



**The survey** took place during winter 2017/18.

It was created to help identify who you, the CHRS River Managers and Stewardship Groups, are. More importantly, the survey was meant to get your feedback on how you want to be engaged in the CHRS.

## Who are...: **Our River Managers?**

- 74% Government (federal/provincial/territorial/regional)
- 26% Non-profit and charity organizations

## **Our Stewardship Groups?**

- 84% Non-profit/charity
- 11% Indigenous government
- 5% Federal government

*(Most River Manager organizations have between 1-9 people who work to manage the river.)*

## **Who does what?**

**Most** River Managers participate in annual and 10 year reporting, general awareness/promotion, and conservation of heritage values.

**Many** River Managers also do administration, education, and events/celebrations.

**Less than half** of the River Managers do periodic newsletter updates to stakeholders, run a website, coordinate with local River Stewardship Groups, or fundraise.

**Most** Stewardship Groups participate in general awareness/promotion, education, and events/celebrations.

**Many** Stewardship Groups also do conservation of heritage values, coordination with River Managers or other River Stewardship Groups, presentations, tours, and run websites.

**Half or fewer** of the Stewardship Groups do administration, fundraising, a periodic newsletter, lectures, or other activities such as habitat restoration and monitoring, reporting on activities, or advocacy work.

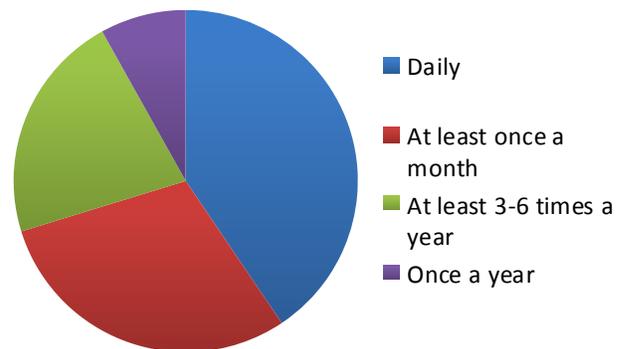
## **Survey Stats:**

**44** people responded to the survey *(thank you!)*

Close to  $\frac{1}{2}$  identified as River Managers and  $\frac{1}{2}$  as River Stewardship Groups.

**27** out of the **42** designated + nominated Canadian Heritage Rivers were represented (at least one in 11 of 13 provinces/territories).

## **How often do River Managers and Stewardship Groups participate in management activities?**



## **Top 4 things that would assist River Managers in managing their Heritage River?**

1. Funding
2. Information and supporting materials from CHRS
3. Regular communications from CHRS
4. Networking/sharing knowledge with other River Managers.

Other things that affect the ability of River Managers to manage are additional support for their jurisdiction, joint projects across CHRS, additional staff, and promo materials to assist with access to additional extra funding.

**River Manager:** The individual(s) identified (often through the designation process) as the person or organizational unit with oversight and day-to-day management responsibilities for a Canadian Heritage River.

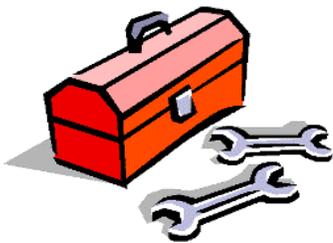
**River Stewardship Group:** All individuals and organizations involved with any aspect of Canadian Heritage River management.

## How do River Managers want to be engaged in CHRS over the course of a year?

The options were:	%said "yes"
1. Receive quarterly emails from the Secretariat	88%
2. Participate in up to three CHRS-wide conference calls	59%
3. Participate in up to three jurisdictional conference calls	53%
4. I do not wish to participate in CHRS	Nobody!

### Other engagement that River Managers want:

Opportunities to learn from other River Managers and Stewardship Groups, Engagement on Canadian Rivers Day, and online webinars/symposiums more frequently than the triennial conference.



### How about a Toolkit?

A key item in the "CHRS River Stewardship Group Engagement Strategy" is creating a toolkit for River Managers and Stewardship

Groups. This toolkit could include a list of active funding programs, a manual on marketing and promo techniques, templates for posters and pamphlets, and/or whatever else might be helpful.

*When asked if they would like to receive a toolkit, only*

**3 River Managers responded.**

That's out of a possible 24 River Managers who could have answered. But on an earlier question,

**62% of River Managers**

*said that information and materials from CHRS affects their ability to manage their river.*

With these contradictory results, we realized that the survey hadn't given examples of what might go into a toolkit until 'yes' was answered, which may have impacted some River Managers choice to skip this question. Also, the survey didn't route Stewardship Groups to this question, and it's possible that Stewardship Groups are more in need of a CHRS toolkit than River Managers are.

## How familiar are you with CHRS?

**70%** of River Managers are *very familiar* with CHRS.

## How has the CHRS been of benefit to the management of your Canadian Heritage River?

We were so excited to hear the examples of benefits and successes that the CHRS designation has brought to your river! We hope to learn more about them, and plan share them with all of you. Look for future editions of the CHRS newsletter, "Caring for Our Rivers", featuring articles on success stories and benefits. Here are a few examples of the fantastic stories we received through the survey:

- Annual heritage and recreational walks take place
- Public awareness has affected environmental assessments
- CHRS designation has been a good marketing tool in showing people the uniqueness of the river
- Funding was received for monitoring trips
- Relationship building with Indigenous communities, such as formation of a First Nation Advisory Committee for the river

## Next Steps

The CHRS Technical Planning Committee (TPC) will be using the survey results to update the "CHRS River Stewardship Group Engagement Strategy".

Since this survey was designed primarily for River Managers, the CHRS TPC will also be seeking more input from River Stewardship Groups on how they wish to be engaged in the Canadian Heritage Rivers system.

## For More Information

For more information about the CHRS River Stewardship Group Engagement Strategy, please contact Brian Johnston, Park Planner, Yukon Government at [Brian.Johnston@gov.yk.ca](mailto:Brian.Johnston@gov.yk.ca) or phone (867) 393-7595.

For more information about this survey or the results, please contact Kelly Stein, Conservation Areas Management Planner, Government of Northwest Territories at [Kelly\\_Stein@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Kelly_Stein@gov.nt.ca) or phone (867) 767-9233 x.53073.