

**ENGO Survey:  
Assessing Community Accessibility to and Usability  
of Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory**

John Jackson

NPRI ENGO Work Group

Presentation to:

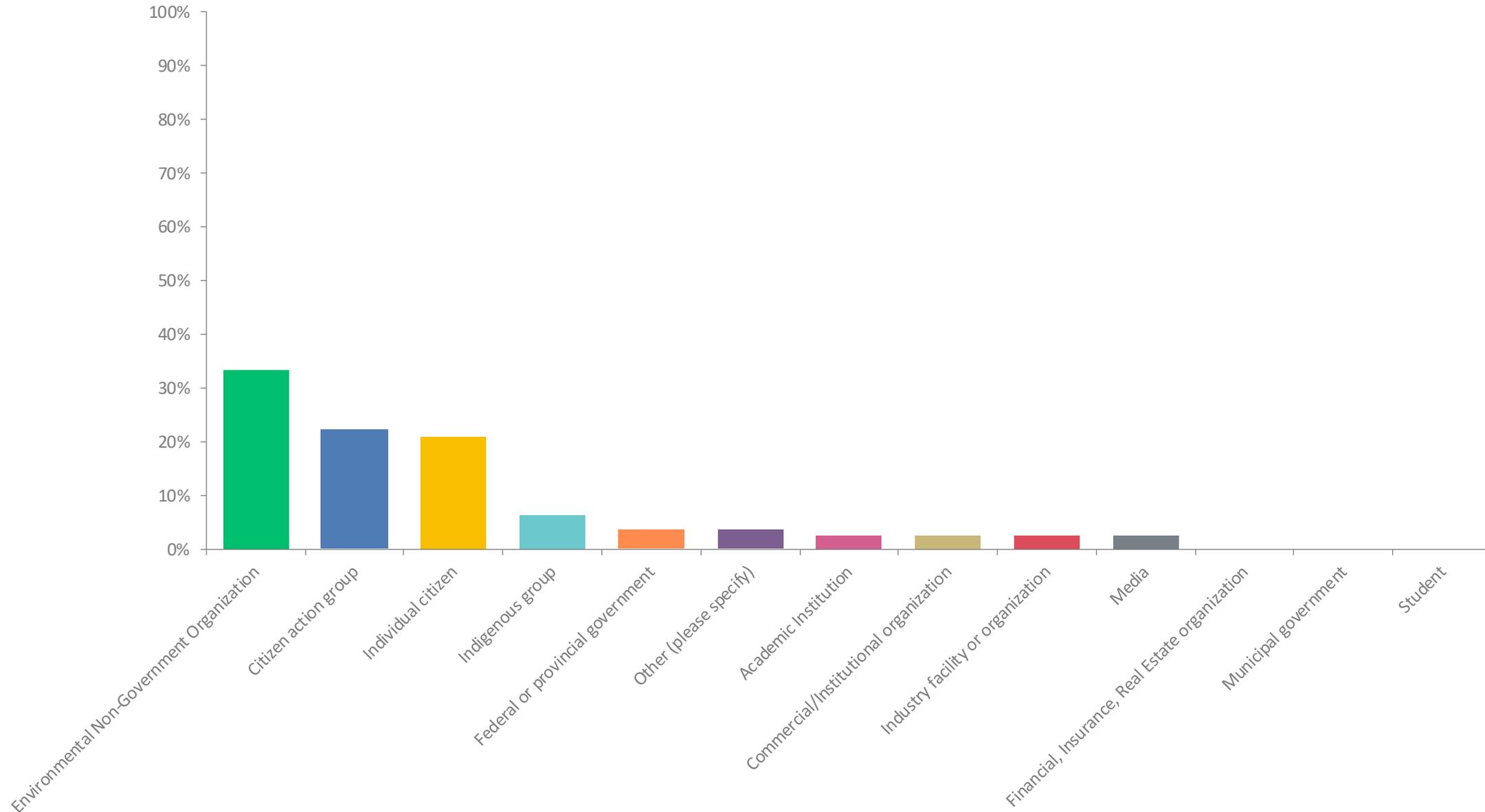
NPRI Multi-Stakeholder Work Group

November 2, 2023

# The Survey

- A major role of NPRI is to support community right to know
- Our Purpose: to learn about satisfaction of community groups and individuals with the NPRI in providing community right to know
- Process: used SurveyMonkey tool with a mix of choice questions and open-ended questions. Wealth of information in the open-ended questions responses
- Survey filled out in December 2022 and January 2023

# The survey responders



# NPRI Non-Users & Users

- Completed Survey: 120
  - NPRI Non-Users: 92
  - NPRI Users: 28

# Recurring Reasons for Unhappiness

- **NPRI too hard to use:**
  - not set up in way that a person who is not a regular user can easily find information they want, and do calculations
  - even frequent expert users expressed considerable frustration with using NPRI
  - particular problem for people without good access to internet
  - particular problem for people without large capacity computers and latest programs.

# Recurring Reasons for Unhappiness

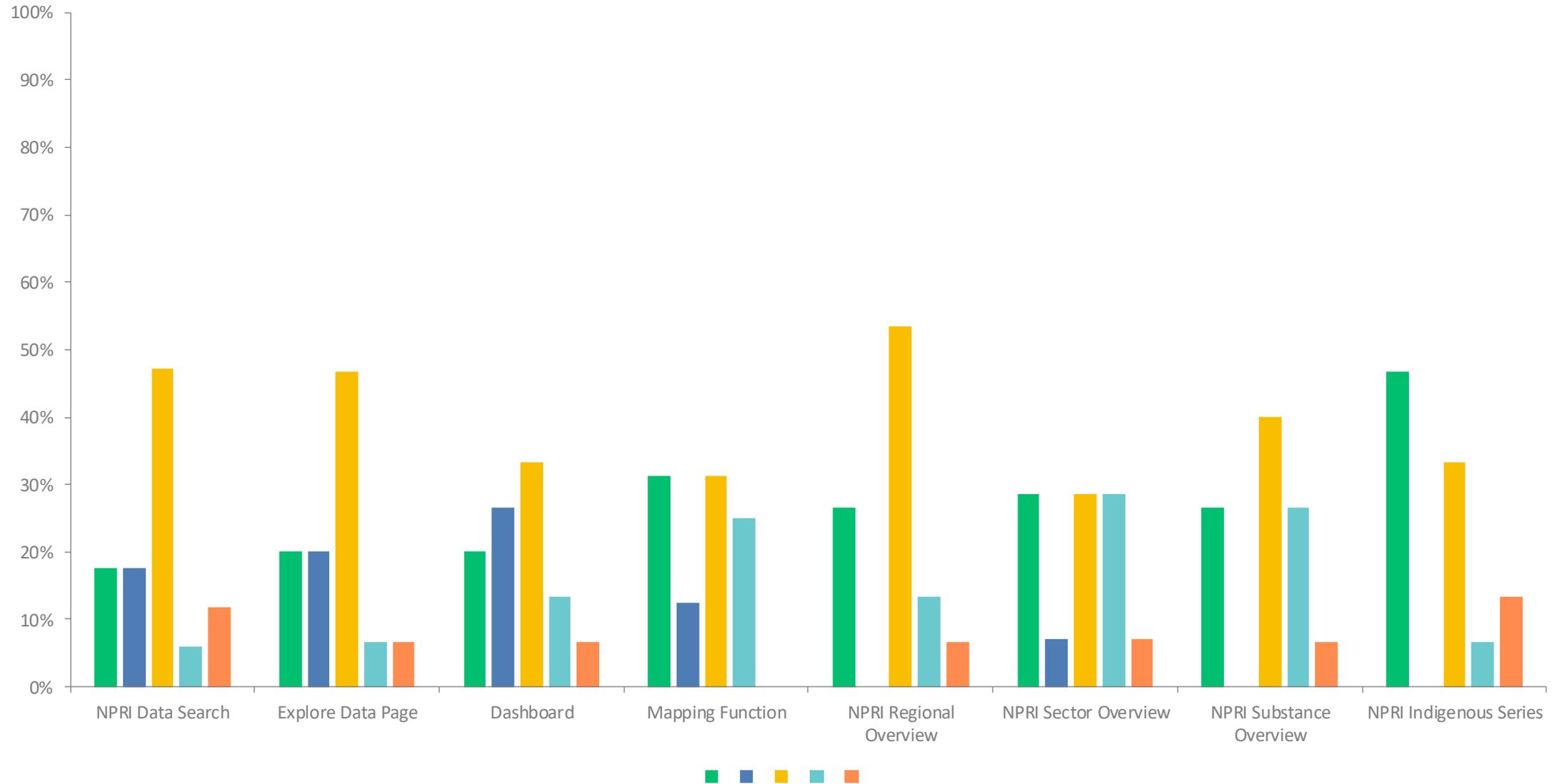
- **Low ratings for NPRI tools**

- In all cases, the percentage that were satisfied or very satisfied was less than 40% of users.
- For six of the eight tools, the satisfied or very satisfied percentages were less than 25%

See next slide for detail.

# Satisfaction Level with Use of NPRI Tools

(green – very dissatisfied; dark blue – dissatisfied; yellow – indifferent; light blue – satisfied; orange – very satisfied)



# Recurring Reasons for Unhappiness

- **Not aware of how NPRI data could be useful for their community or work.**

# Recurring Reasons for Unhappiness:

- **Much Information that they want is not in NPRI**
  - e.g., pesticides, climate change gases, radionuclides, fracking operations
  - Certain chemicals not on the substances list, e.g., PFAS, PCBs
  - Flame retardants e.g. most of the Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs), HBCD, siloxanes
  - Amount of toxics sent off-site in product and amount of toxics used by facility not included

# Recurring Reasons for Unhappiness

- **Facilities not reporting:**
  - Can't find a facility in their community that they know uses toxics because of exemptions and thresholds, e.g., don't meet company size requirements, don't meet threshold for reporting
  - This prevents community right to know

# Recurring Reasons for Unhappiness

- **Not aware of how NPRI data could be useful for their community or work.**

# What could be done to increase use of NPRI

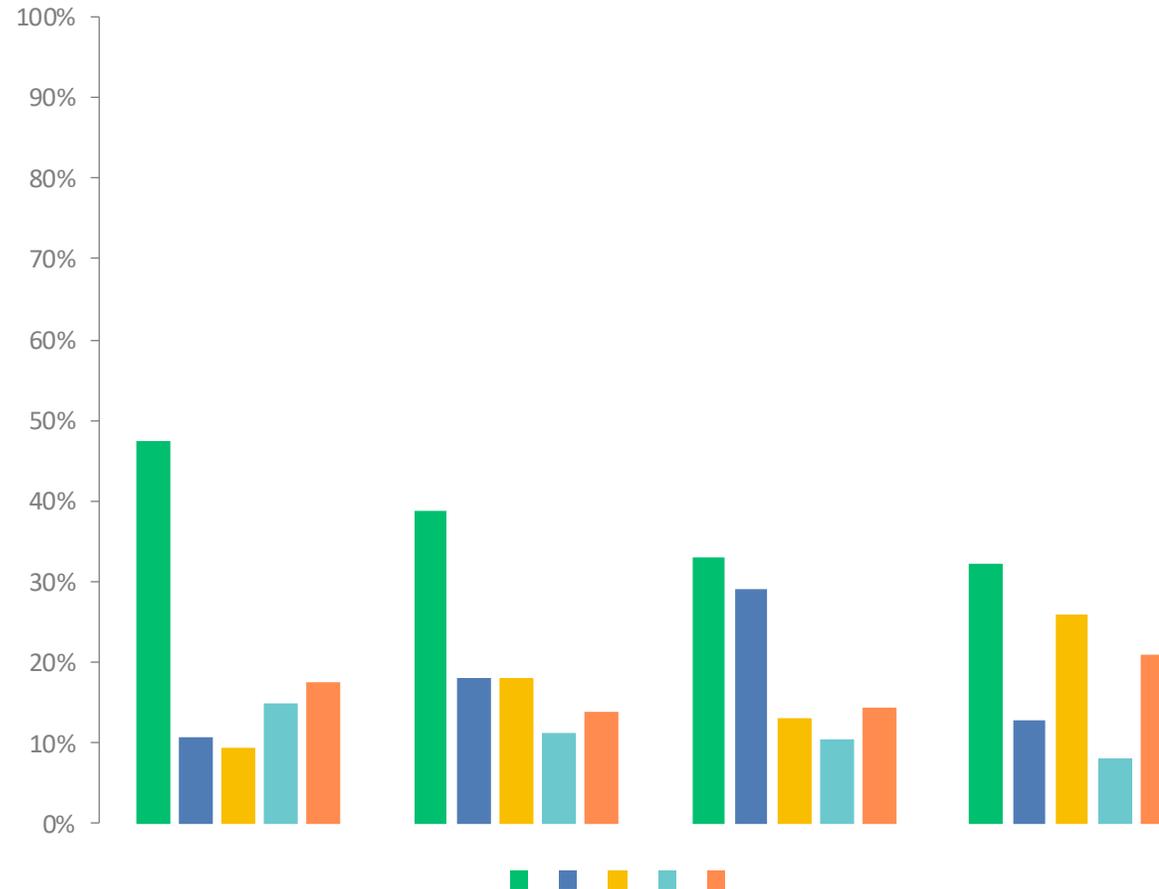
(Green – most preferred to orange – least preferred)

1) Hold specialized “how to” webinars

2) Put out specialized “how to” guides

3) Examples of uses made of NPRI

4) Make it easier to use NPRI



# 1 on left through #4 on right

# Recommendations

- To have community right to know, we must:
  - design NPRI site to be easily useable by community members
  - have special training sessions for community people
  - put out examples of how community groups or individuals have used NPRI to make a difference
  - put substances on NPRI list that community members want
  - change thresholds and exemptions to make sure that facilities that matter to the community will have to report.

ENGO Survey: Assessing Accessibility and Usability of Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory: report available on Canadian Environmental Law Association website at TBD

Survey conducted and analyzed by John Jackson.

For further information, contact John Jackson [jjackson@web.ca](mailto:jjackson@web.ca)