

Master Plan  
What we heard

# Medicine Lodge Ski Hill

June 7, 2023



# Context for Master Plan

---

Ski hill requires lifecycle

---

Ski hill, without snow making has limited community value

---

How can we increase the value of the Medicine Lodge Ski Hill to the community and region?

# Engagement Process



# Survey Results

---

A total of 360 responses were obtained in the General Public Survey - 60 being Town of Bentley residents.

Some identified as Medicine Lodge Ski Club members (28), adjacent landowners that own property within 1.5 kilometres of the MLSH (34), Indigenous peoples (18), and members of other recreation organizations (109) and (175) did not identify with any segments (referred to as No Affiliation).

- First Nation, Metis, Inuit.
- Cross country skiing, hiking, mountain biking, disc golf, or field sports (e.g., soccer) organizations.
- Note: 35 of the 60 Town of Bentley respondents had No Affiliation.

# Survey Results

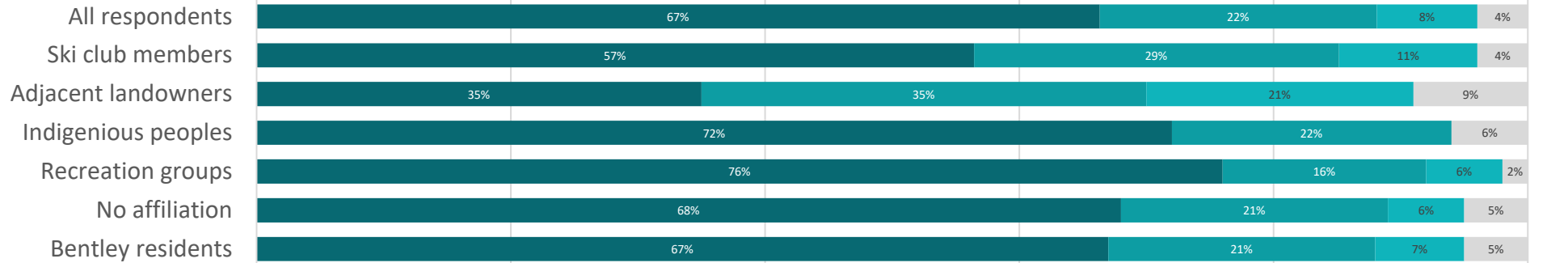
---

## Medicine Lodge Ski Area and amenities

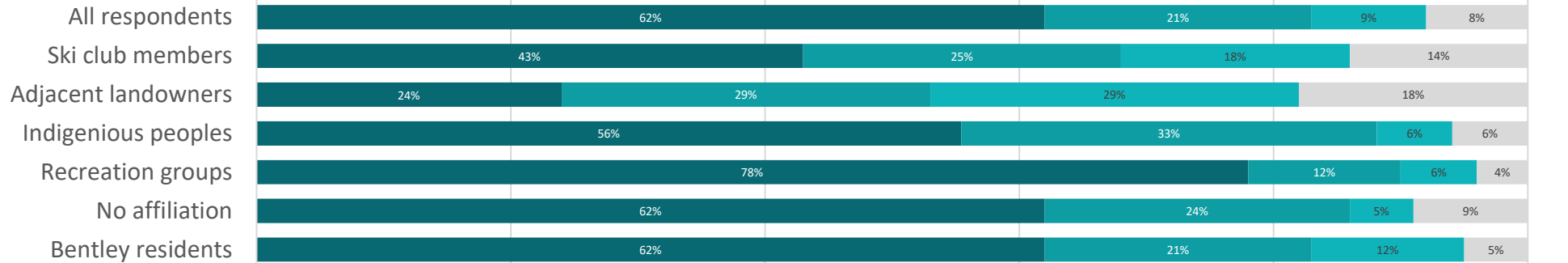
- 72% Completely Agree contribute positively to the quality of life Bentley residents
  - (3% completely disagree)
- 67% Completely Agree contributes positively to making Bentley a good place to live and work
  - (3% completely disagree)
- 62% Completely Agree contributes positively to the local economy
  - (4% completely disagree)
- 85% Completely Agree that it should be protected from any other future development
  - (1% completely disagree)

## Support for Improvements/Developments at the MLSH (General Public Survey)

### Winter recreation opportunities



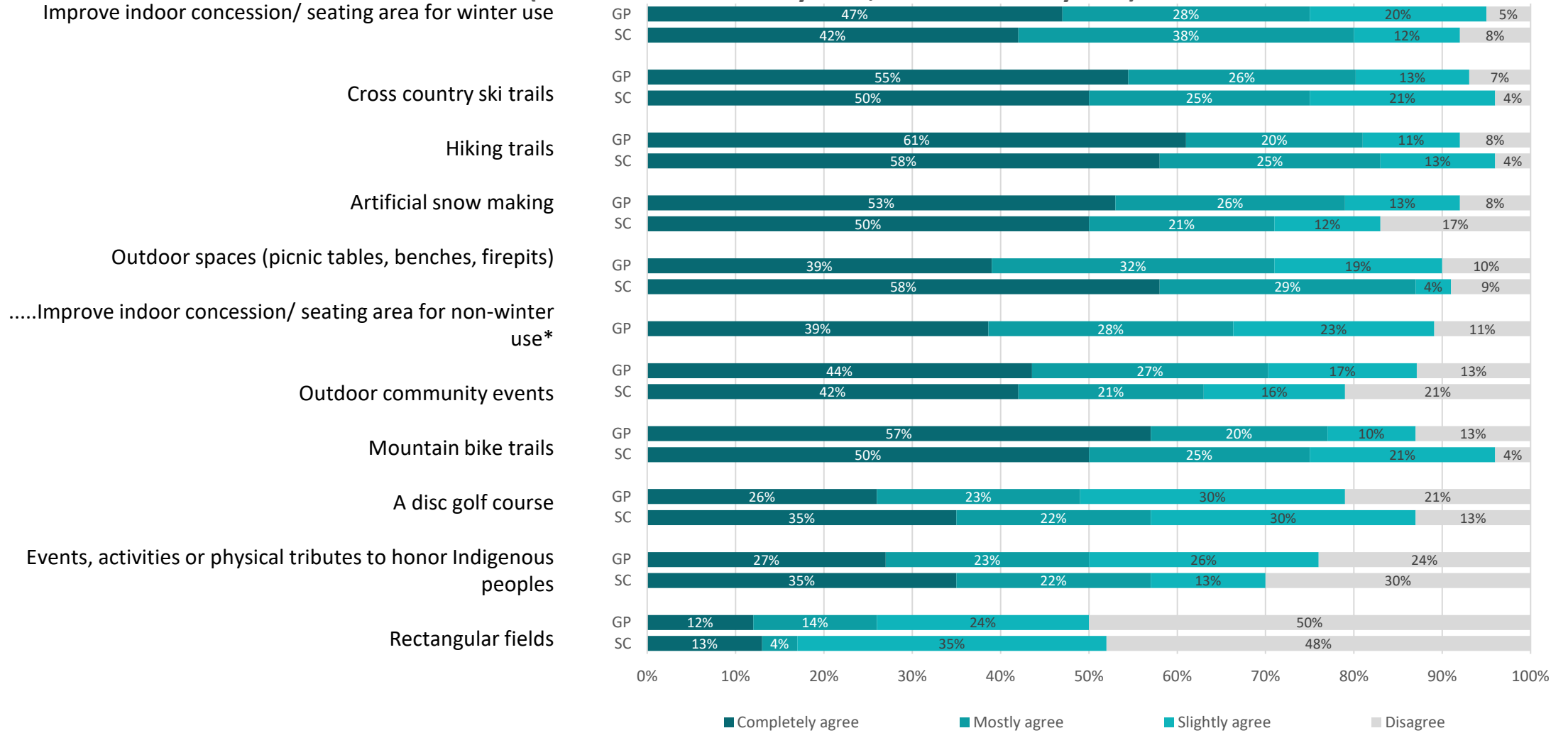
### Non-Winter recreation opportunities



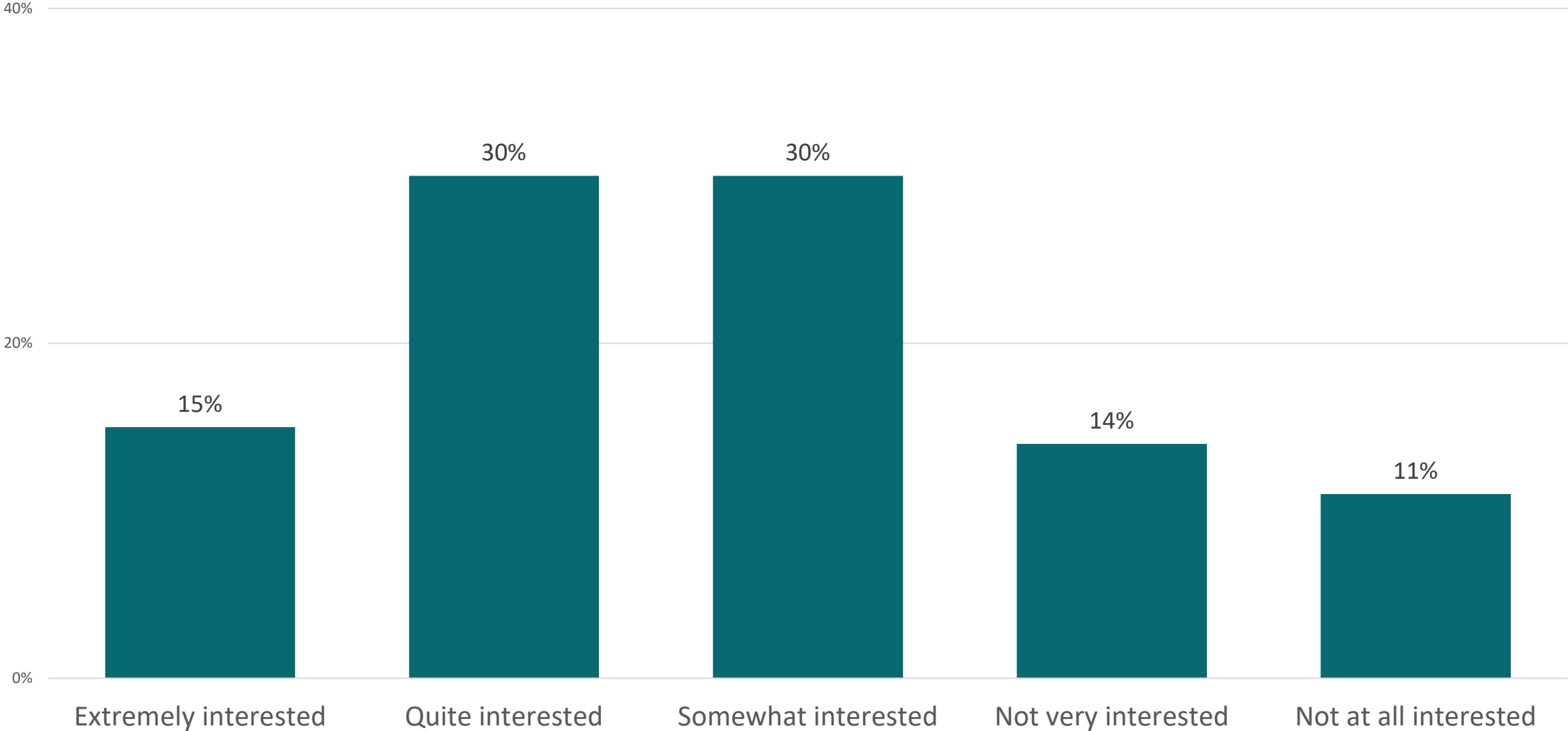
0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

■ Completely agree   
 ■ Mostly agree   
 ■ Slightly agree   
 ■ Disagree

## Improvement/Development Preferences (General Public Survey - GP; Ski Club Survey - SC)



# Interest to Ski/Snowboard at MLSH among Non-Visitors





# Key issues identified during engagement

---

- Building trails will increase the risk of fire and damage
- The threat of sub-surface development
- Water: regarding implementation of snow making capability
- Culturally sensitive sites on the land

# Recommendations (overview)

---

- MLSH to develop a maintenance plan and pursue grants for lifecycle upgrades (short-term)
- Longer-term for MLSA to pursue snow making but contingent on:
  - Enhancing their human resources (volunteer/paid staff) to support the board
  - Determine feasibility of water sources
  - Develop a longer-term plan for season expansion (snow making can extend the season from 2 to 4 months)

# Recommendations (continued)

---

- In an effort to reduce volunteer fatigue and future sustainability of ski hill operations the Town and the County pursue hiring Full Time Employees. Board would focus on governance and ensure long-term viability of the asset (short-term)
- Pursue completion of summer/winter trail development once dialogue with the Indigenous community is resolved (when appropriate)
  - Pursue partnership with a not-for-profit to manage trails
- Pursue a secured land status/designation for the entire quarter section such that it is protected from unwanted future development (short-term)

# Conclusion

Joe Pavelka PhD  
Planvision Consulting  
International Ltd.

