National Heritage Digitization Strategy (NHDS) Update

The Beginning

Announced in June 2016 to coordinate digitization of documentary heritage in the collections of Canadian memory institutions.

Followed examples of other successful collaborative digitization strategies, e.g New Zealand, Netherlands, Sweden, the United States.

Collaboration of memory institutions.

Included **access, discovery and preservation** of **published and unpublished analogue material.**

To complement strategies already in place at Canadian memory institutions.

NHDS foundational assembly, Oct. 2016
Credit: Library and Archives Canada

Business Plan 2018-2019

GOAL #1 – Grow the national digitized collection
- Identify potential digitization projects
- Provide funds to Canadian cultural heritage organizations

GOAL #2 – Develop a national, collaborative, distributed technical infrastructure and expertise
- Facilitate content digitization, deposit and preservation in open networked repositories across the country
- Develop mechanisms to enhance discovery and utilization of Canadian digitized cultural heritage
- Build technical expertise across the country

GOAL #3 – Engage the community
- Build awareness and understanding of the NHDS
- Establish and maintain relationships with the national and international cultural heritage community

GOAL #4 – Build a solid foundation
- Support an active and effective Steering Committee that advances the NHDS goals
- Broaden the reach of the NDHS

Key Accomplishments

Formed national Steering Committee – Leaders from across libraries, archives, museums. Secretariat established at Library and Archives Canada.

Raised $1.1M in private donations to support 23 projects:
Collections from: Prince Edward Island's Historical Newspapers; Inuit Art Foundation; Indigenous newspapers; Hudson's Bay Company.

Coordinated successful Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) proposal.

Published resources
RightsStatements, file formats, best practices, survey results.

Developed prototype discovery platform.

1984 Vancouver gay summer games : schedule of events, digitized by the BC Gay and Lesbian Archives, through NHDS funding

Governance Review

- September 23, 2020, the NHDS **Secretariat was transferred** from Library and Archives Canada to the Canadian Research Knowledge Network.

- On November 27, 2020, the NHDS Steering Committee formally accepted a new governance structure:

  - The existing NHDS Steering Committee became the **NHDS Advisory Committee**
  - A new **Executive Committee** was formed.

- A Call for Expressions of Interest for the NHDS Advisory Committee received and accepted 34 responses, bringing the Advisory Committee membership to **49 individuals from across the Canadian GLAM community**.

NHDS Executive Committee

David Alexander, A/Vice President of Collections and Research, Royal BC Museum

Clare Appavoo, Executive Director, Canadian Research Knowledge Network

Jonathan Bengtson (Chair), University Librarian, University of Victoria

Ry Moran, Associate University Librarian – Reconciliation, University of Victoria

Paul Takala, Chief Librarian/CEO, Hamilton Public Library

Carole Urbain (Vice-Chair), Senior Director, Academic Affairs, McGill University & Archives

Leslie Weir, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, Library and Archives Canada

Moving Forward: Strategic Planning Process

Step 1: Community Consultation

- Survey

- Stakeholder one-on-one calls

- Community calls

Output: Consultation Report

Step 2: Goals and Objectives Visioning

- Visioning exercise

Output: Draft set of goals and objectives

Step 3: Executive Committee Development of the Plan

- Draft strategic plan using the goals, objectives and consultation report.

Step 4: Community Validation

- Share a draft version of the updated plan for community consultation.

Step 5: Final Plan

- Share the final version of the plan.

Community Consultation

Survey: Region
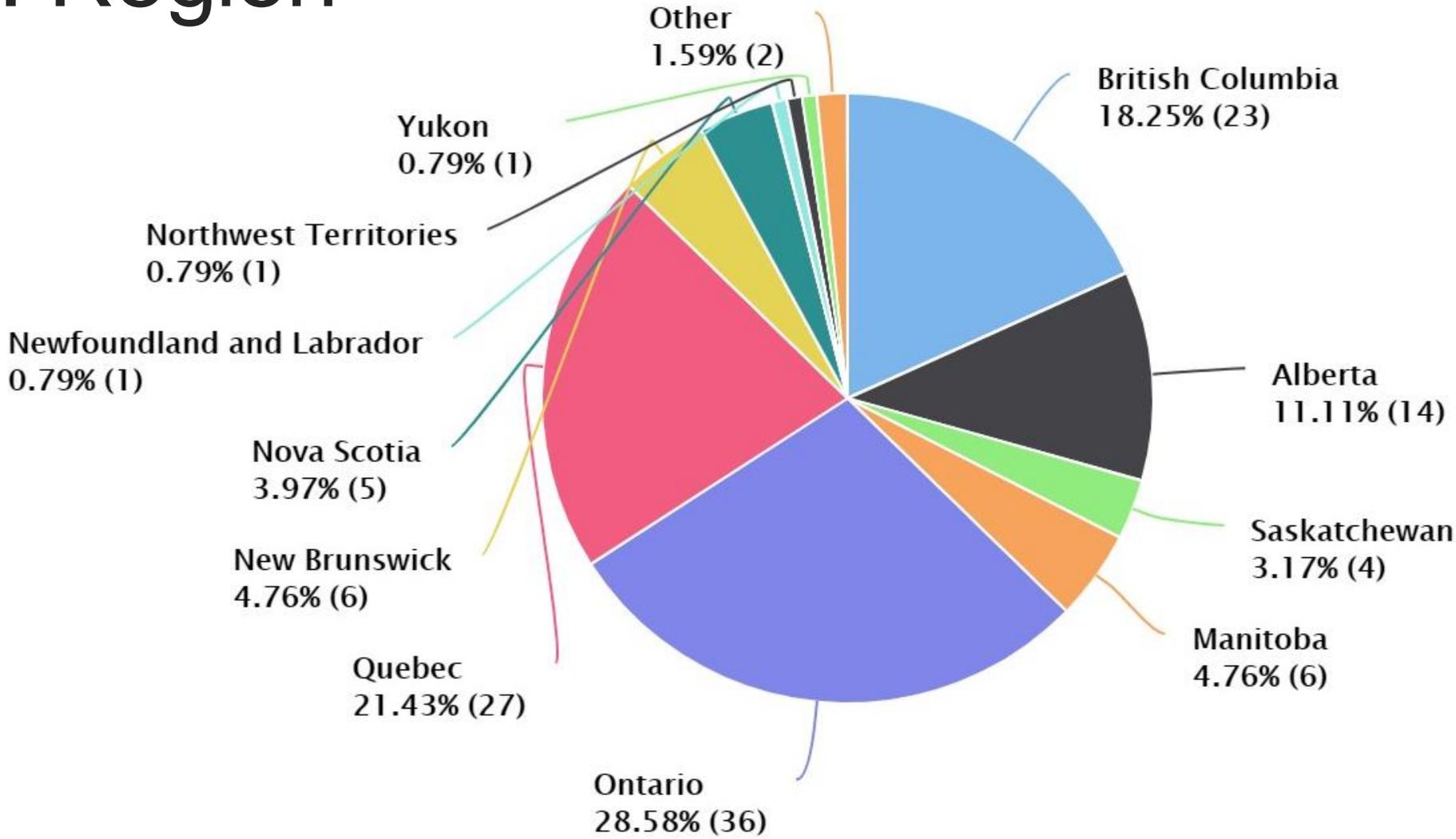
Survey: Institution Type

Institution Type	Percentage (Count)
Archives	36.80% (46)
Museums	25.60% (32)
Research Libraries	29.60% (37)
Public Libraries	4.00% (5)
Government	5.60% (7)
Historical Societies	8.00% (10)
Researchers	7.20% (9)
National Library and Archives	4.00% (5)
Principles of Truth and Reconciliation	0.00% (0)
Digitization Community Groups	4.00% (5)
Other	18.40% (23)
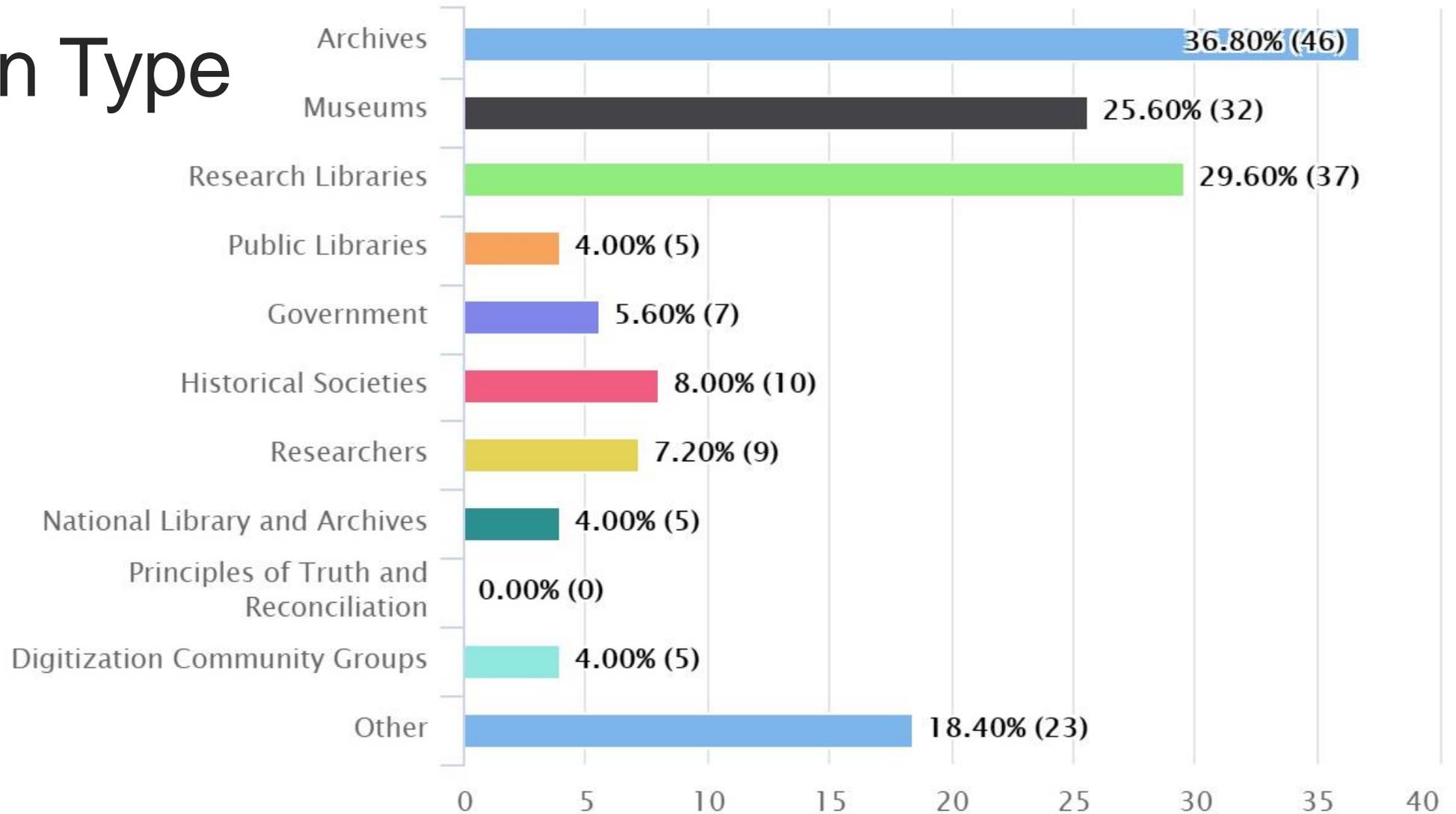
Community Call Participation

- Monday, September 13th (EN) – 22 participants

- Thursday, September 16th (EN) – 19 participants

- Monday, September 20th (FR) – 4 participants

- Tuesday, September 21st (EN) – 17 participants

What do you see as the greatest opportunity for Canada in having a national heritage digitization strategy?

Most Common Themes:

1. Increased Access
2. Preservation
3. Coordination of Efforts and Resource Sharing
4. Standards Creation
5. Funding
6. Fostering Diversity

Poll: pollev.com/crkn21rcdr

What does success look like for a national digitization strategy in the short term?

Most Common Themes:

1. Broad Participation
2. Digitally Accessible Materials
3. Digitization Landscape Review
4. Awareness
5. Plan/Framework
6. Funding

Poll: pollev.com/crkn21rcdr

What does success look like for a national digitization strategy in the long term?

Most Common Themes:

1. Access
2. National Portal/Database/Infrastructure
3. Funding
4. Shared Best Practices/Resources
5. Digitization
5. Coordination/Collaboration
7. Inclusion/Representation
7. Preservation

Poll: pollev.com/crkn21rcdr

Next Steps

- Complete community consultation
- Visioning exercise with the Advisory and Executive Committees
- Develop the Strategic Plan
- Validate with the community
- Launch the Strategic Plan