

# Phase 2 Public Workbook Summary

## South Saskatchewan Regional Plan



SOUTH





## Overview

Alberta's Land-use Framework (LUF) sets out a new approach to managing our province's lands and natural resources to achieve Alberta's long-term economic, environmental and social goals. One of the key strategies for improving land-use decision-making established in the LUF is the development of seven regional plans based on seven new land-use regions. Each regional plan will address the current conditions in a region, and will anticipate and plan for relevant development-related activities, opportunities and challenges over the long term.

In 2008, the Government of Alberta announced the LUF and said it would proceed first with the Lower Athabasca and South Saskatchewan regional plans. The government approved the LARP – the regional plan for Alberta's oil sands region in the northeast area of the province – in August of 2012. The plan was effective on September 1 and implementation is underway. Development of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan continues – SSRP regional boundaries.

Regional plans are developed in consultation with Albertans, a wide variety of stakeholders, aboriginal people and municipalities. Regional advisory councils, comprised of individuals with a cross-section of expertise and experience, are appointed to provide advice to the government for the development of the regional plan. The South Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council, established in May of 2009, was asked to explore through an approved terms of reference the relationship between water, population growth, economic development and land conservation. The council provided its advice to the government in 2011.

The Alberta government's Land Use Secretariat (LUS) oversees the development of each regional plan and is responsible for reporting and monitoring the success of the plans. LUS provides policy analysis, research and administrative support to the regional plan development process and leads the Government of Alberta's regional plans consultations. The secretariat works with a larger regional planning team, representing Alberta government ministries and agencies, to develop regional plans for Cabinet approval.

The government consulted on the advice provided by the South Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council in late 2012 gathering input through an online workbook and a series of public and stakeholder community conversations held in 20 cities, towns and farming communities.

## Consultations

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) will be developed with the input and feedback of Albertans through a three-phase consultation process:

Phase 1: input on the issues in the region

Phase 2: feedback on the advice from the SSRP

Phase 3: feedback on the draft SSRP.

South Saskatchewan Regional Plan Phase 1 consultation public and stakeholder input sessions were conducted in 16 locations across the region between November 30 and December 10, 2009. The purpose of the input sessions was to:

- Provide the public and stakeholders with information about the South Saskatchewan regional planning process; and
- Gather input on topics in the SSRP terms of reference.

In March 2011, the SSRP Regional Advisory Council (RAC) advice and Phase 2 workbook were released. In addition to completed workbooks, written submissions were accepted up to December 21, 2012.

SSRP Phase 2 consultations were carried out between November 6 and December 6, 2012 and had two key objectives:

- Review the Regional Advisory Council's (RAC) advice with representatives of key stakeholder groups throughout 17 communities in the region and in Edmonton, Red Deer and Drumheller to ensure all groups had the opportunity to take part within convenient proximity to a session(s);
- Seek input and feedback on RAC's advice according to the following questions for the five key topic areas:
  1. Vision/Strategic Land-use Principles;
  2. Healthy Economy;
  3. Healthy Ecosystems and Environment;
  4. Healthy Communities; and
  5. Land-use Direction/Management Intent.



## Consultation Methodology and Locations

Stakeholder sessions were conducted in each location from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. During each stakeholder session, a Land Use Secretariat representative provided participants with an overview of the SSRP planning process. A clarification/question and answer session followed. Next, the consultant's senior facilitator led a group discussion. A 10-minute overview of each of the key sections of the RAC's advice preceded a 20-30 minute discussion period in small groups on all of the topic areas using the following guiding questions:

- Where do you support RAC's advice and why?
- Where do you have concerns and why?
- What is missing?

Government employees were in attendance at all sessions and former members of the SSRP RAC dropped into several sessions in an unofficial capacity.

Public information and input sessions, described as Community Conversations, were held between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the same location as each stakeholder session. In each community venue, the government set up a series of panels providing background and information about the LUF, the Alberta Land Stewardship Act (ALSA) and a high-level summary of RAC's advice.

Separate reports entitled Phase 2 Public Consultation Summary – South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and Phase 2 Stakeholder Consultation Summary – South Saskatchewan Regional Plan are available from the LUS in hard copy and on the website.

## Stakeholder Workshops

In total, 638 stakeholders participated in the 20 workshops. Turnout was particularly high in Lethbridge, where 80 people attended, Calgary (65) and Pincher Creek (54). A broad range of stakeholders participated in the sessions, including municipal, industry, environmental organizations, non-government organizations, irrigation districts, agricultural organizations, economic development authorities and landowners.

## Community Conversations

In total, 682 people participated in the 20 Community Conversations. Turnout was particularly high in the three larger cities in the region: Lethbridge, where 118 people attended, Calgary (105) and Medicine Hat (61). Many of the participants identified a stakeholder group(s) affiliation when they signed in including municipal, industry, environmental organizations, non-government organizations, irrigation districts, agricultural organizations, economic development authorities and landowners.

The dates and corresponding communities for the 20 sessions were as follows:

Date	Session Location(s)	
Tuesday, November 6	Cardston	Red Deer
Wednesday, November 7	Taber	
Thursday, November 8	Vulcan	
Tuesday, November 13	Calgary	
Thursday, November 15	Edmonton	
Tuesday, November 20	Airdrie	Pincher Creek
Wednesday, November 21	Canmore	Milk River
Thursday, November 22	Cochrane	Brooks
Tuesday, November 27	Claresholm	
Wednesday, November 28	Okotoks	
Thursday, November 29	Strathmore	
Tuesday, December 4	Drumheller	Crowsnest Pass
Wednesday, December 5	Medicine Hat	Foremost
Thursday, December 6	Lethbridge	



## Workbook Methodology

All Albertans were encouraged to review the RAC advice and provide their feedback by completing either the online or hard-copy versions of a workbook called Phase 2 – Working Towards the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, A Workbook to Share Your Views on the Regional Advisory Council's Advice to the Government of Alberta for the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. The workbook was available for online completion from March 2011 until December 21, 2012. Hard copies were also available at several Government of Alberta offices and at the 40 public and stakeholder Phase 2 consultations. Hard copies were accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope and mailed-in copies were accepted until December 21, 2012. In total, 1,302 completed workbooks were received in the two formats, the majority of which were submitted electronically.

Respondents were not required to complete the workbook, but were encouraged to fill out the portions they found important and relevant.

## Quantitative Data

All of the quantitative responses were analyzed using a Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The frequencies and other descriptive and statistical measures are reported in this document. Some demographic categories had numbers too low to conduct demographic comparisons. Where the numbers allow (e.g., age categories under 65, primary residence and working versus not working in the region), demographic comparisons have been conducted and notable differences identified.

The workbook input does not constitute a random sample and, as such, the results cannot be statistically generalized to the overall population. The 1,302 respondents do comprise a self-selecting sample group of

persons with an interest in the South Saskatchewan Region. Input covers a wide range of interests and opinions. Both the online and the hard-copy workbook allow for coordinated, multiple responses by an individual, organization or interest group. It is evident – particularly in the qualitative

comments – that there are a number of coordinated responses reflecting a variety of specific interest groups or individuals who may have submitted repeatedly, resulting in duplicate response patterns or comments.

## Qualitative Data

Qualitative data provided in the workbook had significant breadth and depth of comment. The information contained in this report is a general summary of those comments, indicating overall trends and response similarities and divergences. Expressions of this summarization—many, most, some, few—are reflective of the overall level of acceptance or frequency of commentary, and is inherently subjective due to the difficulty in conducting quantitative analysis of responses that defy numerical tabulation. Response rates for all questions – quantitative and qualitative – varied by topic, and thus some themes may or may not have the same weight as others. There was also significant overlap in responses to different questions. Where this occurs the identified themes are generally reported in relation to the most relevant of the questions to which they relate.

## Presentation of Findings

This document contains a summary of all results received from both the online and hard-copy versions of the workbook. Each section is comprised of the quantitative results from the corresponding theme section in the workbook and a summary of the qualitative responses provided by participants. All sections noted in quotations (i.e., “The consultations were...”) reflect direct quotes from respondents.

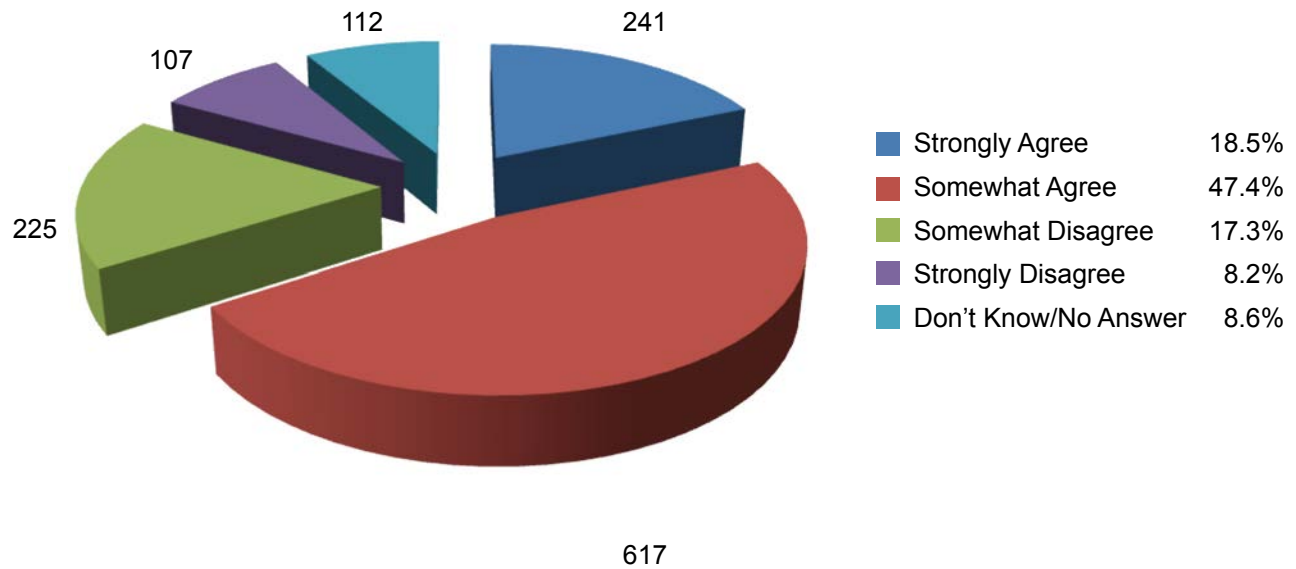






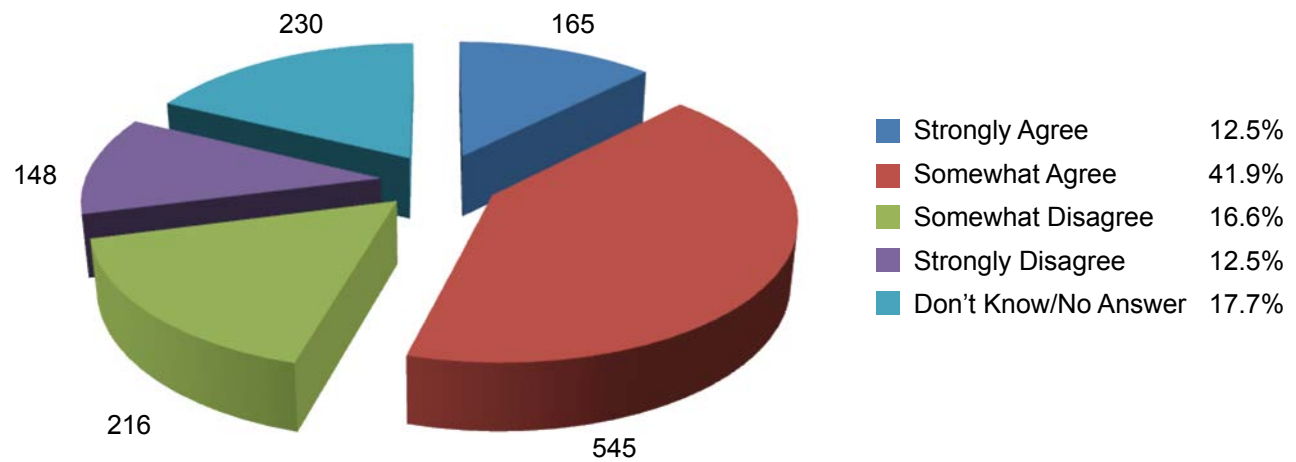
## Section 1: Regional Vision and Strategic Land-use Principles

1. How strongly do you agree with the proposed vision for the South Saskatchewan Region?



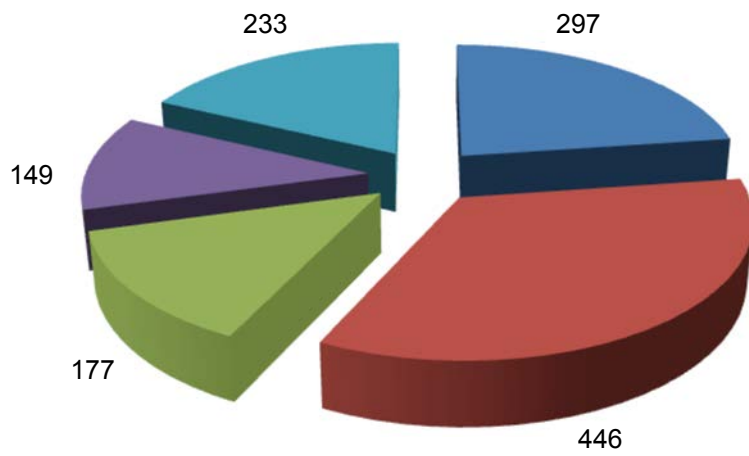
2. In describing a vision for the region, the RAC has tried to achieve a balance among economic, environmental and social values. What do you think about the amount of emphasis given to each of these values in the proposed vision?

### Economic



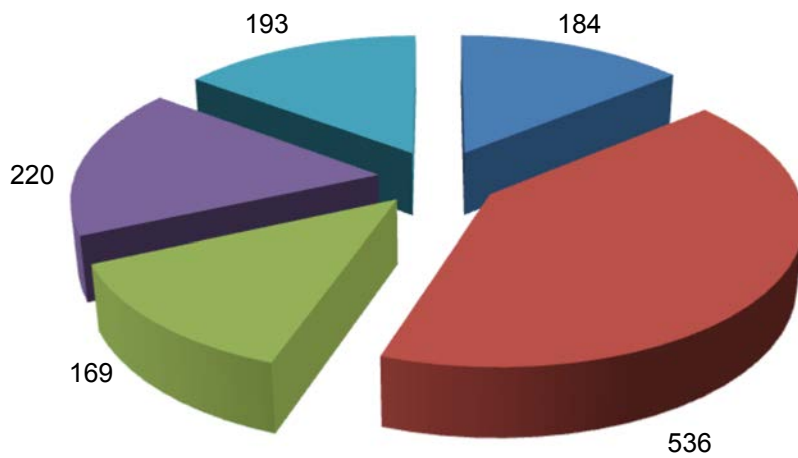


### Environmental



Strongly Agree	22.8%
Somewhat Agree	34.3%
Somewhat Disagree	13.6%
Strongly Disagree	11.4%
Don't Know/No Answer	17.9%

### Social



Strongly Agree	14.1%
Somewhat Agree	41.2%
Somewhat Disagree	13.0%
Strongly Disagree	16.9%
Don't Know/No Answer	14.8%



3. How would you improve the content of the proposed vision for the region? Consider the values and issues addressed, and any that may be missing.

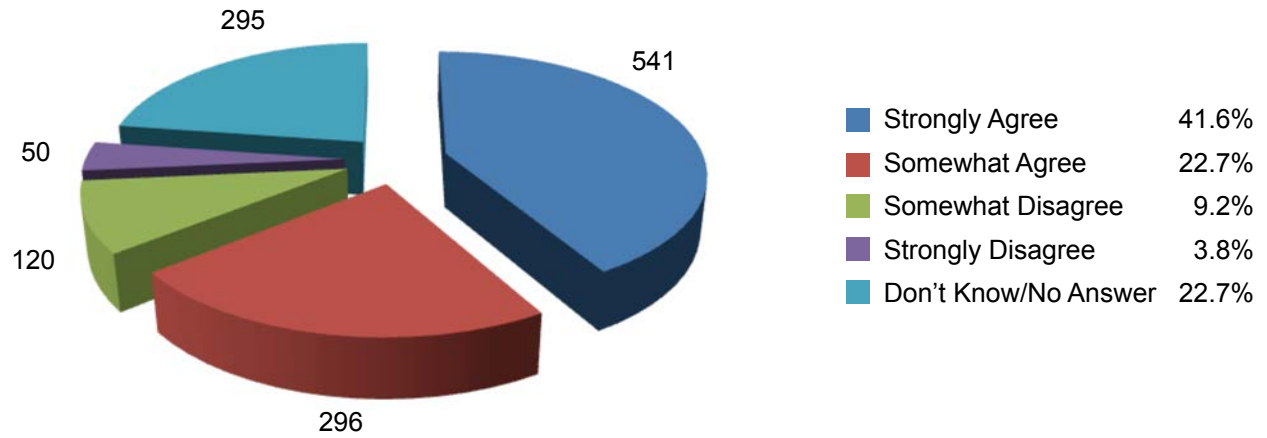
751 or 58 per cent of respondents provided additional comments.

- Shouldn't restrict access for soft-tread activities via motor vehicles
- More emphasis on environment, conservation and climate change
- Vision statement is too vague, lacks detail and requires a definition of terms
- Water conservation and quality, along with watershed needs, must be a priority of the plan and must be protected
- Freedoms and property rights should be included
- Acknowledge forestry industry is doing a good job of managing forests
- Focus on environment not economic growth; economics is overemphasized
- Too much industry and development allowed in the region; need sustainable development
- Need more emphasis on wildlife, ecosystem and biodiversity protection
- Include interests and input of all people, not just certain groups
- Plan for future generations and for population growth
- Vision lacks balance and needs to focus on balance
- Vision tries for balance to appeal to all but can't accommodate all
- Should not allow paid access to public or private lands
- All Albertans should have the right and ability to access public lands
- Create more public and protected land and protect existing natural landscapes
- Need to prioritize values, recognize limitations and provide more direction
- Content is good but it needs to be implemented
- Need details about implementation
- Need more emphasis on recreation and access

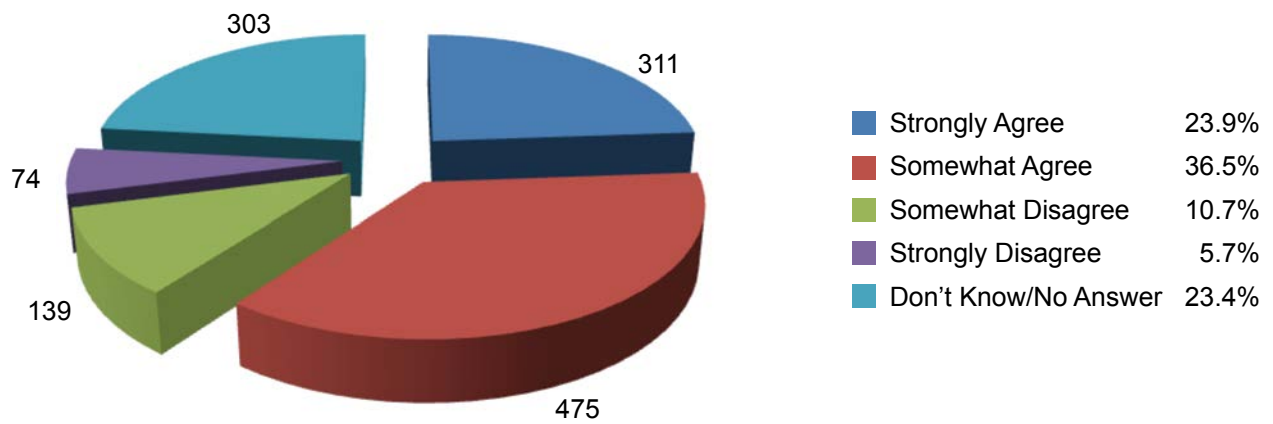


#### 4. How strongly do you agree with RAC's recommended land-use principles?

##### Plan for water

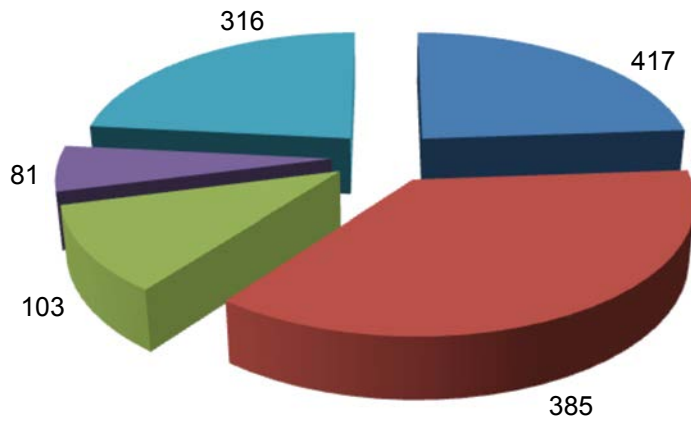


##### Respecting private land ownership



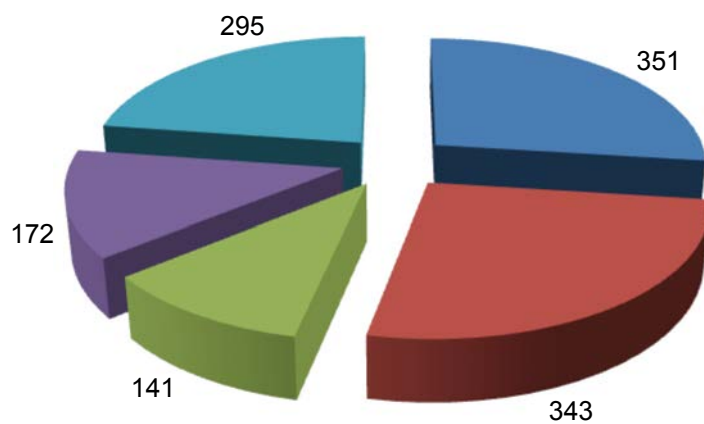


### Developing conservation and stewardship tools



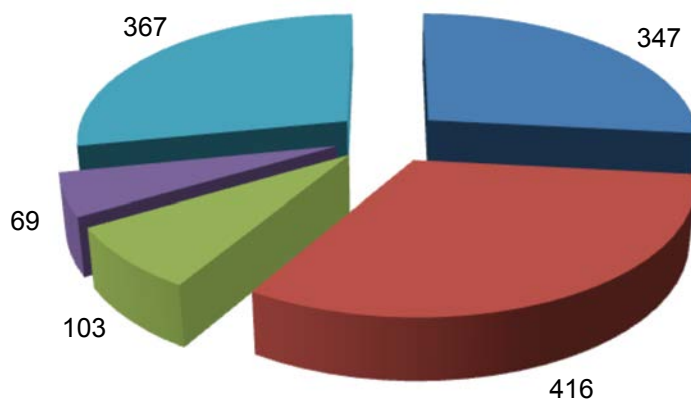
Strongly Agree	32.0%
Somewhat Agree	29.6%
Somewhat Disagree	7.9%
Strongly Disagree	6.2%
Don't Know/No Answer	24.3%

### Accommodating multiple users



Strongly Agree	27.0%
Somewhat Agree	26.3%
Somewhat Disagree	10.8%
Strongly Disagree	13.2%
Don't Know/No Answer	22.7%

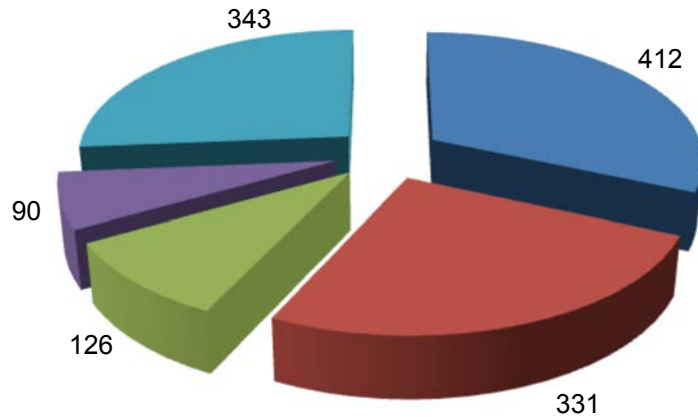
### Integrated planning



Strongly Agree	26.7%
Somewhat Agree	32.0%
Somewhat Disagree	7.9%
Strongly Disagree	5.3%
Don't Know/No Answer	28.2%

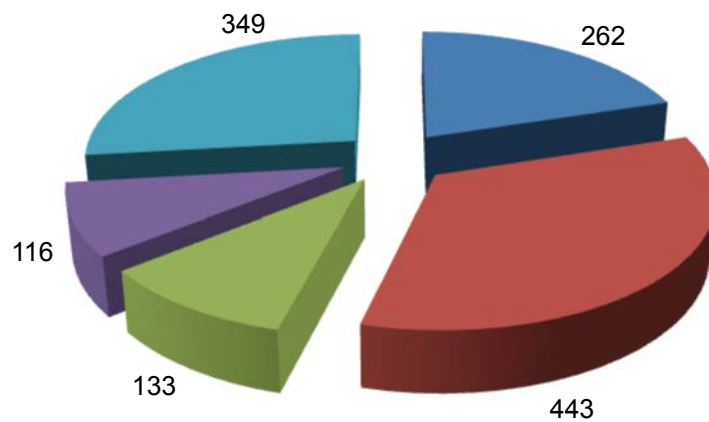


### Regulatory streamlining and efficiency



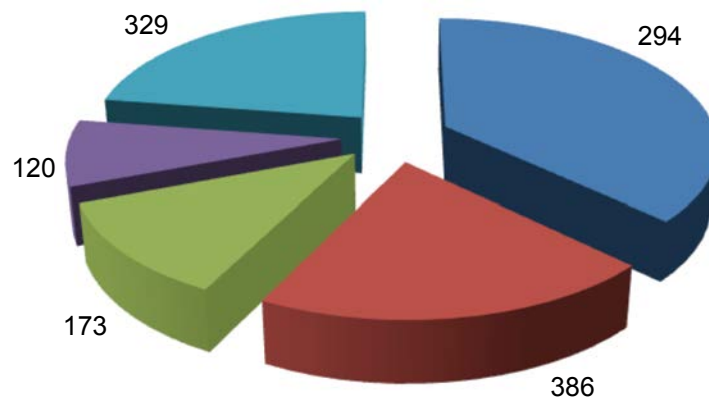
Strongly Agree	31.6%
Somewhat Agree	25.4%
Somewhat Disagree	9.7%
Strongly Disagree	6.9%
Don't Know/No Answer	26.3%

### Addressing First Nation's land-use issues



Strongly Agree	20.1%
Somewhat Agree	33.9%
Somewhat Disagree	10.2%
Strongly Disagree	8.9%
Don't Know/No Answer	26.8%

### Economic opportunity



Strongly Agree	22.6%
Somewhat Agree	29.6%
Somewhat Disagree	13.3%
Strongly Disagree	9.2%
Don't Know/No Answer	25.3%



5. Please share additional comments regarding RAC's strategic land-use principles.

691 or 53 per cent of respondents provided additional comments:

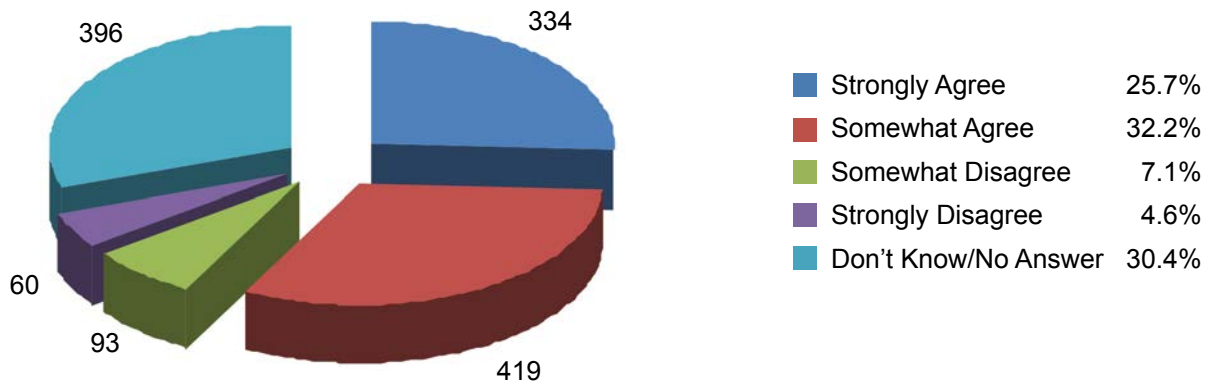
- Keep all existing areas open for public use; no more land closures
- Need support and direction on land use from government
- Most important priority is to protect the environment and habitats
- Plans are too vague, need to be more specific with more plans for action
- Need to develop a better, more-detailed water protection plan
- Need to allow multiple uses
- Economy is emphasized too much relative to other priorities
- Use science-based tools to evaluate proposals; need expertise-based input
- Multiple use is not sustainable, can't coexist with all uses
- Private property rights have to be written into law; need to be protected.
- More inclusion of aboriginal peoples
- Ensure honest and fair treatment of aboriginal peoples
- Should not try to appease everyone
- Everything cannot be allowed
- Water quality, availability and protection should be the highest priority.
- Property rights are not as high a priority as sustainability
- Need to limit property rights



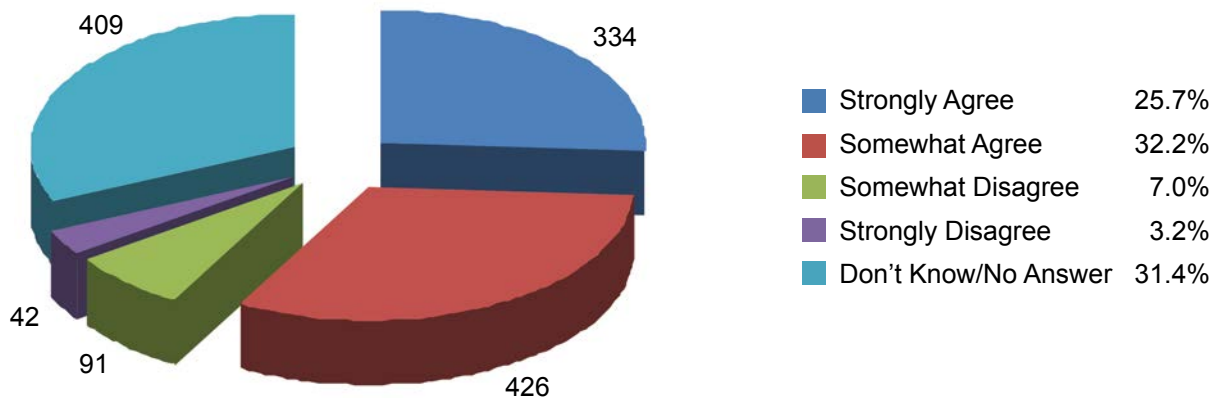
## Section 2: Healthy Economy

6. The RAC recommended a suite of actions to support the agriculture industry. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

### Support the diversification and sustainable growth of the agriculture industry



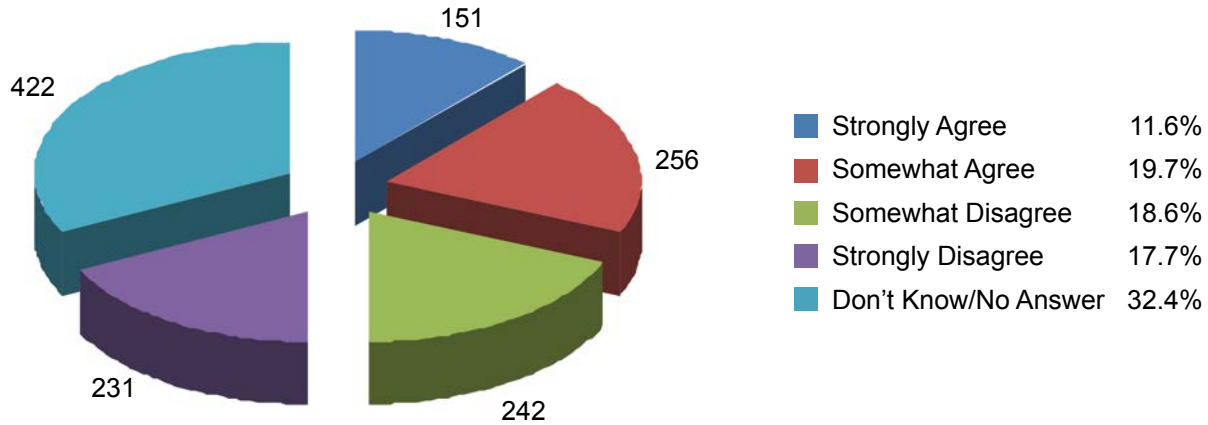
### Encourage investment, entrepreneurship and competitiveness by ensuring the agricultural industry is supported by an efficient and transparent regulatory environment



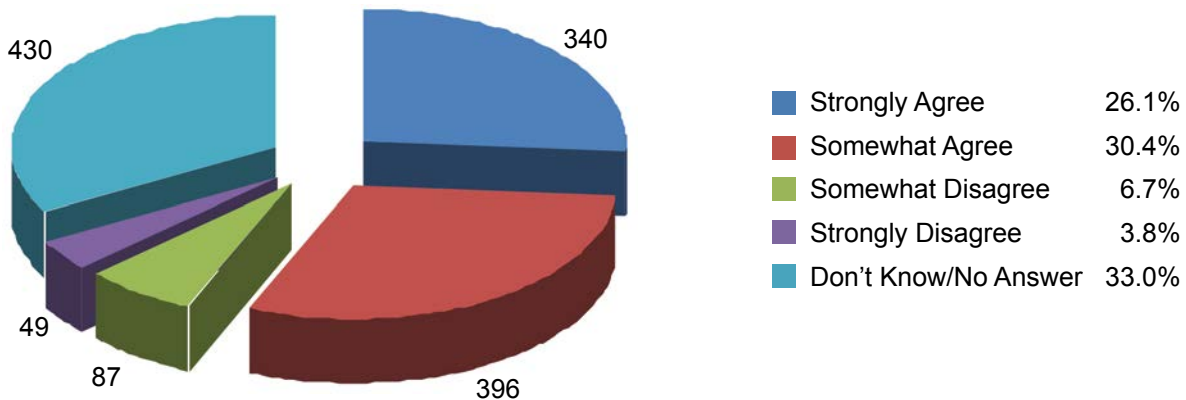




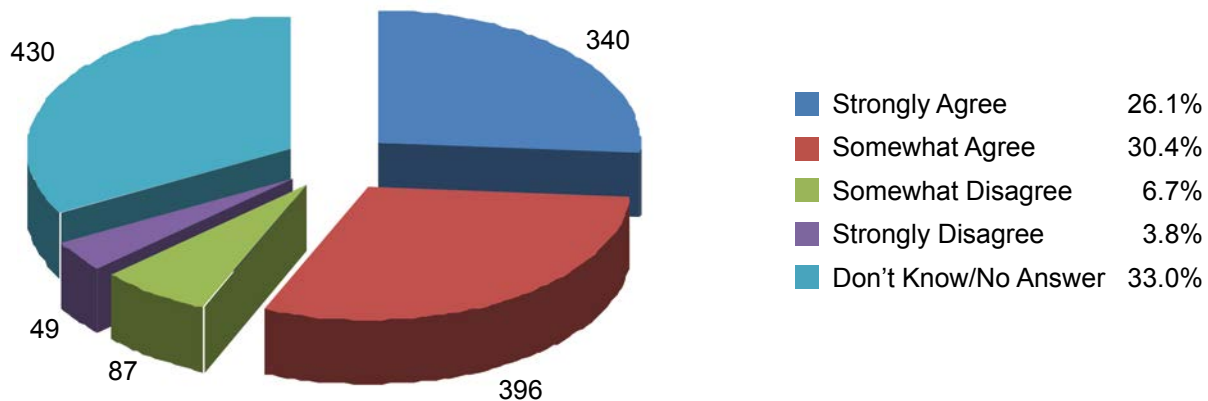
**Support irrigation expansion within districts as an important economic driver for rural communities with a portion of the water saved through improved publicly funded water-use efficiency measures**



**Explore options with the water holder to secure a portion of the irrigation water efficiency gains to help meet in-stream conservation needs**

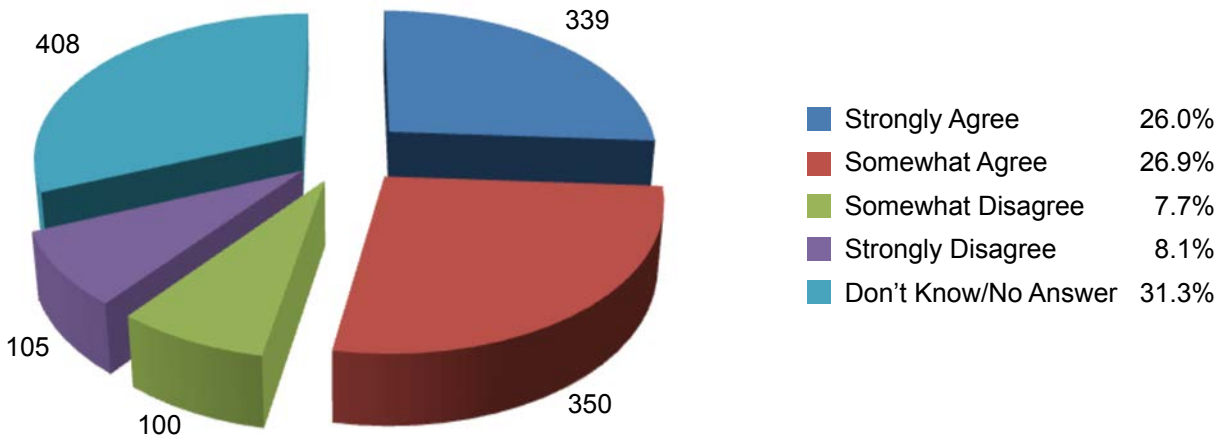


**Support irrigation infrastructure improvements to help realize gains in water-use efficiency to meet Water for Life conservation and efficiency goals**

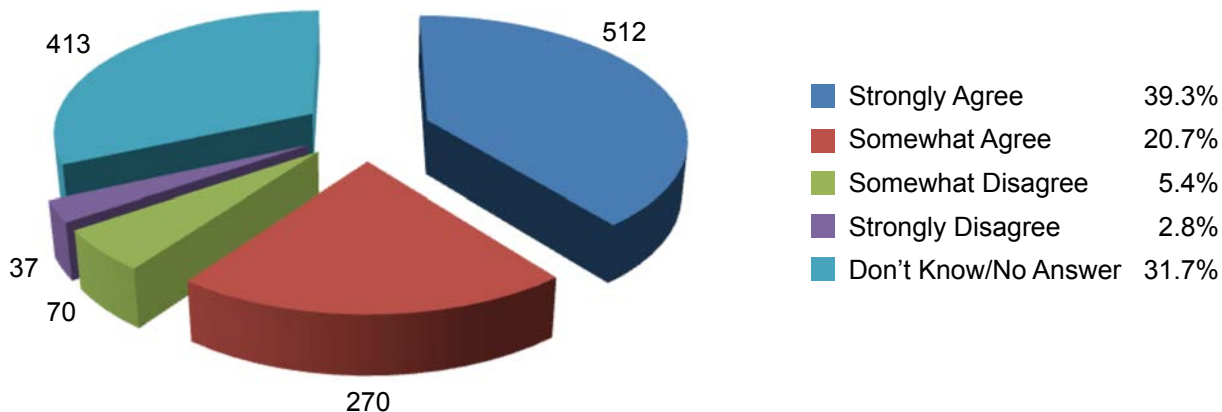




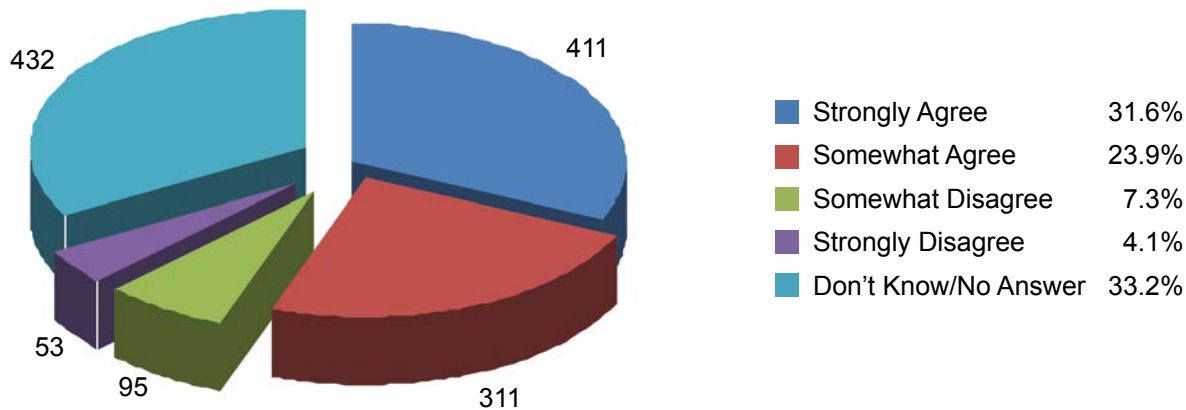
**Identify and develop water storage**



**Encourage and support rural municipalities to minimize the extent of agricultural land conversion and fragmentation**

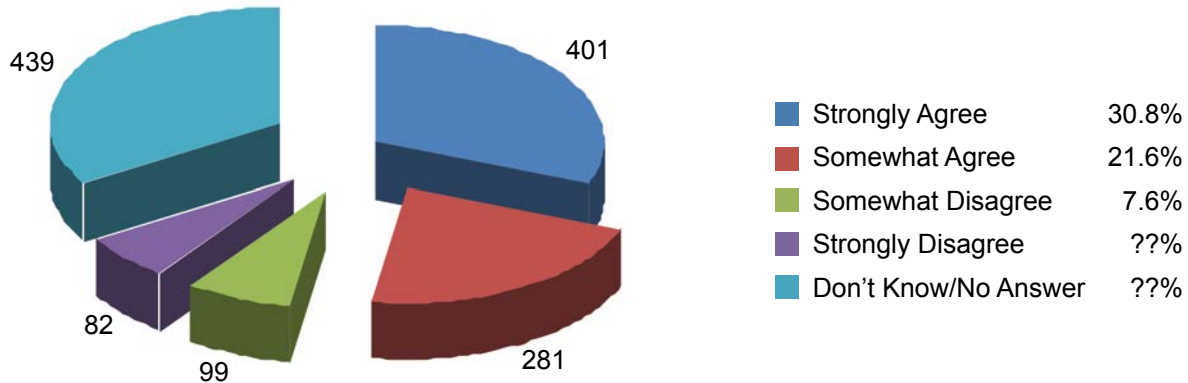


**Require and support municipalities to report on the extent of agricultural land fragmentation and conversion on a five-year basis, using metrics developed by the government to ensure consistency across the province**





**Explore financial incentives and market opportunities for ecological goods and services that advance the SSRP objectives and that go over and above what is required by basic agricultural management obligations**



7. Please share any additional comments regarding the RAC’s advice on agriculture.

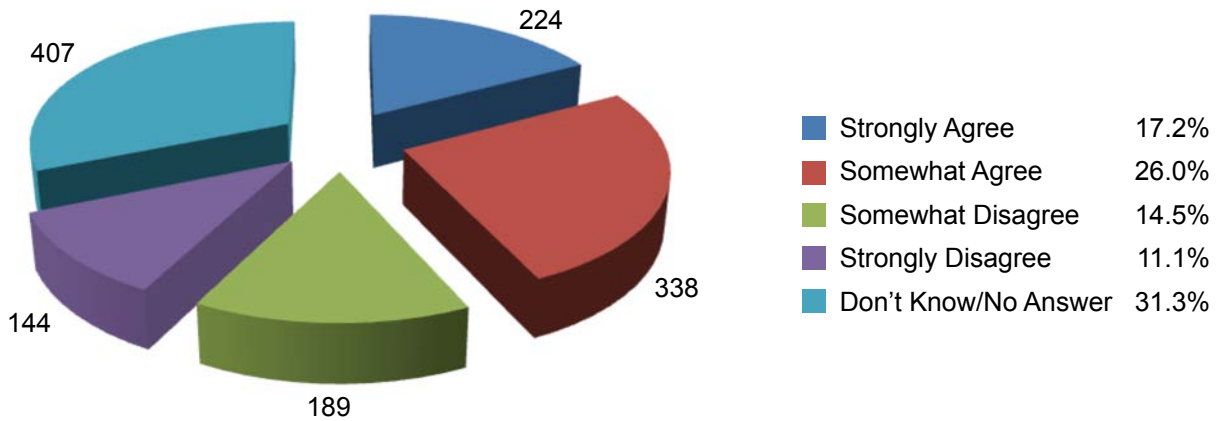
446 or 34 per cent of respondents provided additional comments:

- Plan is too vague, is open to interpretation; clearer explanations are required
- Focus on creating efficiencies and getting the most value from water usage
- Don't expand irrigation; water resources Focus on improved irrigation, agriculture efficiency and support improvements
- Protect native grasslands and prevent Government should not subsidize irrigation and should limit subsidies
- Invest in natural water conservation and alternatives but not storage
- Need to limit and set a threshold for water usage
- Place focus on sustainability over growth and profit
- There should be no paid access for hunting allowed
- Allow access to leased land
- Protect good farmland from fragmentation for industrial or residential uses
- Irrigation wastes water
- Irrigation is an efficient use of water
- Need to plan for climate change, drought, future land use and water needs
- Support dry=land farming – practice uses little water or inputs and is drought resistant
- Sustainable growth not possible – live within constraint of the land
- Do not support agricultural and irrigation expansion and widespread use

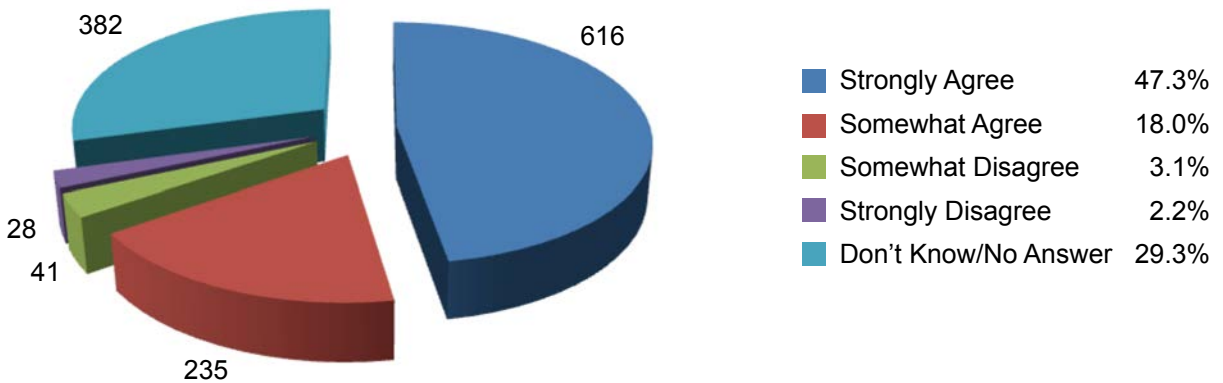


8. The RAC recommended a suite of actions to support the energy industry. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

**Develop policies that promote new investment in energy development in the region**

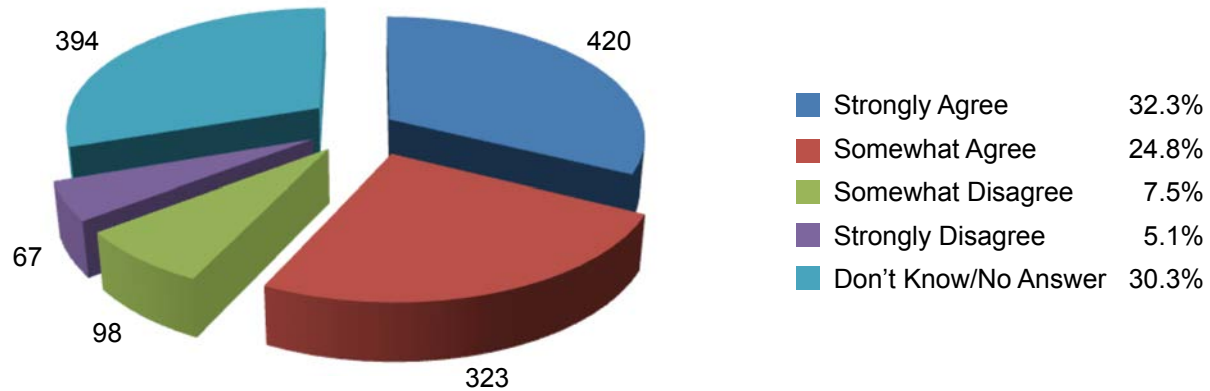


**Ensure regulatory policies for energy development consider cumulative environmental effects**

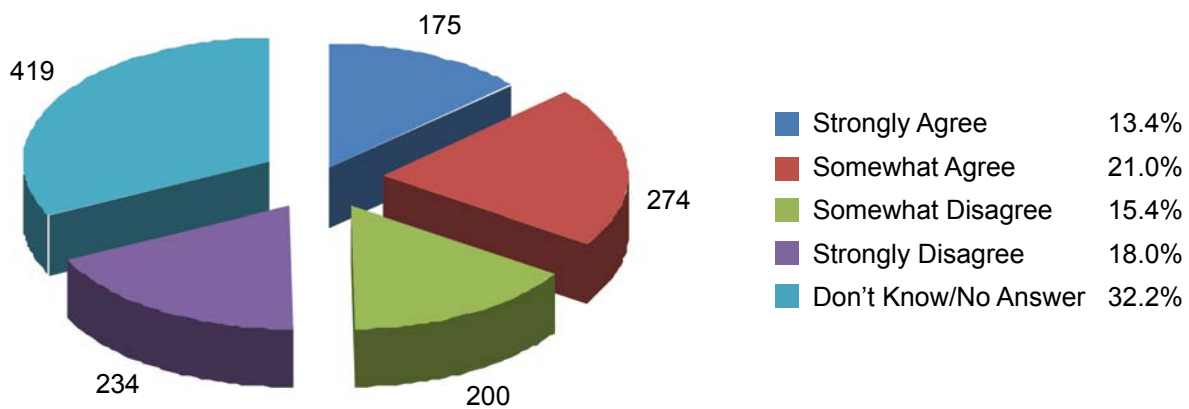




**Advance renewable energy development in the region to diversity energy production and stimulate rural Alberta economies**

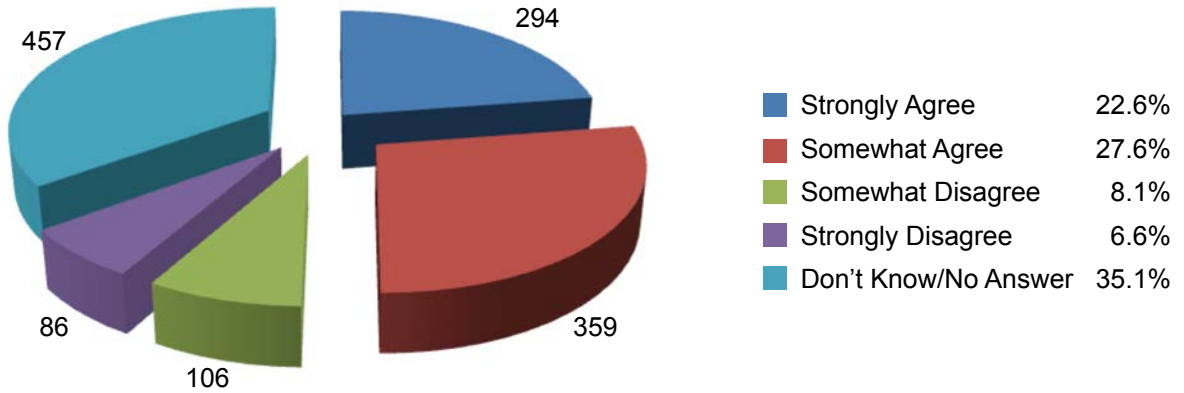


**Explore opportunities for increased use of the region's coal deposits, such as clean coal technology. Facilitate research and trials of clean coal developments including coal gasification**

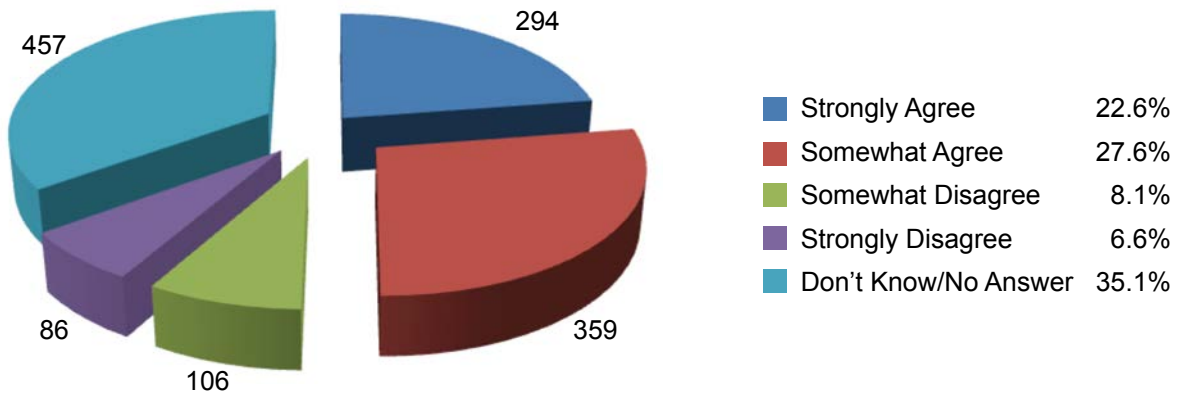




**Explore financial incentives and market opportunities for ecological goods and services that advance SSRP objectives and go over and above what is required by basic energy management obligations**



**Explore financial incentives and market opportunities for ecological goods and services that advance SSRP objectives and go over and above what is required by basic energy management obligations**



[Page 25 of the word document - both charts are the same](#)



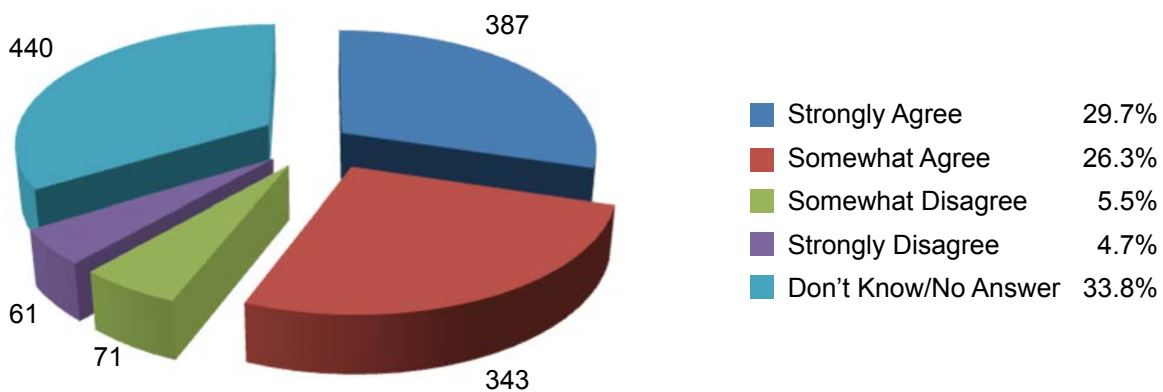
9. Please share any additional comments regarding the RAC’s advice on energy.

436 responses or 33 per cent responded:

- Invest and lead in long-term opportunities like renewable energy and biofuels
- Implement cumulative effects, regulations and environmental regulations
- Content is good but need action statements to say how it will be done
- Focus on responsible energy development and be environmentally focused
- Government should not develop energy, but instead subsidize diversification and development
- Coal technology is backwards technology, is destructive and no longer needed
- There is no clean coal; Dislikes wind power; need restrictions on wind power farms
- Conservation, sensitive areas should be protected and free of energy development
- Should subsidize renewable energy and provide incentives
- Need more wind power and solar power development

10. The RAC recommended a suite of actions to support the forestry industry. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

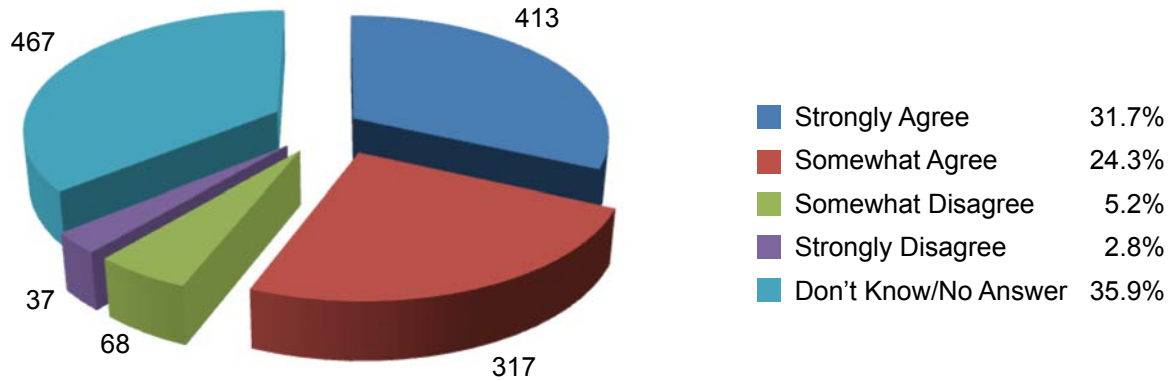
**Look for opportunities to use forestry as a tool to maintain or enhance ecological goods and services**



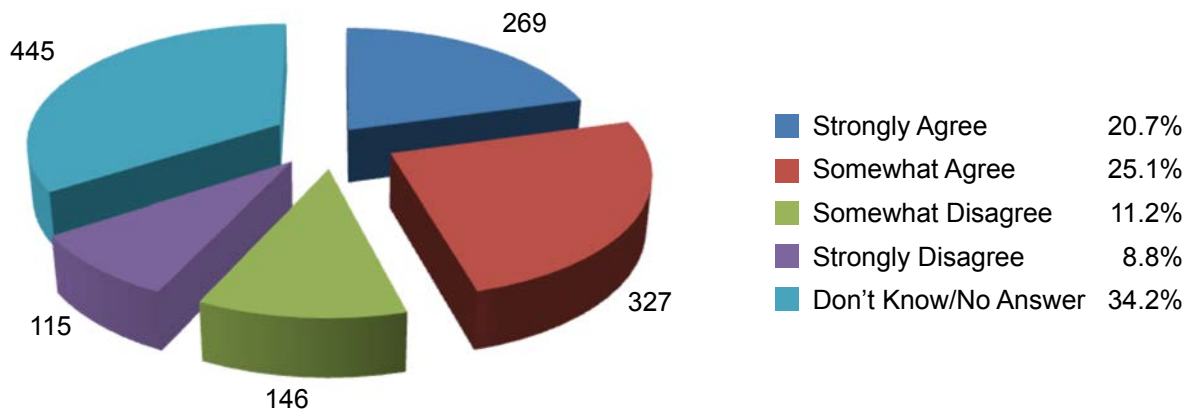




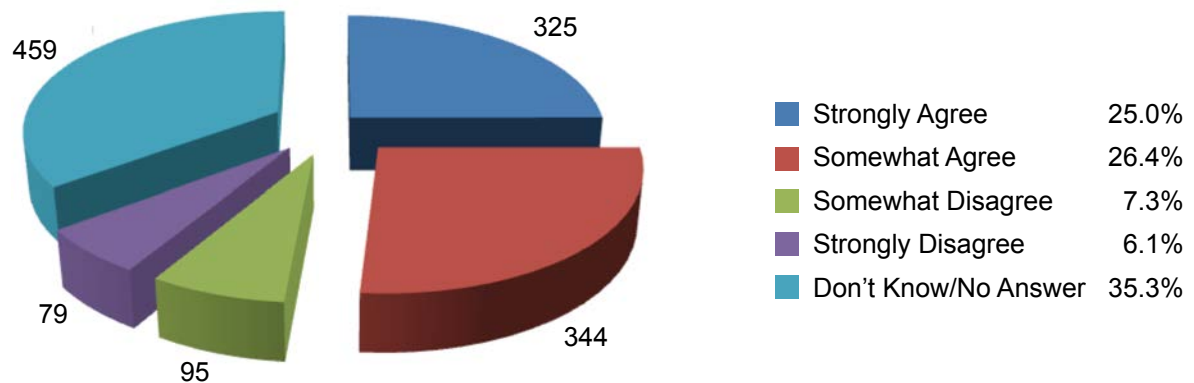
**Incorporate the use of natural disturbance planning into regional land-use planning**



**Support the research, marketing and commercialization of products made from raw forest materials**



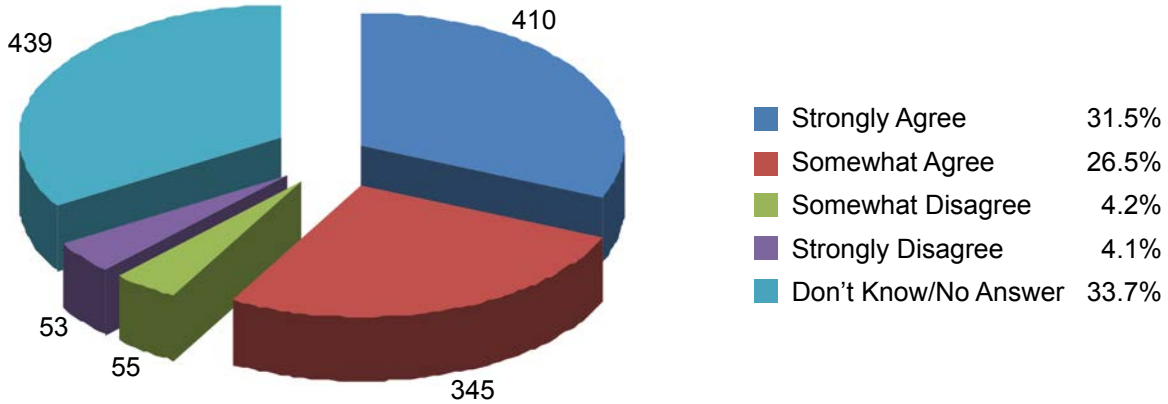
**Develop processes, systems and tools to manage the forest land base in a more holistic way, for example through the use of mitigation banking and market-based tools**



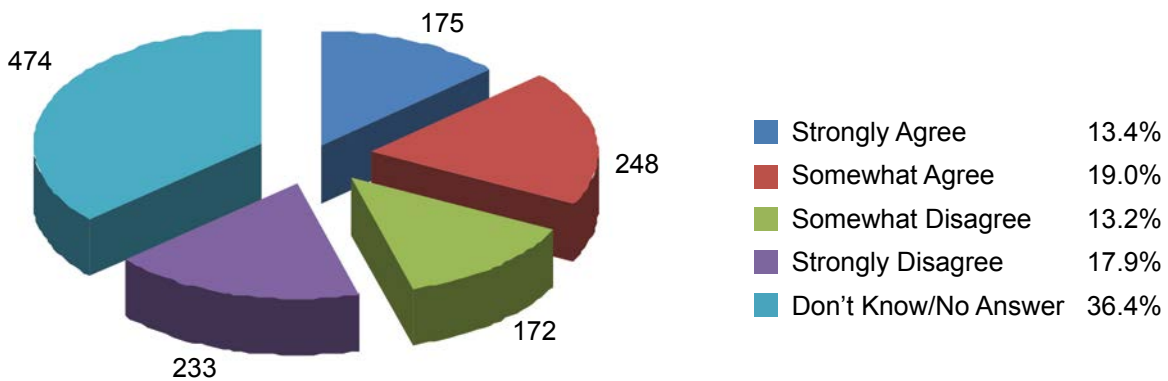




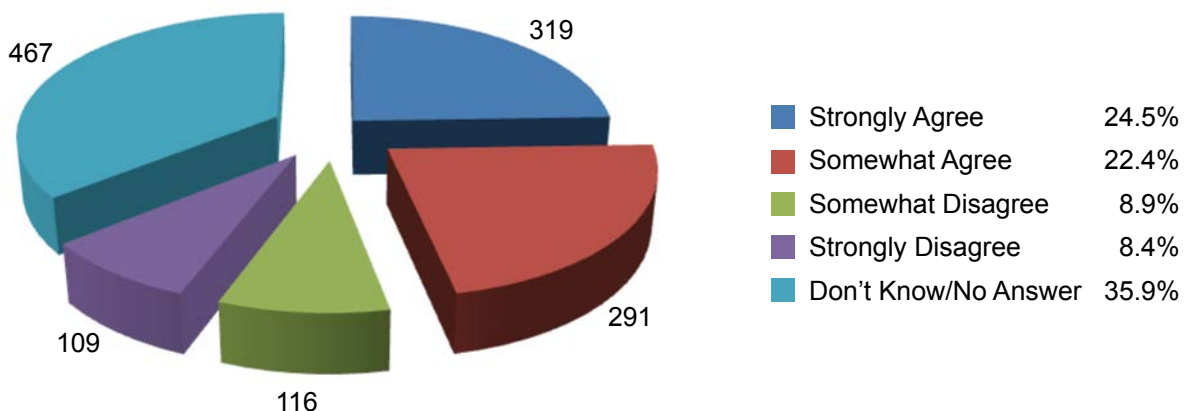
**Implement an integrated planning process that reduces redundancy and incorporates the management of forestry with water production, biodiversity, recreation and tourism and energy production. Support land and resources management approaches and programs**



**Improve existing public transportation infrastructure that currently limits or constrains forestry and the trade of forest-related products**



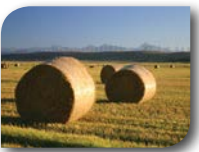
**Explore financial incentives and market opportunities for ecological goods and services that advance SSRP objectives and go over and above what is required by basic forestry management obligations**



11. Please share any additional comments regarding the RAC's advice on forestry.

545 or 42 per cent provided a response:

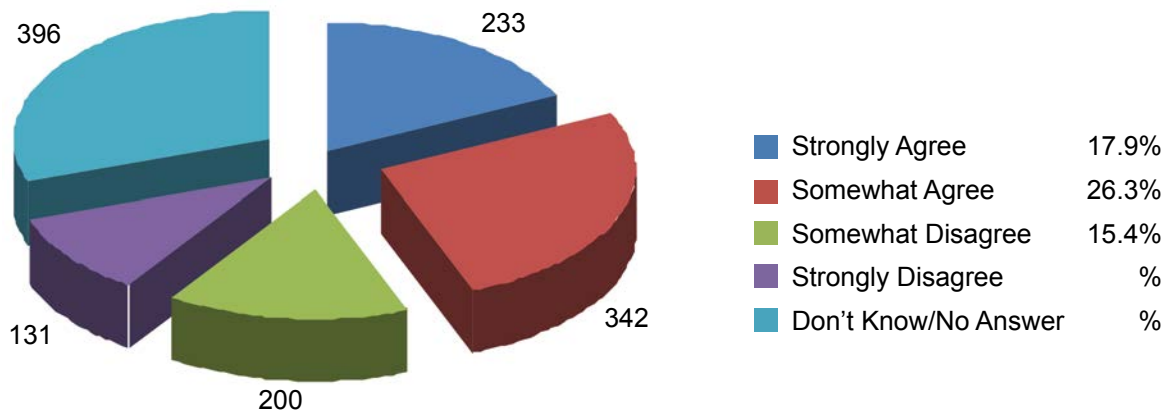
- Need to balance all land uses and consider the cause and effect issues
- Ensure sustainable development and environmentally friendly use
- Water needs to be a priority
- Forest are important for water supply
- Forestry should not be limited because of a vocal minority or an interest group
- Forestry should be used to maintain ecological goods and services
- Need scientific research into better forest protection and management
- Forestry is economically beneficial, sustainable and should be exported
- Large clear-cut logging issue is not addressed; should not clear cut
- Forests and old growth forests are important for wildlife habitat
- Environment must be priority; ensure ecosystem-based management practices
- Too vague, open to interpretation, needs to be more defined and detailed
- Plan forestry is too focused on industry growth and needs over environment
- Should have selective logging; can be a benefit
- Do not subsidize forestry; should stand on its own
- Forestry is harming tourism
- Forests are important for recreation
- Place emphasis on maintaining forest diversity and biodiversity  
Recreation should be priority; forestry should not encroach on recreation land
- Limit and reduce industry-used roads and lines
- Content is good but need to be more explicit on how it will be carried out.



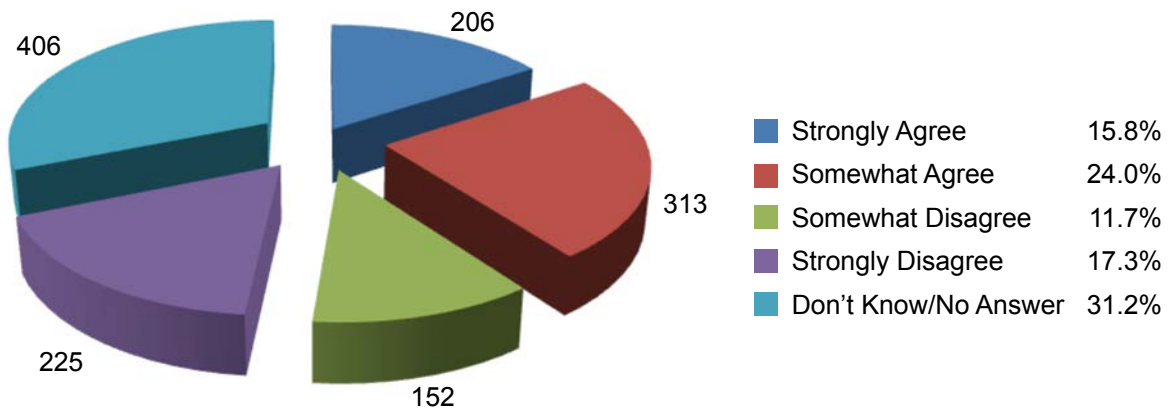


12. The RAC recommended a suite of actions to support the recreation and tourism industry. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

**Identify tourism nodes and establish tourism development plans within recreation/tourism areas and market these nodes to tourism developers**

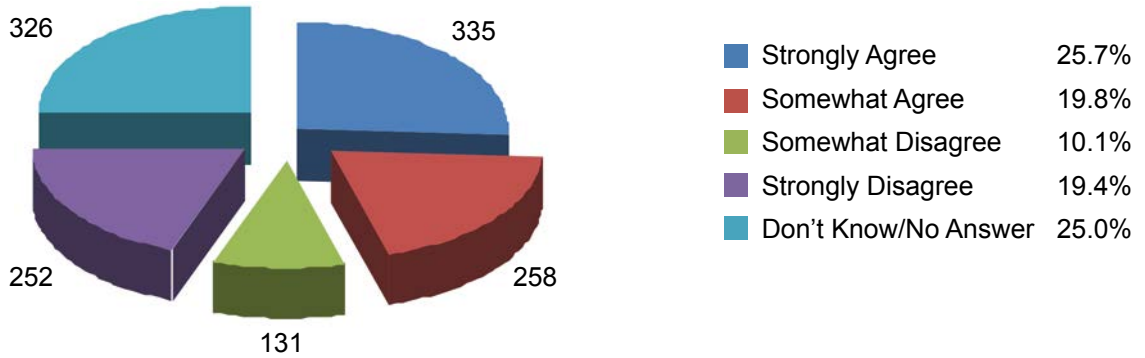


**Increase the competitiveness and security of the tourism and recreation industries by providing long-term tenures within identified recreation and tourism areas**

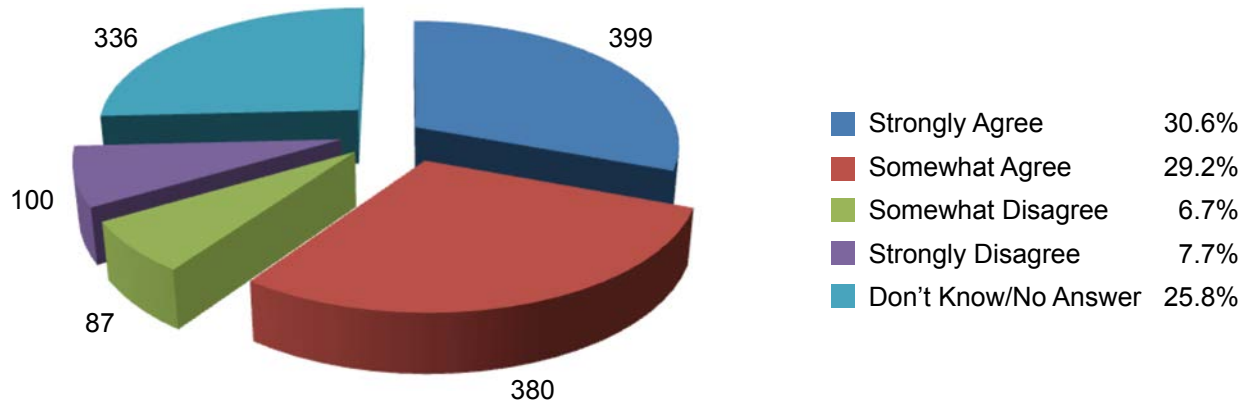




**Identify and develop new areas capable of becoming iconic tourism destinations. Areas that should be considered include the Castle, Crowsnest Pass, Kananaskis and the portion of the Canadian Badlands in the region**



**Develop a better understanding of the recreation and tourism opportunities on private lands as well as its associated challenges and barriers**





13. Please share any additional comments regarding the RAC's advice on recreation and tourism.

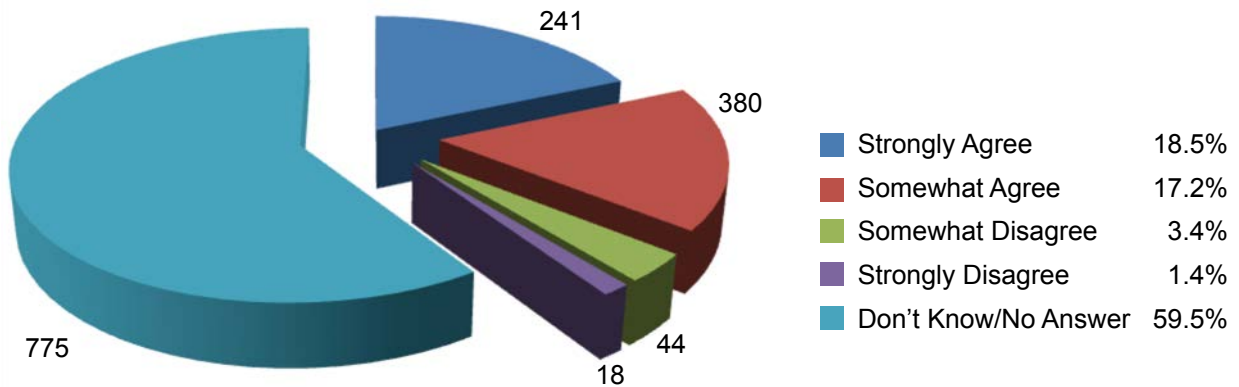
645 or about 50 per cent provided comments:

- Proposal does not fully recognize the value, beauty and tourism potential
- Need to improve road access to tourism activities
- Castle area needs better protection, enforcement and a protective designation
- Tourism development should not destroy natural areas and natural tourism
- Need to allow industry on land and not just allow tourism
- Limit investment to current parks, facilities and focus on existing areas
- Castle area should become part of Waterton National Park
- Do not convert any more land into parks; no more development for recreation
- Need to have stronger enforcement, monitoring and management
- Plan is too vague and needs to be better defined
- Need to control land use and not overdevelop to ensure we protect wildlife and fish habitats
- Create and expand parks to increase tourism
- Opposed to paid access for recreational use, hunting, fishing, etc.
- Protect tourism resources from forestry and industry
- Supports recreation on private land
- Supports private development
- Encourage sustainable ecological-based tourism and recreation

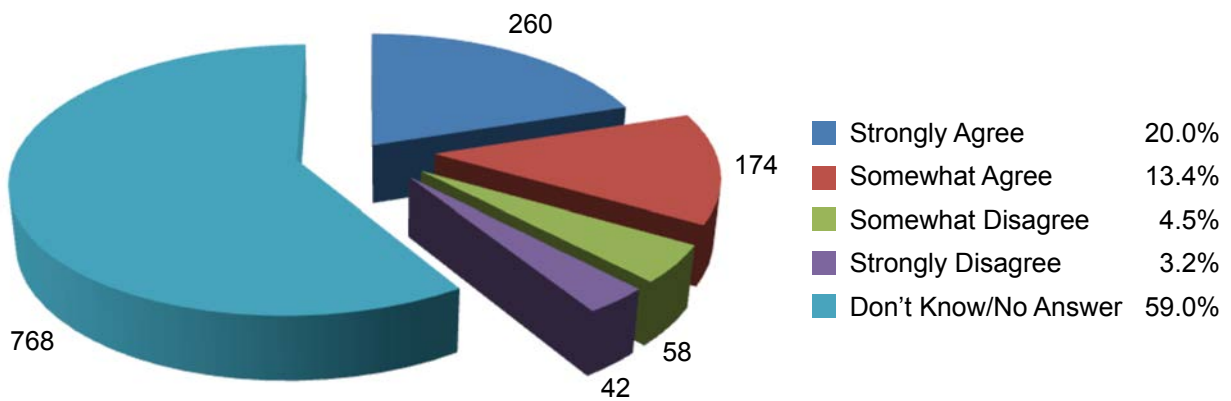


14. The RAC recommended a suite of actions to support the economic growth and value added industries. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

**Improve the physical infrastructure that supports research and development, and education and training**

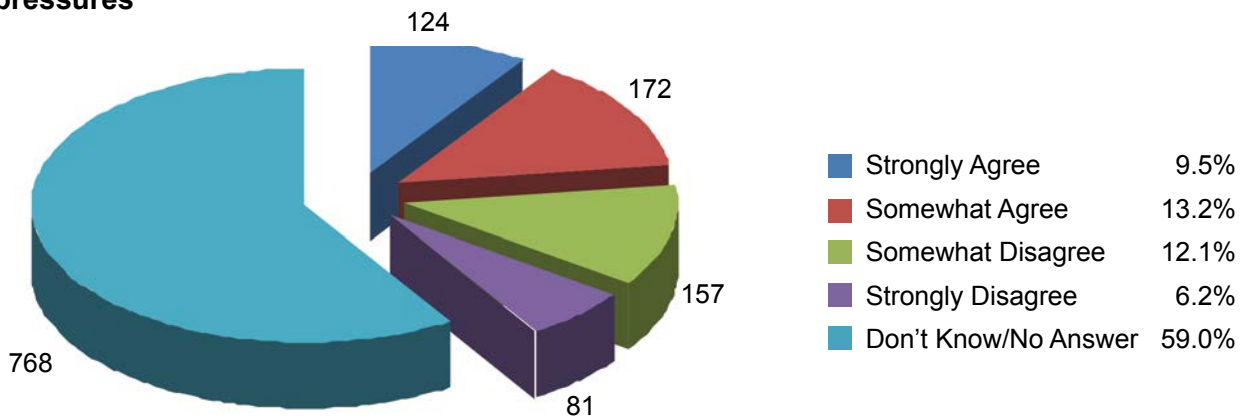


**A governmental priority should be to streamline business regulatory processes to make them more efficient and effective. Government regulation must be fair, straightforward and stable to encourage investment**

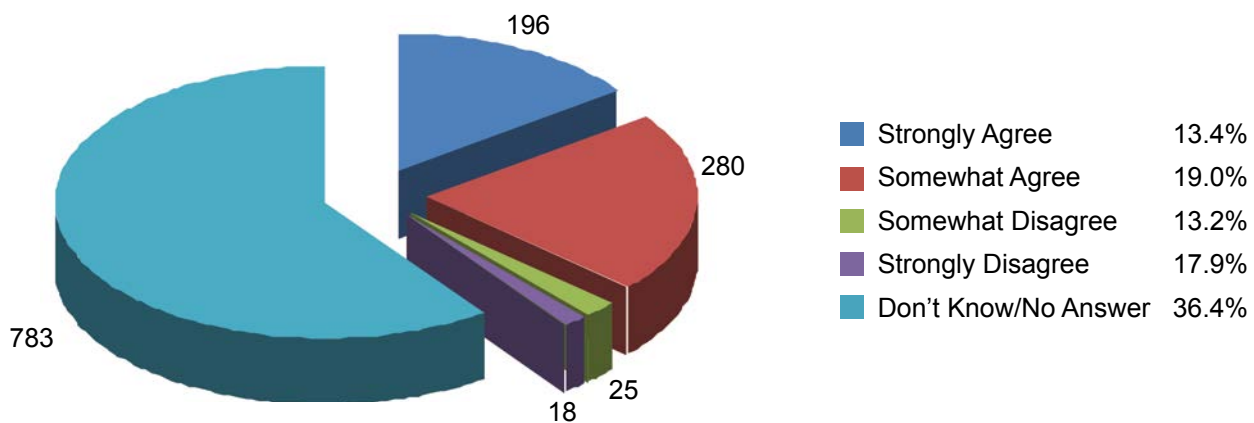




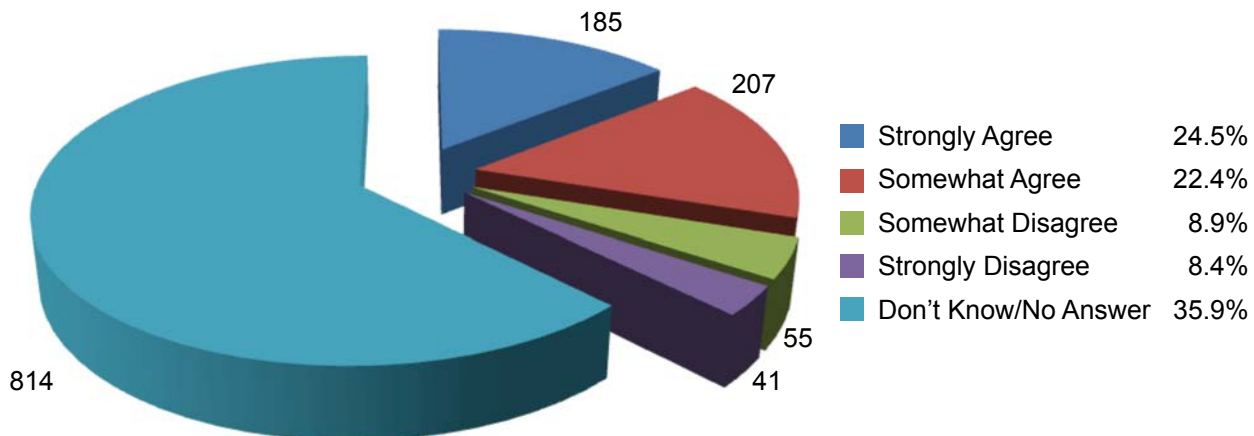
**To the extent possible, allow for the best economic use of land and other natural resources while accounting for the region’s dynamic social, environmental and economic pressures**



**Encourage the service and small business sectors that contribute to the comparative and competitive strengths of southern Alberta**



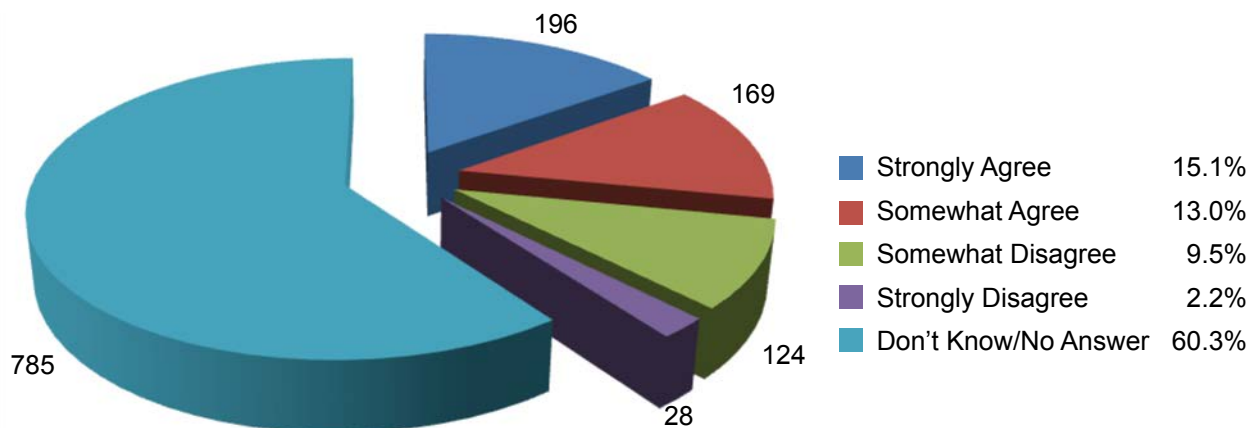
**Support the development of new and expanded regional and inter-regional supply chains to allow both the mature and emerging sectors to take advantage of provincial and export opportunities**



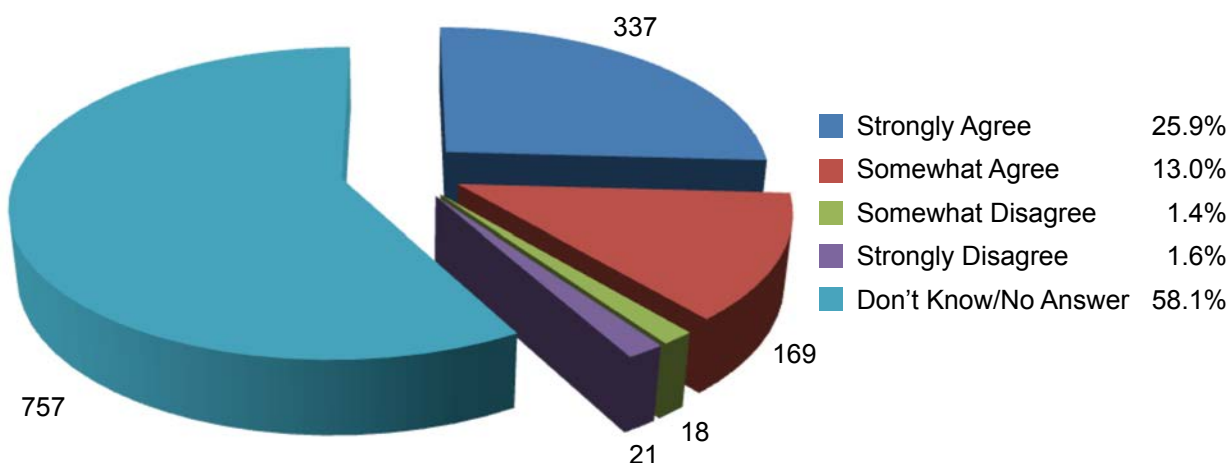




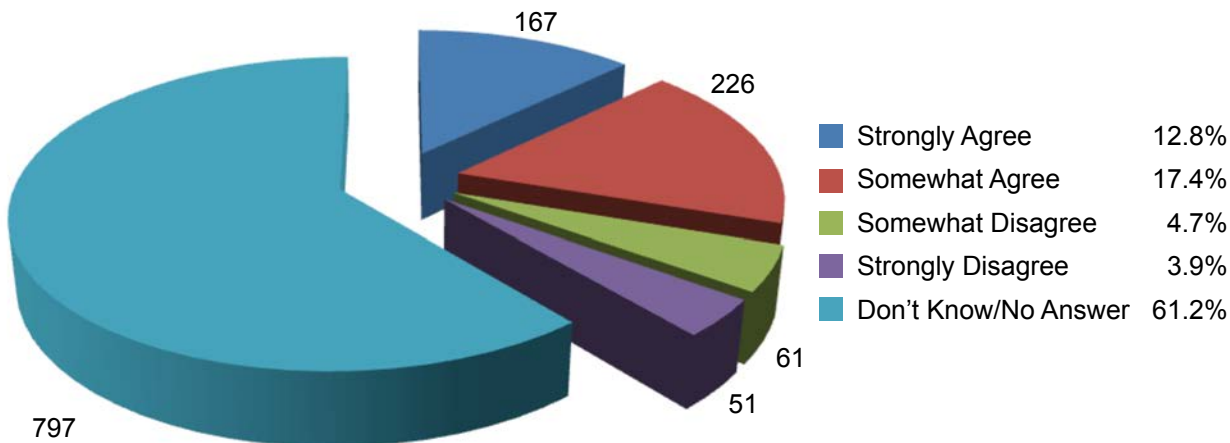
**Improve and expand the development of communications tools and infrastructure into rural areas so that people have the freedom to choose where they live and do business**



**Support industry innovations that reduce water use, land disturbance and carbon footprint, and that work towards a zero-waste goal**



**Enable policies that support market-driven decisions for ecological goods and services**







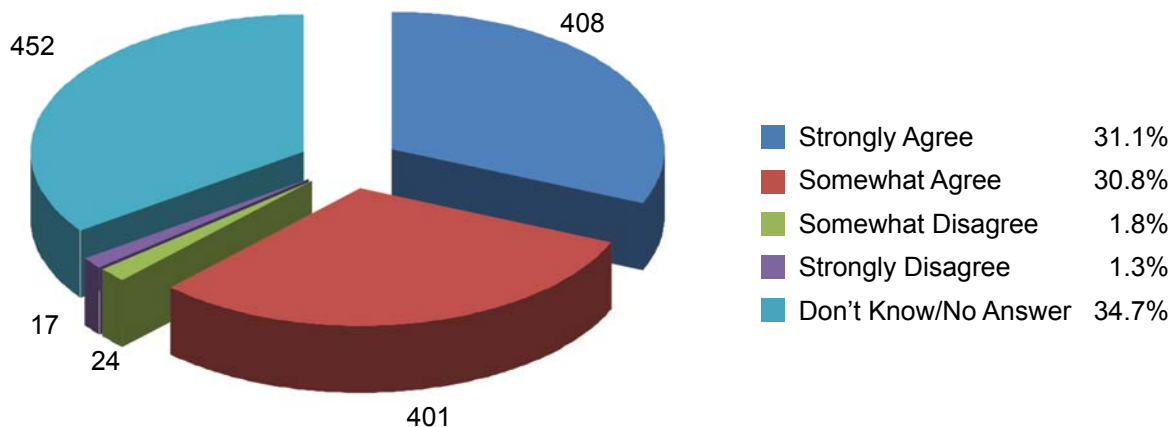
15. Please share any additional comments regarding the RAC’s advice on growth and value added industries.

234 or 18 per cent provided a response:

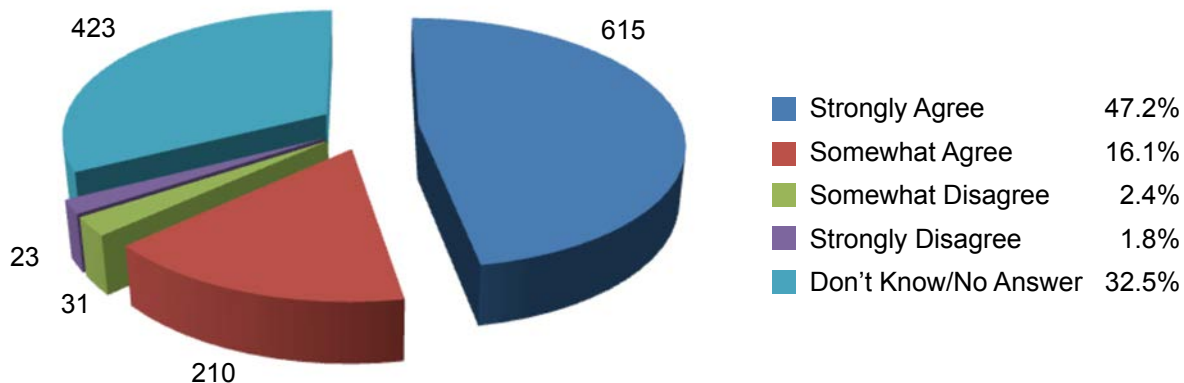
- Need economic regulation
- Wording is too vague, open to interpretation needs clarification and more detail
- Focus on sustainability, less focus on growth – population and economic growth
- Content is good but it needs to be implemented; explain how it will be done
- Need to value and preserve economic goods and services
- Need to balance environmental, economic and social practices with impacts

16. The RAC recommended a suite of actions to support infrastructure. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

**Plan for infrastructure for the future by considering changes in technology, population centres, energy and sources and transportation**

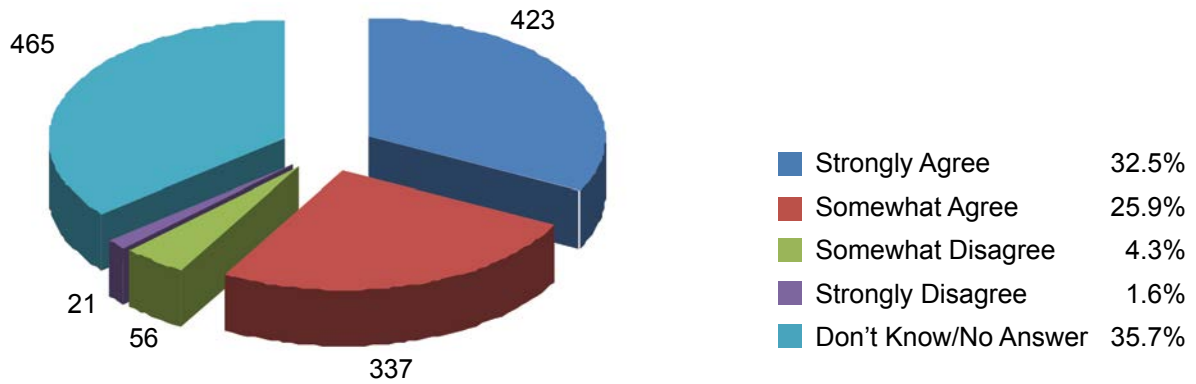


**Plan, design and build corridors and infrastructure to minimize land fragmentation, and to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts**

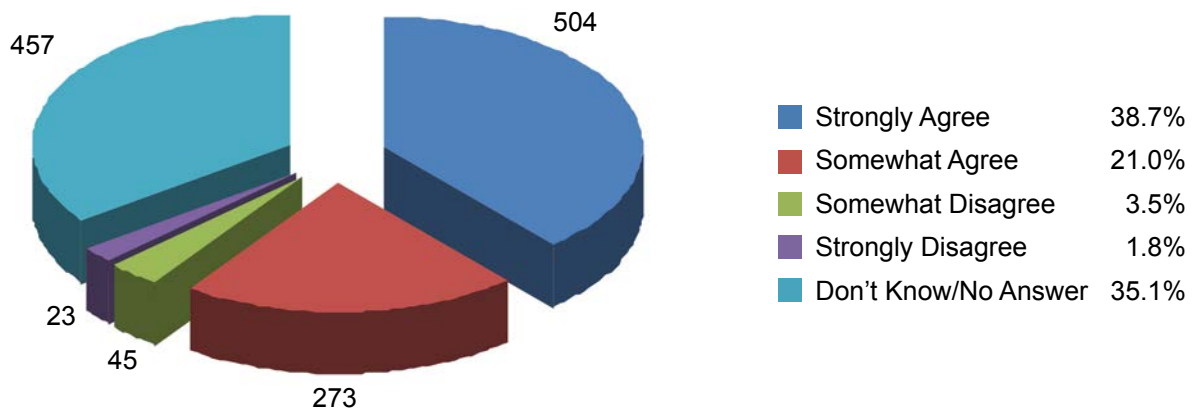




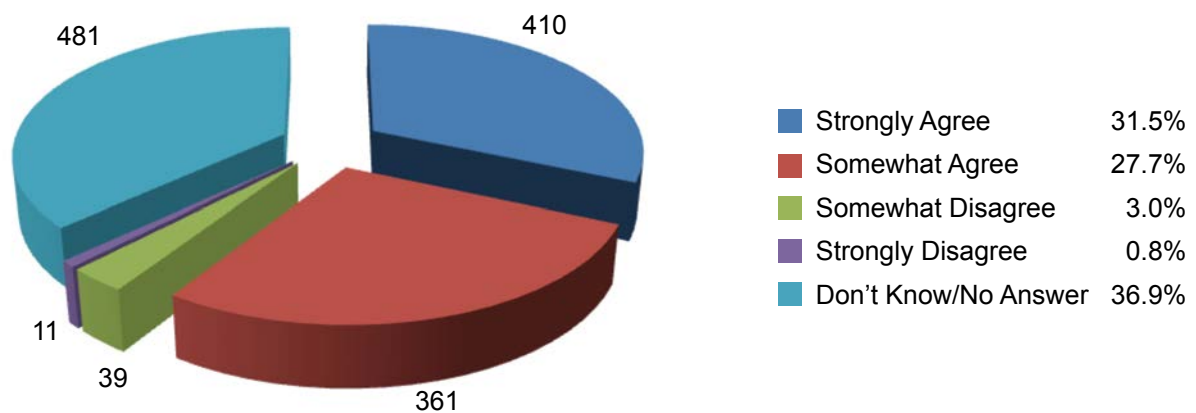
### Adopt, design and construct techniques that will promote economic growth while protecting valued resources



### Approach transportation development within a cumulative environmental effects perspective

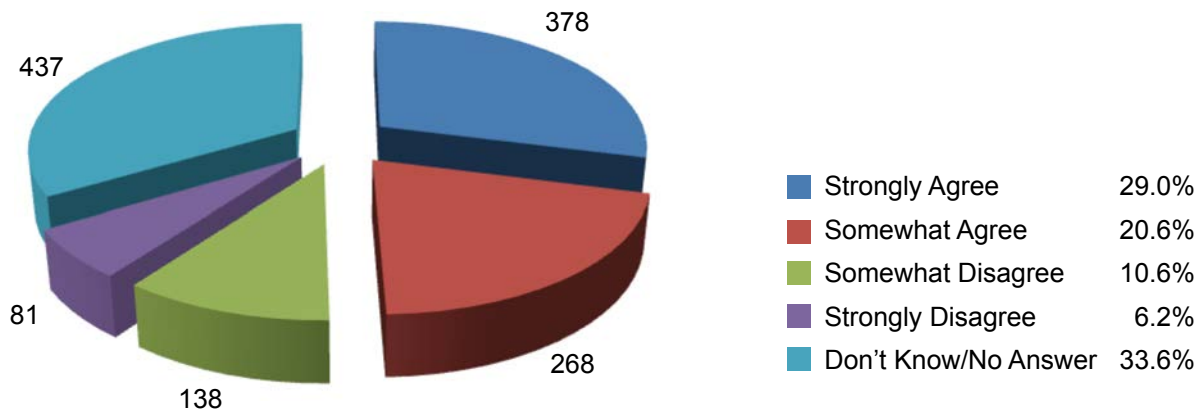


### Coordinate transportation services in order to meet regional needs

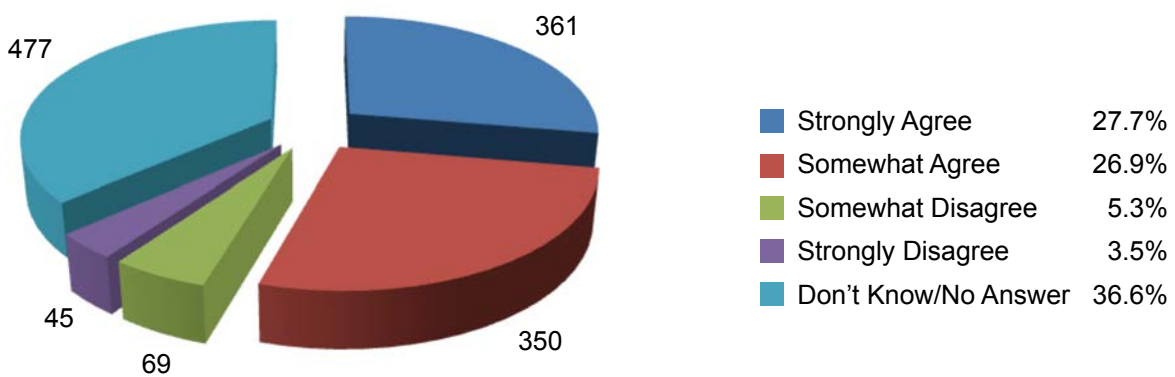




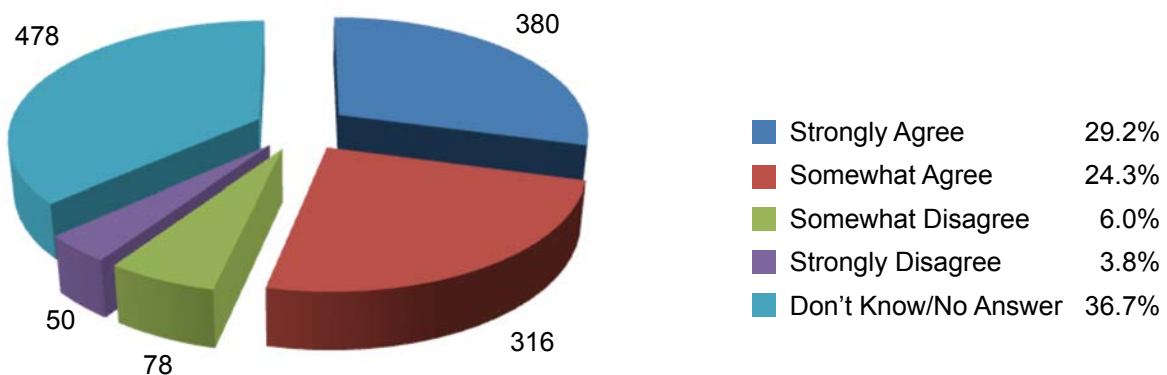
**Best efforts should be made to support non-motorized transportation corridors (e.g. bike paths) along highways**



**Future utility and facility infrastructure needs of urban centres must be anticipated, planned for and adequately funded**



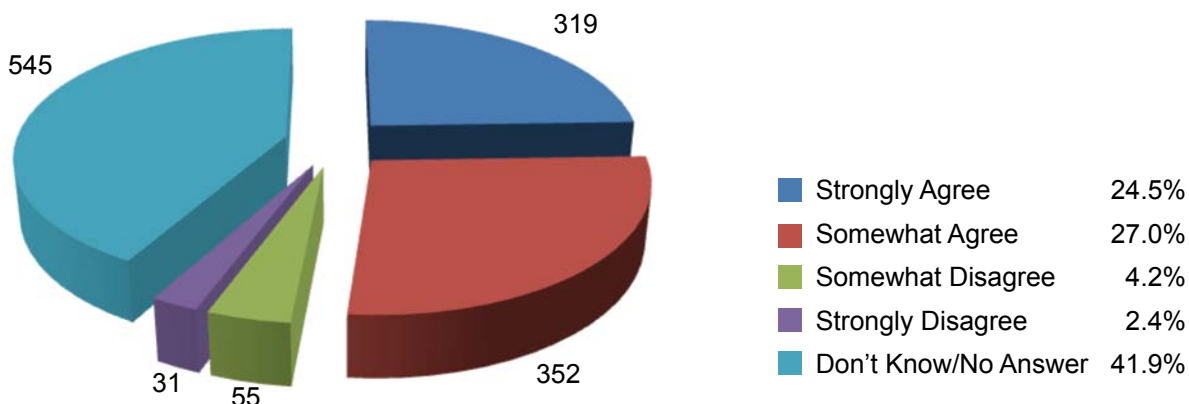
**Manage existing water storage infrastructure to optimize water release, withdrawal timing and water quality**



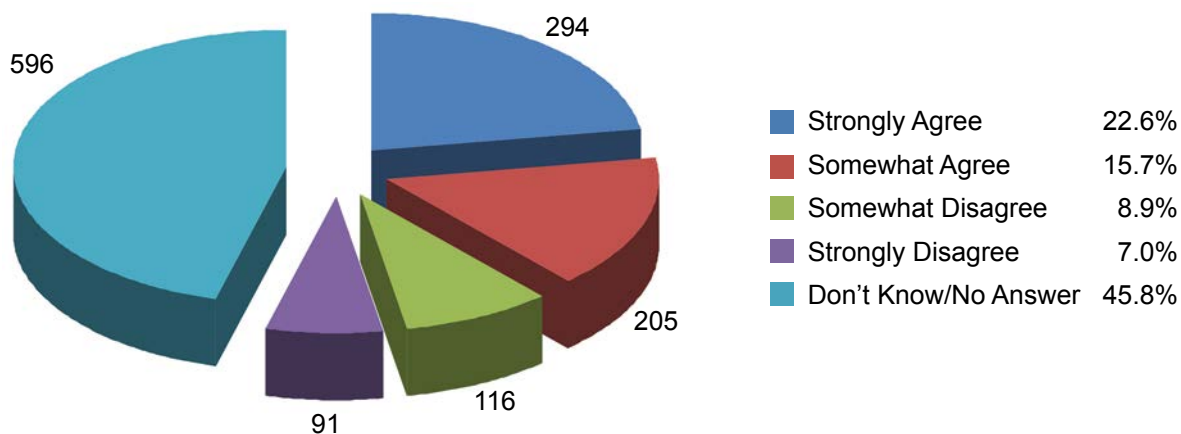


17. The RAC recommended multi-use corridors consider the following. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

**The economic benefits and costs of developing multi-use corridors**

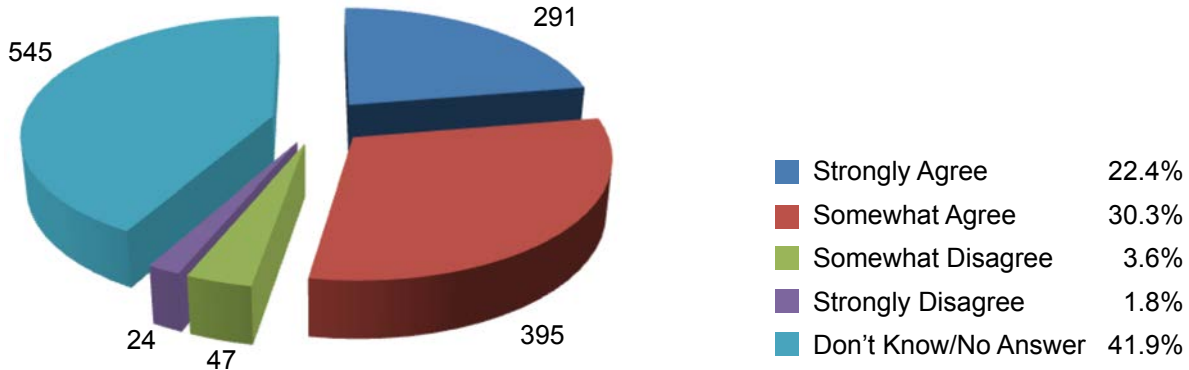


**Multi-use corridors should be located east, not west of Highway 2**

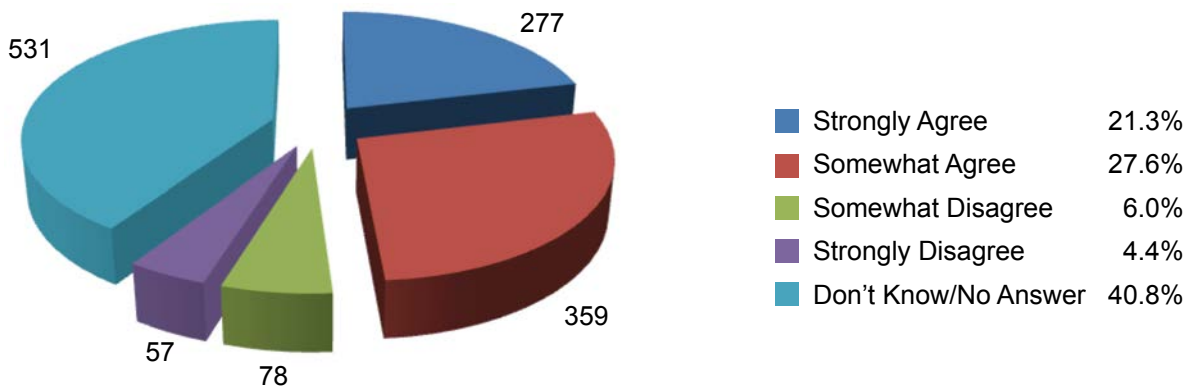




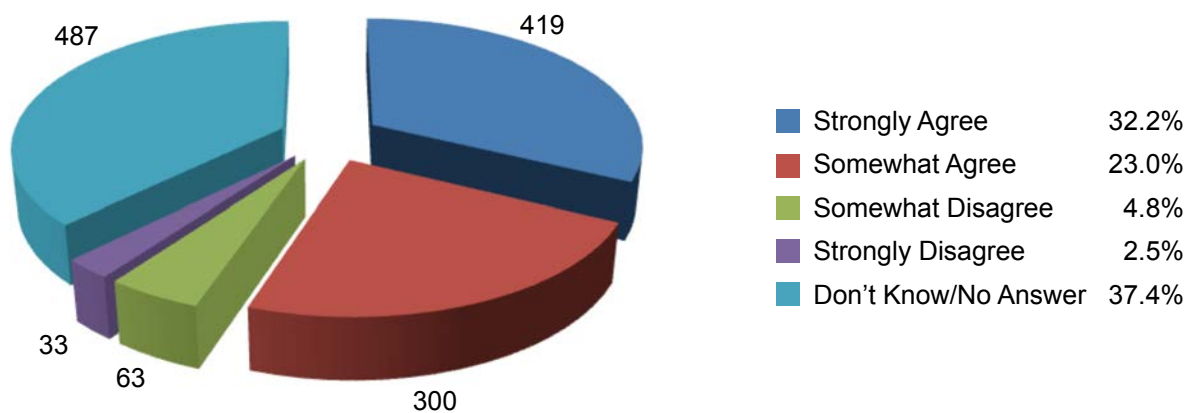
**Multi-use corridor segments connect regions and have the potential to be part of a provincially continuous system**



**Multi-use corridor segments provide access to other markets and support economic competitiveness and growth**



**Multi-use corridor segments with the least costs in terms of ecological disturbance**



18. Please share any additional comments regarding the RAC's advice on infrastructure and multi-use corridors.

311 responses or 24 per cent of the total number of respondents provided additional comments:

- Environmental protection and wildlife habitats must be priority
- Likes the idea of multi-use corridors; they are important and beneficial
- Development needs to be minimized or halted and growth should not be promoted
- Uses west of Highway 2 need to be considered; not just east of the highway
- Burying power lines and telephone lines is safer and more visually appealing
- New water storage opportunities should not be developed
- Wording in explanations is too vague, more detailed plans are needed
- Need to improve public transportation and look at high-speed light rail
- Focus on existing corridors that are already altered
- Need to make sure there is legal respect and compensation for landowners
- Focus on minimizing and reducing ecological footprint

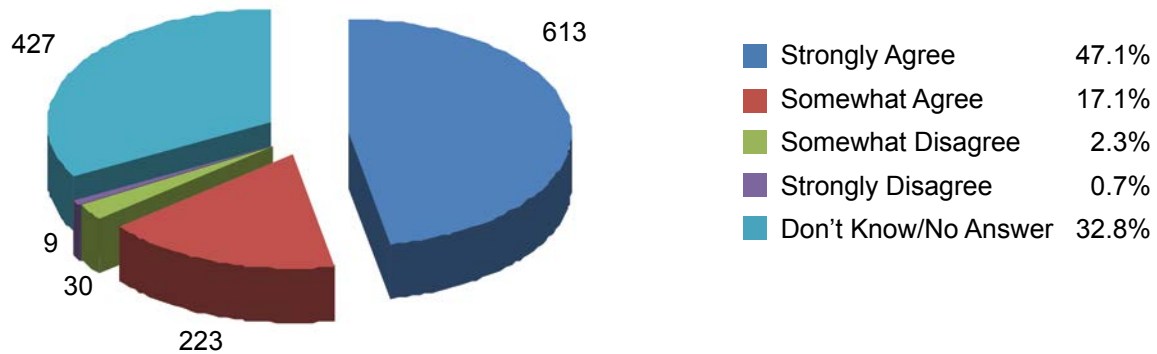




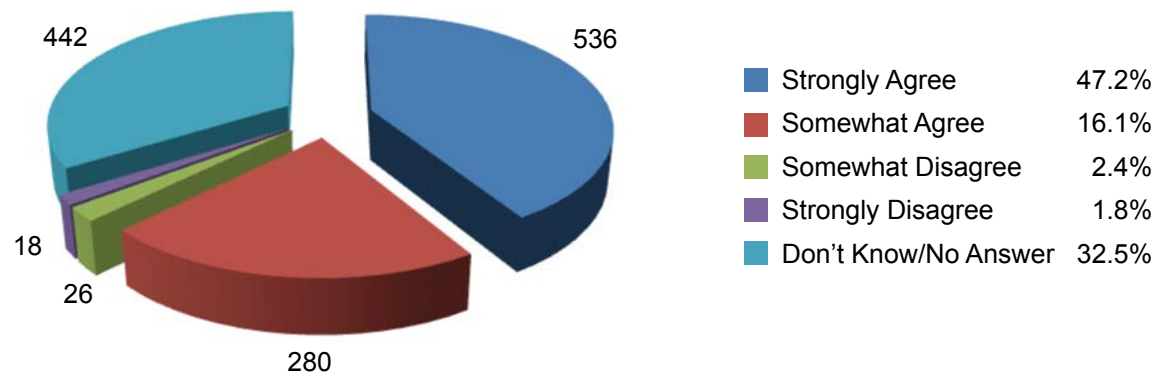
### Section 3: Healthy Ecosystem and Environment

19. The RAC recommended a suite of actions to support water management. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

**Take measures to ensure source water quality and quantity are sustained in co-ordination with measures taken concerning groundwater, riparian areas, wetlands, aquatic biodiversity and headwaters**



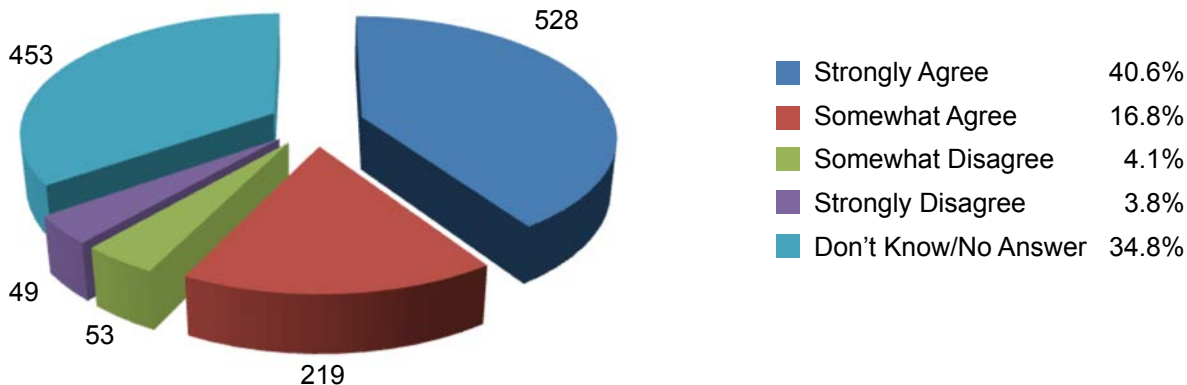
**Using a risk management approach, identify and facilitate the implementation of practices that reduce point and non-point sources of water pollution**



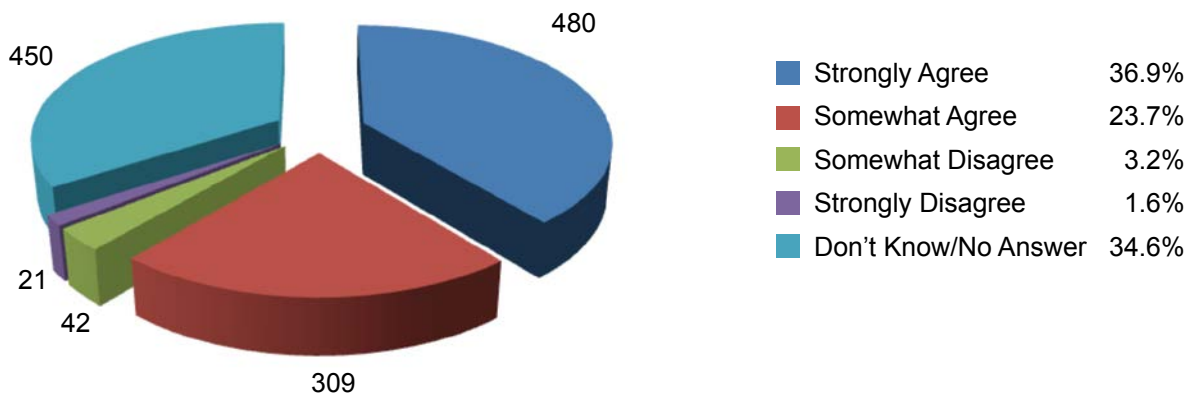




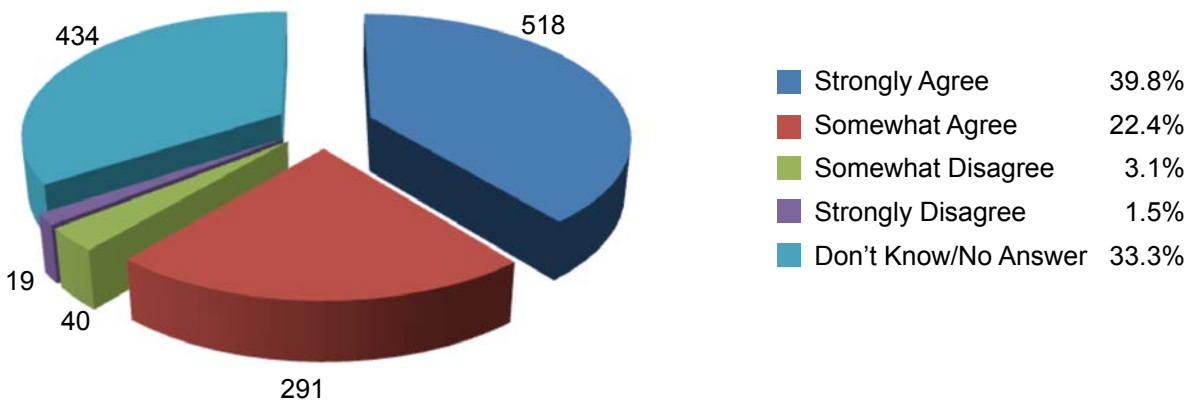
**Help meet the provincial Water for Life target of a minimum of 30 per cent for water conservation, efficiency and productivity by requiring mandatory metering of water-use licenses in the South Saskatchewan Region**



**Facilitate the co-operative development of watershed management plans and support their implementation**



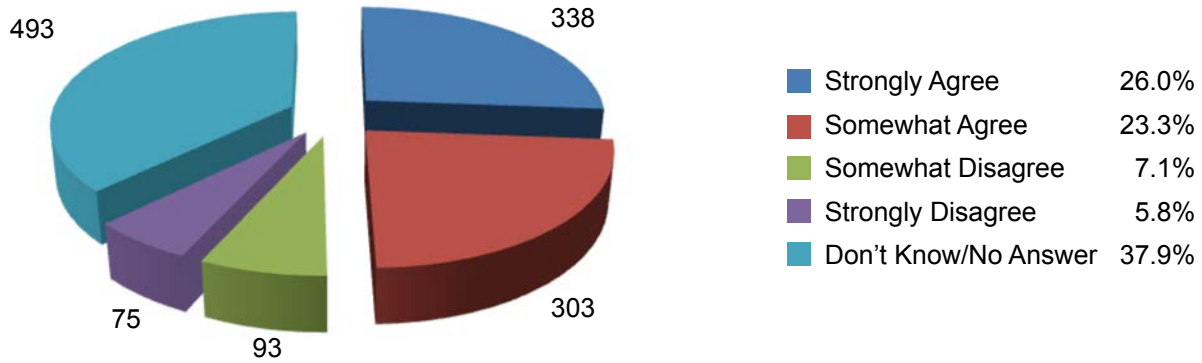
**Develop a mechanism for regular monitoring, reporting and public engagement**



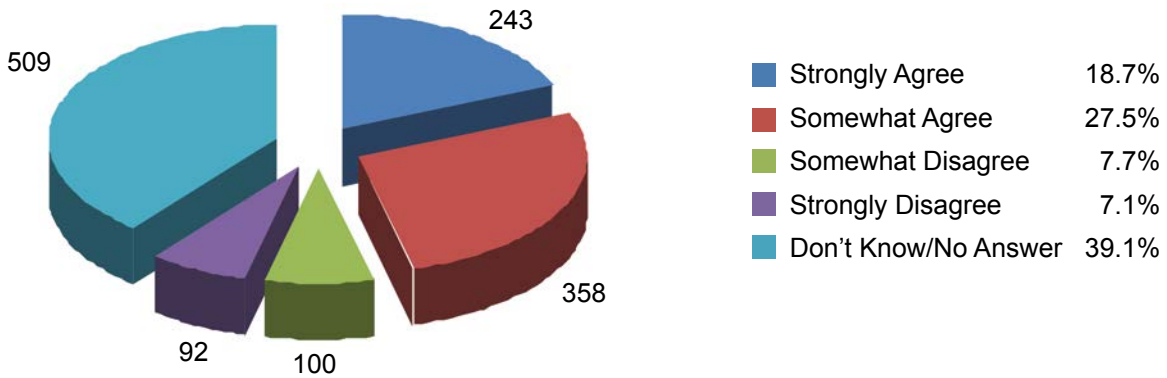




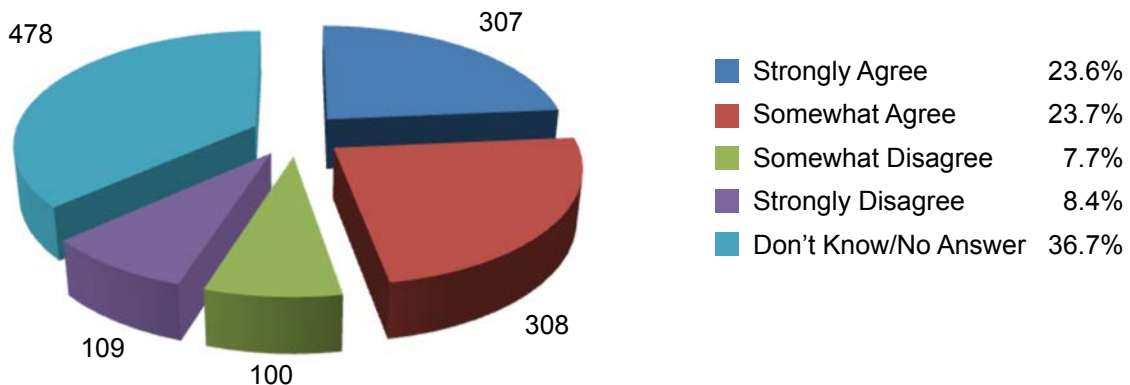
**Explore opportunities to develop and apply market mechanisms to support watershed management objectives**



**Enhance the development of water allocation transfer mechanisms to facilitate short- and long-term transfers and assignment of water in water-stressed basins**



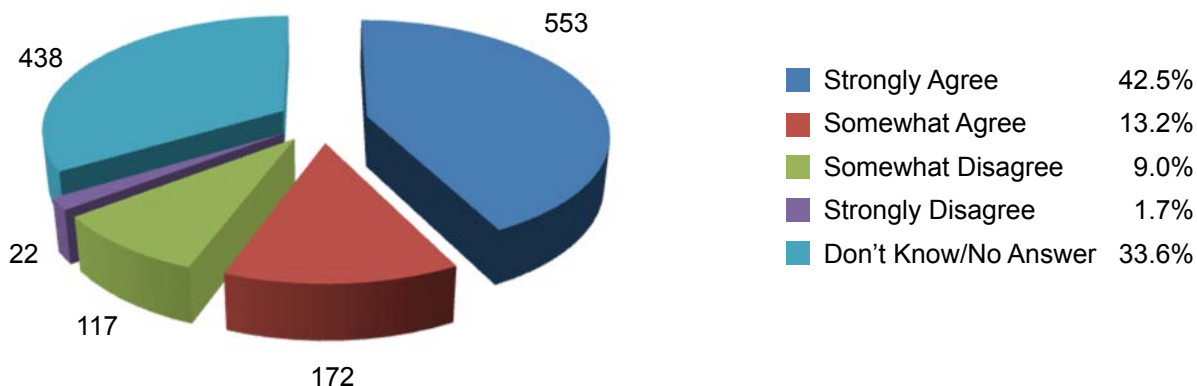
**The Government of Alberta meets with First Nations to address water issues**



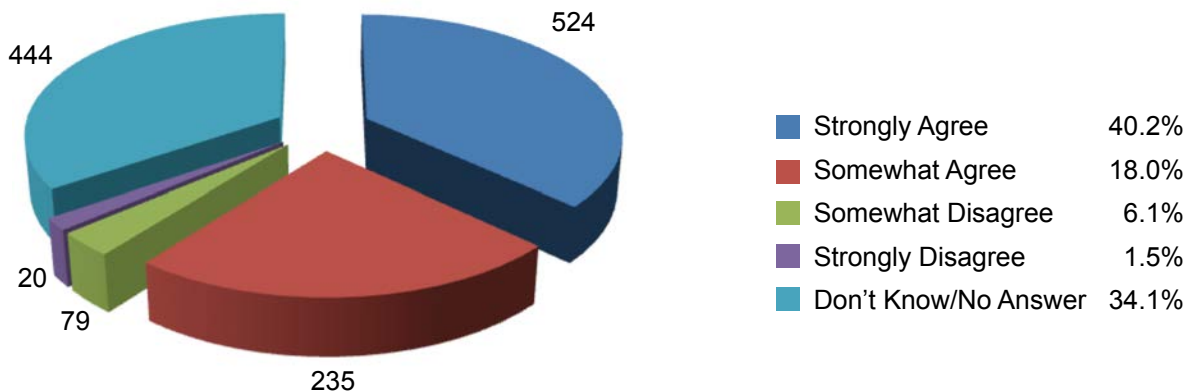


20. The RAC recommended a suite of actions to support headwaters protection. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

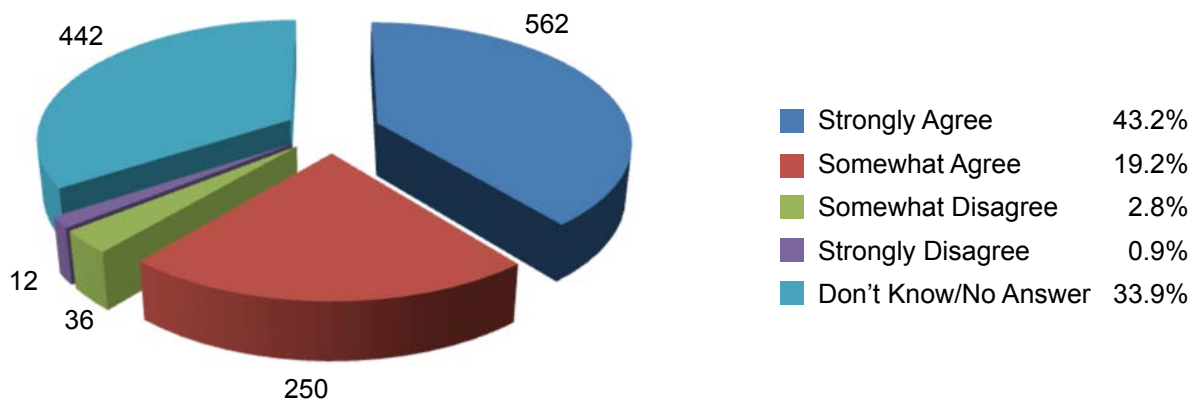
**Manage land in the headwaters (e.g., Eastern Slopes and Cypress Hills areas) so that maintaining watershed integrity is given the highest priority by considering the impacts of land disturbance in management decisions**



**Manage the cumulative effects of activities in headwaters so the volume and timing of water quantity and water quality is maintained or enhanced**

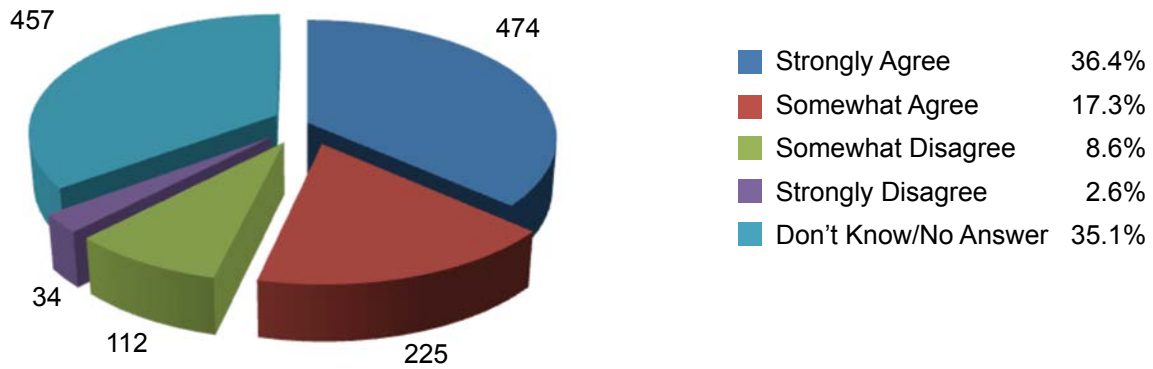


**Require best management practices by land uses in headwater areas, and expand ongoing public engagement and education programs**



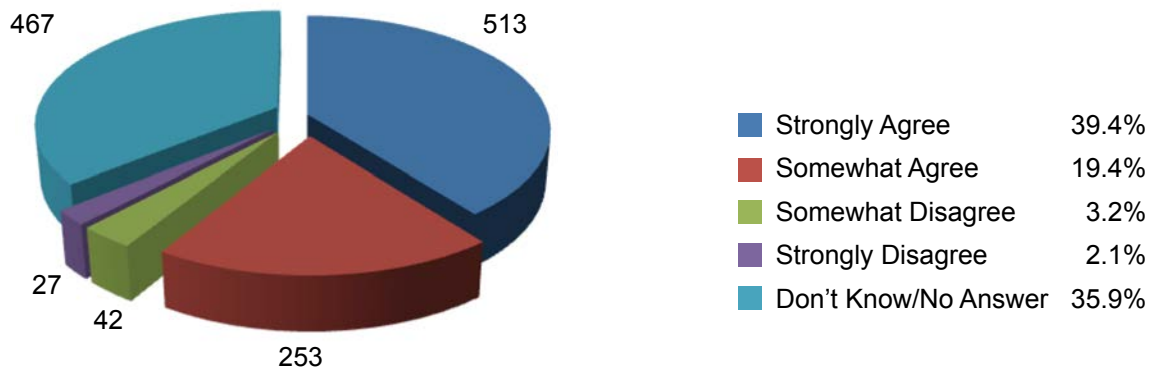


**Integrate planning for access and resource management in headwater areas with watershed management plans, objectives and values, and ensure effective enforcement. Watershed planning and advisory councils and watershed stewardship groups should be actively involved in developing and implementing watershed plans**



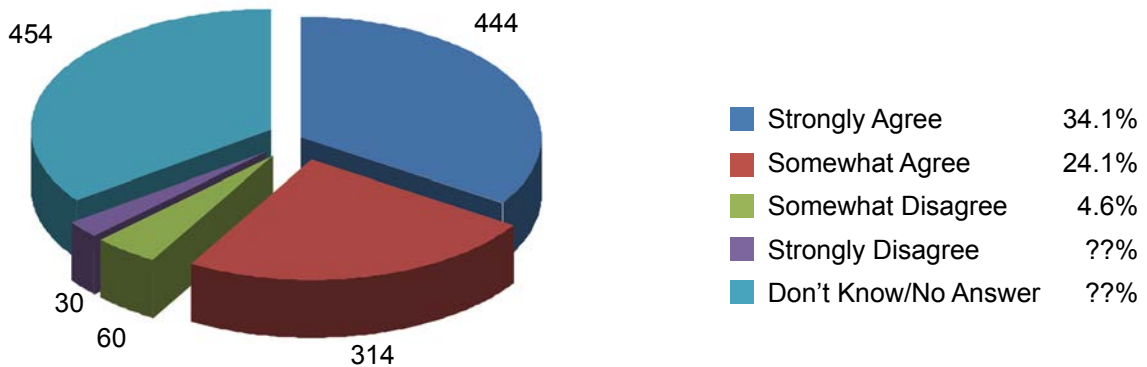
21. The RAC recommended a suite of actions to support wetlands management.  
How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

**The government needs to continue with the development and approval of a new provincial wetlands policy**

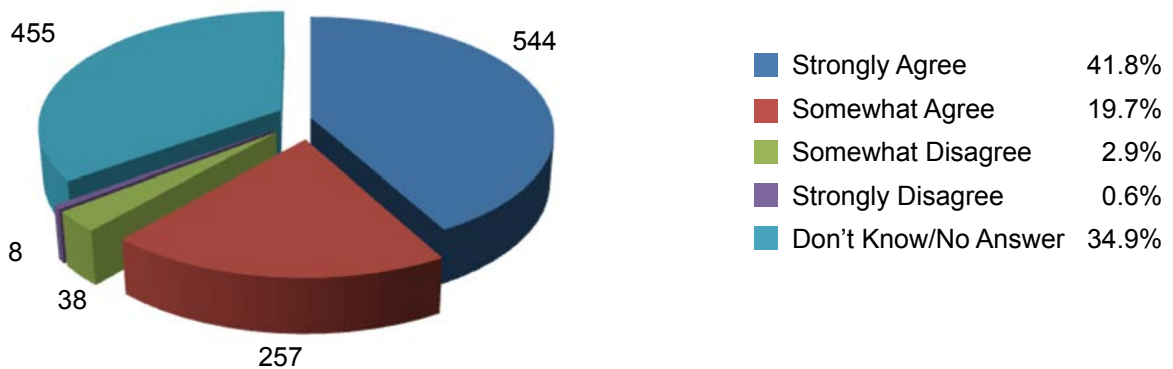




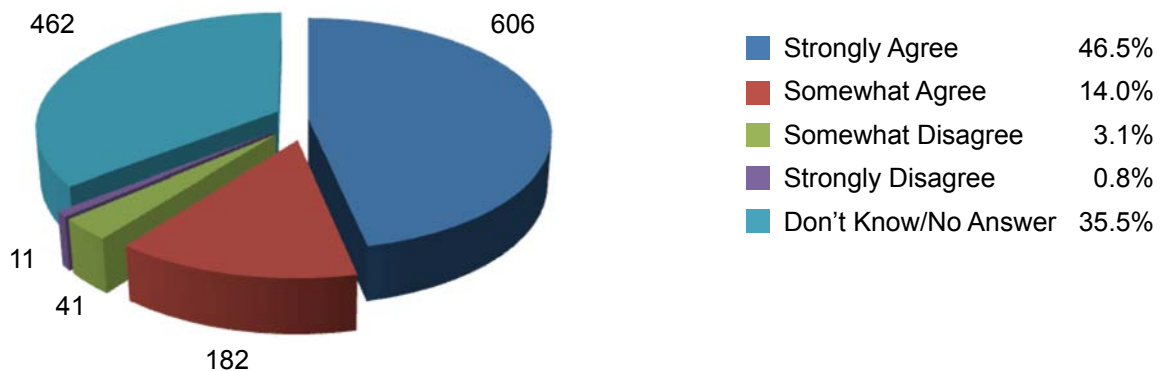
**Create strong economic incentives for wetland restoration, maintenance or development as part of a broader program to develop an ecological goods and services revenue stream**



**Develop and encourage practices that restore native plant and animal communities by reducing the occurrence and spread of invasive, non-native species**

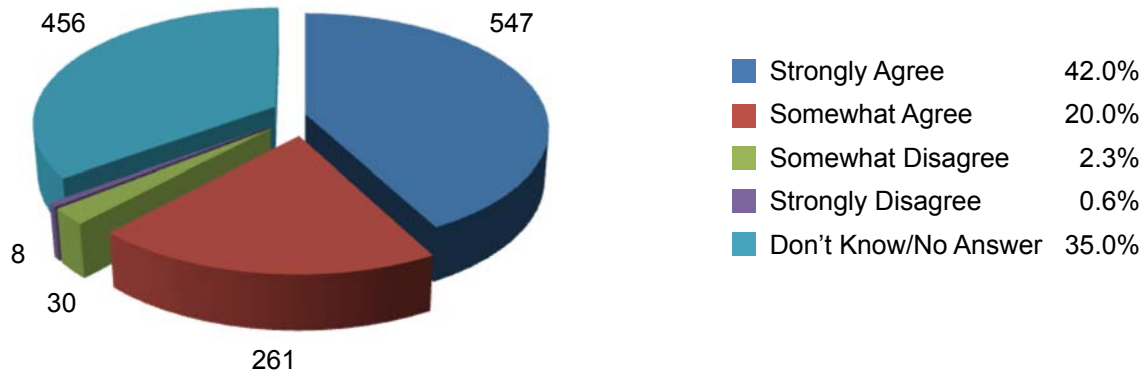


**Develop and implement best management practices to ensure that land uses immediately adjacent to wetlands keep wetlands in good health**

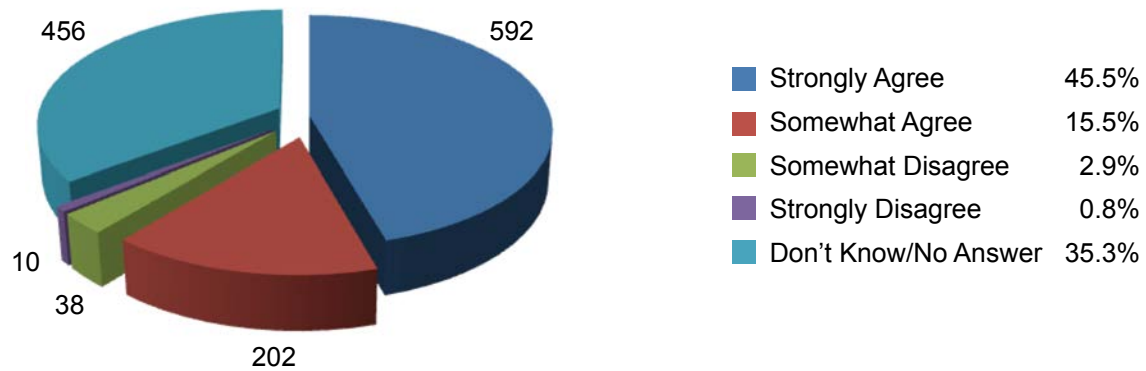




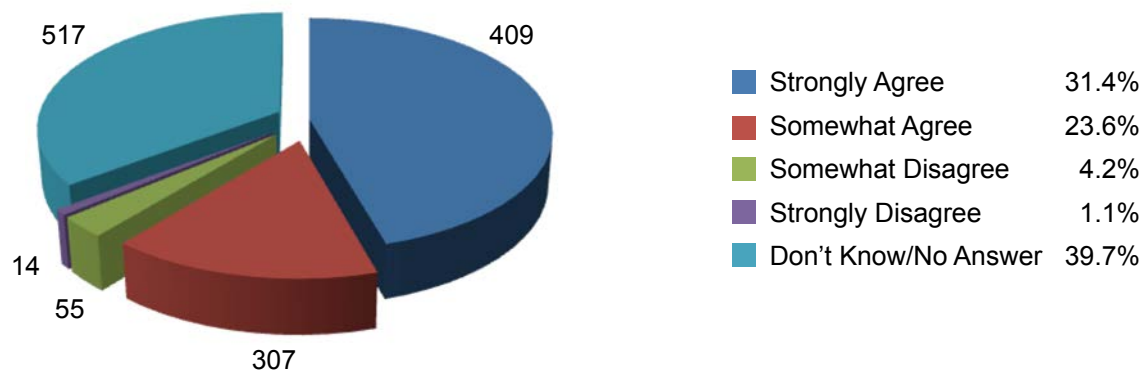
**Increase the level of education and outreach, and provide stewardship opportunities to inform stakeholders of the importance of wetlands and best management practice to protect them**



**Improve our mapping and knowledge of wetland areas**

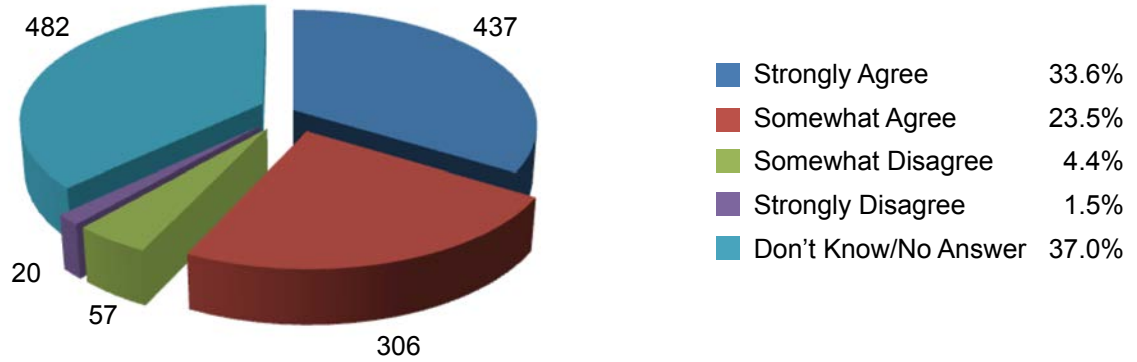


**Simplify the provincial wetland classification system and develop a tool to guide the assessment of wetland value (economic, social and ecological). This tool should consider wetland function as a critical component of value, and should help minimize the loss of higher value wetlands**



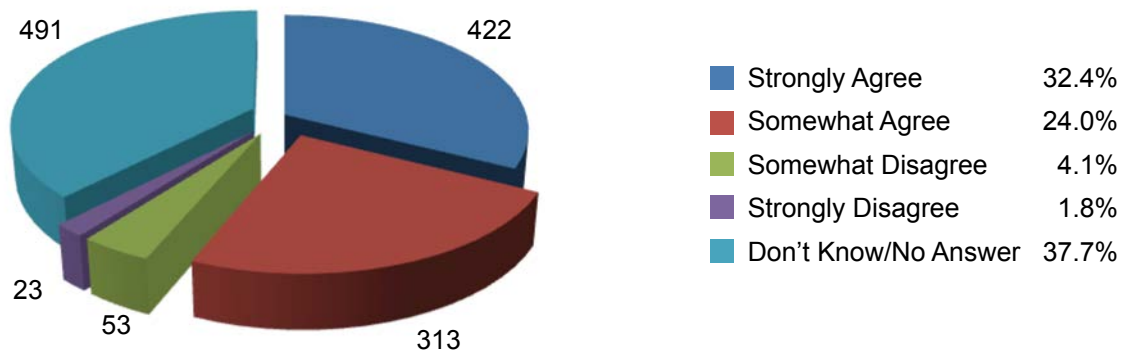


**Identify and adopt regional and sub-regional targets for wetland conservation and restoration in provincially-approved watershed management plans through consultation with stakeholders**



22. The RAC recommended a suite of actions to support riparian areas. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

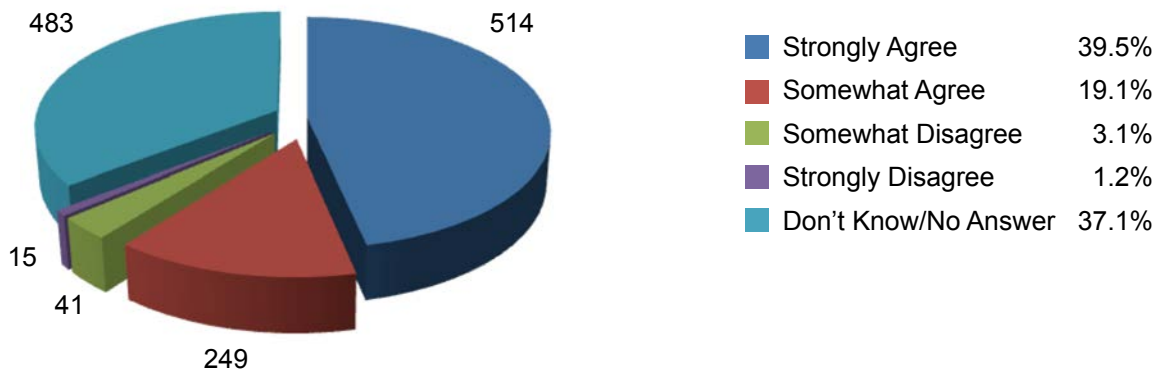
**Develop new regional riparian area management policies and strategies**



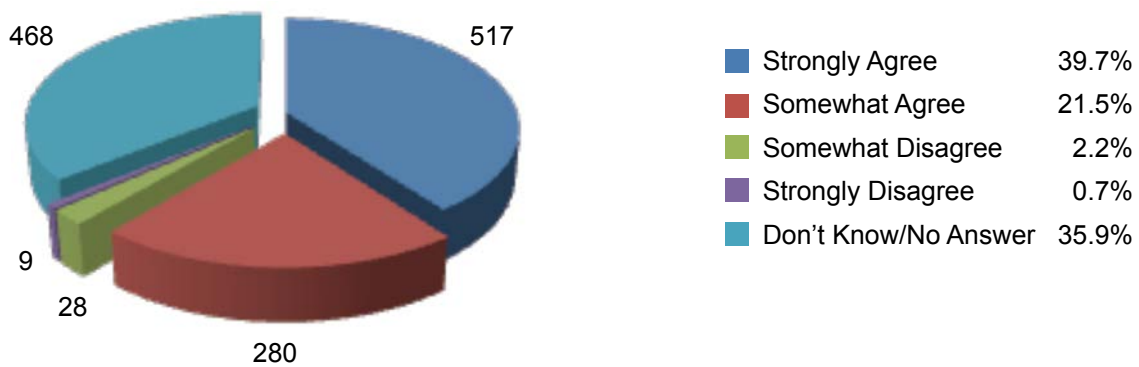




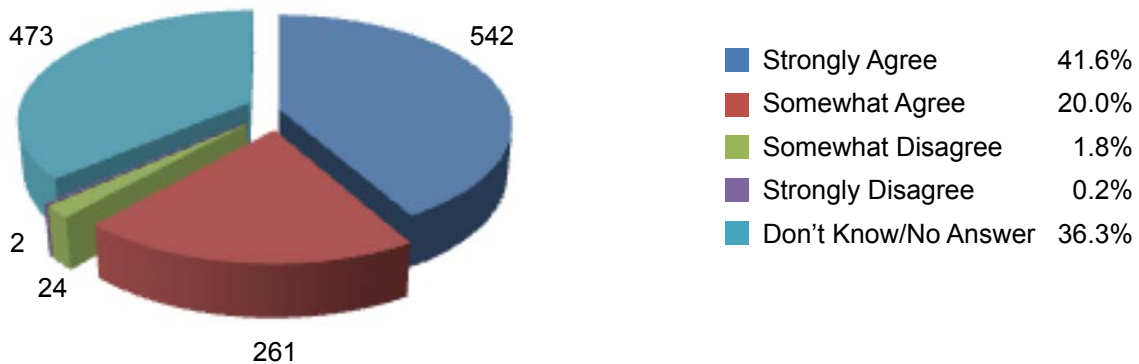
**Maintain and, to the greatest degree possible, restore riparian function. Filling in the flood plains is not an acceptable practice**



**Encourage improved stewardship by increasing education and outreach, and providing stewardship opportunities**



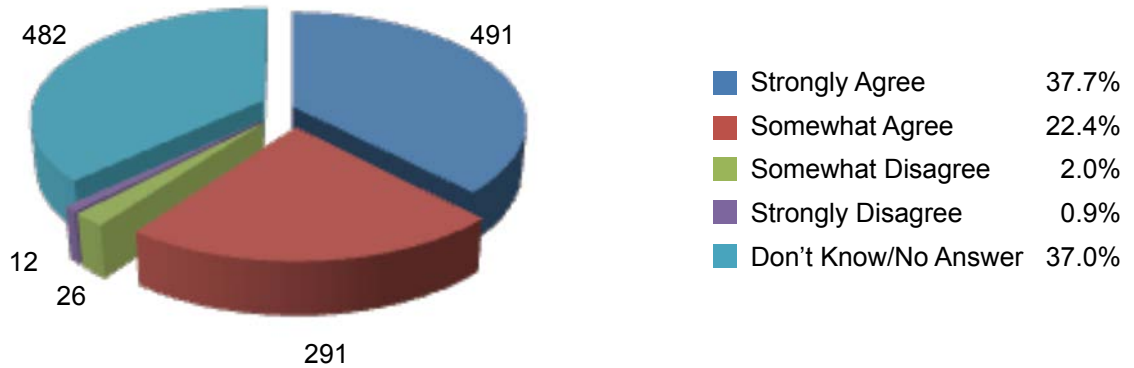
**Develop and encourage practices that restore native plant and animal communities by reducing the spread of noxious and restrictive species**



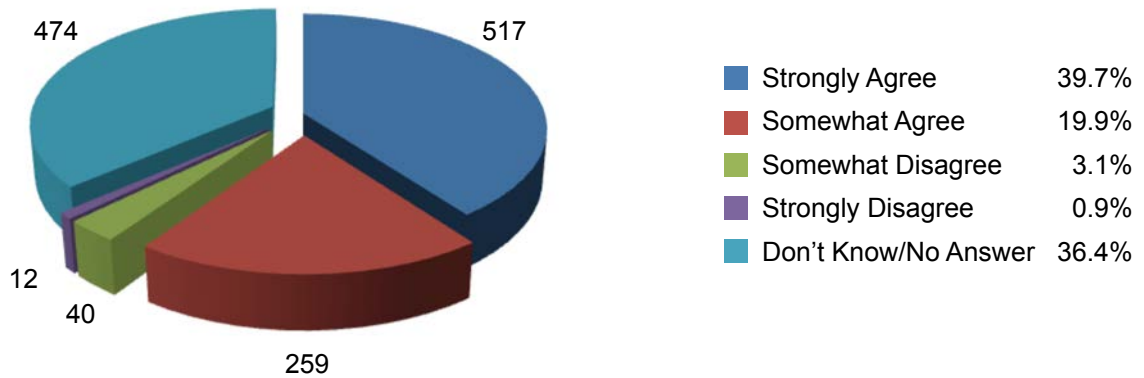




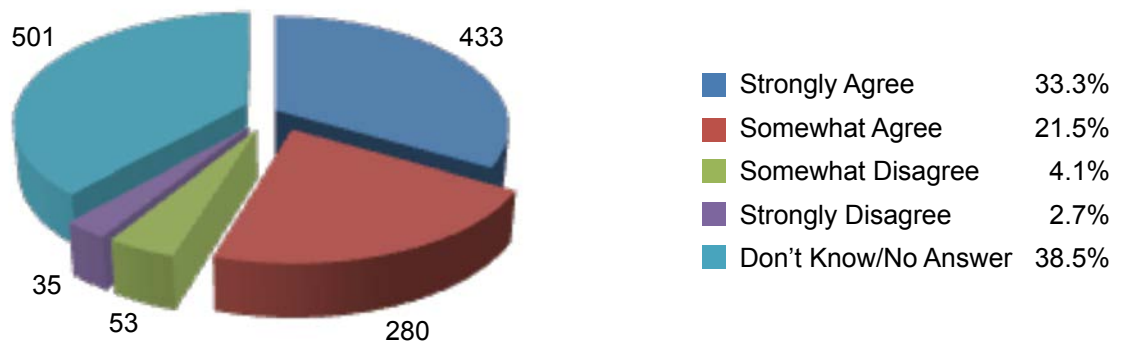
**Evaluate and improve existing regional co-ordination efforts among government, private organizations and individuals for ensuring protection and maintenance of riparian function**



**Improve our mapping and knowledge of riparian areas**



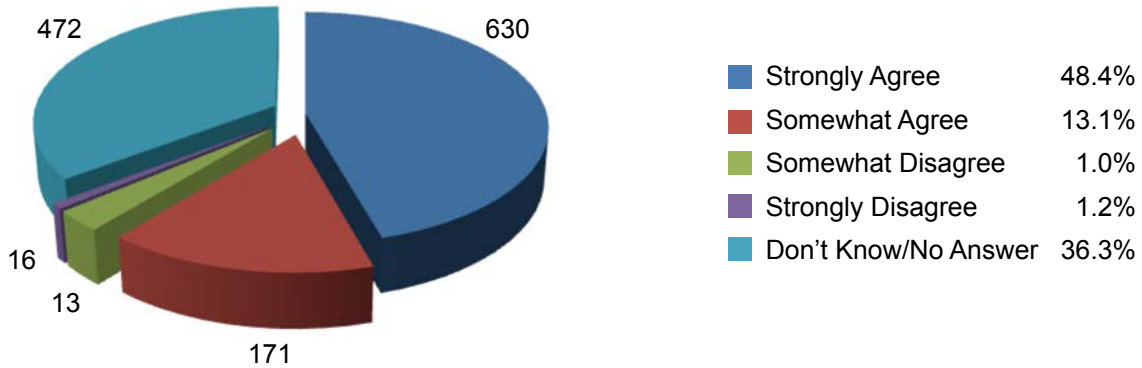
**Include riparian restoration or retention as part of a broader program to develop an ecological goods and services revenue stream**



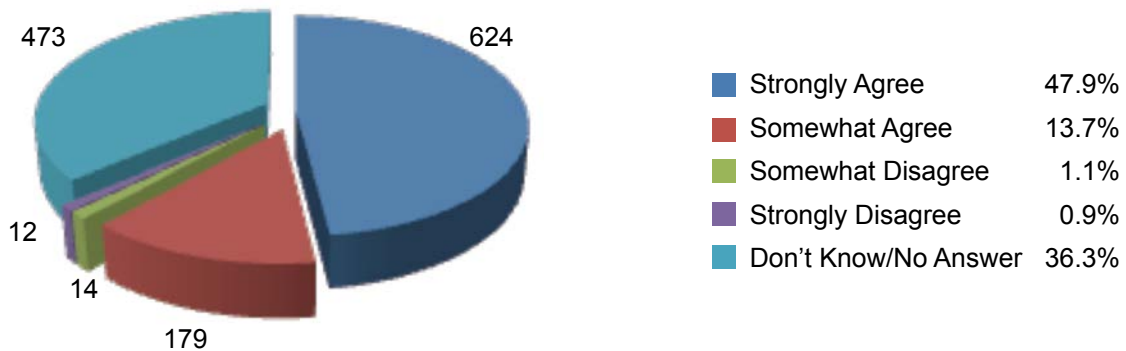


23. The RAC recommended a suite of actions to support groundwater management.  
How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

**Vulnerable aquifers should be protected from potential contamination and overuse by requiring development proposals to assess potential impacts and provide management plans to ensure groundwater protection**

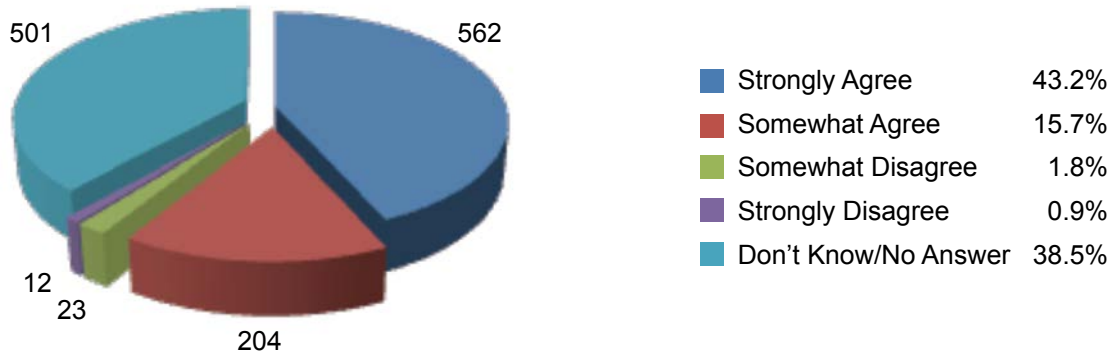


**Develop a regional groundwater management framework to ensure aquifers are protected and groundwater/surface water interaction and integrity are sustained across the region**





### Municipalities using groundwater sources should develop wellhead protection area plans in collaboration with stakeholders



24. Please share any additional comments regarding the RAC's advice on water management.

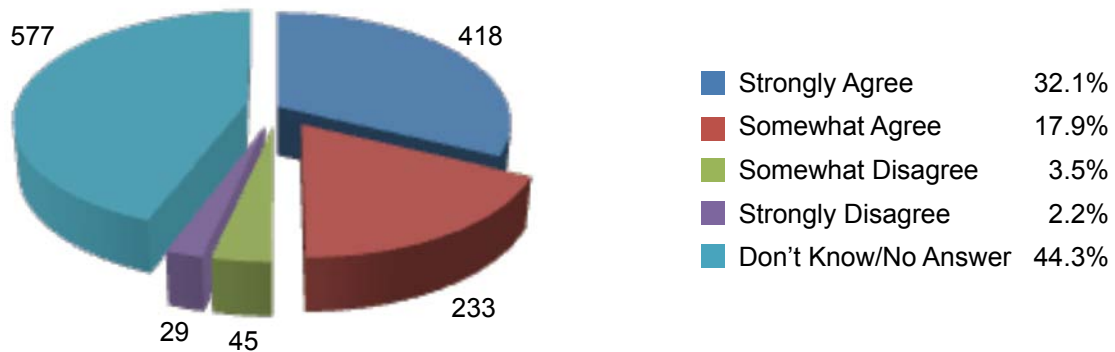
476 responses or 37 per cent of respondents added comments:

- Maintain and ensure sustainable recreation; motorized-access corridors
- Priority should be water over economics; need to protect water
- Parks and forests are susceptible to catastrophic events, like infestation or fire
- Forestry industry needs to and can preserve watershed value
- Should allow some forestry and mining resource extraction
- Ensure sustainable yield of aquifers
- Plan is vague, needs to be clearer and contain more information
- Need to enforce current laws and improve and ensure greater monitoring
- Plan needs to focus more on importance of wetlands and improve restoration efforts
- Need to recognize impact of agriculture on water and establish regulation
- Increase science-based knowledge and research about groundwater
- Support for all recommendations and water needs to be in plan
- Water management plan and wetland policy must be completed and implemented
- Should protect all aquifers
- Monitor, regulate and limit industrial land use
- Need more regulations concerning water usage And greater conservation efforts
- Need to protect water supply from contamination

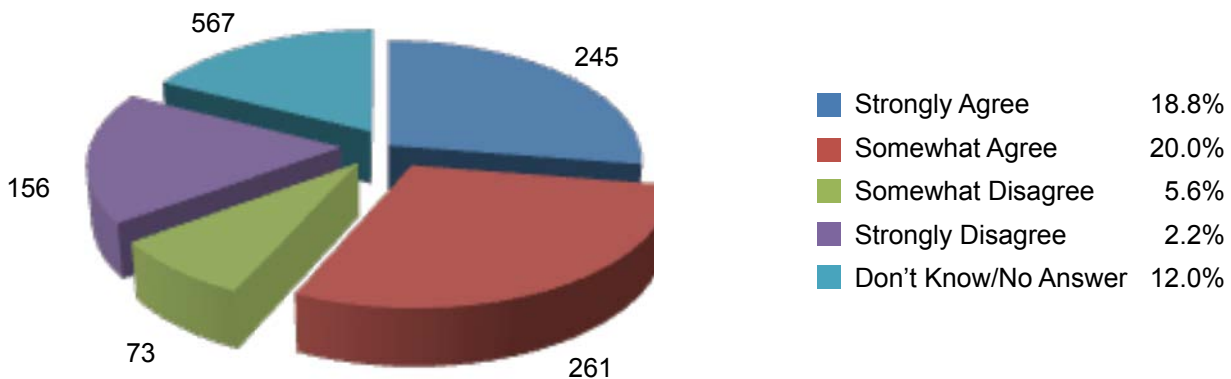


25. The RAC recommended a suite of actions to support biodiversity. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

**The Government of Alberta should complete the development of a regional biodiversity management framework**

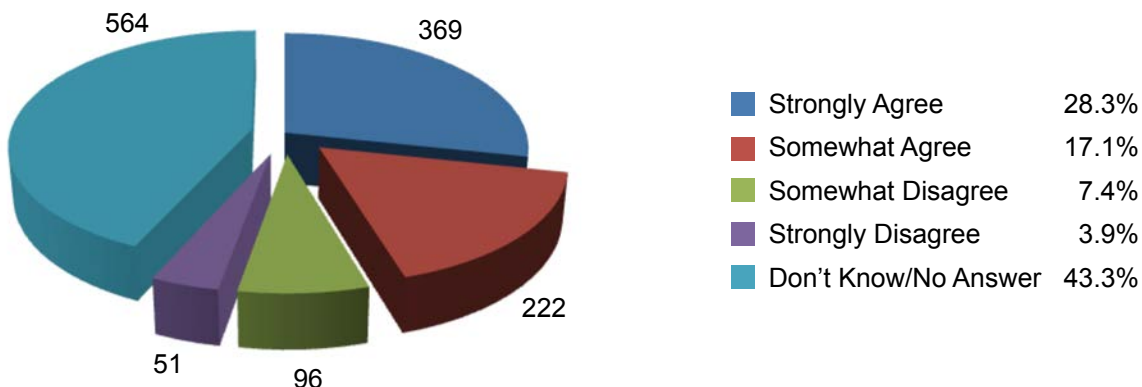


**Respect private property rights by developing a suite of conservation and stewardship tools (e.g. economic and market-based incentives, conservation easements, transferable development credits, mitigation banking and pain access for hunting) that can be voluntarily used by landowners and disposition holders to help sustain biodiversity**

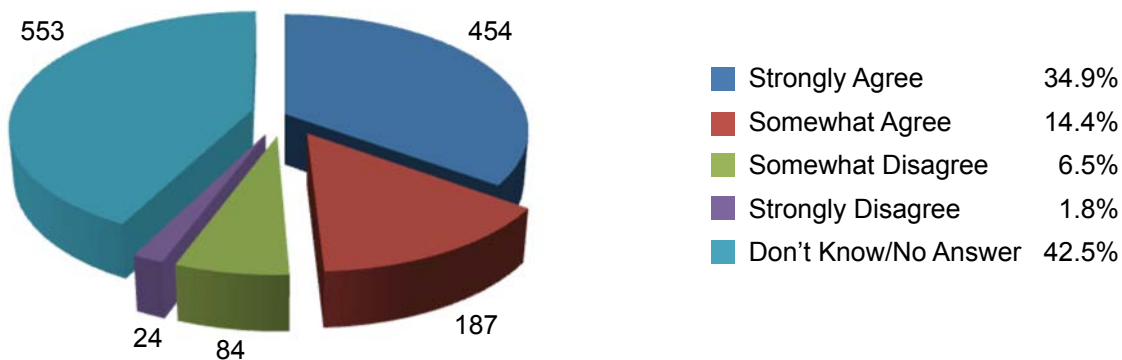




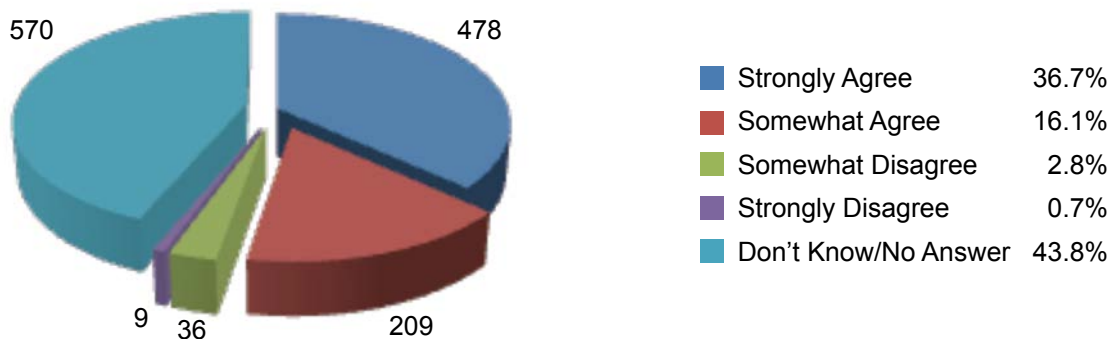
**Identify an integrated network of public and private lands that contribute to conservation of biodiversity (conservation areas). On public lands, establish conservation management areas that represent important natural features, patterns and processes, and habitats**



**Conserve critical habitats for species of concern**

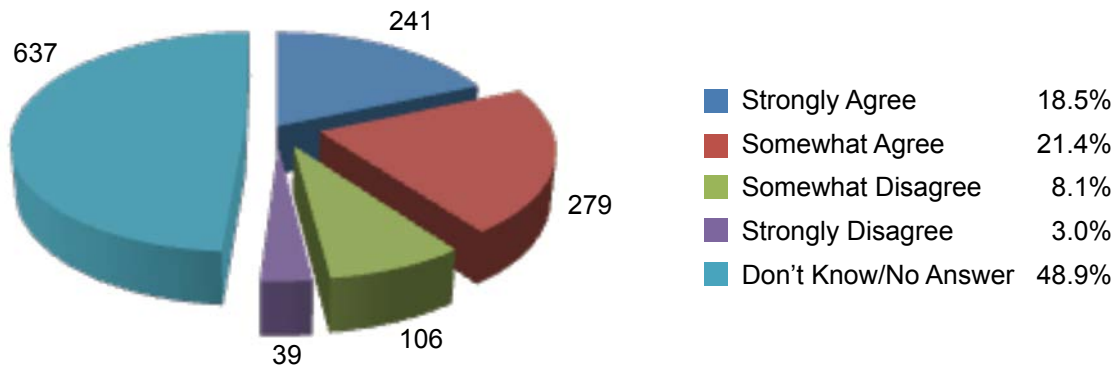


**Develop and promote practices that reduce the spread of invasive non-native species and, where feasible, restore native plant and animal communities**

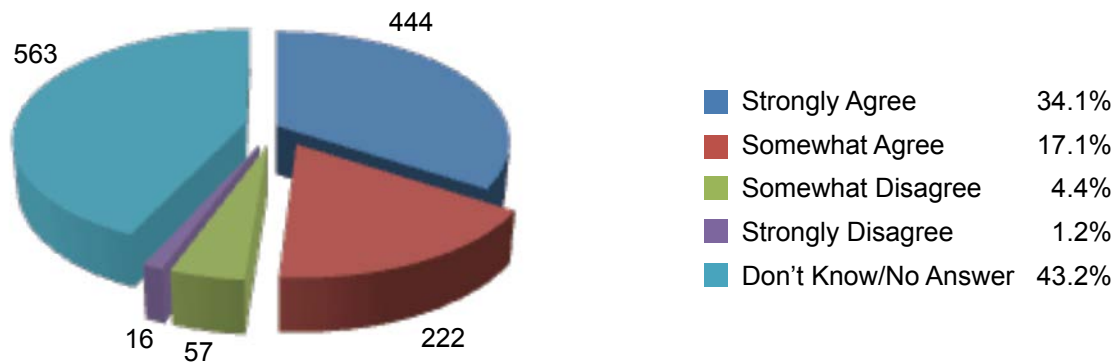




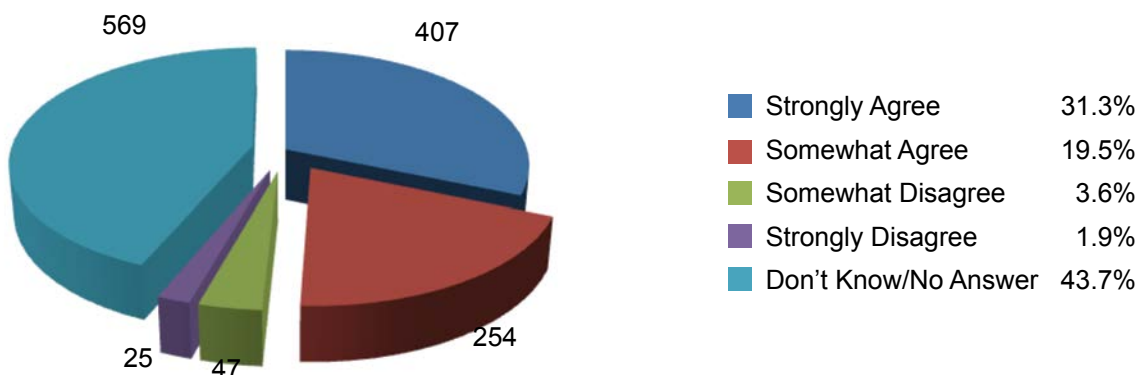
**The Government of Alberta needs to create a new species target database using an integrated management approach**



**Conserve important wetland and riparian areas for their biodiversity, water security features and recreation/tourism values**

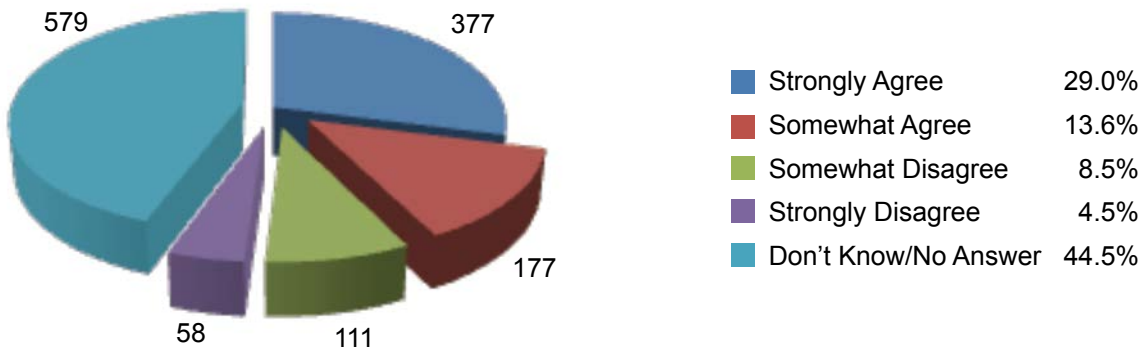


**Where feasible, and in priority order; avoid, minimize or mitigate the conversion of native grasslands on public lands. Promote their restoration through the use of conservation and stewardship tools, incentives and other stewardship approaches**

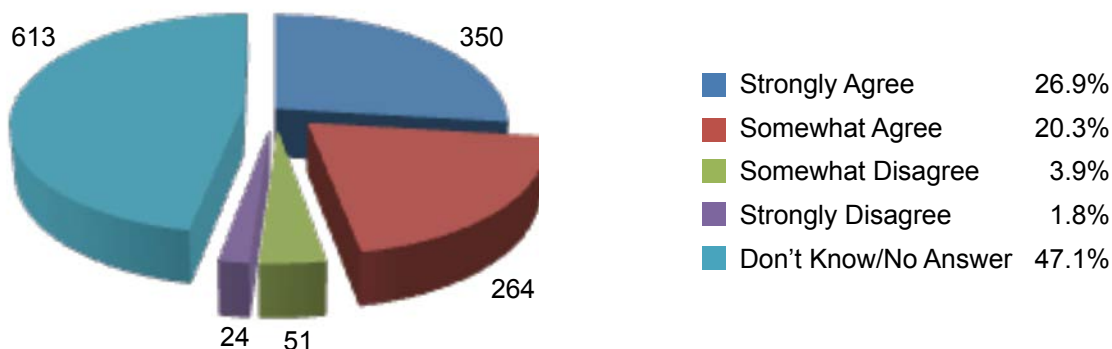




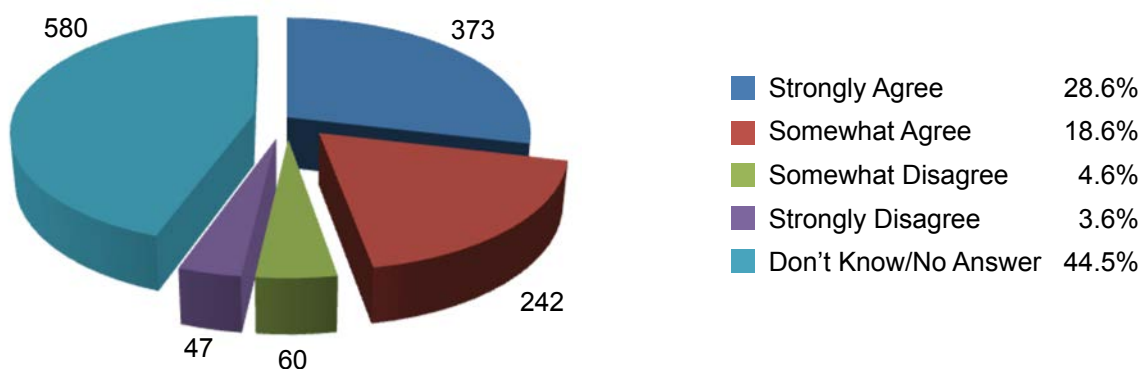
**Establish a network of conservation management areas on public lands that represent all the natural features, patterns and processes of each natural region and capture important natural features and habitats**



**Manage for the natural range of variability of age classes, species composition and spatial patterns of vegetation communities**



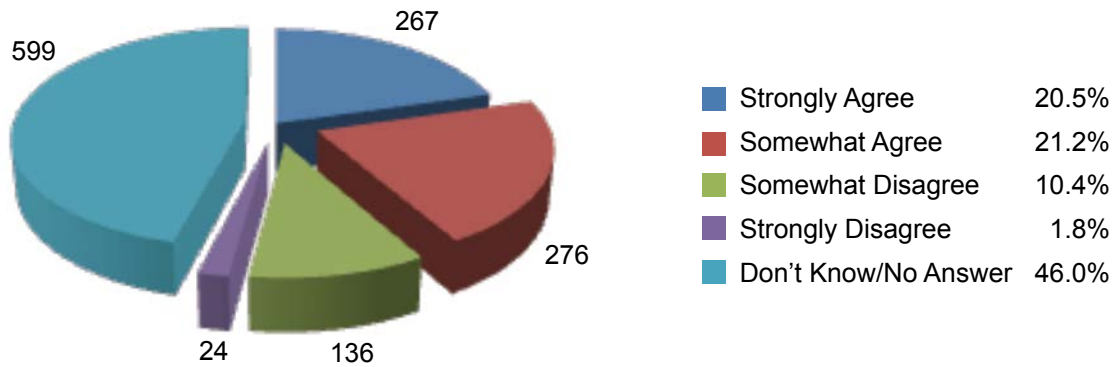
**Natural and managed disturbances (e.g., wildfire, prescribed burns, timber harvesting and grazing) areas used to help manage vegetation, sustain biodiversity, manage risk from uncontrolled wildfire and disease, and to enhance the provision of ecological goods and services**



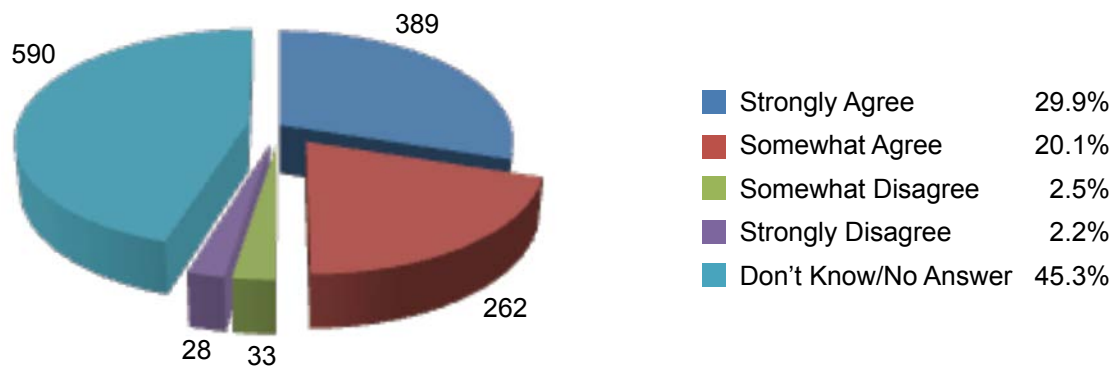




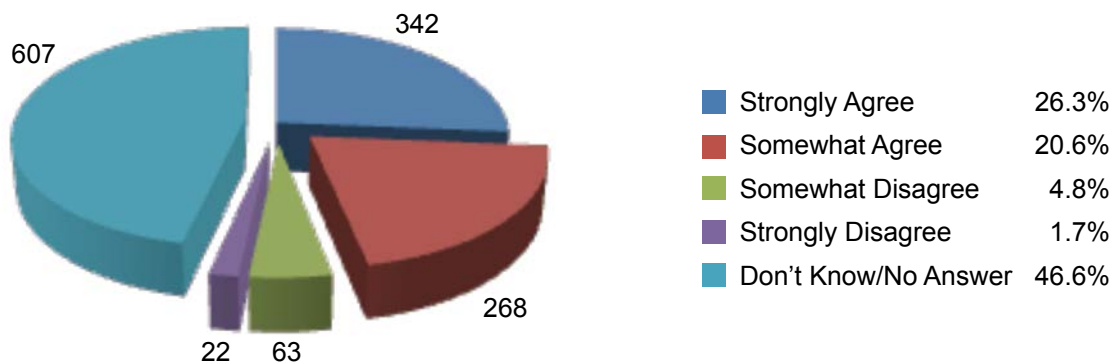
**Native grasslands are conserved by controlling tree and shrub encroachment and surface disturbance**



**The loss of ecosystem health and function from human disturbance, invasive species and contamination is minimized**

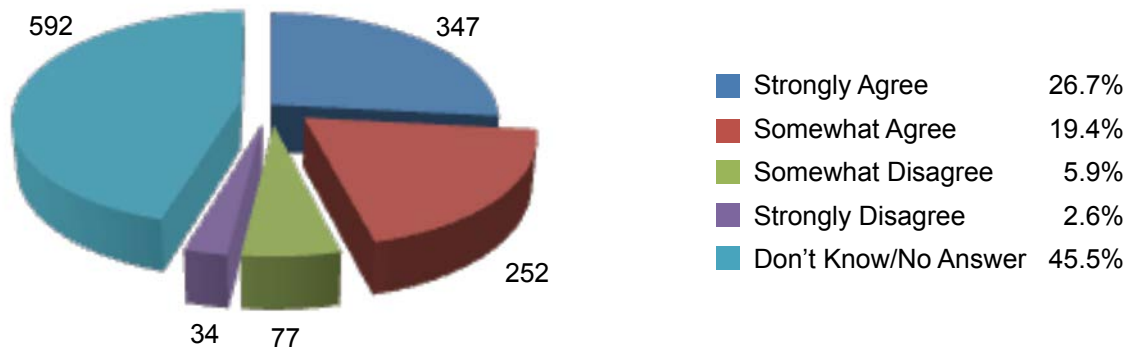


**Science-based targets are established for the retention of native land by landscape type and thresholds for the disturbance/fragmentation of native landscapes**

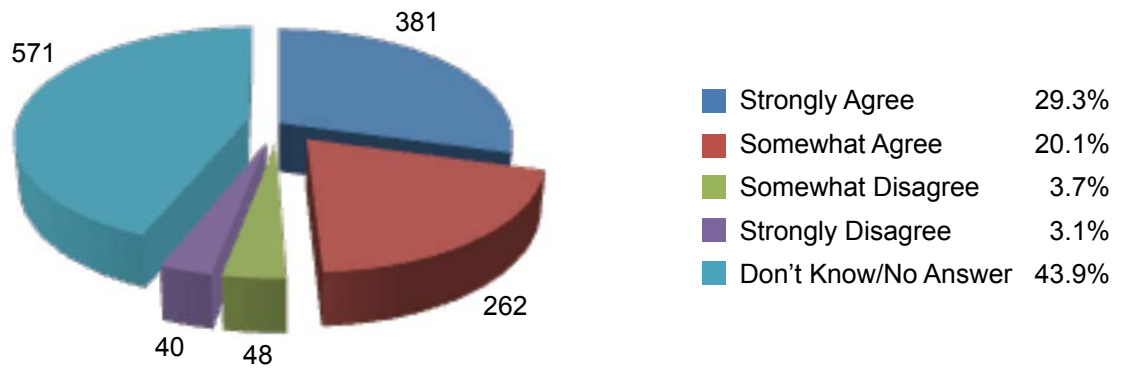




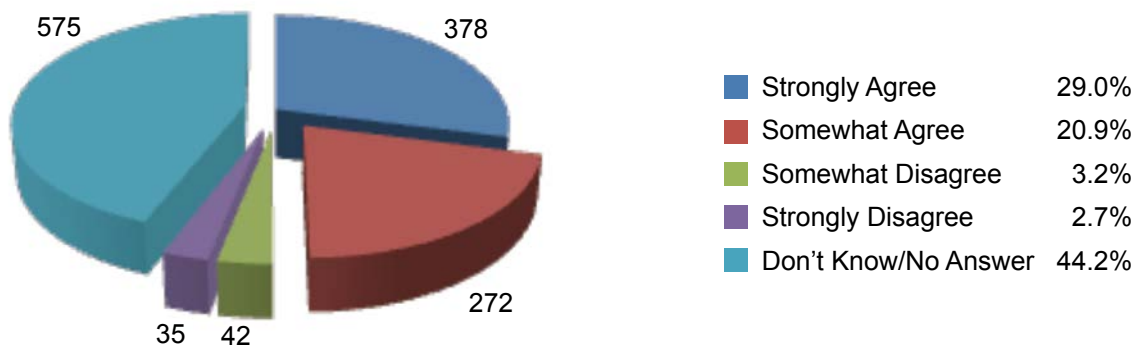
**Landscapes where function, patch size and connectivity have been significantly diminished, and where fragmentation exceeds thresholds under the regional biodiversity framework, are reclaimed and restored where practical**



**Apply an integrated land management approach when planning recreation, tourism, access, forestry, grazing, watershed, etc. to minimize losses of native vegetation**



**Local governments, First Nations, industry, non-government organizations and the public work together to co-ordinate activities and reduce fragmentation caused by roads, access and facilities**





26. Identify your top five priorities (by number) from list above.

The following ranking was determined by assigning five points each time a priority was ranked first; four points for each time it was second; three points for third; two points for fourth and one point for fifth. Total points calculated for each priority are in parenthesis. 688 respondents or 53% of the total completed this section.

No. 1 – Conserve critical habitat for species of concern (1,196 points)

No. 2 – Conserve important wetland and riparian areas for their biodiversity and water security features and recreation and tourism values (1,156 points)

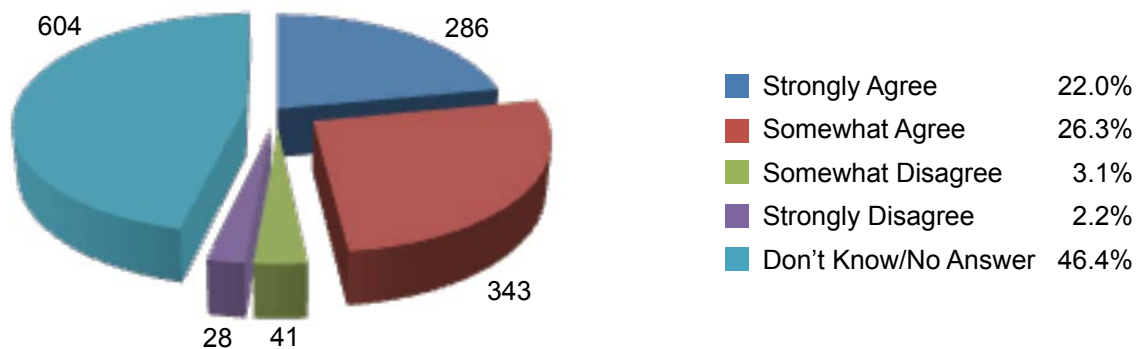
No. 3 – The Government of Alberta should complete the development of a regional biodiversity management framework (1,056 points)

No. 4 – Apply an integrated land management approach when planning recreation, tourism, access, forestry, grazing, watershed, to minimize the loss of native vegetation (765 points)

No. 5 – Identify an integrated network of public and private lands that contribute to conservation of biodiversity (conservation areas). On public lands, establish conservation management areas that represent important natural features, patterns and processes, and habitats.

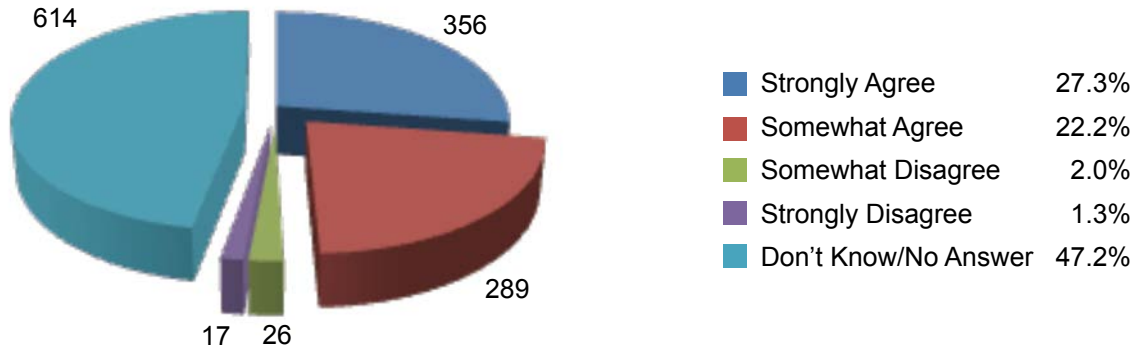
27. The RAC recommended a suite of actions on best management practices for reducing human footprint. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

**Expand stakeholder engagement across all sectors regarding the effectiveness of current land-use practices and the development of new best management practices**

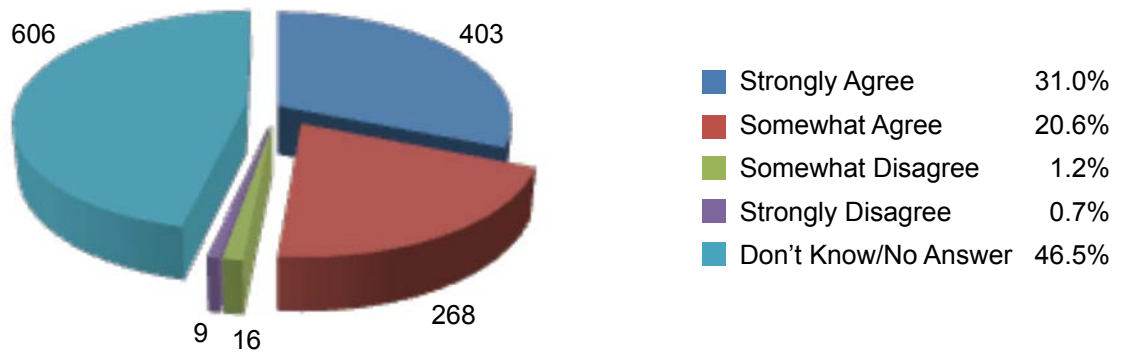




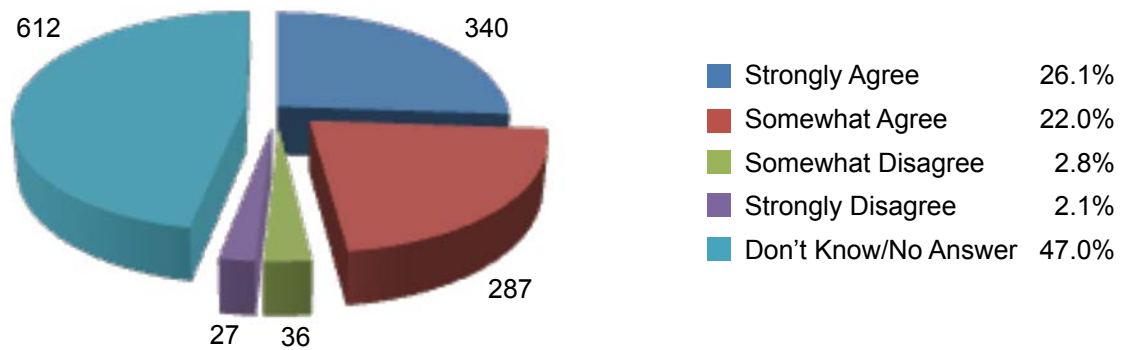
**Gather information on best management practices and, where gaps in knowledge exist, promote the development of leading-edge best management practices**



**Inform users about existing and emerging best management practices**

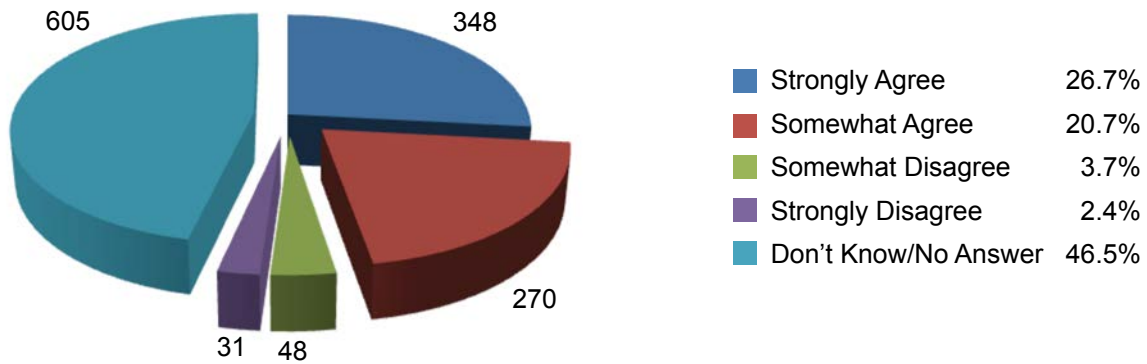


**Require co-operative integrated land management planning practices**

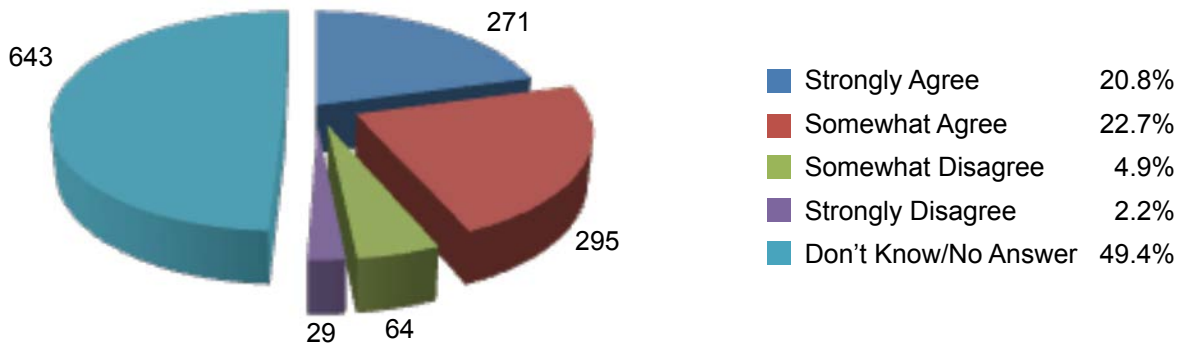




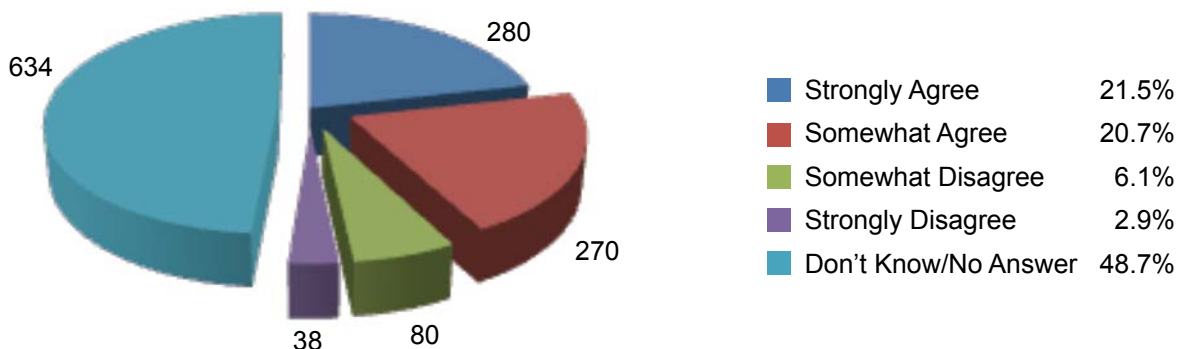
**Actively manage existing and future human disturbances. Work with local governments, First Nations, industry and other stakeholders to: Co-ordinate activities and reduce fragmentation caused by roads and other linear disturbances**



**Actively manage existing future human disturbances. Work with local governments, First Nations, industry and other stakeholders to: Aggregate land uses where feasible**

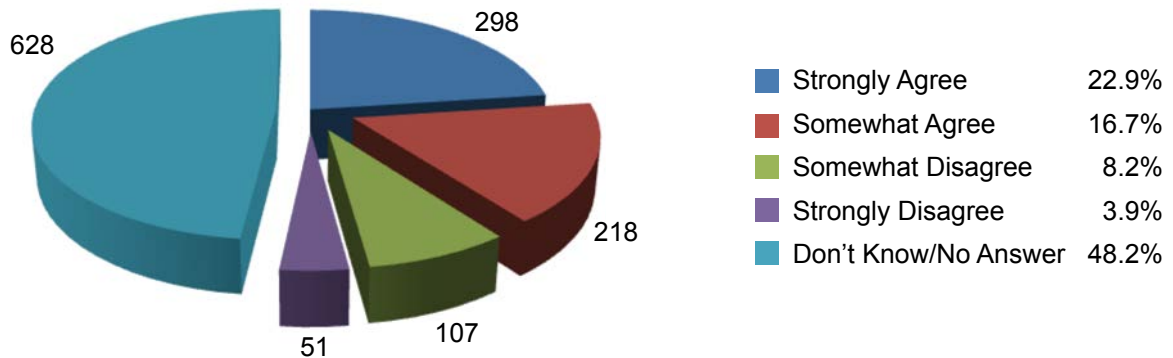


**Apply rigorous inventory practices, monitoring and assessments to gauge progress with the direction provided in the SSRP**





**Minimize impacts to land in specified localities surrounding designated/candidate historical sites to protect associated cultural features that contribute to the heritage value of those sites, including their view sheds, through best management practices**



28. Please share any additional comments regarding the RAC's advice on biodiversity.

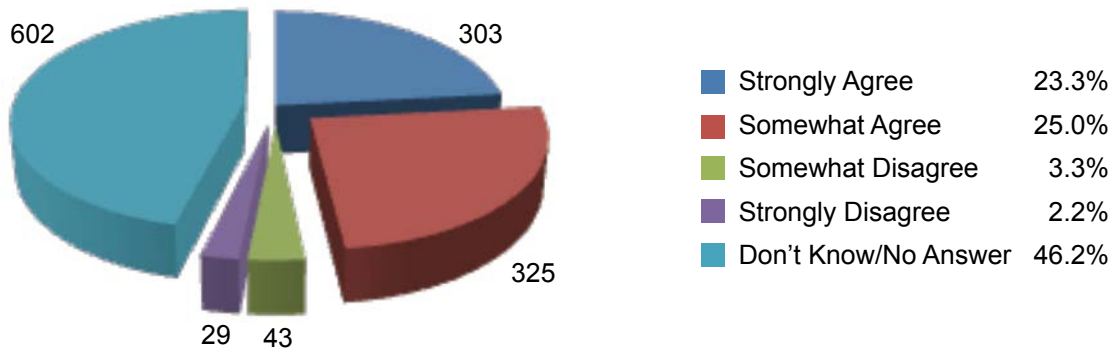
386 responses or 30 per cent of the total provided additional comments:

- Disagree with paid hunting access
- Need a policy of sustainable management and best management practices
- RAC advice is too vague and open to interpretation
- Wetlands and grasslands need to be preserved, protected and not just managed
- Biodiversity needs to be the priority along with a focus on endangered species
- Conservation will only happen through government leadership and regulation
- More consultation with all stakeholders on the plan and integrated planning are required
- Advice on biodiversity is good but incomplete, it needs specific targets and needs to be implemented
- Ecosystems should be allowed to change over time
- Provide more educational in schools about biodiversity; public education is a good venue to share information
- Incentives should be used to reward good management

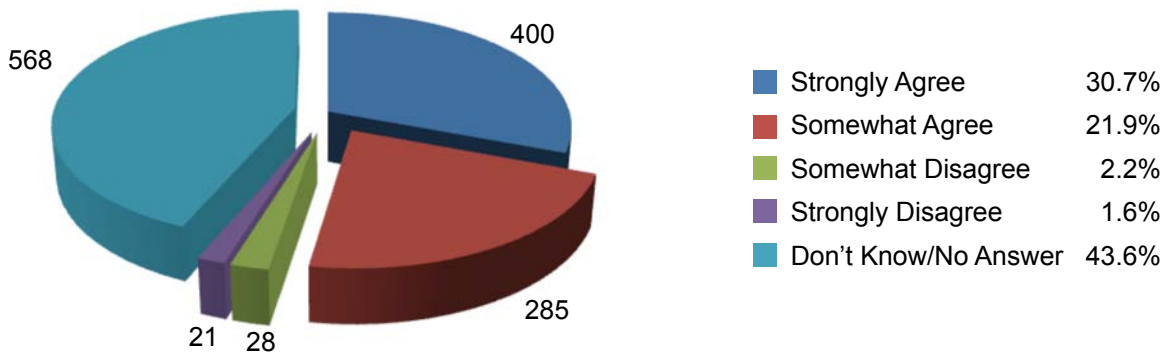


29. The RAC recommended the following actions to support air quality. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

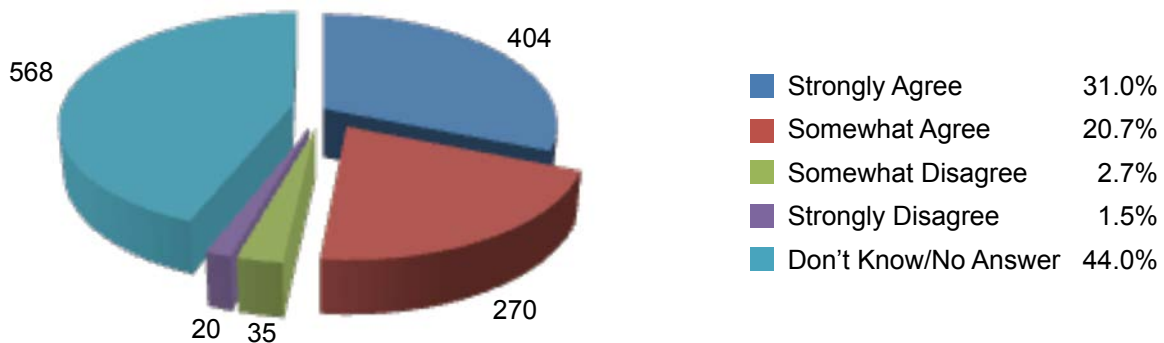
**Develop an air quality framework for airshed zones in the region**



**Monitor air quality**



**Where monitoring shows it is necessary, establish air management plans**





30. Please share any additional comments regarding the RAC's recommendations to improving air quality.

173 responses or 13 per cent of respondents provided additional comments:

- Need to address and regulate pollution from industries and other development
- Need to develop an air management plan, clarify the plan and look ahead.
- Air quality in southern Alberta is poor and is a concern
- Plan needs to address pollution from agriculture, specifically from feedlots
- Need stricter regulations for cities, especially Calgary
- Use the current airshed model, already have airsheds and plans to go along with it.
- Plan needs to recognize health effects from poor air quality.

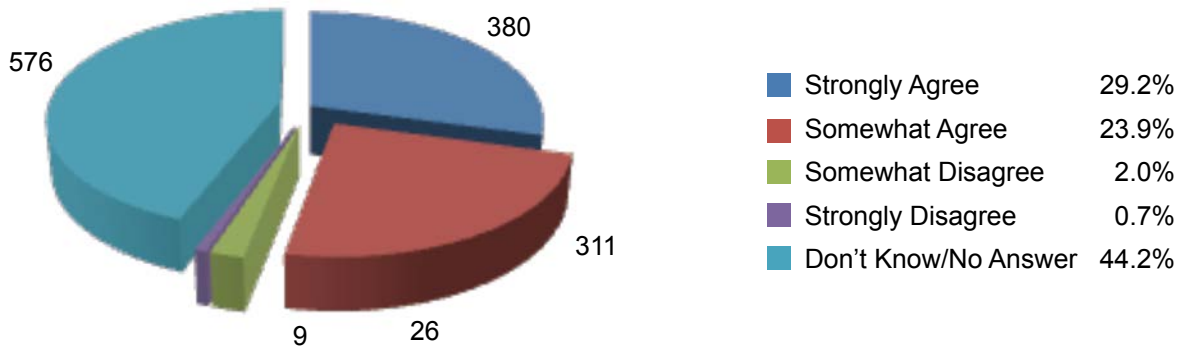




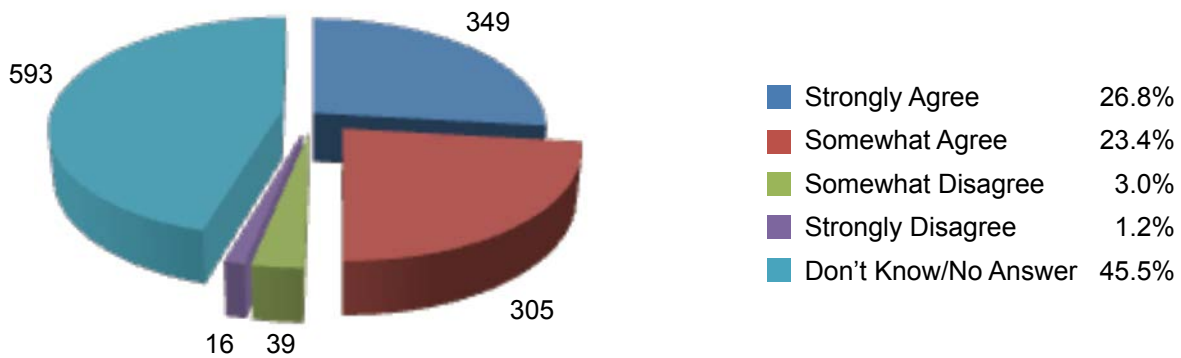
## Section 4: Healthy Communities

31. The RAC recommended a suite of actions to healthy communities. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

### Raise awareness of the best practices, concepts and tools available for land-use planning and assist communities to apply them

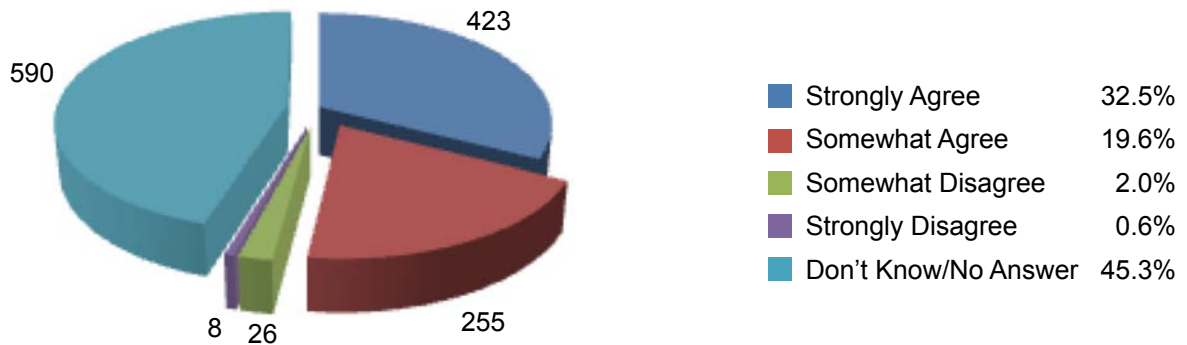


### Develop a more collaborative mechanism for communities to partner with the public and private sectors to meet social needs

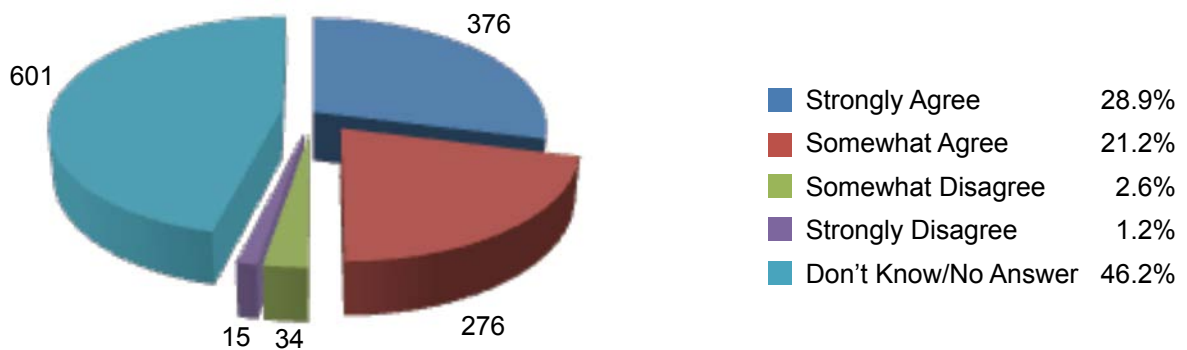




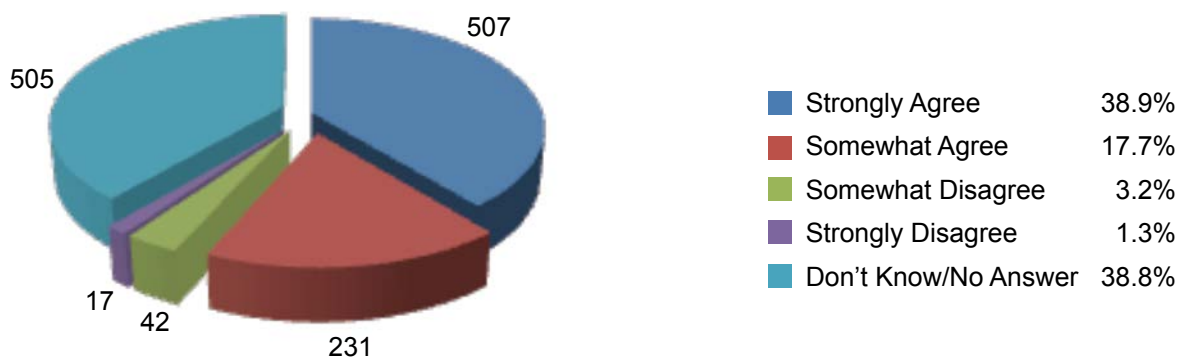
### Promote collaboration and co-operation among municipalities to accommodate future populations



### Forecast and plan for the development needs and implementation programs and services that meet these needs

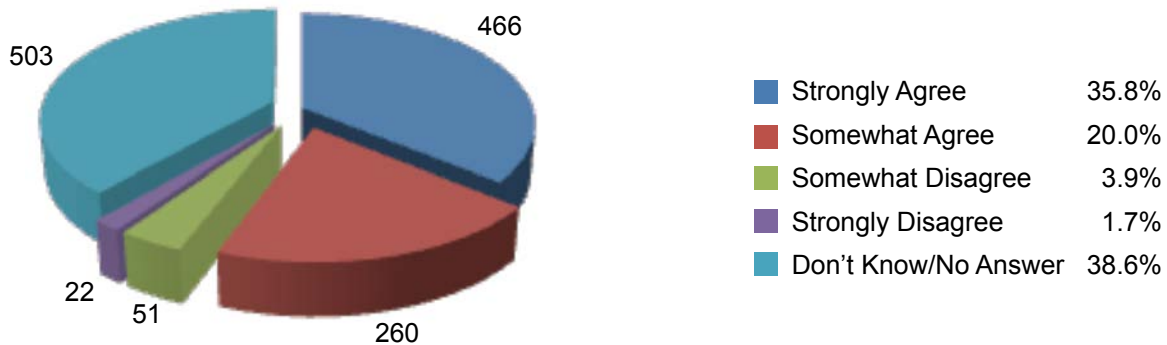


### Provide accessible and affordable recreation facilities, parks and open spaces





**Local government and land managers explore partnership opportunities to revitalize, develop and enhance parks, open spaces and recreation within and in close proximity to municipalities**



32. Please share any additional comments regarding the RAC's advice on healthy communities.

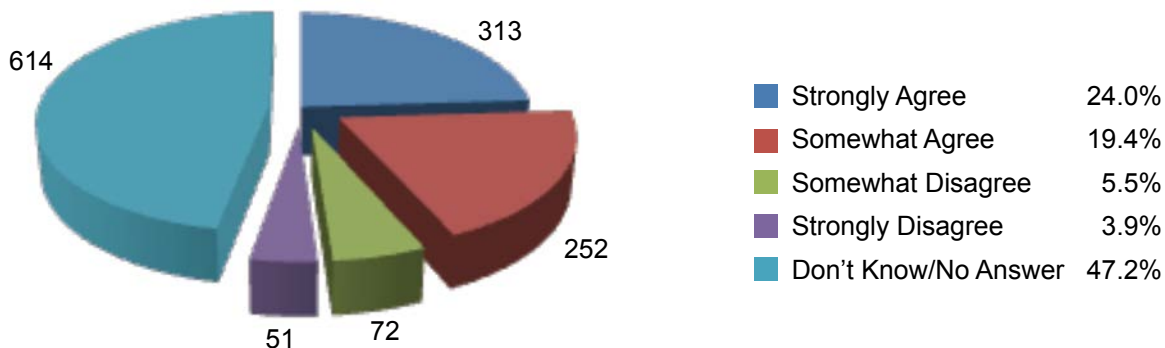
375 respondents or 29 per cent provided additional comments:

- Not all recreation is compatible with conservation; focus on low impact
- Regional cooperation needs to be emphasized
- Need to reduce country residential developments, increase density and consider growth limits
- Plan is too generic, lacks direct practices and needs to define healthy community
- Do not limit access to outdoor recreation areas, rather provide affordable access
- Government should promote outdoor activities
- Decisions about healthy communities should be left to municipalities
- Safe recreation should be emphasized
- Need to enhance and expand parks and retain current parks.

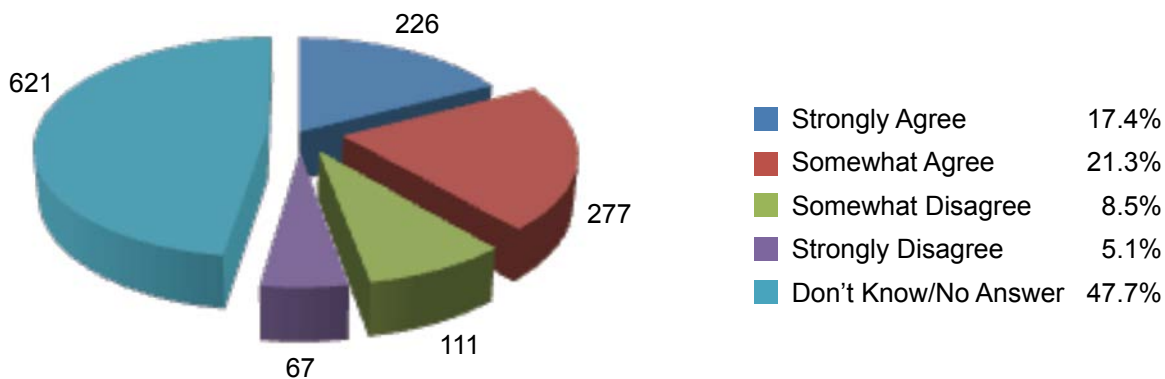


33. The RAC recommended a suite of actions regarding aboriginal peoples and First Nations communities. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

**Identify barriers to aboriginal peoples' inclusion into the economy and work with aboriginal peoples and organizations to develop strategies to ensure greater inclusion into the provincial economy**

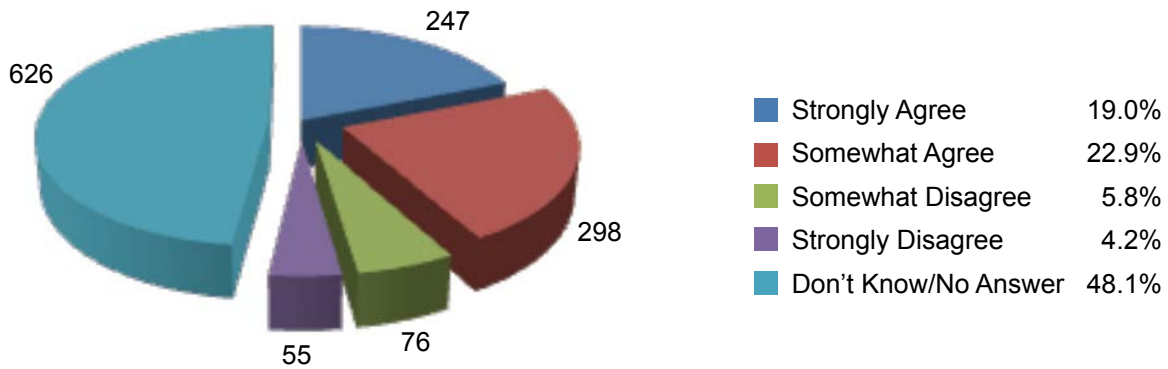


**Work with aboriginal peoples and government to develop formal roles and responsibilities for aboriginal peoples in land-use planning and environmental assessment and monitoring**

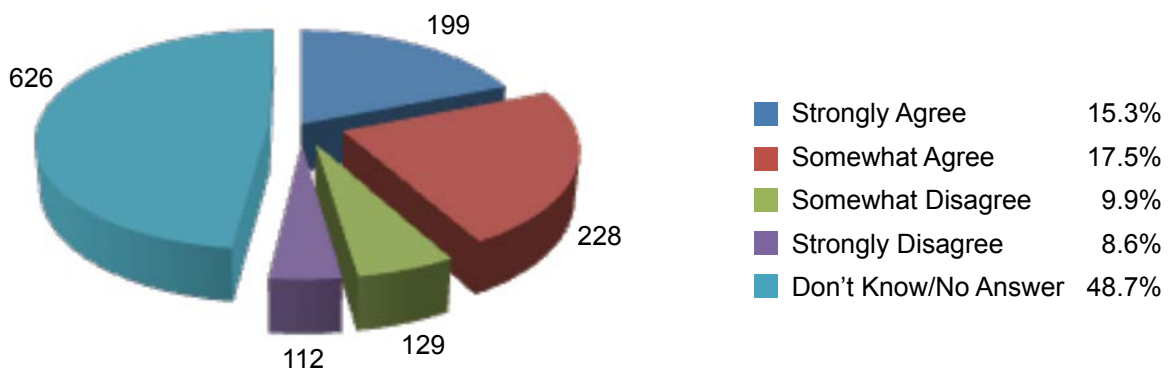




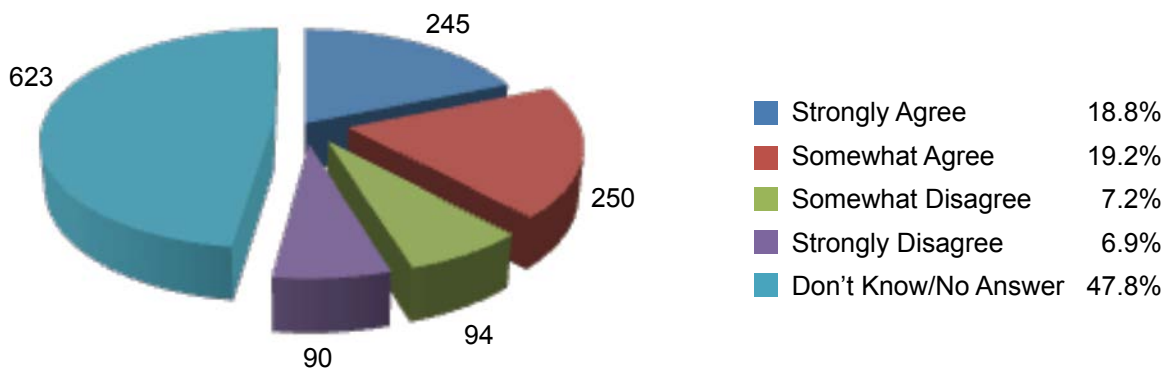
**Work with aboriginal peoples and governments to co-ordinate planning processes and to improve the quality of information used to make planning decisions**



**Consider the special/unique circumstances of aboriginal peoples and governments in planning funding allocations for physical and social infrastructure**

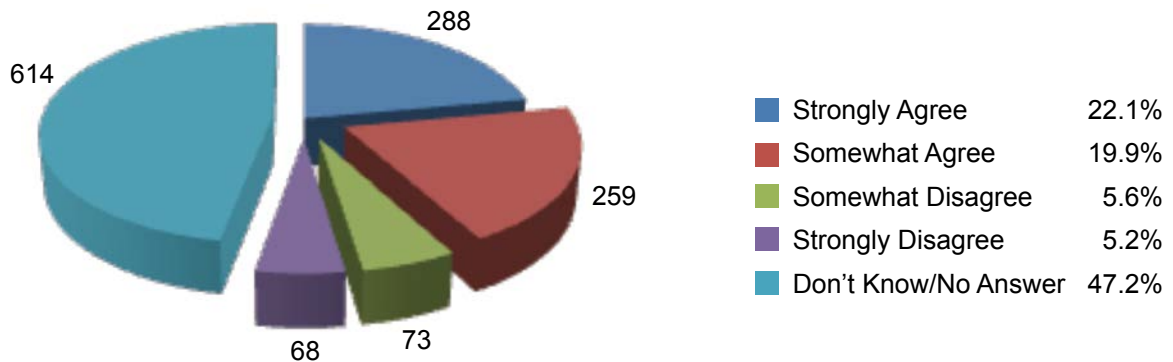


**Assess the state of knowledge of fish and wildlife resources and effectively manage allocations that affect aboriginal peoples' rights and interests**





### Encourage aboriginal peoples to share traditional land-use knowledge for the purposes of land management and planning



34. Please share any additional comments regarding the RAC's advice on aboriginal peoples and First Nations communities.

225 respondents or 17 per cent of the total provided additional comments:

#### Need meaningful consultation with aboriginal peoples

- Aboriginal peoples get preferred status; they should be treated the same as all Albertan
- Implementation of proposals is outside of the province's jurisdiction and is instead a federal matter
- Plan may be hard to implement because traditional knowledge is dying off
- Plan needs to be clarified and should include more information
- Support expanding aboriginal participation in the economy and the workforce

#### Aboriginals need to show initiative, to be engaged and to share knowledge

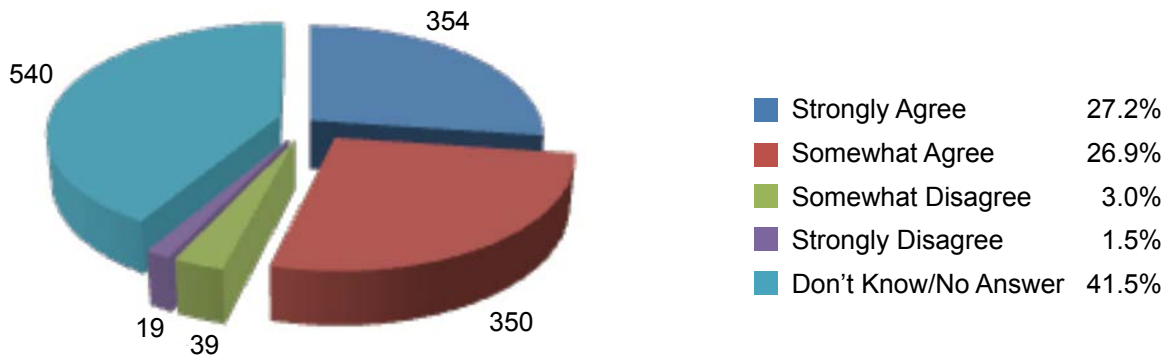
- Must implement plan that is already overdue
- We must listen to aboriginal peoples with respect, integrity and objectivity



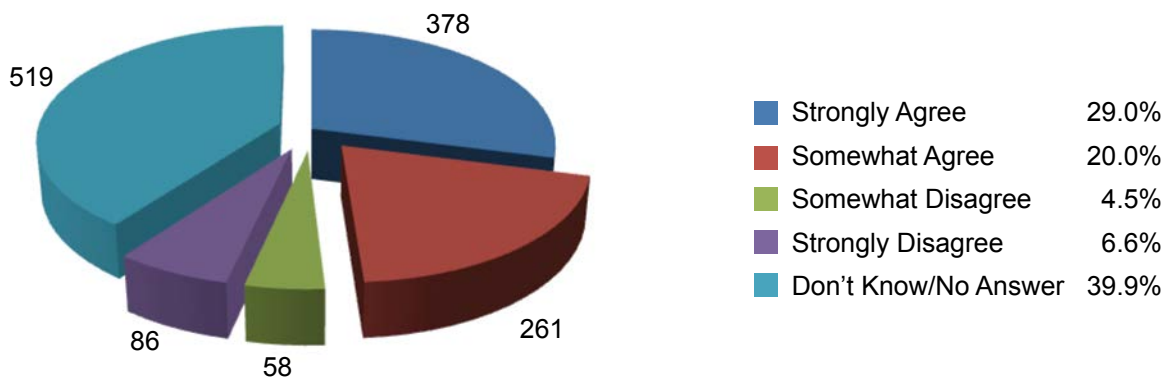


35. The RAC recommended a suite of actions regarding high value recreation and tourism areas and managing recreation on public lands. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

**Develop a better understanding of recreation and tourism preferences and the region's supply of recreation and tourism features and opportunities**

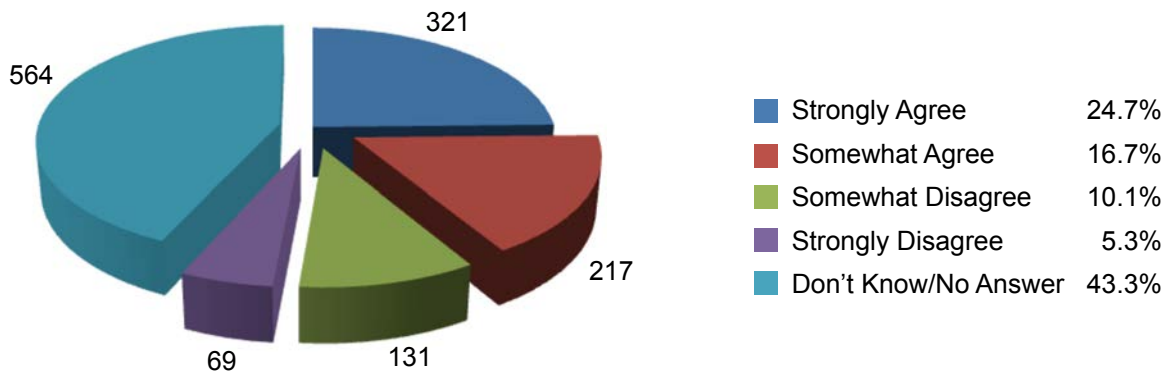


**Identify and maintain suitable lands for recreation and tourism. Establish policies (management intents) for these areas which identify appropriate recreation and tourism activities and facilities, as well as the requirements for mitigating or eliminating conflicts associated with other land-use activities**

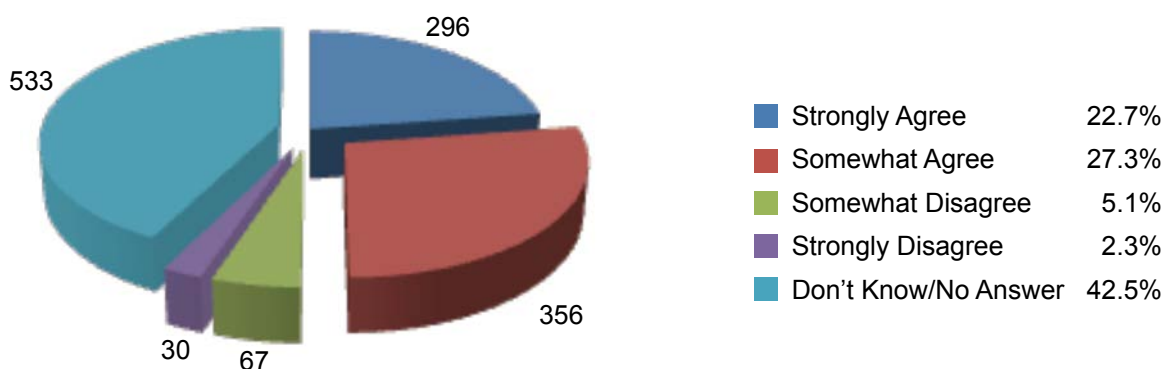




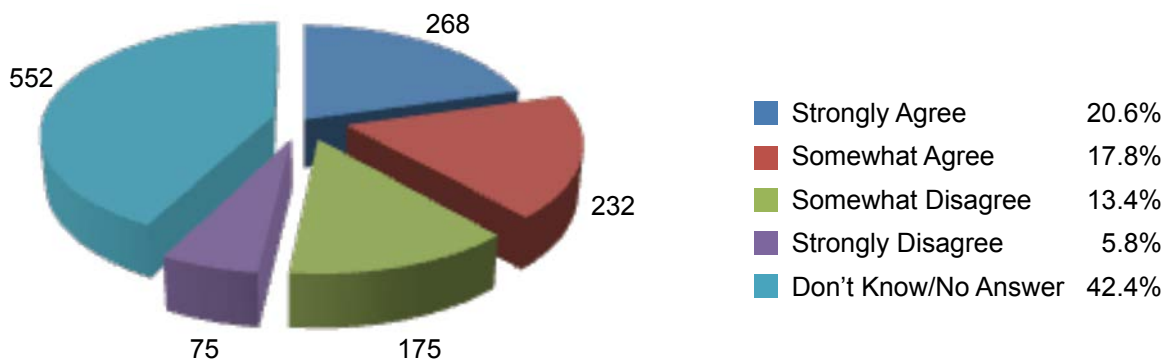
**Where appropriate, recreation and tourism opportunities should be retained in areas outside of lands designated for recreation tourism - develop an integrated access management plan for the entire Eastern Slopes**



**Enhance education and outreach programs and information about the region's recreation opportunities**

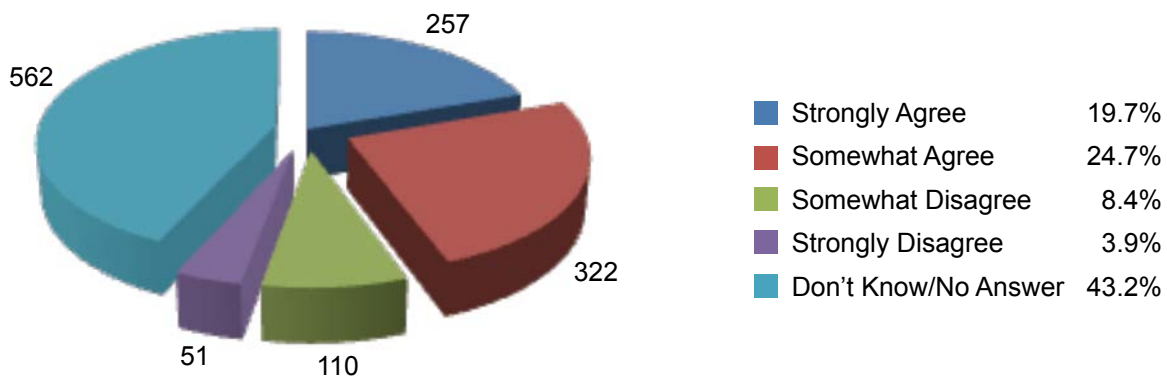


**Develop an all-season land-and water-based regional trail system that links communities, neighbourhoods and destinations with the region's parks and other recreation and tourism areas**

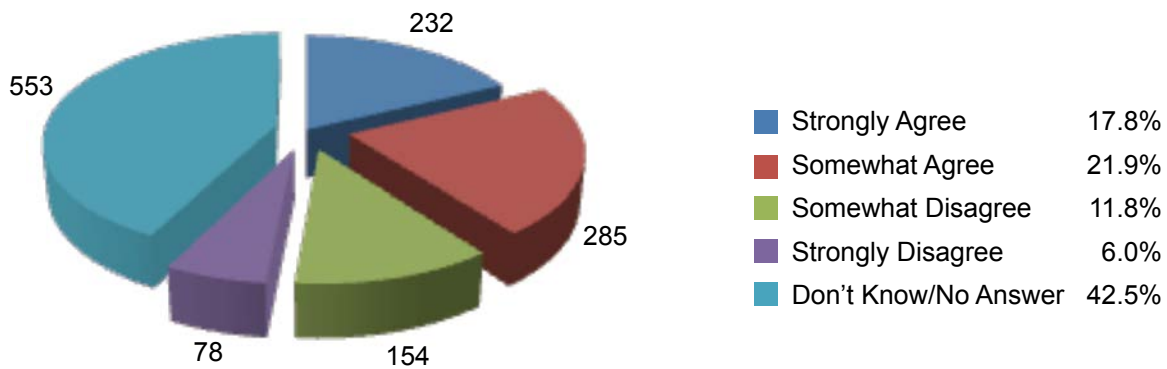




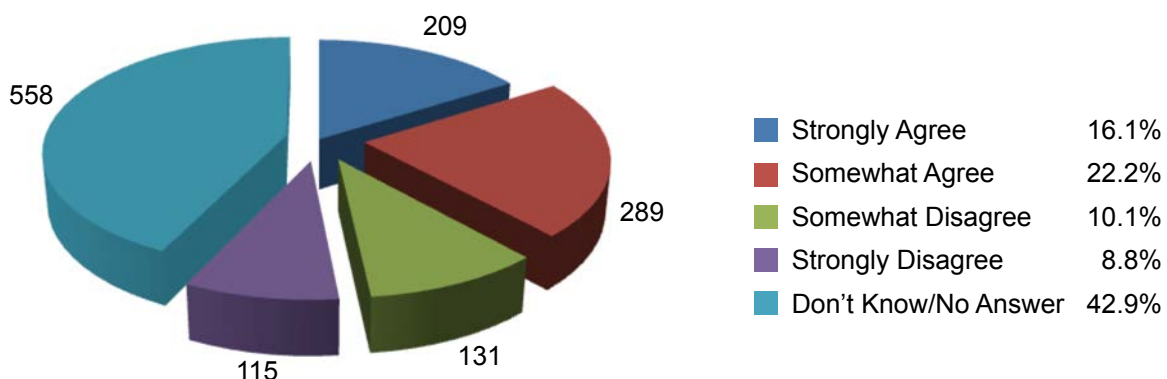
**Develop and deliver recreation opportunities through public, private and recreation community partnerships**



**Create a supportive and enabling policy environment that encourages the recreation community and private sector to develop and deliver recreation opportunities on public and private lands**

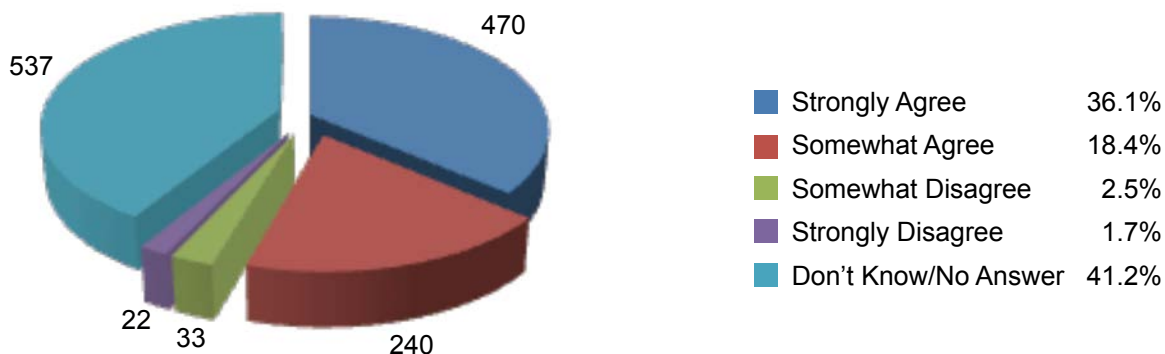


**Develop and implement a user-pay system(s) to assist with funding the development and management of necessary recreation planning, management and infrastructure. Explore market mechanisms and ecological goods and services with users and benefiting user groups**

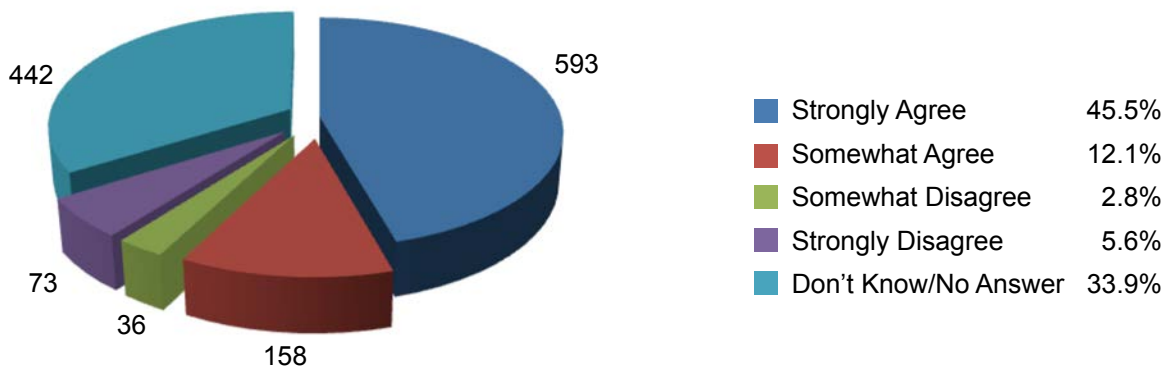




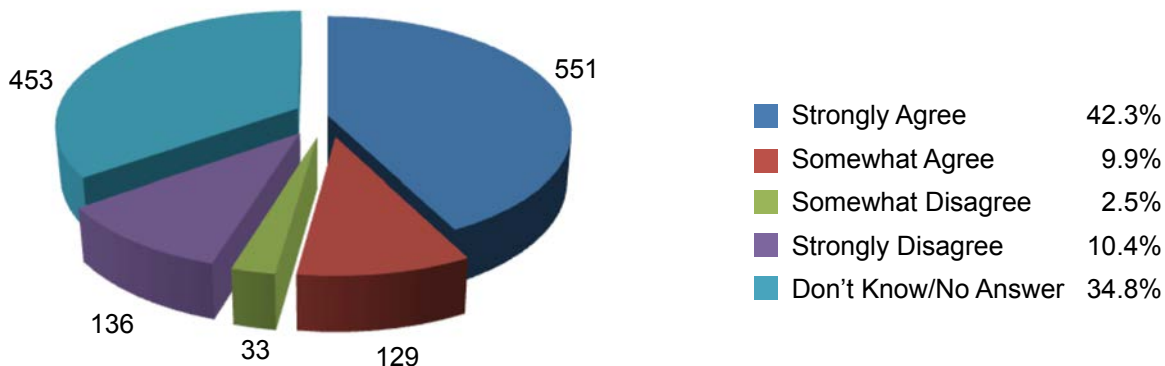
**Enhance and ensure timely, fairly and firm enforcement of rules and regulations for recreating on public lands**



**Unmanaged recreation activities that do not demonstrate stewardship and respect for the natural environment, other values and land uses should not be permitted on public lands. Motorized recreation, including rallies and races, should not be permitted on public lands unless authorized on designated trails, routes and areas**

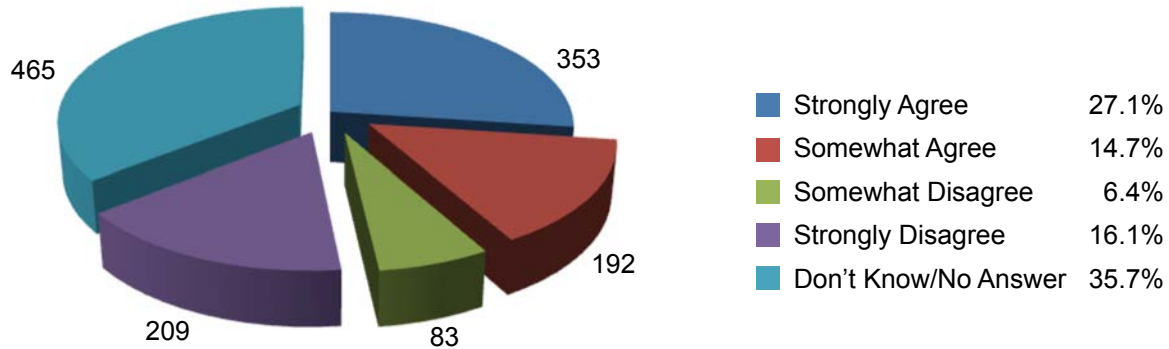


**Unmanaged recreation activities that do not demonstrate stewardship and respect for the natural environment, other values and land uses should not be permitted on public lands. Motorized activities should not be permitted in riparian areas or wetlands, and mud bogging should be prohibited on public lands**





**Unmanaged recreation activities that do not demonstrate stewardship and respect for the natural environment, other values and land uses should not be permitted on public lands. Unmanaged camping should not be permitted on public lands unless authorized in designated areas**



36. Please share any additional comments regarding the RAC's advice on high value recreation and tourism areas and managing recreation on public lands.

530 or 41 per cent of total respondents provided additional comments:

- Regulate unmanaged areas and random camping
- Need access management plans for Eastern Slopes
- Restrict motorized access and off-highway vehicle usage
- Enforcement of recreation needs to be strict and properly funded
- Continue to allow backcountry camping on public land; it is important and appreciated

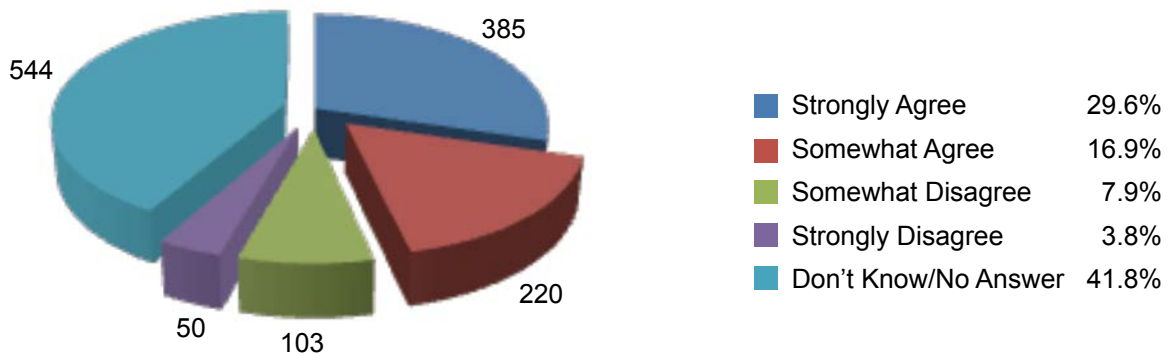
Develop more recreation opportunities and create more parks

- Increase and enhance education about minimal impact recreation
- Motorized recreation is valuable and popular and should not be restricted because of a few irresponsible people
- Ensure some free access and oppose user pay
- Recreation on public lands has been managed poorly
- Only ban recreation that causes damage

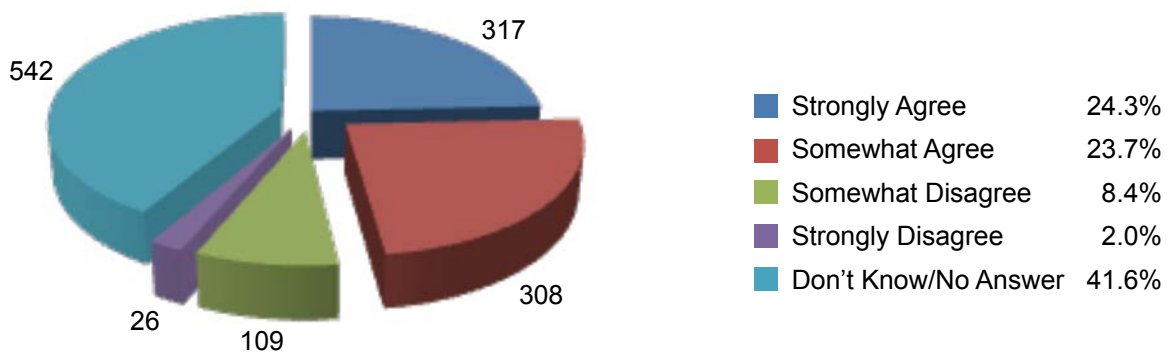


37. The RAC recommended a suite of actions regarding maintaining the integrity of high value recreation and tourism areas and infrastructure enhancements. How strongly do you agree with each proposal?

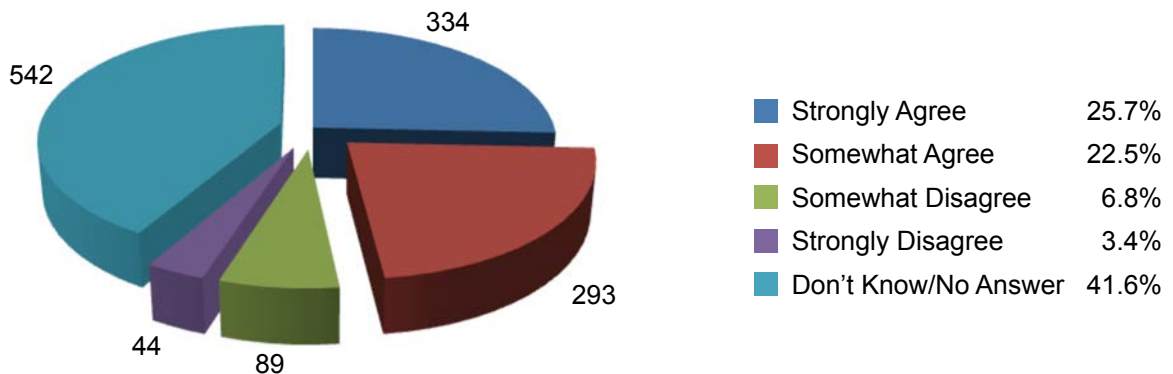
**Enhance the regional network of provincial and municipal parks and open spaces**



**Maintain and enhance public access to recreation water bodies**



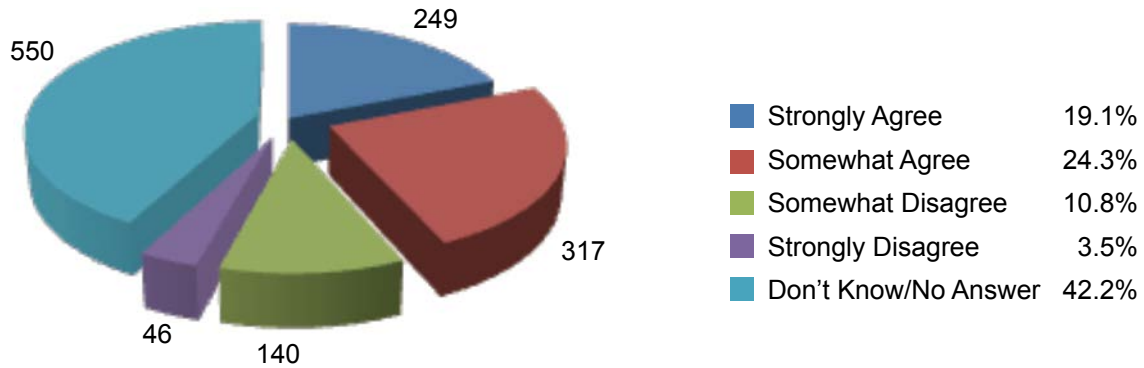
**Encourage and enhance appropriate public access to scenic areas, corridors, viewpoints and attractive landscape while minimizing and mitigating, where possible, the impacts on wildlife habitat and mitigation routes**



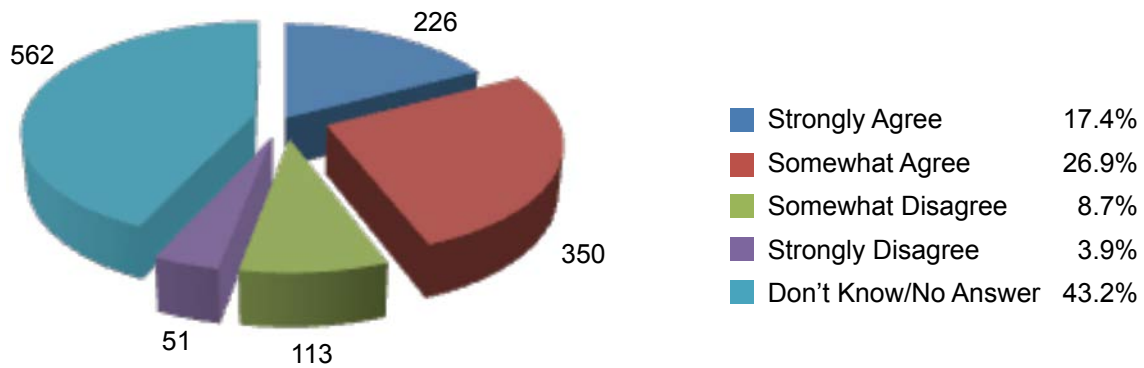




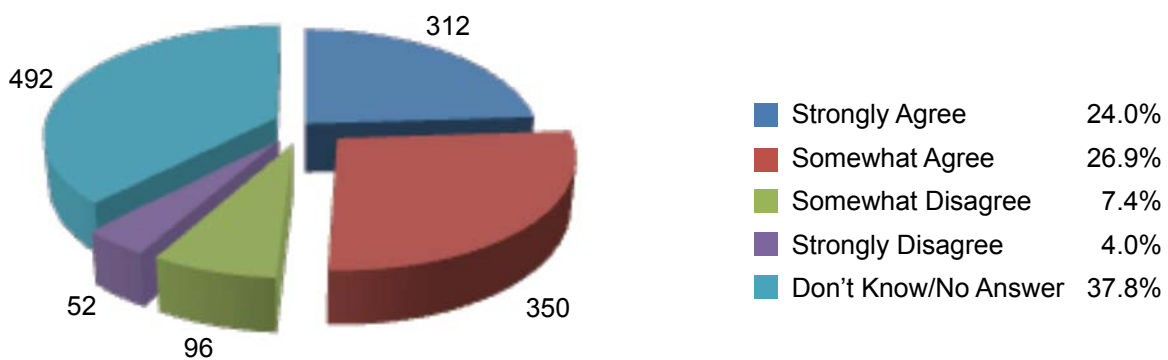
**Enhance recreation and tourism infrastructure to meet growing and changing demands**



**Expand the capacity and services at existing recreation and tourism destinations**



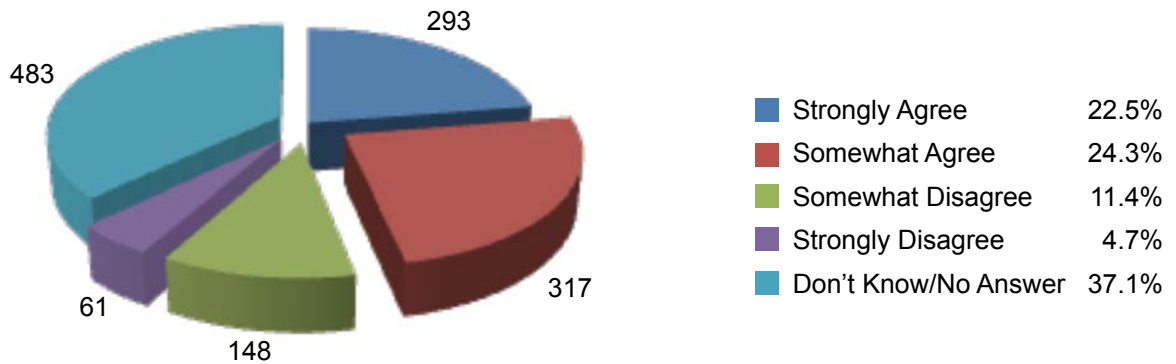
**Seek opportunities through partnerships to enhance existing infrastructure (e.g., roads, sewer and water) in current parks and recreation attractions**



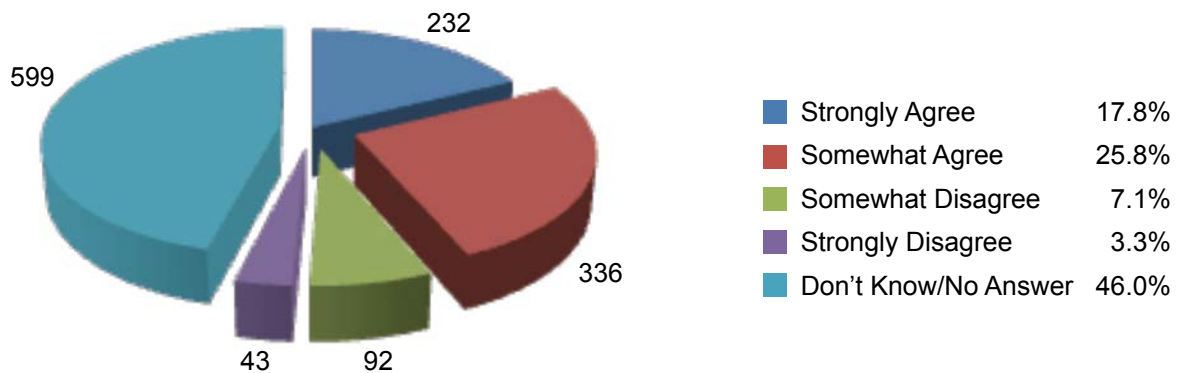




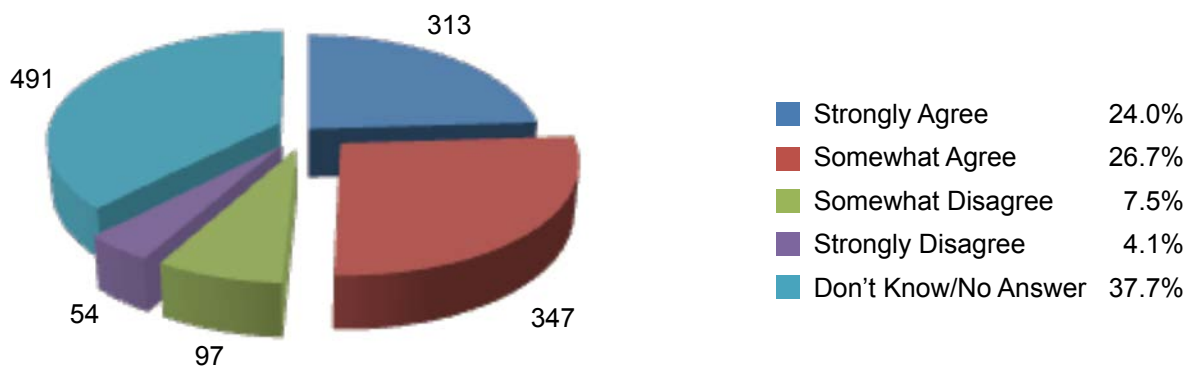
**Implement strategies to promote visitation to under-utilized recreation and tourism infrastructure**



**Promote and encourage the provision of accessible and inclusive recreation and infrastructure opportunities**

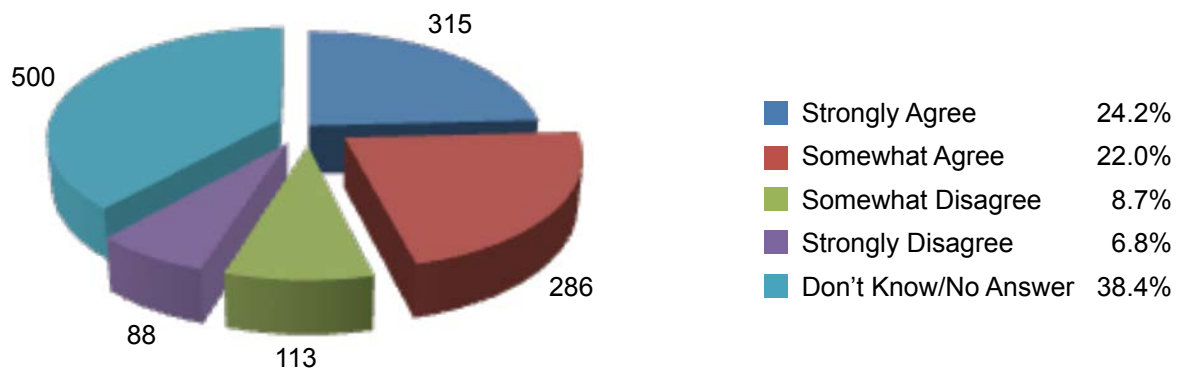


**Work with the private, not for profit and public sectors to expand the supply and diversity of the recreation opportunities and tourism products where they are currently lacking**





### Develop new services and un-serviced designated camping opportunities in the Eastern Slopes and eastern areas of the region



38. Please share any additional comments regarding the RAC's advice on maintaining the integrity of high value recreation and tourism areas and infrastructure enhancement.

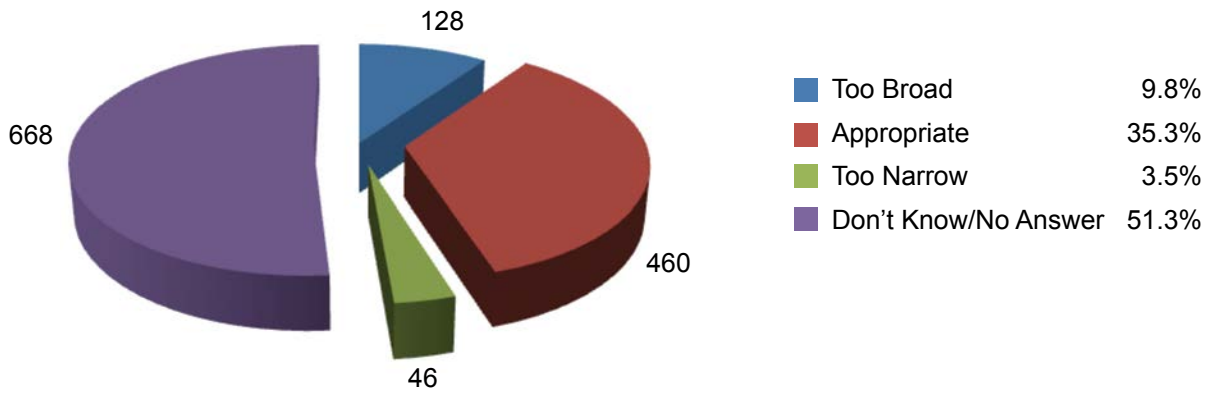
430 or 33 per cent of the total respondents provided additional comments:

- Do not limit camping to designated areas; allow random camping
- Need to create and maintain proper motorized vehicle trail infrastructure
- Expand opportunities at existing areas and promote existing locations before building new ones
- Should not overdevelop areas but keep areas natural
- No more development, especially if it does harm to ecological system
- Need more education and enforcement of rules in recreation and tourism areas
- Should be a government service – not in favour of more privatization.
- Restrict in over-used areas like the Eastern Slopes
- Restrict use and monitor activities in existing areas
- Stewardship needs to come before any expansion of recreation and tourism

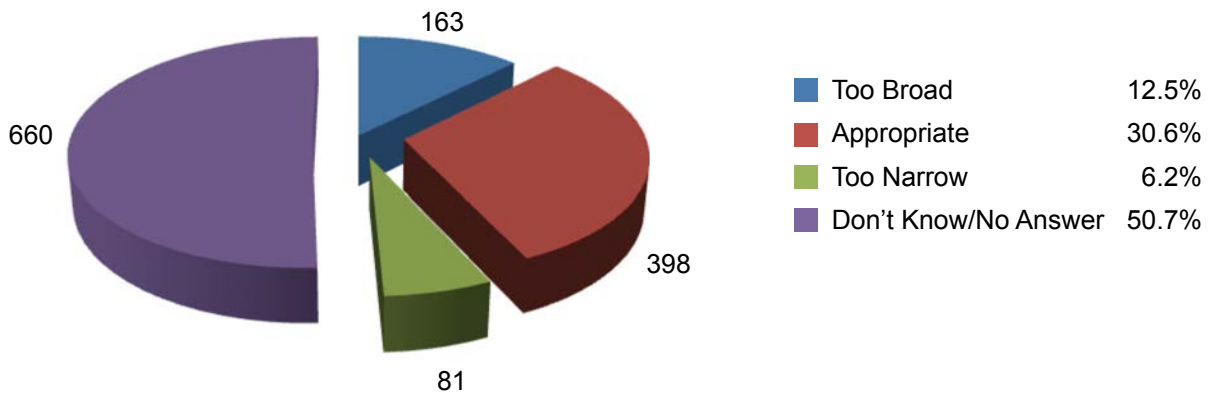


39. How appropriate are the management intents for each land-use classification?

**Cultivated lands**



**Native rangeland - public**

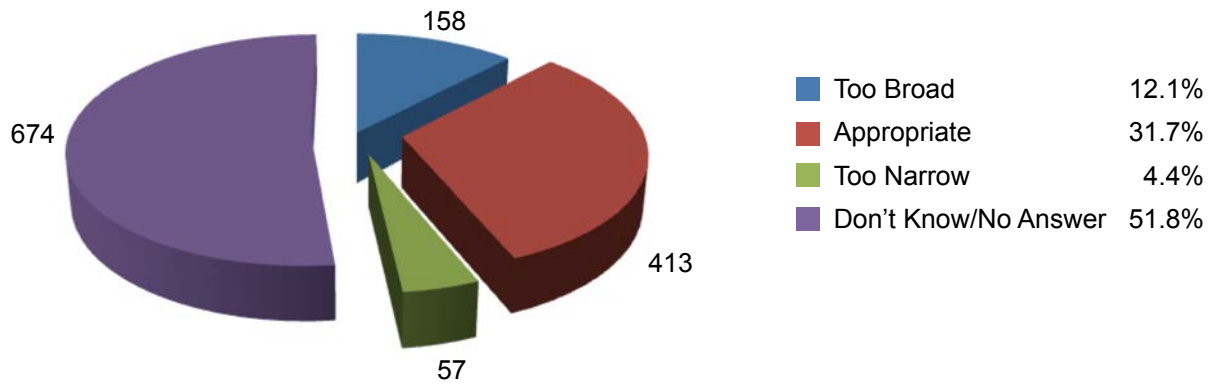




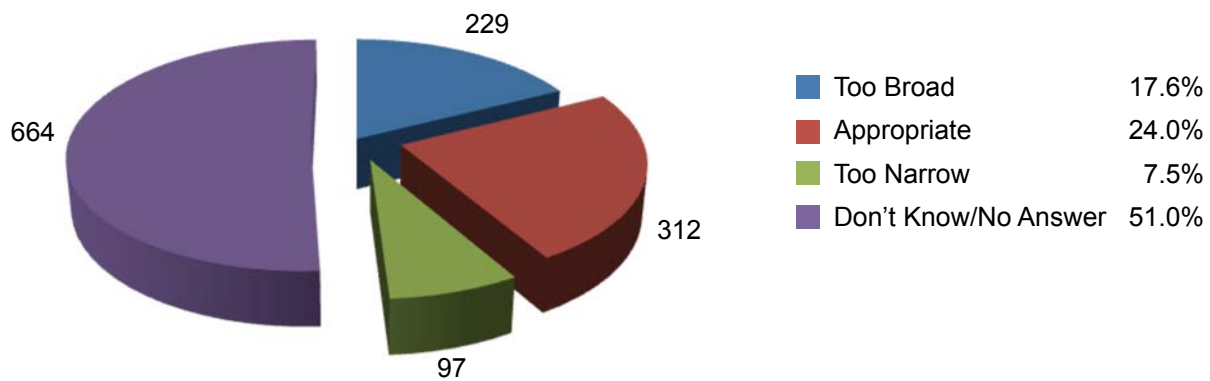
## Section 5: Land-use Direction and Management Intent

39. How appropriate are the management intents for each land-use classification?

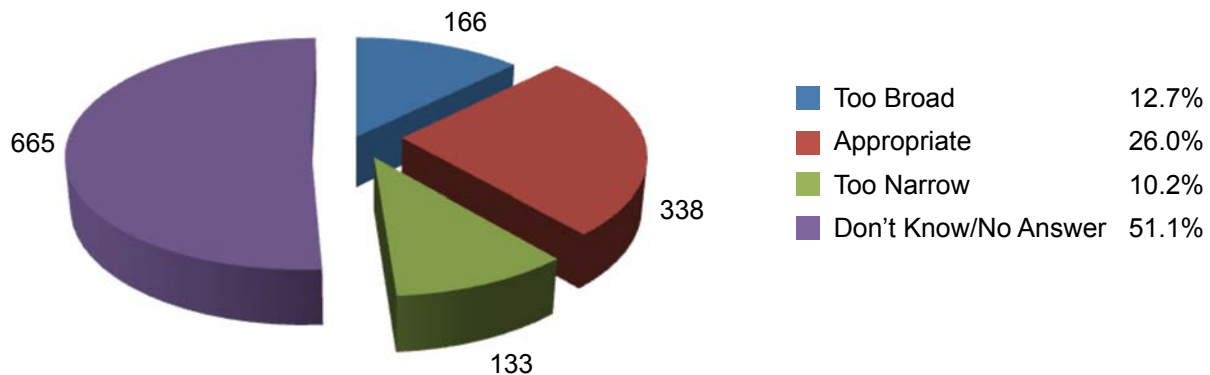
### Native rangeland - private



### Conservation - on public lands

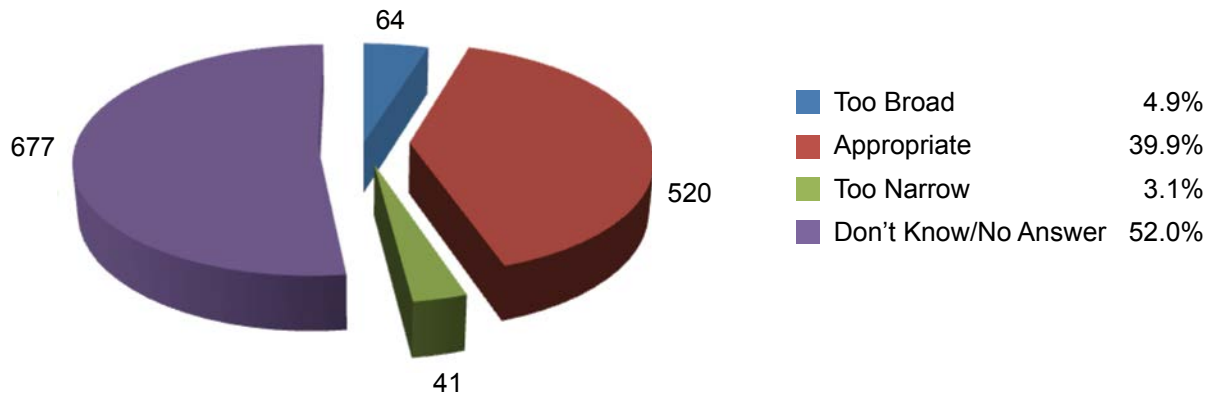


### Mixed-use forest - on public lands

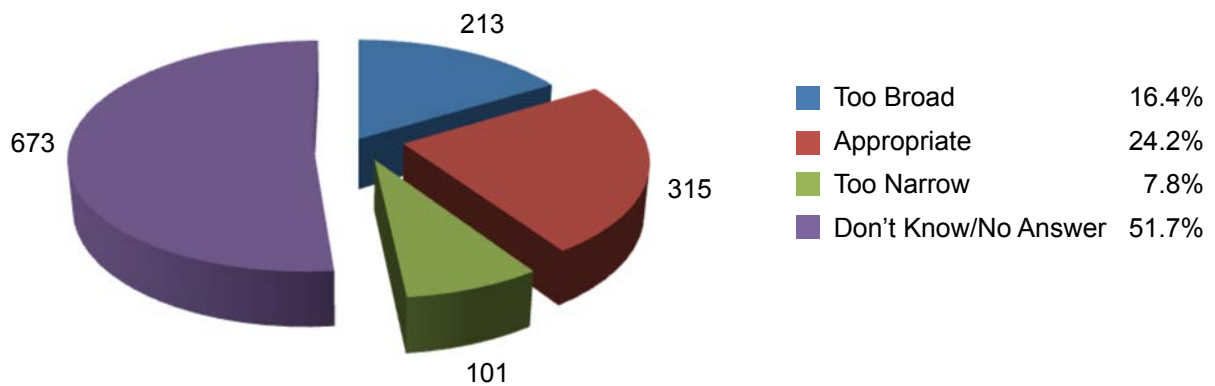




### Population centres



### Recreation and tourism



40. Please share any additional comments regarding the proposed management intent for cultivated lands.

216 or 17 per cent of total respondents provided additional comments:

- Need to limit residential and country residential development
- Cultivated lands should be reserved for food production and for agriculture
- RAC advice lacks detail, is too vague and lacks definitions
- Consider species at risk, critical habitats and protect biodiversity
- Preservation of ecosystem and environment should be the highest priority
- Need restrictions on industrial access and uses of land
- Need more policies on protecting wetlands on all land classifications
- Content is good but it needs a detailed implementation plan



41. Please share any additional comments regarding the proposed management intent for public native rangeland.

216 or 17 per cent of total respondents provided additional comments:

- Restrict energy and other resource development and set higher standards and controls
- Need to restrict and legislate where development, recreation and tourism are allowed
- Keep a maximum amount of native lands untouched and minimize loss and fragmentation
- Conserve and protect rangeland; don't sell or give away for conversion
- RAC advice is too vague, open to interpretation and needs more clarity
- Ensure protection of at-risk species
- Need to manage and reduce the number of livestock grazing leases
- Do not need more government regulation or market interference.

42. Please share any additional comments regarding the proposed management intent for private native rangeland.

177 or 14 per cent of total respondents provided additional comments:

- Subdivisions should not be allowed on native grasslands,
- Need private rangelands for future generations
- Good stewardship by ranchers is important and should be recognized and rewarded
- Content is good but we need to say how it will be implemented
- Rangelands are important for species at risk and biodiversity frameworks

43. Please share any additional comments regarding the proposed management intent for mixed-use – forest on public lands.

333 or 25 per cent of total respondents provided additional comments:

- Do not restrict low-impact recreation
- Content is good but we need to say how it will be implemented
- Educate public on responsible recreation and stewardship
- Current management should be continued; more regulation is not required.
- Need to allow tourism, recreation for mixed-use land and conservation areas
- Priority needs to be protecting forests and ecological integrity
- Need to restrict and control all-terrain vehicles
- Watershed conservation needs to be a priority.
- Protection of animal habitat needs to be included; biodiversity is so important.

44. Please share any additional comments regarding the proposed management intent for population centres.

178 or 14 per cent of total respondents provided additional comments,

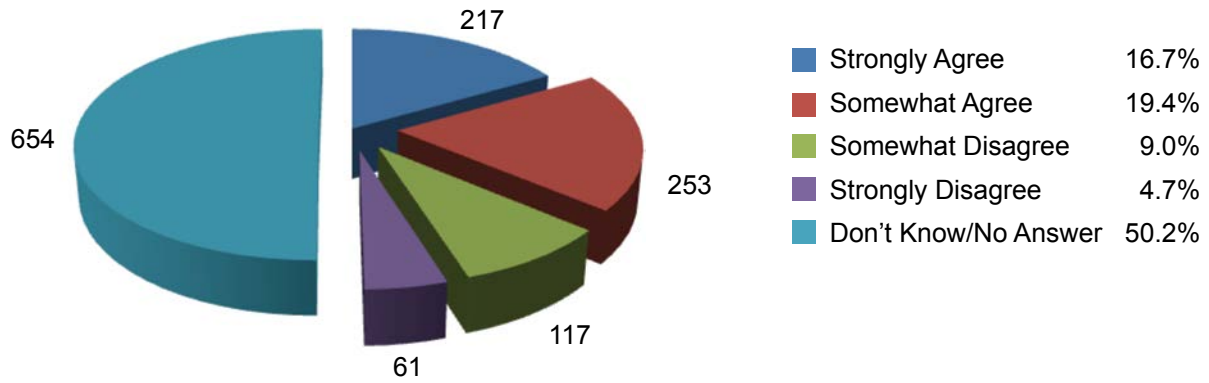
- Plan needs to discourage urban sprawl and encourage development density
- Current management plans should continue
- Content is good but we need implementation detail
- Should coordinate transportation and infrastructure to minimize footprints
- Should focus more on locally grown food sources and health of agriculture
- Developers should have to pay a fee for building on farm land





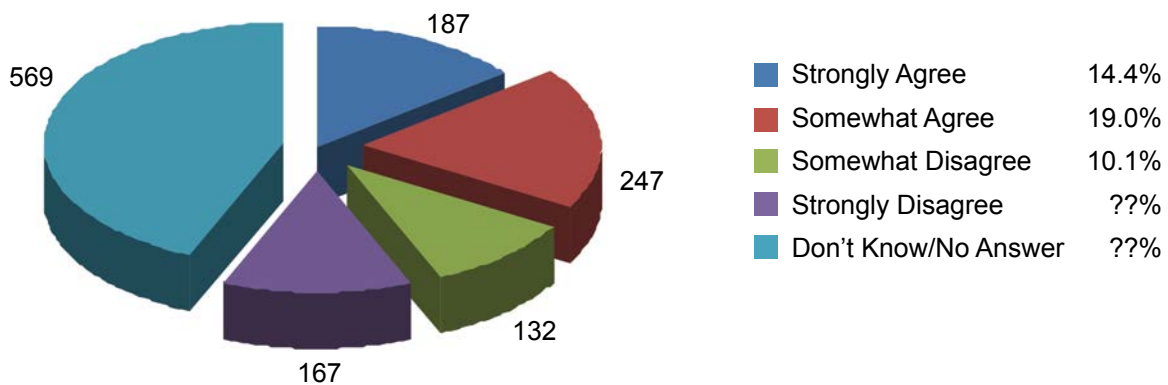


45. The RAC recommended a management strategy for conservation areas. How strongly do you agree with this recommendation?



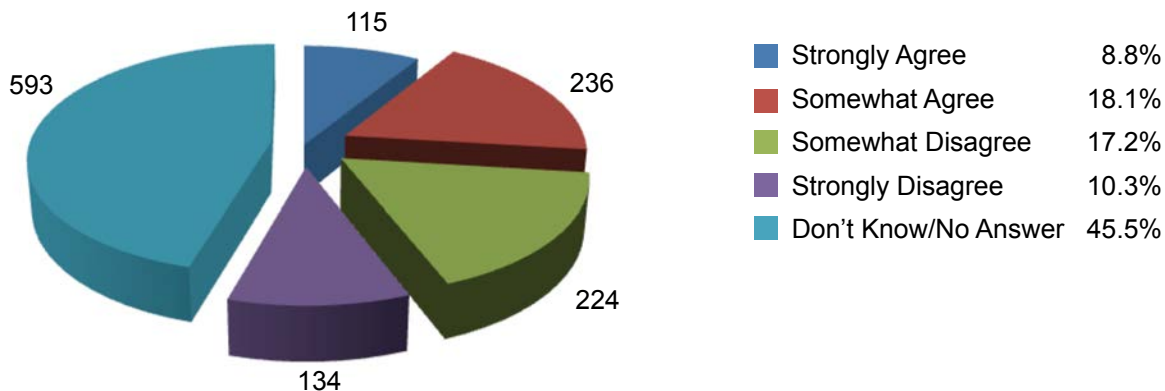
46. The RAC recommended a suite of permitted uses in conservation areas on public lands. How strongly do you agree with each recommendation?

**Permanent industrial, residential, commercial or intensive recreation/tourism surface development only if the activity does not significantly impact water security and ecological outcomes defined for the specific area**

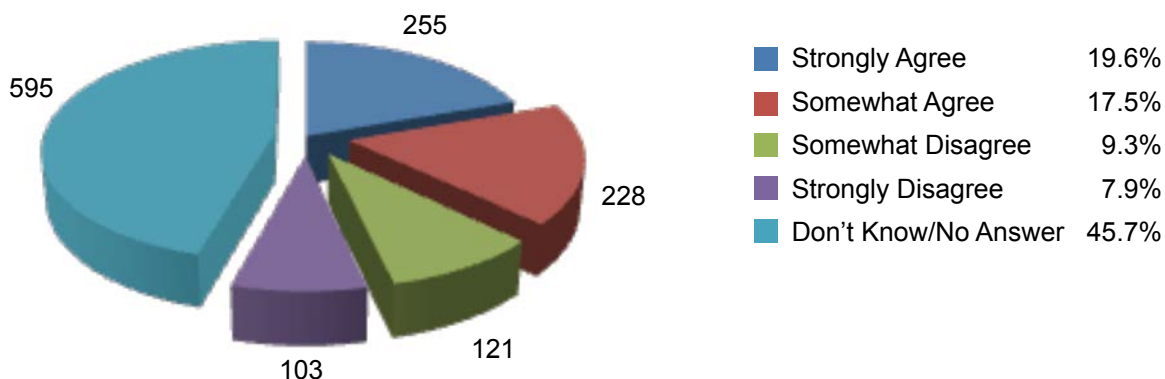




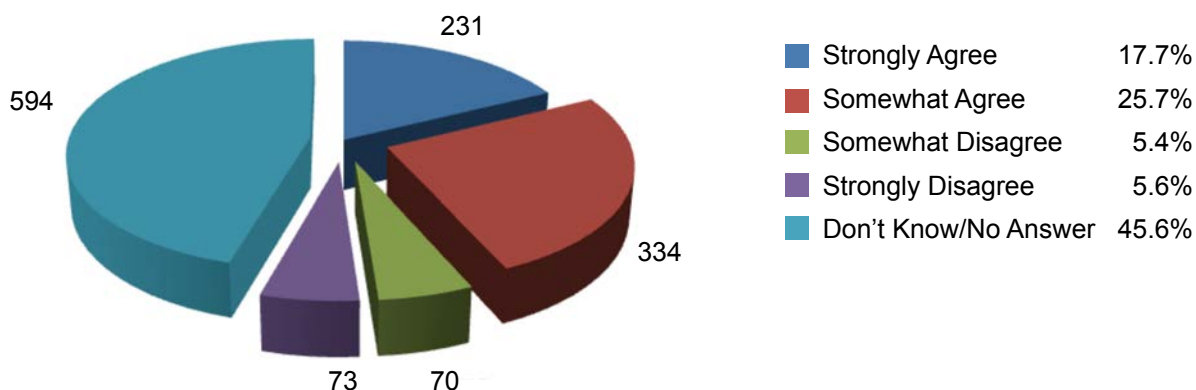
**Existing tenures and freehold rights will be managed - Approvals for surface access for energy for mineral development (e.g., seismic programs or well sites) will be issued to enable the development of existing Crown mineral tenures**



**New Crown mineral tenures that maintain water security and desired ecological outcomes - surface access will be held to a higher standard**

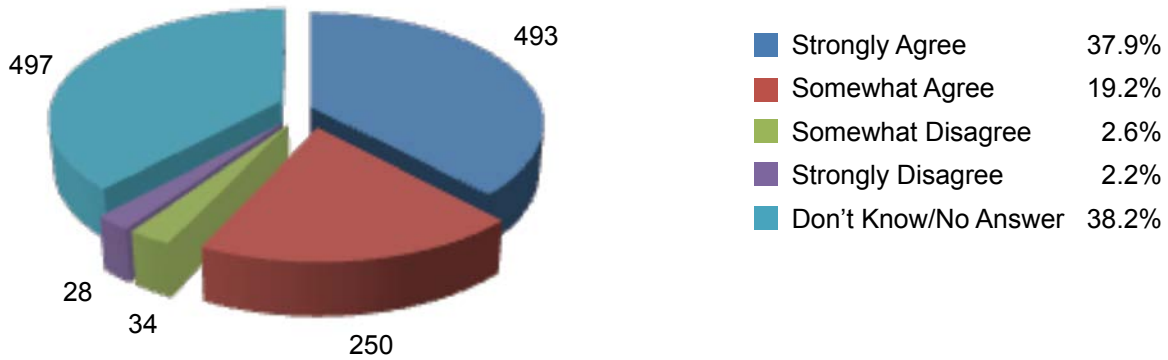


**Forest harvesting – modified practices to achieve desired environmental outcomes – to manage threats due to fire or disease, practices will emulate natural disturbance. Practices could include timber harvesting, prescribed burning and grazing and FireSmart strategies will be utilized**

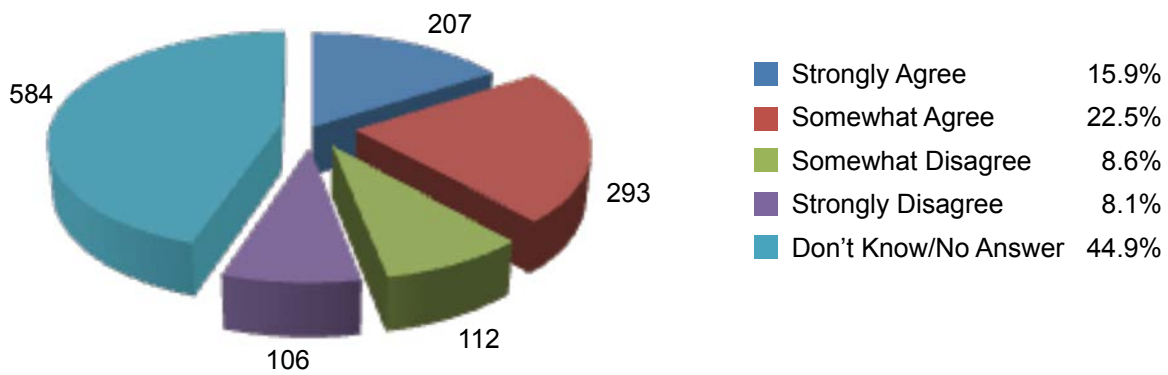




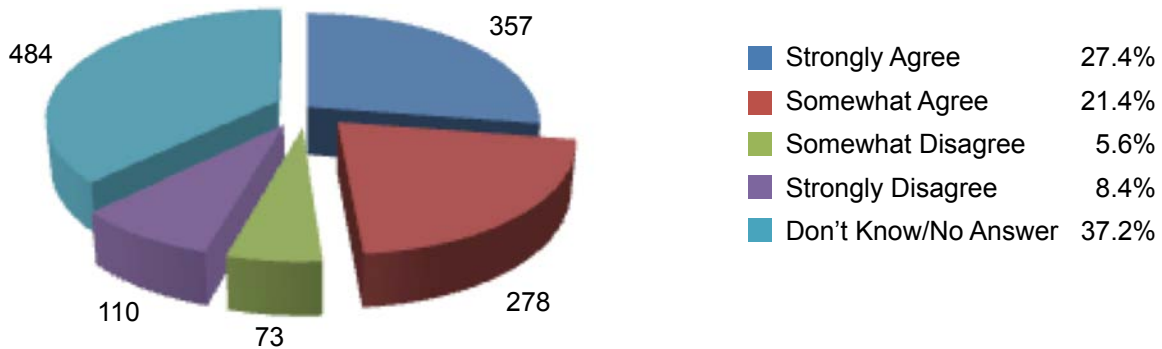
**Recreation and tourism activities (primitive and backcountry) - wilderness hiking, hunting, fishing and low-impact camping**



**Aboriginal traditional uses including subsistence gather, hunting and fishing**

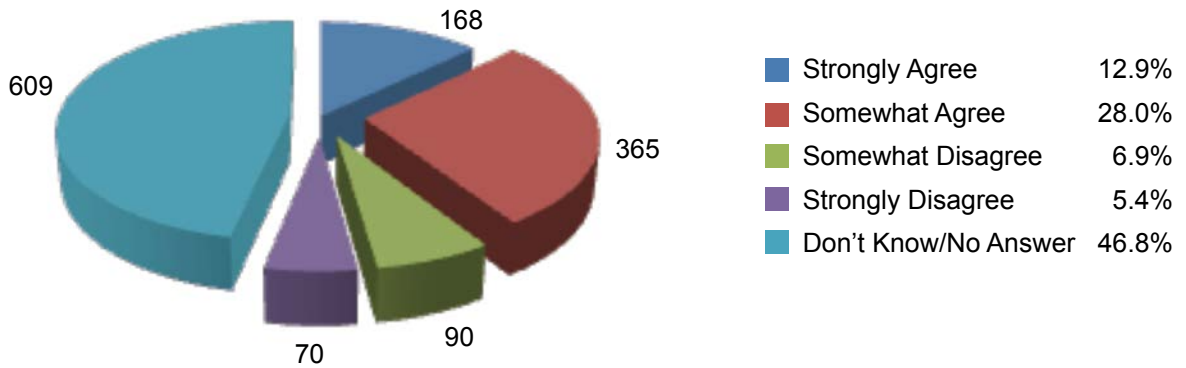


**Public motorized access, where permitted, limited to designated trails, routes, roads and staging areas**

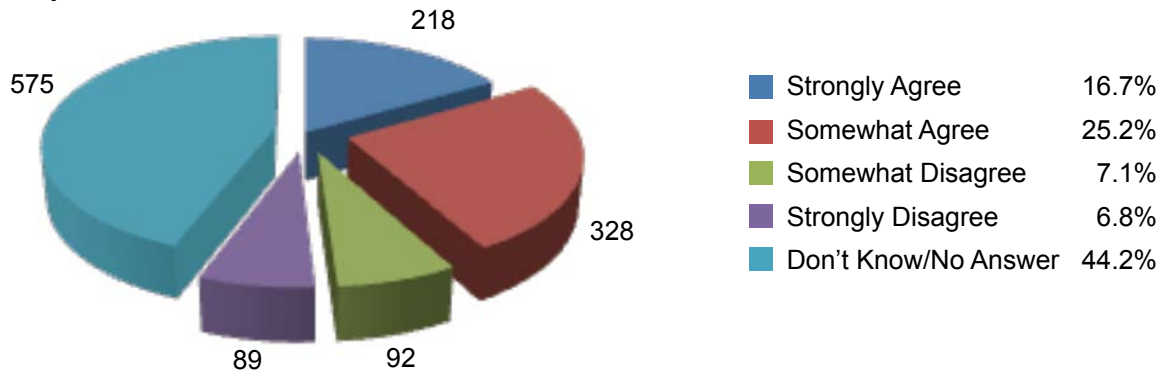




**Multi-use corridors, only where an alternative option does not exist 168**



**Grazing will continue to be permitted in these areas when a current range management plan is in place**





47. Please share any additional comments regarding the proposed land-use in conservation areas.

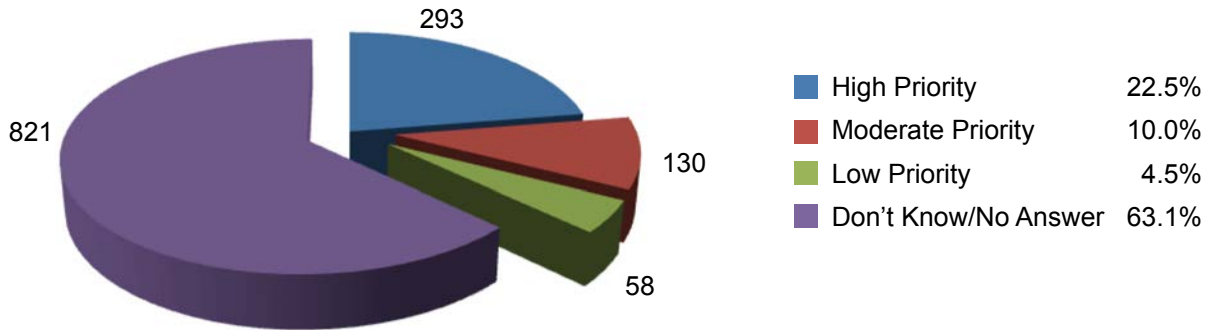
469 or 36 per cent of total respondents offered additional comments:

- Respect existing users but protect identified conservation areas
- Do not allow industrial and commercial development on conservation land
- More conservation areas are not needed; we have plenty already
- Need to restrict off-highway vehicle access in public areas and conservation areas
- Access to conservation areas should be limited and thresholds set for other users
- Grazing should not be allowed or at least limited on conservation areas
- Terms within RAC's advice are ill-defined and vague
- Priority in the plan needs to be water and the protection of water sources
- Need to protect habitats of protected species
- Enforcement on public land is needed
- Cannot allow clear-cut logging; restrict forestry
- All uses should ensure they are not damaging land
- Impose penalties for poor stewardship.

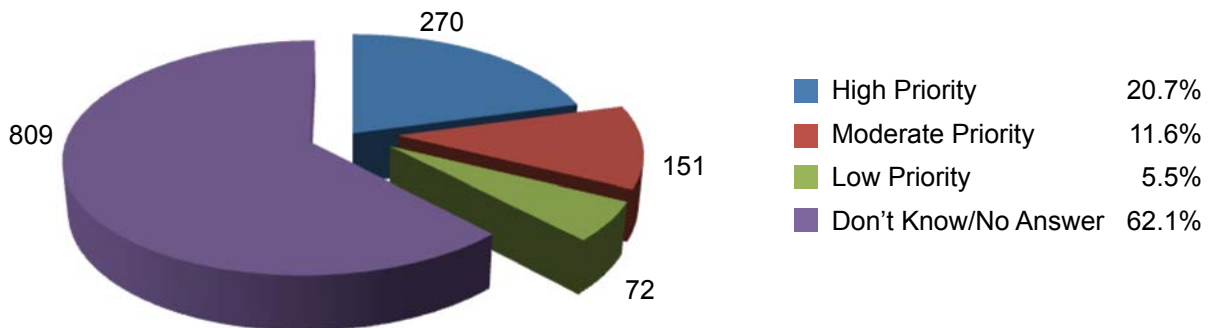


48. The RAC has identified nine areas to be considered as candidates for conservation areas. Rate the importance of each of the candidate conservation lands.

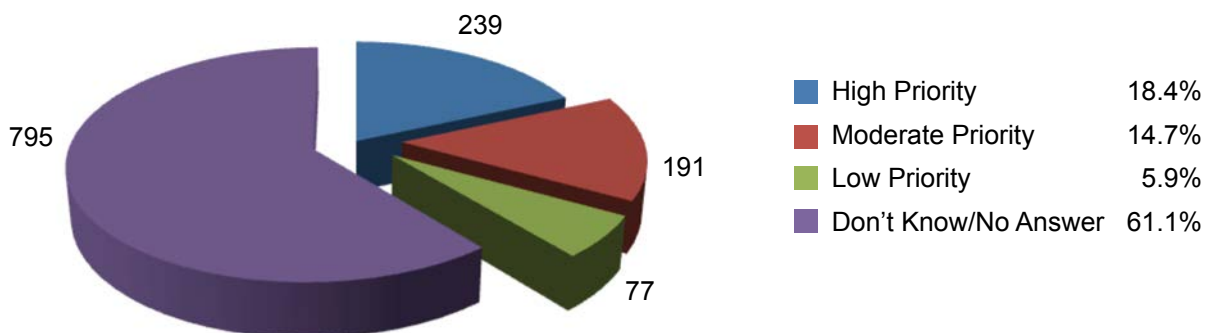
### The Wildhorse Plains



### Twin River Heritage Rangeland Expansion

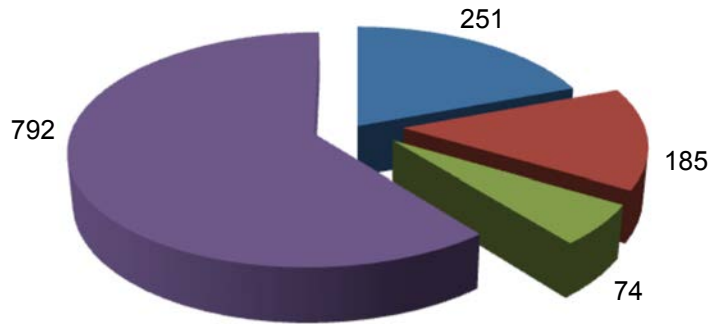


### South Saskatchewan River - Eastern Reaches



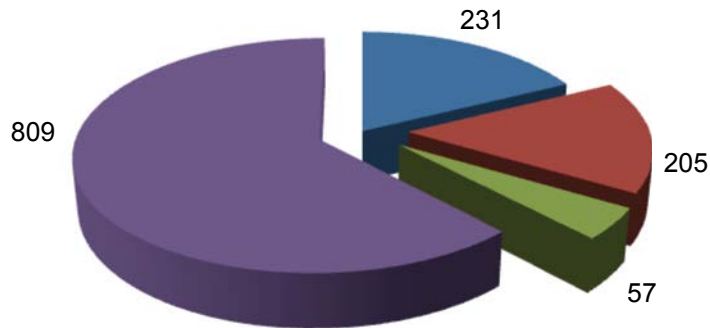


### South Saskatchewan River - Western Reaches



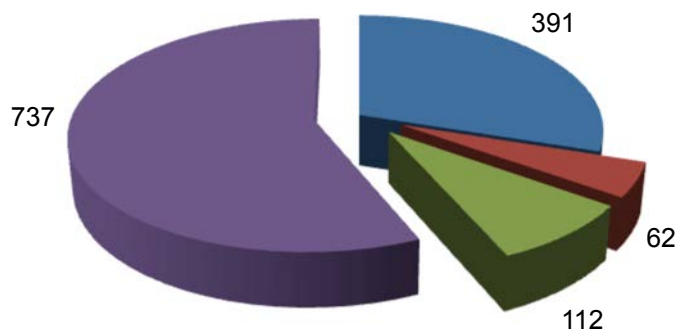
High Priority	19.3%
Moderate Priority	14.2%
Low Priority	5.7%
Don't Know/No Answer	60.8%

### Bow River - Majorville Upland Corridor



High Priority	17.7%
Moderate Priority	15.7%
Low Priority	4.4%
Don't Know/No Answer	62.1%

### Castle-Waterton

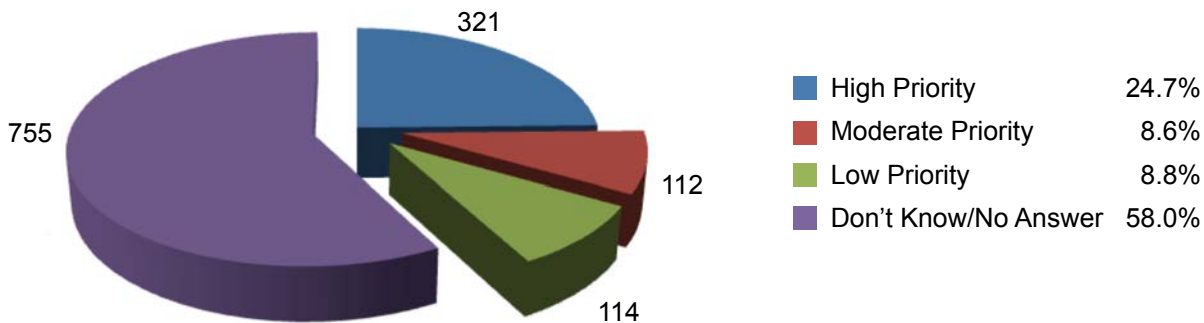


High Priority	30.0%
Moderate Priority	4.8%
Low Priority	8.6%
Don't Know/No Answer	56.6%

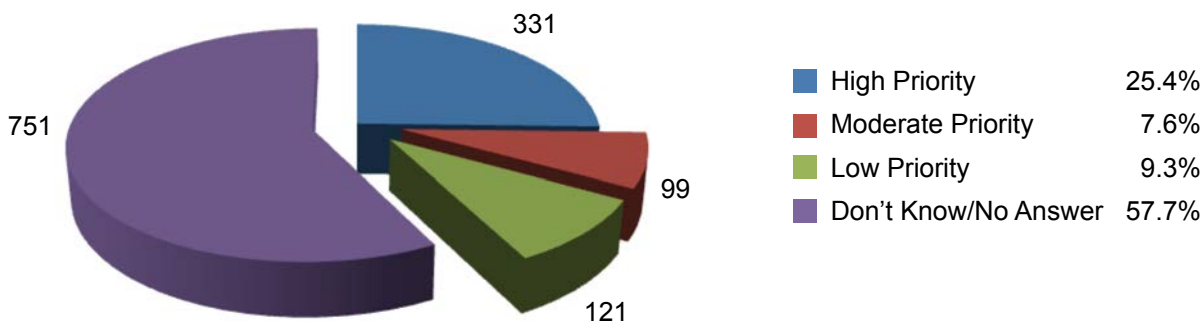




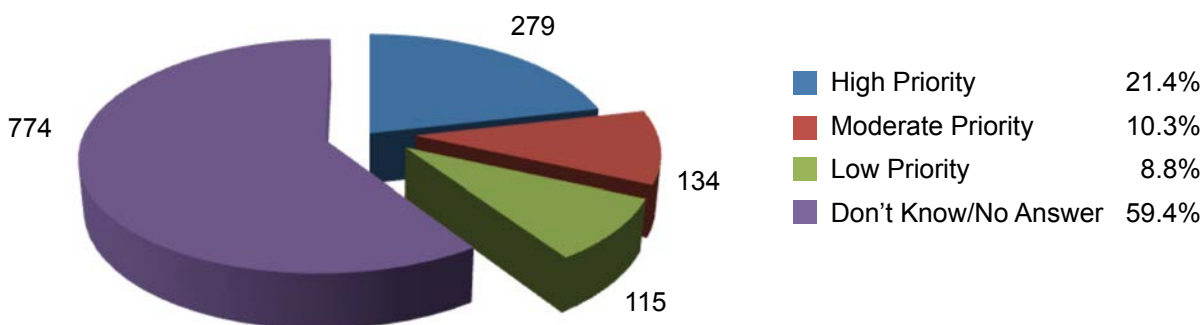
### Porcupine/Pekiso Rangelands



### Elbow/Highland/Kananaskis Foothills



### Ghost Forest





49. Can you suggest potential conservation areas not proposed by the RAC? Please provide reasons for your suggestion.

121 or nine per cent of total respondents provided answers to this question. Top 10 areas suggested include (in order):

- Oldman River
- Livingstone Range (Willow Valley)
- Eastern Slopes
- Bragg Creek
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan priority areas
- Red Deer River area
- Bow River
- Milk River Valley
- Crowsnest River
- Elbow Valley/river area

Respondents suggested the aforementioned areas for the following reasons:

- an important area for wildlife
- Contains a wide range of at-risk species
- important for water - a tributary area for the South Saskatchewan river basin
- important for recreation and tourism
- high ecological importance
- required for connectivity
- some areas recommended by RAC advice or existing areas are not large enough on their own
- area is under increasing threat from developers and or industry.



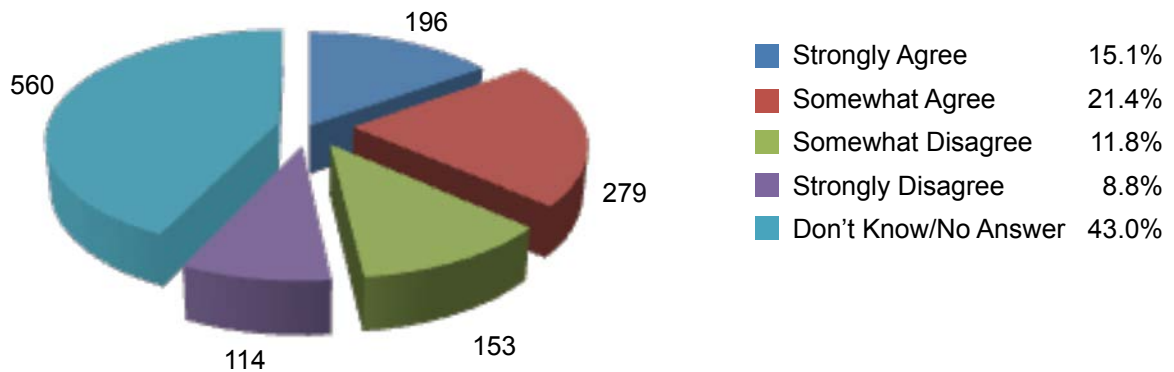
50. Please share any additional comments regarding land conservation in the region.

560 or 43 per cent of the total respondents answered this question:

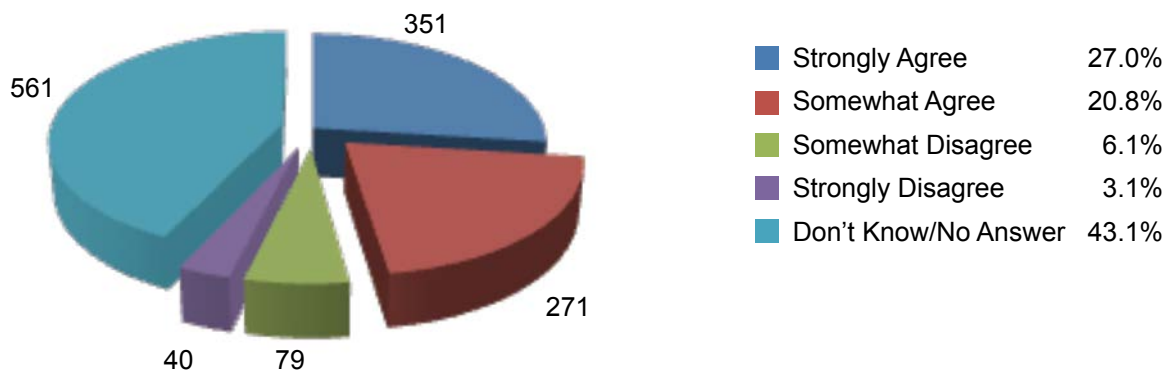
- Restrict/manage motorized recreation
- Focus on non-motorized recreation
- Government does not need to add any more conservation areas and if we have new designated areas, they should be smaller
- Need better regulations on use but access should not be reduced
- Need to protect rivers, coulee systems, headwaters, riparian areas, wetlands and water
- Clearer explanations on what will be allowed in conservation areas is required
- Allow grazing and industry if best practices are in place

51. The RAC recommended a suite of permitted uses in recreation and tourism areas on public lands. How strongly do you agree with each recommendation?

**Development of other resource-based industries may be permitted as long as the recreation/tourism values are maintained**

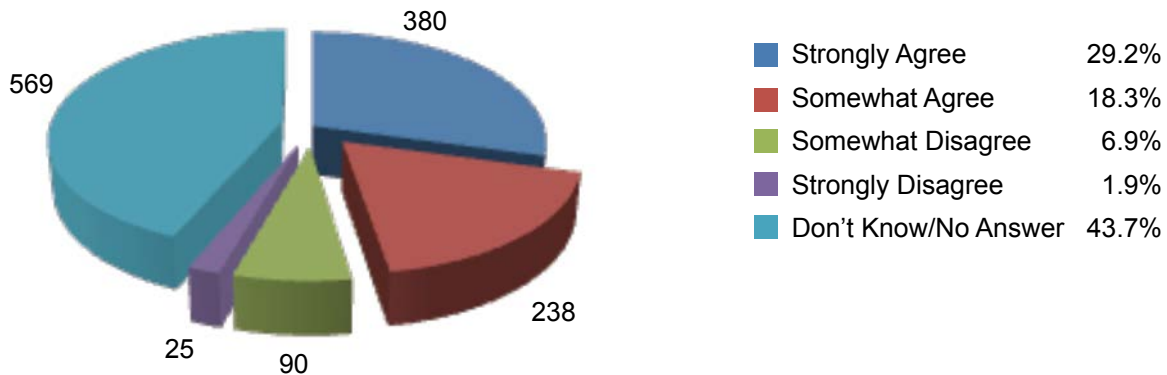


**Development of areas with high scenic value is to be carried out in a manner that maintains scenic values**

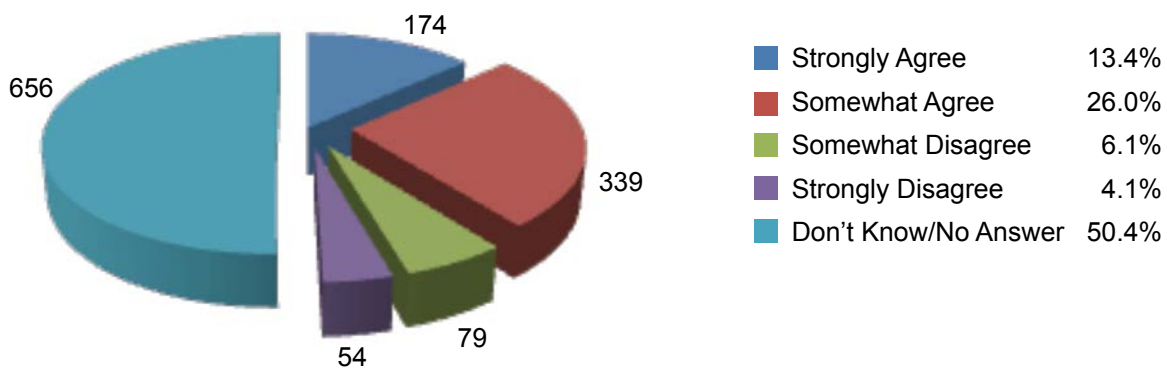




**Recreation and tourism activities and developments are to be actively managed**



**Natural disturbance or the emulation of natural disturbance to achieve environmental, social and economic objectives**



52. Please share any additional comments regarding the proposed land use in recreation and tourism areas.

347 or 27 per cent of the total respondents provided additional comments:

- Recreation areas need to be preserved and maintained
- Wilderness camping in low-use areas should be allowed
- Industry can help and not negatively impact recreation and tourism
- Restrictions and enforcement in recreation areas are needed
- Environment should be the highest priority; conservation is vital
- RAC advice is too vague and lacks details
- Need restrictions and sustainable practices for resource-based industries

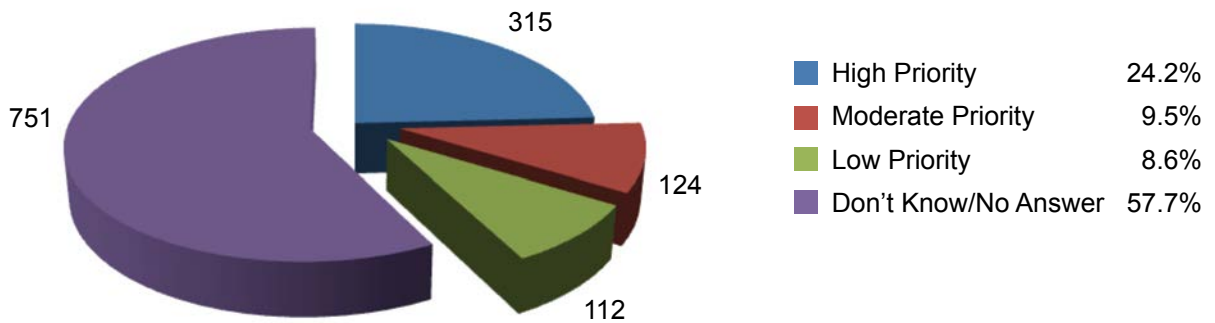
High scenic value areas should not be developed or available for industrial use

- Recreation should only take place in multi-use areas; don't need exclusive areas.

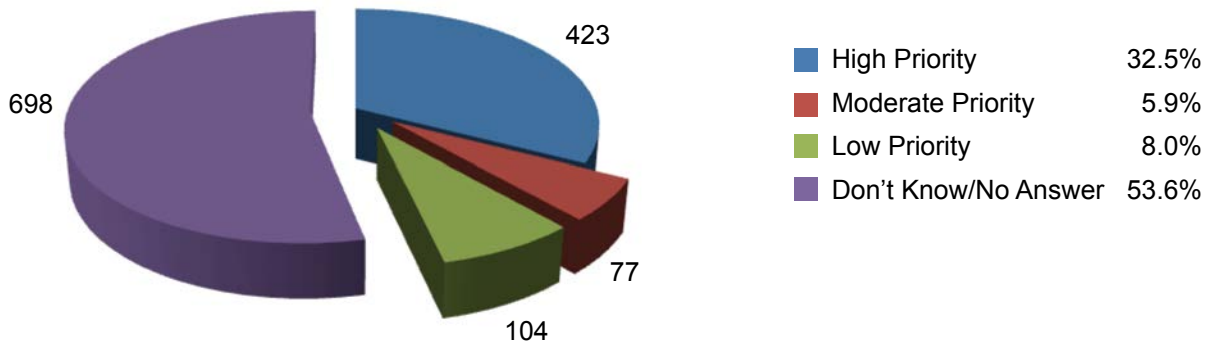


53. The RAC has proposed a number of lands for designation as recreation and tourism areas. Rate the importance of each area as a recreation and tourism resource.

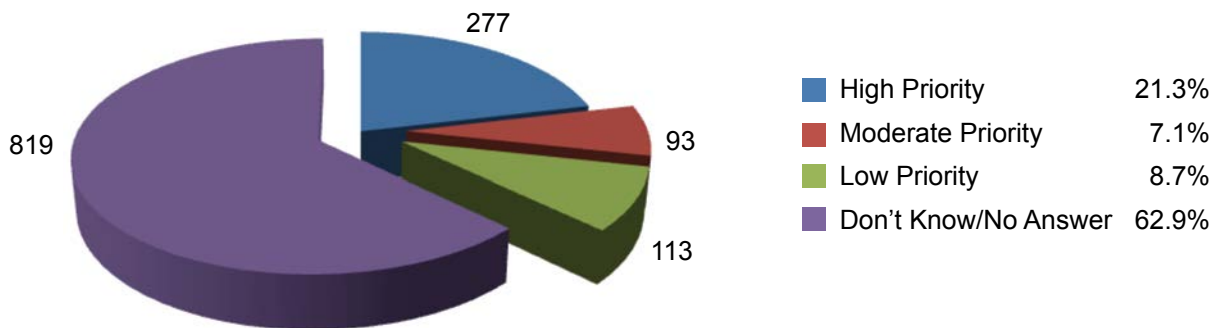
### Dormer - Sheep - Ghost



### Kananaskis - Bow River

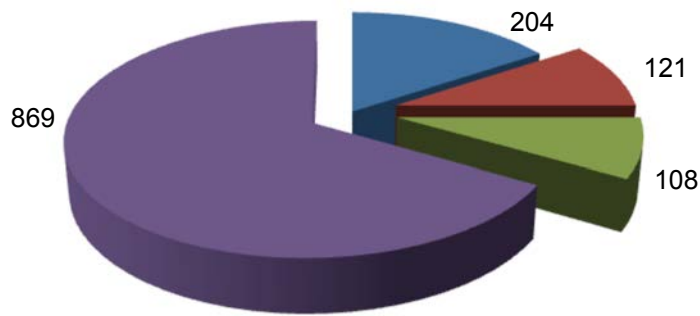


### Livingstone - Upper Oldman



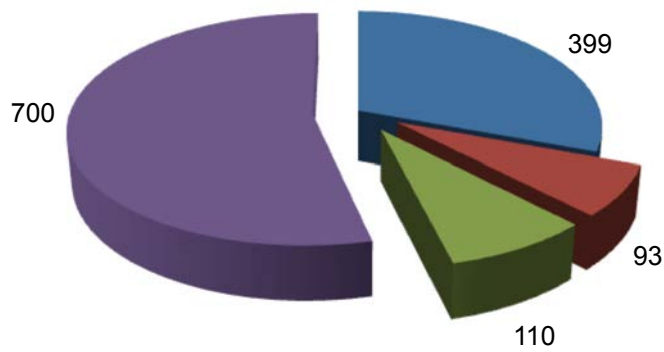


**Allison - Chinook**



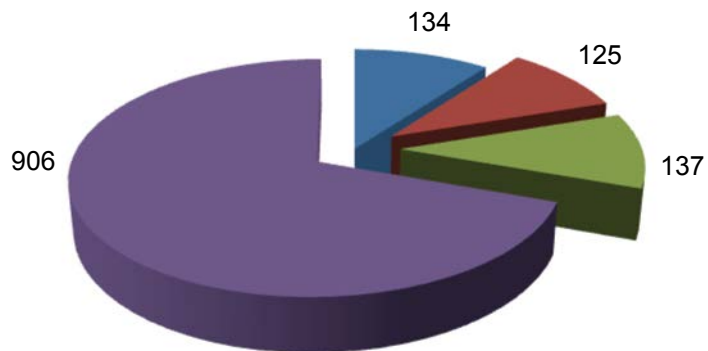
High Priority	15.7%
Moderate Priority	9.3%
Low Priority	8.3%
Don't Know/No Answer	66.7%

**Castle - Carbondale**



High Priority	30.6%
Moderate Priority	7.1%
Low Priority	8.4%
Don't Know/No Answer	53.8%

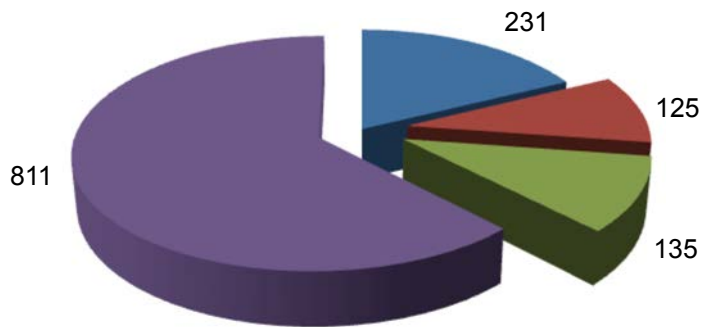
**Poll Haven**



High Priority	10.3%
Moderate Priority	9.6%
Low Priority	10.5%
Don't Know/No Answer	69.6%

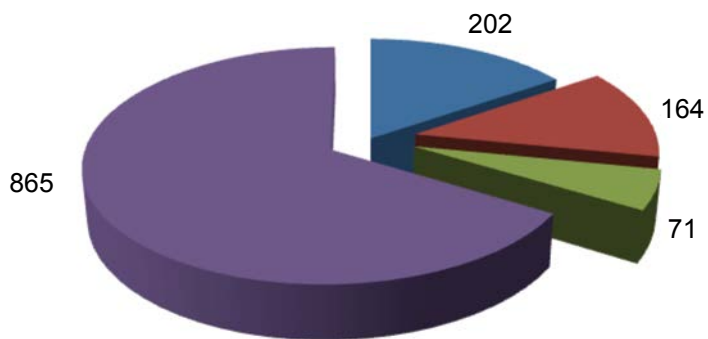


### Porcupine Hills



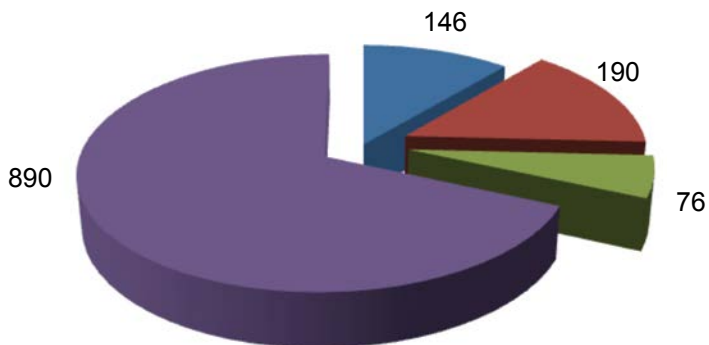
High Priority	17.7%
Moderate Priority	9.6%
Low Priority	10.4%
Don't Know/No Answer	62.3%

### Highwood River



High Priority	15.5%
Moderate Priority	12.6%
Low Priority	5.5%
Don't Know/No Answer	66.4%

### McGregor Lake

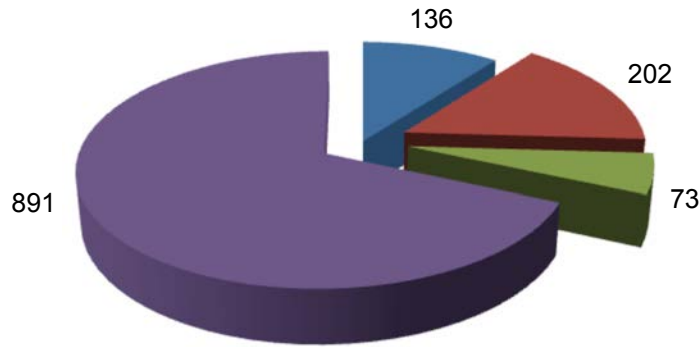


High Priority	11.2%
Moderate Priority	14.6%
Low Priority	5.8%
Don't Know/No Answer	68.4%



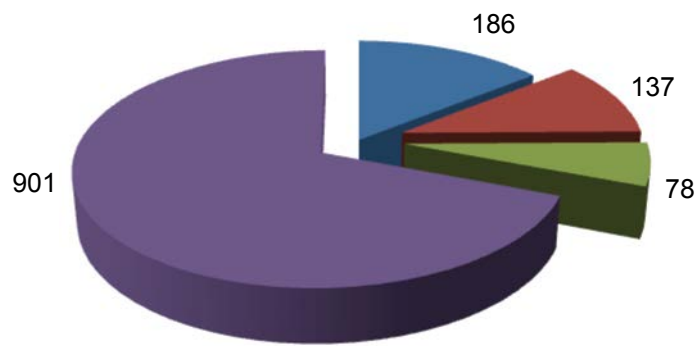


### St. Mary River



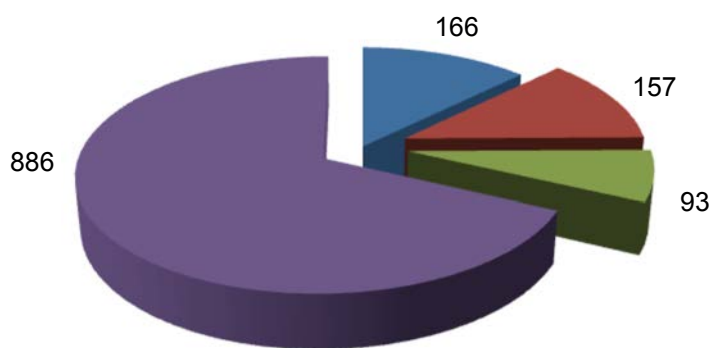
High Priority	10.4%
Moderate Priority	15.5%
Low Priority	5.6%
Don't Know/No Answer	68.4%

### Red Deer River - Finnegan Ferry



High Priority	14.3%
Moderate Priority	10.5%
Low Priority	6.0%
Don't Know/No Answer	69.2%

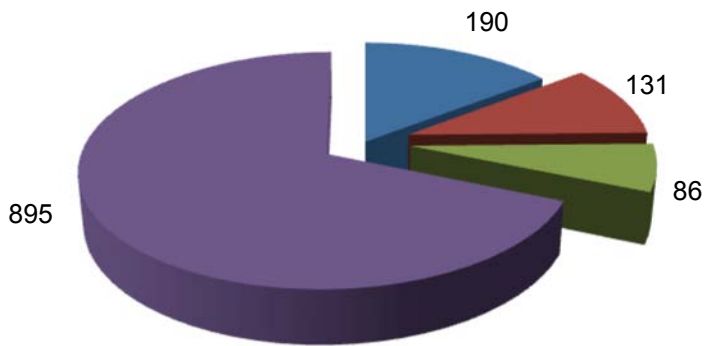
### Milk River - Verdigris Coulee



High Priority	12.7%
Moderate Priority	12.1%
Low Priority	7.1%
Don't Know/No Answer	68.0%

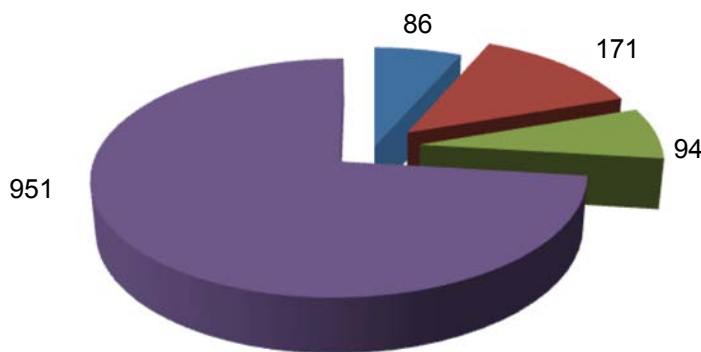


### Forty Mile Coulee



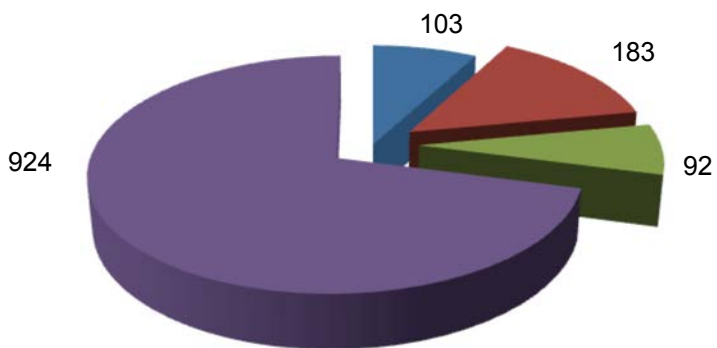
High Priority	14.6%
Moderate Priority	10.1%
Low Priority	6.6%
Don't Know/No Answer	68.7%

### Gahern



High Priority	6.6%
Moderate Priority	13.1%
Low Priority	7.2%
Don't Know/No Answer	73.0%

### Sauder Reservoir



High Priority	7.9%
Moderate Priority	14.1%
Low Priority	7.1%
Don't Know/No Answer	71.0%



54. Is there an area you would like to see as a recreation and tourism area that has not been proposed by the RAC?

74 or six per cent of the total respondents provided answers to this question. Top six suggested areas include (in order):

- West Bragg Creek
- Elbow River Valley
- Oldman River
- Crowsnest Corridor
- Milk River ridge/Valley area
- Kananaskis

Reasons respondents gave for their suggested areas include the following:

- to enhance and protect recreation and tourism in the area
- valuable area for low-impact recreation (walking, hiking, etc.)
- currently a lot of tourism in the area
- proximity to large population centre
- potential for water recreation
- scenic views
- high value for recreation activities in general.

55. Do you have any other comments regarding the RAC's recommendation on recreation and tourism?

269 or 20 per cent of the total respondents provided additional comments:

- Recreation must be sustainable to protect the integrity of the land
- Should have public clean-up drives for noxious weeds
- Environment should be the highest priority, RAC advice needs to be more specific for public to answer intelligently
- Need to restrict motorized vehicle access; allow only non-motorized access
- Protect watersheds and prohibit recreation in riparian areas and wetlands

## Section 6: Next Steps

56. Please share any additional comments you may have regarding the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

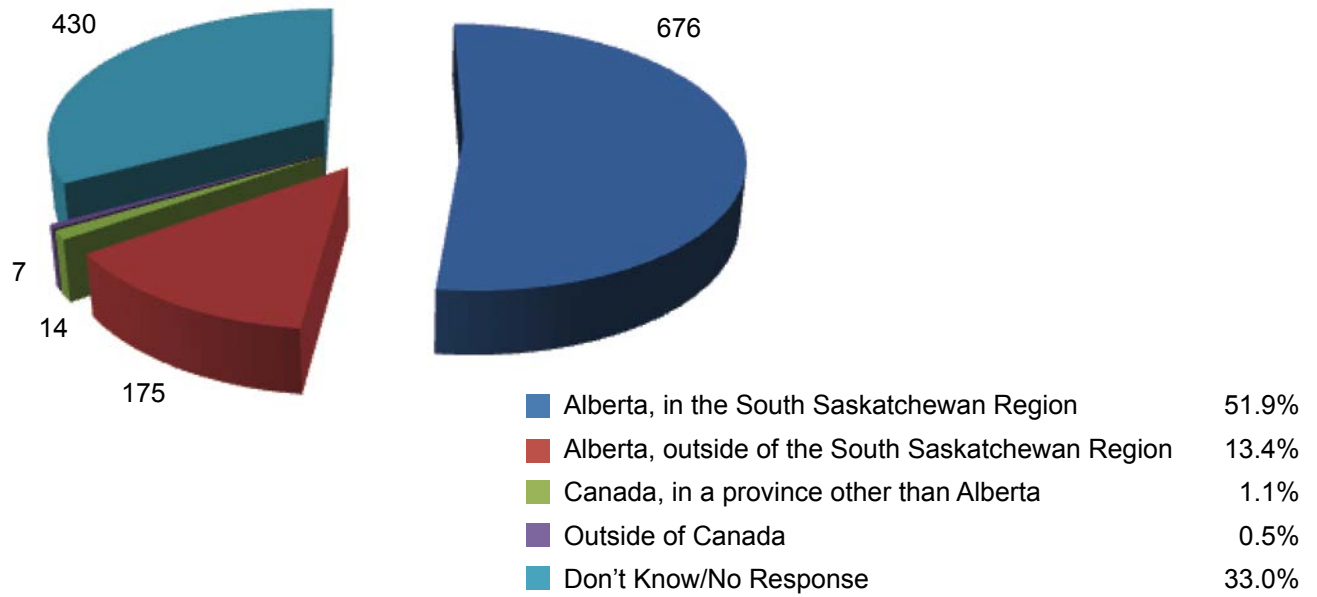
447 or 34 per cent of total respondents provided final comments:

- Need to ask for more in-depth input earlier and from all parties involved.
- Focus of plan needs to be on environment, natural landscapes and conservation
- Recommendations and wording are too vague
- Satisfied that Government of Alberta has developed the Land-use Framework and South Saskatchewan Regional Plan
- Content is good but it needs to be implemented with clear information on how it will be done
- Opposed to pay for access services, especially for hunting
- Need water allocation system that protects and prioritizes water in the region
- Industry should not be given free reign and needs restrictions.
- Concern that there will be political bias in the draft plan
- RAC advice poorly thought out, too bureaucratic - should be scrapped
- Ensure general public has access to all areas
- Concerned survey questions are leading
- Further development needs to be restricted.

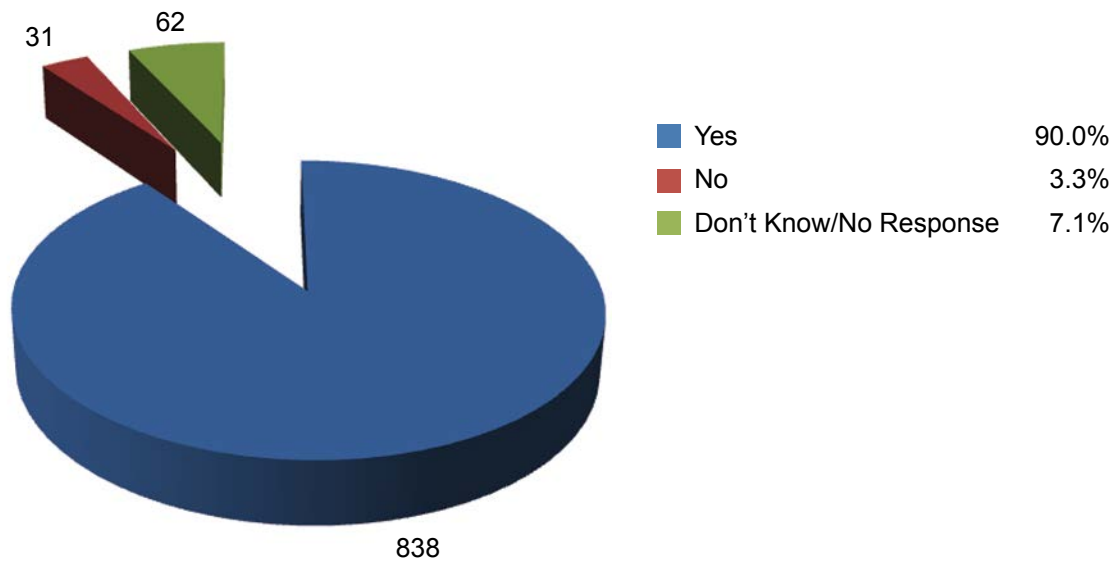




57. Where is your Primary Residence?

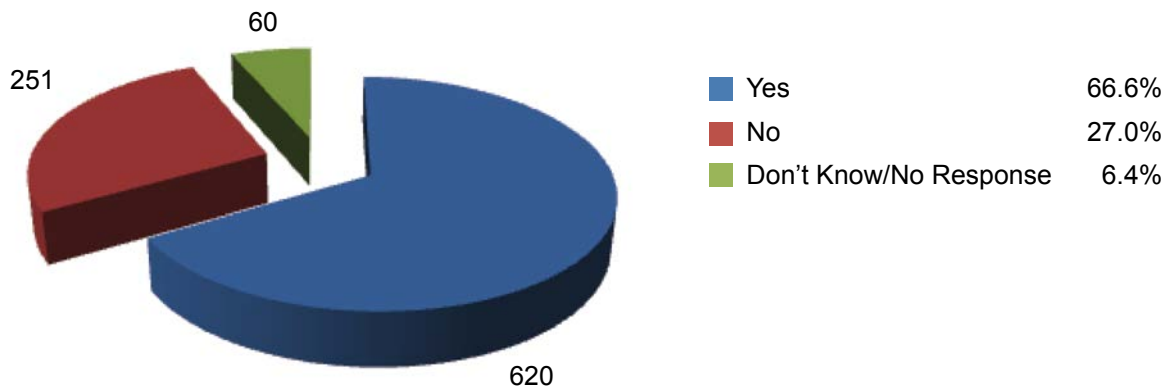


59. Do you participate in recreation and tourism experiences within the South Saskatchewan Region?

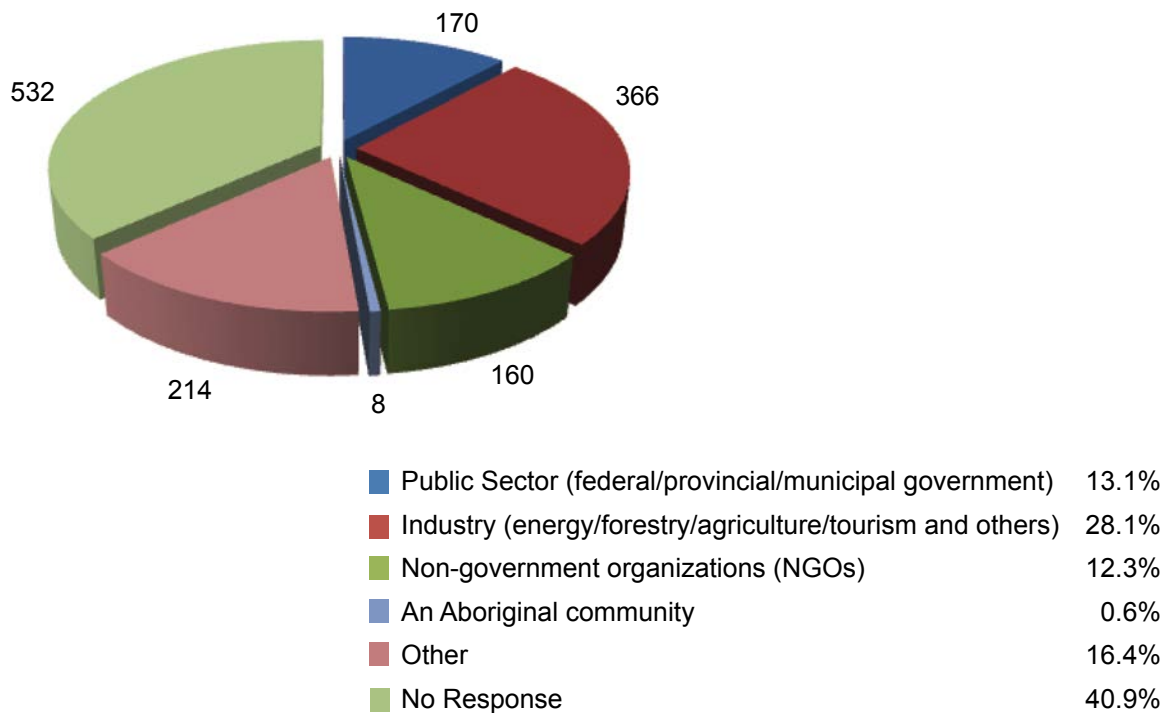




60. Do you currently work within the South Saskatchewan Region?



61. Are you employed by or associated with any of the following?





62. To which age group do you belong?

