

# **PROJECT UPDATE: Ontario Flood Forecasting and Warning Implementation Guidelines for Conservation Authorities and the Ministry of Natural Resources:**

Or “The Future Is Being Written”

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# Overview

## 1. Recap

- PFFW
- The guidelines
- Update details
- Policy implications

## 2. Progress

- Accomplishments
- Purpose, audience, scope, limitations
- Survey results
- Content review

## 3. Next Steps

- Tasks and timeline
- EBR

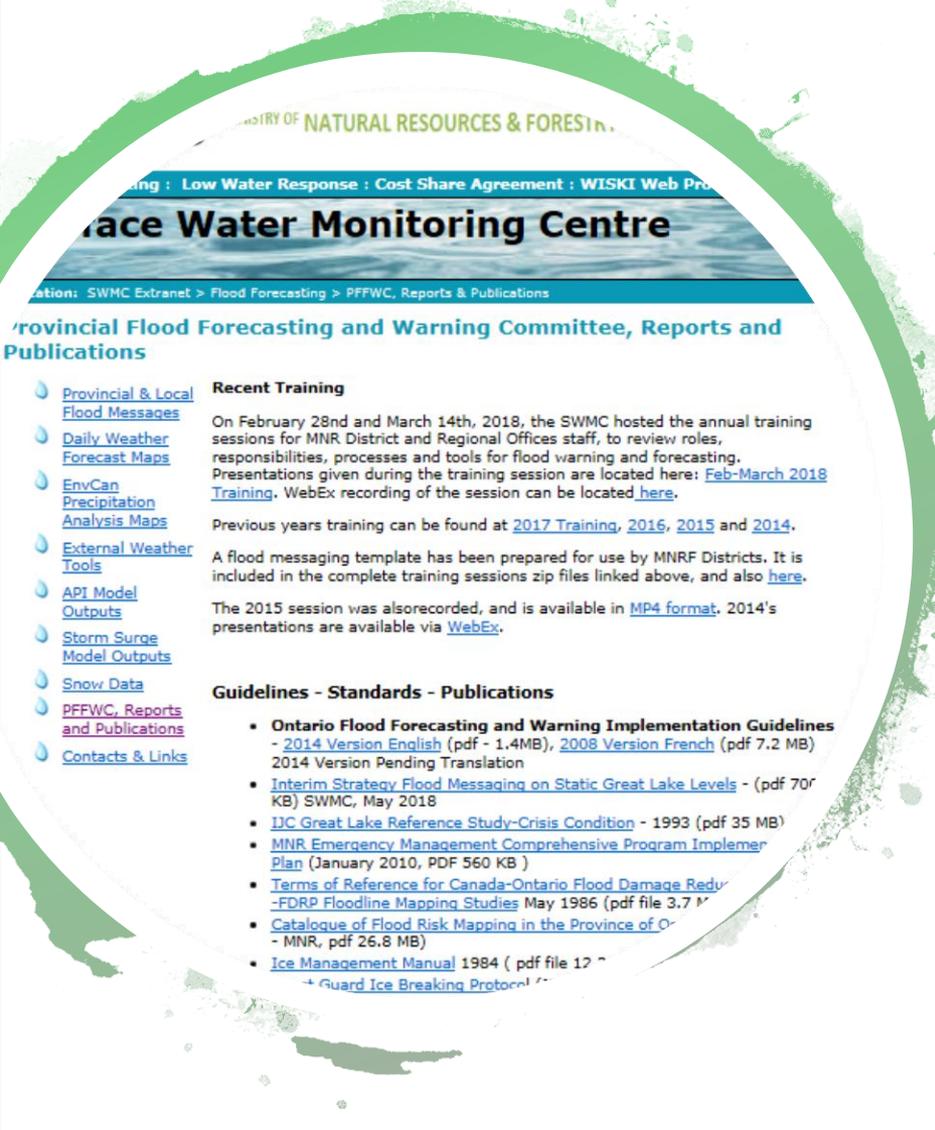
# 1. Recap

# Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning

- MNRF is the lead ministry responsible for natural hazards management, including floods.
- To fulfill part of this mandate, MNRF chairs a provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Committee.
  - provide program links between agencies responsible for flood forecasting and warning, emergency management, flow measurement and data collection,
  - address policy and implementation needs and issues,
  - and to facilitate training,
  - **And is responsible for these guidelines that we are talking about!**

# The Guidelines

- This document is the primary guidance document for FFW.
- It includes procedures and processes that help Districts and CA's meet their FFW responsibilities.
- Created in 2008, last updated in 2011 and 2014
- Available on the extranet (email [surface.water@Ontario.ca](mailto:surface.water@Ontario.ca) for access)



# Update Details

- Scheduled to be completed by the Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Committee in 2020.
- Update all references and acronyms and improve formatting.
- Revise and streamline document structure.
- Better emphasis on the need for consistent messaging
- Content... Gap analysis
- A wholistic modernization of the text reflecting changes to FFW since 2004



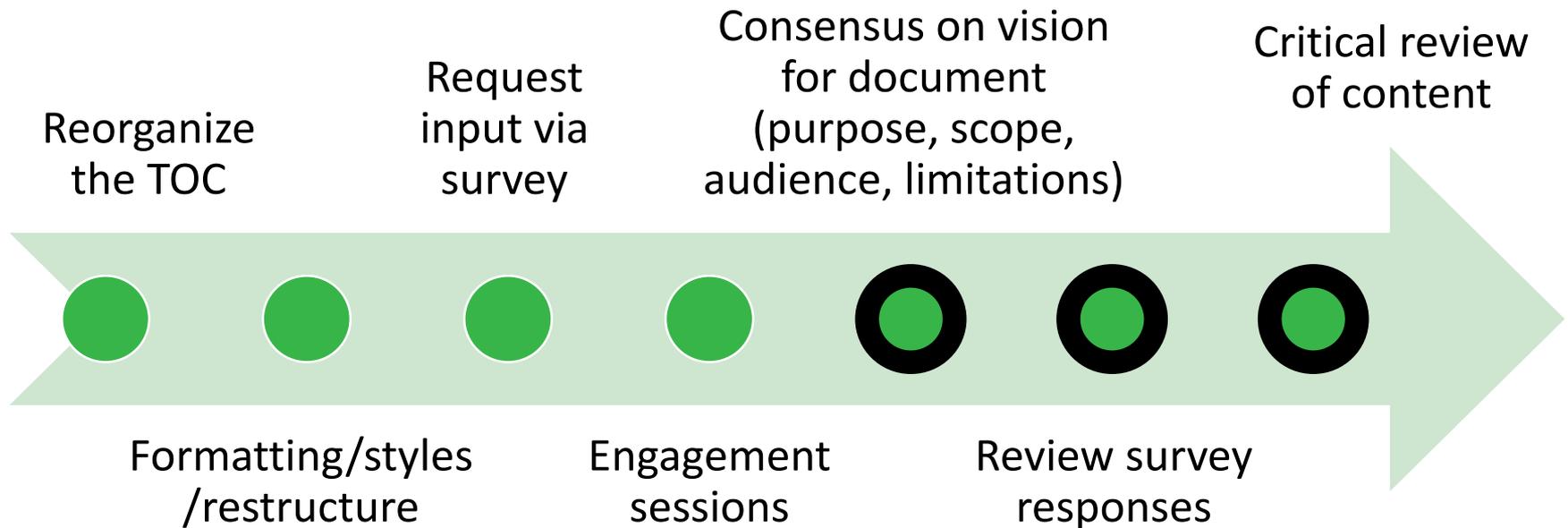
*A wholistic modernization of the text reflecting changes to FFW since 2004*

# Policy Implications

- Opportunity for clarity in legislative & policy context and roles & responsibilities
- Opportunity to communicate current policy and legislation in a modern document
- Opportunity to formalize roles and responsibilities and include a modernized take on MNRF's *Responsibilities for Flood Forecasting and Warning* (1984).
  - No substantive changes in responsibilities
  - Represent a modernization/update of Ontario's FF&W program guidance

## 2. Progress

# Accomplishments



## Purpose

An outline of provincial FFW roles and responsibilities

An outline of the essential components of a FFW program

Guidance in establishing a FFW system

Templates for consistent flood messaging

## Audience

Those delegated with the provincial FFW responsibilities

Conservation Authority and MNRF district staff

## Scope

Implementation of a FFW program for riverine and lake flooding only.

Not considered are all other causes of flooding

Addresses FFW in the context of flood emergency preparedness and mitigation only.

## Limitations

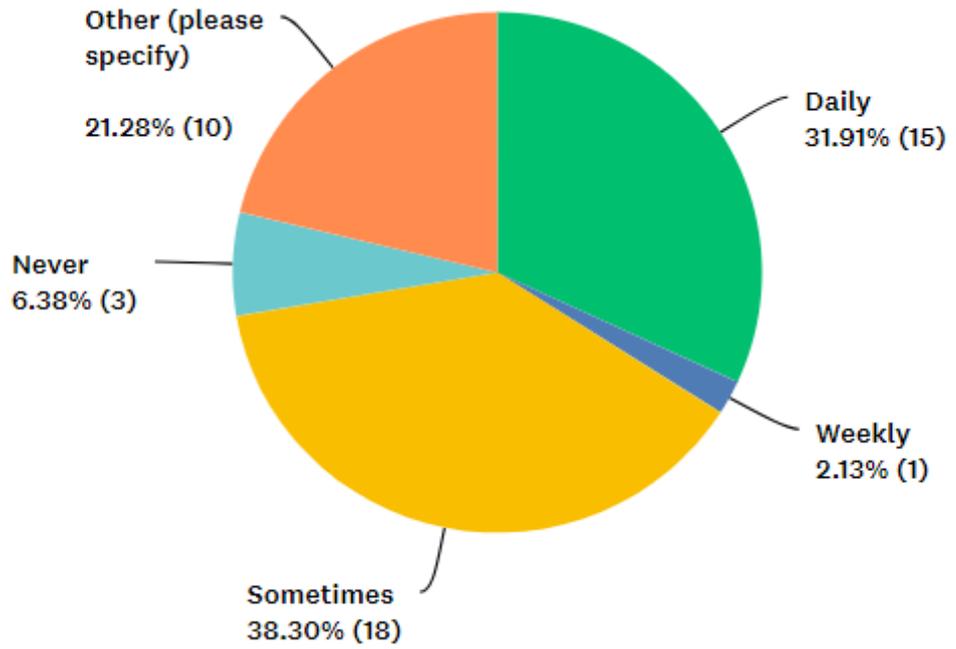
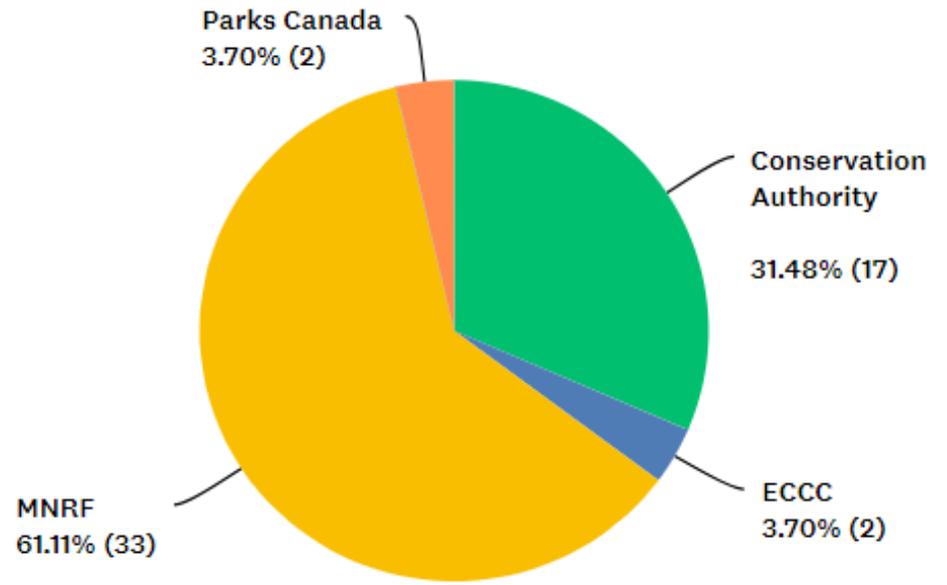
Scope of FFW program is based on the risk to people and property in that jurisdiction

Risk varies within and among watersheds

It is necessary to understand this risk and use discretion when practicing flood FFW

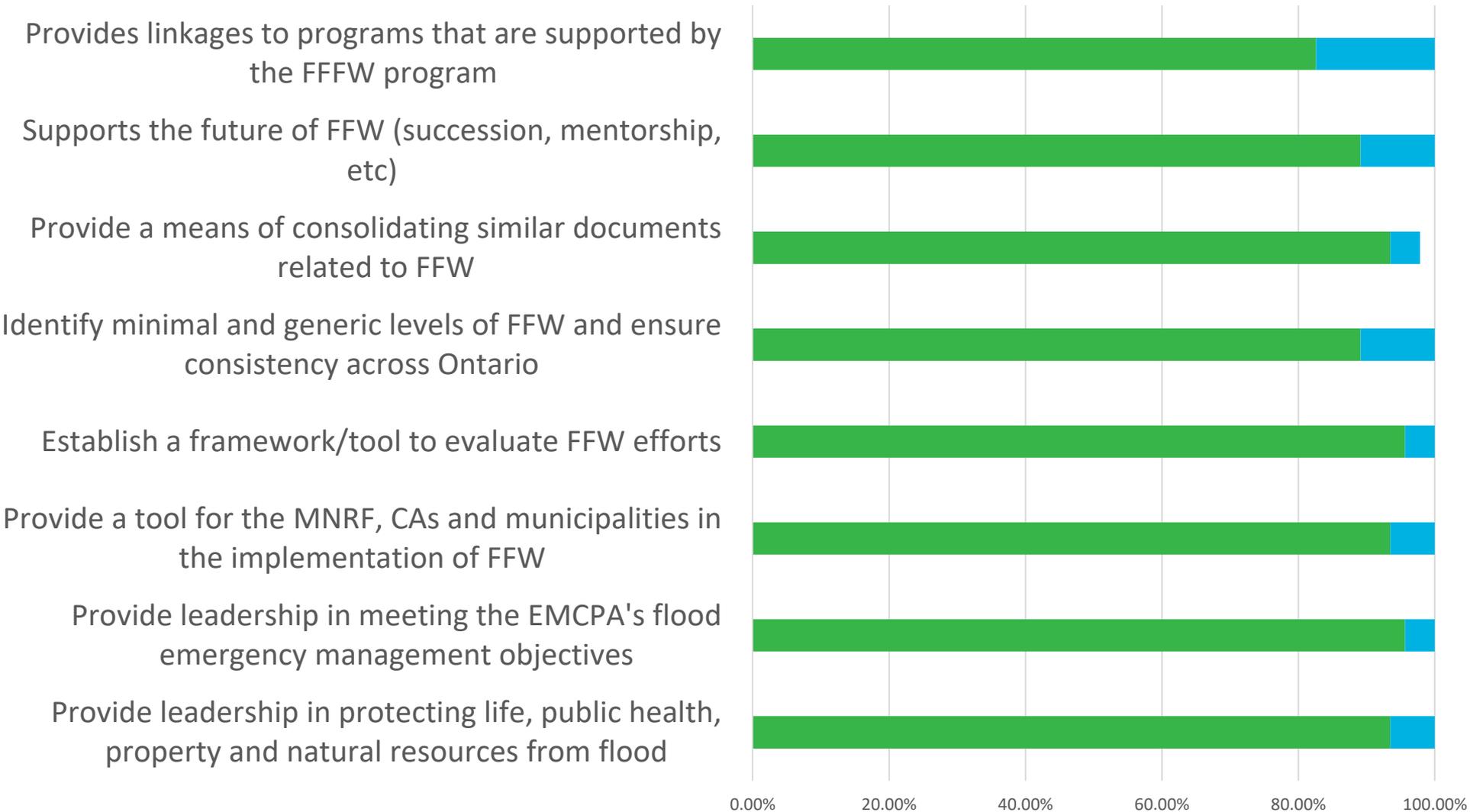
# Survey Results

Who Completed the Survey?



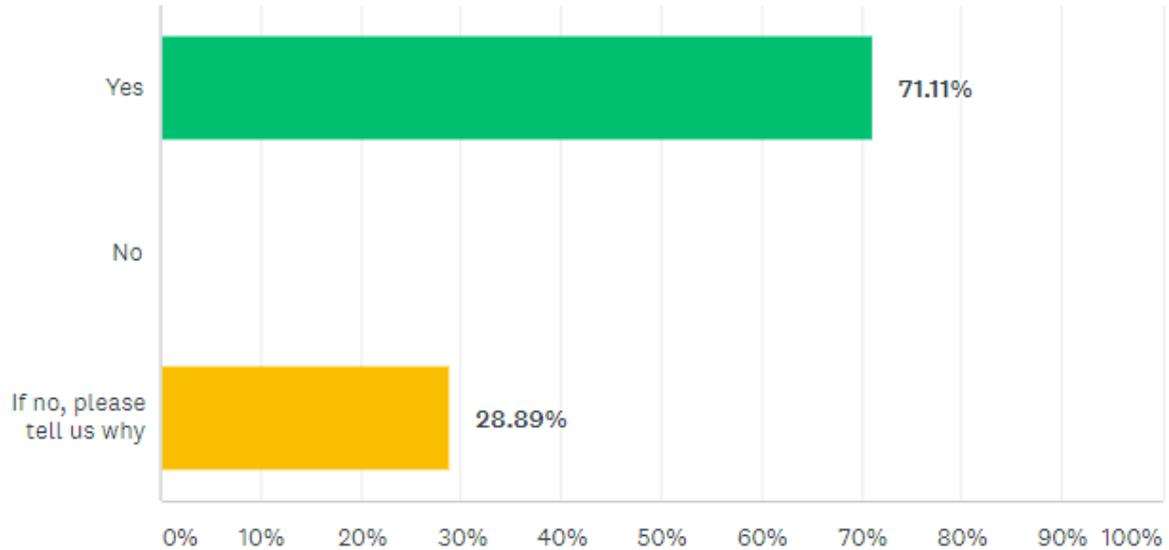
How often do they participate in FFW?

# Purpose of the Document



# Is the document structured in a readable manner that helps you do your job?

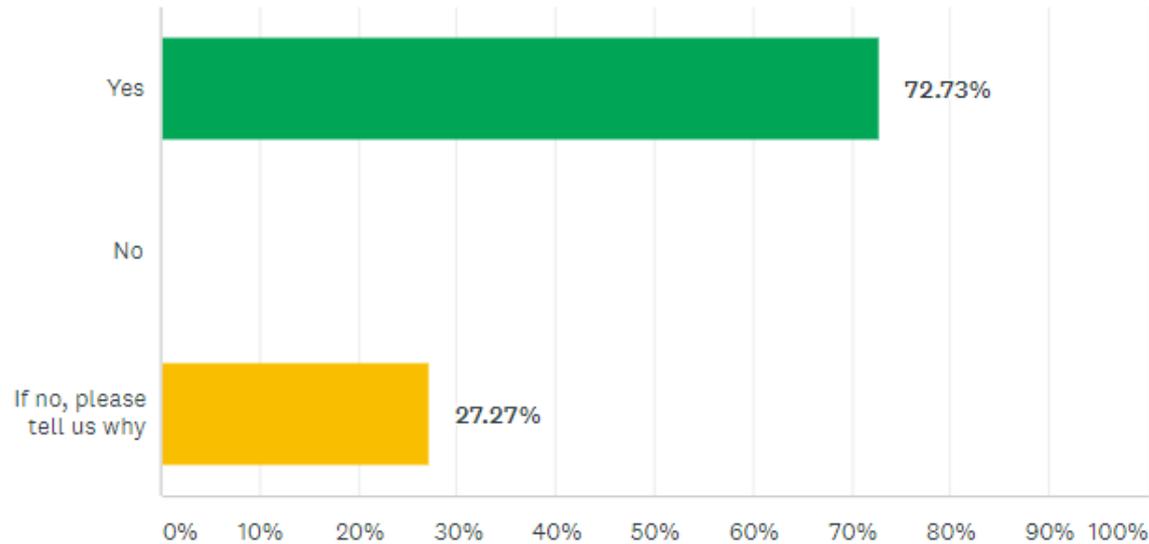
Answered: 45 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
▼ Yes		71.11%	32
▼ No		0.00%	0
▼ If no, please tell us why	<a href="#">Responses</a>	28.89%	13
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>45</b>

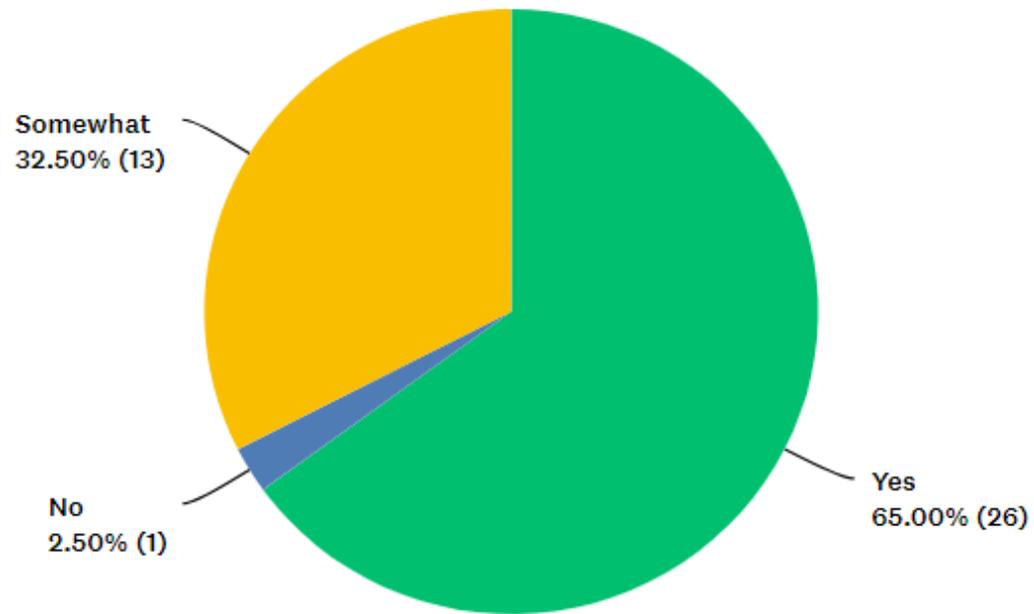
# Does the document clearly outline the steps you need to take to complete your responsibilities with respect to flood forecasting and warning?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 13

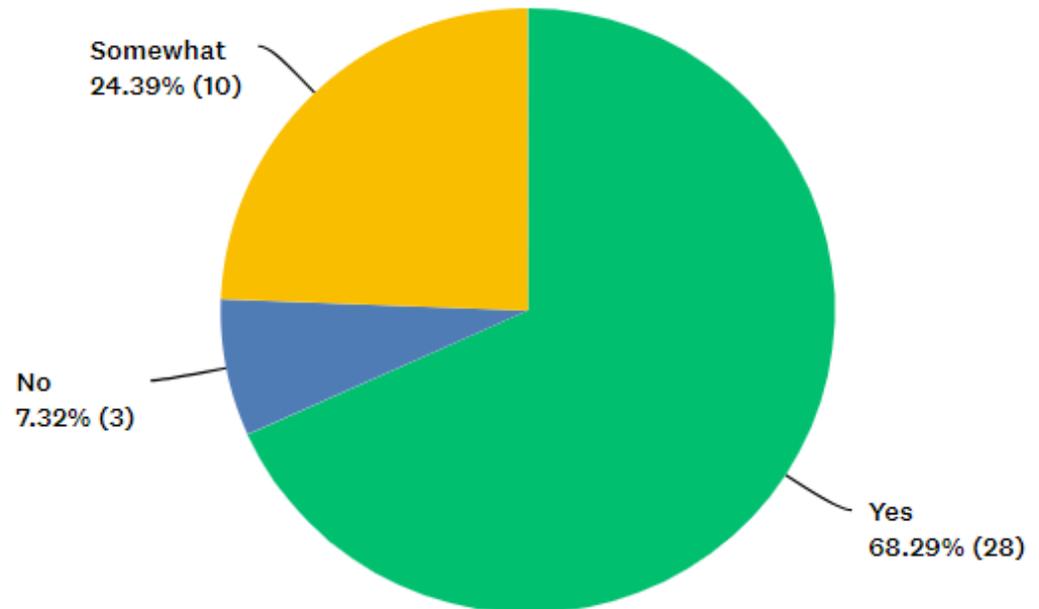


ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
▼ Yes		72.73%	32
▼ No		0.00%	0
▼ If no, please tell us why	<a href="#">Responses</a>	27.27%	12
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>44</b>

Is this document useful in the implementation of your flood forecasting and warning program?



Does this document clearly explain your roles and responsibilities?



# Review of Content

## What was added:

- New Preface (legislation and policy context, purpose, scope...)
- Some new content (brief)

## What was removed:

- A lot of redundant verbiage
- Sentences explaining what the objective was when the title clearly states it

## What was updated:

- Figures (with references and AODA text)
- Pictures (with references and AODA text)
- Acronyms
- Styles/formatting
- Glossary

Floodplain-Mapping-Linkages  
Collaboration  
Storm-Surge  
Checklists  
Policy-Legislation  
Static-Water-Level-Strategy  
Great-Lakes  
Roles-Responsibilities  
Future-Direction  
Links to other guidance documents  
Dam-ControlledWatersheds  
Forecast-Evaluation  
Risk-Management

# 3. Next Steps

# Environmental Registry of Ontario

- Necessary step to obtain government endorsement of guidelines
- PFFW Committee members agreed that updated document should be posted on the Environmental Registry for review and comment
- Intent is to have this document align with and support any new legislation
- Timelines associated with this process results in longer review period

# Timing and Related Considerations



- Small task group continues to work on updating PFFW implementation guidelines.

## Special Advisor on Flooding

- July 2019 – Doug McNeil appointed as Special Advisor on Flooding, to advise province on ways to reduce the impacts of flooding and ensure communities can recover quickly.
- The Special Advisor will submit his report and recommendations to the Minister (MNRF) in Fall 2019
- Further changes (including to existing guidance) may be considered as a result of this review.

# Questions

Should you have any questions,  
please do not hesitate to contact  
me or your Regional  
representative:

Dave Burritt – [Dave.Burritt@Ontario.ca](mailto:Dave.Burritt@Ontario.ca)