

Findings from social science research on Eastern Ontario's National Historic Waterways

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Dr Nathan Young,
Professor of Sociology

Christine Beaudoin,
PhD Candidate in Sociology

Isha Mistry,
M.Sc. in Environmental Sustainability



uOttawa

École d'études sociologiques
et anthropologiques
School of Sociological
and Anthropological Studies



uOttawa

Institut de l'environnement
Institute of the Environment

Social science research - Rideau & TSW

Interviews (40)

Workshops (5)

Public consultation observations (6)

Online survey responses (1815)

Community meetings (7)

Scientific publications (2 + 3 + more to come ...)

Website (<https://historicwaterways.wixsite.com/research>)



Survey Results

Overview

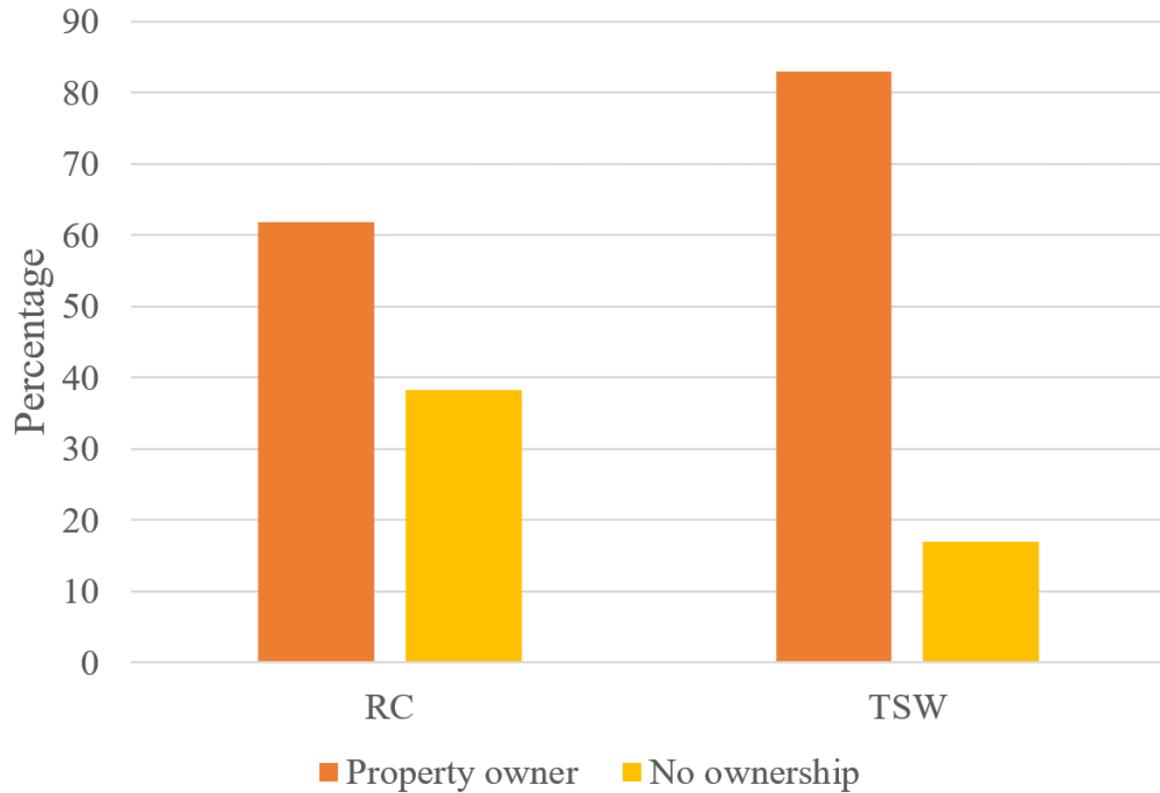
	Rideau Canal	Trent-Severn Waterway	Both waterways
# of complete responses	560	1141	1701
>45 years old (%)	64%	71%	67%
Men (%)	43%	46%	45%
Women (%)	32%	32%	32%
Bachelor's or graduate degree (%)	59%	40%	51%
Indigenous self-identification (%)	0.7%	1.5%	1.2%

User Type

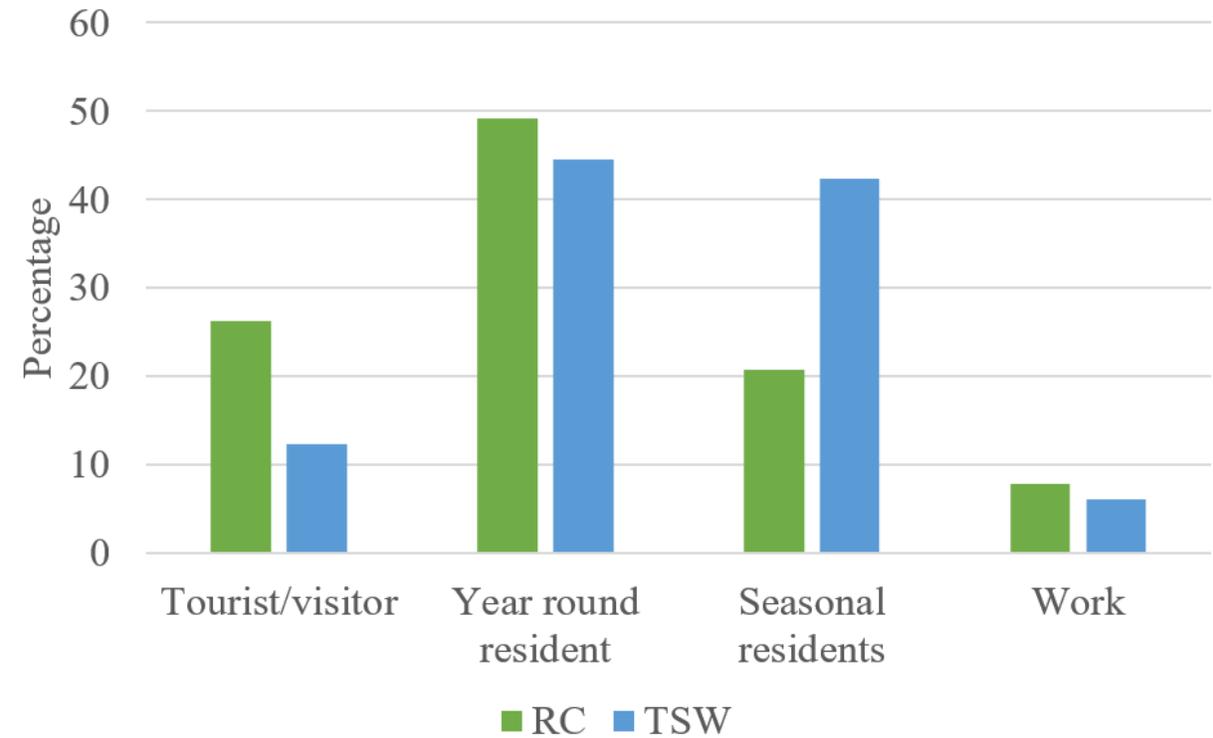
How many are property owners?

What brings people to the waterways?

Property ownership

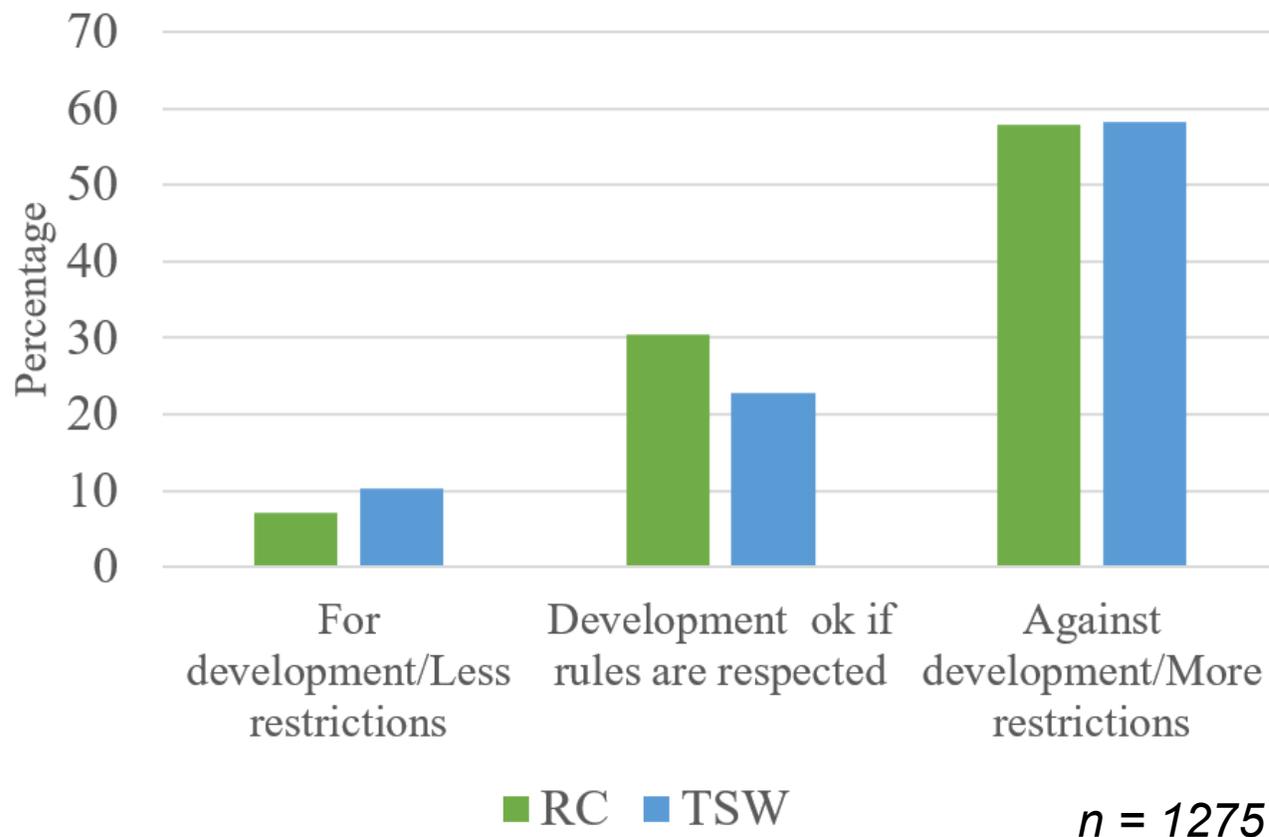


Type of use



Views on Private Development

Views on private development



Other topics	%
Development may have or is already having negative impacts on the environment and/or enjoyment of the waterway	8.2%
Views depend (e.g. type of development, capacity for more development, different rules)	8.2%
Importance of maintaining public access to the waterways	6.5%
Importance of protecting the viewscape and landscape of the waterways	3.5%

“Density and type of private development need to be regulated but allowed where possible with balanced consideration of natural as well as human sustainable development.”

What are people's views about private development regulations?

Views on regulations (n = 1080)	%
Don't know enough about regulations	15.7%
Too many regulations	6.1%
Ok regulations	10.6%
Not enough regulations, poor regulations	18.6%
Too many agencies involved	6.0%
Need more enforcement and monitoring	10.4%
Regulations are applied inconsistently	15.4%

"Development around the waterway is a bureaucratic mystery to me."

"Uneven regulations, difficult to lax enforcement, little help from the provincial government, conflicting rules and jurisdictions between all levels of government."

"Regulations should preserve more natural shorelines than there currently are."

Do views on private development vary between owners and non-owners?
Other demographic features?

Do perceptions of various threats in the waterway relate to views about private development?

Type of group	Total groups (n = 240)
Lake, cottage and road associations	45.4%
Conservation groups	14.6%
Outdoor activities (trails, etc.)	10.4%
Stewardship groups	9.6%

780 (45.8%) of respondents participate in groups. Some participants were part of multiple groups. 240 groups were cited across participants.



In what associations and groups do people participate?

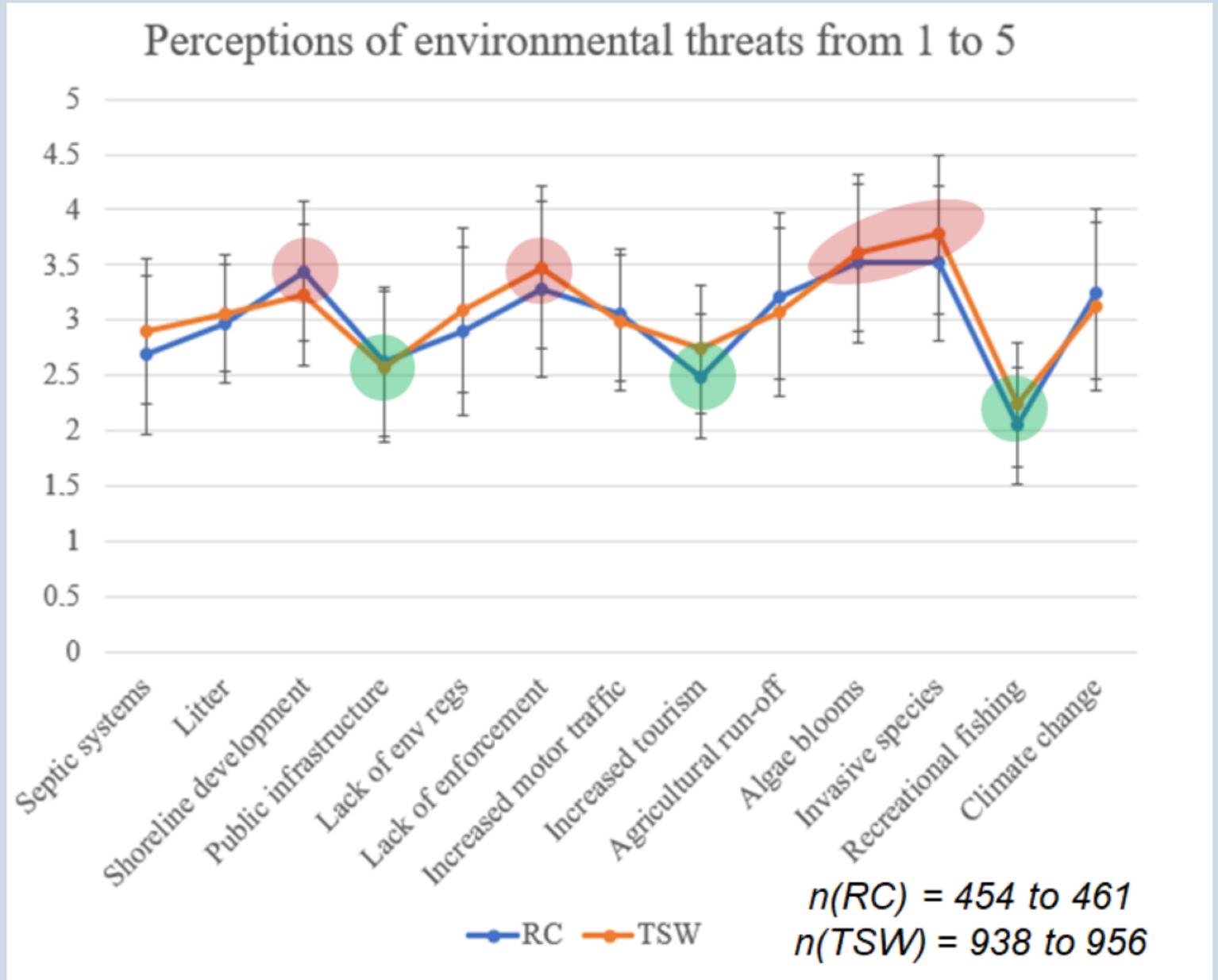
Rideau Canal	Trent-Severn Waterway
Big Rideau Lake Association	Severn River Association of Property Owners
Upper Rideau Lake Association	Cavendish Community RatePayers Association Inc.
Rideau Waterway Land Trust	Gloucester Pool Cottagers' Association
Muskies Canada	Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association
Rideau Roundtable	Save Pigeon Lake
Rideau Trail Association	Association of Ston(e)y Lake Cottagers

Environmental threats

How do people perceive environmental threats?

Does this vary by region within the RC and TSW?

Do people that participate in conservation groups perceive different threats?



Possible collaborations with survey data

FISHING TOURNAMENTS

Do concerns about tournaments in Big Rideau Lake extend to other areas of the Rideau Canal?

FLOODING AND EROSION

Do people mention flooding? What do they say about flooding? Are residents concerned about loss of their own property, ecological impacts or both?

Possible collaborations with survey data

COMMUNITY SCIENCE AND PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

Do the public's views align with reality?

INVASIVE SPECIES

Is the public concerned about invasive species? Do government agencies communicate well with the public about this?

WATER QUALITY

How do people's views of water quality compare to water quality data in the RC and TSW?

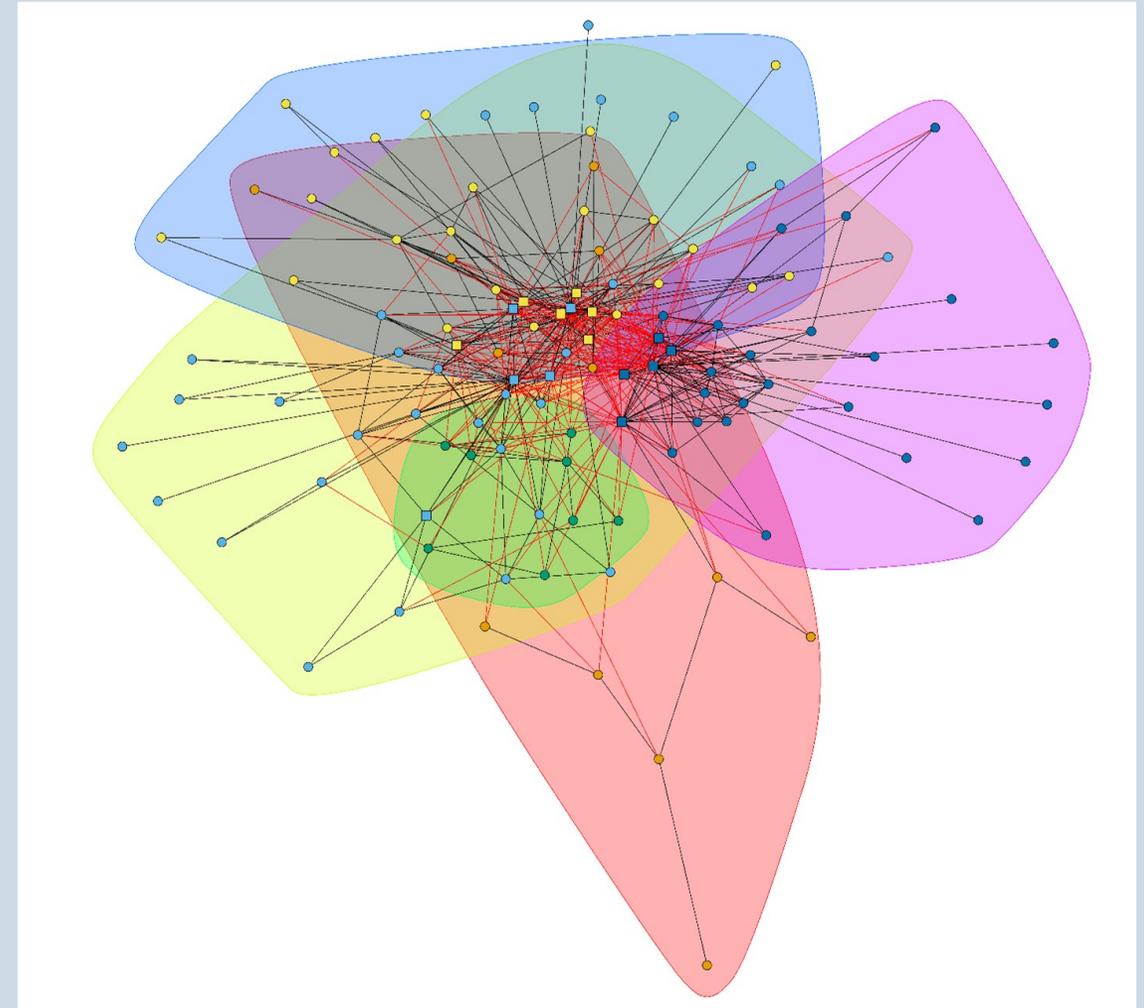
Collaborative mapping with stakeholders

Mapping the Rideau Canal as a
Social-Ecological System

For all groups, more social nodes
than ecological nodes

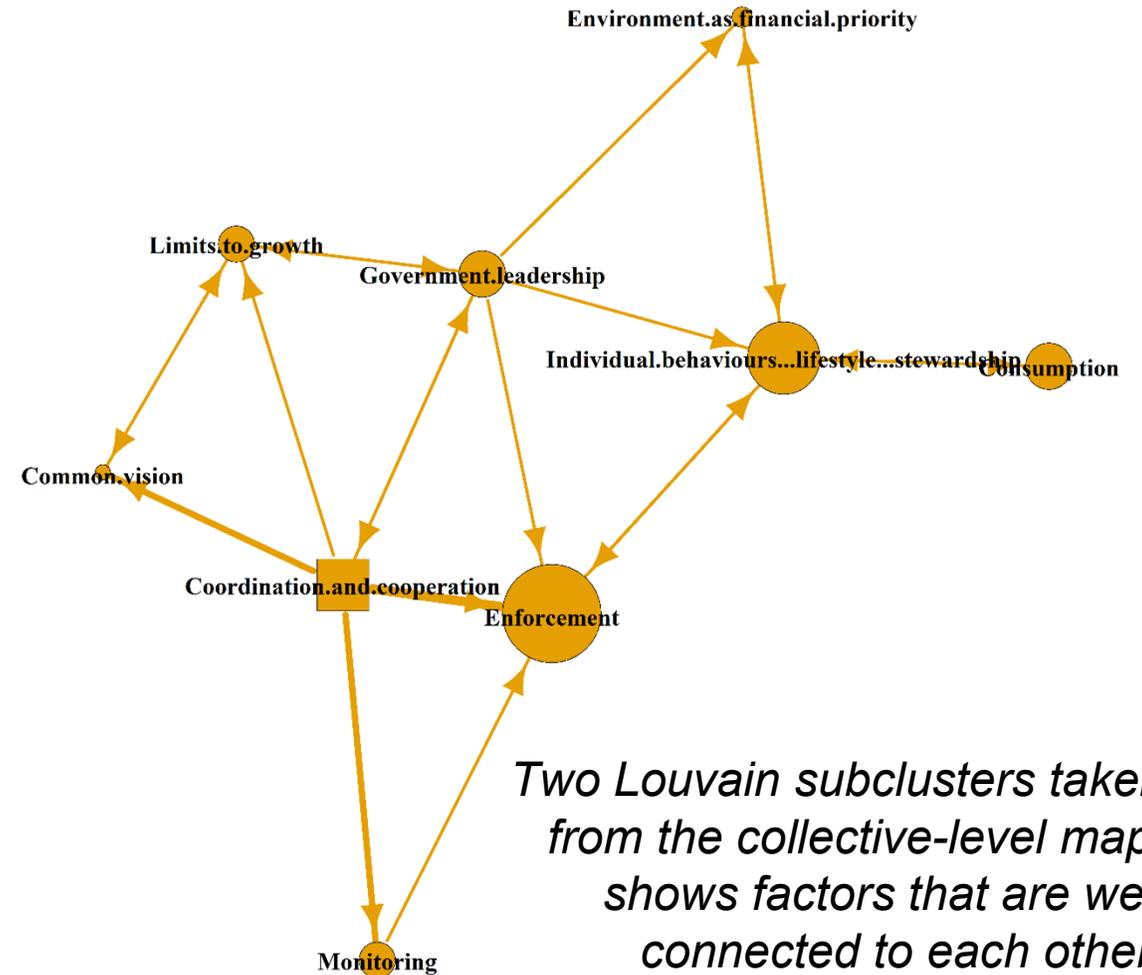
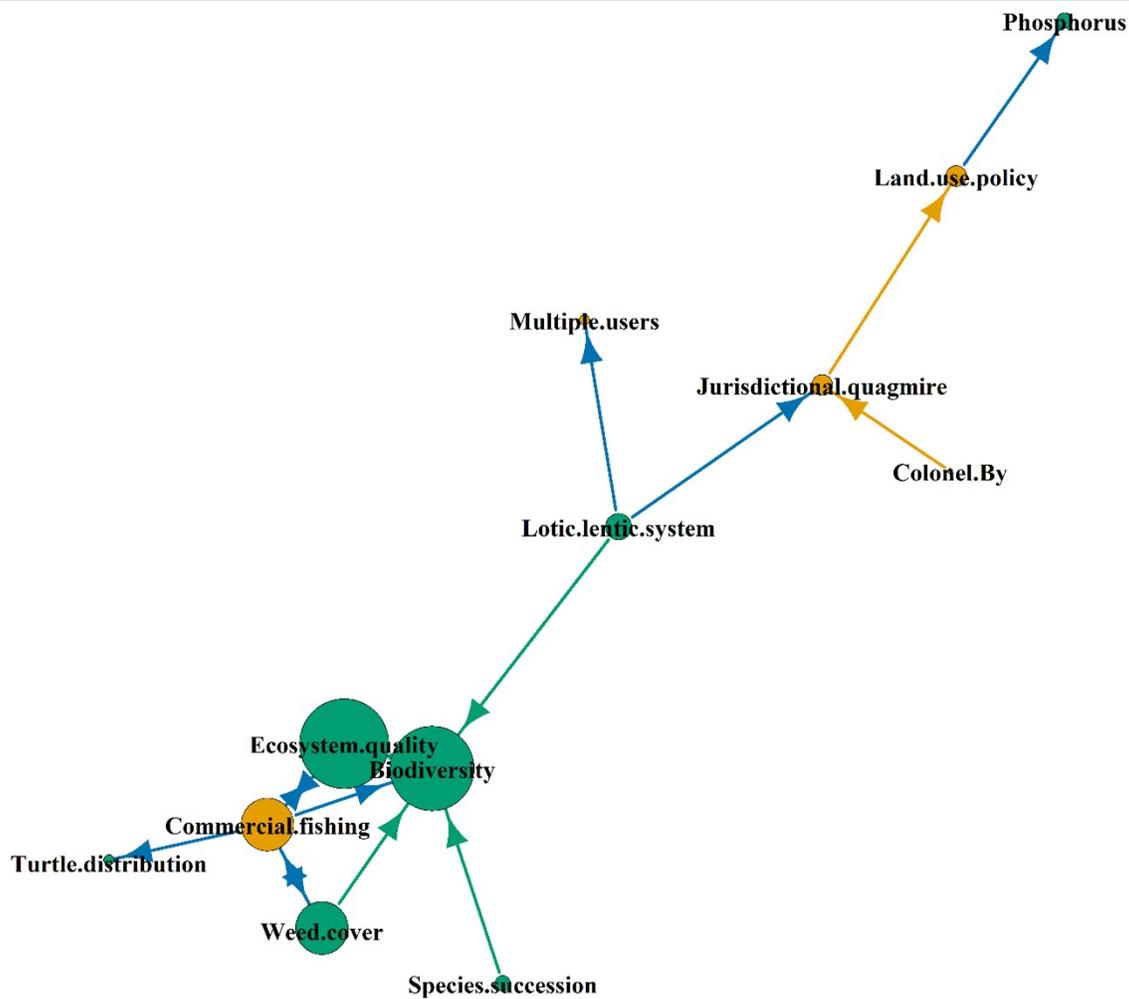
Some convergences and
divergences in views

Result : a collective-level map
collating knowledge and
perspectives of all participants



Collective network map created by merging each workshop-level map. Features Louvain clusters.

Collaborative knowledge production to support policy: Using the maps to build narrative



Two Louvain subclusters taken from the collective-level map: shows factors that are well connected to each other.

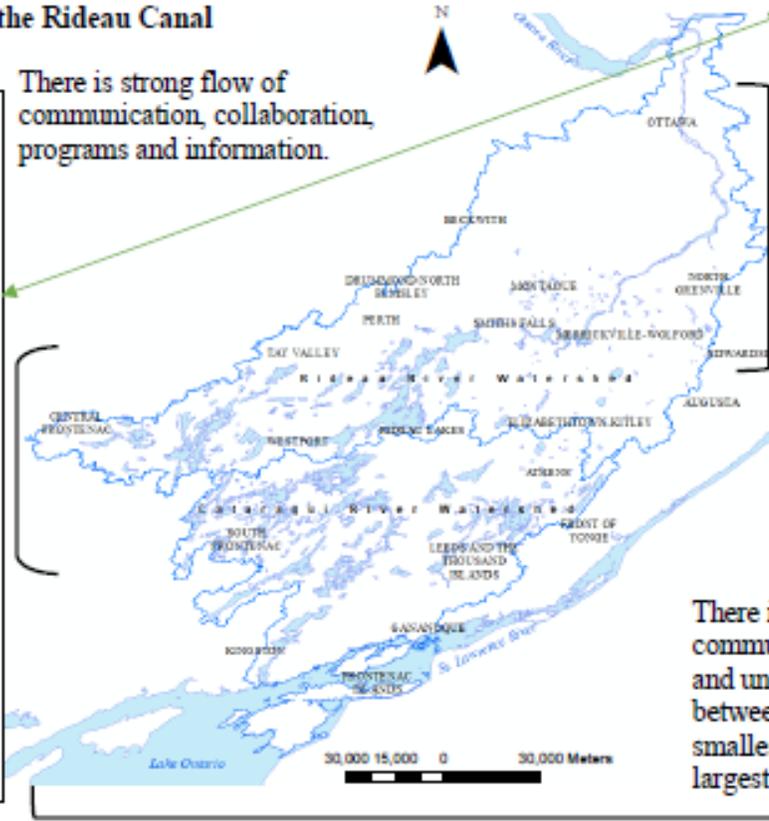
Report on this work - what would be useful for you?

Please enter some suggestions in the chat, send us an email or bring it up in the discussion!

cbeau143@uottawa.ca

Co-governance in the Rideau Canal

There is strong flow of communication, collaboration, programs and information.



Tier 1 – intra-watershed scale
 Key Leaders: Municipalities, community groups, NGOs/charities, businesses, local CA, academic researchers (not an exhaustive list)

Examples of existing initiatives: Township of Rideau Lakes Lake Association Council, Three Lakes Water Quality Group, Township of South Frontenac, NSERC grant research

Role: partnerships to address local concerns, CCM workshops to address conflicting views and interests, knowledge sharing, coordination and cooperation

There is a lack of communication and understanding between the smallest and largest tiers.

Tier 2 – inter-watershed scale

Key Leaders: RVCA and CC Conservation Authorities as leaders with support from provincial government, federal government, organized community/academic initiatives (not an exhaustive list)

Examples of existing initiatives: Lake Links, NSERC grant research

Role: mediate connections between local and system-wide tiers, responsible for public education and communication, facilitators of partnerships among actors between and across scales

There is some coordination with CAs for permitting and planning, as well as funding and mutually beneficial collaborations.

Tier 3 – system-wide interactions

Key Leaders: federal and provincial governments (Parks Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, National Capital Commission, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Parks and Conservation), academic researchers (not an exhaustive list)

Examples of existing initiatives: Management Plan Review visioning workshops, NSERC grant research

Role: annual forum to collect data for implementation report, communicate government updates, showcase new initiatives, prompt collaboration among actors

Main Findings

Convergences	Divergences
Governance	Development
Development	Boating & fishing activity
Water quality	
Education	

CCM workshops helped create a sense of unity and enabled social learning

Tiered governance structure

- Working within current governance structure
- Flexible and democratic
- TRUST

Figure 11: A conceptual framework for co-governance in the Rideau Canal, identifying existing activities and links, and missing elements. The green line indicates strong linkages between tiers and flow of information, whereas orange and red lines represent progressively weaker linkages between tiers.

Preliminary recommendations for management of Eastern Ontario's National Historic Waterways

- Collaborative governance – conceptual framework is starting point
- Need a higher level strategy for ongoing engagement opportunities
- Need to maintain existing horizontal linkages, and build new vertical linkages (championed from the bottom, supported by the top)

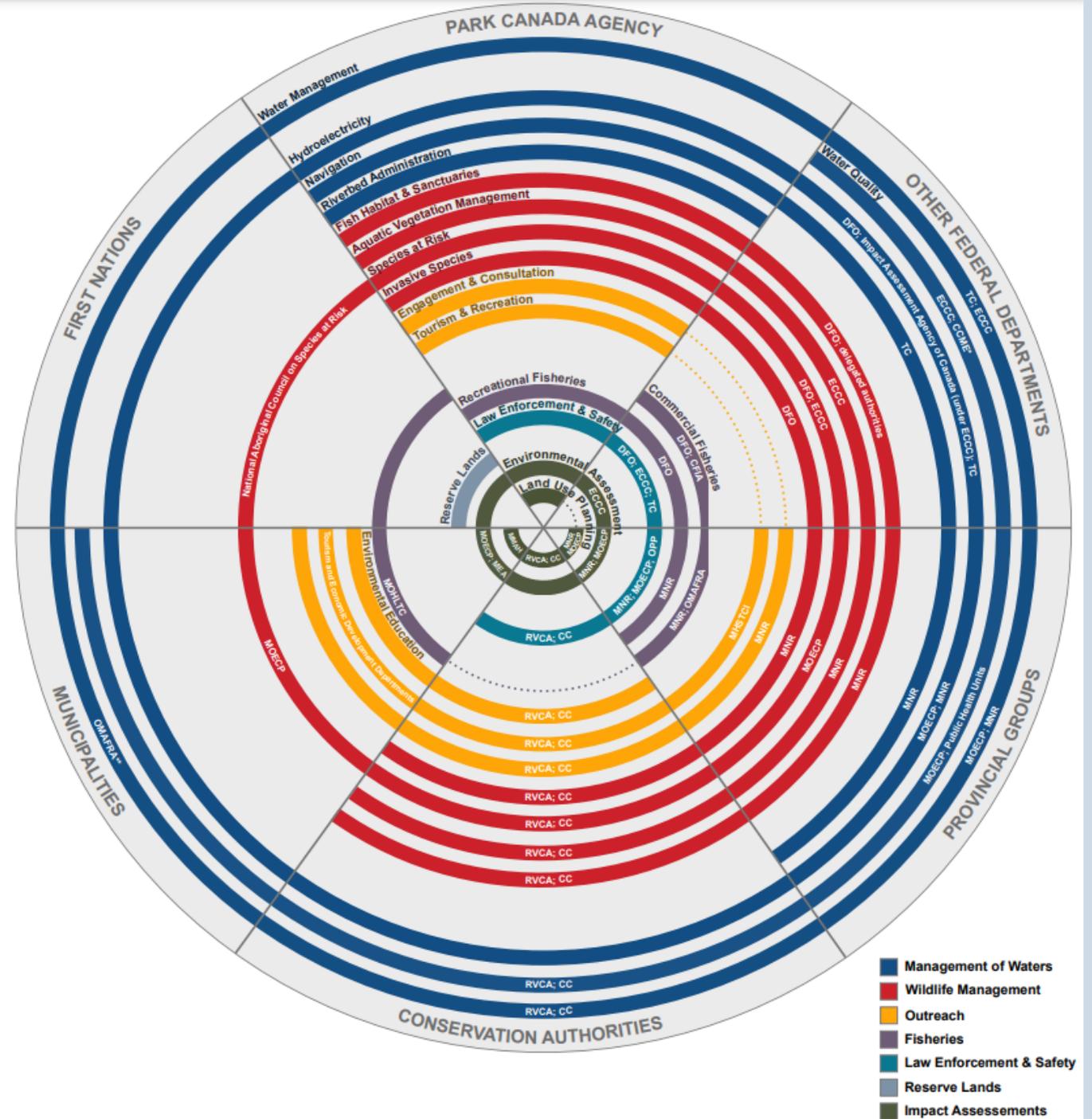
Upcoming collaborative paper providing an overview of the Rideau Canal!

Brings together knowledge of the NSERC team

Includes a figure representing jurisdictional fragmentation and overlap in the governance of the Rideau Canal

Paper lead: Jordanna N. Bergman

Figure creator: Audrey Turcotte



Next steps...

- Finish analysis of the survey data
- Collaborate with natural scientists to write papers with the social science data
- Manuscripts in progress:
 - “Environmental democracy in national historic waterways: rethinking co-governance in a jurisdictional quagmire” (conference presentation)
 - Governance challenges of National Historic waterways

Thank you to all participants and
collaborators!

Questions?

Contact:

Nathan Young (nyoung@uottawa.ca)

Christine Beaudoin (cbeau143@uottawa.ca)

Isha Mistry (imist092@uottawa.ca)

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Comparing perspectives

Workshop	Participants	Maps	Factors and topics
Community and environmental groups	15	7	Human infrastructure, government activities
Economic interest groups	9	4	Human behaviors and decisions, economic values
Academic scientists	9	4	Ecological factors, human behavior
Government representatives	10	5	Human actions and decisions, biophysical indicators
Water quality	10	5	Biophysical indicators tied to water quality, human behaviors