **dependable energy** and **low-cost energy**.
- Paired against each other, **impacts to air quality** and **impacts to water** were equally important to participants, while each was rated as more important than **impacts to land**.
- **Dependable energy** was regarded as more important by participants, on balance, than **low-cost energy**.
- Generally, Peace River participants placed greater importance on **environmental impacts** while Provincial participants placed greater emphasis on **dependable energy** relative to **environmental impacts**.

NEED FOR ELECTRICITY AFTER ACHIEVING ALL POSSIBLE CONSERVATION

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

2. Do you agree or disagree that, even after achieving all possible conservation, we will still need more electricity?



- About two-thirds (66%) of participants agreed (“strongly” or “somewhat”) that B.C. will need more electricity even after achieving all possible conservation, while just over one-quarter (26%) disagree (“strongly” or “somewhat”) and 9% were undecided.
- Provincial participants were more likely to agree with this statement than Peace River participants (73% vs. 60%, respectively). Approximately one-third (32%) of Peace River participants disagreed about the need for more electricity.

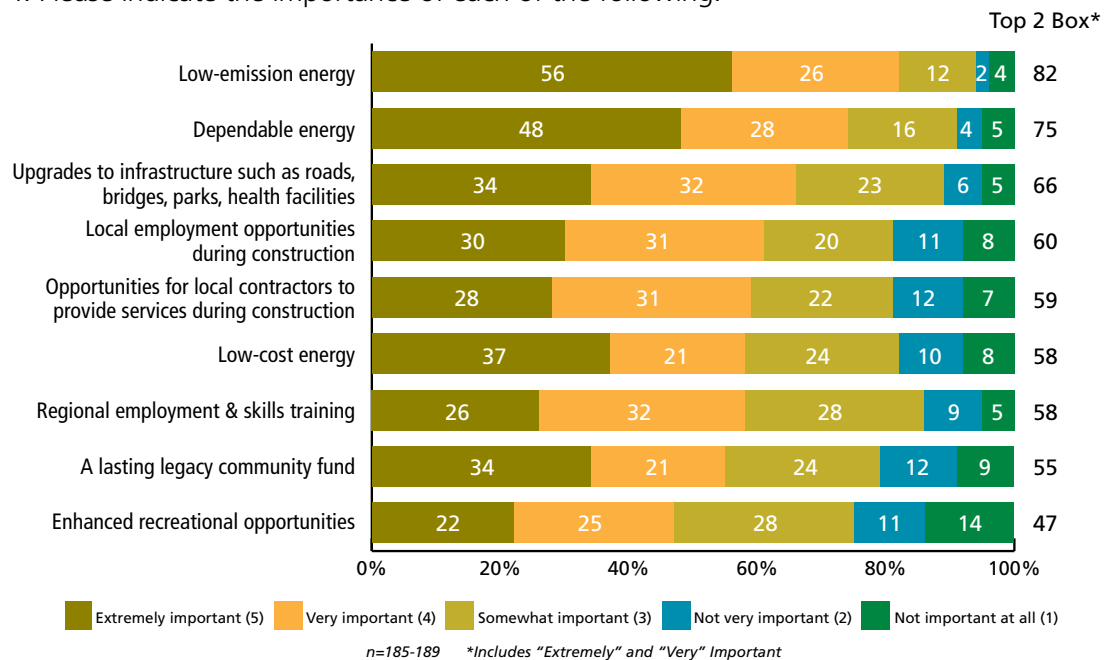
IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY AND PROVINCIAL BENEFITS

Participants were asked about the following community and provincial benefits:

- Regional employment and skills training
- Local employment opportunities during construction
- Opportunities for local contractors to provide services during construction
- Enhanced recreational opportunities
- Upgrades to infrastructure such as roads, bridges, parks, health facilities
- A lasting legacy community fund
- Dependable energy
- Low-cost energy
- Low-emission energy

Total

4. Please indicate the importance of each of the following:

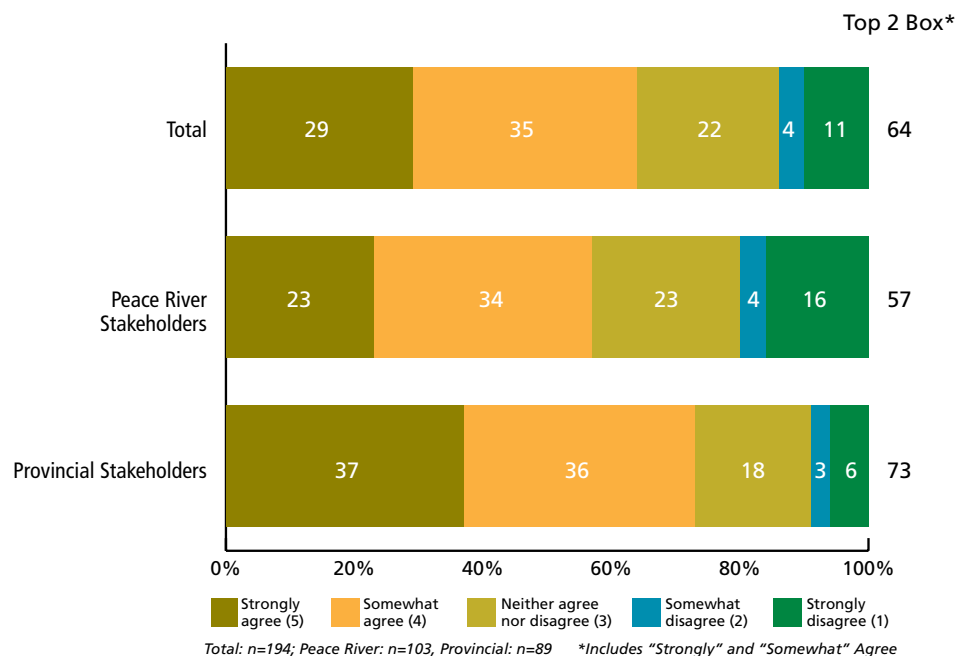


- A large majority of participants rated each benefit as at least somewhat important. Highest in overall importance was **low-emission energy** (rated "extremely" or "very" important by 82%), followed by **dependable energy** (75%). 66% regarded **upgrades to infrastructure such as roads, bridges, parks and health facilities** as "extremely" or "very" important, followed by **local employment opportunities during construction** (60%), **opportunities for local contractors** (59%), **regional employment and skills training** and **low-cost energy** (58% each).
- Peace River participants rated all but three potential benefits as higher in importance ("extremely" or "very" important) than Provincial participants. The three exceptions were **dependable** and **low-cost energy**, which were of higher importance to Provincial participants (84% vs. 69% and 67% vs. 51%, respectively), and **low-emission energy**, which was equally important to both groups.

LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH RESERVOIR IMPACT LINES APPROACH

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

6. The potential reservoir will impact the surrounding land in five distinct ways. To recognize the different impacts of the reservoir, BC Hydro is considering establishing Reservoir Impact Line as an approach to property and land use impacts. Do you agree or disagree with the Reservoir Impact Lines approach?



- 64% of participants agreed (“strongly” or “somewhat” agree) with the Reservoir Impact Lines approach to property and land use impacts, while 22% were neutral and 15% disagreed (“strongly” or “somewhat” disagree).
- Agreement was stronger among Provincial participants than Peace River participants (73% vs. 57%, respectively). More Peace River participants disagreed with the approach than Provincial participants (20% vs. 9%).

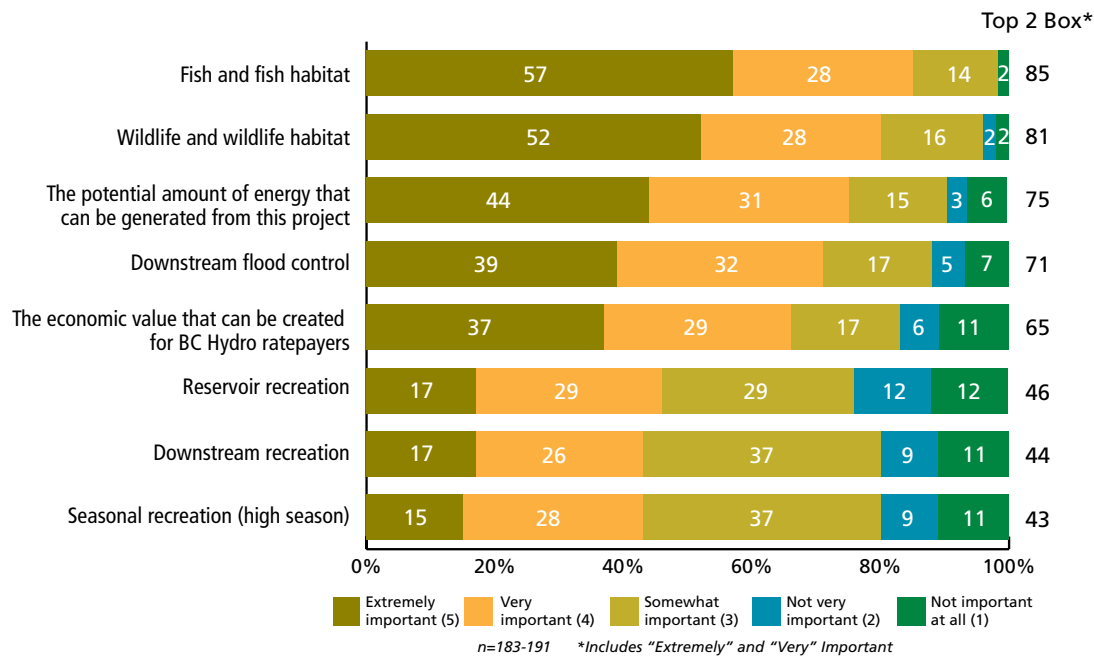
IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN EVALUATING WATER MANAGEMENT

Participants were asked about the following factors:

- The potential amount of energy that can be generated from this project
- The economic value that can be created for BC Hydro ratepayers
- Reservoir recreation
- Downstream recreation
- Seasonal recreation (high season)
- Downstream flood control
- Fish and fish habitat
- Wildlife and wildlife habitat

Total

8. How important should each of the following factors be to BC Hydro in evaluating the effects of different water management operating ranges for Site C?



- While a large majority regarded all eight as at least somewhat important, some factors were considered significantly more important than others. Protection of the environment for fish and wildlife were of greatest importance to participants, with over four in five participants rating **fish and fish habitat** (85%) and **wildlife and wildlife habitat** (81%) as "extremely" or "very" important.
- **Fish and fish habitat** and **wildlife and wildlife habitat** were of somewhat greater importance to participants from the Peace River region than to those outside the region (88% vs. 81% and 84% vs. 76% "extremely" or "very" important, respectively). Provincial participants placed greater importance on the **potential amount of energy** (86% vs. 67%) and **economic value** created by the project (74% vs. 59%) than Peace River participants.

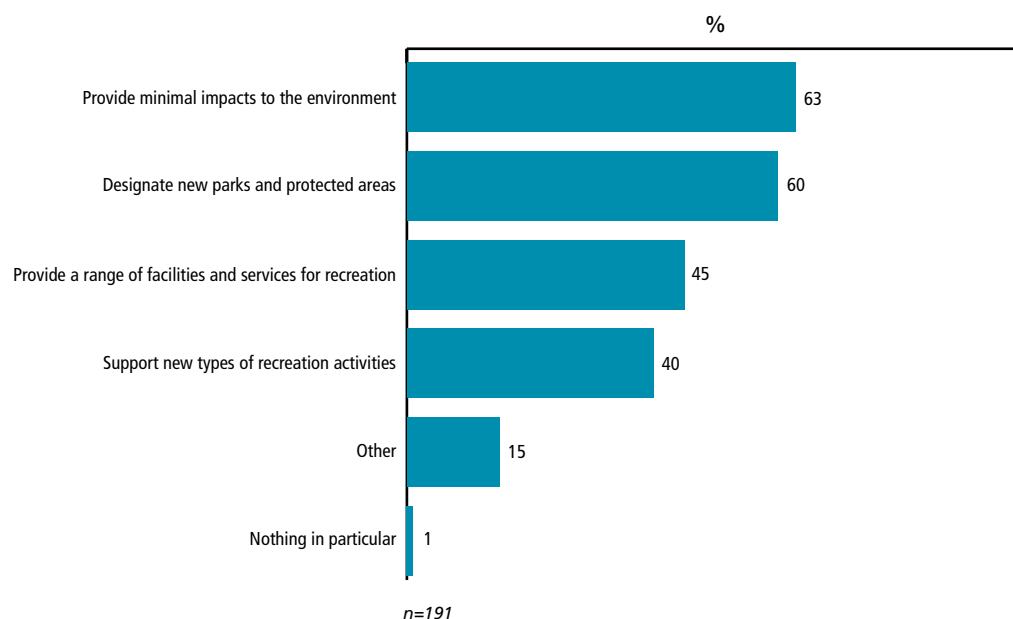
IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN EVALUATING POTENTIAL RESERVOIR RECREATION

Participants were asked about the following factors:

- Support new types of recreation activities
- Designate new parks and protected areas
- Provide minimal impacts to the environment
- Provide a range of facilities and services for recreation

Total

13. Which of the following factors should be considered when evaluating potential reservoir recreation?



- Participants were most likely to select **providing minimal impacts to the environment** (63%), followed by **designating new parks and protected areas** (60%). Fewer than half felt that **providing a range of facilities and services for recreation** (45%) and **supporting new types of recreation activities** (40%) should be considered.
- Provincial participants were more likely than Peace River participants (66% vs. 56%) to believe that the **designation of new parks and protected areas** should be considered when evaluating potential reservoir recreation.

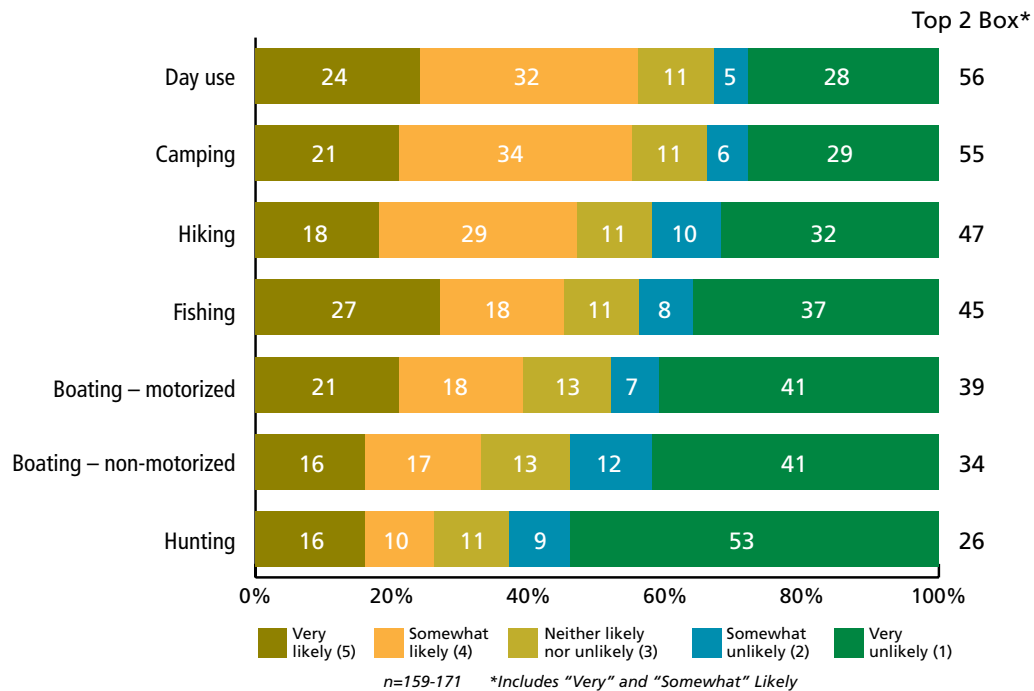
LIKELIHOOD OF USING RESERVOIR FOR RECREATION

Participants were asked about the following recreation opportunities:

- Boating – non-motorized
- Boating – motorized
- Hiking
- Day use
- Camping
- Hunting
- Fishing

Total

14. How likely would you be to use the reservoir for the following recreation opportunities?



- Given seven different recreational opportunities to use the reservoir, participants were most interested in **day use** (56% "very" or "somewhat" likely) and **camping** (55%). Slightly fewer would use the reservoir for **hiking** (47%) or **fishing** (45%) and fewer for **boating**, whether **motorized** (39%) or **non-motorized** (34%), or **hunting** (26%).
- Participants from the Peace River region were much more likely to engage in all activities than those from outside the region.

PREFERENCE FOR ACCESS FOR RESERVOIR RECREATION

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

15. Which would you prefer to see used when it comes to accessing the reservoir for recreation?



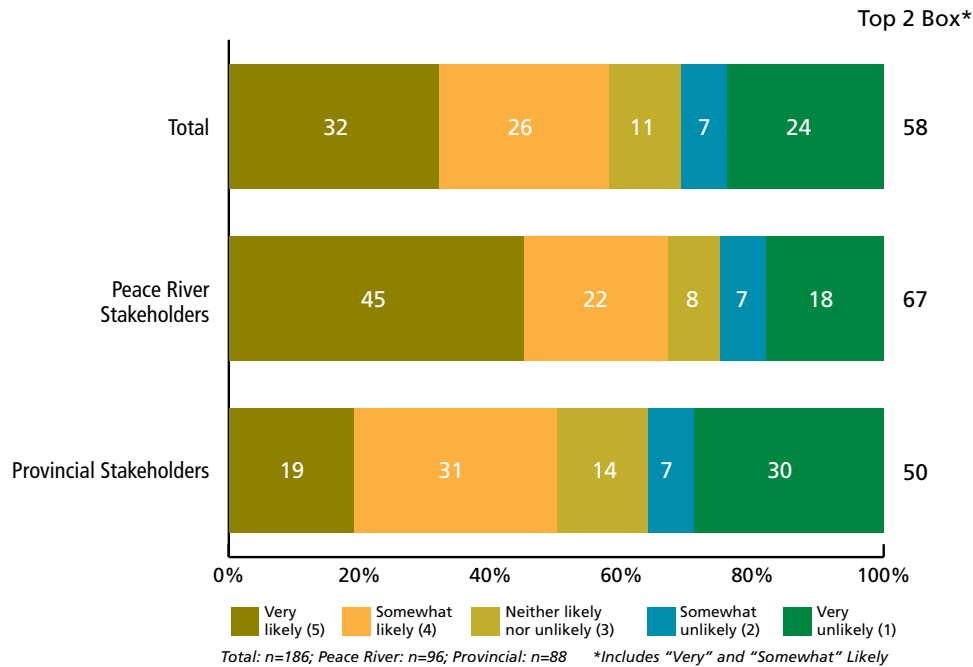
Total: n=162; Peace River: n=78; Provincial: n=83

- Participants were divided in their preference for one of two options for accessing the reservoir for recreation. Just over half (54%) would prefer to see a **network of roads providing easy recreational access** while just under half (46%) would prefer to **keep the reservoir in its natural state and have people access it by boat or on foot**.
- A majority of participants from the Peace River region favoured a network of roads over boat or foot access (58% vs. 42%), while those from outside the region were more evenly split on their preference (52% vs. 48%).

LIKELIHOOD OF USING RESERVOIR FOR RECREATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

16. How likely would you be to use the reservoir for recreational purposes if there was public access?



- Regardless of their preference for type of access, almost six in ten (58%) participants say they would be at least somewhat likely to use the reservoir for recreational purposes if there was public access.
- 67% of Peace River participants would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to use the reservoir for recreational purposes if public access was provided, compared to 50% of Provincial participants.

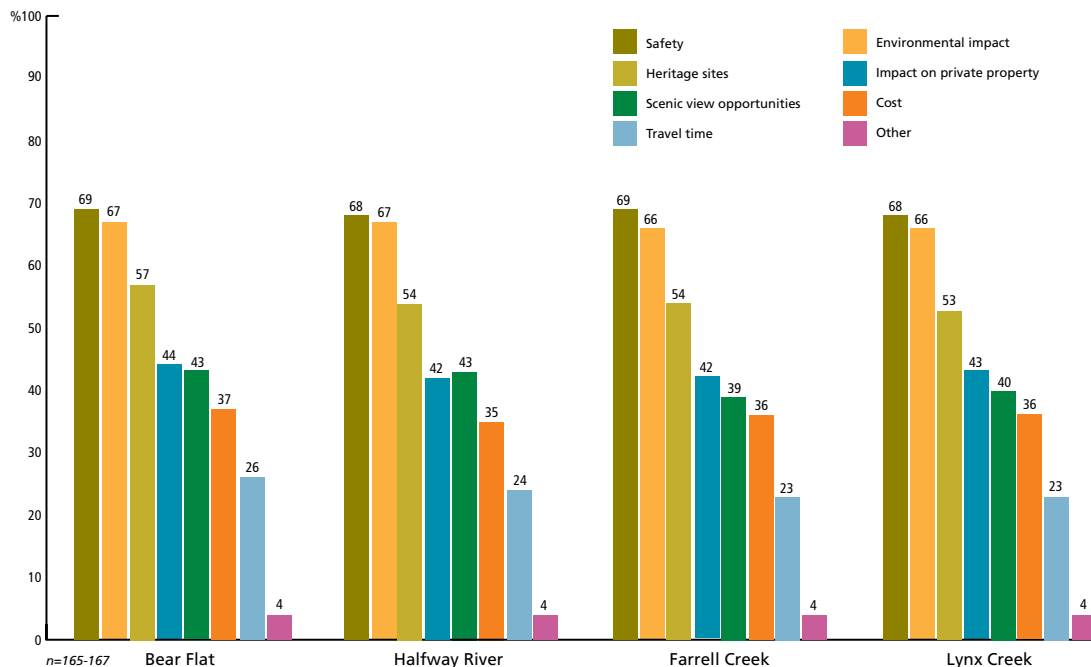
IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN EVALUATING RELOCATION OF FOUR SEGMENTS OF HIGHWAY 29

Participants were asked about the following factors when evaluating relocation of the Bear Flat, Halfway River, Farrell Creek and Lynx Creek sections of Highway 29:

- Safety
- Travel time
- Environmental impact
- Cost
- Scenic view opportunities
- Heritage sites, such as archaeological sites
- Impact on private property

Total

20. Please indicate which of the following are important to consider when evaluating the relocation of the following four segments?



- The relative ranking of factors was consistent, regardless of highway section.
- **Safety** and **environmental impacts** were considered most important, selected by between 66-69% of participants as important to consider when relocating all four segments. **Heritage sites** were important to between 53-57%, while **impacts on private property** and **scenic view opportunities** were considered important by between 39-44% of participants, and **cost** by between 35-37%. Least important to participants was **travel time**, which only between 23-26% of participants believed should be considered when evaluating highway relocation.
- **Safety** was relatively more important than **environmental impacts** to Peace River participants. Relative to Provincial participants, Peace River participants were somewhat less likely to consider **heritage sites** important and somewhat more likely to regard **travel time** as important.

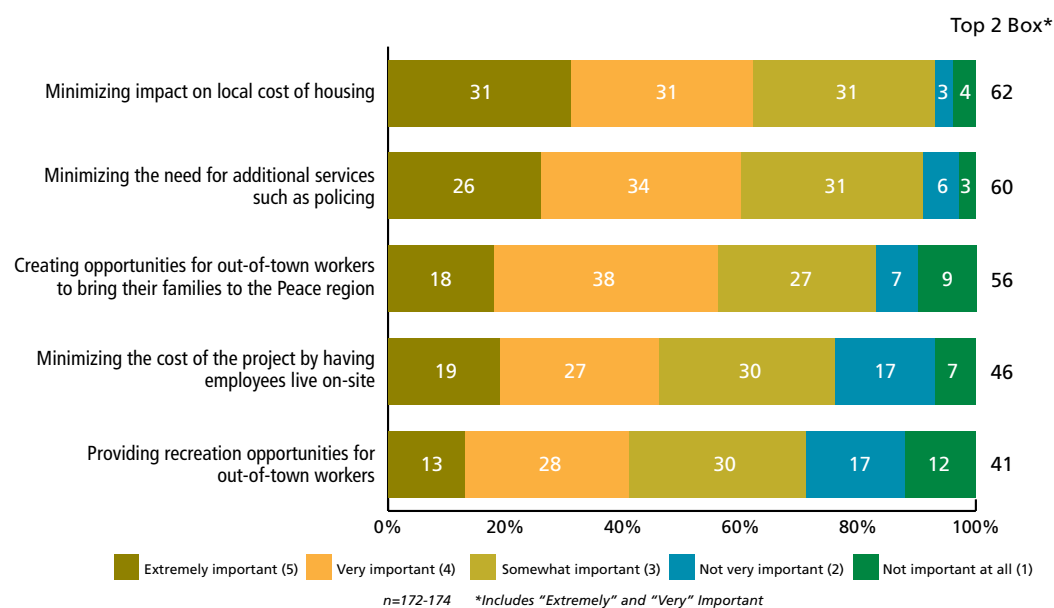
IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN HOUSING OUT-OF-TOWN WORKERS

Participants were asked about the following factors:

- Minimizing impact on local cost of housing
- Minimizing the need for additional services such as policing
- Minimizing the cost of the project by having employees live on-site
- Providing recreation opportunities for out-of-town workers
- Creating opportunities for out-of-town workers to bring their families to the Peace region

Total

22. When it comes to housing out-of-town workers, how important are each of the following factors?



- Two factors were judged to be of higher importance: about six in ten participants assigned ratings of "extremely" or "very" important to **minimizing impact on local housing costs** (62%) and **minimizing the need for additional services** (60%).
- Slightly lower in importance was **creating opportunities for out-of-town workers to bring their families to the Peace region** (56%). Less than half of participants believe it is "extremely" or "very" important to **minimize the cost of the project by having employees live on-site** (46%) or to **provide recreation opportunities for the workers** (41%).
- While participants from each region tended to regard the same factors as highly important, those from the Peace River region were more likely to rate more factors as "extremely" important. The one exception was **providing recreation opportunities for out-of-town workers**, which fewer participants from the Peace River region rated as "extremely" important (11% vs. 15%). Peace River participants also attached greater importance to **minimizing the need for additional services** than those from outside the region (69% vs. 50%).

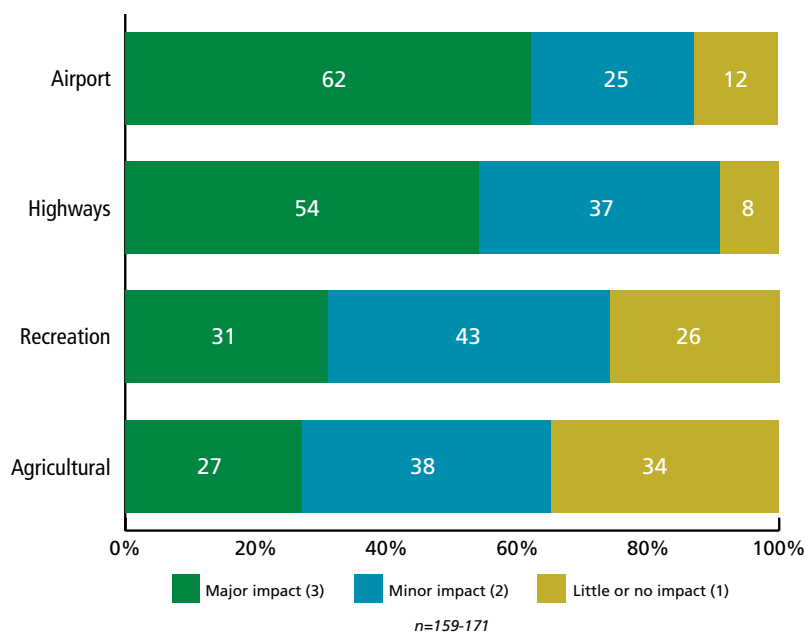
LEVEL OF IMPACT OF INCREASED FOG DAYS IN PEACE RIVER VALLEY

Participants were asked about the following areas:

- Agricultural
- Recreation
- Highways
- Airport

Total

26. What level of impact would an increased number of fog days in the Peace River valley have on the following areas?



- Participants were most likely to believe an increase of fog would have a major impact on the **airport** (62%). Just over half (54%) believed it would have a major impact on **highways**, while only about one in three felt there would be major impacts to **recreation** (31%) and **agriculture** (27%). Among remaining participants, more were likely to believe an increase of fog would have a minor impact on any of these areas, rather than little or no impact.
- Peace River participants were much more likely to feel an increase of fog would have a major impact on all four areas, particularly on **highways** (63% of Peace River participants vs. 39% of Provincial participants) and **agriculture** (37% vs. 13%). While a majority of Provincial participants believed there would be at least a minor impact on most areas, 49% believed there would be little or no impact to **agriculture**.

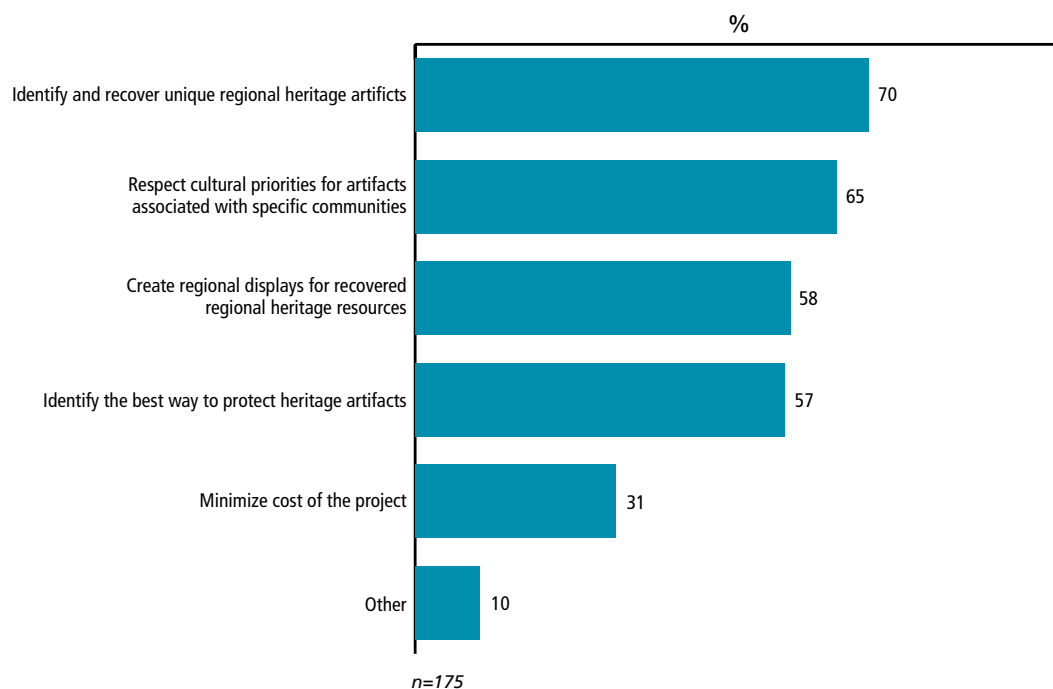
IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS WHEN EVALUATING OPTIONS TO MITIGATE POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON HERITAGE RESOURCES

Participants were asked about the following factors:

- Identify and recover unique regional heritage artifacts
- Create regional displays for recovered regional heritage resources
- Identify the best way to protect heritage artifacts
- Respect cultural priorities for artifacts associated with specific communities
- Minimize cost of the project

Total

33. Which of the following factors should be considered when evaluating options to mitigate potential effects of the Site C project on heritage resources, should the project proceed?



- Participants were most likely to choose **identifying and recovering unique regional heritage artifacts** (70%), followed by **respecting cultural priorities for artifacts associated with specific communities** (65%). Over half of participants also believed that **creating regional displays for recovered regional heritage resources** (58%) and **identifying the best way to protect heritage artifacts** (57%) should be considered. Only 31% of participants believed that **minimizing costs of the project** should be a factor.
- Provincial participants were slightly more likely to regard four of five factors as important to consider, particularly **identifying and recovering unique regional artifacts** (73% of Peace River participants vs. 67% of Provincial participants) and **respecting cultural priorities for artifacts** (69% vs. 63%).

FURTHER COMMENTS

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders (Negative Responses)

35. Please provide any further comments on any aspect of the potential Site C project.

	Total ¹		Peace River Stakeholders		Provincial Stakeholders	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Base	102		64		32 ²	
Negative						
Against Site C	22	22%	19	30%	1	3%
There needs to be more exploration of alternative electrical generation	19	19%	10	16%	6	19%
Site C will destroy animal habitat/ the environment	13	13%	6	9%	6	19%
The survey is biased/not objective	11	11%	7	11%	3	9%
The region/residents will require financial compensation	10	10%	8	13%	2	6%
There has been insufficient consultation with the public	8	8%	3	5%	4	13%
The north suffers for the benefit of the rest of the province	8	8%	6	9%	1	3%
Site C will destroy agricultural land	8	8%	6	9%	1	3%
Disagree with selling power out of province	6	6%	5	8%	1	3%
Site C will destroy the valley	6	6%	3	5%	3	9%
Site C will destroy homes	4	4%	3	5%	1	3%
Transmission losses will be too high/ generate power closer to end use	2	2%	2	3%	0	0%
Site C will destroy heritage sites	2	2%	1	2%	1	3%
Other Negative	17	17%	10	16%	5	16%

1. Total is greater than sum of Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders, as not all participants could be identified by region. 2. Caution: small base size.

- From a total of 936 participants in Project Definition Consultation, Round 1, 224 participants returned feedback forms, of which 102 participants provided “Further Comments” (Question 35).
- 22 of 102 stated their opposition to Site C, 19 indicated a need to explore alternative energy sources, and 13 were concerned with environmental impacts of Site C.

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders (Neutral and Positive Responses)

35. Please provide any further comments on any aspect of the potential Site C project.

	Total ¹		Peace River Stakeholders		Provincial Stakeholders	
Base	102		64		32 ²	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Neutral						
Need to promote conservation of existing power supply	14	14%	8	13%	5	16%
Wildlife habitat needs to be assessed/protected/restored	7	7%	5	8%	1	3%
Require further information about construction/logistics/costs/methods	6	6%	4	6%	2	6%
Landowners/residents need to be consulted	5	5%	3	5%	2	6%
What are the plans for harvesting trees in the flooded areas?	3	3%	3	5%	0	0%
Electricity prices should be lower in the Peace compared to elsewhere	2	2%	2	3%	0	0%
Need to mitigate impact to historical sites	1	1%	1	2%	0	0%
Other Neutral	9	9%	3	5%	4	13%
Positive						
B.C. needs the power produced from Site C	12	12%	8	13%	4	13%
Build it/Go ahead with Site C	10	10%	4	6%	5	16%
The reservoir will contribute to local recreation	5	5%	5	8%	0	0%
There will be positive economic impact/jobs created	4	4%	4	6%	0	0%
Site C will improve area infrastructure/roads	4	4%	3	5%	1	3%
Other Positive	3	3%	1	2%	1	3%
Other	16	16%	9	14%	5	16%

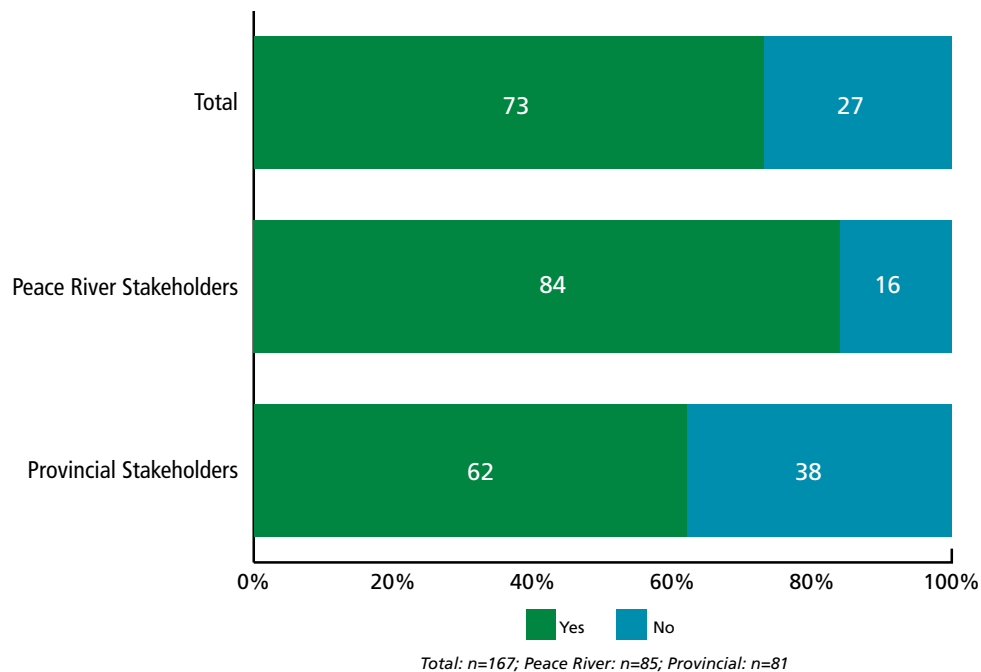
1. Total is greater than sum of Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders, as not all participants could be identified by region. 2. Caution: small base size.

- Of 102 participants who provided feedback under “Further Comments”, 14 cited a need for promoting conservation of the existing power supply, 12 stated that B.C. needs the power produced from Site C and 10 participants stated their support for building Site C.

INTEREST IN RECEIVING UPDATES ON THE PROJECT

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

35c. Would you like to receive updates on the project, including the Project Definition Consultation Report?



- A large majority of participants expressed interest in receiving updates on the project, including the Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 Summary Report. Interest was higher among participants from the Peace River region than those from outside the region.

Submissions

- In addition to comments on the Feedback Forms, open-ended feedback was also received in the form of 22 submissions, of which 9 were from the Peace River region and 8 from outside the region. The remaining 5 could not be identified by region.
- Of the 22 submissions, 5 expressed concerns about the negative environmental impacts of the project, and another 5 stated that there has not been enough consultation with the public. 4 submissions were opposed to Site C, and another 4 indicated that BC Hydro should pursue energy alternatives. 3 submissions stated that Site C will destroy agricultural land.
- 4 submissions said there should be greater effort put into promoting conservation of the existing power supply.
- 6 submissions were positive towards continuing to pursue Site C as an option, with 3 citing the need for more power, and 2 highlighting the economic benefits of Site C.

Key Theme Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Meetings

In addition to Synovate's analysis of feedback form results and written submissions, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd., a professional consultation firm, analyzed the key themes from 29 stakeholder meetings, and from the question and answer sessions held at eight open houses.

The following represents a review of the key themes from each of the stakeholder meetings to determine the most frequently mentioned topics. It is important to note that the key theme summary represents a qualitative analysis of stakeholder meeting notes², as opposed to the quantitative analysis of feedback forms noted above.

1. **Local Impacts – Stakeholders raised concerns regarding local impacts from the potential Site C project** (A key theme at 24 meetings)

The majority of small group meetings included a discussion of potential local impacts, including impacts to community infrastructure with the influx of a large workforce during the construction phase, impacts to private and agricultural land, impacts to the stability of reservoir banks and the possibility of landslides, and impacts to wildlife, fish and the local environment.

2. **Worker Impacts and Housing – Stakeholders expressed concern regarding the impact of a large number of workers on the community and discussed options for worker housing** (A key theme at 16 meetings)

The impact of a large number of workers on community infrastructure, policing and schools was raised in many small group meetings. The issues of housing workers and providing access to construction sites for local workers were also discussed. Participants were divided on their preference of housing workers in camps or within the community, and several groups raised the idea of leaving worker housing in place as a community benefit following construction.

3. **Environmental Impacts – Stakeholders raised concerns regarding potential environmental impacts of the potential Site C project** (A key theme at 13 meetings)

Impacts to the local climate, including possible increases in fog and ice, and changes in water temperature were discussed in many meetings. Participants were also concerned about impacts to wildlife habitat and fish populations, and wanted to know what mitigation efforts would be made, if the project was to proceed.

4. **Multi-staged Evaluation and Consultation – Stakeholders were interested in the multi-staged evaluation and consultation process, the BC Hydro and government decision-making processes, and cost estimates for the potential Site C project** (A key theme at 10 meetings)

A number of stakeholder groups asked about the Site C evaluation and decision-making process, including who would give approval for the project to proceed to Stage 3. Several groups also asked about the environmental assessment process, the consultation process and expressed that there is lack of technical information included in the current phase of consultation.

2. Complete Stakeholder Meeting and Open House Question and Answer Session notes can be found in Appendices 1 and 2.

5. Community Benefits – Stakeholders were interested in potential community benefits for the region (A key theme at 9 meetings)

A number of groups suggested potential community benefits that could be offered to the region including: an agricultural irrigation system, regional skills training, lower electricity rates, funding for community recreation, tourism opportunities and a community trust. Several groups also suggested that worker housing could be used as a community benefit after the construction phase was complete.

6. Energy Alternatives – Stakeholders were interested in alternatives to Site C, and whether they have been adequately explored by BC Hydro (A key theme at 5 meetings)

Several stakeholder groups raised questions about alternative sources of energy, such as solar and tidal. In addition, several groups suggested that BC Hydro could better support those making energy conservation choices, including programs such as net metering, and other conservation opportunities for local municipalities. Participants also felt more communication about the role of Independent Power Producers in alternative energy production was needed and that the Energy Alternatives Chart³ should be revised to provide more details, including cost comparisons, impacts and the addition of geothermal.

7. Reservoir Clearing – Stakeholders expressed the need to ensure proper clearing of the potential Site C reservoir area (A key theme at 5 meetings)

Several stakeholder groups expressed the need to clear the reservoir area to avoid issues that occurred with the creation of the Williston Reservoir, specifically to ensure safety and to improve recreation opportunities. Stakeholders also cited concerns regarding greenhouse gas emissions from organic materials, if the reservoir area is not cleared properly.

8. Stage 2 Studies – Stakeholders were interested in what environmental and engineering studies are being done as part of Stage 2 (A key theme at 3 meetings)

Some stakeholder groups were interested in what environmental and engineering studies were underway or planned as part of Stage 2. There was also interest in the scope of the studies and whether the results would be made public.

9. Procurement/Employment – Stakeholders raised questions about the procurement process (A key theme at 2 meetings)

Some stakeholder groups were interested in the procurement process anticipated for Site C, particularly whether the project would be built as a public-private partnership. Some groups also noted that local and regional industry groups should be included in discussions regarding construction of the project.

3. Peace River Site C Hydro Project: Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 Discussion Guide and Feedback Form, page 8.

10. Commitments from BC Hydro – Stakeholders requested that commitments from BC Hydro be put in writing (A key theme at 2 meetings)

Some stakeholder groups raised concerns that commitments made by BC Hydro on other projects had not been met and they wanted to ensure that any further commitments made, especially regarding community benefits, are made in writing.

11. Government Policy and Energy Planning – Stakeholders stated they would like a broader discussion about government energy policy (A key theme at 2 meetings)

Some stakeholder groups were interested in government energy and BC Hydro's mandate. They questioned how the current *BC Energy Plan* would impact consideration of whether to proceed with Site C, and whether the *BC Energy Plan* impacted the cost of developing Site C. Stakeholder groups stated the need to integrate Site C into provincial energy planning.

Key Theme Summary of Comments from Open House Question and Answer Sessions

The following represents a review of the key themes from the eight moderated open house question and answer sessions to determine the most frequently mentioned topics. As with the stakeholder meeting notes, it is important to note that the key theme summary represents a qualitative analysis of question and answer session meeting notes, as opposed to the quantitative analysis of feedback forms noted previously.

Open houses held in Fort Nelson and Mackenzie did not have a moderated question and answer session due to low attendance and the ability of the project team to answer individual's question on a one-on-one basis.

1. **Local Impacts – Stakeholders raised concerns regarding local impacts from the potential Site C project** (A key theme at 7 open houses)

Almost all of the open house question and answer sessions included a discussion of local impacts as a result of Site C, particularly socio-economic impacts of a large workforce on infrastructure, impacts to private and agricultural land, impacts to the stability of the reservoir banks and the possibility of landslides, and impacts to wildlife and fish.

Participants at several open houses were interested in the timing of environmental studies and asked whether the results would be made public. Participants noted the potential impact of making a construction access bridge into a public access bridge following construction.

2. **Energy Alternatives – Stakeholders expressed an interest in alternatives to Site C** (A key theme at 6 open houses)

The question of alternatives to Site C was a key theme at almost all of the open house question and answer sessions. Of particular interest to open house participants were conservation programs, changing BC Hydro's mandate to include production of energy through means other than hydro, and whether existing facilities could be used more efficiently.

3. **Conservation – Stakeholders expressed an interest in conservation programs and incentives promoted by BC Hydro** (A key theme at 3 open houses)

While conservation was raised as part of the discussions about alternatives to Site C, it was also mentioned as a stand-alone topic. Participants at three open houses were interested in conservation programs such as smart metering, net metering, off-peak rates, and conservation opportunities for local municipalities and industry.

4. **BC Hydro's Mandate – Stakeholders expressed an interest in policy direction that restricts BC Hydro from pursuing alternative forms of energy production** (A key theme at 3 open houses)

Participants at three open houses were interested in policy directions that restrict BC Hydro to producing energy through hydro. Some participants asked why BC Hydro was not able to pursue generation through alternatives such as wind, solar, geothermal and nuclear, rather than purchasing energy from Independent Power Producers.

5. Energy Trade – Stakeholders were interested in BC Hydro’s import/export of power (A key theme at 3 open houses)

Participants at three open houses were skeptical of the need for more power in B.C. and asked for clarification on BC Hydro’s import/export numbers.

6. Socio-economic Impacts – Stakeholders were concerned about the socio-economic impacts of an influx of construction workers (A key theme at 2 open houses)

As part of the discussion around local impacts, participants raised the issue of impacts to infrastructure and schools due to an increase in population during construction of Site C. In particular, participants were concerned about worker housing and substance abuse.

7. Slope Stability and Possibility of Landslides – Stakeholders were concerned about the impacts that a reservoir would have on the banks of the river (A key theme at 2 open houses)

Also included in the discussion around local impacts, participants were interested in the impact that the creation of a reservoir would have on the possibility of landslides or sloughing of slopes.

Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 Summary Report

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Site C is one of several options being considered to help meet B.C.'s future electricity needs. The potential Site C dam would be located about seven kilometres southwest of Fort St. John on the Peace River, downstream of where the Moberly River enters the Peace River. It would provide about 900 megawatts of capacity, and produce approximately 4,600 gigawatt hours of electricity each year – enough to power about 460,000 homes.

As the third dam and generating station on the Peace River, Site C would gain significant efficiencies by taking advantage of water already stored in the Williston Reservoir and used to generate electricity upstream at the existing W.A.C. Bennett and Peace Canyon dams. In fact, it would produce about 30 per cent of the electricity of the W.A.C. Bennett Dam, with five per cent of the reservoir area.

As currently designed, the earthfill Site C dam would be 1,100 metres long, with 300 metres of concrete structures located on the right bank for the spillway and power intakes. If built, Site C would be a mid-size facility with a significant upfront capital cost, a long operating life and low operating costs. Site C would have one of the most stable reservoirs in the BC Hydro system, with a maximum range of fluctuation of +/- three feet, and would not appreciably change downstream flows. The reservoir would be 83 kilometres long, on average two to three times the width of the current river, and would flood approximately 5,340 hectares.

No decision has been made to build Site C. BC Hydro is taking a stage-by-stage approach to the evaluation of Site C as a potential resource option for meeting B.C.'s future electricity needs. At the end of each stage of review, BC Hydro will make a recommendation to government for a decision on whether to proceed to the next stage of project planning and development.

Site C would be publicly owned. Early interim project estimates indicate that Site C could cost between \$5 billion and \$6.6 billion. As a decision to build is still years away, any project estimates at this stage are only interim. Cost estimates will be updated at the end of each stage of project review.

Because Site C was examined as a resource option more than 25 years ago, and again from 1989–1991, significant engineering design and environmental studies have been done. Today's approach to Site C will consider environmental concerns, impacts to land, and opportunities for community benefits, and will update design, financial and technical work. The work during Stage 2 will determine what new or updated information is required, update decades-old studies, and begin some new environmental studies and technical work. The project as originally conceived must be updated to reflect current standards and to incorporate new ideas brought forward by communities, First Nations, regulatory agencies and stakeholders.

2. BACKGROUND – PRE-CONSULTATION (DECEMBER 2007–FEBRUARY 2008)

2.1 Pre-Consultation Overview

The 2007 *BC Energy Plan* called for BC Hydro to “enter into initial discussions with First Nations, the Province of Alberta and communities to discuss Site C to ensure that communications regarding the potential project and the processes being followed are well known.” In Pre-Consultation, BC Hydro asked participants **how they wanted to be consulted** and about the **topics they wished to discuss** in the next phase of consultation, Project Definition Consultation.

2.2 Pre-Consultation Results

Pre-Consultation on the Site C Hydro Project was held from December 4, 2007–February 15, 2008.

The following opportunities were provided for participants to give their feedback:

- Pre-Consultation Discussion Guide and Feedback Form
- Stakeholder meetings (48)
- Open House (1)
- Website and Online Feedback Form
- Submissions (fax, email, phone and mail)
- Toll-free Site C information line
- Fort St. John Community Consultation Office

Consultation Participation:

- 686 people
- Approximately 400 people attended 48 stakeholder meetings
- 56 people attended a public meeting and open house in Hudson’s Hope
- 305 feedback forms
- 31 submissions (fax, email, phone and mail)
- 200 visits to the Fort St. John Community Consultation Office

Results from 305 Feedback Forms:

- Nine topics were identified for consultation: project design, water management, fish/wildlife, socio-economic impacts, land use, infrastructure, local benefits and opportunities, recreation, and local and provincial climate.
- Participants regarded all nine topics presented in the feedback form as important topics of discussion in Project Definition Consultation. Relative to participants elsewhere, those in the Peace River region tended to place greater importance on topics related to **Infrastructure** (83%), **Socio-economic** (79%), **Recreation** (77%), and **Local and Provincial Climate** (75%).
- In an open-ended question, participants mentioned opportunities for **recreation** (27%), **employment** (19%), **upgrades to infrastructure** (19%), and a **lasting legacy similar to the Columbia Basin Trust** (16%) as community benefits they would most like to see from the development of Site C.
- Participants were most likely to take part in Project Definition Consultation through **stakeholder meetings** (70% somewhat or very important), **public open houses** (65%) and **online feedback forms** (51%).
- Participants were most likely to read information about Project Definition Consultation through **email** (86% somewhat or very important), **mail** (84%), **website** (75%) or **newspaper ad** (68%).

Key Themes from 48 Stakeholder Meetings:

Stakeholders raised the following key themes at stakeholder meetings:

- Questions and concerns regarding **local impacts** (a key theme at 36 meetings)
- An interest in how and when Site C will be compared to **energy alternatives** (a key theme at 34 meetings)
- An interest in the **consultation process** and in **participating in the future Project Definition phase** (a key theme at 25 meetings)

3. PROJECT DEFINITION CONSULTATION (MAY–JUNE 2008)

3.1 Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 Overview

Project Definition Consultation, Round 1, incorporating stakeholder input received in Pre-Consultation, was designed to consult the public and local, regional and provincial stakeholders on **key impacts, benefits and features** of the potential Site C project. The consultation sought feedback on elements of **project design, recreation, infrastructure, local impacts, land uses** and **community benefits**.

3.2 Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 Participation

- 936 total participants in Project Definition Consultation, Round 1
- 284 people attended 29 stakeholder meetings
- 380 people attended 10 open houses
- 22 submissions (fax, email, phone and mail)
- 250 people visited the Fort. St. John Community Consultation Office between May 1, 2008 and June 30, 2008
- A total of 224 feedback forms were returned at stakeholder meetings, open houses, through the Fort. St. John Community Consultation Office, and by web, email, fax and mail

3.3 Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 Consultation Topics

The following are the consultation topics discussed in the Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 Discussion Guide and Feedback Form. These topics were selected due to their importance to communities and stakeholders, as indicated during Pre-Consultation from December 2007–February 2008.

- **Site C as an energy option**
- **Community and provincial benefits**
- **Project design elements**
 - Reservoir impact lines
 - Water management
- **Recreation**
 - River-based opportunities
 - Reservoir-based opportunities
- **Infrastructure**
 - Relocation of segments of Highway 29
 - Worker housing
- **Environment**
 - Potential increase of fog
 - Impacts on fish
- **Land uses**
 - Heritage resources, such as impacts on archaeological sites

3.4 Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 Methods

3.4.1 Discussion Guide and Feedback Form

A consultation discussion guide explained the purpose and scope of Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 and included a feedback form to assist in gathering input.

The discussion guide also included:

- Background on the potential Site C project
- Information on how BC Hydro is addressing B.C.'s future electricity needs
- Information on the Site C decision-making process
- Information on the Site C consultation process, including an open house schedule for Project Definition Consultation, Round 1, and information on how input will be used
- Information on B.C.'s potential electricity resources and their attributes
- Detailed information on each of the Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 consultation topics
- Information on potential consultation topics for Project Definition Consultation, Round 2

A feedback form was included with the discussion guide and additional feedback was gathered at stakeholder meetings, open houses, by web, email, fax, mail, phone and through the Fort St. John Community Consultation Office.

3.4.2 Web-based Consultation

All consultation materials were available on the web (www.bchydro.com/sitec), including the feedback form that could be submitted directly from the Site C website or faxed back to the project. Of the 224 feedback forms received, 76 were received online through the web-based feedback form.

3.4.3 Stakeholder Meetings

29 stakeholder meetings were held as part of Project Definition Consultation, Round 1.

A Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd. facilitator and Site C project staff attended the stakeholder meetings. At each meeting, Site C project staff gave a short presentation on the project and consultation topics. A discussion guide was available, including a feedback form.

Participants provided their comments on the project and other matters and were able to ask questions of project staff. Key themes from each meeting are summarized in this report starting on page 69.

284 stakeholders attended the 29 meetings held in 12 communities around the province: Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Greater Vancouver, Hudson's Hope, Mackenzie, Pouce Coupe, Nanaimo, Prince George, Taylor and Tumbler Ridge.

The 29 stakeholder meetings were held on the following dates and are listed in chronological order. Meetings with Peace River region stakeholders are highlighted; all others were held with Provincial stakeholders.

1.	May 5, 2008	Fort St. John Community Groups
2.	May 6, 2008	Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe Business Groups
3.	May 6, 2008	Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe Community and Environmental Groups
4.	May 8, 2008	Fort St. John Business Groups
5.	May 8, 2008	Fort St. John Environmental Groups
6.	May 8, 2008	Joint Industry Electricity Steering Committee (JIESC)
7.	May 12, 2008	Vancouver Island Business Groups
8.	May 12, 2008	Fort St. John Local Government
9.	May 12, 2008	Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe Local Government
10.	May 13, 2008	Tumbler Ridge and Chetwynd Local Government
11.	May 13, 2008	Tumbler Ridge and Chetwynd Business Groups
12.	May 13, 2008	Tumbler Ridge and Chetwynd Community and Environmental Groups
13.	May 13, 2008	Lower Mainland Environmental Groups
14.	May 15, 2008	Hudson's Hope Local Government
15.	May 15, 2008	Hudson's Hope Business Groups
16.	May 15, 2008	Hudson's Hope Community and Environmental Groups
17.	May 20, 2008	Lower Mainland Mining and Forestry Groups, COFI
18.	May 20, 2008	Mackenzie Local Government
19.	May 20, 2008	Mackenzie Community, Business and Environment
20.	May 22, 2008	Lower Mainland Business Groups
21.	May 22, 2008	Peace River Regional District
22.	May 27, 2008	Northern BC Construction Association
23.	May 27, 2008	Independent Power Producers of BC (IPPBC)
24.	May 29, 2008	Fort Nelson Local Government
25.	May 29, 2008	Fort Nelson Community, Business and Environmental Groups
26.	June 5, 2008	North Central Municipal Association
27.	June 10, 2008	Taylor Local Government
28.	June 16, 2008	North Peace Economic Development Commission
29.	June 24, 2008	Vancouver Board of Trade Sustainability Committee

3.4.4 Public Open Houses

10 public open houses were held as part of Project Definition Consultation, Round 1, in the following communities:

Community	Date	Time	Location
Fort St. John	Mon, June 2	6 p.m.– 9 p.m.	North Peace Cultural Centre
Taylor	Tues, June 3	6 p.m.– 9 p.m.	Taylor Community Hall
Hudson's Hope	Sat, June 7	10 a.m.–1 p.m.	Hudson's Hope Community Hall
Dawson Creek/ Pouce Coupe	Mon, June 9	6 p.m.– 9 p.m.	South Peace Community Multiplex – EnCana Centre
Hudson's Hope	Tues, June 10	6 p.m.– 9 p.m.	Hudson's Hope Community Hall
Fort St. John	Sat, June 14	10 a.m.–1 p.m.	North Peace Cultural Centre
Chetwynd/ Tumbler Ridge	Mon, June 16	6 p.m.– 9 p.m.	Chetwynd Recreation Complex
Fort Nelson	Tues, June 17	6 p.m.– 9 p.m.	Woodlands Inn
Prince George	Wed, June 18	6 p.m.– 9 p.m.	Treasure Cove Hotel
Mackenzie	Thurs, June 19	6 p.m.– 9 p.m.	Mackenzie Recreation Centre

At the majority of open houses, a one-hour moderated question and answer period was held at the end of the meeting¹. While most participants engaged Site C team members in one-on-one or small group discussions during the open house portion, many also participated in the question and answer period.

Approximately **380 people** attended the 10 open houses, with approximately **200** participating in question and answer sessions. Key themes of the question and answer sessions are summarized in this report starting on page 76.

1. Open houses held in Fort Nelson and Mackenzie did not have question and answer sessions due to low attendance and the ability of the project team to answer individual's questions on a one-on-one basis.

3.4.5 Fort St. John Community Consultation Office

BC Hydro opened a Community Consultation Office in Fort St. John on January 7, 2008, with the Honourable Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, officially opening the office at an event on January 22, 2008.

The purpose of the office is to provide a place where people can get information about the Site C project, ask questions and provide feedback. The office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

The public and stakeholders were notified about the Community Consultation Office through the Site C website, in the Pre-Consultation Discussion Guide, at stakeholder meetings, and through local newspaper advertisements. The project also sent a media advisory on January 21, 2008 to local Fort St. John media, and invited local community governments and the Peace River Regional District to the official opening on January 22.

More than 250 people visited the office between May 1st and June 30th, 2008. Visitors provided their comments and asked questions of project staff. Generally, visitors were interested in:

- Viewing the detailed maps and models available in the office
- Picking up consultation materials and reports for review
- The size of the reservoir and height of the dam
- Details regarding segments of Highway 29 that could require relocation and impacts to communities
- Specific inquiries regarding property impacts
- Business and employment opportunities with the Site C project

All visitors were encouraged to submit a feedback form.

3.4.6 Public Notification

Stakeholder Meetings: Approximately 1,000 local, regional and provincial stakeholders were notified of stakeholder meetings by letter, email, fax and by telephone. In addition, advertisements were placed in the following newspapers inviting prospective stakeholders to register for meetings:

Alaska Highway News – May 2, 2008
Chetwynd Echo – April 25, 2008
Dawson Creek Daily News – April 25 and May 2, 2008
Dawson Creek Mirror – April 25 and May 2, 2008
Fort Nelson News – April 23 and May 21, 2008
Fort St. John Northerner – April 25, 2008
Northeast News – April 23 and April 30, 2008
Mackenzie Times – April 22 and May 13, 2008
Prince George Citizen – April 26 and May 9, 2008
Prince George Free Press – May 16, 2008
Vancouver Sun – May 10, May 17 and May 20, 2008
Victoria Times Colonist – May 10 and May 14, 2008

Open Houses: Advertisements were placed in the following newspapers, notifying residents of the opportunity to attend an open house:

Alaska Highway News – May 21, May 29 and June 10, 2008
Chetwynd Echo – May 23, May 30, June 6 and June 13, 2008
Dawson Creek Daily News – May 21, May 29 and June 6, 2008
Dawson Creek Mirror – May 23, May 30 and June 6, 2008
Fort Nelson News – May 28, June 4 and June 11, 2008
Fort St. John Northerner – May 23, May 30 and June 6, 2008
Northeast News – May 21, May 28 and June 4, 2008
Mackenzie Times – May 20, May 27, June 10 and June 17, 2008
Tumbler Ridge News – May 28, June 4 and June 11, 2008

In addition to print advertisements, a radio advertisement ran for several weeks on the following stations, encouraging residents to visit the Site C website for the open house schedule:

Fort St. John

CKFU FM
CHRX FM
CKNL FM

Chetwynd and Dawson Creek

CHET FM
CHAD AM
CJDC AM

Household Mailer: More than 21,000 households received an eight-page information flyer. The mailing included postal codes in Charlie Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Hudson's Hope, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Mackenzie, Pouce Coupe and Taylor. The information flyer, a condensed version of the discussion guide, provided details about the Site C project and Project Definition Consultation, Round 1, as well as the open house schedule and contact information for the Site C project. A copy of the information flyer can be found in Appendix 6.

4. DETAILED FINDINGS: CONSULTATION INPUT

The following provides a summary of input received through the feedback forms.

The 36-page discussion guide provided consultation participants with information about the Site C project, and asked for feedback on elements of project design, recreation, infrastructure, local impacts, land uses and community benefits.

Synovate, a professional market research firm, was commissioned by Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd. and BC Hydro to help develop the consultation feedback form, host the online feedback form, and tabulate and analyze all feedback forms and written submissions received from Project Definition Consultation, Round 1.

224 completed feedback forms were received and tabulated between May 1, 2008 and June 30, 2008; 76 were received online and 148 in hard copy. In addition, 22 submissions were received through mail, fax, phone and email, and those responses were coded and analyzed in conjunction with the tabulated feedback forms. In the following summary, results from the feedback forms are shown in graphical format for all stakeholders and for Peace River Stakeholders and Provincial Stakeholders. Results from the written submissions have been summarized separately.

Participants self-select into consultation rather than being selected randomly

The views represented in this report reflect the priorities and concerns of the consultation participants. They may not be representative of the views of all British Columbians because participants self-selected into Project Definition Consultation, Round 1. Although results are presented in the form of percentages, there are no margins of error for this data because there is no probability sample. The sample in question is based on self-selection, for which a sampling error cannot be measured.

The following table shows the number of completed feedback forms and submissions received as part of Project Definition Consultation, Round 1.

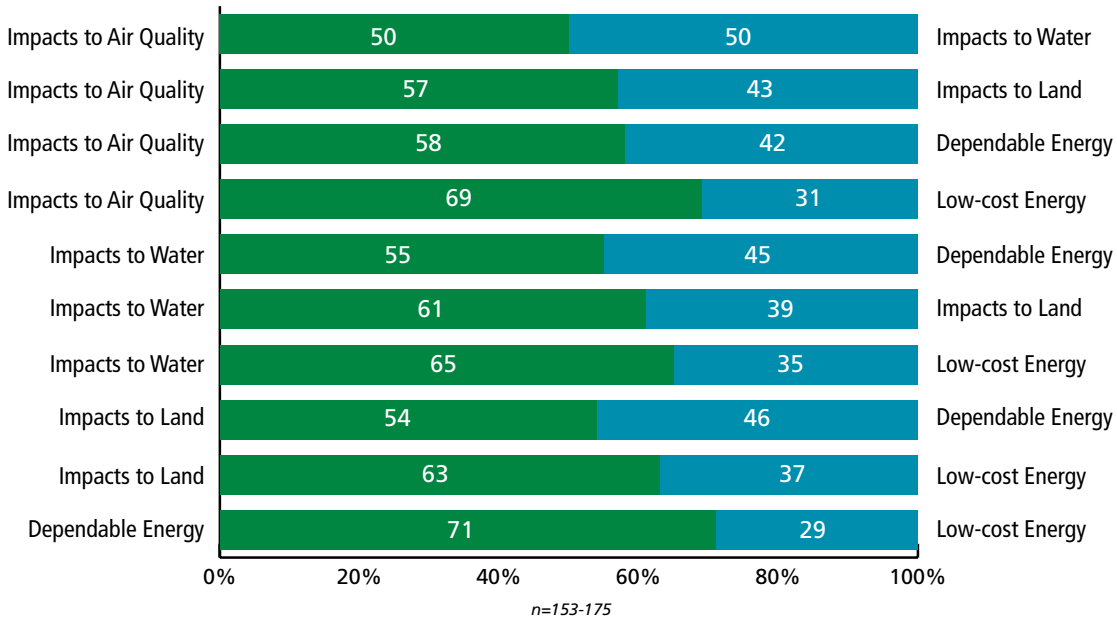
Feedback Forms	Number Received
Small Group Meetings	42
Open Houses	81
Fort St. John Community Consultation Office	16
Fax	1
Online	76
Miscellaneous	1
Mail	7
Total	224
Submissions (fax, email, phone and mail)	22
Total	246

4.1 FEEDBACK FORM

SITE C AS AN ENERGY OPTION: IMPORTANCE OF CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING SITE C

Total – Summary

1. The assessment of Site C as an energy option requires trading off a number of criteria. So too does the development of an operating regime for Site C. For each of the selections below, please choose which is more important to you.



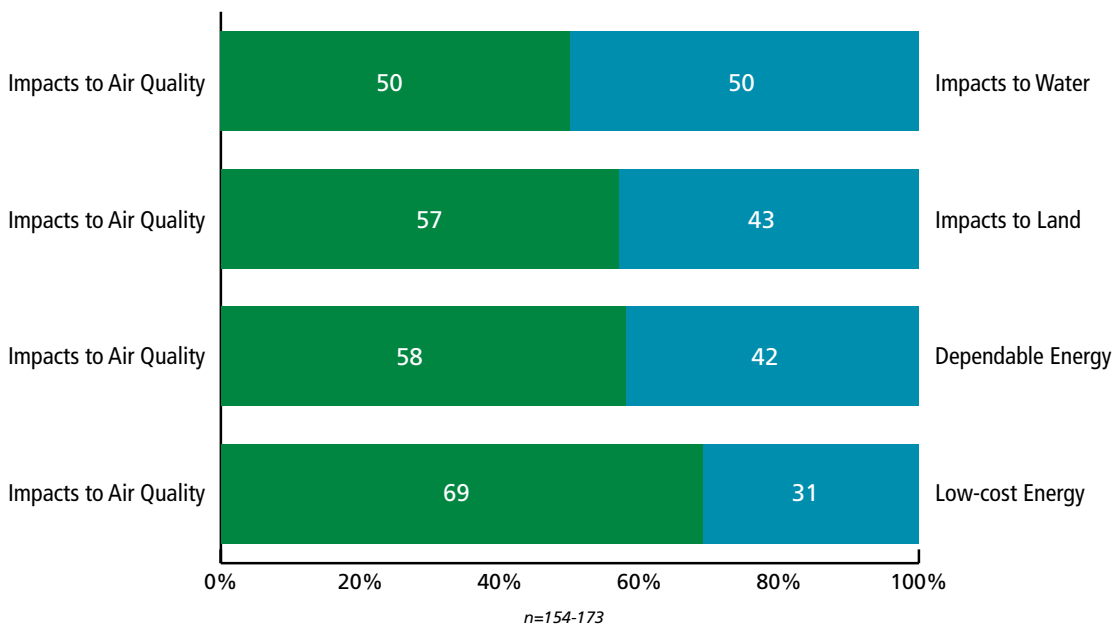
In a paired trade-off exercise, participants were asked which of two evaluation criteria is most important when making assessments about Site C. The following five criteria were paired against each other and are listed in order of relative importance:

1. Impacts to air quality
2. Impacts to water
3. Impacts to land
4. Dependable energy
5. Low-cost energy

SITE C AS AN ENERGY OPTION: IMPORTANCE OF CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING SITE C

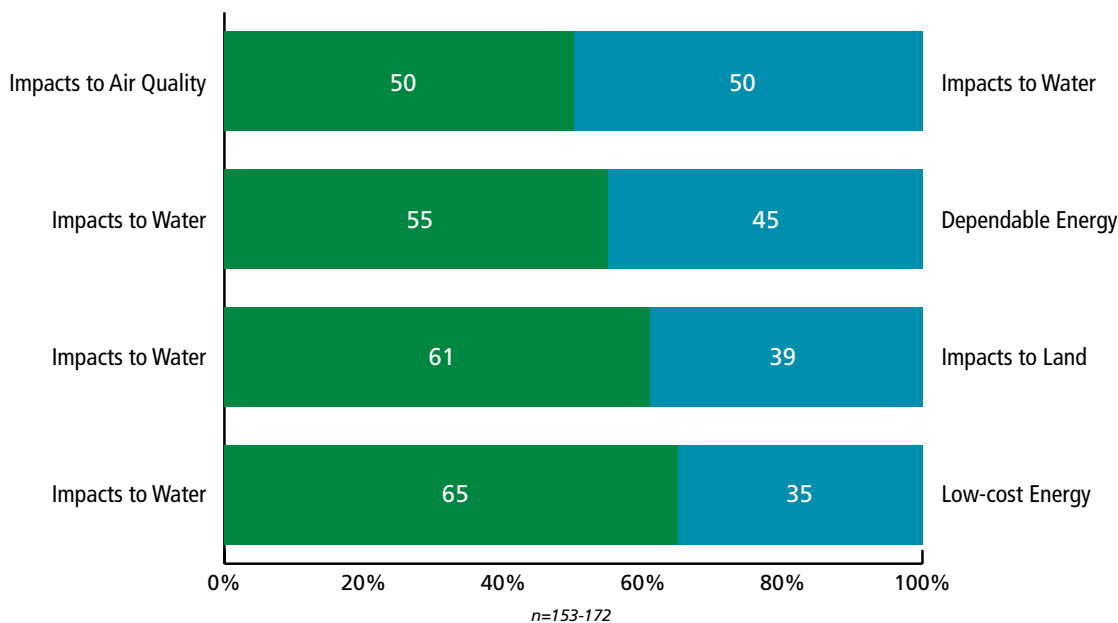
Total – Impacts to Air Quality

1. The assessment of Site C as an energy option requires trading off a number of criteria. So too does the development of an operating regime for Site C. For each of the selections below, please choose which is more important to you.



Total – Impacts to Water

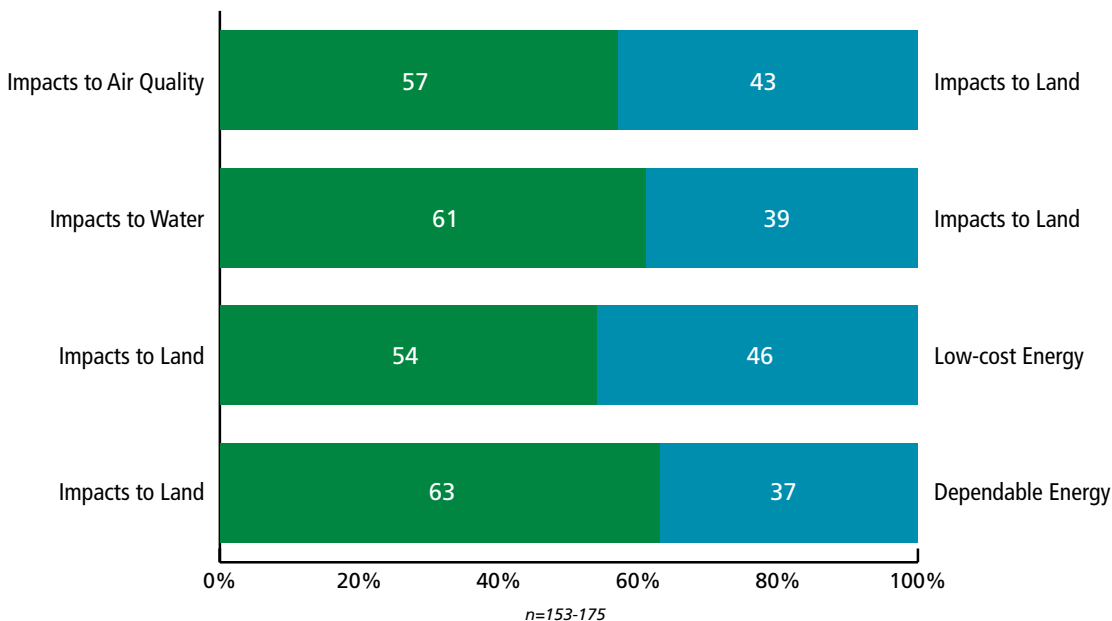
1. The assessment of Site C as an energy option requires trading off a number of criteria. So too does the development of an operating regime for Site C. For each of the selections below, please choose which is more important to you.



SITE C AS AN ENERGY OPTION: IMPORTANCE OF CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING SITE C

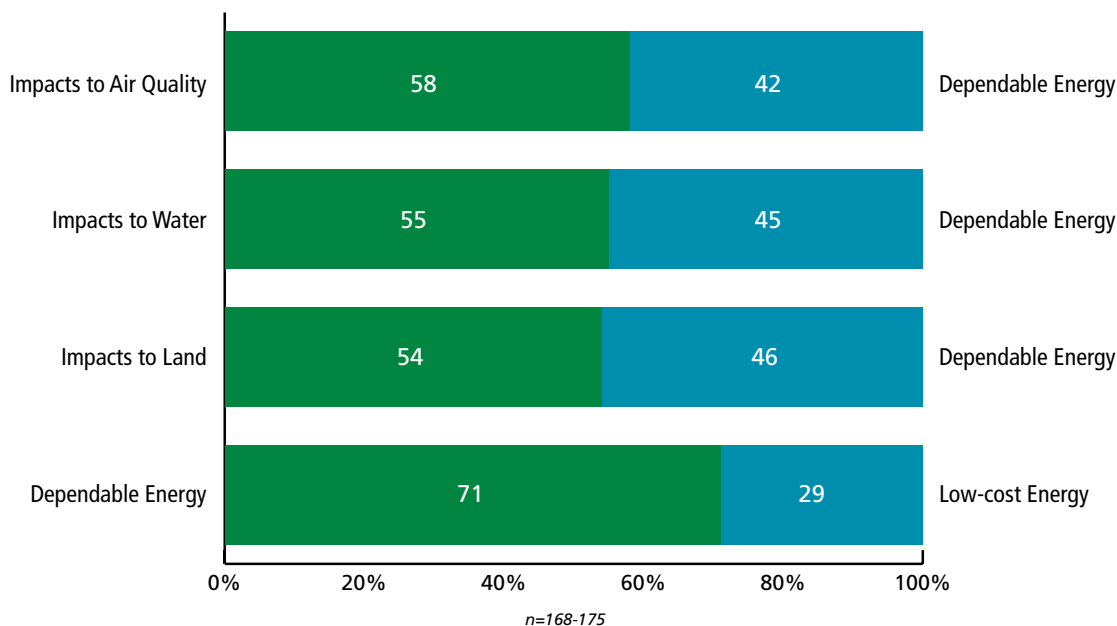
Total – Impacts to Land

1. The assessment of Site C as an energy option requires trading off a number of criteria. So too does the development of an operating regime for Site C. For each of the selections below, please choose which is more important to you.



Total – Dependable Energy

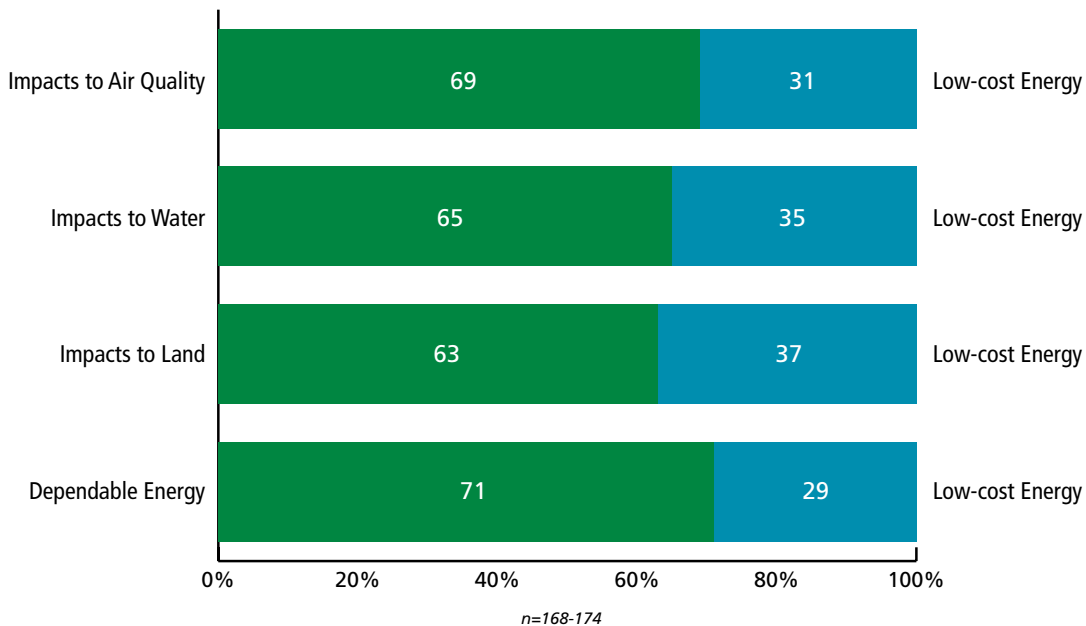
1. The assessment of Site C as an energy option requires trading off a number of criteria. So too does the development of an operating regime for Site C. For each of the selections below, please choose which is more important to you.



SITE C AS AN ENERGY OPTION: IMPORTANCE OF CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING SITE C

Total – Low-cost Energy

1. The assessment of Site C as an energy option requires trading off a number of criteria. So too does the development of an operating regime for Site C. For each of the selections below, please choose which is more important to you.

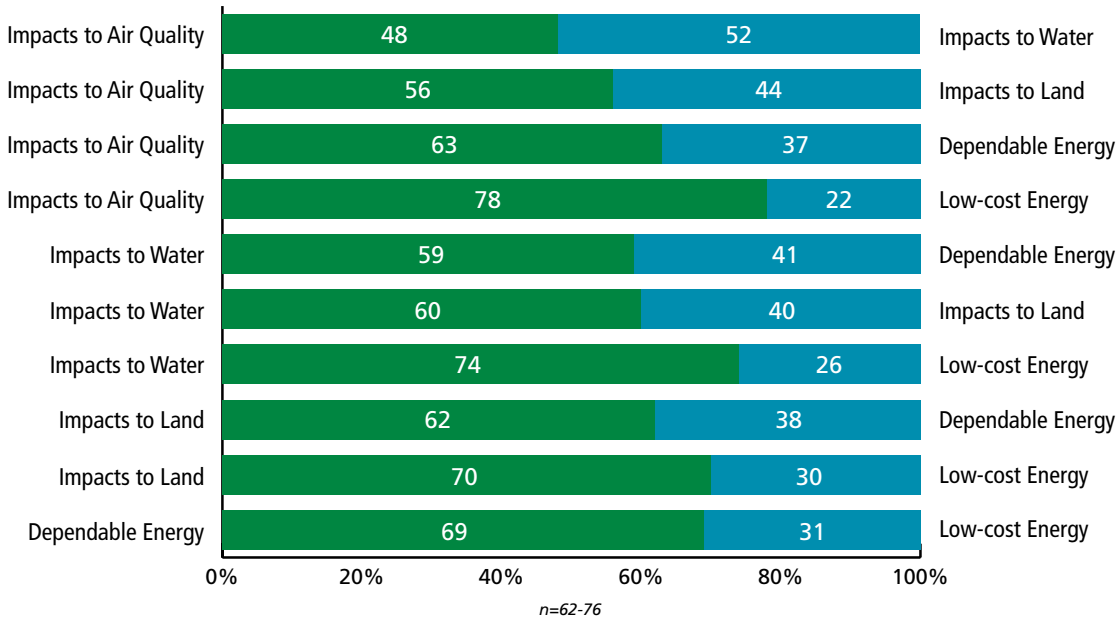


- Based on the balance of opinion in favour of one criterion over the other, **environmental impacts** were judged by participants to be more important than both **dependable energy** and **low-cost energy**.
- Paired against each other, **impacts to air quality** and **impacts to water** were equally important to participants, while each was rated as more important than **impacts to land**.
- **Dependable energy** was regarded as more important by participants, on balance, than **low-cost energy**.

SITE C AS AN ENERGY OPTION: IMPORTANCE OF CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING SITE C

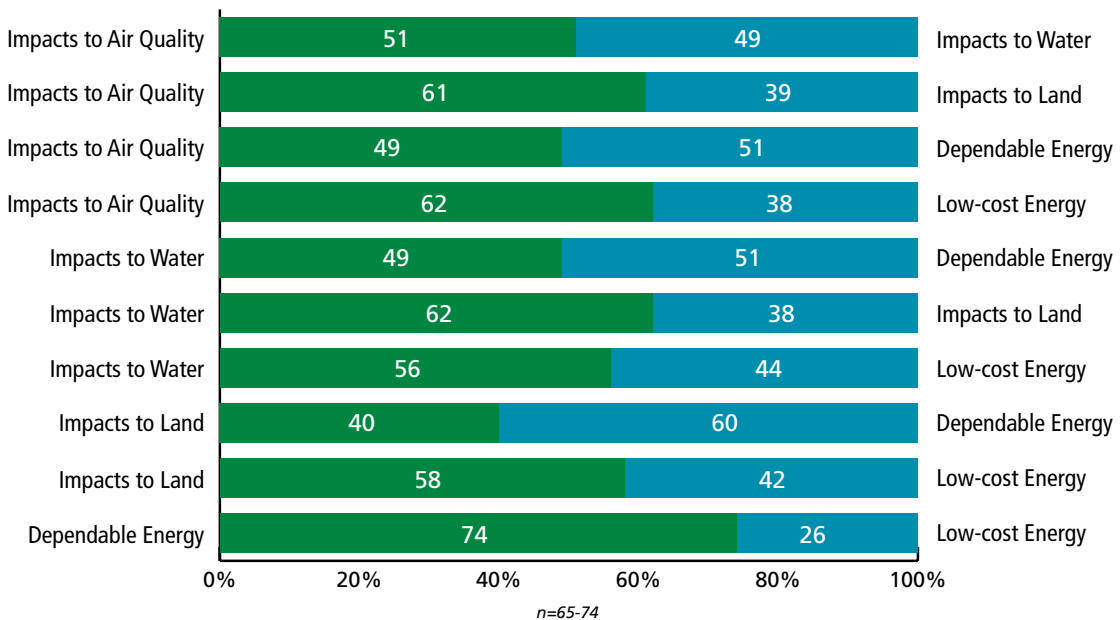
Peace River Stakeholders – Summary

1. The assessment of Site C as an energy option requires trading off a number of criteria. So too does the development of an operating regime for Site C. For each of the selections below, please choose which is more important to you.



Provincial Stakeholders – Summary

1. The assessment of Site C as an energy option requires trading off a number of criteria. So too does the development of an operating regime for Site C. For each of the selections below, please choose which is more important to you.

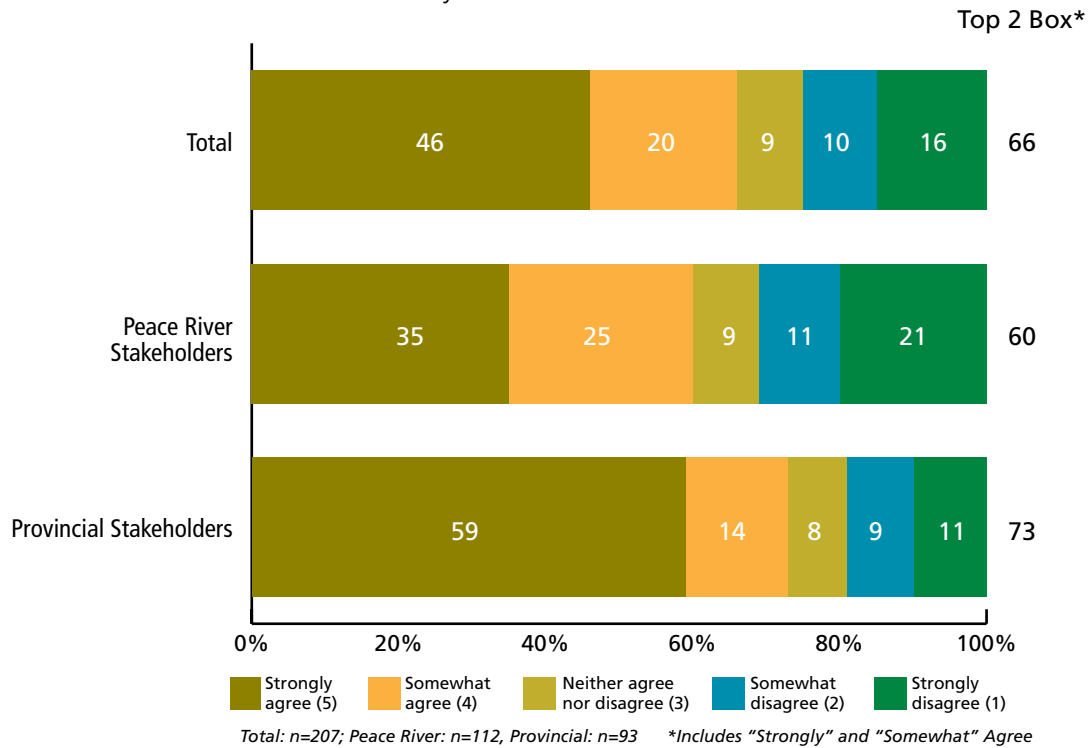


- Peace River participants placed greater importance on **environmental impacts**. The balance of opinion regarding impacts to air quality, water and land over dependable and low-cost energy was greater among this group than it was among participants outside the region.
- Provincial participants placed greater emphasis on **dependable energy** relative to environmental impacts. Specifically, Provincial participants considered dependable energy more important, on balance, than impacts to land and they considered it to be about equal in importance to impacts to air quality and to water.

NEED FOR ELECTRICITY AFTER ACHIEVING ALL POSSIBLE CONSERVATION

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

2. Do you agree or disagree that, even after achieving all possible conservation, we will still need more electricity?



- About two-thirds (66%) of participants agreed (“strongly” or “somewhat”) that B.C. will need more electricity even after achieving all possible conservation, while just over one-quarter (26%) disagreed (“strongly” or “somewhat”) and 9% were undecided.
- Provincial participants were more likely to agree with this statement than Peace River participants (73% vs. 60%, respectively). Approximately one-third (32%) of Peace River participants disagreed about the need for more electricity.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON COMPARING SITE C TO ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

3. Do you have any additional comments regarding other key considerations in comparing Site C to energy alternatives?

	Total ¹		Peace River Stakeholders		Provincial Stakeholders	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Base	90		57		31 ²	
Energy should be clean/ environmentally friendly	22	24%	13	23%	9	29%
Conserve/Reduce current energy supply	20	22%	11	19%	9	29%
Consider alternative energies (net)	19	21%	9	16%	9	29%
Energy should be low cost	14	16%	8	14%	6	19%
Energy should be dependable	9	10%	6	11%	3	10%
Sustainable/Provide energy for future B.C.	9	10%	5	9%	3	10%
Power should not be exported	8	9%	6	11%	2	6%
Against Site C (general)	8	9%	8	14%	0	0%
Energy should not impact food security	5	6%	3	5%	2	6%
BC Hydro should be more transparent/ Need accurate information/forecasts	5	6%	4	7%	1	3%
It is at the expense of the north/ Power should be generated locally	5	6%	4	7%	0	0%
Energy should be renewable	4	4%	4	7%	0	0%
Grid requirement/ Energy transmission	2	2%	0	0%	2	6%
Public should be aware of options	2	2%	2	2%	0	0%
The water is being used three times	2	2%	1	2%	1	3%
Other	10	11%	4	7%	6	19%

1. Total is greater than sum of Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders, as not all participants could be identified by region. 2. Caution: small base size.

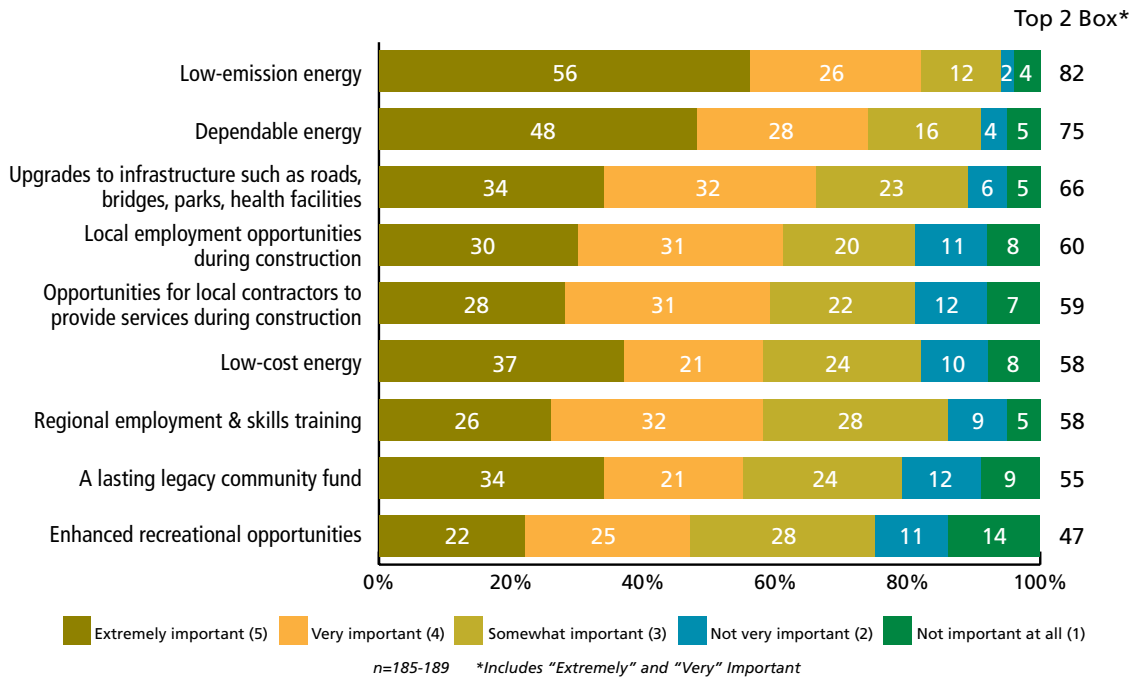
- An open-ended question asked participants to identify other key considerations in comparing Site C to energy alternatives. Of 90 participants who provided other key considerations, participants mentioned that energy should be clean and environmentally friendly (22 participants), that there should be a focus on conserving/reducing the current energy supply (20), that alternative energy sources should be considered (19) and that energy should be low cost (14). Among the alternative energy sources mentioned, the most frequently noted forms of energy sources include wind power (10), solar power (9) and nuclear energy (5).

COMMUNITY AND PROVINCIAL BENEFITS

IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY AND PROVINCIAL BENEFITS

Total

4. Please indicate the importance of each of the following:

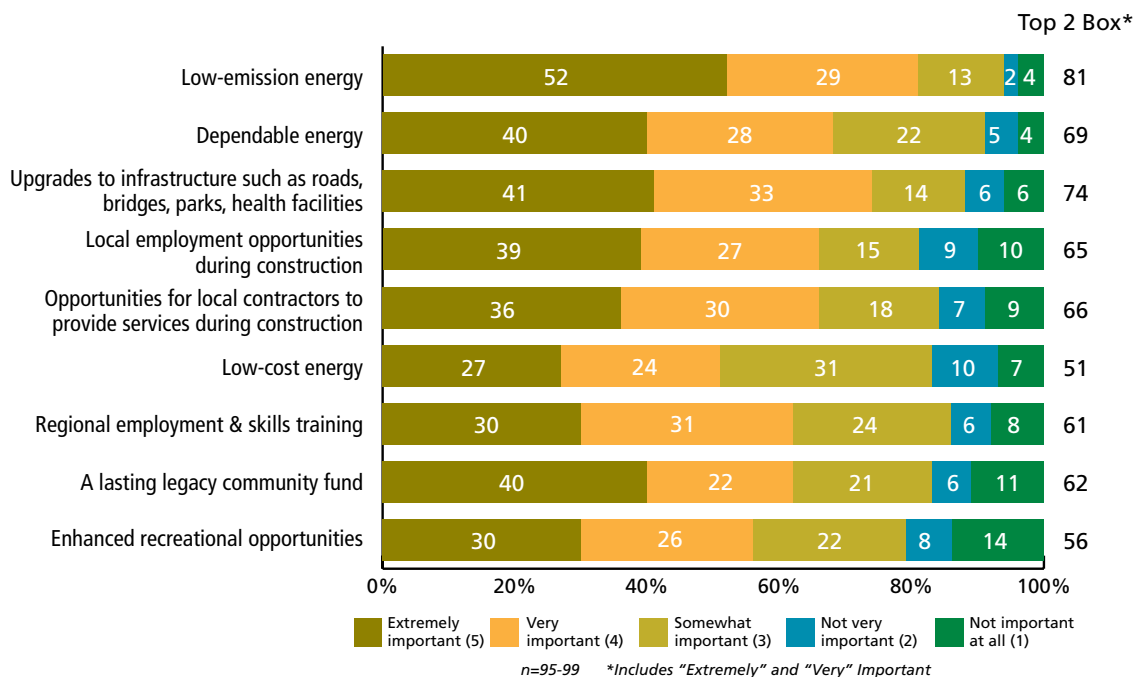


- Among nine potential community and provincial benefits of building Site C, a large majority of participants rated each benefit as at least somewhat important. Highest in overall importance was **low-emission energy** (rated "extremely" or "very" important by 82%), followed by **dependable energy** (75%). 66% regarded **upgrades to infrastructure** such as roads, bridges, parks and health facilities as "extremely" or "very" important, followed by **local employment opportunities during construction** (60%), **opportunities for local contractors** (59%), **regional employment and skills training** and **low-cost energy** (58% each).
- A **lasting legacy community fund** was regarded as highly important by just over half (55%) of participants while **enhanced recreational opportunities** were deemed "extremely" or "very" important by less than half (47%).

IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY AND PROVINCIAL BENEFITS

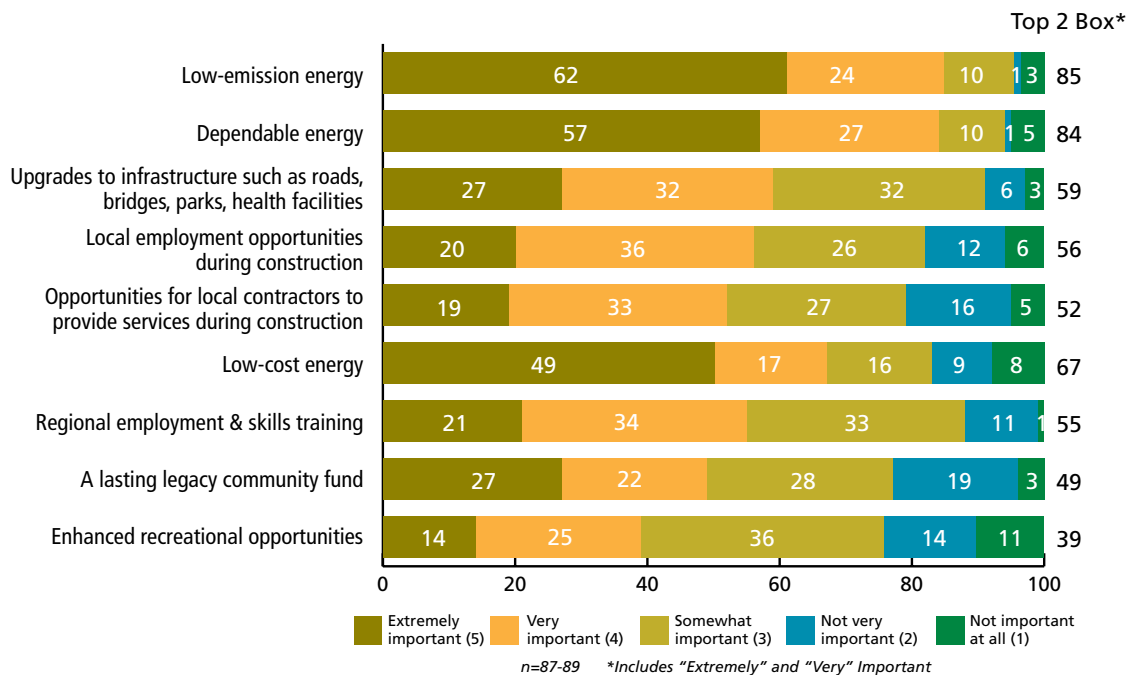
Peace River Stakeholders

4. Please indicate the importance of each of the following:



Provincial Stakeholders

4. Please indicate the importance of each of the following:



- Peace River participants rated all but three potential benefits as higher in importance (“extremely” or “very” important) than Provincial participants. The three exceptions were **dependable** and **low-cost energy**, which were of higher importance to Provincial participants (84% vs. 69% and 67% vs. 51%, respectively), and **low-emission energy**, which was equally important to both groups.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON COMMUNITY AND PROVINCIAL BENEFITS

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

5. Do you have any additional comments on other key considerations regarding potential community and provincial benefits?

	Total ¹		Peace River Stakeholders		Provincial Stakeholders	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Base	71		45 ²		24	
No benefits	34	48%	23	51%	9	38%
Wildlife fund/Habitat reserve/ Conservation program	5	7%	4	9%	1	4%
Increased tourism in Peace district	5	7%	3	7%	2	8%
The district should receive no cost/ lower cost energy	3	4%	1	2%	2	8%
Power should be provincial/national benefit, not exported	3	4%	2	4%	1	4%
Water supply	2	3%	2	4%	0	0%
Road across dam/Access to new areas	2	3%	2	4%	0	0%
Downstream trust (like Columbia Basin)	2	3%	1	2%	1	4%
Other	6	8%	4	9%	2	8%
Nothing in particular/ No additional topics	14	20%	8	18%	6	25%

1. Total is greater than sum of Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders, as not all participants could be identified by region. 2. Caution: small base size.

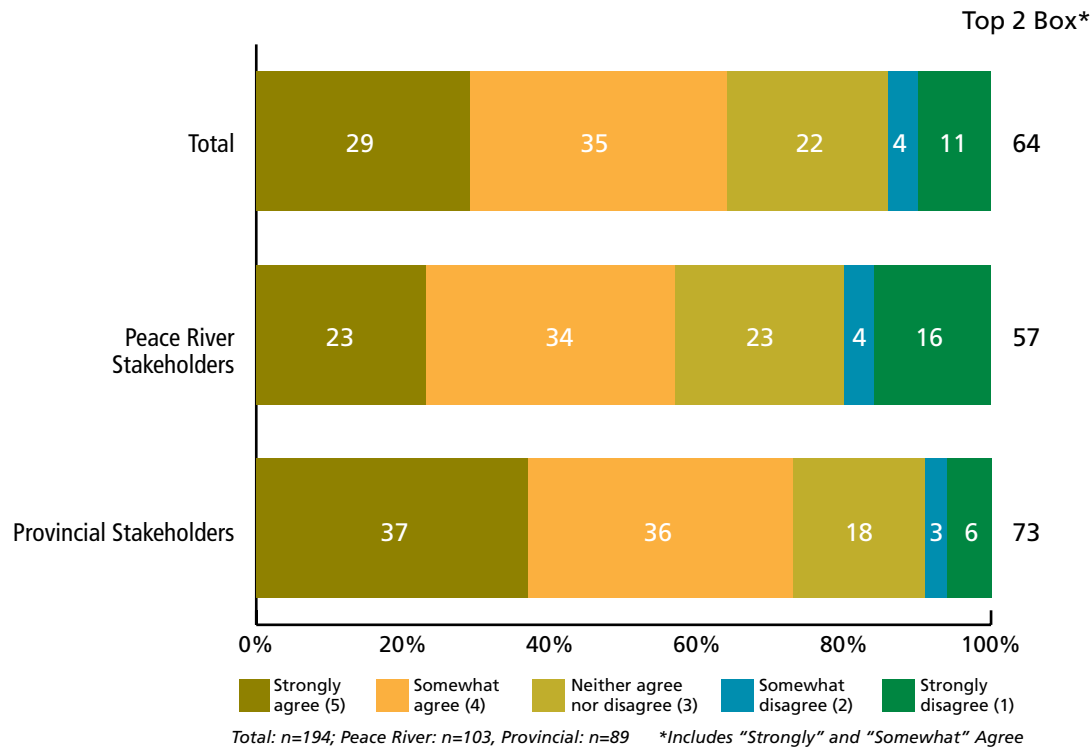
- An open-ended question asked participants to identify other key considerations regarding potential community and provincial benefits. Of 71 who provided other key considerations, 34 deny that there are any benefits. A wildlife fund, a habitat reserve, or conservation program (5 mentions) and increased tourism in the Peace region (5 mentions) were other volunteered benefits of Site C.
- Of 45 Peace River stakeholders who provided other key considerations, 23 indicated that they did not believe Site C would provide any benefits.

RESERVOIR IMPACT LINES

LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH RESERVOIR IMPACT LINES APPROACH

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

6. The potential reservoir will impact the surrounding land in five distinct ways. To recognize the different impacts of the reservoir, BC Hydro is considering establishing Reservoir Impact Line as an approach to property and land use impacts. Do you agree or disagree with the Reservoir Impact Lines approach?



- 64% of participants agreed (“strongly” or “somewhat”) with the Reservoir Impact Lines approach to property and land use impacts, while 22% were neutral and 15% disagreed (“strongly” or “somewhat”).
- Agreement was stronger among Provincial participants than Peace River participants (73% vs. 57%, respectively). More Peace River participants disagreed with the approach (“strongly” or “somewhat”) than Provincial participants (20% vs. 9%).

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON RESERVOIR IMPACT LINES APPROACH

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

7. Do you have any additional comments regarding other key considerations in analyzing and applying the proposed Reservoir Impact Lines approach?

	Total ¹		Peace River Stakeholders		Provincial Stakeholders	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Base	42 ²		29		12	
Against Site C	10	24%	9	31%	1	8%
It is important to fully study soil/ potential instability sloughing	7	17%	4	14%	3	25%
BC Hydro is underestimating the instability of the banks/future erosion/ slides/etc.	7	17%	4	14%	3	25%
Compensation for lost land	3	7%	2	7%	1	8%
It depends which agencies/ experts draw the lines	2	5%	1	3%	1	8%
Boundaries must be marked/ Identify safe areas	2	5%	2	7%	0	0%
Too much land will be in the flood reserve	2	5%	1	3%	1	8%
Study effects of dam construction/ previous experience	2	5%	0	0%	2	17%
Maintain a static water level	1	2%	1	3%	0	0%
Displaced silt/Long-term water quality downstream	1	2%	0	0%	1	8%
Other	4	10%	3	10%	0	0%
No additional considerations	4	10%	2	7%	2	17%

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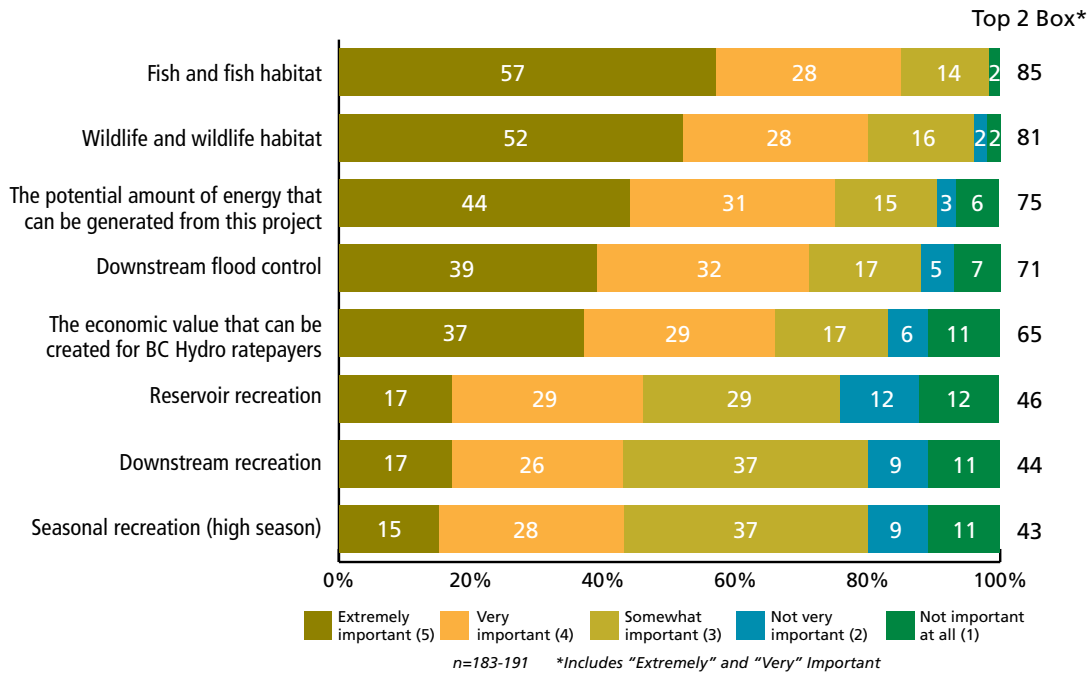
- Of 42 stakeholders who provided additional comment, 10 voiced their opposition to the Site C project. Key considerations provided include fully studying the soil and potential instability sloughing (7), and ensuring a correct estimation of the banks/ future erosion/slides (7). A higher percentage of Peace River participants voiced their opposition to the Site C project.

WATER MANAGEMENT

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN EVALUATING WATER MANAGEMENT

Total

8. How important should each of the following factors be to BC Hydro in evaluating the effects of different water management operating ranges for Site C?

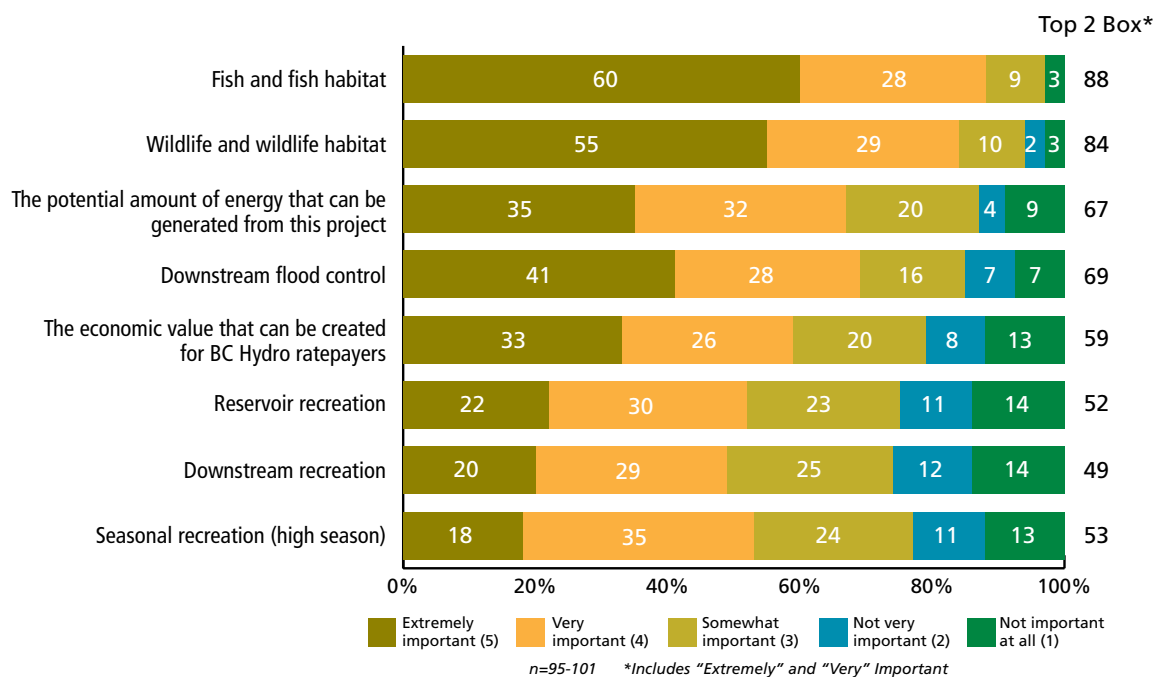


- Participants were asked to evaluate how important each of eight factors should be to BC Hydro in evaluating the effects of different water management operating ranges for Site C. While a large majority regarded all eight as at least somewhat important, some factors were considered significantly more important than others.
- Protection of the environment for fish and wildlife were of greatest importance to participants, with over four in five participants rating **fish and fish habitat** (85%) and **wildlife and wildlife habitat** (81%) as "extremely" or "very" important.
- Three-quarters (75%) regarded the **potential amount of energy generated** as high in importance, while about seven in ten (71%) felt similarly about **downstream flood control**. About two-thirds (65%) considered the **economic value of the project** to be "extremely" or "very" important as well.
- Recreational opportunities were relatively lower in importance. Less than half of participants assigned high importance to **reservoir recreation** (46%), **downstream recreation** (44%), and **seasonal recreation** (43%). In fact, between one-fifth and one-quarter considered each to be unimportant.

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN EVALUATING WATER MANAGEMENT

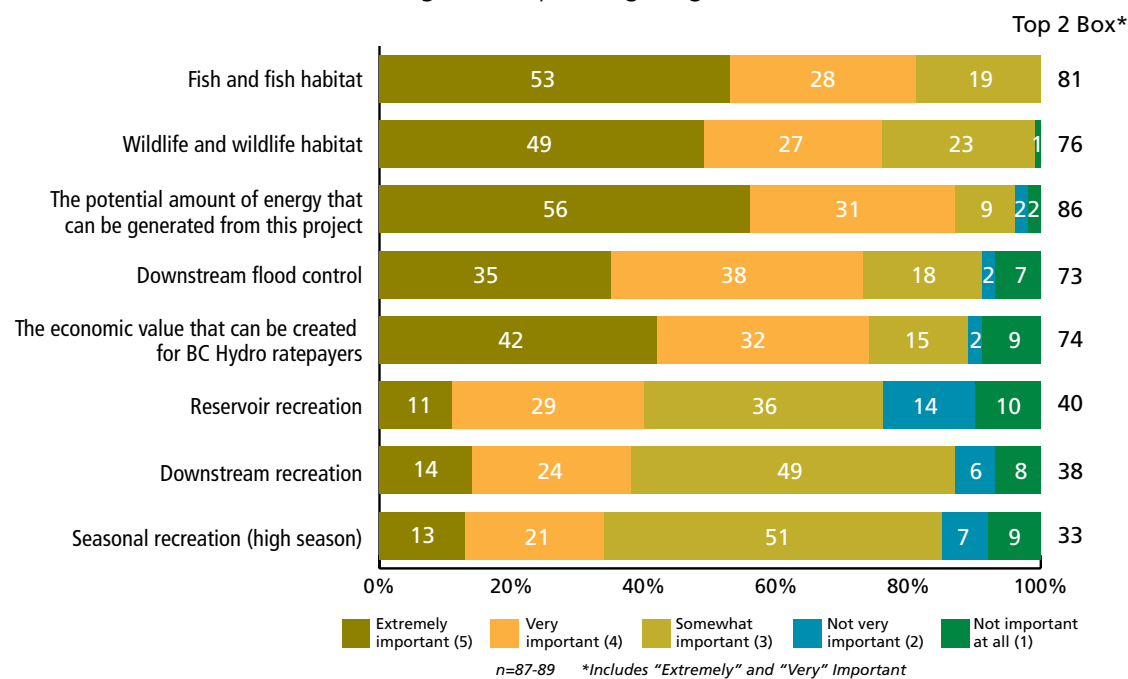
Peace River Stakeholders

8. How important should each of the following factors be to BC Hydro in evaluating the effects of different water management operating ranges for Site C?



Provincial Stakeholders

8. How important should each of the following factors be to BC Hydro in evaluating the effects of different water management operating ranges for Site C?



- Fish and fish habitat and wildlife and wildlife habitat were of somewhat greater importance to participants from the Peace River region than to those outside the region (88% vs. 81% and 84% vs. 76% “extremely” or “very” important, respectively). Provincial participants placed greater importance on the potential amount of energy (86% vs. 67%) and economic value created by the project (74% vs. 59%) than Peace River participants.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON EVALUATING OPERATION OF THE DAM AND WATER MANAGEMENT

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

9. Do you have any additional comments regarding other key considerations in evaluating operation of the dam and water management?

	Total ¹		Peace River Stakeholders		Provincial Stakeholders	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Base	41 ²		27		13	
Against Site C	19	46%	12	44%	6	46%
Bank erosion/sediment levels	5	12%	3	11%	2	15%
Maintaining static water level	2	5%	1	4%	1	8%
Global warming effects of reservoir	2	5%	1	4%	1	8%
Diminished flooding of downstream wetlands	1	2%	1	4%	0	0%
Boating hazards	1	2%	1	4%	0	0%
Other	4	10%	2	7%	2	15%
Nothing in particular/Nothing new	9	22%	6	22%	3	23%

1. Total is greater than sum of Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders, as not all participants could be identified by region. 2. Caution: small base size.

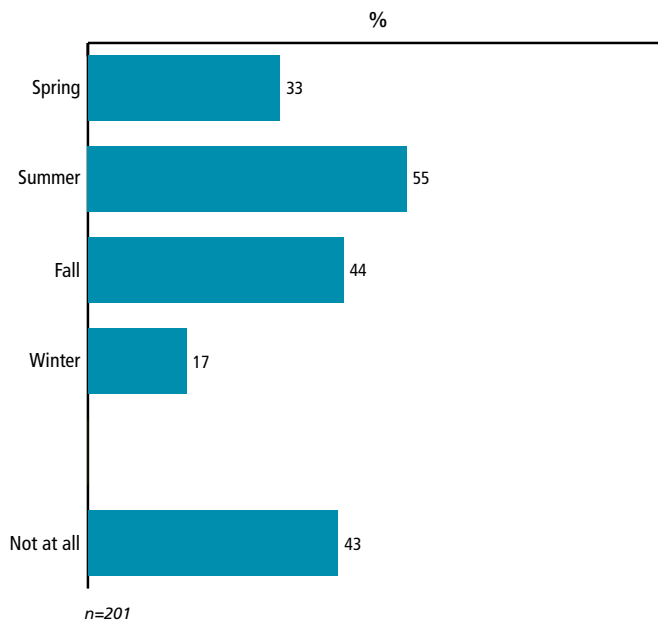
- Of 41 respondents who provided additional comments, 19 expressed their opposition to the Site C project. The most common consideration mentioned was bank erosion/ sediment levels (5), followed by maintaining static water levels (2) and global warming effects of reservoir (2).

RECREATION

USE OF PEACE RIVER FOR RECREATION BY SEASON

Total

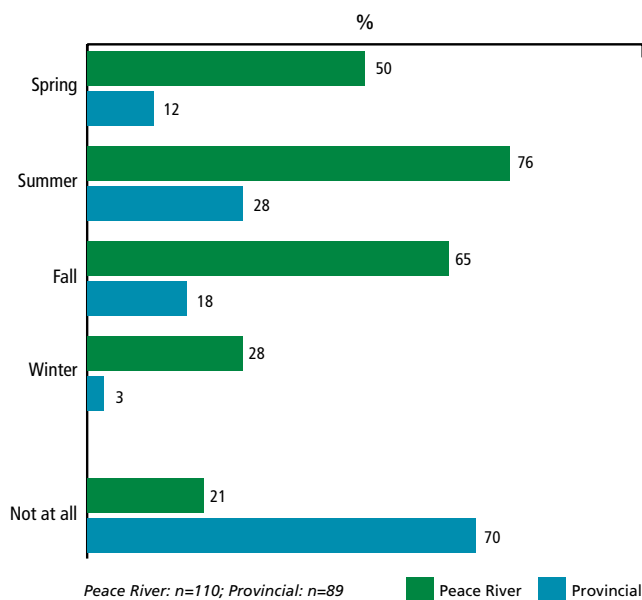
10. During which of the following seasons do you use this area of the Peace River for recreation?



- The Peace River area is used for recreational purposes by over half (57%) of participants, and in every season by at least some. The area is used most often in summer (by 55%), followed by fall (44%), with lower use in spring (33%) and winter (17%).

Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

10. During which of the following seasons do you use this area of the Peace River for recreation?

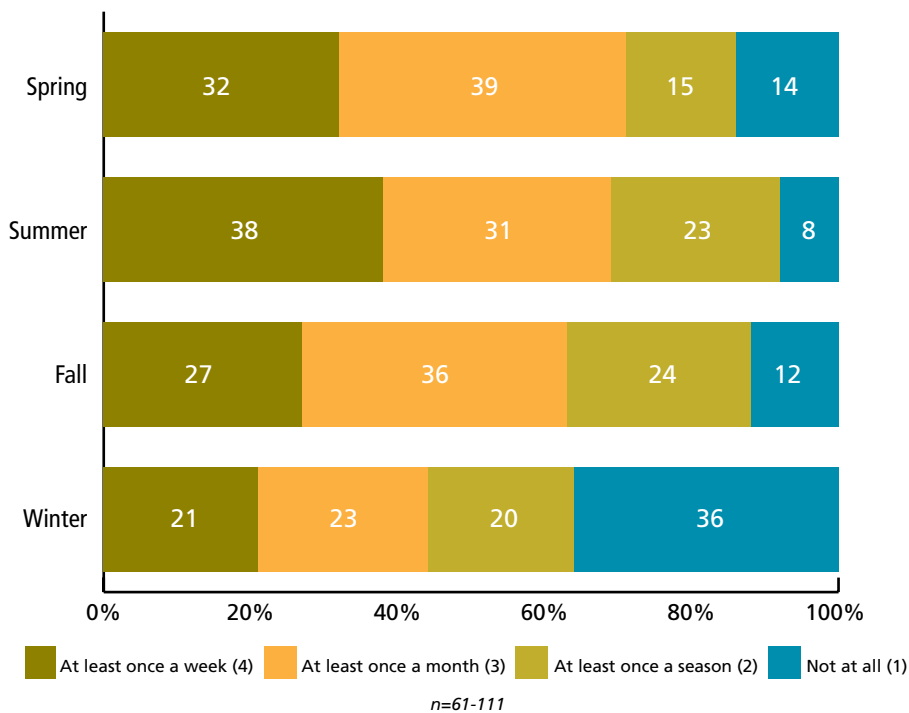


- Understandably, participants from the Peace River region are far more likely to use the area for recreational purposes, regardless of season. However, 30% of participants from outside the Peace River region do use the area for recreational purposes at some time during the year.

FREQUENCY OF PEACE RIVER VALLEY RECREATION BY SEASON

Total

11. For the seasons during which you participate in recreational opportunities, how often do you use the Peace River valley?

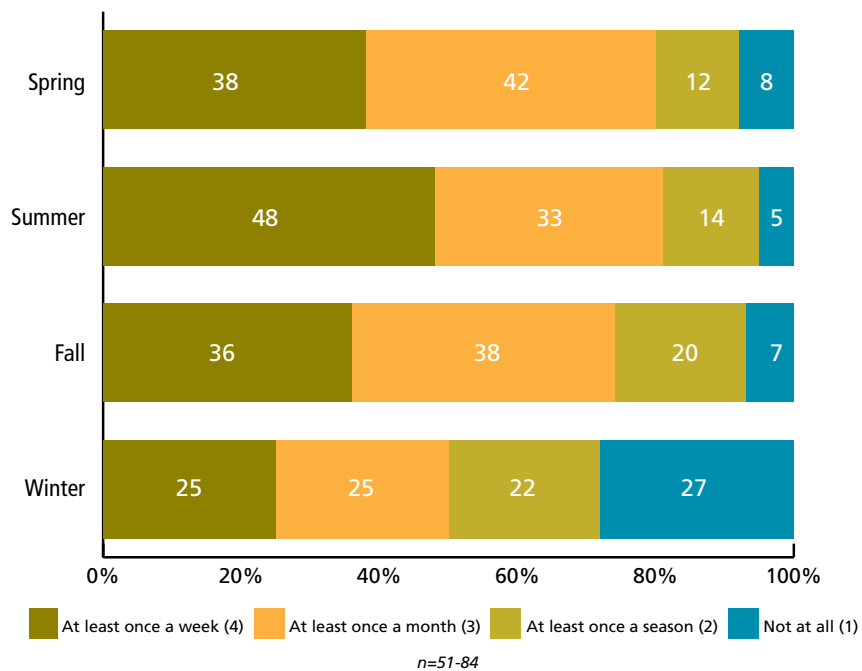


- About seven in 10 participants who use the area for recreational purposes do so at least once a month during each season of the year except winter, when it is used by 44% at least monthly. Between 27% and 38% use the area more frequently – at least once a week – during each season. The area is least active during winter, when 36% of participants who are recreational users do not use the area.

FREQUENCY OF PEACE RIVER VALLEY RECREATION BY SEASON

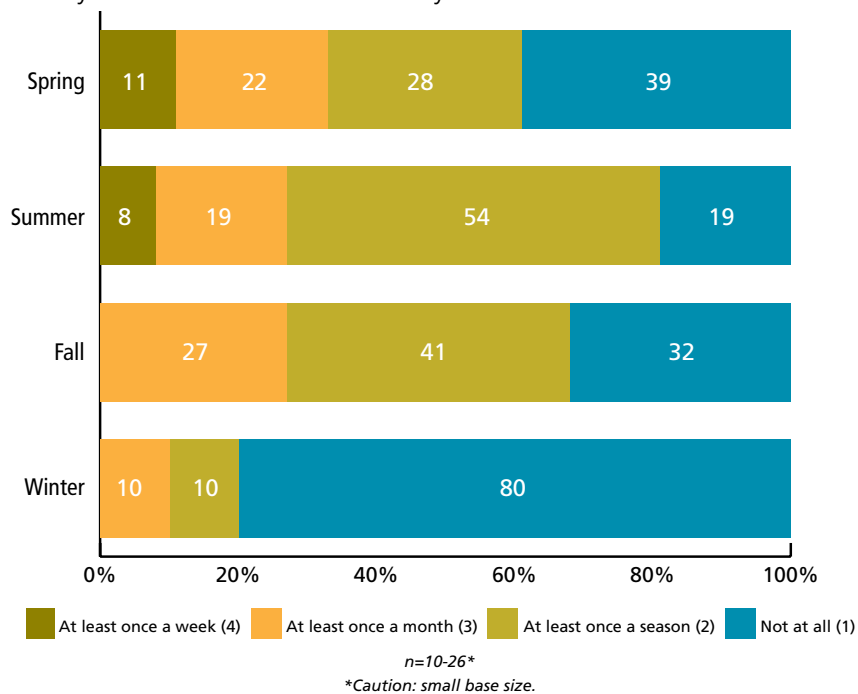
Peace River Stakeholders

11. For the seasons during which you participate in recreational opportunities, how often do you use the Peace River valley?



Provincial Stakeholders

11. For the seasons during which you participate in recreational opportunities, how often do you use the Peace River valley?



- Peace River participants tend to use the area for recreational purposes more frequently than do those from outside the region.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS REGARDING PEACE RIVER VALLEY RECREATION

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

12. Do you have any additional comments regarding other details about your recreational use of the Peace River valley?

	Total ¹		Peace River Stakeholders		Provincial Stakeholders	
Base	51		37 ²		13	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Live beside the river/lake	11	22%	8	22%	3	23%
Enjoying the view/photography	7	14%	5	14%	2	15%
Fishing	6	12%	5	14%	1	8%
Camping	5	10%	2	5%	3	23%
Hiking	5	10%	4	11%	1	8%
Birdwatching/enjoying wildlife	5	10%	4	11%	1	8%
Recreation (unspecified)	5	10%	4	11%	1	8%
Hunting	3	6%	1	3%	2	15%
Boating	3	6%	2	5%	1	8%
Snowmobiling	1	2%	0	0%	1	8%
Floatplane	1	2%	1	3%	0	0%
Cross-country skiing	1	2%	1	3%	0	0%
ATV	1	2%	0	0%	1	8%
Nothing in particular	12	24%	9	24%	2	15%

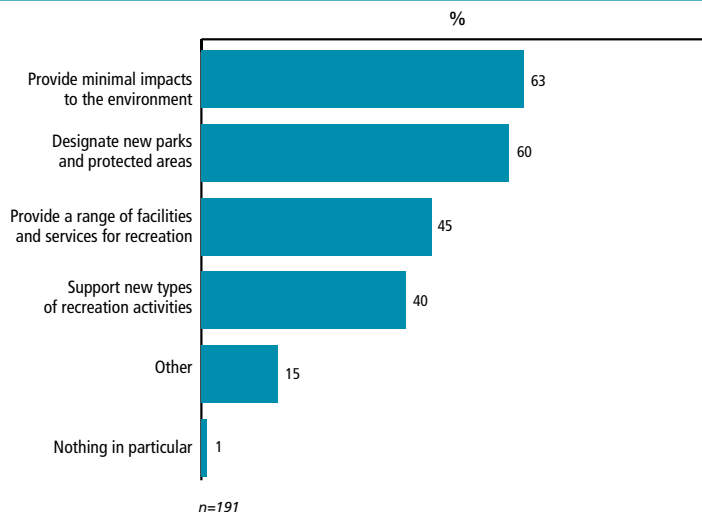
1. Total is greater than sum of Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders, as not all participants could be identified by region. 2. Caution: small base size.

- An open-ended question asked participants to provide additional comments regarding their recreational use of the Peace River valley. Of 51 respondents who provided additional comment, 12 had none to offer, while 11 indicated that they live near the river/lake. Participants also mentioned enjoying the view (7), fishing (6), camping, hiking, and bird watching/enjoying the wildlife (each 5).

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN EVALUATING POTENTIAL RESERVOIR RECREATION

Total

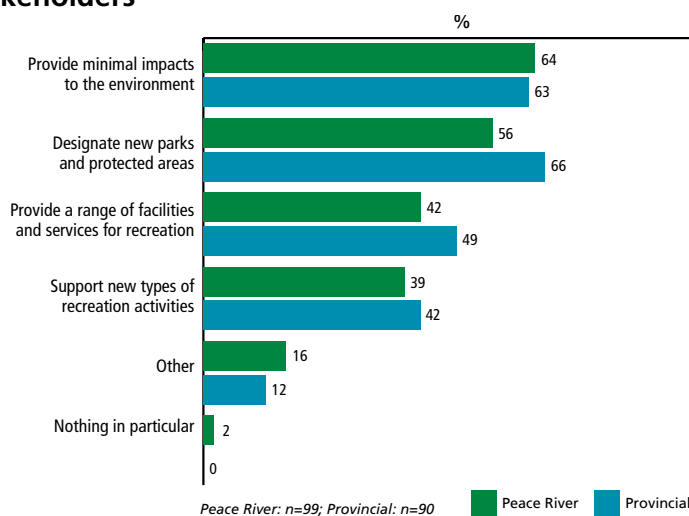
13. Which of the following factors should be considered when evaluating potential reservoir recreation?



- When asked which of four factors should be considered when evaluating potential reservoir recreation, participants were most likely to select **providing minimal impacts to the environment (63%)**, followed by **designating new parks and protected areas (60%)**. Fewer than half felt that **providing a range of facilities and services for recreation (45%)** and **supporting new types of recreation activities (40%)** should be considered.
- Other factors mentioned include: non-motorized boating only, creation of recreational jobs/business opportunities, ensuring clean water/reservoir needs to be cleaned down to the clay level, fish/fish stocking, ensuring recreation in low/shoulder seasons, funding for legacy facilities in Peace River Communities, wildlife protection, and provision of road access.

Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

13. Which of the following factors should be considered when evaluating potential reservoir recreation?

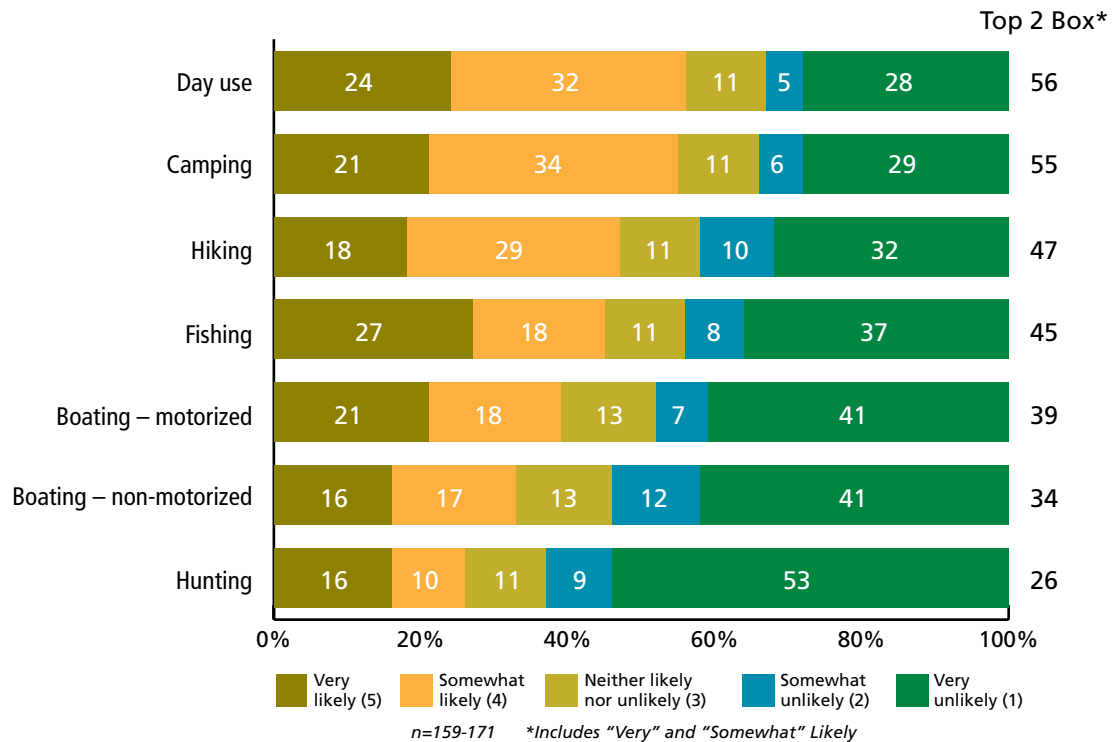


- Provincial participants were more likely than Peace River participants (66% vs. 56%) to believe that the designation of new parks and protected areas should be considered when evaluating potential reservoir recreation.

LIKELIHOOD OF USING RESERVOIR FOR RECREATION

Total

14. How likely would you be to use the reservoir for the following recreation opportunities?

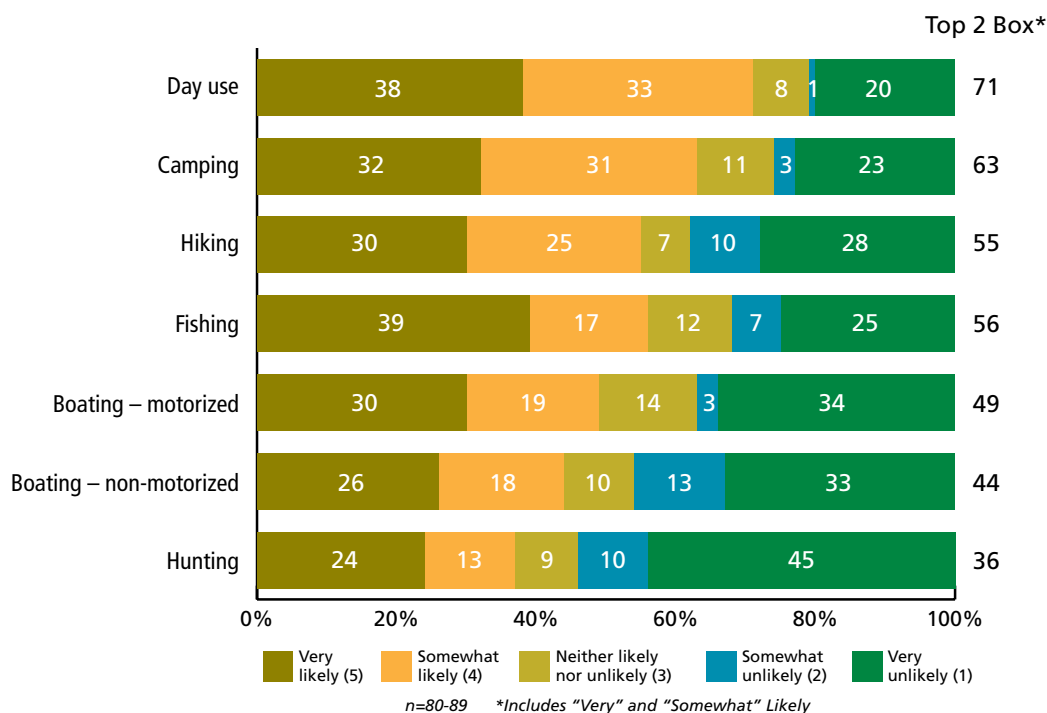


- Given seven different recreational opportunities to use the reservoir, participants were most interested in **day use** (56%) and **camping** (55%). Slightly fewer would use the reservoir for **hiking** (47%) or **fishing** (45%) and fewer for **boating**, whether **motorized** (39%) or **non-motorized** (34%), or **hunting** (26%).
- Other activities mentioned include: scenery/photography, swimming and ATV riding.

LIKELIHOOD OF USING RESERVOIR FOR RECREATION

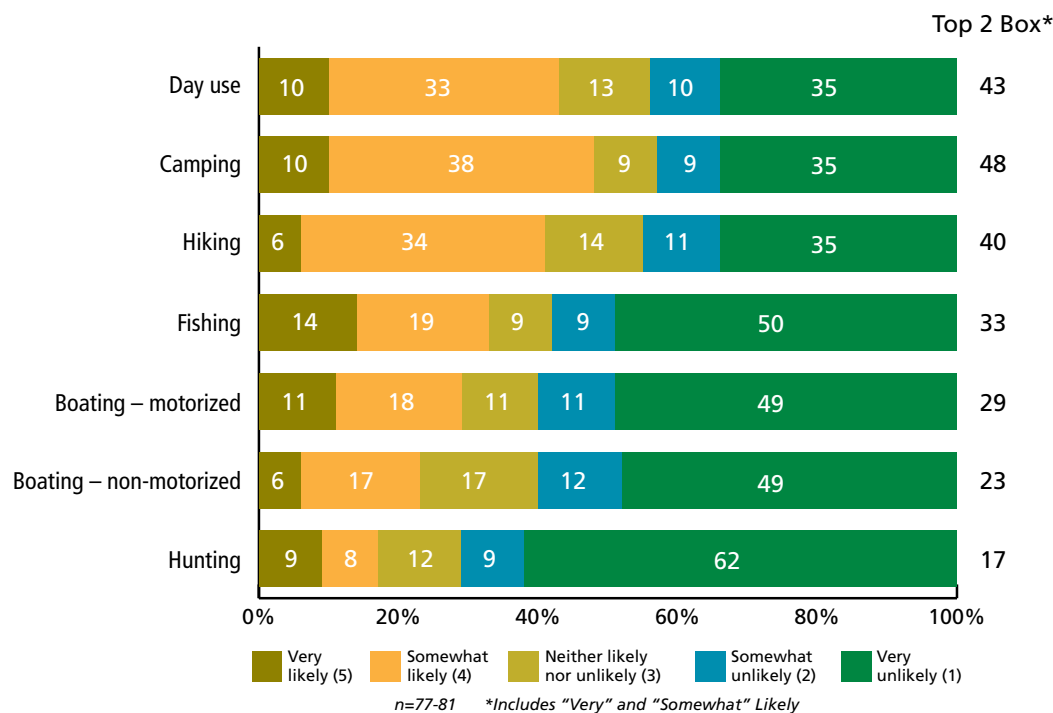
Peace River Stakeholders

14. How likely would you be to use the reservoir for the following recreation opportunities?



Provincial Stakeholders

14. How likely would you be to use the reservoir for the following recreation opportunities?

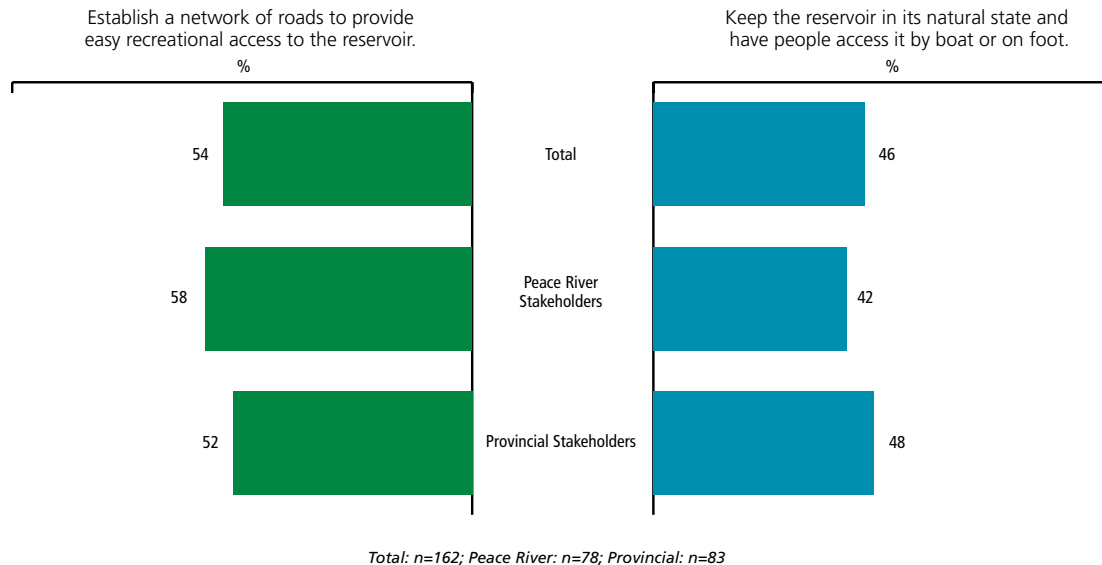


- Participants from the Peace River region were much more likely to engage in all activities than those from outside the region.

PREFERENCE FOR ACCESS FOR RESERVOIR RECREATION

Total – Peace River Stakeholders and Provincial Stakeholders

15. Which would you prefer to see used when it comes to accessing the reservoir for recreation?

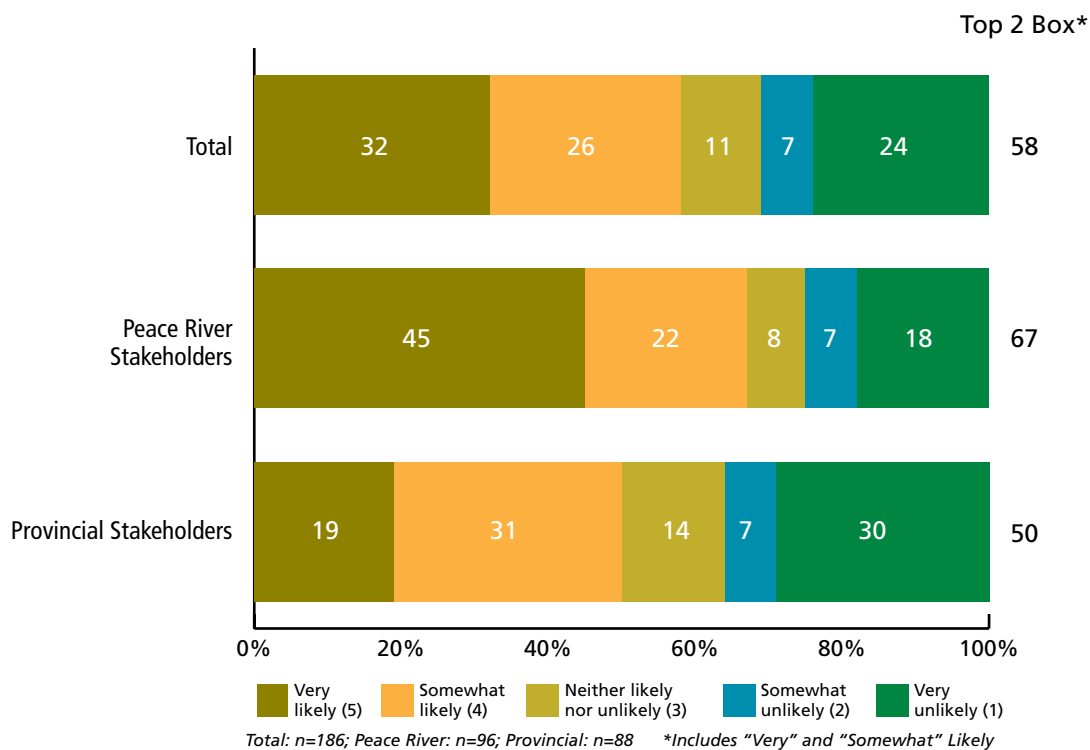


- Participants were divided in their preference for one of two options for accessing the reservoir for recreation. Just over half (54%) would prefer to see a **network of roads providing easy recreational access** while just under half (46%) would prefer to **keep the reservoir in its natural state and have people access it by boat or on foot**.
- A majority of participants from the Peace River region favoured a network of roads over boat or foot access (58% vs. 42%), while those from outside the region were more evenly split on their preference (52% vs. 48%).

LIKELIHOOD OF USING RESERVOIR FOR RECREATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS

Total – Peace River Stakeholders and Provincial Stakeholders

16. How likely would you be to use the reservoir for the following recreation opportunities?

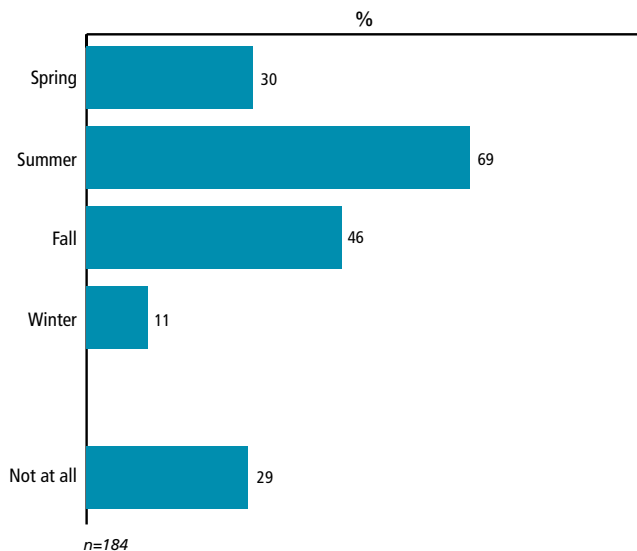


- Regardless of their preference for type of access, almost six in 10 (58%) participants said they would be at least somewhat likely to use the reservoir for recreational purposes if there was public access.
- 45% of Peace River participants would be “very” likely to use the reservoir for recreational purposes if public access was provided, compared to only 19% of Provincial participants.

USE OF RESERVOIR BY SEASON IF PUBLIC ACCESS WAS AVAILABLE

Total

17. During which seasons would you use the reservoir for recreational opportunities if public access was available?

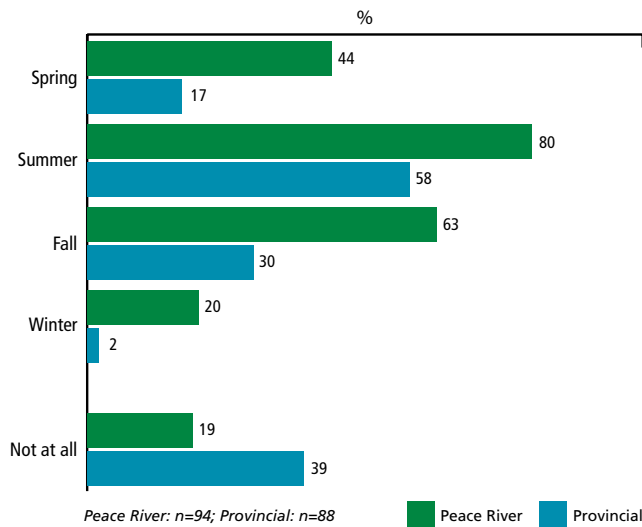


- 71% of participants said they would use the reservoir at some time during the year for recreation if public access was provided. This is higher than the proportion saying they currently use today's river-based recreation (57%). Participants were most likely to use the reservoir during summer (69%), followed by fall (46%) and spring (30%), with much lower anticipated use in winter (11%).

USE OF RESERVOIR BY SEASON IF PUBLIC ACCESS WAS AVAILABLE

Peace River Stakeholders and Provincial Stakeholders

17. During which seasons would you use the reservoir for recreational opportunities if public access was available?

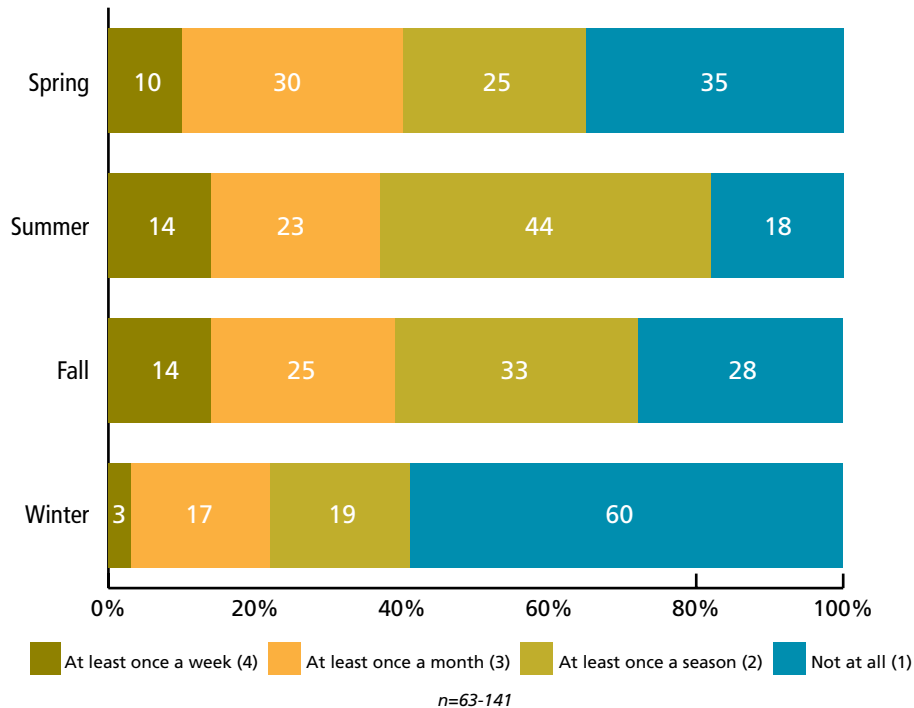


- Participants from the Peace River region were understandably more likely to say they would use the reservoir for recreation during each season than residents from outside the region.

USE OF RESERVOIR BY SEASON IF PUBLIC ACCESS WAS AVAILABLE

Total

18. For the seasons that you participate in recreational opportunities, how often would you use the Peace River valley if a public access reservoir was available?

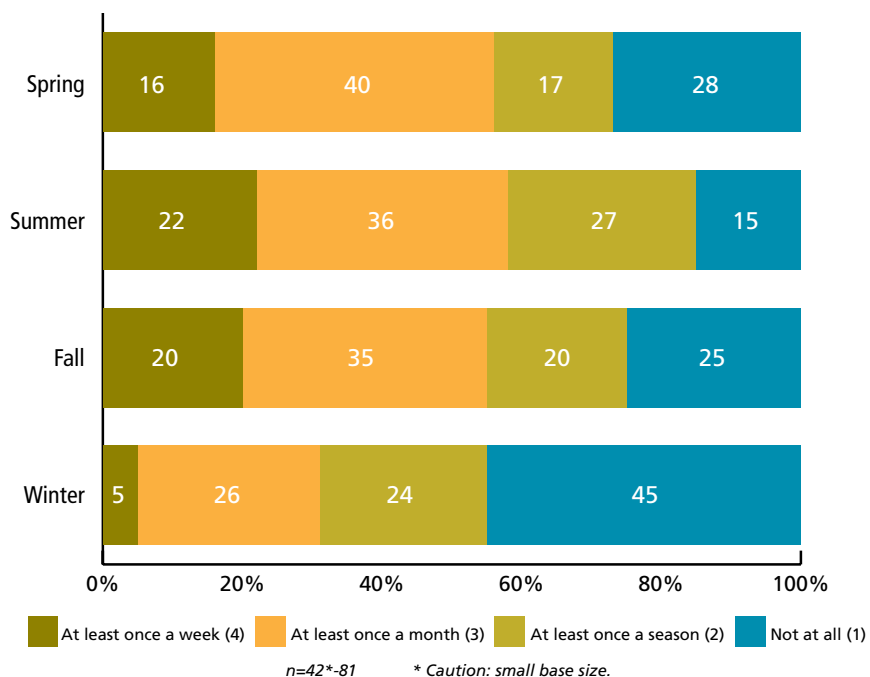


- While a greater number of participants said they would use the reservoir for recreation if public access was provided (n=131) than the participants who indicated they were currently using the area for this purpose (n=115), they were likely to use it less frequently. Among the former group, about four in 10 would use it at least once a month during spring (40%), fall (39%) or summer (37%), while half as many would use it in winter (20%). By contrast, about seven in 10 current recreational users use the area at least monthly in each season but winter, when it is used with the same frequency by almost six in 10.

USE OF RESERVOIR BY SEASON IF PUBLIC ACCESS WAS AVAILABLE

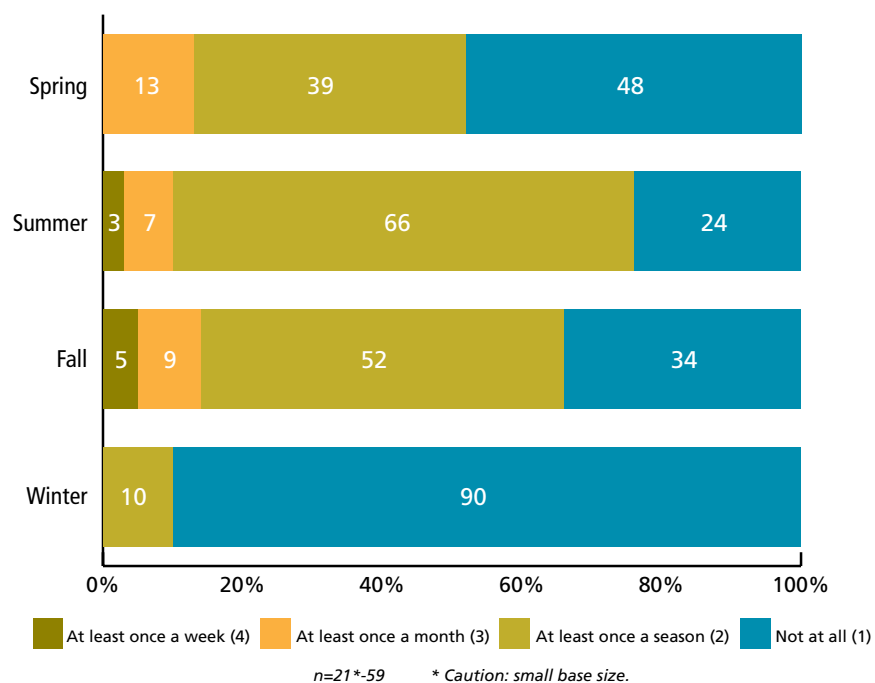
Peace River Stakeholders

18. For the seasons that you participate in recreational opportunities, how often would you use the Peace River valley if a public access reservoir was available?



Provincial Stakeholders

18. For the seasons that you participate in recreational opportunities, how often would you use the Peace River valley if a public access reservoir was available?



- Peace River participants would still use the area for recreational purposes more frequently than Provincial participants if a public access reservoir was available.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON PEACE RIVER VALLEY RECREATION

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

19. Do you have any additional comments regarding how and when you would like to use the Peace River valley and reservoir for recreation if the Site C project proceeds?

	Total ¹		Peace River Stakeholders		Provincial Stakeholders	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Base	66		44 ²		21	
Against Site C	28	42%	21	48%	7	33%
Boating/Need launches/docks	10	15%	6	14%	4	19%
Remove floating debris/Log the valley/ Ensure safe boating	7	11%	4	9%	3	14%
Campsites	5	8%	3	7%	2	10%
BC Hydro has a poor record with this at existing reservoirs	5	8%	3	7%	2	10%
Road access/Road across dam/ Access to the reservoir	4	6%	4	9%	0	0%
Limit access/Do not build roads	3	5%	2	5%	1	5%
Create trails/Hiking/ATV	3	5%	1	2%	2	10%
Fishing	2	3%	1	2%	1	5%
Less than once per year	2	3%	0	0%	2	10%
Hunting	2	3%	1	2%	1	5%
Day use areas	2	3%	1	2%	1	5%
Other	11	17%	8	18%	3	14%
Nothing in particular	8	12%	5	11%	2	10%

1. Total is greater than sum of Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders, as not all participants could be identified by region. 2. Caution: small base size.

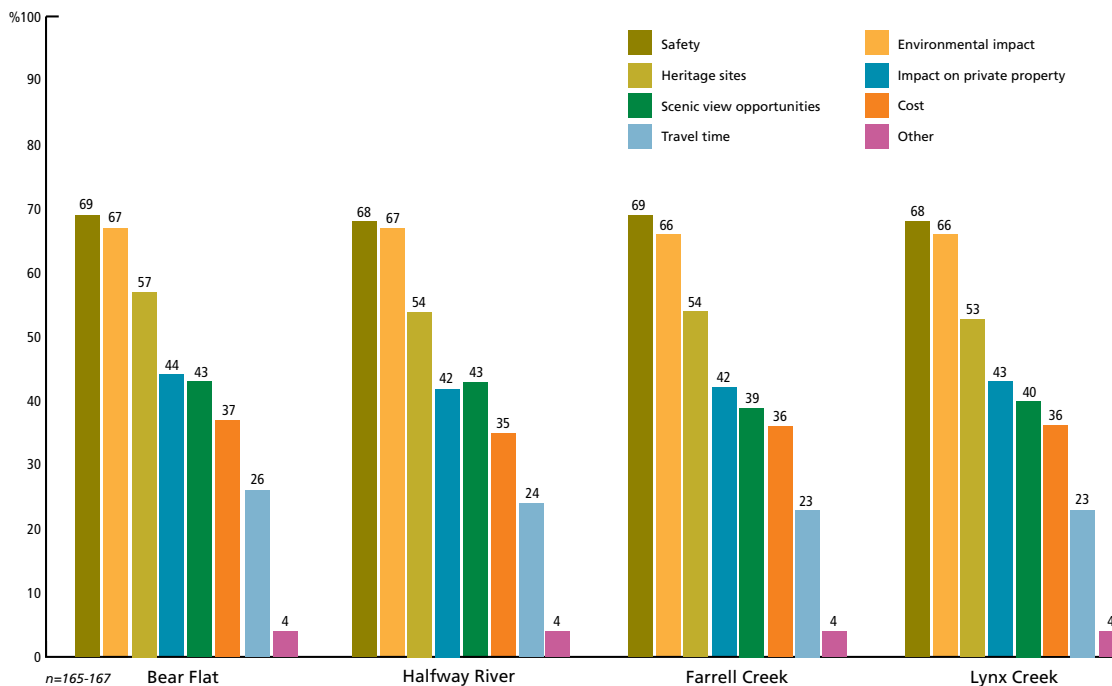
- An open-ended question asked for additional comment regarding how participants would use the Peace River valley and reservoir for recreation if the Site C project were to proceed.
- Of 66 respondents who provided additional comments, 28 expressed their opposition to the Site C project.
- The most common open-ended comments related to how and when participants would like to use the Peace River valley and reservoir for recreation are related to boating: both in terms of docks and launches (10), and in ensuring safety by removing logs in the water (7).
- Of those who provided additional comments, Peace River participants were more inclined to mention ensuring road access across the dam to the reservoir.

RELOCATION OF FOUR SEGMENTS OF HIGHWAY 29

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN EVALUATING RELOCATION OF FOUR SEGMENTS OF HIGHWAY 29

Total

20. Please indicate which of the following are important to consider when evaluating the relocation of the following four segments.

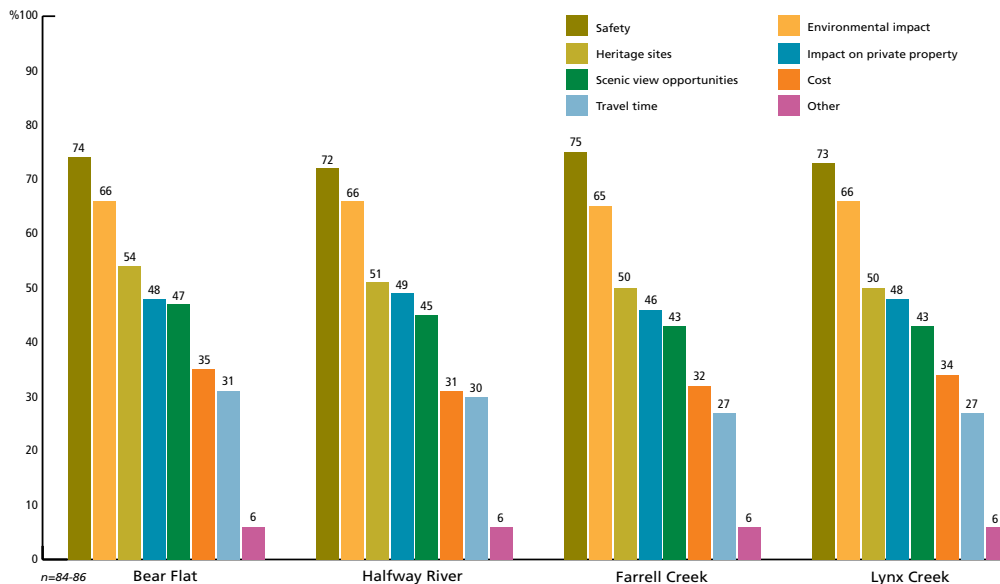


- Participants were asked to indicate which of seven factors are important to consider when evaluating the relocation of four segments of Highway 29 that would be flooded by the reservoir if Site C were to proceed: Bear Flat, Halfway River, Farrell Creek and Lynx Creek. The relative ranking of factors is consistent, regardless of highway section.
- **Safety** and **environmental impacts** were considered most important, selected by between 66-69% of participants as important to consider when relocating all four segments. **Heritage sites** were important to between 53-57%, while **impacts on private property** and **scenic view opportunities** were considered important by between 39-44% of participants, and **cost** by between 35-37%. Least important to participants was **travel time**, which only between 23-26% of participants believed should be considered when evaluating highway relocation.

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN EVALUATING RELOCATION OF FOUR SEGMENTS OF HIGHWAY 29

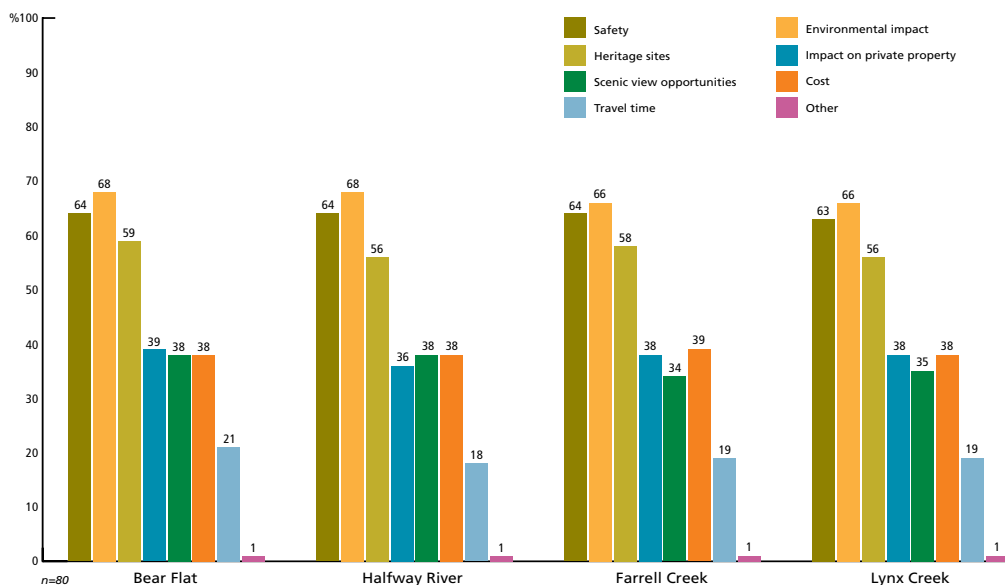
Peace River Stakeholders

20. Please indicate which of the following are important to consider when evaluating the relocation of the following four segments.



Provincial Stakeholders

20. Please indicate which of the following are important to consider when evaluating the relocation of the following four segments.



- The relative ranking of factors was similar between participants from the Peace River region and those outside the region. However, **safety** was relatively more important than **environmental impacts** to Peace River participants. Relative to Provincial participants, Peace River participants were somewhat less likely to consider **heritage sites** important and somewhat more likely to regard **travel time** as important.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN EVALUATION OF RELOCATION OF FOUR SEGMENTS OF HIGHWAY 29

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

21. Are there any other factors you think should be considered when planning to relocate these four segments of Highway 29?

	Total ¹		Peace River Stakeholders		Provincial Stakeholders	
Base	61		40 ²		20	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Against Site C	21	34%	16	40%	4	25%
Highway design/maintenance	5	8%	5	13%	0	0%
Impact to wildlife	4	7%	1	3%	3	15%
Access to recreation sites/the lake	2	3%	0	0%	2	10%
Pullouts/Rest areas	2	3%	0	0%	2	10%
Highway connection to Chetwynd across dam	2	3%	2	5%	0	0%
Impact on First Nations	1	2%	0	0%	1	5%
Other	3	5%	0	0%	3	15%
No additional factors	21	34%	16	40%	5	25%

1. Total is greater than sum of Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders, as not all participants could be identified by region. 2. Caution: small base size.

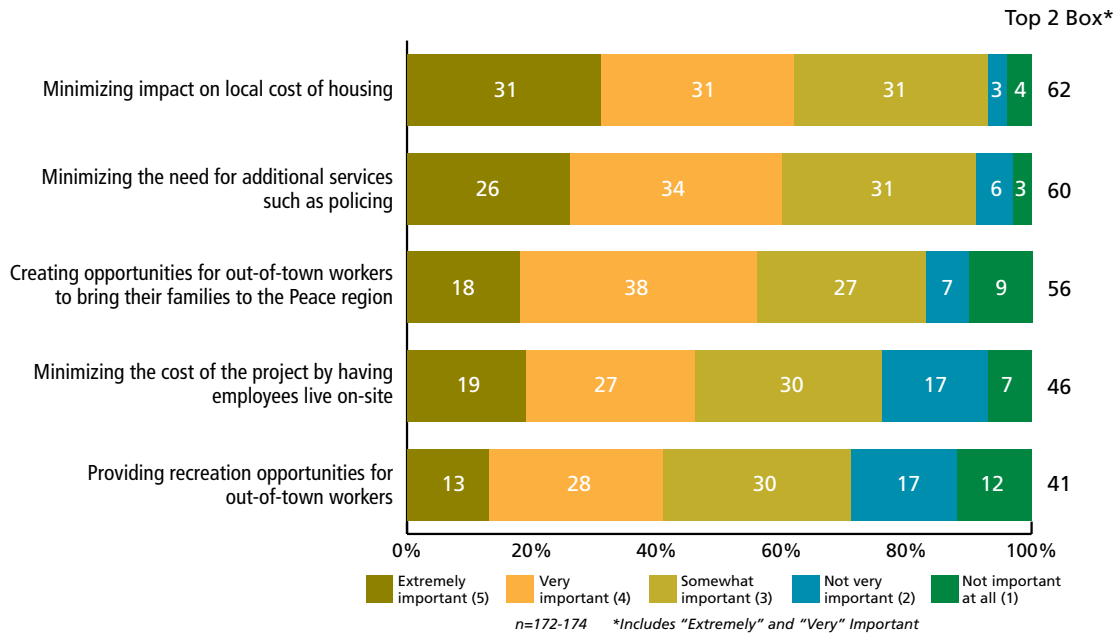
- An open-ended question asked for factors that should be considered when planning to relocate four segments of Highway 29.
- Of 61 participants who identified other factors to be considered, 21 indicated their opposition to road relocations, which in many cases is tied to their opposition to the Site C project, while another 21 could not think of additional factors. Of other factors mentioned, highway design/maintenance (5) and impacts to wildlife (4) were most frequently mentioned.

WORKER HOUSING

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN HOUSING OUT-OF-TOWN WORKERS

Total

22. When it comes to housing out-of-town workers, how important are each of the following factors?

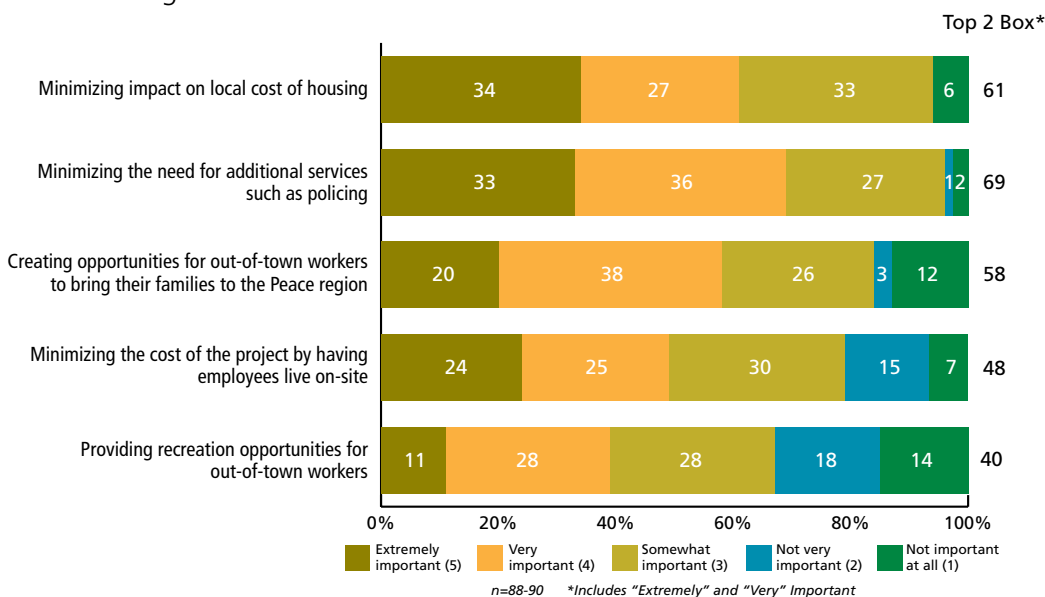


- Participants were asked to evaluate the importance of five factors when it comes to housing out-of-town workers involved in the construction of Site C. Two factors were judged to be of higher importance: about six in 10 participants assigned ratings of “extremely” or “very” important to **minimizing impact on local housing costs** (62%) and **minimizing the need for additional services** (60%).
- Slightly lower in importance was **creating opportunities for out-of-town workers to bring their families to the Peace region** (56%). Less than half of participants believed it is “extremely” or “very” important to **minimize the cost of the project by having employees live on-site** (46%) or to **provide recreation opportunities for the workers** (41%).
- Almost a third of participants (29%) felt that providing recreation opportunities for out-of-town workers was either “not very important” or “not important at all”.

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN HOUSING OUT-OF-TOWN WORKERS

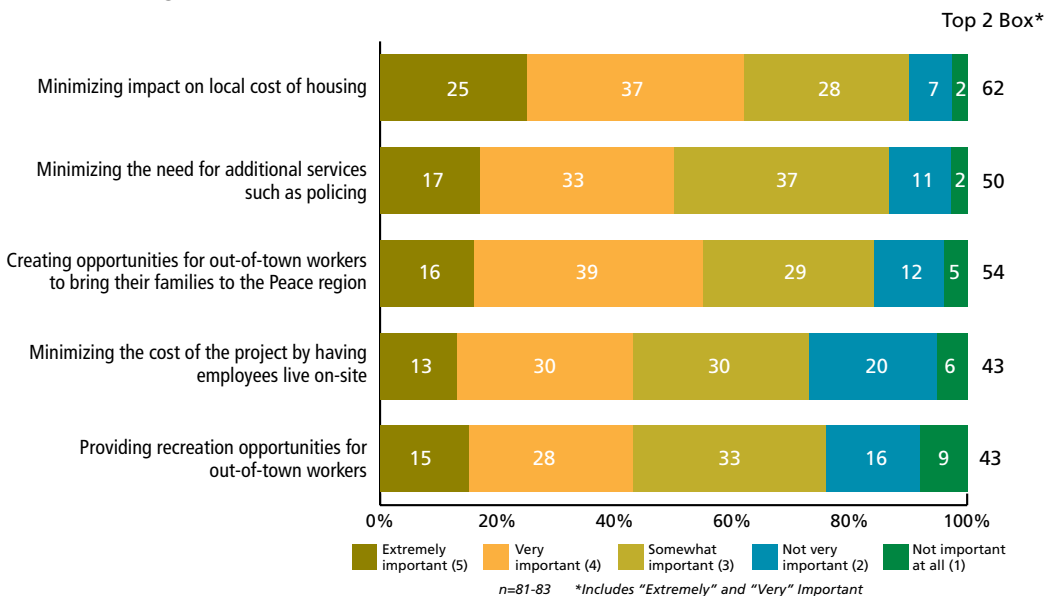
Peace River Stakeholders

22. When it comes to housing out-of-town workers, how important are each of the following factors?



Provincial Stakeholders

22. When it comes to housing out-of-town workers, how important are each of the following factors?

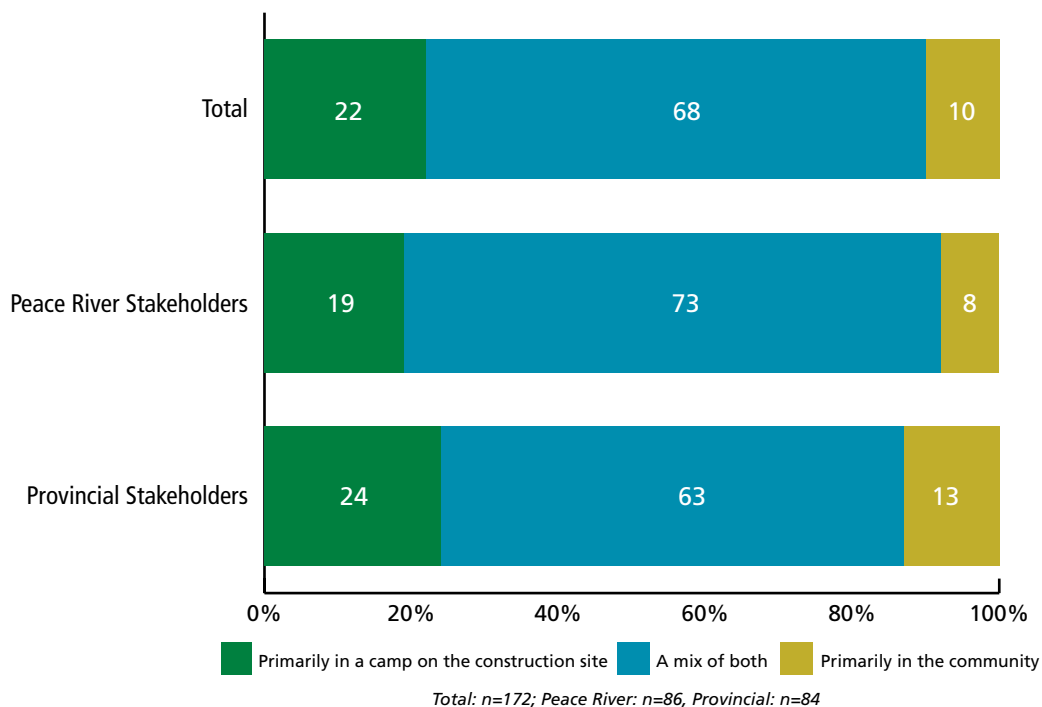


- While participants from each region tended to regard the same factors as highly important, those from the Peace River region were more likely to rate more factors as "extremely" important. The one exception is **providing recreation opportunities for out-of-town workers**, which fewer participants from the Peace River region rated as "extremely" important (11% vs. 15%). Peace River participants also attached greater importance to **minimizing the need for additional services** than those from outside the region (69% vs. 50%).

PREFERENCE FOR LOCATION OF HOUSING FOR OUT-OF-TOWN WORKERS

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

23. When it comes to housing out-of-town workers, where do you think it is better to house them?



- Given a choice of housing out-of-town workers primarily in a camp on the construction site, primarily in the community, or a mix of both, over two-thirds (68%) of participants favoured a mix of both.
- Participants from the Peace River region showed an even stronger preference for providing a mix of the two housing options than Provincial participants (73% vs. 63%).

ADDITIONAL FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN HOUSING OUT-OF-TOWN WORKERS

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

24. When it comes to housing out-of-town workers for the Site C project, are there any other factors you feel should be considered?

	Total ¹		Peace River Stakeholders		Provincial Stakeholders	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Base	66		44 ²		21	
Against Site C	15	21%	10	22%	4	17%
Use local workforce/Hire locally before bringing outside workers	9	13%	7	15%	2	8%
Address community infrastructure/health care/policing	9	13%	5	11%	4	17%
Establish a camp/Use mobile housing	8	11%	5	11%	3	13%
Address social issues/drug use/alcohol	7	10%	5	11%	2	8%
There will be negative aspects due to population increase/high housing prices/boom and bust	5	7%	4	9%	0	0%
Encourage new permanent residents	4	6%	3	7%	1	4%
Build housing that can be reused/resold	4	6%	0	0%	4	17%
Do not want transient/foreign workers	3	4%	2	4%	1	4%
Minimize the environmental impact of housing workers	3	4%	1	2%	2	8%
Address transportation issues/getting workers in and out of the area	3	4%	2	4%	1	4%
Maximize economic benefits for local towns/people	3	4%	3	7%	0	0%
Careful planning is required/minimize the negative impacts	3	4%	1	2%	2	8%
Other	8	11%	5	11%	3	13%
Nothing in particular/No additional factors	6	8%	4	9%	2	8%

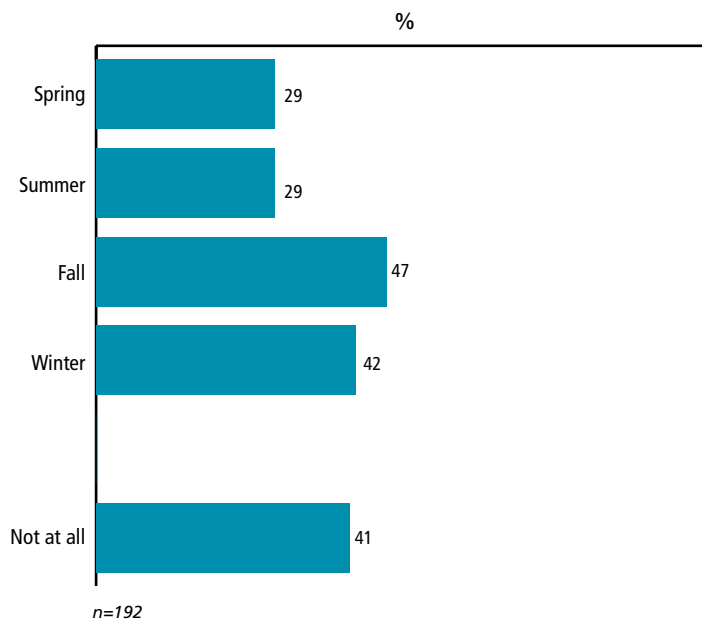
1. Total is greater than sum of Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders, as not all participants could be identified by region. 2. Caution: small base size.

- When asked to provide additional comments with respect to housing out-of-town workers for the Site C project, participants provided a wide range of opinions. Of 66 participants who provided additional comments, the most frequently mentioned comments include: using local workforce before bringing in outside workers (9), addressing the community infrastructure/health care/policing to accommodate the workers (9), establishing a camp/mobile housing (8), and addressing social issues/drug use/alcohol (7).
- Of those who provided other factors, Peace River participants are more likely to suggest using a local workforce than Provincial participants while Provincial participants are more likely to suggest addressing community infrastructure/health care/policing.
- Peace River participants also mentioned the negative aspects associated with a population increase.

CONCERN WITH FOG

Total

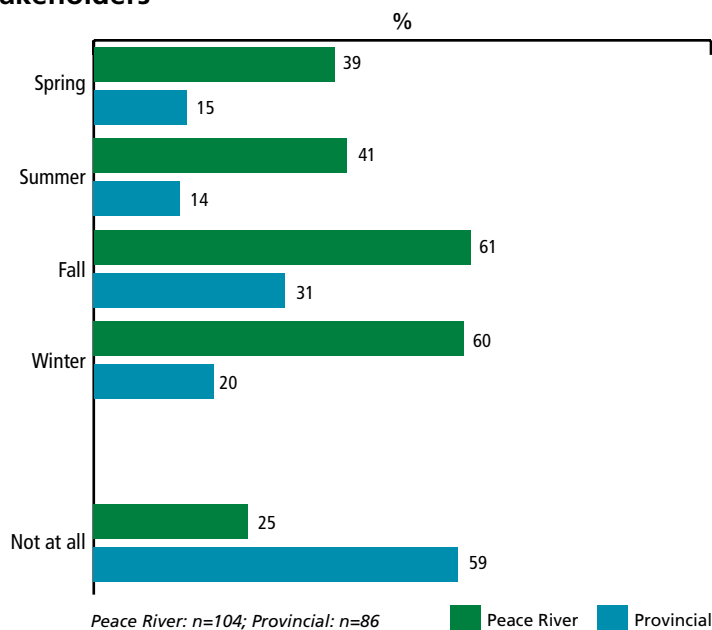
25. During which seasons of the year is fog a concern for you?



- Fog in the Peace River valley was of concern to six in 10 participants, especially during fall and winter (47% and 42%, respectively). About three in 10 were concerned about fog during spring and summer (29% each).

Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

25. During which seasons of the year is fog a concern for you?

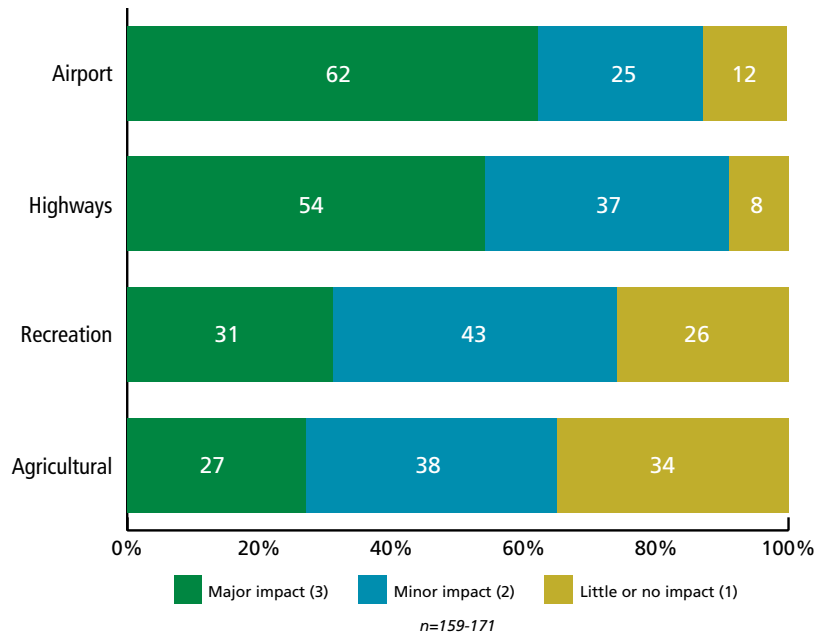


- Participants from the Peace River region were understandably more concerned about fog in the Peace River valley.

LEVEL OF IMPACT OF INCREASED FOG DAYS IN PEACE RIVER VALLEY

Total

26. What level of impact would an increased number of fog days in the Peace River valley have on the following areas?

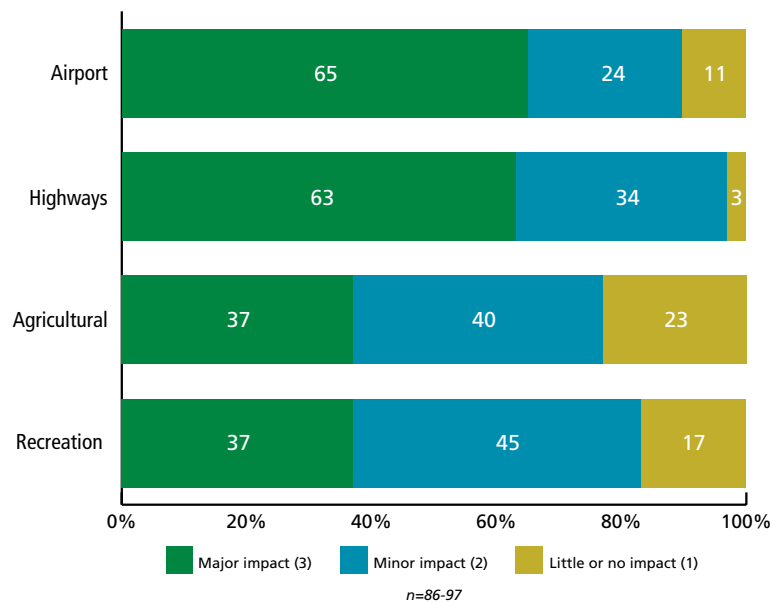


- Participants were asked what level of impact an increased number of fog days in the Peace River valley would have on the airport, highways, recreation and agriculture in the area.
- Participants were most likely to believe an increase of fog would have a major impact on the **airport** (62%). Just over half (54%) believed it would have a major impact on **highways**, while only about one in three felt there would be major impacts to **recreation** (31%) and **agriculture** (27%). Among remaining participants, more were likely to believe an increase of fog would have a minor impact on any of these areas rather than little or no impact.

LEVEL OF IMPACT OF INCREASED FOG DAYS IN PEACE RIVER VALLEY

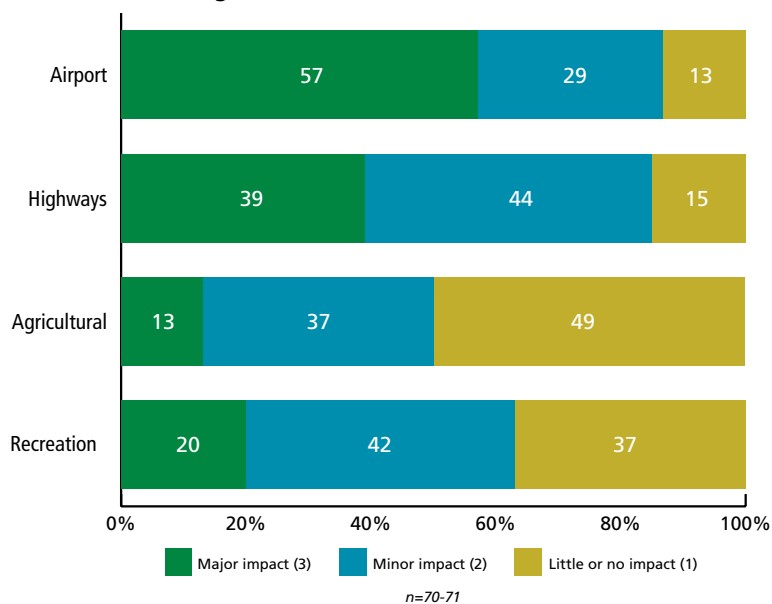
Peace River Stakeholders

26. What level of impact would an increased number of fog days in the Peace River valley have on the following areas?



Provincial Stakeholders

26. What level of impact would an increased number of fog days in the Peace River valley have on the following areas?



- Peace River participants were much more likely to feel an increase of fog would have a major impact on all four areas, particularly on highways (63% vs. 39%) and agriculture (37% vs. 13%). While a majority of Provincial participants believed there would be at least a minor impact on most areas, 49% believed there would be little or no impact to agriculture.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN EVALUATING POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF INCREASED FOG

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

27. Please identify other key considerations in evaluating the potential impacts of increased fog.

	Total ¹		Peace River Stakeholders		Provincial Stakeholders	
Base	48 ²		34		13	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Fog will contribute to danger on the roads/highways	10	21%	7	21%	3	23%
Against Site C	8	17%	5	15%	2	15%
Need more information/ further studies about fog	6	13%	2	6%	4	31%
The existing dams have increased the level of fog	6	13%	6	18%	0	0%
Negative effects on agriculture/ vegetation	4	8%	2	6%	2	15%
There will be no change/ fog is not an issue	4	8%	3	9%	1	8%
Negative effects on air quality	3	6%	3	9%	0	0%
Negative effects on wildlife	2	4%	1	3%	1	8%
Fog will negatively affect the airport	2	4%	2	6%	0	0%
Will reduce the amount of sunshine/increase cloudy days	2	4%	2	6%	0	0%
Other	5	10%	3	9%	2	15%
Nothing in particular	1	2%	1	3%	0	0%

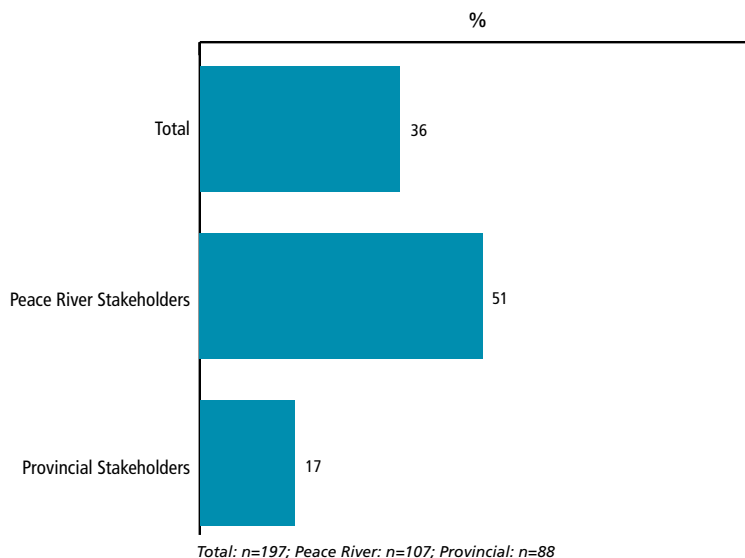
1. Total is greater than sum of Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders, as not all participants could be identified by region. 2. Caution: small base size.

- An open-ended question asked participants to identify key considerations in evaluating the potential impacts of increased fog.
- Of 48 participants who identified other key considerations, 10 expressed some concern over fog contributing to danger on the roads/highways, as well as the airport (2). Some indicated that existing dams have increased the level of fog (6), while others wanted more information on the subject (6). A few believed that fog will not be an issue (4).
- Peace River participants were more inclined to remark that existing dams have increased the level of fog while Provincial participants were more likely to ask for more information on the subject.

IMPACTS ON FISH

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

28. Do you fish in the Peace River?

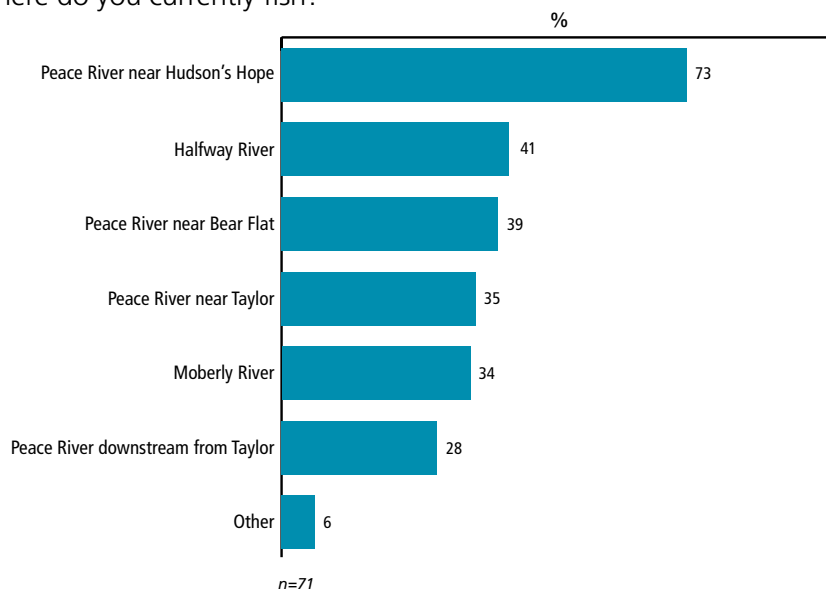


- Over one-third (36%) of participants said they fish in the Peace River. 51% of Peace River participants fish in the river, compared to just 17% of Provincial participants.

PREFERENCE FOR FISHING LOCATION IN PEACE RIVER AREA

Total

29. Where do you currently fish?

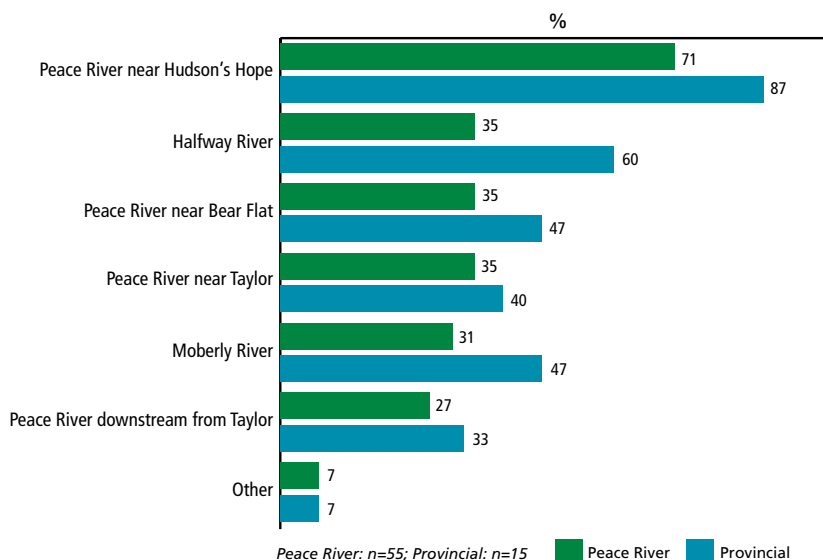


- About three-quarters (73%) of participants currently fish in the Peace River near Hudson's Hope. Considerably fewer fish in the Halfway River (41%), Peace River near Bear Flat (39%) or near Taylor (35%), the Moberly River (34%), or downstream from Taylor (28%).

PREFERENCE FOR FISHING LOCATION IN PEACE RIVER AREA

Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

29. Where do you currently fish?

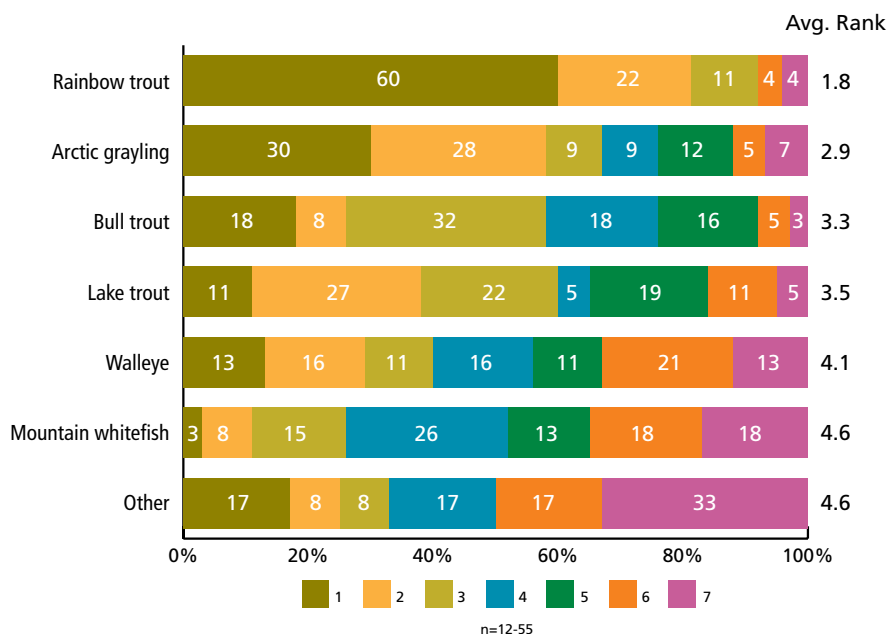


- While fewer Provincial participants fish in any of the locations, the Peace River near Hudson's Hope, the Halfway River and Moberly River were more popular fishing locations among participants from outside the region than among those who live in the Peace River region.

PREFERENCE FOR FISHING FOR SPECIES OF FISH

Total

30. Please rank, in order of preference, the species you prefer to fish, with 1 being the highest and 7 being the lowest.

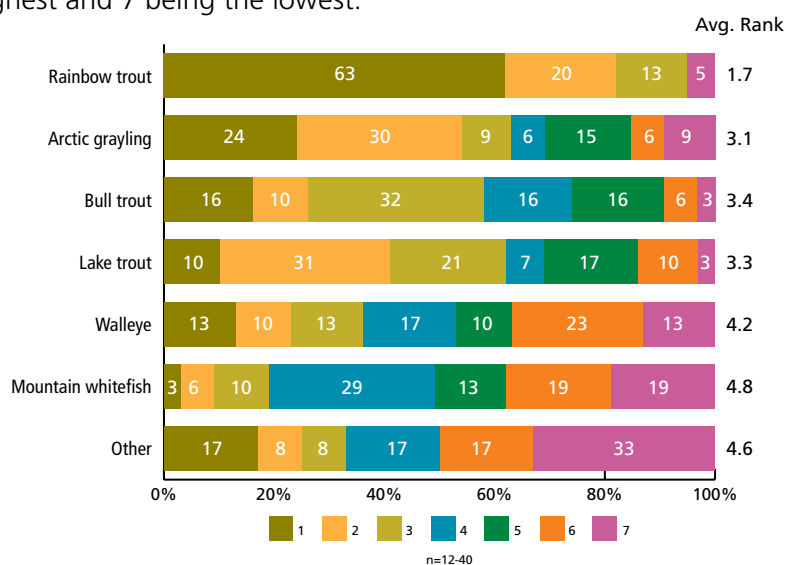


- When asked to rank six fish species in order of preference for fishing, participants selected Rainbow trout as their top choice most often (60% of the time). Only half as many (30%) chose Arctic grayling first, and significantly fewer chose Bull trout (18%), Lake trout (11%), Walleye (13%), or Mountain whitefish (3%).
- While the relative order of preference remains the same when first and second choices are combined, Lake trout is a stronger second choice than Bull trout, making it the first or second choice of more fishers than Bull trout (38% vs. 26%, respectively).
- Other species of fish mentioned include: Kokanee, Dolly Vardon, Golden Eye, Northern Pike, and no species in particular.

PREFERENCE FOR FISHING FOR SPECIES OF FISH

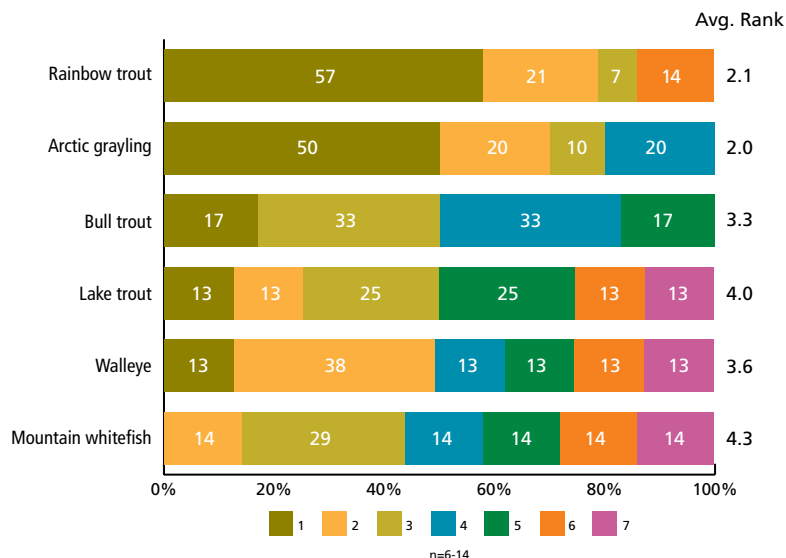
Peace River Stakeholders

30. Please rank, in order of preference, the species you prefer to fish, with 1 being the highest and 7 being the lowest.



Provincial Stakeholders

30. Please rank, in order of preference, the species you prefer to fish, with 1 being the highest and 7 being the lowest.

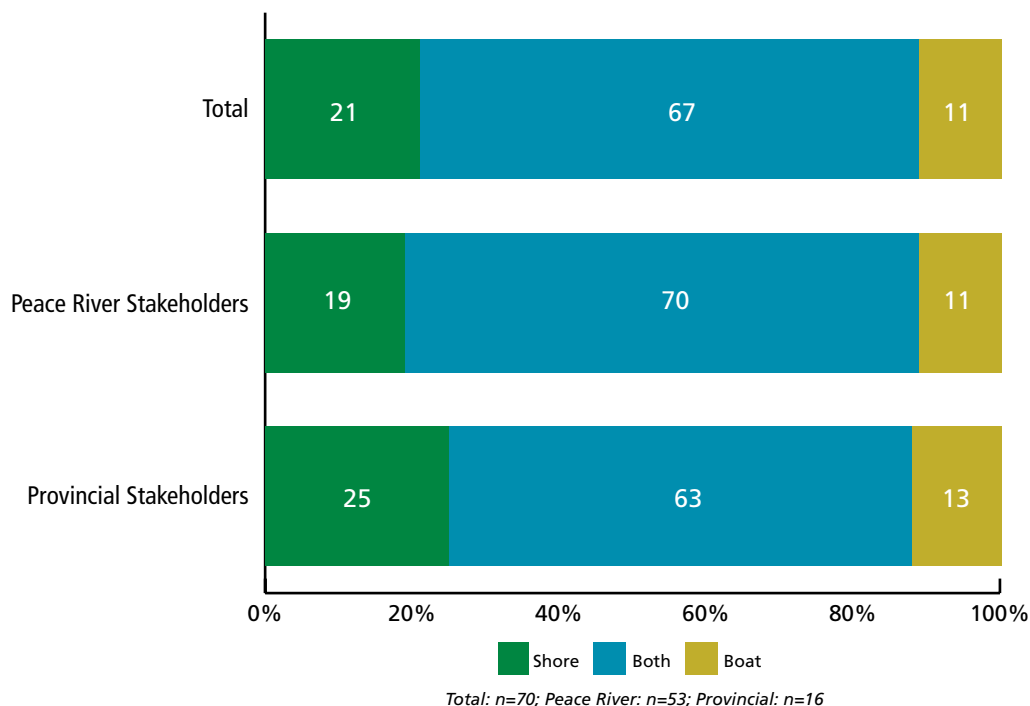


- The relative rankings of fish preferences are similar between participants from the Peace River region and those from outside the region. However, Peace River participants were more likely to select Lake trout as their second choice. Those from outside the region have a greater preference for Arctic grayling and were more likely to choose Walleye as their second choice.

PREFERENCE FOR FISHING FROM SHORE OR BOAT

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

31. Do you prefer to fish from shore or from a boat?



- Given a choice of fishing from shore or from a boat, two-thirds of participants who fish in the Peace River preferred to fish from both shore and from a boat. Among the remaining participants, more preferred fishing from shore than from a boat (21% vs. 11%, respectively).
- Preference for fishing from shore or from a boat is similar among participants, regardless of whether or not they reside in the Peace River region.

FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION WHEN EVALUATING OPTIONS TO MITIGATE EFFECTS ON FISH AND FISH HABITAT

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

32. Please identify factors for consideration when evaluating options to mitigate effects on fish and fish habitat as a result of the creation of a reservoir.

	Total ¹		Peace River Stakeholders		Provincial Stakeholders	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Base	65		42 ²		22	
Build fish ladders/ensure successful spawning	10	15%	8	19%	2	9%
Against Site C	9	14%	7	17%	2	9%
Ensure the reservoir is stocked/It will enhance fishing	8	12%	5	12%	3	14%
The reservoir will change habitat/alter the species distribution	8	12%	7	17%	1	5%
It is important to encourage biodiversity/other animals depend on fish	5	8%	2	5%	3	14%
Mercury levels	4	6%	2	5%	1	5%
Grayling/Bull Trout/Northern Pike are rarer species/need protection	4	6%	3	7%	1	5%
The reservoir will have negative effects on fish/fish levels	4	6%	2	5%	2	9%
Need more information/studies	3	5%	1	2%	2	9%
Ensure/maintain fish habitat (general)	2	3%	1	2%	1	5%
Minimize water temperature changes	2	3%	1	2%	1	5%
Other	7	11%	3	7%	4	18%
Nothing in particular	9	14%	7	17%	2	9%

1. Total is greater than sum of Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders, as not all participants could be identified by region. 2. Caution: small base size.

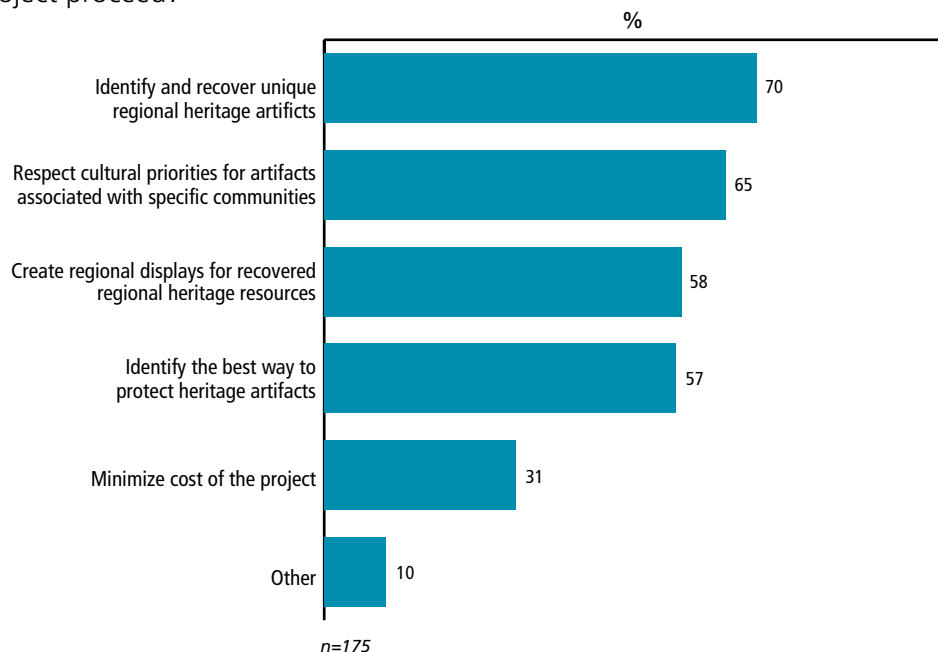
- An open-ended question asked participants to identify factors for consideration when evaluating options to mitigate effects on fish and fish habitat as a result of the creation of a reservoir.
- Of 65 participants who provided factors for consideration, 10 participants indicated that they would like to see fish ladders built. Some mentioned that the reservoir will change the habitat and alter the species distribution (8), while others mentioned the reservoir being stocked/enhancing fishing (8).
- Peace River participants were more likely to mention the building of fish ladders to ensure successful spawning. Peace River participants were also more likely to be concerned about the reservoir changing the habitat and altering the species distribution.

IMPACTS ON HERITAGE RESOURCES

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS WHEN EVALUATING OPTIONS TO MITIGATE EFFECTS ON HERITAGE RESOURCES

Total

33. Which of the following factors should be considered when evaluating options to mitigate potential effects of the Site C project on heritage resources, should the project proceed?

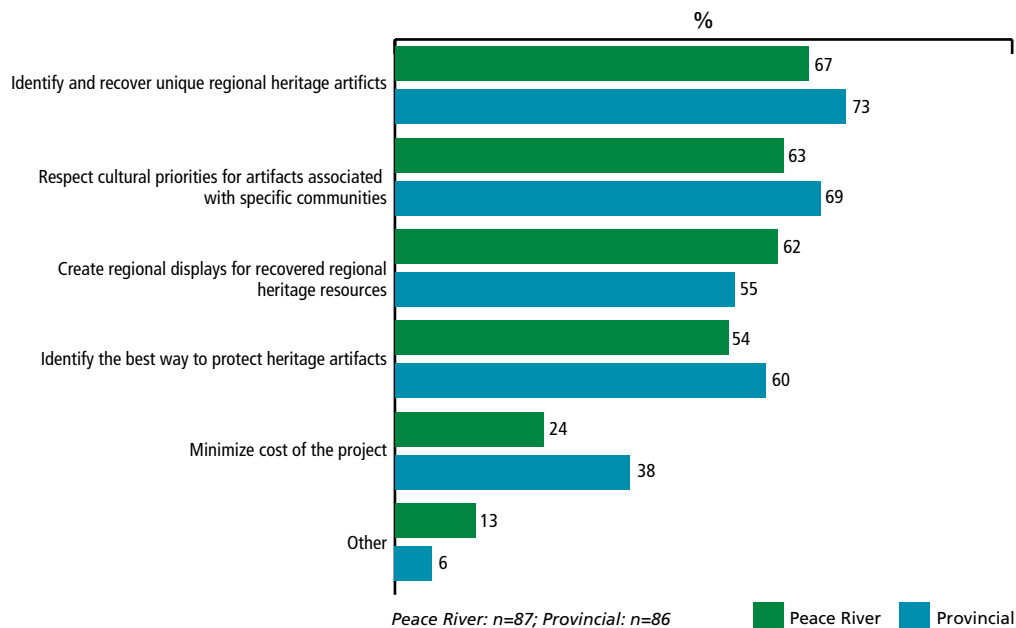


- Of five factors to be considered when evaluating options to mitigate potential impacts of the Site C project on heritage resources, participants were most likely to choose **identifying and recovering unique regional heritage artifacts** (70%), followed by **respecting cultural priorities for artifacts associated with specific communities** (65%). Over half of participants also believed that **creating regional displays for recovered regional heritage resources** (58%) and **identifying the best way to protect heritage artifacts** (57%) should be considered. Only 31% of participants believed that **minimizing costs of the project** should be a factor.

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS WHEN EVALUATING OPTIONS TO MITIGATE EFFECTS ON HERITAGE RESOURCES

Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

33. Which of the following factors should be considered when evaluating options to mitigate potential effects of the Site C project on heritage resources, should the project proceed?



- Provincial participants were more likely to regard four of five factors as important to consider, particularly **identifying and recovering unique regional artifacts** (73% vs. 67%) and **respecting cultural priorities for artifacts** (69% vs. 63%).

ADDITIONAL FACTORS WHEN EVALUATING OPTIONS TO MITIGATE EFFECTS ON HERITAGE RESOURCES

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

34. Please identify other factors for consideration when evaluating options to mitigate effects on heritage resources as a result of the creation of a reservoir.

	Total ¹		Peace River Stakeholders		Provincial Stakeholders	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Base	50		36 ²		13	
Against Site C	18	36%	13	36%	5	38%
Heritage sites will be flooded/ lost forever	10	20%	9	25%	1	8%
It will cost too much in reparations	3	6%	2	6%	0	0%
Establish a museum/showcase artifacts/add to the visitor centre	3	6%	2	6%	1	8%
Must work with First Nations	3	6%	1	3%	2	15%
Build it/Go ahead with Site C	3	6%	1	3%	2	15%
Search for artifacts should be extensive and given enough time	2	4%	2	6%	0	0%
BC Hydro to maintain and fund proposed heritage program	1	2%	1	3%	0	0%
Other	1	2%	1	3%	0	0%
Nothing in particular	6	12%	4	11%	2	15%

1. Total is greater than sum of Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders, as not all participants could be identified by region. 2. Caution: small base size.

- An open-ended question asked participants to identify factors for consideration when evaluating options to mitigate effects on heritage resources as a result of the creation of a reservoir.
- Of 50 participants who provided other factors for consideration, 18 voiced their opposition to Site C. Factors considered important by participants for consideration include a concern that heritage sites will be flooded and lost forever (10). A range of opinions on how best to preserve artifacts and the cultural heritage were also expressed.
- Of respondents to this question, Peace River and Provincial participants were equally as likely to state their opposition to the project.
- Concern over flooding and permanent loss of heritage sites was most widespread among Peace River participants. Provincial participants, meanwhile, were more likely to mention that BC Hydro should work with First Nations or to say that BC Hydro should go ahead and build Site C.

FURTHER COMMENTS

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders (Negative Responses)

35. Please provide any further comments on any aspect of the potential Site C project.

	Total ¹		Peace River Stakeholders		Provincial Stakeholders	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Base	102		64		32 ²	
Negative						
Against Site C	22	22%	19	30%	1	3%
There needs to be more exploration of alternative electrical generation	19	19%	10	16%	6	19%
Site C will destroy animal habitat/ the environment	13	13%	6	9%	6	19%
The survey is biased/not objective	11	11%	7	11%	3	9%
The region/residents will require financial compensation	10	10%	8	13%	2	6%
There has been insufficient consultation with the public	8	8%	3	5%	4	13%
The north suffers for the benefit of the rest of the province	8	8%	6	9%	1	3%
Site C will destroy agricultural land	8	8%	6	9%	1	3%
Disagree with selling power out of province	6	6%	5	8%	1	3%
Site C will destroy the valley	6	6%	3	5%	3	9%
Site C will destroy homes	4	4%	3	5%	1	3%
Transmission losses will be too high/ generate power closer to end use	2	2%	2	3%	0	0%
Site C will destroy heritage sites	2	2%	1	2%	1	3%
Other Negative	17	17%	10	16%	5	16%

1. Total is greater than sum of Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders, as not all participants could be identified by region. 2. Caution: small base size.

- From a total of 936 participants in Project Definition Consultation, Round 1, 224 participants returned feedback forms, of which 102 participants provided “Further Comments” (Question 35).
- 22 of 102 stated their opposition to Site C, 19 indicated a need to explore alternative energy sources, and 13 were concerned with environmental impacts of Site C.

FURTHER COMMENTS

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders (Neutral and Positive Responses)

35. Please provide any further comments on any aspect of the potential Site C project.

	Total ¹		Peace River Stakeholders		Provincial Stakeholders	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Base	102		64		32 ²	
Neutral						
Need to promote conservation of existing power supply	14	14%	8	13%	5	16%
Wildlife habitat needs to be assessed/protected/restored	7	7%	5	8%	1	3%
Require further information about construction/logistics/costs/methods	6	6%	4	6%	2	6%
Landowners/residents need to be consulted	5	5%	3	5%	2	6%
What are the plans for harvesting trees in the flooded areas?	3	3%	3	5%	0	0%
Electricity prices should be lower in the Peace compared to elsewhere	2	2%	2	3%	0	0%
Need to mitigate impact to historical sites	1	1%	1	2%	0	0%
Other Neutral	9	9%	3	5%	4	13%
Positive						
B.C. needs the power produced from Site C	12	12%	8	13%	4	13%
Build it/Go ahead with Site C	10	10%	4	6%	5	16%
The reservoir will contribute to local recreation	5	5%	5	8%	0	0%
There will be positive economic impact/jobs created	4	4%	4	6%	0	0%
Site C will improve area infrastructure/roads	4	4%	3	5%	1	3%
Other Positive	3	3%	1	2%	1	3%
Other	16	16%	9	14%	5	16%

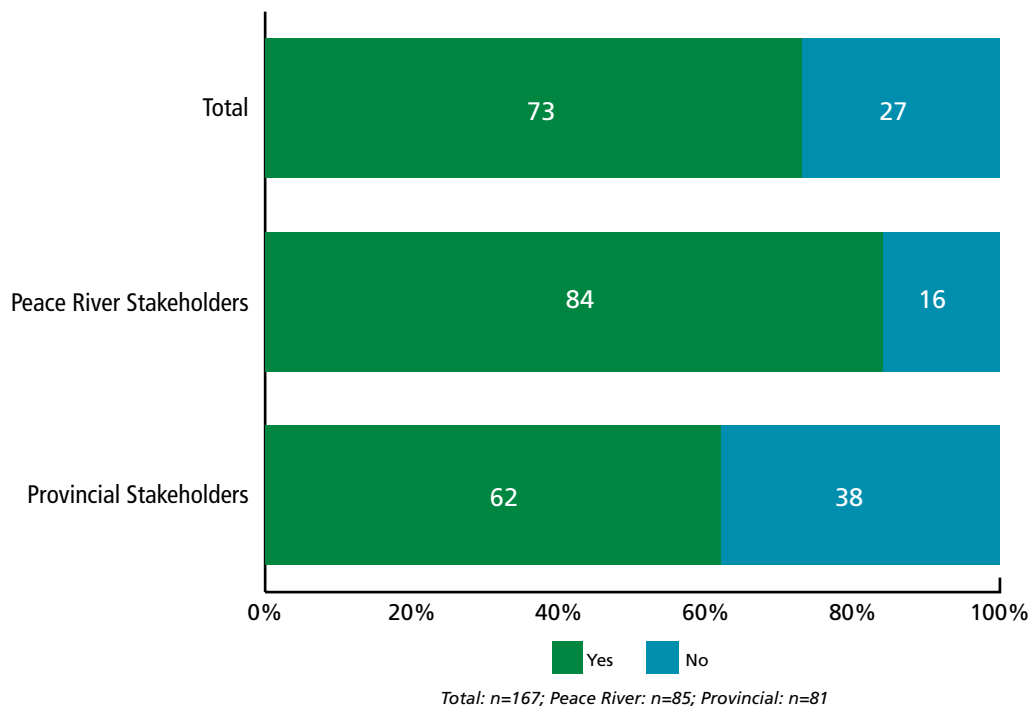
1. Total is greater than sum of Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders, as not all participants could be identified by region. 2. Caution: small base size.

- Of 102 participants who provided feedback under a “Further Comments” section of the feedback form, 14 cited a need for promoting conservation of the existing power supply, 12 stated that B.C. needs the power produced from Site C and 10 participants stated their support for the building of Site C.

INTEREST IN RECEIVING UPDATES ON THE PROJECT

Total – Peace River and Provincial Stakeholders

35c. Would you like to receive updates on the project, including the Project Definition Consultation Report?



- A large majority of participants expressed interest in receiving updates on the project, including the Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 Summary Report. Interest was higher among participants from the Peace River region than those outside the region.

4.2 Submissions

- In addition to comments on Feedback Forms, open-ended feedback was also received in the form of 22 submissions, of which 9 were from the Peace River region and 8 from outside the region. The remaining 5 could not be identified by region.
- Of the 22 submissions, 5 expressed concerns about the negative environmental impacts of the project, and another 5 stated that there has not been enough consultation with the public. 4 submissions were opposed to Site C, and another 4 indicated that BC Hydro should pursue energy alternatives. 3 submissions stated that Site C will destroy agricultural land.
- 4 submissions said there should be greater effort put into promoting conservation of the existing power supply.
- 6 submissions were positive towards continuing to pursue Site C as an option, with 3 citing the need for more power, and 2 highlighting the economic benefits of Site C.

4.3 Key Theme Summary of Stakeholder Meetings

In addition to Synovate's analysis of the feedback form results and written submissions, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd., a professional consultation firm, has analyzed the key themes from 28 stakeholder meetings, and the question and answer sessions held at 8 open houses².

The following represents a review of the key themes from each of the stakeholder meetings to determine the most frequently mentioned topics in the meetings. It is important to note that the key theme summary represents a qualitative analysis of stakeholder meeting notes, as opposed to the quantitative analysis of feedback forms noted above. The meetings are listed in the order in which they occurred.

1. May 5, 2008 – Fort St. John Community Groups

- Participants emphasized that if the project were to go ahead, BC Hydro must clear the reservoir area to avoid mistakes made with the Williston Reservoir.
- Participants raised concerns about the number of Site C construction workers and the impact they would have on the community and infrastructure.
- Participants noted that environmental issues such as fog and increased moisture could be a major concern for the airport, roads and the farming community.

2. May 6, 2008 – Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe Business Groups

- Participants noted the need to plan long-term regarding potential impacts of the dam construction workforce, particularly the increased demand for fire protection and increased road use.
- Participants noted that if the project proceeds, BC Hydro needs to liaise with RCMP Head Office to determine and manage any concerns with respect to safety and security.

3. May 6, 2008 – Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe Community and Environmental Groups

- Participants asked whether it was possible to move the location of the Site C Dam west of the Moberly River, suggesting that this would minimize impacts on the nearby tributaries.
- Participants asked if BC Hydro could develop power in a way that was less disturbing to the river. They suggesting piping water from the Williston Reservoir generators downriver.
- Participants commented that wetlands and other local environmentally sensitive areas, such as breeding areas for trumpeter swans, need to be protected and should not be used to offset the impacts of the reservoir.
- Participants emphasized the importance of habitat work to offset impacts to wildlife.

2. Complete Stakeholder Meeting and Open House Question and Answer Meeting notes can be found in Appendices 1 and 2

4. May 8, 2008 – Fort St. John Business Groups

- Participants expressed concern about changes in climate due to the creation of a reservoir, including fog and clouding, and impacts to wildlife habitats.
- Participants expressed concerns regarding the effects of worker housing and the volume of workers coming in. Specific concerns included impacts on policing, recreation, health care, housing and labour supply.
- Participants expressed concern regarding the clearing of the reservoir area to ensure that future safety, and recreational opportunities and other benefits are maintained.

5. May 8, 2008 – Fort St. John Environmental Groups

- Participants questioned the lack of technical information at this stage of consultation, suggesting that the consultation is flawed without full technical information available to stakeholders. It was further suggested that consultation is being done to fulfill a requirement only and would not have an effect on whether to proceed with Site C.
- Participants expressed concern that there was not enough public information about the negative impacts of Site C.
- Participants expressed a desire to know the scope and Terms of Reference for the environmental studies.
- Participants were concerned with the impact of construction camps on the community, particularly potential increases in crime and substance abuse.

6. May 8, 2008 – Joint Industry Electricity Steering Committee (JIESC)

- Participants emphasized that their interest is in dependable, low-cost energy that is sustainable over the long term. Participants suggested greater emphasis of BC Hydro's "For Generations" slogan.
- Participants commented that BC Hydro should look at developing an agricultural irrigation system as a potential community benefit.
- Participants noted that on the *Energy Alternatives Chart*,³ it should be emphasized that one energy source cannot replace another.
- Participants commented that government policies, such as debt and water charges, are driving the cost of Site C higher, making it less desirable as a potential large-scale project.

7. May 12, 2008 – Vancouver Island Business Groups

- Participants were interested in reservoir levels and ensuring that the area would be cleared to prevent greenhouse gas emissions from decaying vegetation.
- Participants were interested in energy alternatives, particularly wind and tidal and would like to see geothermal on the chart of energy alternatives. It was noted that BC Hydro should communicate that energy alternatives would have to be produced by Independent Power Producers.
- Participants were interested in local impacts and the potential for worker housing as a community benefit.

3. *Peace River Site C Hydro Project: Project Definition Consultation Discussion Guide and Feedback Form, Round 1: May/June 2008, page 8.*

8. May 12, 2008 – Fort St. John Local Government

- Participants were concerned about the impacts of construction camps and an influx of workers on the community and its infrastructure. A suggestion was made that local businesses need to be more involved in the planning and consultation processes. It was also suggested that BC Hydro could work with the municipality to develop housing within the community, partly as a legacy, and also because they felt that workers living within the community would be more of a part of it, generating fewer problems.
- Participants suggested that BC Hydro should find ways to better support residents in making energy conservation choices, including providing information about how to convert household systems to conserve, installing “net metering” systems, and bulk ordering items such as home wind turbines and solar panels to make them more affordable.
- Participants said the project should give priority to municipal impacts and legacies and make sure that the city of Fort St. John is extensively considered in Round 2 of the consultation, including staff-level discussions.

9. May 12, 2008 – Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe Local Government

- Participants had a high level of awareness of the project, focusing on technical issues such as dam safety, the Environmental Assessment Process, extensiveness of the consultation and alternative energy sources.
- Participants said that any agreements with the community should be in writing as past experience with the W.A.C. Bennett Dam was that verbal agreements were not kept.
- Participants were concerned about worker access and suggested a need to increase road capacity.

10. May 13, 2008 – Tumbler Ridge and Chetwynd Local Government

- Participants suggested BC Hydro should house workers in town, rather than using a camp, stating that it would make for better worker living conditions.
- Participants suggested that a new road and bridge be built between Chetwynd and Fort St. John and suggested that BC Hydro upgrade roads to potential construction sites so that people living in the Chetwynd area could access these local jobs.
- Participants were concerned about potential environmental impacts related to creation of a reservoir. Specifically, participants were concerned about mercury levels and effects on fish, fogging and water levels, and the effects of greenhouse warming from solar reflections.

11. May 13, 2008 – Tumbler Ridge and Chetwynd Business Groups

- Participants were interested in community benefits and suggested skills training, lower electricity rates and funding for community recreation as potential benefits.
- Participants were interested in the workforce and the potential for using local workers. It was suggested that local workers could be brought to the worksites by bus, and that this could occur for workers in Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge.

- Participants raised the impact of the W.A.C. Bennett and Peace Canyon dams on fish habitats and were interested in how impacts from Site C would be studied and handled.

12. May 13, 2008 – Tumbler Ridge and Chetwynd Community and Environmental Groups

- Participants suggested that worker camps would gain efficiencies from not requiring workers to commute. However, it was noted that this would be more difficult for workers with families.
- Participants raised concerns regarding the amount of fog currently in the valley.
- Participants had general technical questions on how the turbines worked.

13. May 13, 2008 – Lower Mainland Environmental Groups

- Participants expressed the need to ensure that the environmental assessment is done using an ecosystem approach.
- Participants stressed the importance of ensuring that there are no downstream impacts if the dam proceeds.
- Participants indicated that there was considerable information missing in order for them to provide a more complete response at this time.
- Participants suggested that a list of studies that were underway would help provide more of a context for understanding the current level of information being provided.

14. May 15, 2008 – Hudson's Hope Local Government

- Participants were interested in potential community benefits, including recreation and tourism opportunities. The notion of a community trust was brought up as well, and it was suggested that the trust should not be tied directly to Site C, but rather to the entire Peace Basin.
- Participants were concerned about the impacts to services and infrastructure that would arise from worker camps, if the project were to proceed.
- Participants restated their interest in having BC Hydro set up a community consultation office in Hudson's Hope, citing the importance of maps and information for the community.

15. May 15, 2008 – Hudson's Hope Business Groups

- Participants expressed concern about how Highway 29 improvements might increase wildlife/vehicle collision rates, and suggested wildlife overpasses, underpasses and fencing as possible mitigation. Participants also expressed concern that Hudson's Hope would be bypassed by travellers if a new road was created for access to the dam.
- Participants expressed an interest in reservoir fluctuations, specifically the period of time it would take for the reservoir to stabilize.
- Participants were concerned about environmental issues such as ice management and increases in water temperature from the reservoir.

16. May 15, 2008 – Hudson’s Hope Community and Environmental Groups

- Participants expressed concerns about the negative impacts of Site C and Highway 29 segment relocations on land, particularly private land, and asked for assurance regarding BC Hydro’s commitment to thoroughly consult with private land owners.
- Participants were opposed to the project, and were concerned that the discussion guide had been written as if the project was proceeding.

17. May 20, 2008 – Lower Mainland Mining and Forestry Groups, COFI

- Participants discussed potential community benefits, suggesting BC Hydro should not be responsible for administration.
- Some participants suggested that community benefits should be shared by BC Hydro ratepayers, while others felt that community benefits should be a larger government initiative, especially if it included new roads and medical facilities.
- Participants noted that BC Hydro’s electricity supply is constrained by provincial policies such as limiting the supply from non-renewable sources to 10% of supply. Participants commented they would like a broader discussion of B.C. government policy issues and how they impact on Site C decisions and costs.

18. May 20, 2008 – Mackenzie Local Government

- Participants said that BC Hydro should learn from mistakes made on Williston Reservoir, especially with regards to clearing prior to flooding.
- Participants were interested in opportunities for local trades, and raised the importance of shift differentials to both local and commuting workers.
- Participants suggested that BC Hydro could encourage more tourism in the region by creating a series of dam tours and archaeological sites, along with improvements to infrastructure.

19. May 20, 2008 – Mackenzie Community, Business and Environment

- Participants wanted to ensure that BC Hydro learn from mistakes made on Williston Lake, particularly concerning the need to clear organic materials in the reservoir area prior to flooding.
- Participants raised environmental concerns, particularly with respect to fog, clouds and ice. Participants were concerned about the unstable nature of the slopes surrounding the potential reservoir, and the impact that a slide would have on the river.

20. May 22, 2008 – Lower Mainland Business Groups

- Participants were interested in the decision-making process, and wanted to know how and by whom the final decision to proceed with Site C would be made.
- Participants raised questions about procurement and the possibility of Site C being constructed through a public-private partnership. Participants noted that the B.C. construction industry should be included as much as possible.
- Participants noted that the cost of construction is difficult to estimate today when construction would not begin until 2012.

21. May 22, 2008 – Peace River Regional District

- Participants noted that the socio-economic aspects of the project, including the quality of life of workers in camps, need to be considered as a high priority.
- Participants stated that they wanted to see commitments to the community in writing, due to promises that were not kept on previous projects in the region.
- Participants requested that BC Hydro consider the return of land in the flood reserve if the project is rejected at any point.

22. May 27, 2008 – Northern BC Construction Association

- Participants were interested in the procurement of the project, including the construction of the relocated Highway 29. Participants emphasized the importance of engaging local, regional and provincial contractors, especially if Site C is constructed as a public-private partnership.
- Participants noted that the long-range planning done by the BC Construction Association does not take into consideration the workforce for Site C, and that availability of trade workers is an issue that BC Hydro needs to look at now. It was also noted that workers would be more willing to work on the project if they were housed in cities such as Fort St. John, rather than in camps.
- Participants were interested in the environmental impacts of Site C, particularly on climate change and agricultural land.

23. May 27, 2008 – Independent Power Producers of BC (IPPBC)

- Participants said Site C planning must be integrated with provincial energy planning.
- Participants suggested that more detail is required on the financial rationale, including the difference between optimal energy production and costs of water management.
- Participants said that transmission costs to the Lower Mainland would be additional, and need to be identified as part of the total Site C costs.

24. May 29, 2008 – Fort Nelson Community, Business and Environmental Groups

- Participants were interested in further information on alternatives, such as wind and 'run-of-river' power. Participants were also interested in how much power B.C. imports from other jurisdictions.
- Participants were interested in impacts to property owners and how much of the affected land BC Hydro already owns.

25. May 29, 2008 – Fort Nelson Local Government

- Participants were interested in worker housing and suggested building an RV park for workers. It was also suggested that worker camps could be used for recreation purposes after construction was complete.
- Participants asked about whether a landslide would be more significant or likely in a reservoir or river.

26. June 5, 2008 – North Central Municipal Association

- Participants expressed interest in the relocation of sections of Highway 29 and wanted to know if it would be paid for as part of the Site C budget or by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
- Participants were concerned with the effect of the potential Site C Dam on fish, and suggested fish passages as a way of mitigating these effects.
- Participants expressed interest in what upgrades are planned for the Taylor Bridge to improve safety, partially related to fog.

27. June 10, 2008 – Taylor Local Government

- Participants noted that the alternatives chart should contain more details, including relative comparisons of cost, quality, capability and impacts of the alternatives.
- Participants were interested in how the downstream river flows would be affected, specifically as they pertain to recreation opportunities.
- Participants were interested in the consultation process and decision-making timeline, including the possibility of asking a question regarding whether stakeholders support the dam.
- Participants noted the importance of goods movement routes in the region, and stated that another crossing could alleviate pressures on the existing route from Taylor to Fort St. John.

28. June 16, 2008 – North Peace Economic Development Commission

- Participants were interested in potential local benefits, including the creation of a community fund and opportunities for local businesses to contract to the project.
- Participants were concerned about impacts to the local municipalities and infrastructure with regards to an influx of workers, their housing and their travel. It was suggested that worker housing could be used as social housing when the project was complete, as a local benefit.
- Participants were interested in impacts to agricultural land from the project, particularly cultivated land.

29. June 24, 2008 – Vancouver Board of Trade Sustainability Committee

- Participants were interested in the cost estimates for Site C, when it would be updated and what rate increases could be expected as a result of the project.
- Participants were interested in the potential local benefit of building construction housing in a way that it could be utilized by communities following construction.

4.4 Key Theme Summary of Public Open House Question and Answer Sessions

The following represents a review of the key themes from each of the eight moderated open house question and answer sessions to determine the most frequently mentioned topics in the meetings. As with the stakeholder meeting notes, it is important to note that the key theme summary represents a qualitative analysis of moderated question and answer session meeting notes, as opposed to the quantitative analysis of feedback forms noted previously.

Open houses held in Fort Nelson and Mackenzie did not have question and answer sessions due to the low attendance and the ability of the project team to answer individual's questions on a one on one basis.

1. June 2, 2008 – Fort St. John

- Participants were interested in energy alternatives outside of Site C and whether as much effort has gone into exploring these alternatives.
- Participants raised concerns that the effects of the project will be felt in the Fort St. John area, while the benefits will flow south to the areas of highest demand.
- Participants raised concerns that the decision to proceed with the project has already been made and wanted to know if an independent review would take place.

2. June 3, 2008 – Taylor

- Participants raised the need to explore energy alternatives outside of Site C.
- Participants questioned whether BC Hydro could generate more energy from or add capacity to existing facilities, and whether BC Hydro's mandate from the government could be changed so that BC Hydro could generate energy through alternative methods.
- Participants were skeptical about the need for additional energy in B.C. and the issue of import/export of energy was discussed.

3. June 7, 2008 – Hudson's Hope

- Participants were concerned about impacts to private property, specifically on the river bank, and asked whether the flood reserve would be released, if Site C were not to go ahead.
- Participants were interested in energy alternatives outside of Site C, including nuclear and net metering, and programs to promote conservation and self-generation.
- Participants were concerned about the potential impacts on Hudson's Hope if a bridge was built downstream from the dam.
- Participants questioned the scope of environmental studies and timing of results.

4. June 9, 2008 – Dawson Creek/Pouce Coupe

- Participants raised concerns over whether additional energy is needed in B.C. and the issue of import/export of energy was discussed.
- Participants raised environmental concerns regarding the impact of flooding in terms of loss of agricultural land, increase in greenhouse gas emissions, and mercury levels in fish and subsequently humans.
- Participants were interested in energy alternatives outside of Site C and questioned the mandate from government that restricts BC Hydro to hydroelectricity, as opposed to producing energy from alternative sources.

5. June 10, 2008 – Hudson's Hope

- Participants were concerned about impacts to the Peace region, especially the socio-economic impacts in Hudson's Hope with an influx of families during construction of Site C and the effect on schools and infrastructure.
- Participants were interested in community benefits, including the creation of a community trust fund. It was suggested that the community trust should have been in place prior to beginning discussions around Site C.
- Participants raised concerns over a construction access bridge and whether this will remain in place for public use after potential dam construction is complete.

6. June 14, 2008 – Fort St. John

- Participants were concerned about socio-economic impacts that would be created by an increase in workers living in Fort St. John and the surrounding areas, particularly with respect to infrastructure, crime rate and drug use.
- Participants expressed concerns about water management in the river and potential reservoir, the impacts of erosion and sloughing, and the development of a clearing plan.
- Participants were interested in recreational opportunities in the current river and in the potential reservoir, and asked that signage be erected to mark the public access points and boat launches.
- Participants enquired about wildlife studies that are planned and underway, the timing of study results and whether these would be available to the public.

7. June 16, 2008 – Chetwynd/Tumbler Ridge

- Participants were interested in B.C.'s two-river policy and questioned whether it would be more efficient to build a dam closer to where there is a greater demand for energy.
- Participants raised questions on the import/export of energy and purchasing power from Independent Power Producers.
- Participants raised the need for workers in Chetwynd to have as much road access to the potential dam construction site as workers from Fort St. John.
- Participants were interested in smart meters, off-peak rates and other conservation programs, including opportunities for municipalities and industry.

8. June 18, 2008 – Prince George

- Participants were concerned about the potential for landslides and slumping of the reservoir banks and whether this could impact the operational life of the dam.
- Participants were interested in alternatives to Site C, including conservation and looking at government policy directions that restrict BC Hydro from exploring nuclear energy. It was also asked why BC Hydro was not able to pursue alternatives rather than purchasing from the private sector (Independent Power Producers).
- Participants expressed concern regarding potential environmental and land impacts, including potential downstream impacts from filling the reservoir and operation of the dam.

