

# RADON ACTION

A CROSS-SECTIONAL PANEL  
STUDY OF BRITISH  
COLUMBIA'S  
MUNICIPALITIES



SIMON FRASER  
UNIVERSITY

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, on whose territories the Victoria Conference Centre stands. We would like to take this opportunity to thank these nations for the ability to gather here today, to learn and work on their traditional lands.





# MEET OUR TEAM

## HSCI 449 Community and Health Service



SIMON FRASER  
UNIVERSITY



From Left to Right:  
Harneet Jawanda, Clémance Bisamu, Cyris Goodwin,  
Dr. Paola Ardiles Gamboa, Rica Llamar, & Gurveen Dhaliwal



# MEET OUR TEAM



**Pam Warkentin**  
CARST Executive  
Director



**Erin Curry**  
CARST Regional  
Director



**Dr. Anne-Marie Nicol**  
SFU Professor, &  
Board Member

# OBJECTIVES

Gather insights about the perspectives of different municipalities in BC regarding radon.

Aim 1

- Evaluate radon exposure awareness and action.

Aim 2

- Educating municipalities about the risks of radon exposure.

Aim 3

- Identify areas where CARST can provide support and assistance to municipalities.



# METHODS

- 36-question cross-sectional panel survey.
  - Formulated under an epidemiological lens
  - Mixed methods design
- Questions derived from Health Canada's Radon Action Guide
- Conducted using Google Forms

## Contact process: (n = 161)

- Performed a census;
  - Contacted everyone in the sample frame without sub-selecting
- Initial contact via email
- Followed up via phone call

# SURVEY DESIGN



Section 1 of 33

## CARST



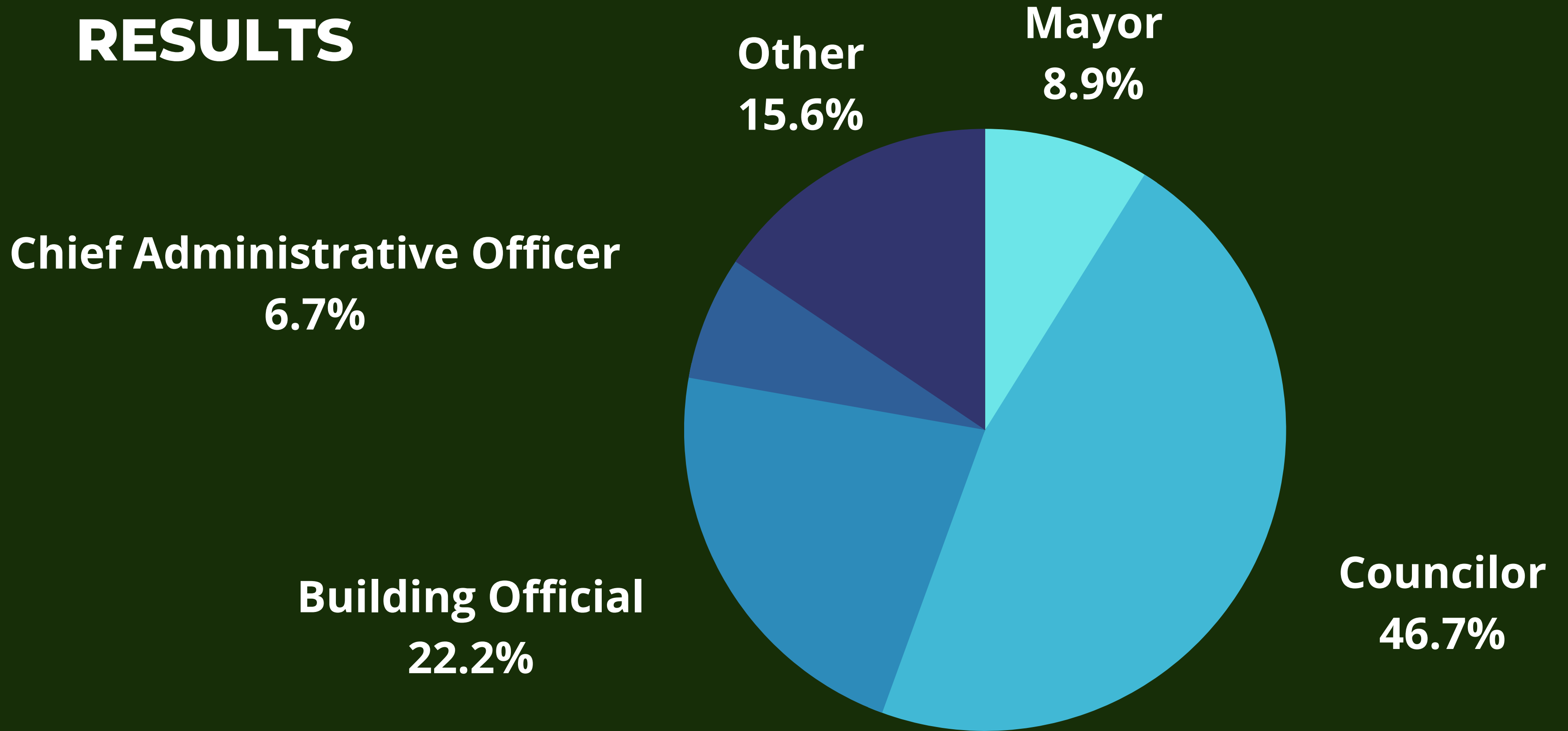
In 2022, Health Canada's National Radon Program developed the Radon Action Guides (RAGs) designed to help provinces, territories, and municipalities across Canada develop programs and policies to address radon. At the Canadian Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (CARST), we are conducting surveys and want to hear from your municipality regarding your awareness of radon, mitigation strategies you have taken in controlling and reducing radon, and how we can support your municipality in taking radon action.

This survey will consist of 3 parts: 1) awareness (10 questions), 2) what your municipality has implemented (20 questions), and 3) how we can better support your municipality in taking radon action (3 questions). It will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes.

We appreciate any feedback!

- CARST Team

# RESULTS



**Chief Administrative Officer**  
6.7%

**Building Official**  
22.2%

**Other**  
15.6%

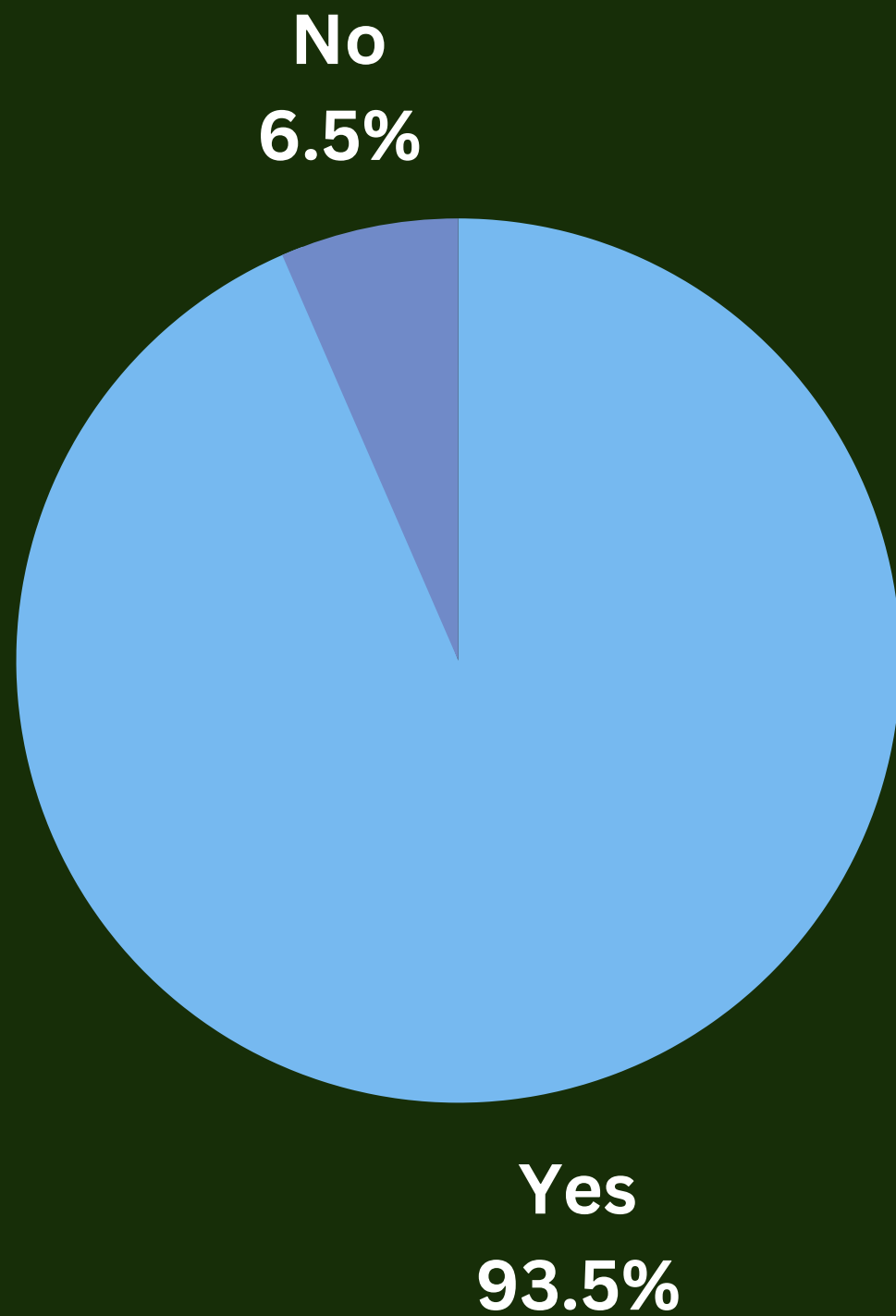
**Mayor**  
8.9%

**Councilor**  
46.7%

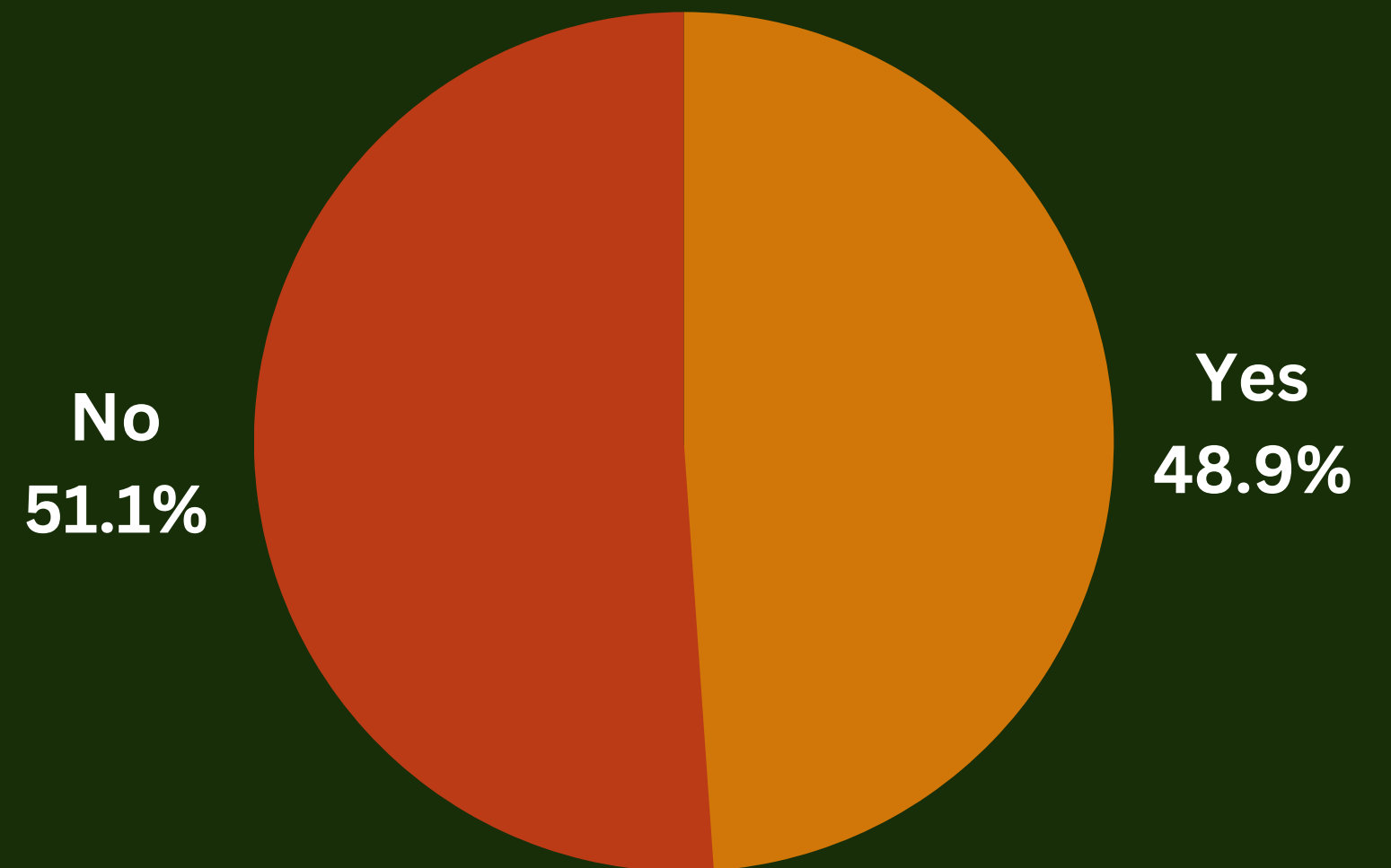


# AWARENESS

1. Are you aware of what radon is?

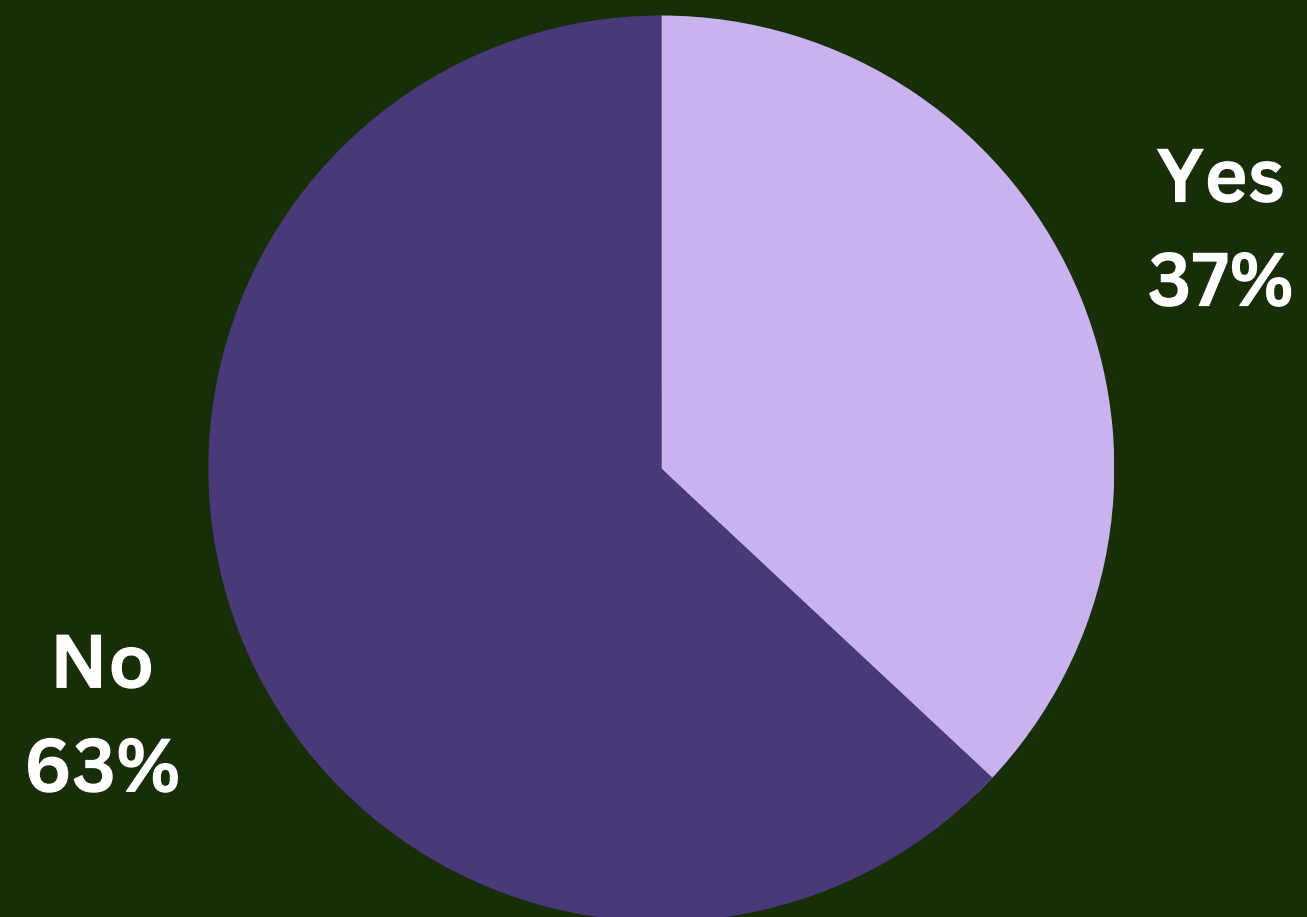


2. Are you aware of current federal guidelines?

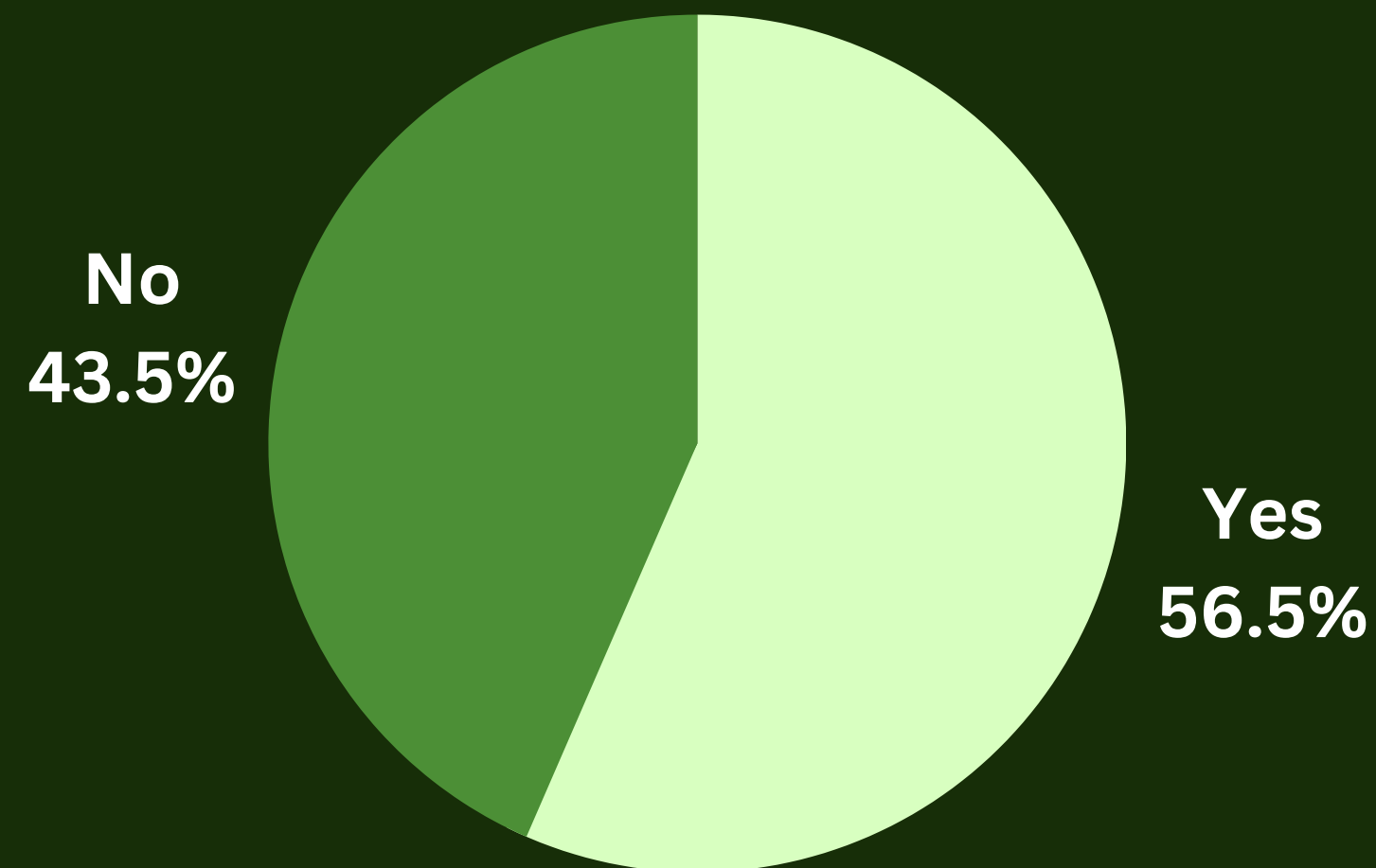


# AWARENESS

3. Are you aware of your legal power to act on radon?

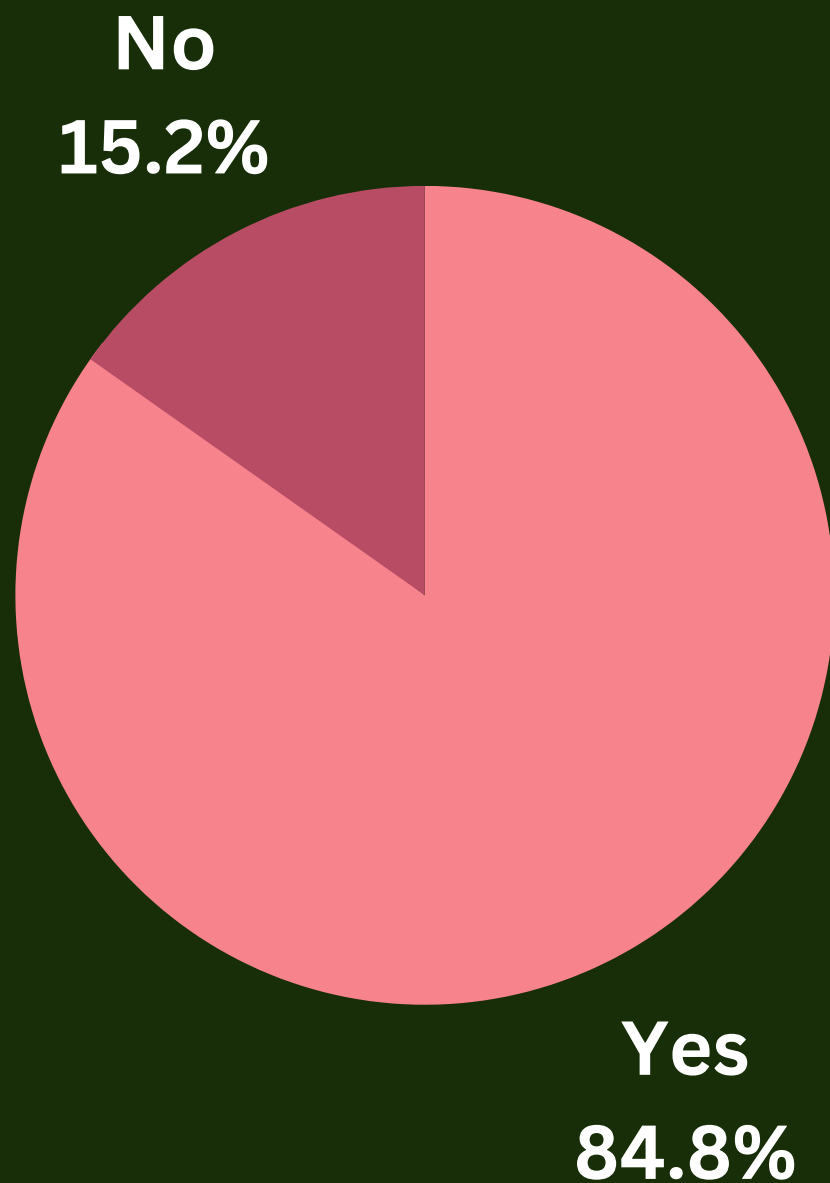


4. Are you aware of complying with the law for ensuring safe space?

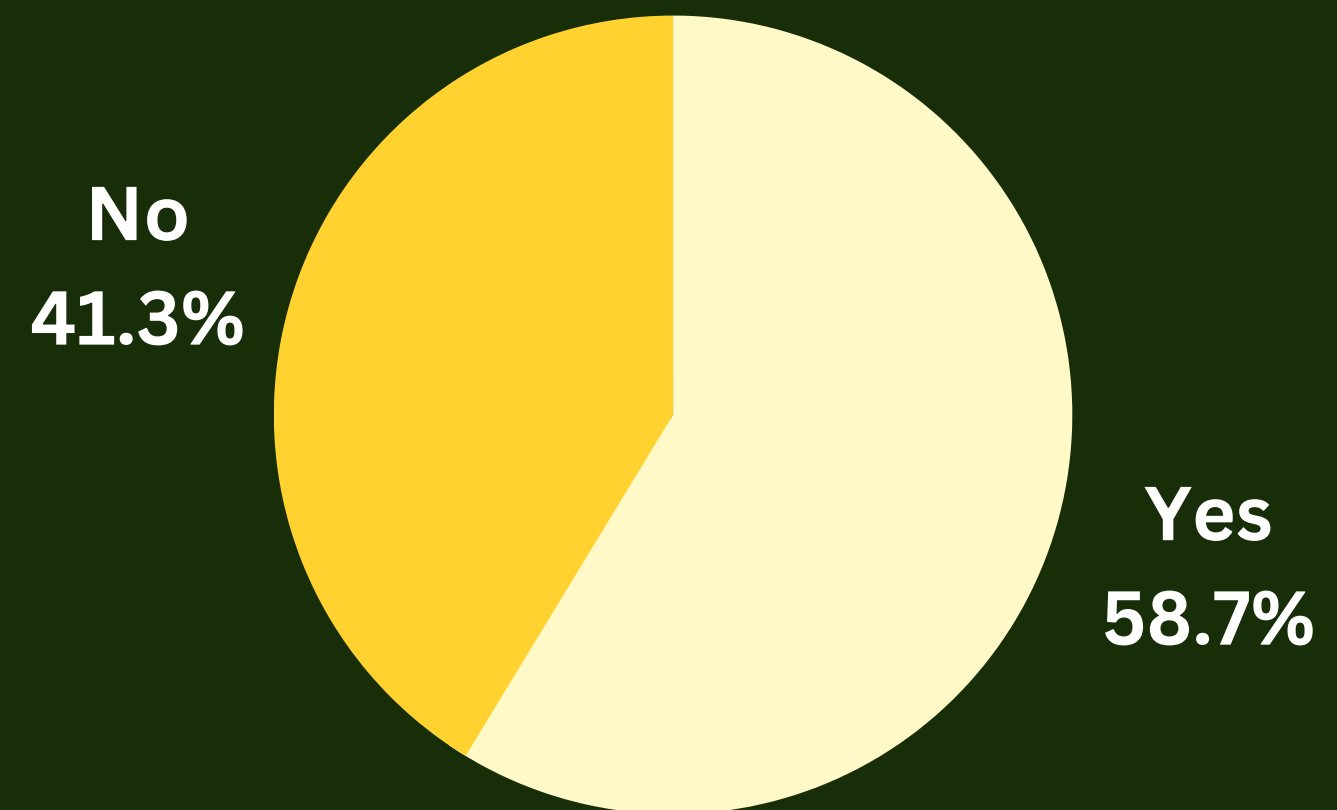


# AWARENESS

5. Do you know that long-term radon exposure can lead to lung cancer?



6. Do you know that radon levels can be easily reduced?



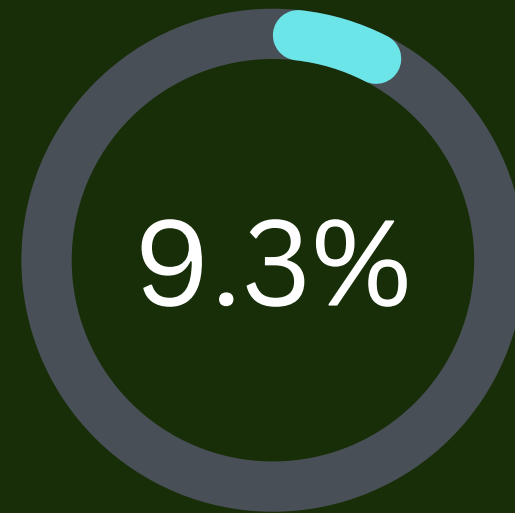


# BUILDING CODES AND CONSTRUCTION

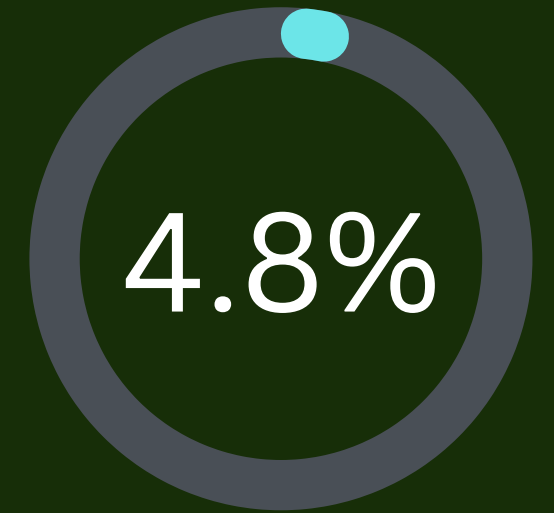
## 1. Enforcing Radon in New Construction

## 2. Municipal Legal Powers and Responsibilities

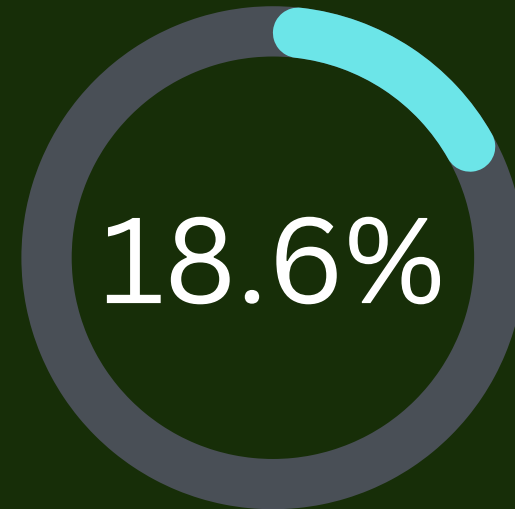
Provided training on radon mitigation systems to building inspectors



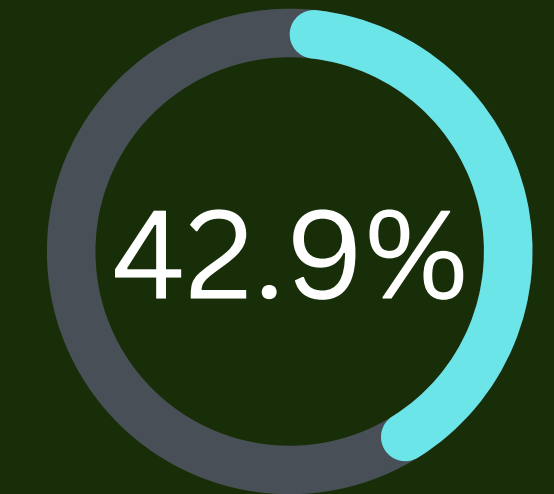
Monitoring air quality in indoor spaces



Outlined the building inspection for radon protection

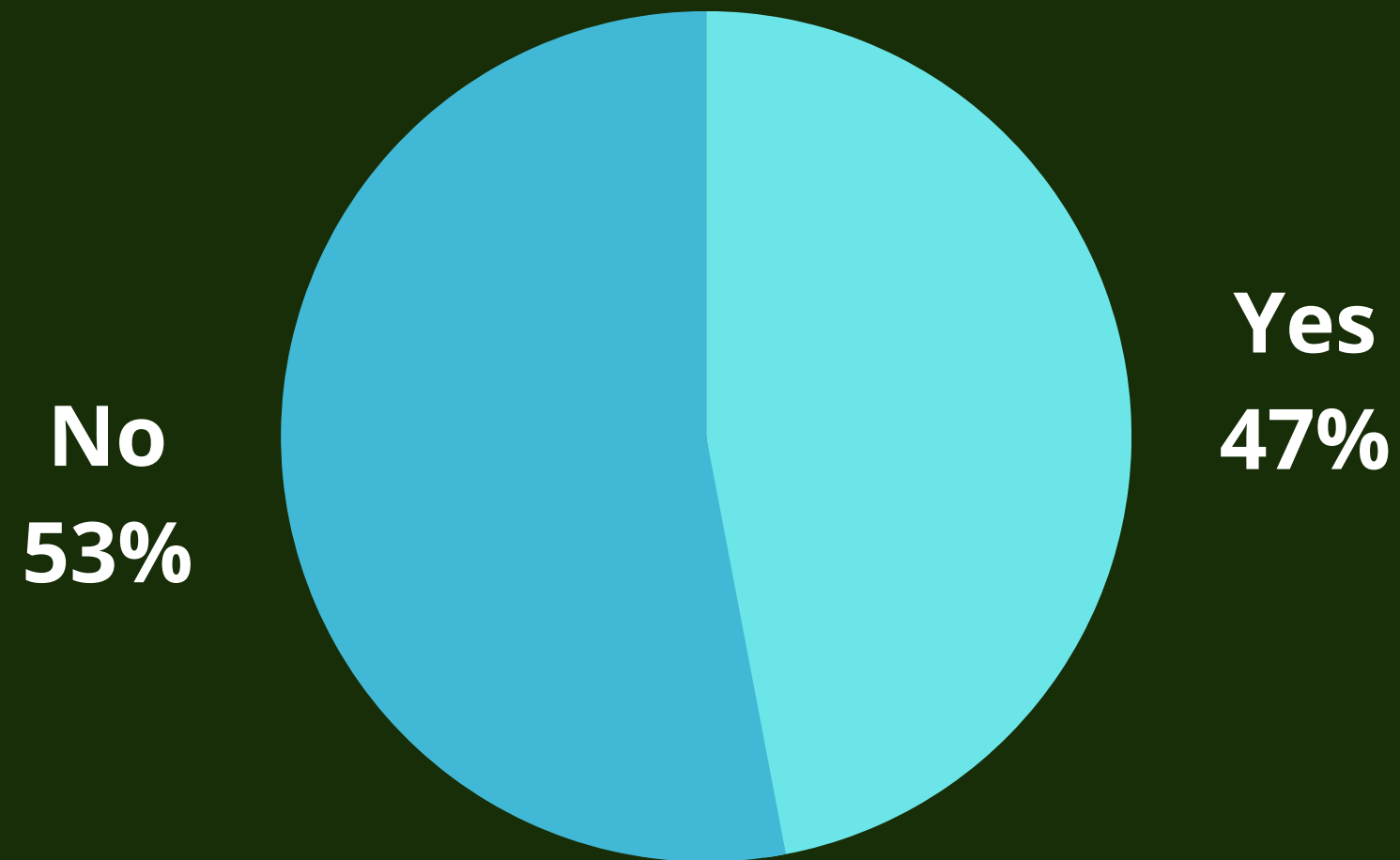


Implemented building codes related to radon

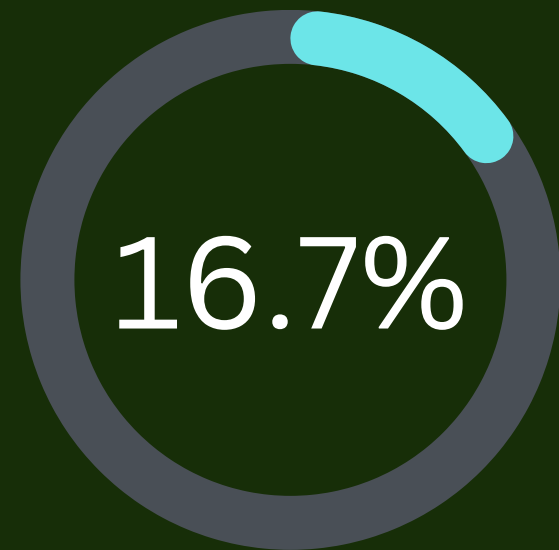


# RADON PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

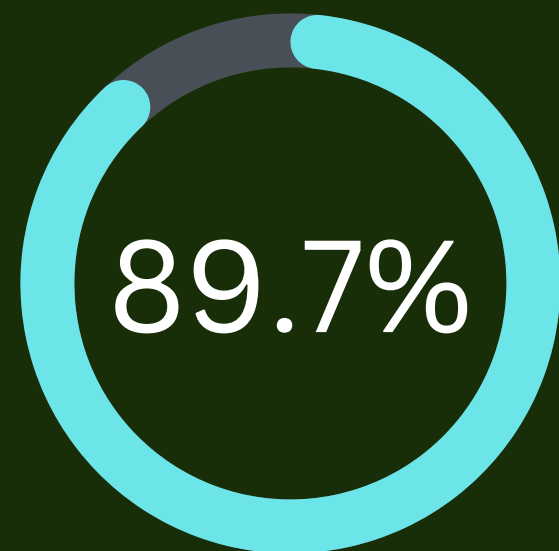
Has your municipality taken any steps regarding public awareness of radon exposure?



# RADON TESTING



Tested municipal buildings for radon



Interested in radon testing

## Barriers

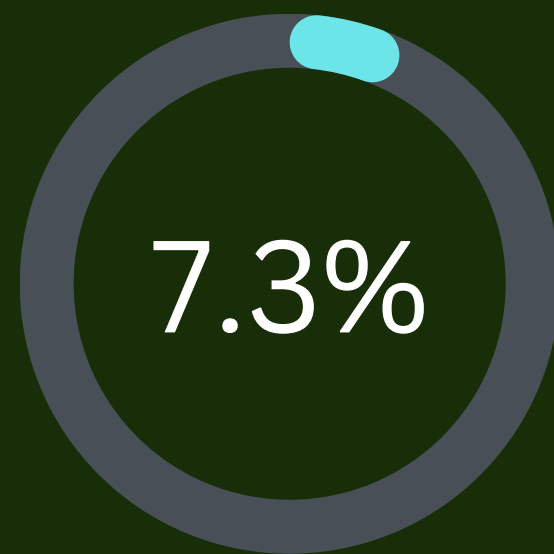
- Costs and funding
- “Mitigation costs were too expensive for most homeowners to afford.”
- Unawareness and lack of education
- Other priorities taking precedence

## Encouraging radon testing:

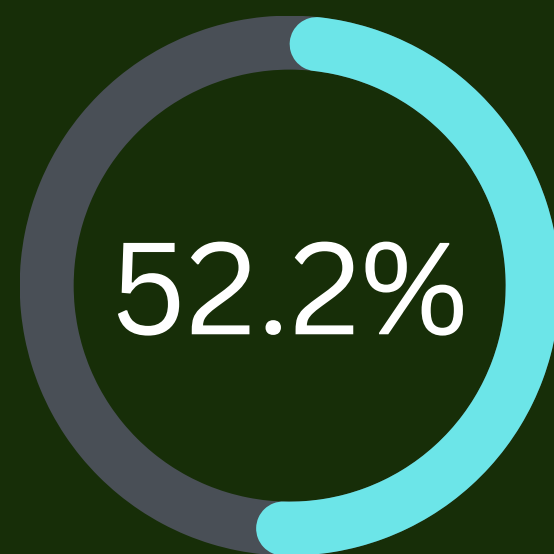
- Increasing funding
- More access to testing units
- Making radon testing a requirement in the BC building code



# PARTNERING WITH STAKEHOLDERS



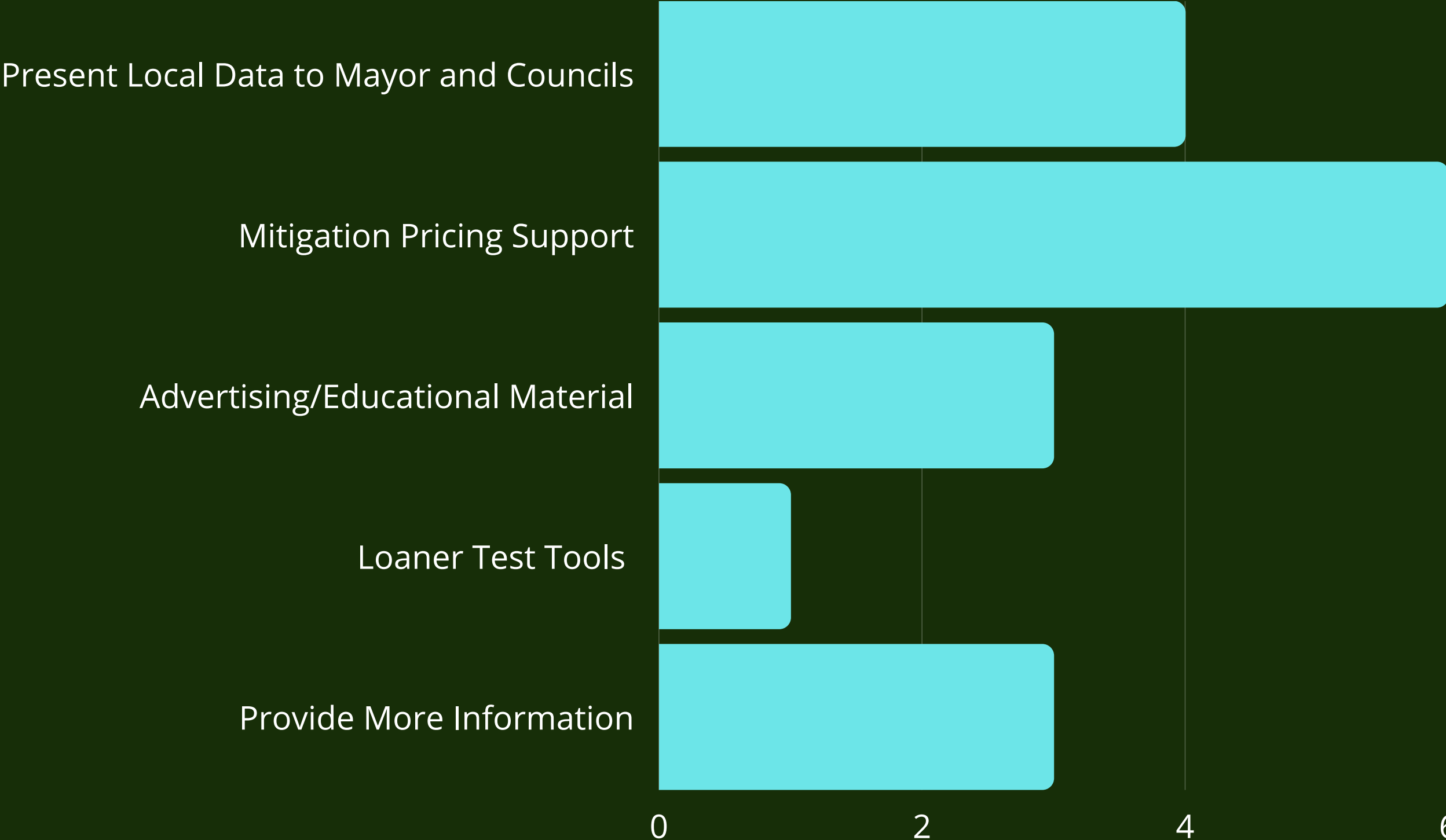
Reported collaborating with local **health authorities, school boards, and libraries** within their municipalities



Reported being **unsure of actions** taken by the municipality with other partners or stakeholders

# CARST SUPPORT

Do you have any suggestions on how CARST can better support your municipality in taking radon action?



# DISCUSSION OF STRENGTHS

01. Identified knowledge gaps: can use to develop targeted awareness and education campaigns
02. Gained insights into actions taken by municipalities, availability/ limitations of resources such as testing kits.
03. Results: used in making policies at the municipal or federal level
04. Aid in monitoring the progress of radon action and awareness.



# FUTURE INSIGHTS



- Implement radon action techniques in municipalities with minimum knowledge and maximum exposure to radon.
- Address barriers identified by municipalities which limited them from taking radon action.
- Expand our survey to other provinces across Canada

**THANK YOU!**